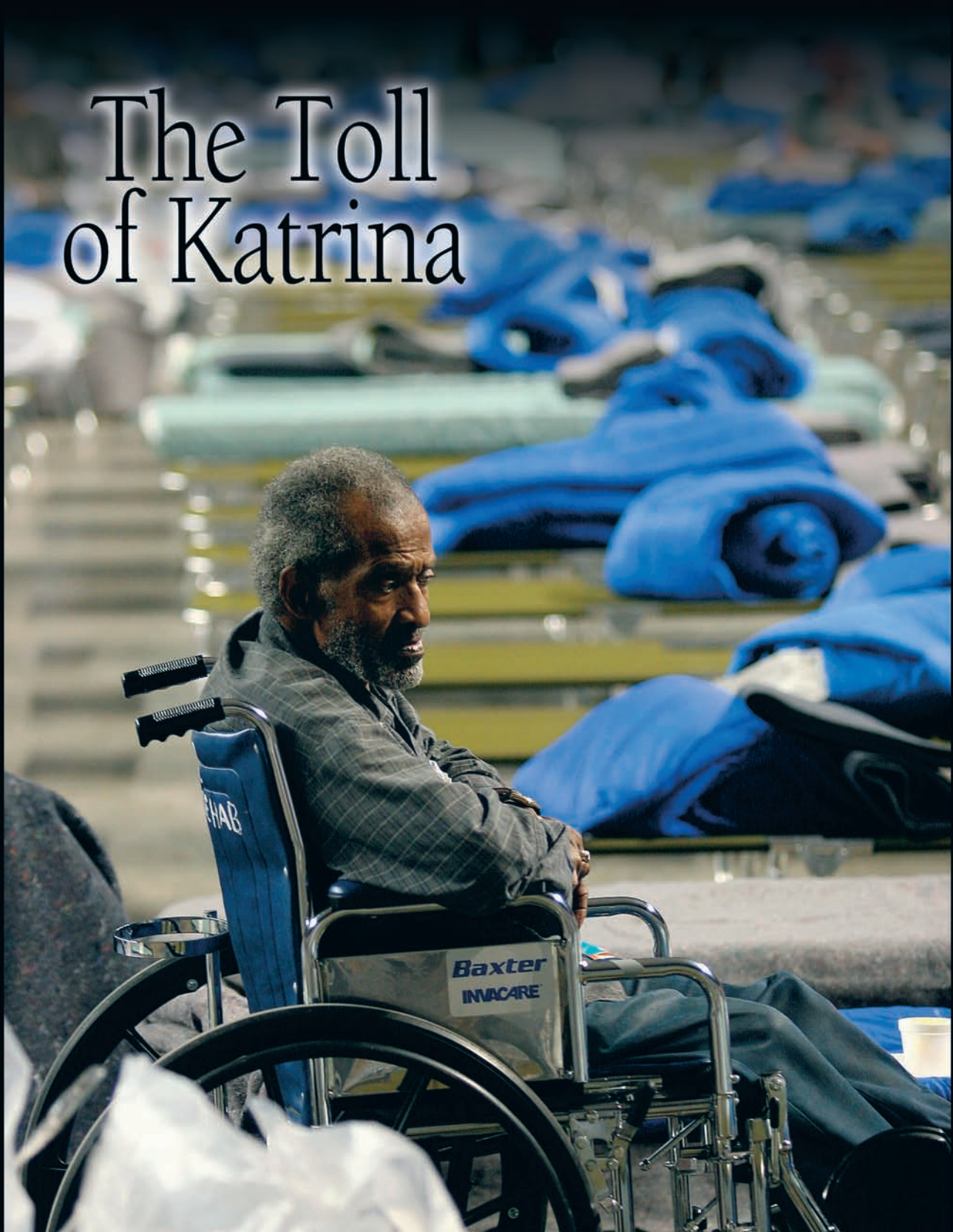


# CLASSIC

A publication for Northwestern College alumni & friends • Winter 2005-06

## The Toll of Katrina





Dr. Bruce Murphy  
President

## Growing by Going— and by Staying

The note was on the door when I returned from lunch. “A group of students needs to see you as soon as possible. They are from one of our religion classes and seem quite agitated.”

You can imagine the thoughts that went through my mind. But before I had time to become too concerned, there they were bursting into the office, two young women explaining that more students wanted to come but had another class to attend.

It didn't take long to learn that the students loved the class. Ironically, that was part of the problem. What they had been discussing that day had affected them, and they simply had to do something about it. As I listened to their comments, I identified with the issues that brought them to my office. What troubled the students had troubled me throughout my life.

The students' class was on Christian mission. That morning they had been talking about the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and the appropriate Christian response. They had come to me to ask about the college's response, but even more to explore the tension they felt as students reading books and discussing ideas when people all over the world were in great need right now!

“Doesn't Christian compassion compel comfortable Christians to go and make a difference? College is wonderful, but not when people are dying for lack of help. Won't I learn more by being where the action is?”

We had a good discussion. I have continued to think about their hearts and their minds since, as similar conversations have sprung up all over campus this fall.

I believe God does call people to leave what they are doing and go right now to meet a need. Remember the fishermen leaving their nets. We need to be genuinely open to that possibility when “Katrinas” happen. And the truth is most of us aren't. We are eager to find a good reason not to leave where we are and what we are doing.

But Jesus did not call *all* fishermen to leave their nets. The questions we all need to answer in the face of great immediate need are: Am I the right person to go, and is this the right time?

These are difficult, often complex questions. As we try to answer them, we can easily fall victim to rationalization, inappropriate guilt, immature zeal or the paralysis of analysis.

So what do we do?

Several days after my meeting with the students from the religion class, another student stopped by. In the middle of a conversation on several topics she said, “I have thought about leaving campus this semester and going south to help, but I've decided I'm just not ready to make that decision. I am still learning about who I am and where God is calling me. But thinking about it has clarified why I am in college.”

Just days earlier, I had approved a request from one of our staff members to serve for a time as a counselor in New Orleans.

Some of us are called to go, and some of us are called to stay. But, I believe, all of us are called to keep learning and growing.

Whichever decision we make, our task as faithful Christians remains what was penned in a 1970 statement on the purpose of a Northwestern education: “to think critically, to understand ourselves and our world, to analyze and synthesize, to make wise decisions, to evaluate, to appreciate, to empathize, to articulate and in general to become conscious of our own personal Christian interpretation of life—and thereby better serve God and humanity in the church and the world.”

As you continue to lift up in prayer victims of the hurricanes and recent earthquakes, please pray also for these two groups of *servant learners* within the Northwestern family: those called to go—now—and those called to stay—for now.

*Bruce Murphy*

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*“I believe God does call people to leave what they are doing and go right now to meet a need. Remember the fishermen leaving their nets. We need to be genuinely open to that possibility when ‘Katrinas’ happen. And the truth is most of us aren't. We are eager to find a good reason not to leave where we are and what we are doing.”*

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Cover photo: Hurricane Katrina evacuee Joseph LaCoste of New Orleans rests at an evacuation center inside Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Phoenix on Sept. 5.

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## NWC receives positive feedback from accreditation visit

Expect good news. That's the feedback Northwestern received in November at the end of a comprehensive accreditation visit by evaluators from The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Although Northwestern won't receive the commission's formal report regarding reaccreditation until February, college officials were given very positive unofficial comments from the team. In a verbal preliminary report, the visitors listed nine strengths, including a strong sense of mission throughout all levels of the college and an "extraordinary" ability for people to articulate it, sound financial management, and strong facilities and technology.

The evaluators asked Northwestern to work on three areas over the next decade: strategic planning, retention planning and evaluation, and diversity in senior management.

## Board affirms plans for learning commons

Northwestern took another step toward its next major building project at the October Board of Trustees meeting when trustees affirmed their desire to move forward with a \$30 million capital campaign.

The campaign's centerpiece will be a new learning commons, which will include a library and archives, computing services center, writing center, classrooms, auditorium, prayer room and coffee shop.

Architects have been working on the facility's design development phase

since April. The 74,000-square-foot facility has an estimated cost of \$19.8 million.

"There is enthusiastic support among board members for this project," says President Bruce Murphy, "because they understand it's critical to fulfilling Northwestern's mission of integrating faith and learning. The building will be a link to both our heritage and our future, with the traditional aspects of the library connecting us to the roots of our past while the technology opens us up to the knowledge of the future."



Tony Wrice and others with Turn Around America wear hardhats when they march to push drug dealers out of inner-city neighborhoods.

## Alum honored during Christian Higher Education Month

Tony Wrice '85 of Philadelphia is among 21 individuals who were honored during Christian Higher Education Month in October by the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU). Wrice and the other honorees, all alumni of Christian colleges, are featured in profiles at the CCCU website, [www.cccu.org/chem](http://www.cccu.org/chem).

This year's honorees included author and pastor Max Lucado, U.S. Rep. Roy Blunt of Missouri and Olympic decathlon silver medalist Bryan Clay. All were nominated by institutions in the 105-member CCCU.

Wrice directs Turn Around America (TAA), which helps crime prevention groups, law enforcement and neighborhood organizations across the country fight drug use in their communities.

Wrice, who majored in sociology and physical education and now serves as head track and cross country coach at Cheyney University, says his time at NWC was special. "I got the opportunity of a lifetime to see 'the light' come on in terms of how people view one another on a Christian level—people working together, respecting each other and wanting to see positive things happen in others' lives."

# Admissions website ranked among nation's best

Northwestern's admissions website has been ranked among the best in the country by the National Research Center for College & University Admissions (NRCCUA).

The NRCCUA's Enrollment Power Index gave Northwestern's site an A grade based on functionality, design and information provided to potential students. Only 130 colleges received an A out of more than 3,000 involved in the study.

"This is a well-deserved honor and a credit to the people who put our new website together," says Mark Bloemendaal, director of admissions.

Northwestern launched a new website, [www.nwciowa.edu](http://www.nwciowa.edu), in May. More than five times larger than the previous site, it includes student profiles for each academic department, numerous quotes from students and alumni, extensive information about academic programs, and front-page features that change frequently.

"The response we've gotten from prospective students and their parents is it's a very good site," says Bloemendaal. He adds that two-thirds of Northwestern's applications for admission are now submitted online.

The NWC site was developed under the leadership of Dan Robinson, web development manager, and Anita Cirulis and Tamara Fynaardt, associate directors of public relations.

The NRCCUA study examined 28 criteria, which included webpage design and ease of navigation, online access to admissions materials, and ability to contact the admissions office. The study was based on features identified as the most important by more than 100,000 college-bound students.



## Northwestern wins award from Chamber of Commerce

Northwestern was named the 2005 Large Business of the Year by the Orange City Chamber of Commerce in September. The chamber cited the college's economic impact through bringing thousands of students and visitors to town every year, the contributions college events offer to the community's quality of life, and the substantial campus improvements that have been made in recent years.

## More honors for theatre building

The Masonry Institute of Iowa honored Cannon Moss Brygger and Associates in September with an Award of Merit for its work on the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center. Earlier, the building received awards in competitions sponsored by two magazines: *College Planning and Management* and *American School and University*.

# Programming team wins at regional site

A team of two NWC students placed first among the 16 teams at the University of South Dakota site during the Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest in November.

John Calsbeek, a home-schooled high school student from Orange City who is taking classes at Northwestern, and Ben Kester, a freshman actuarial science and computer science major from Urbandale, Iowa, combined to solve three of the nine problems in the five-hour competition. They placed 33rd out of 182 teams among all the sites in the North Central region.

"John and Ben were fantastic," says Michael Wallinga, instructor in computer science. "They definitely have the

intelligence and ability to do well in a contest like this. I thought their age and inexperience might hold them back a little bit, but they were able to solve the problems and to code them in the necessary language without any errors. They solved all three of their problems on the first try, which was a key to their success."

The competition requires teams of two or three students, huddled around a single computer, to collaborate to deduce the requirements, design test beds and build software systems that solve complex, real-life problems. The winning team is the one that solves the most problems in the fewest attempts within the least amount of time.

## Faculty/staff news

**Karen Acker**, art, exhibited her three-dimensional sculptures at Northwestern and at Dordt this fall.

**Dr. Doug Anderson**, history, contributed to *Fluid Identities: Religion and Public Life in the Pacific Region*, which was printed recently. The book is part of The Religion by Region Series, a project of the Leonard Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life at Connecticut's Trinity College.

**Dr. Keith Anderson**, spiritual formation, led a student retreat and a mentoring seminar for church leaders at Illinois' Greenville College in September.

**Dr. Paul Bartlett**, kinesiology, presented a paper at the second international conference on Sport and Religion: An Inquiry Into Cultural Values, which was held at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., in October. He presented "Two Sides of a Coin: Applying the Ethics of Play and Work Theologies to Organized Sport Participation."

**Dr. Ruth Daumer**, nursing, presented "Healthy Heart Habits: Help for Teachers and Students" at a Des Moines conference for Lutheran Church Missouri Synod schoolteachers, administrators and clergy in October. She focused on recent research and biblical perspectives on physical, emotional and spiritual heart care for both students and teachers. Additionally, she served as a judge for the Sioux Valley Hospitals and Health System Quality Fair in Sioux Falls.

**Dr. Laird Edman**, psychology, presented a workshop entitled "Are They Ready Yet? Developmental Issues in Teaching Thinking" at the Society of Teaching Psychology conference in Atlanta this fall.

**Jill Fischer**, study abroad, spoke at the regional conference of NASFA: Association of International Educators in Des Moines in November. She and colleagues presented "A Broad View of the Field: Education Abroad in the Past, Present and Future."

**Dr. Michael Kensak**, English, presented a paper at the Southeastern Medieval Association meeting, held at Stetson University in Florida. He spoke on "What's the Matter With Chaucer: An Interdisciplinary Exploration of Form and Meaning." Kensak also had an article, "Losing (and Finding) Your Place in Chaucer's *Book of the Duchess*," published in "*Seyd in Forme and Reverence*": *Chaucerian Essays in Memory of Emerson Brown Jr.*

**Piet Koene**, Spanish, has been elected to a two-year term as vice president of the North American Christian Foreign Language Association. He will serve as program chair for the 2006 annual conference held in March.

**Deb Menning**, English, and students Chad Benson, Andrea Davis, Natalie Rieck and Rachel Yackey offered a session at the Iowa Council of Teachers of English conference in Cedar Rapids in October. The presentation, "Beyond the

Multigenre: Tales of Treasure Chests, Baseballs and Scrolls," featured unique interpretations the students did for Menning's Introduction to Literary Studies course.

An article by **Dr. Carl Vandermeulen**, English and communication studies, is included in a new book, *Power and Identity in the Creative Writing Classroom: The Authority Project*. His article is entitled "Double Binds and Stumbling Blocks in a Collaborative Poetry Writing Class."

**Anita Vogel**, library, gave a presentation on Northwestern's information literacy pilot project at the Information Literacy Forum on the campus of Des Moines Area Community College in June.

## Neuroscience is new career concentration



A new career concentration, neuroscience and persons, is excellent preparation for medical, graduate or professional training and for a variety of careers in neuroscience, the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries, and the mental health professions.

Students interested in studying the brain—and the mind—can add a new, interdisciplinary career concentration to their program of study: neuroscience and persons (NAPs). Northwestern's program is one of only a handful of such programs at undergraduate Christian colleges across the U.S.

NAPs, which includes courses in biology, chemistry, psychology, philosophy, computer science and religion, could be a specialization for majors in any of the natural or behavioral sciences. The curriculum was formulated by Dr. Ralph Davis, biology, a leading expert on roundworm neurobiology and a neuropharmacology researcher.

# Model Mom

## *Widowed mom inspires twin daughters*



Frances Meyer, shown with daughters Tami (left) and Tyann, was honored as the 2005 Parent of the Year during Fall Family Weekend in October.

### by Emily Hennager '06

As the mother of twins, Frances Meyer of Buffalo Center, Iowa, needed a sense of humor. Like the time five-year-old Tami spray-painted their old car. Instead of getting upset, Meyer laughed and encouraged Tami and Tyann's creativity and imagination in other ways, like building forts and baking cookies.

Now that her daughters are 21, Meyer still finds ways

to encourage them through notes in the mail, phone conversations, and by driving miles to watch their basketball games at Northwestern.

This constant support earned her Northwestern's 2005 Parent of the Year Award. She was honored at a brunch during Fall Family Weekend in October.

"She's my voice of reason," Tyann says of her mother. "I tend to get overwhelmed with the details of

life, but she says to take it one day at a time and do one thing at a time."

Meyer works in food service at the local high school and also as a dietary aide in a nursing home. Her encouragement and service extends to her local community as well. She notices families in need and lends a helping hand by cooking, cleaning or opening her home to them. She also teaches Sunday school at her

church and directs the children's Christmas program.

In addition to the twins, Meyer is the mother of three sons: Rick, 35; Brent, 34; and Scott, 29. Brent and his wife, Leigh, have two sons, Garrett and Caden.

Though the Meyer house is filled with laughter, it has known sadness as well. When Tami and Tyann were freshmen at Northwestern in the spring of 2003, their father, Gary, was diagnosed

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*“It was my faith in God that got me through, and the support of my family and church family. I couldn’t do it without trusting in a God who cares for us and is in control of everything.”*  
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with colon cancer and died two months later. Despite the pain of losing her husband, Meyer kept the family optimistic in the face of hardship and continually reminded them that God would see

them through.

“It was my faith in God that got me through,” she says, “and the support of my family and church family. I couldn’t do it without trusting in a God who cares for us and is in control of everything.”

In the months that followed, Tami and Tyann say their mother courageously adjusted to living alone, took on two jobs to help her daughters get through college, and reached out to support others who were hurting.

“Several of our high school friends have recently lost their dads, and my mom was there for them,” Tami says. “She knew how to comfort them, not just by what she said, but by being a

friend.”

The twins agree that their mother is a role model of the kind of woman they want to be.

“She has a quiet strength and a strong, unwavering faith,” Tyann says. “I’d like to carry on her peace, her selfless spirit and her ability to be there for others.”

In addition to playing basketball at Northwestern, Tami and Tyann co-lead the team Bible study and are active in the Kinesiology Klub. Tyann also works as a science tutor and a Junior Scholar. Both exercise science majors, they plan to pursue graduate school next year. Tami’s goal is personal training, and Tyann plans on studying physical therapy.

“I admire their faith and their work ethic,” Meyer says of her daughters. “I have lovely daughters. They are supportive, fun-loving, and have great personalities.”

Yet she always treats her daughters as individuals and remembers they need different kinds of encouragement.

“I tend to be too hard on myself,” Tyann says. “She tells me I don’t have to be perfect; I just have to do my best and what happens will happen.”

“I’m the opposite of her,” Tami says, pointing to her sister. “I’m not really a perfectionist. Mom says it’s OK, just to keep going and not give up. She’s my role model—my example.”



Harriet Brouwer says meeting the recipients of the scholarship named in memory of her husband, Arie, has been uplifting. “They are full of life and vitality; it’s been wonderful to see how important education is to them.”

## Legacy

Though Harriet (Korver ’52, ’54) and Arie Brouwer ’54 had different backgrounds, Northwestern was important to both. Six of Harriet’s siblings attended Northwestern, while Arie was the first from his family to graduate from high school and college.

Arie, who served for six years as general secretary of the Reformed Church in America and four years as general secretary of the National Council of Churches, always gave credit to NWC for his educational foundation. After he died, son Steve and his wife, Margaret, established the A.R. Brouwer Scholarship, awarded to a student who shares Arie’s commitment to Christian values and service.

“In this global economy, education is absolutely key,” says Steve. “It’s great to be in a position to help give students the tools they need for the 21st century.”

For information about establishing an endowed scholarship, contact Cornie Wassink, director of planned giving, 712-707-7109 or [cwassink@nwc-iowa.edu](mailto:cwassink@nwc-iowa.edu).



# The Two Lives of Jacob Khol



*Jacob Khol grew up in Sudan but had to leave the country after his father's death. Now he's studying at Northwestern—and planning to return to Sudan someday.*

*by Amy Scheer*

In the small village of Yeum, in southern Sudan, Jacob Duoth Khol '08 would waken with a sense of adventure. Bounding through his mud and thatch house, past the bountiful banana and mango trees, the inquisitive child would run off to hike, hunt or swim in the Nile when he wasn't caring

for livestock on his father's farm.

It was a comfortable and contented life, he remembers, where nature provided all of his village's needs.

One day, a southern tribe invaded Yeum. They humiliated Khol's tribe, a proud, mostly Christian subset of the Nuer people. Among the most feared warriors in Sudan, Khol's people were unwilling to hand over their fruitful land and liveli-

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*“We are the type of people who would die to the last man before we run away. No one will enslave us.”*  
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hood to the attackers. They fought back.

Sudan, the largest country in Africa, has been embroiled in civil war for 40 of the past 50 years. Though primarily a religious conflict between the north and south, the fighting also happens among the southern people over land and cultural differences.

It's hard to say exactly when the invasion of Khol's village took place, as Sudanese mark time by events and the moon rather than a calendar year. When Khol was about five years old, around the time that his twin brother died from an illness, the battles began; his father, an elder in the tribe, was wounded and died.

“We are the type of people who would die to the last man before we run away. No one will enslave us,” says Khol. “Family is the thing we value most. Respect, honor, dignity—once you lose that, once that cycle is interrupted, you have to kill all of us or we'll kill you.”

When he was old enough to wonder, Khol asked his mother what happened to his father. She told

him three differing accounts—one of which that he was stabbed through the heart—because she did not want her son to avenge his father's death, as is traditional for his people to do.

Khol was kept away from most of the violence, though children his age would conduct a miniature battle of their own, flinging mud, corn husks and manure at each other in a serious attempt to earn the same respect their fathers were fighting for. The warfare he witnessed was “like seeing

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*“Every day I pray that God will continue to keep my mother alive and that I will see her again.”*  
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[the movie] *Braveheart*,” he says. At one point, he saw a spear fly through the air, take the shirt from his brother's back, and fall with it to the ground.

Because Khol's family lost the head of their household, they needed to pursue a new life. They left their land and livestock in the care of Khol's uncle and went to the bordering country of Ethiopia, where they lived in several refugee settlements and Khol and his siblings attended school.

After several years, Khol's sister, a teacher, received some forms to help find her a job in America. In 1998, when Khol was about 12 years old, he moved with his sister's family to Tampa, Fla. Along with the move came culture shock. He plugged his airplane earphones into a wall outlet and received a significant jolt. He pressed the “Meat” button on his microwave and was angry and embarrassed that no meat appeared.

“I was afraid of the atmosphere I was in. I couldn't understand anything at all,” says Khol, who at the time was fluent in two tribal languages but not English. “At school, I'd sit by myself. I was in shock; I didn't know what to do.”

Later, the family moved to Omaha, where a high school friend suggested that Khol apply to Northwestern. The small community atmosphere appealed to Khol, and he's been happy.

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*“I'm here for wisdom, knowledge, strategies, and I'm going to take them back.”*  
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A double major in political science and religion, he mostly keeps to himself, though he and his roommate from Alton, Iowa, often pur-

sue outdoor activities together. He rarely tells his stories of Sudan to others, though a “Life Journey” speech he gave in a class affected his classmates so profoundly they had to stop for a break.

Khol says it's hard to be away from his country and his people. His mother still lives in Ethiopia with two of his brothers, a sister and no phone.

“It's hard to hear on the news how people are dying in Sudan. I miss my mom every day. Every day I pray that God will continue to keep my mother alive and that I will see her again.”

Does he remember his father? “No.” Will he ever learn what happened to him? “I'll find out. Once I talk to my mom, face to face as a man, she will tell me.” And what will he do then? “I don't know.”

Meanwhile, he studies. Each day after a class, he spends an hour and a half reviewing what the professor said and planning a study schedule. He works diligently because he plans to return to Sudan someday.

“I'm gonna go back,” Khol says. “I'm here for wisdom, knowledge, strategies, and I'm going to take them back. I want to do something that will be very powerful for the whole country. Influence it so much that the impact will be great, and I will be remembered.”

# Meant to Be a Teacher



Vonda Post, formerly Northwestern's comptroller, loves accounting. But she found she loves teaching even more. Her position on the business faculty allows her to combine both of those passions.

by Sherrie Barber Willson '98

Vonda Post's whole life seems to have been leading to a teaching career. It just took her awhile to get on board with the idea.

Post was in high school when her mom suggested she'd make a great teacher. "I said, 'Teacher—yuck! I don't want to teach; that sounds horrible!'" Post recalls. "I couldn't imagine standing in front of people every day."

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*"She doesn't just teach us the mechanics; she teaches us how to use them and apply them."*  
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As a student at Northwestern, Post took a couple of education classes just to see what it was like, but again decided teaching wasn't for her. Then, fresh out of college, she was asked to fill in as a temporary professor at Northwestern for a year, and she finally accepted her fate.

“I just loved it,” she says. “Mom was right.”

Now in her 14th year as a full-time faculty member in business and economics, Post could not be happier with the twist her career path took. “I love accounting, and I love working with college students,” she says. “This has let me do both.”

## Path to the classroom

Aside from an accounting firm where she worked for a year in order to earn a certified public accountant (CPA) license (the standard terminal degree for an accountant), Post has had only one employer as an adult—NWC. She says the college has given her the chance to develop her skills as both an accountant and a teacher.

After graduating from Northwestern in 1988 with a double major in accounting and business economics, Post planned to wait until the following January, the start of tax season, to look for a job at a CPA firm. That’s when the life-changing offer from Northwestern came along.

She soon fell in love with teaching, but without an advanced degree, she couldn’t apply for the full-time position. So when a replacement was found, she focused on earning a master’s degree from the University of South Dakota.

Wayne Kooiker, vice president for financial affairs at the time, offered her the job of comptroller at Northwestern. She accepted and considers herself fortunate to

have had the opportunity to be mentored by Kooiker, “the greatest boss one could ever hope for,” as she describes him.

The job confirmed that she really loves being an accountant. “It’s just a fun job to me,” she says. “I love to sit and do tax returns; I love to do audits.”

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*“When I hear they think their education was good, or that their employer has compared them favorably with graduates of other colleges, that’s the most important thing to me—to know they’re where they need to be, education-wise, and they’re representing Northwestern well.”*

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But her heart was in teaching. After she had been in Northwestern’s business office for a year and a half, an accounting professor position opened up again. She applied and was hired for the 1992 spring semester.

“I’m convinced this is what I’m meant to be doing,” she says.

## Thinking like an accountant

There are many things Post loves about teaching at Northwestern: her colleagues, the Christian atmosphere, the integration of faith and learning. But by far her

favorite part is working with students.

“It keeps me young, being around them,” she says. “I especially love Northwestern students; they’re hard workers, polite, considerate, respectful—just great people to be around.”

When she first started teaching, Post says her goal was to cram as much into classes as possible. Now she’s come to realize that it’s better to give students a thorough understanding of accounting than to try to cover all of the material provided.

“I tell students my goal is to help them think like an accountant so I don’t have to teach them absolutely everything,” she says. “If I’ve done my job right, they should get to the point where they say, ‘This is how it should be done,’ because they’ve learned to think like an accountant.”

Post constantly works to use creative teaching methods so her classes are more than just lecture, problem-solving, lecture, test, repeat. She gives students projects and writing assignments that are practical applications of concepts to help them learn the material better—an approach they appreciate.

“She doesn’t just teach us the mechanics; she teaches us how to use them and apply them,” says senior accounting major Anita Boone. “She’ll teach us something, then say, ‘If you worked in this kind of situation, here’s how you’d apply this.’”

“A lot of the homework is questions from old CPA tests, so it’s very practical,

and she explains them so we understand them,” adds senior accounting major Austin Nyhof.

Post values this feedback and the positive comments she often receives from students after they graduate.

“When I hear they think their education was good, or that their employer has compared them favorably with graduates of other colleges, that’s the most important thing to me—to know they’re where they need to be, education-wise, and they’re representing Northwestern well,” she says.

## Beyond the numbers

Post has deep ties to both the area and the college: She grew up in Sanborn, just 30 miles from Orange City, and her husband, Steve ’86, is also from the area and attended Northwestern, where the two met. Their oldest daughter, Jessi, is now a freshman at NWC.

They have three other children: Veronica (Ronni), a high school sophomore; Mitchell, a fourth-grader; and Mason, a first-grader. One of Post’s favorite pastimes is going to her kids’ activities.

Post also stays busy with gardening, lawn work, camping, swimming and sports. A volleyball and track athlete while at Northwestern, she still loves to play volleyball and softball, and plans to continue “for as long as I’m able,” she says with a laugh.

# A Monument to Learning

*Northwestern's planned learning commons will replace outdated, cramped library*

by Tamara Fynaardt

With 24-hour Internet access available from nearly everywhere on today's campuses, are the places we go to read and research even necessary?

They must be—because the majority of college and university libraries are experiencing more traffic now than in decades past. Studies have proven that if a library is underutilized, it has more to do with the building than the prevalence of the World Wide Web.

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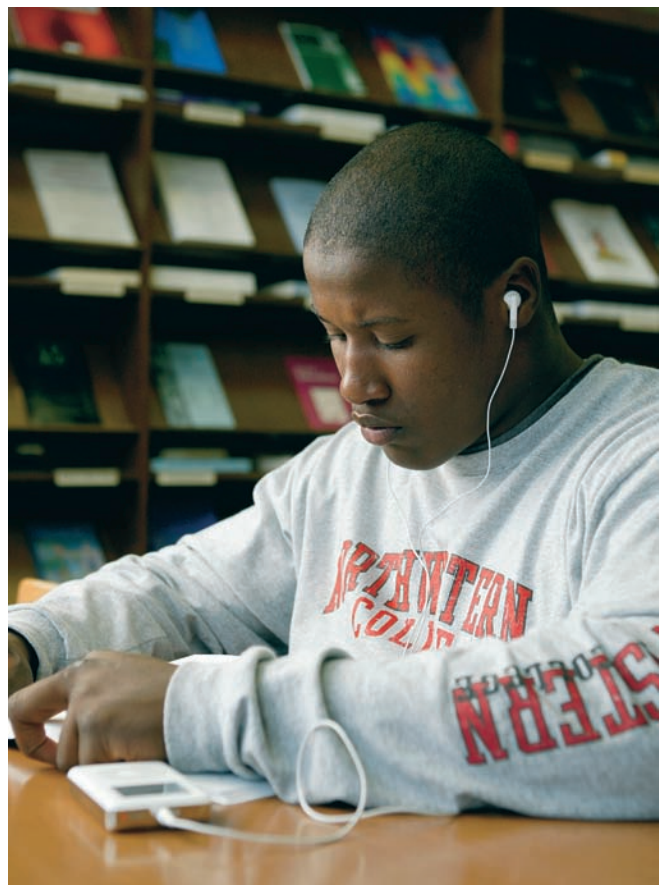
Harold Shill oversaw the planning and construction of a new library at Penn State Harrisburg in 1999. Shill, the university's library director, noted a marked increase in library traffic the year it opened and every year since.

Intrigued that the library

building remained such a popular destination—even in an age that seems increasingly dominated by electronic resources and remote access—he teamed with another university librarian to survey 180 institutions about their library building quality and usage.

Their report, cited in a Sept. 30, 2005, *Chronicle of Higher Education* article, lists a number of qualities and amenities that seem to ensure a library will be well-used: natural lighting, space for both quiet study and collaborative work, a pleasing aesthetic and ambiance, and ample computer and Internet access.

Based on the report, Shill also describes possible reasons for underutilization: "If a library is deserted, it's not necessarily because the Internet has taken over. It's more likely that the building itself is outdated, poorly lit,



*Students say one of the top needs of the new learning commons is to provide more places for quiet, reflective study.*



As an archivist/special collections librarian at Dartmouth College, Dan Daily helped plan their Rauner Special Collections Library. Now director of Ramaker Library, he hopes to expand Northwestern's archives so the college will be the place to study the history of Siouland.

underfinanced and depressing—say a 1960s relic that is less attractive than another place to study.”

\* \* \*

Northwestern College's Ramaker Library is definitely not deserted. Just the opposite.

Ramaker Library was built in 1963 to accommodate a student body of 600 to 700. At the time, it was a vast improvement over the cramped quarters for the 25,000-volume collection on the second floor of Zwemer Hall. The new library was built to eventually hold a collection of 100,000 books and 400 periodicals, and administrators estimated the build-

ing could serve the college adequately for about 20 years.

Today, more than 42



*“During busy times, like before midterms and finals, many students simply study elsewhere.”*



years later, Ramaker Library serves twice as many students and holds 120,000 volumes. An additional 8,000 volumes, recordings and films are housed in the Learning Resource Center and the education department's curriculum library. Ramaker has proven its func-

tionality and adaptability.

But these days, it's students who are doing the adapting as they contend with crowded stacks and study spaces and a shortage of computer ports.

A wireless network has circumvented the building's technological limitations and given students more freedom in how and where they research and write. In addition, students creatively adjust available spaces to their modern study habits and need to work collaboratively. They routinely use the children's library for group study and tutoring. And the Dutch Heritage Room has been equipped with technology that enables students to practice multimedia presen-

tations.

During busy times, like before midterms and finals, many students simply study elsewhere.

Daniel Daily became Northwestern's library director in 2003 after serving as a librarian at Duke University and Dartmouth College. He and Dr. John Brogan [formerly a religion professor, now the vice president for student development] spent last year leading a task force of faculty, staff and students to better understand how today's students learn and then to design a building to support those varied learning styles.

Daily and his team recommended a building that will be more than a library. They envisioned a building



Library Director Dan Daily says libraries today are “friendlier” and welcoming toward the noise and activity students generate as they study and research collaboratively.

that will represent, facilitate and be a home for learning in community. Called a learning commons, the multi-use facility will house the library and also include the college’s technology center, classrooms, a writing center, a special collections archive, an auditorium, a coffee shop and a prayer chapel.

Daily says libraries today need to be quiet—and bustling with noise and activity. They need to provide access to a growing collection of books and journals—and the latest technology. Students expect traditional trappings like reference desks, shelves and study carrels—and modern conveniences like a coffee shop and casual areas for collaborative work.

“Today’s libraries, including Ramaker, are friendlier,” says Daily. “It’s OK to talk; it’s OK to have food in the library. Students need the freedom to work collaboratively with peers or with a reference librarian,” he explains.

At the same time, students also want more quiet spaces to study alone. So the new library will include a quiet reading room, a necessity Daily says will feel like a luxury to students who’ve gone without such a space.

With over half of the 74,000-square-foot learning commons dedicated to the library, Daily hopes to boost the college’s book collection to 200,000. He also wants to expand the archive’s holdings and resources so that nearly 125 years worth of academy and college records can be stored and cared for in one place rather than in locations across campus. In

addition, he hopes Northwestern’s archives might become *the* place to study the history of northwest Iowa.

Wireless technology will continue to enhance both individual and group study and research. Students will find more laptops available for checkout and multimedia rooms that support PowerPoint and music and movie editing.

The new learning commons will also have a coffee shop to facilitate, as one faculty member on the task force described it, “both intentional and incidental learning”—the kind that happens through casual conversation with a professor, friend or mentor.

Daily, President Bruce Murphy and others on campus say a library should be a monument. Even with so much information accessible outside the walls of a library, it is still important as a place.

“Studies prove that as libraries are built or renovated, they get used more,” says Daily, echoing Shill. “There’s something symbolic about a library. As a place where we study and research, it should be grand and look a certain way.”

Northwestern’s new learning commons is slated to be built just west of Christ Chapel, another monument of sorts. The two will flank a new main entrance to the campus, welcoming students to a place where the pursuit of faith and learning is important—grand, even.

## Of course

## Seeing Through Other Eyes

**Class:**

ENG 225: Literature of the Developing World

**Instructor:**

Dr. Joel Westerholm, professor of English

A destitute Nigerian mother with seven surviving children. A poor fisherman on the Caribbean island of St. Lucia. A young woman in India learning from her father, a master musician.

Their stories—told through the writings of authors from those nations—are giving Northwestern students a glimpse into the hearts and minds of people different from themselves in a class entitled Literature of the Developing World.

Approximately half of the students enrolled are English majors. The others are taking it to fulfill their cross-cultural general education requirement.

“All literature studied is the attempt to see what it’s like to live the way someone else does,” says Professor Joel Westerholm. “Here the great challenge is that the people whose lives we’re trying to inhabit for a time are from India and Nigeria and the West Indies—so I think it probably takes students farther out of their experiences than just about any course we offer.”

At the time Westerholm developed the class, Northwestern offered courses

focusing only on British and American literature. Students, however, were returning from taking the Graduate Record Examination and reporting the test covered literature from other parts of the world.

In response, Westerholm attended a summer institute sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities that focused on literature of the developing world. Upon his return, he proposed the course.

“I love reading the material,” he says. “India is probably the biggest hotbed of great fiction in the world

right now, Caribbean poetry is gorgeous to listen to, and the Nigerians have a gift for laying feelings out raw. One of the great joys of teaching literature is you get to read books and talk about them.”

Equally as satisfying is the discovery that the course has succeeded in teaching students how members of other societies think, feel and act. While on a Spring Service Project trip to Honduras, Westerholm was working side by side with a student from his class. Looking around her, the student asked Westerholm if the children they were helping

were the kind of people she had been reading about in the novels from India.

“Her ability to make that connection and to discuss with me the things the Honduran kids and the Indian peasants had in common—and the ways they were different—showed me students can learn a great deal from the reading experience,” Westerholm says.

**Reading list:****From Nigeria:**

*Anthills of the Savannah*, a novel by Chinua Achebe  
*The Joys of Motherhood*, a novel by Buchi Emecheta  
*Death and the King’s Horseman*, a novel by Wole Soyinka

**From the West Indies:**

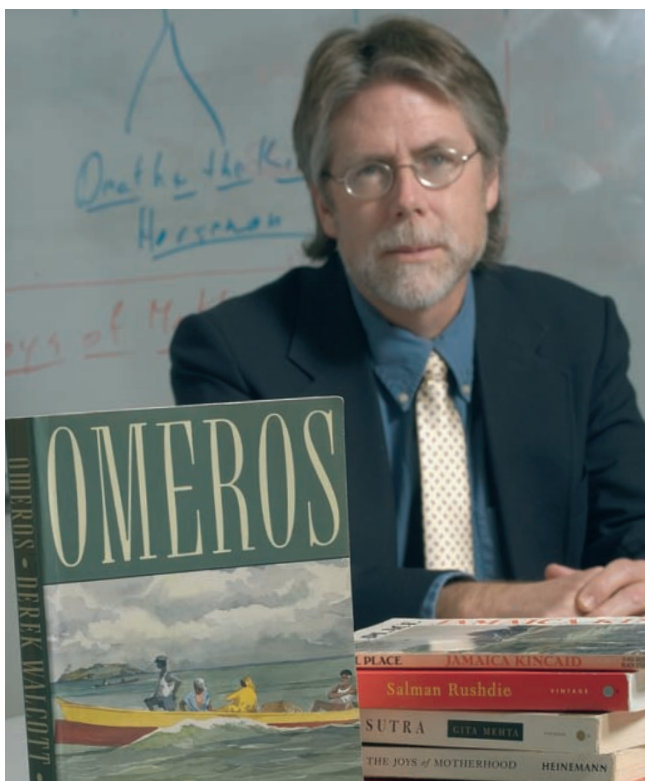
*A Small Place*, an essay by Jamaica Kincaid  
*Omeros*, a poem by Derek Walcott

**From India/Pakistan:**

*A River Sutra*, a novel by Gita Mehta  
*East/West*, a collection of short stories by Salman Rushdie

**Assignments:**

Students come to class with a one-paragraph response to a question posed by Westerholm about the reading they were assigned. The responses—which must include a quotation from the text—serve as the springboard for class discussion. There are also three exams and a 1,250-word critical essay involving research.



Books by authors from Nigeria, India, Pakistan and the West Indies comprise the reading material for Dr. Joel Westerholm’s Literature of the Developing World course.



# Eye of the Hurricane

Articles by Tamara Fynaardt, Carrie (Odell '01) Anderson, Anita Cirulis and Duane Beeson

When hurricanes Katrina and Rita brought devastation to the Gulf Coast, Northwestern alumni were among the millions affected. Other alumni have been part of the relief effort. Here are some of their stories; read more at [www.nwciowa.edu/hurricanestories](http://www.nwciowa.edu/hurricanestories).



# Displaced

*Laura Ferguson travels the South ministering to members of her New Orleans church*

"I hardly ever watch TV," says Laura Ferguson '98 of the initial forecasts about Katrina. "I'd heard it was out there, but it's hurricane season, so there's always something in the Gulf."

Saturday morning, Aug. 27, Ferguson, a staff member with Urban Impact in New Orleans, learned from a church elder that the city might be evacuated. This one—Katrina—might be serious, she thought.

By noon Saturday, Ferguson had packed a bag with two T-shirts, a skirt and a pair of flip-flops. She figured she'd be gone a few days.

Throughout the afternoon, she helped call everyone in her church, urging them to come along. At mid-

night, 12 Urban Impact staffers left New Orleans with 75 people from Castle Rock Community Church.

Many others stayed behind. "They didn't have transportation," says Ferguson, citing estimates that over 25 percent of New Orleans' residents live in poverty. "And it's like small towns in northwest Iowa: Their family all lives around them. So even if they could leave—where to?"

Those who did leave went first to Mississippi and then on to Arkansas. In the days that followed, while the rest of the country was learning of the deplorable conditions in New Orleans' Superdome and Convention Center, Ferguson was hearing about it

too—from friends and church members who'd been there.

"There were National Guard in the city right after the storm," says Ferguson. "They were rescuing people and taking them to the Convention Center—just dropping them off without any food, water or order inside."

An older man from her

church survived there, hungry, thirsty and going 10 days without the dialysis he usually needs three times a week.

Another friend and her children also spent the week at the Convention Center. "The kids saw things they shouldn't have," says Ferguson. "A woman got

*continued on page 20*



*Laura Ferguson, right, reunites with fellow church member Ronisha Tatum, who was evacuated to Houston.*

Hurricane stories

## The Ripple Effect

*Katrina transforms Marilyn Brinkhuis' city*

Helicopters constantly passing over rooftops. Sirens blaring day and night. The neighborhood in Baton Rouge, La., where Marilyn Brinkhuis '50 lives felt more like a war zone than home during the weeks following Hurricane Katrina.

Brinkhuis, who resides near a women's hospital where many of New Orleans' premature babies were sent, remembers the stress people felt in the days after the hurricane struck.

"In the beginning, [New Orleans'] hospitals weren't evacuated, and no one was doing anything to help," she says. "We could hear on battery radios—doctors and nurses were trying to call out. There was no electricity and they were stranded—nobody was going in to get them."

She remembers the thrill people felt when word finally came that the charity hospitals were evacuated. But residents of Baton Rouge still deal with daily tension.

Overnight, the city swelled from 250,000 to 500,000 people. Grocery stores have filled up again, but with twice the cars, what once was a 10-minute drive now takes an hour. There are no hotel rooms available, and every house on the market sold—many sight unseen.

"It's not the same, and it never will be the same," Brinkhuis says. "All the bigger businesses from New Orleans will settle here. Traffic will be terrible because we've had to house so many people. Half of the people in Baton Rouge have been displaced. That's why I say it's a different place."

In the face of overwhelming need, however, people in Baton Rouge banded together to help.

"Christians all pulled together, no matter who they were," Brinkhuis says. "Everybody wanted to help where they could."

# A New Normal

## Hurricane Rita drives Mike DeKrey from Texas home

Hurricane Rita was expected to hit 100 miles down the coast from Orange, Texas. Instead, the eye of the storm passed right over Mike DeKrey's community.

De Krey, a 1980 NWC alum, was awakened early Thursday, Sept. 22, by a phone call informing him of a forced evacuation. Just 36 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, Orange is only 16 to 20 feet above sea level. The storm surge was expected to reach 20 to 25 feet.

"We spent the morning getting the house ready," DeKrey says, "cleaning out cabinets and moving items that were at floor level."

By 6 p.m., the DeKreys' neighborhood was eerily quiet. "I bet we didn't have five percent of the people in my subdivision left," he says. "It was a ghost town."

DeKrey and his wife, Linda (Wynja '81), left for Dallas. They expected to return the following Monday, and only packed enough clothes for a few days. But Rita hit Orange with 110 mph winds, closing the county for a week.

The family returned home on Thursday, Sept. 29. "It was the oddest thing driving back," DeKrey says. "About 100 miles away, we were wondering, 'Where's the damage?'"

As they got closer, they didn't need to wonder. There were so many trees by the road near their house that they weren't able to park on the street.

"It was very unsettling to pass so many homes that had

been hit," says DeKrey. "The damage ranged from a few holes in the roof to the roofline split open by tree trunks."

Though the DeKreys' house had little damage, 15 trees were down in their yard—huge 50- and 60-year-old pines. "Our neighborhood was the worst hit in the area."

Now Orange is trying to "get back to normal," which DeKrey says can sometimes be disconcerting. "Emotionally, everyone needs to get 'back to the way things were,' but everywhere there is evidence that it never will: wooded areas so thin you can see through them, landmark buildings which are gone or being removed, people who have not yet returned or who have left because their job is gone."



Pastor John Gerhardt, executive director of Urban Impact, prepares to enter his home to begin cleaning up. The pile of debris out front came from his first floor.

## Displaced *continued from page 19*

dehydrated and delusional and killed her own child. People were raped. Others with mental disorders and no access to their medication were going crazy. Those weren't media exaggerations."

Ferguson says one of the hardest realities after the hurricane was not knowing what happened to those who stayed behind or how to locate those who left. "One of the girls I've disciplined, her house is right next to a broken levee," she says. "For a month I didn't know if they'd gotten out or drowned."

In mid-October, Ferguson finally went back to New Orleans. She couldn't stay, but at least she saw that her apartment wasn't irrepara-

bly damaged and gathered a few of her things. She hoped to return home for good after Thanksgiving.

Meanwhile, ministering to her displaced church meant driving across the South—to Atlanta, Baton Rouge, Birmingham, Dallas and elsewhere—to distribute Wal-Mart cards and help connect people to resources like food stamps and temporary jobs. Some are still living in shelters and hotels; others are in apartments subsidized by FEMA. Few have cars, computers or other ways to navigate their new surroundings.

They are glad to be alive and grateful to their benefactors. Mostly, they are eager to go home.



Junior Kevin Sas helped to coordinate the collection of 789 teddy bears that were donated for distribution to children affected by Hurricane Katrina. For more information on the campus response to Katrina, visit [www.nwciowa.edu/hurricanestories](http://www.nwciowa.edu/hurricanestories).

# Rebuilding

Scott Wolfswinkel offers employment to New Orleans refugees

A former gang member, Leroy has nine kids; seven still live at home. After Hurricane Katrina struck and the levees broke, he carried them, one by one, on his shoulders to safety, walking through neck-high water as bodies floated by.

Leroy's family evacuated to Gonzales, La., where they and others were later invited to Iowa by Leroy's brother-in-law, who pastors a church in Des Moines.

Among the evacuees were Kevin, Anthony and Daniel, who also have families and harrowing survival stories. Now the four are building new lives—and employed at Wolf Construction, owned by Scott Wolfswinkel '96.

"My father-in-law was helping them, so we met the families and each took a part in getting them settled," explains Wolfswinkel. Although the men had little to no construction

experience, they have proven fast learners and currently work at Wolf Construction's wall component factory.

In mid-October, the men learned their former neighborhood in New Orleans is condemned and will be razed. Wolfswinkel donated a semi and drove with the men to salvage whatever they could of their former lives.

Before they left for New Orleans, Wolfswinkel filled the semi trailer with building materials, and churches and individuals contributed 14 refrigerators, food and water.

Working with FEMA and Urban Impact, Wolfswinkel is investigating the possibility of opening another wall component factory in New Orleans to mass-produce walls for rebuilding the city.

Even if Wolf Construction sends workers to New Orleans, at least three of the four men have said they won't be among them. "Go back? Go back to what?" Anthony told the *Des Moines Register*. His new church recently married him and his girlfriend, the mother of his three children.

"We're starting over," he said, "and we're going to start all the way over."

# Every Day an Emergency

Paramedic Tamara Buffington provides disaster relief in Biloxi

A certified Federal Disaster Team member from Johnson County, Iowa, paramedic Tamara (Yoder '97) Buffington was called to Biloxi, Miss., in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Biloxi was closer to the eye of the storm

than New Orleans and sustained more immediate wind and water damage.

This was Buffington's first call since joining the Iowa-1 DMAT (Disaster Medical Assistance Team) a year ago. She says it over-

whelmed her expectations.

"It wasn't necessarily the catastrophic injuries I'm used to seeing," she says, "but it was all day, every day. We arrived a week after the storm, and the stench was disturbing, to say the least. Houses surrounding the hospital still hadn't been cleared of bodies.

"A phrase repeated a lot was 'destruction of biblical proportions,' and we were completely immersed in it. The turmoil never stopped."

Working in tents without air-conditioning, Buffington helped see 200 to 300 patients a day who needed everything from tetanus shots to wound care to psychiatric intervention.

An older man had been living under his overturned shrimp boat and needed food and clean water to drink and bathe in. A nurse from a Biloxi hospital had been forced to stay and help while Katrina raged. She returned home to find her house destroyed and her husband and son dead.

"She wandered over to us and said she wanted to help," remembers Buffington, "but she was on the verge of a breakdown."

The Biloxi residents Buffington met were grateful and gracious as they tearfully told story after story of loss and devastation. More than once she was invited to come back when the city is proud and beautiful again.

"This is embarrassing," one resident told her. "It doesn't normally look this way."



Despite the hurricane, a Biloxi resident's sense of humor was still intact. This sign was posted in front of the Beauvoir House, a well-known historic home.

## Fall sports



Junior Keith Sietstra's 1,286 yards rushing this season brought him to second place in the school record book with 3,261 career yards.

### Football

- Ranked 17th nationally.
- Finished 8-3 overall and placed third in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) with a 7-3 record.
- Five athletes earned GPAC player of the week honors: Craig Hector (offense), Ben Jackson (special teams), Nathan Jansen (defense), Austin Janssen (defense) and Keith Sietstra (offense).
- Janssen, Phil Kooistra, Jordan Van Otterloo and Travis Wallin earned first team GPAC honors, while Jansen and Sietstra made the second team.

### Volleyball

- Finished 24-11 overall and placed fifth in the conference with an 11-5 mark.
- Alison Waggie was named the GPAC setter of the week twice and earned regional honors once.
- Megan Rich was named the GPAC and region libero of the week twice.

- Katie Schnoes and Megan Meyer earned first team all-conference honors. Waggie was named to the second team.

### Men's soccer

- Compiled a 6-10-1 overall record, 5-5-1 in the GPAC for eighth place.
- Blake Wiekling earned second team all-GPAC honors.

### Women's soccer

- Finished with a 10-9-2 record and placed sixth in the conference with a 6-3-2 mark.
- Qualified for the conference tournament for the first time, winning the first-round game against Concordia before losing in two overtimes to top-seeded Dordt.
- Sara Nessa was the GPAC player of the year, while Carrie Vander Horst and Morgan Walker were second team selections.
- Nessa was named the

## Football team to serve in Europe next spring

Northwestern's football team will travel to northern Italy, Switzerland and Austria for a 12-day mission trip during the last half of May.

Head Coach Orv Otten led Raider teams to the Czech Republic in 2000 and 2003 through Christian Outreach International. This time, the NWC squad will serve under the auspices of Zag Sports.

"Our goal is to give of ourselves to help missionaries spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, to provide multicultural experiences to our athletes, and for our players to get to know one another and our coaches at a more in-depth level," says Otten.

The Raiders will compete against at least two of the newer club teams in Italy. After each contest, the players and coaches will share their testimony with those in attendance.

In addition, the team will minister to children and community residents through Italy for Christ. The student-athletes also hope to do work projects in the communities they visit.

Otten estimates it will cost each player about \$2,000 to participate. The team is delivering firewood to raise money for the trip and is willing to do other work projects. Please contact Otten at 712-707-7283 or [otten@nwc.iowa.edu](mailto:otten@nwc.iowa.edu) for more information or to donate.

- GPAC and region player of the week twice and broke Northwestern's single-game points record (12).
- Walker earned league defensive player of the week honors.

- TJ Korver and Dan Laaveg were recognized as GPAC golfers of the week.
- Korver was the medalist at the Red Raider Early Bird tournament.

### Men's cross country

- Placed eighth at the GPAC championships.

### Women's cross country

- Placed 10th at the GPAC championships.

### Men's golf

- Placed first at three meets.

### Women's golf

- Qualified for regionals by placing fourth at the GPAC tournament.
- Melissa Hisel finished tied for runner-up at the Waldorf meet.
- Coach Harold Hoftzyer was named the GPAC coach of the year.
- Hisel was an all-conference selection.

## Facevalue

# Barb Lubbers

*Campus ministry assistant, college and community volunteer*

### Describe yourself in three words.

Hospitable, positive, organizer.

### What is the most important part of your job?

Hospitality—creating a warm, welcoming environment for whoever calls or comes through the door. I see my job as a ministry to the students and staff I work with.

### What do you dream of doing?

Traveling with a purpose. My husband and I would like to do short-term missions, visit friends in Africa and Asia, and help wherever the Lord would open doors for us.

### What do you value?

Hearing and studying the word of God. Family and motherhood. Friendships with international students and their families. Relationships. The beauty and diversity of different people, places and cultures.

### Who makes you laugh?

Everyone, especially my husband, Paul—he's quite a storyteller. I love to sit around the table after a meal and share good conversation and stories with family and friends.

### Why this job at this college?

It's a perfect fit for me. I love young people and ministry, and I have a chance to use my administrative gifts. It's a place I knew I would love to work—I share Northwestern's mission.

### What is your unique perspective on Northwestern?

I was born and raised in Orange City and received my degree here [in 1970]. I was a parent to a student here, and have been an employee in campus ministry for 13 years. I have seen Northwestern's dedication to academics and spiritual formation deepen, including the growth of mission opportunities like Summer of Service and Spring Service Projects.

### Is there anything else you've done at Northwestern that you've really enjoyed?

Getting to know international students. We were host parents for 15 years, and I was host family coordinator for five. I've also enjoyed organizing the annual Women's Auxiliary Hostess Supper.

### Describe Northwestern in three words.

Prayerfully equipping disciples. Prayer is increasingly a focus

of our institution. Northwestern is equipping young Christians for lifelong learning, for their professions and life in Christ.

### What is something you would change about Northwestern?

The busyness, the hurried pace of educational life. I wholly support Dr. Murphy's desire to seek more peace and reflection in Christian higher education.

### I'd just like to say ...

There's a hurting and dying world around us; don't live life for yourself. Live your life to make a difference for Christ and for others as the Holy Spirit empowers you to serve.



# Happy Days

COME ALIVE IN '05



## Homecoming 2005

Sept. 30–Oct. 2

For more Homecoming photos, visit  
[www.nwciowa.edu/homecoming](http://www.nwciowa.edu/homecoming).

Members of the  
class of 2000 chat  
before their pizza supper.



Tony Englin '99  
looks at some  
Raider trophies  
with sons Brandon  
and Tyler.



A face-painted rainbow was  
the only one needed on a  
sunny and warm  
Homecoming Saturday.



Class of 1965 alumnae  
Jean Foreman, Noreen  
De Hoogh and Marilyn  
Draayer (left to right)  
reminisce during their  
reunion.





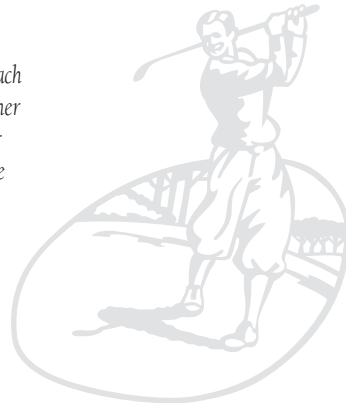
The Raider Road Race begins with 118 runners in stride.



Stories of Northwestern days bring smiles to the faces of these 1995 alumni.



Head Baseball Coach Dave Nonnemacher talks with former players before the alumni game.



MaryLu and Stan Mauritz review the 1980 yearbook.



Arlan Draayer and Jan Korver look through Beacon photos of the class of '65, as Leland Foreman and David Korver talk in the background.

**Mark your calendars for Homecoming 2006, Oct. 6-8.**



# Willing to Take a Risk

by Duane Beeson

For Steve Macchia '78, understanding God's call has come through the influence of treasured friends, a good self-awareness, and a willingness to take a risk and trust the Lord. Now as a nationally recognized speaker and church consultant, he seeks to help other ministry leaders do the same.

\* \* \*

Coming to Northwestern College didn't seem to make much sense. Macchia was born and raised near Boston, there

were hundreds of colleges to choose from in New England, and he'd never been to Iowa.

But the man who led him to Christ when Macchia was a high school junior was a Northwestern alum. Rich Plass '71, his youth pastor, recommended NWC—and that was enough.

"It was all because I trusted my friend Rich," Macchia says. "It was a wonderful decision." Arriving in Orange City feeling like he'd entered Mayberry RFD, Macchia soon felt at home.

"They were four of the best years of my life. The Christian community was all around me—I took advantage of every opportunity to grow."



Recipient of Northwestern's Distinguished Professional Achievement Award at Homecoming, the Rev. Dr. Steve Macchia is the author of several books and a frequent speaker at ministry training events. A member of the executive committee of the National Association of Evangelicals, Macchia received Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2000.

\* \* \*

Macchia started as a business major, but accounting didn't click for him. He switched to education and added Christian education through the influence of professor Rolie Simmelink. He worked with the youth group at a local church and in summer ministries at Cran-Hill Ranch in Michigan and Grace Chapel in Lexington, Mass.

As a student teacher, Macchia realized he was more interested in *who* his students were than he was in their academic work. After a conversation with a pastor at Grace Chapel, God's call became crystal clear.

He said, 'When you come to seminary, would you consider taking over our junior high youth ministry?' I said, 'What do you mean, when I come to seminary? I'm going to be a teacher.' But a light dawned on me: I realized I cared more about spirituality, family and community."

Macchia did enroll in seminary—Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary—and worked with junior high youth at Grace Chapel.

\* \* \*

Macchia was on Grace's pastoral staff for 11 years in a variety of capacities.

"I look back on that as my foundational ministry years," he says. "Anything we touched was growing. And I was too—I grew like a weed in my spiritual development."

During that time, Macchia served on a commit-

tee for The Evangelistic Association of New England. One day, the organization's board chairman took him out for lunch and told him the president was going to retire.

"He thought I was the man [for the job]. 'Are you crazy?' I asked.

"[Wife Ruth (Broek '80)] and I were praying that God would close the door. The more we prayed that God would close the door, the wider it opened."



*"We desire to build a generation of leaders who lead from the inside out. We're calling people back to what spiritual leadership is all about."*



Thinking the job would involve too much travel and was more than he could handle, Macchia said he would only preach at area church services once a month because of family commitments.

"I thought that would be the reason they wouldn't choose us, but it became why they said yes," Macchia recalls. "Everything we did to try to control the process, God turned around. It became so obvious we needed to do this."

\* \* \*

Encountering some challenges at the beginning,

the association later experienced God's blessings under Macchia's leadership.

Changing its name to Vision New England (VNE), the organization attracted as many as 12,000 to its annual ministry conference. VNE tripled its staff to a total of 70, added 20 new ministries, and served 6,000 churches from 80 denominations.

"Our biggest accomplishment was building a multi-ethnic, multi-denominational movement. We brought together people who had never spoken to each other, let alone worshipped together," says Macchia.

"He has had a major impact in New England," former mentor Plass says of Macchia. "He's very responsible for elevating in a positive way the awareness of the evangelical community, helping them recognize their strength, and serving as an ambassador ecumenically."

While at Vision New England, Macchia developed the nationally recognized Healthy Church Initiative. Out of that process, he wrote his first book, *Becoming a Healthy Church*, published in 1999 by Baker Books.

Subsequent volumes followed: *Becoming a Healthy Disciple* (2004) and *Becoming a Healthy Team* (2005).

\* \* \*

Working with teams is one of Macchia's major focuses today. Since 2003, when he founded Leadership Transformations Inc., Macchia has sought to help meet the spiritual formation

needs of leaders and the spiritual discernment processes of ministry leadership teams.

His role includes directing the Pierce Center for Disciple Building at Gordon-Conwell and teaching in the seminary's Doctor of Ministry program.

"We desire to build a generation of leaders who lead from the inside out," says Macchia. "We're calling people back to what spiritual leadership is all about. Instead of board meetings that start with the perfunctory devotions and prayer, we encourage teams to work toward spending the majority of their time coming alongside each other in spiritual formation, out of which they will make decisions and do ministry."

"He has a genuine desire to see people living and ministering out of a deep and vital relationship with Christ," says longtime friend Paul Borthwick, author of *How to Be a World-Class Christian*. "He does a good job of bringing people back to the basics, helping them see that their life flows from that relationship."

And those who watch Macchia see something else.

"His willingness to trust the Spirit's guiding has allowed him to do some things others might think would be less than cautious," says Kevin Parke, a member of Leadership Transformations' board. "He's more of a risk taker."

# Doing What's Right

*Steve King dedicates his life to giving people with disabilities an opportunity*



Steve King started the Plymouth County Work Activity Center in Le Mars, Iowa, after graduating from Northwestern. He now serves as president and CEO of Beacon Group SW, a nonprofit agency in Tucson, Ariz., that serves 600 clients with disabilities.

by Anita Cirulis

In 1972, Steve King was fresh out of college, but that didn't stop him from taking on the daunting task of starting a work activity program for people with disabilities in Le Mars, Iowa. Told of the job opening on a Sunday afternoon, he applied Monday morning and was hired Monday night.

"The Lord was with me. The pieces of the puzzle just fell into place," King says. "I had the help of a lot of people—

including a great board of directors—and the community got behind it. I was the janitor, bus driver, accountant and counselor. It took a lot of energy, but it was a fun experience."

From those humble beginnings, the Northwestern graduate has led nonprofit agencies serving people with disabilities for more than 30 years. In September he received his alma mater's Distinguished Service to Humankind Award, presented by the Alumni Association during Homecoming.

A native of Orange City, King credits his years as a stu-

dent at Northwestern with setting the course for his life. "I learned there's more to life than just taking care of myself," he says. "Northwestern instilled in me the desire to help people in one way or another." The developmentally disabled cousin of his wife, Kathy (Oolman '71), sparked his interest in rehabilitation.

King spent seven years with the Plymouth County Work Activity Center. Merle Treinen of Remsen, Iowa,

▼  
*"He was always interested in learning from the smartest guy there. He always seemed to be picking his brain. He had a talent for always thinking of a better way to help the handicapped."*  
 ▲

whose daughter has Down syndrome, remembers attending meetings with King when the center was getting established.

"He was always interested in learning from the smartest guy there," Treinen says of King. "He always seemed to be picking his brain. He had a talent for always thinking of a better way to help the handicapped."

In 1980 King and his family moved to Tucson, Ariz., where he became president of Tetra Corporation, an organization that provides

vocational and developmental training programs for people with disabilities. When Tetra merged with Beacon Foundation in 2003, King became president and CEO of Beacon Group SW Inc., a nonprofit agency that serves 600 clients, employs 130 people, and operates with an annual budget of \$7 million.

"Due to Steve and his leadership over the last 25 years, this organization has found jobs for thousands of people with disabilities in metropolitan Tucson," says Chuck Tiller, Beacon's vice president of operations.

Helping physically and mentally challenged people find employment and independence is King's passion. "Every day I look forward to going to work," he says. "I wake up ready for a new challenge. It's satisfying to see the change in people when they have the opportunity to grow and become more independent and successful."

Of the 23 million disabled in the United States who are of working age, King says, 70 percent are unemployed. "There's a tremendous need for jobs for people with disabilities. We're going to have a worker shortage in this country. People with disabilities can help fill that need. But the bottom line is it's the right thing to do—to give people an opportunity."

That belief led King to graduate school to learn more about the business side of the organization he was heading. In 1981 he earned a master's degree in rehabilitation administration from the

▼  
*"We're going to have a worker shortage in this country. People with disabilities can help fill that need. But the bottom line is it's the right thing to do—to give people an opportunity."*  
 ▲

University of San Francisco.

King has served as chair of the Governor's State Rehabilitation Advisory Council, co-chair of the Arizona Community Rehabilitation Providers Advisory Committee, and

president of the National Rehabilitation Administration Association. In 2001 he received the association's Guy F. Hubbard Award for Excellence in Rehabilitation Management.

Skip Whitley of Tucson, chairman of the Beacon Group board, describes King as extremely competent with a huge heart.

"Not only the quantity but the quality of the service we're able to provide, we never would have been able to accomplish without Steve's leadership," Whitley says. "He has been the driving force in growing opportunities for us to serve clients and then in providing really top-notch experiences for them."

In 18 years,  
he'll be ready  
for college.  
Will you?



Right now the No. 1 thing on his mind is eating ... or being held. But time will fly, and it won't be too long until he's thinking about college.

*Little Raider Paul Swartz is the son of Betsie (De Boom '00) and Scott Swartz '99.*

When that time comes, imagine the relief you'll feel if you've built up his college finances through a prepaid tuition program. The Independent 529 Plan, sponsored by Northwestern and over 240 private colleges, lets you lock in tomorrow's tuition at less than today's price.

Visit [www.independent529plan.org](http://www.independent529plan.org) or call 888-718-7878 to learn more.

# Wisdom Remembered

by Amy Scheer

“A BIG MAN IS ONE WHO MAKES US FEEL BIGGER WHEN WE ARE WITH HIM.”

John C. Maxwell

Gabe Franken remembers something his dad told him when he was little.

“Speak very quietly around the house. You, too, Jaymi. For the next week.”

The kids did as they were told. Their mother, Nancy, strained to understand them, sure that her hearing was going. In fact, that had been a recent fear of hers, one her husband thought was a little irrational.

A week later, Dad’s instructions changed: Speak loudly. By the first meal together, Nancy got the joke—and the lesson. That’s how Jim Franken ’75 taught: with wisdom, and with a sparkle in his eye.

During Homecoming festivities this fall, Franken was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service to Northwestern College Award for his lifelong dedication to the college’s mission.

“He loved Northwestern,” says Nancy. “He loved that the college isn’t

*Jim Franken ’75 posthumously received the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Service to Northwestern College Award at Homecoming in October.*

just affiliated with a church but that the focus is on believing in Christ and living in him.”

Franken served on the Board of Trustees and as president of the Alumni Association. As chairman and CEO of Interstates Companies and Harbor Group in Sioux Center, he established the Interstates Electric & Engineering Scholarship, which is available to Northwestern students pursuing

related fields.

He had a passion for helping others discover their talents, Nancy says. “He found a lot of joy in that.”

## A leader

“When he died, one of the things I was most upset about was that all that wisdom had been stricken in one moment,” says Gabe, who graduated from NWC in 2004. “What got me through that was realizing it



**“THE FIRST RESPONSIBILITY OF A LEADER IS TO DEFINE REALITY. THE LAST IS TO SAY THANK YOU. IN BETWEEN, THE LEADER IS A SERVANT.”**

Max De Pree

wasn't his. [It was from God.] He was just a good steward of it.”

Jim Franken died of heart failure the morning of Nov. 13, 2001, at the age of 48. The outpouring of grief extended beyond family lines: Long tributes were produced by Interstates and by Associated Builders and Contractors Inc., a national organization in which Franken held many leadership roles.

The tributes are filled with stories of Franken—the little note he sent, the thoughtful questions, his laughter. They speak of the wise and charismatic leadership that Franken exuded and that he cultivated by actively seeking the best for his company.

A few months before his death, Franken approached Max De Pree, author of the best-selling books *Leadership is an Art* and *Leadership Jazz*, and asked if De Pree would mentor him. The two met just a handful of times, enough to impress upon De Pree the strong character and integrity of his mentoree.

“I was very impressed with the vision he had for integrating his work with his faith,” says De Pree. “He was

very articulate about that. It was the goal of his life.”

De Pree paused to clarify. “You have to be very clear to get this straight: It wasn't about getting his faith integrated into his work, it was getting his work integrated up into his faith. Faith came first.”

### **A friend and family man**

A member of First Reformed Church in Sioux Center, Franken found time for boards, business, family and friends.

“Balance” is a word that people often use when speaking of Franken's ability to juggle his many roles, yet his family had no doubt they were his priority. “When he was there, he was so available to me, so present to me,” Gabe says.

Daughter Jaymi Vandewater, a member of Northwestern's class of '01, says, “He was my safe place, and I always relied on him so much for guidance and wisdom. I always knew how very much he loved me. I was his little girl.”

Jaymi and Gabe are often told they remind people of their dad, and they're thankful. “I pray I always

carry a piece of him with me,” Jaymi says.

Gabe wants to sit those people down and probe them on the particulars, he says. “I don't want to forget my dad. A long time ago I stopped asking the question, ‘What would Dad do?’ and started to become observant of the times when Dad would come out in me.”

### **A legacy**

The day Franken died, his family came together and decided to create a memorial fund to benefit Northwestern students. It seemed fitting to honor his interest in the college and in leadership, they said. They are currently making plans for the money to provide ongoing support of

students who show a talent for what Franken knew best.

In the fall 2001 Interstates company newsletter, printed shortly before Franken's death, the letter from the CEO is entitled, “Envisioning Our Success to Ensure Yours.”

“Who wouldn't like to see the future?” Franken wrote. “Our envisioned future is something we never want to lose sight of because it's the key to why we're here.”

Jim Franken made the most of his time here. Northwestern is grateful he kept the college's future in his line of vision, a vision that shines brightly to this day.

**“... WISDOM IS SWEET TO YOUR SOUL; IF YOU FIND IT, THERE IS A FUTURE HOPE FOR YOU ...”**

Proverbs 24:14 (NIV)

Alumni corner



Karen Woudstra '79  
Director of Alumni  
and Parent Relations

As I drive home under the Christmas lights strung over Central Avenue or listen to holiday music playing across campus from the Zwemer tower, I'm reminded again how awesome God is in creating each new season that we enjoy.

It's true, not everything about the holiday season is great—like last-minute, frantic shopping and the temptations of fudge and peanut brittle—but like life, they come with the season.

As I get older, I'm seeing the different seasons in people all around me. I was reminded of that during Homecoming and at the class reunions this year.

Many of the younger alumni pushed strollers, held kids' hands or chased them from one Morning on the Green carnival activity to another. Middle-aged alumni talked about where their kids had located, what their occupations were and if their children were married. Older alumni talked about grandkids, or traveling and enjoying some free time. It's exciting to see so many different years represented by so many alumni all having one thing in common: Northwestern.

Every season is unique and includes both beauty and frustrations. Every new year should be a season of growth, whether spiritually, mentally or emotionally. This fall's reunion classes brought in memories and laughter about the fun times at NWC, as well as recollections of the disappointments (that at times proved to be areas of personal growth when they looked back).

Whatever season our alumni are in, it's always exciting to hear or read about it in the reunion booklets. There are many stories about where God has taken them in life and how they are being used in so many unique ways all over the country and world.

I wish I could remember all the names and faces I've met over the last four years of working here, but I can't (I'm in that memory-failure season), and that's OK because the common theme remains the same. People were impacted during their time at Northwestern, whether in '65, '80, '95, 2000—or any class year! The hard part for me is that many alumni seem to look younger and younger, and the years seem to fly by faster and faster!

Meeting people who are excited about Northwestern and are willing to share their stories, getting updates on the Web from alumni who keep us informed about where God has placed them or how God is using them, and having people come back to reconnect with the college and friends at Homecoming always bless me as I work here. Thanks for staying in touch with NWC and being excited alumni, whatever season you are in!

Deaths

**Bernard DeCook '33, '34**, age 89, died Aug. 10 in Lakewood, Colo. He spent 27 years as an FBI agent, based mostly in Denver. After retiring from the FBI in 1968, he worked for the Colorado Milk Marketing Board, served as a private investigative accountant and became part owner of Plastec Products and Tooltec Mold Corp. He is survived by three sons.

**Jeanette (Rylaarsdam '37, '39) Baas** died Sept. 24 in Grand Rapids, Mich. After graduating from Northwestern, she earned a bachelor's degree at Hope College and served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy WAVES. An English teacher for 15 years, she received a master's degree from Michigan State University. She was an active member of Central Reformed Church. Her survivors include her husband, Jack, and four children.

**Artella (Mouw '41, '43) Bosch**, age 81, died Sept. 28 in Sioux Center. She taught elementary school for several years, and she and her husband, **Gerald '43**, owned and operated Bosch's Clothing Store for 25 years in Sioux Center. She was an active member of First Reformed Church, where she taught Sunday school and catechism and was involved in women's ministries. Among her survivors are two daughters, including **Denise Vander Stelt '75**; a sister, **Marlys Pennings '44, '46**; and a brother, **Cliff '47, '49**.

**Lois Maxine "Max" (Vande Waa '50) Freriks**, age 75, died Aug. 14 in Omaha. She taught kindergarten and first grade for over 30 years. Maxine and her husband, Bob, were avid ballroom dancers and also enjoyed traveling. Her survivors include her husband and two daughters.

Class notes

'62

**Allan Schimmel** has been named to the board of visitors of Air University, headquartered at Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala. Air University is the Air Force's center for professional military education.

'64

**Roger Wyngarden's** wife, Leona, died Sept. 1 after a rapid onset of pneumonia and a long battle with ovarian cancer.

'65

**Mary (Chittenden) Trimble**, Apopka, Fla., manages a group of home-based travel agents.

**John Wurpts**, Ogden, Iowa, is a chapter president of the Christian Motorcyclist Association. He also serves on the board of directors for Walk to Emmaus, a spiritual renewal program that seeks to strengthen local churches.

'69

**Dr. Jim Vander Velde** received the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award for the 2004–05 school year from Northwest Iowa Community College. He teaches both on-campus and online courses in sociology, world religions and ethics. Jim and his wife, **Gracia (Wynia)**, live in Rock Valley, where Jim is the city's development director.

'71

**The Rev. Everett Bosch** is the associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Great Falls, Mont., after serving as a hospital chaplain for 23 years.

'76

**Craig Hanenburg**, Chicago, was recently named chief information officer for Smith Senior Living, a nonprofit senior living organization. He is responsible for the leadership and strategic planning of current and future technological needs.

**Daryl Hoogeveen** and his family recently moved to Kalamazoo, Mich. He previously served as the director of career services at Hamilton College in Lincoln, Neb., for seven years. He also coached several premier summer softball teams.

'77

**Randy Oostr**, Toledo, Ohio, received his doctoral degree from the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University. He is president and chief strategic officer of ProMedica Health System's Michigan hospital division. He and his wife, **Barb (Vander Maten '76)**, have three sons.

**Mary Ann (Anker) Pals**, a professional artist and art teacher ([www.maryannpals.com](http://www.maryannpals.com)), had a piece of her artwork accepted into the Chicago Art Open, a prestigious art exhibit in downtown Chicago. The exhibit ran Oct. 10–24 at the Third Floor Gallery.

'79

**Kevin Muur**, Clinton, Iowa, remains active in RiverChor, a choral group. He is also a soloist and choir member in his church. In addition, he serves on the board of Clinton's Council of Social Agencies.

'80

**Diane (Van Peurse) Broek**, Sioux Center, is in her 25th year at Trans Ova Genetics, a bovine embryo transfer company. As the senior embryologist, she spends most of her time developing new centers around the country.

**Brian Cottrell** has worked as an information technology specialist at the Iowa Department of Transportation in Ames since 1986. His wife, **Cathy (Cosgrove)**, has served as an adult circulation librarian in Boone since 1983. They recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.



Members of the class of 1965 gathering at Homecoming included: (front row, left to right) Jan (Edwards) Korver, David Korver, Bev Douma, Les Douma, Noreen (De Jager) De Hoogh, Ted De Hoogh '68; (second row) John Buysman, Marilyn (Docter) Van Engelenhoven, Dave Van Engelenhoven, Bonnie (Vis) Meier, Lee Meier; (back row) Marilyn Draayer, Arlan Draayer, Jean (Palsma '68) Foreman, Leland Foreman, Marvin Boelman.

**David Menning**, Bloomington, Ill., serves as the director of property casualty countrywide pricing at State Farm Insurance.

**The Rev. Edward Schreur** is a Reformed Church in America pastor in Brookings, S.D. He previously served in New York City and Syracuse, N.Y. Soon he will be moving to Muscat, Oman, to be an

RCA missionary with the Protestant Church of Oman.

**Carol Van Brocklin** is a school librarian for missionary families in the Philippines.

'82

**The Rev. LeRoy Boender** is the pastor of Chancellor (S.D.) Reformed Church.

**Roy Paul**, Oceanside, Calif., was recently awarded the Bronze Star for his service in Iraq.

'83

**Marliss (Pieksma) Katsma** was recently named principal of Coulee Regional Christian School in West Salem, Wis.



Celebrating their 25th reunion were these members of the class of 1980: (front row, left to right) Brian Cottrell, Cathy (Cosgrove) Cottrell, Cathy (Hoogeveen) Graves, Bob De Young, Janet (Rognstad '82) Boote, Kevin Boote; (second row) Gracia (Moret) Gillespie, Brenda (Van Gorp) Schiebout, MaryBeth (Lenderink) Reuvers, Dave Reinders, MaryLu (Albertsen) Mauritz, Stan Mauritz, Brian Voss; (third row) Colleen (Korver) Rieker, Ruth (Broek) Macchia, Rachel Klay, Diane (Van Peurse) Broek, Lois (Koele) Grant, Bev (Bahrke) Christiansen, Clyde Christiansen.



**Prayer**corner



The Rev. Harlan VanOort '82 Chaplain

In the wake of hurricanes, earthquakes, the continuing war in Iraq and the challenges of world hunger, many students are asking the question, "With all the places in the world where God could use me for service, what am I doing here?"

C.S. Lewis asked a similar question almost 60 years ago in an address which is published in his book, *Weight of Glory*. He wonders why one would study while there is a war going on. His answer is important.

He writes:

"If all the world were Christian, it might not matter if all the world were uneducated. But as it is, a cultural life will exist outside the church whether it exists inside or not ... Good philosophy must exist, if for no other reason, because bad philosophy needs to be answered ...

Most of all, perhaps, we need intimate knowledge of the past. Not that the past has any magic about it, but because we cannot study the future, and yet need something to set against the present, to remind us that the basic assumptions have been quite different in different periods and that much which seems certain to the uneducated is merely temporary fashion. The learned life then is, for some, a duty."

God has called a group of students to prepare for service in God's kingdom by working toward a quality education. It takes diligence, patience and a calling. Join us in a prayer for students whose duty is to study.

God of wisdom, we pray for the work of Northwestern College. Inspire its mission in Christ's name and all who live within it by the power of the Holy Spirit. Call its students to service when you have prepared them. By your grace, prosper every effort. Amen.

Nancy (Froehle) Wissink and her husband, the Rev. Paul, recently moved to Newton, Kan., where Nancy is a special education teacher at Newton High School and Paul is serving at St. Luke Presbyterian Church.

'84

Debora Jensen Smith, Eagle Grove, Iowa, is in her 19th year of teaching four- and five-year-olds.

'87

Carie VanHook Jasperse, Washington, D.C., graduated in May from Georgetown University



Searches are open for the following positions:

**Faculty**

- Biology (two-year leave replacement)
- Education (tenure track)
- English (one-year sabbatical replacement)
- ESL and TESL (possible tenure track)
- Mathematics (one-year sabbatical replacement)
- Missiology and religion (tenure track)
- Spanish (tenure track)

All openings begin in August 2006. Job descriptions and application details are posted at [www.nwciowa.edu/employment](http://www.nwciowa.edu/employment). Northwestern seeks individuals who are Reformed and evangelical in theology and committed to the distinctives of a Christian liberal arts education.

*Northwestern College complies with federal and state regulations concerning nondiscrimination in employment. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.*

Law Center. She is a law clerk for Judge Nancy Firestone on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. She and her husband, Patrick, and their two sons are active at the Washington, D.C., Christian Reformed Church.

The Rev. Tim Vink is the coordinator for church multiplication for the Reformed Church in America. Vink previously served as a pastor in Tulare, Calif.

'91

The Rev. Bob De Boer is the lead pastor at Bridgeway Church in Ames, Iowa. He previously served as associate pastor at Living Springs Community Church in Glenwood, Ill.

Terry Gaalswyk, Sioux City, has been named associate dean of instruction at Western Iowa Tech Community College. He previously served as chair of the department of mathematics and computer science for four years.

Martin Muli Kioko is a systems analyst at Mutual of Omaha.

'93

The Rev. Shane Sterk was recently ordained. He is serving as the pastor of mission and discipleship at Faith Community Church in West Chicago. His wife, Wendy (Tigchon), is a stay-at-home mom.

Laura (Van Holland) VanSteenwyk is a part-time clinical social worker at Sioux Falls Psychological Services. She also teaches a social work course at the University of Sioux Falls.

'95

Josh Bird, Caledonia, Mich., teaches fourth grade at Dutton Christian School and coaches eighth grade girls' and boys' basketball. His wife, Jamie, stays at home with their son, Kayden.

Stacey (Town) Erickson, Story City, Iowa, was recently promoted to



Alumni from the class of 1995 enjoying their reunion were: (front row, left to right) Michael Withers, Marne (Hutchcraft) Withers, Jill Haarsma, Kim Willemsen, Kay (Pals) Joiner, Jeff Joiner, Stacey (Town) Erickson, Kurt Erickson '92; (second row) Jason Kanz, Jacki (Kunkel) Sweisberger, Carol (Kooiker) Fisher, Mary (Ling) Wagner, Michelle (Van Peurse) Grady, Debra (Van Leeuwen) Tornow, Rachel (Mast) Finch, Dawn (Van Den Berg) Van Den Bosch, Dayle (Gage) Halverson; (third row) Chad Noble, Eric Stauffer, Nicole (Chindlund '06) Stauffer, Todd Derr, Lisa Derr, Dewey Hupke, Joel Kraai, Lisa (Jarvis) Kraai, Kellie (Gregg) Hogg; (fourth row) Jennifer Noble, Scott Van Aartsen, Allis Van Aartsen, Mike Vander Zwaag '94, Loree (Carlberg) Vander Zwaag, Lori (Vander Pol) Rens, Jeremy Wiersema, Amanda Wiersema.

senior team manager with Tastefully Simple Inc., a direct-sale gourmet food business.

**Joel Kraai** is a computer support technician and systems administrator at a bank in Denver. He is also working on his M.Div. degree at Denver Seminary. His wife, **Lisa (Jarvis)**, is a legal secretary. Active in several community theatre groups, she has won several awards, including best actress at the national level for her role in *Lovers: Winners*. The Kraais have an adopted son, Samuel.

**Scott Van Aartsen** is an optician at Family Eye and Vision Care in Rock Rapids, Iowa. He also works part time for KNWC (Life 96.5), a Christian radio station in Sioux Falls.

**'96**

**Scott Petty** and his wife, **Julie (Main '98)**, live in Spirit Lake, Iowa, and teach elementary school. Scott teaches third grade and coaches high school boys' track and middle school cross country. Julie teaches Spanish.

**Mike Takalo**, Minneapolis, recently received a master's degree in education from St. Mary's University. He teaches high school Spanish in Bloomington.

**Nick Van Es** is currently a family practice physician in Le Mars. His

wife, **Amy (Den Herder '95)**, is a stay-at-home mom to Owen (1).

**Jenifer (Simms) Van Noord** and her husband recently moved to Grand Haven, Mich., where she is a stay-at-home mom.

**'97**

**Marlon Haverdink** recently returned to Northwestern after earning a master's degree in higher education from Geneva College in Pennsylvania. He serves as director of leadership development and resident director of Bolks Apartments.

**'98**

The Rev. **Janelle Koolhaas Lopez** is a pastor at Emmaus Christian Fellowship in Langley, B.C. She and her husband, Jose Angel, recently moved from Mexico, where Janelle served as a missionary with the RCA.

**Rico Moss**, Ankeny, Iowa, recently returned home from Iraq. He is a staff sergeant with the U.S. Marine Corps.

**Catherine (Painter) Vande Hoef**, Sibley, Iowa, is a vocational advocate at Northwest Enterprises, part of Village Northwest Unlimited in Sheldon. She helps individuals with disabilities improve work skills and maximize their independence in appropriate work settings. She also continues to serve as a counselor with New Horizons Adoption Agency.

**Alumni: What's new with you?**

Let us know so we can tell your friends and classmates. Send to: Office of Public Relations, Northwestern College, 101 7th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041. Or e-mail to [codell@nwciowa.edu](mailto:codell@nwciowa.edu); fax number is 712-707-7370. Deadline for the spring '06 *Classic* is Jan. 20.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Current employer(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mini profile

Alumna to celebrate 100th birthday

by Duane Beeson

Elsie (De Vries '23) Rosdail will turn 100 on Jan. 28, but she's not sure if she's going to celebrate as much as she did last year.

"I had three birthday celebrations for my 99th," says the resident of Colonial Manor in Amana, Iowa. "I realized I was really getting old."

While she's lived long enough to be Northwestern's oldest alum and is confined to a wheelchair, Rosdail is an avid reader who enjoys keeping up with current events. She regularly watches

CNN—and reads the *Classic* cover-to-cover.

The salutatorian of her academy class, she says she liked all of her courses except math. "I wasn't particularly fond of it. My teacher told our class it wouldn't do us much good to have another year of math because we still wouldn't get it."

A native of Maurice, Rosdail paid a quarter to ride in a Milwaukee Railroad caboose back to campus after weekends at home. She taught for three years after graduation and then



worked as a nurse in several cities in Iowa and Ohio. She and her husband, Glenn, farmed near Norway, Iowa. He died in 1979. Their two sons, Tom, 66, and Dan, 60, live in rural Amana.

counseling, opened a private practice in Tacoma. Jessica received her degree in education and now teaches third grade at Carter Lake Elementary.

'01

**Abby (Schuiteman) De Zeeuw** is in her fifth year as a certified public accountant with Cain, Ellsworth and Co. in Sheldon, Iowa. She provides accounting, auditing and tax services. Her husband, **Stan**, teaches business education and serves as an assistant high school wrestling coach in Rock Valley.

**Heidi (Hopkins) Rozenboom**, Pella, Iowa, is a stay-at-home mom for her three children and is home-schooling the oldest child. She also does the bookwork for her husband's business, VanderBeek Truck Accessories.

'02

**Chris Anderson** recently moved to Austin, Minn., where he is the assistant general manager at Holiday Inn.

**Rebecca Schreuder** teaches kindergarten at a bilingual school in Mexico City, where she has lived for four years with her husband, Rogelio Gomez.

**Ryan Stander** is an admissions counselor at North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls.

'99

**Londa (Wassink) Dirksen** teaches third grade at Robert Frost Elementary in Sioux Falls.

**Brenda (Van Manen) Krueger** recently graduated with a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Iowa.

**Amy (Harder) Schumann** is teaching Spanish part time at Grand View College in Des Moines.

**Josh Thomas** is a professor of human performance and wellness at Trinity International University in Deerfield, Ill.

'00

**Christal (Smith) Fendley**, Bettendorf, Iowa, recently left her job as a teacher at the Putnam Museum and IMAX theatre to stay home with her daughter. She continues to teach piano lessons.

**The Rev. Jolene Knudson-Hanse**, Hoople, N.D., is serving Zion and South Trinity Lutheran churches. Her husband, **James**, is a carpenter.

**Benjamin Lacey** graduated from medical school at the University of Iowa. He and his wife, Katie, recently moved to Seattle, where he is beginning an internship at Virginia Mason Medical Center. He will then be in residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Washington.

**Nathan Lamb** recently graduated from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va., with a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in

Christian education. He is now serving as associate pastor for Christian education at Grace Presbyterian Church in Spring Hill, Fla.

**Levi Markwardt** is a personal trainer at Sports Acceleration Center in Milford, Iowa.

**Amber (Wissink) Minard**, Onalaska, Wis., is pursuing a degree in geography from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

After teaching in California for four years, **Jennifer Neuhauser** moved back to South Dakota, where she works for the Department of Education in Pierre. She also is pursuing a doctorate from the University of South Dakota.

**Donny Strand** and his wife, **Jessica (Wilcox)**, recently moved to Puyallup, Wash., after both earning master's degrees from George Fox University. Donny, who studied

**Maria DeBoer** recently moved to Austin, Minn., where she stage-managed *Noises Off* for a new professional theatre company this fall.

**Alissa Dornink** will graduate in December with a master's degree in library science from Texas Woman's University. She is the assistant office manager for a general contracting company and a youth counselor at First United Methodist Church in Denton, Texas.

**Kristen (Van Roekel) Dunlap**, Cumming, Ga., works with various band programs and is an itinerant music teacher for Fulton County Schools. Her husband, **Josiah '01**, works for IBM.

**Dana Folkerts** and his wife, **Tonya (Neufeld '03)**, recently moved to Des Moines after serving with Jackson County Ministries in Kentucky. Dana is a re-store coordinator for the Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity.

**Bethany (Nikkel) Gaulke** is now the communications leader at Third Reformed Church in Pella, Iowa. She is responsible for all church publications and for developing communications policy. Her husband, Brent, works for Pella Corp.

**Jennifer Sowa** is in her second year of a doctoral program in immunology at the University of Iowa, studying in a prostate cancer lab.

**Rachel Van Den Broek** was recently hired as an admissions counselor at Northwestern. Previously, she was on the library staff of Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, Mich.

**Brandon Van Marel** recently returned to Northwestern after receiving a master's degree in higher education from Geneva College in Pennsylvania. He serves as the resident director of Colenbrander Hall. His wife, **Kelly (Huizenga '02)**, is the theatre secretary and building manager of the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center.

**Nick Waage** graduated from the University of Iowa Dental School in June and has joined a dental practice in Milwaukee.

**Julie (Rutz) Wondercheck** serves as the children's ministry director at Hope Community Church in Lincoln, Neb. Her husband, **Jordan '01**, is working at State Farm Insurance in the total loss unit.

### '03

**Ben Darr** is pursuing a doctorate in political science at the University of Iowa.

**Angela Reimers**, Ankeny, Iowa, teaches special education at Urbandale Middle School.

**Sarah Wynia** passed her comprehensive exams for a master's degree in physiology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is now working on a doctorate in physiology.



2000 alumni gathering for their reunion at Homecoming were: (front row, left to right) Brian Kading, Dan Milczski '02, Laurel (Sandbulte) Milczski, Gena (Führ) Schmidt, Matt Schmidt, Carrie (Hoogendoorn) Van Den Top, Stacie (Brosamle) Englin, Tony Englin '99; (second row) Rebecca Hartbecke, Krista Meckling, Julie Wynia, Jennifer Neuhauser, Emily Gosselink, Jolene Knudson-Hanse, James Hanse, Amber (Wissink) Minard, Bob Minard; (third row) Scott de Boom, Karinda (Trumble) de Boom, Jamey Valentine, Rachel (See) Valentine, Jamie Stubbe, Mindy Groen, Kim (Verburg) Peterson, Dan Peterson; (fourth row) Nichole (South) Will, Dareck Will, Danielle Folkerts, Jeremy Folkerts, Heather (Van Kalsbeek '01) Jackson, Jason Jackson, Kelly Van Haaften, Nikki (Tjossem) Zylstra.

### '04

**Grant Baker** is a graphic designer and photographer for the Myers Group in Tucson, Ariz. His job includes aerial photography and publication design.

**Jessica Borden** is a consumer services specialist at The Homestead in Runnells, Iowa.

**Mary Elizabeth (Sears) Breen** teaches kindergarten and first grade at Sanborn (Iowa) Christian School.

**Laura Keith** is a defense and national security research assistant at The Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C.

**Emily Kooistra** teaches second grade at Lynden (Wash.) Christian School.

**Brooke Oehme**, Pasadena, Calif., is in the Master of Divinity program at Fuller Seminary.

**Laura Redig** is working toward a Doctor of Osteopathy degree at Des Moines University.

**Jaime Woudstra** was recently hired in the accounts payable department at MEDTEC in Orange City. She

played professional basketball in Iceland last year.

### '05

**Casey Weerheim** is taking classes at Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa.

### New arrivals

**Jon and Laura (Verdoorn '91) Kroeze**, son, Justin Lee, joins Caleb (4) and Joshua (2).

**Patrick and Kristy (Kaster '93) Connor**, son, Dylan James, joins Mackenzie (5) and Sean (1).

**Laura (Van Holland '93) and Dave VanSteenwyk '92**, daughter by adoption from Guatemala, Maya Marlane, joins Caleb (8) and Luke (5).

**Pamela and Scott Dykstra '95**, daughter, Lilyan Joy, joins Drew (2).

**Nancy and Brian Eveland '95**, daughter, Emily Jean, joins Luke (5).

**Jennifer and Noel Scheaffer '95**, son, Micah, joins Graham (3) and Josiah (2).

**Robert and Jacki (Kunkel '95) Sweisberger**, twins, Abby Mae and Jacob Robert, join stepsons Jesse (9) and Skyler (8).

**Rob and Abbie (Vis '96) Ruisch**, son, Nathan Robert, joins Rachel (3).

**Sherri (Van Roekel '96) and Daron Van Beek '97**, son, Brendon Henry, joins Carson (4).

**Kurt and Jenifer (Simm '96) Van Noord**, son, Isaiah Glenn, joins Blaze (1).

**Michelle (Ringnald '98) and Mark Andersen '98**, son, Micaiah James, joins Ezra (5) and Benjamin (3).

**Patrick and Sarah (Huizenga '98) Kinne**, daughter, Hannah Eloise.

**Angie (Smit '98) and John Peterson '00**, daughter, Sydney Marie.

**Julie (Main '98) and Scott Petty '96**, son by adoption, Caden Grant.

**Jonathan and Jennifer (Hubers '99) Bentz**, daughter, Hannah Lea.

**Marty and Rebecca (Berentschot '99) Griffin**, twin daughter and son, Emerson Lee and Jackson Phill, join Isabel (2).

**Brenda (Van Manen '99) and Brian Krueger '96**, son, Luke Brian, joins Amanda (1).

**Amy and Josh Pyle '99**, daughter, Hannah Faith, joins Zachary (9).

**Jeff and Amy (Harder '99) Schumann**, son, Logan Anthony, joins Mia (2).

**Melissa and Dan Armagost Jr. '00**, daughter, Mackenzie Sue.

**Stacie (Brosamle '00) and Tony**

Mini profile

# Foss reaches for the sky

by Carrie Odell Anderson '01

Matt Foss '01 isn't a household name yet, but he is getting noticed in Chicago, particularly by motorists who see him being robbed by cowboy mannequins on Western Union billboard ads throughout the Windy City.

"The story's pretty boring. I got paid \$600 to stand there for an hour making faces," says Foss, who discovered the designer added an airbrushed mustache to his mug.

Despite that paycheck, Foss is a self-described "poor actor in the city." Every morning, he wakes up early, catches a ride to work, and delivers luxury cars until 5 p.m. Then he heads to

rehearsal from 6:30 to 11 for the American Theatre Company's production of *It's a Wonderful Life: a Live Radio Play*, which runs for the month of December, before returning home for a few hours of sleep.

Foss, who has lived in Chicago since 2002, earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in theatre performance at the Theatre Conservatory of the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. In addition to his roles with the American Theatre Company, he has also been involved in Chicago Shakespeare.

For the past three summers, Foss has traveled with Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, a troupe of about a



Matt Foss '01, an actor in Chicago, can be seen on Western Union billboards throughout the Windy City.

dozen young actors who journey west to perform classic plays for a packed schedule of rural audiences. Foss's roles have included Grumio in *Taming of the Shrew* and Cleante in *Tartuffe*. Of the unique program, Foss says, "It is the acting job with the

most integrity and altruism since I toured with Jeff Barker and the NWC theatre department."

Meanwhile, Foss keeps his eyes open for other acting jobs in Chicago—and for outlaw mannequins in cowboy boots.

**Englin '99**, son, Tyler James, joins Brandon (2).  
**Craig and Christal (Smith '00)**  
**Fendley**, daughter, Vallarie Lynn.  
**Bob and Amber (Wissink '00)**  
**Minard**, daughter, Malana Renee.  
**Gena (Fiihr '00)** and **Matt Schmidt '00**, son, Gage Matthew, joins Gabrielle (2).  
**Betsie (De Boom '00)** and **Scott Swartz '99**, son, Paul Andrew.  
**Karen (Van Zanten '00)** and **Matt Westenberg '00**, daughter, Emily Joy, joins Kaitlyn (2).  
**Heather (De Vos '00)** and **Colin Youde '02**, daughter, Mykin Rae.  
**Lisa (Lubbers '01)** and **Jess Meekma '00**, daughter, Sophie Anne.  
**Kristi** and **Dan Robinson '01**, son, Noah Joseph, joins Ben (2).  
**David and Abi (Seymour '01)** Van

**Regenmorter**, son, Trace David, joins Blake (2).  
**Dave and Sara (Fuoss '02)** **Jansma**, daughter, Breanna Noelle.  
**Tonya (Neufeld '03)** and **Dana Folkerts '02**, son, Drew Isaac.  
**Penny (De Haan '03)** and **Chris Rott '01**, son, Logan Christopher.  
**Michael and Jamie (Zeutenhorst '04)**  
**Kammerman**, daughter, Jaylee Beth.  
**Molly and Tim Truesdell '04**, son, Micah John.

## Marriages

**Mike Takalo '96** and **Rena Kraut**, Minneapolis.  
**Ryan Stander '98** and **Karina Breitkreuz**, Sioux Falls.  
**Erin Peters '99** and **Rob Wilkens**,

Johnston, Iowa.  
**Josh Thomas '99** and **Jeanne Boutott**, Arlington Heights, Ill.  
**Londa Wassink '99** and **Kirk Dirksen**, Sioux Falls.  
**Shelley Beal '00** and **Ben Twigg**, Waukee, Iowa.  
**Breanne Albers '01** and **Patrick Van Gelder**, Alton, Iowa.  
**Josiah Dunlap '01** and **Kristen Van Roekel '02**, Cumming, Ga.  
**Travis Schueller '01** and **Carrie Lamm**, Cherokee, Iowa.  
**Alison Van Nyhuis '01** and **Dean Swinford**, Jacksonville, Fla.  
**Dan Dobbs '02** and **Heather Holifield**, Omaha.  
**Gina Spoelstra '02** and **Wayne Ohnesorg**, Ames, Iowa.  
**Nick Waage '02** and **Danielle Williams**, Milwaukee.

**Amber Bolkema '03** and **Tomas Holtberg**, Sioux Falls.  
**Michael Pulscher '03** and **Ethanie Wallinga '04**, Sioux Falls.  
**Erica Smith '03** and **Matthew Johnson**, Sioux Falls.  
**Rebecca Vander Stelt '03** and **Andrew Riskedahl**, Ireton, Iowa.  
**Rebecca Voss '04** and **Nate Rall**, South Holland, Ill.  
**Ashley DeBower '05** and **Ryan Musil '05**, Houston.  
**Jenny De Vries '05** and **Casey Weerheim '05**, Davenport, Iowa.  
**Kristina Johnson '05** and **Jeff Postma '05**, Indianapolis.  
**Jolynne Nilson '05** and **Brett Eilts**, Spencer, Iowa.  
*The couples reside in the city listed.*

# An Irreplaceable Loss

by Dr. Joonna Smitherman Trapp

In the aftermath of Katrina, the focus has been, and rightly so, on the victims of the hurricane—the displaced, the injured, the dead.

Organizations such as the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS) have recently issued statements calling for attention, at the appropriate time, to the cultural heritage of New Orleans and the surrounding areas.

“A community,” they say, “cannot function effectively in the larger societal context if deprived of its identity through the loss of cultural heritage.”

In my frantic searches on the Internet for news, I have discovered pictures of archival storage units that house important letters, deeds, speeches and pictures of Southern history. The boxes in the archives are sometimes intact, sometimes not—but all are damaged, and the ink on the pages in the boxes is in terrible shape.

Dan Daily, director of Northwestern’s Ramaker Library, tells me that records floating in flood waters are often salvageable if still in their containers, but the recovery is a long process—and expensive. The damage at some archives is so prevalent that libraries have had to decide which boxes to put in cold storage for later restoration. The remaining records are just left to deteriorate.

When I see these pictures, I try not to be furious with myself for delaying the visit I had planned to make to the New Orleans archives last summer. Popular oratory in the New Orleans area before the Civil War is very important to the book I’ve been researching for the last 10 years. The loss of those materials will certainly affect the quality of the book I am writing.

I decided not to go because I was weary of the heat and tired after my long trip visiting archives in several other Southern states. I believed I could travel to New Orleans in the fall to continue my research. I was so wrong.

Faye Phillips, associate dean of libraries for special collections at Louisiana State University, has been quoted as saying, “People have simply forgotten about the archival collections, where most of their history resides. We really need to get that on the radar for future disaster plans. You can buy new library books if you can come up with the money, but you can’t buy new archives.”

The possible loss of these archives hurts more than just



my project—it hurts us as a people. Some of these archival materials are among the oldest in the nation. As a Southerner, I feel this possible loss of my history deeply.

On a previous trip to New Orleans, I visited several antebellum plantations, marveling at the tiny, cramped slave cabins next to the big house under the weeping willows. I imagined I was alive in 1824 and listening at night to the music drifting down from the levee behind the plantations, music that was to feed into modern blues, jazz, swing, gospel, and even barbershop-style singing.

I’ve tried to discover on the Internet the condition of Laura Plantation, the site where the Uncle Remus stories of Briar Rabbit were first collected and written down from the oral stories that circulated around the South. I check to see if other plantations still have their standing slave cabins. But I can find no news.

If these are lost or damaged along with Southern written records, the impact on African-American studies will be immeasurable. Such stripping away of culture and history is not as massive a loss as the stripping away of identity suffered by the enslaved in the 18th and 19th centuries, but the devastation of Hurricane Katrina reminds of that other loss and stings as if yet another insult.

I’m fortunate. I’ve seen these places; they are forever etched in my mind. But what about my children and grandchildren? How can they even begin to comprehend, unless they’ve seen them, the tiny slave cabins lining the straight lane down which the overseer watched? How can they, with their privileged lives of shelter, food, freedom and love, understand slavery, deprivation and need without the evidence these buildings provide?

So yes, we must restore decent living conditions for our citizens and care for the displaced, but let’s not forget to preserve the artifacts of people who could not be citizens, who did not have voice, who did not have identity, who are quickened only in our cultural memories. In preserving their history, we recreate ourselves as a people.

*English professor Joonna Trapp is on sabbatical this year in Orange City, working on her book on the lyceum in the antebellum South. As part of that project, she traveled extensively in the South last summer with funds from Northwestern’s Competitive Summer Research Grant. She says she is enjoying being only a scholar this year, but she can’t quite distance herself from interaction with colleagues and students at the college.*

For information about ICBS, check out [www.ifla.org/blueshield.htm](http://www.ifla.org/blueshield.htm).

For updated conditions of libraries in the affected areas, visit [www.ala.org/ala/online/hurricanekatrinanews](http://www.ala.org/ala/online/hurricanekatrinanews).

Send your Classic thoughts to [beeson@nwciowa.edu](mailto:beeson@nwciowa.edu)

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## I am Northwestern

*"Through chapel and discussions with the campus community, I've become more passionate about social justice issues and how I can use politics to work toward change."*

Mick Snieder '06  
Orange City, Iowa  
2005 USA Today  
All-USA College Academic  
Team honoree



Politics are a way to help people from a governmental standpoint. As a political science and economics major, I spend a lot of time thinking about political issues in class. This influences the way I fulfill my roles as a local city councilman, vice president of the Student Government Association and vice chair of the College Republicans. These positions, along with my internship in Washington, D.C., have given me real-world experience. Both classroom lessons and hands-on experiences are necessary for a well-rounded education. Neither is sufficient by itself. Your donation to the Northwestern Fund helps provide opportunities for students to put our classroom knowledge into action.



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The ranch is just one of the vacations available at NWC's annual Gala Auction Feb. 11. Your winning bid could also take you to Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Iowa's Lake Okoboji or elsewhere. Visit [www.nwciowa.edu/galaauction](http://www.nwciowa.edu/galaauction) to browse and bid on trips and other items (updated daily). You don't have to be present to win the bid.

