

Spring 2003

## The Classic, Spring 2003

Public Relations

*Northwestern College - Orange City*

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# CLASSIC

A publication for Northwestern College alumni & friends • Spring 2003



## *Vocare: Find Your Place*

*How the Lilly grant will  
transform Northwestern*



Dr. Bruce Murphy  
President

## Vocation: Finding Your Place in God's World

Just before Thanksgiving, a special delivery package came to my office. As Brenda and Aletha craned their necks around the office corner, I slit open the large envelope and read, "It is my pleasure . . ." I didn't have to read further. For weeks we had been anxiously awaiting word from the Lilly Endowment.

Now we knew: Northwestern College had been awarded \$2 million to enhance Christian vocational formation on campus. How pleased and grateful we were—I think my shouts could be heard in Alton!

Earlier we were one of 350 schools that had applied for planning grants from the Endowment. Lilly chose 50 of those schools to receive \$50,000 each to create comprehensive implementation proposals. In the end Lilly decided to award major grants to 39 of these 50 schools.

"Christian vocational formation" . . . what does it mean? I remember being asked when I was in high school if I wanted to pursue the college prep track or the vocational track, the latter being for students who planned to work in the manual arts or the trades. Community colleges often perpetuated this distinction by distinguishing themselves from liberal arts colleges and labeling their own work as vocational training.

In Christian history and especially in the Reformed tradition, though, "vocation" has a much deeper and richer meaning. The word comes from the Latin "vocare" which means "to call," more specifically a calling from God. At one time the word was applied only to those who felt led to be pastors, spiritual leaders. And this remains an important sense of the word today. But Martin Luther, and even more John Calvin, went further. They believed that every Christian is called by God to serve in the world in a particular way. Some are called to be tradesmen—in this they would agree with the view we see reflected in many places today—but others whose preparation includes, indeed requires, a liberal arts education are also called. Teachers, musicians, lawyers, doctors, business people, artists, social workers—all have a vocation.

There is more. It is not only that God calls Christians into certain lines of work based on God-given abilities and interests. They also are called to do this work in a certain way. One is not called simply to be a politician, for example, but a politician who brings the heart of Jesus Christ into government service. Often making career choices in our day focuses on finding a position that is personally satisfying. This is only part of the journey for the Christian. As Frederick Buechner has so eloquently stated, our vocation is "the place where our deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

God calls us to *love* His world through the gifts and talents He has given.

This is a wonderful ideal, but it is not achieved easily. How much easier it is to simply do something one likes to do, or something that pays reasonably well. Discerning how to love the world through what we do is much more difficult.

The Lilly grant program is designed to help our students make just this judgment. Through a number of carefully developed initiatives we seek to "liberate the minds," "enhance the discernment," "enlarge the sympathies" and "encourage the commitments" of those entrusted to us—enabling them to see themselves, the world and God more clearly.

Every spring we have a chapel series entitled "I Have A Dream." Senior students are invited to share their vision of the future and reflect on their time at Northwestern. A couple of years ago a gifted biology major thanked the college for expanding his worldview and providing excellent preparation in his major; he then concluded by saying that the most important thing that happened to him at the college was that *he found his place in God's world*. This long-held goal of Northwestern is the focus of the Lilly grant. Pray with us that we will be good stewards of the money and that many more students will experience the enduring joy of following God's path for their lives.

*Bruce Murphy*

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***"How much easier it is to simply do something one likes to do, or something that pays reasonably well. Discerning how to love the world through what we do is much more difficult."***  
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CLASSIC

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

Send correspondence or address changes to the *Classic*, Northwestern College, 101 7th St. SW, Orange City, IA 51041-1996.

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## Theatre facility receives \$200,000 in federal funding

Northwestern's new \$8.3 million theatre arts center has been awarded \$200,000 in federal funding as part of the fiscal year 2003 omnibus appropriations package. The appropriation, which will be used for state-of-the-art lighting and sound technology systems, brings the total raised for the building project to \$7.3 million.

The federal funding was

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secured through the efforts of Iowa Congressman Tom Latham, a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee. "These funds will help make this beautiful new center a reality," said Latham. "The center will be a great resource for northwest Iowa to high-quality theatre productions and education."

"We are grateful for this funding, which recognizes

the impact that our theatre program has on residents throughout this region and will strengthen the arts in an underserved area of rural Iowa," said John Greller, Northwestern's vice president for development. "We appreciate the efforts of Rep. Latham and his former chief of staff, Vicky Vermaat '76, in helping to secure these funds."

NWC happenings

# Barkers earn theatre recognition

Karen and Jeff Barker, theatre professors since 1988, have received Gold Medallion awards from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF). The Barkers were among three 2003 award recipients in Region V, which includes undergraduate and graduate theatre programs in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and North and South Dakota.

"Karen and Jeff have served theatre in exceptional ways," said Dr. Harry Parker, theatre professor at Emporia State University and chair of Region V. "They've contributed to a sustained period of excellence in theatre training at Northwestern College—to the point that it's one of the most outstanding theatre programs in our region.

"Their students prove the value of broad liberal arts training because they not only win many KCACTF awards, they also do it in so many areas: as actors, technicians, stage managers, playwrights and critics."

Parker said the awards also congratulate the Barkers for their role in the growth of Northwestern's program and the fact that they don't compromise their art for Christianity or their Christianity for art.

"At Northwestern you find something more than just



artistic excellence in their theatre program," added Parker. "You find theatre students and faculty that really care about each other and about the world they live in. You find spiritual values that are being lived on a daily basis, not just talked about."

In her acceptance speech for the award, Karen Barker said, "Artistry comes from the soul, and if you nurture the soul, you nurture the artist. We're privileged to work at a college that understands this."

# VanOort named chaplain



The Rev. Harlan VanOort

The Rev. Harlan VanOort '82, pastor of American Reformed Church in Orange City, has

been appointed as Northwestern's new chaplain. He will begin his duties in May.

"I am very pleased that Rev. VanOort has accepted this call," said Dr. Bruce

Murphy, president. "He is a longtime friend of the college who brings a discerning mind, a listening soul and a warm pastor's heart to this critical role. I believe strongly that Rev. VanOort is the right person for this time in Northwestern's history."

VanOort will report to Dr. Keith Anderson, dean for spiritual formation and director of the Lilly grant. VanOort replaces the Rev. Trygve Johnson '96, who left last year after three years as chap-

lain to enter a doctoral program at St. Andrews University in Scotland.

"I'm excited to connect the Gospel to the life of the student," said VanOort, "and to do what I can to encourage Northwestern to be a place of prayer where students listen to the Holy Spirit and follow Christ in a life of service in the world."

VanOort has been at American Reformed since 1994. He was pastor of East Valley Reformed Church in

Yakima, Wash., from 1986-94.

VanOort earned his M.Div. degree from Western Theological Seminary in 1986. He has served on Northwestern's Board of Trustees since coming to American Reformed. He is a member of *The Church Herald* Editorial Council and a certified trainer for Habitat for Humanity.

VanOort and his wife, Pat, are the parents of Elizabeth, 15, and Jenna, 13.

# Building projects on target



The Thea Korver Visual Arts Center, located on Hwy. 10, just east of the Subway restaurant, took shape during the winter months.

## Auction brings in second best total

The 20th annual Gala Auction on Feb. 15 raised the second highest amount of funds in the history of that event, about \$37,500. Proceeds will help fund \$1,000 Alumni Scholarships for 26 students next year, the \$1,500 Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award, a fall workshop for faculty, and student life programs.

More than 500 people attended the event. Bids were submitted on over 300 items.

"I was pleased with the

results," said Karen Woudstra, director of alumni and parent relations. "Despite the weekend's bad weather and concerns about the economy and war, people came out and showed that they support our students.

"People were very generous," Woudstra said. "We really appreciate all the items that alumni, friends and businesses donated to the auction, from trips and gift certificates to handcrafted woodwork."

## Programs recommended by national guidebook

Eleven NWC academic departments are listed in the 2003 edition of *Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges*, a national guidebook which recommends specific college academic departments to prospective

students. The selected programs are biology, chemistry, education, history, music, physics, psychology, religion, theatre, athletic training and environmental science.

Written by Frederick Rugg, a Brown University

Construction crews didn't let winter weather slow down their progress on three campus building projects. Work is on pace for completion of the theatre arts center, Thea G. Korver Visual Arts Center and two new student apartment buildings by their projected dates.

Doug Beukelman, vice president for financial affairs, reports that the adaptation and expansion of Northwestern's old Auditorium into the new theatre arts center is on schedule for completion by Oct. 15. Much of the exterior brickwork has been laid, most windows have been installed and the roof is partially completed. Inside, the metal studs are up so that the rooms are clearly delineated, and some Sheetrocking has already been done. Keep tabs on the progress at [www.nwciowa.edu/stulife/camera.asp](http://www.nwciowa.edu/stulife/camera.asp).

Across Hwy. 10, the block work for the new art building is nearly done, the roof waterproofed and the steel structure that forms the clerestory windows for bringing in natural light has been installed. Floors will be poured when the weather is better. Plans call for completion by Aug. 1.

Beukelman said the two new apartment buildings on the northwest side of campus should be finished by mid-April.



Among the more than 500 NWC supporters who enjoyed the Hawaiian theme at February's Gala Auction were, left to right: Janna Klinghagen, Lora (Vermeer '91) Rankin, Eric Rankin, Chris Klinghagen, Paul Smith '98 and Jennie (Wolf '98) Smith.

graduate who served 20 years as a secondary school college counselor and now gives college seminars around the country, the book includes programs at 970 four-year colleges that he has identified as providing a

high-quality education. Rugg's publication relies heavily on random polls of students at those colleges. Input also is received from high school counselors, college personnel and parents.

# DME debuts September 11 play



"September Bears" tells the story of Sue Lucarelli, a Manhattan teacher who helped deliver over 55,000 teddy bears to New York City schoolchildren after 9/11.

This summer Northwestern's Drama Ministries Ensemble (DME) will tour a new play about events surrounding September 11.

"September Bears," written by Jeff Barker, draws on interviews with members of the Manhasset Community Reformed Church on Long Island. The 50-minute drama tells the story of Sue Lucarelli, who became known after September 11 as "the bear lady."

After the terror of 9/11, one child in Sue's Manhattan classroom needed a hug. "Mama Luc" hugged him and gave him a bear to hold. The child's need and her gesture were the beginning of a national love story. With the help of her church and others across the U.S., Sue oversaw the delivery of over 55,000 teddy bears to children in New York in the months following 9/11. The play includes Sue's poetry and the prayer she was asked to give at the one-year observance near Ground Zero.

The summer touring team also will perform "When Scott Comes Home," Barker's worship drama that tells the true story of a mother whose son returns home, bringing with him her small town's first case of AIDS. DME also will perform enacted prayer and comedy improv during the summer tour.

In addition, the DME team is available to do drama workshops with church drama teams or theatre artists who want to incorporate drama into worship.

This will be the fourth summer of touring by theatre students and alumni. The eight-week tour will take place in June and July and will focus on the central U.S.

To arrange a performance in your community, contact Jonathan Allsup, summer tour coordinator, at 712-707-7257, [dme@nwciowa.edu](mailto:dme@nwciowa.edu) or [www.nwciowa.edu/newssports/calendar/dme/host\\_form.asp](http://www.nwciowa.edu/newssports/calendar/dme/host_form.asp).

## Classic online

PDF files of this issue of the *Classic*, and the last three alumni publications, are available online at [www.nwciowa.edu/newssports/pub](http://www.nwciowa.edu/newssports/pub).

## Students study off campus

Nearly 45 NWC students are furthering their education through off-campus studies and internships this semester.

Five students are studying in London. Others are studying in China, Costa Rica, France, Russia and Wales.

Thirteen students are

participating in the Chicago Semester, taking classes and interning at such sites as the Field Museum of Natural History, InterVarsity Press, Northwestern Memorial Hospital and the Cook County Juvenile Court. Another student is enrolled in the Los Angeles Film Studies Program.

Other interns are gaining practical experience in their field of study through their work at WCCO-TV in Minneapolis; Center for Neurosciences, Orthopaedics and Spine in Dakota Dunes, S.D.; Interstates Electric in Sioux Center; and Voice of Calvary Ministries, Jackson, Miss.

## New programs attract design students

Two new minors offered by Northwestern's communication studies department are attracting students interested in design and advertising. A multi-media minor and a corporate communications minor were approved last spring and are available to students this year.

## Faculty/staff news



**Dr. Marc Wooldridge**, music, performed his touring program, "Journeys: Multimedia

Percussion," at New York's Houghton College, Buffalo Academy for the Visual and Performing Arts, and Onondaga Community College in October. In March, he presented it at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., and Central College, Pella, Iowa.

**Dr. Jim Mead**, religion, had an article published in the Autumn 2002 *Reformed Review*, the journal for Western Theological Seminary. He wrote "All Our Grievs to Bear: A Biblical and Theological Reflection," the lead essay for the issue's theme on "New Perspectives on Grief."

**Mike Avery**, business, is the author of an article published in the December 2002 issue of *Logistics Spectrum*, a professional magazine for logisticians. The article is entitled "Intermodal Transportation and Homeland Security: Where We Stand Today."

**Dr. Barb Top**, education, went with a group of six NWC students to Guatemala for a week in November to serve at a spiritual retreat for children with physical disabilities. The retreat was set up by Hope Haven

International Ministries.

**Brian Lee**, music, performed the first movement of Beethoven's *Piano Concerto no. 4 in G major, op. 58*, with the NWC Symphonette in November. He performed the entire concerto with the Cherokee Symphony Orchestra in February. He will be giving a lecture-recital, "Charles Ives at the Crossroads: The Tension Between Tradition and Innovation in His *Piano Trio*," at The Juilliard School. He will be performing the trio with the dean of the school, violinist Stephen Clapp, and Joel Krosnick, cellist of the Juilliard String Quartet. Lee gave this lecture-recital in March at Northwestern along with adjunct faculty members Lee Thorson, cello, and Emily Lodine, mezzo-soprano, and violinist Chris Bonds, concertmaster of the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra.

A new sociology textbook written from a Christian perspective includes a chapter, "Economic Life," by **Dr. Mike Yoder**, sociology. The book, *Sociology: A Christian Approach for Changing the World*, was edited by Cynthia Benn Tweedell and just released by Triangle Publishing Company.

**Dr. Jim Rohrer**, religion, presented a paper entitled "Charisma in a Colonial Mission Context: The Case of George Leslie Mackay in

Taiwan" as part of an international panel on religious charisma at the American Anthropological Association meeting in New Orleans in November. He also has recently had his works of poetry published in *Haiku Headlines*, *Modern Haiku* and *Mayfly*.

**Mike Meyer**, head volleyball



coach, has now surpassed the 400 victory mark at Northwestern.

His teams have compiled a 408-131 record since he joined the staff in 1989. In addition, he was inducted into the Hall of Fame at Remsen St. Mary's High School in December. In his eight years at St. Mary's, he served as head volleyball and boys' basketball coach, assistant baseball coach and athletic director. His volleyball teams went 160-52, with the '84 squad qualifying for the state tournament, while the baseball teams won six state titles.

**Dr. Keith Anderson**, dean of spiritual formation, did a two-day workshop and one additional presentation on spiritual development of college students at the Ivy Jungle Conference in Dallas in November, a gathering of people who work in campus ministry at all levels. In February, he spoke on assessing campus ministry pro-

grams for the spiritual formation of college students at the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities' Campus Ministry Conference in Los Angeles. He also presented a three-day chapel series and offered a student development workshop at Fresno Pacific University in February.

**Cornie Wassink**, director of planned giving, is serving as president of Leave A Legacy - Siouxland North for 2003. This chapter covers Iowa's four most northwestern counties.

**Dr. Robert Hubbard**, theatre, presented "Sensory Showing: Techniques for Performing Poetic Imagery" at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education's August conference in San Diego. In November, he served as a respondent to a panel on solo performance at the National Communications Association's conference in New Orleans.

**Greg Scheer**, director of music ministries, is the author of a two-part article on blended worship featured in the music and worship section at [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com) during February and March. Part one dealt with blending hymns and praise songs. Part two focused on incorporating ethnic and world worship into services.



## 240 serve over spring break

Around 240 NWC students, faculty and staff put their faith into action during the college's annual Spring Service Projects (SSP) March 1-11.

International trips this year included two new service sites. Students worked with Dr. Bernardeth Kelly, a Reformed Church in America missionary in Bluefields, Nicaragua, to tutor school-children and help construct a new medical facility. And another team traveled to Brazil to serve as caregivers and maintenance workers at Lar Batista Biblico, a family-run orphanage for around 60 at-risk children.

In Amsterdam, the Netherlands, students stayed at two Christian youth hostels, helping with food service and house-keeping and leading nightly Bible studies.

In the U.S. there were four new service sites. Students lived and worked with residents at His Mansion in New Hampshire, a temporary residence for people seeking to rebuild their lives with Christ's help. Another group lived with ministry

staff at Street Life Ministries in Flushing, N.Y., serving people who are hungry and homeless in several ethnically-diverse New York City neighborhoods. At The Mendenhall Ministries (TMM) in Mendenhall, Miss., team members served people living in rural south-central Mississippi and learned from TMM staff as they discussed race, poverty and reconciliation. Students traveling to Apache, Okla., visited Native American communities while they led youth programs and participated in worship at the Apache Reformed Church.

Other U.S. service sites included prison ministry at Calvary Commission in Lindale, Texas; housing development and construction with Voice of Calvary in Jackson, Miss.; soup kitchen and community development service in Washington, D.C.; urban youth ministry in Jonesboro, Ark.; communal living and city service in Chicago; urban culture and homeless ministry in Seattle; and street evangelism in New Orleans.

## Dartmouth archivist to direct library



Dan Daily, project archivist at Dartmouth College's Rauner Special Collections Library, has been named the director of Northwestern's Ramaker Library. He will begin his new role July 1.

"Dan is extremely competent and intelligent. He has worked in major academic libraries and will bring a perspective on modern libraries that will benefit us," said Joonna Trapp, assistant professor of English, who chaired the library director search committee. "He is a kind and generous person. People who work under him just adore him."

Daily currently oversees the Dartmouth College Oral History Project, the New Hampshire Local Records Education Project and the College Archives. Before coming to Dartmouth in 1996, he was assistant university archivist for three years at Duke University. He earned a master's degree in library science from the University of North Carolina, a master's in theology from Duke and a bachelor's in history from the University of Southern Maine.

Daily will play a key role in planning for a new library building. "My goal is to design a library that's going to fit the college's needs for the next half century and be one of the centers of campus architecturally," he said.

Daily and his wife, Laurie, are the parents of Kristen, 11; Kelsey, 8; and Trevor, 6.

Daily replaces Dr. Richard Reitsma, who now is library director at Siena Heights University in Adrian, Mich.

## Students advance to state finals in business plan competition

Most college students don't work on a class project for over a year, but that's exactly what three senior business administration majors did. The hard work paid off when the team, made up of Carrie Petersen of Waukee, Iowa, Erica Smith of Luverne, Minn., and Laurie De Vries of Orange City, qualified for the state finals of the 2002 Pappajohn New Venture Business Plan Competition in Des Moines after winning the regional competition.

Their plan, which started as an assignment for Professor Michael Avery's Operations Management course, was for a Christian music and book store.

"I think the judges were

impressed because it was so well thought out and very specific. We all pay close attention to detail," De Vries said. The plan included a copy of the employee handbook, information on gift-wrapping services and a design for the store's layout.

The Pappajohn New Venture Business Plan Competition is for Iowa college students who have an interest in starting their own business. Three \$5,000 seed grants are awarded annually to the top three business plans on the basis of content and viability. The competition is sponsored by John Pappajohn, Equity Dynamics and the Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Centers.



## Searches are under way for the following positions:

### Athletic Training/Kinesiology Faculty

Tenure-track position, beginning August 2003. Assignments will include serving as program director of athletic training, with teaching and supervision in the athletic training major and Department of Kinesiology. Responsibilities will include supervising the NATA-JRC site visit and directing a NATA curriculum program, as well as student advising and recruiting, professional scholarship, and supervision of field experiences and internships.

Preference will be given to candidates with a completed or nearly completed doctorate in kinesiology or exercise science. Candidates must possess a master's degree and three years of experience as an NATA-BOC certified athletic trainer with previous experience supervising students in a clinical setting.

Contact Dr. Karen Cianci, vice president for academic affairs, vpaa@nwciowa.edu.

### Biology Faculty

One-year sabbatical replacement position, from Aug. 15, 2003, to May 15, 2004. Teaching responsibilities will include Human Anatomy and Physiology, Genetics, Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics.

Candidates must have a Ph.D. in biology or chemistry (ABD or M.A. considered) and

a record of effective teaching experience.

Contact Dr. Karen Cianci, vice president for academic affairs, vpaa@nwciowa.edu.

### Music Theory Faculty

One-year term position, from Aug. 15, 2003, to May 15, 2004. Teaching responsibilities will include the freshman/sophomore music theory sequence and other courses based on the candidate's area of expertise and departmental needs. The teaching load is 24 credits, 12 per semester.

Candidates should have a Ph.D. in music theory and/or composition (ABD or M.A. considered) and a record of effective teaching experience. Preferred secondary areas include percussion, piano or voice.

Contact Dr. Karen Cianci, vice president for academic affairs, vpaa@nwciowa.edu.

### Writer/Designer

Full-time position available July 1, 2003, for additional staffing in the Public Relations Office. Responsibilities will include writing news releases, feature articles and advertising, and designing publications.

Qualifications include excellent skills in writing, organization and desktop publishing. Additional skills in photography, knowledge of integrated marketing and web experience would be helpful.

Contact Duane Beeson,

director of public relations, beeson@nwciowa.edu.

### Career Counselor/Adviser

Full-time position available July 1, 2003. This person will expand the Career Development Center's capacity to better serve freshmen and sophomores, particularly those who have not yet declared a major. Responsibilities will include advising undeclared students and providing opportunities for them to explore career possibilities, as well as helping other advisers know how to best serve these students.

A master's degree in college student development or counseling and some experience in student development are preferred.

Contact Deb Sandbulte, human resources coordinator, debfs@nwciowa.edu.

### Executive Assistant, Lilly Grant

Full-time position available July 1, 2003. Responsibilities will include supporting all the activities of the Lilly grant and its director.

Qualifications include excellent computer and organizational abilities, strong writing skills, and the ability to manage budgets and do financial reporting.

Contact Deb Sandbulte, human resources coordinator, debfs@nwciowa.edu.

### Study Abroad Coordinator

Part-time position available Aug. 15, 2003. Working with the associate academic dean, responsibilities will include providing resources and support for faculty-led summer study abroad trips. Qualifications include computer and organizational abilities relating to planning proposals and itineraries, assisting with budgets, and making travel arrangements.

Contact Deb Sandbulte, human resources coordinator, debfs@nwciowa.edu.

*Northwestern seeks faculty and staff who are evangelical in theology, with a Reformed perspective, and who are committed to the distinctives of a Christian liberal arts education. Send a letter of application, professional vitae, and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of three references to the contact listed above. For faculty positions, also send a short statement of your teaching and research interests. Applications can be filled out online, or downloaded as PDF files, at [www.nwciowa.edu/about/employment/default.asp](http://www.nwciowa.edu/about/employment/default.asp).*

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*Northwestern College complies with government regulations concerning non-discrimination in employment. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.*

# Vocare: Find Your Place

Articles by Tamara Fynaardt and Duane Beeson

*“One of the most critical questions for college students is ‘What does God want me to do with my life?’ And what’s distinctive for Christians is that answering this question is bigger than just ‘What am I good at?’ ‘What do I like to do?’ or ‘How can I survive financially?’ It grows out of a belief that we’re created for a purpose—that purpose is called our vocation.*

*“Students come with interest, enthusiasm, eagerness, maybe a little fear, and four years later you’re out in the world—where will that be? Northwestern will walk closely with you through these years. I promise: When you come to Northwestern, we’ll help you find your place in God’s world.”*

*- President Bruce Murphy*

A strategy for enabling Northwestern to keep its promise has received a \$2 million endorsement from the Lilly Endowment, Indianapolis, Ind.

Pursuit of the Lilly grant started in December 2001

when Northwestern submitted a planning grant application to the Endowment, requesting \$50,000 to plan for what the college might do with \$2 million. Northwestern competed against around 350 applicants and



was one of only 50 colleges and universities to receive planning grant funds in March 2002.

For the next six months, a team of Northwestern administrators, faculty, staff and students read, studied

and brainstormed ways to help students better integrate their faith commitments with their career choices.

Dr. Carl Vandermeulen, professor of English and communication studies, and Kim Case, associate dean for

*continued on page 16*

## College-Church Covenant

A 35-year-old document defining the relationship between the Reformed Church in America (RCA) and its colleges was the foundation for Northwestern's proposal to the Lilly Endowment.

The "Covenant of Mutual Responsibilities," adopted by Synod in 1968, specifies that the RCA colleges will "provide an atmosphere of search and confrontation that will liberate the minds, enhance the discernment, enlarge the sympathies and encourage the commitments of all students entrusted to us."

Further, the colleges covenant to "inspire students to a life of contemplation and self-giving, alerting them to the demands and needs of their time and challenging them to dedicated service to their generation."

Language from the Covenant provided the proposal's five overall goals:

**Goal 1: To "provide an atmosphere of search and confrontation"** we will integrate the college's current vocation-related efforts with new initiatives to shape an ethos that supports listening and responding to God's call.

**Goal 2: To "liberate the minds, enhance the discernment"** we will give new attention to helping first-year and undeclared students explore their gifts and find their calling, and we will enhance advising and career development resources and opportunities for all students.

**Goal 3: To "enlarge the sympathies"** we will shape a campus culture that helps students understand and build relationships with people different from themselves and relate God's call to living in a global community.

**Goal 4: We will "encourage the commitments of all students entrusted to us."** In particular, we will focus on giving students opportunities to explore a calling to ministry or Christian college teaching through leadership positions, workshops and internships.

**Goal 5: We will increase our capacity to liberate minds, enhance discernment, enlarge sympathies and encourage commitment through research and further learning.** Faculty, staff and student research about vocation and calling may help us discover ways of discerning and responding to God's call that challenge current societal and cultural assumptions and practices regarding career and vocation.

Specific initiatives are listed under each goal; there are 34 in all. Some are highlighted in the following articles.

## Funding Difference: The Lilly Endowment

Arguably, the Lilly Endowment Inc. is one of the top gift-giving foundations to churches and church-related institutions in the United States. In the past three years, endowment officers have cut checks for up to \$2 million each to 88 church-related colleges across the country, including Duke, Grinnell, Loyola and Notre Dame. Their latest round of awards, made this past December to 39 colleges, included Hope and Northwestern.

The Endowment, located in Indianapolis, was established in 1937 by members of the Lilly family, who founded Eli Lilly and Company, a pharmaceutical business. The Endowment is no longer related to the Lilly drug company; it exists separately to continue supporting the causes specified by the founders: education, community development and religion.

Within the area of religion, the Endowment is interested primarily in encouraging the spiritual lives and commitments of American Christians. The ultimate goal for grants from

their religion division is to strengthen churches and congregations by developing a new generation of talented pastors and lay ministers and by strengthening current pastors in their roles.

"The Endowment seeks to help congregations be vibrant communities of faith," said Craig Dykstra, Endowment vice president for religion, adding that healthy local churches provide the "religious resources upon which a flourishing and humane society depend."

The Endowment views church-related colleges and universities as the places where this training and development can begin, so they've made generous support available to institutions with programs that will help students examine their career choices in light of their faith. And they hope that examination might lead even more talented young people to consider pastoral ministry as their life's vocation.



Dr. Keith Anderson, director of the Lilly grant and dean of spiritual formation, also serves the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities as a senior fellow for campus ministry. He is a frequent speaker at colleges and conferences across the nation.

## Minister of Calling

When Keith Anderson went into campus ministry in 1984, many of his colleagues in the pastorate thought he was crazy.

"They thought I was giving up significant ministry in the church," he recalls. "I think it's just the opposite: For me, campus ministry is about working with people in one of the most strategic seasons of life."

Anderson, who was named director of Vocare in December, says his views of the importance of the college

years were influenced by his own experience in the late 1960s and early '70s as a Chicago native attending Bethel College in the Twin Cities.

"The college years for me personally formed a baseline for most of the important issues for the rest of my life. They shaped me so profoundly that it motivates me to work with students."

Reflecting on his 19 years as a college chaplain and professor—at the University of Sioux Falls, Bethel and now NWC—Anderson relishes the moments when he has seen students expand their worldview and come to life spiritually.

Oftentimes that has happened while students were on retreats, service-learning projects or off-campus study opportunities, such as the trips he has led to Chicago for the last 16 years. "The class has theoretically been about inner-city ministry or urban life, but it always becomes about identity and vocation," explains Anderson. "As students listen to people joyously living out life in difficult situations, they are forced to ask, 'Who am I and to what am I being called?'"

Anderson says he is excited to lead the campus emphasis on vocation that will come out of the numerous Vocare initia-

tives. "The Lilly grant provides the means for Northwestern to focus more deeply on what it already does: integrating the notion of calling and discernment into the very heart of the institution. I believe in that very intensely," he says.

Anderson, whose five books published by InterVarsity Press include *Spiritual Mentoring: A Guide for Those Giving and Receiving Direction* and *What They Don't Always Teach You at a Christian College*, has been Northwestern's interim chaplain this year. He has been appointed dean for spiritual formation, overseeing the campus ministry program and serving on the Administrative Council, in addition to his role as director of the Lilly grant.

Anderson and President Bruce Murphy will team-teach an honors seminar on spirituality and vocation next fall. "It will be a way of helping us think together and out loud with students about the biblical, theological, historical and even literary thinking that needs to embody this whole program," says Anderson.

The grant program will be officially launched in the fall. In the meantime, Anderson is in a phase of preparation, talking with people who were involved in the grant process or who will be affected by the grant. "It's a time of listening to the Northwestern community to make sure I understand the vision that has been articulated in the grant and thinking ourselves into some understanding of what the grant means. I want to emphasize that a participative process will be the essential style of the grant."

As he makes his plans, Anderson has his eyes set on the Northwestern of five years from now. "If the grant has been successful, the campus won't look very different—but it will be deeper and more spiritually integrated," he says. "The ethos of discernment of calling that has been enhanced will permeate the life of the campus. Five years from now, many students will have been challenged to discern their place in the Kingdom of God."

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***"The college years for me personally formed a baseline for most of the important issues for the rest of my life. They shaped me so profoundly that it motivates me to work with students."***

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# Job One

The mantra of many college career development centers is:

- Get involved.
- Become a campus leader.
- Build your resume and make contacts through internships and part-time jobs in your major.

While all of that is good advice, Bill Minnick, director of Northwestern's Career Development Center (CDC), has some additional counsel:

- Step back and prayerfully consider where God is leading you.

Think introspectively about your real passion and calling. National studies show that 60 percent of freshmen begin college undecided about their future career. Of those who have chosen a major, approximately half will reconsider.

Vocare will provide funding for resources to assist Minnick and other staff and faculty in helping students discern the career to which God is calling them. The Career Development Center's library of information on more than 450 careers and collection of instruments such as the Myers-Briggs Personality Indicator and the Strong Interest Inventory will be supplemented by materials such as a spiritual gift inventory and added personality/interest assessment software.

The most significant

addition to the CDC's resources will be a new career counselor/adviser, greatly expanding the staff's ability to provide career planning information, particularly to students who haven't decided on a major. "The counselor will actively seek out those undeclared students," says Minnick, "provide opportunities for them to explore, develop relationships with them and give them permission to try different things."

Minnick envisions the counselor offering sessions in residence halls and classes

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***"The goal is to get students connected to someone in an area where they might have a passion."***

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about choosing a career, arranging theme lunchbag days that would allow students considering a major to gather for a meal and hear from a panel of professionals in that field, and actively promoting interest and personality inventories that help students identify careers that could be a good fit for them. Because academic advisers play a crucial role in helping students prepare for their future, the counselor also will provide those faculty mem-



*Bill Minnick, director of the Career Development Center, and Jamie Dykstra review the results of an interest inventory the sophomore took.*

**Initiatives:** To help students discern the call of God upon their life, Vocare will:

- Expand the Career Development Center staff by hiring a career counselor/adviser.
- Purchase software and other materials to assist students in recognizing their gifts and strengths and to help faculty with advising.
- Provide training for faculty, staff and student leaders who are involved in mentoring relationships with students.
- Facilitate mentoring relationships between alumni and students, and bring distinguished alumni to campus to address and work with students.



*Junior Cassiah Rasmussen uses the Discover computer program as part of her career planning process.*

*continued on page 16*

# Listen Up

Forty Northwestern men and women started the spring semester on a retreat at Lake Okoboji with Dr. Keith Anderson, dean for spiritual formation. Called "The Journey," the retreat's focus was Christian disciplines, specifically silence, solitude, meditation and prayer.

"Why are you here?" Anderson asked students.

"Being frantic and busy hasn't really worked," said one student. "So I thought I'd try something else."

Like other retreats Northwestern students participate in, this one included study, discussion, games and bonding. The difference happened after 10 p.m.: Rather than staying up half the night talking, laughing and pulling pranks, students were instructed to be alone—and be quiet—until morning.

"I never thought I'd like being silent so much," commented one attendee.

Busyness is not next to Godliness. "Our students' lives are dominated by 'more,'" wrote Dr. Carl Vandermeulen in the Lilly grant proposal. "More work, more activities, more entertainment, more possessions. The professional lives of our faculty and staff are similarly crowded, so that depth of thought and spiritual

grounded-ness are crowded out," he added.

While visiting other Christian colleges to conduct research for preparing the Lilly grant proposal, Vandermeulen and others repeatedly heard dismay at the tendency to add more and more programs and activities that demand student participation and productivity. "Teaching students traditional Christian practices could give them respite that would help them better listen and discern God's call in their lives," said Vandermeulen.

In *Receiving the Day*, which the Lilly grant authors read, Dorothy Bass writes about the importance of daily rhythms that draw Christians into God's presence. "Putting down an anchor or two amid the swells of each day is essential if we are to avoid bobbing on its surface or being washed away by its demands," she wrote.

Barb Dewald, associate dean for spiritual formation, tries to take part of one day each month for silence and solitude. "We don't get to know the heart of God by doing, doing, doing," she said. "We get to know Him by stopping and listening."

Armed with her Bible and her journal, Dewald heads someplace quiet—



*While students occasionally use Christ Chapel to reflect and pray alone, the building increasingly is filled with chapel preparation or services and worship team and music rehearsals. A goal of the Lilly grant program is a separate space, available to students, faculty and staff who want to practice solitude and silence.*

**Initiatives:** To nurture conversation and community with each other and with God, Vocare will:

- Teach and enable faculty, staff and students to cultivate traditional Christian disciplines like silence, solitude, meditation and prayer.
- Establish a local retreat center, to be used by campus groups and individuals seeking to spend time with God.
- Fund short-term vocational development leaves for staff members, similar to faculty sabbatical leaves.
- Establish funds for campus events and theme house activities that encourage community and relate to the goals of the grant program.

away from the phone and e-mail. She might start by praying or journaling about what's on her mind, giving any concerns to God so she won't be distracted. "I talk it through with God and then just leave it," she said.

Sometimes she reads Scripture to focus. "I don't try to read a lot, but more just let God speak. I have to reach a point where I'm not talking any more. Instead, I am listening, and it is God bringing things to my mind or laying them on my heart.

"Sometimes nothing

profound happens, but sometimes I can say I've really heard a word from the Lord that has been clear and distinct. That doesn't happen every time, but I can say I am more likely to hear when I'm in a listening posture."

Dewald admits, "It's very counter-culture. We live in a society that moves very quickly and doesn't process, particularly with regard to our personal spiritual life. But in order for us to discern our vocation—where God is leading us—there has to be time for listening."

# Hearing the Call

As a Northwestern senior in 1996, Jill Erickson was interviewing for accounting jobs when she realized that she wanted to have time in her career for the things that mattered most to her: people and ministry. Influenced by her experiences as a resident assistant and participant on spring and summer mission trips, along with the advice of a friend, Jill decided to become a college residence hall director.

Today, Jill is Northwestern's director of mission and outreach, overseeing the college's Spring Service Projects and community outreach. And she's an example of someone who went into full-time ministry without planning on it as a college student.

Vocare includes several initiatives designed to help students like Jill sense their calling to ministry or Christian college teaching—and prepare them to be effective in that undertaking. “The main thing is really encouraging students in their commitments and helping them to discern by giving them some opportunities to try,” explains Jill's supervisor, Barb Dewald, associate dean for spiritual formation.

More students will be given opportunities to be spiritual leaders in their liv-

ing areas through the establishment of seven paid discipleship intern positions. “We anticipate that they will be shepherds to the Bible study leaders in their hall and will lead a study on their floor while also having a pastoral function,” says Dewald. “We believe that Bible studies and small groups are key for stu-

dents' spiritual development. We want them to study Scripture and then apply it to their lives, and we've found that small groups with people they know and live with provide great environments for helping them discern God's call on their lives.”

Dewald says the posi-

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*“We want them to study Scripture and then apply it to their lives, and we've found that small groups with people they know and live with provide great environments for helping them discern God's call on their lives.”*  
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**Initiatives:** To encourage more students to enter full-time ministry or Christian college teaching, Vocare will:

- Provide leadership opportunities for students to serve as discipleship interns in student residences.
- Inform students of graduate school and seminary opportunities and assist them with campus visits.
- Offer retreats and summer workshops for those considering pastoral ministry.
- Provide students with more opportunities to serve and intern in churches.



*Vocare will seek to cultivate more relationships with “teaching churches,” like Orange City's American Reformed Church, where Deseree Angyal is interning, to provide opportunities for NWC students to develop leadership skills in ministry.*



**Hearing the Call** *continued from page 15*

tions will have two positive effects. “Student positions aren’t just token things. They will be really helpful to the whole ministry on campus. And these experiences train the student leaders and help them learn about their gifts.”

One of the Lilly Endowment’s goals is to prepare more talented young people to fill the growing number of empty pulpits in North American churches. This need is apparent in the Reformed Church in America, whose director for ministry services, Gregg Mast, says, “There is a current and projected shortage of pastors in our denomination, so more intentional and directed exploration and preparation of a new generation of pastors is a dire need for the church.”

Students who may be called to full-time ministry will have the opportunity to reflect upon that call through ministry discernment retreats or summer workshops. “These sessions will help them think about where they best fit, what are their passions and gifts, and what is the call on their lives,” says Dewald. “We’d like to utilize our faculty, community people, denominational leaders and others to provide a variety of voices to let them think about where God might be calling them.”

The grant program also aims to strengthen collaboration between NWC and churches. Initiatives would help to develop relationships with “teaching churches” that will provide significant ministry opportunities for Northwestern students while receiving training for on-site supervisors and oversight

*continued on page 19*

**Vocare: Find Your Place** *continued from page 10*

student programs, led the effort. The planning phase included visits to Whitworth College in Spokane, Wash., a 2001 recipient of a Lilly Endowment grant, and Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Mich., to meet with seminary administrators and faculty and to follow-up with NWC alumni studying there.

“Lilly wants more talented young people to consider pastoral ministry as a career,” explained Vandermeulen. “So we wanted to ask alums in seminary how they got there.” Personal encouragement—from both faculty and staff—it turned out, was high on the list. “It stressed for us the importance of relationships,” said Vandermeulen, adding that this led to many grant initiatives that focus on mentoring.

Vandermeulen authored a 100+ page implementation proposal that was submitted in August. Just before Thanksgiving Murphy was notified that Northwestern was among 39 colleges selected to receive Lilly Endowment grants of up to \$2 million each; the check arrived in time for Christmas. Dr. Keith Anderson, Northwestern’s new dean for spiritual formation, will oversee implementation of the grant’s goals and initiatives over the next five years.

The project, called “Vocare”—a Latin term that means “to call” and the root of the English “vocation”—“resurrects the word ‘vocation,’ which is a very good word,” said Murphy. “Historically, vocation has referred to all the work that is done—in the arts, sciences, business, the professions, education—work in all those areas is a call from God, and all of that ought to be informed by solid learning and reflection.”

**Job One** *continued from page 13*

bers with training and assistance.

Dr. Carl Vandermeulen, Northwestern’s Lilly grant proposal author, says NWC welcomes undeclared students because their indecision often stems from the fact that they are talented in many areas. “When they’re gifted in so many ways, students face difficulty of choice. I’m excited that we will have help in advising and working with these students.”

In addition, Vocare seeks to enhance the mentoring received by students.

Initiatives include offering training to faculty, staff and student leaders who serve as mentors and boosting the number of opportunities for alumni and community residents to provide mentorship.

“The goal,” says Minnick, “is to get students connected to someone in an area where they might have a passion. For example, hooking up a student interested in a certain ministry with someone in the community who is involved in that. Mentors give students a real-world perspective—someone who is actually doing what this student wants to do can say,

‘Here’s what you should be doing to prepare.’ There’s real value in those types of relationships.”

Karen Woudstra, Northwestern’s director of alumni and parent relations, already has been involved in connecting alumni mentors with students on an informal basis. She says, “Mentors can give students insight on the positives and negatives of a particular job, explain different career paths that can branch off from a particular field and be contacts for future jobs. It is so valuable for students to have resource people available to help.”

In the last few months, nearly 30 alumni have responded to an ad in the *Winter Classic* about their willingness to serve as mentors. Others who would like to volunteer can contact Minnick at 712-707-7225 or [bminnick@nwcwiowa.edu](mailto:bminnick@nwcwiowa.edu).

Through all these efforts, the grant program seeks to help students carefully think through their career calling. “What’s going to be key,” says Minnick, “is connecting to the students and developing relationships. With that in place, great things can happen.”

**“One way to worship God is to create beautiful things for him.”**  
 - Frederick Buechner, theologian and writer, in *Wishful Thinking*

# Artful Worship

*Waiting at the stoplight on the corner of Highway 10 and Albany Ave., you believe it when Northwestern says art and artists are valuable.*



The former Auditorium is transforming dramatically into a theatre facility worthy of a program labeled “one of the jewels of the Midwest” by Dr. Harry Parker, chair of Region V’s Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

Across the street, the Thea Korver Visual Arts Center soon will be a new home to faculty and students who communicate with chalk, charcoal, clay and camera.

Less obvious to passersby, Northwestern’s already strong music program has added a music ministry major, and many of those students are involved in chapel and church worship teams.

The English department offers students a new degree in writing and rhetoric. In addition to creative nonfiction, fiction playwriting and poetry, students can take courses in spiritual narrative genres like autobiography and meditative and confessional writing.

Communication studies professors are offering more courses and experience in video and filmmaking, and the college now hosts an annual film festival that celebrates the artistry of screenwriters and filmmakers who are Christians.

“The life of the Christian community is nourished by artistic gifts,” said Dr. Carl Vandermeulen, communication studies chairperson and writing and rhetoric professor. “Churches with rich artistic expression are much richer for it,” he added. After worshipping in several South African churches during a study trip last summer, Vandermeulen became even more convinced that art enhances worship—that art is worship.

“Our Protestant traditions haven’t developed much of a sense of ritual,” he said. “African worshippers express themselves much more physically, through dancing and shouting. Artistic experiences as part of worship can touch a part of us that we need to have touched to feel connected to God and his people.”

Vandermeulen argued in the Lilly grant proposal that encouraging students’ artistic abilities and expressions is connected to vocation. “Finding your place begins with identify-

*continued on page 19*



*Northwestern’s Drama Ministries Ensemble brings biblical truths to life on stage, exploring AIDS, drug abuse, homelessness and now the aftermath of September 11 through the light of the Gospel and its message of compassion and grace.*

**Initiatives:** To provide leadership for integrating worship and the arts, Vocare will:

- Bring visiting musicians, songwriters, playwrights, visual artists, filmmakers, poets and storytellers to work alongside our students in these arts.
- Support summer touring by the Drama Ministries Ensemble to churches to present original worship dramas, lead congregations in enacted prayer and teach and learn from church drama teams and theatre artists. (Information about the summer 2003 tour is on page 6.)
- Hire students as worship leader apprentices to work alongside Northwestern’s director of music ministries in planning and leading chapel worship.
- Plan and host a worship summit for worship leader training and networking.

# It's a Small World, After All

Orange City's Tulip Festival 2002 was presided over by a Korean-American queen with a Dutch last name. Tonya Vander Molen, now a Northwestern freshman, said, "I feel like maybe I broke an invisible barrier of some kind. I was proud to represent progress toward appreciating cultural and ethnic diversity in Orange City."

Nearby, Sioux Center has a Mexican grocery store and restaurant where the aisles are decorated with colorful piñatas, and guava juice is on the menu. Down the street is Amistad Cristiana, a Spanish-speaking church with an English-as-a-second-language outreach that involves over 100 tutors and language learners. Northwestern professor Piet Koene and his family attend there; so do students living in Northwestern's Spanish House.

\* \* \*

"Increasing students' experience with diversity—both on and off campus—challenges them to lead *committed* lives, not simply aim for comfort and security," wrote Professor Carl

Vandermeulen, Lilly grant proposal author. Because most students will "find their place" in communities more diverse than the ones in which they grew up, preparing them for "encounters with other-ness" is a Vocare goal.



**"Students need to ask themselves, 'How important is the world to me? And how important are people from all over the world?'"**



## Opening doors to the world

Amber Blom '02 grew up in Hospers, Iowa, but her vocation exploration took a global path. Blom went to New Orleans on a Spring Service Project during her freshman year, followed by a year off from college to be a missionary there. She returned to Northwestern and finished her sociology degree by studying for a



Professor Scott Monsma, sociology, photographed Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque when he traveled to Oman to plan a study trip for December 2003. Other photos from Monsma's trip are at <http://home.nwciowa.edu/~monsma/oman/index.html>.

**Initiatives:** To increase students' experiences with diversity and identification with others, Vocare will:

- Fund faculty and staff travel in this country and abroad to do groundwork for subsequent learning or service opportunities. Northwestern faculty have taken students on short-term study trips to seven countries, including the Czech Republic, Ireland and Jamaica. Plans for new trips include India and South Africa.
- Hire a half-time study abroad coordinator to aid with planning and logistics for study abroad.
- Encourage faculty and staff to attend an anti-racism workshop offered on campus.
- Offer faculty workshops that focus on making pedagogy more inclusive and anti-racist.
- Hire student leaders as multicultural connections interns to work in residence life, promoting community and mutual understanding among diverse groups in the residence halls.

*continued on page 19*

**Hearing the Call***continued from page 16*

by faculty. Paid internships would be provided to students who serve at churches with special needs.

“Seminary students have said over and over again that the experiences they received in a church, whether formal or not, were key for them. This will help finance some of that,” explains Dewald.

With the variety of spiritual growth programs funded by Vocare, Northwestern hopes that many of its students will go on to fill the growing need for church pastors. And those who don’t still will be enriched. “Some of these students won’t go on to full-time ministry,” admits Dewald. “But with the skills they will receive, they will be incredible laypeople in a church.”

**It’s a Small World, After All** *continued from page 18*

semester in the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities’ Middle East Studies Program. Now Blom is back in Cairo, employed by the CCCU.

“Northwestern students generally come from good environments where they value education, have a good work ethic and have a Christian worldview. But their values and beliefs haven’t been tested much because they haven’t traveled and explored the world,” explained Dr. Doug Carlson, history professor and associate academic dean.

Students absorb stereotypes about what the rest of the world is like based on what they see through the media, he added. Then they visit another part of the world first-hand, and their worldview is revolutionized.

Carlson and his family have traveled twice to Mexico with students. “I’ll never forget the student who said, ‘I think of how warmly the Mexican people have received us, even though we butcher their language and make other cultural mistakes. And then I think of how we treat Hispanic people in the U.S.—I’m never going to do that again.’

“That trip was worth it right there,” said Carlson.

**Artful Worship** *continued from page 17*

ing your gifts. Some of those gifts are artistic.

“For some students, their vocation may involve a career in which they use their artistic gifts. Others will develop artistic gifts outside of their career. To have a full grasp of our gifts and to employ them in some way, even if it’s not in a job or career, is vocation.”

Lilly grant initiatives will build on strengths Northwestern already has developed in the arts and in connecting art with worship. Student artists will share

their work with churches and communities outside Northwestern College through the Drama Ministries Ensemble’s tours that demonstrate ways of incorporating drama into the worship experience.

Initiatives also will bring experienced, successful artists to campus to work alongside and encourage students. “Artists wonder sometimes how what they’re doing will fare in the real world,” said Vandermeulen. “They may be a little less secure, a little more doubtful

about their capabilities or so close to their own work that they don’t see its strengths.”

Visiting artists can affirm students’ gifts and help students imagine ways to use their gifts after college. “Students need to see outlets for their art in places where it can serve people,” said Vandermeulen. “They need to understand that their talent is not just for them to enjoy—that it is a gift that can be given to communities and churches out there.”

▼  
**“Artistic experiences as part of worship can touch a part of us that we need to have touched to feel connected to God and his people.”**  
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**The world at your doorstep**

Embracing diversity can happen at home, too. This year international students from 13 countries are living at Northwestern, and among the faculty and staff are people from Bahrain, Canada, Korea, Nigeria, South Africa and Taiwan.

Learning to be comfortable and hospitable with people who are ethnically or culturally different is an important lesson for NWC students, said Todd McDonald, Northwestern’s new director of multicultural affairs.

“Look at the real, big world outside northwest Iowa. In your workplace, graduate school, community and church you could rub elbows with people from all over the world. Or you may live or work around people who are in a tunnel multiculturally—who are racist. Students need to ask themselves, ‘How important is the world to me? And how important are people from all over the world?’”

*When you open your local paper tomorrow morning, there's a good chance that what you see will have been influenced by Ron Mulder '71.*

# Newsmaker

by Duane Beeson

▼  
*"We're keeping papers relevant; we're helping readers voice their opinion to the papers. Ultimately, we're helping papers serve the public."*  
 ▲

He's not a reporter or ad salesman, but Mulder's advice helps newspapers make the most of their local coverage and boost advertising revenue. He doesn't take photos, but newspaper execs value the "snapshots" his opinion research provides to help them have a clearer picture of their products' strengths and weaknesses.

As president of Minnesota Opinion Research Inc. (MORI) in Minneapolis, Mulder is a much-sought-after media researcher with more than 28 years of experience helping publications like the *Washington Post*, *Seattle Times* and *Chicago Tribune*. On the road two to three days a week, he speaks frequently at newspaper industry conferences and provides on-site consulting.

He assisted the *New York Times* about 10 years ago when it debuted its national edition. Today, he's often asked to help papers seeking



to dominate a rival, expand to a new county or upgrade their online news service.

"We're keeping papers relevant; we're helping readers voice their opinion to the papers. Ultimately, we're helping papers serve the public," Mulder says of his firm, which employs 13 consultants and analysts and utilizes subcontracted firms to conduct telephone interviews.

A native of Montevideo, Minn., Mulder first honed his research expertise as a sociology major at NWC. "My studies at Northwestern were the absolute foundation of my professional career and my Christian witness," he says. "I owe a lot to Northwestern."

He received a fellowship to pursue graduate work in sociology at the University of Chicago, and former NWC president Lars Granberg helped recruit him to the Hope College faculty in 1976 after Mulder earned his Ph.D.

After six years at Hope, he took a leave of absence to work at Market Opinion Research in Detroit. While there, he found that he loved conducting research to help clients solve problems—and he didn't miss the ubiquitous student question of "Will this be on the mid-term exam?"

"In teaching, I always enjoyed the small seminar classes. What I do now is very similar—teaching and working in small groups to go over research," Mulder explains. "My job is to explain results, using meaningful words without jargon, to clients. I love it!"

Mulder's career included several years at Market Opinion Research and two years with the Gallup Organization before becoming president of MORI in 1999.

Today Mulder finds that a lot of analysts who trained with him are in positions of influence at newspapers or

competing research companies. "My travel allows me to keep up with them and clients I've worked with over the years, which is very satis-

fying. It's great to feel like you're making a difference," he reflects.

## In the News

Ron Mulder can tell you whatever you want to know about the newspaper industry. For example:

- Readers spend 30 minutes a day with their newspaper, a statistic that hasn't changed in 30 years. But as the world's information has multiplied exponentially, pressure has mounted on papers. "If we just print the briefs, that's what TV news is," quips Mulder. "Our mission and franchise is to give a depth of news. But if all we do is depth, readers will very quickly become overwhelmed."
- To help readers find what they want quickly, newspapers are using indexes and other sorting techniques. "We're becoming a nation of scanners," explains Mulder.
- Newspapers are struggling to capture a new generation of readers, the 18-34 year-old group desired by many advertisers. Some newspapers have started special publications geared to that audience. Mulder is watching with interest to see the outcome of this fragmentation of the audience. "In the old days, the newspaper was a unifying force in its community. Today, people are getting their news from so many sources that it's hard to break through the clutter."
- While MORI's research shows that people resist paying more than 25-35 cents per issue of a newspaper, a number of economic pressures threaten papers today. "At some papers, help-wanted ads provide 15-20 percent of all profit, and there's little expense because the content writes itself," says Mulder. "It's a gravy train that suddenly came to an end with the economic downturn. We expect that only two-thirds of those revenues will come back once the economy rebounds because of the growth of the Internet help-wanted industry like monster.com."
- Meanwhile, Mulder says the heart and soul of a newspaper's operation has to be local news. "To cover local news means reporters are talking with someone, being an active watchdog. There's not a lot you can do to make that more cost efficient."
- Readers haven't been willing to pay for newspapers' online news services. "The mindset is that the computer looks like a TV set, and TV news is free, so people think news on the web should be free, too."

## Dateline Uganda

When he's not working, church activities occupy much of Mulder's time. A former deacon at Christ Presbyterian Church in Edina, he and his wife, Ann, are among numerous members of the church who are partnering with World Vision to help a district in southern Uganda where a third of the residents have AIDS.

The Mulders sponsor four children; altogether, 1,000 children are sponsored by the church. In April, Mulder will leave for his third short-term missions trip to Uganda.

"We have learned so much from them," says Mulder. "They grow spiritually as they persevere through adversity. It's an incredibly compelling ministry for us."

Eric McDonald '98

*When you check in with the clinic receptionist, you're handed a computer the size of a calculator so you can review and update your family history. Using your finger, you touch "allergies" and then "shellfish" in the menu provided, adding it to the list of things that make you break out in hives. Your updates are incorporated immediately into your medical record.*

# A Dose of Entrepreneurial Drive

by Tamara Fynaardt

You read back issues of *People* until you're summoned by a nurse—her computer is the size of a notebook. You are weighed (she tap, tap, taps her screen) and seated in an examination room. While you describe your scratchy throat and nagging cough, the nurse listens, quietly touching her tablet PC screen to communicate your symptoms directly to your doctor's tablet PC. When she leaves, her touch to the corner of the screen signals the physician that you are waiting, miserably, to see him.

▼  
***"Slowing a physician down even 30 seconds per visit can equal two visits per day. That's \$150 per day in lost revenue."***  
 ▲

Even before the doctor enters (12 minutes later—his tablet records the wait times of the patients in his three virtual exam rooms), he has your complete, up-to-the-

minute medical chart in his hands. He reviews your symptoms, adding further details to your record, and touches the screen to communicate a prescription, wirelessly, to your pharmacist. If your new drug will interact negatively with something you already are taking, your doctor will be alerted immediately by a warning flashed on his screen.

\* \* \*

Eric McDonald '98 is describing what he hopes is the not-too-distant future of the medical records industry—with his new product, DocuTap, as the industry's leader.

Eric graduated with computer science and math majors and then networked through Todd Thompson '85 to land his first job with a computer consulting company in Phoenix. He worked there almost three years—until he had an idea.

A friend wanted to open his own medical transcription franchise. He contacted Eric to see if there was a way to bypass keyboard entry and



simply scan the handwritten information directly into a data file.

"There is technology that will do that," explains Eric. "But it's only 95 percent accurate, and the scanned information has to be highly legible, preferably typewritten, to begin with.

"The transcription company did more than \$4 billion of business per year," remembers Eric. "And it hit me: Put something in the doctor's hands that will eliminate the need for transcription."

Eric presented his idea to Orange City entrepreneur Jan Schuiteman, CEO of Trans Ova Genetics Inc., and Eric's father-in-law and current business partner. At Jan's encouragement, Eric began talking with physicians to see if his idea had merit.

"I learned how often errors result from the current paper system," said Eric. "More than 500,000 injuries and nearly 45,000 deaths each year are due to mistakes in medical record documentation. One of the big causes is drug interactions the physician should know about. But sometimes records aren't consulted thoroughly, or there simply are holes."

Eric also learned about the potential economic impact of his product. "Slowing a physician down even 30 seconds per visit can equal two visits per day," said Eric. "That's \$150 per day in lost revenue."

In May 2000 Eric showed a demo of his product to the IT department at

Sioux Valley Hospitals and Health System in Sioux Falls. They hadn't seen anything so advanced. By August, he'd quit his job to work on DocuTap full time.

He spent the next 18 months developing DocuTap with the help of Dr. Dan Diamond in Poolsbo, Wash., and Dr. Jon Grossmann and Doug Grossmann, P.A., in Orange City. Eric followed Diamond through office visits to understand how and what information was gathered and recorded. And both Grossmanns and their nurses tested an early version of DocuTap to offer suggestions

for greater product depth and efficiency.

There are other EMR (electronic medical records) software packages on the market, but they are for a desktop computer with mouse and keyboard. Most often, the computer is in the physician's office, so she still is making handwritten notes that will need to be transcribed into the patient's record later.

DocuTap uses a wireless, handheld, notebook-sized computer the doctor can take with her as she sees patients. Information is entered by touching the screen and

communicated real-time with other users on the system, like the physician's nurse or a lab technician.

Also, DocuTap is an intuitive interface that "thinks" and manages patients and information the way a doctor does. The system "learns" as it's used: If a physician has a particular protocol for diabetes, for example, DocuTap will prompt with that same protocol the next time the doctor taps "diabetes."

Eric has demonstrated DocuTap for doctors in Washington, Orange City,

*continued on page 25*

## Host an Alumni Event!

**The results are in:** Northwestern alumni who have participated in regional alumni gatherings tell us they have really enjoyed reconnecting with NWC and each other!

**Would you be willing to host an alumni event in your area?** You could plan an alumni gathering around a certain event, such as a concert, a game or a golf outing, or simply get together for a potluck or barbecue. The possibilities are endless!

**Affinity gatherings are another great idea!** How about getting together with fellow choir or band members, or former RAs or service project teams? What about former teammates or wingmates? Again, the possibilities are endless.

**Yes!** I would like to host an alumni/affinity event. (circle one)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

If the event is an affinity gathering, what is the affinity group? \_\_\_\_\_

What idea(s) do you have for getting these alumni together (in terms of events or activities)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What month works well for you to host the event? \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form to: Karen Woudstra, NWC, 101 7th St. SW, Orange City, IA 51041

Or e-mail: karenw@nwciova.edu; phone: 1-800-588-6692





by Amy Scheer



Julia LoVan, surrounded by textile designs she developed in London and wearing a T-shirt she designed.

Julia LoVan holds up her textile design, eyeing it critically, when Zandra Rhodes walks by. “Oh, that’s turning out nice,” the famous fashion designer remarks, and Julia momentarily forgets how to breathe. “Yeah, I like it,” she squeaks, exhaling when the legend is finally out of view.

Julia met the glamorous, pink-haired designer at The Fashion and Textile Museum in Bermondsey, London, where she spent three months this fall interning in the Museum’s Zandra Rhodes Studios. Rhodes, 62, is best known for her textiles—the design that goes on the fabric—and for her bold and graceful designs that have pleased such celebrities as Princess Diana and Kelly Osbourne. In 1997, Queen Elizabeth II named Rhodes a Commander of the British Empire, recognizing her significant contribution to the arts.

As an intern, Julia ran errands and made tea, but mostly she just sat down with a huge sheet of paper and created textiles. “I was blessed because I was seen as a student and as an employee, so I got to be creative and design and learn,” she says. She first learned to design textiles by choosing motifs from Zandra’s work and incorporating them into her own design, including images from ice cream cones to flamingos. Then, after tutorials with established designers, she’d go back to the drawing board.

Julia also played both bodyguard and model during

her internship: bodyguard to a pricey designer dress on display during an exhibit, and model of one of Zandra’s kaftans during an invitation-only sale. “Zandra said I looked better in it than she did!” Julia says of the long, cape-like garment.

“I’ve always been different,” Julia says, referring to her sense of fashion. In high

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***“I was blessed because I was seen as a student and as an employee, so I got to be creative and design and learn.”***

▲

school, she’d wear odd combinations of clothes—a tank top over a long-sleeved shirt, say—and get laughed at. This fostered her already growing sense of isolation; hers was the only Thaidam Laotian family in the small town of Marcus, Iowa, and the young adult novels she read made it clear that her dark complexion was not ideal. “I would read books like *Sweet Valley High* . . . anyone who was beautiful was tall and blue-eyed.” She became angry with her parents for not being American, forgetting for a moment the tremendous sacrifice they made when coming to America to escape communism.

Perhaps it was this sense of being different that motivated Julia to create her own

style. She began at Northwestern as a business major with the hope of someday opening her own fashion boutique. Business couldn't hold this artist's attention long enough, however, so she took a friend's advice to become an art teacher. The class Art for Education "really revived my passion for art," Julia says, so she changed her major.

Then, two summers ago, Julia sat down with an issue of *Vogue* and sensed God speaking to her: "You're going to do fashion." She went about setting her own course at NWC, as an art major with an emphasis on fashion design.

"The professors have been very encouraging about my ideas for a fashion-related career," Julia says. Rein Vanderhill, art professor, praises Julia's ability to paint—a talent that won her the internship in London, as she had no fashion experience on which to prove herself. And theatre designer John Paul, knowing Julia's talent as his assistant costume designer on an NWC production, advised her on her portfolio for London.

Being a Christian in the world of fashion won't be easy, as Julia found out in

London. Though a famous designer attended her London church, he wasn't the inspiration she hoped he'd be. Instead, she found a kindred spirit in the receptionist at her hotel—Daryl, a Christian from Ghana, was studying at the London College of Fashion. They'd discuss fashion and Scripture and morals; both were appalled when one of Daryl's designs appeared on a model in a more revealing way than Daryl had intended. "You can look nice without showing skin," Julia argues.

In London, Julia brushed shoulders with people her age who have their own clothing labels. It inspired her to pursue her own label someday, though first she'll continue creating new textile designs. She bought more paint and canvas after she was back from London and finished returning some Christmas gifts. You'd think her mother would know better than to buy clothes for a fledgling fashion designer, but she bought her two shirts, anyway—one outrageous and colorful, the other plain.

"It's the normal-looking one I don't like," says Julia, always a little different.

### SIFE team offers consulting service

Northwestern's award-winning Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team has initiated a consulting service focusing on the nonprofit sector. The group already has entered into a contract to provide consultations to one area agency.

For more information about SIFE's consulting service, contact Michael Avery, assistant professor of business and economics, at 712-707-7318 or [avery@nwciowa.edu](mailto:avery@nwciowa.edu).

### **A Dose of Entrepreneurial Drive** *continued from page 23*

Sioux Falls and Chicago. "Every physician we've showed this to so far has said DocuTap is the best EMR system they've seen," said Eric.

These days Eric is up by 6:30 a.m., and, after a quick cup of espresso, he spends the next 15-18 hours in front of the computer or on the phone. He takes several hours off after dinner to play with Alexa, eight months, but after she's asleep, he's back at the keyboard.

Eric's wife, Julie (Schuiteman '97), understands entrepreneurial sacrifice and success. "Julie knows her dad didn't get to where he is by slacking," said Eric. "He's very driven. Julie remembers going on Saturday morning calls with her dad. He worked a lot—but they had fun while he was doing it. Julie is very supportive; I couldn't do it without her."

DocuTap is in version 2 now. Eric recently has partnered with the Harbor Group, Sioux Center, to gain "reputation capital" and find a way to get DocuTap on the market.

DocuTap isn't the only thing in development phase. Eric says his character is being developed, too. "I'm learning from men like Jan and Mike Daniels [a former business partner of Jan's] and the Harbor Group's Eric Hoekstra and Scott Peterson," he said. "I'm blessed to have wise men who've impacted lots of people mentoring me."



### National Alumni Board

Members of the National Alumni Board for 2003-04, shown at the group's meeting in February, are: (front row, left to right) Curt Mastbergen '84, Jennifer (Van Der Werff) '89) Zora, Dana (Smith '93) Daniels, Jim De Kruijff '84, Karen (Hop '74) Van Der Maaten, Brian Draayer '91, Tim Westcott '79; (second row, left to right) Capi (Vellinga '77) Kountz, Steve Van Gorp '96, Clark Scholten '87, Bruce Alderink '74, Tonya Van Peursem '94, Karen (De Boer '79) Woudstra, Sherri (Van Der Vliet '82) Koerselman; (third row, left to right) Laurie (Wipperling '92) Van Engelenhoven, Nancy (Walhof '87) Landhuis, Ann (Schutte '81) Finkner, Dean Koele '83, President Dave Hughes '86 and Ann (Sybesma '93) Korver.

Also on the Alumni Board are: George Bonnema '64, James Li '94, Cheri (Block '77) Meyn, Trent Sorbe '93 and Mark Van Holland '90.

## Wintersports

### Men's Basketball

- Ranked first in the last four NAIA Div. II national polls of the regular season and won the national championship with a 33-2 record (see special center insert).
- Went 16-0 in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC).
- Set a school record with 25 consecutive wins.
- Senior Brandon Woudstra set the NWC career scoring record with 2,478 points.
- Woudstra was named national player of the week on Jan. 8 after averaging 24 points, 7.5 rebounds, 6.8 assists and a steal in four games. He also was GPAC player of the week three times.
- Senior Jerod Hoegh was GPAC player of the week once.

### Women's Basketball

- Finished with a 20-9 record, ranked 21st in the nation.
- Placed fifth in the GPAC with a 10-6 mark.
- Junior Jaime Woudstra earned national player of the week honors on Feb. 4 after averaging 25.6 points, 10.3 rebounds, three assists and two steals in three contests. She was GPAC player of the week twice and repeated as a first team All-American.

### Wrestling

- Aaron Schmidt, 184, placed eighth at the national tournament March 7-8 in Great Falls, Mont. Also qualifying were John Suter, 149; Ben Hummel, 165; and Tim Hekrdle, 174.

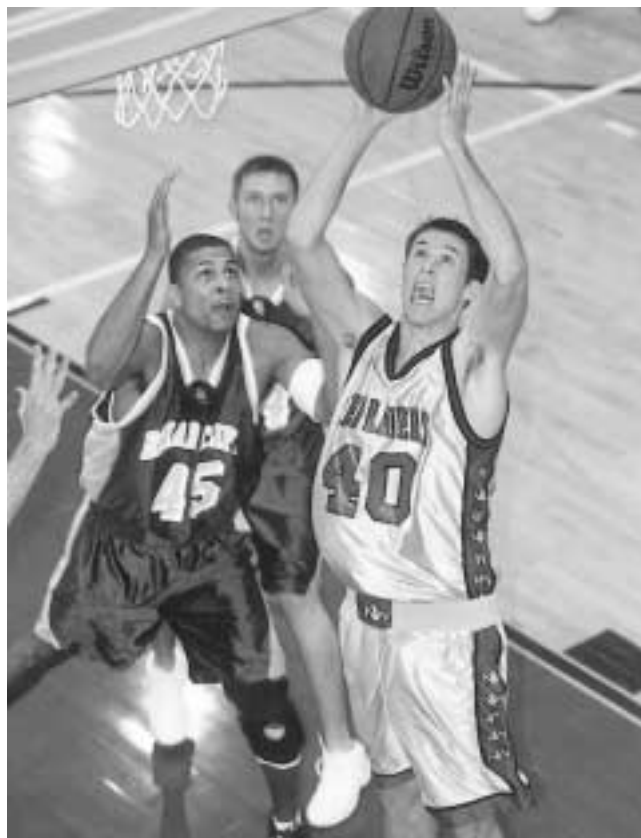
### Indoor Track

- Raiders qualified for the national meet March 6-8 in Johnson City, Tenn., in 10 individual events and three relays.
- At the GPAC meet, the NWC women placed fifth and the men finished sixth. Championships were won by Wade De Vries in the triple jump, Mikyla Hardersen in the 600 and the women's 4x800 relay.

## NWC to host league track championships

The newly-renovated track and field facilities at De Valois Field will be the site for the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) outdoor championships on Saturday, May 3.

NWC will need 60-80 volunteer officials to help at the meet. Alumni track athletes are invited to assist. A track reunion gathering is being planned for the evening of May 3. Please contact Karen Vander Pol, 712-707-7280 or karen@nwc.iowa.edu, for more information about helping out at the conference meet and reuniting with former teammates and friends.



Averaging 26 points a game this year, senior Brandon Woudstra broke the school's all-time scoring record held by his uncle, Jim '74. Brandon also set the career assist record with 648.

## Raiders garner national awards

Senior offensive lineman Nick Scholten repeated as a first team NAIA All-American for his efforts last fall. Junior full-back Jon Paulsen earned honorable mention recognition.

Scholten was named an NAIA All-America Scholar-Athlete for excellence in the classroom and on the field, as were teammates Joe Johnson and Tim Marinelli, both seniors, and juniors Ryan Noble and AJ Smit.

Also receiving Scholar-Athlete accolades were seniors Kristin Erickson and Scott Wittler in cross country, senior Jill Lippard in soccer, senior Melissa Jelsma and junior Taylor Cook in volleyball, and senior Jessica Ortman and junior Jaime Woudstra in women's basketball.

Scholar-Athletes must be juniors or seniors on their varsity team with at least a 3.5 cumulative grade point average.

# Hall of Fame adds three

Craig De Haan '91, Dave Dunkelberger '85 and Melanie Mason '97 were inducted into Northwestern's Athletic Hall of Fame in January, bringing the number of Hall of Famers to 75.



Craig De Haan

De Haan was a three-sport athlete at NWC. He earned NAIA All-American honorable mention recognition in football in 1990. The running back is seventh in the school's career rushing records with 2,152 yards; tied for seventh in most rushing touchdowns scored, 23; and ninth in career yards receiving, 1,580. He also earned all-district honors in baseball, where as a shortstop he set numerous school records. Two of those still stand: most stolen bases in a season, 35, and most stolen bases in a career, 85. In basketball, he was a sparkplug substitute and occasional starter. De Haan received the Vander Stoep Athletic Award, given to the student who has established the best record in athletics, in 1991. A member of the NWC admissions staff since 1995, De Haan now serves as associate director.



Dave Dunkelberger

Dunkelberger transferred from Boone Junior College in 1982. In only two seasons as a Red Raider basketball player, he scored 1,188 points, 20th in the school's all-time records. Averaging 20.13 points per game in his NWC career, he also grabbed 538

rebounds, a 9.11 per game average. Dunkelberger still holds the college's record for free throw accuracy in a season, 88.99 percent, set in 1984. He was the team MVP and an all-district player both seasons and received the 1984 Dunlop Sportsmanship Award. An NAIA All-America Scholar-Athlete and first team CoSIDA Academic All-American in 1984, he was elected to the Sigma Tau senior honor society. A graduate of the Pacific Coast Banking School at the University of Washington, Dunkelberger is vice president in small business underwriting for Wells Fargo Bank in Billings, Mont.



Melanie Mason

Mason earned NAIA All-American honors five times: in 1993 in the shot put at indoor track nationals, in volleyball in 1994 and 1995, and in softball the next two years. She received the 1996 Vander Stoep Athletic Award. Mason set 17 school softball records, including most wins in a season, 28; most career wins, 99; highest batting average, .461; most RBIs in a season, 77; most career RBIs, 224; most home runs in a season, 18; and most career home runs, 49. Mason, who earned a master's degree in kinesiology from Kansas State University, has served NWC since 2001 as head softball coach, an athletic trainer and physical education instructor. In her first season as coach, Mason led the Raiders to the 2002 national tournament and was named the Great Plains Athletic Conference Coach of the Year.

## N-Club presents awards



Tony Weiler

The Northwestern College N-Club honored Tony Weiler '76 of Winterset, Iowa, as the Coach of the Year and Nicole (Haack '95) Sims of Augusta, Ga., as the Barnabas Award winner for her role as an encourager in January.

Weiler has been head

baseball coach at Winterset High School for 20 years. Last year's team finished 27-8, qualified for the state tournament for the second year in a row and won the Raccoon River Conference for the first time with a 16-2 league mark. His squads have been district champions seven times. Since Weiler has been at Winterset, every school baseball record has been set or tied. Players he

has coached have set 13 state and national baseball records, including 2002 graduate James Peterson, who was selected to the high school



Nicole Sims

All-American team and is second in the nation for career home runs with 73. Sims let-

tered four years in volleyball and softball. Her senior year, she was a captain in softball. She was active in the campus ministry program while at Northwestern. A Christian education major, she went on to earn a Master of Divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Ky. She is an associate pastor at Lewis Memorial United Methodist Church in Augusta.

Alumnicorner



Karen Woudstra '79  
Director of Alumni and Parent Relations

When students leave Northwestern, they become alumni of the college. My job as director has many parts, but a big one is to educate and promote awareness of what and who the Alumni Association is. The "Alumni Association"—what does it bring to your mind? You're not sure? Well, let me fill you in!

Your National Alumni Board consists of 24 members, some within a 70-mile radius (central members), and others from around the country. They have been out of college at least five years and may serve a three- or six-year term. When I have an opening in a particular area and am looking for new members, I look for people who love the college and its mission, who give according to their means, who have a servant heart and who are great ambassadors for the college.

To promote awareness of the Alumni Association, Jay Wielenga (former alumni director) began some activities with students and alumni that work well. When students are coming to Northwestern for the first time, they are greeted at registration with a red NW stadium cup, and all students receive pop or a water bottle. This year we dressed in Department of Transportation gear to go along with the theme "Finding Your Way" set up by the Orientation Staff. We definitely drew awareness to the association with our bright neon yellow and orange jackets!



The sophomore class is treated to a study break in December when board members greet and serve sophomores ice cream sundaes. The junior class is invited to a pizza and pop gathering with the National Alumni Board in February during our annual meeting. It's a great time to get feedback about the strengths and weaknesses at Northwestern, and it provides time to interact more personally with students. Board members love spending time with students!

Seniors are treated to a Christmas dinner in December and a farewell picnic in the spring where they are challenged to consider becoming active alumni. This means that they keep us updated with their personal information (addresses, new jobs, new family additions), that they continue to pray for the college and its mission, and that they keep informed about what's happening at NWC so they can be ambassadors for the college wherever God places them. Many students come away from college with loans to pay off, but we still challenge them to give gifts within their means. It's a great way to reinforce or introduce the habit of tithing and help other students have an excellent college experience. Giving back to Northwestern financially is one way to show thanks and support for the ways NWC has helped all of us grow academically, emotionally and spiritually.

I'm so thankful for my Alumni Board. These members provide encouragement to me in my role besides helping and supporting the Gala Auction, which raises funds for student scholarships. They are using their God-given gifts and talents to help Northwestern continue to be a school of excellence, wisdom and spiritual growth.

Just as I encourage students to be supportive alumni, I'm encouraging you to continue to be supportive alumni, parents and friends of the college. We need everyone to be ambassadors of Northwestern and tell about what God is doing at this place. What a lift it is to run into people who love being Northwestern alumni and are proud of it!

Deaths

**Kathryne Hibma**, 89, who served as a housemother and cook at Northwestern during the 1960s and '70s, died on Dec. 15 at the Orange City hospital. She was a member of Orange City's First Reformed Church, where she was active in the women's organizations. Among her survivors are three brothers, including the **Rev. Dr. John Edward Hibma '36, '38**; and two sisters, **Anna Schaap '38, '39** and **Alida Topp '40, '42**.

**Dr. Alfred Pennings '42, '44**, died on Dec. 28 at Hospice Home of Hope in Fond du Lac, Wis., at the age of 77. He served in the Army during World War II, receiving the Purple Heart after being wounded in the European Theatre. He graduated from Hope College and Northwestern University Medical School and served as a medical missionary for the Reformed Church in America in Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain. He moved to Fond du Lac in 1980, where he was associated with Lifecare Practitioners and served as a hospice medical director. He also volunteered at Samaritan Free Health Clinic. Alfred was a member of Grace Reformed Church. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and a son.

**Edgar De Leeuw '46, '48**, died on Dec. 3 at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston at the age of 73. He farmed in the Newkirk area for several years and then moved to Loveland, Colo., where he worked at Safeway Foods. Edgar later resumed farming near Ellsworth, Minn., retiring in 1997. He was a member of Zion Presbyterian Church in Ellsworth, serving as an elder and Sunday school teacher. He also served for many years on the Ellsworth School Board and was a member of the Ellsworth Sportsman's Club. Survivors include his wife, Janet; two sons; two daughters; and a sister, **Joan Van't Hof '48, '50**.

**Dr. A.G. Korver '46, '49** died Jan. 2 at the age of 74 at the hospital in Sheldon, Iowa, due to complications from a stroke. He graduated from Westmar College and the Northern Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago. He practiced optometry in Sheldon from 1954 until he retired in 1979. He came out of retirement in 1980 to start Korver Eye Care in Sioux City, where he still practiced. He was a member of the United Methodist Church in Sheldon, where he sang in the Golden Angels. A.G. served with Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity. Among his survivors are his wife, Ruth; three children; four sisters, including **Jeneva Hofmeyer '44, Harriet Brouwer '52, '54, Gladys Vander Berg '54, '56, '61 and Arloa Te Stroete '56, '58;** and three brothers, including the **Rev. Harold '48, '50.**

**Dawn (Swets) Vermeer '71,** age 53, died of cancer on Dec. 22 at Sioux Center Community Hospital. She taught at St. Patrick School in Sheldon and at Orange City Christian School before becoming a stay-at-home mom. She worked for Dr. Paul Beaver the past 10 years. A member of First Reformed Church in Sioux Center, Dawn taught Sunday school and catechism and served on the library board and the education council. She also was a member of Northwestern's National Alumni Board. Survivors include her husband, Evan; two daughters, **Catherine Bloom '97 and Elizabeth '02;** a son, **Eric '00;** and three sisters, including **Barb Bouma '73.**

'42

**Joyce (Muilenburg) Booher** continues to reside in a senior apartment complex in Batavia, N.Y. She enjoyed an Elderhostel week at the Chataqua Institute on New York's Lake Chataqua with a friend in May.

'49

**Dr. Franklin Spoolstra,** Rockford,

## Miniprofile



*Kathy Graber plays the keyboard while leading her Harris-Lake Park Show Choir in rehearsal.*

## Alumna's program garners state honor by Amy Scheer

Each year, the Iowa Music Educators Association (IMEA) honors just one school in the state for excellence in music education. Kathy Graber '89 knew that. But as vocal director for grades 6-12 at Harris-Lake Park School District, she chose to apply for the award, hoping her small school in Dickinson County could get some big school recognition.

"I wanted the organization to know that we were out there, one of any number of small schools who were doing what we were supposed to be doing, and having fun doing it," Graber says. She explains that the school district has a tradition of musical excellence, regularly receiving performance awards at musical competitions throughout the state. The community has a thriving arts life as well, providing young people with a strong foundation on which the music teachers at Harris-Lake Park can build.

Last October, the executive director of the IMEA paid the school a visit. He observed Graber's sixth graders notating music being played aloud. He learned that Graber gives weekly private voice lessons to each of her 50-60 choir members. He studied the school's solid K-12 music curriculum, noting the strong emphasis on music literacy. He listened as the music staff told of their vision for the program, a vision encouraged by the school administration's commitment of finances and time.

In November, the IMEA awarded the school district the Exemplary Music Program Award for 2002, and Graber couldn't be happier. "It makes me feel really lucky that I teach in a school where music is valued," Graber says.

Graber has valued music ever since she was in the third grade, playing the role of Gretel in *The Sound of Music*. "Of course I thought I was going to Hollywood at the time," she says with a laugh. Graber moved on to junior high instead, where she flourished under music teacher Laura Baker, who encouraged Graber's talent. Later, at Northwestern, she grew under the direction of Professor Kimberly Utke Svanoe and retired professors Rod Jiskoot and Herb Ritsema ("one of the most encouraging, compassionate people that I think I've ever met").

While Graber and her fellow music teachers bask in the glow of the award, they acknowledge that they're not the only ones making a noteworthy impact on others. "I've heard people say that you learn more from your students than they learn from you, and that is driven home to me more each day," Graber says. "They teach me."

Mich., recently retired as program director at Grand Rapids Psychiatric Hospital and as an RCA pastor. He has preached in over 125 churches.

'58

**Ruth (De Beer) Wilson** teaches fifth grade for the Grosse Point, Mich., public schools and serves as an elder at Church of the Master in Warren.

'65

**The Rev. Leland Foreman** was installed as senior pastor at First Baptist Church in Fremont, Neb., in October. The service also celebrated the 20th anniversary of his ordination there. He served the church as associate pastor and choir director since 1982. His wife, **Jean (Palsma '68),** has served as coordinator of the Kids' Klub program, played the organ, taught Sunday school and led the American Baptist Women's group.

'73

**Cornie Wassink,** Alton, was recognized as the Northwest Iowa Track Official of the Year at the Iowa Association of Track Coaches' banquet in December.

'75

**Douglas Moret** has been promoted to Navy captain. He was recalled to active duty as executive officer of the Naval Reserve Mobilization Team. He lives in Lee's Summit, Mo.

## Prayercorner



*Dr. Keith Anderson  
Dean of Spiritual Formation/  
Director of the Lilly Grant*

January. Where would you want to be for the early days of the year, other than the Windy City of Chicago? Well, actually warm places come to mind, less windy places come to mind, but there I was with a dozen students from Northwestern for a service-learning project.

There's something that rings with coherence when those two words are united: service and learning. We serve and we learn. We learn by serving. It's pedagogy that, I believe, Jesus valued and utilized in the preparation of the first generation of his disciples.

In five short days, we spent time in various places, including the largest county jail facility in the country (14,000 inmates and a couple thousand staff) and the Chicago Food Depository, a major food distribution center that unites the corporate sector with government and the churches through volunteers and fund raising. We repackaged over 3,600 pounds of pasta for distribution to shelters for the poor and hungry across Chicagoland. We visited other ministry sites and churches, and our students served for an afternoon in a soup kitchen as cooks, hosts and listening ears.

The moment of revelation for me came as we toured Cook County Jail. It is an intimidating place with prisoners anticipating their trial or awaiting their journey to a state or federal prison. It became common for us that day to see people in handcuffs or shackles, dressed in the brown drab of prison garb.

Our guide was a woman—an African-American, 60ish, thin, quiet, marked by a serenity that was unnerving. She embodied something others didn't. She had an authority in her self and in something deep that was felt by us and certainly by the prisoners. I watched her raise a single finger as an instruction to a group of prisoners and saw about a dozen men come to an immediate halt. We talked about the difference between power and authority.

The epiphany moment came when I asked her a question I will ask often in the months and years ahead, the question of calling, of vocation, "How did you get into this business?" Her words spoke directly to the goals for our service-learning project and to the core of an NWC education: "I didn't choose my vocation," she said. "My vocation chose me." "Are you a woman of faith?" I asked. Her smile was immediate and her joy was evident, "I am. I live my life out of the faith that I claim."

Faith informs identity and shapes vocation. Out of our faith comes our deepest sense of identity and our calling to serve God with all that we are.

As we work in Christian higher education, we work in this world of identity and vocation for students. Sergeant Cobbs was our teacher that day—a teacher of faith, identity and calling. She knows who her God is and finds her life formed out of that faith to know who she is and what she is called to do. "I didn't choose my vocation, my vocation chose me." Eugene Peterson translates a verse in Ephesians, saying, "It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we're meant to do."

Please pray for us as we begin implementing the initiatives of our Lilly grant on vocation, that ultimately the programs would better help our students, alumni, faculty and staff understand, and pursue, the calling God is placing on their lives. Pray, too, for students synthesizing their service-learning and Spring Service Project experiences and for those preparing to participate in Summer of Service or summer study abroad programs.

Thank you for your very important role in the ministry of Northwestern College.

'76

**Barbara Hubers-Drake** is the executive director and saxophonist for the Seattle Women's Jazz Orchestra. The ensemble will perform in April at the 13th Festival Jazz en Lima at the invitation of the Asociación Internacional Jazz Peru.

'78

**Charles Focht**, Carlisle, Pa., is still competing in wheelchair archery. He was a member of the U.S. team at the 2002 world championships in the Czech Republic.

'83

**Michael Lockling**, Sioux City, earned a sales trip with his new company, Vernon Sales Promotion of Newton, Iowa, to Las Vegas in March 2003.

**Rick Reeves** lives in Aliso Viejo, Calif., with his wife, Norma, and their daughters, Elise (12) and Elizabeth (9). They are active at Pacific Hills Church.

'84

**Jim De Kruif** joined Wells Real Estate Funds in July. He is a regional vice president for sales, in charge of the state of Minnesota.

'86

**Laura (Schaeffer) Taylor** is an announcer at KLLT/Lite 104.9 in Spencer, Iowa. She lives on an acreage with her husband, **Steve '87**, and their two daughters, Liz (11) and Maren (4).

'87

**Richard Haan** is the lead research project manager for the Tucson Unified School District in Arizona.

'88

**Dr. Tim Aberson** and Pete Johanssen have opened a Good Feet Store, specializing in arch supports and specialty shoes, in Sioux City. Tim is a chiropractor in Paullina.

'89

**Jon Dukes** lives near Bronson, Iowa, and works for MidAmerican Energy.

## Second annual Red Raider Classic

Friday, May 30  
Landsmeer Golf Club  
Registration at noon

Enjoy this four-person scramble for alumni and friends of the Northwestern football program.

For more information, contact Kyle Achterhoff, 712-707-7282 or [achterhk@nwciowa.edu](mailto:achterhk@nwciowa.edu).



**Thomas Wong**, Union City, Calif., is the author of *101 Ways to Boost Your Web Traffic*, the most popular Web marketing book on sale at Amazon.com. The book is in its second edition.

'90

**Dan Wheeler** is a sales representative for a veterinary company. His wife, **Tammy (Schuck '89)**, is a stay-at-home mom for John (9), Malea (7), Brady (2) and Kesley (four months). The Wheelers live in Waverly, Iowa, and attend Open Bible Church.

'91

**Anne (Slagter) Groen** lives near Renville, Minn., with her husband, Doug, and their son, Nicholas (3). Anne has been a stay-at-home mom for the last year and works from home for LiveOps.

**The Rev. Satoru Itoh** is university chaplain and assistant professor of literature of Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo, Japan.

'92

**David Earl White** lives in Chicago with his wife, **Kimberlee Soo (Felton '93)**. David was last seen onstage in

"Days of Wine and Roses" with Keyhole Players, and he recently shot the independent film, "Ante Meridiem," for Cathartic Entertainment. Last year David completed the ImprovOlympic training courses and performed in "Dropping Mercury." By day he works as a project secretary at a construction management firm downtown. Kimberlee performed in Serendipity Theatre's new play, "Being 11," staged at Victory Gardens Theatre in February and March. She recently booked a live industrial for the public defenders office. Last year she was cast in her first Screen Actors Guild commercial.

'93

**Kristie (Bergsma) Huber** lives in Willcox, Ariz., with her husband, Creden, and their two children. She is a stay-at-home mom.

'95

**Scott Dykstra** and his wife, Pamela, live in West Des Moines. Scott works for Principal Global Investors and received his M.B.A. degree from the University of Iowa in December.

**Carrina (Uhl) Huss** has been pro-

moted to senior costing and tax accountant at MED-TEC in Orange City. She has been with MED-TEC since 1999.

**Amy (Jeltema) Schutt** has been promoted from finance manager to controller at MED-TEC, Orange City. She joined the company in 1997.

'96

**Tamara Bouwman** is the director of Good News Children's Center, a church-based daycare and pre-school in Sioux Falls, S.D.

**Jason and Tammy (De Hoogh) Lief** live in Pella, where he teaches religion and history courses at Pella Christian High School and coaches freshman girls' basketball and varsity baseball. Jason also is working toward his master's degree in biblical studies from Wheaton College. Tammy works part time at the Christian Opportunity Center in Pella. They have a daughter, Naomi Johanna (1).

'97

**Rachel Govig** is a social worker at a family resource center in the Iowa

## Tips for trips

Send us more summer vacation stories! The summer *Classic* (published in June) will include an article about creative vacationing, like:

- Forcing your kids to watch old Western movies en route to the Black Hills
- A week of shower-less bonding with former Raider wingmates in northern Minnesota
- Meeting former President Jimmy Carter while on a Habitat for Humanity campout



What's your vacation story? If you have creative vacation ideas or destinations, please contact us. You might be featured in our "Tips for Trips" summer *Classic* story. To share your creative vacation ideas, complete and mail in the information below, or e-mail your "tips for trips" to [Tamara Fynaardt, fynaardt@nwciowa.edu](mailto:fynaardt@nwciowa.edu).

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ "Tips for Trips" story: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Graduation Year(s): \_\_\_\_\_



**Planned giving notes**



Cornie Wassink '73  
Director of Planned  
Giving

**A cure for the investment blues**

Are extremely low CD interest rates and a depressed stock market giving you the blues? Check out these rates for a Northwestern College charitable gift annuity.

**Single Life Rates**

Age	Rate
60	6.0 %
65	6.3 %
70	6.7 %
75	7.3 %
80	8.3 %
85	9.7 %
90+	11.5 %

**Two Lives – Joint and Survivor Rates**

Age	Rate
65 & 65	5.8 %
70 & 65	6.0 %
78 & 73	6.5 %
84 & 79	7.3 %
86 & 81	7.7 %
88 & 83	8.1 %
90 & 85	8.6 %

**MORE GOOD NEWS!**

- You are eligible for an immediate tax deduction when you take out a charitable gift annuity. The IRS allows you to deduct a portion of the annuity amount.
- A portion of your income is tax free for the years of your life expectancy.
- If the annuity is funded with an appreciated asset that has been owned for more than 12 months, some of the capital gains tax is bypassed.
- By removing these assets from your estate, you can possibly avoid some estate tax and probate expenses.
- You do not have to worry about what the rates will be when it comes time for renewal, as these rates are guaranteed for life.
- You can specifically designate how Northwestern College is to use the remainder amount at the time of maturity.

If you are interested in receiving information about a Northwestern charitable gift annuity, please contact me at Northwestern College, 101 Seventh St. SW, Orange City, IA 51041, 712-707-7109 or cwassink@nwciowa.edu.

City Community School District. She's in a band, Beautiful Feet, which has recently released its second CD, "Beautiful Wonderful."

**Mark Henderson** is the youth pastor at Carlisle, Iowa, Community Church.

**Jason Kooiker** has been an assistant manager for Wal-Mart for the past five years. He's currently the assistant manager at the new Wal-Mart Supercenter in Mitchell, S.D. His wife, Amy, works as special finance manager for Palace Motors. They have a miniature schnauzer named Mercedes.

**Clinton McMartin** is a second grade teacher and football and track coach in the Grundy Center Community School District. His wife, Caryn, is a stay-at-home mom.

**Jason Medina** is the minister of music and worship at First Reformed Church in Demotte, Ind.

**Matt Oosterhuis** is a residential electrician. His wife, **Heather (Tysseling '95)**, is a stay-at-home mom. They bought a home in Des Moines.

**Tina (Jackson) VandeSlunt** completed her master's degree in elementary education at the State University of New York, Cortland, in December. She is pursuing a teaching career in the Auburn, N.Y., area where she resides with her husband, **Derek**.

**'98**

**Leah (Evans) Schmidt** is a social worker and parent educator at the Home and Public Health/Hospice of Myrtue Memorial Hospital. She coordinates the parenting program, does the WIC social work and serves as the hospice social worker. Her husband, Paul, has his own general contracting business. They live in Harlan, Iowa.

**Cathy (Painter) Vande Hoef** is the director of social services at Franken Manor in Sioux Center. She also is working on a contractual basis for New Horizons Adoption Agency, based out of Frost, Minn.,

and Fieldcrest Assisted Living in Sheldon. Cathy lives in Sibley. **Marla Van Steenis** is a full-time assistant director at a CBS station in Des Moines. She also works part time at a home for mentally, physically and behaviorally challenged children. Marla plans to move to the Los Angeles area by March 31 and seek employment there.

**'99**

**Leah Huizenga** is the assistant program director at Camp Manitoqua in Frankfort, Ill. She oversees the Adventure Program, which includes a challenge/ropes course and the new outdoor education program.

**Matt Johnson** is a senior audit associate for Clifton Gunderson, a C.P.A. firm in St. Joseph, Mo. His wife, Becky, is the head athletic trainer for Benedictine College.

**Susan (Menning) Nelson** is now the assistant director of parent and community relations at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill. She previously was communications specialist for the Society of Actuaries.

**Travis Popken** teaches first grade at Harris-Lake Park Elementary. He also is a driver's ed instructor. His wife, **Rachel (De Groot '01)**, teaches third grade at Harris-Lake Park.

**Kate (McLane) Riggs** is now a stay-at-home mom. Her husband, Jason, is the chief of police in Blackduck, Minn., and the Riggs have purchased a home there.

**John Rundquist** is a special education teacher in the Minneapolis public schools.

**B.J. Van Kalsbeek** recently completed his M.Div. degree at Western Theological Seminary and was ordained. He is currently working as a chaplain at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo, Mich.

**'00**

**Amber (Wissink) Minard**, formerly the youth director at American Reformed Church in Orange City,

now works as the pupil services secretary in the Holmen, Wis., School District. Her department oversees special education, open enrollment, talented and gifted, ESL, at-risk and other areas. Her husband, Bob, is the business manager of Dee Implement's three farm machinery dealerships (two in Iowa and one in Mexico) and a leasing company.

**Jamie (Hansen) Nalos** is in her second year of teaching second grade at Burnt Bridge Creek Elementary School in Vancouver, Wash. Her husband, Sheldon, is a claims adjustor for Allied Insurance in Portland.

**Laura Whitwer** recently received her master's degree at the University of Nebraska. She is continuing her studies there in pursuit of a doctorate in psychology.

**'01**

**Jessica Baumgart** teaches first grade at Community Christian Academy in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.

**Nathan and Holly (Van Horn) Christoffels** moved from Des Moines to Madison, Miss., last summer after Nate was relocated in his position as a pharmaceutical sales representative for Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceuticals, a division of Johnson & Johnson. Holly is an administrative assistant for Eaton Aerospace in Jackson.

**Dan and Heidi (Droog) Hibma** have moved to Mount Vernon, Ky., for nine months to do mission work at Christ's Outreach for the Blind. They are coordinating work groups that come in to provide assistance at the camp.

**Jennifer Inman** is now the assistant technical director for High Desert Church in Victorville, Calif., which serves about 5,000 members. Jennifer supervises approximately 100 volunteers in the technical ministry. She previously was a producer/director at KIMT Newschannel 3

in Mason City, Iowa.

**Koury Kramer** teaches K-12 physical education and health for the Ellsworth, Minn., Public School District. He lives in Larchwood, Iowa.

**Jonathan Strauss** is an assistant designer for Christianity Today International in Carol Stream, Ill. He works on *Marriage Partnership* and *Christian Parenting Today*, as well as on advertising. He also is involved in film development and production with Testimony Pictures in the Chicago area.

**'02**

**Amber Blom** is the program assistant for the Middle East Studies Program in Cairo, Egypt, which is operated by the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities.

**Andrea and Angela Brouwer** are both teaching at Harris-Lake Park Elementary in Lake Park, Iowa. Andrea started there in the fall as the Title 1 reading teacher and switched to the fifth grade in October. Angela finished her student teaching in November and

joined the staff in December as the Title 1 reading teacher.

**Matt Huisman** is serving with the Peace Corps in Kyrgyzstan.

**New Arrivals**

Shirley and **Daryl Beltman '80**, daughter, Laura Mikkel, joins Josh (2).  
 Patrick and **Carie VanHook Jasperse '87**, son, Joseph Glenn, joins Peter (3).  
 Sara and **Jon Dukes '89**, daughter, Nicole Rene.  
 Jon and **Laura (Verdoorn '91) Kroeze**, son, Joshua Gerrit, joins Caleb (2).  
**Amy (Vander Broek '92) and Tony Krogman '91**, son, Tayce Anthony, joins Lexy (2).  
 Brenda and **R. Shane Sonneveldt '92**, daughter, Emma Nicole.  
**Kim (Jongeling '93) and Dave Einerwold '92**, daughter, Dakota Mikell, joins Destiny (5).  
 Scott and **Leah (Wissink '93) Gritter**, daughter, Naomi, joins Josiah (2).  
 Creden and **Kristie (Bergsma '93) Huber**, son, Carsten Walker, joins Kensington Grace (2).  
**Jennifer (Manders '93) and Chris Swart '93**, son, Abram Marcus,

joins Willem.  
**Alisha and Darren Wybenga '93**, daughter, Ella René.  
 Kerri and **Ken Martinsen '94**, daughter, Jamie Anita Marie.  
**Charlotte (Haglund '95) and Kevin Cruse '95**, son, Zachary Landon, joins Haley (4), Karson (2) and Karter (2).  
 Pamela and **Scott Dykstra '95**, son, Drew Cameron.  
**Erica (Schuiteman '95) and Brandon Kamerman '96**, son, Lane Austin, joins Blake (4).  
**Heather (Tysseling '95) and Matt Oosterhuis '97**, daughter, Katherine Emily.  
 Kevin and **Kari (Barrett '96) Lundy**, son, Cael Barrett, joins Christian (5) and Collin (3).  
**Emily (Van Donslear '97) and Daron De Jong '97**, son, Aden Matthew.  
**Brenda (Van Engen '97) and Curtis Hamstra '97**, daughter, Avyrie Josephine, joins Culley (4) and Carsyn (3).  
 Kari and **Mark Henderson '97**, son, Grant James, joins Kara (3).  
 Caryn and **Clinton McMartin '97**, son, Trevor Glenn, joins Madison (2).  
**Stephanie (Hoogland '97) and Curt Van Hill '98**, son, Kadyne Shane, joins Dylan (4).

**Alumni - What's New with You?**

Let us know so we can tell your friends and classmates. Send to: Office of Public Relations, Northwestern College, 101 7th St. SW, Orange City, IA 51041. Or e-mail it to [beeson@nwcioa.edu](mailto:beeson@nwcioa.edu); fax number is 712-707-7117. Deadline for the Summer Classic is April 28.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

## Mailbag

I want to thank you for writing the story on me and my family (the Wrices) in the spring 2002 edition of the *Northwestern News*. I've been blessed with the opportunity to do God's work in helping inner-city children. I could tell you many stories about city life, but I thought this one story on the *Philadelphia Weekly* website about Eddie Sneed Jr.,

<http://www.philadelphiaweekly.com/archives/article.asp?ArtID=4949>, would enlighten you to know that God is working all the time.

**Tony Wrice '85**  
**Philadelphia**

Just want to let you know how much I appreciate receiving each 2002-03 *Classic*. I have never visited your campus but have known a number of your alumni over the years as fellow students at Central College and New Brunswick Theological Seminary. I am impressed with the picture of your program and personnel as conveyed in the pages of the *Classic* and heartened by President Murphy's "Seven Risks of Gratitude" (page 2, Winter issue). May these things come to pass as you continue to be an excellent liberal arts college with a clear Christian identity.

**Wilbur Ivins**  
**Cobleskills, N.Y.**

I am writing in regards to "A Time to Worship" in the Winter 2002-03 *Classic*. The article reads, "They [Kevin Jansma and Brian Keepers] moved the services from the choir room to the chapel, and the pews soon began filling up." I do not think this article properly reflects what was hap-

pening in Praise and Worship during this time.

I was a student at NWC from 1994 through 1997. During my first few years at NWC, not even I attended the Praise and Worship services, as they were not popular during this time with the general student population. However, during my senior year, Jason Medina, the leader at that time, asked me to join the worship team as a musician. During that year (1996-1997) we noticed a remarkable change in the students' attitudes toward the services. Students were becoming hungry for prayer and worship. Students stood in front of their peers and confessed deep sins and hurts. It seemed as if we were in the midst of a revival. At the beginning of the year we were still meeting in the choir room and attendance was averaging about 50 students each Sunday night. Within the first few months of the year we were forced to move the services into the chapel, in order to accommodate the growing number of students. By the end of the year, the chapel was typically two-thirds full on any given Sunday night. Many times the services lasted two to three hours, as students stayed in the chapel to pray and give each other encouraging words long after we stopped playing worship songs. The leadership team soon realized that this was something that was not a result of our efforts, but was the work of God in the hearts of our peers.

The leadership team that year has always felt honored to be a part of the incredible growth of Praise and Worship, and I personally feel that this was one of my greatest contributions to NWC.

**Jason Vanden Bosch '97**  
**Tinley Park, Ill.**

**Jill (Davelaar '98) and Bryant Engelmann '97**, son, Trey Edward.

Paul and **Leah (Evans '98) Schmidt**, son, Robert Michael, joins Clara (3).

**April (Johnson '98) and Fred Tyre '00**, daughter, Katherine Diana.

**Rebecca (De Groot '99) and Andy Anderson '99**, daughter, Hannah Joy.

**Moriah (Jones '00) and Levi Markwardt '00**, daughter, Shailen

Jessica.  
Heather and **Joe Van Es '00**, daughter, Elisabeth Maesa.

**Nicole (Mentink '00) and Carl Velzke '99**, daughter, Grace Elizabeth.

**Heidi (Droog '01) and Dan Hibma '01**, son, Eli Michael.

**Marriages**

**Melissa Van Klompburg '95** and Eric Simmons, Omaha.

**Jason Kooiker '97** and Amy

Bednarek, Mitchell, S.D.

**Matt Johnson '99** and Becky Hirschman, Atchison, Kan.

**John Rundquist '99** and Celeste Darling, Minneapolis.

**Jamie Hansen '00** and Sheldon Nalos, Battle Ground, Wash.

**Amber Wissink '00** and Bob Minard, Onalaska, Wis.

**Rachel De Groot '01** and Travis Popken '99, Lake Park, Iowa

*The couples reside in the city listed.*

# Raider RD Road Rally

Northwestern residence hall directors Jon Cavanagh, Brian Gunderson and Marlon Haverdink '97 will be biking coast to coast this summer, and are looking to connect with NWC alumni and friends whenever possible. Beginning May 19 near Florence, Ore., the bikers expect to complete the trip about seven weeks later in Rehoboth Beach, Del.

They're looking for people who would be willing to provide a meal or housing—or ride along for part of the trip. For more information about their route and locations of their planned overnight stays, check out the website at [www.nwciowa.edu](http://www.nwciowa.edu) or contact Gunderson at [bgundy@nwciowa.edu](mailto:bgundy@nwciowa.edu), 712-707-7219.



# God's Hands and Feet



Serena Holthe, left, with teens she worked with at CityTeam Ministries in Jonesboro, Ark.

**by Serena Holthe '00**

Within the past four years, I have seen and heard the cries of God's children. Our young people today are facing some of the worst situations imaginable. The following is only a glimpse of reality for some of these hurting youth.

JoJo was 13 and had three younger brothers. Often their mother would tell them on a Thursday night not to come back until Monday night. She wanted to party all weekend and not have to deal with them. She wouldn't give them any warning and told them when they got home around 9 or 10 at night. She also wouldn't let them in the house to get clothes, food or anything. The four boys would take off on their bikes in search of someplace to stay. Sometimes they were able to stay with cousins or friends, but it was hard to find a place so late. JoJo would always make sure his younger brothers had places to spend the night before he did. There were even nights when JoJo slept in the dugout at the baseball field because he spent his time making sure his younger brothers were taken care of and was not able to find some place for himself. Their mom would spend the little amount of money they had on drugs, and the boys would often go without food for days.

Melissa was 12 and pregnant. She lived with her mother and eight brothers and sisters. None of the children had the same father. Her mother would have a different guy over to the house about every week. When an 18-year-old

showed interest in Melissa, she fell head over heels in love with him. He told her he loved her and wanted to get her away from all the craziness at home. However, when she became pregnant, he was no longer to be found. She was alone, scared and confused.

Jamie was 17 when I met her. She was going through drug rehabilitation and lived in a homeless shelter. She had been on crystal meth since she was 13. She began using because she didn't want to spend time at home with a mother who neglected her and her mother's boyfriends who molested her. It seemed like those who were high on meth were truly happy and accepting of her. These people seemed to be where she wanted to be, free of care and openly accepting.

During my years at NWC, I began to understand God's heart for the poor and destitute. I reached my most challenging moment when I went on a Summer of Service project to work with troubled youth. Before my SOS experience, I did not really like kids very much. However, after spending two months with some of the most challenging yet rewarding kids, my life was turned upside down. It has become my mission to serve God's children in urban areas. My vocation does not define my service, but my service has defined my vocation.

The stories above are sad, but they do not have to end that way. I am going to work with all diligence to help kids like JoJo, Melissa and Jamie get through their tough times and ultimately show them that God's love has no boundaries. His love reaches across racial, social, cultural and economic lines. I am blessed to have the opportunity to be His hands and feet.

*Serena Holthe worked with CityTeam Ministries in Jonesboro, Ark., for 15 months before beginning law school at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., in the fall of 2001. She lives at the Esther House, a Christian women's community house in the inner-city, seeking to serve her neighbors. She also attends a traditional African-American church nearby, where she is involved with the youth program. Upon graduation, she plans to become a juvenile defense attorney, working with troubled youth in their most vulnerable times.*

Send your Classic thoughts to [beeson@nwcioowa.edu](mailto:beeson@nwcioowa.edu)

*Change Service Requested*

# You Choose: 2003 Spring Phonathon

The choice is up to you! Now you can designate your Northwestern Fund gift to the campus needs that interest you most. Students will be calling many alumni, parents and friends **March 17-April 24** to update information, share NWC stories and ask for personal support for the Northwestern Fund. This spring when you give to NWC, you choose:

## Where you give:

Area of greatest need  
Academic support: academic programs, instructors and library resources  
Student financial assistance: scholarships and grants  
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Technology: computers and lab equipment

## How you give:

Check or money order: payable to NWC  
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(log-on to our secure site: [www.nwciowa.edu/giving](http://www.nwciowa.edu/giving))  
Securities: call or e-mail for details (712-707-7110; [smith@nwciowa.edu](mailto:smith@nwciowa.edu))

Whatever your interest, your donation is an investment in our students and in the future they will impact. Thank you for giving!

## Alumni Bicycle Tour of the Netherlands

Early Summer 2004  
*You've heard about it. You've talked about it.  
Isn't it time to experience it?*

Let James and Simone Kennedy show you the beauty of the Netherlands from the seat of your own bike. Along with other Northwestern alumni and friends, enjoy great food, meet friendly people, learn the local history and stay clean in charming motels.

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