

GRADUATES AND Life in the REAL WORLD!!!

Northwestern College Magazine *the* Classic

WINTER 2018-19

**WILL I FIND NEW HOME?**

**#RAIDERNATIONWORKS**

**I THINK I'M READY**

**GOD, USE ME**

**WHERE CAN I SERVE?**

**CAREER + CALLING**

**WHAT IS GOD CALLING ME TO?**

**READY TO CHANGE THE WORD**

**I'M LISTENING!!**

**HOW DO I FIND COMMUNITY WHERE I LIVE NOW?**

**REAL LIFE**

**NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE**



# 18

**Living Your Faith, a summer theology camp hosted by Northwestern, helps prepare high school students to be the next generation of church leaders.**





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

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

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

### On the Cover:

2018 graduate Jordyn Oostra landed her first job in Northwestern's admissions office, where, as a college recruiter, the psychology major tries to figure out what's on the minds of high school students.

PHOTO BY LEM MAURER  
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### Online-Only Option

To opt out of the printed magazine and be notified by email when each issue is online, please contact the editor at [classic@nwciowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwciowa.edu).



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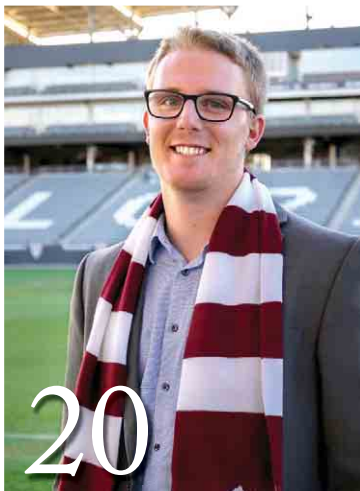
One day every fall, Raider Nation goes a little bit country when the Student Activities Council presents the Western Hoedown.

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# Zwemer View



## The Way Forward

Steve Jobs said you have to know your *why*. Apple sells computers and electronic devices; it's *what* they do. Their *why*, though, is improving lives. Similarly, at Northwestern what we do is confer degrees. But why?

As Dutch immigrants were plotting Orange City in 1871, one-fifth of town lot proceeds was set aside for a school of higher learning characterized by academic rigor and Christian principles. Why? *To transform lives*. That was Northwestern's *why* when it was founded in 1882, and it's our *why* today. This is no small task and requires the hand and grace of God, as well as dedicated faculty, staff, alumni, parents and friends.

The opening of the Jack and Mary DeWitt Family Science Center this fall capped several years of capital improvements that have transformed our beautiful campus. Our 2023 strategic plan, recently approved by the Board of Trustees, identifies other transformations to guide us to new levels of distinctive Christ-centered education.

Our vision is to be the leading Christian college focused on student success and Christ-centered work for the common good (see 1 Corinthians 12:7 and Jeremiah 29:7). Our plan has five strategic goals:

- 1) Advance the quality and reputation of the academic program.
- 2) Prepare students for meaningful work and flourishing lives.
- 3) Pursue strategic enrollment growth.
- 4) Embrace and celebrate cultural and ethnic diversity.
- 5) Secure the human and financial resources to advance strategic initiatives.

Each goal includes a specific plan of action for achieving it. For example, in pursuit of goal 1, we've launched a faculty-led innovation lab focused on enhancing learner-focused teaching because we must innovate to thrive among the current disruption in higher education.

Goal 2 strengthens our ability to help students navigate the journey from college to career. Initiatives aim to provide students with impactful experiences outside the classroom so they can apply their education to meaningful work.

Under goal 3 we are developing and resourcing an integrated marketing strategy that enhances Northwestern's reputation for intellectual rigor, vocational success and select programs of strength.

We long to embody our Vision for Diversity, so goal 4 initiatives compel us to reflect more closely the diversity of God's kingdom among our leadership, staff and students.

Finally, with goal 5, we are evaluating our resources—including human resources—to identify areas of opportunity for advancing this strategic plan. We have been blessed to have the two largest years of giving (more than \$18.4 million) in the history of Northwestern by alumni, parents and friends of the college. Praise the Lord for their generosity! With their continued commitment and the grace of God, Northwestern College has a plan for the way forward into an even more vibrant future.

Ultimately, our goal is achieving Northwestern's *why*: *life transformation* so students are empowered and equipped to pursue God's redeeming work in the world.

Greg Christy  
President



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

# around the Green

## Northwestern to Start Physician Assistant Master's Program

Northwestern College is starting a master's degree in physician assistant studies and expects to enroll the first class of up to 30 students in May 2020.

The college is currently approved as an applicant program by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). Certified physician assistant Christina Hanson joined the Northwestern faculty this fall and will spend the next two years shepherding the new program through the ARC-PA's intensive accreditation process.

Hanson has been a physician assistant since 2008, providing care at family practice, orthopedic, urology and urgent care clinics in four Midwestern communities. Before coming to Northwestern, she was a physician assistant professor at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minn., helping launch that program and participating in a successful accreditation process.

"I'm called to PA education," says Hanson. "My goal is to help students find their individual callings, which, in this new program, involves providing excellent instruction in all areas of medicine, as well as individual mentoring of students to develop them personally and spiritually."

Hanson earned a master's degree in physician assistant studies from Des Moines University. She also holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Bethel University and is currently completing a doctorate in higher education leadership at Bethel.

Applicants to the physician assistant master's program must have a bachelor's degree and have taken prerequisite science courses as an undergraduate. Students do not have to be Northwestern graduates to apply to the 27-month, on-campus program. For information, visit [nwciowa.edu/physician-assistant](http://nwciowa.edu/physician-assistant).

### in Box

#### A Great Read

You do an awesome [job] with the *Classic*! The excitement, smiles and activities that you photograph beautifully, along with your well-written and interesting articles, make us feel Northwestern College is quite the place. You are very talented in making the *Classic* come alive with [current] articles as well as the historical ones. The *Classic* is a great read. Keep up your wonderful work!

**Beverly Winter '72**  
*Spearfish, S.D.*

#### WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

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length and clarity. Please  
include an address and  
daytime phone number.



Claire (Roesner '14) Rozeboom is a physician assistant at Hegg Health Center in Rock Valley, Iowa. Starting in May 2020, graduates like her will have the option of earning a master's degree in physician assistant studies from their alma mater.



JESSICA BONESTROO



# Crossing Borders in the Classroom

Northwestern's Honors Program was recognized for its multidisciplinary approach at the annual conference of the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) in Boston in November.

The Honors Program's co-directors—Dr. Jennifer Feenstra, psychology, and Dr. John Vonder Bruegge, biblical and theological studies—presented at the conference, explaining how Northwestern's honors curriculum deliberately crosses disciplinary borders and takes on big ideas and questions.

"Our honors courses are intentionally multidisciplinary, capitalizing on the fact

that students who take them come from nearly every department," says Vonder Bruegge. "We want them to see the benefit of approaching problems and issues from different angles."

Northwestern was one of only two schools in the nation to receive a Portz Grant from NCHC last year. The grant provided funds that were awarded to three Northwestern professors to develop new courses for the Honors Program curriculum.

Students in Northwestern's Honors Program benefit from the curriculum's intentionally multidisciplinary approach.



GEOFF JOHNSON



DAN ROSS

## Enrollment Fourth Largest

Northwestern has recorded the fourth-best enrollment in school history, with 1,307 students enrolled for fall 2018, up 57 from 2017. It's the first time enrollment has been above 1,300 since 2007.

The total includes a record number of graduate students, 275. "Our Master of Education programs are in demand," says Mark Bloemendaal '81, vice president for enrollment and marketing, "because students have seen their skills enhanced, received plenty of personal attention by experienced professors, and benefited from the programs' flexibility and affordability."

The average ACT composite score of Northwestern's freshman class is 24.3, well above the Iowa average of 21.8 and the national average of 20.8. "We're excited to work with another class of very talented students. They have given us every indication they will do well and make great contributions to our Christian academic community," says Bloemendaal.

Upperclassmen helped host Orientation Weekend in August, welcoming new students to campus.

# Geneticist Nominated for Young Alumni Award

Dr. Jenelle (Kleinhesselink '11) Dunkelberger of Lakeville, Minn., a geneticist for the world's second-largest swine genetics company, is Northwestern's nominee for the 2019 Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCCU) Young Alumni Award.

The award recognizes an individual who has achieved uncommon success in a way that reflects the values of Christian higher education. Felipe Silva '12, who founded and directs a climbing gym in an economically depressed region of Romania, won the award in 2017.

Dunkelberger discovered a love for genetics while working on summer research with Dr. Sara Sybesma Tolsma '84. She earned a doctorate at Iowa State University while focusing on the genetic improvement of livestock for enhanced disease resistance. Dunkelberger won the 2016 National Swine Improvement Federation's Lauren Christian Graduate Student Award and placed third in the American Society of Animal Science's Ph.D. oral competition that year.

A geneticist for Topigs Norsvin since 2017, Dunkelberger oversees all of the firm's research trials that are conducted within the U.S. Her role includes conceiving ideas and experimental designs for trials, implementing them, and then collecting and analyzing the data to help improve Topigs Norsvin's breeding program.

"We want to identify the genes and genomic regions associated with increased disease resistance," she says. "This will help us to facilitate selection decisions in order to breed animals that are naturally more resistant or robust to infectious disease stressors. Doing so will help to reduce antibiotic usage, increase animal welfare, and ultimately, lead to healthier and more sustainable pork production."

The daughter of Nelva (Van Wyk '75) and the Rev. Charles Kleinhesselink '75, who raise show pigs on a

hobby farm in Washington state, Dunkelberger enjoys the interaction with farmers that her job provides.

"It's fulfilling getting to interact with the farmers and to see how what we're doing is improving their livelihood. It's a joy to be able to help them succeed. And our larger goal is certainly noble: We want to feed the world."



Jenelle Dunkelberger's interest in genetics was developed while working on a research project with a Northwestern professor.

SCOTT STREBLE

## WE'RE ON THE LIST

There's no shortage of rankings in today's world, and where Northwestern is concerned, that's a good thing. A review of recent rankings shows NWC continuing to get high marks.

# 1

Northwestern is the only Iowa institution to be named a 2018–19 Christian College of Distinction for implementing high-impact educational practices.

# 3

Onlineu.org's affordability ranking of Northwestern's M.Ed. in special education program.

# 3

Northwestern's ranking, among all Iowa colleges and universities, by College Consensus, which averages results from the most respected rankings with thousands of online student review scores.

# 7

U.S. News' ranking of NWC among 79 Midwestern regional colleges.

# Campus Life

## A Taste of Home

The dining room table is set for 12, the kitchen table for six, and a table in the den for four. The sitting room coffee table serves as the “kids’ table” and a drop-leaf table seats four more. It’s Thanksgiving at the Barkers.

Reflecting on their move to Orange City 30 years ago, Jeff and Karen Barker warmly remember sharing their first few Thanksgiving holidays with fellow faculty and staff at the former RSC Snack Bar.

As their family grew, the Barkers chose to spend the holiday at home—and they invited Northwestern students to join them. Today the offer still stands, and the Barkers host 15 to 25 people—students, family and friends—each year for a Thanksgiving meal of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, scalloped corn, cranberry relish and pumpkin pie.

While the “traditional” menu is always set, the Barkers aim to make the holiday feel like home for students. “I ask them, ‘What is Thanksgiving for you?’” says Karen. “If their family always has a fruit bowl, we try to have a fruit bowl.”

Dinner isn’t the only tradition at the gathering: Games, music and heartfelt conversation centered on “What are you grateful for this year?” are always part of the festivities.

“As students, it was so important to have a taste of home at Thanksgiving,” says Vaughn Donahue ’08. He and his wife, Becky (Fanning ’05), have spent the holiday with the Barkers nearly every year for 15 years. “Our daughters have never spent Thanksgiving anywhere else,” adds Vaughn, who now prepares the turkey.

“Thanksgiving with the Barkers is a testament to how personal the professors at Northwestern are,” says Alexander Lowry ’20, who attended as a freshman. “Inviting students to such a family-centered event shows how much they care for all of us.”

When Easter approaches in April, the Barkers will again extend an invitation.

Easter, after all, is another time when families gather together.



Karen and Jeff Barker, professors of theatre, have welcomed Northwestern students to their home for Thanksgiving dinner for nearly 25 years.

## New STEM Programs

Northwestern is adding statistics to its undergraduate majors and a computer science endorsement to its Graduate School and Adult Learning programs.

“The endorsement is in response to an anticipated federal government requirement that would make the teaching of computer science part of all classes,” says Dr. Sara Waring-Tiedeman, director of the Master of Education program.

Toward that goal, the Iowa Board of Education created a 15-credit endorsement. Northwestern is now one of just two colleges in the state to offer the program—and the only one to offer it entirely online. The endorsement will prepare licensed schoolteachers in grades K-8 and/or 5-12 to support children in the development of computer skills. Classes will start in January.

The statistics major will be an option for undergraduates starting next fall. Its goal is to prepare students for a wide variety of jobs and graduate programs in statistics and predictive modeling.

“Our world is increasingly data-driven,” says Dr. Kim Jongerius, chair of the department of math and physics. “Organizations need competent and ethical employees with the skills, theoretical understanding and analytical ability to organize, interpret and utilize data.”

Five new courses were developed for the major covering statistical design and programming, data validation and visualization, and advanced regression and Bayesian analysis. Other required courses include Calculus, Linear Algebra, Database Management Systems, and Probability and Statistics.



## AD Accolades

A member of the NAIA Hall of Fame and four-time NAIA Div. II Coach of the Year, Dr. Earl Woudstra '78 earned another accolade last summer: Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Athletic Director of the Year.

Under Woudstra's leadership, Northwestern won the 2017–18 GPAC All-Sports Trophy.

"Earl's personal qualities of a deep, genuine faith and character exemplify what Northwestern College and Red Raider athletics are all about," says President Greg Christy. "He uses his strengths as a strategic leader to identify people's gifts and position them in the athletic department to where

those gifts align. Earl is committed to supporting our coaches and student-athletes as they strive to be all God intends for them to be, and he works carefully to allocate resources and provide every team the opportunity to succeed in the GPAC."

Woudstra has taught and coached at NWC for 35 years. Most notably, he was the head women's basketball coach for 17 years, leading the Red Raiders to four national championships.

**Dr. Earl Woudstra was honored as the 2017–18 GPAC Athletic Director of the Year.**



LEW MAUBER

## Nostalgic Notes

The dedication of the DeWitt Family Science Center and the A cappella Choir reunion were among the highlights of Northwestern's Homecoming and Parents Weekend Sept. 28 and 29.

Ninety-three choir alumni—representing graduates from 1960 to 2018—participated in the reunion. They sang the national anthem at Saturday's football game and performed two pieces during that evening's Homecoming Concert.

Next year's event is scheduled for Sept. 27–28. To be known by the new name of Raider Nation Celebration, the weekend will include the traditional Morning on the Green carnival, Red Raider Road Race, Celebration Banquet, football, class and affinity reunions, and much more.

Coming from as far away as Portland, Ore., and Pittsburgh, Pa., A cappella Choir alumni were directed by Dr. Kimberly Utke Svanoie, professor emerita of music, during the choir's traditional performance of "Beautiful Savior" at the Homecoming Concert.



DAN ROSS

# A Summer for Success

About 50 Northwestern students participated in internships or research experiences during the summer.

Business majors interned at such sites as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. in Nashville; EY (formerly Ernst & Young) in Minneapolis; Battery Systems in Long Beach, Calif.; and Stormlake Capital in Detroit. Science internships included Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha; Exemplar Genetics in Sioux Center; and Gelita in Sergeant Bluff, Iowa. Criminal justice majors were at the Division of Criminal Investigation in Des Moines and the Woodbury County Sheriff's Office in Sioux City. Exercise science internship sites included the University of Nebraska strength and conditioning team and Prairie Rehabilitation in Sioux Falls.


Others interned at Google in Mountainview, Calif.; American Medical Association in Chicago; Taproot Theatre Company in Seattle; and Sen. Chuck Grassley's office in Washington, D.C.

Exercise science major Kessandra Kuyper says she felt well prepared for her internship at the Ultimate Fighting Championship Performance

Institute in Las Vegas. "Northwestern's strength and conditioning program gave me firsthand experience coaching athletes in the weight room. I learned how to connect with athletes, teach and correct movements, assist the head strength coaches, and coach with authority and confidence. These things came into play when I had to step into a gym filled with professionals at the top of their sports. I had to have confidence, knowledge and experience to back that confidence up—and Northwestern gave that to me."

Meanwhile, a number of science majors spent their summer doing research at sites such as the Medical College of Wisconsin and the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Ali Almail examined the effects of chromatin on gene expression at the Montreal Clinical Research Institute.

"It was an amazing experience," he says. "I realized that designing and conducting experiments is something I enjoy, and it also confirmed that graduate school is a part of my future."



Public relations major Kendra McGinnis completed a digital marketing internship at The Durham Museum in Omaha's former Union Station last summer.



# Face Value

## Faith Focus Recognized

Northwestern is highlighted as one of two “best of spiritual enrichment” colleges in the 2019 edition of the Christian College Guide produced by *Christianity Today*.

Northwestern and Gardner-Webb University of North Carolina were selected for the honor based on institutional nominations and comments by students. The Christian College Guide article mentioned Northwestern’s intentional integration of faith and learning, twice-weekly chapel services, student-led Sunday night Praise and Worship service, discipleship groups, retreats and numerous mission opportunities as factors helping students to grow spiritually.

“We are excited to receive this affirmation,” says Mark DeYoung ‘08, dean of Christian formation. “It is our desire for a Christ-centered worldview to be part of everything students experience here. Our goal is for them to know the love of Jesus and be empowered to follow him and participate in God’s redeeming work in the world.”



## Robert Winn

Winn-dow to the Past

**You’re not originally from northwest Iowa—what brought you here?**

My wife and I both grew up in the Philadelphia area—the land of real cheese steaks, great pretzels, hoagies, scrapple, Wawa convenience stores, and the Eagles! Since our marriage we have lived in Ohio, the Washington, D.C., metro area, and Omaha. We moved from Omaha, where I was teaching at Creighton University, to Orange City when I was hired at NWC in 2004.

**Did you always love history?**

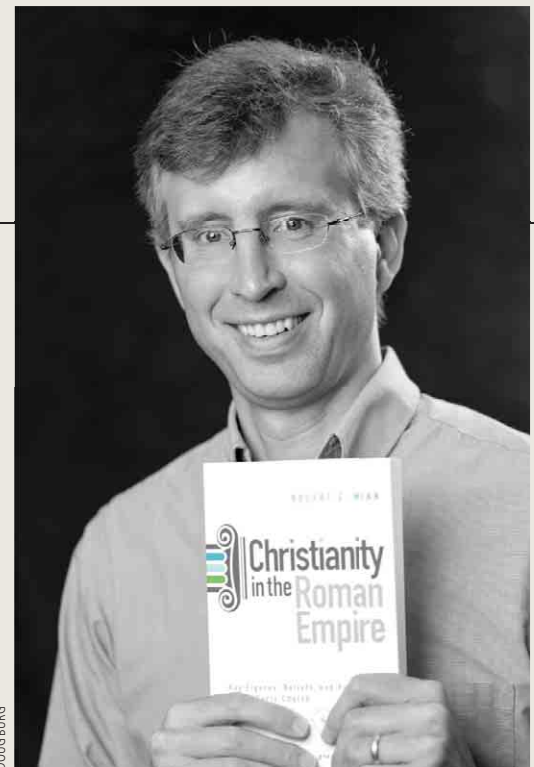
Yes, although my interest in history has always been rooted in the humanities. My favorite teacher in high school was actually my English literature teacher. He was outstanding, and I think I learned more history from him than I did in some of my history classes.

**You taught an honors course this fall on Magic, Science and Religion in Antiquity and the Middle Ages. What did this course cover?**

First, a clarification: What I mean by “magic” is not sleight-of-hand tricks for entertainment. Rather, magic refers to widely held beliefs that certain rituals could give people control over their lives and their environment (like ensuring a good harvest, health for their children, and protection against demons). Some of what they were doing we would call science today. In short, this is a class that explores how pre-modern people, at all levels of society, attempted to make sense of themselves and their world.

**What are some of your hobbies?**

I took classical guitar lessons all through middle and high school, and I still play occasionally. I am a casual runner and biker. I have tried my hand at writing fiction, largely based on stories I used to tell my children. The result was a book, *The Song of Anabit*. I also love downhill skiing, but sadly there’s not much opportunity for it in Iowa.



DOUG BURG

**Dr. Robert Winn, professor of history and department chair, studies religious history in late antiquity and the early Middle Ages. His newest book, *Christianity in the Roman Empire*, touches on topics like prayer, biblical interpretation and persecution of Christians prior to Constantine. Each chapter includes prompts for discussion, written in part for book clubs and reading groups.**

**What is something about you that not many people know?**

I have been interested in programming since middle school, when I learned to program in BASIC on a TI99/4A computer. Web development is such a fast-moving and exciting field. I have enjoyed learning the various languages of the web (HTML, CSS, PHP), and I find that I especially enjoy JavaScript in all of its iterations. I think I like web development for the same reason I enjoy reading texts in ancient languages like Greek and Latin: They are both an art and a science.

## MCAT Score Success

For the second year in a row, Northwestern students taking the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) scored among the top 25 percent. The average score of NWC students on the 2018 exam was in the 77th percentile. Two students scored in the 91st percentile.

“It’s really rewarding to see our students succeed,” says Dr. Elizabeth Heeg ’01, biology. “Our faculty continue to do a high-quality job of teaching students relevant material. That, paired with students understanding how much work it takes and putting in the time, has resulted in great scores on the MCAT.”

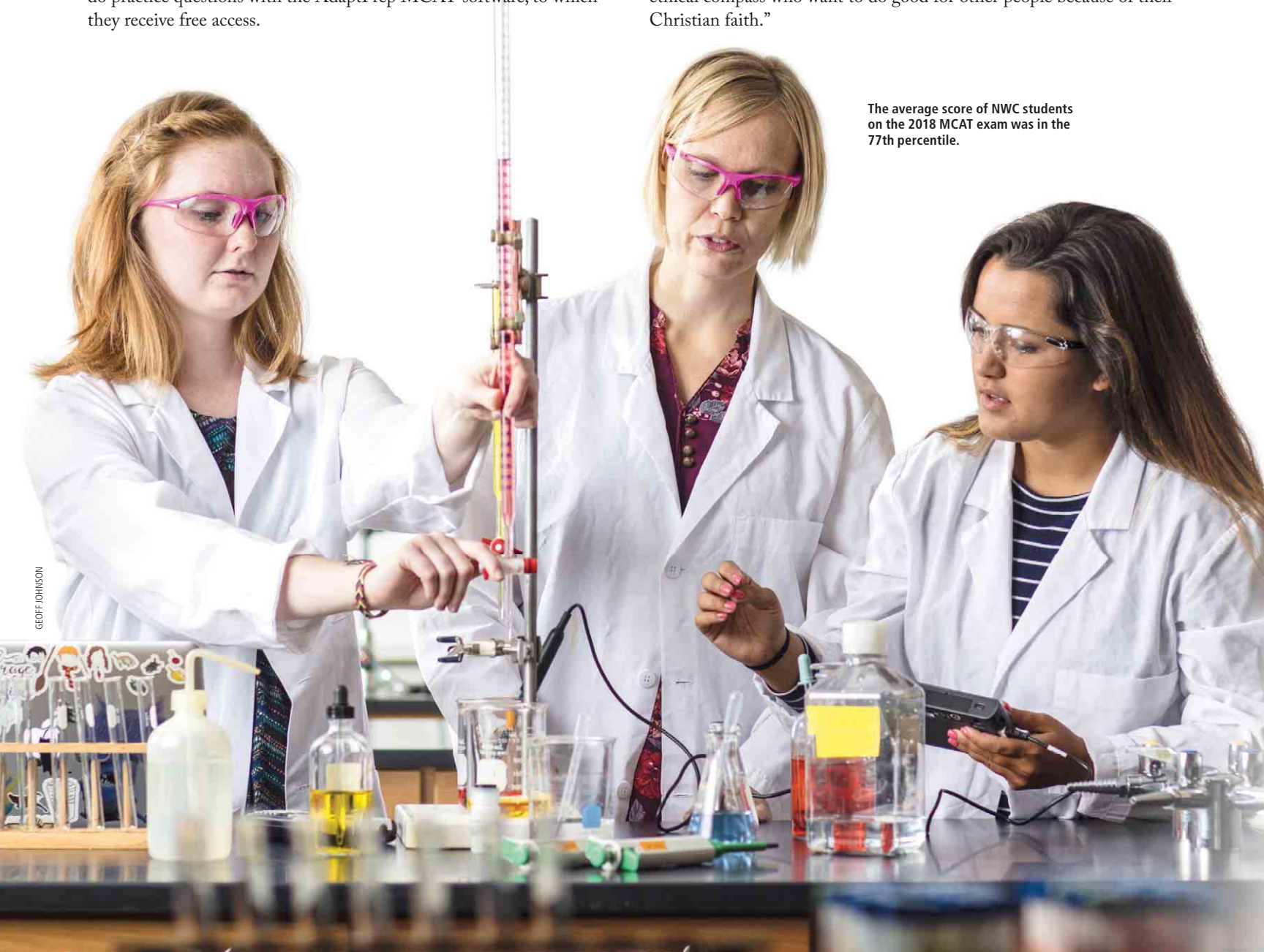
An additional factor is a voluntary, non-credit pre-MCAT course Heeg offers using the AdaptPrep software she developed with Dr. Tim Huffman, mathematics. Science students learn about the exam and then do practice questions with the AdaptPrep MCAT software, to which they receive free access.

Heeg says one of the biggest values of the course is that it gives students a space to prepare for the exam. “Students talk with each other about what they’re doing to get ready and what they’re struggling with. The community aspect is huge; they really support each other through it.”

Among last year’s Northwestern graduates are students who are now pursuing medical studies at the University of Chicago, University of Iowa and Des Moines University. Eighty percent of NWC science majors headed to medical school are accepted the first time they apply; the national matriculation rate for all medical school applicants is just 45 percent.

“It’s exciting for me to see our students get into medical school,” says Heeg, “because they are individuals with a strong moral and ethical compass who want to do good for other people because of their Christian faith.”

The average score of NWC students on the 2018 MCAT exam was in the 77th percentile.



Geoff Johnson



# The Numbers Don't Lie

What happens when you put Northwestern College graduates up against those from schools like Duke, Georgia, Michigan and Notre Dame? Raider Nation wins, at least when they're taking the CPA exam.

NWC accounting graduates taking the CPA exam for the first time in 2017 recorded the nation's second-best pass rate among all institutions that had at least 10 candidates. With a pass rate of 89.3 percent, Northwestern was behind only Washington and Lee University (89.5 percent), according to results reported by the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy. Northwestern graduates recorded an average score of 82.1.

"We are delighted, but not surprised, to be in such elite company," says

Vonda (Elgersma '88) Post, business.

"Our graduates have a long tradition of proving that they can achieve at the highest levels, both on the exam and in their accounting careers. They are in demand by employers because of their exceptional accounting abilities, strong work ethic, high degree of integrity, and the critical thinking, communication and problem-solving skills they developed at Northwestern."

The 2017 results continue Northwestern's legacy of recording CPA exam pass rates among the best in the nation. In 2016, Northwestern had the fifth-best pass rate (85 percent) among all schools with at least 10 candidates. Northwestern's pass rate of 82.6 percent in 2015 was 10th best among institutions with

five to nine candidates.

Northwestern accounting graduates are working with KPMG in Des Moines; Eide Bailly in Sioux Falls; Moss Adams in Bellingham, Wash.; RSM in Iowa City; Renewable Energy Group, Ames, Iowa; Schuring and Uitermarkt, Urbandale, Iowa; Van Bruggen and Vande Vegte in Orange City; Williams and Company, Sheldon; Kum & Go corporate headquarters in West Des Moines; and the U.S. Department of the Interior in Denver.

**Chris Sietstra '17, an accountant at EY (formerly Ernst & Young) in Minneapolis, combined with other NWC accounting graduates to record the nation's second-best pass rate in 2017.**



SCOTT STREBLE

## Musical Mission

The Symphonic Band is preparing for a spring break mission tour of Spain March 2–11.

The 50-member ensemble will perform in a variety of venues, including churches and concert halls, and assist mission agencies. "We are

excited about this upcoming tour and are thankful for the opportunity it will provide students to learn more about new cultures, cultivate friendships, grow in their faith and respond to God's call to serve the world," says Dr. Angela Holt, director of bands and instrumental education.

She says one of the main goals of the tour is to witness to the joy of worshipping Christ by sharing God's gift of music in a country in which only 12 percent of the population regularly attends church. Students will share their testimonies throughout the tour, and the repertoire will include hymn settings in addition to Spanish, Celtic and American works.

Holt says the band is preparing by studying the country's culture, hearing from students and missionaries who have spent time in Spain, and learning basic Spanish phrases.

The cost of the trip is about \$3,200 per student. Each ensemble member is responsible for paying \$1,600 out of pocket. The rest of the funds will come from various fundraising efforts. Donations to support the trip can be made by visiting [nwciowa.edu/give2nwc](http://nwciowa.edu/give2nwc) and choosing the designation for "Symphonic Band Mission Tour."

"We're on a journey—even before we leave the States—and it's an opportunity for us to trust God," says Holt. "I look forward to seeing how God will work among and through the band members."



Northwestern's Symphonic Band is preparing for a March mission tour to Spain.

LEM MAURER

Linda Van Roekel of Urbandale, Iowa; Warren Langstraat of Afton, Minn.; and Bryan and Nancy (Rowenhorst) Den Hartog of St. Paul, Minn., (left to right) were awarded Northwestern's Distinguished Alumni Awards for 2018.

LEW MAURER



# Leading by Example

Northwestern's 2018 Distinguished Alumni Awards recognized accomplished scientists and faithful supporters of the college. The four recipients were honored during Northwestern's Homecoming and Parents Weekend, Sept. 28–29.

## **Bryan '81 and Nancy (Rowenhorst) '82) Den Hartog** *Service to Northwestern*

In addition to opening their home to Northwestern students, faculty and staff, Bryan and Nancy Den Hartog give back to their alma mater through making significant capital gifts and providing scholarships for students from Haiti and students majoring in the health sciences. A 17-year member of the Board of Trustees, Bryan chairs the board's advancement committee and led the college's Discover Campaign for the new Jack and Mary DeWitt Family Science Center.

An orthopedic surgeon with Twin Cities Orthopedics, Bryan earned an M.D. from the University of Iowa College of Medicine after graduating from NWC with a biology degree. Nancy has a degree in business and economics from Northwestern.

## **Warren Langstraat '69** *Professional Achievement*

One of Northwestern's first chemistry graduates, Warren Langstraat started his career in research and development as a laboratory chemist with the 3M Company in St. Paul, Minn. His 35-year career included positions in both laboratory and corporate management. He served as a laboratory technical director and moved overseas to be the managing director for the 3M Netherlands subsidiary for more than four years.

## **Linda Van Roekel '69** *Professional Achievement*

After graduating from Northwestern with degrees in chemistry and mathematics, Linda Van Roekel taught the two subjects at a public school in Germany. When she returned to the United States, she worked as a senior chemist for Monsanto and a technical manager for Columbia Scientific Industries. She was vice president and division manager for INFICON, a manufacturer of high-tech instrumentation, for the final 20 years of her career.

Van Roekel earned a master's degree in physical chemistry from the University of Washington and an MBA from Syracuse University.



# Investing in the Mission


Supporters give record \$9.3 million in 2017–18

## Fundraising Report

*July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018*

- \$9,284,134** Total giving to Northwestern College (giving to the Northwestern Fund was \$1,201,961)
- \$2,145,895** Total alumni giving to Northwestern
- \$481,967** Total giving to scholarships for students (endowed and annual)
- 744** Heritage Society members (donors making planned gifts)
- 577** Patrons (donors giving \$1,000 or more to any Northwestern cause)
- 352** Tower Society members (donors giving \$1,000+ to the Northwestern Fund)
- 655** Jacob and Hannah Heemstra Roll of Honor members (donors who have given to Northwestern for 20 or more consecutive years)
- 518** 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 \$91,650,561)

Designation	Total for 2016–17	Total for 2017–18
Northwestern Fund	\$1,070,030	\$1,201,961
Other annual giving	180,690	191,037
Endowed scholarships	331,522	700,415
Annual scholarships	240,131	213,260
Capital gifts	6,918,358	6,380,359
Life income gifts	14,642	9,668
Student missions/travel	281,757	284,761
Other restricted gifts	95,242	302,673
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,132,372</b>	<b>\$9,284,134</b>



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Support our students with a gift to the Northwestern Fund on our second annual Day of Giving. Follow us on social media for more details.

**4.11.19**

# Red Zone

## Life Coach

BY DUANE BEESON

Spend a few minutes with Kris Korver '92 and you'll hear numerous "Korverisms"—short, inspirational mantras.

"Plant a tree you'll never see."

"With Christ in the vessel, I can weather the storms."

"There's no room for show ponies; you gotta be a workhorse."

The hundreds of men who have played basketball at Northwestern under Korver's leadership have heard a lot of them. And though they may have rolled their eyes at the time, Red Raider alumni now reflect on them as wisdom.

"It's almost entertaining to think how much more important Coach Korver's lessons about being good husbands and fathers were than the basketball lessons," says Jerod Hoegh '03. "Those life lessons stand out much more than the actual on-court lessons."

Tajuan Jackson '06, pastor of a church in Sioux Falls, preached about Korver's "Follow your faith, not your feelings" saying recently when his mentor came to visit. "He took a 19-year-old immature boy from Long Beach, California, and helped develop me into the man I am today," says Jackson. "A lot of things that are vital parts of who I am are attributed to him."

Now in his 19th season at Northwestern, Korver is the school's all-time winningest coach. Prior to this season, his teams had compiled a 421-159 record, including two national championships.

"I want to win," he says, "but I don't want to be in love with the outcome. I want to be in love with the love Jesus has for me, and I want to be in love with caring for a bunch of guys. This is an awesome opportunity to invest in the next generation of leaders."

As Korver often says, "Live with the end in sight."

## Honored Alumni

Three Red Raiders were inducted into the Northwestern Athletic Hall of Fame in October: Kendra De Jong '13, basketball and track; Phil Kooistra '07, football; and Sara (Kernes '06) Nessa, soccer.

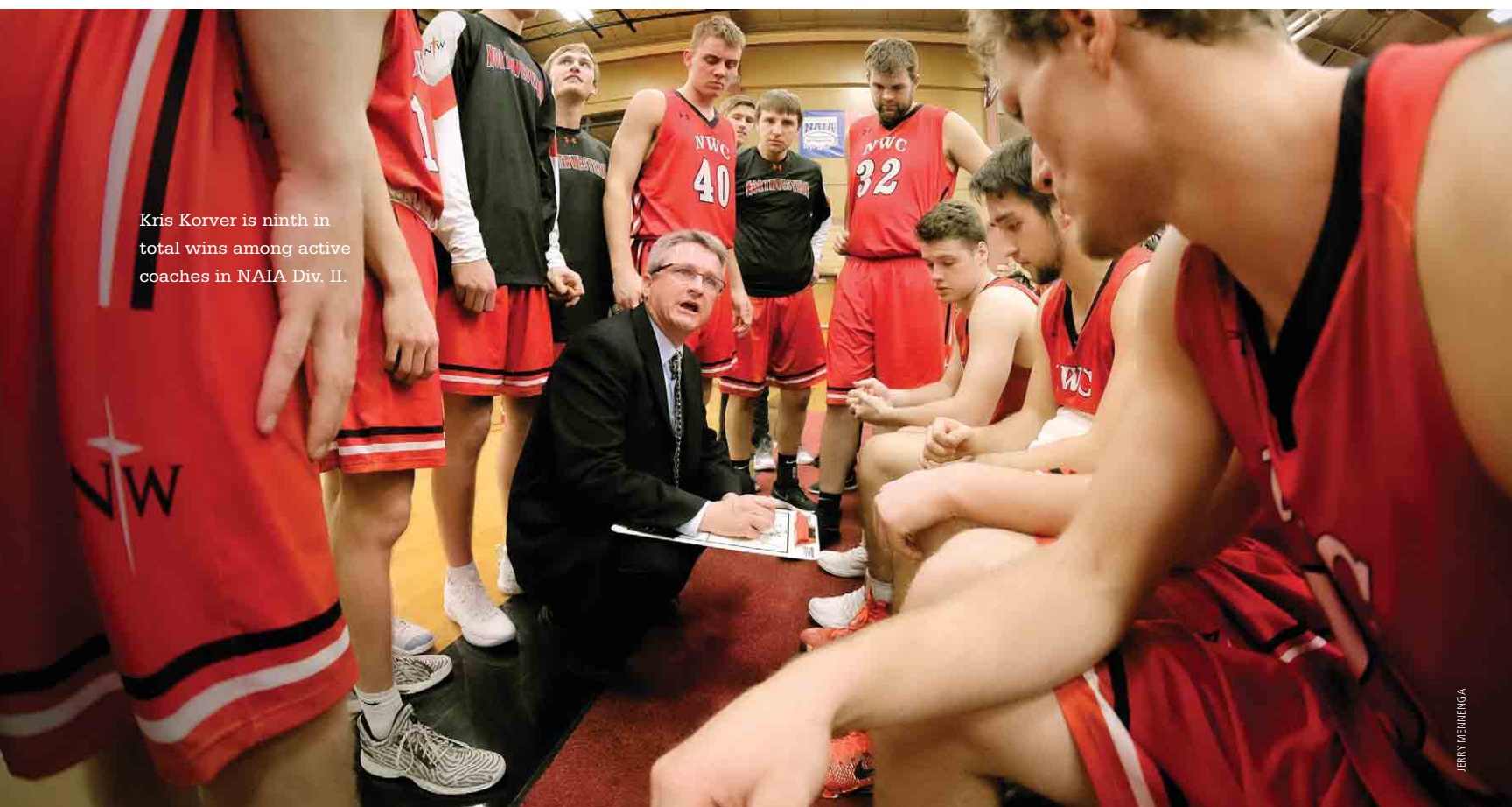
Coach of the Year honors went to Aaron Aberson '06, NWC men's golf coach, and Julie (Jansen '01) Oldenkamp, volleyball coach at Sioux Center High School. The Barnabas Award was given to basketball players TJ Philips '09 and Josh Van Es '09.

## Into the Hall

Catherine Van Der Weide, Northwestern's women's golf coach since 2013, was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame of her alma mater, Otterbein University, in October.

For more on Raider sports, visit  
**nwcraiders.com**

Kris Korver is ninth in total wins among active coaches in NAIA Div. II.



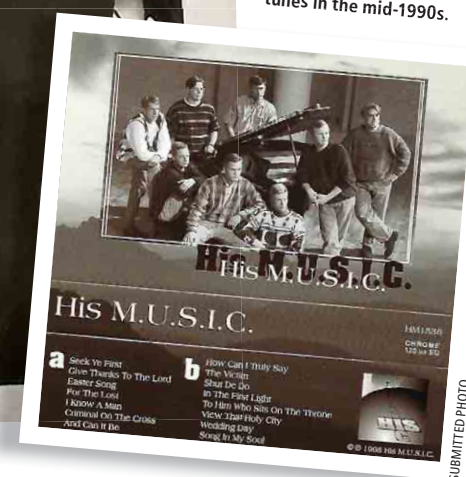


SUBMITTED PHOTO



Members of the Westside Four—from left, Jim Bolluyt, Bill Kalsbeek, Nolan Bogaard and Leroy Netten—performed at Orange City's Tulip Festival in 1965.

His M.U.S.I.C. recorded two CDs of a cappella tunes in the mid-1990s.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

# The Sounds of Our Times

BY DUANE BEESON

While styles of popular music have changed over the years, there's always been a constant at Northwestern: students forming groups on their own and seeing where the music can take them. Here are two examples from decades past.

## THE WESTSIDE FOUR, 1962–66

What began as a need for a male quartet to represent Maurice-Orange City High School in a district music contest led to a folk group that performed for several years with a variety of members. When they were all Northwestern students, the musicians represented the college at a national Reformed Church Youth Fellowship Conference hootenanny and ministered in Denver-area churches on an Easter Sunday.

Just a month after performing for youth at New York's Marble Collegiate Church as part of the 1966 A cappella Choir tour, the Westside Four sang for the last time at a Minneapolis recording studio. Tenor and ukulele player Leroy Netten '67 was dying of leukemia, and the Orange City Lion's Club provided funds for the album to help defray his medical expenses.

"He had an indomitable spirit; he kept on singing even though he was declining," says Bill Kalsbeek '68. "Leroy was our inspirational leader in many ways. This was more than a singing group. It was a collection of guys who loved music, tried to bring a little enjoyment to people, and at the same time managed to enjoy it quite a bit ourselves and became great friends."

Netten's death not long afterward signaled the end of the Westside Four. "Our group was no longer a group," says Kalsbeek.

## HIS M.U.S.I.C., 1993–97

Jason Schrock '97 remembers the time after a 1995 concert when he and the other members of His M.U.S.I.C. (Men United and Saved in Christ) shared with their parents that they had decided to forego their summer jobs and go on a 28-state tour.

"God showed up in a crazy way," says Schrock. "My dad put down the first money to support our mission trip. Northwestern's alumni base and supporting churches were so gracious to allow strangers in their homes and leading worship."

Singing mostly a cappella music made popular by groups like Glad, His M.U.S.I.C. performed at churches and even the Iowa State Fair. "All of us were from the Midwest and didn't have a large worldview yet," says Schrock. "We were blessed to be able to see different styles of worship, a diversity of ethnicity, and really experience the unity in the body of Christ."

It was a test of faith for the young men, who arrived at one Utah venue with no money and less than a gallon of gas in their van. But thanks to freewill donations, the musicians were able to end the summer with some money to put toward the next semester's expenses.





# YEEHAW!



When the Student Activities Council hosts the college's annual Western Hoedown, the campus green fills with students dressed in plaid shirts, cowboy boots, bandanas, and even a few 10-gallon hats. Hay bales and wagon wheels provide a backdrop for posse pictures, a petting zoo brings the farm to town, and a caller teaches those who are game the basics of square dancing. For a few hours on a warm September evening, Raider Nation goes "a little bit country."

Photos by Dan Ross, Doug Burg and Jenni (Sybesma '09) Ochsner







# Living Faith

Northwestern  
helps high school  
students dig into  
the Bible

BY ANITA CIRULIS



DOUG BURG

**THINK OF IT AS A CHRISTIAN BOOT CAMP.** For five days in June, dozens of high school students gather on Northwestern's campus for an intensive week of study, worship, prayer, service and community-building.

Living Your Faith (LYF) is a youth theology institute funded by a Lilly Foundation grant and designed to help teenagers explore and deepen their Christian faith.

"Studies show young people are leaving the church," says Daniel Den Boer, LYF director. "Lilly decided to invest in a program that makes a strategic impact. Living Your Faith is attempting to prepare church and Christian community leaders at an early age who are well trained, well formed, and hungry for the ways theological reflection can guide their thinking about issues in the world."

Beginning with campers' arrival Sunday afternoon, each day provides a wide variety of learning opportunities. Teaching sessions are led by professors from the biblical and theological studies department, as well as

campus ministry, global education and multicultural development staff.

"We want LYF participants to feel comfortable with the Bible and to have confidence in reading and interpreting it," says Dr. Jim Mead, department chair. "We also want them to see their primary identity as God's children and brothers and sisters in Christ—and to understand that all of us are participating in God's mission in the world."

Toward those goals, each day incorporates time for research, reflection and journaling; praise and worship; small-group discussion; and community prayer. Campers are introduced to spiritual practices such as meditation, Scripture reading and different types of prayer. And each afternoon they serve as the hands and feet of Christ—this year helping local flood victims deal with water-soaked basements, deep-cleaning a women's housing ministry, and preparing an Orange City park for a city-wide Latino festival.

The connections that develop between the campers and the Northwestern students who are hand-picked to serve as their mentors are a vital aspect of the week. Living Your Faith has a camper/mentor ratio of 2 to 1, and the college student mentors meet weekly with Den Boer during the prior school year, learning about theology, small-group leadership, community-building and teaching methods.

"My favorite part was the behind-the-scenes facilitation we did," says Allyson Pettit, a junior from Andover, Minn., who served as a Living

**"I never thought I could be able to dig deep into the gospel. After this week, I've been really motivated to jump into the Scriptures."** *Josh Schleis, Hospers, Iowa*





KAREN (TOP '74) VANDERMAATEN



KAREN (TOP '74) VANDERMAATEN

Your Faith mentor for the second time in 2018. “We were intentional with the activities we did, and then we watched the relationships form between the campers and saw them open up and be vulnerable and honest.”

“Campers tell us they’ve never gotten so real and so deep with a group of people,” agrees Dana Van Ostrand, another Northwestern student mentor who plans to go into the ministry.

At the conclusion of the week, Living Your Faith participants can choose to continue being mentored by a Northwestern student. Van Ostrand has weekly phone or Facetime calls with his mentoree. LYFers can also choose to sign up for Leading In Your Faith, which places them in apprenticeship positions of leadership in their home church, helps them mentor a middle school student, and supports them as they design a service project of their own.

Under Den Boer’s leadership, Living Your Faith has grown from 20 teens and nine mentors in 2017 to 27 campers and 13 mentors in


**“My identity in Christ has been reaffirmed and also my love for him. It was encouraging to hear and believe how we are the church right now.”** *Edyn Dekkers, Hawarden, Iowa*

2018. The number of participants from historically underrepresented populations has also increased to 18 percent of the campers and 30 percent of the mentors.

Den Boer believes the ultimate measure of the program’s success will be if churches see it as important for the leadership development of young people and invest in it.

“We’re going to try and make the biggest impact we possibly can and then leave the rest in God’s hands,” he says. 🏠





# RAIDER

💡 NATION IN THE REAL

# WORLD

2018 grads talk about first jobs and the stops and starts en route to adulthood

BY TAMARA FYNAARDT

College is fun. Hard. Busy. Full of friends and relationship drama and the angst and excitement of wondering, “What will I do? Who will I be?” Then, college ends. And “real life” begins. And it’s fun, hard, busy and full of a lot of the same things—yet completely different.

The *Classic* checked in with nine new graduates to find out what life after Northwestern is like.



## Ali Achterhof, art/graphic design



**Social media coordinator, Lutheran Church of Hope | West Des Moines**

Ali Achterhof's senior-year internship in Chicago was the first time the Orange City native lived away from her hometown. One of the things she learned, she says, is the importance of finding a church home. She found one quickly in Chicago, and now, as a new college grad living in West Des Moines, she's found one again. And bonus: It also happens to be her new employer.

Achterhof is the social media coordinator for Lutheran Church of Hope's West Des Moines campus, brainstorming, creating and posting content aimed at connecting the Hope family to their church's ministries and mission. "I need to express my creativity," she says, "and this

position taps just about every form! I love figuring out new ways to 'stop the scroll,' as we social media nerds say."

Achterhof credits Northwestern's Career Development Center with helping her discover her design passion. Then, her art professors helped her craft her passion into expressive excellence, encouraging her toward job openings they knew of as she neared graduation.

Now she has big digital dreams. "The generation I'm a part of might start something new in the church," she says, "and it can be partially through social media. It gives us a bigger voice than we realize."



LOW MOHAWAN



Check out #piecesfromhope on Instagram to see how Ali's photography is telling the Hope story.



SUSAN MCCLELLAN



## Sarah Allen, nursing

**Oncology/hematology nurse, University of Iowa Hospital | Iowa City**

Walking dimmed hospital halls during 12-hour shifts that go through the night, Sarah Allen moves quietly in and out of patient rooms. She checks surgical sites and morphine drips and gives sips of water and fluffs pillows. Sometimes she takes a moment for a whispered chat about things both insignificant and weighty.

Several months into her first job as an oncology/hematology nurse at the University of Iowa Hospital, Allen says Northwestern gave her a healthy start toward a career in nursing. "My preceptors both agreed I was very well prepared for the fast pace of the unit and the complicated nursing care we provide.

"I'm also well equipped to have tough conversations about life,

death and salvation," she says of the conversations that sometimes happen between a nurse and her patients on an oncology unit. Working with cancer patients has affirmed what Allen learned in Northwestern's shalom-oriented nursing program—"how important it is to care for the whole patient, physically, emotionally and spiritually."

Allen learned what holistic care feels like when she was a student. "Looking back, I appreciate how much support I always had. My professors were so caring. [They] were constantly praying for me and wanted me to excel in and out of the classroom."



## Steven Clark, religion

Graduate student, Princeton Seminary | New Jersey

A Christian and a scholar.

That's the label Steven Clark is aiming for, so he's building on the faithful start he got at Northwestern as a divinity student at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Living in one of Princeton's on-campus dorms for seminarians, Clark says he can tell he felt more comfortable and capable in his first semester of graduate classes than many of his peers. "A large amount

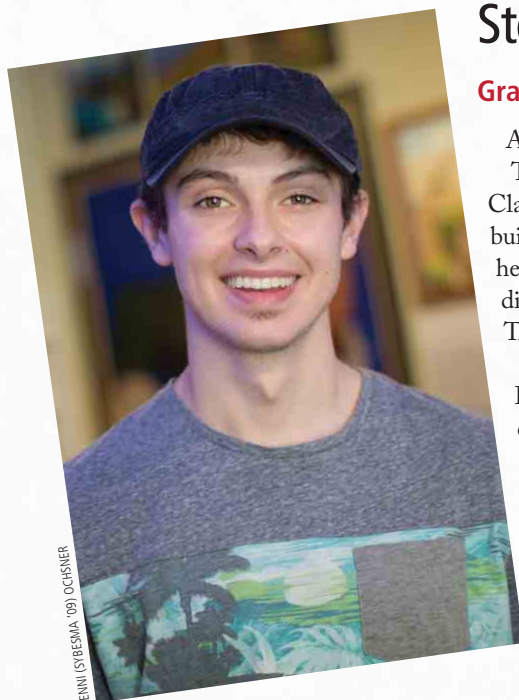
of the course material was either review or easily integrated with existing knowledge gained from Northwestern's excellent religion faculty, some of whom also studied at Princeton."

Clark says he values his Northwestern experience more than ever. "I've come to appreciate the ease at which genuine friendships came at NWC," he says. In addition, "I appreciate how Northwestern emphasizes both faithful *and* courageous learning. The professors truly believe in Christ and yet are not afraid to

examine claims that could be seen as a challenge to that belief.

"I appreciate just how much that kind of anchored, safe space for questions has shaped my approach. Christians are not always characterized in popular thought as being very intellectually informed or consistent, and I want to join Northwestern in the mission of overturning that stereotype."

A Christian and a scholar—and a shining light in both.



JENNY (SYBESMA '09) OCHSNER



## Raphael DeHoyos, agricultural business

Cowboy, S Ranch | Custer, Montana

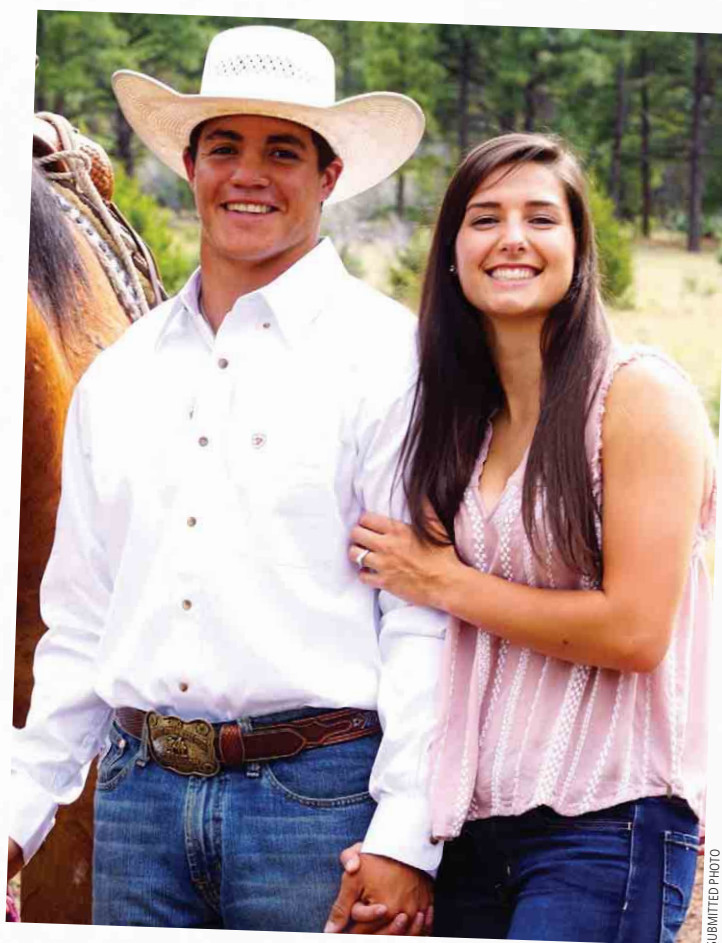
When bareback bronc rider Raphael DeHoyos moved from Texas to Orange City to study and pitch for the Red Raider baseball team, it was a bit of a culture shock. But the challenges involved with learning to adjust have come in handy in his new home in Montana.

DeHoyos is a cowboy on the S Ranch, a spread of more than 225,000 acres that includes a cow-calf operation and breeds prize-winning American Quarter Horses. He spends most of each day in the saddle, herding cattle, monitoring range forage, and breaking and training horses.

Through the summer and fall, DeHoyos and his wife, Naomi (Schimmel '18), lived near ranch

headquarters, 50 miles from the nearest town and out of reach of cell phone service. Now that the weather is colder, the newlyweds have moved to their winter home, a cabin closer to Naomi's job as a veterinarian technician in Billings.

Although DeHoyos rarely rode the range during his time at Northwestern, he says his classes and off-campus job experiences were good preparation for the long hours and teamwork required of ranch hands. Even more important is what he learned about meaningful work: "If you know how you truly want to live and serve as an individual in a Christ-starved world, then any job is the right job."



SUBMITTED PHOTO





## Josh Hornstra, business + sport management

Inside sales rep., Colorado Rapids | Denver

Former Red Raider tight end Josh Hornstra has become a fan of the other kind of fútbol. After an internship with the Sioux Falls Skyforce basketball team and the thrill of being assigned a job at last year's Super Bowl, Hornstra headed for a job fair sponsored by NWC's Career Development Center. He interviewed with the only company that interested him: Major League Soccer's National Sales Center.

He was hired and spent the summer training in Minnesota before receiving several job offers from professional sports organizations. He chose to go to work as an inside sales rep for the Colorado Rapids, one of Major League Soccer's charter clubs.

Hornstra's sales coaches have praised his work ethic and predicted he may become one of the MLS's top sellers. Hornstra's goal is to become manager of a sales department so he can be the role model others have been for him.

"It seemed as though every Northwestern professor or staff member I came into contact with wanted me to succeed and be my very best. I've noticed that doesn't happen everywhere. Now I realize just how much of a blessing that was."

The Rapids' 2019 season begins in February. Tickets are now on sale.



GABRIELE CARRIER

## Jeff Jeltema, biology-health professions

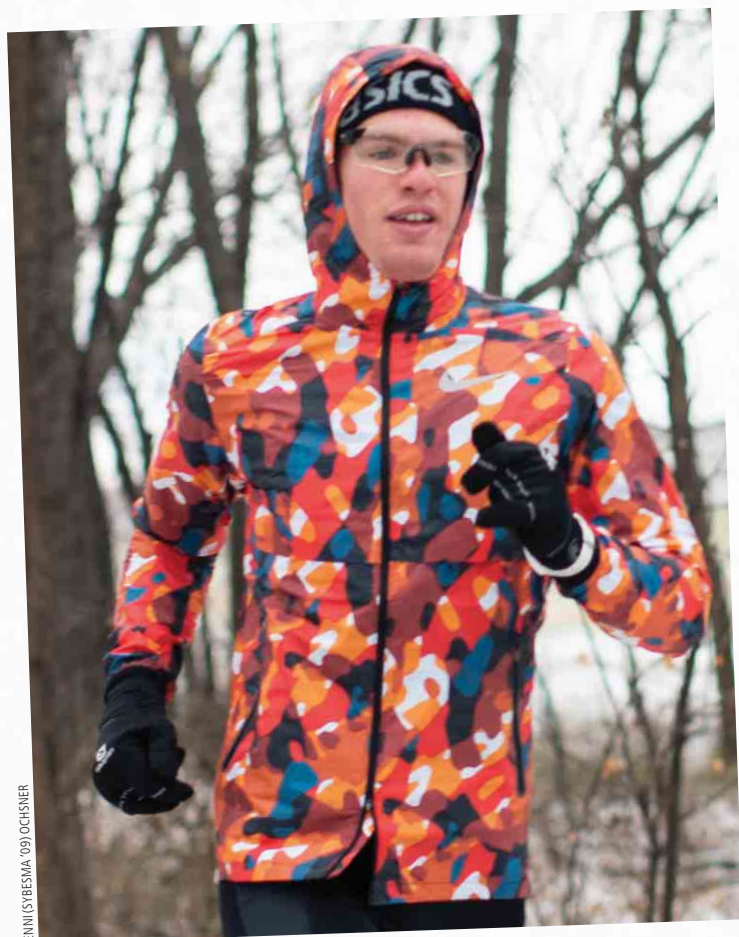
Gap year before medical school | Orange City

Focused on becoming a doctor since sixth grade, Jeff Jeltema held off applying to medical school last year in order to score as well as possible on the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). His planning paid off with a score in the 100th percentile—the best score at Northwestern and among the best in the world.

It's a score that's opening doors to medical schools Jeltema hadn't dared consider. This year, as he's saving the money he makes working construction with his dad, Jeltema has applied to 16 medical schools and has interviews at seven, including his top choice: Columbia University in New York City.

"I was ecstatic with my score—and quite shocked," he says. "But my professors did an amazing job not only teaching me the material, but also helping me become a better critical thinker, which is an incredibly important skill on an exam like the MCAT."

While giving his brain a bit of a break, Jeltema is pushing his body, training for the Boston Marathon in April. He's aiming to run 100 miles per week in the beginning of 2019—that is, if he gets the OK from his trainer, Carrie (Carlson '95) Krohn, who coached Jeltema as a member of the Red Raider track team.



JENNI SYBESMA '09 OCHSNER





## Shanell Nieuwendorp, criminal justice + political science

Security administrator, U.S. State Department | Washington, D.C.

"What do you do?"  
"That's confidential," answers Shanell Nieuwendorp, flashing a badge that identifies her as an employee of the U.S. State Department. Specifically, she's a security administrator in the Office of Personal Security and Suitability in the Bureau of Diplomatic Security. That's both a mouthful and all she can say about what she does day-to-day.

Nieuwendorp was introduced to government work during a senior-year internship at the State Department while participating in the American Studies Program. Supervisors noticed she was a quick study who paid attention to detail and encouraged her to apply for a permanent position.

Capitol Hill is an ideal environment for Nieuwendorp,

who says she chose her double major in criminal justice and political science to "discover the relationship between pledging allegiance to both God's kingdom and an earthly kingdom.

"I have always had a passion for truth and justice," she says, "and I strive to bring more of it into the world."

It's been thrilling for her to be in the same room as Washington

bigshots like Secretary Mike Pompeo and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. But Nieuwendorp still misses the Northwestern community. "You're surrounded by a body of believers who care about your relationship to God, you as a person and your academics—usually in that order. That's extremely rare."



SCOTT SUCHMAN

## Learning Curves on the Journey to Adulthood

"In college, I had the luxury of a set schedule filled with classes, practices and the occasional trip to the coffee shop. Now I'm in the real world and have to figure out how to fit being with friends, working out and other activities around my 9-to-5 job." — **Ali Achterhof**

"Finances are my biggest learning curve. Thankfully my dad is patient and answers all the money questions I constantly bother him with." — **Sarah Allen**

"My biggest learning curve so far has been navigating the professional services an adult is expected to be able to make use of—doctors, dentists, financial consultants/accountants, public transportation. The feelings of intellectual inadequacy that come with not knowing how to use all these services is compounded when you move halfway across the country." — **Steven Clark**

"I thought I would have more time to get things done, but working a full-time job takes a lot more out of the day than I imagined." — **Josh Hornstra**



## Evan Schuler, accounting + finance

Accountant, Gronewold, Bell, Kyhnn & Co. | Atlantic, Iowa

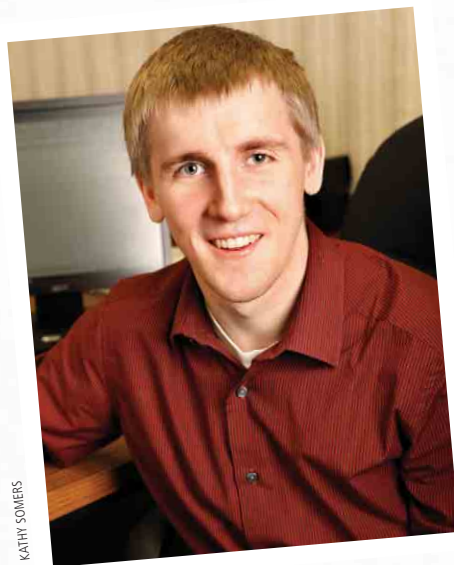


Need a job? It doesn't hurt to hit the links for a little career networking. Former Red Raider Evan Schuler regularly played a few rounds with other golfers in his hometown of Atlantic, Iowa—including partners at the town's public accounting firm, Gronewold, Bell, Kyhnn & Co. So when they had a job opening, they went with a sure bet: a hometown favorite who'd just graduated from a high-scoring accounting program.

Schuler already knew relationships were a key to success. "The education I received challenged me and forced me to think critically, but the real-life people skills were just as—if not more—valuable.

"Observing my professors, I saw people who genuinely loved their job and desired to make a difference. Northwestern prepared me to be an employee who does more than just show up every day; it showed me how to be somebody who sees each day as an opportunity for difference-making."

Currently Schuler is a new homeowner and planning a wedding with Mikayla Christensen '18, who teaches first grade in Essex, Iowa. He's also studying for his CPA exams. "Shout-out to [professors] Gibler and Post," he says. "Word has it Northwestern prepares grads pretty well for that exam."



KATHY SOMERS

"My biggest learning curve has been finding a support system in a new place so far from family and friends. It takes time and effort (and vulnerability) to meet people and establish friendships." — **Shanell Nieuwendorp**

"I'm bad at fixing things, so I hope nothing breaks in my new house. I can't cook, so I eat a lot of Jack's pizzas. I'm terrible at ironing, so I sometimes wear what looks like crumpled-up newspapers to work." — **Evan Schuler**

## Courtney Van Beek, elementary education

First-grade teacher, Richard Jacobson Elementary | Belmond, Iowa



This fall, when Courtney Van Beek stood in front of her very own class of first-graders, she was already quite a confident, experienced teacher.

Four years earlier, she'd been less confident. She'd started at Northwestern thinking about majoring in elementary education, but wasn't 100 percent decided. "The Northwestern education department does an excellent job getting students into classrooms right away," she says. "So before the end of my first semester freshman year, I'd been in a number of classroom settings and knew teaching really was what I wanted to do."

Over the next three years, Van Beek had many more classroom experiences, which helped her identify a love for teaching little kids and the ability to multitask not only as a classroom's teacher, but also as counselor, nurse, and something between a mom and a big sister.

In addition to teaching math, phonics, reading, writing, social studies and science (and coaching junior high volleyball), Van Beek says, "I'm also teaching my students to believe in themselves and become lifelong learners."

Van Beek doesn't miss all the tests she had to pass to become a teacher. But she still likes being graded, especially when the feedback is what she got recently from a classroom observer: "You're a rock star!" 🏠



ANITA CIRIUS

# SPECIAL SON. SUPER DAD.

**AUTHOR'S SON  
INSPIRES SUPERHERO  
FOR GRAPHIC NOVEL**

BY AMY PHILLIPS

**O**LLIE WAS SMALL BUT CONTENT, seemingly unfazed by the plethora of equipment needed to keep him stable during his first months on the planet. Each day, his parents stayed by his side at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Mo., knowing they were in danger of losing their jobs back home.

Simply holding their son, with his tangle of tubes, required staff assistance, and they felt helpless at times, but also heartened by the quality of care. And cheered by Ollie, who they believed was communicating that he would be OK.

It would be five months and four surgeries before Ollie could leave the pediatric intensive care unit and travel home.

This is the origin story of an unlikely superhero whose time had come.

Chip Reece '04 and his wife, Amy (Tagg '05), knew before Ollie was born that he would require intervention right away. An early ultrasound showed a shortened pinky finger that curved in, a thick fold of skin at the back of his neck, and an atrioventricular canal defect—which, taken together, were likely markers for Down syndrome. Ollie arrived in June 2010, and





within three months he had undergone two heart surgeries, the first while weighing just six pounds.

To lessen the stress on Ollie's small body, doctors performed a tracheotomy and inserted a feeding tube. And to calm his own stress, Reece retreated a couple miles away to a comic book store.

A longtime comic fan, Reece had always fallen into the stories of superheroes as a means of escape. Spider-Man was a geeky kid, as Reece was, and yet he secretly fought off foes, learning his most famous lesson the hard way: With great power also comes great responsibility.

While Reece browsed through the comics, hoping to find a superhero with Down syndrome, he realized the responsibility on his own mortal shoulders.

Disability rarely made a credible appearance in comics at that time. Daredevil is blind, but his senses are heightened to compensate; Professor X needs a wheelchair but enjoys telepathic powers.

"They're disabled, but not really,"

Reece says. "I wanted Ollie to be able to see himself. Here's a superhero with Down syndrome. I want him to dream as big as anyone else and not be limited by what people think he can do."

Reece at first brushed off the idea of creating a superhero his son could admire. But after Ollie was life-flighted for a final major heart repair around his first birthday and his health stabilized, Reece had time to think.

He drafted a 10-page teaser and sent it to Kelly Williams, an illustrator he admired. Williams lent his dynamic, stylized approach, and soon their creation caught the eye of Alterna Comics, which offered to act as distributor. A successful Kickstarter campaign would enable Reece to print 1,500 color copies in the summer of 2015.

*Metaphase* would become the first graphic novel to feature a superhero with Down syndrome.

In the book, the sinister company Metamakers promises superpowers to the average citizen. By manipulating certain traits, they

claim in a television ad, they can "exaggerate abilities, as well as tap into extraordinary abilities."

The character of Ollie sneaks off with the hope of becoming just like his superhero dad, The Sentinel. Reaching the company's headquarters, he brags to the receptionist that his extra copy of the 21st chromosome—the defining characteristic of Down syndrome—might just mean he has serious potential.


If Ollie is the first superhero with Down syndrome, then this is the first incident in a graphic novel of disability bias. The receptionist can't help him, for a reason she won't specify. Despite that, the superhero refuses to stay tangled in a web of discouragement.

"Ollie is comfortable with having Down syndrome," Reece says of the character. "He just wants to have powers, help his dad, and be super. Ollie's power is an extension of his strongest ability, which is his imagination. It's just like anybody else's."

The real Ollie is now 8 years old. His mobility is challenged and he's

still nonverbal, but he's got a great sense of humor; after performing some small mischief to get a reaction, he'll laugh when caught. Sitting in the timeout chair, he'll tap his foot and chuckle.

"He's a miracle," Reece says. "I don't know how it's possible that he survived. God puts things in place; Ollie comes around and inspires you to do something you never expected you'd do."

That's his superpower. 



Chip Reece's *Metaphase* has been featured on NBC Nightly News and People.com. The graphic novel, featuring a superhero with Down syndrome, is available at Amazon.com.



AARON PATTON

# class Notes

**'59 Arend Schreur** and his wife, **Beverly (Van Vugt '63)**, live in Sioux City. Arend says he enjoys working for Life Serve, picking up blood from drives and delivering blood products to hospitals.

**'71 Lynda (Mastbergen) Bulthuis** of Le Mars, Iowa, is excited that her granddaughter, Elizabeth Bulthuis, is a freshman at Northwestern. Lynda's mother, late husband, and two sons and their wives all attended NWC, and she writes that Northwestern has been a blessing to her family.

**The Rev. Ray Tilstra**, DeKalb, Ill., retired from 42 years of full-time ministry work in 2016, but accepted the position of Illinois Classis leader for the Reformed Church in America (RCA) last year.

**'75 Leon Korte** retired in May from the faculty of the

University of South Dakota Beacom School of Business after 26 years of service. His entire academic career encompassed 34 years.

**The Rev. Paul Wernlund**, Holland, Mich., has retired from full-time pastoral ministry after 40 years of service to five RCA congregations.

**'77 Randy Oostra**, president and CEO of ProMedica in Toledo, Ohio, was recognized by *Modern Healthcare* as one of 2018's 100 Most Influential People in Healthcare. A member of Northwestern's Board of Trustees, he also was named among 100 Great Leaders in Healthcare by Becker's Healthcare and received the American Heart Association's Pulse of Toledo Award in 2018.

**'78 The Rev. Verlyn Boone** was named the pastor of First



**Show NW students some love.**

Join us, then bid at the February event. Proceeds support student scholarships.

**Scholarship Auction**  
Saturday, Feb. 9  
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## Red Ties

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

We've just passed the one-year anniversary of the Northwestern Network launch, and we are thrilled to have over 800 members!

This past year, members of the Northwestern Network gave our admissions office the names of 42 high school seniors—and 19 of them enrolled in August. When a member of the Network refers a student, we start by sending that student a note telling her you think she would be a great fit for Northwestern—and that \$500 is waiting for her at the bookstore if she enrolls. Then, we keep you informed of your referral's recruitment status. That way if she hasn't visited campus, applied or made a firm commitment, you can encourage her to take that next step.

The 19 students who received \$500 toward their textbooks this year were excited! And we're excited to see referrals rolling in for next year's freshman class!

Another way Networkers helped recruit students was by hosting and attending a July barbeque for new students and their families who live in Southern California. This mixer gave the students a chance to meet each other before school started, as well as the opportunity to ask questions of recent alumni and former parents. What a great event! A big thanks to David De Haan '17, Savannah Clapper '16, and Dylan Bousema '16 and his parents, Todd and Stacy, for hosting this event. Thanks also to Emmanuel Church in Paramount for letting them have the event on the church grounds.

If you have not already joined the Northwestern Network, we'd love for you to sign up and "spread red" in whatever ways suit you—supporting the college with prayer and gifts, referring students, and attending college events when Raider Nation comes to your area. Learn more about the Network and join at [nwc Iowa.edu/NWnetwork](http://nwc Iowa.edu/NWnetwork).





Reformed Church in Rock Valley, Iowa, in August after serving that congregation as a specialized transitional minister for nearly two years.

**The Rev. David Landegent**, pastor of First Reformed Church in Volga, S.D., has published a 365-day devotional, *A Year in Colossians*. The devotional follows Paul's letter to the Colossians phrase-by-phrase, helping readers understand what God has done through Jesus. The book is available through Amazon.

**'79 Tom Hoskins**, Bettendorf, Iowa, is a retired teacher who started a hobby business handcrafting trout fishing nets. For more details, view [hoskinsnets.com](http://hoskinsnets.com).

**Dr. Timothy Westcott** was featured in a Fox News story on Veterans Day about the introduction of chemical weapons during World War I and how their use has continued a century later. Timothy is director of the George Robb Centre for the Study of the Great War at Park University in Parkville, Mo., where he also teaches history and serves as interim dean of the College of Education and Health Professions.

**'80 Colleen (Schmidt) Hood** moved from Blaine to Woodbury, Minn., to be closer to her daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren.

**'82 Jo (Will) Thyr** is a behavioral health therapist at Promise Community Health Center in Sioux Center. A medical social worker with nearly 30 years of experience, she spent 2017–18 teaching social work full time at Northwestern on a one-year appointment.

**'83 Mick Noteboom** of Champaign, Ill., earned a master's degree in organizational development and leadership from Saint

Joseph's University in Philadelphia in May. He is owner/broker at Professional Benefits Group, which provides insurance and investment services.

**'84 The Rev. David Spiegel** earned a Doctor of Ministry degree in pastoral care and counseling at New Brunswick Theological Seminary in May. He is senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Norwich, N.Y.

**'91 Cheryl (Waggoner) Olerich** is a paraeducator with Waukee (Iowa) Middle School. Her husband, David, is a truck driver for Clive Transportation.

**'92 Dr. Robin Pals Rylaarsdam**, Lombard, Ill., is the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Saint Xavier University in Chicago. She served the last 11 years as a biology professor, department chair and interim dean at Benedictine University in Lisle.

**'95 Rachel (Burgers) Langenhorst** was a panelist at the Global Silicon Valley Summit in San Diego. She co-presented a discussion about innovative models of professional learning and development. In addition to serving as a technology integrationist for the Rock Valley (Iowa) Community School District, she is also an instructor in Northwestern's Master of Education program.

**'96 The Rev. Josh Blakesley** serves as pastor of Love in Action United Church of Christ in Hatboro, Pa. He is also a fellow/consultant for the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia, coordinating interfaith encounter spring break experiences for college students. In November he presented a workshop, "How to be an Interfaith Ally," at the Parliament of World Religions in Toronto. He continues to be a resident actor for the theatre company Without a Cue Productions.

**The Rev. Dr. Jill (Zeiger) Ver Steeg** was named chief ministry officer of the Reformed Church in America in July. She oversees the work of Transformed and Transforming, the RCA's 15-year vision for ministry, working closely with all initiative leaders. She previously served as the denomination's director of transformational engagement, as well as a chaplain at Hope College and a teaching pastor at Meredith Drive Reformed Church in Des Moines.

**'97 Josh Martinsen** and his wife, **Dawn (Bruins '94)**, live in Akron, Iowa. Their daughter Grace died suddenly on May 28 at the age of 17.

**'98 Sara Veldhuizen Stealy** is a foreign service officer living in Arlington, Va., with her husband, Dave. She is studying Lithuanian at the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service Institute and will move to Lithuania next summer to begin serving a three-year tour as the public affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in Vilnius.

**'99 Travis Popken**, Hawarden, Iowa, is the new elementary principal for the West Sioux School

District. He was previously the principal and director of technology for the Harris-Lake Park Middle School and High School.

**'00 Amy (Verdoorn) Kleinhesselink** has been promoted to joint chief executive officer at Promise Community Health Center in Sioux Center, along with Emily Tuschen. She has served as chief financial officer for the last five years.

**'01 Koury Kramer** was named the *Northwest Iowa Review's* Baseball Coach of the Year for the second year in a row. His West Lyon High School team went 28-2 in 2018, going undefeated in the Siouxland Conference and ranked as high as second in Class 2A.

**'02 Rachel Van Den Broek** relocated to Holland, Mich., in April and joined Plante Moran as a senior campus recruiting staffing consultant. Plante Moran is a nationally recognized public accounting, consulting and wealth management firm. Van Den Broek recruits at college campuses in west Michigan and promotes Plante Moran internship opportunities among accounting and finance students.

## NORTHWESTERN BFFs

A few years at Northwestern often lead to friendships that last a lifetime. We want to know about your college friends, whether roommates, classmates or teammates. How did you meet, what do they mean to you—and how do you stay in touch? Send your stories to [classic@nwcioa.edu](mailto:classic@nwcioa.edu) and we'll share them in a future *Classic*.





JOHN BURFORD

Doug Van Berkum and his wife, Linda, are now members of the Dude Ranchers' Association Hall of Fame after operating Rainbow Trout Lodge in southern Colorado for nearly 25 years.

## Happy Trails

Doug Van Berkum '60, '62 was Northwestern's alumni director from 1984 to 1995 before trading fundraising for trailblazing. In the mid '90s, he and his wife, Linda, began operating Rainbow Trout Ranch, a dude ranch located in the Rockies near Antonito, Colo. Now almost 25 years later, the couple have been inducted into the Dude Ranchers' Association Hall of Fame.

Late spring through early fall, the 77-year-old can be found taking the cowpokes and buckaroos on a hayride, cooking flank steak over the fire, fixing one of the 48 toilets in the nearly century-old cabins, or shooting the breeze with some of the 60 guests at the ranch.

Family is what first drew Van Berkum to ranch life, and it's what keeps him there. The Van Berkums operate Rainbow Trout with their son, Dave '92, and his wife, Jane. Their two daughters, both Colorado residents, love to be involved in interior decorating and landscaping projects. Last summer five of their six grandchildren also worked as ranch hands, which was deeply satisfying for the family's patriarch.

Van Berkum admits the sun may be setting on his days as ranch boss. But he and Linda plan to continue to spend their summers with family and friends at 9,000 feet and 15 percent humidity, enjoying the peace of the Western life. "It's pretty darn neat," he says.

BY BETH (NIKKEL '02) GAULKE

**Dr. Zachary Varpness** joined Northwestern's faculty as an associate professor of chemistry in August after spending 11 years teaching at Chadron State University. He earned a doctorate in bioinorganic/materials chemistry at Montana State University.

**'03 The Rev. Chuck Mullikin** recently accepted the call to be the lead pastor of Westchester Evangelical Free Church in Des Moines. He served there as an associate for the last four years.

**Nathan TerBeest** is the assistant principal and activities director at Douglas County West High School in Valley, Neb.

**'04 Chrystan (Fuller) Ferrell** of Liberty, Mo., is chief operations officer for Imperfectly Brave, a women's ministry focused on building a lifestyle of prayer and community. She was the keynote speaker at the Rise Up Conference in Loogootee, Ind., in August.

**'05 Travis Kooima** is the new activities director at Western Christian High School in Hull, Iowa. He recently completed his 13th year as head football coach for the Wolfpack.

**'06 Michael Holm** serves as chief data scientist at Covenant Eyes Inc., a pioneer in Internet accountability and filtering, and Picnix Inc., which offers artificial intelligence solutions, in Owosso, Mich.

**Tiffany (Rozeboom) Wurth** joined the staff at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa, in August as the director of athletic bands. A board member for the Iowa Bandmasters Association, she previously served as the concert band director for the Woodbury Central Community School District in Merville, Iowa.

**'08** In addition to owning and operating the graphic design business Destination Graphic, **Vaughn Donahue** is a graphic design instructor at Dordt College in Sioux Center.

**Cody Van Sloten** teaches third grade at Upsala (Minn.) Elementary School. He was previously a fifth-grade teacher in Rock Valley, Iowa.

**'10 Rachel (Kleinsasser) Schuur** has moved with her family to Orange City after serving as a teacher for seven years in Sioux City. She and her husband, Dustin, have two children, Elias (3) and Evelyn (1).

## Don't Lose Sight of the Future

It may be hard to see now, but she'll be ready for college before you know it. Make sure you're ready, too, with the Private College 529 Plan.

This national plan lets you pay today's rates for tomorrow's tuition at Northwestern and more than 270 other private colleges.

[privatecollege529.com](http://privatecollege529.com)





## APPLAUSE

### Who deserves a shout-out?

Nominate outstanding alumni for the Distinguished Professional Achievement, Distinguished Service to Humankind or Distinguished Service to Northwestern College award. We'd love to give them a hand.

Email your nominations to [alumni@nwcioa.edu](mailto:alumni@nwcioa.edu)

**'11 Dr. Nicholas Crippin** completed his residency at the University of Kansas School of Medicine's Wichita Family Medicine Residency Program at Via Christi Hospitals.

**Logan Ogden** joined the staff of Utah State University last summer as the director of Olympic sport strength and conditioning. He was previously the director of strength and conditioning at the University of Nebraska Omaha.

**Dr. Jacob Peterson** has joined Family Medical Specialties in Holdrege, Neb. He earned his medical degree at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

**Jose Sanchez-Perry** completed a major research milestone in his doctoral program in religious studies at the University of Texas at Austin in May. He presented his research, which deals with the transformation of indigenous communities of Mesoamerica after the introduction of Christianity in the early modern period, at the national conference of the American Academy of Religion in Denver in November.

**'12** After six years on Northwestern's admissions

staff, **Ross Fernstrum** is now an advancement officer for his alma mater. He also coaches the defensive line for the Red Raiders' football team.

**Mark Haselhoff** earned a master's degree in computer science from Georgia Tech and is now a full-time professor in Northwestern's computer science department. He was Northwestern's web development manager since 2016.

**Karla (Houk) Lundell**, Franklin, Tenn., is the benefits administrator on the human resources team at Ramsey Solutions, a Dave Ramsey company. She previously was the human resources manager for Howalt+McDowell Insurance in Sioux Falls.

**Jon Schouten** is in his first year as head coach for the Huron (S.D.) High School boys' basketball team. In addition to coaching the ninth-grade girls for one year, he served as an assistant coach for the boys' team for the past five seasons. He is also a K-1 physical education teacher at Buchanan Elementary in Huron.

**Becca (Wiggins) Twitty** is an English teacher and assistant JV/varsity girls' cross country coach at Glenwood (Iowa) Middle School.



CHRISTY ADAMS

Dennis and Susan Muyskens chose to incorporate the NWC logo into their new home basketball court, completed in November of 2017.

### Set in Stone

When Dennis '88 and Susan (Kindwall '89) Muyskens moved to their Mason City, Iowa, home in 2016, they knew a significant landscaping project was in store.

As they developed plans for new decking and landscaping, they found they could fulfill one of Dennis' dreams—having a basketball hoop. An old gazebo site offered space for not only a hoop, but also a court large enough for a regulation three-point line. An added bonus: Because the court was to be made of stone pavers, the landscapers offered to include the logo of the Muyskens' favorite team in the court's design.

Without hesitation, the Muyskens chose Northwestern's logo.

"It was an easy choice," says Dennis. "It's been a family tradition to go to Northwestern." Dozens of the Muyskens' extended family members are Red Raiders, as are two of their daughters, Corrine Weece '13 and Haley '20.

For nearly three days, the landscapers cut and placed pavers to form the logo, eventually completing the entire court with more than 3,000 pavers.

While the Muyskens family enjoys a competitive game of H-O-R-S-E every now and then, it's the neighborhood kids who seem to enjoy the court the most. "They're free to use it any time," says Dennis.

Perhaps their time on the court will pave the way to their being Red Raiders too.

BY JULIANA PENNINGS '12



# STAY SOCIAL!

NWCIOWA.EDU/SOCIAL-MEDIA



**'13 Natasha (Fernando) Hammack** graduated from John Marshall Law School in May, passed the Montana bar exam in July, and now works as an assistant public defender in Billings. Her husband, **Brandon**, is an assistant cross country and track and field coach at Montana State University Billings.

**The Rev. Jeffrey Hubers** started as the senior minister at First Congregational Church of St. Joseph, Mich., in August. His wife, Carly, works for the University of Notre Dame as the program coordinator for the sustainability minor.

**The Rev. Jacob VanDerLinden** is pastoring Riverview Reformed Church in Yankton, S.D. He recently graduated from Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.

**'14 John Lynch** earned a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree in May from Briar Cliff University. He works in the physical medicine and rehab department at Cherokee (Iowa) Regional Medical Center. His wife, **Amanda (Hulstein)**, is a science teacher at MMCUR High School in Marcus. They live in Cherokee.

**'16 Shawn Harmon** is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He was awarded the 2018 Muriel Brooks Scholarship from the Furlough Home Board to participate in a missiology study seminar at the Overseas Ministries Study Center in New Haven, Conn., in September.

**'18 Brian Follett** is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Denver Seminary. His wife, **Madison (Raska '16)**, is a marketing administrative assistant at Automated Marketing Group.

**Connor Ubben** is a sales representative with Boland Recreation in Marshalltown, Iowa, selling playground equipment and other recreational items.

## New Arrivals

**Tami (TeSelle '02)** and **Drew Nam-yinga '00**, daughter by adoption, Andi Yun (3), joins Mason (11), Kase (10) and Asher (7)  
Pierre and **Malinda (Burk '03) Jean**

**Baptiste**, son, Silas Glenn, joins Vedkaelle (8) and Mikael (2)  
**Liza (Tegeler '05)** and **Mark DeYounge '08**, son, Wes Harvey, joins Will (5) and Charlotte (4)  
Michael and **Rebecca (Weeldreyer '05) Van Roekel**, daughter, Holland Faye, joins Trinity (3)  
Rachael and **Joseph Hartfiel '06**, daughter, Maisie Grace, joins Wilhelmina (2)  
Hannah and **Michael Holm '06**, son, Bradley Basil, joins Wesley (7), Stanley (6), Emily (5), Charley (3) and Finley (2)  
Elliott and **Emily (Spany '06) Malm**, daughter, Hope Elise, joins Cora (9), Rebekah (7) and Micah (3)  
Andrew and **Rachel (Yackey '07) Harcum**, daughter, Linnea Jane, joins Lorelai (8), Rhett (6) and Rowan (3)



**Andrea (Collier '07)** and **Jason Helmus '07**, twins, Annie Vivian and June Naomi, join Lindy (3)

**Lisa (Muilenburg '07)** and **Ben Vos '08**, son, Jay David, joins Maddie (5) and Wes (3)

Mitchell and **Kristen (Moss '08) Andringa**, son, John Zadok, joins Malachi (2)

Nick and **Raeann (Taylor '08) Bromert**, daughter, Addison Rose

Tyler and **Carley (Christoffers '08) Denton**, daughter, Reagan Grace, joins Hayden (6) and Mackenzie (4)

**Melissa (Hisel '08)** and **Kent Wallinga '07**, daughter, Kinzlee Grace, joins Ainsley (5)

**Melissa (Van Heuvelen '09)** and **Joe Carrington '08**, son, Stanley Frederick Karlie and **Tyler De Jong '09**, daughter, Eden Faith

**Jenni (Sybesma '09)** and **Kyle Och-sner '09**, daughter, Luna Wilde

Micah and **Julia (Glendenning '09) Redfield**, son, Isaiah Kent, joins Luke (3)

Tanner and **Jenna (Boot '09) Vos**, daughter, Brooke Lynnae, joins Bryley (5) and Breah (3)

David and **Catherine (Neisen '10) Butler**, son, Maximilian Charles Joseph, joins Margareta (2)

Savannah and **John Sandbulte '10**, daughter, Rena Rae

**Anne (Eberline '10)** and **Nate Summers '08**, daughter, Eliza Drew, joins Joel (3)

**Lisa (Olivier '11, '17)** and **Ross Fernstrum '12**, son, David John

**Alayna (Carlson '11)** and **Caleb Kester '11**, son, Emmett Bradley, joins Caeden (4) and Delaynie (2)

**Ansley (Griess '11)** and **Andrew Lovgren '11**, daughter, Zoey Elizabeth **Sarah (Bartz '12)** and **David Bruxvoort '13**, daughter, Norah Elizabeth, joins Isaac (2)

**Amanda (Hulstein '14)** and **John Lynch '14**, daughter, Diana Ella

## Marriages

**Doug Hannink '79** and Jocelyn Shaw, Muskegon, Mich.

**Cheryl Waggoner '91** and David Olerich, Clive, Iowa

**Christina Mueller '99** and Eliezer Jimenez Lang, Denver

**Danielle Dupre '07** and Cecil Coffman, Des Moines, Iowa

**Stephanie Grieme '08** and Zack Valentine, Dexter, Iowa

**Megan Herlyn '08** and Michael McCoy, Sioux Falls

**Carolyn Dundas '12** and Erick Marchand, Lima, Peru

**Becca Wiggins '12** and **Isaiah Twitty '14**, Omaha

**Christa Curl '14** and Cody Baker, Dallas

**Tiffany Hach '14** and Alek White, Seattle

**Olivia Holt '14** and Phil Tekel, Managua, Nicaragua

**Amelia Thies '15** and Kendall Ten Haken, Madison, S.D.

**Renee Hurley '16** and Cory Aamodt, Des Moines, Iowa

**Madison Raska '16** and **Brian Follett '18**, Littleton, Colo.

**Allison Reisma '16** and Kyle Van Wyk, Maurice, Iowa

**Colin Pennings '17** and Kalyon Root, Minnetonka, Minn.

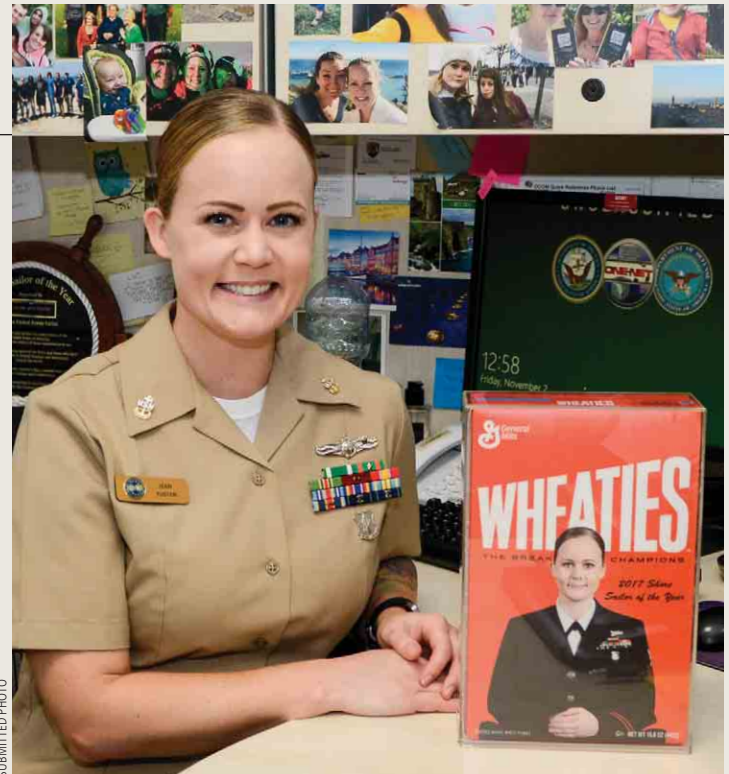
**Joseph Tolsma '17** and **Abbey Slatery '18**, Raleigh, N.C.

**Michelle Palafox '18** and David van Beek, Sioux Center

*The couples reside in the city listed.*

## In Memoriam

**Ron Korver '43, '46** died May 8 at the age of 92. He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics at Hope College and a master's degree in Christian education at New York University. A career missionary with the Reformed Church in America, he taught at Meiji Gakuin University,



Jean Yusten, who enlisted in the Navy in 2009, was one of four people honored as sailors of the year for 2017.

## Sailor of the Year

Before she was named the U.S. Navy's 2017 Shore Sailor of the Year last spring, Chief Legalman Jean Yusten '08 adopted a mantra: no excuses.

Based in Naples, Italy, Yusten had excelled within her command, earning honors that eventually qualified her for the Navy-wide Sailor of the Year competition. At first, she wasn't sure she could win. Then she had a breakthrough.

"I realized I was only limiting myself by my own excuses," she says.

Military service wasn't always Yusten's plan. After graduating with a theatre degree from Northwestern, she began working at a bank call center. "I only lasted three months before I started looking for a new job," she says.

Yusten saw a Navy recruitment ad targeted toward women and signed up.

At first, Yusten saw it as an opportunity to travel the world and serve her country. Since then, her vision of service has expanded.

"I'm serving every single person who's around me," says Yusten, who works with judge advocates on operational and administrative law.

Having won Shore Sailor of the Year, Yusten now has another goal in mind: master chief petty officer, the top enlisted position in the Navy.

"Only one percent gets it," she says before claiming her mantra. No excuses.

BY JARED KALTWASSER



CHERI MILLER

Isaiah Twitty, afternoon personality on Omaha's Power 106.9, was among 20 individuals named to Radio Ink's 2018 list of Future African-American Leaders in Radio.

## On-Air Honor

In just his third year on the microphone, Isaiah Twitty '14 was named to Radio Ink's 2018 list of Future African-American Leaders in Radio. He's pretty sure the reason is that listeners come to know he's a lot like them—because when Twitty's life doesn't go as planned, it becomes on-air content.

*Happy Monday, I hope your Monday isn't like mine, where I locked myself out of the house and had to stand on the corner like a middle-schooler waiting for the bus.*

"It's not hard for me to relate to people," says Twitty, who hosts a show on Omaha's Power 106.9 and is social media director for NRG Media. "It's all about being natural, being real. We set the standard at our station for what's cool—and for us, being cool is being yourself."

Twitty arrived at Northwestern in 2010 planning to study math but switched majors to sport management. An All-American linebacker on the football team, he found himself surprised by positive reactions to his sports broadcast commentary ("I just thought they were being nice").

With this recent nomination, he knows he's earned the honor.

"Being in sports, I'm a team player first, but it's nice to be recognized for being true to myself," he says. "This shows I'm heading in the right direction."

BY AMY PHILLIPS

High School and Middle School in Tokyo, Japan. He was instrumental in starting a student exchange program in which his high school students experienced Christian family life in the U.S. and American host families learned about Japanese culture. After he retired, he continued to volunteer at Meiji Gakuin and led Bible study classes at Kamakura Yukinoshita Church. He retired to Green Bay, Wis., in 2011. Among his survivors are his wife, **Ruby (Barth '53)**; four children; and six siblings, including **Russell '46, '49; Clayton '47; Bea Long '50, '52; Larry '54; George '56; and David '65.**

**Harriet (De Jong '43) Kuiken**, 92, of Hutchinson, Minn., died June 13. She taught at a number of rural schools in Iowa after graduating from Northwestern Junior College. She also worked as a teller at Citizens Bank and Trust in Hutchinson. She was an active member of Bethlehem United Methodist Church, teaching Sunday school in addition to women's Bible studies. Her survivors include three children.

**The Rev. Bert Den Herder '48, '50** died June 30 at age 94. He attended Calvin College and Calvin Seminary after graduating from Northwestern Classical Academy and Junior College. He ministered at a church in Lacombe, Alberta, Canada, for five years before serving as minister at churches in British Columbia, Minnesota and Iowa. He retired and settled in Luverne, Minn., in 1989. Among his survivors are six children.

**Rita (Van Steenwyk '48) Van Oort**, 86, died Oct. 24 in Omaha. She worked in a variety of secretarial positions, was a stay-at-home mom and then taught pre-school at Westwood Community Church for 18 years. She was an active member at Westwood. Survivors include her husband, **Harris '50**, and three children.

**Norm Schaap '55**, Sioux Center, died Nov. 9 at age 82. A 30-year fighter pilot with the Iowa Air National Guard based

in Sioux City, he served as a flight instructor during the Vietnam War. He was a self-taught electrician who was one of the first employees of Interstates Electric, eventually serving as the company's pilot. He retired in 2000 after 41 years with the firm. Among his survivors are his wife, Anna; four children, including **Jane Gude '86**; and two sisters, including **Elsie Nibelink '53.**

**Roger Mouw '57** of Frisco, Texas, died Aug. 14 at age 80. He operated a grocery store in Hospers, Iowa, and then established and ran Mouw's Super Valu in Orange City for more than 20 years. He later worked as a technician for Clearview Windshield Repair. He also served in the Iowa Air National Guard. His survivors include a daughter.

**Donald Bogaards '59, '61** of Columbus, Ohio, died Nov. 12 at the age of 79. After graduating from Northwestern, he earned a master's degree in choral conducting at Westminster Choir College. He served eight churches as organist/choir master and worked for Augsburg Fortress Publishing House for 23 years. He is survived by his wife, **Carol (Bossman '60)**, and two children.

**Rosemary (Smit '66) Harman** of Hull, Iowa, died Nov. 2 at the age of 73. She was an elementary teacher for the Boyden-Hull Community School District for more than 30 years and substitute taught in retirement. She was a member of First Reformed Church, where she played in the bell choir. Among her survivors are three children, including **Steven '95** and **Stacey Schmidt '98**, and a sister, **Eileen Boon '57.**

**Gracia (Wynia '69) Vander Velde**, 70, of Rock Valley, Iowa, died Aug. 13. She taught middle school in Louisville, Ky., for one year before moving to Rock Valley, where she served as a substitute teacher, helped operate the Vander Velde Nursery and Flower Shop, and owned and operated Cornerstone Christian Bookstore. She



later served as the office manager for the home health office of Hegg Health Center for many years. She is survived by her husband, **Jim '69**; four children, including **Scott '94**, **Monte '96** and **Gretchen Bruhn '97**; and siblings **Wilmer '71**, **Marv '72** and **Elaine De Jong '78**.

**Carol (Deelstra '71) Van Stelton**, 69, of Inwood, Iowa, died July 7. She taught in northwest Iowa for 10 years and later served as a sub. An accomplished pianist, she performed at her church, accompanied students and taught piano lessons. Among her survivors are her husband, Virgil, and two children.

**Dan Te Grotenhuis '72** of Greencastle, Ind., died July 11 at age 68. He earned a master's degree at Indiana State University after graduating from Northwestern. He served as a physical education teacher in the Indianapolis Public Schools and eventually became the Indiana Special Olympics program director. He later was the principal at Reelsville Elementary School and Tzouanakis Intermediate School, in addition to his various mentorship roles in other schools. A member of Greencastle Christian Church, he was an elder, Sunday school teacher and regular greeter. In 1998, he was honored by Northwestern College with the institution's Distinguished Service to Humankind Award. He is survived by his wife, Allyson; two children; his mother; and three siblings, including **Jane Van Gorp '77** and **Doug '83**.

**Jeff Johnson '86** of Worthington, Minn., died Aug. 31 at age 54 following an extended battle with cancer. He worked in the family business, Johnson Jewelry, for 32 years. An active member of Indian Lake Baptist Church, he played in the city band and served on the boards of Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce, Worthington Area YMCA and United Way of Nobles County. Among his survivors are his wife, **Sharon (Olson '90)**; three sons; his mother; and a sister.

**Martha (Marty) Van Dusen '91** of West Seattle, Wash., died March 19 at age 49 following an automobile accident. For a number of years, she served as a docent in restored homes and museums in Illinois and Pennsylvania. After moving to Washington state, she worked as a child care specialist and administrator in daycare and preschool centers. She was also involved in curriculum development for preschool children. Survivors include her mother and a brother.

**Jason Mouw '96**, age 44, died Aug. 25 in Anchorage, Alaska. He earned a master's degree at Alaska Pacific University and a doctorate in forestry at the University of Montana and worked as a wildlife biologist for Alaska Fish and Game. He was an active member of ChangePoint Church. He is survived by his wife, Heather, and two sons.



**The Rev. Dr. Ray Weiss**, NWC professor emeritus of religion, died June 23 at the age of 90. He served in the Army during the Korean War and graduated from Central College and

Western Theological Seminary. He was a Reformed Church in America missionary in the Middle East from 1957 to 1958 and 1960 to 1970. He served Northwestern from 1970 to 1998 as chaplain, dean of students, religion professor and faculty representative to the Board of Trustees. In 1999–2000, Dr. Weiss was interim vice president for academic affairs. He received Western Theological Seminary's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2010. Among his survivors are his wife, Dorothy, and three children, **Catherine Bell '78**, **David '92** and **Timothy '97**.



**Jack DeWitt** of Holland, Mich., who with his wife, Mary, was the greatest benefactor in Northwestern's history, died June 22, at the age of 75 after a battle with brain cancer.

The DeWitts have given more than \$10 million to the college. Buildings named in honor of them include the Jack and Mary DeWitt Dining Center, dedicated in 1993; the Jack and Mary DeWitt Learning Commons, dedicated in 2013; and the Jack

and Mary DeWitt Family Science Center, dedicated this September. The DeWitts' \$6 million naming gift for the new science building is the largest single gift in school history.

"The impact that Jack, Mary and their family have had on Northwestern is tangible and immense," says President Greg Christy. "Jack and Mary have given generously, promoted us enthusiastically and provided endless encouragement. We are tremendously grateful for their commitment to Jesus Christ and their leadership and sacrifice."

Jack DeWitt served on the Board of Trustees from 1987 to 1995 and again from 1998 to 2003. His involvement with NWC was inspired by his parents, Marv and Jerene, who donated more than \$7 million to the college. Marv DeWitt got involved with Northwestern in 1978 at the encouragement of his Reformed church pastor and served on the Board of Trustees for nine years.

Marv DeWitt and his brother, Bill, began raising turkeys in 1938 on their parents' farm north of Zeeland, Mich. Starting with just 17 turkeys, Bil-Mar Foods grew to become one of the nation's largest turkey processors before it was purchased by the Sara Lee Corporation in 1988.

Jack DeWitt served in a variety of roles at BilMar and purchased its prepared-entrees division from Sara Lee with a group of investors. Request Foods was launched in Holland, Mich., in 1990 and has been a leader in the frozen food industry, producing nearly 400 different products for many of the world's leading food companies, retailers and restaurants. As president, Jack DeWitt led Request Foods from 180 team members with \$20 million in sales to more than 900 team members and sales exceeding \$350 million.

Among his survivors are his wife, five children, 18 grandchildren and six siblings.

**LET US KNOW:** Email your news for the next *Classic* by Feb. 28 to [classic@nwc-iowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwc-iowa.edu).

# Classic Thoughts

## Remember the Alamo

BY ABBEY SLATTERY '18



Now that I've been a Northwestern graduate for seven months, it's amazing how much of my life I have figured out. Everything I've accomplished thus far in this new "adult" chapter—like finding a job, buying a house and making tons of new friends—has been super simple. A lot of people ask me: "How do you do it all?" And I answer: barely!

My first job out of college (if you don't count marriage—am I right?) was an unpaid internship for a food truck. Well, unpaid if you don't consider free trays of dumplings a payment. My second job was as a runner at a movie theater chain called the Alamo Drafthouse, where I was fortunately paid in dollars and not dumplings.

As a runner, my job consisted of placing food and drink orders onto giant, sticky trays, carrying those trays on one hand into the theater, and then handing out the orders to the corresponding seat numbers. Job benefits included developing minor arm muscles (there's probably a name for those, but I don't know it) and getting really good at memorizing short number combinations.

I spilled full drink trays two times (drenching myself in soda and breaking glass in the process) and full food trays another two times (which resulted in me scrubbing ranch dressing out of the hallway carpet). I was not fired for either of these workplace accidents, but I was severely and rightfully made fun of. It was easy work mentally but physically exhausting and, above all, very sweaty.

Even though I had a job, I was reluctant to talk about it with people from college because I felt like it wasn't good enough.

I had been applying for jobs in Raleigh since the March before graduation. I cannot tell you how many files on my laptop are saved as "[insert company name] cover letter." Dozens. And I haven't deleted a single one yet.

I thought finding a job in my field would be easy, and then I could climb through the ranks until I eventually got my dream job. In reality, I sent in applications, talked with potential employers on the phone, went in for several interviews around the area, and did the whole song and dance so many times it felt like the longest musical production known to man.

And every time, a few weeks would pass and I would get the same email: We're so happy you applied with our company. We decided to go with a different candidate. Good luck getting professional experience because no one will hire you unless you have professional experience.

I worked at the Alamo for five months before I got my current job as a content creator for a marketing company. Now I get to write every day, and it's awesome. But back at the Alamo, when I was working until 1 a.m. and delivering food during the *A Star is Born* trailer for the 20th time, it felt less than awesome. In the end, I grew to enjoy working at the Alamo, and I miss a lot of the friends I made there. But I also have a deep-seated grudge against Bradley Cooper that I don't think will ever go away.

For me, a big part of my post-college life has been dealing with the unknown. Often I felt discouraged or inadequate, especially when I couldn't seem to stand out to potential employers. I wish I'd felt more comfortable with knowing I didn't have to have everything figured out, and the world wouldn't end if I worked at a movie theater instead of a marketing firm—especially if I enjoyed the work I was doing. Life should be less about what you achieve and more about appreciating what you have.

Of course, not all of the parts of growing up are big revelations and journeys in self-discovery. For example, I've found that making friends in a new city is super hard to do, and having to clean my own house has led me to look into the price of cleaning services on several occasions.

Life after graduation is tricky and rewarding and tiring—and both so different from what I thought it would be and so predictable. The best tip I have to offer? Buy yourself a reliable vacuum.

**Honors Scholar English major Abbey Slattery writes for Dakno Marketing and has survived two major hurricanes since graduating from Northwestern. She lives in Raleigh, N.C., with her husband, Joseph Tolsma '17, a genetics graduate student at North Carolina State University.**





# Spread Red

**B**ecause of the experiences Dawn (Te Brink '80) and her husband, Kim Wieking '80, had at Northwestern—along with those of three of their sons—she believes in the mission of NWC. “Northwestern offers a strong education with a Christ-centered focus,” she says.

An English teacher at Sioux Falls Christian High School, Dawn helps students prepare for their ACTs and talks with them about college plans.

“She told me Northwestern is a great place filled with amazing people who care deeply about each individual,” says Emily Strasser '22. “She was so confident Northwestern would help my faith grow tremendously.” Emily and fellow SFC graduates Micah Rens (left) and Justus Adams were among eight students Dawn referred through the Northwestern Network.

Emily says Dawn’s testimonial was spot-on. “I’ve found some great friends I can’t imagine living without now. I’ve made so many great memories with them!”

Know high school students who desire to develop a strong mind and a strong faith? Tell them about Northwestern and share their names with us at [nwc Iowa.edu/refer](https://nwc Iowa.edu/refer).

And help spread red by becoming a member of the Northwestern Network: [nwc Iowa.edu/NWnetwork](https://nwc Iowa.edu/NWnetwork).



# Science & Faith



Northwestern's long-awaited new science center made its debut in September during Homecoming. More than 400 people attended the dedication of the building named for the couple who gave a \$6 million lead gift for the facility, the largest single

donation in the college's history.

The Jack and Mary DeWitt Family Science Center puts science on display, thanks to ample windows to the outdoors and into classrooms and laboratories. Housing the departments of biology, chemistry and nursing,

the facility dramatically increases the number, size and flexibility of labs—and provides space where faculty and students can stage long-running experiments. It stands as a testament to Northwestern's belief that, together, God's word and God's world reveal

God to us.

Look for more photos and details of the DeWitt Family Science Center in the summer issue of the *Classic*.

*the* **Classic**