

Northwestern College Magazine

SUMMER 2016

the Classic

The Radio Signal

Former Northwestern president publishes
memoir about life in Nazi Germany

Also

Coly Alums Hang Out on Google
Campus Ministry's New Leader
Intramural Games and Names





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Students keep fit and let off steam through participation in an extensive schedule of intramural sports.

DAN ROSS

Classic People

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

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

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

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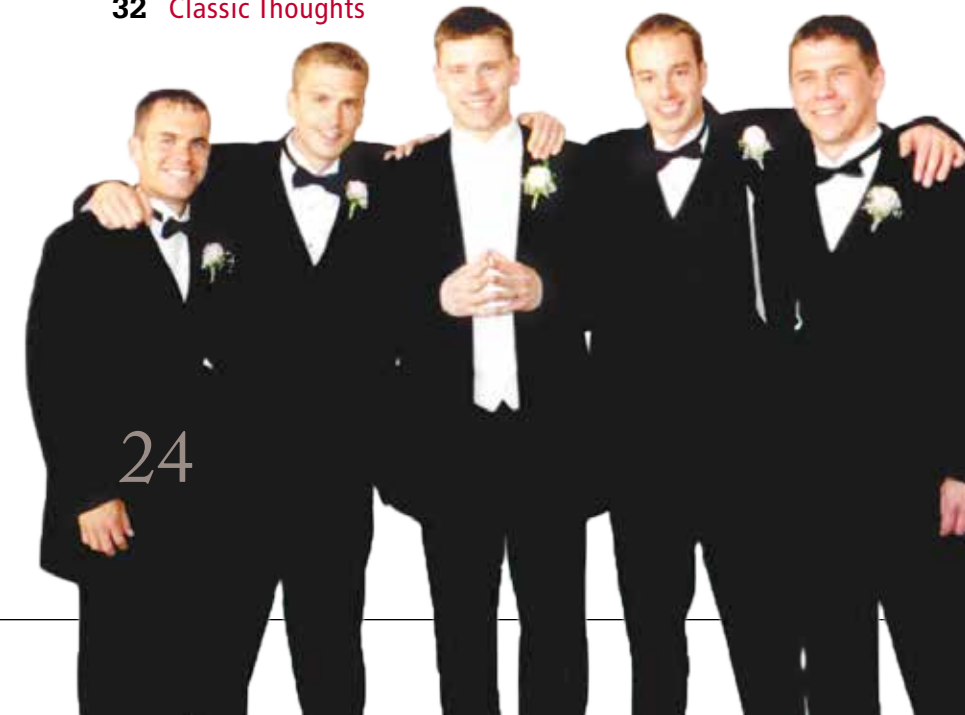
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Your Turn

Have you and your NWC friends found ways to keep in touch over the years, like the "Five Guys" (p. 24)? Share your story and comments about any article in this issue.

visit classic.nwciowa.edu





DOUG BURG

Marks of Excellence

The 2015–16 academic year was full of many great accomplishments by Northwestern students, faculty and staff. However, perhaps none was more important institutionally than five successful reaccreditations. Four of our five professional programs hosted accreditation site visits, and Higher Learning Commission representatives were on campus for our 10-year institutional reaccreditation in November.

In the fall, the departments of nursing and business successfully attained reaccreditation. This spring we also received successful accreditation reports for our education and social work programs. All four of these programs are graduating students who are highly sought after by employers and graduate schools. Each program has also recently received recognition in Iowa, regionally and nationally for its excellence.

In addition to these successful departmental accreditations, Northwestern College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). Every 10 years, colleges and universities must submit a comprehensive self-study that demonstrates the institution has met the accrediting body's standards of core components, of which there are 25 criteria.

A work group compiled our self-study report over the past two years, and a team from the HLC was on campus for two days reviewing that work in November. The site visit team makes a recommendation to the HLC, which then makes its final decision regarding reaccreditation. This spring we were notified that we met all criteria with no concerns. The HLC process was a complete success, with the next review slated for 2025–26!

In this era of heightened accountability for colleges and universities, this is no small accomplishment. It speaks to the quality of our faculty and staff to receive such strong affirmation. The colleagues I am privileged to work with every day take their roles as Christian educators very seriously. We are fully devoted to living out our mission as a Christian academic community engaging students in courageous and faithful learning and living that empowers students to follow Christ and pursue God's redeeming work in the world.

Praise God we have been fully accredited for another decade of service! Our world is desperate for the leadership and service of the courageous and faithful graduates Northwestern College develops. Thank you for partnering with us in this noble mission of Christian higher education.

Greg Christy
President

around the Green

Arguing for Faith in Science

Five Northwestern professors published essays exploring the intersections of faith with science in the May/June issue of *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*.

Biology professors Dr. Laura Furlong, Dr. Byron Noordewier and Dr. Sara Sybesma '84 Tolsma

each wrote essays arguing that faith and science are not in conflict—as 59 percent of Americans believe—but rather that each illumines the other. "... [S]cience and Scripture complement one another and, when integrated, affirm the truth I find in both," wrote Tolsma.

Dr. James Mead and his new religion department colleague Dr. Jason Lief '96 also contributed to *Perspectives*. Their essays argued that Christians should approach the Bible—including passages like Genesis 1—with humility and a spirit of discovery. Lief wrote,

"Often the problem is we think we know what Scripture says, only to be surprised again and again when we actually read it."

Tolsma and Lief are co-editors of *Perspectives*. The May/June issue can be read online at perspectivesjournal.org

in Box

Part of History

Reading the article "Having a Ball" was a quick trip down memory lane. I was a saxophone player in the Jazz Band in 1986, and I remember we prepared several sets of music, not knowing for sure what to expect at the first dance. As I recall, the night went very well. I graduated that May and was not aware the ballroom dance had become a tradition. Awesome!

Ivan Helmus '86
Wauke, Iowa

Thankful

Thank you so much for printing an update on Brittany Vollmer. I have often wondered over the years how she is doing. It is good to know she has so many people in her life who love and support her. That has always been my prayer for her.

Karla (Ploeger '96) Geyer
Norwalk, Iowa

Moved

I was nearly bawling my eyes out at my desk while reading your article about Brittany Vollmer when a student ambled in from the lockers to ask a question and said, "Oh no! Mr. Smith, are you all right?"

Great piece. So well-written. Thank you.

After reading it, I kept thinking about Jeff Barker's play, *Terror Texts*, now called *A Holy Terror*, and the fact that even in

our darkest and most tragic moments, the presence and grace of God is somehow present. I lost my mother to cancer when I was a sophomore at Northwestern. Years later, I can see I am a better husband, parent and teacher from having gone through that painful experience. I don't like "everything happens for a reason" theology. Instead, the truth I cling to is that tragedy, loss, pain, separation—and ultimately death—is never God's final word. There is *always* light in the darkness, and I thought Tamara Fynaardt captured that truth well in Brittany's story.

Daniel Smith '99
Marshall, Minn.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Many people wrote personal notes to Brittany in the comments section of the online story at classic.nwciowa.edu/brittany and reached out to her in other ways. She expresses her appreciation for the encouragement and support she has received following publication of the *Classic* article.

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.



Husbands Takes Baton for Academic Program

When Mark Husbands enrolled at Toronto's York University as a freshman, he was a talented trumpet player seeking a career as a professional jazz musician. Then he took a class called Jesus and Interpretation.

"I was introduced to the larger thinkers of Christianity—Augustine, Luther, Calvin—and realized they had the same questions I had," he says. "I saw the Christian faith as an invitation into a large conversation with the past and developed an intellectual life that was fully grounded in the church."

Husbands' experience led him in a new direction that included master's and doctoral degrees in religion and a career as a theology professor. And it gave him a desire to help others offer their whole selves to God as an act of worship.

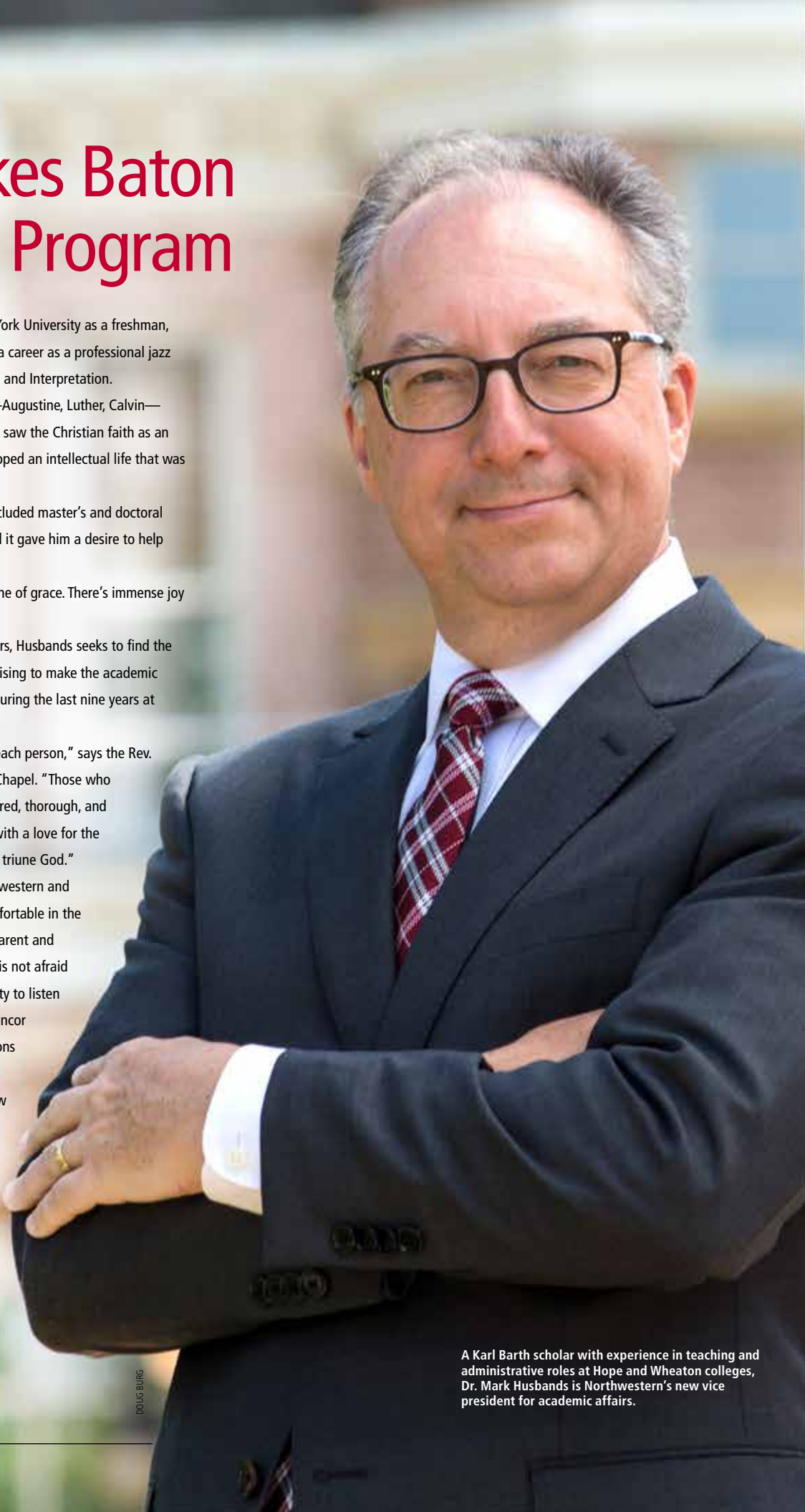
"God wants and needs everything put under the discipline of grace. There's immense joy in seeing one's life as an integrated whole," he says.

As Northwestern's new vice president for academic affairs, Husbands seeks to find the right balance between rehearsing, collaborating and improvising to make the academic program hit its highest notes. Those who worked with him during the last nine years at Hope College say he's up to the task.

"Mark will bring a professionalism and a deep care for each person," says the Rev. Dr. Trygve Johnson '96, Hope's Hinga-Boersma Dean of the Chapel. "Those who work with him will experience a leader who is always prepared, thorough, and who comes ready to engage competing ideas. He will lead with a love for the life of the mind, as well as a love for nurturing a faith in the triune God."

Adds Dr. James Bultman, former president at both Northwestern and Hope, "Mark is an accomplished academic—well-read, comfortable in the world of ideas, and engaging with people. He is both transparent and trustworthy. He is a great listener who seeks consensus but is not afraid to make decisions and to implement them. I admire his ability to listen to those with whom he disagrees and to proceed without rancor or humiliation while still remaining true to his own convictions and values. My prediction is he will build on Northwestern's considerable academic strengths and lead the college to new levels of excellence."

A member of the Reformed Church in America's Commission on Theology who has edited seven books, Husbands says he's impressed by Northwestern's faculty and staff. "I have deep respect for what is happening here," he says. "It is a privilege to promote an undergraduate and graduate education that is intellectually strong, spiritually vibrant and fully engaged in an evangelical commitment to the cultural renewal of all things in Christ."



A Karl Barth scholar with experience in teaching and administrative roles at Hope and Wheaton colleges, Dr. Mark Husbands is Northwestern's new vice president for academic affairs.

Props for Programs

Northwestern College's actuarial science, economics and nursing majors received impressive recognition this summer.

The actuarial program is ranked 18th out of the top 40 best value colleges and universities by online-accounting-degrees.net, based on metrics like graduation rate, quality of curriculum, student appeal and net price. Northwestern is the highest-rated member of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCCU) in the ranking, with the only other listed CCCC member institution being Olivet Nazarene University, ranked at 38th.

The economics program is included among Iowa's top 10 programs by zippia.com, based on such factors as graduates' career results, the percentage of economics majors compared to all other majors, graduation

rates, cost and average amount of debt. The study ranks NWC 10th. The website highlights Northwestern's affordability and says the college ranks second in the state for the percentage of graduates working in the field of economics up to five years after graduation.

And Northwestern's nursing program is ranked among the nation's top 10 percent, as well as 35th out of 50 in the Plains region, by nursingschoolsalmanac.com. The ratings are based on the institutions' academic prestige and perceived value; the breadth and depth of nursing programs offered; and student success, particularly on the NCLEX national licensure exam. One of only seven Iowa colleges on the list, Northwestern is also the only institution not located on the eastern edge of the state.



Art professor Yun Shin is among the faculty whose special projects and research received funding through Northwestern Scholarship Grants awarded in 2016.

Summer Funds

Eleven professors were involved in research and special projects this summer with funding from the Northwestern Scholarship Grants program.

Three worked with students. Dr. David Arnett, chemistry, and Dr. Sara Sybesma '84 Tolsma, biology, each had a student research assistant. Arnett studied how a signaling protein activates an enzyme involved in the dilation of blood vessels; Tolsma explored the genetic relationships between mayfly populations in California.

Theatre professor April Hubbard performed her two-person adaption of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* with department colleague and fellow grant winner Robert Hubbard at the Kansas City Fringe Festival. A student theatre major did the sound design for the show.

Karen Barker, another theatre professor, performed a one-woman musical about Mary Magdalene in churches across the country. Dr. Chris Hausmann, sociology, continued research that integrates insights from studies of social privilege and

experiential learning in order to propose new strategies for civic learning.

Dr. Seunghun Hong, mathematics, studied how Weyl's law extends into the realm of quantum geometry. English professor Dr. Michael Kensak researched how terms describing cultural differences and cultural relativism took on their modern meaning in the generations between Chaucer and Shakespeare.

Dr. Michael Kugler, history, visited the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh to continue work on his book about Adam Ferguson, a Presbyterian minister in Scotland during the early Enlightenment period.

And finally, art professors Yun Shin and Emily Stokes used their grants to create new artwork for future exhibitions and art competitions.

Northwestern Scholarship Grants range up to \$2,250 for individual projects and up to \$5,000 for collaborative research with students.

Campus Life



Northwestern and Dordt combined to field men's and women's rugby clubs this spring.

A New Game in Town

While Northwestern and Dordt students are known to be fierce rivals, Dr. Tyler Scott found a way to unite some of them: rugby.

A second-year member of Northwestern's physics faculty, Scott played rugby while in college. Wanting to stay connected with the sport, he learned of some interest in the two communities and became coach of a joint men's club. He then recruited Bryn Chivers from South Dakota to coach a joint women's squad. Chivers is the women's sevens commissioner for the National Small College Rugby Organization.

The "Tulips" played rugby sevens, a faster-paced version of the sport in which teams field seven players and games consist of two seven-minute halves.

Scott describes rugby as combining the physicality of football with the free-flowing nature of soccer. "I really like it because it requires a well-rounded fitness. You need to be strong, but because play never stops, you need to be fit."

Only three members of the men's team had played rugby before, while none of the women had experience with the game.

Several of Northwestern's players are also on the wrestling team. "Wrestlers are often good at rugby because they have strength and leverage, which are very important," says Scott. One of the wrestlers, Ray Schroder, who played in high school, says he likes the opportunities rugby gives big men like him. "I get to carry the ball and score, so it's more exciting than being a lineman in football."

The women's team finished second in its first tournament, wearing borrowed uniforms. And sophomore Teagan Hill-Norby was selected for an all-star team of small-college players that finished fifth in the Collegiate Rugby Championships, beating squads like Ohio State.

Hill-Norby says the NWC and Dordt players melded well. "We put aside the rivalry and accepted each other as teammates."

What is Rugby?

The sport from which American football originated, rugby features teammates trying to advance an oval-shaped ball across their opponents' goal line for a "try," which is similar to a touchdown, except the ball actually has to touch the ground. Other key components of the game:

- Action is non-stop, unless a referee signals a penalty or injury.
- Play is restarted by a scrum, in which the forwards pack closely together with their heads down and attempt to gain possession of the ball.
- All passes must be backward.
- There is no blocking.



Course Sharing

Students at liberal arts colleges across the country will have the opportunity to take online courses developed by philosophy professor Dr. Randy Jensen and English professor Dr. Michael Kensak in 2017–18.

The NWC professors will receive stipends to develop the online courses Philosophy and Science Fiction and History of the English Language, respectively, for the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) Consortium for Online Humanities Instruction II. Northwestern is among 21 institutions selected to participate in the group, which will also enable NWC students to enroll at no extra charge in courses taught by professors at the other colleges.

"Colleges the size of Northwestern often have a limited number of humanities professors mostly devoted to teaching in the general education curriculum," says Dr. Rebecca Hoey, director of Northwestern's Graduate School & Adult Learning. "The consortium enables students in humanities majors to access a breadth of upper-level courses online."

Singer Showcase

Six NWC students were awarded prizes when the music department hosted auditions for the National Association of Teachers of Singing competition in April.

Amanda Vander Stelt won the Upper College Women's Division, and Matthew Shuka, Mark Vos and Eric Wasson finished first, second and third, respectively, in the Lower College Men's Division. Finishing in second place were Brenna Ellington in the Lower College Women's Division and Jacob Ven Huizen in both the Upper College Men's and Upper College Men's Musical Theatre divisions.

More Professor Than Politician

After four months of pouring his heart into running for the Republican nomination for Iowa's House District Four representative, Dr. Jeff VanDerWerff '83 accepted his loss with graciousness and a focus on his "day job."

"I have no regrets. I'm glad I ran," says the Northwestern political science professor. "There's no question that this experience will inform my classes in a big way. It was a wonderful educational experience providing both good and bad examples of what goes on in electoral politics."

VanDerWerff says he realized throughout the process that he's much more of a professor than a politician. While taking time to present a wide variety of viewpoints and challenge assumptions is important for a classroom leader, it's not necessarily a virtue on the campaign trail—especially in today's sharply polarized environment.

His commitment to helping students evaluate their views in light of their Christian faith is one of the reasons VanDerWerff was selected as the 2016 Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award winner. One of the students who nominated him wrote: "He has broadened my range of political ideas, not only in relation to the world and country, but also to my heart and faith. He challenges students to identify the brokenness of the world, seek possible solutions and then live lives that pursue God's redeeming work in the world."



Dr. Sara Sybesma Tolsma

Honored Prof

Dr. Sara Sybesma '84 Tolsma, professor of biology, has been appointed to the Northwestern College Endowed Professorship. The professorship will provide annual funds to support her scholarly work.

A member of the faculty since 1995, Tolsma received the Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award in 2015. Her research efforts in cancer genetics and cell biology have been widely published in scientific journals and have earned a number of

awards. Her current research has included a study of mayfly genetic variations in northwest Iowa watersheds and the anti-proliferative effects of plant extracts on human tumor cells in vitro.

The co-editor of *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*, Tolsma has written a cell and molecular genetics textbook for non-science majors, as well as an adult Sunday school curriculum on the ethics of genetic technologies. She is also the director

of a new one-year graduate genetics and genomics online program Northwestern is beginning this school year.

Tolsma earned a doctoral degree in microbiology, immunology and virology from Northwestern University. Her five-year appointment will begin this fall. Among previous recipients of the professorship are Dr. Laird Edman, psychology; Dr. Keith Fynaardt, English; and Jeff Barker, theatre and speech.



Political science professor Dr. Jeff VanDerWerff received the Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award at commencement in May.

DOUG BURG

Most Valuable Employee

Amanda Kundert had a decided edge in the voting for this year’s Staff Inspirational Service Award: She works for three offices on campus—simultaneously—and does so in a way that makes others eager to hire her whenever there’s an opening or a need.

Kundert joined Northwestern’s staff in 2011 when her husband, Corey, was hired as the resident director of West Hall. Her education and experience led to a half-time position as an administrative assistant in the public relations office, but soon she was also writing news releases and articles for the *Classic*, helping with Northwestern’s social media presence, setting up photo shoots and doing design.

Kundert’s productivity, efficiency and organizational skills were recognized by staff in the PR office—as well as those in both the education department and Northwestern’s Graduate School & Adult Learning, who hired her to work additional hours in their offices.

In the education department, Kundert helped prepare for an



Amanda Kundert contributes creativity, productivity and efficiency to Northwestern’s public relations office, education department and Graduate School & Adult Learning. She was honored in May as the 2016 Staff Inspirational Service Award recipient.

accreditation site visit, leading data collection and organizing travel and schedules for 13 reviewers.

“The site visitors recognized her as one of the assets of the department,” says Dr. Adrienne Forgette, former dean of the faculty. “She exudes competence and care, and her service is truly exceptional and inspirational.”

Dr. Rebecca Hoey, director of the Graduate School & Adult Learning, says Kundert consistently exceeds expectations. During the Northwestern Leadership Series last August, there was an attendee who had difficulty with mobility. “Amanda took it upon herself to accompany that registrant to every session,” says Hoey. “She ate lunch with her, lent her arm up stairs and made small talk with this participant both days. It was the most caring, human, kind act.”

Or one of inspirational service.

DOUG BURG

Supporting Role

Meryl Streep. Helen Mirren. Judi Dench. Students have seen their photos taped to the inside of the DeWitt Theatre office door of Professor Karen Bohm Barker. Those icons inspire her. And she, in turn, inspires students and colleagues, making Barker a deserving recipient of Northwestern’s 2016 Faculty Inspirational Service Award.

A member of the college’s theatre faculty since 1988, Barker is known for her commitment to Christ, to art, and to Northwestern’s mission of educating students for courageous and faithful action in whatever roles they fill after college.

“No matter how busy she is, a student who needs to talk is *always* her priority,” wrote Jennifer Sabo, theatre department secretary and building manager, in a letter of nomination. “Students respect and value her advice because they see her live [her



In addition to teaching in Northwestern’s theatre department and directing productions, Karen Barker also acts alongside theatre students occasionally, as she did in *Godspell* last February. Barker received the college’s Faculty Inspirational Service Award in May.

console, celebrate, guide and mentor students,” theatre professor Drew Schmidt ’05, himself a former student of Barker’s, wrote, “I am inspired. I hope one day someone says the same about me.”

Christian faith] daily.”

In her nomination for Barker, colleague Dr. Kim Jongerius, a mathematics professor, noted the numerous ways in which Barker has served Northwestern, sharing her wisdom on committees, task forces and in key personnel searches. “She has served faithfully, diligently and amazingly effectively in all these roles,” Jongerius wrote. “On top of these, she spends countless hours with students, counseling them, encouraging them and helping them think about their place in God’s world.

“She inspires me to do my work better, to be willing to take on more, and to keep the needs of students, in particular, and the college, in general, always in my mind,” added Jongerius.

Noting the “thousands of moments [when] I see her giving up her time to

DAN ROGGS

Continuing Education

Making good on its promise to promote lifelong learning, Northwestern is offering continuing education opportunities through the college’s Graduate School & Adult Learning. This spring and summer Northwestern hosted a youth trauma documentary and discussion and offered a Dyslexia Institute for teachers. Medical interpreters participated in a licensure-test-preparation workshop.

Upcoming continuing education opportunities include an ethics conference for social workers and an opportunity for teachers to earn graduate credit by attending an Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children institute.

Visit online.nwciowa.edu for continuing education information and registration.

Serving Over Summer

Fourteen Northwestern students spent their summers as short-term missionaries through the college’s Summer of Service program. Students served with mission agencies in nine countries, including Ghana, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain, Uganda, the U.S., and nations in Asia and eastern Europe.

For at least six weeks, students served in whatever capacity was needed, including assisting physicians, working in orphanages, teaching English, distributing food or hosting after-school programs for children.

Face Value

Eric Anderson

Committed to Campus Life

What first brought you to Northwestern?

While earning my bachelor’s degree at Taylor University in Indiana, a staff member who knew I was looking for a resident director (RD) position after graduation recommended Northwestern. I think I was the third Taylor grad to become an RD at NWC, and there have been seven more since. Before I moved here, I knew nothing about Northwestern or Orange City. In fact, when I came for my interview, I looked all over the Iowa map trying to find the Sioux Falls (S.D.) airport.

What is your favorite memory from your time in residence life?

Watching a freshman who was on the verge of getting kicked out for behavior give his life fully to Christ and later become the hall chaplain. My years in West Hall were rich, and I still keep in touch with a number of former students. Having a front-row seat to spiritual transformation in so many lives displayed the power of a residential Christian college setting.

What are some of your hobbies?

Fishing and hunting pheasant and deer top the list, but I love anything outdoors. My favorite place is the Boundary Waters, which was introduced to me by Dave Nonnemacher while I was an RD. I also like to read, garden and play with my kids. And I enjoy athletics, with baseball at the top of that list.

You’re a big fan of the television show *Survivor*. When did that obsession begin?

I used to gather with fellow RDs to watch the show *ER*. I believe it was Emily (Gosselink ’00) Ford who introduced me to *Survivor* in season two, and since then, 30 seasons and 15 years later, our family still watches every episode with a group of current RDs. In fact, I proposed to my wife (Carrie Odell ’01) during a *Survivor*-



DOUG BURG

Hired as the resident director of West Hall and the Courtyard Village in 1996, Eric Anderson has also served as an assistant soccer coach, adjunct instructor for the business department, and director of residence life. For the last six years, he’s been Northwestern’s director of financial aid.

themed evening. The show has been a weekly highlight for our family, and it helps us stay connected to some of the residence life staff.

What’s the most rewarding part of working in financial aid?

I enjoy helping students make the NWC experience a reality from the financial end, and I also find it rewarding to serve families in crisis. I’ve had many meaningful conversations and opportunities to pray with families and help them as they walk through death, divorce, job losses and other tough situations. I’m thankful to be in a place where we can often do something to help.



Northwestern has been named a Groundwater Guardian Green Site for the ninth consecutive year.

Easy Being Green

For the ninth year in a row, Northwestern has been recognized by the Groundwater Foundation as a Groundwater Guardian Green Site for its environmental stewardship.

Only three other colleges nationwide are considered Groundwater Guardian Greet Sites, with NWC as the only Iowa college meeting the organization's standards for responsible use of chemicals, pollution prevention and water quality.

A number of energy-efficient and waste-reducing improvements have been made to campus over the last few years, including the installation of motion sensor

lighting fixtures, high-efficiency boilers, landscaping with drought-hardy plants, and water-bottle filling stations that both lessen plastic bottle waste and encourage the use of refillable containers.

"We are again delighted to be listed as a Groundwater Guardian Green Site," says Chad Miller, Northwestern's director of environmental health. "The entire maintenance department is dedicated to maintaining an immaculate campus while protecting water quality."

Career Leader

Bill Minnick, director of career development, is the new president of Career Professionals of Iowa (CPI).

In his new role, Minnick will provide vision and strategic planning for an association of career development professionals at all of the state's public and private colleges and universities—from community colleges to four-year institutions. He will also work with a five-member leadership team to plan future events and professional development for CPI's members.

Minnick has been a member of Career Professionals of Iowa since 1999, the year he joined Northwestern's staff after serving as assistant director of career services at the University of Sioux Falls.



Bill Minnick, director of career development, is serving as the president of Career Professionals of Iowa this year.

A Time for Celebration

Commencement 2016

NUMBER OF GRADUATES

254

TRIPLE MAJOR

James Rucker—chemistry, humanities and mathematics

SIBLINGS

Regina and Tracey Steffen, Nathan and Natalie Wheeler

COUNTRIES OF GRADUATES

Canada, Chile, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Mexico, U.S., Vietnam

TOP FIVE DEGREES AWARDED

business (43), education (39), kinesiology (32), nursing (24), biology (20)

SPEAKER

The Rev. Jill (Zeiger '96) Ver Steeg, coordinator for transformational equipping for the Reformed Church in America

Reaccreditation

Northwestern's commitment to its mission, financial stability, strong faculty and well-maintained campus were among the strengths cited by the report of the Higher Learning Commission in its notification this spring that NWC has been reaccredited.

The decision follows a November campus visit in which an evaluation team met with faculty, staff, students, board members, alumni and community leaders in response to a self-study developed during an 18-month process.

In its report, the accreditation team said Northwestern is firmly driven by its mission and has "thought carefully about how its mission applies to all of its constituents, whether onsite or online." The report said Northwestern's programs offer a consistent, high-quality education in which "instruction is strong and is facilitated by a well-qualified and credentialed faculty with a passionate commitment" to their work.

"Numerous interviews with faculty during the visit also reinforced the idea that Northwestern has a strong identity as a Christian school, and it not only encourages but demands that students examine their beliefs and worldview," wrote the evaluators.

The report praised the college's resources: "Northwestern has an exceptional physical plant with essentially no deferred maintenance. Their classrooms and laboratories are well-equipped, and the buildings and grounds are well-maintained ... Their overall financial

stability is illustrated in [a] Composite Financial Index ... well above the average ... a modest \$5 million debt, a \$40 million endowment, and the successful completion of a recent \$54 million capital campaign."



Northwestern has met all of the Higher Learning Commission's criteria for reaccreditation, with no concerns.

New Major in Music and Worship Leadership

In an effort to better prepare musicians for worship leadership roles in the church, Northwestern will launch a major in music and worship leadership this fall.

The major will include a variety of courses in music, religion and theatre to help give graduates a strong understanding of biblical worship, the creativity to frame and shape worship services, and the ability to work with and train others in technology.

“I’m excited about this opportunity for Northwestern to serve the church by preparing young people who are passionate about worship leadership and gifted through a breadth and depth of training,” says Dr. Thomas Holm, professor of music.

Northwestern’s music faculty developed the major after talking with worship leaders about what skills are needed. Among the major’s requirements are courses in conducting, orchestration, worship technology, the music of the church, and the practice of music ministry. Graduates will be expected to demonstrate proficiency in either piano or guitar and to receive training in voice and piano, as well as to complete a worship ministry internship.

The new major replaces the music ministry major. It also shares a number of courses with the year-old interdisciplinary worship arts major.



Northwestern’s new music and worship leadership major provides strong musical knowledge, theological training and hands-on experience for future worship leaders.

Comfort Food

Twins have tried to trick her. Look-alike siblings or cousins sometimes gave her pause. Still, it was rare for Kathy (Bonnecroy ’73) Meendering to get a name wrong once she knew it. Northwestern’s cafeteria cashier, who scanned her last student ID in May, was known for greeting every one of the students who came through her lunch line by name.

In the nine years Meendering worked for the college’s food service provider Sodexo, students knew the caf’ as a place to get not only a hot meal but also a warm hug. “I’m a nurturer,” Meendering told a local news reporter who visited campus in April

to see the beloved lunch lady in action. “I dispense hugs,” she said, recounting one story of a football player who resisted until one day when he needed a hug too. “I’m so homesick, I could die,” he whispered. After that, the two embraced before every meal.

In addition to nurturing students at breakfast and lunchtime, Meendering also regularly served up encouragement for campus ministry groups, residence hall wings and Red Raider teams in the form of home-baked cookies and treats. Acknowledging her food-for-the-soul role on Northwestern’s campus, former chaplain Harlan VanOort ’82 once referred to her as “the real chaplain of Northwestern College.”

Loveable lunch lady Kathy Meendering retired as Northwestern’s cafeteria cashier in May. Watch students say goodbye at tinyurl.com/hys65h9.



Justin Kraft recorded the third-best season average in program history, 74.3, won three tournaments, and was named to the NAIA All-American third team.

Red Zone

Golf Back at Nationals

The men’s team advanced to the NAIA national championship meet for the second year in a row and finished tied for 27th. Colton Kooima tied for 28th individually, the second-best finish by an NWC golfer in program history. Northwestern won the conference title for the second consecutive year and fourth out of the last five. Kooima, Ryan Christy and Justin Kraft earned first team all-conference honors, and Aaron Aberson ’06 was named the GPAC Coach of the Year for the fourth time. The women’s squad placed seventh in the GPAC championships.

Outdoor Track Eight All-Americans

Eight Raiders earned All-American honors at the national outdoor track meet: the third-place men’s 4x800 team of Peter Hollinger, Elliott Johnson, Tim Rose and Ryan Weitgenant, and the eighth-place women’s 4x800 team of Katie Bosch, Cassidy De Jong, Katie Landhuis and Rebekah Muilenburg. First-place finishes at the GPAC meet were recorded by Peter Smith in the steeplechase and Will Norris in the 5K and 10K. The men’s team was fifth in the conference; the women placed seventh.

Baseball Players of the Week

Fernando Gutierrez earned GPAC Pitcher of the Week and Grant Lang received Player of the Week honors on April 12 after a week in which the Raiders compiled a 5-1 mark. The team finished the year with a 23-27 record and

tied for fourth in the GPAC at 11-9. Lang was joined on the all-conference second team by Zach Cortese and Raphael DeHoyos.

Softball Base Thief

Clare Ipema tied for second in career stolen bases with 95. She was named to the GPAC all-conference second team for the Raiders, who placed ninth in the league with an 8-14 mark and 20-29 overall.

Women’s Tennis Sixth in the GPAC

The Raiders finished 4-13 and tied for sixth in the conference with a 2-6 record.

Scholar-Athletes Honored

Twenty Raiders in spring sports earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete recognition, including 15 in track and field. Honored for the second year in a row were Laura Hurley in softball and BJ Groskreutz, Zach Landhuis, Emily Nienhuis, Hannah Shie, Lydia Steenhoek, Abby Stevens, Sarah Wedel and Caleb VanderBaan in track. In addition, Will Norris was named to the CoSIDA Academic All-American second team in track/cross country.

For more on Raider sports, visit nwcraiders.com



GAME TIME

When classes are out, it's time to school opponents in intramurals. Casual athletes team up to play around 20 sports, including old favorites like flag football and slow-pitch softball and new trends like spike ball and KanJam (horseshoes with slotted cans and Frisbees). They get sweaty playing racquetball and strategic playing Rook. They get creative coming up with clever team names like "How I Set Your Mother," "Hoop, There It Is" and "Scared Hitless."





SHEPHERDING GENERATION Z

Alum aims to keep Northwestern students trained on Jesus

JENNIFER BRESNA '09 / OCHSNER

Mark DeYounge '08 is Northwestern's new director of Christian formation. In addition to leading chapel worship and providing pastoral care to students, he will work alongside campus ministry staff to plan and lead discipleship and mission opportunities that contribute to students' Christian growth and calling. A business administration major and captain of the Red Raider basketball team while at Northwestern, DeYounge served in parachurch ministry in Colorado Springs and Sioux Falls before becoming director of discipleship at Sioux Center's First Reformed Church. He earned a graduate certificate in youth and family ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary and is enrolled in Western Seminary's distance learning Master of Divinity program. He plans to graduate in May 2017 and pursue ordination in the Reformed Church in America. The Classic interviewed DeYounge to learn more about his vision for college students and their faith development.

Classic: In what ways are you a good fit for your new role at Northwestern College?

DeYounge: I have a real passion for the next generation. I love Northwestern's mission: to equip the next generation to not be disengaged from the world, not reactive, but to be confident—courageous and faithful, as we say—to really trust that Christ in them has the power to transform the world. Christ staked it all on the church, and today's church isn't abounding in 20-somethings. I'm excited by that opportunity for growth.

What unique challenges is this next generation facing? And are they different than those faced by previous generations of teens and 20-somethings?

I'm not sure the issues are so unique or different, but the pace at which—and “spaces” in which—today's youth have to interact with their culture are very different. We're created with a deep desire to be known and to belong. Social media has changed the landscape for being known and belonging in ways no previous generation has experienced. Today's young people are more connected than ever—and yet statistics suggest many of them are anxious and feel deep loneliness.


What do Gen Z-ers want from corporate worship—and what do they need?

We're a consumeristic culture. Not just young people. Most of us are. We show up for worship with the same consumeristic, “market-to-me” expectations we bring to Best Buy or television programming. We want me-centered worship that caters to our individuality and entertainment preferences. But when it comes to worship, the greatest satisfaction comes when it's not about us. When we lose ourselves in experiencing the height of God's glory in worship, we experience the height of our design as humans. And we get what we need.

Unlike some Christian colleges, Northwestern continues to require students to attend chapel. What is your view on the value of that requirement?

Worship is one of the necessary rhythms in the Christian life. We're sent out to live worshipfully in our daily lives; we're gathered regularly to worship as a community. Sent and gathered, sent and gathered. Chapel is so vital because the community needs to gather. And students may not realize or always appreciate it, but they're so privileged that the rhythm at Northwestern includes regular chances to gather for worship. They have to show up—which is a big deal, a demonstration of faithfulness—even when they don't feel like it. Faithfulness includes holding each other accountable to the things we value, and at Northwestern we value worshiping as a community because it's part of the call of Christ.

At a Christian college like Northwestern, students' understanding of their academic discipline is challenged in order to lead to growth; likewise, their understanding of the Christian faith might be challenged to provoke growth. How will you guide and counsel students who come to you because they've encountered new learning that makes them uncomfortable?

Learning can be messy. It takes some serious courage to integrate faith and learning—to not be afraid in the face of new information or questions you can't answer yet. As the students' pastor, I hope my presence and counsel is of great comfort. I think of Peter walking on the water. Nothing Peter had previously been taught or experienced would have led him to believe he could walk on water. But when Jesus invited him to come, Peter stepped out of the boat. Throughout their four years at Northwestern, students will be asked to “step out of the boat” into uncharted waters. When Peter looked away from Jesus, the waves overwhelmed him. He needed to keep his gaze on Jesus. We don't have to have boxed-up, perfect Christian answers for everything, because the Christian journey isn't about having water-tight explanations or arguments. God isn't a problem to solve; he's a person to fall in love with. 



THE RADIO SIGNAL

TODAY MORE PEOPLE ARE LIVING AS REFUGEES than at any time since World War II. In 1945, Friedhelm Radandt was one of them. The man who would serve as president of Northwestern from 1979 to 1985 was a boy of 12 when his family fled their home in Neustettin, Germany, to escape the advancing Russian army. Radandt's newly published book, *The Radio Signal*, tells the stories of his family and that of his future wife, Elizabeth, as they struggled to survive while staying true to their Christian faith.



As soon as they were seated on the bus, Gertrud remembered the bag she had packed for her husband. In their hurry to evacuate, they had forgotten to bring it along.

"Your father's suitcase," she murmured. "We cannot leave it behind."

Gertrud didn't know if the Radandts would ever return to Neustettin or how much of the town would even survive the onslaught of the oncoming Russian soldiers. If Ernst were going to have any personal effects when he returned from the war, they would have to go back for that suitcase.

The officer in charge at the Hindenburgplatz assured her that, despite the apparent hurry, they still had plenty of time.

Gertrud turned to Friedhelm. "I need you to go back for the case."

Feeling a rush of fear mingled with excitement, Friedhelm nodded. He hopped out of the bus and started half-walking, half-running back to his home.

He found the suitcase exactly where his mother had said it would be. Back outside in the bitter cold, Friedhelm placed the suitcase onto his sled and pulled it behind him through town, across the snow and ice.

Thoughts of the bus made him a little fearful. Where would the bus take them? What would become of his family? At least he wasn't alone. The war had a way of ripping families apart, and Friedhelm was thankful to have his mother, brother and younger sister close.

But when Friedhelm turned the corner into the Hindenburgplatz, the square was empty and utterly silent. The icy, deserted street glistened in the moonlight.

The buses were gone.

Family members of Elizabeth Job, who would meet and marry Friedhelm Radandt after the war, listen to the news on a Philips radio. Both Elizabeth's grandfather (front, in top left photo) and father (not pictured) worked for the Dutch electronics firm Philips in Warsaw, Poland, where the latter was in charge of the development and manufacturing of radio tubes.



FRIEDHELM WAS JUST THREE MONTHS OLD when Adolf Hitler was appointed chancellor of Germany and the Nazi Party came into power. With a growing family, Ernst Radandt takes a part-time job with *Kraft durch Freude (KdF)*, an organization designed to help build the Germany economy. The KdF also encourages the purchase of a *Volksempfänger*, or people's radio, so Hitler and the Nazi Party can reach into the homes of as many Germans as possible. Ernst does well in his job—even purchasing a Volksempfänger radio for his family—and as a result, is offered a promotion. But first he must complete a questionnaire detailing his lineage in order to prove his Aryan descent. He must also help identify the town's Jewish shop owners and join a troop of Nazis in parading them around town while calling on its citizens to boycott Jewish businesses.



But [Ernst] could not bring himself to persecute the Jews. His faith wouldn't allow it. It was clear to him that the Bible's dictates were not compatible with what the Nazis asked of him.

He had to decide whether to be true to his Christian faith or to actively support the anti-Semitic stance of the Third Reich.

[Ernst] felt a tingle of fear for himself and for his family, but he had no doubt about what to do. He left the questionnaire incomplete and told the Nazis he didn't want their job.

As for what would come next, Ernst could only put his trust in God.



Top photo: The Radandt family in 1943. Friedhelm is on the far right. Middle photo: Friedhelm's future wife, Elizabeth, and her siblings get a ride in the two-wheeled wagon used to transport their few belongings from barracks where they had lived as refugees. Right: A postcard Friedhelm sent in 1945 from Kolberg to his brother, Ernst-August, who was stationed with his military unit in Neustettin.

ERNST'S DECISION RESULTS in reprisals. He loses his job. Needing to make a living and to provide safety for his family, he joins the German army—the one part of German society that maintains some autonomy from the Nazis—and is stationed in Neustettin as a recruiting officer. Then, one Sunday, while worshipping with other Christians in their home, the Radandts hear two Nazis knocking on their door.



Ernst knew these Nazi officials would not look kindly on any meeting in the home of someone who had already stood in opposition to their party.

He was not doing anything wrong, he reminded himself as he slid closed the pocket doors to the living room. He was amazed at his friends in the prayer group. They sat so still behind those pocket doors that the house seemed completely empty.

“Good afternoon,” he said to the Nazis as he unlocked the front door.

“Good afternoon, Herr Radandt. I wonder if we might have a word with you. We want to talk to you about your sons. Ernst-August and Friedhelm. They are very impressive boys. The Hauptjugzugführer who heads up the local Jungvolk has spoken very highly of them. We have no doubt Ernst-August will do very well when he matriculates to the Hitlerjugend later this year.”

“Thank you,” Ernst told them. All boys were required to become members of the paramilitary Hitler Youth upon their 14th birthdays. Ernst didn't like it, but he said the words he was expected to say. “He is lucky to have the opportunity.”

“On the contrary: We are lucky to have him. He's a brave and clever boy. We also took the liberty of looking into your younger son, Friedhelm. Quite a bright and alert little boy, isn't he? You must be very proud.”

“Indeed I am,” Ernst answered.

“Are you familiar with the Napola schools?”

Ernst nodded. The *Nationalpolitische Lehranstalt*, Napola for short, were military boarding schools created by Hitler to produce future leaders steeped in Nazi ideology.

“We would very much like your boys to join us as cadets. We think that with the right education, your sons will grow into great men.”

Ernst considered carefully how to reply.

“It is a great honor for your sons to be invited to the Napola,” said the one in charge. “But if it is too much of a hardship to relinquish both of your boys, then give us the younger. Give us Friedhelm.”

Because, Ernst knew, it is easier to indoctrinate a younger boy. “No,” he told them. “No, I will not. These are my sons, and I am responsible for their education.”

The two Nazis looked at one another. They weren't used to being turned down. “Are you quite sure?”

“My sons will not attend your school.”

The Nazis stood [to leave]. “That is a regrettable answer, Herr Radandt—as you will no doubt discover.”

BECAUSE OF HIS REFUSAL to send his sons to Hitler's boarding schools, Ernst receives word he is to be stationed on the Eastern Front. But thanks to a friendship with a high-ranking military officer, he is instead assigned a desk job in Italy. It is while Ernst is in Italy that Friedhelm is left behind when his family is evacuated from Neustettin. The boy heads north on foot, away from the approaching Russian army, and is eventually reunited with his mother and little sister. Older sister Gisela, in the meantime, has her own experience with Russian troops.



[Gisela] had been sitting with the Schütze family for an early lunch when she first noticed their silverware rattling gently against the china, vibrating, so it made a jingling noise.

Mr. Schütze asked for everyone to be quiet, and they all watched as the shaking grew stronger. Soon the whole table was rattling, and the vases on the nearby shelves too.

Then he walked to the window. Across the field, a line of tanks was rumbling up the road.

The adults gathered up the children as quickly as they could, with nothing but the clothes they'd been wearing, and ran out the back door. Mr. Schütze aimed the family toward a line of trees on the north end of the estate.

Until they reached the trees, at least a quarter-mile away, there was nowhere for them to hide. If any of the soldiers came to the back of the house, they would see the Schützes. And if the soldiers saw them and gave chase, there would be no way to outrun them.

Gisela had heard rumors. The advancing Russians had become known as Stalin's "army of rapists." The leaders of the Red Army hoped that inflicting a thorough campaign of humiliation and fear upon the German people would deter any threat of future invasions of the Soviet Union, and they encouraged their soldiers to be as violent and terrifying as they liked.

And there they were now, pouring out the back door of the house. Half a dozen Russian soldiers watched from the veranda as the desperate family plodded through the heavy snow. One of them took aim with his rifle and fired. Gisela heard the hiss of the bullet pass by her head before she even heard the report of the gunshot.

Mrs. Schütze stumbled in the snow.

"Get up," Gisela told her. "We have to keep going."

"Where?" Mrs. Schütze cried. "There is nowhere to go!"

"The lake."

Though the lake that bordered their property had been frozen most of the winter, a temporary thaw had turned the upper layer of ice into slush, and there was no way to know how thick or strong the remaining ice was. But the family didn't have a chance of escaping the Russians across the field. The lake offered a shorter and faster route, albeit a more dangerous one.

"I'll go first," Mr. Schütze said. "I'm biggest. If the ice will hold me, then it will hold any of you."

The family followed him out onto the lake, doing their best to follow in his footsteps.

Gisela picked up the youngest child in her arms. She heard the ice groan under her feet, stressed by the added weight of the child, and she stopped in fear, listening for any cracking sound that might indicate the ice was failing.

She didn't know where to take her next step. The slush was too uneven; there was no way to guess the state of the ice underneath.

Then she heard the voices of the Russian men behind her, and she steeled her resolve. *It's better to fall through the ice*, she thought to herself, *than to wait here and be captured*. She took a step, and then another, until she reunited with the rest of the Schütze family at the line of trees along the far side of the lake.

The Russians stood at the opposite bank, watching the fleeing family and stepping their feet tentatively onto the frozen slush. Deciding it wasn't worth the risk, they turned around and went back into the house.

Gisela and the Schützes were safe—for now.

THE WAR AGAIN CATCHES UP with Friedhelm, his mother and little sister, who have taken refuge in Kolberg with Gertrud's parents. With the city surrounded by the Russians, the family boards a small boat under cover of night.



The boat slipped quietly out of the dock and into the cold, black water of the Baltic Sea. When they were about a mile from shore, it lined up next to a large freighter. One by one, the passengers climbed up a ladder to the freighter's deck, and from there, they were shepherded below deck.

[Gertrud's] father had already climbed several steps down the stairs leading into the storage area below, but she grabbed hold of her son and daughter. The three of them found a discreet spot on the main deck, out of everyone's way, where they huddled under blankets and waited for the ship to lift anchor.

It was an hour before the ship started moving westward. The churn of its engines drowned out the noise of the distant artillery, but as Friedhelm looked back to the silhouetted skyline, he saw something he would never forget: The Russian tanks and artillery surrounding the town had begun a coordinated attack. There were flashes of light from all sides. The bombs cascaded down, and within minutes, the entire town of Kolberg was engulfed in a huge fireball. The city burned fiery orange against the coal-black sky.

Beside him, Gertrud felt a sob well up in her chest but choked it back down, determined to stay strong for the sake of her children. She was grateful her father was not on deck to see this. His life, his home, his legacy, even his wife's grave so freshly dug in the sand—everything he'd ever known was burning, destroyed by the flames.



Right: Friedhelm's 14-year-old brother, Ernst-August, as a soldier in the National Socialist Motor Corps. Above: Ernst-August (front left) with his military unit.

IN THE WANING DAYS OF THE WAR, Ernst Radandt's unit is called back to Germany. Scanning his office one final time before heading out, Ernst discovers a sack of mail delivered that day—and in it, miraculously, letters from both his wife and his oldest daughter telling him where they had found refuge. After Germany surrenders, Ernst is reunited with his wife and learns from Ernst-August's former commander that the Radandts' oldest son is trapped in Russian territory. Ernst sends word he will be waiting for Ernst-August on the British side of the border.



[Ernst-August] woke just before sunrise and ran west toward the border until he had a clear view of the Russian watchtower and the bridge. On the other side he saw a small hut he assumed must be manned by British guards.

He prowled along the lakeshore, working his way toward the bridge, hiding among the trees. But he couldn't imagine any way to make it across the long bridge without being seen—and shot—by the Russians.

When he reached the bridge, he went flat on his stomach and started to crawl. He was sure that at any moment the guard in the watchtower would see him and shoot. Three-fourths of the way across, he jumped up and made a dash for the hut, but the hut was empty.

Ernst-August would have to make another dash. He stayed put for several minutes, catching his breath, and then he ran, not stopping until he was in the cover of the trees. From there he found his way to the road that led into the next village.

The Russian guard never even called out.

Far up the road, he could make out the shape of a man walking toward him. It was a shape he would recognize anywhere.

"Dad!" he called out, as he ran up the road. It was his father. Ernst-August could barely believe his eyes. "How did you find me?"

"You're my boy." Ernst threw his arms around his son. "I'll always find you."

The two of them shared a hug while the sun came up. Then his father started walking up the road toward Ratzeburg.

"Where are we going?" Ernst-August asked.

Ernst threw an arm around his boy. "We're going to get your sister. And then all of us are going home."

Friedhelm Radandt, now retired, served as a college president for a quarter of a century, first at Northwestern College and then at The King's College in New York. After immigrating to the United States with his wife, Elizabeth, whom he met following the war, he earned graduate degrees at the University of Chicago and enjoyed a teaching career at that institution and at Lake Forest College. He now lives in Seattle. The preceding excerpts were condensed from Radandt's book, The Radio Signal. You can read the rest of his story—as well as the harrowing tale of his wife's family's escape from Warsaw, Poland—in the paperback or Kindle versions of the book, both available on Amazon.com.





FIVE GUYS

Technology helps alumni hang out long after their years in Coly

BY AMY SCHEER

The police officer, amused, suggested that surely five guys from Northwestern College would know its fight song, and perhaps he'd be persuaded to scrap the speeding ticket if they gave a performance.

John Rundquist '99, driver of his buddies and wearer of a bicycle helmet—more on that later—invented, in earnest, the first notes of a song he didn't know. Scott Bahrke '01, Troy Bruning '01, Stan De Zeeuw '01 and Craig Paulsen '00 joined in, singing the made-up lyrics with gusto.

The cop, sufficiently entertained, let them go.

"These guys have been there for half the chapters of my life," says John. "They've been through the highs and lows. I don't know life without them."

John was resident assistant (RA) of 2E Colenbrander Hall from the fall of 1997 to spring of '99. He noticed a certain four men always attended the events he organized, from Bible studies to a Kool-Aid drink-off. The five soon developed a special bond and began planning activities for themselves, such as a road trip to Galveston, Texas, to sing karaoke and drive right back—adding oil at every gas stop to the van they had borrowed from an Orange City family.

Trips often involved a "dare"—hence the bicycle helmet worn while driving a car, or Scott's mission to walk to the counter

of a vitamin store, flex his biceps, and ask, "What have you got for these?"

John's two years went by quickly; when he graduated, he chose a teaching position in Omaha over one in Wichita to be closer to the guys. Troy took over as RA. Just before the last of the men would graduate, John's infant nephew died unexpectedly. The funeral was held in Minnesota.

To John's surprise, Scott and his future wife, Lyndsay (Henderson '02), walked in.

"We had to come," Scott told him. "We had to be here for you."

"He had driven three hours there, three hours back," John recounts later. "That's when I knew these guys weren't going anywhere."

A season of weddings would follow. Stan had married while still in school. Craig walked Troy's sister down the aisle at Troy's wedding, and eventually married her.

Scott married Lyndsay the week after John's wedding, and John didn't think twice about interrupting his honeymoon in Estes Park, Colo., to head back to Orange City for the ceremony. (His wife, Celeste, knew what



SUBMITTED PHOTO



While the families of Scott Bahrke, Stan De Zeeuw, Troy Bruning, John Rundquist and Craig Paulsen try to get together once a year, the five friends (shown left to right during their NWC days on the preceding page) use Google Hangout for monthly encouragement and accountability.

DOUG BURG

she was getting into; one by one, the guys had walked John down the aisle to her, solemnly playing off what was only partly a joke: "I wanted them to have a big part in my wedding," he says.)

There would be 18 kids born to this group of friends, but with miscarriages and stalled adoption procedures along the way. The men stood by each other through the heartaches of adulthood with the same devotion that bonded them to each other in their youth.

The men would become teachers (John and Stan), a

hospital IT manager (Troy), Northwestern's head cross country and track and field coach (Scott), and a senior implementation manager in finance (Craig). And now, when jobs and families make road trips harder to manage, technology comes to the rescue: They meet on Google Hangouts on the third Tuesday of each month to stay accountable, just as they did late nights in Coly.

"I go to them for advice on being a better husband, parent and leader in my church," Scott says. "We pray for each other and


the things that are on our hearts. Our Google Hangout has kept me from a spiritual rut many times."

"God uses them to help form me into the person I am today. I would not be the same without them," Stan says.

All of this—the helmet, the Hangouts—might not have happened had John needed his backup plan. A struggling student in high school, John wasn't convinced he'd be accepted into a four-year college. He was ready to work on a farm or drive a truck, but Northwestern, he

says, gave him a chance—to be a teacher, which was his dream, and ultimately a better man.

Craig puts it best:

"Throughout the years, we have realized the strength and encouragement we provide each other is something that is rare. To me, these men have been a living example of Proverbs 27:17: *As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.*" 

The Summer Institute for International Students, founded by Dr. Lyle Vander Werff in 1985, helped students improve their English skills and learn about American culture and Christianity.



Cultural Exchange

BY ANITA CIRULIS

Rachel (Starr '05) Heath was in Osaka, Japan, when missionaries she was working with during her Summer of Service encouraged her to return and teach English after she graduated.

"I thought getting involved with the Summer Institute would be a great way to see if teaching English was a good fit for me," she says.

Northwestern's Summer Institute for International Students was established in 1985 by the late Dr. Lyle Vander Werff. The college's professor of religion and director of international programs was a former RCA missionary to Kuwait who had a heart for students from other countries. For more than 20 years, the institute helped students improve their English skills and prepare for college-level study in the United States.

In addition to an English as a Second Language (ESL) course, Summer Institute students took classes from NWC professors that helped them learn more about American culture and the Christian faith. Participants lived and learned on campus with Northwestern students—like Heath in 2004—who were hired as Summer Institute tutors for the four- to six-week-long program.

"Our tutors were engaged in a lot of spiritual discussions and talk about Jesus," says Anila Karunakar '03, a former multicultural affairs coordinator for NWC. "It was a very safe space where students felt like they could ask questions freely."

While the majority of Summer Institute participants came from Japan, where Northwestern had sister schools, the program also attracted students from countries that included Bahrain, Brazil, Cameroon, China,

Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Korea, Sudan, Taiwan and Ukraine.

In Orange City they experienced the American Midwest through pairings with host families and field trips to a local farm, the Iowa State Fair, a Native American powwow, and a camping trip to the Black Hills to see Mount Rushmore.

The Summer Institute annually attracted as many as 40 students, approximately half of whom stayed and enrolled in Northwestern's ESL certificate or baccalaureate degree programs. Ultimately, however, competition with other schools and programs offered in major U.S. cities caused the institute's demise.

"Our program was more experiential," Karunakar says. "It was hard to advertise what we did relationally."

Those relationships, however, have lasted longer than the Summer Institute. Through Facebook, Heath continues to stay in touch with institute students. And when she taught English in Japan for two years after graduating from Northwestern, she met with several who lived in the Tokyo area.

"It was wonderful to see them in their home country and to learn from them about Japanese culture, food and language," she says. "Our roles were reversed, which was great!"

class Notes

'68 **Corwin Smidt** serves as president of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, an interdisciplinary organization of nearly 1,500 scholars who engage in social scientific analyses of religious life and institutions. His most recent book, *Pastors and Public Life: The Changing Face of American Protestant Clergy*, has been published by Oxford University Press. He gave a series of 10 lectures on religion and public life this summer at Renmin University in Beijing, China.

'70 **Dr. Bob Boerigter**, commissioner of the Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) since 2010, will retire Jan. 30. Prior to joining the MIAA, he served as director of athletics at Northwest Missouri State University for 13 years. He was also the director of athletics, professor of physical education and department chair at Hastings College, where he was awarded the NAIA National Athletics Director of the Year award and is a member of the college's Hall of Fame. He previously directed the athletic departments at Adams State University, Whitworth University and

Northwestern, where he coached basketball, baseball, football and golf in the 1970s and '80s.

'72 **Kelvin Korver**, Adams, Neb., was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame for the Irving (Texas) Independent School District in June. He played six seasons as a defensive tackle for the Oakland Raiders and was a member of the Super Bowl XI championship squad. While at Irving High School, he set a state and national discus record that stood for 13 years.

'81 **Tim Koerselman** has been named the recipient of the Iowa High School Athletic Association's Administrator Award. He began his teaching career at Boyden-Hull, where he also coached football, basketball and track. He went on to teach and coach at Pleasantville High School for 31 years while serving a decade as activities director. He retired in 2014 but continues to work on Pleasantville's athletic facilities.

'82 **Doug Boone**, CEO of Premier Communications in Sioux Center,

Red Ties

CORKY KOERSELMAN '82
Alumni Relations

Returning to Northwestern College as an advancement officer and part-time music faculty member has brought back many memories of my time as a student here: the friendships made, concerts performed, and food and fellowship shared. One of my most poignant memories is of Dr. Herbert Ritsema, who often took the time to meet with me after music theory class.

Music theory was hard, and I was discouraged. One afternoon I shared that I would be changing majors. Dr. Ritsema put down his pencil, looked me in the eyes and said, "You have the skills to be a great music teacher someday." That was the encouragement I needed. To this day I keep a picture of him near my piano.

Lessons learned and relationships formed at Northwestern College have the potential to impact us for our whole lives—either through memories or because we remain in close contact with those who were part of our formative years. Harriet (Landhuis '60) Cleveringa recently shared this:

One of the greatest blessings in life is friendship. That's what happened between six women who lived in Heemstra Hall from 1958–60. It started as we learned not only from our Christian professors, but also from each other, gathered in our rooms for popcorn at night. It kept going through "round robin" letters after we left NWC. Since becoming empty-nesters, we've been gathering for three-day reunions and keep in touch through weekly emails with news and prayer requests. Northwestern has enriched our lives for more than 50 years.

Are you still in touch with the Northwestern College friends and mentors who helped shape you into the person you are today? What do you remember about the people and moments that encouraged and enriched your life during your college years? I hope the memories prompt you to reconnect. And I hope you'll make plans to come home and catch up with your Northwestern family during Raider Days this fall (Sept. 30–Oct. 1).



Friends.

Meet old ones. Make new ones. Come home for Raider Days and enjoy Morning on the Green, the Red Raider Road Race, a tailgate picnic, Raider football and more. Reunions will be held for the classes of '66, '76, '86, '91, '96, '06, '11 and '16.

Raider Days Homecoming and Parents Weekend

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KELSEY KREMER, DES MOINES REGISTER

Mark Stadtlander's Foster Group has been recognized as one of Iowa's best places to work.

Workplace Investments

So far in 2016, Mark Stadtlander '74 and his team at Foster Group in West Des Moines have done more than 60,000 pushups. While this may seem like an unusual activity for a bunch of financial planners, it is part of the team philosophy that Stadtlander, longtime CEO, says has always set them apart.

The team of just over 40 employees discusses client interactions and decisions weekly, shuts down the office to complete service projects together, and, yes, pauses for (optional) pushups each day at 2:30 p.m.

Foster Group also emphasizes generosity in all aspects of its business. This year all employees are being encouraged to use some of their six weeks of annual paid vacation to serve the community, with teams vying to see who can tally the most volunteer hours. The company promotes giving among its more than 1,000 clients as well, directing more than \$20 million to charity in the past five years.

These innovations have not gone unnoticed, as the growing wealth management firm was named the *Des Moines Register's* Top Workplace in Iowa in 2015 among businesses with fewer than 150 employees. Stadtlander, who has been with Foster Group since shortly after it was founded in 1989, credits the firm's servant approach, team emphasis and commitment to its mission. "We don't just talk about things. We actually live them," he says.

BY BETH (NIKKEL '02) GAULKE

has been named president of NTCA, the Rural Broadband Association. He is in his fourth year on the organization's board.

'93 Cheryl (Van't Hof) Heronemus has been awarded the 2015 R.K. Bliss Award, given to recognize outstanding career achievement by an Iowa State University Extension and Outreach staff member. As the regional education director for northwest Iowa, she serves Clay, Dickinson, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola and Sioux counties, providing leadership and educating county extension councils in meeting the educational needs of their jurisdiction. Prior to stepping into the position in 2009, she served as the Sioux County Extension education director for 15 years.

'95 Rachel (Mast) Finch is the assistant principal at Widefield Elementary in Colorado Springs, Colo. She previously taught for 13 years.

'96 Brandt Carlson is the new boys' basketball coach at Ankeny (Iowa) High School. He was a member of Northwestern's faculty and staff since 2005, serving as a kinesiology instructor, physical education coordinator and assistant men's basketball coach. He previously served as the head boys' basketball coach for Des Moines Christian and Eagle Grove.

Shiran Nathaniel is the new director of alumni relations at Morningside College in Sioux City. He worked for Sodexo for 14

years, managing the food services at Mutual of Omaha, Friends University, Adams State University and Morningside. He served as Morningside's director of conferences and special events and assistant director of alumni relations before being named to his current position.

'97 Deb Schleusener is a change management consultant with Accenture in Seattle, overseeing employee onboarding for a contract with a major tech company. She is also starting a home business as a fashion consultant with the clothing company LuLaRoe.

'99 The Rev. Gary Hanson is serving as the campus pastor for Meredith Drive Reformed Church in Des Moines. Previously he served as the senior pastor at Bethel Reformed Church in Little Rock and co-pastor of Faith Christian Reformed Church in Pella. He and his wife, **Margo (Buell '99)**, have two children: Hayley (12) and Skylar (9).

'00 Steve Perkins teaches junior high social studies and physical education in Madrid, Iowa. He is also the high school's head football coach and head boys' track coach.

'01 Travis Schueller is the new shared superintendent for Iowa's North Union and North Kossuth school districts. He previously was the secondary principal for the East Buchanan Community School District in Winthrop, Iowa.

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'05 Dan Breen, Sioux Falls, graduated from Regent University with a master's degree in journalism in May and was honored as his program's outstanding graduate. A reporter for the *Northwest Iowa Review* for nine years, he now is the communications director for the Luke Society.

Mary-Celeste (Korte) Schreuder, Anderson, S.C., completed a master's degree in education from Anderson University in May.

'07 Jennifer (Herlyn) McCormick and her husband, Shawn, operate a small farm in Marion, S.D. In February they purchased Cherrybean Coffee Company, an independent, small-batch roasting company that roasts only fair-trade organic coffee. The company was started by **Reed Friese '95** in 2007.

'08 Stephanie Grieme is a regulatory compliance officer at Union State Bank in Greenfield, Iowa.

Betsy (Heiberger) Larson, Kansas City, Mo., is a senior account executive for Woodruff Sweitzer. Her husband, **Jordan '10**, is a software engineer apprentice at Cerner.

Angela (Jiskoot) Ten Clay is communication manager for Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Des Moines. She was a finalist for *Juice* Young Professional of the Year and a Forty Under 40 honoree by the *Business Record*.

'10 Andy Norris has been serving as high school ministry leader at Cornerstone Church of Ames, Iowa. He is now lead pastor for the church's new plant in Des Moines: Cottage Grove Church, which will reach out to the Drake University campus and neighborhood.

'11 Jose Sanchez-Perry will begin a Ph.D. in religious studies at the University of Texas this fall, focusing on religions of Latin America. In June he gave a presentation at the American

Society of Missiology's annual meeting at the University of Northwestern in St. Paul. His paper delineates the contours of Mesoamerican (indigenous) Christianities in the 16th century and the various missionary tactics of Dominican priests in the immediate geographical area.

'12 Rebecca (Bagley) Mangold is working as a bilingual therapist at Creative Living Center in Rock Valley, Iowa, after earning a master's degree in counseling from the University of South Dakota. She lives in Orange City with her husband, **Dan '10**.

'13 Jonathan Taves graduated from the Mayo Clinic in May with a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. He works at Cornerstone Physical Therapy in Colorado Springs, Colo. His wife, **Janet (Pitsenberger '14)**, previously worked as a nurse at Mayo and now is a postpartum nurse at St. Francis Medical Center in Colorado Springs.

'14 Christa Curl graduated from Emporia State University in May with a master's degree in mathematics. She now teaches math at the university.

Kippen Larson-Gulsvig taught for two years in Minneapolis and now teaches at Bingham Academy, an international Christian school in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

New Arrivals

Nicole and **Matt Van Zante '03**, daughter, Bria Faith, joins Noelle (2)

Mark and **Amy (Ropte '04) Johnson**, son, Ryan Charles, joins Cashel (4) and Kendrick (3)

Nate and **Rebecca (Voss '04) Rael**, daughter, Eva Grace, joins Levi (3) and Aubrey (2)

Laura (Valland '05) and **Dan Moore '05**, son, Brayden Daniel
Jimmy and **Jerica (Westra '05) Sieperda**, twins, Sara JoLee and Arie John, join Anna (4) and Jerit (2)



LORI RICHARDS

Dr. Alethea Stubbe, president of Northwest Iowa Community College, received the 2016 Outstanding Chief Administrator Award from the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees.

Presidential Potential

Dr. Alethea (Steenhoven '87) Stubbe never set out to become a college president. In fact, she didn't even intend to go to college.

Though she was the valedictorian of her high school class, Stubbe had wedding plans and a job at the local Ford dealership, deeming college simply unnecessary. But when her father died in the early '80s, the young wife and mother of two started to wonder about her purpose.

That's when Northwestern College entered the scene. Enrolling as a commuter in 1982, Stubbe pursued degrees in business and accounting, which, as it turns out, also became an education in her own potential and passion.

Her nearly 30-year career as a teacher and administrator in higher education has been focused on helping students realize their own potential. Since 2011, she has served as the president at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, one of the nation's highest-ranking community colleges and her professional home for the last 25 years. Though she has held many important titles—from Faculty of the Year to chief finance officer and chief academic officer—she added another honor in February when she was named Outstanding Chief Administrator by the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees.

"My time at Northwestern helped me see myself as a servant leader," Stubbe says. "Now my greatest reward is enabling others to be successful."

BY BETH (NIKKEL '02) GAULKE



Theatre and writing/rhetoric major Matt Hulstein now advocates for people who can’t afford private counsel as an attorney with Chicago Volunteer Legal Services.

Courtroom Drama

You’ve lived in the same apartment for 20 years, and bedbugs now infest the building. You blame the landlord; he blames you. Eviction looms.

An improv scenario from Matt Hulstein’s theatre days at Northwestern?

If only.

Hulstein, a 2008 theatre and writing/rhetoric major, has stepped into a starring role in the lives of Chicago’s powerless. A staff attorney with Chicago Volunteer Legal Services (CVLS), Hulstein fights foreclosures, evictions and bankruptcy cases—and trains other volunteer professionals to aid low-income locals.

“We fight tooth-and-nail to keep a person’s housing,” he says. “The stakes are really high. It might be a long shot, but it’s worth the effort.”

A participant in the Chicago Semester his senior year, Hulstein had selected international human rights law as his area of interest. Instead, he was assigned an internship at CVLS and initially took exception to the lack of drama.

“I’m helping with evictions,” he thought to himself, “but I want to liberate people from slavery!”

The work, he soon noticed, could result in major change on a smaller stage. In 2012, after passing the Illinois bar exam, Hulstein returned to CVLS to work full time.

“I quickly realized this *is* human rights stuff; it’s just here, in Chicago. This affects people profoundly. My role is to give them their best shot.”

BY AMY SCHEER

Tara (Bajema ’06) and Brennan Van Loo ’06, daughter, Annabelle Hope Louis and **Katrina (Hilberg ’06) Yang**, son, Dean Lyle, joins Titus (3)

Andrew and **Rachel (Yackey ’07) Harcum**, son, Rowan Andrew, joins Lorelai (6) and Rhett (4)

Shawn and **Jennifer (Herlyn ’07) McCormick**, daughter, Natayla Grace, joins Brielle (3) and Elliana (2)

Doug and **Johanna (Grieme ’08) Hicks**, son, Orion Edward

Betsy (Heiberger ’08) and Jordan Larson ’10, son, Isaiah Daniel

Kari (Tjeerdsma ’08) and Blake Wiekling ’08, son, Liam August, joins Owen (2)

Tyler and **Sarah (Breen ’09) Graham**, son, Silas Breen

Tanner and **Jenna (Boot ’09) Vos**, daughter, Breah Lynn, joins Bryley (3)

Brittany (Belden ’11) and Dustin Hamm ’08, son, Owen Henry, joins Madison (1)

Heather (Pagelkopf ’12) and Brian Brandau ’12, son, Frederick Shawn

Sarah (Bartz ’12) and David Bruxvoort ’13, son, Isaac David

Natalia (Mueller ’12) and Bobby James ’12, daughter, Harper Grace

Joleen (Wilhelm ’15) and Mark Haselhoff ’12, daughter, Charlotte Adele

Marriages

Ashley Buse ’11 and Michael Zervic, Visalia, Calif.

In Memoriam

The Rev. Dr. Chester Droog ’42 of Artesia, Calif., died on Feb. 5 at age 94. He served in the U.S. Air Corps during World War II and earned degrees from Hope College, Western Theological Seminary and the California Graduate School of Theology. He ministered at Hope Reformed Church in Spencer, Iowa; Fifth Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Mich.; and Bethel Reformed Church in Bellflower, Calif. He then served as a denominational executive secretary, overseeing established churches and starting many new ones in nine Western states and two Canadian provinces. He also was a board member for Northwestern and Hope colleges. He received the Church Growth Leadership Award in 1980 from the Institute of American Church Growth and the Distinguished Alumni Award from Western Seminary in 2003. He is survived by his wife, **Jacqueline (Bonthuis ’43)**, whom he met on the steps of Zwemer Hall, and four daughters.

Lydia Whitebeaver ’44 of Winnebago, Neb., died March 21. She graduated from the Sage Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Ganado, Ariz., and pursued an extensive career in health and public service, holding positions as a staff nurse and emergency room nurse supervisor. She was both a staff member and director of the Winnebago Tribal Community Health Representative Program, retiring after 20 years of federal

Want to go Dutch?

Netherlands Tour • Summer 2017



Northwestern is making tentative plans for another alumni bike tour of the Netherlands next summer. Contact Aletha Beeson to indicate your interest in receiving more information.

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service. A former mayor of Winnebago, she also served as chairperson of the Village of Winnebago Board of Trustees, Northeastern Nebraska Family Services and Aberdeen Area Indian Health Board. A member of Winnebago Reformed Church, she is survived by two sisters and five children.

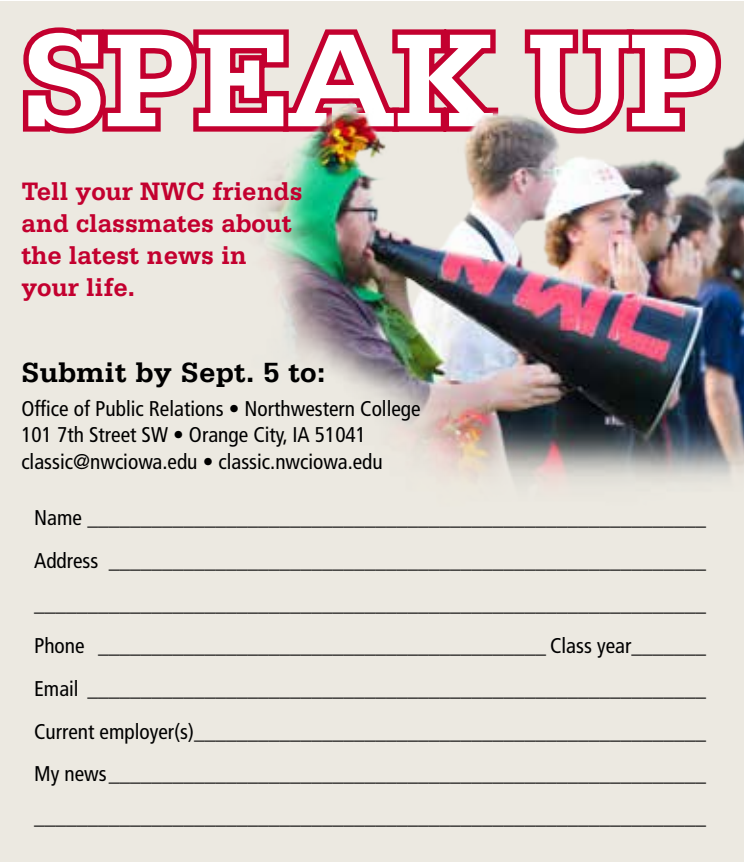
The Rev. John Rozendaal ’54, ’56, age 79, died on April 16 in Carroll, Iowa. A graduate of Central College and Western Theological Seminary, he pastored congregations in Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee. He earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from McCormick Theological Seminary in 1983 and ended his career in interim ministries in the Midwest. Among his survivors are two sisters, including **Esther ’52**, and two sons.

Bernice (Smith ’66) Kaiser died March 7 at age 92. She taught in the Iowa communities of Matlock, Archer and Paullina. A member of the Baker Methodist Church and, later, the Archer United Methodist Church,

she taught Sunday school, played the organ and sang in the choir. She was a member of the O’Brien County Women’s Chorus, the Delta Kappa Gamma–Alpha Tau chapter and the PEO Chapter FX in Paullina. She is survived by her husband, Vernon, and her daughter, **Connie Van Den Oever ’70**.

Dan Landegent ’85, age 53, of Orange City died on April 16. He served in the Air Force and earned a degree in fine arts before becoming a graphic designer. He worked for Fey Industries in Edgerton, Minn.; K-Products in Orange City; Wells Enterprises in Le Mars; and most recently in the maintenance department at North-western. He was active in the Orange City Tulip Festival and at First Reformed Church, where he served as a deacon and was heavily involved in music ministries. Among his survivors are wife, Nancy; his mother, **Audrey (Heemstra ’52, ’54)**; and brothers **David ’78** and **Dale ’82**.

SPEAK UP



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

Submit by Sept. 5 to:
Office of Public Relations • Northwestern College
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Yuika Ida is carving out an acting career in Tokyo, including her role as “Hermia” in a modern adaptation of Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.

Tokyo Roles

Yuika Ida ’11 may come across as quiet, but that hasn’t stopped her from staging a career as an actor in one of the largest cities in the world.

Since graduating from Northwestern and returning to Japan, Ida has worked steadily on Tokyo stages, in TV and, most recently, in a movie, *Fujika*. She supports herself with part-time work, currently at a restaurant, and also takes acting classes twice a week.

Ida’s first love is theatre, which she credits to her time at Northwestern. While a student, she had roles in such NWC productions as *Asian Folk Tales* and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. Theatre professor Karen Barker remembers that Ida “came in pretty tentative, but few people worked harder than she did.

“She jumped in with both feet,” Barker says. “She was easy to direct. The humility of her spirit allowed for hard-won growth as an actor.”

Ida says her favorite part of acting is sensing the audience’s enjoyment. Her advice to other theatre majors is to take every opportunity to see plays, especially in theatre-rich cities like Chicago and New York.

She says, “I haven’t gotten on a big stage with famous actors; I still have to study hard to be a good actress.” If Ida continues to approach her craft with the tenacity and willingness to learn she showed at NWC, each new role will be one for which she can take a bow.

BY SHERRIE BARBER WILLSON ’98

Classic Thoughts

To Japan, With Love

BY KATHY (VANDER WERFF '89) GABEL AND
KRISTYN (VANDER WERFF '90) HOWE

A vision I have
Of earth's inhabitants
The world made whole
Humanity healed
Sons and daughters reconciled
To God and their neighbors
Brothers and sisters gathered
Round the Messiah's banquet.

In 1984, on a plane en route to Japan, our father, the late Dr. Lyle Vander Werff '54, wrote this first stanza of a poem titled *Vision*. This past March, we had the opportunity to travel to Japan as part of a nine-member delegation from Northwestern and Orange City. Our purpose was to rekindle and strengthen relationships with people, churches, a sister city and sister colleges. And for the two of us, it was the chance of a lifetime to witness some of the impact of our father's pioneering work as Northwestern's longtime director of international programs—and to carry on his passion.

As our father understood decades ago, God's kingdom is all about relationships and is built as Christians around the world unite. Japan has a deep history with rich arts and culture that is absolutely fascinating. Japan's people are hospitable and go the extra mile to ensure visitors are welcomed. Japan has lost much of its spiritual heritage, and youth today do not hold to any religion. There is room for God's kingdom to spread in Japan.

Our team soaked in the ancient temples, pristine gardens, food that is a work of art, kabuki theatre, restored castles, traditional hot springs, efficient trains, modern shopping streets and a bamboo forest. Even better, we met the most welcoming church leaders, teachers and principals of our sister schools, as well as the mayor and business people of our sister city. These people relished reconnecting with Northwestern and Orange City. We all felt the strength of exchanging ideas, learning from one another and gaining hope for future interactions.

One special connection was with Keiwa College in Shibata City on the western coast of Japan. This is a sister college in our sister city built on the friendship of our father and Muneharu Kitagaki—two kindred spirits. They both served at Christian colleges and shared the same vision for students. With our team and Keiwa's staff, we were all delightfully surprised by the synergy among us. We shared a passion for enabling college students to grow from international friendships. Our three days together were a gift.

Another ordained meeting was with Dr. Kitagaki. We spent an evening with him, sitting on a tatami mat floor, enjoying a traditional meal and talking for hours. Karen Barker read our dad's poem. It captured the heart of what our team hoped to accomplish.

In a letter sent after our visit, Dr. Kitagaki wrote, "It was indeed such a special pleasure for me to meet with the visitors from NWC and Orange City. Though I met all of them for the first time, I felt as if I had met them before. During our pleasant conversation, I felt the figure of Lyle Vander Werff looming behind us, looking down affectionately. I remembered Lyle's biblical faith and his broad vision. I do hope the friendship between NWC and Keiwa College will continue long. I also hope the friendship between Orange City and Shibata City continues long. But I especially wish our personal friendships live on forever on a Christian basis."

Dr. Kitagaki expresses the importance of Christians around the world fostering those partnerships. We have so much to offer one another, and we cannot afford to lose our ties in this increasingly interconnected world. It was an honor to travel through Japan and meet people who love NWC and Orange City. It was an honor to carry forward the vision of our father, Northwestern and Orange City in building those relationships. And it was thrilling to know God has plans for future partnerships between our two lands.

Kathy Gabel and Kristyn Howe are the daughters of Lyle Vander Werff, a professor of religion at NWC from 1967 until 1998 who established several sister college relationships with institutions in the Pacific Rim. Gabel and Howe both live in Orange City and are part-time members of Northwestern's faculty—in ESL and education, respectively.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A group of nine representatives from Northwestern College and Orange City enjoyed visiting with Dr. Muneharu Kitagaki, president of Keiwa College from 1991 to 2003, during their visit to Japan over spring break.

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Raider Rookies

For a number of future Northwestern students, their first experience on campus is a summer sports camp. In addition to being a fun time with friends and teammates, Red Raider camps are a great chance to learn from—and maybe impress—Northwestern coaches you hope to play for someday.

This summer, during June, July and early August, nearly 1,400 campers from second grade to seniors in high school spent one to several days in the Bultman Center gymnasium and on Korver Field's newly refreshed turf. While being instructed by Raider coaches and select players in athletic fundamentals and specialized skills, they were also encouraged to see sports as a way to honor God and learn valuable life lessons.

To learn more about Raider sports camps, visit nwcraiders.com/camps.

DAN ROSS

the Classic