

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

# ARCHWAYS

BUSINESS SAVVY | SPRING 2014 | VOLUME 14, ISSUE 1

An overhead photograph of six business professionals (three men and three women) seated around a dark, hexagonal table on a light-colored wooden floor. They are all focused on reviewing documents and charts. The scene is lit from above, creating soft shadows. A large, semi-transparent white crosshair is centered over the image, with the text 'Value ADDED' overlaid on it. The word 'Value' is in a bold, dark brown font, and 'ADDED' is in a white, sans-serif font. The background is a dark teal color with several white plus signs scattered across it.

**Value** ADDED

NWU expands  
its business  
offerings with  
an MBA and  
more.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT



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*NWU has more students  
and more programs today  
in Omaha than we  
could have imagined  
a decade ago.*

### Dear Alumni and Friends,

Everyone knows that Nebraska Wesleyan University is in Lincoln. Not everyone knows that NWU is also in Omaha.

Of course, considerable numbers of our alumni have been in Omaha since the beginning. Among some 19,000 alumni today, perhaps 5,000 live in and around Lincoln and another 3,500 in and around Omaha—the two largest concentrations by far. Many of Nebraska Wesleyan’s Omaha alumni hold leading positions in business, industry, finance, education, the ministry, the arts, and human services.

Ten years ago, Nebraska Wesleyan opened an instructional site in Omaha. In a few months we’re going to close that facility.

In its place we’ll open a much larger site (with better services and a lower price per square foot) in a prime location. I am delighted to offer this preview announcement that the growing Nebraska Wesleyan presence in Omaha is to be signaled by our top floor office building location on First National Bank Parkway, across Dodge Road from Boys Town. NWU’s other neighbors there include the headquarters of Valmont and Tenaska, two major Omaha corporations, and the Omaha office of Yahoo. Our landlord is First National Bank of Omaha.

The new Nebraska Wesleyan Omaha site is a great solution to the fact that we’ve outgrown the current site. NWU has more students and more programs today in Omaha than we could have imagined a decade ago.

The Omaha metropolitan area has to matter to all of us: with a population that includes nearly one-half of the people in Nebraska; with urban and suburban high schools that send many strong traditional undergraduate students to our Lincoln campus; with a business community that values the high quality bachelor’s and master’s options that NWU provides there to adult students; and with great potential for growing the Nebraska Wesleyan Omaha footprint in many ways.

I’ve just made my 130th trip to Omaha since joining Nebraska Wesleyan in 2007. That’s how important the connections between Nebraska Wesleyan and Omaha are to me. Watch for more news in *Archways* about why we at Nebraska Wesleyan continue to shout Omaha! Omaha!

Yours truly,

—Fred Ohles  
President



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*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.*

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**Lynne Mills**, ('77), "Prairie Wolves in Print: The Women of Berkshire Hathaway" ▶11

A native of Minden, Neb., Lynne is a retired investment executive living in Mendota Heights, Minn. Recently retired from NWU's Board of Governors, Lynne continues to serve as a consultant to the board's Finance and Audit Committee. Lynne is also a member of the Investment Advisory Committee to the University of Minnesota's endowment fund.



Photo by Emily Jessen ('16)

**Katrina Sieler**, ('15), "High Score" ▶18

Katrina is a junior from Norfolk, Neb. She's majoring in English with a minor in Spanish. She's involved in symphonic band, Prairie Wolves pep band, the Lincoln Civic Orchestra, Alpha Mu Gamma language honorary and the *Reveille*. She'd like to be either a writer or librarian after graduation.



Photo by Jennifer Heywood ('15)

**Tamra (Trehearn) Llewellyn** ('06), "Seven-foot Feat" ▶30

Tamra is an assistant professor of health and human performance at Nebraska Wesleyan University. She took video of high jumper Tommie Bardsley ('14) during practice and analyzed for *Archways* the forces involved in his leap. The research she did as an undergraduate at NWU on flexibility and running economy was eventually published in *The Journal of Strength & Conditioning* and earned citations in *The New York Times*, *Running Times*, *Canadian Runner* and *Runner's World Magazine*, among others.



**Kristy Sorensen**, ('99), "NWU's Monuments Man" ▶22

Kristy graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1999 with a double major in English and women's studies. She went on to earn a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Texas at Austin in 2002 and has been a certified archivist since 2004. She is the associate director of the library and head of archives and records management at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, where she lives with her husband, Josh Krauter, and her two amazing cats.



# Letters

## The Positive, the Doable and the Beauty

The winter 2013-2014 *Archways* is the most important and significant issue I have received since my graduation from NWU in 1968. This is due to the reporting in “New Threads” about the Archway Curriculum, which is so rational, simple, yet so truly meaningful in its integrative approach!

A few years ago, I happened to review the current class-department curriculum. It was in all appearances the same as I selected from in 1963. I do believe that good things for the future of higher

---

*Teach the controversy, explore the questions and investigate all the issues. That is what college is about—what life in its fullest can be about.*

education on our planet—a planet that must focus on healthy, peaceful, evolving societies and essential problem-solving on sustainability issues—will come out of this invigorating, purposeful, passionate approach.

add a geology-geography component in honor of Dr. Robert Stoddard—“Geology and the Shaping of a Culture.” Keep up the fine path setting. Teach the controversy, explore the questions and investigate all the issues. That is what college is about—what life in its fullest can be about. Jobs in our society and globally will adapt to this vigorous approach.

The “Human Health: Local and Global” thread was an excellent example. I might add a geology-geography component in honor of Dr. Robert Stoddard—“Geology and the Shaping of a Culture.” Keep up the fine path setting. Teach the controversy, explore the questions and investigate all the issues. That is what college is about—what life in its fullest can be about. Jobs in our society and globally will adapt to this vigorous approach.

For the first time since my graduation from NWU, I will be making a donation. The “New Threads” article and innovative work caused me to donate. And the looking back at the foundation that NWU provided me to face the craziness of my year in Vietnam (USAF, 1968-1972, Vietnam 1970-1971) and then my luck of breaking in a job as a social worker in 1972 at Nebraska Children’s Home Society and 25 years as a professional social worker in Nebraska and Arizona.

Our world can be rather mean to innocent people, but NWU helped me keep focus on the positive, the doable and the beauty of people in our glorious physical environments!

**Thomas Gilmore** (‘68)

Prescott, Ariz.

*Gilmore is a veteran and retired social worker.*



Anthropologist Jim Merryman reads the paper with an older relative, *Australopithecus*.

## That Magic Carpet, the Peace Corps

After graduating from Nebraska Wesleyan in 1967, I served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Kenya. I grew up on a farm near Shickley, Neb. Instead of escaping the farm, I was recruited for my practical ag experience.

The Peace Corps was that transformational experience, when the long awaited light switched on. I discovered I wanted to work in rural economic development as an applied anthropologist. And that’s what I’ve been doing for 13 years (and 29 trips) out of the past half-century working in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Somalia (until it collapsed as a failed state).

Most recently, I had a funded sabbatical working in Uganda on a clean water and sanitation project. This coming summer, I will be back in Uganda on a Fulbright-funded group project focusing on education.

Over the years, I’ve led many trips to Africa, China and Central America for students and friends. More recently, I’ve involved students in my fieldwork. Many of these students come from less than privileged backgrounds (like myself)—students who’d never been on a plane or left the United States before.

The last student I took is a bio-med major. His time in Uganda among the poorest of the poor has led him to decide on a career as a tropical doctor. It’s very gratifying to me to hand down something of a legacy to the next generation who will make a significant impact on Africa.

Having just observed the 50th anniversary of JFK’s assassination, I am reminded of my debt of gratitude for his invention of the Peace Corps, that magic carpet that lifted me out of the cornfields and set me down on the African savanna.

**James Merryman** (‘67)

Bear Creek Village, Penn.

*Merryman is a professor of anthropology at Wilkes University.*

## Pi in the Face

On page 38 of the fall 2013 issue is a faux blackboard with this equation:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx = \sqrt{n}$$

and the statement, "Complicated problems can have simple solutions." Indeed, this integral does have a simple (and elegant) solution, but the correct value is below.

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx = \sqrt{\pi}$$

### O. William McClung

Lincoln

*McClung is a professor of computer science at NWU.*

## Fine Threads

I congratulate you and your staff on the latest edition of *Archways*. It is truly outstanding!

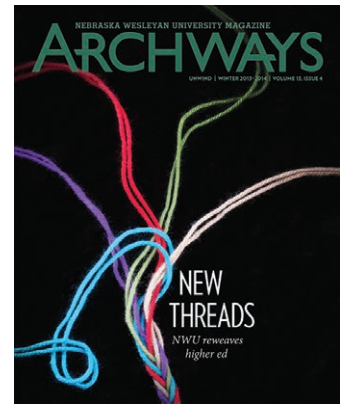
The "New Threads" article is an excellent explanation of the new curriculum. It clearly explains why, as [Professor of English Scott] Stanfield said, "More than a new look, it's a new way of looking." I have more understanding of the curriculum from having read the article.

This edition of *Archways* is also beautiful. I always read *Archways*. I save many. This is definitely one I will reread many times.

### Lindy (Garner) Mullin ('67)

Lincoln

*Mullin is a former educator with Lincoln Public Schools where she worked with special needs children. She is an emerita member of Nebraska Wesleyan's Board of Governors.*



## LEAVE YOUR CHARITABLE *legacy* AT NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

An endowment is one way to create your legacy. Your gift will help NWU to provide transformative experiences for students, attract and retain great professors, update technology and maintain our beautiful campus. And a gift to the endowment keeps on giving for generations.

To learn about the different—and many—ways to leave your legacy, **Contact Brenda McCrady at 402.465.2129 or [bmccrady@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:bmccrady@nebrwesleyan.edu).**

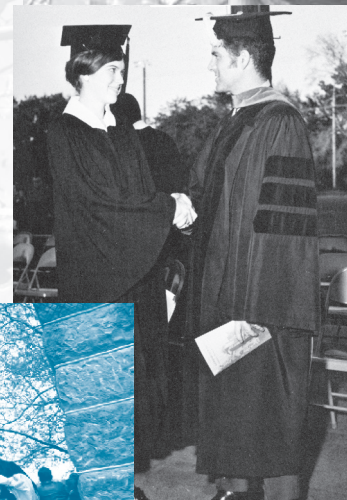




Photo by Jennifer Heywood ('15)



## NWU Staff Honor “The Catch”

The 2013 college football catch of the year came in Lincoln.

No offense to the University of Nebraska’s Ron Kellogg III or Jordan Westerkamp, but the greatest catch didn’t come against Northwestern. It didn’t even happen in a game. It happened at practice.

And it wasn’t even made by a player. But when first-year wide receiver **Crew Keller** went down after a routine tackle in practice, Head Athletic Trainer **Jason Ensrud** made the call to take him to the Weary Center’s training room. And on the way there, Ensrud made the catch of the year.

Keller was woozy and in pain. But what caught Ensrud’s attention was the swelling in his abdomen. That swelling told Ensrud that what Keller needed wasn’t to be found in the training room. Recognizing he was bleeding internally, Ensrud made a quick audible and called 911.

An ambulance arrived for Keller, and doctors determined he needed emergency surgery. They removed portions of his pancreas and spleen. “Quick analysis saved his life,” said Provost **Judy Muyskens**.

For his analysis and action, Muyskens presented Ensrud with Nebraska Wesleyan University’s C.O.R.E. Award, a rare honor recognizing NWU staff members who rise above expectations and reflect the university’s core values—in this case: personal attention to students.

## M\*A\*S\*H Season 1

NWU takes its show on the road, offering mobile academics at St. E’s Hospital.

For those nervous about the possibility of going back to college, **Elizabeth MacLeod Walls**, dean of NWU’s University College, has some good news. Nebraska Wesleyan University might just come to you.

Thanks to a new partnership with Catholic Health Initiatives, nurses at Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center can take Nebraska Wesleyan nursing courses—and even some general education courses—without ever leaving the hospital.

NWU and Catholic Health Initiatives, which owns Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center and the Nebraska Heart Institute, hope that classes in the workplace will encourage more nurses to pursue bachelor’s degrees. “It’s a way to reach folks who have really been struggling with the decision: Should I go back to school or not?” MacLeod Walls told the

*Lincoln Journal Star*.



Count **Kim Moore** ('90) among the believers of what nurses can do with a good education. Moore began her career at Saint Elizabeth as a critical care nurse in 1978. She has served there in several capacities since, including as nurse manager, director, vice president of nursing and chief operating officer. In 2011, she became Saint Elizabeth’s presi-

dent. And she supports Catholic Health Initiatives’ goal to see 80 percent or more of its nurses with at least a bachelor’s degree by 2020.

“Advanced education and nursing excellence go hand-in-hand,” Moore said. “That’s why we’re proud to partner with Nebraska Wesleyan to provide our employees with the opportunity to advance their learning and get an MSN/MBA joint degree.” You can read more about NWU’s new MBA programs on page 12. “The education nurses receive broadens their nursing knowledge, which, in turn, strengthens the care and services we provide our community.”

Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center isn’t the only off-campus stop on Nebraska Wesleyan professors’ route. Thanks to a strong relationship with Duncan Aviation’s founders, **Robert** and **Karen Duncan**, and current CEO, **Todd Duncan** ('88), Nebraska Wesleyan also offers courses in project management at Duncan Aviation. And there are plans for more such partnerships with other regional companies and nonprofits in the near future.

“This is the next stage of education in America,” MacLeod Walls said, “finding ways to make the classroom experience directly relevant to the professional experience.”



## NWU Leaves Its Mark on NCAA Division III Presidents Council

In our last issue, we reported on the predominance of NWU connections on the NCAA Division III Presidents Council [“Quadruple Team,” winter 2013-2014]. The council’s January 16 meeting in San Diego, Calif., marked a last hurrah for this NWU foursome as NWU President **Fred Ohles** and former NWU administrator **Jack Ohle** (second and third from left, respectively) completed their terms on the council.

Former NWU biology professor and administrator **Erik Bitterbaum** (left) and **L. Jay Lemons** (’83) continue their service on the 18-member council that directs the NCAA Division III with its 444 institutions.

## Jensen Named Exemplary Teacher

While on sabbatical in Vienna, Austria, Professor of Communication Studies **Karla Jensen** continued her own study of German and immersed herself in a new culture. “I lived the truth which I attempt to impart to my students: knowledge from a book comes alive when you experience it yourself.”

Jensen’s commitment to her students’ experiences led the United Methodist Church’s Division of Higher Education to name her its 2013-2014 Exemplary Teacher. “Everyone knows that Karla brings energy to the classroom and she demands the same of her students,” said one nominator.

Jensen began her career at NWU in 2000 as an assistant professor. She was tenured and promoted in 2004, and became professor of communication in 2011. She chaired the Communication Studies Department from 2010-2013.

Colleagues and students say she is a role model in enthusiasm and positive support for the entire Nebraska Wesleyan community. She is also a calming influence on campus.

Last year, Jensen spent hours working on her yoga certification from the National Yoga Alliance so she could incorporate yoga into her liberal arts seminar (LAS). She invited her LAS students to begin their studies five days prior to the fall semester so they would be well prepared in their yoga competency to work with residents at Tabitha Health Services in Lincoln.

While on sabbatical in Vienna during the 2008-

2009 academic year, Jensen visited International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) universities in an effort to recruit more German-speaking international students to Nebraska Wesleyan University.

“She is a devoted colleague, teacher and member of the community whose actions

*I lived the truth  
which I attempt  
to impart to my  
students: knowledge  
from a book comes  
alive when you  
experience it yourself.*



reveal integrity and a collaborative spirit,” said another nominator.

She’s also been called “NWU’s bastion of happiness” [“Happy Thoughts,” winter 2012-2013]. “You [express happiness] by attending to people,” Jensen said. “By greeting them, listening and respecting them.”

It’s an approach the United Methodist Church is happy to call exemplary.

The Archway Fund supports salaries for Karla Jensen and all her colleagues on Nebraska Wesleyan’s faculty and staff.



# “I Felt Like a Bull in a China Shop”

## How can NWU help veterans transition to life on campus?

It's right to honor U.S. veterans on November 11. It's also fair to ask: What do we do for them on November 12? Dean of Students **Pete Armstrong** said that about 30 NWU students—less than 2 percent of the student body—have veteran status. What does Nebraska Wesleyan do to support them?

Nebraska Wesleyan used November 12 to hold a special panel exploring just that question. Moderating the panel was **Michael Shambaugh-Miller**, an adjunct professor of education and U.S. Air Force veteran. Panelists included Corey Rumann, coauthor of *Called to Serve: A Handbook on Student Veterans and Higher Education*; **Larry Hughes**, an assistant professor of business and Marine Corps veteran; **Dustin Wondercheck**, a current student, Army veteran and active duty member of the Nebraska Army National Guard; and Lori Wardlow, an administrative officer at the Veterans Administration.

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*Professor Dubas told me, “I just want you to take your personal experience in Afghanistan and apply the principles we’re learning about in your paper.” And that excited me.*

What many veterans find when they arrive at NWU—or any college campus—is a maturity gap between themselves and most 18-year-olds. The typical veteran is at least a little bit older, more traveled, and more experienced making decisions of enormous consequence. “Veterans can struggle with students who don’t seem to take things as seriously as they do,” Wardlow said.

Wondercheck could relate. “You’re a 25-year-old with a lot of 18-year-olds in

Spanish 1,” he said. “I felt like a bull in a china shop.”

Rumann said the gaps created by deployments can also hurt veterans’ academic progress. “A veteran might say, ‘I took Algebra I. Then I deployed to a warzone. Now you want me to hit the ground running in Algebra II?’ That’s a tough thing to do.”

Professors can also struggle to find the right way to work with veteran students. They must determine whether and how to recognize veteran status. “I remember counting on a particular student—a veteran—to pick up class discussions,” Hughes said. Whenever there was a lull in the discussion, Hughes knew he could call on the older and more experienced student to get things moving again. “After a while, I had to ask myself, ‘Was I unduly calling on his veteran status? Was that an unwanted spotlight?’”

For Wondercheck, it might have been. “I’m not hiding,” he said, “but I don’t make a point to talk about it.”

Rumann said the best thing anyone working on campus can do is make an effort to learn about military culture. “I’m not a veteran, myself,” he said. “For me, it was a steep learning curve.” He used to make the common mistake of referring to all service members as soldiers. “But ‘soldier’ refers to the Army. You don’t call a marine a soldier,” Rumann said. “I had to learn that.”

He added, “You can learn about military culture just like any other. And a little bit of knowledge can go a long way in demonstrating your respect and understanding of the veterans on your campus.”

There may be professors on some campuses who couldn’t tell an MRE from an M16. But ask Nebraska Wesleyan’s faculty to study and appreciate the richness of another culture, and they will respond. Show them that doing so will help them reach their students, and they’ll respond in a big way.

“We’re very learner-centric here,” Shambaugh-Miller said, “which is why they’ll have



Illustration by Natalie Swanda

to drag me off this campus if they ever want me gone. I finally found a place that cares about students.”

Wondercheck was quick to point out that a professor’s willingness to learn about military culture must be matched with the veteran’s willingness to learn what the professor has to teach. He described a class with Professor of Anthropology **Ellen Dubas** where he finally felt compelled to out himself as a veteran. The class was talking about Afghanistan, he said, and he couldn’t pretend he’d never been there. So he opened up. He didn’t regret it.

“Professor Dubas told me, ‘I just want you to take your personal experience in Afghanistan and apply the principles we’re learning about in your paper.’ And that excited me.”

He said, “Learning about Afghanistan’s history was great for me. It gave me an understanding of where I was and what my being there really meant.”

Helping a veteran to gain that understanding is perhaps the best thing a university can do to honor military service.



W-CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT

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Les  
Misérables





## The Women of Berkshire Hathaway: Lessons from Warren Buffett's Female CEOs and Directors

By **Karen Linder** ('82)

320 pages | Wiley | \$25

—Reviewed by **Lynne M. Mills** ('77)

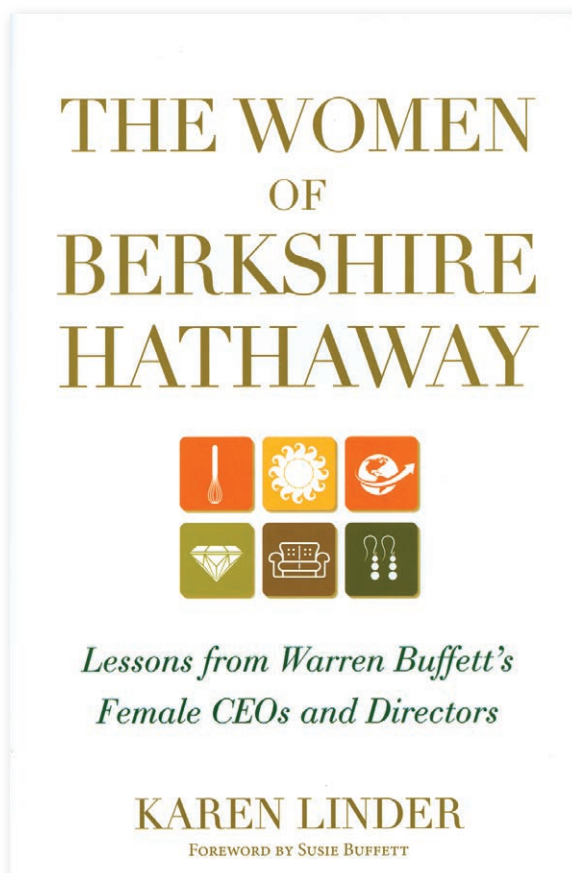
Women remain underrepresented in the upper echelons of corporate America, especially relative to the economic power they wield in the U.S. economy. Some may be tempted to take examples to the contrary—powerful women heading successful companies—and argue that the problem of gender imbalance among corporate leaders is a thing of the past. Don't count **Karen Linder** ('82) among them.

The cytotechnologist, professor, artist, investor and entrepreneur profiled nine women—all associated with Berkshire Hathaway—not to deny claims that the business world remains predominantly male, but to show us what it took for them to succeed in that world.

Linder shared the lessons they learned, the sacrifices they made and the working relationships they established with Warren Buffett. These women came from different social, economic and educational backgrounds, proving there is no single path to success. As Susie Buffett stated in the foreword, "these are stories for anyone interested in business, management, entrepreneurship, or just plain human drama."

Seven of the women served as CEOs of Berkshire subsidiaries, including two world-class entrepreneurs: Rose Blumkin and Doris Christopher. Blumkin, the first female CEO of a Berkshire subsidiary, escaped extreme poverty in Russia with no formal education and founded two companies. She started Nebraska Furniture Mart at age 43. She launched her second business, Mrs. B's Warehouse, later in life than most, at age 96. Blumkin was smart, passionate, fiercely competitive and utterly devoted to her customers.

Doris Christopher, the founder of Pampered Chef, came about her success by accident. Educated as a home economist, she



was simply looking for a way to make some money while spending her days at home with her children. No one was more surprised than Christopher when her business took off. With no business training, she learned on the job and built a strong reputation. Today, Pampered Chef is one of the largest direct selling companies in the country.

Two of the women, Charlotte Guyman and Susan Decker, are current members of Berkshire's board of directors. Guyman is a retired Microsoft executive and Decker is a former president of Yahoo. Coming from diverse backgrounds (Guyman as an animal behaviorist and Decker as a Wall Street analyst), both women navigated the tumultuous beginnings of the technology revolution and learned important lessons in corporate leadership. Leadership is about maintaining a sense of purpose and passion through all the daily tasks at hand.

From these women we also learn about servant leadership. Great leaders focus on the needs of their team and promote personal development.

Hard work, perseverance, an optimistic outlook and integrity contributed to all nine women's success. All nine also appreciated the opportunities they received and believe in giving back, personally and professionally. That's why they mentor other women striving to advance in their careers.

Warren Buffett tends to know exactly what he's looking for in his CEOs and board members, and gender doesn't play a role. Like Linder and so many other Nebraska Wesleyan alumni, Buffett just wants to be surrounded by smart people. In writing this book, Linder has certainly done just that. And in writing it so well, it's clear she fits right in among them. 🍷

Lynne Mills is a former NWU Board of Governors member who continues to serve the Finance and Audit Committee as a consultant.

# Value ADDED

## NWU expands its business offerings with an MBA and more.

One of the biggest thrills in an entrepreneur's life comes the day they first hang that "OPEN" sign on their door. That beginning represents so much work, so much planning, and so much faith in what the future holds.

We know that thrill because so many alumni have shared it with us. And now, as Nebraska Wesleyan University launches its much-anticipated Master of Business Administration program, we're feeling it firsthand. The pride. The belief. And the eagerness to get to work.

Nebraska Wesleyan University's work involves producing problem-solvers. And business is often where these problem-solvers show their stuff, exercising strengths in critical thinking, reasoned logic and ethical service. Examine the résumés of executives in Fortune 500 companies and thriving small businesses alike—as **Karen Linder** ('82) does on page 11—and you'll find liberal arts pedigrees again and again.

We know liberal arts grads thrive in business. Likewise, companies advance liberal arts disciplines. They sustain the arts, bring the latest scientific discoveries into our lives and serve communities.

So when opponents suggest the study of business has no place under the liberal arts umbrella, we respond with a business phrase: "We're not buying it."

"Nebraska Wesleyan University's business curricula are grounded in ideas and theories that are the basis for liberal education," said **Elizabeth MacLeod Walls**, dean of University College. That approach, she said, "allows students to reflect on the larger implications of success and leads to critical thinking and humanistic understanding within a corporate setting."

Professor of Accounting **Courtney Baillie** directs NWU's new MBA program. She put it this way. "What could be more important for a future business leader than to know how to think critically and communicate well?"

As Nebraska Wesleyan launches its MBA program this fall, liberal arts values comprise our "value added."

### THE RIGHT TRACK

Nebraska Wesleyan's MBA program has been a long time in the making. "We have studied the MBA for nearly a decade," MacLeod Walls said. "We've waited until we were certain that we could develop a program that would reflect our mission, build on faculty strengths and meet students' needs."

The new MBA program offers weekly evening classes in eight-week sessions in Lincoln and Omaha. MBA students choose from five specialized tracks.

**Classic**—MBA students build the foundation to thrive in any business setting.

**Health care management**—Students learn to adapt in this dynamic and rapidly changing field.

**Leadership**—Students apply sound principles of leadership in entrepreneurial and managerial settings.

**Design your own**—Students mix and match course offerings to customize their program.

**Accounting**—Students who were accounting majors as undergrads grow expertise and add hours toward the CPA exam.

MBA students in all tracks build hands-on experience using real case studies. They'll work alongside experienced mentors at local businesses and nonprofit organizations.

### IT'S WHO (AND WHAT) YOU KNOW

A strong MBA program provides both the knowledge and the connections necessary for success in business. In addition to

"As a Nebraska entrepreneur, I can speak to the growing demand for local, qualified MBAs. Our business community needs graduates who have grown with the personal attention and focus that Nebraska Wesleyan offers."

#### Ben Harris

cofounder / NBC Bancshares, LLC / Lincoln





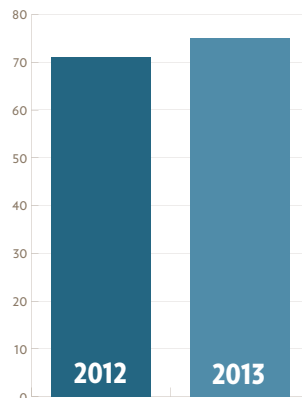
building expertise, Nebraska Wesleyan's MBA program also builds networking opportunities into each student's experience.

The program adds to those connections by partnering with local business leaders willing to serve as mentors to Nebraska Wesleyan's MBA students. It also gives them valuable opportunities to put classroom theories into practice through case studies where students partner with local businesses to tackle real issues in the marketplace.

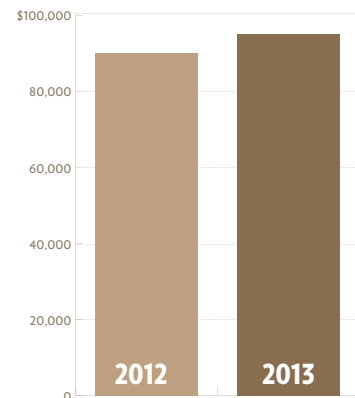
"I'm looking forward to seeing the real-world, real-time cases in action," said Baillie. "It'll be exciting to watch MBA students interacting with businesses and nonprofits to help solve strategic issues." That excitement extends to MBA prospects. Within minutes of the program's unveiling, NWU had its first applicant.

## MBA: THE M STANDS FOR MORE

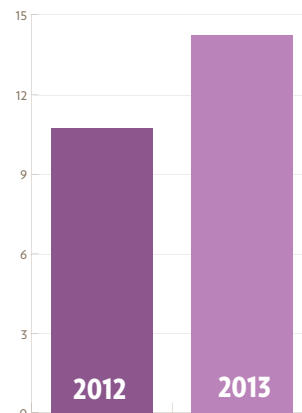
The employment picture for Nebraska Wesleyan University's first class of MBA graduates looks rosy. International surveys in 2013 by the Graduate Management Admissions Council reveal more companies are hiring MBAs. They're hiring more of them. And they're paying more money—especially in the U.S.



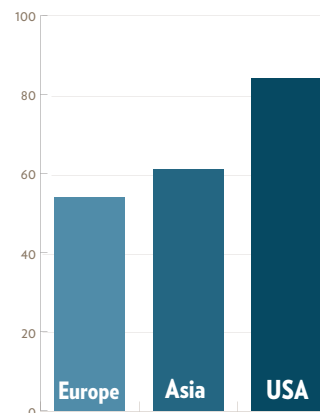
Percentage of foreign and domestic companies planning to hire MBAs



Median salaries of new MBA hires



Average number of MBAs those companies intend to hire



Percentage of companies by region planning to hire MBAs

(Data via 2013 GMAC surveys as reported in Bloomberg Businessweek.)

## Learn firsthand about Nebraska Wesleyan's new MBA program.

### IN LINCOLN

- > Thursday, April 24
  - > Monday, May 12
  - > Monday, June 16
- 5:30-6:30 p.m.**

53rd Street and Huntington Avenue  
Weary Center for Health and Fitness  
All-American Room

### IN OMAHA

- > Thursday, April 17
  - > Tuesday, May 13
  - > Thursday, June 12
  - > Tuesday, July 8
- 5-7 p.m.**

14010 FNB Parkway  
(First National Bank Building  
near 140th and Dodge)  
Conference Room A

Qualified leaders and proven problem-solvers like Scott Miller ('89), controller at Lincoln Industries, are in demand in Nebraska and around the world. ▶

## DIVERSIFY

Like any good investor, Nebraska Wesleyan's business educators have kept their eyes open for opportunities to diversify. And a new MBA program isn't the only change NWU has in store.

One of the biggest opportunities Nebraska Wesleyan has seized involves a different kind of business professional. Forget business suits. This business professional wears scrubs.

Today's nurses are often asked to do much more than take care of patients. They're increasingly asked to take care of business operations, too. And while traditional MSN programs prepare nurses in administering care, they often offer precious little insight in how businesses operate in the competitive health care industry.

Nebraska Wesleyan has responded with an MSN/MBA joint degree program. Now, nurses in Lincoln and Omaha can gain the knowledge they need to thrive as they tend to both patients and business operations. The joint degree is 53 credit hours—meaning students can earn the joint degree faster than they could earning both degrees separately.

Nurses who already have a Master of Science in Nursing can earn their MBA faster with Nebraska Wesleyan's MSN to MBA Bridge, a special 21 credit hour program.



Photo by Lane Hickenbottom

(You can learn more about Nebraska Wesleyan's innovations in nursing education on page 7.)

"The MSN/MBA and the MSN to MBA Bridge programs are unique to the state," MacLeod Walls said. "They will benefit not only our students, but also health care systems—and, ultimately, patients—throughout Nebraska."

## NEW LOCATION

MBA students in Omaha will benefit from another move NWU has in store: a move to a new location. Nebraska Wesleyan has operated at 11815 M Street in Omaha since 2004. In June, Nebraska Wesleyan University will open doors at its new location near

144th and Dodge: 14010 FNB Parkway.

"The move represents an upgrade in just about every way possible," said **Andrea Butler**, director of NWU's Omaha Advantage program. She pointed to factors ranging from increased classroom space for a student body that's tripled in size since NWU opened in Omaha, improved accessibility and better visibility to more convenient parking and improved security. The new Omaha site will also provide an excellent venue for alumni gatherings and events for traditional undergraduates.

MacLeod Walls said alumnae like **Anna (Castner) Wightman** ('89) and **Stephanie (Howland) Moline** ('82) have helped foster an excellent relationship between NWU and First National Bank. Wightman is vice

"For me, Nebraska Wesleyan is a family where students connect with faculty and staff on a much deeper level. It creates that home-like atmosphere that encourages learning not just to check the box marked 'college diploma.'

"A graduate degree from Nebraska Wesleyan says the graduate didn't simply 'check the box,' but thoughtfully explored the subject matter guided by many mentors in the field."

**Suzanne Sughroue** ('02)

*director of development / The Madonna Foundation / Lincoln*





The new Omaha location near 140th and Dodge reflects Nebraska Wesleyan's expanding footprint in the state's largest city.

president of government relations, and Moline is executive vice president at First National Bank. Those relationships helped to open doors for Nebraska Wesleyan at the First National Bank Building. "It's the right facility for us as Nebraska Wesleyan expands its overall footprint in Omaha," MacLeod Walls said.

## INVESTING IN STRENGTH

Throughout the incubations of these new graduate business programs, Nebraska Wesleyan hasn't forgotten its traditional strengths

in teaching undergraduates in the liberal arts. It's long been about building educational and life-changing experiences for students. The Department of Business, Accounting and Economics constantly works to enhance those experiences.

Sit in on a meeting of Nebraska Wesleyan's Student Investment Group (SIG), and you'll see those enhancements in action. SIG members manage a roughly \$600,000 portion of Nebraska Wesleyan University's growing endowment, giving undergraduates with interests in finance a valuable opportunity to apply what they learn in real terms. A generous gift from Ameritas helped launch the Student Investment Group. SIG students' decisions help shape the endowment's future.


Now, thanks to a gift from **Joline "Jo" Adams** ('83), business students make those decisions using the same software that financial advisors, brokers and CPAs use. "Morningstar is really the standard in the industry," said **Thom Jackman** ('84), associate professor of business administration and the Student Investment Group's faculty advisor.

Jackman called Adams "a fireball," and was delighted to have her help in putting this powerful tool in students' hands. "It gives you the ability to back test your models," he said. "You can build your portfolio, then use huge data sets of historical returns to see how it would have performed over years." Students

can adjust variables and immediately see how those adjustments affect the portfolio's performance.

Jackman's students are as excited about the software as he is. "Most people get their first exposure to this tool at their first job," Jackman said. The software has a steep learning curve, which means SIG students will have an advantage in their own job searches. "Imagine already knowing this tool and being able to build portfolios from day one."

Jackman said the software "is making a real difference in students' academic experiences." He said, "If we can give students the tools and set them up to go beyond the assignment, that's when their interests take off. That's what will carry them wherever they want to go."

Whether that student is pursuing a bachelor's degree or an MBA, Baillie said, "The result is a graduate who can adapt to business in an evolving world." 



"I wasn't sure whether a full-time manager could handle going back to school at age 50, but it sparked something in me that I forgot was there.

"Now that I'm teaching, I want to be the best I can for my students. I know their sacrifices, and I appreciate what they're going through. I loved learning at NWU more than I've ever loved school. And that's something I want for every student."

**Gail Carlson** ('07 BSN, '10 MSN)

*vice president of patient care services / Alegent Creighton Health, Midlands Hospital  
NWU adjunct instructor in nursing / Omaha*

NEBRASKA  
WESLEYAN  
UNIVERSITY



# HELPING TEACHERS MAKE HISTORY

*Now is the time for history and social studies teachers to sign up for Nebraska Wesleyan's workshop:*

## Thinking and reading like a historian

This two-day workshop (June 16-17 or June 23-24) provides K-12 teachers with strategies for teaching, assessing and engaging students to read primary documents.

NWU also offers in-school workshops in teaching history and social studies.

To register and learn more, visit **HistoricalStudies.nebrwesleyan.edu** and click on the "Professional Development" button.



> *Contact us today.*

5000 Saint Paul Avenue  
Lincoln, NE 68504  
402.465.7539

**Adult Education.**  
wesleyanadvantage.com



NEBRASKA  
WESLEYAN  
UNIVERSITY



# ULTIMATE LIBERAL ARTS OCCUPATION: PARENT

Just about every interesting career field will tap your liberal arts skills. But which job demands the strongest liberal arts background of all?

Turns out it's not even close. Mom and Dad. Hands down.



Ashley (Morris) ('00) and Nathan ('00) Karges keep their heads above water in Columbus, Neb., with their twin sets of twins. Ian and Sofia are 7, and Vivienne and Samantha are 3.

Illustration by Melanie Falk

# High Score

Music composers play an elevating role in gamers' experiences.

—By Katrina Sieler ('15)

Mention video game music to people above 35 and they're likely to think first of simple bleeps and beeps, or the catchy tunes behind a bouncing Mario. And while everyone's aware of the leaps in technology that have propelled the video game industry from "Pong" to "Call of Duty: Ghosts," the leaps in video game music have been just as vast—but often unrecognized.

**Danny Layher** ('14) wants to change that. The senior from Springfield, Neb., dedicated his capstone research project to examining those musical leaps.

His project focused on three areas:

1. the historical progression of video game technology;
2. video game music in relation to film; and
3. applications of music in current games.

"When we were looking at topics for this project, [Assistant Professor of Music] **John Spilker** actually recommended it because no one [in Nebraska Wesleyan's Music Department] had ever done it before," Layher said. "I was skeptical at first because I didn't know how much information was out there."

Turns out, there's plenty. And when Layher came upon holes in scholarship on the subject, he turned to a definitive source

to help fill the gaps: French composer Olivier Deriviere. His credits include musical scores for popular video games including "Assassin's Creed IV," "Of Orcs and Men," Disney's "Tangled, the Video Game," "Alone in the Dark," and "Remember Me."

Layher's project focused particularly on "Remember Me," a 2013 dystopian action adventure game set in a future "Neo-Paris" where people are manipulated by remixing their memories. "I wanted a relatively new video game to look at because I wanted something that demonstrates the most recent developments of video game music," Layher said. As good fortune would have it, Layher also selected a game with an especially gifted—and

responsive—composer.

Layher reached out to Deriviere with some emailed questions. "I honestly didn't expect to hear back from him, but he emailed me that he would be happy to answer any questions. It was his idea to do the Skype interview."

Spilker was as thrilled about Deriviere's responsiveness as Layher was. "I think it's an exciting example of a student going above and beyond. Danny wants to be actively engaged and sees it not just as an assignment but as an experience here at Nebraska Wesleyan."

Layher's Lincoln-to-Paris interview lifted the veil on the professional and creative aspects of a project as large and involved as the "Remember Me" score.

## Professor Goes Dark to Shed Light on Big Data

Turn your phone  
OFF

DATA BLACKOUT in progress

Count Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science **O. William McClung** among those with reservations about "Big Data". "With recent news, we know that the information in our cell phone conversations, emails, and Yammer posts is not private," he said (in a post, ironically, found and pulled from the social media site Yammer). "It is grist for the NSA's mill." Understanding the implications of a society flush with shared (and taken) data, he said, is an interdisciplinary endeavor.

McClung said political scientists and sociologists "can help us understand privacy in the Information Society." Likewise, computer scientists shed light on how information is stored and transmitted. And mathematicians "can explain how number theory encrypts information." Biologists help us fathom the 3 billion-digit code of our DNA sequence.

Cognitive psychologists like **Frank Ferraro** are conducting research on how our society's information glutty affects cognition ["A River Thinks through It," spring 2013].

And artists like **Sarah Berkeley**, a visiting instructor of art at NWU, express what it means to be a human being moving in and out of this broth of digital information. Berkeley's art often features videos of what she calls "public interventions." Her work questions "cultural norms such as the 9-to-5 workday, the office environment, indoor living, gender stereotypes and the voluntary sharing of personal data."

In one video, "I Just Work Here: Episode 1," Berkeley wears formal office attire—heels, a black skirt and blouse—to a beach on Lake Michigan. Her "job": to move the sand to the lake and the lake to the sand, one uncomfortable mouthful at a time.





Photo courtesy: Popcap games website

Danny Layher's ('14) (left) research on music in video games led him to French composer Olivier Deriviere (center). His score for "Remember Me" is designed to connect gamers to Nilin (right), the game's central character.

"It took us a long time to figure out what the music should support—if it would be more the city or more the story or more the characters," Deriviere said in a "behind the music" video on his website, [olivierderiviere.com](http://olivierderiviere.com). "We wanted to do something a little bit softer because we wanted to be closer to Nilin [the game's central character] and her story and her emotions."

John Kurlander, the game's recording engineer, said,

"The orchestral score for this game is different because the whole thing is composed to be electronically manipulated with rhythmic elements in the electronic score." As Nilin's Paris glitches, so does the game's orchestral music. "And so it [creates] a unique and interesting sound that goes perfectly with the imagery of the game."

Deriviere said his collaborations with people like Kurlander and the game's art directors are

an integral part of his work on any game. "It inspired me so much in terms of the colors and pace—in terms of how the music would fit into this universe," he said. "All the ideas came from the game."

Music works within this universe of the game in much the same way as it does within the universe of a movie, heightening or lessening a feeling—be it fear or rage or love or loss—at the pace that the story or the game

demands. And in this overlap of music, emotion, story and gameplay, Layher recognizes a great opportunity. "I have always been concerned with how people who are involved in a classical sense of music can convey that to future generations," Layher said. "I feel that in understanding that, I can look at new ways to help engage younger generations in more classical music."

It's an excitement Deriviere shares. "Video games for me are the most interesting medium nowadays because we are looking for a language." Like the Neo-Paris in "Remember Me," that language promises to be both classic and new. **n**

(We pause here to let you get the taste of futility and Lake Michigan off your tongue.)

Berkeley chose November 29—Black Friday—for her latest intervention: Data Blackout. The event asked participants to "experiment with what life would be like without volunteering all of this information about ourselves." They were to do their best to transmit no traceable data—no cell phone, no internet, no key fobs, no debit or credit cards, no digital TV—for 24 hours. They could then share their experiences via the old-school social media platform, the postcard. She plans to use those postcards in an exhibition of some form.

She had no illusions about people's odds of success. One respondent said, "There is no way I could possibly function in 'data blackout' mode. Even the concept of a data blackout sends me into hyperventilation."

Another wrote, "I was a complete failure—didn't even make it through until morning."

"I did not do very well," Berkeley's colleague, Associate Professor of Art **David Gracie** admitted. "But I was very aware of not doing very well."

And in that awareness, Berkeley said, rests the whole point of her Data Blackout. It's not about seeing who can succeed so much as it is about coming away with a different understanding of our information needs and tendencies.

Berkeley was quick to point out that she is not a Luddite. "I've always been an early adopter. My dad bought us a Macintosh in 1985. My first job was as a web designer." And she's not arguing that people should cast their smart phones into the Missouri. "I just want us to be more conscious about the influences of technology," she said. "Most

technologies are designed to be faster and to make us more efficient. I'm just asking the question: Are we going fast enough yet?"

She pointed to the remaining places where we largely remain digitally untethered: some classrooms, places of worship, the shower, the gym or trails. "These can be sacred spaces," she said. "Not only that, they're places where lots of people say they get their best ideas." Places where we experience our clearest thinking. Could that be, in part, thanks to our making the effort to unplug?

"I find those analog moments important for me to maintain a well-rounded way of thinking," Berkeley said.

When we let go of the Big Data tether—even if we find the experience as appealing as a mouthful of Lake Michigan sand—we come away with a truer sense of our private and public selves. **n**

# LITTLE PROP OF HORRORS

Take an inside look at the workings of NWU Theatre's man-eating plant.

—By Katrina Sieler ('15)

Associate Professor of Theatre **Mike Reese** was delighted when he learned that Nebraska Wesleyan University Theatre received the rights to produce the hit horror rock musical, "Little Shop of Horrors". But the line in theatre between delight and anxiety is always thin. And Reese quickly confronted the question: How would they pull off the ravenous, bloodthirsty plant that grows dramatically over the course of the show?

Their answer helped make the musical, which ran February 6-16, a big success.

We asked Audrey II for a roots-up look at how she operates.



## 4 STATES OF AUDREY





# Hansen Succeeds Kloefkorn as State Poet

Governor Charles Thone named Professor of English **William Kloefkorn** Nebraska's state poet in 1982. That same year, **Twyla Hansen** began as Nebraska Wesleyan University's head groundskeeper. She arrived on campus with a bachelor's degree in horticulture from UNL and a nagging sense that something was missing from her college experience.

Nebraska Wesleyan employees could take classes for free, so she decided to study English and the humanities to round out her education in the sciences. "I had **Mary [Smith]** and **Nan [Graf]** and **Leon [Satterfield]**. They taught me so much." And, after Kloefkorn agreed to give a spontaneous poetry reading in Great Hall to honor his selection as state poet, Hansen thought she'd take his "Introduction to Poetry" class, too.

Hansen was starting from scratch as a poet. "I thought Bill would say, 'This is how you write a poem.' But of course he didn't work that way." He read several poems during that first session, then asked students to come to the next with one of their own. "I thought, 'Wait a minute. Where's the how-to?'"

She remembered staggering her way through a poem about her punchy relationship with her brother. "The poem was terrible, but I remember he singled out one line about my brother 'punching my arm silly.' And he told me there was something there in that line." That an arm—something with feeling, but without a mind—could be knocked silly—it was an idea that resonated with Kloefkorn. In that line, he saw the kind of play that poetry was made for.

From then on, Hansen was hooked. "It all began with Bill," she said.

Kloefkorn would remain Nebraska's state poet until his death in 2011. And on November 14, 2013, Governor Dave Heineman named Hansen his successor. "I hit the ceiling," she said. She described

the entire process as "incredibly humbling and validating." She said, "It's something to have all these people you respect say these embarrassingly nice things about you."

One of those people was **Mary Pipher**, the author of *The Middle of Everywhere* and *Reviving Ophelia*, and a former Nebraska Wesleyan professor. "I'm just crazy about Twyla," Pipher told the *Lincoln Journal Star*. "She is a Nebraska person. She knows the water and she knows the soil and she knows the plants and the animals. She knows our state."

Given all that, it's little surprise to find Hansen's poetry filled with buds, soil, straw and frost. In the foreword to one of her books, Kloefkorn wrote, "Twyla Hansen writes poetry that time and again emerges from experience whose taproots reach deeply and securely into the heart of the heartland."

Nebraska named John Neihardt its first state poet in 1921. Hansen is the first woman to hold the position. Hansen's post is for five years. We reprint, with the author's permission, a poem from her 1992 book, *How to Live in the Heartland*.


## When the Prairie Speaks

it whispers I'm wearing  
my purple dress, my red slip,  
now my golden wild underthings;  
oh, can you recall, how

on that autumn afternoon in a  
slant of sun, the breeze called  
you out of that stone life, how  
you and your love took flight,  
skyward like startled pheasants;

it says I'm the distant hillside,  
patient, waiting for you,  
discovery in every season;  
laid out, it whispers I'm yours;  
be listening.

ñ



Twyla Hansen delivers the inaugural William C. Kloefkorn Nebraska Writers Series presentation on April 15 at 7 p.m. in the Smith-Curtis Building's Callen Conference Center. It will be webcast at [nebrwesleyan.edu](http://nebrwesleyan.edu).



# NWU's Monuments Man

One alumnus's wartime service restores what war takes away.

—By Kristy Sorensen ('99)

The Nebraska Wesleyan community and George Clooney have more in common than natural beauty and stunning charm. Both also share a special regard for **Jesse E. Boell** ('25) and the roughly 350 other members of



Jesse Boell worked to preserve an archive of Nazi records tucked away in a vast German salt mine like this one.

▼ After the war, Boell worked as an archivist for the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



the World War II-era Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives (MFAA) program. Boell—a World War I veteran, NWU economics and sociology major, Phi Kappa Tau brother, and lone senior on the NWU basketball team—had already launched a promising career as an archivist when the MFAA's "Monuments Men" came calling.

Boell joined the unusual Allied effort to protect cultural treasures from destruction. More than half a century later, Clooney would grow to appreciate this unlikely group of art historians and scholars. Movie producers don't normally throw money at projects about museum directors, but Clooney was determined to use his celebrity to see that their story be told. And his star-filled film, "The Monuments Men," was born.

The MFAA worked to protect, recover and return cultural property during and after the war. While the program originally focused on monuments and fine art, others also argued for the

preservation of archival records in the war zone. They won Franklin Roosevelt's support in 1944, and archivists joined the Monuments Men.

Boell was a wise addition to this team. He'd already served in the First World War and had worked in Wisconsin as the state director of the historical records survey. He'd also spent four years in Washington, D.C., with the National Archives.

The veteran returned to active duty in northern Germany. His mission: to extract, preserve and repatriate archival documents the Nazis had stowed in abandoned salt mines. The assignment took advantage of Boell's knowledge of archival records and their preservation. As J. Frank Cook, an archivist who worked with (and later succeeded) Boell at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, remembers, "He told me that at first they tried to bring the records 'as is' to the surface, but the humid air coming into contact with the salt dust on the documents





Photo courtesy University of Wisconsin-Madison



Photo courtesy Sony Pictures

◀ Telling the Monuments Men’s story became a personal mission for George Clooney, who both acted in and directed the film.



Photo courtesy National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD

General Dwight Eisenhower didn’t visit the mines purely to appreciate the recovered art (below left). He was also interested in the captured Nazi gold worth about \$5 billion in today’s dollars (below). ▼



Photo courtesy National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD

(probably caused by marching men, equipment, etc., down in the mine) caused the papers to shrivel, and they had to clean the documents down in the mine.”

Boell’s work in preserving these records was in many ways war’s opposite. Instead of destruction, he offered restoration. Instead of theft, return. In place of erasing, retracing. After the war, Boell returned to Wisconsin and became the first state archivist for the Wisconsin State Historical Society. He later served as a professor and archivist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He retired in 1970 and died in 1991—three years before “ER,” the TV drama that would launch Clooney’s career, debuted.

Clooney’s “The Monuments Men” focuses more on the cinema-friendly fine art than the less photogenic archival records. Still, the importance of this unusual force of men and women who served both their country and our international

cultural heritage comes through.

Boell left a legacy of collecting, preserving and providing access to records in Wisconsin, Washington, D.C., and Germany. His work reveals the importance of archives beyond the historical curiosity of “old stuff.” Instead, the archivists in the MFAA risked their lives to protect and preserve historically valuable documents for future generations. We find—even in seemingly mundane stacks of Nazi paperwork—remnants of both the victim and the perpetrator. We find evidence of how they lived and how they met their ends. And we maintain a needed thread in our collective memory.

We don’t have to travel to Germany in the 1940s to see the value of archives. **Barbara Cornelius**, NWU’s archivist and associate professor of library science, ties Boell’s service to NWU’s mission. “Archival materials are historical documents, even if we can’t know exactly how future researchers will use

what we preserve,” she said. “In this way, Nebraska Wesleyan’s archives tell the story of a local community, as well as the story of our state and nation. Archives aren’t just dusty, old documents. They are pragmatic tools.”

By war’s end, a devastated Europe needed every pragmatic tool in reach. They repaired bridges, roadways and ports. They extracted landmines and planted seeds in their place. They rebuilt homes and factories. They made art again. In all of this work, it’s easy to overlook that they also kept a record. There’s an irony in forgetting the value of memory. But the archive is our collective memory—filled with the things we must remain willing, through work, to preserve and protect.

That work rarely makes movies. But without it, what stories would movies tell? **n**

## Support an archive near you.

Nebraska Wesleyan’s William C. Kloefkorn Archive houses the late poet’s wealth of books, papers and personal treasures. NWU is raising \$25,000 for things like archival folders, furnishings and student intern salaries. You can help preserve Kloefkorn’s legacy. Contact Mary Hawk at [mhawk@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:mhawk@nebrwesleyan.edu) or 402.465.2139 to make a gift.





## Benediction

By **Kent Haruf** ('65)

258 pages | Knopf | \$26

—Reviewed by Eric Wendt ('99)

Alumni and fans of taut fiction will be happy to find the new novel by **Kent Haruf**, Nebraska Wesleyan's most acclaimed living writer. Happier still when they see that *Benediction* takes them on a return trip to Haruf's familiar fictional town of Holt on Colorado's high plains.

But as you enter Holt via the cracked highway and turn down Main Street, try and keep your reader's glee in check. A grin in Holt can out you as a tourist. Happiness isn't a Holt specialty.

Dad Lewis, the owner of the hardware store on Main Street, is dying of cancer. And throughout the book-length course of his unraveling, we meet exiles of every stripe—each of them unhappy in his or her own way.

There's Dad's son, Frank, exiled from home over his homosexual-

ity. There's Rev. Lyle, exiled to Holt "for supporting some other preacher who came out homosexual in Denver." (He's soon to be exiled again over an antiwar sermon.) And there's Clayton, the hardware clerk whom Dad runs off for stealing.

Then there're the merely isolated, like Alene and Willa Johnson. Daughter and mother live together outside Holt, isolated by sandhills, adultery and widowhood.

*There is happiness  
in giving, in helping,  
in teaching.  
In setting  
someone free.*

Happiness—like curling or entomology—just isn't a subject most Holt residents feel qualified talking about. An acquaintance calls Dad's wife to say she believed she saw her estranged son at the airport. "Did he look okay?"

"Frank? Yes, I think he looked okay.

"I mean, did my son look happy?"

"Oh. I wouldn't be able to say about that."

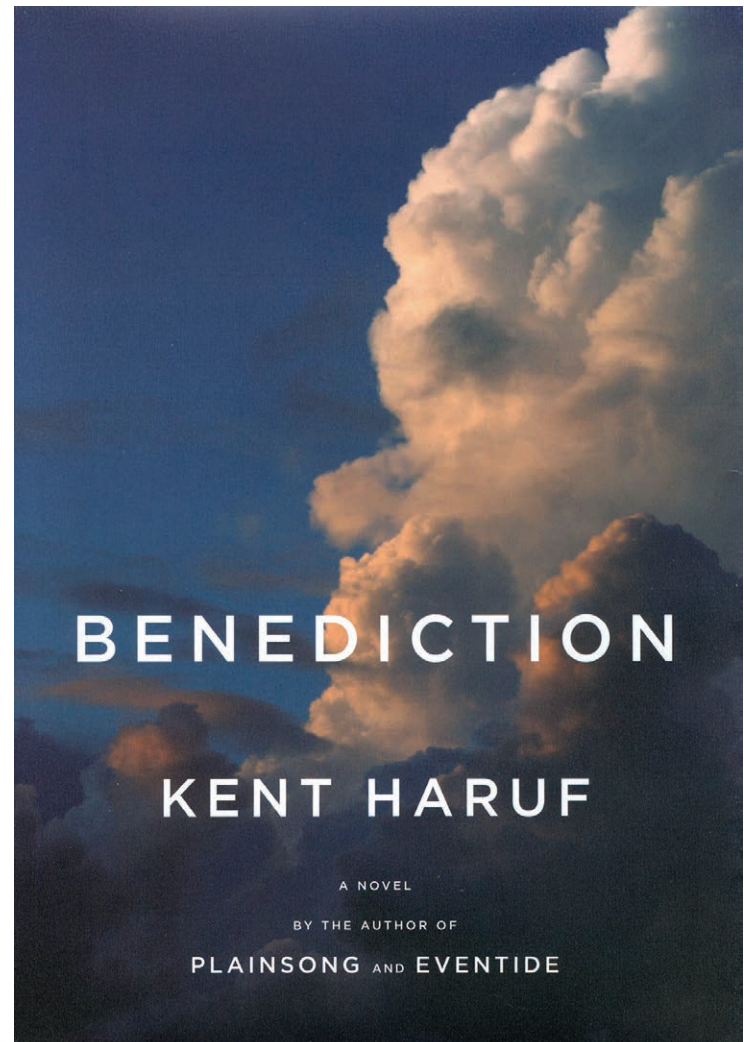
Later, when Willa tries to cheer up her lonely daughter, her consolation is sour. "Everything gets better.

"How?"

"You forget after a while. You start paying attention to your aches and pains. You think about a hip replacement. Your eyes fail you. You start thinking about death. You live more narrowly. You stop thinking about next month. You hope you don't have to linger." (Moms always know just what to say...)

If happiness were bike riding, the residents of Holt would require a lot of training wheels. Enter Alice, a 9-year-old orphan who lives with her grandma next door to Dad.

In reaching out to Alice, the women of Holt find themselves




stumbling toward happiness. They shower her with gifts, and Alice is reluctant to play along. "But Grandma, I don't need new clothes.

"Yes, but they need to give you some. It's for them.... It's all right for you to receive this." And when they hit upon a bicycle for Alice, and as they teach her to ride it, they touch on something true. There is happiness in giving, in helping, in teaching. In setting someone free.

They touch on it again when Alice's bike lesson turns into a swimming lesson of sorts. Alice, two middle-aged women and an elderly mother go skinny-dipping in a mossy stock tank. The cattle stand off, watching as the women splash and curse and laugh. They teach Alice to float. "Now just breathe. And spread your arms out.

"When she began to sink they lifted her up."

It is, if not a lesson in happiness, at least a demonstration. And we, happy tourists watching with the cows from the tall grass, are all smiles.

There is a similar sinking, a similar lifting up, as these same women help Dad die. His death doesn't invoke happiness. But with it comes, as Haruf's title and epigraph suggest, "an invocation of blessedness." 



# FIGHTING THE SWAMP THING

WE CAN IMPROVE  
WATER QUALITY WITH  
SMART SCIENCE AND  
NATIVE PLANTS.



Photo by Lane Hickenbottom

Older folks in Minneapolis’s Powderhorn Park Neighborhood have fond memories of swimming in Powderhorn Lake. But they’re only memories. The lake’s been no good for swimming for many years.

The reasons why aren’t sinister. There was no huge oil spill at Powderhorn Lake. No evil plot by some nearby chemical plant to dump waste there. But, over the years, Powderhorn Lake—and tens of thousands of urban lakes just like it—has become less and less popular with swimmers, and more and more popular with algae.

Today, Powderhorn Lake isn’t some toxic witch’s brew. It’s just kind of scummy and nasty. Why?

It’s a question Mark Pedelty, a fellow at the University of Minnesota’s Institute on the Environment, examined in his documentary, “A Neighborhood of

Raingardens”. Pedelty showed how each resident within the watershed plays a small part in the lake’s health through what they put on—and what they allow to run off—their lawns.

“Detritus and fertilizer cause algae to thrive well beyond natural levels,” Pedelty said, “choking out other life, not to mention making our lakes much less pleasant places to swim and fish.”

The algae collect into a kind of green swamp thing growing fat on the steady flow of fertilizer and rotting matter. Powderhorn Park residents realized that to beat the swamp thing, they had to quit feeding it.

So they organized to install more than 150 rain gardens in their yards—“rain gardens that will capture storm water, allowing it to percolate into the soil where some of it will be taken up by roots of native plants,”



Stormwater on Nancy Packard's property flows to the north and east. Her front yard's rain garden captures water headed north. The flow to the east winds up here, in Sheridan Elementary's rain garden next door.



Professor of Biology **Dale Benham** said the documentary “spurred me into action. I’ve always been curious about rain gardens, and somewhat knowledgeable about their function.” The film led him to gather more information and make plans to install one in his home.

## GOOD TO THE LAST DROP

In planning their rain garden, the Benhams could do well to learn from Lincoln resident Nancy Packard. Good design and landscaping decisions at her home in south Lincoln have reduced her water demands and runoff.

- A. Half of Nancy's roof feeds to this downspout, which, in turn, feeds a rain garden running most of her yard's length.
- B. Nancy chose native plants because they're acclimated to Nebraska's climate, dry spells, pests and storms.
- C. Keenan Amundsen, a turfgrass geneticist at UNL, said the buffalograss in Nancy's yard requires just an inch of water per month. Other common turfgrasses like Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue require four to six times the water.
- D. Nancy wants storm water to hit the soil, not the street. A strip of brick down the center of her driveway makes it a permeable surface.
- E. Thick mulch reduces the water needs of these young trees.

Pedely said. “Some will filter down into the local aquifer. And, if all goes as planned, much less storm water will end up running off the residents' lawns, and down driveways, streets, drains and pipes that discharge their load into Powderhorn Lake.”

The water remains in the watershed. Even if there were rain gardens in every lawn, Powderhorn Lake wouldn't run dry. But water that once gushed to the lake inside of 20 minutes during a hard rain would instead take 20 hours, and would arrive filtered of the organic matter the algae crave.

In feeding their rain gardens, residents hope to starve the swamp thing.









## WHERE DOES NEBRASKA WESLEYAN'S WATER WIND UP?

Of course, Nebraska Wesleyan's campus doesn't feed Minnesota's Powderhorn Lake. To understand Nebraska Wesleyan's watershed, let's pull on our galoshes and follow a single raindrop striking the precise center of campus. Nebraska Wesleyan's center lies on the Roy G. Story Student Center parking lot near Taylor Commons, where NWU holds commencement. (Today is not commencement day. Rain isn't allowed on commencement day.)

Our raindrop pools and begins rolling west over the wet pavement, picking up some leaked oil and a little nitrogen fertilizer in the process. It trickles around the southeast corner of the heating plant and runs toward Old Main, wanting nothing more than to flood its quiet basement. But a berm and a narrow sluice have other plans.

The sluice guides our raindrop (and millions of its siblings) on a gentle bend around Old Main. Picking up speed, it ducks under two sidewalks and flows past the **Mary Smith** Memorial Garden with its purple hydrangea and pink granite obelisk—a gift from the class of 1907.

From there, the sluice spills our dingy raindrop onto another parking lot, where it picks up a little more oil, a little more nitrogen, before gushing down a 50th Street storm drain. (Watch your head. And pardon the smell.)

We next see the light of our rainy day on the other side of 48th Street in a ditch running along Leighton Avenue. Careful down this bank. Our coffee-colored raindrop has now joined the slimy Dead Man's Run.

From here our raindrop's course, though winding, is straightforward. Dead Man's Run runs into Salt Creek near 27th and Cornhusker. Salt Creek to the Platte River at Ashland. The Platte to the Missouri at the aptly named Plattsmouth. Missouri to the Mississippi,



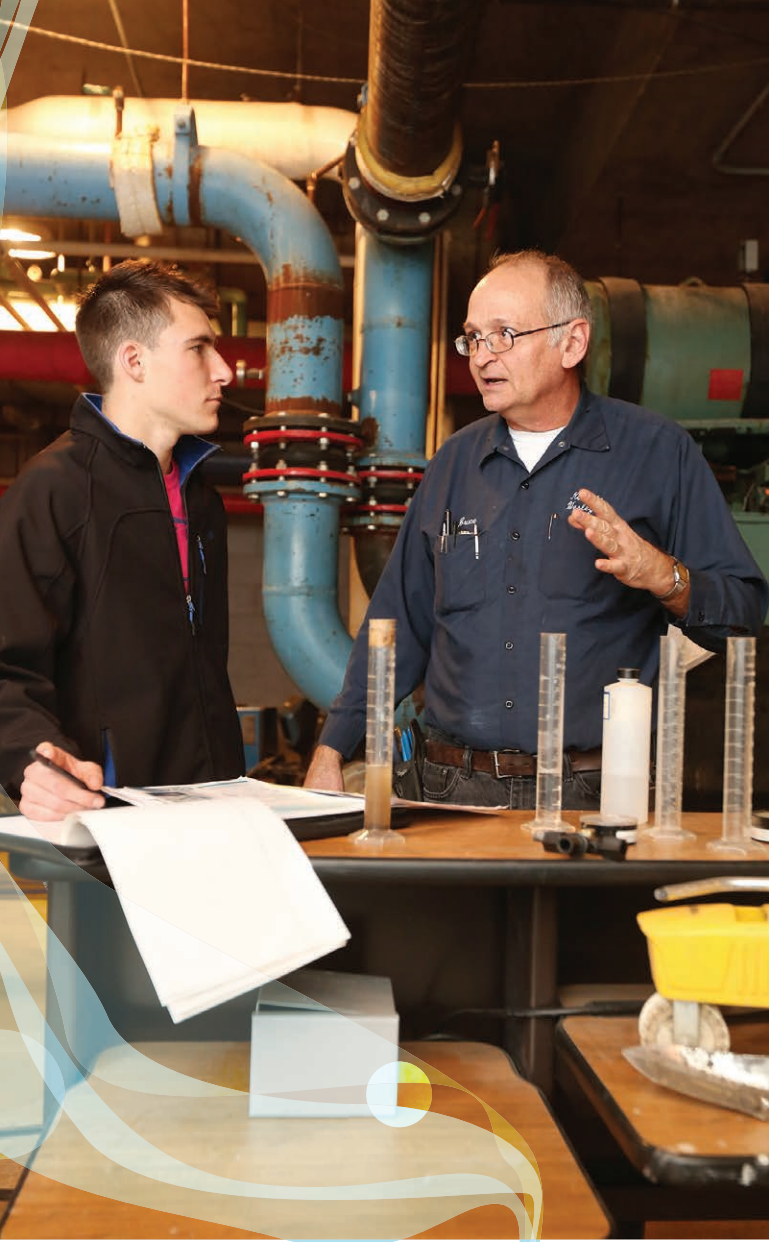
where our muddy drop mixes with the runoff from Powderhorn Lake and a million other places. Then onward to the Gulf of Mexico, where the nitrogen from Dead Man's Run adds a bit more death to the oxygen-depleted dead zone at the Mississippi's dirty mouth.

Could we do something about that?

The community effort around Powderhorn Lake suggests we could. What if that curving sluice—the one that protects Old Main—made a tiny change in course? What if, instead of emptying into a 50th Street storm drain, it hung a right to meet Mary Smith's garden? Or what if it simply stopped a few yards short of the lot at 50th Street and fed a new rain garden?

Instead of feeding Dead Man's Run on its way to Louisiana's dead zone, the rain would feed a living garden. Instead of dirty water entering the gulf, clean water—filtered by plants and the soil—would enter the Ogallala Aquifer. The impact of such a change would be small and difficult to measure. But it would be real. We'd be feeding flowers—and starving the swamp thing.





## TURNING “WATER DOWN THE DRAIN” INTO “MONEY IN THE BANK”

**Bruce Thummel** ('06) is the HVAC technician serving Olin Hall. He knows the ins and outs of Olin's heating and cooling systems better than anyone. And one of the cooling system's "outs" has always bothered him: namely, the thousands of gallons of water it poured down the drain all summer long.

Smith-Curtis and Olin Hall share a cooling system that pumps water in a loop between a chiller and a cooling tower. The system uses evaporative cooling—just like our bodies do. When our sweat evaporates, it draws heat away from our bodies. As the water in the cooling tower evaporates, the salts and minerals remain—just like the salt on your face after a good workout.

“So the mineral content in the remaining water increases. That's hard on the chiller,” Thummel said, “so you have to treat it and eventually get rid of it. On a really hot day, the chiller will throw off about 2,000 gallons,” he said.

The 2012 drought killed much of the grass near Olin. Thummel wondered whether the discarded water from the cooling tower could be used to irrigate that area in the hottest, driest months. Would the mineral content in the water be too high to sustain grass?

He found articles that said such systems worked fine. Others said it would only kill your lawn. And others came in between, saying the water could be used so long as it was properly diluted. “But nothing I read was academic,” he said.

What do you do when you're in Olin Hall of Science and can't find a scientific study? You build one.

Thummel turned to his faculty colleagues, looking for a student to help run a study for credit on the impact this irrigation system would have on soil.

Professor of Physics **Bob Fairchild** connected Thummel with **Brock Taute**, a junior physics major from Bertrand, Neb.

They took initial soil samples to establish a baseline, and then more throughout a summer of watering. They followed up in the fall and winter to determine how the rain and snow naturally deplete the mineral buildup after a summer's watering.

“We'll probably need a year or two to get the data we need to make an informed decision,” Thummel said. He said multiyear data are necessary because if the mineral levels don't deplete over the fall, winter and spring at the necessary rate, they could have a scenario where the system seems to work well for a few years only to have the mineral content slowly accumulate to unwanted levels. So they're being patient.

If their study shows it's feasible, the system could then be replicated in the Rogers Center for the Fine Arts. “I'm guessing we could get half the water needs for the west half of campus from these systems,” Thummel said. The end result could be greener grass all over campus and lower water bills. **n**





# The Seven-foot Feat

**Kurt Nielsen** ('75) established NWU's 7' Club in 1973. In the 40 years since, he's become an NCAA DIII national champion, an NWU jumps coach, and a three-time Central Region Assistant Coach of the Year. But in all that time, only one jumper,

**Brandon Schroer** ('98), has joined him in the 7' Club.

**Tommie Bardsley** ('14) is determined to jump there. The senior from Beatrice, Neb. has the potential to do it. **Tamra (Trehearn) Llewellyn** ('06),

a kinesiologist and professor of health and human performance, walks us through a seven-foot leap.

Bardsley bounds his way into a 10-step approach. Leaning forward, his first steps are all about building speed. "Approach speed translates to vertical velocity."

By step 5, Bardsley is upright. He begins his J-curve and actually leans away from the bar.

At his penultimate step, Bardsley is moving 18 miles per hour—fast enough to get pulled over in some school zones.

On his 10th step, Bardsley throws 1,000 lbs of force into the ground. The ground sends it right back at him as he lifts off.

## WINTER SPORT SUMMARY



### Men's basketball

NWU achieved its highest wins total in 13 years, earning a #5 bid in the GPAC tournament and finishing 15-11.

Senior Jonah Bradley led the team in steals with 38.

Summary photos by Chris Smithberg / double6photography

### Women's basketball

A sour season ended sweetly at home as NWU defeated Doane by 1 to finish 2-23.

Bridget Bucher led NWU in rebounds and earned All-GPAC honors in her first season with the Prairie Wolves.





Once he's off the ground, his center of mass will follow a set parabola. He's now powerless to alter that path. But he can control his body's position in relation to it. His center of mass will pass under the bar, but quick motions can arch his back, hips and legs over it.



Tommie Bardsley's 6'10" leap took third at the NCAA Division III Indoor National Championship. He takes his quest for 7' into the outdoor season.



### Indoor track and field

NWU track and field took center stage in March, hosting the NCAA Division III championships where six Prairie Wolves qualified. Junior Brock Taute took the NCAA Elite 89 Award for holding the highest GPA of any male competitor there.

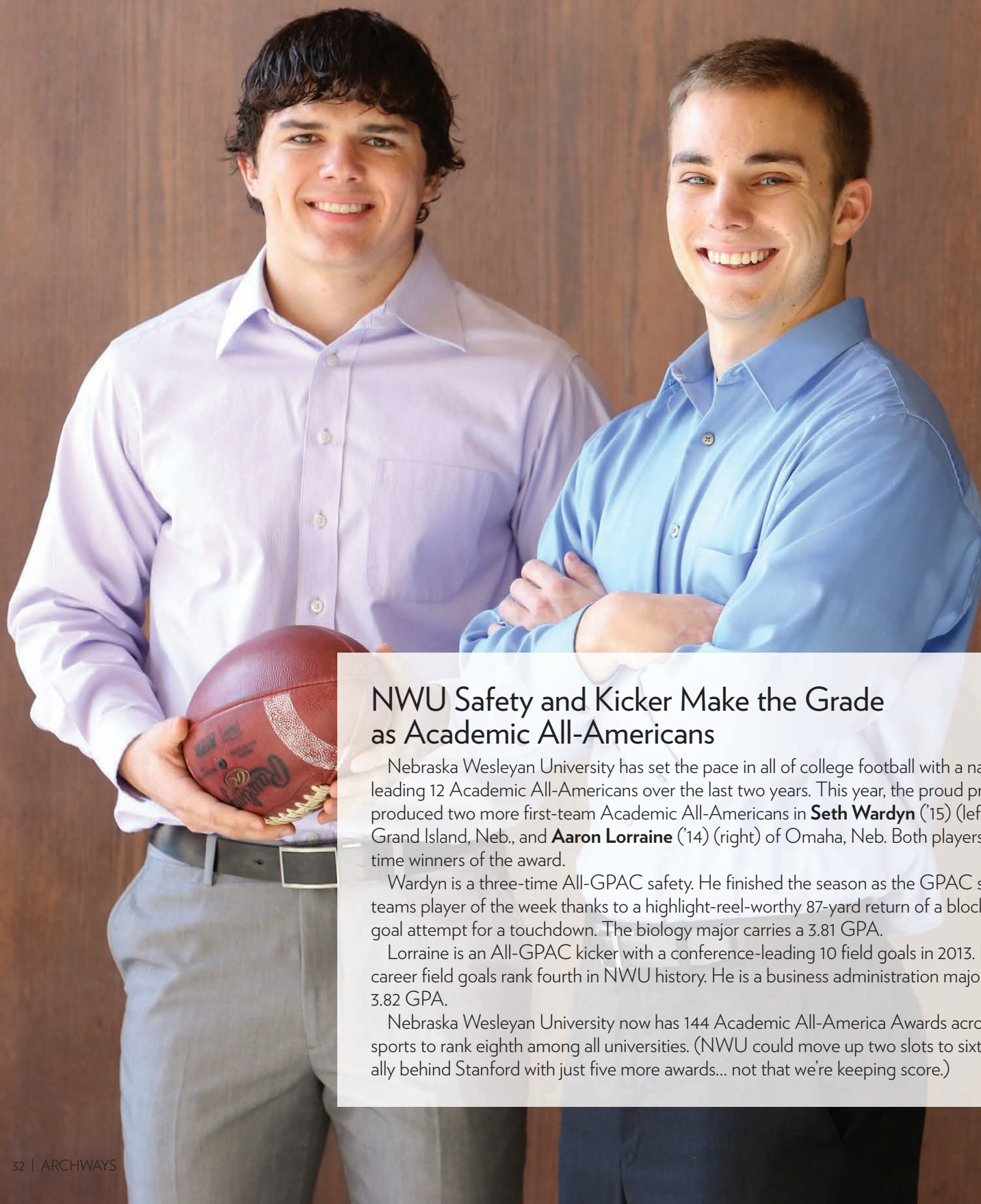
Ashton Steckelberg is a GPAC champion in the 60 meter hurdles.





# Student Pride

Prestige scholars and awards



## NWU Safety and Kicker Make the Grade as Academic All-Americans

Nebraska Wesleyan University has set the pace in all of college football with a nation-leading 12 Academic All-Americans over the last two years. This year, the proud program produced two more first-team Academic All-Americans in **Seth Wardyn** ('15) (left) of Grand Island, Neb., and **Aaron Lorraine** ('14) (right) of Omaha, Neb. Both players are two-time winners of the award.

Wardyn is a three-time All-GPAC safety. He finished the season as the GPAC special teams player of the week thanks to a highlight-reel-worthy 87-yard return of a blocked field goal attempt for a touchdown. The biology major carries a 3.81 GPA.

Lorraine is an All-GPAC kicker with a conference-leading 10 field goals in 2013. His 22 career field goals rank fourth in NWU history. He is a business administration major with a 3.82 GPA.

Nebraska Wesleyan University now has 144 Academic All-America Awards across all sports to rank eighth among all universities. (NWU could move up two slots to sixth nationally behind Stanford with just five more awards... not that we're keeping score.)





# ALUMNI PAGES



Your contact for alumni events,  
directory updates and more.

## Shelley McHugh ('91)

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

Update your contact information, professional  
details and more in our alumni directory at  
[alumni.nebrwesleyan.edu](http://alumni.nebrwesleyan.edu)

## MYSTERY PHOTO

### Jumping back in

As NWU gets set to launch new swim teams this year, we looked back at the history of swimming at NWU.

How many of these NWU swimmers, known then as the "Unsinkable Mollys," can you name?

#### Send your responses to:

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



## MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED



### Who ordered pizza?

In a case of “Oh, I’m sure plenty of other people will take care of this,” we received exactly zero responses to our winter Mystery Photo.

Come on, people. Speak up!

#### Send your responses to:

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

## University Place Just Got a Little Less Tastee

The NWU community says goodbye to a Lincoln icon.

University Place lost an iconic eatery in January. Alumni from the 1950s onward have fond memories of Tastee Inn & Out, the lowbrow, no-collar drive-through that served loose beef sandwiches and onion chips by the bucket.

Low sales and expensive repairs spelled the end for Tastee’s. But low sales were no problem in its last days. Word spread quickly. The queue of nostalgic patrons was long enough to snarl traffic on North 48th.

Did you miss your opportunity? Rumor is that Randy’s Grill & Chill at 49th and Holdrege has the recipe. (No word on if they taste the same without that cool sign outside, which, by the way, is for sale.)

We’re ordering an extra helping of your best Tastee Inn & Out memories at [ewendt@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:ewendt@nebrwesleyan.edu). We’ll serve up the best ones in our next issue.



Photo by Jennifer Heywood ('15)



Tastee's in 1965



# Alumni News



## Nation's Oldest Local Sorority Turns 125

On the heels of Nebraska Wesleyan University's quasiquicentennial comes Willard Sorority's 125th anniversary. To mark the occasion, the sorority is holding its "Willard Weekend" April 26 and 27.

The public is invited to an open house celebration that Saturday with reunion gatherings for each decade of Willard alumnae from the 1950s to 2013 graduates. The annual Willard alumnae luncheon follows on Sunday at the Cornhusker Hotel.

For more information, contact Judy (Bowmaster) Krueger ('72) at 402.423.0779 or [judykrueg@aol.com](mailto:judykrueg@aol.com).





# Mirror Mirror



## Alumna psychologist asks, “Would you talk to a friend the way you talk to the person in the mirror?”

“Is anyone here a swimsuit model?” asked Lincoln psychologist **Lindsay Salem** ('97). No one in the crowded Olin Lecture Hall raised a hand. “How many of you have been asked to ‘pull a Situation’ and flash your six-pack abs at a dinner party?” Again, silence.

The average runway model is an underweight 15-year-old, she said. And the average body builder in those six-pack photos is severely dehydrated when the shutter clicks. Why then, Salem asked, do we put so much pressure on ourselves to have their bodies in place of our own?

A 2013 survey by the President’s Commission on Women’s Issues revealed body image as a significant concern among NWU students. That survey prompted NWU to invite Salem to speak on the issue.

The survey’s results didn’t surprise Salem, whose practice specializes in eating disorders and depression. She said between 80 and 90 percent of women and girls report they dislike their bodies. “Nine-year-olds are thinking about this.” Even preschoolers, she said, are expressing a negative body image. “Preschoolers shouldn’t be dealing with this stuff,” she said. “They should be thinking about sharing and the alphabet.”

Our culture’s obsession with physical perfection strikes Salem, at best, as a huge waste of time. “I’ve yet to meet anyone near the end of their lives who says, ‘Wow, I’m so glad I spent so much time worrying about the shape of my... whatever.’”

For millions, it’s more than a waste of time. It’s

a detriment to their self-esteem. And, for some, that obsession leads to deadly eating disorders. “Eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of any mental illness,” Salem said. Higher than manic depression. Higher than schizophrenia. People with anorexia, Salem said, are 50 times more likely than the general population to complete a suicide attempt. “They are driven, and their pain tolerance is high.”

While the vast majority of Salem’s patients with eating disorders are female, she acknowledged that the number of men and boys with the kinds of body-image problems that lead to disordered behavior is growing. The message Salem sees again and again in magazines like *Men’s Health* is: “If you work hard enough, eat clean enough, you can look like someone else.”

How about striving to be an active, healthy, comfortable you?

That’s not the message Salem finds in fashion and fitness magazines, but it is the one she found at Nebraska Wesleyan. “I remember [Professor of Psychology] **Cliff Fawl** telling us, ‘Looks fade. Athletic abilities fade. You have to find your intrinsic value in other parts of yourself.’” **n**





## *Am I the healthiest of them all?*

Psychologist Lindsay Salem urges you to see weight as just one component of your overall health.

- ▶ **What's your activity level?** Are you regularly doing things that get your heart pumping and bring you enjoyment?
- ▶ **How's your cardiovascular health?** It's possible to be overweight and have a healthy cardiovascular system. How's your blood pressure and cholesterol?
- ▶ **Are you getting the nutrition you need?** "It takes about 1,500 calories just to sit here and take notes," Salem told her audience. "Lots of diets have people on less than that for weeks and weeks. That's not good."
- ▶ **Does your weight fluctuate?** The goal is to maintain a healthy weight range without eating disorder behaviors.
- ▶ **How do you feel?** Stress is toxic stuff. Are you doing things that make you happy? Are you comfortable in your own skin?



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[nebrwesleyan.edu/give-nwu/planned-giving](http://nebrwesleyan.edu/give-nwu/planned-giving)



# NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT SPRING CALENDAR 2014

### APRIL

- › 11 - Opera *Lakmé* by Léo Delibes
- › 12 - Cantare da Camera Festival Concert
- › 13 - Opera *Lakmé* by Léo Delibes
- › 23 - Faculty Brass Concert
- › 25 - Touch of Class Jazz Choir
- › 28 - Percussion Ensemble Concert and Woodwinds Ensemble Concert
- › 30 - Jazz Ensemble Concert

### MAY

- › 2 - Chamber Singers and Berthena Janssen Recorder Consort Concert
- › 4 - University Choir Concert
- › 6 - Women/Men/Jazz Choir Concert
- › 7 - Brass Ensemble Concert
- › 11 - Symphonic Band Concert

### JUNE

- › 3-5 - Solo Singers Workshop
- › 8-13 - Children's Choir Camp

For times and locations, visit [nebrwesleyan.edu/press-and-media/calendar](http://nebrwesleyan.edu/press-and-media/calendar)