Summer 2011

The Classic, Summer 2011

Public Relations
Northwestern College - Orange City

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The Crescent and the Cross
Can Christians and Muslims find common ground?

Also
Northwestern’s Oman Semester
Dog handler Riley DeVos
Art by Rein Vanderhill
Rein Vanderhill will have more time to work on his paintings, like this Lake Michigan shoreline landscape, now that he has retired after 36 years on the art faculty.
A New View of God’s World

Many institutions of higher education are committed to sending students abroad to study for a few weeks, a semester or even a year. With the global marketplace, graduates are entering today, learning in another country has perhaps never been more important.

However, at Northwestern we view global education through the lens of our Vision for Learning (www.nwciowa.edu/vision), which makes our approach distinctive:

Northwestern doesn’t send students abroad just to study and experience another culture, as important as that may be. Similar to all students’ learning at NWC, we want their experience to better prepare them to trust, love and worship God; engage ideas; connect knowledge and experience; and respond to God’s call.

Before sending students abroad, our faculty and staff work diligently to ensure they are strongly rooted academically and spiritually—ready to experience other cultures and learn more of what it means to pursue God’s redeeming work.

This summer Northwestern sent 52 students on study trips to the Czech Republic, Germany, Israel, Japan and Turkey. During the last four years, we have developed and launched our own study abroad semester in Romania and Oman (see story on page 26).

Reflecting our mission and Vision for Learning, these programs are rich experiences for growth that integrate faith, learning and living in community.

In the summer of 1990 I had the opportunity to experience something like this myself. I spent five weeks traveling with Athletes in Action, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ, to what was then Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union, Holland and Spain.

Our ministry team conducted baseball clinics, played games against national teams, and shared our faith in Christ publicly and personally. What impacted me most was staying with host families in two of the countries and learning how much we had in common even though it seemed we were so different.

Up to that point in my life, I saw the world from a very limited perspective. This trip gave me a new vision of God’s world and my place in it. In a similar way, our students are experiencing this with the added benefit of an academic component.

As our students travel, study, learn and live in community with those who are different from themselves, they experience growth as never before. The world becomes smaller and their vision of who God is becomes larger.

Northwestern’s study abroad experiences engage students in courageous and faithful learning and living that empowers them to follow Christ and pursue God’s redeeming work.

Technologies such as in vitro fertilization or cloning may be “exciting” and “promising,” but whenever human life is created or used specifically to be sacrificed (killed) for scientific experiments, our Lord’s commands to love your neighbor and not murder are violated—even if those experiments could help alleviate someone else’s suffering.

The article concludes by citing Jesus’ healing ministry as justification for these scientific experiments. But Jesus didn’t heal anyone at the expense of someone else’s life. Life’s beginning is a biological fact. Conception, whether through normal fertilization or through technology like cloning, marks the objective beginning of each individual’s life. A human being’s size or level of development doesn’t determine his or her value or sanctity.

Human ESCs are derived by destroying a living human being at the earliest stages of development. Northwestern should put “Thou shalt not murder” ahead of any “exciting” scientific venture.

Beyond the moral issue, no human life is “excess” or needs to be discarded. The Snowflakes® Adoption Program facilitates adoption of human cells that would otherwise be discarded. The “excitement” continues about ESC’s “potential” to form most tissues, so such tactics have actually happened in the laboratory. (It has only happened in the womb, when embryos have been allowed to continue as normal pregnancies) ESCs have yet to help a single human.

Also, it is unproven speculation that stem cells from cloned embryos might someday be used to grow matching replacement cells or organs. Even though human embryos cloning to harvest ESCs is not banned by U.S. or Iowa law (as the article erroneously stated), there are zero verified instances of stem cells derived from embryo clones, even after years of attempts. Whether such cells would be a match and not rejected upon transplant is only hypothesis, and is actually contradicted by the few attempted animal studies.

But even if these ghoulish experiments help another patient someday, they would still be morally wrong.

Meanwhile, peacefully moral adult stem cells from bone marrow, umbilical cord blood and many other tissues are treating over 50,000 patients a year around the globe for various cancers, heart damage, and dozens of other conditions, improving health and saving lives. Adult stem cells are not limited to repairing only the tissue from which they are taken; the old scientific dogma about their limitations is simply not true, disproven by multiple published scientific studies.

Please be more careful in reporting on life and death issues. Lives and souls are at stake.

Chuck Hurley, J.D.
President, Iowa Family Policy Center

Dr. David Prestine
Senior Fellow for Life Sciences, Family Research Council

Washington, D.C.

EDITORS NOTE: Among the information shared in “Faith in Our Genes” was the statement, “human embryos created by SCNT [somatic cell nuclear transfer] would never be implanted into a womb because the resulting fetus would be a clone ... and human cloning is currently banned.” While cloning of human cells is not currently banned, cloning of embryos for purposes of growing a fully developed human clone is banned. The author apologizes for the lack of clarity.

Hitting Home

The “Faith in Our Genes” cover story really hit home at my husband and I found ourselves in the middle of an ethical situation much like the ones in the article.

After four miscarriages, a genetic lab found a rare paracentric inversion in my seventh chromosome. The geneticist told us we had a 50-50 chance of passing the “bad” chromosome each time I got pregnant, and the likelihood of a pregnancy with the inversion carrying to term was very low. Because of this, she recommended we do in vitro fertilization (IVF) so the embryos could be tested before implantation.

But even if these ghoulish experiments help another patient someday, they would still be morally wrong. Much to the consternation of the geneticist, we decided the most
God honoring thing to do was to keep trying to get pregnant naturally. We believed if God wanted us to be parents, he would make it happen. Knowing what we faced gave me the determination to keep going. My fifth pregnancy resulted in a healthy son, and an eighth pregnancy resulted in a healthy daughter.

Our story doesn't have an entirely fairy tale ending, though. Both my children have been tested and also carry the inversion, like I do. As carriers, they would have been discarded with IVF, which makes me even more thankful we did what we did. These two beautiful, healthy children were obviously meant to be. Of course, knowing they will also have difficulty having babies breaks my heart. Our pediatrician told me that by the time our kids grow up, scientists will probably have figured out how to fix the chromosomal abnormality before conception. I pray this ends up being true!

From the Classic website

The following excerpts are from reader-posted comments about Classic articles at classic.nwciowa.edu.

Designer Genes Reactions

Thank you so much for this insightful, fact-filled article written from a much-needed Christian perspective. I chose to be tested for Huntington's disease, and the implications of that test for my family have weighed heavily upon me. God led me to this article, and when I read it, a huge burden rolled off my shoulders. I appreciate Dr. Tolsma's straightforwardness and reality to give students the “right answers.” She is acknowledging that these situations are incredibly complex and require prayer and God’s leading in each affected person’s life. I value the sanctity of life and the purpose of suffering to develop Christ-like character in the one suffering and those who come alongside to help. But God’s ultimate goal is healing and restoration. “He will wipe away every tear.”

One [result from the experience] is that I am much less judgmental toward people and their decisions regarding how to build a family. Northwestern is a great place. I thank God all the time for my years there. It’s where I learned what it really means to be a Christian.

Anonymous ’78
Grand Rapids, Mich

WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

Send letters to: Classic, Northwestern College, 101 7th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041; e-mail: classic@nwciowa.edu; fax: 712-707-7375. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please include an address and daytime phone number.

New Online Director

Rebecca Hoey was nearing completion of her doctoral degree, working with faculty to design curriculum, mentoring new online teachers and raising four young children. But when she heard about an opportunity to build an online learning program at Northwestern, she knew she couldn’t pass it up.

“I have a passion for online learning; it meets needs for so many students,” says Hoey, who joined the staff as director of online learning in June.

“Northwestern has offered a great educational experience to traditional-aged undergraduates on campus for years. I’m taking a look at what we do so well and how we can translate it online,” she says.

As Hoey builds the framework for Northwestern’s program, one of her roles is that of a champion for online learning. “I’m working with faculty to help them see how online learning can be just as rigorous as what happens in the physical classroom and how community isn’t dependent on geography,” she says. “You don’t have to be in the same place. It’s all about the relationships you’ve built with other people.”

Hoey is also in the process of choosing a learning management system for online courses. Her immediate goals are to pilot some courses next spring using the new system and to offer numerous courses next summer—including one from every general education area.

Rebecca Hoey encourages alumni to let her know what they’d like to see in Northwestern’s online program. E-mail her at rebecca.hoey@nwciowa.edu.
When classes begin this fall, a new $3.5 million residence hall on Northwestern’s campus will welcome 68 students as the hall on Northwestern’s campus.

In placing students in the hall, Hummel and his staff held 24 spots for freshmen, another 20 for sophomores, and the remainder for juniors and seniors.

North Suites is the first Northwestern building to feature geothermal heating and cooling, making the residence hall not only cost-efficient, but environmentally friendly as well.

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Adam Verhoef is studying replication proteins in the University of Iowa’s Biochemistry Summer of Undergraduate Research Fellowship program.

Elizabeth Stevens is working on a team that is synthesizing new molecules for potential use in the treatment of Type 2 diabetes.

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Escape to Iowa

Nobuko Noguchi spent Japan’s March 11 earthquake under her bed—and the days following it and the resulting tsunami short on food, milk and diapers for her toddler sons.

She lives in Tokyo, more than 200 miles from the Fukushima nuclear plants damaged in the tsunami, but as a nurse, she worried about the risk of radiation exposure for Yuki (4) and Naoki (1). She told her mother, Junko Nagao ’70, “I want to go to Orange City.”

Nagao contacted her former Northwestern roommate and friends, Char (Van Zanten ’72) Granstra, Sandi (Mouw ’71) Carlson, and Barb (Jacobs ’70) Lobb, who arranged for Nobuko and her sons to spend April, May and June in Orange City while her husband, a surgeon, helps with Japan’s recovery.

Despite Iowa’s spring thunderstorms and a tornado touchdown in a nearby town, Nobuko said, “I feel safe here.”

Nobuko Noguchi (the daughter of Junko Nagao ’70) was one of her mother’s “Northwestern family” during the three months she spent in Orange City after Japan’s earthquake and tsunami.

Melodious Prof

Music professor Dr. Luke Dahn has composed works performed by the Boston Brass and the Moscow Conservatory Studio for New Music, but he’s a teacher at heart. And a pretty good one at that, according to students whose nominations led to him being named this year’s recipient of the $1,500 Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award.

“He especially does a good balancing of the class time between lectures, projects and assignments in a way that we are able to apply what we’re learning with his own personal guidance,” Rachel Lynn wrote in a letter of nomination. “Although we learn a lot in class, we also have time to have fun. He takes something that would otherwise be tedious, like music lab, and makes it academically challenging and fun with games using Christmas carols and percussion instruments.

“Not only is Dr. Dahn great at teaching classes, but he genuinely cares about his students’ lives,” Lynn continued. “He is open to people stepping in when they need help with assignments, and he tries to keep up with students’ lives. He also integrates faith in the classroom in a way that encourages real-life application of questions about our God-given gifts and the church.”

Jessica Kleveland wrote, “Dr. Dahn is one of the most respected professors because of his knowledge and willingness to answer questions when a student has a difficult time understanding the material.”

Dahn, who joined the faculty in 2007, teaches music theory and composition. He earned a doctorate in music composition from the University of Iowa, where he served as an assistant professor. He also received a master of music degree from Western Michigan University and a bachelor’s in music from Houston Baptist University.

Dahn’s compositions have been performed at the Eastern Academy of Music, the 14th International Saxophone Meeting in Slovenia, Harvard University’s Memorial Church and the N.O.U. Vladimir Encounters of New Music Festival. Several of his works have been recorded on the Albany label, included his quintet, Panum, the winner of the 2010 League of Composers’ International Society of Contemporary Music Composers Competition.

Honor Roll for Service

Northwestern has been named to the 2010 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll in recognition of its strong commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement. Northwestern, honored for the fifth year in a row, is among just 114 schools chosen “With Distinction.” Only two others are from Iowa.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, which administers the annual Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, recognizes a total of 641 colleges and universities for their impact on a range of social issues from literacy and neighborhood revitalization to environmental justice. Honorees were chosen from 851 applicants based on a series of factors, including the scope and innovation of service projects, the extent to which service-learning is embedded in the curriculum, commitment to long-term campus-community partnerships, and measurable community outcomes.

“Northwestern has always had a strong commitment to service, and being named to this year’s Honor Roll is a wonderful recognition of our current commitment,” says Marlon Haverdink ’97, Northwestern’s director of service learning. “I’m continually encouraged by the willingness of our students to give of their time to serve locally, nationally and globally.”

Last year, 662 RCSC students were engaged in community service, including delivering groceries for the Orange City Food Pantry; building homes for Habitat for Humanity; organizing a festival to raise money for a transitional housing facility; and coaching youth football and soccer teams. Over spring break, students taught English to Somali immigrants, assisted with health clinics, repaired homes and performed other tasks at 14 locations around the world. In addition, another 470 students were involved in academic service-learning, putting classroom knowledge into practice by helping area agencies and businesses.

“So many of our students have a vibrant faith in Christ, which propels them to seek out ways to serve others. Combine that with both Northwestern’s commitment to provide avenues for them to put their faith in action and the ministries and organizations that so graciously partner with us, and the result is over 30,000 hours of service,” says Haverdink.

Summer Schooling

New Northwestern professors are conducting summer research and scholarship with funding from the college’s Scholarship Grants program. Awards range from as much as $2,250 for independent projects to up to $5,000 for collaboration projects with students.

Physics professor Dr. Frank Betsimer is continuing his study of electronic liquid crystal elastomers—a potential component in artificial muscles—while religion professor Dr. James Moak is researching the formative documents of Judaism.

In the fine arts, art professor Arnold Carlson is exploring abandoned rural Midwest homesteads with the intention of incorporating found objects into sculptures. Dr. Robert Hubbard, theatre, is submitting his show, How Helicopters Figure in My Midwest homesteads with the intention of incorporating found objects into sculptures. Dr. Robert Hubbard, theatre, is submitting his show, How Helicopters Figure in My Formative Documents of Judaism.

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The Arts Add Business Smarts

Starting this fall, Northwestern will offer a new minor in arts administration for art, music and theater majors who want to broaden their options in the arts/job market. The program is “a pragmatic addition to our fine arts programs,” says Dr. Robert Hubbard, chair of Northwestern’s theater department.

“Our student artists are very talented,” he adds, describing the awards they’ve won as “performers and their experience with productions, concerts and exhibits.”

Burkhart says, “Few artists make their living solely through performing or producing art. This minor enables them to offer administrative and promotional skills to arts organizations that want employees who also understand art, artists and creative endeavors.”

In addition to courses in business and public relations, the new minor requires an internship. Arts students have interned through the Chicago Symphony and the Los Angeles Film Studies Center. Last spring, a Northwestern student interned in arts management at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

The Good News

Class
Christian Witness
Instructor
Dr. Michael Andres
Associate Professor of Religion

Students in Dr. Michael Andres’ Christian Witness class may not be able to say what “postmodernism” means. But they know how it feels like trying to grab onto Jell-O.

In a cultural context where the ground is constantly shifting, how does one stand up for just one way, one truth?

“A few students come into the class with a gung-ho, preach-it-on-the-street-corner view of Christian witness,” says Andres, “and I appreciate that impulse. But more of them are skeptical of that model. They perceive Christians who witness that way as pushy salesmen. They think to press your beliefs on someone might be arrogant or insensitive.”

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Andres teaches students about a holistic Christian witness that comes straight from Scripture. It includes verbal proclamation (evangelism), reasoned defense (apologetics) and social action (justice). “Paul may be the best example,” he says, adding that in addition to understanding Christ’s teachings and preaching them boldly, Paul also advocated for the weak and vulnerable.

Andres also points to Christian leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and John Perkins to show students what holistic Christian witness looks like. “Like King, Perkins opposes racism and fights for civil rights,” says Andres. “He also values a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and isn’t shy talking about how much he wants to know Jesus and share the Good News.”

Texts and Assignments
Among the six books students read for Christian Witness are these:
• When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor … and Yourself, by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert
• The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism, by Timothy Keller
• Good News and Good Works: A Theology for the Whole Gospel, by Ronald Sider

Students also participate in a class-wide service-learning project. In fall 2009, when the class was last offered, students met with the leadership and members of Trinity Reformed Church in Orange City, based on what they learned, they wrote and presented a “Strategy of Christian Witness” proposal uniquely suited to the church’s theology and members’ social action passions.

Northwestern’s Newest Graduates

Northwestern’s alumni numbers grew by 251 after degrees were awarded to the college’s class of 2011 during commencement ceremonies May 14. Nearly all of the graduates were granted a Bachelor of Arts. The exceptions were 21 students who earned Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees.

Among the employers hiring these latest Northwestern graduates are Interstates Central Controls, American Eagle Outfitters, MDI, Floyd Valley Middle School, the Davenport Parks and Recreation Department, Emmanuel Reformed Church, Wealth Concepts, Iowa Lutheran Hospital, and Cam Elizabeth & Company. Other new alumni gained acceptance into graduate programs at schools that include the University of Iowa, Western Theological Seminary, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Baylor and the University of South Carolina.

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Observant Servant

This spring Dr. Mike Yoder emptied his office of the anti-war slogans, Latin American artifacts, field corn and old-fashioned canning jars that served to let students look into his life during his 28 years at NWC. An Illinois farmboy, Yoder attended college and then, as a conscientious objector to the Vietnam War, volunteered as a self-supporting missionary to Brazil. There he taught English, learned Portuguese and honed his sociological skills, observing and studying the culture.

“I've always been an outsider,” says Yoder matter-of-factly. He describes being one of the only Mennonites in his public school, learning to live in a Latin American country, and feeling tension as a peace advocate missionary to Brazil. There he taught English, learned Portuguese and served to let students look into his life during his 28 years at NWC.

Raised Mennonite, Mike Yoder is opposed to all forms of violence, including war. The newly elected president of the NAIA’s Athletic Directors Association in June. He will also sit on the NAIA’s Council of Presidents. Brandt served as vice president this past year and as secretary the two previous years. He says his national role has been a positive experience.

Northwestern as its subject. Through 325 surveys completed by students, faculty and staff in-depth interviews conducted with nearly 150 campus community members, Yoder aimed to understand better the culture—and subcultures—at Northwestern today.

The resulting 220-page report was his parting gift to colleagues. It highlights the challenges ahead, including educating students who are part of an “entitled” generation—one that often prioritizes a “fast-paced culture of fun and friends” over a culture of academic seriousness.

It also highlights strengths of Northwestern’s culture. It’s an authentic, caring Christian community that trusts, intellectually and emotionally, that faith and knowledge are inherently connected—that to seek God means embracing God’s world with curiosity and openness.

“It’s what I’ve grown to love about the Reformed faith,” says Yoder. “Reformed Christianity values faithfulness and intelligence.”

De Jong Retires

As reported in the fall issue of the Classic, Ron De Jong ’71, vice president for external relations, retired this summer after 40 years of service to Northwestern’s admissions efforts.

He continues to work for his alma mater on a part-time basis, cultivating donors in his role as a senior advancement officer.

National Athletics Leader

Barry Brandt ’69, Northwestern’s athletic director, was elected to a three-year term as president of the NAIA’s Athletic Directors Association in June. He will also sit on the NAIA’s Council of Presidents. Brandt served as vice president this past year and as secretary the two time previous years. He says his national role has been a great professional development opportunity.

“I've gotten to know athletic administrators and coaches from all over the country, see what issues they’re dealing with and learn from them.”

While the NCAA has seen a number of schools leave for NCAA Divisions II and III, Brandt says a number of strong schools want to get into the NCAA. “The association is making some good changes, including looking at how to improve marketing and working on guidelines related to membership issues.”

Pest Control

Superbugs: Borneore.

Biology professor Dr. Elizabeth Trankell and her students have teamed with researchers at the University of Iowa and physicians at the Hawarden (Iowa) Community Clinic to investigate methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infections in northwest Iowa.

MRSA has been called a “superbug” because of its resistance to antibiotics, which makes infections caused by MRSA very difficult to treat and potentially lethal. It has been researched extensively in hospitals and other clinical settings but is less studied in rural areas, where MRSA has been known to spread and can infect livestock.

Individuals who have a potential staph infection are offered enrollment in the study by their healthcare providers at the Hawarden clinic. Trankell’s students, members of Northwestern’s Future Physicians Club, are gaining hands-on clinical research experience as they extract data from patient records and evaluate it for contributing factors to MRSA.

The study is funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Researchers and physicians hope it will lead to better diagnosis, treatment and prevention of MRSA infections in rural areas. They plan eventually to expand the study to other northwest Iowa clinics.

Face Value

Vonda Post

Committed fun

What do you love about your job? The students! I enjoy being around them, and they keep me young by demanding lots of energy. Since college students are still growing and developing, their minds are receptive to suggestions and new ideas. I love the opportunity to mentor and influence them in positive ways.

What is one of the biggest challenges in working with students? Some students focus on activities rather than classes, but I understand that because that was me. I came to Northwestern to play volleyball and run track and sometimes studied just enough to get a good grade rather than to truly learn. I changed, though, and I hope to encourage my students to have appropriate priorities as well.

How has your teaching style changed during your years at Northwestern? In the beginning, I survived by teaching exactly the same way I had been taught. Over time, my teaching has evolved to stress understanding. I'm constantly asking, “Does this make sense to you?” I don’t want my students memorizing; I want them understanding.

How do you relate to your students? I'm very transparent—I try to be exactly the same way I was. I always use the one that matches who I am. I enjoy being around them, and they keep me young by demanding lots of energy. Since college students are still growing and developing, their minds are receptive to suggestions and new ideas. I love the opportunity to mentor and influence them in positive ways.

Describe yourself in three words: Sincere, fun, committed.

What do you do in your free time? In addition to following my own kids’ activities, I make an effort to support my students by attending something they’re involved in: sports, fine arts, music or something else. It helps me relate to them by seeing their lives outside the classroom. In the summer, I love to do anything outdoors—like gardening, volleyball, camping, water sports and boating. It helps me relax and I hope to encourage my students to have appropriate priorities as well.

Name one thing you’d do with more time and money. Travel! I've dreamed of going to Australia since childhood to watch kangaroos and see the Sydney Opera House.

What is Northwestern’s greatest quality? Northwestern has two. The first is our active Christian perspective in everything we do. Second, Northwestern’s community on campus is unique and very intentional. Students experience community here in a way that’s different from anywhere else.

Do you have a favorite spot on campus? I have a corner office with two windows—every accountant’s dream.
Retrospective

by Tamara Fynaardt

Out the expansive windows of Rein and Margo Vanderhill’s home in Alton, Iowa, is the couple’s native prairie, living art that changes color and texture with the seasons.

Inside the high-ceilinged studio and living spaces, the white walls are covered with the couple’s paintings, including Rein’s outsized berries and blooms and landscapes of the Lake Michigan shoreline. An imitation of Greek iconography frames a 10-foot doorway.

“I need to get on a ladder and work on that some more,” says Vanderhill. He’ll have time. Vanderhill retired this spring after 36 years as a professor in Northwestern College’s art department.

“I feel like Peter Pan,” he says, “because even though I’ve gotten older, my students have stayed the same age.” Fresh-faced and full of creative juices.

As longtime director of the college’s Te Paske Gallery, Vanderhill says, “I’ve had a show closed or painting removed under nearly every president since I came.” He sounds, maybe, a bit mischievous, contributing to an occasional art-fueled uproar.

The truth, though, is Vanderhill doesn’t aim to have doors closed on an exhibit. But as an artist and committed, sometimes confrontational Reformed Christian, he takes to heart his responsibility to open eyes—and hopefully minds—to the power of sometimes provocative, always evocative art.

“[Art] is a dynamic relationship between the artist, viewer and the Creator of us all,” he wrote in a 1997 essay for Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought. “Art by its very definition deals with truth … That is why [making and viewing art] is exciting, difficult, fearful and rewarding.

“Experiencing art is not safe, secure or predictable.”

That’s been true of Vanderhill too.

Rein Vanderhill, Nature’s Balance. Oil on canvas, 33 x 47 inches.

Rein Vanderhill, Rite of Spring. Oil on canvas, 62 x 124 inches.
**Red Zone**

**Track and Field**

**Broken Records**

The Raiders set 20 school records in indoor and outdoor track this year. Six athletes earned NAIA All-American honors at outdoor nationals. Charity Miles finished second in the 5,000-meter run and joined with Dawn Gildersleeve, Brianna Hobbs and Teresa Schober to place third in the 4x800 relay. Matt Hueman finished third in the high jump and Logan Ogles placed sixth in the discus. Miles was named the outstanding female performer at the GPAC outdoor meet.

**Baseball**

**Sharing First**

Northwestern tied for first place in the GPAC with a 16-6 mark. The Raiders finished 26-19 overall. Matt Negaard received NAIA All-American honorable mention after compiling a .339 batting average with 43 runs and 29 stolen bases. Negaard and Eddie Pastiaff were named to the all-conference first team, with Steve Englund, Clint Gingerich, Taylor Morris and Mike Zoeller chosen for the second team.

**Softball**

**Strong Finish**

Going 14-8 in April, the Raiders finished 16-22 overall and were fifth in the GPAC with a 12-10 mark. Five players were named to the all-conference second team: Keely Bracelin, Rachel Harris, Kari Kuhlmann, Shelby Johnson and Alex Price. Chris Nachtigall, softball coach and athletic director at Iowa Mennonite School, was named the new head coach.

**Mar’s Golf**

**Two All-Conference**

Neil Maleske and Ryan Kiewiet made the all-conference team, placing seventh and 11th, respectively, in the four-round GPAC qualifier.

**Women’s Golf**

**Second Best**

The Raiders shot the second lowest round in the program’s history, 335, at the Dordt Invite. Maggie (Achterhof) Rozenboom, who recorded Northwestern’s best-ever single-season and career scoring averages, placed second in the GPAC qualifier and was joined on the all-conference team by Taylor Kline, who placed seventh.

**Tennis**

**Competitive**

The Raiders placed fifth in the GPAC with a 4-4 record, 7-10 overall. Nessa Summers made the all-conference first team.

**Scholar-Athletes**

**Honor Roll**

Twenty-two Raiders in spring sports earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete recognition, including 13 in track. Repeat honorees included Laura Starr in tennis and Sara Hess, Heidi Hildbrandt, Jordan Langer, Charity Miles and Jenna Sorensen in track.

**Cross Country**

**New Head Coach**

Kim Widl, head track coach since 2004, now is also head cross country coach. He will be assisted by Dale Thompson, who led the program for 30 years.

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

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**Looking Back**

In 1980, the Rowenhorst Student Center was created from the shell of the Silent Sioux factory. Much of the facility was renovated in 2007, and another refur-
ishing project is under way.

**The Tool Now Sits in His Garage**

The tool now sits in his garage at home, where it has found a new purpose—as did the factory it helped renovate and the student center it built.
Faithful Christian witness among Muslims starts with learning to love ‘the other’

Centuries ago, a man raised to believe in many gods became increasingly disturbed at the idol worship in his hometown. Convinced there was only one God, he boldly preached against the sanctuary that housed the idols and opposed the powerful tribe that controlled its access. When his message threatened the tribe’s lucrative business among idol-worshipping pilgrims, he and his small band of converts left the only home they had ever known.

From those ignoble beginnings in 613 A.D., the followers of Muhammad have grown to an estimated 1.5 billion people. Approximately 22 percent of the global population is Muslim. With Christians at 33 percent, that makes Islam and Christianity the two largest religious faiths in the world.
Although Islam had its origins in what is now Saudi Arabia, four out of five Muslims today live outside the Middle East—many in Africa and Asia, where they encounter half of the world’s Christians. Less than 1 percent of Americans are Muslim, but Islam will soon pass Judaism as the second largest religion in the U.S.

"Increasingly, this is a multicultural, multi-religious society," says John Hubers ’76, a former missionary to the Middle East who joined Northwestern’s religion faculty last fall. "The greatest numbers of non-Christians we’re going to meet who are practicing another religion are going to be Muslims. They tend to be very well-educated community members—doctors, engineers, technology specialists—if our graduates work in any major corporation in America, they’re almost certainly going to be working with Muslims.”

Hubers has another reason for championing interfaith dialogue besides preparation for a diverse world. Understanding, he says, is important for witnessing. “There’s no quicker way to close the channels of communication and the ability to share the love of Christ than Christians who, with the idea they’re defending Christianity, end up prejudged toward Muslims,” he says. “If all that Muslims hear from Christians is hatred and stereotyping, how are they ever going to hear that Christ loves them?”

Hubers felt called to the ministry by the time he was a freshman at Northwestern. After graduating, he and his wife, Lynne (Lenderink ’76), were sent by the RCA to Bahrain, where they taught English. It was there they realized their calling to ministry with the idea they’re defending Christians. "Whether it’s my atheist neighbor or my Muslim neighbor, the best way to share the love of Jesus Christ is to know who they are—to understand how they see the world," Hubers says. "So when I’m teaching World Religions, the first thing I say is we need to understand these faiths from the perspective of the people who hold them.”

Kendra Dahlbacka is doing just that. She participated in a Spring Service Project in Minneapolis her junior year, teaching English to refugees from Somalia, a predominantly Muslim nation. During their SSP, the students also visited a mosque, ate at Somali restaurants, and shopped at a couq or Arab/Muslim market.

Now a third grade Spanish teacher in a Minneapolis suburb, Dahlbacka is taking Arabic classes at a Muslim community center, where she’s the only non-Muslim in a class that includes people from Somalia, India, Kenya and Pakistan. Her classmates are there to learn to read the Quran, Islam’s holy book. She is there to learn Arabic in order to understand Muslims and their culture. “I’m still at the listening point,” says Dahlbacka, who has spent time with the other women in their homes.

God has given a burden for Muslims to Dahlbacka, who says they are misunderstood and portrayed as villains by the media. "People are afraid to love on them because of the things that have happened that have marred relations between Muslims and Christians," she says. "But Jesus went out of his way to be with people who were marginalized, and in a lot of ways, Muslims are marginalized in the U.S."
Islam also puts a great emphasis on community and has a holistic understanding of Islam, so when someone leaves Islam, it can be perceived almost the same way a political traitor is viewed. Because many of the cultures where Islam is prominent are communal cultures, people understand that the decisions they make impact everyone in their family.

Most crucially, Hubers says, Islam has a built-in critique of Christianity. “Jesus is in Islam, but it’s a different Jesus, and because of Muslims’ high regard for the Quran as the word of God, that’s the final expression of who Jesus is. It’s a challenge trying to share Christ with people who have an alternative understanding of him.”

That’s not to say Christians shouldn’t share their faith with their Muslim neighbors. Daalshuca advises. Love people, pray for opportunities, and God will do the rest. Hubers stresses the importance of genuine, caring friendships. "Among the Muslims I’ve known who have become Christians,” he says, "most were loved into the faith—not argued into it.”

Relationships with understanding, non-judgmental Christians are especially important at a time when many Muslims are experiencing discrimination and hatred. Originally from Morocco, Said Saada has lived in the United States for more than 20 years and in Orange City since 1996.

"Things get hard after 9/11," he says. "Some people look at me and just because I’m Arab, I’m the enemy." Saada was raised as a Muslim by devout parents. “My father never drank alcohol,” he says. “He never looked at another woman. He told us to be honest and work for our lives. Don’t steal. Don’t cheat.”

When his brother married a woman from Granville, Saada accepted his invitation to join them in Iowa. He settled in Orange City after meeting his wife, who converted to Islam after they were wed.

“Small-town life suits him,” Hubers says. In fact, Saada says the two families became close, Andersen’s efforts to convert his friend created friction.

“Without a Savior, Muslims envision a future in which—at a time no one knows—the world will end and God will measure people’s good deeds against their bad.

There is no god but God, and Muhammad is God’s messenger.” In Islam, saying the Shahadah—the confession of faith—with conviction is what makes a person a Muslim (literally, “one who submits”) to God. I tell Muslim friends we’re really on the same page with the first part of the Shahadah,” says Hubers. “It’s the second part where we begin to move in different directions.”

Islam, Christianity and Judaism share a belief in one God. Many Christians, however, are uncomfortable that Muslims’ Allah is the God of the Bible. Those who argue the two are different focus on ways in which Muslims’ perception of Allah varies from what Christians know of the nature of God.

Hubers says that’s to be expected, since it is through Jesus Christ that God revealed himself fully and completely. “If your argument is that unless you understand the Trinitarian nature of God you are worshipping a different god, then you have to make that same statement about Judaism,” he maintains.

Said Saada (left) and Nic Andersen visit while their wives prepare dinner. Both Orange City families—one Muslim and the other Christian—have become close friends.

Both Hubers and Weiss baptized just two converts during their respective years of service in Bahrain. When Hubers is asked about the resistance of Muslims to the gospel, he reverses the question to help one see things from a Muslim perspective.

"Consider why it is so difficult for a Christian to become a Muslim,” he says. “First, you’re convinced that what you have is the fullest expression of a relationship with God. Why would you give that up for something that seems to offer less?” Muslims feel the same way about their faith.

There will not be peace among the nations,” he says, “unless there is peace between the religions.”

"There will not be peace among the nations,” he says, “unless there is peace between the religions.”

One month after 9/11, in a poll conducted by the Pew Research Center, 14 percent of Americans said they wouldn’t want a Muslim as a neighbor. When the same poll was conducted seven years later, that figure had grown to 34 percent.

While it may be human nature to view those unlike ourselves with fear and suspicion, Christian models another way. Leonard says: “The way a relationship maintained by the tools of love, humility, forgiveness and bearing with one another when we clash.”

Renowned Christian theologian Hans Kung has written about the importance of interfaith understanding. He maintains that understanding and peace between Christians and Muslims is more essential for our peace in the world than peace between any other groups, since together the two faiths make up more than half of the global population.

“There will not be peace among the nations,” he says, “unless there is peace between the religions.”

And there will not be peace between religions unless there is respect and understanding—between one person and another.
**Shiah and Shi‘ite**

Disagreement about who should succeed Muhammad continues to divide Muslims to this day.

The majority of Muslims’ followers supported Abu Bakr, the Prophet’s cousin and loyal companion. Today they are known as Sunnis, and their faith is considered “orthodox.” Those Muslims who supported Ali, Muhammad’s cousin and son-in-law, are known as Shi‘ites. In the early days of Islam, Shi‘ites and Sunnis were united, and some of the early converts to Islam followed both the Prophet and his cousin. As the religion grew, and Muhammad passed away, the Shi‘ites and Sunnis began to develop different beliefs, and the Shi‘ite community became a distinct minority in some Muslim countries.

Sunni and Shi‘ite Muslims continue to coexist now, but the Shi‘ite minority has been targeted by political factions and militant groups at times. Shi‘ites, who make up about 20% of Muslims, have faced violent persecution in some countries, including Iran, Iraq, and Lebanon. In some cases, Shi‘ite mosques have been attacked and Shi‘ite leaders have been targeted. In these contexts, Shi‘ite Muslims have to be cautious and limit their public activities.

In Iraq, Shi‘ites have faced significant persecution in recent years, with attacks on Shi‘ite shrines and mosques. In Lebanon, Shi‘ites have been targets of Sunni extremists. In Iran, Shi‘ites have been a target of conservative factions and government-sponsored militias.

**Jihad and Infidels**

In his book *No god but God: The Origins, Evolution and Future of Islam,* author Reza Aslan says that all of the words in Arabic that can be translated as “war,” “jihad,” or “struggle” are rooted in the Arabic word for “to struggle for an ideal.” The word *jihad* literally means “a struggle,” “a striving,” or “a great effort.”

A secondary meaning is “any exertion—military or otherwise—against oppression and tyranny.” And while this definition of *jihad* has occasionally been manipulated by militant factions to give religious sanction to what are in actuality social and political agendas, that is not all there is to the definition.

Likewise, *infidel* has been corrupted from its original meaning. When *infidel* is used in early Islam, it’s not referring to Christians and Jews, Hubers says. “Many of the verses in the Quran about God’s enemies that sound very, very harsh are written about the idol worshipers who were trying to destroy Muhammad and his followers.”

**Shariah Law**

Shariah Law is Islamic law based on the teachings of the Quran, the Hadith (stories of Muhammad and his early companions), and historical rulings by judges. There are four schools of Shariah Law, so there is no single agreement among Muslims as to what constitutes Shariah Law.

Only two countries have Shariah as the law of the land: Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan.

Worries about the spread of Shariah are unfounded, Hubers says. “If it’s so important for Muslims to impose Shariah Law in their societies, then why do Muslim-majority countries not have Shariah as the law of the land? he asks. “Some of the greatest opposition to that comes from other Muslims.”

Part of that resistance stems from the fact that punishments that are part of the stricter interpretations of Islam are very harsh—for example, cutting off the hands of thieves and stoning adulterers. “That gets magnified in the press, so this incredibly complex system of law and code for life gets boiled down to two things,” Hubers says.

What makes Shariah Law most problematic for Christians is its punishment for apostasy. In a strict interpretation of Islamic law, anyone who converts from Islam to another religion can be put to death. “Even where that’s law, it’s rarely been carried out by the courts,” Hubers says.

When converts are killed, it’s usually family members taking revenge on other family members. Islamic countries are responsible to world opinion, and even in those countries, there’s not an agreement among all Muslims that Shariah should be interpreted so harshly.

**Zakat**

A voluntary tithe of 2.5 percent of a person’s income that is given to the poor.

**Sawm**

The duty of all able-bodied Muslims once during their lifetime; a deeply moving, community-building experience.

**Salat**

Ritual prayers Made five times a day at sunrise, noon, afternoon, sunset and evening.

**Shahadah**

The testimony of faith “There is no god but God and Muhammad is God’s apostle.”

**Ritual Prayers**

Made five times a day at sunrise, noon, afternoon, sunset and evening.

In Islamic practice, Muslims pray at fixed times of the day, with specific movements and recitations. The Five Pillars of Islam include:

1. Shahadah: The testimony of faith: “There is no god but God and Muhammad is God’s apostle.”

2. Salat: The Five Prayers. They are: Fajr (Dawn), Dhuhr (Noon), Asr (Afternoon), Maghrib (Sunset) and finally Isha (Night).

3. Ramadan: The month of fasting. Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset during the month of Ramadan. The ninth month of the Islamic calendar, Ramadan is named after the city of Mecca, where Prophet Muhammad received the first revelations of the Quran.

4. Zakat: A voluntary tithe that is given to the poor. It is 2.5 percent of a person’s income.

5. Sawm: The duty of all able-bodied Muslims once during their lifetime. It is the practice of a 24-hour fast during the month of Ramadan. It is also known as the month of fasting.

These Five Pillars are the foundation of the Muslim faith and are considered the pillars of Islam. They are practiced by Muslims all over the world, regardless of their social or economic status.

**Understanding Islam**

**The 5 Pillars of Islam**

In Islamic teaching, human beings aren’t naturally sinful, but they are naturally forgetful, weak and easily drawn astray. The Five Pillars are the foundation of the Islamic community—ritualistic reminders that are a gift from God to a forgetful people.

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When students in Northwestern’s Oman Semester attended an interfaith lecture by Georgetown University’s John Esposito soon after arriving in Muscat, Ellen Tolsma, as a woman, had to sit in the back of the Grand Mosque. Surrounded by local Omani women in traditional agal-dress, she smoothed her own colorful head covering, smiled, and introduced herself in halting Arabic to the young woman sitting beside her. The woman’s response was in English. It was also overwhelmingly warm, welcoming and enthusiastic.

Through Fathiya, Tolsma also met Hadeel and LuLu, who invited her for coffee, family dinners and overnights. “I even attended a traditional wedding,” she says, “which is an honor usually reserved for family. My relationships make me want to return to Oman—to friends who have changed my life forever.”

This past January, Northwestern launched the Oman Semester with six students. They lived in the “Old City” of Muscat, the cultural and political centre of the most peaceful, open and welcoming country in the Middle East. Oman, on the southeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula, provided a balmy semester by the sea for the students, who didn’t seem to mind leaving Iowa’s icy roads and snowy campus behind.

The Oman Semester grew out of collaboration among former Al Amana Centre director the Rev. Michael Bos; Northwestern sociology professor Dr. Scott Mennon; and Dr. Douglas Carlson, associate dean of Northwestern’s Global Education Center. Since 2004, nearly 30 students have studied in Oman for a few weeks as part of Northwestern’s study abroad program.

Carlson has visited Oman several times, including in 2007 to help shape the semester-long program. “People ask, ‘Why Oman?’ but anyone who has been there has experienced the Omanis’ warm welcome for Americans and their deep respect for the work of RCA missionaries,” Carlson says.

“Northwestern’s mission statement affirms our commitment to engaging students in courageous and faithful learning and living,” he explains. “Studying abroad in the Middle East—especially right now—creates so many opportunities for that engagement.”

Northwestern students lived at the Al Amana Centre in the historic Date Palm House that was once the home of RCA missionaries. A 12-foot wall encloses a lush lawn under date palm trees, long-ago gifts of the Arabian Peninsula, providing a shady oasis for the students, who didn’t seem to mind leaving Iowa’s icy roads and snowy campus behind.

Weekend trips offered a broader understanding of Oman’s culture and, Nic Leither says, “Travel was the best way for friendships to grow within our group.” Students visited a 3,000-year-old archaeological site, hiked Oman’s “Grand Canyon,” snorkeled coastal reefs, swam in wadis, rode camels, and saw giant sea turtles lay eggs on a moonlit beach.

Leither says Northwestern’s first Oman Semester offered profound encounters with Islam and Arab culture through relationships. “By the second week, students were playing soccer, going out for coffee and having dinner with Omani friends. By semester’s end, amid tears, embraces and promises to attend future weddings, they realized they had changed. Their souls were enlarged with the joy of following Christ’s counter-cultural leading—his outrageous calling to befriend the other.”

In addition to Arabic classes at Sultan Qaboos University, students also traveled throughout Oman, including to Wahiba Sands, where they rode camels.

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DeVos, a senior elementary education major from Le Mars, Iowa, showed Zach twice at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York’s Madison Square Garden and at the Eukanuba National Championship in 2006 and 2007. Her work with him and other dogs has led her to become known as one of the nation’s up-and-coming dog handlers.

She handles dogs for other owners around the country, is working toward becoming a junior showmanship judge, and is trying her hand at breeding the next generation of dog show winners. DeVos also trains misbehaving dogs and does some grooming.

It all started in the fifth grade with a book about show dogs and a visit to Tom De Koster’s ('64) class by dog handler Mary Fedders. Fascinated with the cairn terrier and Fedders’ stories of dog shows, DeVos volunteered to write a thank-you note to the classroom guest.

“I told her I wanted to show dogs someday,” says DeVos. Impressed, Fedders invited the girl to join her at a local show and allowed her to show a puppy.

It was an inauspicious beginning—placing second out of two entries—but DeVos was hooked. “I thought it was the best thing ever.” Two years later, DeVos brought home a puppy on Christmas Eve. It was Zach, handpicked as a great show prospect by Fedders.

While a high school student, DeVos went to shows 40 weekends a year with Zach and other dogs. Spending only a few hours a week with her dogs while at Northwestern has helped her realize how much she misses them.

“I really like that I can take a dog and, within a few minutes, develop a bond with it. And I love the feeling of teamwork in the ring. It’s amazing that a dog knows what I want just from the way I look at him,” says DeVos, whose dogs have won nearly every award possible except for best in show.

DeVos’ ability to make dogs respond to her is the result of a studious devotion to her sport. “She reads everything she can get her hands on about dogs,” says Fedders, who co-owns all the dogs with the Northwestern student. “She observes other handlers and learns from them.”

During the summer, DeVos ramps up her dog show schedule, handling at shows from Omaha to Fargo and Minneapolis to Chicago. It’s a schedule she could see herself doing for years as a special education teacher.

DeVos has several dog show friends who are also going into special education. “There are so many similarities between how you work with dogs and children,” she says. “You need to be patient, loving and caring, but sometimes you have to be firm.”

DeVos spent the previous two summers teaching teens from Girls, Inc. to do dog training as a way to help build their confidence and learn a life skill. She knows from personal experience how effective that can be.

“I used to be incredibly shy; I would be in tears talking in front of a group. Having to carry myself as a teenager in front of people at a dog show and be seen as somebody who knows what she’s doing helped me heaps and made me more mature and self-confident.”

Watching from the sidelines for most of that time was Fedders, the mentor who saw something in a wide-eyed fifth grader and gave her many opportunities.

“She’s like my kid,” says Fedders. “We’ve been to shows around the country, done breedings together, walked puppies together. When you’re waiting hours for puppies to be born, you become quite close. I think she’s really a special young lady.”

A rare breed, indeed.

Northwestern student establishes national reputation as dog handler

by Duane Beeson

Riley DeVos celebrates a Best of Breed win in Chicago with cairn terrier Petra.

DeVos, a senior elementary education major from Le Mars, Iowa, showed Zach twice at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York’s Madison Square Garden and at the Eukanuba National Championship in 2006 and 2007. Her work with him and other dogs has led her to become known as one of the nation’s up-and-coming dog handlers.

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DeVos has several dog show friends who are also going into special education. “There are so many similarities between how you work with dogs and children,” she says. “You need to be patient, loving and caring, but sometimes you have to be firm.”

DeVos spent the previous two summers teaching teens from Girls, Inc. to do dog training as a way to help build their confidence and learn a life skill. She knows from personal experience how effective that can be.

“I used to be incredibly shy; I would be in tears talking in front of a group. Having to carry myself as a teenager in front of people at a dog show and be seen as somebody who knows what she’s doing helped me heaps and made me more mature and self-confident.”

Watching from the sidelines for most of that time was Fedders, the mentor who saw something in a wide-eyed fifth grader and gave her many opportunities.

“She’s like my kid,” says Fedders. “We’ve been to shows around the country, done breedings together, walked puppies together. When you’re waiting hours for puppies to be born, you become quite close. I think she’s really a special young lady.”

A rare breed, indeed.

Northwestern student establishes national reputation as dog handler

by Duane Beeson

Riley DeVos celebrates a Best of Breed win in Chicago with cairn terrier Petra.

DeVos, a senior elementary education major from Le Mars, Iowa, showed Zach twice at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York’s Madison Square Garden and at the Eukanuba National Championship in 2006 and 2007. Her work with him and other dogs has led her to become known as one of the nation’s up-and-coming dog handlers.

She handles dogs for other owners around the country, is working toward becoming a junior showmanship judge, and is trying her hand at breeding the next generation of dog show winners. DeVos also trains misbehaving dogs and does some grooming.

It all started in the fifth grade with a book about show dogs and a visit to Tom De Koster’s ('64) class by dog handler Mary Fedders. Fascinated with the cairn terrier and Fedders’ stories of dog shows, DeVos volunteered to write a thank-you note to the classroom guest.

“I told her I wanted to show dogs someday,” says DeVos. Impressed, Fedders invited the girl to join her at a local show and allowed her to show a puppy.

It was an inauspicious beginning—placing second out of two entries—but DeVos was hooked. “I thought it was the best thing ever.”

Two years later, DeVos brought home a puppy on Christmas Eve. It was Zach, handpicked as a great show prospect by Fedders.

While a high school student, DeVos went to shows 40 weekends a year with Zach and other dogs. Spending only a few hours a week with her dogs while at Northwestern has helped her realize how much she misses them.

“I really like that I can take a dog and, within a few minutes, develop a bond with it. And I love the feeling of teamwork in the ring. It’s amazing that a dog knows what I want just from the way I look at him,” says DeVos, whose dogs have won nearly every award possible except for best in show.

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Red Ties

Marek Horvathdaal ’01
Director of Alumni Relations

An ongoing discussion among alumni directors concerns whether Homecoming is for students or alumni. Of course, the easy answer is that it’s for both groups. However, that doesn’t necessarily solve the question of what events make for a successful Homecoming.

Students might want alumni participation to be a break from normal college life. Alumni want to reminisce and reconnect—go back to college, in a sense. When it comes to alumni participation in Homecoming, the main question I try to answer is, “What inspires people who no longer live here to come back?”

As we plan for Homecoming 2011, we’re discussing numerous and other activities for alumni and students alike. “Affinity” seems to be a common theme and a concept that crosses class alums and students alike. “Affinity” seems to be a common theme and a concept that crosses class

Homecoming 2011 • Oct. 1

• Red Raider Road Race
• Morning on the Green carnival
• Tailgate picnic for all alumni
• Class reunions for 2011, ’06, ’01, ’71, ’61
• Raider football and soccer

www.nwciowa.edu/homecoming
Still Working

At age 85, Jeanette (Rozeboom ’39) Van Voorst realized by 90. “I wanted to keep busy. You go backwards fast if you just sit around,” she says. So Van Voorst returned to the surgery area at Orange City Area Health System. A year after retiring, however, Van Voorst felt lost. “I wanted to change my lifestyle. The moment profoundly changed Noteboom; his faith would continue to grow thanks to Jackie (Woudstra ’75) in Champaign, Ill. “My daughter is a lot like me, and I knew she’d have the same deep-down experience I had.”

Though Adrianna’s faith journey has always been strong, her father decided to attend NWC, her father’s emotions had as much to do with the past as with the future. “Northwestern changed my life,” says Noteboom, who graduated in 1983 and is now a National Alumni Board member from Champaign, Ill. “My daughter is a lot like me, and I knew she’d have that same deep-down experience I had.”

As a freshman from Milford, Iowa, Noteboom brought a substance abuse problem to campus. “I didn’t have the best experience growing up,” he says. “I drank a lot and smoked a lot of pot. That was my escape.”

A fellow student challenged Noteboom to accept Christ and change his lifestyle. The moment profoundly changed Noteboom; his faith would continue to grow thanks to Jackie (Woodruff ’75) of De Groot, Chur Ten Clay ’79, Cliff Leslie and Dr. Kimberly Ultey Snavely—staff and faculty members who influenced him in ways that “you don’t know what hit you until later.”

Though Adrianna’s faith journey has always been strong, her father knew they were in store. Seeing her at Homecoming, he thought, “This is everything I could have hoped and prayed for, and then some.”

by Amy Sceur
Strongman

When he flexes, Jona Leo’s bicep is nearly two feet around. “Twenty-one inches, to be exact,” he says. The 1999 alumnus and U.S. champion trains and travels to meets throughout the Midwest.

Interested in strength training through high school and college, Leo started powerlifting in 2002. “My competitive spirit wasn’t done,” he says. Now, in addition to being a husband, father and wellness director at a retirement community in Sioux Falls, he also runs a powerlifting competition.

Leo is heading back to the U.S. competition in Orlando over Labor Day weekend and hoping for another trip to the worlds next spring. This time he’s aiming for three clean lifts and besting his personal record of 705 pounds.

by Tamara Fynuauk

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Crystal (Drury ’05) and Nick Smidler ’06, daughter, Analise Ruby Jean Raagan (4)
Ashley (Adams ’04) and Kendall Stansifer ’05, son, Andrew John, joins Madison (0)
Eric and Rachel (Timmer ’07) Kruger, son, Jacob Jeffrey
Colin and Katie (Scwolten ’07) Leiding, son, Landyn Caine
Nicole (Simmelink ’10) and Caleb Tista ’10, daughter, Kendyl Kean

Marriages

Sara Dekker ’05 and Timothy Nichols, Marshalltown, Iowa
Emily Hennen ’04 and Kevin De Vries, Marion, Iowa
Julie Magner ’08 and Braden Archer ’10, Rochester, Minn.
Craig Menke ’10 and Nikollette Pippy, Coralville, Iowa
Kathleen Kropp ’10 and Dan Mark, Fort Collins, Colo.
Alexina Carlstrom ’11 and Caleb Reeder ’11, West Danbury, Ia.
Karina Smith ’12 and Drew Noremacher ’11, Orange City, Iowa
The couple reside in the city listed.

In Memoriam

Garret Colby (Blimk ’95, ’97) Raagan died May 21, Orange City, at age 90. After graduating from Northwestern, he taught at a country school near Brandon, Iowa, for a few years. She was the first woman to serve on the Northwestern Board of Trustees, a position she held from 1939 to 1948. In 1946, she and her late husband, Wirt, ’37, received the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Service to Northwestern College Award. She is survived by two sons, including Don ’71.

Cynthia Bontien ’78, age 59, of Sioux Center, died May 16. She was a teacher at Kinney Elementary School for 28 years. Her survivors include two sons and a sister, Joyce Kosy ’53.

Dr. Otto Van Reekum ’45, age 88, died April 1 in Ankeny, Ia. He attended Northwestern Missouri State, Harvard and Columbia universities, and graduated from Iowa State College of Veterinary Medicine. He served in the Navy and then worked at Abbot Labs Chicago for 44 years. He is survived by his wife, Rosula; two children, including Kermit ’76, and five siblings, including Glenn ’52.

Dwayne Poppen ’52 died April 4 in Sioux City at age 78. He worked for more than 35 years for Conoco Petroleum in Sioux City, retiring as vice president of sales. He also owned a construction sales business. He was a member of St. Mark Lutheran Church, the Sioux City Construction League, the Morningide Masonic Lodge, the Scottish Rite, and the Abu-Bahir Shrine Temple Figert Patrol. He is survived by two children, a brother and a sister.

Marvin Bomgardner ’53, age 78, died Jan. 14 in Mason City, Iowa. He graduated from the University of South Dakota with a degree in accounting. He worked for the Internal Revenue Service for many years, and then served as an auditor for client services of the state Supreme Court. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church and Veterans of Foreign Wars. His survivors include two sons and a brother.

The Rev. Elmer Vander Ploeg ’50 of Lynden, Wash., died March 5 at age 85. He attended Northwestern Junior College, Hope College, and graduated from Western Theological Seminary. He served churches in Beulah, Texas; Corsica, S.D.; Lynden, Wash.; St. Anne, Ill.; and Maple Lake, Minn. He is survived by his wife, Robbee; five children, including Julie Jacob ’92; and a sister.

Leon Ann (Reinsma ’61, ’63) Albarts died Feb. 18 in Oswego, Ill., at age 70. She earned an M.B.A. from the University of Iowa. She taught in Hamilton, Mich., as well as at Upper Iowa University and North Central College. She was also employed at ATEK, IBM and Lucas Technology. She is survived by her husband, the Rev. Leon Albarts ’56, ’62; and two sons.

John Marred ’67 died at the age of 69 in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 23, 2010. After studying at Northwestern, he returned to his hometown of Washington and worked with inner-city youth. He founded Market 5 Gallery—a nonprofit that sponsored art exhibits, music and theater performances, and craft sales—and served as executive director for more than 30 years. Survivors include a son and a daughter.

Greg Foreman ’68, age 66, died June 22. He taught art for 32 years, all but one in Rock Valley, Iowa. After retiring in 2005, he volunteered with the Foster Grandparent Program. Active at St. Martin’s Lutheran Church, he was a member of the Lutheran Services in Iowa Endowment Cabinet and the Rock Valley Arts Council. Among his survivors are his wife and son.

Ila (Hofmeyer ’71) Hugdahl, age 62, of Fort Morgan, Colo., died March 21 after a lengthy battle with cancer. She was a high school social studies teacher for six years in Council Bluffs, Iowa, before moving to Fort Morgan, where she worked at the Social Security Administration office for nearly 27 years. She was a member of United Presbyterian Church. Her survivors include her husband, Scott; twin daughters; her parents; and two sisters, including Peg Smith ’73.

by Tamara Fynuauk
Changing Hearts and Minds

By Robert Bogdanffy

During the spring semester, I studied in Washington, D.C., through the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities American Studies Program (ASP). I interned at the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy (ICRD), an organization that addresses identity-based conflicts by incorporating religion as part of the solution.

I worked alongside Dr. Douglas Johnston, the president and founder of ICRD and author of a recently published book, Religion, Terror and Error: U.S. Foreign Policy and the Challenge of Spiritual Engagement. He previously directed Harvard University’s Executive Program in National and International Security. He is also a devout Christian. It was my privilege to learn from him not only many professional lessons, but also about the proper Christian engagement of conflicts in light of our calling to be peacemakers.

My research at ICRD dealt mainly with radicalization as a result of alienation, some of which is given rise to by violent extremism. I learned that, when fighting terrorism, it’s important to understand the causes of radicalization and terrorism—causes like injustice, social and individual alienation coupled with political struggle, and a certain amount of Qarismic misappropriation. (To be fair, causes like these can also serve as catalysts for democratic change—as they did during the Arab Spring.)

I also learned that the overwhelming majority of Muslims resist extremism just as much as any other sane person. In fact, culturally and religiously, most are adamantly against, hostile and peaceful.

The Quran says, “[H] God had so willed, he could surely have made you all one single community: but he willed it otherwise in order to test you by means of what he has revealed to you. Compete then with one another in doing good works: Whether one believes the Quran or not, isn’t that wise counsel? This is what ICRD is pursing—initiating a competition of good works instead of fueling an ever-increasing disparity with vitriolic language.

Although I believe U.S. military actions against tyrannical regimes are commendable, I cannot help but think of the cost in terms of historic debt. The yearly budget allocated for one U.S. soldier is enough to build 20 schools in Afghanistan. Perhaps I lack the understanding of what it truly costs to change a regime, or perhaps in the long run, this will become a telling statistic of an inefficient government and a narrow aperture.

Either way, change cannot come without a shift in thinking, and while this involves many things, it categorically mandates a soft power approach. The fundamental ingredient of this approach is a global citizenry armed with broad knowledge. Anyone who makes an effort to understand someone different from themselves can be part of furthering peace.

How much do we know about the Afghan people? How much do we truly understand the average Muslim’s worldview? There are 1.5 billion Muslims sharing the world with us, and yet the majority of us don’t know the five basic pillars of Islam.

American social writer and philosopher Eric Hoffer said: “A war is not won if the defeated enemy has not been turned into a friend.” After my internship, I believe more than ever in working toward world security through changing people’s hearts and minds—including our own. Micah 6:8 encourages followers of God to do justice and walk humbly. It’s hard to project love and humility with an M16 in your hands.

In one of my ASP classes, Dr. Steve Garber, director of the Washington Institute, challenged us with a vision of Christian engagement that starts with learning more about the world and those sharing the planet with us. He said: “We are called to love the world. Do we love the world enough to learn about it?”

Robert Bogdanffy is a senior political science major from Petrosani, Romania.

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For the fourth year in a row, Northwestern College has been named a Groundwater Guardian Green Site by The Groundwater Foundation. Of the 25 U.S. sites honored this year for responsible use of chemicals and water, pollution prevention, and water quality, Northwestern is one of only five colleges.

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

Northwestern also received a growth award for implementing additional groundwater-friendly practices, including adding two additional detention ponds to capture runoff and challenging students to curb water and energy consumption.