

Northwestern College Magazine

the Classic

SUMMER 2014



Carrying the Bag

Michael Greller '00 trades teaching career for life as a PGA caddie

Also

Learning From a Distance
National Parks Ministry
An Eye for Nature



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A summer job in America's national parks gives students like Heather Heilman the chance to do ministry while enjoying the great outdoors.

Classic People

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The *Classic* is published three times a year—in April, 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:

With Michael Greller '00 as his caddie, Jordan Spieth nearly became the youngest golfer to win the Masters in April.

PHOTO BY THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER



16 A Fresh View

When Kelley (Downer '04) Zylstra's job conducting science research was cut, she focused on finding a new career that would keep her in close contact with nature.

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A sixth grade teacher for 10 years, Michael Greller '00 is now learning—and sharing—lessons on the golf course as the caddie for young star Jordan Spieth.

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On the Web

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DOUG BLUM

Learning for Life: On Campus and Online

Throughout Northwestern's 132-year history, much of the teaching and learning has taken place on campus in traditional classrooms. This has served our students well—and continues to do so for those who can leave home for a time. Living and learning in community on campus will likely continue to be how the majority of students experience Northwestern, which is why we continue to invest wisely to make our facilities as inviting and functional as possible.

However, our mission of engaging students in courageous and faithful learning and living should not be limited to our physical campus. We live in a world that is desperate for Christian leaders and servants, and the education Northwestern offers is every bit as valuable for adults who want to enhance their ability to make a kingdom difference by completing their bachelor's degree or earning a certificate, endorsement or—in the future—even a graduate degree.

As our culture changes and more educational opportunities become available online, we are adapting accordingly. This spring semester we had the highest number of online-only students to date, 64. We expect that number to double next year. For the third consecutive year, all our summer courses are being offered exclusively online, and one result is we have more students taking summer courses now than when they were offered only on campus.

Northwestern has done a marvelous job educating primarily 18- to 22-year-olds for generations. Now we are expanding our educational delivery methods to meet the demands of adult learners wherever they live and at whatever stage in life they find themselves (read about three of our online students on page 24).

Data indicates that in today's information economy, graduates will likely have five to seven different careers in their lifetime. This suggests at least two things: First, a college education grounded in the liberal arts has never been more important because those foundational classes teach students how to think critically, write well, communicate effectively and work with others. These skills are transferable to any job, anytime, anywhere.

Second, as our graduates and other adults sense a calling to change careers, we're eager to support them with online programs that are accessible, convenient and affordable. Maybe you're a teacher in need of an education endorsement or a professional seeking a specialized credential. Perhaps you want to complete a bachelor's degree or finally earn your master's. Whatever your goal, we hope Northwestern will be your college of choice. Alumni and other adults can still count on our promise to deliver a distinctively Christian, academically rigorous education.

Regardless of whether students experience Northwestern on campus or online, we remain committed to providing high-quality academic programs that prepare graduates not only for the world of work but for a calling to further God's kingdom through one's vocation.

Greg Christy
President



Follow President Christy at [Twitter.com/NWC_PGC](https://twitter.com/NWC_PGC)

Top Prof



STEPHEN ALLEN

Dr. Scott Monsma, a member of the sociology faculty since 1999, is the 2014 recipient of the Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award.

Dr. Scott Monsma never met a pun he didn't like. Known for the play on words that elicits groans as well as laughter, the sociology professor also enjoys a reputation as one of Northwestern's best teachers—a fact evidenced by his selection as the 2014 recipient of its Teaching Excellence Award.

"Dr. Monsma does everything he can to ensure students are able to do their best," says sociology major Logan Gooch. "He shaped my way of thinking and transformed me from an OK student into an excellent learner."

According to Gooch, Monsma's sense of humor has a serious role: breaking tension and creating a relaxed classroom where everyone is encouraged to participate.

"Dr. Monsma has opened my eyes to many social justice issues and has pushed me to pursue God's redeeming work in this world," says the senior from Sioux Falls. "While I don't agree with him on everything, he's more than willing to listen to my opinions on issues and help me shape

what I believe, not just impose his personal beliefs on me. His desire is for his students to be able to look at the facts and derive their own opinions."

The chair of the sociology department, Monsma was instrumental in the creation of a new criminal justice major. He's led study abroad trips to Taiwan and Oman and helped develop the college's Oman Semester program. He also serves as faculty secretary and has been a student government adviser, co-chair of the Honors Program, and member of the Library Planning Task Force.

Monsma is a former president of the Association of Christians Teaching in Sociology and frequently presents at its conferences. A graduate of Geneva College, he earned a doctorate in sociology from the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Karissa Carlson, chemistry; Ray Gibley, accounting; Dr. Michael Kensak, English; and Dr. Wayne Westenberg, mathematics, were also finalists for the award.

Racking up a Prize

The scene shows Lincoln, a young man anxiously waiting for a job interview. He's in a dilemma after noticing a coat tree in the reception area sporting slacks instead of jackets. Is anybody in this office wearing pants?

He scans the workplace, but all of the employees are sitting behind desks or standing behind wall partitions. After noticing what he's sure are bare calves behind a cubicle wall, he ditches his trousers in the lobby and approaches his interviewer's office only to realize everyone is wearing athletic shorts for the company softball game.

"Pants Rack," an original film by Northwestern faculty and staff members Drew Schmidt '05 and Lem Maurer and student Matt Latchaw '14, won Best in Show at the eighth annual Prairie Grass Film Challenge at Dordt College.

"We wanted the film to center around feeling extremely awkward," says Schmidt. Their entry, which had to be scripted, filmed and edited in just 48 hours, won the trio a \$250 cash prize.

You Tube Watch "Pants Rack" at tinyurl.com/pantsrack.

in Box

The following excerpt is from a reader-posted comment about the *Classic* at classic.nwciowa.edu.

Covering it all

Just got the latest *Classic* in today's mail and was immediately drawn to the article about Denver Urban Semester. The *Classic* is again well-written. I read it cover to cover!

Teresa Earleywine
Brodhead, Wis.



WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

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

Green Again

For the seventh consecutive year, Northwestern has been recognized by The Groundwater Foundation as a Groundwater Guardian Green Site for its environmental stewardship. Only seven other colleges have earned that designation.

Groundwater Guardian Green Sites are honored based on documentation of such things as maintaining a no-application zone around surface water and active wells, selecting plants adapted to the region's climate, tracking irrigation water use, and applying fertilizer based on nutrient needs.

"The exemplary work of Ward Van Peursem and the entire groundskeeping staff in respectfully managing groundwater quality and resources while keeping our green spaces beautiful is deserving of this recognition," says Peter Boerema '04, director of campus safety and environmental health at Northwestern.

"This award recognizes our commitment to groundwater management and environmental stewardship in our recent building remodels and new construction projects. We look forward to continuing to find new ways to advance Northwestern's efforts to conserve and protect the environment."



Northwestern has been named a Groundwater Guardian Green Site for the seventh year in a row, based on responsible use of chemicals, pollution prevention and water quality.

STEPHEN ALLEN

Diplomas in Hand

When 277 seniors graduated from Northwestern May 10, they heard from a man who presided over the event for 14 years. Dr. James Bultman, the college's president from 1985 to 1999, served as this year's commencement speaker, delivering an address entitled "To Serve or be Served: That is the Question."

All but 25 students were granted Bachelor of Arts degrees. The remainder received Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees.

Among this year's graduates were mother and son Rachel and Rick Te Grootenhuis. Rachel, an assistant in the campus ministry office, earned a literature degree, finishing a college education that

was interrupted in the 1970s by marriage, motherhood and work. Rick is a political science major who plans to attend law school.

Other members of the class of 2014 have been accepted into graduate programs at schools that include the University of Nebraska, University of Wisconsin and Western Theological Seminary. Those beginning their careers are moving to communities ranging from Pella and Des Moines, Iowa, to San Francisco and Los Angeles. Among the positions they've secured are those of a fifth-grade teacher, homeless program assistant, IT application analyst, police officer and athletic trainer.

Spanish major Amanda Schuld high-fives Professor Piet Koene as she walks across the stage at commencement.



DAI ROSS

Degrees of Esteem

Northwestern College paid tribute to a former president and first lady by conferring honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees on both during commencement ceremonies May 10. Dr. Jim and Martie Bultman were awarded the degrees in recognition of their lives of service to Christian higher education.

Jim served as Northwestern's president from 1985 to 1999 before another 14-year term as president of Hope College. During his tenure at both institutions, enrollment and endowments grew and successful fundraising campaigns were held that raised money for new construction and building renovations.

He and Martie were known for their commitment to excellence and passion for students. They remembered students' names, attended their activities and sporting events, welcomed them

into their home, and joined them for meals in the cafeteria.

Jim was an active leader in statewide and national educational

the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities. He also chaired the Iowa College Foundation, the Iowa Association of Independent



Dr. Jim Bultman, Northwestern's seventh president, and his wife, Martie, received honorary doctorates at commencement in May.

concerns. He served as a member of the NAIA's Executive Committee, a representative on the NAIA Council of Presidents, and chair of the board of directors for

Colleges and Universities, and the Commission on Campus Concerns for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Award-Winning Design

A logo developed as part of a graphic design class assignment will be seen by more than 5,000 educators in the promotion of the Higher Learning Commission's 2015 annual conference in Chicago. Claudia Bomgaars' logo was selected from 170 student submissions to represent the conference.

The commission (HLC) accredits degree-granting post-secondary education institutions, like Northwestern, in the north central United States.

A senior art/graphic design major, Bomgaars featured a Chicago "L" train car against the Windy City skyline in her logo, while also depicting various educational tools. "The metro is an important icon of Chicago, and I wanted to also communicate how education transports people to other dimensions of life through knowledge," says Bomgaars.

"Her design is strong," says Phil Scorza '84, instructor in art. "She incorporated a sense of movement in her train car, included items that are unique to Chicago and the HLC, used a pleasing color palette, and placed it compositionally into an image that suggests a foreground, middle ground and background. All of these items make for a complex, interesting and fun logo."



Campus Life



Gennis

Each spring, as the campus comes to life, students turn the green into a fairway for one of their favorite games: gennis. Played with golf clubs and tennis balls, the amalgam sport is especially popular among men in Colenbrander Hall—which is convenient, as a favorite tee-off for the first hole is right outside their dorm door.

Four to six players progress on a course that varies depending on campus construction and obstructions. “Holes” are identified, and scores accumulate similar to mini-golf based on the number of strokes it takes to hit the trashcan in

front of Van Peursem Hall, the Zwemer sign, and the park bench on the north side of the under-construction Ramaker Center. From there, players might go west to Stegenga Hall, around the back of the DeWitt Learning Commons, across the boulevard to Christ Chapel, through the parking lot and across Albany Avenue to Hospers, and eventually back to the Coly “clubhouse.”

Instead of sand traps and water hazards, players try to avoid traffic on Albany and a bad bounce on the slanted sidewalk behind Ramaker. There’s a one-stroke penalty if your ball gets lost on the roof of a campus building and a two-stroke advantage if your ball accidentally hits a girl (giving the player a chance to apologize and maybe get a phone number).

Senior Ben Loftis doesn’t play golf, but he’s been playing gennis since his freshman year “for the social aspect,” he says. Loftis and Fellowship of Christian Athletes teammate Brady Timmer, also a senior, organized this spring’s annual best-ball gennis tournament to raise money for The Bridge, an Orange City nonprofit that provides transitional housing for women and children.

The Bridge Invitational was delayed by cold weather until finals week, which means the winners will have to wait until fall to share wearing the esteemed green jacket, purchased at another Orange City nonprofit: the Bibles for Missions Thrift Store.

Year in Pictures

The 2013–14 Northwestern College yearbook is available to iPad users as a free download in the Apple iTunes store. The app, which includes photo slideshows of sports teams, dorm life, fine arts activities and service projects, can be downloaded at tinyurl.com/qyhntmc.

The app, the second installment of the college’s digital yearbook, was created by the students in Dayne Logan’s Multiplatform Communications course.

The yearbook highlights five of the most newsworthy campus stories from the past year. It also includes several multimedia components—such as audio files, video files and pop-up elements—and photo rosters of dorm residents.

Carlson Internships

An endowed gift from Northwestern alumnus and entrepreneur Todd Carlson ’89 is funding a prestigious internship program at NWC. Five students are spending the summer in full-time paid positions with companies and organizations in Chicago, Detroit and Sioux Center, Iowa—including the firm in which Carlson is a partner, Storm Lake Capital.

Carlson Internships are reserved for highly motivated and high-achieving students with at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA. Coordinated by the college’s Franken Leadership Center, the positions provide two academic credits through the Exploring Vocation Seminar course. The students are also assigned a faculty adviser to help them maximize the benefits of their experience.

Under New Direction

For the first time since 2000, Northwestern’s athletic department has a new leader. Dr. Earl Woudstra ’78 is the new athletic director, replacing Barry Brandt ’69. Brandt has stepped down to the associate athletic director’s role as he prepares to retire next May.

“Earl possesses the gifts of leadership and vision to continue moving Red Raider athletics to even greater levels of excellence,” says President Greg Christy. “His experience as a 15-year member of Orange City’s City Council, a member of our Strategic Planning Committee, and leader in facility planning has positioned him to lead a seamless transition.”

Woudstra, professor of kinesiology, has served as assistant athletic director since 2004. As head women’s basketball coach for 17 years, he led teams to four national championships and was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame.

Under Brandt’s leadership, seven NWC teams won national titles and staffing was strengthened so nearly all of the head coaches are full-time college



Earl Woudstra



Barry Brandt

employees. Major improvements were made to the football field, outdoor track and soccer complex.

Brandt, who served as president of the NAIA Athletic Directors Association in 2011–12, was named the 2013–14 GPAC Athletic Director of the Year, an honor he also received seven years ago.

Demolition and Construction

A wrecking ball on the end of a five-story-tall crane is demolishing an Orange City landmark: the grain elevators visible as one approaches town. The elevators—along with a former gas station, storage buildings and feed mill—are on six acres located just west of the Rowenhorst Student Center.

Doug Beukelman, vice president for financial affairs, expects demolition and removal to take six to 12 weeks. The crane is knocking the outer walls into the interior of the silos, after which the concrete will be ground into usable gravel. Once that process is done, construction will begin on a new 33,000-square-foot athletic practice and training facility.

College officials had originally hoped to have the new building completed by January 2015. Negotiations to buy the property began two years ago when Ag Partners consolidated its Orange City operations with its Alton facilities. The recently expanded Alton elevator has a receiving capacity seven times faster than the aging Orange City site. The

Power Lunch

For the third year, President Christy and his wife, Michelle, opened their home to seniors who wanted to have lunch with them before graduation. Nearly half of the 2014 class—130 students—accepted the invitation, dining with the Christys in groups of around 20 throughout the final weeks of the spring semester.

Over an elegantly served meal—like mustard-roasted salmon with coastal rice and sautéed edamame—the students shared stories about their favorite classes, best memories and most embarrassing college moments.

Later, as the students savored dessert, Michelle shared what she’s learned about purpose and faithfulness through her roles as a wife, parent, cancer survivor, and inspirational speaker and writer. Greg encouraged the soon-to-be graduates to remain connected to NWC by not only returning to campus when they can, but also by fostering the kind of community they experienced at Northwestern wherever they go.

The students were also invited to ask the Christys any question they wanted. Among the inquiries fielded by the first couple were “Where did you go on your first date?” “What advice do you have for new college graduates?” and “Can I use you as a reference on my job applications?”



original timeline and purchase of the property, however, was delayed by long-term lease agreements involving several cell phone companies with towers on the silos.

With all cell phone equipment finally moved, Northwestern closed on the property in June. Beukelman expects students to see construction, rather than demolition, when they arrive on campus this fall. “There’s a real desire to get started so it can be at least partially—if not fully—enclosed before winter,” he says. President Greg Christy reports fundraising for the \$3.1 million project has gone extremely well and college officials expect to have all funds secured prior to the start of construction.

Once the building is finished, the Red Raiders will have a space where they can do conditioning and practice indoors during inclement weather. The facility, which will be connected to the DeWitt Physical Fitness Center, will also house a weight room for athletes.

Inspiring Community

Speaking at this year’s commencement, Olivia Holt started her speech by reminding fellow graduates of three things that are special about Northwestern: “Community, community, community.”

One of the people responsible for nurturing NWC’s tight-knit, Christ-centered community is Marlon Haverdink ’97, who received the 2014 Staff Inspirational Service Award at an employee banquet in May.

The college’s director of residence life since 2011, Haverdink has also served as resident director in Colenbrander Hall and held roles in recruitment and student leadership development. “Marlon has a rich vision for the role of student development in the mission of the college and in the kingdom of God as a whole,” wrote Dean of Student Life Julie Vermeer Elliott ’97 in her nomination. “He spends countless hours—including evenings and weekends—supporting those on the front lines of student formation: RDs, RAs and fellow student development staff members.”

North Suites Resident Director Kendall Stanislav ’05 describes Haverdink’s investment in student leaders as pastoral. “He takes time each week to send a word of encouragement, an article to stimulate their growth, or a video link to lighten their day. They feel inspired and are constantly reminded what special and holy work they are called to at Northwestern.”

In addition to student development, Haverdink is also responsible for student discipline. “Roommate conflicts, substance abuse ... Marlon deals with a lot of the messiness in the lives of our students,” wrote Dustin Hamm ’08, resident director of Colenbrander Hall. Hamm and his fellow



Marlon Haverdink, director of residence life, received Northwestern’s Staff Inspirational Service Award for the way his compassionate, redemptive approach to student development and discipline serves as a model for RDs, RAs and other student leaders.

RDs say Haverdink’s redemptive approach is a model for them: “He doesn’t give up easily on students who are making poor choices,” says Brittany Caffey ’06.

“Regardless of the case,” explains Elliott, “[Marlon] speaks to students with respect and Christian compassion, while at the same time challenging them to live more faithful lives.”

Researching Aging



Dr. Tyrone Genade, who joined Northwestern’s biology faculty last fall, is spending the summer conducting research on the neurobiology of aging with a doctoral student from Italy.

The two are exploring the impact of diet on the *Nothobranchius furzeri* fish. Genade has a colony descended from the original genetic line on which similar research has been performed by scientists around the world—including Genade himself—for the past decade.

After extending the lifespan of the fish via dietary restrictions, he is now measuring the levels of several hunger/satiety-regulating hormones that affect an organism’s metabolism and have also been linked to human aging.

Stand for Freedom

Last summer nursing major Kelsey Doornenbal witnessed the devastation of sex trafficking and slavery firsthand. A member of Northwestern’s Summer of Service team, she traveled to Bangalore, India, to volunteer with Rahab’s Rope, a mission organization that rescues and rehabilitates women and girls who have been victims of sexual slavery.

The women Doornenbal met were likely on her mind this spring when she helped stage a 24-hour “Stand for Freedom” demonstration on Northwestern’s campus. She and other members of the college’s International Justice Mission (IJM) chapter recruited 81 Northwestern students to stand for 30 minutes to six hours, holding signs to raise awareness for the global problem of slavery.

Northwestern had more student participants than any of the other 100 colleges who also staged Stand for Freedom events. Parked along campus sidewalks and roads, the students shared distressing statistics about the nearly 30 million people—including almost 8 million children—who are enslaved around the world today.

Visit ijm.org to learn more about how the organization fights injustices such as slavery, sex trafficking and other human rights abuses in developing countries.

Face Value

Laird Edman

Northwestern’s a No-Brainer

You have graduate degrees in both psychology and literature. How do those fit together in your scholarship and teaching?

The very foundation of an integrated liberal arts education is that disciplinary boundaries are useful but arbitrary. I don’t know how to teach without constantly talking about literature, history, theology, physics, biology and whatever else I might know something about. We can’t understand psychology—or be thoughtful scientists—without knowing something about other disciplines and learning, because it’s all connected.

What fascinates you most about the mind?

What doesn’t? The brain is the most complex object we know of in the material universe, and our knowledge of how the brain functions is exploding. We have learned more about it in the last 15 years than in the previous 5,000. And yet we still have only some fairly speculative theories as to how three pounds of neurons can generate a self-aware consciousness. What isn’t cool about that?

Your wife, Sally, is a clinical psychologist and director of NWC’s counseling services. What’s the conversation like around your supper table?

We discuss the data, current research and ways of thinking about whatever is on our minds—marriage, relationships, current events, a TV show or movie, or sermons. Our children want college credit for having to sit through all those dinner conversations.

You play guitar and sing. What are some of your favorite bands?

My music tastes are very eclectic. I think I have over 1,000 albums on my iPod. Lately I’ve been listening to Joe Bonamassa, Jonny Lang and Black Keys. I love listening to the bands of my youth—Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, Bob Dylan. I also enjoy jazz and often listen to baroque music when I’m working. But my all-time favorite band is U2. I once drove all day



A member of the psychology faculty since 2003, Dr. Laird Edman has received student-selected teaching awards from NWC, Iowa State University and Waldorf College. During his sabbatical this past year, he continued his research on how the cognitive science of religion can inform the way we live out our faith.

to Chicago, picked up my daughter, took her to a U2 concert and drove through the night to get back in time to teach my morning classes.

Do you have any favorite sci-fi stories that involve the brain?

I really enjoy Orson Scott Card’s *Speaker for the Dead*. One of the main characters is a machine named Jane who is super intelligent but socially needy. Everyone in our family names our GPS and iPhone voices “Jane” in her honor.

What’s one way you like to unwind?

Smoking a premium, hand-rolled cigar is one of the great simple pleasures of life. Doing so while mowing the lawn takes an odious task and turns it into something very pleasurable. Plus it weirds out the neighbors. But by orders of my cardiologist—and more importantly, my wife—I’ve had to give that up.

Leaving a LEGACY

Five faculty and staff members have retired this summer after giving a combined total of 112 years of service to Northwestern. Their colleagues used words to describe them like “encouraging,” “compassionate” and “student-centered.” To many, they’ll be missed.



After 25 years at Northwestern, Dr. Doug Anderson retired from the history department, clearing the shelves in his office—which was sometimes jokingly referred to as the campus’s “library annex.”

STEPHEN ALLEN



As director of the Rowenhorst Student Center since 1983, Dale Thompson has seen the building through a number of renovations, captured probably 200 bats, and helped set up for hundreds of events.

JENNI SYBESMA '09 OCHSNER

A sparkling example of service with a smile, Pat Bruxvoort retired after 14 years in Northwestern’s housekeeping department.



DOUG BURG

While he never went on a Spring Service Project, Harvey Van Klompensburg was key to the start of each trip, assembling the lineup of vans that waited for students, faculty and staff.



DOUG BURG

For 15 years Anita Vogel provided bibliographic instruction and reference assistance to students and faculty, always looking for ways the library could better serve the NWC community.



DOUG BURG

Buffalo Doug

Returning from a 2002–03 sabbatical spent exploring the American West, Dr. Doug Anderson dubbed himself “Buffalo Doug”—both to distinguish himself from other Dougs on campus and as homage to the legendary Buffalo Bill.

Buffalo Doug retired this spring, metaphorically riding off into the sunset, his saddlebags packed with artifacts from 25 years teaching at Northwestern. “I’m sorry we’re not passing out big white hats,” said Dr. Adrienne Forgette, dean of the faculty, commenting on the occasion. “Doug deserves one.

“Doug’s students came to appreciate the people of past times and the challenges they faced,” added Forgette. “They developed empathy for people different from them and for those who experienced hardship and injustice.”

A distinguished scholar as well as a devoted teacher, Anderson authored

numerous articles and a book on topics such as the American West and American Indians. This past year he collaborated with students and library employees to publish a book about the history of Orange City.

At a celebration in May, Anderson was honored not only for his years of service to Northwestern but also for “the spirit in which he served,” said Forgette. Anderson’s willing spirit—as a professor and also as a consultant to the Northwestern archives and as the interim library director in 2009—earned him the 2014 Faculty Inspirational Service Award.

Next year Anderson will work part time in Northwestern’s library while the college searches for a new director. He also plans to continue contributing to history by submitting articles to academic journals and posting to his blog, buffalodoug.wordpress.com.

Clocking Out

Dale Thompson was probably the only campus employee with a drawer full of travel alarm clocks. As the director of the Rowenhorst Student Center, he gladly gave them to any of his 45 work-study students who needed timely reminders to open the building at 6 a.m.

The alarm clocks were an important part of his supervising philosophy: He wanted students to take responsibility and learn how to work. Similarly, until recently, he didn’t have a cell phone, and he still doesn’t text. “I’ve wanted students to learn the value of problem-solving and talking to people directly—not calling me every time there’s a problem.”

When there was a problem requiring Thompson’s presence, of course, he came in. Legendary for being seen in the RSC at all hours of the day, he was the first recipient of Northwestern’s Staff Inspirational

Service Award in 2003. Nominators cited his tireless work ethic; willingness to help others with tasks not part of his job; and unique combination of excellent organizational abilities, out-of-the-box thinking and interpersonal skills.

“I can think of no one who has approached their work and calling as an educator with more consistency and faithfulness than Dale,” says Marlon Haverdink ’97, director of residence life. “Year after year, day after day, he gave his best to his co-workers and students.”

Retired after 33 years on Northwestern’s staff, in roles that also included directing intramurals and coaching cross country and track, Thompson may still check his watch every afternoon around 3:30. That was the time to run with his teams—the favorite part of his day.

A Tidy Career

Pat Bruxvoort’s replacement as the housekeeper for the DeWitt Theatre Arts and Korver Visual Arts centers is two people. Sure, they’re part time, but together they spend more hours doing the job Bruxvoort did single-handedly—sometimes literally.

Housekeeping Supervisor Arlo Van Beek ’81 recalls the time Bruxvoort broke her wrist, spent two days recovering, then showed up ready to work one-handed. Another time a dislocated elbow failed to sideline her.

During 14 years at Northwestern, Bruxvoort swept through nearly every building on campus, including the former Bushmer Art Center, where she scrubbed sans hot water, and The Playhouse, where her dusting was sometimes interrupted by bats and other shadowy happenings.

While she may have been charmed by the old theatre’s “ghosts,” Bruxvoort misses the students most. Like a second mom to those she worked with, Bruxvoort will attend the weddings of three former work-study students this summer, and she gave her home phone number to one who still might need a strong shoulder to lean on.

Vehicle Wrangler

Harvey Van Klompensburg was always willing to go the extra mile in his job as the maintenance assistant in charge of Northwestern’s vehicle fleet. Literally. The occasional times when a van would break down, he would take another van and drive for hours to bring students back to campus. Once he even flew to Tennessee to retrieve a vehicle that had stopped running, been left behind, and since had been repaired.

Until his retirement this spring, Van Klompensburg spent 25 years caring for the college’s vehicles. He purchased them, arranged for their service, prepped them for road trips, and scheduled their use by faculty, staff and coaches.

He also led the setup for events like graduation and spearheaded campus painting projects in the summer. His favorite job, however, was driving the college’s large tractor to remove snow from the parking lots—a task that took him back to his farm roots and had him at the wheel as early as 3 a.m.

Information Sage

Because of Anita Vogel ’69, Northwestern’s library stays open until 2 a.m. and provides students with free baked goods during finals week. The college’s reference and information literacy librarian started what was originally called Late Nights at Ramaker in 2004.

“That was Anita,” says Vogel’s former colleague Denise (Ten Clay ’72) Sneller. “She was always thinking about the students and what would be good for them.”

Such dedication was typical of Vogel, who retired this spring after 15 years at her alma mater. Vogel enjoyed the learning environment of a college library and found satisfaction in helping students conduct research and discover how to search databases to get the best-quality sources. She developed the reference collection, supervised more than 40 work-study students over the course of her NWC career, and served as the library’s interim director in 2002–03.

Her gift for mentoring students didn’t stop at the library’s doors. She also served as a host family for international students for 30 years.

Jeriah Dunk (right) and Jesse Selgeby, shown in the 100-meter race at the Red Raider Open, were also members of Northwestern's seventh-place 4x100 relay at the national meet, earning All-American honors.



DAN ROSS

Red Zone

Baseball Most Wins in a Season

The baseball team set a school mark with a 42-13 record and advanced to the opening round of the NAIA national championships for the second consecutive year. The Raiders tied for second in the Great Plains Athletic Conference with a 16-4 record and finished the season ranked 20th nationally. Mitch Peschon was named GPAC Player of the Year and a second-team All-American; Cody Groskreutz earned All-American honorable mention. Josh Turner threw just the second perfect game in NWC history.

Outdoor Track Triple All-American

Karen Hutson earned All-American honors in the heptathlon and long jump, finishing second in each at the national meet, as well as in the 100-meter hurdles, placing eighth. Also earning All-American honors were Matt Huseman, fourth in the high jump; the fifth-place men's 4x800 team of Taylor Bodin, Logan Hovland, Skyler Giddings and Kyle Anderson; and the 4x100 team of Jordan Strofaci, Jesse Selgeby, Alex Van Roekel and Jeriah Dunk, which earned seventh. Dunk and Anderson won GPAC titles in the 100 and 800, respectively. At the Sioux City Relays, Hutson, Huseman and the men's 4x800 were all victorious.

Softball Surge for First

The Raiders won 14 of their last 16 regular-season games to tie for first place in the conference with a 15-5 mark. NWC was 31-18 overall.

Women's Golf School Record

The Raiders concluded the year with a team scoring average of 347.1, a new school record. The squad placed second in the GPAC championships.

Men's Golf Among the Best

Neil Malenke and Ryan Kiewiet ended their careers with scoring averages among the top four in school history, both under 76. The Raiders finished fifth in the GPAC championships.

Women's Tennis GPAC Player of the Year

Frankie Eszes was named the GPAC Player of the Year for the second time in three seasons. The Raiders tied for second in the conference with a 5-2 record and were 8-8 overall.

Scholar-Athletes Honor Roll

Twenty-five Raiders in spring sports earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete recognition, including 13 in track and field. Honored for the second year in a row were Ryan Brasser (baseball); Jordan Biehle, Keely Bracelin and Lindsey Remien (softball); and Jackie Niewenhuis, Mackenzie Small and Zach Wittenberg (track).

In addition, golfer Emma Wynja and softball player Lindsey Remien earned CoSIDA Academic All-American honors.

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

Dr. Jim Bultman, Northwestern's seventh president, always looked for opportunities to get to know students and was famous for his ability to remember their names and interests.



TOM BECKER

BY ANITA CIRULIS

The Bultman Years

Jim Bultman became convinced God was calling him to Northwestern after he was offered the job of president in 1985. The search committee initially hadn't been so sure, calling him back to campus a second time during the interview process.

Given that initial reception—and the challenges Northwestern faced nearly 30 years ago—it is providential Bultman said yes to the offer. Though unproven as a president, the former Hope College professor, dean and coach was the right person at the right time.

"Jim was probably the consummate president. He did a lot of things well," says Ron De Jong '71, the director of admissions when Bultman was hired.

In Bultman, Northwestern found a president as comfortable

dancing the Macarena with students as he was serving on the NAIA's Executive Committee—someone who was engaging and relational *and* able to cast an aspirational vision for the institution. Wayne Kooiker '70, then the college's chief financial officer, describes his former boss as a gifted leader, frugal budgeter and good decision maker.

Those skills were especially critical during Bultman's initial years at NWC. The college had suffered declining enrollments that saw it lose more than 100 students in six years. It had a \$250,000 deficit and a capital campaign stalled by the '80s farm crisis.

"I know there were times when Jim, in his first year or two, would go home and say to his wife, 'Martie, I don't know if we're going to make it,'" says De Jong.

The turnaround took a few years but ultimately was remarkable. During Bultman's presidency, enrollment increased 40 percent, the endowment grew from \$3 million to \$27 million, the number of faculty with doctorates or terminal degrees jumped from 65 to 90 percent, and Christ Chapel, the Bultman Center and Stegenga Hall were constructed. Other building projects included the renovation of Van Peursem Hall, a major expansion of the cafeteria, and the extensive restoration of historic Zwemer Hall.

"Jim got the college to believe in itself," says John Greller, Northwestern's former vice president for development. De Jong says Bultman's vision of Northwestern as a premier Christian liberal arts college created a sense of confidence in

alumni and donors. Both men agree Bultman excelled at building relationships and raising money. "He didn't hesitate to ask people to give because he really felt like he was giving them an opportunity to contribute to a kingdom-building cause," Greller says.

In May Bultman returned to Northwestern to give the commencement address for what was his 50th college graduation. He spoke of his love for NWC. He praised the education and preparation the graduates had received. And he recalled the advice of a friend when he was particularly discouraged early in his presidency: "Remember you're just God's instrument. You don't have to do it alone. Just be faithful. God will work it out."

And God did.



Shutterbug



After earning a master's degree in entomology from the University of Massachusetts, Kelley (Downer '04) Zylstra worked for the USDA, conducting insect research and blogging about the bugs she found most fascinating. These days she's a full-time freelance photographer, snapping images of captivating creatures in the forests and fields around her home in upstate New York. More of Zylstra's stunning "Wild America" images can be seen on her website, kelleyelizabethphotography.com, and at yourshot.nationalgeographic.com.

Photos by Kelley Zylstra



A Fresh View

Scientist-turned-photographer
Kelley Zylstra documents nature's changing face

BY TAMARA FYNAARDT

Growing up in the concrete jungle of Chicago, Kelley (Downer '04) Zylstra was a frequent visitor to the Brookfield Zoo, The Field Museum and the Shedd Aquarium. When she wasn't out exploring the Windy City's exhibits of nature, she tuned in for Marty Stouffer's *Wild America* and paged through back issues of *National Geographic*.

Those experiences, Zylstra says, turned the city girl into a nature lover.

After graduating with an ecology degree from Northwestern and earning a master's in entomology from the University of Massachusetts, Zylstra worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, conducting research to detect, monitor and control invasive insect species, primarily a Eurasian wood wasp that was threatening pine trees (and the associated billion-dollar lumber industry).

"The work kept me outside in the woods almost 365 days a year, which was, by far, the best part of the job," says Zylstra. "I watched the forest constantly change from day to day and season to season, and I had my camera with me the whole time, documenting everything."

Despite the freedom to spend every day outdoors, Zylstra was starting to feel suffocated by the bureaucracy of her government job. So when the recession led to federal cuts, including at the USDA, it was the breath of fresh air Zylstra needed.

"Having to redefine your vocation involves a lot of introspection. When I thought about what I would do if money were no object, I wanted to find a way to keep encountering wild places and documenting what I discovered there through the lens of my camera."

"I realized I needed to figure out how to make something I love into a career."

Zylstra launched Kelley Elizabeth Photography two years ago and now makes a living documenting life, including love, marriage, families and other natural wonders. "A foundational pillar of science research is careful observation," she says. "My purpose behind my camera is the same. My view is one of endless fascination with the world, whether I'm shooting a waterfall or a wedding. It's my way of capturing something worth keeping."

Zylstra also continues to photograph landscapes and wildlife—including close-ups of her beloved bugs—images she markets to nature magazines and sells as fine art in her Etsy.com store, KelleyElizabethPhoto.

In her photos and in life, Zylstra strives for an intimacy with nature that she nurtures by immersing herself in it every day, sometimes alone, sometimes in the company of her German shorthaired pointers, Maya and Wesson, and always with her camera in hand. Her five-and-a-half-acre property in upstate New York—just an hour's drive from the


Canadian border—is next to a hemlock swamp and surrounded by acre after acre of hardwood forest.

Most people don't live off of the land anymore, claims Zylstra, or even very close to it. "People approach the outdoors as a place full of things that can harm you: biting bugs, poisonous plants—even boredom."

But if you are open to the outdoors, it will reveal itself to you in subtle, startling ways. "It has to be a deliberate relationship," Zylstra advises, "one you're continually cultivating by tuning into the landscapes around you and the rhythms that were here long before you were. That way you'll notice the claw scratchings of a black bear on a pine tree or the singular V-shape made by the wings of a soaring turkey vulture."

"I've lived here eight years, and this place is still revealing itself to me," she marvels. "Every day there are surprises—learning the rhythms and languages of all the inhabitants. Just the other morning, I was awakened at 3:30 a.m. by the caterwauling of barred owls in the swamp. It was eerie—and magical."

For Zylstra, wild places are more than magical; they're sacred: "No brick-and-mortar church has ever made me feel as worshipful or close to God as the forest, feeling the warmth of the light filtering through the canopy, kneeling on a soft cushion of moss, listening to chorusing birds and frogs, and smelling the balsam and rose hips."

As a leafy cathedral, it's picture perfect. 

Ministry IN THE National Parks

BY ANITA CIRULIS



The next time you're in a national park on a summer vacation, take a closer look at the young person working in the gift shop, serving your food or leading worship at your campground. He or she could be a Northwestern student.

Sixty-three years ago, a Princeton Seminary student employed in Yellowstone for the summer felt called to provide for the spiritual needs of park visitors, residents and co-workers. The interdenominational worship service he led in the Old Faithful Inn was the start of A Christian Ministry in the National Parks (ACMNP), an organization that places Christians on ministry teams in 28 of America's most scenic settings. Volunteers—generally 18 to 30 years old—get seasonal jobs with private park hospitality companies. Then, throughout the summer, they interact with their co-workers and park guests and lead worship services in park campgrounds and amphitheaters.

Last year ACMNP had nearly 200 students in America's national parks. Eight were from NWC. This summer four Northwestern students are serving with ACMNP in Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park.

Emily Kubbe worked at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park last summer, helping people make jewelry in its craft and design center. "I told my college adviser that I loved the outdoors and that I also loved to do ministry, and she told me about ACMNP," the junior from Ottumwa, Iowa, says.

Every Sunday, Kubbe and the other six members of her team would divide up to lead services at the Aspenglen and Moraine Park campgrounds—two services in the morning and one in the evening for anywhere from four to 45 campers. "It was a really intimate setting," Kubbe says. "It was kind of a breath of fresh air to be able to worship in that way with a really small group of people."

During her summer in the Rocky Mountains, Emily Kubbe connected with some area residents and joined them on their regular 10-mile hikes.



ACMNP provides its volunteers with materials to help them plan the services, as well as training prior to the start of the summer. "Our Sunday morning responsibilities were a huge part of it, but we also did relational ministry throughout the week with our co-workers and the people we were living with in the dorms," Kubbe says. "For me a lot of it was just spending time with my co-workers. We had really good conversations in our downtime and were able to discuss some really deep things."

Like Kubbe, Taylor Bodin '14 was at the YMCA of the Rockies last summer. The elementary education major served as a camp counselor—an experience that confirmed his calling to work with children. "I know how much I've seen God in creation, and just being able to be in the outdoors with kids and to share that passion was why I was interested in working at a national park," he says.

Bodin would join Kubbe and other ACMNP teammates in "campground walking" every weekend, striking up conversations with

campers and inviting them to the Sunday services. Many of their co-workers would come to the services—some because they were Christians and others out of curiosity.

"We would end by getting in a circle and praying, and then we would sing the doxology," he recalls. "I really liked doing that at Sunday Night Praise & Worship at Northwestern, and we were able to incorporate that into our services, which was pretty special."


Another student whose summer in the national parks reinforced his calling was Jordan Vermeer '13, a business and religion major who worked in retail at the Jackson Lake Lodge in Grand Teton National Park. The future pastor got good practice speaking at the services.

"For my first sermon, I basically used my senior thesis paper for my religion major and turned it into a sermon," he says. "I ended up writing five or six sermons. I would take some Scripture and then preach about theology and how God relates with us. I had a lot to draw on from what I learned at Northwestern."

Throughout the summer, ACMNP team members have plenty of opportunities to explore the national parks in which they are placed. With a different schedule than the rest of her teammates, Kubbe spent her day off on Mondays hiking with a local woman and her friends—70-year-olds who Kubbe says "could pound out a 10-mile hike, no problem."

Vermeer, a novice at backpacking, found himself freezing in a borrowed sleeping bag the first night he went camping. By the end of the summer he owned his own equipment and had hiked into the back country, slept on a glacier and climbed both the Middle and South Teton.

"It was definitely the most incredible summer I've ever had," he says. "I got a super tight group of friends out of it, but mostly it gave me a yearning for the outdoors and open spaces."

Perhaps, then, it's not surprising that when Vermeer starts work on his Master of Divinity degree this fall, he will be at Denver Seminary in Colorado, at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. 



College students with ACMNP find jobs in national parks, lead worship on weekends, and spend their free time hiking, camping and backpacking.





INSIDE^{the} ROPES

Former schoolteacher caddies for rising PGA star Jordan Spieth

BY DUANE BEESON

Watching the final round of the 2012 Masters on TV, teacher and part-time caddie Michael Greller '00 was asked a question he hadn't yet dared voice.

"Will you always wonder what could have been," asked his then-fiancée, Ellie, "if you don't try caddying full time?"

His answer? "Absolutely."

Not long afterward, Greller had offers to carry the bag for both Jordan Spieth and Justin Thomas at the U.S. Open. He chose Spieth, who finished as the low amateur, tied for 21st overall. By December the 19-year-old Spieth had left the University of Texas to go pro, and Greller had taken a year's leave of absence from Narrows View Intermediate School near Tacoma, Wash., to serve as his full-time caddie.

Greller's new job came with few guarantees. Spieth was the 2009 Rolex Junior Player of the Year and the only other golfer besides Tiger Woods to win the U.S. Junior Amateur more than once. But he failed to make it through the PGA's qualifying school, which meant he didn't have an exempt spot on the PGA Tour or its developmental Web.com Tour.

"Since I had no idea where my schedule was going to take me week to

week, we decided it was best to have a [caddie] who knew my game, how I go through my shot process and was a good friend off the course," said Spieth at a press conference.

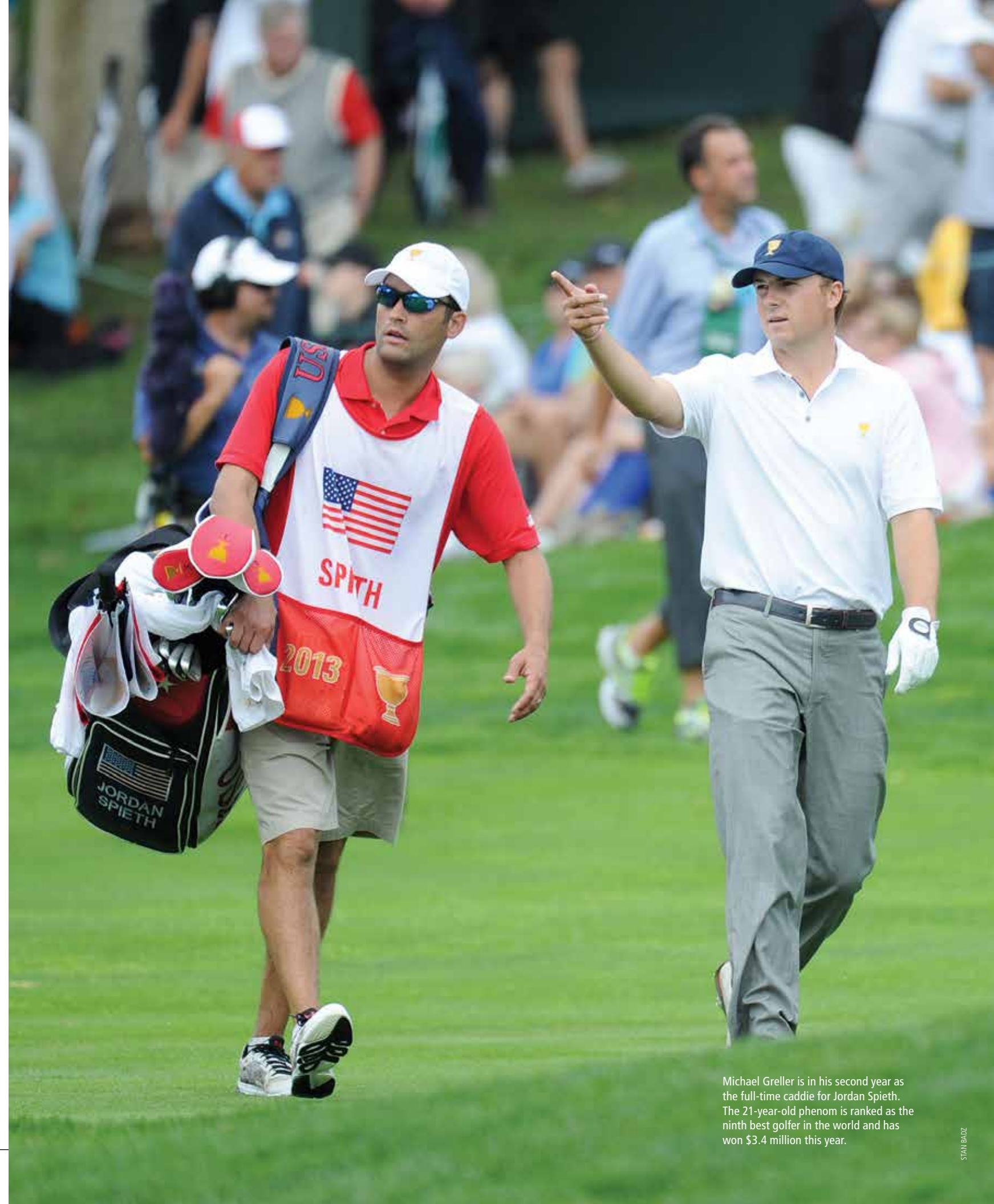
Spieth's friendship with Greller could be indirectly traced back to 2006, when Greller was watching the U.S. Amateur Public Links at his home course, Gold Mountain Golf Club. "I noticed Matt Savage was carrying his own bag," Greller told the *Sioux City Journal*. "I thought about how cool it would be to caddie, to hear what they thought, to be inside the ropes. So I went up to him and offered to work free."

Savage, a Florida State University golfer, had shot a 75 but improved to 69 the next day with Greller's assistance and advanced to the quarterfinals. After that auspicious beginning, Greller became a regular summer caddie. In 2010 he called Savage and asked if he knew anyone needing a looper for that year's U.S. Amateur

at nearby Chambers Bay on Puget Sound. Savage connected him with Justin Thomas, with whom Greller worked at three U.S. Amateurs.

When the Junior Amateur came to Gold Mountain the next year, Thomas linked Greller with Spieth, who went on to win the title.

"[Michael] knew my game, how I go through my shot process and was a good friend off the course."



Michael Greller is in his second year as the full-time caddie for Jordan Spieth. The 21-year-old phenom is ranked as the ninth best golfer in the world and has won \$3.4 million this year.

STAN BADE



Spieth became the youngest winner on the PGA Tour in 82 years when he took the John Deere Classic last July after a five-hole playoff.

MICHAEL COHEN

Teacher, Brother

It's been said that a good caddie is a psychologist, meteorologist, agronomist and mathematician. Sure, he carries the 55-pound bag, but he also cleans the clubs, studies the course to see how balls are reacting to the greens and to weather conditions, and advises on club selection.

The most important part of the job for Greller is the psychological aspect. "I have a really good relationship with Jordan's swing coach, and I know what he's working on. I can find ways to validate what he's been saying. The No. 1 thing at this level is self-belief."

While Pebble Beach may seem to be light years away from his sixth-grade classroom in Washington, Grellier says there are a lot of similarities between teaching and caddying. "Being able to think on your feet, being an encourager, having a servant's heart, being able to adapt, having thick

skin—all of those things directly apply to working with Jordan."

A grin crosses his face as Grellier adds: "Instead of 30 children in my classroom every year, it's like I have one big kid. Teaching for 10 years prepared me for Jordan."

Growing up with three siblings in the family of former Vice President for Advancement John Grellier, the caddie knows a lot about trash talking. While he has a teacher role at times, Michael is also like a big brother to the Dallas native.

"We give each other a hard time," he says. "Jordan teases me about my bald spot and 'Greller belly.' I say, 'When you're 37, come talk to me.'"

They often banter about Grellier's favorite team, the University of Michigan, and Spieth's alma mater, the University of Texas, making small bets as distractions during a tournament. And when Grellier shanked a shot that

"Greller is great at settling me down. He understands the strengths of my game and where I get in trouble."

"I thought about how cool it would be to caddie, to hear what they thought, to be inside the ropes. So I offered to work free."

came back and hit himself in the head during an off-day round, Spieth tweeted the video to his 134,000 followers. "He's very entertained by my lack of golf ability these days," says Grellier.

Together for 30 weeks of the year, the two try not to talk about golf after the long days on the course. Instead, they compete at everything from trout fishing and pool to pingpong (Spieth's the champ) and cards (more Grellier's game).

Strong Start

In their first year together as pros, Spieth finished second in the Puerto Rico Open, won the John Deere Classic in western Illinois, and helped the star-studded U.S. team win the Presidents Cup. He finished as the PGA's 2013 Rookie of the Year, ranked 20th in the world with \$3.8 million in winnings.

"He's a really gritty hard worker," says Grellier in explaining his boss's success. "He's consistent in every area of the game. He visualizes things like nobody I've ever met. And yet he's very grounded."

A few weeks after winning the John Deere, Spieth skipped a tournament so he could join his caddie and Justin Thomas in a group of foursomes at Chambers Bay, followed by Grellier's wedding on the course. Later that summer the Northwestern alum decided to make his leave of absence from teaching permanent.

"He's perfect for me," Spieth said in an article in *DFW Links*. "Especially early in the season [last year], I was trying to earn as much money as I could and I was pressing a lot. I was up and down, not emotionally neutral. Grellier is great at settling me down. He understands the strengths of my game and where I get in trouble."

Grellier—a two-time all-conference golfer at Northwestern whose 79.74 career average is 28th best in school history—has approached his new job like a student happy to back in class following summer break. At tournaments he's often on the course as early as 5:30 a.m., studying the links with his range finder. He peppers veteran caddies with questions and finds inspiration from the tour's weekly Christian fellowship meetings.

"He's learned quickly," Paul Tesori, the caddie for Webb Simpson, told Golf Channel last year. "He and Jordan both seem mature. The little things that take years to learn, they already have a firm grasp on."

Heading into this year's Masters, Grellier spent a lot of time with Carl Jackson, Ben Crenshaw's longtime caddie at Augusta National. "I took the yardage book out and went over it with him hole-by-hole. I jotted down notes and reminded Jordan of things during the week," Grellier told the *Sioux City Journal*.

"I had never been as confident when we teed up. Jordan really fine-tuned his game to peak that week, and he was as strong mentally as I've seen him."

Spieth nearly became the youngest golfer ever to win the green jacket. He led until the last couple of holes on the front nine, finishing tied for second, three shots behind Bubba Watson.

"I told him it was one of the best weeks of my life," Grellier said to ESPN about his post-tournament conversation with Spieth. "We told each other how proud we were, and [said] we're going to have a lot more of these."

You can bet on that. 🏠



CHRIS CONDON



For online students like Nandan Lexman, the local coffee shop can double as a classroom.

MICHAEL HUDSON

FLEXIBLE LEARNING

Online programs bring a Northwestern education to students around the world

BY AMY SCHEER

When Nicole Ondrashek’s mentor encouraged her to pursue an endorsement to complement her early education degree, she knew there was no way she could attend a class.

A mother of four, Ondrashek called the Iowa Board of Education to determine the options available for her packed schedule. There’s one college offering the endorsement in our state, they told her, and it’s “tough,” with high academic rankings, but you can work exclusively online.

“I wouldn’t have been able to get this job without the endorsement,” Ondrashek says about her full-time teaching position in Ossian, Iowa. “I learned a great base of knowledge, and now I have the endorsement to teach what I really enjoy.”

Today Northwestern is still the only college in Iowa to offer an online path to Endorsement 100, which qualifies teachers to work in classrooms integrating children with special needs. The program began in 2009 after

Dr. Lila (Elliott ’81) Sybesma, associate professor of education, identified a need for established teachers to acquire the endorsement without having to leave their jobs and return to college. Endorsement 100 launched Northwestern’s online learning offerings, which now include programs in analytics, coaching, early childhood education and nursing.

Students work from home and conveniently complete clinicals or student-teaching at their place of employment—experiencing Northwestern from as far away as Colorado, California and London. Dr. Rebecca Hoey, the college’s director of online learning, says the programs reach a market of adults who otherwise couldn’t take part in the college’s community.

Crystal (Sechler) Kiel enjoyed the best of both worlds. A 2007 graduate of Northwestern, Kiel put her business education to work for a couple of years before deciding to earn an RN degree.

Working in an Orange City clinic until a layoff forced her to apply elsewhere, Kiel soon realized she was in direct competition with recent college graduates holding a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. She enrolled in Northwestern’s online RN-to-BSN program, which enables students to complete the degree in two years or less.

“I had a hard time getting an interview before, but ever since starting the program, I’m more marketable,” she says.

Though Kiel, who is mom to Emmett (5) and Amelia (3), appreciated the flexibility of studying at home on her own time, she chose Northwestern’s online program for its literal proximity and its mission. While Ondrashek already had a classroom in which to complete her student teaching, Kiel wanted access to clinical experiences in a familiar, close environment alongside people who shared her beliefs.

“There are places you could go to get an online degree and learn facts about the body,” Kiel says, “whereas at Northwestern, they also want you to think about faith, how God created us, and how amazing our bodies are.”

Nandan Lexman’s needs were more straightforward. An independent software consultant commuting regularly between Illinois and Texas, Lexman was ready to transition into the area of data science, a discipline that requires knowledge of statistics, databases, programming and machine learning. Closely following industry trends, he recognized the value of an analytics education and enrolled at Northwestern to earn a certificate in the field online.

“Software can typically be self-taught,” he says, “but for data science, I needed more of a structured course online that covers various disciplines. Dr. [Russ] Albright made us think. He is a great guy with a lot of knowledge.”

Certified teachers with sports skills and knowledge can benefit from Northwestern’s online programs as well. A coaching endorsement was among the first online offerings, enrolling mostly traditional students; a coaching authorization was added later, qualifying adults who are not licensed teachers to coach at the middle and high school level. In May, 55 students began the eight-week authorization program online.

Pending Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation that will enable Northwestern to offer graduate-level programs, next summer will see the addition of a graduate certificate in the management of international development. “Major nonprofits like Compassion International have people in missions working all over the world,” says Hoey. “This certificate will prepare them so they are better able to help entrepreneurs in developing countries start and sustain small businesses.”

Northwestern also plans to begin offering online master’s degrees in education, pending HLC approval.

“As an institution, we’re really thinking about how we can meet the needs of adult students. How can we help them grow and do God’s work in the world?” asks Hoey—because the courageous and faithful learning Northwestern offers is for students of all ages and locations. 🏠



In northeast Iowa, Nicole Ondrashek was able to complete her early childhood endorsement without leaving home through Northwestern’s online program. Meanwhile Crystal Kiel ’07, a stay-at-home mom living only eight miles from campus, does most of the homework for the RN-to-BSN program while her children are sleeping.



JENNI SYBESMA '09 OCHNER

class Notes

CORRECTION: **Dr. Paula Muyskens-Gagne '73** was inadvertently left out of the list of survivors in the obituary for **Paul Muyskens '48** in the spring *Classic*. We regret the error.

'73 Ed Aronson was recognized by Eagle (Idaho) Middle School as their 2013–14 Teacher of the Year. He has taught mathematics and coached football and track there for 13 years. He recently completed 41 years as an educator.

'76 The Rev. Barry Wynveen is the pastor of First Reformed Church in Chatham, Ontario.

'81 Kate Ververs Bryant, Carol Stream, Ill., is the human resources senior office coordinator at Wheaton College.

'82 Dr. Robert Puff is a speaker and clinical psychologist in Newport Beach, Calif. He is the author of two recent books, *The Everything Guide to Anger Management and Holistic Success: How to Dance Through Life With the Abandon of a Child and the Skill of a Master*.

Dr. R. Todd Wise is an associate professor of psychology and chair of the clinical psychology program at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia.

'84 Dr. Janet (Hassebroek) Guthmiller has been named the new dean of the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry. She was previously associate dean of academic affairs and professor of periodontology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Dentistry.

'85 Bonnie (Van Wyhe) Austin was selected as one of seven teachers for the 2014 class of Kansas Master Teachers. She is a math teacher and instructional coach at Dodge City High School.

'89 Dr. Tim Aberson, Paullina, Iowa, recently retired from his chiropractic practice to pursue a career in aquaculture with Global Blue Technologies.

Dr. Melissa Vickery-Bareford is a teacher and show coordinator for Journey Theater Arts Group, a Christian children's theater in Vancouver, Wash.

'93 Liz (De Jong) DeBraber, Grand Rapids, Mich., presented a one-woman art show at Fountain Street Church's Keeler Gallery in May and June. "For the World" featured seven life-sized figures that portray her deep concerns and hopes for the world. Her husband, **the Rev. Andy,** is in his second year as executive director of Heartside Ministries, which serves those who are homeless and living in poverty.

Red Ties

MARK BLOEMENDAAL '81
Director of Alumni Relations

Considering I've attended more than 30 graduation ceremonies since my own in 1981, you might imagine they're not a big deal to me anymore. But the pomp and circumstance still excite me—especially this year. Having an opportunity to hear Dr. Jim Bultman speak at Northwestern again was as inspiring as ever. Then, as our youngest son received his diploma along with 276 other grads, two things in particular struck me.

First, I thought about all the students who have crossed that stage and I marveled at their cumulative impact on the world. Teachers, doctors, artists, farmers, social workers, parents, pastors, businesspeople—the list is as long as that line of graduates waiting to shake the president's hand. Many are doing what they hoped and dreamed of, and probably more are living, working and building community in places and ways they never imagined. It made me feel so proud and so humbled at the same time.

Second, as the names of this year's graduates were read, I was struck by the number I knew who were following in the footsteps of a parent, grandparent, sibling or other family member who crossed the same stage in the 33 years I've attended graduations. All these connections—the legacies—are such vital threads in the fabric of the Northwestern story.

Just a few hours after commencement, I read the following tweet from a 2014 student-athlete—and now graduate—I follow on Twitter: "People can complain about the rules & how 'highschoolish' NW is, but I have another family because of that place and I wouldn't trade it for the world." It received 37 "favorite" clicks in about three hours.

The Northwestern family is pretty special. I wouldn't trade it either.



Remember eating Froot Loops for breakfast, lunch and dinner? What other memories do you have of the caf? We want to hear about who sat where, your favorite meal or never-miss treat, strangest food combinations, most epic food fight or longest conversation.

Email classic@nwc Iowa.edu and you may see your savory story in the next issue of the *Classic*.

'98 Brad Kehn is the senior pastor at Church of the Good Shepherd in Wayne, Ohio. He and his wife, **Cheryl (Jamieson),** have four children: Autumn (13), Hunter (10), Grace (8) and Elliana (1).

'99 The Rev. B. J. Van Kalsbeek is the congregational life pastor at Sunnybrook Community Church in Sioux City. He and his wife, **Manda (Nelson),** have three children: Kamea (8), Brody (5) and Trey (2).

'00 Aaron Johnson was named the *Northwest Iowa Review's* 2014 Co-Coach of the Year after leading the West Lyon High School boys' basketball team to the Class 1A state championship and a 23-5 record.

'01 Kyle Hutchinson is the assistant principal and activities director at Nevada (Iowa) High School. His wife, **Amy (Wacker),** teaches eighth grade language arts at Nevada Middle School.

Dr. Chris Rott is an orthopedic surgeon at Lake Region Healthcare in Fergus Falls, Minn.

Justin Schrock and his wife, **Vicki (Dykstra),** moved from rural Orange City

to Guatemala with their six children to work with Paradise Bound Ministries. They are training lay pastors, implementing youth ministry and providing staff administration. Vicki also serves as a nurse in orphanages and clinics.

'02 Kelsey (Iversen) Callens, Rock Valley, Iowa, is a residential manager for the 3rd Judicial District Iowa Department of Corrections in Sioux City.

'04 Brooke Oehme is pursuing a doctorate in communication studies-dramaturgy from Southern Illinois University.

'05 Tyler De Haan of Urbandale, Iowa, was named to the *Des Moines Business Record's* 40 Under 40 list for 2014. He is a wholesaler for Principal Financial Group.

Ben Landegent is the new RCA missionary pastor at Mescalero Reformed Church, located on the Mescalero Apache Reservation in New Mexico. He replaces **the Rev. Robert Schut '71,** who retired after 29 years in that role. Landegent previously served as the youth pastor there.



Online Campus Tour

Whether you're a frequent visitor or haven't been back to your alma mater in years, you'll enjoy exploring Northwestern's campus via our new virtual tour, featuring 720-degree photos of major buildings, an interactive campus map, and 8 photo galleries.

nwc Iowa.edu/virtual-tour



Baseball is a lot like life, Paul Delger tells high school and college students. There are a lot of ups and downs; the key to overcoming is to keep stepping up to the plate.

Staying in the Game

The irony of being a sports lover with a noticeable limp and limited use of his right side is not lost on Paul Delger '79. Born with cerebral palsy, Delger has had his share of physical and vocational setbacks, and now he is drawing on his experiences to share his fighting spirit with others.

Delger approaches life with a creative mind, strong faith and sense of humor, which is how he persevered through years of vocational monotony, including a long stint of pumping gas at his dad's station. On an Athletes in Action trip to Africa in 2010, his third trip with the organization, God began revealing a new action plan to Delger. He needed to share his story—of being bullied, disregarded and disappointed. But more than that, it is a story of staying in the game.

Currently self-employed as a writer and speaker, Delger has found both healing and empowerment. Speaking primarily to high school and college audiences, he motivates them to attack challenges with their God-given fighting spirit.

"You can't be someone else," he says. "I encourage [young people] to celebrate and do the best they can with what God has given them. I could never play basketball like Michael Jordan or LeBron James, but those guys could never be Paul Delger either."

BY **BETH (NIKKEL '02) GAULKE**



DAN VIDETICH
Matt Bultman has been a Kansas City-based sales representative for Louisville Slugger, the official bat of Major League Baseball, since 1991.

Grand Slam

The son of a baseball coach (and later college president), Matt Bultman '90 played the sport as a Northwestern freshman but hit his stride on the golf course, where he lettered four years. A business administration major, Bultman wanted to work for a golf company. After graduation he entered the sales training program of Hillerich & Bradsby, the parent company of PowerBilt Golf. But by the time he was ready to begin making sales calls, a Kansas City-based territory for the firm's iconic Louisville Slugger line of baseball and softball products seemed like a better fit. After selling in a four-state area for many years, Bultman now handles national strategic accounts, mainly Internet and catalog companies. He's seen numerous technological changes in Louisville Slugger's product line in his time with the company, including the growth of composite and hybrid bats. What are the marks of a good bat? "You want a big sweet spot, nice balance throughout the bat, a good sound coming off the ball and a good feel when hitting it," says Bultman. He says it's fun to sell equipment for sports he loves. And the former pitcher and outfielder finds his competitive spirit hasn't waned. "I love the challenge of trying to get more shelf space and sales for Louisville Slugger. I like to compete and win."

BY DUANE BEESON

Lisa (Taylor) Monroe, Norwalk, Iowa, is a resource manager at Rose International. She and her husband, Jesse, have three children: Chase (11), Madison (4) and Cole (1).

Julie (Warren) Ruiter is the owner/grocery manager of V&M Grocery and Locker in Leota, Minn. She and her husband, Chad, have two children: Cara (4) and Alex (1).

'06 Melody (Paynter) Diernmyer, Anchorage, Alaska, is an accounting clerk for the Alaska Division of Forestry.

Tim Thompson is a radiation therapist for UnityPoint Health in Fort Dodge, Iowa. His wife, **Emily (Hoekema '07)**, works from home as a communications coordinator for the Good Samaritan Society in Sioux Falls.

'08 The Rev. Lindsey De Kruif is the associate minister of youth and families at Christ Community Reformed Church in Clifton Park, N.Y.

Katie Gard, Philadelphia, is the after-school program coordinator for the Oxford Circle Christian Community Development Association.

'09 Andrew Bloemendaal is an operating partner for the new Pizza Ranch franchise in Loveland, Colo.

Sheena (Getty) Van Roekel is the new head women's soccer coach at Iowa Lakes Community College. She previously served as the assistant coach for both the men's and women's teams and assistant instructor in the Student Success Center.

'10 Danielle (Veurink) Brown is an accountant at Nichols, Rise & Co. in South Sioux City, Neb.

Carrie (Muilenburg) Vander Schaaf, Orange City, is an accounting/budget clerk in the Sioux County Auditor's Office.

'11 Kassie (Scorza) Carpio is a functional family therapist for Juvenile Court Services in Orange City. She is pursuing a master's degree in social work from the University of Iowa.

'12 Ellen Tolsma has been elected the school's Iowa Student Bar Association co-president for 2014–15. Her article, "Protecting Our Herd: How a National Mandatory Vaccination Policy Protects Public Health by Ensuring Herd Immunity," was selected for publication by the *Journal of Gender, Race and Justice*.

'13 Jeremy Bork is a youth ministry intern at First Reformed Church of Schenectady (N.Y.). He plans to attend Western Theological Seminary this fall.

Brandon Hammack is a graduate assistant and assistant track and field coach at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall. He is pursuing a master's degree in physical education/coaching. His wife, **Natasha (Fernando)**, is a collateral specialist for U.S. Bank.

Kirsten (McConnel) Lesage will begin studies toward a doctorate in developmental psychology from the University of California, Riverside, this fall.

Heather (Goehring) Vermeer is an actuarial technician at Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance in Indianapolis. Her husband, **Tyler**, is pursuing a Doctor of Optometry degree from the Indiana University School of Optometry.

Margaret White teaches in the resource room at Fredstrom Elementary School in Lincoln, Neb.

New Arrivals

Angela and **David Harding '90**, daughter, Alaina Catherine, joins Camden (6) and Elisabeth (4)

Mary and **Jeff Leimer '95**, daughter, Gabrielle Grace, joins Violet (2)

Randy and **Jen (Christiansen '99) Dolphin**, daughter, Rhyss Allee, joins Tyce (9) and Jayde (6)

Joel and **Sarah (Sikkema '99) Seitz**, daughter, Cora Jane, joins Maya (4)

Kristi and **Eric Carlson '00**, son, Aaron Alan, joins Treven (12)

Jason and **Lenette (Nienoord '01) Baron**, son, Grant Earl, joins Lydia (9), Adah (6) and Jacey (3)

Homecoming & Family Weekend

WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS

- Red Raider Road Race
- Morning on the Green family carnival
- Tailgate picnic
- Children's theatre
- Raider football vs. Dordt
- Reunions for theatre alumni and the classes of '64, '74, '84, '89, '94, '04, '09 and '14

RAIDER DAYS!

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October 24-25

Where in the world is NWC?

Everyone wore something from their alma mater when Mary Jane (Van Batavia '53) Rozeboom gathered with her kids and grandkids for a group photo while on a family vacation in Jamaica. How far have you gone to promote Northwestern? Send us a photo of you in NWC attire and it might get printed in a future *Classic*.

Email classic@nwciowa.edu



As deputy commissioner and chief operating and financial officer for Minnesota's Department of Transportation, Tracy Hatch spends a lot of time in the capitol, meeting with legislators and the governor.

Road Work

Minnesotans are tough. They get bug bites in the summer and frostbite in the winter. This past winter, North Star Staters weathered more than 35 ice and snowstorms. In addition to costing the state's taxpayers \$135 million in snow removal, the chilly winter generated millions of potholes and loads of mail for the Minnesota Department of Transportation—some of it warmly appreciative, some of it heated. Angry letters are part of the job for Tracy (Carter '95) Hatch, deputy commissioner of MnDOT. “You should see how riled up people get about potholes,” she says. With steely resolve and a sunny disposition, Hatch steers a department of 5,000 employees and \$11 billion in state-owned assets—like roads and bridges—that are in constant need of upkeep. Responsible for stretching Minnesota's \$3 billion annual budget to pay for infrastructure maintenance, improvement and expansion, Hatch is driven by a passion for government effectiveness and accountability. In addition to deputy commissioner, Hatch is also MnDOT's chief operating and financial officer—roles that lead her from Governor Mark Dayton's office to Minnesota house and senate committee hearings. Each week she also finds time to hit the road, traveling to sites across the state to better understand the mile-by-mile work of MnDOT's road crews and assure them the work they're doing paves the way for safe, mobile and happy citizen-stakeholders—no matter what the mail says.

BY TAMARA FYNAARDT



Don't Lose Sight of the Future

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- Davee (Hubers '01)** and **Steve Connell '00**, daughter, Hadley Marie, joins Austin (8), Tate (6) and Maci (3)

Melanie (Poppen '01) and **Chad Odens '02**, daughter, Julia Ann, joins Luke (2)

Paul and **Melanie (DeBoer '03) Bruns-don**, daughter, Madeline Elise

Daniel and **Kristine (Elbers '03) DeGroff**, son, Jude Marlin, joins Hannah (6), Malachi (4) and Luke (2)

Jason and **Carleen (Owens '03) Smith**, daughter, Clara Grace, joins Ian (6) and Trevor (3)

Brian and **Sarah (Wynia '03) Smith**, daughter, Miriam Hannah, joins Jackson (2)

Chelsi and **Karlton Hector '04**, daughter, Marlo Grey, joins Stella (8) and Dash (3)

Kevin and **Paula (Ewoldt '04) Hodgson**, daughter, Charlette Rae, joins Isabell (5) and Katelyn (2)

Nate and **Rebecca (Voss '04) Rael**, daughter, Aubrey Joy, joins Levi (2)

Megan (Gort '06) and **Marcus Leloux '04**, son, McCoy Jasper, joins Maclaren (3)

Sarah (Naylor '06) and **Richard Moore '06**, son, Wesley Alan

Mark and **Kayli (King '06) Oquist**, son, Matthew Dale, joins Andrew (2)

Morgan (Walker '06) and **Dan Swier '06**, daughter, Kate Alice, joins Brooke (4) and Eva (2)

Loren and **Carrie (Lokker '08) Mathison**, son, Landyn Kenneth, joins Cora (2)

Emily Sweet '08 and **Ben Landegent '05**, son, Jonathan Bentley Sweet, joins Autumn (2)

Erin and **Mike Scholten '09**, son, Burton James, joins Jaiden (8)

Sarah (Olson '10) and **Taylor Muggge '10**, daughter, Adelaide Katharen

Brittany (Belden '11) and **Dustin Hamm '08**, daughter, Madison Jay
- ## Marriages

Crystal Brown '05 and Russell Boynton, Sioux Falls

Joy DenHartog '06 and Ryan Leafgreen, Des Moines

Melody Paynter '06 and Jeremy Diermyer, Anchorage, Alaska

Josh Earleywine '08 and Amber Schroeder, Rockford, Ill.

Seth Lembke '11 and Britta Doeschot, Treynor, Iowa

Tim Vermeer '12 and **Amy Van Skike '13**, Iowa City, Iowa

Heather Goehring '13 and **Tyler Ver-meer '13**, Bloomington, Ind.

Kirsten McConnell '13 and **Dave Lesage '09**, Orange City

The couples reside in the city listed.

In Memoriam

Dr. David Dykstra '32, '34 died Feb. 27 in Gaithersburg, Md., at age 99. He earned a doctorate in American history from the University of Wisconsin and was a professor of American history for 32 years at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y. His survivors include a son and a sister.

Dorothy (Mak '41) Hymans, age 91, of Hull, Iowa, died Jan. 31. She taught in a one-room school and worked as a secretary in Sioux City. Later she was employed at Hegg Memorial Hospital and Hope Haven in Rock Valley. She was an active member of American Reformed Church in Hull. She is survived by four children, including **Dallas '72**.

Adriana Boender '44 died March 15 in Sheldon, Iowa, at age 89. She graduated from Fort Wayne (Ind.) Bible College and was a teacher in Iowa, Kentucky, Mexico, and Alberta, Canada. She was a member of First Reformed Church of Hospers. She volunteered with Bibles for Missions, the Bible League and the American Legion Auxiliary.

The Rev. Norman Menning '52, of Rock Valley, Iowa, died Jan. 30 at the age of 87. After attending Northwestern, he graduated from Hope College and Western Theological Seminary. He pastored several Reformed churches in Iowa and Nebraska before retiring in 1991. He was a member of the Senior Saints Chorus and helped refurbish wheelchairs for Hope Haven. He is survived by his wife, **Fannie (Lammers '51, '83)**, and three children.

Marie (Landhuis '57) Rave, age 77, died April 9 in Cherry Valley, Calif. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Wayne State College and taught for over 30 years in Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota and Nebraska. She also helped her husband manage two Hallmark stores and a pharmacy. She is survived by two children, including **Amy Peterson '90**, and a brother, **Marinus '53**.

SPEAK UP

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

Submit for consideration by Aug. 29 to:

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After interning at the Plymouth County Historical Museum while a student at Northwestern, Carla Shelton's career track has included earning a master's degree from Texas Tech University and working for the Texas Heritage Museum, Texas Ranger Museum, and Silent Wings Museum.

On Display

When Oklahoma State University opened the doors to its new—and first ever—art museum, Carla Shelton '07 was among those celebrating and enjoying credit for the achievement. The history and sociology major with a master's degree in museum science was hired by OSU in 2012 as the museum's registrar and collections manager. She helped design the storage layout in the building's archive, entered collection items in a database, created condition reports on each piece of artwork, and supervised the collection's move to its new home. “I've always worked in collections, so I've always seen the ‘back of the house’ of museums,” she says of her preparation for her latest job. “My master's degree equipped me for anything. Once you know registration, you can do it at any museum—and while it's been a little bit of a learning curve with the art, you care for objects the same.” Shelton does that care in her “2,000-square-foot office,” the museum's climate-controlled collection vault. And because Oklahoma State's Postal Plaza Gallery is a teaching museum, the vault has glass doors and windows that give visitors the rare opportunity to see the behind-the-scenes work of a museum—and Shelton and her student assistants in action.

BY ANITA CIRULIS

Classic Thoughts

Pushing Back Against Bullying

BY EMILY (MEYERINK '08) GRIESE

"I get called fish-face ... I feel kinda nervous going to school. I like learning, but I have trouble making friends."

These comments by a young boy in Sioux City, Iowa, were featured in the recent documentary *Bully* and capture the trepidation so many youth today feel. While school is supposed to be a safe place—a place where students go to learn, make friends and explore who they are—it has, for so many of them, become a place of fear. With nearly 20 percent of youth reporting repeated maltreatment by their peers in the form of bullying, it is clear we should no longer ignore this issue.

To combat bullying, it is important that we first accurately identify what bullying is and its impact. Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior directed toward an individual that is 1) repeated or has the potential to be repeated and 2) involves some sort of power imbalance, such as differences in physical

strength or popularity. Children who are bullied report feeling emotionally distressed or anxious. They withdraw from their peers or family, act out behaviorally, or avoid school. In more extreme cases, being a perpetual victim can lead to significant depression and even thoughts of suicide.

As parents or teachers, we often feel lost in this battle, wondering where to turn and how best to help our kids. The reassuring news is that there are resources. As a researcher who studies bullying, one of the most rewarding aspects of my work is providing teachers and parents—who often feel helpless—with supportive information on bullying and the skills needed to stand up to it. Below are key areas researchers have identified as important in the fight against bullying.

Enacting peers or bystanders: More than half of all bullying situations (57 percent) stop when a peer intervenes on behalf of the victim. One of our most important tools is to teach students to identify bullying behavior and equip them with the skills to effectively intervene for each other. Supportive actions

from peers can include directly stepping into the situation, seeking help from outsiders, and/or comforting the victim. As teachers and parents, encouraging kids to step up when they see someone being bullied and then praising them when they do so is invaluable. Bystanders who are confident they can make a difference are more likely to act when bullying occurs.

Empowering victims themselves: One of the most important factors in the duration and impact of bullying is how the victim copes, or responds, when bullied. While fighting back may be natural for some children and even encouraged by their parents, retaliation is likely to make the bullying situation worse. Instead, victims should be encouraged to walk away and report the bullying situation to a teacher or trusted adult.

Youth who are bullied can also limit their potential for future bullying. Victims who are encouraged to develop appropriate problem-solving skills and seek avenues for social support can be empowered to stop bullying before it starts. Children who are able to increase pro-social behaviors like helping, sharing or volunteering are also more likely to be seen positively by their peers and, in turn, decrease their chances of being bullied.

Engaging teachers and parents: Finally, teachers and parents serve an important role in supporting both victims and bystanders by providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge to take a stand against bullying. Victims of bullying report that the most helpful things teachers can do are listen to them, check in with them, and provide them with advice and skills to deal with the bullying if and when it occurs.

Bullied kids and their parents aren't helpless or alone. Together we can empower our youth by providing them with the knowledge and skills to decrease bullying and ensure our schools are safe and welcoming places.

Dr. Emily Griese earned master's and doctoral degrees in educational psychology from the University of Nebraska. She is now a postdoctoral research fellow at Sanford Research in Sioux Falls, S.D., conducting research aimed at bullying prevention.

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Cutting the Cords



Baccalaureate is an opportunity for graduating seniors to gather for a final time in Christ Chapel, their college worship home. The service includes stories, songs and a personal blessing for each student, culminating in a moving Cutting of the Cords ceremony. While that act symbolizes the graduates' separation from Northwestern College, their bonds in Christ—and to their alma mater—are ties that cannot be broken.

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