

*Northwestern College Magazine*

SUMMER 2015

# *the* Classic

## **Art Therapy**

Exhibit brings healing for senior  
impacted by violence

*Also*

The First Master's Program  
Home, Sweet (Tiny) Home  
A Different Campus Tour







18

**Jordan and Sarah Plummer are living large in a house that's smaller than a one-stall garage.**

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## Classic People

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The *Classic* is published three times a year—in April, July and November—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.

### On the cover:

Viewed from above, Claudia Bomgaars-Soto's artwork "Sacred Ground/Camposanto," composed of thousands of shotgun shells, takes on the appearance of roses arranged in the shape of her home country of Colombia.

PHOTO BY DOUG BURG



## 13 Master Teachers

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visit [classic.nwciowa.edu](http://classic.nwciowa.edu)

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# Zwemer View



## A Whole Education for Your Whole Life

Three years ago, Northwestern administrators and leaders developed a new strategic plan that was adopted unanimously by our faculty and the Board of Trustees. At the outset of our plan, we identified several environmental factors that are rapidly changing higher education:

- An aging population in the U.S. and abroad that will challenge us to build on our commitment to serve a traditional student body while addressing the changing needs of a large older population.
- The growth of various technologies as learning and social tools that will continue to change higher education delivery and culture.
- A world that will continue to shrink as our access to people and places improves, bringing the nations to our doorstep and challenging us to find ways to connect with people around the globe.

Given these realities, one of the five overarching goals of our strategic plan was to develop comprehensive and mission-based distance education programs that leverage our existing strengths and respond to the needs of traditional and non-traditional students who desire a more affordable and accessible Christian liberal arts education.

Our belief, confirmed by market research, was that there are many adult students who would love to complete their bachelor's degrees or continue their education beyond a bachelor's, but we would need to create online degree-completion and graduate programs for them. Our former provost, Dr. Jasper Lesage, hired Dr. Rebecca Hoey four years ago to develop our higher education options for adults. Through Jasper's leadership, Rebecca's tenacity, and the hard work of many faculty members, we now have several programs for adults, including our first two online master's degree programs in education and an online graduate certificate in the management of international development.

The response from alumni and other adult students to these new programs—especially the graduate-level programs—has been affirming. Both master's degree programs—in teacher leadership and early childhood education—have strong enrollment this summer. And early signs point to healthy enrollment for the international development program that launches this fall.

It has always been a part of Northwestern's DNA to adapt when the needs of those we serve change. We began as a classical academy and transformed over the years to a junior college and teacher's college, later becoming a four-year Christian liberal arts institution. Through all these stages of our growth, one thing has remained constant—our mission: *Northwestern College is a Christian academic community engaging students in courageous and faithful learning and living that empowers them to follow Christ and pursue God's redeeming work in the world.*

Our world is in desperate need of courageous and faithful leaders and servants, whether they are traditional 18-year-olds, 22-year-old college grads, or older learners. We are pleased to now be able to offer our distinctively Christian education to students of many ages and stages of life virtually anywhere in the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Christy".

Greg Christy  
President

# around the Green

## Green is Great



PI GAYLOR

Northwestern has been recognized for its environmental stewardship by The Groundwater Foundation for the eighth consecutive year.

Northwestern has been recognized by The Groundwater Foundation as a 2015 Groundwater Guardian Green Site, marking the eighth straight year the college has been recognized for its groundwater and environmental stewardship.

Northwestern continues to integrate energy-efficient and waste-reducing measures into campus facilities. The DeWitt Learning Commons, opened in the fall of 2013, was built with a variety of environmentally friendly features, including an ice bank cooling system, which uses ice formed overnight to cool the building and chill water throughout the day. Efficient lighting fixtures use motion sensors to turn lights off and on, and the building is landscaped with tall fescue grass, a drought-hardy plant

that requires less water to sustain.

Other improvements made to the campus in recent years include the installation of new high-efficiency boilers in the college's art building and student center, an updated motion-sensor lighting system in the newly remodeled Ramaker Center, and water-bottle filling stations in a number of residence halls and facilities to both lessen the amount of plastic bottle waste and promote the use of refillable containers.

According to groundwater.org, only eight other colleges are Groundwater Guardian Green Sites, with Northwestern listed as the sole Iowa college meeting the organization's standards for environmental stewardship.

## Doing Missions Well

Northwestern's missions program has once again been approved for Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Mission (SOE) membership.

The SOE is an accrediting and resourcing body for organizations that send, receive, facilitate and support short-term missions endeavors. Standards of Excellence members strive for Christ-centered and effective missions strategies, partnerships and stewardship.

"Being a part of the SOE ensures that we do short-term missions well," says Patrick Hummel, Northwestern's director of missions. "This accountability helps to not just focus on giving our students a great service experience, but that we also serve alongside our partners to their benefit."

The U.S. Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Mission were developed in the early 2000s with input from five mission networks and more than 400 mission leaders. Dr. Barb Dewald, Northwestern's associate dean of Christian formation, was one of the nine members of the committee that developed the standards.

## in Box

### Looking Race in the Face

I want to commend you for the article on race in the spring *Classic*. I connected with the article because it mirrors my work on Western Theological Seminary's Diversity and Cultural Competence Team. We too are growing in these painful ways of acknowledging white privilege, microaggressions and systemic patterns that prevent growth toward racial reconciliation. I was beyond grateful to read this article. Well done.

**Dana (Smith '93) Daniels**  
Associate Director of Advancement  
Western Theological Seminary  
*Holland, Mich.*

### WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

Send letters to: *Classic*, NWC, 101 7th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041; email: [classic@nwciowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwciowa.edu). Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please include an address and daytime phone number.





# Second National Ranking

For the second time this year, Northwestern has won national recognition for its study abroad programs. The Transylvania Semester is listed among America's top 10 study abroad programs by Abroad101, the first and largest study abroad review website.

Located in Lupeni, Romania, the program is ranked seventh

based on student evaluations of their experiences. In January, the college's Oman Semester was cited by Best College Reviews as one of the nation's 50 best study abroad programs.

Abroad101's rankings are based on thousands of online student evaluations of 1,472 study

abroad programs. The Top 10+ Study Abroad Programs rate the best of the best, with the results calculated from tallies of students' overall, academic, cultural and administrative experiences with their study abroad programs.

Mark Shay, CEO of Abroad101, says it's encouraging to see students appreciate non-traditional destinations. In a story on a website for professionals in international education, he praised the Transylvania Semester as a unique program in which "students get very immersed in the local community and seem to have a very powerful experience."

Romania's Corvin Castle is among the cultural sites visited by students in Northwestern's Transylvania Semester, which is listed as one of America's top 10 study abroad programs by Abroad101.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Caps & Gowns



DAN ROSS

Northwestern awarded degrees to 244 graduates during commencement ceremonies held on May 9.

Fifteen years ago, the Rev. John Paul Sundararajan '00 crossed the stage to receive his Northwestern diploma. This spring he returned as the college's commencement speaker, sharing stories from his first year at NWC and promising God's grace and help to graduates.

After Sundararajan's address, 217 seniors were granted Bachelor of Arts, and 27, Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees. Dale Den Herder '63, a Sioux Center businessman, banker and community leader who served on Northwestern's Board of Trustees for 28 years, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

The new graduates are heading to cities like Denver, Chicago and Des Moines and small towns like Sioux Center, Sheldon and Orange City. Among the positions they've secured are computer support specialist, accountant, nurse, athletic trainer, math teacher, actuary, and director of children's ministries.

Still others are enrolling in graduate schools that include Michigan State, Western Theological Seminary and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

## More Learning Options

Northwestern is adding new majors in biochemistry and worship arts and an international business track for students majoring in business administration. All three programs are available beginning this fall.

The biochemistry major is designed for students interested in research and intending to either enroll in graduate school or pursue a career in the field. “The biochemistry industry in Iowa is big and getting bigger with all of the genetic research being done,” says Dr. David Arnett, professor of chemistry.

Core requirements for the new major include biology, chemistry, math and physics courses. Also required is an independent research project pre-approved by the biochemistry advisory committee.

An interdisciplinary major, worship arts will prepare students

for a career in worship design and leadership. Core and elective requirements include courses in religion, theatre, English, music, art and communications.

According to Drew Schmidt '05, assistant professor of theatre, the role of worship arts impacts

everything from the greeters at the door to the graphics on the screen, from what is said during a service to the songs that are sung. “This is about serving the local church, rooted in a firm foundation of theology,” he says. “We want to develop leaders of all the arts to

help the church’s worship.”

Students choosing the newest track in business will take 12 credits of upper-level international development courses and participate in an international business internship. The track joins agri-business, finance, general business, management and marketing options.

“Northwestern College has a long history of encouraging its students to learn about other cultures and peoples, and this business option is following in that tradition,” says Dr. Eric Elder, professor of business and economics. “The new option is in part a response to student demand, a response to the direction of the Strategic Planning Committee, and a way to capitalize on the interests and backgrounds of the business faculty.”



A biochemistry major is one of the new academic programs being offered this fall.

FIGAITOR

## On Sabbatical

Two faculty members will spend portions of the 2015–16 school year on sabbatical leaves for research projects.

Dr. Derek Brower '87, assistant professor of education, will pursue several projects and activities in the fall semester that will strengthen his expertise in science education. He will spend six weeks in Malaysia, serving as science education consultant for Dalat International School. Brower will do some team-teaching and work with instructors on teaching methodologies and new strategies.

A member of Northwestern’s faculty since 2006, Brower taught science for 12 years at schools in Iowa, Botswana, the Marshall Islands and Thailand.

Dr. Keith Fynaardt, professor of English, will spend the spring semester on a multi-genre writing project that brings together his expertise in writing and in agricultural literature and history—particularly Iowa farming. He will focus on one particular farm, telling its story and the stories of the generations of people who have called it home.

Fynaardt, who is restoring a historic Sioux County farm, has taught at Northwestern since 1995.



Dr. Derek Brower, left, and Dr. Keith Fynaardt have been granted one-semester sabbatical leaves for 2015–16.

DOUG BURG



# Campus Life

## Summer Jobs

It's 6:30 a.m. on a June Tuesday. Campus is mostly quiet as still-sleepy students in sweats and sports shorts cross the parking lot to the maintenance building. They gather with the college's housekeepers, groundskeepers and other maintenance personnel to start the day as the department always does: with devotions.

Of the 36 students working on Northwestern's campus this summer, half are employed by the maintenance department. They weed the flower gardens, restripe the parking lots, and trim around buildings and trees.

They assist with construction cleanup and special projects, which this summer included building a sand volleyball court near Stegenga Hall on the west end of the campus green.

They also clean. A lot. Every campus building gets a thorough scrubbing, from the baseboards to window blinds. Stegenga Hall, which houses middle and high school students for sports camps, gets cleaned between each camp—up to six times throughout the summer.

Cleaning residence halls is the most entertaining, students say—especially when they discover things residents have left behind: silverware, pots and pans, sometimes a drawer full of clothes.

Several years ago while overseeing students who were summer-cleaning in the former West Hall, housekeeper Jim Burmakow was wrestling with a dresser drawer that refused to close all the way. He pulled it out and found the problem: a small box had apparently slipped down behind the drawer. The outside of the box was velvet. The inside contained a diamond ring! Burmakow tracked down the owner who thought it had been stolen and, despite his distress, had thankfully purchased a second engagement ring for his future wife.

### MUFFIN STUFF

The best part of working in NWC's maintenance department in the summer: "Muffin Thursday!" says sophomore Nick deVries, Orange City. Every Thursday—which is the final day of the department's four 10-hour days work week—Housekeeping Supervisor Arlo Van Beek brings fresh muffins for morning break. "Nothing better than a delicious lemon poppy seed muffin," says deVries. "As soon as my muffin is gone, I'm already looking forward to the next week."



Summer jobs on campus attract students like Taylor Driesen (right), who is from Alton, and AJ Payton, Richmond, Va. The crew also includes students from Texas, Hawaii, Nicaragua and Romania.

DOUG BURKS

## Interim Provost

Dr. Kent Eaton has been hired to serve Northwestern as interim provost for the 2015–16 academic year, replacing Dr. Jasper Lesage, who retired in May.

Eaton comes to Northwestern after serving as provost at Houston Graduate School of Theology and at McPherson College. He also previously was a dean at Fresno Pacific University, associate dean of Bethel Seminary San Diego, and a professor of church history at a seminary in Spain.

"Dr. Eaton has proven himself in previous roles as a problem-solver who will provide strong academic leadership," says President Greg Christy. "He is an excellent communicator who will reach out to build relationships with faculty and staff and develop strong levels of trust across the various areas of academics, student life and campus ministry. He will also help us evaluate academic structures that would better serve the college moving forward."

Eaton earned a doctorate in theology and religious studies from the University of Wales, a Master of Theology degree from Dallas Theological Seminary and a bachelor's degree from Texas Christian.



Dr. Kent Eaton





Dr. Sara Sybesma Tolsma and sophomore biology major Alison Schutt are collaborating on research this summer. One of their experiments is an extension of research started by Tolsma's cell biology class to test whether certain plant extracts—from marigold, mistletoe, periwinkle and rosemary—might slow the growth of tumor cells. Tolsma received the Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award at commencement in May.

## The Science of Great Teaching

Most proteins, once denatured, cannot be re-natured.

Huh?

OK, take egg white, which is mostly protein. Fry it. Now try to use it in a cake mix. Won't work, right? That's because the protein has been irreversibly denatured—in this case, by heat.

That's the kind of "home-cooked" explanation biology professor Dr. Sara Sybesma '84 Tolsma regularly uses to turn complex biological concepts into concrete learning. It's one of the reasons a student recently described her as "ridiculously awesome," and it fosters the kind of student appreciation that led to Tolsma being named this year's Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award winner at commencement May 9.

"[Dr. Tolsma] always presented information in a way that was easy to understand," wrote one student in a letter of nomination. "She required a lot of you, but you knew what to expect ... She was tough but fair and pushed you to do your best."

Other students said Tolsma makes her classroom a place where learning is fun and it's safe to explore and ask questions.

"Dr. Tolsma makes learning a blast and is one of the most caring, honest people I know," wrote another nominator. "I've learned more from her about life and biology because of her excellent teaching than I have from anyone else."

Tolsma earned a doctorate in microbiology/immunology/virology from Northwestern University. Her award-winning cancer genetics and cell biology research has been widely published in scientific journals, and she is a sought-after speaker on bioethical issues surrounding genetic technologies.

The Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award is given by the Alumni Association to an honoree selected by members of the Student Government Association and the Sigma Tau senior honor society, with input from past winners and a representative of the Faculty Development Committee. This year 135 nominations were received for 40 Northwestern professors. Along with Tolsma, Dr. Chris Hausmann, sociology; Ann Vanderkooi '88 Minnick, communications; and Jonathan Sabo, theatre, were named as finalists.

## New Admissions Leaders

Two members of Northwestern's advancement office will be moving one floor down in Zwemer Hall and turning their attention from raising funds to recruiting students. Mark Bloemendaal '81, director of alumni and parent relations, has been named dean of enrollment and marketing. Jackie Davis, director of advancement, is the new director of admissions.



Mark Bloemendaal

"I believe we need to change the leadership model in the admissions office to realize our full potential," says President Greg Christy. "Mark and Jackie have developed a synergistic, highly effective working relationship, and they have what it takes to lead us to new levels of achievement in enrollment."

Bloemendaal recruited students as a counselor and eventually director of admissions for nearly 29 years. He had been in the advancement office since 2010.

Davis joined the advancement team in 2010 as director of capital giving and was



Jackie Davis

promoted in 2012. She graduated from Dakota Wesleyan University, where she worked in the development office for 17 years. She earned a master's degree from the University of South Dakota.

## Construction Update

The walls are up and roof is on Northwestern's newest building, the Juffer Athletic Fieldhouse, which will provide an indoor practice arena for baseball, softball, football, soccer and golf, as well as strength and conditioning facilities for all student-athletes. The \$3.1 million, 33,000-square-foot facility will open in September. A dedication is planned for Friday afternoon, Oct. 2, during Raider Days.



## Servant Professor

Dr. Byron Noordewier's impact on students, his colleagues and Northwestern earned him the college's Faculty Inspirational Service Award for 2015. The biology professor, a member of NWC's faculty since 1988, was honored during an end-of-the-year recognition banquet for faculty and staff.

Noordewier is well-known by biology majors as a tough teacher who does all he can to help them master his courses, including holding multiple review sessions prior to tests. Fellow biology professor Dr. Sara Sybesma '84 Tolsma describes him as "a creative and hard-working teacher who takes extra time to help students

understand the material."

"His depth of knowledge is phenomenal," says Randy Van Peurse '92, science support services professional. "[Byron] presents it in a way that makes students excited to learn the information. His quirky humor aids in the delivery of the information as well."

Van Peurse, who had Noordewier as a professor himself, says students find his colleague challenging but understand he is preparing them well for graduate school or the workforce. "Many graduates comment that the depth of information and the difficulty of exams from his classes were well worth it," Van Peurse says.

Tolsma cites Noordewier's leadership in the biology department as an example of his service. "As the senior member of the department, Byron has mentored all of us," she says. "We would not be the strong department and strong teachers we strive to be without his gentle advice, modeling and mentoring."

In addition to his teaching duties, Noordewier serves Northwestern as its faculty athletics representative and was the NAA's 2013 recipient of the Wally Schwarz Faculty Athletics Representative of the Year Award. He also has served as president of Northwestern's faculty.



Dr. Byron Noordewier's support of his students and teaching colleagues earned the biology professor Northwestern's Faculty Inspirational Service Award for 2015.

DOUG BURG

## Cleaning Service

Housekeeping Supervisor Arlo Van Beek says this has been a "normal summer"—overseeing cleaning of all the buildings on campus but not having to work around major new construction or renovations.

Last summer was not normal.

With the renovation of the Ramaker Center and several parts of the Rowenhorst Student Center, Van Beek oversaw the moves of more than 50 offices. Student life personnel moved from the RSC to Ramaker, joined by nearly everyone who had been housed in Kepp Hall. Then coaches and kinesiology faculty moved from the Bultman Center into

the RSC, and Kepp became the home for the English and foreign language departments and the public relations office.

Van Beek led the moves while in pain from needing the knee replacement surgery he eventually had in the fall.

"Arlo was absolutely amazing with his patience and care for detail," said Rick Clark about the foreign language department's move. "He wanted badly to make sure everything was perfect for us, and his help was fantastic. He was a great example of a godly, humble servant."

Van Beek was formally honored for his selfless attitude in May when he was named the college's 2015 Staff Inspirational Service Award winner. The award recognizes staff who consistently provide outstanding contributions by going above and beyond what is expected, who personify a strong Christian commitment, and who distinguish themselves as an inspiration to the campus community.

Van Beek has worked in the maintenance department for 24 years. Scott Simmelink, director of maintenance and operations, describes him as a huge asset to the college community.

"He continually goes above what's required and delights in a job well done," said Simmelink in a letter of nomination. "He is always willing to help out wherever needed and does this with a Christ-like spirit. He leads by example."

Even if his knees are in pain.



Housekeeping Supervisor Arlo Van Beek was recognized for his commitment to go above and beyond expectations when he received Northwestern's 2015 Staff Inspirational Service Award.

DOUG BURG



## Prestigious Scholarship

A May Northwestern graduate has been selected as the 2015 recipient of the prestigious South Dakota State Medical Association Foundation Freshman Scholarship. Emma Wynja of Sioux Falls will use the scholarship to aid her studies at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine.

She is working this summer at Sanford Research in Sioux Falls, exploring the characteristics of head and neck squamous cell carcinoma associated with the human papillomavirus (HPV).

## Endowed Professor Appointment

Dr. James Mead, a member of Northwestern's religion faculty since 2000, has been appointed to the Marvin and Jerene DeWitt Endowed Religion Professorship.

Mead served as a pastor for 11 years before earning a doctorate in biblical studies at Princeton Theological Seminary. He holds research interests in Old Testament historical books and prophets. In 2007, his textbook, *Biblical Theology: Issues, Methods and Themes*, was published by Westminster John Knox Press.



DOUG BURG

Dr. Jim Mead will receive research funding assistance through the Marvin and Jerene DeWitt Endowed Religion Professorship.

# Face Value

## Ann Vander Kooi Minnick

Courageous Communicator

### What inspired you to enter the communications field?

I always enjoyed public speaking, writing and people. When I was Orange City's tulip queen in 1984, I did a lot of media interviews, which sparked my interest in communications. I remember when one of my interviews was cut short by a presidential news conference. I guess the president of the United States can upstage the tulip queen any day.

### Northwestern requires journalism and public relations students to complete an internship. What makes that hands-on experience so important?

I can give students all the tools for communications, help them learn to think critically and make ethical decisions, but I can't plop them into a job where they have to put it all into place. Internships help students experience what it's like to work with people and make tough decisions. I had a great internship experience, and my supervisor—whom I still count as a friend and mentor—helped me land my first job.

### Prior to joining Northwestern's faculty, you worked in PR for a number of hospitals. What's your tie to healthcare?

I grew up the daughter of a doctor. I was used to the medical profession, but I knew I didn't want to be a healthcare provider. I learned early on in my career that I was able to take complex medical information and present it in an understandable format for the layperson.

### What did you appreciate most about your time as a Northwestern student?

I was a writer, advertising manager and editor for the *Beacon*; I was floor manager, reporter and anchor for the campus TV news show; and



DOUG BURG

Ann Vander Kooi '88 Minnick, associate professor of communications, is proud of her Dutch heritage. (All of her relatives can be traced back to the Netherlands.) She has been an active member of the Orange City Dutch Heritage Boosters since 1986.

I was the traffic controller and anchor for the campus radio station. I also did the photography/darkroom work for the community newspaper. All those experiences set me apart from other graduates and helped me in my career path.

### What do you enjoy doing away from work?

I've been very busy at Orange City's Century Home over the years, wallpapering, painting, decorating, and writing its history. I freeze and can my own produce and make strawberry-rhubarb jam. I like to bring my co-workers fresh vegetables and flowers from my garden. But my family is my true passion, and I like to keep busy with our sons' activities.

# A Job Well Done

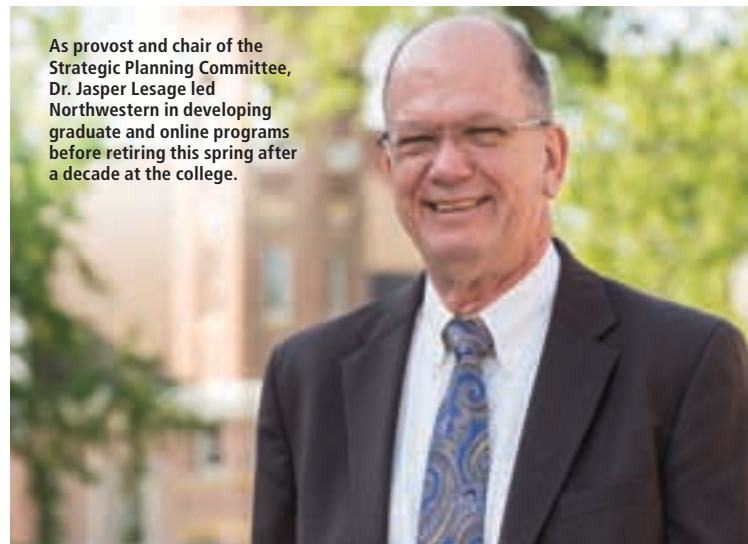
**Four faculty and staff members** have retired recently after giving a combined total of 80 years of service to Northwestern. They leave a legacy of vision, commitment and love.

Red Raider teams won seven national championships while Barry Brandt was director of athletics.



DOUG BURG

As provost and chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, Dr. Jasper Lesage led Northwestern in developing graduate and online programs before retiring this spring after a decade at the college.



DOUG BURG

## *Good Sport*

During Barry Brandt's first two years as a Northwestern student in the late 1960s, he was a member of the football, basketball, baseball and golf teams. "And my grades looked like I did only that," he says with a smile.

He focused on football and golf as a junior and senior, but always had an interest in a wide variety of sports—something that was beneficial from 2000 to 2014 when he served as Northwestern's athletic director.

"I had great fun in the football playoffs and walking beside the basketball teams when they won their national championships, but certainly one of the highlights for me was seeing all of our programs elevate to the point that they're competitive," says Brandt '69. "All of our sports are equally important to me, and each one of these young people is a child

of God. My greatest desire was that they would mature in their understanding of faith and the world."

Brandt was hired in 1984 as the head men's and women's track coach and assistant football coach. He became assistant director of athletics in 1997 and served this past year as associate director. While he was AD, seven teams won national titles, staffing was strengthened, and major improvements were made to athletic facilities.

"There's no doubt Barry has a love for Northwestern and the students here," says Dr. Earl Woudstra '78, who replaced him as athletic director. "One of his legacies is the challenge he has given coaches to use our positions to spread the gospel."

## *Academic Leader*

Dr. Jasper Lesage's experience in academic administration and strategic planning won him the role of vice president for academic affairs in 2005. Three years later his responsibilities grew when he was named provost. This spring he retired after providing a decade of leadership for key initiatives at Northwestern.

One of Lesage's first accomplishments at NWC was to guide a team in crafting the college's Vision for Learning, which summarizes what faculty and staff want students to gain from a Northwestern education. Most recently, he led the college in successfully attaining accreditation for a Master of Education program, as well as a graduate certificate in the management of international development.

"The adult and graduate studies program was one of five key initiatives we identified as a campus community three

years ago in our strategic plan," says President Greg Christy. "Due to Jasper's leadership, we are now prepared to have a growing number of adult learners benefiting from a Northwestern College education online."

Lesage also represented Northwestern on one of six regional advisory boards for Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) initiative.

Lesage's role as chair of Northwestern's Strategic Planning Committee echoes his accomplishments at Dordt College, where he taught business for more than 20 years; led committees for strategic and institutional planning, student assessment and graduate education; and served on task forces for curriculum and new programs and initiatives.





Karen Vander Pol greeted visitors to the athletic department with a smile for 17 years.

DOUGBURG



Bruce Roetman was known as much for his cheerful, willing servant heart as for his skills and ability with the tools of his trade.

DOUGBURG

## Grandma Raider

For the past 17 years, Karen Vander Pol '73 has been the face of the athletic department. She has sold season tickets, taken memberships for the Red Raider Club, signed up kids for summer sports camps and made arrangements for the annual Athletic Recognition Banquet.

She's also provided a grandmotherly welcome for several children of Red Raider coaches, who tagged along as mom or dad came to the office to meet with a recruit or take care of an errand. "She's always willing to give them a hug or smile," says Dr. Earl Woudstra '78, director of athletics. "They'll miss her."

And the children aren't alone. From coaches and kinesiology instructors to athletic trainers and work-study students, everyone in the athletic department has been touched by Vander Pol. "Karen does an outstanding job meeting and welcoming

people. She always brings a little joy to the office," says Woudstra. "We will miss her positive and encouraging personality."

Vander Pol, who spent 10 years as an assistant in the Career Development Center before taking her current assignment, says one of the highlights of her time in the athletic department has been seeing the growth of the Red Raider Club from its predecessors, the Raider Rooters and N-Club. "It has become such a huge support for Northwestern athletics," she says. "That was a great change."

Now Vander Pol is undergoing a change of her own, leaving behind time greeting young campus visitors in favor of more time with her own grandchildren. The hugs and smiles will continue.

## Campus Carpenter

For 12 years, Bruce Roetman was Northwestern's carpenter and locksmith. His impact, however, went beyond the things he built, repairs he made, and locks he keyed.

"His service to students, often using his personal time to help those in need, was exceptional," Doug Beukelman, vice president for financial affairs, wrote when announcing Roetman's retirement. Maintenance director Scott Simmelink describes Roetman in similar terms: "He'd go out of his way to befriend students. If he knew someone was struggling, he would spend time with them and pray for them."

Roetman's strong Christian faith led him to volunteer as an adviser for Spring Service Project teams nearly all of the years he worked at NWC. He also was active in helping lead the maintenance department's summer devotions. He

and his wife served as a host family for international students—a role he plans to continue. And he represented his colleagues on the Faculty/Staff Welfare Committee, participated in the students' International Club, and served as a member of the Multi-Ethnic Resource Team.

Whatever the job, Roetman was always willing to help out whenever and wherever needed. "Whether it was cleaning up a mess from a prank or backed-up sewer or helping scoop snow after a big snowstorm, he was always willing to pitch in," says Simmelink. "Bruce has a huge servant's heart."



Playing in the Raiders' No. 1 slot, GPAC Player of the Year Frankie Eszes helped lead the tennis team to its first berth in the NAIA national tournament.

# Red Zone

## **Women's Tennis** **A Winner**

Frankie Eszes etched her name in Northwestern's record books, finishing her career with the most wins in both singles and doubles (49 of each). She was named the Great Plains Athletic Conference Player of the Year for the third season. The Raiders won the post-season conference tournament and advanced to nationals for the first time.

## **Men's Golf** **Back to Nationals**

Northwestern returned to the national championships for the third time in four years. The Raiders won the conference title and Aaron Aberson '06 was named GPAC Coach of the Year. Justin Kraft earned conference Golfer of the Year honors.

## **Outdoor Track** **National Champion**

Heptathlete Karen (Hutson) Ettleman became the fifth Red Raider to win an individual national championship. She earned additional All-American honors by finishing seventh in the 100-meter hurdles. Other All-American efforts were by Kyle Anderson, fourth in the 800; Jordan Strofaci, seventh in the decathlon; Levi Ettleman, eighth in the shot put; and the sixth-place 4x800 team of Anderson, Skyler Giddings, Logan Hovland and Elliott Johnson.

## **Softball** **Third-Place Finish**

The Raiders tied for third in the conference with a 12-8 record, 23-24 overall. Jillian Kleinhesselink set the school record for career stolen bases with 116.

## **Baseball** **All-American Again**

Mitch Peschon was named a second team All-American for the second season after compiling a .360 batting average with 11 home runs, 51 RBIs and 65 runs. The Raiders finished with a 25-28 record, tied for third in the GPAC with an 11-9 mark.

## **Women's Golf** **Lowest Average**

Emma Wynja finished her career with the lowest scoring average in school history, 84.2. She won the final GPAC qualifier of the season and finished fourth overall. The Raiders placed fourth.

## **Scholar-Athletes** **Honor Roll**

Twenty-four Raiders in spring sports earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete recognition, including 16 in track and field. Honored for the second year in a row were track athletes Karen Ettleman, Scott Strand, Megan Walhof, Jacie White and Joleen Wilhelm, along with Jillian Kleinhesselink and Kara Nonnemacher in softball and Jessica Locker, Jordy Reinders, Betsy Wallin and Emma Wynja in golf.

In addition, Ettleman and Wynja earned first team CoSIDA Academic All-American honors and Logan Hovland (track) and Locker were named to the second team.

For more on Raider sports, visit [nwcraiders.com](http://nwcraiders.com)



# Master Teachers

Twenty-seven years before NWC started an online M.Ed. program, it offered graduate studies in elementary education

BY DUANE BEESON

When officials at Area Education Agency Four wanted an area college to offer a master's degree program in elementary education, they contacted Northwestern. After three years of planning, NWC began a master's program in January 1988.

More than 20 students were in the first night class. Before the program was discontinued in 1996, 34 students graduated with master's degrees.

Dr. Judy Vander Wilt, who directed the program for a year and taught two of its classes, says it reflected Northwestern's

mission. "The integration of faith and learning was a very prominent feature of the program. Also, we got to know our students well. Each had to do a thesis, and we worked closely with them as they considered topics that were meaningful to them in their own classrooms."

Courses covered methods, curriculum, educational psychology, philosophy of education and applied research. The program also included content courses in humanities, social sciences and natural science, a requirement that came out of several reports on the quality of teacher education in the nation.

The majority of classes were offered in the summer by full-time Northwestern faculty, with a few night courses taught by part-time instructors during the school year. The program was set up so students could complete their master's degree within three years.

"It was a very good program," says Wanda (Utesch '68) Friedrichsen, who lived in Alton and taught middle school in the Floyd Valley and MOC-FV school systems for 34 years. A member of the program's second graduating class in 1991, she remembers it as "quite intense" as leaders sought to lay a solid foundation.

In 1991 the members of the second graduating class from Northwestern's master's degree program in elementary education received their diplomas.

"It helped keep me up-to-date," she says. "I got fresh, new ideas. It gave me an extra boost to make me more enthused about my teaching."

Denny Eekhoff, who taught middle school language arts for 43 years at Orange City Christian School and earned his master's degree in 1995, says the program had a very practical emphasis and a good sense of community. "We were a close-knit group who enjoyed working and studying together."

In the mid-1990s, the National Council on Teacher Education was calling for master's degree programs to move toward a greater emphasis on research, according to Laura (Dykstra '84) Heitritter, instructor in education. Faced with the need to increase the research component, Northwestern administrators decided to end the master's program so the education department could refocus its resources on undergraduates.

"We in the department were all sad, but we had the greatest respect for [President] Bultman, and he just wanted us to refocus on our mission as an undergraduate, residential, Christian liberal arts college," says Heitritter. "We taught out the program and made sure students who didn't complete their degrees could transfer to other schools."







# A Dutch Welkom

2015 marked the 75th anniversary of the Orange City Tulip Festival. As is the case every year, Northwestern faculty, staff and alumni were among the hundreds of volunteers who made the three-day event—which attracts tens of thousands of visitors—a reality. Whether painting a commissioned work of art, singing with the Fietsen Zangers, scrubbing streets, embroidering costumes, making poffertjes or marching in the twice-daily parades, they helped celebrate their community's Dutch heritage.

*Photos by Doug Burg*










# A New Look at Campus


BY DUANE BEESON




The **soccer fields** are located where a junkyard used to be. In the first few years of play, more than a few athletes landing on the pitch wished a piece of glass or iron could be given the red card.




Stained glass windows from The Playhouse, which formerly was a church, now hang in the lobby of the **DeWitt Theatre Arts Center**.



**Korver Field** at De Valois Stadium has been the site of numerous football and soccer matches, as well as marching band competitions and disc golf contests. Some marriages have even started with proposals staged there. The latest occurred April 17, when Aric Waltz '16 intercepted the ball during a spring scrimmage and ran over to propose to Lauren Rensink '15. (She said yes.)



Outside the balcony in **Christ Chapel**, a display case holds a Statenbijbel—the Dutch equivalent of the King James Version—that dates back to 1637. It is said to have been sliced in two places by a French soldier plundering a Holland church during Napoleon's era.

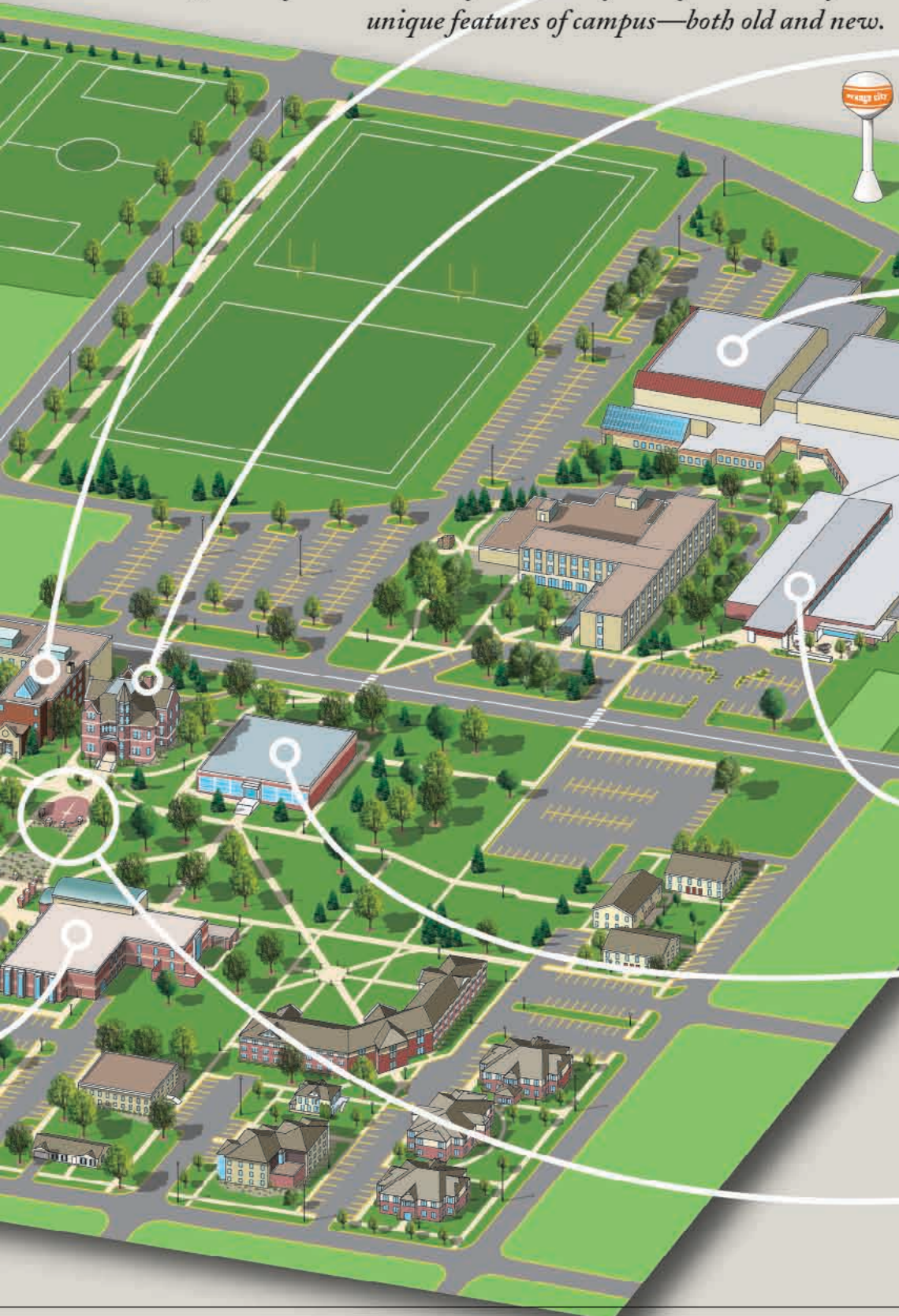


Of course you can check out books in the **DeWitt Learning Commons**! But you can also scan your card to borrow iPads, Kindles, laptops, charging cords, headphones, a portable white board and even tandem bicycles. (No riding inside.)



*Whether it's been five years or 50 since you've been on Northwestern's campus, the reality is it's changed. New buildings (and old ones that have new uses) sparkle in the Orange City sun, while venerable facilities like Granberg, Heemstra and West are now just a memory.*

*Before you return to your alma mater (hopefully for Raider Days Oct. 2 and 3), take a few moments to familiarize yourself with some of the unique features of campus—both old and new.*



In the area of **Van Peursem Hall** that now houses the business and education departments, Olympic gold medalist Jesse Owens and singers Amy Grant and Simon & Garfunkel showcased their talents in the old chapel.



When **Zwemer Hall** was restored in 1997, workers left the graffiti that had been etched into woodwork along the stairwell years ago. (R.V.O. is in love with someone. We just can't make out who.)



Lee & Leora De Haan and Paul & Lois De Jong are among a number of Red Raider faithful who have held the same reserved seats in the **Bultman Center** since it opened in 1995.



The 36 flags along the mall in the **Rowenhorst Student Center**—ranging from Argentina to Zimbabwe—represent the countries of current and recent students, faculty and staff.



Visitors to the newly renovated **Ramaker Center**, hard-pressed to remember it as a library, may take comfort in the south stairwell—the only area of the building that still looks like it did 40 years ago.



The **tulip-shaped sidewalk** north of Zwemer Hall is said to be both a nod to Orange City's Dutch heritage and a reminder of the TULIP acrostic for the five points of Calvinism. 

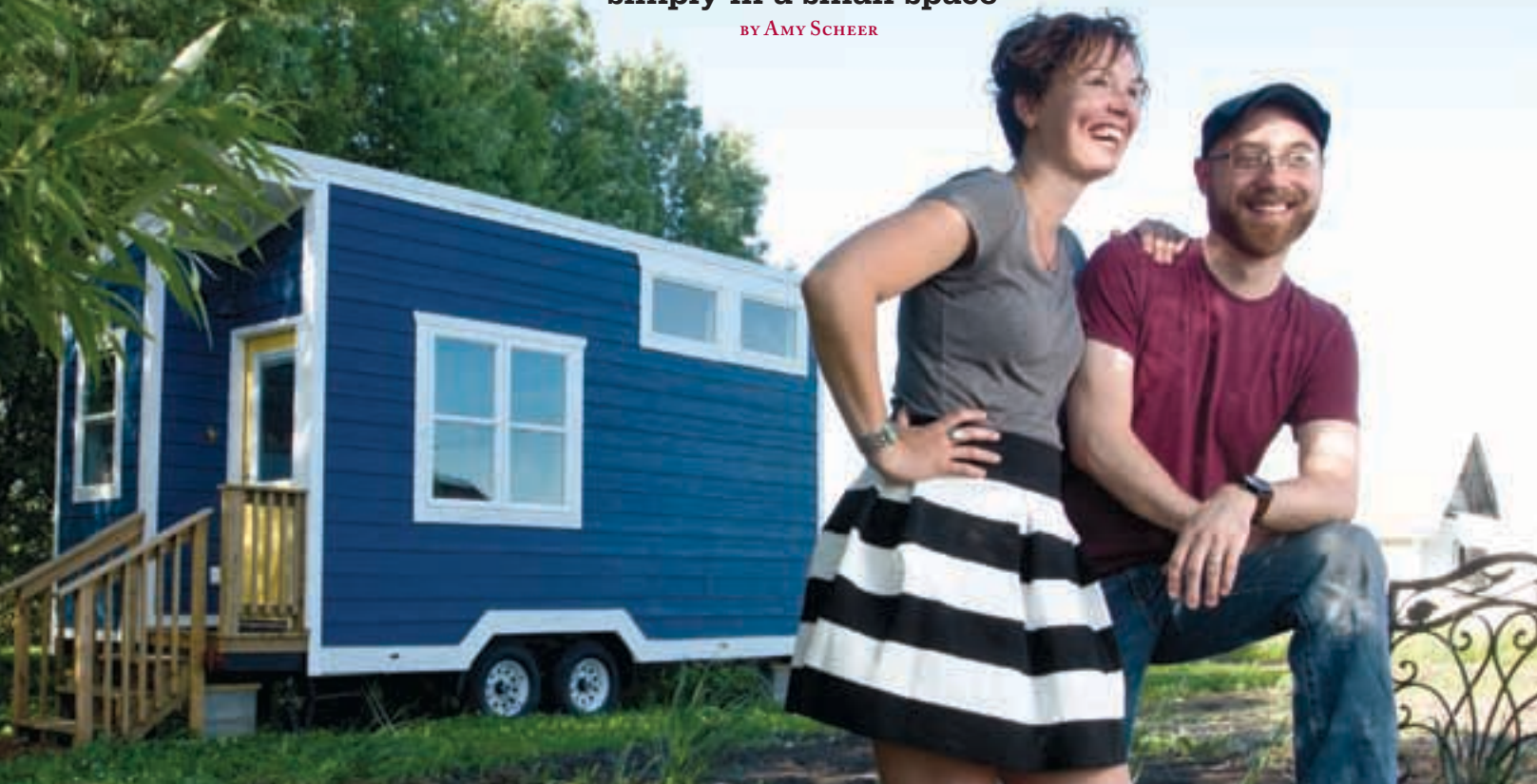




# TINY HOUSE BIG IDEAS

Northwestern alum joins trend of living simply in a small space

BY AMY SCHEER



## THE **YELLOW CLOCK** WAS A REAL FIND.

Standing 19 inches high with shelves hidden inside, the IKEA timepiece is an ideal storage space for small items. Its designer clearly planned for the product to be practical, yet probably never guessed customers like Jordan Plummer '09 and his wife, Sarah, would marvel, with deep gratitude, at how efficiently the clock holds their cooking spices.

"We were worried about kitchen storage," Plummer says. "But the clock's front swings open, and the shelves are four inches deep. We're trying to buy things that have more than one use, and this has two!"





The Plummers live in a house on wheels that is just 8 feet wide by 20 feet long. Called a “tiny house” (the term for living quarters measuring smaller than 400 square feet), their house was built by a Habitat for Humanity ReStore crew as a demonstration model for a home and garden show. Plummer’s twin brother, Jonathan ’09, who works for the organization, informed the couple about the project, and in April they bought the tiny blue house with white trim for \$12,000.

Henry David Thoreau’s Walden experiment can be considered a forerunner of the tiny house trend. His account of living in a cabin and off the land in the early 1800s inspired the houses that today represent a movement against materialism, emphasizing self-sufficiency, community and natural resources.

“It’s not just about changing our living space,” says Plummer. “It’s a lifestyle. If we buy a book, we pass it on; things won’t have a permanent place in our lives. We’re freed up to spend more time and money on things that are important to us, like getting out and building our relationships.”

When the couple wed in 2011, student loans made home ownership an unrealistic goal. The Plummers tried apartment living, first in Madison, Wis., and later in Ankeny, Iowa, where Plummer grew up. Tiny houses caught Sarah’s eye, and after about a year of research, they moved from the larger of their two bedrooms to the smaller—a first step in downsizing their belongings, and a test to see if simple living was for them.

Plummer estimates the larger bedroom measured about the same size as their current house: 160 square feet.

Once you enter the Plummers’ home, a mere six to eight steps will get you from the front door to the back wall. There, a yellow door with a rectangle of chalkboard paint opens to the bathroom, where a bucket with pine shavings acts as a composting toilet. The bathroom is right off the cheery kitchen, which sits under an 8-by-8-foot loft with a mattress.

A nearby folding table has multiple functions: storage, additional counter space and—if you pull up the only chairs in sight—dining for two.

As is common with tiny houses, the Plummers’ place is too small to be considered legal living quarters; instead, it’s built on a trailer platform and licensed and insured as a camper. They’re parked northeast of Des Moines on a farm whose owners were gracious enough to exchange space and basic utilities for labor.

Tiny house owners often need to find creative ways to live simply within the expectations of modern society, but cities are catching on. Spur, Texas, calls itself the first tiny-house-friendly town, adapting ordinances to allow houses off their wheels and onto a foundation. Some states are considering tiny houses as a step toward addressing homelessness. And after Hurricane Katrina, urban designer Marianne Cusato pioneered a new disaster recovery solution with her 308-square-foot Katrina Cottages.

It was at Northwestern that Plummer first encountered the idea of navigating God’s world with an innovative spirit.

“Northwestern widened my perspective,” he says. “My experience showed me how I can serve people, live my life and glorify God in ways that may be a little different—not cookie-cutter all the time. Great professors and staff were really supportive of a big-picture view of the world and formed my ideas on how I want to live. In a broader way, it’s influenced everyday things in my life.”

A marriage and family therapist, Plummer admits that small quarters might prove to be tough on a couple’s relationship. They are intentional about giving each other “space,” whether that’s through leaving the house or using headphones when engaging in different activities.

Like Thoreau, the Plummers plan to give their experiment a go for at least two years. Until then, the yellow clock marks time in this tiny house, where simplicity is the spice of life. 🏠



**On the Web** *exclusive*

Read more about what it’s like to live in a tiny house at [classic.nwciowa.edu](http://classic.nwciowa.edu).



As Claudia Bomgaars-Soto worked on her senior art exhibit, she and her family were able to talk about the painful past involving her mother's murder.

# BULLETS *to Beauty*

Graduating senior transforms spent  
ammunition into healing art

BY ANITA CIRULIS





**Norma Gonzalez arrived home in Pitalito, Colombia, accompanied by two strangers. She placed her 11-month-old daughter in the arms of her younger sister and told the 16-year-old to take the baby inside and stay there. When the girl asked who the men were, Norma assured her everything was fine.**

Moments later, the teenager emerged from the house just in time to see Norma crying as she was driven away on a motorcycle. That was the last time the young mother was seen alive. Two days later, her body was discovered in a rural area 21 kilometers from Pitalito.

The infant whose life was spared has no memory of the mother who was murdered just weeks before the little girl's first birthday. Claudia Bomgaars-Soto '15 knew that her mother had been killed, but nothing else. "Growing up, it was just painful," she recalls. "I need to know, but I don't want to ask. Even mentioning my mom's name to my dad, it was just really bad for him."

All that changed this spring when her mother's death became the focus of Bomgaars-Soto's senior art exhibit. Her husband, Curtis Bomgaars '10, an avid hunter, brought her used shotgun shells and bullet casings and suggested she use them for her art.

"I found them kind of beautiful because they were gold and silver—simple—and together they looked really nice," she says, "but for me it's just something that causes a lot of damage."

Bomgaars-Soto witnessed that damage firsthand growing up in Colombia. For more than 50 years, the country's drug cartels and guerrilla groups have created a culture of intimidation and fear. As a child she saw bullet-riddled bodies when attending the funerals of extended family members and friends. Even today, farmers and retailers in the region must pay protection money, called *vacuna*—Spanish for vaccination—to be able to work and remain safe.


For Bomgaars-Soto, her art exhibit was both therapy and testament. She used kitchen shears to cut blood-red shotgun shells so they took on the appearance of roses. A hammock suspended from the ceiling was made of brass bullet casings strung on rope and fishing line. Spent ammunition glued to a mirror allowed people to see their reflection as they viewed the art piece.

"I grew up not talking about what happened," Bomgaars-Soto says, "so I thought it was maybe a chance to use it, to process it. I never thought about letting other people know [about my mother's murder] because it's just something you don't imagine." As she transformed symbols of violence into things of beauty, she was changed as well. "I was able to feel like I could speak about [it] because I wasn't really doing the work. My artwork was already opening that path to talking about different things."

Through conversations with family members, including a sister who was 9 at the time of the murder, Bomgaars-Soto was able to put the pieces of her life story together. She learned that, most likely, someone jealous of her parents' successful, growing meat market business hired the guerrilla group FARC to eliminate the competition. That her mother—

smart, organized and detail-oriented—was "the mind of the business." That afterward, her father was advised by the police to leave town for his own safety. That his departure is the reason she and her sister grew up with different relatives. That her father tried to find out who was behind his wife's murder, but he was only able to discover that FARC did it.

Norma Gonzalez was 23 when she was killed—just a year older than her daughter was during her April exhibit. A painting by Bomgaars-Soto that was part of her art show portrays Gonzalez in her wedding dress, but aged as she might appear today. The young artist titled it "Growing Together" because, "I'm getting to know her. I didn't know she had this little scar here or when she smiles the little dimples. It was just fun to see her and paint her and have that time together."

By sharing her past with others, Bomgaars-Soto wants people to know God is faithful in the midst of pain and sorrow. He is able, she says, to transform one's story, making beauty out of brokenness, much like—in the hands of a young woman acquainted with grief—bullets can become art. 



TOP: Claudia Bomgaars-Soto included a painting of her mother in her exhibit, aged as she might appear 20 years after her murder. ABOVE: A mirror on which brass bullet casings are mounted allows viewers to see themselves through the ammunition in a piece titled "Reflecting on The Light II."

# class Notes

'64 **Paul Hartog** is a partner in HoganTaylor, a public accounting firm in Tulsa, Okla. He previously was a founding partner of Hartog, Kallenberger and Swarthout.

'70 **Dr. Rodger Dalman** taught at Trinity Theological Seminary in Newburgh, Ind., for 13 years. He is the author of *Is the Bible Really True: Recovering an Ancient Faith With 21st Century Evidence*; *Genesis in the Real World: Seven Keys for Understanding the Biblical, Archaeological and Scientific Background of Genesis 1-11*; and *Genesis and Israel's Wilderness Generation: How Moses Used History to Teach a Rebellious Nation*.

**Joe Pettrill**, Somerville, N.J., retired in 2014 after 43 years of coaching and teaching physical education.

'71 **Joyce (Ubben) Den Hartog** retired from 16 years of teaching at the Fulda (Minn.) Elementary School in May. She previously taught in Kentucky and several other Minnesota schools.

**Merrita (Smidt) Tumonong** continues to offer individual, marital and family therapy in a private practice in Grand Rapids, Mich.

'73 **The Rev. Irwin Van Leeuwen** retired in July after 39 years in ministry. He and his wife, Helen, now live in Sioux Falls.

'79 **Jim Christensen** serves as director of education at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. He oversees public and private education programs, including tours, distance learning, special events and classes. He and his wife, **Kim (Waller '80)**, live in Titusville, Fla.

'83 **The Rev. Shari Brink** is the new president and CEO of the Blanton-Peale Institute in New York City. The institute was founded by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale and works at the intersection of psychology and spirituality. She previously was minister for strategic advancement at Marble Collegiate Church.

## Red Ties

**MARK BLOEMENDAAL '81**  
Dean of Enrollment and Marketing

If you've parented college students, you've probably experienced what my wife and I have: While your kids still need your support and encouragement, they don't always communicate enough to enable you to know how to help them navigate college.

At Northwestern, we view our campus family as an extension of students' families, making us partners with parents. So even if your kids aren't telling you what's happening at NWC, we try to keep parents informed.

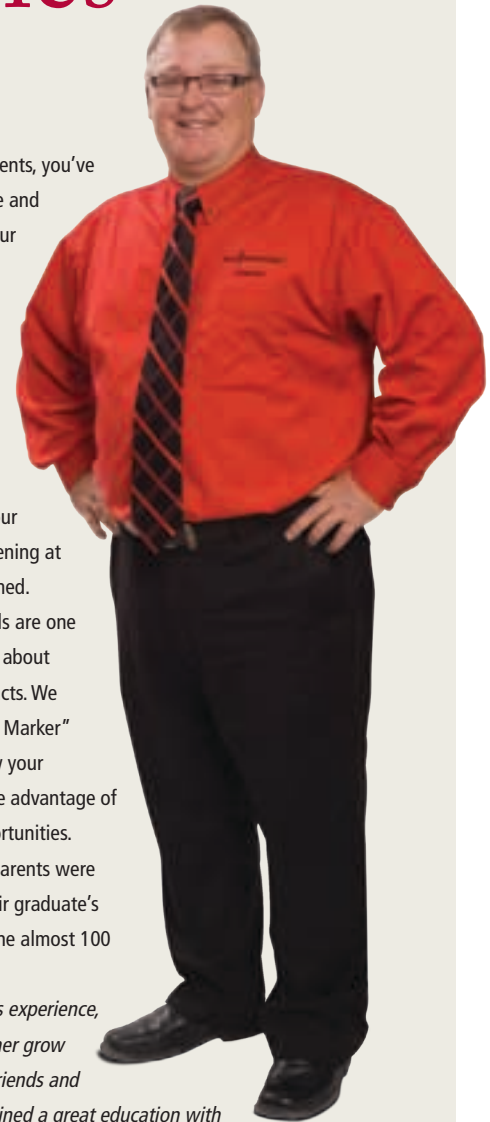
Periodic "Parent Partner" emails are one way we let students' parents know about important college events and contacts. We also send copies of students' "Mile Marker" emails to parents so you know how your student is being encouraged to take advantage of Northwestern's resources and opportunities.

For commencement this year, parents were invited to submit reflections on their graduate's Northwestern experience. Among the almost 100 submissions were many like these:

*"Throughout our daughter's experience, we've been so blessed to see her grow spiritually. She made lifelong friends and great memories ... She has gained a great education with professors who truly cared about her."*

*"We're grateful to Northwestern for helping our son discover his gifts and passions. He arrived four years ago searching for God's direction in his life. Somehow, between the classroom, football field and new friends, God spoke. Today our son is equipped to go forward and make a difference in the world in the name of Christ."*

We appreciate students' parents. And, as you can tell, they appreciate us. I think that's because we share the same goal: We both care deeply about enabling these young people to discover who God wants them to be and then preparing them to live into that calling. If you're the parent of a future college student, we'd be thrilled to be your partner.



## The Sky's the Limit

You may have many questions concerning your child: Who will he become? How has God gifted him? How will we pay for college?

Here's one answer: Enroll in the Private College 529 Plan and get a head start on funding his college education. This national plan lets you pay today's prices for tomorrow's tuition at Northwestern and more than 270 other private colleges. It'll help him reach for the stars.

[privatecollege529.com](http://privatecollege529.com)

Little Raider Porter White is the son of Breann (Rozeboom '11) and Jared White '11





**Mick Noteboom**, Champaign, Ill., is pursuing an online master's degree in organizational development and leadership from St. Joseph University in Philadelphia. He owns Professional Benefits Group, an insurance and investment business.

'84 **Debora Jensen Smith** earned a degree in human services, psychology and sociology from Buena Vista University last year. She teaches at Webster City (Iowa) Preschool/Daycare.

'85 **Johan Godwaldt** was granted tenure by Bethel College in Mishawaka, Ind. He is an associate professor of theatre, specializing in scene design and technical direction. He was also appointed co-chair of design tech management for Region 3 of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

'88 **Marla (Nelson) Brands** recently relocated to Dallas with her husband, Chad, and their family. She continues to home-school Mackenzie, a junior, and is involved at Stonebriar Community Church and the Plano Area Homeschool Educators. Chad is a vice president of Children's Health System of Texas.

'89 **The Rev. Brian Steenhoek**, Grundy Center, Iowa, is now the Grundy County host pastor and leader of satellite ministries for Orchard Hill Church. He previously was pastor of care ministries at Corinth Reformed Church in Byron Center, Mich.

'91 **Dr. Terry Gaalswyk** is the new president of Minnesota West Community and Technical College. He previously served as executive vice president at Western Nebraska Community College and dean of instruction at Western Iowa Tech Community College.

**Anne (Slagter) Groen** is the financial secretary at Central Minnesota Christian School in Prinsburg.

'92 **Sandra (Tew) Heeren** is a senior financial analyst for Wells Enterprises in Le Mars.

'93 **Kent Redeker** is a writer for *Doc McStuffins*, an animated children's TV series airing on Disney Junior that won a Peabody Award. The show also was nominated for a Daytime Emmy.

**Greg Venenga** was the recipient of U.S. Bank's Annual Pinnacle Award for 2014, the company's highest honor for employee achievement. He is the U.S. Bank branch manager in Rock Valley, Iowa.

'94 **Kurt Dykstra** is the new president of Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Ill. A former member of Northwestern College's Board of Trustees, he was previously the mayor of Holland, Mich., and a senior vice president at Mercantile Bank.

'96 **Jon Vogel** is the principal at Washington Junior High in Naperville, Ill. He previously served as principal at Naperville's White Eagle Elementary. He is pursuing a doctoral degree at Northern Illinois University.

'97 **Stephanie (Hutchcraft) Hamby**, San Angelo, Texas, earned a master's degree in public administration from the University of Colorado Denver, with a concentration in nonprofit organization management. She is the director of client services for Galilee Community Development Corporation, a nonprofit that builds homes and does home repair for low-income families.

**The Rev. Clint Hogrefe** is pastor of Stanton (Neb.) Evangelical Free Church.

'98 **Clint Luttermann** was honored as the 2014-15 Sports Medicine Person of the Year by the Iowa High School Athletic Directors Association. He directs 21st Century Rehab at the Dallas County Hospital in Perry.

'99 **TJ Buchholz** has been named the head women's soccer coach at the University of Toledo. He served the last four years as head coach for the women's program at Southwest Minnesota State University.



JOHN PHILIP

Retired teacher Larry Loven has owned as many as four collector cars at a time, although his only vintage vehicle at this point is a 1955 Ford pickup. Among the cars he hopes to own one day are a 1961 Chevy Bubble Coupe and a '57 Corvette.

## Wheel Love

Larry Loven '72 can still picture the Chevy dealer next to the restaurant his parents owned in Midlothian, Ill. "I would drool over the cars they had on the lot," he says. He got his first car, a 1958 Galaxie 500, in high school, followed by a 1964 Ford Galaxie XL.

About 40 cars later ("I have a very understanding wife," he says), Loven is the president of the 160-member car club in Frankfort, Ill., and drives a 1955 Ford F-100 pickup that sat abandoned on a ranch for 12 years. He hauled it home, put in a new motor and turned it into a "rat rod." "It's not real shiny, but it's all new underneath and looks original," he says.

Loven typically buys and sells one or two cars a year. He looks for an original that needs work to be "street worthy," fixes it up and sells it at a reasonable price. "That's our vacation money," he says two days before a trip to Ireland, more than half of which was paid for by the sale of a 1959 Galaxy and a 1952 Chevy.

When he gets back, Loven will start looking for another car—maybe the one that got away. "I still wish I had my 1966 Ford Mustang Fastback 2 Plus 2."

BY KRISTA VAN GORP-CARNET '97





PAUL STOUER

Liz DeBraber's *For the World* exhibit demonstrated her wide-ranging artistic skills, including silk-dyeing, portrait painting, sewing and carpentry.

## Made to Create

For Liz (De Jong '93) DeBraber, worship and art are inextricably linked—from the time she was a child, drawing during church services, to last year when she staged a one-woman art show, *For the World*, at a church in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The show featured seven life-size female archetypes portraying themes conveying DeBraber's deep concern over the state of the world, from "Creation of the World" to "Poisoning of the World" to "Hope for the World." The sculptures demonstrated her wide-ranging artistic skills: silk-dyeing (to make the bodies), portrait painting (to make the faces), sewing, even a bit of carpentry.

DeBraber views the creative process as a means of feeling connected to God and to others. "The first verb in the Bible is *create*," she notes. True to that belief, she says the process of creating her show—from the Kickstarter campaign that funded it to the encouragement on social media as she documented her preparations—was as meaningful to her as the show itself.

"I couldn't have done it on my own," she says. "It was creating art in a community, which is a really profound experience, and that's how I think artwork should be created. I want to inspire people to find more love and beauty in the world because that points to the divine, and that's what I want my work to be: a beacon of light and love."

BY SHERRIE BARBER WILLSON '98

'01 **Matt Foss** received a Jeff Award, which recognizes excellence in Chicago theatre, for "best new adaptation." He wrote a theatrical version of Upton Sinclair's Chicago stockyards novel, *The Jungle*, which had a seven-week run last summer at the Oracle Theatre.

**The Rev. Justin Grimm** was named the director of evangelical mission for the Saint Paul (Minn.) Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He previously served as pastor of Advent Lutheran Church in Lake Ann, Mich.

'03 **Matt Williams** has been named head boys' basketball coach at Willmar (Minn.) High School. He was the program's sophomore coach the last six seasons. He also teaches communications.

'04 **Kylee (Veenis) Breems**, Sioux Falls, is the director of marketing communications for the Great Plains Zoo and Delbridge Museum of Natural History.

**Gabriel Franken** was among the nominees for a 2015 Jeff Award, which recognizes excellence in Chicago theatre. He and fellow cast members in *Balm in Gilead*, produced by the Griffin Theatre Company this spring, were nominated in the ensemble category.

**Kristin (Nikkel) Lewis** is an Educational Talent Search coordinator at Central College in Pella, Iowa. ETS is a federally funded program that encourages students to graduate from high school and enroll in post-secondary education.

'05 **Brent Mulder** is an Air Force chaplain stationed at Incirlik Air Base in Turkey. He earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from Erskine Theological Seminary in May.

**Alison (Sadler) Ter Horst** was one of the five finalists for the Sioux Falls School District's Dr. John W. Harris Teacher of the Year Award. A psychology teacher at Washington High School, she was nominated by an administrator. She also received the Spirit of Washington Award, given to a teacher in the high school who exemplifies courage and honor like a warrior.

**Courtney Wichtendahl** was featured on the Dave Ramsey Show on April 17 as she celebrated paying off nearly \$38,000 in debts in just two years. She was inspired by completing Financial Peace University online.

'06 **Jodi (Logterman) Arnold**, Kilgore, Neb., completed a master's degree in music education from the University of Nebraska Kearney in May. She is the music director for the Cody-Kilgore Unified School.

**The Rev. Richard Moore** is senior pastor of Bluff Hall Evangelical Free Church in Payson, Ill.

**Heather (Hoekstra) Sas** is the acquisitions and serials coordinator at NWC's DeWitt Library. She and her husband, Michael, have a son, Zander (2).

**Clint Wolthuisen** is the director of the Nobles County Library in Worthington, Minn. He previously served as director of the Rock County Library in Luverne.

'07 **Billi (Ellingson) Brahn** is a trust officer at Iowa State Bank in Urbandale. Her husband, Dave, teaches social studies for the Colfax-Mingo Community School District.

**Daniel Dekker** has been promoted to manager of the Spencer, Iowa, office of Williams and Company. He was previously a senior accountant there.

**Alicia Driscoll** recently passed the licensed clinical social worker exam. She is a clinician at the Center for Psychosocial Development in Anchorage, Alaska.

**Katie Smith**, Danville, Iowa, earned an M.B.A. from Colorado Technical University.

**Brady Woudstra** is the technology director for the Sioux Center Community School District. His wife, **Delainye (Hardersen '10)**, is the mentor coordinator for ATLAS in Orange City.

'08 **Randi Doescher** teaches fourth grade in Lake Andes, S.D.

# RAIDER DAYS!



## Homecoming and Parents Weekend October 2-3

### Come for the fun!

- Red Raider Road Race
- Morning on the Green family carnival
- Tailgate picnic
- Children's theatre
- Raider football vs. Morningside
- Games and reunions for former athletes (baseball, softball and golf)
- Reunions for the classes of '65, '75, '85, '90, '95, '05, '10 and '15

[nwciowa.edu/raider-days](http://nwciowa.edu/raider-days)

**Brock Jensen** serves as general manager of Orange City's Hampton Inn.

**Meggan (De Jong) Vasileiadou** has been a missionary in Athens, Greece, since graduating from NWC. She and her husband, Pavlos, serve at Greek Bible College and are involved in church planting in the heart of the city.

**Laura (Rensink) Vander Stelt** is the companion animal doctor at Orange City Veterinary Clinic.

'09 **Samantha (Olson) Nesper** is the graduate admissions manager for Daniels College of Business at the University of Denver.

'10 **Ben Kester** works in research and technology with Coaching Actuaries in Des Moines.

**The Rev. Andrew Klumpp** served as an instructor in Northwestern's religion department during the spring semester. He begins pursuit of a Ph.D. in religious studies at Southern Methodist University in Dallas this fall.

**Stephanie Lantz** teaches Spanish immersion kindergarten at Pella (Iowa) Christian Grade School. She spent a year teaching in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.

**Carrie (Muilenburg) Vander Schaaf** is an associate accountant for Van Bruggen and Vande Vegte in Orange City.

**Erin (Brogan) Vander Stelt** earned a master's degree in plant biology and conservation from Northwestern University and is working as a botanist with Cardno JFNew, an environmental consulting agency that specializes in wetlands mitigation. Her husband, **Bryce '11**, serves as minister of youth and young adults at Fellowship Reformed Church in Holland, Mich. They live in West Olive, Mich., with their daughter, Rose (1).

'11 **Laura (Denekas) Blancett**, Omaha, is the social services director of St. Joseph Villa Nursing and Rehab Center.

**Josh Locker** graduated in May from the University of Iowa's Carver College of Medicine. He will be in residency in orthopaedic surgery at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

**Tim Van Dyke**, a May graduate of the University of Iowa's Carver College of Medicine, will be a resident in general surgery at Saint Joseph Hospital SCL Health in Denver.

## SPEAK UP

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

Submit for consideration by Aug. 25 to:

Office of Public Relations • Northwestern College  
101 7th Street SW • Orange City, IA 51041  
[classic@nwciowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwciowa.edu) • [classic.nwciowa.edu](http://classic.nwciowa.edu)



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home/cell phone \_\_\_\_\_ Class year \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Current employer(s) \_\_\_\_\_

My news \_\_\_\_\_

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WES EISENHÄUER

Joe Hubers recently premiered his first feature-length film, *Of Minor Prophets*, which he directed and also edited. Set in the upper Midwest, the film showcases talent from across the country, including the sound-mixing expertise of George Lucas's Skywalker Sound.

## Of Minor Prophets

Among the Bible's colorful characters, Hosea stands out as unsuitable for Sunday school. God commanded Hosea to marry a prostitute. Their marriage was an object lesson for the Israelites, a visual of God's unconditional love, despite his chosen people's straying nature.

Joe Hubers '03 remembers his dad preaching about Hosea when he was a boy. "I didn't really grasp the sermon," he says, "but I was fascinated by it." As he grew older, Hubers understood Hosea's story as one of sacrifice, forgiveness and love—and his continuing fascination with it launched a film production company: From Here Pictures.

On a Saturday night in June, From Here Pictures' first feature-length film, directed by Hubers, premiered in his hometown of Sioux Falls. *Of Minor Prophets* stars Kris Kling '97 in the role of a church-going Iowa farmer and Cora Vander Broek '00 as an itinerant sex worker. Their characters—and their dubious relationship—are based loosely on the story of Hosea.

Theatre professor Jeff Barker wrote the script, and the film's cast and crew also includes Kimberlee Soo (Felton '94) and David White '92, Los Angeles; Rebecca Hanson-Ryder '98, Chicago; Jordan Born '11, Sioux Falls; and Ali Sondreal '13, Huron, S.D.

*Of Minor Prophets* is currently on the film festival circuit. Independent film fans interested in hosting a showing of the movie in their communities can contact Hubers. The film can also be pre-ordered via the film's website: ofminorprophets.com.

BY TAMARA FYNAARDT

'13 **Holly (Stewart) Sanchez Perry** is pursuing a law degree at DePaul University in Chicago.

**Jonathan Taves**, Rochester, Minn., is entering his third year in Mayo Clinic's Doctor of Physical Therapy degree program. His wife, **Janet (Pitsenberger '14)**, is a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital.

'14 **Charlotte Richards** is the direct care coordinator at The Bridge, a transitional housing program in Orange City.

**Gretchen Sutherland** is a nurse in a medical-surgical unit at Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs, Colo.

## New Arrivals

**Kelly (Van Haaften '00) and Kevin Jansma '99**, son, Henry Mark, joins Treyton (12) and Anderson (5)

Mei and **Jeff Fan '02**, daughter, Emma Brent and **Beth (Nikkel '02) Gaulke**, son, Miles David, joins Mason (7), Silas (4) and Kate (2)

Sara and **Judd Swensen '02**, daughter, Leah Jane, joins Anna (5) and Jack (2)

**Ashley (Ruppert '04) and Daniel De Witt '06**, son, Devin Jeffrey, joins Makenna (3)

**Anna (MacKay '04) and Steve Friese '03**, daughter, Ivy Faith, joins Evelyn (9), Naomi (7) and Isaiah (5)

Steven and **Kristin (Nikkel '04) Lewis**, son, Lorcan Savio, joins Hayden (3)

Matt and **Hannah (Zasadny '04) Lokenvitz**, daughter, Sydney Marie

Lee and **Heidi (Hagena '04) McCoy**, son, Gentry Austin, joins Bennett (4), Brigham (2) and Greta (1)

**Ethan (Wallinga '04) and Mike Pulscher '03**, son, Ethan Kenneth, joins Ellea (6), Alec (4) and Andrew (2)

Lance and **Kara (Dehmlow '05) Knaack**, daughter, Gracelyn Elizabeth, joins Lucan (4)

Caleb and **Leah (Seehusen '05) Stam**, daughter, Maria Leigh, joins Collin (2)

**Alison (Sadler '05) and Tim Ter Horst '05**, son, Cale Joseph

Ben and **Lori (Amos '05) Waldron**, son, Royce Wayne

Anthony and **Sarah (Hoops '06) Jackson**, daughter, Stacia Elizabeth, joins Nathaniel (2)

Elliott and **Emily (Spany '06) Malm**, son, Micah James, joins Cora (6) and Rebekah (4)

**Amanda (Brown '07) and Scott Brouwer '06**, son, Jonah Calvin

Levi and **Megan (Van Peursem '07) Bruins**, daughter, Maci Anne

**Lisa (Muilenburg '07) and Ben Vos '08**, son, Wesley Benjamin, joins Madalyn (2)

Sarah and **Ryan Jacobson '08**, son, Dane Micah

Carissa and **Brock Jensen '08**, daughter, Brooke Ann

Pavlos and **Meggan (De Jong '08)**

**Vasileiadis**, son, Theodore Brent

Caleb and **Britta (Kaltenbach '09) Berry**, daughter, Ella Marie

Chris and **Ashlea (Combs '09) Denton**, daughter, Magdalena Leanne, joins Henry (2)

**Chelsea (Stromley '10) and Jeff Regan '10**, son, Greyson Jeffrey

**Anne (Eberline '10) and Nate Summers '08**, son, Joel Nathan

Michael and **Carrie (Muilenburg '10) Vander Schaaf**, daughter, Hannah Marcé

Michael and **Tiffany (Vermeer '10) Van Roekel**, son, Robert Steven, joins Allison (2)

## Marriages

**Amanda Nunn '08 and Brian Heusinkveld '93**, Sioux Center

**Jacqueline Clark '11 and Kyle Roff**, Minneapolis

**Laura Denekas '11 and Travis Blancett**, Omaha

**Kathryn Miller '11 and Jason Sloan**, Madison, Wis.

**Heidi Gritters '15 and Eduardo Rodriguez '11**, Holland, Mich.

*The couples reside in the city listed.*

## In Memoriam

**Jake Wagenaar '40, '62**, age 93, of Sheldon, Iowa, died on Jan. 14. After graduating from Northwestern Junior College, he

served in the military. He farmed for many years, then returned to NWC and earned his degree in elementary education. He taught in Lakota and Hartley, Iowa, for 25 years. He also was a crop hail adjuster during the summers for 37 years. Among his survivors are four children, including **Harold '68** and **Ron '81**.

**Virginia (Cambier '41) Templeton**, Alton, Iowa, died June 4 at the age of 93. She graduated from Morningside College and taught for several years in Newkirk and Sioux City. She was the credit and office manager for Midwest Groceries in Laramie, Wyo., for many years. She was a member of Alton Presbyterian Church, where she sang in the choir, and was active in the Alton Historical Society.

**Wilbur Harmelink '46**, age 88, died May 11 in Orange City. He and his wife farmed northeast of Alton. He was a lifetime member of Orange City's First Reformed Church, where he served as an elder and deacon and participated in many mission trips. He is survived by three children, including **Sharon Hiemstra '76**; and three siblings, including **Jean Muyskens '50** and **Dennis '65**.

**Esther (DeVries '47) Top** died May 12 in Sioux City at age 89. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Ala., and taught for more than 40 years. She was a member of the Bard of Avon Book Club and the National Society of T.T.T., a service organization to help disadvantaged girls. She was active at First United Methodist Church in Montgomery and later Grace United Methodist Church in Sioux City. Her survivors include three children.

**Betty (Foreman '49) deHaas**, age 85, died Feb. 15 in Silver Spring, Md. She taught in the Orange City area before moving to Silver Spring. She was a member of Knox Orthodox Presbyterian Church. She is survived by her husband, **Newman '48**; two children; and a brother, **Marvin '58**.

**Lloyd Woelber '52** of Hull, Iowa, died May 8 at age 83. He spent 19 months in the Army and then earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa. He

taught math and physics in Hull before managing the Hull Cooperative Lumber Yard and starting a fencing business. He ended his teaching career in West Bend, Iowa, before returning to Hull, where he served as an elder and Sunday school teacher at First Reformed Church. He is survived by his wife, **Darlene (Ten Haken '51, '72)**, and three children, including **Lynn Bruxvoort '77**.

**The Rev. Curt Liesveld '73**, Lincoln, Neb., died May 16 at the age of 64. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary and a master's in counseling from the University of Nebraska. He served Reformed churches in Mitchell, S.D., and Lincoln before joining Gallup as a strengths coach. He co-wrote *Living Your Strengths: Discover Your God-Given Talents and Inspire Your Community*. Survivors include his wife, **Rosanne (Kats '73)**; two children, including **John '00**; three siblings, including **Sandy Westra '69**; and his parents.

**Loren Doppenberg '74** died at the age of 63 in Santa Rosa, Calif. He had a long career in journalism that included 20 years as a graphic artist at the *Press Democrat* in Santa Rosa, Calif., and 10 years in the art department of the *Des Moines Register*. Most recently he was a freelance illustrator and graphic designer. He also played guitar in rock and country bands for decades. Survivors include his wife, Jean Saylor Doppenberg, as well as his mother and brother.

**Cliff Leslie**, Northwestern's physical plant director from 1974 to 1990, died May 18 at the age of 86 in Orange City. A Navy veteran, he farmed and operated a painting company before joining Northwestern's staff. In retirement, he was active on mission trips doing flood recovery work. Among his survivors are his wife, **Wilma (Van Wyk '45, '66)**, and four children.



CRAFTS PHOTOGRAPHY

English teacher Mary-Celeste Schreuder, recipient of the 2015 Upper School Teacher of the Year Award from the South Carolina Independent School Association, loves introducing her students to great literature.

## Teacher of the Year

As a first-year teacher at an inner-city Nashville middle school, Mary-Celeste (Korte '05) Schreuder received an abrupt call from the principal: "You can't send any more students to my office," he said. "Handle it in your classroom."

Shocked and nervous, she brainstormed methods to alleviate the disruption caused in her class by students headed toward becoming gang members. Ironically, an elementary school behavioral chart with the promise of a Christmas party as a reward was all it took.

That was the biggest challenge in Schreuder's decade-long career—a career that led her to one of England's most elite boys' schools and now to a Christian school in Anderson, S.C., where she teaches high school English. She has exhibited her passion for her job and students in each setting, a trait that won her the 2015 Upper School Teacher of the Year Award from the South Carolina Independent School Association. She is the first finalist and winner from her 20-year-old school.

After her initial surprise, Schreuder's response turned to deep gratification. "Looking back at my career, I stand amazed at the utter failures and amazing triumphs I have experienced," she wrote as part of the nomination process. "Yet the essence of teaching—to inspire, love, heal and serve—has never left the core of my heart. To touch the mind and soul of another human is the greatest of all privileges."

BY BETH (NIKKEL '02) GAULKE



# Classic Thoughts

## Ripple Effect

BY JAYME ROZEBOOM '12

I wanted my son's name to have meaning and a purpose. Last October my wife and I were blessed with the birth of Jett Derrick Rozeboom. "Jett" continues the letter "J" first name from my grandpa, James, to my dad, Jay '84, to me. Derrick was chosen to inspire Jett to be courageous and strong like the late Derrick Rensink '11.

I knew Derrick long before we met at NWC. He was hard to miss, standing 6 feet 6 and weighing 250 pounds. Competing against him on the gridiron and hardwood in high school was not fun. His presence was definitely felt.

Our first real conversation was memorable. As a nervous freshman on the Northwestern football team, I reported for three-a-days ready to take on the grueling 300-yard shuttles. I went all out and

felt miserable afterward. When Derrick came over to introduce himself and shake hands, I puked about an inch from his white Nikes. But he just laughed and said, "It's all good."

We hit it off immediately and grew to have a special bond. Derrick lived on my Colenbrander wing, and we took numerous education classes together. We met up regularly in the summer to run routes. We built a relationship not only as a quarterback and tight end, but as friends. He took me under his wing and made me feel I was part of something special.

Derrick and I took jobs at South O'Brien Elementary in the fall of 2012. I taught special education and Derrick fourth grade, his room located directly above mine. I thorough enjoyed hearing through the ceiling his students laughing and yelling.

The respect and love Derrick's students had for him was incredible. He truly embodied the "Teacher as Servant" philosophy of Northwestern's education department. He respected and loved his students, and it was contagious.

All of the students in the elementary school knew Mr. Rensink by name. No other teacher had to bend down as far to give a kindergartner a high-five. The

life he brought to his students and our staff was unprecedented. Each of his students went home feeling better about themselves than when they arrived.

When Derrick told me he was going to coach high school girls' basketball, I laughed. The intensity and intimidation he brought to the football field were enough to make me almost cry, let alone a group of teenage girls. Boy, was I wrong. Derrick was the ultimate head coach.

The girls fell in love with his up-tempo/high-intensity coaching style. From the minute he stepped on the court, he showed how much he truly cared about them. They played their hearts out as a result. Sure, he sometimes barked at them, but they knew he did so to encourage their best effort—on the court and in life.

Shortly after Derrick died in an auto accident in May 2013, I was asked to take over as coach. I thought of every excuse in the book to say no, but God kept bringing me back to it. It was one of the most challenging things I have ever done—and one of the best athletic experiences I've been a part of. The players and I developed a bond, in part through embracing our pain in the loss of Derrick. We were there to build each other up and carry on his name. God brought healing through this experience.

Northwestern's education department emphasizes the impact teachers and coaches can have on students, but it isn't something you can fully understand until you experience it. Derrick epitomized impact.

Derrick was known at South O'Brien for asking: "What will your wake be?" Like a boat, your journey and actions have an impact on those around you. What will your wake be? Derrick not only asked the question, he showed by his actions what it takes to impact others.


Derrick's ability to make a person feel part of something important will linger for a long time. My son will be proud to know of his great namesake. I pray he will inspire others the way Derrick inspired me every day.

**Jayme Rozeboom taught and coached in the South O'Brien (Iowa) Community School District for three years. This fall he will be teaching fourth grade in Rock Valley and serving as an assistant football coach.**



LISA (GROUND '84) RENSINK

Fast friends at Northwestern, Jayme Rozeboom (No. 4) and Derrick Rensink (No. 7) were first-year teachers at the same elementary school before Derrick died in an auto accident.



Graduated a semester early.  
Now using his finance degree  
as an **account manager**.

Spent summers doing  
research with NWC  
biology profs. Now  
**in medical school**,  
University of Iowa.

Was NWC's student  
government president.  
Currently **on staff for**  
**a U.S. senator**.

Put his computer  
skills to work in  
missions. Now  
**programming**  
**for Pella Corp.**

# Expect **BIG** things

Life is more than making a living. God has a plan for you, and it lies at the intersection of what you do best and what the world needs most.

**That place is your calling.** Helping you find it is ours.

Alumni and friends, if you know a student who would be a good fit for Northwestern, please let the admissions office know at [nwcsiowa.edu/refer-a-student](http://nwcsiowa.edu/refer-a-student).

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# Summer Intern



DOUG BURIG

Kierstyn Marker, a senior majoring in genetics, molecular biology and cell biology, is among 15 Northwestern students working as Carlson Interns this summer. Established by entrepreneur Todd Carlson '89, the Carlson Internship Program matches the college's brightest students with

top employers around the country—from Southern California and Chicago to Detroit and Omaha—in internships that provide both a salary and academic credit.

Marker was placed at GELITA USA in Sergeant Bluff, Iowa, where she's learning about proper commercial lab

procedures and safety, as well as how to produce large quantities of bacterial media.

"The media I make is used in testing the gelatin for bacterial and fungal contaminations to ensure the highest quality gelatin is produced," she explains. "My internship is providing

me with lab experience, references and possible future job opportunities. It would be a great experience with or without pay—but the pay is an added bonus."