Local and Global

Building partnerships in our neighborhood and beyond

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Place makes a difference.

Learning is always influenced by place, by the environment in which we study. We recognize this at North Park and frequently remind our students that “Chicago is our classroom, and all Chicagoans are our teachers.”

North Park is ideally situated to provide a highly effective learning environment. In 2008, for the first time in history more than half of the world’s 6.6 billion inhabitants lived in cities rather than in rural areas. And each week the cities of the world grow by a net of one million people.

Our University now stands with the global majority, whereas many colleges and universities (including most faith-affirming schools), which were established in small towns and distant suburbs are now located within the shrinking minority.

Very little happens around the globe that is not shaped significantly by urban systems—whether economic, political, cultural, financial, social, medical, educational, or religious. Today, more than ever, cities shape the world.

As a result, at North Park we dedicate our wholehearted effort to shape a generation of young leaders who will link their skills, their privileges, their dedication to justice, their commitment to loving kindness, and their passion for walking with God to the well being of the city.

Because our “forefathers” at North Park had the vision to establish this school in Chicago, and later to keep it here, we are perfectly positioned to offer an excellent and profoundly transformative urban-infused education. We can prepare students for lives of significance and service in tomorrow’s cities. This occurs, however, only in partnership with the city—with its resources, and most importantly, with its people.

This edition of the North Parker highlights one partnership between North Park and Chicago that has become increasingly important to us. Located immediately adjacent to some of our residence halls and apartments in the Albany Park neighborhood, the Hibbard School is a laboratory for learning—not only for the hundreds of young children who study there each week, but also for the North Park students, faculty, and staff who volunteer in the school each semester. The Hibbard School is our classroom, and all students at Hibbard are our teachers!
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Congrats, Class of 2009!

More than 400 students receive degrees at University’s 116th Spring Commencement

From the procession of international flags leading a queue of bright smiles and fluttering tassels; to the golden caps and gowns of the returning class of 1959; to the shouts and horns of students cheering on their classmates from the stands, North Park’s 116th commencement exercises were colorful and exuberant.

As parents, spouses, and friends looked on, nearly 400 undergraduate and graduate students received their degrees in the Saturday, May 9, exercises. In addition to the presentation of diplomas, highlights of the day included the awarding of the Ahnfelldt Medallion to graduates Matthew Enquist C’2009 and Matthew Kemp C’2009, who, in addition to sharing the same first name, also shared the highest GPA in their class (4.0) and were both double majors receiving one of their degrees in biblical and theological studies. Classmate Riley Clark C’2009, a Spanish and business double major, was also recognized for winning a Fulbright Award from the Fulbright-Garcia Robles Commission. He was one of only 10 grantees nationwide to receive an award from the Commission, and will begin work at a bi-national company in Mexico this fall.

Other outstanding seniors were honored the week before commencement during the University’s annual Honors Convocation. Sarah Thontwa C’2009 and Marcus Simmons C’2009 both received the Senior Par Excellence Award for exceptional academic achievement and service to the University. Thontwa, a business and economics major, was the first undergraduate student from the Democratic Republic of Congo to attend North Park. In addition to maintaining a high grade point average, she founded the African Student Organization as well as a nonprofit called Little Things, which provides funds to help educate marginalized women in Africa. Simmons, a communication arts major, joined a group of fellow North Parkers in a cross-country bike trip last summer to raise awareness about social justice issues. Over the years he also served as a resident assistant, writing advisor, and editor of the student newspaper, and has been an accomplished cross-country and track and field athlete.

During the undergraduate commencement proceedings on Saturday morning, an honorary doctorate of humane letters was presented to Phyllis Tickle for her numerous contributions to the field of Christian publishing. A former religion editor for Publishers Weekly, her insightful reviews of Christian publications in America made her one of the most influential figures in the industry from 1992 until her retirement in 2004. As the author of books The Shaping of a Life, Prayer Is a Place, and The Divine Hours, she is credited with having singlehandedly resurrected the practice of fixed-hour prayer among evangelicals through her work.

Perhaps not surprisingly, Tickle encouraged the graduating class with an abridged version of a historic prayer that dates back to the Reformation: “God be in your mind and in your thinking. God be in your heart and in your knowing.”

Upon receiving the degree from President David Parkyn, and following
Graduating Senior Awarded Fulbright

Ask most recent graduates about their post-college plans, and you may get a host of answers—“traveling abroad,” “furthering my education,” and “getting a job” among them.

Come September, Spanish and business double major Riley Clark C’2009 will have the opportunity to do all three as the latest North Park University recipient of a prestigious Fulbright Award.

Granted by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board and the United States Department of State, the award is also sponsored by the Fulbright-Garcia Robles Commission in Mexico. It will cover Clark’s full expenses for a yearlong professional business experience at a bi-national business or a nongovernment agency.

“I believe my experience as a Fulbright grantee will provide me with the impetus to contribute to the connectedness of the international business community,” says Clark, who will be assigned to a specific company by the Garcia Robles Commission.

During the past two years the Commission has placed grantees in companies such as Banamex, Banorte, NAFTA Fund, New Ventures, Proctor & Gamble, Rothschild Bank, and Scotiabank, among others. In addition, Clark will be allowed to take two graduate courses each semester in Spanish, business, finance, international trade, and comparative law.

Clark is one of only 10 outstanding students from across the country chosen by the Fulbright Commission to work in Mexico at a bi-national company. He is also the third North Parker to receive a Fulbright Award in the last two consecutive years. Last year, 2007 graduate Rebecca Miller was a grantee, and this year, professor of Spanish Linda Parkyn received a Fulbright Specialists Award, reserved for faculty and professionals.

Parkyn spent several weeks this spring in Honduras, consulting in curriculum development at the Universidad Nacional de Agricultura. She was Clark’s mentor throughout the application process, and herself traveled to Mexico in 2003 as a Fulbright grantee.

“He is uniquely qualified to use his knowledge of Spanish as well as his business acumen to become a bi-lingual business leader,” she says, noting that the award will give Clark an opportunity to “put a human face” on the intercultural relationships between the United States and its neighbors in Mexico.

a glowing introduction by longtime friend and North Park professor Scot McKnight, Tickle simply said, “I could not have imagined a degree that could have pleased me more.”

As bright smiles and fluttering tassels revealed, it was a sentiment shared by all who received their diplomas that day.

Two weeks later, on Saturday, May 23, an additional 48 students received degrees or certificates at North Park Theological Seminary’s commencement exercises.

In addition to the academic presentations, a number of awards were given to outstanding graduates in history, theology, ministry, Bible, preaching, Christian formation, Greek, and Hebrew.

E. Kirsten Kronberg was awarded the Ahnfeldt Medallion as the Seminary student with the highest grade-point average. The recognition is named in honor of Alfred Nelson Ahnfeldt, North Park College’s first professor. Robert Kronberg, Kirsten’s father and a retired Evangelical Covenant Church pastor, introduced her.

An honorary doctorate was also presented to Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and president of the Lutheran World Federation.
New Book Captures North Park’s History in Pictures

North Park University and Seminary alumnus John E. Peterson C’71 S’76 knows a little something about school spirit. A former University trustee and self-described “amateur historian,” he has spent years amassing a collection of North Park memorabilia—from photographs, to yearbooks, to magazines. In fact, his affinity for his alma mater and love of its history inspired Peterson to help produce a book capturing North Park’s rich 118-year legacy in pictures.

“There hasn’t been a good history of North Park since 1941,” says Peterson, who first got the idea couple of years ago after viewing a presentation by Anne Jenner C’89 on North Park’s architectural history. Jenner is the director of the University’s F. M. Johnson Archives and Special Collections. When Peterson presented a draft of his idea to University officials, they suggested he work with her to produce it.

The finished product, North Park University, was published by Arcadia Publishing and was released nationwide on May 11. It is one of the latest installments in Arcadia’s Campus History series, which highlights dozens of campuses—from large universities like Princeton and Georgetown, to state schools, to mid-size liberal arts institutions like North Park.

For Peterson and Jenner, the greatest challenge of the project was sorting through the thousands of original photographs in North Park’s archives. “We have a fantastic photo collection,” says Jenner.

Above all, the two hope readers will experience a newfound appreciation of North Park through the book. “I think people will receive a lot of new insights into the things that happened at North Park over the years,” Peterson says. “Pictures can tell a wonderful history quite vividly.”

Viking Pitcher Drafted

The 2009 season has been an outstanding year for Mike Giovenco C’2011. On top of earning a First Team selection for both the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW) and the ABCA/Rawlings All-Central Region; setting the single-season school record for strikeouts (84); and finding his name in the NCAA rankings in several statistical categories; Giovenco can now add an even greater honor to his resume—Major League Baseball draft pick. On June 10 Giovenco was picked up by the Minnesota Twins in the 2009 MLB First-Year Player Draft.

“We couldn’t be happier for Mike and his family,” says fourth-year head coach Luke Johnson. “It’s a legitimate culmination of his ability, his outstanding work habits, and his approach.”

The 6-foot-6, 235-pound right-hander created a lot of buzz in the Midwest scouting community this past spring. Routinely throwing in front of multiple professional scouts, he drew interest from every team in Major League Baseball.

“Our players have high standards for themselves and do a great job of elevating the standard of excellence on a day-by-day basis,” Johnson notes. “Mike would be the first to tell you that some of this is the result of being part of a team that values a legitimately consistent professional approach and the work habits that make this possible. Everyone on our roster can take some satisfaction in that.”

Giovenco is also an outstanding student. A native of River Grove, Ill., the business and economics major has been named to North Park’s Dean’s List as well as to the Academic All-CCIW team.
**Students Raise $10K for Microfinance in Mexico**

The leader of a ministry that provides microenterprise loans to poor women in Oaxaca, Mexico, expressed his gratitude for $15,000 donated by North Park students in April.

Campus pastor Judy (Howard) Peterson C’92 S’2001 and two other representatives from University Ministries presented the funds to the Evangelical Covenant Church Department of World Mission in a ceremony at the denomination’s central offices. Students raised $10,000 during a special chapel offering on March 25, and an anonymous donor matched $5,000.

Stephanie Lee C’2010, who traveled to Oaxaca with a student team during spring break, came up with the idea to raise money for the microfinance initiative, Fuentes Libres. In mid-March Peterson challenged the entire student body to donate $5,000. It was a great surprise to everyone when they doubled that amount.

“We are so grateful that people far away from us would take what they have and share it with us,” said Guillermo Conde, the director of Fuentes Libres, who spoke from Oaxaca via Skype during the check presentation ceremony in Chicago.

Fuentes Libres is one of the Global Partnerships of University Ministries, and enables students to serve at sites around the world. The students’ donations will fund the start of three new banks, which need $5,000 each to be launched.

**North Park Academy Alumni Reunite**

More than 300 alumni of North Park Academy gathered at North Park University for a reunion April 17–19, during which they celebrated the Academy’s history and its impact on their lives and future generations.

The high school once housed on the University campus opened in Chicago in 1894 and celebrated its last commencement in 1969. Faculty and students of classes dating back to 1935 attended. The weekend included a variety of activities, from tours of the city and campus, to a worship service, to a concert by the University Gospel Choir.

One of the highlights came during a luncheon on Saturday when John Douglass A’64, a member of the North Park University Board of Trustees, announced a new scholarship for students attending North Park Theological Seminary. It will be named in honor of Ron Magnuson C’52 S’58, who was the Academy chaplain from 1960–1969. Funds are still being raised for the scholarship, which Douglass calls “a meaningful way to say thank you.”

**Viking Rowers Shine as Scholar Athletes**

Five members of the North Park women’s rowing program were recently named Academic All-Americans and National Scholar Athletes by the Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association (CRCA) for the 2008 season.

To qualify for recognition, students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale), be in at least their second year of NCAA eligibility, and have competed in varsity level competitions for 85 percent of the season’s races. This year’s honorees include sophomores Kara Bladel C’2011, Kaitlin Jackson C’2011, and Maya Munson C’2011; junior Michelle Benisek C’2010; and senior Kaela Rigterink C’2009. In addition, Jackson and Benisek were previously named Mid-Atlantic Rowing All-Conference athletes at the April 28 conference championships in Harrisburg, Penn.

Since rowing became a varsity sport at North Park six years ago, the Vikings have had 13 National Scholar honorees. This group of five marks the largest single group in the team’s history.

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Axelson Center Hosts 10th Annual Symposium

More than 500 participants were on hand for North Park University’s 10th Annual Axelson Center Symposium for nonprofit professionals. The turnout for the May 13–14 event eclipsed last year’s attendance, notes Axelson Center Director Pier Rogers.

Leslie Crutchfield, coauthor of Forces for Good: The Six Practices of High-Impact Nonprofits, was this year’s opening keynote speaker. The title of her book also inspired the conference theme, “Forces for Good: Key Practices That Transform Organizations.”

In addition to offering a plethora of workshops, the symposium honored two organizations with the Alford-Axelson Award for Nonprofit Managerial Excellence.

The award (which comes with a $5,000 unrestricted grant) is named in honor of leading nonprofit thinker, Jimmie R. Alford C’66, and devoted community healthcare leader, Nils G. Axelson. Alford also helped establish the Axelson Center and is the founder of the nonprofit consulting firm, The Alford Group.

In choosing the winners, a panel of Chicago’s top nonprofit and philanthropy leaders reviewed an applicant pool of 42 nominees. Winners were announced during Wednesday’s luncheon by NBC5 anchor Zoraida Sambolin. Girls in the Game won this year’s award in the small nonprofit category and Community Health won in the large nonprofit category. Organizations were evaluated for clarity of mission, impact of programs, creativity of revenue-building strategies, strength of financial policies, support of staff development, accountability and engagement, and more.

Reflecting on the last decade, Rogers observes that leaders who have received training through the annual symposium and the center’s resources have strengthened and started organizations “that were more resilient and better equipped to serve our communities.”

Adds Alford, “This has certainly grown beyond any of our expectations.”

Community Service Day Draws 250 Volunteers

A shopping cart, a bicycle, a steel drum, and a bus stop sign still attached to its pole were among a few of the more surprising things reclaimed from the North Branch of the Chicago River by North Park University students, employees, and alumni on the University’s second annual Community Service Day.

“Both years we’ve recovered interesting items,” says Tony Zamblé, outreach coordinator for University Ministries and an organizer of the April 25th event.

About 250 participants took on 15 work and cleanup projects in and around Albany Park. North Park volunteers partnered with members of a local nonprofit, Chicago Time Exchange, which encourages individuals to offer their services, (from washing cars to providing music lessons), in exchange for “time dollars” they can use to purchase services from others.

“We saw a community engaged,” says Zamble, inspired by the turnout. “Last year about 120 people participated in the inaugural Service Day. Among North Parkers, this year’s numbers represent about an 85 percent increase over last year. Who knows where we will be next year?”

River cleanup continues to be the most popular project, he adds. This year teams canvassed the river by canoe from Cicero Avenue to North Park’s campus clearing debris. Other groups picked up trash in the Foster Forest Preserve, provided childcare, and offered assistance at various neighborhood churches and community centers. All told, more than 600 hours of service were rendered.
Current visitors to the North Park University website may notice something different. After months of preparation, the University unveiled its new-and-improved online presence on March 27—a redesigned site complete with rich media, blogs, news feeds, and other Web 2.0 features designed to make visitors’ experiences more informative and interactive.

University President David Parkyn welcomed viewers to the homepage with his own blog entry, calling the site “a new way to see the face and hear the voice of the University.” Highlighting North Park’s strong programming and distinctive identity, Parkyn explained that one of the University’s tasks is to seek to more effectively engage audiences in the years to come. “We view this website as a significant step in that direction,” he said.

The online makeover is just one part of an extensive brand development initiative that North Park began in 2008

The online makeover is just one part of an extensive brand development initiative that North Park began in 2008, with the release of its Chicago-based outdoor advertising campaign. From the CTA El, to buses, bus shelters and bridge bulletins, the strategically placed advertisements were designed to cultivate name recognition for the University in various parts of the city. The campaign was re-launched in January 2009 with three new primary messages, “Learn to Lead,” “Listen to Engage,” and “Live to Serve.” These underscore the outcomes of the North Park educational experience and reflect the values of its learning community.

Golf for Kids Raises Green on the Green

For the third consecutive year, Chicago Bears place kicker Robbie Gould joined North Park alumnus Brian McCaskey C’82 to host the 15th annual Golf for Kids fundraiser. The event, which took place on June 10, raised approximately $40,000 in support of the University’s programs for urban youth in the neighborhood surrounding North Park University.

Held for the fifth consecutive year at the Traditions course at Chevy Chase Country Club in Wheeling, Ill., the fundraiser welcomed six new foursomes to the tournament, some of whom flew in from Toronto. Of the 131 golfers who participated in this year’s outing, 12 were Chicago Bears alumni and staff, and 10 were team rookies.

McCaskey has led the event for many years, and Gould is involved in a variety of charitable causes. He even founded his own nonprofit, the Goulden Touch Foundation, in 2009 to benefit the millions of Americans affected by essential tremor (ET).

McCaskey was joined at the banquet and award presentation by his mother and the team owner, Virginia McCaskey, who accepted a personalized game football given in appreciation to the Chicago Bears.

“It has been an honor to be part of the Golf for Kids tradition begun 15 years ago by North Park University, Mike and Kathy Holmgren, Covenant Harbor, and the Chicago Bears,” said McCaskey.

“We continue to strive to make a difference for youth in the Albany Park neighborhood with the funds we raise at the event and are grateful for the many friends of the University and the Bears who donate generously to make this happen.”
North Park Receives Advertising Award

North Park’s “Do Justice” print advertising campaign recently received a bronze award in the 24th Annual Admissions Advertising Awards—the largest educational advertising competition in the country.

The competition is sponsored by the Higher Education Marketing Report (formerly the Admissions Marketing Report), and this year drew more than 2,000 entries from more than 1,000 colleges, universities, and secondary schools from all 50 states and several foreign countries. Sixteen schools were recognized by the judges as “Best of Show” winners. Gold and silver awards were also presented to about 450 schools.

Based on the Bible verse Micah 6:8, (“...what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God?”) North Park’s campaign consists of a series of three ads that highlight the University’s Christian, urban, and multicultural identity and issue a challenge to prospective students. The message of each ad is not what makes the University itself great, but how a North Park education empowers students to do something great—namely, to serve a broken world.

“This award helped us recognize the places we can go as a creative team here at North Park University,” says Director of External Relations Lilian Samaan G’2008. “It is rewarding to know that in an age where advertising messages are endless, ‘Do Justice’ stands out—boldly.”

Professor Receives Lilly Research Grant

The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) in the United States and Canada awarded Seminary professor James Bruckner C’79 S’83 with a 2009–10 Lilly Theological Scholars Grant.

The grant is for the project, “Human Health and Ancient Narrative: The Old Testament as a Shaping Resource for Health Care Vocations.” Bruckner’s project begins with an analysis of Genesis 1–3 and the creation of man in God’s image. The book that will emerge from his research will demonstrate Scripture’s relevance for understanding human fragmentation and holistic health.

Supported by a grant from Lilly Endowment, the ATS Lilly Theological Research Grants program is in its twelfth year. A total of 24 grants were awarded in four categories.
Enjoy New Books from Faculty Authors

**Strange Trades** (Shearsman Books, 2008)
Assistant professor of English Kristy Odelius wrote this collection of full-length poems, which highlight the ways that women negotiate domestic, intellectual, and relational experiences—and the ways that imagination and perception aid in this process.

*Lincoln’s Land* (Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Historical Farm LLC, 2009)
Associate professor of history Kurt W. Peterson provides a fresh look at a little-known part of Lincoln’s life and offers a different perspective on other aspects that have been more widely discussed, including Lincoln’s relationship with his father.

*The Next Evangelicalism* (InterVarsity Press, 2009)
Soong-Chan Rah, Milton B. Engebretson Assistant Professor of Church Growth and Evangelism, unpacks the Western cultural ideologies that ensnare the church in North America, and advocates a new evangelicalism that better reflects the demographic shifts shaping the Body of Christ.

*Marginalization in China* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009)
Associate professor of sociology Lida Nedilsky co-edited and contributed to this collection of scholarly essays, which discuss the various issues and systems in China’s history that have produced discrimination and established inequality.

A Faculty Member Says Farewell

Professor of biology Dr. Peter Pearson C’65 retired this year after more than 33 years at North Park. Pearson, who came to the University in 1976, was known for his love for mentoring students en route to professional programs in the sciences, says Dr. Jeff Nelson C’78. A longtime friend of Pearson’s, Nelson was not only his colleague in the biology department, he was also Pearson’s former student. In addition, Nelson developed North Park’s relationship with Rush University Medical School, where he and Pearson jointly taught their advanced anatomy classes in the cadaver lab.

“Dr. Pearson encouraged my wife and me as we set our sights on medical school,” says Nelson, an M.D. with a specialty in infectious disease. “He really enjoys teaching and mentoring those headed to professional schools, and has always been seen encouraging our athletes, enjoying our music offerings, and contributing in many ways to community life. I enjoyed being his student, working with him as a teaching assistant, and most recently, teaching with him. He is really a role model of a faculty member that all parents hope their children find as they choose a college.”
They call them “Power Lunches.” Only, you won’t find busy executives, gourmet paninis, and iced lattes during these midday rendezvous. You may, however, find a classroom of bright-eyed eight-year-olds and some *Green Eggs and Ham*.

For the past three years, a group of North Park University faculty and staff volunteers have devoted one lunch hour each week to reading to third grade students at William G. Hibbard Elementary School, within walking distance of campus—rain, snow, sleet, or shine.

Today, thanks to a handful of dedicated individuals and a little word of mouth advertising, the relationship between the two schools has become even more multifaceted. What began as an isolated service project has inspired a number of grassroots opportunities for North Park students, faculty, and staff to connect with their elementary school neighbor—serving as one-on-one mentors, classroom assistants, music instructors, and more.

“We absolutely love our North Park volunteers,” says Rita Olsen, Hibbard’s reading, curriculum, and gifted program coordinator, who helps facilitate the partnership.

And, as this year’s group of more than 80 volunteers indicates, North Park loves Hibbard.

John Johnson, who works in the University’s office of development, was one of the original participants in the weekly reading program, known as Working in the Schools (WITS). Designed to increase the reading proficiency and learning capacity of low income and minority students, the literacy program has encouraged 32 Chicago organizations to adopt classrooms in neighborhoods across the city, recruiting their employees as Power Lunch volunteers. All told, WITS currently serves more than 2,200 students in 24 elementary schools, with the support of more than 1,200 participants.

Because Hibbard and North Park are adjacent to each other, Johnson says the opportunity could not be more convenient. Volunteers take turns each week or fill in when one person can’t make it.

“As a member of the community, a lover of literature, a father of a young child, and someone who believes in the importance of doing something to give back, this was a perfect fit,” he says. “Being a good reader encourages and enables a person to become a better writer. And those skills will serve these students throughout their academic, professional, and personal lives.”

For Johnson, the most affirming part of the experience has been the chance to spend quality time with young kids. He has read with four or five kids, and says it’s impossible to choose a favorite.

“Without exception, they were funny, engaged, excited to read, and really appreciative,” he describes. “The single best moment was when an eight-year-old boy said to my reading partner about a story, ‘Wow, this is better than TV!’”

The costs involved in North Park’s participation in WITS have been covered each year by gift from alumni Bruce A’61 and Joan (Johnson) Bickner C’65, in honor of Bruce’s parents’ careers as teachers in the Chicago Public Schools.

The return on the investment is immeasurable. Olsen notes that having faculty and staff come to regularly read with students has certainly influenced the children’s attitudes toward reading.

“Kids start bringing their own books from home and choosing what they want to read,” she describes. “I think there is just much more excitement about reading.”

The partnership is unique for more than one reason. Due to Hibbard’s location in Chicago’s Albany Park neighborhood—a
port of entry for many immigrants—nearly all of the students speak English as a second or even third language, and about 95 percent come from families that live below the poverty line. Many thrive on the personal attention of volunteers, Olsen says.

Christina Martinez, a resident director at North Park, says each of the students she has worked with have been memorable in different ways. Like Johnson, she has participated in WITS at Hibbard since the connection with the University began. “I was looking for a way to be involved in the local community,” she says, echoing many of his sentiments.

Martinez, who spends much of her time developing meaningful relationships with college students and student leaders, has approached getting to know the Hibbard students with the same level of intentionality.

“I always tried to begin our time together by asking the girls about their weekends and tried to learn more about their lives,” she explains. “Each of the girls I read with were eager to read, and I had the privilege of hearing their reading improve over the year.”

Two of the girls she read with were native Spanish speakers, who, ironically, had not read much in Spanish.

“I was able to bring in some books in Spanish for us to read together, which was a fun and rewarding experience for all of us,” Martinez says.

In some ways, it was the success of the WITS program that motivated early childhood education major Kaitlyn Lehman C’2011 to consider how to get more students involved in service at Hibbard. While a number of her fellow education majors have participated in Hibbard’s Jumpstart program—an AmeriCorps initiative that trains college students to work with pre-kindergarten children from low-income backgrounds—Lehman’s idea was different.

Last fall, Lehman served on a committee to arrange the annual book and school supplies drive North Park hosts on behalf of Hibbard. She and the drive’s coordinator, Amanda Munroe C’2009, began discussing how wonderful it would be to incorporate a program where North Park students could read to Hibbard students.

“When I met with Rita Olsen to see if this was possible, she told me that what they needed was simply lots of volunteers—as many as they could recruit,” Lehman explains. “Their class sizes are so large that the students don’t get the kind of one-on-one attention that they not only want, but also need.”

Lehman worked with Olsen to develop HERO—Hibbard...
Elementary Reach Out—a program in which North Park students commit to serving at Hibbard for one hour each week.

“The beauty is that students can be placed in a specific age group, a specific subject, or make any other special requests for placement,” says Lehman. “Last year there was a student studying exercise science helping out a gym class, an English major reading to students, etc. It’s extremely open and tailored to each student’s individual talents.”

She notes that the teachers love having student helpers, and so do the children. One young boy she worked with was struggling in spelling, unable to even identify the sounds of words, let alone the correct letters.

“He was very dejected,” Lehman describes. “The first week I worked with him, before we had even started, he wrote a giant letter ‘F’ on the top of his paper, which was really hard to see. But by the end of the semester, not only was his spelling dramatically improved, he was also so much more confident to try, and that meant a lot to me.”

Lehman says the most challenging part of serving at Hibbard is knowing that “for every one student you’re working with in a classroom, there are 25 others who are still not getting the help they need and deserve.” Still, she says it’s incredibly rewarding to see that the work she and others are doing really does make a difference to the kids, and not just academically. In its second year she hopes to see the HERO program continue to grow, adding greater numbers of volunteers each semester.

“The first semester, there were 11 students, and the second semester there were 16 students and one professor!” says Lehman, noting that three of the students actually chose to go twice a week. “I’m so excited about that growth, and I can’t wait to see what next year holds.”

Neither can Lida Nedilsky, a sociology professor who has consistently volunteered her spring breaks to work with kindergarten classrooms at Hibbard.

Nedilsky also teaches a sociology practicum course at North Park where students investigate a major social issue through hands-on involvement at an individual site in Chicago. In 2009, her practicum students committed themselves to service learning projects at Hibbard. Previous groups spent five years studying and volunteering at Williams Multiplex School across from the Dearborn housing development.
With the freedom to select the focus and methodology of the Hibbard projects, Nedilsky’s students designed three separate studies of the concept of identity using various art forms.

“Hibbard has made an intentional effort to maintain the creative arts in its curriculum, and the practicum students tried their best to make their work a complementary endeavor,” says Nedilsky. In many other under-resourced schools, she observes, the arts are considered for the lucky.

One of the projects her students facilitated with the younger children involved making personal photo books. In addition to teaching the technology and techniques of photography, the group gave each child in the afterschool workshop a disposable camera to photograph objects and people that reflect various aspects of who they are.

It’s been a fascinating sociological study, notes Nedilsky. “You can tell the younger kids are looking for answers,” she says. “They not only have to bridge a generational gulf, but they also have to bridge a cultural gulf. Some of them have come from refugee situations with limited exposure to school, and some have had an abbreviated education.”

Her students helped a third grade group learn the art of reading and telling folktales, with the objective of not only promoting literacy, but also fostering cultural literacy. “It’s interesting to see how the children’s acculturation at home affected how they told stories,” says Nedilsky.

A fourth grade group her class worked with went on a treasure hunt, collecting objects that revealed their personality, what they value, and what is precious to them. And a group of sixth graders worked on a self-portrait photography project with the help of the practicum students.

For Nedilsky, watching her own students learn from the experience has been just as intriguing as watching the Hibbard students engage in self-discovery.

“A lot of them know how to volunteer, but they are seeing that they can design their own service learning experiences and enter an institution on their own terms,” she says, adding that Olsen’s support has been instrumental. “From a professor’s perspective, I’ve really enjoyed watching students direct their own learning through volunteering.”

The Hibbard administrators, teachers, and Olsen are all just as grateful for the relationships that have been built with North Park.

“What I have appreciated is that all of our North Park volunteers have been extremely giving and very open,” says Olsen. “They bring so much enthusiasm . . . you can tell their hearts are to serve the kids.”

“I’ve really enjoyed watching [North Park] students direct their own learning through volunteering.”
Deborah Wanderley dos Santos C’2010 understands the power of music in a child’s life.

Now a world-class violinist, dos Santos grew up in poverty in Brazil before being discovered as a musical talent. Last year, she helped found a youth orchestra for underprivileged children that now includes 43 Hibbard Elementary School students.

The orchestra is modeled after Venezuela’s El Sistema, a program that has drawn international attention for its ability to improve the lives of impoverished children through the creation of youth orchestras. The Chicago “nucleo” operates under the umbrella of The People’s Music School, a free community music school located in the Uptown neighborhood.

Dos Santos, who served as a volunteer teacher at The People’s Music School, wanted to expand its reach, and helped raise $30,000 in donated instruments to teach the Hibbard students after school. A number of her North Park classmates assist, along with faculty volunteers from The People’s Music School who are professionally trained musicians.

Since its inception, the youth orchestra has garnered no small amount of attention—including publicity in the local media.

“The excitement is tangible, for the students as well as for the parents,” Hibbard principal Scott Ahlman told The Chicago Tribune in an article last spring.

Most of the students from Hibbard who participate are children of Latino immigrants, and a few are refugees from Sierra Leone. Nine-year-old student Adilene Alday explained to the Tribune that she chose to play the violin after watching a video of her grandfather in Mexico playing one. Her mother, (who articulated in Spanish that she would not have been able to afford a violin rental and private lessons), is just one of many parents grateful for the program.

In May, Dos Santos was featured in a special segment on Chicago’s ABC7 news for her work coordinating the Music for Peace Festival. Co-sponsored by North Park University, the festival brought together musicians from the Youth Orchestra of the Americas and the Simon Bolivar Orchestra to instruct teachers from across Chicago on how to use the El Sistema method. The weeklong event featured performances from the youth orchestra as well as a series of free music workshops held at sites around the city.

Dos Santos says she hopes to see the youth orchestra expand, and so does Ahlman.

“It just goes to show that when you give a child the proper structure and a place to have success, it can have a huge impact on that child’s life,” he says.
North Park senior Chelsea Redding C’2010 still isn’t quite sure how she developed such a deep relationship with Am, the woman she stayed with in Thailand during two mission trips.

“Am speaks no English, and I speak just a little Thai, so there was a lot of smiling, a lot of hand gestures, and a lot of ‘I don’t knows,’” recalls Redding, who says every day Am would wake her up in the morning, feed her breakfast, and drive her to the fish farm where she and a team of her North Park classmates were working.

Some evenings after dinner Redding would stay up and watch Thai TV with Am and her husband, Dan. Most evenings, however, she would fall asleep early, exhausted from the day’s labor.

Before the students returned to Chicago, they participated in a string-tying ceremony with the people from the village. Originally a Buddhist tradition, the fish farm adopted it into Christianity as a way to show love between people. Every member of the community tied a white string on the wrists of the Americans as a way of expressing thanks to God and to them.

“This past trip, when Am came around to tie a string on me, she was overwhelmed by tears,” Redding recalls. “She tried to speak, but kept crying and choking up. I couldn’t keep my eyes dry either, and we hugged and cried together.”

Redding says she still wonders why Am cried. “I didn’t do anything,” she reflects. “I only ate her food, slept on her bed, and brought home my nice white T-shirts all sweaty and muddy every night—which she insisted on cleaning for me.”

It was Redding’s second trip to Thailand through North Park’s Global Partnerships program. This year, 155 students are working at sites around the world. Like Redding, some have returned multiple times to the locations at which they previously served.

“I am amazed every trip at how God works,” says Redding, a psychology major. She notes that simply being with people—spending time with them, eating with them, and working with them—makes lasting impressions.

“What I am most amazed with is how this happens with such a big language barrier,” she marvels. “But if I have learned anything from the past two trips it is that there is no barrier when it comes to the love of God.”

The Global Partnerships program began in 2006. Previously, although University Ministries sponsored occasional service trips abroad, there was little multi-year planning and coordination. Rather, students would often approach staff to express interest in leading trips and ask if the University would help support the experience.
Ultimately, the staff decided an organized program would be more advantageous for everyone, says Julia Styles Hastie, the Global Partnerships coordinator. The trips, which range from about one to three weeks each, can be expensive, but funds from a Lilly Endowment grant have helped to defray costs for most students. An anonymous donor also provided $20,000, she says.

Global Partnerships works internationally, with partners in Thailand, India, Zambia, Mexico, Ecuador, and formerly Bolivia. In the United States, students have served in Alaska, New Orleans, and Appalachia.

University Ministries focuses on three objectives through the program—educating students and developing a sense of their responsibility as global citizens; developing relationships with people from other parts of the world; and pursuing sustainable projects and locations. All three are critically interconnected.

Understanding the socioeconomic and global-political implications of certain actions can remain shallow if a person has not walked alongside someone affected by them, Styles Hastie says. It is also important for the projects Global Partnerships teams facilitate to be sustainable to foster true relationships rather than cycles of dependence.

In addition to specific collaborative opportunities, Global Partnerships also sponsors various campus initiatives focusing on global social justice. By raising awareness, encouraging advocacy, and hosting events on such issues as AIDS and the environment, the program helps students to learn to pursue a lifestyle of justice.

The success of the international program is dependent upon working with solid ministries on location. “Our partners were chosen based on existing relationships, ability to host students for a short-term trip, and shared mission and values with University Ministries,” Styles Hastie says.

Many of the agencies are also connected with the Evangelical Covenant Church, such as Fuentes Libres, a bank in Mexico that provides microenterprise loans to women so they can start or expand small businesses. The newest partner is Truthseekers International in India, which works to bring about reconciliation among people of different castes. Another connection was established by Rich Johnson, director of University Ministries. Johnson helped start Spark Ventures in Zambia, which works with children in orphanages and has developed a unique child sponsorship program. Members of partnering organizations also occasionally make trips to the University.

The return of the teams is as important as the work they are doing, organizers say. That was evident to Redding as

Students who participate in Global Partnership trips nurture service relationships all over the world . . . and can’t resist returning to see the fruits.
she worked alongside Thai seminary students on different projects. On her first trip in 2008, she met a male student, Ole (pronounced “Oh-Lay”). They worked together washing truckloads of sand and rocks for new fish tanks. This year, they dug water lines, and poured cement for a new kitchen in a house where the seminary students live.

“One day while we were digging in the jungle fighting off red ants, bees, and snake holes, Ole turned to me and said with a smile on his face, ‘Chelsea come! One year . . . [then] Chelsea come [back]! Thank you Jesus!’ It was probably the most sincere thing I have ever heard, and it made my heart just melt.”

Covenant missionary Randy Bevis C’91 S’95 oversees the students’ time in Thailand. He notes that while the students will work on projects such as building a kitchen or putting in a water line, “It is working alongside the Thai people and getting the chance to interact and build relationships that is memorable, both for the Thai people and for the North Park students.”

The relationships are built even as cultural barriers come tumbling down. “Thai people don’t tend to do much physical touch, and it is always fun to see the host moms get a big hug from their sons or daughters who stayed in their homes for the week,” Bevis says. “The moms really seem to like it.”

Those events serve as a reminder that people must experience a culture to understand it. Bevis notes sometimes educating visitors too much about how to conduct themselves in a new culture inhibits some of the natural learning experiences born out of each new cultural exchange and encounter.

In addition to developing deeper relationships with others, Global Partnerships participants often develop deeper relationships with God and discover leadership abilities they did not know they had.

Nicole Taylor C’2010 has served on four teams. She did construction in Mississippi, helped with microfinance initiatives in Mexico, and served in orphanages and nutrition hospitals during two trips to Bolivia. Next spring she will lead a trip to India.

“I came to North Park timid and excited to serve, but as a follower,” says Taylor. A co-leader on her second trip to Bolivia, she says she found herself forced to make spiritual, financial, and medical decisions that really allowed her to grow as a leader and to trust God on a more intimate level.

That newfound intimacy has changed her life. “I have struggled with relational trust my whole life because I am afraid of failure,” she admits. “But, I have learned that God is unfailing. His love is unconditional and unchanging.”

Participants in service trips generally expect to have their worldview changed at least somewhat, but the North Park students say their experiences were beyond what they could have foreseen. Dan Kasnick C’2009 recently graduated with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education, and three trips have helped him consider his future. “I hope someday to find myself in full-time missions, and Global Partnerships has given me a better glimpse of what that may look like,” he says.
The students traveled to serve others, but they often were the ones served. Frequently it was the children who demonstrated the carefree hearts of servants.

Nathan Albert, a third-year Seminary student, says the first time he traveled to India, he was truly touched by the way children shared possessions. "I was asked by a young child if I was thirsty," he describes. "She made sure I had the coldest water, and although plastic cups were what were usually used for water, she made sure I had one made from glass."

Another young girl would always give him the first bite of her food, running to the ice cream stand, buying sweets, then running back to him so he could taste them. Albert adds, "While playing badminton in the streets, my racket broke. She took it and gave me hers—the one that still worked—while she used the broken one."

Hannah Schultz C’2009, a senior who will graduate in December with a degree in biblical and theological studies, has traveled to New Orleans twice and Zambia twice, leading her second trip to Africa. It was there that children from an orphanage showed her how to give back to God.

"There was one church service we attended while in Zambia in which everyone danced and sang and brought up their tithes to the front as a celebration of what God had provided for them," Schultz says. She watched and reflected on how the Africans gave with such a joyous spirit, realizing that she and others often do so grudgingly.

One of the older children from the orphanage that we worked with got up and brought to the front an offering that she and the other 14 orphans had collected and gave it to God," Schultz remembers. "For children who have so little to be so joyful in giving what they have was a humbling experience to witness."

One of Kasnick’s favorite moments was celebrating New Year’s Eve with the church in Zambia. "That night we were able to connect with the people in a new way and just dance for the Lord," he says. "It brought our team together and brought us closer to the people there. . . . I will never celebrate New Year’s the same again."

Styles Hastie says she hopes North Park students will influence their churches at home to get involved in their own global partnerships. The students already encourage their classmates who didn’t go on trips to contribute.

Even those who work overseas full-time are inspired by the students’ commitment. "I enjoy seeing the enthusiasm of the students and how they approach life with hope and optimism," Bevis says. "It’s a good reminder for those who have been around the block awhile and sometimes lose sight of those qualities."
Back to school. Just hearing the words is enough to elicit butterflies and nervous jitters from many a student—from age five to age 45. In fact, as Elizabeth Ritt C’78, dean of North Park University’s School of Adult Learning (SAL) observes, sometimes the problem is even worse on the tail end of that spectrum.

Although the stereotypical image of a college student—an 18- to 22-year-old living on campus and taking classes full time—still dominates popular culture, in reality, perhaps as few as 16 percent of undergraduates in the United States fit this profile. Research shows 40 percent of college students study part time, and 40 percent are age 25 or older.

These “nontraditional students” have a number of unique concerns, Ritt says—including geographic location, family commitments, work schedules, past experiences in college, lack of childcare, financial limitations, and perhaps even a general fear of returning to school.

Before North Park introduced its adult degree completion program 17 years ago, it was common for older students who wished to earn a bachelor’s degree to find themselves sitting beside 19- and 20-year-olds in a daytime classroom setting. But since then, higher education has undergone a radical transformation with the introduction of for-profit universities and online education, as well as programs at every educational level that cater to working adults.

Today, SAL is home to about 250 adult students pursuing bachelor’s degrees in eight different majors, including Business Administration, Counseling and Social Services, Human Psychology, Management Information Systems, Organizational Management and Leadership, and recently introduced programs in Nonprofit Management, Church and Ministry Management, and Criminal Justice.

One of SAL’s major objectives is to provide continual support as well as flexibility to help older students navigate through what are often challenging individual circumstances.

For Myrna Nodal C’2008, family concerns were a significant barrier to completing her degree. As a young mother with one son, Nodal had postponed her pursuit of a degree in nursing. Years later, with five children, she wondered if she could manage the coursework without sacrificing her family.

“One of my first classes, my eldest son broke his arm playing football. Between doctor’s appointments and writing papers, I almost quit,” she says. “I felt that I had made a mistake, and should pull out before I failed. Juggling all of our schedules, on top of trying to find time to study, was proving to be much harder than I had originally anticipated.”

One night, while she was writing a paper for class, Nodal’s two-year-old son reached around her laptop and turned it off. “I had not yet saved my work and all was lost!” she exclaims. “I was furious, until I looked at his defiant little face peering up at me. He missed me, even though I was home. He felt my absence, even though I was physically present. It was then I decided that I would not choose school over the needs of my kids, but that I would simply do my best and try to be at peace with the outcome.”

Nodal found the understanding of SAL faculty to be instrumental as she found a balance between school and her home life. She
Two years after getting married, Ghosh and his wife immigrated to the United States, and he says he didn’t think he would ever return to school until he began his first full-time job. “I started the slow climb up the corporate ladder,” he says, “and I realized that I needed a college degree to continue climbing just a little bit more.”

North Park University’s School of Adult Learning is making the process of completing an undergraduate degree more convenient than ever before.

by Judson Curry and John Potter C’2005

Alicia (Mccluskey) Roth C’2008 says the SAL structure really eased her fears about completing her degree. “When I finally started classes, I discovered that my earlier worries about returning to school—although quite valid, for my thinking at the time—were unfounded in reality,” she says. “In fact, when I finally ‘took the plunge’ back into academia, I was amazed at how much my and other returning students’ life experiences brought to the quality of each class. There were others who were in the same boat as me, with similar experiences and fears.”

Roth admits to having been daunted by coursework prior to enrolling, but soon found the confidence to perform beyond her own expectations. “I quickly realized that I did know more than what I gave myself credit for, and enjoyed the discovery of new and exciting information that studying brought to me.”

She especially appreciated delving into issues of social justice and ethics—topics that all North Park students are challenged to confront. When Roth enrolled in a course that explored contemporary slavery, she found that the discussions, while difficult, “resulted in a keen awareness of oppression and its many faces.”

“I have no doubt that this class affected many of us in ways that we will remember for years to come, and perhaps even prompt some of us to regularly oppose injustices in our own society,” she says.

Many SAL students directly attribute their success to the mentoring and coaching of SAL staff and administrators like Hannah Barbosa S’2009. As the Academic Services Coordinator, Barbosa works closely with new students as they first enroll.

“I often think I have the best job in the world,” she says. “Working with adult students as they overcome obstacles and anxiety to take those first steps back into the classroom is such a joy.”

Still, advising adult students is more than just helping them choose classes. As transfer students, often with credits from multiple institutions over many years, each adult undergraduate requires a unique academic plan. Unlike their traditional counterparts, adult students come to campus only when they have class, often arriving directly from work and heading straight home following class. As a result, a student’s advisor becomes his or her primary contact with North Park. SAL advisors serve as liaisons on behalf of students, helping them to focus on completing their coursework and not on negotiating an academic bureaucracy.

Patti McCanna, an academic advisor and instructor who facilitates the final capstone course, loves to celebrate students’ achievements with them.

“I’m happy to have been part of an adult learner’s journey, and I’m pleased that there is a place like North Park that can support them in reaching their educational goals,” she says. “It’s exciting to see where our students are going next—professionally, academically, and personally.”
Human Laboratory

A unique partnership with Rush University Medical Center provides hands-on learning for North Park students.

by Jessica Allen Bernthal

While prime-time medical dramas and Discovery Channel documentaries have done much to demystify the inner workings of the human body, the chance to study it “up-close-and-personal” is another experience entirely. And thanks to professor of biology Dr. Jeff Nelson C’78 and colleagues at Chicago’s Rush Medical College, it is an experience a number of North Park science students are taking advantage of.

A North Park alumnus who has taught at the University for the last 12 years, Nelson helped broker the connection between his alma mater and the medical college, a division of the well-respected Rush University Medical Center. Today about 50 of his students study in the state-of-the-art cadaver labs there each year. About 30–40 are first-year students, many of whom are interested in health careers such as nursing. An additional 10 seniors opt to take an eight-week advanced anatomy class with Nelson, who previously taught the course with now retired biology colleague, Dr. Peter Pearson C’65.

“Most students really enjoy the opportunity to visit the lab,” Nelson says. “Many are amazed at the complexity of the forearm, the size of a liver, or the structure of a simple joint such as the hip.”

The relationship with Rush began when Nelson was on sabbatical working with Dr. James Williams, director of the first-year medical student course there. Since then, Nelson has continued to volunteer in the lab in the fall and winter, and Williams has
graciously allowed North Park students to use the facility as well.

"Studying at Rush was a privilege," says Josh Boydston C’2009, who is now pursuing a career in physical therapy. “The staff there was very helpful . . . they were all very knowledgeable and gracious enough to take time out of their day to help undergraduates learn at a higher level. My sister was a student at Rush at the same time that our class was there so it was fun to be able to see what she was working on and compare that to what we were learning.”

Boydston admits that he was more intrigued than he was anxious the first time he worked with human cadavers for Nelson’s class. He notes that Nelson made his students more comfortable and confident about dissecting cadavers as time went on, helping them to reconcile a scientific reverence for the body with the understanding that what they were studying was simply “a shell of human” after the attributes that give a life significance have passed away.

The last 70 years has brought about a change in the etiquette of working with cadavers throughout higher education. A far cry from the pre-World War II era (where even grave robbing was condoned in the name of research) academia is embracing a less tactical, more ethical approach to the sciences—something that North Park has historically emphasized. Boydston says he appreciates the ways North Park’s science faculty integrate themes of ethics, and even social justice, into the curriculum. As a student, he admired Nelson’s passion for bringing medicine to the underprivileged and underserved, and his willingness to share personal stories from his time practicing medicine in Haiti.

In addition to a thoughtful and ethical approach to conducting science, what does Nelson hope his students will take away from his classes?

“I hope students remember that I am as interested in a relationship with them as I am in sharing anatomy with them,” Nelson says. “I may have taught the material many times but each student’s response to the beauty and design we see in anatomy keeps it all interesting to me. . . . It is really special to be around energetic young people each day.”

If or when North Park should have its own cadaver lab in the future, Nelson says he still hopes to continue the collaboration with Rush. “It lets the students see the next step they hope to take,” he says. “They see med students and physicians at work in the lab and can appreciate the critical role anatomy will play in their career.”

“Many [students] are amazed at the complexity of the forearm, the size of a liver, or the structure of a simple joint such as the hip.”
Trying to Get it Right

Taking the Church Seriously as a People Gathered by God

by Linda Cannell, Dean of Academic Life, North Park Theological Seminary

Photo: Emily Wulff C'2009
Congregations and institutions alike require certain organizational procedures for legal and functional reasons. However, the church is also a people of God, expected to learn and practice attitudes and behaviors pleasing to God. Since this learning will be complete only in eternity, the maturing of the character God expects is really lifelong learning for congregations.

It is not uncommon to meet people, Christian and non-Christian, who seem to find little in churches that set them apart from any other helping organization in society. Many today doubt the validity of religious institutions while, at the same time, they continue to search for spiritual meaning. For many in society—and in congregations—the church does not have the kind of "persona" that even non-believers instinctively feel it should have. When the church fails to incarnate biblical and theological principles, it becomes incomprehensible, not only to the world, but also to us. Early in my career I wrote the following:

**If Churches Were Parks**

If we tore down our church buildings and replaced them with parks would the buildings be missed? If churches were parks, there would be trees and grass and places for pleasant walks, neighborhood families enjoying the changing seasons, and our "old ones" sitting on benches telling children stories of their lives and faith.

In the fall, as the leaves changed from green to yellow, orange and red, we could invite our friends and neighbors to corn roasts and BBQs; invite them to laugh with us, talk with us, and enjoy the beauty of God’s creation—in the park. We could leave the children something wonderful in a world gone mad.

In the winter we could roll in the snow with the neighborhood children, throw snowballs, create snow sculptures, and grow to know each other again as we walked under trees heavy with hoar frost. At Christmas, we could string colored lights, decorate a Christmas tree, savor the story of the nativity, and sing carols under quiet stars.

If churches were parks we would have to forsake our games of power and our dreams of empire for pleasant walks, snow forts, corn roasts, Christmas trees, carol sings, Easter pageants, and heart to heart talks with those who need to know why we still believe in God. If our churches were parks, all people could gather there; they could come whenever they wished; for there would be no locked doors or security windows on our parks—no stained glass windows to hide behind. Members of the church eating lunch in the park could strike up a conversation with a business person, university student, or shopper resting before heading home . . . admire the multi-colors of a group of teenagers and ask them if they are afraid of the world we have created for them or angry because of the future we may have taken away from them.

Of course, we would find pain in our parks. Lonely people, unhappy children, sullen youth. We might confront those trying to buy drugs in our parks. We might fear those who would hurt us and steal from us. If our churches were parks we would have to confront the world outside our buildings. We would have to be those who make peace and speak of redemption and hope rather than those who hide behind fortress walls and wish the world away.

When God started the world, God put the first man and woman in a park. God chose to walk and talk with them in a park. When we were cast out of the park, we began to build towers, empires, cities, and temples. We had to acquire and possess—not only the present, but also the past and the future. We found ways to control our world and other persons. It’s hard to do this in a park.

Much good can happen in congregations, and much that is counterproductive to the purposes of God. However, even as we recognize that organizational entropy is inevitable, we are obligated to shepherd wisely. This requires constant attention to what God demands of the church: to teach and lead faithfully. And it requires that we be among, not apart from, the people of God, and to speak prophetically when necessary.

*Linda Cannell is Dean of Academic Life at North Park Theological Seminary. She also directs CanDoSpirit Network (www.candospirit.org) an international community of Christian leaders seeking to partner with God in the transformation of congregational life and theological education worldwide.*
For recent graduates Ken C’2001 and Anne (Hawkinson) McCullah C’2004 G’2007, giving back to the North Park community that helped shaped their lives and careers means “paying it forward” so other students can reap the same benefits.

Ken, who majored in finance, started trading on his own at age 28, and got his first job trading wheat options on the recommendation of his North Park economics professor, Lee Sundholm. Not only did he begin his career working for a North Park alumnus, currently Ken himself also employs a fellow graduate. He additionally serves as the University’s part-time assistant men’s basketball coach, after coaching the boys’ varsity team at Chicago’s Amundsen High School for three years, and guiding them to a second-place finish in the conference.

“There are so many opportunities to give to North Park,” notes Anne, who majored in physics and now also works for her alma mater as a systems analyst in the information technology department. “We feel like we should provide for students the way that others provided for us.”

One way they are doing so is through the establishment and support of the Michael A. Lundberg Memorial Scholarship, named after a friend and classmate who lost his battle with leukemia just a year ago.

Lundberg C’2001 was widely known as a campus leader, and studied politics and youth ministry at North Park. He would also lead Bible studies and afterschool programs for kids in the neighborhood, in addition to serving as a resident advisor and mentoring younger students and his Viking football teammates.

He is fondly remembered for his fun-loving personality—and his loyalty as a fan of North Park’s men’s basketball team.

After graduation, he went on to work as a youth minister at a church in Skokie, Ill., and later Arvada, Colo. He was living and working in Minnesota at the time of his death.

“We approached North Park and asked if there was something we could do to honor his memory,” explains Anne. “Several staff members immediately offered their time and resources in helping us plan a day-long event at a football game to celebrate the life of a former player.”

Beginning this fall, a North Park student interested in youth ministry will be selected as the recipient of the Michael A. Lundberg Memorial Scholarship. He or she will be a person who demonstrates a commitment to serving with enthusiasm, a desire to be a Christian leader on campus, a calling to mentor others, a sensitivity for those in need of encouragement, and maybe even a sense of humor that would make Mike smile.

Says Ken, “It is our hope that the scholarship will provide for future students to follow Mike’s example — serving as campus leaders, athletes, students, and friends; reaching out to children in the neighborhood; or supporting programs in need.”

To donate to the Michael A. Lundberg Memorial Scholarship please contact North Park’s development office at (773) 244-6263 or rjohnson3@northpark.edu.
1920s

**Esther Mattson McCarty A’25** celebrated her 102nd birthday on March 10, 2009. She graduated from North Park Academy in 1925, where she served as the class secretary and wrote for the Cupola yearbook. A mother of three, McCarty also worked as a teacher for many years in both Minnesota and Oregon. She and her husband, Owen, are now great-great-grandparents.

1950s

**Mary (Palmquist) Haubold C’57 C’60** welcomed her first grandchild, Cole Mason, in September 2008. Haubold is retired from her career in nursing and now serves as the homeowner’s president in her community. She also keeps busy attending Bible study and volunteering.

1960s

**John Ferneborg A’60 C’64** was recently featured in the article “Find a Job in a Tough Economy,” in *Money* magazine. An executive recruiter and the president of Ferneborg & Associates, he was also named by *BusinessWeek* as one of the world’s most influential recruiters in 2008.

**Dwight “Jack” Swanson’s C’61 latest book, *Out of Oconomowoc*, was recently released by Living Waters Press. This humorous look at his life and experiences even highlights his time at North Park. Swanson’s first book, *Farewell to Fences*, was also published by Living Waters.

**Patrick Riley C’67** retired from his position as director of Rand McNally’s education division in April 2009, after 19 years with the firm. Riley lives in the Chicago area with his wife of 39 years, Lorraine, who is a first grade teacher in School District 54 in Schaumburg, Ill. He has two grown children, Colleen and Patrick III, and is the grandfather of Daniel and Riley Phillips.

1970s

**Dwayne D. Gabrielson C’77** was honored in May with the 2009 Meritorious Service Award by the Aging Services of California. An executive director of the Covenant Village of Turlock, Gabrielson was nominated by residents and staff members in honor of his ongoing commitment to serving the elderly. He has worked in Covenant retirement communities since 1980 and has served the Covenant Village of Turlock since 1992.

1990s


**Kurt Gustafson C’90** joined Halozyme Therapeutics as the chief financial officer in April 2009, after 18 years working with Amgen Inc. He earned his B.A. in accounting from North Park.

**Valerie Hausman C’90** welcomed Makeda Rose Hirut Hausman in July 2009. Valerie, accompanied by her parents Rose and Bill Hausman S’69, traveled to Ethiopia to meet Makeda and receive her into their family. They now live in Evanston, Ill.
2000s


Cody C’2001 and Angela (Davis) Thomas C’2001 welcomed their third son, Ronan Isaac, on January 23, 2009, in Scottsdale, Ariz. He joins brothers Jacob (3) and Aidan (2).

Obituaries

Jack Andrew Pinion C’35 died on January 22, 2009. Pinion served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and worked for 46 years as a financial analyst for the F.D.I.C.

Ruby Olga (Sundeen) Phipps C’44 died on December 24, 2008. Phipps worked as a nurse in several hospitals in Massachusetts and married her husband, Robert, in 1955. The couple had five children, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Phipps was a member of Bethany Covenant Church in Bedford, N.H.

Rev. LeRoy W. Johnson C’46 S’46, died on January 11, 2009. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lorriane D. (Larson) Johnson A’44 C’46. A retired Covenant pastor, LeRoy served at Cannon Falls Covenant Church in Minneapolis, and Richland Covenant Church in Richland, Mich. He also taught at Gull Lake High School in Richland for 24 years.

Irene (Highfield) Levander A’46 C’48 died on December 2, 2008, just prior to her 80th birthday. Following her graduation from North Park, she accepted a position at the college bookstore, where she worked until she began serving as secretary to the principal of North Park Academy. In 1957 she married John A. Levander C’57. The couple had five children and 16 grandchildren.

Virgina (Seaborg) Moberg C’47 died on May 20, 2009, at the age of 88. She was preceded in death by her husband, Covenant pastor Edward Moberg. The couple served churches in Kingsdale, Minn.; Sioux City, Iowa; Odebolt, Iowa; Laramie, Wyo.; Scranton, Kan.; and Sloan, Iowa.

Dorothy M. (Liljegren) Englund C’48 died on February 14, 2009, in Minneapolis, at the age of 88. She was born in 1920 in Moline, Ill., and raised in Sioux City, Iowa, where she attended First Covenant Church. She married Rev. Kenneth M. Englund S’51 in 1948, and together they served many Covenant churches in the United States and Canada. She is survived by a number of relatives who are North Park alumni, including her children Doreen (Englund) Corwin C’78, Eric Englund C’78, and Mark Englund C’80; her sister Twyla (Liljegren) Lundell C’55 (wife of Rev. James R. Lundell C’52 S’58); and her grandson, Reid Englund C’2011.


Karen (Johnson) Pegors C’74 died in a fatal car accident on May 3, 2009. The daughter of missionaries, she grew up in Japan before attending North Park. During graduate studies at the University of Minnesota, she met and married her husband Doug. Most recently, she was a children’s librarian at Burien Public Library.
and was involved with women’s and children’s ministries at her church.

Rachel E. (Carlson) Wood C’55 died on June 14, 2009. Wood attended North Park for two years before completing her degree in elementary education at the University of Minnesota. She married Rev. J. David Wood S’58 in 1958, and together they served as Covenant missionaries in the Congo for 35 years, preparing and training others for ministry. The couple had three children, Naomi Wood C’83, Judy (Wood) Edstrom C’85, and John Wood C’89.

Friends of North Park

Rebecca “Becky” Knipp died on June 23, 2009, after a long battle with atypical Parkinson’s disease. She worked as a nurse in many Chicagoland hospitals, taught in North Park’s School of Nursing from 1991–2002, and served as the graduate coordinator for the M.S. nursing program. She was married to Larry Knipp, a retired professor of biology.

Russell G. Peterson died in June 2009 at the age of 88. Peterson worked as a funeral director for more than 60 years and was the former owner of the Peterson-Stohlberg Funeral Chapels and the Hillside Cemetery and Funeral Home in Minneapolis. He served in the U.S. Army and was awarded the Bronze Arrowhead for his participation in the D-Day invasion of France during World War II. Peterson was also a lifelong member of Salem Covenant Church as well as a member of many other civic organizations.

Bernice P. Brandel died on July 8, 2009, at the age of 95. She and her late husband, Paul W. Brandel A’28 C’30, were faithful supporters of North Park University and Theological Seminary as well as the Evangelical Covenant Church, helping to launch and fund numerous ministries and educational endeavors benefitting people around the world.

Born May 10, 1914, in Chicago, Bernice had recently celebrated her 95th birthday. She married Paul on January 3, 1976, and the couple enjoyed 10 years of marriage before his death.

The Brandels were very committed to education and ministry and provided generous support to North Park over more than 50 years. They helped fund North Park’s exchange program with Sweden, contributed significantly to the full-tuition Presidential Scholarships in the Seminary, and endowed two Seminary professorships that bear their name. In 1991, North Park also awarded Bernice an honorary doctorate of laws.

“Bernice was an outstanding supporter of North Park in every way,” says President David Parkyn. “She made an incredible difference in the lives of both students and faculty across the entire North Park community. She truly was a role model for us all.”

In fact, Bernice changed the landscape of the University forever, by becoming the lead donor for construction of the Paul W. and Bernice P. Brandel Library, which was dedicated in 2001.

“IT was a pleasure working with this spunky woman who had an overly generous heart for the cause of Christ,” says LeRoy Johnson C’54 S’60, president emeritus of Covenant Trust Company and former vice president of development for North Park.

Paul Brandel was long known for his generosity before marrying Bernice, but she continued his legacy. She lived by the biblical credo, “To whom much is given, much is expected,” observed Mel Soderstrom C’60, a longtime family friend and University development officer.

John Phelan, Seminary president and dean, admired her interest in all aspects of life. “Lunch with Bernice meant a wide-ranging conversation that could include the situation of the church in Sweden, the economy and politics in the United States, or theological and biblical questions,” he says. “She was generous with her financial resources, but her greatest gift to those of us who knew her was herself.”
Sound Advice

Three student interns learn more than what it takes to produce great music from alumnus Terry Fryer.

by John G. Johnson

The word “bonnaroo” is a slang term in New Orleans meaning “a really good time.” And that’s just how three North Park students would describe their experience as production interns at the wildly popular music festival of the same name.

Suzanna Colberg C’2011 says she “could write a small book” on what she learned at this year’s Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival, which took place June 11–14, on an 800-acre farm in Manchester, Tenn. Some 75,000 fans gathered to see performances by dozens of artists, from Bruce Springsteen to Al Green.

She and classmates Alan Hall C’2011 and Michael Dell C’2012 were privileged to work with North Park alumnus Terry Fryer A’69 C’73, a partner at the Evanston-based studio Third Wave Productions, which captured and broadcasted the performances at this year’s festival.

“There were so many things I learned,” says Colberg, such as “the importance of good organization and interpersonal communication skills. I also learned some of the technical aspects that make Bonnaroo work and run smoothly.”

From his position in master control, Fryer was able to scan numerous television and computer monitors and provide real-time feedback on his crew’s work. He even showed Colberg the eight screens used to identify and record all of the camera angles for the Springsteen concert.

The cast of hundreds involved in the festival began each day with sound checks at 6:00 a.m. Music started as early as noon and often lasted up until 6:00 a.m. the following morning.

Fryer and his colleagues spent months preparing for the event, but he says his three interns helped make the weekend’s hectic, 24-hour production schedule a little more bearable.

A business major, Hall says he was surprised to realize that the music industry needs people with sound business and accounting backgrounds. A highlight of his experience was connecting with other professionals who affirmed accounting “doesn’t have to be in an office.”

Fryer himself can attest to the endless applications of a good education. “My so-called achievements have all been in areas that did not exist when I was in school,” he reflects. After working his way through college as the organist for the Evangelical Covenant Church in Evanston, Fryer has had almost every imaginable opportunity in the music industry—touring the world as a performer, producer, and teacher; writing and producing songs for classic movies including “The Blues Brothers,” “Dirty Dancing,” and “Groundhog Day”; and playing, writing, and producing for artists such as Smokey Robinson, Whitney Houston, Ella Fitzgerald, and Natalie Cole.

Fryer’s current work with Third Wave keeps him busy producing 60-plus music-related television shows airing in 74 countries around the world. He has also spent the last seven years producing the video, audio, and Web presence for Bonnaroo and other music festivals.

So what is his advice to North Park students hoping for success in their future careers?

“It is simple, be internally consistent,” he says, adding that progress is “geometric”—not linear.

“Let your heart lead you in your learning because the greatest fulfillment is to do something you love. Do not accept anything less.”
Here's a sneak peak at some of our big plans for this year’s Homecoming celebration:

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2**

“Paris on the Prairie” Bus Tour
10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Cost: $25.00
Join us as we take a closer look at the City of Chicago through the eyes of Daniel Burnham, whose celebrated 1909 plan for Chicago’s development is considered one of the most important documents in the history of city planning. We will explore several of the plan’s key recommendations as we journey through modern-day Chicago, visiting sites that now embody the vision of this ground-breaking document’s creators. Your tour will also include admission to the Art Institute of Chicago, where you’ll visit a special exhibit on Burnham’s Plan.

Young Alumni Gathering
9:00 p.m.–Midnight
The Daily Bar and Grill
4560 North Lincoln Avenue
All the young and young at heart are encouraged to join their classmates and fellow alumni at this Lincoln Square neighborhood spot. The Daily is easily accessible by public transportation.

Naming Ceremony and Reception
3:00 p.m.
5258 North Spaulding Avenue
The University President’s Residence at 5258 North Spaulding Avenue is being renamed the Hawkinson House to recognize the life and service of Eric G. and Lydia (Myhren) Hawkinson, Zenos E. and Barbara (Gustafson) Hawkinson, and James R. and Alyce (Larson) Hawkinson.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3**

Reunion Breakfast
8:30–10:30 a.m.
Varsity Gym
Cost: $15 (Reservations required)
All alumni are welcome to join the members of the Academy, College, University, and Seminary classes of ’39, ’44, ’49, ’54, ’59, ’64, ’69, ’74, ’79, ’84, ’89, ’94, ’99, 2004, and 2009 for breakfast. Reunion classes will be seated together, and class photos will be taken. This breakfast is a long-standing Homecoming tradition and one that you won’t want to miss!

Homecoming Block Party
10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Carmen Avenue in front of the Helwig Recreation Center
Free
You don’t want to miss this cornerstone event of Homecoming. Every year our alumni, students, neighbors, faculty, and staff attend and enjoy music, games, and a barbeque celebration before the Homecoming football game. North Parkers of all ages will be challenged by contests and carnival games. Booths featuring North Park departments, student groups, and local partners will be on display.

Varsity Football vs. Wheaton College
2:00 p.m.
Holmgren Athletic Complex
Adults: $5 Students: $3
Coach Scott Pethel and the Viking football team will host longtime rival Wheaton Thunder. At halftime, the Homecoming King and Queen will be introduced. Tickets can be purchased at the game.

Homecoming Banquet
7:00 p.m.
Anderson Chapel
Cost: $35 (Reservations required)
Join us for this memorable evening of great food and music with fellow alumni and friends. We will congratulate Distinguished Alumna Award recipient, Dr. Kathy Edin-Nelson C’84, and Up-and-Coming Alumnus Award recipient, Josh Church C’2000.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4**

Homecoming Chapel
10:30 a.m.
Anderson Chapel
Free
Rev. Dr. Soong-Chan Rah, Milton B. Engebretson Associate Professor of Church Growth and Evangelism, is the guest speaker for this year’s Homecoming Chapel. Rah is the author of The Next Evangelism: Freeing the Church from Western Cultural Captivity.

For more information about these and other events, contact the Alumni Office at (773) 244-5273 or alumni@northpark.edu, or visit www.northpark.edu/alumni.
Unity Month Celebration .......... Friday, September 11
12:00–3:00 p.m., Hamming Hall

Symposium on the Theological Interpretation of Scripture
Thursday–Saturday, September 24–26
Nygall Hall

Stop Child Trafficking Now .......... Saturday, September 26
Awareness Walk
9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Homecoming Week ............... Saturday, September 26–Sunday, October 4

Project 24 Theater Production .......... Saturday, September 26
7:00 p.m., Lecture Hall Auditorium

Campus Theme Lecture: “What is Justice?”
Tuesday, September 29
Michael Zuckert, University of Notre Dame
7:30 p.m., Anderson Chapel

Victor Borge Exhibition .......... Tuesday, October 6–Tuesday, October 20
from the Danish Heritage Society,
Carlson Tower Gallery

Student Diversity Conference .......... Friday, October 23
9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Anderson Chapel

“In Process” Exhibition .......... Friday, October 23–Thursday, November 5
featuring artwork by Nnenna Okore and Guy Chase,
Carlson Tower Gallery

Fall Play: “Wrens” .......... Friday–Sunday, November 6–8; Thursday–Saturday, November 12–14
by Anne V. McGravie, directed by guest artist Robin Witt
8:00 p.m., Lecture Hall Auditorium
(3:00 p.m. on November 8)

Gospel Choir Concert .......... Saturday, November 14
7:30 p.m., Anderson Chapel

Christmas Festival of Lessons .......... Friday, December 4
and Carols
8:00 p.m., Our Lady of Mercy Church

Sankta Lucia Festival .......... Saturday, December 5
3:00 p.m., Anderson Chapel

Commencement .......... Saturday, December 11
Carlson Gymnasium

For a complete list of University events, visit northpark.edu/news, and click on University Calendar.

The North Park University

Campus Theme Program 2009–2010

What is justice?