

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

ARCHWAYS

UNWIND | WINTER 2013-2014 | VOLUME 13, ISSUE 4



NEW THREADS

*NWU reweaves
higher ed*

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Last year, only 17 percent among those asked to give did so. Why so few? Why so few especially when Nebraska Wesleyan is thriving like no other independent college in Nebraska?

Dear Alumni and Friends,

This year *U.S. News & World Report* (controversial but read by applicants and families nonetheless) ranks Nebraska Wesleyan University in an eight-way tie at #146 among national liberal arts colleges. That places us above three-fourths of the 600 liberal arts institutions in the country. Yet many people devoted to Nebraska Wesleyan wonder why we aren't even higher in these rankings, given all that is so good, all that is truly excellent about Nebraska Wesleyan. What would it take, for example, to move us up to #100?

The short answer is it wouldn't take much.

The longer answer is that when we make several very doable changes at Nebraska Wesleyan, we will rise to #100 or higher.

1. Teach fewer courses with 50 or more students. Our new general curriculum, which you can read about on page 13, achieves this desired outcome.
2. Raise our reputation among high school guidance counselors. The Admissions Office is working more intensively with high schools.
3. Improve NWU's student selectivity rank by rejecting more applicants for admission. Frankly, this isn't our style, and we're not likely to do it.
4. Raise the proportion of alumni who are Archway Fund contributors. This change will move us up faster than any of the first three points.

It's the percentage who give, rather than the size of individual gifts, that's the key. We have reached an impressive total in dollars given, more than \$1.55 million, while the number of persons giving has lagged. Last year, only 17 percent among those asked to give did so. Why so few? Why so few especially when Nebraska Wesleyan is thriving like no other independent college in Nebraska?

Our 17 percent comes nowhere near the 25 to 30 percent achieved at the colleges that rank at #100 and higher. It's even lower than the 19 percent reported by Doane College. So you, who are reading this letter right now, you yourself can make a difference by responding and participating in the Archway Fund. Yes, I mean you. It's not about someone else. It's about you.

Please respond now, at the level that works for you. You and I will then take pride together and share ownership in Nebraska Wesleyan's rise into the top 100—where this dear school of high accomplishments belongs!

Thank you, one and all.

Yours truly,

—Fred Ohles
President

P.S. On October 5 with 1:30 left, a heroic toss and end zone catch with extra point won the 2013 football game against Doane, 20-19. With 480 new alumni donors, Nebraska Wesleyan will move clearly ahead of Doane in this contest, too. Please put your points on the Archway Fund scoreboard today.



CONTENTS

Winter 2013–2014 | Volume 13, Issue 4

ON THE COVER

New Threads

NWU's ambitious new curriculum weaves lessons about the threads that connect us. ▶13

JUSTICE

Hard Time in Hard Times

National experts tackle the social and economic impacts of America's criminal justice system. ▶11

In the Interest of Chloe P.

When Nebraska's second-highest court comes to campus, six judges open up about the full weight of the law. ▶20

POWER

The Watchful Citizen

One alumnus takes a powerful stand for Nebraska ranchers. ▶18

The Unadorned Power of Laci Knight

Excellence is "no big deal" for this roller-skating, bone-crushing, opera-singing, contract-wielding all-star alumna. ▶26

NWU

NWUiverse ▶7

Financial Overview ▶24

Sport ▶28

Student Pride ▶30

Departments

2 From the President

5 Letters

Alumni Pages

31 Mystery Photo

33 Alumni News

39 Class Notes

47 Calendar

Like a second family

See what one NWU custodian was willing to sacrifice to help a friend.

▶22



CONTRIBUTORS

STAFF

Eric Wendt ('99)

Editor

ewendt@nebrwesleyan.edu

Melanie Falk

Art Director

mkf@nebrwesleyan.edu

Peggy Hain

Director of Marketing

phain@nebrwesleyan.edu

Kara Peters ('96)

Marketing and Production Manager

kpeters@nebrwesleyan.edu

Amy Vasey ('11)

Class Notes Editor

avasey@nebrwesleyan.edu

Alex Linden ('03)

Sports Information Director

alinden@nebrwesleyan.edu

Archways Advisory Committee

John Greving, Mary Hawk,
Kim Johnson, Shelley McHugh ('91),
Judy Muyskens, Sara Olson ('95),
P.J. Rabel, Gary Reber

Unless otherwise credited, photos are the property of Nebraska Wesleyan University, or are used with permission.

Nebraska Wesleyan University is an academic community dedicated to intellectual and personal growth within the context of a liberal arts education and in an environment of Christian concern.

Archways is an examination—and, ideally, a conversation—of how Nebraska Wesleyan University and its people relate to the world around us. That examination is academically sound, socially conscious, and continuously curious.

Archways (USPS 074-700)
Periodicals Postage Paid at Lincoln, Nebraska
Volume 13, No. 4

Postmaster:

Please send address changes to:
Nebraska Wesleyan University
Attn: Address Change
University Advancement Office
5000 Saint Paul Avenue
Lincoln, Nebraska 68504-2794
isadv@nebrwesleyan.edu

Archways is published quarterly by
Nebraska Wesleyan University
5000 Saint Paul Avenue
Lincoln, NE 68504-2794.



Matt Geiler ('97) "The Unadorned Power of Laci Knight" ▶26

If *Archways* had an LA bureau, Matt would lead it. He penned our summer 2013 cover story ("Improv Action Hero") on an alumna comic with superpowers. For this issue, he travelled to Gardena, Calif., to profile a roller derby powerhouse. (When visiting the tougher parts of LA, it's good to have a derby girl on your six.) Matt is an actor and improvisational comic. He owns Sick Picnic Media, a creative production company.



Eduardo Boussón "Prairie Wolves in Print: *Day by Day on the Damascus Road*" by William McDermet III ('57) ▶12

Eduardo is university minister at Nebraska Wesleyan. "My goal here is to help everyone in the university to explore their spirituality more deeply and to respond to that spiritual experience in service," he told Madelyn Schoonover ('14) in her profile of Boussón ("A Workspace for the Spirit," fall 2013). He studied psychology at the University of Puerto Rico and attended seminary at the St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City.

Photo by Shane & Sunny Photography



Corey Hengen photographer, "The Unadorned Power of Laci Knight" ▶26

Corey, a Milwaukee-based photographer, caught up with Laci Knight as she competed with the Hollywood Scarlets in the WFTDA championships in Milwaukee in November. He's been working as a photographer for 10 years and specializes in corporate annual reports (and, now, roller derby portraits).

Jan Carley "University Choir Crisscrosses Midwest in 2014 Winter Tour" ▶44

Jan is the organizing expert behind the Music Department's choir and band tour schedules. If you've ever struggled to get your family to church on time on a Sunday morning, imagine the logistics behind getting more than 50 students to a dozen churches in six states over 11 days. That's what Jan does and does well.



Photo by Emily Jessen ('16)

Letters

More Than I Expected

I am writing both to thank you and to congratulate you on a rare piece of scholarly work, which was published in the spring ["MLK and NWU: NWU's Influence on America's Most Influential Reverend"].

I don't expect much by way of serious thinking in what is essentially a PR publication. This remark is not aimed at you, nor at *Archways*, but at any such publication by any university. I have lived in universities since I graduated from NWU. But the piece on [Edgar] Brightman and [L. Harold] DeWolf's ('24) link to M. L. King was very fine.

While at Wesleyan, I read both theologians and respected both of them very much, though I moved in a different direction in my own thinking. I knew of King's links to DeWolf. But since the article in *Archways*, and because of it, I have spent some pleasurable hours looking more deeply into King and DeWolf's friendship. I will get Brightman's work into my reading next year. But the quality of that article in *Archways* was very fine.

Thanks and congratulations.

Boyd Littrell ('63)
Council Bluffs, Iowa

Opinions expressed in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of *Archways* magazine or Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Anonymous letters will not be printed. Letters may be edited for length, content and style.

 **Be heard. Send your letters to:**

Eric Wendt, editor
Nebraska Wesleyan University
5000 Saint Paul Ave.
Lincoln, NE 68504

Email: ewendt@nebrwesleyan.edu

Take that call.

There are countless ways to stay connected to NWU. The easiest: Pick up the phone.

▶ NWU students are calling alumni now. And they're interested in more than your checkbook. Tell them about your Nebraska Wesleyan experience. Learn what's new and what's timeless on campus.

You'll be glad you did.

Jenny Hood ('16)

Fremont, Neb.

Elementary education and special education major
Student caller, Colleges Against Cancer volunteer,
Huntington Elementary pen pal, *Reveille* writer



Opportunity knocks at NWU.

The Nebraska Wesleyan experience is about opportunity.
The opportunity to work, travel, research, serve and lead.



The *Archway Fund* is your opportunity to invest in
the Nebraska Wesleyan experience.



Please give at nebrwesleyan.edu/donate.

NWUNIVERSE

Photos by Chad Greene



L to R: Willis Heim, Judy Muyskens, Joyce Heim, Fred Ohles, Jean Henderson, Lois Coleman, Elaine Kruse, Susan Gourley, Susie Keisler Munro and Todd Holder.

Rain a Welcome Guest as NWU Closes Yearlong Anniversary Celebration

Nebraska Wesleyan University kicked off its 125th anniversary on September 20, 2012, in a ceremony outside Old Main. There, Professor Emeritus of History **David Mickey** ('39) received an Honorary Doctor of Letters. The parched lawn and stressed trees in the campus photo taken that day reveal just how dry Nebraska Wesleyan's 124th summer had been.

Three hundred sixty-four short days later, the Nebraska Wesleyan community gathered again to close its yearlong celebration. This time, beautiful showers pushed the festivities indoors to the Smith-Curtis Classroom-Administration Building's Great Hall.

While the plan had been to hold the closing celebration where it all began, no one would have stopped the rain, even if they could. In rain, we find renewal and the promise of growth. The grateful crowd agreed: Let it come.

In his remarks, President **Fred Ohles** alluded to the first students to attend NWU—students who had to climb ladders to reach classes on the second and third levels of the still unfinished Main Building. Could they have foreseen this future? Imagined this crowd? Pictured this Great Hall, already nearing its 40th birthday?

It is just, Ohles said, to use this occasion to pay tribute to the supporters who've helped make Nebraska Wesleyan's future possible. And he again awarded an honorary degree—the Doctor of Humane Letters—to two such supporters: **Willis and Joyce (Westerhoff) Heim**. The Heims have been generous and committed friends of NWU for decades. They are the namesake of Heim Hall, a residential facility north of Abel Stadium.

Count Joyce Heim among those who could only have imagined Nebraska Wesleyan's bright future. The university, she said, has certainly brightened her own. She garnered the afternoon's loudest applause in relating her own unpredictable path from a one-room country schoolhouse, through

NWU—where she met Willis in 1951—and, decades later, to bachelor's and master's degrees as a nontraditional student at the University of Minnesota and Hamline University.

She and Willis have long been proud of Nebraska Wesleyan, and Joyce said she's long wished one of her degrees had come from NWU. But life takes its unpredictable turns through rain and sun. And now, some 60 years after her last Nebraska Wesleyan class, Joyce and Willis have their Nebraska Wesleyan degrees at last.

As to the university's uncharted road ahead—twisting as surely it must through rain and snow and sun over the next 125 years—the grateful crowd again agreed: Let it come.



Nebraska Wesleyan's award-winning University Choir helped mark the close of NWU's 125th anniversary celebrations by singing the Nebraska Wesleyan Hymn from the steps of Great Hall.

All in the Physics Family

Since the Physics Department began in 1908, it's had just four chairs. And three of them studied physics at NWU.

—By Rachel Naber ('14)

If the Physics Department hung a family tree on the wall, it would have a mere four branches. That's not to suggest the department is young; it just turned 111. Nor does it mean the tree hasn't borne fruit. Scores of physics alumni have launched careers as engineers, biophysicists and technicians at international companies and agencies like NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

But the Physics Department's list of chairs over all those decades can be read in a single, shallow breath:

1. J. C. Jensen (1909)
2. Walter French ('48)
3. William Wehrbein ('70)
4. Robert Fairchild

As physics alumni, French studied under Jensen, and Wehrbein under French. And while Fairchild technically broke the department's

streak of alumni chairs, no one is about to cast him as an outsider. He's a constant presence at university events and is the spouse of the alumna and professor emerita of economics, **Loretta Fairchild** ('66).

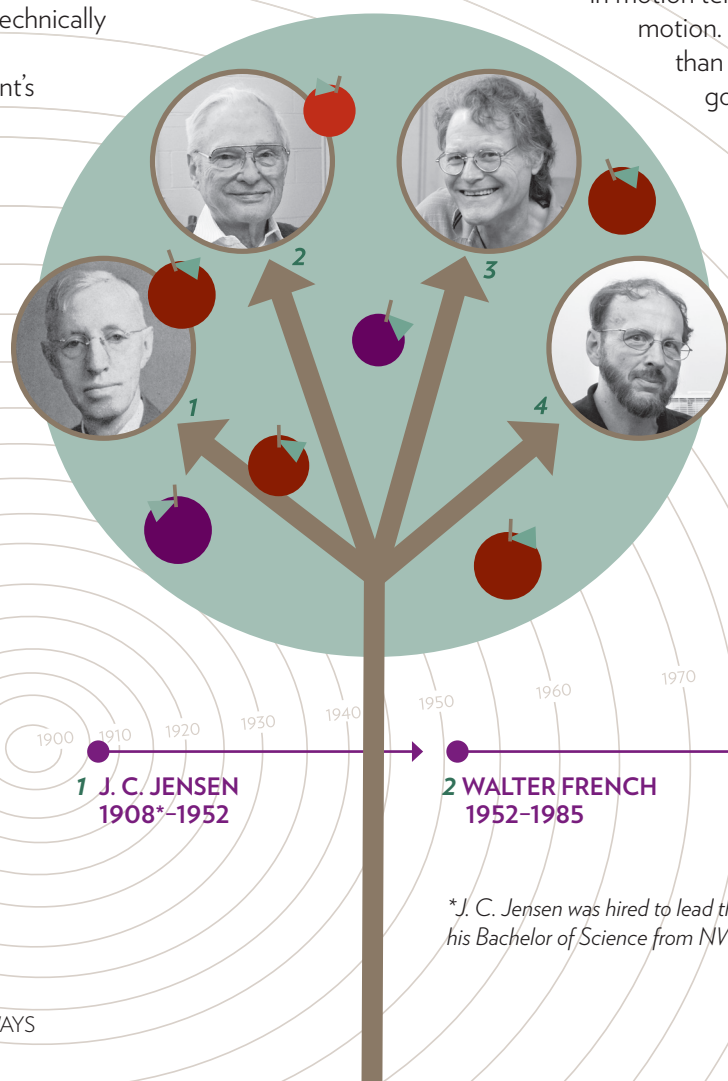
Wehrbein described what it was like to begin teaching alongside the professors who'd taught him. "It took me a while to feel comfortable calling my colleagues by their first name," he said. "But it felt good realizing that the faculty knew me and trusted me and weren't looking over my shoulder waiting for me to screw up."

French, Wehrbein and Fairchild joined a gathering at homecoming in September to celebrate the newly created Walter French Endowed Scholarship. Physics Department alumni and friends had an initial goal to honor French by raising \$25,000. But, as

physics alumni will attest, objects in motion tend to stay in motion. They more than doubled their goal, raising

nearly \$60,000 to support academic scholarships for physics students. "The way alumni have come forward to support this fund in Walter's name says so much about the value of a school where great professors remain both accessible and caring," said **John Greving**, vice president for advancement. "The professors in this department have reached a lot of people over the years."

Many of those people's names are listed in a tattered book Fairchild stores in his office. When French was a junior, he helped start Nebraska Wesleyan's chapter of Sigma Pi Sigma, the national physics honor society. French was among the first to sign the book in 1947. Many more would follow in the 66 years to come. "Every member has signed it," Fairchild said while carefully turning the yellowed pages. "There's a lot of history to be told here."



When NWU physics began in 1908...

- › Theodore Roosevelt was president
- › New Mexico, Arizona, Alaska and Hawaii weren't states
- › Albert Einstein's paper on special relativity was three years old
- › Pluto would go undiscovered for another 22 years

*J. C. Jensen was hired to lead the new department a year before receiving his Bachelor of Science from NWU in 1909.



Zardetto-Smith (left) called archeology “a destructive and irreversible process” to be done with great care and deliberation. It’s work that involves both muddy knees and a soft touch.



Jeffersonian Curiosity Leads NWU Senior to Monticello’s Mud

There’s a good chance Thomas Jefferson would have liked **Kaitlin Zardetto-Smith** (14). America’s first secretary of state, third president and founder of the University of Virginia was a bibliophile with vast and diverging interests in science, language, invention, architecture and philosophy. Zardetto-Smith’s interests are nearly as varied, which might explain why this vocal performance and history major would choose to pursue a prestigious archeology internship through the Monticello Archaeological Field School in Virginia.

“As a vocal performance and history double major, I have never believed in limiting myself to any academic or extracurricular pursuits that were outside of either field,” Zardetto-Smith said.

And her drive, which might rightly be called Jeffersonian in itself, explains how she found a way to win one of the school’s 14 coveted slots. “I worked hard on relating... that even though I lacked the experience

in the fields of archeology and anthropology, I would more than make up for it in my enthusiasm and academic rigor,” she said.

The six-week course included firsthand experience at excavation sites, guest lectures on field techniques and onsite instruction on Jefferson’s Monticello plantation. “Toward the end of the 18th century, spurred by shifts in the Atlantic economy, Thomas Jefferson... replaced tobacco cultivation with a more diversified agricultural regime, based around wheat,” the field school’s website at monticello.org described. “Our research is revealing the enormous implications of this shift for what the landscape looked like and how enslaved African-Americans worked and lived on it.”

Zardetto-Smith and her colleagues spent 40 hours each week attending classes and digging in the field. Lectures were followed by fieldwork and lots of paperwork. “About 60 percent of archeology is actually paperwork,” Zardetto-Smith said. “The very

nature of archeology is a destructive and irreversible process, so it is necessary for us as archeologists to fully record each detail found.”

Jefferson would agree that rare finds are made most often by those with rare curiosities. And Zardetto-Smith was responsible for several of the finds unearthed over the six weeks, including a copper belt buckle, a button with a shell inlay decoration and ceramics that helped date the site.

One of her finds came in dramatic fashion. Kids attending the “Monticello Mystery Camp” came by the dig site to watch the archeologists in action. “As soon as the kids arrived, I took a group of four or five girls over to my screen,” Zardetto-Smith said. “I picked up what looked like a ball of mud.” She proceeded to show the kids how the vast majority of such clods contain exactly nothing of interest. “And as I broke the mud apart, I found a fully intact iron buckle.”

Know a student who’d be a rare find for NWU? Refer him or her at nebrwesleyan.edu/refer-a-student. Children, grandchildren and siblings of alumni automatically qualify for a renewable \$1,000 Legacy Scholarship.

What makes us us?

The liberal arts help us see connections between ideas and issues. Here, we look at universal themes from the perspectives of two NWU classes in different departments.

Take a good look in the mirror. Today's topic: Personal identities.

What makes a personality tick?

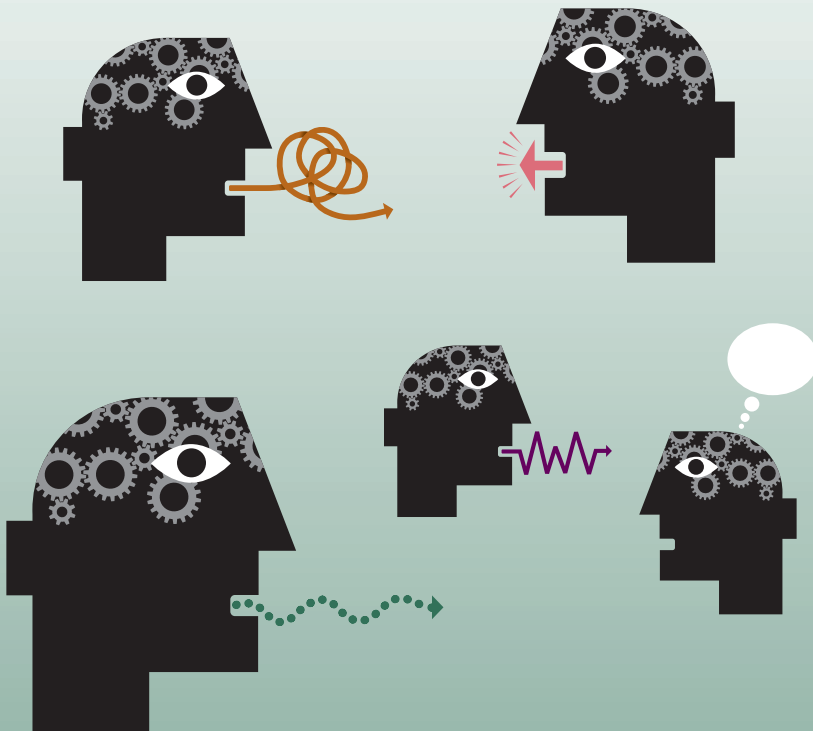
PSYCH 203 "Theories of Personality"

Is personality the interplay between the conscious and unconscious? Is it all how we behave or how we think? Or is it how we interact in a larger system? Associate Professor of Psychology **Bill McNeil** explores the theories in this four-credit course.

The apple doesn't fall far...

SOCWK 210 "Individuals and Families"

Role-playing, observation and discussion help students in Associate Professor of Social Work **Lisa Borchardt's** ('92) class see how the communication patterns and empathetic responses found in families reflect what we see in the individual.



Quadruple Team

Prairie Wolves comprise nearly a quarter of NCAA Division III Presidents Council

When President **Fred Ohles** was named to the NCAA Division III Presidents Council in 2010, the Nebraska Wesleyan community was delighted to have representation on the NCAA Division III's governing body. Since then, Nebraska Wesleyan's influence on the council has only grown.

Today, serving on the 18-member council are **Jack Ohle**, who worked as director of advancement at NWU for 10 years, **Erik Bitterbaum**, a former NWU biology professor and administrator, and **L. Jay Lemons** ('83). Ohle chairs the Presidents Council and is president of Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter, Minn. Bitterbaum is president of SUNY Cortland. And Lemons is president of Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Penn. Lemons ran track at NWU and

The NCAA does an excellent job of keeping the well-being of student-athletes foremost in mind.

received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters in 2002.

"My Nebraska Wesleyan experience shaped my own thoughts about what intercollegiate athletics can be," Lemons said. "And it shapes what I want for our students today at Susquehanna."

The Presidents Council directs the NCAA Division III with its 444 institutions and 170,000 student-athletes.

"Serving on the NCAA Division III Presidents Council for the past four years has been a great privilege," Ohles said. "The NCAA does an excellent job of keeping the well-being of student-athletes foremost in mind in the development of its policies and the conduct of its operations. There's nowhere at any level in amateur athletics in the United States that the balance is struck better between being a successful student and being a competitive athlete than in Division III. Nebraska Wesleyan treasures its membership in this fine group."

Support NWU athletics by joining the 'W' Club today.

Hard Time in Hard Times

Symposium examines unintended consequences of America's criminal justice system.

Americans represent about 5 percent of the world's population—and almost a quarter of the world's prisoners. Why? And what are the social impacts of all these incarcerations?

On September 25 and 26, Nebraska Wesleyan welcomed six experts in America's justice system to explore the issue. Visions and Ventures speakers included:

Mark Grabau ('85), chief psychologist for California's Conditional Release Program

Daniella Henry, a policy analyst with the Innocence Project

Eugene Jarecki, a documentary filmmaker exploring the American war on drugs

Brandon Moon, a man exonerated by DNA evidence after 18 years in prison for sexual assault

Mara Schiff, a criminology professor at Florida Atlantic University

Leah Skovran Georges, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor studying the overlap of psychology and the law

"We're talking about inmates. I submit to you that we're also talking about patients."

Mark Grabau on the prevalence of mental illness in U.S. prisons

"When you're terrified, you might as well be asleep. That's how well your mind is working."

Brandon Moon on how he was misidentified as an attacker

"Think of memory like trace evidence. It can be contaminated."

Daniella Henry on the reliability of eyewitness accounts



Mark your calendar / SEPTEMBER 17, 18, 2014

Hear national speakers address the issue of food and hunger at Visions and Ventures 2014.



Watch videos of every 2013 Visions and Ventures lecture.

Visit nebrwesleyan.edu/academics/lectures and scroll to the September lectures.

NWU Students Post Big Fat Greek GPA

We've long known that Nebraska Wesleyan's Greek system is filled with strong students. The North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) just provided another way to prove it. It released a list of

the continent's top fraternity community GPAs for the 2012-2013 academic year, and Nebraska Wesleyan University ranks fifth.

"When a fraternity community raises the bar for its members, new students and

the campus as a whole benefit," said Pete Smithhisler, NIC president. "I am proud to see such high-achieving men leading our fraternity communities to academic success."

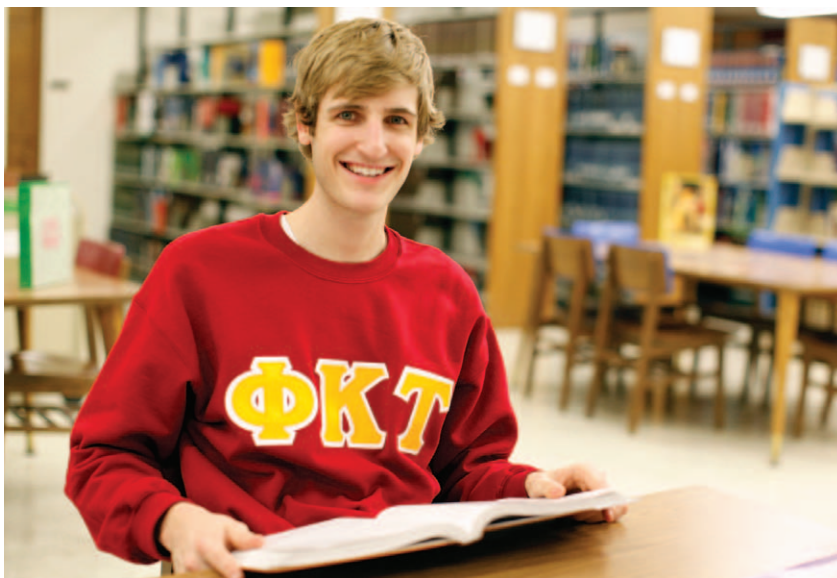


Photo by Emily Jessen (16)

1. Rockhurst University	3.46
2. Washington University	3.44
3. Vanderbilt University	3.405
4. University of Pennsylvania	3.366
5. Nebraska Wesleyan University	3.32
6. Cornell University	3.297
7. Union University	3.296
8. University of Miami	3.29
9. University of San Diego	3.28
10. Drury University	3.27
University of Washington	3.27



Day by Day on the Damascus Road: 366 Reflections for Your Journey

By William McDermet III ('57)

288 pages | WestBow Press, 2013 | \$15

—Reviewed by Eduardo Boussón

In his book, *Day by Day on the Damascus Road: 366 Reflections for Your Journey*, the Rev. William McDermet III ('57) gives us a fresh take on the genre of the daily devotional book. The author is an experienced pastor, speaker, writer and leader who humbly shares his reflections on the spiritual journey as a retired pastor of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Your conventional daily devotional book will pose a scripture reading, a reflection on the text, a prayer and a daily thought. This is not your conventional devotional book.

In *Day by Day on the Damascus Road*, McDermet builds a more intricate structure of spiritual guidance, from stories, sermons, poems and life experiences.

Some of the entries are parts of a bigger selection divided in consecutive days. Because these entries are so engaging, I found that at times, it took some restraint on my part to stick to one reflection a day. But

the beauty of it is that the author's intent is not necessarily to limit the reader to one story per day. His goal is to help all readers journey down "the Damascus Road" at their own paces and with their own sensibilities. If it is one or four reflections a day, it does not matter. What matters most is the journey.

The first entry is a great reflection on the nature of the spiritual life. He draws an analogy with the apostle Paul's conversion. McDermet wisely reflects that the road to Damascus was a place for transformation. He invites the reader to never avoid taking this road.

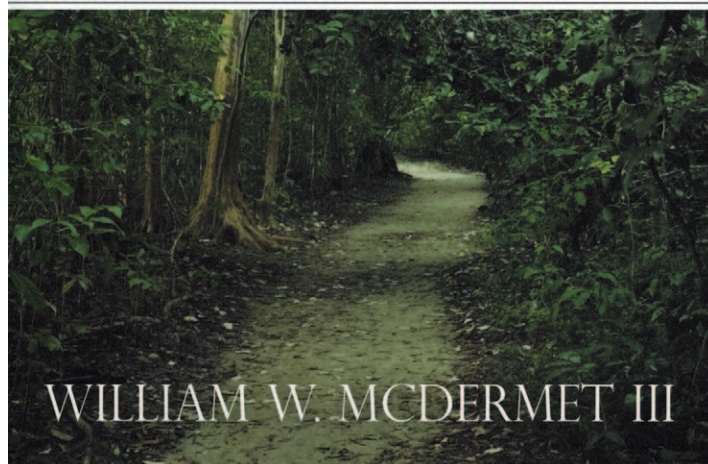
These reflections give us wisdom for the journey. For example, on January 7, he invites us to see the sacred in the mundane. On March 2, he calls on us to travel the road by being gracious hosts. On May 28, we find a poem on generosity and good stewardship. On October 10, we find that even when we lose, we can

*Every day I have
been treated
and challenged
to explore new
aspects of the
spiritual life.*



Day by Day on the DAMASCUS ROAD

366 Reflections for Your Journey




WILLIAM W. MCDERMET III

gain new insights to new opportunities.

These are only examples of some of my favorite entries. Every day I have been treated and challenged to explore new aspects of the spiritual life—something I have rarely found in other books of the same genre.

McDermet's reflections are theologically rich and thought provoking. I loved that he did not overtly challenge me to do one thing or the other. His stories speak for themselves, as modern parables, leaving the reader encouraged as the journey continues. These reflections are a clear invitation for us to a deeper spiritual journey.

I am grateful for McDermet's wisdom and for his challenge to continue in this journey. I wholeheartedly invite you to include these reflections in your journey as we travel down the Damascus Roads of our own lives. 

Eduardo Boussón is university minister.

NEW THREADS

*NWU refashions higher education
with an ambitious curriculum.*

Portrait photos by Lane Hickenbottom, threadwork by Melanie Falk, Jennifer Heywood ('15),
Emily Jessen ('16) and Natalie Swanda

When Associate Professor of Biology **Jeff Isaacson** ('83) peered into Nebraska Wesleyan's general education closet three years ago, NWU's curriculum committee chair and future assistant provost for integrative and experiential learning noticed what many of his colleagues had also seen: a wardrobe needing an update.

That's not to say their classes had gone stale. Nebraska Wesleyan professors refresh their courses all the time, keeping current on content, research and pedagogy. But when those updates happen in isolation, different departments can evolve along different paths. Reviewing the 16-year-old curriculum, it struck Isaacson: Courses didn't seem to match anymore.

And a new generation of students didn't always see the

relevance of some of the classes they were required to take. "It seemed like many students over the years have looked at general education classes as something you check off a list," he said. "Something to just 'get out of the way.'"

Professors knew it didn't have to be that way. Isaacson remembered "those first conversations where we asked, 'How can we help students draw better connections?'" How could professors and educators in student life help students see the curriculum not as a drab, drudgework uniform, but as a collection where the parts fit to create a sharper whole?


NWU's answer: some new threads.



The old curriculum had students choose general courses from several large categories—giving them "a little of this and a little of that." Students were left to string together their own conclusions about how "this" and "that" connected.

"There's still a lot going on to make this new curriculum work—and miles to go before we sleep. But it's been a great process driven by great educators—not just in the faculty, but in academic affairs and student life. Alumni can be proud of how this came together."

—JEFF ISAACSON



“That system can work,” Isaacson said. “I’m a product of that system, and I think I turned out just fine.” So did **Kathy Wolfe** (’90), dean of NWU’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Wolfe and Isaacson see Nebraska Wesleyan students today who are at least as involved in their education as they were, with double majors and countless campus activities and service experiences. “But many students tend to collect these things like badges,” Wolfe told *AAC&U News*, “and they can’t tell you what it all adds up to.”

Alumni—having had years to apply what they’ve learned and reflect on its worth—may be better able to see how their learning and experiences connect. But a new curriculum could accelerate that process for current students by weaving that reflection into their work from the outset.

“We wanted to connect learning across the curriculum,” Provost **Judy Muyskens** said, “so that students’ appreciation for interdisciplinary knowledge could happen, not by chance or over decades, but immediately and by design.”

The new Archway Curriculum, beginning in fall 2014, is that design. The curriculum is the product of collaboration among faculty, academic affairs administrators, educators in student life and current students. Largely gone are the broad categories of unrelated classes. In their place: interdisciplinary course “threads.” Each thread winds its students through several departments as they explore an elemental question too big for any single discipline to answer alone.

Students choose one or two threads on their path through the Archway Curriculum, and must take courses in two to four distinct disciplines within each thread. A half-dozen course threads are under development now, with more to come. Proposed thread topics include:

“We’re not a monochromatic campus. We’re vibrant and cohesive and purposeful. And this curriculum complements those things in us.”

—JUDY MUYSKENS

Democracy

(Associate Professor of History
Meghan Winchell directing):

What are the strengths and weaknesses of rule by the people?

Human Health: Local and Global

(Associate Professor of Biology
Jeff Isaacson directing):

What are the forces shaping people’s health around the world?

Identity

(Professor of History
Patrick Hayden-Roy directing):

What makes us who we are?



“We want students to connect their knowledge, skills, values and passions with the communities they’re joining. When you can do that, figuring out what to do with your life isn’t daunting. It’s invigorating.”

—KATHY WOLFE

Power

(Assistant Professor of English
James Shea directing):

*How is authority used (and misused)
in societies?*

Science and Religion

(Associate Professor of Philosophy
Justin Skirry and Assistant Professor of
Physics Nathaniel Cunningham directing):

*How do we reconcile science and
religion?*

Gender and Sexuality

(Professor of English
Gerise Herndon directing):

*How does sex affect the way we see
each other?*

The change has many NWU professors excited. It’s inspired Professor of Religion **Rita Lester** to rethink her entire approach to teaching survey courses. A survey class on world religions asks Lester to take a general, ostensibly neutral approach to an enormous subject. Of course Lester can’t cover it all in a semester. So she must decide what to include and what to leave

out. “And those aren’t neutral decisions,” she said.

“It’s so much more exciting when the material is set up against a provocative question.” For one, she said, it’s collaborative. “It calls on us to help students answer a question that isn’t discipline-specific. I don’t get to pretend it’s just about religion anymore,” she said.

“That change honors us as scholars. And I think students will find the rearrangement compelling. Teach the controversy. Explore the question. Investigate the issues. This is what college is supposed to be about,” Lester said.

Patrick Hayden-Roy put it this way in a conversation with Muyskens. “This [new approach] is the academy.”


And the applications, Isaacson said, go far beyond the

academy. He pointed to the poliovirus explored in the human health thread he directs. “It’s such an interesting virus. And scientists have created a great vaccine. But biologists alone can’t solve the problem of vaccinating every kid.” That takes people with expertise in politics, culture, language, statistics, sociology and psychology. “The biggest challenges our students will face are



“Teach the controversy. Explore the question. Investigate the issues. This is what college is supposed to be about.”

—RITA LESTER



“The reading list [for the new literature course, ‘Illness as Metaphor’] only took a few minutes. I hate to break it to you, but that’s how most of my ideas for courses come about—on a whim or a dare.”

—SCOTT STANFIELD

thread’s first planning meeting alongside colleagues in biology, nursing, health and human performance, history, sociology and communication studies. He left impressed.

The Archway Curriculum, Stanfield said, represents “such a giant step for us. I learned more in that single meeting about how people are teaching in other departments than I had in 20 years here.”

Gerise Herndon agreed.

Herndon heads NWU’s Gender Studies Program. The planning meetings for the gender and sexuality thread she directs “don’t even feel like meetings,” she said.


The product of these meetings is a new emphasis on what Isaacson called “integrative learning.” Professors must show how a thread’s core concepts link together for students across disciplines. Some threads will do this with a “gateway course” that introduces and emphasizes key themes. Other threads may use other approaches, such as shared learning objectives and assignments across classes. Students may post class activities on shared ePortfolios, and meet regularly to consult professors in

each thread.

Impressed by the faculty’s vision, leadership and collaboration, President **Fred Ohles** honored the Archway Curriculum process team with the 21st Roy G. Story award in August.

The faculty’s work has also turned heads in the national academic community. The Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) has lauded the Archway Curriculum for representing “a new understanding of what ‘global’ means in the 21st century.”

AAC&U President Carol Geary Schneider went so far as to pull Provost Muyskens aside at a conference last summer. “She told me, ‘We’re watching you.’” Muyskens laughed at the seemingly ominous tone of her words. But Geary Schneider intended no menace. “She was talking about the unique threads we’re spinning at NWU—the integrative approach to learning we’re developing,” Muyskens said. “In other words, our makeover is garnering national attention.”

In this way, the new Archway Curriculum is more than a cosmetic change. More than a new look, it’s a new way of looking. Professors can already see the difference. Soon, Nebraska Wesleyan students and alumni will, too. 

inherently interdisciplinary,” he said.

So when Professor of English **Scott Stanfield** first heard about the health thread, he saw a meaningful role for English scholars. He could jot down on a cocktail napkin a brilliant reading list for a course on the literature of illness: *The Book of Exodus*, “Hamlet,” *Love in the Time of Cholera*, *The Plague*. His list went on. So he joined the human health



Well Woven

See how the pieces of NWU's "Human Health: Local and Global" thread fit together.

BIOLOGY

Jeff Isaacson's "Microbes and Society" explores the dark and light sides of microorganisms. They're essential for food production, biotechnology and a healthy environment. They're also responsible for roughly half the deaths in the developing world.

Angela McKinney's "Biomedical Ethics" introduces students to the ethical issues raised by modern medical research and clinical medicine.

Adrienne Prokupek-Pickett's "Perspectives in Biological Science" introduces students to important biological concepts via the framework of a medical exam.

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Karla Jensen's "Communication in Health Care" examines the art of talking to people about illness in ways that aren't "clinical and scary."

ENGLISH

"Everyone... holds dual citizenship in the kingdom of the well and in the kingdom of the sick," Susan Sontag wrote. **Scott Stanfield's** "Illness as Metaphor" studies illness as "the night-side of life."

HEALTH AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE

Berniece Jones's "Stress and Disease Management" considers the relationship between stress, mental health and major chronic diseases.

Pat Pettit's "Drugs in Modern Society" relates to the use and abuse of alcohol, drugs and tobacco.

HISTORY

Patrick Hayden-Roy's "Disease in History" asks, "How have epidemics—from the Black Death to AIDS—shaped human history?"

NURSING

Jeri Brandt's "Women's Health: Global Perspectives" investigates political, economic and social factors impacting women's health around the world.

PHILOSOPHY

Justin Skirry's "Ethics in the Health Care System" considers advocacy, informed consent, death and dying, and newborn infant care.

PSYCHOLOGY

Bill McNeil's "Trauma and Resilience" examines the factors that help people rise above traumatic events both psychologically and spiritually.

The Watchful Citizen



Forum speaker says Nebraska's salvation in pipeline fight is "watchfulness in the citizen."



Photos of Ben Gotschall by Alex Matzke

A strong democracy is one in which people participate. And this is an issue that's led a lot of people to get involved.

Ben Gotschall ('03) was teaching English at Nebraska Wesleyan when he learned about TransCanada's plan to put a pipeline near his parents' ranch outside Atkinson, Neb. He was poking around on news sites, "trying to avoid grading papers" when he found the story.

"At first, I thought, 'Why put a pipeline there? There's no oil in Atkinson.'" The oil, he learned, was in Alberta, Canada. TransCanada planned to extract the viscous tar sands oil, thin it with chemicals, and pump it to the Gulf of Mexico to access the global market. The Gotschalls' ranch fell between points A and B.

The alumnus and former English instructor returned to campus to deliver an October 9 forum lecture on TransCanada's proposed pipeline—a plan that Gotschall takes serious issue with. For one, it would carve its way through the hemisphere's largest vegetated sand dunes. The Sandhills, he said, are notoriously fragile. "Disturb the surface and it'll blow away. Spill on it and it'll permeate down and out."

And the Ogallala Aquifer—the vast underground lake stretching from South Dakota to Texas—runs very near the surface in the Sandhills. "You can dig a posthole in Atkinson and hit water," Gotschall said. A leak there would threaten the water supply that most Nebraskans

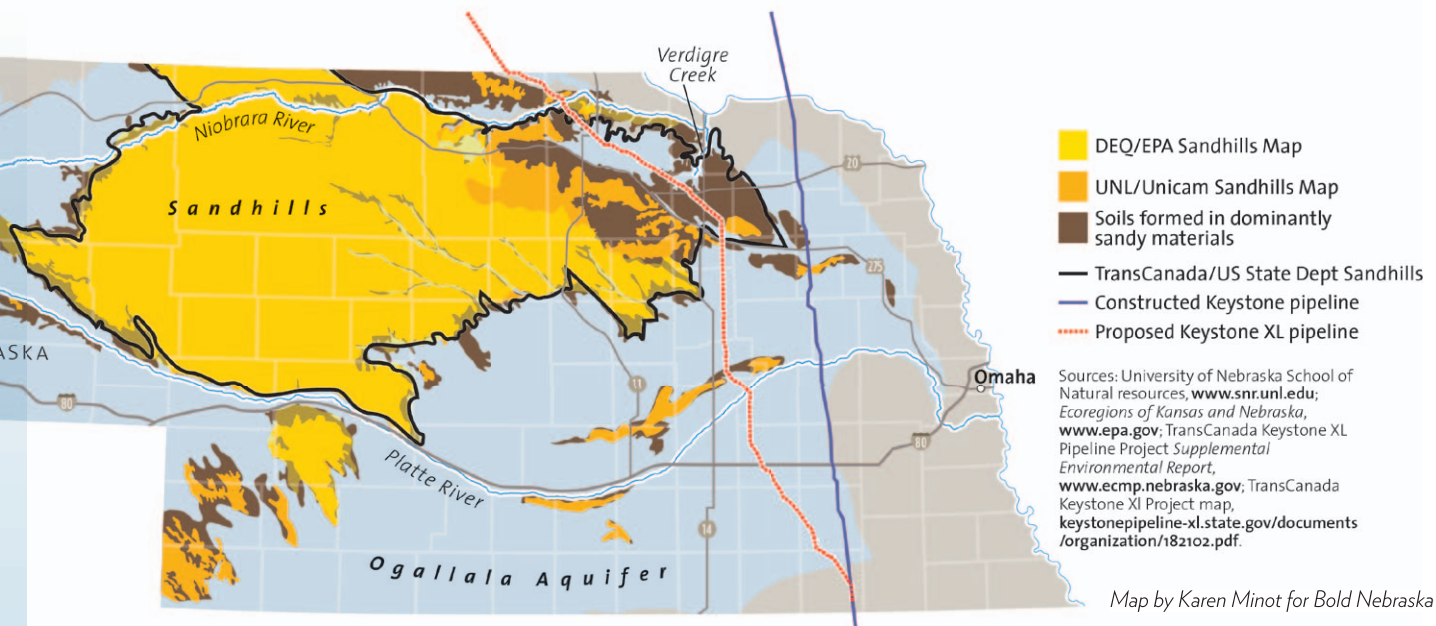
rely upon for drinking and irrigation—no small matter for the state with the most irrigated acres of farmland in the nation.

If a major spill occurred over the aquifer, what would become of Nebraska's agricultural economy? How would one clean the congealed tar sands oil—roughly the consistency of peanut butter at room temperature—from an underground lake?

Asking Nebraskans to accept a risk so that a foreign corporation might profit selling oil to Asia rubbed Gotschall raw. To stop it, he did some more research and discovered that Jane Kleeb of Hastings, Neb., had received a grant to support environmental advocacy. He called her and proposed a partnership. "Basically, I followed the money," he said. They used part of the grant money to buy an ad "and Bold Nebraska started right there," Gotschall said.

Bold Nebraska has since led protests and calls for legislative action against the pipeline. Gotschall pointed to a photo of the main entrance to Nebraska's Capitol. An engraving there reads, "THE SALVATION OF THE STATE IS WATCHFULNESS IN THE CITIZEN." The response to the pipeline proposal made it clear that Nebraskans are watching.

Nebraska boasts America's only unicameral.



“We are the second house,” he said of all Nebraskans. “When the Legislature strays, it’s our responsibility to check their power.” That shared responsibility has joined Nebraskans with vastly different politics, he said. Liberal environmentalists have found partners in conservative farmers. Advocates for regulatory control have discovered a lot in common with libertarians concerned about landowner rights. Even cowboys and Indians have partnered against the pipeline through the Cowboy Indian Alliance, which they jokingly call “the new CIA.”

Even Nebraska Wesleyan’s Student Affairs Senate (SAS) decided to get involved. “It had been a while since SAS stood behind a big issue,” said **Phil Bakken** (‘12), who presided over SAS in 2011. SAS spent three weeks debating environmental concerns, job creation and the adequacy of relevant state regulations. They listened to their constituents across campus, and eventually passed a resolution opposing the pipeline. They took it to the Capitol.

“We didn’t want our work confined to the university,” Bakken said. “We wanted to make the point that youth in Nebraska were also concerned and we wanted the governor to know.”

Meanwhile, Gotschall and Bold Nebraska increased their efforts. Gotschall joined thousands demonstrating against the pipeline at the White House in 2011. “The day I was arrested [for protesting], Governor Heineman wrote a letter to President Obama to protect the aquifer.”

“I am opposed to the proposed Keystone

XL Pipeline route,” Heineman wrote, “because it is directly over the Ogallala Aquifer.”


“Think about that,” Gotschall said. “A Republican governor wrote a Democratic president, urging him to protect the environment. That’s big.”

TransCanada responded by rerouting its proposed pipeline. The revised route skirts north and east of the Sandhills, but still passes over the aquifer. Heineman approved the revised route, even though it didn’t fully address the concerns he’d expressed to the president.

Heineman’s support paired with TransCanada’s intense lobbying. “They’ve spent more per state senator on lobbying,” Gotschall said, “than the State of Nebraska pays them.”

Despite these realities, Gotschall remains optimistic. “If the pipeline were a done deal,” he said, “it’d already be in the ground.”

Regardless of the dispute’s outcome and the differing politics of those gathered to hear him, Gotschall said he’s proud of the watchfulness he’s witnessed in Nebraskans. “A strong democracy is one in which people participate,” he told NWU students. “And this is an issue that’s led a lot of people to get involved.”

Count **Ben Schilling** (‘12) among them. He credited the 2011 SAS resolution with reigniting his interest in politics. “I think a lot of us at Nebraska Wesleyan shoot high,” Schilling said. “I think our generation tends to be cynical, but we’re headstrong, too. We don’t throw in the towel.” 



Participation in Student Affairs Senate supports the kind of watchful citizenry that Nebraska relies upon.

One outcome of the pipeline debate on campus has been the formation of an SAS committee tasked with examining state and national issues on which Nebraska Wesleyan students might take a meaningful stance beyond the campus’s boundaries.

In the Interest of Chloe P.

When the Nebraska Court of Appeals holds court on campus, students get a firsthand look at the full weight of the law.

The docket for the Nebraska Court of Appeals on September 12, 2013, made one thing clear. Many young people's dealings with Nebraska's judicial system are terribly sad.

A-12-0827

Chloe P. was on the Department of Health and Human Services' radar from her birth in January 2012. That's because her mother had recently lost parental rights to Chloe's two older siblings.

In the hospital, "Chloe soon developed electrolyte disturbances, hypoglycemia, and feeding issues... [requiring] significant medical attention." Chloe was close to what doctors call a "failure to thrive." Before releasing her from the hospital, Chloe's doctor took the unusual step of ordering "a 48-hour monitoring period where her parents were responsible for taking care of her." That period did not go smoothly as her nurse twice had to compel the mother to complete Chloe's feedings.

"DHHS filed a motion for temporary care and custody," which a county court authorized and the mother appealed.

A-12-02757

Two hours after last being seen at a party in her Omaha home, 20-year-old A. T. was found some six miles away, curled naked and unresponsive on a snowy street. At the hospital, doctors determined she'd been sexually assaulted—an ordeal she couldn't recall "due to intoxication."

A. T.'s friends confronted another partygoer, Nicholas Podrazo, "who eventually admitted that he had had sexual intercourse with A. T. in his vehicle." Police towed the

vehicle. "A search of the vehicle revealed A. T.'s... blood on the rear center seat cushion and on the end of an ice scraper found in the cargo compartment."

Podrazo was convicted of first degree sexual assault and attempted first degree assault and sentenced to 50 to 66 years in prison. Podrazo appealed, challenging the search and seizure of his vehicle, excessive sentencing and other issues.

A-13-0133, A-13-0134, A-13-0135

Zakery (now 10) and Freyja (now 5) were removed from their mother's home in 2008 "due to a filthy house and neglect." Two months later, she was arrested on federal drug charges. She gave birth to Seth while incarcerated in 2009. "He was placed in his siblings' foster home and has never been in his mother's custody." All three siblings suffer from defects associated with the mother's drinking during pregnancy.

The mother attended therapy, drug treatment and parenting classes during her incarceration and appealed the trial court's finding that termination of her parental rights was in the children's best interest.

These were just three of the cases before Judge **Frankie Moore** (80) and her five colleagues on the Nebraska Court of Appeals as it held session, not within the district courts, but in Nebraska Wesleyan's O'Donnell Auditorium. This trip marked just the second time that the court has held session on a college campus.

"The judges involved in making this [campus session] happen are really teachers, too," said **Larry Ruth** (67), an adjunct professor of political science and member of

Nebraska Wesleyan's Board of Governors. "They're committed to teaching the public about the judicial branch—which I'd call the least-understood branch of government." (Ruth understands it better than most, having represented clients before federal courts and the Nebraska Supreme Court.)

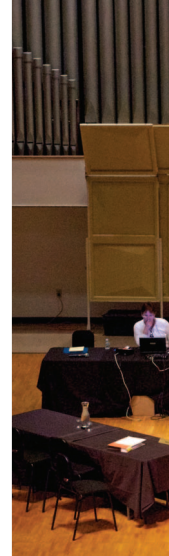
I worked domestic cases for 20 years and saw broken families every day. That... gives me great respect for what occurs at the trial level.

After hearing cases in the morning and afternoon, the judges sat for two wide-ranging question-and-answer sessions with students. They confirmed Ruth's take on a misunderstood judiciary. "How the courts work isn't often studied," said Chief Judge Everett Inbody.

Judge John Irwin quickly added, "My own family doesn't necessarily understand what we do."

For one thing, the Nebraska Court of Appeals doesn't retry cases. It doesn't hear witnesses. There are no juries. "We're not a trial court," said Judge Riko Bishop. "We're reviewing the trial court process. We hear lawyers make arguments about what they think went wrong at the trial level."

Nebraska's appellate judges are both rare and busy. "There are only 13 of us—six in appeals and seven on the Supreme





Court—in a state with about 9,000 lawyers,” Irwin said. They deal with 1,100 cases per year, hearing arguments from attorneys from all over the state.

While the judges couldn’t speak directly about the cases they’d just heard, they were frank with NWU students about the emotional weight of their jobs—the dark water of hurt, violence, rage and drugs they waded in every day.

That darkness was apparent on the O’Donnell Auditorium stage. One attorney, arguing to uphold a termination of parental rights, described a hearing where the mother was asked why she had allowed a registered sex offender access to her children in her home. He recalled the mother growing indignant and saying, “All our friends are registered sex offenders.”

It’s fair to guess most judges grew up in dramatically different circumstances. “My personal experiences didn’t prepare me well as a judge,” said Judge Francie Riedmann. She recalled the first case she heard—another parental termination. How could it ever happen, she remembered wondering, that the best thing to do for a child would be to take her away from her mother and father? It happens. Her experience on the bench would teach that it happens a lot.

“I worked domestic cases for 20 years and saw broken families every day,” said Bishop. “That experience gives me great respect for what occurs at the trial level.”

Moore credited her study of sociology at Nebraska Wesleyan for helping her navigate territory shaped by things outside her direct experience. “My background in sociology taught me there are reasons for those differences. That knowledge helps so we have a

The Nebraska Court of Appeals’ session on campus was a homecoming for one judge. Frankie Moore credited her experience studying sociology at Nebraska Wesleyan University for helping her understand different circumstances as she applies the law in thousands of cases.


better understanding.”

Judge Michael Pirtle also credited his college experience for broadening his perspective. “Growing up in Omaha, as far as I knew, the world ended at Boys Town.” College was where he met people from different backgrounds and developed a trait present in every good judge: namely, a reluctance to judge.

But that reluctance—paired even with the longest and blackest of robes—can’t cloak the human impact of the stories they must

hear and the decisions they must make.

“The juvenile and criminal cases continue to be hard,” Pirtle said. He admitted coming home some days feeling the burden. “It really does tear at you.” But that heaviness, Pirtle said, is simply a byproduct of their work’s relevance. None of the six would prefer to hear trivial cases.

Regardless of the weight or the complexity of the cases, the six judges remain dedicated to three simple aims. Pirtle named them. “Be efficient. Get it right. Be fair.” 



For a Friend

NWU custodian donates kidney to save coworker's wife.

—By Madelyn Schoonover ('14)

Nebraska Wesleyan University's maintenance workers are among the first to arrive on campus each day. Well before daylight, they're already hard at it, cleaning classrooms and residence halls, setting up for recruiting events, repairing equipment or scooping snow.

They learn a lot about each other working together in the predawn quiet, when no one else is awake, let alone around. On one of those early mornings, **Brian Benes** learned about **Joel Moore's** worries. Moore's wife, Lori, had suffered from kidney disease for years. She was on the list for a new kidney. So far, no match.

The wait on that list is an entirely different kind of suffering. What a strange thing to hope for—waiting

for a kidney to “become available.” The Moores' hope rested in someone else's grief.

Meanwhile, Lori's days were dictated by dialysis. She would work full-time, come home for dinner, and then hook herself up to a machine that cleaned her blood of toxins. She had to sit still as the machine did its work, for risk of fainting or setting off an alarm.

The Moores' hope rested in someone else's grief.



Freedom from dialysis makes it possible for Lori to do more of what she loves—like going to football games.



Do you have what it takes to give?

You need more than a kind heart and healthy kidneys to become a living organ donor. If you're considering donating an organ, the American Transplant Foundation recommends you ask yourself these questions.

- ▶ **Am I intellectually ready?** Talk to your physician. Do the research. Know the risks.
- ▶ **Am I emotionally ready?** Understand that not every donation is successful. Some are even harmful. Be prepared for life after the operation.
- ▶ **Am I physically ready?** You must be healthy enough to withstand major surgery and function without your full complement of organs.
- ▶ **Am I financially ready?** There are issues of insurance coverage and lost work to consider.
- ▶ **Am I spiritually ready?** Understand the motives compelling you to donate.

We cut a tree down this weekend and I was tossing around logs. So, yeah. I think I'm recovered.

challenges of her life before, this change is a blessing, she said.

Benes's donation has certainly changed Lori's life. But how has it changed his relationship with the Moores? Is it any different seeing each other

at work in those predawn hours?

According to Benes, not really. "We were friends before," he said. "And we still will be," Joel added.

Throughout the surgery and recovery process, Benes and the Moores received countless well wishes from the Nebraska Wesleyan community. "It's a really nice feeling to have," Lori said. "It brightened my day, getting a card and knowing someone cares."

Benes agreed. "A lot of job environments don't have this much of a family feeling," he said. "Maybe it's waking up at 5 a.m. that bonds us, but people care about you at Nebraska Wesleyan. I feel that personally, and I think others can feel it in other situations.

"Just being able to do something big for someone else that doesn't impact your life in a drastic negative way... why would I not do that?" Benes said. **n**

Three hours a day.

Five days a week.

Three and a half years.

Of sitting. Of waiting. And worrying.

So Joel and Lori planned a vacation from the stress. And they learned another side effect of kidney disease: the near-impossibility of flying with a dialysis machine.

Benes learned about Joel and Lori's difficulties at work one early morning. "Basically, I had an immediate desire to get tested." He quietly acted on that desire. It took more than a simple blood test.

"They really dot the i's and cross their t's to make sure everything's going to be successful," Benes said. The tests showed he was a solid match.

They both went in for surgery on May 29, and within three months, both Lori and Benes were recovered. "We cut a tree down this weekend and I was tossing around logs," Benes said in mid-September. "So, yeah. I think I'm recovered."

With her new kidney, there's no need for dialysis, although Lori continues to take nearly 30 pills each day. Still, compared to the

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Our fiscal year ending May 31, 2013, concluded with a significant rebound in financial markets, helping to grow our endowment. This growth, along with a positive operating result of almost \$600,000, increased our net assets by nearly \$7.3 million or 10.2 percent.

We continued to invest in initiatives supporting the three elements of our strategic plan.



The first element, **A Transformational Educational Experience**, includes investment in student success and persistence, excellence in teaching and learning, and improved access to off-campus experiences. This fall, we welcomed the most diverse group of students we've ever had. And our enrollment from outside Nebraska continues to grow. The new Archway Curriculum will integrate learning across disciplinary boundaries, enhance learning through non-classroom experiences, and weave skill development throughout the academic program.

To advance our second element, **A Dynamic Learning and Living Environment**, we continue to invest in university facilities. We replaced the artificial surface on our athletic field with support from the

endowment and an \$88,000 grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality for using recycled materials.

Other improvements included replacing the roof on the Roy G. Story Student Center, roof repairs on the Smith-Curtis Administration Building and repairs to our underground steam lines and surface concrete. We also replaced carpet in Old Main and Heim and White halls. Such projects as a new lounge in the Business Department incorporating technology, scientific equipment purchases and lighting improvements in Elder Gallery are possible through the generosity of our alumni and other supporters.

This fall, we began updating the 2000 Campus Master Plan that will guide the development of the campus proper while enhancing our connection to University Place. We look forward to the active participation of the University Place community in this planning process.

The third element focuses on **Resources for the Work of the University**. Our new employee orientation program has been a success and we have continued our employee training program. We had a high participation rate in our new wellness program with the goal of assisting employees in improving their health. We continue to reap the benefits of a broadened Archway Fund as we strive to provide our students with the best education possible at a price they can afford.

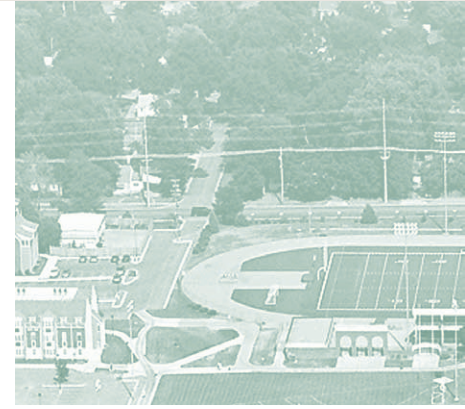
We look forward to continued progress with another large class of outstanding students. And we hope to see many of you on campus throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Clark T. Chandler

Vice President for Finance and Administration

*The best way to lessen
NWU's reliance on tuition
revenue and shrink students'
and families' financial
burdens is to increase
annual giving and
grow the endowment.*



▶ FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Assets

Total Assets	\$105,647,000
Total Liabilities	\$27,427,000
Total Net Assets	\$78,220,000

▶ STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES 2013

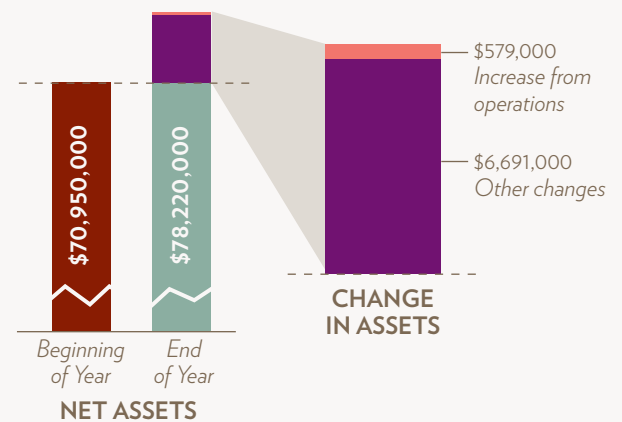
Revenues

Tuition and Fees	\$40,699,000
<i>Less: Financial Aid</i>	<i>\$15,610,000</i>
Net Tuition and Fees	\$25,089,000
Gifts and Grants	\$5,051,000
Investment Earnings	\$927,000
Auxiliary Enterprises and Other	\$5,913,000
Total Revenue	\$36,980,000

Expenses


Instruction	\$14,316,000
Academic Support	\$4,731,000
Student Services	\$7,012,000
Institutional Support	\$6,210,000
Auxiliary Enterprises and Other	\$4,132,000
Total Expenses	\$36,401,000

Increase in Assets from Operations	\$579,000
Other Changes in Assets	\$6,691,000
Total Change in Assets	\$7,270,000
Net Assets, Beginning of the Year	\$70,950,000
Net Assets, End of Year	\$78,220,000



Charts by Natalie Swanda





THE UNADORNED POWER OF LACI KNIGHT

ALUMNA'S STRENGTH ON THE FLAT TRACK IS ROOTED IN AN UNEXPECTED PLACE.

—By Matt Geiler ('97)

Photos by Corey Hengen

The industrial warehouse where rising roller derby star **Laci (Sievers) Knight** ('03) practices dishing out blocks and hip checks is, like Knight, hard-surfaced and unadorned. Standing in Gardena, Calif., next to infamous Compton, the building is like thousands of others across South Central Los Angeles's concrete sprawl: unforgiving and gritty. Knight's opponents in the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA) describe her style the same way.

"I broke my ankle on my 30th birthday, so I have a plate and seven screws in there," Knight said, gesturing nonchalantly (read, no big deal) toward her foot. "It was just an awkward fall. Somebody hit me in the sternum and I fell and just twisted my bone apart."

Knight was back on the track in a matter of weeks. No big deal. Watching her practice, it's not surprising the Fremont, Neb., native came to Nebraska Wesleyan to throw the shot. (She cracked the top 10 in NWU history in the indoor shot put in 2000.) What may surprise some is what she came to Nebraska Wesleyan to study.

"I was a vocal performance major. Opera." Again, Knight spoke as though it's yawningly normal for an Angel City Derby Girl to float arias across a concert hall. But to Knight, it is normal. It's no big deal. Her talents earned her the **Mildred Beers** ('37) Scholarship—a fund established by **Robert Beers** ('37) to memorialize his wife and support music students at NWU.



Knight's talents on campus were such that her track and field coach, **Ted Bulling** ('80), remembers her tremendous commitment to music, while her voice coach, **Dawn Pawlewski Krogh**, remarked on her incredible strength. "I always remember Laci as being a very strong girl," Krogh said, "both inside and out."

Singing on stage, Knight said, has a lot in common with competing on the rink. "I had to practice three or four hours a day and be really disciplined about learning things correctly. I learned a lot about myself—how to understand and listen to my body, when you're really sick and when you're not, so that you know when to push through and when not to," she said. "All of that discipline I learned from opera has taken me places I never would have gone."



ALL OF THAT DISCIPLINE I LEARNED FROM OPERA HAS TAKEN ME PLACES I NEVER WOULD HAVE GONE.

definitely the most competitive I've ever felt." Even surrounded by her teammates, Knight's CrossFit physique is startling. All of the Scarlets are serious athletes with a taste for mayhem. But Knight has muscles where they don't. Hit her in the sternum and you better pray she falls awkwardly. Because rolling through skaters is, for Knight, no big deal. She can flip them like sheet music.

In a league known for its pun-laden (and raunchy) nicknames, she

Places like the top tier of the WFTDA, a once-upstart association that now claims 212 leagues with top-level skaters from across the country, a skyrocketing list of competitive teams and a rapidly growing fan base. Knight's team, the Hollywood Scarlets, competes in the Angel City Derby Girls member league. Jammed with talent, the Scarlets climbed to a top 10 international ranking in 2013 and qualified for the WFTDA Championships in Milwaukee, Wis.

"The skill level of these skaters is just mind-blowing. Because it's so competitive, they just keep getting better and better," she said. "This is

used to skate under the handle, Lace N' Arsenic. But blessed with chiseled shoulders and a name like Laci Knight, a cognomen just felt like clutter. So the three-time all-star dropped it like a bad skater.

"Our goal every year is to win the Hydra," Knight said. That's the association's championship trophy, a silver-plated skate on a metal pedestal. "Gotham Girls [New York] have won the last two years, so it would be nice to take it away. That's the pinnacle."

It hasn't taken long for Knight to skate within striking distance of the Hydra. She's enjoyed a rapid rise to the top of the sport that she first encountered when her husband dragged her to a match.

"I had no idea what I was watching, but I thought, 'I think I could do that! I could skate that good!' So I tried out in November and was on a team by June of the next year. By the next January, I was on the all-star team, so it went really fast for me."

While she came to Nebraska Wesleyan to sing and throw the shot put, Knight skated there, too. To her classes. On rollerblades.

"Yeah, I thought I was so cool," Knight said. "In Fremont, they had a roller rink that was about a half-mile from my house. I would skate there all the time. But I would just skate really fast and crash right into the walls. I never knew how to stop."

Turns out, not stopping was a good strategy for Knight. As she pursued a vocal performance career at Universal Studios in Florida after graduation, she embraced opportunities in event and television production that led to a day job with NBC/Universal. In the legal department.

"I discovered I really like contracts," Knight admitted, her tone suggesting that this singular nugget of her personality—this affinity for legally binding documents—might be just a touch eccentric. (Her drive to skate on a metallic ankle and sing opera, meanwhile, is as normal as wheat toast.) She called her position with NBC/Universal "the best job to have out here in LA because it engages my logical, Type-A side and all the details and pieces are very stimulating. But when it's five o'clock, I can shut the door and leave it behind."

That's when Knight sheds her corporate attire and straps on armbands, kneepads and a crash helmet. It's when she steels herself to skate her competition into oblivion—or at least off the track.

"It's been quite a journey over the last five years," Knight said. "Roller derby's made me a healthier, more active person," she said, a metal plate and seven screws notwithstanding. "It's changed my life. I don't know if I would be quite where I am right now if I hadn't found it and been inspired by other female athletes. That was something I didn't think I would ever be around again after college." **¶**

Numbers Game

In 100th game against Hastings, NWU hands Coach Keller his 100th win.

The Prairie Wolves entered Abel Stadium on November 16 with several reasons to play their best against in-state rival Hastings College. They stood at 5-4, with opportunities to finish above .500 for the second straight year, send 19 seniors off with a win, and carry Head Coach **Brian Keller** ('83) to a milestone with his 100th victory.

Over 99 meetings, Nebraska Wesleyan University's games against Hastings College have been as difficult to predict as a coin toss. (The Broncos held a slight edge, 44-48-7.) But the outcome of the 100th game was determined soon after the coin left the official's thumb. The Prairie Wolves turned a blocked punt, a blocked field goal and a Bronco fumble into first-quarter touchdowns en route to a 43-14 victory.

After his 100th win, Keller wasn't interested in talking about his own performance. "Obviously, it isn't my accomplishment," Keller said. "It goes back to all my assistants, all my

players and the support of the administration." He gave special credit to **Alex Czeranko** and **Ray Corona**, assistant coaches who've been a part of each of those 100 wins.

Keller became NWU's wins leader back in 2006. And he's just the 12th NWU coach of any sport to reach 100 wins.

Keller strapped on the Plainsmen helmet from 1979 to 1982, earning four varsity letters. He then traded in his cleats for a clipboard as an assistant coach under **Orson Christensen**.

Keller got the chance to return to his alma mater as head coach in 1996 and has remained loyal ever since. With 18 seasons, he's now the second longest tenured current coach in the NAIA.

As a player and coach, Keller has been a part of more than a quarter of NWU's 490 victories. He was there when Abel Stadium opened in 1986. He held up the first Prairie Wolves T-shirt at halftime in 2000.


While he's a veteran to almost every aspect of NWU football,



What do you give the football coach who has everything? You give him peace of mind by racing to a 27-point lead in the first quarter. You give him a Gatorade bath. Then you give him the game ball.

2013 was his rookie season as a football parent. **Crew Keller**, his eldest son, played as a first-year wide receiver.

While only one of his players can call him dad, hundreds of others, including 28 All-Americans and 29 Academic

All-Americans, can always call him coach. "What it means to be a part of this football program is—everything," said **Michael Huettner**, a senior captain. "You know, it's just about coming together as a brotherhood." 

FALL SPORT SUMMARY

Cross country

The men and women finished second and third respectively in the GPAC championships. Johnny Rutford took second overall for the men.

Football

NWU gave up 20 points just twice all year on its way to a 6-4 season.



Women's golf

NWU posted its lowest team score in a decade (340) at the NWU Invite, finishing fourth.

First year student-athletes like Kelsey Benes (left) comprised the majority of this year's team. Their talent bodes well for the program's future.

Photos by Chris Smithberg ('94)/Double6Photography



*Experience the 2014
NCAA Division III*

Indoor Track and Field National Championships.



*Hosted by
Nebraska Wesleyan University*

➤ **March 14-15**

Bob Devaney Sports Center



Men's soccer

NWU ended a 4-13-2 season on a high note, beating Illinois Institute of Technology in a shootout.

Defender Alec Weiss (left) is more interested in stopping goals than scoring them. That makes his single career goal versus Doane in 2012 all the sweeter.

Women's soccer

Great defense led to seven shutouts, an NCAA-record five of which ended in 0-0 ties. NWU finished 10-3-6.

Volleyball

The 20-8 Prairie Wolves finished just outside an NCAA championship berth in Rayna Cain's second season as head coach.

Student Pride

Prestige scholars and awards

Gilman Scholarships Fund Two First-time Travelers

When **Molly Cox** ('14) (top) set off for Estonia on a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, it was only the second time the sociology-anthropology major from Council Bluffs, Iowa, had ever been on an airplane. That's not to say she hadn't dreamed of seeing other nations. "I've been interested in traveling the world for as long as I can remember," Cox said. "I love reading novels set in other countries, and, as I grew up, I found that studying abroad may be a way for me to travel the world while in school."

That's another thing she has in common with fellow Gilman scholar, **Brenda Maldonado** ('15) (middle) of Sargent, Neb. "Study abroad was the primary reason I picked Nebraska Wesleyan," Maldonado said. While Maldonado hadn't previously traveled abroad, the junior global studies and French double major grew up in a bilingual household and knew that international study was in her future.

Maldonado is pursuing a career in human rights and is using her Gilman Scholarship to study in Switzerland. "What better way to find exposure to this field than by studying in the country that is home to the United Nations Human Rights Council?" she said.

NWU Guard Is a Different Kind of Globetrotter

While Gilman scholars Molly Cox and Brenda Maldonado take their first trips abroad, Nebraska Wesleyan's third Gilman International Scholarship winner is already a seasoned traveler.

Eric Jackson ('14) (bottom) traveled with the men's basketball team to Estonia in 2011. The following summer, the political science major from Lincoln accompanied a pro-Israel lobbying group on a trip to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Sderot and Tiberias.

NWU's starting guard then launched a trip across the GPAC on his way to becoming the team's leading scorer, averaging 12.9 points per game.

And he spent last summer in the former Soviet republic of Georgia. "I think Georgia has the potential to emulate the same amount of democratic success Estonia has achieved," Jackson said. "I also think Central Asia is going to be an emerging force in the international relations field."

Nebraska Wesleyan students have won 35 Gilman Scholarships since the award was created in 2001 to promote global study among students with financial need.



Photo by Geoff Johnson



ALUMNI PAGES

MYSTERY PHOTO



Your alumni contact

Shelley McHugh ('91)

Director of Alumni Relations
5000 Saint Paul Avenue
Lincoln, NE 68504-2794
smchugh@nebrwesleyan.edu
402.465.2123

Pizza! Pizza!

What's college without warm friends and cold pizza? And who are these two pals?

Send your responses to:

Eric Wendt
Nebraska Wesleyan University
5000 Saint Paul Avenue
Lincoln, NE 68504-2794
ewendt@nebrwesleyan.edu

MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED

Finding the right note . . .

A couple of you were able to name the guitarists behind our latest hit mystery photo.



That would be Austin Pushcar and me playing either “Wish You Were Here” by Pink Floyd or “Greatest Song in the World” by Tenacious D.

—**Joe Ebmeier** ('05)

That is Austin Pushcar and Joe Ebmeier (in the hat) in the mystery photo. My guess is they are playing “Drive” by Incubus because they never stopped playing it while living together in Theta Chi. Or it was some Tenacious D song.

—**David Kaiser** ('04)

TGIF TGI-NWU

Be a part of Nebraska Wesleyan's Spirit Fridays.

Get your NWU gear at prairiewolves.com.
Then post your pics at [facebook.com/NebraskaWesleyan](https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaWesleyan).

#pwolfnation



Photos by Lane Hickenbottom



This year's homecoming marked the first time that the Ernie's in Ceresco Tailgate and Carnival was held outdoors. Both the weather and the football team responded with beautiful performances.



From the Big Top to Big Turnouts for the Big Game, Homecoming Is... Big.

Sometimes, small changes in routine yield big results. That was the case for Nebraska Wesleyan University's homecoming in the third week of September. For instance, NWU moved its annual tailgate party and carnival (sponsored by **Dean Swanson** '70) and Ernie's in Ceresco) from Knight Field House into the fresh air on Taylor Commons and was rewarded with perfect weather, a great turnout and good food in the shade under the big top.

The university also did more to make homecoming as welcoming for current students as it's always been for alumni. That included NWU's new "Howl Like Hell" pep rally at Abel Stadium. Judging by the noise, students answered the call to get more involved.

"I'm 100 percent in favor of... Howl Like Hell because I think it provides some much needed freshness to homecoming," said **Colton Schied** ('14) for NWU's student newspaper, *The Reveille*.

He felt "a buzz and excitement for homecoming around campus that I haven't felt in my three years at NWU."

Students weren't the only ones to answer the call to get involved in a big way. Members of the class of 1963 marked their 50th class reunion with an incredible show of support. Their gifts and pledges totaled \$304,475.

Fans of NWU Theatre took in another elaborate and entertaining production with "You Can't

Take It with You."

Women's soccer kicked off homecoming play with a 4-2 victory over Dakota Wesleyan. And **Kelsey Arends** ('14) of Lincoln and **Ross Mumford** ('14) of Elmwood were crowned homecoming queen and king at halftime of a football game dominated by the Prairie Wolves. A tough NWU defense held Briar Cliff scoreless until the Chargers' final possession versus NWU reserves. The Prairie Wolves won 31-7.



Photo by Lane Hickenbottom

Athletic Hall of Fame Adds Five

Nebraska Wesleyan University inducted five alumni to its Athletic Hall of Fame during homecoming weekend on September 21.

Gina (Duensing) Chambers ('97) (volleyball, basketball, softball)

Sandy (Shaneyfelt) Connolly ('97) (soccer)

Mitch Mosser ('98) (basketball, baseball)

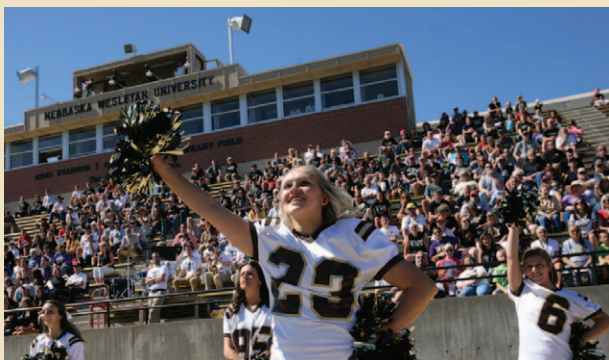
Brandon Schroer ('98) (track and field)

Gerald Seitz ('78) (football)

In addition to these Hall of Fame inductees, NWU Athletics also honored **Jim Svoboda** and **Bill Luxford** with Spirit of the Plainsman Awards.

Read more about the accomplishments of each of these honorees in Class Notes.

Photos by Lane Hickenbottom



Top: Royalty arrive at Abel Stadium in style. Center: The class of 1963 was honored at halftime for a \$304,475 class gift marking its 50th reunion. Bottom: Alumni and fans turned out in force for the big game.



Photo by Paul Hadley

NWU Pays Tribute to Six “Legends and Legacies”

Homecoming weekend provides the perfect opportunity for Nebraska Wesleyan University to honor its outstanding alumni. Alumni and friends gathered for the annual Legends and Legacies Banquet at the Country Club of Lincoln on the evening of September 19 to do just that. **Thomas Bassett** ('67) served as master of ceremonies.

Legends and Legacies honorees included:

John Aronson ('71) Alumni Achievement Award

Matt Harris ('93) Young Alumni Achievement Award

Walden “Wally” McNaught ('57) Alumni Loyalty Award

Lisa Schulze ('97) Young Alumni Loyalty Award

Mark ('83) and **Susan** ('83) **Smith** Alumni Humanitarian Award

Read more about their award-winning contributions in Class Notes.

You can nominate deserving alumni—including yourself—for these awards by emailing alumni@nebrwesleyan.edu. We'll send you the nomination form.



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.

1. Prairie Wolves know how to get down at the street dance.
2. Walter French (center) was honored by physics colleagues.
3. Japanese culture was the subject of a special alumni learning event.
4. Alumni from the 1950s gathered to share memories.
5. Boys just wanna have fun, too. Cheerleaders found willing and able partners at the Howl Like Hell pep rally.

NWU Honors Major Donors at Black and Gold Gala



Top: Brad Hurrell ('73), a member of the President's Board of Advisors, chats with Chuck Lang ('60). Above: Representing Franklin Kjeldgaard were members of his family, including (left to right) Debbie Hughes, Gary Dougherty and Dee Dougherty ('58). Below: Fred Ohles' (right) advisory board includes Vidette (Bullock) Mixon ('74) (left). Below right: Barbara Bartle describes the work of the Lincoln Community Foundation.



Photos by Chad Greene

Nebraska Wesleyan University held its annual Black and Gold Gala on October 3 at the Country Club of Lincoln to celebrate members of the university's lifetime giving societies and Presidents Society. The Presidents Society honors all university donors who have given at or above the \$1,000 level within the fiscal year. And lifetime giving societies honor donors whose total cash gifts exceed \$100,000 or donors who have included NWU in their estate plans.

The gala paid special tribute to four new Huntington Society inductees. The Huntington Society honors university donors whose lifetime giving falls between \$100,000 and \$1 million.

"I was brought up to value unselfishness," said new inductee, **Judith (Chadman) Byers** ('58). "We're not in this world to make big bucks; we're here to help other people."

Attendees also honored the late **Franklin M. Kjeldgaard** ('61). An estate gift brought the longtime Presidents Society donor's giving to the Huntington Society level. "Frank loved... young people and he wanted to help them receive a quality education and make something of importance of their lives," said his sister, **Glennys Dee Dougherty** ('58).

"He hoped [his] scholarship would provide for students who could not afford to go to college."

Also joining the Huntington Society were **Janet** ('57) and **Paul Revare**. "My husband Paul and I had the same kind of philosophy toward philanthropy," Janet said. "We always enjoyed a full life, but we didn't do things we thought were extravagant. We enjoyed helping others and Nebraska Wesleyan is one of the areas we support."

The **Lincoln Community Foundation** received Nebraska Wesleyan's 2013 Corporate Citizenship Award at the gala for its long-time support of the university. The foundation is the catalyst behind Give to Lincoln Day—the rapidly growing annual event that has raised \$3.4 million for hundreds of local nonprofits in just two years. NWU also recognized the foundation's work in addressing the needs of today's veterans as they return to civilian life, and supporting public art as a means to enhance Lincoln's living environment.

The Lincoln Community Foundation has granted more than \$565,000 to NWU on behalf of other donors since 2000.





CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 6
with new sessions starting every five weeks.

WESLEYAN ADVANTAGE

Accelerated programs for working adults

Earn degrees in:

- › business
- › social work
- › organizational communication
- › nursing
- › criminal justice

Certificates in:

- › project management
- › health care management

Study in Lincoln or Omaha.

Nursing courses also offered in Clarinda and Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Take classes just once a week.



NEBRASKA
WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

Nine Alumni Join Board of Advisors

The President's Board of Advisors provides advice to President Fred Ohles in the fulfillment of Nebraska Wesleyan's mission, vision and strategic plan. Members include alumni, parents or children of alumni, and other devoted friends of the university. Each is an ambassador for Nebraska Wesleyan University. The President's Board of Advisors meets on campus each fall and spring. President Ohles welcomed nine new members to the President's Board of Advisors in October.



Julie Anderson ('97)
CEO, FPMI Solutions,
Inc.
Washington, D.C.



Don Dorr ('61)
attorney, Buchen, Wise
and Dorr
Hanover, Penn.



Judd Knispel ('97)
agent, State Farm
Insurance
Council Bluffs, Iowa



Eugene Braymen ('57)
businessman (retired)
San Jose, Calif.



**Loretta (Good)
Fairchild** ('66)
professor emerita of
economics, NWU
Lincoln, Neb.



Mishayla Richardson
('11)
senior assurance
associate, McGladrey, LLP
Omaha, Neb.



**Jolene (Munderloh)
Braymen** ('57)
teacher (retired)
San Jose, Calif.



Marilyn Hutchinson
('69)
psychologist,
Hutchinson & Associates
Kansas City, Mo.



Mark A. Schulze ('88)
vice president,
operations support,
BNSF Railway
Argyle, Texas

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY THEATRE

DON'T MISS NWU THEATRE'S SPRING SEASON

From Oscar Wilde to Woody Allen to William Shakespeare, our spring theatre schedule is one you won't want to miss.

- > The Importance of Being Earnest
- > Little Shop of Horrors
- > Don't Drink the Water
- > A Midsummer Night's Dream
- > Les Misérables

**BUY TICKETS AND
FIND SHOWTIMES AT**
> theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu

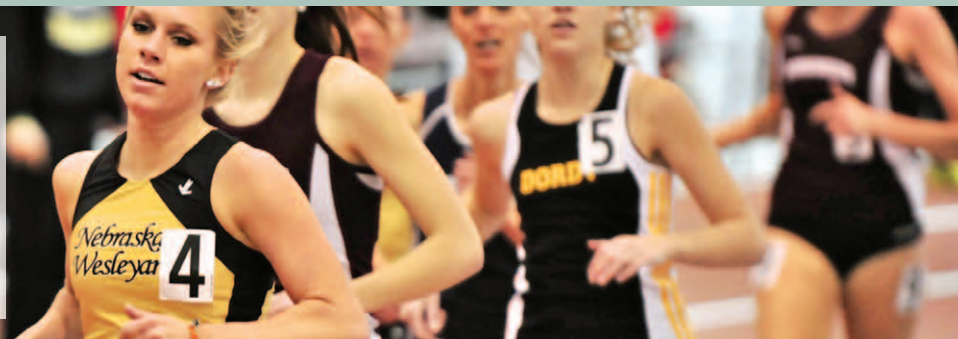


Calendar

Mark your calendar and watch your mail for information. All NWU alumni welcome. Contact Shelley McHugh (9) for details at smchugh@nebrwesleyan.edu or 402.465.2123.

March 14-15 NCAA Division III indoor track and field national championships

NWU plays host to the nation's best track and field student-athletes for two days at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.



JANUARY

19 University Choir home concert

Welcome NWU's award-winning University Choir home from its winter tour with this concert at O'Donnell Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

.....

FEBRUARY

6 NWU Theatre: *Little Shop of Horrors*

Catch opening night for this comedy horror rock musical at 7:30 p.m. Visit theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu for tickets and show times.

.....

15 Curtis Lecture on Public Leadership

Hear Peter Burleigh, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and deputy assistant secretary of state at 7 p.m. in Olin B Lecture Hall. *Free and open to the public.*

.....

19 NWU basketball

The Prairie Wolves take on Doane in Snyder Arena. The women take the court at 6 p.m. with the men tipping off at 8 p.m.

.....

MARCH

7 NWU Business Summit

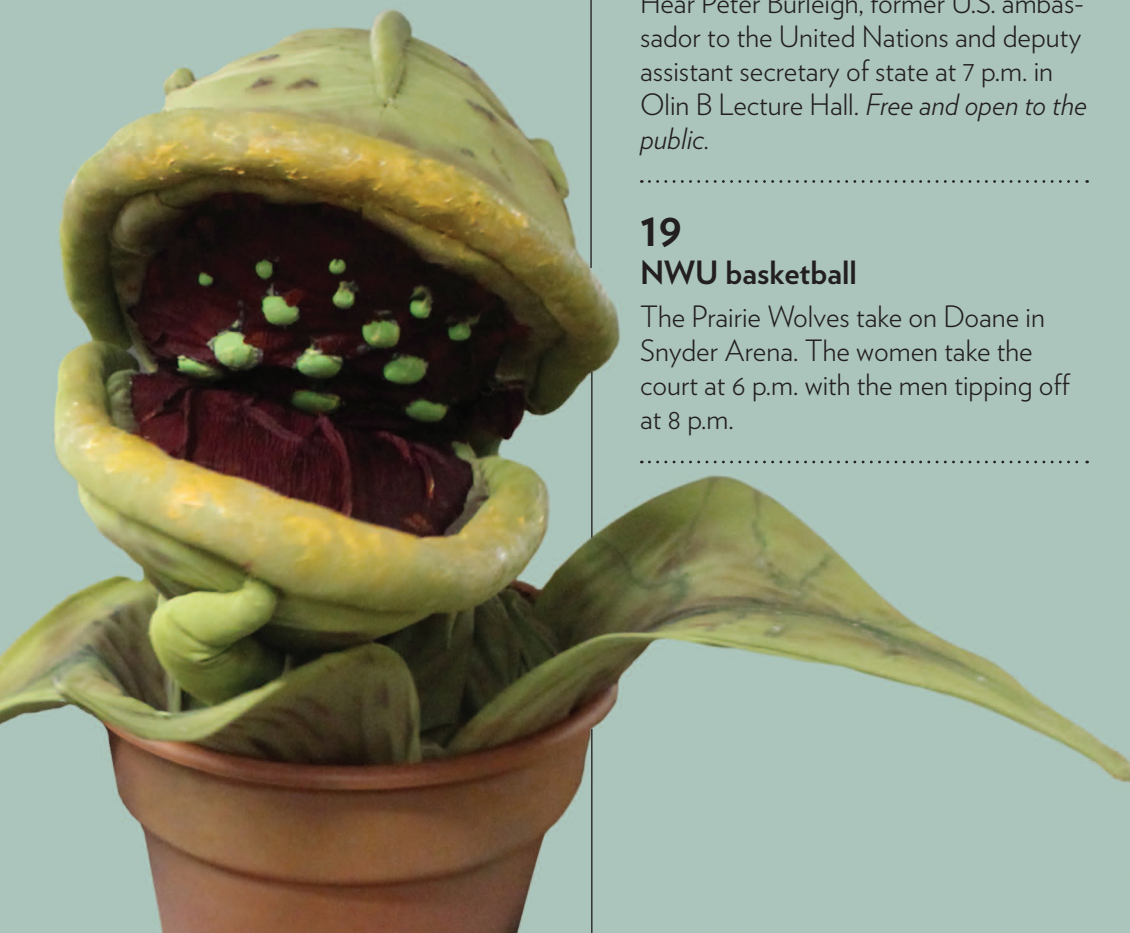
Smith-Curtis is the setting for this annual event which brings NWU students and regional business leaders together. Events run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

.....

SAVE THE DATE
HOMECOMING 2014
October 9-12

REUNION YEARS:

- > 2010-2013
- > 2004
- > 1994
- > 1984
- > 1974
- > 1964+





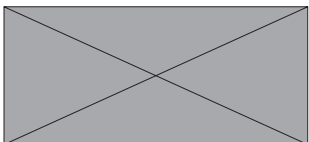
NEBRASKA
WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

5000 SAINT PAUL AVENUE
LINCOLN, NE 68504-2794

IT PAYS TO HAVE NWU IN THE FAMILY.

The siblings, children and grandchildren of alumni automatically qualify for a renewable **\$1,000 Legacy Scholarship**.

- › *Send your family members to admissions.nebrwesleyan.edu and make sure they list your relationship when they apply.*



Archways magazine is printed on paper certified by the Forest Stewardship Council™. FSC® certification indicates demonstrated commitment to environmentally and socially responsible forest management.