The Radio Signal
Former Northwestern president publishes memoir about life in Nazi Germany

Also
Coly Alums Hang Out on Google
Campus Ministry’s New Leader
Intramural Games and Names
On the Cover: Photos taken in the 1940s document the experiences of former Northwestern President Friedhelm Radandt and his family as war refugees.

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

Shepherding Generation Z
New Director of Christian Formation Mark DeYounge talks about what the next generation needs in worship and spiritual guidance.

The Radio Signal
A book by former President Friedhelm Radandt tells of his childhood experiences as a refugee in Nazi Germany during World War II.

Five Guys
Relationships that began 39 years ago in Colenbrander Hall have remained strong, thanks to a technology that wasn’t around back then—Google Hangout.

Cultural Exchange
For more than 20 years, the Summer Institute for International Students helped students improve their English and prepare for college-level study in the U.S.

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On the Web
Have you and your NWC friends found ways to keep in touch over the years, like the “Five Guys” (p. 24)? Share your story and comments about any article in this issue.

visit classic.nwciowa.edu
Arguing for Faith in Science

Five Northwestern professors published essays exploring the interactions of faith with science in the May/June issue of Perspectives: A Journal of Referenced Thought. Biology professors Dr. Laura Fudlong, Dr. Byron Noordewier and Dr. Sara Sylvestre ‘84 Tolsma each wrote essays arguing that faith and science are not in conflict—as 59 percent of Americans believe—but rather that each illuminates the other. “...[S]cience and Scripture complement one another and, when integrated, affirm the truth I find in both,” wrote Tolsma.

Dr. James Mead and his new religion department colleague Dr. Jason Lief ’66 also contributed to Perspectives. Their essays argued that Christians should approach the Bible—including passages like Genesis 1—with humility and a spirit of discovery. Lief wrote, “Often the problem is we think we know what Scripture says, only to be surprised again and again when we actually read it.”

Tolsma and Lief are co-editors of Perspectives. The May/June issue can be read online at perspectivesjournal.org

Part of History

Reading the article “Having a Ball” was a quick trip down memory lane. I was a saxophone player in the Jazz Band in 1986, and I remember we prepared several sets of music, not knowing for sure what to expect at the first dance. As I recall, the night went very well. I graduated that May and was not aware the ballroom dance had become a tradition. Awesome!

Jean Holman ’96
Weslaco, Texas

Thankful

Thank you so much for printing an update on Brittany Vollmer. I have often wondered over the years how she is doing. It is good to know she has so many people in her life who love and support her. That has always been my prayer for her.

Earl (Siegner ’56) Guyer
Norwalk, Iowa

Moved

I was nearly bowled over my eyes at my desk while reading your article about Brittany Vollmer when a student ambled in from the lockers to ask a question and said, “Oh no! Mr. Smith, are you all right?” Great piece. So well-written. Thank you.

After reading it, I kept thinking about Jeff Barker’s play, Terror Texts, now called A Holy Terror, and the fact that even in our darkest and most tragic moments, the presence and grace of God is somehow present. I lost my mother to cancer when I was a sophomore at Northwestern. Years later, I can see I am a better husband, parent and teacher from having gone through that painful experience. I don’t like “everything happens for a reason” theology. Instead, the truth I cling to is that tragedy, loss, pain, separation—and ultimately death—is never God’s final word. There is always light in the darkness, and I thought Tamara Fynaardt captured that truth well in Brittany’s story.

Daniel Smith ’99
Marshall, Idaho

EDITOR’S NOTE: Many people wrote personal notes to Brittany in the comments section of the online story at classic.nwciowa.edu/brittany and reached out to her in other ways. She expresses her appreciation for the encouragement and support she has received following publication of the Classic article.

WE LOVE GETTING MAIL
Send letters to: Classic, NWC, 101 7th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041; email: classic@nwciowa.edu. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please include an address and daytime phone number.
Husbands Takes Baton for Academic Program

When Mark Husbands enrolled at Toronto's York University as a freshman, he was a talented trumpet player seeking a career as a professional jazz musician. Then he took a class called Jesus and Interpretation.

"I was introduced to the larger thinkers of Christianity—Augustine, Luther, Calvin—and realized they had the same questions I had," he says. "I saw the Christian faith as an invitation into a large conversation with the past and developed an intellectual life that was fully grounded in the church."

Husbands' experience led him to a vocation that included master's and doctoral degrees in religion and a career as a theology professor. And it gave him a desire to help others offer their whole selves to God as an act of worship.

"God wants and needs everything put under the discipline of grace. There's immense joy in seeing one's life as an integrated whole," he says. "With God, there is no fear of failure or humiliation while still remaining true to his own convictions to make decisions and to implement them. I admire his ability to listen trustworthy. He is a great listener who seeks consensus but is not afraid to those with whom he disagrees and to proceed without rancor."

"Mark will bring a professionalism and a deep care for each person," says the Rev. Dr. Trygve Johnson '96, Hope's Hinga-Boersma Dean of the Chapel. "Those who work with him during the last nine years at Hope College say he'll do the best.

"Mark is an accomplished academic—well-read, comfortably in the world of ideas, and engaging with people. He is both transparent and trustworthy. He is a great listener who seeks consensus but is not afraid to make decisions and to implement them. I admire his ability to listen to those with whom he disagrees and to proceed without rancor or humiliation while still remaining true to his own convictions and values. My prediction is he will build on Northwestern's considerable academic strengths and lead the college to new levels of excellence."

A member of the Reformed Church in America's Commission on Theology who has edited seven books, Husbands says he is impressed by Northwestern's faculty and staff. "I have deep respect for what is happening here," he says. "It is a privilege to promote an intellectual life that was fully grounded in the church."

"It is a privilege to promote an intellectual life that was fully grounded in the church."
Rather than telling us the ‘right’ answers, Dr. VanDerWerff challenges us to think about how a Christian should seek justice.”

“I want students to understand why they believe what they believe,” says the professor. “On occasion we might need to be politically inconsistent to be biblically consistent. I don’t think either party has a complete lockdown on the truth.”

The Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award is given to an honoree selected by student leaders with input from select faculty members. Joining VanDerWerff as finalists this year were: Dr. Tim McGarvey music; Dr. Byron Nordvenience, biology; Dr. Jackie Smallbones, religion; and Dr. John Vonder Bruegge, religion.

Dr. Sara Sybren '84 Tolena, professor of biology, has been appointed to the Northwestern College Endowed Professorship. The professorship will provide annual funds to support her scholarly work. A member of the faculty since 1995, Tolena received the Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award in 2015. Her research efforts in cancer genetics and cell biology have been widely published in scientific journals and she has earned a number of awards. Her current research has included a study of mutagenic genetic variations in northwest Iowa watersheds and the anti-proliferative effects of plant extracts on human tumor cells in vitro.

The co-editor of Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought, Tolsma has written a cell and molecular genetics textbook for non-science majors, as well as an adult Sunday school curriculum on the ethics of genetic technologies. She is also the director of a new one-year graduate genetics and genomics online program Northwestern is beginning this school year.

Tolena earned a doctoral degree in microbiology, immunology and virology from Northwestern University. Her five-year appointment will begin in the fall. Among previous recipients of the professorship are Dr. Laird Edman, psychology; Dr. Keith Fynne, English; and Jeff Barker, theatre and speech.
Most Valuable Employee

Amanda Kundert had a decided edge in the voting for this year’s Staff Inspirational Service Award. She works for three offices on campus—simultaneously—and does so in a way that makes others eager to hire her whenever there’s an opening on a need.

Kundert joined Northwestern’s staff in 2011 when her husband, Corey, was hired as the resident director of West Hall. Her education and experience led to a half-time position as an administrative assistant in the public relations office, but soon she was writing news releases and articles for the Classic, helping with Northwestern’s social media presence, setting up photo shoots and doing design.

Kundert’s productivity, efficiency and organizational skills were recognized by staff in the PR office—as well as those in both the education department and Northwestern’s Graduate School & Adult Learning, who hired her to work additional hours in their offices. In the education department, Kundert helped prepare for an accreditation site visit, leading data collection and organizing travel and schedules for 13 reviewers.

“The site visitors recognized her as one of the assets of the department,” says Dr. Adrienne Forgette, former dean of the faculty. “She enables competence and care, and her service is truly exceptional and inspirational.”

Dr. Rebecca Hory, director of the Graduate School & Adult Learning, says Kundert consistently exceeds expectations. During the Northwesterners Leadership Series last August, there was an attendee who had difficulty with mobility. “Amanda took it upon herself to accompany that registrant to every session,” says Hory. “She ate lunch with her, lent her arm up stairs and made small talks with this participant both days. It was the most caring, human, kind act.”

Supporting Role


Amanda Kundert contributes creativity, productivity, and efficiency to the PR office, education department and Graduate School & Adult Learning. Kendert received the college’s 2016 Staff Inspirational Service Award recipient.

Continuing Education

Making good on its promise to promote lifelong learning, Northwestern is offering continuing education opportunities through the college’s Graduate School & Adult Learning. This spring and summer Northwestern hosted a youth trauma playwriting and discussion and offered a Disabilities Institute for teachers. Medical interpreters participated in a licensure test-preparation workshop.

Upcoming continuing education opportunities include an ethics conference for social workers and an opportunity for teachers to earn graduate credit by attending an Iowa Association for the Education of the Young Children institute.

Visit online.nwciowa.edu for continuing education information and registration.

Serving Over Summer

Fourteen Northwestern students spent their summers as summer team missionaries through the college’s Summer of Service program. Students served with mission agencies in countries, including Ghana, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain, Uganda, the U.K., and within the areas of education and eastern Europe.

For at least six weeks, students served their summers as summer team missionaries through the college’s Summer of Service program. Students served with mission agencies in countries, including Ghana, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain, Uganda, the U.K., and within the areas of education and eastern Europe.

What is your favorite memory from your time in residence life?

When watching a freshman who was on the verge of getting kicked out for behavior give his life fully to Christ and later become the hall chaplain. My years in West Hall were rich, and I still keep in touch with a number of former students. Having a front-row seat to spiritual transformation in so many lives displayed the power of a residential Christian college setting.

What are some of your hobbies?

Fishing and hunting pheasant and deer top the list, but I love anything outdoors. My favorite place is the Boundary Waters, which was introduced to me by Dave Nonnemacher while I was an RD. I also like to read, garden and play with my kids. I enjoy athletics, with baseball at the top of that list.

You’re a big fan of the television show Survivor. When did that obsession begin?

I used to gather with fellow RDs to watch the show. I believe it was Emily (Gosselink ’05, himself a former student of Barker’s) who introduced me to Survivor. I watched the first season, and since then, 30 seasons and 15 years later, we still watch every episode with a group of current RDs. In fact, I proposed to my wife (Carrie Oddell ’03) during a Survivor-themed evening. The show has been a weekly highlight for our family, and it helps to stay connected to some of the residence life staff.

Eric Anderson

What is your favorite memory from your time in residence life?

When my obsession began?

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What’s the most rewarding part of working in financial aid?

I enjoy helping students make the NWC experience a reality from the financial aid, and I also find it rewarding to serve families in crisis. I’ve had many meaningful conversations and opportunities to pray with families and help them as they walk through death, divorce, job losses and other tough situations. I’m thankful to be in a place where we can often do something to help.

“ compost, celebrate, guide and mentor students,” theatre professor Drew Schmidt ‘05, himself a former student of Barker’s, wrote. “I am inspired. I hope one day someone says the same about you.”
Around the Green

Northwestern Classic

Bill Minnick, director of career development, is the new president of Career Professionals of Iowa (CPI).

In his new role, Minnick will provide vision and strategic planning for an association of career development professionals at all of the state’s public and private colleges and universities—from community colleges to four-year institutions. He will also work with a five-member leadership team to plan future events and professional development for CPI members.

Minnick has been a member of Career Professionals of Iowa since 1999, the year he joined Northwestern’s staff after serving as assistant director of career services at the University of Sioux Falls.

Easy Being Green

For the ninth year in a row, Northwestern has been recognized by the Groundwater Foundation as a Groundwater Guardian Green Site for its environmental stewardship.

Only three other colleges nationwide are considered Groundwater Guardian Green Sites, with NWC as the only Iowa college meeting the organization’s standards for responsible use of chemicals, pollution prevention and water quality.

A number of energy-efficient and waste-reducing improvements have been made to campus over the last few years, including the installation of motion sensor lighting fixtures, high-efficiency boilers, landscaping with drought-hardy plants, and water-bottle filling stations that both lessen plastic bottle waste and encourage the use of refillable containers.

“We are again delighted to be listed as a Groundwater Guardian Green Site,” said Chad Miller, Northwestern’s director of environmental health. “The entire maintenance department is dedicated to maintaining an immaculate campus while protecting water quality.”

Reaccreditation

Northwestern’s commitment to its mission, financial stability, strong faculty and well-maintained campus were among the strengths cited by the report of the Higher Learning Commission in its notification this spring that NWC has been reaccredited.

The decision follows a November campus visit in which an evaluation team met with faculty, staff, students, board members, alumni and community leaders in response to a self-study developed during an 18-month process.

In its report, the accreditation team said Northwestern is firmly driven by its mission and has “thought carefully about how its mission applies to all of its constituents, whether onsite or online.” The report said Northwestern’s programs offer a consistent, high-quality education in which “instruction is strong and is facilitated by a well-qualified and credentialed faculty with a passionate commitment” to their work.

Numerous interviews with faculty during the visit also reinforced the idea that Northwestern has a strong identity as a Christian school, and it not only encourages but demands that students examine their beliefs and worldview,” wrote the evaluators.

The report praised the college’s resources: “Northwestern has an exceptional physical plant with essentially no deferred maintenance. Their classrooms and laboratories are well-equipped, and the buildings and grounds are well-maintained … Their overall financial stability is illustrated in [a] Composite Financial Index … well above the average … a modest $5 million debt, a $40 million endowment, and the successful completion of a recent $54 million capital campaign.”

A Time for Celebration

Commencement 2016

NUMBER OF GRADUATES
254

TRIPLE MAJOR
James Rucker—chemistry, humanities and mathematics

SIBLINGS
Regina and Tracey Steffen, Nathan and Natalie Wheeler

COUNTRIES OF GRADUATES
Canada, China, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Mexico, U.S., Vietnam

TOP FIVE DEGREES AWARDED
Business (41), education (39), kinesiology (32), nursing (24), biology (20)

SPEAKER
The Rev. Jill ‘96 Ver Steeg, coordinator for transformational equipping for the Reformed Church in America

For the ninth year in a row, Northwestern has been recognized by the Groundwater Foundation as a Groundwater Guardian Green Site for its environmental stewardship.

Northwestern has been named a Groundwater Guardian Green Site for the ninth consecutive year.
New Major in Music and Worship Leadership

In an effort to better prepare musicians for worship leadership roles in the church, Northwestern will launch a major in music and worship leadership this fall.

The major will include a variety of courses in music, religion and theatre to help give graduates a strong understanding of biblical worship, the creativity to frame and shape worship services, and the ability to work with and train others in technology.

“I’m excited about this opportunity for Northwestern to serve the church by preparing young people who are passionate about worship leadership and gifted through theological training and hands-on experience for the practice of music ministry,” says Dr. Thomas Holm, professor of music.

The major replaces the music worship ministry internship. The new major provides strong musical knowledge, theological training and hands-on experience for future worship leaders.

Comfort Food

Twins have tried to trick her. Look-alike siblings or cousins sometimes gave her pause. Still, it was rare for Kathy (Bonnecroy ’73) Meendering to get a name wrong once she knew it. Northwestern’s cafeteria cashier, who scanned her last student ID in May, was known for greeting every one of the students who came through her lunch line by name.

For more on Raider sports, visit nwraiders.com
GAME TIME

When classes are out, it's time to school opponents in intramural. Casual athletes team up to play around 20 sports, including old favorites like flag football and slow-pitch softball and new trends like spike ball and Kan Jam (horseshoes with slotted cans and Frisbees). They get sweaty playing racquetball and strategic playing Rock. They get creative coming up with clever team names like "How I Set Your Mother," "Hoop, There It Is" and "Scared Hillies."
Alum aims to keep Northwestern students trained on Jesus

Mark DeYounge ’08 is Northwestern’s new director of Christian formation. In addition to leading chapel worship and providing pastoral care to students, he will work alongside campus ministry staff to plan and lead discipleship and mission opportunities that contribute to students’ Christian growth and calling. A business administration major and captain of the Red Raider basketball team while at Northwestern, DeYounge served in parachurch ministry in Colorado Springs and Sioux Falls before becoming director of discipleship at Sioux Center’s First Reformed Church. He earned a graduate certificate in youth and family ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary and is enrolled in Western Seminary’s distance learning Master of Divinity program. He plans to graduate in May 2017 and pursue ordination in the Reformed Church in America. The Classic interviewed DeYounge to learn more about his vision for college students and their faith development.

Clatskin: In what ways are you a good fit for your new role at Northwestern College?

DeYounge: I have a real passion for the next generation. I love Northwestern’s mission: to equip the next generation to not be disen-gaged from the world, not reactive, but to be confident—courageous and faithful, as we say—to really trust that Christ in them has the power to transform the world. Christ staked it all on the church, and today’s church isn’t abounding in 20-somethings. I’m excited by that opportunity for growth.

What unique challenges is this next generation facing? And are they different than those faced by previous generations of teens and 20-somethings?

I’m not sure the issues are so unique or different, but the pace at which—and “spaces” in which—today’s youth have to interact with their culture are very different. We’re created with a deep desire to be known and to belong. Social media has changed the landscape for being known and belonging in ways no previous generation has experienced. Today’s young people are more connected than ever—and yet statistics suggest many of them are anxious and feel deep loneliness.

What do Gen Z-ers want from corporate worship—and what do they need?

We’re a consumeristic culture. Not just young people. Most of us are. We show up for worship with the same consumeristic, “market-to-me” expectations we bring to Best Buy or television programming. We want me-centered worship that caters to our individuality and entertainment preferences. But when it comes to worship, the greatest satisfaction comes when it’s not about us. When we lose ourselves in experiencing the height of God’s glory in worship, we experience the height of our design as humans. And we get what we need.

Unlike some Christian colleges, Northwestern continues to require students to attend chapel. What is your view on the value of that requirement?

Worship is one of the necessary rhythms in the Christian life. We’re sent out to live worshipfully in our daily lives; we’re gathered regularly to worship as a community. Sent and gathered, sent and gathered. Chapel is so vital because the community needs to gather. And students may not realize or always appreciate it, but they’re so privileged that the rhythm at Northwestern includes regular chances to gather for worship. They have to show up—which is a big deal, a demonstration of faithfulness—even when they don’t feel like it. Faithfulness includes holding each other accountable to the things we value, and at Northwestern we value worshiping as a community because it’s part of the call of Christ.

At a Christian college like Northwestern, students’ understanding of their academic discipline is challenged in order to lead to growth; likewise, their understanding of the Christian faith might be challenged to provoke growth. How will you guide and counsel students who come to you because they’ve encountered new learning that makes them uncomfortable?

Learning can be messy. It takes some serious courage to integrate faith and learning—to not be afraid in the face of new information or questions you can’t answer yet. As the students’ pastor, I hope my presence and counsel is of great comfort. I think of Peter walking on the water. Nothing Peter had previously been taught or experienced would have led him to believe he could walk on water. But when Jesus invited him to come, Peter stepped out of the boat. Throughout their four years at Northwestern, students will be asked to “step out of the boat” into unchartered waters. When Peter looked away from Jesus, the waves overwhelmed him. He needed to keep his gaze on Jesus. We don’t have to have boxed-up, perfect Christian answers for everything, because the Christian journey isn’t about having water-tight explanations or arguments. God isn’t a problem to solve; he’s a person to fall in love with.
TODAY MORE PEOPLE ARE LIVING AS REFUGEES than at any time since World War II. In 1945, Friedhelm Radandt was one of them. The man who would serve as president of Northwestern from 1979 to 1985 was a boy of 12 when his family fled their home in Neustettin, Germany, to escape the advancing Russian army. Radandt’s newly published book, *The Radio Signal*, tells the stories of his family and that of his future wife, Elizabeth, as they struggled to survive while staying true to their Christian faith.

AS THE BOOK BEGINS, Friedhelm’s father, Ernst, is stationed in Italy with the German army; his 16-year-old sister, Gisela, is in another village serving as a nanny; and his 14-year-old brother, Ernst-August, has been drafted and is serving as a soldier with Germany’s National Socialist Motor Corps. When the Russian army advances on Neustettin, Ernst-August brings Friedhelm, his mother, Gertrud, and his little sister to a public square where buses are waiting to evacuate a small, privileged group of people.

As soon as they were seated on the bus, Gertrud remembered the bag she had packed for her husband. In their hurry to evacuate, they had forgotten to bring it along.

“Your father’s suitcase,” she murmured. “We cannot leave it behind.”

Gertrud didn’t know if the Radandts would ever return to Neustettin or how much of the town would even survive the onslaught of the oncoming Russian soldiers. If Ernst were going to have any personal effects when he returned from the war, they would have to go back for that suitcase.

The officer in charge at the Hindenburgplatz assured her that, despite the apparent hurry, they still had plenty of time.

Gertrud turned to Friedhelm. “I need you to go back for the case.”

Feeling a rush of fear mingled with excitement, Friedhelm nodded. He hopped out of the bus and started half-walking, half-running back to his home.

He found the suitcase exactly where his mother had said it would be. Back outside in the bitter cold, Friedhelm placed the suitcase onto his sled and pulled it behind him through town, across the snow and ice.

Thoughts of the bus made him a little fearful. Where would the bus take them? What would become of his family? At least he wasn’t alone. The war had a way of ripping families apart, and Friedhelm was thankful to have his mother, brother and younger sister close.

But when Friedhelm turned the corner into the Hindenburgplatz, the square was empty and utterly silent. The icy, deserted street glittered in the moonlight.

The buses were gone.

Family members of Elizabeth Job, who would meet and marry Friedhelm Radandt after the war, listen to the news on a Philips radio. Both Elizabeth’s grandfather (front, in top left photo) and father (not pictured) worked for the Dutch electronics firm Philips in Warsaw, Poland, where the latter was in charge of the development and manufacturing of radio tubes.
FRIEDHELM WAS JUST THREE MONTHS OLD when Adolf Hitler was appointed chancellor of Germany and the Nazi Party came into power. With a growing family, Ernst Radandt takes a part-time job with Kraft durch Freude (KdF), an organization designed to help build the Germany economy. The KdF also encourages the purchase of a Volksempfänger, or people’s radio, so Hitler and the Nazi Party can reach into the homes of as many Germans as possible. Ernst does well in his job—even purchasing a Volksempfänger radio for his family—and as a result, is offered a promotion. But first he must complete a questionnaire detailing his lineage in order to prove his Aryan descent. He must also help identify the town’s Jewish shop owners and join a troop of Nazis in parading them around town while calling on its citizens to boycott Jewish businesses.

BECAUSE OF HIS REFUSAL to send his sons to Hitler’s boarding schools, Ernst receives word he is to be stationed on the Eastern Front. But thanks to a friendship with a high-ranking military officer, he is instead assigned a desk job in Italy. It is while Ernst is in Italy that Friedhelm is left behind when his family is evacuated from Neustettin. The boy heads north on foot, away from the approaching Russian army, and is eventually reunited with his mother and little sister. Older sister Gisela, in the meantime, has her own experience with Russian troops.

ERNST’S DECISION RESULTS in reprisals. He loses his job. Needing to make a living and to provide safety for his family, he joins the German army—the one part of German society that maintains some autonomy from the Nazis—and is stationed in Neustettin as a recruiting officer. Then, one Sunday, while worshiping with other Christians in their home, the Radandts hear two Nazis knocking on their door.

But [Ernst] could not bring himself to persecute the Jews. His faith wouldn’t allow it. It was clear to him that the Bible’s dictates were not compatible with what the Nazis asked of him.

He had to decide whether to be true to his Christian faith or to actively support the anti-Semitic stance of the Third Reich. [Ernst] felt a tingle of fear for himself and for his family, but he had no doubt about what to do. He left the questionnaire incomplete and told the Nazis he didn’t want their job. As for what would come next, Ernst could only put his trust in God.
She didn’t know where to take her next step. The slush was too uneven; there was no way to guess the state of the ice underneath. Then she heard the voices of the Russian men behind her, and she stomped her mother, it’s better to fall through the ice, she thought to herself, than to wait here and be captured. She took a step, and then another, until she reunited with the rest of the Schütze family at the line of trees along the far side of the lake.

The Russians stood at the opposite bank, watching the fleeing family and stepping their feet tentatively onto the frozen snow. Deciding it wasn’t worth the risk, they turned around and went back into the house. Gisela and the Schützes were safe—for now.

In the Waning Days of the War, Ernst Radandt’s unit is called back to Germany. Scanning his office one final time before heading out, Ernst discovers a sack of mail delivered that day—and in it, miraculously, letters from both his wife and his eldest daughter telling him where they had found refuge. After Germany surrenders, Ernst is reunited with his wife and learns from Ernst-August’s former commander that the Radandts’ oldest son is trapped in Russian territory. Ernst sends word he will be waiting for Ernst-August on the British side of the border.
T
he police officer, amused, suggested that surely five guys from Northwestern College would know its fight song, and perhaps he’d be persuaded to scrimp the speeding ticket if they gave a performance.

John Rundquist ’99, driver of his buddies and wearer of a bicycle helmet—more on that later—invented, in essence, the first notes of a song he didn’t know. Scott Bahrie ’01, Troy Banning ’03, Stan De Zeeuw ’01 and Craig Paulsen ’00 joined in, singing the made-up lyrics with gusto.

The cop, sufficiently entertained, let them go.

John was resident assistant (RA) of 2E Colenbrander Hall from the fall of 1997 to spring of ’99. He noticed a certain four men always attended the events he organized, from Bible studies to a Kool-Aid drink-off. The five soon developed a special bond and began planning activities for themselves, such as a road trip to Galveston, Texas, to sing karaoke and drive right back—adding oil at every gas stop to the van they had borrowed from an Orange City family.

Trips often involved a “dare”—hence the bicycle helmet worn while driving a car, or Scott’s mission to walk to the counter of a vitamin store, flex his biceps, and ask, “What have you got for three?”

John’s two years went by quickly; when he graduated, he chose a teaching position in Omaha over one in Wichita to be closer to the guys. Troy took over as RA. Just before the last of the men would graduate, John’s infant nephew died unexpectedly. The funeral was held in Minnesota.

To John’s surprise, Scott and his future wife, Lynsay (Henderson ’02), walked in.

“We had to be here for you.”

“Tell that to my wife,” Troy retorted.

John didn’t think twice about skipping that week after John’s wedding, and eventually married her. Troy’s wedding, and eventually married hers.

Scott married Lynsay the week after John’s wedding, and John didn’t think twice about interrupting his honeymoon in Estes Park, Colo., to head back to Orange City for the ceremony. (His wife, Celeste, knew what she was getting into; one by one, the guys had walked John down the aisle to her, solemnly playing off what was only partly a joke: “I wanted them to have a big part in my wedding,” he says.)

There would be 18 kids born to this group of friends, but with miscarriages and stalled adoption procedures along the way. The men stood by each other through the heartaches of adulthood with the same devotion that bonded them to each other in their youth.

The men would become teachers (John and Stan), a hospital IT manager (Troy), Northwestern’s head cross country and track and field coach (Scott), and a senior implementation manager in finance (Craig). And now when jobs and families make road trips harder to manage, technology comes to the rescue: They meet on Google Hangouts on the third Tuesday of each month to stay accountable, just as they did late nights in Coly.

“I go to them for advice on being a better husband, parent and leader in my church,” Scott says. “We pray for each other and we meet on Google Hangouts—might not have happened had John needed his backup plan. A struggling student in high school, John wasn’t convinced he’d be accepted into a four-year college. He was ready to work on a farm or drive a truck, but Northwestern, he

FIVE GUYS

Technology helps alumni hang out long after their years in Coly

by Amy Scheer

he police officer, amused, suggested that surely five guys from Northwestern College would know its fight song, and perhaps he’d be persuaded to scrimp the speeding ticket if they gave a performance.

John Rundquist ’99, driver of his buddies and wearer of a bicycle helmet—more on that later—invented, in essence, the first notes of a song he didn’t know. Scott Bahrie ’01, Troy Banning ’03, Stan De Zeeuw ’01 and Craig Paulsen ’00 joined in, singing the made-up lyrics with gusto.

The cop, sufficiently entertained, let them go.

John was resident assistant (RA) of 2E Colenbrander Hall from the fall of 1997 to spring of ’99. He noticed a certain four men always attended the events he organized, from Bible studies to a Kool-Aid drink-off. The five soon developed a special bond and began planning activities for themselves, such as a road trip to Galveston, Texas, to sing karaoke and drive right back—adding oil at every gas stop to the van they had borrowed from an Orange City family.

Trips often involved a “dare”—hence the bicycle helmet worn while driving a car, or Scott’s mission to walk to the counter of a vitamin store, flex his biceps, and ask, “What have you got for three?”

John’s two years went by quickly; when he graduated, he chose a teaching position in Omaha over one in Wichita to be closer to the guys. Troy took over as RA. Just before the last of the men would graduate, John’s infant nephew died unexpectedly. The funeral was held in Minnesota.

To John’s surprise, Scott and his future wife, Lynsay (Henderson ’02), walked in.

“We had to be here for you.”

“Tell that to my wife,” Troy retorted.

John didn’t think twice about skipping that week after John’s wedding, and eventually married her. Troy’s wedding, and eventually married hers.

Scott married Lynsay the week after John’s wedding, and John didn’t think twice about interrupting his honeymoon in Estes Park, Colo., to head back to Orange City for the ceremony. (His wife, Celeste, knew what she was getting into; one by one, the guys had walked John down the aisle to her, solemnly playing off what was only partly a joke: “I wanted them to have a big part in my wedding,” he says.)

There would be 18 kids born to this group of friends, but with miscarriages and stalled adoption procedures along the way. The men stood by each other through the heartaches of adulthood with the same devotion that bonded them to each other in their youth.

The men would become teachers (John and Stan), a hospital IT manager (Troy), Northwestern’s head cross country and track and field coach (Scott), and a senior implementation manager in finance (Craig). And now when jobs and families make road trips harder to manage, technology comes to the rescue: They meet on Google Hangouts on the third Tuesday of each month to stay accountable, just as they did late nights in Coly.

“I go to them for advice on being a better husband, parent and leader in my church,” Scott says. “We pray for each other and the things that are on our hearts. Our Google Hangout has kept me from a spiritual rut many times.”

“God uses them to help form me, these men have been a living example of Proverbs 27:17: As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”

“Throughout the years, we have realized the strength and encouragement we provide each other is something that is rare. To me, these men have been a living example of Proverbs 27:17: As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”

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Rachel (Starr '05) Heath was in Osaka, Japan, when missionaries she met with several who lived in the Tokyo area. After graduating from Northwestern, she met with several who lived in the Tokyo area. And when she taught English in Japan for two years, she met with several who lived in the Tokyo area. She also coached football, basketball, and track. She went on to teach and coach at Pleasantville High School for 31 years, serving a decade as activities director. She retired in 2014 but continues to work on Pleasantville's athletic facilities.

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things. We actually live them,” he says. Emphasis and commitment to its mission. “We don’t just talk about after it was founded in 1989, credits the firm’s servant approach, team directing more than $20 million to charity in the past five years. company promotes giving among its more than 1,000 clients as well, with teams vying to see who can tally the most volunteer hours. The business. This year all employees are being encouraged to use some projects together, and, yes, pauses for (optional) pushups each day at
MICHAEL HUDSON
CLASS NOTES

Chicago. This affects people profoundly. My role is to give them their smaller stage. In 2012, after passing the Illinois bar exam, Hulstein instead was assigned an internship at CVLS and initially took volunteer professionals to aid low-income locals. We fight tooth-and-nail to keep a person’s housing,” he says. “The stakes are really high. It might be a long shot, but it’s worth the effort.”

The Rev. Dr. Chester Ormaz ‘62 of Artesia, Calif., died on Feb. 5 at age 94. He served in the U.S. Air Corps during World War II and earned degrees from Hope College, Western Theological Seminary and the California Graduate School of Theology. He ministered at Hope Reformed Church in Spencer, Iowa; Fifth Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Mich.; and Briar Reformed Church in Kalamazoo, Mich. He then served as a denominational executive secretary overseeing established churches and starting many new ones in new Western states and two Canadian provinces. He also was a board member for Northwesternes and Hope colleges. He received the Church Growth Leadership Award in 1980 from the Institute of American Church Growth and the Distinguished Alumni Award from Western Seminary in 2003. He is survived by his wife, Jacqueline (Robthus ’43), whom he met on the steps of Drimmer Hall, and four daughters.

Lynne Whitesnower ‘44 of Winfield, Neb., died March 21. She graduated from the Sage Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Grand Island, Neb., and pursued an extensive career in health and public service, holding positions as a staff nurse and emergency room nurse supervisor. She was both a staff member and director of the Winfield Regional Community Health Representative Program, retiring after 25 years of federal service. A former mayor of Winfield, she also served as a member of the Village of Winfield Board of Supervisors, the Northeastern Nebraska Family Services and the Abilene Area Indian Health Board. Of a member of Winfield’s Reformed Church, she is survived by two sisters and five children.

The Rev. John Rozendaal ‘54, ‘56, age 79, died on April 14 in Carroll, Iowa. He earned degrees from McCreery Theological Seminary in 1953 and ended his career in interim ministries in the Midwest. Among his survivors are two sisters, including Esther ’52, and two sons. Bennoke (Smith) ’66 Kaiser died March 7 at age 82. She taught in the towns of Madoc, Archer and Paola. A member of the Baker Methodist Church and, later, the Archer United Methodist Church, she taught Sunday school, played the organ and sang in the choir. She was a member of the O’Brien County Woman’s Cheney, the Delta Kappa Gamma-Alpha Tau chapter and the PEO Chapter FN in Paola. She is survived by her husband, Vernon, and their daughter, Connie Van Der Stroo ’70.

Dan Lindberg ’65, age 53, of Orange City died on April 16. He served in the Air Force and earned a degree in fine arts before becoming a graphic designer. He worked for fry industries in Edgerton, Minn., X-K Products in Orange City, Wells Enterprises in Le Mars, and most recently in the maintenance department at Northwestern. He was active in the Orange City Tulip Festival and at First Reformed Church, where he served as a deacon and was husbandly involved in music ministries. Among his survivors are wife, Nancy; his mother, Audrey (Heemstra ’52, ’54); and brothers David ’74 and Dale ’82.

Yuika Ida is carving out an acting career in Tokyo, including her role as “Hermia” in a modern adaptation of Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream.

Tokyo Roles

Yuika Ida ‘11 may come across as quiet, but that hasn’t stopped her from staging a career as an actor in one of the largest cities in the world. Since graduating from Northwestern and returning to Japan, Ida has worked steadily on Tokyo stages, in TV and, most recently, in a movie, Epoch. She supports herself with part-time work, currently at a restaurant, and also takes acting classes twice a week. Ida’s first love is theatre, which she credits to her time at Northwestern. While a student, she had roles in such NWC productions as Asian Folk Tales and Picasso at the Lapin Agile. Theatre professor Karen Barker remembers that Ida “came in pretty tentative, but few people worked harder than she did.” She “jumped in with both feet,” Barker says. “She was easy to direct. The humility of her spirit allowed for hand-won growth as an actor.” Ida says her favorite part of acting is sensing the audience’s enjoyment. Her advice to other theatre majors is to take every opportunity to see plays, especially in theatre-rich cities like Chicago and New York. She says, “I haven’t gotten on a big stage with famous actors; I still have to study hard to be a good actress.” If Ida continues to approach her craft with the tenacity and willingness to learn she showed at NWC, each new role will be one for which she can take a bow.

by sherrie barker willson ’98

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

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Want to go Dutch? Netherlands Tour • Summer 2017

Northwestern is making tentative plans for another cultural visit to the Netherlands next summer. Contact Alcohol Bikes to indicate your interest in receiving more information.

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in Memoriam

Tara (Bajema) ‘06 and Brennan Van Loo ’04, daughter, Araminta Hope
Louis and Katina (Hillberg ’06) Yang, son, Drew Tyler, joins Tobias (3) and Ekaterina (2)
Shawn and Jennifer (Herlin) ’07 McCormick, daughter, Natalya Grace, joins Brenden (5) and Ellana (2)
Doug and Johanna (Grieme ’08) Hicks, son, Orion Edward
Betsy (Hebben ’08) and Jordan Larson ’10, son, Isaiah Daniel
Sandy (Koolferkamp ’08) and Blake (Wisking ‘08, son, Liam August, joins Owen (2)
Tyler and Sarah (Breen ’09) Graham, son, Stu Brian
Tanner and Jenna (Roett ’09) Vos, daughters, Brooke Lynne, joins Bryle (1)
Brittany (Belden) ’11 and Dustin Hamen ’08, son, Owen Henry, joins Madison (1)
Heather (Ragouet) ’12 and Brian Brandau ’12, son, Frederick Shawn
Sarah (Bart ’12) and David Bravovort ’13, son, Isaac David
Natallia (Mouille) ’02 and Bobby James ’12, daughter, Haylee Grace
Johnathan (Wilhelm ’15) and Mark Haseloff ’12, daughter, Charlotte-Adie

Marriages

Ashley Buse ’11 and Michael Zervic, Visalia, Calif.
Abbie Wax ’13 and Michael Meinke, Polo, Ill.

Courtroom Drama

You’re bred in the same apartment for 20 years, and bedbugs now infest the building. You blame the landlord; he blames you. Eviction looms.

An improv scenario from Matt Hulstein’s theatre days at Northwestern?

A participant in the Chicago Semester his senior year, Hulstein

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by Amy Scherer

Yuika Ida is carving out an acting career in Tokyo, including her role as “Hermia” in a modern adaptation of Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream.
To Japan, With Love
by Kathy (Vander Werff ’89) Gabel and Kristyn (Vander Werff ’90) Howe

A vision I have
Of earth’s inhabitants
The world made whole
Humanity healed
Sons and daughters reconciled
To God and their neighbors
Brothers and sisters gathered
Round the Messiah’s banquet.

In 1984, on a plane en route to Japan, our father, the late Dr. Lyle Vander Werff ’54, wrote this first stanza of a poem titled Vision. This past March, we had the opportunity to travel to Japan as part of a nine-member delegation from Northwestern and Orange City. Our purpose was to rekindle and strengthen relationships with people, churches, a sister city and sister colleges. And for the two of us, it was the chance of a lifetime to witness some of the impact of our father’s pioneering work as Northwestern’s longtime director of international programs—and to carry on his passion.

As our father understood decades ago, God’s kingdom is all about relationships and is built as Christians around the world unite. Japan has a deep history with rich arts and culture that is absolutely fascinating. Japan’s people are hospitable and go the extra mile to ensure visitors are welcomed. Japan has lost much of its spiritual heritage, and youth today do not hold to any religion. There is room for God’s kingdom to spread in Japan.

Our team soaked in the ancient temples, pristine gardens, food that is a work of art, kabuki theatre, restored castles, traditional hot springs, efficient trains, modern shopping streets and a bamboo forest. Even better, we met the most welcoming church leaders, teachers and principals of our sister schools, as well as the mayor and business people of our sister city. We all felt the strength of exchanging ideas, learning from one another and gaining hope for future interactions.

One special connection was with Keiwa College in Shibata City on the western coast of Japan. This is a sister college in our sister city built on the friendship of our father and Muneharu Kitagaki—two kindred spirits. They both served at Christian colleges and shared the same vision for students. With our team and Keiwa’s staff, we were all delightfully surprised by the synergy among us. We shared a passion for enabling college students to grow from international friendships. Our three days together were a gift.

Another ordained meeting was with Dr. Kitagaki. We spent an evening with him, sitting on a tatami mat floor, enjoying a traditional meal and talking for hours. Karen Barker read our dad’s poem. It captured the heart of what our team hoped to accomplish.

In a letter sent after our visit, Dr. Kitagaki wrote, “It was indeed such a special pleasure for me to meet with the visitors from NWC and Orange City. Though I met all of them for the first time, I felt as if I had met them before. During our pleasant conversation, I felt the figure of Lyle Vander Werff looming behind us, looking down affectionately. I remembered Lyle’s biblical faith and his broad vision. I do hope the friendship between NWC and Keiwa College will continue long. I also hope the friendship between Orange City and Shibata City continues long. But I especially wish our personal friendships live on forever on a Christian basis.”

Dr. Kitagaki expresses the importance of Christians around the world fostering those partnerships. We have so much to offer one another, and we cannot afford to lose our ties in this increasingly interconnected world. It was an honor to travel through Japan and meet people who love NWC and Orange City. It was an honor to carry forward the vision of our father, Northwestern and Orange City in building those relationships. And it was thrilling to know God has plans for future partnerships between our two lands.

Kathy Gabel and Kristyn Howe are the daughters of Lyle Vander Werff, a professor of religion at NWC from 1967 until 1998 who established several sister college relationships with institutions in the Pacific Rim. Gabel and Howe both live in Orange City and are part-time members of Northwestern’s faculty—in ESL and education, respectively.


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Rookies

For a number of future Northwestern students, their first experience on campus is a summer sports camp. In addition to being a fun time with friends and teammates, Red Raider camps are a great chance to learn from—and maybe impress—Northwestern coaches you hope to play for someday.

This summer, during June, July and early August, nearly 1,400 campers from second grade to seniors in high school spent one to several days in the Bultman Center gymnasium and on Korver Field’s newly refreshed turf. While being instructed by Raider coaches and select players in athletic fundamentals and specialized skills, they were also encouraged to see sports as a way to honor God and learn valuable life lessons.

To learn more about Raider sports camps, visit nwcraiders.com/camps.