Roommates
Alumni tell of pet peeves, personality clashes and making friends for life

Also
Imagine Campaign
Comedy Improv
Game Day
From the 8:30 a.m. team meeting until after kickoff, photographer Dan Ross chronicled Northwestern’s game day on Oct. 15.
W e describe Northwestern College as a Christian academic community. These three words are inextricably linked, forming the core of who we are.

We have been committed to academic rigor, along with a Reformed and Christian worldview, since the time of our founding as a classical academy in 1882. Virtually all private institutions of higher education across America were also founded by church bodies. However, during the 1960s and ‘70s, many church-related institutions distanced themselves from their Christian heritage. That’s where Northwestern is different.

We chose a different course at Northwestern and became even more intentional about our mission, including in our Christian heritage. That’s where Northwestern is different.

The decision to become even more intentional about the Christian aspect of our mission changed everything about our destiny as a college, influencing hiring practices and curriculum development and leading to the excellent reputation and strong brand we enjoy today: a Northwestern that is an authentically Christian college. We’re known for our exceptional campus community and admired for preparing graduates who are devoted Christians and deep thinkers.

We are committed to living out the best of what it means to be a Christian college. And we are an academically rigorous institution preparing students not only for the workplace and graduate school, but also for a lifetime of learning. In addition, there’s a third word besides “Christian” and “academic” that describes Northwestern: community. Perhaps more than any other word, “community” is how alumni describe their Northwestern experience.

Many colleges and universities talk about community, but there is something truly distinctive about the type of community built here. Chaplain Hadden Van Oort ’32 may have described it best during a recent chapel service. He said, “When you mix worship with service it creates community.”

Walls and barriers are broken down as we worship and serve together. This happens on SOS and SSP trips, within disciple groups in our residence halls, and all across our campus—including in the classroom, where excellence is offered in worshipful praise of God and learning is pursued in the context of how it might be used to serve God and humankind.

The mixture of worship and service we have at Northwestern creates a strong sense of community. It is not something we can manufacture ourselves. It is a gift that can only be attributed to the work of the Holy Spirit. And it’s a beautiful thing to be part of.

We are committed to living out the best of what it means to be a Christian college. And we are an academically rigorous institution preparing students not only for the workplace and graduate school, but also for a lifetime of learning. In addition, there’s a third word besides “Christian” and “academic” that describes Northwestern: community. Perhaps more than any other word, “community” is how alumni describe their Northwestern experience.

Many colleges and universities talk about community, but there is something truly distinctive about the type of community built here. Chaplain Hadden Van Oort ’32 may have described it best during a recent chapel service. He said, “When you mix worship with service it creates community.”

Walls and barriers are broken down as we worship and serve together. This happens on SOS and SSP trips, within disciple groups in our residence halls, and all across our campus—including in the classroom, where excellence is offered in worshipful praise of God and learning is pursued in the context of how it might be used to serve God and humankind.

The mixture of worship and service we have at Northwestern creates a strong sense of community. It is not something we can manufacture ourselves. It is a gift that can only be attributed to the work of the Holy Spirit. And it’s a beautiful thing to be part of.

The decision to become even more intentional about the Christian aspect of our mission changed everything about our destiny as a college, influencing hiring practices and curriculum development and leading to the excellent reputation and strong brand we enjoy today: a Northwestern that is an authentically Christian college. We’re known for our exceptional campus community and admired for preparing graduates who are devoted Christians and deep thinkers.

We are committed to living out the best of what it means to be a Christian college. And we are an academically rigorous institution preparing students not only for the workplace and graduate school, but also for a lifetime of learning. In addition, there’s a third word besides “Christian” and “academic” that describes Northwestern: community. Perhaps more than any other word, “community” is how alumni describe their Northwestern experience.

Many colleges and universities talk about community, but there is something truly distinctive about the type of community built here. Chaplain Hadden Van Oort ’32 may have described it best during a recent chapel service. He said, “When you mix worship with service it creates community.”

Walls and barriers are broken down as we worship and serve together. This happens on SOS and SSP trips, within disciple groups in our residence halls, and all across our campus—including in the classroom, where excellence is offered in worshipful praise of God and learning is pursued in the context of how it might be used to serve God and humankind.

The mixture of worship and service we have at Northwestern creates a strong sense of community. It is not something we can manufacture ourselves. It is a gift that can only be attributed to the work of the Holy Spirit. And it’s a beautiful thing to be part of.
In Good Hands

Six new directors began their positions this fall.

Aaron Beadner: director of student programs, comes from California’s Simpson University, where he was director of student involvement and associate director of student programs. He earned a master’s degree in college student affairs at Arizona Pacific University and a bachelor’s at Taylor University.

Patricia Hummel: joined the university as an assistant director of residence life at Calvin College. A former assistant dean of residence life at Calvin College, she earned a Master of Divinity degree at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and a bachelor’s degree at Taylor University.

Mike Wallinga: ‘97 rejoins the Northwestern community as director of institutional research. He taught computer science at NWIC for nine years before serving for a year as an analyst at Interstate Control Systems in Sioux Center.

Aaron Beadner

While the American Football Coaches Association and Allstate Insurance Company were reviewing candidates for the 2013 Good Works Team, Chris Butler was an easy choice.

The senior from Victorville, Calif., helped to start Northwest’s La Mosaic multicultural home for women and transitional home for men and women to avoid drugs and alcohol in the school counseling as well as a bachelor’s degree, both from BV.

The psychology major, selected by his football teammates to be a member of the Raiders’ leadership team, Chris Butler was an easy choice.

Northwestern is one of only four colleges and universities in the U.S.—and the only Christian college—offering a bachelor’s degree in translation and interpretation (Spanish-English).

“We’re not aware of any simultaneous interpreting lab in the whole Midwest,” says Piet Koene, assistant professor of Spanish, translation and interpreting. “This gives our program a very big advantage.”

In simultaneous interpreting, Koene says that it takes less time than consecutive interpretation, in which the speaker pauses while the interpretation is being done. Northwestern’s athletic training education program was initially accredited in 2005. Northwester’s athletic training education program has received continuing accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE).

Northwestern Classic

Perfect Checkup

Students in Northwestern’s Spanish program learn how to translate and provide both consecutive and simultaneous interpretation, thanks to a $75,000 investment in the simultaneous interpretation lab.

Located in the lowest level of Van Zylspark Hall, the lab consists of 13 booths identical to the ones used at events—like international conferences—that require professional interpreters. Electronic equipment in each booth allows students to listen through headsets to recordings of a person speaking either Spanish or English. As the students interpret into the other language, Koene says that Koene uses a control board to select which student he wants to listen to and, at times, lets them listen to and learn from each other.

Because students must be fluent in both Spanish and English in order to learn interpretation, only bilingual students are accepted into the program. The college already has 10 students majoring in translation and interpretation. The goal is to have a total of 24 by 2013.

Habla Español?
Parents: Read to Your Kids

Among the books Sybesma and her students pour over for good teaching ideas are titles that might prove popular with parents too. Check these out:

- **Infants and toddlers**
  - **LMNO Peas** by Keith Baker
  - The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

- **Ages 3 to 5**
  - Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr., John Archambault and Lois Ehlert
  - Interrupting Chicken by Eric Carle

- **3rd and 4th grade**
  - Arnold Lobel
  - Frog and Toad are Friends

- **5th grade and up**
  - Amelia Earlie: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart by Candice Fleming
  - Maniac Magee by Chris Van Allsburg

**Why do you sometimes get a bad rap?**

Just like the book’s 12-year-old protagonist, Sybesma believes that some books “aren’t fair for kids to read. They just aren’t good.”

That’s why she’s constantly on the lookout for new titles to assign in her Children’s Literature class.

“Some books, better books,” says Sybesma, showing her students children’s books from the 1940s and earlier—books with long, blocky paragraphs and simple black-and-white illustrations.

“Then in the 1960s, children’s literature exploded,” she explains, passing around books with vibrant colors and vivid illustrations. Children’s authors became more playful, engineering pop-up books and interactive books with texture and sound. They broke the rules, writing books with words running all around the pages rather than just left to right.

In addition to reading and reporting on outfits of children’s books, Sybesma’s students must also lead Story Hour at the Orange City Public Library, demonstrating they can hold the attention of a dozen preschoolers while reading and associated activities that are both entertaining and educational.

For example, after a rousing recitation of The Seven Sealy Eaters, by Mary Ann Hoberman and Marla Frazee, a soon-to-be teacher describes how she might present the book to a group of children.

“I’m going to tell you a story about a bunch of sheep,” she says. “And they’re going to want to feel the sheep.”

The orange county public library, Orange City, Iowa, is one of the venues for Children’s Literature class. “It’s a two-credit class, so students have to work fast and hard,” says Sybesma. “It’s amazing what a fresh coat of paint will do. And new lighting, windows, flooring, partitions and climate control.

Sybesma and her students are also tasked with conducting research projects on savannahs leaves. They might conduct interviews with students or conduct surveys about their reading habits. They might also conduct experiments to test the effectiveness of different types of lighting or other environmental factors.

It’s the flooring and partitions, however, that will make the biggest difference for those using the center. A half-inch-thick sport surface—twice as thick as the former flooring—covers the courts and running track, providing more cushioning for those running, walking and playing basketball and volleyball.

The ability to contain activity is going to enable more people to be in the place at once,” says Dale Thompson, director of the Rowenhorst Student Center.

Eventually Thompson would like to see what is known as the Mini-Gym renovated as well, with new fitness equipment, refurbished racquetball courts and locker rooms, a game room, and areas for aerobic and other fitness classes.

As with the four-court area of the fitness center, funding will dictate the timing and extent of those improvements.
Hall of Famer

Earl Woudstra has many great memories of times in Sioux City, having led the Raiders’ women’s basketball team to the NAIA Div. II national championship there in 2011, 2010, 2008 and 2001. He will have another one on March 8, when he’s inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame as part of national tournament activities.

Woudstra was named this fall as one of 18 individuals in the 2011-12 Hall of Fame class. The 1978 Northwestern alumnus led the Red Raiders to a 403-139 record during his 17 years as head coach, the all-time winningest coach in the program’s history, and was named national coach of the year four times.

Northwestern qualified for 10 national tournaments during Woudstra’s tenure and holds the record for the most wins at the event. The Raiders were runners-up in 2000 and advanced to the Final Four in 2006 and 2009.

“I’m delighted that Coach Woudstra has been selected to the Hall of Fame in his first year of retirement,” says Barry Brandt, athletic director. “The incredible success his teams had on the court was a direct reflection of who he is. Earl personified servant leadership. He was always far more concerned about the personal development of his players and coaches than he was about himself or the sport. Nothing was more important to him than seeing spiritual growth and understanding take place in the women on his squad.”

Woudstra, who continues to serve as assistant athletic director and kinesiology professor, will be the fourth Northwestern representative in the Hall of Fame.

New on the Board

Northwestern’s Board of Trustees welcomed six new members at its fall meeting in 2011.

The Rev. Roger Woudstra, Northwestern’s head women’s basketball coach from 1994 to 2011, will be inducted into the 2011 Hall of Fame in March.

The Rev. Stephen Breen, rural Orange City, has been pastor of Middleburg Free Grace Reformed Church since 1995. He earned a Master of Divinity degree at Western Theological Seminary.

The Rev. Keith Krebs has been senior pastor of Orange City’s American Reformed Reformed Church since 1995. He earned a Master of Divinity degree at Western Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Gina (Langstraat ’89), have four children. Placements of the 21 B.S.N. graduates include the Sanford Health System and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Hospital.

Positive Test Results

Recent graduates of Northwestern’s athletic training and nursing programs have posted board exam pass rates that exceed national averages.

The college’s 2011 athletic training majors had an 85 percent first-time pass rate and a 100 percent pass rate overall on the Board of Certification exam. The national first-time pass rate average is 66.7 percent. Graduate school placements of the program’s May graduates include the University of South Dakota and Baylor University in Texas.

Northwestern’s 2011 nursing majors posted a 95.2 percent first-time pass rate on the Board of Nursing exam. The national average is 91.4 percent. Placements of the 21 B.S.N. graduates include the Sanford Health System and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Hospital.

Joel Westerholm

Book lover

You taught at universities on the East Coast before joining Northwestern’s faculty. What enticed you to move to Iowa?

I had a pretty good idea of what I was getting myself into, having graduated from a Midwestern Christian college—though nothing prepared me for the two weeks in December that first year when the temperature didn’t get above zero. We stayed because we found people we enjoyed living among in a place where God was doing his work in which we could find a role.

Both of your children are students at Northwestern. Did you ever imagine they would be attending the same college at which you teach?

I raised them to cheer for the Raiders as loudly as possible. As they grew older, I could imagine them sitting in classes answering questions, or writing articles for the Beacon and stories for Spectrum. I just hoped their rather sharp senses of humor (which they got from their mother) wouldn’t create too many problems for my colleagues.

What are some challenges involved with teaching college-level English?

The biggest challenge is trying to develop students’ attention spans and imaginations. In a culture of instant gratification, in which students’ attention spans and imaginations. In a culture of instant gratification, in which people expect entertainment to be shallow and immediate, I want my students to discover the problems for my colleagues.

What do you like to read?

Besides box scores when the Cubs have won, I read novels and poetry from the rest of the world. I am curious about the lives of people who live in other places. And I read quite a bit of journalism about the environment, the plight of the poor around the world, and issues of war and peace.

What do you wish you were an expert at?

I am a sucker for a good murder mystery.

What’s your guilty pleasure when it comes to books?

I am a sucker for a good murder mystery.

What do you like to read?

Besides box scores when the Cubs have won, I read novels and poetry from the rest of the world. I am curious about the lives of people who live in other places. And I read quite a bit of journalism about the environment, the plight of the poor around the world, and issues of war and peace.

What do you wish you were an expert at?

I am a sucker for a good murder mystery.

What’s your guilty pleasure when it comes to books?

I am a sucker for a good murder mystery.

What do you like to read?

Besides box scores when the Cubs have won, I read novels and poetry from the rest of the world. I am curious about the lives of people who live in other places. And I read quite a bit of journalism about the environment, the plight of the poor around the world, and issues of war and peace.

What do you wish you were an expert at?

I am a sucker for a good murder mystery.

What’s your guilty pleasure when it comes to books?

I am a sucker for a good murder mystery.
First-Year Faculty

Terry Chi
Assistant Professor of Psychology
Ph.D., University of California-Berkeley
His work has been part of group exhibitions in 16 states.

Chris Hausmann
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Ph.D., University of Notre Dame
Hausmann brings expertise in social theory, social movements, research methods, microsociology, emotions, and global sociology to Northwestern.

Emily Stokes
Assistant Professor of Art
M.F.A., University of South Dakota
Stokes has taught at Wayne State College and the University of South Dakota. She also serves as the vertebrate supervisor for the Colorado Shakespeare festival and directed plays for the Children’s Theatre Company of South Dakota and the Vermillion (S.D.) Community Theatre.

Brandon Woudstra ‘03
Lecturer in Business
M.B.A. candidate, University of South Dakota
Woudstra played professional basketball for six years in Europe. He recently served as program director for Blueprint Basketball, responsible for program development and marketing, basketball skills instruction, customer services, and site and session management. He also is an independent contractor for other basketball organizations and a licensed residential real estate appraiser.

Rachel Foulks ‘07
Assistant Professor of Theatre
M.F.A., Arizona State University
Foulks has taught at Wayne State College and the University of South Dakota.

Peggy (Leeds ’82) Bilsten
Service to Humankind
As the vice mayor for Phoenix, Peggy Bilsten advocated for people with disabilities and fought the abuse of women, serving on the mayor’s and Arizona governor’s commissions to prevent domestic violence. A passionate opponent of child sex slavery, Bilsten has participated in weeklong trips to Indonesia, China and war-torn Central Africa. She now works with StreetLight PHX, a ministry dedicated to eradicating child rape for profit. She also serves as the executive director of the Arizona Sexual Assault Association and is part of the staff for the Global Training Network, which equips church planters, leaders and pastors around the world.

Dr. Bryan Den Hartog ’81
Professional Achievement
Bryan Den Hartog is an orthopedic surgeon at the Black Hills Orthopedic & Spine Center. He also serves on the faculty for the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society (AOFAS). Den Hartog has published peer-reviewed articles in journals such as The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery and is a journal reviewer for Foot and Ankle International. Active in missions and part of the humanitarian committee of the AOFAS, he has trained doctors and performed surgery in Haiti and Venezuela.

Harold Vander Laan ’49
Service to Northwestern
Evidence of Harold Vander Laan’s commitment to his alma mater is displayed each Tulip Festival when the Northwestern College float parades through the streets of Orange City. Featured on the float is a seven-foot-high wooden replica of Zwemer Hall, built to scale and with such detail that every brick is visible. The model took the retired 28 years. He was also the college’s director of admissions for the first seven of those years.
Support for the Mission
2010–11 giving reaches nearly $4 million

Fundraising Report
July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011

$3.9 million Total giving to Northwestern College; giving to the Northwestern Fund was $1.4 million
$780,015 Total alumni giving to Northwestern; 21% of alumni supported their alma mater
$621,956 Heritage Society members (donors making planned gifts)
$330,557 was received from bequests
Total giving to endowed scholarships for students; $621,956 supported their alma mater
Total alumni giving to Northwestern; 21% of alumni
$780,015 Northwestern Fund was $1.4 million
Total giving to Northwestern College; giving to the Northwestern Fund was $3.9 million

Support for the Mission
2010–11 giving reaches nearly $4 million

Fundraising Report
July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011

Imagine Campaign

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Gifts &amp; pledges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learning Commons</td>
<td>$15 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwestern Fund</td>
<td>$10 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic initiatives</td>
<td>9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churches</td>
<td>8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$55 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Funds raised between Jan. 1, 2005, and Oct. 31, 2011

Alumni giving

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Best giving percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1944 &amp; '45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1954 &amp; '52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Best giving overall

| Class of 1972          | $110,830        |
| Class of 1975          | $86,828         |
| Class of 1977          | $74,737         |
| Class of 1993          | $61,680         |
| Class of 1965          | $57,621         |

Best giving to the Northwestern Fund

| Class of 1965          | $46,216         |
| Class of 1997          | $30,719         |
| Class of 1977          | $25,995         |
| Class of 1993          | $25,340         |
| Class of 1955          | $23,166         |

Capital and Endowed Gifts (non-operating)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Gifts &amp; pledges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alumni</td>
<td>$344,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>637,153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations/grants</td>
<td>251,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>225,145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churches</td>
<td>25,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estates</td>
<td>661,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>37,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>$1,797,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand total</td>
<td>$3,607,790</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Northwestern Classic
13
GAME DAY

A lot goes on before the football is placed on the tee and the De Valois Stadium crowd of 3,000 cheers the Raiders on to victory. Photographer Dan Ross chronicled the activities that led up to Northwestern's 35-10 win over Concordia on Oct. 15. Visit classic.nwciowa.edu to see dozens of other Game Day photos.
Picture this

My freshman roommate arrived first, and when I came later, our RA snapped a photo of the two of us practically before we’d even had a chance to say hi. That picture became a treasure because on both our faces you can see the fear of two freshmen who don’t know what to expect. That was the beginning of a long-lasting friendship that endured living together for four years, three of them in the same room. We experienced each other’s joys and trials. Favorite memories are taking long walks and movie nights on the weekend. We took an interest in each other’s majors and shared what we were learning in our classes. We didn’t always get along, but we always worked through our disagreements, which is a great relationship skill to learn.

Sarah Hilkemann ’08
PLANO, TEXAS

PB & J and other great combos

The summer before my freshman year, I was a little nervous about my roommate assignment. So my mom suggested that after I got my roommate match-up letter, we could contact her family and arrange to meet halfway before fall to get to know each other, talk about preferences, figure out who would bring an iron, blow-dryer, etc.—to avoid doubling up and that sort of thing. Finally the letter arrived! I opened it, started to read and said, “Mom, remember your idea for meeting my roommate and her family in the middle? What’s halfway between here and Tokyo?” Yep, I’d gotten matched with Sawa Sasaki ’98 from Japan. That year I learned to live with someone by bridging cultural differences. I taught her how to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and I learned to sleep through her early morning calls home to Tokyo. She taught me the best way to teach someone how to speak English is lovingly and gently.

Tara (Simmons ’98) Kluth
MANTORVILLE, MINN.

Angeinic behavior

My roommate and I had a big plastic angel—left over from Christmas decorating—and late at night (when everything seems funnier), we’d tie a rope around it and let it down from our window to knock against the window of the room below ours. When our downstairs neighbors got over their “holy” fright, they’d open their window, and we’d let down a basket of goodies. (Maybe I should have submitted this anonymously—can we still get fined for removing our screens?)

Jackie (Rauch ’00) Swanson
DENISON, IOWA

Roommate arrangements

First semester of my sophomore year, due to an increase in enrollment, eight of us lived in Fern Smith’s second-floor lounge. A row of wardrobes down the middle of the lounge separated two “rooms” with four beds each. It was a little hectic, so I spent that semester studying in the chapel sound booth, which I had access to because of my work-study job. I spent the second semester on the island of Zamalek in Cairo, Egypt, with a roommate from a different college. We both were students in the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities’ Middle East Studies Program. I learned a lot from my roommate that semester, who was learning her fifth language while we were there! During my junior year, my roommate and I rearranged our room about once a month, more as the year drew to an end. It was a standing joke on our floor; our wing mates would offer to call the fire marshal when we piled stuff in the hall so we could move the bigger furniture around. My junior roommate and I were also friends with the same guy. We all went together on a Spring Service Project, during which she and he officially started dating. The year after we graduated, that guy married my roommate. Five years after that, I married his roommate.

Marla (Van Steenis ’98) Bruins
BELLFLOWER, CALIF.

Roommates 101: Lessons for Life

Nearly 90 percent of Northwestern’s students live on campus, a factor that plays a major role in the college’s strong sense of community. After four years of sleeping through each other’s alarms, listening to each other’s music, and tolerating each other’s quirks, many roommates find they’ve learned a lot about getting along—and building community among the diverse collection of people they live with.

Sharing a room isn’t always easy. But it can lead to deep friendships, lasting college memories, and—if nothing else—learning that benefits future relationships.

We asked our readers to send their roommate stories to the Classic. Here’s what they shared.

Illustrations by Luke Shuman
Edited by Tamara Fynaardt

Lessons for Life

Cover Story

Roommates 101: Lessons for Life

Illustrations by Luke Shuman
Edited by Tamara Fynaardt

Cover Story
Cracking up

One evening in October of 1983 during my junior year at Northwestern, my roommate Craig Penning '85 and I were studying in our dorm room. On my desk was a box of Ritz crackers I was munching on. I offered him some and he said, “No, thanks.” I said, “What’s the matter? My crackers aren’t good enough for you?” He said, “Hey, I’m not hungry.” When he left the room, I just put the box on his desk. Later, without a word, he put it back on mine. And so it went for a couple of days. Finally, when I got them back on my desk for the umpteenth time, I put them away.

But before going home for Christmas that December, I dug those crackers out, tied them up in their was paper wrapping, and stuffed them inside a shoe in his closet. I scribbled a note that said something like, “Since you didn’t eat them in October, I thought you might be hungry by now.” Then I laughed and left. By the time I came back for second semester, I had forgotten all about it.

In May 1984 after final exams, I was packing up to go home for the summer and found the crackers stuffed in one of my shoes with a note from Craig saying he thought I should keep them. I did keep them—for a whole year, until graduation the spring of 1985 when I went to his closet and stuff them back in one of his shoes just before leaving the dorm for the last time. I attached a note that said, “Thought you better have these crackers since you wouldn’t eat them in October of ’83. You thought I’d forgotten, didn’t you?” I chuckled, thinking I was having the last laugh, and left.

In April of 1988, three years after we graduated from college, I got a package in the mail. Inside were the crackers, along with a note that said, “Remember these? I thought you might be hungry.”

This was entirely too much. Believing for three years that you’ve had the last laugh, only to realize you were, in fact, dealing with a very patient person is a real jolt. In 1991, I mailed them back to Craig with a note. For my birthday in 1993, he mailed them back to me with a can of Cheez Whiz. In May of 1996, I sent them back to him with a poem: “Roses are red, For my birthday in 1993, he mailed them back to me with a can of Cheez Whiz. In May of 1996, I sent them back to him with a poem: “Roses are red, These crackers, or more accurately cracker dust, get mailed back and forth every few years—always after the other guy has forgotten all about them, and always with a note stapled on top of all the other notes we’ve written. It’s been going on for more than 25 years. Craig knows that if he dies before I do and the cracker dust is in my possession, I will find a way to bury it with him. I know he will do the same for me.

To anyone else, that bag of Ritz cracker dust is worthy of a trash can. For Craig and me, our running joke is part of the legacy of our deep friendship. Craig has been there for me during the most difficult times in my life. He is an encourager with a caring heart and one of the most loyal friends I’ve ever known.

Todd Thompson ’85
LUBBOCK, TEXAS

*The story of Todd and Craig’s cracker exchange was first printed in March 2008 on Todd’s blog, ASliceOfLifeToGo.com.

While preparing a sermon on friendship in September of 2004, I realized I had the crackers in my closet. I thought it would be an appropriate occasion to send them back to my old roommate.

Just this past spring, about the same time the Classic was asking for roommate stories, I got a suspicious package from Craig. These crackers, or more accurately cracker dust, get mailed back and forth every few years—always after the other guy has forgotten all about them, and always with a note stapled on top of all the other notes we’ve written. It’s been going on for more than 25 years. Craig knows that if he dies before I do and the cracker dust is in my possession, I will find a way to bury it with him. I know he will do the same for me.

To anyone else, that bag of Ritz cracker dust is worthy of a trash can. For Craig and me, our running joke is part of the legacy of our deep friendship. Craig has been there for me during the most difficult times in my life. He is an encourager with a caring heart and one of the most loyal friends I’ve ever known.

Todd Thompson ’85
LUBBOCK, TEXAS

*The story of Todd and Craig’s cracker exchange was first printed in March 2008 on Todd’s blog, ASliceOfLifeToGo.com.

Sweet cheeks

I introduced one of my roommates to wearing blush. She always thought it wouldn’t work with her ivory skin, but she just hadn’t found the right shade. She says she still thinks of me whenever she applies her blush to this day—which makes me smile.

Elizabeth Colbert ’08
SIOUX FALLS, S.D.

Groovy

One of my roommates—who had an uncle who worked for Alcoa Aluminum—came back from a weekend at home with dozens of boxes of aluminum foil. So we wallpapered room 327 in Colenbrander Hall with foil and then painted pictures and words with black light paint (a ‘70s thing) to create “atmosphere.” It was pretty cool!

Glenn Van Ekeren ’74
ELKHORN, NEB.

Roommate redux

One of my college roommates, Nicole (Koenecke ’95) Forbes, graduated with a communications degree; I majored in marketing. We had different career goals and never expected to both end up in the Christian nonprofit marketing world. After jobs with different organizations our first four years following college, we both landed on the same team at World Vision! I live near World Vision headquarters in Seattle. Nicole lives and works out of Minneapolis but sometimes has to travel here for work, so over the past year, she’s spent a lot of time at my roommate again!

Amanda (De Boer ’05) Bowman
GIG HARBOR, WASH.

Responsible in an emergency

I met my roommate, Melanie (Vigneron ’01) Safly, when we were freshmen in Northwestern’s athletic training program. Our love for Jesus and pranks made us fast friends. Because we shared the same major and internship requirements—and loved pulling pranks—we spent most of our time together.

During our senior year, one evening after a football game, we were in charge of bringing the ambulance golf cart back to its storage shed on the north side of campus. (We thought it was a bad idea to entrust students with an ambulance golf cart because we were perceived to be very responsible; in fact, I was also an EMT at the time.)

In truth, the trip across campus took several detours, including through the Taco John’s drive-through and across the green around 11 p.m. with the lights flashing and sirens blaring.

We were caught by a fellow EMT, which put an end to our mischief with the golf cart—but didn’t end our mischievous ways. To this day, Melanie is still the person I call in a crisis, with exciting news, or if I have an opportunity for an ill-advised joyride.

Gina (Wenzel ’01) Greene
WATSEKA, ILL.

Meet the sister

My roommate, Tim Bishop ’94, definitely opened my eyes to something: his sister, Stacey, who also attended Northwestern. Thanks to Tim, I met my wife, and we’ve now been married for 18 years.

Anthony (El) Roberts ’95
LELAND, IOWA
Roommate déjà vu

My freshman year roommate and I didn’t get along. We were completely different in temperament and expectations—and probably both quite immature. It got so bad we couldn’t have a civil conversation, and by Thanksgiving, we’d agreed we both wanted someone else—anyone else!—as a roommate. Nonetheless, imagine my surprise when I came back from Christmas break, opened the door to my room and found all my stuff gone! My roommate had gotten some friends to help him move my stuff into an empty room down the hall. Second semester, living in different rooms, we got along better, although neither of us would have said we were friends. But the story doesn’t end there. My former roommate hailed from the same hometown as my eventual girlfriend; in fact, she had dated him in high school. When my girlfriend and I later married, my brother couldn’t attend at the last minute, so guess who my wife-to-be asked to step into our wedding party as a substitute? The guy I couldn’t live with as a freshman ended up in a number of my wedding pictures.

And it continued. Six months after graduation, my wife and I moved back to Orange City into an old Victorian just north of downtown. We lived downstairs, and guess who lived upstairs? My old roomie and his wife! Both older and a little wiser, we finally managed—with the help of our wives—to develop a cordial sense of community.

Phil Somsen ’73
FORT DODGE, IOWA

Planning ahead

We first met when we woke up one August morning in the same dorm room (bed hair and sleepy eyes—what a great first impression!). We still refer to each other as “my roommate” and are the best of friends. In fact, we’ve made plans to be roommates again when we are old and widowed!

Deb Stralow-Dyson ’96
FORRESTON, ILL.

Midori Okawa-Ataka ’96
TORRANCE, CALIF.

Breakfast burgers

Back when I went to Northwestern, in the mid ’60s, we used to change roommates a lot—even during the middle of the year. In my first two years, I had a different roommate every semester, which wasn’t unusual at the time. I lived all over Colenbrander: on first north, second west, third west, down in the Ghetto. As an athlete, sometimes I roomed with a teammate, sometimes an athlete in another sport, and sometimes a non-athlete.

I had one roommate who’d go over to where Subway is now—it used to be called Debos—where you could get four hamburgers for a buck. He’d go to Debos and buy eight hamburgers; he’d eat four before bed and put the other four in a drawer so he could eat them for breakfast.

Barry Brandt ’69
ORANGE CITY, IOWA

Friending without Facebook

Some of my best memories from college are of falling asleep at night, telling jokes and chatting with Steve, who bunked above me, and Bryan, who bunked below me.

Even in this Facebook age, I still advise college students to let the college assign you a roommate you don’t know. Then walk in with no expectations, and even if your roommate doesn’t become your BFF, you can learn so much from rooming with someone you didn’t choose. The roommate relationship is a microcosm of the most important life relationships. If you keep an open mind, you’ll find along the way—or in hindsight—that you learned a ton from rooming with a stranger. One of the lessons might be that anybody can become a friend.

Dean Van Farowe ’96
CLEVELAND, OHIO

Armed with friendship

My freshman roommate was Diane (Auman ’86) Te Grotenhuis. We couldn’t have had more in common and became fast friends. We shared everything and often stayed up too late talking and laughing. Diane was born without her right arm, but that didn’t stop her from accomplishing everything she set out to do. She was a great athlete, student, musician and friend. She inspired me and taught me anything is possible. She’s touched so many lives, and I’m grateful mine is one of them.

Kristen (Teigland ’96) Puttmann
ORANGE CITY, IOWA
To put on a play, actors must memorize scripts and determine where emphasis will be placed. Dialogue and movement are honed in hours of rehearsal until, finally, there is no variation.

When the curtain rises and the lights come up, a polished performance is revealed, one which the cast and crew will replicate the following night.

To prepare for a weekend show in Omaha, Neb., or a comedy festival in Texas, the actors of 88improv listen to the news. They submit their imaginations to rigorous calisthenics, turning over current events and trivialities of the day. After planning an outline of improvisational games for their show, they arrive relaxed and ready, but not fully prepared for what is to come.

Because what was funny last time—a line, a character choice—will not necessarily amuse tonight’s audience in the same way. The dozens of ideas that raced through Tim Schoenfeld’s brain, of which he used three, will need to be discarded, even if, as might be the case, the audience once again calls out the suggestions “pickle,” “bathroom” and “Arnold Schwarzenegger.”

If a play is a blind date, with each party displaying his or her good side, improvisation is a marriage in its sixth year: still new, yet comfortable—the couple no longer reaching for mouthwash before their morning kiss. The spotlight shines not on one or the other, but is shared.

88improv, in fact, includes a married couple—Tim ‘03 and Sarah (Kennedy ‘01) Schoenfeld—as well as a pair of siblings (Nate ‘02 is Tim’s brother). Steve Hydeen ‘02 is practically family; he and Nate roomed together freshman year, and the four have performed together since their years in Black V, a popular improv troupe they helped start at Northwestern. Current students continue the tradition; on a recent visit to campus, 88improv met with the actors, who described to them a comic strategy they often employ:

“Do you know the Café Format?” the students asked, and the 88improv members could only chuckle—they had helped invent it. Nate moved to Omaha in 2003. The rest of the group, scattered about the Midwest, would converge monthly to perform with him, eventually deciding to pick up their families and settle there permanently.

“At that point, we felt it was important to continue to have this creative expression as part of our lives,” Sarah says. The group intentionally sought out an area not known for improvisation in order to blaze a clean comedic trail.

“We do a different brand,” says Tim. “We don’t do dirty improv. We want to teach the people in Omaha that this is what’s funny.”

“To have people laugh,” says Nate, “we take that very seriously.”

The subtext of these actors’ scripts is unusual: No dreaming of names in lights is detected. A concern for the other takes precedence, and it’s a necessary part of their relationships onstage, as well.

“Improvis is very selfless,” says Steve. “It’s about making your teammates look good. No one knows what will happen next. If I make them look good and they make me look good, we all will succeed.”

The audience, craving a laugh, wants them to succeed. They want 88improv to use “pickle” in a scene because their kid yelled it. They want the actors to override mistakes with a quirky gesture, to “make things funny that weren’t funny and make sure the audience is taken care of,” explains Tim.

The troupe prefers long-form improv, which gives them more time—45 minutes or so—to take a topic from the global to the personal, painting the laughter with context and depth.

“We get out there in the political realm in one scene, but then we’ll do nine scenes about how it comes back to you at home,” says Nate. “We take a tender approach. It’s all funny stuff, but at the same time you can walk away from our show and think life’s not as bad as you thought. We say that having some fun is a fine way to live the American dream.”

When they finish performing, the group gets together to debrief before Sarah and Tim run off of babysitting hours (“dinner and a show,” she calls it). They’ll recall that Nate happened to invite an audience member with Down syndrome onto the stage, and how it didn’t matter that the young man, whose arms should have reached around Nate to animate the scene, didn’t move; everyone had a fantastic time.

“Did we rock that out? Did we give the audience the show they deserve?” asks Tim. “88improv had, once again, met and exceeded the rules of engagement.”

Find upcoming shows or book one at www.88improv.com
Imagine walking into a room filled to overflowing with all the information in the world, contained in books scattered everywhere with no system of organization. The books have no titles and can only be retrieved by searching their text. How do you locate what you’re looking for? More importantly, how do you judge the reliability of the information you find?

Dr. Tim Schlak, Northwestern’s library director, uses that analogy to describe the Internet. In this Information Age of the Web, Kindles and iPads, some believe libraries are a thing of the past. Schlak argues they’re more important than ever.

“Think of libraries in this new age of technology as an organized version of that room, providing services that can deal with information overload and address issues of information literacy,” he says. “That’s the direction we’re moving in: teaching students not only how to access information, but how to evaluate it.”

On Sept. 30 Northwestern publicly launched the Imagine Campaign—a $55 million fundraising effort—during a banquet for college donors. Among the campaign’s goals is the construction of a learning commons, a building that will house not only the college’s library, but its academic support center, writing center, multimedia center and computer help desk.

“We’re bringing key departments that are integral to what happens in the classroom and placing them in one convenient, accessible location,” says Schlak. Such an integration of function will better equip Northwestern faculty and staff to help students conduct research, evaluate sources and incorporate what they’re learning into their own work and thinking.

At $15 million, the learning commons is a key component of the campaign, which has already resulted in more than $35 million in gifts and pledges. A $2 million gift in April by Jack and Mary DeWitt of Holland, Mich., played a key role in fundraising efforts as other donors followed their lead. President Greg Christy and members of Northwestern’s advancement staff are anticipating another $1 million gift from other donors in the near future, leaving $3.3 million left to raise for the building.

“The end of the calendar year is always an important time for giving,” says Christy. “Having raised over $1 million in recent months, there’s great momentum to complete the funding and make this dream a reality.”

Other campaign goals include raising $8 million for student scholarships; $8 million in deferred giving through wills, bequests, trusts and annuities; and $5 million for facilities improvement—such as the recent renovation of the DeWitt Physical Fitness Center’s four-court gymnasium.

Another $9 million will be earmarked for strategic initiatives, including funding for new academic programs; developing an online learning curriculum; strengthening co-curricular, experiential and

---

The design of the new learning commons includes large windows for plenty of natural light, easy access to technology, and spaces—such as group-study rooms, a coffee shop and a community lounge—that will facilitate collaboration and conversations between Northwestern students, faculty and staff.
In contrast, the learning commons will have nine group study rooms, plus another five that can accommodate up to two people. Many of the group study rooms will be equipped with high-definition television screens with ports for USB flash drives, laptops and cameras, allowing students, for example, to practice a PowerPoint group presentation with their peers.

This emphasis on technology will permeate the learning commons—from the multimedia center where students can review music and films to the walk-up computer kiosks where guests can check their email or search for a book upon entering the library.

There’s also a 32-computer reference classroom where students will be taught research skills.

Other informal student study space will include a coffee shop on the main floor and a 12,000-square-foot community room on the second floor, with expansive views of Zomer Hall, Christ Chapel and the campus green.

College officials have actually scaled back, from earlier plans, the number of shelves now planned for Ramaker Library. While all of these goals will play a vital role in strengthening Northwestern, it’s the learning commons that will arguably make the biggest impact on campus.

"That’s how learning used to look," he says. "We’ve moved away from a very individualized approach toward a collaborative paradigm in which students partner and dialogue with each other. The current generation of students is very keen on learning in this way, and this collaborative paradigm in which students partner and dialogue with each other."

The three-story, 58,000-square-foot building will be constructed just west of Christ Chapel, representing in a tangible way the integration of faith and learning that takes place at Northwestern.

Schlak, who holds a doctorate in library and information science from the University of Pittsburgh, envisions the learning commons as a center for intellectual, scholarly and cultural dialogue.

"It used to be that the quality of a collection was measured by its size," he says. "I measure success in how often these items are being used. We shouldn’t raise funds for a building to house books that are no longer relevant to a liberal arts, undergraduate curriculum."

Once that winnowing process is completed, Schlak anticipates moving a collection of 100,000 volumes, which would fill the shelves to just under the 70 percent of capacity recommended for optimal browsing. With a continued commitment to electronic books and resources, however, Schlak hopes to have a total of 200,000 books and e-books in the collection by year’s end.

Further room for expansion will be provided by a shelving-on-rails system to be housed in the lower level of the learning commons. Though the storage space isn’t needed now, the railing will be installed in the floor so shelves can easily be added in the future.

Those involved in talking to Northwestern alumni and friends about the Imagine Campaign are excited about its potential for advancing the college’s mission and touching students’ lives.

"We have a sterling academic reputation, but this project, along with some curricular improvements we are developing, will transform how learning takes place at Northwestern,” says Christy. "The new learning commons will impact every academic department on campus and launch us to an even greater level of scholarly excellence."

Whether it’s the learning commons or some other aspect of the Imagine Campaign, Jay Wirtenberg, Northwestern’s vice president for advancement, believes the variety of goals and projects will appeal to the many people who support the college financially.

"While the learning commons is the most pressing, or visible, part of this campaign, there are opportunities for individuals and organizations to give to Northwestern in a variety of ways," he says. "People need to consider a gift where their passion lies, and the Imagine Campaign enables them to do that."
LOOKING BACK

The Book Brigade
by Anita Cielus

The line of students and faculty snaked into the main entrance of Zwemer Hall, up the steps to the building's second and third floors, down the back fire escape, over to the newly constructed Ramaker Library—and back to Zwemer Hall.

The wooden pop bottle crates they carried as they left Zwemer were full of books; those same crates were empty on the return trip to Zwemer. And so it was, on a winter day in February 1964, that the entire contents of Zwemer's library were moved on a winter day in February 1964, that the entire contents of Northwestern's library were moved from Zwemer to their new home. Van Engelenhoven says, “We didn’t have too many books back then.”

The Book Brigade

The Book Brigade
by Anita Cielus

The line of students and faculty snaked into the main entrance of Zwemer Hall, up the steps to the building’s second and third floors, down the back fire escape, over to the newly constructed Ramaker Library—and back to Zwemer Hall. The wooden pop bottle crates they carried as they left Zwemer were full of books; those same crates were empty on the return trip to Zwemer. And so it was, on a winter day in February 1964, that the entire contents of Northwestern’s library were moved from Zwemer to their new home.

“We did it in one day, but we didn’t have too many books back then,” quips Virg Muenihagen, ’62, who was in his first year of teaching biology at NWC. After 47 years, memories are fuzzy regarding how long the transfer of books took or how many people helped. Helen Van Wechel, the head librarian, planned the effort. Dave Van Engelenhoven, ’65, the student body president, recruited the volunteers.

“Classes were canceled,” Van Engelenhoven says. “We didn’t have a lack of person-power, even though the great majority of students at that time were commuters.”

The ready availability of volunteers probably stemmed from their eagerness to begin using the new library. Van Engelenhoven remembers the old library in Zwemer being “very cramped, with almost more books than could fit in the space and not much study area at all.”

Ramaker Library, built for $337,000, was designed to hold 100,000 volumes and provide seating for 250 students. GrossenBerking for the 29,000-square-foot building took place during Homecoming on Oct. 13, 1962. It was opened for use on Feb. 17, 1964—just four days after the book brigade filled its shelves.

“It was a night-and-day difference,” remembers Van Engelenhoven. “Here was this beautiful new building with all the windows on the north side and way more space than it seemed to need at that point and all kinds of study areas. It was seen as a huge improvement to the campus.”

Among those celebrating Ramaker’s opening was Dr. Sylvio Scorza, a religion professor. Rendered a paraplegic after a car accident, he had been unable to use the library in Zwemer because of its location two stories above the ground floor.

Ramaker Library, by contrast, had a ramp leading to the front entrance and an elevator to book stacks on the second floor, making the library fully accessible—and filling Scorza with one emotion as he watched the books being carried into their new home: joy.

Richard Keith, Pocahontas, Minn., is the new superintendent of the Fillmore Central School District. He previously served as a superintendent and elementary principal in Britt, Iowa.

Van Engelenhoven, associate professor of history at the University of Iowa, was on display at the Campeannia Gallery in Parkville, Mo., this fall. Entitled “Pottawattamie County’s Civil War,” it highlighted the economic, military and social aspects of the American Civil War in one Missouri county.

David Manning recently completed a three-year term as the vice president of admissions for the Casualty Actuarial Society. He is the director for corporate development at the State Farm Insurance corporate offices in Bloomington, Ill.

Northwestern’s fifth annual Day of Learning in Community will include classes in difference and togetherness—among people, cultures, ideas. If you have a story about what inspirations and connects us, consider sharing it on Feb. 15. To explore how you might become involved— including whether you could be reimbursed for travel expenses to visit campus—contact DLC planner Jill Haarsma ’95: 712-707-7100 | jhaarsma@nwciowa.edu

Northwestern's seventh annual Day of Learning in Community will include classes in difference and togetherness—among people, cultures, ideas. If you have a story about what inspirations and connects us, consider sharing it on Feb. 15. To explore how you might become involved— including whether you could be reimbursed for travel expenses to visit campus—contact DLC planner Jill Haarsma ’95: 712-707-7100 | jhaarsma@nwciowa.edu

Northwestern’s seventh annual Day of Learning in Community will include classes in difference and togetherness—among people, cultures, ideas. If you have a story about what inspirations and connects us, consider sharing it on Feb. 15. To explore how you might become involved— including whether you could be reimbursed for travel expenses to visit campus—contact DLC planner Jill Haarsma ’95: 712-707-7100 | jhaarsma@nwciowa.edu
Overtime Is Quality Time
Over the course of a weekend in the late ’90s, the four Wieking boys played sports in four different cities spanning several states: Des Moines, Kansas City, Minneapolis and somewhere else their mother can’t remember. “It’s a blur, to be honest,” says Dawn (Te Brink ’80) Wieking on that Over the course of a weekend in the late ’90s, the four Wieking boys played sports in four different cities spanning several states: Des Moines, Kansas City, Minneapolis and somewhere else their mother can’t remember. “It’s a blur, to be honest,” says Dawn (Te Brink ’80) Wieking on that Over the course of a weekend in the late ’90s, the four Wieking boys played sports in four different cities spanning several states: Des Moines, Kansas City, Minneapolis and somewhere else their mother can’t remember. “It’s a blur, to be honest,” says Dawn (Te Brink ’80) Wieking on that Over the course of a weekend in the late ’90s, the four Wieking boys played sports in four different cities spanning several states: Des Moines, Kansas City, Minneapolis and somewhere else their mother can’t remember. “It’s a blur, to be honest,” says Dawn (Te Brink ’80) Wieking on that
Healing Touch

During five years of practicing medicine in some of the most underserved areas of the country, Dr. Jeff Beekhuizen ’97 has learned that sometimes the most effective treatment method is simply showing you care. He first learned that lesson during four years in a clinic on a Navajo reservation, an assignment that was stipulated by a federal scholarship program.

“In my Western mindset, if you have stomach pain, it’s because something’s physically wrong. But a Navajo individual might believe it’s because someone put a curse on him,” Beekhuizen explains. “I learned early on, you’ve got to meet people where they’re at. My patients didn’t care that I went to med school. But when they started to trust me.”

Navajo patients didn’t care that I went to med school. But when they started to trust me.

There’s such a huge opportunity to serve here,” he says. “I’m excited to be able to help people feel better.”

When Beekhuizen arrived on the reservation, he was skeptical: “I didn’t think it was possible. But the opportunity to make a difference is huge. The need is overwhelming.”

Beekhuizen now serves with Christ Community Health Services in inner-city Memphis.

New Arrivals

All and Jay McKinstrey ’86, daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, joins Carey (96), Cort (13) and Anna (3)

Richard and Susanne (Calines ’85) Bolt, son, Seth Richard, joins Ashley (3) and Lane (5)

Allison and Scott Van Aartuin ’95, daughter, Sarah Claire, joins Benjamin (13), Callan (10) and Jordyn (4)

Toree and Allison (Peterson) ’96, son, Grayson Kingsley, joins Chandler (12) and Ashlee (7)

Suzanne and Matthew (Latt ’92) Grin, sons, Finn (8) and Skye (6)

Jeffrey and Sally (Rutherford) ’93, daughter, Ashley (13), son, Tyler (10)

Kirk and Jennifer (Habers) ’97, son, Landon (5), daughter, Jodelle (3)

Mr. and Mrs. Marlin (Kingsley) ’96, son, Greysen Kingsley, joins Hannah (6)

Eibhlin Mardell, joins Elspeth (13) and Anna (3)

Jill and Seth (Eitreim) ’97, daughter, Mackenna Emalee, joins Cael (1)

Virginia and Dan Houston ’83, son, Sawyer Daniel, joins Sadie (4) and Silas (1)

by Sherrie Barber Willson ’98

Tyler Parson serves as pastor at Cross-Ridge Church in Holstein, Iowa.

Ryan Simmelink teaches fourth grade at Adams Elementary in Carroll, Iowa. He recently completed a master’s degree in educational leadership at Drake University.

’07 Alicia Dircks is a clinician at the Center for Psychosocial Development in Anchorage, Alaska.

Stephanie Hildreth, a Navajo from Ganado, Arizona, graduated from the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. She is completing a two-year residency in obstetrics-gynecology at the University of Iowa Hospital.

Brenna Rachor, Brooklyn Center, Minn., is an SEC reporting analyst for Janelle Corp.

Tyler Stuart teaches Spanish at two Waukee, Iowa, elementary schools.

Gala Auction • Feb. 11

Make the gift-giving season last with Northwestern’s annual Gala Auction. Donate to the auction. And, starting in January, bid online for collectibles, toys, trips and more.

www.nwciowa.edu/auction

SPEAK UP

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

Submit for consideration by Jan. 5 to:
Office of Public Relations • Northwestern College
101 7th Street S.W. • Orange City, IA 51041
classic@nwciowa.edu • classic.nwciowa.edu

Submit for consideration by Jan. 5 to:
Office of Public Relations • Northwestern College
101 7th Street S.W. • Orange City, IA 51041
classic@nwciowa.edu • classic.nwciowa.edu

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
Home/cell phone ____________________
Email _____________________________
Class year ____________
Current employer(s) ______________________
My news ________________________

Alumni Travel

Start your vacation planning by checking out upcoming alumni trips:

THE NETHERLANDS
June 21–July 1, 2012 (bus tour)
& summer 2013 (bike tour)
$2,699 + airfare (bus tour)
Led by Dr. James ’84 and Simone Kennedy and Dr. Bill and Reilla Kennedy
Experience Dutch history, architecture, food, arts and crafts in Friesland, Groningen and Zeeland.

ISRAEL
June 29–July 12, 2012
$3,850 + airfare
Led by Rev. Martin ’70 and Sally Vis
Visit Bethlehem; the Jordan River; the Sea of Galilee; and the Mount of Olives on a tour through the Holy Land.

For more information, contact Alumni Director Mark Bloomendale—alumni@nwciowa.edu or 712-707-7127—or visit our website:
www.nwciowa.edu/netherlands-tour
www.nwciowa.edu/israel-tour

www.nwciowa.edu/auction

New Arrivals
All and Jay McKinstrey ’86, daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, joins Carey (96), Cort (13) and Anna (3)
Richard and Susanne (Calines ’85) Bolt, son, Seth Richard, joins Ashley (3) and Lane (5)
Allison and Scott Van Aartuin ’95, daughter, Sarah Claire, joins Benjamin (13), Callan (10) and Jordyn (4)
Toree and Allison (Peterson) ’96, son, Grayson Kingsley, joins Chandler (12) and Ashlee (7)
Suzanne and Matthew (Latt ’92) Grin, sons, Finn (8) and Skye (6)
Jeffrey and Sally (Rutherford) ’93, daughter, Ashley (13), son, Tyler (10)
Kirk and Jennifer (Habers) ’97, son, Landon (5), daughter, Jodelle (3)
Mr. and Mrs. Marlin (Kingsley) ’96, son, Greysen Kingsley, joins Hannah (6)
Eibhlin Mardell, joins Elspeth (13) and Anna (3)
Jill and Seth (Eitreim) ’97, daughter, Mackenna Emalee, joins Cael (1)
Virginia and Dan Houston ’83, son, Sawyer Daniel, joins Sadie (4) and Silas (1)

www.nwciowa.edu/auction

Start your vacation planning by checking out upcoming alumni trips:

THE NETHERLANDS
June 21–July 1, 2012 (bus tour)
& summer 2013 (bike tour)
$2,699 + airfare (bus tour)
Led by Dr. James ’84 and Simone Kennedy and Dr. Bill and Reilla Kennedy
Experience Dutch history, architecture, food, arts and crafts in Friesland, Groningen and Zeeland.

ISRAEL
June 29–July 12, 2012
$3,850 + airfare
Led by Rev. Martin ’70 and Sally Vis
Visit Bethlehem; the Jordan River; the Sea of Galilee; and the Mount of Olives on a tour through the Holy Land.

For more information, contact Alumni Director Mark Bloomendale—alumni@nwciowa.edu or 712-707-7127—or visit our website:
www.nwciowa.edu/netherlands-tour
www.nwciowa.edu/israel-tour

www.nwciowa.edu/auction

Start your vacation planning by checking out upcoming alumni trips:

THE NETHERLANDS
June 21–July 1, 2012 (bus tour)
& summer 2013 (bike tour)
$2,699 + airfare (bus tour)
Led by Dr. James ’84 and Simone Kennedy and Dr. Bill and Reilla Kennedy
Experience Dutch history, architecture, food, arts and crafts in Friesland, Groningen and Zeeland.

ISRAEL
June 29–July 12, 2012
$3,850 + airfare
Led by Rev. Martin ’70 and Sally Vis
Visit Bethlehem; the Jordan River; the Sea of Galilee; and the Mount of Olives on a tour through the Holy Land.

For more information, contact Alumni Director Mark Bloomendale—alumni@nwciowa.edu or 712-707-7127—or visit our website:
www.nwciowa.edu/netherlands-tour
www.nwciowa.edu/israel-tour

www.nwciowa.edu/auction

Start your vacation planning by checking out upcoming alumni trips:

THE NETHERLANDS
June 21–July 1, 2012 (bus tour)
& summer 2013 (bike tour)
$2,699 + airfare (bus tour)
Led by Dr. James ’84 and Simone Kennedy and Dr. Bill and Reilla Kennedy
Experience Dutch history, architecture, food, arts and crafts in Friesland, Groningen and Zeeland.

ISRAEL
June 29–July 12, 2012
$3,850 + airfare
Led by Rev. Martin ’70 and Sally Vis
Visit Bethlehem; the Jordan River; the Sea of Galilee; and the Mount of Olives on a tour through the Holy Land.

For more information, contact Alumni Director Mark Bloomendale—alumni@nwciowa.edu or 712-707-7127—or visit our website:
www.nwciowa.edu/netherlands-tour
www.nwciowa.edu/israel-tour

www.nwciowa.edu/auction

Start your vacation planning by checking out upcoming alumni trips:

THE NETHERLANDS
June 21–July 1, 2012 (bus tour)
& summer 2013 (bike tour)
$2,699 + airfare (bus tour)
Led by Dr. James ’84 and Simone Kennedy and Dr. Bill and Reilla Kennedy
Experience Dutch history, architecture, food, arts and crafts in Friesland, Groningen and Zeeland.

ISRAEL
June 29–July 12, 2012
$3,850 + airfare
Led by Rev. Martin ’70 and Sally Vis
Visit Bethlehem; the Jordan River; the Sea of Galilee; and the Mount of Olives on a tour through the Holy Land.

For more information, contact Alumni Director Mark Bloomendale—alumni@nwciowa.edu or 712-707-7127—or visit our website:
www.nwciowa.edu/netherlands-tour
www.nwciowa.edu/israel-tour

www.nwciowa.edu/auction

Start your vacation planning by checking out upcoming alumni trips:

THE NETHERLANDS
June 21–July 1, 2012 (bus tour)
& summer 2013 (bike tour)
$2,699 + airfare (bus tour)
Led by Dr. James ’84 and Simone Kennedy and Dr. Bill and Reilla Kennedy
Experience Dutch history, architecture, food, arts and crafts in Friesland, Groningen and Zeeland.

ISRAEL
June 29–July 12, 2012
$3,850 + airfare
Led by Rev. Martin ’70 and Sally Vis
Visit Bethlehem; the Jordan River; the Sea of Galilee; and the Mount of Olives on a tour through the Holy Land.

For more information, contact Alumni Director Mark Bloomendale—alumni@nwciowa.edu or 712-707-7127—or visit our website:
www.nwciowa.edu/netherlands-tour
www.nwciowa.edu/israel-tour
CLASS NOTES

and immigrants reaping the rewards. planted will continue to grow in the community, with both students idea how the system worked,” she says.

immigrant population of Williamsburg, Va. graduation,” she says, “so it seemed obvious to serve while I was service, isn’t average.

Laura Jacobson ’08, the 2011 recipient of the William & Mary Law Practice

FALL 2011

“We’ve been able to provide immigrants with a caring and

successful program to connect students with immigrants,

Clark Hall

and Jeannette Hall.

“Through their gifts, Marv and Jerene have shaped our campus,” says President

“...Marv was an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from North-

western in 1988, said in 2003 that he enjoyed giving toward brick-and-mortar

projects. “When you build something, it lasts a long time and impacts generations

of students who go on to make a difference in the world.”

DeWitt, who was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from North-

western in 1988, said in 2003 that he enjoyed giving toward brick-and-mortar

projects. “When you build something, it lasts a long time and impacts generations

of students who go on to make a difference in the world.”

DeWitt and his brother, Bill, began raising turkeys in 1938 on their parents’ farm.

The Rev. Dr. Howard Kroizenga ’54, age 73, died June 19 in Richland, Mich. He graduated from Central College, Western

Theological Seminary and the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. He served two RCA churches in South Dakota and later served Presbyterian churches in Mississippi, Arkansas and Missouri. He is survived by his wife, Rianna, and two children.

James Lancaster ’03, of Idaho Grove, Iowa, died July 29 at age 64. After graduating from Northwestern, he earned a master’s degree from the University of Chicago. He taught at the University of South Dakota, Western Iowa Tech Community College and in the Idaho Greene school system. He later started Lancaster Painting. He was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church. Among his survivors are his wife, Joanne, a brother, and a sister.

Jenell (Vander Pol) ’00, Klein, Texas, died of breast cancer on June 7 at age 53. After receiving a degree in interior design from Iowa State University, she moved to Dallas to pursue a career in kitchen design. She was also a BeautiCon-

Management of his Reformed church pastor. He served DeWitt got involved with NWC in 1978 at the encour-

Among DeWitt’s survivors are his wife; seven children; 23 grandchildren; and 62

benefactor in Northwestern’s history, died Aug. 5 at the age of 92.

for Northwestern’s Board of Trustees for nine years and was one of the leaders in

DeWitt, who was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from North-

western in 1988, said in 2003 that he enjoyed giving toward brick-and-mortar

projects. “When you build something, it lasts a long time and impacts generations

of students who go on to make a difference in the world.”

Marv DeVitt of Zeland, Mich., the greatest benefactor in Northwestern’s history, died Aug. 5 at the age of 92.

DeWitt and his wife, Joanne, gave over $6.75 million to the college, supporting every capital building project over the last 30 years. Buildings named in honor of them include DeVitt Theatre Arts Center, DeVitt Music Hall, DeVitt Physical Fitness Center and DeVitt-Cook Athletic Arena.

DeWitt got involved with NWC in 1978 at the encour-

agement of his Reformed church pastor. He served on Northwestern’s Board of Trustees for nine years and was one of the leaders in convincing the college to move ahead with the construction of the chapel and music facility in the mid-1980s despite the Midwest farm crisis.

“Through their gifts, Marv and Joanne have shaped our campus,” says President Greg Christy. “But the impact they have made goes well beyond just their philanthro-

ploys the challenges they gave to others to also support Northwestern and the

encouragement they provided college leaders for decades have been invaluable.

Marv loved Northwestern, and he saw that the college was empowering students to follow Christ and pursue God’s redeeming work in the world. He brought a positive,

encouragement the college to move ahead with the construction of the chapel and music facility in the mid-1980s despite the Midwest farm crisis.

“Through their gifts, Marv and Joanne have shaped our campus,” says President Greg Christy. “But the impact they have made goes well beyond just their philanthro-

ploys the challenges they gave to others to also support Northwestern and the

encouragement they provided college leaders for decades have been invaluable.

Marv loved Northwestern, and he saw that the college was empowering students to follow Christ and pursue God’s redeeming work in the world. He brought a positive,

encouragement the college to move ahead with the construction of the chapel and music facility in the mid-1980s despite the Midwest farm crisis.

“Through their gifts, Marv and Joanne have shaped our campus,” says President Greg Christy. “But the impact they have made goes well beyond just their philanthro-

ploys the challenges they gave to others to also support Northwestern and the

encouragement they provided college leaders for decades have been invaluable.

Marv loved Northwestern, and he saw that the college was empowering students to follow Christ and pursue God’s redeeming work in the world. He brought a positive,

encouragement the college to move ahead with the construction of the chapel and music facility in the mid-1980s despite the Midwest farm crisis.

“Through their gifts, Marv and Joanne have shaped our campus,” says President Greg Christy. “But the impact they have made goes well beyond just their philanthro-

ploys the challenges they gave to others to also support Northwestern and the

encouragement they provided college leaders for decades have been invaluable.

Marv loved Northwestern, and he saw that the college was empowering students to follow Christ and pursue God’s redeeming work in the world. He brought a positive,

encouragement the college to move ahead with the construction of the chapel and music facility in the mid-1980s despite the Midwest farm crisis.

“Through their gifts, Marv and Joanne have shaped our campus,” says President Greg Christy. “But the impact they have made goes well beyond just their philanthro-

ploys the challenges they gave to others to also support Northwestern and the

encouragement they provided college leaders for decades have been invaluable.

Marv loved Northwestern, and he saw that the college was empowering students to follow Christ and pursue God’s redeeming work in the world. He brought a positive,

encouragement the college to move ahead with the construction of the chapel and music facility in the mid-1980s despite the Midwest farm crisis.

“Through their gifts, Marv and Joanne have shaped our campus,” says President Greg Christy. “But the impact they have made goes well beyond just their philanthro-

ploys the challenges they gave to others to also support Northwestern and the

encouragement they provided college leaders for decades have been invaluable.

Marv loved Northwestern, and he saw that the college was empowering students to follow Christ and pursue God’s redeeming work in the world. He brought a positive,

encouragement the college to move ahead with the construction of the chapel and music facility in the mid-1980s despite the Midwest farm crisis.

“Through their gifts, Marv and Joanne have shaped our campus,” says President Greg Christy. “But the impact they have made goes well beyond just their philanthro-

ploys the challenges they gave to others to also support Northwestern and the

encouragement they provided college leaders for decades have been invaluable.

Marv loved Northwestern, and he saw that the college was empowering students to follow Christ and pursue God’s redeeming work in the world. He brought a positive,
Libraries: Beyond the Walls
by Janna Dykstra Smith ’77

Books have always had a place in my life. I remember, when I was 10 years old, a catechism teacher reading aloud Escape to Life by Gladyn Condon, about a boy in East Berlin who escaped across the wall to the West. The description of how he savored an orange for the very first time captivated me.

It was at Northwestern where I first read The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis, the Christian apologist. This book was pure genius. Lewis used the letters between the senior demon Screwtape and the junior tempter Wormwood as a clever, backhanded way of teaching about Christianity.

Three friends and I once spent the night among the books in Ramaker Library, making popcorn in Senator Hoeven’s office. (I want to set the record straight, though: It was not my idea to hang the portraits of Northwestern’s presidents upside down.)

As an elementary education major, I had a work-study job at the Orange City Public Library that convinced me to pursue a library career, but it would be a while before that happened. After teaching for two years, I spent a summer traveling throughout Europe. While there, I learned that teaching positions were available on U.S. military bases, so I decided to apply. That August, I flew to Bad Hersfeld, Germany, to teach first grade.

The city was about six miles away from the Iron Curtain, the metal fence between East and West Germany. Despite the harsh realities of the border, it was a magical land on the west side of the barrier. I enjoyed wandering through the villages where the Brothers Grimm had collected their fairy tales. I saw my first Gutenberg Bible in the Fulda Bibliothek (Library). And I met a young cavalry lieutenant, whom I married the next summer.

(Read more on the next page.)
When Amelia Thies moved into the third south floor of Fern Smith Hall in August, the anxiety of starting college was lessened by the fact that she knew her roommate, Emma. In fact, they had always been roommates. And a third sister, Paige, was just down the hall.

The triplets—daughters of Don and Peggi (Vander Linden ’91) Thies of rural Melvin, Iowa—didn’t originally plan to attend the same college, but as they searched, Northwestern seemed like the best fit for all of them.

“They weren’t ready yet to make that break,” says Peggi.

And, besides, by living on the same floor at the same school, they would still be able to share things like blow-dryers, shampoo and clothes.