Winter 2009

The Classic, Winter 2009-2010

Public Relations
Northwestern College - Orange City

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Love Stories
Alumni tell of initial impressions, auction offers and imperfect proposals

Also
Differently Abled
Dorm Décor
First Dance
Running with her father, Jason Olson ’92, Gracie Olson was the fastest female under 20 in the Raider Road Race at Homecoming. The seven-year-old finished the 5K race with a time of 26:47.
A Mission to Live By

There is nothing more important for an organization than to know and accomplish its mission. Northwestern's founders envisioned a place dedicated to academic rigor combined with Reformed and Christian principles. While much has changed in how we accomplish this mission, our purpose has remained constant.

On occasion, however, an organization should revisit how it articulates its mission to changed in how we accomplish this mission, our purpose has remained constant. Northwestern's new mission statement is shorter than the previous version—and we believe it more memorably expresses who we are. The phrases and language in the statement are informed by the following truths about Northwestern College:

Christian academic community
We care about serving and loving God and each other. Students are accepted as unique individuals and equipped to become a better people in God's image. A Northwestern education is a 24/7 experience as students learn, live and worship with friends and ministers.

Courageous and faithful learning and living
We don't shy away from tough issues or questions. Students might be challenged by new ideas. Through that, their beliefs will become clearer to them—and more important. This is a safe place to explore, and students can trust that their professors are seeking God's truth.

Pursuing God's redeeming work
At Northwestern, students learn about God's world and their call to help redeem it. We'll prepare them for a successful career, but more importantly, we'll get them ready to lead a faithful life. That requires intelligence, compassion, and an education that teaches both mind and heart.

This is indeed a noble mission. Our world is desperate for servant leaders who will use their gifts and talents in serving Christ and others. We cannot accomplish this alone but rely on the Holy Spirit, as well as the prayers and support of alumni, churches and friends.
Crack Coders

For the second year in a row, a team of three Northwestern students was chosen as one of 100 teams from six continents to compete in the Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest’s world finals. This year’s event took place in Harbin, China, Feb. 1–6.

Northwestern, the only Iowa school to be selected, received an all-expenses paid trip after its team finished third in a regional competition. Last April a Northwestern team competed in the world finals in Stockholm, Sweden.

Northwestern was among 22 U.S. colleges and universities at the 2010 finals, including Carnegie Mellon, Duke, MIT, Stanford and the University of Chicago. They competed with students from Chinese University of Hong Kong, the University of Buenos Aires and the University of Helsinki, to name a few. Seven thousand teams from over 1,000 colleges in 78 countries participated in regional competitions this fall.

Members of the NYO team were John Calsbeek, a senior computer science major from Orange City; Mark Haselhoff, a junior computer science and mathematics major from Schaller, Iowa; and Curt Van Wyk, a senior mathematics and computer science major from George, Iowa. Calsbeek and Van Wyk were on the team that competed in Sweden last year.

“It’s just a fun experience,” says Calsbeek. “It’s really interesting being in a huge room with around 300 teams, hearing 50 to 60 different languages.”

“John, Mark and Curt are not only good programmers, but they are detail-oriented and well-rounded students who have what it takes to figure things out,” says Mike Wallinga ’81, instructor in computer science. “They are such inquisitive individuals—they think about problems in their spare time and do coding for fun. They have this natural curiosity and desire to learn.”

Tough Decisions

Need to reduce the 2010–11 budget by $3 million, Northwestern officials announced in early January that 10 full-time and five part-time positions will be eliminated at the end of the fiscal year in June.

In addition, several vacant positions will not be filled and the hours of eight staff members will be reduced.

“Similar to many other colleges, we have had to take responsibility—but still very painfully—to reduce expenses and increase revenues as a result of pressures from our nation’s economic downturn and lower enrollments,” says President Greg Christy.

“Through this process, we have sought to have as little negative impact on students as possible and to be very sensitive to the affected employees.”

While a strong recruiting effort this past fall reversed a two-year decline in the number of new students, Northwestern’s fall enrollment, 1,206, is at its lowest point since 1998. Meanwhile, Northwestern’s workforce has expanded by more than 50 full-time employees since then.

“This is a very difficult time for the Northwestern family,” says Christy, “but we are hopeful these decisions will help to ensure the college remains in a strong financial position moving forward. We are very grateful for alumni and friends who contributed over $1 million in December, that enrollment is looking good for next fall, and that we continue to rank in the top 15 percent compared with our peers on various financial indices.”

Winning Hymn

A song written by Dr. Heather Josselyn-Cranna, associate professor of music and director of music ministries, has won second prize in a songwriting contest. The Justice Congregational Song Contest was sponsored by the Christian Reformed Church’s Office of Social Justice, Reformed Worship magazine, and the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship.

Josselyn-Cranna’s hymn, We Cannot Know What Worship Is, has been copyrighted by Faith Alive Christian Resources and will be printed in a future issue of Reformed Worship. She received a $300 cash prize for her effort.

Josselyn-Cranna says as she wrote the hymn she was struck by the fact that thinking about justice tends to happen more often outside Sunday worship than in it. Her text includes the following first verse: “We cannot know what worship is, unless we recognize that Christ consorts with least and lost and sees through homeless eyes.”

Other verses bring a justice perspective to the acts of praying, singing and reading Scripture. The hymn concludes with “God longs for us to act our faith, ’til we can truly claim our Sunday worship and our search for justice are the same.”

The Rev. David Landegent ’78 won first prize. The pastor of Central Park Reformed Church in Holland, Mich., he penned Let Justice Roll Down.

Wrapped in Warmth

When junior Lanet Hane became leader of Northwestern’s Hunger/Homeless Ministry, she met with area nonprofit organizations to see how students could help them fight poverty. What she discovered was a huge demand for blankets during the winter months, as many families have to choose between buying food and keeping their homes warm.

Hane responded by organizing a “Fleece and Film” event in which students made tie blankets out of fleece while watching The Pursuit of Happyness, a movie that tells the true story of a family’s homelessness. Students made about 20 blankets, which have been donated to Love INC for distribution to low-income families.

“Making blankets is something that’s simple and an easy way for students to make a difference,” says Hane.

As temperatures in northwest Iowa plummeted to record lows prior to the start of the spring semester, Hane was planning more blanket-making sessions.

Her group aims to tie another 75 to 100 blankets, with fleece funded through a grant from the Walmart Foundation.

More than 100 students will receive a blanket to cuddle with, courtesy of Northwestern’s Hunger/Homeless Ministry.


**Connected**

**Class**
Intimate Relationships

**Instructor**
Dr. Daniela Cambetas Syed
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Friends don’t exist in isolation. They can only be understood in the context of a person’s other relationships—one in particular.

“A true attachment theorist would say that your attachment with your primary caregiver is a blueprint for all other attachments in your life,” says Dr. Daniela Cambetas Syed.

Syed and 13 seniors explored those attachments in a special topics psychology seminar entitled Intimate Relationships. The course examined relationships and friendships from birth through old age.

The Northwestern psychology professor was especially qualified to teach the course since her research background is in social relationships and friendships. Her studies have found that people with strong parental bonds are less likely to participate in risky behavior in romantic relationships.

“Of all our courses, I thought this was one of the easiest to integrate with learning,” Syed says. “God created us to be relational beings.”

Psychology major Destiny Kortman found the seminar especially applicable to everyday life. Engaged and planning a May wedding, she appreciated the seminar’s content regarding marriage.

But the course has impacted her in other ways as well. One of her roommates is someone she got to know in class, and she still stays in touch with other students who took the course, including those who have since graduated.

A final project had students create a poster integrating all they had learned, write a synopsis and a poster integrating all they had learned, write a synopsis and a poster integrating all they had learned, write a synopsis and a poster integrating all they had learned, write a synopsis and a poster integrating all they had learned, write a synopsis and a poster integrating all they had learned, write a synopsis and a poster integrating all they had learned, write a synopsis and a poster integrating all they had learned, write a synopsis and a poster integrating all they had learned, write a synopsis and a poster integrating all they had learned, write a synopsis and a poster integrating all they had learned, write a synopsis and a poster integrating all they had learned, write a synopsis and a poster integrating all they had learned, write a synopsis and

**texts and Assignments**

- The Psychology of Interpersonal Relationships, by Ellen Berscheid and Pamela Regan
- Four Loves, by C.S. Lewis

As a seminar, Intimate Relationships involved in-depth discussions rather than lectures. Syed gave her students questions to guide their reading, and they were to come to class with questions of their own. Exams were take-home essays that were essentially papers. A final project had students create a poster integrating all they had learned, write a synopsis and present it to their professor.

**extreme Singing**

Forget American Idol: At Northwestern, it’s NC/DC Extreme, a singing competition pitting NWC students against students from archrival Dordt.

Each campus holds its own auditions and chooses five acts for a joint semi-final competition held at either NWC or Dordt. Students from each college then vote online for their top two contestants, who are revealed at the finals in front of a crowd of 1,500. Following performances by all four finalists, a live vote is held and the winner is announced and awarded $500.

Northwestern students won the competition the last two years, but a male a cappella quintet from Dordt captured the latest title in November.

**prof Appointments**

Dr. Michael Andres, religion, and Dr. Laurie Dalry, education, have been appointed to endowed professorships beginning in the 2010–11 school year.

The endowed chairs support the professors’ scholarly work by providing annual funds over a five-year period for research, the purchase of equipment or materials, travel to pursue research, or assistance for student researchers. Criteria for the appointments include having a distinguished record as an outstanding teacher, being recognized for scholarly and leadership contributions to their discipline, providing exemplary service to the department, NWC and the larger community, and demonstrating a commitment to the college’s mission.

Andres has been appointed to the Marvin and Janeen DeWitt Endowed Religion Professorship. A member of the

**major Excellence**

Ask Northwestern students what are the best academic programs on campus, and you’ll get a lot of answers. That’s one of the approaches college admissions advisor Frederick Rugg uses as he compiles his annual Rugg’s Recommendations on the Colleges, a national guidebook that recommends specific college departments to prospective students.

Eighteen of Northwestern’s programs are listed in the 2010 edition: actuarial science, athletic training, biology, business, chemistry, computer science, ecological science, education, English, history, music, philosophy, physics, psychology, religion, social work, Spanish and theatre.

The book includes programs at 1,115 four-year colleges that Rugg has identified as providing a high-quality education.

Biology is one of 18 Northwestern programs listed in the 2010 Rugg’s Recommendations on the Colleges.
On the Road

The choir’s repertoire includes Czech folk music and works by Czech composer Antonín Dvořák, as well as other well-known European composers. The ensemble will also perform a large selection of American music, including sacred and secular pieces.

Also during spring break, the Drama Ministries Ensemble will perform enacted prayers and “Great Stories” from the Old Testament in Chicago, western Indiana and southern Wisconsin. The Symphonic Band will perform at churches in the Omaha and Lincoln, Neb., area April 15-18.

Complete tour schedules can be viewed at www.nwciowa.edu/bandtour.

To New Orleans

Ten Northwestern students, faculty and staff spent the first week of January on a service project in New Orleans. Partnering with Trinity Christian Community, the team renovated houses destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 in the Holygrove neighborhood. They also assisted in an after-school program. Northwestern has sent hurricane relief teams to the Gulf Coast every semester break since 2005.

Alumni Director Search

A search for a new director of alumni relations is under way, Jerry Neubauer ’60 led the committee to move to South Dakota in preparation for her June wedding.

Vocation Connection

A campus-wide emphasis on helping students discover and then commit to their calling has been nurtured through a variety of initiatives funded by $2.5 million in grants from the Lilly Endowment since 2003. As the last grant period is coming to an end, Northwestern hopes its involvement in the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) will help to keep the topic at the forefront of campus conversations.

NetVUE is one of 61 founding members of the new network. “Through NetVUE, we will be able to learn from other colleges about best practices and successful programs,” says Dr. Jasper Lesage, provost.

Face Value

Sara Sybesma Tolsma
Teaching learner

What do you love about your job? I love teaching—and to be a good teacher I have to keep learning. I love undergraduate students, I love my colleagues, I love the city. It’s wonderful when students wander in and join us.

Name one of Northwestern’s strengths.

Its people. My colleagues are committed to Christian liberal arts education. When I have the opportunity to observe their classes, I’m always humbled. I’m part of a faculty full of excellent teachers and scholars.

What is one of the biggest challenges in working with students?

Time. There never seems to be enough time to do all the good things there are to do—for my students and for me. Helping students learn to choose wisely from among many good ways to spend their time is a challenge.

Describe a favorite NWC memory.

Several years ago I was teaching a molecular biology course with about 15 students. I remember looking at them and realizing all but one was heading off to graduate or professional school. It was such a talented group, and they were really fun to teach.

What do you love about your job?

I love learning—and to be a good teacher one has to keep learning. I love undergraduate students, I love my colleagues, I love the city. It’s wonderful when students wander in and join us.

What are your hobbies?

I read. My husband and I have been in a book club for 15 years. I garden, and I enjoy cooking. I’m involved in our church and in my kids’ activities.

Who inspires you?

My husband, my kids, my students, my colleagues, my parents. I am also inspired by people who take risks to make the world a better place.

If you’d like to see a particular Northwestern faculty or staff member featured in Face Value, e-mail classic@nwciowa.edu.

3rd annual Day of Learning in Community
March 24, 2010

CHRISTIANITY
POP CULTURE

featuring Dr. Jeffrey Keuss
cultural theory scholar

www.nwciowa.edu/dtc
Red Zone

Women’s Basketball

Near the Top
Northwestern started the season as the top-ranked team in the NAIA Div. II. Ranked third at press time, the Raiders were 17-3 and second in the conference, behind only Hastings. Named to the second-team selection was high as 12th nationally before conference. The team was ranked season at 7-3, fourth in the conference tournament. Randa Hulstein and Kaitlin Beaver the conference tournament. Randa

Men’s Basketball
Young Team
With eight freshmen on the roster, including three starters, Northwestern was 10-10 at press time. The Raiders set a record for the longest game in school history after losing a quadruple-overtime thriller at Concordia, 117-111.

Wrestling
Ranked
Seven Raiders had qualified for nationals at press time. The team was ranked 19th, with 197-pounder Nic Leither ranked sixth. 17-3 and second in the conference, behind only Hastings. Named to the second-team selection was high as 12th nationally before conference. The team was ranked season at 7-3, fourth in the conference tournament. Randa Hulstein and Kaitlin Beaver

Volleyball
Elite Eight Again
For the third consecutive year, the Raiders’ season ended in the quarterfinal round of the NAIA national tournament. Ranked as high as second, NWCC finished with a 36-3 record. The squad was undefeated in the GPAC and followed that up by winning the conference tournament. Randi Hulstein and Kaia Long earned first-team All-American honors, while Hillary Hanno was a second-team selection.

Football
Fourth in GPAC
Northwestern finished the season at 7-3, fourth in the conference. The team was ranked as high as 12th nationally before losing the last two games of the season and finishing with a 25th-place ranking.

Golf
Preparing for Spring
Luke Verners is in second place individually after two rounds of the GPAC championship, held last fall. The team is fourth with two rounds left to play this spring. The women’s squad is seventh after the first two rounds.

Cross Country
More Miles
Senior Charity Miles placed 55th out of 320 runners in her third year of competition at the NAIA national meet. She qualified for nationals and earned all-conference honors after placing 10th at the GPAC meet. The women were fourth in the conference; the men were 10th.

Soccer
Improving
The men were 5-12-1 overall, placing 11th in the conference with a 3-9 mark. The women were 3-13-1 overall, 3-8-1 in the conference for 10th place. Both teams got most of their wins in the last half of the season.

Scholar Athletes Honored
Seventeen Raiders earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete honors last fall, including right in cross country. Repeat honorees included Ingrid Carlson in cross country, George Barnes and Grant Hegstad in football, Delainye (Hardersen) Woudstra in volleyball, and soccer players Jordan Born and Sarah Seeger.

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

LOOKING BACK

by Gretta Hayes ‘11

The auditorium was decorated like an oriental garden, featuring a real pool with a bridge and homemade boats. A live band played. It was the Saturday night of May Day Weekend in 1968, and Northwestern College was hosting a monumental event: its first on-campus dance. But the twist had been preceded by a lot of shout. Excerpts from communications between Northwestern officials and representatives of Reformed churches that year—"including a letter that read, "It is our feeling that dancing is a worldly influence that has no place on the campus of a Christian college"—may seem amusing now, but they prove just how contentious dancing was at the time.

The previous fall, the Student Senate approached the Board of Trustees to ask for permission to allow dancing on campus. The students kept their request simple: The number of dances per year would be limited to three—during Homecoming, Winter Carnival and May Day—and plenty of faculty chaperones would be present. The Senate even surveyed parents about the issue, with 64 percent of them approving. Jim Vander Velde ’69, professor emeritus of biology, was a member of the Student Affairs Committee that spent much time on the issue. He recalls his dancing experience, or lack thereof, as a student just a few years earlier.

“We were not allowed to have dances at school functions, but we could do the bunny hop,” he says. “That was as close to dancing as we could get.” Before the famous “first dance” on campus, Muilenburg remembers student-organized dances being held at the scout house in Veterans Park.

On that spring evening in 1968, it was clear Northwestern had come a long way as May Day Queen Judy (Vogelzang) ’69 Dr Graaff and her partner led students in the first dance. Dr Graaff recalls that the band started off playing a fast piece, but then had to switch to something slower so everyone could keep up.

Although the process that led to Northwestern’s first on-campus dance was somewhat controversial, the event itself, during May Day Weekend of 1968, was well attended.

Northwestern Classic
Every dorm room starts with the basics: bed, desk, dresser, closet. It’s what students bring to campus that makes each room unique. From lava lamps to piñatas, a coffee bar to curtains made of neckties, students find creative, whimsical—and unusual—ways to make a residence hall home.

Photos by Dan Rone and Stephen Allen
On June 19, 1989, Kory Jensen was born, and doctors told his parents he wouldn’t live. Two years later, when Jensen was a toddler, he was diagnosed with apraxia, a neurological disorder. The doctor said he’d never walk or speak clearly.

Jensen’s elementary years were rough—kids taunted him as he struggled to communicate or hold a pencil correctly—so when he enrolled at Northwestern in 2007, he avoided drawing attention to himself. Years of speech, eye and physical therapy had resulted in significant improvement, and he knew if he didn’t point it out, few people would realize he has a disability.

“I wanted to be a normal kid and not have people treat me differently,” Jensen says. “I was trying to be independent. I came in and took the first test, and I failed it. I had no idea what to do.”

Tom Truesdell ’01, director of academic support, tutored Jensen and picked up on clues: “I was surprised at how many spelling errors he had, because as I was speaking with him, I saw he was very articulate and bright.”

Jensen eventually disclosed his disability—and his fears. Truesdell reassured him that staff would respect his privacy, and soon Jensen was making regular use of the department’s computers for test-taking. His confidence building, he began to take the initiative to contact professors when needing extra help.

“The students we’re working with are usually very intelligent,” says Truesdell. “They have the skill set to succeed at Northwestern. We provide the accommodations, and they can thrive.”

Transition

This school year, 23 NWC students report some type of disability. Most have learning disabilities, like dyslexia; a few report physical conditions, such as cerebral palsy, narcolepsy and severe allergies; and some students have developmental disorders, such as autism. Many experience related complications—distractibility, test anxiety and disorganization are the most common.

Northwestern’s academic support department offers assistance to all students with documented disabilities. Services include reading tests orally, securing a quiet location for testing, and reviewing papers. The department also offers assistive technology, such as software able to type the spoken word and read scanned books aloud. Accessibility on campus meets legal standards.

As students with documented disabilities move from high school to college, they leave the shelter of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)—comprehensive plans designed to help them secure accommodations, measure progress and meet goals. Written and implemented by a team of professionals, IEPs protect students and hold them accountable from grade school to graduation. “At college, they have to become their own best advocate,” says John Menning, Northwestern’s learning disability service provider. “They have to take the reins. I still check up on them, but I don’t tell them that,” he adds with a laugh.

When Menning was five, his brother Paul was born with all his major organs enlarged. His mother, emotionally overwhelmed and caring for a baby who wouldn’t eat, was comforted when little John would come skipping into the room, singing, “He’s got the teeny tiny baby … in his hands.”

Paul died at nine months; Menning, a special education teacher for 32 years, has spent most of his adult life caring for people with disabilities, including a foster son whom he and his wife, NWC English instructor Deborah Menning, have raised for 26 years.

“Knowing we have someone like John on staff reassures parents considerably,” says Truesdell. “They have a point person. They know John is looking out for them.”

Acceptance

For Laura Denekas ’11, who has cerebral palsy (CP), college life offered new, welcomed opportunities. “In high school, I was never ostracized because of my disability, but I didn’t feel like I was accepted either. I didn’t feel fully myself, including my desire to fully accept my disability,” she says.

Denekas was born 10 weeks early. At six months she was adopted; at age five, surgeons broke her hips and inserted metal plates. When she was 11, nerves in her spinal cord were cut in a procedure called a rhizotomy, and she stayed at Shriner’s Hospital for Children in Minneapolis for six weeks. Her pelvis was broken in three places and reconstructed at age 14.

She’s in maintenance mode right now, she says, and does not anticipate further surgeries. Staying in shape, visiting physical therapy as much as insurance will allow, using a single-arm crutch and grabbing an arm on an icy winter day keep Denekas right where she needs to be. And
where she’s happiest is at Northwestern.

“At Northwestern, I felt accepted right away. Disability or not—that doesn’t matter here,” says Denekas, who has studied in India and spent spring breaks serving in Louisiana and California. “I’ve found who I am, and I’m confident with who I am. My friendships are stronger here; the disability thing is never an issue.”

Effort

As regional manager at Snap Fitness in Sioux Center, Kyle Sauter ‘10 supervises a staff and leads group exercise. He’s good at motivating people, he says, both at Snap and on Northwestern’s track team, where he’s a captain. He credits this skill to his learning disability in reading, which has taught him a fair amount of discipline.

Sauter spends an excessive number of hours in memorization—a simple sentence means nothing to him if one unfamiliar word is present. “I try to show them that, hey, I’m a hard worker—it takes me longer at first, but as time goes by, I know it like the back of my hand,” Sauter says. Jensen, too, found that discipline was key to managing his apraxia; he worked diligently and graduated third in his high school class even though he considers himself “not really that smart.” At Northwestern, he’s an elementary education major who hopes to teach kids with disabilities. His professors like to point out his willingness to ask for help as a sign he’ll do well in his chosen profession.

Part of Menning’s job is coaching students toward suitable fields of study and workforce options. He practices tough love with the steady stream of regulars in his office, stressing the skills necessary for moving on: “If you’re going to e-mail professors, check your spelling. Be professional.” And, “You have your first job. You think your employer will let you come late [because of your disability]? You’ll be fired after the first week.”

Many people with disabilities are underemployed as adults, studies show. Denekas finds herself wondering if her great experience at college will be shattered by workforce discrimination. Not everyone recognizes what she likes to point out: “We’re all human beings with beating hearts. Inside, we’re all the same.”

Purpose

In a cartoon by Australian Cathy Wilcox, a journalist approaches a man in a wheelchair and asks, “When did you lose your legs?” The man replies, “It took someone of your limitations.”

In the Christian community, the subject of disability can be complicated, if discussed at all. (Denekas suggests that themes such as racial reconciliation dominate, though she considers herself a minority as well.) Difficult questions abound: Is disability a result of humankind’s fall from grace? Why did Jesus talk about forgiveness while healing the paralytic? “God’s going to work through me in this,” says Denekas. Sauter agrees: “God gave me this for a reason.”

On a Navajo reservation last summer, Jensen shared that sentiment. The young man who doctors said would never walk spent his daytime hours painting houses for disadvantaged families. In the evenings, Jensen, who was told he’d never speak clearly, preached a message to the 110 kids who gathered. The camp’s theme was “Free,” based on Galatians 5:13 (“You … were [to be] free”).

“You’re free to be yourself,” he told them. “Love who you are. All the things the doctor said I’d never do, I did. God has a purpose for me on earth, or none of this would have happened.”
A lot happens during your college years that affects the rest of your life. You make an initial career choice, figure out how to handle your own money, and learn to avoid laundering reds with whites. For some, college is where you meet your other half—the one you’ll marry and raise kids with—the person who, more than any other, may encourage you, aggravate you, and teach you what commitment truly means.

Most Northwestern alumni didn’t meet their spouse on campus. But hopefully what they learned in this community prepared them to be a faithful, thoughtful partner, friend and family member. Some—just over 3,000—did connect here. Several of their heartwarming stories follow.
Sucking Up

“Hey, Wacker?” (I prefer “Amy,” but guys love to use your last name when you’re fortunate enough to be a Wacker.) “Wouldja bring your Dust Buster over? We need some serious help here.”

My high school classmates—living in Coly without their mothers—vacuuming skills for the first time in their lives—knew they could count on me.

As I was walking back to North Hall (now Stegenga) swinging my Dust Buster at my side, an athletic guy I recognized from Intro to Studio jogged by and quipped, “Nice Dust Buster.”

Two hours later we were still standing in front of Christ Chapel. This guy was so easy to talk to, so funny, so charming. While he sapped any bugs that entered the no-fly zone around us with my Dust Buster, he shared bits of his values and faith journey with me. I had to tear myself away, and when I did, I left with that feeling—that oh-my-goodness-this-must-be-how-it-feels-to-meet-THE-ONE feeling.

Kyle [Hutchinson ‘01] later confessed he’d had his eye on me since I’d critiqued his landscape in front of our entire art class. When he saw me in Coly with my Dust Buster, he took off on a dead run around the north side of the chapel to “bump” into me on my way back to my dorm.

Amy Wacker-Hutchinson ‘02

IOWA FALLS, IOWA

Compatibility

Jonathan and I met through the Compatibility Quest student activity Northwestern does every January. I opened my results, looked at the name on top of the list, and asked rather loudly, “Who on earth is this person?”

Bethany (Harms ‘08) Handaker MITCHELL, S.D.

Loved Her Laugh

My wife and I met the first day of my senior and her freshman year. I was helping my roommate, Mark Heijerman [‘78], lead a freshman orientation session about Chi Rho, a campus group for students interested in ministry. The weather was warm, the windows were open, and when another senior, Ruth Zwald [‘79], walked by outside, Mark and I messaged, “Ruthazzle.” One of our orientation participants, Ruth Korver [‘81], laughed loudly in response, which caught my attention—and kept it.

Dave Landegent ‘78

HOLLAND, MICH

Spirited Courtship

Ian [Myiyagi ‘02] and I had been friends until our senior year. Then I received an impression from God that I should choose Mari for my lifetime partner.

We were chatting online one evening when, with the power of the Holy Spirit, I asked Mari out. She thought I was joking, so I messaged again, asking her to accompany me on a walk to Veterans Park. During the walk we enjoyed chit-chat about our campus life, and at the end, I asked Mari if we could go steady. She said no.

It was shocking to me that she rejected my request. I believed she would not reject me if she came to know the truth that I wanted to share my life with her.

Awhile later, I called her and asked her to take a walk with me again. During this walk, I told her I wanted to marry her. So finally the moment came for me to ask, “Will you marry me?” She replied, “Yes.” It was a most exciting and joy-filled moment. Lord have mercy, we were able to skip going steady and become engaged!

Taku Nakajima ‘02

HYOGO, JAPAN

Love-All

Dad [Steve Bolda ‘81] was playing tennis behind the Union [now Hoopers Hall], where mom [Jodi Bosma ‘82] lived on the second floor. From her window she heckled the cute tennis player. Sometime later they were both in Union’s basement game room, and he asked her if she was the heckler. She admitted she was. A week later he asked her out, and it’s been love ever since.

Rebecca Bolda ‘10

WAKPEN, WIS.

Winning Bid

From the time Abby [Stevens ‘01] met me after I transferred to Northwestern, she’d been saying she knew a guy who was perfect for me. But after a two-year hiatus from college, this time I was focused and determined to finish without distractions.

When Abby approached me about an upcoming campus auction, I wanted no part of it. Nonetheless, Abby convinced me she would bid on our friend, Bob [Reitz ‘03], and I should bid on her roommate, Noah [Metz ‘02]—the guy. We would double-date—very casually.

Kyle [Hector ‘97] Wynn

AUSTIN, MINN.

Finding Direction

A month into my junior year, I was unsure what I wanted to do with my life and was ready to quit college. My cafeteria supervisor knew I was floundering and encouraged me to pursue an open food service job at another college. The job was mine if I wanted it, I had two weeks to decide.

That weekend I attended a Student Christian Fellowship retreat, and at the opening night mixer, I had to find someone with the same number of siblings as me. I came from a family of seven kids. I had little hope of locating anyone from a family as large as mine, until I heard someone calling, “Seven, seven!”

“Seven” was a vivacious, dark-haired beauty from North Dakota, Eva Van Bruggen [‘78]. I lost track of her as the game continued, but later that night, while I was walking by myself and
contemplating my future, someone came up behind me and asked, “Can I walk with you?”

That beginning led to a journey that’s lasted 38 years so far. For the next three years, Matt came to my high school cross country meets, and I cheered at his. We met the summer after my freshman year of high school, and I had a reason to stay at Northwestern.

I didn’t attend Northwestern, but my husband, Matt [Trost ’99], did. We met the summer after my freshman year of high school, and I thought it was so cool to be dating a college guy. For the next three years, Matt came to my high school cross country meets, and I cheered at his college baseball games. After one spring Saturday game, he escorted me to prom. Although he got a lot of flak from his teammates for going to prom as a college senior, he took it like a pro.

**Cradle Raider**

I didn’t attend Northwestern, but my husband, Matt [Trost ’99], did. We met the summer after my freshman year of high school, and I had a reason to stay at Northwestern.

That beginning led to a journey that’s lasted 38 years so far.

Erik Trost

**FORT DODGE, IOWA**

I told my story of waiting for love at their wedding reception in Sioux Falls. The article featured a double-take photo of me and Blayne Vander Zwaag taken at the 2007 Northwestern Gala Auction where he and I first met.

The love stories ad in the fall Classic made me laugh. Until recently, I would have felt chagrined by a feature focusing on people who found love at Northwestern since I didn’t meet the love of my life there—except, I did. That is, I first met Blayne at the 2007 Northwestern Gala Auction. I was a member of the Alumni Association and was wearing a yellow hard hat at the time (in keeping with the “Under Construction” auction theme).

A Tabor College graduate, Blayne started following Northwestern basketball after seeing the Raiders play his alma mater during a tournament. So Northwestern’s name caught his eye in a Sioux Falls Argus Leader article about singleness in Sioux Falls. The article featured a double-take photo of me and Blayne Vander Zwaag taken at the 2007 Northwestern Gala Auction where he and I first met.

**SIOUX FALLS, S.D.**

So I did find love at Northwestern. How crazy is that?!
Darlene (De Beer ’52) Vander Aarde
Service to Humankind

While her husband, Stan ’51, practiced medicine at a hospital in India from 1961 to 1987, Darlene Vander Aarde pursued her own ministries. Trained as an educator, she taught English and Bible classes for nursing students and supervised a community nursery school. She organized a model feeding program for undernourished children and ran an institute that taught individuals how to make and market handcrafted items.

Eventually Vander Aarde became administrator of the American Arcott Mission Elementary and Middle School and the C.S.I. (Church of South India) High School for girls. In that capacity, she developed a scholarship program that enabled 100 girls from outlying villages to board at the schools.

Now retired, Vander Aarde continues to serve by volunteering at Orange City’s Bibles for Missions thrift store and participating in a quilting group at her church.

Jean (Tallman ’75) and Drew Vogel ’72
Service to Northwestern

Drew and Jean Vogel have served as volunteers for numerous community organizations, including NWC. President and CEO of Diamond Vogel Paints, Drew is in his 17th year as a member of Northwestern’s Board of Trustees and has been the board chair since 2003. He chaired the committee that led fundraising for the renovation of the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center, completed in 2004. He also chaired the search committee for President Bruce Murphy and was a member of the search committee that recruited President Greg Chrstosy.

Jean served on the planning committee for Christy’s inauguration in fall 2008. She was a member of Northwestern’s visual identity task force, which unveiled a new college word mark and logo in 2005. Jean also has served as a consultant for campus aesthetics, including the hanging of lights and wreaths and decorating of trees at Christmas.

Randy Oostra ’77
Professional Achievement

Dr. Randy Oostra is president and CEO of ProMedica Health System, based in Toledo, Ohio. While he oversees an organization that generates $2 billion in annual revenue, employs 15,000, and serves 2.5 million patients in a two-state area, he says his job comes down to approaching every task from this perspective: How would I want my family to be treated?

Oostra served hospitals and health organizations in Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota before becoming vice president of ProMedica’s Toledo Hospital in 1997. He served as ProMedica’s president and chief operating officer from 2006 until last year, when he was named chief executive of the most integrated health system in the country, according to Modern Healthcare magazine.

A biology major at Northwestern, Oostra has also earned master’s degrees in science and healthcare administration and a doctorate in management.

To nominate someone for a distinguished alumni award, visit www.nwciowa.edu/alumniawards

Red Weekend

With a Homecoming theme of “Gratefully Red,” Northwestern’s campus was awash in the color Oct. 2–3. Despite cool, wet weather, spirits were warm as alumni reconnected with each other, faculty and staff.

About 100 people attended reunions for the classes of 1979, ’89 and 2004. The traditional Homecoming activities of Morning on the Green and Raider Road Race were joined by a new event, Battle of the Bands, which featured bands from the campus and community.

The weekend was capped off with a 35-6 football victory over Concordia and back-to-back volleyball wins over Dana and Midland.
The Contemplative Activist

The Rev. Dr. J. David Mykyckyj ’54 preached for civil rights. Along with a Catholic priest and a Lutheran minister, he helped organize a corrupt government in Union City, N.J., and protested at school board meetings on behalf of exploited residents. He fought to preserve a New Brunswick, N.J., historical district while insisting that low-income tenants who wanted to stay could.

And then came the chest and abdominal pains. A perceptive doctor asked the activist Reform Church pastor, “Are you trying to do it all yourself?”

Mykyckyj slowed down, and in doing so discovered the early Christian practice of centering prayer.

89 Tert (Van Wechel)

An older generation leader of special education at Orange City Bible College.

90

The Rev. Robert Hoogeveen

is president of Vetter Health Services, an Omaha-based long-term care management company, and author of three new books.

A conversation Glenn Van Ekeren ’74 had 30 years ago is still making a difference in his life—and in the lives of those he influences.

Van Ekeren was driving with Bob Hoogeveen ’57, his supervisor at Village Northwest Unlimited in Sheldon, Iowa, and lamenting the characteristics and talents he didn’t possess.

“Bob asked me, ‘When do you plan to start using what you have? God has given you some gifts, why aren’t you focusing on them?’”

Hoogeveen was what Van Ekeren refers to as a “picker-upper person,” someone who “accepts people for who they are, tries desperately to understand their world, and then encourages them to be all they were created to be.”

Van Ekeren wrote about “picker-upper people” in 12 Simple Secrets to Experiencing Joy in Everyday Relationships, one of three books he published last year.

And spurred on by his mentor’s counsel, Van Ekeren has adopted a life mission of positively impacting those around him. His other books, 12 Simple Secrets to Finding Fulfillment at Work and 12 Simple Secrets to Staying Calm in a Crazy World, continue that theme.

Van Ekeren is already thinking about his next book—on his philosophy of leadership. The advice of one of the chapters? Believe in people.

by DIANE BERSON

Glen Van Ekeren is president of Vetter Health Services, an Omaha-based long-term care management company, and author of three new books.

Picker-Upper Person

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All in the Family

Melissa (Lovgren ’86, Wendy (Hensley ’96) and Danyale (Temple ’86) Tamminga found a new way to keep in touch with college friends—add them to your family. Today the three are not only still best friends, but also sisters-in-law.

“We used to say, ‘I hope we marry guys who get along,’ and here we married brothers,” Wendy says with a laugh.

Their friendships started long before they met their future husbands. Danyale and Wendy were elementary classmates in Iowa, but lost touch when Wendy’s family moved to Washington. Wendy met Melissa in high school, and they decided to room together at George-Little Rock. They have two children: Mason (5) and Mariah (3). At George-Little Rock, they met Melissa in high school, and they decided to room together at George-Little Rock. They have two children: Mason (5) and Mariah (3).

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During college, Wendy started dating Micah Tamminga, who was a family friend. But Micah lived in Washington and Wendy’s family had moved back to Iowa.

“So Wendy came home with me one summer to be closer to Micah,” says Melissa. “He would come over to lunch and bring his brother, Jordan.”

During their senior year, the friends took a road trip to Washington, where Danyale met Jesse, the youngest Tamminga brother. To move the three families live within driving distance in Washington, and they have a combined total of 10 children (plus one on the way). "We’re all very close. We never imagined our lives would intertwine in the way they have—that our college friends would be my kids’ aunts,” says Danyale.

by Emily Herrweger ’06
Melissa Ingham is a preclinical dis- 
patch for the city of Palm Springs. Carla 
Cholew Reed is pursuing a master’s degree in social work from Walla Walla 
University in Billsing, Mont. 

Kendall Stanislaw, Upland, Ind., is 
pursuing a master’s degree in higher 
education from Taylor University, where he 
also serves as a hall director. 

Britt (Kanter) Vander Weerd 
is a physical assistant with an orthopedic 
surgeon at CHS in Dakota Dunes, S.D. 

‘06 Jodi (Lopetegian) Arnold 
is a K-12 music teacher for the 
Cody-Kilgore (Neb.) Unified School District. 

Justin Drewery teaches second grade in 
Gothenburg, Neb. 

Andrew Quinte, Park Spring, Minn., 
is a law student at the University of St. 
Thomas. He is clerking for the Target 
Corporation. 

Bobby Hawthorn earned dual bachelor’s degrees in math from NWC and engineering from 
Washington University in St. Louis. He is now a chemical engineer in Baton Rouge, La. 

Great Engineering 

At first glance, Bobby (Akinyemi ’04) Hawthorn’s dual roles as 
mother and full-time chemical engineer might not seem to have 
much in common. But while they can be worlds apart, she says both 
offer rewarding glimpses into the unfathomable, multi-dimensional 
realm of God. 

“Motherhood” has given her the ability to briefly understand 
how much God loves us,” says Hawthorn, who, along with her 
husband, James ’03, welcomed their daughter, Adali, last April. “I just 
love her beyond my comprehension, and that gives me a glimpse of 
how much God loves us.” 

In her highly technical work as a chemical engineer at Jacobs 
in Baton Rouge, La., Hawthorn finds herself relying on the Lord 
regularly to share her faith with a co-worker—she 
prays daily with complicated challenges—anything from designing 
pressure release valves to sharing her faith with a co-worker—she 
gets to take part in it a little bit,” she says. “He’s the best engineer; it’s 
like having him on your side.” 

At Transformation City Church. She is survived by her husband, 
John, a Northwestern law assistant, and two children, including Tim ’02. 

In Memoriam 

Margaret Tiemersma ’40, age 88, died 
Oct. 26 in Orange City. She was a long-
time secretary at Sioux Abstract Company 
and a member of First Christian Reformed 
Church, where she taught Sunday school 
and served as church librarian. 

Phyllis Zuteenhoven, who served as 
comptroller at Northwestern from 1950 to 
1990, died Oct. 14 in Orange City at age 
81. She was a member of First Reformed Church. She was married by her husband, 
John, a Northwestern law assistant, and two children, including Tim ’02. 

New Arrivals 

Sarah and Jeremy Yusler ’05, son, David 
Benjamin, joins Raquel (1) 

Henry and Kristie (Johnson ’06) 
Hagypory, daughter, Charlotte Kristine, 
joins David (2) 

Rebecca (DeGroot’) ’01 and Andrew 
Anderson ’03, daughter, Hope (2) 

Joan, joins Hanah (3), Ada (2) and 
Lydia (2) 

Sara (Masscon ’99) and Curt Andringa 
’01, sons, Travis Join, Joeten (4) and 
Tyle (5) 

Ed and Denise (De Haan) ’01, Anker, son, 
Gerrit Join, Joeten (2) 

Kendra (Brineman) ’03 and Jamie 
Zachrison ’01, daughters, Elise Helen, 
joins Joeten (4) 

Keith and Ally (Speelker) ’01, Anker, son, 
Hunter (2) 

and Nicolas (2) 

Greg and Emily (Gosseink) ’01, Ford, son, 
Acher William 

David and Lori (Gorter) ’01, Schroeder, son, 
Avery Matthew 

Alicia (Moshering) ’01 and Ben Ellington 
’01, daughters, Mckay, Salen David and 
Simon Benjamin 

Vicky (Dickstir) ’01 and Justin Schrock 
’01, twin daughters by adoption, Miya 
Reece and Kia Lynn, joins Angelique (7), 
Caleb (5) and Emile (4) 

Laurie (Stark) ’02, son, Matthew De 
Vries ‘02, daughter, Brenna Ann 

Molly (Raynolds) ’03 and Ezra Johnson 
’03, daughter, Alley Kay 

Kynarda (Husmann) ’03 and Brandon 
Woodsstra ’03, sons, Lyten Join, Joeten (2) 

Anna (Maxay) ’04 and Steve Friese ’03, 
son, Isaiah Mark, joins Elise (4) and 
Naomi (2) 

Sarah and Ben Hummel ’04, son, Harrison 
James and Brian and Casey (Vyne ’04) 
McQuillen, daughter, Piper Marie, joins 
Logan (2) 

Gil and Shannon (Koester ’04) Rideron, 
son, John Marcus 

Eric (Saunders) ’04 and Chris Russell 
’04, daughter, Ana Malokoly 
Rebecca (Neelemans) ’04 and Larry 
Schrock ’03, son, Isaac Evert 
Angela (Van Horst) ’04 and Justin 
Schusterman ’04, daughters, Bailey 
Jennifer (Palmquist) ’03 and Seth 
Spiegel ’02, son, William Hudson, joins 
Joellen (2) 

James and Maria (Voss ’05) D’oll, son, 
Thos James 

Cristie (Kadier) ’05 and Elijah Vander 
Voorde, son, Troy Scott 

Angela (Veenstra) ’05 and Nathan 
Williams ’03, daughter, Alekthea Grace 
Elliot and Emily (Logten) Malone (6), 
daugter, Cora Leanne 

Amanda (VanderMeer) ’04, son, Tyler 
Happeny (3), daughter, Charlotte Kristine, 
joins Henry and 
Kristie (Johanson) ’08, son, Layton 
Kees, joins 

Benjamin, joins Raquel (5) 

daughter, Charlotte, joins 

Dara (Spiegel) ’02, son, William 
Hudson, joins 

Naomi (2) 

Woudstra ’03, daughter, Ava Makinley 

Kari Henryson ’09, son, Layton 
Kees, joins 

and 

Brandon 

Kyndara (Hardersen) ’03 

Audra Schmidt is a human resource 
manager at Macy’s in Columbus, Ohio. 

In her highly technical work as a chemical engineer at Jacobs in 
Baton Rouge, La., Hawthorn finds herself relying on the Lord 
for wisdom, patience and strength. When she goes to 
God with complicated challenges—anything from designing 
pressure release valves to sharing her faith with a co-worker—the 
world doesn’t get to take part in it a little bit,” she says. “He’s the best engineer; it’s 
like having him on your side.”
Love That Lasts
by Todd Thompson ’85

Pulling into the parking lot, I ask my 9-year-old twin daughters the same question I ask every week. “Girls, what are we here to do?” “Serve each other with love!” “And where do we find that?” “Galatians 5:13.” (We’re still working on the reference part.

For the past two years, Annie, Emma and I have been bringing flowers and hugs to the residents of Carillon House and Vista Care, a skilled-care center and in-patient hospice. God uses our simple act of service to teach us many life lessons, like the power of encouragement and the frailty and brevity of life. It’s also allowed us the privilege of witnessing the final chapters of beautiful love stories. Say to any couple, “Tell me how you met,” and you’re guaranteed a fun and fascinating story. Beginnings are full of romance and anticipation. Sadly, romantic beginnings do not guarantee happy endings. If only couples could be glued together like the souvenirs in a wedding album. Some thrive during seasons of “better”—times of health and wealth. Yet when the “worse”—sickness and poverty—happens, their commitment wanes.

“How we met” stories are many. “How we stayed together” stories are much rarer. There are many love stories among our Carillon friends. Ray and Margaret had been married 65 years when she died last month. Mr. Williams is a steady friend. Ray and Margaret had been married 65 years when she died.

Sometimes it takes the worst to teach us what is the best.

Ecclesiastes 7:8 tells us, “The end of something is better than the beginning.” Maybe Solomon was saying that however something starts, finishing well is more important. Better a beautiful final chapter than a beautiful face for over six decades, how could you not keep looking and hoping she would be there? Dub and Cody were married 62 years when she died. “Those 18 years after my stroke were the best years of my life because I got to see her every day. If I hadn’t had that stroke, I’d have been out playing golf or out fishing and I would have missed that time with her,” Dub concludes.

It all adds up.

Be Counted

“W e’ve been giving to Northwestern since before we graduated. The college challenged Ryan during his senior year to support NWC financially, and we’ve been contributing regularly since then. As our means have grown, we’ve increased our donations, but we still give monthly—even while paying off college loans. We think of it this way: The loans were for us to attend Northwestern. Our giving helps ensure future generations—including our kids—have the same opportunity.”

Ryan Ten Pas ’99 and his wife, Melissa (Fox ’01), live in Wisconsin, where Ryan is a certified public accountant with Schenck SC and Melissa teaches sixth grade at Cedar Grove-Belgium Schools. They have been faithful supporters of Northwestern for 10 years and return to their alma mater annually for Homecoming, the alumni soccer game or family gatherings.

Make it easy to give—and make your gift count more. Ryan isn’t a fan of writing checks, so he and Melissa have arranged for their monthly gift to Northwestern to be automatically deducted from their checking account. It’s easy and makes your gift count more.
The new year started with temperatures of 20 below and the campus blanketed with more than two feet of snow. Classes are rarely canceled at a residential college, so students brave icy wind chills and snow-packed sidewalks for heated class discussions about molecular genetics, game theory, 1968, Congress, living shalom, and the art and culture of more temperate places like Ethiopia. Afterward, students bundle up and hurry back to their residence hall rooms to heat soup in hot pots and plan frostbitten fun—like making snow sculptures and sledding on scraps of cardboard.