# Northwestern College Magazine the Cassic

# Dream Fulfilled Northwestern moves into the new DeWitt Family Science Center A/so A Musical Tour of Spain Raider Nation BFFs

Beyond the Arc



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

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

#### On the Cover:

The 61,000-square-foot DeWitt Family Science Center features large windows to the outdoors and into classrooms and laboratories, making a grand impression on the southwest entrance to campus.

PHOTO BY PAUL BROKERING

#### Online-Only Option

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#### Beyond the Arc

Northwestern's all-time leading scorer, Deb Remmerde-Leusink, has a new passion: defending her home court.

Lab Time

Professors like Dr. Harold Hammerstrom laid the foundation for the excellent reputation Northwestern's science programs enjoy today.

Music is a Universal Language

Northwestern's Symphonic Band presented eight concerts in eight days during a spring break mission tour of Spain.

Take a Tour

See inside the new DeWitt Family Science Center, dedicated in September and opened for classes in January.







#### **Your Turn**

share comments about any article in this issue.

visit classic.nwciowa.edu



# Zwemer View



#### A Year of Celebrating Faith and Science

uring the 2018–19 academic year, we focused on Northwestern's rich heritage of integrating faith and science. We began by dedicating the Jack & Mary DeWitt Family Science Center in September. This building symbolizes our commitment to excellence in the sciences and to growing in the knowledge of God and his world. No other small college in the Upper Midwest has as fine a science facility.

Two leading families of the Discover Campaign, Bryan '81 and Nancy (Rowenhorst '82) Den Hartog and Dave '77 and Anita (Plantage '77) Bomgaars, chose the following quote from Louis Pasteur to be inscribed in the front entrance: "The more I study nature, the more I stand amazed at the work of the Creator." The Den Hartogs and Bomgaars added, "May those who study here be 'amazed at his creation' ... the order and purpose of it ... the meaning of it."

Throughout the year, we hosted renowned scholars of faith and science, as well as many alumni who have distinguished themselves as persons of faith and excellent scientists. Our first guest spoke in chapel during Homecoming: Air Force Lt. Col. JoAnna Jackson Scherer '02, an emergency medicine physician stationed in the White House.

In November, Dr. John Walton, professor of Old Testament at Wheaton College, spoke in chapel on "Immanuel Theology: What God has always Wanted." Walton has dedicated his career to understanding the ancient world of the Bible, and the fruit of his considerable labor is a more vivid and compelling reading of Genesis 1 and 2.

That month we also learned that Northwestern students taking the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) scored among the top 25 percent in the world for the second year in a row! The average score of Northwestern students on the 2018 exam was in the 75th percentile. Two students scored in the 91st percentile. Then in January, our nursing program was ranked among the nation's top 15 percent by nursingschoolalmanac.com. Simply remarkable!

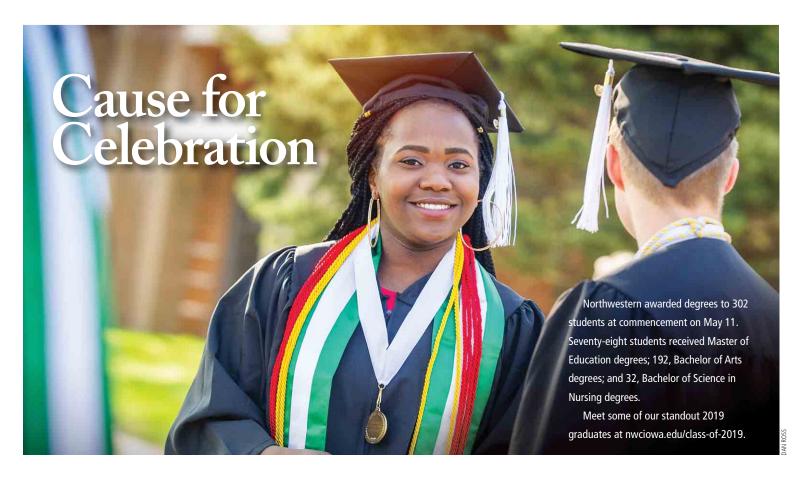
In April, Dr. Deborah Haarsma, an astrophysicist and frequent speaker on science and Christian faith, gave a chapel address on "The Universe Declares the Glory of God." And at commencement, Virgil "Prof" Muilenburg '62 received an honorary doctorate for dedicating his career to developing Christian scientists for 37 years at Northwestern.

Excellence in the health sciences has been in our DNA for decades. Now, with a state-of-the-art DNA sequencer, we offer students research experience that's rare at the college or university level. With equipment like this—as well as world-renowned programs, outstanding facilities and faculty who continue the legacy of Prof Muilenburg—we are poised to reach even greater heights. May our students and faculty be continually amazed at God's creation and honor the Creator with their courageous and faithful exploration!

Greg Christy
President



# around the Green



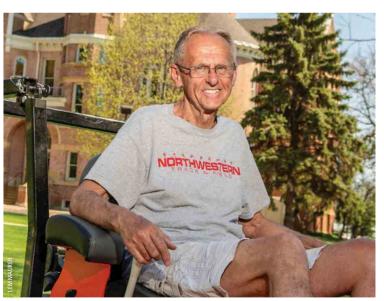
#### Dr. Prof

Virg Muilenburg '62, known to many as "Prof," is loved and respected. He holds the title of professor emeritus of biology. Now he has an honorary doctorate from his alma mater, presented during May's commencement ceremonies.

Muilenburg taught biology at NWC for 37 years and played a major role in growing the department's number of faculty and majors—as well as its reputation as a top science program. He was a gifted adviser who encouraged students to consider graduate school and helped guide them into careers that

matched their passions and abilities.

Known for inviting groups of students to his home for pizza and ice cream, Prof has hosted more than 2,000 over the course of 50 years and still keeps in touch with several hundred former students. When Northwestern conducted a campaign to raise funds for a new science center, he volunteered on the campaign's leadership team and gave sacrificially himself. And though retired, he still serves NWC every summer as a member of the college's grounds crew.



Retired biology professor Virg Muilenburg, Northwestern's latest honorary degree recipient, continues to serve the college as a member of the grounds crew.

# New Academic Leader

Northwestern's new vice president for academic affairs, Dr. D. Nathan Phinney, says his recent move to Orange City feels like a homecoming.

"I grew up in North Dakota and consider myself a western prairie native, so Orange City feels a bit like coming home. And I am excited to continue to serve at an institution that has the Christian faith at the center of its mission," he says.

Phinney joins Northwestern after 15 years at Malone University in Canton, Ohio. As provost since 2015, he was instrumental in the development of new academic

programs and the undergraduate

research program. A religion professor, Phinney served as dean of Malone's College of Theology, Arts and Sciences for six years and won the institution's Distinguished Faculty Award for Teaching in 2007.

"Nate has distinguished himself not only as a gifted teacher and scholar, but also as an academic leader skilled at strategically navigating current realities to achieve mission and vision," says President

Greg Christy. "He is pas-

sionate about colleges like Northwestern that prepare students for careers while at the same time inspiring them to care about things they may never have considered before. He also has a deep understanding of Reformed Christianity that makes him a great fit for Northwestern. I look forward to working with him to further our mission and unity as a Christian academic community."

"I resonate with Northwestern's vision to be the leading Christian college focused on student success and Christ-centered work for the common good," says Phinney. "I have been impressed with Northwestern's authentic Christian community, strong academic programs, financial health and great facilities, and I'm eager to collaborate with others to enrich the college's academic excellence."

Phinney earned doctoral and master's degrees in Old Testament from Yale University, as well as a master's degree in religion from Yale Divinity School and a bachelor's from Taylor University.

He replaces Dr. Mark Husbands, who is now president of Trinity Western University in Langley, British Columbia.

Northwestern's new vice president for academic affairs is Dr. D. Nathan Phinney, who previously served as provost at Malone University.

#### Transfer-Friendly

Northwestern is making it easier for community college graduates to earn a bachelor's degree at NWC.

Beginning this fall, students who have an Associate of Arts (A.A.), Associate of Science (A.S.) or Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) will automatically meet all of the Northwestern Core, or general education, requirements-with the exception of one Christian Story course and a Senior Seminar course. And if a student has taken a religion course equivalent to Northwestern's Christian Story course, then that requirement is met as well.

The new policy is of particular benefit to students choosing to enroll in North-western's two online degree-completion programs that require applicants to have an associate's degree: the bachelor's degree program in early childhood and the RN-BSN program.

To learn more, visit nwciowa.edu/transfer.



# Worldwide Learning

Northwestern students studied in the Czech Republic, Greece and Italy this summer as part of programs offered by the college's global education office.

Kyle Ochsner '09, kinesiology, taught the Czech course. During their three weeks in that country, students compared and contrasted Czech sports, fitness and leisure pursuits with those in the U.S. Daily hikes and physical activity were part of the schedule, as was a tour of a Czech Olympic training center.

A study abroad course for Honors Program students exam-

ined Greek cultural and intellectual influences. Participants learned how virtually every academic discipline can trace its roots back to ancient Greece. Those taking the course stayed primarily in Athens and toured world heritage sites that included the Acropolis, Corinth, Mycenae, Meteora and the Oracle of Delphi. Dr. John Vonder Bruegge, co-director of Northwestern's Honors Program, taught the course.

The final course explored religious beliefs and practices in Italy. Students participated in a two-week spiritual pilgrimage that

followed the journey of St. Francis from Assisi to Rome, and in doing so, had the opportunity to examine their own faith. The pilgrimage took students through rural Italy, where they stayed in hostels, homes and monasteries in small towns and villages. Dr. Jason Lief '96, biblical and theological studies, led the trip.



# Service With a Smile

Northwestern students are living out their faith as short-term missionaries through the Summer of Service (SOS) program.

Number of students serving mission agencies this summer by teaching English; assisting aid workers, physicians, teachers and missionaries; hosting children's programs; and distributing food and clothing

Countries in which students are serving, ranging from the Dominican Republic and Greece to Japan and Peru

\$72,000

Amount provided by families, friends and home churches to cover the students' transportation, room and board, and program fees

**90 L** Total number of countries in which approximately 750 Northwestern students have participated in short-term summer missions since the SOS program began in 1981

# Campus Life

#### Game On

Each spring, an energetic group of students packs the lobby of Hospers Hall to sit in front of massive video screens and a top-notch

sound system. As game time draws near, they check their brackets one last time and prepare to experience the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat.

But it's not March Madness they're watching.

This is the Hospers Video Game Tournament, one of Northwestern's newest annual traditions and a symbol of the growing "esports"—competitive video game playing—culture on campus.

Lucas Heiberger '18 wasn't sure what to expect when he organized the first Hospers tournament as a freshman in 2014–15.

"I really didn't have high expectations of this being something students would grab onto so much," says Heiberger,

now an admissions counselor at Northwestern. "The

atmosphere kind of blew me away."

In the 2018–19 edition of the tournament, 43 teams competed in the racing game F-Zero.

"Any time any two players were neck and neck, everyone would be going crazy," says junior Kit Fynaardt, one of the event's organizers.

The esports culture at Northwestern is becoming competitive in other ways. In January the college launched a competitive esports club, vying in virtual matches with teams from schools like the University of Texas at Arlington and Western Kentucky University.

Starting in 2020, esports will become an official varsity sport. By then, NWC hopes to expand its arsenal of seven gaming computers (known as rigs) to 20. Fynaardt plays the game Overwatch for the club; Heiberger is an assistant coach.

"I think the budding gaming culture definitely fuels the esports team," says Lexi Van Surksum, a junior who competes in Rocket League as the only woman on the roster.

Heiberger says Northwestern's expansion into competitive esports is creating a meaningful niche for the school.

"It wasn't something I ever foresaw—Northwestern being a frontrunner in esports," he says. "But I think it's a really solid move because in 10 years it's gonna be huge."



Members of the Red Raider competitive esports club practice in an arena equipped with high-end rigs.

#### Sent

Almost 150 students, faculty and staff filled 15-passenger vans or boarded airplanes in March to serve at 11 ministry sites around the country and globe.

"Sent" was the Spring Service
Partnerships theme this year, a mission
these Raiders fully embodied as they
provided hurricane disaster relief in Texas,
served in homeless shelters in Ireland,
and tutored students in Louisiana. Teams
also served on two Native American
reservations, in hostels in Amsterdam,
and with an afterschool program in Croc,
Mexico.

#### **Trophy Time**

Four projects coordinated by Northwestern's marketing and communications office won awards in the 2019 Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District Six awards competition.

Silver awards were presented to NWC for the college fair piece and student recruitment package produced for the admissions office, as well as a compilation website of alumni profiles, nwciowa.edu/RaiderNationWorks. A video developed by multimedia producer Lem Maurer for Red101 Days, "Raider Nation: Feel It," garnered a bronze award.

This is the ninth consecutive year Northwestern has won an award from CASE District Six, which includes marketing, alumni and fundraising professionals at educational institutions in eight states.

#### Top of the Class

Northwestern continues to get high rankings for academics, value, Christian education and more. Here are some of our latest accolades:

- College Consensus rates NWC as the fourth-best Christian college or university in the nation, based on the latest college rankings and thousands of student reviews. Northwestern is the highest-ranked institution from Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota or Nebraska.
- Northwestern is the safest college in Iowa, according to Niche.com,



Northwestern's latest national recognitions include a ranking as the fourth-best Christian college or university by College Consensus.

which reports that 96 percent of students say they feel extremely safe on campus. Other ranking factors include campus and local crime rates.

- College Factual's Best Colleges for the Money report says NWC is one of the nation's best values. Northwestern is in the top 5 percent of all colleges, ranked 70th out of 1,510 colleges and universities. The rankings compare colleges' total costs—including yearly net cost and average years to graduation—to their academic quality.
- Northwestern's nursing program has been ranked among the nation's top 15 percent by nursingschoolsalmanac.com, based on academic prestige and perceived value; the program's breadth and depth; and graduates' success on the NCLEX national licensure exam.
- The online Master of Education degree in early childhood has been ranked among the nation's best and named "most flexible" by OnlineMasters.com. The website ranks Northwestern's program 34th on its top-50 list for 2019—one of only two Iowa institutions honored. The ranking is based on academic quality, student success and affordability.
- NursingSchoolHub.com ranks Northwestern's online RN-BSN program among the nation's best. NWC is 24th and the only Iowa school on the list. Factors include cost, student reviews, outcomes and accreditation.

#### **Summer Research**

Nine NWC professors are spending their summer conducting research or developing their art with funding from the Northwestern Scholarship Grants program. Awards range from nearly \$1,000 for individual projects to as much as \$4,000 for collaborative research with students.

Grant winners with student research assistants include Dr. Emily Grace, physics, and Dr. Chris Hausmann, sociology.

Grace is working on developing a more sophisticated method of analyzing the fluorescent signal of an enzymatic protein involved in the dilation of blood vessels.

Hausmann is using student journals and

survey data to contribute to first-year seminar and diversity curriculum used by Christian colleges.

Dr. Thomas Holm, music, is traveling to Taiwan to help prepare Taiwanese choral scores for dissemination in the U.S. Another international project is the subject of work by Dr. Melanie Nyhof, psychology. She is traveling to Indonesia to study how that nation's people understand death and the afterlife, as well as belief disagreements involving religion, facts, opinions and morality.

Grant money awarded to Dr. Robert Hubbard, theatre, is funding his work on a one-person play about a Christmas Eve service in a dying rural North Dakota church, while summer research by Dr. Han-Yen Kao, economics, is focusing on the economics of the diversity strategies of colleges.

History professor Dr. Michael Kugler is conducting research to determine if 18th-century Scottish pastor and author John Bonar borrowed from any contemporary philosophical principles in arguments for the providence of God.

Finally, two art professors—Yun Shin and Emily Stokes—are spending the summer creating new artwork for upcoming exhibitions.



Economics professor Dr. Han-Yen Kao is among nine faculty conducting summer research with the aid of Northwestern Scholarship Grants.

DOUGBURG



Dr. Sara Sybesma Tolsma '84, professor of biology, is learning how to do RNA sequencing this summer so she can bring the technique back to Northwestern.

RNA-Seq measures differential gene expression. A \$10,000 Endowed Research Fellowship from NWC is enabling Tolsma to spend several weeks in a North Carolina State University lab, working with researchers who study gene expression in plants and regularly use RNA-Seq. The technique is a next step for research projects Tolsma is working on with colleagues and students.

Three other Northwestern professors will conduct research and scholarship while on sabbatical during the 2019–20 school year.

Ray Gibler, accounting, was granted a full-year sabbatical and has several goals for his time away from the classroom. He plans to prepare a paper for publication, expand his tax consulting work with a local tax firm, develop relationships with high school business teachers, and create a new course to give Northwestern students foundational knowledge about personal finances.

Art professor Yun Shin will spend the fall semester in South Korea, where she will create a new body of work for exhibition nationally and internationally. She will also

visit art museums and centers in Seoul and attend gallery receptions to connect with artists and curators.

Dr. Michael Kensak, English, will spend his spring semester sabbatical working on projects to enhance his teaching and support his development as a Shakespeare scholar. The author of an online edition of *Othello*, he intends to create similar editions of *Henry IV Part I, King Lear* and *The Merchant of Venice*.



Dr. Sara Sybesma Tolsma



Ray Gibler



Dr. Michael Kensak

# Face Value

#### **New Career Leader**



Dr. Elizabeth
Pitts, a former
faculty member
and internship
director at the
American Studies
Program in
Washington, D.C.,
is the director of

Northwestern's new Compass Center for Career and Calling. Her dissertation at George Mason University focused on the power of experiential education.

#### #RaidersAllN

Red Raider alumni and friends gave generously to the Northwestern Fund on AllNDay, April 11. Encouraged to be "all in for all students" during the college's second annual Day of Giving, 378 donors gave 526 gifts totaling \$96,350.

The event included giving challenges made by Northwestern alumni and their spouses, including Michael '00 and Ellie Greller, Brad '92 and Dr. Carilyn Van Kalsbeek, Dr. Earl '78 and Karen (De Boer '79) Woudstra, and Carl '88 and Lori (Vanden Hoek '88) Wynja. The National Alumni Board and an anonymous Board of Trustee member also inspired donors with giving challenges.



#### Sandy Van Kley

Northwestern's Record Keeper

#### What has changed the most in your time working in Northwestern's registrar's office?

When I started, students were registering on paper. Members of the maintenance staff set up long tables in the Bultman Center lobby, and computing services set up terminals and printers. New students came in by appointment on the Saturday before classes started. The line was open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Those were long days! As more of the process moved online, we were able to get rid of the line.

#### What's the most interesting request you've received from a student?

A student with a Taiwanese roommate asked me if living with someone from another culture satisfied Northwestern's cross-cultural requirement. I said it was an interesting idea (and a rich learning experience), but he'd still need to take a class in order to receive cross-cultural credit.

#### What brought you to work at Northwestern?

I started as a student here in 1976. I met my husband, Denny, and we were married and moved away after he graduated in '79. By the time my boys were in high school, we were living in Sioux Center and I asked the Lord to show me what he wanted me to do with my life. That's when Denny saw an ad in the paper about the registrar's assistant position and told me to apply. After my first year, I was urged to complete my bachelor's degree, which I did in 2005. That same year, my oldest son also graduated from college, and my twin sons graduated from high school. We joked that while the rest of the family was graduating, my husband, who taught fifth grade at the time, was still in elementary school.

#### What brings you the most satisfaction in your job?

One of my greatest joys was seeing a student who struggled academically graduate after more than five years of being in and out of



A Northwestern employee for 18 years, Sandy (Ruter '05) Van Kley has served as the college's registrar since 2011. As such, she is responsible for maintaining the academic records for all Northwestern students, both past and present. She and her staff collect grades, process transcript requests, prepare course schedules and facilitate registration each semester. They also assist in maintaining the degree audit system, determine students' eligibility for graduation and participation in athletics, help plan commencement ceremonies, and confer degrees.

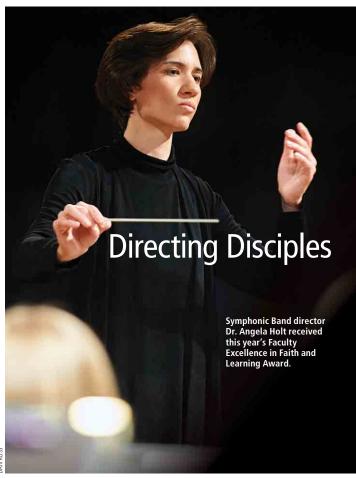
Northwestern. Other joys have been developing close relationships with my student workers and having the pleasure of staying in touch with them after they leave Northwestern.

# In all of your years helping to coordinate commencement, have there been any near-disasters?

The Northwestern backdrop used for graduates' photos was missing one year. It was located just before the ceremony began. In the meantime, the maintenance staff were trying to jerry-rig a substitute. Now I always keep the backdrop in my office.

#### What do you like to do for fun?

A few of my favorite activities are biking, hiking, snowshoeing, fishing, reading and baking.



ftentimes it comes through the music," says Dr. Angela Holt, explaining how Christian faith is integrated into Northwestern's Symphonic Band rehearsals. "Relating the music to our lives is one way we explore our faith walk. We have melodies and counter melodies—and then we'll hit some dissonance. We have to work through that in order to find a resolution. This offers a beautiful parallel to our lives as followers of Christ. It is amazing what eternal lessons can be revealed to us through music rehearsals!"

Holt, an assistant professor of music and the director of bands and instrumental music education, is the recipient of Northwestern's 2019 Faculty Excellence in Faith and Learning Award.

"[This award] recognizes faculty who devote time and energy to scholarship and creative performance in ways that faithfully express the wonder, truth and beauty of God's revelation in both Scripture and creation," says Dr. Thomas Holm, chair of the music department. "Dr. Holt thinks, lives and teaches with this expression as a backdrop."

Karen Barker, dean of arts and humanities, echoes Holm's comments: "I don't know that I have ever seen a teacher infuse so much of their faith into an art form. Every moment in her classroom seems to be a moment to grow—not only musically, but as a human being and as a Christian."

Holt's students also take note of her strong leadership, one writing: "Dr. Holt cares about more than just our excellence as a band. She cares deeply about our band making excellent music for the glory of God and about students becoming better musicians and better disciples."

#### A Real Asset

"Janette is the most detailed person I have known," says Deb Wassink, who retired from Northwestern's business office in February. "She works in the background, but her work keeps all departments doing business properly—and this is crucial to the well-being of the whole college."

Wassink's reflections commend Janette Reuter, Northwestern's comptroller and the recipient of the college's 2019 Staff Inspirational Service Award.

As comptroller, Reuter assists in maintaining the college's accounting system, prepares financial statements, monitors budgets, coordinates audits, and reports to oversight agencies and granting organizations.

Reuter's attention to detail in each of her tasks has earned her the praise of the college's Board of Trustees and its auditors. "They [the auditors] have described Northwestern College as a model client, and Janette deserves all the credit for that accolade," says Doug Beukelman, vice president for financial affairs. "The continual lack of deficiencies in their audit report is a testament to her ethics and the attention to detail throughout our accounting system."

Wassink and Beukelman also applaud Reuter for her servant attitude and leadership. Both describe her demeanor as "gracious."



"Janette epitomizes putting service to others ahead of her selfinterest," says Beukelman, also noting that Reuter's diligence is sought on several working groups on campus.

Wassink adds that Reuter has a listening ear, an open-door office policy, and a willingness to rearrange her own schedule to assist others. Janette Reuter—a great accountant and a gracious colleague.

### The Language of Love

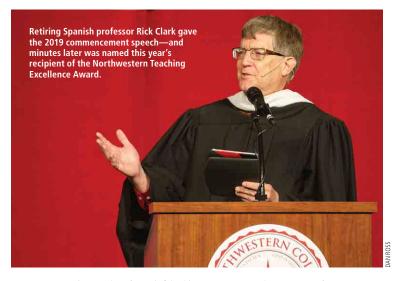
May 11 was a big day for Rick Clark. He gave Northwestern's commencement speech, one of his last acts on campus before retiring after 22 years on the Spanish faculty.

Then Clark was called forward to accept the 2019 Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award. He became the first professor to win the award three times, having previously received it in 2013 and 2007.

"It felt like a little much, along with me speaking at graduation," he says about receiving the award. "But it was another confirmation of God's gifting in my life. I originally got into teaching so I could coach, but I couldn't believe how much fun I had as a student teacher. I feel so privileged to find that I love to teach and to see how God used that," says Clark, whose commencement speech focused on making your life count.

Students saw that personified every day in his classroom. "Professor Clark is the type of professor you want to make proud," wrote one student in his award nomination. "He is putting his all into helping you learn, and you want to give the same amount of effort back."

Clark, who grew up in Ecuador as the son of missionary parents, regularly led summer study abroad trips there. "The opportunity to get students into a different culture—that's where dramatic changes come," he says. "Each student stays in a home with a family, and what happens over the month is just fabulous. They no longer fall in love with words, but with people and a new culture and values. They start to examine their own culture and values. That's very transforming."



Many students also found Clark's on-campus classes transformative for their spiritual lives. "Every Monday he would share something God has done in his life," wrote a student. "Through each of those stories, he sincerely hoped we would leave with a new perspective on who God is."

Clark, who also was an assistant men's basketball coach, doesn't know what retirement will hold. He's excited to serve with his wife, Karen, on short-term missions experiences in Spanish-speaking countries, and he's intrigued by the opportunity to lead a Spanish Bible study with workers at area dairies—continuing to make his life count.

#### **MVP for CPAs**

Early in her teaching career, Vonda (Elgersma '88) Post committed to teaching in a way that enabled students to *think* about course material, not just memorize it for a test. "We want students

to understand the material and apply it to their work," says the business professor.

That philosophy of teaching by Post and her colleagues has proven beneficial for Northwestern accounting students,

FICATION

Accounting professor Vonda Post, who's served her alma mater for 30 years, is the recipient of the 2019 Faculty Inspirational Service Award.

who regularly record some of the nation's best pass rates on the CPA exam.

Post's teaching style is one of the many things her students and colleagues appreciate about her, leading her to receive Northwestern's 2019 Faculty Inspirational Service Award.

Post teaches a full course load, advises approximately 60 students, and frequently meets with prospective students. She has also served as co-chair of the business department. "In working with Vonda, she has always demonstrated patience, caring, insightfulness and a total dedication to Northwestern," says Bob De Haan, instructor in agribusiness.

"She will always carve out time for a colleague or student," says Ashley (Adams '06) Stanislav, the business department's faculty assistant. "She puts other people first and demonstrates the love of Christ through her words and actions."

Beyond the classroom, Post spends many hours working with students in her office. "I observe Vonda working tirelessly with students in individual tutoring sessions," says Ann Vander Kooi Minnick '88, associate professor of communications. "I can hear her explaining concepts over and over to help students grasp them."

A CPA herself, Post spends many hours each year meeting the profession's continuing education requirements— which, in turn, makes her better equipped to prepare future Red Raider accountants.



Northwestern's longtime bookstore manager, Glenda De Vries, retired from Northwestern in January. She served the last three years as the maintenance department's assistant.



Arlo Van Beek retired as Northwestern's housekeeping supervisor in February after nearly 27 years on staff.

#### **Different Roles, Same Connection**

When Glenda (Hiemstra '79) De Vries was a freshman at Northwestern, she was a pre-nursing student. She worked briefly as a CNA but found her calling in the business world, working in such areas as accounting, program marketing and intellectual properties licensing during two decades at K-Products in Orange City.

That background provided great preparation for De Vries' return to campus in 1997 as bookstore manager. She served in that role for nearly 18 years and then worked for more than three years as Northwestern's maintenance assistance before retiring in January.

"What I cherish the most is the relationships I developed at Northwestern," she says. "I worked with more than 60 students in the bookstore. It wasn't just me sharing with them; I learned a lot from the students. I remember all of them and still keep in touch with some."

And while her time in the maintenance office brought less student interaction, De Vries appreciated seeing all of the behind-the-scenes work her colleagues did to make things run smoothly on campus. "They have such a servant's attitude."

While employed at Northwestern, De Vries took advantage of the opportunity to enroll in classes, completing four semesters of German. That led to her participation in three summer study abroad trips to Germany and eventually serving as a German tutor.

In retirement, De Vries continues to expand her language knowledge, as she has begun learning Spanish.

"There's something about Northwestern that's unlike any place I've worked," she says. "I'll always feel like I belong to Northwestern."

#### A Clean Sweep

Arlo Van Beek '81 felt like a kid at Christmas every time Northwestern opened a new building. The house-keeping supervisor enjoyed developing the plan for keeping new facilities pristine and welcoming, including determining how many garbage cans, entrance mats and paper-towel dispensers would be needed.

Before retiring at the end of February after nearly 27 years on the maintenance staff, Van Beek had numerous opportunities to experience that deck-the-halls feeling, as NWC built many facilities. In other buildings, he managed every departmental move and put his fix-it skills and ingenuity to the test as he helped them look as new as possible.

"Arlo was involved in nearly every square inch of campus," says Doug Beukelman, vice president for financial affairs. "He established the housekeeping regime for each of the buildings, provided leadership and training to everyone working in his department, and brought innovations to how our facilities are cared for and the equipment used to maintain them."

Thoroughly pragmatic, Van Beek says most of his goals were short-term in nature. "What we do in housekeeping isn't visible a week from now, so we've tried to make sure the cleaning is done consistently well to provide a good environment for those who work and live here and to impress visitors."

Van Beek's selection as Northwestern's 2015 Staff Inspirational Service Award winner shows that his goals were met.

In his retirement, Van Beek manages the Pioneer Memorial Home, a senior housing community in Orange City. It's not new, but he's working his magic.



For 42 years, Deb Wassink managed the collection of student accounts with empathy, poise and grace.

#### The Face in the Window

It's a testimony to the way Deb Wassink did her job that students looked forward to seeing the person responsible for collecting the money they owed Northwestern.

She was the face in the business office window when they came to endorse a check or pay their bill. And when they did, they found a ready smile and a listening ear.

"Deb was so good at building relationships with students," says Bryce Book '10, who worked in the business office while a student. "A lot of them would stop by just to say hi."

Wassink retired in February after 42 years as the college's student accounts manager—a position she viewed as more than just a job. "Seeing the students and hearing their stories gave me an opportunity for ministry," she recalls. "Life can get so busy and tough.

Sometimes I would just end up praying with them."

When Wassink started at
Northwestern, it was the beginning of
the fall semester and registration lines
extended from the business office to the
front door of Zwemer Hall. She used an
adding machine and typed up billing
sheets individually. Now bank loans
arrive electronically and students can
make payments online.

Diminishing face-to-face contact with students made bill collecting more challenging, but Wassink still struck the perfect balance of empathy with firmness. "She was so good at approaching things in a manner that helped relieve families' stress while also getting the bills collected for the college," Book says. "She walked that fine line in those really tough situations with just so much poise and grace."



As director of career development, Bill Minnick played a major role in Northwestern's stellar job placement rate. Now retired, Minnick also previously served as president of Career Professionals of Iowa and the Iowa College Recruiting Network.

#### **NWC Encourager**

Kessa Kuyper was dreaming big as she contemplated her exercise science internship. To increase her chances of getting an impressive internship, Director of Career Development Bill Minnick helped her research potential bosses, worked with her on her résumé and cover letter, and conducted several mock interviews.

When she found out she was selected out of 350 candidates to intern at the Ultimate Fighting Championship Performance Institute in Las Vegas last year, Kuyper returned to Minnick's office and shouted, "I got it—you're a lifesaver!"

Now preparing to pursue a doctorate in physical therapy at the University of Iowa, Kuyper says she can't express how helpful Minnick was. "He did way more than I expected."

Stories like that are among the highlights Minnick mentions as he

reflects on his early retirement after 20 years at Northwestern. "It's encouraging when students recognize the little part you played in their lives," says Minnick, who kept a large stack of thank-you notes under his desk. "I loved working with students—seeing how they changed over four years and were prepared to succeed in their careers and make a difference. It was the most rewarding job I ever had."

When he left Northwestern, students, faculty and staff found another way Minnick had been making a positive impact. He revealed he was the person behind the anonymous NWC Encourager Twitter account that had offered praise and encouragement to numerous members of the campus community over the last six years. In his last post, he wrote: "In all you do, strive to be the hands and feet of Christ."

#### Master's in Athletic Training

Work is underway to advance Northwestern's athletic training program from an undergraduate to graduate degree.

"The accrediting agency, CAATE, has determined that all athletic training education has to occur at the graduate level," says Dr. Rick Loutsch, who serves as the college's athletic training program director. "So if you want to be an athletic trainer, you'll have to have a master's degree and graduate from an accredited program."

Loutsch anticipates getting CAATE approval for the master's program by spring 2020 and admitting the first cohort of 15 students that summer. The two-year program would graduate its first class in May of 2022.

"The first year is primarily residential," he says. "During the second year there's an option to be placed at clinical sites in different locations and to do some coursework online."

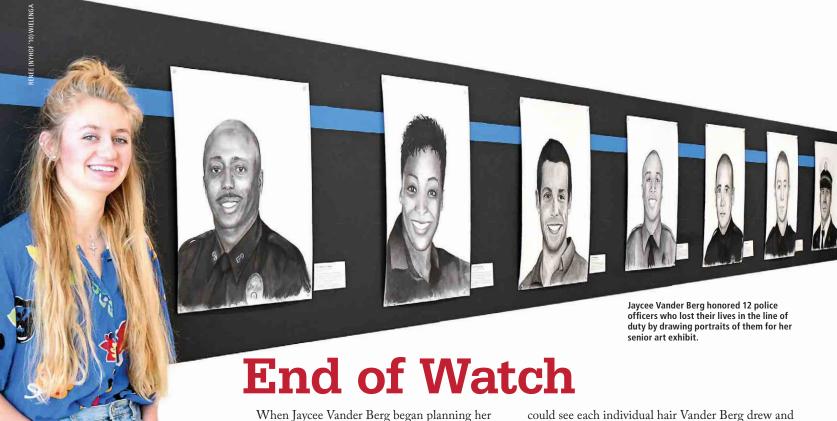
Any student can apply to the program as long as he or she meets

the prerequisites. Most applicants will likely have undergraduate degrees in biology, exercise science or a related health professions major. Northwestern graduates will be given preference in the admissions process.

Northwestern has hired a coordinator of clinical education for the master's degree program in athletic training and will eventually add a third faculty member, who may also provide athletic training services to NWC student-athletes.



Plans are underway for Northwestern to begin offering a master's degree in athletic training next year.



When Jaycee Vander Berg began planning her senior art exhibit, the criminal justice and art/graphic design major knew she wanted to combine her two passions. The result, an exhibition titled "End of Watch," featured charcoal drawings of fallen police officers from around the country.

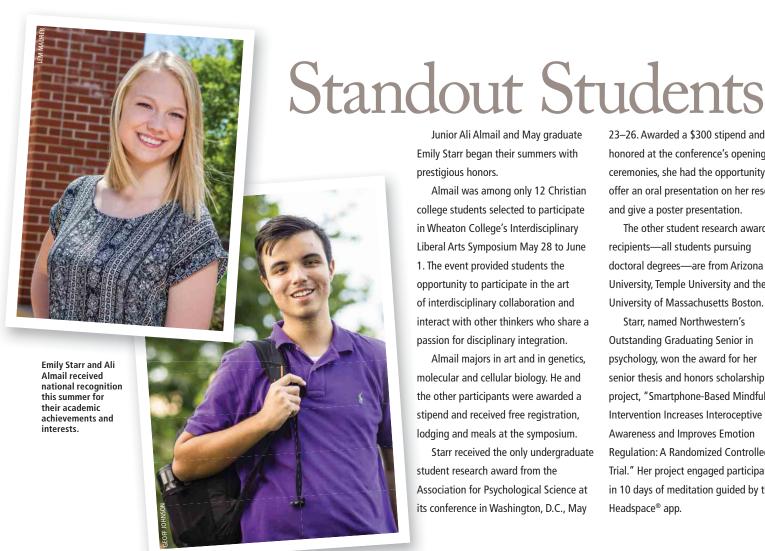
"It's a small way for me to honor the people who put their lives on the line every time they have a shift," says Vander Berg, who sent the portraits to the families of the officers after her exhibit closed.

With all 12 portraits hung at eye level, attendees

could see each individual hair Vander Berg drew and other details brought out by the charcoal medium. Next to each officer was a short story about the officer's life.

"I think a lot of people saw the bigger picture, which is what I wanted," she says.

Vander Berg is working as a correctional officer and dispatcher for the Sioux County Sheriff's Office.



Junior Ali Almail and May graduate Emily Starr began their summers with prestigious honors.

Almail was among only 12 Christian college students selected to participate in Wheaton College's Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts Symposium May 28 to June 1. The event provided students the opportunity to participate in the art of interdisciplinary collaboration and interact with other thinkers who share a passion for disciplinary integration.

Almail majors in art and in genetics, molecular and cellular biology. He and the other participants were awarded a stipend and received free registration, lodging and meals at the symposium.

Starr received the only undergraduate student research award from the Association for Psychological Science at its conference in Washington, D.C., May

23-26. Awarded a \$300 stipend and honored at the conference's opening ceremonies, she had the opportunity to offer an oral presentation on her research and give a poster presentation.

The other student research award recipients—all students pursuing doctoral degrees—are from Arizona State University, Temple University and the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Starr, named Northwestern's **Outstanding Graduating Senior in** psychology, won the award for her senior thesis and honors scholarship project, "Smartphone-Based Mindfulness Intervention Increases Interoceptive Awareness and Improves Emotion Regulation: A Randomized Controlled Trial." Her project engaged participants in 10 days of meditation guided by the Headspace® app.

#### **Raider Nation Success**

Graduates of the Class of 2018 took their Northwestern excellence to 22 states, Washington, D.C., and nine countries, where they're working and pursuing advanced degrees.

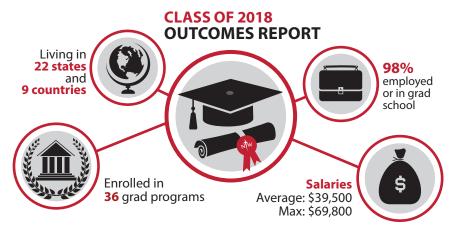
Of the graduates who responded to the college's placement survey, 98% were employed or in graduate school within six months of graduating from Northwestern.

The top industry choices for 2018 NWC graduates include education, business, accounting and financial services, healthcare, and social services. Job placements include a special events coordinator at Blank Park Zoo, an auditor with John Deere Financial, a Spanish medical interpreter at an Oregon hospital, and teachers and a nurse at a Christian school in Honduras.

Thirty-eight members of the Class of 2018 are enrolled in some of the nation's top graduate programs, including the University of Chicago, University of Minnesota and Princeton Theological Seminary. They're pursuing advanced

degrees in a range of fields, including animation; theology; law enforcement; higher education; and chiropractic, osteopathic and veterinary medicine.

To learn more about the success of Northwestern's Class of 2018, visit nwciowa. edu/2018outcomes.





# Red Zone

#### Beyond the Arc

BY DUANE BEESON

Deb Remmerde-Leusink's passion for basketball was legendary back when she became the leading scorer in lowa high school girls' basketball and the NAIA Div. II all-time point producer. From practicing up to 12 hours a day in a machine shed court on her parents' farm to shooting free throws in a darkened Bultman Center to improve her accuracy, Remmerde-Leusink '08 was the picture of intensity.

"Without exception she's the best shooter I've ever witnessed at any level," says her Red Raider coach, Earl Woudstra '78, now Northwestern's athletic director. "That's a reflection of the amount of time she spent on shooting."

Remmerde-Leusink's hard work paid off. While at Northwestern, her teams compiled a 108-26 record, and she led the Raiders to a Final Four appearance in 2006 and the national championship in her senior year. A four-time first-team All-American, she set 11 NAIA records, including three-point field goals made (481), three-point percentage (.542) and free-throw percentage (.958).

She also broke all known organized basketball records when she connected for 133 straight free throws during the 2005–06 season.

This March, Remmerde-Leusink received another honor: induction into the NAIA Hall of Fame.

Following her standout Red Raider career, Remmerde-Leusink received a tryout with the Houston Comets of the WNBA, played professionally in Germany, and served as a graduate assistant at South Dakota State University. She returned to her alma mater in 2011 and was an assistant coach for five years.

Now home full time in Rock Valley, Iowa, with three children under the age of six, Remmerde-Leusink spends more time playing zone defense than practicing free throws.

"Basketball was my No. 1 for so many years," she says. "It was very much my focus and passion. Today that's my husband and kids. I'm absolutely loving being a stay-at-home mom. We're so blessed."

Remmerde-Leusink still has the ALL NET license plate that hung on her Chevrolet Equinox for many years. Now it's on a minivan.

#### **New Sports Coming**

Northwestern introduced two new competitive clubs during the spring semester: bowling and esports. The Raiders plan to field varsity-level programs in those sports in 2020–21. Prospective students will be eligible for scholarships for their participation beginning this fall.

For more on Raider sports, visit nwcraiders.com



t is hard to pinpoint exactly when Northwestern began to stand out for the strength of its science programs. Northwestern Classical Academy was established to prepare students for college and ultimately the ministry. However, Alfred Popma graduated from the academy in 1924, earned his medical degree, and became one of the nation's foremost authorities on cancer, credited with pioneering breast self-exams for women.

The same year Popma graduated from the academy, Science Hall was built. It contained a single laboratory, two classrooms and an auditorium/ gymnasium. Two decades later, Zwemer Hall housed the chemistry, biology and physics labs.

What President Jacob Heemstra described as "insufficient laboratory space for science work" led to construction of an addition to Science Hall in 1948. Two more additions and a name change—to Van Peursem Hall—followed. When the final wing was added in 1968, physics occupied the first floor; biology, the second; and chemistry, the third.

In the years between those additions, Northwestern became a fouryear college. It also doubled the number of its biology faculty to two when Dr. Edward Van Eck and Virg Muilenburg '62 (see page 3) were hired in 1963. Van Eck, recruited to develop a pre-medicine program, taught at NWC for 18 years; Muilenburg, for 37. Other longtime science professors included Dr. Glen Hegstad, biology, 30 years; Dr. Henry Veldhuis '61, physics, 32 years; and chemistry professors Dr. Harold Hammerstrom, 31 years, Dr. Peter Hansen, 30 years, and Dr. Tim Lubben, 30 years.

Together they provided an education that prepared Northwestern science majors for success in medical and graduate schools. As a sophomore, Linda Van Roekel'69 received a research grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), while Doug Schelhaas '67 won a National Institutes of Health traineeship his senior year that was equivalent to a pre-doctoral fellowship.



In the 1940s, labs were conducted in Science Hall (what is now the west wing of Van Peursem Hall). Note the new addition on the building's south end and Zwemer Hall on the right.

Until 1970, all of the college's premedical students transferred after their initial two years at Northwestern. Jerry Van Es'71 was the first to be accepted directly from Northwestern. Ruth Langstraat '72, another NSF grant recipient, was the first female Northwestern graduate to enter medical school.

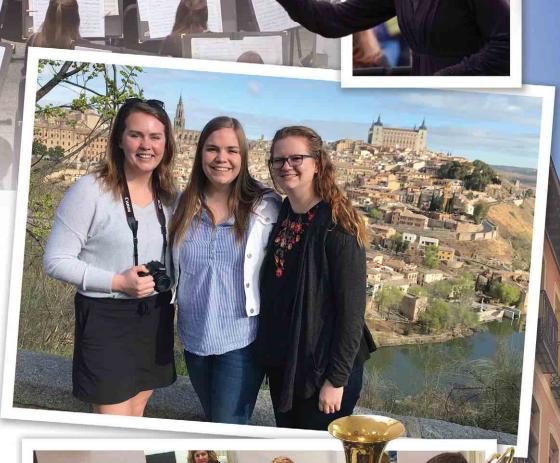
Other graduates from the '60s and '70s pursued careers as research scientists. Hansen, the longtime chemistry professor, cites Northwestern alumni like John Swart '90, who earned his doctorate in chemistry from the University of Nebraska, and Luke Haverhals '00, who has a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Iowa (see page 37).

And while Popma was the first recipient of Northwestern's Alumni of the Year award, he was followed—to date—by 20 other science grads who likewise have been recognized by their alma mater for their professional achievements.



## Music is a Universal Language

Northwestern's Symphonic Band traveled in Spain during its spring break tour in March. The 48-member ensemble, directed by Dr. Angela Holt, presented eight concerts in eight days at a church, music conservatory, schools and other sites. There were opportunities to play with Spanish musicians, connect with NWC students studying in Seville, and—for Spanish majors—serve as translators for audiences and their fellow musicians. Tim Tjernagel '89, who serves as a missionary in Spain and helped with arrangements, said the group opened more doors for ministry for his family and the church in which they serve.



Outdoor performance photos by Jorge Rey, originally published in Diario HOY (Cáceres, Spain). Remaining photos provided by Symphonic Band students.

Northwestern Classic

# Exploration and discovery have a new home in the DeWitt Family Science Center

# DREAM

BY ANITA CIRULIS

or decades, a disconnect existed between the strength of Northwestern's science programs, faculty and students, and the quality of its science facilities.

No longer.

Dedicated in September and opened for use in January, the Jack & Mary DeWitt Family Science Center is an investment in the lives and careers of future healthcare professionals, science teachers and researchers. It's a vote of confidence for the Christian education provided by Northwestern—one founded on the belief that truth is revealed through both God's word and God's world.



# FULFILLED



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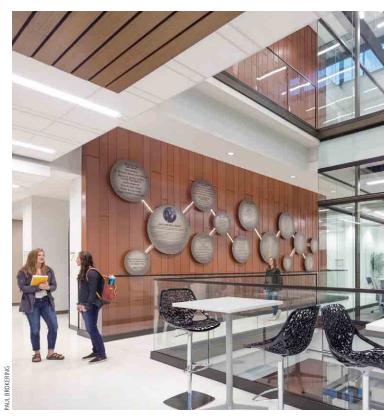
Planning for the building began in 2013; the college publicly launched its \$30 million Discover Campaign in October 2016. Included in that goal were \$24.5 million for a new health and natural sciences building and \$5.5 million for student research fellowships, science scholarships, and a building endowment.

The 61,000-square-foot science center is named for Jack and Mary DeWitt, whose \$6 million gift, the largest in Northwestern's history, enabled the college to break ground in April of 2017. Thankfulness for their generosity is especially felt by science faculty

like Dr. David Arnett, professor of chemistry.

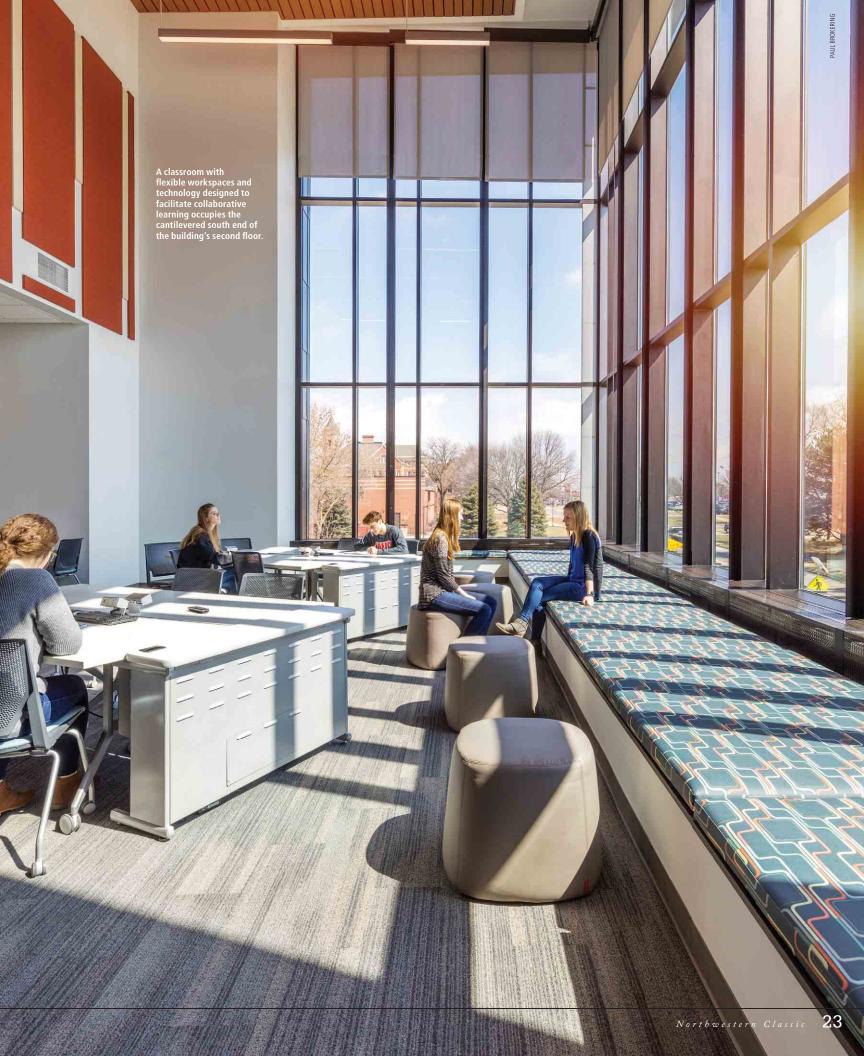
"Starting with the groundbreaking, I had this real sense of gratitude that people believed in what we were doing enough that they supported this kind of effort," he says. "That's not lost on me the encouragement of, 'We think what you're doing is great. Let's be greater. Let's do more and be even better."

Arnett says the additional space and dedicated labs for research have increased his ability to be innovative in his teaching. And thanks to the Discover Campaign, Northwestern had the funds to



The names of donors to the DeWitt Family Science Center, arranged in a display that mimics a molecular model, adorn a wall in the building's atrium.





purchase high-tech equipment like a \$182,000 mass spectrometer and a \$273,000 confocal microscope.

The biology department, likewise, is experiencing the impact of more—and larger—teaching labs, new research labs and additional equipment, like an Illumina MiSeq DNA sequencer. Dr. Sara Sybesma Tolsma '84, professor of biology, previously had as many as 15 students in her Cell Biology class trying to share a single 4-foot biosafety cabinet. Now that same class is in a lab with one 4-foot and two 6-foot cabinets.

"More and more students are asking for research opportunities, and if you don't have space, you can't say yes to them," she says.

Tolsma led Northwestern's application to SEA-PHAGES, a national program run by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute that's designed to interest undergraduates in scientific research. NWC is one of just two colleges and universities in Iowa participating in SEA-PHAGES, and Northwestern is unique in how it is implementing the program: Research is embedded into two sequential biology courses that students take as early as their sophomore year.

Tolsma, like many of her colleagues, is also conducting research of her own. She spent the spring semester on sabbatical, continuing to identify plant extracts that inhibit or slow the growth of cancer cells. Without the dedicated research space provided by the DeWitt Family Science Center, spending that sabbatical on campus would have been difficult.

Nursing is another department impacted by Northwestern's newest academic building. Before, clinical labs took place in the former Orange City Hospital, located north of downtown, which required scheduling classes so students had time to travel there and back.

In the DeWitt Family Science Center, nursing occupies the lower level of the building. There are four mock hospital/doctor's office exam rooms, as well as a classroom with stations where students can practice their nursing skills. Three simulation rooms—obstetrics,

Right: Northwestern's biology faculty, including Dr. Laurie Furlong, now have a greenhouse to support their teaching and research. Below: Multiple chemical fume hoods in labs enable more students to conduct scientific experiments or research at the same time.





EM MAURE





pediatrics and medical/surgery—are connected to faculty observation rooms via two-way mirrors. There's also a centrally located control room that enables a single instructor to run multiple simulations at the same time.

"It's been a joy to be integrated with the rest of campus," says Dr. Karie Stamer, assistant professor of nursing. "Biology and chemistry play a huge role in the care our nursing students provide. It's important for students to see our departments working together and how all of what they're learning is related."

That integration—of disciplines with one another and of the study of science with faith in God—is among the reasons Northwestern science graduates are known as standout healers and caregivers, researchers and teachers. Not only are they smart, they also reflect the light of Christ wherever their careers and lives take them.

#### On the Web

For more photos and information about the DeWitt Family Science Center, visit *nwciowa.edu/science-center.* 





## **Dr. Sara Sybesma Tolsma '84** *Professor of Biology*

It happened 30 years ago, but Sara Tolsma remembers the moment like it was yesterday. Working as a research technician at Northwestern University, she was counting colonies of cells when she suddenly realized why that cell line didn't make tumors in animals.

"That was a really transformational moment," she recalls, "because there was this point where I knew something about the natural world that only God knew, and God was allowing me to share that little piece of knowledge."

The privilege of studying what God created is Tolsma's motivation for doing good science. It's also a way she experiences intimacy with God. "When I make a discovery, I'm going to share it, but for a moment, I share it with God alone," she says. "That's an act of worship. I experience awe and wonder."

A Northwestern College graduate, Tolsma credits her church, parents and professors with teaching her that science and the Christian faith complement each other and, when integrated, affirm the truth found in both. That belief spurs her to help others develop a similar perspective. She has written about the relationship between science and the Christian faith, as well as the importance of engaging young people in conversations about that topic.

Those conversations are woven into each course Tolsma teaches at NWC. Science and faith play a part in everything from questions of origins to the ethics of gene editing. Tolsma wants her students to master the material in their biology courses, but most of all, she wants them to know there isn't a conflict between science and faith.

"The gospel is strong enough and big enough for all of their questions."





## **Dr. David Arnett**Professor of Chemistry

Dave Arnett doesn't remember when he first started thinking about being a scientist.

"My dad really cultivated a curiosity about the world," he says. "All of our vacations were focused on seeing a piece of nature."

Arnett grew up playing with chemistry sets, doing experiments, making model airplanes, and collecting monarch butterfly eggs to raise into caterpillars. He attended Eastern University in Pennsylvania, fell in love with physics, and graduated knowing he wanted to teach chemistry at a Christian college.

Arnett sees parallels between working in the lab and being in nature. "You get to the top of a mountain, and you look out and it moves you to worship," he explains. "With the science I do, I have those experiences. It continues to add to my feelings of awe."

When explaining how science informs his faith, Arnett points out how, in his field, different theories explain different aspects of chemical bonds. "We're comfortable moving from theory to theory, depending on what we are attempting to understand."

Arnett sees that same approach helpful when it comes to his Christian faith. As an 18-year-old, he thought of faith predominantly as a set of beliefs. Now he sees faith more as a response to God, one that is consistent with God's nature and loving to others.

"I started to understand my changing views as different models, each of which is true," he says. "I can think about right theology and I can think about loving action, moving back and forth between the two. They both add to my understanding of what it means to live a Christian life."



Whether a random lottery paired them as roommates or an embarrassing moment sealed the deal, these alumni have their Northwestern years to thank for finding best friends for life.

#### **VALLEYS AND MOUNTAINS**

I met Cindy Dagel '93 in April 1988 at orientation. We were roommates all through college and continued as best friends after our time at NWC. Cindy was maid of honor at my wedding, and I knew when she agreed to wear a dress that she'd do anything for me! We have been there for each other—in person and in prayer—through my two miscarriages and the death of my dad, the death of Cindy's parents and three of her siblings, surgeries and illnesses, moves, the births of my daughters, and job and family frustrations and joys. Last summer we celebrated 30 years of friendship with a "friendiversary" trip to the Smoky Mountains.

LORENA (HALL'93) BRANT Estherville, Iowa

#### THE FOUR MUSKETEERS

Hannah (Smithson '07) Taylor, Suzy (Husmann '07) Frodermann, Rachel (Yackey '07) Harcum and I became the "four musketeers." We ate meals and attended events on campus together, we were in each other's weddings, and we've been there for career changes, kids, moves and all that has happened in between. They are the first ones I text or call with a prayer request or when I'm seeking advice. And still, almost 15 years later, our hallmark is laughing until our sides ache when we get together! I've learned invaluable lessons from them about God, faith, community and the power of deep, invested relationships. We had a reunion during Homecoming last fall; it was the first time all of us were together in five years.

COURTNEY WICHTENDAHL '05 Sioux Falls, S.D.

In West Hall one quiet spring night, a random crew of misfits decided to run and charge at random objects on Northwestern's campus. Among those shirtless young men was James Teutschmann '17. I knew he was best friend material when he shouted, "Look! Lights! Let's get 'em!" We ran like madmen to downtown Orange City and threw down some improvisational spoken word. The rhymes and rhythms of absurd poetry sealed us as best friends. We stay in touch by going skiing in Colorado together every year.

MILES FLETCHER'16 Golden, Colo.

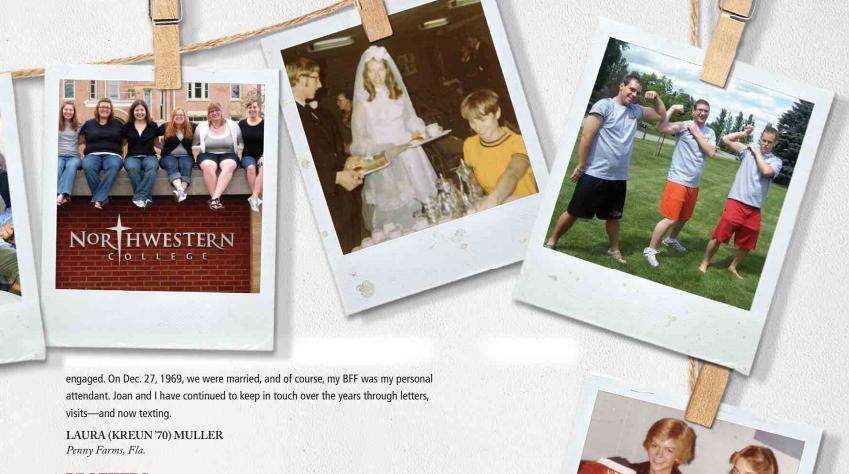
#### **FAMILY REUNION**

I met some of my dearest friends during a freshman wing meeting on Steggy 1N. We introduced ourselves by sharing a food that began with our first initial, which is how I got to know Michelle (Roethel '11) Gross, Holly (Bowers '11) Gustafson, Anne (Backstrom '11) Krueger, Ansley (Griess '11) Lovgren, Megan Schreurs '11, Kathryn (Miller '11) Sloan and Hollyann (Elton '11) Tjelmeland. Over time, traditions developed, like going to the Dutch Bakery every Friday afternoon for 25-cent donuts, holding watch parties for *The Office*, and cramming into one car to drive to church. Before we knew it, we were a family, meeting at the round tables in the back of the caf' every Thursday night for "family dinner" and taking "family photos" around campus at the end of every school year. We get together for annual reunions, whether it's a wedding or a visit to someone's home or cabin. We're already planning a cruise to celebrate our 50th friendship anniversary.

"RASPBERRY" RACHEL (RAGER '11) KLETT West Des Moines, Iowa

#### **MATCHMAKER**

Joan Eilderts Nulton '70 and I decided to room together our sophomore year. A classmate of hers from high school was transferring to Northwestern, and she wanted me to meet him at the new-student campfire that evening. After that first encounter, the school year progressed uneventfully until Dutch Treat Week. I decided to ask the guy I had met through Joan, Terry Muller '70, to Friday night's basketball game. Terry and I dated the rest of sophomore year, and during our junior year, we became



#### **BROTHERS**

Whether it was trips to Goodwill, Blue Bunny or Perkins at midnight, with John Wiberg '03 there was always something to do and life to talk about on the way. Having his friendship over these years means a lot—we always seem to have each other's backs and are there for the 1 a.m. phone call or a spur-of-the-moment, sevenhour road trip. God places people in our lives for a reason, and it is a gift to know I have a fellow brother and BFF as part of my journey.

TONY HOFTIEZER'05

Saukville, Wis.

#### ODD COUPLE

I was a farm girl; she was a city girl. She was a business major; my major was elementary ed. She is a night owl, and I'm early-to-bed. Yet we quickly bonded and have remained very close friends. We "did life together" from day one at NWC and continue to share our joys, sorrows, frustrations, blessings and prayer requests—now via monthly phone calls. When I called Connie (Viksten '84) Van Wyhe to make sure it was OK that I wrote this, she responded that she was thinking about doing the same thing!

JANET (FOLKERS'84) HEEMSTRA

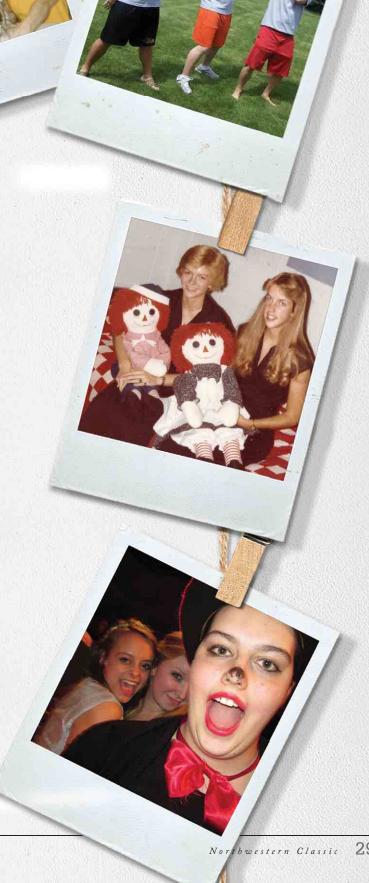
Tumwater, Wash.

#### SAUCY

My sophomore year I was part of orientation staff. During the dinner at President Christy's house, I ate with Logan Wright '17 and Megan Cole '17. After we were long done, another staffer walked by and said, "Hey, you have barbecue sauce on your face." I said [to Logan and Megan], "Why didn't you tell me?" They said, "I thought it was a birthmark." Nowadays, whether eating dinner together in Disneyland, brunch in Denver, or Taco Tuesdays in Omaha, they always tell me when I have food on my face.

ABBY MCCUBBIN'16

Broomfield, Colo.





#### THE HAPPIEST PLACE ON EARTH

Richard Craven '84 and I first met in 1979. We got to know each other over many hours in the Playhouse working on the set of *Pippin*. We lost track of each other after graduation, but thanks to Facebook, our friendship rekindled. Recently Richard vacationed in SoCal and we met at Disneyland. We spent the afternoon rehashing many fond memories of Orange City.

#### MILTON HOLECEK'84

Riverside, Calif.

#### RECIPE FOR FRIENDSHIP

Marie Jeppesen '18, Beth Benschoter '18, Meridyth Lee '18, Darby Skillern '18 and I lived together on First North in Steg during my junior year at Northwestern. We became really good friends, mainly because of complex "would you rather" questions and dinner dates in the caf'. Following graduation, we've kept in contact daily with a group chat, and we started a [virtual] cookbook a la *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* that has been sent around the country.

#### ABBEY SLATTERY'18

Raleigh, N.C.

#### A COMFORTING COINCIDENCE

Alyssa Currier '14 and I were matched as freshman roommates. We had chatted just a little before moving to college, but when we showed up, we both had the exact same bed cover! We knew it was a sign we would be great friends.

#### GRETCHEN (SUTHERLAND '14) MESWARD

Arvada, Colo.

#### STILL IN SCHOOL

Katrina (Hilberg '06) Yang and I met in Northwestern's education department, but we didn't become best friends until we both landed jobs in the Houston area at different schools. Thirteen years later, we have seen each other get married, have babies, and go through life's ups and downs. And we currently teach at the same school!

#### KRISTY (WEGMAN'06) MICHEL

Tomball, Texas

#### **SHARED DNA**

Samantha Thomson '16, Arianne Gesell '16 and I continue to bond over our mutual interests: medicine, Jesus, and remembering our time together when we met in our FYS and general biology classes! We are busy, but we keep in touch when we can; when we get to hang out together, it's like no time has passed.

#### BRITTA (WILSON'16) TEN HAKEN

West Des Moines, Iowa

#### On the Web

Read more BFF stories at classic.nwciowa.edu.

Leave a Legacy

Dr. Michael De Krey '80—now retired after a long career at DuPont—discovered his love for science at Northwestern. His professors encouraged the chemistry and math/physics major to become a student member of the American Chemical Society, which opened the doors for a summer internship with a petroleum company. There he learned what research chemists do and decided to get a Ph.D.

Dr. G. Henry Veldhuis '61, professor of physics, wrote a letter of recommendation for De Krey's application to Purdue University. "He took me on as a work-study student, made a position for me prepping his labs, and eventually gave me a role as a teaching assistant," De Krey says. "He really encouraged my love of physics and science. It was because of him that I became a scientist."

De Krey and his wife, Linda (Wynja '81), established the G. Henry Veldhuis Christian Scholar Science Award to honor the professor known for his gift of teaching and commitment to integrating his Christian faith with science. The scholarship helps students majoring in chemistry who plan to attend graduate school or enter the field of teaching.

#### Be intentional.

There are many ways to support Northwestern College through your estate plans. To establish a scholarship in honor of a significant person in your life, contact Cornie Wassink '73, director of planned giving, at 712-707-7109 or corniew@nwciowa.edu.



give.nwciowa.edu giving@nwciowa.edu



# class Notes

 $^{9}64^{rac{Paul\ Hartog}{tetred\ in\ December\ as\ an}}$ assurance partner with HoganTaylor, the largest CPA firm in Oklahoma and Arkansas.

 $^{\circ}68^{\circ}_{\circ}$  Harold Schelling is the band and orchestra teacher at Netherlands Reformed Christian School in Rock Valley, Iowa, where he has served for 39 years.

> 7 1 Helen (Pollema) De Zeeuw ▲ of Rock Valley, Iowa, has been retired from teaching since 2013. She enjoys substitute teaching and attending

her grandchildren's events. She also works for RAGBRAI during the pre-ride week in June and the ride week in July.

Merrita (Smidt) Tumonong continues her private practice of marriage and family therapy in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Bruce Alderink, Holland, Mich., retired in June after 42 years with Herman Miller Inc.

,  $78 \frac{\text{Merlyn TenClay}}{\text{Kan., is retired after a career}}$ as a structural test engineer and tech fellow for Boeing and Spirit Aero Systems.

WE WANT TO READ ALL ABOUT IT—and share it in a future issue of the Classic. Is your favorite memory a game-winning buzzer-beater? A motivating conversation in a coach's office? A special event held in the gymnasium? A perfectly orchestrated chant from the student section?

The Bultman Center turns 25 in 2020, and we want to share your memories as we celebrate its many great Raider Nation moments. Send your stories to classic@nwciowa.edu.

Red Ties

KRISTIN (BREEMS '03) RUCKS **Director of Alumni and Parent Relations** 

I enrolled at Northwestern in 1999. I remember being struck by how clean the buildings were and how nice the landscaping looked. Today I'm still struck by the beauty of Northwestern's campus, even though an amazing amount of change has taken place in 20 years.

West and Heemstra halls are gone, and Hospers Hall now houses men. North Hall has been renamed Stegenga Hall, and North Suites and the Bolks Apartments have added flexible living arrangements to our list of residence life options.

Art used to be created in a former creamery (Bushmer Hall); now artists pursue their craft in the Korver Visual Arts Center. Plays were staged in a church-turned-theatre playhouse located a few blocks north of campus. Now the action takes place on the stages of the England and Allen theatres of the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center (which used to be a gymnasium). Ramaker Library has become the Ramaker Center—a sturdy building that has been transformed into a home for campus ministry and student life—and the library is in the DeWitt Learning Commons, where it shares space with the Peer Learning Center and Common Grounds coffee bar.

Generous donors have enabled us to redesign the Rowenhorst Student Center and construct the Juffer Fieldhouse and, most recently, the Jack and Mary DeWitt Family Science Center. In addition to these obvious changes, there have also been many enhancements to the athletic facilities, fitness facilities and cafeteria.

I came to NWC in 1999 because "it felt right." I can now name that feeling as God's call on my life and part of a much bigger picture than I realized at the time. It was the start of a college experience that was transformational because it was rooted in a mission that hasn't changed even though the campus has: engaging students in faithful and courageous learning and living that empowers us to follow Christ and pursue God's redeeming work in the world.





He enjoys woodworking and yard work. His wife, **Rhonda (Vanden Berge '79)**, is also retired after 22 years of serving as a middle school and high school algebra and geometry teacher. The TenClays enjoy spending time with their two grandchildren and volunteering at their church and the Salvation Army in Wichita.

**Cindy Vande Stouwe**, Alexandria, Va., retired from the FBI after 40 years of service.

<sup>9</sup> 79 Stephen Branch is the director of arts education for the Rapid City (S.D.) Arts Council (RCAC). He also serves as coordinator of the Emerging Performing Artists Program for

the RCAC, as well as music director at First United Methodist Church.

**Doug Hannink**, Muskegon, Mich., retired in 2018. This year he placed in the top five of experienced dancers in a single-step swing competition of the Grand Rapids Original Swing Society.

**Bruce Held** retired in May after 34 years of teaching and 40 years of coaching—all in the Hinton (Iowa) Community School District.

In 2018 Melodee (Lockhorst) Grefe retired from a 38-year career as an educator—the last 26 years of which she was a teacher-librarian. She is now

working part time as a clerk at the Johnston (Iowa) Public Library. She lives in Woodward.

Pete Swart was awarded the Kohler Company's 2018 Walter J. Kohler Patent Award at the Innovation Celebration in Sheboygan, Wis. The event recognized 154 North American associates who were named as inventors on patent applications within the past year. Swart is named on 38 Kohler utility applications and has worked on the engineering side of the company's bathing and sanitary products for almost 40 years.

 $^{9}81^{ ext{Sara Lubbers}}$  retired as an elementary school counselor

for the Oregon (Wis.) School District in 2016 after serving as an educator for 30 years. She works part time at a local greenhouse and runs a gardening business, Gertie's Green Thumb Gardening. Her husband, Ron Wiecki, died in March.

<sup>9</sup> 8 3 Jill Christensen retired in May after teaching for 36 years in the math department at Parker (S.D.) High School. Her volleyball teams went to 14 state tournaments, and she finished her career as the winningest coach of any sport in South Dakota, with 837 wins.



Lila Sybesma spent 10 years researching the steamboat Sultana's explosion while writing a young adult novel inspired by her family's connection to the tragedy.

#### Young Love and War Stories

Lt. Joseph Taylor Elliott clung to a staircase of the Sultana's burning wreckage, fighting to survive in the icy Mississippi even as his father, a Civil War general, received an invitation to the funeral procession for Abraham Lincoln.

In the spring of 1865, newspapers reported on a mourning country and the imminent end of the war—but hardly mentioned the worst maritime disaster in U.S. history.

Dr. Lila (Elliott '81) Sybesma found an account by Lt. Elliott, her great-granduncle, and reimagined the historical event as a love story. The Northwestern education professor penned *Yours: The Civil War, a Love Triangle and the Steamboat Sultana*, a young adult novel in which love triumphs over the greed that overloaded the boat and contributed to the loss of 1,200 soldiers and civilians returning from the war.

A reading specialist, Sybesma has presented the story in schools and had young readers proof early drafts. Her teenage nephew, a fisherman, consulted on a chapter set at a pond and declared the book "a fast read."

"Writing the book was a bit traumatic, because I had to be in the mind of a teenager going through the war," she says. "The easy part was writing about love; I'm lucky in love and have been married for 40 years. I'm still like a teenager in that aspect."

BY AMY PHILLIPS

Michelle Levigne, Parma, Ohio, is partner and managing editor for a new small press, Mt. Zion Ridge Press, which prints fiction and nonfiction books with a Christian worldview. She has written numerous novels in the young adult, science fiction, fantasy and romance genres.

PS 4 Bill Boer retired as superintendent of the Sibley-Ocheyedan (Iowa) School District in June. He served as superintendent for six years, ending his 35-year education career. He taught high school business and computer courses and was also head boys' basketball coach for the Arnolds Park School District before teaching computer courses at Okoboji Middle School for 20 years. He also served as the 7-12 principal at the South O'Brien School District in Paullina.

Mary (Vermeer) Nyhof, Sioux Center, was recognized in May for 35 years of service to the Sioux County Soil and Water Conservation District. She serves as a conservation assistant.

<sup>9</sup> 8 7 Julie Powell lives in Urbandale, Iowa, and is a full-time paramedic at Clarke County Hospital in Osceola.

<sup>9</sup> S Joyce (Ramold) Christopher retired after 25 years serving as a certified vocational rehabilitation counselor for the state of Missouri. Throughout her career, she assisted more than 1,000 individuals with disabilities into employment through her vocational guidance, advocacy, training and job placement services. She and her husband, David, live in West Plains, Mo.

#### Rachel (Van Berkum) Drago, a

math teacher at Rocky Mountain High School in Fort Collins, Colo., has retired. She was honored in May as one of the 2019 University of Colorado Boulder's Outstanding Colorado High School Educator Award winners for demonstrating a commitment to helping students achieve their higher education goals.

**Bill Francis** was named the *Northwest Iowa Review* 2019 Boys' Basketball Coach of the Year after leading Boyden-Hull High School to the runner-up position in Class 2A and a 24-3 record. He has coached the Comets for 19 seasons.

<sup>9</sup> Sherri Beeler of Medford, Ore., had collage/mixed media artwork published in the Spring 2019 issue of *Art Journaling* magazine.

<sup>9</sup> O Caren (Stoel) Henry, Grimes, lowa, works for Automated Logic, a building automation company, as the account executive for lowa. She previously served for 20 years with Carrier Enterprise.

Year Nelson is the executive vice president/senior lender at Farmers Trust and Savings Bank in Spencer, Iowa. He has been with the bank since 2006.

n October Michelle (Van Zante) De Bruin published a Christian historical fiction novel, Hope for Tomorrow. She also serves as a worship leader at Third Reformed Church and as the spiritual services facilitator for Christian Opportunity Center in Pella, Iowa.

Allison (Petersen) Eitreim has been named the assistant director of special education serving the Worthington (Minn.) School District. A teacher for two decades, she spent the last three years serving as an autism consultant within that district. She is pursuing a K-12 principal license through Southwest Minnesota State University.

<sup>9</sup>98 Janelle (Fikse) Brouwer, Cascade, Iowa, is the

new superintendent of the Marion (Iowa) Independent School District. She previously served as the district's assistant superintendent, a principal in the Western Dubuque County Community School District, and a special education coordinator for the Central Rivers Area Education Agency.

Clint Lutterman was named the 2018
Perry (Iowa) Civil Servant of the Year by
the Perry Rotary Club. He is a physical
therapist and clinic director of 21st
Century Rehab at the Dallas County
Hospital. He provides sports-medicine
event coverage for Perry High School
athletics and is on the advisory team for
the Perry Freedom for Youth Center.

Jennifer (Calhoon) Talarico, Bellevue, Neb., is the executive director of the Midwest Sociological Society. The nonprofit is a professional society dedicated to building community among sociologists and advancing knowledge, teaching and practice for social scientific purposes and social betterment.

Darren Yartz is working as a residential supervisor for Youth for Change in Chico, Calif. He lost his home and job in Paradise, Calif., due to the November 2018 fire that decimated his community and resulted in more than 80 fatalities.

Matt Schmidt, associate head athletic trainer at Minnesota State University, Mankato, worked with the USA junior national hockey team at the World Junior Championships in British Columbia, Canada, in December and January. The team earned the silver medal.

<sup>9</sup>O 1 Jami (Jelken) Schmidt is the chief financial officer for Henderson State Bank in Henderson, Neb.

<sup>9</sup>O2 Jason Bonnema of Blue Earth, Minn., serves as regional development director for Thrivent Financial, the world's largest Christian financial services organization.

Pleannine (Lovas) Bryant has published Ready to Rightsize? A Step-by-Step Guide to Your Rightsizing Journey: For Older Adults and Their Loved Ones, which is available on Amazon.com. The book is the result of her 10 years of experience owning and operating Changing Spaces SRS, a senior move management company in Lincoln, Neb.

The Rev. Jason Holtgrewe, Collierville, Tenn., is pursuing a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling at Messiah College. He expects to graduate next spring.

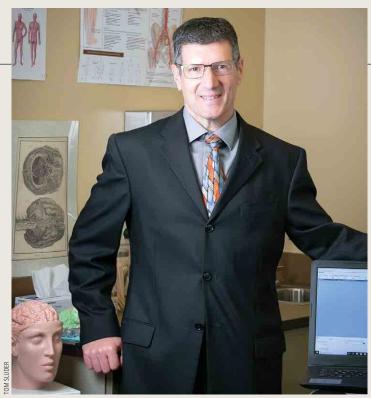
<sup>2</sup>O5 Corinne (Mings) Christian, Aloha, Ore., is the director of events and outreach for Fighting Pretty, a nonprofit that helps women battling cancer feel strong and beautiful. The organization has sent more than 8,000 care packages to women in all 50 states and 12 countries. It also hosts events for cancer survivors.

 $^{9}06$  Lois Estell has been living in the Twin Cities for two years and works as an executive assistant to the CEO of Persolvent. She is active in auditioning and acting in numerous area theatres.

Josh Menning teaches at a boarding high school in Ringsted, Denmark. He speak several times a year at YWAM training schools in France, Australia, New Zealand and Ukraine. He also takes students on a two-week intensive cultural immersion/mission trip to India.

<sup>9</sup>O7 Danielle (Dornbierer)
Whigham, Glenwood, Iowa,
has begun a business making and selling
wheel-thrown ceramics.

 $^{\circ}08$  Elizabeth Becker has accepted the position of



A physical therapist who has been working in hospital administration since 2002, Mark Hartman now serves as chief executive officer for Colorado Springs Neurological Associates.

#### **Healthy Career Encouragement**

The physical therapist who helped his grandfather walk again. The Northwestern alum who invited him to observe at his clinic. The hospital CEO, a mentor following his career closely, who opened doors in administration.

A succession of key people influenced the course of Mark Hartman's path from student to hands-on therapist to hospital administrator. Now Hartman'87 pays it forward by mentoring leaders in his new role as CEO of Colorado Springs Neurological Associates. Since September, he has led the physician multi-specialty practice with a focus on growing the number of specialties, partnering with hospitals and developing leaders within the practice.

"Physical therapy is rewarding because you see very clear results; you're doing work that is important and makes a difference," Hartman says. "But I like seeing the bigger picture of healthcare. Hospitals function as this entire community, with so much variety and incredible work happening."

One of Hartman's recent mentees, who began as a student pursuing an MBA in healthcare administration, now oversees 45 operating rooms across three different hospitals. Encouraging the gifts of this bright young man was satisfying, says Hartman.

"It's very rewarding to watch him grow and be successful, making a positive difference in the world."

BY AMY PHILLIPS



instructional technology coach for Council Bluffs (lowa) Community School District after 11 years of classroom teaching.

After serving as a missionary in Cambodia for five years, Sarah Hilkemann now serves as the program coordinator for Velvet Ashes, an online ministry that offers encouragement to women who are serving overseas. She resides in Norfolk, Neb.

**Jonathan Jansen** is a firefighter for the Virginia Beach (Va.) Fire Department.

Angela Jiskoot graduated from the University of Iowa with an MBA in December. She is now an associate product manager at the Pella Corporation in Pella, Iowa.

<sup>9</sup>O Jenna (Boote) and Jonathan Kuik are both employed by State Farm Insurance in Richardson, Texas. Jenna is a communications specialist for the executive vice president of technology and innovation, and Jonathan is a technology manager in the IT department.

**Susan (Martens) Samuelson** works as the intake and coordinator of services for Together for Good, a support network for vulnerable parents in St. Paul, Minn.

<sup>9</sup> 1 O Derefe Chevannes graduated from the University of Connecticut in May with a doctorate in political science. He is a tenure-track assistant professor of political theory at the University of Memphis.

**John Pribnow** graduated with an MBA from Georgetown University in May.

<sup>9</sup> 1 1 Amanda (Schroder) Impelluso, Council Bluffs, lowa, has attained her family nurse practitioner certification.

12 Christine Roy taught American and AP literature to Arab high school students for five years at the Al Raja School in Manama, Bahrain. After taking a year off to earn a master's degree in teacher leadership from NWC, she returned to Al Raja and now leads the school's Teacher Mentorship Program.

<sup>1</sup>13 Eli Groenendyk earned a Master of Divinity degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and

is the pastor of discipleship at Calvary Church in Edina, Minn. His wife, **Hannah** (Stark '15), is a seventh grade math teacher at Valley View Middle School.

1 4 Kellie (Goedken) Den Hartog earned a master's degree in physician assistant studies at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and is working as a P.A. at Avera Merrill Pioneer Health in Rock Rapids, lowa.

Layce Johnson earned a master's degree in special education from Concordia University, St. Paul, and is serving as a high school special education teacher at Medford (Minn.) Public School.

Claire (Roesner) Rozeboom has joined Sioux Center Health as a physician

assistant after serving for two years at Hegg Memorial Health Center in Rock Valley. Her husband, **Chase '13**, is a teacher at Sioux Center Middle School.

Megan Weidner of Elk Point, S.D., recently graduated from the University of South Dakota with a Master of Fine Arts degree and a specialization in directing.

<sup>1</sup> 15 Heather (Heilman) Uribe, Mound, Minn., is enrolled in a certified nurse midwife program through Frontier Nursing University.

<sup>1</sup> 16 Tanner Nissen is the assistant director of sports and advanced competitions for Special Olympics Iowa. He has been selected to travel to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates to assist with competition management operations at the 2019 Special Olympics World Summer Games.

<sup>9</sup> 1 7 Courtney (Hummel) Den Herder, Sioux Center, is Northwestern's new head women's golf coach.

**Jillian Estes** is pursuing a doctorate in occupational therapy at the University of South Dakota. She expects to graduate next May.

#### **New Arrivals**

Eric and Jill (Rasmussen '97) Groezinger, adopted daughter, Hannah Grace LingJun (6), joins Nathan (14), Brooke (12) and Joshua (8)

Karissa Carlson '03 and Andy Thomas, son, Halle Gabriel, joins Loenn (4) and Arie (2)

Kent and Stephanie (McAllister '03) Miller, son, Noah Joseph Joshua and Sarah (Fanning '03)

Ortega, daughter, Olivia Quinn, joins Isaac (8)

Sarah (Huibregtse '05) and Chris
Jacobsen '05, daughter, Caroline Joy,

joins twins Holland and Henry (6) Chad and Julie (Warren '05) Ruiter, daughter, Leah Kay, joins Cara (9) and Alex (6)

Cody and Teresa (Larson '05) Templin, son, Isaac Cody, joins Jack (7), Halle (5) and Nora (3)

Don and Kristina (Hilbrands '05)

Vanderlip, son, Cahlen Duke, joins
Madisyn (7) and Hudsen (4)

Mark and Cayla (Schwendemann '06)

Erlandson, daughter, Norah Olivia

Ryan and Joy (DenHartog '06) Leafgreen, daughter, Brynna Hope

Levi and Megan (Van Peursem '07)

Bruins, son, Easton Keith, joins Maci

Ben and Jill (Bowman '07) Peterson, daughter, Elizabeth Grace Jonathan and Crystal (Algood '08) Anzulewicz, son, Asher Paul, joins Adalia (3)

Jonathan and Sarah (Korver '08) Dykstra, twins, Annie Joy and Eliza Marie, join Olivia (4) and Sam (3)

Amber and Josh Earleywine '08, twins, Emery Marilyn and Londyn Teresa B.J. and Colette (Veldhorst '08) Hilbe-

link, son, Caleb Jonathan
Thomas and Geri (Genant '09) Carroll,

son, Charles Gruver
Jeff and Amanda (Wright '09) DeWit,

daughter, Arley Jo

Andrea and **Blake Kruger '09**, daughter, Kyla Carolyn, joins Brady (3)

Mike and Sarah Anne (Kreger '09) Walker, daughter, Hannah Grace, joins Katherine (5) and Nolan (3)

Greg and Jaime (Haverly '09) Weeks, son, Owen Steven, joins Madison (2)

Brent and Teryn (De Haan '09) Woolf, son, Calvin Bruce, joins William (3) and Hazel (1)

Ian and Sarah (Earleywine '10) Murphy, son, Jonan Jonathon

Mitch and Deb (Warren '10) Slagter, daughter, Hallie Mae, joins Jed (5), Waylon (4) and Jael (2)

Sarah (Van Leeuwen '10) and Abraham Weins '09, daughter, Tessa Renee, joins Theodore (3)



Luke Haverhals is founder and CEO of Natural Fiber Welding Inc., which seeks to replace petroleum-based products with sustainable plant-based alternatives.

#### **Beyond Oil**

The entrepreneurial career of Luke Haverhals '00 has centered on a very simple scientific reality: There is a total of 43 cubic miles of proven oil reserves on the earth, and the nations of the world consume about one cubic mile of that total each year.

"There's not enough petroleum for 7.5 billion people," he says. "That's a real problem if you stop and think about it."

It's a problem because, in addition to fueling our transportation, petroleum is a key ingredient in everything from plastic packaging to textiles.

Haverhals, who earned a doctorate in chemistry at the University of Iowa and serves as a research professor at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill., founded Natural Fiber Welding Inc. in 2015. The company makes textiles, vegan "leather," and rigid composites from plant fibers like cotton, wool and linen.

With about 25 employees, the startup's goal is to light a path past petroleum by replacing petroleum-based products with sustainable plant-based alternatives. Moreover, Haverhals says plant-based products will enable the developing world's economies to industrialize without creating conflict over increasingly scarce petroleum reserves.

Still, Haverhals says the vision is only possible if plant-based alternatives are of high quality.

"If you want to change the world," he says, "you actually have to make a product that works better."

BY JARED KALTWASSER



Dana Blayney oversees 12 transplant centers for HCA Healthcare as well as in-patient dialysis at 180 hospitals.

#### **Transplant Manager**

Dana (Jensen '06) Blayney's mother was a nurse. It makes sense, then, that as a member of Northwestern's first class of B.S.N. graduates, Blayney found the stethoscope around her neck familiar, the 12-hour floor shifts expected.

But years as a charge nurse and then as living donor coordinator at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn., brought Blayney in contact with kidney donors who needed her nurse's insight to guide them through the system and avoid any further hardships.

Moms and dads desperate to save their children's lives and selfless strangers willing to help anyone in need convinced Blayney to hang up her stethoscope and focus on a new passion close to her heart: living donation.

Blayney now serves as the manager of transplant and dialysis services for HCA Healthcare in Nashville, overseeing 12 transplant centers as well as in-patient dialysis at 180 hospitals.

"I get to take everything I know and be innovative," Blayney says. "All those years as a nurse I would dream about ways to improve things. Now I say, 'Let's see if we can find resources to make that happen."

Blayney's team streamlined the 60-day donor referral process to two hours online. It drastically increased referrals and led to HCA Healthcare having the most living donors of any hospital system in the nation in 2018.

BY AMY PHILLIPS

Stacey (Bernardo '11) and Tyler Granger '10, daughter, Kennedy Grace

Janna (Bloemendaal '11) and Kadrian Hardersen '08, daughter, Adley Emersyn, joins Braelynn (4) and Kynleigh (2) Damian and Amanda (Schroder '11) Impelluso, son, Tekoa Virgil, joins Pietro (4)

Preston and Kristi (Weeldreyer '11)

Johnson, daughter, Adaline Pearl,
joins Tenley (2)

Brian and Rachel (Rager '11) Klett, son, Zane Charles

Tayler and Katie (Nieuwsma '12) Riggen, son, Clay Ernest, joins Jack (2)

Kolbie and **Tony Vande Brake '13**, daughter, Madelyn Kay

Johannah (Jensen '14) and Davis Bloemendaal '14, daughter, Briar Faith, joins Walker (2)

Rachel and Jon Eveland '14, daughter, Vera Lynn

Claire (Roesner '14) and Chase Rozeboom '13, son, Grayson Hayes

Joleen (Wilhelm '15) and Mark Haselhoff '12, son, Matthew Thomas, joins Charlotte (3)

Nicole (Elbers '15) and Joshua Thompson '15, son, Jude

#### **Marriages**

Christa Hydeen '08 and Luke Haan, Sioux Falls

Susan Martens '09 and Josh Samuelson, Cokato, Minn.

Michon Moget '11 and Brian Wurth, Remsen, Iowa

Kellie Goedken '14 and Chad Den Hartog '15, Larchwood, Iowa

Heather Heilman '15 and Ramiro Uribe, Mound, Minn.

Krista De Bruin '16 and Elijah Schaefer '18, Cedar Falls, Iowa

Suzanna Nachbar '16 and Connor True, Hobbs, N.M.

Jessi Carver '19 and Joseph Kelly '19, Midvale, Utah

The couples reside in the city listed.

#### In Memoriam



Dr. Glen Hegstad, a biology professor at Northwestern from 1967 to 1992, died April 9 in Orange City at age 92. He taught at three high schools before joining the

NWC faculty the same year he was named North Dakota's Outstanding Biology Teacher. He enjoyed working with the plants and trees on campus, established the College Field Station near Alton and helped design the Puddle Jumper Trail. He was an elder and Sunday school teacher at Trinity Reformed Church. Among his survivors are his wife, Ardie, who worked in Ramaker Library for 19 years, and three children: Christine Dykstra '79, Gary '82 and Renee Guthmiller '88.

Don Jacobsen, age 79, died Feb. 11 in Sioux City. He was head men's basketball coach at NWC for nine seasons in the 1960s and 70s, compiling a record of 159-79. His 1970–71 team was the first Red Raider squad to qualify for the national tournament. He also served as athletic director before becoming an insurance executive. He is survived by his wife, Jan, as well as five children and four siblings.

Lee Hofland, 76, of Orange City, died March 13. He served on Northwestern's maintenance staff for 33 years, retiring in 2015. He is survived by his wife, Elaine, who was Northwestern's mailroom supervisor from 1979 to 2006, and four children, including Laura McKee '87 and Greg '97.



John Greller, Northwestern's vice president for advancement from 1992 to 2009, died Feb. 19 in Newberg, Ore., at the age of 73. He oversaw the

raising of \$67 million for facilities such as the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center, Korver Visual Arts Center, Bultman Center and Zwemer Hall, as well as scholarships and programs. "He saw himself as more of a 'friend raiser' than a fundraiser," says President Greg Christy, "and with his warm personality, authentic Christian faith, encouraging nature, self-effacing humor and genuine concern for others, he truly was a great friend of our constituents." Among his survivors are his wife, Janeo, who served several years as Northwestern's costume shop supervisor, and four children, including Brian '96 and Michael '00.

Harold Boonstra '42 of South Holland, Ill., died Dec. 12 at the age of 97. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and retired from a career as a chemist for Sherwin-Williams. He also directed church choirs for more than 40 years. Among his survivors are three children and two siblings.

Edna (Blom '42) Roggen died June 3 in Edmond, Okla., at the age of 96. She graduated from Hope College and became a schoolteacher. She later owned a retail shop and served as a choir director. She is survived by four children, including Leon '73.

#### Jeanette (Masselink '48) De Jong

died Jan. 16 in Rock Rapids, Iowa, at the age of 92. After graduating from Northwestern Junior College and Westmar College, she taught elementary school for three years. She and her late husband, Dr. Gerald De Jong '48, lived in Wisconsin, Indiana, Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota and Iowa. She was a member of the Congregational United Church of Christ in Rock Rapids. She is survived by six children and one brother.

**Dr. John Den Hartog '49** died April 14 in Fitchburg, Wis., at age 89. After serving in the military, he completed his undergraduate and medical degrees at the University of Iowa. He and his wife,

Marilyn, served in medical mission work with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Eritrea/Ethiopia from 1963 to 1971. When a civil war made it impossible to serve there, he settled in Hastings, Mich., where he was a surgeon for 20 years. His survivors include Marilyn, two sons, and a sister, Corrine Folkers '53.

Duane Buttenob '51 died Feb. 3 at age 91. He attended Northwestern after serving in the Navy during World War II and finished his degree at Westmar College. He taught science and American history at Quimby (Iowa) Community Schools for 10 years. The bulk of his career was spent at Aurelia Community Schools, where he taught industrial arts, social studies, history and physical education for three decades. He also served as athletic director for 28 years, was head boys' basketball and baseball coach, and was an assistant in football and track. He retired with a record of 471-260 in basketball. was inducted into the Iowa High School Basketball Hall of Fame, and received the Iowa High School Athletic Association School Administrator Award in 1990. He is survived by two daughters.

Jane (Rens '57) Haverdink, 81, of Orange City, died March 3. She taught school briefly and was a librarian at the Orange City Public Library for 34 years. A longtime member of First Reformed Church, she served as president of the Reformed Church Women's Ministries. Among her survivors are three children, including Carol Kleyer, instructor in nursing, and Mark '96.

Janice (Hartog '61) De Groot, age 78, died May 11 in Sheldon, Iowa. She worked for many years as a secretary in a law office and in the guidance office at Sheldon High School. A member of First Reformed Church, she sang in the choir and served in women's ministries and on the Congregational Care Team. Her first husband, Dr. Henry Veldhuis '61, taught physics at Northwestern for 32 years before dying in 2002. She married

Kendall De Groot in 2015. He survives her, along with four children, including Angela DeVries '88 and Alison Sterk '96, and five siblings: Fran Korver '52, Geri Kiel '53, John '56, Marjorie Vander Aarde '58 and Paul '64.

John Mulder '64, age 75, died Dec. 3 in Sioux City. An Army veteran, he taught for many years and also served as a crop adjuster in the summer. He was an active member of Sunnybrook Community Church. His survivors include a daughter.

Darlene "Dee" (Geiger '72) Mather died April 8 in Des Moines at the age of 84. After graduating from NWC, she earned a master's degree in library science from Loras College. She worked at Rotary International in Evanston, Ill., and taught at Northeast lowa Community College and American Institute of Business. In retirement she helped in the library at Des Moines Area Community College and taught English as a second language. She is survived by two sons.

The Rev. Mark Vander Meer '77, age 65, died Dec. 22 in Frederick, Md. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from New Brunswick Theological Seminary and became a church planter with the Reformed Church in America. He served Ocean Community Church in Manahawkin, N.J., for 10 years, and Monocacy Valley Church in Frederick, Md., for 24 years. He also volunteered with Mission of Mercy, Convoy of Hope and other local charities. His survivors include his wife, Evelyn (Hooyer '76); two sons; and two sisters, Sherry TenClay '77 and Christy Weygandt '79.

Randy Beernink '79 of Estherville, Iowa, died May 3 at age 62. After graduating from NWC, he earned an additional bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Iowa. He worked at the Iowa Lakes Community College Computer Center for 36 years, eventually becoming the director. He received administrator of the year awards four times. A member

of the United Methodist Church, he sang in the choir. Among his survivors are his wife, Kathy; his parents; five children; and a brother, **Greq** '77.

Don Huygens '82 of Sioux Center died Nov. 30 at age 58. He worked as an accountant and CPA for 10 years in Denver and later served as chief financial officer at Groschopp Inc. His survivors include five children and two siblings.

Dave Hulsart '91, 63, died Nov. 22 in Orange City. He owned and managed Dove Christian Bookstore for 34 years and coached softball at Northwestern for more than 20 years, winning multiple titles and receiving numerous awards. He ran the clock at Red Raider basketball games and kept statistics at football games for many years. He was honored with the Alumni Association's Distinguished Service to Northwestern Award in 2007. He served as president of the Chamber of Commerce and was a member of New Hope Evangelical Free Church. He is survived by his wife, Karen, as well as his mother and two daughters.

Molly Te Slaa '11 of Rock Valley, Iowa, died Dec. 14 at age 30 following an automobile accident. She began her work in the Hegg Health Center system as a barista at the Coffee Cabin. She later worked in housekeeping and then became a certified nursing assistant serving residents of the Whispering Heights nursing home. Her survivors include her parents.

**LET US KNOW:** Email your news for the next *Classic* by Oct. 25 to classic@nwciowa.edu.

# Classic Thoughts

#### A Scientist Marvels at God's Creation

BY SARAH WYNIA-SMITH '03



"Oh, WOW! Look at that! I can see the DNA!" It was the spring of 2001 at NWC. I was a sophomore biology major in the laboratory of Dr. Sara Sybesma '84 Tolsma's genetics course. For the first time, I was using equipment that enables a scientist to gaze upon and even print a picture of DNA fragments.

In the same way that I've felt overwhelmed when marveling upon vast stretches of God's creation at places like Yosemite National Park, I felt my heart leap at just how amazing it was that our bodies are controlled by DNA, knit together by God. I remember returning to my dorm room and proudly affixing that DNA picture to the door, very excitedly explaining it to anybody who would listen.

With my interest in biology, I'd entered college aiming to become a physician. However, in observing my professors, I secretly wished I could join their ranks. All I needed was a nudge. One day in that same genetics course, Dr. Tolsma overheard me explaining a theory to a fellow student. She exclaimed, "Sarah, you are a natural at this!" I returned to my experiment but later pressed her on what she meant. That started a discussion about shifting my goal from becoming a physician to earning a Ph.D. and embarking upon a career in scientific research and education.

To sharpen my research skills, I completed internships at the University of North Carolina and also at NWC in Dr. Ralph Davis' lab. He was new at NWC after many years as a research scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As he mentored me in the art of dissecting parasitic worms to measure miniscule cellular electrical currents, he also mentored me on how to see the laboratory as a sacred place where I could marvel at the goodness of God's creation.

Dr. Davis even accurately predicted what might happen in the following years as I looked forward to entering a Ph.D. program in physiology at his former institution: "Maybe you'll meet another young scientist at graduate school, fall in love, and the two of you could be like [Nobel Prize-winning scientists] the Curies, running your own lab together!"

For the next several years, I weathered the significant peaks and valleys that are often part of the Ph.D. experience. Earning a doctorate includes producing a dissertation, a body of original research work. In the sciences, one joins a research lab group and learns to design, perform and publish experiments. The first

three years of my research yielded nothing but dead ends. Coupled with some more personal challenges, the experience was utterly demoralizing. On multiple occasions, I thought about quitting.

I was so fortunate I made it a priority to find a Christian community. I found a family-away-fromfamily to cry with and deepen my spiritual roots in the community at Geneva Campus Church. Likewise, I bonded with fellow Christian graduate students in the ministry sponsored by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and dove deep into the challenges of living out one's faith in secular academia.

It was at an InterVarsity meeting that I met my future husband, Brian. He was working on a Ph.D. in organic chemistry, and like myself, was a worship leader. After many years in the "friend zone," we married in 2007. In 2009, both having earned our doctorates, we became postdoctoral researchers.

Through somewhat unique circumstances, we eventually ended up working in the same laboratory. I remembered Dr. Davis' prediction that I might set up a lab someday with my future spouse, and this was the opportunity to give that a test drive. As it turns out, we are very complementary in our approach to science. It was clear we could work together quite well and, moreover, that we were being called to start our own laboratory together.

In 2014 we moved to the Milwaukee area to start our laboratory at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Along with a fantastic group of Ph.D. students, medical students, undergraduate interns, postdoctoral researchers and laboratory technicians, we investigate some of the molecular pathways involved in diseases such as cancer, heart disease, neurodegeneration and diabetes. As I mentor students today, I still draw on what I learned from my professors at NWC and channel that "Oh, WOW!" in reference to the amazing invisible molecular world God created under all that is visible.

Dr. Sarah Wynia-Smith graduated from NWC with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry. She earned a Ph.D. in physiology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2009 and did post-doctoral biochemistry research at the University of California-Berkeley and The Scripps Research Institute.



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# Tower of Strength



When Academy Hall (now known as Zwemer Hall) was dedicated in 1894, Principal James Zwemer described its purpose as "educating our sons and daughters so they may be equipped to rightly serve the church, the school and society."

For 125 years, Zwemer Hall has fulfilled that mission. Over the decades, the venerable Romanesque Revival building housed nearly every aspect of the academy and then college.

With Deus Est Lux ("God is Light") etched in its cornerstone, the building features two colors of limestone quarried from Mankato, Minnesota.

Zwemer Hall was built for \$16,170 and was debt-free at the time of its dedication.

The administration building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. A \$2 million restoration in 1997 helped preserve Zwemer while improving its functionality.

