



# Eyes on the economy:

## Will failing banks affect student loan opportunities?

BY TYLER GRANGER  
STAFF WRITER

The volatile U.S. economy has become a topic of conversation for the financially-inclined. But what happens on Wall Street affects the student pursuing an art degree as much as it does the business major.

The federal student loan program is one of the most successful public-to-private partnerships ever created and is the reason why a majority of students are able to afford college. In 2007, over 68,500 students used the Iowa student loan for tuition, equaling out to roughly 250 million dollars.

However, the IndyMac Bank, or Independent National Mortgage Corporation, failure has raised doubts about the availability for student loans.

IndyMac was one of the nation's largest savings and loan banks. IndyMac's failure on July 13 was caused by months of investment decline, non-performing loans, failure to raise capital, and high interest rates.

Democratic Sen. Charles Schumer of New York announced on June 26 a possible total financial collapse for the west coast bank. This caused widespread panic

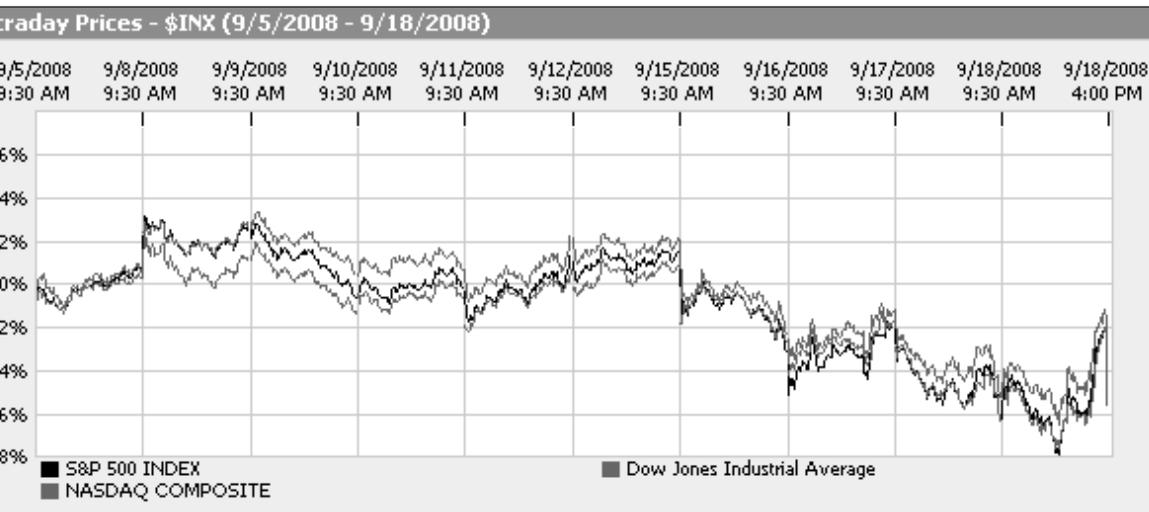


PHOTO COURTESY OF MSN.COM

as people withdrew their money. When a bank loses the public's confidence, the game is over. The collapse resulted in a loss of 32 billion dollars in assets, as well as incredible frustration for businesses, lenders, investors and students across America.

IndyMac is not the only bank to dry up, as 11 other banks have failed this year. How are students at NW affected? Banks and private lenders just do not have the capital to fund all the student loans that are needed. The mortgage crisis in America has caused lenders to back away from investing in asset-backed securities such as student loans. Students are finding it harder to access private

student loans and are receiving them with high interest rates.

Various colleges are pulling away from private loans because many private companies are experiencing pressure to pass as many student loans as possible. High interest rates, the mortgage crises and a decline in the amount of investing are all reasons why lenders have had to raise the cost of college loans.

Several of these private loan companies lack the capital needed to back all these student loans. A few of the key loan providers for students here at Northwestern are starting to tighten their criteria for credit.

Even though this trend toward private student loans is increasing, not all is lost. IndyMac has been seized by regulators, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insures you will not lose your money when a bank fails.

According to Jaime Woudstra, a financial services counselor, fewer than 20 students did not qualify for private student loans this fall. The FDIC plan is to raise premiums and merge banks so lenders will have the capital to back student loans. Fortunately, the opportunity to borrow money to pursue higher education is still available; student loans are still accessible.

# Fewer students this year: Lower numbers have limited impact

BY LEANN JOHNSON  
STAFF WRITER

The number of students enrolled at Northwestern this year is lower than it has been in eight years. The exact number of students enrolled this semester is 1,225, which is almost a seven percent decrease from the 1,315 students enrolled during last year's fall semester.

Although it is impossible to pin down an exact reason for this decrease, Mark Bloemendaal, director of admissions, proposed several explanations for the lower enrollment. Bloemendaal pointed out that NW had a large graduating class this spring and a slightly lower retention rate from last year. In addition, many private colleges in Iowa saw lower enrollments this fall, while

community colleges experienced an increase in admissions.

Bloemendaal surmised that this might be due to the struggling economy and people's desire to save money. He also stated that, although prospective students like NW's Tuition Guarantee, they are sometimes unwilling to commit to four years and do not realize the benefits of planning for more than a year at a time.

After evaluating NW's admissions program, the admissions department has come up with several plans to contend with the declining enrollment. The admissions department is planning on expanding its recruitment area and targeting bigger cities. They are also working on improving NW's promotional material.

Another plan is to increase the number of scholarship days to four in order to increase the amount of scholarship money that students receive. In past years, NW has had two days for choosing the recipients of the Peale scholarship. On these days, a select group of students were

interviewed and eight were chosen as recipients of the scholarship. This year, however, these scholarship days will be for students who receive collegiate or presidential scholarships, and NW will have three or four different scholarship levels instead of just the Peale scholarship.

One major concern with the lower enrollment is the effect it could have on NW's budget. Doug Beukelman, vice president for financial affairs, assures students that the decrease in enrollment will not have much of an impact on students this year. The revisions made on the budget this year, according to Beukelman, are negligible because they mainly affected operational budgets and not the services that NW offers. As for next year's budget, Beukelman said it is too early to tell what, if any, cuts could occur.



PHOTO BY JENNI SYBESMA

# World-class musicians perform at NW

BY RACHEL RIETSEMA  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Violinist Wolfgang David and pianist David Gompper will present a duo-recital on Thursday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. in Christ Chapel. The concert is free and open to the public.

David has a wide assortment of places where audiences have heard his remarkable talent. He has played at the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Berne Symphony Orchestra and New York Virtuosi.

His impressive history started at age eight when he attended the University for Music. Following this endeavor, he perfected his skills at the Musikhochschule in Cologne and the Guildhall School of Music in London.

David, a winner of many competitions, has traveled around the globe to over 30 countries. His regular tours take him all over the United States, Europe, South Korea and South Africa. His violin is on special loan from Austrian National Bank. It acquires even more rarity as it was constructed in 1715 by Carlo Bergonzi Cremona.

Gompper has devoted 17 years as a professor of composition and director of the Center for New Music at the University of Iowa. As a man of many talents, he is a conductor, composer and pianist.

His résumé includes the following: studying at the Royal College of Music in London, teaching in Nigeria and earning a doctorate at the University of Michigan. Prior to arriving at Iowa, he spent some time at the University of Texas. In addition, he spent a year in Russia as a Fulbright Scholar, teaching, performing and conducting at the Moscow Conservatory.

The recital will consist of five duets. David and Gompper will begin playing Johannes Brahms' "Violin Sonata #1 in G major," which is also known as "Rain Sonata" from Opus 78. Next will be "Ikon," composed by Gompper this year. The second half of the program will include Arvo Pärt's "Fratres," followed by "Crux Orthodoxa" by Joseph Dangerfield and Claude Debussy's "Sonate pour violon et piano."



## front desk

WITH AMANDA KUEHN

### Take a chance on change

Imagine, if you will, a small, privately funded liberal arts college that is hypothetically undergoing a time of financial difficulty. Perhaps tuition has increased, the economy is bad or enrollment is down. The reason is not really the issue—the situation is. Money is so tight, in fact, that even the school's favorite departments and programs are receiving budget cuts. New fundraisers are hard to come by and things are looking bad—until, that is, someone comes up with a brilliant plan.

What if, they wonder, we came up with a prize of reasonable worth and gave all school staff, faculty, students and supporters an equal chance of winning it by purchasing a ticket? It wouldn't ask much of any one person, would be easy enough to organize and might even bring in a sizable wad of cash.

Perfect! With great rejoicing, the little fundraiser waltzes off to find a prize of great worth. Plans begin rolling until fundraising is denied on account of the project being deemed a form of gambling. Apparently it is time to go back to the drawing board, but before we do let us take a moment to think this through.

There are many things we do and don't condone, both in and out of the church, based on the fact that they are considered "sinful": smoking, drinking, body art, language choices, even playing cards. Gambling is just one more item on the list, and raffles—according to some—are a form of gambling, which relies on "luck" and not on the providence of God. There are no passages of Scripture that actually forbid raffles, but that doesn't change the fact that many are adamantly opposed to it.

Arguments against gambling include that it encourages greed and covetousness, promotes mismanagement of possessions, is poor stewardship of money, has cross purposes with a commitment to work, threatens the welfare of the common good and is a potentially addictive behavior. Though there is some justification for each of these arguments, are they really applicable to a school fundraiser?

Certainly a prize of great worth will elicit a desire for possession. That's precisely the point. In fact, that is the point of competition in general, isn't it? To win? And how is an investment in a raffle poor stewardship if the participants know what they are doing? One doesn't really expect to win a raffle. They merely hope to.

The money given is really more of a donation than anything, and when seen as such, should not be considered a poor investment. A raffle would only serve to benefit the welfare of a particular community, and offers an undeserved reward in the process. One might as easily argue that raffles are a metaphor for unmerited grace, depending on how far you can stretch a metaphor.

All of this conjecturing serves only to get you thinking about why we, as a church, a school, a body or as individuals hold and enforce the policies we do. Do we have a good reason, or are we merely doing what has always been done? Maybe it's time to go back to the drawing board on our moral codes instead of our fundraisers.

# Overwhelmingly bad news

BY SARA JANZEN

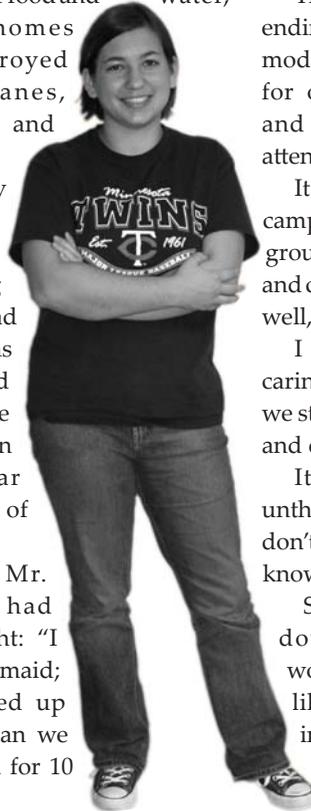
In the words of John Lennon, "I read the news today...oh boy."

Newspapers seem to be filled with one story of deprived and deprived humans after another.

Corrupt governments slaughtering their citizens, children in far-away countries dying from lack of proper food and water, people's homes being destroyed by hurricanes, earthquakes and tsunamis.

For only being 24 hours long, it's surprising how much bad stuff happens in a day, and thanks to the information age we hear about most of it.

I think Mr. Incredible had it about right: "I feel like the maid; I just cleaned up this mess! Can we keep it clean for 10 minutes?"



Every morning we're greeted with a new wave of bad news. We're expected to care, but the more we're informed the easier it becomes to dismiss tragedy as "the way things are."

So we start ad hoc groups and committees to cope with the world in which we live.

There are people committed to ending world hunger, abolishing modern slavery, collecting shoes for orphans, saving the planet, and they're all vying for your attention.

It can be hard on a Christian campus when handfuls of campus groups urge you to join their group and crusade for their cause because, well, you love Jesus, *don't you?*

I think it gets easier to stop caring the more we know because we start seeing a pattern of severity and corruption emerging.

It's like when you have an unthinkable pile of homework. You don't feel like starting because you know you won't finish in time.

Sometimes I think we feel downright daunted by the world's problems and don't feel like starting because it looks insurmountable.

But maybe it's an issue of perspective.

A few weeks back I was reading the magazine "Relevant," and found an article written by Stephen Christian, the lead singer of one of my favorite bands, Anberlin. Christian wrote about a trip he took to India, into some of the darkest corners of Calcutta.

*For only being 24 hours long, it's surprising how much bad stuff happens in a day, and thanks to the information age we hear about most of it.*

The things he saw there moved him to question what he could accomplish against such established depravity, where immorality and injustice have become the norm.

He was answered by a humanitarian worker: "There is nothing I can do about what is happening tonight...My eyes are simply focused on what and whom I can change in the future."

Talk about perspective.

Yes, some days it looks like we're losing to the other side of famines, bombs, corrupt men in power, and torrential rain and wind but we can't let that get us down. We have to look ahead to a world that, if we work now, will be better.

# Waste not your time: fitting four years into four

BY KIMBERLY VAN WINKLE

For many college students, it has become the 'norm' to fit four years of college into five or more.

While certain programs demand additional education, those seeking a B.A. (and minimal debt) should take their education into their own hands from the start of their freshman year.

As someone who has transferred to three different colleges, I know a little bit about needing to keep on top of my education.

After taking two classes I didn't need freshman year, I knew it was time to make sure I was only taking classes I needed and not spending the money I didn't have on classes that wouldn't count.

*As difficult as it may be at times to want to do homework, it is to your benefit to perform the best you can in each class.*

Maintaining your schedule and double checking it with your advisor is a good way to ensure

you'll complete your education in four years.

This can be tricky if you're undecided in your major, but it is still important.

You can figure out which general education classes need to be completed before taking specialty courses.

Also, it usually proves useful to take a variety of classes to see where your strengths and weaknesses are.

As difficult as it sometimes may be to want to do homework, it is to your benefit to perform the best you can in each class—even to go above and beyond the

assignments to apply it to your personal life and the workplace.

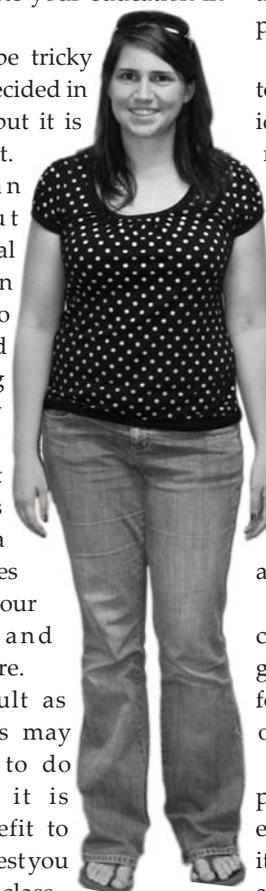
After all, you paid a lot of money to have those textbooks sit around idly, and professors only have so much class time to teach. This is part of why they assign the text, so you can continue learning outside of the classroom.

What good is an education if it isn't applied?

As a senior at Northwestern, I have found several sources of aid in helping me figure out how to use my education to establish a career. I'm part of a small group of fellow seniors who meet to discuss concerns we may have after graduation.

This is also where advisors come in handy—they can offer you guidance concerning where to look for jobs and what steps to take fresh out of college.

It is a lot of work and takes patience, but taking charge of your education will benefit you greatly; it has benefitted me and saved me almost an entire year of additional classes.



Northwestern College

## BEACON

THE BEACON is the student newspaper serving the campus community of Northwestern College. Published weekly and distributed Friday noon, The Beacon encourages comments from readers. All letters must be 300 words or less, signed with a phone number, and turned in to the Beacon office located in the basement of Granberg Hall by Wednesday at 6 p.m. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters. To obtain a subscription, please send \$10 to address below.

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# Caution: Face-melting and rocking ahead

BY LELAND STOVER  
STAFF WRITER

A sweaty mob exits the Hub. They try to talk but their voices are hoarse, saying in raspy tones "That was awesome" and "I love those guys." Still in the Hub, a lingering crowd yells for one more song, gathering in the space in front of the stage filled with speakers and instruments. Now it becomes apparent, faces have just been rocked off.

Cadence to Arms shook the Hub last Friday, Sept. 12. The concert had its share of moshing and screaming, but had some contemplative instrumentals as well. There was also no shortage of patriotism as the band walked on stage to the Olympic theme song, donned in red, white, and blue, waving American flags as they jokingly just returned from China because they are the "official Olympic rock team." If they were the Olympic rock team, they would have competed for a medal. Cadence kept their crowd jumping, screaming, "putting their muscles up" and asking for more during the entire 45-minute show that included an encore.

Their music is hard to categorize but that doesn't matter to their audience. "I'd say we're hardcore rock. I don't know, we're lots of things" said vocalist Jared White. "We are just five guys who like to play music and entertain." Cadence, or "C2A" as their fans also call them, is made up of juniors Ben "Rafiki" Rasefske on drums, Jared White singing/screaming

the vocals, Phil Kosakowski on guitar and vocals, and seniors Tim Johnson on guitar and Josh Kuipers on bass and vocals.

The band has been together since last year and was formed after White, Rasefske, Kosakowski and Kuipers performed at 2007's Red Letter Festival, a fundraiser for "The Bridge," which included an all-day, multi-genre music concert, a silent and live art auction, poetry reading, a drama presentation, and more. "We had fun together, so the next fall we came back to school and started writing our own stuff," White recounts. After a member of the band left Northwestern, a new guitarist was needed so Tim was asked to join.

Cadence to Arms covers some popular, fun songs such as "Party Like A Rockstar" from the Shop Boyz, Kelly Clarkson's "Since You've Been Gone," and New Found Glory's "My Friend's Over You." But they also write their own music and even have a single, "Save the Ship," available on their MySpace page. "We write about life, relationships, and goals. We just want to love people as Christ loved us. We want to be real," said White.

Cadence to Arms has a performance coming up in Jefferson, Iowa at a battle of the bands on Saturday, Sept. 27 and will be melting more faces in Orange City during Oct. 5 and 12. Cadence can be found online at [myspace.com/cadencetoarmsnwc](http://myspace.com/cadencetoarmsnwc). The group also has a fan page on Facebook.



Cadence to Arms rocks out before a moshing crowd last Friday, Sept. 12 in the Hub.

PHOTOS BY KRISTI KORVER

## Another day at "The Office"

BY AMANDA WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

NBC's "The Office" has become the favorite since its debut in 2005. Sadly, the fourth season was cut short because of the writer's strike, but much is in store for the upcoming fifth season. With the Sept. 25 season premiere fast approaching I'm sure many of you are anticipating many more laugh filled chapters in the lives of the workers at Dunder Mifflin Paper Co. The hour long premier will be a little different from the previous. This season it will recap what the Dunder Mifflin employees did over the summer. The group will also be participating in a weight loss competition and Michael Scott will throw a baby shower for

his ex-girlfriend, Jan's, artificially inseminated baby.

With the new baby, Michael wants to be involved as much as possible and becomes somewhat of a surrogate father. Jan allows him to do this and we get to see her as a mother as well as Michael's attempts to be a dad.

A few new faces will show up this season. Amy Ryan will play the new Human Resources representative Holly Flax. This character was introduced at the end of the fourth season and will be showing up in at least five episodes. A guest appearance will be made by Rich Sommer, who is known for his role as an advertising executive on AMC's "Mad Men." He will be in one of Pam's classes in New York

as a flirty art student. No worries though, he won't pose a threat to Pam and Jim's relationship... well, only for the first episode.

Speaking of Jim and Pam, their ongoing love story will finally be resolved this season. It has not been said which way it will go, but I've heard there may be tears. Who knows if they will be tears of happiness or tears of sorrow. While Pam is away at school in New York she really enjoys the change of scenery. With the distance between her and Jim, they get plenty of phone time and are still very much connected. This is going to be a big season for Pam, you'll have to watch and see what is in store for her.

I'm sure the new season of "The Office" will be as hilarious and entertaining as the last four. It will continue to be an exceptionally funny show about life in an office. Anyone who has ever worked in that setting knows that there is some truth to the crazy and dramatic things that happen between cubicle walls. In a time of reality TV, "The Office" is refreshing; it offers much more than bug eating and rock climbing competitions. It's a fun and quirky show that has developed well and left America wanting more. Remember to tune in to NBC on Sept. 25 at 8 p.m. and get up to speed with America's favorite office.

## campus



### QUOTES

"So if you say 'Hi, How ya doing?' what you really mean is 'Hey, let's get it on!'"

- Professor Andres in Intro to Theology, about Freud.

"I don't want my professors to hear me use the bathroom!"

- Hannah Cornthwaite in reference to having to use the restroom during her HIS435 class.

"He must have been thinking, 'He's more attractive than Professor Durham!'"

- Professor Mead referring to himself as he explained the thoughts of the confused student who realized he was in the wrong classroom.

"Oh my gosh! Ontology! Metaphysics! I'm nude!"

- Professor Kugler on Aristotle running over the Athenian hills in the honors course on Evil.

Send your Campus Quotes, with context, to [beacon@nwciowa.edu](mailto:beacon@nwciowa.edu).

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# Family man finds home in the Heartland

BY ANNE EBERLINE  
STAFF WRITER

Patrick Hummel has taken over as the director of residence life, a position previously held by Eric Anderson. Technically, this job includes supervising and advising the resident directors and their staffs, handling housing and being a part of the disciplinary process. Hummel sees this as an opportunity to create a community within the residence life staff that will act as a model of Christian living for Northwestern students.

Hummel comes to NW with a wide range of experience. Since obtaining his bachelor's degree from Taylor University in 1994, he has worked at Anderson University and Calvin College in various residence life positions.

He also acquired a Master of Divinity degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts.

NW's community drew Hummel and his family to Iowa. "We do residence life a little differently," Hummel said. He agrees with the campus' emphasis on the ministry of residence life, the live-in model of Christian living NW strives toward.

Draped over his bookshelf is a brightly colored cloth from Ghana, a gift from one of his former R.A.s. This office decoration reflects Hummel's love of travel. He admitted that he will "go about anywhere. Nothing seems boring." He has spent time in Europe, Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

His other favorite free-time activities are spending time with his family and playing basketball. Hummel has been married to his wife Julie for 14 years. They have four children, the youngest only five weeks old. "I love my family, love being a dad," said Hummel.

He also enjoys basketball because it presents the chance to meet new people.

Hummel was quick to state that his favorite part of being at NW thus far is Heartland Strategy, a team board game found in many dorm rooms. He has become hooked on the local favorite. He enjoys the way the game displays how much his staff enjoys being together. "It's symbolic of the community and the relationships that are forming."



PHOTO BY JENNI SYBESMA

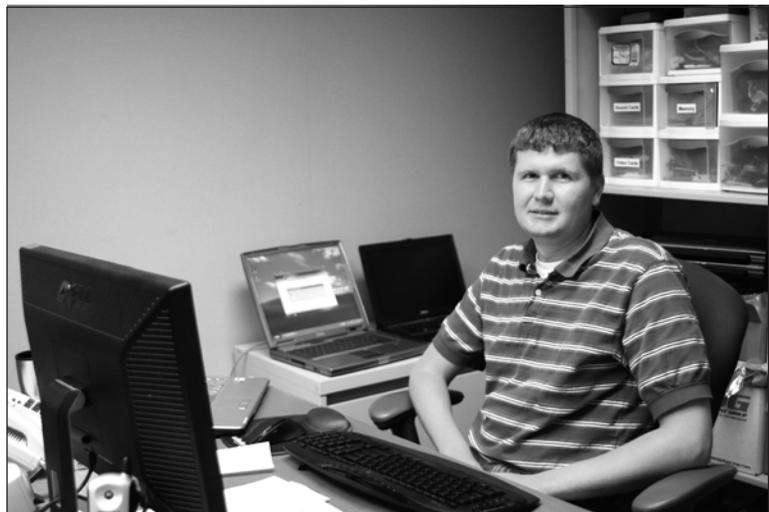


PHOTO BY JENNI SYBESMA

## Orange City native continues to offer his computing services

BY KRISTEN KOOIMA  
STAFF WRITER

Michael Dykstra grew up in Orange City, Iowa, and attended MOC-Floyd Valley before going on to Northwestern. While attending NW, Dykstra had a workstudy job with Computing Services for three years. Upon graduating with a degree in business administration he was offered and accepted a job in NW's computing services office.

Dykstra loves computers. He feels no two computers that come in are the same. There are new challenges not only every day, but with every new question that comes in with every computer. On the outside, computers do not look different from each other, but with the many viruses and components, new problems occur all the time.

Dykstra loves taking on those challenges. Technology is always moving forward and that is an exciting aspect of his job, which consists of doing computer support for the faculty, staff and students. He fixes not only the hardware, but also the software in computers.

Currently things are not extremely busy in the computing department, but just a few weeks ago it was a different story. Dykstra and the rest of the computing staff kept busy with the constant flow of computers as students came back to school. There were also many kinks in the system as the new academic year began.

Although he is new and his office is kind of sparse, Dykstra has one drawer that he is particularly fond of. This drawer is his food drawer. Whenever he needs a little pick-me-up during the day, he just opens his drawer and grabs a quick snack.

Computers are not Dykstra's whole life. When he is not working on computers he enjoys camping and biking. He is also a proud member of the Orange City Fire Department.

Dykstra offers some advice to students—"Use the tutorials provided." According to him, it would save Computing Services a lot of time and make their job a lot easier.

## Van Gelder: small workspace, big heart

BY LEANN JOHNSON  
STAFF WRITER

Several things can be noted about Natalee Van Gelder immediately after stepping into her new office in Northwestern's Academic Support Center. Her various photos hanging on the wall show the things she loves in life, and she maintains a tidy, organized desk. The office may seem a bit small and tucked away, but Van Gelder is thankful that it gives her the confidentiality she needs when working with students.

Van Gelder recently began her position as NW's Learning Disabilities Service Provider. She advocates for students with disabilities and helps supply accommodations such as arranging tutorials, reading tests and helping students with note-taking. Her

desire is to help high school students with disabilities transition into college and life after college.

Van Gelder's desire for this type of work sprang from work experience she had with disabled students in college. Van Gelder discovered that she just "seemed to click" with the students.

Van Gelder obtained a bachelor's degree in education and special education from the University of Northern Iowa after graduating from MOC-Floyd Valley High School. Next, she received her master's degree in education, specializing in career and vocational programming and transition/behavioral disorders.

Then she and her husband Bryan, who works in Ramaker Library, moved to Tucson, Ariz.

and lived there for five years. Van Gelder fell in love with Arizona, as seen by the photographs of Arizona landscapes hanging in her office. "It's not all desert," she said.

Van Gelder's office is also decorated with various snapshots of her sons, Caden and Keeran, three years old and one year old, respectively.

Van Gelder applied for her current job after working as a stay-at-home mom for the last two years in Orange City. She felt God was telling her to try this position.

Van Gelder is very grateful for her job, the welcoming people here and even her small office. She is "looking forward to the future," and believes that "NW is doing good things," especially in regards to the ways it helps students with disabilities.



PHOTO BY JENNI SYBESMA

## NW alum continues the enduring legacy of academic support

BY SARA CURRY  
STAFF WRITER

While the Writing Center at Northwestern serves as a place of academic learning and communication between tutors and students, it also embodies the lifelong passion of the new director of academic support, Tom Truesdell.

An Iowa boy from birth, Truesdell grew up in Hospers and now calls Orange City home. After serving as the Writing Center coordinator last year, this year Truesdell replaced Patti Thayer after her nearly 30 years as the Director of Academic Support.

*"We want students to succeed and do well in their courses, but what we're most concerned about is improving their learning skills"*

- Tom Truesdell

Truesdell takes hold of this position with an extensive background in writing and academic support.

After graduating from NW in 2001, Truesdell moved to Chicago and worked two years in the writing center at DePaul University. He then worked another two years as the director of the writing center at the College of Lake County in Ill. Truesdell obtained a master's degree in writing at DePaul University before returning to NW as a writing professor in 2006.

This coming school year will mark his sixth year of leadership in a writing center program. As director, Truesdell aims to continue to support students with his experience and expertise in writing, while also helping students in all areas of academics to better realize their potential.

Truesdell's primary goal for the academic support program is to serve as a resource to promote independent learning on campus. "We want students to succeed and do well in their courses, but what we're most concerned about is improving their learning skills," he said.

Starting next summer Truesdell will begin a summers-only process

towards a Ph.D. in composition and T.E.S.L. at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. As for the present, Truesdell and his wife Elizabeth welcomed baby girl, Ava, into their family on July 1. Ava joined

forces with her three-year-old brother Aiden, and together they keep the Truesdell household on its toes.

Along with directing the academic support program

and serving as a full-time dad, Truesdell also, "really, really, really hopes the Cubs make it to the World Series this year."



PHOTO BY JENNI SYBESMA

## Mathew: a resident director called to love

BY RACHEL RIETSEMA  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

With just a few clicks of her mouse, the course of Sunita Mathew's life turned. Upon reading the colorful comments in the blogs of Northwestern's resident directors, Mathew knew this place was unique. After two successful interviews with NW, she was hired as the new resident director of Stegenga Hall.

*"I applied and it was like bam, bam, bam. I had the job. They could have found someone in the States, but God must have really wanted me here."*

- Sunita Mathew

Before getting too excited, Mathew needed to get special permission to work in the U.S. As a Canadian citizen, the odds were not in her favor. The U.S. only grants access for certain professionals, which usually don't include resident directors. Fortunately, an exception was made.

"I applied and it was like bam, bam, bam. I had the job," she said. "They could have found someone in the States, but God must have really wanted me here."

Mathew's master's degree from Providence Theological Seminary

has a long title. She earned her Master of Arts in educational ministries majoring in student development, which includes a counseling track. The long job description is accompanied by a simple premise—getting the most contact with students possible.

She believes her purpose at NW is to make sure the students feel loved.

"During my own college experience, it was like a family because I felt so safe," she said. "I want very badly to give that to the students in this dorm."

With all these recent changes, one thing has remained constant—her relationship with God. Trusting in God has become an even bigger part of Mathew's life. She tells God quite simply, "You put me where you want me to be."

As far as how long he wants her at NW, she doesn't know. "I came in here thinking what happens, happens," she said. "However long God wants me to be here, I'll stay."

She said that having contact with all the wonderful R.D.s and friendly students has made way for an easy adjustment. She already loves being here.

Mathew thanks God for leading her to NW's website.

"I feel like he put me in a place where I can love a lot of people," she said. "You can grow anywhere, but I just see that being here, God can definitely use me and help me grow as a person myself, which is really exciting."



PHOTO BY JENNI SYBESMA

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## Northwestern falls to Morningside in heartbreaker at home opener

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Red Raiders' football team was defeated by Morningside on Saturday, 26-21, in a battle of nationally-ranked teams. Seventh-ranked Morningside improves to 2-0, while Northwestern, ranked 13th, drops to 1-1.

Both teams remained scoreless after the first quarter of play. In the second quarter, the Mustangs made field goals on three of their first four offensive possessions, giving them a 9-0 lead. Late in the second quarter, senior Nate Jansen forced a Mustang fumble that was recovered by sophomore Jordan Te Grootenhuis on the visitor's two-yard line. With just under a minute left in the half, sophomore Taylor Malm scored and freshman Mike O'Brien made the extra point to put the Raiders down 9-7 at halftime.

NW came ready to play in the second half and scored on their first drive with a two-yard pass by junior Cary Overholt to senior Seth Moen. O'Brien again scored the extra point to put the Raiders up 14-9. However, the Mustangs came back on their next possession with a four-play drive to score and take the lead again, 16-14.

NW was then forced to punt,

which was blocked by Morningside and recovered at the 13-yard line. The Mustangs kicked a 25-yard field goal three plays later to extend their lead to 19-14.

Halfway through the fourth quarter, Morningside scored again, giving them a 26-14 lead. The Raiders responded quickly by scoring on a touchdown of their own on their next possession. Overholt threw a 10-yard touchdown pass caught by junior Reed Van Hulzen with just over five minutes left of play, and O'Brien kicked the extrapoint to narrow the Mustangs lead to 26-21. Morningside was then able to get two first downs and ran the clock out to hold on for the win.

The Raiders had 193 offensive yards in the loss, 81 passing and 112 on the ground. Malm had nine carries for 55 yards and one touchdown. Overholt completed seven of 18 pass

attempts, two for touchdowns. Van Hulzen had five catches and a touchdown and senior Tyler Meekma had three catches.



Freshman Ben Aguilera assists sophomore Caleb Van Otterloo in sacking the Morningside quarterback. The Raiders fell 26-21 to the seventh-ranked Mustangs. PHOTO BY JENNI SYBESMA



The men of West Hall finished their Toga Toga Extravaganza Saturday by enthusiastically supporting the football team. PHOTO BY JENNI SYBESMA

Jansen and junior Grant Hegstad each had 10 total tackles to lead the NW defense. Jansen had five solo and 10 assisted tackles along with forcing a fumble. Hegstad had four solo and 12 assisted tackles. Sophomores Austin Rozeboom and Caleb Blauwet

recorded nine and 7.5 tackles, respectively. Sophomores Caleb Van Otterloo and Jon Gerber each added six tackles.

Next week, the Raiders will travel to Lincoln, Neb., to take on Nebraska Wesleyan at 6 pm.

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## Volleyball defeats St. Mary's 3-0, goes 2-2 in Graceland Tournament

BY BETH MOUW  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After splitting a four-match tournament weekend and grabbing a victory over St. Mary's College on Wednesday evening, the Northwestern women's volleyball team now stand upon a 10-3 overall record. They remain at 2-0 in the GPAC and dropped to ninth place in the latest NAIA poll.

### NW 3, St. Mary's 0

The Red Raider volleyball team claimed a decisive three-game win over St. Mary's on Wednesday, with game scores of 25-13, 25-22 and 25-15.

NW tied a season best nine ace serves and hit .230. Junior Randa Hulstein led the Raiders with 10 blocks and two kills. Sophomore

Kaitlin Beaver added eight kills, five digs and three ace serves. Freshman Rylee Hulstein and sophomore Hillary Hanno recorded seven and six kills, respectively. Junior Rachel Gosselink went a perfect 11-of-11 serving and contributed 30 assists and 12 digs. Junior Janna Bloemendaal added eight digs.

### Graceland Tournament

The Raiders had a victorious Friday at the Graceland Tournament, which was held in Lamoni, Iowa, snagging 3-1 victories over both William Penn and Missouri Baptist. Half of the teams present at the tournament were ranked in last week's NAIA poll. Two Raider women, Randa Hulstein and Hanno, earned all-tournament

honors at the 14-team invite for their overall play at the net.

### NW 3, William Penn 1

After defeating the William Penn Statesmen 25-21 in the first game of the day, the Raider women dropped the next game 21-25. They rallied back, however, winning game three 25-17, then claimed the final game with a resounding 25-9 victory.

Beaver and freshman Kate Buyert led NW with 12 kills apiece, while Rylee Hulstein added 11. Gosselink lofted up 42 assists while Bloemendaal led the team with 19 digs.

### NW 3, Missouri Baptist 1

The second match of the day began roughly for the Raiders, who dropped the first game 20-25

to Missouri Baptist. They pulled back once more, though, and took the next three games decidedly, winning 25-17, 25-22 and 25-12.

### NW 1, Lindenwood 3

Saturday was not as favorable for the NW women. In their first match-up against Lindenwood, the Raiders started off strongly, grabbing an exciting 25-16 victory. Game two saw a real battle of wills as the NW women dropped the contest 25-27, then dropped the next two 20-25 and 22-25.

Beaver once again led the Raiders with 15 kills, while Randa Hulstein and Hanno put down 13 and 12, respectively. Gosselink boasted a season-high 46 assists while teammate Bloemendaal contributed 22 digs.

### NW 1, Indiana Wesleyan 3

The final match-up of the tournament was also a disappointment for NW, who lost 1-3 to Indiana Wesleyan. After losing the first two games 20-25 and 22-25, the Raider women managed to take back game three with a 25-20 victory, only to drop the next one 20-25.

Randa Hulstein and Hanno paved the way at the net, leading the Raiders with 16 and 14 kills, respectively. Rylee Hulstein chipped in with 10 kills while Beaver and Gosselink lofted up 29 and 16 assists.

The NW women travel to Vermillion, S.D. Tuesday to take on the University of South Dakota. The game is set to begin at 7 p.m.

## Women's soccer shines against tough competition

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Red Raider women's soccer team claimed two victories this week against NCAA Division II Upper Iowa and defending GPAC champion Morningside. The Raiders improve to 3-3 overall, 1-0 in GPAC conference play.

### NW 2, Morningside 1

Northwestern handed Morningside their first loss since 2006, winning 2-1 on Wednesday afternoon. "We were the definite underdog," said junior forward Becca Bruns, "but that proved to be in our favor, as Morningside came out flat and not ready for the intensity we brought."

The Mustangs scored the first goal in the 18th minute of play. Neither team scored again until the 40th minute when sophomore Becca Hurley scored an unassisted goal. Hurley again found the net with 12 minutes remaining to bring the final score to 2-1.

"Our team hasn't won against Morningside in the four years I have been playing here at NW," commented senior Serah Bugler. "It feels amazing to finally come away with a win."

The Raiders had six shots, three by Hurley. Sophomore goalkeeper Wendy Hofmeyer, who subbed in for injured junior Kelley Salem, had three saves. Bugler and sophomores Amanda Mihaly and Katy Phillips each had one shot for NW.

### NW 3, Upper Iowa 2

The Raiders took on their third-straight NCAA Division II team last Saturday and came out on top.

Phillips found Bugler in the seventh minute of play, and Bugler netted the first goal of the game. Hurley then stole the ball and made a break away goal to give NW a 2-0 halftime lead.

In the second half, Mihaly scored the third goal for the

Raiders on an assist by Hurley. Upper Iowa fought back, however, and scored twice within six minutes, but NW held on for a 3-2 victory.

Upper Iowa outshot the Raiders 28-8, but goalkeeper Hofmeyer "played an awesome game in less than perfect conditions," said Bruns. Hofmeyer allowed only two goals and had an impressive 12 saves compared to Upper Iowa's four.

"I am really proud of the way our team has played the last two games," Bugler reflected. "We have been working together really well and that helped us beat two great teams."

Salem said, "Our excitement and intensity will carry over to Saturday as we take on Hastings." NW opens their home season at 5 p.m. on Saturday against the Broncos.

## Women's golf begins GPAC qualifier

BY HEIDI HILDEBRANDT  
SPORTS EDITOR

The women's golf team traveled to the Whispering Creek Golf Club in Sioux City, IA, on Monday to compete in the first round of the GPAC Qualifier Tournament. The Red Raiders are currently in fourth place out of the 11 conference teams with a 363. Dakota Wesleyan is leading the field with 329 and USF, the defending GPAC champion is in second with 347. Briar Cliff shot a 360 to gain a narrow lead

over Northwestern, as they hold second place.

Sophomore Maggie Acherhof is currently tied for ninth place with a score of 87. Senior Kara Ritchie is in 12th place with an 88. Seniors Kelsey Shiflett and Carrie Spree both shot a 94 to hold the 27th spot, and junior Rachele Pedersen is tied for 40th place with a score of 100.

The Raiders will play in the second round of the GPAC tournament next Thursday in Hastings, Neb.

## Men's soccer wins in double overtime

BY CAMERON CARLOW  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Northwestern men's soccer team moved to 1-0 in GPAC conference play on Wednesday night with a double overtime victory over Morningside.

The Raiders entered the game coming off a 0-1 loss at Upper Iowa on Sept. 13.

"[Upper Iowa] was a game that we should have won," said head coach Dan Swier, "but it was a good lesson for us on being mentally prepared to play at our highest level every single game."

NW rebounded after the loss and overtook Morningside by a score of 3-2. Junior Aaron O'Brien led the team with eight shots, two of them for goals and one being the game winner. Sophomore Mike Cookson also added a goal for the Raiders along with having the game winning assist to O'Brien. Senior Caleb Tilstra also had the assist to O'Brien's goal early in the second half that put NW ahead 2-1.

The Raiders next big test will come against rival Hastings College in the first home game on Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

"We have never started out

ranked in the top 25. USF is ranked second, Morningside is sixth and Midland Lutheran is 25th. Doane, Dakota Wesleyan and Hastings also received votes. Carroll College again held the top spot in this week's poll.

### Gosselink is GPAC Setter-of-the Week

Junior Rachel Gosselink earned Setter of the Week honors for her play in the Graceland Tournament and the Morningside game. The Raiders went 3-2 in those games. Gosselink had an average of 9.9 assists per game, including 47 assists in the Morningside match. She also had 2.4 digs per game, served 94 percent and had three ace serves during the week.

## Sports Shorts

### Achterhof named GPAC-Golfer of-the-Week

Sophomore Maggie Achterhof was named GPAC Golfer of the Week last week for her play at the Iowa Western Invitational, where she earned second place. She shot a 42 on the front nine and a 38 on the back for a total score of 80. Achterhof led the Raiders, who carded a 348, to a first place finish, four shots ahead of second place Iowa Western CC.

### Football drops to 14th in NAIA poll

The Northwestern football team fell one spot in this week's NAIA national rankings. The Red Raiders were defeated by Morningside last weekend to bring their record to 1-1. Three other GPAC schools were

conference play against two top five GPAC teams like we will this year," said Swier. "It's my hope that the guys are prepared to do what it takes to win."

Hastings enters the game ranked number one in the GPAC and number 21 in the NAIA national rankings. Both teams will be looking to improve their 3-3 records to stay above .500 on the season thus far.

"It should be a great atmosphere," said Swier. "I encourage everyone who is even remotely interested in the game of soccer to come out and watch this game."

# Hearing Blizzard Voices: Honor students attend oratorio

BY TEDI SWANSON  
STAFF WRITER

It was on a warm day in 1888 that the Great Plains Blizzard caught the people of the Midwest unexpectedly. Also known as the Schoolhouse Blizzard, this atrocity has become the study of many individuals, including a group of Northwestern Honors students this semester.

"I was intrigued by this seminar because I thought it would be very insightful to discuss how God works through disasters," said Kayse Thornton, a junior in the seminar.

Not only has the class discussed the ways that God worked through this disaster, they also experienced it through a book of poems entitled "The Blizzard Voices." Written by Pulitzer prize-winner Ted Kooser, the book reflects on memories of those who experienced the Blizzard.

Through this, the class has been able to gain some insight about the blizzard and discuss a disaster that many of them had never heard of before. After reading the poetry, they had the wonderful

opportunity to meet with Ted Kooser after experiencing his work on the catastrophe. From this, the class was able to learn about the man behind the work they were reading and gain some insight into Kooser's creations.

"Beautiful art so often comes out of beautiful living. Not always, but quite often.

And Ted seems to be such a case. An example of a long and faithful life of disciplined artistry," said Jeff Barker, a co-leader of the course.

Although the poetry alone was powerful, the honors students were also able to discuss the ways literature and music effect the way we perceive an event. The class was able to attend a poetry reading of winners of a historical poetry-writing contest. At this reading, musicians turned the winning poems into a song of their own creation.

Eighteen eighty-eight, a Thursday,  
the twelfth of January:  
It had been warm all morning,  
with a soft, southerly breeze  
melting the snowdrifts back  
from the roads. There were bobwhite  
and prairie chickens out  
pecking for grit in the wheel-ruts.  
On lines near shacks and soddies,  
women were airing their bedding—  
bright quilts that flapped and billowed,  
ticks sodden as thunderheads.  
In the muddy schoolyards, children  
were rolling the wet gray snow  
into men, into fortresses,  
laughing and splashing about  
in their shirtsleeves. Their teachers  
stood in the doorways and watched.

Odd weather for January;  
a low line of clouds in the north;  
too warm, too easy. And the air  
filled with electricity;  
an iron poker held up  
close to a stovepipe would spark,  
and a comb drawn through the hair  
would crackle. One woman said  
she'd had to use a stick of wood  
to open her oven door.

Excerpt from "The Blizzard Voices"

Photos courtesy of Google images



# Building a better banana

BY JENNA BOOTE  
NEWS EDITOR

Good news, Northwestern: bananas are back. But for how long?

Some may recall the crisis this yellow dietary staple found itself in last year, as widespread disease had scientists forecasting its extinction. NW students felt the impact in a tangible way when bananas ceased to appear in the cafeteria.

Eaten more than any other variety of fresh fruit, Americans consume 26.2 pounds of bananas per person, per year. But according to botanists, the banana we know and love have only five to ten years left to live.

According to botanists, the problem facing bananas is their genetic purity. With no resistant varieties, one disease on a solitary plantation could wipe out banana trees across the planet and leave grocery stores (and college cafeterias) void of America's most popular fruit.

Bananas have already skimmed by one bout with extinction. Banana growers in the 1920's failed to react

when a fungus called Panama disease swept through plantations. As a result, the Gros Michel banana, the type of fruit most common at the turn of the century, is now obsolete. Environmental disasters and bankruptcy ensued; even popular culture reflects the crisis in the well-known 1923 musical hit, "Yes! We Have No Bananas."

Today students are peeling Cavendish bananas—chosen by growers for their resistance to Panama disease. And in

options: forego their favorite fruit, or accept science's intervention and spend the rest of their life munching bioengineered bananas.

Says scientist Rony Swennen, "There's almost no choice," he says. "We need resistant bananas."

Swennen also points out the consequences banana extinction might have on many densely-populated African countries, where bananas serve as the primary nutrition source, accounting for near-total carbohydrate consumption in some diets. In fact, in Swahili, the word for food, "matooke," translates as "banana." According to Swennen, 20 million people would face "massive destabilization" without bananas.

Scientists are now scrambling to create a disease resistant variety, but the few hybrids they have managed to create either taste much different or ripen too quickly.

Because none of the new bananas taste similar to the Cavendish bananas we snack on today, importers worry that consumers will reject a replacement that isn't creamy and sweet. New bananas could be equal, but they will not taste the same.

the past few months, the scenario has repeated itself as new diseases rip through Cavendish plantations across the globe.

The quest to save the fruit raises a variety of ethical and environmental issues. Many scientists believe that the serious problems facing bananas leave global shoppers with only two

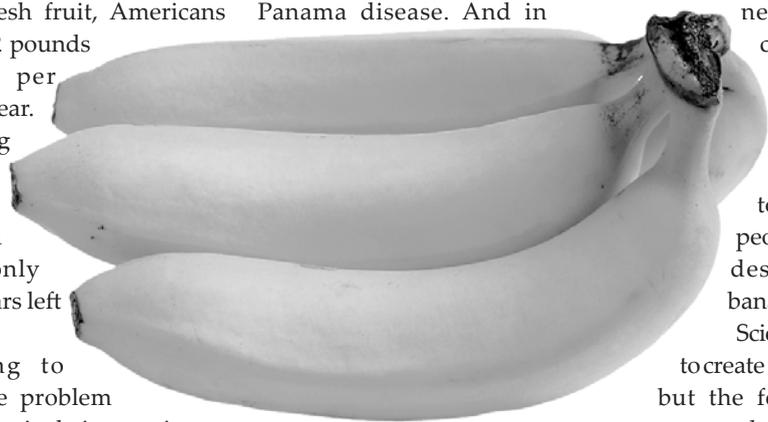


PHOTO BY JENNI SYBESMA  
A.G. Silver rocked the chapel Friday night and raised money to bring clean water to Africa. Stainless steel show souvenirs can be spotted around campus.

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