

Spring 1992

# The Classic, Spring 1992

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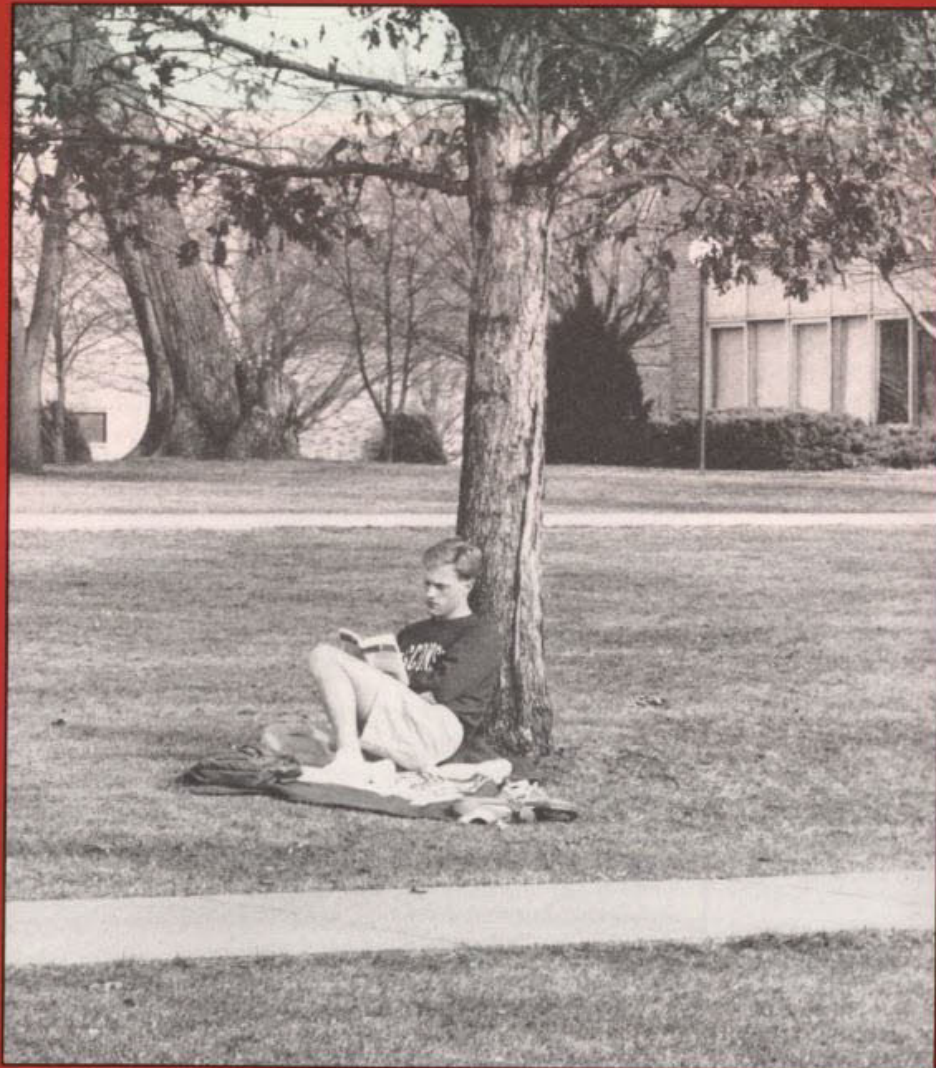
*Northwestern College - Orange City*

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T H E  
**CLASSIC**  
Northwestern College of Iowa



Spring 1992

## President's Report

I like college students; I especially like Northwestern College students. This is so because I admire and respect them.

I like colleges; I especially like Northwestern College. This is so because of its noble mission. Northwestern offers exactly the kind of education so desperately needed by our society today. In the relatively brief time I have been at Northwestern I have learned to appreciate what so many of you have appreciated through the years.

I tried to reflect on why it was I liked NWC. I get paid to like it, so I suppose that could be a reason!! But really, my affection is so much deeper than that.

...Perhaps it was because of Lyle who said, "I came to Northwestern with wrestling and football in my heart -- and I left with Jesus Christ. . . ."

...Or perhaps it was Melanie, valedictorian of a large metropolitan high school. She selected Northwestern over a host of more prestigious colleges because she liked the blend of the academic and spiritual dimensions.

...Could it have been Linda, Kris, and Dan, who so movingly honored their parents during our Parents' Day worship service?

...It may have been Amy, who approached me one day and said, "I love Northwestern; you've taught us we can be Christian and have fun too."

...Perhaps it is because of our dedicated and talented faculty and staff.

...Or perhaps I like Northwestern because of you — because you have uplifted us with your prayers, entrusted to us your sons and daughters, and supported us with your gifts.

When you like an institution, it's easy to work diligently to make it even better. I have rather a passion to make better what already is very good at Northwestern. And what is it that I would like to nurture?

My aspiration is that Northwestern would be a place where:

1. the name of Jesus Christ is honored above all others.
2. every student, regardless of ability, is challenged academically.
3. co-curricular activities complement rather than detract from the academic experience.
4. there is a wholesome residence life program, building on the sure foundation established in the homes of



Dr. James Bultman

## Thanks to Steve, They're Here



The Gravatt sisters from Center Point, Iowa, (freshman Maya, left, and seniors Jeni and Hannah) have made a great impact at Northwestern. Between the three of them, their influence has extended to the Honors Program, A cappella Choir, residence hall leadership, *The Beacon*, Junior Scholars Program, Writing Center, Heritage Singers, volleyball team, Norman Vincent Peale Scholarship Program, Sigma Tau senior honor society, and service projects to Mexico, California, and Chicago.

But if Steve Albaugh '86, the Gravatts' high school vocal music teacher, hadn't told them about Northwestern, they might not be enrolled today. Steve even drove them across Iowa to visit the campus. Once they saw the friendly, Christian atmosphere and excellence of the NWC faculty, the Gravatts were Northwestern-bound.

You, too, can play an important role in the future of a high school student. Why not suggest Northwestern to those you know who can benefit from, and contribute to, the Northwestern experience? While you're at it, please pass on their names to: Admissions Office, Northwestern College, 101 7th St. SW, Orange City, IA 51041 (712) 737-4821.

### Prospective Student

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Interest Areas \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Curricular/Athletic Interest Areas \_\_\_\_\_

so many of our students.

5. facilities enhance teaching and learning.

6. endowment will ensure for future generations a Northwestern College experience.

It is a privilege for me to serve as Northwestern's president at this time in her history. This is an exciting time, filled with many opportunities. There have been

enough successes to affirm us and sufficient challenges to keep us humble! Thank you for your partnership in the wonderful work God has called us to do at Northwestern. Your involvement is making a difference for good in the lives of a very talented group of young men and women.

*James E. Bultman*



# Headed for the Big Time

by Duane Beeson

Two NWC theatre students, Kimberlee Soo Felton and Lynnette Webb, have earned the right to perform at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. They will be participating in the national Irene Ryan Scholarship Awards for Excellence in Acting competition April 26.

Felton and Webb advanced to the national level after winning awards at the regional American College Theatre Festival in Sioux Falls on Jan. 25. Felton was one of two winners, out of 180 entries, in the regional Irene Ryan competition. She received a \$750 scholarship and will be among 16 national finalists performing two selections each in Washington. At the national level, two \$2,500 scholarships will be given, along with one fellowship each to attend the Chautauqua Theatre School and the National Stage Combat Workshop.

Webb, a supporting actress in one of Felton's selections, received one of two regional Best Partner awards. She earned a \$50 cash award and will be in consideration for the \$500 national Best Partner honor. A theatre/speech and exercise science major, Webb is a sophomore from

Felton uses American Sign Language to portray a teenager who became deaf at the age of seven due to an abusive home situation. Felton's character, Kara, signs her story, while Webb sits a few feet behind her and to her right. Webb serves as Kara's hearing self, vocalizing the deaf teen's message and copying her movements.

The duo's piece evoked many positive responses from fellow students and professors at the regional Irene Ryan



Kimberlee Soo Felton



Lynnette Webb

competition. "People said they really appreciated what we did. It was so different from anything else. Many pieces went for shock value with a lot of violence, sex, and off-color language," Webb explains.

Felton and senior David Earl White were selected to perform in the regional Irene Ryan competition by an adjudicator who viewed their performances in "The Dining Room," Northwestern's fall play. The Irene Ryan competition was established by the late actress, best known for her portrayal of Granny on "The Beverly Hillbillies," to promote excellence in acting among theatre students.

Felton says she didn't go to the regional competition with the idea of winning. "I just wanted to go and do our school proud, to represent the small Christian college and show that we're doing some good things. Karen (Barker, acting professor) did a really good job of preparing us; we realized our competition. We were excited just to be nominated and just wanted to do the best we could."

As she looks forward to participating in the national competition at the Kennedy Center, Felton chooses not to dwell on the possibility of winning more awards. "I just want to have a good experience, to be

entertaining. I feel like we succeeded already; this is the chance to do the performance again."

Felton transferred to NWC last fall from Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle. She credits her Cornish experience for helping her to recognize her abilities and develop technical skills. But it was her desire to attend a Christian college that led her to Northwestern.

"I was reading *Campus Life* magazine and saw Northwestern's 'Theatre With a Difference' ad. That definitely was what I was looking for. Being at Northwestern has really awakened the spiritual side of me and given me a lot of support. I'm not used to having fellow theatre people be so supportive. I feel like any success I had at the competition was success for the whole group from Northwestern. It's amazing the encouragement I got from students, faculty and teachers outside my major about this competition."

**"I just want to have a good experience, to be entertaining."**

Woodbury, Minn.

Felton, a sophomore theatre major from Hillsboro, Ore., is the first Northwestern student to be a regional winner in the Irene Ryan competition. She competed against undergraduate and graduate theatre majors from small private colleges as well as large public universities from an eight-state region (Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, and South Dakota).

Felton's performance included a monologue from "Seventy Scenes of Halloween" by Jefferey Jones and an original scene entitled "Lucky," in which she was joined by Webb. In this piece,

## THE CLASSIC Northwestern College of Iowa

The Classic is published twice a year for alumni and friends of Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa. So named because it served what was then known as the Northwestern Classical Academy, The Classic was the school's first student newspaper, begun in 1891. It has been an alumni publication since 1930.

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WRITERS: Duane Beeson, Deborah Menning

ALUMNI DIRECTOR: Doug Van Berkum '62

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS: Duane Beeson, Amy Fichter, Doug Marks, Mark Slupe, Lyle Van Roekel

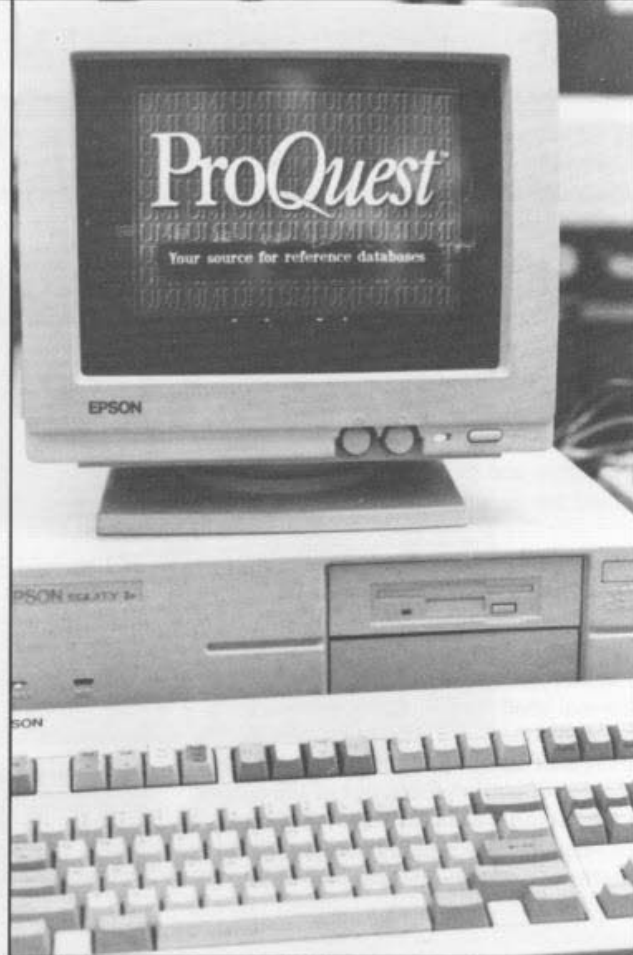
Cover Photo:

Kurt Dykstra '94 of Oostburg, Wis., takes advantage of the opportunity to study outside on a warm early spring day.

*Students and faculty  
increasingly plug  
into technology*

# On Line

by Deborah Menning



*Forget about the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature. Today students use data bases for researching papers.*

"Digital pianos...DAT decks... BIT-NET" - it may sound like futurespeak but the future is now on Northwestern's campus. The media have been telling us for years that students need to be better prepared for life in a high-tech society. In today's world, that means better math and science skills and the critical knowledge of computers and other state-of-the-art instruments. Northwestern's professors are doing their best to increase the use of technology in the classroom to ensure that their students are competitive when they enter the job market.

## **LIBRARY SCIENCE**

One of the places that this technology is most readily evident on campus is Ramaker Library where computer research gives a new meaning to the words "library science." In the past, students looking for information on a paper topic headed to the card catalog or *The Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*. All too often, the materials they needed were out of their reach.

That scenario is passe. With today's technology, it seems that the world is at a researching student's fingertips. Through the use of CD-ROM data bases, Northwestern students have instant access to finding what's out there on almost any topic.

A software package entitled Books in Print Plus is available to all students on a computer that is up and running any time

the library is open. Books in Print Plus will give you all listings on any word combination you choose to place into it. Even though you might not know specific titles or topics, the system responds to any key word. Type in "global warming" and the computer tells you that there are 36 books available with those two words in their titles. From there you can call up more specific information on each of those 36 books.

Another system called ERIC catalogs all journal topics in the field of education. Along with the system there is a huge microfiche file of every journal article related to education to come out in the last few years. The file is updated monthly, giving education majors instant access to all current publications in their field. This system is on the campus network, meaning that a student working in the Learning Resource Center or a residence hall computer study room can do research after library hours. The UMI system provides similar data on all topics.

Then, remember having to copy down all that tedious Library of Congress or Dewey Decimal System information so you could go search the stacks for the book or check to see if the library has that particular periodical? No more. Tag all the sources you find interesting either in the Books in Print Plus program or the ERIC system and the computer will give you a complete

printout of all publishing data. In the case of ERIC, the student can tell the computer to tag only those sources available within Ramaker. The information kicked out by the computer comes with numbers identifying the article's location in the microfiche file.

Dr. Richard Reitsma, reference librarian, finds only one fault with these

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**Through the use of CD-ROM data bases in Ramaker Library, researching students have instant access to finding what's out there on almost any topic.**

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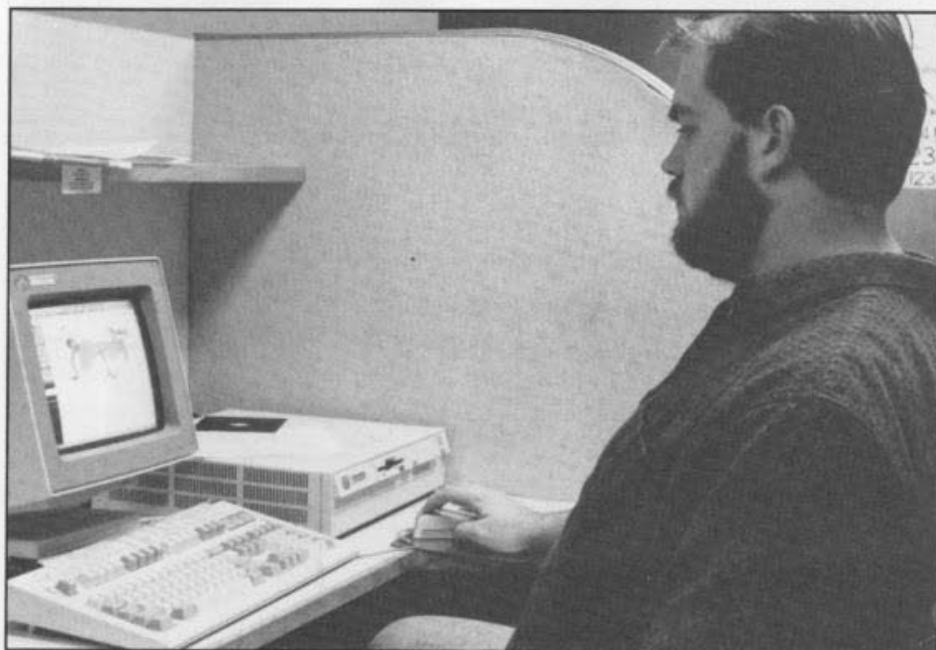
systems and that is the fact that you get *all* resources available without discrimination as to quality. He also points out that with so much information available, it can be discouraging to see a student quickly pull only the first three listings from the computer, thus limiting his/her search.

But wait....there's more! If students can't find the needed material at Ramaker, inter-library loan and a FAX machine can bring the needed item into their hands in as little as 24 hours. The OCLC system



makes this technology possible. When Ramaker first connected to the system back in 1977, the priority capability it gave was supplying 90-95 percent of the library's cataloguing work right down to printing the spine labels for new books. The time saved for the library staff is phenomenal.

Add to this the system's capacity for inter-library loan and you have an invaluable tool. When a student makes a request, the system can search for the material from libraries throughout the U.S. and in several foreign countries. It selects five libraries and places a call on the network's bulletin board. At Ramaker, the message file is checked once or twice daily by workstudy help. Wherever the request goes, the person searching is assured that someone will check the message file within 24 hours. If the first library called can't supply the resource, the message moves to the next library listed.



*Students like Dan Van Beek are learning to use the computer as an artistic tool through a new computer graphics course.*

When a FAX-ed copy of the material is requested, students don't bear the cost. A state-sponsored Net-Lender program reimburses Iowa colleges that lend more resources than they request in a month's time within the inter-library loan system. Reitsma says that Ramaker's lending and requesting usually equalize one another.

With all these changes, novices can feel like a stranger in an even stranger land. Reitsma leads familiarization classes for students, introducing them to all ways of researching. To give them hands-on experience, he will ask professors for specific assignments and have the students do their research under supervision in the familiarization course.

## FINE ARTS

Possibly one of the last places people would expect technology to show up is in the area of fine arts. Here too, however, electronics and computers are changing the way musicians and artists do their work.

A recent matching grant from the Kawai Piano Company brought seven digital pianos into Northwestern classes. Though they sound and feel like a traditional piano, the digitals have distinct advantages. They are virtually maintenance-free, meaning that they don't need to be tuned - ever! They feature a variety of sound offerings, from harpsichord to organ. Equipped with headphones, students can practice simultaneously, each one hearing only his own piano or the voice of the instructor talking individually to him.

Tim McGarvey, instructor in music,

decks. He was more than pleased with the results. "It gave us absolute professional quality sound," he reports. "With this equipment you can record the way the professionals do. Digital quality of sound is superior to all other methods of recording. We could even make CDs with this."

Assistant Professor of Theatre Jeff Barker had been using a reel-to-reel system from the '50s to record for the Drama Ministries Ensemble. It was a joy this year to purchase the DAT decks. The transfer of sound occurs electronically rather than mechanically so that the hiss of the old machines is eliminated, resulting in an extremely quiet system. The machine has its own cuing device so that a technician will no longer have to mark her sounds with colored leader tape.

The DME produces their own sound effects and will put the system to good use as they tour around the country. It will also be used with the Children's Theatre and for other touring productions such as Barker's "Easter Week."

For the first time ever, the art department is offering a course in computer graphics. Rein Vanderhill wrote the course for students interested in an occupation aside from being an artist. He explains, "Much of art in the commercial world has changed from doing things by hand and with traditional artist's tools to electronic media. The computer as an artistic tool is one of the most recent developments in the computer field. With this technology, our students will have hands-on and conceptual experience of what is happening in the workplace." The class filled immediately and Vanderhill predicts that it won't be just art majors enrolling.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Technology is bringing new twists to the study of foreign languages. A computer program called INTERNET/BIT-NET available to Northwestern from Buena Vista College will be the medium for Pat Myhren's French students to communicate with their peers in France. Calling it a "fledgling project," Myhren foresees her students writing to their electronic pen pals four times during the semester to sharpen language skills and to do research on the European community.

uses two new computer programs to transpose music. A composition can be played by keyboard and the computer will print out the music. Currently McGarvey uses this technology to come up with new parts for the band but the goal is to incorporate it into the theory program. One drawback is that the department still needs computers - at least seven to match up with each of the digital pianos.

McGarvey was the first to use the new DAT (digital analog tape) decks purchased by the Drama Ministries Ensemble. The system arrived shortly before the annual Christmas Vespers service. Excitement was high to test its capabilities so McGarvey recorded the service using the

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**By corresponding with their peers in France via electronic mail, French students can sharpen language skills and learn more about the culture.**

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The project has extended benefits in that the French students will learn a good deal about American culture and can exercise their English. Myhren says electronic mail has several advantages beginning with the fact that it's cheaper, that it provides the potential of immediacy as all the letters go at once and that each country's students can access the mail at a time of day compatible with their own time zones. She hopes eventually to work out a system of daily assignments back and forth.

Dr. Ron Takalo is using a sabbatical leave this semester to further his usage of current technologies in his Spanish classes. To provide students with the opportunity to hear, recognize and emulate a variety of accents, Takalo has interviewed different speakers of Spanish at the University of Texas, Laredo, shooting the interviews on videotape.

The video camera has also gone with him to the bullfights. Takalo's goal is to develop his own material for teaching culture by using the bullfight as a metaphor for cultural differences, illustrating how the aged sport parallels much of Spanish culture. He hopes his efforts will result in a marketable videotape product.

Recently Takalo has been experimenting in the classroom with interactive video. With the use of a video disk and computer, a student watches as Spanish is spoken. If at first the student isn't able to understand what is said, he can press a button to have the words repeated. This process continues and includes a phase wherein the computer prints on its screen what is said on the video. The video can be played sentence by sentence or scene by scene.

Takalo has designed many software programs for the teaching of Spanish. Some of his newest programming is designed to facilitate test construction. A teacher using the program can create a test from the data base in less than 10 minutes. By typing into the computer the grammar structure to be tested, the teacher receives an eight-page test with answer key. Although formulating the program took countless hours, the time Takalo now spends constructing tests has been minimized. He has also been working on transposing all of his earlier programs into IBM format so that they will soon be available to both Apple and IBM users.

#### EDUCATION

Like Takalo, Dr. George Stickel is finding ways to incorporate the use of video equipment in some courses. Over Christmas, Stickel put all of his lectures for the Media and Materials course on video cassette. The two-hour tape covers all the necessary instructions for operating an array of machinery from the video projector to a 16 millimeter projector. He

says the students can take the video with them, view it on their own and see better on tape what they couldn't have seen watching a demonstration from the back of the classroom.

Stickel says the use of computers is encouraged among undergraduate education majors and required for graduate-level students. He says he sees computer screens lit up throughout the day in classrooms and offices and is encouraged to see this amount of usage going on within the department.

For himself, the computer enables Stickel to communicate rapidly and efficiently with scholars around the world who are interested in one of his own pet research topics, Charles S. Peirce. Using

the same technology used by Pat Myhren for her French classes, Stickel says he "can send 20 pages to France in a day and pay nothing for postage, paper or photocopying. I sent a message to a French Peirce scholar whom I had met and had a return message the next day."

As a matter of fact, it was through this Peirce scholar that Stickel made connections for Myhren and her French students. The system will be a tremendous advantage for Stickel since there are more Peirce scholars overseas than in the U.S.

#### MATH AND SCIENCE

The chemistry and biology departments have made great strides in the last few years with the purchase of new instrumentation. Thousands of dollars



*Ron Takalo is developing videos of various Spanish speakers and elements of Mexican culture for use in Spanish courses.*



have been invested to give science students the latest technology in their fields. The increased instrumentation, partially funded by the Iowa College Foundation's Science and Technology Equipment Challenge Program, provides students with the opportunity to work with machines that in the past they could only read about in a text.

Here, too, the computer plays a major role. Software simulating certain experiments allows students access to experimentation that could not easily be done on

out the ideal is simply not available yet. He settles for using his Derive Mathematical Plotting Program one day each week. Developed by the U.S. Naval Academy, the program is used to demonstrate fundamental concepts in a geometric sense. Foster has placed the programs he uses in class on the campus network so that students have easy access to them outside of class.

#### NWC'S SCORECARD

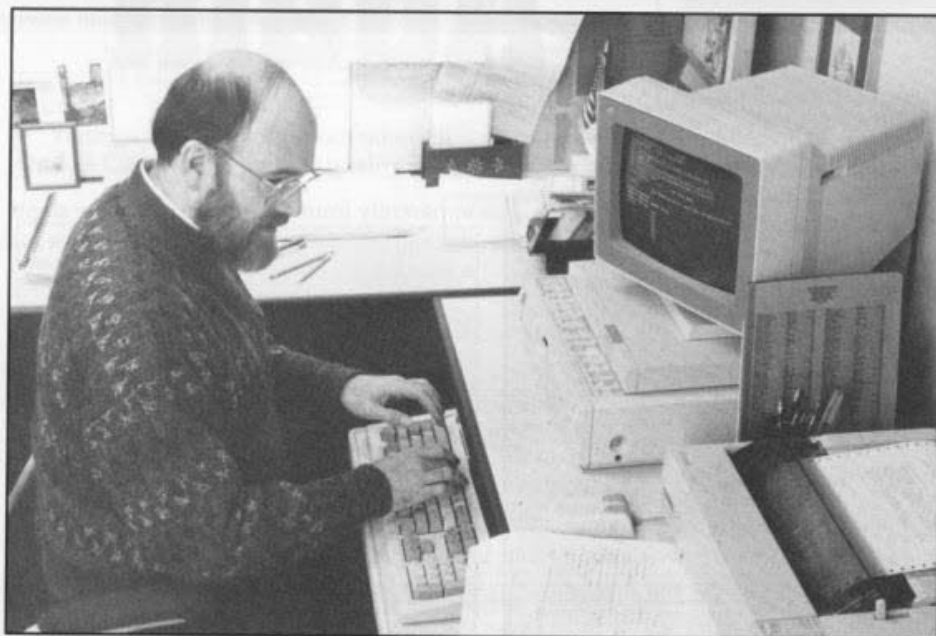
To see how Northwestern fares in the area of advancing technology on campus

one need only take a look at the numbers. A straw poll done last year by the computing services staff showed that 100 percent of the students polled used computers on weekdays. Director of Computing Services Rob Robinson says he sees a marked increase in computer usage each

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**Computer software simulating certain experiments allows students in the sciences access to experimentation that could not easily be done on campus.**

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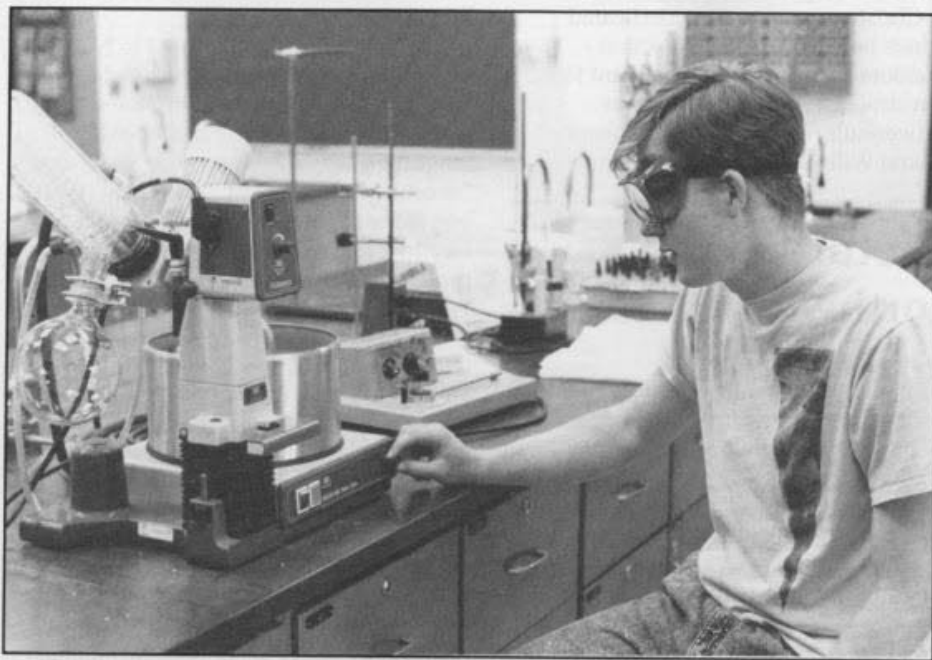


*Education professor George Stickel uses the computer to communicate rapidly with scholars around the world who share his research interests.*

campus. Dr. Byron Noordewier likes the fact that the computer experimentation equates with totally accurate results. He says, "You don't end up with anything going wrong. You don't destroy anything by mixing the wrong solutions or solutions that are too strong. Some of our software allows us to draw the exact graphs and figures used in the text. All of this is much less frustrating for students. Although it's not the real world, where experiments often go awry, it's beneficial - when students get frustrated they don't learn anything!"

Keith Foster in the math department is working to help his students overcome discomfort with computers. In introducing new software and programs, he tells the students very little to help them overcome their fears through practicing on their own. Last semester he found his Calculus I students to be fairly computer illiterate. By semester's end that was no longer the case.

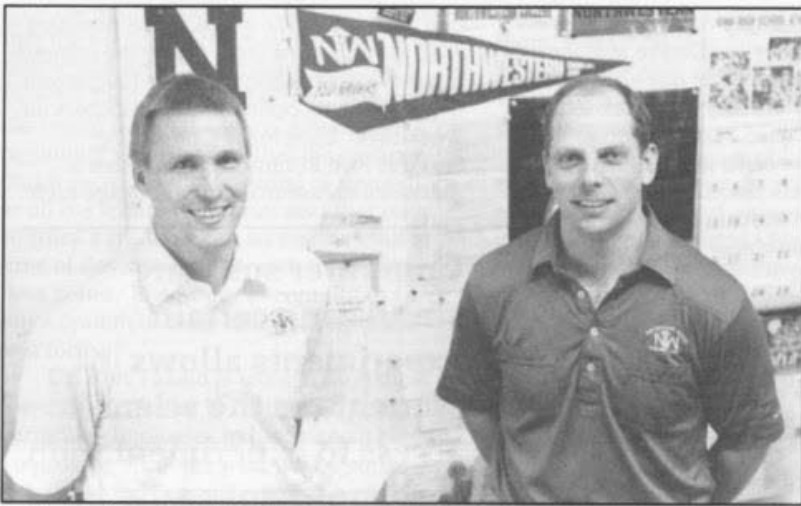
Ideally, Foster would like to use the computer on a daily basis but, as in the music department, the equipment to carry



*Senior Garth Robinson strips the solvent from a solution by using the rotary evaporator. This device is among several thousand dollars worth of new instrumentation added to the chemistry and biology departments in the last few years.*



# Back Home Again



*In the late '70s, Earl Woudstra, left, and Orv Otten were NWC classmates. Today they are colleagues on the physical education faculty.*

by Deborah Menning

Northwestern's alumni tend to look upon their college experience as positive and life-changing. For several alumni, Northwestern is not only an alma mater but also a place where they are fulfilling a life's calling. NWC's faculty boasts 11 alumni faculty members who have returned to their educational roots for a variety of reasons.

One of the alumni faculty "veterans" is Dr. Lyle Vander Werff. Employed at the college since 1967, Vander Werff is a professor of religion and the director for international programs. Vander Werff sights three distinct reasons for his tenure at Northwestern: gratitude, commission and vision. He notes, "As a junior college, Northwestern provided me a solid base and Christian perspective. Dedicated teachers helped chart my direction - professors such as retired President Jacob Heemstra, H.V. Stegeman, Nelson Nieuwenhuis, Fern Smith and Theora England Willcox. Ultimately my gratitude

## "I returned to Northwestern to repay a debt."

is to God who touched my life and gave me so many counselors. I returned to Northwestern to repay a debt!"

In terms of vision, Vander Werff says, "When invited by President Lars Granberg to join the faculty, I was thrilled to reply in the affirmative. NWC, though small, had the biblical foundations and leadership to create an enlarged institution of quality which could benefit thousands of students in coming generations and through them,

## Alumni teaching at NWC

Dr. Verna De Jong '60, English  
Dr. Ron Juffer '56, education  
Virg Muilenburg '62, biology  
Dr. Orv Otten '79, physical education  
Vonda Post '88, business/economics  
Dr. Dick Van Holland '58, business/economics  
Mary Van Rheenen '81, sociology  
Dr. Lyle Vander Werff '54, religion  
Dr. Henry Veldhuis '61, physics  
Mark Vellinga '77, computer science  
Earl Woudstra '78, physical education

to bless the church and society. As a young faculty member I was able to invest in the formation of a distinctive Christian liberal arts curriculum."

Dr. Verna De Jong returned to Northwestern in 1971, and continues today as a vital part of the English discipline's teaching staff. Teaching had been a longtime goal for her partly because, as a "short-sighted feminist," she knew it was one of the things a woman could do. At Northwestern she was inspired by such professors as Blaise Levai, Theora England Willcox and Fern Smith.

The two women were of special importance in De Jong's life. "Theora was an inspiration to me as a fine role model and wonderful woman. I admired her tenacity in returning year after year to Minnesota to earn her Ph.D. I appreciated her insistence on excellence. I saw these things both in the classroom and through extra-curricular activities in speech and drama.

"Fern Smith inspired me in the area of liberal arts. I took an art course from her in which she touched on everything from architecture to painting. I loved viewing the slides (even though other students

apparently found the class dull - they slept through the slides!). It made me literate in a way I'd never before been."

De Jong says that she'd had such a good personal experience as an undergraduate at Northwestern, she was attracted back by the atmosphere. Once on the staff, she found herself teaching beside her mentor, Theora England Willcox, and former academy principal, Steve Ekdom. "I didn't feel a barrier because I was a former student. It says a great deal for them that they esteemed me as a colleague."

With more than 20 years of teaching to her credit, De Jong says she treasures the freedom to integrate her faith with learning and to talk about her discipline from a Christian perspective. She says she wouldn't care to be anywhere else and that her dual role as an alumna and a professor is one that she likes because it allows her to see personally what is happening on campus.

Dr. Henry Veldhuis has been teaching physics at NWC since 1967. He, too, points to Fern Smith as an inspiration for the quality of her teaching and for her Christian walk. Today he finds a feeling of continuity in teaching students who are the children of his own classmates and credits Northwestern as instrumental in his intellectual and spiritual growth.

Although he graduated in 1958, Dr. Dick Van Holland didn't find his way back to Northwestern until 1979. For 18 of the intervening years, he taught high school in Canton, S.D. Because it had always been his "dream or ideal" to teach at a Christian college, he wrote to NWC asking about a possible vacancy on the business faculty.

He explains, "I wanted to be current and felt that college-level teaching would keep me on the cutting edge of my field. God enabled me to make the right deci-

sion. I love it here; it's a blessing to be here. I'm beginning to get sons and daughters of my college classmates in my classes - I guess that shows I'm getting old! Overall, it brings back my own college memories. It's a nice feeling to know that I belonged here before, too." Van Holland suspects that few know of his alumnus status.

Through experiences at other institutions, Mark Vellinga saw the difference between secular schools and Northwestern. He grew to appreciate more and more what he had acquired at Northwestern. Now an instructor in computer science, Vellinga was inspired as a math major by professors Ralph Mouw and Gordon Brumels.

Vellinga says, "Having been raised in Orange City, I knew that the quality of life



Mary Van Rheenen '81, left, and Yvonne Meyer '91 review photos for the "Images of Native Americans in Sioux City" exhibit which they produced last year.

here would be good for my family. But the main drawing card for me was Northwestern itself. If I could work in the type of environment Northwestern offered, what more could I ask for?"

As a 1977 grad, Vellinga works side-by-side with many of his former profs. He says that on his part there is sometimes a self-inflicted awkwardness because of the respect he feels for these people. He explains, "I don't feel totally like a peer and still regard them as my teachers. On the other hand, it's a good thing because I now see them in a completely different light and have the opportunity to get to know them better."

Earl Woudstra, instructor in physical education, perceives an interest on the part of his students in the fact that he is an alumnus. "It says something positive to

them that I wanted to come back - that I chose to be here. Northwestern has been such an important part of my life and family that I have a special feeling of ownership; it's truly my school."

An ironic twist brought Mary Van Rheenen '81 back to campus as an instructor in sociology. While working in Louisiana for the Mennonite Central Committee, her work partner was a former student of Dr. Michael Yoder, NWC sociology professor. Visiting relatives in Orange City one Christmas, she left notes on Yoder's door. When an opening came about in the sociology discipline, Yoder remembered her and contacted her with the suggestion that she apply for the job.

Van Rheenen likes the fact that she can be herself at Northwestern. She says, "I can be open about my own biases and assumptions. I knew many people who were still at NWC and I was familiar with the college's point of view, the Reformed tradition and what life in a small town is like, so it was all comfortable to me.

"There are some things that seem a bit strange about being an alumna and a member of the teaching staff. I have memories about my own days here but, because my classmates who shared those memories aren't here, it's strange. A number of my own professors still teach

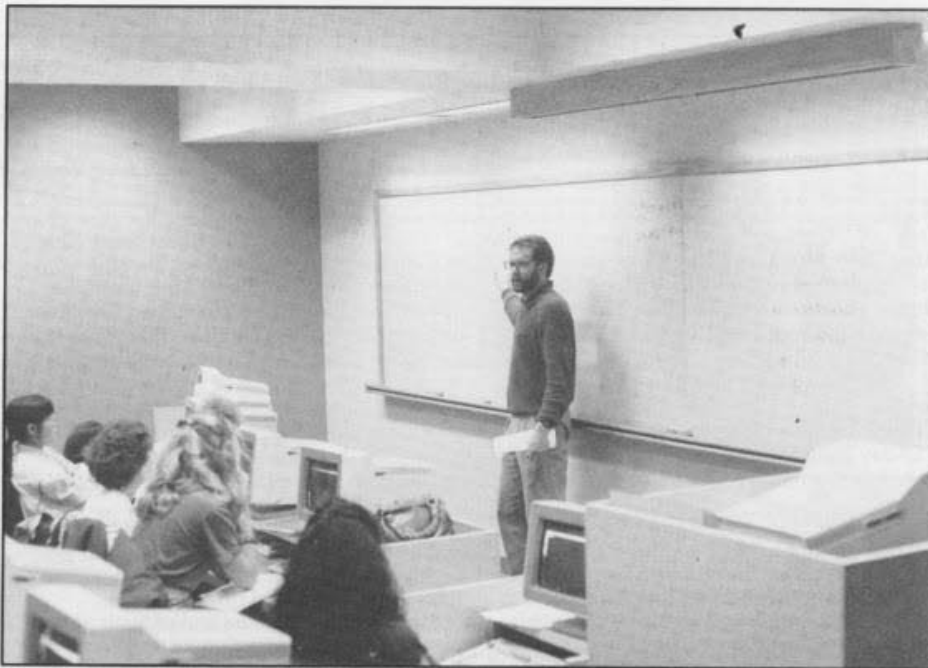
Dr. Orv Otten agrees with Van Rheenen, citing the warm, helpful and accepting personalities of fellow faculty members as a factor in making his transition from student to assistant professor of physical education an easy one.

Otten has high praise for Coach Larry Korver whom he feels has impacted, "almost to a man," all the football players

**"Northwestern has been such an important part of my life and family that I have a special feeling of ownership; it's truly my school."**

with whom he has worked over the years. Korver was especially influential in Otten's life and it is a privilege for him to now work alongside the man whom he has so greatly admired since his days as a student.

When he was asked to apply for his current position, Otten was excited by the opportunity to give back to the institution where he had spent four key years of his



Mark Vellinga '77 gives a computer science lecture in the DEMCO Center.

here. It's unusual to call Dr. Vander Werff "Lyle"; it seems that one name is too formal and the next is too informal! Overall I feel quite comfortable in the colleague-colleague relationship. People on the faculty are very supportive and helpful."

life. He says of Northwestern, "I do a lot of recruiting for football and it's really easy to get guys to come to Northwestern. We are a dynamic and growing college community which looks to the future and that's an excellent environment in which to live, work and learn."



# ON CAMPUS

## Capital campaign on track

Pledges resulting from several recent Sioux County Call to Commitment dinners, along with other significant gifts, have raised the current Expanding the Vision campaign total to more than \$5.5 million in cash and \$1.8 million in deferred gifts.

"I am extremely pleased at this point," commented Les Douma, vice president for development. "When you realize we've reached all of our goals so far, you see that the overall \$13 million goal is achievable."

When the five-year Call to Commitment: Expanding the Vision campaign was officially launched in October, over half of the total goal had been committed. That prompted campaign consultant Dr. Ron Mulder of Howard Braren Associates to remark that NWC's achievements at this stage of the campaign are the best of any of the more than 50 college fund-raising campaigns in which he has been involved.

Campaign dinners scheduled for March include: Alton, Carmel, Maurice, Newkirk, Rock Valley and Sheldon. The April agenda features Boyden, Des Moines and Middleburg, with May dinners being arranged for Le Mars, Sioux City and Sioux Falls. For more information, contact the development office, (712) 737-4821, ext. 111.

Plans continue for renovation to begin this summer on Fern Smith Cafeteria and Van Peursem Hall. FEH Associates of Sioux City, the architectural firm which is working on those projects, also has been contracted to design the new intercollegiate athletic center. Tentative plans for that facility include bid-letting next January with construction beginning in April of 1993 and completion during the fall of 1994. The campaign also includes restoration of Zwemer Hall, improvement of campus landscaping and

signage, and expansion of the college's endowment.

Preparations are being made for campus meetings of the campaign's Cabinet, National Leadership Committee and National Alumni Committee at Homecoming in the fall.



Campaign co-chairman Harold Korver '50, pastor of Emmanuel Reformed Church in Paramount, Calif., speaks at the first Orange City fund-raising dinner.

## Project aids Jamaican college

Nine NWC students flew to Montego Bay over Christmas break, but their time in Jamaica involved more paint and perspiration than sun and sand. Involved in a Winter Service Project, the students painted the interior and exterior of two residence halls at Jamaica Bible College in Mandeville and led worship services in area churches.

The Northwestern contingent raised \$8,000 for the 10-day Jamaican trip. Paint for the project was donated by Diamond-Vogel of Orange City.

## New group ministers in Southern California

A new group of eight students—Spirit '92—will bring a program of contemporary Christian praise music, drama sketches and testimonies to Christian high schools and churches in Southern California over Easter break (April 16-22).

Led by Jeff Barker, assistant professor of theatre, and Paul Blezien, dean for student affairs, Spirit '92 seeks to help high school students think seriously about what the Lord is calling them to do. "Our primary goal is to firm up the connection between the high school students and the Lord," explains Barker. "We are interested in turning these kids on to what a Christian college is and does, and more specifically, in communicating what the Holy Spirit is doing at Northwestern. If that excites them about getting serious in terms of God's call on

Director of Student Ministries Becky King said the trip was a tremendous learning experience for the students. "In spite of the poverty we saw there, the Jamaican Christians have a faith that far surpasses what we have in the States. They were grateful to have made it through another year in an economy that has 60 percent inflation and a high unemployment rate, and they looked to the Lord in faith to provide all their needs. The worship services echoed with faith, perseverance and hope."

their college career, then we've done our job."

The students will accompany their singing with a synthesizer and drum machine, saxophone, trumpet, bass and acoustic guitar, piano, and hand percussion instruments.

While in Southern California, Barker and Blezien will perform Barker's "Easter Week" play in area churches.

## A cappella Choir tours

Northwestern's A cappella Choir went on a short, three-state tour in February.

Performances were held in Sioux City, Omaha, and Overland Park, Kan. The 60-voice choir sang music by such composers as W.A. Mozart, John Rutter, Henry Purcell, Rene Clausen and Mark Hayes.

## Reaccreditation for social work program

Northwestern's social work program has been reaccredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The program will receive eight full years of continuing accreditation.

Accreditation of a program establishes its professional integrity, signifying that it has met nationwide standards. It also enhances acceptance of NWC social work graduates into graduate school and often provides them with the opportunity of advanced standing in graduate social work programs. Alumni of accredited programs may be given a full semester's credit, enabling them to complete a master's degree in social work in three semesters rather than the usual four.

Northwestern's social work major was established in 1977 and received initial accreditation 10 years later. The site team which visited Northwestern as part of the reaccreditation process was impressed with the quality of the college's graduates as well as with the satisfaction of alumni and local agencies with whom students work.

## Band tours Great Lakes region

The Symphonic Band gave concerts at 10 churches and two Christian high schools during a spring break tour of the Great Lakes region. Performance sites were in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan.

The 56-member band presented patriotic tunes, a piece based on "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee," and works by Charles Ives, Percy Grainger and Malcom Arnold.

## Students intern

Seventeen Northwestern students are interning and studying this semester in sites ranging from Sioux City and Chicago to Mexico City, Seattle and Washington, D.C.

Rachel Zylstra, a junior majoring in political science and economics, is enrolled in the American Studies Program in the nation's capital. She takes classes studying public policy issues and interns with the International Policy Council for Trade and Agriculture. Six NWC students are involved in a similar program at the Chicago Metropolitan Center. Junior Spanish major Laura Westbrook is studying in Mexico City.

## Service projects popular

Seventy-five students spent their spring break ministering to others.

The volunteers assisted urban ministries in New Orleans, Staten Island, N.Y., and Washington, D.C.; and orphanages in Mexico. The work varied from maintenance and painting to street evangelism, youth ministries and soup kitchen duties.

## Drama ensemble heads east

The Drama Ministries Ensemble performed at churches in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York over spring break.

The program included "The Fool" by James Mulholland, a drama centered around what it means to be wholly dedicated to Christ; and "The Pottery Class," a piece written by NWC's Jeff Barker, exploring the theme of knowing and following God's will.



# P R A N K S 101

## *Many alumni passed this course with ease*

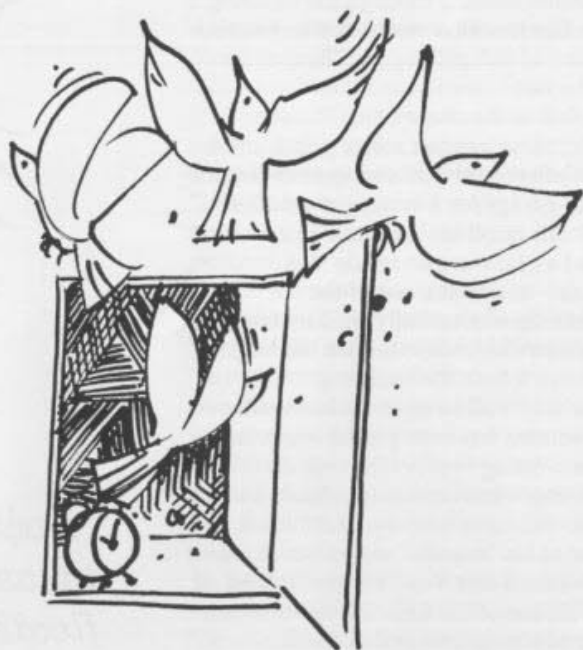
by Deborah Menning

When Christ Chapel opened its doors in 1988, the curtain came down on a Northwestern tradition - the chapel prank was history. Certainly, there have been a few isolated attempts to revive the phenomenon. However, for the most part, the stately presence of the new chapel defies pranksterism. Campus pranks as a whole, once a major pastime in a remote community, have taken a backseat to other amusements in the '90s. But the tradition lives in the collective memory of NWC alumni.

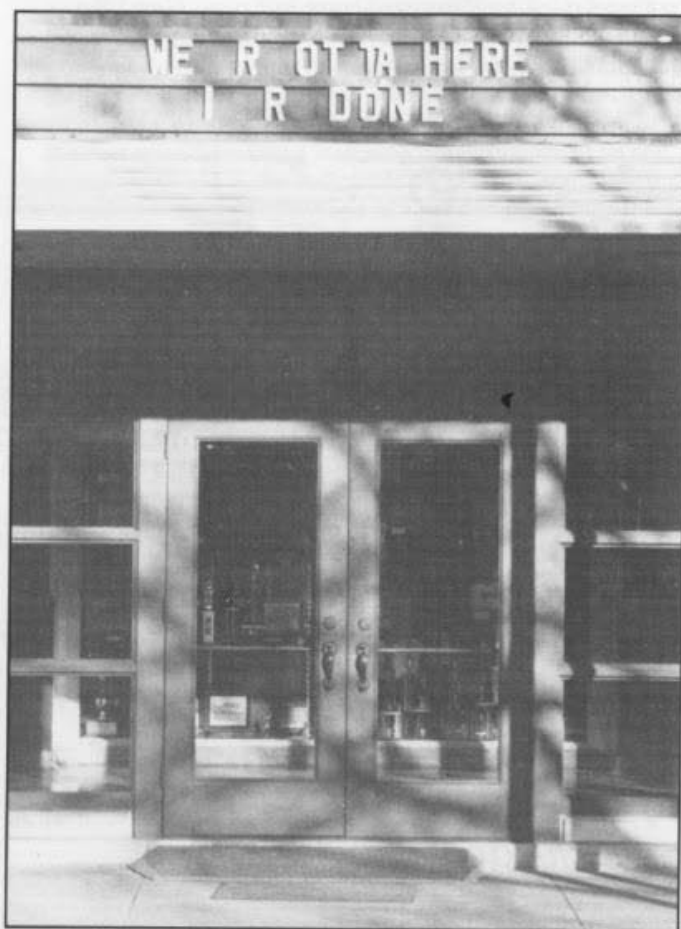
Dan '68 and Lolita (Van Der Vliet '66) Smith lay claim for their era to "the original chapel-chair theft." The 1965 yearbook, of which Lolita was the editor, carries a picture of the empty chapel floor adorned with hymnals spelling out "good morning." Chapel was held that morning in the gym. Dan claims the prank was orchestrated by two pre-sem students who hid the chairs everywhere imaginable around campus.

If this was the original chair stunt, it spawned many variations and became an annual observance. (Has everyone noticed that the seating in Christ Chapel is **permanent**?) Alumni Director Doug Van Berkum '62 remembers a pleasant morning when the

campus awoke to good weather and the chapel chairs arranged neatly on the quad. Chapel was held that day in the open. Ed Aronson '73 recalls the humiliation of his freshman year when he, along with all the other underclassmen, had to sit on the chapel floor for several days while the seniors, comfortably seated in the balcony, laughed knowingly. That time the chairs were found in the two window wells under the math-science wing.



*When the alarm clamored faithfully at 10 a.m., the chapel speaker opened the podium to release the trapped birds.*



This sign on the Auditorium normally says, "Northwestern Red Raiders. Go Big Red." But every once in awhile pranksters change its message to comment on topics like spring break (above) or the caliber of students who attend nearby institutions of higher education.

Tim Poppen '76 and Jed De Jong '81 tried variations on an old theme. Rather than removing all of the chapel chairs (too obvious), they simply carried away portions of rows leaving the arrangement to look normal. The result would be a good number of students arguing over which chair belonged to whom, people left standing in bewilderment and general chaos throughout the chapel. Poppen also says he was around when the chairs were

dispersed, two and three at a place, to every classroom on campus. Because the number of chairs in each room was small, they were relatively unnoticeable and "a real pain to collect." On one occasion, a large number of chairs disappeared altogether, not to be found until summer maintenance crews stumbled upon them.

As early as the 1950s, chapel was a key place to reek harmless havoc. Doug Van Berkum says, "When I was in school, the chapel doubled as a theater. Recesses for footlights lined the stage. Students often placed alarm clocks in those recesses set to go off at one or two minute intervals so that alarms rang throughout the chapel service." Doug is reluctant to reveal the source of some of these chapel pranks because "some of these guys are quite prominent people now."

Alarm clocks seem to be a motif for chapel pranks. Once again Tim Poppen and Jed De Jong both recall a prank involving an alarm clock and some pigeons. The pigeons were placed inside the speaker's podium along with an alarm set to ring 15 minutes after the start of chapel. When the alarm clamored faithfully at 10 a.m., the speaker opened the podium to release the trapped birds.

The chapel clock itself has even come into play. Greg Schoon '75 was an art student at the time. He turned the large wall clock in the chapel into a huge Mickey Mouse watch.



*"Actually, I didn't mind at all. It was below freezing outside so I figured it would do the old car good to be inside! The next afternoon, we filled the tires with a portable air compressor and simply pushed the car out the door."*

In the '80s, students became more inventive. Two pranks in this decade centered on rodents and a hole in the chapel's ceiling. Shortly before Christmas in 1981, Prof Roy Anker had the honor of being the chapel speaker on what he dubbed "the day of the best chapel prank ever."

Although people remember the incident with several variations, Tim Zeutenhorst '82, associate director of admissions, tells it this way, "During the service, two mice parachuted to perfection from the hole in the ceiling. They carried a sign reading 'Merry Christmas from Heemie 2nd Floor.' Everyone looked raptly up as they gently floated directly above Dr. Anker's head, their little feet furiously paddling the air. They hit the stage on a dead run and disappeared."

The mice were artfully rigged to little handkerchiefs. Their weight was proportioned neatly to give an air parachute effect. Many who witnessed their flight said "beautiful." The word "epic" also comes to mind.

Another stunt of legendary proportions occurred when a group of male students had been conducting experiments with a white rat. Throughout the semester they had pumped the rat on steroids and exercised him by placing him in a tank of water. By the time of the prank, the rat was the pro tour and looked the part.

Dr. Don Lindscoog was leading hymns as the rat, dressed in a red cape and dangling in his swimming harness, was lowered from the hole in the ceiling. His swing back and forth over the podium elicited a major laugh from the assembled students and staff. The laughter peaked as he disappeared back into the hole. Just as things were calming down, out the rat plummeted again, cape flapping madly about him. The source of this tale preferred to remain anonymous to protect his reputation.

Perhaps the only successful chapel prank pulled in Christ Chapel was executed as a going away present for Chaplain Doug Shepler. Laura Butcher '90 and Val Nelson '90 gathered 500 marbles and 2,500 BBs and rolled them simultaneously down the chapel's slanted floor during Doug's last service. The awesome sound made by the deluge has been likened to a rainstorm or a steamroller moving through the building. Monte Golden, who cleans in the chapel, says he was still picking up BBs months after the fact.

Second to the chapel, Van Peursesem Hall (VP) was another major prank arena. VP has often served as a tongue-in-cheek parking garage for a variety of vehicles. Dan Smith recollects a scheme that planted a grain wagon inside Van Peursesem. In the end, one of the perpetrators was actually paid by the administration to disassemble the wagon to remove it from the building.

The old "Volkswagen-in-the-Academic Hall" routine has been pulled a number of times. Doug Van Berkum recalls it happening when he was in school. Tim Poppen claims to have watched while several of his "friends" maneuvered his VW Fastback into Van Peursesem and let all of the air out of the tires. He continues, "To arouse suspicion and scare the culprits, I called the local police to report my car stolen. They came to the dorm and questioned the guys on my floor."

*"Actually, I didn't mind at all. It was below freezing outside so I figured it would do the old car good to be inside! The next afternoon, we filled the tires with a portable air compressor and simply pushed the car right out the door."*

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There's a picture of my car sitting in the hallway with Dr. Vander Werff teaching a class in the distance in the '74 yearbook. Stunts like that are pretty much impossible today. The buildings have all been updated and secured. Back then it was nothing to find your way into one of the buildings at night."

Several alumni wrote to us about the presidential pictures caper pulled off at Ramaker Library in 1978. Tim Vander Ploeg '79 calls it "the classiest prank of all" while admitting to a degree of prejudice since he was one of the masterminds behind the scheme.

Tim writes, "Pictures of some of the earlier presidents could not be located so empty frames were hung in their places. A group of us decided something had to be done about those empty spots. Since we didn't have pictures of the actual presidents, we decided to use the next best things. I took pictures of Doug De Jong '79, Mark Heijerman '78, David Landegent '78, Scott Stegenga '81 and myself. We enlarged the pictures so they would fit the frames and then hid in the library after hours to hang the new 'presidents' pictures."

"The prank received a lot of attention in the following days. *The Beacon* and the local newspaper both ran stories on it, using the opportunity to publicize the need for the real pictures. I believe pictures were eventually found for all of them."

Barb Scheevel, dorm mother in Heemstra Hall at the time, remembers that the participants went around the dorm for several days humming the theme from "Mission Impossible" as they prepared for the prank. Stan McDowell '74, the Colenbrander R.D., reflects that it took a day or two before anyone even noticed the fake presidents. "I think those guys had to start dropping hints to get people to look up at those pictures."

The women's residence halls had their share of high jinks. Lolita (Vander Vliet) Smith and Christina McGrinson '66 mischievously switched every pair of snow boots in Heemstra Hall one snowy winter night when that dorm was still inhabited by coeds. Mayhem resulted the next morning as first floor women found their boots as far away as the third floor.

Andrea Van Beek '74 was in on the Fern Smith "Toilet Paper Caper of 1974." She and several other women made themselves masks for anonymity before going through the entire dorm to remove every roll of toilet paper. They stored the TP above the ceiling tiles in the lounge areas of each floor. Panic was the order of the next morning!

Christine (Andrew '88) Johnson wrote in to tell us about the women R.A.'s who stole a pair of underwear from each male

*"An academically tense environment is akin to the intensity of drama. Just as the playwright provides a moment of comic relief on stage, a harmless prank allows the campus a brief respite from the demands of academia."*

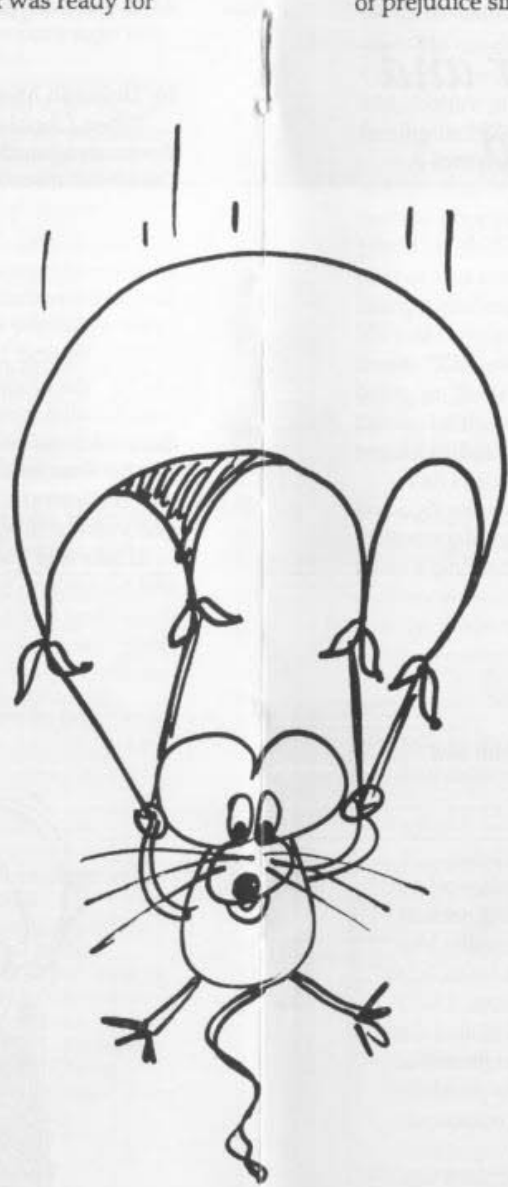
R.A., dyed them hot pink, signed one of their own names on them and returned them to the guys via campus mail.

Paul Blezien, dean for student affairs, sees a degree of value in harmless pranks. "One of their by-products is that they foster a sense of community from shared experience and memory. It's bonding to hold these pranks in common."

"At the same time, they provide a much needed release for students. An academically tense environment is akin to the intensity of drama. Just as the playwright provides a moment of comic relief on stage, a harmless prank allows the campus a brief respite from the demands of academia."

Blezien speculates that a lessening of restrictions in recent years may have led to the noticeable decrease in pranksterism. He wonders if students have less of a need to vent when the environment is more open. He also notes that the student affairs staff maintains a much higher profile now than in the past. Blezien himself makes it a point to drop in on a residence hall weekly. R.D.'s and R.A.'s spend more time on the floors.

"Pranks become legends that everyone involved with the college remembers," concludes Blezien. From the chuckles and whoops of the alumni interviewed on the topic, it's evident that campus pranks provide a heartfelt link to Northwestern that her alumni hold very dear.

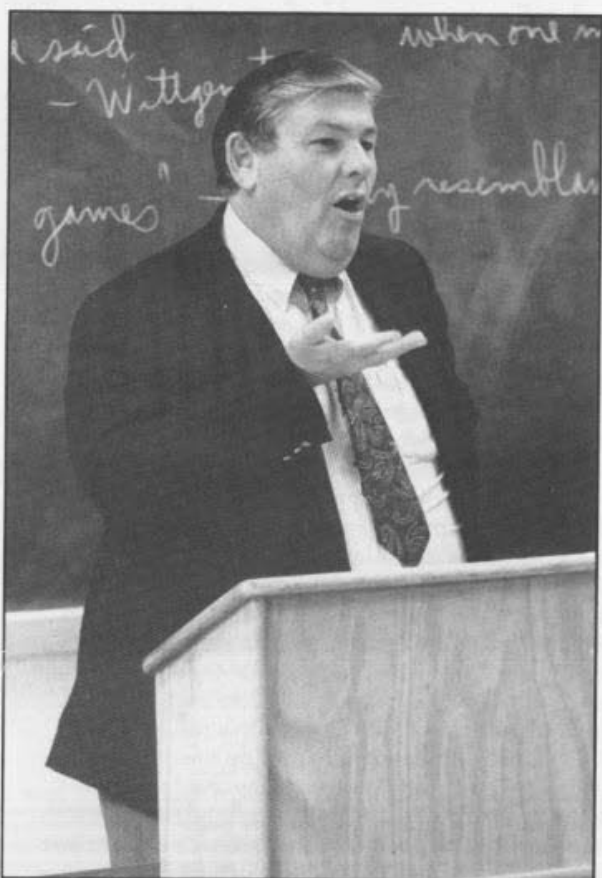


*"Everyone looked raptly up as the mice gently floated directly above Dr. Anker's head, their little feet furiously paddling the air. They hit the stage on a dead run and disappeared."*

*Pigeons, VW and mouse drawn by Jim Hill.*



# Stand and Deliver



*Jay Van Hook uses humor and animated teaching style to make philosophy come alive*

by Duane Beeson

*Dr. Jay Van Hook "has the ability to make philosophy about as relevant and exciting as any human can," says sophomore Scott Isebrand.*

Dr. Jay Van Hook has been known to say that he learned more about teaching from late-night comedians than from professors. If that is the case, many NWC students and alumni who have developed an interest in philosophy owe letters of thanks to Jay Leno or David Letterman.

By injecting his somewhat off-the-wall humor and down-to-earth examples into philosophy courses, Van Hook provokes lively discussions whether the topic is Descartes, Socrates or logical positivism. "He has the ability to make what a lot of people would think is boring—philosophy—about as relevant and exciting as any human can," says sophomore Scott Isebrand. "There are few professors on this campus who have as much fun as he does in the classroom."

Becky Vander Stoep agrees that Van Hook's love for philosophy is easy to see. "He gets really excited in the classroom, so that gets you excited about the material." Vander Stoep got so excited about the subject after taking an introductory course from Van Hook that she changed her major from mathematics to philosophy. Now a junior, she serves as his student

assistant.

One way Van Hook stimulates interest in philosophy is through his introduction of new thoughts to the class. "When he presents a new philosopher's view, he makes it sound as if he believes that person's idea," says Vander Stoep. "He takes on the philosophy as though it's his own, so that it seems like we're talking to the real philosopher who came up with the idea."

Van Hook also has mastered the art of involving students' emotions in the classroom. "He says things that he knows people will object to because he wants them to argue with him, to really think about everything he's saying," Vander Stoep comments. "When you have so much feeling about a topic, you learn it better."

The philosophy professor used that technique to help Nolan Palsma '77 stretch his faith development. Palsma, now a Reformed Church in America pastor in North Syracuse, N.Y., tells it this way, "I was rather early in my Christian faith and hung onto the theory of faith more than reason. Dr. Van Hook named two new

philosophical concepts—The Nolan Notion and the Palsma Principle—which had to do with my always going back to faith, almost using faith as a crutch. He was saying that there needs to be an equal balance between faith and reason. I was leaning more on the side of faith and thus really stifling my own spiritual growth. He was trying to allow me to expand my faith by using the principle of reason in philosophy."

While animated, demonstrative and even passionate in his teaching style, Van Hook doesn't want students to just clone his opinions or beliefs. "He doesn't like to tell us what he thinks, because he wants us to think on our own," says Vander Stoep. The Rev. Palsma adds, "He wasn't the final word. He wanted to plant the seed so we would be able to do philosophy. Philosophy, like the Christian walk, isn't something that can be completed; it's always ongoing."

Van Hook, a New Jersey native, began the path toward becoming a philosophy teacher as a pre-seminary student and philosophy major at Calvin College. "I was interested in the history of ideas and I

had one teacher in particular—William Harry Jellema—who made those ideas come very much alive. He was a great teacher and was responsible for the fact that many, many philosophy majors at Calvin during that period of time went on to become philosophers."

After Calvin, Van Hook received a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship to work on a Ph.D. in philosophy at Columbia University. He taught eight years at Hood College, a women's college in Frederick, Md., before joining the Northwestern faculty in 1974.

A forthright and outspoken individual, Van Hook is not afraid to criticize college administrators or other philosophers on issues dear to his heart. "Perhaps part of this critical nature comes from being a philosopher, I don't know, maybe it's just temperament," is his self-assessment. "Others have attributed it to my being an Easterner—Eastern directness. I can be tactful if I have to, but I really would rather not."

Van Hook's Eastern directness comes through when he starts talking about Western philosophy. "If I have changed at all as a philosopher and as a teacher, it's that my own philosophical education was strictly Western philosophy. As far as we

ever heard in graduate school, nothing else existed. For many years I was content to teach that Western philosophy as if that's all we needed to bother with. In the last five to 10 years, I have developed a very uneasy conscience. I think Western culture's very important to teach; cultural literacy is one of the themes I try to stress. But I can no longer live with the idea that we can ignore other cultures. I think we simply have to be much broader in our approach to education than we were."

Van Hook is bothered by the fact that so few of his Christian philosophy colleagues across the country feel the same way. "I think Christian philosophy in America today is little more than fiddling while Rome burns. I think there's a lot of nitpicking and intellectual hairsplitting going on in the name of philosophy."

"It seems to me that the main thrust of what's going on in most Christian colleges in philosophy yet is basically some version of the analytic philosophy that has prospered in the Anglo-American world in the 20th century," Van Hook asserts. "I don't think a lot of contemporary American Christian philosophers, even such influential leaders as Alvin Plantinga, have been willing to face the real challenges of our time. There is relatively little attention even to continental philosophy, let alone philosophy of Asia and Africa or anywhere else. In many cases philosophy has become little more than a sophisticated intellectual exercise that only other philosophers can understand or care about."

At Northwestern, Van Hook has strived to make the philosophy program international and pluralistic while grounded in a Christian perspective. "In all of my courses, I have the goal of trying to develop sensitivities to race, gender and culture. In some courses this has resulted in at least a small unit in Third World philosophy." In addition, Van Hook will teach a new course in African philosophy next year. "I wanted to focus on Africa for a couple of reasons: I had been there, I had developed an interest in it and found it fascinating. The other thing was that various professors at Northwestern were dealing with parts of the globe such as Asia, the Mideast, Mexico, Central and South America, but no one was really doing much with Africa, so I thought that would be a good place to begin."

Van Hook's emphasis in multicultural education and pluralism will be seen in an upcoming issue of *Christian Scholar's Review*, a journal which is sponsored by NWC and several other Christian colleges. Van Hook, who serves as the publication's associate editor for philosophy and theology, is the guest editor for this issue



Students in Van Hook's courses find there's never a dull moment.

that will include several articles on the challenges and opportunities facing Christian higher education at the end of the 20th century.

Working with *Christian Scholar's Review* is just one way Van Hook contributes to Christian scholarship and the academic community. He has had articles and book reviews appear in *Reformed Journal* and other publications, and in 1981, the University of Illinois Press printed *Jacques Ellul: Interpretive Essays*, a book Van Hook co-edited with Cliff Christians.

Van Hook's research has focused on the works of scholars Ellul, Paul Tillich and Richard Rorty, and the topic of Reformed epistemology. Some of his most recent efforts have dealt with African philosophy. Although research can be a lonely and tedious process, the payoff for Van Hook is the opportunity to present papers about his work at meetings of such organizations as the American Philosophical Association, the Society of Christian Philosophers and the Iowa Philosophical Society.

"One of the things I enjoy the most is to present a paper at a conference," Van Hook says. "The adrenaline really flows when you know you're on the spot and there are people out there in the audience who are going to be ready to ask questions and jump all over you. You don't know where they're going to come from and you have to try to survive the give and take. It's sort of like a game, I guess."

Do you suppose that's the way late-night comedians feel?

## Up Close

**FAMILY:** Wife, Mary, faculty member, University of Michigan School of Social Work; children: Carolyn '87, solid waste researcher, EPA, Washington, D.C.; Stephen, graduate student in physics, University of California—Berkeley; Suzanne, senior in political science, Carleton College; and John, senior, Unity Christian High School, Orange City

**POST-DOCTORAL STUDY:** University of Michigan, visiting scholar in philosophy, 1987-88; Princeton University, visiting fellow in philosophy, 1980-81

**FELLOWSHIPS:** Recipient of three National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar Fellowships, studying 18th century British sources of early American rhetoric, philosophy of religion, and politics and morality

**LEISURE:** Travel, gardening, tennis

**MUSICAL INTERESTS:** The Beatles, Paul Simon, Simon and Garfunkel, classical music

**CHURCH INVOLVEMENT:** American Reformed Church, videographer and past adult Sunday school teacher

**DREAM:** To have a student go on to earn a Ph.D. in philosophy

# The People Builder

by Duane Beeson

"Winners in life make things happen. Losers let things happen."

If the 1974 *De Klompen* had listed the graduating seniors who were "Most Likely to Succeed," Glenn Van Ekeren would not have received that distinction. In fact, he wouldn't have even made the cut!

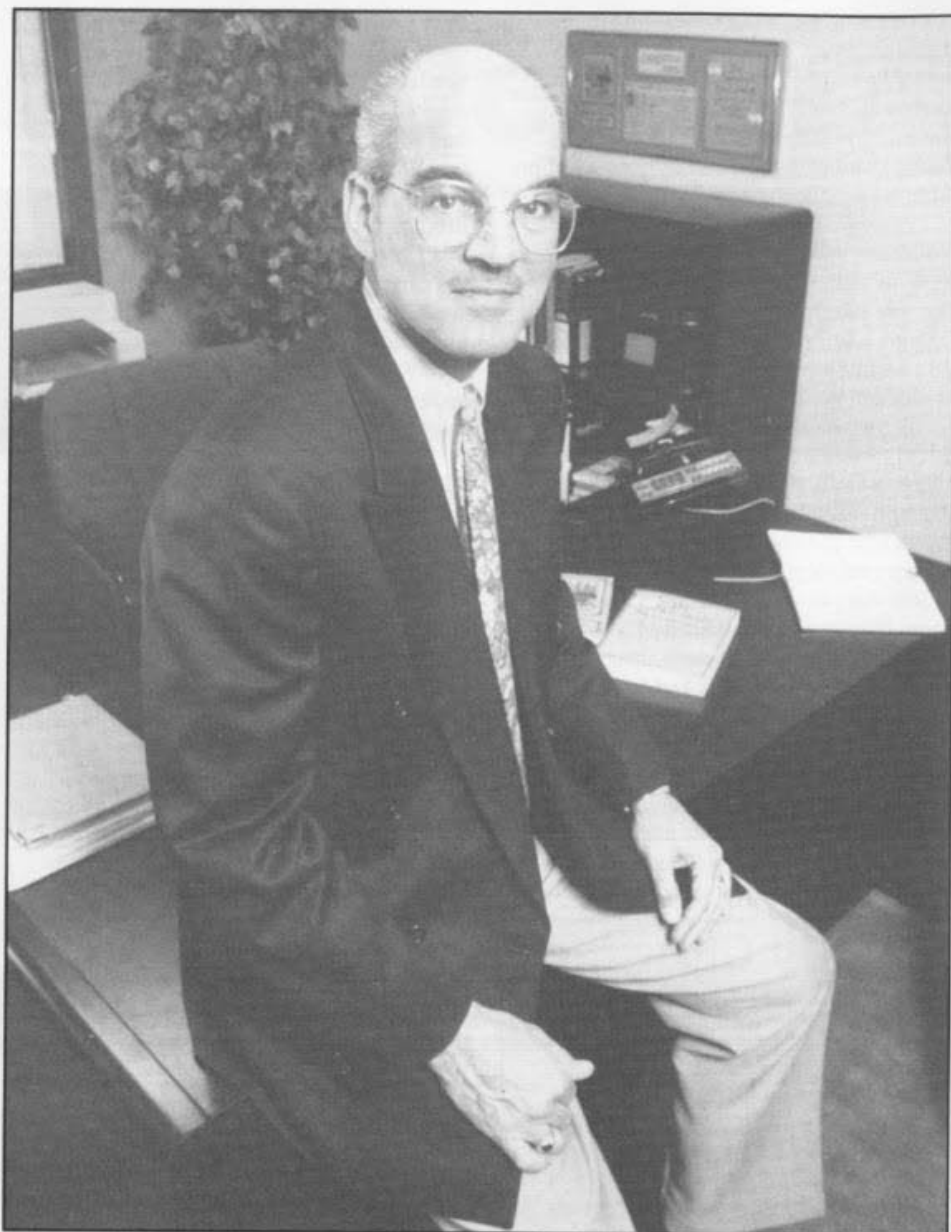
By his own description, Van Ekeren was "in the half of the class that makes the upper half possible." Without any motivation or goals for his life, attending Northwestern was a frightening experience, a time spent just struggling to survive. At commencement, someone very close to him said, "I never thought you could do it!" That person wasn't the only one; Van Ekeren himself says he "had had a lifestyle of believing I would fail."

After graduation, the psychology and sociology major worked in a variety of human services positions, eventually serving as executive director of the Harmony Home in rural Orange City. Still, he says, he was living in a survival mentality.

The beginning of a new direction for Van Ekeren came at age 27. He was having a self-pity party when a mentor said that he believed in him. "He told me that it was time for me to believe in myself, that I needed to start using the talents and abilities God had given me and stop dwelling on the past," Van Ekeren recalls. "That became the springboard for me to go out and achieve."

Today he is the author of three books (published by Prentice-Hall), a motivational speaker, and a voracious reader. "I spent a lot of time lagging that I have to catch up for," he says. "I have a lot that I want to do. I go after life with vim, vigor and zeal." Bob Hoogeveen '57, executive director of Village Northwest Unlimited in Sheldon, Iowa, says Van Ekeren lives every moment to the fullest. "Without question, he's the most productive young man I've ever worked with. He's deeply motivated, creative and energetic."

Since 1979, Van Ekeren has been a staff member at Village Northwest, a private, non-profit agency that provides residen-



*Glenn Van Ekeren '74 is dedicated to helping people and organizations maximize their potential. In demand as a speaker and author, Van Ekeren directs the People Building Institute and serves as director of people development at Village Northwest Unlimited in Sheldon, Iowa.*

tial, vocational and therapeutic programs for some 160 persons with developmental, physical or head injury disabilities. His title has changed from personnel director to director of people development, reflecting Van Ekeren's efforts to expand beyond the responsibility of hiring and firing to the role of creating an environment in which employees feel fulfilled and appreciated.

He also serves as director of People Building Institute (PBI), a division of Village Northwest that was started in 1986 to incorporate Van Ekeren's growing involvement as a public speaker. PBI provides consultation, seminars, products and keynotes that will maximize people and organizational potential. Van Ekeren conducts about 60 seminars a year, for such organizations as the Iowa Health

Care Association, Maytag Corporation, South Dakota Law Enforcement Officials, US West, Iowa State University and Land O'Lakes.

"When I was a young child, my parents were faithful churchgoers. Although the morning sermon never meant much to me, I still recall the opportunity it presented to gather in front of the sanctuary for a special children's message. Children's sermons captured the attention of a young audience. Why? Because they were laced with threads of remarkable yet believable stories. Our little minds could suddenly envision the minister's words. The major point of each short speech was better understood through the application of these illustrations to our young lives."



One reason Van Ekeren is in demand as a motivational speaker is his effective use of stories to make messages come alive. "Stories really pack a point for me," he explains. "Just as Christ used parables all the time, I believe that stories, quotes and illustrations can be a powerful way to communicate a message."

Many of Van Ekeren's stories are from his own life experiences, which is another reason for his success as a speaker. "I really believe that if you're going to be effective as a speaker you must speak from a prepared life as well as prepared lines. People need more than information, they need some heart in it, they need to understand that you've been there and that you believe in what you're saying." Van Ekeren's personal metamorphosis and his experiences at Village Northwest provide much fodder for talks on such topics as self-esteem, visionary leadership, relationships, stress management and team building.

Van Ekeren also is an avid collector of stories from numerous other sources, filling drawers with speech material. His resource library is so extensive that he was asked by Prentice-Hall to write *The Speaker's Sourcebook: Quotes, Stories and Anecdotes for Every Occasion*. The handbook, published in 1988, is filled with support material for speakers. There are 257 stories, over 450 anecdotes and more than 425 quotes, on topics ranging from adversity and creativity to encouragement, love, and worries. With 30,000 copies sold, the Van Ekeren/Prentice-Hall partnership went on to publish the revised versions of *Braude's Treasury of Wit and Humor for all Occasions* (1991), a 1,400 entry book; and *The Complete Speakers and Toastmasters Library* (1992), which evolved from an eight-volume series to one volume of more than 1,000 pages. Van Ekeren is now working on *The Speaker's Sourcebook II: Thoughts on Life and Other Interesting Things*, which Prentice-Hall should publish in late 1993 or early 1994.

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"Andrew Carnegie told a reporter, 'Building people is much like mining for gold. Tons and tons of dirt are removed until that shiny precious metal appears. Miners don't spend their time looking for dirt. They remove the dirt and concentrate on locating that single ounce of gold. Building people begins with looking for gold, the good, the talents in people. Then develop these precious attributes. Create the opportunities for people to recognize their value and potential.' Look for the gold and then mine it."

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While Van Ekeren enjoys giving speeches and writing books, he finds equal pleasure in his duties as Village

Northwest's director of people development. "It's staff that make this place something special," he says. "I get extremely excited about building and tapping the creative powers of staff."

The main way this is done is through efforts of Village Northwest University, a division of Village Northwest that provides a broad spectrum of activities, involvement and education to enhance staff members' personal and professional growth. The University offers an in-service training program as well as

## Up Close

### COMMUNITY SERVICE: NWC

National Alumni Board, Elder at Bethel Reformed Church, Kiwanis, The American Society for Training and Development, The National Speakers Association and Society for Human Resource Management

### HOBBIES: Writing, golfing, reading

FAVORITE AUTHORS: Dr. Steven Covey, Joe Batten, Zig Ziglar, Denis Waitley

LIFE'S MOTTO: To be excited and enthusiastic about every minute of every day

### WHY HE SUPPORTS NWC:

"Northwestern's value system and purpose are the driving forces for who they are and what they do. I like being associated with any organization that has a strong mission and strong values because ultimately it will be successful. What I like is that Northwestern raises young people to Christian standards; that's the motivator for why I'm involved with Northwestern."

extensive staff involvement in enhancing spiritual life; promoting an environment of encouragement, recognition and appreciation; and creating a fun work situation for the 310 Village employees.

Groups of staff members known as Staff Action-Involvement Teams (SA-IT) meet regularly to develop and carry out projects designed to enhance the quality of work life for staff and the quality of service provided to residents. Among the teams are: People in Loving Labor Affecting Residents (PILLAR), a group for the midnight to 8 a.m. workers; Professional Nurses United Together (P-NUT); Secretarial Pursuit of Achievement, Responsibility and Knowledge (SPARK); Special Thanks and Recognition System (STARS);

Senior Counselor Associate Team (SCAT); and the Fun Committee.

"We have an MIB philosophy—Make It Better," says Van Ekeren. "When we hire staff, we tell them immediately that they're not being hired for their backs but for their brains. They are the fresh idea people; we want them to think about ways in which we can make the Village a better place to be." This philosophy is illustrated best by the Staff Speak and Board/Administrators Listen (SSABAL) team. Direct line staff are chosen each year to represent their various work areas. They meet with the Board of Directors and Leadership Cabinet over dinner, sharing their hopes and dreams for the future of the Village. "Over the years, we've had more than 700 ideas presented at SSABAL," Van Ekeren reports. The next morning the Leadership Cabinet goes on a retreat, spending a large amount of time discussing the ideas brought up by staff members.

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"A pig was depressed about his lack of popularity. He complained to the cow that people were always talking about her gentleness and her kind eyes, while his name was used in a derogatory manner. He admitted that cows gave milk and cream, but he was convinced that pigs gave more. 'Why, we give bacon and ham and pork chops, and people even pickle our feet,' he grumbled. 'I don't see why you cows are held in such high esteem.'"

The cow thought for a while and then said gently, 'Maybe it's because we cows are giving while we're living.'"

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Van Ekeren says his purpose in life is to positively affect others. His success in that is evidenced by the letters he receives from people who say they've been touched by his books, PBI newsletter, or speeches. His work has influenced many speakers and authors, including syndicated columnist Linda Ellerbee who used one of his stories to illustrate a point in a column last July.

While he loves to work, Van Ekeren finds a balance by spending time with his family. Matt, 11, and Katy, nine, "are the pride and joy of my life. I want to attend every T-Ball game my children play, every swim meet they're involved in," he says.

And if it weren't for his wife, Marty, *The Speaker's Sourcebook* or other Van Ekeren publications would not exist. "Her patience, her tolerance and her encouragement are non-ending. She's always there to encourage me that if I really want to, I can do more."

# A Season to Remember

by Duane Beeson

Southwest State was the 1991 Northwestern volleyball team's opponent in both the season opener and the season finale. In between, NWC packed many great memories and record-setting achievements.

Only three letterwinners returned from the 32-9 team of 1990 that won NWC's first-ever District 15 volleyball title and the IoKota Conference crown, and Coach Mike Meyer was faced with the task of integrating six freshmen with five returnees.

Southwest State dominated the first match: 13-15, 2-15, 8-15. But NWC recovered to record a 28-5 regular season mark, including complete sweeps of three tournaments.

"Our athletic ability and coming together as a team was far beyond what I expected it to be," said senior co-captain Robin Pals. One of the main reasons for that was the melding of the younger players with the veterans. "The three returning upperclassmen accepted the younger kids who were going to play such a vital role," commented Meyer. "They put the team ahead of themselves."

Another key was a well-attended weekly Bible study. Subject matter ranged from Serendipity studies to topics such as relationships and the compatibility of Christianity and competitiveness. "There were a lot of good things that happened on the team this year, in addition to our success on the court," said Pals.

The Raiders went unbeaten in the IoKota, placed third in the Nebraska-Iowa Athletic Conference (NIAC) behind nationally-ranked Hastings and Doane, and then repeated as District 15 champs. A tough three-game Bi-District win at home over National-Louis University of Evanston, Ill., gave NWC its first-ever national tournament berth.



Mike Meyer '79 was named Central Region Volleyball Coach of the Year while Amy Jeltema, left, and Robin Pals earned third-team All-American honors.



At nationals the Raiders lost to second-seeded Hawaii-Hilo and seventh-seeded Fresno Pacific, but beat tourney host Fort Hays State. With no chance to advance to the semi-finals, only one match remained. NWC's desire to end the year on a high note was coupled with another motivation: the opponent was nationally-ranked Southwest State.

"We talked a lot about not wanting to end the season the way we started it," said Meyer. The result was vindication, a solid NWC victory (15-4, 15-3). "We played extremely well," Meyer reported.

Post-season honors poured in for the 34-7 Raiders, who broke the school record for most wins that had been set last year.

Robin Pals and Amy Jeltema, both graduates of Orange City Unity Christian High School, were named to the NAIA All-American third team.

For Pals, who used her last season of eligibility this fall and is now on a fellowship in Northwestern University's Ph.D. program in molecular biology, being named an All-American was the crowning touch for an outstanding



Team members celebrate after winning the Bi-District title.

## FINAL NAIA NATIONAL STATISTICS

### Team Rankings

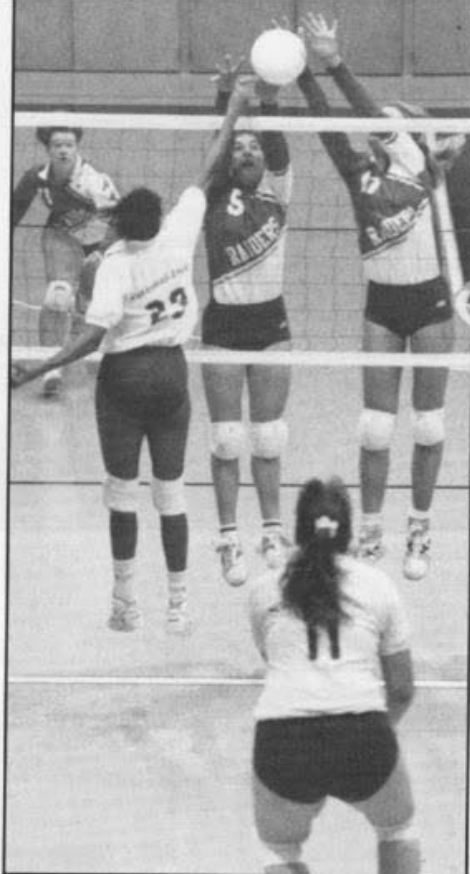
Hitting Percentage: 2.) NWC (0.3370)  
Kills/Game: 6.) NWC (14.179)  
Assists/Game: 7.) NWC (12.527)  
Total Blocks/Game: 8.) NWC (3.085)

### Individual Rankings

Hitting Percentage: 2.) Amy Jeltema (0.4392)  
Kills/Game: 8.) Amy Jeltema (4.261)  
Assists/Game: 2.) Kristie De Boer (11.702)  
Service Aces/Game: 10.) Robin Pals (0.811)

athletic career. She had already compiled numerous awards, among them the 1990 GTE/CoSida Academic All-American Co-Athlete of the Year title in volleyball, several NAIA Scholar-Athlete honors, and NAIA All-American kudos in track last spring for placing fifth nationally in the discus.

Jeltema, who led Unity to the 1990 state championship and was named Iowa's Class A Player of the Year, became the



Kristie De Boer and Ann Sybesma collaborate for a block in the Bi-District match.

only freshman in the nation to earn NAIA All-American honors this season.

Pals was tabbed the District 15 Player of the Year and was joined on the all-district team by Jeltema and junior co-captain Ann Sybesma of Spirit Lake. Those three made the All-IoKota first team with junior Jenn Manders of Spencer chosen for the second team. All-NIAC first team honors went to Pals and Jeltema, with Sybesma and Manders making the second team.

Meyer, who graduated from NWC in 1979, was named the District 15 Coach of the Year for the second consecutive time and earned Central Region Volleyball Coach of the Year honors from the American Volleyball Coaches Association. He has created a volleyball dynasty at NWC, having compiled an 87-26 record in his three years as coach.

The future continues to look bright. With the exception of Pals, all of this year's letterwinners will be back: Jeltema, Sybesma, Manders, and freshmen Kristie De Boer of Orange City, Tricia Rens of Ireton, Suzanne Riche of Council Bluffs, and Nicole Haack of Sheldon.

After tasting success, the returning players don't want to let up. As a result, NWC has accepted invitations to two major tournaments which perennially feature highly ranked teams. Northwestern will start off 1992 at the NAIA Pre-Season Classic in Marshall, Minn., hosted by—you guessed it—Southwest State.



# Men hoopsters ranked

A short but hard-working Red Raider squad held third place in the NAIA Division II national rankings in early February. Northwestern was 16-3 and 6-0 in the Nebraska-Iowa Athletic Conference.

With seven players averaging at least eight points a game, Coach Todd Barry was blessed with depth. Scott Van Egdom of Alcester, S.D., led the team with more than 22 points and 11 rebounds per contest. A 62.6 percent field goal shooter, Van Egdom had the rare honor of being named District 15 Division II Player of the Week two times in a

## National kudos to three

Three Northwestern football players have received national post-season honors.

Mike Ehn, a senior offensive guard from Laurens, was named to the NAIA Division II All-American second team. He also was among six NWC players chosen for the all-district team.

Joel Bundt and Troy Vander Stouwe were named NAIA Scholar-Athletes. Bundt is an offensive tackle from Glidden. A senior with one year of athletic eligibility remaining, Bundt carries a 3.86 grade point average as a mathematics major. Vander Stouwe, a senior from Sioux Center, also was named to the GTE/CoSida District Seven Academic All-American second team. An all-district defensive tackle, Vander Stouwe is a business administration major with a 3.83 GPA.



Mike Ehn



Joel Bundt



Troy Vander Stouwe

## Runners off to fast start

In the opening weeks of the indoor track season, several runners earned first places.

Freshman Kay Pals of Orange City won the 3000 meter run at the Northwestern Invitational and at a University of South Dakota meet. The men's sprint medley team captured first at another USD invitational and at the home meet. Sioux Center senior Laura Bleeker qualified for the nationals by running a 1:22.90 in the 500 meter dash for second place at home.

## Wrestlers qualify

As of Feb. 1, four Raider wrestlers had qualified for the NAIA national meet.

Keith Lamfers, a junior heavyweight from Ashton, and Kyle Lewis, a sophomore 150-pounder from Des Moines, qualified in the first meet of the season.

Later in the year, 190 pound senior John Ohling of Rock Rapids and 177 pound sophomore Mike Rozeboom of Boyden also earned a trip to the nationals.

row, Jan. 26 and Feb. 2. That stretch included a 41 point effort in a victory over Hastings, a game in which he earned 80 percent of his field goals and 90 percent of his free throws.

Also averaging in double figures for NWC were Orange City sophomore Craig Douma with 14 and Kris Korver, a Paramount, Calif., senior, with 10.3. By pouring in more than 95 points a game, Northwestern was ranked ninth nationally in team scoring. The team's free throw percentage (.796) and rebounding percentage (0.557) were ranked second and fourth in the nation, respectively.

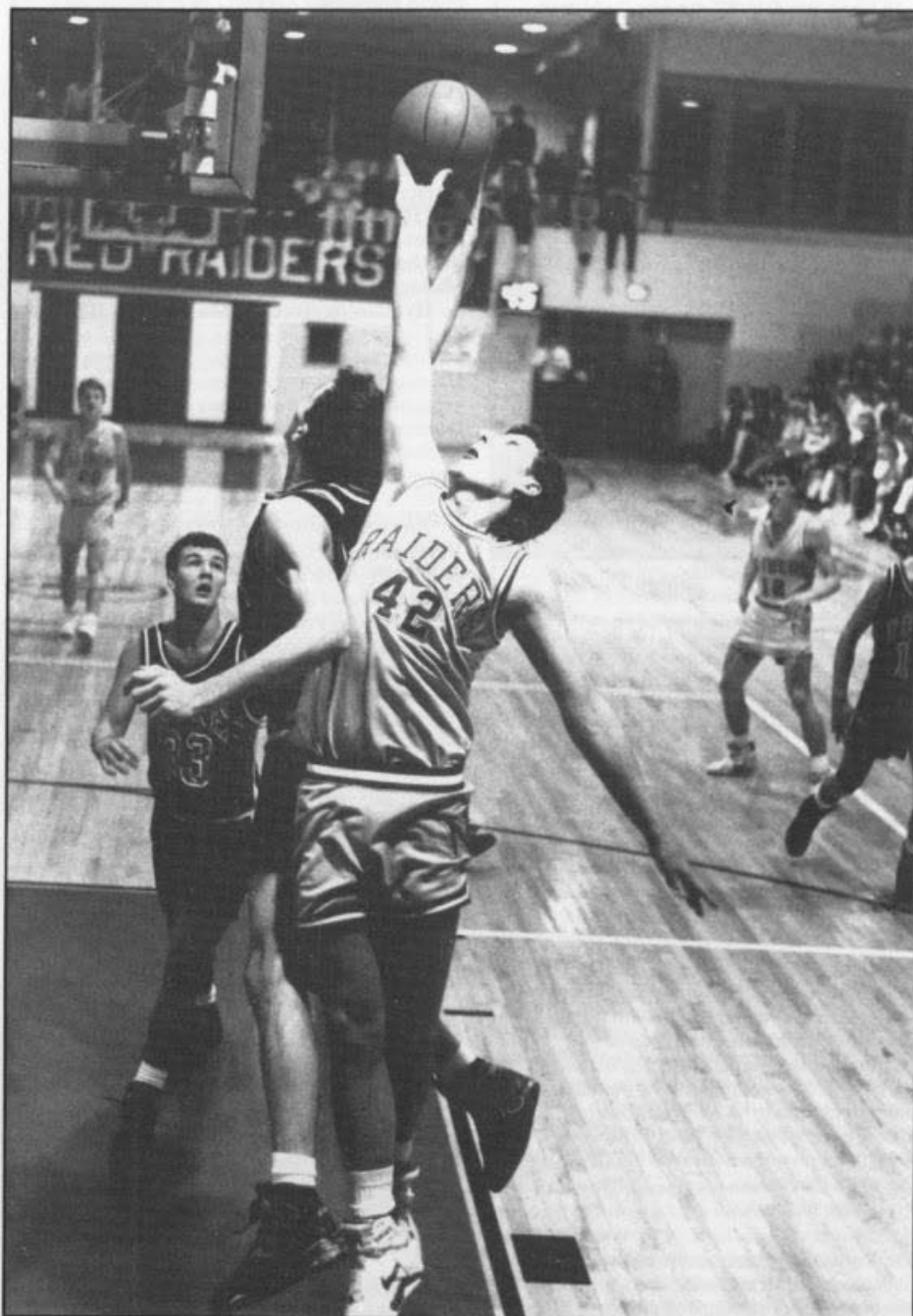
The Red Raiders won their sixth consecutive Taco John's Holiday Tournament championship, beating arch-rival Briar Cliff, 78-75, for the title.

## Women first in IoKota

Coach Mike Meyer's Lady Raiders finished 7-1 in the IoKota Conference, clinching at least a tie for the title. As of Feb. 1, the squad was 11-8 overall and 3-3 in the Nebraska-Iowa Athletic Conference.

J.J. Korver, a 5'10" junior from Orange City, was selected as the District 15 Division II Player of the Week on Jan. 19. She averaged 16 points while the Raiders won two games and lost one that week, hitting 50 percent of her field goals and 80 percent at the charity stripe.

For the season, Korver was averaging 14.6 points a game to lead NWC. Also averaging in double digits were Vonda Van Farowe of Pollock, S.D., (12.8); Ann Sybesma of Spirit Lake (10.9); and Beth Moss of Granada, Minn., (10.3).



Scott Van Egdom reaches for a rebound in NWC's 108-105 home victory over Doane. The 6'5" senior's average of more than 11 rebounds a game ranked in the top 10 nationally.



# FACULTY/STAFF NEWS

**Dr. Ronald Takalo**, associate professor of Spanish, is on sabbatical this semester. He spent two weeks in Mexico and Texas, videotaping speakers from Spanish-speaking countries and various elements of the Mexican culture. Back on campus, he edited those materials for use in his NWC classes. He also made a presentation about computer software at Winterfest, a conference in Decatur, Ill., sponsored by the Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. He is now teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) at Okinawa Christian Junior College in Japan while also conducting research and giving talks on teaching ESL.

An article by **Mary Van Rheenen**, instructor in sociology, appeared in the November issue of *The Church Herald*. The essay, entitled "The Business of Creation," recounts Van Rheenen's struggles with evolution versus creation as a graduate school anthropology student.

**Barb De Boer**, formerly a senior accountant with Williams and Company CPA in Orange City, began her duties as Northwestern's comptroller in November. The Dordt College alumna already was familiar with NWC's business office, having supervised audit teams for Northwestern in the past.



Barb De Boer

A Certified Public Accountant, De Boer has been active in community service as a member of the Orange City Ambassadors, assistant treasurer of the Orange City Hospital Auxiliary and board member of Bethany Christian Services—Northwest Iowa.

De Boer replaces **Vonda Post '88**, who is now assistant professor of business and economics. Post is a Certified Public Accountant who earned a master's degree in accounting from the University of South Dakota. Post succeeds Carolyn Johnson who now has an accounting position in Sioux Falls.

**Dr. George Stickel**, associate professor of education, presided over the Midwest Philosophy of Education Society's November meeting in Chicago. Stickel, the group's 1990-91 president, had two papers selected for inclusion in the 1989-90 Proceedings: "The Semiotic Logic of Habit in Learning: A View of Charles Sanders Peirce's Theories" and "The Neurophilosophy of a Sensorial Epistemology: A Theory of Perception from G.H. Mead's Second Stage of the Act."

**Dr. Robert Lay**, assistant professor of Christian education and religion, was elected in December as vice president of the Siouxland Council for Christian Enrichment and Education. He will serve as that organization's president in 1992-93.

**Dr. Lyle Vander Werff**, professor of religion and director for international programs, represented the Reformed Church in America at the meeting of The Caribbean and North American Area Council of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. The conference was held at St. Mary, Jamaica, from Feb. 28 to March 2. Delegates participated in worship services and encouraged the local ministry of evangelism.

**Dwight Hymans**, who had been a mental health therapist with Bethesda Christian Counseling Services in Orange City since 1988, is now an assistant professor of social work. He replaces Dr. Mary Van Hook, who left to join the faculty at the University of Michigan.



Dwight Hymans

Hymans received the Master of Social Work degree from the University of Iowa and a bachelor's degree in sociology from Iowa State University. His work experience includes 10 years as director of social services at Village Northwest Unlimited in Sheldon and part-time teaching experience at Dordt College and the University of South Dakota.

An article co-written by **Dr. G. Henry Veldhuis**, associate professor of physics, was published in the Autumn 1991 issue of *Journal of Computer-Based Instruction*. The article, "Use of Computers by Physics and Physical Science Teachers," was co-written by Veldhuis and Dr. Thomas Andre, a faculty member in psychology at Iowa State University. The two surveyed Iowa physics and physical science teachers concerning their use of computers in teaching.

**Dr. Eric Elder**, associate professor of business and economics, is the author of an article included in the *Survey of Social Science: Economics*, which was published in October by Salem Press. The piece explains the Coase Theorem, which has to do with using market forces to solve pollution and similar problems. Ronald Coase was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1991 for his work which generated this theorem.

A biography of **Dr. E.W. (Bill) Kennedy**, professor of religion, has been included in the fourth edition of *Who's Who in Religion*. Published by Marquis Who's Who, the volume is an up-to-date source of biographical information on the influential, intellectual and ecclesiastical leaders in religion worldwide. Inclusion in the book is based on the position and noteworthy achievements of the individuals selected.

**John Kaericher**, associate professor of art, conducted a printmaking workshop for Area 4 art teachers in October. During the daylong workshop in Bushmer Art Center the teachers produced an etching.

Another honor has been bestowed upon **Dr. Sylvio Scorza**, professor emeritus of religion. He was selected by Iowa Governor Terry Branstad to be the 1991 recipient of the Iowa State Victory Award, which is sponsored by the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Scorza was chosen for exemplifying inner strength, tenacity of purpose, integrity of effort and courage in overcoming the challenges of a spinal cord injury. He represented Iowa at the Victory Awards salute Nov. 18 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. His trip to Washington included a tea reception with Barbara Bush and meetings with Senator Charles Grassley and Congressman Fred Grandy.

Scorza, who retired from NWC in 1990 after 31 years on the faculty, was the 1990 recipient of the Governor's Award from the Iowa Commission of Persons with Disabilities. That distinction recognizes outstanding or unusual achievement in the world of work and significant contributions that increase public awareness of Iowans with disabilities in the work force.

During his last year on the NWC faculty, Dr. Scorza served as president of the Reformed Church in America's General Synod. His career also included earning two doctorate degrees and writing two books.

Two members of NWC's student affairs staff made a presentation at the November convention of the Upper Midwest Region of the Association of College and University Housing Officers in Cedar Falls. **Steve Beers**, associate dean for student affairs, and **Tammy Dolge**, resident director at Fern Smith Hall, spoke on "Reclaiming Discipline as a Developmental Tool." The presentation outlined NWC's attempt to move away from punitive sanctions, replacing fines and suspensions with experiences such as counseling and community service that lead to development and maturity within the student.

**Dr. Michael Yoder**, associate professor of sociology, spoke about his comparative community study of Orange City and Kalona at a meeting of the Mennonite Historical Society in Kalona. Issues discussed included present-day Amish-Mennonite adherence to traditional Anabaptist teachings on pacifism and non-involvement in politics, lawsuits, and "worldly" organizations, as well as the growing tourism industry in the Kalona area and the degree to which this involves exploitation of the Amish.

**Barry Lawrensen**, media specialist, spoke at the joint fall conference of the Iowa Association for Communications Technology and the Des Moines chapter of the International Television Association. His presentation, "Multi-sync/Multi-scan Video Projection Systems," covered various large-screen projection hardware. The session included a videotape he prepared showing the installation and use of such projectors in NWC's DEMCO Center.

Lawrensen also recently was elected chairman of the Iowa Higher Education Instructional Resources Consortium's executive committee. The group is concerned with the use and availability of instructional materials, particularly media items, in the state's colleges and universities.

'43

Amy Breisch has retired as assistant librarian from the New Glarus Public Library in New Glarus, Wis. She continues to serve as organist of the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church.

'46

Margaret Barks retired last August from the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library after 38 years of service. She had been the manager of the children's division at the Central Library for the last 17 years.

'49

Alvin Hospers retired from service as a pastor in 1991. He and his wife live in Grand Haven, Mich., where he last served.

'54

Lee Roger Ridders retired from the Air Force Reserves in February after 37 years in the service.

'56

Arlene (Sneller) Roemmich spent two weeks last summer as part of a five-member team of United Methodists that traveled to Nigeria. The team instructed the staff of a new Christian pre-school. Arlene teaches third grade in Everly, Iowa.

Dr. Harriet Heusinkveld '34 has published *The Best of Grace Karr's Cordova News*, a 90-page, soft-cover compilation of columns written by a country correspondent for the *Pella Chronicle*. Karr wrote the column from 1927 to 1967. The *Des Moines Register's* Chuck Offenburger



Dr. Harriet Heusinkveld '34

describes Karr's columns as containing the "wit, wisdom, chit-chat, joy and sorrow of the little Marion County community of Cordova."

Offenburger said Heusinkveld's book "is one of the most loving literary efforts I've ever come across." Heusinkveld, who never met Karr, said she wanted to do the project to preserve the Cordova woman's writings. Heusinkveld spent two years in the Pella Public Library, going through old *Cordova News* columns, and then assembled photographs of Cordova residents obtained from Karr's relatives. Heusinkveld paid to have the book published by the Pella Printing Co.

A retired Central College geography professor, Heusinkveld received Northwestern's 1983 Alumni of the Year Award. She also is the author of *Saga of the Des Moines River Greenbelt* and *Legends of the Mayas of Yucatan, Mexico*.

Dr. Blaise Levai, head of Northwestern's English department and director of admissions from 1958-60, is a psychotherapist in family psychiatry in Jacksonville, Fla. His current novel, *Search for Freedom*, has just been published. It is set in India where Dr. Levai spent 15 years teaching at various colleges and seminars.

Dr. Thomas TenHoeve, NWC faculty member and administrator from 1958-70, was recently awarded the Eisenhower Peace Medal of Sister Cities International for his services to the organization. He has been active in the sister city relationship between Des Plaines, Ill., and Cremona, Italy, and has been on the Des Plaines chapter board of directors for six years. He is the president of Oakton Community College in Des Plaines and serves on NWC's Board of Trustees.

'62

James and Kay (Zomer '63) Menning live in Spring, Texas. Jim is director of business planning for Transwestern Pipeline of Houston and Kay does substitute teaching.

'66

Ruth (Vonk) Higgins has been selected to have her biographical sketch in the 1992-93 edition of *Who's Who in the West*. She is a social worker in the Northglenn, Colo., public schools.

'68

Lt. Col. Bill Verdoorn retired from the U.S. Air Force on July 1, after 23 years of active duty. He is currently employed by Systems Research and Applications Corp. of Arlington, Va., as a computer software applications instructor. He is also pursuing his second master's degree, this one in education, from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. He, his wife, Jan, and their three children currently reside in Belleville, Ill.

'70

Mary (Van Diepen) Nelson teaches sixth grade in Azle, Texas, northwest of Fort Worth.

'73

The Rev. Robert Hoffman received the DeWitt Clinton Award for Community Service from the Berne, N.Y., Masonic Temple. The award is given to non-Masons who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in serving their communities. Hoffman, who is pastor of the First Reformed Church in Berne, has been active in the community as a PeeWee baseball coach, a Cub Scout and Boy Scout volunteer, a volunteer for both the fire department and ambulance squad, a teacher's aide in a local kindergarten, and a volunteer on several committees for the local schools.

Ellis Scheevel coached his girls' tennis team at St. Cloud Cathedral High to a second place trophy at the 1991 Minnesota Class A State Tournament.

'75

Steve Pals has become a partner in the practice of law in the firm of Klay, Veldhuizen, Bindner, De Jong and Pals with offices in Orange City, Alton and Paullina, Iowa.

## Deaths

Geraldine (Mouw '27) Wissink died Dec. 29 in Grand Rapids, Mich. She served with her husband, the Rev. Charles Wissink, in the ministry of the Reformed Church in America for 60 years. She is survived by her husband, three children, 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Matilda (Lubbers '29) Schoep died Oct. 17 at the Orange City Municipal Hospital. A native of Orange City, she married Gerald Schoep in 1933. The Schoeps lived in Orange City and several Nebraska communities. Matilda returned to Orange City in 1970 as a widow. Over the years she worked for the Sears Company, was the YWCA director in Fort Dodge and served as the housemother of Fern Smith Hall in the '70s.

She was an active member of Trinity Reformed Church and belonged to the Orange City Federated Women's Club. She is survived by her four children, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

The Rev. Charles Greenfield '30 died Nov. 1. He graduated from Calvin College and Seminary and went on to pastor churches in Michigan, North Carolina, Iowa and Illinois. He is survived by six children, 21 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Clara (Eggink '37) Bloemendaal died Dec. 24 in Sioux City after a long illness. She taught briefly in a country school before her marriage to Gerald Bloemendaal in 1939. The Bloemendaals farmed in the Orange City area for many years. She was a member of Calvary Christian Reformed Church in Orange City. Survivors include her husband, six children, 13 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

M.H. "Luke" Luymes '40 died Nov. 23 at his home in Sioux Falls. He worked for Sioux Hudson, White Motor and L.G. Everist companies and was controller for the Iseman Corp. from 1964 until his retirement in 1982.

He served in the Army from 1944-46 in the Philippines. Luke was a member of First Reformed Church, a charter member of the Singing Legionnaires, a 45-year member of the American Legion, a member of the 40 et 8 and the DAV. He was past treasurer of the National Association of Accountants and belonged to the Elks, Kiwanis and the YMCA.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth (Van Oort '40), two sons, one daughter, six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and one brother, Conrad '33.

Donna (Draayer) Kusters '69 died Jan. 3 in Sioux Falls after a long illness. She married Allen Kusters '67 in 1968. A former physical education teacher, she became the supervisor of community education for the Sioux Falls School District in 1987. She was an active member of the Sioux Falls Community Reformed Church. She is survived by her husband, three sons, and her brother, Arlan Draayer '65.



'77

Denise (Heemstra) Doden teaches Chapter 1 math in Prairie du Chien, Wis. She and her husband, Cory, have two sons, Jeremy (7) and Trevor (4).

A poem penned by Rachel (Mulder '77) Meendering will be published in an upcoming edition of *The Reading Teacher*, a professional journal endorsed by the International Reading Association. The poem, "Mommy, Will You Read to Me?" is a literary tribute to Meendering's mother and a plea for parents to read to their children.



Rachel (Mulder '77)  
Meendering

Meendering, a Chapter 1 reading teaching at Kinsey Elementary School in Sioux Center, recalls that her mother, Nelvina Mulder, always had time to read to her seven children. "Many evenings I remember all the kids in the family sitting on the couch and my mother reading to us," Meendering told the *Sioux Center News*. "It was her way of making some quality time with her kids while busy with life on the farm."

"People don't realize how much it actually means to children to have someone read to them and to share that closeness. It's something they never forget. I know mothers are busy but spending just 10 minutes reading to children can help them learn to read."

Meendering wrote "Mommy, Will You Read to Me?" three years ago as an assignment for a graduate course in reading endorsement at Sioux Falls College. With the encouragement of professors and her husband, Marv, she submitted the poem for publication last summer.

'78

Jim Mickelson led his Odebolt-Arthur volleyball team to the Iowa State Tournament last fall. The team finished the season with a 34-1-0 record.

'79

Paul Jensen is a pharmacy manager for Phar-Mor in Sioux City. He and his wife, Kris, and their two daughters live in Sergeant Bluff.

'81

Lori (Plucker) Halvorson is in her fifth year of teaching special education and coaching Special Olympics in Brookings, S.D.

'82

Karen (Koerselman) Rider completed a master's degree in special education at the University of South Dakota. After teaching for seven years in Las Animas, Colo., she has moved to Leadville where she is the special populations coordinator for the east campuses of Colorado Mountain Colleges.

'83

Collin Cooper is working as a financial analyst for Hewlett-Packard in Roseville, Calif. His wife, Gail, is a children's librarian in Roseville.

Mike and Becky (Tuinstra '81) Hofkamp are beginning a four-year term as country representatives for the Mennonite Central Committee in the Philippines.

Jon Kinsley graduated with an MBA from the University of South Dakota last spring and took a job with Cerner Corporation as the PathNet Business Unit Manager in Kansas City. Cerner is a market-leading clinical information systems company and PathNet is the corporation's laboratory information system. He and his wife, Shelly, are the parents of one-year-old Anne.

Mick Noteboom, an insurance agent with Mass Mutual in Mattoon, Ill., sponsored and organized the second annual Lincolnland Drum and Bugle Review. The review featured the Cavaliers of Rosemont, Ill.

Bruce Van Aartsen is doing graduate work in meteorology at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins.

Linda Wilterdink, who holds a B.A. from Northwestern in business and sociology, completed a B.S. in elementary education at the University of Minnesota last summer. She teaches second grade in the Minneapolis Public Schools.

'84

Donna (Heerspink) Bunce lives in Holland, Mich., where she works as a bereavement coordinator at Hospice of Holland and teaches aerobics at a local health club. She and her husband, Craig, are expecting their first child.

'85

Gary Dykstra of Grayslake, Ill., graduated from DePaul University with an MBA in finance. He passed the May 1991 CPA exam and was promoted to assistant controller at Chicago Research and Trading.

The Rev. Stephen and Susan (Gruis) Hielkema moved to Mitchell, S.D., where he was installed as senior pastor of the First Reformed Church.

Wendy (Zylstra) Schierman is a paralegal at a Bellingham, Wash., law firm and her husband, Steve, is an Air Force pilot.

After spending three years in the Persian Gulf, John Williams now lives in the metro Phoenix area and is vice president of the Arizona office of the Worldcom Group, Inc., a worldwide public relations firm. He is also CEO of the Gulf Business Development Foundation, an international business consultancy operating in eight countries.

'86

Kari Hansen-Limbirt is working as the K-8 guidance counselor at the Schaller-Crestland Schools in Schaller, Iowa. Her husband, Tim, teaches math and computers at Aurelia High School.

Ivan Helmus is employed by Jones County Schools in Murdo, S.D. He teaches sixth grade and vocal music at the high school.

Julianne James lives in Raleigh, Ill., and teaches English and French at Southeastern Illinois College.

The Rev. Brad Olson has completed his studies at Western Theological Seminary and has

accepted a call from Trinity Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Mich. His wife, Darla (Vander Sluis '84), will finish her residency at Butterworth Hospital in July.

## Births

Steven '75 and Dr. Cynthia Pals, son, Zachary Nathaniel, joins Samara (5) and Brande (2).

Marlene (De Smet '75) and Lloyd Roduner, daughter, Kristen Jane.

Aletha (Koele '78) and Duane Beeson, director of promotion and information services, daughter, Malea Ann.

Rob '78 and Bonnie (Hoskins '82) Van't Land, son, Gabriel Christian, joins Andrew and Josiah.

Daniel and Janice (Vanden Burg '79) Peterson, daughter, Ashley Marie.

Lori and Mark Bloemendaal '81, associate director of admissions, son, Davis Robert, joins Andrew (5) and Janna (3).

Paul and Sheryl (Wynia '82) Pilling, son, Nathan Eric, joins Karen LaRae (2).

Mike and Denise (Goemaat '82) Vasey, son, Alex Robert, joins Amy (2).

Kevin and Dixie (Mulder '82) Wielenga, son, Zachary Jay, joins Erin (12), Abby (8), Autumn (4) and Olivia (2).

Jerry '83 and Janet (Folkers '84) Heemstra, son, Michael Alan, joins Jonathan (3).

John and Deb (Du Bois '83) Hegstrom, daughter, Sarah Louise, joins Paul (6), Rachel (4) and Matthew (2).

Cameron and Diane (Mars '83) Koops, son, Zachary.

Peter and Jane (George '83) Mellers, daughter, Megan Katherine.

Mick '83 and Julie Noteboom, daughter, Adrianna Eve, by adoption.

Steve '83 and Laurie (Kleinwolterink x'84) Roesner, daughter, Claire Ann, joins Matt (4).

Curtis '84 and Charlene (Boscaljon '85) Mastbergen, son, Nathan Dean.

Mike and Debbie (Sliefert '84) Swieca, daughter, Natalie Dianne, joins Matthew (3).

Jay '84 and Nancy '84 Tolsma, son, Jesse James, joins Tiffany.

The Rev. Steve '85 and Susan (Gruis '85) Hielkema, daughter, Jennifer Sue, joins Katherine Lynn (2).

John and Vivian (Koerselman '85) Koolstra, daughter, Leah Danielle.

Richard and Julie (Gage '86) Collison, son, Brady Christopher.

The Rev. Brad '86 and Dr. Darla (Vander Sluis '84) Olson, son, Isaac James.

Todd '86 and Brenda Smith, son, Jared Scott. Brent and Brenda (Wilhite '87) De Berg, son, Nicholas Duane.

Mike '87 and Maxine '87 Sheridan, daughter, Courtney Brooke, joins Keelie (5) and Kieren (4).

Doug '87 and Belinda (Wiese x'90) Zylstra, son, Dylan Scott.

Dave '89 and Nancy (Vander Zwaag '88) Dau, son, Drew C.

Greg '90 and Pat (Anker '89) Heemstra, son, Marcus Scott.

Jeremy '93 and Jill Vance, assistant resident director of Hoppers Hall, son, Brandon Taylor.

'87

Susan Cowles graduated from the University of Iowa with a master's degree in applied statistics in 1990. She is employed as a mathematic statistician with the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service Field Research Unit in Columbus, Ohio.



**Kecia (Rolston) Hickman** works for AEA 4 in Sioux Center as a pre-school itinerant teacher/home intervention teacher in the Special Education Division. She earned a master's degree from Iowa State University in child development. Kecia and her husband, **King '85**, live on an acreage near Sheldon where King is a veterinarian.

**Jim Sterk** is driving a gravel truck and operating equipment for a gravel company in Lynden, Wash. He is working on aeronautical training with future plans to fly as a commercial airline pilot. His wife, **Vonda (Velgersdyk '88)**, works part-time at the Lynden Christian Rest Home and does some modeling in Seattle.

**Mark Viksten** was recently promoted to chemist in the research and development lab at Kind and Knox Gelatin in Sioux City.

## '88

**Faith Baker** completed a master's degree in intercultural studies at Wheaton Graduate School in December and will begin work toward a Ph.D. in American studies next fall.

**Brent and Heather (Harrison) Martens** have moved to Champaign-Urbana, Ill., where Heather has begun work on an MFA in costume design and technology at the University of Illinois.

**Mark and Kara (Coykendall) Widman** live in Evanston, Ill. Mark is in his second year at Trinity Seminary and Kara teaches pre-school.

## '89

**Steven Cruse** was appointed consumer loan officer at the Waterloo, Iowa, Savings Bank. He joined the bank earlier this year after being employed by First National Bank in Sioux City as a financial analyst in charge of loan reviews.

**Mike Haverdink** is working on a master's in computer science at Iowa State University. His wife, **Natalie (Trowbridge)**, is a receptionist in the loan department of Ames Savings Bank.

**Bret Kruse** is a machine operator at Design Products in Waterloo. The company makes meats and toppings for such companies as Pizza Hut and Taco Bell.

**Patricia (McConnell) Smith** is nearing completion of a master's degree at Iowa State University.

After a teaching stint in Hong Kong, **Kathy Vander Werff** is now pursuing a master's degree at the Fuller Seminary School of World Mission in Pasadena, Calif.

**Chad Vogel** works for Parcell-Davis Funeral Home in Marshalltown, Iowa.

## Marriages

**Bev Bahrke '80** and **Clyde Christiansen**, Storm Lake, Iowa.

**Lori Plucker '81** and **Brian Halvorson**, Brookings, S.D.

**Paula Harding '85** and **Jerzy Wolyniec**, Orange City.

**Wendy Zylstra '85** and **Steve Schierman**, Bellingham, Wash.

**Diane Bunte '86** and **Will Vander Ploeg**, Hospers, Iowa.

**The Rev. Carol Swanson '86** and **P. Edward Poston**, Ventura, Iowa.

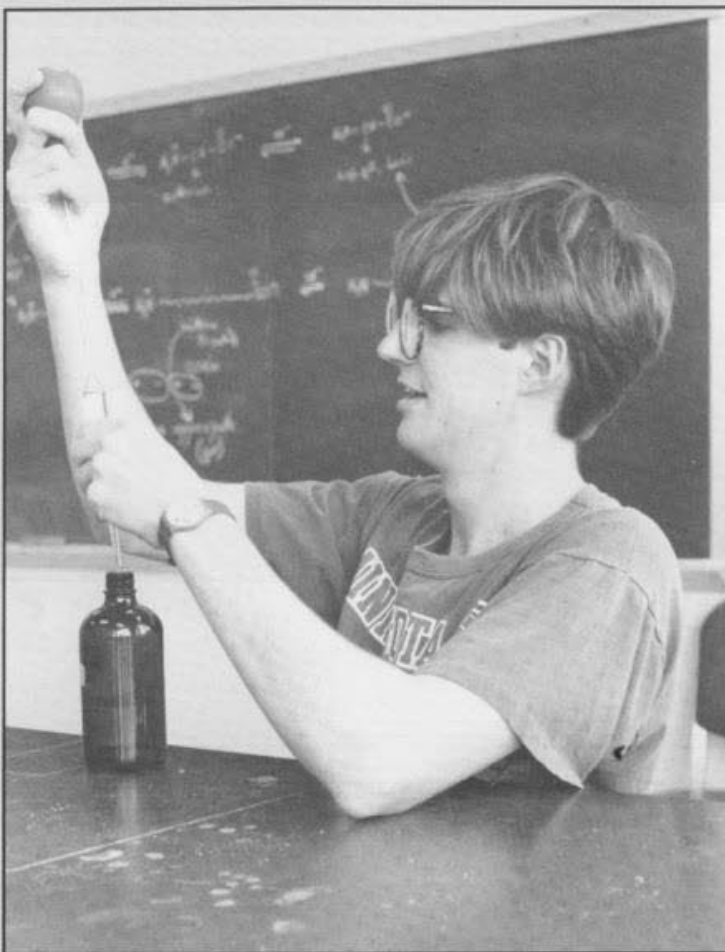
**Barb Stubbs '87** and **Greg Palas**, Ames, Iowa.  
**Patricia McConnell '90** and **Dean Smith**, Ames, Iowa.

**John Olson '91** and **Leanne Nims x'94**, Everson, Wash.

**Darla Hansen '93** and **Eugene Ubben**, Sheldon, Iowa.

*The couples reside in the city listed.*

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For more information about planned giving, contact **Cornie Wassink**, Director of Planned Giving, Northwestern College, 101 7th St. SW, Orange City, IA 51041 (712) 737-4821, Ext. 111.

## '90

**Mark Van Holland** has received a 1991 Employee Excellence Award from the Chicago branch of Oppenheimer and Company. Van Holland, a compliance analyst for the stock brokerage firm, is among about 200 employees in the Chicago office. He started there in October 1990 after serving on an internship during the previous spring semester. He is the only intern Oppenheimer and Company has ever hired.

## '91

**Kelly Bass** is working as a continuity assistant at WYCC-TV in Chicago. WYCC is an educational PBS station affiliated with the eight city colleges of Chicago.

**Beverly Van Drie** is serving a year of full-time volunteer service as a resettlement caseworker for Migration and Refugee Services in Dallas, Texas, in conjunction with Volunteers for Educational and Social Services.

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# Calendar of Events

## March

### ACTIVITIES

- 13 Contemporary Christian music concert by John Fischer, Christ Chapel, 7:30 p.m.  
13-14 Movie, "Turner and Hooch," Bogaard Theater, 7 and 9:30 p.m.  
20-21 Movie, "The Sound of Music," Bogaard Theater, 6:30 and 9:45 p.m.  
21 International Banquet, DeWitt Fitness Center, 6 p.m.  
27-28 Movie, "Three Men and a Little Lady," Bogaard Theater, 7 and 9:30 p.m.

### FINE ARTS

- Art exhibit, NWC Senior Art Major Show, Te Paske Gallery.  
14 Symphonic Band concert, Christ Chapel, 8 p.m.  
17 Student Recital, Dann Vander Heul and Peter Gepson, Christ Chapel, 8 p.m.  
31 Symphonette concert, Christ Chapel, 8 p.m.

### ALUMNI-What's New With You?

Let us know so we can tell your friends and classmates. Send to: *Classic*, Northwestern College, 101 7th St. SW, Orange City, IA 51041

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

### GUEST LECTURES

- 23-24 Kazuo Ota, professor of political science at Rakuno Gakuen University in Japan and specialist in the study of the Japanese Constitution.  
30-31 Becky Tirabassi, author and director of My Partner Ministries, Orange, Calif.

## April

### ACTIVITIES

- 3 Hostess Supper, DeWitt Fitness Center, 7 p.m.  
3-4 Movie, "The Natural," Bogaard Theater, 7 and 9:30 p.m.  
10-11 Movie, "The Greatest Story Ever Told," Bogaard Theater, 7 and 9:30 p.m.

### FINE ARTS

- Art exhibit, NWC Art Student League Annual Juried Student Exhibition, Te Paske Gallery.  
3,4,9-11 Spring play, "The Foreigner," The Playhouse, 8 p.m.  
10 A cappella Choir concert, Christ Chapel, 8 p.m.  
12 Student recital, Dawn Bruins and Carla Van Beek, Christ Chapel, 3 p.m.  
14 Sioux County Orchestra concert, Christ Chapel, 8 p.m.  
21 Student recital, Carla Carlson, flute, and Amy Stark, piano, Christ Chapel, 8 p.m.  
25 Symphonic Band concert, Christ Chapel, 8 p.m.  
26 Iowa State University Chamber Singers concert, Christ Chapel, 3 p.m.  
28 Chamber music concert, Christ Chapel, 8 p.m.

### GUEST LECTURES

- 6-8 Dr. Robert Coughenour, professor at Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Mich.  
9-10 Dr. Sally Churchill, professor of social work at the University of Michigan.  
23-25 Dr. C. Philip Hinerman, evangelist in Greensboro, N.C., and former senior pastor of Park Avenue United Methodist Church, Minneapolis.

## May

### ACTIVITIES

- 1-2 Movie, To Be Announced, Bogaard Theater, 7 and 9:30 p.m.  
8 Heritage Day luncheon, 12 Noon, Fern Smith Cafeteria  
8 Baccalaureate service, Christ Chapel, 7:30 p.m.  
9 Commencement, DeWitt Fitness Center, 10 a.m.

(For more information about any of these events, call the Office of Promotion and Information Services, 712-737-4821, Ext. 228.)