Summer 2014

The Classic, Summer 2014

Public Relations
Northwestern College - Orange City

Follow this and additional works at: https://nwcommons.nwciowa.edu/classic2010

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the 'The Classic at NWCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Classic, 2010-present by an authorized administrator of NWCommons. For more information, please contact ggrond@nwciowa.edu.
Carrying the Bag

Michael Greller ’00 trades teaching career for life as a PGA caddie

Also

Learning From a Distance
National Parks Ministry
An Eye for Nature
A summer job in America’s national parks gives students like Heather Heilman the chance to do ministry while enjoying the great outdoors.
Learning for Life: On Campus and Online

Throughout Northwestern’s 132-year history, much of the teaching and learning has taken place on campus in traditional classrooms. This has served our students well—and continues to do so for those who can leave home for a time. Living and learning in community on campus will likely continue to be how the majority of students experience Northwestern, which is why we continue to invest wisely to make our facilities as inviting and functional as possible.

However, our mission of engaging students in courageous and faithful learning and living should not be limited to our physical campus. We live in a world that is desperate for Christian leaders and servants, and the education Northwestern offers is every bit as valuable for adults who want to enhance their ability to make a kingdom difference by completing their bachelor’s degree or earning a certificate, endorsement or—in the future—even a graduate degree.

As our culture changes and more educational opportunities become available online, we are adapting accordingly. This spring semester we had the highest number of online-only students to date, 44. We expect that number to double next year. For the third consecutive year, all our summer courses are being offered exclusively online, and one result is we have more students taking summer courses now than when they were offered only on campus.

Northwestern has done a marvelous job educating primarily 18- to 22-year-olds for rigorous education. But more and more adults can still count on our promise to deliver a distinctively Christian, academically functional as possible.

Whatever your goal, we hope Northwestern will be your college of choice. Alumni and credential. Perhaps you want to complete a bachelor’s degree or finally earn your master’s. You’re a teacher in need of an education endorsement or a professional seeking a specialized program. And others can still count on our promise to deliver a distinctively Christian, academically rigorous education.

Regardless of whether students experience Northwestern on campus or online, we remain committed to providing high-quality academic programs that prepare graduates not only for the world of work but for a calling to further God’s kingdom through one’s vocation.

Top Prof

Dr. Scott Monsma never met a pun he didn’t like. Known for the play on words that elicits groused as well as laughter, the sociology professor also enjoys a reputation as one of Northwestern’s best teachers—a fact evidenced by his selection as the 2014 recipient of its Teaching Excellence Award.

“Dr. Monsma does everything he can to ensure students are able to do their best,” says sociology major Logan Gosch. “He shaped my way of thinking and transformed me from an OK student into an excellent learner.”

According to Gosch, Monsma’s sense of humor has a serious role: breaking tension and creating a relaxed classroom where everyone is encouraged to participate.

“Dr. Monsma has opened my eyes to many social justice issues and has pushed me to pursue God’s awakening work in this world,” says the senior from Sioux Falls. “While I don’t agree with him on everything, he’s more than willing to listen to my opinions on issues and help me shape what I believe, not just impose his personal beliefs on me. His desire is for his students to be able to look at the facts and derive their own opinions.”

By chair of the sociology department, Monsma was instrumental in the creation of a new criminal justice major. He’s led study abroad trips to Taiwan and Oman and helped develop the college’s Oman Semester program. He also serves as faculty secretary and has been a student government adviser, co-chair of the Honors Planning Task Force.

Monsma is a former president of the Association of Christians Teaching in Sociology and frequently presents at its conferences. A graduate of Geneva College, he earned a doctorate in sociology from the University of Pittsburgh.

We LOVE GETTING MAIL

Send letters to: Classic, NWC, 101 7th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041; email: classic@nwciowa.edu. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please include an address and daytime phone number.

Racking up a Prize

The scene shows Lincoln, a young man anxiously waiting for a job interview. He’s in a Dimitria after noticing a coat tree in the reception area sporting docks instead of jackets. Is anybody in this office wearing pants?

He scans the workplace, but all of the employees are sitting behind desks or standing behind wall partitions. After noticing what’s sure are bare calves behind a cubicle wall, he ditches his trousers in the lobby and approaches his interviewer’s office only to realize everyone is wearing athletic shorts for the company softball game.

“Pants Rack,” an original film by Northwesterners faculty and staff members. Drew Schmidt ’05 and Lori Maurer and staff member Matt Latchaw ’14, won Best in Show at the eighth annual Prairie Grass Film Challenge at Dordt College.

“We wanted the film to center around feeling extremely awkward,” says Schmidt. Their entry, which had to be scripted, filmed and edited in just 48 hours, won the trio a $250 cash prize.

in Box

The following excerpt is from a reader-posted comment about the Classic at classic.nwciowa.edu.

Covering it all

Just got the latest Classic in today’s mail and was immediately drawn to the article about Denver UrbanSemester. The Classic is again well written. I really should come to cover.

Teresa Krockaywina

Broadcast, WFB

Send letters to: Classic, NWC, 101 7th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041; email: classic@nwciowa.edu. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please include an address and daytime phone number.
**Degrees of Esteem**

Northwestern College paid tribute to a former president and first lady by conferring honorary Doctor of Human Letters degrees on both during commencement ceremonies May 10. Dr. Jim and Martie Bultman were awarded the degrees in recognition of their lifes of service to Christian higher education.

Jim served as Northwestern’s president from 1985 to 1999 before another 14-year term as president of Hope College. During his tenure at both institutions, endowments grew and successful fundraising campaigns were held that raised money for new construction and building renovations.

He and Martie were known for their commitment to excellence and passion for students. They remembered students’ names, attended their activities and sporting events, welcomed them into their home, and joined them for meals in the cafeteria. Jim was an active leader in statewide and national educational concerns. He served as a member of the NAIA Executive Committee, a representative on the NAIA Council of Presidents, and chair of the board of directors for the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities. He also chaired the Iowa College Foundation, the Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and the Commission on Campus Concerns for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Martie is a former special education and learning disabilities instructor. An advocate for students with special needs, she co-authored the Friendship Series, a religious instruction curriculum for sharing God’s love with persons who have disabilities. She also served on the board of directors for Friendship Ministries, on the steering committee for disability concerns for the Reformed Church in America, and on the planning committee for Western Theological Seminary’s Friendship House.

The Bultmans have both been awarded honorary doctorates by Hope College, their alma mater. And both Northwestern and Hope have named buildings in their honor: the Bultman Center for Health, Physical Education and Interscholastic Athletics at NWC and the future Bultman Student Center at Hope.

**Award-Winning Design**

A logo developed as part of a graphic design class assignment will be seen by more than 5,000 educators in the promotion of the Higher Learning Commission’s 2015 annual conference in Chicago. Claudia Bomgaars’ logo was selected from 170 student submissions to represent the conference.

The commission (HLC) accredits degree-granting post-secondary education institutions, like Northwestern, in the north central United States.

A senior art/graphic design major, Bomgaars featured a Chicago “L” train car against the Windy City skyline in her logo, while also depicting various educational tools. “The metro is like Northwestern, in the north central United States. It was interrupted in the 1970s by marriage, motherhood and work. Rick is a political science major who plans to attend law school. Other members of the class of 2014 have been accepted into graduate programs at schools that include the University of Nebraska, University of Wisconsin and Western Theological Seminary. Those beginning their careers are moving to communities of Nebraska, University of Wisconsin and Western Theological Seminary’s Friendship House. And both Northwestern and Hope have named buildings in their honor: the Bultman Center for Health, Physical Education and Interscholastic Athletics at NWC and the future Bultman Student Center at Hope.
Campus Life

Gennis

Each spring, as the campus comes to life, students turn the green into a fairway for one of their favorite games—gennis. Played with golf clubs and tennis balls, the amalgam sport is especially popular among men in Colenbrander Hall—which is convenient, as a favorite tee-off for the first hole is right outside their dorm doors.

Four to six players progress on a course that varies depending on campus construction and obstructions. “Holes” are identified, and scores accumulate similar to mini-golf based on the number of strokes it takes to hit the trashcan in front of Van Petersen Hall, the Zemmer sign, and the park bench on the north side of the under-construction Ramaker Center. From there, players might go west to Steegenga Hall, across the boulevard to Christ Chapel, through the parking lot and construction Ramaker Center. From there, players might go west to City nonprofit: the Bibles for Missions Thrift Store.

Senior Ben Loftis doesn’t play golf, but he’s been playing gennis since his freshman year “for the social aspect,” he says. Loftis and Fellowship of Christian Athletes teammate Brady Timmer, also a senior, organized this spring’s annual best-ball gennis tournament to maybe get a phone number.

Carlson Internships

An endowed gift from Northwestern alumni and entrepreneur Todd Carlson ’89 is funding a prestigious internship program at NWC. Five students are spending the summer in full-time paid positions with companies and organizations in Chicago, Detroit and Sioux Center, Iowa—including the firm in which Carlson is a partner, Siemers Law Capital.

Carlson internships are reserved for highly motivated and high-achieving students with at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA. Coordinated by the college’s Career Leadership Center, the positions provide two academic credits through the Exploring Vocational Seminar course. The students are also assigned a faculty adviser to help them maintain the benefits of their experience.

Year in Pictures

The 2013-14 Northwestern College yearbook is available to iPad users as a free download in the Apple iBooks store. The app, which includes photo slideshows of sports teams, dorm life, fine arts activities and service projects, can be downloaded at iBooks.comsearch.

The app, the second installment of the college’s digital yearbook, was created by the students in Drake Logan’s Multimodal Communications course.

The yearbook highlights five of the most noteworthy campus stories from the past year. It also includes several multimedia components—such as audio files, video files and pop-up elements—and photo rosters of dorm residents.

Under New Direction

For the first time since 2000, Northwestern’s athletic department has a new leader. Dr. Earl Woodruff ‘79 is the new athletic director, replacing Barry Brandt ’83. Brandt has stepped down to associate athletic director’s role as he prepares to retire next May.

“Earl possesses the gifts of leadership and vision to continue moving Red Raider athletics to even greater levels of excellence,” says President Gary Christy. “His experience as a 15-year member of Orange City’s City Council, a member of the Strategic Planning Committee, and leader in facility planning has positioned him to lead a seamless transition.”

Woodruff, a professor of kinesiology, has served as assistant athletic director since 2004. As head women’s basketball coach for 17 years, he led teams to four national championships and was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame.

Under Brandt’s leadership, seven NWC teams won national titles and staffing was strengthened to nearly all of the head coaches are full-time college employees. Major improvements were made to the football field, outdoor track and soccer complex.

Brandt, who served as president of the NAIA Athletics Directors Association in 2011–12, was named the 2013–14 GABC Athletic Director of the Year. He also received seven years ago.

Demolition and Construction

A wrecking ball on the end of a five-story-tall crane is demolishing an Orange City landmark: the grain elevators visible as one approaches town. The elevators—along with a former gas station, storage buildings and feed mill—are on six acres located just west of the Rowenhorst Student Center.

Doug Beukelman, vice president for financial affairs, expects demolition and renovation to take six to 12 weeks. The crane is knocking the outer walls into the interior of the silos, after which the concrete will be ground into usable gravel. Once that process is done, construction will begin on a new 33,000-square-foot athletic practice and training facility.

College officials had originally hoped to have the new building completed by January 2015. Negotiations to buy the property began two years ago when Ag Partners consolidated its Orange City operations with its Alton facilities. The recently expanded Alton elevators has a receiving capacity seven times faster than the aging Orange City site. The original timeline and purchase of the property, however, was delayed by long-term lease agreements involving several cell phone companies with towers on the silos.

With all cell phone equipment finally moved, Northwestern closed on the property in June. Beukelman expects students to see construction, rather than demolition, when they arrive on campus this fall. “There’s a real desire to get started so it can be at least partially—if not fully—enclosed before winter,” he says. President Greg Christy reports fundraising for the $3.1 million project has gone extremely well and college officials expect to have all funds secured prior to the start of construction.

Once the building is finished, the Red Raiders will have a space where they can do conditioning and practice indoors during inclement weather. The facility, which will be connected to the DeWitt Physical Fitness Center, will also house a weight room for athletes.
Inspiring Community

Speaking at this year’s commencement, Olivia Holt started her speech by reminding fellow graduates of three things that are special about Northwestern: “Community, community, community.”

One of the people responsible for nurturing NWC’s tight-knit, Christ-centered community is Marlon Haverdink ’97, who received the 2014 Staff Inspirational Service Award at an employee banquet in May. The college’s director of residence life since 2011, Haverdink has also served as resident director in Coleenbrander Hall and held roles in recruitment and student leadership development. “Marlon has a rich vision for the role of student development in the mission of the college and in the kingdom of God as a whole,” wrote Dean of Student Life Julie Vernme Elliott ’97 in her nomination. “He spends countless hours—including evenings and weekends—supporting those on the front lines of student formation: RDs, RAs and fellow student development staff members.”

North Suites Resident Director Kendall Stanislav ’05 describes Haverdink’s investment in student leaders as pastoral: “He takes time each week to send a word of encouragement, an article to stimulate their lines of student formation: RDs, RAs and fellow student development staff members.”

In addition to student development, Haverdink is also responsible for student discipline. “Rooommate conflicts, substance abuse … Marlon deals with a lot of the messiness in the lives of our students,” wrote Dustin Hamm ’08, resident director of Colenbrander Hall. Hammm and his fellow

Researching Aging

Dr. Tyrone Genade, who joined Northwestern’s biology faculty last fall, is spending the summer conducting research on the neurobiology of aging with a doctoral student from Italy.

The two are exploring the impact of diet on the Nothobranchius furzeri fish. Genade has a colony descended from the original genetic line on which similar research has been performed by scientists around the world—including Genade himself—for the past decade. After extending the lifespan of the fish via dietary restrictions, he is now measuring the levels of several hunger/satiety-regulating hormones that affect an organism’s metabolism and have also been linked to human aging.

Stand for Freedom

Last summer nursing major Kelsey Doornbos witnessed the devastation of sex trafficking and slavery firsthand. A member of Northwestern’s Summer of Service team, she traveled to Bangalore, India, to volunteer with Rahab’s Rope, a mission organization that rescues and rehabilitates women and girls who have been victims of sexual slavery.

The women Doornbos met were likely on her mind this spring when she helped stage a 24-hour “Stand for Freedom” demonstration on Northwestern’s campus. She and other members of the college’s International Justice Mission (IJM) chapter recruited 81 Northwestern students to stand for 30 minutes to six hours, holding signs to raise awareness for the global problem of slavery.

Northwestern had more student participants than any of the other 100 colleges who also staged Stand for Freedom events. Packed along campus sidewalks and roads, the students shared disturbing statistics about the nearly 30 million people—including almost 8 million children—who are enslaved around the world today. Visit ijm.org to learn more about how the organization fights injustices such as slavery, sex trafficking and other human rights abuses in developing countries.

Face Value

Laird Edman
Northwestern’s a No-Brainer

You have graduate degrees in both psychology and literature. How do these fit together in your scholarship and teaching?

The very foundation of an integrated liberal arts education is that disciplinary boundaries are useful but arbitrary. I don’t know how to teach without constantly talking about literature, history, theology, physics, biology and whatever else I might know something about. We can’t understand psychology and be literal scientists — without knowing something about other disciplines and learning, because it’s all connected.

What fascinates you most about the mind?

Who doesn’t? The brain is the most complex object we know of in the material universe, and our knowledge of how the brain functions is exploding. We have learned more about it in the last 15 years than in the previous 5,000. And yet we still have only some fairly speculative theories as to how those pounds of neurons can generate a self-aware consciousness. What isn’t cool about that?

Your wife, Sally, is a clinical psychologist and director of NWC’s counseling services. What’s the conversation like around your supper table?

We discuss the data, current research and ways of thinking about whatever is on our minds — marriage, relationships, current events, a TV show or movie, or sermons. Our children want college credit for having to sit through all those dinner conversations.

You play guitar and sing. What are some of your favorite bands?

My music tastes are very eclectic. I think I have over 1,000 albums on my iPod. Lately I’ve been listening to Joe Bonamassa, Jonny Lang and Black Keys. I love listening to the bands of my youth — Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, Bob Dylan. I also enjoy jazz and often listen to baroque music when I’m working. But my all-time favorite band is U2. I once drove all day to Chicago, picked up my daughter, took her to a U2 concert and drove through the night to get back in time to teach my morning classes.

Do you have any favorite sci-fi stories that resolve the brain?

I really enjoy Orson Scott Card’s Speaker for the Dead. One of the main characters is a machine named Jane who is super intelligent but socially needy. Everyone in our family names our GPS and iPhone voices “Jane” in her honor.

What’s one way you like to unwind?

Smoking a premium, hand-rolled cigar is one of the great simple pleasures of life. Doing so while mowing the lawn takes an odious task and turns it into something very pleasurable. Plus it weeds out the neighbors. But by orders of my cardiologist — and more importantly, my wife — I’ve had to give that up.
Leaving a LEGACY

BUFFALO DOUG
Returning from a 2002–03 sabbatical spent exploring the American West, Dr. Doug Anderson dubbed himself “Buffalo Doug”—both to distinguish himself from other Dugs on campus and as homage to the legendary Buffalo Bill. Buffalo Doug retired this spring, metaphorically riding off into the sunset, his saddlebags packed with artifacts from 25 years teaching at Northwestern. “I’m sorry we’re not passing out big white hats,” said Anderson, who taught history of the American West, and is known among his colleagues as the go-to guy for anything related to the history of the American West—everything from the legal history of the Belle Fourche Dam, to the history of Fort Pierre, to the history of the technology of the making of tin can lids. Anderson approached his work with an engaging and entertaining style, using humor and wit to engage his students and share his passion for the history of the American West. His classes were always filled to capacity and his engaging teaching style earned him many loyal fans and admirers. Doug Anderson’s dedication to his students and love for history made a lasting impact on the Northwestern community and will be sorely missed. His contributions to the history department and the university as a whole will be remembered with great fondness. Doug Anderson will be greatly missed by his colleagues, friends, and students. He has truly left a legacy that will continue to inspire and educate future generations.
Red Zone

Baseball
Most Wins in a Season
The baseball team set a school mark with a 42-13 record and advanced to the opening round of the NAIA national championships for the second consecutive year. The Raiders tied for second in the Great Plains Athletic Conference with a 15-5 mark. NWC was 31-18 in 16 regular-season games to tie for fourth in the history of Northwestern's seventh-place 4x100 relay at the national meet, earning All-American honors.

Women’s Golf
School Record
The Raiders concluded the year with a team scoring average of 347.1, a new school record. The squad placed second in the GPAC championships.

Men’s Golf
Among the Best
Neil Meimke and Ryan Kiewiet ended their careers with scoring averages among the top four in school history, both under 76. The Raiders finished fifth in the GPAC championships.

Outdoor Track
Triple All-American
Karen Hutson earned All-American honors in the heptathlon and long jump, finishing second in each at the national meet, as well as in the 100-meter hurdles, placing eighth. Also earning All-American honors were Matt Huizeman, fourth in the high jump; the fifth-place men’s 4x800 team of Taylor Bodin, Logan Havland, Skyler Gildings and Kyle Anderson; and the 4x400 team of Jordan Strofaci, Giddings and Kyle Anderson; and Jeriah Dunk, which earned all-conference recognition.

Softball
Surge for First
The Raiders won 14 of their last 16 regular-season games to tie for first place in the conference with a 15-5 mark. NWC was 31-18 overall.

The Bultman Years
Jim Bultman became convinced God was calling him to Northwestern after he was offered the job of president in 1985. The search committee initially hadn’t been so sure, calling him back to campus a second time during the interview process. Given that initial reception—and the challenges Northwestern faced nearly 30 years ago—it is providential Bultman said yes to the offer. Though unproven initially, he had the good decision maker.

Scholar-Athletes Honor Roll
Twenty-five Raiders in spring sports earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete recognition, including 13 in track and field. Honored for the second year in a row were Ryan Brasser (baseball); Jordan Biehler, Krissi Breslin and Lindsay Remien (softball); and Jackie Niewenhuis, Mackenzie Small and Zach Witterberg (track). In addition, golfer Emma Wijma and softball player Lindsey Remien earned CoSIDA Academic All-American honors.

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

LOOKING BACK

TOM BECKER

Dr. Jim Bultman, Northwestern’s seventh president, share[d] his fondest memories of being able to immerse his family and himself in university life.

J imm Bultman became convinced God was calling him to Northwestern after he was offered the job of president in 1985. The search committee initially hadn’t been so sure, calling him back to campus a second time during the interview process. Given that initial reception—and the challenges Northwestern faced nearly 30 years ago—it is providential Bultman said yes to the offer. Though unproven initially, he had the good decision maker.

Those skills were especially critical during Bultman’s initial years at NWC. The college had suffered declining enrollments that saw it lose more than 100 students in six years. It had a $250,000 deficit and a capital campaign that had failed. Bultman brought in a team of fundraisers led by Neil Meimke and Ryan Kiewiet, and the college’s chief financial officer, described his former boss as a gifted leader, frugal budgeter and good decision maker.

Those skills were especially critical during Bultman’s initial years at NWC. The college had suffered declining enrollments that saw it lose more than 100 students in six years. It had a $250,000 deficit and a capital campaign that had failed. Bultman brought in a team of fundraisers led by Neil Meimke and Ryan Kiewiet, and the college’s chief financial officer, described his former boss as a gifted leader, frugal budgeter and good decision maker.

Those skills were especially critical during Bultman’s initial years at NWC. The college had suffered declining enrollments that saw it lose more than 100 students in six years. It had a $250,000 deficit and a capital campaign that had failed. Bultman brought in a team of fundraisers led by Neil Meimke and Ryan Kiewiet, and the college’s chief financial officer, described his former boss as a gifted leader, frugal budgeter and good decision maker.

Those skills were especially critical during Bultman’s initial years at NWC. The college had suffered declining enrollments that saw it lose more than 100 students in six years. It had a $250,000 deficit and a capital campaign that had failed. Bultman brought in a team of fundraisers led by Neil Meimke and Ryan Kiewiet, and the college’s chief financial officer, described his former boss as a gifted leader, frugal budgeter and good decision maker.

Those skills were especially critical during Bultman’s initial years at NWC. The college had suffered declining enrollments that saw it lose more than 100 students in six years. It had a $250,000 deficit and a capital campaign that had failed. Bultman brought in a team of fundraisers led by Neil Meimke and Ryan Kiewiet, and the college’s chief financial officer, described his former boss as a gifted leader, frugal budgeter and good decision maker.

Those skills were especially critical during Bultman’s initial years at NWC. The college had suffered declining enrollments that saw it lose more than 100 students in six years. It had a $250,000 deficit and a capital campaign that had failed. Bultman brought in a team of fundraisers led by Neil Meimke and Ryan Kiewiet, and the college’s chief financial officer, described his former boss as a gifted leader, frugal budgeter and good decision maker.

Those skills were especially critical during Bultman’s initial years at NWC. The college had suffered declining enrollments that saw it lose more than 100 students in six years. It had a $250,000 deficit and a capital campaign that had failed. Bultman brought in a team of fundraisers led by Neil Meimke and Ryan Kiewiet, and the college’s chief financial officer, described his former boss as a gifted leader, frugal budgeter and good decision maker.

Those skills were especially critical during Bultman’s initial years at NWC. The college had suffered declining enrollments that saw it lose more than 100 students in six years. It had a $250,000 deficit and a capital campaign that had failed. Bultman brought in a team of fundraisers led by Neil Meimke and Ryan Kiewiet, and the college’s chief financial officer, described his former boss as a gifted leader, frugal budgeter and good decision maker.

Those skills were especially critical during Bultman’s initial years at NWC. The college had suffered declining enrollments that saw it lose more than 100 students in six years. It had a $250,000 deficit and a capital campaign that had failed. Bultman brought in a team of fundraisers led by Neil Meimke and Ryan Kiewiet, and the college’s chief financial officer, described his former boss as a gifted leader, frugal budgeter and good decision maker.

Those skills were especially critical during Bultman’s initial years at NWC. The college had suffered declining enrollments that saw it lose more than 100 students in six years. It had a $250,000 deficit and a capital campaign that had failed. Bultman brought in a team of fundraisers led by Neil Meimke and Ryan Kiewiet, and the college’s chief financial officer, described his former boss as a gifted leader, frugal budgeter and good decision maker.

Those skills were especially critical during Bultman’s initial years at NWC. The college had suffered declining enrollments that saw it lose more than 100 students in six years. It had a $250,000 deficit and a capital campaign that had failed. Bultman brought in a team of fundraisers led by Neil Meimke and Ryan Kiewiet, and the college’s chief financial officer, described his former boss as a gifted leader, frugal budgeter and good decision maker.

Those skills were especially critical during Bultman’s initial years at NWC. The college had suffered declining enrollments that saw it lose more than 100 students in six years. It had a $250,000 deficit and a capital campaign that had failed. Bultman brought in a team of fundraisers led by Neil Meimke and Ryan Kiewiet, and the college’s chief financial officer, described his former boss as a gifted leader, frugal budgeter and good decision maker.

Those skills were especially critical during Bultman’s initial years at NWC. The college had suffered declining enrollments that saw it lose more than 100 students in six years. It had a $250,000 deficit and a capital campaign that had failed. Bultman brought in a team of fundraisers led by Neil Meimke and Ryan Kiewiet, and the college’s chief financial officer, described his former boss as a gifted leader, frugal budgeter and good decision maker.
After earning a master’s degree in entomology from the University of Massachusetts, Kelley (Downer ’04) Zylstra worked for the USDA, conducting insect research and blogging about the bugs she found most fascinating. These days she’s a full-time freelance photographer, snapping images of captivating creatures in the forests and fields around her home in upstate New York. More of Zylstra’s stunning “Wild America” images can be seen on her website, kelleyelizabethphotography.com, and at yourshot.nationalgeographic.com.

Photos by Kelley Zylstra

Shutterbug
Growing up in the concrete jungle of Chicago, Kelley (Downer ’04) Zylstra was a frequent visitor to the Brookfield Zoo, The Field Museum and the Shedd Aquarium. When she wasn’t out exploring the Windy City’s exhibits of nature, she tuned in for Marty Stouffer’s *Wild America* and paged through back issues of *National Geographic*.

Those experiences, Zylstra says, turned the city girl into a nature lover. After graduating with an ecology degree from Northwestern and earning a master’s in entomology from the University of Massachusetts, Zylstra worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, conducting research to detect, monitor and control invasive insect species, primarily a Eurasian wood wasp that was threatening pine trees (and the associated billion-dollar lumber industry).

“The work kept me outside in the woods almost 365 days a year, which was, by far, the best part of the job,” says Zylstra. “I watched the forest constantly change from day to day and season to season, and I had my camera with me the whole time, documenting everything.”

Despite the freedom to spend every day outdoors, Zylstra was starting to feel suffocated by the bureaucracy of her government job. So when the recession led to federal cuts, including at the USDA, it was the breath of fresh air Zylstra needed.

“Having to redefine your vocation involves a lot of introspection. When I thought about what I would do if money were no object, I wanted to find a way to keep encountering wild places and documenting what I discovered there through the lens of my camera,” she marvels. “Every day there are surprises—learning the rhythms and languages of all the inhabitants. Just the other morning, I was awakened at 3:30 a.m. by the caterwauling of barred owls in the swamp. It was eerie—and magical.”

For Zylstra, wild places are more than magical; they’re sacred: “No brick-and-mortar church has ever made me feel as worshipful or close to God as the forest, feeling the warmth of the light filtering through the canopy, kneeling on a soft cushion of moss, listening to chorusing birds and frogs, and smelling the balsam and rose hips.”

As a leafy cathedral, it’s picture perfect.
T he next time you’re in a national park on a summer vacation, take a closer look at the young person working in the gift shop, serving your food or leading worship at your campground. He or she could be a Northwestern student.

Sixty-three years ago, a Princeton Seminary student employed in yellowstone for the summer felt called to provide for the spiritual needs of park visitors, residents and co-workers. The interdenominational worship service he led in the Old Faithful Inn was the start of ACMNP, an organization that places Christians on ministry teams in 28 of America’s most scenic settings. Volunteers—generally 18 to 30 years old—get seasonal jobs with private park hospitality companies. Then, throughout the summer, they interact with their co-workers and park guests and lead worship services in park campgrounds and amphitheaters.

Last year ACMNP had nearly 200 students in America’s national parks. Eight were from NWC. This summer four Northwestern students are serving with ACMNP in Wyoming’s Grand Teton National Park. Emily Kubbe, a junior from Ottumwa, Iowa, says.

“During my summer in the Rocky Mountains, Emily Kubbe connected with some area residents and joined them on their regular 10-mile hikes.”

Emily Kubbe worked at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park last summer, helping people make jewelry in its craft and design center. “I told my college adviser that I loved the outdoors and that I also loved to do ministry, and she told me about ACMNP,” the junior from Ottumwa, Iowa, says.

Every Sunday, Kubbe and the other six members of her team would divide up to lead services at the Aspenglen and Moraine Park campgrounds—one service in the morning and one in the evening for anywhere from four to 45 campers. “It was a really intimate setting,” Kubbe says. “For me, a lot of it was just spending time with my co-workers. We had really good conversations in our downtime and were able to discuss some really deep things.”

ACMNP provides its volunteers with materials to help them plan the services, as well as training prior to the start of the summer. “Our Sunday morning responsibilities were a huge part of it, but we also did relational ministry throughout the week with our co-workers and the people we were living with in the dorms,” Kubbe says. “For me, a lot of it was just spending time with my co-workers. We had really good conversations in our downtime and were able to discuss some really deep things.”

Like Kubbe, Taylor Bodin ’14 was at the YMCA of the Rockies last summer. The elementary education major served as a camp counselor—an experience that confirmed his calling to work with children. “I know how much I’ve seen God in creation, and just being able to be in the outdoors with kids and to share that passion was why I was interested in working at a national park,” he says.

Bodin would join Kubbe and other ACMNP teamates in “campground walking” every weekend, striking up conversations with campers and inviting them to the Sunday services. Many of their co-workers would come to the services—some because they were Christians and others out of curiosity. “We would end by getting in a circle and praying, and then we would sing the doxology,” he recalls. “I really liked doing that at Sunday Night Praise & Worship at Northstern, and we were able to incorporate that into our services, which was pretty special.”

Another student whose summer in the national parks reinforced his calling was Jordan Vermeer ’13, a business and religion major who worked in retail at the Jackson Lake Lodge in Grand Teton National Park. The future pastor got good practice speaking at the services. “For my first sermon, I basically used my senior thesis paper for my religion major and turned it into a sermon,” he says. “I ended up writing five or six sermons. I would take some Scripture and then preach about theology and how God relates with us. I had a lot to draw on from what I learned at Northwestern.”

Throughout the summer, ACMNP team members have plenty of opportunities to explore the national parks in which they are placed. With a different schedule than the rest of her teammates, Kubbe spent her day off on Mondays hiking with a local woman and her friends—70-year-olds who Kubbe says “could pound out a 10-mile hike, no problem.”

Vermeer, a novice at backpacking, found himself freezing in a borrowed sleeping bag the first night he went camping. By the end of the summer he owned his own equipment and had hiked into the back country, slept on a glacier and climbed both the Middle and South Teton.

“I was definitely the most incredible summer I’ve ever had,” he says. “I got a super tight group of friends out of it, but mostly it gave me a yearning for the outdoors and open spaces.”

Perhaps, then, it’s not surprising that when Vermeer starts work on his Master of Divinity degree this fall, he will be at Denver Seminary in Colorado, at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. [1]
Watching the final round of the 2012 Masters on TV, teacher and part-time caddie Michael Greller ’00 was asked a question he hadn’t yet dared voice.

“Will you always wonder what could have been,” asked his then-fiancée, Ellie, “if you don’t try caddying full time?”

His answer? “Absolutely.”

Not long afterward, Greller had offers to carry the bag for both Jordan Spieth and Justin Thomas at the U.S. Open. He chose Spieth, who finished as the low amateur, tied for 21st overall. By December the 19-year-old Spieth had left the University of Texas to go pro, and Greller had taken a year’s leave of absence from Narrows View Intermediate School near Tacoma, Wash., to serve as his full-time caddie.

Greller’s new job came with few guarantees. Spieth was the 2009 Rolex Junior Player of the Year and the only other golfer besides Tiger Woods to win the U.S. Junior Amateur more than once. But he failed to make it through the PGA’s qualifying school, which meant he didn’t have an exempt spot on the PGA Tour or its developmental Web.com Tour.

“Since I had no idea where my schedule was going to take me week to week, we decided it was best to have a [caddie] who knew my game, how I go through my shot process and was a good friend off the course,” said Spieth at a press conference.

Spieth’s friendship with Greller could be indirectly traced back to 2006, when Greller was watching the U.S. Amateur Public Links at his home course, Gold Mountain Golf Club. “I noticed Matt Savage was carrying his own bag,” Greller told the Sioux City Journal. “I thought about how cool it would be to caddie, to hear what they thought, to be inside the ropes. So I went up to him and offered to work free.”

Savage, a Florida State University golfer, had shot a 75 but improved to 69 the next day with Greller’s assistance and advanced to the quarterfinals. After that auspicious beginning, Greller became a regular summer caddie. In 2010 he called Savage and asked if he knew anyone needing a looper for that year’s U.S. Amateur at nearby Chambers Bay on Puget Sound. Savage connected him with Justin Thomas, with whom Greller worked at three U.S. Amateurs.

When the Junior Amateur came to Gold Mountain the next year, Thomas linked Greller with Spieth, who went on to win the title.
Teacher, Brother

It’s been said that a good caddie is a psychologist, meteorologist, agronomist and mathematician. Sure, he carries the 55-pound bag, but he also cleans the clubs, studies the course to see how balls are reacting to the greens and to weather conditions, and advises on club selection.

The most important part of the job for Greller is the psychological aspect. “I have a really good relationship with Jordan’s swing coach, and I know what he’s working on. I can find ways to validate what he’s been saying. The No. 1 thing at this level is self-belief.”

While Pebble Beach may seem to be light years away from his sixth-grade classroom in Washington, Greller says there are a lot of similarities between teaching and caddying. “Being able to think on your feet, being an encourager, having a servant’s heart, being able to adapt, having thick skin—all of those things directly apply to working with Jordan.”

A grin crosses his face as Greller adds: “Instead of 30 children in my classroom every year, it’s like I have one big kid. Teaching for 10 years prepared me for Jordan.”

Growing up with three siblings in the family of former Vice President for Advancement John Greller, the caddie knows a lot about trash talking. While he has a teacher role at times, Michael is also a really good relationship with Jordan. “He’s great at settling me down. He understands the strengths of my game and where I get in trouble.”

Strong Start

In their first year together as pros, Spieth finished second in the Puerto Rico Open, won the John Deere Classic in western Illinois, and helped the star-studded U.S. team win the Presidents Cup. He finished as the PGA’s 2013 Rookie of the Year, ranked 20th in the world with $3.8 million in winnings.

“He’s a really gritty hard worker,” says Greller in explaining his boss’s success. “He’s consistent in every area of the game. He visualizes things like nobody I’ve ever met. And yet he’s very grounded.”

A few weeks after winning the John Deere, Spieth skipped a tournament so he could join his caddie and Justin Thomas in a group of foursomes at Chambers Bay, followed by Greller’s wedding on the course. Later that summer the Northwestern alum decided to make his leave of absence from teaching permanent.

“He’s perfect for me,” Spieth said in an article in DFW Links. “Especially early in the season [last year], I was trying to earn as much money as I could and I was pressing a lot. I was up and down, not emotionally neutral. Greller is great at settling me down. He understands the strengths of my game and where I get in trouble.”

Greller—a two-time all-conference golfer at Northwestern whose 79.74 career average is 28th best in school history—has approached his new job like a student happy to back in class following summer break. At tournaments he’s often on the course as early as 5:30 a.m., studying the links with his range finder. He peppers veteran caddies with questions and finds inspiration from the tour’s weekly Christian fellowship meetings.

“He’s learned quickly,” Paul Tesori, the caddie for Webb Simpson, told Golf Channel last year. “He and Jordan both seem mature. The little things that take years to learn, they already have a firm grasp on.”

Heading into this year’s Masters, Greller spent a lot of time with Carl Jackson, Ben Crenshaw’s longtime caddie at Augusta National. “I took the yardage book out and went over it with him hole-by-hole. I jotted down notes and reminded Jordan of things during the week,” Greller told the SiouxCityJournal.

“I had never been as confident when we teed up. Jordan really fine-tuned his game to peak that week, and he was as strong mentally as I’ve seen him.”

“I thought about how cool it would be to caddie, to hear what they thought, to be inside the ropes. So I offered to work free.”

Spieth nearly became the youngest golfer ever to win the green jacket. He led until the last couple of holes on the front nine, finishing tied for second, three shots behind巴巴Watson.

“I told him it was one of the best weeks of my life,” Greller said to ESPN about his post-tournament conversation with Spieth. “We told each other how proud we were, and [said] we’re going to have a lot more of these.”

You can bet on that.
FLEXIBLE LEARNING

Online programs bring a Northwestern education to students around the world

by Amy Scheer

When Nicole Ondrashek’s mentor encouraged her to pursue an endorsement to complement her early education degree, she knew there was no way she could attend a class. A mother of four, Ondrashek called the Iowa Board of Education to determine the options available for her packed schedule. There’s one college offering the endorsement in our state, they told her, and it’s “tough,” with high academic rankings, but you can work exclusively online.

“I wouldn’t have been able to get this job without the endorsement,” Ondrashek says about her full-time teaching position in Ossian, Iowa. “I learned a great base of knowledge, and now I have the endorsement to teach what I really enjoy.”

A mother of four, Ondrashek called the Iowa Board of Education when Nicole Ondrashek’s mentor encouraged her to pursue an endorsement to complement her early education degree, she knew there was no way she could attend a class. A mother of four, Ondrashek called the Iowa Board of Education to determine the options available for her packed schedule. There’s one college offering the endorsement in our state, they told her, and it’s “tough,” with high academic rankings, but you can work exclusively online.

“I wouldn’t have been able to get this job without the endorsement,” Ondrashek says about her full-time teaching position in Ossian, Iowa. “I learned a great base of knowledge, and now I have the endorsement to teach what I really enjoy.”

Today Northwestern is still the only college in Iowa to offer an online degree. For online students like Ondrashek, the local coffee shop can double as a classroom.

Working in an Orange City clinic until a layoff forced her to apply elsewhere, Kiel soon realized she was in direct competition with recent college graduates holding a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. She enrolled in Northwestern’s online RN-to-BSN program, which enables students to complete the degree in two years or less.

“I had a hard time getting an interview before, but ever since starting the program, I’m more marketable,” she says. Though Kiel, who is mom to Emmett (5) and Amelia (3), appreciated the flexibility of studying at home on her own time, she chose Northwestern’s online program for its literal proximity and its mission. While Ondrashek already had a classroom in which to complete her student teaching, Kiel wanted access to clinical experiences in a familiar, close environment alongside people who shared her beliefs.

“There are places you could go to get an online degree and learn facts about the body,” Kiel says, “whereas at Northwestern, they also want you to think about faith, how God created us, and how amazing our bodies are.”

Northwestern’s online programs are for students of all ages and locations. How can we help them grow and do God’s work in the world?” asks Hoey—because the courageous and faithful learning Northwestern offers is for students of all ages and locations.

Today Northwestern is still the only college in Iowa to offer an online degree. For online students like Ondrashek, the local coffee shop can double as a classroom.

Working in an Orange City clinic until a layoff forced her to apply elsewhere, Kiel soon realized she was in direct competition with recent college graduates holding a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. She enrolled in Northwestern’s online RN-to-BSN program, which enables students to complete the degree in two years or less.

“I had a hard time getting an interview before, but ever since starting the program, I’m more marketable,” she says. Though Kiel, who is mom to Emmett (5) and Amelia (3), appreciated the flexibility of studying at home on her own time, she chose Northwestern’s online program for its literal proximity and its mission. While Ondrashek already had a classroom in which to complete her student teaching, Kiel wanted access to clinical experiences in a familiar, close environment alongside people who shared her beliefs.

“There are places you could go to get an online degree and learn facts about the body,” Kiel says, “whereas at Northwestern, they also want you to think about faith, how God created us, and how amazing our bodies are.”

Northwestern’s online programs are for students of all ages and locations. How can we help them grow and do God’s work in the world?” asks Hoey—because the courageous and faithful learning Northwestern offers is for students of all ages and locations.

Dr. Lila (Elliott ’81) Sybesma, associate professor of education, identified a need for established teachers to acquire the endorsement without having to leave their jobs and return to college. Endorsement 100 launched Northwestern’s online learning offerings, which now include programs in analytics, coaching, early childhood education and nursing.

Students work from home and conveniently complete clinicals or student teaching at their place of employment—experiencing Northwestern from as far away as Colorado, California and London. Dr. Rebecca Hoey, the college’s director of online learning, says the programs reach a market of adults who otherwise couldn’t take part in education, pending HLC approval.

Pending Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation that will enable Northwestern to offer graduate-level programs, next summer will see the addition of a graduate certificate in the field online. “Software can typically be self-taught,” he says, “but for data science, I needed most of a structured course online that covers various disciplines.”

Certified teachers with sports skills and knowledge can benefit from Northwestern’s online programs as well. A coaching endorsement was among the first online offerings, enrolling mostly traditional students; a coaching authorization was added later, qualifying adults who are not licensed teachers to coach at the middle and high school level. In May, 55 students began the eight-week authorization program online.

“For online students like Ondrashek, the local coffee shop can double as a classroom. Working in an Orange City clinic until a layoff forced her to apply elsewhere, Kiel soon realized she was in direct competition with recent college graduates holding a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. She enrolled in Northwestern’s online RN-to-BSN program, which enables students to complete the degree in two years or less.”

“For online students like Ondrashek, the local coffee shop can double as a classroom. Working in an Orange City clinic until a layoff forced her to apply elsewhere, Kiel soon realized she was in direct competition with recent college graduates holding a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. She enrolled in Northwestern’s online RN-to-BSN program, which enables students to complete the degree in two years or less.”

“For online students like Ondrashek, the local coffee shop can double as a classroom. Working in an Orange City clinic until a layoff forced her to apply elsewhere, Kiel soon realized she was in direct competition with recent college graduates holding a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. She enrolled in Northwestern’s online RN-to-BSN program, which enables students to complete the degree in two years or less.”
Red Ties

Mark Bloomfield ‘01
Director of Alumni Relations

Considering I’ve attended more than 10 graduation ceremonies since my own in 1981, you might imagine they’re not a big deal to me anymore. But the pomp and circumstance still excite me—especially this year. Having an opportunity to hear Dr. Jim Bultman speak at Northwestern again was as inspiring as ever. Then, as our youngest son received his diploma alongside 276 other seniors, two things in particular struck me.

First, I thought about all the students who have crossed that stage and I marveled at their cumulative impact on the world. Teachers, doctors, artists, farmers, social workers, parents, pastors, businessmen—the list is as long as that line of graduates waiting to shake the president’s hand. Many are doing what they hoped and dreamed of, and probably more are living, working and building community in places and ways they never imagined. It made me feel so proud and so humbled at the same time.

Second, as the names of this year’s graduates were read, I was struck by the number I know who were following in the footsteps of a parent, grandparent, sibling or other family member who crossed the same stage in the 33 years I’ve attended graduations. All these connections—the legacies—are such vital hoped and dreamed of, and probably more are living, working and building community in places and ways they never imagined. It made me feel so proud and so humbled at the same time.

Second, as the names of this year’s graduates were read, I was struck by the number I know who were following in the footsteps of a parent, grandparent, sibling or other family member who crossed the same stage in the 33 years I’ve attended graduations. All these connections—the legacies—are such vital places and ways they never imagined. It made me feel so proud and so humbled at the same time.

Second, as the names of this year’s graduates were read, I was struck by the number I know who were following in the footsteps of a parent, grandparent, sibling or other family member who crossed the same stage in the 33 years I’ve attended graduations. All these connections—the legacies—are such vital
**Grand Slam**

The son of a baseball coach (and later college president), Matt Bultman ’90 played the sport as a Northwestern freshman but hit his stride on the golf course, where he lettered four years. A business administration major, Bultman wanted to work for a golf company. After graduation he entered the sales training program of Hillerich & Bradsby, the parent company of PowerBilt Golf. But by the time he was ready to begin making sales calls, a Kansas City-based territory for the firm’s iconic Louisville Slugger line of baseball and softball products seemed like a better fit.

After selling in a four-state area for many years, Bultman now handles national strategic accounts, mainly Internet and catalog companies. He’s seen numerous technological changes in Louisville Slugger’s product line in his time with the company, including the growth of composite and hybrid bats.

---

**What are the marks of a good bat?**

“You want a big sweet spot, nice balance throughout the bat, a good sound coming off the ball and a good feel when hitting it,” says Bultman.

---

** slugger**

---

**Where in the world is NWC?**

Everyone wore something from their alma mater when Mary Jane (Van Batavia ’53) Rozeboom gathered with her kids and grandkids for a family vacation in Jamaica. How far have you gone to promote Northwestern? Send us a photo of you in NWC attire and it might get printed in a future Classic.

---

**Email classic@nwciowa.edu**
It may be hard to see now, but she’ll be ready for college before you know it. Make sure you’re ready, too, with the Private College 529 Plan. This national plan lets you pay today’s rates for tomorrow’s tuition at Northwestern and more than 270 other private colleges.

Don’t Lose Sight of the Future

Davee (Hubers ’01) and Steve Connell ’02, daughter, Madelynn Jay, joins John (8), Jolee (6) and Morgan (Walker ’06), son, Judah (9), and Eva (2)

and Eva (2)

Matthew Dale, joins Andrew (2) ‘06, son, Landyn Kenneth, joins Cora (2) and Katelyn (2), daughter, Miriam Hannah, joins Hannah (6), son, Jonathan Bentley Sweet, joins Luke (4), Tate (6) and Maci (3) ‘00, son, Landyn Kenneth, joins Cora (2) and Katelyn (2), daughter, Miriam Hannah, joins Hannah (6), son, Jonathan Bentley Sweet, joins Luke (4), Tate (6) and Maci (3)

and Eva (2)

Matthew Dale, joins Andrew (2) ‘06, son, Landyn Kenneth, joins Cora (2) and Katelyn (2), daughter, Miriam Hannah, joins Hannah (6), son, Jonathan Bentley Sweet, joins Luke (4), Tate (6) and Maci (3) ‘00, son, Landyn Kenneth, joins Cora (2) and Katelyn (2), daughter, Miriam Hannah, joins Hannah (6), son, Jonathan Bentley Sweet, joins Luke (4), Tate (6) and Maci (3)
Pushing Back Against Bullying

by Emily (Meyermik) ‘08 Griese

“I get called fish-face . . . I feel kinda nervous going to school. I like learning, but I have trouble making friends.”

These comments by a young boy in Sioux City, Iowa, were featured in the recent documentary Bully and capture the trepidation so many youth today feel. While school is supposed to be a safe place—a place where students go to learn, make friends and explore who they are—it has, for so many of them, become a place of fear. With nearly 20 percent of youth reporting repeated maltreatment by their peers in the form of bullying, it is clear we should no longer ignore this issue.

To combat bullying, it is important that we first accurately identify what bullying is and its impact. Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior directed toward an individual that is 1) repeated or has the potential to be repeated and 2) involves some sort of power imbalance, such as differences in physical strength or popularity. Children who are bullied report feeling emotionally distressed or anxious. They withdraw from their peers or family, act out behaviorally, or avoid school. In more extreme cases, being a perpetual victim can lead to significant depression and even thoughts of suicide.

As parents or teachers, we often feel lost in this battle, wondering where to turn and how best to help our kids. The reassuring news is that there are resources. As a researcher who studies bullying, one of the most rewarding aspects of my work is providing teachers and parents—who often feel helpless—with supportive information on bullying and the skills needed to stand up to it. Below are key areas researchers have identified as important in the fight against bullying.

Enacting peers or bystanders: More than half of all bullying situations (57 percent) stop when a peer intervenes on behalf of the victim. One of our most important tools is to teach students to identify bullying behavior and equip them with the skills to effectively intervene for each other. Supportive actions from peers can include directly stepping into the situation, seeking help from outsiders, and/or comforting the victim. As teachers and parents, encouraging kids to step up when they see someone being bullied and then praising them when they do so is invaluable. Bystanders who are confident they can make a difference are more likely to act when bullying occurs.

Empowering victims themselves: One of the most important factors in the duration and impact of bullying is how the victim copes, or responds, when bullied. While fighting back may be natural for some children and even encouraged by their parents, retaliation is likely to make the bullying situation worse. Instead, victims should be encouraged to walk away and report the bullying situation to a teacher or trusted adult.

Youth who are bullied can also limit their potential for future bullying. Victims who are encouraged to develop appropriate problem-solving skills and seek avenues for social support can be empowered to stop bullying before it starts. Children who are able to increase pro-social behaviors like helping, sharing or volunteering are also more likely to be seen positively by their peers and, in turn, decrease their chances of being bullied.

Engaging teachers and parents: Finally, teachers and parents serve an important role in supporting both victims and bystanders by providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge to take a stand against bullying. Victims of bullying report that the most helpful things teachers can do are listen to them, check in with them, and provide them with advice and skills to deal with the bullying if and when it occurs.

Bullied kids and their parents aren’t helpless or alone. Together we can empower our youth by providing them with the knowledge and skills to decrease bullying and ensure our schools are safe and welcoming places.

Dr. Emily Griese earned master’s and doctoral degrees in educational psychology from the University of Nebraska. She is now a postdoctoral research fellow at Sanford Research in Sioux Falls, S.D., conducting research aimed at bullying prevention.

Give a student $500.
(Without spending a dime.)

Give the gift of Northwestern to a student.
Give the gift of a student to Northwestern.
Cutting the Cords

Baccalaureate is an opportunity for graduating seniors to gather for a final time in Christ Chapel, their college worship home. The service includes stories, songs and a personal blessing for each student, culminating in a moving Cutting of the Cords ceremony. While that act symbolizes the graduates’ separation from Northwestern College, their bonds in Christ—and to their alma mater—are ties that cannot be broken.