

Raiders
Stand Out

WINTER 2019-20

Northwestern College Magazine *the* **Classic**



**Raiders
Stand Out**

Ten alumni who are leading lives
of significance

Also

National Teaching Award Winner
Bultman Center Turns 25
Student Stickers

A female volleyball player is captured in a moment of intense celebration on a wooden court. She is wearing a red long-sleeved jersey with black accents on the back, black shorts, white knee pads, black socks with a logo, and white and red athletic shoes. Her mouth is wide open in a shout, and her fists are clenched. The background is filled with a blurred crowd of spectators, many wearing red, suggesting a home game at the Bultman Center.

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For 25 years, Northwestern athletes have been making Raider Magic in the Bultman Center—and fans have been loving it.

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Editor

Duane Beeson
712-707-7116
beeson@nwcsiowa.edu

Staff Writers

Duane Beeson
Anita Cirulis
Tamara Fynaardt
Amanda Kundert
Juliana Pennings '12

Designers

Roy Trevino
John Vander Stelt '83

Web Editor

Meagan (Wells '03) Wallinga

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@nwcsiowa.edu.

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

On the Cover:

Alyssa Currier '14 is one of many Raiders standing out as difference makers around the world. She is assistant special counsel for the Human Trafficking Institute in Kampala, Uganda.

PHOTO BY QUINN NEELY

Online-Only Option

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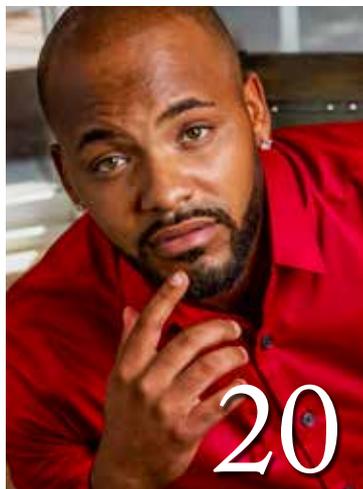


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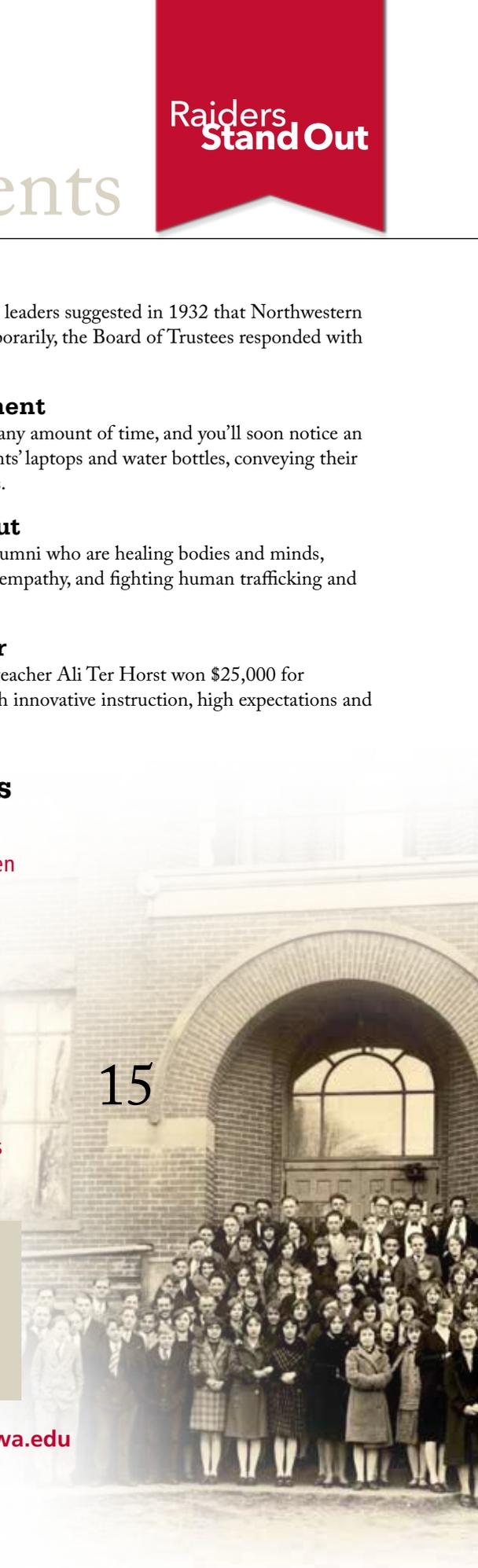


On the Web

Your Turn

Share your favorite Bultman Center moments, as well as comments about any article in this issue.

visit classic.nwcsiowa.edu



Zwemer View



LEW MAURER

Standout Courage and Faithfulness

Having just completed my 12th year as Northwestern's president, I have been reflecting on the thousands of amazing alumni I have gotten to know. One of the joys of serving in this role is the opportunity to meet so many incredible people who are difference makers in big and small ways.

With our vision of becoming the leading Christian college focused on student success and Christ-centered work for the common good, Northwestern is truly different from other colleges and universities. In this issue, you'll read about several alumni who are not only living differently but also making a difference as a result of their Northwestern education.

At Northwestern we believe excellence honors God and serves others. This is what I have witnessed in the lives of countless alumni, including those you'll read about later in this issue, and a few I'd like to mention below.

I have had the privilege of watching Greta Hays '11 grow from a standout student in public relations and theatre to now serving the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities as director of communications and public affairs.

In my first weeks on campus, I met the Rev. J.P. Sundararajan '00, who grew up in India and worked with Audio Scripture Ministries to enable people to hear the word of God in their native languages. He is now director of global missions for the Reformed Church in America.

Dr. Jono Taves '13 attended physical therapy school at the Mayo Clinic, and his wife, Janet (Pitsenberger '14), worked as a nurse there before they moved to Colorado Springs. Now Jono owns a physical therapy practice, Novera Headache Center, and Janet serves as a nurse at Centura.

And Marty Guthmiller '82, who has served more than 25 years as the CEO of the Orange City Area Health System, has also found time to serve eight years on Northwestern's Board of Trustees, including five as board chair. In 2012 he was inducted into the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame in recognition of all he has done for the Orange City community.

What do these alumni have in common? They stand out as people who are Christ followers—as excellent professionals who care deeply about others and lead lives of significance.

Our mission is to engage students in courageous and faithful learning and living that empowers them to follow Christ and pursue God's redeeming work in the world. The world we live in is desperate for courageous and faithful leaders and servants. These alumni—and numerous more like them—stand out in this way. As a result, Northwestern College stands out.

And ultimately, Christ stands out as alumni achievements reflect Northwestern's motto: Deus est lux (God is light). May God's light continue to shine brightly through our faculty, staff, students and alumni.



Greg Christy
President

 @NWC_PGC

around the Green

Award-Winning Giving

The generosity of Northwestern's donors led to the college receiving a 2019 Educational Fundraising Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

Northwestern was one of five private liberal arts institutions with endowments below \$100 million recognized for overall performance. That recognition is given to schools that show solid program growth, breadth in the base of support, and other indications of a mature and well-maintained fundraising effort. The award is based on three years of fundraising data provided through a CASE survey. Only 10% of the 1,000 higher education institutions participating in the survey were recognized.

Between the 2015–16 and 2017–18 fiscal years, Northwestern raised more than \$24.1 million and saw a 62.8% increase in yearly giving. During that time, NWC was raising money for the Discover Campaign, which funded the DeWitt Family Science Center completed last year, along with science scholarships, student research fellowships and a building endowment. A total of \$30.7 million in gifts and pledges were committed to the campaign.

“We obviously had a tremendous response to the campaign,” says Jay Wielenga '82, vice president for advancement, “but we’ve also seen an increase in annual giving and donations to missions and the booster clubs for athletics, music and theatre. Our gifts come from a broad base of donors who contribute to the projects they’re most passionate about. Clearly donors have shown that they like what they’ve seen from Northwestern.”

The CASE announcement noted that the awards recognize institutions that raise more than their institutional budgets, enrollment and fundraising staff size might predict. “Northwestern’s cost to raise a dollar is below the industry standard, which is important to us because we are committed to being good stewards,” says Wielenga. “We try to work smart, be efficient and improve at making the case for supporting Northwestern.”

Senior Dylan Costello meets a donor during Northwestern's Scholarship Luncheon. The generosity of alumni and friends over the last three years led to Northwestern receiving a national fundraising award.



in Box

Kudos

You and your team are good at what you do. Every time I receive the *Classic*, I know it will be filled with quality articles, incredible photography and heart. Thank you for your commitment to excellence and producing a product that reflects Northwestern's commitment to quality. Good stuff!

Glenn Van Ekeren '74
Elkhorn, Nebraska

WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

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



LENI MAURER

Returning to Serve

Kent Wiersema '94 has fond memories of his time at Northwestern—singing in the choir, building a great sense of community with students and faculty, and receiving strong preparation for his business career. In January, he'll return to campus as vice president for finance and operations, with a goal of helping to provide a similar standout experience for future generations.

The corporate controller at Genesis Health System in Davenport, Iowa, Wiersema will start his new position Jan. 20. He will replace Doug Beukelman, who is retiring after 18 years.

Wiersema will be responsible for all college financial matters, including budgeting and forecasting, endowment management, financial reporting, and risk management. Serving on the president's cabinet and staffing



Kent Wiersema

the finance committee of the Board of Trustees, he will also oversee the business office, facilities management and maintenance, human resources, mailroom and printing offices, and bookstore.

A CPA with more than 25 years of finance experience, Wiersema

has been employed by Genesis Health System for the last 13 years, serving in his current position since 2009. He previously worked as a manager/supervisor at McGladrey and Pullen in Davenport, Iowa, and as a team leader and accountant for Nelnet in Aurora, Colorado.

"I am very excited to have Kent join our leadership team," says President Greg Christy. "He is a devoted follower of Jesus Christ and highly relational leader who has a demonstrated record of excellence and 25 years of increasing financial and leadership responsibilities. We are fortunate to attract such a standout person and professional to serve in this role."

Wiersema has been a leader at North Ridge Community Church in Eldridge, Iowa, serving as treasurer, executive team member, deacon, building campaign team

member and musician. His wife, Amy (Vande Wall '93), serves as children's ministries director at the church.

"Northwestern has such a place in my heart and my wife's heart," says Wiersema. "We love its mission and benefited so much from our Northwestern education. Northwestern developed our skills but also prepared us for life—to be leaders in our church and community and to be faithful spouses and parents. I look forward to doing what I can to continue to move that mission forward at Northwestern College."

Among Wiersema's goals as he begins his new role are to build relationships on campus and in the community, to learn how things are done at Northwestern, and to make immediate contributions to the college's key strategic priorities.

HR MVPs

Northwestern's human resources staff received recognition last summer when the college was named a best-in-class employer by Gallagher, the college's benefits consultant. The honor was based on an in-depth benchmarking analysis of more than 1,600 organizations and given to Northwestern for scoring in the top 10% in controlling health care costs and managing human resources.

"This award recognizes that our HR department does a good job for our employees—advocating for them and representing them well with the benefits they offer and policies they adopt—while certainly serving the college well too," says Doug Beukelman, retiring vice president for financial affairs. "The depth of experience our HR staff possesses shows through in their knowledge level and understanding of benefits packages

and practices of employment as they deal with employees. That experience is a real advantage, both for the college and employees."

The criteria used to review the employers in the Gallagher analysis included aligning people management with organizational philosophy and operational priorities, investing in employee growth and well-being to boost job performance and engagement, and recognizing the role of strategic health care management in engaging and retaining high-value employees.

Survey data identified best practices that have enabled organizations to minimize turnover and unlock cost efficiencies, creating opportunities to invest in salaries and benefits.



LEM MAURER

PA Program Gets Green Light

Professors for Northwestern's master's degree program in physician assistant studies—(from left) Sandra (Hurlburt '92) Muyskens, Dr. Christina Hanson, Jill Van Otterloo and Lori Anderson—are preparing for the first class, which starts in May.

In November, Northwestern's master's degree program in physician assistant studies received the green light college officials had been waiting for: accreditation-provisional, which is the initial accreditation status for new programs.

Program Director Dr. Christina Hanson and Medical Director Dr. Alan Laird '82 had reason to expect accreditation success after a May 2019 site visit with “no observations”—or areas requiring improvement—from the reviewers, which is rare. “Still,” says Hanson, “it’s exciting to have the official go-ahead.”

Preparations for the on-site

graduate program have been underway since before the May visit. PA faculty and staff are hired, and construction crews are renovating Van Peursem Hall classrooms and labs that were vacated when the biology and chemistry undergraduate programs moved into the DeWitt Family Science Center. The redesigned spaces will accommodate equipment for teaching physician assistant students, such as treatment tables, virtual cadaver tables and gross anatomy dissection tables.

Northwestern's PA program will enroll up to 32 students each year. Although the first cohort is not yet finalized, Hanson and her team

spent the fall months reviewing more than 80 applications and invited more than 50 applicants to interview.

“Selection of students for the first cohort is particularly important, as their results when they take the board exam will set Northwestern's first-time pass rate,” explains Hanson. “That metric will be crucial for continuing accreditation.”

Now that the program has achieved accreditation, Hanson expects the number of applications to be similar to what she experienced at her former institution, which routinely received around 20 times more applications than open seats in the program.

Schools for Syria

“Kids shouldn't suffer because the adults are fighting.”

That's the premise behind the Amar Project. Named for a teacher killed by an ISIS landmine, the project is rebuilding Syrian schools destroyed by that country's civil war.

The project is an initiative of Partners Relief & Development. After a Partners staffer shared about the Amar Project in chapel, Northwestern's Justice and Service campus ministry team got involved, mobilizing students, staff and supporters and raising \$31,000 to rebuild two schools.



Justice and Service campus ministry team members raised awareness for their Amar Project with T-shirts and laptop stickers that say “To love is to act” in Arabic.

Campus Life

Dressement

Like most 18- to 22-year-olds, Northwestern students tend to be high on just causes and low on funds. So they find other ways to show their support—like observing Dressement.

Dressement started in 2009 when fashion blogger Blythe Hill decided to wear a dress every day in December to raise awareness of sexual exploitation and trafficking. Her fashionable advocacy worked: In 2013, International Justice Mission (IJM) partnered with Hill, and Dressement became an international movement that raises both awareness and funds for victims of modern-day slavery.

Northwestern students started participating in Dressement around the same time as IJM. In 2016, Betsy Bolt '19, Jessica Howe '18, Bethany Los '18, Jen Te Grotenhuis '18 and Naomi (Sandquist '17) Teutschmann took the campus' advocacy efforts to Instagram, challenging their classmates to wear dresses and ties every day of December and then post photos and share their reasons for dressing up.

Throughout Dressement, as dressed-up students show up in class, in the caf' and around campus, they get asked why they're dressed differently than the typical college student. The questions give them a chance to share stats—like how more than 40 million people are enslaved by human trafficking around the world. And they share stories—like Cassie's, from the Dressement.org blog, who wrote about surviving cybersex trafficking that started when she was 12.

Sarah Pemberton '17, who now works as a Northwestern admissions counselor, wrote in her Instagram post: "I will willingly freeze my butt off for a month because I have the luxury of being able to do so. There are many people out there who do not get to decide what to wear or the kind of life they get to live. But I do. This is for those without a choice ... and without a voice."

 @nwcdressement



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Emelie Swonger '19 participated in past Dressements by posting photos and thoughts @nwcdressement.

Podcast for Educators

Tune in to Transforming Education: Leadership Lessons, NWC's first podcast, hosted by Gary Richardson, instructor and interim director of the college's Master of Education program.

Richardson's guests have included Education in Iowa's executive director and a former player and chaplain of the Green Bay Packers. Discussion centers on topics of interests to educators, such as achieving grand goals with limited time and dealing with mental health issues in schools.

The podcast is available on Apple, Google and Spotify apps, or at nwciowa.edu/podcasts.



LENN MAUBER

Former superintendent and M.Ed. program director Gary Richardson hosts Northwestern's first podcast, on educational leadership.

Extra! Extra!

Northwestern student newspapers dating back to 1923 are now available for reading online. A grant from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs funded the initiative to digitally archive the publications.

Monitor (1923–1925) and *Beacon* (1928–present) collections are available at nwciowa.edu/newspapers.

Enrollment Sets Record

Northwestern has recorded the largest enrollment in school history, with 1,414 students enrolled in fall 2019, up 107 from last year. The school's previous record was 1,342, set in 2006.

Northwestern's fall enrollment included the largest freshman class since 2014. Mark Bloemendaal '81, vice president for enrollment and marketing, says many factors contributed to this increase. "Among them are the standout programs we offer and the amazing achievements of our graduates, the new DeWitt Family Science Center, our

integration of faith and learning that distinguishes Northwestern from so many other colleges, and the sense of belonging students feel on campus."

The enrollment figure included a record number of graduate students. The college's online Master of Education program, begun in 2015, grew to an enrollment of 352 by September, even as Northwestern officials were preparing to launch on-site master's degree programs in athletic training and physician assistant studies in May 2020.

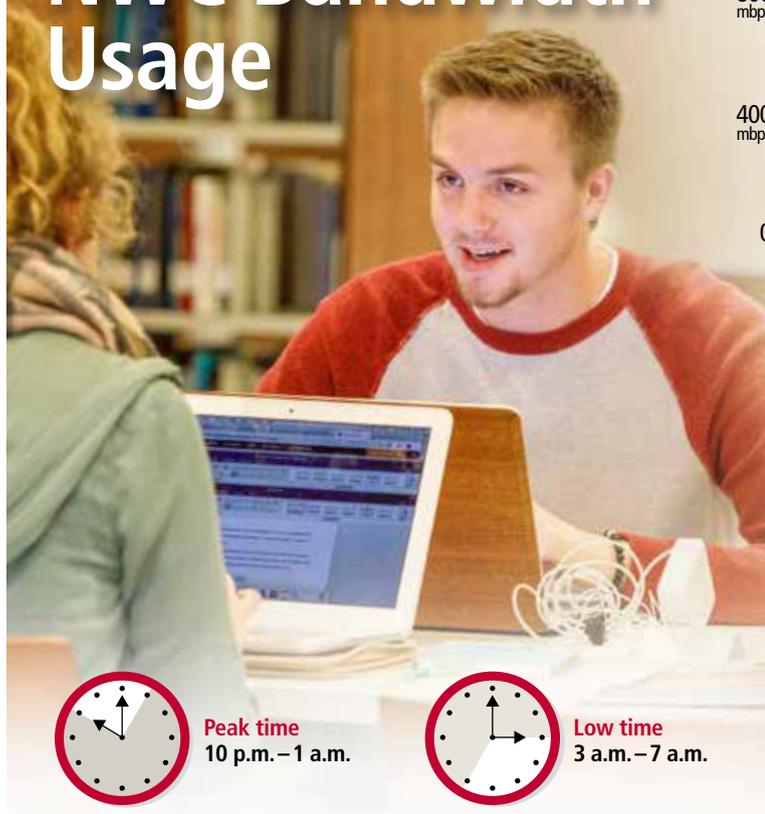
"The graduate school, under the

leadership of Dr. Rebecca Hoey, has developed strong and affordable programs that are in demand and getting great reviews from students and graduates," says Bloemendaal. "We are pleased that this is another way Northwestern is helping to prepare people from around the world to better lead lives of significance."

Eda Celina Corrales Hernandez greets faculty following the school year's Opening Convocation.



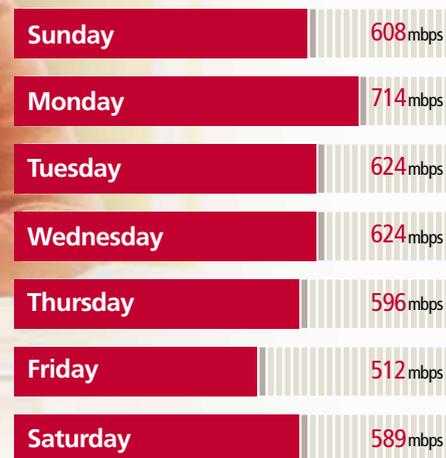
NWC Bandwidth Usage



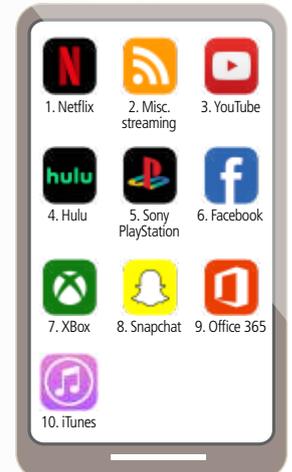
Average monthly usage



Average daily usage



Top 10 apps



Peak time
10 p.m. – 1 a.m.



Low time
3 a.m. – 7 a.m.

Leaving NWC Financially Strong

After 18 years of stewarding Northwestern's financial and capital resources, Vice President for Financial Affairs Doug Beukelman is retiring from his college role in January.

Beukelman and his staff have ensured the college's financial strength during a time when college and university bottom lines have been affected by economic fluctuation and student/parent demands for career returns on investment. On the Financial Indicators Tool (FIT), which measures colleges' and universities' financial fitness, Northwestern consistently scores far above national and Midwest medians based on measures such as endowment assets per student, comprehensive debt per student and operating reserve ratio.

Beukelman also played a key role in capital projects that have won architectural and conservation



Vice President for Financial Affairs Doug Beukelman is retiring after 18 years of overseeing Northwestern's capital projects and finances.

awards, in addition to improving campus facilities, aesthetics and the college's reputation for standout programs. "Doug has played a key role in so many efforts it's hard to quantify his impact," says President Greg Christy. "His sound judgment and steady leadership will be greatly missed."

After January, Beukelman

intends to seek out volunteer or consulting opportunities that will enable him to use his accounting and financial expertise. He also plans to stay connected to Northwestern, attending Raider games and making sure his grandkids consider attending "Papa's college" after they graduate from high school.

CAPITAL PROJECTS COMPLETED DURING BEUKELMAN'S TENURE

- Thea G. Korver Visual Arts Center (2003)
- Bolks Apartments B and C (2003)
- DeWitt Theatre Arts Center (2004)
- De Valois Stadium bleachers, press box (2006)
- Rowenhorst Student Center renovations (2007, 2011, 2013, 2014)
- North Suites (2011)
- Soccer stadium (2011)
- DeWitt Cafeteria remodel (2012)
- Jack & Mary DeWitt Learning Commons (2013)
- Ramaker Center remodel (2014)
- Juffer Athletic Fieldhouse (2015)
- De Valois Stadium re-turf (2016)
- DeWitt Family Science Center (2018)

Science Center Plaza

Professors will soon have a new location for outdoor classes—and the college will have a new space for events, including a gathering place for graduates and their families following commencement.

Work began this past fall on a 12,000-square-foot plaza just east of the DeWitt Family Science Center and will be completed in the spring. The multipurpose space was part of plans and funding for the science center. Construction was originally intended for last spring but was delayed by wet weather.

The plaza consists of a patchwork of cement pavers and grass interspersed with trees, raised planter boxes and flagstone seating walls. Dr. Laurie Furlong, professor of biology, helped choose plants that students can study as part of their classes.



Face Value

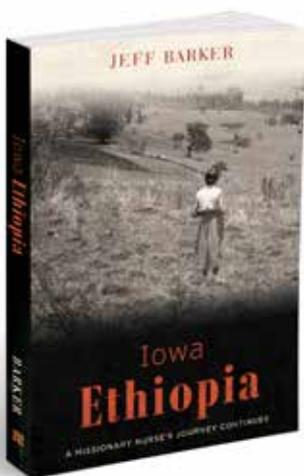
The Story Continues

Journal-keeper Arlene Schuiteman, a 95-year-old former missionary nurse, and storyteller Jeff Barker, Northwestern theatre professor, have collaborated again to produce the second volume in a series about Schuiteman's life: *Iowa Ethiopia*.

Starting where *Sioux Center Sudan* ended, the sequel follows Schuiteman from 1966 to 1977 as she helped open a "dresser school" in the city of Mettu, teaching wound care and other medical skills to Ethiopian health care workers.

During those years, Schuiteman also witnessed a spiritual revival that swept through Ethiopia—a revival that touched her personally and resulted in surprising gifts of the Holy Spirit in her own life.

Iowa Ethiopia is available on bookseller websites such as Amazon.com and Christianbook.com, as well as on the publisher's website, Hendrickson.com.



Northwestern professor Jeff Barker recently published *Iowa Ethiopia*, his second book about an Iowa woman who spent more than 30 years as a missionary nurse in Africa.

Tom Truesdell

He's All Write

What led you to join Northwestern's staff?

After graduating from NWC with an English degree, I worked for a local publishing company before moving to Chicago to attend graduate school at DePaul University. I was working at the College of Lake County in Grayslake, Illinois, when a position in Northwestern's English department became available. The opportunity to return to my alma mater and be a part of a Christian liberal arts college as excellent as Northwestern was too good to pass up. Thirteen years later, I'm still here and grateful to be a part of this place.

Which students are most likely to use the PLC?

Last year, 733 students met with a peer tutor at least once. We had approximately 7,200 appointments totaling 6,500 hours of tutoring. Underclassmen and upperclassmen use the PLC, as do students of all academic abilities. In fact, I would say our best students use the PLC most often because they grasp the value of collaborative learning.

What's the advantage of students tutoring fellow students?

Tutors occupy a third space between faculty and students. They possess invaluable course and faculty knowledge—they understand the material well and know what respective faculty members expect. Simply stated, they know how to do well in the course. At the same time, they are peers who can connect with students in ways faculty can't.

How are you teaching students to navigate written and oral communication in a society that is increasingly dependent on social media?

I focus on audience awareness and feedback. If students know who they are writing for and intentionally seek feedback—they usually produce good stuff. Additionally, it's important for students to understand that language is always



DOUG BURG

Tom Truesdell '01 directs Northwestern's Peer Learning Center (PLC) and teaches in the English department. In addition to a love of reading and writing, he also possesses a passion for music. When he's not attending festivals or concerts, he plays lead guitar in Little Miss Sunshine, a band he formed with a few friends and fellow NWC alumni.

evolving. Many adults lament social media as a degradation of language, but complaints about how younger generations communicate have been around for centuries. Students today are writing more than ever before; it's just that their writing looks different than writing did 10 years ago.

What do you enjoy most about your position at NWC?

The students. I love the energy they bring to life and learning. Just when I think I have this teaching thing figured out, they remind me I have much to learn.

What sparked your interest in writing?

Reading. As a child, books and newspapers were always a part of our household. I followed my dad's example and read the *Des Moines Register* daily, and my mom continuously read me books until I could read on my own. These experiences showed me the power of the written word in informing, entertaining and moving others.

Forever a Raider

“I can’t come up with a statement that adequately expresses the impact Earl has had on Northwestern,” says Dr. Paul Bartlett, professor of kinesiology. “It’s that significant.”

A Northwestern employee for 36 years, Dr. Earl Woudstra ’78 retired from the college in November after serving as a tennis and basketball coach, kinesiology professor, and most recently, director of athletics (AD).

Woudstra received many accolades during his time at Northwestern, all of which lauded his leadership abilities.

“Northwestern is better because of Earl’s servant leadership,” says President Greg Christy.

The head women’s basketball coach for 17 years, Woudstra led the Raiders to four national championships and was named the NAIA Div. II Coach of the Year following each national title. He was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in 2012 and was named the 2017–18 Great Plains Athletic Conference Athletic Director of the Year.

“Earl is a competitor in the sense of moving toward being better,” says Bartlett. “He was effective as a coach and an administrator. And he got things done.”

As AD, Woudstra oversaw upgrades to many facilities and the construction of the Juffer Athletic Fieldhouse. In addition, men’s tennis, esports and the athletic band were added during his tenure.



Dr. Earl Woudstra served Northwestern for 36 years as a coach, kinesiology professor and director of athletics. He retired from the college in November and is now the city administrator for Orange City.

LEW MAURER

While there are moments from his career that he will never forget, it’s the impact of Northwestern as a whole that Woudstra—who says he’ll always be a Raider—cherishes.

“So much of my family’s life has been positively impacted by Northwestern,” he explains. “But the opportunity to be a part of a place that’s committed to the Christian mission is what really stands out.”

Excellence Affirmed

Northwestern is ranked sixth among 70 Midwestern regional colleges in *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2020 Best Colleges guidebook. Northwestern is also one of 31 Best Value Schools.

“We are always pleased when Northwestern’s standout education is affirmed by rankings and our peer institutions,” says President Greg Christy. “This ranking joins strong rankings from organizations like *Money* magazine, *Forbes* and

College Consensus, which rated us as the nation’s fourth-best Christian college.”

Christy says the rankings—as well as achievements like Northwestern’s second-in-the-nation CPA exam pass rate and outstanding MCAT scores—add external validation to the praises the college consistently hears from alumni and students about the strength of the Northwestern experience.

Raider Nation Celebration

Warm, sunny weather and numerous activities led to large crowds for Raider Nation Celebration, Northwestern’s Homecoming and Parents Weekend, Sept. 27 and 28.

The Raiders earned two volleyball victories and wins for the football and men’s and women’s soccer teams. Meanwhile, the Legacy Celebration Banquet, Morning on the Green carnival, class and affinity reunions, music and theatre productions, and Red Raider Road Race were all successes as well.

Mark your calendar for next year’s event, Sept. 18–19.

Celebration was one of the key themes during Northwestern’s Homecoming and Parents Weekend in September.



DAN ROSS



Students Neftali Ramirez and Isaac Munoz visit with Martha Draayer, Northwestern's new Hispanic community liaison.

Bridge Builder

Northwestern has hired Martha (Perez '09) Draayer as its first Hispanic community liaison.

Draayer is guiding Northwestern's bridge-building efforts with area Latinos via church, school, family and community relations.

She is also leading the college's efforts to further embrace and celebrate cultural and ethnic diversity. Serving part time this school year while she completes her responsibilities as a local bilingual special education teacher, Draayer will join

Northwestern full time in May.

Mark DeYounge '08, dean of Christian formation, says Draayer was the search committee's unanimous choice after a national search.

"Not only does she value education and know Northwestern, but she already was doing liaison work as a volunteer," he says.

Draayer, a Sioux Center resident, earned a master's degree in early childhood special education and taught in Northwestern's graduate program. She is a board member of CASA of Sioux County, a local nonprofit that serves the Hispanic community, and co-founder of PIECE, which provides adult English-language classes. She also speaks frequently to local churches and schools on

the topic of immigration.

Draayer's position is part of the campus ministry staff, an intentional decision made for two reasons. "In the Hispanic community," DeYounge says, "the family, church and pastor all play a role in influencing students who are considering higher education. Having this position be a ministry position will speak to local pastors." DeYounge says it also shows Draayer will be focused as much on community development as student recruitment.

Draayer agrees there's a natural connection between her new role and campus ministry.

"When I think about my work as Northwestern's Hispanic community liaison," she says, "it's really about spreading the gospel, building relationships, and communicating how diversity reflects God's kingdom."

Comfort Keeper

Burnt popcorn led to a wake-up call for Gary Jeltema more than a few times during his 30-year tenure in Northwestern's maintenance department. When the fire alarms sounded at Northwestern, Jeltema was notified—no matter the time of day or night.

Jeltema's oversight of the college's fire alarm and sprinkler systems wasn't his only area of expertise. As supervisor of mechanical services, Jeltema also maintained all electrical, heating and cooling systems, as well as the building controls of those systems.

"Gary was passionate about Northwestern and serving well," says Paul Kurtzleben, physical plant technician and electrician. "He wanted campus buildings

to be well-maintained and comfortable environments."

Initially hired to take care of boilers, Jeltema's responsibilities increased significantly as the campus changed.

"When I started working at Northwestern, we didn't have digital controls in any of the buildings," Jeltema recalls. "You didn't know what was going on in a building unless you were there."

Jeltema played an integral role in the installation of modern controls in campus buildings, and he was deeply involved in many building and renovation projects.

"Gary's knowledge of the systems, how they operate and the details about Northwestern's campus were invaluable to the maintenance team and the college

as a whole," says Doug Beukelman, who's retiring as the college's vice president for financial affairs.

Jeltema says he'll miss working with Northwestern students and watching them thrive. It's also difficult for him to bid farewell to "the maintenance family."

"But I won't miss the 3 a.m. wake-up calls," he says with a chuckle.

Gary Jeltema retired this past fall after serving in the college's maintenance department for 30 years. An experienced electrician, he maintained building controls and electrical, life safety, and heating and cooling systems.



Distinguished Alumni

Northwestern's 2019 alumni awards recognized a White House physician, a former FBI agent, an advocate for children, and a couple who have invested their time and resources in advancing Northwestern's mission. The five recipients were honored during Raider Nation Celebration Sept. 27–28.

Dave '77 and Anita (Plantage '77) Bomgaars

Service to Northwestern College

Dr. Dave and Anita Bomgaars have given generously of their time and resources to NWC. A veterinarian and CEO of RC Family Farms, Dave chaired the fundraising campaign for the Juffer Athletic Fieldhouse and served on the fundraising committee for the DeWitt Family Science Center. Anita, an Orange City volunteer and former real estate broker, serves on Northwestern's Board of Trustees, acting as the board's secretary and chairing its Enrollment and Marketing Committee.

Carolina Endert '60

Service to Humankind

Carolina Endert is retired from a social work career in which she advocated for the welfare of children. She served as the director of social services for two hospitals in Birmingham, Alabama, including the Children's Hospital and Clinics, and taught social work at University of Alabama campuses in Birmingham and Tuscaloosa. She also served on organizations dedicated to preventing child abuse and building stronger families.



Carolina Endert

JoAnna Jackson '02

Standout Young Alumni

A board-certified emergency medicine physician, Dr. JoAnna Jackson serves on the White House medical team. She is one of eight military doctors charged with providing worldwide emergency response and comprehensive medical care to the president, vice president and their families.

Jackson, an Air Force lieutenant colonel, was deployed as a member of a Tactical Critical Care Evacuation Team to Afghanistan and then served as a flight surgeon in Iraq. (Read more about Jackson on page 22.)

Jack Vander Stoep '90

Professional Achievement

An FBI special agent for 21 years, Jack Vander Stoep spent

seven months in a safe house interrogating a terrorist suspected of cooperating with Osama bin Laden. That suspect became the first successfully prosecuted terrorist in the U.S. after 9/11. Vander Stoep is now vice president of global security for NetJets, the leader of worldwide private aviation that specializes in selling part ownership or shares of business jets.



Northwestern's 2019 alumni of the year are, from left: Jack Vander Stoep '90, Anita (Plantage '77) and Dr. David Bomgaars '77, and Dr. JoAnna Jackson '02. Carolina Endert '60 was also honored in absentia.

LEM MAURER

Giving to Northwestern College in 2018–19

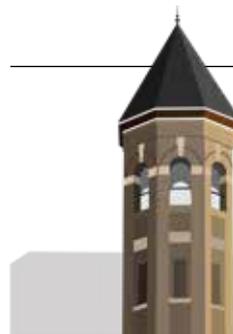


 **86** donors gave **\$1,000** or more for the first time

585 donors gave \$1,000 or more in any giving category



 **\$1,300** per student underwritten by unrestricted gifts



377 donors gave \$1,000 or more to the Northwestern Fund as members of the college's Tower Society

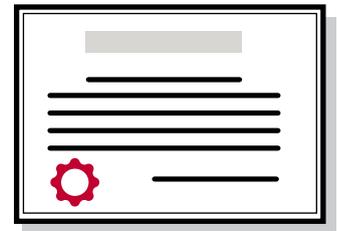


\$6.4 million in new and matured planned gifts

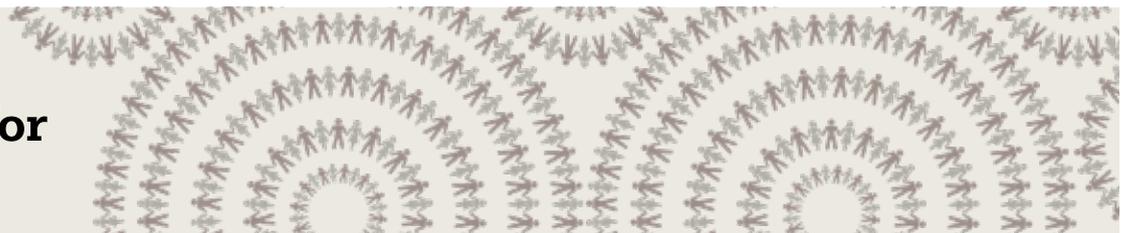


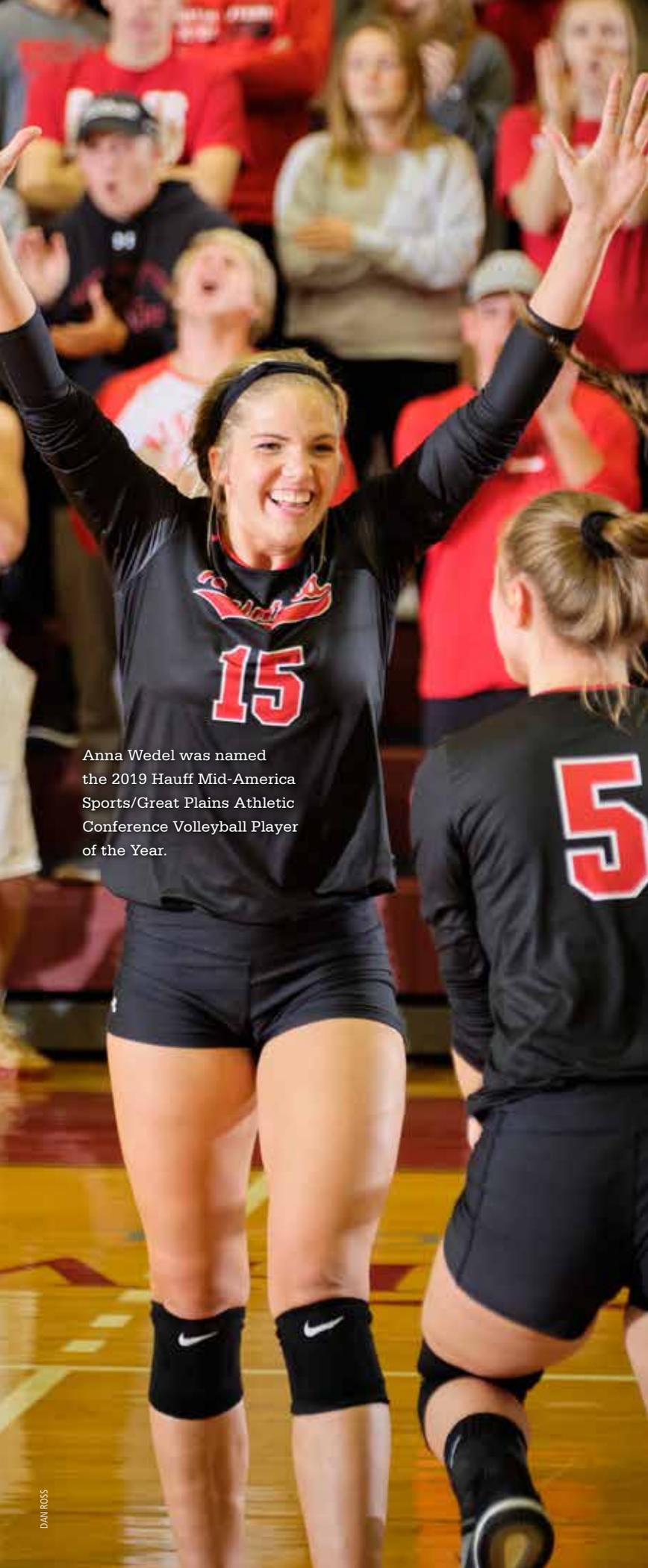
\$56.7 million value of Northwestern's endowment as of June 30, 2019

20 new scholarships established (16 endowed and 4 annually funded)



937 volunteers who advocate for Northwestern





Anna Wedel was named the 2019 Hauff Mid-America Sports/Great Plains Athletic Conference Volleyball Player of the Year.

Red Zone

Double Threat

BY DUANE BEESON

Anna (Kiel) Wedel was a prized volleyball recruit for Iowa State University in 2016. The *Des Moines Register's* Female High School Athlete of the Year, she was a three-year all-stater in volleyball and leader of two state championship basketball teams at Orange City's Unity Christian High School. In her first volleyball match playing for Iowa State, she recorded 10 kills and appeared headed for a strong career as a Cyclone.

There was just one problem: Iowa State didn't feel right.

"I wanted a smaller Christian school, and Northwestern was the right fit," she says. Wedel went through the transfer process, and by Dec. 30, 2016, was playing basketball with two high school teammates for the Red Raiders.

Three years later, she knows she made the right choice. She enjoys being able to play both volleyball and basketball for Northwestern. The psychology major and two-sport NAIA Scholar-Athlete points to academic and spiritual growth. And, she says, "The community here is incredible. I've loved the relationships I made."

The 6-0 All-American outside hitter has been named national player of the week three times. A redshirt junior, Wedel was second in the conference in kills per set and hitting percentage in 2019.

Meanwhile, Wedel has earned all-conference honors in basketball three years in a row, averaging double-digit scoring each season.

Her coaches describe the Northwestern student-athlete as a hard worker, highly competitive and very coachable. But there's more.

"She's very good at making personal relationships with each girl on the team," says volleyball coach Kyle Van Den Bosch. "She probably gives the most high-fives in practice and matches."

"She doesn't leave any doubt in anyone's mind that she cares about them," says women's basketball coach Chris Yaw '92, "and that sets the stage for leadership."

That leadership continues for one last season in basketball, with her final volleyball season next fall. She'll graduate in December 2020. Until then, Raider opponents, beware.



Anna Wedel

DAN ROSS

For more on Raider sports, visit nwcraiders.com



Closed Call

BY ANITA CIRULIS

In July 1932, trustees of Northwestern Junior College were first blindsided—and then incensed—by a letter from the Reformed Church in America’s Board of Education.

The board recommended the fledgling institution close temporarily, “for a year or two” or until the country and RCA emerged from the Great Depression and gifts to the Board of Education increased. The board also proposed that students of Northwestern Junior College be sent to another of the denomination’s colleges, Central College in Pella, Iowa.

“Central College has been approached by this board on this subject,” wrote education board secretary Willard Dayton Brown, “and through its president ... has agreed to take care of the students ... if this proposition be acceptable.”

It wasn’t. The Board of Trustees of Northwestern Junior College and Academy fired off a five-page, single-spaced reply that emphatically rejected the proposal. They were surprised, the letter said, that the Board of Education would entertain such an idea—“even more so that you should discuss such a matter as the closing of this institution with Central College before even communicating this idea to us.”

The trustees reminded the Board of Education that the denomination authorized the establishment of Northwestern Junior College at the RCA’s General Synod in 1928, formally adopted it in 1931, and voted it aid in 1932.

It was perhaps an appeal for that aid that led to the board’s drastic proposal. In his June 2, 1932, Report to the General Synod,

Faculty and administrators of Northwestern Junior College and Academy—including President Jacob Heemstra, third from right—pose with students in front of Zwemer Hall a few years before the RCA’s Board of Education proposed closing the school.

Northwestern President Jacob Heemstra pressed for the promised funding. A month earlier, Northwestern Classical Academy alumni had drafted a petition for more financial support, reminding the Synod that Sioux County residents had loyally given to denominational institutions Hope College and Western Theological Seminary, as well as raised \$80,000 from area churches for a Central College fundraising campaign.

Central was a particular focus of the Northwestern trustees’ ire. Comparing the two colleges, they noted Northwestern was better situated geographically to serve the RCA and that a larger percentage of its student body came from Reformed families. They reminded the board that, unlike Northwestern, Central didn’t begin as a Reformed college.

Closing the junior college, they wrote, would also mean closing Northwestern Classical Academy, which during its 50-year history had produced 118 ministers and 30 missionaries.

Faced with firm resistance, the Board of Education backed away from its proposal, and in March 1933, the junior college received a check for \$566.65. Though the academy eventually did close in 1961, the same year the junior college became a four-year institution, Northwestern College continues to produce standout graduates decades after its existence was threatened—all due to the refusal of those who loved her to abandon her cause.



Making a Statement

PHOTOS BY
LEM MAURER,
GEOFF JOHNSON
& FJ GAYLOR

Stroll through the DeWitt Learning Commons, Rowenhorst Student Center or nearly any campus classroom, and you'll soon notice an array of stickers on students' laptops and water bottles. In keeping with today's trends, the personality of Northwestern students often shines through vinyl cutouts. Some stickers depict their passions, hobbies and interests. Others serve as reminders of home or places they've traveled. And still others speak to students' affection for Raider Nation.



Big Times in the Bultman



Fans and Tyree Cox celebrate his pin in a 2015 victory over Briar Cliff.

DAN ROSS

10 of the Best Moments on the Raiders' Court



DAN ROSS

BY DUANE BEESON

For 25 years, Red Raider standouts have been making memories in the Bultman Center. From exhilarating team comebacks to record-setting individual performances, athletes and coaches have given NWC fans countless moments to celebrate. Here are some of the most memorable.

Rookie's Got Game

Dec. 13, 1997
NWC Men's Basketball 87, Dordt 83 (OT)

Early in the game, Ben Gerleman '01 air-balled a 3-pointer and the Dordt crowd started chanting, "He's a freshman! He's a freshman!" Gerleman proceeded to make his next four shots from beyond the arc, inspiring the Northwestern crowd to take up the chant. Fittingly, Gerleman hit another with :05 left to send the game into overtime. He finished with 22 points.

Multiple Threats

Feb. 23, 2001
NWC Men's Basketball 115, Sioux Falls 112 (2 OT)

In a GPAC semifinal-round game, the Raiders trailed 45-41 at the half. At the end of regulation, it was 91-91, and Gerleman had 36 points. Brandon Woudstra '03 hit 3-pointers to send the game into both overtimes. Brandon Jacobson '02 scored all the points in the second overtime to seal the victory.

Shooting Star

Feb. 13, 2006
Deb Remmerde-Leusink free-throw shooting exhibition on CBS' The Early Show

After having broken all known organized basketball free-throw streaks with 133, Deb Remmerde-Leusink '08 showed a national audience how she did it, connecting on 580 of 585 free throws in front of a crowd of Raider fans. She made 256 in a row.



As a disbelieving Dordt crowd looks on, Northwestern players and fans celebrate a 16-14 fifth-set win in 2013 after the Defenders won the first two sets.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



The "6th man" helps give the Red Raiders a significant home-court advantage.

DAN ROSS

Raider Magic

When the Raiders take the court in the Bultman Center, there's a strong chance they will be victorious.

Here's how they've done so far:

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Men's Basketball | 284-79 (78.2%) |
| Women's Basketball | 289-55 (84.0%) |
| Volleyball | 298-74 (80.1%) |
| Wrestling | 36-31 (53.7%)* |

*Wrestling dual records since 2005, due to incomplete data

Raining Threes

Feb. 19, 2011
NWC Women's Basketball 109, Sioux Falls 64

The Raiders played a nearly flawless first half, compiling a 67-24 lead. Northwestern made 11 of 14 first-half 3-pointers, with Becca (Hurley '11) Kramer going 6 for 7. Four other NWC players also made 3-point shots that half.

Floored

Nov. 6, 2013
NWC Volleyball 3, Dordt 2

Dordt won the first two sets, but Northwestern came back with resounding victories in the next two and won the final set, 16-14. With the score 12-12 in the fifth set, a kill by Brooke (Fessler '15) Vander Voort knocked a Defender to the floor. Kaitlin Floerchinger '15 recorded the final two kills.

Upperweight Takedown

Jan. 30, 2016
NWC Wrestling 20, Morningside 19

Many Raider alumni and fans were in the Bultman Center to celebrate the dedication of the Bartlett Wrestling Room. Northwestern hadn't beaten Morningside since Coach Rik Dahl '97 started in 2008. After Austin Boles '19 won at 125, the Raiders lost four matches. Needing some big wins, Northwestern won the final five matches, including Brandon Shuler '18 at 165, Zach Fishman '16 at 174, Luis Rivera-Santiago '17 at 184 and Tyree Cox '17 at 197. Nick Null '18 bumped up to heavyweight and recorded a 10-5 win to tie the dual at 19-19. The Raiders won by virtue of taking the most match victories.

Offense Beats Defenders

Dec. 6, 2017
NWC Men's Basketball 116, Dordt 111 (OT)

With 2:28 to go, the Defenders led 95-86. A furious comeback culminated in three free throws by Colton Kooima '18 with

:06 left to send it into overtime, 102-102. The Raiders made all five of their field goal attempts in the extra period. Nathan Wedel '18 poured in 46 points.

Killer Match

Oct. 16, 2019
NWC Volleyball 3, Dordt 2

The Raiders won the first two sets but lost the next two. The fourth set went 37-39, a new GPAC record. Northwestern regrouped and took the last set, 15-11. Anna (Kiel '20) Wedel set a single-match kill record with 32. 🏠

Honorable Mention

- Athletic Director and Head Men's Basketball Coach Todd Barry made the first shot ever taken in the Bultman Center—even before the gym's floor was laid. As construction workers watched, he settled for a sure-thing layup.
- During warmups before a women's basketball game about 10 years ago, a racquetball suddenly bounced onto the middle of the court. Months earlier, summer maintenance student employees had tossed it into the speaker system's bass cannon hanging from the ceiling. They'd spent more than an hour on the attempt before finally "scoring a bucket."
- Marcus Leloux '04 and Megan Gort '06 got engaged in the men's locker room on Jan. 24, 2004. Following his game, Marcus convinced her to come in and say hi to a friend. Instead, she found a bouquet of red roses and a message on the whiteboard: "Will you marry me?"

Nearly Perfect

Nov. 3, 2006
NWC Women's Basketball 97, Valley City State 65

In the season opener, Remmerde-Leusink hit 15 of 16 field goals, including 9 of 10 from 3-point territory. She scored 15 points in the first nine minutes and ended the game with 41 points.

Buzzer-Beater

Jan. 29, 2011
NWC Men's Basketball 85, Dordt 82

Dordt was up by 10 with 11:40 remaining. The Raiders came back to take the lead, but Defender All-American Cliff Warner hit a 3-pointer with :05 left to tie the score. After Coach Kris Korver '92 called a timeout, Jon Kramer '12 sank a 25-footer with Warner in his face as the buzzer sounded.

On the Web exclusive

Visit classic.nwciowa.edu to share your favorite Bultman Center moments.

Raiders Stand Out

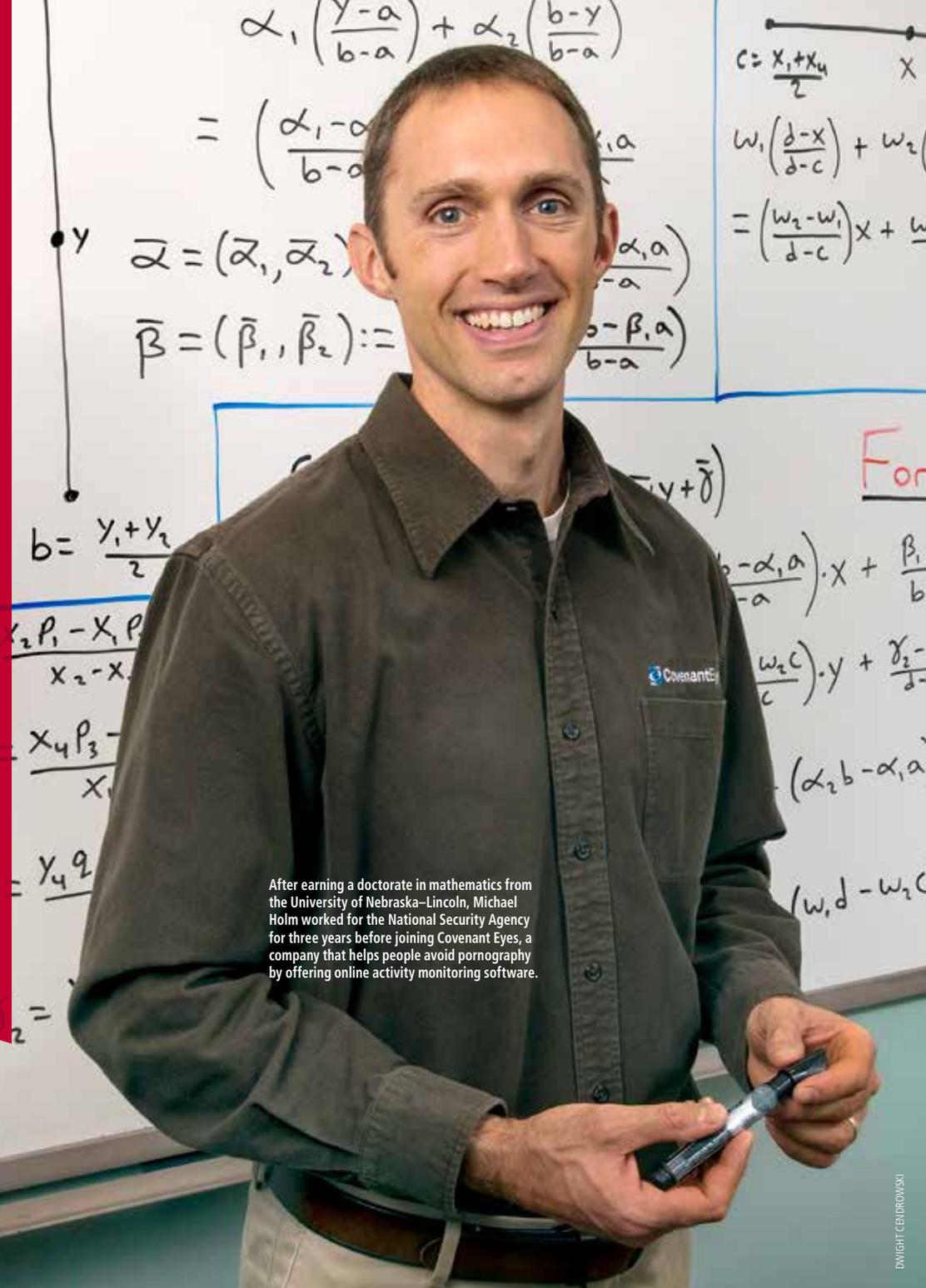
We're Raiders.
And Raiders stand out.

We're called to be different—
and to make a difference.
To matter—and succeed
in ways that matter.

Raiders lead. And serve.
We're smart. And strong.
Courageous. And faithful.
We achieve—not for ourselves
but because excellence
honors God and serves others.

We're equipped.
For our careers.
For God's call on our lives.
For success.
For significance.

Because we're Raiders.
And **#RaidersStandOut**.



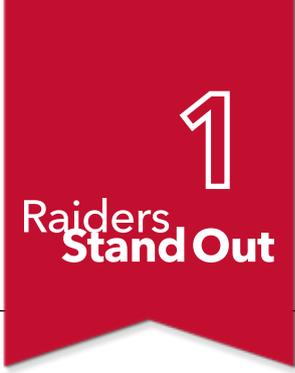
After earning a doctorate in mathematics from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Michael Holm worked for the National Security Agency for three years before joining Covenant Eyes, a company that helps people avoid pornography by offering online activity monitoring software.

DWIGHT CERDOWSKI

10

Difference Makers

Meet 10 alumni who are leading lives of significance. As they heal bodies and minds, spread the gospel and empathy, and fight human trafficking and pornography, they stand out.


 1
 Raiders
 Stand Out

XXX INTERCEPTOR

The chief data scientist for Covenant Eyes, Dr. Michael Holm single-handedly transformed the battle against pornography addiction

BY ANITA CIRULIS

He was the right person for the right job at the right time.

When Michael Holm '06 was hired by Covenant Eyes in 2014, neither he nor the company envisioned the impact he would make. Now, thanks to skills he learned at Northwestern and honed while earning a doctorate in mathematics, the internet is a safer place for those struggling with—or wanting to avoid—pornography.

“I joined the company with little vision of what I’d be doing,” Holm admits. “But in my interview, it was clear they valued what I could bring as a mathematician.”

Founded in 2000, Covenant Eyes was facing an existential crisis when it hired Holm as its chief data scientist. With the advent of widespread encryption, the rise of mobile apps, and the proliferation of different operating systems and devices, its text-based system for detecting pornography was becoming

less and less effective.

Holm worked briefly on improving the existing system but soon began investigating whether it might be possible for a software program to identify pornography via images rather than text. Within months of his start at Covenant Eyes, convolutional neural networks (CNN) provided a monumental breakthrough in a computer’s ability to recognize and classify images.

“CNNs are machine-learning algorithms, meaning they are designed as blank brains with incredible capacities to learn,” Holm says.

On a computer, every image is a three-dimensional matrix of numbers. A CNN scans those matrices and learns the mathematical patterns that distinguish one type of image from another.

In his first two years with Covenant Eyes, Holm designed a custom CNN algorithm and used more than 2 million images to

train the algorithm to identify the patterns contained in pornographic images. The impact was immediate and profound.

“Older image-based techniques were 75% accurate,” Holm recalls. “When I first implemented a CNN model on new high-end hardware I’d purchased, I was looking at 97% accuracy for the same problem. Over time, I was able to reach 99.8%.”

Having achieved success on Covenant Eyes’ internal equipment, Holm next adapted the software to run on user devices. “I spent over a year optimizing the model for size and speed, sacrificing as little accuracy as possible in the process.”

In March of 2019, Covenant Eyes released its Screen Accountability software to all 300,000 members. “The software sees the screen just as you see it,” Holm told *The Christian Post*. “It captures and analyzes the screen, then sends a report to the user’s ally.”

Holm’s algorithm work makes heavy use of linear algebra and calculus, both foundational skills built at Northwestern.

“Coming to NWC, I had a strong desire to be pushed,” he says, citing in particular the impact of Dr. Kim Jongerius, professor of mathematics. “She started evening sessions once a week focusing on challenge problems that might show up on national competition exams.”

Jongerius, likewise, has high praise for Holm. “Students like

him don’t come along all the time. It was clear early on that he would do fine in grad school because not only was he very good at math, but he also was willing to work really hard at it.”

Holm was eager to apply that work ethic to his role at Covenant Eyes. Statistics are sobering: \$13 billion is spent on pornography in the U.S. annually, and the estimated unique monthly visits to all porn sites outnumber visits to Netflix, Amazon and Twitter combined.

According to a 2014 U.S. survey conducted by the Barna Group, 64% of self-identified Christian men and 15% of self-identified Christian women view pornography at least once a month, while 21% of Christian men and 2% of Christian women say they think they might be addicted to porn or aren’t sure if they are. More disturbingly, more than 90% of boys and 60% of girls are exposed to pornography before the age of 18.

“God has a good design for sexuality that is deeply perverted in our culture,” Holm says. “Knowing that Covenant Eyes’ mission is close to God’s heart makes it close to my heart.”

Five years ago, the company’s vice president of technology assured Holm that God had brought him to Covenant Eyes for a reason. Seeing the results of God’s perfect timing now, Holm whole-heartedly agrees. 

Doctor in the (White) House

Lt. Col. JoAnna Jackson serves as an emergency physician on the White House medical team

BY DUANE BEESON

A Summer of Service experience in Ghana shaped the career trajectory of JoAnna Jackson '02. A biology-health professions and chemistry major, she wasn't sure what to do with her love of science until she volunteered with the Luke Society at a hospital in Kasei.

"It's definitely the reason I'm a physician," says Jackson. "God planted in my heart an amazing dream to do overseas missions, and it has affected the rest of my life."

After graduating from medical school in Kansas City on an Air Force scholarship and completing an emergency medicine residency in Chicago, Jackson worked as an ER physician at Langley Air Force Base. Her overseas medical work was as the first Air Force doctor on a Tactical Critical Care Evacuation Team, providing direct care to more than 50 seriously wounded soldiers in Afghanistan over seven months. She later trained as a flight surgeon and was assigned to Fort Bragg, from which she deployed to Iraq for three months.

Jackson's current military assignment is something else she couldn't have envisioned as a college student. Since September 2017, the lieutenant colonel has been stationed at the White House, one of eight military doctors charged with providing worldwide emergency response and comprehensive medical care to the president, vice president and their families. The team also provides emergency coverage for people touring

the White House and guests of the president.

As part of the White House Medical Unit, Jackson has traveled to 12 countries providing medical coverage for the president, vice president, first lady, second lady and President Obama. She says one of the highlights was standing just feet away from Presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush—as well as the Clintons, Obamas and Condoleezza Rice—at the funeral of Barbara Bush.

"This is a bigger dream than I ever had. I definitely never knew the plan God had for me; I just knew I was called to follow Christ," says Jackson, who was honored as Northwestern's first recipient of the Standout Young Alumni Award during Raider Nation Celebration in September. "The people I have met and work with are all truly amazing human beings."

Wearing a suit instead of a military uniform, Jackson typically experiences much more sedate days as a White House physician than she did when deployed overseas. But she and her colleagues need to be ready

to provide life-saving medical intervention at any moment, so they undergo frequent training.

Working in a clinic that overlooks the White House's south lawn, Jackson says she feels the weight of her position every day. "My prayer is to be a light and encouragement to the people I work with," she told students during a Northwestern chapel in 2018.

Jackson says the reason she's still in the military is her experience on

"This is a bigger dream than I ever had."

the Tactical Critical Care Evacuation Team (TCCET), which was developed because damage-control surgery started happening more frequently in forward locations during the war in Afghanistan. Patients were often on ventilators, requiring an ICU level of care during transport.

“I was in the right place at the right time and volunteered,” Jackson says about her involvement. “I was pretty fresh out of my ER residency, where I received amazing trauma education. I went through several military courses prior to deployment with regard to air transport and combat skills.

“Though it was difficult seeing our injured soldiers, the deployment was the most rewarding experience. I witnessed how all the branches work cohesively together for the mission, and I was able to make a difference in the lives of several seriously wounded service members.”

One of them was Donny Eslinger, a 19-year-old soldier who sustained

life-threatening injuries as the result of a mortar attack in 2011. He suffered a traumatic brain injury, a severe chest wound, punctured lungs, broken ribs, a broken leg and kidney damage. Jackson kept him alive as he was medevaced to Kandahar.

A few years later, while Jackson was speaking about the TCCET approach at a conference, Eslinger walked on stage.

“It was amazing to see a seemingly completely healthy young man,” says Jackson. “His story is truly a miracle and testament to the men and women in military medicine.”

Back in Washington, Jackson doesn’t know where she’ll be when her White House term ends in the fall of 2020. “I don’t know where God will lead, but I know he will. I just want to be faithful to the vision God has given me.” 



2
Raiders
Stand Out

An emergency physician in the Air Force, JoAnna Jackson is serving a three-year term as part of the White House Medical Unit. She was named the White House Military Office Field Grade Officer of the Year for 2018.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

3

Raiders
Stand Out

Modern Slavery Fighter

BY TOM KERTSCHER



Alyssa Currier, assistant special counsel for the Human Trafficking Institute, meets with Elizabeth Nahamya, a former judge of the High Court of Uganda. Nahamya adjudicated the first international human trafficking case in Uganda.

The pivotal moment for Alyssa Currier '14 occurred when Northwestern College brought International Justice Mission to campus. The group, which describes itself as the world's largest anti-slavery organization, showed a video about human trafficking and their efforts in the legal system to fight it.

"The video featured the role of attorneys, which initially got me thinking about law school," Currier recalls. "I liked the idea of bringing a specialized skill set to international development work."

Currier, who majored in political science and Spanish, is now assistant special counsel of the Human Trafficking Institute, which is based outside of Washington, D.C. She fights trafficking in Kampala, Uganda, advising prosecutors how to investigate and convict traffickers.

Human trafficking—often called modern-day slavery—is so insidious that even when it is discovered, it can be exceedingly difficult to eradicate. Sometimes the trauma suffered by the victims "impacts the way they're able to recall what happened to them and it impacts the level of trust they have with the prosecutors and police," Currier says. "Those victim-witnesses are key to the success of the prosecution, but they often face some of the most difficult challenges participating in the case."

The Human Trafficking Institute was founded in 2015 by John Cotton Richmond, now ambassador-at-large for the U.S. State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking, and Victor Boutros, a former federal prosecutor with the U.S. Justice Department's Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit. The founding was influenced by a story Boutros heard years earlier about a 12-year-old girl from India who, after working for a summer to earn money for her family, was kidnapped and forced into prostitution.

According to the institute, trafficking is the fastest-growing criminal enterprise in the world, with traffickers earning more annual profits than Apple, JP Morgan, Samsung, Wells Fargo and Microsoft combined. And in developing countries, "traffickers are more likely to be struck by lightning than go to jail for openly owning a slave."

According to the latest estimate by the International Labour Organization, in 2016 there were 24.9 million victims of forced labor in the world—people "forced to work under threat or coercion as domestic workers, on construction sites, in clandestine factories, on farms and fishing boats, in other sectors, and in the sex industry."

"Everyone agrees that no one should have ever been enslaved—and



QUINN NEELY

certainly not today, when it's technically illegal in every country," says Currier, who co-wrote the institute's 2018 Federal Human Trafficking Report.

Currier says when it comes to forced labor or forced prostitution, there are services that combat the poverty and domestic violence that make girls and women vulnerable to trafficking, and there are services available to trafficking victims. "But there are not a lot of organizations addressing the middle ground, which is the traffickers themselves, and building up a capacity for law enforcement and prosecutors to actually make it unattractive for someone to violate trafficking law," she says.

The institute, which also works in Belize, trains law enforcement professionals in the specialized work of investigating and prosecuting human traffickers, including finding the perpetrators, developing search warrants and working with victims.

The institute advocates a model its founders helped develop and implement at the Department of Justice to improve the U.S. federal response to prosecuting traffickers. In a pilot project, six U.S. districts saw the number of human traffickers charged increase by 114%, while the remaining 88 districts saw only a 12% increase.

One recent sign of progress: Last year, criminal charges were filed against Bernhard Bery Glaser, a German national accused of sexually abusing and trafficking girls in Uganda. Glaser allegedly lured girls to his home under the guise of providing assistance to victims of sexual abuse but had evaded prosecution for several years.

Before joining the Human Trafficking Institute, Currier was an attorney at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as part of the U.S. protection and resettlement unit in Washington, D.C. A graduate of The George Washington University Law School, she also worked for the refugee program at the nonprofit Human Rights Watch, advocated on behalf of forcibly displaced women with International Justice Mission in Uganda, and represented victims of human rights abuses before the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

"The focus on social justice at Northwestern was invaluable, and it is something I would encourage everyone there to continue," she says. "Showing students how they can use their degrees to impact social justice causes is really important." 

A Clean Start

BY AMY PHILLIPS

You walk into New Start Recovery a broken person. Your addiction—to prescription painkillers, or maybe heroin—has scrambled your thinking and burned your bridges.

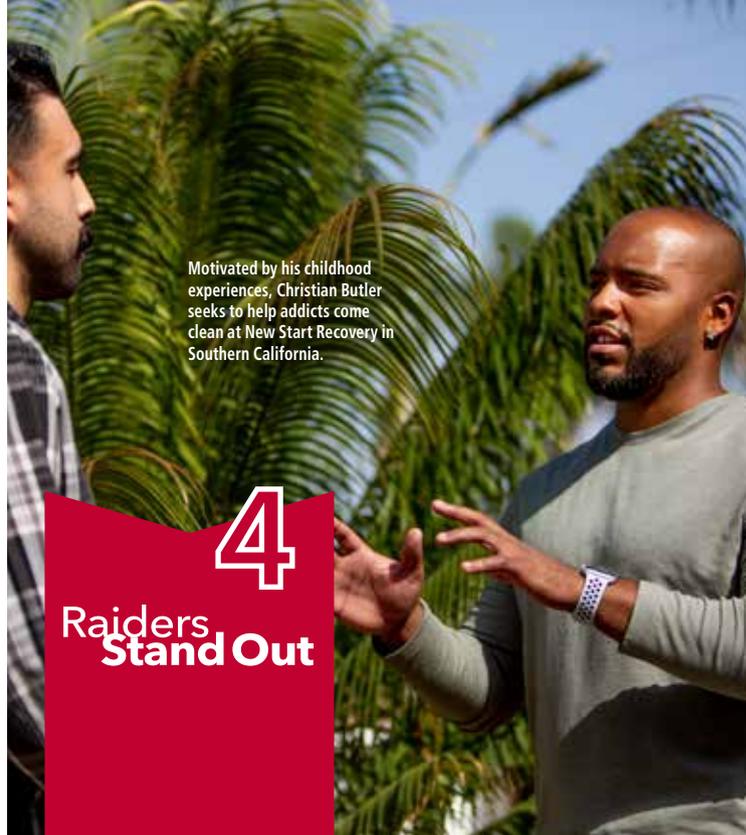
The staff stays close by to keep you safe and on track even as withdrawal has you hallucinating. Post-detox, the hotel-quality facilities host you and your unwanted guests—guilt and shame—for a month's stay. Through family therapy, you find a way to apologize for what your disease made you do. After you leave, you may experience the darkest days of your life, but New Start has taught you strategies to cope. You're ready to be on your own.

You return months later to say *I'm clean*.

And it's that moment, says Christian Butler '12, that keeps his staff coming back.

Butler began as a clinical supervisor at the Orange County, California, chemical dependency treatment program in 2016 and was promoted to program director last year. He oversees staff therapists, planning and community outreach, and makes time to golf alongside clients at a nearby course run by a man who is in recovery.

Butler's motivation is personal: As a child, he witnessed the devastating effects of substance abuse when his father became addicted to drugs and lost everything.



Motivated by his childhood experiences, Christian Butler seeks to help addicts come clean at New Start Recovery in Southern California.

PAT ROGERS

"You don't know what to make of it as a kid; my dad was still the same guy who took me to my baseball games," says Butler. "I understand what addiction does to the person and to the family. I want to put a stop to generations of turmoil." 🏠



LON MOHAWAN

Following God's Call

BY JARED KALTWASSER

As global technology adviser at Pioneers, Jennifer is in charge of keeping the organization's communications systems running smoothly and securely, which can be a challenge in countries that are hostile to Christianity.

As a child growing up competing in Bible quizzes, Jennifer* '08 found she had a knack for compiling statistics. It also taught her something about ministry.

"I saw how you can use technology in

ministry," she says.

That lesson would stick with her as she followed God's call to Northwestern College and eventually to the far corners of the world.

When the computer information systems major was a senior, she participated in a Summer of Service, working in West Africa with the church-planting organization Pioneers. Looking to enter the job market, she noticed a providential correlation between her skills and Pioneers' needs.

"I met with their IT director," Jennifer recalls. "She started listing off their projects, and I thought, 'I can do that.'"

After praying, fasting and turning down higher-paying opportunities in the corporate world, Jennifer took a job at Pioneers' Florida office.

The work was rewarding but also exhausting. In 2012, she left to join a for-profit company, resolving to serve God through giving and being involved in her church. In the meantime, she began studying theology, earning a master's degree on nights and weekends.

Then in 2017, she heard God's call

again. This time it came in the form of a Facebook message: Pioneers wanted her back.

Jennifer returned to Pioneers as its global technology adviser, based in Thailand. No matter where she goes, she says a lesson she learned as a child holds true.

"Your life is ministry. So whether I'm doing this Pioneers work or I'm working at a tech startup, honestly I feel I'm doing equal ministry based on where my heart is." 🏠

**Due to security concerns related to some of the places where Pioneers ministers, Jennifer's last name is omitted and her face is not fully shown.*



Realism Plays a Role

BY TAMARA FYNAARDT

6
Raiders
Stand Out

The son and grandson of preachers, Benjamin Brownson '06 knows the power of story. To inspire. To convict. To explore differences. To build bridges and create community.

He set his sights on the Chicago theatre scene after graduating from Northwestern and earning a master's degree in humanities from the University of Chicago. The Windy City is home to around 250 theatre companies, so Brownson had plenty to choose from and no desire to start his own. But after gaining experience at several different companies, the chance to produce a show with a colleague in 2012 changed his mind—and Broken Nose Theatre was born.

Named for author Nelson Algren's quote about loving Chicago for its realness and imperfections, Broken Nose Theatre is committed to shining a spotlight on reality with all its brokenness. The company's mission is to stage plays that cultivate empathy, spark conversation and amplify underrepresented voices.

Broken Nose is also committed to economic accessibility. "If all you can afford is the change in your pocket, then that's what your ticket costs," says Brownson. On the other hand, if you can pay more

than the suggested ticket price, then you have that option as well. And a surprising number *do* pay more, helping make Broken Nose's pay-what-you-can model financially sustainable.

Six years after setting the stage for Broken Nose Theatre, Brownson stepped onto another stage to accept the League of Chicago Theatres' 2018 Emerging Theatre Award on behalf of the company he founded. The year before, Broken Nose's production of *At the Table*, which Brownson produced and acted in, had won numerous awards, including coveted Jeff Awards for best production and best ensemble.

Brownson set aside the speech he'd hastily written on the back of his invitation. Instead, he spoke from his heart: "At a time when we are more divided than ever, there is a way that story speaks to us that all of the facts, stats, data, arguments and social media posts can't quite get at.

"We do theatre because we think it's the greatest cultivator of empathy we possess. Our hope is that in exercising that empathy muscle, our audiences can go out into their communities and have a little more understanding and love for those they come into contact with." 🏠



Broken Nose Theatre founder Ben Brownson has had a hand in producing, directing, writing and acting in many of the company's award-winning plays, which aim to amplify underrepresented voices and cultivate empathy.

AUSTIN OIE

SUBMITTED PHOTO

As a child life specialist at Seattle Children's Hospital, Rachel Kinsinger often uses a teddy bear with kids to prepare them for upcoming procedures. Kinsinger was Northwestern's nominee for the 2020 Council for Christian Colleges & Universities Young Alumni Award.

Good Medicine for Kids

7

Raiders
Stand Out



BY DUANE BEESON

Owen's* family was stressed. The 7-year-old boy had a gait abnormality, and doctors at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital determined that a scan of his whole spine was needed. The procedure would take an hour and a half under anesthesia—and there was a seven-month wait. Then Rachel (Muilenburg '14) Kinsinger stepped in.

A child life fellow at the hospital at the time, Kinsinger had pioneered a method that enabled many children to undergo MRIs without anesthesia—which meant shorter wait times, reduced cost and less worry. Previously, most kids under 12 were automatically given anesthesia because of assumed anxiety caused by the confined space and loud noises, as well as the need to hold perfectly still for a long period of time. The wait time was at least three months, which increased apprehension for patients and their families.

Kinsinger reviewed the records of the children on the wait list and determined if they would be good candidates for a scheduled practice MRI session—and potentially a non-anesthesia MRI. Then, using a decommissioned MRI, she set up a practice area with a gurney and slide board and offered free appointments to eligible patients.

Kinsinger, a psychology major who earned a master's degree in child life from Loma Linda University, used images and sounds to imitate a real scan experience and talked to children about their individual fears. She implemented a variety of techniques to reduce anxiety and promote cooperation. Patients could squeeze “bravery balls” when they had an urge to move. And they were encouraged to wear comfortable clothes without zippers so they wouldn't have to change into a hospital gown.

After preparing children for the practice session and working through their specific concerns, Kinsinger observed them in the scanner. Children who could stay still in the scanner for two minutes were cleared to schedule an appointment without anesthesia.

After just a few months, 37 patients were able to complete the MRI awake. Kinsinger's success rate was around 93%, and children as young as 4 were able to be scanned without anesthesia. The Association of Child Life Professionals took note, describing the results in an article at childlife.org.

Owen was one of Kinsinger's successes. After undergoing a practice session, he entered the MRI for the lengthy spinal scan five months

earlier than if he'd had to wait for anesthesia. As the machine created detailed images of Owen's spinal cord and fluid, he fell asleep while watching *Finding Nemo*. He successfully completed the scan—and his parents soon learned everything was OK.

“No one believed he could do such a long scan,” Owen's mother wrote Kinsinger in an email. They were excited—and proud.

Kinsinger says her passion for child life and assisting people going through challenges stems from her Christian faith. “Even small acts of kindness and love can make a big difference,” she says.

Today she is a child life specialist at Seattle Children's Hospital. She works with patients from 44 different specialty clinics, preparing kids for pokes and scopes. One day Kinsinger could be helping a 5-year-old girl who needs a genital exam. At other times she's preparing kids for a

scope of their throat or a blood draw.

“I tell them I'm like a teacher,” she says. “I'll talk you through what the procedure will be like, help you know what will happen next, and give you advice on how to cope with it. And I'll be there during the procedure to help with any anxiety.”

Kinsinger says her work at Seattle Children's is expanding to a wide variety of procedures and diagnoses—something she enjoys. “While at Northwestern, I developed an eagerness to learn

that was inspired by the passion of my professors. They cultivated an environment of learning, exploring and questioning, which is an amazing setting for growth.”

The daughter of a doctor, Kinsinger was always interested in health care. After considering a number of science-related careers, she fell in love with psychology as a Northwestern freshman. She discovered that a career as a child life specialist would enable her to combine her interests in health care and child development. After volunteering to play with kids at two hospitals twice a week one summer, she knew she wanted to become a child life specialist.

Now more than three years into her career, Kinsinger sees confirmation of that calling. “I love being able to make hard things easier for kids and their families,” she says. “It's really rewarding.” 

“Even small acts of kindness and love can make a big difference.”

*Name changed to protect the patient's privacy.

Transforming Leadership

BY AMY PHILLIPS

The Rev. Dr. Jill (Zeiger '96) Ver Steeg, chief operating officer for the Reformed Church in America (RCA), is not ready to talk about herself quite yet. Visitors to Ver Steeg's office in Grand Rapids, Michigan, are treated to insightful questions on family and vocation, leaving them encouraged in their gifts mere minutes after meeting her.

It's easy to see the Fern Smith resident assistant in the COO—and, early in her college years, the COO in the RA.

Self-described as "highly relational," Ver Steeg showed a unique mix of nurturing leadership qualities that caught the attention of Chaplain Matt Floding, who invited the religion and communications major to speak in chapel and lead high school retreats.

Today she bridges the operations and ministry sides of the RCA with a passion for adaptive change and leadership development.

"I believe what makes me unique in this position is I bring a ministry heart into an operations role," she says. "It is a good day for me when I can say that this team of people God has called me to lead is flourishing. And the work of service to the church—missional imagination and missional innovation—they're getting it done."



Jill Ver Steeg serves the Reformed Church in America as chief operating officer.

JOE MAHER

Ver Steeg has shepherded the denomination's 15-year vision, Transformed and Transforming, since July 2018. Rather than implement fixed programs, staff enter into a relationship with a church, working toward its future with an eye on nine distinct areas—including disability advocacy, women and cultural agility.

While building up those around her, Ver Steeg watches to see which leaders are coming next, as Floding did for her.

"If you don't, the impact you're trying to make is not sustainable." 



Recognizing that students learn best when multiple areas of the brain are activated, Aleen Wolken creatively integrates brain-based learning activities into her second grade classroom.

"This activates different parts of the brain," Wolken explains. "And students have that 'lightbulb moment' more often if you activate multiple parts of their brain at once."

Wolken is creative and thoughtful in the ways she teaches—and fellow educators have taken notice.

Her master's degree capstone project focused on brain-based learning and whole-brain teaching, a strategy that combines cooperative learning and direct instruction. With the highest number of downloads—more than 2,900—of all capstone projects on the college's website, her research and insight on the

topic are clearly of high interest to other teachers.

Wolken hopes her capstone work inspires educators to change the ways they teach. "I hope the days of students sitting at a desk, hearing a lecture and copying down material are leaving the educational world," she says.

Wolken emphasizes that teaching is not only about educating students, but also about building relationships and making connections—and she applauds Northwestern for having this philosophy too.

"My instructors made me feel like my voice was heard and my needs were always met," she says of her graduate school experience. "Northwestern made me feel the way I want my students to feel." 

Brain Trainer

BY JULIANA PENNING'S '12

When teaching sentence structure to her second graders in Iowa's Linn-Mar Community School District, Aleen Wolken (M. Ed. '17) uses a combination of hand

gestures and verbal cues. Students learn to identify punctuation marks not only by their appearance, but also by certain sounds and movements.

10
Raiders
Stand Out

Hope for the WORLD

BY AMY PHILLIPS

When the Rev. Jon Opgenorth '88 was 10 years old, he stood in line with his family at a mission festival to shake hands with the speaker. Dr. Bill Brownson, who was president of the international ministry Words of Hope (WOH) at the time, put his hand on the boy's head and said, "You're going to be a missionary some day."

Opgenorth became president of WOH in 2017 instead, after decades spent as a pastor who emphasized global missions.

Based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Words of Hope began in the 1940s as a broadcast ministry. Sermons were translated into other languages until a new model emerged: WOH began empowering indigenous speakers to create their own content.

"We want to share the hope of Jesus in the heart languages of hard-to-reach places, and we do it all through local leadership," says

Opgenorth. "We start with what's already in the fabric of the culture, because the underlying idea is God's already at work."

The ministry employs a variety of strategies based on cultural differences. Tibetans weren't reading Bibles that were inexpensively produced, so WOH's Tibetan leaders invested in good paper and artwork. But in Iran, outreach is able to be wholly online, enabling WOH to identify the audience they're reaching and save on printing costs.

As Opgenorth shepherds WOH's global leaders, his pastoral care embraces a danger not present in his 18 years of service to Trinity Reformed Church in Orange City.

Staff in Iran encrypt messages and use code names during videoconferences, protecting themselves from persecution by the Islamic government. Words of Hope never shows the face of their Persian leader, because he still has family



Jon Opgenorth records a podcast at Words of Hope's studios in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He has been president of the international media ministry since 2017.

in Iran. Despite Islamic opposition to the gospel, Operation World reports that Iran has the fastest growing rate of new believers. WOH's digital ministry interacts with more than 30,000 Iranians each day.

Known for their daily devotional, WOH operates in 13 fields and 54 languages, with a heart for places yet unreached by the gospel.

They recently produced SD cards of songs and Scriptures to distribute on the Indochina border to the Monpa people, which include an estimated 150 believers among 150,000 speakers of the language. To their knowledge, Opgenorth says, WOH is the only ministry seeking to reach the Monpa. 

JOE MAHER

Winning Teacher

Alison Ter Horst is among 40 teachers from across the country to win a \$25,000 Milken Educator Award for 2019–20.

BY AMY PHILLIPS

Alison (Sadler '05) Ter Horst leaned over to her colleague and said, "I wonder if they're giving an award today."

The Washington High School "civics" assembly on Oct. 16 had seemed vague from the start; now, as education dignitaries filled the Sioux Falls high school gym, the two rattled off names of fellow teachers deserving recognition. Ter Horst never considered including herself because she had missed three weeks of school last year when her four-month-old daughter Willow needed open-heart surgery. This season of life had preoccupied her head and her heart—so much so that she wasn't sure she heard correctly when her name was called.

South Dakota Secretary of Education Dr. Ben Jones presented Ter Horst with the Milken Educator Award, a mid-career recognition that comes with an unrestricted prize of \$25,000. Ter Horst is among 40 honorees across the nation, and the only winner from South Dakota this year.

"Alison inspires students not only through her innovative instructional strategies and high expectations, but by modeling perseverance and compassion for others," says colleague Jamie Van Sloten.

Ter Horst helped spearhead the district's Teacher Pathway Program, which grants college credit for students seeking to become educators. A psychology teacher, she says the field lends itself naturally to sharing her struggles.

"I tell them at the beginning of the school year that I had an infant daughter who passed away and a daughter with Down syndrome who has had two open-heart surgeries," she says. "You can't choose what happens to you, but you can choose how you respond. You can be bitter or you can channel it into something beautiful."

One of Ter Horst's former students was last year's recipient of a scholarship named for her first daughter, Quinn. Originally from Nepal, he returned from college and told his teacher that as the only nonwhite person in his class, he was struggling.

"It's hard," she told him, "but that will serve you well, my friend."

Ter Horst plans to use the prize money to pay medical bills and pursue self-care. She'll also give back to her school—one of her ideas is to build a laundromat for students without washers and dryers at home. 🏠

class Notes

'51 **Norman Bastemeyer** of Clive, Iowa, competed in the 2019 National Veterans Golden Age Games in Anchorage, Alaska. He won silver medals in the 25- and 50-meter freestyle swims, golf, and nine-ball pool in the 85-to-90 age group. More than 800 athletes participated.

'67 **Dr. Brian Beltman**, Rock Hill, South Carolina, has published a book, *Transplanters on the Grasslands and the Fruits of Chain Migration*, which is available on Amazon.com and other online retailers. The book is a historical study of Dutch-American migration and settlement between the 1840s and 1900 in rural Midwestern areas, specifically Marion and Sioux counties in Iowa, and Douglas and Bon Homme counties in South Dakota. The volume also examines the demographic dynamics of chain migration, as well as the economic, social and cultural attributes of the resulting Midwestern ethnic enclaves.

'70 **Dr. Bob Boerigter** of Sioux Falls received the 2019 NCAA D2 Conference Commissioners Association's Award of Merit in June. During his 45-year career, he served as director of athletics at five institutions, including Northwest Missouri State University. He was commissioner of the Missouri Intercollegiate Athletics Association from 2010 to 2017 and served in multiple capacities at the national level.

Howard Gaass, the Rev. Dr. Mark Kraai, the Rev. David Schreuder, Dr. Corwin Smidt '68 and Elliott Ten Clay continued a 12-year tradition of Northwestern alumni who gather each summer to attend minor league baseball games. Last June they gathered to watch the Lansing Lugnuts, and they were given the opportunity to sing the national anthem and throw out the first pitch for two games. This summer they plan to attend an Indianapolis Indians game.

Sandra (Vlieger) Ritsema of Dumont, Iowa, is a retired teacher. Her husband, Jack, is retired from a career as an Air Force chaplain that included tours in Germany and Spain. Sandra is undergoing chemotherapy for stage 4 lung cancer.

'74 **Cynthia Moser**, a partner in the Heidman Law Firm in Sioux City, is included in the 26th edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*, a peer-reviewed ranking recognizing lawyers for their professional excellence.

Andy Ypma has retired as a probation officer in McLeod County, Minnesota, after 45 years of service. During his tenure he worked closely with the McLeod Alliance for Victims of Domestic Violence and was awarded the Minnesota Coalition of Battered Women's Community Ally Inspire Award. In retirement he works with families and youth at the Village Ranch in Cokato and helps out at group homes.

'76 **Janine (Salterberg) Calsbeek**, Orange City, serves as touring director for Swander Woman Productions. Mary Swander, former poet laureate of Iowa, creates and tours theatre productions on farmland transition, recent immigrant farmers and other rural issues.

Bonnie (Intveld) Van Leeuwen retired in July from a 30-year career as an administrative assistant with K-Products/American Identity/Staples Promotional Products in Orange City.

'78 **Marcia (Calsbeek) Vermeer** and her husband, Dave, have moved to Edgerton, Minnesota.

'80 **Richard and Pamela (Paquin '81) Smith** live in Saint Johnsbury, Vermont. Pamela has retired from teaching. They have two adult children and daughter Raelyn (3), whom they adopted in 2017.

Red Ties

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

One of my joys as the director of the Northwestern Network is hosting alumni events off campus. I get to meet Raiders of all ages who live in diverse places and who are in different stages in their lives.

In the last few months, we hosted alumni gatherings at a Minnesota Vikings game, an Iowa Wild hockey game, and the Michael W. Smith and Amy Grant Christmas concert in Sioux Falls. I enjoyed meeting everyone who came out for those fun occasions!

We are planning events in other locations for this spring, so please check our website to see if we'll be near you: nwciowa.edu/NWnetwork/ events. Or, if you have an idea for an event, I'd love to hear about it; email me at kristin.rucks@nwciowa.edu.

During Homecoming in September, I saw many of you at the Legacy Celebration Banquet, where I shared about two standouts who are part of the Northwestern Network. Trudy (Peterson '90) Pedersen works for the Storm Lake (Iowa) School District and has been a tremendous cheerleader for NWC. When she knows of high school students she thinks might be a good fit, she encourages them to consider Northwestern—and then she also sends us their names so we can get in touch.

I also shared about Erica (Miller '12) Graber. She and her husband, Andy, kindly offered free housing for a student interning in Sioux Falls. It was a positive experience for all involved, and the Grabers have offered to host additional students in the future.

These women are examples of standout alumni who have stayed engaged in the life of NWC and stepped up to help. Would you consider impacting the life of a prospective student, current student or alum? As you can see, there are multiple ways to do that. Start by signing up online to be part of the Northwestern Network at nwciowa.edu/NWnetwork. We'd love to have you on our team.





DAVID SHERMAN/NBA PHOTOS

Bank vice president by day, Brian Kuiper is courtside at the Target Center many evenings, running the shot clock for the Minnesota Timberwolves and Lynx.

On the Clock

Brian Kuiper '85 knows the pressure of the big game—how one split second can change everything.

Though he's never played or coached a minute of professional basketball, Kuiper has become a fixture on the sidelines of Minnesota Timberwolves and Minnesota Lynx games. He is the teams' shot clock operator.

"The pressure is concentration," he says. "Most of the time I could not tell you what the score of the game is—if we're up 10 or down 10."

It's a far cry from Kuiper's day job as a bank vice president in St. Peter, about an hour southwest of Minneapolis. His journey to the Target Center began when he started operating the clock for the local college's games.

Then in 2006, he got a call: The Lynx were inviting him to try out as their shot-clock operator.

"I kind of thought it was a joke," he says. It wasn't.

Soon he was part of the Lynx's rotation of shot-clock operators. Seven years ago, he started working T-Wolves games, too.

No matter the game, Kuiper says his goal is always the same: "I've never wanted anybody to know when I was there. Because if they do, it means I messed up."

BY JARED KALTWASSER

'82 **Rebecca (Vander Laan) Koster**, Morrison, Illinois, retired from teaching in 2017 and started a sewing/quilting business, Dutch Thimble Quilts. She specializes in T-shirt quilts, memory quilts and edge-to-edge long-arm quilting.

'83 **The Rev. Dr. Shari Brink** has been the president and CEO of Blanton-Peale Institute and Counseling Center for four years. Founded 82 years ago by the Rev. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, the institute provides affordable mental health care in New York City. Blanton-Peale has more than 70 therapists and provides 36,000 therapy sessions a year while also training mental health professionals, faith- and community-based leaders and others with the tools of psychology, mental health and spirituality.

Noel and Debra (Boon) Davis have moved from Kankakee, Illinois, to San Antonio, Texas. Noel is serving as South Central area director for Wycliffe Associates and Debra is a tax professional for H&R Block.

'86 **Ed Hibma** was named vice president of Tennessee operations for Jatco USA in July. Jatco manufactures transmissions for Nissan, Mitsubishi and several other vehicle brands. Ed and his wife, Tonja, live in Franklin, Tennessee, and have three adult children.

'87 **Tracy (Anderson) Tensen**, Des Moines, received the High School Teacher of Excellence Award from the Iowa Council of Teachers of English in October. She teaches at Gilbert High School.

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'89 **Paula (Wanken) Riggs** is support services coordinator for the Area Agencies on Aging at the Alamo Area Council of Governments in San Antonio, Texas. She and her husband, Paul, are members of the Cowboy Fellowship of Atascosa County in Jourdanton, Texas. They also volunteer at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo and serve as directors with the South Central Texas Independent Cattlemen's Association.

'92 **Lori (Burriss) Van Beek**, Chino, California, is adapting to having both sons in college by purchasing, decorating and furnishing a tropical Florida property she intends to rent out. Contact NWC's alumni office if you're interested in exploring alumni discounts with Lori.

'93 **Todd Leach**, Kansas City, Missouri, was promoted to chief client officer for Service Management Group in May.

'95 **Nathan and Shanna (Weinert) De Hoogh** live in rural Sheldon, Iowa, with their eight children. Nathan is IT manager at Den Hartog Industries in Hospers. Shanna operates the Big Red Barn business of soaps and lotions made with goat milk.

'96 **Kevin Kroeze** has been a member of the Visalia, California, Police Department since 2004. Last year he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant. He oversees patrol operations for south Visalia as well as the field training program and traffic unit. He and his wife, Amy, have two children: Brent (14) and Emerson (11).

'97 **Deb Schleusener** works as a recruiting specialist for Boys Town in Omaha.

'98 **Sara Veldhuizen Stealy** lives in Vilnius, Lithuania, with her husband, Dave. She is a foreign service

officer serving in public affairs at the U.S. Embassy.

'99 **Kim Van Gundy** is CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of Darlington in El Reno, Oklahoma.

'01 Season 10 of the DIY Network's *Building Alaska* last fall featured **Matthew Hill** and his wife, Amy, building a cabin in Petersville, Alaska.

'02 **Travis Vangsnes** has published a book, *Redemption's Echo: Living in the Reflection of God's Grace*, available on Amazon.com. The book features personal stories of God's healing powers and redemptive work. Travis serves as a grant writer for America's Kids Belong, a national organization working to solve the country's foster care crisis. He lives in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Jen (Medema) Wentlandt teaches English and wellness at St. Luke's Episcopal School in San Antonio, Texas, and coaches the World Scholars Cup team, which competed in The Hague, the Netherlands, last summer. She also teaches early childhood courses for Rasmussen College.

'03 **Alison (Dellwo) Evangelisti** has been appointed associate principal at Titan Hill Intermediate School in Council Bluffs, Iowa. She previously taught first, third and fifth grades in Sioux City and also served as a reading specialist at schools in South Sioux City and Bennington, Nebraska.

'04 **Ryan Kronberg**, Lincoln, Nebraska, is pursuing a degree as a physical therapy assistant at Southeast Community College.

'05 **Dr. Ginger Gunn** has joined Northwestern's faculty as an assistant professor of psychology. She earned a master's degree in psychology



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A longtime college professor and administrator, Terry Gaalswyk has been president of Minnesota West Community & Technical College since 2015.

Community Builder

The neighborhood is cleaner. Homeowners take care of their properties.

As the carpentry department of Minnesota West Community & Technical College wrapped up its third house renovation for local families, Dr. Terry Gaalswyk '91 says the transformation perfectly summarizes his vision for this five-campus institution, which he has served as president since 2015.

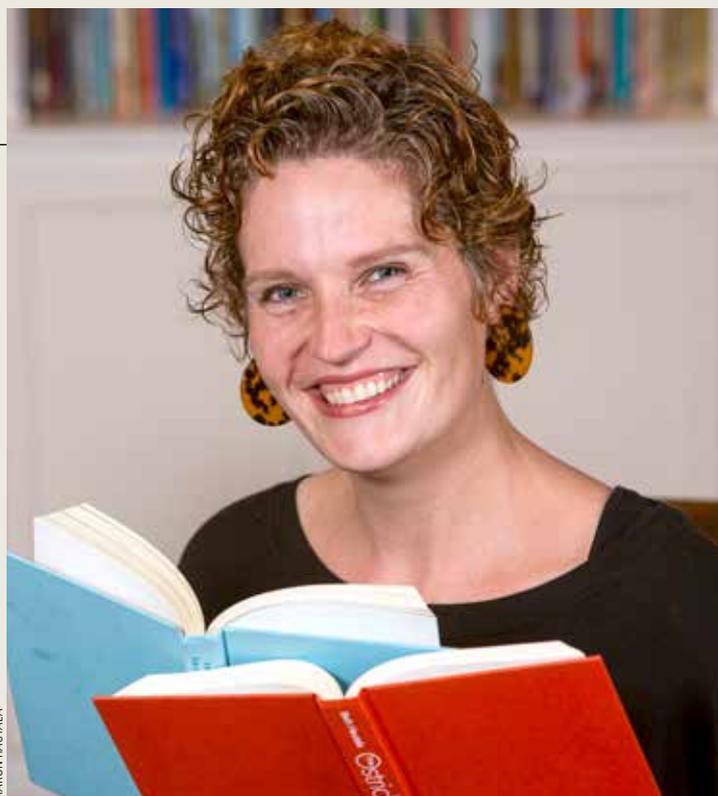
"Leveraging gifts and talents in service to our communities is our calling and purpose," says Gaalswyk. "Career and technical education builds strong individuals and strong communities."

The idea of using one's skills to contribute locally is highly personal for the college president. From his middle school years until his late 30s, Gaalswyk spent weeknights and Saturdays working for his father's wholesale countertop business in Sibley, Iowa. Applying mathematical theory to carpentry turned a lightbulb on for Gaalswyk, leading him out of his hometown neighborhood and in the direction of career and technical education.

A former mathematics lecturer at both two- and four-year institutions, Gaalswyk served as executive vice president of Western Nebraska Community College as well as dean of instruction at Western Iowa Tech Community College before assuming the presidency at Minnesota West.

Gaalswyk offered to help hang cabinets with this year's students at the renovation, but—he says with a laugh—they didn't take him up on his proposal.

BY AMY PHILLIPS



AARON HAUTALA

Beth Hautala's second tween novel, *The Ostrich and Other Lost Things*, won a Christopher Award for affirming the highest values of the human spirit.

Word Weaver

Author Beth (Holznagel '01) Hautala weaves stories from everyday life when she can find a minute in her own to do so. She thrives on threading together “the mundane and the miraculous,” whether writing a novel, telling her four children a bedtime story, or serving a client at Strateligent, the marketing firm in Brainerd, Minnesota, that she and her husband, Aaron, founded together.

Currently writing her third tween novel, Hautala is passionate about stories of redemption. Without avoiding the “holes” human pain creates, she invites readers to see themselves and their pain alongside the reality of hope—“a tiny thread tied to the heart of Christ.”

Hautala's debut novel, *Waiting for Unicorns*, was written in 2015 shortly after the birth of her second child, during her own search for identity in the midst of the ordinary. Last May Hautala received a prestigious Christopher Award for her second book, *The Ostrich and Other Lost Things*, a middle-grade chapter book exploring the challenges and self-discovery that accompany caring for a sibling with autism.

“I suppose I'll always be telling stories littered with these kinds of holes, and tied to this kind of hope, because it's also what makes me whole,” Hautala says.

BY BETH (NIKKEL '02) GAULKE

and doctorate in clinical psychology from Seattle Pacific University. She most recently worked as a staff psychologist at the Harry Truman Veterans Hospital in Sedalia, Missouri.

The Rev. Regina (Downing)

Hassanally has been named the fourth bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She lives in Northfield.

April Olivares, Apple Valley, California, earned a master's degree in special education in 2018.

Kendall Stanislav is Northwestern's new director of experiential education. As part of the Compass Center for Career and Calling, he manages the college's global education programs, directs internships and coordinates service-learning experiences. He has been a member of Northwestern's staff since 2011.

Shanna (Vetter) Tadic is a Title I reading teacher at Washington Elementary School in Sandpoint, Idaho. She also runs a private tutoring business specifically designed to assist children with dyslexia.

'06 **Anna (Wilkinson) Tabone** is a stay-at-home mom in Marion, Indiana, where her husband, Jeff, works at Indiana Wesleyan University.

'07 A tradition begun with a 2003 camping trip in Paullina continued over Memorial Day weekend when seven alumni gathered in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, and fished on Lake Michigan. **Marcus Leloux '04, Bruce Anliker '06, Eli Ellis '06, Blayne Van Marel '06, Paul Elgersma, Grant Willits** and **Brady Woudstra** are among the alumni who try to get together once a year and spend at least one night sleeping in a tent.

'09 **Ruth Cink** earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from New Zealand's Auckland University of Technology in August. She serves as a research fellow at the University of Auckland.

Dr. Jesse Nieuwenhuis is a family physician for Avera Medical Group in Dell Rapids, South Dakota.

Cole Spree has been named the head coach for the new men's and women's wrestling programs at Indian Hills Community College in Centerville, Iowa. He was the head wrestling coach at Ellsworth Community College in Iowa Falls for eight years.

Tyler Tigges and his wife, **Kristin (Neth '11)**, have moved to London, England, to assist in long-term church planting through Antioch Community Church in Waco, Texas.

'10 **Josh Roorda** graduated from the family nurse practitioner program at the University of Iowa and is working at Community Health Care, a federally qualified health center in Moline, Illinois.

'11 **Marit (Langley) Byron** has moved to Lupeni, Romania, with her husband, Tyler, and daughter, Timbre, to volunteer with New Horizons Foundation as the NWC Romania Semester administrators. Marit continues to work full time remotely as an information management specialist for Summit Ministries in Manitou Springs, Colorado.

Aleah Stenberg, Big Lake, Minnesota, works for the Minneapolis Public Works Department.

Matt Vander Molen is pursuing a master's degree in forest ecology and management at Michigan Technological University in Houghton.

#RaidersStandOut

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'14 **Brice Byker** and his wife, **Alesha (Provost '15)**, live in Orange City with their daughter, Finley (1). Brice is an agricultural loan officer at Cooperative Credit Co. in Sioux Center and an assistant coach for the Red Raider football team. Alesha is an RN at Orange City Area Health System.

Andrea (Andersen) Garcia, Hawarden, Iowa, teaches elementary physical education and serves as an assistant high school volleyball, basketball and track coach for the West Sioux Community School District.

Samantha (Kleinsasser '14) Van Gorp earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Frontier Nursing University in Hyden, Kentucky. She works as a nurse practitioner at Avera Medical Group in Sibley, Iowa.

'16 **Josie Clark** graduated in December from the University of Nebraska Medical Center as a physician assistant. She is serving patients at Nebraska Health and Wellness Clinic in Norfolk.

Britta (Wilson) Ten Haken graduated in May from Des Moines University and now serves as a physician assistant at Medical Oncology and Hematology Associates in Des Moines, which serves both UnityPoint and MercyOne hospitals in Des Moines. She feels gratified to serve with the oncology group that treated her mother after she was diagnosed with leukemia in 2011.

'18 **Katie (Elliott) Kraft** is a nurse in the pediatric intensive care unit at the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital. Her

husband, **Justin '18**, is a golf instructor for GolfTec in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. The couple resides in Chanhassen.

Liz Meier received the Richard Riggelman Young Speech Coach Award from the Iowa High School Speech Association in October. She is in her second year as a language arts teacher and speech coach at Valley Southwoods Freshman High School in West Des Moines. In her first year, she took nine events to the large group district contest.

Jordan Stone is a speaker for the National Alliance on Mental Illness, teaching youth in the Sioux Falls area how to deal with mental health issues. She is also pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Luther Seminary.

'19 **David Rowley** is a research engineer/scientist assistant at the University of Texas at Austin. He is working on a continent-wide project investigating the speciation, phenology and genetics of switchgrass. This work is being used for biofuel research as well as modeling genetic systems.

New Arrivals

Maria (DeBoer '02) and **Christopher Anderson '02**, daughter, Esme Claire Brandon and **Angela (Albrecht '02) Torgerson**, son, Joseph James, by adoption, joins Samuel (9) and Noah (6) **Kristi (Kurtzleben '02)** and **Joe Wick '03**, son, Benjamin Calvin, joins Lauren (7) **Wendy (Seekamp '05)** and **Travis**

Albers '03, daughter, Addison (8) by adoption, joins Kolby (9)

Adam and **Tamara (de Waard '05) Stevenson**, son, Ambrose Adrianus, joins Della (7), Macrina (5) and Benedict (3)

Jeff and **Anna (Wilkinson '06) Tabone**, son, Nathan Wallace, joins Noelle (3)

Laura (Rensink '08) and Mike Vander Stelt '08, daughter, Moraine Elizabeth, joins Henry (6) and Cordelia (2)

Margareta (DeBoer '09) and Zach Maxon '09, daughter, Iva Maria

Jennifer (Nilson '10) and Jacob Parsons '10, daughter, Emma Jennifer, joins Aiden (4) and Eli (2)

Jessica (Vander Velde '11) and Tyler Glanzer '10, daughter, Amaya Claire, joins Savannah (6), Owen (4) and Emmitt (2)

Kristin (Neth '11) and Tyler Tigges '09, son, Ever Christian, joins Elliott (4)

Jacob and **Mariah (Tappe '12) Button**, son, Zeke Grae

Rebecca (Bagley '12) and Dan Mangold '10, daughter, Cora Danielle

Derek and **Jessica (Kleveland '13) Brown**, son, Carter James, joins Nora (2)

Danielle (Wieberdink '13) and Jacob Van Der Linden '13, son, Gordon Daniel

Vincent and **Eryn (Schlote '14) Weber**,

son, Jettson August, joins Caelan (2)

Caleb and **Leah (Seehusen '15) Stam**, son, Ryan Wayne, joins Collin (7) and Maria (4)

Brett and **Amber (Attema '16) Beyer**, son, Dirk Harvey, joins Arie (2)

Payton (Samuelson '16) and Ben Guhl '16, daughter, Paisley Jo

Marriages

Paula Wanken '89 and Paul Riggs, Floresville, Texas

Lindsey Engelkes '08 and Douglas Freese, Steamboat Rock, Iowa

Alisha Weller '08 and Brent Frady, Sioux City

Emily Brewer '11 and Aaron Ressler, Kansas City, Missouri

Matt Vander Molen '11 and Christine Don, Houghton, Michigan

Andrea Andersen '14 and Francisco Garcia, Hawarden, Iowa

Julia Lantz '14 and Lance Dieleman, Urbandale, Iowa

Megan Rustad '14 and Mitchell Erickson, Willmar, Minnesota

Sara Van Gorp '14 and Caleb Chiang, Chicago

Paige O'Neal '15 and Logan Landwehr, Sidney, Iowa

Jennifer Van Riessen '17 and Shawn Van Bruggen, Raleigh, North Carolina

Katie Elliott '18 and **Justin Kraft '18**, Chanhassen, Minnesota

The couples reside in the city listed.

In Memoriam

John Zeutenhorst, 94, a Northwestern lawn care assistant for 25 years, died July 30 in Orange City. He served in the Army during World War II and spent his career working for the Sioux County Engineer's Office. A member of First Reformed Church, he served as an elder and Sunday School teacher. He also was a volunteer firefighter for 30 years and a city council member. Among his survivors are two children, including **Tim '82**.



Ben Wiese, an NWC professor of sociology and social work from 1963 to 1990, died Oct. 2 in Sioux Falls at age 92. He served in the Merchant Marines and Army before earning a bachelor's degree at Augustana University, a master's

degree in history and sociology at the University of South Dakota and a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Iowa. He taught and coached at Sheldon, Iowa, High School before joining Northwestern's faculty. He wrote *Everything You Need to Know to Stay Married and Like It!* which was printed by Zondervan in 1972. He is survived by five children, including **Barbara De Graaf '74**, **Brenda Jacobs '76** and **Brian '88**; and a sister.

Joyce Oatey, a secretary in Northwestern's development office from 1984 to 2002, died Oct. 25 in Brainerd, Minnesota. A graduate of the University of South Dakota, she was a secretary at Crow Wing Co-op Power and Light in Brainerd before joining the Northwestern staff. Among her survivors are seven siblings, including **Bernard Koerselman '55**.

Dr. Sandie Hoover-Kinsinger, a Northwestern psychology professor from 2002 to 2016, died of cancer at age 57 on Aug. 22. She earned a bachelor's degree from Wheaton College, a master's in art therapy from the University of Chicago and a doctorate in educational psychology from the University of South Dakota. She began her career as a child and

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adolescent art therapist before working extensively with at-risk students and their families through grant-funded prevention programs. She served the last three years as a psychology professor at Augustana University in Sioux Falls. Survivors include her husband, **Mitch**, who served on Northwestern's religion faculty from 2000 to 2014; three sons, including **Graham '13**; three sisters; and her mother.

Leonard "Doc" Krommendyk '48, age 93, died July 22 in Orange City. After Army service during World War II, he attended Northwestern Junior College and earned a bachelor's degree in education from Buena Vista University. During his career as an educator, he taught and coached in Maurice, Orange City and Cherokee, Iowa; served as a high school principal in Edgerton, Minnesota; and was principal of M-OC Junior High in Orange City. He earned a master's degree from the University of South Dakota and also served a stint as Orange City's postmaster. He was a member of Trinity Reformed Church and the American Legion. Survivors include his wife, **Lorraine (De Jong '48)**, two siblings and three children.

Frank Calsbeek '52, age 87, died Aug. 14 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He graduated from Augustana University in Sioux Falls and served two years in the military during the Korean War. He worked as a professor and administrator at Dordt University and Texas State University in San Marcos. In retirement, he served as a freelance columnist for the *Northwest Iowa Review*. He is survived by his wife, Ula, and three daughters.

Lewis Terpstra '70, age 77, died Sept. 23 in Madison, Wisconsin. He earned master's and education specialist degrees from the University of Iowa. After Army service in Germany, he taught English at Washington High School in Cherokee, Iowa, and Hempstead High School in Dubuque, Iowa. He later administered distance learning programs at institu-

tions including Virginia Commonwealth University, the Virginia Community College System and Madison College in Madison, Wisconsin. Last year he worked with a team to modify a 1971 Triumph motorcycle and set a world speed record at the Bonneville Salt Flats. He is survived by his wife, Jane; two daughters; and a sister, **Zeanna Van Egdom '69**.

Dan Collenbaugh '77 of Rock Valley, Iowa, died July 12 at age 64. After graduating from Northwestern, he began working at his family's business, Collenbaugh Auto Supply. In 1998, he started a new career as a technical support salesperson at A&I Products in Rock Valley. A guitarist, he founded Drivetime, which played '70s and '80s rock for 27 years. The band was inducted into the Iowa Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2016. Among Dan's survivors are his wife, Monica, and a daughter.

Bryan Raak '77 died June 25 at age 63 in Chandler, Arizona. He was an elementary teacher in Marshall, Michigan, and Chandler. After he retired, he worked in security at Diamondbacks, Suns, Mercury and Rattlers games. He is survived by his wife, Angie; three children; his mother; and a brother, **Perry '70**.

Mike Kraayenbrink '86 of Sibley, Iowa, died of cancer Nov. 2 at the age of 56. He worked in construction before accepting a job in a Hope Haven group home. From 2001 to 2018 he taught fifth and sixth grades at Sibley-Ocheyedan Middle School. Among his survivors are his wife, **Laurie Ackerman '89**; four children, including **Katlyn DeVries '11**, **Michelle Roddel '13** and **Andrew '14**; his mother; and three siblings.

LET US KNOW: Email your news for the next *Classic* by Feb. 20 to classic@nwciowa.edu.



SUSAN MCCLELLIN

Anna Paulson works with families as a genetic counselor at the University of Iowa Hospitals.

Genetic Counselor

As a freshman at Northwestern College, Anna (Yarrow '12) Paulson was passionate about three things: children, science and people with special needs.

Her only question: What career could encompass all three?

She majored in biology-health professions with thoughts of becoming a physical therapist or physician. Soon she found a better answer: genetic counseling.

In 2017, after earning her master's degree in that field from Virginia Commonwealth University, Paulson accepted a job at the University of Iowa Hospitals. There she works with families of children with suspected genetic disorders, helping translate the complicated science of genetics into comprehensible insights for parents who are desperate for answers.

"We have a rapport," she says. "We're the first point of contact. They don't necessarily call the doctors; they call us."

Paulson says confirmation that a disease is genetic can be transformational for parents.

"It relieves a little bit of the guilt," she says, noting that many parents worry the disease was a result of something they could have prevented.

Unfortunately, genetic testing detects a clear diagnosis only about one-third of the time. But Paulson is confident the fast-changing science will improve that statistic.

"At some point we are going to find an answer for everybody," she says.

BY JARED KALTWASSER

Classic Thoughts

Diplomacy: The Musical

BY SARA VELDHIJZEN STEALY '98



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Latvian National Opera house was packed to the rafters for the annual Latvian Music Awards, a major event in this song-loving Baltic country. Cameras swooped above the audience for the live broadcast. My colleagues and I huddled in the wings, awed and intimidated by this theatre that has hosted the world's most talented singers, dancers and orchestras.

The music swelled and receded as the show returned from a commercial break. We heard the host begin musing, in Latvian, about rock 'n' roll lyrics.

That was our cue.

The deputy chief of mission took a deep breath, and we leaned in for her pep talk: "Well, team, this is either going to be one of the best things we've ever done," she paused, "or a *complete* disaster."

We had spent eight months together in D.C. learning Latvian. In many countries, the U.S. Embassy is the only one in which diplomats are trained to speak the host country language prior to arrival. For anywhere from six to 24 months, learning the language is your only job: all day, every day. It's a truly amazing aspect of U.S. diplomacy, but also a stressful one, knowing you must pass the proficiency test at the end. Everyone cries at least once. Or 37 times, but who's counting?

At the end of every day, my classmates and I relieved our stress by translating a beloved Latvian folk song or snapping our way through a current pop hit. We learned the language, but the lyrics also taught us about Latvians themselves—their reverence for creation (the snow, the thick forests, the Baltic sea) and their deep emotions about their independence.

These artists were shaping our understanding of their country, and they didn't even know it. We all agreed: When we arrived in Riga, we would host a party to say thank you. We kept our expectations low. Maybe all the artists would think it was corny. Maybe no one would care. Maybe no one would come.

They all came. Singers. Musicians. Actors. And the producer of the music awards, which is how six very nervous U.S. diplomats found themselves on that famed stage, armed with the trophy for Song of the Year and a song-and-dance routine that recapped our musical journey through the Latvian language. The ambassador began to speak.

"Pirms amerikāņu diplomāti uzsāk savu dienestu citā valstī, daudzi apgūst tās valsts valodu Valsts departamenta Ārlietu institūtā." *Before American diplomats begin their service in another country, many learn that country's language at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute.*

The audience fell quiet.

Five minutes later, exuberant applause filled the venue. We earned the Latvians' respect on that stage. Not with our skills. Heavens, no. When we hatched this plan, we somehow overlooked the fact that not one of us could sing. Or dance. But our efforts to embrace their language established a level of trust that buoyed our bilateral relationship for the remainder of our tours. As one Latvian exclaimed months later, "I remember you! I cried—such bad singing! But such good feeling."

Over the years, my colleagues and I have worked on many issues dear to my heart. We've advised foreign legislatures on drafting stronger legislation against human trafficking and domestic violence. I've spent late nights on the phone with U.S. citizens, discouraging them from sending their savings to scammers posing as love-struck fiancées. We've helped craft natural disaster and terrorism simulations that improve our ability to coordinate with our host governments in crisis situations.

But sometimes our most important work is simply showing foreign audiences a side of America they haven't seen before, a personal side: playing Ultimate Frisbee with local high school students, demonstrating the fine art of roasting s'mores, or just speaking their language.

Definitely just speaking. I'm leaving the singing to the professionals.

Sara Veldhuizen Stealy majored in theatre/speech and communications. She joined the State Department in 2008 and has served in the U.S. Embassies in Zambia, Latvia, Ghana and Lithuania and in the Bureau of Consular Affairs in Washington, D.C.

The views expressed are Stealy's and not necessarily those of the Department of State or the U.S. government.

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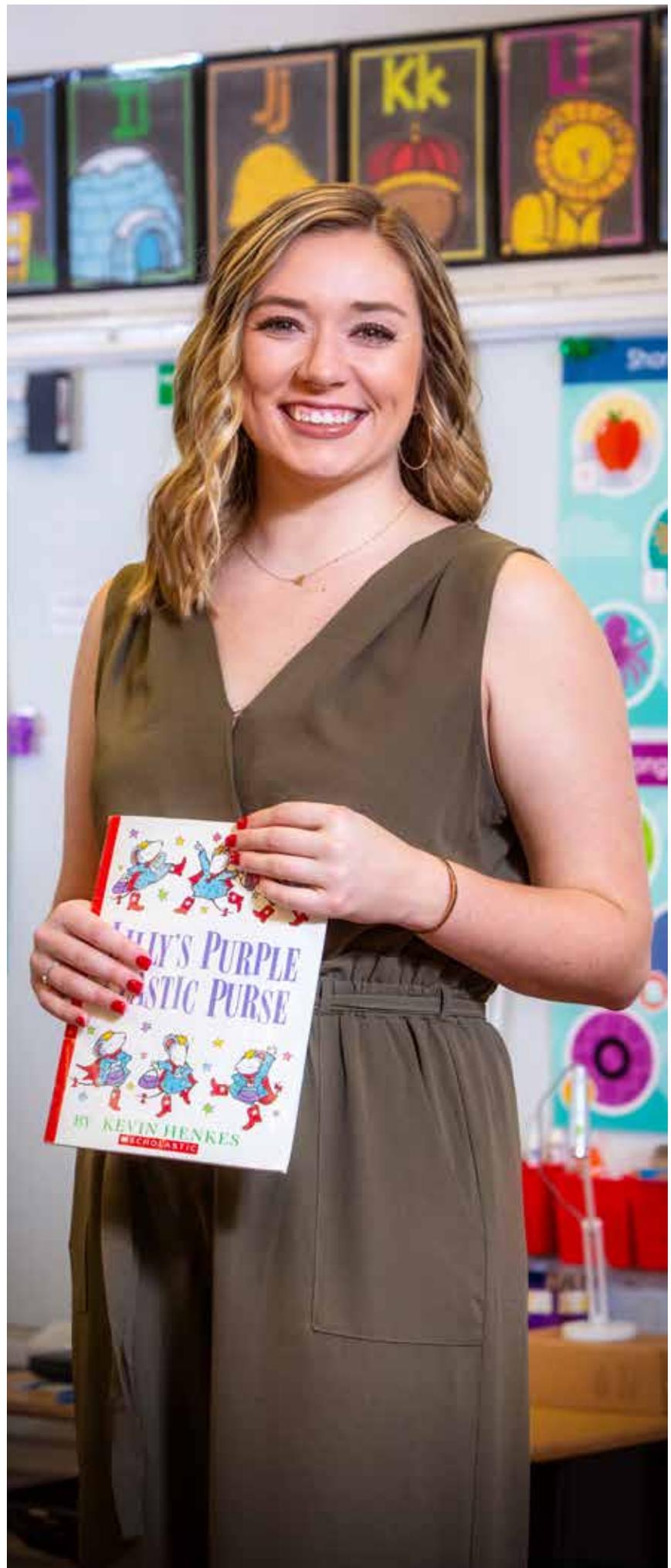
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(Red and) White Christmas



DOUG BURG

On Monday after Thanksgiving break, students bundle up and gather after dark on the campus green. Northwestern's brass quintet plays *Silent Night* while students sing and pass a flame, candle to candle, waiting

for the moment when President Greg and Michelle Christy will light the Christmas tree in front of Zwemer Hall. The lighting of O Tannenbaum is a signal, and soon central campus is aglow as lights twinkle from more

branches, building balconies, and red-ribboned wreaths at the peaks of Christ Chapel and Zwemer and Van Peursem halls. After basking for a frozen moment, everyone heads to the library for

hot chocolate before going back to studying. Christmas is coming, but first, there's finals.

the Classic