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Photographer Tom Becker brings a new perspective to campus scenes you’ve viewed thousands of times.
Distinctive Community

One of the distinctive features of Northwestern College is its unique sense of community. We build community here in ways other colleges do not—in classroom and residence halls, as well as through student life and spiritual formation programs, athletic teams, fine arts groups, and our chapel program.

Our mission statement emphasizes what we believe the community fostered here is: Northwestern College is a Christian academic community engaging students in courageous and faithful learning and living that empowers them to follow Christ and pursue God’s redemptive work on the world.

As a Christian academic community, we are intentional about each of these defining characteristics. We are authentically Christian—we aren’t perfect, but we desire to honor God in all we do. We strive for academic excellence, and our faculty devote themselves to helping students grow spiritually and personally as well as academically. All of this is done in the context of community.

In a world of fragmented relationships and increasing isolation, we work to achieve a sense of community students treasure and seek to replicate after graduation. Some may consider our methods of building community to be old-fashioned—compulsory chapel, no cable TV in the residence halls, and requiring students to live on campus until they are 23. We do this not to be different but because these practices have proven effective for creating a sense of community students treasure and seek to replicate after graduation. Some may think our methods of building community to be old-fashioned, but we believe they are essential for creating a sense of community that is both enjoyable and rewarding.

Washington Monthly recently named Northwestern the nation’s No. 2 baccalaureate college, based on what students do with their lives after they leave college. Among the factors figuring into their rankings are the number of graduates who earn doctoral degrees or serve in the Peace Corps and the number of students who participate in community service. Northwestern is in the top 10 in the percentage of alumni who serve in the Peace Corps and complete doctorates, as well as in its support for community service.

Our emphasis on Christian academic community contributes to our graduates’ passion for both work in the world and helping students grow spiritually and personally as well as academically. All of this is done in the context of community.

Ultimately, community is about people and relationships. The Christian academic community of Northwestern provides an ideal environment for students to learn more about who God is, who they are, and who their neighbors are. This in turn provides our students with a worldview focused not on self, but on God and others. Instead of asking, “What’s in it for me?” our students and alumni are the kind of people who ask, “How can I help?” This is what a Christian academic community is all about.

President Greg Christy

Lifetime Achievement

When Ron De Jong, vice president for external relations, was helping to present the distinguished alumni awards during halftime of Northwestern’s Homecoming football game, he had no idea he would be the next person honored.

Chant Thompson, executive director of the North American Coalition for Christian Admissions Professionals (NACCAP), and Krista Meckling ’10, the organization’s coordinator for membership services and communication, studied the field to present De Jong a Lifetime Achievement Award, only the fourth such award in the 40-year history of NACCAP.

De Jong, who oversees the admissions, financial aid and public relations offices, has worked for Northwestern since he graduated in 1971. He plans to retire at the end of this academic year.

“Ron’s commitment to Northwestern and Christ-centered higher education is simply remarkable,” says Meckling. “His leadership and innovation have helped make NACCAP the organization we are today, and he has served as a mentor to many in the admissions profession.”

Mark Bloemendaal ’81, Northwestern’s director of admissions from 2003 until becoming director of alumni relations this summer, says De Jong’s enthusiasm for Northwestern helps co-workers realize the importance of their work.

“Ron has a unique ability to be personable and professional with the people who work for him,” he says. “He values everyone’s contribution and makes the workplace enjoyable. He doesn’t take himself too seriously, which helps employees realize they don’t have to be perfect—just committed.”

We are proud to be a part of Northwestern’s history.

Rev. Dr. Chester Dregg ’42
Northwestern Professor of History

Steps to Romance

Regarding the “ Raider Romance” article in the winter Classic, our love story began on the steps of Zwemer Hall. Jacki (Bonham) ’43 and I met there in the fall of 1941 when I was a sophomore and she was a freshman. Our first date was at the roller skating rink across the street from the college. We were married in 1944. This past June we celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary. Two weeks later we celebrated my 60th ordination anniversary. Both dates were celebrated by the El Dorado Park Community Church of Long Beach, where I served as the interim pastor.

We are proud to be a part of Northwestern’s history.

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WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

Send letters to: Classic, Northwestern College, 101 7th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041; e-mail: classic@nwciowa.edu; fax: 712-707-7370. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please include an address and daytime phone number.
Enrollment Up

A strong recruiting effort and excellent retention of last year’s students resulted in a 3 percent increase in enrollment this fall. Total enrollment is up by 37 to 1,243. In addition, this year’s entering freshman class is 351, the largest since 2006.

“We had success identifying students who would be a good fit with Northwestern,” says Ron De Jong, vice president of external affairs. “That’s due to a great effort by the admissions staff and the entire campus community.”

The retention rate of freshmen returning for their sophomore year was 80 percent, second best in school history. “That shows we are providing the kind of experience students anticipated they would receive,” De Jong says.

This year’s enrollment includes the highest-ever percentage of American ethnic minorities, nearly 7 percent. Of the freshman class, more than 10 percent are ethnic minorities. That increase is partly attributable to a special effort to recruit students from the Southwest. California is now the fifth most represented state on campus, with 19 students.

More Than a Facelift

Northwestern’s website, www.nwciowa.edu, has a new look and content overhaul.

The revised site is focused on providing information for Northwestern’s external audiences, particularly prospective students and their families. Packaged in a bright, bold design, the site seeks to convey Northwestern’s strengths and unique personality through compelling content and photography.

The site allows users to receive constantly updated news and sports stories by subscribing to RSS feeds and makes it easy to forward Web content via e-mail or social networking sites. In addition, prospective students and employees have the ability to create personalized accounts for navigating the application process.

New in the Classroom

Six new full-time faculty are teaching at Northwestern this fall. They include:

Frank Bentrem
Assistant Professor of Physics
Ph.D., Southern Mississippi

Bentrem has 10 years of experience as a research physicist at the Naval Research Laboratory, where he worked on algorithms for acoustic subsea images. A frequent presenter at scholarly conferences, Bentrem was also a visiting research professor of physics at Tulane University.

John Hubers ’76
Instructor in Religion
Ph.D. candidate in world Christianity and global mission, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

A Reformed Church in America missionary in the Middle East for 13 years, Hubers also supervised the denomination’s mission programs in the Middle East and South Asia. In addition, he pastored churches in three states, most recently in Plano, Texas.

Diane Smith
Instructor in Computer Science
Ph.D. candidate, University of South Dakota

Tiahrt was previously chief scientist for BrightPlanet Corporation, where he oversaw research and development of novel indexing, storage, search and retrieval software. He has extensive software development experience in accounting systems, newspaper production, image databases, picture archiving communication systems, bioclinematics, and information retrieval software.

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Paul Whitley
Instructor in Music
D.M. candidate, Northwestern University

Whitley is serving a one-year appointment after teaching piano at the Hindemith Center for the Arts and Wheaton College, where he obtained extensive experience as an accompanist. He earned a Master of Music degree from the New England Conservatory of Music.

Drs. Jennifer Feenstra, associate professor of psychology, and Jeff VanDerWerff, associate professor of political science, serve as co-directors.

“Leadership Emphasis

A new effort to enhance the leadership development of NWC students was officially launched in October. The Franken Servant Leadership Institute was introduced with an inaugural address by Dr. Richard Mooser ’59, author and president of Fuller Theological Seminary.

The institute was established through the generosity of donors in memory of Jim Franken ’75, a Northwestern board member who was president and CEO of Interstate Companies and Harbor Group in Sioux Center when he died in 2001. Drs. Jennifer Feenstra, associate professor of psychology, and Jeff VanDerWerff, associate professor of political science, serve as co-directors.

“There are a lot of leadership development efforts taking place on campus,” says VanDerWerff. “We want to offer substantive support to those efforts and provide opportunities for other students to focus on leadership and faith-at-work integration.”

The program has an experiential component, seeking to develop students’ leadership skills through such efforts as the pre-orientation Portage trip for freshmen to Minnesota’s Boundary Waters and opportunities to work with local youth. The institute also focuses on helping students anticipate the challenges of living out their faith in the workplace.
The Play’s the Thing

Class
Playwriting: The Full-Length

Instructor
Jeff Barker
Professor of Theatre and Speech

Few undergraduate college students can say they’ve written a full-length play. Northwestern theatre majors and non-majors alike have that opportunity as part of an elective taught by a published playwright.

“Writing a full-length play is a huge project. For me, it’s the toughest kind of writing,” says Jeff Barker, author of more than 50 plays, who teaches the NWC playwriting course. Perhaps that’s why the experience is usually offered only in graduate theatre programs.

Northwestern’s emphasis on playwriting is distinctive for an undergraduate Christian college theatre program. It’s also part of the theatre department’s mission.

“Barker stats students in his course it’s very difficult to get a play produced on campus. Thus, students direct the work of their peers. Barker teaches playwriting course on one-acts, which is required of all theatre majors. The one-acts are produced every other spring, while in the alternate years when the full-length playwriting course is offered, an external judge reads the students’ plays and chooses one for production. For both courses, students direct the work of their peers.

That describes at least one of the department’s graduates. Colette (Johnson ’00) Mazunik chose Northwestern specifically for what she witnessed every day, "It’s great to be affirmed externally by the department’s emphasis on playwriting. Because of the theatre department’s emphasis on playwriting, she went on to earn a Master of Fine Arts degree from The Actor’s Studio Drama School, one of the finest playwriting schools in the country, and now is getting plays she’s written produced on New York City stages."

On Board

The Northwestern Board of Trustees welcomed two new members at its fall meeting in October.

The Rev. Tim Brown ’72 is the new lead pastor at Orange City’s First Reformed Church. He previously served as teaching pastor at Sionnach Ministries in Hudsonville, Mich., and director of youth and family ministries at First Reformed Church of Sidney, Iowa. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary.

The Rev. Jerry Slater, Northwestern’s chaplain from 1989 to 1996, has been a theology professor at Whittier College since 1989. He is the author of seven books, including A Grace Disguised, The Will of God as a Way of Life and Where God Doesn’t Answer Your Prayer. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Fuller Theological Seminary and a doctorate in the history of Christianity from the University of Chicago.

Northwestern was rated second in Washington Monthly’s 2010 rankings of the top baccalaureate colleges in the nation, based on how well graduates are prepared for lives of achievement, service and research. Band College at Simon’s Rock in Massachusetts was ranked first. Other institutions in the top 10 include Taylor University, third; Messiah College, fifth; Augustana College of South Dakota; ninth; and Trinity Christian College, ninth.

An article at www.washingtonmonthly.com says the magazine’s rankings feature a different approach than other ratings. “Instead of asking what a college could do for you, we asked, ‘What are colleges doing for the country?’ Colleges should be judged not just on who they enroll and how many graduate, but on what students do with their lives after they leave.”

Among the factors figuring into the rankings are the number of bachelor’s degree recipients who go on to earn doctoral degrees or serve in the Peace Corp; the number of students who participate in community service and the staff support those efforts receive; the percentage of students receiving Pell Grants; and the predicted and actual graduation rates based on percentage of Pell recipients and incoming SAT scores.

“Northwestern is in the business of educating Christian scholars and servant leaders who are actively engaged in research, scholarship and service.”

The Washington Monthly ranking was the latest among several impressive recognitions NWC received in August. U.S. News & World Report ranked NWC ninth among 95 Midwestern colleges; Forbes.com included Northwestern among the top 15 percent of the nation’s colleges and universities; and Princeton Review selected the school for its “Best in the Midwest” designation.
Adoption-Friendly

For the second year in a row, NWC is ranked alongside Ivy League and Big Ten institutions as one of the leading adoption-friendly workplaces in higher education. Northwestern is ranked fifth—behind Cornell University and New York University (tied for first), Harvard (third) and Ohio State (fourth)—on the 2010 Best Adoption-Friendly Workplaces education list released by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.

"We are pleased and humbled to receive this recognition," says Deb Sandbulte, director of human resources. "The support we provide employees in the adoption process is another example of our commitment to being a family-friendly place of employment. And it resonates with our mission to pursue God’s redeeming work in the world by caring for all of his children."

Northwestern offers financial assistance of up to $2,000 per adopted child to faculty and staff, with an additional reimbursement of up to $1,000 for the adoption of a child with special needs. Adoptive parents are offered up to seven days of paid leave in addition to accumulated sick leave, vacation and personal leave. Sherri De Zorzi ’95 Langton, cataloger/library systems specialist, used Northwestern’s financial assistance to pay court and attorney fees incurred in the adoption of son Alman, now 4, from Ethiopia. "I felt very fortunate to have a supportive employer," she says. "Northwestern’s efforts benefit families greatly and show acceptance of adoption as another way to build your family."

Parents of the Year

Jerry and Dor Herlyn’s daughters nominated them as Northwestern’s Parents of the Year because of their lives of service. It’s an example their children have followed.

The Herlyns, who farm near Marion, S.D., spend several months each winter in Texas, where they build houses with Habitat for Humanity, make meals for people in the community, and interact with those who lost their homes to Hurricane Katrina. They also regularly donate time to the Lives Under Construction Boys Ranch in Lampas, Mo., doing electrical work, installing Sheetrock, painting and performing other jobs.

"They’re just so giving," says their daughter, Kelsey, a senior at Northwestern. "If they see someone in need, they’re right there."

Kelsey spent spring break this year tents. "I thought I would make it," or "I overslept just this once. Can you let me in even though I am (20 minutes) late?"

Describe yourself in three words.

Organized, honest, concerned.

What’s among the worst excuses you’ve heard for poor chapel attendance?

"I thought I would make it," or "I overslept just this once. Can you let me in even though I am (20 minutes) late?"

Describe yourself in three words.

Organized, honest, concerned.

Having so many student employees in your office over the years, you must have some interesting stories.

The craziest was a student who overslept until the end of the year—but I didn’t rehire him the next year!

Darla Hettinga originally came to Northwestern in 1982 for a part-time, temporary job working in both student affairs and admissions. She returned to campus in 2002 to serve as the student development assistant.

As attendance tracker, you get to a lot of chapels. What have been some of your favorites?

As attendance tracker, you get to a lot of chapels. I especially enjoy working with students, helping them however I can. It’s fun to watch them grow from freshmen to seniors—to see how they have matured and grown spiritually as they make plans for the future.

What do you do in your free time?

In the summer I like to ride motorcycle with my husband and spend time with our children and grandchildren. I also enjoy gardening.

Northwestern Classic

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Kelsey spent spring break this year in Haiti. The Board of Trustees had decided last fall to close the building due to fire safety code violations. The dorm was torn down in July. The Board of Trustees had decided last fall to close the building due to fire safety code violations. The building was razed in July.

After 60 years of service, Heemstra Hall was converted to a men’s wing. Construction is under way on a new suite-style residence hall, which will be ready to house 68 men next fall. Due to a delay, Heemstra Hall was not ready for the fall semester. Heemstra Hall was razed in July.

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Face Value

Darla Hettinga

Quietly diligent

What are your main job responsibilities?

I track chapel attendance, make ID cards, keep housing records, maintain the student handbook, supervise work-study in the student development office and do a variety of other things. Now to me this year is issuing parking tags and supervising the switchboard.

What makes your job great?

I especially enjoy working with students, helping them however I can. It’s fun to watch them grow from freshmen to seniors—to see how they have matured and grown spiritually as they make plans for the future.

What do you do in your free time?

In the summer I like to ride motorcycle with my husband and spend time with our children and grandchildren. I also enjoy gardening.

If you’d like to see a particular Northwestern faculty or staff member featured in Face Value, e-mail classic@nwc.edu.
Funding Northwestern’s Mission
2009–10 giving tops $3.5 million

Imagine Campaign
July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010

$3.6 million Total giving to Northwestern College in 2009–10; giving to the Northwestern Fund was $1.8 million
$703,610 Total giving to endowed scholarships for students; $116,800 was received from bequests in 2009–10
266 Tower Society ($1,000+) members; 43 gave at the silver level ($2,500+), and 24 gave at the gold level ($5,000+)
240 Heritage Society members (donors making planned gifts)
233 Members named to the new Jacob and Hannah Heemstra Roll of Honor, which recognizes donors who have given to Northwestern for 20 or more consecutive years
24% Percentage of Northwestern alumni giving to their alma mater

Northwestern Fund (operating) 2008–09 2009–10
Alumni $485,881 $519,297
Friends 812,947 687,736
Foundations/grants 150,168 127,425
Corporations 131,299 134,579
Churches 350,365 314,008
Other 25,300 27,100
Subtotal $1,955,960 $1,810,154

Capital and Endowed Gifts (non-operating) 2008–09 2009–10
Alumni $279,431 $344,707
Friends 520,019 673,153
Foundations/grants 259,730 281,665
Corporations 81,179 111,545
Churches 2,225 25,350
Estates 289,006 360,183
Other 50,500 37,034
Subtotal $1,491,112 $1,797,636

Grand total $3,447,072 $3,607,790

Best giving overall
Class of 1975 $108,529
Class of 1972 103,755
Class of 1982 88,600
Class of 1981 76,572
Class of 1939 62,650

Best giving to the Northwestern Fund
Class of 1965 $47,358
Class of 1972 26,300
Class of 1997 24,744
Class of 1955 22,525
Class of 1975 21,172

Alumni giving
Best giving percentage
Class of 1945 70%
Class of 1937 67%
Class of 1946 63%
Class of 1944 61%
Class of 1951 60%

Barb Lubbers and her family served as a host family for NWC international students every year from 1985 to 2009. For six of those years she was the host family coordinator. She also served for many years on the National Alumni Board and Women’s Auxiliary and chaired the auxiliary’s Hostess Supper event.

In 1991, Lubbers became the office assistant in Northwestern’s campus ministry office, supporting staff and students involved in chapel programming, campus ministry and short-term missions. She retired in 2008, the same year she received the college’s Diane Murphy International Inspiration Award.

Brian Renes and his wife, Donna (Rensink ’87), have been Reformed Church in America missionaries since 1989. The Reneses started their ministry as Bible translators among the Tojolabal people in Chiapas, Mexico. Since 1996, Renes has worked for United Bible Societies as a computer consultant, providing training and support for Bible translation projects in the Americas, Europe, Middle East and Asia. Using what he’s learned traveling to translation projects around the world, Renes is one of the developers of a translation software program, Paratext, which is used by nearly every Bible translation project worldwide.

Rachel Klay joined the Secret Service in 1983 when she was one of just 36 women in a force of 2,000. Over her 23-year career, she protected Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, hunted child abductors and serial killers as part of a joint task force with the FBI, and served as the Secret Service liaison to the Pentagon, CIA, and legislative and judicial branches of the U.S. government.

Klay retired from the Secret Service in 2007 and is now senior special agent in the protective services unit for Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke.

Recognized as Northwestern’s 2010 alumni of the year at Homecoming were, left to right: Barb Lubbers, Brian Renes and Rachel Klay.
Volleyball
Unbeaten
The Raiders set a new Great Plains Athletic Conference record with 58 consecutive regular-season match wins, dating back to 2007. NWC went unbeaten in the league this fall and was 32-0 overall entering postseason play. With nine victories over ranked teams, the squad won its third consecutive regular-season conference title and qualified for the NAIA national tournament. Kaftin Beaver was a three-time conference setter of the week, and Hillary Hanno earned the league’s player-of-the-week honor twice.

Football
Great Ground Game
Taylor Malm and Brandon Smith led the league’s leading rushing offense and were in the top five nationally, averaging 121 and 121 yards apiece, respectively. Northwestern was ranked 15th in the nation and 6-2 with two games left. Malo, Smith and defenders Aaron Janse and Grantley Samuels were named GPAC conference players of the week.

Women’s Soccer
Tournament Qualifiers
The women qualified for the postseason tournament, losing in the first round to Dakota Wesleyan, after finishing the season seventh in the conference with a 5-5-1 mark. The Raiders were 7-10-1 overall. Goalkeeper Ariel Watts was named a GPAC defensive player of the week.

Men’s Golf
Player of the Week
The Raiders compiled a 5-10-2 record, placing 11th in the conference at 3-7-1. Goalkeeper Axel Watts was named a GPAC defensive player of the week.

Cross Country
Nationally Ranked
The men’s team was ranked as high as 23rd in the national poll and won two fall invitational events. Charity Miles and Sara Hess were the first two runners to cross the finish line at the Doane meet.

Women’s Golf
Two-Time Medalist
Maggie (Achterhof) Rottschau was a medalist at two meets and twice earned GPAC golfer-of-the-week honors. Northwestern won the Doane Invitational and was in fourth place in GPAC tournament play. Rottschau was fourth individually.

Women’s Volleyball
Top Five Nationally
The women qualified for the NAIA national tournament, which will continue in the spring. Michael Dyken, Ryan Kieriet and Nel Malnke earned GPAC golfer-of-the-week honors. Kieriet was tied for fourth in the conference.

Women’s Soccer
Conference Setter of the Week
Hillary Hanno earned the league’s conference setter of the week, and Kaftin Beaver was a three-time conference setter of the week.

Men’s Soccer
Conference Title and Qualified for NAIA Tournaments
Northwestern won the Doane Invitational and was in fourth place in GPAC tournament play. Kaftin Beaver was a three-time conference setter of the week. Kaftin Beaver was a three-time conference setter of the week.

Red Zone
Seniors Kaftin Beaver, right, and Boldsin Jean Rich celebrate a kill. The Raiders were ranked fourth nationally at press time.

Time in a Bottle
President Jacob Heemstra (front left) and other Northwestern Junior College employees gather with construction workers for a ceremony celebrating the laying of Heemstra Hall’s cornerstone in 1950.
Northwestern alumni might think they spent enough time on campus to know it completely: every building, hallway, doorway—even the nooks and crannies. We asked photographer Tom Becker to give us a new view of campus. His shots make the familiar seem peculiar, and the ordinary, fresh and fascinating.

For 35 additional images of campus locations, visit our online photo gallery at classic.nwciowa.edu.
Capitalizing on the Internet

Joel Anderson ’02 lives in Massachusetts and teaches at Smith College and the University of Hartford; this fall his class Total Noise: Going Deaf in the Information Age was named a Hot College Course by thedailybeast.com.

In July, Facebook hit 500 million “friends.” According to Wikipedia, that means about 1 in every 14 people on the planet is on Facebook.

Is the ubiquitous nature of social media a boon—or bane? It depends. A mom watching her son thumb his smart phone through dinner won’t be as enthusiastic as the dad whose daughter has just texted, “Storm over. I’m OK.”

The same technology that enables new parents to chat about Afro hair care with other U.S. families who’ve adopted children from Ethiopia has been complicit in suicides by teenagers bullied online. The potential and pitfalls seem as boundless as the medium itself.

In Super Sad True Love Story, author Gary Shteyngart satirizes a future in which handhelds track data—like credit ratings and cholesterol levels—and broadcast the information publicly when users pass kiosks on the street or in the mall. Anyone can stream their own reality show, and “verballing” (talking face-to-face) is quaintly nostalgic. Is that where we’re headed? Or will broader connectedness lead to deeper community? Will a society with unlimited access to information be more informed?

We asked 10 alumni and students to share their thoughts.

A corollary to this first irony is that a lot of information is still out there; I just have to do some industrious sifting, sorting and hyper-nuanced Googling to make sense of it—assuming I don’t want to just go ahead and take Glenn Beck’s or Keith Olbermann’s word for it.

Which brings me to the second irony of the Information Age: The technological tools I can use to figure out whether or not lowering taxes might jumpstart the economy (enabling informed citizenship and voting) are the same tools I use to watch YouTube videos, read celebrity gossip, and tweet my friends for movie recommendations.

And at the end of a long day, chances are deciphering the U.S. tax code and figuring out how it affects GDP is not even within a high-powered telescope’s view of watching some dude fail to execute a backflip on YouTube. It just isn’t—most of the time, anyway.

Remember when using the Internet meant no one else in your house could use the phone? Remember when your computer contained less memory than today’s coffeemakers and loading even a modest-sized graphic was like watching a window shade being pulled down your screen by an arthritic hand? Of course, you didn’t mind because the Information Age had arrived, and everything was about to be possible.

Well, from where I’m sitting (in a café, surrounded by the blue glow of laptops) there are at least two ironies of the Information Age. The first is that one of its effects has been a decline in vetted news: Journalists are out of work, and print news agencies are fiscally broke. That’s unfortunate for anyone who believes being a responsible participant in American democracy requires access to reliable information about what is actually going on across our nation.

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So to make time for all the Information Age has to offer, I might simply resort to the comfortable dogmatism of the TV Right or the TV Left, choosing the sound bite that supports what I originally thought anyway.

We were promised a brave, new world, but instead we’ve settled for just a bigger version of the planet that already exists behind our eyelids. There’s an “I” in Internet, after all, and it’s capitalized.

Social Media and the Masses

Dr. Ellen Ringwald ‘86 Barnes is the Utah communications and public involvement manager for Parsons Brinckerhoff, an international engineering firm. A blogger and tweeter, she tracks industry trends in social media use and also teaches communications at Utah Valley University.

In mass media like newspapers, radio and television, the term “gatekeepers” refers to those who decide what is published or given air time. In mass media like newspapers, radio and television, the term “gatekeepers” refers to those who decide what is published or given air time. In mass media like newspapers, radio and television, the term “gatekeepers” refers to those who decide what is published or given air time. In mass media like newspapers, radio and television, the term “gatekeepers” refers to those who decide what is published or given air time. In mass media like newspapers, radio and television, the term “gatekeepers” refers to those who decide what is published or given air time. In mass media like newspapers, radio and television, the term “gatekeepers” refers to those who decide what is published or given air time. In mass media like newspapers, radio and television, the term “gatekeepers” refers to those who decide what is published or given air time. In mass media like newspapers, radio and television, the term “gatekeepers” refers to those who decide what is published or given air time. In mass media like newspapers, radio and television, the term “gatekeepers” refers to those who decide what is published or given air time. In mass media like newspapers, radio and television, the term “gatekeepers” refers to those who decide what is published or given air time. In mass media like newspapers, radio and television, the term “gatekeepers” refers to those who decide what is published or given air time.

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In these four paragraphs, the avenues of communication available to disagree. A Facebook update is no substitute for one that is face-to-face. are proof that widespread social media use is indicative of its value. I sense of community, what I see, walking through the hall as an R.A., College? The answer is as varied as the students who attend NWC.

Community Haiku

David Bruxvoort is a Northwestern College sophomore majoring in pre-engineering. He also keeps busy as an R.A. in Colerender Hall.

Walking down the hall Doors closed on the left and right No community

I often ask the guys on my wing: What brought you to Northwestern College? The answer is as varied as the students who attend NWC. However, for many of us, the tight campus community was part of the draw. Yet even though many students came here to experience a unique sense of community, what I see, walking through the hall as an R.A., is disembarketing. On any given night, the men on my wing are on Facebook, texting, following Twitter, using Skype, pensarMySpace, sending e-mails or talking on their cell phones.

Information Age enthusiasm will argue my skeptical observations are proof that widespread social media use is indicative of its value. I disagree. A Facebook update is no substitute for one that is face-to-face. Connectivity isn’t the same thing as community. Just as the 17 syllables of the haiku I wrote only hint at what I’m trying to express in these three paragraphs, the avenues of communication available to us today—like tweets and Facebook updates—should be supplements, not substitutes, for the personal contact necessary to build deep and meaningful community.

Social Networking @ Work

Emily Gosselin ’08 Ford is the associate dean of students at Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, Ga. She’s had a Facebook account since the website was launched in 2004.

As depicted in the recently-released film, The Social Network, Facebook started on college campuses. As someone who spends a lot of time on a college campus, I enjoy observing how social networks like Facebook affect the relationships we seek to develop in residence life. Yes, there are negatives aspects of Facebook (Fannville, anyone?), but if used properly, it can be an effective tool for nurturing communication and community.

One of our freshmen was having an especially difficult time transitioning to college this fall. A California native, Julie’s hadn’t met anyone on our Georgia campus before arriving. But when she was having a particularly tough time dealing with a situation back home, she felt immediately comfortable going to her R.A., Carrie*, because Carrie had connected with Julie on Facebook during the summer. In fact, Carrie had used Facebook to start building relationships with all the women on her floor before they arrived on campus. Their Facebook friendships weren’t a replacement for the personal relationships they’re building with each other now, but that initial connection helped Julie and her wingmates feel like they already had a home and a community at Covenant.

Students at Covenant eat meals around tables full of friends, talk through tough issues in class, and live as close as family in our residence halls. But they’re also having conversations by Facebook chat, commenting on each other’s photos and sending invitations to events. Facebook doesn’t replace community, instead, it broadens it. It helps us stay connected with family and friends across time and place, which makes relationships feel less temporary and transient. It reminds us we’re all part of a larger world—and that a life far away does not have to be a life far removed.

The Beauty of Being Two-Faced

Julie (Vermees ’97) Elliott teaches Christian ethics and interdisciplinary studies at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pa. She has written about the faux friendships fostered by nearly 140,000 Facebook friends. Now she’s the one who loves reading but refuses to buy a Kindle.

Facebook friends aren’t a replacement for the personal relationships we seek to develop in residence life. Yet even though many students came here to experience a unique sense of community, what I see, walking through the hall as an R.A., is disembarketing. On any given night, the men on my wing are on Facebook, texting, following Twitter, using Skype, pensarMySpace, sending e-mails or talking on their cell phones.

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On the Web exclusive

Visit classic.nwc.edu to comment on any of these articles or add your own thoughts about whether technology is improving or ruining our life.
After four years of classes at Northwestern, students graduate with memories of dorm pranks, service projects, first dates, athletic successes, late-night discussions—and professors who made a difference in their lives.

Who was your favorite prof? We asked that question of our readers, and these are some of your responses.

Toward the end of my freshman year, I began to talk with a sociology professor about wanting to become a counselor. Through that conversation, Dr. Scott Monsma convinced me to become a sociology major. To this day I’m not sure how that happened or even why I thought sociology would be a good major to prepare me for a master’s degree in counseling.

I didn’t know it at the time, but that proved to be pivotal in my approach to education. Upon changing my major, I also changed academic advisers. This became one of the best things that could have happened to me, as my new adviser—the same man who encouraged me to major in sociology—taught me to learn for the intrinsic value of learning.

I came to college to jump through the necessary hoops so I could get a degree and get a good job. I remember telling people it was ridiculous we had to take all the “extra” classes to graduate. Until I met Dr. Monsma, my definition of learning was simple: memorize data and then regurgitate it on a test or paper so I could tell the professors what they wanted to hear and get a good grade.

In my first Monsma class, he threw the idea of regurgitating information out the window and challenged me to learn for the simple value of bettering myself so I could give back to the world around me. His approach to learning was really based on the idea that students needed to develop holistically in order to reach their full potential academically. In many ways he set the foundation for my beginning to understand the importance of self-authorship.

My love for learning was very much developed by Dr. Monsma. For that, I will forever be thankful.

Josh Perkins ’04
Canton, OH

There is no doubt in my mind that Dr. Ron Juffer is a favorite among many alumni. He knew my name, where I was from, my hobbies and more even before I completed my first week in his class my freshman year. I always looked forward to seeing him in the RSC or the halls of VPH because he made sure to say hi and ask how volleyball practice was, or if I’d been back to Lincoln. He knew specific information about me—I don’t know how he remembered that about all of his students. You could just tell he loved what he did.

Rachael (Martin ’05) Becker Austin, TX
Dr. Laurie Furlong was an amazing instructor who always found ways to get her students engaged in her courses. I will never forget taking Invertebrate Zoology and Water Ecology with her. These courses didn’t require us to stay in the classroom every time we met, which made class exciting. We actually got an opportunity to do field courses didn’t require us to stay in the classroom every time we met, which made class exciting. We actually got an opportunity to do fieldwork! In the past few months I have learned how important her classes are to me, as I’m not as clueless when I take our pets to the vet! Dr. Furlong made class challenging, but we could always count on her to provide guidance, challenge students to grow, or to tell a story that would make us laugh. Even though I had him for only a few classes, he will always be one of my favorite professors.

Dr. Scott Monsma

I didn’t fully appreciate Dr. Monsma until after I graduated. I thanked him several times for interesting discussions after class, but it wasn’t until I had left the NWC community that I began to see how lessons learned in his classroom would become valuable for my everyday life. His courses, especially Cultural Anthropology, deal with the beauty and complexity of social interactions. As someone who loves and works in a cross-cultural environment, not a day goes by that I don’t thank God for being able to live and work here—and not a day goes by that I’m not grateful to Professor Monsma for being able to live and work here too.

Kadie Becker ’08 LUPENI, ROMANIA

Dr. Mike Kugler was amazing, eclectic, and made me think beyond what I knew. He connected with students well and cared deeply about helping us grasp how wide and deep our world is. Dr. Ray Weise’s freshmen biblical studies class was extremely hard for me. He only accepted the best. I didn’t like it then, but now I understand the same academic rigor can be applied to my walk with Christ. Jason Sniff ’99 BLOOMINGTON, IL

Hands down the best math teacher we ever had was Ralph Mouw! He was very knowledgeable, a great instructor who cared for his students and Northwestern. You could tell he was in it to help students progress and for Northwestern to receive the credit. He was a truly humble servant.

Nellie (Fikes) ’66 and Dennis Harmelink ’65 OLAH, KAR

I have fond memories of Dr. Lyle Vander Werff and how he blessed me as a student my junior and senior years at NWC. It was during those years I sensed God calling me into full-time ministry. Despite my academic struggles and indecisiveness, Dr. Vander Werff encouraged me to be a lifelong learner and to give my struggles to God. He could have written me off as an unfocused and undisciplined student, but through his encouragement, he assured me that with God’s help, I could endure the rigors of seminary. I thank God for bringing Dr. Vander Werff into my life.

The Rev. Mark Haverdink ’96 MAURICE, IOWA

Dr. Lyle Vander Werff

I wasn’t a student in Dr. Vander Werff’s classes, but he always seemed to be a leader in the college community. I remember he was very taken in by the beauty and complexity of social interactions. As someone who loves and works in a cross-cultural environment, not a day goes by that I don’t thank God for being able to live and work here—and not a day goes by that I’m not grateful to Professor Monsma for being able to live and work here too.

Kadie Becker ’08 LUPENI, ROMANIA

He also used funny metaphors like “It’s as if you’re holding a baby chicken, and if you drop it, it will die” to help us visualize how he wanted us to sing. His gentle spirit and outrageously funny characteristics make Dr. Holm absolutely unforgettable for me. I was so blessed to have him as a professor.

Bethany (Landegent ’09) Norine BLAIR, NE

I was a clumsy, professional, fun, caring, engaging professor.

Dr. Scott Monsma

So glad I took his class and was able to take his class and was able to work in a cross-cultural environment.

He was an encourager to the choir. I have a memory of him being in the choir and having a great laugh. Even though I had him for only a few classes, he will always be one of my favorite professors.

Elizabeth Colbert ’08 SIOUX FALLS, SD

On the Web exclusive

Visit classic.nwciowa.edu to add a memory about your favorite prof.
At the blast of an air horn, four teams of students—class affiliation indicated by the colors they’re wearing—race toward two stock tanks in the center of a playing field. A red-clad freshman tosses a small plastic bucket to a teammate in one of the tanks who reaches down, scoops up liquid rubber cement, and hands it back. Carrying the precious cargo as it leaks out deliberately placed holes in the bucket’s bottom, the freshman sprint toward his team’s tank 80 yards away.

During the race, Lori Couch never stops moving. The director of student activities for Northwestern, she runs over to give advice to a referee, stops to remind a participant of the rules, and head toward the seniors’ tank to check their progress.

The race, called the Slime Fight—and the beginning-of-the-year Clash of the Classes competition it launches—is Couch’s brainchild and just one of 25 major events staged by the college’s Student Activities Council (SAC) each year.

Couch first heard about the powdery product that turns water into slime from a student who used it at summer camp, but as is typical for the event planner, she turned it into something bigger. “You’ve got to put something like that on steroids to make it really great,” she says.

Couch’s imagination and willingness to think big are what make her so good at her job. The first indication of her gift for student activities came when she was a resident director in Hospers Hall. Aiming to make a big splash with Hooper’s traditional Beach Bash, she turned the hall’s lounge into a giant sandbox using plastic sheeting and three truckloads of sand.

A red-clad freshman tosses a small plastic bucket to a teammate in one of the tanks who reaches down, scoops up liquid rubber cement, and hands it back. Carrying the precious cargo as it leaks out deliberately placed holes in the bucket’s bottom, the freshman sprint toward his team’s tank 80 yards away.

Hired to lead Northwestern’s student activities in 2001, she continued to think big, developing the Ballbalo night, Senior Night with bingo, and a dodgeball tournament during Homecoming. There’s also NC/DC—a vocal competition with Dordt College based on TV’s American Idol—and Dancing With the Profs, modeled after the hit show Dancing With the Stars, that pairs students with professors. For the latter event, Couch worked with faculty, getting art students to create the design elements for the contest and a PR class to come up with a marketing plan.

And at the third of year, she created Ballyhoo talent night, Senior Night with bingo, and a dodgeball tournament during Homecoming. There’s also NC/DC—a vocal competition with Dordt College based on TV’s American Idol—and Dancing With the Profs, modeled after the hit show Dancing With the Stars, that pairs students with professors. For the latter event, Couch worked with faculty, getting art students to create the design elements for the contest and a PR class to come up with a marketing plan.

Wes Garcia, a member of the SAC leadership council, transferred to Northwestern from the University of California, Berkeley. “I got to see what activities at another school look like,” he says. “A lot of schools just bring in acts to put things on for students. Lori’s focus is using the talents of the students we have on campus. Students working with students builds community.”

Couch’s reluctance to purchase ready-made, for-sale events shows she knows how to make the most of what’s available. Budget constraints at Northwestern are strict, so she has to work with what she has. And that means she’s forced to create original events instead of just bringing in entertainment. She knows that her students are capable of creating something like that on steroids to make it really great,” she says. The bonus has been the growth that’s happened with the other classes in terms of class unity and campus unity.

Participation in student activities has also grown. Couch remembers the days when only a few events were held, and students would just show up to watch. Now more than 1,000 students pack Christ Chapel and the Bulman Center gym for events.

“The expectations of the students have grown significantly over the years,” she says. “The hardest thing is staying fresh and ahead of the curve.”

Among Couch’s most memorable events was the 2002 Clash of the Classes challenge, which featured a private jet fly over her backyard made her wonder if she could arrange a ride as a grand prize. (She could and did.)

“I always say to the students: I want you to dream and I want you to dream big—then I’m here to figure out if we can make it happen.”
Retire from a career as a sales and marketing VP, Linda Van Roekel uses her skills to tutor adults seeking their GEDs. 

Linda Van Roekel's successful career was a source of great satisfaction, but it also prevented her from pursuing other passions. Constant travel and a demanding job as vice president and division manager for the multi-million-dollar company Holcim left little time for volunteering or teaching. In 2004 Van Roekel retired and moved back to Iowa after 40 years away. The 1969 NWC alumna now volunteers at a charity book sale, her church, the Iowa State Fair, and as a math tutor for adults seeking their GEDs. "I haven't been bored yet," says Van Roekel, who lives in Urbandale and serves on Northwestern’s Board of Trustees. "It's tired me up to try things!"

Van Roekel spent the first three years after college teaching chemistry and math to college-prep students in Germany, so she's enjoying the return to this first love provided by tutoring. "I like the one-on-one aspect of it," she says. "You're not developing a broad approach for 20; it's one person you're helping."

Jeff Heersberg is the chief administrator for the Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency in Pocahontas, Iowa. He previously served as the superintendent of Sibley-Ocheyedan School District for five years.

Dr. Doug Hochstetler wrote an article entitled "Coaching Philosophies and Experience," featuring an interview he conducted with former NWC football coach Larry Kuever '54. The article was recently published in Avon Coach Magazine. Hochstetler is an associate professor of kinesiology at Penn State Lehigh Valley.

Lisa Tomkins-Brown is director of operations for Ohio Branch Mission in Chicago.
T.J. Buchholz is an assistant women’s soccer coach at the University of California, Riverside. He was the head men’s and women’s soccer coach at Wartburg College the last two years.

Linda (Wassink) Dirksen, Sioux Falls, teaches second grade at Robert Frost Elementary.

Joshua Federwisch, a first grade teacher at Dallas Center-Grimes Elementary School, received the $1,000 One Classroom at a Time Education Grant from WOI-TV in Des Moines.

Rachael (Martin) Becker, Sioux City, Iowa, is an assistant professor of writing and rhetoric at Morningside College.

Wanted electric trains. Got electric toothbrushes.

If you don’t get everything you want for Christmas, remember you can buy your own presents during Northwestern’s annual Gala Auction. Starting in January, bid on electronics, toys, trips and more: www.nwciowa.edu/auction

Or join us at the live event February 5

David Harding, Colorado Springs, Colo., is a writer for Family Talk with Dr. James Dobson.

Linda (Wagner) Bevins is a therapist at the Senior Evaluation and Counseling Center in Conway, Ark. She and her husband, Paul, have two sons: Paul (15) and Sam (15).

Thomas Walters, Long Branch, N.J., is the owner of VitalFuel, an online nutritional supplement and weight-loss company. He is pursuing certification in nutritional coaching.

Tracey Rolla-Parrquin teaches Spanish at Broadwell-Tolland Upper School in Omaha.

Amy (Verdoorn) Schneider, Skidmore, Iowa, recently released a CD entitled Inclusion, a recording of classic Christian songs interpreted with passages from the Bible. Visit digstation.com for more information.

Melanie (Harbert) Dirven, Ireton, Iowa, is a substitute teacher for CAL Community Schools. She and her husband, Karl, have two children: Austin (8), Jack (6) and Abby (4).

Julie (Vienmeier) Beavon, Eldon, Colo., teaches fifth grade at Hefley Elementary. Her husband, Herb, teaches at Julesburg High School. They have two children: Noah (7) and Hannah (4).

Sheri (Zimmerman) Guidereson is working as director of development and evaluation for the Center for Disabilities at the University of South Dakota in Sioux Falls.

Wendy (Aubokenberg) Ahrens teaches Title I reading and coaches junior high volleyball in Council, Iowa. Her husband, Dan, is the technology coordinator for Oxnet-Mackburg Schools.

Khurram Dewan is director of the Utopians Welfare Organization in Sialkot, Pakistan. He is running a philanthropic project to provide relief to flood survivors.

The Rev. Brian Keppers is the author of a small group study guide entitled Where Do I Come in? Saving God’s Mission, which was recently published by Faith Alive Christian Resources. He is the minister of preaching and congregational leadership at Fellowship Reformed Church in Holland, Mich.

Jennifer (Janessa) Wolf is the chief information officer for MacDonald & Green Lumber Company in Sparta, Wis. Her husband, Lance, is a designer in La Crosse.

Angela Brown, a first grade teacher at Dallas Center-Grimes Elementary School, received the $1,000 One Classroom at a Time Education Grant from WGCI-TV in Des Moines.

Julie (Kerr) Jenck, Orange City, Iowa, is a substitute teacher and assistant eighth grade volleyball coach for MOC-Floyd Valley.

Brandon Van Metre is a resident veterinarian at Missouri Baptist University in St. Louis. He is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree from Covenant Seminary.

Melanie DeBoer-Brown, a first grade teacher at Norskoog Elementary, is an assistant athletic director for compliance and student-athlete/women’s assistant at Mind (ND) State University.
When storm clouds loom, meteorologist David Brommer keeps officials and fans alerted at University of Alabama football games.

**Football Forecast**

For the 102,000 Crimson Tide fans inside the University of Alabama's football stadium and the 25,000 tailgating outside it, David Brommer '99 doesn't want to be wrong.

The Monday before the national championship winners take the field for a home game, Brommer, a meteorologist and geography professor, hands off his first game-day forecast. On Wednesday he'll e-mail another, and Friday, one more, culminating in hour-by-hour predictions made early Saturday.

Then Brommer heads to his stadium office, where, for three hours before the game, he huddles with computers and radars, checking weather patterns and keeping an eye on the lightning sensors he installed on the roof.

“We're looking good today,” he might say to the Southeast Conference service coordinator at Hotel Phillips in Kansas City, Mo. Or, perhaps: “Frontal system coming through around the 100-minute mark.”

Brommer’s forecasts are worth $50,000-a-year to the University of Alabama. A severe system has yet to stop a game on Brommer's watch, not since the first game of a 3-0-0 season.

“Brommer is an expert in the field,” said University of Alabama football equipment manager Scott Stolly.

If you want to see how Brommer's personal forecasts affect his work, watch for the methods he and his assistant, Austin Walker, use to wrap the goal posts in black and white, or for the special covers they keep on hand for the goal post padding and the 1,200 seats in the north end zone.

**Clouds in the Forecast**

For years, Brommer had worried about a rain delay during a 1999 playoff game when blowing snow and lightning combined for a meteorological rarity called "thundersnow.”

**By Amy Scheier**

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**CLASS NOTES**

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Maggie Keisler is the director of annual giving at Seattle University. Michael Schraderman earned a doctorate in chemistry from Vanderbilt University. He works for Sharp Laboratories of Europe in Oxford, England. Pooyan by his wife, Marry-Catherine (Korla), entitled Wednesday was published in the 2009 edition of The Broad River Review, an annual literary magazine produced by Gardner-Webb University in North Carolina.

Emilie Shelton, Laramie, Wyo., is a conformance service coordinator at Hotel Philips in Kansas City, Mo.

Kritti (Sthitendra) Vanderdriess, Sioux Falls, has earned her master's degree in reading and leadership from the University of South Dakota. She teaches third grade at Fossom Elementary.

"06 Daniel Bernstrom is pursuing a doctorate in philosophy at Princeton University.

"03 Amber (Green) Christiansen is a pharmacist at Walgreens in Spencer, Iowa.

Amy Gartland is serving with Teach Overseas in Kanagawa, Japan. She teaches English to high school students and adults.

Julie Gioeleck, Manson, Iowa, earned a master's degree in special education from Western Washington University. She teaches special education at Manson Northwest Webster.

Megan Hodglin, Holland, Mich., received a Master of Divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary and was installed as the minister of discipleship and mission at Fellowship Reformed Church, Holland, Mich.

Rachel Martin graduated from Creighton University School of Law in 2009 and is an associate attorney in the law offices of Aaron Rodenburg in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Carly Miller, Sioux Falls, received a Master of Divinity degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

"07 Bruce De Haan is a client service consultant at Wells Fargo Investment Funds in Minneapolis, Minn. His wife, Alyssa (Barr), is a recreational therapy assistant and is pursuing a master's degree in art therapy and counseling from Mary Mount Mary College in Milwaukee.

Nicolie (Kraehenbrink) De Weerd teaches kindergarten in Sioux Center.

Stephanie Nague, Brooklyn, N.Y., is an assistant professor for WJT, the largest advertising agency in the U.S.

Jaason Helmus teaches science at Western Middle School in Longmont, Colo.

Dan LaRue, Cedar Falls, Iowa, is the chair director at Waterloo East High School.

Cassie (Lukker) Mathiason teaches secondary art for the Fillmore Central School District in Harmony, Minn.

Dratzy Meyn teaches high school business at Forest City (Iowa) Community School. He also coaches girls basketball and junior high boys track.

Heidi (Drewesm) Mouw, White Bear Lake, Minn., recently earned a master's degree in psychology from Walden University. She is a mental health practitioner.

Carla Shelton earned a master's degree in occupational therapy from Texas Tech University. She is employed by the city of Waco as a rehabilitation assistant for the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum.

"08 Sean DeGroot, Sioux Falls, works as a project accountant for the Good Samaritan Society.

Josh Kaeleyeine received a master’s degree in exercise physiology from Illinois State University. He is a personal trainer and instructor at Hybrid Fitness in Chillicothe, Ill.

Carrice Finkamer is a graphic designer for Vinton (Iowa) Newspapers.

Katie Gard is pursuing a master’s degree in educational technology at Arizona Pacific University. Her studies will include time in India, Kenya or Haiti.

Amy Laronch teaches math at Harrison High School in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Samantha (Olsson) Neupe, Madison, Wis., is an information specialist in the admissions office at Southern Oregon University.

Rannan Taylor, Kansas City, Mo., is the head athletic trainer at the University of Saint Mary.

Lisa (Wallen) Yager, Yankton, S.D., is a biologist for the National Park Service. She recently earned a master’s degree in biology from the University of South Dakota.

"09 Heather (Neild) Robinson teaches first grade at Nella, Mo.

Ryan Dombrowske is a student accounts coordinator at Northwestern College in St. Paul, Minn.

Andrew (Davis) and Alshii Dusty work at ABC Retail Center in San Francisco, Minn., where Alshii is the kitchen manager.

Jesse Nieuenhuisen is a student at Franklin University of Modesto and Science’s Chicago Medical School.

Claren Norris, Blair, Neb., teaches middle-school science at Otto-Bear Middle School.

Heidi Otten, Sioux Falls, is a registered nurse in Sanford Health’s neonatal intensive care unit.

Jordan Plummer is pursuing a master’s degree in marriage and family therapy at the Adler School of Professional Psychology in Chicago.

"10 Emily (Slawsker) Boote, Normal, Ill., is a registered nurse on the surgical floor at Advocate BroMenn Medical Center. Her husband, Brett ‘07, is pursuing a master’s degree in chemistry and serving as a teaching assistant at Illinois State University.

Kristen Borghorst is administrator of the ELCF program for the Sigoerne (Iowa) Community School District.

Sarah (Van Leuven) Wees is a registered nurse in the intensive care unit at Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City.

New Arrivals

Angela and David Harding ‘08, daughter, Elisabeth-Ann, does cardio (2)

Jenna (Wolf) ‘08 and Paul Smith ‘08, daughter, Amara Erin, does Mullin (6) and Armanda (7)

Kirk and Londa (Wissink) ‘08 Dirkson, son, Kallen Joel, does Brayton (3)

Pilgrimst, daughter, Marisa Faith, does Mulloy (5)

Joel and Sarah (Sikkema ‘05) Salix, daughter, Maya Renee

Summer (Kurtz) ‘00 and Kevin Barber ‘01, daughter, Hadley Joy, does Coon (5)

Mindy and Tim Herskow ‘08, son, Gregory David, does Konni (2)

Kelly (Van Haften) ‘09 and Kevin Jansma ‘09, son, Anderson Lee, does Troy (7)

Brianne and Kevin Hofstee ‘08, daughter, Sophie Anne, does Ian (6) and Mady (2)

Andrew and Stephanie (Wissink ‘08) Turcotte, son, Graham Ryan, does Jack (5) and Ava (3)

Tiera (Minten) ‘08 and Steven Vander Leest ‘01, daughter, Isabella Anne, does Alia (5)

Carla (Keitel ‘01) and Nathan Argus ‘00, son, Evan, does Ethan (2)

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**Road Warrior**

Iowa residents, show your NWC pride with a specialty license plate. Numbered plates $25, personalized plates $50, plus $5 annual validation fee.

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February 16, 2011

4th annual Day of Learning in Community

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To lead a workshop or panel discussion about how you take your faith to work, contact DIL planner Jill Haarman: 712-707-7100 • daylearning@ncwcowa.com

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**Paraguayan Impact**

Thanks to 14 months of living in Paraguay, Kendra (Van Hof '08) and Joe Heitritter '08 know how to fill an outdoor cement sink with soapy water and hand-wash laundry. They know that to protect a shirt’s color from the strong sun, you turn it inside out before hanging it and pull the garment off line when the sun auto-converts it. Because they did so, they had a timer with a cracky fuse, they had acquired the habit of upgrowing the fridge to take a shower. And because they served with the Peace Corps until April of this year—with Joe specializing in health and Kendra in education—a school library is filled with children’s books; 17 families have brick ovens; elementary teachers try new methods with early readers; and elementary teachers try new methods with early readers; and... Marriages

Russ King ’66 and Sharen Reymen, Nooit, Men.

Trudy Peterson ’95 and Terry Pederson, Newell, Iowa.

Wendy Ackerman ’98 and Dan Ahnen, Coning, Iowa.

Nancy Neubauer ’10 and Ross Tuchetter, Salem, Or.

Laura Reimers ’00 and Joel Stouffer, Orange City.

Melanie Osborne ’03 and Paul Brandenstein, Milford, N.D.

Kelly Engelkes ’04 and Vina Mancinoni, Coralville, Iowa.

Sophia DiRocco ’05 and Andrew Clevenger, Orange City, Minn.

Katherine Walterman ’08 and Simon Connett, Lincoln, Neb.

Lisa Wallers ’08 and Wyatt Yericks, Yankton, S.D.

Kathryn Emory ’09 and Gustavo Guzman, Monterrey, Mexico.

Anne Ebeling ’07 and Nate Summers ’08, West Des Moines.

Rachel Schultz ’10 and Josh VanDoornsteiner ’09, Holland, Mich.

The couples reside in the city listed.

In Memoriam

Catherine Miller ’25, age 103 and Northwestern’s oldest alumna, died June 9 in Sutherland, Iowa. After graduating from Northwestern’s Classical Academy, she worked as a telephone operator and later opened the NorthStar Motel in Paulina with her husband. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Paulina. She is survived by four daughters.

Marriane (calbick ’55) Gier, age 73, died May 23 in Pella, Ia., after her second battle with cancer. She taught school in Mineraline and Illinois. She is survived by her husband, Jim; three daughters, and two brothers, including Frank ’52.

Phyllis Sterler ’70, of Lake Park, Iowa, died July 15 at age 73. She taught elemen- tary education in the Hartly-Minikin- Seward (Iowa) district for 35 years, and she was a member of American Lutheran Church of Melvin. She was co-chair-president of the Historical Society of Lake Park, a member of the Women’s Federated Club of Lake Park, and was active with the Western Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her survivors include her husband, Ronald, and their two daughters.

Clint McMartin ’97, age 30, died Aug. 27 in Iowa City. An elementary teacher for the last 11 years in the Grandview Community School District, he also served as the high school head boys track coach. He earned a master’s degree in educational administration at Iowa State University. A member of First Presbyterian Church of Steamboat Rock, he served as a trustee and Sunday school and vacation Bible school teacher. He is survived by his wife, Caralynn; their children, and two grandchildren, including Daniel ’83 and Kerla Hanson ’02.

Phil Patton, business professor at NWIC from 1962 to 1992, died July 6 at age 76. He earned bachelor’s, master’s, and master’s degrees from Columbia University and a doctorate in the history of education and political science from the University of Michigan.

After leaving NWIC, he advised the president of the University of Liberia in West Africa and then joined the staff of California State University, Sacramento, where he served as director of the International Center, vice president for academic affairs, and coordinator of the international student program.

Spinenga was awarded an honorary doctorate from NWIC in 1995, and he served on Northwestern’s Board of Trustees from 1991 to 1993. In 2003, the newest women’s dorm was named Spinenga Hall in recognition of his service.

Spinenga is survived by his wife, Maria, and two children, including Susan ’78.

**Is your goal the perfect gift?**

Then a Raiders’ Nike mini-ball is sure to be a slam dunk or touchdown!
Classic Thoughts

Intentional Community
by Rebecca (James '07) Alsum

Closing the door of our apartment around midnight, I see two girls baking in the community kitchen across the hall. I ask what smells so good; they tell me it's apple crisp and ask if I want some. When I say I'm heading to bed, they offer to leave a piece on my kitchen table so I can have it for breakfast. We say our goodnights, and sure enough, in the morning a piece of apple crisp is waiting for me.

I love moments like that, when I'm ending my day saying goodnight not just to my husband, but also to others in my Stegenga Hall "family." I live where I work, so the people I work with see me at all times of day, including at midnight when I'm exhausted. There's something about interacting while wearing pajamas that brings authenticity to relationships.

When I was a student, I was encouraged through classes, experiences abroad and living in the residence halls to think about living in community after college. What does that mean? For me, it meant living with others intentionally and with a common purpose—not just as a collection of roommates, each doing our own thing. So when I was considering living with three women after graduation, we talked a lot about having a common vision. In addition to supporting one another, we wanted to reach out to our neighbors and try to live simply as a way to care for the environment.

Scripture teaches that to learn about ourselves, God and the world, we need to be in relationship with one another. For me, living in intentional community meant moving from "I"—"What do I think? What do I want? What do I believe is the best way to live life?"—to "we"—"What do we think and want? How might we best live in community with each other?"

Living in community offers constant opportunities to learn the fruits of the Spirit, like patience, for example. In community, you can't control your whole world; you need to give up your own desires. Your space is everyone else's space too—the same goes for your belongings.

It wasn't easy to take the labels off "my stuff," but it made me rethink our culture's emphasis on ownership. Is this my coffeemaker or ours? Why can't the dishes belong to all of us? For the sake of the environment, might we be able to actually share ownership of and responsibility for something big, like a car, rather than each of us buying and driving our own?

As you can imagine, communication is essential to living successfully in community. When you try to live with others who may do the simplest things entirely differently from you, you have to talk, talk, talk until there is nothing left to talk about. You need to listen carefully, and then, instead of just saying "Whatever everyone wants to do is fine," you have to clearly state your expectations and the reasons behind them. Then you all work to figure out a new way—a truly communal way—to address the task or issue at hand.

Among the people I lived with in intentional community before I married, there was a gifted carpenter who made our home more functional with shelves. We wanted to help our neighbors, so we talked about what they might need and how our individual gifltdness could be put to use. We shared music and stories and committed to holding one another accountable in important ways that help a young person figure out how to live as a Christian in today's world.

Living in community takes work, time and intentional togetherness, but the rewards are a joy. You give, but you get things you might never receive if you lived alone—like waking up to fresh apple crisp.

Rebecca Alsum is the resident director of Northwestern's Stegenga Hall, where she lives with her husband, Mark '09, and 175 wildly diverse women. She says the best part of her job is living in community and credits Bob, Brian, Brittany, Margareta and Zach, among others, for teaching her some of the lessons described above.
Thirty alumni and friends enjoyed a Dutch culture immersion from the seat of a bicycle during a Northwestern-sponsored tour of the Netherlands in July.

Under the leadership of Dr. James Kennedy ’84, Dutch history professor at the University of Amsterdam, the group biked 180 miles in nine days. Venturing eastward from The Hague into Germany, they walked along the North Sea shore, joined thousands in Rotterdam to watch a broadcast of the World Cup soccer finale, toured the Delft pottery factory, picked cherries, and viewed World War II battle sites.

“The trip packed a lot into a short amount of time,” says Sarah (Huibregtse ’05) Jacobsen. “It gave us a good view of the traditional Dutch way of life.”

Northwestern is planning a bus tour of the Netherlands in 2012 and a bike tour in 2013. For more information, e-mail events@nwciowa.edu.