Global Perspective
International students bring the world to Northwestern

Also
The Thinker Behind the Mask
Inauguration Images
Exam Déjà Vu
Prayer for President Greg Christy and his family was an important part of the inauguration festivities on Oct. 10.
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Opinions expressed in the Classic do not necessarily reflect the official position of Northwestern College.

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Guerda Muzinga from the Democratic Republic of the Congo is one of 39 international students studying at Northwestern this year.

PHOTO BY TOM BECKER

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Stamp of Approval

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) has reaffirmed the quality of Northwestern's social work program by reaccrediting it for eight years through October 2015.

A two-person site team visited campus in late April. The evaluators met with college administrators, social work faculty, students and area social workers who serve on the program's advisory board.

"The outcome was affirming," says Mark De Ruyter, chair of the social work department. "It's encouraging to have objective, very knowledgeable folks at the national level put their seal of approval on the program."

Reviewers cited as the program's strengths the active involvement of faculty in ongoing exchanges with external constituencies; the integration of values and principles of ethical decision-making into the curriculum; and good communication of the program's mission, goals and outcomes. In addition, the site team praised the department and the college as a whole for having a good understanding of and respect for diversity.

Accreditation indicates to students, parents and future employers of graduates that Northwestern's social work majors have met high standards of education, according to De Ruyter. In addition, graduation from an accredited program is required to gain social work licensure in Iowa, and most graduate schools will grant advanced standing to alumni of accredited programs—allowing them to bypass as much as 30 credit hours.

Northwestern's program, which has been accredited for 22 years, has 33 majors. Only nine other undergraduate social work programs in Iowa are accredited by CSWE.

Sweden-bound

When the World Finals of the Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest gets under way in Stockholm, Sweden, next April, students from MIT, Moscow State University, Oxford, Stanford and the University of Melbourne will be joined by three Northwestern computer science majors.

The team of John Calsbek, Ben Kester and Curt Van Wyk will be one of 100 from six continents selected out of 7,000 squads that participated in regional competitions. The Northwestern team qualified for the world finals after solving all nine problems in a November regional contest.

"John, Ben and Curt are all phenomenal students," says computer science instructor Michael Wallinga. "They put in a lot of time preparing for the contest and are smart in their approach, working on the easiest problems first. The guys have already looked at sample problems from past world finals, and they recognize the difficulty increases at this level. They plan to have regular practice sessions in the second semester and pick up right where they left off."
Learning in Oman

A year after Northwestern launched its first semester-long study abroad program, the college is poised to add another one.

Beginning next August, the Oman Semester will provide the opportunity for eight students each fall to study Arabic, Christian-Muslim relations, and a choice of courses at Oman Medical College. The curriculum also includes an independent research course.

"The program is built around extensive interaction with Omanis," says Michael Bos, director of the Al Amana Centre, an ecumenical center that seeks to build bridges of understanding and trust between Christians and Muslims. "In addition to taking classes with medical students, the Northwestern students will have numerous opportunities to engage with Omanis throughout the country."

Bos, who will serve as the program's director, says Oman is unique in the Middle East because it's a very traditional country with a high percentage of nationals to expatriates.

"It's definitely a non-Western culture. It's modern and open but very traditional. Students will develop a whole new perception of who they are as citizens of the world, and they will experience what it's like to be a minority religiously. It will be faith-deepening."

Sociology professor Scott Monsma has led a group of students on a Christmas-break tour of Oman three times since 2004. Last year he coordinated a similar trip by faculty and staff. Each trip has been developed in conjunction with Bos, an ordained Reformed Church in America minister and Ph.D. candidate at the University of Exeter.

The Oman Semester joins Northwestern's Romania Semester, which combines cross-cultural learning, theory about social development, practice, service, and adventure education from a base in the economically depressed coal-mining region of the Jiu Valley. Six students participated in that program this fall.

Experiencing the culture of Oman—including camel rides in the desert—will be a vital part of Northwestern’s newest study abroad program.
Of Course

Teachers for Colorful Classrooms

Class
Human Relations

Instructor
Jolynn Oliver
Instructor in Education

Kara Parson has a different view of the world—and herself—all because of one class.

"I didn’t really think I had that many prejudices or stereotypes," she says, "but I was able to recognize everybody does. I feel like it changed my perspective and the kind of teacher I will be."

Such self-knowledge is education professor Jolynn Oliver’s primary goal for Human Relations. The course, offered every semester, fulfills a state requirement intended to produce teachers better equipped to meet the needs of a more culturally diverse population.

"I want our education students to know when they’re walking into the classroom what prejudices might get in the way of them being fair and understanding and compassionate to all of their students," Oliver says.

Toward that end, Oliver has her students create and explain a mask representing their cultures. They visit a bilingual school, hear from guest speakers, help with Northwestern’s Hispanic Festival, and teach a multicultural lesson to local schoolchildren. Their multicultural education, however, doesn’t end with the class. Northwestern’s education department requires 100 multicultural hours of its graduates, so education majors often teach in diverse settings like Chicago or get involved with new immigrants in the community.

"Good multicultural education is good teaching," Oliver says. "It’s about teaching to every learner in your classroom based on his or her needs. And if you’re doing that, you’re paying attention to their culture too."

Texts and Assignments

- An Introduction to Multicultural Education by James Banks
- A Framework for Understanding Poverty by Ruby Payne
- I Ain’t Comin’ Back by Dolphus Weary

Foundational to the course are 20 hours of cross-cultural experience gained through field trips and activities. Students write reflection papers responding to those experiences, as well as to readings and movies viewed in class. They also write a paper examining their personal prejudices, develop a multicultural lesson plan, and research and make a classroom presentation on a multicultural topic of their choice.

Northwestern will continue its long tradition of providing hurricane relief when 10 students help Hurricane Ike survivors in January.

Traveling Mercy

For some, 2009 will be another year of trying to get their lives back to normal. For them, midnight on New Year’s Eve is a less significant turning point than “before the disaster” and “after.”

The monumental recovery effort after 2005’s Hurricane Katrina has compelled Northwestern students, faculty, staff and alumni to travel to Gulf Coast communities every semester break for the last three years to participate in demolition, debris removal and reconstruction.

This year, in response to September’s Hurricane Ike, a team of 10 will spend Jan. 4–12 in Bridge City, Texas, to help members of the United Methodist Church rebuild their homes and lives.

The trip is being coordinated by Brittany Caffey ‘06, an AmeriCorps volunteer.
Honored Parents

Rachael and Roger Brunsting of Orange City may be Northwestern’s Parents of the Year for 2008, but they don’t believe the title describes them.

“We’re a true picture of God’s grace and faithfulness,” says Rachael. “That’s all you can say about our family.”

The couple was recognized Nov. 8 as part of Fall Family Weekend. Married since 2001, the Brunstings became a blended family after meeting at Maurice Reformed Church. Rachael’s first husband, Bruce Kuiken, died in 1993; Roger was divorced.

Rachael’s daughters ranged in age from 12 to 18 when she married Roger. Three—Carissa Janssen ’05, Candace Van Marel ’07 and Alicia Kuiken ’08—are now graduates of Northwestern, while the youngest, Rebekah Kuiken, is a sophomore.

Rachael, who previously worked in Northwestern’s career development and counseling centers, at times held more than one job to put her daughters through college.

“I didn’t realize the sacrifice she made then, but today I cherish her invaluable gift—a college education,” says Carissa.

The Brunstings are known for inviting college students over for meals. “Our home is always open,” Rachael says. “That’s one of the fun things about having your kids in town when they’re in college. It’s a great way to meet their friends.”

Rachael and Roger Brunsting were honored as Northwestern’s Parents of the Year during Fall Family Weekend in November.

Dorm Delay

A new dorm could replace Heemstra and West halls within a few years, but a decision on that project was delayed by the Board of Trustees at its October meeting.

“This is a necessary and positive project, but we’ll be in a much better position to make a final decision a year from now,” says President Greg Christy. “Given the country’s economic situation, the board thought it prudent to hold off and revisit the issue at next fall’s meeting.”
Generous Jumpstart

Christmas came early for the Northwestern Fund when an anonymous first-time donor made a $250,000 gift intended to spark a match in new and increased giving by other donors.

During the college’s fall phonathon, donors responded with nearly $40,000 in new and increased gifts. Alumni and friends will have another opportunity to rise to the challenge during the spring phonathon, which begins in February. Annual fundraising campaigns with businesses and board members will leverage the $250,000 donation as well.

Without gifts to the Northwestern Fund, each student’s tuition this year would be $1,200 higher. Visit give.nwciowa.edu to find out more.

Hall of Famer

Move over, Larry Korver. Paul Bartlett will become the second retired Northwestern coach to be enshrined in the NAIA Hall of Fame when he’s inducted during the national wrestling meet in Oklahoma City in March.

Northwestern’s head coach from 1984 to 2006, Bartlett led two teams that took home the NAIA Sportsmanship Award (2004 and 2006). He coached 11 Scholar-Athletes and 18 All-Americans and also served as president of the NAIA Wrestling Coaches Association from 1995 to 1997.

“I am excited Coach Bartlett is being honored,” says current head coach Rik Dahl ’97. “As a wrestler for NWC, I looked to him as a model of how to live. He not only spoke about the gospel, he lived it each day and at each venue. He has served his athletes, this institution and the NAIA admirably for over two decades. As a result of his sacrificial leadership, he has impacted thousands of wrestlers across the nation.”

Bartlett continues as a professor of kinesiology at Northwestern. He also works behind the scenes at tournaments NWC hosts and occasionally coaches and mentors wrestlers.

A Time for Joy

Laughter abounded.

For an event geared toward children who had experienced the death of a loved one, Camp Hope seemed joyful. As the children made Play-Doh characters, played games and watched a puppet show, it was clear they were having fun.

“One boy asked if we could do it again next week,” says social work professor Valerie Stokes. “He said it really helped to talk about his cousin who died. That confirmed it was worth it.”

The daylong event, produced by social work majors and co-sponsored by Orange City Home Health and Hospice, was attended by 16 children.

The focus was on the four tasks of grieving—including understanding what death is, grieving the loss, commemorating the loved one, and moving forward. The day concluded with a balloon release, attended by the children’s parents and guardians.

“The students had done a lot of research into what would be beneficial. I was very pleased. It was a positive experience for all involved,” says Stokes.
Face Value

Jackie Smallbones
Student of Scripture

What are you an expert at?
Nothing, really. I know something about how to facilitate the spiritual growth and formation of the people of God and how to teach others to be involved in that ministry as well. But I’m still on the way myself.

What do you wish you were an expert at?
I went to college with the goal of becoming an expert in biblical knowledge and understanding, adding to what I thought was a fairly good grounding in Bible and theology. I graduated very much aware that while my knowledge of the Bible and a few other subjects had grown, I was still ignorant. I don’t want to be an expert; I want to keep traveling, learning and growing in the Jesus Way.

Describe Northwestern College in three words.
Caring, achieving and hope-filled.

What do you like about your job and why?
Students, teaching, interaction with colleagues. I delight in watching students learn new material—grow as it suddenly makes sense and they have that “aha” moment. I like it when students or colleagues challenge my views. Sometimes I end up changing them, sometimes I don’t.

What is your unique perspective on Northwestern?
I bring an African perspective to my teaching and understanding of the material. When I began teaching in my native country of South Africa, I discovered I was seeing Scripture from my white, middle-class, English, Western point of view. My African students helped me begin to take in another view. In some ways African culture is closer to biblical culture, and I began seeing things very differently. Most importantly, I learned to listen. I still try to listen, just as I also try to encourage my students to think how their culture affects their interpretations of Scripture and Christian living.

Teresa Gunderson

Aid Director

Northwestern has a new director of financial services. Teresa Gunderson ’88 started in that position in December after serving as a vice president at Orange City’s Iowa State Bank. She previously worked in Northwestern’s financial aid office from 1990 to 1996.

“Teresa brings knowledge of financial aid, a high degree of professionalism, and a sincere desire to make a Northwestern education affordable for as many families as possible,” says Ron De Jong, Northwestern’s vice president for external relations. “She identifies with our Christian mission and is a good fit for the college.”

A member of Northwestern’s religion and Christian education faculty since 1995, Dr. Jackie Smallbones is a columnist for the Church Herald and the author of Keeping Company with Jesus: Reflections on Gospel Stories.

Describe yourself in three words.
Seeker, learner, challenger.

What hobbies do you enjoy?
Bird watching, reading, music, cooking, being out in nature, walking, biking.

What do you still want to happen in your life?
I’m not a goal-oriented person. I keep trying to do what I do in better and more authentic ways. I would like to have time to focus on one thing, such as my writing, until it is done—and done well. Mostly, I want to keep journeying; learning new things; seeing God, myself and the world more clearly; and growing in wisdom. The point is the journey.

If you’d like to see a particular Northwestern faculty or staff member featured in Face Value, e-mail classic@wciowa.edu.
OHoly

They're made of wool, ebony, seal skin, banana leaves, cotton tree thorns and clay dipped in cashew sap. Their faces resemble people in Zaire, Nigeria, Costa Rica, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Peru and Nepal. Henrietta Van Maanen '55 has collected more than 600 nativity sets from around the world. Some, donated to Northwestern, are displayed each December in Ramaker Library—an Advent reminder that one day "every nation, tribe and people" will worship the King.

Photos by Doug Burg
Night

To find out which countries these nativity sets came from, visit classic.nwciowa.edu.
a time to Celebrate

Lindsay Squires, front, and Jennifer Sybesma were among four liturgical dancers heralding the beginning of the inauguration ceremony.

Presidential inauguration commemorates God's faithfulness to NWC

by Duane Beeson

It may have been Greg Christy's presidential inauguration, but he made it clear throughout the day's activities on Oct. 10 that he wanted a much broader focus.

"This day is really not all about me, nor do I want it to be," Northwestern's ninth president told a packed Christ Chapel audience.

"Today is about celebrating what God has done, is currently doing and will continue to do through the hands and feet of his servants here at Northwestern College."

Christy briefly reviewed how God has blessed Northwestern—from its humble origins in the consistory room of First Reformed Church in 1882 to its current status as a distinctively Christian liberal arts college that has earned numerous external commendations.

"Our greatest assets by far are the authenticity of our Christian mission and our people. We have a noble mission and are blessed to have some of the brightest and most talented professors you will find anywhere," said Christy.

Western Theological Seminary's president, the Rev. Dr. Tim Brown, gave the inaugural address. Focusing on the story of midwives Shiphrah and Puah, who defied the Egyptian king's order to kill Hebrew baby boys (Exodus 1), Brown challenged Christy and the audience to dare to make a difference. "God is looking for people who say, 'No, we don't do it this way. We march to the beat of a different drummer," Brown said. "Keep the Lord in mind with every step you take."
Looking Ahead

After being officially invested with Northwestern's presidential authority, Greg Christy cited seven goals he has for the college:
1. Adhere solidly to the core mission of academic excellence with a Christ-centered focus.
2. Provide the best possible integration of faith, learning and living.
3. Improve Northwestern’s visibility in Iowa, the Midwest and nationally.
4. Enhance recent efforts to provide more multicultural experiences.
5. Implement the new strategic plan and complete the Imagine capital campaign.
6. Help make NWC and Orange City better places to live and work.
7. Improve Northwestern's kingdom impact every year.

On the Web exclusive

View a gallery of inauguration photos at classic.nwciowa.edu.

Board chairman Drew Vogel places the presidential medallion upon Greg Christy during the investiture.

Former Sen. George McGovern, a personal friend of President Christy's, was one of 11 speakers at a luncheon attended by 300 guests.

Ceremony participants, including former presidents Jim Buhman and Bruce Murphy, lay hands upon Greg and Michelle Christy during the prayer of blessing.
Are You Smarter Than a College Student?

At Northwestern, the arrival of Christmas signals more than the celebration of Christ’s birth and a time to be with family. It also marks the end of a semester brought to a close by a week of finals. We’ve compiled some test questions from actual exams given by NWC professors. See how you stack up against today’s students. (Answers on page 31)

1. A journal entry to record the sale of inventory on account will include a
   a) debit to inventory
   b) debit to accounts receivable
   c) debit to sales
   d) credit to cost of goods sold
   From Accounting 315, Intermediate Accounting I, taught by Vonda Post

2. The membrane that surrounds the heart is called
   a) visceral pericardium
   b) parietal pleura
   c) visceral pericardium
   d) pericardial pleura
   From Biology 121, Introduction to Human Anatomy, taught by Dr. Elizabeth Truesdell

3. How is depth of field affected by aperture?
   From Art 164, Photography I, taught by Phil Scorza

4. If snow begins to fall at midnight Monday at a rate of $6 - 2t^2$ inches per day (t measured in days since midnight Monday), how much snow will have accumulated by midnight Wednesday?
   From Mathematics 111, Calculus for Management, Life and Social Sciences, taught by Dr. Kim Jongerius

5. Which of the following has/have a cloaca? (There may be more than one answer.)
   a) kangaroo
   b) snake
   c) turtle
   d) platypus
   e) perch
   From Biology 280, Vertebrate Zoology, taught by Dr. Todd Tracy

6. A second-grade student explained how she solved the problem, $36 + 23$, mentally. She said, "$36...46...56...65...86...59$." Which mental computation strategy is the student using?
   a) doubling
   b) counting on
   c) adding from the left
   d) making tens
   From Education 323, Teaching Mathematics, taught by Ryan Zonnefeld

7. T F The wealthier the nation, the less likely its people are to believe that poverty is due to injustice.
   From Sociology 101, Principles of Sociology, taught by Dr. Mike Yoder

8. Which of the following statements about ribosomal peptidyl transferase is incorrect?
   a) Its activity resides in the large ribosomal subunit.
   b) It facilitates transfer of the N-terminus of the aminoacyl-tRNA from the A-site to the P-terminus of the peptidyl-tRNA in the P site by decacylation of aminoacyl-tRNA.
   c) It hydrolyzes GTP in order to allow for translocation of the ribosome.
   d) It recognizes stop codons to facilitate termination of translation.
   From Biology 327, Biochemistry: Molecular Genetics, taught by Dr. Sara Talmo

9. In general, economists are more concerned about:
   a) the size of the debt relative to GDP
   b) the absolute size of the debt
   c) the size of the debt relative to net national income
   d) the per capita debt
   From Economics 101, Survey of Economics, taught by Dr. Eric Elder

10. Match these blood terms to their corresponding conditions:
   1. Hgb   a. infection
        2. Hct   b. anemia
        3. RBC   c. clotting
        4. Platelets d. volume of blood
        5. WBC
   From Nursing 320, Promoting Shalom with All Clients, taught by Linda Ver Steeg and Deb Bongaars

11. Name the seven sacraments:
    1. ____________________________
    2. ____________________________
    3. ____________________________
    4. ____________________________
    5. ____________________________
    6. ____________________________
    7. ____________________________
    From Religion 262, Introduction to Christian Theology, taught by Dr. Mitch Kinsinger

12. Because the founders believed they were creating a government of limited powers, they felt it unnecessary to:
    a) impose checks on presidential power
    b) specify what Congress could not do
    c) have the Senate elected directly
    d) include a Bill of Rights
    From Political Science 101, American National Government, taught by Dr. Jeff VanDerWerff

13. "Both parties depredated war, but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive, and the other would accept war rather than let it perish, and the war came." The form of speech emphasized in the italicized words is called:
    a) mimesis
    b) antithesis
    c) parallelism
    d) recompense
    From English 220, Introduction to Literary Study, taught by Dr. Ann Lundberg

14. List four artistic qualities identified with Romanticism present in Edmund Rostand’s Cyrano De Bergerac.
    From Theatre 344, History and Theory of Theatre, taught by Dr. Bob Hubbard
15. List these five items in chronological order in the five blanks, putting the earliest (oldest) item (determined by the birth date for a person or the beginning date of an event) in the top blank and concluding with the latest (most recent) item in the bottom blank.
   1. ___________________________
   2. ___________________________
   3. ___________________________
   4. ___________________________
   5. ___________________________

From History 101, Western Civilization to 1789, taught by Dr. Doug Anderson

16. The chemical process that can be represented as
   \[ \text{C}_6\text{H}_12\text{O}_6 + 6\text{O}_2 \rightarrow 6\text{CO}_2 + 6\text{H}_2\text{O} + 36 \text{ ATP} \]
   is called:
   a) beta-oxidation
   b) translation
   c) deamination
   d) glycolysis

From Kinesiology 325, Physiology of Exercise, taught by Dr. Dean Calsbeek

17. Several theories provide possible explanations for the gendered division of labor. Which of the following statements can be supported without qualifications or exceptions?
   - a) Males exclusively perform certain tasks because of their greater body mass and strength.
   - b) Hunting is an activity which is not compatible with childcare.
   - c) Women will only do work which does not jeopardize their fertility.
   - d) none of the above

From Sociology 290, Cultural Anthropology, taught by Dr. Scott Monsma

18. Name two ways we can help boys become more successful in the classroom.

From Education 343, Diagnosis and Correction of Reading Problems, taught by Laura Heitritter

19. At about what velocity do you enter the water if you jump from a 15-meter cliff? (hint: use \( a(t) = -9.8 \text{ m/sec}^2 \))

From Mathematics 112, Calculus I, taught by Dr. Wayne Westenberg

20. Why is John not a Synoptic Gospel?

From Religion 110, Introduction to Biblical Studies, taught by Dr. Jackie Smallbones

21. In the blank, write the letter that best defines or describes the term given.
   1. ___ Enharmonic
   2. ___ Subtonic
   3. ___ Parallel keys
   4. ___ Tritone
   5. ___ Subdominant
   6. ___ Slur
   7. ___ Relative keys
   8. ___ Nearly relative keys
   9. ___ Mediant
   10. ___ Tie

From Music 101, Music Fundamentals, taught by Dr. Luke Dahn

22. People around the world are about _____ percent genetically identical.
   a) 99
   b) 50
   c) 75
   d) 85

From Psychology 221, Developmental Psychology: Childhood, taught by Andrea Donovan

23. A pegboard balance is set up in which the weight of three paper clips is equal to one nut. Nine nuts are hung from one paper clip one hole to the right of the fulcrum. Another nut is hung from a paper clip two holes to the right of the center. One nut is hung from one paper clip five holes to the left of center. One last nut is hung from one paper clip four holes to the left of center. Including the effect of the paper clips, will this arrangement tilt clockwise, tilt counter-clockwise, or stay level? Explain your answer.

From Physics 101, Conceptual Physics, taught by Dr. Thomas Bogue

24. The most basic and frequently used form of contrast in graphic design is
   a) spatial depth
   b) size
   c) texture
   d) structure

From Communications 263, Layout and Design, taught by Dr. Carl Vandermeulen

25. There may be a "peak marriage age" in which the chances of divorce are significantly lower and the quality of the marriage is higher than the start of a marriage in any other age group. That age range is:
   a) 23-27
   b) 18-23
   c) 39-47
   d) 28-38

From Social Work 231, Human Behavior and the Social Environment I, taught by Mark De Ruiter
PHILOSOPHY, BATMAN!
Northwestern prof explores how philosophy relates to popular culture

by Amy Scheer

Without warning they came.

Good memories of philosophy classes crashed down on the unhappy chemistry major. Shaken but not defeated, he emerged from the rubble promising to pursue the field with a vengeance. He soared through graduate school on his newfound quest, a once-undisciplined student transforming himself into a pedigreed philosopher ready to save the world.

"Philosophy can help," says superthinker and philosophy professor Randy Jensen. And though he won’t pin down exactly what that means ("There is no agreed-upon definition of philosophy"), he’ll get you thinking, which is exactly the point.

Jensen contributes regularly to the Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture series, with essays in books such as *Batman and Philosophy, Battlestar Galactica and Philosophy, The Office and Philosophy*, and *24 and Philosophy*.

“It’s a kind of evangelism for the discipline,” he says of the books. His essays’ light, witty tone is the perfect foil for teaching serious philosophical concepts as they intersect with popular culture’s current hits. When it bothers you that Dwight Schrute of *The Office* calls himself “assistant regional manager” instead of “assistant to the regional manager,” turn to Jensen for definitions of deception and self-deception. And when in the course of a very long day you see 24’s Jack Bauer face yet another moral dilemma, join Jensen in wrestling with ethics and moral theory.

Ultimately, the Northwestern professor wants readers to appreciate philosophy on its own merits.

“To become interested in philosophy is to become curious, to become interested in life’s big—and little—questions,” he says. “While we might start by wondering what we think of Jack Bauer’s latest attempt to save the world, we can end up reflecting on what we do and how we treat people—and that’s a good thing.”

**Battling Evil**

In his essay “Batman’s Promise,” Jensen points out that Batman’s mission—to rid Gotham City of crime—is a promise he makes to his murdered parents before he has acquired the skills necessary to carry it out. Jensen, too, knows a little about how life’s circumstances can send you into territory you’re not fully prepared to enter. In 1995, his father died of cancer at the age of 55, not long before Jensen’s first daughter was born.

“It was a defining moment for me. I teach pretty regularly on the problem of evil—why do bad things happen in God’s world? Well, that was a pretty awful thing for me, on an existential level. Of course, I already knew that lots of good people die in horrible ways, so in a sense this added nothing new to the world. But when you’re living out some philosophical issue, you’re motivated to work through it in a more urgent way, and ‘solutions’ that might have seemed acceptable may sound hollow.”

Jensen appreciated the chance to explore issues of death and the afterlife in his essay “Resurrection One Piece at a Time” for *Johnny Cash and Philosophy*. In Cash’s songs and life, Jensen writes, “No matter how bad things may get … there’s always hope that things will be made right.”

Regarding his dad’s death, Jensen says, “Philosophy didn’t make the experience less painful. But it helped me to work through how I felt and what I thought, to make sense of it all as best I could. And I needed to do that, perhaps because of the kind of person I am.”

**To the Rescue**

What kind of a person is a philosopher? Brown tweed coat, plaid bow tie? Clark Kent glasses?

“I’d like to think I don’t always wear those glasses,” Jensen says. But try as he might to occasionally change out of his philosopher getup, his wife can attest otherwise. “There’s the occupational hazard of asking questions about everything. Conversations can take that sort of turn. That’s when Darlene says, ‘Hey, I was telling you something about my day—I didn’t want to be interrogated about it!’”

You may want to think twice before inviting a philosopher to your New Year’s Eve party, then, but consider consulting on one of the important matters of the day. This constant thinking is the philosopher’s superpower, and Jensen would like to see more of his colleagues on the public scene. On ethical issues of stem cell research, for example, philosophers need a panel seat right up there with the scientists and theologians.

“We can help,” he says. [Cue theme music.]

*Northwestern Classic*
Among Northwestern students, there are as many perspectives on the world as there are curious individuals in this community of learners. The majority of students are Americans, and although they are drastically different, they still hold mostly common values—like government of, by and for the people—and understand common experiences—like Super Bowl Sunday.

Northwestern’s 39 international students are distinct in more ways than they are similar. Born and raised in 20 countries on five continents, their reasons for choosing Northwestern include excellent academics, opportunities for spiritual growth, and a safe-from-distractions location. Many are Christians. Several are followers of other world religions, like Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam. Others don’t claim a faith.

Most don’t go home for the holidays. Many speak several languages. More than American students, they have battled homesickness, communication frustration, and cultural misunderstanding and embarrassment.

They also appreciate—possibly better than their classmates—the beauty of diversity, understanding and acceptance.

What follows are select stories that offer a glimpse into their different lives.
At the end of her first semester, Guerda Muzinga was finally starting to get over her culture shock. The 21-year-old had never been away from her home in the Democratic Republic of the Congo before this year.

After she finished high school, Guerda was directed by her father to attend a Congolese university and study economics, like her older sister. But Guerda had her own ideas: learn English and study business abroad.

During a three-year standoff over her future, Guerda lived at home. She didn’t study or work. She and her father argued until finally her mother intervened and convinced her father to let her go.

Located near the equator, Guerda’s country is hot—and getting hotter, especially along the Rwandan border where rebels are causing a refugee and humanitarian crisis. Guerda’s family is in the western capital city of Kinshasa and safe so far, but they have uneasy recollections of the “African World War” of the late 1990s. Guerda remembers the staccato of shooting during the night. Unable to leave the house, she and her siblings listened to their parents whisper about children rounded up and sent to fight as soldiers.

This fall, in preparation for her first trip out of Africa, Guerda packed hardly anything from home. “Where’s your stuff?” her roommate asked when she arrived at Northwestern. “I’m starting a new life,” Guerda said—a life that has included the American habit of shopping to fill her empty closet.

Guerda says she has been cold since arriving in August.

When it snowed on campus in early November, her Fern Smith Hall roommates asked if she’d ever seen snow. “Of course,” she said, “on TV.”

They told her it will snow more and get colder. She groaned. Someone asked if she owns an electric blanket. “What is that?” she asked, “and where can I buy one?” She picks sweaters and scarves off store racks and asks, “Will this be warm enough for me to survive?”

“Yes,” her new friends assure her, “You’ll survive.”

Guerda’s starting to believe that. Defiantly independent before she left home, she spent the first weeks at Northwestern crying during long-distance calls to her mother, who reminded her: “You wanted to go. Now stay—and learn.” Guerda’s mother—a believer who was comforted when her strong-willed daughter chose a Christian college that would nurture her tentative faith—told her, “Read the Bible. Pray. You will be OK.”

Guerda has dried her eyes and is exploring her new home. “I do want to learn,” she says, “and share my culture too.” She searches for the words to express herself: “I’m not sure what I can offer, but I would like to be part of this family.”
His jaw tightens. An indignant spark flashes in his dark eyes. “No one wants a Cold War again,” he acknowledges, “but we’re a sovereign country.” Russia should back off from Georgia, he says.

Two days after Irakli Naridze returned to Northwestern for his senior year, Russian soldiers invaded his country, escalating tensions between Georgian armed forces and Ossetian separatists into a full-scale war.

While Irakli moved belongings, including his prized Georgian flag, into Heemstra Hall, his boyhood friends were getting 3 a.m. phone calls with instructions: “It’s time to serve your country.”

If he hadn’t traveled to Iowa, Irakli would have been drafted too and spent August putting out fires and evacuating the wounded. Every Georgian man between 18 and 24 submits to a month of mandatory military training, he explains. “I still don’t know how to hold a gun properly, though,” he admits, and expresses worry for his friends who are similarly ill-prepared for combat. “They’re just kids—like me.”

Torn between his nationalistic impulse to defend his homeland and gratitude that his parents were spared the worry of his involvement in the conflict, Irakli spent the fall semester trying to focus on his business classes and responsibilities as a resident assistant. A former intern with the United Nations, he has abandoned his goal of a career with the organization, in part because of the U.N.’s recent indecisiveness about aiding Georgia. Instead, after graduation he hopes to pursue an M.B.A. so he can return to Georgia and contribute to its notable economic growth and reforms.

The situation along the Russian border remains tense, but fighting in eastern Georgia has halted—for now, says Irakli. He grew up in the capital city of Tbilisi during the civil war that followed the country’s declaration of independence from the former Soviet Union and hopes his country won’t return to those dark days. “There were many shortages,” he remembers. “No jobs, no food; I stood with my father in line for bread.”

During this season of “Peace on earth, goodwill toward men,” Irakli missed attending Christmas Eve services with his family, who are Christians. “Worshippers stand all through the night,” he says, “eight or nine hours, until the sun comes up Christmas morning.”
It’s a lot like Christmas,” Nasiba Khalikova tells her friends about Ramadan, still her favorite holiday. Culturally Muslim and a committed Christian, Nasiba celebrates both.

The petite Tajikistani grew up in the capital city of Dushanbe. Her mother, a bread factory worker, was killed during the country’s civil war in the 1990s. Her father and an aunt raised her and her younger brother to have traditional Muslim, family-oriented values, although they weren’t particularly devout.

During a spiritual search in her teenage years, Nasiba told her aunt she wanted to pray five times daily. Her aunt advised her to wait to start practicing Islam until she was older.

“T was looking for a relationship with God,” Nasiba recalls. “I felt he wanted something, and I wanted to know what.”

A high school friend invited her to a Christian church, and Nasiba remembers she was interested—then irate. “I thought, ‘These people are crazy, singing and jumping,’” she recalls to her friend, “Thanks, but no thanks.”

Her friend’s new faith continued to intrigue her, though, and Nasiba accepted more invitations to church in an effort to understand. “Why did they go there,” she wondered, “and why were they so joyful?” She told her aunt not to worry: “I said, ‘I don’t want to be a Christian. I just want to learn.’”

Then, she says, “I started learning and soon I became one of those crazy people.”

The only Christian in her family—a secret she keeps from her grandma and uncles—Nasiba smiles wryly as she recalls her father’s reaction: “He didn’t support my decision—but he didn’t kick me out of the house, either.”

A foreign-exchange experience in Huxley, Iowa, introduced the senior actuarial science major to the Midwestern U.S. and focused her search for a Christian college.

“God worked a miracle,” she says, explaining Northwestern has been a safe place to pursue her deep passion for increasing understanding between Muslims and Christians. “From both sides I hear things that hurt me,” says Nasiba. “Christians think Muslims are terrorists. Muslims think Christians just want to convert everyone” with no cultural sensitivity or desire to understand different—but just as deeply held—beliefs, she adds.

A former RA in Hoppers Hall, Nasiba is described by the women who look up to her as wise, discerning and understanding. She listens and respectfully asks the same in return.

“I pray to be a good representative of Muslims for my friends here and of Christians for my family there. I believe God found me in my country for a reason—he chose me for this.”
Impressive. Robi Bogdanffy uses that word a lot.

As a kid, after being impressed by a stunt biker in his hometown of Hunedoara in Romania’s Transylvania Mountains, he taught himself to trick ride and became one of the best in his city. He gave that up when cross-country mountain biking impressed him.

Tolstoy impresses him, Dante’s Divine Comedy, the wisdom writings of Ecclesiastes, the book Coal he’ll read for Western Civ.

The freshman was impressed by the number of Christmas lights his roommate hung around their Colenbrander Hall room. Delighted to be surrounded by sparkle, Robi says, “Back home, we can only afford one string of Christmas lights.”

The son of a Jiu Valley mining engineer who’s lucky to be among the 60 percent of the country’s employed, Robi grew up in the decade immediately after communism fell in Romania. Years of secrecy, skepticism and social conformity were difficult to overcome, and necessities remained scarce. Robi remembers waiting in line—sometimes as long as three days—for six gallons of rationed gasoline.

As a teen, he got involved with his neighborhood’s Impact Club, one of a number of clubs established by New Horizons Foundation (NHF), which hosts Northwestern’s Romania Semester. The clubs aim to give Romanian young people a chance to experience camaraderie, generosity, trust and accountability—currency of social capital that was destroyed during communism.

One of the club’s projects was providing Christmas meals for families that couldn’t afford groceries. “Our little club raised $500—more than a month’s salary—and brought Christmas dinner to six families. It was impressive,” he says.

NHF leaders were so impressed with Robi’s intelligence and leadership, they chose him for a special assignment: Get an American education; then return to Romania to further the foundation’s goals for hope.

The political science major intends to learn about government and political systems so he can understand the context within which nongovernmental organizations like NHF can flourish. He is adding Russian and Mandarin Chinese to the list of languages he already speaks: Romanian, Hungarian, German, French and English.

Robi’s trip to Northwestern was his first time on a plane, and he says the U.S. is—you guessed it—impressive. “This country is the melting pot of all the civilizations,” he says. “It’s a mirror of the world.”
Robert Vogelaar, Prescott Valley, Ariz., writes that he is enjoying retirement. He spends some of his time writing short stories about flying adventures in Alaska.

Lorene (Whitehouse) Dykstra is an alternative school coordinator for Ventura (Iowa) Community School.

Curt Krull recently opened a law office in Orange City, specializing in taxes and estate planning. He was a trial lawyer in Des Moines for more than 20 years.

Merlin Van Gelder, Amstelveen, the Netherlands, serves Fort Dodge Animal Health as chief financial officer for Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Bonnie (Intveld) Van Leeuwen recently celebrated 20 years of employment at Staples Promotional Products (formerly K-Products) in Orange City. She is currently the purchasing assistant for the facilities maintenance department. Her husband, Everett (Doc) ’71, is a training coordinator for the Pella Corporation in Sioux Center. They have two sons: Kyle and Brent.

Jeff Hansen is business manager for the News-Argus in Goldsboro, N.C. Previously he was group controller for Greater Niagara Newspapers in New York.

Dr. Larry Duenk is medical director of urgent care for Marsho Medical in Sheboygan, Wis., and assistant clinical professor of family medicine at Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

Bessma (Khoury) Shammas, Naperville, Ill., works in the international programs office at North Central College.

John Ter Beest was named the 2007 employee of the year at Rapid City (S.D.) Regional Hospital. He is a registered nurse in the intensive care unit.

Jon Henry, Royal Palm Beach, Fla., is a teacher and head wrestling coach at Palm Beach Central High School. He was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Florida chapter, last summer after 26 years of coaching.

Stephen Clay, Kennesaw, Ga., is regional sales manager for the Paisley software company.

Kris (Van Etten) Fabrie is development director for Westlake Christian Academy in Grayslake, Ill.

Lon Hellenga and his wife, Ronda (Mills ’86), are teachers in Las Vegas. Rhonda completed a master’s degree in education from Southwest Minnesota State University. They have two children: Kaylee (18) and Sydney (13).

David Mc Cleery, Zeeland, Mich., is director of ministry relations for the International Needs Network USA, a mission organization that connects indigenous missions with U.S. churches. He and his wife, Linda (Josephson ’84), previously served 16 years with Mission Aviation Fellowship, mostly in Ecuador.

Natalie (Krafft) Van Meeteren, Archer, Iowa, suffered a major stroke in May. She reports she’s fortunate to still be able to walk and talk. She is the bookkeeper for her husband’s trucking business.

Natalie Nordby Chen works as the test development manager for the University of Michigan’s English Language Institute.

Julie Powell, Orange City, is a child and family advocate for the Sioux County Department of Human Services.

Maria (Nelson) Brands, Rochester, Minn., home-schools her three children.
Susan (Van Meeteren) Brush moved to Hudsonville, Mich., where she is a substitute teacher. She and her husband, Beaumont, have two kids: Isaac (7) and Chloe (3).

Sheryl (Swartz) Christensen, Des Moines, is a billing specialist for Lutheran Services in Iowa. She and her husband have three children: Laura (7), Dayna (4) and David (1).

Joyce (Ramold) Christopher of West Plains, Mo., recently completed 15 years as a senior counselor with the Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, helping individuals with disabilities obtain and maintain employment. She and her husband, David, own a trophy business as well as a shipping and packing business.

Nancy (Vander Zwaag) Dau, Spirit Lake, Iowa, teaches in the Terri/Graettinger school system. Her husband, Dave ’89, is a contractor. They have four children: Drew (16), Adam (14), Alex (14) and Emma (11).

Dale Hemmingsen, Freeland, Pa., is a management analyst for the U.S. Department of Defense.

Wendy Knipple is operations manager for Motion Industries, an industrial parts distributor. She is also a member of the Wisconsin Rapids (Wis.) City Band.

Brenda Koerseman is an elementary librarian for Gilbert (Arizona) Public Schools.

Dawn (Swart) Kuiper, Sioux Falls, recently received a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from South Dakota State University. She is a pharmacist for Hy-Vee. Her husband, Bill, is an assistant professor of sociology at Augustana College. He recently taught classes in Ireland and Australia. They have two sons: Liam (9) and Kieran (7).

Vonda (Huistein) Vander Berg, Sioux Center, teaches third grade at Orange City Elementary. Her husband, Jeff ’86, owns part of Vander Berg Homes and Furniture. They have three children: Jaden (14), Jaycee (11) and Keegan (6).

Karen Bowers, Oregon City, Ore., teaches kindergarten in the North Clackamas School District and has three adopted daughters: Alexis (5), Sarita (2) and Elicia (1).

Laura (Ver Mulm) De Boer serves as editorial project manager for the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology in Ames, Iowa. Her husband, Bob ’91, is lead pastor at Bridgeway Church.

Dawn (Knipple) Huizenga, Hollandale, Minn., is secretary/treasurer of First Baptist Church in Albert Lea. Her husband, Anthony ’89, works for MasterGuard, selling fire safety equipment. They have two sons: Arin (10) and Willem (7).

Fawzy Simon completed a law degree from the University of Missouri at Kansas City in May. He is a public defender in Lebanon, Mo.

Robbie Brommer, Sumas, Wash., asks for prayers as he battles testicular cancer.

Leslie (Quade) Zimprich, Franklin, Tenn., is the global vice president of learning for Bank of America.

Kenneth Hayes is associate principal at Marshalltown (Iowa) High School. He earned a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from the University of Northern Iowa in 2006.

Becky (Vander Stoop) Ray, Burlington, Wash., is a stay-at-home mom. She and her husband, Matt, have four daughters: Allyson (8), Anna (5), Adria (3) and Amelia (1).

David Risius is a physical therapist at Baptist Home Health in Little Rock, Ark., which recently was recognized for excellence in innovation by the National Association of Home Care and Hospice.

Melanie Mason is an athletic trainer at Johnston (Iowa) High School.
Shawn Starkenburg, Corvallis, Ore., earned a doctorate in microbiology from Oregon State University in 2007. He is a scientist for Invitrogen in Eugene, and his wife, Diane (Boyesen ’96), is a psychologist with MidValley Counseling Center in Salem.

98 Wendy Ackenberg teaches first grade for the Community School District. She also coaches junior high volleyball and is the assistant varsity girls’ basketball coach.

Holly Arendt, Sioux Falls, works at A & B Business Equipment and Ramada Inn and Suites.

Maria (Van Steenis) Bruins is administrator of Salem Christian Homes in China, Calif.

Tracy Lindsaak is the private event manager for four restaurants in downtown Chicago.

Cam Olson is a physician’s assistant for an orthopedic group in Charleston, S.C. His wife, Heather (DeGroot), stays home with their two daughters: Charlee (4) and Bria (1).

Jennifer (Wiersema) Probst, Alton, runs a home daycare as well as JK Country Bakery. She and her husband, Keith, have three children.

Amanda (Aldrich) Schmidt, Rolfe, Iowa, is the K-12 principal for the West Bend-Mallard Community School District. She and her husband, Rob, have two daughters: Morgan (7) and Abigail (3).

Rebecca Schreuder, San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico, stays home with her son, Aaron (2), and runs a small home-baking business. Her husband, Rogelio, is a teacher.

Amy (Brown) Smit, Urbana, Iowa, is the communications director for Character Counts in Iowa. Her husband, Chad ’97, is the information technology manager at MidAmerican Energy. They have two children: Noah (2) and Avery (1).

Tina Sorensen is the academic dean at the Omaha School of Massage Therapy.

Mark Van Den Berg works at Furniture Mart in Sioux Center. His wife, Melissa (Van Tilburg ’99), stays home with their children: Kaylee (6) and Tatum (3).

Laura (Schoolen) Van Der Linden teaches elementary music at Edgerton (Minn.) Public School. She and her husband, Mike, have three children: Brittany (5), Rachel (4) and Seth (2).

Renee Wynn is an event planner and administrative assistant for Bethany Christian Services in Orange City.

Dr. Dan Faber is an internal medicine/pediatrics physician for Cannon Valley Physicians-Mayo Health System in Northfield, Minn. His wife, Angie (Halverson ’02), stays home with their two children: Josiah (3) and Gianna (1).

Jennifer (Petrikikis) Emanuel is a guidance counselor at Sunnyslope High School in Phoenix.

Monica Schaap Pierce recently moved to New York City, where she is pursuing a doctorate in theology from Fordham University. She received a Master of Sacred Theology degree from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, last summer.

John Rundquist teaches special education at North View Junior High School in Brooklyn Park, Minn.

Bart Banwart, Adel, Iowa, is a financial analyst for the Foster Group in Des Moines.

Justin DeJong served as director of communications for Barack Obama’s presidential campaign in Illinois. He took a leave of absence from his position as director of communications at the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Laura Rammer is a dentist in Sheboygan, Wis.

A Boeing employee since 2001, John Williams has negotiated contracts for his company’s military aircraft with such countries as Israel, Kuwait, Singapore and the United Kingdom. Last January, he and his family moved to New Delhi, where he interacts with Indian industry and government leaders.

Cultural Liaison

“Cultural influences are something I’ve observed very carefully. I’ve seen people both succeed and fail in multicultural situations,” says John Williams ’84.

It’s a subject he knows well, both personally and professionally. Last January, Williams, along with his wife and three children, moved from Arizona to New Delhi, India, where he is Boeing’s director of offset programs. In that role he engages in business with Indian companies, oversees Boeing’s commitments to the country, and administers their philanthropic initiatives.

Born in Bangladesh to Indian parents and raised in Pakistan, he first came to the U.S. to attend Northwestern. “It was a multicultural experience by immersion,” says Williams, who speaks five languages and several Indian dialects. “It was definitely a shock to the system, but it had a lasting impact on me and my ability to embrace cultural differences.”

His cultural outlook expanded once again when he made the move to India with his family. “We went from the classic suburban lifestyle in the U.S. to living in an apartment in the heart of one of the largest cities in the world.”

Reflecting on his experiences, Williams says people’s similarities are greater than cultural differences. “Embrace other cultures in a genuine way,” he says. “We may come from different cultures, but we all have similar motivations, dreams and desires.”

By Emily Hennager ’06
Tish (Templer) Halverson graduated from the University of St. Thomas School of Law in Minneapolis in 2005. She is a partner at Klay Veldhuizen, Bindner, De Jong, De Jong and Halverson in Orange City and Paulina. Her husband, Bryan, is a salesman for C-S Agro in Calumet, Iowa.

Jennifer Sowa recently transferred from the University of Iowa to Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., to continue her doctoral degree thesis work in immunology.

Rachel Van Den Broek, West Des Moines, Iowa, is an enrollment counselor at William Penn University College for Working Adults.

Luke Wangen, Cherokee, Iowa, is plant manager of Maple River Energy, a soybean crush and biodiesel refinery facility. He is also the vice president of production and process design for Little Wolf Research, a start-up industrial technology research company that analyzes solutions to industrial waste and co-products problems.

Colin Youde is a physical education and health teacher and coach for Remsen Union (Iowa) Community Schools.

Lyndsay (Henderson) Bahrske is a registered nurse at the Orange City Medical Clinic. Her husband, Scott ’01, teaches and coaches at Kingsley-Pierson High School.

Malinda Burk teaches ninth grade physical and earth science at Lincoln (Neb.) High School. She also serves as the student council sponsor.

Tiffany (Altena) Govig works part time for Liquid Energy in Sioux Center. Her husband, Ryan ’02, serves as youth director at New Life Reformed Church.

Sara Grieme, Des Moines, teaches eighth grade reading and language arts in Carlisle. She earned a master’s degree in education from Viterbo University in LaCrosse, Wis.

Emily (Denekas) Huismann teaches kindergarten and first grade at Ocheyedan (Iowa) Christian School.

Jonathan Kraker, Hudsonville, Mich., is director of youth ministry at Third Reformed Church in Kalamazoo.

Timothy Marinelli, Yorktown, Va., is a physical therapist at a children’s hospital in Newport News. His wife, Renita (Gallimore ’03), stays home with daughter Adiella (1).

Tara Meekma is the membership sales manager for the Denver Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Robert Reitz, Omaha, is a document solutions consultant for Better Business Equipment Co.

Brandon Scheveel and his wife, Carrie (Vander Stoep ’05), have moved from Orange City to Spring Valley, Minn., where he is a partner in an accounting firm. He spent the last four years as an accountant at the Pizza Ranch headquarters. They have a son, Malachi (1).

Nick Scholten is an agent with New York Life Insurance in Orange City.

Emily (Bongaars) Swinger, Waukee, Iowa, teaches second grade at Brookview Elementary School. Her husband, Roy, is a research associate at Pioneer Hi-Bred.

Andrea (Brummel) Taylor is the service and outreach coordinator for Second Reformed Church in Pella, Iowa. She and her husband, Jason, have a son, Carson (1).

Nikki (Bosch) Thomas, Des Moines, teaches special education at Altoona Elementary School. Her husband, Jerome, is a software engineer.

Angela (Reimers) Turner, Ankeny, Iowa, is a special education teacher at Urbandale Middle School. She earned a master’s degree in education from Drake University in May.

Stephanie Unick is pursuing a law degree at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

Joey Weber serves as assistant director of residence life for the University of
A Promise Kept

While standing in knee-deep water with thousands of others over the course of a long, rainy night, John Paul (JP) Sundararajan ’00 felt sure that, come morning, he’d secure the paperwork necessary to leave India and study at Northwestern. After all, the exact amount of tuition assistance he needed had come through miraculously; surely God would navigate him through this process too.

When he faced the agent known for granting only the rare visa, his heart sank. She demanded proof he’d not be part of the “brain drain” to the United States.

“I want to be a missionary,” he told her, vowing to return someday. And then the next miracle happened: She believed him.

Twelve years later, Sundararajan is making good on his promise. As India-Asia director of Audio Scripture Ministries, Sundararajan helps record and distribute Scriptures in native languages worldwide. He partnered with Northwestern to create Operation Awaaz, a project that enabled students to fund the recording of Scriptures for the Vasavi, a primarily illiterate tribe in India.

“Your names will always be in their history,” Sundararajan told Northwestern students who gave.

Making those connections is his calling, he says, “to be a bridge between the U.S. and India—between cultures—and help other people do that as well.”

Audio Scripture Ministries is based in Holland, Mich. Find out more at www.asmtoday.org.

by Amy Scheer
New arrivals
Russ and Leslie (Quade '91) Zimprich, son, Jackson David, finds Matthew (4) and Abigail (2)
Will and Lynn (Kamstra '94) Kavanaugh, son, Collin Matthew, joins Jacob (5) and Caleb (3)
Mark and Kristin (Falksen '96) Knake, son, Matthew Ryan, joins Jonathan (3) and Jordan (2)
Diane (Boysen '96) and Shawn Starkenburg '97, son, Eli West, joins Naomi (3)
Allen and Rebecca (Flanagan '98) Faber, son, Ayden Maxwell
Insoo and Angela (Smits '98) Kim, son, Isaiah Airen Jisoon, joins Elliot (2)
Angie (Smits '98) and John Peterson '01, son, Drey Aidan, joins Sydney (4)
Brent and Sherrie Barber Willson '98, daughter, Lila Barber
Eric and Becky (Vermeer '99) Hiemstra, daughter, Ameyah Joy, joins Jayden (7), Teagan (5) and Heydan (2)
Celeste and John Rundquist '99, son, Raleigh Reid, joins Quinnlan (2)
Manda (Nelson '99) and B.J. Van Kalsbeek '99, son, Brody Brian, joins Kamea (3)
Julie (Kuijen '99) and Steve Vis '98, twins, Cody Steven and Joslyn Jo
Tara (Spencer '99) and Dan Witterdink '96, daughter, Abigail MayAnn, joins Elizabeth (9), Jeremiah (7) and Micah (2)
Stacie (Brosamle '00) and Tony Englin '99, son, Ryan Jacob, joins Brandon (5) and Tyler (3)
Sabrina and Randy Smit '00, daughter, Anna Beth, joins Caleb (5) and Chloe (2)
Katy and JP Sundararajan '00, daughter, Leila Ruth
Sheri (Bakker '00) and Jerod Work '00, son, Karson Ronald, joins Peyton (3)
Jodi and Matt Vermeer '01, son, Malakai Jay
Leslie (Hall '02) and Bart Banwart '00, twins, Carter Henry and Tyler Robert, join Jackson (4) and Lincoln (2)
Bryan and Tish (Templer '02) Halverson, daughter, Avery Marie, joins Carter (2)
Kristin (Schuling '02) and Shaun Olson '99, daughter, Kamryn Nicole, joins Makenna (4)
Lyndsay (Henderson '03) and Scott Bahrke '01, daughter, Olivia Grace, joins Payge (3)
April (Lubow '03) and Samuel Dose '04, son, Isaac Joseph
Jaci (Van Engen '03) and Aaron Feltman '00, daughter, Anna Rae, joins Lauren
Tiffany (Altena '03) and Ryan Gugig '02, son, Kylee Shane
Tomas and Amber (Bolkema '03) Holteberg, son, Noah Tomas
Jacie and John Kramer '03, daughter, Aspen Faye
Michael and Jennifer (Back '03) Navis, daughter, Michelle Jennie
Kelly (Huizenga '03) and Brandon Van Marel '02, daughter, Joanna Kate
Drew and Heidi (Krikke '03) Van Wyk, daughter, Hannah Marie
Allison (Henrich '07) and Nick Adams '09, daughter, Kaylie Joy
Kara Van De Berg '06 and Daren Dieleman, Sioux Center
Jaimi Joneson '07 and Brett Vander Berg '08, Holland, Mich.
Erin Scholten '07 and Casey Ter Beest '08, Seattle
Kari Tjeerdema '08 and Blake Wiekamp '08, Sioux Center

The couples reside in the city listed.

In Memoriam
Harriet Heusinkveld '34, age 92, died May 8 in Pella, Iowa. After graduating from Northwestern Junior College, she taught in rural Iowa schools and then earned a bachelor's degree from Central College. She later received master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Iowa. A geography professor at Central College for 40 years, she started her study abroad program in Yucatan. Central awarded her an honorary doctorate of human letters, as well as the alumnus stewardship and service award. She was active at Second Reformed Church and in the Pella community. She is survived by three siblings, including Henry '38 and Frances '44.

Anna (Hibma) Schaap '38, '39 of Orange City died Sept. 18 in Sioux Center at age 88. She taught in a rural school for three years and then was a homemaker and helped her husband, John, farm near Maurice for 45 years. She was a member of First Christian Reformed Church and their Faith, Hope and Love Society. She was also a member of the Monica Society. Her survivors include two sons and a sister, Alida Topp '40, '42.

Dorothy (De Vries) Ver Steeg '41, age 86, died Sept. 17 in Evanston, Ill. After graduating from Northwestern Junior College, she earned a bachelor's degree from Morningside College and a master's degree in music from Columbia University in New York City. She taught and performed piano for many years and helped her late husband, Clarence '42, write more than a dozen American history books. In addition, she was employed as a principal administrative officer for an architectural design firm in Chicago. A member of the Northminster Presbyterian Church, she served on boards for the public library and historical society. Her survivors include a son and a brother, Warren '44.

SPEAK UP
Tell your NWC friends and classmates about the latest news in your life.
Submit by Jan. 20 to:
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Marriages
Fawzy Simon '90 and Penny Hagan, Lebanon, Mo.
Sharon Jones '98 and Josh Walker, Winniebago, Minn.
Jennifer Petrieks '99 and Glenn Emanuel, Phoenix
Sarah Sikkema '99 and Joel Seitz, Milwaukee
John Cleveringa '01 and Dana Schaap, Grand Rapids, Mich.
Tiffany Mastbergen '02 and Scott Zeilenga, Sheldon, Iowa
Dara De Boer '03 and David Watson, Watseka, Ill.
Manny Maldonado '03 and Isabel Mendez, West Sacramento, Calif.
Nick Scholten '03 and Laura Spanhut '07, Orange City
Jessica Baade '04 and Corey Guinn, Monroe, Iowa
Gina Jager '05 and Ryan Councilman, San Angelo, Texas
Shelby Schmidt '06 and Mitch Tessendorf, Lincoln, Neb.
Wanted a Barbie.
Got boots.

If you didn't get everything you wanted this Christmas, buy yourself a gift during Northwestern's annual Gala Auction. Browse and bid for electronics, sports memorabilia, vacations and more at:

www.nwciowa.edu/auction

New items added daily.
Winning bids determined at the live event

February 7

The Rev. Richard Nance Vos '41 died Sept. 3 in Summerland, Calif., at the age of 90. After attending Northwestern Junior College, he attended Central College and New Brunswick Theological Seminary. He served congregations in New York, North Dakota and California before retiring in 1997. He is survived by his wife, Frances, and four children.

Elmer Huizenga '45, age 82, died Oct. 20 in Orange City. After attending Northwestern Junior College, he served in the Army and later attended business training school. He was a truck driver and managed the American Legion Bowling Alley in Orange City. He served for 37 years at Northwestern State Bank, retiring as vice president in 1991. He was a member of Calvary Christian Reformed Church, where he served as an elder and deacon. His survivors include his wife, Helen, and three daughters.

C. Keith Geense '74 of Federal Way, Wash., died Sept. 10 at age 60. He graduated from New Brunswick Theological Seminary and then served churches in New York and Washington. He later served as bereavement coordinator at Mountain View Funeral Home and Memorial Park in Federal Way. He is survived by his wife, Beth (Siderius '73), three sons, his mother and three siblings.

Randy Birchard '76 of Delta, Colo., died Aug. 26 at age 53. Office manager for Delta Family Physicians, he was a member of Colorado Trails. Among his survivors are his wife, Kae, and three siblings.

Paul Krommendyk '87, age 45, died Sept. 13 in a traffic accident in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. After graduating from NWC, he served as a residential counselor at Hope Haven in Rock Valley, Iowa. He later moved to North Palm Beach, Fla., where he owned and operated Paul's Lawn Care. He was a member of Church in the Gardens. Survivors include his parents, "Doc" '48 and Lorraine (De Jong '48), and three siblings.

19. 17.1464 meters per second

20. Because it tells the story of Jesus in a way that is very different than the three Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

21. 1-e; 2-g; 3-j; 4-b; 5-d; 6-f; 7-h; 8-i; 9-a; 10-c

22. a

23. Torque—or turning effect—for a weight on a balance is its mass times its horizontal distance from the pivot. Convenient units for distance in this problem are peg spacings, and for mass, the mass of a paper clip. The weight on the far left has a mass of 4 paper clips (3 from the nut and 1 from the paper clip holding the nut) and is 5 peg spacings from the pivot, so its torque is 20 (4 paper clips x 5 peg spacings). Using this same formula, the next weight has a torque of 16; the inner weight to the right of the pivot, 28; and the far-right weight 8. Since the total torque of the weights on the left side is 36 and the total torque of the weights on the right side is 36, the balance will stay level.

24. b

25. a

18. Any two of the following:
- Allow for and create lessons that involve movement in the classroom.
- Make sure learning is activity centered.
- Include greater choice in the way classroom activities are completed and graded.
- Assign more collaborative, teamed-learning activities.
Different Sister
by Kelsey Iversen '02

The first thing I noticed was her tattoos.
I was in my first Northwestern class, 10 years ago, when I walked a beautiful young Indian woman with tattoo art on both of her hands. I was intrigued. I’d come from a completely white high school.
Later that day I noticed the same girl on my wing in Hospers Hall. I learned her name was Anila. I introduced myself, and we became instant friends. As with my other friends, Anila and I talked about family, classes and boys. We shared stories about friends back home, laughed about childhood experiences, and discussed future plans and goals.
But this friendship was different. I listened, fascinated, as Anila told stories about her culture. I ate Indian food for the first time, I located her Middle Eastern home, Bahrain, on the map, and I learned the tattoos were really henna, an Indian ink that disappeared after a couple of weeks.
I pestered Anila to come home with me for a weekend so she could meet my family and high school friends. She declined for most of the school year. Being with my family, she explained, might make her miss her family and home even more than she already did. I hadn’t realized she might be homesick.
I finally convinced her, though, and was excited for everyone to meet my wonderful new college friend. I knew they would be drawn to her bubbly personality and love her as I did. That weekend I took her to my high school to attend my brother’s play. Most of my old friends were there.
The minute we stepped inside, however, I was suddenly very aware that Anila wasn’t white like everyone else in the gymnasium. She was different—I’d sort of forgotten that. I felt nervous, and my mind was racing. I thought, “They don’t know anyone as different as Anila. What will they think of her? What will they think of me?”
I ended up doing the worst thing possible: I spent the evening ignoring Anila. I left her sitting alone in the back of the gym while I reconnected with my old friends.
My friendship with Anila almost didn’t survive that night. Back on campus, we drifted apart, and my stubbornness prevented me from understanding how much I had hurt her. For two years we were friendly—but not friends.
During our senior year, I visited Chicago with the International Club and was able to hang out with Anila again. Being around her made me realize how much I missed her friendship and enjoyed her company.
She’s probably a better person than me because she took me right back. Our freshman-year friendship became more like a sisterhood. She gave me another chance and came home with me for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and we had a great time.
After graduation Anila stayed to work at Northwestern, and I moved away. Still, we remained in close contact. Eighteen months later, I was offered a job back in northwest Iowa. I called her and said, “I’m moving in!” That was five years ago, and she hasn’t gotten rid of me yet!
Today Anila—my roommate, best friend and almost-sister—continues to open my eyes to the world around me. I’m still discovering places in the world I never even knew existed. I’m learning to think globally and developing a truer sense of what it means to be part of a very big, very diverse kingdom.
I can make a mean chicken curry. I sometimes wear my sari, I can say phrases in both Hindi and Telugu (Indian languages), and I’m a big fan of Bollywood movies. I’ve taught Anila how to make a casserole, and she cheers almost as wildly for the Chicago Cubs as I do.
In January, we’re taking another trip together. Anila’s taking me to India to meet her family and friends.
I can’t wait.

Kelsey Iversen majored in sociology at Northwestern and works for the Iowa Department of Corrections at the Residential Treatment Facility in Sheldon. She’ll graduate in May with a master’s degree in criminal justice from the University of Cincinnati. Her roommate, Anila Karunakar ’03, is Northwestern’s multicultural affairs coordinator.
Jay and Mary Van Hook’s interest in Africa started when their daughters served on that continent while in the Peace Corps. Soon Jay, a philosophy professor at Northwestern for more than two decades, was studying African philosophy, traveling to Africa for conferences, and spending his sabbatical in Kenya, Zimbabwe and Ghana.

The Van Hooks’ commitment to Africa led them to establish a scholarship for international students from an African country. Although they now live in Florida, the couple traveled back to Orange City for Northwestern’s annual Scholarship Day luncheon to meet Jacob Khol, originally from Sudan and the latest student to benefit from their generosity.

“Jay was interested in my past, what I’m trying to do with my life now, and what I would like to be in the future. We talked about a nonprofit organization I’ve started, Aqua-Africa, to provide water to sub-Saharan Africa. He encouraged me a lot. He’s really passionate about Africa.”

Jacob Khol ’08

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Members of the 1983 national championship football team wore red and white during Homecoming 2008, held Sept. 26–27, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of their legendary unbeaten season. The gridiron greats were honored during halftime of Saturday’s game and then retired to the sidelines to watch the Raiders defeat Dana 54-14.

Before the game, the players and other Northwestern alumni and friends enjoyed Homecoming traditions like the Raider Road Race, Morning on the Green family carnival, and a picnic that included reunions for the classes of 1978, ’88, ’98 and 2003. The weekend, with a theme of “All Country Roads Lead Home,” ended Saturday night with a Texas-style BBQ, mechanical bull-riding, hayrides, and dancing that lasted well past sundown.