

Northwestern College Magazine *the* **Classic** SUMMER 2009

Changing Tracks

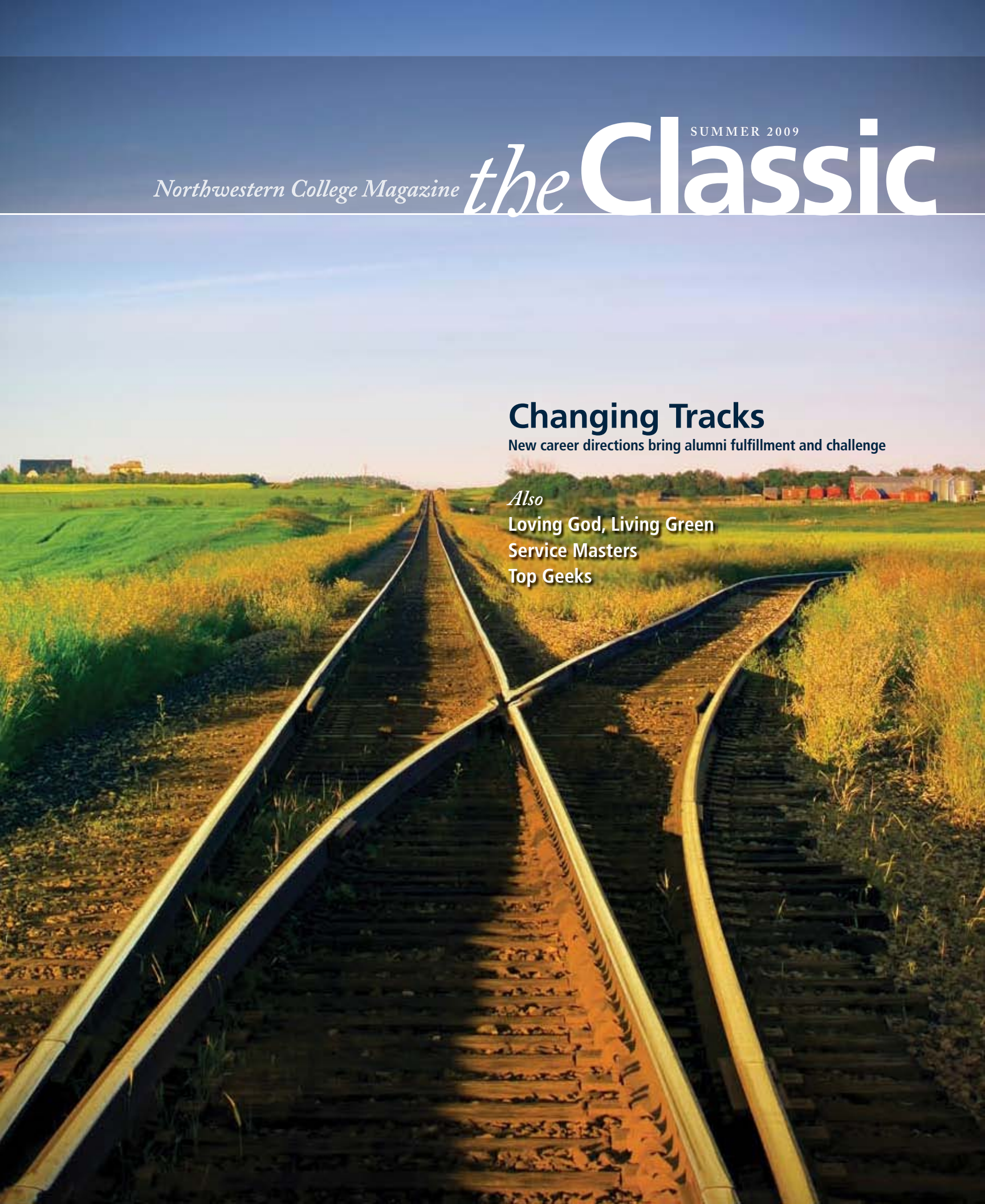
New career directions bring alumni fulfillment and challenge

Also

Loving God, Living Green

Service Masters

Top Geeks



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Competing among the top 100 computer programming teams in the world, Northwestern's team attended opening ceremonies at Stockholm City Hall, where Nobel Prizes are awarded.



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Classic People

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

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

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

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Your Turn

Add your comments to any article in this issue, including sharing ways you have changed your lifestyle to take better care of God's creation.

visit classic.nwciowa.edu

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DAN ROSS

The Community of Christ

I concluded my last *Classic* column by stating that while the times we are experiencing may be economically uncertain, we serve a God who is unchanging, unshakable and worthy of trust. At the time, I had no idea how my own faith would be tested in new ways in 2009.

Over the holidays, my wife, Michelle, and I were hoping that after two years of significant transition we would be able to settle into some sort of normalcy in 2009. That desire quickly faded when on Jan. 5 we sat in a doctor's office listening to the numbing news that Michelle had breast cancer.

Since that day, we have been on a seemingly never-ending trip to see surgeons, oncologists and other specialists. It has been a challenging first half of the year. However, as Michelle and I have been reminded often through this process, our God is sovereign. He knows every detail of our lives, including the journey we have been on. We know his grace is sufficient for us and that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to his purpose.

These truths are easier to claim, though, when not on the path we have been walking. This experience has given us a new picture of what it means to suffer. We have found much encouragement from Isaiah 41:10: "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

While it has been a difficult journey, Michelle's prognosis for a full recovery is quite positive. We've been reminded God can bring good out of any circumstance, including cancer. The genuine love, care and concern shown to us by the Northwestern community, our new church family at Trinity Reformed, and others in the local community have been overwhelming.

Board members, faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends have bathed us in prayer, provided meals, watched our kids and even cleaned our home. This has been one of the most humbling experiences of our lives as so many have served us with the hands and feet of Jesus.

On the day before Michelle's last chemotherapy treatment in May, many of these same persons joined Michelle, me and our kids as we participated in the inaugural Race for the Cure in Sioux City, an event to raise funds for breast cancer research. With over 80 runners on Team Michelle, we had the largest team of any entered in the race.

Before arriving in Orange City, Michelle and I had heard a lot about the distinctively Christian community of Northwestern. Now we've experienced it. We know its strong, loving power firsthand. What a blessing it is to serve here. We praise God for each and every person in the Northwestern family.

Greg Christy
President

From the *Classic* website

The following readers posted comments about *Classic* articles at classic.nwciowa.edu.

Classic Thoughts

Great article! I felt like I was on the boat with your family, feeling seasick like your father but holding on to that dream to get me through to the next day. Amazing faith and courage is what brought immigrants over to our country. Hard work and perseverance brought us to the standard of living we enjoy today. Avarice and greed have replaced the face of the wide-eyed industrious immigrant and are taking us down a different road. Do we need to ride the stormy waves for a while until we can find ourselves again and land in calmer water? Thank you for sharing your heart-warming story.

Colette Knudsen

1,000 Words

The photos and text in your "Splash" photo essay brought a smile to my face. I strongly suspect I am responsible for the adjective "Mighty" in the "Battle of the Mighty Floyd."

When teaching organic chemistry at NWC, I used a simple analogy to explain the basis for chromatography—a common chemical separation method. I referred to the "Mighty Floyd" (a tongue-in-cheek takeoff on the Mighty Mississippi) as analogous to the mobile phase, a group of waders to the stationary phase, and a bunch of floating beach balls to the sample. (Doug Elrick '87, a former NWC student of mine who worked as a forensic scientist at the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, told me he once borrowed my analogy to explain chromatography to a jury.)

Dr. Peter Hansen
Iowa City, Iowa



Tackling the Issues

Anita Cirulis wrote an excellent piece, "Land of Opportunity," in your spring issue. She tackled a very thorny topic and presented it as an issue of humanity, not just legality. I wish all local residents and our state and national leaders could understand the issue so well; perhaps we'd get more than posturing and inaction in actually addressing the 12 million undocumented who live among us—always in fear of a misstep, all too often the victims of prejudice, hearing the voices of those who say they're Christians but then treat other human beings without humanity.

I receive several college publications, but the *Classic* is the only one that includes real issues and presents them in a thoughtful, well-researched manner. Please continue to help our young men and women become adults who will help solve the world's problems as you educate more than just the mind.

Donna Hoadley
Sheldon, Iowa

New Perspectives

Thank you so much for your cover article on immigration in the past issue. I greatly appreciated the nonbiased, yet informative, writing. There were many issues brought up I had never thought of before, such as the difficulties of employers here in the United States and how much the trade industry affects the desire to come to the Midwest.

I believe this article represents Northwestern well in that it is open-ended and allows readers

to form their own opinions. This is exactly what I encountered at Northwestern. Thank you so much for covering this important topic, especially since it will affect us all—if it hasn't already!

Carrie Mathison '08
Preston, Minn.

Focused on Immigration

Good work with the immigration feature in the spring issue of the *Classic*. Immigration is an issue I'm interested in working with after law school, and I was impressed with the range of perspectives you were able to present. I think you provided an unbiased, but compassionate, story.

Laura Jacobson '08
Williamsburg, Va.

No Easy Answers

I read with interest the article, "Land of Opportunity." It made me realize how complex the issue of immigration is and how overwhelming the policymaking decisions are. Perhaps the control should have been started many years ago.

Eloise Christie
Algona, Iowa

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around the Green

Servant Scientist



Randy Van Peursem '92, science support services coordinator and academic adviser to about 60 biology majors, received the \$500 Staff Recognition for Inspirational Service Award this spring.

Two years ago, every student in Organic Chemistry wore shirts with Randy Van Peursem's face on them. And when the call went out for candidates for Northwestern's 2009 Staff Recognition for Inspirational Service Award, 22 students submitted endorsements on his behalf—along with four nominations from faculty and staff.

Why do people describe the coordinator of the academic support department's science center with such phrases as "a phenomenal asset," "the reason I'm passing O-Chem" and "nearly irreplaceable"?

Robben Schat '09 has the answer: "He has devoted himself to helping students succeed like no one else." Senior Erin Brogan clarifies: "Randy patiently and expertly explains answers to questions in the way each student learns best. He is more than willing to give us extra time. Randy is a true testament to Christian servanthood."

Perhaps part of the reason Van Peursem has so many admirers is

they know what he's overcome to help them.

Fifteen years ago, he had to leave medical school. He was frequently dizzy, continually nauseous and had dangerously fluctuating blood pressure.

Diagnosed with allergy-related dysautonomia, a disease of the autonomic nervous system, Van Peursem was confined to his home for two years. After making dramatic changes to his diet and surroundings, he was able to tutor at Northwestern three hours a week. Now full time, he works afternoons and nights because he doesn't feel well in the mornings.

Yet Van Peursem is a firm believer in Romans 8:28. He often offers advice for people suffering from allergies, and he encourages pre-med students to be aware of similar cases when they become doctors. And he has discovered the joy of helping students understand a new concept.

"I love what I'm doing," he says.

Green Generation

Instead of collecting quarters, Heemstra Hall guys are seeking clothespins. That's because they've been hanging their clothes to dry rather than using machines. A hall clothesline, constructed by Matt Leither, was one of four student projects that received funding during Northwestern's Day of Learning in Community (DLC), which focused on creation care.

Ericha Walden invited DLC participants to the college's costume shop, where she provided scrap fabric, yarn and other material as art supplies. Two textile creations were later auctioned off, with proceeds donated to an area homeless shelter.

Heidi Doty is using her award to create notebooks from cereal boxes and unused notepaper. The recycled notebooks—with tips for living green in college—will be given to incoming freshmen.

Recycling is also behind a composting project proposed by Heather Talbot and Matt Vander Molen. They are arranging for cafeteria leftovers to become compost for the Garden of ARC, a community garden at Orange City's American Reformed Church.



Dave Dunkelberger



Linda Van Roekel

On Board

Two alumni, David Dunkelberger '85 and Linda Van Roekel '69, attended Northwestern's spring Board of Trustees meeting in April as new members.

Dunkelberger is serving as a trustee by virtue of his role as the president of Northwestern's National Alumni Board. A resident of Waconia, Minn., Dunkelberger is corporate credit consulting manager for Wells Fargo.

Van Roekel, a board member from 1996 to 2004, retired from a career in the chemical industry in 2005. Her most recent position was vice president and general manager for Inficon in Syracuse, N.Y. She now lives in Urbandale, Iowa.



Northwestern students are ministering on six continents through the Summer of Service program.

Summer Lovin'

Eighteen NWC students are giving—and receiving—Christ's love around the globe as short-term missionaries this summer. As members of the Summer of Service team, the students are ministering in 15 different countries, including Haiti, Bolivia, Cameroon, Moldova and the Philippines.

They are assisting pastors, physicians and other missionaries in churches, hospitals, clinics, schools, orphanages and refugee camps. They are performing construction, planting churches, delivering community health programs, and teaching English as a second language with ministries such as International Teams, the Luke Society, Navigators and Youth With a Mission.

The Class of 2009

Northwestern awarded 283 diplomas to its second-largest graduating class during commencement ceremonies on May 16.

This year's graduates already have jobs with organizations like The Segal Company, Family Crisis Center, Hanford Christian School in California, Thrivent Financial and Orange City Area Health System. They will be living in places like Sioux Falls, Chicago, Seattle and India.

Other new alumni are entering graduate programs at Duke, Princeton, Yale, and the universities of Iowa and North Carolina.

Biology-health professions major Tyler De Jong of Long Beach, Calif., was among 283 graduates at commencement in May.



DAN ROSS

Of Course

Brain Camp

Summer Camp

Northwestern Neuroscience Camp (for high school juniors and seniors)

Camp Director/Instructor

Dr. Ralph Davis
Associate Professor of Biology

Summer campers rarely get a lot of sleep. That may be true for participants in Northwestern's Neuroscience Camp too, although campers *do* get an opportunity for a nap at least one afternoon during the week. Of course, they have electrodes attached to their heads—and they have to try to snooze while someone studies their brainwaves.

When it started four years ago, Northwestern's Neuroscience Camp was one of a kind. In fact, it has been cited among other unique summer camp offerings by both the *New York Times* and the *London Times*. Last summer Dr. Ralph Davis had nearly 50 inquiries from across the U.S.; the hometowns of the 20 campers he accepted included Kennebunk, Maine; Nacogdoches, Texas; New York City; and Paullina, Iowa.

After presentations on neurons, nerves and neurotransmitter signals, campers perform electrophysiology experiments on earthworms and dissect a sheep brain. In addition to recording each others' brainwaves, they also volunteer for lie detector tests and take a field trip to a cadaver lab where they view a human brain and spinal cord. The teenagers also participate in traditional summer camp activities like bonfires, Frisbee golf, and perhaps pulling exceptionally clever pranks on fellow campers.

One or two of the participants eventually enroll at NWC. Others are already accepted at universities like Brown, Johns Hopkins, Stanford and Yale. Still, their glowing post-camp comments indicate their Northwestern experience, though brief, is one that will stick in their minds.

Intelligence Films

In addition to viewing PBS's five-part series *The Secret Life of the Brain*, campers spend their free time watching flicks like *A Beautiful Mind*, *Lorenzo's Oil* and *Awakenings*. Davis also provides titles of other movies that get viewers thinking, including: *A.I.*, *As Good as It Gets*, *At First Sight*, *Benny & Joon*, *Blade Runner*, *Charly*, *Coma*, *eXistenZ*, *Flatliners*, *The Lawnmower Man*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Outbreak*, *Rain Man* and *Sleepy Hollow*.



Money for Medicine

Northwestern's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program received a shot in the arm this spring with news it will receive a federal appropriation of \$423,720 in fiscal year 2009.

Nursed along by Senators Tom Harkin and Chuck Grassley and Rep. Steve King, the appropriation will fund equipment for the college's nursing arts laboratory, including additional human patient simulators, an electronic health record simulation program, hospital beds, a medication system, IV training arms, and computer-based resources for nursing professors.

In addition, improvements will be made to Northwestern's biology and chemistry laboratories, which are used heavily by nursing and other health care professions students. The appropriation will pay for the purchase of an autoclave, a fluorescence spectrometer and other equipment. Renovations this summer will result in even safer student workstations and an expanded chemical stockroom.

"We made this federal appropriation request knowing the national nursing shortage is of particular interest to our members of Congress," says President Greg Christy. "Our education of nurse professionals in a Christian environment both helps abate that shortage and also contributes to holistic healing."

Top Teacher

You won't catch students in some of John Vonder Bruegge's NWC classes saying, "It's all Greek to me." Unless they mean it as a compliment.

"In Greek, he takes a hard subject and breaks it down as best he can so we can learn," says senior Nathan Lichter. "He shows a great interest in helping students actually understand. He teaches in a way that shows his love for both Scripture and his students."

Vonder Bruegge's teaching style, concern for students and quirky sense of humor led to his selection as this year's recipient of the \$1,500 Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award. The religion instructor, in his fifth year at NWC, was selected for the award from among 27 nominees by a committee of students and faculty.

Sara Moser '09 says after her first class with Vonder Bruegge, she made sure to

take one of his courses each semester because she knew she would be passionate about it.

"He has the distinct ability to make any subject matter absolutely fascinating," says Moser. "He has high expectations for students but is encouraging so students feel they can actually meet them. In fact, because students respect him so much, they really strive to meet his standards."

Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award winner John Vonder Bruegge earned a master's degree from Harvard and is a Ph.D. candidate in religious studies at Yale University.



Program makes the grade

Northwestern's teacher education program passed its latest tests with flying colors, earning continuing accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and approval by the State Board of Education after a joint evaluation visit last fall. Only three other education programs in Iowa—Graceland, Luther and Wartburg—are accredited by NCATE.

Laura Heitritter, instructor in education, says the reviewers were impressed by the department's students, particularly by the fact that they led the first session of the site visit. The visitors also reported hearing very good comments from alumni and area educators and commended the program's efforts to expand students' understanding of and experience with diversity.

Evaluators said one of the teacher education program's strengths is the amount of classroom experience students receive before they do their student teaching.

Purposeful

Northwestern students are getting ministry experience—and churches and communities are getting a helping hand—thanks to a summer internship program funded in part by a grant from the Lilly Endowment. The internships give students the opportunity to work alongside mentors in a variety of ministry contexts.

Eight students interested in the pastorate or other roles in the church are serving in Reformed churches in Illinois, Iowa, New Jersey, New Mexico and Washington, as well as in a Baptist church on the Grand Portage Indian Reservation in Minnesota.

Another 13 students are at one of eight Christian Community Development Association ministries: Cary Christian Center in Cary, Miss.; City Mission in Detroit; Hope for Opelousas in Opelousas, La.; the John M. Perkins Foundation in Jackson, Miss.; Mile High Ministries in Denver; Mission Waco in Texas; Trinity Christian Community in New Orleans; and Urban Ventures in Minneapolis.

Bravo!

Terror Texts, scripted by theatre professor Jeff Barker, continues to win awards. In April the musical's composers—Joseph Barker and Dr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson, Northwestern music professor—received a special commendation from the national Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

Barker's compositions included industrial rock, classic rock and folk songs. Josselyn-Cranson composed the show's choral music.

Healthy Report

Northwestern's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program has been given a clean bill of health by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), which granted the department an initial five-year accreditation.

The checkup was the culmination of four years of program planning and implementation by Dr. Ruth Daumer, department chairperson, and a growing nursing faculty. It also came just in time for NWC to award degrees to its first eight B.S.N. graduates.



Rachael Mineart participated in the nursing program's first trip to Tanzania last summer, where students learned about medical care and public health in developing countries. Northwestern's study abroad requirement for nurses is unique among B.S.N. programs.

A three-member team of nurse professionals from the CCNE visited campus last October. They interviewed nursing students, faculty, college administrators, community leaders and health care professionals. They also observed nursing and other science classes, labs and clinicals.

The evaluation results affirm both the college's commitment to the nursing program and the nursing program's "great fit" as part of Northwestern's mission.

Evaluators noted the program already is "part of the fabric of the college" and praised "the unique character of the students and faculty with respect to their Christian ethos and values."

Chief Fundraiser

When Northwestern looked for a new vice president for advancement to replace the retiring John Greller, the college found its best candidate in Greller's second-in-command.

Jay Wielenga '82, NWC's director of advancement since 2001, succeeded Greller in leading Northwestern's fundraising efforts. He assumed his new duties July 1.

"Jay brings to the position similar relational skills as John, as well as new ideas for how to further the mission of Northwestern. He's been a very loyal member of our advancement team and has done a great job of developing relationships with our constituents," says President Greg Christy.

Wielenga first joined the staff as alumni director in 1995. In recent years, he provided interim leadership to the office when Greller's health preventing him from working.

Wielenga relishes his new role.

"I love Northwestern College," he says. "To help make its mission possible through raising funds and strengthening relationships with alumni and friends of the college is exciting to me."

A graduate of the National Planned Giving Institute, Wielenga spent 10 years as a medical representative for Syntex Laboratories and three years in admissions and financial aid at the University of Sioux Falls before joining the advancement staff.



Jay Wielenga

Lab Time

While some mow lawns, wait tables, roof houses or babysit children this summer, six NWC students are honing their research skills in off-campus projects.

Jordan Larson is conducting research at the University of North Dakota Medical School. He is exploring a lipid metabolic pathway's role in inflammation contributing to cell loss and memory dysfunction.

Josh Locker is interning in a lab at Sanford Health in Sioux Falls that is focused mostly on congestive heart failure.

At Johns Hopkins University, Curt Van Wyk is working in the Center for Language and Speech Processing. He is parsing textual data for acquisition of semantic knowledge that can be useful in search engines.

Three students are at the University of Iowa. Rachele Pedersen is studying the effects of depression on older patients' psychosocial behavior and cognitive abilities. Kelley Salem is working in a lab that focuses on DNA replication, repair and mutagenesis. And Alex Menning is assisting Dr. Karissa Carlson, assistant professor of chemistry at NWC, in conducting fluorescence-based assays to investigate protein-protein and/or protein-DNA interactions. That research is part of a fellowship designed to form new connections between the state's scientists and the university.

Face Value

Pam Vlieger

Friendly servant

Name something about your work you really enjoy.

I like being able to serve others and help them go about their mission. I really enjoy interacting with others. And I have fun operating all these cool machines! I'm constantly learning.

What is one of your lesser-known responsibilities?

I'm kind of the information booth person of Zwemer Hall. Since my office is close to the door, people naturally drop in and ask for directions or other information. I don't always have the answers, but I usually know someone who might.

Why did you want to work at NWC?

When I started many years ago, it was because it was a better job than waitressing. As the years have gone by, the reasons I stay have included because I could be flexible with my family commitments and because I developed a better understanding about the mission of Northwestern.

What is one of the most common questions you're asked?

Pam, do you have time to ...?

What are your hobbies?

I love to cook. I don't mean just cooking, but baking and canning too. That has led to another hobby: collecting antique and old church cookbooks. I have well over 100. I also read as much as I can, listen to music, and like to play games.

What is your favorite time of day, and why?

The morning is definitely my favorite time. It is like having a clean slate—a new day to do things differently or better, to help people with more of a servant's heart, to make them smile.



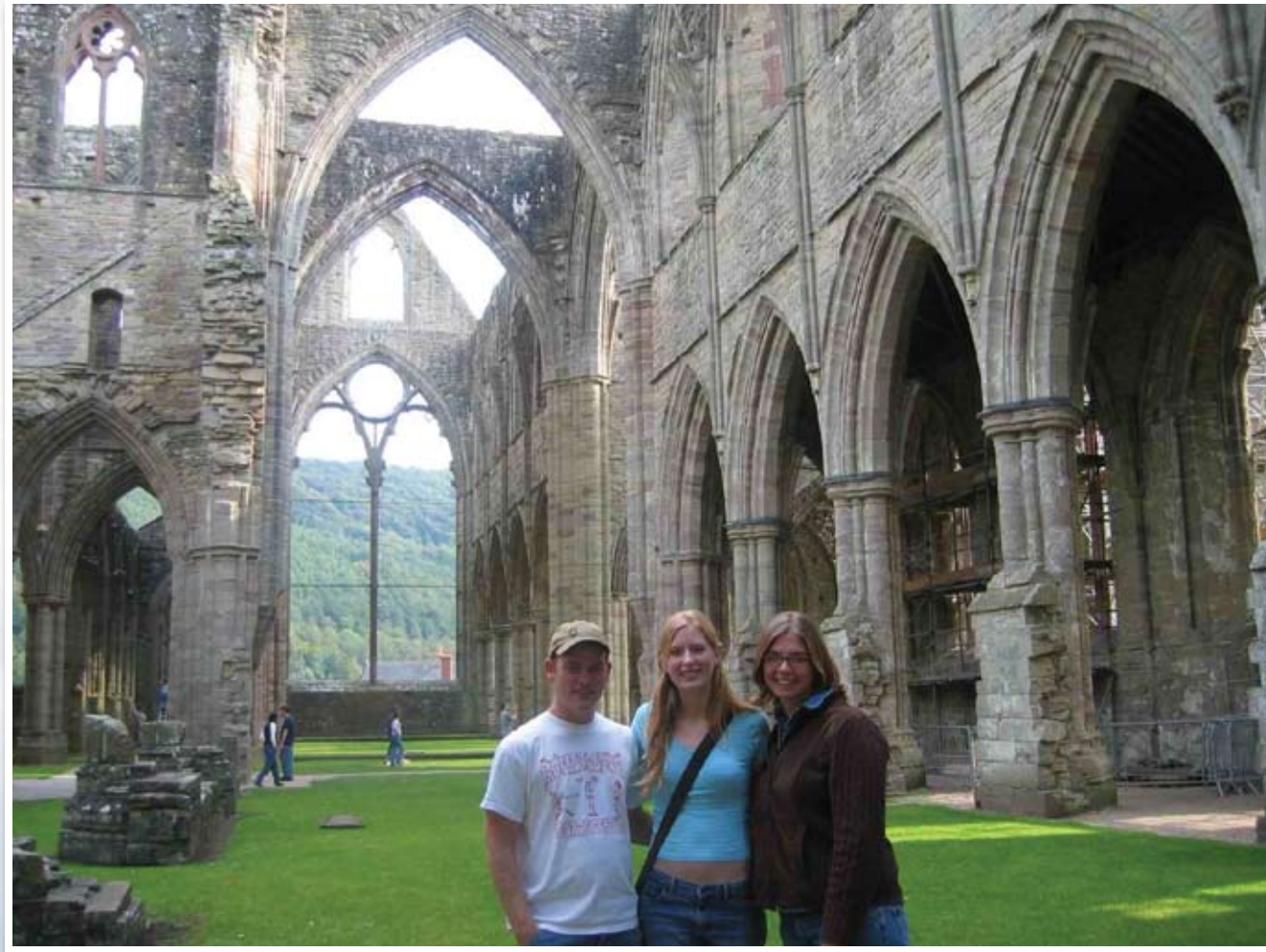
DOUG BURG

Pam Vlieger '94 started in Northwestern's admissions office in 1982. Over time she worked in printing services and the bookstore and was a part-time student. Since 1997 she has served as the printing services manager.

What is one of your favorite NWC memories?

My favorite was the time Tress Jacobsma had to hoist me through a window to get into the old storage room in Zwemer because the door had been locked accidentally and there wasn't a key to open it. The funniest part was that once I got through the window, I had a big drop to the floor. As I negotiated my drop, the bottom of my jeans became impaled on a nail along the window ledge and I ended up hanging there upside down! It took me about five minutes to disentangle myself because we were laughing too hard to do anything.

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



Passport

The world is a classroom for students who study abroad in countries like Russia, Ecuador, India, Thailand, England, Tanzania and Egypt. Some take a summer month to study with NWC professors. Others spend a semester in Romania, Oman or other nations. Wherever they go, students see and learn about the people and cultures God loves—and are better prepared to participate in his transforming work in the world.



GREEN PLEA

An interview with J. Matthew Sleeth, M.D.

Formerly an ER doctor and chief of staff, Matthew Sleeth gave up medicine to care for an ailing earth when he became a Christian. Author of *Serve God, Save the Planet*, Sleeth travels the U.S., teaching and preaching about caring for creation. When he visited Northwestern in April as the keynote speaker for the college's second annual Day of Learning in Community, *Classic* staff asked him, among other things, what green living has to do with loving God.



Classic: In your book, you describe some pretty drastic lifestyle changes your family has made to live more in line with God's plan for the planet. Describe some of those adjustments.

Sleeth: We started where most beginners do, with recycling. Now we also precycle, which means considering the amount



of packaging and other waste that will be generated before you buy something. Then we added more difficult things, like gardening, washing dishes by hand, and hanging clothes on the line—even in winter. Eventually we moved from a doctor-sized house to one that was smaller. Now we live in a house the size of our former garage, and we don't own a clothes dryer or dishwasher.

Classic: Your family—your kids—went along with this?

Sleeth: My kids were spoiled doctor's kids when we started, but now they think nothing of having to do the dishes. I'm lucky: My kids seem to like physical labor. It's hard as a

parent to tell your kids we're going to do without things their friends have—we're going to be a bit peculiar. But part of the Christian life is living in restraint. Recently a mom admitted to me they've gone to disposable dishes for every meal. Where is that kind of toss-it-in-the-trash lifestyle headed?

Classic: How do Christians, in particular, respond to your presentations about living more green?

Sleeth: Although many Christians have views on this (and some of them believe God doesn't care about going green—it's a political movement, they argue, not a faith issue), I find many of them have never gone to their Bibles seeking answers to environmental concerns. I've never encountered anyone who's against what I share once they've gone to their Bibles themselves saying, "God, teach me about this." Most of the time, they find their views are based on politics too—and not on what the Bible teaches about creation and how to care for it.

It's a sin to tear God's world apart. When I teach or preach, I try to make it really simple: I say, "Imagine the world is one square mile. You live downstream, and I live upstream. What do you want me to put in the water—or not put in it?" If I put something in the water that I know might hurt you, that's a sin.

Classic: Why don't we hear sermons about environmental issues?

Sleeth: Remarkably few pastors have been equipped to preach and teach about creation care. That's why I've started traveling to seminaries. Also, it's hard for a pastor to get up and give a sermon that challenges congregants' lifestyles. Say a Midwestern pastor preaches on biblical agricultural laws and asks, "What does this mean for feedlots—and those of us who like our meat cheap?"

Classic: What are some specific ways churches and colleges have responded to your creation-care message?

Sleeth: At one church, everyone agreed to forgo Christmas presents for one year, and they put that money—\$290,000—toward a clean water project in Afghanistan. Another church raised money to buy all their households rain barrels. They also stopped using disposable dishes for church events. (All the men volunteered to do the dishes, which was unanimously endorsed by the women.) They dedicated the money they saved for feeding ministries. A college did away with trays in their cafeteria and saved 16,000 pounds of food waste in one year.

Classic: Some Christians don't believe global climate change is real. Does it matter?

Sleeth: People use arguments over an issue like this so they don't have to meet their responsibilities toward God's creation. You don't have to believe global climate change is happening to know water shouldn't have dioxins in it or that the air as you drive into a city shouldn't look like a dome of

smog and haze. Christians can usually still agree we should be consuming less and freeing up more of our resources for the church's work. Everyone—including Christians—can do something about caring for creation every part of the day. No excuses.

Classic: Given the current state of our economy, we've been warned not to severely limit our consumption or the U.S. and global economies could collapse. Thoughts?

Sleeth: Our economy may *have* to collapse. We've been heating the house by burning the furniture. There's no way to dig yourself out of a hole; you've got to go a different direction. The planet will cease to exist if every generation lives only for itself. The Bible is all about considering generation after generation after generation. God is not concerned with short-term economies. Focusing just on the immediate future is not a biblical approach to how to live on God's planet. 🏠

On the Web *exclusive*

Visit classic.nwciowa.edu to comment on Dr. Sleeth's views and share ways in which you and your family have changed your lifestyle to take better care of God's creation.



Committed Servants

Carl Vandermeulen and John Greller end their long tenures at Northwestern

BY ANITA CIRULIS

Word Lover

Carl Vandermeulen's voice is remarkably similar to that of Garrison Keillor, host of radio's *The Prairie Home Companion*. Like Keillor, his speech is soothing, unhurried, thoughtful—and he, too, is comfortable with meanderings.

“Carl’s teaching is unique,” says Dr. Joonna Trapp, a colleague in the English department. “Rarely straightforward and direct, he finds himself wandering along paths of inquiry, inviting students to follow him.”

With Vandermeulen’s retirement after 25 years at Northwestern, students will have to follow someone else in more than one department.

Vandermeulen initially joined the college’s faculty on a part-time basis to teach communication studies courses. A year later, he began serving as the adviser for the *Beacon*, the student newspaper—a natural role for someone who taught News Writing and Editing, Feature Writing, and Layout and Design. Then came added responsibilities in the English department, where he helped establish a writing center, wrote the curriculum for its writing courses, and later was lead writer for the writing and rhetoric major.

As varied as Vandermeulen’s roles have been, most have revolved around the written word: teaching journalism and literature courses, directing the English education program and supervising its student teachers. He even helped craft the proposal that brought a \$2 million Lilly grant to NWC—an achievement he described as “satisfying” because of its impact on the college.

“I’m a word nerd,” Vandermeulen says, “someone who loves stories and poetry and the magic of language.”

He’s also someone who preferred listening to lecturing. Instead of a monologue, Vandermeulen favored dialogue, explaining things to students and then posing questions that allowed them to discover what they had to say and the pleasures of saying it.

VANDERMEULEN CLOSE-UP

Year hired by NWC

1984

Education

Calvin College (A.B.), University of South Dakota (M.A.), University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Ph.D.)

Teaching career

Spent entirely in Orange City (Vandermeulen taught at Unity Christian High School for 14 years before joining NWC’s faculty, and at least 23 current NWC faculty and staff were at one time his students in high school or college.)

Estimated number of student papers read while at NWC

12,500

“I tried to create a community in the classroom where students were interdependent and learned from each other,” Vandermeulen says. “If they trusted the process and engaged in it, they finished the course able to do what they weren’t able to do when they started, with a different sense of who they were and what they were capable of knowing and being.”

Years after taking his classes, Northwestern alumni report that Vandermeulen—in his soft-spoken way—did just that.

Friend Raiser

Growing up in Washington, D.C., John Greller was expected to go to a good school, get good grades, obtain a good job, and earn good money. Instead he came to know Christ and dedicated himself to building God’s kingdom by helping others give their money away.

After 30 years in fundraising—more than half of which were spent at Northwestern College—Greller is retiring. Just as he felt called by God to NWC, he believes God is making it clear it’s time to leave: Plans to retire in a year and a half were moved up when he was recently diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease.

This isn’t the first health challenge Greller and his wife, Janeo, have faced. A few years after becoming Northwestern’s vice president for advancement, John experienced kidney failure due to diabetes. He went through two transplants, the second time getting a kidney from his son Brian after his body rejected the first organ.

Throughout his illnesses, surgeries and hospitalizations, Greller has impressed others with his unwavering faith in and love for God. “His faith in the Lord is the first thing you see when you meet John,” says his colleague and successor, Jay Wielenga ’82.


Equally as notable about Greller is his deep love for people and for Northwestern.

“When John created new friends for the college, it was so genuine,” says Drew Vogel, Board of Trustees chair. “He showed what Northwestern’s mission is all about. He and Janeo fell in love with Northwestern, and then he always said [his job] was easy.”

The Grellers are known for their hospitality, opening their home to students, colleagues and friends of the college. John regularly attended chapel, and Janeo joined him for meals in the cafeteria with students and

in cheering the Raiders at athletic contests.

Those familiar with John’s deep bass voice and hearty laugh also know he has a gift for listening to, caring for and encouraging people. In fact, it’s his people skills that made him so successful at his job. As Greller often pointed out, “Fundraising is really friend raising.”

With Greller’s retirement, both Northwestern and its alumni and supporters are losing a true friend. 

GRELLER CLOSE-UP

Year hired by NWC

1992

Education

Kenyon College (B.A.), Oberlin College (M.A.T.)

Total raised for NWC during his tenure

\$67 million

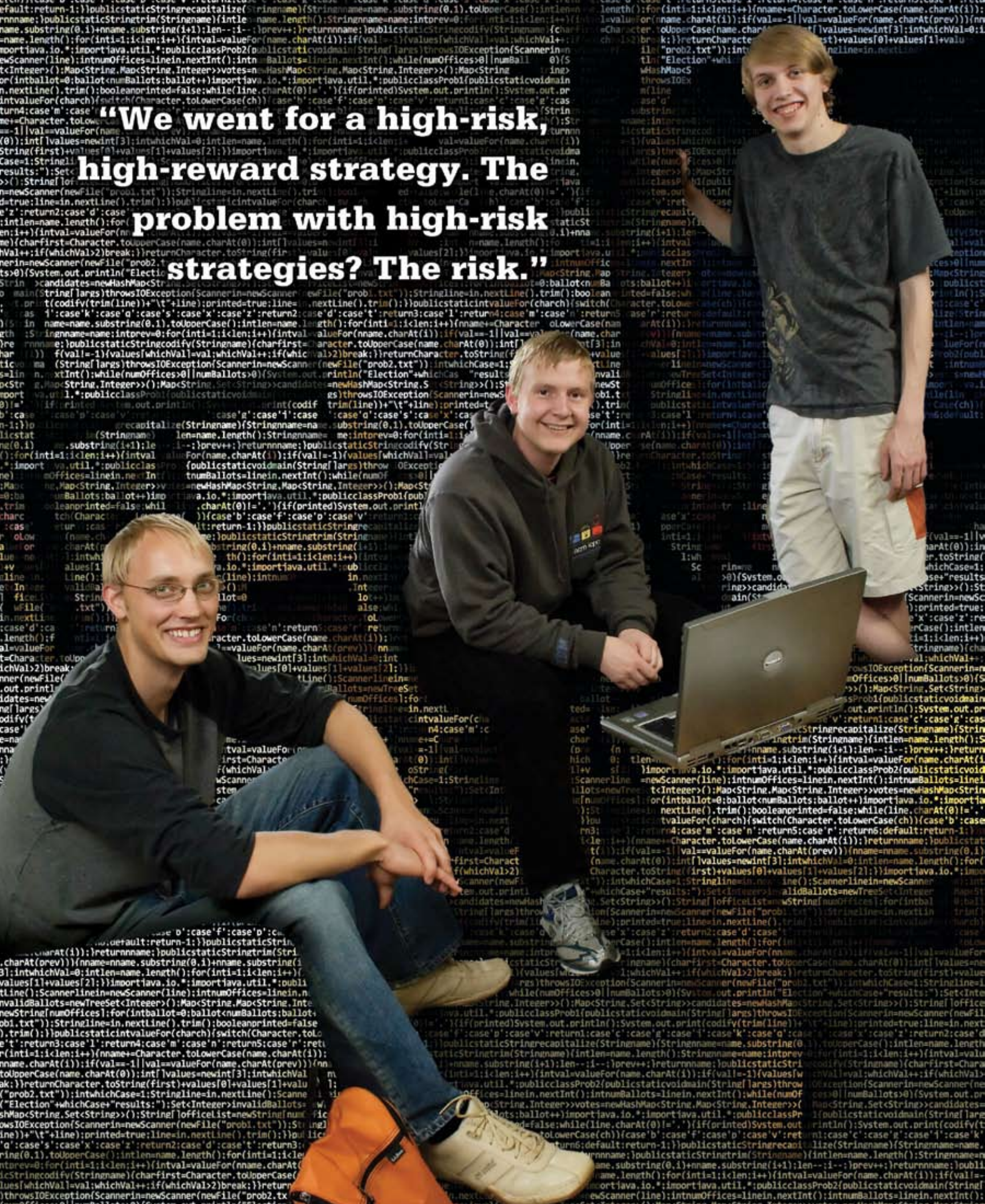
Most fulfilling fundraising accomplishment

Raising money for the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center

“The theatre was in the most disrepair of our facilities, and yet it was one of our finest departments. I lobbied for making it a priority. I didn’t want to lose faculty members and see the program go down the tubes.”

One More

Dr. Kimberly Utke Svano, professor of music, announced her retirement after the deadline for this issue. A feature on her will be included in the fall *Classic*.



“We went for a high-risk, high-reward strategy. The problem with high-risk strategies? The risk.”

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- >printing article...

■ “Brute force.”
“Excuse me?”
“Brute Force.”
“That’s a programming language?”
“No, it’s a programming strategy. You brute force the different possibilities and then use the binary search to calculate the maximum intervals.”

Ben Kester is explaining how he and teammates John Calsbeek and Curt Van Wyk should have tackled their first problem at the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) International Collegiate Programming Contest in Stockholm, Sweden, in April.

The question that required such an aggressive approach? You are an air traffic controller with a bunch of planes to schedule for landing. (The world competition question probably didn’t use the term “bunch,” but Calsbeek says “bunch” when he’s describing their first challenge.) All the planes are assigned an interval of time within which

they can land. Figure out which plane can land and where so all the planes are landing with the longest span of time between descents—because that’s the safest, obviously.

Now it’s time for brute force?
“Yes,” says Kester. “You brute force the different possibilities. That’s basically just programming the computer to try every single combination until you find one that works. Brute force is pure trial and error versus having a strategy that guides your trial and error. It’s like trying to open a padlock by trying every possible combination.”

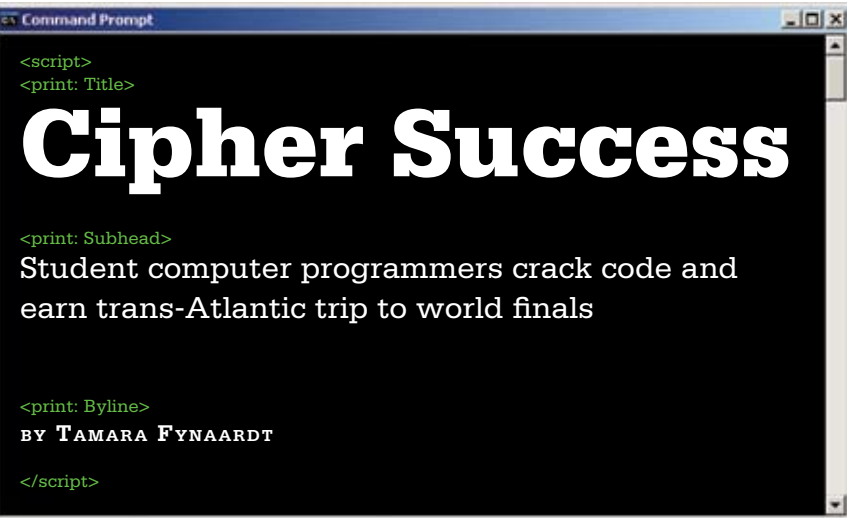
You couldn’t really do that, could you?
“No, but a computer could.” Or, a computer manned by pretty bright programmers.

So, did they get everyone on the runway safely?
“Not this time,” says Kester.

The annual international ACM competition, sponsored by IBM, includes the top 100 college-level programming teams in the world. During the opening ceremonies, in the same auditorium where the Nobel Prizes are handed out, “Northwestern College” boomed across the hall, amidst introductions of teams from MIT, Moscow State University, Oxford, Stanford, the University of Melbourne and the University of Warsaw, to name a few.

Representing the smallest U.S. school at the world competition, Calsbeek, Kester and Van Wyk were frequently mistaken for

Curt Van Wyk, Ben Kester and John Calsbeek (from left) competed among the world’s top 100 student computer programming teams in Stockholm, Sweden, in April.



Cipher Success

Student computer programmers crack code and earn trans-Atlantic trip to world finals

BY TAMARA FYNAARDT

Northwestern University students. When they corrected yet another person who assumed they were from the Big 10—describing their 1,200-student campus in a town of 6,000—the well-wisher said, “Wow. You must be pretty much heroes there.”

En route to Europe, the heroes of 1s and 0s had already out-coded their competition at a regional programming competition last November, correctly completing all nine problems to finish fourth.

They had less success with the 11 problems at worlds. “We went for a high-risk, high-reward strategy,” blogged Kester during a break in the competition. In a divide-and-conquer move, each teammate worked on a different problem. Unable to arrive at answers, they’d moved on to a fourth question when they ran out of time.

“The problem with high-risk strategies,” says Kester. “The risk.”

So Sweden didn’t compute. Reprogram. Calsbeek, Kester and Van Wyk are still among the world’s best, and they have other interests beyond binary code.

All computer science majors, they argue they transcend “Geek Squad” stereotypes. Calsbeek gestures to the three of them with a “Do you see any pocket protectors here?” look on his face.

Nope. No pocket protectors.
Calsbeek, a senior, is also pursuing a literature degree. Van Wyk, another senior, is an athlete and has competed in soccer, football, basketball, baseball, wrestling and track. Kester, who graduated in May, is a social servant-leader—he was a West Hall RA and discipleship group leader and traveled to India as a member of the Summer of Service team.

Like other guys, they are gamers. But their programming prowess doesn’t make them any better than their peers at computer or video games like Tower Defense or Command and Conquer. Except: “Sometimes it helps you figure out how to beat the system,” says Kester.

They don’t mind the term “geek,” though. “We like programming,” say Van Wyk and Calsbeek, with “no excuses” shrugs. And Kester, who also majored in actuarial science, had already landed a job at a Chicago consulting firm and passed seven of eight actuarial exams before he graduated. “Actuarial science is kind of its own nerdy world too,” he says, grinning.

Yep. They’re good with geek. 📦

UNSUNG HEROES

Students are the focus for a maintenance staff that keeps Northwestern running

BY AMY SCHEER

This summer, junior Andy Boone is back at his job on Northwestern's maintenance crew, and he's like a kid at Christmas.

"I'll get to clean the Courtyard Village apartments," says Boone. "I might get to shampoo the carpets."

Boone can't be blamed for talking like this. He spends his time with Scott Simmelink, director of maintenance and operations, who says such things as, "There's nothing like giving students a hand at 11 at night when they lock their keys in the car, or starting their cars when it's 20-below."

Um, yeah.

In the 15th century, the word *maintenance* was defined as the "action of upholding or keeping in being." Earlier, the word was thought of as the "action of providing a person with the necessities of life."

In 2009, Simmelink puts it this way: "We try to get things back to normal as quick as we can."

It takes 20 full-time staff, six part-time and seasonal workers, and some 25 summer student workers to maintain normalcy at Northwestern.

Plumbers, housekeepers, groundskeepers, electricians, locksmiths, heating/cooling experts and carpenters make up the crew; there are also folks in charge of tasks from coordinating facility and vehicle rentals to keeping up on government

regulations for all of the above.

It might be easier to list what they don't do: classroom teaching. ("Can't do that," says Simmelink.)

Summers find the staff coordinating renovations, catching up on projects, and restoring dorms to their natural state through extensive cleaning and repairs. When chests of drawers show wear from being used all year as ladders to the top bunk, for example, that's just "normal routine maintenance" in Simmelink's worldview.

Boone says cleaning never feels like work around housekeepers Pat Bruxvoort and Kathy Kleinwolterink. Jessi Post, a senior who has worked

"There's nothing like giving students a hand at 11 at night when they lock their keys in the car, or starting their cars when it's 20-below."

maintenance the past three years, points to a game they liked to play in the apartments.

"We'd walk in and guess if it was a boys' or girls' room based on what was left behind and what it smelled like," says Post. "I was usually right."

While summer mornings always start with devotions, each day also has its own theme—like "Muffin Man Fridays," when a mystery person provides sweets for the crew.

"I still don't know who the Muffin Man is," says Post, sounding a little miffed. "No one will give me a straight answer."

Gary Jeltema, supervisor of mechanical services, says one of the joys of the job is being around students. "Some you get to know because they've done something wrong," he adds with a chuckle.

Northwestern students have been known to execute elaborate pranks. Jeltema won't divulge some of them, not wanting to give current students any ideas. Instead, witness him talking about the time all 52 chapel pews were unbolted and turned to face the back wall. Will he discuss the amount of work this caused his crew? Will there be a hint of resentment in his voice, a need for revenge? No. Jeltema gives the basic facts, and then makes a point of mentioning that one of the brains

behind the stunt now runs his own successful computer business in Sioux Falls.

"I guess he was thinking outside the box," Jeltema says, no small amount of admiration in his voice.

Each month, many maintenance staff take a payroll deduction to fund a scholarship for students who work with them. It's a way to "give back" to the students, Simmelink says.

"We've got great kids here," he says, momentarily forgetting about the pews.

Job satisfaction? Check. The retention rate in the maintenance department is arguably the best at Northwestern: Nine of the full-time employees have served nearly 20 years each—some as many as 26.

"They have a heart for helping out and being a servant to others," Boone says. "Forty hours a week you clean, you repeat. I've never once heard a person complain. I always see Kathy with a smile on her face."

Jeltema enjoys coming to work in the morning, he says. "We've got a special staff—it's like family."

That's how students put it too. Like the young woman standing in the cold while her car roared back to life, who turned to Simmelink and said, "This is just like having a dad on campus."

"It was the best compliment I ever received," says Simmelink, talking again like somebody who shows up day after day just for moments like this. 🏠

Maintenance by the Numbers

26,496 rolls of toilet paper bought each year

9,450 WorkHorse industrial rags used yearly

121 gallons of floor cleaner and wax applied annually

276 muffins consumed each summer

On the Web exclusive

Visit classic.nwciowa.edu for the maintenance department's most memorable messes and more.

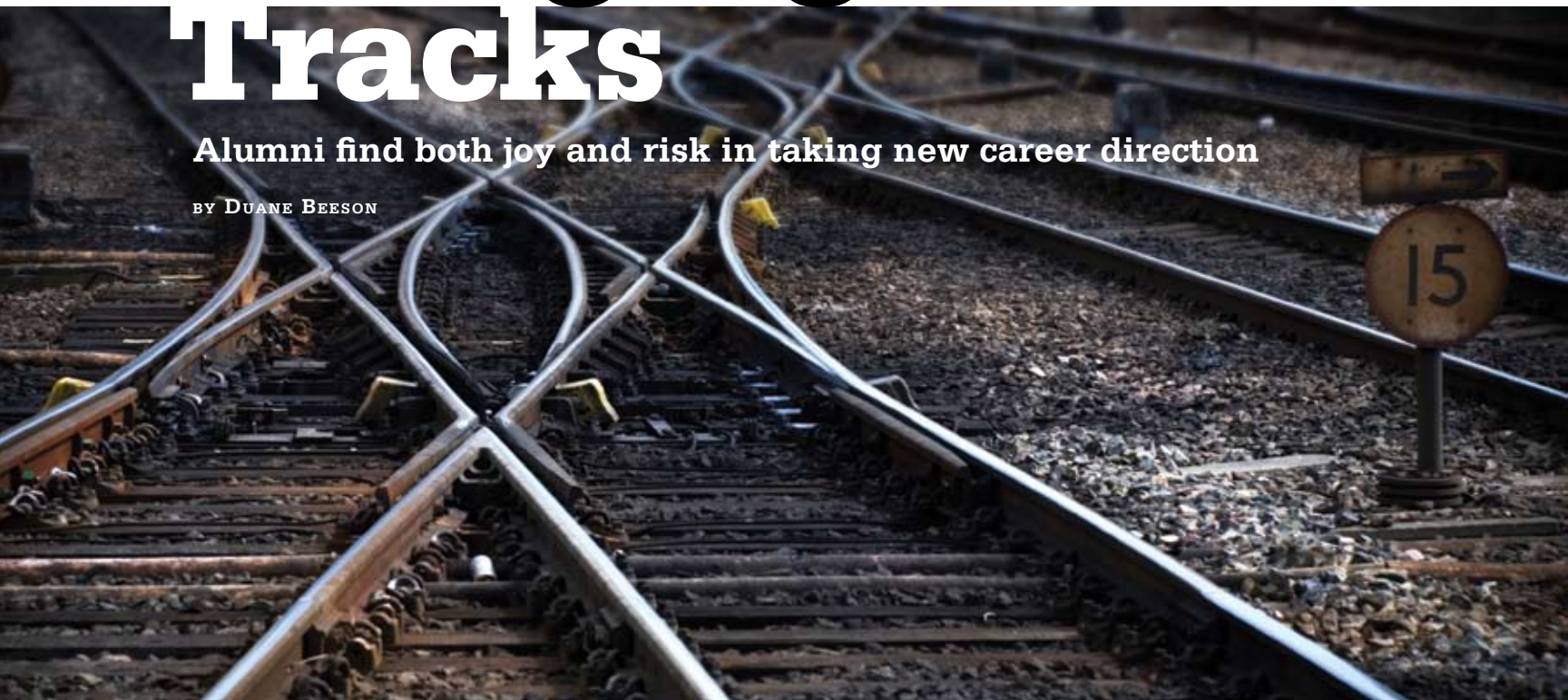


DAN ROSS

Changing Tracks

Alumni find both joy and risk in taking new career direction

BY DUANE BEESON



A former research biochemist, Michael Swanson now uses his analytical skills—and his passion for genealogy and history—as an archivist at the University of North Dakota.

The last time the jobless rate in the United States was as high as it is now, Ronald Reagan was proposing the Strategic Defense Initiative, Michael Jackson was moonwalking through *Billie Jean*, and Bill Gates was just starting to make money from Microsoft Word.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 9.4 percent for May 2009—the highest since 1983. That means 14.5 million people are jobless.

As whole industries hemorrhage and jobs continue to be outsourced to other countries, many Americans have been forced to consider a career change. Others are contemplating a new direction because of a specific passion or family considerations.

Many Northwestern alumni have successfully changed career paths. We share the stories of several as encouragement that—whether you *have to* or *want to*—you can do it too.

Pursuing a Passion

When pharmaceutical giant Pfizer purchased Pharmacia Corporation in 2003, it announced most of Pharmacia's research and development work in Kalamazoo, Mich., would cease. Michael Swanson '82, a research biochemist, had a decision to make.

Swanson had been experiencing a declining sense of fulfillment in his job. Decisions affecting his infectious diseases research were being

directly. We work hard but in a relaxing environment. It's a lot less stressful."

Stress is one of the reasons John Liesveld '00 left his law practice in 2006. He loved some aspects of the work—analyzing, researching, writing, competing in the courtroom. But the intense nature of many of his cases, such as child-custody issues, took a toll on him.

made for business and marketing—not scientific—reasons. Uncertainties regarding long-term support of projects were growing.

The year before, he had enjoyed a moving experience in Sweden, walking the land his ancestors had farmed. It was his seventh trip to Europe, most of which involved visiting Swedish and Dutch relatives and conducting genealogical research. Long interested in history, he found genealogy offered a new way to apply his analytical skills.

Part of his severance package included assistance from a career consulting company. With their help, Swanson chose to pursue a master's degree specializing in archives and records management. Now completing his first year as an archivist at the University of North Dakota, he says, "It just seems to come naturally to me—probably because I have a passion for it. I really enjoy helping people more

"When a lawyer answers the phone, there's a 99.9 percent chance the person on the other line isn't happy. That wore me out," says Liesveld. "I took it home with me a lot."

Liesveld enjoyed listening to talk and sports radio and often thought that could be his dream job. When the general manager of KLIN in Lincoln, Neb., called and asked if he was interested in joining the morning team, saying he had always been intrigued by putting a lawyer on the show, Liesveld couldn't refuse.

Now "Jack Mitchell" on "Jack and John in the Morning," he talks about state politics, national issues and Husker sports every day from 6 to 9. Liesveld works longer hours than he did as a lawyer—there's a lot more to his job than just his on-air time—but he says he's having the time of his life.



Family Matters

Supper's over at the home of Hope and Reed Friese '95, and Elijah (7) and Iris (6) are helping dad at the family business in Parker, S.D. The kids make a good cleaning team for the Cherrybean Coffee Company: He sweeps, she mops while Reed roasts coffee.

The Frieses moved back to his hometown in 2007 after he had worked a dozen years in production and management at an aircraft painting company near Seattle. Friese wanted a quieter, more predictable environment for their four children—especially Elijah, who is autistic.

"Here we can let him go to the library," Friese says. "He can get our mail from the post office. We can give him a lot more freedom and allow him to explore in a small town."

Friese's high-school obsession with coffee was stoked when he lived in Seattle. Returning home, it seemed natural to start a roasting company and coffee shop. Friese wanted it to be a true family business, so in addition to cleaning, the kids go along on deliveries and will have other responsibilities as they grow.

"I try to use all the flexibility I have as a small-business owner to be with the kids when other fathers might not be able to," he says. "I work twice as many hours as before, but I'm more connected with my family."

Exerting Influence

Working in public affairs for the Environmental Protection Agency for 10 years, Carie (Van Hook '87) Jasperse enjoyed her responsibilities and supported the EPA's mission. But she yearned for more.

"I wanted to be involved in substantive decision-making, but the people who did that were either scientists or lawyers. I wouldn't be a good scientist," says Jasperse, who majored in English and French at NWC, "so I became a lawyer."

Today Jasperse is an attorney for the Food and Drug Administration. She has been involved in legal work behind FDA warnings to companies marketing products said to cure H1N1 and the consumer advisory regarding potential liver damage from Hydroxycut dietary supplements.

A variety of projects compete for Jasperse's time, and her work is more challenging than before. But she says the fulfillment she derives from helping keep the public safe makes up for the stress.

Timing it Right

Sitting in a law school classroom a couple of years ago, Fawzy Simon '90 couldn't believe what he heard from the dean: "They tell me many of you have never failed."

"I've failed," says Simon. "My grades at Northwestern were abysmal; I've been fired. Failure is a distinct advantage because I've learned the sun will still rise and I'll have another shot. Some of my 4.0 classmates couldn't process failure."

After working in theatre, restaurants, banking and inventory management, Simon became interested in law through a job as a title company clerk. Watching a lot of *Law & Order* also played a role.

In law school Simon vowed not to squander his second chance at higher education. "I was in a room full of really smart people who knew a ton about what I wanted to learn and were happy to talk it over with me. Being around people younger than me forced me to work harder."

Now a public defender in Lebanon, Mo., Simon appreciates both the structured environment of law and the opportunity to work within it to help others who have failed. "Essentially, I play high-stakes poker with people's freedom," he says. "I'm motivated by my desire to get a good outcome."

Leon Fikse's NWC experience was similar to Simon's. He loved the social life. Classes and mandatory chapel? Not so much.

As a sophomore in 1968, he clearly heard God's call to become a pastor. "It was the last thing I wanted to do," he says.

Suspended from Northwestern for skipping chapel, Fikse farmed almonds and sold used cars before beginning a 16-year career with the postal service. Through a variety of lay ministry experiences, he began to realize the pastorate "wouldn't be so bad after all."

The senior pastor at Bethany Reformed Church in Redlands, Calif., since 1995, Fikse loves helping people grow spiritually. And he acknowledges God's timing was perfect.

"I wouldn't have been a good pastor in my 20s. I became wiser and learned many lessons about dealing with people that are so beneficial today."

Career Leaps—and Links

For 10 years, Lou Bram '96 preached grace and forgiveness at a Baptist church near Mason City, Iowa. Now he busts drug dealers and investigates thefts as a Cerro Gordo County deputy sheriff.

He changed career tracks to bring home more money so his wife, Christy (Hoffman '96), could be with their children full time. His heart is still in the ministry, but for now his job meets their family's goals.

While his career fields may seem disparate, Bram sees similarities.

"This is about building relationships, just like being a pastor," he says. "And I've had many opportunities for ministry most Christians don't get because of the situations I'm in."

Fawzy Simon, the public defender, also draws on past experiences in his new role. "My theatre training is paramount," he says. "I learned how to use my voice, memorize lines, move in a space and get into character. I'm a different person in the courtroom. I use my words, voice and behavior to persuade."

When the Rev. Troy Van Beek '00 started his first pastorate at the age of 35, he found his previous business ventures created a connection with church members. "They sensed I had experienced the same things they had," he explains.

Van Beek started at Northwestern in 1986 but left as a junior after switching from major to major. God used his 10 years working in implement and lawn care businesses, he says, to help him listen and prepare for ministry.

Help Wanted

Thinking about a career change? Here's advice from alumni who've been there.

"Surround yourself with people you trust who will ask the right questions."
The Rev. Troy Van Beek '00, from landscaping business to ministry

"Seek advice from mentors in both your current field and the field you're considering."
John Liesveld '00, from law to talk radio

"Pray—and look for the signs the Lord puts in front of you."
Karen Woudstra '79, from education to real estate

"Be patient. Be willing to take a part-time job to get your foot in the door."
Lou Bram '96, from ministry to law enforcement

"Be committed. Once you decide, work hard toward your goal."
Michael Swanson '82, from biochemistry to archives

A coffee lover for years—he got an espresso machine for Christmas in high school—Reed Friese is now the proud owner of a roaster that can produce 5,000 pounds of coffee per month. He left an aircraft painting business to start the Cherrybean Coffee Company (www.cherrybean.net).



Stressed by the intense nature of many of his cases, John Liesveld left his law practice to become a morning radio talk show host in Lincoln, Neb. "I'm getting paid to do what I like: talk, read up on topics and make people laugh," he says.

Job Search 101

Bill Minnick, Northwestern's director of career development, offers these tips for alumni who are seeking employment or considering a career change.

- You have connections from the work you've been doing. Use that network, and don't burn bridges.
- Take advantage of Northwestern's free services. The Career Development Center offers self-assessment tools, a resource library, job postings, resumé reviews and interview coaching. Visit www.nwciowa.edu/cdc, e-mail cdc@nwciowa.edu, or call 712-707-7225.
- Update your resumé because formats and approaches have changed.
- Learn about Internet job searching.



The Rev. Troy Van Beek, senior pastor of Bethel Reformed Church in Sheldon, Iowa, worked in business for 10 years before completing his undergrad degree and seminary. "I wake up every morning—even when in the midst of difficult things—and I can't believe I get paid for doing this," he says.

A former kindergarten teacher and NWC alumni director, Karen Woudstra is now a real estate agent. "I love the challenge of matching a family with the right house," she says. "I get great joy hearing a family loves their new home."



"I understood at a deeper level God is in control, and I learned things I probably wouldn't have learned if I had completed school the first time," he says.

Karen (De Boer '79) Woudstra, an agent with Northwest Realty in Orange City, looks back on the last eight years with amazement and confidence in God's sovereignty. She sees how her experiences in two previous careers—20 years as a kindergarten teacher and five as Northwestern's director of alumni relations—benefit her and her clients today.

Her teaching skills come in handy as she helps first-time home buyers navigate pre-approvals, offers and closings. She uses the computer proficiency she developed at NWC to complete paperwork and post listings online. And the contacts from both positions have brought her many clients.

"I could do this for a long time," she says, "but I've learned to be open to what God puts in front of me."

Costs of Change

Karen (Goettsch '84) Fenedick and her husband spent a year living off of his income so she could take computer courses. After 21 years as a nanny in the Washington, D.C., area, she knew she needed technological skills to pursue an office job. When she landed a position selling insurance, she was so motivated she became one of the fastest-certified agents in State Farm's history.

Leon Fikse saved diligently to fund his education at Western Seminary. But when his California house didn't sell, their nest egg was soon gone—as were borrowed funds from relatives. Unsure if he could continue, he told God he didn't know where to turn. "After we humbled ourselves before God, our house sold quickly. God has always taken care of us," he says.

Reed Friese is learning trust after the first year of his coffee business. "My biggest surprise was how many lattes it takes to pay a light bill. I got way more business than I expected. I also made way less," he says.

But he subleased some of his retail space to a flower shop, and he's seen his roasting business perk up through the Sioux Falls farmer's market. Ultimately he savors the positives this change has brought his family.

Michael Swanson, the biochemist-turned-archivist, followed financial advisers' advice and had money saved in case he lost his job. He also benefited from a nontraditional-student fellowship that paid for a year of grad school.

John Liesveld knows he could be making more money if he hadn't left law for the lure of the microphone. But he doesn't have any regrets.

"I love my job. That's worth so much more." 🏠



Jordan Langer finished fifth in the 200-meter dash at the Red Raider Open in April.

Red Zone

Scholar-Athletes Smart Play

Twenty-three Raiders earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete honors this spring, including 11 in track. Recognized for the second year each were Ingrid Carlson and Jameson Guthmiller in track, Trevor Kuiper in baseball, and golfers Anne Eberline, Jamie Jeltema, Justin Pannkuk, Kelsey Shiflett and Lisa Wiersma.

Baseball Close Games

Four extra-inning losses in the Great Plains Athletic Conference—and another six league games in which the Raiders lost by one run—contributed to a 19-23 season. The squad was 10th in the conference with an 8-16 record. Brad Payne earned first team all-conference honors, with Austin Malone and Drew Nonnemacher named to the second team.

Softball Comeback

NWC lost 14 of its first 16 games but went above .500 for the rest of the season to finish at 13-24. The Raiders were 10-14 in the GPAC for 10th place. Rachel Harris received second team all-conference recognition.

Outdoor Track Two at Nationals

Logan Ogden finished 11th in the discus and 23rd in the shot put at the NAIA national meet. Kyle Sauter was 14th in the 110-meter hurdles. Sauter and Charity Miles were named GPAC track athletes of the week after their performances at the Dakota State Trojan Relays. Sauter won the 110- and 400-meter hurdles;

Miles captured the 3000-meter run. Fourteen Raiders were named all-conference.

Men's Golf All-Conference Again

Luke Vermeer earned all-conference honors for the third year in a row. He finished seventh individually in the four-round GPAC championship; the team placed seventh.

Women's Golf Third in GPAC

The Raiders finished third in the four-round GPAC championship, with Carrie Spree and Maggie Achterhof earning all-conference honors. Achterhof was medalist at the Briar Cliff Open, leading NWC to the team title.

Women's Tennis Back on the Court

In the first varsity tennis season at NWC since 2003, the Raiders went 4-9 overall. They placed seventh in the conference with a 3-6 mark. Nessa Summers (No. 6 singles) and Kate Mannenbach and Jessica Pomerence (No. 3 doubles) earned all-conference honors.

Soccer New Coaches

Blake Wicking '08, a two-time NAIA All-American honorable mention selection, has been named the new head coach for women's soccer. Sara (Kernes '06) Nessa, the program's all-time scoring and assist leader, will assist.

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

class Notes

'49 **Sid Van Gelder** and his wife, **Marie (Hoekman '52)**, live in a retirement community in Springfield, Mo., where they are active volunteers.

'66 **Robert Evans'** wife, Florence, died in January. He has moved to an assisted living facility in Thonotosassa, Fla.

'67 An article about **Ronald Jongeling's** 1966 Chevrolet Impala was printed in the May 1 issue of the *Washington Times*. The Castlewood, S.D., resident had his tuxedo-black two-door completely restored two years ago. It now has 151,000 miles on the odometer.

'69 **The Rev. Gerald Dykstra** is pastor of Elim Reformed Church in Kings, Ill. He previously served Gibbville Reformed Church in Sheboygan Falls, Wis., for 22 years.

Nelma (Post) Korthals, Pipestone, Minn., recently retired after 40 years of teaching.

Paul Nulton, Vernon, N.J., is the volunteer coordinator for the Reformed Church in America's regional synods of the Mid-Atlantic and New York, as well as the Warwick Conference Center. He leads mission teams that do repair work, evangelism and youth programs in urban RCA churches. He also serves as contract pastor of Cuddybackville (N.Y.) Reformed Church.

'78 **Beverly (Bouwman) Rosenboom**, Sturgis, S.D., is an elementary principal in the Meade School District.

'81 **Crystal (Westercamp) Lyddon**, Montezuma, Iowa, is a paralegal for Briery Charnetski in Grinnell.

Mary Van Rheenen has launched an online magazine, *A Jar of Oil* (www.jar-of-oil.info), to offer hope to the Dom Gypsies of the Middle East and North Africa. She serves on the board of the Dom Research Center.

'85 **The Rev. Donovan Drake**, pastor of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church in Durham, N.C., preached two March sermons on Day 1, a nationally broadcast radio program.

Laurie (Anderson) Schmitt, Orange City, works in the transportation department at Curly's Foods in Sioux City.

'86 **Ruth (Dykhuisen) Rupp** is a legal secretary for Blackburn & Green in Wolcott, Ind.

'87 **Bill Decker** is the new superintendent of the Muscatine (Iowa) Community School District. He previously served as the superintendent in the Iowa communities of Harlan and Mount Ayr.

'94 **Marci Klahsen**, Monroe, Iowa, teaches special education at Southeast Polk High School. She has three sons: Austin (8), Blake (5) and Brady (5).

'95 **Jason Kanz**, a clinical neuropsychologist in Eau Claire, Wis., was recently featured with a patient of his on the HBO Alzheimer's project *The Memory Loss Tapes*. He has also been selected to participate in a Wisconsin state advisory panel on early onset Alzheimer's disease.

Missy (Van Klompenburg) Simmons is audit director for TD Ameritrade in Omaha.

'97 **Peter Errington** recently moved to Seattle to serve as the director of mobilization for the home office of Mission to Unreached Peoples. His wife, **Esther (Leman '98)**, home-schools their three children.

Valerie (Garner) Gregersen, West Chicago, Ill., is a math teacher at Wheaton Academy.

'99 **Betsy (Russell) McFadden** is an income maintenance worker for the Department of Human Services in Atlantic, Iowa.

Red Ties

JENNIFER NEUHAUSER '00
Director of Alumni Relations

Recently a co-worker accompanied his daughter to a music competition at a local high school. He told me he noticed right away that the teacher who taught in that particular classroom must have been a University of Northern Iowa graduate, as the room was plastered with UNI colors.

Apparently the teacher in that classroom was proud of and thankful for his UNI experience, and he wasn't afraid to show it. I wonder how many times he gets to talk about why he loves UNI—probably every time his students ask or comment about the colors in his classroom.

I am so thankful for Northwestern College and everything my NWC experience included. My years here weren't always easy or even always enjoyable. There were tough days, tough semesters. But now, especially in hindsight, I realize what a unique place NWC is, and how much my time here impacted my life. I am grateful to be a Red Raider alum—grateful to be associated with an institution that has kept God at the center of its mission for over 125 years.

The theme for Northwestern Homecoming 2009 is "Gratefully Red." Are you gratefully red? Are you thankful for the influence Northwestern College and your experience here has had in your life and relationships?

If you are, how do you share that attitude of gratitude with others like your kids, their friends, and your friends and co-workers? Do you tell stories about how NWC changed your life?

Tell me: What makes you thankful to be a Northwestern College alum? Send me your stories, and I'll send you a "Gratefully Red" T-shirt. You can wear it to Homecoming Oct. 2-3.



Sarah TeBrink, Adrian, Minn., is a patient account representative for the Avera McKennan specialty clinics in Sioux Falls.

'00 **Mackenzie (Thedens) Grondahl**, Davenport, Iowa, is director of service learning at St. Ambrose University.

The Rev. Cory Moss serves as senior pastor of Christian Park Reformed Church in Indianapolis.

'01 **Nathan De Jager** completed a Ph.D. in ecology, evolution and behavior from the University of Minnesota last year. He is an ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center in La Crosse, Wis. He and his wife, Alesa, have a daughter, Halene (2).

Justin De Jong is the new deputy press secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. He previously served as director of communications at the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and Illinois director of communications for Barack Obama's presidential campaign.

'02 **John Fernstrum**, Orange City, is a social studies teacher at South O'Brien High School in Paullina.

'03 **Abbie (Klinker) Deptolla**, Elburn, Ill., is senior financial aid adviser at American InterContinental University.

Gretchen (Black) Engelmeyer, Overland Park, Kan., is a registered vascular technologist for Research Medical Center in Kansas City, Mo. She is pursuing a master's degree in health administration from the University of Phoenix.

Rebecca (Vander Molen) Koerselman, a teaching assistant at Michigan State University, recently received the Somers Excellence in Teaching Award. She is pursuing a doctorate in American history, with minors in religion and gender. Her husband, **Beau**, is executive director

of the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors Institute, which focuses on educational outreach in Michigan.

Angie (Schreuder) Van Gorp, Pella, Iowa, quit her job at Leighton State Bank to be a stay-at-home mom and in-home daycare provider.

'04 **Joel Vander Wal** received a Master of Divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary in December. He serves as associate pastor of youth ministries at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Peoria, Ill.

Ellie (Brenneman) Vitamvas is a senior accountant for Oriental Trading Company in Omaha.

Melanie (Coulter) Worstell, Hanford, Calif., is a rehabilitation therapist at Coalinga State Hospital.

'05 **Annalise (Johnson) Kitchen** teaches sixth grade in the Bondurant-Farrar (Iowa) Community School District.

Renee Martin, Saint Paul, Minn., is a search coordinator for the National Marrow Donor Program.

Tara (Schnoes) Schuring, Compton, Calif., is a special education teacher at The Help Group in Los Angeles.

Ahnada (Rutenbeck) Stephenson serves as K-12 resource teacher at Ankeny (Iowa) Christian Academy.

'06 **Eric Dykstra**, Littleton, Colo., is an area director for Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Jim Ellis ran 61 miles from Sioux City to Orange City on March 28 as part of the Red Letter Festival, which raised funds for The Bridge transitional housing shelter.

'07 **Rachel (Timmer) Kruger**, Lakefield, Minn., is a human resources assistant for New Fashion Pork. She also serves as an EMT for Lakefield Ambulance.



Kathy Meendering bakes treats for NWC Bible study groups on a weekly basis.

Cookie Minister

Once a week, Kathy (Bonniecroy '73) Meendering spends an afternoon in her kitchen baking 15 dozen cookies for Northwestern students.

"I call it my cookie ministry," she says. "Kids are more likely to come to campus events if food is involved."

The events Meendering wants students to attend have a spiritual focus: discipleship group meetings in the dorms or Bible studies led by resident assistants or NWC coaches.

The Orange City resident began giving away cookies in 2007—the same year she started working as a checker in Northwestern's cafeteria. Her church was encouraging members to support local college students, and Meendering signed up to donate a dozen cookies. Then she found out the recipient planned to use them for his Bible study.

"That just touched me," she recalls, "and I figured there had to be more kids who would enjoy having cookies for their discipleship groups."

Word of mouth quickly had Meendering fielding more requests. Now she rotates recipients, distributing cookies to each group once a month. Often tucked in with the cookies is a note from Meendering saying she's thinking about and praying for the students.

"I'm just trying to be an encourager," she says. "It's a way to touch some lives."

BY ANITA CIRULIS WITH KATLYN KRAAYENBRINK '10

Jon Slater is pursuing a master's degree in leadership for evangelism and mobilization from Columbia (S.C.) International University Seminary.

'08 **Kurt Aksamit** is a personal banker/teller for Pinnacle Bank in Lincoln, Neb.

Ben Crabtree, Aurora, Neb., is a deputy sheriff for Hamilton County.

Amanda (Dengler) Hayes, Luverne, Minn., is a child protection social worker for Rock County Family Services Agency. Her husband, **Nolan**, is an after-school program coordinator for the Sioux Falls School District.

Shawna Nelson, Holstein, Iowa, is a family service worker/family advocate for Head Start Preschool in Cherokee and Ida Grove.

Deb Remmerde was inducted into the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union Hall of Fame during the state basketball tournament in March. The all-time leading scorer in Iowa five-player history with 2,756 career points, she led Rock Valley High School to three consecutive state championships.

Sisi Wang, San Mateo, Calif., is a coordinator for Nissin International Transport USA in San Francisco.

Aubrey Weger is a music teacher at Along Came Music in Burnsville, Minn.

Matt Wenninger is a marketing director for K-Designers Home Remodeling in Burnsville, Minn.

New Arrivals

Shirley and **Jeff Taylor '83**, son, David Henry, joins Jane (5)

Beth and **Phil Woodall '89**, daughter, Abby Louise, joins Benjamin (3)

Jani and **Dan Van Gorp '92**, daughter, Tessa Elaine, joins Anneke (7) and Grant (5)

Lynnette (Webb '94) and **Adam Rasmussen '94**, daughter, Calissa Jolie, joins Annika (10), Kirsten (6) and Lesia (4)

Eric and **Missy (Van Klompenburg '95) Simmons**, daughter, Rylee Grace

Robert and **Abbie (Vis '96) Ruisch**, daughter, Sarah Elizabeth

LeEllen and **Darrin DeVries '99**, daughter, Liana Keilor Elon, joins Caedmon (2)

Jason Hendel and **Sarah TeBrink '99**, son, Cael Jason

Kevin and **Mackenzie (Thedens '00) Grondahl**, daughter, Eliana Marguerite

Kiley (Fleming '00) and **Matt Mars '99**, daughter, Keziah Elizabeth, joins Zebulun (2)

Janelle and **Cory Moss '00**, daughter, Grada Elizabeth, joins Braxton (2)

Sara (Katzenberger '00) and **Tom Scholtens '00**, son, Josiah Thomas, joins Nathaniel (3)

Eric and **Carrie (Odell '01) Anderson**, daughter, Natalie Dell, joins Nathan (2)

Christie (Veen '01) and **Sid Bulthuis '00**, son, Simon James, joins Trygve and Miles



PAUL STOUER

Donna Bunce founded and directs Compassionate Heart Ministry, which provides a sense of belonging for youth with disabilities in the Zeeland, Mich., area.

Recharged

On a Tuesday afternoon in a rec room in Zeeland, Mich., batteries are in big demand. Jamie, a tall, husky teenager in a sleeveless shirt, revives his remote and sends the virtual bowling ball toward the remaining pins. Blake, who's new, had Jamie show him around, and of course the tour ended here, near the PlayStations, Wii and air hockey.

"He's a game-meister," says Jamie's mom. "People come to him, so he's talking all the time, whereas normally he's just home alone."

Jamie admits he's "Mr. Popular" here at Compassionate Heart Ministry, an after-school program for youth with disabilities. Donna (Heerspink '84) Bunce began the ministry in 2007 when she saw that her son Jacob, who is mentally impaired, lacked a typical social life.

"They're left out of everything," Bunce says. "And now they feel like they've got their own private place."

It's a place filled with games, guitars, crafts and kids on cell phones bragging they're "at this club I joined."

"Other parts of the community might think these kids are the broken ones," says Bunce, who's just traded a new stash of batteries for a hug. "But when I look at them, I think they're the ones who get it."

BY AMY SCHEER

David and **Krista (Boltjes '01) Pendergrass**, son, Willem James, joins Finn (2)

Kristi and **Dan Robinson '01**, daughter, Hallie Jo, joins Ben (5) and Noah (3)

Betsie (DeBoom '01) and **Scott Swartz '00**, son, Derek Jude, joins Paul (3)

Rachel (Netten '02) and **John Fernstrum '02**, son, Isaiah Adams, joins Triston (8), Ashton (7) and Kennedy (2)

Ryan and **Alyssa (Ridout '02) Rusk**, daughter, Natalie Nanette, joins Elise (4) and Kaitlyn (2)

Erich and **Abbie (Klinker '03) Deptolla**, son, Charles Howard

Bukky (Akinyemi '03) and **Jamie Harthoorn '01**, daughter, Liviya Adalie Oluwakanyinsola

Phillip and **Sara (Brands '03) Johnson**, daughter, Paige Suzanne

Ben and **Jen (DeWaard '03) Klumb**, son, Creighton Jay, joins Taite

Jason and **Angie (Schreuder '03) Van Gorp**, son, Noah Daniel

Chad and **Erica (De Vries '03) Zuiderveen**, son, Liam Michael

Brett and **Jolynne (Nilson '05) Eilts**, daughter, Katie Jo, joins Jackson (2)

Scott and **Carin (Grussing '07) Weltzheimer**, daughter, Paysli Faith

Alex (Irwin '09) and **Bruce Anliker '06**, son, Noah Jeoffery

Marriages

Tracy Lindskoog '98 and Dennis Bernard, Chicago

Gretchen Black '03 and Ryan Engelmeyer, Overland Park, Kan.

Ellie Brennehan '03 and Jason Vitamvas, Papillion, Neb.

Annalise Johnson '05 and Alex Kitchen, Ankeny, Iowa

Nicole Koenecke '05 and Eric Forbes, Arlington, Va.

Jon Slater '07 and Rebekah Giddings, Columbia, S.C.

Amanda Dengler '08 and **Nolan Hayes '08**, Luverne, Minn.

The couples reside in the city listed.

In Memoriam

Dr. H. Paul Bolks '35 died May 8 in Hull, Iowa, at the age of 92. He earned a Doctor of Medicine degree at Kansas State University and served for five years in the U.S. Army Air Force as a food inspector. A longtime veterinarian in Hull, he also served the town as mayor and city council member for eight years each. He was a member of American Reformed Church, where he served as an elder and deacon. Active in Kiwanis and the American Legion, he served as Sioux County's director of veterans affairs for 36 years. Survivors include his wife, Bertie; a daughter, **Marcia Harms '71**; and a son.

Dorothy (Mol '37) Vande Berg, age 89, died March 30 in Orange City. In addition to farming with her husband in Newkirk, Iowa, she worked in the Newkirk Store and was a nursing home aide. A member of Newkirk Reformed Church, she taught Sunday school, led Bible studies and was active in the women's organizations. Among her survivors are three daughters, **Judy Plunkett '66**, **Gloria Nelson '74** and **Debra Poppen '79**; a sister, **Joanne Johnson '43**; and a brother, **John '55**.

Myron (Mike) Van Peursem '38, age 87, died Feb. 13 in Orange City. After graduating from Northwestern, he served with the Army Air Corps for two years. He then farmed, sold seed corn and was a substitute rural mail carrier. He was a member of First Reformed Church, where he taught Sunday school. He was also an active member of the American Legion. He is survived by his wife, Lenora, and four children, including **Marlin '82** and **Marlo '82**.

John Aalberts '45, '49, age 81, died March 4 in San Dimas, Calif. After graduating from Northwestern, he earned a degree in accounting from Woodbury College in Los Angeles. He was administrator for Challenge Foods for 22 years and general manager for the San Joaquin Valley Dairymen for 17 years. He served on the board of directors for the American Dry Milk Institute and the National Milk Producers Federation, and as president of the California Creamery Operators Association. His survivors include three sons and three sisters, including **Betty Vander Zwaag '56**.



MARK ODGERS

New York City-based actor Kris Kling has earned credits on stage and in film and TV.

Well-Played

Kris Kling '97 is modest about his accomplishments, but not every actor can say he's appeared on the big screen at Utah's Sundance Film Festival.

"It was cool to hear something I did is getting good exposure and recognition," he says.

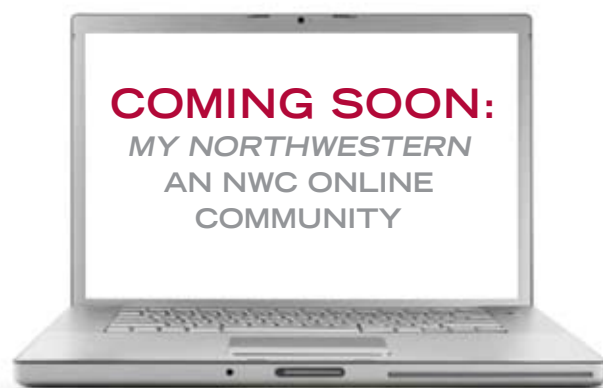
The film is *Mystery Team*, a dark comedy about amateur sleuths solving a crime way out of their league. The film was well-received at the festival and earned Kling another line on his IMDb.com profile, a public—and highly selective—database for commercially produced TV shows and films.

Mystery Team wasn't Kling's first film (he has appeared in a handful of shorts and one other feature-length film), but he says the process was a great learning experience—especially for an actor more accustomed to theatre.

"I've been on stage since I was four," says Kling, who studied at London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama and earned rave reviews for his 2008 performance as a British officer in Storm Theatre's *The Shaughraun*.

"I've had a lot less experience on film, so I don't have the technique and comfort that people learn from doing it for years and years. But it comes down to the same thing: Use your body, voice, intellect, emotions, instinct, imagination and spirit to tell the story the best way you can."

BY SARAH ASP OLSON '03



Elmer Van Wyk '51 of Sioux Center died Feb. 18 at age 76. He owned and operated Van Wyk's Barber Shop in George, Iowa, for many years and was also a school bus driver there. In addition to being a member of First Reformed Church in Sioux Center, he was also active in the American Legion, Jaycees and the George Chamber of Commerce. Among his survivors are his wife, **Betty (Lammers '51, '69)**; two sons, including **Michael '84**; and three brothers, including **John '57**.

Dick "Bub" Muilenburg '52, age 76, died March 11 in Spirit Lake, Iowa. After graduating from Northwestern, he earned a bachelor's degree at Iowa State University. He taught in Atlantic, Iowa, and then spent more than 30 years as an insurance adjuster for Farm Bureau. He was a member of the United Methodist Church and Kiwanis. Among his survivors are his wife, Marjorie; three daughters; and a sister, **Everlye '43**.

The Rev. Bill Donkersloot '72, age 61, of Inwood, Iowa, died March 10 in Minneapolis. He studied at Western Theological

Seminary for two years and later received a Master of Divinity degree from New Brunswick Seminary. The pastor of First Reformed Church in Inwood, Iowa, he previously served Reformed churches in California, Florida, Indiana and New Jersey. He is survived by his wife, **Marcia (Bleeker '69)**; three children; and two brothers, including **Bob '72**.

Donald Althaus '75 died Jan. 22 in San Antonio at the age of 55. After graduating from NWC, he worked in his family's construction business in the Kingsley, Iowa, area for several years. He moved to Texas in 1985 and spent the last several years working as a warehouse manager for Labatt Food Service in San Antonio. Survivors include three brothers and a sister.

Brad Odens '08, age 23, died April 9 in Brookings, S.D. He attended NWC from 2004 to 2006 before transferring to South Dakota State University, where he was studying electrical engineering. He is survived by his parents and two siblings, including **Chad '02**.



MICHAEL HUDSON

Ryan Pendell, a May graduate of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, has already published his first book of poetry.

Artful Poet

Ryan Pendell '07 is an artist, but his work lines bookshelves rather than gallery walls. In fact, most of the time when he picks up a pen, it's not to draw but to create poetry.

This spring Pendell graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) with a Master of Fine Arts degree in writing. It was art that drew him there. "Other creative writing programs are attached to English departments, whereas we do creative writing inside an art school," he says. "It's a different angle."

A philosophy major at NWC, Pendell also studied art and creative writing. "By the end of my degree, I knew my interest was at the intersection of these subjects," he says. "Poetry explores ideas and beliefs in a way that allows me to infuse philosophy, emotion and language."

His first book—*Say to These Bones: Live!*, published by SAIC's Ice Box Press—is a short collection of work demonstrating his passion for these connections.

"The poems all deal in some way with the question of resurrection," says Pendell, who wrote them over six years. "There was a thematic unity I didn't notice until I was putting the manuscript together."

While Pendell hopes to write more books, he says publication isn't what makes him a poet.

"The defining mark is loving to play around and tinker with words," he says. "That's when you know you'll be a poet the rest of your life."

BY EMILY HENNAGER '06

GRATEFULLY RED

HOMECOMING 2009 OCTOBER 2&3

Come home to reminisce with friends and make more memories during Homecoming 2009. Enjoy Red Raider football, class reunions (1979, '89, '99, 2004), the 5K Raider Road Race, Morning on the Green and more.

www.nwciowa.edu/homecoming

Netherlands Bike Tour

Northwestern's fifth Netherlands bike tour will take riders through Delft, Rotterdam and Dordrecht. Roll along the Rhine and past the windmills of Kinderdijk. Tour guide is Dr. James Kennedy '84.

July 2010

The cost of \$1,599 will cover everything except your plane ticket, including meals, lodging and sightseeing.

www.nwciowa.edu/biketour

ALUMNI ADVENTURE

Wilderness Trip Sept. 11-16

Jump in for canoeing, camping, relationships and reflection during the second alumni trip to Minnesota's Boundary Waters, led by expert wilderness guide Kevin Sutton '92.

Cost is \$350/person; space is limited.

www.nwciowa.edu/wildernesstrip

40-YEAR MEMORIES

Shirley (Lamfers) Symens, Darlene (Jurgens) Wiersema and June (Bosgraaf) Namminga, left to right, reminisce during the class of 1969 reunion on May 14. They were among more than 40 people who participated in the spring reunions, which also included graduates from '49 and '59. The gathering coincided with Orange City's Tulip Festival, and the alumni were featured in the afternoon parade.

AMPA CIRIUS

SPEAK UP

Tell your NWC friends and classmates about the latest news in your life.

Submit by Aug. 3 to:

Office of Public Relations • Northwestern College
101 7th Street SW • Orange City, IA 51041
classic@nwciowa.edu • classic.nwciowa.edu • 712-707-7370 (fax)

Name _____

Address _____

Home/cell phone _____ Class year _____

E-mail _____

Current employer(s) _____

My news _____

Classic Thoughts

Destinations

BY JOSH DOORENBOS AND IAN DUDLEY

During spring break in March, we drove from Orange City to the coast of Maine and back as the experiential part of a course in pilgrimage writing. Purposefully meandering with no particular destination in mind, we explored the off-the-expressway towns we're usually too hurried to notice, recording our reflections and insights along the way.

We drove through towns like Reading, Pa., and Ohio City, N.Y.; we drove through mountains and forests and plains. We saw barns decorated with painted quilt patterns and a town that was clinging to one last bar for life. We wrote about sunsets and rain storms and rundown buildings and silos. We met people we never would have met—in coffee shops we never would have stopped at—had we not taken this journey.

Nothing extraordinary happened. We expected extraordinary. We expected awe-inspiring, life-changing occurrences, and all we got were a couple of seemingly forgettable conversations. We wanted eye-opening exploration of the uncharted, and all we got were gas stations and country roads.

Around day seven we came to a realization: This is all there is. We caught ourselves trying to set destinations for our meandering trip—not physical or geographical, maybe, but intellectual, psychological. We'd set our sights on insights and ways in which our lives should change when all we ever meant to learn was to see the ordinary.

Driving home, we found ourselves surrounded by the frenzy of interstate driving, caught in the current, streaming toward a destination. On both sides we watched neighboring drivers

down coffee as if it were the antidote to the poison they call sleep. Headlights staring like eyes and flickering like twin lamps, shuttered and aimed straight ahead, lighting a path before them and only before them. The destination seemed to be all that mattered.

And then it happened: We were the same. We were guilty of passing through miles upon miles of countryside without a glance to either side. The speed limit was 65, and yet the cars around us were going 75. We accelerated, boosting our speed to match theirs.

Is the journey so miserable that all we care about is ending it?

What happened to our conscious effort to meander—to take the time to see what is missed in our 65-mile-per-hour lifestyle, to breathe the country air, to examine every drop of water, every leaf, every hole in every tree?

We built, on those back roads and rundown highways, a new philosophy, one that allows for—nurtures, even—an appreciation of the moment. It was a philosophy not so much about speed and distances and destinations as it was about people and places and observations. The interstate bypassed that philosophy, took the soul of the journey away, and gave us *our* two lamps, shuttered and staring straight ahead. The journey was lost in the destination.

The living journey, the one that deals in steps and minutes as opposed to miles and hours, is never lacking for destinations. Grocery lists, to-do lists, guest lists, contact lists, reading lists, programs, goals, calendars, agendas—all are destinations. In 65-mile-per-hour living, one can get tired of the blurred roadside as the only view.

“And so we walk,” Ian writes now. “Everywhere our feet touch ground—that is our destination. Everywhere asphalt reaches up to kiss the tires of our vehicle—that is our destination.”

Wanderers and wonderers, Josh Doorenbos and Ian Dudley are junior writing and rhetoric majors. Josh, from Boyden, Iowa, is also studying literature. Ian, from Barnstead, N.H., is also pursuing an art major.



What's Your Legacy?



It's no surprise Char Van de Waa and her late husband, Carl '37, established a scholarship for Northwestern students interested in health care. Carl graduated from the University of Iowa's dental school after attending Northwestern Junior College. He and Char met when she joined his Sioux Falls practice as a dental hygienist.

A gift of stock enabled them to fund the Dr. Carl and Charlotte Van de Waa Scholarship, and last fall Char met the first two recipients at the college's annual Scholarship Luncheon. A photo of the students hangs on Char's fridge. "I like to look at that and keep them in my prayers," she says.

"I chose Northwestern College because I wanted to receive my nursing degree from a program that was committed to Christian nursing, not just to teaching students how to do a job. The Van de Waa Scholarship is helping me achieve my dreams."

Beth Hunter
Nursing major from Doon, Iowa



Be intentional.

Think about what you will leave behind. Contact Cornie Wassink at 712-707-7109 or corniew@nwciowa.edu to learn how you can impact Northwestern's future by endowing a scholarship or using another planned giving tool.



www.nwciowa.edu/giftplanning • giving@nwciowa.edu

Dutch Pride



DOUG BURIG

For the first time, Northwestern's commencement weekend in May coincided with Orange City's annual Tulip Festival. After the pomp and circumstance, many graduates and their families stayed in town to

experience the festival's Straatmarkt and Volksparade down tulip-lined Central Avenue.

Many faculty and staff exchanged cap-and-gown regalia for Dutch costumes and klompen (wooden shoes)

and headed downtown to scrub streets, serve poffertjes (tiny pancakes), and serenade festival guests as the Fietsen Zangers (bicycle singers). Among those celebrating the end of the semester with a little Dutch dancing were Vice

President for External Relations Ron De Jong '71 (the festival's town crier) and his wife, Bonnie (Mouw '70).