What is Justice?
Faith in Action

At North Park University our students often lead the way.

This is especially true in acts of service and in approaching the mandate of the prophet Micah to “do justice, love kindness, and walk with God.”

Learning is a noble endeavor, but learning is most noble when used to benefit others. With the gift of learning comes responsibility. As they learn, we encourage our students to serve others, to turn faith into action, believing the principle taught by Jesus: “From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required.”

In mid-November Linda and I gathered one evening with a group of students for dinner at the Sheraton Hotel on the riverfront just off of Michigan Avenue. We were there to attend the annual gala dinner sponsored by Casa Central, the largest Hispanic-serving social service agency in Chicago.

The particular reason for attending this dinner was to receive the Faith in Action Award from Casa Central. Our students were proud because their university was recognized for its work with Spanish-speaking communities in Chicago. I was proud because most of North Park’s work in these communities comes through the service of our students. We offer graduate classes in nonprofit management at the central offices of Casa Central, so North Park takes its education into the community. But our students are really the ones who make a difference—through internships with social service agencies, by volunteering through church-sponsored programs, and by teaching in the Chicago Public Schools.

Our students enter the community, and make a difference.

Our students put faith into action.

Our students lead the way.
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North Park Moves Up the Ranks

North Park University moved up five spots in *U.S. News and World Report*’s 2010 edition of “America’s Best Colleges,” ranking 40th out of 146 schools in the Midwest region. It remains in the top tier of the University-Master’s category, which ranks schools based on their undergraduate programs.

“We are pleased with the recognition,” said President David Parkyn, noting that the rankings serve as a preliminary benchmark for prospective students. “More significant, however, is North Park’s commitment to providing students with a high-quality and well-rounded education—equipping them with values, skills, and knowledge to lead as well as to serve.”

There were 572 University-Master’s colleges ranked in four geographic areas: North, South, Midwest, and West. Schools in this category provide a full range of undergraduate programs and some master’s level programs, with few or no doctoral programs. Each college is ranked based on *U.S. News*’ nonpartisan view of what matters in education, taking into account peer assessment, retention, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving.

Riverbank Gets a Facelift

While students were away for summer vacation, construction crews moved in to reinforce the banks the Chicago River’s North Branch, which runs through campus.

The project was eight years in the making, notes North Park’s Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Carl Balsam.

Trouble began after a severe rainstorm in August 2001, when University officials noticed that the piling retaining the riverbank behind Anderson residence hall was failing and the bank was breaking. Over time the length of the piling that extends northeast, from Argyle Street to the campus footbridge near Carmen and Spaulding avenues, was leaning severely and risked failure in some places. Record-breaking rainfall and flooding in September 2008 only worsened the problems.

After talking to the Water Reclamation District, which oversees the area’s waterways, the University was told that the Army Corps of Engineers had jurisdiction. Upon contacting the Corps, North Park learned of a program under the federal code providing for cost sharing—the government would pay about two-thirds of the costs of repairing the riverbank, and North Park would pay the remaining one-third.

Construction finally began in mid-June and was completed in October. The work included cutting off old piling and replacing it from Argyle to Magnuson Campus Center; supporting the bank with revetment using large boulders behind Magnuson; terracing the bank from Magnuson to the footbridge; and lining the pathway from the footbridge with brick pavers, light posts, and a wrought-iron fence.

North Park’s Nonprofit Program Recognized

North Park University is one of only two universities nationwide to offer a fully comprehensive nonprofit management program according to *Nonprofit Quarterly*, a magazine dedicated to strengthening the role of nonprofit organizations. In the 2009 Education Directory published in the spring issue, *Nonprofit Quarterly* surveyed schools nationwide to determine which eight essential programs are available at each institution. North Park University and Arizona State University were the only schools to meet all of the eight criteria.

The eight programs catalogued by *Nonprofit Quarterly* include credit programs, undergraduate certificate programs, undergraduate concentrations (more than three courses), graduate nonprofit studies classes, graduate certificates, graduate concentrations leading to a master’s degree, graduate degrees majoring in nonprofit studies, and online courses.
In the past year, as the economy has worsened, North Park has seen increased interest in its Axelson Center for Nonprofit Management and an influx of applications from the recently unemployed, those looking to switch careers, and others looking to further their education.

“We are pleased to be recognized by Nonprofit Quarterly as one of the leading nonprofit management programs in the country and hope this recognition will help direct prospective students to our nonprofit management programs,” said Dr. Pier C. Rogers, director of the Axelson Center.

The Axelson Center offers a variety of programs for professionals who work, volunteer or are transitioning into the nonprofit sector. These include half-day and full-day professional development workshops, an annual symposium, a BootCamp for new nonprofit CEOs, custom designed workshops for organizations, networking opportunities, and some no-cost programs.

Leadership Conference Draws More Than 500 Students

The North Park University Student Diversity Leadership Conference held on Friday, October 23, offered students a wealth of new ideas on how to be more effective intercultural communicators. In addition to 330 North Park students, more than 220 students from 20 colleges and universities across the Midwest attended the event.

Brenda Salter McNeil, a nationally recognized speaker on diversity issues, opened the conference with an inspiring message that answered the question, “What does it mean to understand human differences?” Students then participated in workshops they chose from topics that included “Diversity in Campus Ministries,” “Leadership Skills Influenced by Faith and Spiritual Formation,” and “Cultivating Intercultural Competency.”

Most of the workshop leaders were North Park staff and faculty, but several came from as far away as Washington, D.C., and Texas. The students, many of whom traveled several hours, said the conference was worth the early morning wake-up call. A multicultural relations advisor on her campus, Aurora University (Ill.) senior Jessica Correa said the conference provided practical insights for her role as a mediator of student conflicts at her school.

North Park students inspired the idea for the conference, says Dr. Terry Lindsay, conference chair and North Park’s dean of diversity and intercultural programs. Lindsay organized a leadership conference in 2008 that was open to just North Park students, but they advocated holding a second event that would be open to others, as well. North Park sent out invitations to every Christian and private college and university in Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Indiana, Lindsay said.

Plans are already underway to hold a full-day conference in 2010.

Seminary President Transitions into New Role

President and Dean of North Park Theological Seminary Dr. John (Jay) Phelan recently announced his decision to step down from office. Phelan will remain in leadership at the Seminary through the end of the academic year, and then plans to join the faculty as Senior Professor of Theological Studies during the summer of 2010.

“It has been an extraordinary privilege to serve the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) and North Park University as Seminary President and Dean,” said Phelan, who is especially proud of the character and accomplishments of the Seminary faculty. “I have had the joy of working with amazing administrative and staff colleagues in both the Seminary and the wider University. Their deep commitment to God and to the Gospel has challenged and encouraged me every day.”

Phelan’s leadership has been critical to a revitalization of the Seminary, notes President David Parkyn, commending his dedication to fostering strong scholarship among faculty. While in office, Phelan appointed 10 new full-time faculty members, an academic dean, and a dean of students.

“He has led with vision and with care, focusing on developing a faculty of active scholars and
effective teachers dedicated to educating future generations of pastoral leaders,” Parkyn says.

Phelan first served at North Park from 1981–1986 as dean of students and assistant professor of New Testament. He then served as pastor of two Covenant Churches in Florida and Kansas before returning to Chicago in 1994 as executive director of Covenant Publications (now Covenant Communications), and in 1996 he assumed his current role.

Under Phelan’s leadership Seminary enrollment increased from 119 students in 1996 to 279 this semester, due in part to the implementation of the Presidential Scholars Program, and more recently, the partnership with a full-tuition scholarship program offered by the Kern Foundation. Additional students have been enrolled through SemConnect, the Seminary’s distance learning program.

Phelan also helped establish several new programs, including the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, the Center for Spiritual Direction, the Faith and Health Initiative, the Center for Justice Ministries (now part of the University’s Collaboratory for Urban and Intercultural Learning), and the Center for World Christian Studies. During his tenure two Lilly Endowment grants were obtained to fund Seminary programs: the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Grant (shared with the Covenant Church) funded development of the Center for Spiritual Direction, and the Making Connections Initiative Grant provided means for the Seminary to collaborate widely with the church.

“Jay’s tenure is marked by many things,” said ECC President Gary Walter. “But most importantly he has been about the mission of God. His framing intent and motivation has been to develop leaders of character and competence who care about God’s whole mission to the whole world.”

Breakfast Series Unites Business Leaders

The future of the newspaper as we know it is uncertain, three of Chicago’s best and most experienced journalists told attendees at the inaugural North Park Breakfast Series event, held October 13 at the University Club of Chicago.

The School of Business and Nonprofit Management sponsored the breakfast, and initiated the series as a way to bring together the University’s faculty, staff, and students to network and hear from industry leaders.

Dr. Owen Youngman C’75, a member of North Park University’s Board of Trustees and one of three panelists who contributed to the discussion, was also instrumental in the organization the event. A 37-year veteran at the Chicago Tribune, Youngman was the newspaper’s first director of interactive media, and is now the Knight Professor of Digital Media Strategy at Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism.

Charles Madigan, editor of the book, 30: The Collapse of the Great American Newspaper, and John P. McCormick, the deputy editor of the editorial page for the Chicago Tribune, rounded out the panel. Madigan, a former international and national editor and columnist for multiple news organizations, is currently a presidential writer in residence at Roosevelt University. McCormick, a former correspondent for Newsweek, was the Tribune editorial board member that Gov. Rod Blagojevich allegedly demanded be fired in exchange for $100 million or more in state funding to renovate Wrigley Field.

All three panelists believe a market will continue to exist for print publications, however, they will need to focus on niche markets. Corporations will also have to make a commitment to producing a quality product at a reasonable rate of profit, rather than greedily grasping at 20 to 30 percent. Such shortsighted goals—which have led to massive layoffs and closures—have diluted the product.

Nevertheless, the group remains optimistic about the future of journalism, as people will still want places to get accurate information. “Our value is in journalism,” noted Madigan. “It’s not in how it’s presented—it’s how it’s collected, how we think about it, how aggressive we are about that.”
The next Breakfast Series event will focus on the Chicago real-estate market and will be held April 14 at the same location.

**North Park Gets High Marks for Student Engagement**

At North Park University, “distinctively Christian, intentionally urban, and purposefully multicultural,” are much more than weighty adjectives in an institutional tagline. According to results from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) administered to undergraduates last spring, they are the reality of many North Park students’ college experience.

Each year the NSSE asks students at hundreds of schools to reflect on the time they devote to various learning activities, from academic to extracurricular. It measures not only the extent to which they excel in their classes, but also the extent to which they feel involved on their campuses—relating to faculty, interacting with peers of different backgrounds, and entering into community.

Students are surveyed at random—as incoming freshmen and as outgoing seniors—to measure the change in their perception of their school over time. This was the first year North Park participated, with 364 students taking the survey.

“The idea is that students who are engaged learn better,” explains University Provost Dr. Joseph Jones.

The NSSE compares North Park to a selected benchmark of 10 colleges and universities in the Midwest, as well as about 70 similar liberal arts institutions across the nation known as the Carnegie Class. North Park was on par with both groups in the Level of Academic Challenge (LAC), Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL), and Student–Faculty Interac-
tion (SFI) categories, yet significantly outscored both groups when it came to Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE).

Compared to the benchmark institutions, a notably higher percentage of North Park respondents indicated that they “frequently have serious conversations with students who are different from them in terms of religious, political, or personal beliefs.” The respondents also reported that they “frequently have serious conversations with those of a different race,” and “frequently engage in spiritually enhancing activities such as worship, meditation, or prayer.”

These items link specifically to North Park’s Christian, urban, and multicultural identity, notes President David Parkyn. “Most impressive is the fact that students at North Park responded significantly more positively to these items than their peers at benchmark institutions,” he says. “This provides important evidence that our mission and identity are truly reflected in our students’ educational experience.”

According to the NSSE website, the survey represents empirically confirmed “good practices” in undergraduate education. The NSSE was launched with support from The Pew Charitable Trusts and is currently self-supported through institutional participation fees. Project research is also supported by grants from Lumina Foundation for Education and the Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts at Wabash College.

The survey is administered by the Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research in cooperation with the Indiana University Center for Survey Research.

Preparation Begins for Reaccreditation

North Park University is in the process of pursuing reaccreditation by the Higher Learning Commission Program to Evaluate and Advance Quality (HLC-PEAQ).

The HLC is a part of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA), one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States.

HLC accreditation is based on the institution’s demonstration of five criteria: 1) mission and integrity; 2) preparation for the future; 3) student learning and effective teaching; 4) acquisition, discovery, and application of knowledge; and 5) engagement and service.

Three University committees are collaborating in the construction of a self-study, titled “Leading Lives of Significance and Service,” which will be completed within the next 12 months and will document the University’s ability to meet the HLC’s criteria. Among the study’s many objectives are reflecting on the accomplishments and challenges of the last decade; initiating dialogue about the University’s future; reviewing information for strategic planning and quality improvement; and building sustainable processes and systems to evaluate North Park’s long-term effectiveness.

Completion of the self-study is the first step in the PEAQ evaluation process. The HLC will then send a team of consultant evaluators to conduct a comprehensive visit and write a report with observations and recommendations. A separate panel of evaluators will review this before reaccreditation is granted.

The HLC is scheduled to visit North Park in November 2010.

Comments or contributions concerning North Park’s accreditation review must be directed to the HLC by mail:

The Higher Learning Commission
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400
Chicago, Illinois 60602-2504

For more information about the NCA or HLC, visit www.ncahlc.org.

Faculty and Staff Acknowledged at University Convocation

North Park recognized the achievements of several of its faculty members at the annual University Convocation on September 21.

Joan Andrea, Rachelle Ankney, Angelyn Balodimas-Bartolomei, Jim Dekker, Alice Gorguis, and Soong-Chan Rah were promoted to associate professor; Stephen Chester and Mary Adams Trujillo were promoted to professor; and Gianfranco Farruggia, Karla Fogel, Boaz Johnson, Max Lee, Barbara Levandowski C’70, and Mary Adams Trujillo received tenure. Additionally, Balodimas-Bartolmei and Rah were among 12 faculty authors acknowledged for publishing books within the last year.
The University also welcomed Assistant Vice President of Development Carol Callahan to the ranks. Prior to her arrival at North Park, Callahan served as director of development for the Geneva Foundation of Presbyterian Homes and the Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart. She has directed successful annual fund efforts with three different organizations, written and successfully attained grants from several foundations and corporations, and worked extensively with volunteers throughout her career.

Viking Kids Day a Treat for Chicago Youth

North Park University gave more than 70 kids from underresourced areas in Chicago a Happy Halloween for its fourth annual Viking Kids Day on Saturday, October 31.

The University partnered with three local ministries to bring the kids to campus, including Bethel, a New Life Church program serving West Humboldt Park; Westlawn, an outreach to the Lawndale neighborhood; and World Relief, which serves refugees or recent immigrants to Chicago.

North Park’s Urban Outreach office, a division of University Ministries, organized the day’s activities, which included time for the kids to interact one-on-one with volunteer mentors, trick-or-treat in Seminary housing, have lunch in the cafeteria, attend a Viking football game, and meet the football players and cheerleaders. More than 80 student and faculty volunteers from North Park participated.

“It’s a great opportunity for students to give back, especially for those who are unable to make a weekly commitment to other Urban Outreach sites,” said Lindsay Leavenworth C’2011, the Viking Kids Day coordinator. “The kids absolutely love the day. It’s huge for them to have a fun day out with a young Christian mentor and visit a college.”

Leavenworth assisted with last year’s Viking Kids Day, but this was her first year coordinating it herself. In the future, she hopes the University will be able to host even more kids, by applying for community urban ministry grants to increase funding for the event.
2009 Fall Sports Highlights
by Kevin Shepke, Sports Information Director

FOOTBALL—The football team opened its season with a 17-10 victory over visiting Carroll University on Saturday, September 5. Quarterback Shelby Wood C’2010 completed eight of his 19 passes for 174 yards and also threw for two touchdowns. He connected with Evan Christiansen C’2012 for a 53-yard touchdown to open the game, and later found Chris Anton C’2012 for another 53-yard score, which broke a 10-10 tie early in the third quarter. For their efforts that week, defensive back Nick Pantaleo C’2011 and place kicker Bryn Nottoli C’2013 both earned College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW) Player of the Week honors—the first duo to do so in North Park football history. Pantaleo recorded 13 tackles (six solo), and had one pass breakup, while Nottoli was a perfect two for two on point-after-touchdown kicks and he booted a 41-yard field goal to give the Vikings a 10-0 lead in the second quarter. In the second game of the season, Wood, who needed only 123 yards passing to break Mike Haehn’s career all-time school record of 5,283 yards, passed for 142 yards on 16 completions. He finished the season with a career total of 6,057 yards.

WOMEN’S SOCCER—The women’s soccer team recorded a one-sided Senior Night win over Mt. Mary College in Chicago on October 23. Four Vikings scored two goals or more, led by four goals from Emily Hunter C’2010. North Park concluded the season with seven wins, including a 5-4 victory over conference rival Carthage College, breaking Carthage’s 10-game winning streak against the Vikings.

MEN’S SOCCER—The men’s soccer team opened the season with a 5-0 record, its best start since the 2006 season when it won the CCIW championship, and was ranked as high as number eight in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America NCAA Division III poll. Kris Grahn C’2012 was named the CCIW Player of the Week three different times as he led the conference in goals scored (10), shots (82), points (28), and assists (8). Jordan Tippens C’2013 earned CCIW Defensive Player of the Week on October 6 for his efforts in North Park’s 1-1 tie against nationally ranked Dominican University on October 2.

VOLLEYBALL—The volleyball team finished with nine wins under first-year coach Tim Walenga, including a four-set victory over Moody Bible Institute, a standout team in the National Christian College Association (NCCA). Moody entered the match with a 20-1 record and a 10-match winning streak, but behind 34-dig performance from Jami-Leigh Newell C’2010, the Vikings came away with the win. Newell earned CCIW Defensive Player of the Week honors on October 6 for her efforts. Individually Newell and Caitlin O’Connell C’2011 were recognized nationally in NCAA Division III. Newell ranked consistently in the
Top 40 in digs per game and O’Connell was in the Top 20 in hitting percentage.

GOLF—Women’s golf opened the season with a tournament championship at the Benedictine Invite. Colleen Horgan C’2011 shot an 88 at the Benedictine Fall Invite in the traditional season for the lowest score of the year. For the men’s team Blake Blumenstock C’2010 shot a school-record 66 in North Park’s fall opener at the St. Francis Invite at Wedgewood Golf Course. He tied that record at the Robert Morris Invite, leading the men to a ninth-place finish.

CROSS COUNTRY—North Park’s cross-country teams gave solid individual performances this season. Bryan Foland C’2013 set the school record with a time of 26:21 at the Lake Forest Invite, and later broke his own record with a 26:10 in just his fifth collegiate race at the UW-Oshkosh Invite on October 17. The men’s team claimed the title at the North Park Ted Hedstrand Invite September 19, while the women’s team took second. Foland won the meet by completing the Chicago lake-front course in 27:25, while Laura Sorg C’2013 was the highest finishing female athlete, as she took fourth with a time of 22:06.

Basketball Season Begins

North Park’s men’s and women’s basketball teams held their season openers on Sunday, November 15.

Although the men’s team has only two returning seniors and a handful of juniors, Coach Paul Brenegan says it has the depth and experience to be competitive in the College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin (CCIW) this year.

“We played so many of our freshman last year, and this is a much more experienced team than it looks on paper,” says Brenegan. “We return a second-team, all-conference performer in Nick Williams C’2010, who we feel has the potential to be one of the best players in the league this season.”

Roshawn Russell C’2012 and Phil Schniedermeier C’2011 are the team captains. All of the returners made big improvements over the off-season, and their work has led to strong practices, Brenegan says. “Add our incoming freshmen and two transfers to the mix, and we have quite a few combinations of players that could see significant minutes.”

The women’s basketball team is counting on its quickness and hustle, along with a combination of depth and young energy to be successful, says second-year coach Amanda Reese. She expects the Vikings will be able to push the ball upcourt and adds, “We have several players who can create their own shot and provide scoring opportunities for teammates.”

What is Justice?

Four perspectives to move us from definition to action.
Throughout the centuries, monarchs and philosophers, theologians and laypeople have attempted to define justice in a myriad of ways, from the de jure (Hammurabi’s Code) to the de facto (“The Golden Rule”). And yet, somewhere in the ether between “an eye for an eye” and doing unto others as we would have them do unto us—between the letter of the law and its spirit—there is an elusive truth that we long to attain and appropriate, but must relentlessly struggle to do so this side of heaven.

What is justice?

This is one of the great questions students, faculty, and staff are asked to wrestle with during and beyond their time on North Park’s campus. Daniel Webster called it, “the greatest interest of man on earth.” Benjamin Disraeli said, “Justice is truth in action.”

But how do adage and axiom translate from word into deed? And how does our education about justice influence our experience practicing it?

Three faculty and one alumnus weigh in on the biblical imperatives, philosophical dynamics, and social realities of what it means to “do justice.”

Matthew Enquist C’2009

My first month as a North Park undergrad in the fall of 2005 was a tumultuous time. I suppose most who made it through that first awkward semester would say the same but in my case, my time was filled with more than just the usual finding out what it was like to live away from home or adjusting to meals at ARA.

It was less than two weeks into the semester that I found myself alone on the cement bench at the center of campus late at night, staring at the words of Micah 6:8 engraved in stone, wrapping silently around the dimly lit brick pathways.

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and walk humbly with your God?” But what does justice mean? What did it mean in practice, for me, now?

I chose to come to North Park with the expectation that I would be challenged and pushed to expand my faith beyond the suburban landscapes that I had grown up with. I wanted to be in a community where the city was not ignored but embraced. My first night attending collegelife, the student-run Sunday night service, was a
shock to my system that gave me just a little insight into what I had in store until graduation.

Kazi Joshua, then a professor at the Seminary, gave the message that night. He spoke on compassion without borders, a challenge to look at the world as a broader family, a family with many suffering members. It was one of those rare nights when what is spoken on stage is felt physically. I wept with anger and sadness at the state of the world.

I spent the rest of the night pacing on the green-space, furious with God for allowing such suffering. For hours, I marched around campus alone, watching my breath curl out from my lips in the cool autumn air, drifting upwards in angry prayers. And I ended up on the cement, reading over and over again to myself the words of Micah. Somehow, the solution to my anger lay in a whole-hearted seeking after justice. My next four years at North Park were, in part, a seeking after a working sense of justice. What I found was that to have a sense of what justice meant to the prophet and what it was to mean to me, I had to begin by becoming familiar with injustice.

I became heavily involved with the Friday Night Homeless Ministries where I came to know and love men and women who slept on the streets of Chicago in January and February while I sweated in Burgh Hall at the mercy of over-enthusiastic radiators. I heard stories of discrimination at the hands of police and tales of cold glances from shoppers on the Magnificent Mile.

I participated in North Park’s sleepout events, protests at the doors of city hall in a quest to draw attention to the plight of my friends Bob and Gus, living on the streets year ‘round. Hundreds of North Park students slept outside in the chilly early-spring air, if only for a night, to experience injustice. Is it not wrong that people sleep in the cold shadows of empty heated high-rise office buildings? This is the question we asked.

After my sophomore year, I found myself in Zambia, in the pauper’s graveyard at the edge of Ndola where men work full time digging shallow graves. All around me were the sounds of mourning, mothers and fathers weeping over the loss of life at the hands of preventable diseases. I wept at the funeral of a boy who I had played soccer with the day before, age 10, who had died of malnutrition. Was it not wrong that I had access to all the food I wanted while others starved, simply because of where I was born?

My years were a familiarization with injustice, with seeking to identify with the lowly and the meek rather than to ignore them or to keep my distance. But all too often I found myself defeated and depressed. To know injustice was one thing—to know justice was another.

In May of 2008, I loaded all of these experiences onto a plane with me and flew out to San Francisco to meet five friends on a similar journey. The idea was simple: we were out to see if the church knew what it meant to do justice. And, we were going to do it slowly and deliberately. We did it by bicycle. On May 25, we set out on a 3,500 mile odyssey to Boston, stopping at Evangelical Covenant churches along the way to ask a simple question: “What is justice?” Our discussions were often interesting, often difficult. We met people who were unfamiliar with the dialogue of justice. We met people who had wrestled with the term longer than we had. We talked about the environment, racism, war, gentrification, guilt, and a hundred other issues that people felt on a deeply personal level. I found that many people in the church are looking for justice, staring at the words of Micah 6:8 and yearning for them to describe their own lives. I met men and women who believed in the justice state modeled by the meekness of Christ.

Twelve weeks later, when we rolled our bikes into the Atlantic Ocean in Quincy, Mass., I could not say that I had some kind of carefully packaged definition of justice. Rather, I had learned that justice is elusive. Justice refuses to be confined to simple definitions and easy formulas. Justice is the way things should be, the antithesis of the injustice that I saw on the streets of Chicago and in the fields of Ndola.

People of justice are at work to see the Kingdom realized here and now. We take the time to know our neighbors, to share in their joys and their pains. Where injustice prevails, we take comfort in the fact that we are charged to make things right. We are not interested in a faith that simply waits for heaven. Instead, we seek a faith that has teeth in the real physical and spiritual situations around us. We meet injustice with the knowledge that the intent was always different—that injustice is not simply a fact to be accepted.

As Christ stood with the leper and the unclean, I can only hope that I will have the courage to stand with the homeless and the hungry in the years ahead. Where injustice exists, I hope that I am not busy covering my eyes, building fences, or moving to the other side of the tracks. My quest for justice will begin by knowing the names of the oppressed, their dreams and their fears, and working together for something better.
Justice is one of the most fundamental social and political values of humankind. In the Western philosophical tradition, many thinkers have developed various philosophical theories of justice. Plato, for example, argues that justice is the realization of a harmonious order in the state as well as in the soul through the proper functioning of each constituting part. For Plato, justice is defined as practicing one’s own business for the sake of attaining the harmonious condition of the state and a soul.

From a different perspective, Aristotle defines justice as a “sort of equality” in the sense of requiring equal treatment for equals and unequal treatment for unequals. Since Aristotle considers the political state as a form of natural association in relation to the nature of human beings as political animals, he thinks that justice is only attainable in a true and undistorted state. Cicero, the Roman lawyer and philosopher, establishes the concept of justice from the theory of natural law. He recognizes that such virtues as generosity, patriotism, and gratitude originate in people’s natural inclination to love one another. Hence Cicero argues that justice is the realization of this universal and higher law of nature, which stipulates that individuals should respect their fellow human beings and the legitimate laws of political communities.

Modern views on justice are distinguished from the classical kinds, in that justice is no longer dependent upon such traditional criteria as social harmony, natural law, or divine command. Instead, they attempt to derive the principle of justice from the mutual agreement of those affected or from the consideration of the best consequences measured by balancing social costs and benefits.

Among these modern views, John Rawls and his theory of justice—“justice as fairness”—is most conspicuous. According to Rawls, each individual is inviolable, and even the society as a whole cannot override that individual integrity for its public welfare. Following in the footsteps of Locke, Rousseau, and Kant, Rawls attempts to present the principles of justice as an object of an original agreement, which he tries to make concrete with the hypothetical setting known as the “original position.” The original position is enabled when we pass through a “veil of ignorance” which screens out all the contingencies of social circumstances (race, class, gender, social status, and so on) and the outcomes of natural chance. The ingenuity of the original position lies in the fact that each and every person in the original position cannot help but think universally and impartially in choosing the principles of justice. Rawls concludes that in the original position, people would choose the two principles of justice. The first principle is about an equal right of people to liberty, whereas the second principle is about how social and economic inequalities are to be arranged. By calling the latter the “Difference Principle,” Rawls argues that the social and economic inequalities are to be arranged in such a way to be to everyone’s advantage. The significance of Rawls’ theory of justice is that the consideration of the interests of the least advantaged members of the society is an essential aspect of justice.

Rawls’ theory of justice evokes many criticisms as well as praise. Author Robert Nozick, for instance, argues that justice should be a matter of individual “entitlement” rather than an ideal principle. According to Nozick, justice can be epitomized in the simple formula of “from each as they choose, to each as they are chosen.”

Rawls’ neo-Kantian aspect, especially its universalistic-impartial principle, also invites a different kind of criticism from feminist scholars. Carol Gilligan develops her “Ethics of Care,” opposing it to the neo-Kantian approach to the theory of justice, which tends to ignore the ethical significances of relations and the commitment to others’ well being. Susan Moller Okin, on the other hand, presents her critique of dominant theories of justice by arguing against the notion that the circumstances of justice do not exist in the family. According to Okin, if theories of justice fail to address the issues of justice in the family (such as domestic violence and child care), they cannot serve as valid theories.

Here I have introduced some of the major theories of justice in the Western philosophical tradition, although these entries do not exhaust the subjects. Lastly, we should be careful not to identify legal norms and regulations with the principle of justice. Reducing justice to a set of legal norms can be counterproductive in that it may stifle the creative spirit of justice. Without people’s willingness to embrace others and their otherness, a just society is still far away.
A few years ago, I taught a Christian doctrine course on the topic, “Justice and Justification.” The catchy name wasn’t simply a marketing ploy to draw a diversity of Seminary students—although I did have a nice mix of Covenant, Reformed, Anabaptist and non-denominational students. I chose the topic because I had come to understand that justice and justification are related in Scripture, and I wanted our pastors to be formed to believe and act in ways faithful to the relationship between them. Together justice and justification get at the heart of God and God’s saving activity in the world. Justice is not only something that we humans do. Justice is both attribute and activity of the God we love and worship, and that ought to provide the substance to all activity that Christians call justice work.

The question, “What is justice?” is a good one because its answer points us to God. In the Bible, the various forms of justice in Greek and Hebrew occur more than 1,000 times. Within these occurrences, two events in particular reveal God’s justice activity in especially powerful ways. First, God delivers the Hebrews by freeing them from the slavery of Egypt. Second, God sends His son, Jesus Christ, freeing all from the slavery of sin. Both are events that not only liberate us from acts of injustice, or wrong relationships—they also liberate us for acts of justice. The justifying work of God restores us and gives us back to our Creator. For Israel, this comes in their identity as a covenant people. For Christians, this comes in their identity as the church.

The reality of God’s justifying work causes me to rephrase the question from “What is justice?” to “How does the church respond to the many justice ‘gaps’ in the world?” The answer goes back to who we are as recipients of God’s work of justice. If the church is those people who identify with God’s justifying work in Jesus Christ, we need to remember that the cross continues to beckon us to evangelism and discipleship.

Within Scripture also, justice is asserted and practiced in a variety of situations and takes on different characters in different texts. Justice is understood in legal terms, as a distributive concept, in terms of fairness, and as a virtue. It is both something that God does and that we participate in. Forms of justice dictate, or measure, everything from how kings care for their people to how communities steward their resources to how individuals settle disputes among themselves. On the flip side, some of the most obvious injustices occur in the form of leaders who do not rule with the people’s interests in mind, groups who do not celebrate Sabbath and jubilee, and individuals who do not practice confession and forgiveness. All of these are examples of injustices that participate in wrongly ordered relationships—relationships that are severely hindered in their ability to cultivate the greatest command, namely love for God and love for neighbor. Injustice, in other words, inhibits evangelism and discipleship, while justice contributes to them.

Our response to justice gaps in the world ought to be theologically driven and biblically shaped. As we note in Scripture, God gave Israel laws that were countercultural in that they served to treat persons equally and fairly in the midst of a world of laws that were non-egalitarian, based on such things as status and gender. As we note in Scripture, Jesus is the embodiment of justice and engages in a ministry that seeks to reconcile the world to Him and persons with one another.

Ultimately, Christians take their justice cues from the ministry of Jesus Christ. Jesus’ work of justice (his public ministry) and justification (reconciling us with God) are integrally related. To think of Jesus simply as the sacrificial Lamb is not to know Jesus. God’s justifying work in Christ encompasses a charge. This charge calls the church to model the ministry of Jesus and to engage the justice gaps on all levels—political, social-communal, and individual. What is justice? Justice is a ministry. It is a ministry of peace, it is a ministry that serves the least of these, and it is a ministry of reconciliation.
Several years ago I found myself in the back of a Boston police car. Just to be clear, I was not under arrest. I was part of an effort by the city’s Ten-Point Coalition to curb gang violence. Armed with my clerical collar, I was teamed with a police officer to visit at-risk youth in the community. We would visit the home of a kid whose name appeared in the school police blotter. The student had gotten into a fight, been caught with weapons, or had sported gang colors or signs at the school. A local pastor and a police officer would team up to visit the youth and his family. It was the classic bad cop, good pastor routine. The police officer would threaten the full measure of the law if the kid was caught involved in gang activity, while the pastor would offer the student and his family all the support that they needed. Our goal was to keep the young man from joining the national gangs that were attempting to infiltrate Boston.

Sitting in the back of the police car, I realized that my conservative church upbringing and my evangelical seminary education had not prepared me for this kind of civic engagement. I had no theological lens to understand this act of pastoral care. The focus of personal evangelism did not give me the grid to see how riding around in a police car could actually be a part of the work of the church. Our lack of understanding and involvement when it comes to justice is rooted in both our inadequate theology and in our lack of historical context.

For most of the last century, among evangelical Christians, there was a divorce between social justice and personal evangelism. Historian David Moberg describes this divorce as “the great reversal”—an unbiblical separation between justice and evangelism that occurred in the 20th century, in contrast to the integration of the two streams in the 19th century. In the 21st century, many Christians are attempting to reverse “the great reversal.” More and more Christians are seeking to integrate justice into the life of the church. While this desire is noble and well intentioned, even the best of intentions can go awry. The renewal of interest in justice should not be rooted in a political correctness that comes from the trendiness of justice issues in the world. Instead, justice needs to be situated in our biblical–theological reflection—leading to an authentic spiritual–cultural engagement by the church leading to God’s justice. In other words, our justice needs to go deeper.

The local church, therefore, needs to engage in the ministry of education. Our congregations need a conversion to balance a self-focused, individualistic Christianity with an outward-focused, justice-oriented Christianity. Because of the historical context of 20th century evangelicalism, our churches need the educational ministry of teaching, literature, small groups, discipleship, and mentoring that helps to transform the foci and priorities of our congregants. The educational ministry of justice should lead to the transformation of the value system of the church. In other words, we are not only teaching about justice, we are living out the values of justice. An important question to ask: “How are the members of our church embodying the values of biblical social justice in the choices that are made?”

Another expression of justice in the local church would be to practice ministries of justice and compassion on behalf of those within the church. Our churches already have hurting people who need God’s compassion and mercy extended to them. How are our churches helping the single moms, the developmentally disabled, the “very least of these” within our own congregations? Moving beyond your own Christian community into the larger community would serve as a crucial next step. In order to facilitate this step, it is important to build partnerships with existing social service and social justice agencies in the community.

Finally, works of justice are enhanced when they arise as advocacy from within the community. Churches need to begin practicing the discipline of incarnational ministry that seeks to speak God’s justice not only into a community but arising out of the community. Making our dwelling among the disenfranchised and the powerless in our communities can lead to becoming a prophetic voice on behalf of our communities.
The Art of Teaching Science

Pedagogy meets creativity in North Park’s science courses.

by Stan Friedman S’93 and Jessica Allen Bernthal
Science is often considered a field for “left-brains”—the logical, sequential, and analytical individuals who can navigate through figures and formulas with as much agility as an Olympic gymnast. In entering scientific professions, many artistic, kinesthetic types, or “right-brains,” have traditionally been advised by career experts to proceed with caution.

But what happens when a left-brain discipline meets a creative, right-brain approach? As science itself illustrates, a more integrated, holistic, “whole-brain” kind of learning. Just ask North Park physics professor Dr. Linda McDonald, who, summer after summer, takes her students to Six Flags Great America to calculate force in epic proportions. Or Dr. Johnny Lin, who is teaching his students to operate a rooftop weather station and website that gives more accurate local information than the National Weather Service. Or Dr. Linda Vick, whose passion for environmental science helped launch a customized major at North Park where, among other things, students can study marine biology in the Bahamas.

To learn more about how North Park faculty are bringing a little innovation to the traditional science curriculum, read on.

Rollercoasters and Rugby

When students in Dr. Linda McDonald’s mini-term physics class feel their stomachs getting queasy, the problem may not be related to a test. More likely, it’s because they’re having a good time.

Each summer, McDonald teaches Amusement Park Physics. Well, that’s what the thrice-weekly lab session is called. The regular class of daily lectures carries the more mundane and intimidating moniker “Conceptual Physics.”

McDonald designed the course so that it integrates the physics issues that are at play on amusement park rides. The final week of class includes a one-day trip to Great America for fieldwork.

As part of their studies, students build rollercoasters using K’NEX sets and then use them to study how various forces work with or against each other. After all, there are reasons why rollercoaster loops are in the shape of teardrops and not circular. The students also engage in computer modeling, among other projects.

“If the world were perfect, we would just build a rollercoaster at North Park, but (Executive Vice President) Carl Balsam’s not too keen on the insurance implications,” McDonald says with a laugh.

Amusement parks provide thrills by tricking the senses, she adds. “They lead people to pay attention to pseudo feelings rather than what is really happening. People clutch tightly on ride thinking they are going to be slung off, when actually they can relax and nothing is going to happen.”

While at Great America, the students are constantly measuring, observing, and calculating. North Park has purchased a special vest for next year that will hold more advanced instruments and enable students to take more precise measurements while they are being whipped around.

The class is popular with non-science majors who are often otherwise intimidated by physics or the math that is required. “They don’t realize you can have fun in science,”
says McDonald. A good number of the students are education majors, so she spends time discussing with them how they can teach physics to their students in a way that is engaging.

Not all of the students have to do work at Great America. They can do it at another park or even at a carnival. An entirely separate class could be built around “carnie physics,” she says.

McDonald has no problem filling another class she offers during the regular school year—Physics of Sports.

Each year, she surveys the students on the first day of class to see what sports they are interested in and incorporates those into the semester’s work. “It’s a lot more fun to study about torque when you’re talking about rugby,” McDonald says. “Because I tailor the class to include sports the students are interested in, the class is different every year.”

McDonald took a sabbatical last spring to work on a textbook she is writing about teaching sports and physics.

“I tell students that the same skills that make athletes good are the things that are needed in science—practice, focus, and the ability to break things down into parts,” McDonald explains. “I want students to realize that what I tell them is just a workout for their brain instead of their biceps.”

Physics in the Forecast

A person designing a building in North Park University’s neighborhood needed data on wind speed in the area, but such localized information is not available from the National Weather Service. So he turned to the University’s physics department, which operates its own weather station.

The station has been collecting and storing data for more than two years. The designer could have learned, for example, that at 4 a.m. on December 1, 2007, the top wind speed was four miles per hour.

Physics professor Dr. Johnny Lin came up with the idea for the station while developing a Climate Dynamics class. The unit was installed on the roof of the Helwig Recreation Center in 2007.

The station measures a variety of data, from temperature and humidity level, to average wind speed, estimated cumulous base, and barometric pressure.

Although it gives more precise information for the immediate area than is possible by the National Weather Service, Lin says the main purpose for the station is to help students.

“The goal is to bring the whole idea of data collection to everyday life,” he explains. As students study the data, they learn how the various weather elements correlate and interact, Lin says.

According to the site on an October day, the forecast is “increasing clouds with little temperature change—precipitation possible within 24 to 48 hours.” Lin cautions, however, that the station is generally best at forecasting the next 12 hours.

The solar-powered station is a Vantage Pro2, which Lin describes as a high-end consumer model. The unit atop Helwig transmits the data through a repeater station in Carlson Tower, which forwards it to a computer in Lin’s office. That computer automatically updates the information and posts it online every five minutes, where it is displayed graphically in a series of charts. The site also includes links to other weather-related sites and definitions of various terms.

“Oftentimes the things you do in the sciences seem opaque to others who are not science majors,” notes Lin. “The station is a practical way of making science more accessible.”

Environmental Adaptation

Jim Mastaler C’2004 was a biology student with his sights set on medical school when a course on ecology not only led him to change his major—it led him to help create one.
Mastaler and biology professor Dr. Linda Vick constructed North Park’s first B.S. program in environmental science when he was an undergraduate. A similar version was adopted broadly as a major this fall, spearheaded by biology department chair Dr. Alan Bjorkman. The program, which reflects the University’s commitment to Christian stewardship of the environment, is designed for students who are interested in the sciences but are not pursuing a bachelor’s degree in preparation for post-graduate medical studies.

“When I constructed my degree under Dr. Vick’s direction, we agreed that field work and interdisciplinary learning should be integral to the program,” Mastaler explains. “So I took several upper division environmental courses that brought me out of the classroom and into the field. I studied ecology in Southern India, marine and aquatic biology through the Shedd Aquarium and on their research vessel in the Bahamas, as well as tropical sustainable agriculture on an experimental farm in Florida.”

Mastaler also took an environmental ethics course through one of North Park’s partner institutions, the Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies. Such affiliations are what enabled the University to offer a new degree without adding many additional courses on campus. Students can take courses for credit not only at the Shedd and Au Sable, but also at the Morton Arboretum, or any of the institutions connected with the Associated Colleges of the Chicago Area. A broad spectrum of offerings includes classes such as Prairie and Ranch Resources, Marine and Aquatic Biology, and Climate Dynamics.

In addition, Mastaler also took a class on conflict transformation and worked with the biblical and theological studies department to take an independent study on biblical theology of the environment. “These courses, and others like them, taught me how to think about environmental problems with origins rooted in social, spiritual, and political dysfunctions,” he says. “They encouraged me to imagine solutions that are holistic in their application.”

Graduates of the environmental science program can work in a broad range of fields, including urban planning, zoning, education, restoration biology, and wildlife management.

Mastaler, who completed his M.A. in social justice at Loyola University Chicago, is currently working on his Ph.D. in ethics, “ambitiously hoping to help shape the emerging field of ethics as it relates to climate change the effect on the globe’s most poor and marginalized communities.”

Our modern day ecological crisis is perhaps the most important moral challenge of this generation, says Mastaler, who notes that global crop failures, water scarcity, and forced migration are just a few of the injustices it instigates.

“My courses] encouraged me to imagine solutions that are holistic in their application.”

“The technical solutions to these problems are within the grasp of this generation, but we need scientific expertise, and social and political creativity, along with the moral impetus of our faith traditions to compel us to respond to these problems appropriately,” he explains.

Mastaler says he has Vick to thank for inspiring him to tackle such weighty pursuits. “From my first class onward, Dr. Vick’s passion for her work and her field of study inspired me,” he says. “I thought to myself, ‘I want to be like her someday and not stuck in some job that pays the bills but doesn’t allow me to feel like I’m actively working to make the world a better place.’ She was the inspiration I needed to take the classes that spoke to my passions. When I finally looked back over my academic career at North Park, I saw that those individual threads formed a nice tapestry that just needed a little intentional attention in order to make it complete.”
A Passion for the Poor

When national legislators craft urban policy, they want to hear from Kathryn Edin-Nelson C’84, who is considered one of the nation’s preeminent voices on improving the lives of the urban poor. A native of the small, rural town of Staples, Minn., Edin-Nelson developed this voice when she moved to Chicago to attend North Park University.

“I didn’t even know what sociology was before I came here,” Edin-Nelson admitted at the Homecoming Banquet, where she was honored as the Distinguished Alumna for 2009.

Edin-Nelson credited two professors at the University as having a profound influence on her: Dr. Calvin (Cal) Katter Jr., professor of biblical and theological studies, encouraged her to think critically and passionately, while professor of sociology Dr. Frank Steinhart introduced her to her future vocation.

Steinhart was the professor who wrote in the margins of her honors thesis that she should attend graduate school. He also led her on “educational forays” to places such as Grace-land Cemetery, where students learned that social stratification was evident even in many individual’s final resting places. “(Chicago hotelier) Potter Palmer at the top of the hill; his servant at the bottom,” Edin-Nelson recalls.

While at North Park, she completed an internship at LaSalle Street Church, which was her first point of contact with the poor families that became the subjects of her life’s work. Although she initially balked at the idea of attending graduate school, Edin-Nelson pursued a master’s and Ph.D. at Northwestern University.

She says that North Park gave her “three essential gifts” that prepared her for her future—“a passion for Jesus and for faith-infused learning . . . a passion for the city . . . and finally, a passion for diversity.”

During her time as a graduate student, Edin-Nelson also taught sociology at a North Park extension campus in the blighted Chicago neighborhood of North Lawndale. Four of the people in her class were minority women on welfare.

“Ironically the first course I was teaching was Minority Cultures, and I was the only non-minority person in the room,” Edin-Nelson says, laughing. “I was teaching it out of the book, and they were living it.”

The women in her class introduced her to others in similar positions, and their lives became the foundation for Edin-Nelson’s first book, There is a Lot of Money Left at the End of the Money. That led to her award winning book with Laura Lein, Making Ends Meet: How Low Income Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low Wage Employment.

While teaching at Rutgers University, Edin-Nelson collaborated with Urban Promise, an organization started by Tony Campolo, and lived for two and a half years in Camden, N.J. It was considered America’s poorest city at the time and was the nation’s murder capital. Living in the area was necessary for her to do quality research, Edin-Nelson explains.

“The old-time poverty researchers used to live in the communities they studied and I wanted to do that,” she says of her decision to move to the city with her husband, Tim, and adopted daughter, Kaitlin. (The family adopted a second daughter, Marisa, after moving to Camden.)

“My husband is also a sociologist and thought this would be a good thing to do from a research point of view, but we also thought it would be fascinating,” Edin added.

Edin-Nelson’s experiences in Camden, where she investigated why poor women put motherhood ahead of marriage, are chronicled in her third book, Promises I Can Keep, which won the William T. Goode award for the most outstanding contribution for family scholarship. She published her fourth book, on couple dynamics and father involvement in low-income families, in 2007, entitled Unmarried Couples with Children. She is also working on an upcoming book with her husband about the meaning of fatherhood among low-income men.

Edin-Nelson says she values working with “stigmatized populations” and helping to break stereotypes.

“You eventually come to the realization that you would have made the same choices had you been in the same situation,” she explains. “These people are not different from me. They have the same desires and motivations and good qualities.”
Field of Dreams

Location, location, location. That was what Josh Church C’2000 primarily considered when choosing the college he would attend.

Church’s extensive and rigorous search consisted simply of looking at a map of Chicago, finding Wrigley Field, and then looking for the nearest Christian college. The Maine native had fallen in love with the Cubs from both watching WGN and listening to legendary broadcaster Harry Carey.

Yet the decision to attend North Park University proved to be more fateful than Church imagined. Little did he know that nine years after graduation, his alma mater would honor him with its Up-and-Coming Alumnus Award.

Church is a co-producer with the film company Mosaic, which has produced several of Will Ferrell’s films. Although North Park didn’t have a film and TV major, professor of communications Dr. Bob Hostetter worked with Church to craft his own.

“A lot of places would have said, ‘You have to stay inside the box,’” notes Church, who wanted to focus on writing. “North Park allowed me to pursue my dream.”

His unique degree plan included a semester at the Los Angeles Film Studies Center, a program through the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities that trains students to serve in various aspects of the film industry with both professional skill and Christian integrity.

While at North Park, Church was also elected vice president of the Student Association and was honored with the Senior Par Excellence Award when he graduated in 2000.

His success has paved the way for future students who have since earned degrees in film and TV studies. Nevertheless, Church says making his way in Hollywood has required skill, perseverance, and the willingness to start at the bottom.

After being unemployed for five months, Church’s first break came when he landed a production assistant job for Judd Apatow, who was directing the TV show “Undeclared.” It was a basic “gofer job,” Church says.

When the series ended after a year, Church spent the next year and a half working at an industrial warehouse, which combined two things he says are “completely foreign to him—manual labor and a tool belt.” He also used the time to write scripts.

Then his former boss from the TV show called and asked him to work on the movie “Kicking & Screaming.”

“Out of nowhere I got this call. I got lucky,” Church says. “I try not to take that too lightly.”

Following that movie, its producer, Jimmy Miller, hired Church to work as a production executive for Mosaic. Church served as associate producer on “Talladega Nights,” and then as co-producer on “Semi-Pro,” “Step Brothers,” and “Land of the Lost.”

But Church admits it’s not all glamour. While shooting films, he works from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. most every day for months at a time.

Church says he hopes someday to be able to shepherd a project he discovers from start to finish. The project would be especially ideal if it included at least one scene at Wrigley Field.

His connection with Ferrell did give him an opportunity to actually be on the field at the stadium. An actor was throwing out the ceremonial first pitch and had arranged for Church and others to attend.

“I brought my glove, and I was like a 12-year-old kid,” he says.

Church is currently co-producing “The Other Guys,” a film featuring Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg. Again, he must focus on location, location, location. One of his jobs is arranging and coordinating shooting sites. Early in October, he was talking with representatives of the New York Knicks and NBA to arrange a shoot at Madison Square Garden.

The night before he flew from New York to Chicago for Homecoming, Church was on the movie set as the crew filmed from the top of the Rockefeller Center at night. He looked across the wide expanse of the brilliantly lit city and thought, “This is my job!”

His former North Park professors aren’t really surprised by Church’s achievements. “Josh possessed a lot of energy and had a great passion for media studies,” says Hostetter. “His passion and clarity of purpose suggested that he would very likely succeed.”
1. Wide receiver Chris Anton C‘2012 takes the field in the football game versus Wheaton College. 2. Wayne Bekiares A’59 C’63 reconnects with Academy classmate Dr. Sallie Reed Tasto A’59. 3. Volleyball players Ashley Wieczorek C‘2012 (front) and Jessica Holmes C‘2011 turn up the intensity against Carthage College. 4. Former Chicago Bears receiver Wendell Davis C‘2007 signs autographs at the Block Party. 5. Three future North Parkers enjoy the Homecoming festivities. 6. Stephen Kelly directs the Gospel Choir during the Homecoming Chapel.
With salsa now outselling ketchup, it’s clear that Latinos have established a vivid presence in North American life far beyond ethnic enclaves like Miami’s Little Havana, the barrios of East Los Angeles, and the neighborhoods of South Chicago. Latinos have flooded American churches. They request amnesty programs, English classes, and Spanish-language liturgies.

Besides being the fastest growing ethnic group in the United States (comprising 15 percent of the U.S. population at 44.3 million), Latinos are changing the face of American churches. They make up 50 percent of the Catholic Church, and now more than 25 percent of Latinos are Protestant.

While worship in many churches is somewhat private and reserved, a Latino service is very caliente—with guitars, percussion, and hand clapping in accord with the joyful music that comes from the Latin spirit of fiesta. The freedom to pray and preach in Spanish, with all the rich cultural background this encompasses, is very inviting to Latinos.

Because of the high energy in Latino cultures, it is no wonder that the churches with the greatest Latino growth are Pentecostal, Southern Baptist, Catholic Charismatic, and American Baptist churches. Within the last decade, Latino membership in the Southern Baptist Convention grew 54 percent.

The Latino soul is very visually and spiritually oriented, and Latinos express that through the senses. They put great emphasis on music, art, dance, drama, visuals, and flowers.

When the Lutheran Church sent missionaries to Taiwan they brought their traditional music with them—the German four part-harmony hymn. The Taiwanese did not respond to this music. They said it did not have “life.” The same is true in Latino services. It helps to use music composed in Spanish, instead of lyrics translated from English. Three of the most popular songs I can mention are “Resucitó,” “Alabaré,” and “Pescador de Hombres.” Just as those lyrics don’t resonate in English, the same is true when an English song is translated and sung in Spanish.

Children are a big part of any Latino liturgy. Parents tend to bring their children into the services instead of leaving them in childcare. In an English service, a crying child may be seen as a distraction. In a Spanish service, it’s not even heard. Children are never separated from their parents.

Rules are different for Latinos. In an English-speaking church, the members get down to business immediately, but Latinos socialize before they pray. Many times a half hour or more of socializing takes place before any business begins.

The symbols of popular religion are controlled by the laity, especially, the marginalized. Grandmothers (or other women) often lead these rituals rather than the clergy. They maintain home altars and coordinate the prayers, candles, and flowers offered there. Women enjoy great power and autonomy in Latino communities precisely as the guardians of popular religiosity.

Popular religion is also intrinsically petitionary. The daily necessities and struggles of life are, without shame, offered to God and His representatives. We see people gathering in homes to pray novenas and rosaries confident of miracles like those of the lives of the saints.

There is a strong sense of martyrdom, or suffering solidarity, which is an essential part of the spiritual life. Bloody crucifixes and suffering Virgins are at the center of contemplation. When Latinos reenact the way of the cross in their streets, it is because they know that Jesus suffers in solidarity with them in their homes and barrios.

Two-thirds of Latinos choose to worship in “ethnic congregations” that have Latino clergymen and Spanish-language services, and where a majority of congregants are Latinos. These congregations are cropping up throughout the country, even in areas where Latinos are sparse.

If the church is to support the Latino population in the United States and make Latinos feel welcome in services, the non-Latino population must be open to the diversity within Latino cultures—incorporating a high energy and joyful attitude in worship services, implementing songs that reflect the fiesta-type atmosphere, and especially singing in Spanish. That is one element all Latinos have in common.

Dr. Lorenzo Florián has been teaching at North Park University for more than 12 years. He has a Ph.D. in Hispanic linguistics, a master’s degree in education, and a bachelor’s degree in music. He has served as a church musician for 30 years and is well known for his musical composition, “Quiero Servirte, Mi Señor” (“I Want to Serve You, My Lord”).
Jaron Burdick S’2011 was pursuing a career in theatre education when he first felt a tug toward ministry. Jenna Brand C’2009 S’2012 grew up in a Christian home, but admits she used to think, “she was too normal” to be used by God to minister to others. For Janelle Curtis S’2012 experiences in camping ministries and short-term missions trips were “building blocks” in her calling to be involved Christian service overseas.

Although their individual stories may vary, Burdick, Brand, and Curtis, along with dozens of other students who currently attend North Park Theological Seminary, share more than one thing in common. All felt a strong and pressing desire to serve the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC), and all are being prepared to do so thanks to generous, full-tuition Presidential Scholarships that make their seminary education possible.

ECC President Emeritus Dr. Glenn Palmberg launched the Presidential Scholarships program 10 years ago with the help of North Park’s former president, Dr. David Horner. Since then, 148 scholarship recipients have graduated from the Seminary and are now serving in Covenant churches and various missions around the world.

The scholarships assist up to 20 new students each year who might not otherwise be able to attend seminary due to cost, or who would have to choose post-graduate work based on salary rather than fit. They are awarded to students with a proven commitment to academic excellence and aspirations to serve the ECC. These students are also given the opportunity to learn more about University, Seminary, and denominational operations through service hours to these groups.

“Presidential Scholarships have brought a number of gifted and godly women and men to the Seminary to prepare to be pastors, chaplains, missionaries, and scholars,” notes Dr. Jay Phelan, president of North Park Theological Seminary. “They are serving in congregations around the world: preaching, teaching, working with youth, advocating for justice, leading worship, and managing the work of the congregation.”

The impact of the scholarship program has exceeded everyone’s expectations, Palmberg says. “The church, and especially those who care deeply about the future of the denomination, have been eager to step up and support the people who are committing themselves to prepare for ministry,” he explains. Seventeen new recipients enrolled at the Seminary this past fall, joining 32 returning Presidential Scholars.

“In an ideal world I would love to see everyone graduate from seminary without incurring educational debt,” says current ECC president Dr. Gary Walter, who notes that Presidential Scholarships are an investment “in those investing in the Kingdom of God.”

Presidential Scholar Aune Carlson C’2005 S’2010 chose North Park because of its unique program offerings and its setting in Chicago—“a world-class city with great opportunities for learning and service.” Carlson is enrolled in the dual master of divinity/master of nonprofit administration (M.N.A.) degree program—and she’s in good company. More than 10 percent of all Presidential Scholarship recipients have graduated with a dual degree, combining their theological education with either an M.B.A. or an M.N.A. from North Park’s School of Business and Nonprofit Management.

Graduates are already making a tremendous difference in their vocations, observes Walter. “I am excited for our future because I am excited by the caliber of leaders we are attracting to North Park through this program,” he says.

To learn more about the Presidential Scholarships program, visit www.northpark.edu/presidentscholarships.
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30s
Theodore “Ted” W. Anderson C’37 turned 90 in June 2008. To celebrate the occasion, the departments of statistics and economics at Stanford University organized a two-day conference in honor of the former professor, and made Anderson’s 1945 dissertation available online. Speakers, including Anderson’s former students, colleagues, and 1972 Nobel Laureate Kenneth Arrow, were invited to present their research, many of whom pointed to Anderson’s contributions in econometrics and multivariate analysis. A special issue of the *Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference* was also edited in Anderson’s honor. Conference details, along with photos and presented papers, can be viewed on his website at stat.stanford.edu/twa.

40s
Members of the North Park Academy Class of 1944 organized a 65th reunion held at the Biltmore Country Club in Barrington, Ill. The celebration included members from the Academy classes of 1943–1947. Bob Johnson A’44 C’47 hosted the event, which included fellowship and a group sing-along of the Alma Mater. Attendees included Cherie (Martin) George, Conrad Kretzman, Dorothy (May) Campbell, Florence (John) Johnson, Harold Richter, Harriet (Krell) Jones, Joan (LaMair) Eventstad, Lenore (Onsrud) Erickson, Marilyn (Johnson) Swanson, Richard Fornoff, and Robert C. Johnson.

50s
Classmates from the Academy class of 1959 held their 50th reunion on Saturday, October 3, 2009 at the Renaissance Hotel in Northbrook, Ill. There were 84 guests in all, including 58 alumni, several spouses, and three faculty members. Alumni came from 15 states—nine from California alone.

60s
John Ferneborg A’60 C’64, an executive recruiter and senior partner of The Ferneborg Group, was recently invited to participate in Team Money, a blue-chip panel of career and financial experts assembled to provide insights and strategies for navigating today’s trying job market. The panel’s mission was to give three accomplished professionals who had each been unemployed for several months head-to-toe “makeovers” that would help them secure new jobs. An article about the project was featured on CNNMoney.com.

Norm “Mac” MacGregor C’61 (above, right) competed in tennis doubles at the National Senior Olympic Games, held at Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif., from August 1–15, 2009. His teammate in the 65-69 year age bracket was Vic Cox, a professor of biology at Parkland College.

Lorraine Peterson’s C’62 best-selling book, *If God Loves Me, Why Can’t I Get My Locker Open?*, has stayed on the market for
29 years, and was recently reformatted into a 365-day teen devotional that includes readings from several of Peterson’s other books. A tentmaker missionary to Mexico for 28 years, Peterson continues to post Spanish youth material at www.materialjuvenil.com. She has written 14 books, including, most recently, *God’s an Artist and You’re a Masterpiece*, *The Mind-boggling Science of an Awesome Creator*, and *Restore My Soul: A Grief Companion*.

**Phillip C’68 and Joan (Pederson) Bretz A’47** celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on June 27, 2009. They met at North Park Academy and were married by Rev. Ronald Magnuson S’58. Phillip specializes in breast cancer prevention and treatment and is founder of the Desert Breast & Osteoporosis Institute, where Joan serves as office manager. They have four children: Jason, Ashley, Christian, and Alexandra.


A recent reunion created the perfect opportunity for a Swanson family photo. Pictured are: Paul Swanson C’75, Sue (Black) Swanson C’75, Tom Swanson C’66, Donna (Serena) Swanson C’67, Al Olson C’70, Kathy (Swanson) Olson A’68 C’72, Bruce Swanson A’65, C’69, Nancy (Holmlund) Swanson C’69, Linda (Bothun) Swanson C’65, Dave Swanson C’64. Their parents are Vi (Solander) Swanson JC’38 C’63 and Lester Swanson (a North Park employee from 1961–76).

**80s**

**Betsy Youngquist C’87** will be exhibiting her beaded sculptural mosaics at the VIDA Museum in Borgholm, Sweden, in a group exhibition entitled “Rockford Artists at the VIDA Museum.” The exhibition opened on September 5, 2009, and runs through December 20, 2009. Youngquist’s attendance at the opening was her first visit back to Sweden since studying at SVF in Jönköping 23 years ago.

**90s**

**Richard Nuccio C’90** and his wife, Joanne, have a son who recently competed in the Asics Alexander Invitational on October 3, 2009, in Douglasville, Ga. Anthony Nuccio finished the 5000-meter race with a time of 21:52:93.

**Doug and Jennifer (Albrecht) Peckenpaugh C’91** welcomed daughter Linnea Joy on March 17, 2009. She joins brothers Lincoln (5) and Holden (3).


Wells and Zivojinovic children

Wells, Ellie Zivojinovic, Jake Zivojinovic, and Brady Wells).

Nate C’97 and Jessica (Warner) Karasek C’97 are grateful to have inherited vintage North Park Viking shirts, which were proudly worn by sons Dane (6), Austin (4) and Will (2) at Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp this July.

Ryan C’99 and Dana (Gooris) Wells C’99 and Courtney C’99 and Deb (McCullah) Zivojinovic C’99 set up a summer play date for their future North Parkers. (Back row: Casey Wells; front row: Avery)

2000s


Amber Neels C’2004 and Kyle Williams C’2005 were married on July 21, 2007. Lindsay Ellerman C’2005 served as a bridesmaid. Amber teaches preschool for at-risk children and Kyle is a plumber for his family’s company, where plans are developing for him to assume ownership in the next few years. Amber and Kyle live in Pearl City, Ill., and are expecting their first child (a girl) in January 2010.

Greg C’95 and Angie (Tungseth) Siwek C’95 welcomed Brooke Naomi on May 30, 2008. She joins siblings Tyler and Hailey.

Samara (Tilkens) Postuma and her husband, Jeff, welcomed Evelyn Nanette on December 3, 2008. Evelyn joins brothers Tyler (10) and Henry (3), and sister Madison (8).


Sam and Linnea (Johnson) Bergstrom C’2003 welcomed Soren Samuel on February 13, 2008.


Dayle Dillon C’2007 has been accepted to the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in Urbana for a highly competitive doctoral program in veterinary medicine. While at North Park, he played on the softball team and was a member of the National Biological Honor Society, Tri-Beta. Prior to attending veterinary college, Dillon conducted pharmaceutical research for CorDynamics and also coached junior Olympic volleyball for the North Shore Assault.


Frederick and Emily (Manning) Betcher C’2005 welcomed Frederick Dean IV on June 29, 2009. The family resides in Troy, Mich.

Christi Rand G’2008 and her husband, Stefan, welcomed Tyler Orlando on August 25, 2009. Tyler was 8 lbs., 7 oz., and 20.5 inches long.
Grace Under Pressure
An alumna discusses the challenges and joys of teaching intensive English in former Soviet territory.
by Stan Friedman S’93

Grace Butkevich C’2006 had little more than a month to apply for, accept, and start her new job overseas teaching the Intensive English Program to Eastern Europeans at LCC International University, a Christian liberal arts institution in Lithuania.

“Most faculty go through the interview and hiring process, raise support, and prepare for their term of service over a period of several months to years,” she describes.

Butkevich faced additional challenges that would be daunting to most teachers. “I actually arrived on Friday, August 28, and only had the weekend to get ready for classes, which began September 1,” she says. “Jet lag and a little bit of culture shock made that first week pretty rough, but I’m feeling much more at ease now.”

Butkevich, who majored in French, taught two English as second a language (ESL) courses at North Park while completing her master’s degree in linguistics and ESL at nearby Northeastern Illinois University.

She has been interested in teaching ESL since she was a freshman in high school. That interest was strengthened when she attended CHIC, the Evangelical Covenant Church’s triennial youth event that attracts about 6,000 people.

“I was influenced by several speakers who talked about their experiences abroad sharing the gospel,” Butkevich says. “So, when I first learned about LCC International University this summer, something just clicked. I had an overwhelming sense that serving here would allow me to put all of the gifts and talents God had given me and the desires He had placed in my heart into practice.”

She adds, “I believe that Colossians 3:17 is a perfect guideline for this or any position when it says, ‘And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.’ I believe that by serving as an English language instructor here at LCC, God can use even me to expand His kingdom.”

LCC was formed almost immediately after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. Its goal of transforming a part of Europe that suffered long under Communist rule especially attracted Butkevich.

The school declares on its website that it seeks “to engage students in a transforming educational experience in order to create a generation of leaders for Eastern Europe who think critically, promote democratic ideals, develop a market economy, and rebuild the network of civil society within the context of a Christian worldview.”

LCC currently offers majors and minors in business, theology, and English, as well as minors in Lithuanian studies, conflict studies, psychology, and sociology. The university has an excellent reputation, as does its ESL program, even though the Intensive English Program in which Butkevich teaches is only in its second year. “It provides intensive English instruction for students who applied to the university but whose English ability fell short of requirements,” she explains.

Thankfully, the students seem quite eager to learn, Butkevich says. “The class is very international, consisting of students from Belarus, Russia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan, so it’s a treat for me to meet such an array of people.”

While Butkevich enjoys teaching, she also looks forward to connecting with her students in other settings. “I am very thankful already for the times outside of class when I’ve had the opportunity to talk with students on a more personal level.”
Obituaries

Helen K. (Kalitzky) C’35 Malambri died on Wednesday, January 21, 2009. She was 93 years old.

Gloria Joan (Johnson) Erickson C’48 died on March 19, 2008. She and her husband, Bertil C’48, raised their four daughters before Gloria completed her teaching degree and went to serve as a first grade teacher at Haskell School in Rockford, Ill., for 13 years. Survivors include daughters Joan (Erickson) Wallgren C’76 (spouse: John C’75) and Lois (Erickson) Olson C’80; and granddaughters Linnea (Wallgren) Johnson (spouse: Cameron C’2001), Greta (Wallgren) Bailey C’2004, and Elsa (Wallgren) Johnson C’2006 (spouse: Matt C’2006).

Jerome Smith C’54 died on July 23, 2009. A former professor and adoption specialist, he authored many publications including, “The Realities of Adoption.”

Kendra Lee Holt C’89 died on May 22, 2009, after a two-year struggle with colon cancer. As a student she was active in the choir, Signposts (summer touring ensemble), and musical theater.

Friends of North Park

Peter William Marks died on Monday, September 7, 2009, at the Kaplan Hospice House in Danvers, Mass., following a 2 1/2-year battle with cancer. He was married to Kristy (Lloyd) and was employed until his death as a computer game designer. Marks was the son of the late Rev. Peter William Marks and his wife, Theresa. Survivors include his sister, Jennifer (Marks) Hart C’2003.

John C. Marks S’99 and his wife, Theresa. Survivors include his sister, Jennifer (Marks) Hart C’2003.

Two young alumni and former North Park athletes, Mike Rotenberry C’2007 and Rick Alspach C’2000, died in August 2009.

Rotenberry was an all-CCIW football player at the University and an avid sports fan. He and his brother, former Viking Tim Rotenberry C’2005, were well known for their dynamism on the gridiron.

“He was an intense competitor,” recalls North Park athletics director Dr. Jack Surridge. “He had a unique ability as a pass defender to anticipate and intercept, but even more memorable were his electrifying tackles. . . . He could really light people up.”

After serving in the U.S. Army from 2001–2003 in South Korea, Rotenberry returned to the United States to finish his education, and was working as a gym teacher for Illinois District 300 before he was diagnosed with stomach cancer in October 2008.

Rotenberry, who married longtime friend Katherine Atkins earlier in the summer, died on August 14. He was 29 years old.

A lover of basketball, Alspach’s nickname, “Shooter” followed him from high school to his years on the North Park team. “He was a phenomenal three-point shooting threat who could drain it from long range with tremendous accuracy and consistency,” says Surridge, who adds that Alspach “never missed an alumni game” and always proudly wore his North Park gear.

In 1998 Alspach was the top scorer on the American Traveling All-Star Team in Italy. His love for the game extended beyond his playing career, and he was also involved in teaching young children at a basketball camp. He died on August 29, at the age of 31, and is survived by his wife and a large extended family.
It is with great appreciation that we present the 2008-2009 Honor Roll of Donors. North Park University has been blessed with support from the following individuals and organizations during the 2008–2009 fiscal year (July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009). These gifts support the breadth of our activities and ensure both the short-term and long-term success of North Park.
The President’s Club, established in 1967, honors all donors who generously support North Park University with annual cumulative contributions of $1,000 and above. Their gifts, listed below in their respective giving circle or giving society, provide essential funds for student financial aid, faculty salaries, new equipment and other capital purposes, as well as unrestricted funds to help meet ongoing budget support.

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The Founders’ Circle is named in honor of those who provided the visionary leadership that created North Park University more than 100 years ago, and acknowledges those who continue to make significant investments in the University’s future through annual cumulative gifts of $20,000 and above.

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Sara Dwight C’2010

“North Park University has provided me
with a fantastic education, but more
importantly, it has offered me a com-
munity in which I have grown deeper
in my faith. After I graduate this spring,
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participate in mission work. Thank you
for your support of my education.”

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We are grateful to the following individuals, whose thoughtful remembrance of North Park in their estates and trusts resulted in gifts to the institution during the 2008–2009 fiscal year. Peace to their memory.

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“God began preparing me for a career in ministry through the love and support of the Covenant community who taught me what it means to live a life of worth and service. Because of your generous donations, I can fully dedicate myself to the study of God’s word. Thank you for your giving.”
“The chance to attend seminary with the assistance of a scholarship has given me the freedom to dive deeply into my studies without the pressures of maintaining a full-time job. Thank you for supporting the call of God on my life. Your generosity is life altering.”

We are grateful to the following churches for providing support in the 2008–2009 fiscal year via annual giving, program support, scholarships, and designated student aid.

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Joel Swenson ’2012

“For the last six years, I have had the opportunity to serve as a missionary in Quito, Ecuador, ministering in both youth and sports. My hope is to return to Ecuador and continue this work. It is through your generosity that students like me can be transformed for future Kingdom work.”

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Day Celebration. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Monday, January 18
“Love Your Neighbors as Yourself”
10:00 a.m., Anderson Chapel

Spring Preview Days. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
Sunday—Monday, January 24–25;
February 14–15

Social Justice as a Matter of Faith . . . . . . . . . .
Tuesday, January 26
Lecture by Dr. Iva E. Carruthers
7:00 p.m., location TBD

Campus Theme Event:
Hip-Hop Theory of Justice . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
Monday, February 8
Lecture by Paul Butler
7:00 p.m., Anderson Chapel

Symphony Orchestra Concert . . . . . . . . . . . .
Thursday, March 4
7:30 p.m., Anderson Chapel

Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust . . . . . . . . .
Wednesday, March 24
Lecture by Dr. Doris Bergen
7:00 p.m., Anderson Chapel

High School Student Leadership Summit . . . . . .
Wednesday, March 31
10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m., Anderson Chapel

Biblical and Theological Perspectives on Land and Covenant . . . .
Friday—Saturday, April 9 & 10
Lecture by Dr. Paul Nadim Tarazi
7:30 p.m. Friday (Saturday time TBD), Anderson Chapel

Gospel Choir Concert . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
Saturday—Sunday, April 17 & 18
7:30 p.m., Northside College Preparatory High School Auditorium

Jazz Ensemble . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
Sunday, May 2
3:00 p.m., Lecture Hall Auditorium (LHA)

Spring Commencement . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
Saturday, May 8
10:00 a.m. (undergraduate), 3:00 p.m. (graduate), Carlson Gymnasium

Seminary Commencement . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
Saturday, May 8
7:00 p.m., Anderson Chapel

Axelson Center Symposium . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
Wednesday—Thursday, May 12 & 13
8:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

For a complete list of University events, visit northpark.edu/universitycalendar.
For athletic schedules and highlights, visit northpark.edu/athletics.

The North Park University

campus theme program
2009—2010

What is justice?