

Winter 2015

The Classic, Winter 2015-2016

Public Relations

Northwestern College - Orange City

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Northwestern College Magazine

WINTER 2015-16
the **Classic**

Born Believers

Researchers explore what
makes us religious

Also

Inside the Juffer Fieldhouse
High School Collegian
Raiderisms





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Northwestern's new Juffer Athletic Fieldhouse provides an indoor practice and conditioning arena for the college's student-athletes.

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Classic People

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

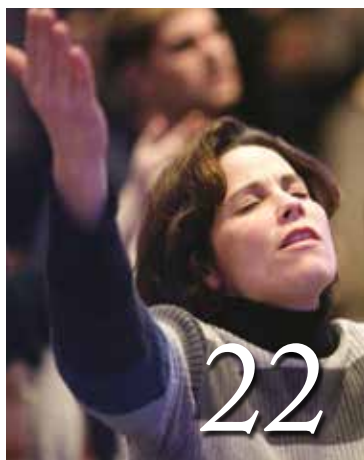
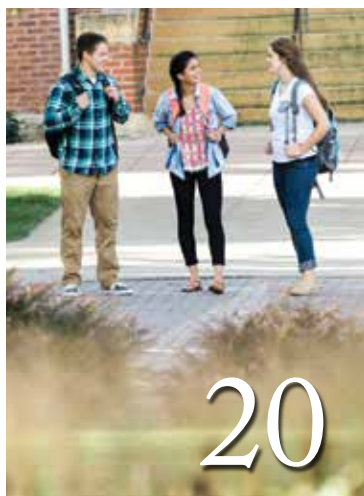
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Opinions expressed in the *Classic* do not necessarily reflect the official position of Northwestern College.

On the cover:

The childlike faith commended by Christ is being explained by science.

PHOTO BY BRAND X PICTURES



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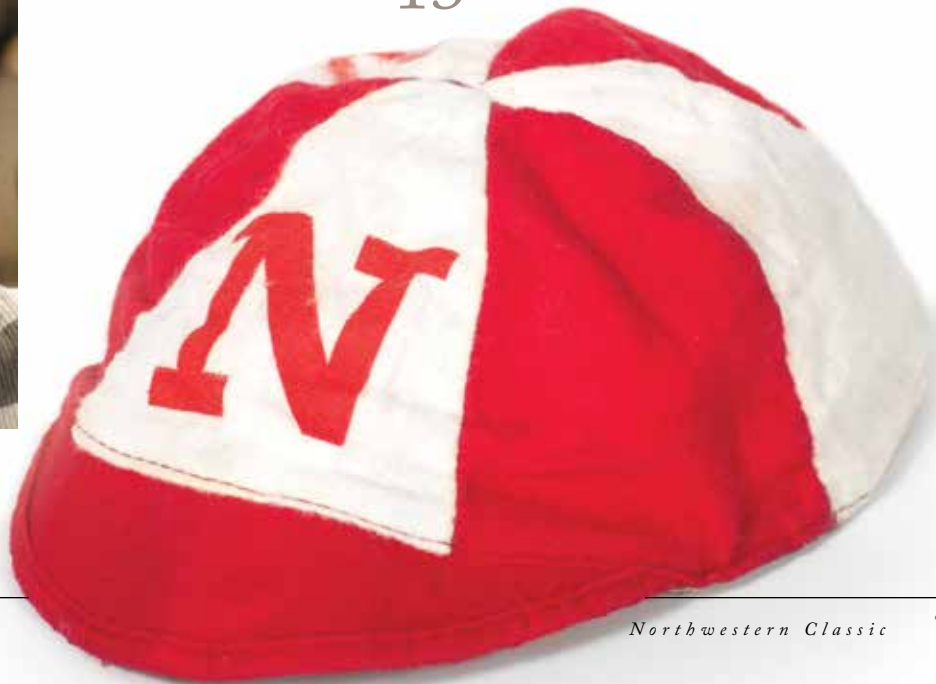
What Raiderisms do you remember from your time on campus? Share them and comments about any article in this issue.

visit classic.nwciowa.edu

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Zwemer View



DOUG BURING

A History of Overcoming Challenges

Northwestern's history is replete with stories of God leading the institution through challenges. In fact, the very founding of Northwestern Classical Academy was delayed several years because a grasshopper infestation in the 1870s thwarted a plan to use farmland rent to begin a school.

During the Great Depression, as Northwestern Junior College struggled to pay faculty, President Jacob Heemstra requested funding from the Reformed Church in America and instead received a letter recommending that the institution close temporarily. In 1949 the denomination granted Northwestern permission to offer a four-year curriculum, but the resolution was passed by only two votes.

Today Christian colleges like Northwestern are facing a number of threats, including intense competition for students, a difficult economy and immense societal changes.

Despite these challenges, Northwestern is blessed to be financially strong. Indexes comparing our fiscal health with that of private colleges in three key peer groups all rank NWC above the 75th percentile. Our endowment is robust at nearly twice the national median per student (\$35,950 per student compared to the national median of \$19,020). And our institutional debt per student is exceptionally low at around \$4,000 per student; many of our peers carry more than seven times that.

While our overall financial health is enviable, we nonetheless face some shortfalls within our operating budget. We have been working to address this problem with increased undergraduate enrollment, but the declining pool of students in our primary recruiting areas makes reaching our goals very challenging.

Last December the Board of Trustees charged the administration to address our operating budget challenges over the next three years. We began a right-sizing process of making reductions in some areas in order to invest in others. In July we ended a thorough process of determining strategic—yet painful—reductions of programs and personnel.

Two majors have been eliminated: journalism and music ministry. Returning students enrolled in these programs will be able to complete their majors. By 2016–17 we will have reduced the equivalent of eight full-time employees. Most of those cuts were made to positions that are currently unfilled.

Northwestern is a close community. Our faculty and staff love this place and our students, and we care deeply for one another. Naturally, this has made what we needed to do painful. However, I know this community's resilience and am confident we will emerge from this process positioned to thrive. I am comforted by Scriptures like Jeremiah 29:11: *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

In all these things, we covet your prayers. Please pray for those colleagues who leave our community, that God would lead them to fulfilling new opportunities. And pray that we will remain steadfastly committed to our mission as a Christian academic community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Greg Christy".

Greg Christy
President

around the Green

Taiwan-Bound

Northwestern's A cappella Choir is finalizing plans for its spring break tour in Taiwan March 5–14.

The 44-member ensemble will perform at a variety of venues, including public concerts, private events, church worship services, schools, universities and hospitals.

"We are partnering with the National Presbyterian Church of Taiwan, which has many existing outreaches and relationships already established in the area," says Dr. Thomas Holm, professor of music and conductor of the choir. "We are offering our music as an extension of their work."

The tour will begin and end in the capital city of Taipei. Students will also spend some time in the eastern area of Hualien.

The choir's repertoire will include a variety of styles, texts and languages. Because the performance venues will vary significantly, Holm is tailoring the concert program to each setting and audience.

"We will present sections of sacred music, of spirituals and gospel, and of

virtuosic pieces," says Holm. "We are intentionally showcasing a lot of favorite, high-quality American music, but we are also learning some Taiwanese pieces." For one concert, the ensemble will rehearse and sing with a local children's choir. First, they'll perform a popular Taiwanese love song, followed by a gospel setting of *Amazing Grace*.

"We are already working on our cultural understanding of Taiwan's history, politics, religion, educational traditions and various ethnic groups," says Holm. "We are also working on spiritual preparation so we are ready and eager to serve, learn, accept and love. We're hoping to see God work in and through us."

Each choir member is responsible for paying \$800 out of pocket and raising an additional \$500 through fundraising efforts. Donations to support the trip can be made by visiting nwciowa.edu/give2nwc, clicking "Other" in the designation box, and writing in "A cappella Choir."



DAN ROSS

The A cappella Choir will sing and serve in Taiwan during spring break.

in Box

Kingdom Work

I wanted to say how remarkable many of the stories of alumni, students and staff were in the summer issue. It is great to see the kingdom of God spreading into all areas of life through the witness and work of your students, faculty, alumni and staff.

Congratulations on a very attractive and engaging issue.

Mark Kauk
Orange City

Shank

The summer edition of the *Classic* stated that [2015] was the first time the Northwestern women's tennis team made it to the national tournament. I was part of the team that qualified for nationals in Tulsa, Okla., in 1994. My teammates were Stacy (Muilenburg '96) Bauer, Mary (Lundquist '96) Fiedler, Sharon (Davidson '94) Harthoorn, Jody (Dannatt '96) Jenness, Amy (Verhey '97) Juffer, Tera (Hocevar '97) Reelfs and Heather (Van Horn '98) Weiss.

I thoroughly enjoy reading each issue. Thank you for all your work. It is much appreciated!

Tina (Vellema '96) Anderson
Lakewood, Colo.

Good Job

Such a great issue! The article on Claudia [Bomgaars-Soto '15] was so poignant, and I loved the tiny house feature.

Carrie (Odell '01) Anderson
Orange City

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.



Community Service



Students in Northwestern's First-Year Seminar courses blessed and were blessed by area nonprofit organizations through offering several hours of assistance during a week in late September.

DAN ROSS

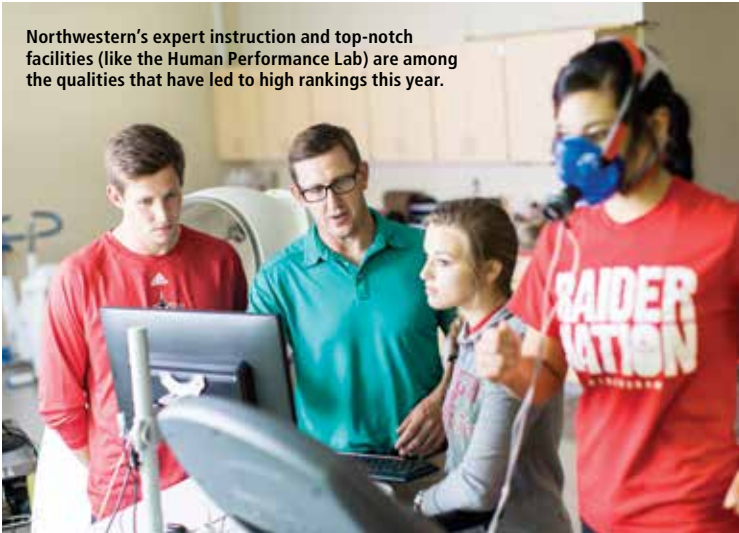
For three days in September, more than 200 Northwestern freshmen, faculty and upperclassmen mentors participated in service projects at a variety of nonprofit organizations—including Habitat for Humanity, a food pantry, a transitional housing center and many others. They helped with painting, building, sorting and cleaning in Orange City and surrounding communities as part of a service requirement for their First-Year Seminar (FYS) course.

A service component was previously part of the college's orientation weekend. "It was a good project, but it lacked any context for students and it occurred outside their First-Year Seminar experience," says Dr. Sandi (Kuiper '83) Altena, director of Northwestern's Franken Leadership Center. "By embedding the service requirement into the FYS course, we were able to offer students a real academic service-learning experience that also met a number of course goals."

Pre- and post-service reflections, like assigned readings, podcasts and class discussions, helped students see the value of their experience. "We talked a lot about what poverty actually looks like," says freshman Korey Reliford of Lone Tree, Colo., who served with the Hope Food Pantry in Sioux Center. "When I came to Iowa, I assumed there wasn't much poverty in this area. The women at the pantry helped me realize that just because there aren't people begging on the street, it doesn't mean there aren't families struggling in this area."

Altena says the projects helped make a statement—both to freshmen and community members. "We demonstrated the value that Northwestern puts on service, community and loving others."

Northwestern's expert instruction and top-notch facilities (like the Human Performance Lab) are among the qualities that have led to high rankings this year.



GEOFF JOHNSON

Graduate School Boosts Fall Enrollment

Northwestern College's 90 graduate school students—most of them in the Master of Education program—are one of the main reasons the college's total fall enrollment of 1,210 exceeds last year's.

The college's online Master of Education programs in early childhood and teacher leadership launched this past May with more than 40 students—well beyond the first cohort expectation of 20. This fall, more than 100 students are enrolled in Northwestern College Graduate School & Adult Learning programs at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

When a new term of online classes begins in January, graduate students will have a third M.Ed. degree option: master teacher. Students in the master teacher track will take the same 18 credits of core classes as students in the other two tracks, but they will be able to customize their remaining credits into an individualized program suited specifically to their teaching career goals.

A graduate certificate program in the management of international development will also begin in January. The 16-credit certificate program is for business and

missions professionals who want to improve their ability to start, support and sustain business and entrepreneurial projects among poor people in developing countries. Northwestern business professor and program director Dr. David Befus is using his contacts at organizations like Opportunity International and World Vision to recruit students into the program.

A graduate certificate program in genetics and genomics is slated to begin next August. The 18-credit curriculum can be completed in one year and is designed for nurses and other healthcare employees who want to better prepare for delivering personalized, precise medical advice and care based on genetic testing and screening. Northwestern biology professor Dr. Sara Sybesma '84 Tolsma, who is a cancer genetics researcher and sought-after speaker on bioethical issues surrounding genetic technologies, will direct the program.

Martha (Perez '09) Draayer, a bilingual early childhood special education teacher and consultant for the Northwest Area Education Agency, is among the instructors in Northwestern's Master of Education program.

Top of the Class

The value of a Northwestern education continued to be confirmed by several high rankings this summer and fall.

- **College Factual's "Nationwide Best Colleges for the Money"** list ranked Northwestern 34th out of 1,223 colleges and universities. The ranking is based on total cost—including yearly net cost and average years to graduation—compared to academic quality. Iowa State University is the only school in Iowa to rank higher than NWC.
- **U.S. News & World Report** ranked Northwestern in a tie for fifth place among 96 Midwestern regional colleges in its 2016 Best Colleges guidebook. NWC was the highest-ranked Iowa college in its category.
- **Washington Monthly** rated Northwestern seventh among the nation's top baccalaureate colleges, based on the schools' contributions to the public good in the areas of social mobility, civic engagement and service. Northwestern has been ranked in the top 10 nationally—and been the highest ranked Iowa college in any category—every year.
- **Money** magazine ranked NWC among the "25 Best Private Colleges for Merit Aid" and included it in a select group of best-value institutions in its 2015–16 rankings.
- **CollegelandSeminary.com** ranked Orange City fifth among the nation's top 10 Christian college towns, based on how well a community offers students big-city amenities with a small-town feel. The rankings, at tinyurl.com/pr8h6cz, list Nashville, Tenn., first; followed by Grand Rapids, Mich., at second. Other cities in the top 10 include Seattle and San Diego.



DOUG BURKE

Campus Life

Improv Tradition

The obscure “V” fliers hanging on campus light poles and doors are like a secret handshake. Students just know what the V means: It’s show time for the Black V comedy improv team.

Black V performances take place on campus once a month and could be described as family-friendly versions of the popular TV show *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*

“Improv is theatre made up on the spot, which means every line of every show is something we made up right then and there,” says Black V team leader Jacob Christiansen, a senior.

Black V includes up to 20 off-campus performances a semester at businesses, youth groups and coffee shops. And in March the team will embark on the biennial V-Tour, a weeklong spring break trip that will involve shows at various churches and other venues around the Midwest.

They also lead improv workshops organized by the Orange City Arts Council. After all, anyone can do what Black V does. “I am a firm believer that just about anyone can perform improv comedy,” says senior Lincoln Morris, who has been a part of Black V for three years. “After all, each of us is improvising our way through life each day.”

What’s in a Name?

“Possible Betty” was the name of the first Northwestern improv group started in 1998. The next year the name changed to “Twist to Open” and then to “Black V,” the moniker that was developed in the basement of the former Heemstra Hall when improv team members Steve Hydeen ’01, Matt Foss ’01 and Chris Anderson ’01 were planning the improv year.

“At the time, the true meaning of the name was intended to remain a secret known only to members of the team,” Hydeen says.

“To keep that mystery alive, I will have to pass on revealing this juicy tidbit.

I *can* say that we were all drawn to the name because it was simple, bold and shrouded in mystery.”

Fifteen years later, it still is.

BY KRISTA VAN GORP-CARNET '97

Raider Days

Despite chilly temperatures and a 27-7 football loss to Morningside, the sun still shone during Raider Days 2015 on Oct. 2 and 3.

Friday’s events included the Juffer Athletic Fieldhouse dedication and the Legacy Celebration Banquet, which honored both the college’s Distinguished Alumni Award winners and milestone givers to Northwestern.

On Saturday, 100 runners started the day with the 22nd annual Red Raider Road Race before taking in the rest of the day’s events, which included Morning on the Green, a tailgate picnic and Raider football, as well as a children’s theatre production and evening music department concert.



Alumni, parents and family members returned to campus for the Raider Days homecoming celebration in October.

View more Raider Days photos at nwciova.edu/RaiderDaysPics.



New in the Classroom

Seven professors joined Northwestern's teaching ranks this fall:

Wade Druin

Assistant Professor of Business
J.D., University of South Dakota School of Law

Druin spent 20 years as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force, where he served as a staff judge advocate and retired as a lieutenant colonel. For the past three years, he held an endowed chair in entrepreneurship at the University of South Dakota.



Wade Druin

Corky Koerselman '82

Instructor in Music
M.Ed., Northwest Missouri State University

Koerselman teaches half time, with additional half-time responsibilities in the advancement office. He developed and led the vocal music program at Sibley-Ocheyedan High School before retiring in May with more than 30 years of teaching experience.



Corky Koerselman

Mark Haselhoff '12

Lecturer in Computer Science
M.S. candidate, Georgia Tech

Haselhoff teaches half time and serves as a Web developer for Northwestern half time. He was a member of NWC's student computer programming team that competed in the Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest in China in 2010.



Mark Haselhoff

Chris Nonhof

Instructor in Education
Ph.D. candidate, Cardinal Stritch University

Nonhof taught English at high schools in Florida and Wisconsin for 16 years. A Dordt graduate, he earned a master's degree in instructional technology at Cardinal Stritch University and is working on his doctoral degree there in language and literacy.

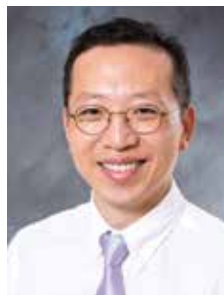


Chris Nonhof

Dr. Seunghun "Hun" Hong

Assistant Professor of Mathematics
Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University

Prior to joining Northwestern's faculty, Hong served as a postdoctoral researcher in Germany. A graduate of Seoul National University in South Korea, he holds master's degrees in mathematics and physics from Tufts University and a doctorate in mathematics from Penn State.



Dr. Seunghun "Hun" Hong

Erica (Van Meeteren '00) Vonk

Instructor in Business
MBA, University of South Dakota

Vonk has served as an adjunct instructor at both NWC and Dordt College. She also directed Dordt's Center for Economic Education and taught business at high schools in Sioux Falls, S.D., and Akron, Iowa.



Erica Vonk

Tonya Moore-Huss

Lecturer in Education
M.A., Graceland University

With more than 20 years of experience teaching elementary and middle school students, mainly in special education, Moore-Huss is filling a one-year position in special education.



Tonya Moore-Huss

On Board

Craig Pennings '85 is a new member of Northwestern's Board of Trustees. Appointed to a two-year term by virtue of his role as president of Northwestern's National Alumni Board, he attended his first board meeting in October.

An Orange City resident, Pennings is purchasing manager for Diamond Vogel Paints.



Craig Pennings



VanOort Accepts Call to Denver

In one of the last times he led chapel at Northwestern last spring, the Rev. Harlan VanOort '82 told students, "Knowledge is relational. Yes, it's about what we know—but it's also about *who* we know, and think about how much more educated we are if we have a relationship with God, the source of all our knowledge. It's the reason we do chapel at college—for the sake of education."

VanOort resigned his position as Northwestern's chaplain in August to accept a call to City Church Denver, but his legacy of prioritizing chapel worship as a place to learn about and be in relationship with God will continue to inform students' spiritual formation.

"Harlan is one of the most Christ-like individuals I've had the privilege of knowing,"

says junior Joseph Tolsma, Orange City. "He approaches every interaction with love and has an amazing vision for God's redemptive work in the world."

The redemptive work VanOort participated in crossed borders. During his years at NWC, he served as an adviser to Spring Service Project teams every year, traveling with students to Colorado, Florida and Texas and making eight trips to Bluefields, Nicaragua, to work alongside RCA missionaries there.

"It was an honor to have a front-row seat to watch students' transformation," VanOort says. "I can testify: The world is a better place, the Christian church is better equipped, and Christ's kingdom is more visible because of the quality of Northwestern graduates."

Northwestern's chaplain, the Rev. Harlan VanOort, resigned his position in August to accept a call to serve as pastor at City Church Denver, a 15-year-old congregation that calls itself "a community of believers, seekers and skeptics who come together around the timeless good news of the grace of Jesus."

Adoption-Friendly

Northwestern has once again been recognized as one of the leading adoption-friendly workplaces in higher education. Ranked alongside Ivy League and Big Ten institutions, Northwestern placed fifth—behind Pearson VUE (first), Cornell University and New York University (tied for second), and Ohio State University (fourth)—on the 2015 Best Adoption-Friendly Workplaces education list by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.

"I'm very pleased Northwestern is again recognized as an adoption-friendly workplace," says Deb Sandbulte, Northwestern's director of human resources. "Adoptive families face unique challenges; the least we can do is provide them with financial support and time-off benefits."

Northwestern offers financial assistance of up to \$2,000 per adopted child, with an additional reimbursement of up to \$1,000 when adopting a special needs

child. Adoptive parents are offered up to seven days of paid leave in addition to accumulated sick leave, vacation and personal leave.

Ben Karnish '11, head women's soccer coach and assistant athletic facilities coordinator, has benefited from the college's adoption policy. "We are so grateful for the multitude of ways Northwestern supported us during

our adoption journey," says Karnish. "It is a true blessing to work for an institution that is supportive of those who adopt."



Face Value

Global Education Director

Religion professor Dr. John Hubers '76 has been appointed to serve as director of Northwestern's global education office.

In addition to teaching part time in the religion department, Hubers oversees the college's semester programs in Denver, Oman and Romania; advises students interested in studying internationally; and explores sites for establishment of additional study abroad programs.

Prior to joining Northwestern's faculty in 2010, Hubers spent 13 years in the Middle East working with the global mission division of the Reformed Church in America. He replaces Dr. William Hyndman, who left Northwestern to become associate provost at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.



John Hubers

Thomas Holm

Hitting the High Notes

What spurred your initial interest in music?

My parents valued music and were willing to pay for lessons if I was willing to practice. I come from a large family—eight sisters, two brothers and two half-sisters—and we could play hymn arrangements with enough instruments to cover all the parts and then some.

What was the first record you ever purchased?

Probably Dallas Holm, although the first classical recording was George Handel's *Messiah*.

Who is your favorite musician?

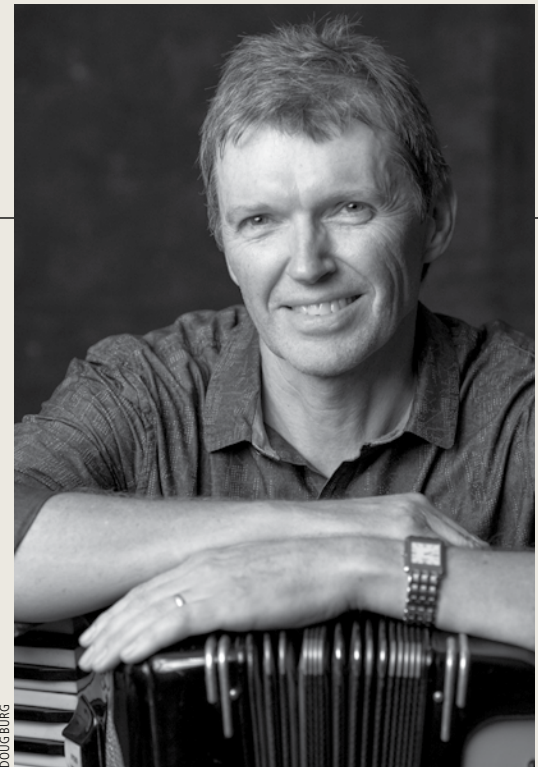
There are too many to name (I do teach music history, after all), but I love the quality and variety that film composer Howard Shore brings to his works [Shore's long list of credits includes *The Lord of the Rings* films]. People in his line of work often default to cliché ideas, but he seems to put thought, imagination and craftsmanship into everything he writes.

You've conducted the A cappella Choir in the Crystal Cathedral and in the Salzburg Cathedral, where Mozart was baptized. Where else would you like to conduct or perform?

Because I have a love for historically significant spaces, three immediately come to mind: the St. Thomas Church in Germany where J. S. Bach worked and performed; the Esterhaza Palace and chapel in Hungary where Haydn lived and worked; and the Sistine Chapel in Rome, where so many great unaccompanied choral works were performed for the pope's private services.

During the summer months, you work as a roofer. How did you get into that business?

My wife and I had four children while I was in grad school, so roofing was a seasonally perfect activity that provided income. I would



DOUG BURG

Thomas Holm's main instrument is his voice. But the director of Northwestern's A cappella Choir and Heritage Singers can also play the accordion, trumpet, tuba and piano.

work on my studies and dissertation in the winter and do roofing in the summer. It turned out to be a great family activity—especially for my young boys, who benefited from learning a trade, building a strong work ethic and taking away good life lessons: namely, “Whining doesn't get the job done.”

What are some of your hobbies?

I enjoy running, biking, reading and doing small repairs. My younger brother participates in a lot of outdoor sporting activities, and he recently introduced me to mountain climbing. Last year we climbed Pike's Peak in Colorado and the first half of Mount Rainier in Washington state, complete with an ice cave and snow shoes. My son Michael '06 has also gotten into mountain climbing and has climbed around half of the 53 Colorado peaks over 14,000 feet. I would love to attempt Mount Rainier's summit sometime, but it's difficult to train for a 14,000-foot glacier when you live at 1,400.

Investing in the Mission

Fundraising Report

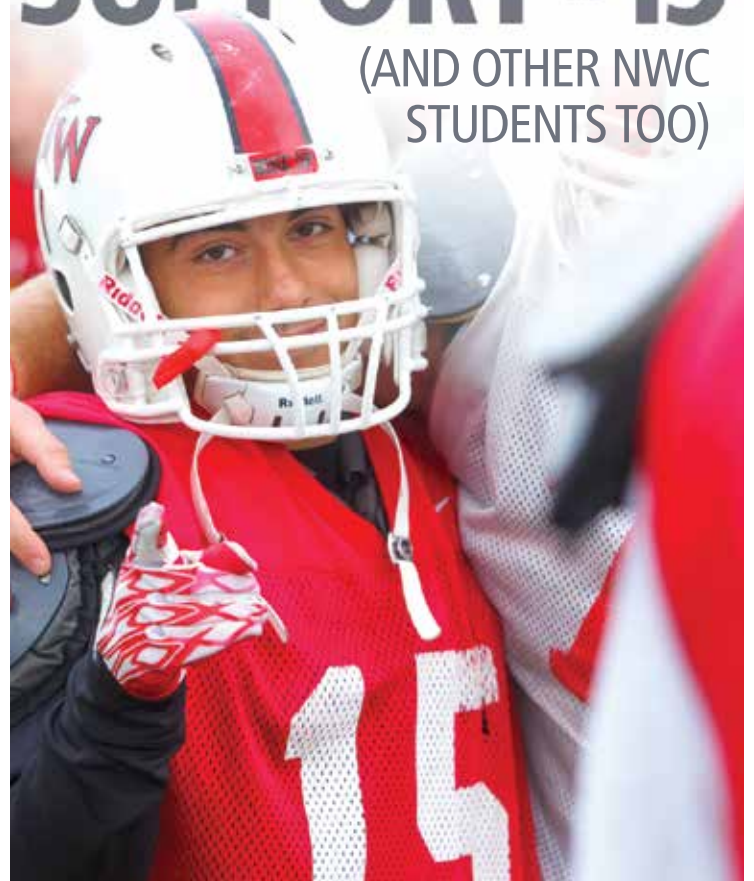
July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015

- \$5,819,595** Total giving to Northwestern College (giving to the Northwestern Fund was \$1,180,914)
- \$1,701,710** Total alumni giving to Northwestern (22% of alumni supported their alma mater)
- \$1,008,942** Total giving to scholarships (endowed and annual)
 - 714** Heritage Society members (planned gift donors)
 - 601** Patrons (donors giving \$1,000 or more to any Northwestern cause)
 - 356** Tower Society members (donors giving \$1,000+ to the Northwestern Fund)
 - 587** Jacob and Hannah Heemstra Roll of Honor members (donors who have given to Northwestern for 20 or more consecutive years)
 - 396** Geven Society members (donors who have reached cumulative giving milestones ranging from \$25,000 to \$5 million; total lifetime giving of Geven Society members is \$67,814,965)

Designation	Total for 2014–15	Total for 2013–14
Northwestern Fund	\$1,180,914	\$1,166,896
Other annual giving	167,539	190,054
Endowed scholarships	724,710	567,929
Annual scholarships	284,233	160,893
Capital gifts	3,096,828	4,182,667
Life income gifts	44,567	0
Student missions/travel	267,459	239,136
Other restricted gifts	53,345	59,140
Total	\$5,819,595	\$6,566,715

SUPPORT #15

(AND OTHER NWC STUDENTS TOO)



Scholarship Auction

Saturday, Feb. 20, 9 a.m. | RSC Gym

Donate auction items, then bid at the February event.

nwciowa.edu/auction

events@nwciowa.edu

712-707-7134



Northwestern's 2015 alumni of the year are, left to right: Janet Guthmiller, Ron De Jong and Marjorie Vander Aarde.

DOUG BURG

Award Winners

Three named outstanding alumni

Northwestern's 2015 alumni awards recognized a 40-year member of the college's admissions staff, a University of Nebraska Medical Center dean, and a health care leader. The recipients were honored during the Raider Days homecoming and parents weekend on Oct. 2 and 3.

Ron De Jong '71

Service to Northwestern

After graduating from Northwestern, Ron De Jong recruited students for his alma mater for 40 years, starting as an admissions counselor and eventually becoming the college's vice president for external relations. In 2010 he was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the North American Coalition for Christian Admissions Professionals, and in 2011 he retired from admissions work. He currently serves part time as a senior advancement officer for Northwestern, with responsibilities for fundraising and church relations.

Janet (Hassebroek '84) Guthmiller

Professional Achievement

Dr. Janet Guthmiller is dean of the College of Dentistry at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She earned a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Iowa

and a periodontics certificate and Ph.D. from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. She previously served as an associate dean and periodontology professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Dentistry, director of dental student research at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, and an assistant professor at the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery.

Guthmiller is a Fellow of the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists and a recipient of awards from the American Association for Dental Research and the American Dental Education Association.

Marjorie (Hartog '56, '58) Vander Aarde

Service to Humankind

Marjorie Vander Aarde spent seven years serving as a nurse at the American Mission Hospital in Kuwait. After returning to the U.S., she served as vice president at Montana Deaconess Medical Center and then as CEO of California's Coalinga Regional Medical Center. She later oversaw more than 350 medical facilities as certification bureau chief in Montana's Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Vander Aarde is active in her church, volunteers with Family Promise of Great Falls, and served on the board of directors for the United Way of Cascade County. She is certified by the American College of Health Care Executives as a Fellow and holds an R.N. from Swedish Covenant Hospital School of Nursing, a B.S.N. from Montana State University, a master's degree in nursing from Texas Women's University, and a master's in health administration from the University of Colorado.



Hans Epp placed seventh at the conference meet as the Raiders qualified for nationals for the second year in a row.

Red Zone

Cross Country **Back to Nationals**

The men's cross country team finished 26th out of 36 teams at the national meet after placing second in the Great Plains Athletic Conference. The Raiders won the Dakota State meet. The women's squad finished ninth in the conference.

Golf **Leading the Conference**

The men's golf team leads by 17 strokes at the halfway point of the four-round GPAC championship. Colton Kooima is second individually. The Raiders set a school record by shooting a 274 during the first day of the Siouxland Invitational. They won that meet with Justin Kraft placing first. The women are seventh after the first two qualifiers.

Soccer **Third in the GPAC**

Both Raider soccer teams placed third in the conference—the men with a 7-2-1 record and the women at 6-3-2. Overall, the men's team finished 12-6-1. The squad defeated sixth-ranked Mobile in September. The women compiled a 10-7-3 record.

Volleyball **Nationally Ranked**

Ranked as high as 11th nationally, the Raiders finished with a 24-8 record. They tied for fourth in the GPAC with a 12-4 record; all of their conference losses were in five-set matches to ranked teams. Karlie Schut was named conference player of the year and CoSIDA Academic All-American of the Year.

Football **Defensive Player of the Year**

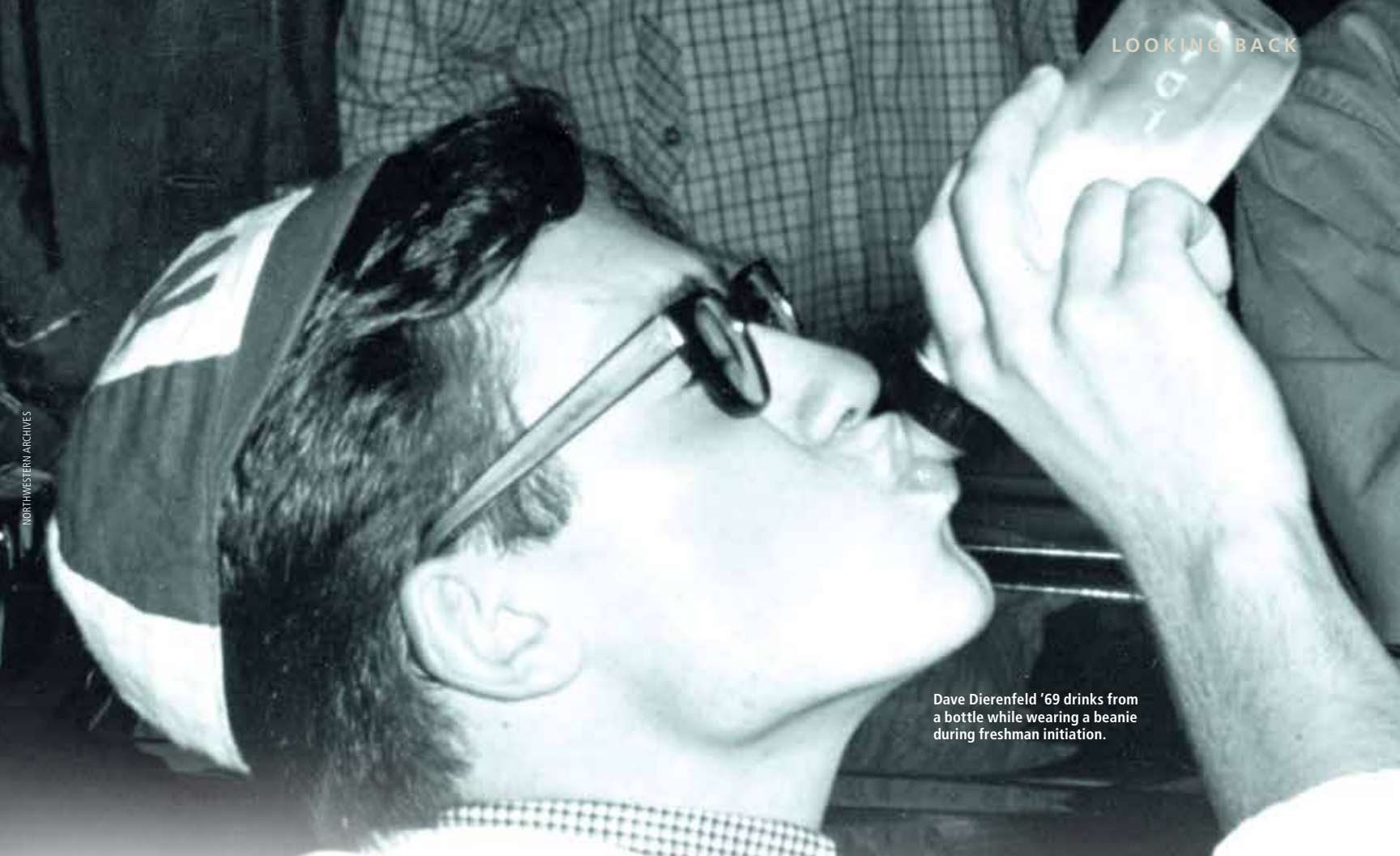
Defensive end Sam Van Ginkel earned co-defensive player of the year honors from the GPAC after finishing ninth in the nation in sacks with 9.5. He was part of a squad that ranked second nationally in total defense, allowing only 246 yards per game. The Raiders, ranked as high as ninth, finished 6-4. They tied for fourth in the league with a 5-4 mark.

Red Raider Club **In the Hall**

Nathan Jansen '09 (football), Ethan Miller '03 (baseball) and Randa (Hulstein '10) Poel (volleyball and basketball) were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in October.

Coach of the year honors went to Karl Bahrke '79, retired boys' track coach at Kingsley-Pierson/Woodbury Central (Iowa) High School; Jay McKinstrey '86, football coach at Pella (Iowa) High School; and Aaron Thomas '02, boys' cross country coach at Gilbert (Iowa) High School. Anna (Anderson '10) Moser received the Barnabas Award.

For more on Raider sports, visit nwcraiders.com



Dave Dierenfeld '69 drinks from a bottle while wearing a beanie during freshman initiation.

Beanie Babies

BY AMANDA KUNDERT

For many years, there was one telltale sign of newbie students on Northwestern's campus—the beanie. Longtime biology professor Virg “Prof” Muilenburg '58, '60, '62 remembers wearing a beanie during his freshman year. “I don’t recall how long we had to wear them, but I know we had to wear them at all times except during chapel.” And if a sophomore noticed a freshman without a beanie, there were consequences. “They’d make us do something foolish in front of other students,” says Muilenburg.

A popular form of initiation at colleges across the nation for many years, the freshman beanie was often green to represent the “greenness” or “newness” of the recent arrivals to campus. During Northwestern’s time as a junior college, incoming students sported a green cap. Later, Northwestern’s beanie was adorned with red and white stripes and a large letter “N.”

The skullcap fell in and out of popularity at Northwestern between the late 1950s and the mid-1970s. Although beanies were somewhat considered a way to humiliate or subordinate new students, Anita (Vande Brake '69) Vogel recalls the light-hearted disadvantages that went along with wearing them. “I recall the senior boys would love to have you open doors for them.”

Students weren’t the only ones to wear beanies; during his inauguration as new college president in 1975, Virgil Rowenhorst was capped with a freshman beanie by Mark Poppen '76, vice president of the college’s student senate.

Other short-lived freshman initiation activities included carrying books around in a white pillowcase and electing a freshman class King and Queen of the Beanies.

Today Northwestern freshmen are welcomed to campus in a very different way. The residents of Hoppers Hall lead new students in that dorm on a quarter-mile hike to a nearby pond, where upperclassmen wash the feet of the freshmen to symbolize Jesus’ servant leadership. Afterward they walk back to campus together and enjoy a community feast of bread and grape juice.

Other traditions include ice cream runs to Blue Bunny (with the tabs picked up by upperclassmen), bonfires and meetings of freshmen, where new students are encouraged to talk about what makes them unique and how they will best fit into their new community.



PRACTICING TO COMPETE

Northwestern coaches say the college's new Juffer Athletic Fieldhouse outshines similar facilities at some NCAA Division I schools. The building includes a 3,600-square-foot golf practice room with a multiple-hole practice putting green and four hitting stations; the 20,000-square-foot Bomgaars Family Field with indoor practice space for baseball, softball, soccer and football; and the 6,300-square-foot Korver Athletic Performance Center, where student-athletes can work out under the supervision of certified strength and conditioning coaches.

See more at nwciowa.edu/JufferFieldhouse.

Photos by Dan Ross







Things Raiders

SAY...

Insider speak. Every community has it, and Raider Nation is no different. Who else would know that Juff (pronounced “Yuff”) is Dr. Ron Juffer, beloved former education professor and legendary hook-shot threat on the basketball court? *The Classic* asked staff and students: What are some of today’s Raiderisms?



P'n'Dub. Short for P and W, which is what students call Sunday night's Praise and Worship gathering in Christ Chapel. P'n'Dub happens every Sunday night at 9. It's student-led and one of Orange City's most popular worship services.

Walk of shame. Nope, not what you were thinking. Walk of shame is how Northwestern students describe that awkward moment when someone reaches the chapel attendant, realizes he left his attendance card in the pew, and has to make the long walk back to retrieve it.

Christy's cross. It has nothing to do with chapel, and it doesn't describe the presidential burdens of Northwestern's top administrator (or any kind of medieval-style student discipline). Christy's cross is what students call the Northwestern cross made of light-colored pavers in the landscaping in front of Zwemer Hall (the location of President Greg Christy's office—or as students might say, the office of "PGC.")

PGC isn't the only NWC leader abbreviated by students. They also have nicknames for these profs:

Darnett (sometimes pronounced "Darn it!") Dr. Dave Arnett, chemistry professor

DMG Dr. Tim McGarvey, music professor (notably, students made "Dr." an official part of his monogram)

Dr. J-C Dr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson, music ministry professor

Dr. No Dr. Byron Noordewier, biology professor

Dr. Ruth Dr. Ruth Daumer, nursing professor

Prof Professor Virg Muilenburg, former biology professor and current member of NWC's lawn-mowing crew

Stoop-a-thon. An annual spring event, Stoop-a-thon is a week of round-the-clock sitting and sleeping outdoors to celebrate the community of the former Heemstra Hall. The brotherly camaraderie was cultivated by hours of socializing and philosophizing near Heemstra Hall's main entrance, or stoop. After Heemstra was razed in 2010, a wing in Colenbrander Hall was designated as the place where the spirit of Heemstra would live on. Now Stoop-a-thon squatters drag sofas and sleeping bags to the campus green and welcome those who don't even remember Heemstra Hall to sit a spell.

Applesmash. A visitor to **the caf** might witness Applesmash. Invented by men in Hospers Hall, Applesmash starts with a chant followed by one of the chanters' tablemates violently smashing an apple on his forehead. (As antics go, seems kind of fruitless.)

"Roots!" Its origin traces to men in North Suites. "Roots!" means, "Me too!" As in, Student A: "I just saw a guy smash an apple on his forehead." Student B: "Roots!"

The Fernace. When Fern Smith Hall gets too hot

Coly. Colenbrander Hall's nickname is a great fit for the dorm's annual Christmas celebration and hall-decorating competition, **O Coly Night.**

Steggy. Stegenga Hall. Steggy women also have a hall-decorating competition, followed by root beer floats: the annual **Steggy Keggy.**

Heaven, purgatory, h*ll. Parking lot near your residence hall? Heaven—it's divine if there's an open spot there. Have to walk a ways? Purgatory parking. Only spot available is behind the former Bushmer Art Building? Sorry; you're parked in perdition.

NWC Acronyms

CDC Career Development Center (not the Centers for Disease Control, as one new employee thought)

CMT Campus Ministry Team

DME Drama Ministries Ensemble

DMH DeWitt Music Hall (a freshman once thought it meant Dr. McGarvey's Headquarters)

RSC Rowenhorst Student Center

SOS Summer of Service

SSP Spring Service Projects

TPE Theatre Production Ensemble

VPH Van Peurse Hall 



Colorful Beginnings

BY AMY SCHEER

Young Nnenna Nwaelugo considered the rainbow. Why is it there? How is it there? Her father answered patiently, explaining that water and light had come together and formed the pretty colors.

The girl wondered aloud: Why would water and light do that? Her father simplified the concept of the refraction of light, and still, it was not enough.

So he sat her down, found a piece of paper, and diagrammed and spoke as if to someone much older. (A doctor himself, he appreciated a curious, inquisitive mind.) And after some years had passed, he and his wife, a regional desk officer for the African Union Peace and Security Department, handed the young woman college applications with the hope that a place would be found to satisfy her ravenous intellect.

This past August, at the age of 15, Nwaelugo left Africa to begin her college career in America's Midwest. She and her mother traveled to Northwestern from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where their family of seven has lived since 2007. Nwaelugo was born in Nigeria but grew up in Gambia; traveling to Iowa marked her first journey out of Africa.

The women left in the middle of the night for the first of four flights and a seemingly endless 17 hours in the air. Three-year-old Favour recently had insisted she sleep in her older sister's room, and when she woke the next morning without Nwaelugo there, she cried. Even their mother, who had seen an older daughter off to school the previous year, was doleful, thinking she'd have more time with her second born; but excellent grades and early SAT success ensured Nwaelugo would pursue a biology-health professions major sooner than anyone expected.

In this new world, people were different. Back home, one would curtsy to an elder and greet him with "Good morning"; here, adults waved hello to Nwaelugo and asked to be called by their given names. This renouncement of formality gave way to a friendliness that both surprised and delighted her.

"People always look so happy here," Nwaelugo says. "Strangers talk to you, tell you about their lives. This was a shock to me: At home, you might get a friendly smile or nod, but not a whole life story. This is even more present in Orange City. It made me feel more comfortable."

Her roommates taught her how to use a washing machine—she grew up having a maid hand wash their clothes, a somewhat common luxury—and she worked hard at navigating the different software programs required for course work. Her secondary school's classical education style had emphasized thinking over doing, and Northwestern's hands-on way of learning science, with three-hour labs, felt new.

New, but necessary, for Nwaelugo wants to be a surgeon. A cardiothoracic surgeon, specifically, to redeem a wrong that took her grandfather's life.

"My grandfather died when a surgeon refused to treat him because his payment was late," she says. "Any other surgeon, my grandfather might still be alive. If I become a surgeon, I could do exactly what he didn't do."

The stories her mother told made Nwaelugo wish she had met her grandfather.

"He was very educated. He loved to talk about philosophy," she says. "My mother said he would have loved me. I would have asked him questions, and he would have been extremely happy to answer them all. Every time I see a rainbow, I think of him."

Nwaelugo plans to attend medical school next and then return to Nigeria qualified to make a difference. She hesitates to use those words, wondering aloud if one person really can change what's wrong with the world. But it's clear she wants to try.

Until then, she takes walks down Orange City streets, knowing now that speaking to strangers is allowed and welcomed. She enjoys the company of classmates and of her host family, who helped celebrate Nwaelugo's 16th birthday this fall American-style.

Rain poured down the first two days of the semester, and students on her floor had had enough. When the sun finally came out, no rainbow appeared; but this diverse group celebrating together ("We missed you!" they told the sun) formed beautiful colors that Nwaelugo is finally beginning to understand. 🏠

*Nwaelugo wants
to be a surgeon.
A cardiothoracic
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Enrolling at Northwestern this fall as a 15-year-old, Nnenna Nwaelugo seeks to return to her birthplace of Nigeria after she has become a cardiothoracic surgeon.



Strategic Cutbacks

Program review leads to reductions

BY DUANE BEESON

Northwestern is dropping its journalism and music ministry majors as the result of a right-sizing process that will result in cuts to the equivalent of eight full-time faculty and staff positions by the 2016–17 school year. The cuts were announced this summer after a five-month review of costs in an effort to bring staffing and program offerings in line with enrollment.

The majority of the cuts involved open positions that were not filled or were reduced, but one current full-time staff member will no longer have a job at NWC after this academic year. Among the departments affected are athletics, communications, computer science, English, global education, intercultural affairs, music and religion.

The cuts are among a number of decisions projected to save nearly \$2.2 million by the end of next year. In addition to the personnel reductions, other budget changes include a salary freeze for next year, a decrease in the college’s annuity benefit, and modifications in financial aid packaging.

“We’ve had only two budget deficits in the last 30 years,” says President Greg Christy, “but the Board of Trustees said we needed to address challenges in our operating budget. We’ve been tightening our belt the last few years, trying to eliminate unnecessary expenditures, but that hasn’t been enough.”

Christy announced to faculty and staff in February that a right-sizing

process would begin. A group of 11 faculty and staff members was charged with the task of making recommendations regarding academic program cuts. From March to June, the committee reviewed extensive data on programs, with a focus on those with high costs and/or low enrollment. Meanwhile, the Administrative Council did similar reviews of each staff division.

“Our goal was to do what’s in the best long-term interests of the college in accordance with the strategic plan,” says Christy. “Programs were evaluated based on their centrality to our mission, distinctiveness, quality and demand.”

While cuts were necessary to get the operational budget in shape, Christy emphasizes that Northwestern is on very sound financial footing. A number of financial indexes rank NWC in the top 75 percent compared to peer institutions. Northwestern’s \$48 million endowment is nearly twice the national median per student, and the college has only about \$5 million in debt.

Enrollment Challenges

After reaching a record high of 1,342 students in 2006, Northwestern’s enrollment has ranged between 1,205 and 1,243 over the last eight years. The struggle to increase enrollment is due to many factors, including the decline in high school graduates in Iowa and surrounding states, intensified competition—from community colleges and state universities as well as for-profits and private colleges—and a growing concern about college costs as a result of economic challenges affecting the country since 2008.

Last year another obstacle emerged. Iowa’s Board of Regents, which oversees the University of Iowa (UI), Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa, proposed tying funding for



GEORGE JOHNSON

those universities to their in-state undergraduate enrollment. Because of that, UI—which stood to lose \$47 million if the funding model was implemented—embarked upon a multimillion dollar advertising campaign, and its counterparts also increased their advertising. The University of Iowa also significantly increased the financial aid it offered to in-state students.

As a result, Iowa and Iowa State both set enrollment records this fall, with Iowa's freshman numbers increasing by nearly 12 percent. Meanwhile, many Iowa private colleges did not meet their recruiting goals, including Northwestern.

NWC officials saw what was happening last spring, when an analysis showed, for the first time, that all three Regents institutions were among the college's top five competitors.

The Board of Regents funding plan wasn't approved, and UI has reduced its advertising campaign. Meanwhile, several changes have been implemented in Northwestern's admissions office, including using a lead-generation firm to help recruiting efforts. The result has been a record number of applications for fall 2016.


"I'm encouraged by the much higher interest we've had from prospective students," says President Christy. "Northwestern has a lot to offer, and it's important that we expand our reach."

A strategic decision a few years ago to offer a Northwestern education to adult learners by entering the online and graduate education markets is already paying off. While the number of freshmen was down this fall, NWC's total enrollment actually increased due to a strong enrollment in the new Master of Education programs, as well as a record rate of freshman-to-sophomore retention.

Painful Process

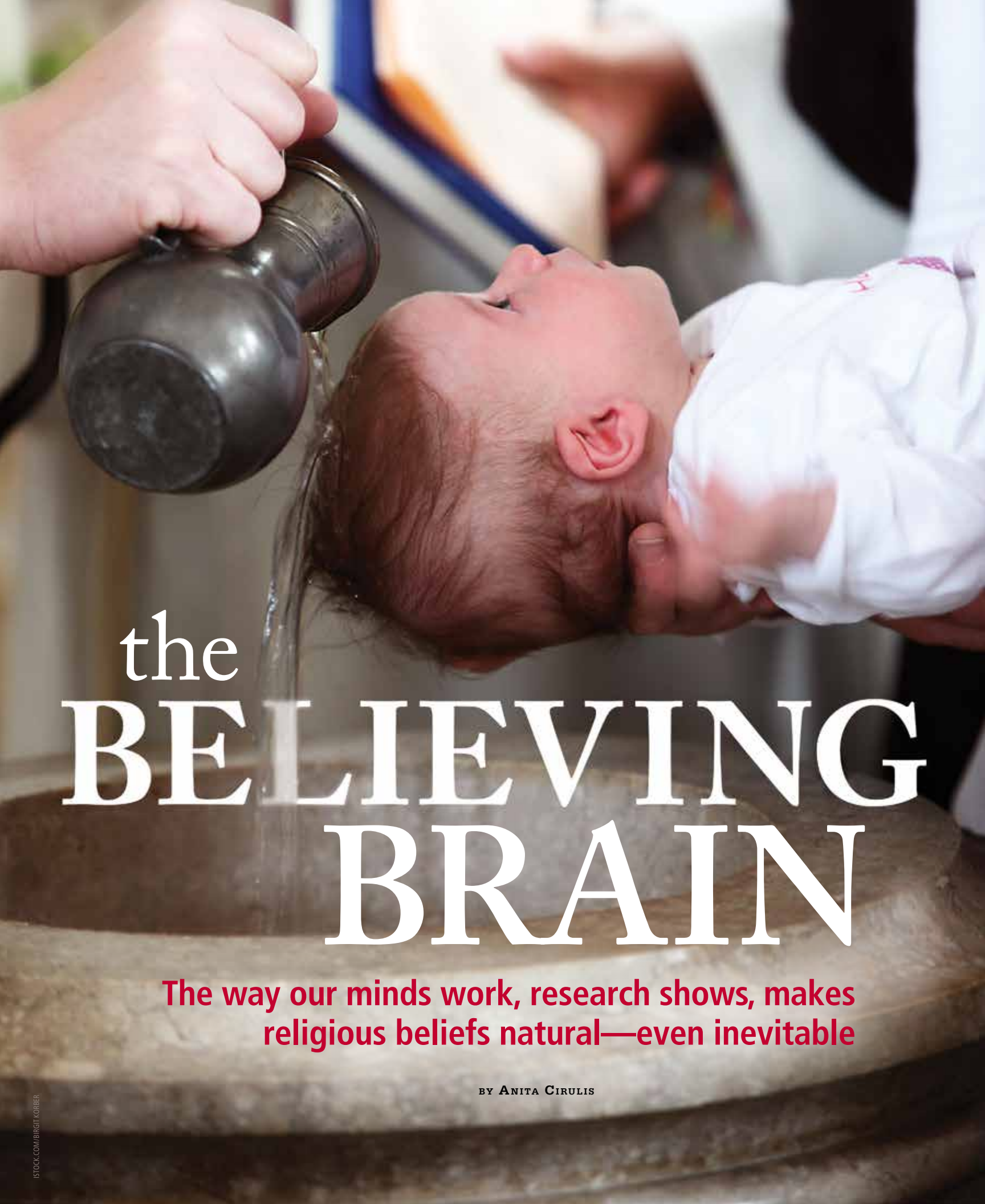
Christy describes the right-sizing process as gut-wrenching. "We're a tight-knit community, and there were no easy choices. It has been extremely hard because we're dealing with the lives of people we care about."

But he says he sees a great resiliency in NWC's employees and an unwavering commitment to the college's mission.

"We can draw tremendous strength from the fact that God has blessed this institution for more than 130 years and used our alumni to further his kingdom both locally and around the globe," says Christy. "The world needs the kind of faithful and courageous Christian servants and leaders we produce. God will be faithful as we are faithful to the mission he has for us. We will come out of this process even stronger, and not only survive, but thrive." 



GEORGE JOHNSON



the
**BELIEVING
BRAIN**

The way our minds work, research shows, makes religious beliefs natural—even inevitable

BY ANITA CIRULIS

Why do people believe in God? Why is religion universal? “Every culture in the world that we’ve ever known, traced all the way back, seems to have behaviors that we would describe as religious,” says Northwestern psychology professor Dr. Laird Edman. “Well, among many explanations, some of them have to do with the way our brains work.”

The study of the relationship between belief and the mental processes involved in perception, memory, judgment and reasoning is known as the cognitive science of religion—and one of its pioneering researchers is Dr. Justin Barrett. Barrett, a Calvin College graduate, earned a doctorate in experimental psychology from Cornell, was a senior researcher at Oxford University, and now teaches at Fuller Theological Seminary’s School of Psychology.

Barrett is the author of *Why Would Anyone Believe in God?* and *Born Believers: The Science of Children’s Religious Belief*. He will also be the featured speaker for Northwestern’s annual Day of Learning in Community, which will explore topics of science and faith Wednesday, Feb. 10.

It was through Barrett’s first book that Edman became captivated by what scientists are discovering in this new, growing field. Edman assigned students to read *Why Would Anyone Believe in God?* for a senior seminar he was teaching on the psychology of religion, and in the process, discovered a new passion.

“I remember praying, ‘Lord, I feel like I have no vision. My research doesn’t excite me anymore. What is the next step?’” he recalls. “Within a year, this shows up, and it revitalized my life as a scholar.”

A mental toolbox

As the study of religion turns toward theories related to how the brain works, psychologists are identifying empirical questions and designing experiments to test those theories. They’re discovering that belief in a god or gods is natural—even inevitable—because of the mental tools with which we are born.

“Our brains are designed to solve problems and react to situations in a particular way, which makes the move toward religious explanations a very short one,” says Edman. “Hence, it’s very easy to teach a 3-year-old there is a God. They’re primed to think that thought.”

Among the mental tools linked to religious belief is the ability to differentiate between inanimate objects and what scientists refer to as “agents”—those beings that can intentionally act on their environment.

“Babies seem sensitive to several important features of agents that

“Our brains are designed to solve problems and react to situations in a particular way, which makes the move toward religious explanations a very short one.”

make them ready to understand humans and animals as agents, but make them receptive to gods, as well,” Barrett writes. Early in life, infants learn that agents can move themselves and other things, act to attain goals, need not resemble humans, and need not be visible.

A robust ability to detect the work of agents in the world is a mechanism for survival, says anthropologist Dr. Stewart Guthrie. If you’re walking in the forest and hear a twig snap, it’s advantageous to assume the sound is caused by a predator. If you do otherwise and are wrong, you become—as Edman puts it—“a calm but easy lunch.”

This tendency to look for someone or something as the cause of an event can explain why people believe in gods, spirit ancestors or ghosts. So, too, can our propensity to reason about purpose and design. Work by developmental psychologist Dr. Deborah Kelemen shows that children strongly favor functional explanations for why things exist. And because children associate intentional agents with order and see design in the natural world, they naturally assume *someone* made it.

Research has revealed that humans early in life develop the ability to understand that others have plans, thoughts and perspectives different from their own—and to use that understanding to explain and predict the actions of others (including gods or spirits). Studies show we tend to view minds and bodies as separate entities and find it hard to imagine someone “not thinking” (even someone who is dead).

Still other research demonstrates we are drawn to ideas that fit naturally occurring assumptions about the world, but that violate an assumption in a way that is interesting, memorable and easy to understand (and therefore likely to be shared). Many religious beliefs,

Barrett and others point out, fit that description—for example, ancestor spirits with no physical bodies, an animal that can speak, or a man who can walk on water.

Two sides of a coin

Theories, research and data like these are helping scientists explain religious belief—and for some, explain it away. Scholars and atheists such as Richard Dawkins, Pascal Boyer and Jesse Bering have authored books arguing that because we can account for religious belief, there's no need for the "God hypothesis."

Northwestern philosophy professor Dr. Don Wacome acknowledges the validity of those arguments, which he believes make Christians responsible for providing evidence for their faith.

“You can reason that if there is a God, God would have put in place something that gives us a sense of his presence.”

“The world is filled with religious beliefs, and we now have a theory that generally debunks them,” he says, “so how do we deal with that in an honest way?” For Wacome, answering that question begins with abstract philosophical arguments and ends with the historical fact that people in the second century believed Jesus of Nazareth rose from the dead.

“I would contend that the best explanation for why people believed that Jesus was resurrected is because it really happened,” he says. “Connect that with arguments about the nature of reality and why our world exists, and I think it’s reasonable to believe Jesus really was who the Scriptures say he claimed to be.”

Edman, meanwhile, views the cognitive science of religion as agnostic. “You can make an argument that this science is completely consistent with faith, or you can make an argument that this science helps us understand why there is faith even if there’s no God,” he says. “Since most of the people initially involved in the cognitive science of religion were atheists, their interpretations were, ‘Aha! Now we’ve explained away religion.’”

Edman, by contrast, thinks it would be problematic if, as physical beings, we *didn't* find any evidence of “God’s fingerprints” in how our brains are made and function. “How else would God work if he didn’t work with our bodies?” he asks. “You can reason that if there is a God, God would have put in place something that gives us a sense of his presence. Calvin called it the *sensus divinitatis*. Maybe that’s what we’ve found here. Maybe we’ve found evidence of the *sensus divinitatis* in human cognition.”

Research questions

The scarcity of Christians studying the cognitive science of religion was the impetus for how Edman came to meet and collaborate with Barrett. In 2012 Calvin College hosted a two-week summer seminar led by Barrett that was designed to help Christian scholars learn about and begin doing research in the field. Edman was one of 12 applicants chosen to participate.

Edman was also one of just 25 scholars from around the world selected for a series of summer research seminars in Oxford, England. Hosted by Scholarship & Christianity In Oxford, the monthlong seminars provide an interdisciplinary approach to contemporary issues of science and religion. They also provide funding for Edman’s own research and for establishing a science and religion club at Northwestern.

Equipped with such funding and his love for the subject, Edman has plunged into a variety of research projects, assisted by several Northwestern psychology majors. One study—conducted in cooperation with Barrett and colleagues at Calvin and a Canadian university—debunks research that purportedly shows analytical thinking decreases



religious belief. After testing 200 students at Calvin and 2,700 people across North America, Edman and the others demonstrated the role prior beliefs play in that phenomenon.

“Particularly at Calvin, where people are supposed to learn to think critically about their faith, when we primed analytical thinking, their religiosity scores went up,” he explains.

Another study is examining how people experience prayer. That research is being conducted with Dr. Rebekah Richert, a psychology professor at the University of California-Riverside, and Richert’s lead graduate student in that study, Kirsten (McConnel ’13) Lesage. Lesage, who spent four years on Edman’s research teams while a student at Northwestern, is working on a doctorate in developmental psychology and plans to devote her career to the study of the cognitive science of religion.

Edman is also working on a book to help church leaders use the knowledge gained through the cognitive science of religion to better design worship and opportunities for spiritual formation.


“One of the Oxford participants last summer told me that, for Christians, the cognitive science of religion is really the cognitive science of idolatry,” Edman says. Why, after all the sermons and Bible studies Christians hear throughout their lives, do they continue to have wrong beliefs—to think, for example, that they have to work hard to be good enough to get into heaven? “We can

explain a lot of that with the cognitive science of religion,” Edman says. “Their brains default there.”

Courageous learning

While Edman finds the cognitive science of religion both useful and intriguing, he recognizes the subject can be challenging for students. But what better place to tackle those challenges, he asks, than in Northwestern’s community of faith?

Edman cautions against a belief system that relies solely on God as an explanation for what we don’t know. “If students’ assurance of the existence of God has to do with human ignorance, that’s a God-of-the-gaps theology,” he says. “So then when something gets explained by science, our God gets smaller.”

Rather than becoming anti-intellectual and anti-science, Edman wants his students to approach learning about the cognitive science of religion with intellectual integrity and humility. “God isn’t afraid of our questions, and we shouldn’t be afraid to ask them,” he maintains. “That’s at the core for what we mean when we talk about courageous and faithful learning and living.” 

class Notes

'68 **Kella (Klinker) Simonin** directed the Spencer Community Theatre's production of *The Odd Couple*. The play opened the theatre company's 56th season.

'75 **Jay Dorschner** has moved from Arizona to Sioux City, Iowa, to be closer to family.

Nella Kennedy and her husband, **Bill**, professor emeritus of religion, delivered research papers at a joint conference of the New Netherland Institute and the Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies in Albany, N.Y., in September. They are both senior research fellows at the A.C. Van Raalte Institute at Hope College.

'71 **The Rev. Roy Paterik** retired following a 40-year career in pastoral ministry, having served congregations in six states. He and his wife, Marie, live in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

'77 **Jay Huizenga** was named the 2015 South Dakota Broadcaster of the Year by the South Dakota

Broadcasters Association. He has worked for KELO-TV in Sioux Falls for 35 years, serving as vice president and general manager since 2008.

Wendell Kampman retired in 2010 after teaching math, coaching and serving as the technology coordinator for Forest City (Iowa) Community Schools. Since then he has worked at Northwestern College, first in maintenance and now serving as the faculty assistant in the education department.

Randy Oostra has been appointed to a three-year term on the Board of Trustees for the American Hospital Association, beginning January 2016. He serves as president and CEO of ProMedica in Toledo, Ohio. He also serves on the boards of Northwestern College, the Regional Growth Partnership, the Toledo Museum of Art and the Toledo Symphony, for which he is chair.

'79 **Sue (Van Aartsen) Shull**, Estes Park, Colo., has now hiked every trail shown on the Rocky Mountain National Park map—about 355 miles in all.

'82 **Curtis Huizenga** resides in Erie, Ill., and is employed at an



NOW SCREENING

Northwestern's new website adapts to whatever screen you're using, whether computer, tablet or smartphone. Check it out for the latest news, videos and photos from NWC.

nwciowa.edu

Red Ties

CORKY KOERSELMAN '82

Alumni Relations

After 33 years away from NWC, I am once again walking familiar halls. The buildings, professors and students are very different from when I was a student. And yet, the essence of this place feels a lot the same.

In addition to serving in Northwestern's advancement office—encouraging alumni connections to their alma mater—I'm also teaching classes in Northwestern's music department. I'm helping recruit high school students with musical talent, encouraging them to participate in NWC's many co-curricular opportunities (regardless of what major they choose).

Before coming to Northwestern, I enjoyed a career as a music educator. The son of a Sioux County dairy farmer, I thought I might farm someday, but God had other plans. God gave me a desire to sing and prompted my neighbor, the late Alberta (Slouthouber '36) Langstraat, to encourage me to sing in church. I did. She accompanied me. I was 10 years old.

Since then, I've earned psychology and music degrees at Northwestern College and had a gratifying 33-year career as a middle and high school music teacher and guidance counselor, most recently at Sibley-Ocheyedan (Iowa) schools. Now, after an early retirement from public education, I'm back at Northwestern.

When I lived on campus in the 1970s, there were 800 students. Now there are 1,100 on campus and another 100 enrolled in our graduate school and adult learning programs. These NWC undergraduates are better prepared academically for college, and they expect more from their professors and classes. They express their curiosity and opinions more freely than we did when I was at Northwestern.

College students today are part of a generation labeled "less religious," yet the students I'm meeting at Northwestern amaze me with their spiritual maturity and devotion to "following Christ and pursuing God's redeeming work in the world," as our mission statement says. If you sometimes worry about the future of our nation and world, spend time on Northwestern's campus. It's inspiring. You'll feel hopeful, like I do.



area landscape nursery. He is also president of the Board of Trustees for the Erie Public Library and secretary of the Erie Rotary Club.

'85 **Michael Van Berkum** is the new leader of the Iowa State Patrol, serving as the division's 15th colonel. He climbed the ranks during his 30-year career and was an area field captain and administrative operations captain since 2012. A graduate of the FBI National Academy, he was president of the Iowa FBI National Academy Associates chapter in 2012–13.

'88 **Ernest Reineke** teaches music at the Lincoln Intermediate School in Mason City, Iowa. His wife, **Melodee (Weisbrod)**, is a church musician and maintains a private music studio. In November, Ernest directed the prestigious fifth and sixth grade Iowa Opus Honor Choir with Melodee serving as accompanist. They have two daughters, including Kirsten, a sophomore at Iowa State University who

rooms with Abby, the daughter of Ernest's Northwestern roommate, **Dave Rubsam '87**.

'92 **Dr. Ken and Patricia (Getting '89) Hayes** live in Marshalltown, Iowa, where he serves as an associate principal at the high school. Their daughter, Corrie, was crowned Miss Teen of America last March.

Ken Slater is the superintendent of the River Valley Community School District in Correctionville, Iowa. He served the last four years as principal at Ridge View High School in Holstein, which was the only Iowa high school to be named a 2015 National Blue Ribbon School.

Daniel Van Beek recently completed a 42-mile hike through Yosemite National Park. The trek, which ranged from 8,300 to 11,000 feet in elevation, took five days to complete. He and his wife, **Lori (Burriss)**, live in Chino, Calif.

'94 **Bill Westrate** is chief operating officer for American Family Insurance. His wife, **Shela (Stone)**, is a stay-at-home mom. They live near Madison, Wis., with their daughters: Ellie (16) and Grace (14).

'98 **Sara Veldhuizen Stealy** lives in Ghana with her husband, Dave. She serves as the press attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Accra.

'99 **Londa (Wassink) Dirksen** is the reading specialist at Edgerton (Minnesota) Public School.

Jen (Christiansen) Dolphin has been named the registrar at Morningside College in Sioux City. She had served as associate registrar since 2001.

A new book, *Frames: A Picture of Death, Drugs and Forgiveness*, shares stories of the accident and aftermath when **Kevin Jansma's** first wife, **Marilyn (Lupkes '97)**, was killed in a car crash caused by an impaired driver. More information about the book, which was written by *Classic*



Jim Christensen, one of two Iowa science teachers to receive the 1994 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science, now directs educational outreach programs at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex.

Rocket Man

Place a LEGO man in a clear container. Drop the container from a height and watch as he is suspended mid-flight, weightless—as Jim Christensen '79 was while aboard a reduced-gravity aircraft, a trip typically reserved for astronauts and researchers. Only an award-winning former science teacher would think of an object lesson like that, right?

“Having that experience gives me an incredible advantage to simulate microgravity for others,” says Christensen, director of education at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in central Florida. “We’re coming up with some ideas that are going to be mind-blowing.”

Christensen landed the position at the space center when he started the countdown to retirement. After years as an educator and science and technology consultant in Iowa, he first entered NASA's orbit when they asked him to lead a workshop for teachers. That led to 10 years of heading a NASA educational research center, and he leapt at the chance, in 2014, to develop popular programs such as the Astronaut Training Experience for Kennedy Space Center.

The space center is a working launch site, with 39 blast-offs scheduled this year. If one takes place during Christensen's workday, he dons a “Launch Team” shirt and fields questions from observers. And if liftoff occurs in the wee hours of the morning, he wakes at the sound of the rocket's roar and heads outside, eyes to the sky and full of wonder.

BY AMY SCHEER



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TRINITY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

A former banking executive and mayor of Holland, Mich., Kurt Dykstra is now president of Trinity Christian College.

A Freshman Again

If someone were to describe the ideal preparation for a role as college president, it might look similar to the career path of Kurt Dykstra '94. Attorney, finance executive, politician, professor—Dykstra is drawing on all of those experiences as he begins his job as president of Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Ill.

Dykstra, who started in July, has been busy learning the college's past and present while developing plans to steer it toward a solid future. "Our biggest challenges in the short term are questions of enrollment and budgetary impact, and trying to get our fiscal situation to the point where we can say confidently we're on a path to assured sustainability," he says.

While his new presidential role leverages his past experiences, Dykstra says, "Taking that knowledge and translating it into a new industry is going to stretch me. Working with a wide array of persons with differing perspectives and corralling that energy toward advancing a common purpose will be a challenge—a very enjoyable one."

The role is also bringing Dykstra full circle in a sense. The former Northwestern student government president describes his four years at NWC as "transformative" and says he's looking forward to being part of that same kind of experience for Trinity students. "It's an opportunity to be a part of students' lives at a pivotal time."

BY SHERRIE BARBER WILLSON '98

contributor Amy Scheer, is at facebook.com/Framesthebook. Kevin lives with his wife, Kelly (VanHaaften '00), and their three boys in Ankeny, Iowa, and serves as senior director of programs for Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity.

Kirk Johnson, who has served as principal of Waukee High School for the past five years, was recently elected vice president of School Administrators of Iowa. The statewide organization supports, encourages and develops more than 2,000 educational leaders and learners throughout Iowa.

'00 The Rev. Michael Hardeman and his wife, the Rev. Elizabeth Brown Hardeman, are co-pastors at American Reformed Church in Orange City. They have three daughters: Neriah (10), Rinnah (7) and Micaiah (3).

Matt Schmidt is an associate head athletic trainer at Minnesota State University, Mankato, working primarily with the men's and women's hockey programs. He served as head athletic trainer for the U.S.H.L. Sioux City Musketeers the last two years after 11 years as Northwestern's head athletic trainer.

Rachel (See) Valentine and her business partner, Jeremy Koerselman '05, have opened All Things New Therapy Services in Orange City. The faith-based counseling practice offers therapy sessions for individuals, couples, children and families.

'01 Allen De Vos teaches in the intellectual disabilities classroom at Pacetti Bay Middle School in St. Augustine, Fla. He previously taught special education at South O'Brien High School in Paullina, Iowa.

Vicki (Dykstra) Schrock has returned to Promise Community Health Center in Sioux Center, Iowa, to resume her position as clinic manager after spending a year doing missionary work in Guatemala with her husband, Justin, and their family.

'02 Sara Friedrichsen was named the 2015 Northwest Iowa Review Softball Coach of the Year after leading the Boyden-Hull/Rock Valley High School team to a 32-5 record and a seventh-place finish at the Class 3A state tournament.

Brandon Van Marel is the new director of campus ministries at Midland University in Fremont, Neb. He previously served as the restorative justice coordinator, director of intramurals and resident director at Missouri Baptist University.

Kristi (Kurtzleben) Wick was promoted to partner at Hogan-Hansen, a public accounting firm with offices throughout north central and eastern Iowa. She and her husband, Joseph '03, live in Clear Lake, Iowa.

'03 Malinda (Burk) Jean Baptiste works as a counselor at Lincoln (Nebraska) Southwest High School.

'04 Trent Fredericksen is the director of housing and residence life at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Nick Harthorn umpired the Class 1A Iowa state baseball championship game in Des Moines. He teaches math at Pella Christian High School and is the boys' basketball coach at Lynnville-Sully High School. He and his wife, Amy, live in Sully, Iowa.

Rachael (Thompson) Kowbel is the new director of admissions at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry. She previously served as the associate director of recruitment and engagement at Iowa's Tippie College of Business.

'05 Justin Derry works as a field agent with the Knights of Columbus. He and his wife, Shaunna (Ell '10), live in Vermillion, S.D., with their three sons.

The Rev. Jamie Dykstra is the new director of care and connections at First Reformed Church in Sioux Center. His wife, **Kimberly (Boersma)**, works as a physician's assistant at the Orange City Area Health System.

Travis Kooima was named the 2015 *Northwest Iowa Review* Football Coach of the Year after leading the Western Christian High School team to a state runner-up finish in Class 1A and an 11-3 record.

'06 **Bruce Anliker** teaches history at Grace Christian Academy in Franklin, Tenn. He also serves as the school's head wrestling coach and assistant football coach.

Josh Menning and his wife, Anne, live in Copenhagen, Denmark. He worked for Youth With a Mission for six years in New Zealand and France and now teaches at a Christian boarding school. Anne is a medical student.

'08 **Susan DeGroot** graduated in May from the University of South Dakota with an MBA.

Karen Leonard earned a doctorate in second language acquisition from the University of Iowa and is an assistant professor of Spanish at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Ill.

'09 **Sarah Connolly** earned a doctorate in psychology from Ball State University in July. She is now pursuing a post-doctoral fellowship at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta.

'10 **Karla Arevalo** is in her third year at KIPP, the Knowledge is Power Program, in Colorado. She serves as an alumni adviser for the national network of free public charter schools and is also part of a one-year leadership fellowship that will enable her to travel to other KIPP locations across the country.

Kristen Burghorn, Pella, Iowa, recently earned an MBA from Drake University. She

teaches business at Prairie City-Monroe High School.

Rachelle (Pedersen) Naridze graduated in May from the University of Iowa's Carver College of Medicine with an M.D. degree as well as a master's in public health. Her husband, **Irakli**, graduated from Iowa's Tippie School of Business with an MBA.

Jessica Pomeranke teaches algebra and geometry at Roosevelt High School in Sioux Falls, S.D. She also serves as the coordinator of freshman orientation, supervisor of the Cancer Awareness Club and a Young Life leader. Last summer she participated in a three-week mission trip in Kenya, teaching at a Christian school.

Dr. Samantha (Ubben) Wedeking recently purchased veterinary clinics in Armstrong and Lakota, Iowa.

'11 **Jordan Gammon** graduated from the Los Angeles City Fire Department Academy and is a firefighter with the department.

Renee (Ausborn) Kim teaches at Cono Christian School in Walker, Iowa, specializing in teaching children with attachment issues.

Alex Menning is in his third year as a medical student at Des Moines University.

Katherine (Hielkema) Willie and her husband, Nicholas, live in Midvale, Utah. She teaches kindergarten at East Midvale Elementary.

'12 **Amber (Maloney) Johnson** teaches first grade at Academia Los Pinares in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Sarah Kanoy has accepted a position as a community health nurse and educator with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. She will live in Nairobi, Kenya, and serve the people of East Africa by working with Mercy Medical Teams to provide health care and hygiene education in local schools, churches and communities.

Morgan Weis has been appointed the program manager of AmeriCorps VISTA under Mayor Chris Coleman in St. Paul, Minn.

'13 **Brandon Hammack** is an athletic trainer for Athletico Physical Therapy in Chicago. His wife, **Natasha (Fernando)**, is a student at John Marshall Law School.

Ashlee (Eisland) Koedam, an English teacher at West Lyon High School in Inwood, Iowa, received the Barb Schubert Award from the Iowa Council of Teachers of English. The award honors a new teacher for demonstrating excellence in the classroom.

Rebecca (Lokker) Ortner teaches art at Crestwood Elementary in Cresco, Iowa.

Sadie (Mennen) Wright graduated in May with a master's degree in school counseling from Ball State University. She is employed as a school counselor at Driver Middle School in Winchester, Ind.

'14 **Jacob Gilleland**, Minneapolis, is working as a career specialist for Goodwill-Easter Seals. His wife, **Laura (Ecklund '13)**, serves as admissions event coordinator for Bethel University.

New Arrivals

Gina (Mast '93) and **Jason Smits '94**, daughter by adoption, Julia Joy Cai (2), joins John (15), Jared (13), Jillian (11) and Jaylynn (5)

Tricia (Reynen '97) and **Brian Veenendaal '95**, daughter by adoption, Tahlia Lynn Tian (2), joins Brett (16), Taylor (14) and Brinn (11)

Esther (Leman '98) and **Pete Errington '97**, son, Jesse Peter, joins Aidan (15), Talea (13), Shiloh (9) and Levi (2)

Karina and **Ryan Stander '98**, son, Willem Eames

LeEllen and **Darrin DeVries '99**, daughter, Freya Navine, joins Caedmon (9), Liana (7) and Raewynn (4)

Kirk and **Londa (Wassink '99) Dirksen**, daughter, Kira Sue, joins Brayden (7) and Kalen (5)

Dr. Jennifer Rogers, assistant professor of kinesiology, and **Tim '00**, son, Kinnick Dean, joins Kiera (10) and Kaden (6) Zeke and **Kimberly (Tjeerdma '02) Ellis**, daughter, Hope Theresa, joins Parker (4) and Brynn (2)

Diane and **Matt Ulmer '02**, daughter, Lucy Marie, joins Ava (5) and Simon (3)

Jon and **Christie (Jans '03) Conover**, daughter, Rachel Joanna

Adrienne (Gaster '04) and **Tristan Agre '03**, son, Zephaniah Bradley, joins Aliyah (8), Selah (6) and Obadiah (2)

Wendy (White '05) and **Joel Ivarson '03**, daughter by adoption, Mina Mae (3)

Jason and **Carleen (Owens '03) Smith**, son, Ryan William, joins Ian (7), Trevor (4) and Clara (1)

Kendra and **Trent Frederickson '04**, son, Samuel Davey

Tim and **Erin (Piehl '04) Kittila**, daughter, Caroline Lu, joins Alice (4) and Ben (2)

DEAN OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION

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GEOFF JOHNSON

Krissa Hetletvedt “has the classroom management and demeanor of a seasoned teacher,” wrote one of her colleagues in a letter nominating her as Omaha Public Schools’ Rookie of the Year, an award she won last April.

Rookie Rewards

Parent-teacher conferences. First-year teacher Krissa Hetletvedt ’14 was nervous for her first round. She was especially anxious about the frank conversation she needed to have with one student’s parent.

As she described the second-grader’s attention and learning issues and the measures she planned to take to address them, the boy’s mother began crying. Krissa asked if she was OK. “I’m usually crying because I’m so frustrated,” the mom said, “but this time I’m crying because I can tell you care so much about him.”

Hetletvedt’s classroom passion for students and their learning received special recognition last April when she was named Rookie of the Year by the Omaha Education Association.

Her colleagues at Catlin Arts Magnet School described her in their nominations as “extraordinary” and “amazing.” They wrote about her “unrivaled enthusiasm” and “unwavering commitment.” The school’s instructional facilitator said Hetletvedt “treats each child as if he or she is the only one in the class.”

Soft-spoken and seeming a little embarrassed by all the attention, Hetletvedt credits Northwestern’s teacher-as-servant philosophy with showing her how to put students first. “I’m here to serve my students—whether that’s using a different teaching approach for students who are struggling or just being a caring and dependable adult in their lives. I’m here for the students. They’re my motivation.”

BY TAMARA FYNAARDT

Adam and **Corinne (Mings ’05) Christian**, daughter, Arianna Susanne Kurt and **Leah (Franzowiak ’05) Edwards**, daughter, Heidi Jean, joins Hanna (5)
 Timothy and **Sara (Dekker ’05) Nichols**, daughter, Sawyer Renae
 Michael and **Rebecca (Weeldreyer ’05) Van Roekel**, daughter, Trinity Noel
 Todd and **Nicole (Kraayenbrink ’07) De Weerd**, son, Clay Evan, joins Braelee (2)
Amanda (Van Kekerix ’07) and Scott Stahl ’07, son, Harrison Paul, joins Landon (5) and James (3)
Emily (Hoekema ’07) and Tim Thompson ’06, son, Owen Malachi, joins Elam (3)
 Jason and **Karrisa (Davelaar ’08) Roetman**, daughter, Kambrie Caye
Alex (Irwin ’09) and Bruce Anliker ’06, son, Isaiah William Gene, joins Noah (7) and Emery (4)
 Grant and **Kara (Johnson ’09) Fifiel**, daughter, Scarlett Elise, joins Adelyn (1)

Zechariah and **Audrey (Tau ’09) Stake**, daughter, Selah Ann, joins Elijah (4), Annalisa (2) and Gabriel (1)
Megan (Redlin ’10) and Tim De Haan ’10, daughter, Olivia Ruby, joins Liam (2)
Shaunna (Ell ’10) and Justin Derry ’05, son, Michael Maximilian, joins Martin (3) and Samuel (2)
Jessica (Vander Velde ’10) and Tyler Glanzer ’10, son, Owen Ray, joins Savannah (2)
 Schuyler and **Angela (Isker ’10) Snakenberg**, daughter, Esther Angela
Janna (Bloemendaal ’11) and Kadrian Hardersen ’08, daughter, Braelynn Mae
Heidi (Hildebrandt ’11) and Jeremy Sheppard ’12, daughter, Anneka Lochelle
Sara Beth (Horn ’11) and Daniel Solis ’11, daughter, Kamryn Esther
 Emily and **Bret Krosschell ’14**, son, Kyler Perry, joins Liam (6)

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Marriages

Holly Donaghy '89 and Eric Berendsen, Vernon Hills, Ill.

Malinda Burk '03 and Michael Jean Baptiste, Lincoln, Neb.

Stephanie McAllister '03 and Kent Miller, Urbandale, Iowa

Julie Goetsch '05 and Greg Weidauer, Manson, Iowa

Dana Neevel '07 and Justin Nocchi, Elgin, Ill.

Cindy Sybesma '07 and Doug Lucas, Platte, S.D.

Robyn Postma '09 and Brent McDowell, Sanborn, Iowa

Renee Ausborn '11 and Michael Joseph Kim, Walker, Iowa

Amber Maloney '12 and Erik Johnson, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Kaitlyn Anticouni '14 and **Derek Drenth '13**, Baltic, S.D.

Darci Jansen '14 and **David Palsma '13**, Alton, Iowa

Tyler Wrede '14 and Carly Haas, Clara City, Minn.

Elisa Banninga '15 and **Josh Klope '15**, Iowa City

Megan Walhof '15 and **Chad Kischer '15**, Albert City, Iowa

The couples reside in the city listed.

In Memoriam

Evelyn (Mulder '39) Bensema of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., age 94, died on May 29. She was an active member of the Lincoln Avenue Community Church in Pomona. Among her survivors are three daughters and a sister.

Paul Koets '64, Orange City, died June 23 at age 79. He attended Hope College before graduating from Northwestern. He later earned a master's degree at Morningside College in Sioux City. He worked as a recruiter for NWC for three years before becoming a fifth grade teacher at Orange City Elementary School for 27 years, retiring in 1995. He served as an emergency medical technician for 27 years, was president of the Orange City Municipal Hospital Board of

Trustees, participated in many mission trips, and served as a deacon and elder at Trinity Reformed Church. He is survived by his wife, Fran; a daughter; and a son, **David '85**.

Carol (Vander Zwaag '66) Van Der Meide of Cedar Falls died Aug. 10 at age 70. She taught preschool for 33 years, first at home, then at Community United Child-care Center and Nazareth Lutheran Church Blessed Beginnings, both in Cedar Falls. She is survived by her husband, **Ron '66**; two children; and two siblings, including **Alan '74**.

The Rev. Dave Vander Laan '78 of George, Iowa, died Oct. 7 of cancer at the age of 59. He worked for several years at KVDB radio in Sioux Center before earning a Master of Divinity degree at Western Theological Seminary. He pastored Reformed churches in Rotterdam Junction, N.Y., and George and Melvin, Iowa. He also served as a representative of Words of Hope and was active in Cursillo. Among his survivors are his wife, **Lori (Vander Veen '82)**; seven children and stepchildren, including **Curt Van Wyk '09**; two siblings, **Phil '75** and **Becky Koster '82**; and his parents, **Harold '49** and **Muriel (Van Binsbergen '51)**.

Angela Lawson '97 of Greenville, Iowa, died on June 23 at age 40. After graduating from Northwestern, she moved to Hutchinson, Minn., for eight years before returning to Greenville to work as the communications coordinator for the Western Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She was an active member of the Greenville Congregational Church. Her survivors include her parents, a brother and a sister.

LET US KNOW: Email your news for the next *Classic* by Jan. 15 to classic@nwciova.edu.



LOU MONAHAN

Kelcee Murphy, former president of the Iowa Art Therapy Association, has found art therapy to be effective in working with clients struggling with epilepsy, trauma and addiction.

Beyond Words

As a college sophomore undecided about her major, Kelcee (Foss '04) Murphy took the phrase “career search” literally. After a summer working in a state psychiatric hospital, she had decided to enter the mental health field, but she was unsure how to incorporate her artistic side. So she Googled it.

With a few key words, Lesley University's master's program in expressive arts therapy popped up. Immediately it clicked. Murphy wrote her own major in therapeutic arts at NWC, and five years later completed her master's at the graduate school in Cambridge, Mass.

Now in private practice in Des Moines, Murphy integrates all forms of creative expression in her therapy sessions. Though oral communication is one of them, it does not always prove the most valuable. “Sometimes there are experiences we don't have words for,” she says. “There are alternatives to verbal communication that can be really enlightening, empowering and honoring to people.”

Murphy has seen art and other creative techniques enhance therapy in cases of PTSD, addiction and trauma. Most recently, she has seen its impact at Studio E, a six-week art program for teens and adults with epilepsy. In open-studio sessions, she helps participants explore identity and self-esteem, as well as build connections.

Murphy has learned to listen, even when the voice is inaudible. “My favorite moments in therapy happen when people feel known and their experience honored. We don't always need words to get there,” she says.

BY **BETH (NIKKEL '02) GAULKE**

Classic Thoughts

From the Residence Hall to the Family Room

BY EMILY (GOSSELINK '00) FORD



EMILY (GOSSELINK '00) FORD

I spent thousands of dollars, hours of time and a third of my life pursuing a career in higher education. So after I had my second baby and gave all that up to stay home with my children, I reflected on that former life. My career may have changed drastically, but the education and experiences I've had have better prepared me for my current role as mommy. In fact, here are four lessons I learned on campus that are still applicable at home:

1. Stick to the rules and have a tough skin. I hate to make people mad; dealing with that was difficult as an associate dean and it still is as a mom. But I've learned it's important to stick to the rules that have been set, even if they're somewhat arbitrary. I may not know why hall open hours end at 11 p.m., but that's the rule and I need to enforce it. And while I hated reading frustrated opinion articles in the school newspaper, it helped me to not take criticism so personally. That came in handy when the dinner I spent an hour preparing was thrown on the floor.

2. It's important to find high-quality products, even when on a tight budget. Working with residence halls made me an expert on deferred maintenance, which is a fancy way of describing putting off projects until there's more money. Unfortunately, money seems to always be tight (both for Christian colleges and for families), so it's important to find quality products that won't break in a year. I did a lot of research on residence hall furniture to find products that could handle the wear-and-tear of college students. Now I'm still looking for ways to get the most bang for my buck—shopping consignment stores for kids' clothes and switching to bulk grocery retailers for most of our food, but knowing when to splurge on the good paper towels.

3. Confront sin, discipline out of love, and give grace. Confronting sin can be difficult, but when you have the ultimate good in mind for your child, you do

what you have to do. It's always important, however, to show love in the midst of that confrontation. When I was in a discipline meeting with a student who'd broken school rules, she might see my eyes well up with tears. When my daughter was born, there were times when my son was extra naughty, and while we didn't let him get away with things, I also recognized when he needed extra attention and affection.

4. "Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us" (1 Thessalonians 2:8). This was my life verse while working in student development, and it also applies to my current role. I love my kids so much that I want to share my life with them. I quit my job to stay home with them, I spend almost every waking (and sometimes sleeping) moment with them, and their lives *are* my life. I do this because I want to invest in them, develop them, and help them grow to be the godly adults I pray they will be.

As I learned from my career, there is no substitute for true life-on-life relational ministry. So my kids will see me when I'm crying and having a bad day, they will watch me put something back because we don't have the money right now, they will observe me reading my Bible, they will hear me laughing as we play hide-and-seek, and they will snuggle next to me while watching *Curious George*.

Would I have done all these things as a mom, even if I didn't have a master's degree and a dozen years of higher education experience? Probably. But my training and experience as a college professional definitely helped shape me into who I am today. I'm a better person because of that background—and I'm a better mommy too.

Emily Ford's experience in college student affairs included two years as RD in Hoppers Hall and a decade as an RD and associate dean of students at Covenant College. Recipient of a master's degree from Geneva College, she now stays at home in Rossville, Ga., watching over Asher (6) and Kennedy (3) while also working for Kenco Fleet Services.

BE COUNTED

"It's easy to use the excuse of too many costs at this stage of our lives as reasons not to give. College loans. A mortgage. Starting a family. But there will always be something. So we've decided to establish a pattern of giving now."

It all adds up.

Heather (Pagelkopf '12) and Brian Brandau '12 credit Northwestern College not only with giving them a great education, but also with bringing them together and providing a caring, Christ-centered community in which they could learn about and engage with the world. Grateful for the start Northwestern gave them, the Brandaus are giving back. They're already Tower Society members, giving more than \$1,000 per year to the Northwestern Fund through a monthly electronic funds transfer (EFT).

The Brandaus live near the Twin Cities, where Brian is an economic analyst at McLagan Community & Regional Bank and Heather is a teacher for Science Explorers, an organization that provides science lessons for kids in preschool and elementary school. Heather also started Redeemed Dust Designs and sells her burnt-sustainable-wood art at fairs and on Etsy.com.

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Wrestling Honor



DOUG BURIG

Northwestern wrestlers have a new space in which to practice and train. The Paul Bartlett Wrestling Room, named for the Red Raiders' former longtime wrestling coach, opened for use in October and features eight referee circles; a regulation-size

wrestling mat; climbing ropes, rings and monkey bars; an official time clock; a TV for video review; and an area for rehab and working out.

Construction of the Juffer Athletic Fieldhouse created a place for the Bartlett Wrestling Room in what

was previously the college's weight room. Red Raider grapplers no longer have to share space with kinesiology classes or the cheer and dance teams. They're also no longer trying to fit 30 wrestlers in an area built for 18. The new 4,200-square-foot facility can

accommodate a roster of up to 40.

Funding for the redesigned room was provided by Bartlett's former wrestlers, friends and colleagues.