

# CLASSIC



A publication for Northwestern College alumni & friends • Winter 2003-04

## A Place to Create

*Korver Visual Arts Center Opens*



Dr. Bruce Murphy  
President

## The seven distinctives of Northwestern

How do we communicate the character of Northwestern to prospective students, to the public in general, to each other? What does it mean to be a Christian liberal arts college today? Is there a concise, convincing way to describe the Northwestern experience?

For several months, our admissions and public relations staffs have been wrestling with these questions. They have created a list of Northwestern Distinctives. I commend them to you.

Northwestern is . . .

### **Academically excellent**

*Northwestern challenges your mind.*

### **A small campus with a large worldview**

*Northwestern provides opportunities to explore the world, and to study in the security of a small town.*

### **Christ-centered**

*Northwestern offers a college education that will strengthen your faith.*

### **Community-focused**

*Northwestern offers a place to live and learn within an active, caring community.*

### **Results-oriented**

*Northwestern offers a whole education for your whole life.*

### **Valuable and affordable**

*Northwestern provides added value for what you pay for your college education.*

### **Committed to each student's calling**

*Northwestern helps you discover your gifts and find your place in the world.*

Each of these characteristics is worthy of extended explanation, but follow me as I take the first and see where it leads.

"Academic excellence" is the mantra of every higher educational institution. What does it mean? One common point of reference is the many national reports that receive public notice: *U.S. News & World Report*, *Peterson's Guide to Competitive Colleges* and others. Northwestern does well in these guidebooks, regularly being named as a top-tier Midwestern comprehensive college by *U.S. News*, and receiving similar recognition by *Peterson's* and *Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges*.

Another standard is the number of faculty with terminal degrees, particularly from highly regarded graduate schools. Here again, Northwestern fares well, with 85 percent holding doctorates or the equivalent from institutions like Cornell, Duke, Notre Dame, UCLA, the University of Chicago, the University of Iowa and Vanderbilt.

These measures only begin to tell the story, however. While often interesting and sometimes revealing, quantitative data rarely uncovers the ethos of a school and how much educating actually takes place. A better definition of academic quality, as noted by Professor Carl Vandermeulen of our English and communications departments, appears in *Emblems of Quality in Higher Education*: "High-quality programs are those in which students, faculty and administrators engage in mutually supportive teaching and learning" (27).

Here is where I believe Northwestern excels—and is getting even better. Our faculty and staff invest in students' lives and continue to learn themselves. This past summer, seven of them took trips to explore future learning opportunities at locations around the world. Each spring, faculty and staff lead service projects to New Orleans, Seattle, Amsterdam and beyond. As I write this article, faculty and staff are leading groups of students who are attending professional meetings and visiting seminars and graduate schools to test God's calling for their future. On road trips and in classrooms, not to mention dorm rooms and athletic fields, "more mature and unified understandings" (*Emblems* . . . 28) of the world and one's place in it are emerging.

Academic excellence is not merely a marketing slogan on Northwestern's campus. Nor is it merely one of seven distinctives. It is rather the product of the other six—a worthy calling of a caring Christian community committed to helping students discern their place in God's world.

*Bruce Murphy*

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"Our faculty and staff invest in students' lives and continue to learn themselves."  
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## classicpeople

## CLASSIC

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# Choir to tour in Europe



*A cappella Choir members will minister at children's homes, refugee camps and prisons while also giving public concerts in Eastern Europe.*

For the first time in school history, Northwestern's A cappella Choir will travel overseas during spring break 2004. The 70-member ensemble will tour in the Czech Republic, Austria and Poland Feb. 27-March 9.

Under the auspices of Christian Outreach International, the choir will present several public concerts, perform for high school students, and minister at children's homes, refugee camps and a prison. The tour includes performing a full Sunday morning music service at the Salzburg Cathedral, where Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and his father were employed.

"I think this tour will be life changing in many ways for our students and me," says Dr. Thomas Holm, assistant professor of music and conductor of the A cappella Choir since 2000. "This is a great opportunity to work alongside, sing for and share with people who are in many ways like us but in many ways have very little hope. I think it could expand our understanding of God and the world in which we live.

"Our host organization tells us that our medium of choral music will draw many people to performances who would otherwise have no contact with the Gospel. We will take the

opportunity to clearly and simply share the good news with these people through our music, testimonies, drama and interaction following our performances," says Holm.

The experience will include collaborative rehearsals and concerts in the Czech Republic with the Pardubice University Choir and an adult choir in Chrudim. Students will spend one night in the homes of the Chrudim musicians. The Northwestern contingent also will travel to the Auschwitz death camp.

The choir's repertoire includes a Palestrina mass, motets with a Lenten theme and a package of Czech folk music. The singers also will perform a large selection of American music, including spirituals, folk songs, pieces by Copland and Billings, and 20th- and 21st-century art music.

The choir will be accompanied by Dr. Juyeon Kang, assistant professor of music, who also will perform solo works on the piano. Also joining the ensemble on the trip will be Jamey Durham, assistant professor of communication studies, who will produce a 30-minute video documentary of the tour. Sioux City's KMEG-TV plans to air the show on Easter Sunday.

Students are paying half of the cost of the trip, \$825 per person, and are seeking an additional \$42,000 in support from family, friends and alumni. If you are led to donate, make out a check to the Northwestern College A cappella Choir Tour and send it to the development office, NWC, 101 7th St. SW, Orange City, IA 51041.

## Planning for new library begins

A task force has been meeting since mid-October to plan Northwestern's future library. Co-chaired by Dan Daily, library director, and Dr. John Brogan, associate professor of religion, the task force has been asked by President Murphy to "rethink the process of learning . . . and come up with a vision for our new library."

Task force members are meeting with campus groups to ask about current and future usage; what technology and spaces lead to learning in the 21st century; and what departments or services should be included in the new building.

The task force, which includes faculty, staff, student, board and community representatives, expects to present a conceptual plan that will inform design at the Board of Trustees meeting in April.

# Reviewers give education department thumbs up



*Evaluators said they were impressed by the amount of classroom experience NWC education majors receive.*

The final grades aren't posted yet, but it appears that Northwestern's education department is headed for an "A."

The department was reviewed this fall by evaluators representing the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Iowa Department of Education. Reviewers told the education faculty at the end of their campus visit that the department had met all six of the standards necessary for reaccreditation: governance and resources, diversity, faculty performance and develop-

ment, clinical practice, assessment of candidate knowledge, and assessment of the unit.

In fact, the state review team said Northwestern was the first school, out of 12 that have been evaluated with the new standards in effect (since 2001), to fully pass its new assessment standards. The evaluators were so impressed that they asked to use Northwestern's institutional report and exhibits as a model for training program reviewers this summer.

The department is expected to be approved for official reaccreditation by

NCATE and the state in April or May.

"We were very pleased they were so positive about our program. There's something really nice about having people come in and say you're good—affirming what we thought was true," says Dr. Ed Starkenburg, chairman of the education department.

The reviewers cited the department's "excellent faculty" and strong reputation. "You received rave reviews from everyone; at times we felt like we were in Pleasantville," the state team wrote in its campus visit summary.

The pervasiveness of the department's conceptual framework, and its alignment to Northwestern's mission, also was listed as a strength. "Students are well aware of the 'Teacher as Servant' theme, and they not only integrate that into their own core beliefs but they also see strong evidence of education faculty members who live the belief by example," said the state report.

## Students attend jury trial

Eighty Spanish students spent some time in court in October, witnessing the use of translation in a high-pressure situation and exploring issues of justice and race.

The students saw Instructor Piet Koene serve as a translator for Luis Jimenez-Martinez, who was later acquitted on charges that included attempted murder. For three days, Koene translated all of the proceedings to the accused, as well as conversations with his lawyer, and translated publicly any Spanish statements made by witnesses, the victim or defendant.

"I wanted students to see how Spanish can be used and what it feels like to be completely dependent linguistically on someone else, as the defendant was," says Koene.

The professor had students respond on their class listserv to questions about Hispanics and the legal system. Their comments showed they felt the experience was very beneficial, Koene says.

One student wrote that attending the court case helped change her mind about whether the government should provide interpretation in the court system. "I am so happy there are just and honest people willing to be the voice of the voiceless. I believe it is a great work of God to take on the burden of people who are unable to carry it for themselves," she wrote.

## Curtain rises for new theatre

When the spring semester begins Jan. 6, the newest campus facility will be open for business. The theatre department moved into the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center in late December.

Only \$750,000 remains to be raised for the \$8.3 million building, which includes two theatres, a costume shop, design studio, scene shop, faculty offices, classroom, dressing and makeup rooms, box office and spacious lobby.

The theatre facility will be dedicated April 20.

# 9/11 drama opens Northwestern's new theatre

Instead of traveling over spring break, students in Northwestern's theatre department will remain in Orange City to present *September Bears*, their popular 9/11 drama. The one-hour show, which enjoyed runs Off-Broadway and at St. Paul's Chapel near Ground Zero last summer, will be presented at 8 p.m. March 1-4 in the new DeWitt Theatre Arts Center's proscenium theatre.

*September Bears* tells the true story of Manhattan schoolteacher Sue Lucarelli, who, together with her Long Island church, provided over 60,000 huggable teddy bears to New York children and volunteer workers after September 11.

Ministry and worship teams, Bible studies and other groups from churches, schools and other organizations are invited to reserve free tickets by contacting Northwestern's director of church relations, Bob Reynen, at 712-707-7112 or [rwreynen@nwciowa.edu](mailto:rwreynen@nwciowa.edu). Individuals also can reserve tickets.

The play will be followed by refreshments and tours of Northwestern's new performance facility.

## Group assists Guatemalan children

Four NWC education students and Dr. Barb Top, associate professor of education, traveled to Guatemala Nov. 22-29 to assist in a spiritual retreat for children with disabilities. The retreat was organized by Hope Haven International Ministries, which has distributed wheelchairs to the children in the past.

This was the third year in a row for Top to take students to the retreat.

"I see this as a way for God to teach the students and myself about his chil-

dren with special needs in other places," she says. "This is a way to serve and to learn. We have the opportunity to find out about the needs of the people and the type of education—or lack thereof—offered for individuals with special needs, and to be used by God."

The retreat was held at a seminary in Chimaltenango, a city of about 100,000. The retreat included crafts, Bible stories, physical activities and a lot of interacting with the children and their families.



Junior Peter De Jong plays with Guatemalan children at a spiritual retreat.

## Experts speak to *Kin* audience

Experts in eugenics and bioethics visited Northwestern's campus in late November in conjunction with the theatrical production of *Kin*. The fall play, written by NWC theatre professor Jeff Barker, tells the story of Carrie Buck's 1920s Supreme Court case, which legalized involuntary sterilization for people deemed "socially inadequate." Her case fed into a worldwide 'race hygiene' movement that led to the Holocaust.

Dr. David Smith, provost at the University of Virginia-Wise and author of the book *The Sterilization of Carrie Buck*, and Barbara Quigley, co-founder and executive director of the

Center for Bioethics and Culture in St. Louis, answered questions on separate nights of the production and also spoke to classes.

The grand prize winner of the 2002 New Voices Iowa Playwrights Competition, *Kin* was the final Northwestern production in the Playhouse. Community members joined theatre students and faculty for a ceremonial set strike after the Nov. 22 show, followed by a late-night walk to the new DeWitt Theatre Arts Center.

## Sophomore elected city councilman

Political science major Mick Snieder of Orange City, featured in the fall Classic after interning with Rep. Steve King in Washington, will be getting a taste of politics from a different perspective.

He was elected to his hometown's City Council in November, one of three residents elected out of six candidates. Snieder used a Web site and a citywide door-to-door campaign on Halloween night to raise his visibility.

## Academic dean resigns

Dr. Karen Cianci, vice president for academic affairs since 2000, resigned in October.

"I would like to thank Karen for all she has contributed to the college in the last three years and offer her encouragement and support as she seeks God's call for the future," says President Bruce Murphy.

Dr. Eric Elder, a member of the business and economics faculty since 1985, has been appointed to serve as interim academic dean through the remainder of the school year. The position also will be filled on an interim basis next year.

College officials plan to have the permanent vice president for academic affairs in place by the summer of 2005.

## Koster closes file on 19 years of service

by Carrie Odell '01

Spending time with people she cares about is an obvious priority for Sheryl Koster. After almost 20 years of dedicated service to Northwestern, Koster is retiring at the end of the fall semester so she can see more of her three children and nine grandchildren. "I want to spend more time with my family," she says. "I want to be more available for them."

Over the last two decades, Koster has had contact with hundreds of prospective students. She started working in Northwestern's financial aid office. Soon after, she moved to admissions, where she has been the assistant to Ron De Jong, dean of enrollment services. Koster's responsibilities included handling all correspondence between the admissions office and prospective students, a task that greatly increased with nearly doubled enrollment during her time at NWC. "When I started work here," she remembers, "there were less than 800 students."

Koster's involvement with Northwestern students extended beyond the office. She and her husband, Roger, participated in numerous Spring Service Projects, including two to Brewton, Ala.; two to Coney Island,

N.Y.; and one to Tempe, Ariz. Working with the homeless on Coney Island, she says, made the biggest dent in the group's thinking: "We were taken out of our comfort zones, but we also found that those trips were the most rewarding."

In addition, Koster enjoyed working with international students because she learned to appreciate other cultures. Before Northwestern added the director of multicultural affairs position in 2002, she was responsible for all correspondence with prospective international students.

One of those students, Ferenc "Fred" Hajdu, became particularly special to the Kosters. Although they were

▼  
*"She has demonstrated a genuine love for Northwestern and our students."*  
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not Hajdu's assigned host family, the Kosters picked him up at the airport in Minneapolis when he arrived from Hungary. They hosted him throughout the year and developed a strong relationship with him. Though Hajdu returned to Hungary



Sheryl Koster's involvement with students extended beyond her work in the admissions office to friendships with international students and participation in Spring Service Projects.

after one year, the Kosters have kept in touch with him through e-mail. Next summer, they plan to travel overseas to visit him.

Not surprisingly, Koster says what she will miss most about Northwestern is the people she works with, a sentiment echoed by her longtime colleague Ron De Jong.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Sheryl," he says. "She has demonstrated a genuine love for Northwestern and our students. She has seen her work in the admissions office as contributing to helping students make one of the really important decisions in life: where to continue their education. Her commitment to students, especially international students, and her dedication to Northwestern will be missed."



## Faculty/staff news

**Karen Acker**, art, had two sculptures included in the "Feed the Body, Feed the Soul 2003: Gifts from the Earth" exhibition at the Fitton Center for the Creative Arts in Hamilton, Ohio, this fall. "Covenant," a wall-hung relief, received an honorable mention award. The exhibition also included "Remnants," a porcelain vessel.



**Dr. Douglas Firth Anderson**, history, was awarded the 2003 Arrington-Prucha Prize

in Western American Religious History in October. The prize is given by the Western History Association for the best essay of the year on religious history in the American West. Anderson received a plaque and a \$500 cash prize. The award was given in recognition of his essay, "Protestantism, Progress and Prosperity: John P. Clum and 'Civilizing' the U.S. Southwest, 1871-1886," which was published in the *Western Historical Quarterly* last fall.

**Dr. Keith Anderson**, dean of spiritual formation, gave an October presentation on spirituality and vocation, based on the thinking of second-century writer Gregory of Nyssa, to the Joshua Foundation in Los Angeles. In addition, a Spanish ver-

sion of Anderson's book, *Friendships That Run Deep*, has been published in Argentina and Mexico under the title of *Amistades Profunda*.

**Dr. Mike Avery**, business, has been named to the Council on Faith and International Affairs at the Eastern University Institute for Global Engagement. The council provides opportunities for community building among Christian professionals in international affairs and fosters critical, constructive dialogue and analysis among people of faith about the role of religion in global issues.

**Dr. Paul Bartlett**, kinesiology, was the Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapel speaker at the Iowa Wrestling Coaches and Officials Convention in Des Moines in October.

**Dr. Sean Cordry**, physics, is the author of an article published in the October issue of *The Physics Teacher*. The paper, "A Projectile Model," shows how to build and use a model illustrating the effects of launch angle and initial velocity on a projectile.

**Dr. Laird Edman**, psychology, presented two papers at the annual meeting of the National Collegiate Honors Council in Chicago in November. He gave a workshop presentation for honors program administrators and

faculty, "A Few Nuts and Bolts for Teaching Thinking," on how to infuse critical thinking instruction into their courses. He also presented "Emotional Intelligence and Honors Students." As president of the Upper Midwest Honors Council, Edman presided over the regional business meeting at the conference.

Biology faculty **Dr. Laurie Furlong** and **Dr. Byron Noordewier** each spent a week this fall teaching in the Creation Care Study Program in the Central American country of Belize. Furlong taught stream ecology as part of the program's course on tropical ecosystems. Noordewier taught microbiology to nursing students.

**Dr. Juyeon Kang**, music, performed a faculty recital in October. A pianist, she presented works by Mozart, Debussy, Liszt and Rachmaninoff.

**Deb Menning**, English, and four juniors who were enrolled in her Introduction to Literary Studies section last spring presented two sessions at October's Iowa Council of Teachers of English conference in Des Moines. Menning, along with Megan Coe, Heather Lambert, April Olivares and Regina Prokop, presented "Finding Multigenres Meaning in Old and New Prize Winners." The

Northwestern group's second session was entitled "O Brother, Can You Find Community in Your Literature Classroom."

A chapter on "The Ambiguities of Aboriginal Christian History in Taiwan" by **Dr. Jim Rohrer**, religion, is included in Cross-Cultural Publications' *Christianity and Native Cultures*, edited by Cyriac Pullapilly. The paper was originally presented at an international conference on Christianity and native cultures held at St. Mary's College. In addition, Rohrer has had numerous haiku and tanka recently published in such literary magazines as *American Tanka*, *Presence*, *Tangled Hair*, *Lilliput Review* and *Bottle Rockets*.

**Dr. Andrew Sauerwein**, music, developed a new arrangement of *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* for the dedication ceremony of the Thea G. Korver Visual Arts Center in October. The song was sung by **Dr. Kimberly Utke Svano**, music, with accompaniment by two students.

**Dr. Sara Tolsma**, biology, spoke at the Hope College Critical Issues Symposium, "Putting Science in Its Place: Discovery and Responsibility," this fall. She gave a talk on "The Creation and Use of Human Embryonic Stem Cells."

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# Teaching Trust

*Smits model faith in the face of adversity*

by Anita Cirulis

Jim and Sharon (Mol) Smits admit the past 16 months have been difficult. First there was the loss of a job, then the death of two parents and a diagnosis of cancer. How they responded to adversity earned them the admiration and respect of their children—and the honor of being named Northwestern College's Parents of the Year for 2003.

"Not only did our parents tell us what to do in times of trouble, they showed us," wrote the Smits' daughters, Andrea and Maria, in their nomination letter. "Our parents deserve this award. Not because they are perfect parents or have perfect kids, but because they have given us a gift much greater: an example of trust in our perfect Lord."

Northwestern recognized the Smits during Parents' Weekend in October. Residents of Orange City, Jim and Sharon grew up in Maurice and Sioux Center, respectively. They met through an area youth ministry and married in 1975.

Jim is a sales representative for Roda Manufacturing in Hull; Sharon, a psychotherapist for Bethesda Christian Counseling in Orange City. They also are the parents of five children ranging in age from 18 to 27—four of whom followed their mother's footsteps to Northwestern. Angela, the oldest, graduated in 1998, while Andrea Hyde, a senior; Maria, a sophomore; and Melinda, a freshman, all are attending Northwestern this year.

Sharon graduated from NWC in 1979 with a degree in Christian education and earned a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Since freshmen aren't eligible to make nominations for Parents of the Year, it was Andrea and Maria who told their family's story to the award committee: Not only did their father endure six months of unemployment before finding his present job, but simultaneously, their mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. Surgery, chemotherapy and radiation followed. Added to this were the deaths of two grandparents—Sharon's dad and Jim's mother—and an apartment fire that destroyed the belongings of their brother.

"We've gone through some hard times as a family together," says Jim, "but they've really brought us closer to each other and to God."

"My parents have taught us so much about loving each



The daughters of Parents of the Year Jim and Sharon Smits—Northwestern senior Andrea Hyde, freshman Melinda, sophomore Maria and 1998 graduate Angela (from left)—say the trials that their family endured brought them closer to each other and to the Lord.

other," Melinda agrees. "They've shown just an awesome example of having a married life and being able to focus on God and loving each other through the hard times and through the good times."

She and her brother and sisters also appreciate the good communication their parents modeled for them, as well as the encouragement to discover their own separate identities.

"One of the things we *did* try to do is to have each of the kids be their own individual," Sharon says. "We tried hard not to compare them to each other and to have each one explore what they felt their own talents were."

The Smits are quick to praise their children for the kind of people they've become, describing them as "wonderful" and themselves as "blessed" to be their parents.

"When any of us would get any recognition or anyone would compliment them, they wouldn't take any credit," Andrea says. "They don't want to take any recognition for what we do, but we know it has a lot to do with how they've raised us and what they've taught us."

The Smits also give credit to Northwestern for the role the college has played in their daughters' lives. "They knew it was a great experience for me," Sharon says of their decision to attend her alma mater. "I wasn't told what to believe. Even though it was a Christian college, we were given the freedom to question and to make our faith our own."

Youngest daughter Melinda agrees. "I've just seen what

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Jim and Sharon Smits

# A Reformed Mennonite

by Sherrie Barber Willson '98

Dr. Michael Yoder is not an easy person to categorize. Raised Mennonite, he's spent 22 years teaching at a Reformed college. He started on the path to becoming a sociology professor at the urging of high school economics and vocational agriculture instructors. And he's constantly encouraging students to investigate other subjects besides sociology.

"I always try to help students make connections to the other classes they're taking. For example, my Latin American Societies and Cultures course introduces elements of history, geography, religion, economics, politics and music," Yoder says. "I don't like knowledge to be compartmentalized into slots."

This, of course, makes him a good fit for a school that preaches the value of interdisciplinary learning and the liberal arts. That's one of the things that initially drew Yoder to Northwestern, and which has kept him here, even as he remains a bit of a fish out of water.

## **Reconciling two traditions**

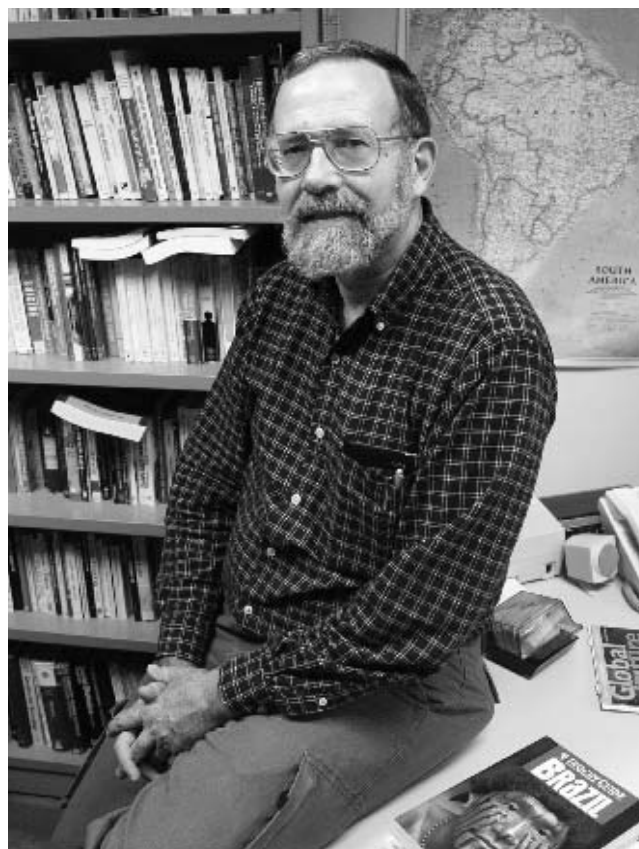
Yoder grew up in Eureka, a rural Mennonite

community in central Illinois whose claim to fame is that Ronald Reagan attended college there. Yoder earned master's and doctoral degrees in sociology from the University of Wisconsin and in 1976 began teaching at Goshen College, a Mennonite school in Indiana where he had done his undergraduate work.

He had been there for six years when a friend, the dean of academics at Bethel College, passed his name to Northwestern's academic dean, who asked Yoder to apply for an opening in the sociology department.

"I had never heard of Northwestern at that point,"

*"I always try to help students make connections to the other classes they're taking. For example, my Latin American Societies and Cultures course introduces elements of history, geography, religion, economics, politics and music."*



Sociology professor Mike Yoder brings a pacifist perspective and a passion for Latin America to Northwestern's campus.

recalls Yoder. "But when I visited, I was very impressed with the friendliness and supportiveness of the faculty and students. I continue to be impressed and appreciate that very much."

He also was anxious to

try a new place for the sake of his family. His wife, Carolyn, is not Mennonite and so felt a little like an outsider at Goshen. They wanted to be somewhere they could be on equal footing—where they could be out-

siders together, so to speak.

Yoder began teaching at NWC in 1982, and since then, he's grown to love the school and its Reformed beliefs. "The great genius of Northwestern is that it's managed to do what very few Christian colleges have done: remain true to its roots and Reformed beliefs, yet be accepting of faculty and students from other denominations," he says. "It has allowed me to compare the Mennonite tradition I grew up in—and still cherish very much—with the Reformed tradition I've come to appreciate and claim as my own. I now call myself a Reformed Mennonite."

### Links to his heritage

Not that he's entirely relinquished his Mennonite beliefs. Yoder still embraces the pacifist stance that's an integral part of that faith. He's opposed to war and all other forms of violence, including abortion and capital punishment.

He explains his reasoning simply: "I can't see how I can kill someone, even an enemy, while following the commands of my Lord and Savior to love them. And I am not willing to let politicians and generals decide for me when violence is justified. If they want to go to war, they will nearly always find evidence that they believe justifies it. I might be willing to consider a 'just war' position if they would turn to Christian leaders for truly independent advice on whether a given war is justified, but how often does that happen?"

This stance sets him apart from many professors and students at NWC, but, as with most of his differences, Yoder relishes it as an opportunity for discussion. "Frankly, I think I bring something to the campus in this regard," he says. For the last two years, he's been teaching an Introduction to Christian Liberal Arts course called War, Peace and Terrorism.

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*"The great genius of Northwestern is that it's managed to do what very few Christian colleges have done: remain true to its roots and Reformed beliefs, yet be accepting of faculty and students from other denominations."*

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### Connecting with other cultures

One of Yoder's passions is Latin America, an interest that dates back to his college days. A professor who had been a missionary in Brazil inspired Yoder to spend two-and-a-half years there teaching English as a second language after graduating from Goshen. His wife shares his interest, having lived in Mexico before their marriage. After marrying in 1975, they lived in Costa Rica for a year.

Carolyn now teaches Spanish at MOC-Floyd Valley High School, and Yoder, who is fluent in Portuguese and Spanish, continues to enjoy reading literature in those languages and watching films about those cultures. In recent years, they've had the opportunity to return to Central America, Mexico and Brazil, and Yoder is planning to lead a study abroad trip to Brazil next summer.

"I think a lot of us, including President Murphy, see international study as a vital part of liberal arts studies," Yoder says. "We live in an interconnected world, and a truly liberal arts person today needs to be able to understand and communicate with the world outside the United States."

### Remaining connected

During Yoder's time at Northwestern, he's seen the college grow from 850 to 1,300 students. Although he misses the days when most faculty and classes were together in Van Peursem Hall, he's pleased that one thing has not changed: the emphasis on making connections—among diverse disciplines, among different cultures, among people of different backgrounds. For a Reformed Mennonite, Northwestern's willingness to explore differences always makes him feel right at home.

### Faculty/staff news

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**Dr. Barb Top**, education, received an award from the Learning Disabilities Association of Iowa in October. She was recognized for her role in administering the organization's student scholarship program.

**Dr. Joonna Trapp**, English, assembled and chaired a ses-

sion of film scholars for the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of American Women Writers held in Fort Worth, Texas. The session was entitled "19th Century Women Writers on the Big Screen." The panel addressed a range of topics, from an unseen silent film found only in the nation's archives to the many filmed versions of *Little Women*.

### Teaching Trust

*continued from page 9*

Northwestern can do for a person," she says. "I've had firsthand experience with my siblings, seeing the growth that can come spiritually, mentally and socially, too. Everything that I have wanted or expected from college, I was able to see in my sib-

lings, and so that made me want to come here. The atmosphere of this college is different from any other college that I've visited or seen."

Northwestern's Parents of the Year award has been presented annually since 1977. The Smits are the fourth parents from Orange City to win the honor.



# A Savory Legacy

## *Prof impacts students in classroom and kitchen*

by *Tamara Fynaardt*

During his almost four decades as a professor at Northwestern College, Virgil Muilenburg taught countless biology classes and labs, and mentored numerous students on their way to biology classrooms, research laboratories, nature conservancies, grad schools and medical schools. He watched Northwestern's biology department grow from two professors and 20 majors to a faculty of five with over 120 majors.

He also has served over 6,000 pizzas to more than 700 students during meals at his home.

Muilenburg, a lifelong resident of Orange City, received the 2003 Distinguished Service to Northwestern College Award during the college's October Homecoming celebration.

Muilenburg graduated valedictorian from Northwestern Classical Academy (1958), salutatorian from the junior college (1960), and was a Magna Cum Laude graduate of the new, four-year Northwestern College in 1962. He also was a Faculty Honors recipient.

After earning a master's degree in natural science from the University of South Dakota, Muilenburg was asked by President Preston

Stegenga to return to Northwestern as a sabbatical replacement for biology professor Tom Ten Hoeve in 1963. Ten Hoeve extended his sabbatical; Muilenburg stayed.

When Ten Hoeve returned and was named Northwestern's academic dean, Muilenburg stayed a third and fourth year. "I ended up filling in for 37 years," he says with a laugh.

During his years at Northwestern, Muilenburg moved offices several times, starting with a space behind the lab storage room and ending in a renovated office

with a view of campus and Albany Avenue.

Among his students were some who eventually became colleagues, including Dr. Sara (Sybesma '84) Tolsma, who earned a doctorate from Northwestern University and joined the biology department in 1995.

Muilenburg also taught his nephews Jay Wielenga '82, director of development, and Ron De Jong '71, dean of enrollment services. "Ron was a biology major," he remembers. "I used him as an example with students. I'd say, 'If you really study hard, really buckle down, you

might become a doctor or a brain surgeon. Or you can screw off and become Northwestern's director of admissions."

When Muilenburg retired in 2000, Dr. Robin Pals-Rylaarsdam '92, who also received a doctorate from Northwestern University and now teaches at Trinity Christian College near Chicago, wrote, "Thank you for loving students and Northwestern so much. If I'm remembered only a tenth as fondly as you are, I'll consider it a real compliment."

Dr. Bryan Den Hartog, an '81 alum who now is an



*Retired biology professor Virg Muilenburg is now serving pizza to a second generation of Northwestern students, one of many reasons he was honored this fall for his decades of service to the college.*

▼  
*"I poured my heart and soul into students in the classroom and out of it. But I received a lot more than I ever gave—the love of everyone, the students I still keep in touch with. They're kind of my family."*  
 ▲

orthopedic surgeon in Rapid City, S.D., described "Prof" Muilenburg as honest and unselfish. "He gently encouraged me to excel. His classes were challenging and always interesting. His tests were difficult but fair. I've had many fine teachers, but Prof has had a greater impact on my life than any other."

His last spring at Northwestern, Muilenburg anticipated missing the classroom, his "stage," as he called it. More than that, though, he knew he'd miss interacting with students outside of class, especially having them over to his house for meals, which was something he'd started while working late in the lab with students and continued twice a week for most of his career.

Now, three years later, Muilenburg still is making pizza for students, usually on Monday and Thursday nights. "After I retired, there still were students I knew, so I invited them over. When they graduated, there were others to take their spots."

The pizzas are homemade. The favorites include



*Muilenburg's one-year appointment at Northwestern in 1963 turned into a 37-year career.*

barbequed beef or chicken. For dessert: blizzards. The students, mostly guys, are invited via handwritten letters in their campus mailboxes. They arrive around 10 p.m. and are gone by 11 "because I don't want them

to waste any study time," says Muilenburg. Besides, if they stayed any longer, his Royal Orange Apartment neighbors would think him more a party animal than they already do.

Sometimes he invites Northwestern coeds to join the group. "When girls come over, I have to buy twice as much ice cream," he comments with a wink.

"I'm starting to invite the second generation now," says Muilenburg after a recent pizza party included sophomore Brett Wieking, Sioux Falls, and freshmen Jason Helmus, Rock Valley, and Matt Van Heuvelen, Urbandale, whose fathers (Kim '80, Calvin '81 and Wayne '74) were treated to pizza in the '70s and '80s.

"I could quit any time,"

says Muilenburg, "but I don't plan to. I learn so much from the students who come over—about other faculty," he adds with a laugh. "I'll probably be inviting students to join me for pizza at Landsmeer [Ridge Retirement Community]."

When he's not traveling, Muilenburg still visits campus every day and attends most sporting events, concerts and plays. Regarding his recent recognition from the college, he says, "I poured my heart and soul into students in the classroom and out of it. But I received a lot more than I ever gave—the love of everyone, the students I still keep in touch with. They're kind of my family."



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# Deep-Sea Adventure

by Duane Beeson



Frank Heemstra holds a photograph of Mizar, the research ship from which he helped locate the wreckage of sunken submarines and nuclear and biological weapons.



Heemstra adjusts instrumentation on "The Fish," a probe used on many deep-sea search missions.

The tinkering told the tale.

Jacob and Hannah Heemstra, Northwestern's first family from 1928-51, hoped that Frank, their oldest son, would become a minister. But all the time Frank spent in his father's basement workshop was a clue about his future career.

"I was fascinated by physical things. I remember bringing home Model T spark coils from Henry Van Wechel's junkyard," says

Heemstra. "I was always playing with electricity; I blew out fuses in the house many times."

Heemstra's accomplishments in science, including more than 31 years as a research physicist for the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C., sparked his selection as Northwestern's 2003 recipient of the Distinguished Professional Achievement Award. He received the Alumni Association honor

during Homecoming in October.

Under the tutelage of chemistry and math professor B.E. Fahl, Heemstra's scientific interests were honed in the classical academy and Northwestern Junior College, from which he graduated in 1941 and 1943, respectively. Even though no physics courses were offered at Northwestern, Heemstra went on to major in physics at Hope College and earn a master's degree in that subject at Iowa State University.

"I wanted a job where I

▼  
"I developed a love for the sea as well as science."  
▲

could use my knowledge of physics," says Heemstra, now retired and living in Yankton, S.D. "The Naval Research Lab seemed like a good place to work, but I didn't have any idea what I'd do."

In the early years of his career, he was involved in the development of long-range sonar systems and the study of sound propagation paths in the ocean. For the last 20 years, before retiring in the early 1980s, he specialized in deep-sea instrumentation used for numerous search and surveillance missions.

Aboard the research ship Mizar, Heemstra and his team developed new techniques used to locate the wreckage of Thresher, a

*continued on page 25*



# Doing What's Asked

*Career choices and volunteer work reveal alumna's willingness to serve*

by Anita Cirulis

When people call Fannie (Lammers '51, '83) Menning and ask if she can help them out, she invariably says yes.

"She's willing to do just about anything you ask," says Kathy De Kock, who coordinates the speaker's bureau for the Reformed Church in America (RCA). "I don't think she's ever said no. She always pinch-hits for me."

Menning's willingness to give of her time and talent has taken her from Iowa to Russia and the Middle East; her desire to serve, from elementary school classrooms to senior care centers. It's also earned her Northwestern's 2003 Distinguished Service to Humankind Award, pre-

sented by the Alumni Association during Homecoming in October.

It was Menning's interest in missions that led to her first overseas travel experience. In 1984 she applied and was chosen to represent the RCA on a travel seminar to the former Soviet Union. The three-week fact-finding trip featured visits with missionaries and members of both the Orthodox and underground churches, with the goal that participants return and report to their congregations about what they learned.

"I wanted to see how people in a communist country survived and kept their faith," Menning says. "It just reinforced the idea that under persecution the church becomes stronger."



As a certified residential instructor at Hope Haven, Fannie Menning helps clients like Leo Hevern with grocery shopping and other everyday tasks.

In 1987 she again visited the Soviet Union for training as a travel seminar leader, and the following year—the 1,000-year anniversary of Christianity in Russia—she returned with an interdenominational group of 24 people from across the United States. Menning participated in three additional travel seminars from 1990 to 2000, this time to RCA mission fields in the Middle East, where she visited the countries of Oman, Kuwait, Israel, Jordan, Cyprus and Egypt.

Each trip, she says, gave her a greater appreciation for missionaries and their work, an appreciation she shares with others. As a mission

advocate for her denomination, she travels to churches and serves as a speaker for mission festivals across the United States and Canada, helping to raise awareness and support for RCA mission programs.

"Fannie and her husband are very enthusiastic about any mission projects the church has," says Rev. Mike Van Hamersveld, pastor of First Reformed Church in the Menning's hometown of Rock Valley, Iowa. "She does mission updates once a month and also gives talks to other churches about different mission projects and different missionaries. She's increased the mission awareness greatly."

*continued on page 21*



Menning poses with two Russian women during one of her trips to visit churches and missionaries in other countries.

Homecoming 2003

# BUILDING ON TRADITION

HOMEcoming 2003

OCT. 10-12



Face painting is always a popular activity at Morning on the Green. The carnival was held in the Rowenhorst Student Center for the second year in a row due to rain.



Professor Emeritus of Religion Lyle VanderWerff greets former president Preston Stegenga following the rededication of Stegenga Hall, the women's residence hall formerly known as North.



National Alumni Board member Tonya Van Peurse '94 hands booth tickets to children at Morning on the Green.





Evan Peuse '76, left, and Rob Van't Land '78 reminisce with Ralph Mouw, professor emeritus of mathematics.



Members of the Juggling Club entertain alumni and community members at Morning on the Green.



Despite a steady rain, 34 alumni participated in the best ball golf tournament.



Members of the Class of 1993 review family photos before their 10th reunion.



Dr. Earl Woudstra chats with Shane Sterk '93.



The jumping house was popular for children attending Morning on the Green.



# Meeting a Need

## *Construction of Korver Visual Arts Center proved best solution to growing problem*

by Anita Cirulis

The Thea G. Korver Visual Arts Center as it now stands wasn't in Northwestern's campus master plan.

No building was earmarked for the space the center occupies. No widespread, all-inclusive fundraising campaign was held. In fact, its construction raised questions: Why was the college spending money on an

art building while simultaneously raising funds for a theatre arts center—and when a new library had been identified as the next capital project?

The answer has more to do with Northwestern's mission than with the number of art majors, with good stewardship rather than a patchwork solution for a pressing

need. It also emphasizes an important fact about master plans.

"Master plans are meant to be a guide to institutional planning," says President Bruce Murphy, "but in every plan, there needs to be flexibility

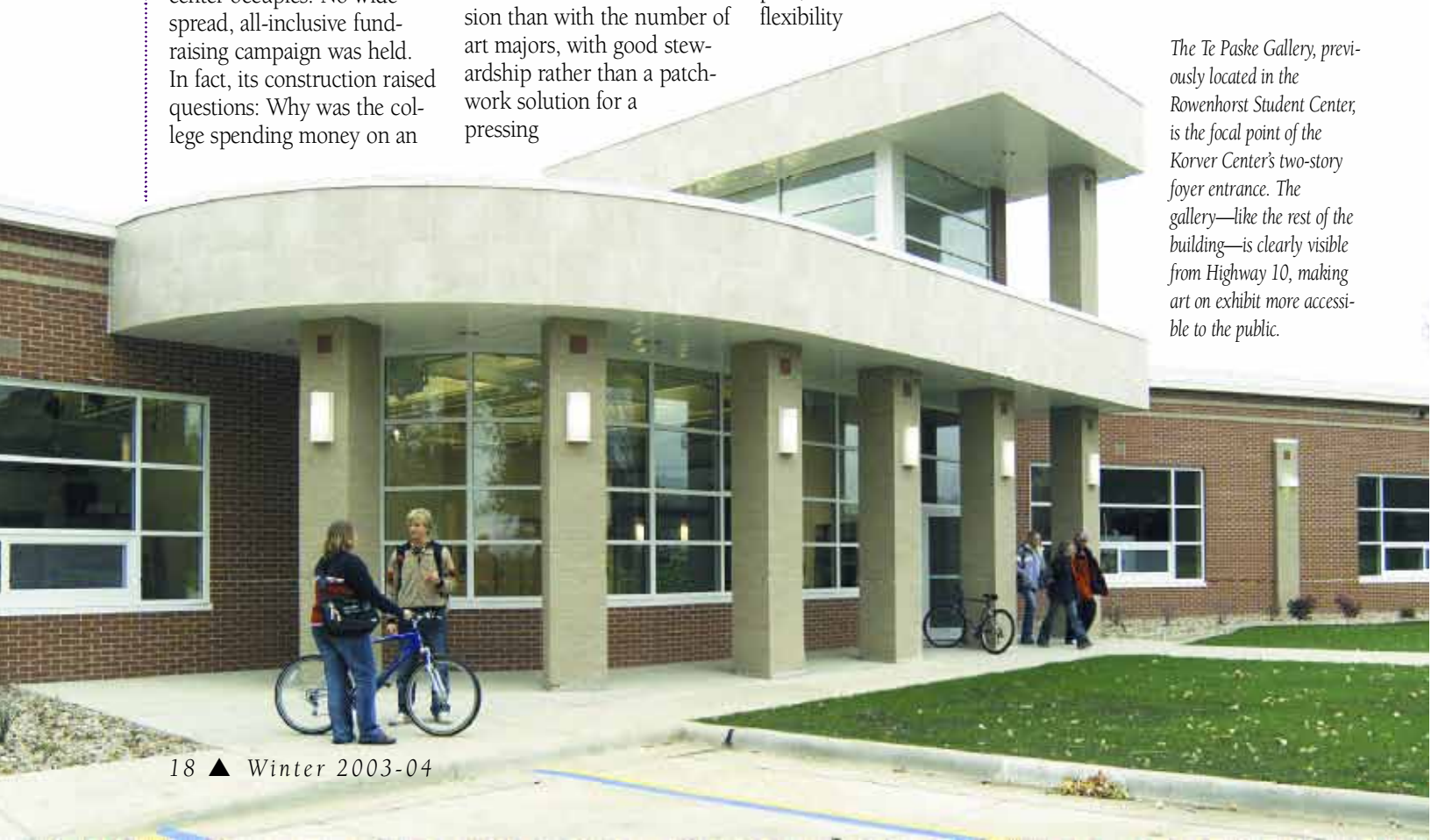
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"Master plans are meant to be a guide to institutional planning, but in every plan, there needs to be flexibility based on current needs."  
▲

based on current needs."

Doug Beukelman, vice president for financial affairs, oversees the college's construction projects. The decision to build, he says, was driven not by 15 art majors but by the more than 150 students who every year take the hands-on Introduction to Studio class.

"Because Northwestern is a liberal arts school, a lot of students go through the art department," he explains. "The department was never

The Te Paske Gallery, previously located in the Rowenhurst Student Center, is the focal point of the Korver Center's two-story foyer entrance. The gallery—like the rest of the building—is clearly visible from Highway 10, making art on exhibit more accessible to the public.



very big from the standpoint of majors, but for students to accomplish their general education requirements, they have to do a rotation through the arts—and for many students, their choice is the visual arts.”

Limited space in the Bushmer Art Center already meant computer graphics classes were taught in Van Peurse Hall and photography courses in Granberg Hall, while the art gallery was located in the Rowenhorst Student Center. When Karen Acker was hired in 2002 as a third professor in the art department, conditions became even more crowded.

“Karen was doing sculpture and ceramics,” Beukelman says, “and we didn’t have a place for that. Hiring her really rounded out the course offerings in the area, but what she was going to

▼  
*“We were at a critical stage of really having to make a commitment to the art department in order to make a statement to our students.”*  
 ▲

offer required space.”

The combination of limited facilities and high demand was interfering with learning. Peter De Jong, a junior elementary education major from Alton, recalls his

experience in a ceramics class in Bushmer.

“I’d get frustrated having to wait for other people to get out of the way,” he says. “I couldn’t get work done, so I’d just take off. It was a three-hour class, and I’d leave an hour early. There were no wheels and no table space.”

Even more critical was the need for a clean, safe working environment. Various art materials and techniques produce residue and fumes that are unsafe to breathe.

“Part of the problem with Bushmer was it wasn’t designed as an art building,” Beukelman says. “It was a little old creamery. So any ventilation issues got handled however best you could in an old building.”

Such health and safety issues made it cost prohibitive to add on to Bushmer. Any addition would have required upgrading the old building to current standards. Adding on also meant Northwestern’s art facilities would continue to be located off campus.

College administrators considered and rejected the idea of converting Ramaker Library into an art building after a new library is built. Not only would Ramaker require extensive renovation, but it’s better suited for much-needed classroom and faculty office space—plus it wouldn’t be available for another five to seven years.

“We were at a critical stage of really having to make a commitment to the

art department in order to make a statement to our students,” Beukelman says of the decision to construct a new building.

The Korver Center was built on land the college already owned. With the board’s approval, NWC financed construction costs with \$1.2 million in tax-exempt bonds, a naming gift

from the Clayton (Paul) Korver family, and the balance from the college’s plant fund—money already budgeted for campus construction and renovation.

The result is a building that makes a bold statement about Northwestern’s commitment to the visual arts, and that will serve students well for decades to come.



One hundred fifty students every year take an introductory art class.



▼  
*"There's an airiness in the building that is very conducive to doing creative work, and having the gallery in the Korver Center is definitely a plus. Students can see creative work within the building itself and use it as inspiration."*  
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Northwestern's art department makes the introductory course students take to fulfill their fine arts requirement as much like a studio class as possible. "We're very adamant that it is not a cerebral experience but a hands-on experience," says Professor Rein Vanderhill. "That's how you really learn about art: You do it."

# A Beautiful Place

*Students now have attractive, spacious setting in which to create*

by Anita Cirulis

Erin Patterson, a freshman from Three Lakes, Wis., got a tour of the new Korver Visual Arts Center when she visited Northwestern's campus this past summer.

"Pottery is my favorite thing to do," she says, "and when my tour guide brought me in here, I was, like, 'Yeah, this is awesome!'"

Patterson saw the building while it was still under construction. Now that it's completed, others are echoing her sentiments. Students

and faculty alike appreciate the new facility's attractive form-follows-function design and open feel, with oversized classrooms, large windows and high ceilings.

"There's so much more room," says junior art major Sophia DeBoer. "It's big, open spaces. This building was made for doing art. It's just an amazing difference from the old one."

Art department faculty members were involved in every aspect of the building's

design.

"We would state our needs and the architect came up with the solutions," says Rein Vanderhill, one of Northwestern's three art professors. "It's a good axiom to follow: Build a building that works well, and it will look good. You'll be happier in it, too."

Among the art department's needs were plenty of light, space to create, and good ventilation and air filtration systems.

"There's an airiness in the building that is very conducive to doing creative work," says Karen Acker, art department chair. "And hav-

▼  
*"This building was made for doing art. It's just an amazing difference from the old one."*  
 ▲



ing the gallery in the Korver Center is definitely a plus. Students can see creative work within the building itself and use it as inspiration.”

“We’ve gone from an inadequate, unsafe building to a complete art facility,” says Vanderhill. “We have ideal lighting, a safe, fresh environment, space and a beautiful building—all that together. Everything that was not in the last building is now created in the new one.”

### Doing What’s Asked

*continued from page 15*

Menning’s willingness to serve is evidenced throughout her life. Originally from Sheldon, Iowa, she graduated from Northwestern Junior College in 1951. After marrying Norman Menning ’52, whom she met at Northwestern, Fannie moved with him to Michigan, where she taught elementary school while he attended seminary.

Through the years, Fannie raised three children with her husband, taught in

Iowa and Michigan, and tutored homebound children in Nebraska. She also played an active role in her church, teaching Sunday school and vacation Bible school, serving as a regional officer for her denomination, training women’s Bible study leaders, singing in the choir and writing for the RCA devotional book, *Words of Hope*. For the past three years, she has served on the planning committee for the Bible League

*continued on page 22*



Constructed for \$1.8 million, the Korver Visual Arts Center covers 13,500 square feet and includes three multi-use studios for drawing, printmaking, painting, design and art education; a ceramics/sculpture studio with attached glaze and kiln rooms; etching and engraving press studios; a photo darkroom; a computer graphics classroom; and an art history/matting room.



Along with the new building came new equipment: kilns, printing presses, enlargers, pottery wheels and computers.

# From Historical to History

## *After 34 years, Bushmer no longer houses art department*

by Anita Cirulis



*Converted from a creamery to an art center in 1969, Bushmer was the envy of other departments and colleges.*

When Northwestern College's art department moved into its new home in the Korver Visual Arts Center, it left a building that had housed the department for 34 years.

By then, it was obvious the old Bushmer Art Center was antiquated, with insufficient space, poor ventilation, and inadequate heating and cooling systems.

That wasn't always the case, however. John Kaericher, professor of art, was teaching at Northwestern in 1969, the year the college converted the former Orange City Coop Creamery into a dedicated space for art, making his department the envy of others.

"I thought I was in Shangri-la," he says of the move from several classrooms in Van Peursem Hall to an art center that eventually had eight studios. "There was no other academic department in the college that had its own building at that time, and no other colleges in the area had a dedicated building just for the visual arts."

The creamery was the gift of Dr. Alexander Bushmer, a physician in Orange City. Once donated, it was fitted with interior half-walls, offices, counters and sinks. Later a partial second floor was added.

Remodeling didn't erase Bushmer's resemblance to a factory, but Kaericher says a brick floor and art deco look created by round windows gave it "a lot of good ambience for creating."

The building had its quirks. There never was any hot water in the restrooms, and in the winter, noisy garage heaters forced faculty to choose between heat and being able to speak in class. The lack of air conditioning made Bushmer uncomfortable at the start of the school year.

Still, faculty and students worked contentedly until growth caused them to run out of space. Solutions were proposed, including moving to another part of campus or building an annex to the Bushmer Art Center.

"I said I never wanted to move unless we got more square footage," Kaericher says. "Well, we did—a lot more square footage and a brand new building."

While Kaericher is thrilled with the Korver Visual Arts Center, a slight hint of wistfulness creeps into his voice as he remembers the building that was home to his teaching for more than three decades.

"It was old. It was past time to move," he admits. "But it was an excellent work building for years and held a lot of memories. Now it's just part of art history."

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### Doing What's Asked

*continued from page 21*

Retreat, an interdenominational regional event held annually in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Menning's retirement from teaching in 1987 came four years after completing the requirements for a bachelor's degree in elementary education from her alma mater. It also opened the door for a different avenue of service. Initially she worked as an assistant activities director at the Rock Rapids Care Center. Since 1991, she has been a certified residential instructor at Hope Haven in Rock Valley, where she helps disabled clients with their finances, takes them grocery shopping and to doctor's

appointments, and monitors their cooking and cleaning. Together with her husband, she conducts chapel services in senior care centers.

Menning has given of her time to Northwestern as well. She served two three-year terms on the college's National Alumni Board, belonged to the Women's Auxiliary and volunteered many hours as a committee member for NWC's Gala Auction fund-raiser.

"Jesus taught that if you've been given a gift, you have to use it, and if you use it, you'll be given more," says Menning. "I've certainly experienced that in my life."

# Irish Angel

by Emily Hennager '06

As sophomore Maggie Keelan confidently plucks out chords on her harp, she converses easily over the melody. Her hands seem to move on their own while she explains playing techniques and shares information about the latest trends in harp music.

Though her skill appears effortless, Keelan, a writing and rhetoric major from Lincoln, Neb., has years of hard work behind her. Playing since age nine and performing solo since 12, she now spends at least an hour a day practicing different musical genres like classical, Renaissance, popular and Irish Christmas music. However, the hours of practice aren't just another item on her schedule.

"I can't interpret it as a task but as a calling," Keelan says. "A calling is when your heart is devoted to a higher purpose than just the notes on a page."

To fulfill this calling, Keelan volunteers her talent at retirement homes, often playing seasonal music like Christmas carols or '30s and '40s Broadway love songs around Valentine's Day. She also takes her lap harp and

goes from room to room in the Alzheimer's unit, letting the residents choose what songs they want to hear.

"Always, the Alzheimer's patients—people who don't even know their names sometimes—will know the songs," Keelan says. "It's a blessing to be able to connect with the older generation and hear how music has touched their lives."

Keelan also uses her lap harp to play Disney songs for children's programs at the library and at a daycare for high-risk kids.

▼  
*"It's a blessing to be able to connect with the older generation and hear how music has touched their lives."*  
▲

Besides volunteering, Keelan performs between 50 and 75 times a year. She has played with the Lincoln Civic Orchestra, the Lincoln Youth Symphony and several chamber groups. Her music has graced over 400 weddings.



For Maggie Keelan, playing her harp is a calling—one that makes performing for Alzheimer's patients as fulfilling as performing with an orchestra.

Though she performs less during the school year, Keelan has used her talents in numerous ways on campus. She occasionally plays at chapel and at the Sunday night praise service, where she plays contemporary worship music. She also performed at Christmas Vespers and a Lilly Grant celebration, and has been known to give impromptu concerts for any interested students.

"If they want to play around, I'll give them a lesson," Keelan says. "A lot of people are curious because they've never seen a harp before."

On campus, Keelan

stores her mid-sized harp, which weighs 75 pounds, in DeWitt Music Hall. She has three other harps at home, including a concert grand weighing over 100 pounds.

Music is a family activity for Keelan, whose brother and parents are musicians as well. Her family was part of the reason she chose to play harp in the first place.

"We perform as a family so it was a nice complement to the ensemble," she explains. "Also, I'm Irish, and it's the national instrument of Ireland."

In 2001, Keelan released her first solo CD, *Ascension*. The title reflects music's ability

*continued on page 25*



## Fallsports



Jesse Ludens finds running room in the Raiders' 30-17 Homecoming loss to the University of Sioux Falls. Sioux Falls was the only team to beat NWC this year, also winning a quarterfinal-round playoff game, 33-7.

## Football

- Advanced to the quarterfinal round of the NAIA national playoffs, finishing with a 10-2 record.
- Ranked eighth in the final NAIA national ratings.
- Placed second in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) with a 9-1 record.
- Averaged more than 32 points per game while holding their opponents to 13.5.
- Quarterback Travis Kooima, wide receivers Karlton Hector and Jeremy Van Soelen, and defensive back Matt McCarty earned league player of the week honors.

## Volleyball

- Qualified for the NAIA regional tournament and finished with a 23-10 mark.
- Placed fourth in the GPAC

with an 11-5 record.

- Nationally ranked through the first half of the season.
- Sophomore middle hitter Maggie Freiborg was the national player of the week on Sept. 16 and earned NAIA All-America honorable mention. She set a school record with 1.75 blocks per game.
- Carli Blom, Taylor Cook and Mikyla Hardersen were named NAIA All-America Scholar-Athletes.

## Men's Soccer

- Compiled the best record in school history, 13-7-1, and advanced to the regional playoffs.
- Placed fifth in the conference with a 6-4-1 record.
- Anthony Flood was named an NAIA All-America honorable mention selection. The freshman from Dublin, Ireland, set a school record

with 19 goals and earned regional player of the week honors after scoring four goals in two games, including a hat trick.

## Women's Soccer

- Finished 5-12 overall, 10th in the GPAC with a 2-9 mark.
- Erin Beard, Stephanie Healy and Andrea Noordewier earned All-America Scholar-Athlete honors.

## Men's Golf

- Won the Briar Cliff Invitational.
- T.J. Korver was medalist at Briar Cliff and Ryan Anema placed first at Dordt.

## Women's Golf

- Placed eighth at the GPAC meet.

## Cross Country

- The women finished seventh at the GPAC meet; the men placed ninth.
- Magdalene Biesanz earned All-America Scholar-Athlete honors.

## Football/track complex renamed

As part of a multi-phase upgrade in facilities, Northwestern's football/track complex has been renamed from De Valois Field to De Valois Stadium.

"Using the term 'stadium' reflects the progress we've made on our outdoor athletic complex over the last several years, the plans we have for continued expansion, and the fact that the venue is much more than a football field," says President Bruce Murphy.

A year ago, NWC dedicated the new 7,250-square-foot football/track locker room and concession building and the eight-lane reconstructed polyurethane track. Other improvements at the complex included new sites for field events and renovation of the bleachers on the east side of the field.

In a joint project with the MOC-Floyd Valley School District and the city of Orange City, Northwestern plans to replace the current football field in De Valois Stadium with a new artificial playing surface next summer. The durable surface will allow the scheduling of additional football games, soccer games, early spring baseball and softball practices, band contests, and additional college and community activities.

The final phase of improvements, not currently on a timeline, is the renovation and expansion of the press box and bleachers on the west side of the field. Plans are to enclose the bleachers, creating more of a stadium feel, and build gateway entrances.

De Valois Field was named in 1971 in honor of Reuben De Valois, a 25-year member of the executive committee of Northwestern's board. De Valois, who served as chairman of the building committee when many campus buildings were constructed, donated a 200-acre farm near Woodstock, Minn., to the college.

## Prayercorner



The Rev. Harlan  
VanOort '82  
Chaplain

The theme for chapel during first semester was "Praying the Psalms: Language Adequate for the Complexities of Life." The five books of the Psalms compile the prayer textbook of the Bible, used not only by Jonah and Jesus, but by every person who has lived in Christian faith, hope and love.

The Psalms encourage a conversation with God befitting a close relationship. They teach a depth that requires honesty. Join with the people on Northwestern's campus in prayers taught in the Psalms. We are praying with/for:

- Hopefulness in what God promises to do
- Lament for the places of injustice
- Gratitude for creation
- Confidence in crisis
- Trust in God's gracious presence in the Holy Spirit
- Joy in the instruction of God's Word
- Doubt when we don't understand but pray anyway
- Happiness in a new beginning
- Deliverance from shame
- Victory over enemies
- Wisdom as we number our days
- Confession as we own our mistakes
- Searching for the steadfast love of God
- Complaints when the pain is great
- Praise for the kingdom of God fulfilled in the person of Jesus

Everything we do is in the presence of God. On Northwestern's campus, people talk to God while they study, and they learn in honest reflection about themselves and God. Please pray with us.

## Irish Angel

*continued from page 23*

ty to inspire, encourage and uplift, she explains. The album features a variety of styles, including Irish and sacred music, and has sold over 600 copies.

Though Keelan has performed at a variety of events, she strives to play her best regardless of how many people are in the audience.

"It's about the music and the gift of the music, not the company you're sharing it with. It's about impacting each person you can as personally as you can," she says. "Performing in the Alzheimer's unit is just as important as an orchestra concert. The music is all that matters."

## Deep-Sea Adventure

*continued from page 14*

nuclear-powered submarine that sunk in 1963, killing all 129 on board. Heemstra designed, built and operated a magnetometer that detected the sub's hull by revealing anomalies in the earth's magnetic field caused by the large mass of iron and steel on the ocean bottom. The magnetometer was part of a deep-sea probe, dubbed "The Fish" by Mizar's scientists, that also was equipped with cameras, strobe lights and other instrumentation. Thresher was found about 8,500 feet below the ocean's surface.

Later, Heemstra's research group was instrumental in successful searches for another Navy submarine, Scorpion, in 1968 and a French submarine, Eurydice, in 1970. In other missions, the Mizar crew located an H-bomb lost off the coast of Spain and found Le Baron Russell Briggs, a ship that was sunk with more than 400 canisters of nerve gas.

"I enjoyed my career. I was given freedom to experiment and develop things as long as it was in keeping with general assignments," says Heemstra. "It was a continual educational process, learning new things all the time. It was very exciting."

Heemstra received an award from the Navy for his individual accomplishments in the search for Thresher, and his team received a number of group awards. He also was awarded two patents as the sole inventor of magnetic sensors for use on weapons elevators of aircraft carriers.

"My boss always had confidence that I'd know how to do things. Of course, I didn't always know how to do them, but I found out," says Heemstra of his penchant for discovery.

Heemstra's assignments took him to numerous sites, including the Bahamas, Bermuda, England, France, Ireland, Scotland, Puerto Rico, Spain and the Virgin Islands. He was at sea four to five times a year, usually from two to four weeks at a time. In 1967, he spent 153 days on the ocean.

"I probably put in more sea duty than most career Navy men did," he says with a smile.

"I developed a love for the sea as well as science," says Heemstra, now 80 and still a subscriber to *Scientific American*. "What I had thought would be a job turned out to be a great and memorable adventure."

## Faculty Position Openings

Northwestern has positions available for faculty in business, English/poetry, philosophy, religion and Spanish. For more information, see [www.nwciowa.edu/about/employment](http://www.nwciowa.edu/about/employment).

## Alumnicorner



**Karen Woudstra**  
'79, Director of  
Alumni and Parent  
Relations

The last weekend in October, I attended a Women of Faith conference in Omaha with 9,000 other women from across the Midwest. What an awesome time it was to get together as a group, praise the Lord and be encouraged in our Christian walk. There is something special that happens at these conferences when everyone is sharing a common bond.

Northwestern held Homecoming weekend Oct. 10-12, and we had a great turnout. People came from all over the country representing many eras, reconnecting with friends and the college. At Northwestern, we as alumni also share a common bond. We've attended a college whose foundation is God and his Word. We were challenged to learn how our faith should be integrated into everything, whether in our major discipline or in our co-curricular activities.

When we gather back on campus, it doesn't matter if we've lost touch over the years, because we will always have a common bond to talk about when our memory fails us! When I attended my reunion a few years ago, I found it didn't matter if I couldn't remember much about college days. I still enjoyed seeing how people had changed, hearing what had happened in their lives and learning how they had grown in their faith. It was fun reading articles in old issues of the *Beacon* about what was happening while I was at NWC. Some memories started coming back, and I reconnected with the college and many friends. It was great!

This year the classes of '63, '78, '93 and '98 gathered for a photo and dinner. Next year we plan to host the classes of '64, '79 (my class!), '94 and '99. I'm always open to classes giving me input about what they'd like to do at their reunion, so feel free to contact me if your class is meeting next year. If you'd like to help call your classmates to encourage them to come or organize a calling committee, that would be awesome—and it really does work!

The classes in the '80s aren't having a reunion for awhile, so I'm also open to having a cluster group of four or five years gather, if anyone is interested. Some classes enjoy sit-down dinners; other classes like a pizza party or picnic outing for their reunion. But whatever the format, most people walk away saying they really enjoyed coming.

That's my desire as Northwestern's alumni director: to provide a place and relaxed atmosphere where reconnecting takes place. The campus has changed a lot through the years, but I hope as alumni come back for reunions, Morning on the Green, games, plays or other activities, they feel that something special happens when they get together as the Northwestern community. We will always have that common bond that won't change, and I praise God for what he's doing and has done in alums' lives as they share the journey they've been on.

Come back for a visit and see what's happening at NWC any time!

## Deaths

**E. John Bloemendaal** '26, age 95, died on Sept. 11 at the hospital in Rock Valley, Iowa. After attending Northwestern Academy, he graduated from Grundy College and the College of Dentistry at the University of Minnesota. He married Bea Main in 1930. He practiced dentistry in Orange City for 40 years after stints in Sheldon and New York City, where he was the first dentist in the Public Health Service assigned to the Coast Guard during World War II. Among his survivors are a son, **Jack** '60; a daughter, **Jan** '76; and a brother, **Hilbert** '27.

**Gladys (Bloemendaal) Mulder** '33, '35, '66 died Nov. 2 at a nursing home in West Branch, Iowa. She was 88. She married Eugene Mulder in 1939 and taught first grade in Newkirk, Hawarden and the Maurice-Orange City School District. The Mulders later lived in Des Moines and Iowa City before returning to Orange City in 2000. She was a member of American Reformed Church, where she sang in the choir and taught Sunday school. Her survivors include a daughter, **Pamela Nelson** '68; and three sisters, **Marge Freriks** '29, **Myrtle Vandenberg** '39, and **Phyllis Tuiniga** '41.

**Leon Roggen Sr.** '42, age 80, died on Sept. 8 in Tulsa. A graduate of Hope College, he married **Edna Blom** '42 in 1944. He was stationed in the South Pacific with the Navy during World War II and was recalled to active duty during the Korean conflict. He was a partner in Roggen and Ford Bookkeeping in Orange City for many years and retired to Bella Vista, Ark., in 1992. A longtime member of Orange City's Trinity Reformed Church, he served as an elder, deacon and Sunday school teacher. He also was active in the Gideons. He is survived by his wife; a son, the **Rev. Leon** '72; three daughters; a brother; and three sisters.

**Eileen (Brower)** '50 **Westerbeek**, 73, died at her home in Goshen, Ind.,

on Oct. 29. She taught in a one-room school house for two years. She married Boudewyn Westerbeek in 1950 and moved to Goshen the following year. A member of Goshen Christian Reformed Church, she taught Sunday school, sang in the choir and participated in women's ministries. She was treasurer of the Goshen Christian Women's Club. Her survivors include her husband; three daughters; a son; and a sister, **Frieda Massey** '60.

**Angeline Vande Brake** '52, age 72, died Oct. 1 at an Orange City nursing home. She graduated from Westmar College and taught in Marcus and Sioux City. Later, she made her home in Orange City, where she was employed at Northwestern State Bank and the Orange City Public Library. She was a member of First Reformed Church, where she volunteered for the Missionary Assistance Committee, sang in the choir and taught Sunday school classes. Among her survivors are a brother and a sister.



**Don Vander Stoep**  
'60, '62, a former  
member of  
Northwestern's  
development  
staff, died Oct.  
11 at Fairview-  
University  
Medical Center

in Minneapolis, where he had undergone open-heart surgery on Oct. 2. He was 63.

A fund-raiser at NWC from 1978-88, Vander Stoep served as vice president of development during the last six years of his tenure. He played a key role in raising funds for such projects as the Rowenhorst Student Center, Christ Chapel/Performing Arts Center and DeWitt Music Hall.

"Don was a superb fund-raiser," said Dr. Jim Bultman, Northwestern's president from 1985-99. "Everything I know about fund raising, Don taught me. We enjoyed strategizing together and implementing the plans. I'll never forget his



positive attitude and his perseverance in overcoming adversity."

After resigning from Northwestern because of severe coronary artery disease that resulted from diabetes, Vander Stoep operated a fund-raising and strategic planning consulting firm and served as coordinator of special gifts for the Reformed Church in America's Foundation. He also was Orange City's mayor from 1994-2001, originally elected as a write-in candidate.

Vander Stoep, who earned a master's degree in educational psychology from the University of South Dakota, served as a teacher, coach and guidance counselor in the Maurice-Orange City School District for 15 years before joining Northwestern's staff. He had been a consistency member at First Reformed Church.

Among his survivors are his wife, Alyce Faye; three daughters, **Jill Pluim '87**, **Alyson '93** and **Emily '95**; a son, **Jack '90**; and a sister.

### '51

**Andy Miedema**, Alton, Iowa, taught school for 36 years. All five of his children have taught school; three still do. Son Rob works for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and has an office on Northwestern's campus.

### '63

**LeRoy Kraai**, Albert City, Iowa, retired from teaching four years ago. Since then, he has been busy traveling, working around the house and helping to make stained glass windows and panels for Kountry Glass.

### '64

**Roger Wyngarden**, Constantine, Mich., is praising God that his wife's ovarian cancer has been in remission for a year. Roger and Leona have four sons and six grandchildren.

### '68

**Ted De Hoogh** and his wife, **Noreen (De Jager '65)**, Sioux Center, are

enjoying retirement and their grandchildren. Ted was an art teacher for 33 years. Noreen spent 27 years in education—six as a teacher and the rest as a business manager. She also retired after directing the children's choir at First Reformed Church in Orange City for 38 years.

### '73

**Cornie Wassink**, Northwestern's director of planned giving, served as head umpire at the NCAA Div. I national cross country meet at the University of Northern Iowa in November.

### '78

**Bev (Bouwman) Rosenboom** is in her first year as an elementary principal for the Meade School District in Sturgis, S.D.

**LaVonne (Meyer) Witte** teaches elementary special education in the Rock Valley, Iowa, Community School District as an employee of Area Education Agency Four. Her husband, **Scott '79**, is an administrator with Hope Haven. The Wittes have three children: Seth, a sophomore at Northwest Iowa Community College; Sara, a high school sophomore; and Erica, an eighth grader.

### '79

**Lisa (Tutt) Jones** teaches fourth grade in the Iowa City Community School District.

### '81

**Chuck (Steve) Stevenson** and his wife, Jane, live in Laughlin, Nev., where he has worked for the Edgewater Hotel and Casino as a waiter in the buffet for the past 15 years. He was selected as the company's employee of the month last November.

### '82

**Debi De Valois**, Hemet, Calif., writes that she has discovered a love for the theatre and is enrolled in theatre courses at Mount San Jacinto Community College. She just finished doing a classical theatre show-

case in which she performed two soliloquies with some seasoned Shakespearean performers.

**Kurt Rubsam**, a biologist for Earth Tech, was on the crew that cleaned up after the Columbia space shuttle disaster last March. He spent three weeks in Texas looking for shuttle parts and working as the health and safety training officer for the entire work crew (Environmental Protection Agency, NASA and sub-contractors). His wife, **Diane (Inselman '81)**, is a certified medical assistant in medical transcription with Aurora Health Care in Sheboygan, Wis. The Rubsams live in Oostburg with their four children: Jeff (18), Stephanie (13), Jacob (11) and Matthew (7).

### '83

**John Vander Stelt** was commissioned to create a painting commemorating the 90th anniversary of Wells' Dairy. The painting was unveiled Sept. 30 at the Blue Bunny Ice Cream Parlor in Le Mars. "Ice Cream Daze" shows company founder Fred Wells Jr. scooping ice cream at an old-fashioned soda fountain to a young man in a baseball uniform. Models for the painting were Austin Janssen '07 as the baseball player and John's son, Jack, as the little boy. John is senior designer at American Identity in Orange City.



**Lee Van Wyhe** is now the vice president/information technology manager at First Federal Bank in Sioux

City. He previously was director of information technology at Terra Industries.

### '84

**Donna (Heerspink) Bunce** has a new position as classis youth coordinator for the Christian Reformed Church in Zeeland, Mich. Her responsibilities include training, supporting and developing youth programs within the Zeeland Classis, which includes 20 churches.

### '85

**Bob Vander Plaats** has formed a consulting firm, MVP Leadership Inc. A Republican Party candidate for governor of Iowa in 2002, Vander Plaats served Opportunities Unlimited in Sioux City for seven years until resigning in February.

### '88

**Kevin Van Veldhuizen** has been playing professional basketball in Europe's International Basketball Federation for 13 years. He has been with the Oliveirense team in Portugal for four seasons.

### '89

**Kim (Cook) Looman**, Holland, Mich., is enjoying being a stay-at-home mom for the second year. Her oldest son, Trevor, is attending kindergarten at Holland Christian, where Kim taught for eight years. Kim's husband, Tim, continues to work at Herman Miller in computers.

**Michelle (Skinner) Ritenour** has quit teaching seventh grade to be a stay-at-home mom. Her husband, **Shawn**, is an assistant professor of economics at Grove City College in Pennsylvania. The Ritenours can be reached at [ritensr@yahoo.com](mailto:ritensr@yahoo.com).

**Paula Wanken** has moved from the Chicago area to near San Antonio to be close to her sister, **Julie (Wanken '85) Gillen**, and her family. Paula is the administrative assistant to the dean of the School of Health Professions at Baptist Health System.

## Miniprofile

## Gratefully Busy

by Amy Scheer

Talk to Lois (Litka) Gruis some Sunday afternoon, and you'll find she's already had a full day. Two Sundays a month she plays the organ and directs the bell choir for Sheldon United Methodist Church in Iowa; the second Sunday, she's the organist for Emmanuel Presbyterian of Rushmore, Minn.; and on the fourth Sunday, she directs the bell choir at First Lutheran of Worthington, Minn.

Add to that her weekly 50-60 private organ, piano and vocal students (she's lost count), and she's hardly got time to sort the music that's been piling up in her van.

A demanding schedule for anyone, not just for 76-year-old Gruis. Even more remarkable than her energetic lifestyle, however, is

that 30 years ago she had difficulty speaking, let alone teaching or directing music.

Born with a cleft palate, the Bigelow, Minn., native always had put aside her dream of becoming a classroom teacher. She studied organ and taught a few students privately, but it was not until 1972 that Gruis got her "miracle": the ability to speak clearly, thanks to a prosthetic device called an obturator. She was quick to enroll at Northwestern, taking as many credits as she could manage with two kids at home in Sheldon. And in 1976, at the age of 48, Gruis graduated with a music major and an English minor.

"I thanked God for the chance to be a teacher," says Gruis, who taught music for the next 14 years, sharing time between schools in



At age 76, Lois Gruis still makes music with scores of piano, organ and vocal students.

Sioux City, Le Mars and Ocheyedan, Iowa.

In 1989, she paused to marry Hank, who showed up at her doorstep 50 years after they last saw each other, saying, "Remember me?" Their 100-year-old farmhouse in Worthington has seen and heard many students since then, some pounding out notes with mom close at hand (Gruis asks that parents attend the lessons—the "triangle of love," she calls it), many returning for a visit to their

former teacher.

When Gruis isn't teaching and Hank isn't helping someone farm, they make time for travel. They've seen most of the country by train, and Alaska by van, sleeping on their vehicle's floor at night. Hank has prostate cancer, so they live day by day, says Gruis. "That's what you have to do, don't you?"

This Christmas, Gruis assembled her students and bell choirs for their fourth annual Christmas recital in the Worthington area. It's hard to believe all this seemed impossible at one time. "I just needed a chance," she says of her long journey toward becoming a teacher. "Northwestern sure gave me the chance."

She also puts her teaching degree to use as a part-time tutor with Sylvan Learning Center.

## '90

Dawn (Knipple) Huizinga, Owatonna, Minn., writes to relate a story of God answering prayer at the right time. She and her husband, Tony '89, had been planning on going to October's

## Alumni: What's New with You?

Let us know so we can tell your friends and classmates. Send to: Office of Public Relations, Northwestern College, 101 7th St. SW, Orange City, IA 51041. Or e-mail to beeson@nwcioa.edu; fax number is 712-707-7370. Deadline for the spring *Classic* is Jan. 16.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Praise Gathering in Indianapolis for months, but as the date neared, they felt they couldn't afford the cost of meals and lodging. The day after they started praying about whether they should go, Dawn found out that her recipe for Pork Chop and Potato Bake won the \$500 first-place prize in *Quick Cooking* magazine's slow-cooker contest. The recipe will be featured in the magazine's January/February 2004 issue. The Huizingas used their winnings to attend the conference, and said they had a wonderful time worshipping with 11,000 other people.

**'91**

**Tim Snyder**, Larchwood, Iowa, is in his third year as principal at West Lyon Elementary School. His wife, **Sheri (Hoogveen)**, is an office manager at Howalt McDowell Insurance in Sioux Falls.

**'92**

**Capt. Lisa (Burris) Ciccarelli's** family now lives in Santa Clara, Calif., where she is a flight commander in charge of satellite operations for a multi-billion dollar space program at Onizuka Air Force Station. Her husband, Chris, heads up the machine shop at Hi-Tech Manufacturing in

Campbell. Their daughter, Ally (4), is in pre-kindergarten.

**Mike Jacobsma** is now a full partner with the Klay, Veldhuizen, Bindner, De Jong and Jacobsma law firm in Orange City. He also teaches constitutional law and criminal law classes at Dordt College. His wife, **Jill (Huisken '93)**, has been promoted to the scheduling department at MED-TEC as a production planning coordinator.

**The Rev. Jason Olson**, a May graduate of Western Theological Seminary, is pastor of Crossroads Community Church in Estherville, Iowa.

**'93**

**Brian Dirkx** teaches third grade at Sacred Heart School in Spencer, Iowa, and serves as assistant baseball coach. His wife, **Michele (Koopmans)**, teaches English and is the head volleyball coach at Spencer High School.

**Lori De Jongh-Slight** is the head volleyball coach at Northwest Missouri State University. She was head coach at Des Moines Area Community College for the last four years. Her husband, Jay, is principal and athlet-



*Members of the Class of 1963 gathering at Homecoming included: (front row, left to right) John De Zeeuw, Ella (Duistermars) De Zeeuw, Twila Netten, Ken Netten; (second row) Paul Aykens, Carole (Kolenbrander) Aykens, June Van Oort, Betty (Fonkert) Ferrell; (third row) Jan (Hoogveen) Peters, Judith (Herzog) Symens and Darryl Turnwall.*

ic director at Nodaway High School in Hopkins. They live in Maryville with their son, Nicholas (2).

**'94**

**Jamie (Van Ruler) DeJong** is a stay-at-home mom in Leota, Minn. She also serves as bookkeeper for the trucking business that her husband, Ivan, operates.

**'95**

**Joel Kraai** works at a bank in Denver and attends seminary part time. His wife, **Lisa (Jarvis)**, is a paralegal.

**'96**

**Bryce Assink** is a research chemist for Pfizer in Portage, Mich. His wife, **Darcie (Dop)**, is a stay-at-home mom.

**The Rev. Jill (Zeiger) Ver Steeg** is minister of spiritual formation at Meredith Drive Reformed Church in Des Moines. She graduated from Western Theological Seminary in May.

**'97**

**Shannon (Claude) Cagle** and her husband, Wayne, live in Kent, Wash. She is a stay-at-home mom for their children, Jenna (4) and Noah (2), and is working toward a master's degree in teaching.

**Shiran Nathaniel**, Monte Vista, Colo., is the operations manager for Sodexo Campus Services at Adams State College. His wife, **Kristi (Nieuwendorp '98)**, stays at home with their three children.

**'98**

**Lisa (Van Middendorp) De Smit** and her husband, Troy, live in Carmel,



*Celebrating their 25th reunion were these members of the Class of 1978: (front row, left to right) Evan Peuse '76, Shawn (Duistermars) Peuse, Shelley Heijerman, Mark Heijerman, Ruth (Korver '81) Landegent, David Landegent; (second row) Duane Beeson, Aletha (Koele) Beeson, Rob Van't Land, Bonnie (Hoskins '82) Van't Land, Debbie (Sinkey) Rensink, Clyde Rensink '77; (third row) Duane Feekes, Marilyn (Tjeerdsma) Feekes, Jim Mickelson, Kim (Witte) Mickelson, Deb (Dunlop) De Haan, Dennis De Haan, Lori (Vander Veen '82) Vander Laan, David Vander Laan; (fourth row) Earl Woudstra, Karen (De Boer '79) Woudstra, Jeff Meyn, Cheri (Block '77) Meyn, Connie (Burgardt) Eekhoff, Tammy (DeNeui '77) Sneller and Wayne Sneller.*



Miniprofile

# Alumna collects library award

by Emily Hennager '06

As a library work-study student at Northwestern, Deborah (Van Egdom '76) Hagemeyer never dreamed of someday being named South Dakota's Librarian of the Year. Yet that's exactly what happened this fall.

Hagemeyer, technical services librarian at Augustana College's Mikkelsen Library, was recognized by the South Dakota Library Association for outstanding contributions to effective and improved library service in the community.

"I've been very involved, to the point where I know most of the librarians in the state," Hagemeyer says. "I've been fortunate enough to be included in key groups who were making decisions."

Hagemeyer, who has worked at Augustana in Sioux Falls for 18 years, also credits her co-workers for

helping her succeed.

"I have tremendous colleagues. They've made working at Augustana a real pleasure. We encourage each other to try new projects and support each other in that regard," she says.

Ronelle Thompson, director of Mikkelsen Library, was a member of the group that nominated Hagemeyer for the award.

"Her vision of what libraries can and should be, coupled with her passion to provide excellent library services, is an amazing combination," says Thompson.

Hagemeyer understands the changing role of libraries in the community.

"We're not a building with walls anymore," she explains. "We provide a service that extends beyond that. The easier we can make it for people to access the information they need when they need it, the better we are."

Technology has trans-

formed the way Hagemeyer and her colleagues provide these services.

"What I do now hardly bears any resemblance to what I did 18 years ago," Hagemeyer reflects.

"Technology has changed everything. When I first started, the library had three computers. Now we have 30 for the staff alone and another 30 for visitors to use."

A biology major at Northwestern, Hagemeyer was considering going into optometry after graduation. However, as a senior she no longer could see herself in that field. She realized how much she enjoyed her work-study job in the library and began to think about related career possibilities.

"I found there was such a thing as medical libraries in hospitals and medical schools, and I started looking at library science as an alternative," she recalls.

Hagemeyer went on to



Deborah Hagemeyer, named South Dakota's Librarian of the Year, first became interested in her career as a work-study student at NWC.

earn a master's degree in library science from the University of Iowa. Before moving to Sioux Falls, she worked at the Iowa Hospital Association and at an environmental engineering firm. Still, she looks back at her time at NWC as being fundamental to her career.

"My experience at Northwestern really gave me this sense of purpose and vocation. I feel that being a librarian is God's calling for me," she said. "To me, winning the award is an affirmation of that calling."

Iowa. Lisa is publications secretary at First Reformed Church in Sioux Center.

**Dawn Huibregtse** graduated with an M.B.A. in finance and strategic management from the University of Chicago in June. She works in corporate finance for Harris Bank in Chicago.

**Cam Olson** received an M.B.A. degree from Palm Beach Atlantic University in May. He serves as athletic director and coaches varsity

basketball, track and cross country at Lake Worth Christian School in Florida.

**Cory Petersen** is a marketing representative for Auto-Owners Insurance Company in Lincoln, Neb. His wife, **Daphne (Baack '01)**, is employed by McBride and Associates as an executive director/lobbyist for several professional associations. They serve as youth group sponsors at their church.

**Amanda Reeves** is now the creative

director for Family Harvest Church in Tinley Park, Ill.

**Ryan Stander** graduated from North American Baptist Seminary after presenting a master's thesis on theology and the arts. He lives in Sioux Falls and works as an admissions counselor for the seminary.

**Betsy Van Noord** is pursuing a Master of Social Work degree at the University of Illinois-Chicago. She also is completing an internship at the Salvation Army and serving as a

nanny. Previously, she taught fourth grade at a small Christian school in Gurnee, Ill., and fifth grade in a public school on Chicago's West Side.

## '99

**Karla Cook** moved in September to Las Vegas, where she works for HealthSouth. She assists physical therapists with patient treatment three times a week and works weekday afternoons as head athletic trainer at Cimarron Memorial High School, supervising high school student trainers.

**Rebecca (Vugteveen) and Jake Killinger** have moved from Rapid City, S.D., to Springfield, Ill., where Jake is enjoying his work at Hope Evangelical Free Church.

**Laura Netten** is participating in a missionary internship program, the Luke 10 Challenge, for Mission to Unreached Peoples. She is serving with a team of missionaries in Gorzow, Poland, through June 2004. She was youth director for Orange City's Trinity Reformed Church for four years.

**Amy (Harder) Schumann** received a master's degree in Spanish with a teaching emphasis through the University of Northern Iowa in May. She lives in Wauke, Iowa.

## '00

**Melissa (Muecke) and Jason Flanagan** have moved from Iowa City to Oregon, Wis. Melissa graduated from physical therapy school in December 2002. Jason is working toward a master's degree in genetic counseling.

**The Rev. Michael Hardeman** graduated from Western Theological Seminary in May and is pastor of



*Alumni from the Class of 1993 enjoying their class reunion were: (front row, left to right) Corey Harthoorn, Sharon (Davidson '94) Harthoorn, Rebecca (Luken) Jacoby, Troy Turnwall, Ann (Sybesma) Korver, Kris Korver '92, Jeremy Vance, Jill Vance; (second row) Wendy (Tigchon) Sterk, Shane Sterk, Dana (Smith) Daniels, Jill (Wassenaar) Reindl, Steve Korthuis, Robin (Bajema) Korthuis, Kristin (Fischer) Smith, Paul Smith; (third row) Brett Groen, Joline Schultz, Amy deVries, Nathan deVries, Jason Olson '92, Kristen (Te Grotenhuis) Olson, Wendy Jo (Fastenow) Meyers, Stephen Meyers; (fourth row) Amy Whetsel, Kent Redeker, Heidi (Hensley '94) Tschetter, Brian Tschetter, Darla (Hansen) Ubben, Eugene Ubben, David Hanson and Rachel (Zylstra) Hanson.*

Alton, Iowa, Reformed Church.

**The Rev. Troy Van Beek**, a May graduate of Western Theological Seminary, is pastor of First Reformed Church in Fremont, Mich.

## '01

**Stephen Bloom**, Marathon, Iowa, is operations manager for Bloom

Farms and Bloom Farms Interstate Harvesting.

**Malissa Kraft** is in her third year of the Doctor of Psychology degree program at Wheaton College Graduate School.

A paper on Genevieve Taggard by **Alison Van Nyhuis** has been pub-

lished in HOW2, an online journal for modern and contemporary women's writing. Alison is a Ph.D. student in English at the University of Florida.

## '02

**Nathan Huisman** and his wife, **Stephanie (Ells '03)**, are both pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Western Theological Seminary.

**Amanda Magnuson** is a graduate student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is pursuing a master's degree in English with a creative writing emphasis.

**Sarah Yoder** is a graduate student in English and rhetoric at Texas Christian University, where she is the recipient of the Radford Fellowship in Rhetoric and Composition.

## '03

**Amber Bolkema** is employed at Wells Fargo Financial Bank in Sioux Falls.

**Ajay Eshcol** is a research assistant for a cardiologist in the internal medicine department at the University of Iowa Hospital.



*1998 alumni gathering for their reunion at Homecoming were: (front row, left to right) Brian Boote, Jim Daniels, Julie Hofkamp, Jen (Rhinehart) Nathaniel, Sean Nathaniel, Damon Huibregtse, Jon Oosterhuis; (second row) Tara (Meyer) Madsen, Paul Smith, Jennie (Wolf) Smith, Jason Robertson, Kristin (King) Robertson, Emily (Eller) Vander Waal, Betsy Van Noord, Sarah (Ubben) Hofland, Amber (Soldan) Widstrom; (third row) Marla Van Steenis, Jill (Godeke) Hugen, Matt Hugen, Amy Wallace, Sarah (Huizenga) Kinne, Patrick Kinne, Leah (Evans) Schmidt and Cathy (Painter) Vande Hoef.*

## Planned givingnotes



Cornie Wassink '73  
Director of  
Planned Giving

### It keeps giving and giving and giving

The little "Energizer Bunny" in the commercial promoting long-lasting battery power reminds me of the enduring character of an endowment fund. Once established, it just keeps paying out money year after year after year. But unlike the battery that eventually runs down, the endowment fund lasts in perpetuity. (And perpetuity is a long time.)

The permanence of an endowment is exactly what attracts some of our donors to this means of supporting Northwestern College. They like the idea that the principal of their gift will stay intact while the income, or at least a good part of it, will be used for a worthy cause. They realize they will be gone someday, and their outright annual gifts will no longer be available to help meet current needs. But through an endowment, they can keep making their annual gifts.

Some endowment donors are attracted to the opportunity an endowment gives to memorialize a loved one or other respected person. They use this means to bring honor and recognition.

Some very thoughtful donors want to establish an endowment in their own name as a means to place themselves on permanent record as persons who believe in and support a particular program or cause. In effect, these donors are saying, "My scholarship endowment lets me invest my name and influence in an area of study or a program I feel very strongly about."

An endowment can be created during life or at death through a bequest or trust remainder. It can be restricted to specific needs or unrestricted for general use. You can create your own endowment or contribute to one that already exists. Endowments can be made at once with a single gift or established over time with repeated gifts. Endowments can originate from a single source or through the efforts and support of many persons.

Endowments are especially useful in drawing other family members into the giving arena. For example, grandparents who establish an endowment in the family's name are providing their children and grandchildren with a continuing tie to Northwestern as well as a means for them to enjoy the satisfaction of seeing "their" annual endowment grant benefit a worthy cause.

There are other good reasons for tapping into endowment opportunities at NWC. You owe it to yourself and your family to consider this charitable option.

At Northwestern College, we have developed sound policies for creating and managing our endowment funds. This information is available upon request. Also, we can show you a variety of ways you can use the tools of gift planning to make an endowment dream come true. We will be happy to discuss this exciting area of philanthropy with you.

The reply form below will let us know how to assist you. Please take a moment to fill it out and mail it in. We will respond immediately. If you would rather talk to someone in the development office, call us at 712-707-7106 or e-mail me at cwassink@nwciowa.edu.

(Please complete and return this reply form.)

\_\_\_ Please send me more information about the endowment program at Northwestern College.

\_\_\_ I am interested in establishing an endowment; please contact me.

\_\_\_ Please send me information about the Northwestern College Heritage Society.

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E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Development Office, Northwestern College, 101 7th St. SW, Orange City, IA 51041.

**Sara Grieme** received a Promising Teacher Award from the Iowa Council of Teachers of English and Language Arts in October. She teaches at Hartford, Iowa, Middle School.

**Andrew Paterik** is the director of worship and music at Crete, Ill., Reformed Church.

**Andrea (Brummel) Taylor** is working full time at First Reformed Church in Rock Valley as the worship, senior high youth and music director. Her husband, Jason, is the church's education, junior high and young adults director.

**Emily Van Roekel** is a social worker at Hillcrest Health Plaza in Bellevue, Neb.

**Aubrey Van Sloten** is teaching third grade in Houston. Five other NWC grads moved to Houston for teaching jobs this year. Aubrey lives with **Carmen Kaemingk** and **Nicky Sanders '02**. **Art '02** and **Pam (Menschner) De Vos** and **Angela Vande Brake '02** also live in the same complex and enjoy having their Texas Northwestern community as a home away from home.

**Julie (Rutz) Wondercheck** is the children's ministry director at Hope Community Church in Lincoln, Neb. Her husband, **Jordan**, is substitute teaching.

**Brandon Woudstra** is playing professional basketball in Iceland. He is the only American on the UMFN-Njardvik team, based in a suburb outside of Keflavik. The squad plays in the Epson League, Iceland's top association, in the International Basketball Federation.

### '04

**Eric Haley** is pursuing a bachelor's degree in elementary education at Emporia State University in Kansas. He earned an associate's degree from Johnson County Community College last summer.

### New Arrivals

Doris and **Jan George '85**, daughter, Sydney Janea, joins Mikayla and Peyton.  
Michelle and **Brian Boscaljon '86**,



## Miniprofile



Arlis Folkerts's creativity in getting children to read helped her win a teacher-librarian award given by the Manitoba School Library Association.

## Folkerts soaks students in learning

by Duane Beeson

From her first day as the teacher-librarian at Angus McKay School in Winnipeg, Manitoba, teachers and students alike realized that Arlis (Wassink '81) Folkerts was not a stereotypical librarian.

The pillow-lined claw-footed bathtub she hauled in had something to do with it.

"Kids fight to read in it," says second-grade teacher Nicole Smith.

In other efforts to immerse students in reading, Folkerts had students make "story gloves" with tiny props on each finger to help them tell a story visually; assigned children to create a "bio in a box," a compilation of written information and visuals about a person whose biography they had read, arranged inside a pizza box; and taught students how to use plasticine art to create their favorite book characters.

"What makes Arlis extraordinary is her creativity, willingness to try new things, technological knowledge as well as curricular, and her professional ability to work well with everyone on staff," says Smith.

The Manitoba School Library Association agreed with Smith's assessment of Folkerts, naming her the 2003 Outstanding Teacher-Librarian of the Year for the province.

"The award is great," says Folkerts, "but the value in it for me is that my staff were the ones who nominated me. Their words of appreciation and support really touched me."

That affirmation made it especially tough for the Sioux Center native to leave her teacher-librarian position this fall to become the full-time assessment consultant for the River East Transcona School Division. She had served half time in both roles for the previous two years.

"I loved taking literature or a curriculum theme and making it come alive for kids. I'm sure I'll come back to the library someday," she says. "But now I can devote my energies to one job."

As assessment consultant, Folkerts works with administrators and teachers in 45 schools to measure their success in meeting standards and strategize on how to improve. She offers workshops to help new teachers understand classroom-based assessment, and she organizes divisional tests.

"I always find it a challenge to take the numbers—how students did in their school and divisionally—and transform it into something that's meaningful for the school and teacher, to help them see growth over time."

Folkerts, who spent 17 years at Winnipeg's Calvin Christian School as a teacher and librarian and later served as a regional consultant for the Manitoba Department of Education, had an inauspicious introduction to the teaching field. Planning to attend Northwestern for only one year, she enrolled in a Foundations of Education course because her roommate, Renita (Te Slaa '80) Kahlstorf, was in it.

"I loved it," says Folkerts. "It was one of those life-changing experiences that you don't realize at the time."

Perhaps like developing a love for books while sitting in a tub.

daughters by adoption from Haiti, Wendy Jennifer Michaelle (8) and Seréa Desirée (2), join Jonathan (11), Michaela (8), Jessica (4) and Joshua (2). Tim and Kim (Cook '89) Looman, son, Wesley Scott, joins Trevor (6). Michelle (Skinner '89) and Shawn Ritenour '89, daughter by adoption, Helena Sophia. Jody (Klein '91) and Milo McDowell '92, son, Jacob Robert, joins

Colin (3) and Ryan (1). Al and Rhonda (Friese '91) Slight, son, Samuel John, joins Jessica (1). Sheri (Hoogveen '91) and Tim Snyder '91, son, Payton, joins Brandon (8), Colin (6) and Jaden (4). Michele (Koopmans '93) and Brian Dirkx '93, son, Devin, joins Jenna (4). Jill (Huisken '93) and Mike Jacobsma '92, daughter, Brooke Elizabeth, joins Jacquelyn (10) and

Matthew (8). Robin and Trent Sorbe '93, son, Matthew Carson, joins Josh (6) and Kyle (3). Ivan and Jamie (Van Ruler '94) DeJong, son, Adam Wallace, joins Jacob (5), Rachel (5) and Lauren (1). Heidi (Hensley '94) and Brian Tschetter '93, son, Jesse, joins twins Chloe and Kelsey (2). Darcie (Dop '96) and Bryce Assink '96, son, Carter Kelly, joins Marisa

(3). Nicole (Molnau '96) and Peter Gepson '93, daughter, Emma Rose, joins Jack (3). Tim and Karla (Ploeger '96) Geyer, son, Luke Nathaniel. Melissa (Remus '97) and Brad Hofmeyer '96, daughter, Morgan Lynn, joins Cameran. Jason and Missy (Snoke '98) Broome, son, Josiah Michael. Kristi (Nieuwendorp '98) and Shiran Nathaniel '97, daughter, Alaina

## Miniprofile

## Mom turns political activist

by Tamara Fynaardt



Jennifer Zora took her husband and kids to the state capitol to witness the signing ceremony for the bill named for their family.

Jennifer (VanDerWerff '89) Zora might have sung along with Schoolhouse Rock's *I'm Just a Bill* when she was a kid: "I'm just a bill . . . sitting here on Capitol Hill. Well, it's a long, long journey to the capital city. It's a long, long wait while I'm sitting in committee, but I know I'll be a law someday. At least I hope and pray . . ."

Now, after spending two years researching and then campaigning for passage of Bill 5437—the Zora Bill—maybe the 36-year-old mother of four could write her own musical about America's political process.

Zora argues that the political savvy in her family went to brother Jeff '83, a political science professor at Northwestern. "A year into this, I told him, 'I'll fall down dead before I get involved in politics.' And he said, 'Too late.'"

The Zoras live near the border between the Battle Ground and Hockinson, Wash., school districts. Currently zoned Battle Ground but closer to the smaller, safer

Hockinson schools, they and 17 neighbors are petitioning a second time for a redrawn boundary. Right now families apply for border exemptions that are ruled on by Hockinson's school board.

So far two of Zora's children are enrolled in Hockinson, her son's border exemption coming after he'd spent eight days in a Battle Ground school. But there are two more, and their enrollment in the same school as their siblings isn't guaranteed.

A former educator, Zora and her neighbors first petitioned their regional educational organization for a new boundary two years ago. They were denied. Zora made a phone call: "I was told parents had no appeal rights. If we'd have won, though, the Battle Ground school board did have the right to appeal the decision to try to keep our children—and tax dollars—in their district." It didn't seem fair.

Zora's legislator, Senator Don Benton, agreed. He drafted the Zora Bill, which allowed appeal rights for all parties in school district boundary disputes.

In the following months, Zora spent hours e-mailing and calling legislators. She testified before the Senate and House education committees and even traveled to Olympia with her toddlers to free the bill after a House legislator placed a hold on it. "I gave my kids snacks, knocked on doors and basically told legislators, 'We're not leaving until the hold is released.'"

The bill received legislative approval last April, and the Zoras attended its signing by Gov. Gary Locke. A fair appeals process secure, they and their neighbors now have drafted a second petition.

"I felt like an internship in politics," says Zora, adding that it was more research and work than her master's thesis. "But it made me think that if every citizen did just one bill in their life, our government might be more accessible—and accountable."

"I learned, too, that Christians need to be involved in government. I had to check my motives constantly because the process doesn't have a lot of integrity. Luke 8:16 was taped to my computer so I was always reminded: Be a light in the political process."

Michelle, joins Lexie (4) and Brian (2).  
Keith and Jennifer (Wiersema '98) Probst, daughter, Madison Nicole.  
Kristin (King '98) and Jason Robertson '98, son, Devin William, joins Braden (2).  
Annalisa (De Jong '98) and Todd Schmidt '95, son, Luke Donavon.  
Cathy (Painter '98) and Jayson Vande

Hoef '97, daughter, Victoria Catherine.  
Mike and Laura (Schoolen '98) Van Der Linden, daughter, Brittany Jane.  
Jeff and Amy (Harder '99) Schumann, daughter, Mia Elizabeth.  
Karen (Van Zanten '99) and Matt Westenberg '00, daughter, Kaitlyn Grace.

Gena (Fihr '00) and Matt Schmidt '00, daughter, Gabrielle Rae.  
Daphne (Baack '01) and Cory Petersen '98, daughter, Madeline Sadie.

### Marriages

Jessica Nissen '00 and Damon Earnshaw, Kansas City, Mo.  
Megan Bomgaars '02 and Benjamin

Roos '00, Iowa City, Iowa.  
Angela Schreuder '02 and Jason Van Gorp, Pella, Iowa.  
Erin Bruins '03 and Derek Beekhuizen '02, Oak Lawn, Ill.  
Stephanie Ells '03 and Nathan Huisman '02, Holland, Mich.

The couples reside in the city listed.



# Faithful Support of Art

by Dan Addington '85

Northwestern College's art department has a new building—one that's actually on campus. It's a good new day.

I've got to admit, though, that I loved that reclaimed creamery. There was something redemptive about working in an old building like that. An artist's studio can be many things—laboratory, workshop, sanctuary, meditation chamber. A humble corner that Professor Rein Vanderhill carved out for me on the top floor of Bushmer was my first taste of those things.

God has blessed me. From that humble corner on, I've had the opportunity to live a life around art. Through my love of art, nurtured at Northwestern, God has made himself known to me, profoundly and consistently. Next to his Word, it has been my greatest source of revelation.

But the more I followed this path, the more I became aware that many of my brethren didn't share my love of art. At first I ignored it—chalked it up to "taste." I had other concerns, paintings to make. But as I continued through grad school, I felt I was straddling a gulf that slowly was widening. Many of my artist friends were suspicious of Christianity; many of my Christian friends, suspicious of art. The former wasn't a surprise, but the latter dismayed and confused me.

Why were my Protestant and evangelical brothers who had "seen the light" seemingly so blind to the fact that God gives us, through art, a glimpse into his creative nature? One word kept popping up in my reading: *iconoclasm*. Soon I realized this wasn't about my friends anymore. It was about Calvin—and the whole Protestant tradition.

Of course, the Reformers get a bit of a bum rap. There were a number of cultural reasons why the visual arts were marginalized by the Protestant church. But they overdid it. Our Reformed tradition has an iconoclastic history that has left profound imprints on the way Christians view art today. Yet while an emphasis is rightly placed on the word in our theology, we can't forget that the Word (logos) became flesh. Our acts of creation—making something new from raw materials, giving form to the unformed—point to the creation, the incarnation and our redemption.

As an artist and a Christian, I've had many conversations about faith and art which have included questions like, "How does the artist express his faith?" and "Is there such a thing as Christian art?" But these matters work themselves out in an artist's studio. An artist's faith and art can't be separated. Artwork, if made honestly, is a true record of the journey the artist takes. If faith is part of that journey, it can't help but be part of the artwork.

I'm not worried about the practice of Christian artists. But as a Christian who is also a curator and gallery director, I'm concerned about patronage. I believe Christians in the arts can help transform not just the church, but the world. But how can a work of art have an effect if it's not seen?

Just as some Christians are called to make art, others must follow the calling to support it—to show it, purchase it, curate it, write about it, find it a venue, give it a home. In short, to be patrons.

Considering its history, can the Reformed church imagine for itself a role in giving the visual arts a venue and voice? Are congregations prepared to make a place for Christian visual artists in their midst? Are Christians who have the resources to support Christian artists going to help? How can the Christian community imagine ways of incorporating artwork into our churches, businesses and homes?

God speaks to all of us through his artists and their artwork. The act of living with art transcends consumerism, entertainment and decoration. It taps into our imagination and changes us. It provides us with one of the last refuges from the daily soulless barrage of advertising and information; it offers an alternative with depth, power and spirit. It creates a place for stillness, reflection and significant thought.

As God's people, we are called to form culture, not simply follow it. Throughout history, the patrons of the arts—whether the church or the individual collector—have done this. It's time for both artists and patrons within the church to rediscover ways to impact our visual culture. We've seen a renewed patronage in the church toward contemporary music and theatre. Will the visual arts be next?

In much of contemporary art, there seems to be a renewed openness to spiritual themes and inquiry. Meanwhile in evangelical, Protestant and Reformed congregations, we see innovative approaches to worship, with simultaneous interest in earlier religious traditions. Perhaps colleges like Northwestern will be part of the vanguard of an artistic revival and cultural shift from within the church and in the world. Maybe the power we discover through the appreciation and use of art in our churches and lives might equip us to be a witness to the world in a new and powerful way in the 21st century. Considering our history, that's a tall order. Are we ready?

Dedicating a new facility in the center of a Christian campus to the shelter, nurture and progress of future artists—well, that's a good start.

*Dan is director and co-owner of the Gwenda Jay/Addington Gallery in Chicago. Next March, a survey of his recent work will be mounted by St. Cloud State University. His artwork can be viewed online at [www.danaddington.com](http://www.danaddington.com).*

Send your Classic thoughts to [beeson@nwciova.edu](mailto:beeson@nwciova.edu)



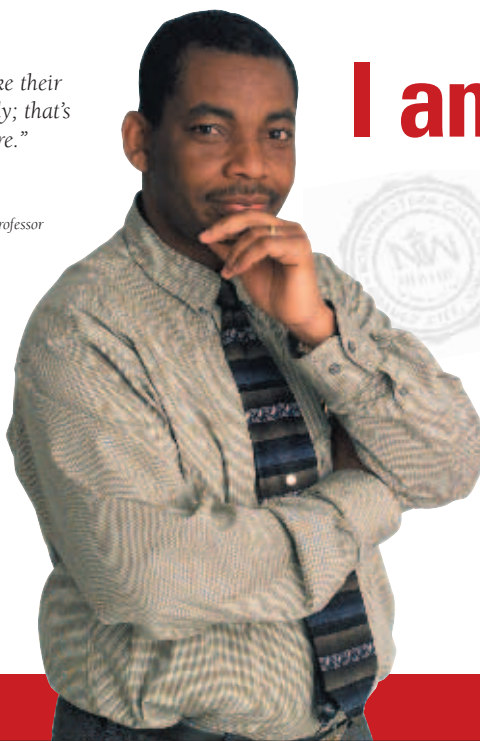
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*"Students here take their faith very seriously; that's something I admire."*

Dr. Bala Musa  
*Communication Studies Professor*



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