A celebration like this only comes every 125 years
Northwestern celebrates anniversary with a variety of events

Children’s show “The Impossibles” opens tonight

The 2007 Homecoming Court, with Homecoming King Kyle Blankers and Queen Jess Regan. For more about the Homecoming Court, see pages 4 and 5.

The actors in “The Impossibles” rehearsing for the show.

“Even if you don’t like to dance, come and enjoy the music,” said Anita Cirulus, who serves on the 125th Anniversary planning committee.

In special honor of the anniversary, Friday night’s Airband competition will be hosted by 88 Improv, a group of NW Black V alumni organized in Omaha, Neb.

“We hope it will encourage current students to recognize the fact that there have been 125 years of people who have come before them,” said Van Den Broek concerning the weekend, “just to recognize they’re a part of something bigger.”

Additional events include Morning on the Green, Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to noon, which feature fun activities to raise money for various NW student organizations and clubs. At 11 a.m. in the Te Paske Gallery there will be a reception for the opening of an alumni art exhibition. The exhibit will remain open during the weekend.

“It’s rare that you can experience something like this,” observed Cirulus. “It’ll be another 25 years before we have a celebration like this, so it’s really special to be at NW at this time.”
Three generational perspectives
An alumna and a mother

BY RUTH LANDEGENT ’83

With tears in our eyes, my husband, Dale, and then high school daughter, Bethany and I drove Titus, the 18-year-old to college. Change. Independence. Out of the nest. On his own. It was painful, it was exciting, it was... well, it was 12 miles. OK, so it wasn’t too far from home. Nonetheless, life was going to change.

Looking back at Titus’ freshman year and now to his “second senior year,” I can honestly say that all the things a parent hopes will come about during their child’s college days have and are being realized. I desire for both Titus and Bethany to consider and appropriately incorporate all that college offers into who they are and who they want to become. College is the right environment to examine where we have been and what we believe. Built in to academic, extracurricular and social opportunities is the powerful potential for change. Change can sometimes be destructive. It does not have to be.

I am so grateful that Titus still loves Jesus. Not all students who enter college with a great love for God leave college still walking closely with Christ. Exposure to unique ideas, people unlike ourselves and a broader world view are truly significant aspects of growing and maturing as a college student. It is, however, dismaying to see a student become cynical and critical or unmotivated and directionless as they move through and critical or unmotivated and cynical growing and maturing as a college view are truly significant aspects of themselves and a broader world closely with Christ. Exposure sometimes be destructive. It does have potential for change. Change can sometimes be destructive. It does not have to be.

A student and a son

BY RUTH LANDEGENT ’83

Theresa, squirrels, Tony Campolo, disc golf, Ballyhoo, Christian theology with Harlan Van Oort... there are way too many things I’ve loved at NWC. But in my five years, (yes, I’ve been around the block a few times) there has been one aspect that has stuck out: the mentoring professor.

These professors sacrificed their personal bubble, time for family, solitude, class preparation, sanity and their own money for me. My college experience would have been incomplete without you. In a world that says “stick to your own kind,” you adhered to me—foolish, undisciplined and self-centered

As I pondered, “Why is this so important to me?” I came to the conclusion that it would be completely foolish of me to gain the academic wisdom from my teachers and want nothing beyond their 10:40-11:30 time slot in my life. Not all, but some professors correctly participate in the non-classroom culture of their students. In love, they forsake a simple, distant lifestyle and instead partner with students as they enter adulthood, independence, and an unsteady future.

They understand the value of multi-generational friendships and community. Without older influences, we become a gelatinous blob, conforming to the whims of Generation Y—stuck in a narrow understanding of life.

Three men have forced me out of this model, and I owe them immeasurably more than the B colleges I earned in their classes. They are: Dr. Marc Wooldridge, Dr. Ed Starkenburg and Professor Derek Bower. The first two are now serving elsewhere, and just today the third cheerfully spoke “grace and peace” to me in chapel. Without these men, I would not have a complete example of the Christian man, stories of their faith, conversations about my future, blessings prayed over me, nor the joy of sharing life with someone who has lived as much life as I.

Fellow students, consider your professors as more than paper graders, joke tellers, or someone to razz about their sports team. Consider them as a mentor—one who may be waiting to be a key component of your formative years as a young adult.

Professors, be that mentor. We need you, your experience and your wisdom. You hold the past that we need to understand and the capacity to shape us by your example. To my college mentors, may this encourage you to continue in your lifetime of ministry, and in the words of Paul, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

A student, professor, and basketball doctor

BY DR. SLY SCOZIA

In the old gymnasium thirty or forty years ago, two eight-year-olds went past me in my wheelchair in the northwest corner near the stands. One of the boys explained to the other, “My mom told me he’s a doctor, so he must be the doctor of the basketball team!”

There were lots of experiences at Northwestern, but a basketball doctor? President Preston Stegenga took a chance hiring a prof in a wheelchair in 1959; first, to double the curriculum committee that no longer existed, and secondly, to restore Greek to the curriculum. I first year, I had the privilege of teaching religion courses in the college and academy. Greek in the college, and, since the freshman class was larger than expected, a section of English composition.

It was my own fault that it was philosophy two years later. I told the curriculum committee that no four-year college could be self-respecting without philosophy in its curriculum, and they answered, “No one would take it.”

Without the overwhelming curriculum courses, I offered to put their objection to the test, and over 20 students enrolled in each of the innovating courses. The president then hired a prof better qualified for philosophy.

Later, when we put effort into building a pre-med program, I asked if our would-be physicians should go to med school without a course which applied Christian ethics to their future career. Guess who taught the course the next year? However, I talked a bid a human prof into team-teaching it with me a few times after that.

The little boy was right about a great interest in sports. Being asked to become the faculty representative for Northwestern teams in the NAIA, I accepted. The coach also gave me a stint as scorekeeper earlier for basketball.

My wife and I have enjoyed hundreds of concerts, plays, lectures October 5, 2007

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Board of trustees offers presidential position to Christy

BY JANICE SWIER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last Friday the board met and with a majority vote decided to offer Greg Christy the presidential position. The official offer was made to Christy on Monday, Oct. 1.

There is no specific date by which Christy needs to make a decision, but it is expected that he will a decision before the beginning of next week. The board encouraged both Christy and his wife Michelle to take time to pray about the position before accepting or rejecting it.

When Christy was first presented as the final candidate for the presidential position, the announcement was met with some controversy. The main causes of controversy were Christy’s lack of RCA background and the absence of a PhD. Board of trustees member and professor Jeff VanDerWerff said that he feels that the campus community was more prepared to accept an applicant who had no Ph.D., but the combination of no Ph.D. and no RCA connection caused some people to be concerned about his fit at Northwestern.

When the board met they were ready to discuss some of these issues but started the meeting by re-examining the identity of NW and what its strengths and weaknesses currently are.

“It was a discussion we hadn’t had for a while, and it was a really healthy thing for us to do,” said board chairman Drew Vogel.

Senior Holli Wubben is excited that Christy was offered the position for this reason as well.

“When I went to the student forum I was impressed with how humble he was; he didn’t try to make up answers to questions he was asked that he hadn’t given a lot of thought to. I think that his personality will make him a very good leader for both the students and the college,” said Wubben.

The difference of opinions in whether Christy is the right fit for NW has some concerned about the transitional period should Christy choose to accept. VanDerWerff thinks that there are going to be a few small bumps regardless of what he decides because there are people on both sides of the issue. Vogel is not as worried about the transition.

“NW is a place where people’s, both on and off campus, debates are driven by care, love and concern for the college; but once a decision is made the people who love the college will support the institution,” said Vogel.

Freshman Sarah Lichter feels that students will accept the transition and the board’s decision.

“Think most students are interested in the process and have opinions but ultimately trust that the college will make the right decision,” Lichter said.

If Christy accepts the offer he is expected to start as college president in mid-January. In the event that Christy declines the position the board will convene and look at alternatives.

News from way back when:
A look at the headlines throughout the Beacon’s existence

BY KIM EASON
NEWS EDITOR

Reflecting on Northwestern’s 125th anniversary, it’s interesting to see how the college has evolved throughout the years. While the stories and events have changed year by year, the method of getting news and information is still relatively the same: word of mouth, posters in the caf, and of course, the Beacon.

Back in 1922, when NW was only an academy, the Beacon was known as the Monitor. Those four pages were jammed full of short articles, quotes and jokes, as well as many ads and classifieds.

During these early years, the local YMCA and YWCA were very popular, and many headlines involved these organizations, like “Indian Missionary Speaks to Y.M.C.A.”

The biggest news of 1923 was the building of Science Hall, one wing of what is now VPH. “New building to be erected this spring” announced the news to the NW community, explaining that the board of trustees had determined there was enough money for the much-needed project.

“The new building is to furnish classrooms, society rooms, laboratory, dining room, dormitory and gymnasium facilities,” the article said.

Despite these drastic differences from today, life wasn’t all that different. One headline read “Academy enrollment marks increase,” while another said “Seniors win in annual class contest,” which happened to be a fox and goose chase.

The Monitor changed to the Beacon in 1928, and by 1936, there were four staff members with one adviser.

Back then, the Beacon was “the official organ of the NW Junior College and Academy published bi-monthly during the school year.”

These years began to report some sobering news: “NW student killed in auto accident” and “Academy student shoots self accidentally.” The year 1937 also brought the headline “Zwemer Hall is beautified,” when Zwemer was restored for the first time after its 1894 construction.

It wasn’t until the 1940s that pictures first started appearing in the paper—mostly storic photos of a mixed chorus group, the Homecoming court or new faculty members. By the late 1950s, the Beacon started featuring pictorial supplements, which were three to four pages of just pictures, whether highlights of the Homecoming week, the state basketball tournament or students hanging out on the green.

Similarities between today’s news and the news from the past are illustrated in headlines from the next few decades. In 1957, a headline read, “Six countries represent as 116 freshmen register at NW,” and explains how NW students are from around the globe. An opinion article from the editor was entitled, “Should chapel be required?”

The Beacon continued to explain the stories of how new buildings came to be: the RSC, Christ Chapel, and the Bultman Center, to name a few. “Presxy: home sweet home” told the story of the Presxy House, which originally housed the president and other students, similar to the Mission House, until 1987, when the name was changed to Granberg Hall and made into the English building.

The Beacon also told the stories of those unheard of today. “ACE named 1974 Mr. Irresistible,” said Lichter. “1974’s Mr. Irresistible, Doyle Johnson.”

Throughout the past 125 years, the Beacon has been here, reporting the news around campus, and as long as the news continues, the Beacon will too.
From lackluster to sheer brilliance: Memorable student pranks across the years

BY RACHEL RIETSEMA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Successful practical jokes involve intricate planning and perfect timing. Chaplain Harlan VanOort, long time resident of the campus, has witnessed some such pranks as well as some not as smart. According to VanOort, chapel pranks fall under several levels of excellence.

Freshman ones have the lowest ranking and leave him unimpressed. A step up from lame are the sophomore attempts, but “have a long way to go” and are not indeed as “wise” as their class title’s meaning suggests. One such prank failed about nine years ago. Eight or nine guys decided to unbolt the pew benches in the chapel and flip them around resulting in a large fine.

A week before, the West Hall resident director, Eric Anderson, went out to dinner with the guys. They told him of their plans meeting in the making, and he promised to remain silent. The morning the deed was done, he had a note slipped underneath his door that read, “See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil, underneath his door that read, “See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil, you promised.” However, as men of integrity, they turned themselves in later and the joke became one of regret.

Anderson reminisces about the events that followed. “It was hilarious,” he said. “I think the president of the college called them in and said, ‘Nice job, very creative. What did impress VanOort, however, was a senior prank pulled during the very first service in the current chapel. Several people lined the back pews and each had hundreds of marbles in hand. As things began, they released them and they rolled all the way to the front of the chapel. Even though he didn’t witness this memorable moment, the collaborative effort “took some coordination, and it made a splash.”

About 27 years ago, the ultimate prank was conducted in what is now the old chapel. In this gym-like building, two guys climbed into the attic and unscrewed the light fixture that shone a spotlight down onto the pulpit. As they looked through the hole, they waited until the speaker was done, he had a note slipped underneath his door that read, “See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil, you promised.”

As a student, VanOort attended a chapel that day and recalls those last few minutes as “awesome.” Later, the brains of the operation walked right into the president’s office. They took the credit for their work and didn’t receive any punishments.

“They were awarded some major kudos by every student on campus,” said VanOort. “You can ask anybody from that era and they will remember the gerbils—it was brilliant.”

About 10 years ago, a Heemstra and a West resident successfully executed another prank, this time outside the walls of the chapel. They stole 30 chickens from a local farm in the dark of night and delivered five to each wing of Steegenga. At 4:30 a.m., Anderson received a phone call from the resident director in deep distress not knowing what to do.

“I had some knowledge of this prank,” Shrock said. “I don’t remember who they were, but they walked across campus like heroes. It was like they had won the national championship.”

“The perpetrators of this prank received instant fame across campus. The morning the deed was done, he had a note slipped underneath his door that read, “See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil, underneath his door that read, “See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil, you promised.” However, as men of integrity, they turned themselves in later and the joke became one of regret.

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As girls took late night trips to the bathroom, they were taken aback by these squawking creatures. They were laying eggs throughout the hallway and “pooping everywhere.” Screaming filled the halls as the chickens would attack anyone in their path. The maintenance crew came to help corral the chickens into the stairwell, but this resulted in a peck-test. Three hens fought to the death, and the rest died during attempts to catch them.

“A few brave [women] stood out Bunsen burners to thaw the doors. Another prank that had a real impact on the college was seven years ago. All the trays from the cafeteria disappeared for a few days until the ransom’s request was met; the perpetrators wanted a steak dinner. Anderson’s amusement soon turned to annoyance as it “totally changed the life of every meal.”

“Everyone had to scale back on the number of items they took from the serving line, or would have to go back a couple times,” Anderson said. “I think we were all amazed at how we took those trays for granted . . . they are more useful than we imagined.”

Although the quantity of practical jokes has decreased in recent years, Anderson doesn’t discourage them as they are one of the best ways to build community. Finding his car in the lobby of West Hall and handing out 50 license plates after chapel are moments he will never forget. As long as there is no damage to either people or property and they don’t cause undue time and maintenance, he’s fine with pranks.

VanOort says students spend more leisure time with technology than he or his classmates did. He remembers his years at NW sitting around in his dorm and “dreaming up goofy things to do.” In fact, he admitted to participating in one prank where Dale Landegent’s Volkswagen ended up in VPH. According to VanOort, college is a time to think. However, this thinking may lead to the inspiration to do some crazy activities. These “by-products of creativity” are just really funny and VanOort looks back in appreciation and awe at the creative ones where no damage was done.

“If I had thought of the gerbil one, I would feel so good,” he said, “I don’t remember who they were, but they walked across campus like heroes. It was like they had won the national championship.”
Good ol’ fun! The now & then of campus recreation

BY AMANDA WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Over the last 125 years, Northwestern has grown and changed with the coming and going of eager young students. What has changed right along with the college are the ways students entertain themselves in Siouxland. Twenty years ago the students’ definition of fun was much different than ours today at NW.

What did you do over the weekend? A day trip to Sioux City? Maybe catch a new hit blockbuster movie? Maybe catch a new hit blockbuster movie or have dinner at a fun restaurant? Maybe catch a new hit blockbuster movie while there was a lack of current movie showings as “rare and wonderful.” One specific film he remembers seeing is “The Deer Hunter.”

Intramurals were a big part of campus life and drew great participation. VanOort said each wing had two or three teams. He participated in many himself including basketball, football, ping-pong, foosball, pool, volleyball, softball and racquetball.

The only championship team I was on was volleyball,” he adds. “It was glorious.”

Along with participating in intramurals, students also regularly attended sporting events.

“Basketball games and football games were huge,” says VanOort. “The school spirit was rich and sometimes a bit raucous. The turnout was great for men’s basketball and football. Women’s basketball and volleyball didn’t get the crowds they do now. That is much improved.”

Movies were a popular break from studying as well. The closest movie theater at that time was in Le Mars, and at times there would be a movie showing on campus in the Bogaard Theatre in the old RSC. VanOort described these movie showings as “rare and wonderful.” One specific film he remembers seeing is “The Wild Dog of Hinton.”

A few years later in 1987, Scott Mulder, owner of Sinclair and Dutch Mart here in Orange City, was a senior at NW. He had some memories to share as well.

“A lot of people went to Sioux City on the weekends. There were a couple dance clubs that were cool to go to and a greyhound race track in South Sioux City, Neb. That was always a good time.” Dance America and Atokad Park were popular places to hang out on the weekends.

Mulder said, but during the week everyone went to the Firelight Lounge in Alton. They had burger baskets for $2.50; it was a place to let us all in. Once we made it in, we were all spooked by these things up above and threw our shirts on and take a break during the week.

Mulder shared more than just places off campus to find fun. “Back then everyone went to [sports] games, they dressed up and got wild; I think it was just a lot bigger deal,” said Mulder. They hung out in the rec room, and since there were no video games and computers, they went out to have fun. However, while there was a lack of current technology, mischief was just as thick on the campus as ever.

“We actually pulled quite a few pranks,” Mulder said with a smile. “One night we locked ourselves inside the chapel — back then the seats were all folding chairs, and we reversed the entire chapel, including putting the podium in the back.”

The next day at chapel the speaker said that whoever pulled the prank spent a lot of time working on it and suggested that everyone Rounds.

After that, Rounds and his friends would take carloads of NW students to the bridge around Halloween. Another scary place they went to was an abandoned farmhouse outside Alton. Rounds described it as “guaranteed to scare most folks.”

“We definitely made most of our own fun at NW, but that was the beauty of it. It’s all about the memories,” said Rounds.

Kids these days are still pulling pranks, and finding ways to make their own fun around Orange City. Late-night trips to Perkins or walks across campus to The Hub have replaced midweek meals at The Firelight Lounge. And trips to see the “wild dog of Hinton” have given current students as good of a spook as that old haunted bridge.
Queen Jess Regan
Name: Jess Regan
Hometown: Council Bluffs, Iowa
Major: Public relations and missions
How many times a day do you brush your teeth? Two to three times
What is the best paper you have ever written? A paper on “Women in Islam.” I wrote it for Rod Spidahl in his topics of missionology class on Islam.
Favorite children’s book? “Green Eggs and Ham”
What do you want to do before your 10-year reunion? Serve in China and see the ’08 Olympics, travel to Africa and live in the Philippines for a couple of years.
Favorite caf meal: I’m a big fan of their hot breakfast. Funniest movie/TV quote: “Look at those fun bags on that horse.”

Mark DeYounge
Name: Mark DeYounge
Hometown: Mountain Lake, Minn.
Major: Business administration, mission service concentration
How many times a day do you brush your teeth? Two times... if I drink coffee possibly three.
What is the best paper you have ever written? College writing class journal/paper about my real life “super-trooper” experience
Favorite children’s book? A toss up between the Berenstain Bears and Curious George
What do you want to do before your 10-year reunion? Mission work, start a non-profit organization, get married and start raising a family.
Favorite caf meal: Steak Night
Funniest movie/TV quote: First quote that comes to mind is; “Yeah I called brush your teeth?”

Elizabeth Becker
Name: Elizabeth Grace Becker
Hometown: Toddville, Iowa, which is like two seconds away from Cedar Rapids
Major: Elementary education
How many times a day do you brush your teeth? Roughly twice a day...some days it’s just one...sorry people if that’s disgusting to you.
What is the best paper you have ever written? I can’t recall any paper that I have written that would qualify as “the best.” I don’t really write papers these days; it’s mostly lesson plans.
So, what is the best lesson plan I ever written? Well, I once wrote a lesson about weather words. It was pretty good.
Favorite children’s book: I’m going to have to go to a bit old school on this question and say “On the Banks of Plum Creek” by Laura Ingalls Wilder.
What do you want to do to before your 10-year reunion? I would like to pay off my debt...but that won’t happen

King Kyle Blankers
Name: Kyle Blankers
Hometown: Sheldon, Iowa
Major: Business education
How many times a day do you brush your teeth? Once or twice...three times if you’re lucky
What is the best paper you have ever written? A college writing paper about my high school long jump career
What do you want to do before your 10-year reunion? Go to graduate school at UNC, meet Michael Jordan, learn how to cook and do my own laundry...seriously
Favorite caf meal: Chicken parmesan
Funniest movie/TV quote: “What is this? A center for ants? How can we be expected to teach children to learn how to read if they can’t even fit in the building?... The building has to be at least...three times bigger than this.”—Ben Stiller as Derek Zoolander
Do you sing in the shower? Yes...I enjoy singing in the Coly showers, even duets occasionally.
How often do you use your cell phone? More often than I would like.
What would be the hardest thing for you to give up? My faith/my family
Most embarrassing moment: One day in middle school, as I was sitting in my first period health class, I suddenly had a tickle in my nose. I sneezed so hard that I threw my neck out of place to the point where I couldn’t straighten my head anymore.
I sat with my head tilted at an angle for the rest of the class period, and then had to leave school early to go to the chiropractor. My classmates had a good time making fun of me about sneezing my neck out of place.

Nate Summers
Name: Nate Summers
Hometown: Aplington, Iowa
Major: Finance
How many times a day do you brush your teeth? Twice per day
What is the best paper you have ever written? The best paper I ever wrote was probably one of my philosophy papers. They were so good, I even confused myself most of the time. From what I understand, that’s what makes a good philosophy paper.
Favorite children’s book: “The Berenstain Bears: No Girls Allowed” always was my favorite book growing up.
What do you want to do to before your 10-year reunion? I’d like to qualify for the U.S. Amateur Golf Championship
Favorite caf meal: Saturday’s noon meal in the fall
Funniest movie/TV quote: “I am not superstitious, but I’m a littlestitious.”—Michael Scott
Do you sing in the shower? All the time.
How often do you use your cell phone? A few times a day.
What would be the hardest thing for you to give up? Colenbrander
Most embarrassing moment: Never making it to the end of the hallway...
Danny Eshcol
Name: Daniel Abhishek Eshcol
Hometown: Iowa City, Iowa and/or Andhra Pradesh, India
Major: Psychology and youth ministry minor

What do you want to do before your 10-year reunion?
Travel to all the continents, except Antarctica. Indians aren't made for cold weather.

Favorite cat meal:
Chicken curry, defining UNOT

Most embarrassing moment:
Screwing up singing the national anthem in high school.

Jillian Groeneveld
Favorite “caf” meal: Biscuits and gravy, minus the gravy

Funniest movie/TV quote: “I get 70 miles to the gallon on this hog” – “Dumb and Dumber”

Do you sing in the shower?
Yes. Yes, I do.

Favorite book/movie:
“A Time to Kill,” “movie – “A League of Their Own.”

How often do you use your cell phone?
I am one of the few people in the world who doesn’t have a cell phone... So, I’d have to say never.

What would be the hardest thing for you to give up?
Well, not a cell phone I guess. So, showering I would certainly hate to have to give that up.

Kelsey Carroll
Name: Kelsey Carroll
Hometown: Maysville, Mo.
Major: English teaching

How many times a day do you brush your teeth?
Frequently, at least three.

What is the best paper you have ever written?
Are you kidding me? Everything I write turns to gold. Kidding! I usually am happy with the pieces I write for my creative writing classes. They are more personal and allow me the chance to try out new writing styles.

Favorite children’s book:
“Where the Wild Things Are”

What do you want to do before your 10-year reunion?
Getting a job would be nice.

Funniest movie/TV quote:
“I enjoy having breakfast in bed. I like waking up to the smell of bacon—sue me. And since I don’t have a butler I have to do it myself. So, most nights before I go to bed I will lay six strips of bacon out on my George Foreman grill. Then I go to sleep. When I wake up I plug in the grill. I go back to sleep again. Then I wake up to the smell of cranking bacon. It is delicious, it’s good for me, it’s the perfect way to start the day. Today I got up and I stepped on the grill and it clamped down on my foot. That’s it. I don’t see what’s so hard to believe about that.” – Michael from “The Office.”

Favorite book/movie:
“The Office.”

Katie Van Etten
Name: Katie Van Etten
Hometown: Parker, Colo.
Major: Literature, with minors in world history and cultural studies

Relationship status: Single
How many times a day do you brush your teeth?
Once daily, run hard after Jesus, wherever that takes me! (And pay off my school loans)

Favorite children’s book:
“Well, “The Babysitter’s Club: Little Sister Series,” by Ann Martin, was my favorite when I was younger.

What do you want to do before your 10-year reunion?
Getting a job would be nice.

Most embarrassing moment:
Messing up singing the national anthem in high school.

John Top
Name: John Travis Top
Hometown: Luverne, Minn.
Major: Business education

How many times a day do you brush your teeth?
Randomly, whenever necessary. I have never had a cavity.

What is the best paper you have ever written?
Probably something that I wrote in grade school. I’m pretty sure I haven’t written any good ones in college.

Favorite children’s book:
“Where the Red Fern Grows”

What do you want to do before your 10-year reunion?
Do a fly-in fishing trip to Canada.

Favorite caf meal:
Wraps and soft-shell tacos

Funniest movie/TV quote:
“That’s right, karate….made my whole body a weapon.” – Don Knotts in “The Ghost and Mr. Chicken”

Do you sing in the shower?
Absolutely.

Favorite book/movie:
“White Fang”

How often do you use your cell phone?
Don’t have one.

What would be the hardest thing for you to give up?
Fishing

Most embarrassing moment:
Alton Pool
Northwestern College history:

**1882**

The college has grown in leaps and bounds with technology, and people, and the caliber of faculty. I can’t attest to the caliber of the faculty back then but the administration does its best to get the very best in here which in turn attracts the very best students.” — Syl Scorza, former NW professor

**NW Classical Academy is founded.** Formal classes begin that fall with 12 students and three part-time teachers.

**1886**

A former roller-skating rink in downtown OC is purchased, remodeled and named “Academy Hall.” Referred to as “The Rink” and even “Noah’s Ark,” the building serves the academy for eight years until Zwemer Hall is built.

“Buildings now are much more user friendly and maintenance friendly: they are built to be taken care of... they expect them to last and are willing to put in the time and the money to make sure they do last. There are very few times when there are temporary projects like the rink was.” — Arlo Van Beek, Supervisor of Housekeeping

**1891**

The student newspaper, now known as the Beacon, begins monthly publications as the Classic.

**1914**

Dutch language courses are dropped from the curriculum.

“I’ve had a lot of people ask me if they teach Dutch here, and they’re always surprised to know that it's not offered. It would be cool if they were still offered, but I don’t think there is much of a student demand for a Dutch language program. I think it’s crucial for every college or university to have a modern foreign language program, and I’m glad that NW’s is growing.” — Tessie Nelson, senior Spanish major

**1912 women’s basketball team at Northwestern Academy.**

**1931**

“Faced with NW’s dire financial predicament due to the Great Depression, faculty vote to give up 10 percent of their salaries.” — Carl Vandermeulen, Beacon adviser

**1934**

Four students and a faculty member drown during an outing to Okoboji Lake.

“‘Going to NW is a dangerous endeavor. People get hit by cars, fall down flights of stairs and drown on field trips.’ — Sarah Seeger, sophomore

**1950**

“NW’s children’s theatre program has its start when academy seniors present their class play to local schoolchildren.”

“NW becomes a four-year college when a fourth year of college course work is added. One year later the first baccalaureate degrees are awarded to a class of 29 students.”

“Trees have some great and fun traditions here. The Impossibles will be fun, the variety of the stories and poems is wonderful. We get to throw flower petals.” — Karen Barker, professor of theatre and speech

**1960**

The college’s ban on dancing is lifted.

“I am surprised that dancing was banned that long. Dance is a great way to express happiness and joy. We dance to celebrate life, special occasions and love. I believe we should dance in God’s presence every day.” — Amy Vos, junior

**Heemstra Hall is built as a residence for women.**

“Wow! I can’t believe that the graduating class used to be so small. I am so glad we are bigger now; there are more programs available and more interesting people to meet. It is amazing to see how God has helped NW grow.” — Rachel Rager, freshman

**1882**

125th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ISSUE

October 5, 2007

** FEATURES **

Academy Hall, purchased in 1886 for Northwestern Academy.

“A Northwestern student using a computer in the 1980s.”

Members of a 1912 women’s basketball team at Northwestern Academy.
Letting God’s light shine for 125 years

“In many ways, NW’s experience with computers mirrors the world at large. We started out with the mainframe, adopted personal computers, started networking them together, and then ventured into the Internet. Computers have steadily gotten smaller, faster and cheaper, even as their capabilities have grown exponentially.”
— Paul Beltman, Academic Computing Manager

NW purchases its first computer.

1976

NW’s Summer of Service program is established.

1981

Smoking is banned from all college buildings.

1990

NW implements its first Internet e-mail system.

1992

NW’s first full Internet connection for browsing the World Wide Web is implemented and NW develops its first Web site.

1994

NW is awarded an initial $2 million grant from the Lilly Endowment for initiatives to help students explore and discover God’s call in their lives.

2002

NW establishes its Tuition Guarantee program for new students.

2007

Deb Remmerde breaks all records at any level—high school, college or pro—by making 133 consecutive free throws, then is featured in a live appearance on CBS’s “The Early Show,” during which she makes 256 in a row.

1994

Vice President George Bush visits NW and is awarded an honorary doctorate.

Vice President George Bush visits NW and is awarded an honorary doctorate.

Symphonic band travels to Ukraine during spring break on the first overseas trip that combines performances with service.

1994

1976

“Breaking the record wasn’t something I focused on as the season went along. Every time I stepped up to the line, the only thing on my mind was making that free throw. Shooting free throws on the CBS “Early Show” was a unique experience. It was early in the morning, more than 600 people in the gym, cameras all around, an earpiece in my ear and everyone’s focus was on me, the ball and the hoop.”
— Deb Remmerde, senior

“The goal is to expand the possibilities of students who go on SOS, with the hopes that they will learn more about God and what he is doing in the world…reconciling it to himself.”
— Steve De Haan, senior

“‘In many ways, NW’s experience with computers mirrors the world at large. We started out with the mainframe, adopted personal computers, started networking them together, and then ventured into the Internet. Computers have steadily gotten smaller, faster and cheaper, even as their capabilities have grown exponentially.’”
— Paul Beltman, Academic Computing Manager

“It is refreshing to know that NW can recognize a distinguished public servant for his integrity and contributions to society rather than being concerned with achieving political correctness in order to maintain a sense of neutrality.”
— Ryan Crawford, senior, College Republicans

“I check my e-mail a ridiculous number of times, basically every time I walk into my room. It’s significantly more than the average person. I don’t even mind the all-campus e-mails, because I just like to get mail.”
— Elizabeth Becker, senior

“The Web is a crucial tool for communicating with all of NW’s different students, alumni, donors, pastors, parents and employees. We are fortunate to have a strong, up-to-date and constantly improving site that represents the college very well.”
— Duane Beeson, Director of Public Relations

“I think this grant has brought us a number of initiatives both curricular and co-curricular that have encouraged vocational discernment for current and future pursuit of vocation on our campus. Lilly has allowed us to start a conversation about vocation and God’s call that is very healthy to have.”
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“All photos courtesy of public relations.
Quotes compiled by features staff writers James Bierly, Kristi Korver, Kiley Seligman and Kevin Wallace.
Historic Facts provided by public relations.

Men in the 1970s participating in tug of war.

The Homecoming queen and her attendants in 1958.
Raiders rush to victory over Hastings

BY BETHANY KROEZE
SPORTS EDITOR

Last Saturday, Sept. 29, the Red Raiders caught a victory on the road when they defeated Hastings College 31-7. Hastings struck first, with a 20-yard touchdown pass less than four minutes into the game. After the Broncos took an early 7-0 lead, four minutes into the game, the Raiders took the reins and never looked back. Halfway through the second quarter, senior quarterback Craig Hector found junior receiver DJ Hansen on the first play of the drive. Hansen caught Hector’s 65-yard pass for the Raiders’ first touchdown.

With 1:52 remaining in the half, junior running back Kyle Ochsner crossed the goal line on a one-yard run. Sophomore kicker Grant Mosier’s extra point was blocked, but the Raiders still held a 13-7 lead. A mere 14 seconds before halftime, TJ Lensch grabbed an interception and took an 81-yard return run for the touchdown. Hector took the PAT into the end zone for two.

In the second half, the Raiders added a Mosier field goal and a touchdown reception by junior Seth Moen. The Raiders took the victory, 31-7. Ochsner led the ground game, rushing 58 yards on 12 carries. Through the air, Hector threw 13-24 for 245 yards and one interception. Moen had 63 yards on four catches.

The Raiders face Briar Cliff College on Wednesday night, falling 3-0 to the Defenders. Freshman hitter Bobbie Jean Rich goes for a kill as her teammates anticipate the return. Rich had seven kills in the match. Northwestern was led offensively by freshman Hillary Ranno with 12 kills and sophomore setter Rachel Gosselink with 33 assists. Defensively, senior Megan Meyer had 16 digs and sophomore libero Janna Bloemendaal had 12. Gosselink and senior Karrisa Davelaar each had 10 digs. The Raiders fell to 3-3 in the GPAC and 15-7 overall while the Defenders crept closer to .500 in the GPAC, now 3-4, and advanced their overall record to 22-6.

Raider volleyball falls to Dordt

BY BETHANY KROEZE
STAFF WRITER

In a Sioux County battle, the Raiders hosted Dordt on Wednesday night, falling 3-0 to the Defenders. Freshman hitter Bobbie Jean Rich goes for a kill as her teammates anticipate the return. Rich had seven kills in the match. Northwestern was led offensively by freshman Hillary Ranno with 12 kills and sophomore setter Rachel Gosselink with 33 assists. Defensively, senior Megan Meyer had 16 digs and sophomore libero Janna Bloemendaal had 12. Gosselink and senior Karrisa Davelaar each had 10 digs. The Raiders fell to 3-3 in the GPAC and 15-7 overall while the Defenders crept closer to .500 in the GPAC, now 3-4, and advanced their overall record to 22-6.

Raiders’ soccer splits with USF

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NW Athletics: Athletic accomplishment over the past 125 years and on into the future

BY BETHANY KROEZE
SPORTS EDITOR

As Northwestern kicks off its 125th anniversary celebration, students, alumni, faculty and staff look back and reflect on the history of the school they have all come to love and cherish so dearly.

Through the introduction of new programs, the celebration of undefeated seasons and winning several national championships, the athletic programs at NW have made vast improvements since their initial conception.

“The amount of support and work that goes into the athletic program here is incredible,” said senior soccer captain Brian Springer.

The following article outlines some of the Red Raiders’ most significant accomplishments throughout the 125-year history. Students and coaches reflect on their experiences with the various programs and the changes they have witnessed in their time at NW.

Senior baseball pitcher Joe Grady said, “I would say overall the athletics here at NW are Christ-centered with a bunch of terrific athletes that give the college a good name.”

Do you miss the Beacon? Do you wonder what students are talking about and doing on campus?

Then check out http://home.nwciowa.edu/beacon to access the Beacon online.

Access all the weekly features from the print issue plus COLOR PHOTOS of your favorite sports and activities!

NW started a men’s and women’s basketball program, with Neal Hines as the head coach. The team went 6-6 in their first season. The Bultman Center for Health, Physical Education and Intercollegiate Athletics opened featuring a wood-floored gymnasium which seats 2,200.

NW joined the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC).

Both the men’s and women’s basketball teams won the national championship under head coaches Kris Korver and Earl Woudstra. In indoor track, Jacob Koczman was the national champion in the 600m.

The men’s basketball team won their second national championship, defeating Bethany of Kansas, 77-75.

The sod football field was replaced with FieldTurf and renamed Korver Field in honor of Larry and Betty Korver. The stadium was named De Valois Stadium.

De Valois Stadium received its most recent upgrade with the installation of a new press box and bleachers.
Final farewell to Bruce and Di Murphy

BY NICK ROHLF AND KIM EASON
STAFF WRITER AND NEWS EDITOR

On Monday, Oct. 8, Northwestern College will be saying a final farewell to Bruce and Di Murphy.

The farewell celebration will take place at Christ Chapel, starting at 8 p.m. and will include a video presentation from senior filmmaker Vaughn Donahue and a skit written by Karen and Jeff Barker, as well as other activities. Staff and students have also been asked to send in memories they had with the Murphys, which will be included in the festivities.

“Our farewell event is to celebrate Bruce and Di’s long-term commitment and contribution to the mission of NW,” said event coordinator John Greller, vice president of advancement. “I hope students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community will turn out to give them a warm send-off.”

Following the program, desserts will be served in the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center lobby. Greller shared a few warm memories he had experienced with President Murphy and these memories, along with many others, will be shared during the farewell.

“It’s the relationships, more than anything, that we will remember,” said President Murphy.

During his time as NW’s president, Murphy focused on “a new way to do college,” emphasizing the need for higher education leading to wisdom and spiritual and intellectual learning.

“The greatest joy of this kind of job is to watch the students go through four years of education,” said Murphy.

“The best leaders are the ones who lead from who they are,” said Drew Vogel, chair of NW’s board of trustees. “Bruce and Di are known for their deep connections on campus and in the community. Their heart for students and the whole-life development of young people is obvious.”

The Murphys plan to leave Orange City for their home in Seattle sometime before the end of the year.

Men in Tights team members Kadrian Hardersen, Keaton Hildreth, Reid Van Duyn, Grant Mosier, Caleb Blauwet, Andrew Lundgren, and Brock Jensen take first place in the men’s dodgeball competition Thursday night. Ryan Mitchell and Tim Ranney were also members of the team.

RSC History

1980: original construction

2007: renovation celebrated

DODGEBALL: THE WAY IT’S PLAYED AT NW