

*Northwestern College Magazine*

# *the* Classic

WINTER 2014-15

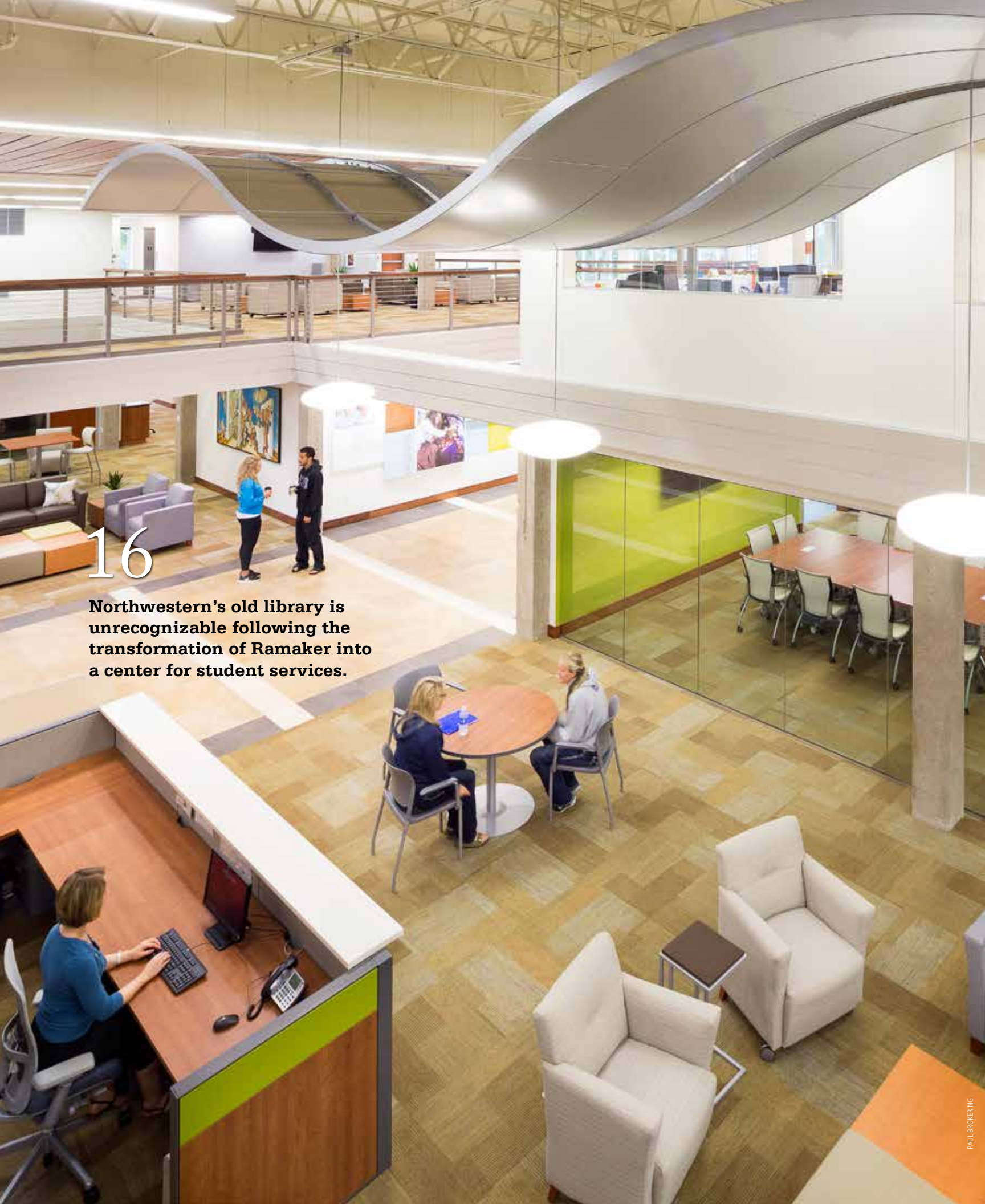
## Good Taste

Northwestern alumni  
create elite treats

*Also*

A Renovated Ramaker  
Stories from the Caf'  
Winter Wonderland





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Northwestern's old library is unrecognizable following the transformation of Ramaker into a center for student services.

## Classic People

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

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

### On the cover:

Kristin (Spidahl '09)  
Mohagen is making a career of crafting chocolates with flavors from around the globe.

PHOTO BY  
JENNI (SYBESMA '09) OCHSNER



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Enjoy a glimpse of the beauty that winter brings to Northwestern's campus—from Christmas decorations in December to a heavy wet snowfall in March.

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Alumni share their memories of food, conversations and friendships formed in the caf'.

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Kristin Mohagen '09, Doug McCombs '82 and Steve Wiltjer '06 are crafting chocolate, wine and coffee to please the most discerning of palates.

## On the Web

### Your Turn

Share comments about any article in this issue.

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

### WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

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

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DOUG BURRIG

## We're All About Community

When students and alumni are asked to try to describe Northwestern in one word, they most often come up with “community.” At Fall Convocation this year, I attempted to flesh that out, sharing what I believe are seven signs of an engaged community.

First, an engaged community is united in a clear mission—like ours: Northwestern 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. This carefully and meaningfully constructed statement reflects the commitment of our faculty and staff.

Second, we strive to be a community that asks generous questions of one another. Rather than seeking someone to blame when things go wrong, the questions we ask and how we ask them should reflect our belief that each of us has an important role to play in furthering God’s kingdom.

Third, we need to value our differences. What we have in common is much stronger than our differences, regardless of how uncomfortable they might make us feel.

Fourth, we need to embrace our equality. No person or group is better than another at Northwestern. Each community member is essential for effectiveness as the body of Christ.

We also need to recognize our brokenness. The story of Simon Peter’s calling as a disciple in Luke 5 begins with his brokenness. He and his peers have no success fishing all night until they obey Jesus’ command to cast their nets in deeper water. Feeling unworthy, Simon says, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” Jesus reassures, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch people.” It is often in our brokenness that Christ chooses to use us.

An engaged community finds joy in our redemption. We are redeemed people—praise the Lord! Our faculty and staff have been called to work in Christian higher education. Students enjoy the opportunity to study and grow, daily discovering God’s purposes for their lives. Alumni and friends further our mission through gifts of time, resources and prayers. It is a privilege for all of us and possible only because of what Christ has done.

Finally, we desire to be a community filled with grace and truth. Truth without grace feels like getting hit with a club. But grace without truth isn’t grace at all. We must unite the two.

To be a community filled with grace and truth, we must keep Christ at the center of all we do. This is what a Christian academic community is all about—and why I count it a joy to serve the community of Northwestern.

Greg Christy  
President



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

## Top-Grade Recognition

Northwestern’s nursing and education departments earned impressive national recognition this summer.

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing program was reaccredited for another five years by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

The evaluation report filed after a site visit praises both the college’s commitment to providing excellent resources for the nursing department and the nursing curriculum’s fit with the institution’s mission. Northwestern’s B.S.N. program met all the evaluation requirements in categories of mission, resources, curriculum, teaching, student performance and faculty accomplishments.

“Our reaccreditation affirms that our undergraduate B.S.N. and adult R.N. to B.S.N. degree options are excellent preparation



DOUG BURRIG

The nursing program’s accreditation was extended for another five years by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

of holistic healers for tomorrow’s health care needs,” says Dr. Ruth Daumer, program director.

“The site visitors were particularly struck by our program’s assessment processes and student and faculty engagement in our community and region, as well as across the U.S. and in Haiti and

several African countries.”

Meanwhile, Northwestern’s elementary education program has earned national recognition from the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI).

“Colleges must have earned national accreditation in teacher education to be eligible to

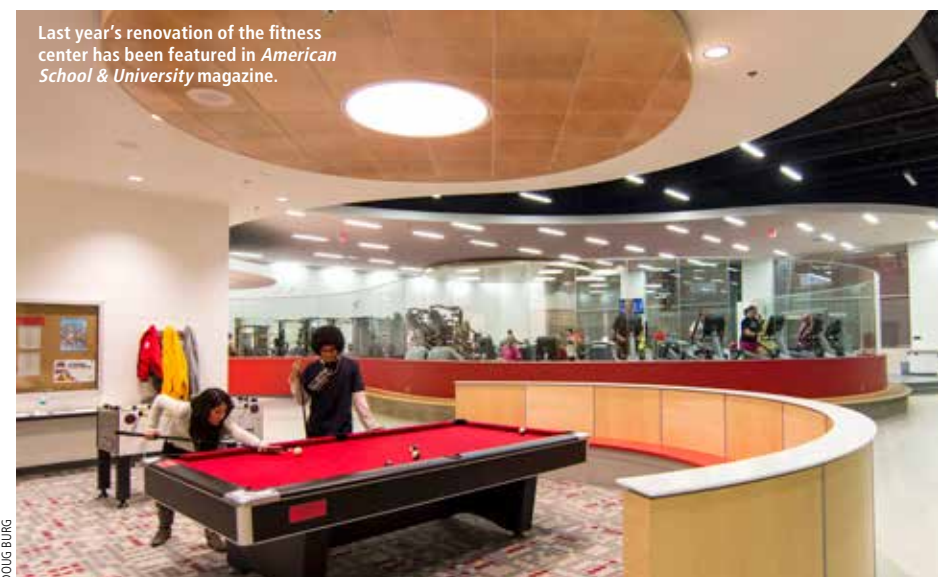
submit particular programs for national recognition,” says Dr. Laurie Daily, chairperson of the education department. “Specific Program Assessment (SPA) reports are submitted to respective professional organizations for review and must meet rigorous requirements for assessment in order to earn national recognition status.”

A site visit by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) accreditation team is planned during the 2015–16 school year. Before that time, the education department must submit nine total SPA reports for certification areas—including secondary endorsements in biology, English, health, history, mathematics, physical education, science and Spanish—in addition to the elementary education report.

## Showcased Design

Northwestern’s fitness center renovation has been recognized as an outstanding design in the 2014 *American School & University* Educational Interiors Showcase. The center was featured in the August issue of *American School & University* magazine, among only two selected designs in the physical education/recreation centers category.

The \$2.2 million renovation, designed by Cannon Moss Brygger Architects of Sioux City, transformed the mini-gym of Northwestern’s Rowenhurst Student Center into a state-of-the-art fitness center featuring Matrix cardio and resistance machines, free weights and fitness gear. The area also includes an expanded game room area and three remodeled racquetball courts.



DOUG BURRIG

Last year’s renovation of the fitness center has been featured in *American School & University* magazine.



After years of being active at the national level of the NAIA, Barry Brandt '69 will have another reason to attend the organization's national convention in Charlotte, N.C., in April: He will be recognized at the meeting as the 2014 NAIA Athletics Director of the Year.

Brandt, Northwestern's director of athletics from 2000 until last June, is serving as associate AD this year as he prepares to retire in May.

"Barry Brandt stands for all that is good about the NAIA and intercollegiate athletics," says Jim Carr, president and CEO of the NAIA. "Throughout his career, he has had such a tremendously positive impact on student-athletes and everyone he encountered. This is a well-deserved honor."

"I am so pleased Barry has been

selected for this honor," says Greg Christy, Northwestern's president. "He is highly respected not only for his work but more importantly for who he is as a person. He loves the Lord, his family, Northwestern College and our students."

"Perhaps his greatest legacy is the coaching staff he leaves behind," adds Christy. "Barry has hired every head coach we have. We are blessed to have an outstanding group of men

and women who are excellent coaches but even better teachers and mentors of young people. Northwestern College and Red Raider athletics are special because of people like Barry Brandt."

During Brandt's tenure as athletic director, Northwestern teams won seven NAIA national championships (men's basketball in 2001 and 2003 and women's basketball in 2001, 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2012) and the athletic

department's staffing was strengthened so nearly all of the head coaches are full-time college employees.

Facility upgrades included major improvements to the football field and outdoor track at De Valois Stadium and to the soccer complex. Construction is under way on the latest addition, the Ron and Peg Juffer Fieldhouse.

"Barry has given much time to task forces, committees and other leadership positions in the NAIA, including serving as president of the NAIA Athletics Directors Association, and to be honored in this way is a special capstone to a tremendous career," says Corey Westra, commissioner of the Great Plains Athletic Conference. "His impact at Northwestern, in the GPAC and within the NAIA has been significant."

# Outstanding Administrator



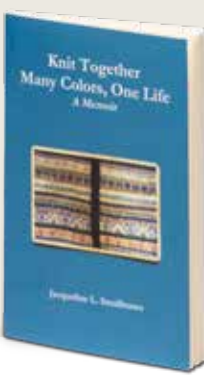
Barry Brandt will be honored as the 2014 NAIA Athletics Director of the Year in April.

## Memoir

Religion professor Dr. Jackie Smallbones has woven a collection of personal stories, from infancy to adulthood, into a memoir, *Knit Together: Many Colors, One Life*. The 167-page paperback, available on Lulu.com, draws readers into Smallbones' journey toward walking in the way of Jesus.

"Life is a mosaic of many colors woven together by the Master Weaver," says Smallbones. "If we're fortunate, we'll see the whole one day. I was fortunate. The stories, whether humorous or serious, playful or honest, document my journey toward healing and wholeness."

A native of South Africa, Smallbones has taught at Northwestern since 1995.



## Family Talk in Taiwan

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Junior business administration major Trevor Delamater (right) was among a group of Northwestern staff and students who helped host youth summits in Taiwan this summer under the direction of family values advocate Brandon Chang.

Like in the U.S., the incidence of broken families in Taiwan is increasing, and Brandon Chang '87 is concerned. As the Taipei-based leader of the Happy Family World Alliance, Chang invited Northwestern staff and students to help lead this summer's first Taiwanese and American Youth Summits, events aimed at instilling family values in Taiwan's young people.

Held in five locations across Taiwan and involving nearly 200 teenagers, the youth summits were open to top students who wanted to learn about leadership and practice their English-speaking skills. Small-group discussions and presentations

about marriage and family were facilitated by Northwestern volunteers, including students Trevor Delamater and Olivia Oleson, alumna Natalie Johnson '10, and Kevin McMahan, associate dean for intercultural affairs.

In addition to promoting happy families, Chang also wants Taiwanese teenagers to be exposed both to Christianity and to his alma mater, in hopes they might consider attending Northwestern. He's planning a second round of summits next summer and has already influenced at least one student to enroll at NWC. His daughter, Jeanette, is a freshman political science major.

## Joining the Faculty

Four new full-time professors have been added to Northwestern's teaching ranks this fall. They include:

**Laura Edwards**  
Assistant Professor of Education  
Ph.D., Michigan State University

Edwards is a specialist in curriculum, instruction and teacher education, with teaching experience at Michigan State and research experience in global education. Her work has been published in the *Journal of Progressive Education*, and she's presented papers on early childhood and comparative education at conferences. Edwards taught in inner-city Phoenix before earning a master's degree in educational leadership and policy studies from Arizona State University.



Laura Edwards

**Tatum Geerdes**  
Instructor in Nursing  
M.S.N., Allen College

Geerdes taught at Northwest Iowa Community College for four years prior to joining Northwestern's faculty. She is a registered nurse who has worked in the surgical unit at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and in labor and delivery at the Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames, Iowa. She also has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Iowa.



Tatum Geerdes

**Rebecca (Vander Molen '03) Koerselman**  
Assistant Professor of History  
Ph.D., Michigan State University

Koerselman earned a master's degree in history and political science from Iowa State University before completing a doctorate in United States history with an emphasis in gender and religion. She comes to NWC from Oklahoma Baptist University, where she was an assistant professor of history. She also has teaching experience at Freeman Academy in South Dakota.



Rebecca Koerselman

**Donna (Pennings '92) Van Peurse**  
Assistant Professor of Social Work  
M.S.W., University of Nebraska Omaha

Van Peurse is a licensed social worker with extensive experience in individual, marital, family and group therapy. Prior to joining NWC's faculty, she was a mental health therapist at the Creative Living Center in Rock Valley, Iowa. She has also worked as a therapist for Family Service in Omaha.



Donna Van Peurse



# Campus Life

## Fútbol Fandom

Superman. Tigger. A frog in a cape. A cowboy in tights. They're the Heemstra Hecklers, and their goal is to get into the heads of Raider soccer opponents.

Pre-game heckler prep includes trolling Twitter feeds so Hecklers can broadcast opposing players' tweets out loud during the game. A senior Heckler paces the sidelines reciting Edgar Allen Poe's *The Raven* and directing a Heckler chorus of "Nevermore."

Hecklers wave one of their pet props (a distracting rack of antlers) and chant seeming nonsense like "Feed the Cheeto!" They badger players who look their way with "Head in the game!" Opponents who ignore them only invite more attention. Finally a player's game face cracks and he kicks a ball into the stands. It's the Heemstra Heckler effect.

"We love the Hecklers!" says senior midfielder and team captain Gabriel Goncalves. "If they weren't at games, it would feel like we were missing the best player on our team."

"Even opposing coaches say their teams love playing at Northwestern," says Assistant Coach Paul Smith '98. "The team bus is abuzz with upperclassmen telling freshmen about the Hecklers. It's a special atmosphere that's the envy of other schools."

The envy—and the aggravation.

### RULES 4 HECKLING

The Heemstra Hecklers have been in play for more than a decade. Their rulebook includes guidelines like these:

1. Freshmen and other rookies may not heckle until they're learned the art of clever hectoring from experienced Hecklers.
2. Hecklers are prohibited from cursing and using the words "suck" and "ugly." They are not to refer to a player's sexuality or mother, and they are not to invite an opposing player to meet them in the parking lot after the game.
3. Hecklers must refrain from heckling injured players or opposing fans.
4. Hecklers should dress to distract.
5. Traditionally limited only to residents of Heemstra Hall, the Heckler community now welcomes any fan of Raider soccer who's willing to wear a costume and use wit and wordplay to help win games.



GEOFF JOHNSON

## The Experts Say...

Northwestern achieved notable national recognition in recent months:

- GreatValueColleges.net ranked NWC 13th for best value among Midwestern private colleges in its "50 Great Affordable Colleges in the Midwest" list.
- *Washington Monthly* rated NWC as the nation's eighth-best baccalaureate college, based on how well students are prepared for lives of achievement, service and research.
- *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Northwestern sixth among 95 Midwestern colleges.
- Forbes.com listed Northwestern among the top 12 percent of the nation's colleges.
- Princeton Review.com named Northwestern to its Best in the Midwest list.
- Northwestern made its fourth appearance on the Best Adoption-Friendly Workplaces education list by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. NWC placed fourth—behind Cornell University, New York University and Ohio State.

## Hall of Famer



Minot State University inducted NWC theatre prof Robert Hubbard into its Academic Hall of Fame in October.

Theatre professor Dr. Robert Hubbard had a special homecoming when he returned to his native Minot, N.D., in mid-October. The 1991 graduate of Minot State University (MSU) was inducted into his alma mater's Academic Hall of Fame, chosen by the MSU faculty senate based on his career achievements.

"A number of excellent professors influenced me at MSU," says Hubbard. "I really appreciate how much the faculty positively impacted my development as an artist and scholar, and I feel incredibly humbled by this honor."

A veteran solo performer, Hubbard has presented his original solo shows at conferences, festivals, high schools, churches and community centers

across the country, including Baltimore, Kansas City, Minneapolis and New York City. He has directed numerous shows, including an award-winning production of *The Comedy of Errors* and original stage adaptations of Larry Woiwode's novel, *Beyond the Bedroom Wall*, and Graham Greene's *The Power and the Glory*.

Hubbard is also involved with the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival as a workshop leader, producer and coordinator of the Region Five National Critics Institute Committee. He and his wife, April, also a Northwestern theatre professor, have served as drama instructors at the International Music Camp every summer since 2007.

## Profs on Sabbatical

Come the start of spring semester, Drs. Laurie Furlong and Mike Kugler won't be found in the classroom. The two professors were both awarded sabbatical leaves to conduct research.

Kugler, who teaches history, will spend the spring semester of 2015 writing a book about Scottish moral philosopher and Presbyterian minister Adam Ferguson. Building upon his dissertation work on Ferguson, he will take a micro-history approach to discover the philosopher's contribution to the Scottish Enlightenment and connect it to relevant theological issues.

Kugler is a specialist in 18th-century Enlightenment history and has been teaching at Northwestern for 20 years. He has a doctorate in history from the University of Chicago and won Northwestern's Teaching Excellence Award in 2006.

Furlong will conduct research on the stream insect populations of the California Channel Islands during the spring semesters of 2015 and 2016. She first became interested in the islands while working on her dissertation and has returned regularly to collect data. Her research will focus on the changes occurring in streams following the removal of cattle and feral pigs from the islands.

A member of Northwestern's biology faculty since 2001, Furlong has a doctorate in ecology and marine biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. During NWC's fall and spring breaks, she teaches stream and marine ecology in Belize and New Zealand for the Creation Care Study Program.



Dr. Mike Kugler will work on a book and Dr. Laurie Furlong will conduct field research during their faculty sabbaticals this spring.

DOUG BURG



# Breaking Ground

In what’s being described as a “perfect choice,” Northwestern’s new indoor athletic practice and training facility will be called the Ron and Peg Juffer Fieldhouse. The name for the new building was announced during a groundbreaking ceremony Sept. 26.

“They have a long history of reaching out to students and being such strong supporters of the college,” Jay Wielenga ’82, vice president for advancement, says of the couple.

Ron, who attended Northwestern Junior College in 1955–56, joined Northwestern’s faculty in 1967. During his 47-year career at NWC, he served as a professor in the education department and coached baseball for 17 years and men’s basketball for two. Many former students remember taking him on in shoot-outs in the RSC gym—and often getting beat by “Juff,” who was known for his uncanny ability to remember students’ names. Peg, a local elementary school librarian, taught education courses at the college on a part-time basis, mentored students, and supervised student teachers.

The Juffers were the featured guests at the groundbreaking, which took place west of the Rowenhorst Student Center on land previously owned by Alceco, an Iowa farmers’ cooperative. A grain elevator and six silos, which had occupied the site for decades, were demolished during August and September by a 150-foot-tall wrecking-ball crane in a process that drew plenty of spectators.



Digging and pouring the footings for the fieldhouse started the week after the groundbreaking. Plans are to have the \$3.2 million, 33,000-square-foot building open for use in the summer of 2015.

# Carlson Internships

A new internship program at Northwestern matches top employers around the country with the college’s brightest students.

Carlson Internships are reserved for highly motivated and high-achieving students with at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA. Established through an endowed gift from Northwestern alumnus and entrepreneur Todd Carlson ’89, the program provides full-time summer internships for which students receive both a salary and academic credit.

Dr. Sandi (Kuiper ’83) Altena coordinates the program as director of the college’s Franken Leadership Center. Hired last February, she started by placing five students in internships with

Exemplar Genetics in Sioux Center, Iowa, L’Arche in Chicago, and Storm Lake Capital in Detroit—the latter the company in which Carlson is a partner.

All three organizations have requested Carlson Interns again. “Exemplar has a great creative project in mind for a team of three to four students,” Altena says. “L’Arche offered their Northwestern intern a position after she graduated, and Todd Carlson loved the students his company had and was really enthusiastic when I met with him. He gave me ideas for five other companies we can partner with.”

Such a connection is common for Carlson Internship sites. The CEO may be an alum or friend of Northwestern. Or an alum or friend may be the one who recommended the Carlson Internship Program to his or her company.

“I like that because then they understand who we are, what our mission is, and what we value,” Altena says. “And they know what kind of students we’re educating here.”

Having recruited more than a dozen organizations as Carlson Internship sites for the summer of 2015, Altena is in the process of matching applicants with the nearly 30 available positions so students have their Carlson Internships in place by the start of second semester classes.

“The Carlson Internships are increasingly in demand as more students apply for these positions, but it’s internally competitive, which is a great thing about our program,” she says.

Jillian Estes (left) and Allison Klabo spent the summer surveying scientists and interviewing patients as Carlson Interns at Exemplar Genetics, a world leader in producing pig models of human diseases that help researchers work toward a cure.



# Study Abroad Director

Northwestern’s Global Education Center has a new director. Dr. William Hyndman comes to campus after serving as president of InternshipDesk, a provider of domestic and international internship programs based in Chicago, and as dean of overseas studies at Lexia International, a study abroad provider based in Cambridge, Mass.

He previously directed international study programs at Northeastern University in Boston, where he worked with professors to develop 50 faculty-led study abroad programs and increased study abroad enrollment by 20 percent. His academic experience also includes serving as an English literature and English as a foreign language professor in France.

Hyndman earned a doctorate in higher education leadership at Widener University in Pennsylvania and a master’s in English literature at the Université d’Avignon in France. His bachelor’s degree in international politics is from Penn State.

In addition to overseeing Northwestern’s semester programs in Denver, Oman and Romania and advising students who seek to study internationally, Hyndman will also explore sites for the establishment of more study abroad semesters.



William Hyndman

# Face Value

## Joan Andres Counselor on a Mission

**You have a passion for the Navajo people. Where did that come from?**

I was born and raised on a Navajo reservation in Rehoboth, N.M., which is a mission of the Christian Reformed Church. My father helped establish indigenous leadership in the planted churches. Deep ties were formed, and as a result, I developed a love for the Navajo people and an appreciation for living cross-culturally.

**You also lived in London for a few years. What was that like?**

While Mike [Joan’s husband and a member of NWC’s religion faculty] worked on his doctorate, I worked in grassroots organizations that served the mentally ill, homeless and poor, both in the East End of London and the well-resourced community in Surrey. Those were years filled with wonder, challenge and meaningful relationships. We were blessed to know and love the English people and culture from the inside.

**How important is it for Northwestern to provide counseling services for its students?**

Every year the demand for counseling exceeds what can be provided. The college years are a critical stage in a person’s development: Students’ identity is being established and their future is being shaped by the decisions they make regarding relationships, career path, lifestyle and faith. For some people, these decisions have been complicated by economic loss, broken families, unexpected illness, depression, anxiety and addiction. Succeeding academically is hard enough in the best of circumstances, but with the additional pressures, counseling becomes an essential ingredient for retaining students and enabling their success.

**What is your favorite part of being a therapist?**

I absolutely love working with students because, despite the pressures they face, they are open and willing to change—to see and engage



Joan Andres is in her 15th year as a therapist in Northwestern’s Wellness Center. This sand painting of a Navajo greeting hangs in Joan’s office. The greeting, which translates into “Shalom to you,” is meant to welcome students and bless them with a wish for wholeness and well-being.

the world differently. That creates a space where hope and shalom can flourish.

**Your international travels have included Uganda. What did you do there?**

In 2008 I was part of a team that helped establish Bethesda Counseling Service in that country. I helped lead training sessions for lay counselors. It was a privilege to partner with people who were wholeheartedly committed to bringing the hope of the gospel to the broken and hurting, with much sacrifice of their own time and resources. We were humbled and blessed to witness the power of God at work.

**There’s a sailboat parked near your garage. Do you sail?**

My brother graciously gave us one of his boats. Since then Mike has learned to sail and has taken the kids out occasionally. I can enjoy it when I am in competent company, but I make no claims to be a sailor! (I actually prefer to bike, walk or hike on solid ground.)



# Investing in the Mission

2013–14 giving tops \$6.5 million

## Fundraising Report

July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014

- \$6.56 million** Total giving to Northwestern College (giving to the Northwestern Fund was more than \$1.16 million)
- \$1,869,801** Total alumni giving to Northwestern (23% of alumni supported their alma mater)
- \$728,822** Total giving to scholarships for students (endowed and annual)
- 693** Heritage Society members (donors making planned gifts)
- 561** Patrons (donors giving \$1,000 or more to any Northwestern cause)
- 353** Tower Society members (donors giving \$1,000+ to the Northwestern Fund)
- 572** Jacob and Hannah Heemstra Roll of Honor members (donors who have given to Northwestern for 20 or more consecutive years)
- 405** Geven Society members (donors who have reached cumulative giving milestones ranging from \$25,000 to \$5 million; total lifetime giving of Geven Society members is more than \$63 million)

Designation	Total for 2013–14	Total for 2012–13
Northwestern Fund	\$1,166,330	\$1,140,336
Other annual giving	190,620	193,121
Endowed scholarships	567,929	763,054
Annual scholarships	160,893	152,325
Capital gifts	4,182,667	1,628,111
Life income gifts	0	550,781
Student missions/travel	239,136	330,155
Other restricted gifts	59,140	39,234
Total	\$6,566,715	\$4,797,117

## Rewards for Fundraising

Impressive improvements in Northwestern College’s advancement efforts have been recognized with a 2014 Educational Fundraising Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. Northwestern is one of four private liberal arts colleges with endowments under \$100 million recognized.

The award is based on fundraising data provided through the Voluntary Support of Education (VSE) survey. This year 1,010 higher education institutions participated in the VSE survey; just 47 colleges and universities were recognized for overall improvement.

Jay Wielenga ’82, vice president for advancement, cites as reasons for the recognition improvements in giving to the Northwestern Fund, as well as generous responses to fundraising appeals for both the DeWitt Learning Commons and the indoor athletic practice and training facility, which is currently under construction.

He attributes the advancement office’s success to the efforts of his staff and to excellent students who validate the college’s mission as successful alumni.

“People feel strongly that Northwestern is worthy of their support,” Wielenga says. “People invest in places that are going the right direction.”



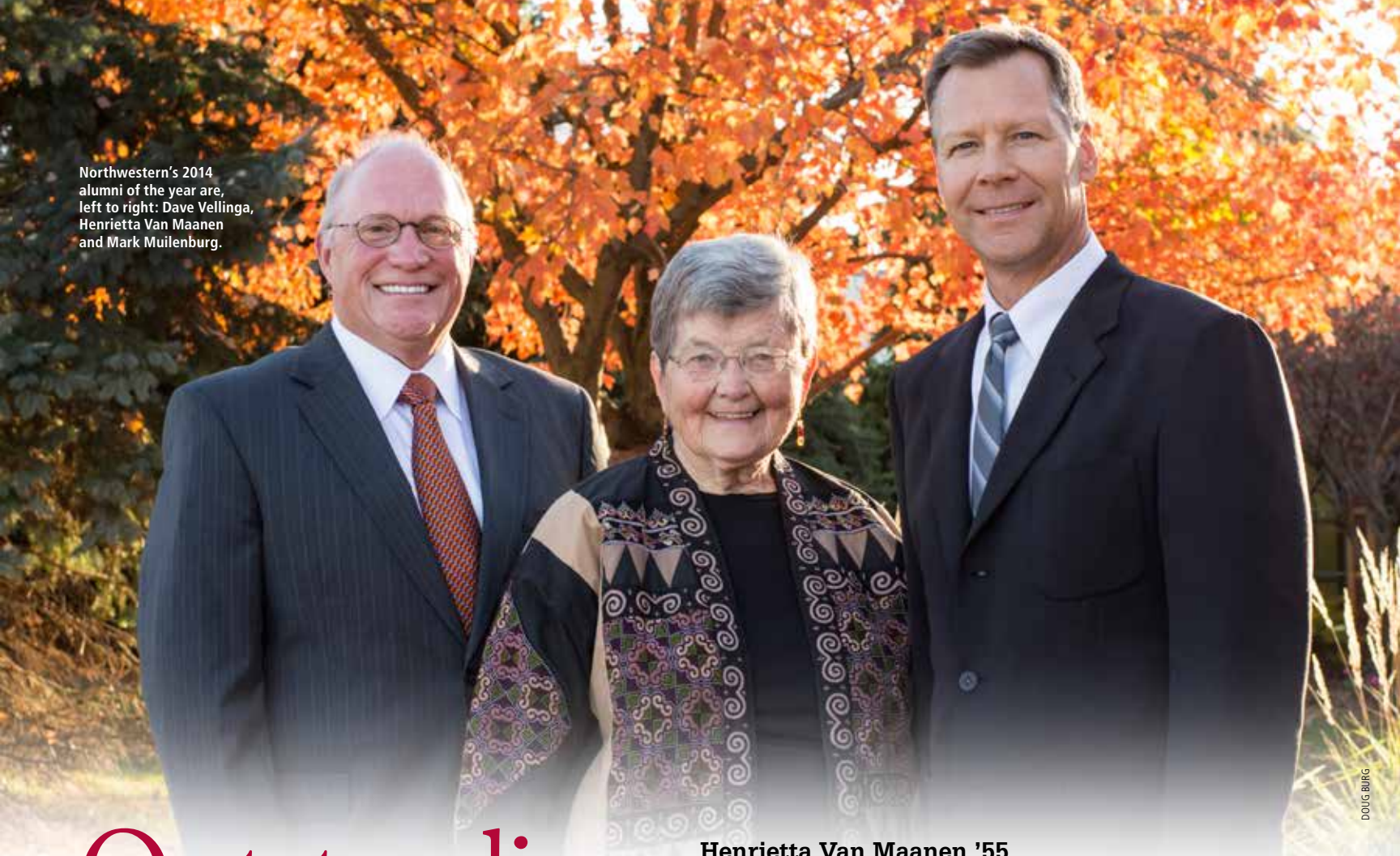
### INVEST IN STUDENTS

Scholarship Auction  
Saturday, Feb. 14  
9 a.m. | RSC GYM

Donate auction items, then bid at the February event.

[nwcsiowa.edu/auction](http://nwcsiowa.edu/auction)  
[events@nwcsiowa.edu](mailto:events@nwcsiowa.edu) • 712-707-7134

Northwestern’s 2014 alumni of the year are, left to right: Dave Vellinga, Henrietta Van Maanen and Mark Muilenburg.



# Outstanding Alumni

## Three chosen for annual awards

Northwestern’s Distinguished Alumni Awards for 2014 recognized the Raiders’ team physician, a retiree who travels the country as a volunteer, and a health care CEO. The recipients were honored at a banquet during Raider Days, Northwestern’s homecoming and family weekend, on Oct. 25.

### Mark Muilenburg ’84

Service to Northwestern

Dr. Mark Muilenburg is a family practice physician with the Orange City Area Health System who specializes in sports and musculoskeletal medicine. He has cared for Raider athletes as the team physician since 1993—a role that has him on the sidelines for Northwestern home games. He also sees athletes on campus once a week and serves as the medical director for the college’s accredited athletic training major.

Muilenburg majored in biology at NWC and graduated from the University of Iowa’s Carver College of Medicine. He holds a Certificate of Added Qualification in sports medicine. He and his wife, Lisa (Waite ’83), are the parents of two Northwestern College graduates.

### Henrietta Van Maanen ’55

Service to Humankind

After graduating from Northwestern Junior College, Henrietta Van Maanen earned a bachelor’s degree in home economics from Iowa State University and a master’s degree in education from the University of Maryland. She spent a distinguished career as a USDA extension home economist in Iowa, Washington and Nevada, often serving low-income families.

Now retired, Van Maanen serves in educational settings as a Volunteer in Mission with the Presbyterian Church. Based in Fort Dodge, Iowa, she travels extensively, often spending months at a time in locales from North Carolina to Alaska. She has also served as an elder, deacon and Sunday school teacher; volunteered with Hospice in Fort Dodge; and worked with Habitat for Humanity in Nicaragua.

### David Vellinga ’72

Professional Achievement

Dave Vellinga holds multiple executive roles in the health care field. He is president and CEO of Mercy Health Network, which consists of 40 hospitals, 140 clinics and 13,000 employees that handle 27 percent of inpatient and observation discharges in Iowa. He is senior vice president for operations for Catholic Health Initiatives. And he serves as CEO of Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines, where he oversees three hospital campuses, more than 50 clinics and nearly 8,000 employees.

Vellinga earned a master’s degree in hospital and health care administration from the University of Iowa. He was recognized as one of 10 emerging leaders in health care by the Healthcare Forum and received the Ship’s Wheel award from the Iowa Hospital Association.



# Super Blizzard

BY ANITA CIRULIS

As storms go, it ranks among the top 10 worst blizzards to hit the U.S.

Snow began falling in Orange City the morning of Jan. 10, 1975, and by 3 p.m. that Friday, Northwestern employees were being sent home. A record low-pressure system spawned 45 tornadoes in the South before heading into the upper Midwest—where heavy snowfall, bitter cold and high winds killed dozens of people and more than 100,000 livestock.

Forecasters had been predicting the storm, but the ferocity and duration of what a Sioux Falls radio station called an “inland hurricane” caught Northwestern faculty, students and staff by surprise. “It was a whiteout, so even those who were walking had trouble, let alone those who were driving,” recalls Phyllis Vander Werff, whose husband, Lyle ’54, taught religion.

Math professor Gordon Brumels was among those caught

in 30- to 50-mile-per-hour winds when he couldn’t get his car out of the parking lot and attempted to walk home. “I thought, ‘You know, I might not make it,’” he says. “I was plowing through snow that was somewhere between my knees and my waist, so I was tired.”

Brumels ended up taking shelter at the home of some friends. Biology professor Glen Hegstad and his son spent the night at librarian Art Hielkema’s (’53) house. Other faculty slept in their offices for several nights.

The entire town was at a standstill for two days while 12 inches of snow fell, wind gusts peaked at 90 miles per hour, and the wind chill dropped to 50 below.

Aletha (Koele ’78) Beeson remembers the blizzard breaking her dorm room window, resulting in a little snow drift in the morning. “The caf’ ran out of food, but it was just after students had returned from Christmas break so there were lots of sweets around. No one got too hungry.”

Snowdrifts dwarf abandoned cars on the southwest side of Orange City following the Super Bowl Blizzard of 1975. In the background is the Bushmer Art Center and, in the distant far right, Fern Smith Hall.

*Photos by Art Hielkema ’53*

When the winds subsided on Sunday, married students John ’76 and Lynne (Lenderink ’76) Hubers broke out of their home by shoving the door against the snow blocking it and found they could walk up to the roof on a drift. “Even more memorable was the beauty of the scene in front of us,” John says, “as the winds had carved fabulous curved walls everywhere, including inside our garage.”

Roads were completely impassable, and it took another

couple of days to clear them, as drifts were so hard and high that snowplows kept breaking down. Behind Colenbrander Hall, people were snowmobiling in the parking lot, riding over cars that were completely buried in snow.

The guys in Coly were happy to be snowed in, however, recalls Earl Woudstra ’78. It was a big football weekend, hence the moniker for the storm: the Super Bowl Blizzard.



## Red Zone

### Volleyball GPAC Champs

Northwestern became the first team to win both the GPAC regular season and tournament titles since 2010. The 31-3 Raiders were ranked seventh heading into the national tournament. Alexis Bart set a school record for career digs and was GPAC defensive player of the week three times. Brooke Fessler received the league’s setter honors three times, and Kaitlin Floerchinger earned offensive recognition twice. Karlie Schut has been selected as the NAIA’s Duer Scholarship Award winner. The award recognizes academics, character and citizenship by juniors in any sport.

### Football Back in the Playoffs

The Raiders advanced to the NAIA playoffs for the third straight year with a 12th-place ranking. The team finished the season 8-3, 8-1 in the GPAC, and tied for the league title. Justin Wohlert led the NAIA with 10 interceptions and was named national defensive player of the week.

### Cross Country At Nationals

The men’s team finished 21st out of 36 teams at the national meet, their best-ever performance. The women were eighth in the GPAC. Skyler Giddings earned GPAC runner of the week recognition.

### Golf Individual Leader

Justin Kraft is the top golfer in the GPAC after two rounds of the conference qualifier. The men are

fourth in the league. The women won two meets and are in second place in the GPAC. Emma Wynia earned conference golfer of the week recognition after winning the first qualifier.

### Soccer Middle of the Pack

The men’s and women’s soccer teams finished seventh and fifth in the GPAC, respectively, compiling overall records of 10-8-1 and 7-10-2. Ryan Johnson and Landon Sibole earned conference offensive player of the week honors.

### Red Raider Club Honored Alumni

Sara Friedrichsen ’02 (basketball and softball), Laura Jacobson ’08 (cross country and track) and Curt Schilling ’08 (basketball) were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in October.

Coach of the year honors went to Doug De Zeeuw ’92, cross country coach at MOC-Floyd Valley (Iowa) High School; Craig Douma ’94, men’s basketball coach at Central College; Aaron Johnson ’00, boys’ basketball coach at West Lyon (Iowa) High School; and Tim Van Regenmorter ’98, football coach at Sioux Center (Iowa) High School. Kara (Christoffer ’01) DeGroot and Lisa (Muilenburg ’07) Vos received the Barnabas Award for being encouragers during their years as Raider athletes.

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

Ben Green caught two touchdown passes in the Raiders’ 46-17 Raider Days victory over Dordt College.



DAN ROSS





# Winter Wonderland

Winter may be long in Iowa, but it's also the season of Christmas, warm holiday lights, fun in the snow, and magical mornings when the campus is coated in frost or a thick blanket of white.

*Photos by Anita Cirulis, Amanda Kundert and Dan Ross*





# Ramaker Redux

BY ANITA CIRULIS

Northwestern's former library is the new centrally located home for student services following a yearlong \$4.3 million project that saw the building gutted and transformed. Offices and departments once located in the Rowenhorst Student Center on the campus' south side and the former Franken Center on its north are now under one roof.

"We believe education happens as much outside of the classroom as it does within," says Julie (Vermeer '97) Elliott, dean of student life. "Our new location reflects our central role in educating students."

Renamed the Ramaker Center, the building provides a bright and contemporary setting for student and residence life, career development, student programs, intercultural/international development, campus ministry, study abroad and the Integrated General Education program, as well as the Franken Leadership Center.

The library's mezzanine layout was maintained in the remodel, providing views of main floor lounges from the second floor, while its expansive north windows showcase the campus green. Exposed ductwork and concrete pillars give Ramaker a modern, industrial feel that is balanced by warm colors, patterned carpet and textured fabrics used for the furniture. An openness characterizes the building, thanks to glass walls used for offices and conference rooms and a cable rail system on the second floor and on a newly installed north stairwell.

Elliott says both Ramaker's design and location are impacting students and staff. "The choice to have glass walls has been a really great thing—it's increased our interaction with one another as a staff and it's made it much more inviting for students to just drop into our offices and talk because they can see us," she explains.

Locating student services in one building is more convenient for students and has increased the visibility of programs—particularly those of campus ministry and career development, which formerly were located in the Franken Center.

"It's provided us with a lot more exposure to students," agrees Bill Minnick, director of career development. "There are opportunities to have impromptu conversations and for students to stop in as they walk by."

A new entrance on Ramaker's north side and a wide central corridor are designed to encourage student traffic through the building. Lining that main hallway are displays showcasing the offices and departments in Ramaker and Northwestern's mission as a Christian academic community—a visual representation of the important and central role student services play in the life of the college. 🏠



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** Ramaker's Fireside Room; second-floor lounge and student life offices; walkway spanning the central corridor; new stairway located next to the new north entrance.

*Photos by Paul Brokering*



See more at [nwcsiowa.edu/ramaker](http://nwcsiowa.edu/ramaker)



# Eat Hearty

EDITED BY TAMARA FYNARDT  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVE MALEC

Alumni savor memories of the caf', where the only thing more nourishing than the food was the friendships



## Ice Cream Sundays

On “Sundae Sundays” we used a tray to make a humongous ice cream treat—enough to feed the whole table!

**SARAH (WYNIA '03) SMITH**  
Elm Grove, Wis.

## A Mashing Success

I worked in the cafeteria in 1977. You’ve not experienced real culinary delight until you’ve made several hundred pounds of mashed potatoes with a giant mixer. I always put in extra milk and butter and was told my mashed potatoes were the best!

**JUDY (BEMIS '77) LOPEZ**  
Geneva, Ill.

## Stress Snacking

I remember the caf’ being open late during finals week. We’d congregate there for a break, a snack and to swap studying stories.

**KIM (KILPATRICK '89) CARRIGAN**  
Spencer, Iowa

## Bucks for Guts

Friends and I once pooled our money to bet a wingmate he couldn’t drink a whole glass of A1 steak sauce. He came away from the experience a little green around the gills but \$18 richer.

**MATT AUSTIN '05**  
Orange City, Iowa

## Steaking Out Prime Positions

On steak night we were usually in line by 4:30. It was the only night when most of the students—and even a lot of professors—ate in the caf’.

**KAY (HEKTER '97) WYNN**  
Austin, Minn.

## Dine and Dally

One year I didn’t have class on Tuesdays or Thursdays so I spent the maximum amount of time in the caf’ during breakfast, lunch and supper, “fellowshipping.”

**TYSON GRAHAM '04**  
Wesley Chapel, Fla.

## Ripe

When I was a student, the caf’ had two entrée options. As you were standing in line, just before you turned the corner from the hallway into the serving area, there was a table with two cellophane-wrapped plates of food to whet our appetites.

One day Darin Wiebe ’88 tucked one under his coat and took it back to Coly, where we hid it in the room of Paul Dougherty ’87, Dave Izenbart ’89 and Perry Krossschell ’87.

After a day or two, a faint sour smell was developing—worse than usual for a room with three football players. After a couple more days the guys were changing deodorants and buying air fresheners.

Eventually they discovered the plate from the cafeteria—by that time, covered in green fuzz.

**JON OPGENORTH '88**  
Orange City, Iowa

## Gravy Trained

Becca (Bruns ’09) Ulibarri and I never missed a Monday night in the caf’ because they served our favorite: biscuits and gravy, which we shortened to “B&G.” We even went back once after we graduated and enjoyed another B&G meal.

**JESSICA POMERENKE '10**  
Sioux Falls, S.D.

## Just Desserts

Julia Redfield ’09, Andrew Klumpp ’10, Jessica Pomerence ’10, Sarah (Kreger ’09) Walker and I bonded so well on O-Staff [Orientation Staff] and stayed connected by having lunch together every Thursday. Each week one of us took a turn creating a dessert for the table to share.

**BRYCE BOOK '09**  
Dakota Dunes, S.D.

## Sugar Cereal

A favorite caf’ memory? Lucky Charms—with ice cream instead of milk.

**JILL HAARSMA '95**  
Orange City, Iowa

“After a day or two, a faint sour smell was developing—worse than usual for a room with three football players.”

## Mooving Right Along

All four years of college I was afraid to get self-serve ice cream because the guys sitting near the machine would “moo.”

**KIERSTEN (LANGENBURG '95) LEWIS**  
Orange Park, Fla.

## East Coast Eats

I introduced Northwestern to bagels! I had some sent to me from New Jersey and talked the servers into trying them. They were skeptical, but after tasting my bagels, they put in a small order (shipped this time from Omaha) and ran out in one afternoon. It wasn’t long before bagels were a regular item on the menu.

**MARTHA (PARSIL '84) SPIEGEL**  
Norwich, N.Y.

## Dealing Between Meals

Sophomore year on Friday afternoons, one of my friends would stay in the caf’ after lunch until the rest of us got out of our afternoon classes. Then she would let us in the back door so we could play Nertz for hours. The staff preparing supper didn’t seem to mind and even let us have pop.

**SARAH (VAN LEEUWEN '10) WEINS**  
Sioux City, Iowa

## Floating Away

I walked out after every meal with a bowl of vanilla soft-serve topped with Sunkist soda. (I returned all the dishes at the end of the semester.)

**VAUGHN DONAHUE '08**  
Orange City, Iowa





BY AMY SCHEER AND DUANE BEESON

# Culinary Delights



*In Minnesota, Utah and Michigan, three Northwestern alumni are pleasing the palates of their many customers. While at Northwestern and eating their three squares a day in the caf, they were majoring in art, political science and religion. Since then, their careers have taken many twists and turns, but their passions for crafting delicious chocolate, wine and coffee have won out. Grab your favorite drink and make yourself comfortable as you indulge in their savory stories.*



# Sweet Sensation

Smooth, creamy goodness starts with a 140-pound sack. Kristin (Spidahl '09) Mohagen and her husband, Josh, declare a “sorting day” and tear open the bag of cacao beans, separating big from small with a 100-year-old mill. Next, Kristin roasts the beans—now named “cocoa”—and removes the nibs from their outer shells. Adding a little organic cane sugar, nothing more, she stone-grinds the nibs for three days. Tempering the chocolate will follow; fortunately, a recent equipment purchase has greatly sped up



At Terroir Chocolate, Kristin Mohagen and her husband, Josh, start with cacao beans from such countries as Ecuador and Uganda to handcraft bars that reflect a taste of the place from which they originated.

## Terroir Chocolate's Top Indulgences

### MADAGASCAR 70% WITH GINGER

**Ingredients:** organic cocoa nibs, organic cane sugar, ginger  
“So much intensity of flavor. A little square is the perfect end to a meal.” – *Kristin*

### SALTY NIBBER

**Ingredients:** 48% fine milk chocolate, roasted Madagascar cocoa nibs, fleur de sel  
“Josh’s favorite. We have to package these bars quickly so he doesn’t eat them all.” – *Kristin*

### PERU 70%

**Ingredients:** organic cocoa nibs, organic cane sugar  
“I didn’t know that chocolate could have such a fruity flavor!” – *a Terroir customer*

this heating process to achieve the desired texture and color. Now the chocolate rests in bar molds, forming an indulgence to meet the most discerning of tastes. Finally, the last step: careful packaging by hand and a label proudly promoting “Terroir Chocolate.” As one of approximately 60 bean-to-bar craft chocolate makers in the United States, the Mohagens are “all in,” as they put it, spending long days in a commercial kitchen housed at her parents’ farm in Fergus Falls, Minn. Where a chocolatier would purchase already tempered chocolate, the chocolate maker starts at the ground level. “The bean we begin with is everything,” says Josh. “Kristin makes sure you can taste the bean the best way it can be presented. It’s an art, just like coffee roasting.” A honeymoon trip to Napa Valley’s vineyards in 2013 hooked the couple on the concept of *terroir*, a French word they’ve translated into the slogan “taste of place”: a distinctive flavor imparted by a region’s characteristics, such as climate and soil conditions. A tour of a chocolate factory confirmed that the term, typically used in reference to wine, could easily apply to chocolate, and Terroir Chocolate was born shortly after the couple returned home. Their craft is both unique and impractical, jokes Josh, but the result is a single-origin chocolate that preserves the personality of its source. “We get beans from Madagascar, and the chocolate tastes like citrus,” says Kristin. “Beans from Peru—bananas and mango. The flavors are completely different, even though it’s just cocoa beans with a little sugar.” The Mohagens source their beans directly from farmers, paying above-market prices to encourage industry sustainability and to maintain ethically sound practices. At a recent conference they attended, a cacao farmer from Nicaragua, whose beans were used in what was voted “best bar,” became emotional at the appreciation for his labor and at the realization that this success will finance his children’s education. In a few months, Terroir Chocolate will feature bars made from this winning bean alongside the products already selling fast in their town’s specialty stores and via their website, [tasteofplacechocolate.com](http://tasteofplacechocolate.com).

Someday the chocolate makers hope to travel to meet the farmers who partner with them. Kristin wants to shake hands with the people who produce flavors she never thought she’d find back when, as a student at Northwestern, she started a truffle-making business to raise funds for a Spring Service Project. Though she brought in more than \$800 for her handmade treats, what she spent to meet her high standards nearly broke the budget. “I was always disappointed in the quality of chocolate available,” Kristin remembers. “I spent so much money because I was so picky.” Years later, Kristin is still picky—only now it’s paying off. And Terroir Chocolate suppliers and customers around the world are benefiting from her good taste.

# Fruitful Venture

In the shadow of the Wasatch Mountains, in a southern Utah county that’s 62 percent Mormon, Doug McCombs ’82 is seeing his gamble pay off. Tucked behind a historic bed and breakfast just two blocks from the Tony Award-winning Utah Shakespearean Festival, McCombs’ IG Winery is winning awards of its own. The winery doubled its production this year after opening in 2012, bottling 1,200 cases of wine (8,000 gallons). McCombs, a 30-year human resources professional in the Las Vegas gaming industry who is a vice president at Hard Rock Hotel Casino, makes the 180-mile drive up Interstate 15 to Cedar City, Utah, nearly every weekend to fill bottles

with Chardonnay, Riesling and other varietals. With only one full-time employee and four part-timers, McCombs is both IG’s big decision maker and its winemaker. A reluctant participant in a wine-tasting course decades ago, McCombs became intrigued enough to go with some friends on a Napa Valley weekend. “I wanted to take every tour, talk to every winemaker and learn all the secrets they would tell me. I couldn’t get enough,” he says. He enrolled in more wine classes, earned certifications from the Wine and Spirit Education Trust, planted 100 vines in his backyard, and got his hands dirty crushing, pressing, fermenting, racking and testing wines. By 2006 he knew he wanted to open a winery. After exploring opportunities in traditional wine country, McCombs decided to begin his business in southern Utah, where five million tourists a year visit nearby sites such as the Bryce Canyon and Cedar Breaks national parks and there is no competition from other wineries. McCombs imports his grapes from well-established vineyards in California, Oregon and Washington and produces four white wines and five reds. Thirty restaurants—from Utah and Vegas to California—carry IG Winery’s products. The winery also has significant sales at its tasting room and at [igwinery.com](http://igwinery.com). “I love dealing with all aspects of winemaking, from finding the grapes and tasting them for sweetness and ripeness to doing everything involved in developing a specific wine,” says McCombs. The winemaker likes to joke that his job is all about sipping wine on the veranda with the beautiful people, but in reality McCombs’ time



Doug McCombs uses grapes from well-established vineyards in California, Oregon and Washington to create his award-winning varietals for IG Winery in Utah.







GERY KOLEY

## The Winemaker Recommends ...

### PETITE SIRAH 2009 – NAPA VALLEY, CALIF.

This red wine is a blend from two excellent California vineyards. The majority is from Napa, with a bit from the Sierra Foothills, which adds structure and balance to the wine. This wine pours dark and mysterious and looks beautiful in the glass. The nose teases with notes of black cherry, blackberry and hints of cocoa all layered in just enough vanilla and toasted oak. The palate delivers what the nose promises with bold flavors of dark ripe fruits, soft spices, baking cocoa and solid tannins.

A Gold Medal winner in the 2014 American Wine Society competition, this wine goes perfectly with beef dishes, pasta in red sauce, game, wild duck, grilled vegetables, sharp cheese and chocolate.

### ROUSSANNE 2012 – SIERRA FOOTHILLS, CALIF.

This is the white wine for red wine lovers because it is elegant in every way. The Gold Medal-winning wine is barrel-aged for 24 months in French and American oak, then blended with a little Riesling to give the wine just the right acid. The color is clear and bright with a rich golden hue of light honey. The nose promises soft notes of honey, butterscotch, caramel and a hint of oak, graphite and slate. The palate backs all that up, offering white peach, light yet unsweetened honey, and oak with a slight stoniness on the finish.

This pairs well with traditional holiday turkey meals and is also recommended with pork, veal, salmon and dozens of cheeses.

– Doug McCombs

is spent trying to anticipate future demand for his wines and thinking about how best to expand IG's production capacity as they shoot for 20 percent growth next year.

He does pause occasionally, though, to pour some of the 2012 Roussanne out of its aging barrels for a taste test. It's a tough job, but someone has to do it.

## Brewing Community

In the low-lit bottom level of Lantern Coffee Bar & Lounge in Grand Rapids, Mich., dark cherry tables pair with refurbished pews for a cozy, intimate feel. Splashes of color catch the eye: Lantern, as part of a citywide event, has indulged an artist's crocheted "yarn bombs," which hug poles, exposed pipes and even the bicycle parked outside. Other artwork, curated by theme in rotating exhibits, lines the walls.

Upstairs, natural light warms the room as Steve Wiltjer '06 explains how the pour-over method, achieved by allowing a continuous stream of water to move over and through the grounds directly into your cup, highlights the nuanced notes of the coffee bean. The flavor profile will change as the coffee cools, accenting the acidity, he says, but some brews are best at room temperature. As with a fine wine, the roasted coffee bean can change subtly from one day to another, telling a new story in the next cup that holds it.

Wiltjer opened Lantern in 2013 with fellow alum Kevin Wallace '11, who is married to Wiltjer's sister, Lisa '10. The coffee bar offers locally baked goods, live music and a "waste-free" environment, composting what the owners can and encouraging customers to join the recycling effort.

In order to offer his clientele fresh, seasonal tastes they might not experience otherwise, Wiltjer seeks out guest roasters such as Detroit's Anthology and even local shops that could be considered competition. Bay City's Populace Coffee is regularly featured on Lantern's menu. Ever since the company sent free samples to Wiltjer back when he ran a small coffee bar inside a grocery store, the ethics shown by Populace when sourcing beans and their skills in roasting them have kept Wiltjer dedicated to what he calls a "long-term relationship."



SAMANTHA VANDERLUST

Steve Wiltjer seeks for his Lantern Coffee Bar & Lounge in downtown Grand Rapids, Mich., to be a place that promotes community while providing great coffee.



ALISSA WAGNER

Lantern Coffee uses the pour-over method to highlight distinct notes of coffee beans.

Hints of caramel and lemon rise from a Populace Costa Rican brew recently on offer, nicely matching the warmth and liveliness of the décor. This meeting of place and product is what Wiltjer does best.

"I'd been interested in having a coffee shop since college," says Wiltjer, who is a certified barista with the Specialty Coffee Association of America. "I fell in love with the type of space it could create. A lot of shops here in town do one thing really well—good coffee or a good place to meet—but I wanted to bring all that together."

A visitor to Lantern's Facebook page commented on a time when a homeless man took over a table, apparently without the intention of making a purchase. "They treated him with respect and gave him a coffee instead of kicking him out," she

wrote. "Definitely makes me want to come here more often."

Wiltjer had considered finishing a seminary degree but has found his calling at Lantern. "Offering this space and participating in the neighborhood as we do is a special, sacred thing," he says. Operating a business downtown in the vicinity of shelters can be a struggle, he admits, noting the incidents when a free cup of coffee led to combative behavior rather than kind online comments. But here the nuances of community, brought out by the meeting of regulars and homeless guests in a comfortable, welcoming space, are just as important as the great cup of coffee. 🏠



## Six Tips for a Better Cup of Coffee

1. **Use good coffee.** Not all coffee is created equal. Buy from a roaster that is sourcing high-quality beans. If the coffee varietal (such as *Typica*, *Bourbon*, *Pacamara*) is listed on the bag, they're probably paying attention.
2. **Don't let it sit.** The fresher, the better. Buy seasonal coffee if you can, and use it within two weeks of the roast date.
3. **Grind it.** Grinding coffee releases loads of flavor and aroma. Grind it right before you brew; a burr grinder is best.
4. **Use good water.** The better the water, the better the coffee. Properly filtered water is best. Water that is too hard can ruin even the best coffee beans.
5. **Let it cool.** Don't use boiling water—let it cool down a few degrees first. Water that's too hot can wreck the brew.
6. **Weigh it.** You'll want to use about 15 grams of water to one gram of coffee. Measuring isn't as accurate as weighing.

– Steve Wiltjer



JEV ANIBAL



# class Notes

'64 **Ken Slater**, Cherokee, Iowa, was honored by the Iowa High School Athletic Association for serving as a football official for 50 years. His crew worked one championship game and approximately 25 playoff contests.

'68 **Dr. Corwin Smidt**, research fellow with Calvin College's Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics, recently became president-elect of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR). An international scholarly organization of more than 1,300 members, SSSR promotes social scientific research about religious institutions, beliefs and practices. Smidt is the first person in the organization's history to be elected to the office from a Christian liberal arts college. In addition, he was recently recognized by the religion and politics section of the American Political Science Association for his longstanding service to the section and his scholarly contributions to the field.

A bronze sculpture by **Doris Symens-Armstrong** was unveiled in Lori's Park in Watertown, S.D., in July. The sculpture, "Can You Smell It?" features a young girl holding flowers for her puppy to sniff. The work was commissioned by the Watertown Community Foundation and Friends.

'69 **Rick Hames** is an adjunct professor of business at Johnson and Wales University in Denver. He teaches a variety of courses, including marketing, entrepreneurship and managing change.

'71 **Byron and Lynda (Mastbergen) Bulthuis**, Le Mars, Iowa, are retired from Le Mars Ambulance and Remsen-Union Community Schools, respectively, and enjoy visiting their children's families in California and northwest Iowa.

'74 **Grace Peterson** teaches music and band at Grand View Christian School in Des Moines.

## Red Ties

**MARK BLOEMENDAAL '81**  
Director of Alumni Relations

At the beginning of each school year, the greatest excitement for me is welcoming new students into the Northwestern family. Perhaps after almost 30 years in the admissions office, it is something that will never leave me. In my current role I'm particularly interested in welcoming what we call "legacy students": those who have parents, siblings or other relatives with ties to Northwestern.

While our work in the advancement office has always paralleled and complemented the work of our admissions colleagues, we've made some intentional efforts in the last year to work more closely together. Thanks to a prospective student database—developed by Northwestern's computer specialists—now, when a legacy student expresses interest in Northwestern, I get an email and can, in turn, connect with that student's parents or other relatives who are alumni. I've been both surprised and pleased by how often I receive a response from the parents and others I contact. I've been able to share those parents' excitement about their son or daughter considering Northwestern, and I've been able to offer a listening ear and sometimes advice to an alum wondering how to nudge a child toward Northwestern without pushing too hard. Usually I end up reminding parents that Northwestern today is both very different from—and very much the same as—the college they remember.

This fall we welcomed 57 legacy freshmen to Northwestern, and I enjoyed connecting with their parents and families during orientation weekend in August. Many commented on the stunning campus improvements and were excited about the opportunities Northwestern held for the student they were bringing to campus.

If your college-aged son or daughter—or sibling or grandchild—is thinking about Northwestern, go ahead and put in a good word. They might be getting more independent every day, but your opinion and advice still mean more to them than you realize.



'78 **The Rev. Mark Heijerman** is serving as pastor of Martin (Mich.) Reformed Church. He previously pastored Carmel Reformed Church in rural Rock Valley, Iowa.

'79 **Kevin Muur** is a resident assistant at Vista Prairie-Fieldcrest, a senior living community in Sheldon, Iowa.

'85 **Cyndi (Dyke) Boertje** earned a master's degree in education from Iowa State University. She is the tutor coordinator at Central College in Pella.

**Todd Thompson** teaches Bible at Trinity Christian High School in Lubbock, Texas.

'88 **Ann Walker** is the athletic director at Clark College, a community college in Vancouver, Wash. She previously served as an associate athletic director at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

'89 **Doug Smit** received the 2013–14 Sue Pitts-Fisher Award from the Iowa Coalition for Family and Children's Services. He is the director of mental health and family services at Hope Haven in Rock Valley.

'91 **Todd Schuster** is the principal of Woodrow Wilson Elementary School in Newton, Iowa. He was formerly the vice principal at Berg Elementary School.

'94 **Kurt Dykstra** joined Mercantile Bank of Michigan as the community bank president of the Holland region in May. He is also the mayor of Holland and a lecturer at Hope College.

**Darrin Kimpson** is serving in his second year as the Papillion-La Vista (Nebraska) Campus Life director of Youth for Christ. His wife, **Pam (Brinks '97)**, is the director of discipleship for the Reformed Church in America's Synod of the Heartland. They have three children: Brooke (13), Maria (10) and Davis (5).

'95 **Dewey Hupke** is the principal of West Elementary School in Independence, Iowa. He previously taught in various northwest Iowa and Nebraska communities.

**Jason Kaat**, Plymouth, Wis., is a regional coordinator for the National Network of Youth Ministries. He works to encourage and advance youth ministry in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

'96 **Tina (Vellema) Anderson** teaches first grade and coaches volleyball at Bear Creek K-8 School in Lakewood, Colo.

'97 **Catherine (Vermeer) Bloom** is the chief financial officer for Interstates Companies in Sioux Center.

**Daron Van Beek**, Sioux Falls, was named one of the 2014 Rising Stars in Banking in the *NorthWestern Financial Review*, a trade publication serving bankers from Nebraska, North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota and



For more than 50 years, Marjorie Vander Aarde has served as educator, nurse and health care advocate, using her teaching and administrative skills to help patients and care providers alike.

## Super Nurse

In the late 1960s a bone tumor threatened to end Marjorie (Hartog '56, '58) Vander Aarde's career. Several surgeries and years on crutches meant she could no longer spend the hours on her feet required of a critical care nurse, but that didn't stop her from leaving lasting footprints.

A missionary who became the first American nurse registered with the Kuwaiti government, Vander Aarde moved into health care education and administration. She trained nurses as caregivers for terminally ill patients and, as vice president at Montana Deaconess Medical Center, opened critical care units and launched education programs.

As CEO of California's Coalinga Regional Medical Center, Vander Aarde engineered a \$1.7 million turnaround in just 11 months, without layoffs. She later oversaw more than 350 medical facilities as certification bureau chief in Montana's Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Those achievements aren't as meaningful to her as the dying patient who visited her on her birthday, the cleaning staff who received equitable pay, or the valor of the nurses who served without adequate supplies.

Although officially retired in Great Falls, Mont., she continues as a nurse advocate for her husband, the Rev. Robert Vander Aarde '56, as he battles cancer. Thankfully, he's winning.

Vander Aarde reflects, "I think in a lot of ways I have just done whatever anyone in my shoes would have done."

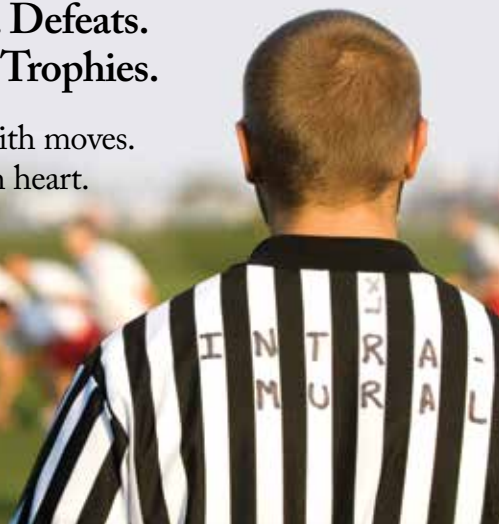
BY BETH (NIKKEL '02) GAULKE

## Game on!

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GREG SALOR

Based in Columbus, Ohio, 18-year FBI agent Jack Vander Stoep has traveled to Guantanamo Bay and Europe on assignments. Because of the sensitive cases he's involved in, his face cannot be shown in photos.

## Homeland Security

In 2003, Jack Vander Stoep '90 spent seven months in a safe house interrogating Iyman Faris, a terrorist suspected of cooperating with 9/11 masterminds Osama bin Laden and Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. Faris's cover was driving a truck; Vander Stoep, an FBI special agent on the Joint Terrorism Task Force out of Columbus, Ohio, had captured him in a Cincinnati hotel.

Faris would become the first successfully prosecuted terrorist in the U.S. after September 11—and the defining case of Vander Stoep's career so far.

Even as a boy growing up in Orange City, Vander Stoep knew he wanted to work for the FBI. Visits from a family friend who was an agent spurred letters and calls from young Jack, all answered with patient replies. But it would take until 1996—and a three-year interview process—to realize his dream. The call came days after the birth of his first child, granting him two weeks to get to the FBI Academy in Virginia.

"There's no day the same," says Vander Stoep, whose assignments have taken him to Guantanamo Bay, the Czech Republic and other places he "probably shouldn't say." When back at home, he stakes out his kids' lacrosse games and praises his wife's support for his unconventional career.

"I tell my kids, 'If anyone asks what dad does, say I work in the meat department at Kroger. And they *do*.'"

BY AMY SCHEER

Wisconsin. His wife, **Sherri (Van Roekel '96)**, was named a Rising Star in Banking in 2012. Daron is a branch manager of First National Bank and Sherri is chief audit officer for CorTrust Bank.

'98 **Ryan Stander** is an assistant professor of art and the director of Flat Tail Press at Minot (N.D.) State University.

'00 **Colette (Johnson) Mazunik** wrote a play entitled *The Matthew Portraits*, which was presented as part of Samuel French's 39th annual Off Off Broadway Short Play Festival in August. The play was one of 30 finalists selected from nearly 1,400 submissions.

**Drew Namminga**, Lynden, Wash., earned a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Western Governors University. He teaches middle school online through Washington Virtual Academy.

'01 **Kait (Petersen '01) Morrell**, her husband, Mark, and two children have moved to Ireland after living in St. Louis for four years.

**Joshua Russell** is a wholesale credit manager for John Deere Financial in Des Moines.

**James Wolff**, Urbandale, Iowa, is the director of manufacturing at Katecho Inc.

'02 **Kevin Lors**, along with **Nate Summers '08**, recently spent a week in Myanmar (formerly Burma) as part

of an initiative with Valley Church of West Des Moines. They assisted local Christians in developing sustainable businesses.

'03 **Aaron Delhay**, Adams, Neb., teaches 7–12 information technology for Freeman Public Schools. His wife, **Lisa (Stubbendick '02)**, is a paraeducator.

'04 **Jacob Johnson** is the associate general counsel in the legal department for Wells Blue Bunny in Le Mars. He was previously at a law firm in Charlotte, N.C.

'06 **Anna Falk** is a residential treatment counselor for the Children's Home Society in Sioux Falls.

**Megan Leinart** was promoted to director of corporate development for Timothy Haahs & Associates in Philadelphia.

**Dr. Franklin Yartey** received the Iowa Communication Association's Outstanding New Teacher Award for 2014. He is an assistant professor of communication at the University of Dubuque.

'07 **Aaryn (Eckert) Bierly**, Rockford, Ill., teaches sixth grade English and social studies at Galapagos Charter School.

**Kristin (Erickson) Hu**, who teaches social science at Lake View High School in Chicago, has earned National Board Certification.

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'08 **Carissa Fields** was promoted to payroll manager for The Graham Group in Des Moines.

**Ryan Jacobson** is the city clerk for West Des Moines.

**Amy (Larson) Storlie** was honored as one of the recipients of the 2014 Mathematics Teaching Award by the Colorado Council of Teachers of Mathematics in September. She teaches at Harrison High School in Colorado Springs.

**Angela (Jiskoot) Ten Clay**, Urbandale, Iowa, is the interactive director at Happy Medium advertising agency, overseeing a team of Web developers, designers and social media strategists. She serves as president of the Iowa chapter of the American Marketing Association and previously was a senior marketing specialist for TMG Financial Services.

'09 **Craig Menke**, Sioux Falls, is an accountant for Sanford Health.

**Jordan Menning** is in his second year as an educational consultant with Northwest Area Education Agency in Sioux Center after teaching fifth and sixth grade science at Sibley-Ocheyedan. One of his responsibilities has been to take several northwest Iowa teens to the regional and international Space Settlement Design Competition, where he has worked with **Jim Christensen '79**, the vice president of educational programs for Atlantis Educational Services at Florida's Kennedy Space Center.

**Jesse Nieuwenhuis** earned an M.D. degree from the Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in North Chicago. He is in a family medicine residency at the Siouxland Medical Education Foundation in Sioux City.

**Megan (Griwac) San Giacomo** graduated with an M.D. degree from the University of Minnesota Medical School. She is a resident physician in family practice in Duluth, Minn.

**Abe Weins** and his wife, **Sara (Van Leeuwen '10)**, have moved from Mitchell, S.D., to Sioux City. He works for Physical Specialists, handling the physical therapy needs for Tyson in Dakota City, Neb. Sara is a NICU registered nurse for UnityPoint St. Luke's.

**Teryn (De Haan) Woolf**, Minneapolis, earned a master's degree in speech-language pathology at the University of Iowa and now is a birth-3 speech language pathologist for the St. Paul Public Schools.

'10 **Andrew Klumpp** completed a Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School in May. He is the visitor relations specialist at Duke University Chapel.

**Sarah (Abbas) Moore** was named one of the 100 Great Iowa Nurses for 2014. She is a registered nurse at Waverly Health Center.

**The Rev. Cody Raak** graduated from Western Theological Seminary and is now pastoring Emmanuel Reformed Church in Springfield, S.D.

'11 **Holly (Bowers) Gustafson** teaches early childhood special education for Winona (Minn.) Area Public Schools.

**Heidi (Hildebrandt) Sheppard** teaches second grade at Athlos Leadership Academy in Brooklyn Park, Minn.

**Chelsea Stanton**, New Brighton, Minn., is pursuing a master's degree in religion with a concentration in social justice and reconciliation from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities.

'12 **Kelsey Leonard** is a live-in assistant at L'Arche Seattle, a community of adults with developmental disabilities.

**Riley (DeVos) Mars**, Alton, Iowa, teaches special education at Kinsey Elementary School in Sioux Center.

**Jenna VanOort** is a visitor services specialist for Visit Denver.

**Mike Zoellner** is on staff at the Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy, using baseball and softball as vehicles to foster positive character development, academic achievement and improved physical health among inner-city youth.

'13 **Gabriel Harder**, Lino Lakes, Minn., is a software product analyst for Infinite Campus Inc.



SHARON BLOEMENDAAL

Among Jack Bloemendaal's 300-camera collection is this Sanderson tropical field camera from the 1920s.

## Snapshot

For a guy who loves cameras and photography, Jack Bloemendaal '60 has a picture-perfect life: He spent 27 years as a mechanical engineer at Eastman Kodak and had a role in developing the first disposable camera, he's co-founder and president of the Photographic Historical Society, and he has a private collection of more than 300 cameras.

Bloemendaal started taking photographs in high school and then found an old camera that sparked his interest in history and collecting. Although he has some museum-quality cameras (including two extremely rare Kodak Super Six-20s that came out in 1939 and were the first to have automatic exposure), he doesn't collect cameras for their monetary value. Instead, "I collect what interests me," he says.

Working for Kodak was a natural fit; Bloemendaal especially enjoyed the free film and developing. "It was a benefit they offered to most employees, but no one else used the amount I did," he recalls with a laugh.

The Photographic Historical Society that he cofounded in 1966 holds a symposium every third year, with the latest convening last October near his home in Rochester, N.Y. Attendees came from all over the world to learn about photographic history, collecting, technology and more.

Even after 50-plus years as a shutterbug, "I'm continually learning," Bloemendaal says. Through the symposium, he hopes an interest in the history of photography will keep developing.

BY SHERRIE BARBER WILLSON '98





Heidi Ackerman earned a Master of Music degree in vocal performance at Arizona State University and performed with the Arizona Opera Company. Now a member of the Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus, she sings everything from Cyndi Lauper covers and Mozart operas to patriotic tunes. Her ensemble will perform at Northwestern on March 15.

## Singing Soldier

Heidi Ackerman '08 was used to rigorous training as a professional musician, but in the summer of 2013 her musical exercises and drills reached a new level. Making the bittersweet decision to leave her Arizona junior high music classroom in favor of full-time musical performance, Ackerman earned a place in the Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus—but not before enduring 10 weeks of boot camp. She is now an active-duty staff sergeant and one of seven mezzo-sopranos in the 29-member chorus, where she finds that mixing music and the military makes for a harmonious life. Touring nearly 120 days annually, Ackerman and the ensemble see the country while carrying the Army story through music to Americans across the nation and stopping at local schools to encourage music education. When she's home, her days at Fort Meade, just outside Washington, D.C., may include sharpening her marksmanship skills to earn a new badge or honing an opera aria for an upcoming performance. While she may return to the classroom someday, Ackerman plans to enjoy the breadth of musical and physical opportunities Army life provides for the foreseeable future. "The sky is the limit here. I can't wait to see where the Army and music take me next," she says.

BY BETH (NIKKEL '02) GAULKE

**Angie Sas** is pursuing a master's degree in social work from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

**John Trnka**, Montgomery, Minn., is pursuing a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

**Amy (Van Skike) Vermeer** received the R.E. Minger Award, which is given to a freshman dental student who shows the qualities of persistence, hard work and cooperation with others, at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry in May. She also received the Dr. Allen and Helen Ito Scholarship for this school year.

**Tanya Woodward** teaches English at Heritage International School in Kampala, Uganda.

**Tara Woodward** has joined Northwestern's advancement staff as a gifts officer. She previously worked as a tax and audit professional for Williams and Company in Sheldon, Iowa.

**Sadie (Mennen) Wright** is pursuing a master's degree in psychology and sociology-cultural studies from Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

**'14 Melinda Fjeld** is an intensive care unit nurse for Sanford Health in Sioux Falls.

**Laura Glendenning** is a certified athletic trainer at Front Range Orthopedics & Spine in Loveland, Colo.

**Josh Hollinger**, West Des Moines, is a pricing analyst for Nationwide Insurance.

**Rebecca (Lokker) Ortner** teaches third grade at Notre Dame Catholic School in Cresco, Iowa.

**Rebecca Rens**, Onawa, Iowa, teaches early childhood special education for West Monona Community Schools.

## New arrivals

**Susan (Boote '96) and Shawn Hulst '97**, son, Walker Michael, joins Davis (10), Gramm (8), Hudson (5) and Korver (2) Mark and **Kait (Petersen '01) Morrell**, son, Peter Nathanael, joins Cordelia (2) Bryan and **Kelly (Bauder '02) Calton**, son, Axel Gene, joins Jude (2)

Andy Thomas and **Karissa Carlson '02**, daughter, Loenn Leaf Kirk and **Jennifer (Sowa '02) Fatool**, daughter, Lucie Margaret Craig and **Lindsey (Buche '03) Alcock**, daughter, Whitney Rae, joins Lydia (4) and Valerie (2) Zachary and **Stacy (Van Vark '04) Kanis**, son, Koen Jesse, joins Zander (4) and Grayson (2) Curt and **Nancy (Koskamp '04) Stude**, son, Collin Daniel, joins Madelyn (2) **Carissa (Kuiken '05) and Austin Janssen '07**, son, Ty Austin, joins Levi (2) **Stacy (Kokes '05) and Joel Scholten '07**, son, Brock Xavier, joins Willa (5) Don and **Kristi (Hilbrands '05) Vanderlip**, son, Hudson Michael, joins Madisyn (2) Daren and **Kara (Van De Berg '06) Dieleman**, twins, Leyton Reed and Carson Lee, join Ava (3)

**Erin (Ackland '06) and Josh Van Roekel '07**, son, Alem Augustus, joins Keegan (2) **Abbie (Boote '07) and Wade Vander Maten '08**, daughter, Collyns Makiah, joins Saylor (3) Mark and **Stephanie (Stromgren '08) Barnes**, daughter, Hailey Marcella, joins Samantha (3) Grant and **Kara (Johnson '08) Fifield**, daughter, Adelyn Karine Russell and **Emily (Meyerink '08) Griese**, twins, Henry Roy and Hadley Rae Brent and **Kelsey (Carroll '08) Irwin**, daughter, Becks Lynae, joins Blythe (2) **Kari (Tjeerdsma '08) and Blake Wiekling '08**, son, Owen Andrew Greg and **Haley (Janssen '09) Altmaier**, daughter, Willow Marie, joins Harper (2) Curtis and **Haley (Hector '09) Miesner**, daughter, Gracelyn Shalae **Carrie (Manifold '10) and Jason Blaha '09**, son, Jesse John **Shaunna (Ell '10) and Justin Derry '05**, Samuel James, joins Martin (2) Stephen and **Kelli (Neevel '12) King**, son, Levi James

## Marriages

**Jeff Phillipps '89** and Vanessa Wise, Anchorage, Alaska **Kim Lamfers '94** and **Kevin Poeckes '91**, Ashton, Iowa **Joshua Russell '01** and Nicole Schultz, Des Moines **Rachael Thompson '04** and Mike Kowbel, Iowa City

# Where in the world is NWC?



When Lynne (Lenderink '76) and John Hubers '76 celebrated their 40th anniversary with a Kenyan safari, John wasn't afraid to show his Northwestern pride. How far have you gone to promote Northwestern? Send us a photo of you in NWC attire and it might get printed in a future *Classic*.

Email [classic@nwc Iowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwc Iowa.edu)

**Jodi Folkerts '07** and Samuel Shaffer, Alton, Iowa **Jennifer De Koster '08** and Riley Bruxvoort, Orange City **Teryn De Haan '09** and Brent Woolf, Minneapolis **Megan Griwac '09** and Andrew San Giacomo, Duluth, Minn. **Sarah Earleywine '10** and Ian Murphy, Orlando, Fla. **Josh Woolridge '11** and Kristen Johnson, Bristol, Conn. **Laura Ecklund '13** and **Jacob Gilleland '14**, Orange City **Sadie Mennen '13** and Jeremy Wright, Muncie, Ind. **Rachel Van Gorp '13** and **Tyler Zeutenhorst '13**, Orange City **Abby Hoekstra '14** and Kendall Stroeh, Des Moines **Katie Plucker '14** and Elias Youngquist, Sioux Falls

*The couples reside in the city listed.*

## In Memoriam

**John Heemstra '39, '41**, age 93, died May 14 in Yankton, S.D. After graduating from Northwestern Junior College, he earned a bachelor's degree from the University of South Dakota. He completed a master's degree in bacteriology from USD after serving in the Army. He was the senior bacteriologist for the South Dakota State Health Laboratory and an instructor of microbiology at the

USD School of Medicine. He worked for 36 years at the Yankton Medical Clinic. He was a member of numerous organizations, including the American Association of Clinical Chemists, Kiwanis and the American Legion, and an active volunteer with the Boy Scouts. His survivors include four children and a brother, **Raymond '43, '45**.

**Elinor (de Blauw '49, '73) Noteboom** died July 5 in Orange City at age 84. In addition to teaching, she developed the art departments at Orange City Christian School and Unity Christian High School. She was also a prolific artist whose last major work, the "Tranquility Series," was inspired by a trip to Kyoto, Japan. She was a lifelong member of Calvary Christian Reformed Church and a member of the Christians in the Visual Arts organization. She is survived by three children, including **Lucinda Huizenga '71** and **Thomas II '78**.

**Allen Namminga '69**, of Avon, S.D., died June 25 at age 66. In addition to farming with his brother, he was an active member of Emmanuel Reformed Church in Springfield, where he served as a deacon, elder and catechism teacher. He was also involved in Gideons International. He is survived by his wife, **June (Bosgraaf '69)**, and four children, including **Drew '00** and **Darin '02**.

**JoAnn (Van Kalsbeek '72) Huygens**, age 77, died Aug. 15 in Hospers, Iowa. She taught in various northwest Iowa schools for

more than 30 years. A member of Newkirk Reformed Church, she taught Sunday school and was a member of the choir and Bible League. An active community volunteer, she sang in the Sioux County Women's Chorus and the Senior Saints Choir. She is survived by her husband, Clarence, and three children, including **Don '82**.

**Debra (Muyskens '78) Adams**, age 58, of Lake Forest, Ill., died on Aug. 3. She earned an M.B.A. from Drake University and practiced private accounting in Highland Park. She is survived by her husband, Robert; three daughters; her mother, **Pat (Oelrich '49, '65)**; and a sister, **Paula Muyskens-Gagne '73**.

**Ronald Kroeze '82**, age 53, died May 30 in Orange City. He was a member of Immanuel Christian Reformed Church. He is survived by two children and three siblings, including **Jerry '74** and **Lora Jeltema '78**.

**James Grotenhuis '92**, of Humble, Texas, died July 14 at age 45. He taught for 23 years in Aldine and Atascocita, Texas, and he also coached football, soccer and softball. Among his survivors are his wife, Dianna, and three daughters.

**Lisa (Hulshof '97) Warntjes** died July 20 at age 39 in Rock Rapids, Iowa, after a long battle with breast cancer. She worked for Frontier Bank in Rock Rapids for 14 years, followed by two years at Ebel Heard Accounting. She was a member of the First

Reformed Church of Rock Rapids, where she served on the nursery committee and was a member of the Circle of Kindness. She also served on the board of the Rock Rapids Kids Club. Survivors include her husband, Todd, three children and her parents.

**Jason Van Zee '01**, of Springville, Iowa, died May 6 at the age of 35. He earned a bachelor's degree in religion from the University of Northern Iowa and a master's degree in college administration from Arkansas Tech University. He was a supportive community living specialist for Goodwill of the Heartland. His survivors include his wife, **Melissa (Krempges '00)**, and his father.

**Dr. Marvin Petroelje**, professor of history at NWC for 11 years in the 1960s and '70s, died June 21 in Holland, Mich., at the age of 78. He is survived by his wife, Marguerite, and three children.

**Joyce Hop**, a secretary at Northwestern from 1972 to 1991, died in Orange City on Sept. 26 at the age of 85. She worked for the dean of students, president and vice president for academic affairs while at NWC. Among her survivors are her husband, Howard; four children, **Karen VanDer-Maaten '74**, **Roger '75**, **Rick '79** and **Rod '80**; and a sister, **Sharon Vander Schaaf '59, '65**.

**LET US KNOW:** Email your news for the next *Classic* by Jan. 9 to [classic@nwc Iowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwc Iowa.edu).



# Classic Thoughts

## Fruit of the Vine

BY EMILY (MUILENBURG '11) RASMUSSEN

I stared at my computer screen for a minute. The page, haphazardly translated from German into English, described a Schloßböckelheim Felsenberg Riesling Beerenauslese. From the chopped-up text, I could tell it was something about a multigenerational wine-growing family and a famous sweet wine. The bottle that catalyzed my search stood alongside a dozen others on my desk; my work for the day was to translate these concepts, so foreign to me, into sensible information.

The majority of the labels were French, some were Spanish, and a few, English. I toggled the page back to German—somehow, though I relied on Google Translate all day, it was easier to understand the story if I read in the original languages. I got a major adrenaline rush from dissecting each sentence and looking up so many new words in one day: *viticulture*, *enology*, *varietal*, *appellation*—words that are now as familiar to me as *noun*, *verb* and *bibliophile*.

I joined the wine industry by marriage. Cody, my husband, found his passion for wine in the pizzerias of Rome, so we headed post-nuptials to Sonoma County, Calif., where he could apply his Williams College political science degree to a harvest job cleaning juice-stained winery equipment. I thought, “I’m an English major—why not?” and followed his lead.

I began working for a wine sales website, utilizing my undergraduate language studies to interpret wine labels and, later, write sales copy. As I exercised my adjective muscles, Cody quickly landed an assistant winemaker position (I call it “liberal artsing”). Before his new job began in July of 2013, we jaunted south to New Zealand for our third harvest. I picked grapes and stirred yeast into wine-filled barrels and was stickier than I’d ever been in my life—but also enamored by the beauty of a vine and its fruit’s fermentation.

My current job no longer offers the linguistic diversity of the first, but as the communications manager for Ram’s Gate Winery in Sonoma, my vino vocabulary grows daily with what I’ve now coined *oenologisms*. They range from science-y terms like *malolactic*, *brettanomyces bruxellensis* and *botrytis* to words that encompass a wealth of wine flavors: *feijoa*,

*garrigue*, *tamarind*, *capsicum*, *beurre noisette*.

Although I sometimes romanticize it, my life isn’t all that different from college. I write, I talk too fast, I somehow get paid to be on Facebook, and mostly, I try to advocate my credo that wine is a creation, a craft. It isn’t a thing to be worshipped—but its Creator sure is.

I can’t help but get dramatic about it all, especially on the first day of harvest when the whole county smells like freshly picked grapes. The verdant lineations that cover the countryside often leave me speechless—and let me tell you, that is a major feat. Punctuating the silence are always the same words, the chorus to our life:

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ... As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:1, 4-5, ESV)

Vines require adversity. Without suffering in parched, rocky soils, a vine can bear fruit, but it will taste bland. Yet despite its affinity for overcoming struggle, a branch could never, ever bear fruit apart from the vine.

Had I been in charge of my future, I would never have planned it to be like this. At every crack-of-dawn harvest and twilight fraught with frothing fermentations, I am surrounded by words and vines and branches. The Vinedresser of John 15 knew his plan for me would put to use those three semesters of French, that dabbling in German, “mi concentración menor en español” and my zeal for words, just as he knew the best way to help this English major know his abiding love: by immersing me daily in a metaphor.

**A Sonoma Valley resident since graduation, Emily Rasmussen says she felt shaken—no pun intended—and very small after experiencing her first earthquake in late August. The wineries for which she and her husband work suffered little damage from the 6.0 magnitude quake, unlike many others in the region.**

## Be Counted

“You make choices. If something is important enough, you find ways to make it happen. We feel great about Northwestern, and we wanted to contribute.”

### *It all adds up.*

Dawn and Becky Gildersleeve didn’t know how transformational a Christian college education could be until their daughter decided to attend Northwestern. Dawn flourished in what her parents describe as “a place of guided growth.” She increased in faith and confidence and—with the help of faculty, coach and student mentors—found her calling in a career that’s a perfect fit for her skills and talents. Though Dawn has graduated, the Gildersleeves continue to give to the Northwestern Fund to help other students afford NWC.

*The Gildersleeves began giving to Northwestern in response to a phonathon call during their daughter’s freshman year at NWC. They continue to support NWC financially, encourage students to consider Northwestern through the Red Recruiter Scholarship, and host get-togethers in their home for the families of Northwestern students from central Iowa.*

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# Raider Red



DAN ROSS

Despite the late date for this year's Raider Days, Northwestern alumni, friends, students and parents enjoyed sunshine and temps that reached nearly 70 degrees during the college's homecoming and family weekend Oct. 24–25. The incredible weather boosted attendance at what Mark Bloemendaal '81, director of alumni and parent relations, calls "a big party for everybody."

It helped fill the stands for Saturday's 46-17 football win over cross-county rival Dordt College and boosted participation in Morning on the Green and the Red Raider Road Race. Forty alumni returned for a special theatre reunion, and Northwestern student musicians performed for a packed house during their evening concert.

Those who stayed through Sunday night were treated to the music of Christian recording artist Phil Wickham and the band Tenth Avenue North.

*the* Classic