

Northwestern College Magazine *the* Classic

WINTER 2009-10



## Love Stories

Alumni tell of initial impressions, auction offers and imperfect proposals

*Also*

Differently Abled

Dorm Décor

First Dance





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Running with her father, Jason Olson '92, Gracie Olson was the fastest female under 20 in the Raider Road Race at Homecoming. The seven-year-old finished the 5K race with a time of 26:47.

DAN ROSS

## Classic People

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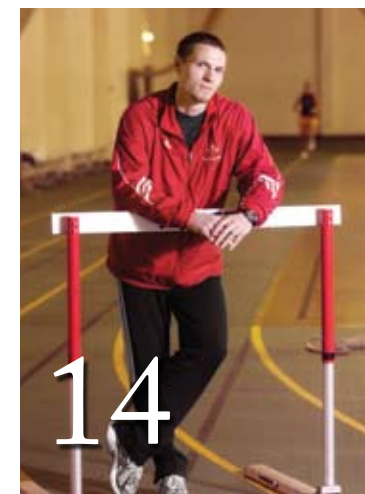
The *Classic* is published three times a year—in February, June and November—for alumni and friends of Northwestern College. So named because it served what was then known as the Northwestern Classical Academy, the *Classic* was the school's first student newspaper, begun in 1891. It has been an alumni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

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

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

### On the cover:

For 3,000 Northwestern alumni, the love that blossomed on campus has stood the test of time. Several share their stories of Raider dating.



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Kyle and Kory have learning disabilities. Laura has cerebral palsy. At Northwestern they have found acceptance, assistance when needed, and a sense of purpose.

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## Raider Romance

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## Honored

Darlene (De Beer '52) Vander Aarde, Jean (Tallman '75) and Drew Vogel '72, and Randy Oostra '77 are recognized for their humanitarian, Northwestern service and professional achievements.

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### Your Turn

Add your comments to any article in this issue and share your Northwestern love stories.

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



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# Zwemer View

## A Mission to Live By

There is perhaps nothing more important for an organization than to know and accomplish its mission. Northwestern's founders envisioned a place dedicated to academic rigor combined with Reformed and Christian principles. While much has changed in how we accomplish this mission, our purpose has remained constant.

On occasion, however, an organization should revisit how it articulates its mission to ensure it is clear, concise and compelling. We recently concluded this process with input from all our constituencies, and the Board of Trustees approved a new mission statement, shown to the left.

Northwestern's new mission statement is shorter than the previous version—and we believe it more memorably expresses who we are. The phrases and language in the statement are informed by the following truths about Northwestern College:

### Christian academic community

We care about serving and loving God and each other. Students are accepted as unique individuals and equipped to become a better people in God's image. A Northwestern education is a 24/7 experience as students learn, live and worship with friends and mentors.

### Courageous and faithful learning and living

We don't shy away from tough issues or questions. Students might be challenged by new ideas. Through that, their beliefs will become clearer to them—and more important. This is a safe place to explore, and students can trust that their professors are seeking God's truth.

### Pursuing God's redeeming work

At Northwestern, students learn about God's world and their call to help redeem it. We'll prepare them for a successful career, but more importantly, we'll get them ready to lead a faithful life. That requires intelligence, compassion, and an education that teaches both mind and heart.

This is indeed a noble mission. Our world is desperate for servant leaders who will use their gifts and talents in serving Christ and others. We cannot accomplish this alone but rely on the Holy Spirit, as well as the prayers and support of alumni, churches and friends. Together we are privileged to partner with God as he transforms the lives of students and prepares them to participate in his redeeming work in the world.

  
Greg Christy  
President

### Our Mission

Northwestern College is a Christian academic community engaging students in courageous and faithful learning and living that empowers them to follow Christ and pursue God's redeeming work in the world.



# around the Green

## Eight Is Enough



Larry and Donna Hardersen, who have had five children attend Northwestern, were honored as Parents of the Year during Fall Family Weekend.

Larry and Donna Hardersen of Hinton, Iowa, didn't plan to have eight kids. But after the sudden death of 2-year-old Kierian in 1977, the Hardersens—Northwestern's Parents of the Year for 2009—found their perspective changing.

"The death of our son convinced me it wasn't up to us to determine the number of children we should have or could afford," says Donna.

Left with two girls, the Hardersens went on to have five more children. Of the seven surviving Hardersen siblings, five attended Northwestern and four met their spouses at NWC: Kelana '99 and Aaron Groendyke '98; Kyndara '03 and Brandon Woudstra '03; Mikyla '05 and Ryan Dittman '04; Kadrian '08; and Delainye '10 and Brady Woudstra '07.

The Hardersens' willingness to have a large family meant doing without at times. With their children involved in high school sports all four seasons of the year, Larry and Donna took on extra jobs to pay for admission and travel to games.

Donna jokes their main occupation has been sitting on the bleachers at their kids' athletic contests, but adds, "If I'm not their biggest cheerleader, who else will be? I know I'm partial, but I think they're the greatest and want them to know it."

Delainye, a senior at Northwestern and NAIA Scholar-Athlete in volleyball and track and field, nominated her parents for the award. "They're just so self-sacrificing," she says. "All of us have the gift from our parents of being able to listen and be there for people."

## Break for Missions

Twenty-one Northwestern students spent part of their Christmas break attending Urbana '09, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship's student missions conference, in St. Louis.

Senior Kendra Dahlbacka says the highlight was praising God with 16,000 other young people. "We brought in the new year worshipping God as one large community."

The conference had a special emphasis on international and domestic poverty. "I was challenged by the call to live simply and give generously," says Dahlbacka. "It's one thing to say I support missions; it's another thing to back it up with my checkbook."

## in Box

### Adoption Roller Coaster

Thank you for publishing the "Family Tree" story. My wife and I have adopted a girl from Ethiopia (she is presently 8 months old), Tessa Faith, who should be home with us within the next few weeks. The adoption process has been a whirlwind for us, particularly given that near the end of the process, my wife was diagnosed with breast cancer, undergoing both a mastectomy and chemotherapy.

As we await Tessa's homecoming, she is our reminder that apparent setbacks such as cancer cannot dampen the hope in a God who loves us and promises he will not leave us as orphans, but will come for us (John 14:18). Throughout this whole process, I have been consistently reminded of Christ's amazing sacrifice for me. This roller coaster also has reinforced that I want to live in such a way that no matter the circumstances of my life—good or bad—I proclaim at the top of my lungs, "To God be the glory!"

Jason Kanz '95  
Eau Claire, Wis.

### WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

Send letters to: *Classic*, Northwestern College, 101 7th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041; e-mail: classic@nwcwiowa.edu; fax: 712-707-7370. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please include an address and daytime phone number.





## Crack Coders

For the second year in a row, a team of three Northwestern students was chosen as one of 100 teams from six continents to compete in the Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest's world finals. This school year's event took place in Harbin, China, Feb. 1–6.

Northwestern, the only Iowa school to be selected, received an at-large bid after its team finished third in a regional competition. Last April a Northwestern team competed in the world finals in Stockholm, Sweden.

Northwestern was among 22 U.S. colleges and universities at the 2010 finals, including Carnegie Mellon, Duke, MIT, Stanford and the University of Chicago. They competed with students from Chinese University of Hong Kong, the University of Buenos Aires and the University of Helsinki, to name a few. Seven thousand teams from over 1,800 colleges in 88 countries participated in regional competitions this fall.

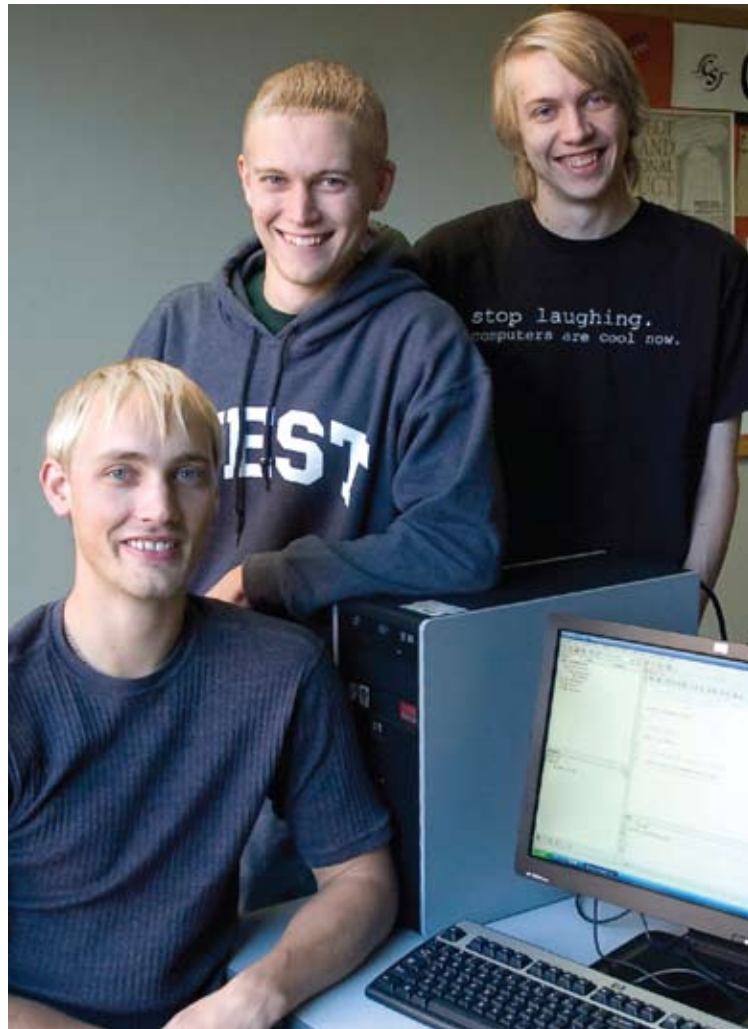
Members of the NWC team were John

Calsbeek, a senior computer science major from Orange City; Mark Haselhoff, a junior computer science and mathematics major from Schaller, Iowa; and Curt Van Wyk, a senior mathematics teaching and computer science major from George, Iowa. Calsbeek and Van Wyk were on the team that competed in Sweden last year.

"It's just a fun experience," says Calsbeek. "It's really interesting being in a huge room with around 300 nerds, hearing 50 to 60 different languages."

"John, Mark and Curt are not only good programmers, but they are detail-oriented and well-rounded students who have what it takes to figure things out," says Mike Wallinga '01, instructor in computer science. "They are such inquisitive individuals—they think about problems in their spare time and do coding for fun. They have this natural curiosity and desire to learn."

**Curt Van Wyk, Mark Haselhoff and John Calsbeek (from left) represented Northwestern at the Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest finals in Harbin, China, in February.**



## Tough Decisions

Needing to reduce the 2010–11 budget by \$3 million, Northwestern officials announced in early January that 10 full-time and five part-time positions will be eliminated at the end of the fiscal year in June.

In addition, several vacant positions will not be filled and the hours of eight staff members will be reduced.

"Similar to many other colleges,

we have had to take responsible—but still very painful—steps to reduce expenses and increase revenues as a result of pressures from our nation's economic downturn and lower enrollments," says President Greg Christy. "Through this process, we have sought to have as little negative impact on students as possible and to be very sensitive to the affected employees."

While a strong recruiting effort this past fall reversed a two-year decline in the number of new students, Northwestern's fall enrollment, 1,206, is at its lowest point since 1998. Meanwhile, Northwestern's workforce has expanded by more than 50 full-time employees since then.

"This is a very difficult time for the Northwestern family," says Christy, "but we are hopeful

these decisions will help to ensure the college remains in a strong financial position moving forward. We are very grateful for alumni and friends who contributed over \$1 million in December, that enrollment is looking good for next fall, and that we continue to rank in the top 15 percent compared with our peers on various financial indices."

## Winning Hymn

A song written by Dr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson, associate professor of music and director of music ministries, has won second prize in a songwriting contest. The Justice Congregational Song Contest was sponsored by the Christian Reformed Church's Office of Social Justice, *Reformed Worship* magazine, and the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship.

Josselyn-Cranson's hymn, *We Cannot Know What Worship Is*, has been copyrighted by Faith Alive Christian Resources and will be printed in a future issue of *Reformed Worship*. She received a \$300 cash prize for her effort.

Josselyn-Cranson says as she wrote the hymn she was struck by the fact that thinking about

justice tends to happen more often outside Sunday worship than in it. Her text includes the following first verse: "We cannot know what worship is, unless we recognize that Christ consorts with least and lost and sees through homeless eyes."

Other verses bring a justice perspective to the acts of praying, singing and reading Scripture. The hymn concludes with "God longs for us to act our faith, 'til we can truly claim our Sunday worship and our search for justice are the same."

The Rev. David Landegent '78 won first prize. The pastor of Central Park Reformed Church in Holland, Mich., he penned *Let Justice Roll Down*.



Music professor Heather Josselyn-Cranson won second prize in a nationwide Justice Congregational Song Contest.

GEORGE JOHNSON

## Wrapped in Warmth

When junior Lanet Hane became leader of Northwestern's Hunger/Homeless Ministry, she met with area nonprofit organizations to see how students could help them fight poverty. What she discovered was a huge demand for blankets during the winter months, as many families have to choose between buying food and keeping their homes warm.

Hane responded by organizing a "Fleece and Film" event in which students made tie blankets out of fleece while watching *The Pursuit of Happyness*, a movie that tells the true story of a family's homelessness. Students made about 20 blankets, which have been donated to Love INC for distribution to low-income families.

"Making blankets is something that's simple and an easy way for students to make a difference," says Hane.

As temperatures in northwest Iowa plummeted to record lows prior to the start of the spring semester, Hane was planning more blanket-making sessions. Her group aims to tie another 75 to 100 blankets, with fleece funded through a grant from the Walmart Foundation.

**More than 100 toddlers will receive a blanket to cuddle with, courtesy of Northwestern's Hunger/Homeless Ministry.**



DOUG BURG



# Of Course



## Connected

### Class

Intimate Relationships

### Instructor

Dr. Daniela Cambetas Syed  
*Assistant Professor of Psychology*

**F**riendships don't exist in isolation. They can only be understood in the context of a person's other relationships—one in particular. "A true attachment theorist would say that your attachment with your primary caregiver is a blueprint for all other attachments in your life," says Dr.

Daniela Cambetas Syed.

Syed and 13 seniors explored those attachments in a special topics psychology seminar entitled Intimate Relationships. The course examined relationships and friendships from birth through old age.

The Northwestern psychology professor was especially qualified to teach the course since her research background is in social relationships and friendships. Her studies have found that people with strong parental bonds are less likely to participate in risky behavior in romantic relationships.

"Of all our courses, I thought this was one of the easiest to integrate faith with learning," Syed says. "God created us to be relational beings."

Psychology major Destiny Kortman found the seminar especially applicable to everyday life. Engaged and planning a May wedding, she appreciated the seminar's content regarding marriage. But the course has impacted her in other ways as well. One of her roommates is someone she got to know in class, and she still stays in touch with other students who took the course, including those who have since graduated.

While learning about relationships, Kortman and her fellow classmates formed attachments—even friendships—with one another.

### Texts and Assignments

- *The Psychology of Interpersonal Relationships*, by Ellen Berscheid and Pamela Regan
- *Four Loves*, by C.S. Lewis

As a seminar, Intimate Relationships involved in-depth discussions rather than lectures. Syed gave her students questions to guide their reading, and they were to come to class with questions of their own. Exams were take-home written essays that were essentially papers. A final project had students create a poster integrating all they had learned, write a synopsis and present it to their professor.

## Extreme Singing

Forget *American Idol*. At Northwestern, it's NC/DC Extreme, a singing competition pitting NWC students against students from archrival Dordt.

Each campus holds its own auditions and chooses five acts for a joint semifinal competition held at either NWC or Dordt. Students from each college then vote online for their top two contestants, who are revealed at the finals in front of a crowd of 1,500. Following performances by all four finalists, a live vote is held and the winner is announced and awarded \$500.

Northwestern students won the competition the last two years, but a male a cappella quintet from Dordt captured the latest title in November.



Sophomore Lisa Walters of Zeeland, Mich., belts out the Backstreet Boys' *I Want It That Way* during the finals of NC/DC Extreme in November. To see this year's contestants and watch clips of their performances, visit [www.ncdcextreme.com](http://www.ncdcextreme.com).

## Prof Appointments

Dr. Michael Andres, religion, and Dr. Laurie Daily, education, have been appointed to endowed professorships beginning in the 2010–11 school year.

The endowed chairs support the recipients' scholarly work by providing annual funds over a five-year period for research, the purchase of equipment or materials, travel to pursue research, or assistance for student researchers. Criteria for the appointments include having a distinguished record as an outstanding teacher; being recognized for scholarly and leadership contributions to their discipline; providing exemplary service to the department, NWC and the larger community; and demonstrating a commitment to the college's mission.

Andres has been appointed to the Marvin and Jerene DeWitt Endowed Religion Professorship. A member of the

faculty since 1998, Andres is working on a book on holistic Christian witness that integrates evangelism, apologetics and justice. He is a former member of the Commission on Theology for the Reformed Church in America.

Daily has been appointed to the James and Margaret Blekkink Endowed Education Professorship. A full-time member of the education faculty since 2005, Daily previously directed a field-based special education teacher training program in New Hampshire and participated in the development of professional standards for teachers with the New Hampshire Department of Education.

**Dr. Michael Andres has been appointed to the DeWitt Endowed Religion Professorship. Dr. Laurie Daily will fill the Blekkink Endowed Education Professorship.**



## Major Excellence

Ask Northwestern students what are the best academic programs on campus, and you'll get a lot of answers. That's one of the approaches college admissions adviser Frederick Rugg uses as he compiles his annual *Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges*, a national guidebook that recommends specific college departments to prospective students.

Eighteen of Northwestern's programs are listed in the 2010 edition: actuarial science, athletic training, biology, business, chemistry, computer science, ecological science, education, English, history, music, philosophy, physics, psychology, religion, social work, Spanish and theatre.

The book includes programs at 1,115 four-year colleges that Rugg has identified as providing a high-quality education.

**Biology is one of 18 Northwestern programs listed in the 2010 *Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges*.**



## On the Road

Audiences will enjoy music by Northwestern touring groups at sites ranging from Chicago to the Czech Republic this spring.

The A cappella Choir will tour in the Czech Republic, Austria and Poland during spring break, March 6–14.

The 70-member ensemble will present several public concerts and minister through music, testimony and drama at children's and senior citizens' homes. The tour is being coordinated through Youth for Christ.

"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," says Dr. Thomas Holm, the choir's conductor. "I think it will expand our understanding of God and the world in which we live."

The choir's repertoire includes Czech folk music and works by Czech composer Antonin Dvořák, as well as other well-known European composers. The ensemble also will perform a large selection of American music, including sacred and secular pieces.

Also during spring break, the Drama Ministries Ensemble will perform enacted prayers and "Great Stories" from the Old Testament in Chicago, western Indiana and southern Wisconsin.

The Symphonic Band will perform at churches in the Omaha and Lincoln, Neb., area April 15–18.

Complete tour schedules can be viewed at [www.nwciowa.edu/dme](http://www.nwciowa.edu/dme) and [www.nwciowa.edu/bandtour](http://www.nwciowa.edu/bandtour).



BARRY LAWRIESEN

The A cappella Choir's European spring tour will include singing as part of a Sunday morning worship service at the Salzburg Cathedral, where Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and his father were employed, as did the choir in 2004.

## To New Orleans With Love

Ten Northwestern students, faculty and staff spent the first week of January on a service project in New Orleans.

Partnering with Trinity Christian Community, the team renovated houses destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 in the Hollygrove neighborhood. They also assisted in an after-school program.

Northwestern has sent hurricane relief teams to the Gulf Coast every semester break since 2005.

## Alumni Director Search

A search for a new director of alumni relations is under way. Jenny Neuhauser '00 left the position in November to move to South Dakota in preparation for her June wedding.

## Vocation Connection

A campus-wide emphasis on helping students discover and then commit to their calling has been nurtured through a variety of initiatives funded by \$2.5 million in grants from the Lilly Endowment since 2003.

As the last grant period is coming to an end, Northwestern hopes its involvement in the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) will help to keep the topic at the forefront of campus conversation.

NWC is one of 61 founding members of the new network. "Through NetVUE, we will be able to learn from other colleges about best practices and successful programs," says Dr. Jasper Lesage, provost.

# Face Value

## Sara Sybesma Tolsma

Teaching learner

### What do you love about your job?

I love learning—and to be a good teacher I have to keep learning. I love undergraduate students. I love my colleagues. Also, Friday afternoons in the biology suite can be very fun. We often gather there to unwind and dream. It's wonderful when students wander in and join us.

### Name one of Northwestern's strengths.

Its people. My colleagues are committed to Christian liberal arts education. When I have the opportunity to observe their classes, I'm always humbled I'm part of a faculty full of excellent teachers and scholars.

### What is one of the biggest challenges in working with students?

Time. There never seems to be enough time to do all the good things there are to do—for my students and for me. Helping students learn to choose wisely from among many good ways to spend their time is a challenge.

### Describe a favorite NWC memory.

Several years ago I was teaching a molecular biology course with about 15 students. I remember looking at them and realizing all but one was heading off to graduate or professional school. It was such a talented group, and they were really fun to teach.

### How has your perspective changed now that you are a professor rather than a student?

When I was a student, I didn't realize being a faculty member is hard work and very time consuming. I rarely take an evening or weekend completely off. As a professor, I have to remember how many life changes are happening to college students—being away from home, developing new social lives, learning to manage time, making choices—and how these issues affect their performance in the classroom.



DOUG BURG

**Dr. Sara Sybesma Tolsma '84 has been a biology professor since 1995. She holds a doctorate in microbiology/immunology from Northwestern University. Her research in cancer genetics and cell biology has been widely published in scientific journals.**

### What are your hobbies?

I read. My husband and I have been in a book club for 15 years. I garden, and I enjoy cooking. I'm involved in our church and in my kids' activities.

### Who inspires you?

My husband, my kids, my students, my colleagues, my parents. I am also inspired by people who take risks to make the world a better place.

**If you'd like to see a particular Northwestern faculty or staff member featured in Face Value, e-mail [classic@nwciowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwciowa.edu).**





Junior Ryan Hoogeveen scored 17 points and grabbed 11 rebounds when Northwestern upset Dordt, which was ranked fourth nationally at the time, 97-77.

# Red Zone

## Women's Basketball Near the Top

Northwestern started the season as the top-ranked team in the NAIA Div. II. Ranked third at press time, the Raiders were 17-3 and second in the conference, behind only Hastings.

## Men's Basketball Young Team

With eight freshmen on the roster, including three starters, Northwestern was 10-10 at press time. The Raiders set a record for the longest game in school history after losing a quadruple-overtime thriller at Concordia, 117-111.

## Wrestling Ranked

Seven Raiders had qualified for nationals at press time. The team was ranked 19th, with 197-pounder Nic Leither ranked sixth.

## Volleyball Elite Eight Again

For the third consecutive year, the Raiders' season ended in the quarterfinal round of the NAIA national tournament. Ranked as high as second, NWC finished with a 36-3 record. The squad went undefeated in the GPAC and followed that up by winning the conference tournament. Randa Hulstein and Kaitlin Beaver earned first-team All-American honors, while Hillary Hanno was a second-team selection.

## Football Fourth in GPAC

Northwestern finished the season at 7-3, fourth in the conference. The team was ranked as high as 12th nationally before

losing the last two games of the season and finishing with a 25th-place ranking.

## Golf Preparing for Spring

Luke Vermeer is in second place individually after two rounds of the GPAC championship, held last fall. The team is fourth with two rounds left to play this spring. The women's squad is seventh after the first two rounds.

## Cross Country More Miles

Junior Charity Miles placed 55th out of 320 runners in her third year of competition at the NAIA national meet. She qualified for nationals and earned all-conference honors after placing 10th at the GPAC meet. The women were fourth in the conference; the men were 10th.

## Soccer Improving

The men were 5-12-1 overall, placing 11th in the conference with a 3-9 mark. The women were 3-13-1 overall, 3-8-1 in the conference for 10th place. Both teams got most of their wins in the last half of the season.

## Scholar-Athletes Honored

Seventeen Raiders earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete honors last fall, including eight in cross country. Repeat honorees included Ingrid Carlson in cross country, George Barnes and Grant Hegstad in football, Delainye (Hardersen) Woudstra in volleyball, and soccer players Jordan Born and Sarah Seeger.

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

# First Dance



Although the process that led to Northwestern's first on-campus dance was somewhat controversial, the event itself, during May Day Weekend of 1968, was well attended.

BY GRETA HAYS '11

The auditorium was decorated like an oriental garden, featuring a real pool with a bridge and homemade boats. A live band played. It was the Saturday night of May Day Weekend in 1968, and Northwestern College was hosting a monumental event: its first on-campus dance.

But the twist had been preceded by a lot of shout.

Excerpts from communications between Northwestern officials and representatives of Reformed churches that year—including a letter that read, “It is our feeling that dancing is a worldly influence that has no place on the campus of a Christian college”—may seem amusing now, but they prove just how contentious dancing was at the time.

The previous fall, the Student Senate approached the Board of Trustees to ask for permission to allow dancing on campus. The students kept their request simple: The number of dances per year would be limited to three—during Homecoming, Winter Carnival and May Day—and plenty of faculty chaperones would be present. The Senate even surveyed parents about the issue, with 64 percent of them approving.

Jim Vander Velde '69 was co-chair of May Day that year and remembers going with other students to President Lars Granberg to request permission for the dance. While the issue concerned some NWC constituents, it wasn't controversial among the student body. “The Vietnam

War was going on, and dancing wasn't a huge deal to students in light of that,” says Vander Velde. “Students were happy when it was allowed.”

Only eight percent of students indicated in a poll they opposed the dancing proposal, although two students said they would withdraw from Northwestern if social dancing was permitted.

Virg Muilenburg '62, professor emeritus of biology, was a member of the Student Affairs Committee that spent much time on the issue. He recalls his dancing experience, or lack thereof, as a student just a few years earlier.

“We were not allowed to have dances at school functions, but we could do the bunny hop,” he says. “That was as close to dancing as we could get.” Before the famous “first dance” on campus, Muilenburg remembers student-organized dances being held at the scout house in Veterans Park.

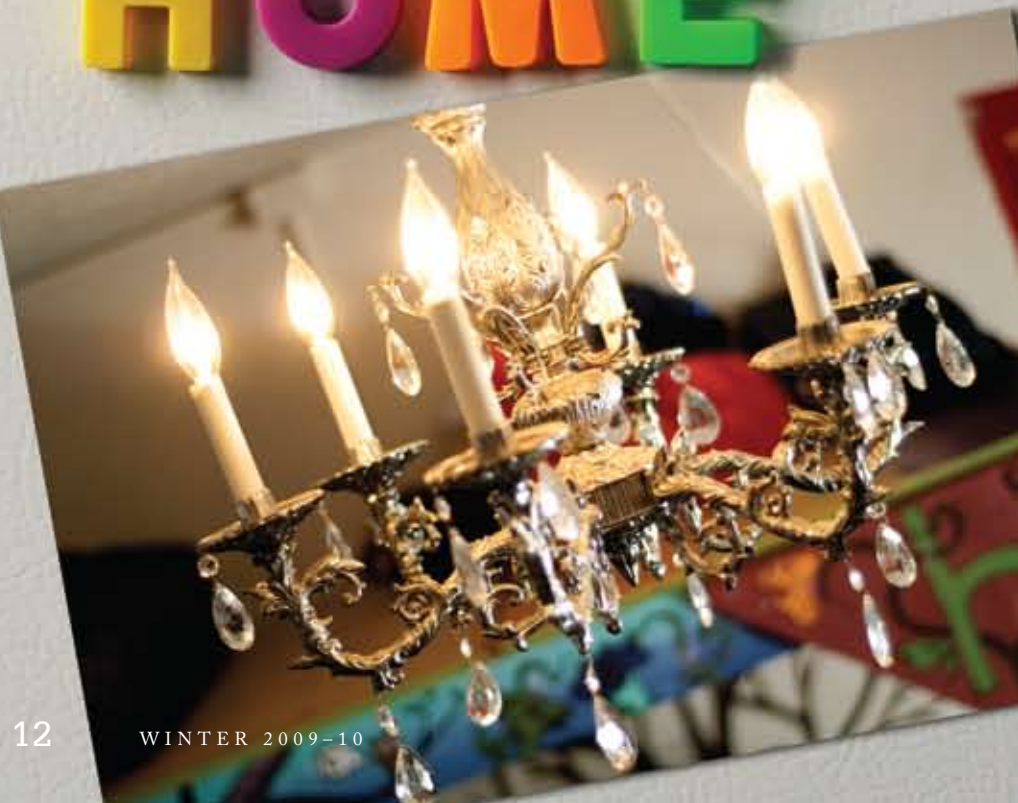
On that spring evening in 1968, it was clear Northwestern had come a long way as May Day Queen Judy (Vogelzang '69) De Graaff and her partner led students in the first dance. De Graaff recalls that the band started off playing a fast piece, but then had to switch to something slower so everyone could keep up.



# HOME SWEET HOME

**E**very dorm room starts with the basics: bed, desk, dresser, closet. It's what students bring to campus that makes each room unique. From lava lamps to piñatas, a coffee bar to curtains made of neckties, students find creative, whimsical—and unusual—ways to make a residence hall home.

*Photos by Dan Ross and Stephen Allen*





**Students with disabilities thrive at Northwestern**  
BY AMY SCHEER

# Free to Be

On June 19, 1989, Kory Jensen was born, and doctors told his parents he wouldn't live. Two years later, when Jensen was a toddler, he was diagnosed with apraxia, a neurological disorder. The doctor said he'd never walk or speak clearly.

Jensen's elementary years were rough—kids taunted him as he struggled to communicate or hold a pencil correctly—so when he enrolled at Northwestern in 2007, he avoided drawing attention to himself. Years of speech, eye and physical therapy had resulted in significant improvement, and he knew if he didn't point it out, few people would realize he has a disability.

"I wanted to be a normal kid and not have people treat me differently," Jensen says. "I was trying to be independent. I came in and took the first test, and I failed it. I had no idea what to do."

Tom Truesdell '01, director of academic support, tutored Jensen and picked up on clues: "I was surprised at how many spelling errors he had, because as I was speaking with him, I saw he was very articulate and bright."

Jensen eventually disclosed his disability—and his fears. Truesdell reassured him that staff would respect his privacy, and soon Jensen was making regular use of the department's computers for test-taking. His confidence building, he began to take the initiative to contact professors when needing extra help.

"The students we're working with are usually very intelligent," says Truesdell. "They have the skill set to succeed at Northwestern. We provide the accommodations, and they can thrive."

## Transition

This school year, 23 NWC students report some type of disability. Most have learning disabilities, like dyslexia; a few report physical conditions, such as cerebral palsy, narcolepsy and severe allergies; and some students have developmental disorders, such as autism. Many experience related complications—distractibility, test anxiety and disorganization are the most common.

Northwestern's academic support department offers assistance to all students with documented disabilities. Services include reading tests orally, securing a quiet location for testing, and reviewing papers. The department also offers assistive technology, such as software able to type the spoken word and read scanned books aloud. Accessibility on campus meets legal standards.

As students with documented disabilities move from high school to college, they leave the shelter of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)—comprehensive plans designed to help them secure accommodations, measure progress and meet goals. Written and implemented by a team of professionals, IEPs protect students and hold them accountable from grade school to graduation.

"At college, they have to become their own best advocate," says John Menning, Northwestern's learning disability service provider. "They have to take the reins. I still check up on them, but I don't tell them that," he adds with a laugh.

When Menning was five, his brother Paul was born with all his major organs enlarged. His mother, emotionally overwhelmed and caring for a baby who wouldn't eat, was comforted when little John would come skipping into the room, singing, "He's got the teeny tiny baby ... in his hands."

Paul died at nine months; Menning, a special education teacher for 32 years, has spent most of his adult life caring for people with disabilities, including a foster son whom he and his wife, NWC English instructor Deborah Menning, have raised for 26 years.

"Knowing we have someone like John on staff reassures parents considerably," says Truesdell. "They have a point person. They know John is looking out for them."

## Acceptance

For Laura Denekas '11, who has cerebral palsy (CP), college life offered new, welcomed opportunities.

"In high school, I was never ostracized because of my disability, but I didn't feel like I was accepted either. I didn't feel fully myself, including my desire to fully accept my disability," she says.

Denekas was born 10 weeks early. At six months she was adopted; at age five, surgeons broke her hips and inserted metal plates. When she was 11, nerves in her spinal cord were cut in a procedure called a rhizotomy, and she stayed at Shriner's Hospital for Children in Minneapolis for six weeks. Her pelvis was broken in three places and reconstructed at age 14.

She's in maintenance mode right now, she says, and does not anticipate further surgeries. Staying in shape, visiting physical therapy as much as insurance will allow, using a single-arm crutch and grabbing an arm on an icy winter day keep Denekas right where she needs to be. And



Senior Kyle Sauter credits the self-discipline he developed coping with his learning disability for helping him to be a good motivator as a captain of the Red Raider track team.





Junior Laura Denekas says having cerebral palsy has enabled her to have a heart for helping others. A social work major, she has participated in Spring Service Projects in Opelousas, La., and Compton, Calif.

DAVID BOSS

where she's happiest is at Northwestern.

"At Northwestern, I felt accepted right away. Disability or not—that doesn't matter here," says Denekas, who has studied in India and spent spring breaks serving in Louisiana and California. "I've found who I am, and I'm confident with who I am. My friendships are stronger here; the disability thing is never an issue."

**Effort**

As regional manager at Snap Fitness in Sioux Center, Kyle Sauter '10 supervises a staff and leads group exercise. He's good at motivating people, he says, both at Snap and on Northwestern's track team, where he's a captain. He credits this skill to his learning disability in reading, which has taught him a fair amount of discipline. Sauter spends an excessive number of hours in memorization—a simple sentence means nothing to him if one unfamiliar word is present. During his three semesters of Spanish, for example, he put in two hours a day with a tutor and approximately four hours of studying for every 20-word vocabulary list. Soon he will have his degree in physical education as well as a personal trainer certification. The road to these honors—and a good

career—is paved with thousands of note cards listing out the Latin names of bones and the metabolic processes of the body. At his job, it took Sauter extra time to learn his duties at first, and his employer knows he'd rather communicate by phone than e-mail. "I try to show them that, hey, I'm a hard worker—it takes me longer at first, but as time goes by, I know it like the back of my hand," Sauter says. Jensen, too, found that discipline was key to managing his apraxia; he worked diligently and graduated third in his high school class even though he considers himself "not really that smart." At Northwestern, he's an elementary education major who hopes to teach kids with disabilities. His professors like to point out his willingness to ask for help as a sign he'll do well in his chosen profession. Part of Menning's job is coaching students toward suitable fields of study and workforce options. He practices tough love with the steady stream of regulars in his office, stressing the skills necessary for moving on: "If you're going to e-mail professors, check your spelling. Be professional." And, "You have your first job. You think your employer will let you come late [because of your disability]? You'll be fired after the first week." Many people with disabilities are underemployed as adults, studies show. Denekas finds herself wondering if her great experience at college



Doctors told Kory Jensen's parents when he was two that he would never walk or speak clearly. Now a junior, the elementary education major has been active on stage and behind the scenes in Northwestern's theatre program.

DAVID BOSS

will be shattered by workforce discrimination. Not everyone recognizes what she likes to point out: "We're all human beings with beating hearts. Inside, we're all the same."

**Purpose**

In a cartoon by Australian Cathy Wilcox, a journalist approaches a man in a wheelchair and asks, "When did you first realise [sic] you were—um—incomplete?" The man replies, "It took someone of your sensitivity to point it out." In the Christian community, the subject of disability can be complicated, if discussed at all. (Denekas suggests that themes such as racial reconciliation dominate, though she considers herself a minority as well.) Difficult questions abound: Is disability a result of humankind's fall from grace? Why did Jesus talk about forgiveness while healing the paralytic? "God's going to work through me in this," says Denekas. Sauter agrees: "God gave me this for a reason." "Praise God for all the things he gave me," echoes Jensen. Theological debates do not appear to trouble these Northwestern students; however, don't turn them into heroes. People with disabilities are often portrayed as inspirational for their

triumph over adversity, and just barely human. "I can't picture myself without CP. I wouldn't be me," says Denekas. "Yeah, sometimes I wish things were easier and I didn't have these limitations. In high school, I didn't like having to be that inspiration for people because I'm just living my life. Why do I have to be inspiring? Going to Northwestern, I realized this is who God has me be on this earth. I want to honor him with this." On a Navajo reservation last summer, Jensen shared that sentiment. The young man who doctors said would never walk spent his daytime hours painting houses for disadvantaged families. In the evenings, Jensen, who was told he'd never speak clearly, preached a message to the 110 kids who gathered. The camp's theme was "Free," based on Galatians 5:13 ("You ... were called to be free"). "You're free to be yourself," he told them. "Love who you are. All the things the doctor said I'd never do, I did. God has a purpose for me on earth, or none of this would have happened." 🏠





# Raider

# Ro♥ance

A lot happens during your college years that affects the rest of your life. You make an initial career choice, figure out how to handle your own money, and learn to avoid laundering reds with whites. For some, college is where you meet your other half—the one you'll marry and raise kids with—the person who, more than any other, may encourage you, aggravate you, and teach you what commitment truly means.

Most Northwestern alumni didn't meet their spouse on campus. But hopefully what they learned in this community prepared them to be a faithful, thoughtful partner, friend and family member. Some—just over 3,000—did connect here. Several of their heartwarming stories follow.





Send in the Clown

In hindsight, I shouldn’t have involved my mother [Karen (De Boer ’79) Woudstra] in my proposal plans. With her flair for drama, she convinced me I should scheme to surprise my future bride. So at her suggestion, I arranged for friends to “kidnap” Kyndara [Hardersen ’03] from her job as parking attendant at a football game and deliver her to where I was waiting with an intimate bonfire and a diamond. It was Halloween and only six weeks after 9/11, so when Kyndara’s supervisor witnessed several guys throw a blanket over her head and shove her in a car, he became alarmed and called maintenance director Scott Simmelink. (Scott notified the authorities and then chased—for miles—what eventually turned out to be the wrong car.) Meanwhile, a highway patrolman had located my parents in NWC’s snack bar and told them: “Your son’s girlfriend has been kidnapped!” My mom, who happened to be wearing a clown costume at the time, explained the hostage situation was a false alarm and came to find me so I could return to campus and apologize to everyone I had terrified. Thankfully, I’d already popped the question by the time Bozo showed up.

**Brandon Woudstra ’03**  
ORANGE CITY, IOWA

Sucking Up

“Hey, Wacker!” (I prefer “Amy,” but guys love to use your last name when you’re fortunate enough to be a Wacker.) “Wouldja bring your Dust Buster over? We need some serious help here.” My high school classmates—living in Coly without their mothers’ vacuuming skills for the first time in their lives—knew they could count on me. As I was walking back to North Hall [now Stegenga] swinging my Dust Buster at my side, an athletic guy I recognized from Intro. to Studio jogged by and quipped, “Nice Dust Buster.” Two hours later we were still standing in front of Christ Chapel. This guy was so easy to talk to, so funny, so charming. While he zapped any bugs that entered the no-fly zone around us with my Dust Buster, he shared bits of his values and faith journey with me. I had to tear myself away, and when I did, I left with that feeling—that oh-my-goodness-this-must-be-how-it-feels-to-meet-THE-ONE feeling.

Kyle [Hutchinson ’01] later confessed he’d had his eye on me since I’d critiqued his landscape in front of our entire art class. When he saw me in Coly with my Dust Buster, he took off on a dead run around the north side of the chapel to “bump” into me on my way back to my dorm.

**Amy Wacker-Hutchinson ’02**  
IOWA FALLS, IOWA

Compatibility

Jonathan and I met through the Compatibility Quest student activity Northwestern does every January. I opened my results, looked at the name on top of the list and asked rather loudly, “Who on earth is Jonathan Handsaker?” Turns out he was standing right next to me.

**Bethany (Harms ’08) Handsaker**  
MITCHELL, S.D.

Loved Her Laugh

My wife and I met the first day of my senior and her freshman year. I was helping my roommate, Mark Heijerman [’78], lead a freshman orientation session about Chi Rho, a campus group for students interested in ministry. The weather was warm, the windows were open, and when another senior, Ruth Zwald [’78], walked by outside, Mark and I teased her, bellowing, “Ruuuuth!” One of our orientation participants, Ruth Korver [’81], laughed loudly in response, which caught my attention—and kept it.

**Dave Landegent ’78**  
HOLLAND, MICH.

Spirited Courtship

Mari [Miyagi ’02] and I had been friends until our senior year. Then I received an impression from God that I should choose Mari for my lifetime partner. We were chatting online one evening when, with the power of the Holy Spirit, I asked Mari out. She thought I was joking, so I messaged again, asking her to accompany me on a walk to Veterans Park. During the walk we enjoyed chitchat about our campus life, and at the end, I asked Mari if we could go steady. She said no. It was shocking to me that she rejected my request. I believed she would not reject me if she came to know the truth that I wanted to share my life with her. Awhile later, I called her and asked her to take a walk with me again. During this walk, I told her I wanted to marry her. So finally the moment came for me to ask, “Will you marry me?” She replied, “Yes.” It was a most exciting and joy-filled moment. Lord have mercy, we were able to skip going steady and become engaged!

**Taku Nakajima ’02**  
HYOGO, JAPAN

Love-All

Dad [Steve Bolda ’81] was playing tennis behind the Union [now Hospers Hall], where mom [Jodi Bosma ’82] lived on the second floor. From her window she heckled the cute tennis player. Sometime later they were both in Union’s basement game room, and he asked her if she was the heckler. She admitted she was. A week later he asked her out, and it’s been love ever since.

**Rebecca Bolda ’10**  
WAUPUN, WIS.

Winning Bid

From the time Abby [Stevens ’01] met me after I transferred to Northwestern, she’d been saying she knew a guy who was perfect for me. But after a two-year hiatus from college, this time I was focused and determined to finish without distractions. When Abby approached me about an upcoming campus bachelor auction, I wanted no part of it. Nonetheless, Abby convinced me she would bid on our friend, Bob [Reitz ’03], and I should bid on his roommate, Noah [Metz ’02]—the guy. We would double-date—very casually.

Auction night I hid behind a post and communicated my bids to Abby. I was embarrassed—but also competitive. Apparently someone else also wanted a date with Noah. I whispered higher and higher bids to Abby: \$35 ... \$45 ... \$55 ... \$75! Sold! I ran off to finish my homework before he even had a chance to meet me. By date night, I was so nervous I backed into another car before we’d even left campus. (We still joke things started out with a bang.) After dinner and a movie, Noah and I stayed up until the wee hours of the morning just talking, and for the next several days we were nearly inseparable. Not long after, when I told my mom about the auction and its aftermath, she asked, jokingly, if I was going to marry this guy. When I answered, I was serious: “Yes.”

**Sarah (Anderson ’03) Metz**  
MARTINEZ, CALIF.

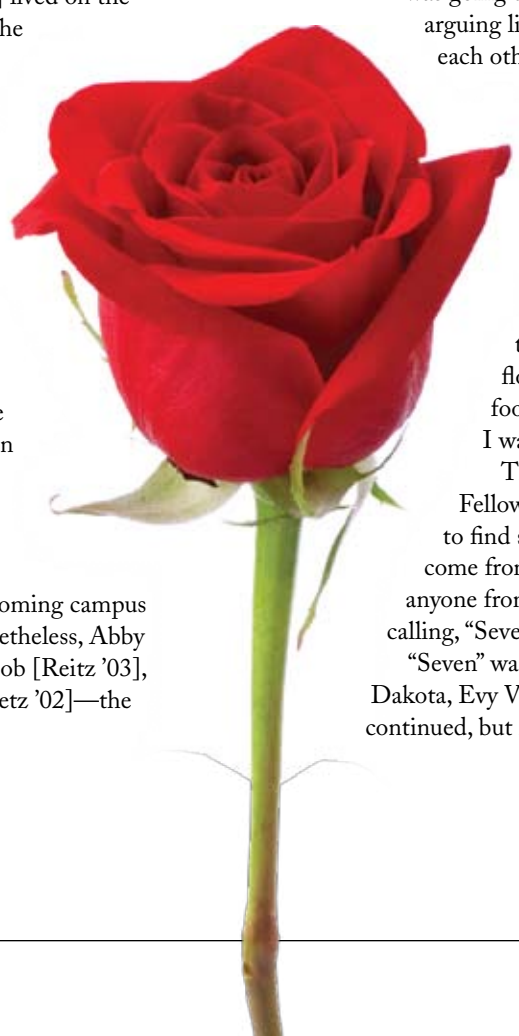
Sparks

I was walking from West Hall to DeBoer House when I noticed friends talking with a guy in the parking lot that used to be between West and Heemstra. The guy was David Wynn [’96], and from the back I thought he looked like a very skinny guy with an afro. I strode over, started yakking, and he thought I was a mouthy little punk who was going to be trouble. But by the end of the week we were arguing like cats and dogs—and dating. We’ve been keeping each other on our toes ever since.

**Kay (Hekter ’97) Wynn**  
AUSTIN, MINN.

Finding Direction

A month into my junior year, I was unsure what I wanted to do with my life and was ready to quit college. My cafeteria supervisor knew I was floundering and encouraged me to pursue an open food service job at another college. The job was mine if I wanted it; I had two weeks to decide. That weekend I attended a Student Christian Fellowship retreat, and at the opening night mixer, I had to find someone with the same number of siblings as me. I come from a family of seven kids. I had little hope of locating anyone from a family as large as mine, until I heard someone calling, “Seven, seven!” “Seven” was a vivacious, dark-haired beauty from North Dakota, Evy Van Bruggen [’74]. I lost track of her as the game continued, but later that night, while I was walking by myself and





contemplating my future, someone came up behind me and asked, “Can I walk with you?”

That beginning led to a journey that’s lasted 38 years so far. Throughout the weekend, Evy and I talked, laughed, cried and searched the road ahead. By the time we returned to campus, I was still unsure of my future, but I had a reason to stay at Northwestern.

**The Rev. Phil Somsen ’73**  
FORT DODGE, IOWA

**Cradle Raider**

I didn’t attend Northwestern, but my husband, Matt [Trost ’99], did. We met the summer after my freshman year of high school, and I thought it was so cool to be dating a college guy. For the next three years, Matt came to my high school cross country meets, and I cheered at his college baseball games. After one spring Saturday game, he escorted me to prom. Although he got a lot of flak from his teammates for going to prom as a college senior, he took it like a pro.

**Erin Trost**  
POLK CITY, IOWA

**Friese, Thaw**

Steve [Friese ’03] recalls one cold night during a dance in Alton when he locked eyes with me for only a moment, but it was a moment and memory that reminds him of God’s provision. From that instant, God gave him the courage to pursue me in the face of initial rejection.

I loved life as a freshman, experiencing everything college had to offer, and I made it clear to Steve many times I was in no mood to date anyone. Nonetheless, not only did Steve fall in love with me that night, but his roommate fell in love with my friend. Hanging out with my friend and her boyfriend meant I was around Steve nearly every day after that night, and eventually I realized the comfort I felt around him wasn’t the warmth you feel with just anyone.

He proposed in a cornfield not far from campus, and we married one week after our mutual friends’ wedding.

**Anna (MacKay ’04) Friese**  
NEW ULM, MINN.

**Sister Knows Best**

I met my husband, Blake [Wicking ’08], at Northwestern, but my story is about my sister, Jennifer [Tjeerdsma ’04]. Jenny and Brian [Young ’04] met during freshman orientation; Jenny was walking across campus when a dashing soccer player offered her a lollipop. The two struck up a conversation—and a friendship. When Jenny came home for midterm break, we lay on our bunk beds talking about Brian, and I could tell she had a crush on him. I asked if they were boyfriend and girlfriend. She said, “No, he’s not my boyfriend; he’s just my best *boy* friend.” I figured they’d be dating shortly.

When I visited Jenny in February and met Brian, I was even more convinced he was the one for her. I started praying Jenny would marry Brian and even wrote in my journal on June 6, 2001: Jennifer Tjeerdsma will marry her best boy friend, Brian Young.

Jenny and Brian remained friends all through college, but I began to wonder if they’d ever start dating, especially when they graduated and Jenny moved to Arizona for graduate school while Brian joined the Peace Corps and headed to Honduras.

Jenny visited Brian in Honduras and came home still just friends. By this time I was thinking, “Brian, come on! She visited you in another country! What more does a girl have to do?” Brian was starting to frustrate me, but I kept praying, “Please, God, let Jenny marry Brian.”

Finally, in 2009, when Brian was back in the U.S., he called my sister and suggested they begin a long-distance dating relationship. Six months later, Brian met Jenny at the airport holding a sign that made her chuckle: “Jennifer Tjeerdsma.”

The next one sent her heart racing: “I have a question.”  
And the last one took her breath away: “Will you marry me?”

I told my story of waiting for love at their wedding reception in November and gave them the page from my journal. I thoroughly enjoyed saying what every sister loves to say: “I told you so.”

**Kari (Tjeerdsma ’08) Wicking**  
SIOUX CENTER, IOWA

**Seeing Stars**

During movie nights in the RSC, it seemed the projector always broke down at some point. On one such occasion, the beautiful girl in front of me turned around and we struck up a conversation. That beauty was my future wife [Heather Brown ’91].

**Doug Schorle ’89**  
ATLANTIC, IOWA

**Purposeful Proposal**

The night Lisa [Muilenburg ’07] and I became engaged, I carried out a very elaborate proposal with the help of her sister, Carrie [’10], and folks in the NWC residence life and maintenance departments.

After what she thought was a typical date, I led Lisa to the basement of one of the apartment buildings, where she found a blanket, three white candles and pages from a scrapbook. The blanket represented warmth, security and closeness; the candles represented faith and the Trinity; and the scrapbook contained poems, letters and songs I’d been writing to my future wife before I even met Lisa! She read my expressions of love, and we headed to our next stop: the former Bushmer Art Center.

In the Bushmer basement, Lisa found three yellow candles, more scrapbook pages, and a table and chairs. These candles represented hope, and the table and chairs represented the Last Supper. It was important for Christ to eat with his closest friends just hours before his death, and I wanted Lisa to know that sharing a meal together creates a sacred space. I read from Song of Solomon, and we headed to Maurice, Iowa—to Lisa’s home church (where I had been a youth ministry intern).

In the place that had helped shape Lisa into the woman I now loved, by the light of three red candles representing love, I washed her feet to let her know that that I would, to the best of my ability, seek to serve and love her as Christ does. As I was already kneeling, I presented a ring and asked her to be my wife. She said yes, and our celebration included our first kiss.

**Ben Vos ’08**  
SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS

**Double Take**

I was working in Northwestern’s admissions office and hadn’t been dating Mike [Vander Zwaag ’94] long when I saw him walking toward the building. I was nervous about him visiting me at work and asked a colleague what I should do. She said if I really liked him I should go out and greet him with a big smile. So I did, grinning hugely—only to realize it was Mike’s twin brother, Mark. (I had a hard time distinguishing between them if all I saw was a side profile.) I eventually learned to tell them apart easily and married the one who looked like Mike.

**Loree (Carlberg ’95) Vander Zwaag**  
ORANGE CITY, IOWA

**Crazy Love**

The love stories ad in the fall *Classic* made me laugh. Until recently, I would have felt chagrined by a feature focusing on people who found love at Northwestern since I didn’t meet the love of my life there—except, I did. That is, I first met Blayne at the 2007 Northwestern Gala Auction. I was a member of the Alumni Association and was wearing a yellow hard hat at the time (in keeping with the “Under Construction” auction theme).

A Tabor College graduate, Blayne started following Northwestern basketball after seeing the Raiders play his alma mater during a tournament. So Northwestern’s name caught his eye in a *Sioux Falls Argus Leader* article about singleness in Sioux Falls. The article featured a Sioux Falls single: me.

The following year, Blayne wandered into Northwestern’s Gala Auction after a basketball game and recognized me as the woman from the article. We talked briefly and even met for dinner. Life and responsibilities intervened, and we didn’t meet again until six months later when I invited him to a New Year’s Eve gathering at my house.

Despite our differences—he likes basketball and watching his crops grow; I like shopping and traveling—there was a connection, and I texted him a few days later. Blayne had never received—or sent—a text message, but he eventually figured out how to send a message back.

Over time we realized we had much more in common than we’d thought, including our core values. Three years from the *Argus* article’s publication date, we became engaged, and now we’re married.

So I did find love at Northwestern. How crazy is that?!

**Tonya (Van Peursesem ’94) Brockmueller**  
SIOUX FALLS, S.D. ❤️







Recognized as Northwestern's 2009 alumni of the year at Homecoming were, left to right: Darlene Vander Aarde, Drew Vogel, Jean Vogel and Randy Oostra.

# Honored

Four receive distinguished alumni awards

## Darlene (De Beer '52) Vander Aarde

*Service to Humankind*

While her husband, Stan '51, practiced medicine at a hospital in India from 1961 to 1987, Darlene Vander Aarde pursued her own ministries. Trained as an educator, she taught English and Bible classes for nursing students and supervised a community nursery school. She organized a model feeding program for undernourished children and ran an institute that taught individuals how to make and market handcrafted items. Eventually Vander Aarde became administrator of the American Arcott Mission Elementary and Middle School and the C.S.I. (Church of South India) High School for girls. In that capacity, she developed a scholarship program that enabled 100 girls from outlying villages to board at the schools. Now retired, Vander Aarde continues to serve by volunteering at Orange City's Bibles for Missions thrift store and participating in a quilting group at her church.

## Jean (Tallman '75) and Drew Vogel '72

*Service to Northwestern*

Drew and Jean Vogel have served as volunteers for numerous community organizations, including NWC. President and CEO of Diamond Vogel Paints, Drew is in his 17th year as a member of Northwestern's Board of Trustees and has been the board chair since 2003. He chaired the committee that led fundraising for the renovation of the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center, completed in 2004. He also chaired the search committee for President Bruce Murphy and was a member of the search committee that recruited President Greg Christy. Jean served on the planning committee for Christy's inauguration in fall 2008. She was a member of Northwestern's visual identity task force, which unveiled a new college word mark and logo in 2005. Jean also has served as a consultant for campus aesthetics, including the hanging of lights and wreaths and decorating of trees at Christmas.

## Randy Oostra '77

*Professional Achievement*

Dr. Randy Oostra is president and CEO of ProMedica Health System, based in Toledo, Ohio. While he oversees an organization that generates \$2 billion in annual revenue, employs 15,000, and serves 2.5 million patients in a two-state area, he says his job comes down to approaching every task from this perspective: How would I want my family to be treated? Oostra served hospitals and health organizations in Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota before becoming vice president of ProMedica's Toledo Hospital in 1997. He served as ProMedica's president and chief operating officer from 2006 until last year, when he was named chief executive of the most integrated health system in the country, according to *Modern Healthcare* magazine. A biology major at Northwestern, Oostra has also earned master's degrees in science and healthcare administration and a doctorate in management. 🏠

To nominate someone for a distinguished alumni award, visit [www.nwciowa.edu/alumniawards](http://www.nwciowa.edu/alumniawards)

## Red Weekend

With a Homecoming theme of "Gratefully Red," Northwestern's campus was awash in the color Oct. 2–3. Despite cool, wet weather, spirits were warm as alumni reconnected with each other, faculty and staff. About 100 people attended reunions for the classes of 1979, '89, '99 and 2004. The traditional Homecoming activities of Morning on the Green and Raider Road Race were joined by a new event, Battle of the Bands, which featured bands from the campus and community. The weekend was capped off with a 35-6 football victory over Concordia and back-to-back volleyball wins over Dana and Midland.



Cold and wet weather couldn't dampen the enthusiasm of alumni who returned to campus for Homecoming in October.



# class Notes

**'64 Dr. Kella Klinker-Simonin**, Spencer, Iowa, is a facilitator for Third Age College, an educational program for senior citizens at Iowa Lakes Community College. She has taught courses on the American musical, detective fiction, and the development of human language.

**'68 Dr. Corwin Smidt** of Ada, Mich., is co-editor and co-author of two recent books by Oxford University Press: *The Oxford Handbook of Religion and American Politics* and *The Diminishing God Gap? Religion in the 2008 Presidential Election*. He is directing a semester-long program in Washington, D.C., for Calvin College this spring.

**'69 Don Rens**, Apple Valley, Minn., retired from Zachry Engineering last summer. He reports enjoying more time with his children and grandchildren and working on his house.

**'70 The Rev. Dave Schutt** serves as senior pastor of Calvary Reformed Church in Ripon, Calif.

**'76 The Rev John Hubers** and his wife, **Lynne (Lenderink)**, have moved to Texas, where John is the senior pastor of the Reformed Church in Plano. He is pursuing a Ph.D. in world Christianity and global mission from the Lutheran School of Theology, and he recently had papers published in *Missiology* and the *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*.

**'77 David Ritsema** is a music teacher at the International School of Berne in Gumligen, Switzerland.

**'78 Willis Kleinjan**, Avon, Minn., is president of Northland Capital. He says he and his wife, **Jodi (Pennings)**, have enjoyed reconnecting with Northwestern as they have visited daughters Christa '10 and Kayla '11 on campus.

**Steven Konz**, Corinth, Texas, is a sales representative for Corsicana Bedding. He

and his wife, **Coryne (Howe)**, have a son and two daughters, the youngest of whom plays softball at North Dakota State University.

**'79 Carol (Postma) Bydlon**, Sanborn, Iowa, works in Village Northwest Unlimited's workshop.

**Christine (Hegstad) Dykstra** is a registered nurse at the Orange City Area Health System and also works part time at a dental office.

**Sandra (Studley) Haan** serves as assistant to the dean of math, science and technology at Bergen Community College in Paramus, N.J. She has been cancer-free for almost five years.

**Jolene (Venenga) Hilbrands**, Sioux Falls, teaches kindergarten at Harvey Dunn Elementary.

**Dawn (Brink) Kinney**, Bronson, Iowa, is a full-time babysitter to three children during the school year. She also works on her brother and dad's farm.

**Jeff Kloster** teaches physical education at Longmont (Colo.) High School, where he also is head boys' basketball coach and an assistant football coach.

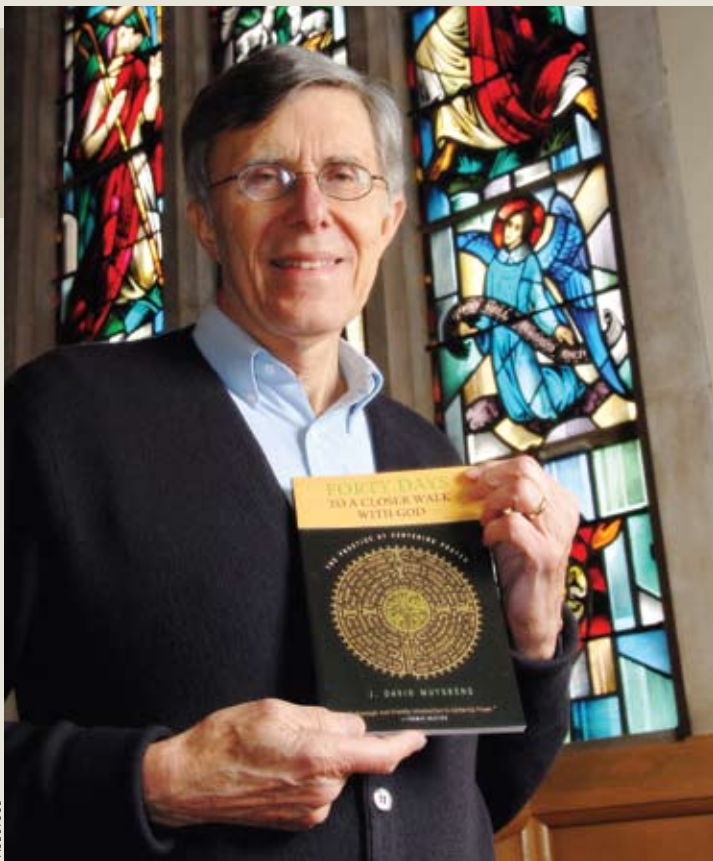
**Linda Nichols** is a teaching assistant in public speaking at Harvard University. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in psychology.

**Gary Simonson**, Olathe, Kan., is a district manager for Barnes & Noble Booksellers.

**Carol (Heusinkveld) Tjeerdsma** is a special education instructor at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Mo.

**Dale Waggoner** teaches geography at Spencer (Iowa) Middle School.

**Timothy Westcott**, Kansas City, Mo., recently wrote and directed his first theatrical production, *Letters From the Front: The Christmas Truce of 1914*. He is an associate professor of history at Park University.



J. David Muyskens' *Forty Days to a Closer Walk With God* introduces readers to the early Christian practice of centering prayer.

## The Contemplative Activist

The Rev. Dr. J. David Muyskens '54 marched for civil rights. Along with a Catholic priest and a Lutheran minister, he helped unseat a corrupt government in Union City, N.J., and protested at school board meetings on behalf of exploited residents. He fought to preserve a New Brunswick, N.J., historical district while insisting that low-income tenants who wanted to stay could.

And then came the chest and abdominal pains. A perceptive doctor asked the activist Reformed Church pastor, "Are you trying to do it all yourself?"

Muyskens slowed down, and in doing so discovered the early Christian practice of centering prayer. Fifteen years later, in 2006, Upper Room Books published *Forty Days to a Closer Walk With God*, Muyskens' reworking of his seminary lectures on this silent method of fostering an awareness of God's presence.

The recent, sudden deaths of both a son-in-law and daughter-in-law tested Muyskens' need to act.

"I was feeling like God let us down, and I better get busy. It was centering prayer that helped me realize God continues to be at work even though we don't understand what's happened."

Now a spiritual director in Grand Rapids, Mich., Muyskens can't quite be called a former activist. He writes, "Far from taking me out of the world of work, contemplation gives me a way to enter into it fully."

BY AMY SCHEER

**Jane (Van Beek) Zupp** and her husband, Shawn, are renovating his family home in Washta, Iowa, and hope to move in soon.

**'83 Lisa (Boonstra) Burg**, her husband, Doug, and daughter Tessa (8), traveled to Ethiopia in September to welcome Sera (7) and Ben (3) into their family, which also includes Maria and Isaac, both in college. The family is also hosting exchange students from Kazakhstan and the Netherlands this year.

**Gary Harmelink** is investment program manager for First PREMIER Bank in Sioux Falls. He leads an investment team that assists customers in a 16-branch network in South Dakota.

**'86 Barb (Veenendaal) Anderson**, Monument, Colo., home-schools Ariana (11) and triplets Kately, Noah and Claire (9).

**'89 Teri (Van Wechel) Anderson** teaches special education at Orange City Elementary School.

**Gloria (Blankers) Bartelt** is a special education consultant for the Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency in Algona, Iowa.

**Sherri Beeler**, Medford, Ore., is the head of the English department at Cascade Christian High School, where she also teaches art and honors classes.

**Ruth (Zonnefeld) Boyer** is a resident associate at Landsmeer Ridge in Orange City.

**Kim (Kilpatrick) Carrigan** is an obstetrical nurse at Lakes Regional Healthcare in Spirit Lake, Iowa. She and her husband, Mark, have four children: Kellerie (17), Mitchell (14), Sarah (12) and Cullen (11).

**Debra (Blankers) Haning** teaches second grade at East Elementary School in Sheldon, Iowa.

**Karen (DeValois) Michaelson** works in the special education program at Hilltop Elementary School in Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

**Gina (Langstraat) Pitsenberger**, Holland, Mich., teaches English as a second language part time. Her husband, Mike, is the senior pastor at Christ Memorial Church.

**Dr. Shawn Ritenour** has been promoted to full professor at Grove City College, where he teaches economics. His first book, *Foundations of Economics: A Christian View*, is scheduled to be published this spring.

**Arllys (De Jong) Slaughter** and her husband, **Paul '96**, live near Estherville, Iowa, where they own and operate Estherville Aviation.

**The Rev. Brian Steenhoek** is the pastor of Voice of Hope, an RCA church start in Wayland, Mich. His wife, **Geselle (Mulder)**, is a family ministries coach in the church.

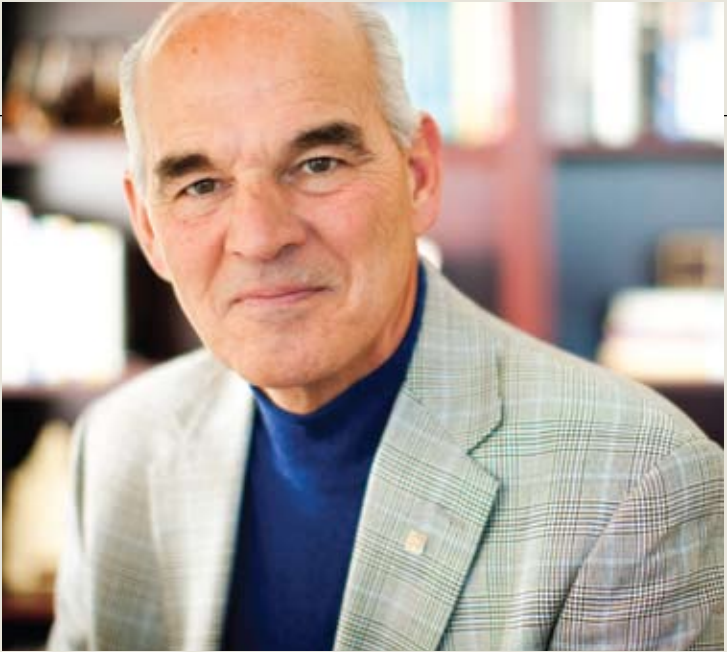
**Jeff Te Grotenhuis**, Des Moines, Iowa, is an engineer working with soil and groundwater remediation.

**Kimberly (Koppenhaver) Valentine**, Ambler, Pa., is a Pampered Chef consultant. She and her husband, Glen, have three children: Nicholas (12), Daniel (9) and Rebecca (5).

**Dr. Dan Van Peursem** is chair of the math department at the University of South Dakota. His wife, **Jennifer (Mitchell '91)**, home-schools their three children.

**Rick Van Ravenswaay** is pastor of outreach and administration at New Life Reformed Church in Sioux Center.

**'91 Kevin Poeckes** is a resource room teacher and coach at Okoboji Middle School in Arnolds Park, Iowa.



Glenn Van Ekeren is president of Vetter Health Services, an Omaha-based long-term care management company, and author of three new books.

## Picker-Upper Person

A conversation Glenn Van Ekeren '74 had 30 years ago is still making a difference in his life—and in the lives of those he influences.

Van Ekeren was driving with Bob Hoogeveen '57, his supervisor at Village Northwest Unlimited in Sheldon, Iowa, and lamenting the characteristics and talents he didn't possess.

"Bob asked me, 'When do you plan to start using what you *do* have? God has given you some gifts; why aren't you focused on them?'"

Hoogeveen was what Van Ekeren refers to as a "picker-upper person," someone who "accepts people for who they are, tries desperately to understand their world, and then encourages them to be all they were created to be."

Van Ekeren wrote about "picker-upper people" in *12 Simple Secrets to Experiencing Joy in Everyday Relationships*, one of three books he published last year.

And spurred on by his mentor's counsel, Van Ekeren has adopted a life mission of positively impacting those around him. His other books, *12 Simple Secrets to Finding Fulfillment at Work* and *12 Simple Secrets to Staying Calm in a Crazy World*, continue that theme.

Van Ekeren is already thinking about his next book—on his philosophy of leadership. The advice of one of the chapters? Believe in people.

BY DUANE BEESON



**'92 Cory Brandt** was named the 2009 *Sioux City Journal* and *Northwest Iowa Review* Coach of the Year after leading the Boyden-Hull/Rock Valley (Iowa) football team to a 13-1 record and a Class 2A state runner-up finish.

**'94 Kurt Dykstra** was elected mayor of Holland, Mich., in November. A lawyer, he is a partner in the Holland office of Warner Norcross & Judd.

**Stanley Newton II** is a guidance counselor and district technology coordinator for the Ventura (Iowa) Community School District.

**Susan Porter-Green** is international program learning manager for Compassion International in Colorado Springs, Colo.

**Scott Yoder**, Sioux Falls, is an agent for Farm Bureau Financial Services.

**'99 Tasha (Kurtz) Cole** is a part-time counselor in Clarinda, Iowa. Her husband, Jon, teaches high school math. They have three daughters: Taylor (5) and twins Ellie and Madison (2).

**Darrin De Vries** is pursuing a master's degree in applied statistics at Western Michigan University.

**Jeremy Eisenga**, Beaver Dam, Wis., is a senior Web programmer for an education agency. He also developed and co-owns a website content management system company.

**Allison (McLaughlin) Fore** is a second grade dual-immersion teacher in Gilroy, Calif.

**Nichole (DeNoble) Gerleman**, Rock Rapids, Iowa, is a registered nurse. Her husband, **Ben '01**, is a teacher and coach at George-Little Rock. They have two children: Mason (5) and Mariah (3).

**Matthew Johnson** is an assurance manager for Clifton Gunderson in St. Joseph, Mo. He and his wife, Becky, have two children: Haley (5) and Torren (2).

**Dr. Michelle (DeJong) Johnson**, Inwood, Iowa, is a physician at Sanford Canton Inwood Hospital/Clinic.

**Kyle Menke** teaches third grade at Lake Mills (Iowa) Community School, where he is also the head boys' basketball coach. His wife, **Marie (Tilderquist)**, teaches special education at Lake Mills. They have two children: Eli (3) and Ava (2).

**Tabitha Pederson** is pursuing a master's degree in social service administration at the University of Chicago.

**Jason Sniff** is assistant director of residence life at Illinois State University in Normal.

**Stacy (Maassen) Surat**, Sioux Falls, works in the compliance department at Meta Payment Systems and is pursuing certification as an anti-money laundering specialist. She also plays clarinet in the Sioux Falls Municipal Band.

**Kristi TenClay**, Junction City, Kan., is raising support for a two-year missionary appointment at Rain Forest International School in Yaounde, Cameroon.

**Dr. Chris Van Hofwegen**, Columbus, Ga., is doing a one-year fellowship in sports medicine after completing his orthopedics residency. His wife, **Dr. Lisa (Steiner)**, finished her family medicine residency and is staying home with sons Gabriel (2) and Calvin (1).

**Jennifer (Van Wyk) Van Zante**, Ottumwa, Iowa, is a judicial clerk in the Mahaska County Clerk of Court office. She and her husband, Seth, have four children: Ephraim (6), Emmet (4) and twins Eden and Eliza (2).

**Kendra (Brinkman) Zachrison** is a registered nurse at North Austin (Texas) Medical Center. Her husband, **Jamie '00**, is in his second year of OB/GYN residency at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Austin.



RENA WORT

Three women from Northwestern's class of 1996 married the Tamminga brothers and now live within 150 miles of each other. From left: Uri, Melissa, Danyale, Jesse, Micah and Wendy Tamminga.

### All in the Family

Melissa (Lovegren '96), Wendy (Hensley '96) and Danyale (Temple '96) Tamminga found a new way to keep in touch with college friends—add them to your family. Today the three are not only still best friends, but also sisters-in-law.

“We used to say, ‘I hope we marry guys who get along’ and here we married brothers,” Wendy says with a laugh.

Their friendships started long before they met their future husbands. Danyale and Wendy were elementary classmates in Iowa but lost touch when Wendy's family moved to Washington. Wendy met Melissa in high school, and they decided to room together at Northwestern. When they moved into West Hall, Danyale lived a floor above them.

During college, Wendy started dating Micah Tamminga, who was a family friend. But Micah lived in Washington and Wendy's family had moved back to Iowa.

“So Wendy came home with me one summer to be closer to Micah,” says Melissa. “He would come over to hang out and bring his brother Uri.”

During their senior year, the friends took a road trip to Washington, where Danyale met Jesse, the youngest Tamminga brother.

Now the three families live within driving distance in Washington and have a combined total of 10 children (plus one on the way).

“We're all very close. I never imagined our lives would intertwine the way they have—that my college friends would be my kids' aunts,” says Danyale.

BY **EMILY HENNAGER '06**

**'01 Jackson Schuiteman** was recently named chief financial officer of the Sioux Center Community Hospital and Health Center Avera. He previously served there as the financial management director.

**Tara (Bonestroo) Vonk**, Sioux Center, is an early childhood special education teacher at Central Lyon Elementary in Rock Rapids.

**'02 Amanda Magnuson**, Omaha, coordinates graduate programs for the University of Nebraska Medical Center's College of Nursing.

**Rachel Van Den Broek, Karissa Carlson '03, Elizabeth Heeg-Truesdell '01, Tom Truesdell '01 and Laura (Spanhut '07) Scholten** ran in the team portion of the Sioux City Marathon in October as Team Gratefully Red. Rachel and Elizabeth also wore Gratefully Red shirts, along with turkey hats, as they ran in the Living History Farms Race in Des Moines in November.

**'03 Ami Christensen** teaches English at Baiko Jo Gakuin University in Shimonoseki, Japan.

**Dr. Anna Peterson**, Selinsgrove, Pa., is a veterinarian at Sunbury Animal Hospital.

**Carleen (Owens) Smith** serves as director of St. John Noah's Ark Daycare and Preschool in Clarinda, Iowa.

**'04 Jon Behrends** is a missionary teaching English in Pardubice, Czech Republic.

**Kristin Brouwer** is a teacher at Pella (Iowa) Christian Grade School. She is also pursuing a Master of Divinity degree from Bethel Seminary.

**Sarah Doorenbos** is a software developer for Advanced Technologies Group in West Des Moines, Iowa.

**Libby (DeStigter) Gustafson** is a dental hygienist in Aurelia, Iowa. She is also a tech sergeant in the 185th Air National Guard in Sioux City. She and her husband, Dan, have a son: Colton (1).

**Tony Hoftiezer**, Grimes, Iowa, works in customer service for Iowa Home Care. He is active at his church, working with the youth group and serving as a leader for a discipleship group and a couples' Bible study.



Laura Scholten, Rachel Van Den Broek, Karissa Carlson, Elizabeth Heeg-Truesdell and Tom Truesdell (left to right) represented NWC in the Sioux City Marathon.

**Stacy (Van Vark) Kanis** is an investment counselor for Principal Financial Group in Des Moines.

**Laura Keith**, Washington, D.C., is an analyst for SRA International, which provides technology and services to support homeland security, defense and global health.

**Jessica Mueller**, Oakland, Calif., is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree from the Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University, preparing for ministry in the Catholic church.

**Jennifer (Palmquist) Spiegel** works from her home in Sauk Rapids, Minn., as a medical transcriptionist.


**Valerie (Harms) Van Zee** is a social worker at the University of Iowa Hospitals' Emergency Treatment Center.

**Shelly (Heida) Walker**, Ripon, Calif., is pursuing a master's degree in school counseling from Chapman University. She previously worked for Agape Children's Ministry, which rescues street boys in Kenya.

**Hannah Zasadny** is a physician assistant at the Mitchell County Regional Health Center in Osage, Iowa. She works in the emergency room and the family practice clinic.

**'05 Melanie (DeKruif) Andersen**, Modale, Iowa, teaches fifth grade for Logan-Magnolia Community Schools.

# SPEAK UP



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**Melissa Ingham** is a police/fire dispatcher for the city of Palm Springs, Calif.

**Chelsie Reed** is pursuing a master’s degree in social work from Walla Walla University in Billings, Mont.

**Kendall Stanislav**, Upland, Ind., is pursuing a master’s degree in higher education from Taylor University, where he also serves as a hall director.

**Cristin (Kadner) Vander Weerd** is a physician assistant with an orthopedic surgeon at CNOS in Dakota Dunes, S.D.

**’06 Jodi (Logterman) Arnold** is a K-12 music teacher for the Cody-Kilgore (Neb.) Unified School District.

**Justin Dowdy** teaches second grade in Gothenburg, Neb.

**Andrew Gunter**, Spring Park, Minn., is a law student at the University of St. Thomas. He is clerking for the Target Corporation.

**Carly Miller** is a loss reporting representative for Country Financial in Bloomington, Ill.

**Kayli (King) Oquist** is an ophthalmic technician for Stateline Eyecare in Kansas City, Mo.

**Terika Raak** serves as the residential director of the Friendship House at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Mich. She is also a manager at JP’s Coffee and Espresso Bar and a trainer for the Midwest Barista School.

**’07 Kevin Sas** is the youth pastor at Transformation City Church in Milwaukee, Wis.

**Mike Smit** is the health and wellness coordinator at the Sterling/Rock Falls (Ill.) Family YMCA. He is also the linebacker coach at Newman Central Catholic High



RACHEL SALTZBERG

**Bukky Harthoorn** earned dual bachelor’s degrees in math from NWC and engineering from Washington University in St. Louis. She is now a chemical engineer in Baton Rouge, La.

## Great Engineering

At first glance, Bukky (Akinyemi ’04) Harthoorn’s dual roles as mother and full-time chemical engineer might not seem to have much in common. But while they can be worlds apart, she says both offer rewarding glimpses into the unfathomable, multi-dimensional nature of God.

“[Motherhood] has given me the ability to briefly understand how much God loves us,” says Harthoorn, who, along with her husband, James ’01, welcomed their daughter, Adalie, last April. “I just love her beyond my comprehension, and that gives me a glimpse of how much God loves us.”

In her highly technical work as a chemical engineer at Jacobs in Baton Rouge, La., Harthoorn finds herself relying on the Lord for wisdom, patience and swift problem-solving. When she goes to God daily with complicated challenges—anything from designing pressure release valves to sharing her faith with a co-worker—she finds comfort in the fact that she is working for the “master engineer.”

“The whole world is engineering. I get a hint of God’s work and get to take part in it a little bit,” she says. “He’s the best engineer; it’s nice to have him on your side.”

BY SARAH ASP OLSON ’03

School. His wife, **Amy (Vos ’08)**, teaches second grade at Franklin Elementary School.

**Matt Van Heuvelen** is a law student at the University of Iowa.

**’08 Kimberly (DeKock) Boone**, Orange City, is a medical technologist at Sanford Merrill Medical Center.

**Joe Grady** is a behavioral health technician at Boys Town National Research Hospital in Omaha. He says his experience of working with troubled youth and their families on a daily basis has helped him realize God’s call for his life is to help children grow and make the right choices.

**Sarah Hilkemann** is pursuing a master’s degree in global leadership/missions from Dallas Baptist University.

**Molly Keese**, Iowa City, teaches English as a second language for Columbus Junction Community Schools.

**Audra Schmidt** is a part-time athletic trainer for Colorado Christian University.

**Laura Schmidt** is a human resources manager at Youth for Christ in Parker, Colo.

**’09 Addison (Bartlett) Cordova**, Ciudad del Carmen, Mexico, is an instructor at the Universidad Autonoma del Carmen.

**Kara (Johnson) Fifield** serves as assistant to the dean at Alpha Omega Academy in Rock Rapids, Iowa.

**Craig Menke**, Iowa City, works in enrollment management for RuffaloCODY, a company that provides fundraising and marketing services.

**Melissa (Van Heuvelen) Carrington** works as an imaging specialist for the *Des Moines Register*. Her husband, **Joe ’08**, is an osteopathic medical student at Des Moines University.



# Wanted roses. Got a toaster.

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February 20

## New Arrivals

Sarah and **Jeremy Yoder ’95**, son, David Benjamin, joins Raquel (5)

Henry and **Kristie (Johanson ’98) Happeny**, daughter, Charlotte Kristine, joins David (3)

**Rebecca (DeGroot ’99) and Andrew Anderson ’99**, daughter, Hope LeeAnn, joins Hannah (6), Julia (4) and Lydia (2)

**Sara (Maassen ’99) and Curt Andringa ’99**, son, Travis John, joins Trenton (4) and Tyler (1)

Ed and **Denise (De Haan ’99) Anker**, son, Gerrit John, joins Eddie (2)

**Kendra (Brinkman ’99) and Jamie Zachrison ’00**, daughter, Elise Helen, joins Isaac (3)

Keith and **Jill (Verhey ’00) Anderson**, daughter, Jessa Kate, joins Karlie (5)

Craig and **Christal (Smith ’00) Fendley**, son, Zachary Joel, joins Vallarie (4) and Nicolas (2)

Greg and **Emily (Gosselink ’00) Ford**, son, Asher William

David and **Lori (Gorter ’00) Schroeder**, son, Avery Matthew

**Alicia (Moehring ’01) and Ben Ellingson ’01**, triplets, Isla Kay, Solomon David and Simon Benjamin

**Vicki (Dykstra ’01) and Justin Schrock ’01**, twin daughters by adoption, Miya Renee and Kira Lynn, join Angelique (7), Caleb (6) and Emilee (3)

**Laurie (Stark ’03) and Matthew De Vries ’02**, daughter, Brenna Ann

**Molly (Reynolds ’03) and Ezra Johnson ’03**, daughter, Adalyn Kay

**Kyndara (Hardersen ’03) and Brandon Woudstra ’03**, son, Layton Kees, joins Jaelye (2)

**Anna (MacKay ’04) and Steve Fries** ’03, son, Isaiah Mark, joins Evelyn (4) and Naomi (2)

Sarah and **Ben Hummel ’04**, son, Harrison James

Brian and **Kacey (Van Dyke ’04) McQuilkin**, daughter, Piper Marie, joins Logan (3)

Gil and **Shannon (Koester ’04) Ridenour**, son, Judas Maccabeus

**Erin (Saulsbury ’04) and Chris Russell ’04**, daughter, Ava Makinley

**Rebecca (Severson ’04) and Larry Schrock ’03**, son, Isaac Everett

**Angela (Van Meeteren ’04) and Justin Schuiteman ’04**, daughter, Bailey Jennifer (Palmquist ’04) and **Seth Spiegel ’02**, son, William Hudson, joins Jonah (2)

James and **Maria (Vos ’05) O’Dell**, son, Titus James

**Cristin (Kadner ’05) and Elijah Vander Weerd** ’05, son, Trey Ernest

**Angela (Nearpass ’05) and Nathan Willems ’05**, daughter, Alethea Grace

Elliott and **Emily (Spany) Malm ’06**, daughter, Cora Louise

**Stacy (Parker ’07) and Dustin Heino ’06**, son, Connor Jeremiah

Scott and **Julia (Meyer ’07) Tjeerdsma**, son, Henry Scott

**Melody (Hamburger ’08) and Grant Lunning ’06**, son, Lincoln Grant

## Marriages

**Jeff Leimer ’95** and Mary Wold, Sheldahl, Iowa

**Tara Bonestroo ’01** and Kevin Vonk, Sioux Center

**Kim Tjeerdsma ’02** and Zeke Ellis, Sioux Center

**Paul Clemens ’03** and Julia Germann, South Hamilton, Mass.

**Rachel Wiersma ’03** and Benjamin Waits, Sioux Falls

**Erin Piehl ’04** and Tim Kittila, Shoreview, Minn.

**Jennifer Tjeerdsma ’04 and Brian Young ’04**, Mesa, Ariz.

**Melanie DeKruif ’05** and Nick Andersen, Modale, Iowa

**Heather Hoekstra ’06** and Michael Sas, Sioux Center

**Kayli King ’06** and Mark Oquist, Overland Park, Kan.

**Jodi Logterman ’06** and William George Arnold III, Kilgore, Neb.

**Anna Persuitti ’06 and Paul Elgersma ’06**, Shoreview, Minn.

**Amber Riddle ’06** and Jason Bucher, Bedford, Iowa

**Tim Thompson ’06 and Emily Hoekema ’07**, Sioux Falls

**Liz Reynen ’07** and Tim Tate, Red River, N.M.

**Amy (Vos ’08) and Mike Smit ’07**, Sterling, Ill.

**Kari Henryson ’09** and Andrew Rutledge, Orange City

**Kara Johnson ’09** and Grant Fifield, Sioux Falls

**Rachel Kleinsasser ’09** and Dustin Schuur, Sioux Center

**Annie Moran ’09** and Ben Cochran, Sioux Falls

**Rachael Mullin ’10** and Josh Foutch, Creston, Iowa

*The couples reside in the city listed.*

## In Memoriam

**Margaret Tiemersma ’40**, age 88, died Oct. 26 in Orange City. She was a long-time secretary at Sioux Abstract Company and a member of First Christian Reformed Church, where she taught Sunday school and served as church librarian.

**Phyllis Zeutenhorst**, who served as comptroller at Northwestern from 1969 to 1990, died Oct. 14 in Orange City at age 81. She was a member of First Reformed Church. She is survived by her husband, **John**, a Northwestern lawn care assistant, and two children, including **Tim ’82**.

# WORK AT NWC

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# Classic Thoughts

## Love That Lasts

BY TODD THOMPSON '85

Pulling into the parking lot, I ask my 9-year-old twin daughters the same question I ask every week.

"Girls, what are we here to do?"

"Serve each other with love!"

"And where do we find that?"

"Galoshes 5:13b." (We're still working on the reference part.)

For the past two years, Annie, Emma and I have been bringing flowers and hugs to the residents of Carillon House and Vista Care, a skilled-care center and in-patient hospice. God uses our simple act of service to teach us many life lessons, like the power of encouragement and the frailty and brevity of life. It's also allowed us the privilege of witnessing the final chapters of beautiful love stories.

Say to any couple, "Tell me how you met," and you're guaranteed a fun and fascinating story. Beginnings are full of romance and anticipation.

Sadly, romantic beginnings do not guarantee happy endings. If only couples could be glued together like the souvenirs in a wedding album. Some thrive during seasons of "better"—times of health and wealth. Yet when the "worse"—sickness and poverty—happens, their commitment wanes.

"How we met" stories are many. "How we stayed together" stories are much rarer.

There are many love stories among our Carillon friends. Ray and Margaret had been married 65 years when she died last month. Mr. Williams is a steady presence at the side of his bride of over 50 years. He watches helplessly as Alzheimer's assaults her memory.

What choices do you make when "for worse" will never get better? Buddy and Shirley were married 50 years when he went in for a hip replacement two years ago. Complications from the anesthesia have left him bedridden ever since. My Emma asks me, "Daddy, is Shirley with Buddy every day?" "Yes, honey." Emma pauses before concluding, "She loves him." Indeed.

Dub stares at a photo of himself and his wife, Cody. "She was the pick of the town. Everyone told

me how lucky I was. A kind and godly woman of high moral character. Everyone loved her." After combat in the Pacific Theater during World War II, Dub came home and proposed. They built a life together as West Texas cotton farmers.

Through better and worse, God was good to them. He blessed them with children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. As he speaks, Dub doesn't want to cry. Yet with the memories come the tears.

"I had a stroke 18 years ago," he says. "I was dependent on her. She was so good to me. No matter what, she made sure I got out of the house twice a day. She would drive me to McDonald's, and we'd sit and have a 37-cent cup of coffee and talk.

"I had to have a hospital bed in our bedroom. When I woke up, I always looked over at her. She's been gone for over a year now, but when I wake up, I still look that direction."

When your eyes have awakened to the same beautiful face for over six decades, how could you not keep looking and hoping she would be there? Dub and Cody were married 62 years when she died.

"Those 18 years after my stroke were the best years of my life because I got to see her every day. If I hadn't had that stroke, I'd have been out playing golf or out fishing and I would have missed that time with her," Dub concludes.

Sometimes it takes the worst to teach us what is the best.

Ecclesiastes 7:8 tells us, "The end of something is better than the beginning." Maybe Solomon was saying that however something starts, finishing well is more important. Better a beautiful final chapter than a happy first paragraph.

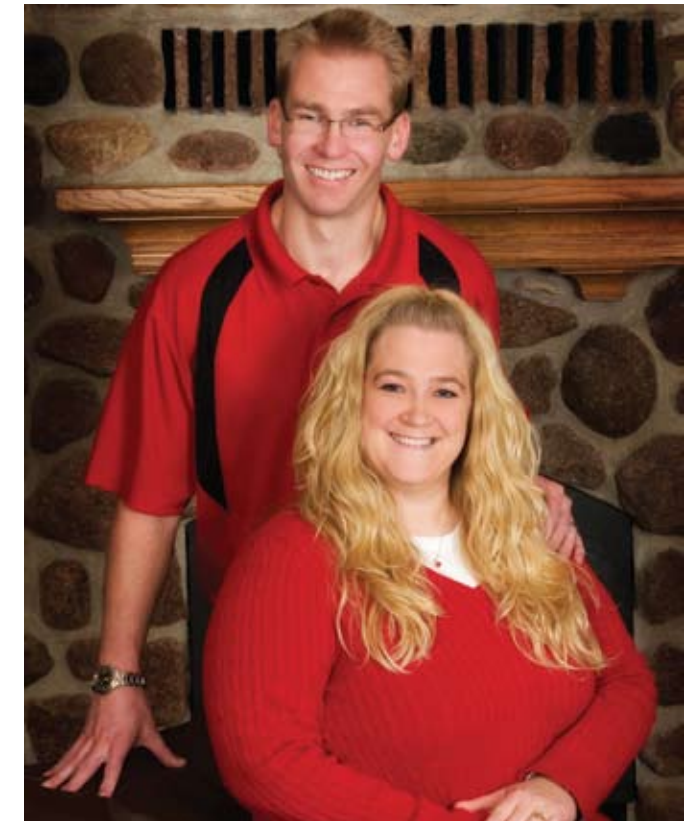
My daughters know the reason we come to Carillon is to "serve each other with love." I hope someday they realize the Dubs and Codys they met here succeeded in marriage for the very same reason.

**Todd Thompson resides in Lubbock, Texas, with daughters Annie and Emma. Among other pursuits, he is a contributing writer for In Touch Mission International and Sixth Day Magazine. He can be reached through his blog, ASliceOfLifeToGo.com.**

# Be Counted

**“W**e’ve been giving to Northwestern since before we graduated. The college challenged Ryan during his senior year to support NWC financially, and we’ve been contributing regularly since then. As our means have grown, we’ve increased our donations, but we still give monthly—even while paying off college loans. We think of it this way: The loans were for us to attend Northwestern. Our giving helps ensure future generations—including our kids—have the same opportunity.”

Ryan Ten Pas '99 and his wife, Melissa (Fox '01), live in Wisconsin, where Ryan is a certified public accountant with Schenck SC and Melissa teaches sixth grade at Cedar Grove-Belgium Schools. They have been faithful supporters of Northwestern for 10 years and return to their alma mater annually for Homecoming, the alumni soccer game or family gatherings.

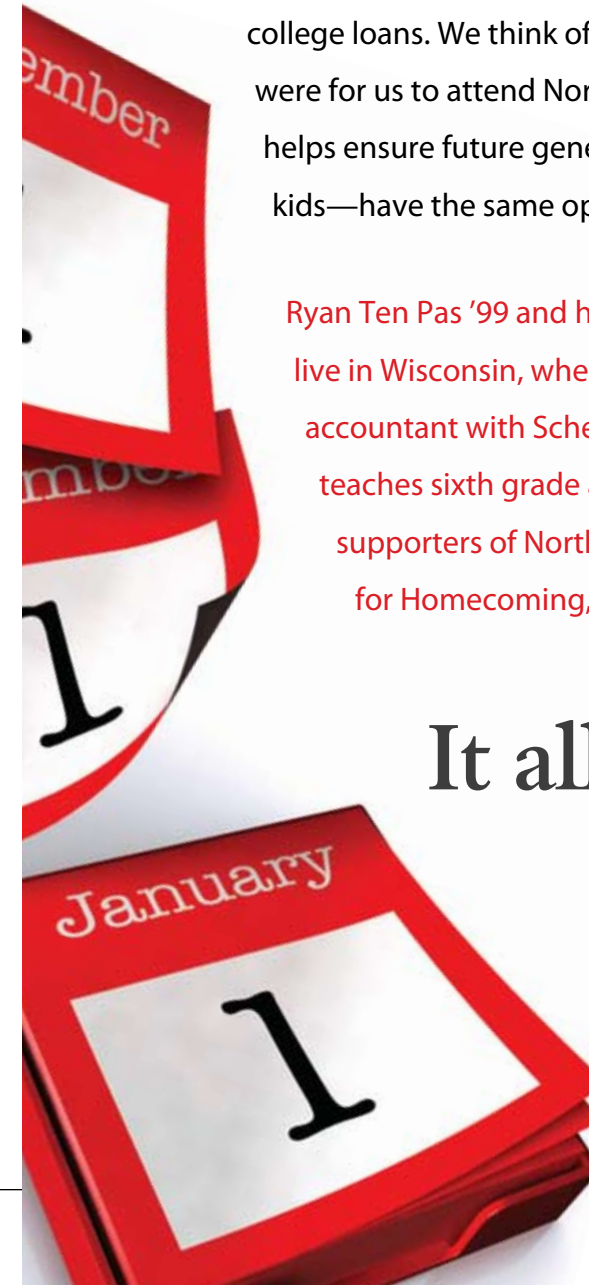


It all adds up.

*Ryan isn't a fan of writing checks, so he and Melissa have arranged for their monthly gift to Northwestern to be automatically deducted from their checking account. Make it easy to give—and make your gift count more.*



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# Snow Days



TOM BECKER

The new year started with temperatures of 20 below and the campus blanketed with more than two feet of snow. Classes are rarely canceled at a residential college, so students

brave icy wind chills and snow-packed sidewalks for heated class discussions about molecular genetics, game theory, 1968, Congress, living shalom, and the art and culture of more temperate

places like Ethiopia.

Afterward, students bundle up and hurry back to their residence hall rooms to heat soup in hot pots and plan frostbitten fun—like making snow

sculptures and sledding on scraps of cardboard.

*the* Classic