

Northwestern College Magazine *the* **Classic** WINTER 2021-2022



## Standout Students

Meet eight Raiders who are making a difference

*Also*

The Nine Lives of Kepp Hall

Vogel Welcome Center

Raider Quiz





# 18

The new Frank and Lois Vogel Welcome Center makes a warm first impression upon prospective students and their families, as well as alumni visitors and other campus guests.



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## Classic People

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### On the Cover:

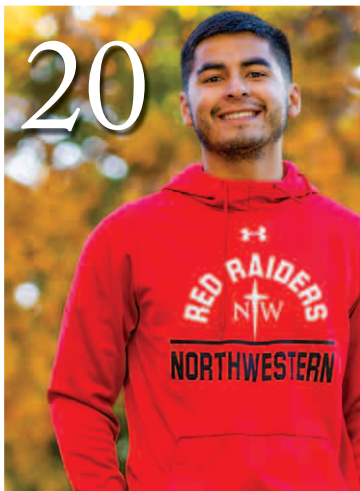
Northwestern students are preparing to provide health care for the underserved, teach children with special needs, spread the gospel, and more. Meet eight Raiders who are being equipped for God's call on their lives in this issue's cover story.

PHOTOS BY LEM MAURER  
and MICHAEL HUDSON

### Online-Only Option

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

 **CCC**  
AN INSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL FOR  
CHRISTIAN COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES



## 6 Men at Work

Amid a pep-talk environment, about 80 young men from across campus gather every Monday morning to prepare to succeed in the game of life.

## 20 Standout Students

Get to know eight Raiders who are making a difference, on campus and around the world.

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Who was Northwestern's first NAIA national player of the year? What Raider shot put record holder played in the NFL? Test your knowledge of Northwestern's storied athletic history.

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A squat, unassuming building served the college well for nearly three decades.

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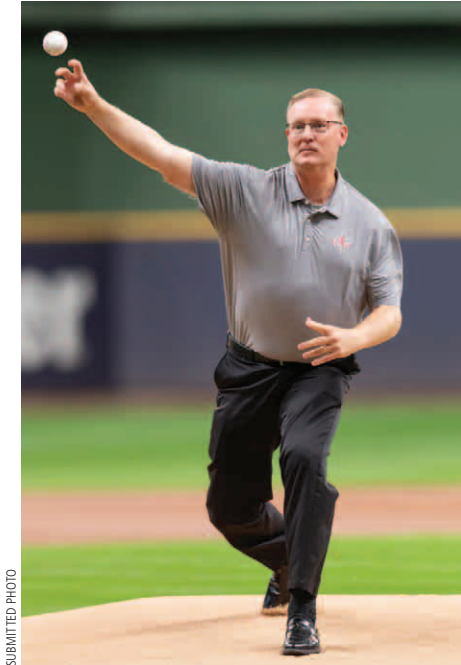
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# Zwemer View



SUBMITTED PHOTO

## On the Mound for Northwestern

Having begun my life in a hospital bassinet with a baseball glove at my side, it's no surprise that baseball has been a lifelong passion. It has been one of my greatest loves, and I was fortunate to be a four-year starting pitcher in college.

Like many boys, I dreamed of taking the mound at a major league stadium someday. You can imagine my excitement—and my nerves—when I was summoned to throw out the first pitch at the Milwaukee Brewers and St. Louis Cardinals game on Sept. 22 at American Family Field. (Did I mention I'm a huge Cardinals fan?)

I won't go into details about my "first pitch," but I do want to thank NWC trustee and parent Bill Westrate '94, who made the experience possible. He is the new CEO of American Family Insurance—the namesake of the stadium—and he and his wife, Shela (Stone '94), hosted a group of Northwestern supporters at the game. Alumni, parents and friends enjoyed dinner and the game in their hospitality suite.

As I reflect on the fall 2021 semester, I am humbled by the many generous people who—like the Westrates—take advantage of opportunities to spread the word about Northwestern and strengthen our mission.

In September we dedicated the Frank and Lois Vogel Welcome Center (featured on page 18). In February 2020 Frank Vogel '47 stepped up with a lead gift that was the project's catalyst. Dozens of others gave gifts from \$50 to \$250,000, and the project was fully funded when we broke ground in the fall of 2020.

A year ago, John and Ann Den Hartog made the lead gift for the phase one renovation of the Bultman Center. Many others followed, and now we have a beautifully refurbished facility for Red Raider student-athletes, coaches and fans to enjoy for decades to come.

We are blessed to have our third consecutive year of record enrollment with a total of 1,585 students. Forty of our nearly 300 new students—13%—were referred to us by alumni, parents and friends! If you know of a student who would be a great fit at NWC, let us know at [nwc.iowa.edu/refer](https://nwc.iowa.edu/refer).

Not everyone has the resources and connections to give naming gifts or help Northwestern be recognized in a ballpark filled by 30,000 fans, but all can seize the opportunities in front of us to help in some way. Whether it is sharing a Facebook post, referring a prospective student, providing internship opportunities, hosting an event or contributing to NWC, join the nearly 1,200 members of the Northwestern Network at [nwc.iowa.edu/NWnetwork/join](https://nwc.iowa.edu/NWnetwork/join). Together we can continue to achieve even greater levels of excellence at Northwestern—not for ourselves but because excellence honors God and serves others—and have a ball doing it. Raiders Stand Out!

Greg Christy  
*President*



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



# around the Green

## Solidarity in Song

Northwestern's A cappella Choir will be jetting across the Pacific to Taiwan this spring, where they'll tour May 17 to 28. The 46-member ensemble will perform in the capital city of Taipei, the city of Hualien on the eastern coast, and the southern city of Kaohsiung.

Students will perform at a variety of venues, including a university, public schools, concert halls and churches. The choir is also scheduled to perform alongside Taiwanese youth, community and church choirs.

"The opportunities to build relationships and touch lives with the gospel in word and action will be life changing," says Dr. Thomas Holm, music professor and choir conductor. "Music can transcend barriers that separate people, and I am excited to see how God will use our students to accomplish his work."

Tour repertoire will feature both American and Taiwanese compositions, including *The Apple of Daddy's Eye*, a popular Taiwanese song about family love in the midst of political hardship.

Each choir member is responsible for paying \$1,200 out of pocket and raising an additional \$760 through fundraising efforts. Donations to support the trip can be made by visiting [nwciowa.edu/give2nwc](http://nwciowa.edu/give2nwc), clicking "Other" in the designation box, and typing in "Choir Tour." If COVID-19 travel restrictions prevent a tour to Taiwan, the A cappella Choir will instead travel to Denmark and Sweden.



On their May tour to Taiwan, Northwestern's A cappella Choir plans to share music in a variety of performance settings and hold joint concerts with Taiwanese choirs.

## in Box

### QWERTY Proficient

In the early 1960s, several Northwestern College faculty members also taught classes for those of us in the academy. John Rider [whose obituary was in the Summer 2021 *Classic*] taught our high school typing classes in a room with wooden floors in Zwemer Hall. With more than 30 manual typewriters clattering at the same time, it was an amazing racket! Mr. Rider was exacting, teaching us proper posture and hand position to make us better typists.

At the end of the school year in 1961 (also the last year for Northwestern Classical Academy), Mr. Rider gave me a Josten's fob with "61, 70 WPM"

on the back. Little did I know how valuable that class would be. Some eight years later, I typed all the drafts for my master's thesis myself—on a manual typewriter.

**Hermína "Hermi" (VanderWilt '66) LaPoint**  
Fort Collins, Colorado

### WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

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



## New counseling graduate programs

Northwestern's third set of graduate programs will be launched in May when online master's degree programs in clinical mental health counseling and school counseling begin.

The clinical mental health counseling program is designed to be completed in two years by taking two eight-week courses at a time. The school counseling program is set up to be completed by working professionals in three years.



The programs are directed by Dr. Gregory Elliott, who has extensive clinical practice experience and previously served as president of the Colorado Counseling Association. He received an Outstanding Faculty Award from Colorado Christian University last year while teaching in their graduate counseling program.

"I am very excited to have the opportunity to develop graduate counseling programs at Northwestern, which has established itself as one of the best Christian colleges in the nation," says Elliott. "I look forward to producing outstanding counselors who love Jesus Christ and seek to be part of God's restorative mission to hurting people."

Elliott says there's a desperate need for more counselors. For example, the American School Counseling Association recommends a 250:1 ratio of students to counselors, and Iowa is at 350:1, while the national ratio is 450:1. Elliott's clinical specialization and research interests have been focused on working with suicidal clients and in training mental health clinicians to do the same. He notes that suicide rates have been increasing for 15 years. "God is calling people into the counseling profession to help bring hope into people's lives," he says.

For more information about the programs, visit [nwciowa.edu/mental-health-counseling](http://nwciowa.edu/mental-health-counseling) or [nwciowa.edu/school-counseling](http://nwciowa.edu/school-counseling).

The master's programs join an online Master of Education program with eight tracks and an on-campus master's degree in physician assistant studies.

Dr. Gregory Elliott, recent president of the Colorado Counseling Association, is directing Northwestern's new online master's degree programs in clinical mental health counseling and school counseling, which will begin in May.

## Play Your Part

**Thursday, Feb. 17**

*Help us beat last year's record!*

- Another Eras of Excellence competition—with a twist
- Multiple prize drawings throughout the day
- \$100,000 in matching gifts

Follow us on social media for more details.

#RaidersAllN ▪ [allnday.nwciowa.edu](http://allnday.nwciowa.edu)







Alex Vander Stoep '19 works as an actuarial associate at Principal Financial Group in Des Moines. Northwestern's actuarial program has been ranked among the nation's best values.

## Ranked Among the Best

Northwestern continues to garner high marks in national rankings.

### U.S. News

NWC is ranked sixth among 76 Midwestern regional colleges in the 2022 Best Colleges guidebook. Northwestern is also one of 33 Best-Value Schools and 38 institutions cited as Top Performers on Social Mobility. Northwestern is third in six-year graduation rate, 68%, and fifth in the peer assessment category.

### Best-Value Actuarial Science Programs

Northwestern's actuarial science program is ranked among the nation's 30 best-value programs by College Values Online. Northwestern is 26th on a list that includes research institutions such as the University of Michigan, Ohio State University and the University of Texas. Northwestern is one of only two Iowa institutions to be ranked and is the sole representative of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities.

The ranking compares all undergraduate actuarial science programs in the U.S. based on key metrics such as graduate placement, quality of curriculum, network opportunities, tuition costs and scholarship availability.

### Adoption-Friendly Workplaces

Northwestern made its ninth appearance on a list compiled by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. Northwestern was recognized as an adoption advocate and ranked fourth in the education industry—behind only Yale, New York University and Baylor.

## Welcomed Home

After a year's hiatus due to COVID-19, Northwestern's Raider Nation Celebration was well attended by alumni and friends Sept. 17 and 18.

The weekend was kicked off with the dedication of the new Frank and Lois Vogel Welcome Center. Wins by the football and men's soccer teams and recognition of donors at the Celebration Banquet were among the highlights.

The 2022 Raider Nation Celebration will be Sept. 30–Oct. 1.

Among the many alumni who returned for Homecoming activities in September were these members of the class of 1971, left to right: Sandi (Mouw) Carlson, Merrita (Smidt) Tumonong, Helen (Pollema) De Zeeuw, Barb (Penning) Donkersloot, Joyce (Ubben) Den Hartog and Dr. Mary Vander Maten.



# Campus Life

## Men at Work

BY DUANE BEESON

It's Monday morning at 10, and just a few dozen steps from the Bultman Center gym, there's a pep-talk atmosphere in the dance room.

"Habits matter," Coach Kris Korver '92 tells a group of about 80 young men. "You either structure God in or out of your life."

Korver reminds the students they each need a Paul (mentor), Barnabas (encourager) and Timothy (mentee) in their lives. He then introduces Todd Barry—Korver's coach when he played basketball for the Red Raiders—who was his mentor.

Barry has the group give three claps for Korver. Three claps for the guys in attendance follow. Barry then proceeds to tell a few stories and leave the young Raiders with some challenges.

For four years, Monday Mornings for Men has been exhorting Northwestern's male students to reject the world's views of what it means to be a man. "It's crystal clear that we live in a fatherless nation, with a void of manhood examples and teaching," says Korver. "We're finding that guys are hungry for information about the biblical design for family and manhood."

Korver, head wrestling coach Rik Dahl '97 and others involved in Monday Mornings for Men emphasize Bible reading and accountability, encouraging guys to read from assigned passages and share reflections about them in text loops with other students and coaches. Last fall's reading included the book of Genesis, as well as several chapters from Daniel and Psalms.

"The text loops have helped me to be more intentional about my Bible reading," says Jakob VanDerWerff '23. "When I have to read the chapter, respond to it and share my thoughts with other men, I do a much better job reflecting on what God wants me to hear."

Noah Slagter '22 agrees, and says that Monday Mornings for Men has challenged him to live with the end in sight. "These 30 minutes teach the truths about how a real man acts. I've developed habits that can help me become a better man, son and future husband."



Students from across campus gather every Monday morning to reflect upon being men of God.

## Source of Support

Before she started working as a therapist in the Wellness Center, Deanne Archer had been a long-time supporter of Northwestern. Four of her sons—Kennan '04, Ethan '07, Braden '10 and Toben '13—spent a cumulative 15 years on campus, giving Archer a firsthand appreciation for the college's investment in students. Archer joined the Wellness Center staff in 2018 and retired in December.

"Deanne offered many of our students warm support and understanding, as well as gentle guidance toward their goals," says Dr. Sally Oakes Edman, director of counseling services. "Her pleasant demeanor and tireless concern for our students will be greatly missed."

A licensed marriage and family therapist, Archer provided counseling to students struggling with anxiety, depression, body image, trauma and relationship issues. She received a master's degree in marriage and family therapy from Argosy University and also holds a master's in physical therapy from Baylor University. Prior to joining Northwestern's staff, she provided therapy for individuals and families at community mental health centers and served with the Army Medical Specialist Corps as a physical therapist.



Deanne Archer





F. GAYLOR

# Honored Prof

Dr. Jennifer Feenstra, psychology department chair, has been appointed to the Northwestern College Endowed Professorship. The professorship will provide annual funds to support her scholarly work.

A member of Northwestern's faculty since 2003, Feenstra is a social psychologist with research interests in volunteerism and the development of adolescents and young adults. She was named a Fulbright Scholar in 2011–12 and spent eight months teaching and researching at Babes-Bolyai

University in Romania. Feenstra's research assessed the impact of the New Horizon Foundation's programming on Romanian youth.

Her research has been published in the *Journal of Psychology and Christianity* and the *Journal of College Student Development*, and she has developed a research methods case study for use in introductory psychology courses.

Feenstra, who was the 2017 recipient of Northwestern's Faculty Inspirational Service Award, earned a doctorate in psychology from the University of New

Hampshire, as well as master's degrees in psychology and college teaching.

Her endowed professorship appointment is for a five-year period. Previous recipients of NWC's Endowed Professorship include Dr. Sara Sybesma Tolsma '84, biology; Dr. Laird Edman, psychology; and Dr. Keith Fynaardt, English.

As the Northwestern College Endowed Professor, Dr. Jennifer Feenstra will receive annual funding to support her research.

## Record Enrollment

Northwestern broke enrollment records for the third consecutive year. Fall 2021 enrollment was 1,585, up more than 2% from the previous year's record of 1,546.

The latest figures include the largest ever number of graduate students—500 enrolled in the online Master of Education program and on-campus master's program in physician assistant studies—up from 461 last year. Northwestern also had 83% of last year's freshmen return, a record retention rate. And more than 6% of the college's residential undergraduate population are Latino students, also a record high.

"We are thrilled to continue to be setting enrollment records, especially as many other schools are seeing declines," says Tamara Fynaardt, vice president for enrollment and marketing. "Our high retention rate shows we are providing the standout academic preparation, integration of faith and learning, and experience of belonging that our students expect. Our graduate programs continue to exceed expectations because of their great reputation for highly applicable content, personal attention, affordability and flexibility. And we're glad to see progress on enrolling more students of color as we seek to live out our Vision for Diversity."



Erik Rodriguez (second from right) and Eddy Punzalan (far right)—pictured with Erik's parents during orientation—are among the record 1,585 students who enrolled at Northwestern this past fall.

JERRY MENENGA

## New Online Bachelor's Program

Northwestern launched a new online bachelor's degree in early childhood this month that leads to teaching licensure. The program prepares graduates to teach pre-K through third grade.

The only Iowa program of its kind, Northwestern's is designed for students who have already earned an associate's or bachelor's degree. It can be completed in three years or less. Interested students can begin the program in any fall, spring or summer semester.

"I'm really excited about this new program, because it will help address the shortage of early childhood teachers in Iowa and throughout the country," says Dr. Angila Moffitt,

director of Northwestern's early childhood programs. "Because students can have a majority of their educational expenses covered by the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Scholarship, they will be able to earn a degree without accruing much or any debt."

The program is designed for working adults, with eight-week courses and a flexible pace. Students will explore how their faith interacts with their role as an early childhood educator, and they will be guided by professors with extensive classroom experience. "Our students are not numbers but people who receive a personal touch from their professors," says Moffitt.



LINDA RATHJE

Northwestern has begun an online bachelor's degree program that prepares graduates to teach pre-K through third grade.

The new program joins a non-licensure degree-completion online bachelor's degree in early childhood that prepares graduates to teach and lead in child care settings and Head Start programs.

For more information about the licensure program, visit [nwcioa.edu/baec-licensure](http://nwcioa.edu/baec-licensure).

## Perfect—Again

For the second year in a row, Northwestern's latest nursing graduates have recorded a 100% first-time pass rate on the NCLEX-RN board exam. All 14 of the 2021 nursing alumni who took the exam passed it on their first attempt.

"The pass rate is the benchmark for analyzing a nursing program's quality," says Dr. Julie Dragstra, nursing department chair. "Our graduates' success shows they are well prepared to meet today's health care needs and the challenges their patients will face."

Dragstra cites several factors for contributing to the nursing graduates' scores.

"Our faculty challenge students to think critically rather than to just memorize content," she says. "They create a very positive learning environment and do a great job of helping students make connections between theory and actual practice. Students benefit from our outstanding facility—but also from a lot of hands-on opportunities through clinical experiences and community service."

Northwestern's 2021 nursing graduates are working at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota; the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City; MercyOne Medical Center and UnityPoint Health in Des Moines, Iowa; St. David's Medical Center in Austin, Texas; and Orange City Area Health System, among others.



LEMM AUERER

### Alumni Snapshot

15,129 TOTAL

#### Top 10 home states:

Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, California, Colorado, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Washington

(49 states and 59 countries represented)

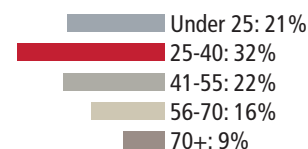
#### Raider love:

2,195 married couples in which both spouses are alums

1942

Class year of our oldest living alumna, Henrietta (Maassen) Muilenburg of Orange City

#### Percentage of alumni by age groups



Nearly 40% of Northwestern employees are Raider alumni



## Standout Scores

Recent scores placed Northwestern's psychology graduates in the top 4% of students taking the ETS Major Field Test in Psychology. Developed by professors across the country, this national benchmark exam assesses mastery of key concepts and evaluates students' analytical and problem-solving skills.

"We have a curriculum that emphasizes psychological material across many different areas, but we also teach our graduates to think well about psychology and faith," says Dr. Laird Edman, psychology professor. "The scores on these tests indicate we are accomplishing these essential goals."

Each Northwestern psychology major completes a research project in collaboration with faculty. Students also have opportunities to assist in their professors' ongoing research, to co-author articles, and to present research results at national conferences.

## Face Value

### Sally Oakes Edman

Compassionate Therapist

#### What do you most value about your interactions with students?

Northwestern students are brave enough to step out of their comfort zones to become healthier people—something that is hard at any age. It's rewarding to see students make positive changes during this stage of life, because that's going to make a difference in their relationships and vocational success as they move forward.

#### How have you observed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students' emotional well-being?

Everyone's pandemic experience and their personal response to it is unique to them. For those prone to anxiety, increased time at home tended to be challenging. Their friendships may have been strained, and while shifts in social groups can occur naturally, some students have struggled to regroup socially. Without the structure of in-person classes, students with depression found it difficult to maintain a daily routine. There's something about getting up, going to bed and eating meals at the same time that's good for us. Our bodies respond well to routine, and no one really had to do that when studying from home.

#### How do you think greater dependence upon technology correlates to increasing rates of anxiety and depression among college students?

In 2013, the share of Americans who owned a smartphone was 51%, according to the Pew Research Center. Every year since then, as that percentage has gone up, there's been an incremental increase in college students' reports of anxiety and depression. When we see the carefully curated moments of other people's lives on social media, it's easy to wonder why our own lives don't seem as beautiful or as exciting. This would explain why most students report having periods of overwhelming anxiety—something psychologists define as abnormal.



**Dr. Sally Oakes Edman is a licensed clinical psychologist and director of counseling services at Northwestern. She has worked in a private practice, college counseling centers, and for the Mayo Clinic. Although she spends much of her time talking to students about the challenges of mental health, Sally loves to laugh and appreciates lively debates about big ideas.**

But with more than 60% of students making this claim, being anxious is now the norm. Decreased face-to-face interaction also contributes to this, and those conversations meet our needs in ways that digital communication does not.

#### In what ways does your personal faith commitment inform your counseling practice?

I believe each person I work with is a beloved creation of God, made in God's image. I also know how powerful God is and that he can heal our deepest sufferings. There's always hope in Jesus, and even if he doesn't eliminate the pain, I trust that God uses our painful experiences to form us and teach us to rely on him more.

# Micro Commitment, Macro Benefits

As workplace needs continue to evolve, Northwestern is seeking to provide accessible continuing education opportunities for students and working professionals. Last fall, Northwestern launched a micro-credential program through its Center for Innovation & Leadership and the Graduate School & Adult Learning division. Micro-credentials are small programs that verify mastery of field-specific skills and help individuals meet their academic or professional goals.

"We created a micro-credential program so we can provide more personalized learning opportunities for all types of learners," says Erica (Van Meeteren '00) Vonk, director of the Center for Innovation & Leadership. "Northwestern is emerging as a leader in this new way of offering relevant skills-based learning in a society where skills are changing more rapidly than ever before. The abilities needed now may be



Northwestern has begun offering micro-credentials to provide lifelong learning opportunities to students and professionals and help them showcase mastery of job-related skills.

different in two years—micro-credentials are suited to meet that demand."

The micro-credential programs are themed around competencies and skills identified as essential by national associations and regional employers. Skills include critical thinking and problem-solving, teamwork and

collaboration, leadership, professionalism, oral and written communication, diversity and bias, and content more directly tied to technical or performance-based standards, such as project management and more.

"Micro-credentials are terrific solutions for professionals to continue

lifelong learning, and for employers to recognize an individual's commitment to excellence," says Joe Vander Stelt '17, FunZone brand manager at Pizza Ranch.

Upon completion of a micro-credential, learners will receive a digital badge—a clickable, verifiable credential that showcases their mastery of a skill or knowledge in a desired area. Digital badges include information such as the date earned, issuing institution, program criteria and work samples. The badges can be displayed on LinkedIn and other social media sites, embedded in e-portfolios or email signatures, and linked on resumes for visible recognition.

All campus departments as well as global leaders in their fields can propose to offer a micro-credential from NWC. Course offerings are available for professionals, as well as high school, undergraduate and graduate students. For more information, visit [nwciowa.edu/micro-credentials](http://nwciowa.edu/micro-credentials).

## Change Makers

Once a month, 15 leaders from across northwest Iowa meet as part of Accelerate Siouxland, a leadership development program offered by Northwestern's Center for Innovation & Leadership. The program seeks to spark new connections and ideas by familiarizing participants with Siouxland's resources. Employees in business, industry, education and nonprofit work represent the first Accelerate Siouxland cohort and began meeting in September.

Sessions involve award-winning leadership training, including FranklinCovey's "7 Habits of Highly Effective People," "6 Critical Practices for Leading a Team" and "Unconscious Bias." The cohort has also heard from area leaders in business, industry, community development and nonprofit work about how they can lead meaningful change in their communities.

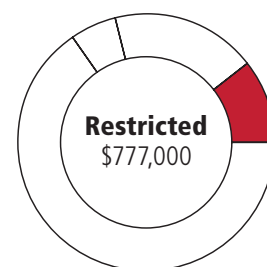
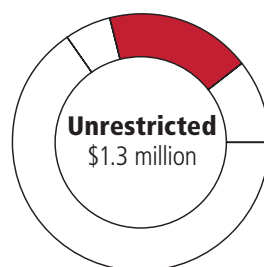
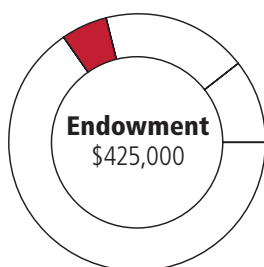
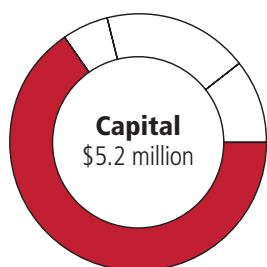
"It's been great to hear how the cohort is going to apply FranklinCovey's '7 Habits' to their lives," says Josh Van Es '09, coordinator for Accelerate Siouxland. "We have talked about how to better plan our weeks by being proactive, beginning with the end in mind, and putting first things first. We have also discussed how we can create a work environment that values cooperation over competition."

This spring, the cohort will partner with regional organizations to address problems they are facing and provide solutions to move them toward future growth.

"Accelerate Siouxland has opened my eyes to the resources this area has to offer, as well as opportunities for improvement," says Cameron McKinney '15, supply chain manager at Sekisui Aerospace in Orange City. "The program is creating a great synergy among professionals that will help boost this area for generations to come."



# Giving to Northwestern College in 2020–21



TOTAL GIFTS: \$7.7 MILLION

**71**

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

**599**

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

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



**17**



new scholarships  
established (10  
endowed and 7  
annually funded)

**571**

donors have  
given **20+**  
consecutive  
years

**1,174**

volunteers who advocate  
for NWC

40 students enrolled in fall  
2021 due to Northwestern  
Network referrals



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



**75.2**

million value of  
Northwestern's  
endowment as of  
June 30, 2021

## Steadfast Service

After 20 years of service, Brenda Meyer '76 retired from her role as academic affairs assistant in December. She provided key support to four of Northwestern's vice presidents for academic affairs, as well as five interim appointees.



Brenda Meyer

"Brenda kept things running smoothly and helped me understand the intricacies of the faculty evaluation and hiring process," says Dr. Nathan Phinney, vice president for academic affairs. "I'm truly grateful for her help during my transition to this role, especially during the year of COVID."

By facilitating the transition from paper to electronic course evaluations, Meyer also had a hand in bringing the academics division into the digital age. Phinney cites her efficient management skills as instrumental and applauds her work to modernize the academic affairs budgeting process.

In 2008, Meyer received Northwestern's Staff Recognition for Inspirational Service Award. In their nominations, colleagues commended Meyer for her compassionate spirit, willingness to serve others, and dedicated work behind the scenes.

"We are going to miss Brenda's wealth of knowledge and gracious presence," says Dr. Scott Monsma, sociology. "And we are certainly going to miss the ability to call or stop by, confident that Brenda either already knows the answer or knows how to address the issue."

## Hammock Haven

Students have a new outdoor gathering space for warm afternoons on the campus green—a freestanding hammock hub for hanging out and reclining in nature. Located on the former Heemstra Hall plot, students and staff have affectionately dubbed it the Heemstra Hammock Haven. The all-weather steel frame is 15 feet wide and accommodates up to eight hammocks, which can be checked out from the DeWitt Library upon request.



DOUG BLING

Student hammockers Ellie Natelborg (left) and Lydia Pearson make use of Northwestern's outdoor hammock hub on a temperate late fall Saturday morning.

# STAY CONNECTED

Join the conversation  
to learn how  
**#RaidersStandOut.**





# Faculty Learning Communities

Northwestern has begun a pilot program of faculty learning communities (FLC) with the aid of a \$10,000 NetVUE Professional Development Award.

"The faculty learning communities are being established to foster greater collaboration and mentorship among faculty members, with the understanding that as faculty thrive vocationally, they mentor, teach and collaborate with students who learn from their example," says Dr. Nathan Phinney, vice president for academic affairs.

Northwestern formed three faculty learning communities—small, peer-led groups of faculty who work together for a year to answer a question, develop solutions to a

problem, or engage an important topic. The communities are focusing on mentorship in scholarship for female faculty, a stronger integration of diversity and equity issues in cross-cultural engagement core courses, and the exploration of models of research in STEM fields that normalize the demands of balancing an academic career with raising children.

The NetVUE award is made possible by a generous grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to the Council of Independent Colleges.



## A Life of Ministry

Dr. Barb Dewald has a simple explanation for the longevity of her four-decade career in Christian higher education: "I never get tired of seeing how God works."

Had it been another era, Dewald would have gone to seminary after graduating from college in 1980. Instead, she earned a master's degree in counseling and eventually became the associate dean of students and assistant campus pastor at the University of Sioux Falls.

While working at USF, however, Dewald attended Sioux Falls Seminary part time, earning her Master of Divinity degree in 1994—the year before she became Northwestern's director of student ministries.

At NWC, Dewald was initially responsible for all ministry programming outside of chapel, including the college's Spring Service Partnerships (SSP) and Summer of Service programs. As the campus ministry department grew, her focus shifted to discipleship training and leadership development. During her 26 years at Northwestern, she trained and empowered more than 1,200 campus ministry student leaders, served as an adviser for over 20 SSP teams, and established discipleship groups in the residence halls.

Dewald's impact extended beyond Northwestern's campus. As a member of the national Fellowship of Short-Term Mission Leaders, she co-authored the organization's Standards of Excellence criteria and was awarded the 2008 Dana Walling Award for Excellence in Campus Ministry by the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities.

Dewald retired as associate dean of Christian formation in January, capping off a career in which she earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from George Fox Seminary, helped NWC students grow in their faith, and inspired other young women to follow her in leadership and ministry.

**Dr. Barb Dewald retired in January after more than 26 years as part of Northwestern's campus ministry staff. She received the Staff Inspirational Service Award in 2013.**

LEW MAURER

# Exemplary

Five alumni were honored for their impact on their professions, communities and alma mater during Northwestern's Raider Nation Celebration in September.

## Dr. Bob Boerigter '70

### *Professional Achievement*

Dr. Bob Boerigter taught and coached at the collegiate level for 45 years and served as athletics director at five institutions. Most recently, he was commissioner of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association, an NCAA Division II conference. He was named the NAIA National Athletics Administrator of the

Year and presented with a lifetime achievement award by the NCAA Division II Athletics Directors Association. He earned his doctorate from the University of Utah.

## Donna (Heerspink '84) Bunce

### *Service to Humankind*

Donna Bunce is the founder and executive director of Compassionate Heart Ministries, which provides a Christ-centered

place to meet the social and relational needs of people with disabilities. She has also served as a medical social worker for Porter Memorial Hospital, as a bereavement coordinator for Hospice of Holland, and as a church youth director. Her work won her Zeeland, Michigan's Community Service Award and the Ability Award for the Disability Network of the Lakeshore.

## Dr. Michael Holm '06

### *Standout Young Alum*

Dr. Michael Holm serves as chief data scientist for Covenant Eyes Inc., a company that provides accountability software and content to help people quit using pornography for good—or never start. He is an expert in artificial intelligence and previously worked as an intelligence officer at the U.S. National Security Agency. He holds a doctorate in mathematics from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

## Karen (De Boer '79) and Dr. Earl Woudstra '78

### *Service to Northwestern*

The Woudstras met and married while they were students at Northwestern. Earl's teams won four national championships during the 17 years he served as Northwestern's women's basketball coach. He also served as director of athletics for five years. Karen was Northwestern's alumni director from 2001 to 2006. All of their children attended NWC, and the couple established a scholarship for Northwestern students. Earl earned his doctorate from the University of Minnesota; Karen graduated from NWC with a degree in elementary education.



Northwestern's 2021 alumni of the year are (from left) Dr. Michael Holm '06, Donna (Heerspink '84) Bunce, Dr. Bob Boerigter '70, and Karen (De Boer '79) and Dr. Earl Woudstra '78.





I felt like I was being called by God to come here. Being a Raider has changed my life.

**Manuel Jaramillo**



I've gained so much more than just an education at Northwestern. I've grown in my faith, cultivated diverse and enduring friendships, and made many great memories.

**Jenee Eden**

## They're worth it.

Support every student. Every major. Every passion. Every calling. Your **Northwestern Fund** gift makes a standout education more attainable for all.

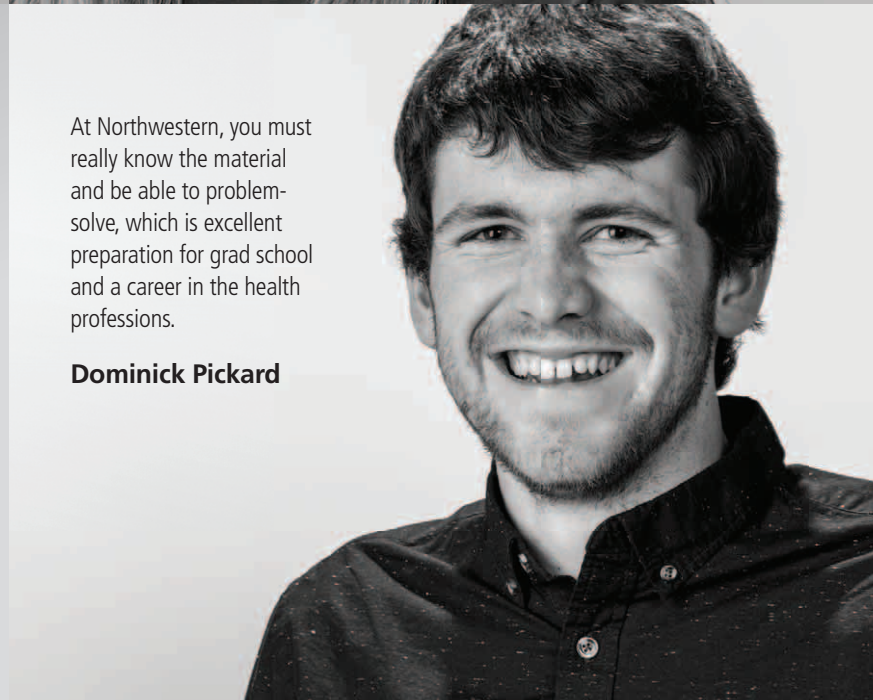
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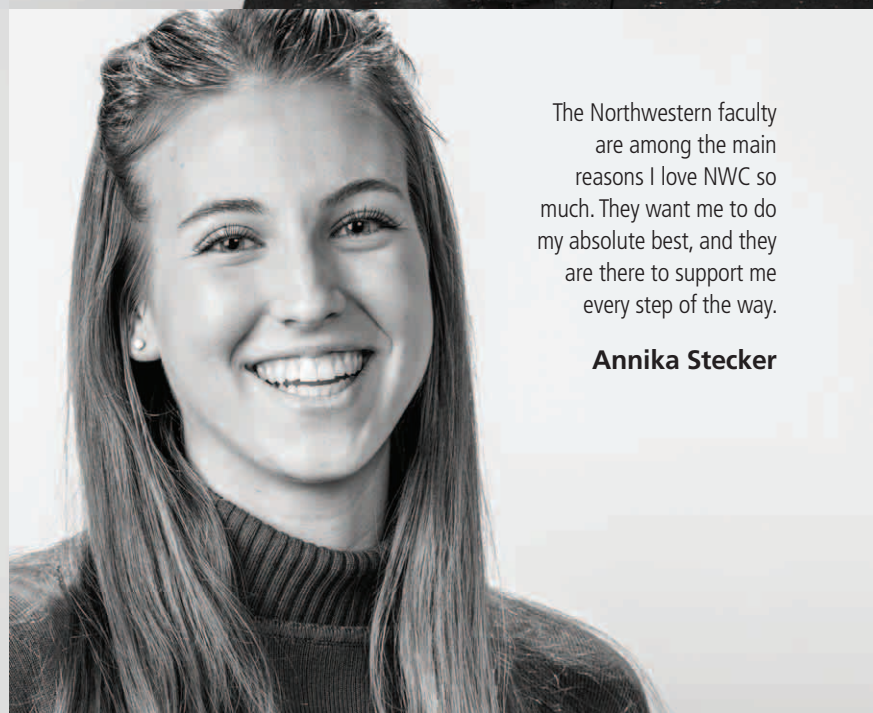
I'm grateful to be receiving a Christ-centered education that's preparing me—in the best possible way—to be an advocate and servant for people in need.

**Hayden Lee**



At Northwestern, you must really know the material and be able to problem-solve, which is excellent preparation for grad school and a career in the health professions.

**Dominick Pickard**



The Northwestern faculty are among the main reasons I love NWC so much. They want me to do my absolute best, and they are there to support me every step of the way.

**Annika Stecker**





Christopher Jelken '21 scuba dives in Australia's Great Barrier Reef while studying abroad in early 2020.



# Adventure is out there

After a lengthy pandemic season of staying close to home, 18 students launched to locations across the globe last fall, furthering their studies in unique cultural settings. They backpacked through the mountains of Lupeni, Romania; enjoyed breakfast in La Plaza de Salvador in Seville, Spain; took courses at the Florence University of the Arts in Italy; and interned in urban centers like Chicago, Denver and Washington, D.C.

SUBMITTED PHOTO





# Warm Campus Welcome

BY EMELIE (SWONGER '19) LAACKMANN

Visitors to the new Vogel Welcome Center get an immediate sense of Northwestern's brand and heart for hospitality. The Raiders Stand Out promise is proudly displayed on the wall behind the reception desk, and a reflective glass wall in eye-catching red serves as a backdrop to the building's reception area.

While waiting for their student tour guide, visitors can rest in an expansive lounge with comfortable seating and a cozy fireplace. Guests can also pass the time by putting together a Northwestern-themed puzzle or

viewing campus photos and marketing messages on a video screen.

"Our top priority is to ensure the most standout visitor experience possible," says Jackie Davis, dean of admissions. "First impressions are important, and as the front door to campus, the Vogel Welcome Center provides guests with easy access and enhanced hospitality."

Since its opening in early September, the Vogel Welcome Center has given hundreds of prospective students and their families their first on-campus experience.



Prospective student Jillian Eidsness signs the red wall in the Vogel Welcome Center lobby. Admitted students have the option of adding their class year, marking their commitment to NWC.



LEM MAURER



LEM MAURER

The Vogel Welcome Center greets visitors at the north entrance to campus.

“From offering beverages and snacks in our new hospitality area to inviting students to sign the red wall, everything is designed to help visitors feel excited about being a part of Northwestern College,” says Krista Bonestroo, admissions event planner.

Alumni and friends of the college enjoy similar benefits, as the Northwestern alumni office also utilizes the space.

“As Northwestern continues to grow and evolve, we hope alumni will use the welcome center as a launch point for greater exploration of their alma mater,” says Jay Wielenga ’82, vice president for advancement.

The Vogel Welcome Center was named in honor of Frank Vogel ’47 and his late wife, Lois. Vogel served as president of Diamond Vogel for nearly 50 years and was a 28-year member of the college’s Board of Trustees. The generosity of the Vogels’ \$1 million lead gift allowed the college to break ground on the \$3.1 million project in October 2020.

“Not even a global pandemic could keep our alumni and friends from reaching the goal, giving generously and helping us break ground less

than a year from the welcome center’s dedication,” says President Greg Christy.

The 9,300-square-foot facility houses the admissions, financial aid, and marketing and communications offices, as well as four conference rooms and two communal work areas. A photo and video recording studio is used to produce marketing materials and capture photos of faculty, staff and students.

Day-to-day office operations are just as significant as the standout hospitality showcased in the reception lounge. When they’re not meeting with future Red Raiders, admissions staff are preparing information packets for upcoming visitors and calling teens they met at college fairs. Meanwhile, marketing staff are developing the college’s print and digital communications and strategizing how to encourage hundreds more high school students to visit campus. 🏠

LEFT: Dani Duistermars ’18, an admissions counselor, greets students upon their arrival at the Vogel Welcome Center.

# STAND OUT STUDENTS

Meet eight Raiders who are making a difference, on campus and around the world. They are being equipped for God's call on their lives. For significance.

## 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**.



# Heart for Healing

BY EMELIE (SWONGER '19) LAACKMANN

When Kaytlyn Keeler first met Silfran, she was serving in rural Haiti on a Summer of Service. It was a hot June afternoon, and Keeler was making door-to-door home visits with Many Hands for Haiti—the organization with which she and her teammates volunteered. A young man in his 30s or 40s, Silfran was paralyzed from the waist down and developing painful pressure sores between his knees and on his back.

“When I saw the sores, I knew exactly what they were and how to help,” says Keeler, a pre-medical student and certified nursing assistant.

She understood that adequate medical care in Haiti is hard to come by and that sitting for hours in a hospital waiting room would be uncomfortable for Silfran in his mobility cart.

“I was hesitant to say anything at first,” Keeler admits. “But one of my teammates encouraged me to speak with someone at Many Hands and offer to help him.”

A Many Hands staff member agreed to accompany Keeler on visits to Silfran every other day. She administered ointment and bandages and showed his sister how she could change his position more frequently.

“After several visits, I began to see the individual wounds improving, but Silfran’s overall condition was declining rapidly. Even so, he explained his belief that God would heal him. I was amazed at the strength of his faith. While his health was fading, his trust in God was not.”

After Keeler returned to the U.S., she received a message from Many Hands saying that Silfran had died. Although the news was heartbreaking, Keeler finds hope in Silfran’s witness of faith and shares his story with everyone she can.

“Silfran never would have imagined his name and the strength of his faith would be known in Iowa. I think he’d be so happy knowing his story made an impact in America.”

Silfran was one of the first of Keeler’s patients, but he certainly won’t be the last. After medical school, Keeler plans to pursue a career in family practice or obstetrics, serving patients across the globe as a medical missionary.



LEAH DAUBER



## Life by Design

BY EMELIE (SWONGER '19) LAACKMANN

Brandon Kjonegaard runs on ambition, passion and plenty of caffeine. With his Macbook close at hand, he is often found at a local coffee shop, working on a design project while drinking a white chocolate mocha.

"I like coffee shops because they are warm and welcoming places to hang out and enjoy time with friends," he says.

A budding entrepreneur, Kjonegaard dreams of creating a similar environment when he opens a coffee shop or brewery of his own. For now, he's gaining experience as a server at Late Harvest Brewery in Sioux Center and plans to work at an urban marketing agency after graduation.

"I want to work in Denver or Kansas City, where I can experience life further afield. I think the fast pace of an agency will challenge me and force me to grow outside my comfort zone."

The Sioux Falls native says his experiences on Spring Service Partnerships to New Orleans and Compton, California, have already broadened his perspectives. In Compton, his team visited a public charter school and witnessed the creativity of teachers working under tight financial constraints.

"The charter school was vastly different from the public schools in our area. Resources were extremely limited, but the teachers were committed to creating a safe learning space that might distract from troubles at home," he explains.

Kjonegaard's heart for service is one of the reasons he wants to work for a socially conscious marketing firm.

"Marketing can be used to promote wherever your values lie. Tying faith into the [Northwestern] curriculum showed me how I can align my values to my knowledge of marketing and graphic design."

The Northwestern senior has already had opportunities to put that knowledge to work. In 2020, he partnered with Rahul Bhandari '89 to design a cover for Bhandari's book, *Slingshot: The Power of Bold Moves*.

Bhandari anticipates Kjonegaard will have a bright future. "Brandon is one of those rare, world-class creatives who is able to translate vision into brilliant design," he says.

The possibilities ahead are ever growing, but one thing is for certain—Kjonegaard will pursue them with an open mind and coffee in hand.



## New Believer

BY ANITA CIRULIS

Growing up with a Buddhist mother and Christian grandmother, Châu Le (pronounced “Choh Lay”) says she was never an atheist.

“I knew that God exists,” the international student from Vietnam explains. “That’s why I was open to attending Northwestern, because I thought, ‘This is the place I will find God.’”

Le’s initial exposure to the faith, however, wasn’t positive.

“You’re not a Christian?” one student asked her. “Châu, you’re going to hell. Do you know that?”

“I’m like, oh my goodness, nice to meet you too,” Le said when describing her thoughts about that conversation.

Fortunately, Le met others who showed her a different type of Christianity. Because of those relationships and resulting conversations, she took a self-described “leap of faith” and told God she was going to leave her future up to him.

“I’m kind of a control freak, and I like to know my future,” she says. “I trusted God when I changed my major. It wasn’t easy, but it was worth it.”

Instead of majoring in biochemistry and going to medical school, Le triple-majored in computer science, math and chemistry. She also began working in the audiovisual department and took worship technology, lighting, sound, video and motion graphics classes from theatre professor Drew Schmidt, who describes her as “wicked smart and incredibly creative.” Le became so proficient she was able to step in for him during a family emergency and serve as the media director for the Reformed Church in America’s Rocky Mountain High youth conference.

This past fall, Le participated in the Chicago Semester, working as a technical development intern for a nationwide network of auto dealerships and repair shops. Even in the Windy City, she was involved in a church, where she helped with AV.

Three days before she left for Chicago, Le was baptized in an Alton pond with Schmidt and a small group of Northwestern staff, faculty and students present.

“I’ve had her in classes for three years and have seen a light grow in her,” Schmidt says, “so it wasn’t a surprise that the Spirit had been doing a good work in her.”

Chau

# Undaunted

BY ANITA CIRULIS

“When God closes a door,” the saying goes, “he opens a window.”

Sonia Vasilyeva experienced that herself on a path that led from Russia to Northwestern’s master’s degree program in physician assistant (PA) studies.

The Vasilyeva family immigrated to the United States in 1999 when Sonia was 1 year old, settling in Minneapolis, where she and her older brother became first-generation college students at the University of Minnesota. For her parents, there was no question the siblings would go to college. “Getting an education and achieving a better life was one of the main reasons we came here,” she says.

As a child, however, Vasilyeva grew up speaking Russian.

“There was no English in the house because my parents didn’t want us to forget the language,” she explains. Though fluent in Russian, English and Spanish, Vasilyeva had slightly lower scores in the English section of the ACT, which interfered with her plans to enroll in the University of Minnesota’s nursing program.

Undaunted, she majored in biology, minored in Spanish, and discovered a new career path when a roommate told her about the role physician assistants play in health care.

“It made a lot more sense,” Vasilyeva says about becoming a PA. “I just wanted to take care of patients, help people, and practice medicine.” She also liked that physician assistants can change their specialties over the course of their careers.

Vasilyeva was one of just 24 students accepted into the first cohort of Northwestern’s graduate program in physician assistant studies, where she is described by her professors as “outstanding” and “a top student.”

Northwestern’s faith-based PA program appealed to Vasilyeva, who started classes in Orange City in June 2020, four weeks after graduating from the University of Minnesota. After a year on campus, she’s now doing her clinical rotations, with plans to provide health care to an underserved population.

“I want to care for people and help in a way that is fair and just for everyone,” Vasilyeva says, “because God made us all in his image.”



Sonia

LEI MAURER



# Inspired to Inspire

BY DUANE BEESON

Early in his time at Northwestern, the effort Cade Moser put into classes wasn't as strong as his All-American effort on the football field.

"He was a bright young man and a natural leader, but he was not working up to his potential," says education professor Dr. Theresa Pedersen.

She and other professors challenged Moser to dive deeper into his studies. "They knew I wasn't giving my best effort, but they always saw the best in me," he says. "They didn't give up on me or just let me get by. They set high expectations for me and pushed me to want to learn."

The resulting change was striking. "He is prepared for discussions, and his work is of high quality. He asks insightful questions and wants to bring his A game. The Cade we see on the football field is now also in the classroom," says Pedersen.

That speaks well for the children who will learn under this future educator. Moser, a senior, was second in the Great Plains Athletic Conference in receiving yards with 1,504 this year, set a single-season school record for touchdown receptions (21), and set a record for most receiving yards in a game (303 in the Raiders' semifinal-round victory over Morningside last season). He hopes to replicate that success when he works with students next year.

The son of two educators—Brian '94 and Melissa (Van Regenmorter '95)—Moser has grown up around the profession. His involvement in a mentoring program for struggling students in high school helped him see the joy that can be found in motivating others. And his experience working at a summer camp for kids who have been abused and neglected inspired him to make a bigger impact.

"He has such a heart for students with special needs and children who have experienced trauma," says Pedersen. "He is a fantastic student who wants to soak up strategies to be the best teacher he can be."

"I've had so many teachers and coaches in high school and college who have pushed me to be the best man I can be," says Moser. "I want to be that teacher and coach too."

Cade



LENI MAURER

## Global Vision

BY DUANE BEESON

Nearly everyone on campus knows Trey Harms.

They've seen him taking photos at Raider games for the athletic department, heard him playing bass guitar in Praise & Worship or cajón at Spanish Chapel, and might have received his tutoring help in the Peer Learning Center. Trey has also been a member of the Honors Program, a student ambassador for the admissions office, and a member of the Orientation Staff.

"You can see him everywhere on campus with a smile on his face, ready to help anyone," says junior Andrew De Noble. "Every experience with Trey is a positive one, and he shows God's love to everyone."

Harms has made it his goal to get to know as many people on campus as possible, whether that means going to the cafeteria alone so he can find someone new to sit with, rooming with a student in the NEXT program, or helping Japanese students in the Winter English Program.

"I want people to know they are seen and they are loved," he explains.

His heart for others and ability to interact well with a wide variety of people should serve him well in his future endeavors. He wants to do mission work abroad, building relationships through which he can share the gospel—a desire he's had since spending a month in Costa Rica as a high school student.

His time at Northwestern, Harms says, has been great preparation. "I've learned a lot about relationships and how to both listen and share from a variety of perspectives."

Harms has returned to Costa Rica for the spring semester, participating in a study abroad program that includes a mission internship while he sharpens his Spanish-speaking skills.

Finishing his college career in three years in hopes of reaching his career goal earlier, Harms says he learned good time management through trial and error. For him, the key is to study very efficiently. He

will go to the library and study hard for nearly an hour. Then he'll reward himself by walking around the building—talking with the many people he calls friends—before getting back to his studies.



## Searching for Solutions

BY EMELIE (SWONGER '19) LAACKMANN

Hailey Louw's interests cannot be pegged down to any one specific area. A cross-country runner, the statistics major divides her time between class, practice, assessing financial risks with the Investment Club, and working in the intercultural development office. She also serves as a math and Christian Story tutor while still finding time to watch movies with friends.

But as a female in a STEM field, she occasionally feels pressure to do more than she does already.

"If you're not a member of the male majority, you're viewed as spectacular," she says. "The media often portray women in the STEM field as super geniuses, and there's an expectation that you should understand everything, even if you're still struggling. If I get a bad test grade, I might think I don't belong in mathematics. I have to remember that if I were a guy, I would think I could do this."

Despite her doubts, Louw has been a valuable member of the Northwestern community.

"Students in a STEM field can be very career-driven, but Hailey has a spirit of generosity and cares deeply about Northwestern," says business professor Dr. Fan Fei.

Louw plans to conduct Honors Program research on patient outcomes—evaluating health treatment plans established by the World Health Organization and other governing bodies. She'll then compare the results to those in the U.S.

Louw notes that the size of the U.S.—as well as continued racial disparity—plays a significant role in the country's ability to provide quality, affordable health care.

"We're not in a place to pursue universal health care, but privatization of hospitals and clinics excludes minorities," Louw explains. "We talk about life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—quality of life should factor into that."

Louw's passion for health care is something she plans to take into a future career. After graduate school, she would like to be involved with a clinical trials team or work as a statistical consultant, providing mathematical solutions that reveal areas of growth within the U.S. health system.



LEM MAURER

Hailey



GEOFF JOHNSON

## Culture Champion

BY ANITA CIRULIS

Born in East Los Angeles to Mexican immigrant parents, Isaac Muñoz grew up in Rock Valley after his family moved to Iowa when he was 7. Suddenly, instead of 95% of his classmates being Hispanic, he was in a majority-white community.

"I felt stripped of my identity and my culture because of the way I had to act to fit in," he says. "When I was growing up, immigrants were seen as people that were cast aside—people that took jobs, took this, took that."


For college, Muñoz was intending to return to California to study marine biology when Scott Bahrke '01, Northwestern's track and field coach, contacted him.

"At that moment, my connection with God was not where it is now," Muñoz says. He enrolled at Northwestern and ended up forming deep friendships with other guys in Colenbrander Hall. "I would see how God was working in their lives, and that allowed me to put in perspective how I wanted to be known and seen by other people."

The introvert became a campus leader—competing in track, working for the AV department, and serving as an admissions ambassador and resident assistant. He also chose Spanish for his major. Eventually he hopes to become a teacher, helping to change others' perspectives and being a role model for Hispanic young people.

As part of the requirements for a Spanish major, Muñoz studied in Spain during the fall semester. Even there, he found ways to stand out. Twice a week, he would take a two-hour round-trip bus ride to a small, poverty-stricken village. On Tuesdays he would teach the kids English, and on Wednesdays he would help coach their soccer teams.

Those months in Spain are causing Muñoz to rethink his future. After talking with other students in the program about "casting a wide net" in terms of career possibilities, he is aware of the need for native English teachers.

"This might be an area where I cast a wide net," Muñoz says. "Maybe it's God's will that I come back to Spain and teach. I'm nervous, but times I'm nervous are when I get super excited about life." 

*Isaac*



# Red Zone

## Gridiron Miracle

BY ANITA CIRULIS

A quarterback sack is cause for celebration in any football game, but when Adam Gubbels made one in the Raiders' first contest of the 2021 season, his teammates had an extra reason to rejoice. Less than 10 months earlier, Gubbels had nearly died when his heart experienced what is known as ventricular fibrillation.

Gubbels was in his dorm room on a Sunday evening in November 2020, watching a football game with friends, when he lost consciousness. Colenbrander resident Ben Kingery, a Northwestern football player who serves as a volunteer Orange City firefighter, received a page about an unresponsive student and was first on the scene.

He and a police officer performed CPR on Gubbels until paramedics arrived.

"The fact that I was surrounded by friends was a miracle," Gubbels says, "because if it had happened at 1 in the morning, I probably wouldn't be here."

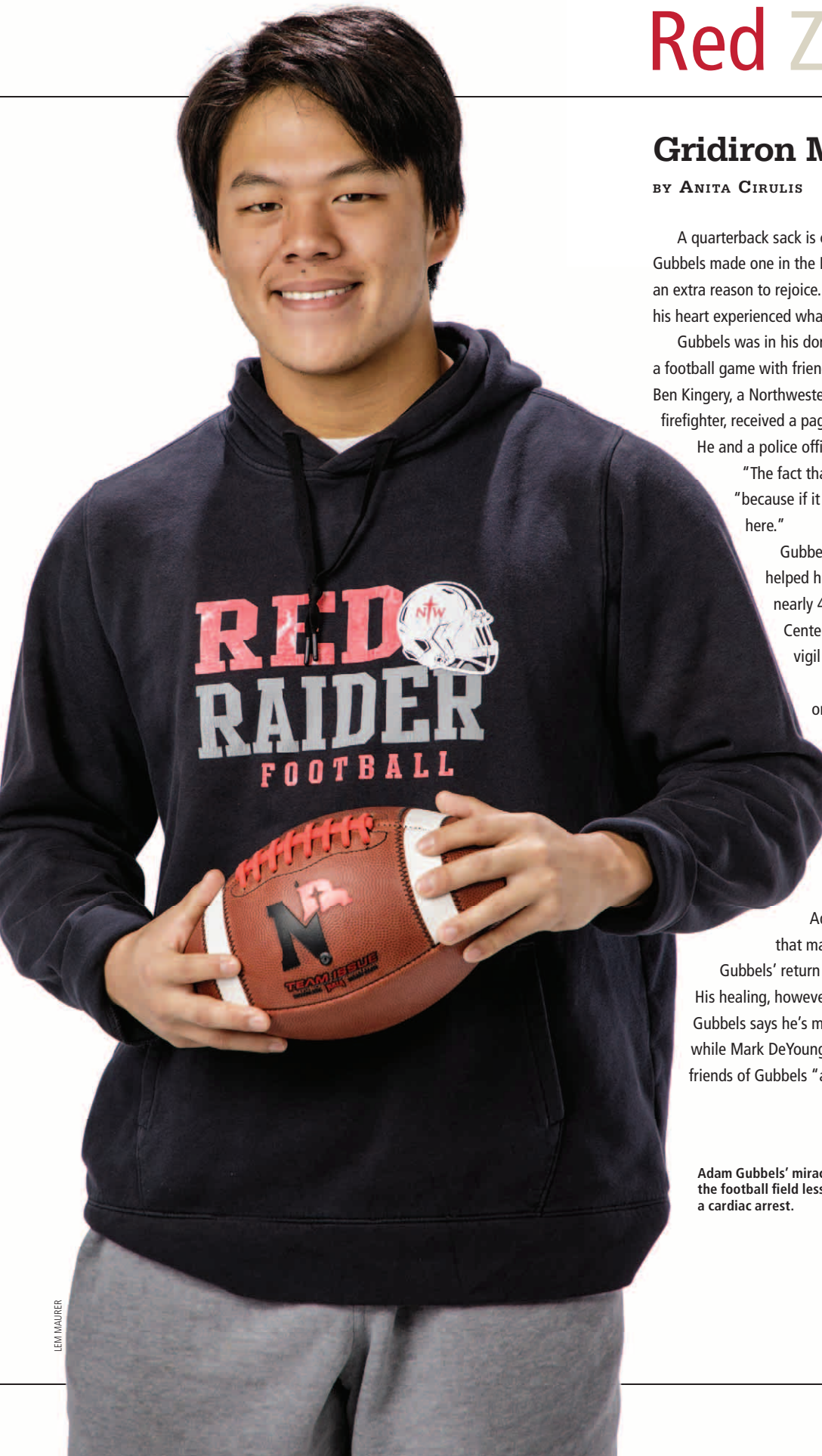
Gubbels was flown to a Sioux City hospital, where machines helped him breathe and kept his heart pumping. Monday morning, nearly 400 students, faculty and staff gathered in the Bultman Center gym to pray for Gubbels, while a dozen of his friends kept vigil in the hospital waiting room.

Prayers were answered. Gubbels was transferred to Omaha on Monday amid fears there could be permanent heart or brain damage. Instead, by Tuesday he was breathing on his own; by Wednesday, he was responsive and weaned off the heart pump; and by the following weekend, he was discharged from the hospital.

"It was overwhelming, the support we got from Northwestern," says Lisa Gubbels, Adam's mom. "When we came out of the elevator when they were transferring Adam and the students were all standing there in the hallway, that made me cry."

Gubbels' return to the football field was a similarly emotional moment. His healing, however, is not the only positive thing to come out of his illness. Gubbels says he's more certain that he wants to become a physician assistant, while Mark DeYounge '08, dean of Christian formation, says he saw good friends of Gubbels "ask some eternal questions for the first time."

Adam Gubbels' miraculous recovery had him back on the football field less than 10 months after suffering a cardiac arrest.



  
**RAIDERS**

Q

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Z

How much do you know about Northwestern's storied athletic history? Take the test below and find out.

1

What was the first team name for Northwestern sports?

- a. Hawks
- b. Red Raiders
- c. Blue Raiders
- d. Squirrels



2

What was the nickname for the Multi-Purpose Auditorium?

- a. Audy
- b. Raider Range
- c. Old Barn
- d. The Dub



3

Who was Northwestern's first national track and field individual champion?

- a. Jacob Koczman
- b. Jason Koczman
- c. Karen (Hutson) Ettleman
- d. Fernando Abugattus



4

Where did the 1974 football team play over Christmas break?

- a. Le Mars
- b. Japan
- c. Czechoslovakia
- d. Grambling, Louisiana

5

How many national championships have been won by Northwestern's women's basketball team?

- a. 1
- b. 5
- c. 7
- d. 4



6

How many Northwestern athletes or coaches have been inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame?

- a. 7
- b. 6
- c. 5
- d. 3

7

Who was Northwestern's first coach of intercollegiate women's teams?

- a. Paul Colenbrander
- b. Mary Ver Steeg
- c. Jean Mast
- d. Mike Meyer

8

Which of these Red Raiders was a three-sport All-American?

- a. Craig De Haan
- b. Michele Mason
- c. Melanie Mason
- d. Dave Bomgaars

9

Football alumni remember this quote from Coach Larry Korver when players would suffer minor injuries: "It's a long way from \_\_\_\_\_."

- a. Your mother
- b. The hospital
- c. Your head
- d. Your heart

10

What women's sport was once offered at the varsity intercollegiate level at Northwestern?

- a. Rugby
- b. Wrestling
- c. Lacrosse
- d. Field hockey



# 11

Who holds school records in shot put and discus and played in the NFL?

- a. Kelvin Korver
- b. Clayton Korver
- c. Kris Korver
- d. Larry Korver



# 12

Who was Northwestern's first NAIA national player of the year?

- a. Lee McKinstrey
- b. Amy (Jeltema) Schutt
- c. Brandon Woudstra
- d. Rachel (Binneboese) Leavitt

# 13

In the first line of the Northwestern fight song, what's the next phrase after "Go you Northwestern?"

- a. You are looking fine.
- b. Shoot it in the twine.
- c. Break right through that line.
- d. Keep up with that grind.

# 14

How many times has Northwestern's men's golf team competed in the national tournament?

- a. 8
- b. 4
- c. 7
- d. 11



# 15

What was the license plate message on the car of Deb Remmerde-Leusink when she set a world record for consecutive free throws made, with 133 in 2006?

- a. SWISH
- b. BB4EVR
- c. ALL NET
- d. NVRMIS



# 16

Both the men's and women's basketball teams won national championships in 2001, making Northwestern only the second school to achieve that feat. What was the first school?

- a. University of Connecticut
- b. Baylor University
- c. Central Missouri State
- d. University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse

# 17

Which current Red Raider coach has the highest winning percentage (prior to this year)?

- a. Dan Swier
- b. Kyle Van Den Bosch
- c. Brian Wede
- d. Matt McCarty



**ANSWERS**

1. (a) In 1929, Northwestern Classical Academy teams were known as the Blue Hawks, and the junior college teams were the Red Hawks.
2. (c)
3. (d) Abugattus won the NAIA outdoor high jump competition in 1969.
4. (b)
5. (b) The Raiders won in 2001, 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2012.
6. (a) Coaches Larry Korver, Paul Bartlett and Earl Woudstra have been inducted, as have athletes Lee McKinstrey, Brandon Woudstra, Rachel (Binneboese) Leavitt and Deb Remmerde-Leusink.
7. (c)
8. (c) Melanie Mason earned All-American honors in volleyball, track and field, and softball.
9. (d)
10. (d)
11. (a) Kelvin Korver played defensive tackle for the Oakland Raiders from 1973 to 1975.
12. (b) Schutt received the honor in volleyball in 1992.
13. (c)
14. (a) The Raiders competed at nationals in 1981, 1998, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.
15. (c)
16. (c)
17. (b) Van Den Bosch's volleyball teams had a .783 winning percentage prior to this season.

**SCORING**

- 17 Rowdy Raider: Your knowledge and support of Northwestern athletics could make even Seine Bolks smile. Take a bow.
- 13-16 Fantastic Fan: You're a true believer in Raider Magic, and you've got the stories to back it up.
- 9-12 N-ytime Supporter: Through the thick and the thin, you've always been there for the Raiders. We're grateful!
- 3-8 Raider Rookie: So you're the one reading a textbook in the bleachers. It's OK to take a study break every once in a while.
- 0-2 Unaware: Hello, we're Northwestern College. You know, your alma mater. You might want to check in from time to time.





# Nine Lives

BY ANITA CIRULIS

If buildings were animals, Kepp Hall would be a cat.

The squat, brick structure on the northwest corner of campus began its nine lives as an apartment building. Built in 1951 by Lloyd and Ward Kepp—two brothers who owned a construction business—it counted several Northwestern faculty among its tenants.

Biology professor Virg Muilenburg '62 rented an apartment in the two-floor structure for more than 30 years. "It's all poured concrete, so it's as solid as can be," he says of his former residence. "You never could hear anything through the walls.

"I lived there until I was evicted when they turned it into women's housing. I was a little upset," he says, then jokes. "I said I could be the housemother, but they turned me down."

Kellie (Gregg '95) Hogg was among the senior women who lived in Kepp after Northwestern purchased the property in 1994. "We were on the full meal plan," she says. "They gave us microwaves, but there was just one stove in the utility room. I remember baking cookies and sitting in the utility room with my pan."

By 1996, each apartment had its own stove again when Kepp was converted into married student housing. Brad and Cheryl (Jamieson) Kehn, both 1998 graduates, were among eight couples living in the apartments that first year. "I thought it was a good move by Northwestern to do that," Brad says of the housing option for married students. "Everybody was at a similar stage of life."

In 2003, campus ministry staff began working in the apartments on the upper floor, but it wasn't until the summer of 2004 that the building

was fully converted into offices, complete with new windows, paint, carpet and furniture.

Despite the makeover, Kepp had its idiosyncrasies. Career counselor Kirsten Brue recalls the struggles she and her boss had heating their offices. "I was always roasting—it was always 80 degrees in my office—and he was always freezing," she says. "We finally figured out that our thermostats controlled each other's offices."

When the building housed career development, international student services, study abroad and campus ministry, it was initially renamed the Center for Spiritual Formation and Vocation, and then the Franken Center for Faith, Learning and Living. But when those departments moved into the newly remodeled Ramaker Center, the old apartment building reverted back to its original moniker and became known as Kepp Hall.

In the years since then, other occupants have included the public relations office, English and foreign language departments, and Graduate School and Adult Learning.

Today the building sits empty, its most recent occupants moved into Van Peursem Hall, Zwemer and the Vogel Welcome Center. Kepp has reached the end of its nine lives, waiting to be demolished to make room for a new suite-style residence hall for women.

**After serving a variety of roles for 27 years, Kepp Hall will be torn down to make room for a new suite-style residence hall for women.**

# class Notes

**'78 The Rev. Wayne Sneller** retired after 40 years of full-time ministry in the Reformed Church in America. He served four churches in Iowa and Washington—most recently, at First Reformed Church in Sully, Iowa. He and his wife, Tammy (DeNeui '77) Sneller, now live in Luverne, Minnesota.

**'79 Dr. Larry Duenk** is an associate professor of family medicine for the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, where he teaches family medicine doctors in residency.

**'83 Jim Wagner** of Primghar was one of four 2020 Iowa Master Farmers selected by *Wallaces Farmer*, the Iowa Master Farmer Foundation and the Wallace Centers of Iowa. The honor is given to outstanding managers of farming operations who exhibit leadership in their community, state or national organizations.

**'84 Don Bacon** serves as a representative for the 2nd Congressional District of Nebraska and is a member of the Armed Services and Agricultural Committees. Prior to running for office in 2016, he served in the Air Force for 30 years.

**Karen (Goettsch) Fenedick** started her 14th year of service as a State Farm Insurance team member. She works for an agent based in Rockville, Maryland.

**'85 Wendy (Weyrick) Noriega** teaches seventh grade math at Coatimundi Middle School in Rio Rico, Arizona, and recently received teacher-of-the-year recognition.

**'87 Dr. Alethea (Steenhoven) Stubbe** retired in June after 40 years at Northwest Iowa Community College (NCC), including 10 years as president. Her previous roles at NCC included faculty member in the administrative secretarial program, vice

president of administration and chief academic officer.

**'88 Karen (Hagge) Brasser,** Paullina, Iowa, retired after 33 years as an elementary school teacher. She started her teaching career in Sutherland, Iowa, which later became part of South O'Brien Community School District.

**'90 David UitdeFlesch** recently became certified as a sex addiction and multiple addictions therapist through the International Institute for Trauma and Addiction Professionals. He is also the director of C.O.R.E. (Center of Recovery Expertise), which is a division of Centennial Park Counseling in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**'95 Dr. Jason Kanz** celebrated his 15th year as a clinical neuropsychologist at the Marshfield Clinic in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He will soon release his fifth book, *Letters to the Beloved*, which presents the New Testament as though God the Father was explaining each of the books, verse by verse.

**'96 Tina (Vellema) Anderson** received a master's degree in teaching English to students of other languages from Grand Canyon University. She teaches first grade and coaches volleyball at Bear Creek K-8 School in Lakewood, Colorado.

**Dr. Elise (Rens) Binsfield** is a medical director with M Health Fairview and practicing family physician at M Health Fairview Clinics in Fridley.

**Kim (Vrieze) Scorza** is the executive director of Crittenton Center in Sioux City, a nonprofit agency that serves children, teens and families throughout the Siouxland region. She previously was president and CEO of Seasons Center for Behavioral Health in Spencer, Iowa.

## Red Ties

**AMBER LEUSINK**

Director of the Northwestern Network

It's been a flurry of activity since students arrived on campus in August. New students were welcomed to Raider Nation by notes of encouragement written by alumni. I was overwhelmed with the number of responses—and the welcome notes themselves. I quickly learned our alumni love their alma mater!

Many alumni and friends returned to campus for Raider Nation Celebration in September. Campus was buzzing with nostalgia as we hosted classes for their 40-, 41-, 50- and 51-year reunions. It was a beautiful weekend to celebrate all things Northwestern College with events like Morning on the Green, the Red Raider Road Race, a campus tailgate and football. Six weeks later, Family Weekend was a full weekend of athletics, theatre and a harvest festival. It's safe to say it's been a busy and fun fall semester.

Did you know NWC Business Club students are offered mentorships with alumni? This fall, I paired 30 students with alumni in various business-related professions. Our students will complete a full mentoring program with their assigned mentor, learning about their future vocation and what it's like to launch from college to career. These are priceless interactions for our students as they learn from successful and caring alumni.

Whether you send a welcome note to a new student, take part in campus festivities, provide short-term housing for student teachers or physician assistant students, or offer career-related advice to students, you are spreading red! The Northwestern Network exists to engage alumni in the lives of our future and current students.

Do you know high school students who would love NWC? Send them our way! One of the best gifts the college can receive is the gift of a new student. If you are a member of the Northwestern Network and refer a student, that student will receive a \$500 bookstore gift certificate upon enrollment. Join the Network by visiting [nwciowa.edu/NWnetwork/join](http://nwciowa.edu/NWnetwork/join).





'98 **Sherrie Barber Willson** has accepted a new role as director of marketing at Sunon Furniture, based in Irvine, California.

**Jay Wright** was recently named co-athletic director at Bishop Heelan High School in Sioux City. He previously served as Heelan's dean of students and also worked as Iowa regional coordinator for TeamMates Mentoring.

'00 **Heather (Klingenberg) Keizer** was named the 2021 Northwest Iowa Review Volleyball Coach of the Year after leading her Sheldon High School team to the state tournament. The Orabs finished the season with a 27-6 record.

**The Rev. Nathan Lamb** is the pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Manchester, Iowa. He previously served at churches in Alton and Hartford, Iowa, as well as Pipestone, Minnesota.

**Nicole (Mentink) Velzke** is the 2021 recipient of the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Teacher Fellowship Award for her superior ability to inspire a love of learning in students, as well as leadership and service within and outside the classroom. She teaches fourth grade at Cedar Grove-Belgium School District in Wisconsin.

'01 **Meagan (Morrison) Liesveld**, Lincoln, Nebraska, is the executive director of the United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County. She previously worked in a number of roles at CEDARS, a child-service organization.

'04 **Tyson Graham** was named the 2021 Track and Field Boys Coach of the Year for the American Division of Hillsborough County, Florida. He previously coached at Steinbrenner High School in Lutz, Florida, and now serves as a graduation enhancement resource teacher at Sunlake High School in Land O'Lakes, Florida.

'05 **Dr. Franklin Yartey** was inducted into the University of Dubuque Faculty Hall of Fame for Excellence in Teaching and Advising. Head of the Department of Communication and associate professor of communication, he is the recipient of the John Knox Coit Prize, a teaching excellence award named in honor of a former distinguished faculty member.

'06 **Aynsley (Mihm) Scheffert** joined the faculty of Bethel University's College of Arts & Sciences as an assistant professor of social work and director of the B.S.W. program.

'07 **Dan Laaveg** completed a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance and pedagogy from the University of Iowa. He serves as director of music at Wesley United Methodist Church in Muscatine, Iowa.

**Leonard Olu-Williams** is the National Tobacco Control Program manager in the Arizona Department of Health Services. He works on a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Office of Smoking and Health grant, which is aimed at reducing the rate of smoking and smoking-related diseases within the state.

'09 **Geri (Genant) Carroll** is a manager of change management practice at SilverlineCRM, based in New York City. Her work helps organizations adapt to new forms of technology and thrive through change.

**Ellen (Schuch) Edgar**, Kansas City, Kansas, is completing her ninth year at Unbound.org, an international nonprofit working to alleviate poverty around the world. She works directly with local teams in East Africa and Latin America. She and her husband, Caleb, have two children, Sammy (4) and Henry (2).



SARAYLN DIMMER

After their son, Kipp—a professional triathlete—died from sudden cardiac arrest, Jon Kinsley and his wife, Shelly, have been committed to distributing AEDs. In communities with access to AEDs, the survival rate from such events can improve by 40%.

## Whole-hearted Passion

With sudden cardiac arrest, minutes matter.

"Every minute reduces the survival rate by 7%," explains Jon Kinsley '83 of Yankton, South Dakota, president of the BeKipp Foundation, which provides automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to schools and organizations.

Jon and his wife, Shelly, started the foundation in 2019 after their son, Kipp, an elite professional triathlete, died of sudden cardiac arrest. The 25-year-old's death came one day after he won his hometown triathlon, Yankton's Best Tri.

The tragedy drove the Kinsleys to work to increase the availability of AEDs in their region. The life-saving devices monitor a patient's heart rhythm and administer a shock when needed. They cost around \$1,200.

Though some find AEDs intimidating, Shelly says they are remarkably user-friendly.

"When you first turn it on, it says to put on the pads, and it walks you through it," she says.

As of November, the foundation had awarded 12 AEDs and was in the process of awarding five more. Northwestern College is among the recipients.

Jon said the work is rewarding because it provides an ongoing way to honor Kipp.

"We just hope our actions through the foundation will save somebody else the grief Shelly and I have gone through," he says.

BY JARED KALTWASSER



JOE MAHER

Relationships Julia Rathbun has formed with unaccompanied refugee minors often last for years. She's had the privilege of attending their weddings and being present when babies were born.

## Seeking Refuge

For the 15-year-old from Myanmar, the relief of arriving on American soil cannot bury memories of the intense persecution of his Rohingya people back home. A mere mention on the news of another village burning, and Julia Rathbun '09 is at his side.

Having seen the youth through every joyful milestone since his first day in the U.S., she sits with him when he relives his traumas too—in the silence of stories he is not yet able to share.

As lead case manager for unaccompanied refugee minor foster care at Bethany Christian Services in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Rathbun places minors with foster families, guiding them as they navigate a new country and a better life.

Wars, genocide and gang violence have forced the youth to flee their countries alone. Rathbun's cases have included a boy who was 13 when he saw rebel soldiers shoot and kill his father.

"There are millions of refugees in the world desperate for hope and a chance to live a stable life," she says. "It's hard to work with a teen with a significant amount of trauma, but the joy of watching them succeed outweighs the hard times."

A Spanish speaker, Rathbun also works with young asylum seekers from Mexico and Central America.

BY AMY PHILLIPS

**Dr. Justin Pannkuk** is the author of *King of Kings: God and the Foreign Emperor in the Hebrew Bible*. A publication of Baylor University Press, the book explores the relationship between God's sovereignty and Judah's tumultuous political history. He earned a doctorate from Emory University and a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. Pannkuk is an instructor of humanities and head golf coach at Culver Military Academy and Culver Girls Academy in Indiana.

**'10 Amanda (Karssen) Vazquez** assumed a new role as director of the Dubuque County Library District. Previously she served as the district's assistant director and as the director of the Orange City Public Library. She also serves as chairwoman of the intellectual freedom committee for the Iowa Library Association.

**'11 Greta Hays**, Washington, D.C., has accepted the position of vice president for corporate reputation at Edelman, a global communications firm that partners with organizations and businesses to promote and protect their brands and reputations. She works in the higher education division, leading communications initiatives for a variety of colleges and universities.

**'12 Kelli (Neevel) King** works as a labor and delivery nurse at Spectrum Health in Zeeland, Michigan.

**Kristin Trease** completed a master's degree in professional and creative writing at Central Washington University.

**Chad Van Ravenswaay** assumed the role of deputy sheriff in the Sioux County Sheriff's Office. For the past five years, he has served as a police officer at the Orange City Police Department. He also has experience working for the sheriff's office in the capacity of 911 dispatcher and reserve deputy sheriff.

**'15 Paige (O'Neal) Landwehr** teaches physical education and health at Sidney High School in Sidney, Nebraska. She is the head high school girls basketball coach and also coaches junior high girls basketball and track.

**Jacie White**, Harlan, Iowa, is a high school business teacher at Harlan Community High School.

**'16 Brianne (Hassman) Christiansen** completed a Master of Divinity degree at Western Theological Seminary and now serves as spiritual care director at The Village Senior Residence in Missoula, Montana.

**'17 Levi Ettleman** was named athletic director at Logan-Magnolia Community School District in Logan, Iowa.

**Skyler Hill-Norby** received a doctorate in osteopathic medicine from Lincoln Memorial University—DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harrogate, Tennessee. She is continuing her training in an emergency medicine residency at the University of Louisville School of Medicine in Kentucky.

**Nicole (Montgomery) Mena** received the 2021 Barb Schubert Award for new teachers from the Iowa Council of Teachers of English in October. She teaches eighth grade English in Le Mars after having taught high school English for four years at MOC-Floyd Valley in Orange City.

**Matthew Rinehart** works as the head of strength and conditioning/athletic development at Laurus Athletic Rehab and Performance in Roseville, Minnesota. His wife, **Courtney (Mithelman '19)**, is the billing and clinic coordinator for Collaborative Counseling in Maple Grove.

**'18 Keaton Hettver** graduated from the University of Minnesota with a master's degree in social work.



**Jordan Stone**, Sioux Falls, works with the 605 Strong Voucher Program, an initiative that offers funding assistance, mental health support and substance abuse services to South Dakota residents impacted by the natural disasters of 2019 and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

'19 **Alex Bakker** assumed the role of reserve deputy sheriff in the Sioux County Sheriff's Office. He currently serves as a full-time police officer at the Sioux Center Police Department.

**Emily Geraets** is pursuing a master's degree in physician assistant studies at Des Moines University.

'20 **Alexis Karsjens**, Parkersburg, Iowa, is the director of Aplington Legion Memorial Library.

'21 **Abby Petrick** teaches sixth grade math at Vista PEAK Elementary School in Aurora, Colorado.

**Emily (Van Peursem) Schutt** teaches second grade at West Sioux Elementary School in Hawarden.

**Vanessa Stokes** is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Western Theological Seminary. She is also serving as a research assistant at the Eugene Peterson Center for Christian Imagination.

## New Arrivals

**Sarah (Gerken '07)** and **Matthew De Jong '07**, son, Oak Gerben

**Lisa (Muilenburg '07)** and **Ben Vos '08**, daughter, Danielle Hope, joins Madalyn (8), Wesley (6) and Jay (3)

Jon and **Jenny (Richards '08) McKenny**, son, Josiah James, joins Cami (11), Claire (7) and Callie (4)

Ben Danner and **Rachael Wittern '08**, daughter, Eisa Tobyn

**Kristi (Korver '09)** and **Sam Galloway '09**, daughter, Gwen Everly, joins Leif (6) and Phoebe (3)

**Jennifer (Nilson '10)** and **Jacob Parsons '10**, daughter, Alyza Joy, joins Aiden (6), Eli (4) and Emma (2)

Savannah and **John Sandbulte '10**, son, Jace Robert, joins Rena (3)

Dan and **Angela (Ness '11) Bodurtha**, son, Myles Steven

Jason and **Kathryn (Miller '11) Sloan**, son, Nathaniel Miller, joins Adeline (3)

**Rebecca (Bagley '12)** and **Dan Mangold '10**, son, Jonah Douglas, joins Cora (2)

**Lisa (Walters '12)** and **Parker Moore '12**, son, Forest Charles, joins Lincoln (3)

**Jodi (Stahl '13)** and **Mitch Janssen '14**, daughter, Winnie Rae

Kolbie and **Tony Vande Brake '13**, daughter, Elsie Mae, joins Madelyn (2)

**Kiersten (Van Wyhe '14)** and **Nathan Sexe '14**, daughter, Colette Taylor, joins Charles (4)

**Payton (Samuelson '15)** and **Ben Guhl '15**, son, Isaiah Christian, joins Paisley (2)

Mariah and **Cameron McKinney '15**, daughter, Stella Mae

Kendall and **Amelia (Thies '15) Ten Haken**, daughter, Ava Grace

Cole and **Morgan (VanDerSloot '16) Boger**, son, Britton Cole, joins Breckyn (3) and Bryson (2)

Amanda and **Corey Kundert '17**, son, Silas Whitaker

Chandler and **Morgan (Boroviak '18) Kramer**, daughter, Lainey Grayce

**Jamie (Jongerius '18)** and **Cole Prescott '19**, son, Judah Lloyd

**Jessi (Carver '19)** and **Joseph Kelly '19**, daughter, Elle Madeline

**Meghan (Teunissen '19)** and **Casey Vermeer '18**, daughter, Emersyn Kay, joins Finnleigh (2)

## Marriages

**Alex Menning '11** and Taryn O'Tool, Royal Oak, Michigan

**Marcus Van Zee '16** and Jenny Borger, Sioux Center, Iowa



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Luke Galloway placed fourth in last summer's TransAmerica Bike Race, in which he rode 4,200 miles in less than 21 days.

## Pedal Mettle

Luke Galloway '17 wedged his bike next to the grungy toilet one night last June and unpacked his dinner. Over the last 3,500 miles, he had followed the same routine each day—or tried to: doze off for four hours, pack up, then ride another 200 miles. He shoved down a few Pop Tarts and the salty remains of a bag of chips. Tonight, he'd sleep not in a church basement or hotel but in a public park's restroom stall somewhere in Kentucky.

Taking in the grimy, cramped surroundings, Galloway thought to himself, "This is absolutely insane, and I love every second of it."

Galloway placed fourth in the 2021 TransAmerica Bike Race, completing the trail in 20 days, eight hours, and 54 minutes. Less than half of the 42 ultracyclists who began in Astoria, Oregon, completed the 4,200 miles to Yorktown, Virginia.

The former Northwestern track athlete braved the elements—wind, cars, even bears—in the self-supported race. His body adapted quickly to the physical stressors, though his left hand would not regain enough strength to shift gears until two months post-race.

Galloway traveled the Trans Am trail at a leisurely pace in 2019 before deciding to compete last year.

"I wanted to see what's on the other side of pushing myself to extremes," he says.

BY AMY PHILLIPS

**Luke Galloway '17** and Jenna Marceau, Missoula, Montana

**Katie Petts '17** and Matthew Vander Ploeg, Le Mars, Iowa

**Anna Stroh '19** and Micah Abraham, Frederic, Wisconsin

**Aaron John Kaucher '20** and **Abigail Moody '21**, Tucson, Arizona

**Kristy Ryan '20** and **Nathan Eide '20**, Ames, Iowa

**Hannah Wamhoff '20** and **Ian Hofer '20**, Sioux Falls

**Autumn Muilenburg '21** and **Brody Dauer '24**, Sheldon, Iowa

*The couples reside in the city listed.*

## In Memoriam



**Dr. Sylvio (Syl) Scorza** of Orange City, a member of Northwestern's religion faculty from 1959 to 1990, died Aug. 1 at the age of 98. He earned a

doctorate in theology from Princeton Seminary and a doctorate in linguistics from University of Illinois. Scorza also served a one-year term as president of the Reformed Church in America General Synod and provided biblical instruction through his writings for the *Sunday School Guide*. He modeled a deep love of learning and obtained 220 credits from NWC, taking at least one class a semester for 20 years of his retirement. He was honored as the state's Disabled Person of the Year in 1991, he received alumni awards from Western Theological Seminary and Hope College, and he was awarded an honorary doctorate from NWC in 2013. His survivors include his wife, Phyllis; three children, including **Phil '84** and **John '86**; and two sisters.

**The Rev. Harold Korver '50**, age 90, died July 27 in Paramount, California. After graduating from Northwestern, he continued his education at Central

College and later received a Master of Divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary. Between 1955 and 1971, he served several churches across the Midwest until he accepted a call to Emmanuel Church in Paramount. Korver pastored at Emmanuel for 50 years, utilizing the church as a platform for a seminary student development program and for the revitalization of Paramount and Compton. Korver served a one-year term as president of the Reformed Church in America General Synod, led the California classis for two years, and was a recipient of Western Theological Seminary's Distinguished Alumni Award. Among his survivors are his wife, **Shirley (Ramaker '51)**, and six sons, including **Kris '92**.

**Florence (Van't Hof '51) Sandbulte** of Rock Valley, Iowa, died Aug. 25 at the age of 89. She taught in rural Carmel, Iowa, until she married, and she later worked as a nurse's aide and surgical tech for 35 years. She is survived by 12 children, including **Shelley Timmer '00**, and three siblings.

**Edwin Boote '52**, age 88, died Oct. 10 in Sioux Center. He served two years in the Army before attending veterinary school at Iowa State University. After graduation, he practiced in Hull and Sioux Center, working with Sioux Center Veterinary Clinic and later the Northwest Veterinary Associates. Boote also worked with Mix-Rite and Agri-Edge in semi-retirement, served on the Hull Public School Board, and was a Northwestern College trustee. His survivors include his wife, **Harriet (Moss) '71**, and daughters, **Lila Nash '80** and **Denice '86**.



**Arthur Hielkema '53** of Orange City, director of the Northwestern College Library and Resource Center from 1969 to 1996, died Aug. 12 at the age of 88. Upon graduation from Northwestern

Junior College, he continued his bachelor's education at Hope College in Holland, Michigan, and received master's degrees from the University of Michigan and the University of Minnesota. Under his leadership, Northwestern's Ramaker Library became the first library in Iowa to have an electronic catalog. He served as president of the Association of College Research Libraries, a board member for the Orange City Library and Siouxland Habitat for Humanity, a city councilman for 12 years, and a member of the Iowa Historical Records Advisory Board. Among his survivors are his children, the **Rev. Stephen '85**, **Timothy '87** and **Sarah Wiese '89**, as well as two brothers, including **Harvey '58**.

**Viola (Willemssen '57) Aberson**, 86, died Sept. 2 in Rochester, Minnesota. She started her career as an RN during the polio epidemic. She then partnered with her husband, Henry, to run a dairy farm near Ireton, Iowa, and later a dairy and crop farm north of Pipestone, Minnesota. Survivors include four daughters.

**Lambert Van Olst '58**, Rock Rapids, Iowa, died June 10 at age 89. After graduating from Northwestern Junior College, he and his first wife, **Kathleen (Tilstra) '58**, taught elementary school in the Rock Rapids area. He and Kathleen also had enterprising careers in business and operated several bakeries. His survivors include his second wife, Katherine, and two daughters, including **Laura Stuerman '83**.

**Mabel (Longhenry '63) Mantel** of Orange City died June 12 at age 89. She taught elementary school for five years and high school English for 35 years. She also received a master's degree from the University of South Dakota. She was active in the Iowa State Education Association, National Education Association, IPERS Improvement Association, Orange City Library Board, and several other humanitarian agencies. Among her survivors are four siblings.

**Willis Vander Wal '63** of Pollock, South Dakota, died July 23 at age 86. He lived on the farm from 1961 until his death. He served as vice president of Nodak Mutual Insurance Company and as a Northwestern College trustee, and he was active in the local and state Farm Bureau. He is survived by his wife, Jane, and eight children, including **Dean '84** and **Parker '98**.

**Robert Kaluf '65**, Fountain Valley, California, died March 25 at age 85. He worked in hospital administration for a number of years and, later, in property management. He also served in the state of Washington as a member of the armed services. He is survived by his wife, Joan; three children; two brothers; and a sister.

**Dale Duits '69** died May 2 at age 74 in Vining, Minnesota. He and his wife, Beth, built their family home on a farm near Parkers Prairie, Minnesota, where he taught high school art and math. After 35 years of teaching, Duits retired to full-time farming. Among his survivors are his wife, Beth; four children; and a sister.

**Gene DenHerder '70**, Hollandale, Minnesota, died Sept. 3 at age 74. After graduating from Northwestern, Gene served in the Vietnam War until 1971. He taught and coached in Elkton, South Dakota, for six years, then moved to Hollandale, Minnesota, with his wife, **Susan (Veldman '71)**, and family, to farm with Susan's father. He also ran an insurance company and trucking business. He was active in his church as a Sunday school teacher, elder and deacon. He is survived by Susan, three children, two brothers and a sister.

**Michael Frolkey '70**, age 73, died Aug. 19 in Le Mars, Iowa. He enlisted in the Navy in 1970 and served as a supply specialist on the U.S.S. Kittyhawk for four years during the Vietnam War. After his honorable discharge in 1974, Frolkey spent the next 34 years in the meat processing industry, working for companies



such as Wilson Foods and Tyson. Among his survivors are his wife, LaDonna; three daughters; and three sisters.

**Stanley Hibma '74** of Orange City died Oct. 8 at the age of 69. He and his wife, **Martha (Sapp '98)**, farmed the Hibma family acreage for more than 25 years. He also worked as a chemist in the research and development department at Diamond Vogel, retiring in 2017 after 40 years. He is survived by Martha; his children, **Michael '93**, **Stacie Dykstra '95**, **Christa Baatz '98**, and **Daniel '01**; and two sisters, including **Henrietta Oosterhuis '70**.

**Bertha (Doliesager '74) Lammers** of Maurice, Iowa, died June 17 at the age of 68. She taught at Little Rock High School for a few years after college, then worked for the post offices in Alton, Sioux Center and Maurice, serving as postmaster at Maurice. Lammers was a member of the RCA Missionary Home Board, and she was elected to the Sioux County Extension Council and the Iowa Extension Council Association. Her survivors include her husband, **Harlan '71**, and two sons.

**Russel Jahn '76** of Sioux City, Iowa, died July 8 at age 67. He earned a degree in information technology from Western Iowa Tech, which led to IT positions across the United States and in Germany. He is survived by his mother, two brothers and two sisters.

**Carl Brenneman '78**, age 66, died Aug. 10 in Nashville, Tennessee. He was a member of the National Guard and worked in car sales for almost 30 years before his retirement in 2019. Among his survivors are his wife, Barbara; seven children; and two brothers, **Arlin '70** and **Wendell '81**.

**Dean Ulmer '93**, Lincoln, Nebraska, died Aug. 7 at age 71. Prior to attending Northwestern, he earned a degree from Dordt College, worked at Sioux Automation in Sioux Center, and later served as

transportation director for Sioux Center Public Schools. Upon graduating from NWC, he earned a Master of Divinity degree at Reformed Theological Seminary. He became an ordained pastor in the Reformed Church in America and served at Ebenezer Reformed Church in Leighton, Iowa, and First Reformed Church in Mitchell, South Dakota. His survivors include his wife, Wanda; and four children, including **Matt '02**, **Amanda School-land '03** and **Kevin '06**.

**Heather (Wangen '96) Holtan**, 49, died Sept. 19 in Pine Island, Minnesota. She began her teaching career in Albert Lea, then went on to teach in the Plainview-Elgin-Millville School District and Hiawatha Valley Education District. Most recently, she worked within the Rochester School District. Among her survivors are her husband, Todd; her parents; and two brothers, including **Lucas Wangen '02**.

**Daron Van Beek '97** of Sioux Falls died July 24 at age 46. From 2002, he served as manager at the 57th Street Branch of First National Bank of Sioux Falls. He was also an alumnus of the Graduate School of Banking in Wisconsin, a participant in the Leadership Sioux Falls program, a member of the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, and a volunteer with Bethany Christian Services and The Banquet. He is survived by his wife, **Sherri (Van Roekel '96)**; three children; his mother; and a brother.

**LET US KNOW:** Email your news for the next *Classic* by March 15 to [classic@nwciowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwciowa.edu).

## Raiders Stand Out



A mother of three adopted children, Lindsey Kuipers creates custom family profile books to connect women with prospective adoptive families.

## Books of Life

Lindsey (Swier '20) Kuipers always knew adoption would be part of her story, but she did not know she would be part of so many adoption stories.

Kuipers and her husband, Josh '09, have grown their family three times through adoption, and she sees it for what it truly is: a beautiful mess. "I often tell people adoption can be beautiful—and messy and hard and entirely overwhelming," Kuipers says.

She deeply felt the need for education and mentorship in the pre-adoptive phase. Kuipers longed to help families write their home studies and create their family profile books in a way that would honor a birth mom making the most difficult decision of her life. So she left her teaching job and created her own business, For This Child.

Now Kuipers has walked with over 100 families, creating custom books that offer expectant mothers a view into a prospective family's life. But Kuipers is also redefining adoption beyond a method for family growth or a solution to a problem. She believes profile books are not only a tool to connect a woman with a prospective adoptive family but also a way to speak life, hope and joy to someone who may feel shame or desperation.

"My heart is to see expectant mamas honored and children put in families, and I believe all of it, when we do it well, puts the Lord on display," Kuipers says.

BY BETH (NIKKEL '02) GAULKE

# Classic Thoughts

## A Prayer for Students

BY DON WACOME

**O God**, gracious and wise, consider these students, your servants, your daughters and sons, claimed as Christ's own before the foundation of the world.

**Protect** them, encourage them, sustain and uphold them for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus, light of the world: May they see through your eyes. Jesus, Word of God spoken as flesh: May your way be their way.

**Bless** them with a joyful and living faith: not fragile, not rigid, but a deep, resilient trust in Jesus, the truth around whom all truths turn. A faith that welcomes the world God so loves. Let them embrace that world's need as their own. Let them find Jesus in all who are lost, hungry, wounded, judged, condemned, broken, rejected. Give them the Spirit of Christ, who did not hold back, but went forth, and gave himself.

**Trouble** them when they are too sure, but strengthen them when their confidence fades. Ever-faithful Lord, great in mercy, humble and relentless in

love, even when they forsake you, pursue them, bear them up, and restore them to you.

**Make** seekers of the settled. Give them courage to go the hard way. Lead them beyond themselves to what's difficult and strange: to where you wait, Lord of all, ever new.

**Endow** them with a holy curiosity, discontent with what's pat, shallow, safe and false. Teach them to love the questions as well as the answers. Show them the seams where things don't fit, the questions they are afraid to ask; guide them to the places where you, God of wonder, have more to teach them.

**Stand** with them in trouble. Be their beacon in uncertainty. Within their doubt, hold them fast, their unseen anchor. Beyond whatever darkness they endure, you their true hope. Past all loss, you their true love.

**Provoke** them, prod them, surprise and shock them. Gentle Lord, soften their hearts, sharpen their minds, liberate their imaginations. Let them never forget they have nothing to fear: *Christ is risen!* Free but securely held, their names written on the palm of your hand. Now called, now sent out, forever blessed, forever beloved.

**Amen.**



This prayer was originally shared at Northwestern's baccalaureate service on May 9, 2014. The author, Dr. Don Wacome, retired from the philosophy faculty in 2020 after 29 years of service. He is the author of *The Material Image: Reconciling Modern Science and Christian Faith*, published in 2020 by Fortress Academic.



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# Raider Refresh



Northwestern's Raiders logo and branding is on full display in the Bultman Center, which received \$2.25 million in renovations last summer. New signage covers the glass front of the building, while the lobby features

a red-and-charcoal-gray color scheme along with new flooring, display cases for team trophies, and Hall of Fame signage. Six 6-by-6-foot photos are mounted over the lobby's north windows.

The gymnasium floor—original to the facility, which was built in 1995—was replaced, and new red bleachers were installed. The court was renamed the John and Ann Den Hartog Court in recognition of the couple whose lead

gift launched the project. Also included in the renovations were a new roof for the building and new lighting and air conditioning for the gym.

*the* Classic