



*Northwestern College Magazine*

WINTER 2017-18

# *the* Classic

## Healthy New Year!

Psychology alum's research may help you make positive changes and stick to them

*Also*

The Joy of Discovery

Mailbox Memories

Dutch Bibles

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A spacious new home for Northwestern's presidential family, donated to the college, enhances their ability to entertain numerous guests.

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

Send correspondence or address changes to the *Classic*, Northwestern College, 101 7th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041-1996 or [classic@nwc-iowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwc-iowa.edu).

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

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Jonah Brouwer follows the lead of his parents, Amanda (Brown '07) and Scott '06, as they involve him in their goal to be healthy eaters.

PHOTO BY JESSICA SANDS



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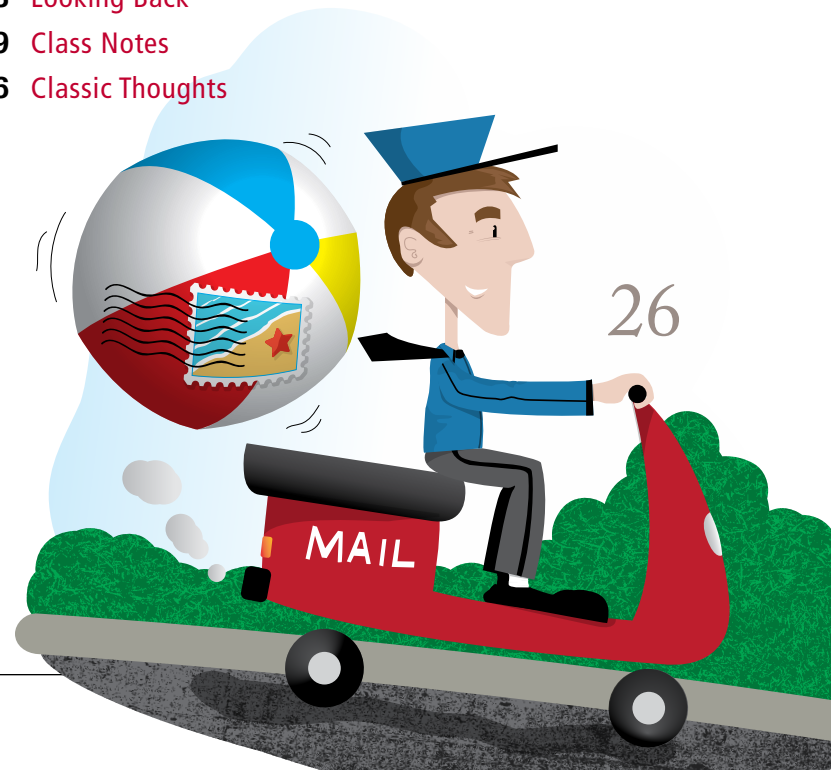
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*visit* [classic.nwc-iowa.edu](http://classic.nwc-iowa.edu)



# Zwemer View



DOUG BURG

## A Decade of Blessings

I completed 10 years at Northwestern in December. What a privilege to serve as your president!

I am deeply grateful to my wife, Michelle. Without her love and incredible sacrifice, I could not fill this role. I'm also thankful to our kids—Ryan '17, Maddie and Kyle—who were uprooted to move here when they were 13, 9 and 6. Michelle and our family—which now includes Ryan's wife, Caitlyn (Van Es '16)—are the most precious people in my life.

I will be forever grateful to Drew Vogel '72 and Jon Opgenorth '88, who co-chaired the search committee that recommended me. Both have become dear friends and been unwavering in their support through the joys and challenges of leadership. What a blessing to serve with great board chairs in Drew, Dave Van Engelenhoven '65 and Marty Guthmiller '82. Each has brought unique gifts to the role and continued to strengthen our board's passionate commitment to Northwestern's Christ-centered mission.

On a day-to-day basis, the most satisfying things to Michelle and me are relationships. The members of my cabinet have been amazing, as has my executive administrative assistant, Jill Haarsma '95. Our extremely talented and devoted faculty and staff ensure Northwestern keeps its reputation for excellent, relational, difference-making Christian higher education.

The greatest blessing of being here a decade is seeing how God is using alumni we once knew as students. I could list many examples but have space for only a few. One of the first students I met was Kyle Blankers '08. After graduation he served as an admissions counselor and assistant track coach. He's now an insurance agent in Orange City. Kyle and his wife, Teresa, are involved in their church and church-planting efforts. He takes credit for coining my nickname: PGC.

Greta Hays '11 graduated with a public relations major. After a memorable theatre career at NWC, she was selected for a prestigious internship at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. She recently joined the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities as director of communications.

Davina Ramasamy '10 came from a Hindu family in Mauritius. She accepted Christ as her Savior at Northwestern. Her brother Dylan '11 and parents have also become Christians. Davina lives in St. Louis, where she works for RGA insurance and volunteers for her church.

Only God could have written Davina's story, as well as the others'. What an honor to know these phenomenal young people! They are the embodiment of Northwestern's mission in a lost and broken world. It has been an honor to meet thousands of alumni and friends like them who courageously and faithfully pursue God's redeeming work in their families, communities, churches and careers. Thank you for furthering the mission of Northwestern by encouraging students to consider NWC, and by giving generously and praying fervently for the college.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Greg Christy".

Greg Christy  
*President*



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

## Kudos

This past issue of the *Classic* was excellent! We enjoyed most every page, especially the business profiles, graduation caps, God's nature in the trees on campus, and the Kids on Course and Faith Camp updates.

**Jennifer and Chad Noble '95**  
Sioux Falls, S.D.

## No Typical Medicaid Recipient

I was dismayed and disgusted at the letter ("Suffer the Consequences") you printed in the [fall] issue. I went back and re-read the articles in the spring issue on healthcare, and I was astonished that this was the takeaway this person had.

For the person who wrote this letter to stereotype something as "typical of Medicaid recipients" is ignorant at best. There is no "typical" Medicaid recipient. Medicaid helps those who are physically or intellectually disabled. Medicaid helps those in poverty, which includes many people who work full-time jobs (in many different industries) but are paid at such a low rate that they can't afford the health insurance premiums offered by their employers. To assume that people on Medicaid are uneducated, lazy and out to cheat the system is completely wrong.

I appreciated many of the suggestions put forward in Randy Oostra's column. I work for a planned community for people with intellectual disabilities in a rural area that is also a food desert and has limited access to healthcare. In an effort to help our community at large, beyond the boundaries of our workplace, we opened a produce market to give people access to fresh fruit and vegetables; we raised funds to build a health clinic; we run fitness classes; we opened a walking trail and are in the process of installing exercise stations along the route.

Our church is also seeking to fill one of the more basic needs of those in our community with a program that gives away diapers once a month to anyone who needs them, no questions asked.

I believe it is the directive of all Christians, and indeed all human beings, to step beyond the destructive attitudes of "if I can't have something, no one can have it" and "why should I do or pay for something that does not benefit me personally." This is a challenge for me as much as anyone, but it's a challenge worth facing and striving to overcome: "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it" (1 Cor. 12:26).

**Martha (Parsil '84) Spiegel**  
Norwich, N.Y.

## Raider Made

Thank you so much for the "Raider Made" article in the last issue. For a lot of reasons, I try to avoid malls and big box stores during the Christmas season and shop locally. There were so many great businesses featured in your article, and the connection with fellow NWC graduates makes these shops even more appealing. I greatly appreciate your spotlight on the gifts and talents of the NWC community.

**Linda (Van Wyk '77) Tigges**  
Clive, Iowa

## WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

**Send letters to:** *Classic*, NWC, 101 7th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041; email: [classic@nwc-iowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwc-iowa.edu). Please include an address and phone number. Letters present the opinions of the letter writers, not of the *Classic* or Northwestern College. They are published at the discretion of the editor and may be edited for length and clarity.



# *around the* Green



## A Home for Hospitality

Northwestern's new presidential home, donated by Drew and Jean Vogel, easily accommodates large groups for receptions and dinners.

In one December week, President Greg Christy and his wife, Michelle, hosted four Christmas parties at their home, with more than 230 guests. They did so comfortably because their new residence was built for entertaining.

The Christys moved into the five-bedroom home overlooking Landsmeer golf course last summer after the house was donated to the college by Drew '72 and Jean (Tallman '75) Vogel. The Vogels had attended many Northwestern gatherings in the president's previous home due to Drew's more than 20 years of service on the Board of Trustees.

"Our observation was that the groups got a little larger than the house could handle at times," says Drew. "We thought they could have a better venue."

The spacious home, built in 2000, offers privacy for overnight guests. And catering crews have easy access from the garage into a staging area near the kitchen.

"It's a blessing to have such a home to entertain members of the Northwestern community," says President Christy. "We are grateful to Drew and Jean for this incredible gift."

## Science and Sunday School

When a sharp 16-year-old asks why the creation accounts in Genesis 1 and 2 are different, what's a pastor to do?

Religion professor Dr. Jason Lief '96 and his students aim to offer guidance. Last fall, with a \$5,000 grant from the Science for Youth Ministry Initiative, Lief developed a faith and science course for the college's youth ministry curriculum.

Students taking the course this spring are studying both religion and science, as well as surveying church leaders to find out how they engage science in their ministry.

Lief and his students are creating church education materials that can be used by youth pastors and leaders to guide conversations about the seeming conflicts between the Bible and science. "Students heading into church ministry will also get practice framing controversial topics in ways that cultivate good discussion and open dialogue," Lief says.

## InteNtional Advocates

During Raider Days weekend in September, Northwestern launched a new program designed to take advantage of the power of volunteers. The Northwestern Network connects the college with alumni, friends and parents of current and former students, sharing ideas for concrete ways they can support NWC.

“Our goal is literally to form a network of Northwestern’s fans—intentional advocates all over the U.S. and world,” says Kristin (Breems ’03) Rucks, director of constituent engagement.

In just three months, nearly 500 people had signed on as network advocates, indicating their willingness to use their influence to make a difference for Northwestern. Volunteer opportunities are designed to fit an individual’s gifts and passions and fall into one of five categories: enrollment and admissions, social media, career and internships, campus activities, and philanthropy and stewardship.

Rucks’ objectives for the first year of the program are to recruit 1,500 network advocates and to

focus on growing Northwestern’s enrollment. Toward that end, during the fall semester her office hosted Northwestern Network alumni and admissions events in Omaha, Sioux Falls, Denver, Colorado Springs, Pella and Des Moines, with more cities scheduled in the coming months.

“If you’re interested in helping with admissions, you can refer a student or call prospective students already in our database to tell them about your experience at Northwestern,” says Rucks.

Jaclyn (Dykstra ’15) Kruse was

among the alumni who attended the Northwestern Network event in Sioux Falls. “She met a prospective student who doesn’t have a lot of support for going to a Christian college or for her faith,” says Rucks. “They hit it off and have been in contact ever since. Jaclyn is encouraging her not only to attend Northwestern, but also to stay strong in her walk with Christ.”

For more information about the Northwestern Network and to sign up, visit [nwciowa.edu/NWnetwork](http://nwciowa.edu/NWnetwork).

## Sisterhood

With four sisters having attended Northwestern, Kaitlyn Hassman of Spencer, Iowa, had enjoyed many visits to campus. But when it came time to conduct her college search, she focused on other schools at first. “I wanted my own experience, something new,” she says.

As she visited other colleges, Hassman realized she was comparing them to what she liked about Northwestern. “I realized I shouldn’t *not* come just because of my siblings.”

Now a freshman nursing major in Fern Smith Hall, she lives just around the corner from sister Lindsey, a senior elementary education major. “I don’t naturally see her every day, but I can stop by to borrow some clothes or talk a minute,” she says. “We eat lunch together once a week; it’s our time to catch up. We’ve found a good balance between having our own space and being together.”

The Hassman family’s Northwestern connection started with Melissa ’13, a Spanish major who will begin working as a literacy technician for Wycliffe Bible Translators in southern Mexico in March. Holly ’14 also majored in Spanish while earning a minor in music and is now pursuing a master’s degree in social work at the University of Iowa. Brianne Christiansen ’16 majored in theatre and is directing youth and young adult ministries at a church in Arkansas.

“Each of them had their own interests and skills that were a good fit for Northwestern and eventually realized they would make their own way on campus even if a sister was there,” says mom Karen.



Five of Dan and Karen Hassman's six daughters—along with a son-in-law—have attended Northwestern.

There were common experiences, however. “They each grew in leadership, were challenged spiritually, and developed great relationships with students and faculty,” she says.

Adds dad Dan, “We saw them grow in independence and leave Northwestern ready to go out and live their own lives for Christ—which is what we prayed for.”

A sixth daughter, Janae, is a high school freshman. She says she’s not going to Northwestern. Time will tell.

# Campus Life

## Conversation Starter



The Rev. Dr. Denise Kingdom Grier, lead pastor of a multiethnic church in Holland, Mich., speaks to students in a September Ngage session about racism.

It's 8 p.m. on a Thursday in September, and students fill the chairs spanning the Vogel Room in Northwestern's DeWitt Learning Commons. They're gathering to discuss discrimination and the impact of racism in today's world.

At 8 p.m. on a Thursday in October, nearly 300 students fill the Vogel Room again. They're gathering to talk about objectified bodies and pornography's effect on the brain.

Both sessions were part of Northwestern's Ngage series, which opens the door for students to have conversations about difficult issues—mental illness, sexual assault and immigration, just to name a few.

Recognizing a need for a public, campus-wide forum where students can talk openly about universal experiences that affect both

themselves and people they love, Julie Vermeer Elliott

'97, vice president for student life, initiated Ngage in 2014.

"The series is about engaging ideas that are relevant in students' lives," says Elliott.

The Ngage series is coordinated by Northwestern's student life office, with monthly sessions taking place throughout the year. Topics are often determined in tandem with the campus ministry office; speakers will present both in chapel and at an Ngage event as a way of extending the conversations.

While many of the speakers are nationally recognized experts in their given fields, Elliott has found that students also love having Northwestern faculty and staff speak at the events. "It's a reminder of how much influence our faculty and staff have on students," she says.

The sessions are typically open only to Northwestern students, whereas chapel is open to faculty, staff and the greater community. Why a student-only audience? "Students can ask hard questions they might not ask if they were sitting next to their professors," says Elliott.

The conversations that are started—and furthered—through the Ngage series aren't always easy. They're thought-provoking. Insightful. Raw. But Elliott emphasizes they're important. She adds that the series' topics are determined through listening to students.

Elliott hopes that through the tough conversations, students reflect on the topics and consider, "How can I think about this in a way that's thoughtful and life-giving?" Those questions and conversations will better prepare them to be Christ-followers when they leave Northwestern and take their places in the world.

## Living With Differences

With people increasingly divided by their political, religious, racial and cultural differences, it may seem harder than ever to find ways to live together peaceably.

Author and legal scholar Dr. John Inazu visited Northwestern Nov. 7 to share how Christians can respond with what he calls "confident pluralism." In his chapel address and during a luncheon for church and community leaders, he explained that the ability to co-exist despite deep differences is both a constitutional and personal matter.

"Part of the legal necessity for learning how to live with differences in our society is paradoxically to protect our deepest differences under the law," Inazu said.

Equally important is a mindset characterized by tolerance, humility and patience.

"When we're tolerant, we recognize that other people should be free to pursue their own beliefs and practices even when we disagree with them," he said. "Tolerance is not the same as acceptance. Tolerance distinguishes people from ideas. We respect people, but we don't respect all ideas."

Inazu defined humility as the recognition that we can't always prove who is right and who is wrong, and patience as a willingness to listen to, empathize with, and try to understand others.

A professor of law and religion at Washington University in St. Louis, Inazu is an expert in the First Amendment freedoms of speech, assembly and religion. His books include *Confident Pluralism: Surviving and Thriving Through Deep Difference* and *Liberty's Refuge: The Forgotten Freedom of Assembly*.

## Art on Display

Two regional art centers displayed work by Northwestern art professors this past fall.

“Pattern Studies” at the Des Moines Art Center featured drawings by Yun Shin that are inspired by her mother’s knitting. Using ink, paint and pencil in monotone colors, Shin enlarges the knitting

details and repeatedly traces lines. When completed, entire sheets of paper as large as 66 by 30 inches are filled with meticulous rows of symmetrical geometric patterns.

Emily Stokes’ exhibit, “Cracked Open,” was hosted by the Washington Pavilion Visual Arts Center in Sioux Falls. Her art presents

images of the country from the viewpoint of someone new to rural living. Recurring images—such as tree stumps, cattle trailers and haystacks—serve an iconographic role in work printed on organically shaped wood pieces.

Shin earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in studio arts from

the University of Texas at Austin; Stokes has an M.F.A. in printmaking from Arizona State University.

# A Servant Retires

“This is like having a dad on campus.”

The best compliment Scott Simmelink ever got came on a sub-zero day in December. A student’s car wouldn’t start two days in a row, so Simmelink, Northwestern’s director of maintenance and operations, took her to a gas station to buy a new battery.

Over his 34 years with the maintenance department, the last 27 as director, Simmelink has often been heard saying, “It’s about the kids.” Even if that means performing a less-than-desirable task or returning to campus to handle an emergency in the middle of the night.

“He has poured his heart and soul into his work because of his care and compassion for students, faculty and staff,” says Doug Beukelman, vice president for financial affairs. “Scott is the protector who made sure everything was as operational as possible every minute of every day so others could teach, mentor and lead our students to be ready for their chosen spot in God’s kingdom.”

Simmelink, who will retire at the end of February, saw the campus double in size to 100 acres—and has intricate knowledge of nearly every square inch of it. He says his two main goals have been to make sure the campus is safe and attractive.

“It’s been an awesome place to work,” says Simmelink, the 2007 recipient of the Staff Inspirational Service Award. “I’ve been blessed to work with and for great people.”

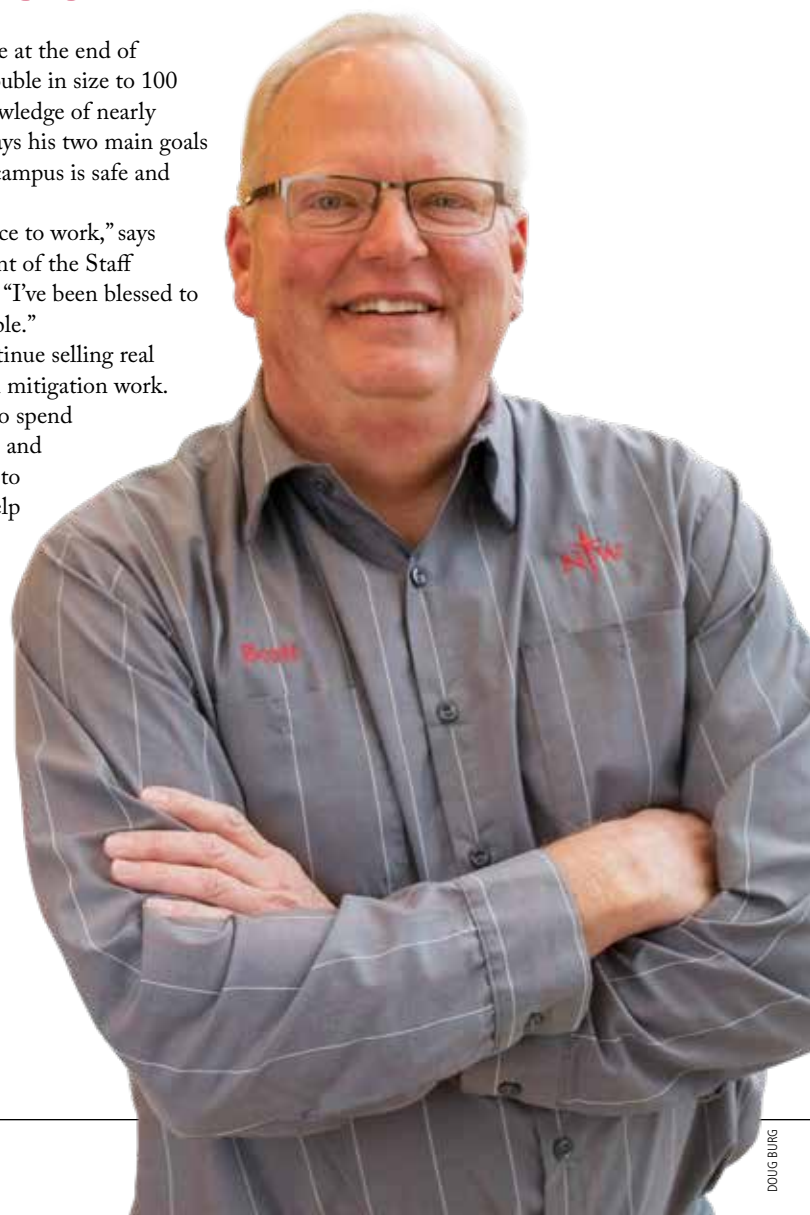
In retirement, he will continue selling real estate and hopes to do radon mitigation work. The father figure also plans to spend more time with his own kids and grandkids. He’s even willing to come back to campus and help out occasionally.

“Just not on those 20-below days,” he says with a smile.

### On the Web

What was Simmelink’s most exciting building project or biggest headache? Read a Q/A at [classic.nwciowa.edu/6-questions](http://classic.nwciowa.edu/6-questions).

**Director of Maintenance and Operations**  
Scott Simmelink is retiring after 34 years of service to Northwestern.



## Arnett Wins NSF Grant

A grant from the National Science Foundation will provide opportunities for Dr. David Arnett, chemistry, and Northwestern students to research enzyme function.

Arnett is working with researchers at the University of Kansas and the Medical College of Wisconsin to map and track the shapes of nitric oxide synthase enzymes. Collectively, the three institutions were awarded \$750,000 for the project, with Northwestern's share just over \$120,000.

The professors' research, which is assisted by their peers and students, is testing the hypothesis that the enzymes work through several "moving parts" that push electrons from the enzyme's fuel molecules to the active site where nitric oxide

is produced. These moving parts cause changes to the enzymes' shape, which can be observed using light.

"Our research aims to better understand how different versions of nitric oxide synthase change shape as they work," explains Arnett. "Eventually, our better understanding of these enzymes could help scientists design more effective pharmaceuticals."

Arnett began studying the enzymes during sabbatical research at Kansas in 2009–10. Northwestern students can participate in the research through both chemistry classes and independent study. They can also take part in summer research at any of the three partnering institutions.



Chemistry professor David Arnett has been awarded a National Science Foundation research grant worth more than \$120,000.

DONG BLURG



GEOFF JOHNSON

## Enrollment Among the Best

Northwestern has recorded the ninth-best enrollment in school history, with 1,250 students enrolled for the fall 2017 semester. The enrollment total, just 10 less than last fall's, includes 281 freshmen, only one less than last year.

The average ACT composite score of Northwestern's freshman class is 24.34, well above the Iowa average of 21.9 and the national average of 21.0. "We're very pleased with the quality of our new students," says Mark Bloemendaal '81, vice president for enrollment and marketing. "They have strong academic backgrounds and have given us every indication they will do well and make positive contributions to our Christian academic community."

The college's Master of Education programs, only in their third year, had a record enrollment of 202 in the fall. "Our grad students are spreading the word to their colleagues that our programs enhance their skills in the classroom, are taught by experienced professors who provide plenty of personal attention, are affordable and offer a lot of flexibility," says Bloemendaal.

Northwestern's fall enrollment of 1,250 students included 281 freshmen.

# Face Value

## Strategic Success

If their participation in the international Business Strategy Game is any indication, Northwestern's senior business majors are being well prepared for success in the marketplace. The students in the Business Strategy capstone course consistently finish among the top 3 percent of 6,500 teams competing in a dynamic online simulation that draws upon knowledge from their previous business courses.

"The game brings everything together," says business professor Wade Druin. "It makes students rely on their accounting courses to read financial statements, marketing courses for the image and branding of their company, finance courses to determine debt and equity, and economics courses to determine the overall conditions that drive supply and demand."

Northwestern "companies," composed of two to five students, compete against each other in an athletic shoe "industry" through the semester-long game. Weekly scores, based on students' business decisions and predetermined market expectations, help the NWC teams see how their results compare with the industries of other colleges.

## P.A. Prep

Northwestern has begun a new pre-physician assistant program that will prepare students for a two-year professional program in the field. The new program includes more than 60 credits in selected biology, chemistry and psychology courses.

## Dan Robinson

IT Guy With <Style>

**Your dad [Rob] was the director of NWC's computing services department from 1983 to 2000. Did that influence your interest in the field?**

Northwestern has been a part of my life for 34 years. Growing up, I would help my dad run network cables through the many different tunnels or under the floors around campus because I was small enough to fit! I have learned a lot from my dad, and I really look up to him in so many ways. His position as director absolutely had a positive influence on my choosing to work in the same field.

**You built the college's website. What feature or design element are you most proud of?**

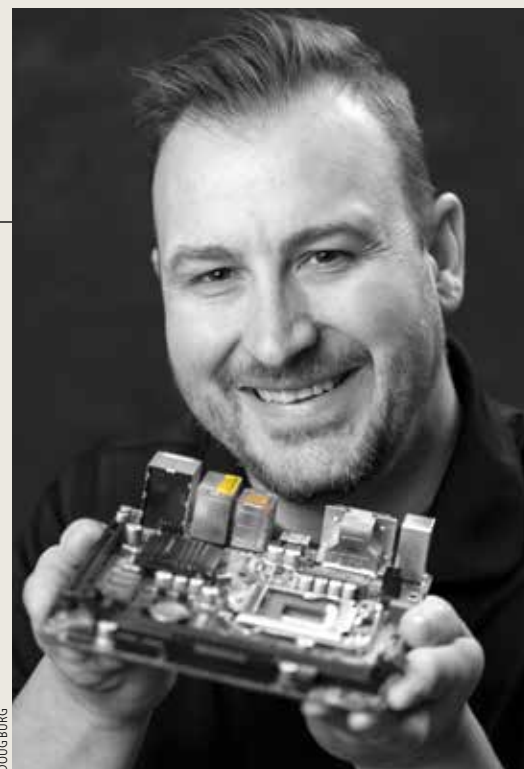
I think the one thing I am most proud of is something you don't actually see. When creating the website, I really wanted to make working within the site and uploading content as easy as possible for those who are not as technologically inclined. To accomplish this, I wrote a content management system that enables staff to easily update information in a visual manner while still integrating Northwestern's many data sources and custom programming scripts.

**What is your favorite part of your job?**

I really enjoy researching and implementing innovative solutions to improve our network and make technology more accessible to our students, faculty and staff. I also enjoy the camaraderie we have in the computing services department. The people I work with are awesome, and I consider them family.

**Besides a background in web design, do you have any other artistic outlets?**

I play guitar and will occasionally help lead worship at my church. Guitar is my go-to when I need to relieve some stress or just veg out (maybe sometimes a little too much). I also enjoy learning about video editing and recently began producing videos for a local nonprofit.



**Dan Robinson '01, associate director of computing services, joined Northwestern's staff in 2002 and was promoted to his current position in 2015. In his previous role as web development manager, he developed the college's award-winning website.**

**What are some of your other hobbies?**

Spending time with my wife and three children, coaching youth sports, and programming just for fun.

**What have you recently programmed "just for fun?"**

Lately I have been trying to get different things to interface with our Amazon Echo. I am working on getting Alexa to answer "What's for lunch?" by announcing my kids' school lunch menu for the day.

**What's one of the most unusual help desk calls you can remember your department dealing with?**

One time a student brought in a laptop with melted chocolate all over the motherboard. To this day we are still completely baffled as to how that much chocolate got inside a laptop!

# New Online B.A. for Early Childhood



A new online degree-completion B.A. in early childhood will prepare students for positions in Head Start programs, daycare centers, preschool programs and education agencies.

Northwestern has responded to the demand for more highly educated caregivers and teachers for young children by adding a bachelor's degree in early childhood to its online programs. The program, which began in January, is for students who have already earned an associate's degree.

The degree-completion program will qualify graduates for positions and career promotion in Head Start programs, infant/toddler preschool programs and daycare centers, as well as in education agencies that serve or advocate for early childhood issues. The program was developed in concert with the Professional Preparation Standards of the National Association for the Education of Young Children; it does not lead to a teaching license.

The online early childhood bachelor's degree can be completed in two years, depending upon the number of general education credits transferred into the program.

"Research shows that early childhood professionals with higher levels of education foster environments that have better intellectual, emotional and social development outcomes for children," says Professor Laura (Dykstra '84) Heitritter, chair of Northwestern's education department. "Northwestern has a reputation for preparing excellent teachers, so we want to provide that great preparation in the area of early childhood as well."

Northwestern's graduate school and adult learning division also offers Master of Education degrees as well as graduate-level endorsements and a teacher leadership certificate.

# Top of the Class

The value of an NWC education continues to be confirmed by several high rankings:

- College Consensus ranked NWC as the second-best college or university in Iowa. The new college review site averages the latest results from the most respected college rankings with thousands of online student review scores.
- Northwestern was selected one of the nation's Colleges of Distinction in acknowledgment of its continued dedication to high-impact educational practices.
- *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Northwestern 10th among 80 Midwestern regional colleges.
- Northwestern's online M.Ed. in teacher leadership was ranked as the most affordable program of its kind by GradSchoolHub.com and 14th out of the nation's top 50 by AffordableColleges.com.
- Early-Childhood-Education-Degrees.com ranked the online M.Ed. in early childhood sixth in its list of the top 30 programs.
- Northwestern received honorable mention recognition on the Best Adoption-Friendly Workplaces list compiled by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and was ranked fifth in the education industry for 2017, behind New York University, Baylor, Emory and Ohio State.

To read more about NWC's accolades, visit [nwciowa.edu/excellence](http://nwciowa.edu/excellence).



Northwestern's latest accolades include a ranking as the second-best college or university in Iowa by College Consensus.



Allstate AFCA Good Works Team member Jacob Jenness, third from the right in the back row, has participated in two Spring Service Partnerships, served as an FCA leader and coached youth football.

## Good Hands

Jacob Jenness has trimmed weeds in a New Orleans lot abandoned after Hurricane Katrina. He's played games with inner-city kids in Jonesboro, Ark., and assisted them with homework. The linebacker has also coached young football players in Orange City and helped lead the FCA programs at NWC and his high school in Spirit Lake, Iowa.

For his commitment to service, Jenness was selected from among college football players at all levels to be one of the 22 members of the 2017 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team. The honor recognizes student-athletes dedicated to enriching others' lives.

"When you're out of your comfort zone, that's when you

grow," says Jenness about his participation in Spring Service Partnerships (SSPs) and other volunteer opportunities. "I enjoy serving people who don't have what we have. It's a humbling experience."

Jenness, a biology-health professions major who is a team captain and honorable mention all-conference selection, will enroll at the Michigan College of Optometry in August. He recently returned to New Orleans, where he and other Good Works Team members joined in a service project and were honored at halftime of the Sugar Bowl game. His next trip is to Mescalero, N.M., where he will participate in an SSP on the Apache reservation.

# Mastering the MCAT

Ask Jeffrey Jeltema and Alison Schutt what they did last summer, and they'll tell you, "Studied for the MCAT." They wouldn't be exaggerating; each of them studied up to 10 hours a day for two and a half months in preparation for taking the Medical College Admission Test.

While that kind of "summer job" doesn't pay well in the short-term, the two senior biology-health profession majors received their reward when they got their exam results. Both achieved very high scores that will help their chances of being admitted into medical school.

As a whole, test scores of Northwestern students taking the MCAT in 2017 averaged in the 77th percentile. One student scored in the 100th percentile and another in the 97th.

Students and faculty cite several factors for their MCAT success, in addition to the sheer effort demonstrated by students such as Jeltema and Schutt.

"Classes have prepared me well to think critically," says Schutt. "We are encouraged to think not only about the subject matter but about how it connects to other aspects of science and the world. With small class sizes and friendly professors, we can always ask questions and get the support we need. Some of my professors gave up time in the summer to help me review. And the help of Randy [Van Peurse '92, science support services professional] in the tutoring center is amazing."

Another area of preparation was a voluntary Pre-MCAT course offered by biology professor Dr. Elizabeth Heeg '01. The course gave her the opportunity to test the AdaptPrep software she developed with Dr. Tim Huffman, mathematics. Students learned about the exam and then did practice questions with the software, which they could access for free.



The average score of NWC students taking the MCAT in 2017 put them in the top quarter among test takers worldwide.

"The value came from learning about the test's format, gaining insight into prep strategies, and just being informed about the whole process," says Jeltema.

Heeg says Northwestern's liberal arts education also plays an important role in students' MCAT success. "Half of the exam is on critical analysis, reasoning, psychology and sociology. Northwestern has a strong core education, and students are introduced to critical analysis and reasoning skills in their First-Year Seminar, so we are priming them to succeed."

## Raider Days

Northwestern alumni, parents, friends and students enjoyed a full schedule of activities during Raider Days Sept. 29 and 30.

From Friday's Celebration Banquet to the music department concert that closed out Saturday's schedule, the focus was on student and alumni achievement, camaraderie and Northwestern's impact in the world.

Other activities included an alum's art exhibit, the Red Raider Road Race, Morning on the Green, reunions for eight classes, alumni games in four sports, the Distinguished Alumni Banquet, the Athletic Recognition Luncheon, a children's play, and Raider football and soccer contests.



The new Red Raider Athletic Band added excitement and volume to Raider Days festivities. For more photos, visit [nwciova.edu/Raider-Days](http://nwciova.edu/Raider-Days).



Stan Bonnema of Waconia, Minn., Marilyn Van Engelenhoven of Orange City, and JP Sundararajan of Holland, Mich., (left to right) were awarded Northwestern's Distinguished Alumni Awards for 2017.

# Lives Well Lived

Decades of service at work, in ministry and for the community were recognized by this year's Distinguished Alumni Awards. The three recipients were honored at a Sept. 30 banquet held during Raider Days, Northwestern's Homecoming and Parents Weekend.

## **Stanley Bonnema '67**

### *Professional Achievement*

Stan Bonnema served 39 years in the University of Minnesota's department of chemistry, 31 of those as its senior administrative director. During his tenure, he was responsible for the chemistry department's annual operating budget of more than \$10 million and employees that included approximately 40 faculty, 220 graduate students, 40 staff and 30 post-doctoral associates. He also oversaw two multi-year, multimillion dollar renovations of the department's facilities.

The recipient of the University of Minnesota's President's Award for Outstanding Service in 2012, Bonnema attended Northwestern from 1963 to 1965 before transferring to Minnesota and earning a bachelor's degree in microbiology.

## **JP Sundararajan '00**

### *Service to Humankind*

The Rev. John Paul (JP) Sundararajan is an ordained pastor and missionary with the Reformed Church in America. He serves as the India-Asia director of Audio Scripture Ministries, an organization that records and distributes audio Bibles in the languages of people around the globe who cannot read. As such, he works with some of the most remote people groups in the world, including victims of human

trafficking and those stigmatized by leprosy. He is currently developing a smartphone app that will stream all recorded Scripture and provide podcasts of sermons.

A native of Bangalore, India, Sundararajan graduated from Northwestern with a bachelor's degree in psychology. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary in 2003.

## **Marilyn (Docter '65) Van Engelenhoven**

### *Service to Northwestern*

Marilyn Van Engelenhoven served on Northwestern's National Alumni Board from 1981 to 1987 and helped establish an annual auction to raise money for student scholarships. Now in its 35th year, the Scholarship Auction has raised more than \$825,000. She also has been active in the Women's Auxiliary and served several years as president of the organization, which has raised more than \$700,000 for scholarships and capital projects. Most recently, the auxiliary funded the seasonal plantings filling the large flower pots that enhance the college's redesigned campus entrance.

Van Engelenhoven graduated from Northwestern with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She taught third grade and kindergarten prior to becoming a community leader and volunteer.

# Investing in the Mission

Supporters give record \$9.1 million in 2016–17

## Fundraising Report

July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017

- \$9,132,372** Total giving to Northwestern College (giving to the Northwestern Fund was \$1,070,030 million)
- \$3,950,062** Total alumni giving to Northwestern
- \$571,653** Total giving to scholarships for students (endowed and annual)
  - 737** Heritage Society members (donors making planned gifts)
  - 569** Patrons (donors giving \$1,000 or more to any Northwestern cause)
  - 337** Tower Society members (donors giving \$1,000+ to the Northwestern Fund)
  - 629** Jacob and Hannah Heemstra Roll of Honor members (donors who have given to Northwestern for 20 or more consecutive years)
  - 463** 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 \$87,257,468)

Designation	Total for 2016–17	Total for 2015–16
Northwestern Fund	\$1,070,030	\$1,187,794
Other annual giving	180,690	185,871
Endowed scholarships	331,522	486,772
Annual scholarships	240,131	214,225
Capital gifts	6,918,358	2,794,779
Life income gifts	14,642	20,958
Student missions/travel	281,757	270,821
Other restricted gifts	95,242	540,551
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,132,372</b>	<b>\$5,701, 771</b>

## Building Progress

Northwestern’s latest construction project is definitely turning a few heads. Rising 58 feet in the air and just 25 yards from Highway 10, the new health and natural sciences center can’t be missed.

“People are surprised by the size of it,” says Doug Beukelman, vice president for financial affairs. “It’s much bigger than they anticipated.” The building’s proximity to the street and the way it extends to the south make it an obvious landmark for the western edge of campus.

Beukelman also says people describe the building as “stunning” and “an awesome addition to campus.” And that, he points out, comes as they are seeing what is still little more than the skeletal structure of the facility.

As of early January, the roof is on, mechanical equipment has been installed inside the building, interior framing is completed, and mechanical, plumbing and electrical rough-ins are nearly finished. Framework for the large glass sections of the building has also been completed, and work is progressing on the installation of the exterior metal panels.

The \$24.5 million facility is scheduled to open next fall.



This view of the new health and natural sciences center’s west side shows the building beginning to be enclosed.

# Red Zone

## WOW-dstra

BY DUANE BEESON

When men's basketball coach Kris Korver '92 remembers the playing days of Brandon Woudstra '03, a game at the national tournament in 2003 comes to mind.



Brandon Woudstra

The top-seeded Raiders were having a tough time against 16th-seeded William Jewell but eventually pulled out an 89-86 overtime victory.

"Brandon just wouldn't let us go down," says Korver. Woudstra contributed 33 points, six rebounds, four assists and six steals in a win that propelled the Raiders toward their second national championship in three years. "He was a fierce competitor who hated to lose."

The Red Raiders went 112-21 in Woudstra's four years, including two national titles. Woudstra set school records for points and assists, was named the NAIA Div. II National Player of the Year in 2003, and was selected an All-American three years in a row.

"Brandon had amazing versatility," says Grant Schmidt, former head coach at Concordia University, of the 6-foot-3-inch guard. "His ability to score in isolation was second to none, his range was unlimited, and his ability in the post made him a nightmare to match up against. He was a true leader, and he gave his team extreme confidence in their ability to win."

Woudstra, who played professional basketball in Europe for six years and is now market president for American State Bank in Orange City, will be inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame March 6 prior to the start of the Div. II national tournament in Sioux Falls. He will join his father, Earl '78, Northwestern's athletic director, who was inducted in 2012 after leading the women's basketball team to a 403-139 record and four national championships.

The Woudstra legacy in Northwestern basketball—started by Brandon's uncle Jim '74, the second-leading scorer in school history—could continue. Brandon's two oldest children—Jaelye, 10, and Leyton, 8—already show great affection for the sport. "Would I like to see them in Raider red? Absolutely!" says Brandon.

## Recognized Raiders

Three former All-Americans were inducted into the Northwestern Athletic Hall of Fame in October: Charity (Miles '11) De Lawyer, cross country and track; Hillary (Hanno '11) Gingerich, volleyball; and Cody Van Sloten '08, football.

Coach of the Year honors went to Cory Brandt '92, football coach at Rock Valley/Boyden-Hull, and Mike Meyer '79, volleyball coach at Le Mars Gehlen. The Barnabas Award was given to Kristen (Te Grotenhuis '93) Olson, cross country and track, and the late Derrick Rensink '11, football.

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

Brandon Woudstra led Northwestern to two national championships and will be inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in March.



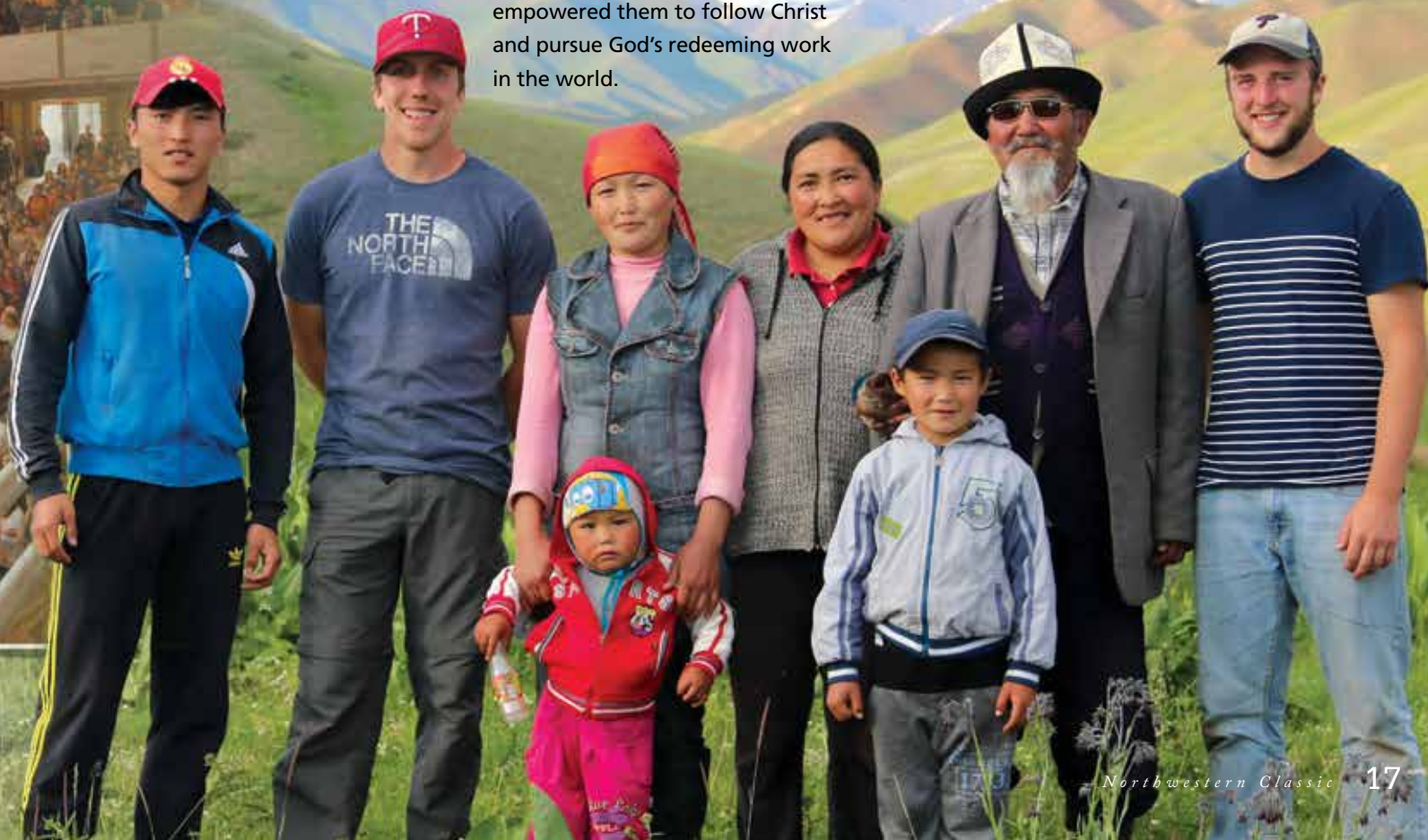




# FAITHFUL



When graduates recall what shaped their Christian faith while at Northwestern, they don't just point to what they learned in the classroom. They tell of the chapel speaker who challenged their worldview, the D-group where they studied the Bible with friends, the mission trip when they partnered with believers in another state or country. They speak of retreats, service projects and Ngage conversations about hot-topic issues and ideas. They remember worshipping, serving and learning in ways that empowered them to follow Christ and pursue God's redeeming work in the world.





Sabrina Tarchione, Chris Borchers and Courtney Mithelman (from left) are among the Northwestern students who have benefited from the college's participation in a program that provides real, discovery-based research experience to undergraduates.

DOUG BURG

# More Than Just a PHAGE

National program gives Northwestern students experience in contributing to groundbreaking scientific research

BY ANITA CIRULIS

A national program designed to interest undergraduates in scientific research is doing just that at Northwestern. Students are part of a global effort to discover phages, which are viruses that infect bacteria—in this case, bacteria that live in soil.

“I learn so much more when I actually do the research myself,” says Courtney Mithelman, a junior majoring in genetics, molecular and cellular biology. Mithelman initially decided to become a genetic counselor after Jason Flanagan ’00, a genetic counselor at Sanford Health in Sioux Falls, spoke to her class. Now she’s thinking about other options. “I’ve definitely considered what research would be like as a career,” she says.

Chris Borchers, a biology-health professions junior, chose North-

western because of its academic reputation and strength in the sciences. He, too, is now open to the possibility of doing research. He also cites another benefit of the program: a more impressive résumé. He and other students enrolled in Genetics this past fall will be co-authoring genome announcements for publication in a journal of the American Microbiological Society and posters for presentation at a national symposium and at the Iowa Academy of Science.

"That's really important because when students apply for internships, graduate school or medical school, the people reviewing those applications are looking for research experience," says Dr. Sara Sybesma Tolsma '84, professor of biology. "And if a student has *published* research, that shows their work has been peer-reviewed and found worthy."

## SELECT COMPANY

Tolsma led Northwestern's application process for SEA-PHAGES, a program run by the Science Education Alliance (SEA) of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Northwestern was one of just 20 colleges and universities in the U.S. chosen to join the program in 2016–17. Nationwide, more than 100 colleges and universities participate in SEA-PHAGES. Since the program was launched nine years ago, over 16,000 college students have contributed to the exploration of microbial diversity by discovering nearly 9,000 bacteria-infecting viruses. SEA-PHAGES provides weeklong training sessions for faculty and pays for the cost of sequencing the DNA genomes of two phages per institution per year.

Northwestern is unique among participating schools in its approach to the SEA-PHAGES program. Rather than offer a single SEA-PHAGES course, Tolsma and her colleagues have embedded the research into three sequential courses. Students begin by taking General Biology their first year with Dr. Laurie Furlong, where they are introduced to the SEA-PHAGES program and collect soil samples from a variety of sites.

In Microbiology, taught by Dr. Byron Noordewier, students isolate the viruses from the soil samples using a host bacterium. The phages are then purified and their DNA isolated and compared. The final step is to image the phages using a transmission electron microscope at the University of Iowa and enter information about the viruses into a database supported by the SEA-PHAGES project.

The two highest-quality DNA samples are then sent to the University of Pittsburgh for sequencing. When those sequencing results are returned to Northwestern, students enrolled in Genetics, the third SEA-PHAGES course taught by Tolsma, work in teams to annotate the DNA, identifying the locations of individual genes and determining what the genes' protein products do.


## PROVEN SUCCESS

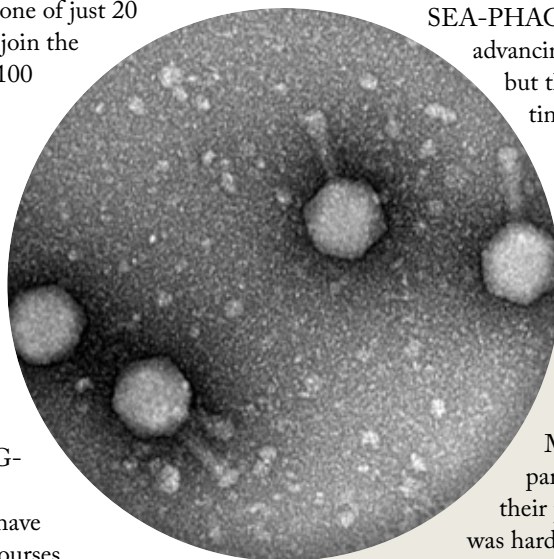
Northwestern's biology professors are convinced the three-course sequence is a wise approach to teaching students research techniques.

At a recent multi-college SEA-PHAGES annotation event, Northwestern's participants demonstrated an impressive ability to do the gene annotation.

"Because our students were juniors and seniors instead of second-semester freshmen, they had a greater understanding of biology—and that made the annotation experience more meaningful and of higher quality," Tolsma explains.

Noordewier likewise has evidence of how well Northwestern's students are prepared to do research. He secured a grant that helped pay a portion of the cost for him to take students to the University of Iowa to use its electron microscope. "The students were real impressive at that point," Noordewier says, "so I was invited to present about Northwestern's SEA-PHAGES program at the fall meeting of the Iowa Microscopy Society."

Estimates place the number of phages on our planet at  $10^{31}$ —a quantity that is almost impossible to comprehend. Phages are helping scientists understand life and develop new medical treatments. Thanks to the SEA-PHAGES program, Tolsma says, "Not only is science advancing because we know more about these phages, but there's an army of undergraduates who are getting trained as scientists." 



Northwestern students hunting for bacteriophages in soil have discovered new bacteria-infecting viruses. Roots515, isolated and named by Courtney Mithelman, has a short, stubby tail and infects mycobacteria.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Every student in Northwestern's Microbiology class discovered a phage. As part of that discovery process, they named their phages, which Courtney Mithelman says was harder than she expected. "You want to be funny or clever while also being original," she explains.

Mithelman named her phage Roots515 because 515 is the area code for Des Moines, where her home is. Chris Borchers, a member of Northwestern's men's basketball team, used his initials and uniform number to create Cborch11. And Sabrina Tarchione, the third student whose phage's DNA was sequenced by the University of Pittsburgh, chose her first initial and those of her siblings, along with the total number of people in her family. The result: Sibs6.

Phages are classified into clusters and subclusters based on the similarity of their DNA. Of the three sequenced phages Northwestern got back from Pitt, Borchers hit the jackpot. "There have only been six H1 phages discovered," Tolsma says. "Chris's is No. 6. And of those six, four have been annotated, so ours will be the fifth."

**NEW YEAR,  
IMPROVED  
YOU**



## Psychology alum's research offers promise for healthy behavior change (and maybe some success with your New Year's resolutions)

BY TAMARA FYNAARDT

About half of the population makes New Year's resolutions. We want to exercise more. Eat less. Get rid of a bad habit and gain a good one. A Google search, "How do I keep my New Year's resolutions," returns more than 24 million results linking to sources from the American Psychological Association to a blog by Mamaguru, all offering tips, tricks and tactics for making resolutions and—the harder part—keeping them.

There's plenty of advice because there's an abundance of failure. The same sources cite dismal success rates for keeping New Year's resolutions: around 8 percent, maybe as high as 20, but that's as good as it gets. By February, most of us are back to acting like it's 2017.

Dr. Amanda (Brown '07) Brouwer doesn't usually make New Year's resolutions. But she *is* interested in both enabling people to change their behavior and then helping them sustain that change. Her health psychology research in a relatively new area of study, the self-as-doer identity, was published this past fall by Routledge, a global publisher of academic scholarship.

In the preface of Brouwer's book, *Motivation for Sustaining Health Behavior Change: The Self-as-Doer Identity*, she recounts the genesis of what has become her research passion: a Northwestern course with psychology professor Dr. Jennifer Feenstra. "I was reading in my health psychology textbook about things I've experienced and thought about personally as someone with Type 1 diabetes," Brouwer remembers. "I thought, 'This is fascinating! I want to know more.'"

Brouwer joined Feenstra's research lab, learning how to create a study and collect and analyze data in preparation for her senior psychology

research project. Brouwer wanted to see if an identity theory known as self-as-doer could promote healthy self-care behaviors among people with diabetes, a condition she has had since age 12.

Step one: Find 100-plus people with diabetes. "It was kind of a tricky population to find as an undergraduate," Brower explains, but a Sioux Center diabetes educator she knew had contact with a medical device representative who sold insulin pumps. Brouwer was able to email his client list and ask for volunteers for her study.

She then asked her volunteers to list goals for good diabetes self-care—like checking one's blood sugar and taking insulin. Participants also offered goals such as resisting chocolate and eating fruit. Next she asked them to identify the action in each goal and turn it into a word with an "er" suffix, making it into a self-as-doer phrase: blood sugar *checker*, insulin *taker*, chocolate *resister*, fruit *eater*.

"No matter how linguistically easy it seems—just adding the 'er' suffix—the key thing that sets it apart from a stagnant goal is that the doer gets motivation from connecting the goal to actual behavior, creating a mental image of oneself doing the goal," Brouwer explains. "It seems easy, but that's why I love it. It makes sense to people."

Finally, Brouwer's study participants rated themselves on a scale of one to five (one being "does not describe me well at all" and five being "describes me very well"), indicating how closely they identified with their self-as-doer phrases.

"The results indicated that self-as-doer identities could predict self-care behaviors," says Brouwer. People who saw themselves as chocolate resisters were more likely to follow through than those who hadn't made that particular self-care behavior part of their identity.

"I was so excited!" Brouwer says. "Anytime your research actually discovers something, it's like, 'Woo hoo!' That's what really drove me to graduate school—I fell in love with the research end of psychology: asking questions, seeing how we could answer them, and figuring out what to do if the answers lead to more questions."

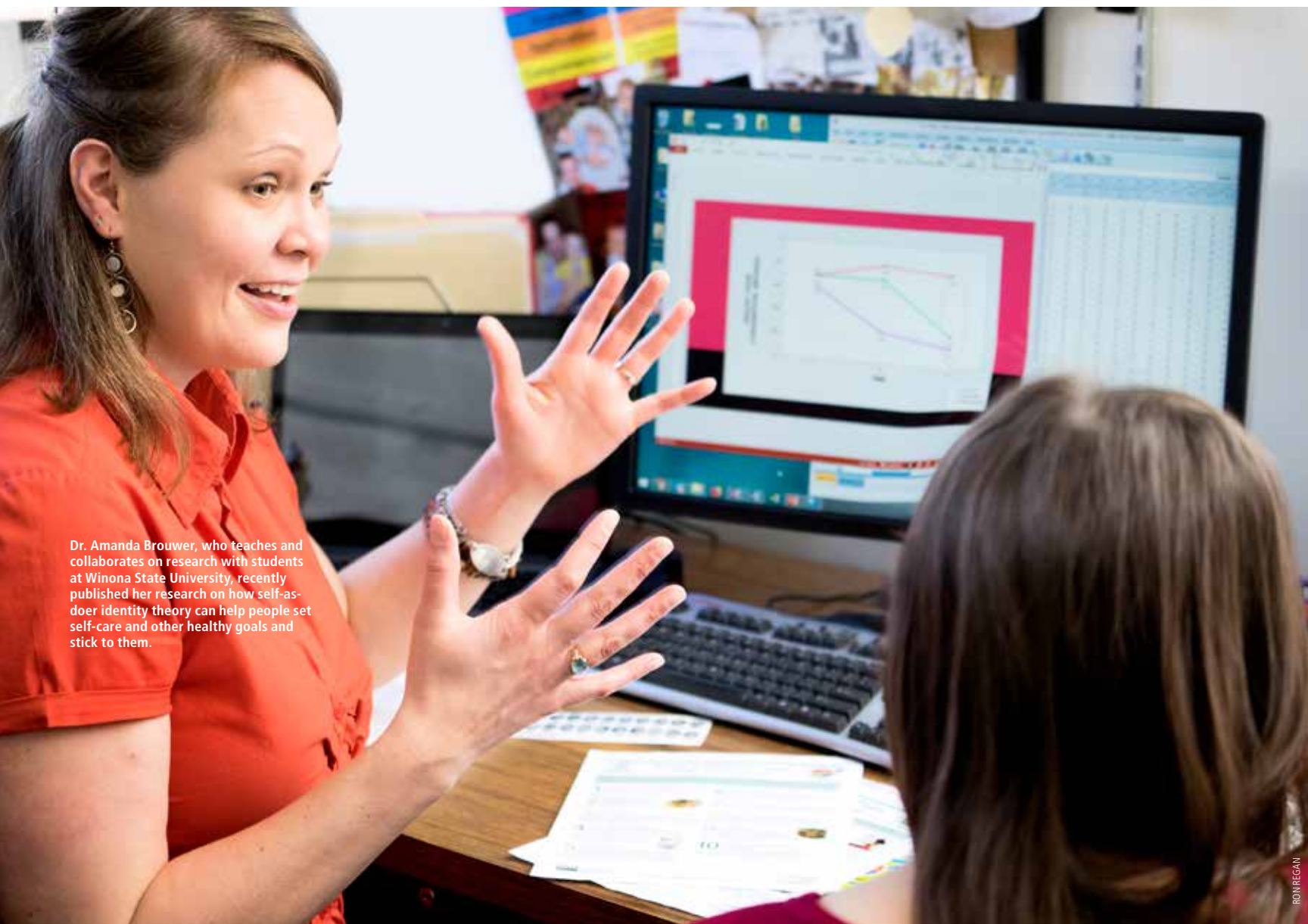
Using her Northwestern senior thesis as a pilot study, Brouwer expanded her self-as-doer research in graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She categorized her Northwestern study participants' more than 500 unique doer phrases into a standardized list of doer statements describing good diabetes self-care: for example, I'm a blood sugar checker, an insulin taker, a physical activity doer, a healthy eater.

Then Brouwer spent a year surveying more than 300 people with diabetes and analyzing their responses. Her results demonstrated a predictive relationship between high self-as-doer identities and good

diabetes self-care. "Those who saw themselves as blood sugar checkers, insulin takers, physical activity doers and healthy eaters were seven times more likely to have a good hemoglobin a1c, which is a measure of one's control of her or his diabetes," Brouwer explains.

For her doctoral dissertation, Brouwer decided to test the efficacy of the self-as-doer identity on a non-clinical population, one that wanted to be healthier—like dieters—but didn't have the medical motivation of having to manage their chronic illness or suffer the consequences.

After recruiting volunteers who'd expressed an interest in eating healthier, Brouwer divided them into three groups. The control group simply recorded their diet four times a week. A second group received information describing healthy eating behaviors and then also recorded their diet four times a week. The final group also received nutrition information and then Brouwer guided them through the self-as-doer exercise. She helped them identify healthy eating goals and then create self-as-doer phrases, making themselves the actor of those goals: leafy



Dr. Amanda Brouwer, who teaches and collaborates on research with students at Winona State University, recently published her research on how self-as-doer identity theory can help people set self-care and other healthy goals and stick to them.

greens eater, whole grains consumer. Then she asked them a series of questions aimed at helping them visualize what a “leafy greens eater” looks like and identify actions they could take to enable more regular eating of leafy greens.

At first, the majority of all the participants ate healthier foods. “Even the control group knew they were participating in a diet study, so they paid attention at first and chose healthier foods,” Brouwer says. “A difference showed up after about a month. Those in the third group who’d had the self-as-doer intervention were maintaining their healthier diet. Those who hadn’t done the self-as-doer exercise had regressed back to their pre-study diets.”

Now a tenured psychology professor at Winona State University in Minnesota, Brouwer teaches undergraduate courses in social and health psychology and is continuing her self-as-doer research with the help of students in her own research lab. She wants

to test a self-as-doer intervention similar to the one she explored with people who wanted to eat healthier, this time with volunteers who want to be more physically active. She expects that study will get fully under way next school year when she’s on sabbatical.

After that, she wants to return to clinical populations. Can self-as-doer help other patients with chronic illness like it does for people with diabetes? Would the results be similar for people with hypertension or HIV/AIDS?

“I have so many questions!” she says. “Enough to spend a lifetime doing research.” 🏠



Amanda Brouwer's self-as-doer research informs her family life as she and her husband, Scott '06, strive to be healthy eaters and at-home meal-makers.

## Self-as-Doer DIY

So far, Brouwer's research has focused only on physical health behaviors, including diet and exercise. But she says the theoretical background for her research and the studies she's done suggest self-as-doer has possibilities for enabling people to make and sustain change in other areas of well-being too, like emotional, spiritual or relational health.

So get out your New Year's resolutions and give it a try.

### STEP 1:

#### List your goals

Write down your goals. They should be personal, specific and, if possible, positive. For example, instead of a goal to "stop eating junk food," a positive goal aimed at the same outcome might be to "eat more fruits and vegetables." A more specific version would be to "make fruits and/or vegetables half of any meal I eat" or "eat only fruits or vegetables when snacking after supper."

Or say your goal is to "spend less time on social media." You might abandon pursuit of your goal more quickly if you don't come up with something else—something positive—to do during the time you're hoping to be unplugged. So instead of "spend less time on social media," your goal might be to "read during part of every evening."

You can write down as many goals as you want, but Brouwer recommends starting with no more than six goals as a manageable number.

### STEP 2:

#### Create your self-as-doer phrases

Turn each of your goals into a self-as-doer phrase by describing the person who does the goal—you. Each phrase should include a word with an "er" suffix that identifies what you, the doer, will do. Brouwer says it's OK if some of the phrases are awkward or grammatically questionable (she and her research subjects laughed about some of their phrases like "size 8 jeans wearer" and "more vegetable fitter inner"). It's most important that the self-as-doer phrases be meaningful to you personally.

#### My 2018 GOALS

1. Eat only fruit when snacking after supper
2. Work out at least five times each week
3. Read for part of each evening I'm home
4. Pause to pray at least once a day
5. Connect with my parents and siblings each week

#### IN 2018, I WILL BECOME A...

1. After-supper fruit snacker
2. Weekday exerciser
3. Evening reader
4. Daily, thoughtful prayer
5. Immediate family keep-in-toucher



**STEP 3:****Measure your identification with each self-as-doer phrase**

For each self-as-doer phrase, rate how well it currently fits you, using this scale:

- 1 – Does not describe me well at all
- 2 – Does not describe me well
- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – Describes me well
- 5 – Describes me very well

**STEP 4:****Make the necessary changes so you can become the person described by your self-as-doer phrases**

For each self-as-doer phrase for which your score is three or less, visualize yourself as that doer and think about what it would take for you to become the person described by that phrase. For example, if “weekday exerciser” doesn’t describe you well, why not? What do you need to change so it could describe you? Perhaps you need to switch your gym membership to a facility closer to work so you can go during the noon hour. Or maybe you need better fitting, more stylish work-out wear so you feel more confident going to the gym or running in your neighborhood.

To be a daily, thoughtful pray-er, it might help if you kept your church newsletter on your bedside table so you can pray meaningfully for any members listed. Or you might commit to praying over one national or international need after you watch or read the news each day.

**STEP 5:****After four to six weeks, measure your identification with each self-as-doer phrase again**

Hopefully your scores have improved and you are on your way to the point that your new healthy behaviors have become not only sustainable habits, but they’ve also become part of your self-concept. You are a person who snacks on fruit while reading to wind down each evening (because you get up earlier now in order to work out). You touch base with your parents and siblings at least once each week to find out what’s going on in their lives (and you pray well-informed prayers for them).

For any self-as-doer scores that remain below three, go back to the first step and reflect on how committed you are to that goal. Consider trying a different, but related, goal and go through the rest of the steps again until you’ve become more of the person you want to be.

If you try self-as-doer on your own goals for 2018, Brouwer would like to know how it goes. Tell her about your experience: [abrouwer@winona.edu](mailto:abrouwer@winona.edu).





# you've got mail

EDITED BY ANITA CIRULIS | ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVE MALEC

Even in today's age of email and texts,  
nothing beats the letter or package  
from home when you're a college student.  
We asked our readers for mail memories  
from their years at Northwestern.  
Here are some of our favorites.

## Weighty Competition

My sister and I competed during my first year of college to send the best mail to each other. A variety of things can be sent quite cheaply if they are under 13 ounces, like pool noodles, Frisbees and flip-flops! I sent her a pop bottle full of random things I collected with the NWC logo on them. She sent me a beach ball in return. My mom sent the best mail. A favorite was "Easter basket in a box." I dug through the Easter grass to find candy-filled eggs, notes from my siblings, and Mom's famous frosted egg-shaped cookies.

**DEVIN JORDE '17**

*Eyota, Minn.*

## Missives From Mom

I was the first in my family to go to college, and it was a tough transition for my mom. Long-distance calls were expensive, so she wrote me a letter every single day, even on Sundays, which meant one day a week I would get two. My mom passed away five years after I graduated, and I'd give anything to have those daily letters back.

**JAYNA (DEWAARD '95) FONTENOT**

*Marion, Iowa*

## Sending Warm Wishes

During my freshman year, we had a particularly cold winter day with a wind chill of minus 30 degrees. I was so cold, I called my mom in tears. A few days later, I received long underwear in my mailbox with a card that read, "Stay warm!"

**KELLI (NEEVEL '12) KING**

*Wyoming, Mich.*

## Gifts From Friends

Being from Arizona, I looked forward to letters from my dad and care packages full of goodies from my mom (always shared with friends). But one of the coolest things I got in the mail was a care package from my youth group filled with delicious treats and notes of encouragement from my friends back home.

**REV. RICHARD MOORE '06**

*Payson, Ill.*

## Junk Mail

During my junior year, I began receiving a vast amount of mail sent to me as the “Director of Choir Ministry,” “Science Professor” and “Chess Club President.” After weeks during which I got about a dozen pieces of mail every day, my friend confessed that he filled out response cards with my information for every periodical in Ramaker Library. We both got a chuckle out of it until the mail kept coming and coming and coming! It filled first one and then two four-foot-square boxes. Soon “choir robes will be arriving soon” and “your payment is now due” notices began to arrive, prompting my friend to get on the phone and explain that his practical joke had gone a little too far.

**DEB (FABER '85) VAN BUREN**  
*Willmar, Minn.*

## Tall Order

I'm only 5-foot-3-inches tall but was assigned a top-row mailbox in the RSC. I literally had to stand back or jump to see if anything was in my box. Or I asked one of the cute guys standing nearby to help me out.

**VALERIE (DITTMER '87) KING**  
*Marshalltown, Iowa*



## Enclosed: Grace

One evening a bunch of friends and I decided to play poker in a real American casino. I rapidly lost \$50. I regretted the poor judgment and prayed I wouldn't make stupid decisions with money ever again. Two weeks later, I received a letter from my host family's grandmother, who had never met me and who lived in Seattle. In the letter was \$50 with a note: “God told me you needed this.” I remember feeling both shame and gratitude for God's love and protection.

**ROBERT BOGDANFFY '12**  
*Bucharest, Romania*

## An Encouraging Word

My first year at Northwestern, I got a Kudos bar in my mailbox at the end of the fall semester with a note that read, “Kudos to you for making it to finals week!” It was a small thing, but it made my day—and I still remember it nine years later!

**ERICA (GRABER '12) MILLER**  
*Sioux Falls, S.D.*

## Voicebox

Every month my parents sent care packages from home. One day I collected my box and headed straight to class. I turned bright red when, randomly throughout class, a voice from the box said, “That was easy.” My parents had sent me the Staples Easy Button to encourage me during finals.

**AMY SMIT '09**  
*Harrisburg, S.D.*

## Dare to Dream

My most memorable piece of mail was from an anonymous encourager my senior year. It was a resident director job description. I had been too scared to apply, but that encouragement sent me on a path that led not only to being an RD for six years, but an 11-year career in higher education!

**ANNA TABONE '06**  
*Spring Arbor, Mich.*



## Tiny Tracksuits

During my junior year on the Northwestern track and field team, a few teammates and I shopped for new uniforms. We found a speedsuit unitard we liked, purchased 10, and had them mailed to my campus address. After weeks of anticipation, I received a notice that a package was waiting for me. With my friends at my side excited to see our new uni, I gave the slip of paper to the mailroom attendant. As we high-fived each other, one of my teammates joked that spandex, with its elastic nature, was capable of fitting in a small box. None of us were prepared, though, when I was handed a tiny 3-inch-square box. My friends laughed hysterically as I unpacked what turned out to be a Christmas mug.

**REV. DARRIN DEVRIES '99**  
*Newnan, Ga.*

## Home-Baked Treat

One day I got a notification for a package. It was from my mom, but I wasn't expecting anything from her. My friend joked that maybe Mom had mailed me a coffeecake. (We all loved her coffeecake, which she'd always send back with me after a break.) I opened the package and it *was* a coffeecake! 🍪

**REBEKAH (WILSON '09) WAGNER**  
*Sioux Falls, S.D.*



# Back to the Homeland

Historic Bibles from Northwestern's collection to be displayed in Dutch exhibit

BY DUANE BEESON

Centuries after they were transported across the Atlantic by immigrants, two Dutch Bibles will return to their homeland later this year. The volumes, among nearly 40 housed in Northwestern's archives, will be on loan to Dordrechts Museum in the Netherlands for "Pious Patriots," an international exhibit commemorating the 400th anniversary of the Synod of Dort.

The Bibles are Statenbijbels (States Bibles), a translation authorized by the Dutch government as an answer to England's King James Version. The translation, first published in 1637, was requested by delegates at the Synod of Dort. Another outcome of the series of meetings in 1618 and 1619 was the Canons of Dort, which clarified five doctrines of Reformed theology in response to challenges from followers of Arminianism.

Northwestern's collection of Statenbijbels has been donated over several decades by families with a connection to the college or northwest Iowa. Marianne Eekhout, curator of history at Dordrechts Museum, visited NWC and Dordt College last summer, seeking Statenbijbels with a special connection to the Netherlands. She was looking for Bibles that provided insight into families that immigrated to the U.S.

She settled on two from Northwestern's archives. The oldest, published in the 1670s or earlier, was the pulpit Bible at a church in the village of Molenaarsgraaf and was donated to NWC 30 years ago by the Rev.

Gerrit Maat family. It features evidence of large saber cuts believed to have been caused when Catholic French soldiers plundered and ravaged the area in 1813 during the Napoleonic era. The second, published in 1710, was chosen because of the history of the Gerrit Dirkse Schoen family recorded in the front.

Dr. Doug Anderson, professor emeritus of history and Northwestern's archivist, says the college's collection of Dutch Bibles is rather unusual and helps illustrate the impact made by the Statenbijbel. "The Statenbijbel fostered the creation of the modern Dutch language largely because it became a widely read text among Dutch citizens," he says. "It also helped to spread both literacy and Protestantism. The importance of Scripture that was emphasized through the Reformation 500 years ago led to having Bibles much more readily available in homes."

The "Pious Patriots" exhibit, which opens Nov. 10 and continues until May 2019, will focus on the lives of Calvinists in the Dutch Republic from the 17th to the 20th centuries. Among its artifacts will be several Bibles from the Dutch Royal Collection; paintings from that era, including works by Rembrandt Van Rijn and Ferdinand Bol; and silver, ceramics and glass that belonged to members of an elite Calvinist class in the Netherlands.

This Statenbijbel, believed to have been cut by a French soldier's saber in 1813, is one of two Dutch Bibles from Northwestern's archives that will be exhibited at a museum in the Netherlands. Some of Northwestern's historic Bibles feature elaborate illustrations.

# class Notes

**'52 Frank Calsbeek**, Grand Rapids, Mich., has published a book, *Recycled Folklore: Tales of Northwest Iowa's Colorful Presence*. The volume includes columns he has submitted to different publications and provides commentary on a wide variety of topics, including influential people, religion, community and relationships.

**'56 Virginia (Overlander) Kraayenbrink** of Pella, Iowa, and her husband, Dick, celebrated their 61st anniversary in June. They have four children, 12 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren, many of whom have gone to Northwestern.

**'71 Deb (Wiersma) Louters** has retired after 34 years of teaching kindergarten at Hollandale (Minn.) Christian School. She keeps busy with substitute teaching, being involved

in mission work, traveling and spending time with her 15 grandchildren.

**'73 Peg (Powell) Werner**, Fergus Falls, Minn., received the William Asp Distinguished Service Award from the Minnesota Library Association in October. She was recognized for contributions that included leading the state's libraries toward installing high-quality broadband access and helping to develop a continuing education program for library staff, directors and trustees. She retired in June after leading Viking Library System, a regional public library system providing professional support for libraries in six west-central counties, for 25 years.

**'78 Terry Van Berkum**, Rock Rapids, Iowa, has been inducted into the American Board of Trial Advocates' Hall of Fame for his work with middle school and high school students participating in the Iowa Mock Trial program. Now retired, he spent more than 20 years serving in a variety of roles within the Central Lyon Community School District, including K-12 TAG coordinator, mock trial coach, assistant football coach and world history teacher.

**'82 Jo (Will) Thyr** is serving as a one-year sabbatical replacement in Northwestern's social work department. She earned a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Iowa in May and spent the last 20 years as a medical social worker in the Orange City Area Health System.

**Robert Todd Wise**, Edmond, Okla., has written a novel, *Return to Black Hills*. The book was published by Scurfpea Publishing, where **Steve Boint '84** is editor-in-chief.

**'83 Stephen Clay**, Kennesaw, Ga., served in the Marines and now is an enterprise account executive for Host Analytics.

## Red Ties

**CORKY KOERSELMAN '82**  
Director of Alumni & Parent Relations

Recently I read an article titled "Share Your Good News, and You Will be Better Off," by Emma Seppala, that details psychologists' research on the joys of sharing joy. Of course we share our joy, right? We enjoy being joyful, don't we?

In fact, the article explains that while most of us have three times as many positive experiences than negative experiences, the abundance of joyful experiences can serve to diminish them. We take joyfulness for granted and focus our attention instead on negative experiences.

Seppala advises making daily lists of things you feel grateful for. She says being intentional about noticing those people, events and things that make you feel joyful improves your psychological and physical health and sense of well-being. Gratitude and joyfulness "improves our ability to connect with others, boosts our tendencies to want to help others, makes us optimistic and happier, decreases envy and materialism, and even improves health for people with physical ailments," she writes.

If I were to make a list of things I'm grateful for, a number of them would have a connection to Northwestern. Seppala says I should share what makes me joyful—I should "spread red," if you will.

I'm grateful Northwestern is such a great place to work and study. (And I wish it weren't the "best-kept secret in Christian higher education" it's sometimes called. I'm grateful for opportunities to change that!)

I'm grateful the Northwestern Network is helping to spread red and increase the number of personal invitations students are getting to consider visiting and attending Northwestern. I'm grateful anyone with a passion for NWC can be part of the Northwestern Network by signing up at [nwciowa.edu/NWnetwork](http://nwciowa.edu/NWnetwork) or sending in the business-reply card included at the front of this issue.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are past, but our gratitude and joyfulness should continue year-round. It's good for the people whose lives you touch—and for you.



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**'84 Dr. James Kennedy** has written a book, *The Concise History of the Netherlands*, published by Cambridge University Press. The dean of University College Utrecht in the Netherlands, he previously taught Dutch history at the University of Amsterdam. He has also written books on the cultural revolution of the 1960s in the Netherlands and on Dutch euthanasia policy.

**'87 Ken Jensen** has moved to the Duluth, Minn., area to be closer to family. He is working as a school bus driver for the Hermantown Community School District.

**Mike Solomonson** played the lead role in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, produced by **Lane '87** and **Karla (Bennett '86) Burkitt**. It was staged in Arcosanti, Ariz., in September by the Burkitts' Laark Productions.

**'88 Stacy (Trowbridge) Sutton** is executive assistant at Eastminster Church in Pittsburgh, where she also directs the Judah Project, an after-school music lesson program for inner-city children. She and her husband, Andy, have two adult children, Lindsey and Alex.

**'89 Kimberly (Kilpatrick) Baxter** has relocated to Neola, Iowa, and is serving as nurse manager at Risen Son Christian Village in Council Bluffs. Previously, she worked for 14 years as a registered nurse in acute care, home health and long-term care.

**Bryan Case** was inducted into the Iowa Football Coaches Association's Hall of Fame in November. He has been head coach at South Central Calhoun High School for 17 years, leading his teams to a 140-45 record, 11 playoff berths, and Class A state championships in 2008 and 2009. He was the Iowa High School Athletic Association's Character Counts Coach of the Year in 2010.

**'95 Jason Kanz** has published a book of poetry. Each poem in *Soil of the Divine* was inspired by one of the Psalms. Kanz is also a pastor and neuropsychologist in Eau Claire, Wis.

**'96 Ryan Haack** is the director of development for Village Northwest Unlimited in Sheldon, Iowa. His responsibilities include fundraising, grant writing, estate planning and marketing. Prior to his new role, he served as sales and marketing manager of Den Hartog Industries in Hospers.

**Greg Smit** is the head varsity baseball coach at Laconia High School in Rosendale, Wis. During his seventh season as head coach last year, he led the team to its first-ever state appearance, finishing in second place. The squad was also awarded the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association's Sportsmanship Award, which is presented to only one team each year.

**'97 Melanie Mason**, Waukee, Iowa, has been promoted to sports medicine coordinator for the state of Iowa for Select Medical.

**The Rev. Derek Vande Slunt** has been promoted to command chaplain at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station in North Carolina. Commissioned as a Navy chaplain in 2016, he previously served as Cherry Point's deputy command chaplain.

**'98 Heidi (Hellenga) Douma** has joined Northwestern's faculty as an instructor in education. An expert in special education, she was an early childhood teacher in the Sibley-Ocheyedan Community School District for the last 11 years.

**Tara (Meyer) and Craig Madsen '97** live near Estherville, Iowa, where Craig is community president of Bank Plus and Tara teaches special education online for Iowa Connections Academy. She is also pursuing an English as a Second Language endorsement at Morningside College.

**'00 Adam Dahlquist** is now a mortgage officer at First State Bank Southwest in Worthington, Minn. He previously worked with Citibank in Sioux Falls.

**Mackenzie (Grondahl) Thedens** is the northern Wisconsin regional manager for TEALS, which seeks to build and grow computer science programs in U.S. high schools. The program, supported by

Microsoft Philanthropies, pairs computer science professionals from across the technology industry with classroom teachers to team-teach computer science.

**'01 Koury Kramer** was named the *Northwest Iowa Review's* 2017 Baseball Coach of the Year after leading the West Lyon High School team to a 24-5 record. The Wildcats won the Siouxland Conference with a 15-1 mark.

**Rachel (Binneboese) Leavitt** is now the curriculum director for Le Mars (Iowa) Community School District. Previously she was principal for Lawton-Bronson Junior/Senior High School.

**Jennifer Lundmark** works at the Cummins engine plant in Jamestown, N.Y. She is a member of the cam line team for diesel truck engines. She also is the K-12 music director at Bethel Baptist Christian Academy.

**Julie (Jansen) Oldenkamp** was named the *Northwest Iowa Review's* 2017 Volleyball Coach of the Year after her Sioux Center High School team finished as Class 3A state runner-up. The Warriors won their fourth straight Siouxland Conference championship and finished with a 34-6 record.

**'02 Aaron Thomas** was named the *Des Moines Register's* 2017 All-Iowa Boys' Cross Country Coach of the Year after leading the Gilbert High School team to the Class 3A state championship. Gilbert's coach since 2008, he also led the 2014 team to a state title.

**Wendy (Van Wyhe) Whelpley** directs the Beaver Falls (Pa.) Community Development Association.

**'03 Steven Frieze** has joined Stifel Nicolaus in New Ulm, Minn., as a financial adviser. He previously spent 12 years in banking and finance, serving as market president

# STAY SOCIAL



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of a regional bank branch and chief credit officer of an agriculture lending institution.

**'04 Micah Van Otterloo** is a special agent for the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in Minnesota.

**'06 The Rev. Megan Hodgins**, Rotterdam, N.Y., is the new senior pastor at First Reformed Church of Scotia.

**'07 Bruce De Haan** is the brokerage operations manager for Voya Financial Advisors in Des Moines. His wife, **Alyssa (Barr '07)**, is the co-coordinator for Valley Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS).

**'08 Gena (Dubois) Nelson** is a 6–8th grade teacher at Harrisburg North Middle School in Sioux Falls. She is a Project Lead The

Way teacher, instructing students in a STEM course about automation, robotics, computer design and modeling.

**'09 Dr. Jesse Nieuwenhuis** recently completed his residency training in family medicine at the Siouxland Medical Education Foundation in Sioux City. He accepted a job at the Orange City Area Health System specializing in family medicine and obstetrics.

**'10 Anna Christensen** graduated from Washington University in St. Louis in May with a doctorate in philosophy. She is now a lecturer in philosophy at Central College in Pella, Iowa.

**Kayla De Vos** is a special education teacher at Kinsey Elementary School in Sioux Center. Previously, she taught for five years at nearby Hospers Elementary.



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Interactions with athletes like Austin from Village Northwest Unlimited are what Peggy Koele most enjoys about volunteering with Special Olympics. She received Special Olympics Iowa's highest volunteer award in May.

## A Special Legacy

Peggy (Vis '76) Koele is more likely to measure her coaching success in hugs and smiles than wins and losses. She has been coaching and encouraging special needs athletes in the Special Olympics for four decades, volunteering as the northwest Iowa area director and delegations manager for the last 23 years.

Inspired by two cousins with special needs, Koele always knew she would devote her professional life to special education. She recently retired after 40 years as a special education teacher in Rock Valley, Iowa, but her tenure with Special Olympics Iowa continues.

Koele began coaching for the organization in 1978 as a natural pairing with her position as an adaptive physical education teacher. Now as area director, she coordinates tournaments throughout the region while continuing to coach basketball, track and bowling.

Last May at the Summer Games, Special Olympics Iowa acknowledged Koele's selfless dedication with its highest volunteer recognition, the Ed Lehner Award. Not one for the spotlight, Koele emphasizes how many serve alongside her, including dozens of NWC students annually and her own family.

She identifies her most rewarding moments as seeing athletes try their hardest or getting a hug from a student after an event. "Nothing compares to being part of Special Olympics," she says.

BY BETH (NIKKEL '02) GAULKE



It's another world in the basement of Randy Van Peursem's home—one filled with stormtroopers, starfighters and blaster rifles.

## Galaxies Near and Far

Randy Van Peursem '92, Northwestern's science support services professional, travels only between his Orange City home, his office a block away, and the Sunday evening service at church. No farther, as severe allergies affect his nervous system and can cause incapacitating symptoms if his diet and environment are not carefully controlled.

When people ask what he does for fun, Van Peursem tells them, "I head to the basement and enter different universes."

Eight Star Wars dioramas, one Lord of the Rings scene, and a grand total of 6,000 action figures take him to galaxies far, far away.

Van Peursem has been collecting since 1993, getting in on the action just before eBay and the market took off. He'd dropped out of medical school to manage his health; while house-bound for two years, he began the hobby as an outlet.

Fellow enthusiasts from as far away as China have added to his collection of figures, inspiring him to create the dioramas—some of which took 150 hours to build. The students he advises bring friends over for a blast of nostalgia.

While Van Peursem's life may seem as controlled as that of a stormtrooper with magnets on its feet (the secret to avoiding a falling domino effect on a diorama), there's one place he risked going to in December: the movie theater for the release of *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*.

Never underestimate the force—or Van Peursem.

BY AMY PHILLIPS

**Ivan Dochovski** has been promoted to commercial loan officer at the Peoples Bank Lynden (Wash.) Financial Center, with responsibility for commercial accounts in Whatcom County. He previously had been a senior credit analyst working primarily with small businesses and family farms.

**'11** After six years as the director of media relations for Arena Stage, a regional theatre company in Washington, D.C., **Greta Hays** is now director of communications and public affairs for the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities.

**Dr. Alex Menning** is in his first year of a six-year surgical residency at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich.

**'12 Josh Gross** is a junior high school social studies teacher at Valley Christian School in Oshkosh, Wis. His wife, **the Rev. Michelle (Roether '11)**, serves as a campus minister with His House Christian Fellowship at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

**'13 Nicole Wede** is a new instructor in nursing at Northwestern. She was a nurse at the Orange City Area Health System since 2014.

**'14 Katherine Eick** is a mental health counseling student at Colorado Christian University. She plans to graduate with a master's degree in December 2018.

**'15 Abbie (Goldschmid) Amiotte** is the manager of communications at Wellshire Presbyterian Church in Denver. She and her husband, **Brett '13**, live in Highlands Ranch, Colo.

**'16 Sarah (Wedel) Schweinsberg** is a Western states reporter for WORLD News Group. Reporting from Salt Lake City, her main

responsibilities include news and features reporting for the WORLD daily podcast, "The World and Everything in It."

## New Arrivals

Amy and **Rick Brannan '93**, son, Josiah Michael, joins Ella (10) and Lucas (5)

Greta and **Clint Hogrefe '97**, daughter, Betty Ann, joins Esther (10), Packer (7) and Luther (5)

Joel and **Laura (Reimers '00) Stauffer**, daughter, Emily Grace, joins William (6) and Thomas (4)

Matt and **Hannah (Zasadny '04) Lokenvitz**, son, Everett James, joins Sydney (2)

Scott and **Jaime (Woudstra '04) Meyer**, twins, Aiyah Elaine and Emma Ann, join Kolton (4) and Danya (2)

Traci and **Kyle Hiemstra '05**, daughter, Atlee Jo, joins Kendyl (5) and Kullen (3)

**Laura (Valland '05) and Dan Moore '05**, daughter, Elsie Jean, joins Brayden (2)

Anne and **Josh Menning '06**, daughter, Zoe Elisabeth Ellerbek

Justin and **Dana (Neevel '07) Nocchi**, son, Caleb Andrew

Bethany and **Chris Rensink '07**, twins, Evie Katherine and Olivia Jane, join Annika (3)

**Jodi (Folkerts '07) and Samuel Shaffer '15**, daughter, Liza Evelyn

Rebecca and **Jonathan Slater '07**, daughter, Brooklyn Hope, joins Elijah (6) and Chloe (4)

Doug and **Kimberly (Warren '08) Dean**, son, Weston, joins Samuel (8) and Lucille (6)

Sarah and **Ryan Jacobson '08**, daughter, Makenzie Leah, joins Dane (2)

**Laura (Rensink '08) and Mike Vander Stelt '08**, daughter, Cordelia Lynne, joins Henry (4)

Grant and **Kara (Johnson '09) Fifield**, son, Connor Reese, joins Adelyn (3) and Scarlett (2)

Tyler and **Sarah (Breen '09) Graham**, daughter, Hadassah Victoria, joins Silas (2)

Brent and **Robyn (Postma '09) McDowell**, son, Evan James  
**Sophie (Eicher '09) and Tim Ulibarri '08**, son, Benaiah Jon  
**Emily (Gaalswyk '10) and Brett Boote '07**, son, Maxwell Arthur, joins John (4)  
**Heather (McCollam '11) and Jared Kirkeby '14**, daughter, Elyse Clarice, joins Jocelyn (2)  
 Antonio and **Laura (Starr '11) Ortega**, son, Roy Ulysses, joins Kenzie (4) and Lucas (3)  
 Amanda and **Kasey Summerer '11**, daughter, Rylee Mackenzie  
 Michael and **Carrie (Muilenburg '11) Vander Schaaf**, daughter, Sarah Joy, joins Hannah (2)  
 Cory and **Sherry (Runia '12) De Wit**, daughter, Marissa Ann  
**Kaylee (Thompson '13) and Dan Sajak '13**, daughter, Alayna Marie  
**Dawn (Gildersleeve '14) and Taylor Bodin '14**, daughter, Grace Lee  
 Papito and **Kelsey (Martinez '14) Joseph**, son, Israel Elijah  
**Kiersten (Van Wyhe '14) and Nathan Sexe '14**, son, Charles Derek  
 Vincent and **Eryn (Schlote '14) Weber**, son, Caelan Rey  
**Abbie (Goldschmid '15) and Brett Amiotte '13**, son, Eli Barry, joins Evelyn (2)  
 Andrew and **Amber (Pater '16) Top**, son, Jonah Lee



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## Marriages

**Kimberly Kilpatrick '89** and John Baxter, Neola, Iowa  
**Susan Starr '89, '91** and Rick Roby, Clive, Iowa  
**Heidi Van De Wege '95** and Joseph Wiegand, San Francisco  
**Wendy Van Wyhe '02** and Chad Whelpley, Beaver Falls, Pa.  
**Heather Bottin '06** and Daniel Eischen, Comfrey, Minn.  
**Gena Dubois '08** and Jason Nelson, Sioux Falls  
**Laura Jacobson '08** and Alexander Vazquez, Washington, D.C.  
**Colette Veldhorst '08** and B.J. Hilbelink, Oostburg, Wis.  
**Jill Weitgenant '12** and Todd Isaacson, Shenandoah, Iowa  
**Megan Ott '13** and **Nathan Mastbergen '13**, Pella, Iowa  
**David Runia '15** and Stephanie Engstad, Willmar, Minn.  
**Caitlin Hagerty '16** and David Li, Oak Park, Ill.  
**Sarah Wedel '16** and Zachary Schweinsberg, Layton, Utah  
**Ashley Maloney '17** and **Isaac Veurink '16**, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada



Celebrate **Northwestern** with a gift to the Northwestern Fund on our Day of Giving in April. Follow us on social media for more details.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Rebecca Hanson voices robot Gypsy in *Mystery Science Theater 3000: The Return* on Netflix.

## Robot Reboot

As Rebecca Hanson '98 delivered her lines for a robot puppet made from a retro child's car seat, a camping lantern and vacuum hose, she looked around the Satellite of Love and got a little nostalgic for her college days.

"On set I was feeling homesick for Northwestern," Hanson says. "A group of us theatre majors would have Mystery Science Theater 3000 (MST3K) marathons on weekends when we didn't have shows. Those are some of my fondest memories."

Hanson is the first-ever female voice for the robot Gypsy in the Netflix reboot of MST3K, a '90s cult classic that is enjoying acclaim once again from viewers of all ages who enjoy its kind-hearted riffs on bad movies. Hanson also plays the clone Synthia on screen and has co-written several of the 14 new episodes.

The Second City alum honed her acting chops in Chicago's improv scene before moving to Los Angeles in October. Last summer she and her husband, Tim (who also writes for MST3K and performs as a "Bonehead"), toured with the show's first live nationwide tour, called "Watch Out for Snakes!"

"The show was fundamental in forming me as a comedian," Hanson says. "To be writing the funny stuff for the robots—it's so surreal."

BY AMY PHILLIPS

## In Memoriam

### The Rev. Paul Colenbrander

'41, '43, age 93, died Dec. 18. He served in the Navy during World War II, earned a bachelor's degree at Westmar College and a master's in industrial arts at the University of Northern Colorado, and taught in Paullina, Iowa, before joining Northwestern's staff. As head basketball coach from 1950-62, he led his teams to three state junior college titles and more than 200 wins. His 11-year tenure as head football coach included a 15-game winning streak from 1953 to 1954. He also served as athletic director. He later graduated from Western Theological Seminary and pastored Maplewood Reformed Church in Holland, Mich., for 12 years. In retirement, he was active in pulpit supply and built 36 houses in the Holland area. The recipient of the Alumni Association's Distinguished Service to Northwestern Award in 2006, he served on the NWC Board of Trustees for 10 years. His survivors include three children and a sister, **Frances Vermeer '40, '42.**



### George De Vries '43, '48, professor



emeritus of history, died Dec. 19 at the age of 91 in Orange City. He served in the Army during World War II, earning a Purple Heart and a Silver Star. After graduating from Northwestern Junior College, he earned a bachelor's degree from Morningside College and a master's degree in history from the University of Iowa. He did additional study at the University of Wyoming and Princeton University. He taught and was an administrator at schools in Hull, Iowa, and Prinsburg,

Minn., before serving on Northwestern's faculty from 1957 to 1988. He was a contributing editor for the *Reformed Journal* and wrote for the *Banner, Church Herald* and *Christian Scholar's Review*. In retirement, he was active in prison ministry and volunteered for Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, Orange City Area Health System and ATLAS. Among his survivors are his wife, Kathleen, and four children, **George '72, Nick '75, Maria '81 and Nathan '93.**

### Carol (Veencamp '56) Bastemeyer

died Dec. 30 at the age of 82. She was active in American Reformed Church and on several committees for the Tulip Festival during her time as an Orange City resident. She also worked part time as a travel agent. After moving to the Des Moines area in 1986, she founded the Prayer Shawl Ministry at Meredith Drive Reformed Church. Her survivors include her husband, **Norman '51,** and two children, **Connie Albers '79 and Dan '82.**

**The Rev. John Brouwer '57** of Osseo, Wis., age 82, died on April 3. After his time at Northwestern, he graduated from Hope College and Western Theological Seminary. He was ordained in the Reformed Church in America in 1962. He pastored churches in Dell Rapids and Corsica, S.D., as well as in Randolph, Altoona/Hallie and Neillsville/Grant, Wis. He retired from full-time ministry in 1997 and moved to a hobby farm near Osseo, Wis. In retirement he served as pastor of Rockland United Methodist Church. He is survived by his wife, **Florence (Schmidt '58),** and five children.

**Dale Boone '58, '61** died Jan. 1 at the age of 78. He taught vocal music in the Maurice-Orange City Community School District and served as a choir director at Trinity Reformed Church. His survivors include a son and a sister.

**Marvin Foreman '58** died Sept. 22 at the age of 81 in Long Beach, Calif. After graduating from Northwestern, he

attended the University of South Dakota. He worked at Rockwell International/Boeing for 33 years. He was a member of Shepherd's Grove Church. Among his survivors are his wife, **Judith (DeGroot '58)**, and two children.

**John Muilenburg '58**, Sioux Falls, died Oct. 29 at the age of 79. He graduated from Westmar College and taught and coached in Merville and Rock Valley, Iowa, before beginning a career of more than 30 years with 3M. Working primarily in the human resources area, he lived in many different places, including 10 years in Brussels, Belgium. He was honored as one of the Alumni Association's Distinguished Achievement Award winners in Northwestern's centennial year, 1982, and he served as a member of the Board of Trustees. His survivors include his wife, **Mary Ellen (Vande Broek '60)**; three children; and three brothers, including **Rodney '66**.

**Lee Wiersma '60, '62, '64** died July 17 in Rock Valley, Iowa, at age 74. He earned a master's degree from the University of South Dakota. After teaching at Orange City Christian School for six years, he worked at Hope Haven in Rock Valley for 38 years before retiring in 2008. He was a member and Sunday School teacher at First Reformed Church of Rock Valley. Among his survivors are a brother, **Glenn '54, '56**.

**Barbara Pals '72**, age 86, died Nov. 13. She was a social worker for the Orange City Municipal Hospital, Sioux County and Covenant Village in Golden Valley, Minn. She was an active member of Grace Point Church in New Brighton, Minn. Among her survivors are four children, including **Rick '79**, and a sister.

**Philip Vander Laan '75**, age 64, died Dec. 30. He earned a master's degree while living in Texas and had resided in Iowa City for several years. He was appreciated for his construction and painting skills. He is survived by a daughter; his

parents, **Harold '49** and **Muriel (Van Binsbergen '51)**; and a sister, **Rebecca Koster '82**.

**JoAnn (Rusk '76) Merrill** of Greenville, Iowa, died from brain cancer Nov. 23 at the age of 63. She was an elementary teacher in the Spencer Community School District for 31 years. She helped start the Spencer Brain Tumor Walk, which raised thousands of dollars for research, after her husband, **Bruce '74**, died of brain cancer in 2009. Her survivors include two brothers.

**Darla (Hansen '93) Ubben**, 46, of Conrad, Iowa, died Dec. 4 after battling cancer. She was the executive director of the Conrad Chamber/Main Street for many years. A member of First Presbyterian Church, she served as a deacon and taught Sunday school. Her survivors include her husband, Eugene; three children, including **Conner '18** and **Samantha '21**; her father; and three siblings, **Debbie Tellinghuisen '85**, **Danny '87** and **Denise '91**.

**Sarah (Naylor '06) Moore**, 33, died July 19 in Payson, Ill. She taught at Johnston (Iowa) High School for eight years and earned a master's degree in educational technology from Boise State University. In 2015, she and her husband, **Richard '06**, were called to serve the Lord at Bluff Hall Church, where she was a worship leader. She also worked part time in the IT department at John Wood Community College. She is survived by her husband, a son, her parents and a brother.

**LET US KNOW:** Email your news for the next *Classic* by Feb. 12 to [classic@nwciowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwciowa.edu).



KARLTON HECTOR '04

The DIY Network's *First-time Flippers* featured the challenges Craig Hector and Liz Bartlett faced flipping an Omaha home in an episode titled "Competitive Construction."

## First-time Flippers

The potential was there: the option of creating an open floor plan, an asking price that allowed room for a profit. Craig Hector '08 and his girlfriend, Liz Bartlett, bought a house in Omaha last December with the plan to flip it for resale.

And then they tried the sink.

"The first day, water was spraying everywhere," Hector says. "You're excited, and then reality sets in: You may be in a little over your head."

The pipes had frozen and burst. The furnace and roof needed to be replaced. Floors, drywall and bathrooms demanded attention, as did an unwelcome visitor—a woodpecker who could not be deterred.

As Hector puts it, "Everything was bad about this house."

The real-life drama interested the DIY Network, which featured the couple in an episode of *First-Time Flippers* that aired in July. As Hector and Bartlett practiced new skills such as tiling, camera crews recorded the house's transformation—portraying the couple as competitive and Hector as "the dumb one."

"Liz was more put together; I was the stressed one—they gave me the hardest time," he says. "But I figured that's what we signed up for."

After six months of work, the couple sold their house for a profit of \$33,000 (less the realtor's commission). By closing, the house was completely redone, save one hole.

The woodpecker had the last word.

BY AMY PHILLIPS

# Classic Thoughts

## Redeeming Learning and the Ships of Tarshish

BY DR. MARK HUSBANDS



DOUG BURG

Imagine sitting in the front of a 7:45 a.m. macroeconomics lecture. Instead of beginning her lecture with a discussion of the comparative advantage and the benefits of trade, your professor opens by reading Isaiah 2:8-16: “For the Lord of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up and high ... against all the ships of Tarshish, and against all the beautiful craft.”

As soon as she turns to the subject of international trade, you quickly forget about these ancient ships of commerce. Or so it seems.

It turns out that an important key to understanding the world well is learning how to read the “two books of revelation”: Scripture and natural knowledge. Listen to how John Calvin expresses this in the opening of the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, “Nearly all the wisdom we possess ... consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves.” To which he adds, “In the first place, no one can look upon himself without immediately turning his thoughts to the contemplation of God, in whom he ‘lives and moves.’” The most important thing to take from Calvin at this point is that our very capacity to learn is itself a remarkable gift from God.

You would be right to ask what all of this means for the calling of Christian professors. The answer to this question might cast some light upon the relationship between macroeconomics and that prophecy of Isaiah. Having spent a significant portion of their adult lives seeking to master their academic disciplines, professors live with the challenge of conveying complex ideas and skills to young fertile minds and hearts. As you can imagine, this is as demanding as it is rewarding.

It’s a tremendous gift to realize that teaching, scholarship and creative work may well serve the larger purpose of drawing others to see the glory of God manifest in the life, death and resurrection of Christ. Sadly, however, very few schools train faculty to do this well.

Commenting on the state of higher education in the U.S., *New York Times* columnist David Brooks writes: “Most universities have gotten out of the business of spiritual and character development, and

they’ve adopted a research ideal ... It teaches students how to do things *but less why they should do them* and *less how to think about what is their highest and best life*. To ask about the meaning of life is to appear unprofessional” (emphasis mine). How, you might ask, is Northwestern any different?

Northwestern is committed to teaching students to live lives of meaning and purpose in light of the biblical claim that “all things have been created through [Christ] and for him” (Colossians 1:16). To this end, we’ve instituted a new Faith and Learning Seminar for faculty with the express purpose of providing them with a biblical and theological vision capable of sustaining a commitment to the scholarly pursuit of the truth, glory and redemptive work of the triune God.

Each year approximately eight faculty meet once a week in a graduate-style seminar to engage the biblical message and grow in their ability to articulate key Christian claims. This shared study and reflection gives rise to a renewed sense of joy in the work of helping students see that all things—even the ships of Tarshish—belong to God.

Indeed, as Isaiah 60 reveals, ancient vessels are transformed to serve the economic well-being of the city of God. In short, God cares deeply about every facet of life. At Northwestern College this profound truth means that we understand that the study of biology, ceramics, Spanish—or even macroeconomics—have, in divine providence and mercy, eternal significance. In the end, even the ships of Tarshish can be redeemed.

**Mark Husbands is in his second year as Northwestern’s vice president for academic affairs. He previously served as the Leonard and Marjorie Maas Chair of Reformed Theology and director of the Emmaus Scholars Program at Hope College in Holland, Mich., and taught theology at Wheaton College and Tyndale University College and Seminary.**

# Be Counted

“We consider ourselves unofficial recruiters for the college. Our Northwestern Network event in Pella was exciting because it connected students with others who are considering NWC, as well as with Northwestern alumni and parents who live in our community.”

## *It all adds up.*

Dan '93 and Tricia (Vander Waal '94) Vermeer are among nearly 500 alumni, parents and friends who have already joined the Northwestern Network, a new program designed to help people use their influence to promote NWC. Longtime supporters of their alma mater, the Vermeers give to the Northwestern Fund as Tower Society members, and Tricia serves on the Board of Trustees. So when they heard about the network, they signed up and volunteered to host an admissions event for prospective students. “Our son is having an incredible experience at Northwestern, and we want others to have that as well,” they say.

The Vermeers live in Pella, Iowa, where Dan teaches social studies at Pella Christian High School and Tricia serves as the executive director of the Vermeer Charitable Foundation. Their oldest child, Brant, is a junior at Northwestern majoring in economics and political science.





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# Building Bridges

Holy grit. It's perseverance aimed at making social and spiritual change. And it's a quality expected of Northwestern's eight Bridge Scholars, who are academic achievers chosen for their potential to become intercultural leaders and reconciliation ambassadors.

In addition to each receiving a \$2,500 scholarship, Bridge Scholars also take select classes together and participate in activities to help them develop holy grit as well as their capacity for leadership, reconciliation and cultural intelligence.

Northwestern leaders will spend two years "pouring into them so the last two years, they overflow and pour themselves into building beloved community," says Rahn Franklin, director of multicultural student development.

Bridge Scholar Jonathan Johnson, from Los Angeles, describes the closeness he feels with the other Bridge Scholars. "Our conversations are intelligent. Honest. Real," he says, adding that he's eager to add his voice and experiences to the definition of what it means to be part of the Northwestern family.

Check out Bridge Scholar Jonathan Johnson's posts on NWC's student blog: [nwcstories.com](http://nwcstories.com)

Geoff Johnson

*the* Classic