Northwestern College Magazine the contract of the contract of

National Champions! Raiders earn program's third title

Also 10 Things We Love About Homecoming Northwestern NEXT Everyday Heroes

36

The excitement of children—and Northwestern students—at Morning on the Green is one of the 10 things we love about Raider Nation Celebration. -01(8)

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Contents

Classic People

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

View the magazine online at classic.nwciowa.edu.

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

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

On the Cover:

Members of the Red Raider football team hoist the 2022 NAIA national championship trophy in Durham, North Carolina, following a 35-25 victory over Keiser University.

PHOTO BY ZAC LUCY

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A Gem of a Season

For the third time in program history, the Raider football team wins the national championship.

Northwestern NEXT

A program for students with disabilities brings learning diversity to NWC.

Impact-Makers

Alumni share about the Raiders who changed their lives.

A Future of Hope

In response to a critical need for mental health care, Northwestern launched two graduate programs in counseling in May.

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TEAN

Zwemer View



Sabbatical Reflections

Michelle and I are deeply grateful to the board of trustees for the sabbatical we enjoyed this summer. I am keenly aware that not everyone is so fortunate to receive such an opportunity. Three months without the responsibilities of daily work affords one the chance to rest, reflect and gain a new perspective.

Our summer was filled with leisurely days and extra time for reading, reflection, prayer, journaling and spending time in God's creation. A couple of highlights for us were two weeks in the Rocky Mountains and two weeks on the coast of Maine, including a day at Acadia National Park—one of the most beautiful places we've ever experienced.

We also made time for fun memories with our kids, soaking up the rich history of Boston and watching our beloved Cardinals play the Red Sox at Fenway Park. On Father's Day, I was blessed to attend the final round of the U.S. Open with my sons. A family trip to Scotland and London was also a highlight, where we attended a practice round at The Open Championship, visited historical sites and ended our trip by seeing a performance of *The Phantom of the Opera*.

The time in the mountains and by the ocean impacted me most. In Maine I read *A Life* of *Listening: Discerning God's Voice and Discovering Our Own*, by Leighton Ford, president of Leighton Ford Ministries. For three decades, Ford worked with Billy Graham, his brother-in-law. My three takeaways from his book were: 1) Slow your pace; 2) Listen intently; and 3) Attend to who or what is right in front of you. The extra time this summer allowed us to slow down. Michelle and I had more quality and quantity time to just be. And we attended not only to one another but to God's amazing creation.

I return from this extended sabbath refreshed and eager to enter a new season of ministry at Northwestern. I desire to be a better leader who moves at a pace that is sustainable for the long haul. We have a talented and dedicated faculty, staff, administration and board. I want to listen more intently to them and our students. Amidst full days, I desire to be more present in each moment, attending to the person or situation right in front of me. These are God-ordained moments that I don't want to take for granted.

It has been a privilege to serve Northwestern College the last 15 years. Lord willing, I look forward to serving for many more—but hopefully with a renewed commitment as a result of this sabbatical. Together with alumni, parents and friends like you, we can continue to achieve even greater levels of excellence at Northwestern College, not for ourselves, but because excellence honors God and serves others.

Greg Christy President



Follow President Christy at Twitter.com/NWC_PGC

around the Green

First PA Grads Begin Careers

A group of 24 students representing the first cohort in Northwestern's new physician assistant studies program graduated in August and followed their callings to a wide range of settings as medical professionals.

Courtney Stiens says she is confident as she begins her role as a family medicine PA at Sanford



Patience Murapa, congratulated by Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Nathan Phinney, was among the 24 graduates in the first cohort of Northwestern's master's in physician assistant studies program.

Sheldon [Iowa] Medical Center. "The feedback we received from our preceptors was overwhelmingly positive, and we had ample opportunities to grow our knowledge and make connections while out on rotations."

Derrick Moss '12 is working as an orthopedic PA with CNOS in Sioux City and Orange City. "Northwestern's PA faculty and staff were truly invested in my learning and future," he says. "Overall, the program was a perfect fit for me, and I wouldn't have wanted to be anywhere else."

Program director Jill Van Otterloo said the first master's degree graduates hold a special place in the development of the PA program at Northwestern. "It has been an amazing experience to walk alongside our students, teaching and mentoring them," she says.

Physician assistants are trained as general medical practitioners, allowing them flexibility to practice in all health care settings. Northwestern's graduates have accepted positions in family medicine, internal medicine, cardiology, orthopedics, emergency medicine, urgent care and surgery.

The demand for physician assistants is expected to grow by 30 percent between 2020 and 2030, a rate much faster than the average for all occupations.

"Our graduates are not only competent and prepared to help fill the gaps in health care needs," says Van Otterloo, "but they are ready to fulfill their calling to be the hands and feet of Christ in this world."

Members of the 2022 graduating class hail from eight states, including Texas and Washington.

in Box

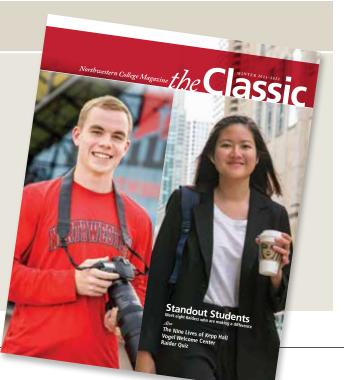
Best-ever

I can't identify exactly what factors are contributing to this impression, but I feel like [the Winter 2021–22 issue of the *Classic*] is the nicest, best constructed update I have ever received from Northwestern. I felt good reading it. It gave me the impression that Northwestern is on a good track. I appreciate your work.

Jim Christensen '79 *Titusville, Florida*

WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

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A Time for Celebration

Taylor McCarthy was among the 369 graduates who had much to celebrate following commencement in May.

Summer Study

For 20 Northwestern students, last summer started with a study abroad experience in Europe.

During three weeks in England, 11 students explored British culture—past and present—through immersion in its theatres and museums.

Senior Emma Geary says the trip broadened her worldview. "The busy days of sightseeing and my quiet afternoons of reading in the park guided me in seeing the Creator's love exemplified. Going to the United Kingdom was one of the most transformative experiences of my life and motivated me to do more traveling."

Nine Honors Program students examined Greek cultural and

intellectual influences. Students learned how most academic disciplines from art to politics, theatre to athletics, and science to religion—can trace their roots back to ancient Greece.

In addition to visiting some of Western Civilization's most iconic locations, the students also had an opportunity to participate in worship services, revealing the global nature of the Christian faith.

"We got to worship in ancient Koine Greek and the modern Greek tongue. It was a surreal experience to stand on the other side of the world and hear the name of Jesus praised with such passion in a congregation that reminded me so much of my own," says senior Faith Tyrrell.

Hired!

Northwestern graduates continue to be sought after by employers and graduate schools. NWC's 2021 graduates achieved a 99% placement rate, with 84% employed and 15% in grad school within six months of graduation.

"Our graduates are in high demand," says Dr. Elizabeth Pitts, director of career and calling. "Employers who held off on filling open positions in 2020 want to get in front of our students and recent grads, and it's rewarding to watch Raiders secure great jobs and pursue God's redeeming work in the world."

The Mayo Clinic, Principal Financial Group and Diamond Vogel



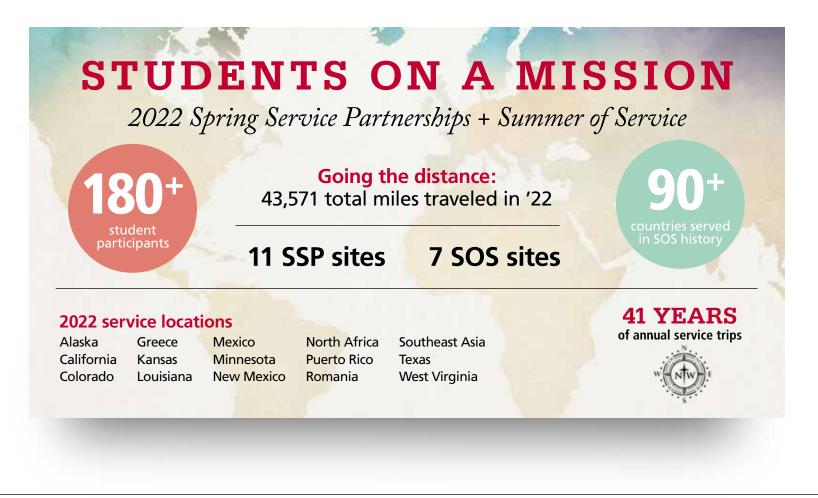
are just a few of the more than 146 companies and organizations that hired Northwestern's 2021 graduates. Among the roles grads now hold are those of a human resources analyst, cancer research specialist, director of worship, agribusiness banker, software developer, high school math teacher, and medical social worker.

The average reported salary for class of 2021 graduates who are employed full time is \$43,607. The maximum salary reported is \$69,000.

Alumni are continuing their education in grad programs ranging from lighting design to law at schools that include Fordham University, the University of Iowa, the University of Toronto, the University of Utah and Western Theological Seminary.

Northwestern's 2021 graduates are living and working in 22 states and three countries, with 52% remaining in Iowa.

For more information, visit nwciowa.edu/2021-outcomes.



Campus Life

Dramatic Experiences

BY EMELIE (SWONGER '19) LAACKMANN

Since making her stage debut at age 4, Sierra Tumbleson has given theatre a starring role in life.

The theatre major from Trimont, Minnesota, began her senior year with offers for two acting apprenticeships and a research fellowship at Northwestern University in Chicago.

After taking Zoom master classes with Boston's Commonwealth Shakespeare Company in the summer of 2021, Tumbleson was invited to participate for a second year in person. Because the program coincided with her research fellowship, however, she deferred her spot until 2023.

A registered member of the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe, Tumbleson landed a second apprenticeship after she auditioned for the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival's *Othello*, which was portrayed through an indigenous lens.

Othello's director recognized Tumbleson's talent and recommended her to Madeline Sayet, the executive director of Yale University's Indigenous Performing Arts Program and a citizen of the Mohegan Tribe. Equally impressed, Sayet cast Tumbleson in three acting roles during the program's Zoom intensive.

Tumbleson then moved to Chicago to work as a student research fellow through Northwestern University's Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP).

"I hope to pursue a doctorate in theatre from Northwestern University, so SROP seemed like a good entry point," she says.

Tumbleson's research studied ancient psychoanalytic theories in theatre—otherwise known as aesthetic theories. She compared Aristotle's theory of catharsis with the theories of Bharata Mundi, a definitive voice in Indian dramatic arts, then applied her findings to modern theatre practice.

> Tumbleson says NWC's theatre program prepared her for this deep study, since it is not the first time she completed theatre research.

"I didn't come to NWC as a theatre major, but after taking an introductory course with Dr. Bob Hubbard, I made the change," she says.

Hubbard's interdisciplinary approach to theatre introduced Tumbleson to research, design, directing, acting and more.

"Dr. Bob explained things so well and connected everything to the gospel. It made me want to do the same."

Sierra Tumbleson, a theatre major who completed research at Northwestern University in Chicago last summer, presented her study of Byzantine iconography and Renaissance image theory at Northwestern's Celebration of Research in April.

New Academic Programs

The biblical and theological studies department has joined forces with the business department to offer a new undergraduate major and minor each with a focus on business, theology and entrepreneurship.

The social enterprise major is designed for students with an interest in working with—or starting—a mission, ministry, nonprofit or socially minded business. In addition to studying nonprofit operations, students will learn key business skills like small business management and public relations. Theology courses round out the curriculum by enhancing students' understanding of discipleship and community development.

A minor in nonprofit management teaches similar skills but can be paired with other majors, such as social work, sociology, political science and criminal justice.

"These new programs will help students connect their knowledge, faith and insight to contemporary social issues," says Dr. Jason Lief '96, professor of biblical and theological studies. "The interdisciplinary focus intends to break down academic silos and better equip students to do God's work."



A New High

For the fourth consecutive year, Northwestern has set enrollment records. This fall's enrollment is 1,712, up more than 8% from last year's record of 1,585.

This year's figures include the highest number of new traditional undergraduate students and transfers in six years: 321. Northwestern has set another record with 531 graduate students enrolled in master's degree programs in education, physician assistant studies, and counseling, up from 500 last year.

Northwestern's ethnic diversity continues to grow, as the college has recruited 26 first-year Hispanic students, an all-time high. International student enrollment is also at a 10-year high, with a total of 40 residential undergraduates.

A high freshman-to-sophomore retention rate of 78.3% also contributed to this year's enrollment record.

"We are thrilled to set more enrollment records and welcome large numbers of both new and returning students," says Tamara Fynaardt, Northwestern's vice president for enrollment and marketing. "There's a special energy on campus from seeing students from all walks of life being attracted to Northwestern because of our investment in their spiritual, academic and relational growth."



Ranking Success

Northwestern continues to get affirmation from experts about the quality of its education, value and programs. Here are six of the latest rankings:



Faculty and staff welcome students following the Opening Convocation in August.

- Northwestern is eighth among 166 Midwestern regional universities in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2022–23 best-value rankings.
- In U.S. News' latest overall rankings, Northwestern has a toptier rating of 26th that places it among Iowa's top three regional universities and in the top eight in Minnesota, Nebraska and South Dakota.
- College Factual ranks Northwestern sixth in "Best Colleges in Iowa" and among the top 155 of all schools nationally, based upon freshman retention, graduation rates, accreditations and the average student loan default rate.
- Niche.com ranks NWC as the fourth-best value among Iowa colleges.
- Niche.com also puts Northwestern at the top of its Best College Dorms in Iowa list.
- The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption includes NWC on its Best Adoption-Friendly Workplaces list for the 10th time. Northwestern ranks fifth in the education industry for 2022—behind only Yale, Baylor, New York University and Emory.

Handyman

When Paul Kurtzleben is sighted on Northwestern's campus, it's a sign that help is on the way. A physical plant technician/electrician, he is called when something isn't working right.

"Whether it be fixing a light fixture, repairing a motor on an airhandler, or keeping the heating/ air-conditioner units operating, he does it all with a smile on his face and a quick comment of humor," says Jim Burmakow, a maintenance staff teammate. "He goes above and beyond to do anything he can to keep things running. We would not have the luxury of a comfortable work environment at Northwestern College if it were not for Paul."

Kurtzleben's high-quality work, done with a positive attitude and a servant's heart, led him to being named the recipient of Northwestern's 2022 Staff Inspirational Service Award.

A member of Northwestern's maintenance staff since 2002, Kurtzleben graduated from Northwest Iowa Community College and worked at Advance Brands and Sioux Biochemical before coming to NWC.

"Paul does so much behind the scenes to help Northwestern run

on a day-to-day basis while looking at it as all part of the job," says Burmakow. "He is an individual who wants to help all of those around him whenever possible. His Christ-like approach and commitment to his job and Northwestern make him a person we all should feel very blessed to work with."

Physical plant technician/electrician Paul Kurtzleben received Northwestern's 2022 Staff Inspirational Service Award in May.





A second-place finish in a national sound design competition at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival led to the summer of a lifetime for Wyatt Waage '22, a theatre major from Vermillion, South Dakota.

Waage was honored for his work on Northwestern's 2021 production of *Eurydice*, a modern take on the Greek myth involving the musician Orpheus, who attempts to rescue his wife from the Underworld. As a result, he won a summer fellowship to work as a sound designer for the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford, Connecticut, which is described as the launchpad of American theatre.

At O'Neill, Waage worked as the soundboard operator for two summer productions and served as video engineer for a third. He also mixed sound and provided audio support for the center's cabaret series, which featured performances by superstars like Natalie Douglas, Marilyn Maye, Ken Page and Hugh Panaro.

Waage was invited to return to the O'Neill Center in September to be the sound supervisor for a new musical.

"Getting to work there was an

amazing experience," says Waage. "I saw some great art and was able to meet and learn from many different theatre artists."

As the sound designer for *Eurydice*, Waage created an aural experience for the audience that supported the story and the vision of the playwright and director.

"When the characters were in the realm of the living, sounds were normal, with minimal post-production editing," he says. "When they entered the Underworld, the sounds were heavily warped and altered with post-production editing, creating an eerie world with droning, metallic scraping and electrical noises."

Face Value

Summer Opportunities

Northwestern students were selected for competitive off-campus research and study programs last summer.

Abigail Bastian was chosen to work in the genomic lab of Avera McKennan Hospital and University Health Center in Sioux Falls. She conducted research with molecular and experimental medicine designed to treat breast and ovarian cancer. Bastian is a junior from Brandon, South Dakota, majoring in genetics, molecular biology and cellular biology.

Emily Schmidt, a senior genetics, molecular biology and cellular biology major from Bellevue, Nebraska, participated in the Summer Research Institute hosted by Creighton University. She researched the preventative effects of various FDA-approved drugs, such as Tamiflu, on hearing loss related to cisplatin chemotherapy.

Clara Pahl, a senior from Ames, Iowa, majoring in psychology and English teaching, was one of 14 students selected from across the country to participate in Wheaton College's Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts Symposium. She followed that up with four weeks in England in the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities' Oxford Summer Programme, where she studied creative writing, as well as art and criticism in the 19th century.

Kendall Stanislav

Connecting Students With Experiences

Why should students study off campus or abroad?

Getting off campus gives students a chance to see different ways that life can be lived. Different foods, faith expressions, family dynamics, and work expectations are all parts of cultures that can be explored when studying off campus. Students will learn a lot about a certain location through their time abroad, but they also tend to learn a lot about themselves.

How did your own internship experience influence your vocational exploration?

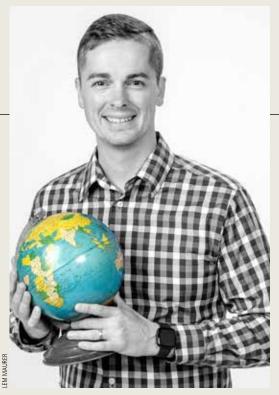
I had an internship experience that allowed me to cross something off the list that clearly wasn't the right role for me. I spent a summer interning at a physical therapy clinic. There were parts of the role that I really enjoyed, but I left the experience feeling like that wasn't quite the field for me. I returned to campus and was an RA in Coly. I loved being an RA, and that role started me on a path that has led to the work I do now.

What brings you the most satisfaction in your job?

I get to have a lot of conversations with students when they are in the midst of dreaming about their futures. It's a pleasure to be able to meet with students and be a part of the process that moves their dreams into actual plans. I enjoy sending students out into study abroad and internship experiences and debriefing with them after the fact. It is fun to see how they have grown as individuals and how they are more prepared for what is ahead of them.

What's your favorite thing about Northwestern students?

Our students are honest about who they are, who they are trying to become, what they are struggling with, and what they are thinking. The students who come through my office usually have a sincere desire to grow and a willingness



Kendall Stanislav '05 works as director of experiential education in the Compass Center for Career & Calling. A staff member since 2011, he served nine years as an RD, was assistant director of residence life and assistant director of student activities, and had a role in the campus ministry office. He earned a master's degree in higher education and student development from Taylor University.

to admit that they need something like an internship or an experience abroad to become the person that they are working to be in life. I love this honesty and authenticity.

What do you do for fun?

A lot of my activities revolve around soccer. I love watching our NWC soccer teams. I enjoy helping coach my boys' rec teams, volunteering as a high school boys soccer coach, providing summer soccer opportunities for kids in the community, and watching as much European soccer as I can on the weekends.



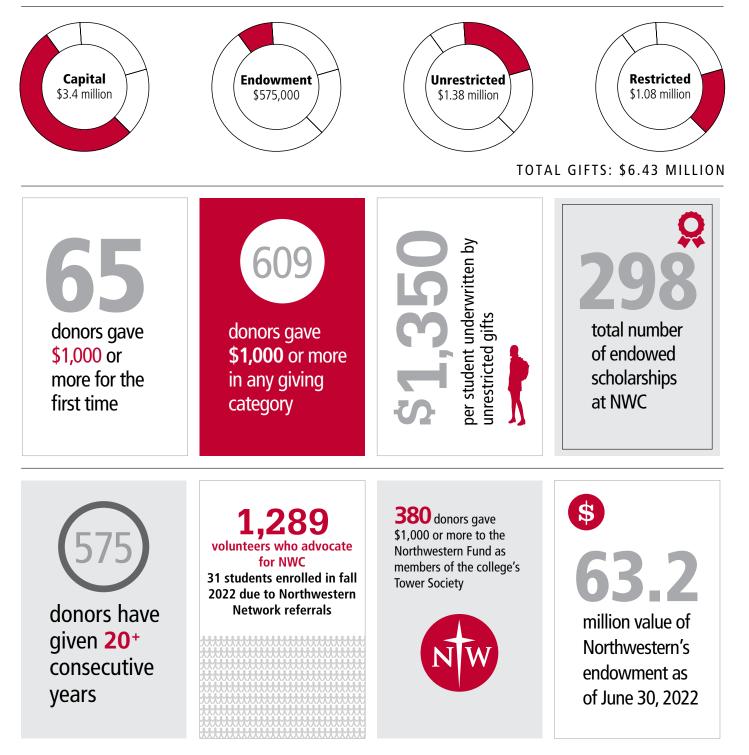
Moving Music

An otherwise unpromising vocal music performance in the small Danish town of Tune produced a moment of rare and lasting beauty for Northwestern's A cappella Choir in May. According to junior Josiah Troutner, the group was tired from a long day of walking, and the room was small, stuffy and acoustically flawed. Only a handful of locals showed up to listen.

"Expectations were low," Troutner says. "However, when we started singing *Gabriel's Oboe*, a woman in the front row began softly weeping and proceeded to cry for the duration of the piece. By the end, the whole choir was choking up, and I was silently weeping along with that Danish stranger." Junior Hannah McClintock, who had never traveled abroad, says she came away realizing just how connected the world really is. "Being across the world and being able to touch people's lives with our music and make a human connection was life changing for me," she says.

The 46-member ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Thomas Holm, performed eight concerts in Sweden and Denmark, lifting their voices in a Stockholm church, a joint performance with a Copenhagen university group, and a concert for former prison inmates and their families, among others.

Giving to Northwestern College in 2021–22



Legendary Raiders Nine faculty and staff give 231 years to Northwestern



For more than 23 years, Harold Hoftyzer has shared his enthusiasm for Northwestern as a coach, admissions staff member and advancement officer.



Dr. Paul Bartlett retired in May after 38 years as a kinesiology professor and coach. Shortly before the end of the 2022 spring semester, he was honored as the recipient of Northwestern's Faculty Inspirational Service Award.

Called to Serve

When former athletic director Todd Barry asked Harold Hoftyzer if he would coach women's golf, it took three inquiries before Hoftyzer said yes. Twenty-three years and three staff positions later, it would seem Hoftyzer's career and Northwestern's mission were destined to align.

In addition to 14 years of coaching, he served roles in both admissions and advancement-working most recently as an advancement officer and coordinator of the Business, Industry and Professional Drive.

Throughout his many roles, Hoftyzer was guided by the motto engraved on the cornerstone of Zwemer Hall: "Deus Est Lux" or "God is Light."

"Northwestern has a history of following the Word of God in its mission, and I was intentional in

sharing that with others," he says. "Students leave here prepared to know their lives belong to Christ, and giving to the college is a way of paying it forward to current students."

Ron De Jong, senior advancement officer, says Hoftyzer "exudes Northwestern's mission and vision. He identifies with who we are and what we're about, and his faith is always at the forefront."

Hoftyzer retired from the advancement office in July but has continued to support the Raiders as the assistant women's golf coach. He also enjoys watching his grandchildren thrive at Northwestern-along with the students who benefit from an endowed scholarship given in his parents' names.

Disciple Maker

Much like the apostle he shares a name with, Dr. Paul Bartlett is a mentor. Before his retirement in May, he encouraged students in the classroom and on the wrestling mat to pursue excellence and honor God.

"Discipleship is about creating opportunities for others to flourish," he says. "It's one of the reasons why I'm retiring: to create an opportunity for someone else who could have a multiplying effect on students."

In 38 years at NWC, Bartlett was a professor of kinesiology, department chair, student adviser, and wrestling and women's golf coach. He also helped expand the kinesiology department to include majors in exercise science, athletic training and sports management.

"When an instructor for a particular course was needed, Dr. Bartlett committed himself to learning that discipline well and being prepared to teach our students," says Dr. Dean Calsbeek, dean of natural and applied sciences.

Bartlett's former students and athletes describe him as compassionate, gracious and understanding.

"Coach Bartlett saw something in me that I didn't see while I was a student," says current wrestling coach Rik Dahl '97. "His patience and willingness to invest in me is something I've tried to emulate."

Empowering students and athletes to be leaders-like Dahl-is precisely what Bartlett set out to accomplish. Now, it's time to let others make disciples-at least at NWC.



After 34 years of teaching in Northwestern's biology department, Dr. Byron Noordewier retired in May. His mentorship was a valuable asset to students and faculty alike, a major factor in the department's outstanding outcomes and research contributions.

Deb Sandbulte, who retired as HR director in May, made it a goal to remember one unique thing about each new employee.

Resourceful

When Deb Sandbulte was hired by Northwestern in 2002, her task was to start a human resources department from scratch. Employee files and contracts were being handled in one office and benefits in another, but the college wasn't taking advantage of best practices in the field.

"They didn't know what they were missing by not having an HR function," says Sandbulte, who retired in May.

She got to work—developing and expanding policies to meet labor regulations based on her 20 years of experience at K-Products/ American Identity. And she began to collaborate with others in envisioning what could be done to make NWC a great place to work.

Under her leadership, Northwestern developed generous paid parental leave and adoption policies, which resulted in the college's consistent recognition as an adoption-friendly workplace by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. Mindful of staff members in need, an employee benevolence fund and voluntary shared leave program were established. And Northwestern's work schedule was adjusted to give all employees paid time off from Christmas Eve through New Year's Day. The college was recognized in 2019 as a "best-in-class employer" by its benefits consultant.

"Deb continually sought ways to make Northwestern the kind of workplace where it is a joy to serve the mission, each other, and our students and their families," says Kent Wiersema '94, vice president for finance and operations.

Continued on page 14

Biology's Backbone

"I would not be half the teacher I am without Byron's selfless, humble mentoring," says Dr. Sara Sybesma Tolsma '84, biology. "He mentored all of us, and the biology department's quality of teaching is a reflection of his influence."

Dr. Byron Noordewier retired in May after 34 years of teaching at NWC—leaving behind a legacy of researchers, medical professionals and scientists.

"After taking Byron's courses, graduates testify that their medical school courses were mostly review and that they rose to the top of their classes," says Tolsma.

Dr. "No's" leadership proved vital to Northwestern's participation in SEA-PHAGES, a global effort by college students to discover rare viruses. Recognized for the high caliber of his students' work, he facilitated training to prepare professors on campuses nationwide for research.

He also served as Northwestern's faculty athletics representative for 29 years, a role for which he was named the NAIA Faculty Athletics Representative of the Year in 2013.

"Byron's knowledge and experience with the NAIA have helped countless student-athletes in his time here," says Dr. Micah Parker, vice president for athletics. "We hope to have his help as long as possible."

In retirement, Noordewier has continued to host the video stream of home volleyball games, lending his expertise and wry sense of humor to Raider airwaves.

Northwestern Classic 13

Continued from page 13



After serving 30 years in offices across campus, Aletha Beeson retired in June from her role as events and stewardship coordinator.



Dr. Kevin McMahan, who retired in June, chaired Northwestern's Diversity Resource Committee and was instrumental in developing its Vision for Diversity.

Willing Spirit

In her 30 years at Northwestern, Aletha (Koele '78) Beeson was a "go-to" staffer and events planner for offices across campus. She served three years in Northwestern's education department, coordinating placements for student teachers and alumni. She then worked five years as office manager in student affairs, where she assisted the dean in overseeing college housing and managing chapel attendance.

Beeson also filled several temporary positions in the financial affairs, academic affairs, advancement, theatre and president's offices. Most recently, she served 19 years in advancement as events and stewardship coordinator—a role that placed her at the forefront of banquets, auctions and Homecoming activities like Morning on the Green. "Aletha was a versatile employee who was always willing to help and quick to take on something new," says Jay Wielenga '82, vice president for advancement. "We miss her strong work ethic and deep institutional memory."

"In every department, I worked with good people who valued the mission of NWC," says Beeson. She especially enjoyed working with students and "watching them grow and change in the four years they were part of the office."

Following her retirement in June, Beeson has enjoyed spending time with her kids and new granddaughter. She has also continued to attend college activities—but appreciates better than anyone the effort involved.

Bridge Builder

For 15 years, Dr. Kevin Mc-Mahan advocated for Northwestern's international students and students of color while helping the college grow in its commitment to diversity. His wisdom, knowledge and listening skills impacted many, including Martha (Perez '09) Draayer, who stepped into McMahan's shoes when he retired last June.

"When I was a student, Kevin affirmed who I was and encouraged me to think about the value I had as a Latina," Draayer says. "I attribute so much of my learning and growth and the path I'm on today to my interactions with him."

McMahan's interest in other cultures began at Ohio State, where he was a graduate assistant in a residence hall of 500—half of whom were international students. He spent a year in South Africa and was Seattle Pacific University's director of international programs before joining Northwestern's staff.

Under McMahan's leadership, the intercultural development office became a place of welcome for international students, students of color, and all students committed to making Northwestern a more intercultural community. That welcome extended to his home, where he and his wife routinely hosted students for meals.

"It was a privilege to work with and learn from students from multiple cultures—and to do that within a Christian context," Mc-Mahan says. "I believe that this is the heart of God. This is what the gospel is about."



Dr. Joel Westerholm, known for his collaborative approach to learning, retired in May after teaching in Northwestern's English department for 34 years.



Nancy Hughes retired in June after 16 years of service in Northwestern's payroll and human resources office.

Truth Seeker

When Dr. Joel Westerholm applied to Northwestern's faculty, Dr. Harold Heie—vice president for academic affairs at the time—recognized him as someone passionate about "passing on truth that reflects the God who made and redeemed the world."

"It was very much what I wanted to do," says Westerholm.

After 34 years of teaching in the English department, Westerholm retired in May. A lifelong learner, he viewed the classroom as a space for insightful dialogue and facilitated the learning process not just as a professor, but as a student himself.

"My greatest joy in teaching was my students' willingness to engage my quest to understand more," he says. "Class was never a time for me to deliver what I already know, but an exploration of interesting issues."

To expand students' cultural perspectives, Westerholm taught a wide variety of texts, including works by Caribbean, sub-Saharan African and Indian writers.

"Dr. Westerholm encouraged us to listen closely to a broad range of literary voices and trust ourselves to add something new to the mix," says Victoria Horn '18. "I wouldn't be the reader, writer or person I am today without him."

Westerholm also taught guitar in the music department. Before moving to Michigan, he made a final stage appearance with local band The Usual Suspects—a perfect coda to his decades of contributions to NWC and the community.

Paying It Forward

As the sole person responsible for the timely delivery of each Northwestern employee's paycheck, it could be said that Nancy (Nelson '86) Hughes held one of the most important roles on campus. During her 16-year career as payroll and human resources benefits specialist, Hughes provided accurate payroll processing, ensured the college's compliance with tax and labor laws, coordinated employee benefits with thirdparty vendors, and participated in various annual college audits.

She was also integral in upgrading Northwestern's payroll to a fully integrated online human resources management system.

"It has been very rewarding to work in an atmosphere where I can live out my faith while serving students and colleagues alike," says Hughes. "Since my days as a student here, Northwestern has remained true to its core mission of being distinctly Christian."

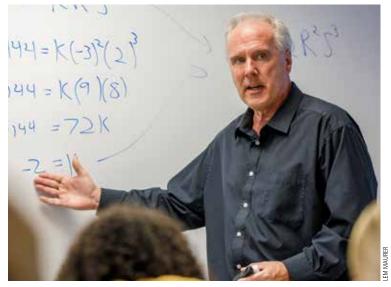
Mindy Stichka, associate director of human resources, says Hughes' faith witness was evident in their daily office interactions.

"Nancy truly embodies the spirit of Northwestern's community and the sense of belonging that is found here," says Stichka. "She cares for others, has a heart for serving them through her work, and loves what she does."

Following her retirement in June, Hughes has had time to invest in other roles more fully including being grandma to her two grandchildren.

Continued on page 16

Continued from page 15



Dr. Wayne Westenberg retired in May after 21 years on the mathematics faculty. His extensive teaching experience and math expertise prepared Northwestern education majors for their future classrooms.

Adding It Up

Over more than four decades of teaching, Dr. Wayne Westenberg '79 developed a formula for classroom success: "a passion for young people, competence in your subject area, and a striving desire to always be at your best."

Those variables—combined with a deep love of Christ—are what made Westenberg stand out to Abigail Thompson'17, a graduate student in security-intelligence at Embry-Riddle University.

"During my class with Professor Westenberg, I had fun learning math concepts for the first time in years," she says. "He is an incredible man of faith. I don't know how to fully express the impact he had on me."

Westenberg, who was also an assistant volleyball coach, retired in May after 21 years in Northwestern's mathematics department. Equipped with 22 years of experience as a junior high and high school math teacher, he imparted mathematical insights and classroom wisdom to the next generation of educators.

"Wayne is a gifted teacher who has helped our students bridge the gap between their high school math classes and the rigor of college mathematics," says Dr. Kim Jongerius, math department chair. "As Northwestern's math education specialist, he has led future elementary and secondary teachers to confidence and competence in their work."

Westenberg's plans for retirement are still unfolding, but faith continues to be his compass. He says simply, "I will see where the Lord leads."



Answering God's Call

Fourteen Northwestern students answered God's call to go and bear fruit during Summer of Service 2022. Read about their experiences at **nwciowa.edu/sos-report**

Teacher as Servant

Dr. Jiying (Jenny) Song does more than research servant-leadership. She lives it.

"My life has been impacted by several servant-leaders," Song says. "I have become healthier, wiser, freer and more willing to serve because of them. For me, the pursuit of research in servant-leadership is the pursuit of becoming more like Jesus."

With more than 20 publications and presentations on the topics of servant-leadership and forgiveness, Song was nominated by her colleagues to receive Northwestern's 2022 Faculty Excellence in Faith and Learning Award. The honor celebrates a faculty member's devotion to scholarship that expresses the wonder, truth and beauty of God's revelation in Scripture and creation.

"Jenny is prolific in Christian scholarship, incorporates that scholarship in her teaching, and serves her colleagues, students and church wholeheartedly—as a servant-leader," wrote one nominator.

In addition to her role as assistant professor of business, Song works as associate editor for *The International Journal of Servant-Leadership*. She was the first editor for *Servant-Leadership and Forgiveness: How Leaders Help Heal the Heart of the World*.

Song has also helped develop Northwestern's major in social enterprise and minors in leadership studies and nonprofit management. All three programs draw upon her leadership knowledge and commitment to faith in the business world.



GEOFF JOHNSO

Students say Song's Servant-Leadership course has been an inspiration, with one citing it as "more impactful for my faith and leadership skills than any general education class I have taken."



Esteemed Educator

Dr. Chris Nonhof, assistant professor of education and English, knows a thing or two about teaching. Prior to joining Northwestern's faculty in 2015, he spent 16 years teaching English and theatre at private and public high schools in Florida and Wisconsin. In 2020, Education and English professor Chris Nonhof was selected to receive the 2022 Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award after being nominated by students for his insightful mentorship.

his outstanding teaching practice earned him Northwestern's Blekkink Endowed Education Professorship, which funds his research into culturally responsive education.

Students describe him as a trusted mentor who makes them feel valued at an individual level. This gift for connecting with students both inside and outside of the classroom made him the perfect candidate for Northwestern's 2022 Teaching Excellence Award.

The award is administered by members of the Student Government Association and Honors Program students, who presented the honor at commencement in May.

One student nominator wrote, "Dr. Nonhof creates an environment that is safe and welcoming to everyone. He makes class enjoyable yet educational, with open conversations guided by thoughtful questions."

Nonhof's two decades of teaching experience have shown him the importance of adaptation in the classroom. As education majors prepare for their careers as teachers, he says, it's essential they modify content and practices to meet the needs of their future students.

"He is honest, insightful and realistic about the challenges of being a teacher," another student said. "He is never too busy to answer a question." Standouts

Northwestern's 2022 alumni of the year are (from left) Joyce (Beukelman '57) Wrage, Alison (Sadler '05) Ter Horst, Doug Boone '82, Kathy (Bonnecroy '73) Meendering and Dr. Kristine Legters '82.

Northwestern's 2022 alumni awards honored a business leader, two educators, and two graduates known for their service. Meet the award recipients who were recognized during Raider Nation Celebration in October.

Doug Boone '82

Professional Achievement

Doug Boone is the executive vice president for strategic initiatives for Premier Communications in Sioux Center. He joined the company after graduating from Northwestern, working his way up from assistant manager to CEO to his present role. Boone also serves as director of Aureon Fiber Optic Network, was past president and director of the Rural Broadband Association, and served as director of the Iowa Communications Alliance. In 2022 he was appointed by Iowa's governor to the Iowa Economic Development Authority Board.

Dr. Kristine Legters '82 Professional Achievement

Dr. Kristine Legters serves as associate dean of the School of Rehabilitative Services at Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania. She began working as a physical therapist in 1983 and has taught physical therapy since 1994. She is active in the American Physical Therapy Association and its Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy, as well as in the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties. Legters has a master's degree in health care administration from Gannon and a doctorate in neurologic physical therapy from Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions.

Kathy (Bonnecroy '73) Meendering

Service to Northwestern

During nine years as the cashier for Northwestern's food service provider, Kathy Meendering was known for greeting every student who came through the cafeteria line by name. Thanks to her, the cafeteria was a place to not only get a hot meal, but also a warm hug. After a football player confessed his homesickness to her, she embraced him before every meal. Meendering also regularly served up encouragement to campus ministry groups, residence hall wings and Red Raider teams in the form of homebaked cookies and treats.

Alison (Sadler '05) Ter Horst Standout Young Alum

Alison Ter Horst is an award-winning Advanced Placement psychology teacher at Washington High School in Sioux Falls. She was a finalist for Sioux Falls Teacher of the Year in 2015, and in 2019, received the Milken Educator Award, a mid-career recognition that comes with an unrestricted prize of \$25,000. Ter Horst was one of just 40 honorees across the nation and the only winner from South Dakota. In addition to a bachelor's degree in psychology from Northwestern, she has a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Sioux Falls.

Joyce (Beukelman '57) Wrage Service to Humankind

Joyce Wrage spent 30 years as the children's librarian for the Brookings Public Library. She helped write a statewide summer reading program for South Dakota's centennial and developed the state's annual children's reading awards. She was also involved in establishing a Brookings after-school program and served on its board. Wrage developed children's activities for the Center for Hope in Sioux Falls, chaired the Salvation Army's Brookings unit, and was involved in ministries, organizations and events that included Project Joy, Share the Warmth, United Way and the Brookings Foundation Board. She is active in Faith Reformed Church, where she was an elder and director of children's education.

Servant-Leadership Amidst Challenges

Dr. Jiying (Jenny) Song, assistant professor of business and economics, served as first editor of a newly published anthology, Servant-Leadership, Feminism, and Gender Well-Being: How Leaders Transcend Global Inequities through Hope, Unity, and Love.

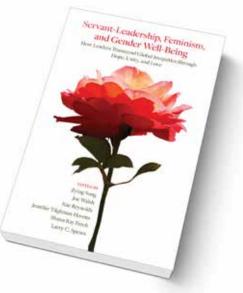
Published by SUNY Press, the volume includes chapters written by 25 authors from around the world. The book focuses on leadership problems related to gender dualism and gender stereotyping. It offers evidence of successful servant-leadership where such gender boundaries have been crossed and where gendered traits and behaviors have been integrated.

"My greatest satisfaction from working on this project is its focus on bringing the marginalized to the center, without driving away others," says Song. "Anyone can be a servant-leader, regardless of gender, race or any other form of categorization."

Among those working alongside Song as editors of the anthology were Dr. Shann Ferch, professor of leadership studies at Gonzaga University, and Larry Spears, servant-leadership scholar at Gonzaga and president of the Spears Center for Servant-Leadership. Song also works with Ferch and Spears as associate editor for the *International Journal of Servant-Leadership*.

In addition to serving as first editor, Song co-wrote the book's preface with Ferch and authored the fourth chapter, "Servant First or Survival First? How Servant-Leaders Lead During COV-ID-19."

Song says this book demonstrates integrative ways of leading, living and loving in the midst of crises and challenges. "Feminist ways of knowing and honoring both feminine and masculine giftedness deepen the holistic foundation of servant-leadership," she says, "and drive the paradigm shift from hierarchy-driven, rulesbased and authoritative models to values-driven, follower-oriented and participative models."





A new piano recording by Juyeon Kang is available online.

Music for the Hurting

Dr. Juyeon Kang has performed at Carnegie Hall and with symphonies around the world. But her latest piano recording project got its impetus at the funeral of a former student.

"While playing the prelude, I sensed God was touching the hearts and souls of the congregation through music," Kang says. "After the service, many expressed that the music was so beautiful and comforting. This inspired me to start a project that would encourage the wounded and hurt."

The project became her third recording. "Joyful Praise" is a collection of several well-known hymns, such as "Great is Thy Faithfulness," "It is Well With My Soul," "This is My Father's World" and "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." Comprised of 15 pieces, the recording is available on YouTube and Spotify, with a CD to be released soon.

"As a trained concert pianist and a devout Christian, one of the primary goals of my professional life is to maintain a high standard of piano performance, for I believe music has the power to touch people's hearts and spirits," says Kang. "I believe I was given a talent to share, and my inspiration for hard work has been to transfer God's powerful presence to others through music."

A Steinway artist who has performed on four continents and received numerous awards, Kang will present selections from "Joyful Praise" during a faculty recital in Christ Chapel on Feb. 25.

Red Zone

Strong and Courageous

BY DUANE BEESON

When Jessen "Bubba" Reinking was asked his favorite Bible verse for his bio on the football team's website a few years ago, he had no hesitation. Joshua 1:9 quickly came to mind; he even has it tattooed on his side.

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Strong. A 6-foot-3 inch, 230-pound defensive end, Reinking is an imposing force. Last year he earned second-team all-conference honors as he led the Raiders in sacks and tackles for a loss. Coach Matt McCarty describes him as a very driven, hard-working athlete who is adept at disrupting opponents' offenses.

Courageous. Reinking exemplified courage this year when he was diagnosed with testicular cancer. Two weeks after his first doctor's visit in May, he had surgery, and a rigorous chemo program began two weeks later. Because of the treatment schedule, he had to take the fall semester off.

"I looked at it as a bump in the road," says Reinking. "I took every

OTBALL

day with the mindset that it's curable, and I'll get over it."

The support of his teammates helped to lift Reinking's spirits. Roommate Tanner Oleson started a GoFundMe campaign that raised more than \$14,000 for his expenses. During football camp in August, several Raiders came to Reinking's hometown of Kingsley, Iowa, to help at a softball tournament fundraiser for his family. Throughout the season, the Raiders wore "Team Bubba" stickers on their helmets.

"It helped quite a bit to know

I had a group of 140 guys behind me," says Reinking.

"There is a strong bond not only between Red Raider teammates but also their families," says Coach McCarty. "To see them rally around Jessen has been amazing."

In September, Reinking got both good news and bad news. The cancer is in remission, but blood clots led to a five-day hospitalization. He's now looking forward to returning to Northwestern for the spring semester and getting his body in shape so he can be back on the gridiron next fall.

"The way Jessen was so positive and strong throughout the entire process was impressive," says Oleson. "His faith never swayed."

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

essen "Bubba" Reinking (in front, with elmet) cites the support of teammates like anner Oleson, Tyler Jones and Ben Kingery eft to right) in helping him battle cancer.

Leave a Legacy

Makenzie Snyder and Madelyn Liudahl are preparing for their careers with the financial support of John and Betty (Herzog '63) Kendall. After establishing an endowed scholarship for nursing students, the Kendalls continue to make regular gifts to it via required minimum distributions (RMD) from their retirement accounts. As their endowed gift grows, so does the size of the scholarships it funds.

Your RMD is an easy way to give to Northwestern. Contact us to learn more.



giving@nwciowa.edu give.nwciowa.edu 712-707-7105

Betty says Northwestern provided her and her sisters with a solid Christian education back in the '60s, and it still has that same Christian focus today. Giving, she says, is more rewarding than receiving, and every donation—no matter the size—counts.



A GEM OF A SEASON

13-1 football team wins third national championship

BY DUANE BEESON

W hen nothing seems to help, I go and look at a stonecutter hammering away at his rock perhaps a hundred times without as much as a crack showing in it. Yet at the hundred and first blow it will split in two, and I know it was not that blow that did it, but all that had gone before. " – Jacob Riis

Coach Matt McCarty '03 often uses the Stonecutter's Credo to motivate the Red Raider football team. It describes his goals for the program: to pursue excellence in all that they do. To play every day like champions. To be the best they can by doing things the right way.

After a season in which the Raiders had won 12 straight games and were averaging 44 points to their opponents' 10, McCarty returned to his "pound the rock" mantra at the NAIA national championship game in Durham, North Carolina, on Dec. 17. The Raiders were up against bigger athletes from Florida's Keiser University and were facing adversity they hadn't seen for much of the season. The score was tied at 7-7 at halftime, and the Seahawks had a 17-14 edge with 5:16 to go in the third quarter.

"Our guys weren't phased," says McCarty. "Anytime Keiser did something, we were able to answer back to keep the momentum on our side. We talked about continuing to pound the stone, and when there's a crack, we've got to finish it—and our guys did that in the fourth quarter."



PHOTOS BY ZAC LUCY



On the Web

nwciowa.edu/championship-video nwciowa.edu/McCarty-stands-out nwcraiders.com/football

Raider guarterback Jalyn Gramstad, who had started as a defensive back the previous two seasons, led the charge. He threw for 247 yards and three touchdowns while rushing for 128 yards and a TD as the Raiders persevered for a 35-25 victory.

"Jalyn came up with clutch plays when we needed it most," says McCarty. "He was a difference maker like he was all season long."

The Raiders were competing in the national championship game for the second time in three seasons, after finishing as runner-up in 2020-21. Northwestern played in front of what McCarty described as a home crowd, with nearly 1,000 Raider fans in Durham. The faithful included several members of Northwestern's 1983 and 1973 national championship teams. Thousands more cheered on the team at watch parties around the Midwest and watched the ESPN broadcast across the globe.

McCarty and his players cited a painful, first game 30-29 loss to defending national champion Morningside as one of the keys to the season. "It can be a loss or a lesson," says Gramstad. Teammate Cade Moser, who accounted for two of the Raiders' touchdowns in the championship game, adds, "We knew we had a long way to go after the Morningside game, but if we dominated the details and tried to get better each day, we could be in this position."

"The Morningside game was a great reminder of the focused work we needed to put in," says McCarty. "The guys came out on the Monday afterward committed to doing that.

"This year's team was really special," says the coach. "They're a selfless group. It was always about us being our best, and they did such a good job of always being hungry to make their next game their best game."

As the players headed to their homes for Christmas break after the championship game and reveled in bringing another red championship banner back to Orange City, they had the opportunity to reflect on their achievements.

"Becoming a champion has always been a dream of mine," wrote senior Jaden Snyder in an Instagram post, "but the relationships and memories made along the way are more valuable than any trophy. The true mark of a championship team ... is the love, sacrifice and selflessness it takes to push each other [further] than the individual ever could [go]. Success is merely a byproduct of surrendering ego and uniting as one body in pursuit of a common goal."

Fellow team captain and senior Tanner Oleson also summarized his thoughts on Instagram: "The past 4.5 years have been the most fulfilling years of my life. I have grown so much, and most of the credit is due to the men in our locker room. My love for these guys is so deep. Northwestern has a special place in my heart. I came to college as a broken kid without much knowledge of Christ. Now I leave securing a relationship with him and a national championship. Keep pounding that rock in every aspect of your life. You never know where it will lead you."

Like Nick Batcheller, NEXT program students participate in all aspects of college life, including attending games to cheer the Raiders to victory.

Learn Diversity



NEXT student Amanda Schultz is a member of Northwestern's cheerleading squad.

Northwestern program for students with disabilities benefits all

BY ANITA CIRULIS

manda boosts school spirit as a cheerleader. Christian enjoys playing video games with his good friend Dylann. Ailee sings in the choir and was a cast member for the children's play.

Such accomplishments would be unremarkable in the life of a typical college student. For these three students and their classmates, however, they are important signs of the success of Northwestern NEXT, a program for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The NEXT program began in 2016 with one student. It has since grown to a dozen students from four states, including as far away as Massachusetts. John Menning, the Northwestern NEXT coordinator, says the program's goal is to provide a personalized, inclusive college experience for its students.

"It's really about preparing

them for life," he says. "Statistics show they get better-paying jobs after being in programs like ours. For students with disabilities who haven't had the opportunity to participate in similar programs, the employment rate is just 12%."

Northwestern NEXT is designated as a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program (CTP) by the U.S. Department of Education—one of just 129 in the nation. The designation means the



NEXT mentor Jenna Smit (left) tutors Raema Doty, who is in the second year of the program.

program meets standards of excellence and families are able to apply for federal financial aid.

Jody and Jason Lepp have a son, Jack, who is currently a NEXT student, and a daughter, Jorja, who graduated from the program and now works as a certified nursing assistant.

"I wanted them to live independently in a supportive environment and to know what it's like to live on a college campus," Jody says of the two. "Our goal with the program was to have them grow, but we also wanted some kind of skilled training."

During the first year of Northwestern's program, NEXT students take classes that teach them about life skills, wellness, positive choices, and careers. They also audit as many as nine credits of regular college courses of their choosing, with assignments adapted to their abilities.

Menning recruits up to 40 Northwestern students to serve as NEXT mentors. The mentors provide support for the NEXT students, whether that's academically or socially, and some also serve as roommates.

"We get like a mentor or a tutor for different classes, depending on your need," says Raema Doty, a second-year NEXT student. "Whatever you need help on, there's tutors for different subjects."

"I tell the mentors," says Menning, "you can go to chapel with them. You can go to games with them. If they're sitting alone in the cafeteria, go eat with them. When these students come here, they're surrounded by this environment of inclusion and warmth and Christian love."

Menning sees the program as a win-win for both NEXT students as well as the rest of the student body because they learn from each other. Morgan Schroeder, an elementary education major, benefited from the opportunity to help some NEXT students improve their reading abilities. She also tutored several NEXT students who want to work as paraprofessionals in an elementary school classroom.

"Every month I usually send out a text to all of the NEXT students and arrange dinner together in the cafeteria," she says. "I always invite other mentors as well. And if one of the students needs a buddy for chapel, they know I'm available. Honestly, I don't even log all of my hours. I just really enjoy being around them."

Dylann Van Berkum, another elementary education major, served as a NEXT mentor his first two years of college. Though no longer a mentor in an official capacity, he continues to spend time with NEXT student Christian Westra.

"I just enjoy hanging out with him," Van Berkum says. "I don't see Christian as a kid in the NEXT program. I just see him as my friend."

The impact of the NEXT program is obvious to all involved.

"I feel so much confident," says Amanda Schultz, a secondyear NEXT student. "I feel like it makes me more independent here."

Lepp also saw her daughter Jorja grow in confidence as the result of the program. And the added diversity to Northwestern's campus is important, she says.

"It's a great thing to have people with different intellectual abilities together," she points out, "because when we live in our world, we're not in pods of people who all have the same intellectual capabilities. We all have to live together and work together."

Read about the impact two NEXT students had on their astronomy classmates on P. 48.



Dylann Van Berkum and Christian Westra met through the NEXT program and remain good friends.

the RAIDER VIEO CHANCED VIE

Northwestern alumni recall the difference one person can make

BY ANITA CIRULIS

It can be a chance meeting or an intentional relationship. A fiveminute conversation or a lifetime of faithful service. When we asked alumni to share experiences with Raiders who had changed their lives, the responses came pouring in. Some people were even nominated by more than one alum. Here are a few of their stories.

> Once professor and student, Drs. Laird Edman and Rachael Wittern are now colleagues. She credits him for encouraging her to go to graduate school—and for letting her know of the job opening she filled this fall.

Steve Macchia '78

Mike DeKrey '80 is retired after a 31-year career as a chemist for DuPont.

Late in my senior year of high school, Kevin, the coolest guy in school (and I was not cool), approached me about a way I could skip a day of classes. He was going to visit Northwestern College. Did I want to go along?

Skip classes? Hang out with a cool kid? As the song goes, "Two out of three ain't bad."

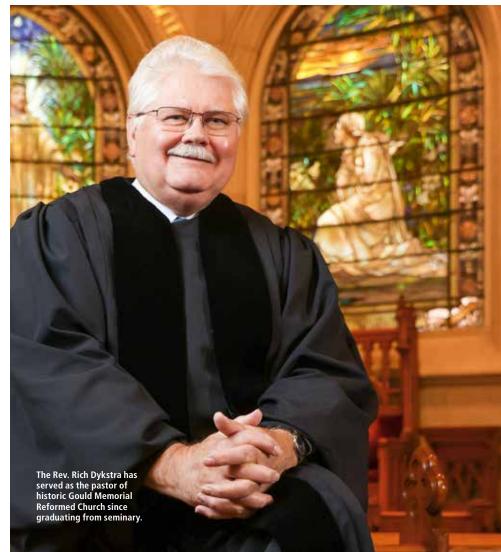
Steve was assigned to escort us around campus. It was a beautiful spring day, and the campus was busy with students going to and from class.

Everybody knew Steve's name and called out to him as we passed. Many stopped to talk to him. They talked to Kevin. They talked to me. Even the cute girls talked to me and we met some very cute girls that day. (No girls talked to me at home.)

By the end of the day, I not only had decided to go to college, I had decided to go to Northwestern.

I don't remember ever meeting Steve again. I don't recall any of the other things we saw or did that day. But because Steve was smart, well-liked, good-looking, and willing to give his time to a couple of prospective students, this awkward kid had an experience that changed the course of my life. I graduated from NWC at the top of my class, met my wife there, earned a doctorate in chemistry from Purdue, and enjoyed a long career as a chemist for DuPont.

There were many wonderful people at Northwestern who helped me achieve those things, but I wouldn't have met any of them if not for Steve and that one awesome day.



Rev. Richard Dykstra '78

Nancy (Raeder '82) Vosbrink's hometown is Roxbury, New York, where Rich has served as the pastor of Gould Memorial Reformed Church for 41 years.

When I graduated from Northwestern and moved back home, I discovered that another NWC grad, Rich Dykstra, had become the pastor of my home church.

He's still there today.

Rich was my pastor as I navigated the day-to-day challenges of life. He officiated the weddings of my brother, my sister, and me in the '80s. He was there in '95 when my mother struggled through her first cancer diagnosis. He was there in '97 when I was diagnosed with cancer. He was there in 2004 when my mother was diagnosed with cancer for a second time—and there at 2 in the morning, providing support for my father, when she died. Four months later, he was there when my father died.

When I look at Rich, it's not just these individual moments that stand out, but rather, a whole life of humble, faithful service. And I know I'm not the only person whose life he has impacted.

Lyle Vander Werff'54

Rev. John Paul (JP) Sundararajan '00 serves as the director of global mission for the Reformed Church in America.

I remember how scared I was when I arrived at Northwestern with my two duffel bags. Having grown up in India, I'd never left home before—let alone flown halfway across the world to go to college in Orange City, Iowa.

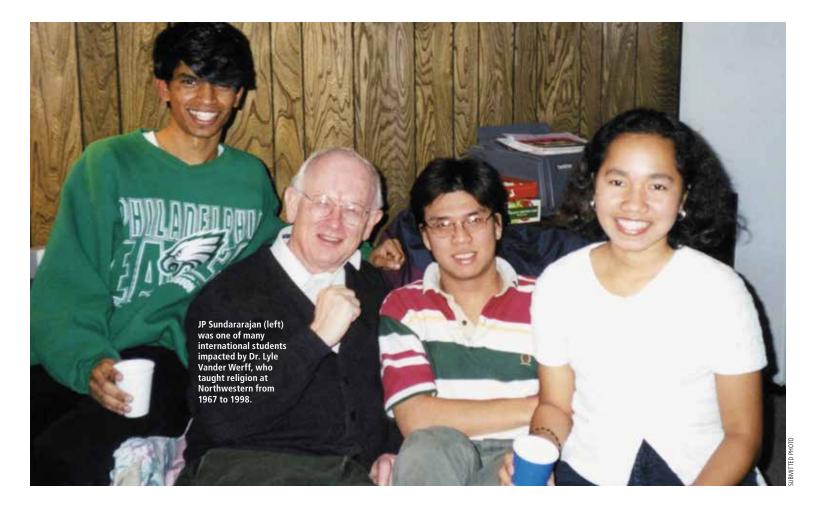
But as God opened doors and made it clear that was his will for me, I began getting letters from Dr. Lyle Vander Werff that guided me through the process of becoming an international student at NWC. And when I arrived at my dorm room in the basement of Heemstra Hall, there was a Post-it note from him on my door that said, "Welcome to Northwestern College. I'm glad you're here! I look forward to meeting you."

We did meet during the international student orientation, during which Dr. Vander Werff asked me to be his teaching assistant for Introduction to Biblical Faith, the required religion course that he taught. I didn't know what being a TA involved, but I understood he was taking a chance on someone he knew only by reputation—and that he thought I showed leadership potential. He saw something in me that I didn't even see myself. He believed in me.

When I first enrolled at Northwestern, the college didn't have anyone who oversaw international students. Dr. Vander Werff taught in the religion department, but he was the one who pushed NWC to be international in her impact. Because of him, the world came to this little corner of northwest Iowa. He honored and loved international students, and we adored him.

Dr. Vander Werff invited me to step into a leadership role not only in his class, but with the International Club as well. I also helped him with the Summer Institute for International Students, and in that role, was the student who welcomed high school and college students from around the world to our campus. He also gave me the opportunity to teach the biblical component of the classes those students took during their stay in Orange City.

In a few months I'll be going to Japan to the very institutions where we used to draw students to Northwestern. I'll be going in a different role than the one Lyle played, but his influence lives on in my heart. In so many ways, what I do today is an echo of what Lyle did for me those many years ago.



Laird Edman

Rachael Wittern '08 is in her first year as a member of Northwestern's psychology faculty.

"Surreal" best describes how it feels to be teaching with my former psychology professor and adviser.

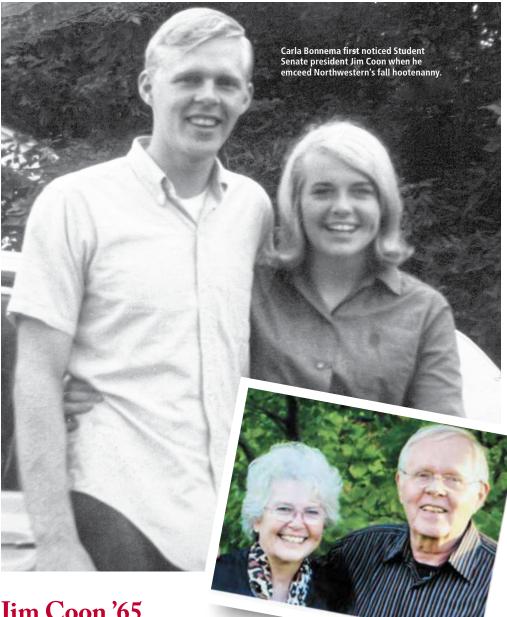
It was the fall semester of my junior year at Northwestern when I decided to add psychology as a second major, with the goal of going to graduate school and becoming a clinical psychologist. The problem was that I needed two research statistics classes that are offered sequentially in the fall and spring. I had missed taking the foundational course that fall and needed to take the second-level course that spring to graduate on time.

I met with Dr. Edman, and he gave me some books and said, "If you want to learn all this on your own over Christmas break, then I'll see you in the spring." I'll always be grateful for the faith he had in me. He was instrumental in helping me have the confidence to apply to graduate school. One of the main things you need in grad school, he told me, is persistence, and by teaching myself the content of the first statistics course, I had demonstrated that in spades.

I earned a doctorate and

became a clinical psychologist, but I knew I wanted to teach—and, if possible, to teach at Northwestern. Dr. Edman was the one who let me know there was a job opening in the department, so he has been a major influence on my career trajectory in multiple ways.





Jim Coon '65

Carla (Bonnema '67) Coon has been married to Jim for 55 years.

In 1964, I was a lonely, insecure, afraid freshman. He was Jim Coon, a senior and president of the Student Senate. I noticed him at the fall hootenanny. He was the emcee, and he really impressed me. Not only could he stay calm when things went wrong, but he was funny and quick-witted too.

Jim was also kind, caring and encouraging-not only to me, but to everyone, especially those who were struggling for any reason. He discovered through a mutual friend that I was feeling despondent, and so began

our friendship and his encouragement that I get involved. He talked me into trying out for the cheerleading squad and Student Senate. Because of him, my self-confidence grew, I came out of my shell, and I went from hating college to loving it.

We've now been married for 55 years. Oh, how he changed my life!

Cheryl (Van Wyhe '71) Hoekstra

After starting out as a teacher and youth director, Elliott Ten Clay '70 has been in the plumbing business for more than 30 years.

I've always wanted to tell Cheryl thank you, but I never knew what happened to her.

When I was in college, I fully expected to get drafted during the Vietnam War. As a result, even though I was a senior, I hadn't applied for any teaching jobs.

This is where Cheryl comes in. She had worked at Camp Manitogua in Frankfort, Illinois, and knew that the director, Harold Korver, was coming to Northwestern to recruit camp counselors for the summer. She gave him my name, and Harold looked me up and talked me into joining his staff.

At Camp Manitoqua, I met a pastor who offered me a part-time position as the youth director for his church. That pastor, in turn, knew that the local school district was looking for a math teacher, which was my major. And it was while working as a youth director and attending a weekend retreat at Camp Manitogua that I met my wife.

My whole life would have been different if not for Cheryl.

The DeWitt Family

Robin (Van Oosterhout '92) Lewis has three master's degrees and a doctorate in psychology. After 23 years with the Navy, she now travels around the world providing mental health care to the men and women of the Coast Guard.



Robin Lewis (right) and Amy DeKruyter have been friends since childhood. Amy's grandfather, Marvin DeWitt, introduced Robin to Northwestern College.

My life has been profoundly impacted by Marv and Jerene DeWitt and their granddaughter, Amy DeKruyter, my best friend.

I went to the same church as the DeWitts and remember going over to their house all the time growing up. Marv was kind of a salty old dog but always very compassionate, very giving, and a very hard worker. He was also a member of Northwestern's board of trustees.

After I preached for Youth Sunday, Marv told me I needed to go look at Northwestern. He flew me out to Orange City in his little corporate plane, and I ended up loving it. I think he saw in me abilities I didn't know that I had or didn't have the resources for. Like a lot of my peers, I was a first-generation college student.

If not for Marv and his desire to show off Northwestern—and then padding my financial aid package with a personal scholarship all four years—I wouldn't be where I'm at professionally. Throughout college, he would always ask how I was doing, and he took a vested interest (and maybe a bit of pride) in my accomplishments.

Amy ended up attending Hope College, but she's a Raider at heart. And now her daughter Ana is a senior at Northwestern, and my twin sons, Jacob and Joshua, are freshmen. Ana is taking time off from school to be with her mom, who is terminally ill with brain cancer.

And that's how the DeWitt family continues to touch my life. Amy is a testimony to dying well, to moving into eternity with grace and peace. She's been such a lesson to me of how to pray. We can pray for miracles, and I truly believe they can happen, but we're all going to die eventually. Amy has shown me how to live in the here and now, with peace and acceptance of what each day brings.

Elizabeth Heeg '01

Hannah (Powell '18) Myers is an internal medicine physician assistant with the Bryan Medical Center in Lincoln, Nebraska.

I'm a double graduate of Northwestern. Not only did I earn my undergraduate degree in biology-health professions, but I was a member of the college's first class of physician assistant students, graduating with my master's degree this past August.

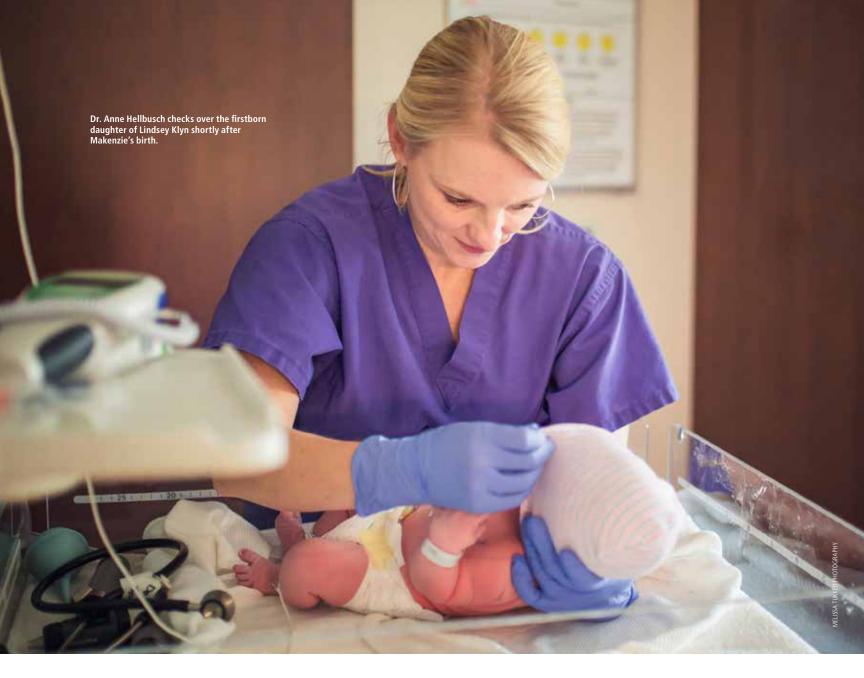
I wouldn't be a PA were it not for Dr. Heeg.

Nursing was my original major, but when I began to question that career choice, Dr. Heeg encouraged me to explore more options. I didn't think I was capable of completing a degree in science, but she connected me with tutors and even tutored and coached me herself through several difficult classes.

I also never thought I would continue in a very challenging medical program, but when Northwestern began its PA program, I clearly felt God call me in that direction. Again, Dr. Heeg mentored and encouraged me through the entire program. She told me to stop believing I couldn't do things and instead rely on the Lord to work through me and accomplish what I never thought possible.

I now have a life friend whom I admire deeply for her faith and refusal to turn away from the difficult things in life.





Anne (Neerhof '00) Hellbusch

Lindsey (Geels '13) Klyn and *Emily (Hennager '06) De Vries* both have two daughters and chose *Dr. Hellbusch as their primary care physician.*

Having a baby changes one's life pretty dramatically. We were both blessed to have Dr. Hellbusch there for our pregnancies, births and follow-up care.

Anne is everything you want in a doctor. She's the perfect mix of compassion, care and wisdom. When she comes into the room and sits down, she just really talks to you, and you feel like she's listened and you've been heard. She's such a valuable resource for things like navigating COVID-19—and when needed, she's a great connection point between the patient and specialized care.

Neither of us knew she was a fellow Raider when we started seeing her. She was the one who made that connection, recognizing Emily's name from when Emily wrote for the *Classic* and realizing Lindsey was a Northwestern alum after a friend of the Klyns—a Dordt grad—wore a Northwestern shirt he borrowed from them to his wife's pregnancy checkup as a joke.

Dr. Hellbusch has delivered more than 1,000 babies, with at least 17 of those belonging to Northwestern alumni. A friend of Lindsey's told her how Anne calmed her down by praying over her in the midst of the decision to perform an emergency C-section. We think that sums up what makes her so special as a Raider alum and doctor: the way she integrates her faith into her work.

What Raider changed your life? Share your story at classic@nwciowa.edu.

A Future of Hope

Graduate programs in counseling address a critical need

BY EMELIE (SWONGER '19) LAACKMANN

he year 2020 saw a 25% increase in anxiety and depression worldwide, affecting one in five U.S. adults. One in five youth and young adults also reported that the pandemic had a significant negative impact on their mental health, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

With more Americans seeking mental health treatment, a scarcity of clinical and school counselors has become startlingly apparent. In Iowa alone, 92 of the 99 counties are considered shortage areas for mental health professionals. But Dr. Gregg Elliott, a licensed counselor and director of Northwestern's new graduate programs in counseling, has hope for a brighter future.

"We're working with students who love Jesus, and that's what is motivating them to become counselors," he says. "They want to make a difference for Christ in the lives of hurting people in their schools and communities."

In May, Northwestern's Graduate School & Adult Learning division launched graduate programs in clinical mental health counseling and school counseling. Both programs are designed for working

School counseling graduate student Megan Burmakow hopes to be able to help more students figure out who they are when she moves to a counseling role from her current position as a special education teacher.

professionals and feature 100% online coursework, along with practicum experiences in clinical and school settings.

After more than a decade of teaching high school business, Ashley Hansen—a student in the school counseling program—has witnessed students' need for emotional support firsthand. Seeing them struggle with self-esteem, social media, and returning to the classroom post-pandemic all contributed to her desire to become a listening ear for students.

"Kids need a sounding board and someone to empathize with them," she says. "They have so many struggles and so little help at times."

Hansen is also a mom to three young children.

"I've become more empathetic toward my students from watching my own children. I get down to their level because I know it's what they need."

Megan Burmakow '17, a special education teacher at Sioux Center Middle School, also has found herself in more situations where students have needed help processing their emotions.

"A big part of my job is discerning whether my students' academic and emotional needs are being met," Burmakow says. "Middle school years are so formative for students, and I love playing a part in helping them figure out who they are. As a school counselor, I hope to help even more students than I do in my current role."

Balancing studies with full-time teaching responsibilities is not always easy, but Burmakow says Northwestern's online program combines convenience with academic excellence.

"As part of this program, I know I am going to be pushed academically and prepared for a career as a professional, effective school counselor."

While Burmakow and Hansen chose to study school counseling because of their experiences in the classroom, Emily Meigs' journey with an eating disorder inspired her to pursue clinical mental health counseling.

"I remember skipping meals as young as 9 years old," she says. "Shortly after beginning college, I had to leave school to enter treatment. It was a challenging but insightful experience that encouraged me to help myself so I could one day help others with similar struggles."

Meigs is a psychology graduate from Anderson University in South Carolina. She was drawn to Northwestern's graduate counseling program because of its unique integration of faith and learning.

"When learning challenging content that is often difficult to talk about, it is helpful for me to put things in perspective with my religious beliefs," she says.

Through online discussion and reflection papers, students in both the clinical mental health and school counseling programs are invited to consider their practice from a biblical worldview. The curriculum also includes training on the ethical standards of the American Counseling and American School Counseling Associations.

"It's important that counselors who are Christians can engage with and work ethically with any

We're working with students who love Jesus, and that's what is motivating them to become counselors. client on any issue—just like we see Jesus engaging others in the Gospels with acceptance and compassion," says Elliott.

That kind of Christ-like engagement is something Burmakow is already putting into practice.

"Over the last year, God has placed me in situations where I was able to talk with students and help them work through different things going on in their lives," she says. "I hope the students I work with feel they can come to me for help whenever they need it, and I will do what I can to remind them that they matter and are cared for."

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10 Things We Love About Raider Nation Celebration

What makes Northwestern's Homecoming and Family Weekend a can't-miss event? Let us count the ways!



Raider Babies

The only thing cuter than a baby is a baby in Raider clothing!



2

Morning on the Green

Kids have fun playing carnival games—and proceeds support Northwestern student clubs.





Seeing a Face From the Past Introduce your favorite prof to your favorite family.





Reunions Connecting with former classmates is the highlight of the weekend.





The Pep Band They look as impressive

School Spirit Sometimes body

as they sound.

paint is better than Raider gear.



A Raider Win It's great having one of the best football teams in the NAIA!



10 Moving Music

Northwestern's accomplished student musicians are a fitting finale for Raider Nation Celebration.



As workers expanded and restored Zwemer Hall between 1995 and 1997, nearly 40 employees were housed in temporary locations across campus.

A Moving Experience

Temporary office relocation required patience and good humor

BY DUANE BEESON

"I remember thinking, I'm glad this is temporary.""

Former Director of Church Relations Harold Van Der Weide '56 summarized the feelings of nearly 40 Zwemer Hall employees about the relocation of administrative offices between May 1995 and March 1997. As a \$3 million restoration of Zwemer Hall was under way, departments were scattered across campus, occupying nearly every area that could be reasonably salvaged for office space.

The Auditorium, which was vacant as a result of the opening of the Bultman Center, was heavily utilized for office relocation. The alumni, development and public relations offices filled former coaches' offices, locker rooms and storage rooms. The print shop was moved to the old weight room, and the switchboard and faculty/staff mailboxes were located in the building's lobby. The basketball court was a massive storage area, holding paper and other supplies for the print shop, as well as furniture and files.

The public relations office occupied the taping room, which was still utilized on football Saturdays. When staff members came in on Mondays, they were greeted by the pungent smell of sweat, numerous flies, and athletic tape all over the floor.

The admissions and financial aid offices were in the lounge of Hospers Hall, with partitions set up in the large open area. "It was hard to have private phone convocations," says Mark Bloemendaal '81.

Bloemendaal recalls the admissions office scheduled as many meetings

as possible in other locations. "We tried to get visitors out of Hospers as quickly as we could."

The business and financial affairs offices occupied the second floor of Ramaker Library. The office of the vice president for academic affairs shared space in Van Peursem Hall with the business faculty, and the registrar's office was housed in the commuter lounge on VPH's third floor.

"We felt more isolated," says Marsha (Koel '90) Meyer, who was the registrar's assistant. "Everybody was so far away, and it took longer to get things done because you had to walk across campus to meet with other offices."

Beth De Leeuw, who was the administrative assistant for President Jim Bultman, says she enjoyed working with different colleagues in the Rowenhorst Student Center, where the president's office occupied the Draayer Conference Room. De Leeuw and Bultman shared the big room, with a partition separating their offices. "I tried not to hear conversations, but sometimes I couldn't help it," she remembers.

Offices moved back into Zwemer over spring break in 1997. The building, originally constructed in 1894 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, had its usable space nearly doubled to 17,000 square feet due to additions and expansion into the attic.

"It was worth everything when we got back to Zwemer," says De Leeuw.

class Notes

*68 Dr. Kella Klinker Simonin taught a class on Mel Brooks' movies at Iowa Lakes Community College in Spencer from January through May. The class was part of the Third Age College continuing education program aimed at senior citizens.

[•] 75 Linda (Buseman) Van Regenmorter of Parrish, Florida, published *The Cupcake Bandit*, a children's book for ages 4 to 10. The book is available on Amazon and at Barnes & Noble.

¹79 Mike Meyer retired from coaching at Gehlen High School in Le Mars after being honored as the 2020–21 Iowa Girls Volleyball Coach of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations. He was Northwestern's head women's volleyball coach from 1989 to 2004 and amassed more than 1,000 career wins at the college and high school levels. He continues to teach at Gehlen and was inducted into the Iowa Girls Coaches Association's Volleyball Coaches Hall of Fame in November.

Jeff Kloster was inducted into the Colorado High School Coaches Hall of Fame in March. The head boys basketball coach at Longmont High School since 1994, he has led teams to more than 500 wins. His 2018 squad won the Class 4A state championship; four of his teams have been runners-up.

*80 Carolyn Erickson, Larrabee, lowa, has been retired for five years after 34 years in the field of elementary education.

*83 Jill (Smidt) Christensen of Parker, South Dakota, was inducted into the South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame in September. Now retired from coaching, she has won more volleyball games—837—than any other high school head coach in South Dakota history. Jana Ver Beek retired after nearly 39 years at Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She started her career as an electron microscopy technologist and later became a histotechnologist and immunohistochemistry technologist.

*84 Troy Groeneweg is senior vice president of BITCO Construction Group. He and his wife, Melanie (McCue '84), reside in Austin, Texas.

*90 Karma (Luhring) Funk received the Outstanding Staff of the Year Award in December 2021 for her work at Village Northwest Unlimited in Sheldon, Iowa. A community skills supervisor, she celebrated 31 years with the organization, a residential facility serving adults with disabilities.

Steve Van Otterloo was recently promoted to special agent in charge with the lowa Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI). In his 28 years with the Department of Public Safety, he has served 13 years as a state trooper and 15 years as a DCI special agent.

*91 Denny Olhausen was hired as superintendent of Alta-Aurelia School District in Iowa. Previously, he served 19 years as a junior high and high school principal in Sac City.

Dr. Doug Van Zyl was chosen as superintendent of Lakeville [Minnesota] Area Schools. The former superintendent of St. Joseph School District in Missouri, he has over 22 years of school administration experience.

⁹ 92 Dave Van Den Brink became Peoples Bank branch in Sheldon, Iowa, after working there for 16 years.

Chris Yaw is the principal at MOC-Floyd Valley Middle School in Alton, Iowa, after directing Northwestern's principal preparation program last year.

Red Ties

Ross FERNSTRUM '12 Director of the Northwestern Network

Do you remember your first experiences with Northwestern? What events or people led to your connection to the college? For me, it started when I was young.

My mom, Shirley (Boersma) Fernstrum, is a 1975 grad, and my brother, John, is a 2002 grad. We attended Raider games as a family; I remember playing under the bleachers in the "Old Barn" as a 4-year-old. I also remember Coach Todd Barry showing my family the construction of the new Bultman Center. Another memory is walking into Coach Orv Otten's office when I was in the fourth grade to ask if I could be a water boy for the football team.

In 2001, I enjoyed watching the women's basketball team win the national title in person and then hearing on the radio that the men had done the same. The following year, one of my brother's professors, Dr. Jeff VanDerWerff, came to our home in Primghar for a meal. I thought I was smart, but he was *really* smart.

Each of these experiences helped form in me a deep appreciation for Northwestern. That feeling has grown even further as a student and now as a staff member, having worked in both the admissions and advancement offices and as a football coach. This place has shaped me into the person I am today. I love Northwestern College, and I am humbled that I get to serve here.

We all have our own reasons for loving Northwestern. It could be the college's mission. Or its students, a specific professor or coach. Whatever your reason, I want to harness your passion for the college in a meaningful way. The Northwestern Network is your opportunity to support NWC in the way that fits you. You can refer students, help with internships, share social media posts, speak to a class, give or pray.

Please consider joining more than 1,200 constituents who serve as part of the Northwestern Network. Visit nwciowa.edu/NWnetwork/join. Together we can help NWC continue to create memories for generations of future Raiders. *93 Joel Bundt was named as a 2022 Computer Science Educator of the Year during the Technology Association of Iowa's Prometheus Awards ceremony in November. Joel teaches at MOC-Floyd Valley High School in Orange City.

Cheryl Heronemus of Alton was

inducted into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame in August. She started her career as the Sioux County 4-H youth coordinator in 1977. She was Sioux County director for 27 years before being named director for the four-county Region 1 in 2009.

Sherry (Huitink) Lang is the new assistant director of the NEXT program at Northwestern College. Previously, she taught preschool for 14 years at Wee Blessings Preschool in Orange City.

Amy (Vande Wall) Wiersema was

promoted to associate director of admissions at Northwestern College. She has been a member of the admissions team since 2020.

Lori (Timmer) Zomermaand is serving

as Northwestern's director of admissions. She has worked in the admissions office since 2018, most recently as associate director.

*94 Dr. Adam Rasmussen is director of the CORE Christian liberal arts department at Arizona

Christian University, where he also serves as an associate professor of the humanities.

*96 Becky (Dykstra) Starkenburg was recently named dean of students at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. She was previously vice president for student life and Title IX coordinator at Trinity Christian College.

The Rev. Dr. Jill (Zeiger) Ver Steeg

is president and CEO of Evergreen Commons, a community center that provides holistic resources for older adults in the Holland, Michigan, area. She previously served with the Reformed Church in America in several leadership roles, including as chief advancement officer and associate general secretary.

⁹98 Sara Veldhuizen Stealy serves as the U.S. Department of State's diplomat in residence for Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. She and her husband, Dave, live in St. Louis.

*99 Dr. Monica Schaap Pierce has been appointed the executive director of Christian Churches Together in the USA Inc. She is the first woman to lead the fellowship of 33 churches and organizations, each representing different denominational families. She previously served as the Reformed Church in America's ecumenical associate and as co-chair of the national Reformed-Catholic dialogue.

⁹OO Krista (Meckling) Daniels, Canal Winchester, Ohio, was promoted to the role of regional director of operations for Pain Management Group, where she oversees pain clinics around the state.

Jaclyn (Van Engen) Freese is a

professor of practice for Northwestern's master's in physician assistant studies

program. She has worked as a PA in acute care centers in Sioux Falls; Worthington, Minnesota; and Sheldon, Iowa.

Dr. Luke Haverhals, founder and CEO of Natural Fiber Welding in Peoria, Illinois, was honored as the 2021 Chemist of the Year by the Illinois Heartland chapter of the American Chemical Society. He was also named to the Illinois Science & Technology Coalition's 2021 list of Researchers to Know.

*O1 Rachel (De Groot) Popken is the access services coordinator in Northwestern's DeWitt Library. She previously worked as a third grade teacher and teacher librarian in the Harris-Lake Park and West Sioux districts.

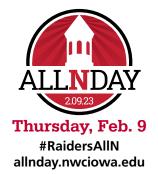
⁹O2 Carl Nagel and his wife, Stacie, are the new owners of the Edgerton [Minnesota] Bakery. He also works as a route sales representative for Old Dutch Foods.

Kristin (Schuiling) Olson is director of nursing and clinical services at Sanford Health in Worthington, Minnesota.



Strength in Numbers

See your gift have an even bigger impact when combined with those of other alumni, parents and friends! Mark your calendar for Northwestern's annual Day of Giving.



Tracy Smidt is the administrative assistant in Northwestern's student life office. Before coming to NWC, she served as secretary in the Earl Hill Law Office in Britt, Iowa.

203 Heather (Block) Grafing was named the 2021–22 Northwest Iowa Review Girls Basketball Coach of the Year after leading the Central Lyon High School squad to a state runner-up finish in Class 2A. The Lions compiled a 24-3 record.

Blair (Dake) Lansink began working as the administrative assistant for Northwestern's music department in August. Previously she worked at Ray's MidBell Music in Sioux City repairing band instruments.

***O4** Peter Boerema was promoted to director of animal regulatory affairs at SAB Biotherapeutics. He and his wife, Megan (Blunck '05), reside in Sioux Falls with their three children.

Mary Beth (Sears) Breen is in her first year as an instructor of education at Northwestern College. She previously taught first grade at Orange City Christian School for eight years.

Kristin Brouwer began working as Northwestern's director of discipleship in June. She formerly served as pastor of young adults and community engagement at Trinity Reformed Church in Orange City.

205 Justin Derry received his master's degree in clinical mental health counseling from the University of South Dakota in 2021. He now works as a full-time therapist in the Northwestern College Wellness Center.

[•]O6 Jennifer (Hoitink) Hahn of Howards Grove, Wisconsin, is one of 100 Wisconsin teachers to be named a 2022 Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Teacher Fellow. The program recognizes teaching excellence and innovation in the classroom by awarding \$6,000 grants to the fellows and to their schools.

Austin Nyhof was promoted to the role of Northwestern College registrar after 13 years in the registrar's office.

'08 Joshua Earleywine serves as a police officer with the Madison [Wisconsin] Police Department.

Wade Vander Maten was named the Northwest Iowa Review Boys Basketball Coach of the Year for 2021–22 after leading the Rock Valley High School team to the Class 2A state championship and a 22-5 record.

Dr. Rachael Wittern is an assistant professor of psychology at Northwestern College. She has extensive training in trauma and military psychology, and she previously worked as a clinical psychologist with Veterans Affairs.

⁹**1**¹ Kim (Ford) Moore earned a master's degree in health informatics and information management from Davenport University. Her thesis on the shortcomings of electronic health systems in mental health care is supporting her work at Community Mental Health of Ottawa County in Holland, Michigan.

*12^{Ross Fernstrum} has accepted a new role as director of the Northwestern Network. Since graduating from NWC, he has worked in both the admissions and advancement offices. He and his wife, Lisa (Olivier '11), live in Rock Valley, Iowa, with their two children.

Tamara Smith is a manager for the unaccompanied refugee minor program of the Denver Department of Human Services. Her husband, the Rev. Nic



After 25 years with Disney, Caroline Musgrove is a director of technology, working on projects like the new Star Wars Galaxy's Edge parks.

A Magical Career

Caroline (Rogers '96) Musgrove's journey to the "Happiest Place on Earth" began with unhappy news.

After graduating from Northwestern with a degree in business administration and recreation management, Musgrove moved to Hilton Head, South Carolina, to work at the hotel where she had interned. The opportunity fell through.

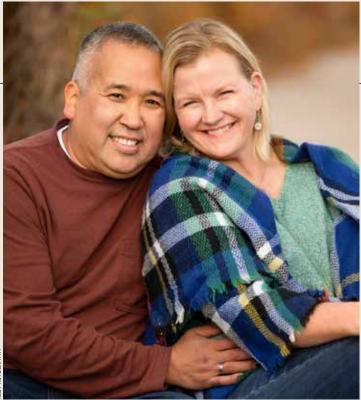
"I ended up moving to South Carolina without a job," she says.

A few months later, though, the Walt Disney Company opened a Disney Vacation Club in Hilton Head, and Musgrove was hired. A quarter-century later she is a director of technology at Disney Parks, Experiences and Products, based in Orlando, Florida. She manages a global team handling the sales, marketing and commercial systems for Disney resorts and parks. She also works on projects like the new Star Wars Galaxy's Edge parks in California and Florida and the opening of Hong Kong Disneyland.

If a career at Disney is not what she had expected when she graduated, neither was a role in technology. But after starting her career on the hospitality side of Disney's business, a mentor encouraged her to branch out. She switched to a technology focus and quickly advanced. The lesson, she says, is to learn and find opportunities for growth in tough situations.

'You have to first find your strong foundation in faith," she says.

BY JARED KALTWASSER



After Robin Hunt and her husband, Jerry, provided foster care for 41 kids, she wrote a book with tips for foster families.

Making a Home in Alaska

As a first grader, Robin (Chalstrom '97) Hunt carried home boxes of discarded school materials so she could teach reading skills to young neighbors on the military base where her family lived.

This passion for children later took Hunt to Alaska, where a teaching position led to a life shared with her husband, three biological children, and 41 foster kids.

Hunt's husband, Jerry, never considered her desire to foster unusual, as his Yup'ik culture embraced adoption within large families. Shortly after the couple became licensed as foster parents, they agreed to take in a 9-year-old girl.

Deanna arrived five minutes after the social worker's phone call, her belongings in two garbage bags. She was "the hardest kid I ever parented," says Hunt, who was called to the principal's office on Deanna's first day of school.

The family adopted Deanna and continued to take in more children, including six siblings who were abandoned two days before Christmas, when the temperature was 42 below zero.

"We're everyday people who offered a safe place for kids," Hunt says. "We didn't know how to parent a sexually abused child, but when you choose to sit with them in uncomfortable situations, that's more powerful than words."

Hunt offers tips for other foster families in her book, *Breathing Through Foster Care: A Survival Guide Based on the Reflection of a Foster Mom*, which can be found on Amazon.

BY AMY PHILLIPS

Leither '12, is an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and serves St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Aurora, Colorado.

¹13 Dr. Garrett Sterk is a family medicine practitioner at Avera Medical Group in Sibley, Iowa, after completing his residency in Sioux Falls.

Tanya Woodward represented the University of Nebraska at Kearney at the 2022 Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools' Three-Minute Thesis Competition in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Her presentation was titled "My Soul Cries Out: Reimagining Lament for Research and Language Practice with Edwidge Danticat."

⁹ 1 4 Dr. Abby (Hoekstra) Stroeh is a family medicine physician and obstetrician at Sioux Center Health.

Kelsey (Martinez) Joseph is Northwestern's associate director of intercultural development. Most recently, she worked as the My Day Program lead for Hope Haven. She and her husband, Elesson (Papito), live in Sibley, Iowa, with their two sons.

John Lynch is the first head women's wrestling coach at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, South Dakota. A former assistant coach for the Raiders' wrestling program, he most recently worked as a physical therapist and clinical instructor in Cherokee, Iowa.

Adam Potter is the head men's soccer coach at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska. He previously served as an assistant coach at Casper College in Wyoming and at NWC.

¹15 Heather (Heilman) Uribe received a master's degree in midwifery from Frontier Nursing University in 2021. $^{10}16^{
m Austin Benda}_{
m training coordinator for Avera}$ Health in Sioux Falls.

Nicole (Zika) Green is an enrollment counselor in Northwestern's Graduate School & Adult Learning division. She and her husband, **Ben '15**, live in Le Mars, lowa, with their two children.

Sam Van Ginkel is an officer for the Sioux Center Police Department. He previously worked as an investment adviser with American Investment & Trust.

Dr. Kali Jo (Wolkow) Wacker received a doctorate in rhetoric and composition from the University of Kansas in 2021. She now works as an assistant professor of English at Northwestern College.

Capt. Jacob Zylstra serves as an Army company commander in Fortson, Georgia. He and his wife, Ashley, have two children.

¹ 1 7 Luis Rivera-Santiago is a graduate assistant in wrestling at Northwestern. Previously a part-time coach with the Raiders for five years, he is studying sport management at Southern New Hampshire University.

¹18 Tyler Alger is an associate attorney at the Sandy Law Firm in Spirit Lake, Iowa. He graduated from the University of St. Thomas School of Law.

Sarah Anderson works for Northwestern College athletics as a graduate assistant in cross country and track. She is working toward a master's degree in nutrition from the University of Western States.

Renee Choquette graduated from Northwestern Health Sciences University in 2021 and is a chiropractor at Lakeville [Minnesota] Integrated Health Clinic. Drew Driesen recently completed a judicial clerkship for Steven Colloton of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. He now works as an associate attorney at Woods, Fuller, Shultz & Smith in Sioux Falls.

Keaton Hettver serves as a mental health practitioner at Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge in Minneapolis.

Elijah Schaefer is working toward a doctorate in counseling psychology from lowa State University in Ames.

*19 Matt Johnson is an assistant cross country and track coach at Northwestern. Previously, he coached track at Dakota Wesleyan University, where he earned master's degrees in educational policy and administration.

Joseph Kelly is enrolled as a medical student at Sanford School of Medicine in Vermillion, South Dakota. He and his wife, Jessi (Carver '19), have a daughter, Elle.

Jaycee Vander Berg, a deputy for the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department, was honored for her commitment to traffic safety and service in 2021. She made 122 arrests—many of which were related to possession of illegal drugs and driving while intoxicated.

²20^{Bradley Laackmann} received a master's degree in sport leadership from Dordt University in August. Now he works as the assistant director of athletic communications at Northwestern College.

²21 Chau Le became Northwestern's administrative web programmer in January.

Lacey (Wacker) Reitz is an assistant volleyball coach for Northwestern.

Grace Spencer works as an admissions counselor for Northwestern. Last summer she played the lead role in the film *Stroke of Luck*, produced by The Second City Film School in Chicago.

 $22^{\text{Trey Harms}}$ is an admissions counselor at Northwestern.

Haley Hofmeyer is the financial services coordinator in Northwestern's advancement office. Theo Jongerius became Northwestern's admissions operations coordinator in August.

Hadyn Lee is an admissions counselor at Northwestern.

Kaleb Schrock began working as Northwestern's director of annual giving in June.

Landon Van Berkum is an instructor of computer science at Northwestern.

Ryan Wager is a graduate assistant for women's soccer at Northwestern.

Julia Zora is an assistant for the NEXT program at Northwestern.

New Arrivals

Mark and Cayla (Schwendemann '06) Erlandson, son, Graham Odin, joins Norah (3)

Jackie and Tom Pier '06, daughter, Ari Grey, joins Reece (19) and Parker (2) Alex and Tanya (Zwald '06) Schuh, son, Elijah Benjamin Loren and Carrie (Lokker '07) Mathison, son, Clovis Lyle Paul, joins Cora (10), Landyn (8) and Clarice (5)Craig and Danielle (Wynthein '07)

Rowland, daughter, Anna Sophia, joins Lucy (4)

Jodi (Folkerts '07) and Samuel Shaffer '15, daughter, Hazel Noreen, joins Liza (5) and Margo (3)

Abbie (Boote '07) and Wade Vander Maten '08, son, Luca Allen, joins Saylor (10), Collyns (8) and Suttyn (4) Ryan and Jessica (Jenkins '08)

Voelker, daughter, Laney Lyn Britney and Bryce Book '09, twins, Betty

Noelle and Blair Kenna, join Breccan (1)

Andrea and Blake Kruger '09, daughter, Haley Jo, joins Brady (6) and Kyla (3)

Brent and Teryn (De Haan '09) Woolf, son, Silas Dean, joins William (6), Hazel (5) and Calvin (3)

Ian and Sarah (Earleywine '10) Murphy, son, Caleb David, joins Jonan (4)

Neil and Holly (Petersen '10) Schettler, son, Jonas Eugene

Eric and Sarah (Hansen '10) Vermeer, daughter, Clara Rose, joins Josiah (9), Vivian (6) and Esther (3)

Dan and Renee (Nyhof '10) Wielenga, son, Marcus Andrew, joins Nora (6) and Aubrey (4)

CAMPUS LIFE: CAPTURED.

Follow along as the Raiders of today make memories for tomorrow.

#RaidersStandOut







- Andrew and Jenna (Sorensen '11) Bents, son, Daniel Todd, joins Samuel (7) and Autumn (4)
- Janna (Bloemendaal '11) and Kadrian Hardersen '08, son, Kyren John Warneke, joins Braelynn (7), Kynleigh (5), Adley (3) and Haidyn (2)
- Michael and Megan (Herlyn '12) McCoy, daughter, Kenna Rose, joins Jada (2)
- Johannah (Jensen '14) and Davis Bloemendaal '14, daughter, Leyton Lo, joins Walker (6), Briar (3) and Kase (2)
- Caleb and Sarah (Van Gorp '14) Chiang, daughter, Sophia Grace
- Darci (Jansen '14) and David Palsma '13, son, Carson David, joins Makynlee (3)
- Malea (Beeson '14) and Evan Stoesz '14, daughter, Elsie Christine
- Karen (Hutson '15) and Levi Ettleman '16, daughter, Judah Grace, joins Benaiah (5) and Jone (3)
- Mike and Jennifer (Koehn '15) Haugaard, son, Owen Keith, joins Levi (2)
- Hannah and Joey Hendershott '15, daughter, Ruthie Jo, joins Linley (2) Alexia (Pater '15) and Jason Katsma
- '14, daughter, Ellen Norine
- Jaclyn (Dykstra '15) and Jordan Kruse '12, son, Dylan Jordan

Stephanie and David Runia '15, daughter, Kelsie Lynn, joins Mackenzie (2) Ramiro and Heather (Heilman '15)

- Uribe, daughter, Lorraine Delia Krista (De Bruin '16) and Elijah
- Schaefer '18, son, Judah Loren Connor and Suzanna (Nachbar '16)
- True, son, Hunter Shawn, joins Vivian (2)
- Marissa and Casey McKinstrey '17, son, Callum Gordon
- Naomi (Sandquist '17) and James Teutschmann '17, daughter, Eleanor Eden
- Bekah and Joe Vander Stelt '17, daughter, Brynlee Jo
- Tamra (Wielenga '17) and Justin Van Kalsbeek '17, daughter, Piper Kay, joins Ivy (1)
- Matt and Jordan (Syverson '17) Willaby, daughter, Saylor Chloe
- Miranda and Jacob Jenness '18, daughter, Remi Ann
- Lauren (Weber '19) and Josh Dahl '20, son, Henry Keith
- Shayla (Murray '19) and Matt Dahl '22, daughter, Tia Kay
- Emelie (Swonger '19) and Bradley Laackmann '20, daughter, Lila Ruth
- Anna (Kiel '21) and Nathan Wedel '18, twins, Hudson James and Hadley
- Faye

Marriages

- Paul Janssen '83 and Deb Wassink, Orange City
- Krista Meckling '00 and Brian Daniels, Canal Winchester, Ohio
- Brittni Donahue '13 and Andrew Hall, Bellevue, Nebraska
- Austin Benda '16 and Jacquelyn Jacobsma, Sioux Falls Devin Jorde '17 and Michael Heiling,
- Rochester, Minnesota
- Emily Laackmann '17 and Tom Toel, Sioux Center
- Aaron Wilken '20 and Jade Long, Norfolk, Nebraska Julia Goodburn '21 and Jack Vander Stelt '21, Orange City Elizabeth Ven Huizen '21 and Kyle Johnson '21, Worthington, Minnesota Kaarina Marttila '22 and Landon Van Berkum '22, Orange City Kaleb Schrock '22 and Kathleen Chicas '22, Orange City Jadeyn Veltkamp '22 and Ryan Sjaarda '22, Orange City Kaytlyn Keeler '23 and Trey Harms
 - '22, Orange City
- The couples reside in the city listed.

In Memoriam

Joyce (Muilenburg '42) Bender Booher, 99, died Sept. 16 in Markesan, Wisconsin. She graduated from Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago and Hope College and worked as a nurse in Orange City; Ann Arbor, Michigan; and Batavia, New York.

Frances (Colenbrander '42) Vermeer, 100, died Oct. 11 in Sioux Center. She graduated from Hope College and taught elementary school for 33 years in Sioux Center and Melvin, Iowa.

Katy (Van Heukelom '44) Vander Velde, Sanborn, Iowa, died July 5 at age 96. She farmed with her husband near

Sanborn and later ran an alterations and garment repair business.

Robert Van Roekel '47 of Orange City died April 15 at age 95. After serving in the Army in Korea and Germany, he farmed and worked at the Sioux Veterinary Clinic and Orange City Post Office.

Harold Vermeer '48 died May 18 in Sioux Center at age 95. He served in World War II as a member of the Navy and worked with the Sioux Center Post Office for 32 years.

Shirley (VanRoekel '49) DeRuyter, 93, of Sioux Center died June 20. She studied secretarial science at Drake University and later owned and operated the Young American Shoppe in Sioux Center.

Bernard Nibbelink '49, age 91, died Sept. 8. He co-owned the Phillips 66 service station in Orange City before a long career with German Farmers Mutual Insurance Company in Sioux Center.

Dr. Jacob De Jong '50, age 91, died Jan. 12 in Mesa, Arizona. He received degrees from Iowa State and Auburn University and practiced veterinary medicine for 26 years.

The Rev. Cornie Keunen '50, age 90, died March 30 in Orange City. He received degrees from both Central College and Western Theological Seminary. A pastor for more than 40 years, he served churches across the Midwest and in Idaho.

The Rev. Dr. Roger Petersen '51 died Jan. 5 in Indiana, Pennsylvania, at age 91. He served in the Army during the Korean War before completing his seminary training at the University of Dubuque. Having pastored churches in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Pennsylvania, he celebrated 60 years of ordination in 2019.

Martin Dekkenga '52 of Sioux Center died Sept. 13 at age 90. During his long

career as an educator, he was a Christian school principal in Iowa and South Dakota and a communications professor at Dordt University.

Harlan Den Beste '52 of Perry, Iowa, died Jan. 10 at age 89. He held research and lab management roles with the National Cancer Institute and various East Coast laboratories. He ended his career by consulting for companies like Nova Tech.

John Cleveringa '53, age 88, died Dec. 31, 2021, in Sioux Center. He served two years with the Army before continuing his education at Iowa State. A teacher and farmer, he also worked with the Postal Service for 18 years.

Muriel (Ver Hoeven '53) Giesman Langerud, age 88, died Aug. 6 in Mesa, Arizona. She taught third grade in Arnold's Park, Royal and Clear Lake, Iowa.

LaDonna (Van Klompenburg '55) Huisman, 85, died March 15 in Orange City. In addition to managing the formal wear at L&K Clothing for 20 years, she and her husband, Kenneth, farmed near Newkirk. An active community volunteer, she participated in several mission trips to Mississippi with Justice For All.



Dr. Ron Juffer '56, age 84, died Dec. 17, 2021, in Orange City. A member of the Northwestern College education faculty for nearly 50 years, he was a

recipient of Northwestern's Teaching Excellence Award and the Alumni Association's Distinguished Service to Northwestern Award. In 2015, the Juffer Athletic Fieldhouse was dedicated in honor of him and his wife, Peg.

The Rev. Robert "Bob" Vander Aarde '56 of Great Falls, Montana, died Jan. 26 at age 86. He and his wife, Marjorie (Hartog '58), were missionaries in Kuwait, where Bob served as a hospital chaplain and assistant pastor. After returning to the U.S., he pastored at Christ's Church on the Hill in Great Falls for 31 years.

Janice (Dontje '58) Van Der Zwaag of Hospers, Iowa, died Sept. 21 at age 84. She taught for a number of years, worked on the family farm, and later worked at Village Northwest Unlimited in Sheldon.

Lydia (Voogd '58) Westra, 84, died Feb. 11 in Clive, Iowa. She taught at schools in Garner, Chariton and Fremont, Iowa.

Marilyn (Kolenbrander '59) Vander

Kooi of Orange City died Sept. 30 at age 83. She taught in Orange City and Roseville, Minnesota, before earning a library science degree and serving as interim director of the Orange City Public Library. An active community volunteer, she served 20 years at Hands Around the World.

Paul Van Engelenhoven '59, Orange City, died March 11 at age 85. After working for the Schiebout Insurance Agency, he purchased the business and started Van Engelenhoven Agency. He also served as a member of Northwestern's board of trustees.

Joan "Jo" (Kleinhesselink '59) Van Gorp of Sioux Center died Dec. 28, 2021, at age 82. She taught full time at Kinsey Elementary School until 1971, when she became a substitute teacher.

Marvin Harmelink '60 of Alton, Iowa, died Dec. 1, 2021, at age 81. He was a math teacher for 37 years and later worked at Diamond Vogel Paint.

Jack Bloemendaal '60, Rochester, New York, died Sept. 17 at age 81. A mechanical engineering graduate of South Dakota State University, he worked as a design engineer at Eastman Kodak for 27 years.



Jordan Dykstra poses with *Assassin Club* cast members in Turin, Italy—(left to right) Henry Golding, Dykstra, executive producer Amar Singh and Sam Neill.

Show Business

Just as Jordan Dykstra '15 was set to graduate from Northwestern, the plot thickened.

The public relations major had been saving money from his job at Woudstra Meat Market to enter the film industry when the chance came to leave Iowa for the set of a major motion picture.

With the blessing of his professors, Dykstra finished his coursework remotely and served as producer's assistant for *Misconduct*, starring Anthony Hopkins and Al Pacino.

Dykstra's first job in the business made for some award-winning memories, like watching college basketball in an airport lounge with Pacino for several hours.

"They say, 'Never meet your heroes," Dykstra jokes, "but so far, I haven't been disappointed."

Now the managing director of Film Bridge International, Dykstra travels the world to fund in-house and acquired productions, shopping rights to customers like Lionsgate and Netflix.

The Los Angeles company recently produced *Assassin Club* for Paramount Pictures. Dykstra says the production, which was shot in Italy, was challenging, rewarding and a chance "to eat a lot of great pasta."

He makes sure his Midwestern values play a starring role in an industry he refers to as the "Wild West."

"There is something to being raised the way we were," Dykstra says. "I came to L.A. knowing how to treat people and be the best version of myself."

BY AMY PHILLIPS

He also co-founded the Photographic Historical Society in 1966.

Geralyn "Geri" (Ter Horst '62) Kraai

of Rock Valley, Iowa, died Sept. 11 at age 77. She worked as Orange City's city clerk before owning a craft and matting/ framing store in Rock Valley and working at a dental office in Inwood. In her latter years, she made more than eight trips to Haiti to serve with Mission Haiti.

Calvin Nyhof '63 died Jan. 22 in Stoughton, Wisconsin, at age 80. He taught elementary school for 15 years including on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation in Dulce, New Mexico—and finished his career at Cedar Lake Home in West Bend, Wisconsin.

The Rev. Forrest Harms '64 of Plymouth, Minnesota, died Nov. 5, 2021, at age 79. He served Reformed churches in lowa and Minnesota, and he also worked as executive director of the Des Moines Area Religious Council for 17 years.

The Rev. Dean Reeverts '64, age 78, died Jan. 11 in Macomb, Illinois. He taught for 30 years at Colchester Junior-Senior High School and served as pastor at Blandinsville First Baptist Church for 42 years. More recently, he pastored Walnut Grove United Methodist Church.

Kenneth Slater '64, Carroll, Iowa, died Feb. 11 at age 80. For 14 years, he worked as a teacher and high school principal in northwest and central Iowa. He later owned and operated an insurance agency in Cherokee, Iowa, for 43 years.

Ethan Vermeer '64 of Orange City died April 2 at age 81. He worked in the Orange City Municipal Utilities Water Department and as a custodian at the Orange City Town Hall and Adult Activities Center.

Glenn Zwagerman '64 of Scottsdale, Arizona, died Oct. 24, 2021, at age 80. An engineer, he worked for Boeing Aircraft, the state of Florida and the Arizona Department of Transportation. In retirement, he wrote a book, *Abundance Through Creativity*.

Earl DeJong '65 of Belle Plaine, Iowa, died July 12 at age 79. He taught junior high and high school math, and he later managed a hog facility and the Belle Plaine Pizza Hut.

Paul Vander Wege '65, Orange City, died Feb. 7 at age 82. His 35-year teaching career was largely spent in Oskaloosa, lowa, where he taught sixth grade language arts. He was a groundskeeper at Northwestern for two years of his retirement.

David Van Engelenhoven '65, age 78, of Orange City, died Nov. 28, 2021. He was a history professor at Morningside College in Sioux City before joining Van Engelenhoven Insurance Agency. He served as chairman of Northwestern's board of trustees for several years and received the college's Distinguished Service to Humankind Award in 1994.

Bradley Douma '66 of Sanborn, Iowa, died March 3 at age 78. He and his wife, Delores, farmed in the Sanborn, Archer and Primghar areas, and he served on the Farm Bureau board.

Wilma "Jo" Leslie '66 of Orange City died Nov. 29, 2021 at age 95. She was a teacher in the MOC-Floyd Valley School District.

William "Bill" VanDyke '66, Sioux City,

died April 12 at age 77. He served as a group leader at Sunnybrook Community Church and volunteered as a board member with Hope Ministries and Vantage Point 3.

Frankey (Enderson '67) De Raad, 78,

died Nov. 19, 2021, in Hawarden, Iowa. She worked as a teacher, church secretary, preschool director and CNA.

APPLAUSE

Who deserves a shout-out?

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

Email your nominations to alumni@nwciowa.edu

Dennis Rasmussen '69, age 77, died Jan. 16 in Huron, South Dakota. He served two years in the Vietnam War before pursuing a career as a teacher, principal and coach.

Robert "Bob" Schuiteman '69 died June 6 in Sheldon, Iowa, at age 81. He was the media director/librarian at Sheldon Community Schools for 37 years and served on the Sheldon Library board.

Norvin Noteboom '70 died Dec. 6, 2021, in San Diego, California, at age 73. An architect and landscape designer, he designed Orange City's Staples Promotional Products building and the windmill that houses the city's Chamber of Commerce.

Linda (Vicars '70) Schut, Clinton, Wisconsin, died Jan. 30 at age 73. She taught elementary school and partnered with her husband, the **Rev. Bob Schut** '71, in ministry at churches across the country.

Etta Kepp '71, age 72, died Nov. 23, 2021, in Versailles, Kentucky. She worked in the Kentucky Governor's Office for Policy Management on the state's annual budget.

Bob Bruxvoort '72 of Sioux Center died

April 21 at age 71. He worked for the Wesselink Insurance Agency from 1987 to 2013. He served on boards for organizations like Northwestern College, Sioux Center Community Hospital, Inspiration Hills and Words of Hope.

Patricia (Tippy '73) Miller died June 5 in Rock Valley, Iowa, at age 83. She taught in several Iowa schools from 1974 to 2005 and earned a master's degree at Drake University.

Violet "Vi" (Auen '74) Daggett of Sanborn, Iowa, died Jan. 30 at age 92. She received a teaching degree from Iowa State Teachers College and taught in Nemaha and Melvin, Iowa.

The Rev. Wayne Van Regenmorter '74, age 70, of Parrish, Florida, died June 5. He served five churches in the Reformed Church in America and ended his career as facilitator of multi-ethnic church partnerships for the Synod of Mid-America.

Alan Vander Zwaag '74, Orange City, died May 26 at age 70. He became the first information technology professional at Diamond Vogel Paint and also aided in Orange City Area Hospital's transition to computers. Sandra "Sandy" (Richter '76) Pearson of Granville, Iowa, died April 2 at age 68. She worked in a variety of settings, including a lawyer's office, Roth Meats and Deli, and the Dutch Bakery.

Dr. Jeffrey DeHaan '77, age 66, died June 21 in Texarkana, Texas. A member of Northwestern's Athletic Hall of Fame, he graduated from the University of lowa Medical School and practiced as an orthopedic surgeon for 36 years.

John Hellenga '77, New Holland, South Dakota, died Dec. 6, 2021, at age 77. He served two years in Vietnam before completing his education at Northwestern. He and his wife, Susan, raised their four children in Kanawha, Iowa, before moving to South Dakota.

Mel Reeves '81, age 64, died Jan. 6 in Minneapolis. The community editor for the *Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder*, Reeves was recognized for his coverage of police brutality and civil rights, as well as for his activism.

The Rev. Jeffery Thibodeau '82 of Garland, Texas, died May 15 at age 63. He graduated from New Brunswick Theological Seminary and served as pastor at the Reformed Church in Fort Plain, New York, and Annville [Kentucky] Reformed Church.

Alethea (Steenhoven '87) Stubbe,

George, Iowa, died June 29 at age 64. The first female president of Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, she also held roles as vice president of administration and vice president of education and learning services.

Kathleen (Doppenberg '89) Ludens, Sioux Falls, died Dec. 12, 2021, at age 85. After working as a pregnancy counselor with Bethany Christian Services, she earned a social work degree at the University of Nebraska and worked for Bethesda Christian Counseling. Kurtis Kenobbie '89 died April 25 in Phoenix, Arizona, at age 55. In addition to his 31-year career selling high-fidelity audio and video equipment, he was a professional photographer with several published works.

Marc Cooper '92 of Orange City died Sept. 29 at age 52. He worked for several years as a real estate agent in the Kansas City area.

Susan West '94, age 51, died Sept. 15 in Orange City. She worked at Revival Animal Health in Orange City.

Matthew Jahn '97 of Phoenix, Arizona, died March 7 at age 47. A former teacher, he owned and managed a refrigerant abatement company in the Bay Area of California and later served as a real estate agent in Phoenix.

Timothy Weiss '97, Waukee, Iowa, died Jan. 3 at age 49. He had a 23-year career as strategic account manager for Yellow Transportation.

Bret "Bernie" Engelkes '99 died Jan. 4 in Kansas City, Missouri, at age 46. He worked at the International House of Prayer in Kansas City and used his lifelong health struggles as a witness to God's faithfulness.

Erin (Doorn '02) Haverhals, 42, died June 2 in Vermillion, South Dakota. She was a devoted mother of seven children.

Dr. Mary Van Hook, 84, a member of Northwestern's social work faculty from 1989 to 1991, died Aug. 14 in Oviedo, Florida. She directed Bethesda Midwest in Orange City and later taught at the University of Michigan and the University of Central Florida.

LET US KNOW: Email your news for the next *Classic* by Aug. 25 to classic@nwciowa.edu.



As director of the Sarpy Care Center, James Teutschmann oversees the distribution of food and diapers to South Omaha residents in need.

Caring Connections

"What is your biggest obstacle to serving the people you want to serve?" That's the question James Teutschmann '17 asks the leaders he works with in Bellevue, Nebraska, and the surrounding South Omaha area. Then he gets to work.

When Teutschmann helped to establish the Sarpy Care Center in August 2021, the director role was a natural offshoot of his position as missions and outreach pastor at Calvary Christian Church, a multisite church in Bellevue and nearby Papillion that is the center's founding organization.

In his role, he seeks out pockets of need and links them with those who can help. Much of his discovery comes through working with administration and staff at rapidly growing, financially taxed schools in the area. Teutschmann has connected educators, city leaders, pastors, counselors and even grocers to identify and assist those in need in Sarpy and Douglas counties with everything from diapers to food to counseling. By September 2022, the center had distributed 25,000 pounds of food and 23,400 diapers.

Though Teutschmann is the lone staff member at the Sarpy Care Center, the masterful networker is quick to credit a team of volunteers and community leaders for the center's far-reaching impact. "It is pretty eye-opening to see how many people care about our community. If there's anything good about what I do, it's just because other people are passionate too."

BY BETH (NIKKEL '02) GAULKE

Classic Thoughts

God Chooses the Unexpected

BY EMILY GRACE

Throughout history, God has chosen the unexpected person to further his plan—take, for example, Jacob, David and Esther. All people can be used by God to proclaim his glory.

In the fall of 2021, I had the opportunity to open my astronomy class to two students with different intellectual abilities who were part of the Northwestern NEXT program. Little did I know that God would use these remarkable students to demonstrate the extent to which he can use any individual to preach his gospel message.

These two young men had different learning abilities. Ned had more profound learning challenges, while Ben was on the autism spectrum. (I've changed their names to protect their privacy.) Ned brought with him an excitement for learning. During my lectures, he would research the topics discussed in more detail. I overlooked the open laptop, knowing he was taking a deep dive into content. He would take pictures of red moons and talk about sunlight in Earth's atmosphere. I learned later that he would sit in his dorm lobby and talk about astronomy with anyone who would engage with him.

In Ben's case, autism leads to a black-and-white worldview. He expressed his opinions bluntly and honestly. He also asked questions with the same level of directness. He had no qualms about stopping a lecture to ask theologically challenging questions. I loved those interruptions.

It was amazing how much these students retained. I was humbled as I read statements from them accurately describing hydrostatic equilibrium and blackbody radiation. Ned and Ben demonstrated to my class that science is open to anyone who is curious.

Ben often asked hard questions: Why would God create a universe that is so big when we live on such a small planet? Why is there so much God has not allowed us to know about the universe?

His questions gave me opportunities to proclaim God's glory while admitting I am still seeking answers. Furthermore, other students would express their own ideas, deepening the discourse. Ben belonged in those conversations. He had complex questions to ask, and—as God would later reveal—Ben had profound words we needed to hear. During the final week of class, my students gave presentations on topics of their choice. Ned exuberantly tackled the assignment and presented on black holes. When it was Ben's time, he admitted he hadn't prepared anything. I was determined that he would complete the assignment in some form, so I told him he could simply talk about what he had learned.

Ben stood before the classroom fidgeting at the front desk. Then in his deep and beautiful baritone voice, he began to speak. In the flat affect of an individual with rather severe autism, his presentation became a sermon to the glory of God. I am paraphrasing his statements to the best of my memory.

"For years I could not understand why we would live in such a big universe and only use a tiny little bit of it. In taking this class, I have come to realize that the universe is big because God is big. God is showing us his magnificence through creating a universe that reflects his character. There is so much we do not understand about the universe. So, too, do we have much to learn about God. I still have many questions, but it is clear to me that the universe could only have been made by a Creator. So this is what I have learned: God is big, God is real, and he made an incredible universe full of mystery. God loves us."

He finished speaking, looked up at the class, and then down at his feet. The room was silent for a moment, then erupted in applause. Tears ran down my face at the back of the classroom. There is nothing more I could hope for a student to learn from my class, and I was humbled by how God can use anyone to preach his gospel.

Part of what made Ben's words so powerful is that his autism opened his eyes to a beautiful perspective on creation. God used Ben to express that vision to us. Not only should we welcome neurodiverse individuals into our classrooms, workplaces, and especially our churches, but we should also recognize that they have insights we need to hear.

A longer version of this essay was originally published in Firebrand magazine at firebrandmag.com/articles/ god-chooses-the-unexpected. A member of Northwestern's faculty since 2018, Dr. Emily Grace is an assistant professor of physics. She earned a doctorate in physics at Royal Holloway University of London.



"In the flat affect of an individual with rather severe autism, his presentation became a sermon to the glory of God."

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Then and Now

For more than 60 years, Colenbrander Hall—or "Coly"—has been home to thousands of Raider men. Named for the Rev. Henry Colenbrander, longtime president of Northwestern's board of trustees, the residence hall was built in 1960 to house 80 male students. An addition in 1962 and a repurposing of the basement recreation room increased capacity to 215 men. Notable visitors to the dorm include Simon and Garfunkel, who spent the night following a performance at the 1965 May Day banquet. Today, Colenbrander residents enjoy traditions such as "Coly Christmas"—a dorm-wide competition for the most elaborately decorated wing—and an annual hog roast.





Brian Follet '18 is the current resident director of Colenbrander. He and his wife, Madison (Raska '16), live in the dorm full time and serve as a source of 24/7 support.