Summer 2010

The Classic, Summer 2010

Public Relations
Northwestern College - Orange City

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Hope for Haiti
Northwestern alumni respond to nation's crisis

Also
Things to Do in Northwest Iowa
Christianity and Pop Culture
European Choir Tour
The Blue Mountain Culinary Emporium—with three restaurants and artifacts from six continents—offers visitors to Orange City a taste of the world.
Mission in Action

One of the things that has impressed me most since coming to Northwestern is the compassion of our students, faculty, and staff for people in need. In this issue of the Classic you can read stories about members of the Northwestern family who have put that compassion into action.

The ravages of the earthquake in Haiti last January brought horrific pain and devastation to that country. Many of our alumni, students and RCA churches have been loving and serving the Haitian people in the moments, days and months since that disaster.

Dr. Bryan Den Hartog ’81, a member of our Board of Trustees, was on a medical mission trip to Haiti at the time of the earthquake and was literally on the front lines trying to save lives. He has since made a return trip and is helping enable other surgeons to volunteer in Haiti.

Kristie (De Boer ’95) Mompremier and her husband have been missionaries in Haiti for many years. Robin (Van Oostenhout ’92) Lewis has counseled earthquake victims as a Public Health Service psychologist, and Sarah Earleywine ’10 has made half a dozen mission trips to the country, including one as a member of Northwestern’s Summer of Service (SOS) team.

Haiti is just one place where Northwestern students and alumni are making a difference. Each spring break, our Spring Service Projects program enables more than 200 students, faculty and staff to travel in teams to communities around the U.S. and abroad, where they volunteer in a variety of ministry settings. During the past 30 years, SOS has sent more than 500 Northwestern students to spend the summer as short-term missionaries. They volunteer in a variety of ministry settings. During the past 30 years, SOS has sent more than 500 Northwestern students to spend the summer as short-term missionaries. They volunteer in a variety of ministry settings.

In February Northwestern was listed on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, which is the highest federal recognition a college can receive for its service learning and civic engagement. Northwestern was honored for the fourth consecutive year and is among only 115 U.S. colleges and universities cited with distinction.

I am so proud of how Northwestern community members serve locally and globally. Their commitment to helping others is an expression of their commitment to responding when God calls. They are committed to serving. They are committed to doing the right thing. They are committed to doing things that are not only good, but that are good not just for individuals, but that are good for society as a whole.

That’s Northwestern College’s mission. These servants are living it.

Greg Christy
President

Road-Trip Romance

“We really enjoyed reading “Raiser Romance” in the last issue of the Classic. It was fun to read some of the many ways God has written love stories on the Northwestern campus. It made me wish we had submitted our story. Better late than never, here it is.

My now-husband, Chad Fikse ’00, and I had met all of our classes together our freshman year. We both returned to campus early our sophomore year to help with SMiLe (Student Move-In Leaders) and ended up in the same group of friends. A few weeks into the school year, Chad told me his aunt and uncle had invited him to go to Indiana with them over Thanksgiving and that he could bring his girlfriend along. Since he didn’t have a girlfriend—and didn’t think having one over Thanksgiving was likely—he asked if I’d like to go along instead. Little did we know that by the time Thanksgiving rolled around, he would have a girlfriend. Our first date was six days and 1,300 miles long—to Indiana with his aunt and uncle.

Lynnette (Van Gorp ’00) Fikse

Looking Sharp

Congratulations on the format of the winter Classic. The graphics are absolutely first-rate! Please keep up the good work.

Karen and Donald Dykstra ’59

New Brunswick, N.J.

Kudos

John Manning and I wanted to formally thank the Classic for the recent feature on NWC students with disabilities (“Free to Be”). The photos were great, and Amy Scherer wrote a strong piece.

We particularly appreciated how she focused on the students and not necessarily our services or department. It was great to see Kyle Sauter, Laura Denekas and Kory Jensen recognized; they have definitely worked hard to succeed.

Tom Truesdell ’01
NWC Director of Academic Support

Good Read

Thanks for another great issue of the Classic. We look forward to each issue and read it from cover to cover. Good job!

Valma (Van Drinck ’47) and Norm Rommatra ’46
Orange City, Iowa

WE LOVE GETTING MAIL
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In recognition of its groundwater and environmental stewardship, Northwestern has been named a Groundwater Guardian Green Site by The Groundwater Foundation for the third consecutive year. Green Sites are highly managed green spaces such as golf courses, zoos, resorts, colleges, parks and hospital campuses that implement groundwater and surface-water-friendly practices. Of the 75 sites honored, NWC is one of only two from Iowa and one of only six colleges nationwide. This designation is awarded to organizations after a review of their efforts to use chemicals and water responsibly, prevent pollution, and preserve water quality.

Northwestern’s water-friendly practices include applying fertilizer based on nutrient analysis, maintaining a no-application zone around surface water and active wells, selecting plants adapted to the region’s climate, disposing of toxic substances properly, and irrigating lawns at night to reduce evaporation.

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Global Classroom

Nearly 50 students started off their summer with study in China, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Great Britain or Tanzania in programs offered by NWC faculty.

Under kinesiology professor Dr. Dale Cabeck, students examined China’s "body culture" by learning about current and past practices in medicine, physical fitness and sport. They also took weekend trips to the Great Wall and to a Buddhist monastery where they learned about Chinese culture, and lived with host families. They also participated in excursions to an indigenous tribe in northern Ecuador, to the Amazon rain forest, and to an Afro-Ecuadorian community on the Pacific Coast.

Students were immersed in the contemporary culture of Ethiopia as they explored the city of Addis Ababa, recording their findings through drawings, writings, collections, sound recordings or photography. They also met rural Ethiopians and traveled to the Blue Nile Falls. Art professor Arnold Carlson, son of missionaries to Africa, taught the course.

Theatre professors Jeff and Karen Barker led a course that examined British culture through art and theater. Students attended at least a dozen theatre productions and visited nearly that many museums. They also explored some of England’s many cathedrals, markets, restaurants, parks and squares and lived with families in Gloucester.

Nursing students traveled to Tanzania with professors Dr. Ruth Daumer and Deb Bomgaars. The experience included an introduction to Tanzania’s health services, visits to Selian Lutheran Hospital, rural clinics and an orphanage; and observations of health teaching in villages. Students also took Swahili language classes and went on safari.

Mission: SOS

Fifteen Northwestern students are volunteering their time as short-term missionaries around the globe this summer. As members of the college’s Summer of Service (SOS) team, the students are ministering in diverse countries: Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Namibia, South Africa, Spain, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

The students—whose majors range from computer science to history to pre-medicine—are learning from missionary pastors, physicians, teachers and others in churches, hospitals, orphanages and refugee camps.

They are teaching English, caring for AIDS orphans, leading worship, performing construction, and delivering community health programs with ministries such as Africa Inland Mission, the Luke Society, Pioneers and World Teams.
Sound Learning

Class
The Audio Essay: Stories of Service

Instructor
Richard Sowienski
Assistant Professor of Composition and Rhetoric

Professor Richard Sowienski wants to teach his students to listen. He likes to quote radio producer David Isay, who says, “Listening is an act of love.” In The Audio Essay: Stories of Service course, students learned to listen better by going on Sound Service Project (SSP) trips and to other mission-based organizations to document their experiences and to listen to the stories of the people there.

“arounds the Green

ambient sounds and no voice, included telling a story using just
analyzed the work of broadcasters
researched their SSP sites, and
audio competition entries,
to NPR commentaries, studied
audio project, students listened
Before undertaking the main
Assignments

SUMMER 2010

Of Course

of our students to listen. He likes to quote radio
professor Richard Sowienski wants to teach
in America missionary in the Middle East for
11 years before coming to NWC.

Of Course

in order to capture the sounds of their project sites: from kids bouncing
basketballs to roofers swinging hammers. Students also interviewed the people they encountered. When they returned, students wrote accompanying voice-overs and put everything together in a final narrative to summarize their service experiences.

Junior Jenna Van Oort incorporated the sounds of kids playing
at the youth center in Cary, Miss., and saws cutting wood on their
work day. “Sometimes you learn the most by just listening and
taking it in. Listening to real stories is so powerful,” she says about
the audio essay experience.

Sowienski is a big believer in giving students opportunities to
work with digital technologies to give them an edge when they enter
the job market. “Digital technology is one of those things that, from
a marketability standpoint, is going to be great for our students,”
says Sowienski, which is why his students, digital

Grade-A Teaching

An analysis of Northwestern course evaluations shows that
students believe they are receiving high-quality instruction.

A study of evaluations
completed using a nationwide
rating system revealed that
Northwestern faculty rated higher
than the national database average
for quality of instruction. In
addition, 73 percent of classes were at or above the national average on
the “excellent teacher” rating, while 65 percent were at or above the average on the “excellent course”
rating.

“I’m so encouraged by this
study,” says Dean of the Faculty
Dr. Adrienne Forgette. “The
results show that our students are
learning, and they appreciate the
instruction provided by our faculty.
The evaluations also show that
our faculty frequently use teaching
methods that are acknowledged as
good for student learning.”

Creation-Care Efforts

Two efforts to promote environmental stewardship were
highlighted on campus during spring semester.

The Student Government Association’s ConServe initiative
challenged students to implement
changes that would help curb
energy consumption. Encouraging
students to take steps such as
shortening showers, turning off computers when not in use, unplugging gaming systems and
turning off water while brushing teeth, ConServe resulted in
a savings of nearly $9,600 on
Northwestern’s energy bill over a
two-month period.

“I know students went around
at night and made sure lights in
the bathrooms and lobby areas
were off or kept to a minimum,”
says SGA President Wes Garcia.
“It was interesting to walk through
Colenbrander and notice how
dark the hallways were during
ConServe. It was a small change
to have all the overhead hallway
lights off, but in the end it
definitely helped. Each dorm took
a different approach depending on
its personality.”

From Northwestern’s energy savings, $5,000 was donated to
ministries suggested by students, faculty and staff: the Summer of
Service program; The Bridge, a transitional housing facility for
women and children; Bethany
Christian Services, an adoption
agency; and ATLAS, an
organization that provides personal
development services to hurting
individuals and families. The
remainder of the money will be
used to further campus creation-
care initiatives next year.

A second effort, Cite and
Go, resulted in the collection of
numerous furniture, clothing and household items that students
cleaned out of their dorm rooms at the end of the semester. Goods
worth a total of nearly $10,000
were donated to Justice for All
for use by needy families—items
that in past years would have been
placed in campus dumpsters.

Training Mission

Northwestern students are getting first-
hand experience in ministry and community
development through a summer internship
program funded in part by a grant from
the Lilly Endowment. The program places
students in a variety of ministry contexts,
where the interns work with and learn from
mentors.

Six students majoring in religion,
Christian education or youth ministry are
serving Reformed churches in Iowa, New
Jersey and Washington; an independent
church in Texas; and a consortium of
Christian Reformed churches in Minnesota.

Another nine students are at one of
seven Christian Community Development
Association ministries: Cary Christian
Center in Cary, Miss., the John M. Perkins
Foundation in Jackson, Miss.; Nile High
Ministries in Denver; Mission Waco in Texas;
Trinity Christian Community and Urban
Impact in New Orleans; and World Visions in
Philippines, W.Va.

Honored Prof

Ray Weiss, who served Northwestern as
chaplain, dean of students and religion
professor for nearly 10 years, received a
Distinguished Alumni Award from Western
Theological Seminary in May.

Weiss joined the staff in 1970 as
chaplain and retired from the religion
faculty in 1998. He returned to serve as
interim president for academic affairs
in 1999-2000. He was a United Church
in America missionary in the Middle East for
11 years before coming to NWC.

Northwestern students rate their faculty above national averages, according to an analysis of course evaluations.
Healthy Glow

“Glowing,”

That’s the term Provost Jasper Lesage used to describe the exit comments of the Iowa Board of Nursing team that visited campus last October. “They confirmed the quality of our nursing program is not just adequate, it’s exceptional,” he added.

Northwestern’s department of nursing received documentation of the board’s formal approval in March. Iowa Board of Nursing approval represented the last hurdle for the program, according to nursing department chairperson Dr. Ruth Daumer, who began work on establishing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) program in 2005–06.

The program was accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education in 2009, but final approval from the Iowa Board couldn’t be granted until after Northwestern graduated its first class of nurses in May 2009. “For one thing,” Daumer explains, “they had to wait to see how our initial nursing graduates did on their board exams.”

Northwestern’s first eight B.S.N. graduates all passed their board exams and are working in hospitals across the U.S. The 13 nurses who graduated in May will take their board exams this summer and fall; several students had already accepted job offers prior to graduation.

Rays of Hope

Efforts to provide solar energy to low-income communities are getting a boost from Northwestern students and faculty.

Social work professor Mark De Ruyter ’94 and junior Seth Lembke traveled to West Virginia in January to learn to make solar panels. They constructed panels at Mendenhall Ministries in Mississippi during a Spring Service Project and taught local volunteers who will continue that effort.

Meanwhile, four business majors worked on a business plan for the World Vision Rays of Hope subsidiary that seeks to expand the project across the country.

What is one of your favorite NWC memories?

What is one of the most challenging aspects of being a professor?

Describe yourself in three words.

What do you do in your free time?

Dean Calsbeek

Fit for teaching

What makes your job great?

That’s easy—the students. Very early in my teaching career, I realized students have a lot more personality (most of the time) and provide much more fulfillment than the rats, mice and cell cultures I was working with as a researcher. I look forward to seeing and getting to know my students every day, and I miss them during the breaks and summers.

What is one of the most challenging aspects of being a professor?

Helping students to see and believe how talented and gifted they are. Most of our students eventually realize their potential, but as a professor few experiences are more difficult than watching a student not believe in himself and give up.

What is your favorite time of the year?

When the students return in the fall. It’s so fun to watch friends reunite and hear stories of adventures they had over the summer. There’s such a sense of optimism and grace when we start a new year.

Describe yourself in three words.

Sarcastic. Empathetic. Loyal.

What is one of your favorite NWC memories?

The summer course I taught in China in 2007 was great. I had an excellent group of students and a great co-leader, Dr. Paul Bartlett. It was physically and emotionally exhausting but unforgettable. We tried new foods, hiked and camped out on the Great Wall, and studied a culture that is drastically different than our own. Our comfort zones definitely expanded, and I think everyone gained a greater appreciation for the value of cultural diversity.

What do you do in your free time?

When I’m not spending time with my wife and children, I’ll do about anything for an appreciation for the value of cultural diversity.

Fit for teaching

What makes your job great?

Dr. Lee Nishiyama '57 has been a member of Northwestern’s kinesiology department since 2004. He holds a doctorate in physiology from Colorado State University. The director of the exercise science program, Calsbeek serves as the faculty mentor for the Kinesiology Club.

How did you like participating in, and winning, Dancing with the Professors this year?

I had more fun than I deserve. It was a huge leap for me—I’ve never been as nervous about anything in all of my life—but it was worth it. I learned a lot about myself and made some great new friends along the way.

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

Construction is under way on a suite-style men’s dorm to be completed by the fall of 2011.

Summer Study

Two NWC students are participating in competitive off-campus research projects this summer funded by Research Experiences for Undergraduates grants from the National Science Foundation.

Jacob Gaster, a junior biology-ecological science major from Bettendorf, Iowa, is studying at the University of Puerto Rico. He is examining how native tropical trees are growing amidst exotic tree species that were planted on a site about 20 years ago.

Jacob Peterson, a junior majoring in biology-health professions from Atkinson, Neb., is conducting research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is exploring autoimmune disorders and immune system activation in the context of oxidation-reduction biology.

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Prize-Winning Poems

Weston Cutter, a first-year member of Northwestern's English faculty, received a $2,500 Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Prize in February. Three poems by Cutter, Pompomvriel, St. Pairs (After C.L.) and Spring Prayer, were selected by judges and published at dorothyprizes.org among submissions by poets from London, Brooklyn, San Francisco and Seattle.

Dorothy Sargent Fraser Rosenberg wrote poetry but was not widely published. After she died in 1969, her husband and son privately published a selection of her poems. When Marvin Rosenberg died in 2003, his estate established a memorial fund in his late wife’s name to award prizes to “young poets with unusual promise.”

Cutler’s poems, fiction, essays, book reviews, and interviews with writers and musicians have been published in numerous journals and magazines. He was included in Best New Poets 2006, and two of his poems were nominated for the Pushcart Prize in both 2008 and 2007.

New Majors for New Needs

Northwestern will offer two new majors this fall—one in sport management and the other in Spanish translation and interpretation. The new programs are a response to high demand and need.

“The sports industry has exploded,” says Dr. Paul Bartlett, professor of kinesiology. Sport is the 11th largest industry in the U.S., and the Department of Labor predicts fully bilingual students, making marketing to public and media relations. Career opportunities range from marketing/finance, or sports information/interpretation. The new programs are a response to high demand and need.

Northwestern’s sport management program is interdisciplinary. Students will choose among three options, allowing them to focus on coaching/athletic administration, marketing/finance, or sports information/ media. Career opportunities range from management to merchandizing and marketing to public and media relations.

The second new program is designed for fully bilingual students, making Northwestern the first Christian college or university in the U.S. to offer a translation and interpretation major for those who want to work in this growing field. Only three other schools in the U.S. offer a similar major: the University of Arizona; California State University, Long Beach; and the University of Texas at Brownsville.

Leading Northwestern’s program is Piet Koene, 2004 Iowa Professor of the Year and one of only 11 class A certified interpreters for Iowa’s court system. Koene holds a master’s degree in translation and interpretation, as well as professional certification in both areas.

NWC will build an interpretation lab and purchase portable translation and interpretation equipment for hands-on experience, while the university’s growing Hispanic population will provide students with an opportunity to serve as they learn.

Exemplary Servant

When members of Northwestern’s music faculty saw the criteria listed for the college’s Staff Recognition for Inspirational Service Award, they immediately thought of Nora Verburg ’88, their secretary.

The honor is given to recognize staff who consistently provide outstanding contributions by going above and beyond what is expected, personally a strong Christian commitment, and distinguish themselves as an inspiration to the campus community.

That’s Verburg, says Dr. Tom McGarvey, chairperson of the music department. “While Nora is an hourly employee, she at times works at home without turning in and does many things way beyond the call of duty, simply because she sees a need and fills it,” he wrote in a letter of nomination. Dr. Thomas Holm wrote that Verburg “personifies Christian witness by always remaining kind, patient and caring—even in the most challenging of circumstances. Her personal faith in God shows through in the ways she treats others with respect and handles delicate matters professionally, yet with kindness.”

A former music teacher at Christian schools in Hospers and Inwood, Iowa, Verburg taught piano lessons for 20 years. She is in her ninth year on the Northwestern staff. As the 2010 service award winner, she received a $500 honorarium funded by the Alumni Association, a plaque, and a luncheon to share with her coworkers.

Nora Verburg’s attentive service to the music department led to her being named the 2010 Staff Recognition for Inspirational Service Award recipient.

Summer Research

Ten Northwestern professors are spending their summer pursuing scholarship and research with funding from the college’s Scholarship Grant Program. Awards of up to $2,250 were presented to six professors; the remainder will receive grants of up to $5,000 for collaborative research with students.

Music professor Dr. Luke Dahn is working with other composers on a CD of new piano music to be released on the Albany label, while theatre professor Dr. Robert Hubbard is developing the five individual performances in his solo show, Grace Notes.

Three professors are working on books. The Gospel and the Good Life, by philosophy professor Dr. Randy Kuenen, integrates philosophical and gospel-centered views about ethics. Dr. Kim Jemputra and mathematicians at other Christian colleges are writing Mathematics Through the Eyes of Faith. And history professor Dr. Robert Wile is revising his doctoral dissertation on Exodeus of Erezia.

History professor Dr. Michael Kapler is examining the historical and cultural context for a collection of comics drawn by his father during the 1940s. Grant winners collaborating with students include chemistry professor Dr. Karissa Carlson ’03. She and Adam Verhoef, a biology-health professions major, are examining interactions between a specific protein and DNA using a fluoroscein-based assay.

Biology professor Dr. Sara Sylvia Tolosa ’06 and biology-health professions major Dan Lybarger are researching the genetic relationships between many populations on Santa Cruz Island and the California mainland, as well as between mayflies in northeast Iowa watersheds. And two other biology professors, Dr. Laura Faberg and Dr. Todd Dray, are studying the impact of invasive plants on northeast Iowa ecosystems. Assisting them are Erin Brogan Vander Stelt and Olivia Norman, both ecological science majors.

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LOOKING BACK

Building Determination

by Amy Scheer

Construction of Christ Chapel began in 1986, despite a Midwest farm crisis, thanks in large part to the leadership of board member Marv DeWitt. He was awarded an honorary doctorate during the building’s dedication two years later.

Land values plummeted. The fiscal year ended in the red. Northwestern’s president declared it “a time when economic conditions in our immediate vicinity have seldom been worse.” The year? 1985. That August, Jim Bultman stepped into the presidency of Northwestern College and faced both a budget shortfall and a large-scale farm crisis in the Midwest.

He also received an invitation to lunch from Marv DeWitt, a board member with a mission: Build a new chapel.

DeWitt and his brother, Bill, had bought a few turkeys back in 1938. They raised them on their parents’ farm north of Zeeland, Mich., and sold eggs the following spring. The turkeys multiplied, waddling through wartime even as other hatcheries failed, and the brothers moved into year-round production by 1958. Naming themselves BilMar Foods, the DeWitts turned a few turkeys into a multi-million-dollar business, eventually merging with the Sara Lee Corporation in 1987.

Farm crisis? College budget concerns? DeWitt could see a light at the end of the tunnel—or, rather, sunlight streaming through the tall, elegant windows of a new chapel and adjacent music hall. A fund for the building had begun some 25 years prior, and DeWitt was determined to see its construction through to completion.

“It was a tough time for the college,” says DeWitt. “Some thought we shouldn’t go ahead with the chapel. I pushed hard for it. I said it was the best time to build.”

After pledging to give $50,000 a year toward the project, DeWitt presented the board with a check in the amount of $180,000. In response, four other members of the board stepped forward and promised to bump up their own pledges as well.

In March 1986, the executive committee unanimously approved the project. Ground was broken two months later. The building was dedicated on April 10, 1988, and DeWitt was awarded an honorary doctorate.

“It is his positive spirit, his contagious enthusiasm, his ‘you can do it’ attitude that has most endeared him to those closest to Northwestern and to me,” Bultman said at the dedication ceremony. “This came at a time when we needed it most.”

A New Song

A new music group added to worship services at Northwestern during the spring semester, thanks to sophomore music education major Darian Parker.

A transfer student, Parker missed being involved in the gospel choir at his previous institution. He suggested that Northwestern invite a choir to campus for Black History Month in February, but staff members convinced him to start a campus group instead.

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New Directors

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Jackie Davis joins the Northwestern staff as director of capital giving after 17 years of experience in higher education advancement. She comes from her alma mater, Dakota Wesleyan University, where she worked with the annual fund, major and campaign gifts, alumni relations, planned giving and administration.

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DOUG BURG

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Building Determination

by Amy Scheer

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DeWitt and his brother, Bill, had bought a few turkeys back in 1938. They raised them on their parents’ farm north of Zeeland, Mich., and sold eggs the following spring. The turkeys multiplied, waddling through wartime even as other hatcheries failed, and the brothers moved into year-round production by 1958. Naming themselves BilMar Foods, the DeWitts turned a few turkeys into a multi-million-dollar business, eventually merging with the Sara Lee Corporation in 1987.

Farm crisis? College budget concerns? DeWitt could see a light at the end of the tunnel—or, rather, sunlight streaming through the tall, elegant windows of a new chapel and adjacent music hall. A fund for the building had begun some 25 years prior, and DeWitt was determined to see its construction through to completion.

“It was a tough time for the college,” says DeWitt. “Some thought we shouldn’t go ahead

with the chapel. I pushed hard for it. I said it was the best time to build.”

After pledging to give $50,000 a year toward the project, DeWitt presented the board with a check in the amount of $180,000. In response, four other members of the board stepped forward and promised to bump up their own pledges as well.

In March 1986, the executive committee unanimously approved the project. Ground was broken two months later. The building was dedicated on April 10, 1988, and DeWitt was awarded an honorary doctorate.

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Baseball

National Qualifiers
Northwestern won the Great Plains Athletic Conference postseason tournament and qualified for the NAIA national tourney. The Raiders went 3-2 in opening-round play at nationals and finished among the top 19 teams. With a 37-20 record, the squad tied the school record for most wins in a season and set marks for runs (410), RBIs (360) and hits (555). Shortstop and pitcher Brad Payne received NAIA All-American honorable mention after hitting at a .453 clip and compiling a 6-2 record.

Men's Golf

First All-American
Senior Luke Vermeer became the first Red Raider golfer to be named an All-American after hitting at a .451 clip and earning All-American honorable mention. Under first-year coach Stephanie Kulh, the Raiders compiled a 9-33 record and were 5-19 in the league.

Outdoor Track

Freshman Soars
High jumper Kendra De Jong placed second at the NAIA national outdoor meet with a 5-08.75 effort, earning All-American status. Three other Raiders also competed at nationals.

Service Projects

Teams on a Mission
Members of the football and wrestling teams served in Italy and the Czech Republic, respectively, in May. They practiced and competed with club teams, led clinics and shared the gospel.

A Season to Remember

Coach Earl Woodstra knew a year ago that the 2011 Northwestern women's basketball team had the potential to go far in the NAIA Div. II national tournament. His 2009 squad surprised many by advancing to the tournament's Final Four with four freshmen receiving significant playing time and no seniors on the roster.

Then a mission trip to Mazatlan, Mexico, last summer helped deepen relationships among the team members. "There's no doubt that created team chemistry, which is so critical," says Woodstra. "Our players enjoyed being with each other on and off the court."

The Red Raiders didn't disappoint Woodstra and NWC fans. Ranked second in the national preseason poll, the squad was ranked in the top five all season and dominated the national tournament in March, closing out the year with a 31-5 record and the program's third national title in 10 years.

The Raiders defeated Shawnee State University in the championship game, 85-66, after leading by as many as 34 points in the second half. Averaging more than 91 points in the five games at nationals and winning by a 27-point margin, NWC was tested most severely in a semifinal round game against GPAC foe Briar Cliff. Playing their fourth contest of the year with the Chargers—this time before a full house in Sioux City's Tyson Arena—the Raiders prevailed, 91-83.

Woodstra said he was amazed by the way his athletes complemented each others' talents, gifts and styles of play. "They really came together the last week of the season, and then into the conference tournament and nationals. We had great leadership from our All-Americans, Becca Hurley and Randa Hulstein. They played their very best and helped bring other people with them."

"The coach says the season would have been a success even without bringing a third national championship banner home to the Bolman Center," Bryan Case '95, head football coach at Southern Cal High School in Lake City, Iowa, was named coach of the year after leading his teams to two consecutive state titles. Pete Stensvold '79 received the Barnabas Award.

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

Red Raider Feats

• Becca Hurley was named MVP of the national tournament, teammates Randa Hulstein and Kendra De Jong also earned all-tourney honors.
• Earl Woodstra earned national coach of the year honors for the third time.
• Hurley was named first-team All-American for the second year in a row, and Hulstein earned second-team honors.
• Hurley and Kristie Refs were selected as NAIA Scholar-Athletes.
• The team set a national tournament scoring record with 457 points.
• Hulstein set the all-time national tournament rebounding record with 157.
The A Cappella Choir’s spring break tour of Eastern Europe included concerts at churches in the Czech Republic, a mass at the Salzburg Cathedral, a visit to Auschwitz, and ministry to students and senior citizens. Missionaries told director Thomas Holm, “You have no idea the bright light you’re bringing into this place with your music and your lives.”
An interview with Jeffrey Keuss, Ph.D.

A Christian college professor and pastor, Jeff Keuss has been called “an engaging interpreter of theology in popular culture” by colleagues at The Kindlings (www.thekindlings.com). Keuss’ work with youth and his research on Christ and culture has led to scholarship on subjects like Dr. Keuss, Bruce Springsteen, Star Wars, Twilight and U2. During his visit to Northwestern for the college’s third annual Day of Learning in Community, Classic staff asked him about Christianity and pop culture.

**Classic:** I understand you’ve read Twilight.

**Keuss:** I have. Three of Stephanie Meyer’s books are in my office at Seattle Pacific University, which both shock and awe students. They ask, “How can you read that?” And I ask, “How can I be conversant with culture if I don’t know what’s happening in culture?” The questions Twilight raises—about love, intimacy, growing up, life after death—aren’t just Christian questions.

**Classic:** OK. But would you let your daughters read Twilight?

**Keuss:** My oldest is 9, and she asked but then she got interested in Percy Jackson. When she picks up Twilight, we’ll read it together. I don’t believe in shielding her from the world, but I’d also never send her out there alone. As a parent, I need to nurture my daughters into the culture they live in instead of forbidding them from reading something or insisting they read only books from a Christian bookstore.

**Classic:** Something wrong with the books in a Christian bookstore?

**Keuss:** Probably not. But books, music and movies created for a Christian subculture aren’t always representative of the real world, which means they’re not really telling the truth. I don’t see anywhere in Scripture where the church is called to create its own culture apart from the world. Yes, we’re to be in the world and not of it, but we’re not to create our own Christian subculture that secludes us. The problem with Christian subcultures is that one of the implications is “Be afraid.” I don’t think it’s helpful to instill children with a fear of the world, so they’re terrified—and unable to think clearly—when they inevitably encounter it.

**Classic:** As parents—or educators or pastors—how do we help prepare young people to engage popular culture?

**Keuss:** We need to help them develop open hearts and critical minds. I think I do my children—or my students—a disservice if I try to protect them from the world as opposed to preparing them to go into the world. Preparing means listening to the world’s questions and seeing in ways that open our eyes.

**Classic:** What will?

**Keuss:** The truth. The search for truth is ongoing, and Christians are not the only ones or sometimes even the best ones at recognizing the truth. Sometimes people think we’re pagans creating the best art, doing the best research, asking the best questions and seeing in ways that open our eyes.

**Classic:** What hinders Christians’ search for truth?

**Keuss:** Some Christians are confused by what psychologists Dr. Tim Clyde占地 calls a lockbox spirituality. They want to keep the faith they had when they were 10 years old. Students with a lockbox mentality sit in classes—even at Christian colleges—with Tolkien, novelist susanete. They perceive all questions about faith as an assault on their own carefully guarded faith.

**Classic:** So what’s a lockbox Christian to do?

**Keuss:** Move from bounded to centered spirituality. A bounded Christian is concerned primarily with borders and fears crossing lines because those on the other side might be wrong. A bounded Christian tries to figure out who he’s not—all he sees are walls. A centered Christian assumes God is in the middle, and she’s making her way to God. She welcomes others who might be journeying to God too, even if they’re coming from a different direction. She reveals God to other seekers by saying: “I think we’re looking for the same thing.”

**Classic:** You’re a U2 fanboy.

**Keuss:** After becoming a Christian in high school, I was in a Christian music store—and among albums by Keith Green and Randy Stonehill, I found U2’s War. I bought it, listened and was telling my friends about this cool Christian band, and my friends said, “They’re not Christians.” I thought, “What?” Their music, like “40” about Psalm 40, reached me in ways music by Christian artists hadn’t. So I bought more albums.

**Classic:** Bono and his band are rock stars, though. Some Christians are uncomfortable with that.

**Keuss:** Right. When I was a youth pastor in Dublin, we took teens to the gate outside Bono’s house. One time an American, Eric, tried to “spread the gospel” by throwing a Gideons Bible into Bono’s compound—like an evangelistic hand grenade. After I calmed the guards and police, I asked Eric, “What were you thinking?” He said, “I don’t share the word of God with Bono, who will?” Apparently Bono wasn’t a Christian enough for Eric. Bono’s theology may not be your theology, but there is a faithfulness to U2’s journey that challenges both the church and the world—and that middle space is so interesting to me.

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**On the Web exclusive**

Visit classic.nwciowa.edu to comment on Dr. Keuss’s views and share your thoughts about whether and how Christians should engage with popular culture.

Did you recognize all of the icons from the title? See below for a guide.

1) Paramount Pictures 2) Apple 3) PlayStation 4) Coca-Cola 5) Pixar’s Up 6) Lego 7) Twitter 8) UHF 9) Star Wars 10) E! Channel

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Bryan Den Hartog was thrown from his seat on the bus when the earthquake struck. As the vehicle shook violently, he looked out the windows and saw buildings and trees mirroring the bus’ movements. Across the mission compound, his father was on the ground, trying to get up on all fours since it was impossible to stand. Shockwaves moved through the earth like waves on water.

Then everything stopped. Stunned, Den Hartog and his mission team colleagues emerged from the bus and looked out over Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Huge fissures split the walls around the compound. Dust rose over the city. Then came the cries of people trapped under the rubble.
When we heard the screams, that’s when it really hit me what had happened,” says Don Hartog, a 1981 Northwestern graduate who works as an orthopedic surgeon in Rapid City, S.D. “I knew there were going to be thousands of casualties, I knew we weren’t prepared for that, and I felt this hopeless, sinking feeling in my heart.”

Don Hartog, his father, and two of his sons had arrived in Haiti on Jan. 11, the day before the earthquake, as part of a 48-person construction and medical team working with an organization called Mission to Haiti. Within minutes of the 7.0-magnitude quake, however, their focus changed from building a clinic and seeing patients to saving lives.

As aftershocks rumbled through the area every 15 to 20 minutes, the two doctors and seven nurses on the team began treating the wounded. Because the clinic wasn’t finished—and because aftershocks made it dangerous to be in any building—triage was done outdoors on folding tables. People arrived with leg and skull fractures, paralyzing spinal cord trauma, and open, contaminated crush injuries.

“Fire kids died in front of us that night,” Den Hartog remembers. “We pulled two little girls, 2 and 4 years of age, out of the rubble, and then three other kids died later—two from a collapsed lung.”

Without the proper equipment and quickly running low on medical supplies, Den Hartog and his colleagues did what they could. Out of gas, the team tore bed sheets into bandages. They cut his colleagues did what they could. Out of gas, the team tore bed sheets into bandages. They cut

enough wire to alarm when they learned how destructive the quake had been in Port-au-Prince and they were unable to reach family and friends living in the city.

Kristie first visited Haiti as an agricultural missionary a year after graduating from Northwestern. She fell in love with the country and its people—and eventually with JeanJean, a Haitian secondary math and physics teacher she met at the mission where she was working. The two were married in 1998 and then spent four years in Orange City, where Kristie worked as a nurse while JeanJean completed an online seminary degree.

Moving back to Haiti, the Mompremiers settled in JeanJean’s hometown of Caiman, a small, poor community composed of subsistence farmers. With the help of several friends, they founded United Christians International, a ministry that works through the local church to teach the word of God and equip Haitian leaders.

JeanJean leads Bible seminars for Haitian pastors, many of whom have had no formal training.

Illicit miles north of Port-au-Prince, Kristie (Dr. Hartz 95) Mompremier and her husband, JeanJean, were standing by their Ford pickup when it began rocking up and down, its springs squeaking. The stone bench their daughters were sitting on swayed back and forth, and inside the house, pictures fell off the walls. Initial excitement at having experienced an earthquake, however, soon gave way to alarm when they learned how destructive the quake had been in Port-au-Prince and they were unable to reach family and friends living in the city.

Kristie provides medical care and teaches public health. UCI also has an agricultural ministry to help people support themselves. And when the Mompremiers saw children eating ashes because they were so malnourished, they started a feeding program that has grown to seven nutrition centers.

Despite its distance from the epicenter of the quake, the Caiman community was deeply impacted by the disaster. JeanJean’s nephew survived after being buried overnight in the rubble of his medical school in Port-au-Prince, but seven sons and daughters of the Mompremiers’ church friends perished in collapsed buildings. JeanJean conducted a memorial service for the victims. No bodies were recovered.

For several weeks after the earthquake, the Mompremiers were housed and feeding 35 refugees from Port-au-Prince. Four months later, they still had 19 houseguests. Those victims of the quake, however, have food and shelter. With southern Haiti now in its rainy season, hundreds of thousands of others are still living in massive tent cities in Port-au-Prince and the surrounding area.

Looking for a new source of expendable manpower to cultivate sugar cane, the Spanish colonists began trafficking in slaves from Africa. When the western third of the island was ceded to France, the practice of slavery continued.

Slaves and the goods they produced made the colony the French renamed Saint-Domingue the richest in the world. By the late 1700s, it supplied three-fourths of the world’s sugar; was a leader in the production of coffee, cotton, rum and indigo; and generated more revenue for France than all 13 American colonies combined did for England.

Saint-Domingue was arguably the most brutal slave colony of all time. One out of every three slaves died within a few years of arriving on the island. Despite such high mortality rates, at the close of the century, Haiti’s population included at least as half a million slaves.

Haiti’s birth as a nation began in 1791 when 35,000 slaves rose up against the slaveholders, killing white colonists and burning plantations. For 12 years they fought French, Spanish and English troops sent to quell the rebellion. More than 250,000 slaves lost their lives in the battle for independence.

In 1804 the last European troops were driven from the island, and Haiti became the first sovereign “black” country in the modern world and the only nation born of a slave revolt. But in the centuries that followed, most Haitians would find themselves living under a different kind of oppression: 200 years of exploitation, corruption and tyrannical rule that played a major role in the devastating impact of the January 2010 earthquake.

“I never thought I would be holding children at night as they cry themselves to sleep longing for their mommies.”

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Lewis found herself doing whatever was necessary: emptying bed pans, traumatized by the disaster. Provided assessment and counseling for the patients who had been necessary, physicians were also able to save many injured limbs. Lewis, the Comfort’s time in Haiti, and while numerous amputations were the first few days,” Den Hartog says. “The United States military is the country’s national religion. Haitian Voodoo may be considered the country’s national religion. Haitian Voodoo is often evoked to ‘explain’ Haiti.”

Dr. Paul Farmer is a physician who has worked in Haiti for more than 25 years as the founder of Partners in Health. He writes in his book, “Among the most popular explanatory models are those invoking ‘cultural’ factors,” he writes in his book, “The birth of Haiti was a ‘nightmare’ for every country in which slavery endured.”

As Farmer writes, “Haitians found themselves in a world entirely hostile to the idea of self-governing blacks.”

In a concerted effort, the United States and Western Europe took steps to cripple the new nation politically and economically. The U.S. refused to grant diplomatic recognition to Haiti for nearly 60 years and pressured other countries to do the same.

In 1825, faced with a global economic embargo imposed by the United States and Europe, Haiti was forced to accept France’s demands for compensation of 150 million francs for the losses of the plantation owners. Payments on loans to cover the debt—equal to half a billion U.S. dollars today—had a catastrophic impact on Haiti’s economy.

Similar injustices permeate Haiti’s history. Divided by race and class, the country—95 percent black and 5 percent mulatto and white—is controlled by a few elite families that stepped into the positions of the former colonial plantation owners. Just 1 percent of Haiti’s people own 50 percent of the country’s wealth.

The pose in Haiti are used as a source of cheap labor. In 1925 an American financial newspaper lauded the fact that the average Haitian “gives a hard day’s labor for 20 cents, while in Panama the same day’s work cost $3.” Fifty years later, U.S. manufacturers were taking advantage of a 70 percent unemployment rate and wages of 14 cents per hour to establish assembly plants in Haiti.

By tradition, those who rule Haiti view the country as their private property and its treasury as their bank account, says journalist and author Amy Wilentz. Perhaps that’s why, over the course of nearly 200 years, Haiti has experienced more than 30 coups and suffered under a series of dictators backed by a repressive military, Haiti’s elite and foreign interests.

As much as 40 percent of Haiti’s more than $1 billion debt today is due to loans made to the brutal dictators François “Papa Doc” Duvalier and his son, Jean-Claude. During their reigns, writers Fanner, the U.S. Department of Commerce produced figures to show that “no less than 63 percent of all recorded government revenue in Haiti was being ‘misappropriated’ each year.” At one point, Haiti’s finance minister revealed that “a monthly average of $15 million was being diverted from public funds to meet ‘extra-budgetary expenses’ that included regular deposits into [Duvalier’s] private Swiss bank account.”

With such a history of oppression and corruption, it’s little wonder Haiti lacked the construction standards, infrastructure, health care and planning to help it cope with a killer earthquake.

In the weeks following the disaster, the eyes of the world were focused on Haiti, and donations for relief efforts topped $305 million.
school and college and is there this summer on a 10-week internship with Lifeline Christian Mission in Grand Coulee, Haiti.

“The first couple of weeks were really hard for me because I wanted to be there so badly,” she says of the earthquake. “I don’t think I’ve ever prayed to God without ceasing that much before. It was constantly on my mind and heart.”

Because of her experience in Haiti, Earleywine was asked to speak at various fundraisers, where she answered people’s questions about how they could give to—and pray for—Haiti. “I think God used me here during that time to be more of a benefit to Haiti than I could have been if I was there,” she says.

The earthquake also spurred an increased interest in adopting children from Haiti. Even before the quake, the country had 380,000 orphans—a number that likely grew by tens of thousands as a result of lives claimed by the disaster. After the quake, the U.S. and Haiti worked together to ensure orphans who had been matched with Americans for adoption before the earthquake received the care they needed. Humanitarian parole granted by the U.S. Immigration Services allowed nearly 100 orphans to enter the United States the week of Jan. 18.

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L

ike Sara, the Mompremiers see good coming out of the disaster. On the one-month anniversary of the earthquake, Haitian government officials canceled the annual three-day Carnival festival and instead called for three days of national prayer.

So far this year, Jeanjean has baptized more people than in all the previous years of the Mompremiers’ time in Haiti combined.

“There is something about having the very foundations of the earth shake under your feet that makes you realize how we depend on the temporal instead of the Eternal One,” says Kristie. “I think the earthquake shook up the land, but it also shook up people’s faith.”

The Mompremiers have seen firsthand the difference God can make. VooDoo was a major influence in Caiman when they arrived, but the community has undergone a radical transformation. Where once there were VooDoo drums at night, now there is singing about Jesus. Where there was jealousy and suspicion, now there are people working together. Neighbors are helping neighbors in the process of replacing unsanitary dirt floors with poured cement.

“This wouldn’t have been the case even six years ago before the gospel was brought here,” Kristie says. “There would have been people sabotaging work sites and theft of materials. Truly, God’s love changes people’s hearts.”

“We believe God is the only answer to Haiti’s problems,” adds Jeanjean. “Without people in the government and other leadership positions that truly care for the people and not just about losing their own pockets or advancing their power, there can be no progress.”

Although Haiti is now fading from the headlines, the crisis continues. People lack shelter. Disease runs rampant. The injured still need treatment.

Because of his connections in Haiti, Den Harting has been commissioned by the American Orthopedic Foot and Ankle Society to make arrangements for teams of orthopedic surgeons to travel to Haiti.

“There’s no shortage of volunteers,” he says of the waiting list of 600 of his peers willing to travel to Haiti. “People are still interested in helping. They just need to plug in with somebody who has a plan.”

In April, Den Harting spent a week in Haiti, providing medical treatment and working out the logistics for such teams. In the past two months he will return with a group of surgeons to conduct reconstructive foot and ankle surgeries and train Haitian orthopedists.

Both Den Harting and the Mompremiers, however, stress that humanitarian aid is not enough. Prayer, they agree, is the most important way to help Haiti. As for financial support, Den Harting encourages people to give to organizations “not just worried about saving lives, but caring souls.”

“We have seen many great projects that are here for a short time and then collapse,” echoes Kristie. “We see Christian missions so concentrated on humanitarian acts that they forget to share the gospel of Christ. Without Christ, hearts can’t be changed and all the good deeds in the world will not last.”

Northwestern Responds

In the days following the Haiti earthquake, Lindsay Geels found herself in a conversation with a professor and fellow student about what the Northwestern community could do. There were special times of prayer set aside for Haiti, but she wanted to put her prayers into action. Searching for a way to help, the freshman from Sheldon, Iowa, decided to design and sell T-shirts as a fundraiser.

“God just put this idea on my heart. Not only could we raise money for Haiti, but it was also a way to show support for them,” she said. “And the T-shirts would be a good reminder for people to pray.”

Donors were found to fund the cost of producing the black shirts featuring the words “Hope for Haiti” and the Bible reference of Romans 12:12-13. A local high school used the design for a similar fundraiser, and together the two schools sold more than 700 T-shirts.

Drew Nommecener, an Orange City junior who participated in the college’s chapter of International Justice Mission, organized a “Blackout for Haiti” event during a home basketball game. Students were asked to wear their Haiti T-shirts to the game, and Nommecener found local businesses to sponsor a basketball shooting competition at halftime, with all proceeds going to Haiti.

$3,800

Amount raised through T-shirt sales and the basketball game fundraiser. The money was given to Promise for Haiti, an organization located in Pignon, Haiti, which used the funds for medical supplies; fuel for hospital generators; and food, clothing and shelter for earthquake refugees.

$1,200

Amount the Northwestern community donated for Haiti in the days following the quake. A portion of the money was used to buy supplies for relief kits assembled by the women of Stegenga Hall. The kits and remaining money were sent to Church World Service.

$5,000

Number of meals for Haitians assembled by more than 200 students, faculty and staff during two food packaging events held in February and April. The baseball team raised $3,000 and Pizza Ranch donated $1,500 to help fund the meals, which were provided to the organization Kids Against Hunger by NWC’s Hunger/Homeless Ministry.
Northwest Iowa offers diverse dining, sightseeing and cultural experiences

by Tamara Pyragut

If you missed Orange City’s annual Tulip Festival, there are still good reasons to visit northwest Iowa. When you join us for Homecoming—or take your kids to visit your alma mater—you can browse Dutch-fronted shops, visit windmill replicas along a miniature canal, and play 18 holes among native prairie grasses at Landsmeer Golf Club. You can also taste alligator, buy jewelry from Peru, and explore a geological wonder.

Shop

After stocking up on Raider-wear from the Northwestern Bookstore, you can wander off campus to buy tulip bulbs, wooden shoes or Woudstra bratwurst. Among Orange City’s shops, like the Dove Christian Bookstore and Old Wagon Wheel Antiques is one where buying is a way to give back.

Hands Around the World

In the middle of our Dutch downtown, Hands Around the World celebrates the global neighborhood by selling the fair-trade handiwork of artisans in more than 30 developing countries, including Haiti. Friendly volunteer shopkeepers share stories of craftspeople who’ve fashioned the jewelry, tableware, linens, nativity sets, musical instruments and more that fill the store. Proceeds enable the artisans—including women who have no other way to earn a living—to feed and house their families and educate their children.

Play

Orange City-area recreation includes Holland Plaza Theatres, Windmill Park, and Kinderpelando, where parents can chase their children up ladders, across bridges and through tunnels ill-sized for adults. If you come for Homecoming in October, you can also look for the Great Pumpkin.

Pumpkinland

Located just three miles north of Orange City, Pumpkinland is on the family farm of Helen and Dave Huitink ’71, also known to area children as “Grandma and Grandpa Pumpkin.” In addition to a pick-your-own pumpkin, you can also go home with gourds, ornamental corn, and squash from a selection of 35 varieties. After visiting Animal-land—with kittens, puppies, bunnies, peacocks, ponies, llamas and more—you might lose the kids for awhile in the seven-acre corn maze.

Northwestern Classic
Eat

If thinking of Orange City makes you crave poffertjes and fudge puppies, you’ll have to wait until the tulips are blooming. Until then, there’s plenty to satisfy your appetite, including Pizza Ranch’s “Roundup” with Blue Bunny’s “Peanut Butter Panic” ice cream for dessert. Other area restaurants offer one-of-a-kind dining experiences.

Old Factory Coffee Shop
View vintage wooden shoe-making machinery while you wait for your gourmet coffee, brewed to order one cup at a time by owners Rola and Richard Sowienski. The historic Orange City landmark is just a walk away from Northwestern’s campus, where Richard—a former editor for Better Homes and Gardens magazine—teaches creative writing.

Blue Mountain Culinary Emporium bluemountainemporium.net
The Blue Mountain Culinary Emporium is named for proprietors Deb and Clayton ’87 Korver’s beloved Blue Mountains of Jamaica. In addition to The Barn, a restored post-and-beam Iowa barn that is part art gallery, part reception hall, the emporium includes three distinct dining experiences:

Unwind in front of the fire in the Blue Mountain Lodge. Your kids will gape at the wild game trophies while they enjoy house-made root beer and hotdogs. You can wash down your “Jalapeño Papa” burger—fireed over hardwood charcoal—with a Blue Mountain Brew made with locally grown raspberries, rhubarb, black walnuts or toasted pumpkin seeds.

Or leave the kids with a sitter and escape to the Passport Club, where you can sample both exotic and home-grown appetizers like gator remoulade and fried green tomatoes. Pop the cork on a rare vintage from Passport’s 1,300-bottle wine cellar. Large-gathering or nook-and-cranny private seating is surrounded by the Korvers’ museum-quality art, artifacts and antiquities from six continents—including fossilized trilobites from prehistoric Africa and a Tibetan drum large enough to serve as a table for eight.

After an appetizer, head downstairs to the Smokehouse Grille for Northern Plains Cuisine™, including wood-fired pizza or an award-winning rack of ribs, slow-smoked over apple wood. Side dishes are grown in Blue Mountain’s own garden and greenhouse. The Grille, also housed in a restored Iowa barn, offers cozy booths in an Americana atmosphere, a European-style conservatory, or a garden piazza for alfresco dining.

Archie’s Waeside archieswaeside.com
Archie’s Waeside in nearby Le Mars was judged the best steakhouse in the Midwest by Rachael Ray during her 2009 “Search for the Great American Steakhouse.” Roadfood.com’s Michael Stern rated it “worth driving from anywhere” and described his hand-cut, dry-aged ribeye entree as “deliciously succulent.” If you visit Archie’s, you may wonder if you’re in the right place when you drive up to the unpretentious building. But if the spacious parking lot is fill—even on a weeknight—you’ve found it.

Explore

A walk in the woods is as close as the Puddle Jumper Trail between Orange City and Alton. If you’re game for roaming farther, a trip to Sioux City will enable you to follow the trail of Lewis and Clark or wander along the ridge of an uncommon landform.

Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center siouxcitylcic.com
The only member to die on Lewis and Clark’s expedition from the Mississippi to the Pacific Ocean did so in what is now Sioux City, Iowa. Listen to animatronic Lewis and Clark tell the harrowing story of Sergeant Charles Floyd’s death by appendicitis—and other memorable moments from their journey—at Sioux City’s Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center along the Missouri River. The center, with its interactive exhibits, is surrounded by gardens of plants that were among Lewis and Clark’s species discoveries, such as cattleya gunnerae and buffaloberry.

Loess Hills visitloesshills.com
The Loess Hills along Iowa’s western border run from north of Sioux City down to near St. Joseph, Mo. Visitors can drive the 200-mile Loess Hills Scenic Byway or explore the geology and wildlife around Sioux City at Stone State Park, which includes the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center. The nature center has a “walk-under” prairie and children’s discovery area with touchable furs, antlers, fossils and other artifacts. Loess (pronounced “luss”) is soil that’s been ground fine as flour during an ice age and blown into dune-like hills. Loess deposits can be found elsewhere in the U.S., but the one between Iowa and Nebraska is the largest. And to find higher loess hills than Iowa’s, you’ll have to travel to China.

SUMMER 2010
Northwestern Classic
class Notes

'45 Jean (Hoffard) Miroen scored a BAVC Award, which recognizes individuals for acts of outstanding service in support of public safety in BelFovo, Calif. She was honored for her role as a foster parent, along with her husband, Ed, over two decades before the year.

'68 Nancy (Den Hartog) Bartley, St. Mary's, Calif., recently retired after more than 30 years of teaching. Her last job was in Escondido, where she taught middle school theatre for nine years. Her book, 17th Edition: Theatre Games: Warm-up Exercises for Actors, was published in October.

The Rev. Mark Kielstad recently retired after 25 years of pastoring churches in Chicago, Kalamazoo, Mich., and Somerville, N.J. He also taught at New Brunswick (N.J.) Theological Seminary for 10 years. He and Linda, Linda, live in a converted warehouse in downtown Kalamazoo. He plays the tuba with the Kalamazoo Concert Band.

Joe Petelli is in his 39th year of teaching physical education and coaching weightlifting events at Somerville High School in New Jersey.

The Rev. Nolan Palsma recently retired as pastor to the Community Church at Upper Ridgewood, N.J., after 19 years of serving at Pitcher Hill Community Church in North Syracuse, N.Y.

Her classmate, Kristina Miersma, received a BRAVO Award, and was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame at Warrensburg. He previously served as an admissions director since 2003.

Mark Guthmiller, chief executive officer of Orange City Area Health System since 1994, was named one of two finalists for the American Hospital Association’s Shirley Ann Munro Leadership Award. The award recognizes the accomplishments of small or rural hospital leaders who have improved health care delivery in their communities through innovative and progressive efforts. Guthmiller oversaw the construction of a new $52 million medical campus, was instrumental in developing a new community emergency department and prescient on the health system’s properties, and served as president of a rural regional dialysis center and Community Health Partners of Sioux County.

Larry (Putnam) Schnickel, president of National B’nai B’rith, was inducted into the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 2009. An ABCA baseball coach at Nebraska’s Hastings (ABCA) convention in Dallas.

Jean (Roelofs) Miersma received a BRAVO Award, and was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame at Warrensburg. He previously served as an admissions director since 2003.

What interests you about the alumni director’s job?

The primary appeal in being in a position to connect alumni with the many good things happening on campus. Northwestern’s mission continues to be focused on transformation, and I really enjoy hearing the transforming stories from graduates, but sometimes I think we get trapped into thinking those life-changing moments and insights happened only when “I was there.”

What excites you the most about beginning this new phase of your career?

Being challenged to think in a new way. I am also excited to find out what our graduates are doing and think we’ll all be surprised if we know more about where and how NWC alumni are impacting the world.

What experiences shaped your years as a Northwestern student?

(former chapel) Jerry Sittner’s challenge to radical Christianity, “getting it” after being challenged by Dr. Lyle Vander Werff to integrate faith and learning has remained consistent. Our student body is much education; when I was a student, we were probably more of a follower. The commitment to integrating faith and learning has remained consistent. Our student body is much more diverse, which provides all students with a really rich experience.

Red Ties

Interview with Mark Bloomerdaal ‘81 Director of Alumni Relations

Mark Bloomerdaal will become director of alumni relations July in A Member of Northwestern’s admissions office since he graduated, he has been the admissions director since 2003.

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From Good to Best

“Good, better, best; Never let it rest, until your good is better, and your better is best!” When Marsh, (Del’89) Klaus shares her motto for learning and life, it sticks in students’ minds and encourages them to be like their teachers: always learning.

“When we think we’ve accomplished something, we can always learn more,” says Claus. That dedication earned her the 2009 Educator of Character Award, given by Iowa Character Counts, which honors innovative character development.

Claus retired from 36 years of teaching in 2006. All but two of those years were spent teaching second grade in West Des Moines, where she continues to advocate teach regularly. Claus practices lifelong learning herself. She earned a master’s degree in special education from the University of Iowa and an administration certification from Drake University.

She also serves on the board of the Storybook Project, which promotes literacy by enabling incarcerated parents to read to their children. As a member of Meredith Drew Reformed Church, Claus volunteers for Habitat for Humanity and assists African refugees transitioning into the community.

By Emily Herringshaw ‘06

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By Emily Herringshaw ‘06
‘05 Sara (Deshler) Knueck, Grinnell, Iowa, earned a master’s degree in communication and leadership from Gonzaga University in May.

Andrew Rorabaugh is an academic administrative assistant at Church Sh lightly School of the Pacific in Berkeley, Calif.

Lindsey (Browner) Weber, Plymouth, Minn., is a senior treasury accountant for For Design Technologies.

‘06 Amy Commers, Logan, Iowa, is a children’s librarian at the South St. Paul Public Library.

Michael Ten Clay is an account executive for Crawford Johnson Robinson Woods in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Jaimie (Joneson) Vander Berg is a lead ambulance educator for Lakeview Pregnancy Center in Holland, Mich.

‘08 Elizabeth Colbert is a marketing consultant for the Stovall Anna Cancer Institute, which will open this fall.

Joe Grady is a behavioral service tech for Avantas in Omaha.

Stephanie Griesme, Alta, Iowa, has begun working toward a master’s degree in Spanish from the University of Northern Iowa. Her graduate work will be done at the University of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain.

Jill (Kruger) Haveverdink, Alten, Iowa, serves as the children’s pastor at Maurice First Reformed Church.

Andrew Hugen is the business manager for a Boeing program that is revamping 200 Air Force planes.

Flying High

"Minds of men fashioned a crate of thunder, Sent it high into the blue …."

Andrew Hugen ’02 may not know all the words to the U.S. Air Force song, and he doesn’t actually fashion the thundering crates flown by USAF pilots—he helps finance them.

Hugen joined Boeing after graduating from Northwestern and is now a business manager for the C-130 Hercules Modernization Program (AMP) Low-Rate Initial Production. He acts as the liaison among the various finance functions at Boeing and the U.S. Air Force, which operates more than 200 of the C-130 aircraft.

AMP involves removing the cockpit analog controls of the decades-old C-130s and replacing them with digital displays in order to extend the life of the planes.

Boring is currently finishing the development phase of the program, waiting on final tests and authorization from the Air Force.

Hugen says it’s a thrill to work for a company connected to the front lines of U.S. defense and security. “Across the runway from my project is the C-17 Globemaster III airlifter—a bigger military cargo plane you sometimes see on the news or hear about with relief efforts. To know people at our company built that, you definitely feel a sense of pride.”

by Shereen Barera Willson ’98
Here I am, following my dream.”

things that so many years ago we would have never thought possible.

continues to gather material for her next album.

"Life is way too short. It's important that family live near

district."

"Music City" Nashville. Both she and her mother—who went back

grew up on welfare and lived in low-income housing.

in 2008, her life had been an exercise in proving the title track's

album, nominated for an Indieheaven Momentum Award

by Amy Scheer

Connie came along.

Raised in Sioux City, Iowa, by her mother, the singer/songwriter

in America Women's Ministries as well as

was a member of the Reformed Church

First Reformed in Boyden for 40 years. She

was a member of First Reformed Church, where he served as an

elder, deacon and Sunday school teacher. He is survived by his wife, Norine; three children; and four brothers, includ-

ing Donald '59, '61 and Allen '72.

All She Needs

By Amy Scheer

All I Need by Amy Scheer

In Memoriam

Mathilda Vander Wall '34, 54, age 97, died

Jan. 1 in Orange City. After graduating from Northwestern Junior College, she served as a schoolteacher for several years. She was a member of First Reformed Church, where she participated in women’s organizations and was involved in Christian education. She is survived by two children, including Glenda De Jong '60, '62, and a brother, Clarence Bouman '34.

The Rev. Henry Vander Schaaf '36, '38, of Holland, Mich., died June 23, 2009, at age 87. He was a pastor for 71 years and served RCA churches in Stilwell, Iowa; Prai-

rievue, Kan.; Stow, Minn.; and Buffalo Center, Iowa. He was a member of Calvary Reformed Church. Among his survivors are four children.

Wilmina Groeters '37, '57, 90, of Boyden, Iowa, died Jan. 8 in Sanborn. She taught in the Boyden-Halk School District for 28 years before retiring. She was a member of First Reformed Church of Sheldon, and she served as organist at First Reformed in Boyden for 40 years. She was a member of the Reformed Church in America Women's Ministries as well as the American Legion Auxiliary in Boyden. Among her survivors are two sons and two sisters, including Maritje VanDeHey '43.

Harold VanDe Berg '29, 90, age 90, died Dec. 29 in La Vista, Neb. After graduating from Northwestern Junior College, he at-

tended Central College and New Brunswick Seminary. He and his wife served as missionaries in India and Bahrein for many years; he later painted a Reformed church in New Jersey. Most recently, he was active at Faith Presbyterian Church in La Vista. He is survived by his wife, Yvette, and three children.

Henry Dale Hubers '45, '47, age 81, died Dec. 29 in Orange City. He named a bachelor's degree in education and math from Central College and a master's degree in education from the University of South Dakota. He served as a principal at various schools, including Northwestern Classical Academy and Maurice-Orange City High School, where he also taught math for 30 years. An adjunct professor at Northwestern, he served on the Board of Trustees. He was a longtime member of Trinity Reformed Church, where he served as an elder, deacon and Sunday school teacher. He is survived by his wife, Margaret; children Mariss Zeep '41, '43 and Lois Vermeer '52; and three children, including Barbara Hubers-Druke '76 and John '78.

Wilbur Wiersma '46, '48, Orange City, died Dec. 21 at age 80. Following his grad-

uation from Northwestern Junior College, he attended Calvin College. He then served in the Air Force for four years and later was a farmer and egg plant operator. He was a member of Calvary Christian Reformed Church, where he served as a Sunday school teacher and council member. His survivors include his wife, Mary; five chil-

dren; and three brothers, Ralph '52, '53, Glenn '54, '56 and Lee '60, '62.

Andries Ritsema '51, '53, age 68, of Cherokee, Iowa, died Jan. 10 in Sanborn. He attended Beth Junior College, Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary before graduating with a bachelor's degree in education from NCC. He was a high school English teacher in Sioux Center, Rediow City, Lytton, and Sturgis High School in Chenock, where he spent most of his career. In addition to teaching, he coached speech and debate. His survivors include a sister.

What prof has your undying affection?

Tell us who and why for a fall Classic feature on favorite faculty.

classic@ncwiowa.edu • 712-707-7116

Track Authority

Officiating 30 high school and college track and field meets a year over four decades, Connie Wassink '73 has seen athletes like the Olympic decathlon gold medalist Brian Clay recognized for outstanding achievements. In December, Wassink was also honored—inducted into the Iowa Track Officials Hall of Fame.

Northwestern’s planned giving director, Wassink got his start in track officiating in 1970. A work-study job preparing Northwestern’s cinder track before meets led to opportunities to clerk for officials and eventually assume other responsibilities.

He co-founded the Iowa Association of Track Officials and has edited its procedures manual for 10 years.

Wassink has also officiated seven other sports. He continues with cross country, having worked three NCAA Div. I national championships, and with football, where he has officiated 48 high school playoff games. He was inducted into the Iowa High School Athletic Association Officials Hall of Fame in 2008.

But track and field is special to Wassink. “What’s nice is the camaraderie,” he says. “The athletes develop friendships with kids from other schools, and at state and national meets, they pull for each other.”

Named the state track official of the year four times, Wassink serves as the assistant head umpire at the Drake Relays. He has worked eight NCAA Div. I national track championships and been referee at five NCAA national championships.
Our Past, Haiti’s Future

by Carl Lindskoog ’02

In 2002, just days after I arrived in Washington, D.C., for a semester-long internship program, I met Augustine, a beautiful and captivating fellow intern from Florida. Augustine is Haitian, and as I got to know this fascinating woman, I also became fascinated by the rich history and culture of Haiti. Now I’m completing a dissertation on the history of Haitians in the United States, and Augustine is my wife. Though she’s fallen in love with the people of Haiti.

As thrilling as it has been to explore Haitian culture and history, it has also been uncomfortable and painful. There has been an especially intense relationship between the United States and Haiti in the experience of Haitian immigrants in the U.S. It was not easy, therefore, to learn about the many instances in which my country has adopted policies that have led to extreme hardship for the Haitian people.

Even in just the past 100 years, much is disturbing about the United States’ relationship with Haiti. During the American occupation from 1915 to 1934, the U.S. imposed the corvée, a labor system of forced servitude that reminded the Haitian people of their past enslavement. When peasants resisted the corvée, U.S. Marines violently suppressed the insurgents and executed their leaders.

Post-occupation turmoil contributed to the rise of the now notorious dictator François “Papa Doc” Duvalier. Papa Doc has become synonymous in the minds of many Americans with the worst excesses of government brutality and state terror. What is less well-known is the degree to which he enjoyed U.S. government brutality and state terror. What is less well-known is the degree to which he enjoyed U.S. support. American leaders tolerated Duvalier because they regarded him as reliably anti-Communist.

After Papa Doc’s death, the U.S. supported his son, Jean-Claude “Baby Doc,” working with him to institute an economic model that enriched international agribusiness and manufacturers while destroying peasant agriculture and entrenching international agribusiness and manufacturers while destroying peasant agriculture and entrenching

What’s Your Legacy?

A s a little girl, Miriam (Korver ’74) Hector watched Dr. Rodney Jiskoot play organ at Alton Reformed Church. “My family didn’t have a piano yet,” she says, “but I’d go home and pretend to play like him, with my fingers on two levels of a windowsill.”

When Hector came to Northwestern, she was thrilled to study with the musician who first inspired her to play. “He said, when accompanying hymns, to read the words and convey their meaning through my playing,” she says. “People tell me my accompaniment is worshipful. He taught me that. He gave me so much.” That’s why Hector wanted to give back, helping to establish the Dr. Rodney Jiskoot Organ Scholarship in memory of her mentor.

Be intentional.

To contribute to the Dr. Rodney Jiskoot Organ Scholarship—or to give to one of 33 other scholarships that honor the legacies of Northwestern professors and staff members—contact Carrie Wassink, 712-707-7109 or corniew@nwciowa.edu.

Carl Lindskoog attended Northwestern from 1998 to 2002. He has a B.A. from the University of Iowa, an M.A. from Northern Illinois University, and is a Ph.D. candidate at City University of New York. Carl is the son of Dr. Don Lindskoog and Dr. Verna De Jong, Northwestern professors emeritus of psychology and English, respectively.

give.nwciowa.edu • giving@nwciowa.edu
Although Dr. Elizabeth Heeg-Truesdell is sometimes mistaken for a student, those who have taken a class from her know her talents as a teacher. Not only is she extremely knowledgeable, but she’s able to relate well with students and excite them about science. Small wonder the biology professor was named the 2010 recipient of the $1,500 Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award in April. “She is one of my favorite professors because of her willingness to treat students as colleagues in science, not subordinates,” says senior Jacob Peterson. Rachelle Pedersen ’10, who will begin medical studies this fall, says Heeg-Truesdell’s office door is always open. “She has provided me with priceless guidance over the years.” A 2001 NWC graduate, Heeg-Truesdell completed a doctorate at Northwestern University and joined the faculty in 2006.