What Is Community?

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What is community?

It doesn’t surprise anyone that we ask a lot of questions at North Park University. Questions lead to answers, which in turn lead to more questions, additional answers, then still more questions.

Learning is a process of asking questions and testing answers. We do this on many levels—sometimes individually without much contact with others, at other times in teams of two or three, more often in a classroom of 20 students, and then occasionally even as a whole community.

Each year we encourage our entire community to consider a “big” question—an idea that frames our life individually but which also guides our lives collectively.

So this year we’re asking, “What is community?” We expect students will consider this question individually, but we also encourage our entire “community” to reflect on this question collectively. And in this issue of the North Parker we invite our wider “community” of friends and graduates of North Park to engage this question as well.

In exploring this question we invited Sharon Haar to campus. Haar is the author of a recent book that explores the relationship between campus and city, using colleges and universities in Chicago as a case study. This relationship between campus and city is the locus of community. And in this setting Haar suggested a new yet related concept. She asked, “On our campuses and in our city should we speak of ‘urbanity’ rather than ‘community?’”

Community.
Urbanity.

Friends and strangers meet on a campus and in a city, like North Park and Chicago. Here community is formed, here urbanity is born. Urbanity is edgy and sometimes messy. Urbanity is infused with life but it isn’t always a beautiful life. Urbanity is infused with plenty of smiles and abundant joy, but urbanity also makes room for tears and pain. Urbanity includes friends, but also strangers.

This comes close to the definition for community suggested later on in these pages by Karl Clifton-Soderstrom, a faculty member in philosophy at North Park. He states: “Community [is] the social architecture that nurtures empathy and obligation among strangers in their movement toward friendship.” In this same article Campus Pastor Judy Peterson notes that in community we bear God’s image.

Urbanity works in this same way: wherever friends and strangers meet—in residence halls or classrooms, city sidewalks or urban skyscrapers—the image of God is present.
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North Park University Announces Record Traditional Undergraduate Enrollment for Fall 2011

North Park University announced in September that traditional undergraduate enrollment for the fall semester reached a record 1,929 students, an increase of 79 students over 2010. Combined with graduate enrollment, the University’s total student population for the fall semester is 3,223.

“North Park University is very pleased to see this growth in the size of our incoming traditional undergraduate class,” said Dr. David L. Parkyn, North Park University’s president. “Not only did the class increase in numbers, but we are proud of the academic strength and diversity of this class.”

Such enrollment growth in one year is “a tremendous accomplishment in a competitive marketplace and a challenging economy,” said Nate Mouttet, the University’s vice president for enrollment and marketing.

To reach its record undergraduate enrollment, the University conducted “an extensive review of admissions processes and financial aid, athletic team recruitment, and opportunities for growth,” Mouttet said. As a result, “our dean of enrollment, Mark Olson, developed a new recruitment ‘attitude,’ communication strategy, and enrollment structure,” he said, noting emphasis on relationship-building with potential students, creation of an admissions officer role to focus on the needs of applicants, and improvements in data entry.

Mouttet also cited improvements in seeking students, implementation of a new application process, growth in the number of student athletes, and the “great value” for students in terms of their educational costs as factors contributing to the growth in enrollment.

“North Park University’s tuition continues to be extremely attractive to students as they consider studying at a nationally recognized institution in a world-class city,” he said.

Mouttet thanked the faculty and staff for helping make “North Park University come alive to our incoming students.”

“Our people really want to see students prepared for lives of significance and service,” he said.

In addition, Mouttet noted that the incoming undergraduate class grade-point average is 3.18 (on a four-point scale), up from 3.09 one year ago. The incoming class is diverse, with about 15 percent of its students Latino, 10 percent black, 6 percent Asian American, and about 53 percent white. Another 7 percent are international students. The University is also financially stronger, Mouttet said.

Mouttet hopes this year’s incoming class is the start of an upward trend. “We are asking our recruitment and enrollment team to prepare for an even larger class next year,” he said.
North Park Student Stars in Chicago Musical Production

Leslie Moore came to North Park University because it offers a forum for discussing both God and music, she said. Her North Park education, along with other musical experiences, helped her become a key player as the lead angel in Torn: The Musical, performed in September at Chicago’s Vittum Theater.

Moore also sings in the University’s acclaimed Gospel Choir and is leading a University Ministries worship team this year.

Describing it as “a Christian musical,” Moore said that Torn is a theatrical production of the story of one man’s battle for his soul. That story is told through various forms of dance and music, from hip-hop and rock to jazz and opera. Moore, a North Park University junior who is majoring in music in worship, said Torn is a spiritual production, “a ministry for us.”

The show premiered earlier this year in Chicago and returned for a second Chicago run in September. Early in 2012, Torn will be performed in other parts of the country, Moore said. The Third Dimension Production Co. performs the musical, produced by Moore’s friend Ted Williams III, who she met at a Chicago Church of Christ congregation. Williams invited Moore to direct the music and help edit the script. In the stage production, Moore sang in nearly all of the songs.

“I am so happy to be in this show,” said Moore. “My prayer is that God will continue to let me be part of venues like this.”

In addition to Torn, Moore was chosen to be part of an ensemble to be mentored by Chicago’s Donald Lawrence, a Grammy award-winning gospel music producer, composer, and recording artist.

Moore credits North Park University with opening doors that have led to musical success. “I know God led me to North Park. I’m grateful for how God and North Park have moved in my life,” she said.

Two of her professors in the North Park University School of Music, Dr. Helen Hudgens and Dr. Michael McBride, spoke highly of Moore and her musical interests.

“She’s been a delight. She’s a leader,” said Hudgens, who has known Moore for two years.

She recalled Moore’s leadership in Hudgens’s “Practice and Aesthetics of Church Music” class. Moore, who is experienced in African American church music, shared significant musical perspectives with the class as students visited churches on Chicago’s South Side, Hudgens said. “She’s very gifted, but with a humble heart, and a real heart for working with students of color in our music school.”

McBride described Moore as “a dedicated, motivated music student.” He knows Moore from seminar classes he taught in church music history and church music literature. Her contributions to those conversations “were beautiful, unique, and personal,” he said. McBride recalled Moore’s work at a benefit concert this year for Haiti, where her singing “brought the house down.” Moore also helped raise funds for and organize the musical component of a trip to India that was taken by several musicians who performed and worked with local Indian musicians, McBride said.

“She’s a thoughtful, passionate, sensitive person and musician,” he said. “I’m excited to see what God has for her and for her future.”

Leslie Moore, a junior music in worship major, performs in the University Gospel Choir, as well as in productions such as Torn: The Musical.
New Books from North Park Faculty

Paul DeNeui and Sawai Chinnawong
*That Man Who Came to Us*
(William Carey Library)

This book tells the story of the life of Jesus Christ through traditional Thai art.

Lorenzo Florián
*A Comparative and Dialectical Lexicon of Variations in Modern Spanish Vocabulary: Tracking Linguistic Differences Across Cultural, National, and Dialectical Boundaries*
(Mellen Press)

The first linguistic resource of its kind, this book compares the lexicons of all Spanish-speaking countries. It includes English translations and Spanish definitions.

Gordon D. Fee and Robert L. Hubbard Jr., editors
*The Eerdmans Companion to the Bible*
(Eerdmans)

This volume has user-friendly maps, charts, graphics, and photos, bringing ancient places to life. Accompanying articles offer significant insights into the Bible’s people, places, and main ideas.

Roger E. Hedlund, Sebastian Kim and Rajkumar Boaz Johnson
*Indian & Christian: The Life and Legacy of Pandita Ramabai*
(MIIS/CMS/SPCK)

This collection of essays chronicles the life of Pandita Ramabai, an Indian social reformer and activist best known for her advocacy for improving the lives of Indian women.

Barbara Levandowski
*The Adventures of Muffin and Alexander: A New Home, a New Beginning, and The Adventures of Muffin and Alexander: Let the Explorations Begin*
(both by Trafford Publishing)

This series of children’s books is about the adventures of two kittens, Muffin and Alexander.

Scot McKnight
*The King Jesus Gospel: The Original Good News Revisited*
(Zondervan)

McKnight’s most recent book argues for recovery of a “gospel culture” in which the church goes beyond a framework that stops at personal salvation.

C. John Weborg
*Made Healthy in Ministry for Ministry*
(Wipf and Stock)

In this reflective volume, Weborg helps pastors remain healthy for ministry by maintaining vocational clarity.
University Joins President Obama’s Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge

On August 3, leaders from North Park University joined representatives of other higher education institutions and the Obama administration in Washington, D.C., for the kickoff of the President’s Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge.

North Park is one of nearly 250 colleges and universities in the United States participating in the challenge, which is aimed at strengthening communities through service and uniting people across lines of faith through dialogue and understanding. The challenge is an initiative of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. North Park was represented at the inaugural event by Dr. David L. Parkyn, president; Dr. Joseph Jones, provost; and Dr. Terry Lindsay, dean of diversity and intercultural programs.

North Park University, located in Chicago’s diverse Albany Park neighborhood, has promoted community service and interfaith understanding for decades, Parkyn said. “This fits North Park so well because we come out of a faith tradition that is committed to compassion, mercy, and justice. We are located in a city where people and expressions of faith from around the world come together. This all fits very closely with our commitments and goals.”

When he announced the challenge earlier this year, President Barack Obama called on institutions of higher education to commit to advancing interfaith and community service initiatives over the course of the 2011-2012 academic year. Each participating institution should then consider how to sustain the challenge’s momentum, Parkyn said.

A mix of participating colleges and universities was represented at the challenge’s kickoff, including public and private research universities, liberal arts schools, Christian colleges and universities, and community colleges.

“The thing that was really refreshing was that there were 250 colleges and universities from around the country interested in doing this important work,” Lindsay said. “I was really pleased with the diversity of the institutions and the quality of the institutions.”

North Park students need to understand other faiths as well, Jones said. “The educated person of the 21st century should have a good understanding of people of other faiths if we are called to love our neighbor and work for the common good,” he explained. “The challenge is for the universities and faith communities to come together to work for issues in their own communities.”

In its proposal regarding the challenge, North Park University said it would expand two existing campus-wide service opportunities to include people from different faith traditions. These opportunities include “Viking Kid’s Day,” in which North Park students are paired with young children for a day of “friendship, food, fun, and football”; and North Park Community Service Day, in which students, faculty, staff, and alumni develop relationships to facilitate volunteer service projects with various community partners.

Several Chicago-area colleges and universities are participating, as well as higher education institutions in Illinois and surrounding states, providing North Park students, faculty, and staff with opportunities to collaborate with other institutions to promote community service and interfaith relationships, Lindsay said.

The University also planned specific events this year to promote interfaith engagement. It held an interfaith event commemorating the 10th anniversary of 9/11 to honor Christians and Muslims; a film presentation as part of an event, “Fostering Christian-Muslim Relationships”; a panel of three Chicago-area women who promote, support, and lead interfaith dialogue; a panel discussion on relationships between faith communities and health practices and beliefs; and a health fair, held with area partners such as Compassionate Care and Swedish Covenant Hospital, to reach out to people in Albany Park.
Center for Spiritual Direction Named for C. John Weborg
by Stan Friedman

Speakers addressing the 230 people who gathered in Chicago on July 30 to celebrate the naming of the C. John Weborg Center for Spiritual Direction explained that the center was named not only in honor of the longtime professor of theology at North Park Theological Seminary (NPTS), but also to celebrate what God has done through him.

Previously known simply as the Center for Spiritual Direction, the center held its first classes in 2005, thanks to funds from the Lilly Endowment. Its beginnings actually go back much further, said the Rev. Dr. Richard Carlson, professor of ministry and co-director of the center. Carlson has taught the initial course in the center’s program of study since its inception.

Carlson told the gathering the Latin word *seminarium*, from which seminary is derived, literally means seedbed, “in which plants are nurtured, watered, blessed with sunlight, and occasionally pruned. A good and faithful gardener is essential.”

“That is why the history of the center actually starts in 1975, when John joined the faculty. His diligence, persistence, and vision showed he was the right gardener to plant and nurture seeds,” Carlson said.

Weborg took the stage and spoke briefly. “I’m not quite sure how to understand tonight, because I’m not quite sure what I did,” he said to laughter. “I know that I did what my dean asked me to do.”

In his familiar cadence, Weborg told of growing up in Pender, Neb., at the end of the Depression and listening to his parents and friends tell stories. “As I think back over it, they told the same stories. But they never became boring because they were stories about how we survived the Depression, and how we survived the droughts.”

It was only because the seminary faculty worked together that the center was launched and has succeeded, Weborg said. Others were honored who were instrumental in steering the seminary to make spiritual direction an integral part of its students’ education.

The Rev. Fran Anderson joined the seminary staff in 1975 and was the school’s first female faculty member. She first brought up the idea of supporting the students’ spiritual development in a more intentional fashion. Weborg developed the first course. Dr. Jane Koonce had a recurring dream in which she saw herself teaching at NPTS. She met with Dean Rob Johnston and interviewed with the faculty. She remembers Weborg saying, “Jane, you are an answer to prayer. I need a spiritual director.”

Dr. Nicholas Wolterstorff was Weborg’s choice to speak at the July event. The professor emeritus of philosophical theology at Yale University told the gathering that spirituality, remembrance, and justice were interrelated. Christianity is uniquely a spirituality of remembering because it is a story-telling faith, with the work of Christ at the center of the story, he said.

The 12 graduates of the center’s fifth cohort were recognized at the ceremony. “You are well-prepared, but you are not fully prepared,” said Dr. David Parkyn, University president. He explained that while their education was excellent, they would be fully prepared only as they continued to let God speak into their lives. He added, “North Park has never been just about the head, but also the heart and ultimately our hands.”
North Park University welcomed nine new faculty and three new athletic coaches to the University’s professional staff as the 2011-2012 academic year began.

“I am always pleased by the quality of people we are able to attract to North Park University,” said Dr. Joseph Jones, University provost. “This group brings energy and vision that complements all we are trying to do in the future of our students. We selected them because they have established themselves as models of significance and service. We expect them to bring a freshness in vision of what can be in the lives of our students.”

New Faculty

Dr. Sandra Gaynor joined the School of Nursing as associate professor. She was previously employed by the Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, Chicago.

Dr. Craig Johnson is dean of the School of Music and professor of music. He was previously chair and professor of music at Otterbein University, Westerville, Ohio.

Dr. Aaron Kaestner is assistant professor in the department of mathematics. He was previously a teaching assistant at the University of Illinois-Chicago, where he earned his doctorate.

Dr. Isabel Larraza joined the department of chemistry as associate professor. She was previously assistant professor of chemistry, St. Mary’s College, Notre Dame, Ind.

Dr. Drew Rholl C’2004 is assistant professor in the department of biology. Previously he was graduate research assistant and guest lecturer at Colorado State University.

Dr. Christine Smith is associate professor in the School of Nursing. She previously was a family nurse practitioner with the Circle Family Health Care Network, and preceptor of nursing graduate students from a variety of nursing programs, including North Park University.

Dr. Anne V. Vazquez is assistant professor in the department of chemistry. Vazquez was previously a temporary assistant professor, Prairie State College, Chicago Heights, Ill.

Dr. Bryan Watkins is dean of the School of Adult Learning and associate professor. Previously, Watkins was chief academic and administrative officer, School of Leadership and Continuing Studies, Dominican University, River Forest, Ill.

Dr. Michele Klich Wayte joined the department of marketing as professor of marketing. Wayte was previously associate professor of marketing, Concordia University, Portland, Ore.

New Athletic Coaches

Steve Imig is the University’s cross country coach. Previously Imig studied at Austin (Texas) Presbyterian Seminary and coached at the high school and college levels for 10 years.

Geoff Masanet is North Park’s track and field coach. Previously, he served as an academic advisor and NCAA certification officer at Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas, and has more than 15 years’ collegiate track and field coaching experience.

Kevin Tomasiewicz is the pitching coach in the baseball program. He previously was pitching coach at Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall.

Faculty promoted to full professor:
Rachelle Ankney, mathematics
Elizabeth Gray, psychology
Lida Nedilsky, sociology
Kurt Peterson, history
Kelly VanderBrug, art

Faculty granted tenure:
Ilsup Ahn, associate professor of philosophy
Joan Andrea, associate professor of nursing
Michelle Clifton-Soderstrom, associate professor of theology and ethics
Jonathan Rienstra-Kiracofe, professor of chemistry

Faculty promoted and granted tenure:
Laura Burt, associate professor of bibliography
Paul DeNeui, professor of missiology
Nnenna Okore, associate professor of art
Johnny Wei-Bing Lin, professor of physics
North Park Campus Facilities, Landscaping Improved During Summer Months

Students, faculty, and staff returning to the North Park University campus for the 2011-2012 academic year found some impressive physical improvements to buildings and campus landscaping.

Significant projects include renovations inside and landscaping improvements outside of Sohlberg Hall, including the transplanting of large Norway spruce trees around it from the site of the anticipated new Science and Community Life Building and construction of a simulation laboratory for the School of Nursing adjacent to the Health and Counseling Center on Foster Avenue. (See a story about the new lab, page 10.)

Other improvements to the North Park campus included the replacement of windows, doors, and locks on the Lund Apartments; roof and gutter replacement on the Student Services Building, a permanent fix after damage from a spring 2010 storm; repainting classrooms, offices, and hallways, plus replacement of some furniture and carpeting in Nyvall Hall; replacement of chairs at Magnuson Campus Center; and ongoing apartment maintenance in residences used by Seminary and undergraduate students.

Significant improvements began this fall in Carlson Tower, including the replacement of elevator cars, retrofitted sprinkler systems, and the installation of a new fire alarm protection system, according to Carl Balsam, executive vice president and chief financial officer.
North Park University Opens High-Tech Nursing Simulation Laboratory

North Park University opened its state-of-the-art nursing simulation laboratory in early September, enabling students in nursing and other disciplines to practice critical skills in a simulated, safe learning environment.

The high-tech simulation lab was built during the summer in a 3,000 square-foot, ground-level space adjacent to the University Health and Counseling Center on Foster Avenue. It includes four simulation rooms, two control rooms, and a conference room where students will debrief their class experiences. Video and audio recording of simulations are routine in the new facility.

“This is a project of considerable scope and will offer a substantially improved teaching and learning environment for students in the School of Nursing,” said Dr. David L. Parkyn, North Park University president. The University’s strategic investment in this project is more than $1 million, he said. Gifts and grants for the laboratory have been used to purchase equipment.

“We’re really pleased with the University’s commitment to put together a lab at this level of sophistication,” said Dr. Linda R. Duncan, dean of the North Park University School of Nursing.

Simulation has been used by the aeronautics industry for some time, in which pilots and crew members practice various scenarios, including emergencies. Health care has followed their lead, Duncan said.

In the simulation lab, students practice their skills on high-tech, computer-driven mannequins or live actors, while professors and others observe. Scenarios, which are recorded and used in debriefing sessions, range from routine practices to high-risk and emergency situations, Duncan said.

“This is very significant for students, for their ability to develop,” Duncan said. “It gives us an opportunity to do more team training and more communication training, which is another big part of health care. The whole notion of training being done in a simulated manner first is now the norm.”

When North Park was planning its laboratory, Duncan traveled with Carl Balsam, the University’s executive vice president and chief financial officer, to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., to see its simulation laboratory. “It was a benchmark facility for us. They gave us very positive information,” Duncan said.

The School of Nursing also plans to invite community and University partners to use the facility for continuing education.

“I’m looking forward to actually using the lab,” said Mary Shehan, chief nursing officer and senior vice president of nearby Swedish Covenant Hospital. The hospital hopes to use the lab for its new graduate nurse residency program and to help experienced nurses learn new procedures, Shehan explained. The new North Park lab could also be used for annual competency testing for nurses to ensure that they are up-to-date on the latest clinical practices.

In addition to training nurses, Duncan said the lab can be used to train people working in other disciplines, such as hospital chaplains. “Often chaplains in hospitals, and for that matter, pastors, find themselves right in the midst of medical discussions,” she said. “It’s one thing to talk about them in class. It’s another thing to experience them in simulation and then do some kind of reflective thinking.”
GET CLOSER TO THE ACTION.

Never miss another game-winning Vikings goal with live streaming and game stats from the new North Park Athletics website. Built on the state-of-the-art Sidearm platform, we’re bringing you video, game-action shots, schedules, rosters, and much more. Our Vikings, better than ever.

www.northpark.edu/athletics
Each year, a campus theme challenges North Park University students, faculty, and staff to explore one of the great questions of life. We invite you into this conversation here, as we showcase various ways North Park asks together, “What is community?” 📚 First in this trio of articles, assistant professor of philosophy Karl Clifton-Soderstrom and campus pastor Judy Peterson discuss the theoretical basis of the question. 📚 Next, we hear about how we’re growing through the work of admissions recruiters and the students they welcome to North Park University. With record enrollment this fall (see story earlier in this issue), the recruiters’ role took on even greater significance. 📚 Finally, the discipline of “service learning” is explored, in which North Park students move out from their classrooms into the wider community, enhancing their understanding with hands-on experiences.
A CONVERSATION CONCERNING COMMUNITY:
Karl Clifton-Soderstrom and Judy Peterson discuss this year's campus theme, “What Is Community?”

Clifton-Soderstrom and Peterson are key players in the campus-wide inquiry into the issues surrounding community. In the interview that follows, they discuss the matter from the perspective of their complementary disciplines, philosophy and theology.

Tell us about your role in this year's campus theme, “What Is Community?”

Karl Clifton-Soderstrom: I am the director of general education at North Park. As part of our mission, the General Education Committee helps plan the Campus Theme Lecture Series.

Judy Peterson: University Ministries is also championing the campus theme, “What Is Community?” A majority of our chapel services throughout the year will consider the Christian call to community, the cost of community, and how to form community outside of comfort zones.

This year’s theme question is obviously an issue of definition, and the word is used in so many ways. How do you define community?

Karl: I define community as the social architecture that nurtures empathy and obligation among strangers in their movement toward friendship. Two thinkers come to mind. The Greek philosopher Aristotle makes an interesting claim in his Nicomachean Ethics that I find both helpful and challenging: “Friendship seems to hold states together, and lawgivers to care more for it than for justice . . . when men are friends they have no need of justice, while when they are just they need friendship as well, and the truest form of justice is thought to be a friendly quality.”

Judy: Community is one of the ways in which we bear God’s image. God has always known community, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have existed together from the beginning. We commit to the work of community because we are committed to bearing the image of God well in this world. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct from one another and yet still one. There is no hierarchy among them, no power struggles between them, and no need to be first, and therefore no need to have a second. I believe we need to pursue mutuality and equality because a community that contains a hierarchy of human value or worth cannot bear God’s image well.

The campus theme question might be answered differently by those in various disciplines (sciences, sociology, history, politics, etc.). How do we establish which answers are foundational?

Karl: That all depends on what you mean by foundational. In one respect, physics has access to something foundational in terms of the basic building blocks of our material universe. In another respect, theology has access to something foundational to our understanding of our deepest spiritual desires. Disciplines compartmentalize the complex reality we experience for the sake of gaining insights that a broad view alone could not accomplish.

I think of the old proverb of the four blind men who are each asked to describe an elephant, though each person touches a different part: the tail, the legs, the ears, and the tusks. Each of their descriptions is true, though conflict arises when one assumes authority over the rest. The members of a university should have some sense of the whole alongside their focused views. Thus a university achieves community when it fosters dialogue among the disciplines within an ethos of collaboration and humility. In a Christian university, I would add, there is some sustained hope to the unity of knowledge, that indeed, to use the proverb, there is an elephant and not just legs, trunks, tail, and tusks.

A primary component of the dictionary definition of “community” is unity, common interest, or joint affinity. How might this be understood broadly to include issues of the environment, health, or economics?

Judy: The work of being “with” in Christian community often boils down to the fact that we are committed to being with one another in spite of the fact that at times our only common interest or joint affinity is Christ and His Kingdom. Our diverse backgrounds and affinities; our different specialties and qualifications; our distinct convictions, culture, and class will often cause us to reach dissimilar conclusions on issues of environment, health, economics, and politics. Perhaps in reminding ourselves of our similarities we will all be led to make decisions about the environment, health, economics, and politics with a view to caring for other humans in the same way we would want to be cared for.

Karl: Aldo Leopold, in his important essay “The Land Ethic,” claims, “All ethics so far evolved rest upon a single premise: that the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts.” I think that perhaps the unity that an environmental, economic, ecclesial, or political community can possess is consistently based upon the practice of interdependence. A group can have a fair amount of ideological diversity, but without interdependence it does not function as a community. Likewise, a collection of like-minded people can resist their interdependence so much that there exists no real community.
INVITATION TO COMMUNITY: Recruiters Welcome a Record Number of Students to North Park

Who shapes the growing, dynamic community at North Park University? The admissions recruiters are on the front lines—finding, welcoming, and encouraging the wide variety of students who make up the North Park community. This fall’s record enrollment of more than 3,200 students includes those from around the city and around the world, and students in a range of schools within the University. In addition to traditional undergraduate students, North Park encompasses the School of Adult Learning, the Theological Seminary, and master’s programs in business, education, nursing, and music. It includes online distance-learning students, part-time students, and satellite campuses. One challenge for recruiters is to begin to build relationships and create a sense of community within and among these diverse groups.

More Than Ever: Welcoming Traditional Undergraduates

This fall, the traditional undergraduate program reached an enrollment milestone: 1,929 students. Thanks to social media, the burgeoning incoming class started to build community online last spring, participating in a University-hosted Facebook group long before they arrived for orientation. Undergraduate recruiter Brady Martinson described the importance of a community-oriented experience to many incoming students: “I consistently speak with students who want to experience the excitement and opportunities of a big city, but also be a part of a smaller campus community where faith is valued. Students can academically and professionally prepare for their careers alongside fellow students, professors, mentors, and potential employers in a campus community that also cares about their personal, emotional, and spiritual development.”

Katherine Hampton, who focuses on recruiting students from the West Coast, got to know student Paul Medina, from Turlock, Calif. Paul said of his home, “To either side of town, if you drove about 10 to 15 minutes, you’d reach almond orchards or cow pastures. Turlock was not like Chicago, to say the least.” In addition to helping Medina with the application process, Hampton greeted him when he arrived on campus and made sure he was adjusting to his new life at North Park. “She would check in with me from time to time to see how my first couple days went, which I greatly appreciated. I owe it to Katherine for helping make my transition to North Park an amazing and easy one.” Hampton thinks the experience North Park can offer someone...
like Medina is quite unique. “We don’t look like a lot of other Christian colleges,” she said. “North Park has the combination of a safe environment to discover your values, a community that you can be a key part of, and an opportunity to broaden your worldview through personal interaction with a variety of cultures.”

Students who transfer to North Park are welcomed by undergrad recruiter Robert Berki, who personally identifies with their situation. “I was a transfer student to North Park myself, so I make sure they understand the great experience I had as a student and how welcome I’ve felt. I came here as a student in 1999 and haven’t left, so that usually tells students and families something about the North Park experience.” Student Jacqueline Cruz appreciated Rob’s efforts. “I am a transfer student from Oakton Community College. Every event day that I attended, Rob was there, greeted me, answered any questions I had, and made me feel welcome to be at North Park.” The personal atmosphere at North Park is important to her. She said, “I enjoy the potential for one-on-one with a professor as well as having a variety of different organizations and opportunities for me to grow spiritually. Choosing North Park as my college has been one of my best decisions yet.”

Taking Care of Unfinished Business

North Park’s School of Adult Learning (SAL) is for adults who are looking to complete their bachelor’s degrees. Leslie Bertholdt, who is responsible for SAL admissions, describes how incoming students are given support and a sense of community within their program: “SAL students don’t live on campus; 85 percent or more come directly from work or home, and they are very anxious to complete their bachelor’s degrees with ‘no muss or fuss.’ That being said, the School of Adult Learning has many opportunities and events for our students. During orientation, new students get a chance to meet SAL advisors and get lots of information about SAL’s programs and the rich history of North Park University. The new students also meet their fellow ‘newbies,’ which makes the first class a little easier with a few familiar faces. In the beginning of each semester, we host a new-student reception. We encourage all SAL staff, faculty, and current students to attend.”

The SAL team makes a point of building relationships with students, and that begins with Bertholdt. SAL student Carmel Sutton said of her efforts, “Leslie made me feel as if I was a part of the program already. In my younger days I did not fully research the best options for me; this time I took my time and asked a ton of questions. Leslie graciously answered all my questions even if they were silly. She put all of my fears to rest.”

Building a Family at the Seminary

The North Park Theological Seminary community is a place of holistic preparation for future ministry, so director of seminary admissions Kirsten Burdick encourages students to become involved with their peers and to participate in the wider University body. “There are many great ways to get involved in the Seminary community—weekly potlucks, relationships that develop through campus housing, and other Seminary gatherings. Other excellent campus opportunities include connections with undergraduates at the University. Many Seminary students serve through University Ministries as mentors, small group leaders, and athletic chaplains on the campus.”

Burdick welcomes students to a community that is shaping theologians and pastors for a complex world. “Students who truly find a home here recognize that the time spent pursuing a seminary education is about much more than getting a degree,” she said. “It’s a time to be formed and equipped on every level for the ministry they are currently doing or will be doing upon graduation.”

Seminary student Brandon Wrencher was interested in this opportunity to integrate the academic and the vocational in the setting of a caring community. “North Park’s theological identity is consistent with my own black Baptist and Pentecostal church background that is somewhat of a hybrid of evangelicalism, fundamentalism, liberation theology, and neo-orthodoxy. I was very intrigued by the family atmosphere of the Seminary community, especially the faculty’s accessibility to and concern for students. I spent my undergraduate studies at a very large public university where I was not able to be nurtured academically and vocationally. I am excited to experience such nurture here at North Park.”
Welcoming Compassionate Caregivers

Viviana Belisle works diligently to bring graduate and adult students to North Park’s School of Nursing. She has a contagious enthusiasm for the community at North Park. “The nursing instructors offer individualized attention to the needs of adult learners,” she said, “but prospective students would never know this unless they feel welcomed from ‘day one,’ when they make that call or send me that email. By spending time with them on the phone or in person, answering all their questions at an event, or showing them around campus, I hope I give them a little taste of what their experience at North Park will be! I think that transmitting my enthusiasm for our University to others comes naturally for me.” Graduate nursing student Joy Ochon said of Belisle: “Anyone she guides through the admission process is very blessed. She made me feel very welcome.”

Graduate nursing student Hazel S. Tabao had an additional reason to feel welcomed. “I chose North Park foremost for its cultural diversity. I am from the Philippines, and this would be my first time to study in the U.S. I really wanted to fit in and feel at home. As I read through the fliers and visited the school, North Park gave me the welcoming assurance that I would fit in.”

Alumna’s Son Finds a Home

In addition to being a graduate student in North Park’s School of Business and Nonprofit Management, Robert Murray is currently director of planned giving at Alma College in Alma, Mich. He is a distance-learning student, but he shares a personal connection to the North Park family. Murray said, “I decided to apply to the School of Business for a number of reasons. The program fits my career goals perfectly, the program is endorsed by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, and it is offered online. On a personal level it is very exciting for me to become a North Park Viking. My mother graduated from North Park in 1961 and I know that this would have made her very proud.”

His connection to Chris Nicholson, director of graduate and adult admission, was also important in gaining a sense of community. “How could Chris Nicholson not make you feel like part of the North Park family?” Murray said. “I called Chris with lots of questions, and he had answers. From my first conversation with Chris he felt like an old friend. He was genuinely interested in helping me get into the program and address[ing] any concerns I had. Two thumbs up for Chris Nicholson.”

“On a personal level it is very exciting for me to become a North Park Viking.”
SERVICE LEARNING:
Lessons from the Greater Community

North Park’s location in the lively city of Chicago provides students a wealth of opportunities to learn from the surrounding community. The University enhances this connection through the intentionally learning-based model of service learning. Charles Peterson, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, described this model’s goal: “we want students and faculty engaging with the community in ways that bring this learning back to the classroom. We are working to strengthen the pedagogical aspects by applying critical, analytical methods to the experiential aspects of volunteering.” For example, “we want students to learn lessons about the structures of wealth and poverty, to begin to examine how gaps develop. What are the issues in society that need or could benefit from the future actions of North Park University students?”

For the past two years, Boaz Johnson, professor of biblical and theological studies, has been practicing service learning in his course “Justice in Biblical and Practical Theology.” He said, “My students work with organizations like North Park Friendship Center or World Relief. They work with refugee families from Burma, Bhutan, Iraq, Sudan, and Congo. They learn stories of dysfunction in community, which these families have experienced. A 12-year-old boy will tell them that he had witnessed his father [being] killed by Burmese soldiers right in front of his eyes. They help mothers read simple things like the bills, and help teach them English.”

But their volunteering doesn’t stop there. “They bring these rich experiences into the classroom,” Johnson said, “and we seek to diagnose and address the complexity of issues from a biblical perspective. Texts like John 4, where Jesus encounters the outcast woman at the well, are great examples for students to learn how healing happens in community. I have seen some very profound changes take place in the lives and attitudes of my students. I have seen classroom sessions turn into times of deep community formation—even on several occasions through tears.”

Lida Nedilsky, professor of sociology, teaches a sociology/dialogue course, “Justice in Education.” Her course begins with a set of questions: What are the ideals behind our educational system? What are the realities and the experiments through which people try to achieve those ideals? Some of her students go to nearby Hibbard Elementary School to find answers to these questions. She described her students’ service-learning experiences as “relational, dynamic, collaborative, and transformative. [The experiences] join [students’] school and future professional lives—they enter with lots of doubts and insecurities and leave with greater confidence about the future.”

Nedilsky’s student Whitney Turner described the impact of her experiences: “Through volunteering at Hibbard Elementary School . . . I realized that . . . many North Parkers as well as families at Hibbard are on a
similar journey. Students are often leaving the comforts of their families and homes to go to North Park to better their life and create better opportunities for themselves. Many Hibbard families have also uprooted from their homes, often in other countries, to seek better opportunities in Chicago. Through my volunteer work I have decided to further my education and get my master’s in special education so I can teach in an inner-city school and help provide stability to children and families in need.”

Fellow student Brittany McKenzie added, “By experiencing Chicago, and not the touristy side of it, I have learned that there are deep historical ties to why the city is the way that it is… I appreciate differences in people, and I am a bit more understanding when it comes to new challenges.”

Rachelle Ankney, professor of mathematics, has recently been named a “service-learning fellow” at North Park. Her role is to assist in setting up curricular collaboration between the programs of Urban Outreach (a branch of University Ministries) and a cohort of faculty who will use existing volunteer programs in service learning tailored to their courses. Ankney was the founder of the Justice League, now a part of the advocacy branch of Urban Outreach, through which alumni, faculty, and students reach out to the larger community to combat systemic injustice.

Ankney’s course, “Just Math,” provides a unique model for using service learning across the curriculum. Ankney described its development: “I wanted to tie my love of math and my personal passion for justice together, so I designed a course. It applies mathematical studies and techniques to examining systemic injustice in the housing system when we study personal finances, mortgages, amortization, etc.; racial and gender differences in education and income when we study probability and independence of events; and the characteristics of the Chicago population when we learn how to research mathematical data from the U.S. Census, understand the data, and represent it so others can understand it easily.”

She makes a convincing case: “Service learning inserts reality into the equation. Classroom learning about systems issues and justice issues is just that: ‘learning about,’ whereas service learning is learning by doing. If service learning is done well, students’ stereotypes fall away, and they get to approach each neighbor as a real person with honest struggles and the hope and the willingness to work to address those struggles. Instead of ‘helping those people,’ students can join with our neighbors to fix a common problem with input from all stakeholders.”

I have seen some very profound changes take place in the lives and attitudes of my students.”
The future Science and Community Life Building, says Carl Balsam, will blend cutting-edge learning with a unique “campus living room.”

by Mary Nowesnick

The Heart of Campaign North Park

The construction of a new Science and Community Life Building is the major initiative of Campaign North Park. Nearly $31 million has been raised to fund the $42 million facility, which will both advance science education at North Park and enrich the campus experience for our students.

The important work of architectural planning for the new building is under the direction of Carl E. Balsam, executive vice president and chief financial officer. Managing the development of North Park’s campus is “one of the most exciting and most enjoyable parts of my job,” said Balsam, who has been with the University for 23 years. During this time, he has overseen several significant additions to North Park’s footprint, including Anderson Chapel, Brandel Library, Helwig Recreation Center, and the Holmgren Athletic Complex, as well as the development of the campus’s green space and landscaping.

The Science and Community Life Building, which will take its place in the heart of campus, will accelerate student learning with new laboratories and classrooms and “be conscious in its intention to bring people together in an environment where the entire University community can flourish,” Balsam said.

In this interview, Balsam offers a first look at how the new building is taking shape to realize the expectations of students, faculty, and staff, as well as to reflect North Park’s commitment to creation care and environmental stewardship. Strategically, North Park is on sound footing to grow even stronger as a leader in higher education, he said. “Our best days lie ahead of us, and the new Science and Community Life Building will help us further reach the fullness of what North Park can be.”
Why build a new Science and Community Life Building at this time?

Carl Balsam: What’s always foremost with any capital project at North Park is meeting the needs of our current—and future—students. Over the years, campus development has focused on important academic, spiritual, and athletic facilities to benefit our students. Now, we’re turning our attention to science and technology to advance our leadership in the traditional sciences, and in related areas such as nursing, pre-med, athletic training, and so on. To be competitive, we need state-of-the-art facilities to continue attracting high-caliber students and the best faculty.

Our current spaces are out-of-date. The Wijkstra Laboratories in the lower level of Carlson Tower are more than 40 years old. We do not have adequate spaces to support the work of our science faculty or to provide opportunities for collaborative faculty-student research, something in which keen students expect to participate. We can’t add to existing space or remedy obsolescence. Our best solution is to build new and expanded science spaces.

This also is an opportune time to bring together many vital student services such as University Ministries, Career Development & Internships, and Residence Life from dispersed basement locations to where, as we sometimes say, students will literally “trip over them.” This building will also offer expanded common areas and a café to promote interaction and collaboration. Such gathering spaces are long overdue and certainly greatly needed at this time.

What are some of the distinctive features we can expect to see in the building?

CB: All students, faculty, and staff will enter the Science and Community Life Building through a central atrium space flanked by select student services, student social spaces, and a new café. The atrium will be visually open to certain science areas and core academic functions on the upper floors, which will feature technology-enhanced classrooms and modern laboratory and research spaces.

The atrium also will face outward to the campus green, linking the exterior landscaping to the ground floor community space. The

THE BUILDING: IN BRIEF

- 90,000 square feet, located in the central campus
- Designed by VOA, the Chicago-based, international architectural firm
- State-of-the-art science laboratories and research space
- Technology-enhanced classrooms and faculty offices
- Atrium, lobby, and café
- Offices for student services and co-curricular learning

www.northpark.edu/balsam-video

In this video, Executive Vice President Carl Balsam explains the design of the new building and shares his passion for this project.

Scan with your smartphone.
entry lounge space and adjacent café will provide a campus living room for conversation and interaction, creating an environment in which community can flourish. The design will be conscious in its intention to bring people together to learn, collaborate, interact, and relax.

**How is the University community contributing to building planning?**

**CB:** Engagement of campus constituencies is ongoing. Our architects from VOA Associates have conducted highly interactive exercises with many major stakeholders to learn about the character and qualities that should be reflected in the building to achieve our vision. Campus participants have said the building should encourage collaboration; be flexible, welcoming, and engaging; exhibit environmental stewardship; and communicate technological sophistication. Through an interactive process, these ideas will eventually crystallize into final designs.

Because of the highly specialized and technical aspect of the science spaces, we also engaged the science faculty with specialized consultants from HERA (Health and Education Research Associates), a nationally known laboratory facilities planner that has designed many advanced technical facilities for universities and academic medical centers. VOA will take the outcomes of the HERA planning process to develop schematics, and then full designs, of the science spaces.

In the months ahead, there will be continuing opportunities for faculty, staff, and students to provide additional feedback as the design develops.

**How will the new building carry on North Park’s commitment to environmental stewardship?**

**CB:** Our intention is to make this building a showcase of prudent sustainability practice, in the same way we focused on creation care during the campus green space and landscaping project. The design team will focus on building materials and technologies that respect the larger environment. From the simplest material selection, through a construction process that mandates recycling of waste, to mechanical systems operation, environmental impact will be considered. The design team is targeting LEED Gold in its analysis of systems, materials, and components. The building envelope will be robust and design methods will be used to reclaim heat from exhaust systems. Opportunities for geothermal heating and cooling and solar thermal are being studied. The overall impact on the global environment and local carbon footprint will be minimized.

In the science labs, we hope to adopt concepts such as “green chemistry,” using chemicals and chemical processes designed to reduce or eliminate negative environmental impacts, including reduced waste products, non-toxic components, and improved efficiency.

**What will the Science and Community Life Building mean to the future of this university?**

**CB:** There is an old saying: “If you are not moving forward, you are moving backward.” With the addition of this new building, we will certainly move forward as an institution. This new momentum will enable us to build future enrollment, attract the best and brightest faculty, and prepare our students for successful lives and careers.

This building not only serves the sciences but also will feature significant general academic classrooms. We just set institutional records for both the size of our incoming undergraduate class and our overall undergraduate headcount this fall. If we are to build on that success, we will need substantial new classrooms. This new building is not optional; it is essential. And we need it now.

I am confident that North Park’s constituency will embrace this need and give generously to impact the lives of students who will be the next generation of leaders for both our church and society.

To hear more from EVP and CFO Carl Balsam about North Park’s changing campus, go to www.northpark.edu/balsam-video.
Ensure the Legacy: Commit Your Support

A new Science and Community Life Building will enhance our excellent science and nursing programs, as well as the North Park campus experience. Your support of Campaign North Park can make this possible. Give, and give generously.

Office of Development
Toll-free (866) 366-8096
development@northpark.edu
www.northpark.edu/donate
It’s a question many of us were asked as young people. The bold among us likely conjured up occupations a far cry from the typical nine-to-five grind, only to learn later in life that job opportunities like astronaut sheriff would be hard to come by.

I first contemplated a serious answer to this question when I was a high school senior, preparing my college applications. This question can be difficult to answer under any circumstance, but I found it particularly challenging to type a meaningful response with my arms immobilized in matching plaster casts. A bizarre baseball accident that summer had left me without the use of opposable thumbs for several months. The accident had ended my baseball season prematurely, canceled my football season that fall, and essentially made it impossible to leave my house without explaining to everyone I met that I had been in a home plate collision and that yes, I had in fact dropped the ball and allowed the winning run to score, thanks for asking.

However, the injury may have done one positive thing: It helped me figure out what I wanted to do in life.

All my life, I played sports. And if you play sports long enough, you will get injured—it’s about as inevitable as death and taxes. By the time my high school athletic career was coming to a close, I had accrued an impressive number of medical bills. This meant I also had the opportunity to spend a fair amount of time with my school’s athletic trainer, shadowing his every move, even running onto the field with him as he assessed injuries. After spending much of my life playing on that field, it suddenly seemed like those same fair and foul lines wouldn’t make for the worst office space.

Twenty years later, I now realize I wasn’t just describing a job; I was describing what I wanted to do in life. For me, athletic training is not merely a career; it’s my calling.

My professional career at North Park began in 1996. My charge was to oversee the health care of all the intercollegiate student-athletes and teach a few athletic training courses. I was confident I could handle my intercollegiate responsibilities; I was nervous about the teaching element.

It took a few semesters, but the teaching started to grow on me. At first, much of my job satisfaction had come from the simple joy of returning an athlete to competition. But as the years went by, I realized I now had an even greater sense of satisfaction: watching a student grow from an impressionable 18-year-old into a competent allied health professional I would trust to care for my son should he ever suffer a bizarre thumb incident. Teaching at North Park has taken what I had always enjoyed about athletic training—explaining an injury to a patient—and subtly changed my audience from a patient to an athletic training student with a thirst for knowledge.

There are two distinct elements to my job that make me excited to go to work in the morning: 1) watching the light bulb go on when a student connects the dots on complicated material, and 2) the thrill of watching alumni applying their trade in the real world. North Park athletic training graduates can be found in high schools, college athletics, professional sports, sports medicine clinics, and hospitals across the country. Several pursue additional degrees as physical therapists and physician assistants. But regardless of where they end up, my hope is that they view their jobs as I have come to view mine, and that they don’t see themselves as “going to work” at all.

Maybe it’s possible that the answer to the question, “What do you want to do in life?” is as simple as a child’s statement that he wants to be an astronaut sheriff. We should all aspire to find an avocation where we can’t distinguish the lines between work and play.
HOME COMING 2011: Blueprint for Success

1. Dr. Linda Duncan C’69, dean of the School of Nursing, cuts the ribbon to officially open the new School of Nursing Simulation Lab with the assistance of current nursing students and president David Parkyn.

2. Tours of the new School of Nursing Simulation Lab were given to alumni and friends.


5. The annual Reunion and Awards Breakfast took place on Saturday morning in Hamming Hall.

6. The Homecoming Frank Lloyd Wright Architectural Tour was a point of interest for these alumni and friends, from left to right: Michele Glowth C’86, Julie Thompson C’86, Joanne Soderstrom C’65, Mel Soderstrom C’60, Gerry Mears, Karen Mears C’76, Wilma Johnson C’76, Sheryl Krumm C’81, Fern Katter C’60, Cal Catter

7. Dr. Joe Lill and Dr. Lee Burswold ended the Homecoming Music Showcase on a high note.

8. Prof. Jud Curry talks with a School of Adult Learning alumna at the 20th anniversary celebration of the program.

9. Young Alumni gathered for a lively evening of WhirlyBall.

Visit www.northpark.edu/homecoming for more photos from the weekend’s celebrations.
ALUMNI PROFILE

Homecoming Award Winners

Dr. Young Song “John” Kim C’51, 2011 Distinguished Alumnus

Dr. Young Song “John” Kim, Pasadena, Calif., was a cardiovascular surgeon. He directed surgical education and was surgical residency program director of two hospitals in the Detroit area. He has served as a consultant to the Christian Hospital Association of Korea; was an honorary board member, International Foundation, Ewha Womans University, Inc., Seoul, South Korea; worked with jailed Korean dissidents; and was moderator, Presbytery of Los Ranchos Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Anaheim, Calif. Kim is a 1951 graduate of North Park College, and earned a bachelor’s degree from Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., and a medical degree from the University of Minnesota Medical School. North Park University awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1998. His wife of 42 years, Shin, died in 1996. The Kims are parents of four adult children.

Kim credits Wallace Anderson, whom he met while he was a military interpreter in Korea, and Anderson’s family for helping him realize his dream of studying in the United States. “Without the Anderson family and North Park, I would not be here today,” said Kim. “Wally Anderson (who died in September 2011) was my good friend for 65 years. I owe a great deal of gratitude to the Anderson family, and I owe the school a great deal.”

Dr. Darlene (Duncan) Nelson C’2001, 2011 Up-and-Coming Young Alumna

Dr. Darlene (Duncan) Nelson is a physician at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn. Nelson graduated summa cum laude and earned a bachelor’s in biology in 2001 from North Park University. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford. Nelson completed an internal medicine residency and chief residency, and is currently completing a fellowship at the Mayo Clinic. Nelson was named Outstanding Senior Resident in 2008. She was North Park University’s Outstanding Senior Award winner and Senior Female Athlete of the Year in 2001. In 2011, she was inducted into the Vikings Hall of Fame for achievements in cross country and track. She and her husband, Caleb Nelson, are expecting their first child.

“When I was at North Park, I had the opportunity to go on a medical mission trip,” said Nelson, “which confirmed my desire to be a physician. North Park gave me a solid foundation in the biological sciences and chemistry. Many of my teachers served as role models as they modeled lives of Christian service. When I got to medical school, I quickly realized I was ahead of my peers. Looking back, I am very thankful I went to North Park University.”

Dr. Frederick Ewald A’51, 2011 Distinguished Academy Alumnus

For the past 30 years, Dr. Frederick Ewald, Arrowhead at Vail, Colo., has been an orthopedic surgeon at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, and associate clinical professor of orthopedic surgery, Harvard Medical School. He directed the Orthopedic Clinic Service at Children’s Memorial Hospital, Chicago, and held an academic appointment in orthopedic surgery at Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago. Ewald developed an artificial total knee and total elbow replacement, both revolutionary developments, and lectured and wrote about these achievements over several years.

Ewald earned a diploma from North Park Academy, a bachelor’s degree from Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., and a medical degree from Northwestern. He attended the Harvard Combined Orthopedic Residency Training Program and was chief resident at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston. Ewald and his wife, Sara, are the parents of three adult children.

“I still depend on a lot of things I learned at North Park in Latin, plane geometry, algebra, and biology, which are still some of the most basic tools we use in developing these implants,” Ewald said. “My professional interests started with the sciences at North Park Academy. My parents decided they wanted me to get a good education, and they sent me to North Park.”
Sweden Exchange Program Marks 35th Anniversary

by Charles Peterson C’73

The 35th anniversary of the Sweden Exchange Program between North Park University and Södra Vätterbygdens Folkhögskola (SVF) in Jönköping, Sweden, was celebrated in grand style September 15–18 in Sweden. Over 1,200 students from Sweden, the United States, and other countries have participated in the exchange. In addition, many faculty members from both schools have been teachers in the program. For these students, faculty, and family members, the longest lasting continuous exchange program between Sweden and the United States has provided life-changing experiences by expanding world views, increasing self-understanding, and helping students find their place in the world.
Robert O. Kuehn A'61 C'65 was recently appointed General Counsel of Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children®. A member of the Illinois Bar Association, Kuehn is a partner at the Barrington, Ill., law firm of Williston, McGibb, and Kuehn, and concentrates his practice in estate planning, real estate, corporations, business planning, trusts, guardianship, and taxation. For 35 years, Robert and his wife, Natalie (Benziger) A'61, have resided in Park Ridge, Ill., where they raised three children, William, Natalie, and Elizabeth.

Donna Spannaus-Martin C'76 was recently promoted to full professor in clinical laboratory sciences at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

**1970s**

Donna (Anduri) Erickson C'71, who serves on the North Park board of trustees, was glad to visit with Hans Nilsson and students from the class of 1980–81 who participated in the exchange program between Södra Vätterbygden Folkhögskola (SVF) and North Park University. SVF hosted a 35-year anniversary celebration of the exchange program in Sweden, September 15–18, 2011. After five years in Belgium as a pastor with the Église protestante unie de Belgique, Donna now works as an IT operations manager at Scania IT and lives with her family of five in Jarna, Sweden. She is eager to get in touch with old friends and invites emails at helena.fredriksson@c-sam.nu.

William Stalcup S’92 moved to Rio Rancho, N.M., after the death of his wife. His four children graduated high school there. He went on to pastor a Covenant church in 1999 and was remarried in 2001. William retired in 2003.

Bruce Dennis C'76 now works in the Béarn region in southwest part of France as a minister with the Église Réformée de France. He lives with his wife, Nicole, and youngest son, Ben, who is in Seconde (Grade Ten) at the Lycée in Orthez. Bruce currently serves three pastoral posts with seven churches. He can be found on Facebook, and would love to hear from Academy and “NPC” classmates.

**1980s**

Helena Fredriksson attended North Park as an exchange student in 1986. She now works as an IT operations manager at Scania IT and lives with her family of five in Jarna, Sweden. She is eager to get in touch with old friends and invites emails at helena.fredriksson@c-sam.nu.

**1990s**

William Stalcup S’92 moved to Rio Rancho, N.M., after the death of his wife. His four children graduated high school there. He went on to pastor a Covenant church in 1999 and was remarried in 2001. William retired in 2003.

Raquel Gabriel-Bennnewitz G’2001 G’2003 is the founder and director of Chicago Health Advocates, LLC. She and her company were featured in a Chicago Tribune “Primetime Active Adults” article entitled, “Here to Keep You Healthy—Advocates Navigate the Healthcare Hurricane.” The article can be found online at advoconnection.wordpress.com/health-advocacy-in-the-news. Learn more...
about Chicago Health Advocates by visiting www.chicagohealthadvocates.com.

Kylie Lynn Fassel was born on July 27, 2011, to Coreen and Erik Fassel C’2001. Kylie weighed 8 lbs. 1 oz. and was 20.5 inches long at birth. Kylie’s proud grandparents are Bill C’74 and Corky (Erikson) Fassel C’74.


The wedding was officiated by Rev. Peter Hawkinson S’92 and Carl Balsam. North Park alumni, staff, and faculty at the wedding joined together for a group photo.

Austin Luke Elsesser was born to Mary (Nutkins) C’2003 and Phil Elsesser C’2004 on June 10, 2011. Austin was 7 lbs. 7 oz. and 20.5 inches long. The Elsessers make their home in the Detroit area.


Lesley Foglia C’2004 recently moved to northeast Tennessee and is working as an assistant district attorney general in the Second Judicial District.

Onofre Donceras G’2005, who works at Stroger Hospital of Cook County, was approved by the Illinois Board of Nursing and selected by NCSBN® to participate on the NCLEX® Item Development Panel as a subject matter expert. Onofre was one of 10 nurses from across the nation to be selected for this assignment, nominated on the basis of clinical specialty and nursing expertise. NCSBN®, headquartered in Chicago, is responsible for developing and administering the NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN® licensing exams. The panel met in Chicago from August 1–4, 2011.
Karen McAuley C’2006 married Stephan Farris on August 5, 2011. Karen and Stephan met while volunteering as firefighters and EMTs in Jackson, Wyo. North Parkers Richard and Anne (Truitt) Petre C’2006 and Jennifer (Viktora) Cuomo C’2007 were in attendance at the wedding.

Mary Lorenz C’2009 married Matthew Mellott on December 10, 2010, in the bride’s hometown of Appleton, Wis. Dr. Margaret Haefner, professor of media studies and gender studies, was a member of the wedding party. North Parker Emily Anderson C’2005 was also in attendance.

Jennifer Bulinski C’2011 is putting her new degree in biology to use as the first simulation coordinator in the North Park University School of Nursing. A ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the opening of the new Simulation Lab during Homecoming weekend.

Novia (Peterson) Norton C’56 passed away on February 20, 2011. After graduating from North Park Junior College, she went on to earn a degree in special education before working as a stay-at-home mother. She and her husband, Francis, lived in the Cumberland Valley for over 40 years. Novia taught Bible studies at her church and helped organize the local Meals-on-Wheels program. Her husband extends his thanks for the special role North Park has played in their family’s life and the many wonderful memories Novia had of her friendships and time at North Park.

The North Parker welcomes updates for the Alumni Notes, including wedding, birth, reunion, and professional announcements. Submissions can be sent via email to alumni@northpark.edu or mailed to North Park University, 3225 W. Foster Ave., Box 37, Chicago, IL 60625. Please keep submissions to 100 words or fewer and ensure that photographs are high resolution. Due to space limitations, announcements are subject to editing.

For more information on how to stay in touch with alumni, visit www.northpark.edu/alumni
Paths of Passion
Shanna Horner O’Hea C’94
by John Brooks

When Shanna Horner O’Hea was growing up, her parents frequently told her and her brother Marc to choose life paths that reflected their passions. Following that advice, O’Hea pursued her passions for art, food, and creativity on a fascinating journey that has led to a small Maine inn and restaurant—one that has gained regional and national fame yet maintains the kind of small-town hospitality and charm the locals love.

O’Hea is a 1994 graduate of North Park University, where she majored in art with a minor in marketing. Today she and her husband, Brian, co-own The Kennebunk Inn and Academe, a Maine brasserie and tavern made famous by their lobster potpie, which was featured on the Food Network’s program, “The Best Thing I Ever Ate.”

“My connection with food is very related to art,” O’Hea said. “Instead of using a paintbrush, I’m using food as my palate.”

O’Hea was born in Providence, R.I. In 1987, her father, David Horner, became president of North Park University, and the family, including Shanna, Marc, and their mother, Sue, moved to Chicago. O’Hea went to North Park beginning in 1990. So did Marc, who graduated in 1992. He joined the Vikings Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006 for achievements in basketball and currently lives in the Chicago area with his wife, Christine, who was noted as 1991 North Park Athlete of the Year.

After graduation, O’Hea followed her parents’ advice and searched for her vocational passion. She worked at two Chicago-area museums, held a job in human resources at another company, and moved to Seattle where she worked at the Starbucks roasting plant (before Starbucks was a household name) and a computer company. Eventually O’Hea moved back to Maine where her parents own a summer home in Harpswell. She worked at what she described as “a New England fry shack” and took photography classes at night at the Maine College of Art.

“I was having a lot more fun in the restaurant. That’s what I wanted to do,” she said. After interning at ARAMARK at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, O’Hea soon entered the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y., where she learned new cooking techniques at one of the country’s best schools. Part of this program included an internship at the Four Seasons Hotel in Palm Beach, Fla. O’Hea also met fellow chef and her future husband, Brian, at the Culinary Institute.

O’Hea stayed in New York after graduation from the Culinary Institute, working as a chef in private homes. There, she worked two years with Michel Boulard, a celebrated French chef who was once chef to the King of Belgium.

“When she came to work with me, she knew all the basics,” said Boulard. “She learned very, very fast.” Many students have worked with Boulard, and O’Hea was the best, he said, because of her ability to learn. “I could count on her.”

From there, O’Hea became a private chef and estate manager for a well-known New York family, and had to learn the specifics of kosher cooking. Boulard said O’Hea would come back to work with him in the evenings to learn more about making pastry. During this time, she also married Brian at an inn in Maine, not far from her family’s home. That’s where the idea of owning an inn and restaurant was born. With encouragement from David and Sue Horner, the O’Heas eventually became owners of the Kennebunk Inn in 2003.

The inn was built in 1799 and has 26 rooms, as well as a restaurant divided into pub and fine dining areas. The O’Heas eventually decided to change the food concept. “We wanted a brasserie-style restaurant. To us it’s more unpretentious dining, comfortable food,” O’Hea said. They focused on regional items, “the kind of food you want to eat every day,” she said, and they drew on their backgrounds in French cooking. They named their 100-seat restaurant “Academe,” a place for learning.
“We feel we’re always learning more about food and new techniques,” she said.

O’Hea’s parents now live overseas, where David Horner is president of the American College of Greece and Sue Horner is Scholar in Residence. O’Hea was invited to speak in Greece about her experiences as a chef and family business owner. That is where she met Cat Cora, the Food Network’s first and only female “Iron Chef” and an Oprah Winfrey Network celebrity chef, who later invited Shanna and Brian to work with her at a Greek food and wine festival. Through their connection to Cora, the O’Heas became known to viewers of cable TV’s Food Network when Cora nominated their Maine lobster potpie dish for the show, “The Best Thing I Ever Ate.”

The lobster potpie draws on the skills of both Shanna and Brian. It includes Maine lobster and lobster stock, and highlights Shanna’s French pastry skills and Brian’s craft of stocks and sauces. “That dish on our menu represents Brian and me, and Maine, very well,” O’Hea said.

“The Best Thing I Ever Ate” on the show.

Like any small business owners, the O’Heas work to constantly maintain and build their business and keep up the historic place where it is located. “We’re always looking to evolve what we’re doing,” O’Hea said, “and owning a building built in 1799 is always interesting.”

While O’Hea’s passion is clearly food, one of the special qualities of the inn is the people she and Brian meet, she said. “People from North Park come and stay with us. I would never see these people if we didn’t own an inn.” She has a number of North Park friends with whom she keeps in touch, and she and Brian also frequently host friends they’ve met when they’ve cooked at food and wine festivals in the United States and overseas.

The couple contributed their culinary talents to the University’s Campaign North Park at a national campaign event in Salem, Mass., in April; they prepared the hors d’oeuvres for friends of the University—including mini lobster potpies.

www.thekennebunkinn.com
www.mainelobsterpotpie.com

### Ginger Squash Soup

**From the Kitchen of Academe**

**Yields 2 gallons**

**Ingredients**

- 5 pounds Squash, peeled and cubed to 1 inch dice
- 1 each Spanish onion, large (two if small) medium dice
- 1 pound Carrots, peeled and cut medium dice
- 1 1/2 gallons Water or vegetable stock if available
- 2 each Bay leaves
- 1 each Cinnamon stick
- 1 teaspoon Madras curry powder
- 1 tablespoon Fresh ginger minced
- 1 cup Heavy cream (optional)
- to taste Kosher salt and white pepper

1. Sauté onions and carrots in olive oil (2 Tbsp) until onions are translucent and carrots are beginning to brown (7–10 minutes)
2. Add ginger and curry until aroma and then add squash, bay leaves and cinnamon
3. Add water or stock—should cover squash by 1 ½ inches
4. Bring soup to boil and then lower to simmer for 30–45 minutes or until all vegetables are soft
5. Puree in blender and season to taste
6. Garnish with either pecan cream (chopped toasted pecans in fresh whip cream) or fresh herbs (chives, sage etc.)

The soup can be finished with cream or left alone, approximately 1 Tbsp of cream per 6 oz cup serving. It can also be frozen up to six months—omit heavy cream when freezing and add when reheating.
Lois (Magnuson) Brorson C’50 knows something about family traditions and lasting friendships. She can trace her family’s connection with North Park through three generations, starting with her own experience on campus more than 60 years ago. She and her brothers attended the junior college in the 1950s, and Lois and her husband Don sent two of their four children to North Park as well. Today, the Brorson legacy continues with two grandchildren who hold North Park degrees (and also met their spouses on campus), and two more who are current students. “North Park is one big family,” said Brorson, “and throughout the years, you connect time and time again through phone calls, events on campus, weddings, and visits. These friendships are truly life-long.”

Brorson grew up on the South Side of Chicago where her family attended Englewood Covenant Church (Beverly). Brorson first became aware of North Park thanks to its choirs and student groups that came through her church. She was impressed by their music and Christian witness, and knew beyond a doubt that North Park was the school for her. “North Park was my first time away from home, and being around my classmates, and the professors who dedicated so much time to us, really shaped who I am today. At that time, there was a strong spiritual revival on campus that was life-changing. A real movement to turn to Christ—this was significant for me and for many others at North Park during those days.”

Though the campus has changed physically since Brorson was a student, she is impressed with the beautification projects that have brought more green spaces and landscaping to familiar buildings such as Old Main, Nyvall Hall, and Ohlson House. She said, “The first time I saw the new layout, I didn’t even realize I was in front of Caroline Hall, my old dormitory! They had removed the street and there was no more traffic from Foster Avenue, only beautiful landscaping and foot paths. What a wonderful surprise it was to discover all that. I encourage anybody who has not been back to campus for a few years to walk in and see how lovely it is.”

When asked about the new Science and Community Life building, which is scheduled to begin construction in 2012, Brorson said she is thrilled to see this addition to an already stunning campus. “North Park has always been strong in the sciences, with well-qualified professors and excellent programs, but we urgently need new facilities to enhance the educational experience for students and keep competitive in today’s world.”

She continued, “My hope for North Park is that it will become even better known in the Chicago area and across the country as an academically rigorous, Christian university.” In fact, the Science and Community Life building accomplishes both of these goals because it provides not only laboratories and new classroom technology, but also expanded space for University Ministries, Career Services, and student fellowship. “I am excited to be a part of this project,” Brorson said, “and I urge all alumni and friends of North Park to get on the band wagon and support the campaign in whatever way they can.”

Now a grandmother of 18, Brorson looks to the next generation to sustain the future of Christian education. “I believe it is important to pattern your life from the example of those who have been role models for you. My parents and my husband were examples to me of consistent and generous giving. They felt a strong connection and commitment to the mission of North Park. I encourage our young people to stay strong and be true to the values and biblical truths they are learning at North Park.”
The North Park University Honor Roll of Donors and Annual Report are now online.

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