

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

# ARCHWAYS

TAKE SHAPE | SUMMER 2014 | VOLUME 14, ISSUE 2



## Everyone's **ARCHITECT**

The professor behind this 1893 drawing  
changed the space for American worship.

SOUTH ELEVATION  
PLYMOUTH CHURCH



## FROM THE PRESIDENT



*The students of Nebraska Wesleyan ... challenge the rest of us who care deeply about Nebraska Wesleyan to do the right thing.*

### Dear Alumni and Friends,

Spring of 2014 was a splendid season at Nebraska Wesleyan University that showcased our students actively engaged in creating and developing their own learning.

On the evening of March 6 and the morning of March 7, the sixth annual Business Summit took place. It brings chief executives and other high-ranking officers of businesses to campus for panels about building successful and purposeful careers. Students from the Department of Business, Accounting and Economics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) organized and moderated the panels. Nearly 40 business leaders, about half of them alumni, brought their experiences to campus, for which we're grateful.

At the Business Summit culminating luncheon, our special guest, Professor Emerita of Business Administration **LaVerne Rudell**, was much surprised by the announcement of an endowed scholarship fund her former students established in her honor. We're grateful for such generosity, too.

On May 7 for the third consecutive year, the Nebraska Wesleyan University Student Symposium Celebrating Research and Creative Endeavor took place. What a wonderful expression it was of Nebraska Wesleyan's core values! Much on display were our commitments to community, the liberal arts, excellence and, most of all, personal attention to students. More than 250 students from CLAS and University College participated.

This spring, two seniors and one recent graduate challenged the campus community to work harder on the fulfillment of our core value of diversity. **Carol Ready** ('14) and **Cathryn "Cathy" Reed** ('13) convened a new session in an ongoing, student-driven series of race dialogues. **Leron West** ('14) organized posters in prominent campus locations on the theme, I TOO AM NWU, drawing attention to hurtful words African-American students hear about themselves from other students.

All three of these students have taken part in the Nebraska Wesleyan emphasis on global engagement. Leron studied in Botswana, Carol in Spain, and Cathy in Italy. Both Leron and Carol won U. S. Department of State Gilman Scholarships to support their study abroad.

And what about the sixth Nebraska Wesleyan core value, stewardship? It was on glorious display at commencement on May 17 with the announcement of contributions this year to the Archway Fund by a whopping 60 percent of the CLAS graduating class. How grateful we are to these newest alumni.

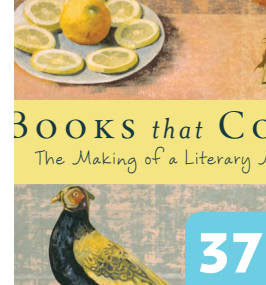
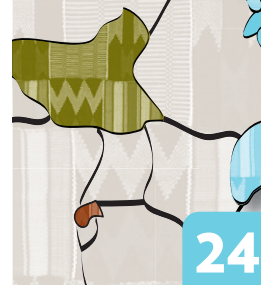
In all of these ways, the students of Nebraska Wesleyan not only show their active engagement in the learning process, but challenge the rest of us who care deeply about Nebraska Wesleyan to do the right thing. My thanks to the many of you who keep involved and show that you care, as advocates, volunteers and contributors to this fine institution.

Yours truly,

—Fred Ohles  
President

### NWU Core Values

- ▶ *Excellence*
- ▶ *Liberal arts*
- ▶ *Personal attention to students*
- ▶ *Diversity*
- ▶ *Community*
- ▶ *Stewardship*



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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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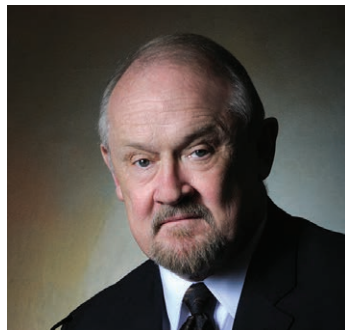
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### Robert Bartle ('72), "A Lifetime of Service" ▶39

Robert is a partner at Bartle & Geier Law Firm in Lincoln and is co-chair of the President's Board of Advisors at NWU. He writes about Judge Warren Urbom's ('50) stellar career. Robert first met Judge Urbom, not in a courtroom, but on campus where Robert was editor of the student newspaper. Robert had a complaint, and Judge Urbom—then a member of the Board of Governors—had a listening ear. His warm openness helped inspire Robert to study law.



### Mike Malloy, "A Talent for Talent" ▶30

Mike is a transplanted Iowan living in Lincoln. He has worked in newspapers the past 14 years—mostly with *The Des Moines Register*—covering sports, politics and crime. He lives with his wife, Assistant Professor of Library Science Martha Tanner.

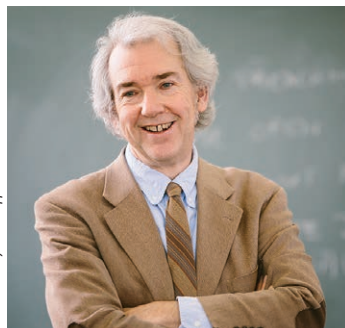


Photo by Geoff Johnson

### Scott Stanfield, "Double Lives" ▶19

Scott is professor of English at NWU. He interviewed two double majors about the overlap between the sciences and the humanities. Scott plays guitar and sings in the faculty/staff band, "Release Time".



### Ed Zimmer, "Everyone's Architect" ▶15

Ed is the historic preservation planner for the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department. He has long recognized the special mark A. W. Woods left on Lincoln and beyond. His personal lectures and research on the buildings Woods designed played an integral part in our cover story's development.

### Hayley Sutter ('12), "Good Runners, Better People" ▶28

Hayley works at the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center. While at NWU, she majored in political science and history; studied in Ghana, Thailand and Cambodia; participated in the Capitol Hill Internship Program; earned four letters on the track & field and cross country teams and was named an Academic All-American. She has since won multiple road races with LRC Racing, including the 2013 Kansas City Half Marathon.





# Letters

## Host Like a Champion Today

When Nebraska Wesleyan University was awarded the bid to host the 2014 NCAA Division III Indoor Track & Field Championship in March, our sole objective was to provide a first class championship experience for the student-athletes and coaches who were here from around the country. I am very happy and proud to say that we accomplished that goal. Congratulations, positive comments and thank yous came in from all around the country. We even heard the phrase, "best NCAA Indoor Championship ever" more than once.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who had a hand in this huge undertaking.

First of all, it is hard to express in words how instrumental Assistant Athletic Director **Jo Bunstock** ('97) and Athletic Director

**Ira Zeff** were in the planning and the administration of the event. Simply put, it does not happen without their incredible work.

Secondly, I want to express my gratitude to every member of the Nebraska Wesleyan community who had a part in helping with the championship.

It made me proud to see how the Nebraska Wesleyan community came together to create something special. There was a moment on that Saturday afternoon that made me stop

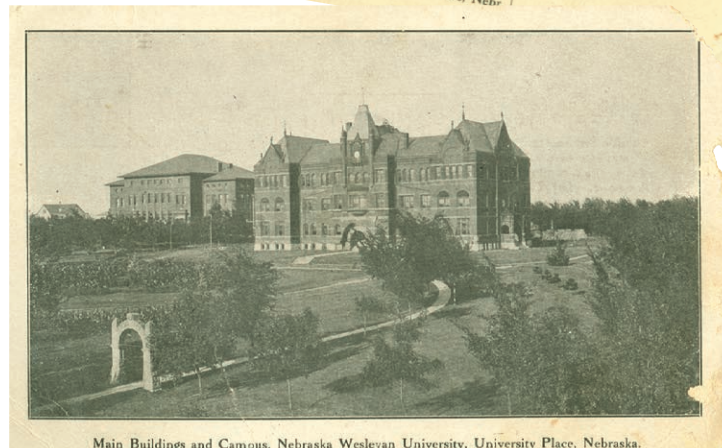
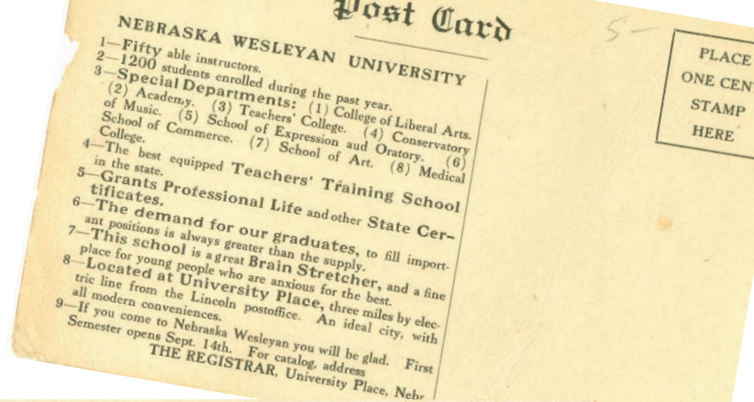
and realize what a unique experience we were having. I was in the area where athletes checked in before their events and I saw one of our vice presidents, a faculty member, a staff member, an alumnus and a current student all working together in an effort to make the event the best it could be. It was a moment that I will never forget and a moment that also illustrates the great work that we can accomplish as a Nebraska Wesleyan community when we are at our best.

**Ted Bulling** ('80)  
Lincoln

*Bulling directs track & field and cross country and teaches health and human performance at NWU, where he is a six-time national coach of the year.*

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.



## A Redistribution of Happiness

Dear President Ohles,

I sure hope this letter brightens your day.

I was at an antique shop here and found this old circa 1910 picture card showing your beautiful school building of the period.

It's an old time classic for sure. I thought to myself, "By golly, I'll send it back home where it can be appreciated." Our heritage is important to all of us. Lots of changes, too, over the years, I suppose. Enlarged, it will make a nice display.

My wife says if I hear back from you I will have to take her to lunch. I am 85 years old and still going strong.

I like to call my little hobby "a redistribution of happiness." Our world sure needs it.

**Lowell Joerg**  
Stockton, Calif.

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

*The Joergs are going out to lunch ... Ohles did reply in thanks and enclosed a couple issues of Archways covering NWU's history.*



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

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## RISING TO THE OCCASION

The class of 2014 is eager to respond to big challenges.

Complications arise. Consider it a two-word argument for a solid liberal arts education.

When Nebraska Wesleyan's 2014 commencement speaker, **Cameron Munter** (●1) was U.S. ambassador to Pakistan in 2011, complications arose in the form of a covert attack on Osama bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad.

Before that, he was deputy chief of mission in the complicated city of Baghdad in 2010.

And before that, he was U.S. ambassador to Serbia when Kosovo declared its independence in 2008.

And before that, there was

his first stint in Iraq on the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Mosul in 2006.

Few people are more qualified to speak on adapting to complications. And few audiences are more qualified to absorb and apply Munter's message than the 574 members of Nebraska Wesleyan's class of 2014.

Munter received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. Also receiving honorary degrees were banking executive **Alice Dittman** (●2), New Testament scholar Rev. **Robert Jewett** ('55, ●3) and banking executive **Blaine Rieke** ('55, ●4).







## SOME HONORS THEY'VE EARNED

- 1 Critical Language scholarship
- 1 NCAA Postgraduate scholarship
- 3 Boren scholarships
- 3 Fulbright scholarships
- 4 Academic All-America Awards
- 9 Gilman scholarships

## SOME JOBS THEY'VE SECURED

- Accountants
- Actors
- Bankers
- Coaches
- Crime scene analysts
- Farmers
- Financial advisors
- Financial analysts
- Mental health workers
- Ministers
- Nurses
- Personal trainers
- Police officers
- Probation officers
- Reporters
- Software developers
- Teachers

Photos by Chad Greene



# Class of 2014's Senior-most Senior

For most of the 574 graduates on May 17, commencement represented a four-year journey. For the 97-year-old **Ruth Cameron** ('14), that journey took 77 years longer.

Cameron came to Nebraska Wesleyan from Syracuse, Neb., in 1933 to study violin. But after three years, her mother fell ill and the family struggled to afford her study. She left NWU a semester short of graduation.

But she did not leave music. Cameron eventually played violin in the Riverside [California] Symphony, and raised Otto in a musically rich home. "I often saw her stop in mid-task to play the piano," she said.

"In the way that an unresolved situation sits at the back of one's mind, her departure from the university without her degree haunted her," Otto said. "She spoke of the loss more frequently during the last 10 years."

That led Cameron's son-in-law to reach out on her behalf. Dale Otto put a request before the NWU committee that reviews curriculum exceptions. University Registrar **Nancy Schilz** pulled her records, which were on microfilm.

Associate Professor of Music **Sam Zitek** called her background "pretty comparable to what a Bachelor of Arts would be today." He said, "She was short on some things, but we have the option of accounting for life experiences." Life experience, the committee agreed, was something Cameron had in spades.

Her family presented Cameron her Nebraska Wesleyan degree in a surprise ceremony at her Seattle, Wash., retirement center. "My brother handed her the diploma," Elizabeth Otto said. "She gasped and was moved to tears."

"It was at that moment that she realized that she had the university's full recognition of her work and that her life contributions were recognized and affirmed," she said. "We were all very moved."



▲ One perk of graduating 77 years behind schedule: celebrating with your great-grandchildren.

# NWU Honors Five Retiring Professors' 144 Years of Service



▲ Tom Hudson



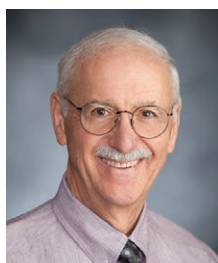
▲ Bill McClung



▲ Bill McNeil



▲ Joyce Michaelis



▲ Stu Spero

Nebraska Wesleyan University said farewell to five retiring professors in business administration, mathematics and computer science, psychology and modern languages at commencement ceremonies on May 17.

Combined, the five professors' tenures reach back further than Nebraska Wesleyan University's entire 126-year history.

Professor Emeritus of Business Administration **Thomas Hudson** taught at NWU for 26 years after a 20-year career in marketing.

Professor Emeritus of Mathematics and Computer Science **O. William McClung** taught at Nebraska Wesleyan University for 22 years. He holds degrees from Columbia, Stanford, and the University of Oregon.

Professor Emeritus of Psychology **William McNeil** taught at Nebraska Wesleyan University for 24 years. He is a clinical psychologist who has served on governing boards for the Lighthouse, the Rape Spouse Abuse Crisis Center and the Head Start Program in Lincoln.

Professor Emerita of Spanish **Joyce Michaelis** has been the longest-tenured professor currently teaching at Nebraska Wesleyan University. She began teaching Spanish at Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1966.

Professor Emeritus of Business Administration **Stuart Spero** taught at Nebraska Wesleyan University for 24 years. He came to Nebraska Wesleyan following a 22-year career in the United States Air Force.

"When I look at their careers and think about the lives they've touched as teachers, I'm inspired," said Vice President for Advancement **John Greving**. "Great professors change the world. We should never forget that."

*THE FINAL: If you put these five retiring professors' careers end-to-end, they reach back to when Ulysses S. Grant was in the White House.*

*Photos by Shane and Sunny Photography / Bill McNeil photo by Jennifer Heywood ('15) / Tom Hudson courtesy photo*





Brenden Love led a campus shoe drive in April—a friendly competition with Doane to see which school could donate the most pairs to the People’s City Mission. Who won? NWU in a shoo-in.

# NWU Parents Make Hard Work Pay

Tom and Rhonda Peed sent their three sons to Pius X High School in Lincoln. And two of them—Shawn (’04) and Zach (’13) Peed—went on to thrive as students at Nebraska Wesleyan University. Impressed by how Pius X prepared their sons for success at NWU, the Peeds decided to help more hardworking Thunderbolts become hardworking Prairie Wolves.

The cofounders of Sandhills Publishing, a Lincoln company specializing in trade publications for a variety of industries, created the Tom and Rhonda Peed Work Ethic Fund and the Nebraska Wesleyan University/Pius X Endowed Scholarship Fund.

The Work Ethic Fund is a self-help grant where Pius graduates at NWU see their summer employment earnings matched and credited to their tuition up to \$3,000. It’s designed to support their work ethic by making hard work pay off even more.

“In the past 23 years, more than 300 Pius X students have attended NWU,” said President Fred Ohles. “We know student interest is high, and now the opportunity increases for more students from this fine high school to continue their academic careers with us.”

Brenden Love (’15) is one of those Pius X alumni at NWU. The exercise science major described what he sees connecting the two schools. “The amazing high school experience that I had helped me realize that we’re all given unique talents and that when we work together, there’s nothing we can’t accomplish. I’ve continued to mold this attitude at Nebraska Wesleyan.”

Love said, “It’s this optimistic work ethic that sets our university apart from any other in the nation.”

*THE FINAL: You can lighten someone’s load and heighten their work ethic. The new Tom and Rhonda Peed Work Ethic Fund shows how.*

*It’s this optimistic work ethic that sets our university apart from any other in the nation.*

## There’s a New Sheriff on Campus

When LPD changed its policy on security work, the Sheriff’s Office stepped in.

Nebraska Wesleyan administrators like having a Lincoln Police Department substation just a block from campus. The regular presence of police officers on and around campus makes University Place a safer community.

For that reason, NWU has long contracted with off-duty LPD officers to supplement Securitas Security Services. “Off-duty officers have been welcome faces on campus,” said Sara Olson (’95), public relations

director. “In an emergency, it’s helpful for officers to have that familiarity with campus.”

LPD recently changed its policy and no longer allows officers to conduct off-duty security. Administrators asked the Lancaster County Sheriff’s Department to fill that void.

So while we see fewer LPD officers on campus today, we see more brown clad sheriff’s deputies. (We’ve always been partial to brown uniforms anyway.)

*THE FINAL: Come to NWU on a football game day and you’ll see brown uniforms on the field—and brown sheriff’s uniforms on campus—thanks to a new security agreement with the county.*



### Which came first?

Lancaster County had a sheriff before it had a state. The spectacularly bearded Louis J. Loder was appointed sheriff in 1861, six years before Nebraska gained statehood.





◀ NWU has offered classes in Omaha for years. But a new location brings new possibilities.

You can learn more about NWU's Omaha programs by calling Andrea Butler, executive director of NWU's Omaha and Iowa locations (right), at 402.827.3555. ▶



Photos by Lane Hickenbottom

# 14010 FNB Parkway

A new facility opens doors for NWU in the state's largest metro area.

Whether you're a homebuyer looking for a new place or a university looking for a stronger foothold in an essential market, there are three things to keep in mind. They are (in no particular order): location, location and location.

Nebraska Wesleyan now has an excellent location on the top floor of the First National Bank Building at 14010 FNB Parkway in Omaha, just off 140th and Dodge near Boys Town.

"Our new educational site in Omaha represents a significant augmentation of Nebraska Wesleyan's footprint in the Omaha community," said **Elizabeth MacLeod Walls**, dean of NWU's University College. "At this site, we'll continue to offer programs for adults and graduate students—but its size and location also allow us to reach out to traditional students, parents, alumni and friends in new ways."

Programs in Omaha benefiting from the new facility's increased space include the new MBA program, the MSN/MBA joint degree and MSN to MBA Bridge programs as well as programs in business administration, criminal

justice, health science, nursing, organizational leadership, project management and social work. The move also provides the flexibility necessary to respond to future opportunities with new academic offerings.

**Gordie Coffin** ('07), director of admissions, is excited about the prospects a new facility brings for recruiting undergraduate students from Omaha to our Lincoln campus.

"Omaha is where so many of our alumni are launching their careers and raising their families," Coffin said. "With about 3,500 alumni living in the Omaha metro area, we have lots of partners and friends to help us recruit Omaha students."

Coffin said the new facility will help NWU meet its growing recruitment goals in Omaha by providing a convenient place where admissions counselors can meet with families and hold events.

Strong friendships played a big part in Nebraska Wesleyan's move to 14010 FNB Parkway. The contributions of three friends of the university deserve particular note here.



# Meet the neighbors

NWU's new Omaha neighbors include ...



## Boys Town

Father Flanagan moved his boarding-house here in 1921. It soon grew into a village where children elected their own mayor and council.



## First National Bank

More than 30 years NWU's senior with a long commitment to service, First National Bank calls itself "first in the community."



## Valmont Industries

The products Valmont engineers for the infrastructure and agriculture markets water our crops, light our streets and power our homes.



## C&A Industries

Think of C&A as a matchmaker. They help hiring organizations and talented people find each other.



## Tenaska

The Omaha economy draws energy from neighbors like Tenaska, a global leader in designing, building, operating and financing energy plants.



## Yahoo

With its Dodge Street call center and a data center in La Vista, the technology giant employs nearly 400 in and around Omaha.

**Bill Dana** is a vice president with CB Richard Ellis/MEGA in Omaha. His real estate interests include properties in University Place. Dana represented Nebraska Wesleyan in lease negotiations.

**Anna Castner Wightman** ('89) provided the university's initial lead on FNB Parkway as a potential site in Omaha. Castner Wightman is vice president of government relations at First National Bank.

**Stephanie Moline** ('82) is an executive vice president at First National Bank. She offered sound advice on how to best position Nebraska Wesleyan's new MBA program in the Omaha market.

Today, the move is complete. And Nebraska Wesleyan's Omaha staff and faculty are hard at work, supporting the next strong class of NWU students.

***THE FINAL:** Omaha may not be the first place you think of when someone mentions NWU. But for more of Omaha's working adults, it soon will be.*

## NWU offers more for Omaha's allied health professionals

Allied health includes professions in support of medicine in dozens of areas ranging from audiology to nuclear medicine technology to respiratory therapy. Professionals across this vast field require a solid foundation in the sciences.

Now, current and prospective allied health professionals in Omaha can build that foundation with Nebraska Wesleyan University.

NWU's newest program in Omaha is its Bachelor of Science in health science.

**Apply today at [nebrwesleyan.edu](http://nebrwesleyan.edu).**



▲ Allied health promises to remain one of the fastest growing sectors of the U.S. economy for years to come.





Alumni like Chip Romjue ('86) (center) of Prairie Wealth Advisors came back to share insights with NWU business students.

## Business Summit Brings Students and Professionals Together

What business does a liberal arts institution have teaching business? How does business fit Nebraska Wesleyan University's liberal arts mission? For David Newkirk of the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business, the fit comes through problem solving.

"I do believe that purpose-driven institutions teaching critical thinking are critical to the world," Newkirk said. "It is long past time that they embrace business as something to teach."

His remarks, in a keynote address titled "Business as a Liberal Art," kicked off Nebraska Wesleyan's sixth annual Business Summit in March. "To be successful in business, you need to bring all the modes of thinking at the university to bear in the business setting." Businesspeople who can think like physicists, sociologists and historians in one will create opportunities, Newkirk said, because they understand the world as an interconnected whole.

Newkirk encouraged students to look for more than compensation in a job, and to search also for positions and employers that allow them to be themselves.

Newkirk's lecture combined with panels of 38 professionals and alumni from successful regional companies. Professor of Accounting Courtney Baillie said, "The business leaders who speak at the summit give our students a glimpse of 'the real world,' and show how their coursework at NWU relates to careers. The panelists' perspectives enhance what they learn in the classroom."

Associate Professor of Business Administration Thom Jackman ('84) saw the summit as a chance for students to network. "I just think it's an incredible opportunity for our students to meet and interact and ask their questions of professionals who are excelling in their fields," he said. "A number of students have found internships and job opportunities from this opportunity to meet."

**THE FINAL:** *Who's hiring? Alumni professionals at NWU's annual Business Summit confirm the value of a liberal arts experience in the marketplace.*

## Emeriti Faculty Honored with New Endowed Funds

Alumni and colleagues have come forward to honor a trio of influential emeriti professors in biology, history and business administration. Their gifts created three new endowed funds in the professors' names.

### Doris Yin Ming Hsu Endowed Fund

Professor Emerita of Biology Doris Hsu taught at NWU from 1952 to 1971. Earnings from the Hsu Fund will create an annual award to a member of the Biology Department who displays excellence in teaching. "Nebraska Wesleyan was fortunate to have Dr. Hsu on the faculty for 20 years," Drs. Frank Colon ('59) and Chuck Erickson ('59) wrote in a letter supporting the fund's creation. "She knew us all very well and understood our goals and capabilities. And what sometimes seemed to us to be a tough taskmaster was her way of pushing us to do our very best in preparation for the rigors of medical school and other graduate studies."

### David H. Mickey Endowed Scholarship Fund

Professor Emeritus of History David Mickey ('39) taught at NWU from 1946 to 1987. With his three-volume history of Nebraska Wesleyan, Mickey has long been known as NWU's unofficial but unquestioned university historian. He received an honorary doctorate from NWU in 2012. The Mickey Endowed Fund will support a scholarship awarded each year to a current student in any major.

### LaVerne Rudell Endowed Fund

Professor Emerita of Business Administration LaVerne Rudell taught at NWU from 1966 to 1996. Earnings from the Rudell Fund will be used for a scholarship for students seeking a degree in business, accounting or economics. "She was the classiest, most knowledgeable and caring instructor that I had the privilege to learn from at NWU," said Michael Herschberger ('76). "She genuinely desired that you not only learn from your educational experience, but also retain that knowledge for a lifetime."

**THE FINAL:** *You can show your appreciation for influential NWU professors by creating or supporting endowed funds in their names. Call Brenda McCrady at 402.465.2129 to learn more.*





# Sun Dog, Prairie Wolf

**Nebraska Wesleyan physics professor catches rare rays over Old Main.**

Assistant Professor of Physics Nathaniel Cunningham was one of several people to notice a rare atmospheric phenomenon that hit the skies above campus on Wednesday, February 6. But he was perhaps the only one who understood exactly what he saw.

“A good 22-degree halo around the sun with two strong sun dogs is pretty rare,” Cunningham said. “You might see one every few years.” But have you ever seen a rainbow turn upside down on a dry day? That’s even rarer.

“I’d never seen a circumzenithal arc before,” Cunningham said. He was floored. “It felt like light shining through clouds you couldn’t see. And it had such soft, pure color, without the brightness or whiteness of a sun dog.”

He grabbed his camera and started clicking. He hustled to Olin Hall’s frigid roof and took more photos, watching in the cold until his gloveless hands hurt. He went inside to warm up, then shuffled back out to see more.

He called others to join him for a look, including students and Visiting Assistant Professor of Art **Sarah Berkeley**. Here was another opportunity—rare most places, but wonderfully common at NWU—for a physicist and artist to stand together and admire both the science and the beauty at play in our colorful world.



◀ Nathaniel Cunningham has seen sun dogs a handful of times before. But he’d never witnessed a colorful circumzenithal arc until he came to campus on the morning of February 6.

◀◀ The orientation of ice crystals in the atmosphere creates these bursts of light to the sun’s left and right known as sun dogs.

## Sun dogs explained

Each ice crystal in a cirrus cloud is a tiny hexagonal prism. Its edges refract sunlight at 22 degrees.

Whether light refracts 22 degrees up toward 12 o’clock, down toward 6 o’clock or anywhere in between is determined by each crystal’s orientation in the air. Together, the crystals draw a 22-degree halo around the sun.

Because of gravity, a plurality of these crystals are always roughly horizontal. So more crystals refract light toward 3 and 9 o’clocks than any other points on the halo. That predominance creates two brighter bursts of light to the sun’s left and right. These are called sun dogs. (While science can explain their presence, it can’t explain their unusual name.)

## Circumzenithal arcs explained

These upside-down rainbows are the product of the same prisms that create halos and sun dogs. They’re far more rare because the sun must be quite low on the horizon for them to form. They often go unnoticed because they appear so high in the sky.

Whereas sunlight entering the edge of a hexagonal crystal refracts at 22 degrees, the prisms behave differently when light enters or exits through the crystal’s top face. With a 90-degree refracting angle, we see a wide color separation with pure, vivid hues.

*THE FINAL: An NWU physics professor captured a rare and spectacular show of sunlight through “diamond dust.”*



# Athletic Training Educator Takes Service Awards

Athletic training educators like Mark Stutz know a thing or two about resiliency. So Stutz—an assistant professor of health and human performance, a Denver native and a lifelong Broncos fan—knew whatever injury his sports-loving soul suffered at the hands of the Seattle Seahawks on Super Bowl Sunday would be temporary.

Good news would come soon enough for the director of NWU's athletic training education program. In fact, "soon enough" came before February was through. That's

when he learned the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) had chosen him for the 2014 Athletic Trainer Service Award. This national award recognizes NATA members who've demonstrated a strong commitment to the local and state associations.

April brought news of another honor. Stutz also received the Mid America Athletic Trainers' Association Service Award in Des Moines, Iowa. This award recognizes members for their distinctive contributions to the athletic training profession at the

local, state and district levels.

Stutz has been a certified athletic trainer for 22 years with extensive leadership experience with the Mid America Athletic Trainers Association.

In addition to helping injured Prairie Wolves back into competition and preparing the next generation of athletic trainers, Stutz serves as chair of the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education's site visit teams. (Sites near Seattle will be relieved to know that Stutz is not a vindictive person.)



Photo by Geoff Johnson

Stutz's athletic training students often outperform grad students with years' more experience on licensure exams.

## 2014 HOMECOMING

October 9-12

*Everyone is welcome at home.*

### SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THESE REUNION CLASSES

2010-2014

1974

2004

1964

1994

1963+ (honoring class of 1954)

1984



## The Arbor Way

NWU marks Arbor Day with a tree outside Knight Field House.

Nebraska Wesleyan University is one of the Arbor Day Foundation's original Tree Campus USA members. Celebrated between Easter and commencement, you could say Arbor Day is part of NWU's second holiday season.

NWU marked Arbor Day 2014 by planting a tri-color beech south of the Weary Center.

Grounds Team Leader Duane Bergers said this beech will one day stand 40 feet tall and 30 feet wide as it welcomes people to campus.

"The beautiful thing is we never plant a tree for ourselves," said President Fred Ohles. "We do it for the people who come after us."





# Everyone's ARCHITECT

His NWU teaching career went up in flames. Then A. W. Woods rebuilt himself as Lincoln's most versatile architect.

When *Archways*' art director, Melanie Falk, set out to design Nebraska Wesleyan's 2014 commencement materials, she turned to the university's archives for inspiration. She was quick to find some in a June 14, 1893, cover of *Archways* magazine's earliest predecessor, *The Nebraska Wesleyan*.

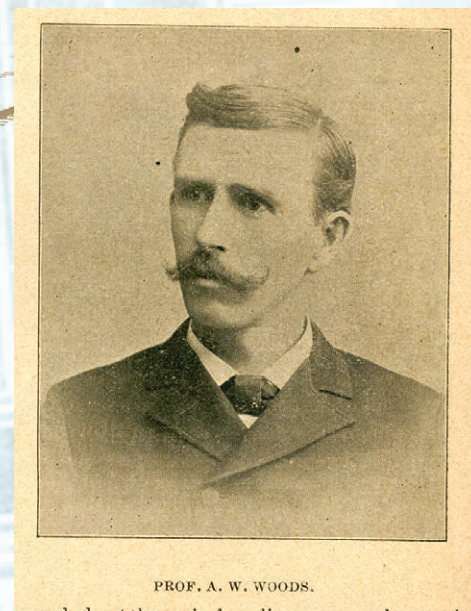
"Take one look and you know whoever drafted it had a rare talent," Falk said. She ran her finger over the tiny signature—A. W. Woods—and wondered who he was. Part of the answer waited on the pages inside that meticulously drawn cover.

Alfred Wilderman Woods was a young and promising NWU professor in 1893. He'd been hired just a year earlier to launch a department of architectural drawing in the university's new Haish Manual Training School—sort of an Old Main in miniature—built where Lucas Hall now stands.

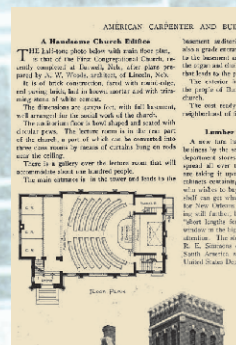
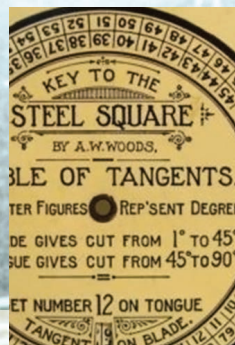
"[A]fter but one brief year, [Woods] has organized his department of architectural drawing so well, that we can present to visitors a department of which no institution could justly be ashamed," the article's nameless author wrote. "His own work as displayed discloses rare qualifications for actual work, while

▲ A.W. Woods made this ornate drawing for NWU's magazine in 1893. A mere 121 years later, it's back on the cover.

▶ After an arsonist's match destroyed his department at NWU in 1894, Woods shifted gears from a meticulous professor to a prolific architect.



PROF. A. W. WOODS.



the advancement so noticeable in the work of the students of his department evinces his eminent qualifications as a teacher."

It appears Woods taught as meticulously as he drew. He demanded from his students "a satisfactory production of one piece before another may even be attempted." His students also had to master lettering, with each student "leaving his name, upon his departure from the Haish, nicely printed, to adorn one

▲ Woods published widely on building design and copyrighted his key to the steel square for architects in 1907.





A. W. Woods' pen is responsible for beautiful structures ranging from ◀ Buffalo Bill's famous Irma Hotel in Cody, Wyo., to ▼ William Jennings Bryan's Fairview residence in Lincoln.



of the drawing rooms." Despite, or because of, his high demands, "Professor Woods enjoys the love and respect of the students, not only as an able and proficient teacher, but as a man."

But Woods wasn't to remain a professor for long. An arsonist soon targeted the Haish, and everything inside—including the finely lettered names of his students—burned in 1894.

The young Haish Building was uninsured, and it appears likely that Woods lost more than an office to the flames. He lost his department—and his job.

It had to be painful for an architect like Woods to see such a beautiful new building fall. But had the Haish not burned, Woods may never have left his mark as an architect. He went on to design scores of buildings in Lincoln and across the country. His credits include homes, businesses and more than 100 churches in 18 states.

While his work is spread across the country, his pinnacle achievement stands just 250 yards west of where the Haish fell. Woods was the architect behind First United Methodist Church. Lincoln historian Ed Zimmer considers it Woods' most beautiful work.

First Church's pastor, Larry Moffet, agrees. And he has a captivating theory about Woods' vision for it. The entryway, with its Ionic columns and entablature, is certainly Greek. And the dome behind it—akin to the Pantheon—is clearly Roman. Those influences are evident at a glance to any alumni of Professor Emeritus Don Paoletta's art history classes. But Moffet identifies a third, less obvious, influence in First Church's exterior.

Crisscross Lincoln and you'll be hard pressed to find a structure that shares the tawny color of First Church's brick. The tan is warmer than the Lied Center, deeper than the Capitol. In fact, Moffet claimed he'd never seen quite that shade of brick—until he visited the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. "I don't believe that's an accident," Moffet said.

"In this one church, I think Woods was joining Athens, Rome and Jerusalem," he said. "These are the capitals of Christian thought. And I think Woods was paying reverence to each."



It's often assumed that A. W. Woods was one of the famous Woods brothers (George, Mark and Frank Woods) who developed so much of Lincoln. But while A. W. did work for them—including designing the Haymarket building where the ▲ Burkholder Project now resides—it doesn't appear he was related.





Photo by Lane Hickenbottom



The same Nebraska Methodists behind the effort to build Old Main eventually chose A. W. Woods to design their church next door. ▲

Rev. Larry Moffet called Athens, Rome and Jerusalem “the capitals of Christian thought.” And he sees all three reflected in Woods’ design for First United Methodist Church: a Greek façade, a Roman dome, and an unusual color of brick akin to Jerusalem’s Temple Mount. ◀





◀ Historically, the congregations of the German Congregational Church in Lincoln's North Bottoms (left) and Ebenezer Church in the South Bottoms (right) may have had their differences. But they agreed in their architect.

Photos by Lane Hickenbottom

*When somebody that talented is willing to work for you, maybe you don't worry about who he worked for yesterday. Maybe you just hire him and count yourself lucky.*

This ability to weave influences together speaks to Woods' versatility as an artist. In a 2009 lecture for the Nebraska State Historical Society, Zimmer spoke of Woods' remarkable talent for leaping from style to style. After studying his Lincoln buildings and learning what he could about Woods' churches across the country, Zimmer said, "I don't recognize the common thread."

He did grand designs well. He also did modest well. Some of his churches were designed and built for just \$8,000. He designed many Methodist churches, but was far from exclusive. He also designed for Lutherans and Baptists and Seventh Day Adventists. He built for white congregations and black congregations. He built synagogues, office buildings, repair shops, bungalows and mansions. He designed for

the Germans from Russia in Lincoln's North Bottoms—a group of people, Zimmer said, who notoriously failed to get along with the Germans from Russia in the South Bottoms. Then Woods turned around and designed in the South Bottoms, too.

Not everyone, then or now, could cross so many boundaries so successfully. To Falk, much of the credit for Woods' ability to cross fences rests in his drawing hand. "When somebody that talented is willing to work for you, maybe you don't worry about who he worked for yesterday," Falk said. "Maybe you just hire him and count yourself lucky."

Zimmer also saw a practicality in Woods' versatility. "He had six kids to feed," Zimmer said. More than wanting to adhere to a single aesthetic or an exclusive clientele, Woods simply set out to "design what his clients needed."

More than a century later, we, the descendants of those clients, continue to find what we need in his work. **n**



# Double Lives

Two double majors find themselves at home in the lab and the humanities.

Science and the humanities live on opposite poles. That's because physicists and philosophers—writers and rheumatologists—are separate species. Right?

Then Addie Voss ('14) (left) and Taylor Pospisil ('14) (right) are

hybrids. They're successful scientists (Voss studied biochemistry and Pospisil studied biology); they were also excellent English majors.

Professor of English **Scott Stanfield** (center) asked them about life with one foot in the sciences and the other in the humanities.

**Scott Stanfield:** Does your work in one major illuminate your work in the other? Or do they engage different parts of your brain?

**Taylor Pospisil:** My classes do engage different parts of my brain, which is part of the reason I chose them. The continual switching of gears keeps me sharp. I feel it's good for me both as an academic and as a global citizen.

My professors are also skilled at reminding me of the real-world applications of what we're studying, so articulating my opinions in writing and reading nonverbal cues and intentions—all skills that will be useful in my future medical profession—make my education seem quite cohesive to me.

**Addie Voss:** Compare my Shakespeare essays and my biochemistry lab reports, and you'll find few similarities. In my studies, I have adopted two dissimilar writing styles in search of my "true" style. My natural writing style is a mesh of both worlds.

I am not singly an English or biochemistry major. I am both, and I am incredibly thankful that Nebraska Wesleyan has professors who help me be both.

**SS:** Pretend you're an anthropologist. Do natural science majors constitute a culture that

is quite distinct from the culture of English majors, or are the two groups essentially similar?

**AV:** I think there are some cultural differences between English and science majors, but they are not as distinct now as they will be once we graduate. Now, our commonalities as Nebraska Wesleyan students, as athletes, as Nebraskans, as consumers of Sodexo food, or the other myriad ties pulling us together, are more important than differences in what we are trying to become.

Graduation will serve as the dividing point where we must discover the new "culture" we have chosen and dive straight into it.

**TP:** I agree there are definite cultural differences between biology and English majors. But I'll highlight a big similarity: curiosity.

Students in both fields are driven by their curiosity to learn, discover and understand new things. And both biology and English majors are constantly asking questions.

**SS:** How do you see yourself combining what you have gained from both majors in your expected careers?

**TP:** I'm certain what I learn in biology and chemistry will apply to my future medical



Photo by Geoff Johnson

career, but I think my English and theater classes have a lot to offer, too. The ability to express myself in writing and speaking is something that my English education helps me develop. The more I practice thinking in a way that recognizes multiple viewpoints, the more that becomes a permanent part of my thought process.

And my theater classes have taught me a lot about reading and understanding people. One of the basic tenets of acting is the idea of objective: no one does anything without some kind of action-based purpose. This idea helps me see beyond what people are doing to what they may really want and need. I think this vision will help me to empathize and better understand my patients' needs.

**AV:** I want a career in forensic science, which demands a background in biology and chemistry. Aptly writing reports about the evidence found (or not found) in an investigation is also crucial. I excel in the areas of science that require a high level of writing simply because I have written dozens more essays than non-English majors.

But the utility of an English major did not enter my head early on. Instead, I realized that English was not a subject I was willing to part with. The point of college is to discover what you love and learn how to apply it to your life and career. That's what I'm doing at Nebraska Wesleyan. **n**

*The full interview first appeared in the English Department's spring alumni newsletter. Want a copy? Email Scott Stanfield at [pss@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:pss@nebrwesleyan.edu).*



# In It Together

Ethical lapses in the lab or the press have human consequences.

The ethics behind good reporting and sound science have a lot in common, said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, cofounder of factcheck.org and director of the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center. She visited Nebraska Wesleyan University on March 12 to deliver the Lambda Pi Eta Honorary Lecture in communication. Her subject: "Communicating Science in a Polarized Political Environment."

Journalists and scientists alike are ethically tied to a culture of accessible and verifiable information. Distorting data or cloaking conflicts of interest are unacceptable in either field.

"All of us have biases that we try to overcome," Hall Jamieson said. "And we don't always succeed." But she said a system of norms connecting experts, journalists, policy makers and the public helps people overcome biases and arrive at an unfettered understanding of complicated issues.

Our polarization, incivility and "enclave media" all serve on occasion to break that system of norms. "But the model is still working to some extent," Hall Jamieson said.


She pointed to two hypothetical scientific studies—one that serves the biases of the right, and another that supports the biases of the left. Which study do you expect to find on Fox News? Which do you expect to appear on MSNBC?

"The real story," Hall Jamieson said, "is that you have two studies providing conflicting information." Many journalists recognize that, but they settle on a "he said/she said" approach to covering the disparity. They avoid accusations of bias, but serve up an unhelpful message that amounts to little more than "experts disagree."

Good journalism should add more to public understanding. What accounts for the discrepancy? Can analysis reveal which study is more accurate?

Enclave media's tendency to cherry pick data to fit its audience's biases heightens polarization, Hall Jamieson said, because the right and left come to "live in different worlds in terms of what is reasonably knowable."

She said, "How we communicate what we know is as important as what we communicate about what we know." She asked, "Can real people accept science if the polarizing arguments are taken out of it?"

She believes the answer is yes. "The best of what we know can be communicated effectively when we're hyper-vigilant about our own biases." 

## When the Model Breaks

Here's a real-world case where unethical science and lax journalism combined to hurt the public.



- Dr. Andrew Wakefield's 1998 study links MMR vaccine to autism
- He doesn't mention:
  - > He's paid by lawyers suing vaccine maker
  - > He'll profit from vaccine's rejection
- He becomes an advocate, calling MMR vaccine "a moral issue"



- Journalists cover story
- They fail to report on:
  - > Doctor's conflicts of interest
  - > Study's flaws
  - > Other studies' conflicting results



- Public responds
- Parents get scared
- MMR vaccinations decline

- Children are affected
- Cases of measles increase



*Scientists were skeptical of Dr. Andrew Wakefield's results from the beginning. But their reaction was lost in the noise.*

*Twelve years later, a panel concluded Wakefield acted wrongly, and media responded. "The model worked, but it worked much too slowly," Hall Jamieson said. "A bunch of kids were hurt because of this."*





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# Temperatures through the Roof

LINCOLN CORPORATIONS KEEP COOL BENEATH ROOFTOP GARDENS.

Every roof—new or old—is a solar panel of sorts. Roofs convert sunlight into interior heat. But this “free furnace” has a significant design flaw. It has no off switch. And it runs relentlessly all day, all summer long.

A few Lincoln companies have upgraded their rooftop tech, fitting their headquarters with a cooling device made of dirt and plants known as a green roof. Lincoln’s early green roof adopters include the Arbor Day Foundation, Assurity Life Insurance Company and Farmers

Mutual Insurance (all corporations with alumni executives).

Don’t let the low-tech roots fool you. Green roofs are high impact. Despite the dirt, their outcome is squeaky-clean efficiency.

## Are green roofs just cosmetic?

The data show that green roofs are more than a green feather in a building’s cap.

An EPA report compared summer surface temperatures on a green roof and a conventional roof next door in Chicago. “On an August day in the early afternoon, with temperatures in the 90s, the green roof surface temperature ranged from 91 to 119 degrees, while the dark, conventional roof of the adjacent building was 169 degrees.” Put another way: while the green roof remained lemonade-sipping hot, the conventional

▲ (& below right), A green roof is just one aspect that makes Assurity Center Lincoln’s first large office building with LEED Gold certification.

“Our roof’s plant list is 30 to 40 species long, with sedums, native grasses, even strawberries,” said **Susie Keisler-Munro** (’85), senior vice president and chief of operations at Assurity Life Insurance Company.

roof grew egg-frying hot.

You can imagine how this difference impacts cooling costs below, but you don’t have to. A similar study in Ottawa, Canada, estimated “the energy demand needed to remove heat that flowed through the conventional roof was six to eight kilowatt hours a day, while the green roof’s energy demand from heat flow was less than 1.5 kilowatt hours a day, a reduction of more than 75 percent.”

◀ To take advantage of amazing views of the Capitol, Farmers Mutual Insurance uses its green roof for entertaining.

“As we were planning the roof, we had to ask ourselves, ‘Are we getting carried away?’ But it’s been one of the most enjoyed features of our building,” President **Mark Walz** (’88) said.







## How do they work?

Green roofs cool by simply providing shade. They keep sunshine off the rooftop membrane. But green roofs do more than that to cool the rooms below.

The water that evaporates off a green roof's surface—plus the water that its plants take in from the soil and release through their leaves—is known as evapotranspiration. This natural cooling process uses up energy that would otherwise be left to increase surface and air temperatures.

On conventional roofs, there's no evapotranspiration and minimal evaporative cooling because water quickly rolls off. While these surfaces won't soak up water, they do soak up sun, radiating heat long after dark. These factors contribute to "urban heat islands."

"In the evening, the difference [in summer air temperatures between adjacent urban and rural areas] can be as high as 22 degrees."

Green roofs increase a region's rate of evapo-

transpiration as they decrease its paved surface area. In this way, the wide adoption of green roofs in an urban center like downtown Lincoln can do more than cool a single building. It can cool an entire city.

## What about runoff?

In cities, rainwater that would otherwise filter through soil and trickle toward streams instead gushes over impervious surfaces, arriving at waterways—filthy and unfiltered—in minutes instead of hours.

The speed, volume and dirtiness of this runoff create headaches in wastewater management. But runoff from green roofs arrives at waterspouts more slowly, in lower volume and in cleaner condition than runoff from conventional roofs.

**Slower runoff:** The EPA pointed to a North Carolina study that showed "that even when rain was falling on average at about 1.5 inches per hour, it ran off the green roof at less than 0.25 inches per hour."

**Less runoff:** The evapo-

▲ While Assurity and Farmers Mutual designed green roofs for new facilities, the Arbor Day Foundation retrofit its headquarters in 2010. "We wanted to demonstrate what's possible even on a building not designed for this," said CEO **Matt Harris** ('93).

Their green roof stays light with just two inches of growing medium. "If we can do it on a converted movie theatre, you can do this just about anywhere."

transpiration on a green roof means less water hitting storm drains. A 15-month study in Portland, Ore., showed "a green roof with about four inches of growing medium reduced runoff by almost 70 percent."

**Cleaner runoff:** The EPA cited a European study that saw 95 percent reductions in cadmium, copper and lead levels in green roof runoff. By capturing particulates and greenhouse gas emissions,

green roofs also improve air quality.

## Are they cost-effective?

Property owners must weigh the costs of installing and maintaining a green roof against the benefits. Green roofs cost more up front. The payoff comes over time in reduced utility costs and increased roof lifespan. (Green roofs tend to outlast conventional roofs by decades.)

But for the Arbor Day Foundation's **Matt Harris** ('93), the decision was about more than dollars and cents. It was about fitting the foundation's environmental mission and keeping the Arbor Day Foundation a great place to work.

Harris said the foundation's 100+ Lincoln employees use the rooftop deck for meetings, breaks and brainstorming sessions alike. "Natural spaces like this help us to be more creative and productive," Harris said. "And it's helped us attract the best talent. A lot of that is Wesleyan talent, by the way." **n**





# Things Come Together

The news out of Africa often seems to confirm the famous Achebe title, *Things Fall Apart*. But alumni and faculty in Africa have a different story to tell.

## Gerise Herndon

Our perception of Rwanda is shaped by the atrocities of 1994. And certainly, Rwanda will forever bear the scars of the genocide. But to Herndon, professor of English and director of Nebraska Wesleyan's Gender Studies Program, Rwanda is more than a collection of scars and sorrows.

Today, Rwanda is a startlingly resilient nation with an earned reputation for gender equity and anti-corruption efforts. No country boasts a higher level of female representation in parliament than Rwanda's 64 percent.

Herndon wants NWU students to match consciousness of the genocide with a first-hand understanding of Rwanda's progress. That's why she headed NWU's first faculty-led study-abroad program for credit to Africa, taking 10 students to Kigali, Rwanda, in June. There, students matched genocide studies with service learning projects and internships catered to their majors, which varied from education, gender studies and psychology to theatre and computer science.

Herndon lived in Rwanda during a recent sabbatical. And she predicted students would grapple with intense feelings in Rwanda. "I want students to take their unprocessed emotions and use them to ask some tough questions," Herndon said. "I want them to ask themselves, 'What am I going to do—both as a U.S. citizen and as a global citizen—with what I've witnessed here?'"

## Justin Lana ('08)

When *Archways* last met Lana, he was leading bike tours down a Bolivian mountainside on the world's deadliest road ["Up for It," summer 2010]. Today, he's with the Carter Center in the world's youngest country—South Sudan. His goal: to wipe guinea worm off the planet.

Guinea worm is a parasitic disease triggered when a person drinks water tainted with *Dracunculus medenisis* larvae. Worms develop inside the body over a year, growing as long as three feet before emerging from excruciating lesions. Victims would seek relief by submerging themselves in water, which triggered the worm to release larvae, infecting the water source and ensuring that more people suffer the same thing.

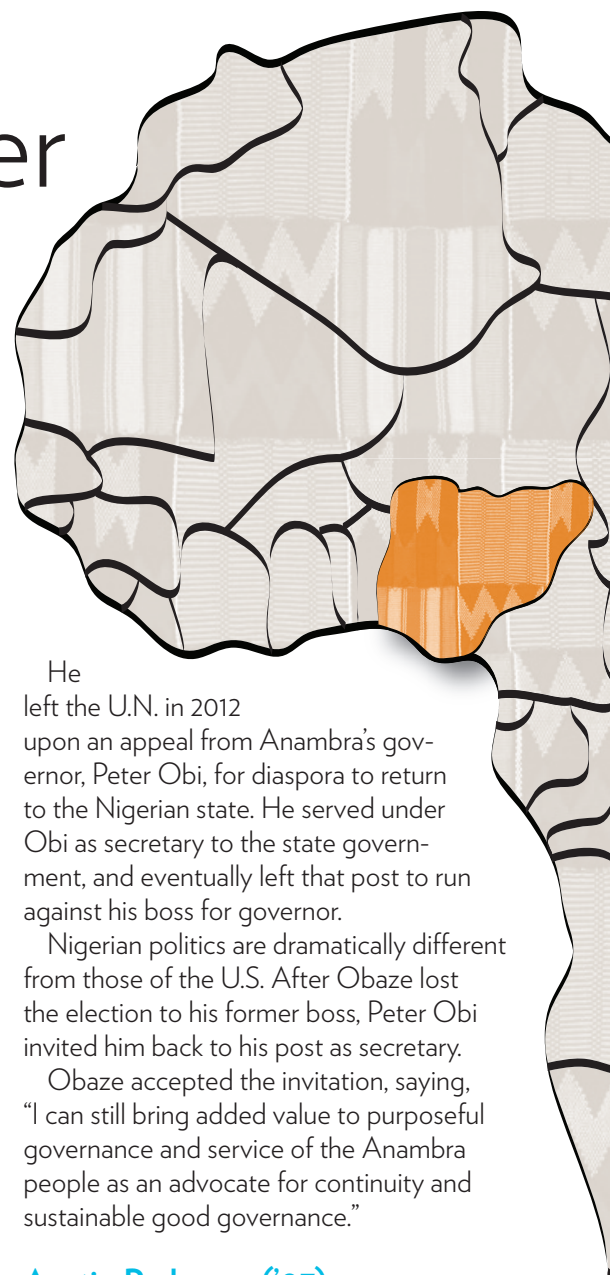
In 1986—the year before Lana was born—there were 3.5 million guinea worm cases across Africa and Asia. Last year, prevention efforts culled that number to 148—a 99.99996 percent reduction. The vast majority of the remaining cases are in South Sudan.

The Carter Center's success is the result of cloth and sticks. Cloth filters catch the larvae. And when worms are extracted by wrapping them around sticks (keeping them out of the water supply) they can't reproduce.

Assuming conflict doesn't drive the Carter Center out of the area, "Guinea worm is set to become the second human disease in history, after smallpox, to be eradicated," the Carter Center website reported. "It will be ... the first disease to be eradicated without the use of a vaccine or medical treatment."

## Oseloka Obaze ('72)

Obaze's political science education at NWU launched an esteemed career of international service in peacekeeping and preventive diplomacy. He served in the Nigerian Diplomatic Service for nine years before joining the U.N. in 1991.



He left the U.N. in 2012 upon an appeal from Anambra's governor, Peter Obi, for diaspora to return to the Nigerian state. He served under Obi as secretary to the state government, and eventually left that post to run against his boss for governor.

Nigerian politics are dramatically different from those of the U.S. After Obaze lost the election to his former boss, Peter Obi invited him back to his post as secretary.

Obaze accepted the invitation, saying, "I can still bring added value to purposeful governance and service of the Anambra people as an advocate for continuity and sustainable good governance."

## Austin Pedersen ('07)

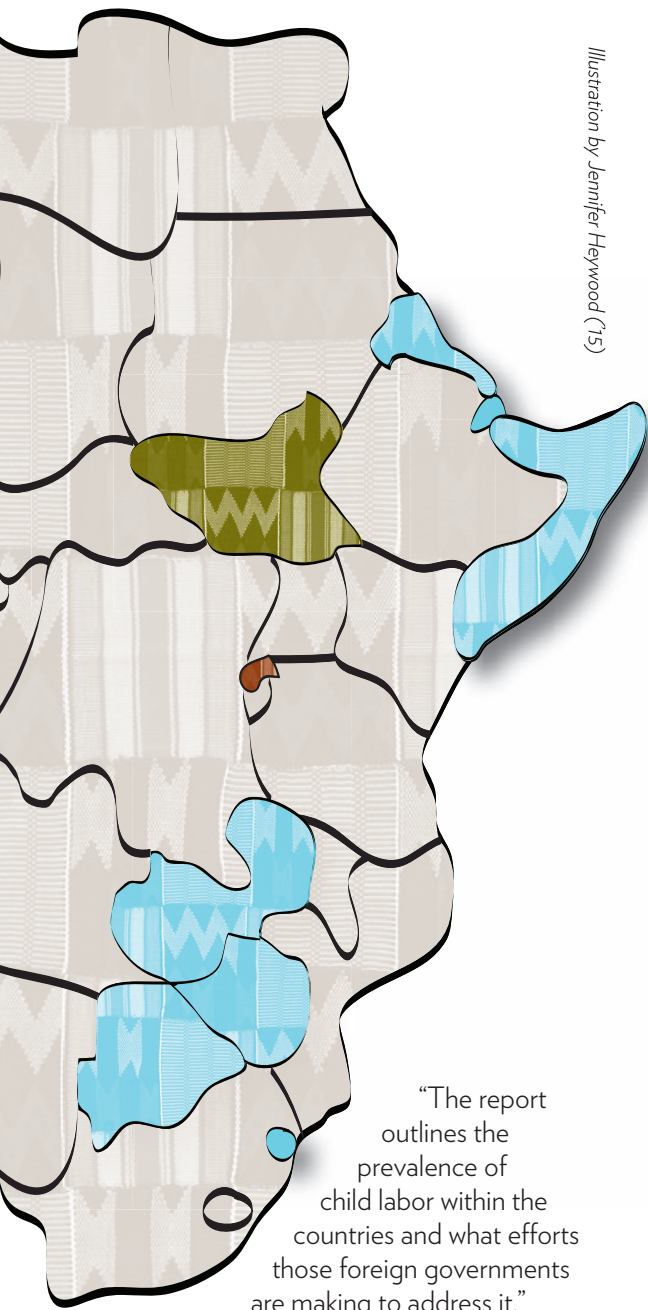
Pedersen is an international relations analyst with the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking. Its mission is "to use all available international channels to improve working conditions, raise living standards ... and address the workplace exploitation of children."

He contributes to the congressionally mandated report, "The Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor," visiting with ministries of labor and NGOs across eastern Africa. His work covers Botswana, Djibouti, Eritrea, Mauritius, Somalia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



# NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY THEATRE

Illustration by Jennifer Heywood ('15)



"The report outlines the prevalence of child labor within the countries and what efforts those foreign governments are making to address it,"

Pedersen said in the Robertson Foundation for Government's "Guide to International Jobs in Government". While his findings are often bleak—only Botswana and Swaziland made even moderate advancement on child labor issues in his 2012 report—they give each government a clear path forward.

"These reports are largely used as an awareness-raising tool and to start a dialogue with countries on how to address the issue of child labor." 

## FALL 2014 SEASON

### > **The Wedding Singer**

August 14-16, 21-23 at 7:30 p.m.  
August 17, 24 at 2 p.m.

### > **Pillars of Society**

September 19-20, 24-27 at 7:30 p.m.  
September 21, 28 at 2 p.m.

### > **In the Heights**

October 2-4, 9-11 at 7:30 p.m.  
October 5, 12 at 2 p.m.

### > **Merchant of Venice**

November 13-15, 20-22 at 7:30 p.m.  
November 16, 23 at 2 p.m.

### > **A Christmas Carol**

December 4-6, 11-13 at 7:30 p.m.  
December 7, 14 at 2 p.m.

### > **Cabarets**

October 31, November 1 at 7:30 p.m.  
November 2 at 2 p.m.  
December 12, 13 at 7:30 p.m.  
December 14 at 2 p.m.

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Photo by Lane Hickenbottom

## Soft Touch Untangles “Devil’s Knot”

NWU student shines darkly beside Witherspoon and Firth.

“Devil’s Knot”, directed by Atom Egoyan, follows the West Memphis Three—a trio of teenagers convicted of the 1993 murders of three Cub

Scouts in Arkansas. The prosecution painted the teens as members of a cult, using recanted testimony, a false confession and questionable evidence to contend they sacrificed the boys in a Satanic ritual.

Given the dark subject, Egoyan’s film could have wound up as bungled as the real-life investigation. But, thanks to excellent casting and a soft hand, “Devil’s Knot”

offers instead an unblinking brand of powerful storytelling.

The film follows the police’s often ham-handed investigation with skepticism. Yet, as investigators

wade the creek in search, there is no questioning their desire to do right by the boys they eventually lift, pale and curled, from the muddy water.

Reese Witherspoon plays Pam Hobbs, mother of a victim. She captures Hobbs’ devastated exhaustion without wailing melodrama. When an investigator tells her they’ll need hair samples for testing, she pulls two fistfuls from her temples and hands them over without a wince. She need not sob to convey her grief.

And Colin Firth is Ron Lax, an investigator for the defense. Firth doesn’t play Lax as the gumshoe who trusts his gut. Rather, he trusts what he can see. And what he sees is a community eager in its grief to punish whatever demonic enemy convenience presents.

Hanging on the wall in Lax’s office is a portrait of Robert Johnson—the 1930s blues legend who purportedly sold his soul to master the guitar. “Crossroads” plays in the

background. Egoyan doesn’t slow the plot down to dwell on Johnson’s devilish legend. The note is simply struck, and Egoyan lets hang in the air its subtle implication: that Lax doesn’t believe every claim he hears of the devil’s influence. He may not listen to heavy metal, but when it comes to the 1930s version of “devil music,” Lax is a fan.

Egoyan made his best decision in casting Nebraska Wesleyan’s **James Hamrick** (’16) as Damien Echols—the alleged cult ringleader. While Echols is almost certainly innocent, Hamrick refuses to play him as the embodiment of innocence. He’s not Bambi behind bars. Hamrick’s character is depressive, self-destructive and conceited in his intelligence. He’s snide with investigators.

Hamrick gives “Devil’s Knot” more than a spitting image of the real Echols. He gives the movie its fullest, most flawed and most convincing character. **A**

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*He’s not Bambi behind bars. Hamrick’s character is depressive, self-destructive and conceited in his intelligence.*



Would the running world feel safe enough to embrace the Boston Marathon in 2014? A near-record 35,755 men and women answered with their feet April 21.

In the days after last year's Boston Marathon bombing, Academic All-American Evan Knight ('09) wrote this to explain why endurance running endures.

# Why We Run

## IN RESPONSE TO THE 2013 BOSTON MARATHON BOMBINGS

—Evan Knight



▲ Congratulations to NWU's **Mike Morgan** ('09). The three-time Lincoln Half-Marathon champion placed 13th out of 35,755 in Boston with a time of 2:14:40.

because a 10 miler translates to 3 Big Macs and a high-five.  
because we like high-fives.  
because ice cream can't stick to running hips.

because who can't dig short shorts with a sexy-hip side slit?

because the sunshine told us to.  
because the snowstorm dared us to.  
because the downpour offered a shoeshine


and the last time these kicks saw their real color, they were incarcerated in a cardboard holding cell awaiting the day they'd tie their laces over a pair of fleet-feet flexing at fine-boned ankles attached to a pair of legs we like to stretch to prove both the functionality and fashion of the aforementioned really really really short shorts with the sexy-hip side slit.

because people tell us not to wear short shorts.  
because people tell us to get a car.  
because people tell us to get a job.  
because people tell us to get a hobby.  
because people tell us to get a girlfriend (or ask if we'd be their girlfriend).  
because people tell us to go inside it's raining it's snowing  
it's 105 degrees outside  
it's tornado season  
and did you just see that mountain lion?

because people tell us what to do all the time  
because people doubt all the time  
because there are non-believers  
there are naysayers  
there are those that would assign limits to the lengths we would go  
the depths we would dig  
the sleep we would lose  
the sweat we would pour  
the skin we would blister  
the tears we would shed

to understand why the hell the pain is so sweet.  
because the pain is so sweet—

because we feel.  
because we can.

and to not run, when we can  
tastes of mortality. 



# Good Runners, Better People

In pursuing their personal bests, alumni athletes refuse to leave emerging runners behind.

—By Hayley Sutter ('12)

I have few distinct memories from my high school running career. Most of my meets are now a faded blur. But, for whatever reason, a single cross country workout remains clear.

We were at Pioneers Park on a brutally hot day. After warming up, every member of our team shed her shirt and ran in her sports bra. One of my teammates, I couldn't help but notice, didn't have a sports bra. She ran in her regular bra instead.

It wasn't a big deal to us. We weren't about to ostracize her, and she ran just fine. But I know now that it could easily have been a big deal to her. Something as small as that can make a young person feel like she's on the outside looking in.

That high school workout crossed my mind recently as I was cleaning out my closet. I sorted through piles of running tops, pants and jackets. I hadn't worn a lot of it in years, even though most of it was in excellent condition. Some things just fell out of rotation.

I was thinking about all those clothes during a run. I knew I couldn't be Lincoln's only running clothes hoarder. And I realized that my old high school teammate couldn't be the only new runner without the gear she needed. There had to be a way to bring us together.

My idea was simple: I wanted to organize clothing drives at local road races and running-oriented businesses and redistribute the

*We do it because we believe running at its best is about more than chasing personal records and race medals.*

clothes to local high school athletes. I knew it had the potential to help new and emerging runners in Lincoln; I also knew I couldn't do it alone.

I had joined LRC (Lincoln Running Company) Racing a few months earlier, and hoped the team could provide the network to make it happen. I was all the more hopeful knowing just how deeply engrained Nebraska Wesleyan University's

culture of service had become in LRC Racing's fabric. LRC Racing was founded by **Quinn Lewandowski** ('09), **Eric Noel** ('10), **Grant Watley** ('09), **Logan Watley** ('10), **Paul Watley** ('12) and **Neil Welford** ('10). They all wanted to create a racing team that maintained the positive atmosphere they experienced competing for NWU. I shared my idea with the team and **Ryan Dostal** ('12), **Dan Haden** ('13), **Cole Marolf** ('12), and **Michael Rathje** ('12) volunteered without hesitation to help in any way they could. With that, "Good Runners, Better People" was born.

More than a clothing drive, Good Runners, Better People is a philanthropy seeking to help established runners to become better citizens and create a more welcoming running community. We do it because we believe running at its best is about more than chasing personal records and race medals.

Good Runners, Better People is now a three-part philanthropy

## SPRING SPORT SUMMARY

NWU graduated seven pitchers this year, including **Justin Van Dyke**. ►



### Baseball

An early-April hot streak took some of the chill off a bleak start. NWU finished 7-28 with five All-GPAC performers.

### Softball

NWU made most of its hay away from University Place, tallying 11 road wins to finish 14-22.

**Kayla Randel** batted .359 and earned her fourth All-GPAC selection. ►







of clothing drives for technical running gear, redistribution sales at participating middle and high schools, and a college scholarship for high school runners focused on the positive impact of running.

Our philanthropy has continued to evolve as more people—including many Nebraska Wesleyan University alumni—get involved. **Zach** ('12) and **Heidi** ('04) Harsin, co-owners of Body Innovations Personal Training & Bootcamps and the BRIN (Born and Raised in Nebraska) Running Series, committed as our first sponsors. Less than two months later, our sponsorship grew to 20 road races and nearly a dozen organizations, including NWU's track & field and cross country teams. After failing miserably to design a logo for weeks, we approached J.C. Design, operated by **Jack Chatelain** ('13), who offered to design our logo. Nearly half of Lincoln's high schools are Good Runners, Better People partners. With their partnership, we've formed a student advisory committee to assist with marketing and connecting with high school students.

Good Runners, Better People held its inaugural event on February 15 at the BRIN Kicks 'N Kisses road race. The redistribution sales begin in August and September. We're accepting scholarship applications between November 2014 and March 2015, and we hope to announce the first winners by May 2015. **n**

To donate clothing or learn more about Good Runners, Better People, visit [lrc-racing.com/good-runners-better-people](http://lrc-racing.com/good-runners-better-people).

Illustration by Alice Rutherford

## Golf

The men took four team titles on its way to a GPAC championship. The Prairie Wolves were led by **Rory Doll**, the 2014 GPAC golfer of the year.

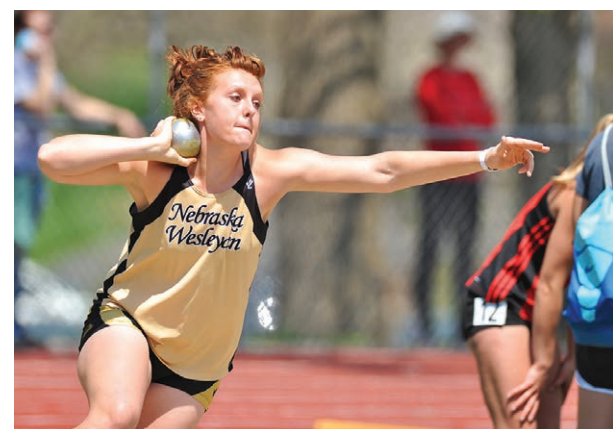
## Tennis

The men's only conference loss came in the GPAC finals to champion Hastings College. And the women saw a three-year GPAC undefeated streak come to an end.

## Track & Field

NWU qualified six men and two women to the outdoor national championships in Delaware, Ohio. All-Americans include **Samantha Dolezal** (shot put) and **Tommie Bardsley** (high jump).

**Samantha Dolezal's throw of 46'10.75" earned her a seventh place finish at nationals and All-American status. ►**



Photos by Chris Smithberg



# A Talent for Talent

A behind-the-scenes lineman steps forward as the Bucs' new GM.

—By Mike Malloy

The quickest path to the quarterback—or a dream job—is rarely a straight line. **Jason Licht** ('94) learned those lessons long before he became the general manager of the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers in January.

His winding journey included a college transfer, a career change, several hops around the NFL and four Super Bowls. But a two-year stint at Nebraska Wesleyan University remains one of his most important stops. "It was an incredible time in my life that I wouldn't change. I really hope my kids consider going to Nebraska Wesleyan," Licht said. "It made me who I am."

The Buccaneers won't play a regular season game until September 7, but spring is the busiest time of the year for an NFL general manager. This spring found Licht building a staff, strategizing with new head coach Lovie Smith, and doing what he does best: evaluating football talent.

He also spent his spring adjusting to the spotlight. Few fans can name their team's director of player personnel—the position Licht last held with the Arizona Cardinals. But serious fans know the GM. Trade for a future All-Pro and they call you a genius; draft a can't-miss guy who misses, and they call you much worse.

"If there are failures, I'm the one you point the finger at," Licht said. He accepts the responsibility, but could live without the media attention. "There are times I'll have to speak for the organization but I would prefer Lovie to be the face of the franchise," Licht said. "I was a lineman and linemen are behind-the-scenes types of players."

Licht was born in Fremont, Neb., and his family moved often. Eventually, Licht became a high school football standout in Colorado, but it never felt like home. "I was a Nebraska guy living in Colorado," he said.

And like many Nebraska guys, he dreamed of becoming a Cornhusker. Coach Tom Osborne didn't offer Licht a scholarship, so he paid his own tuition to fulfill that dream of pulling on that white helmet with the red "N".

Reality didn't quite match his dream. Though Licht got on the field, more often, he was on the sideline. There, he took his first stab at what he now does for a living. He evaluated a player: himself. Seeing bigger, faster players at his position, he realized he wouldn't crack the starting lineup.

He might have stuck it out had he and **Jeff Lindquist** ('94) not roomed together as freshmen. Lindquist, equally frustrated with a lack of playing time, transferred to

Nebraska Wesleyan after one season. A year later, Licht did the same. "I could have stayed at Nebraska and continued to letter, but I wanted to play," Licht said.

Lindquist made a strong pitch for NWU, as did NWU Hall of Fame coach **Jim Svoboda**, now

at the University of Central Missouri. "You knew that he cared about you," Licht said. "His advice was always sound, thoughtful and spot-on."

Svoboda's first words of advice were about not making assumptions. "Just because you were part of a BCS-level program doesn't mean you're going to start," Svoboda said. "He made no presumptions



Tampa Bay hired Jason Licht for his unbiased eye for ability. But the new GM admitted a soft spot for athletes off the beaten path. "When I see small-school players, I take just a little longer peek at them."

about being the guy."

But Licht showed he could be the guy in the first game of the 1992 season. In a tight game with Austin College, Licht made the first of many big plays. "I was able to run down the quarterback on a scramble," he said. "Coach Svoboda came over after that play and gave me a big hug and said, 'You made the right decision.'"

Licht would never play on ESPN, but he would play at Nebraska Wesleyan, and that meant something, too. "During the game, I didn't notice the smaller locker room. I got just as excited and anxious getting ready to play Doane as I did to play Oklahoma."

*I got just as excited and anxious getting ready to play Doane as I did to play Oklahoma.*



# BLACK, GOLD, and PINK




But football was only part of the equation. Licht hoped to become a small-town doctor and appreciated that his teammates, coaches and professors took the moniker “student-athlete” seriously.

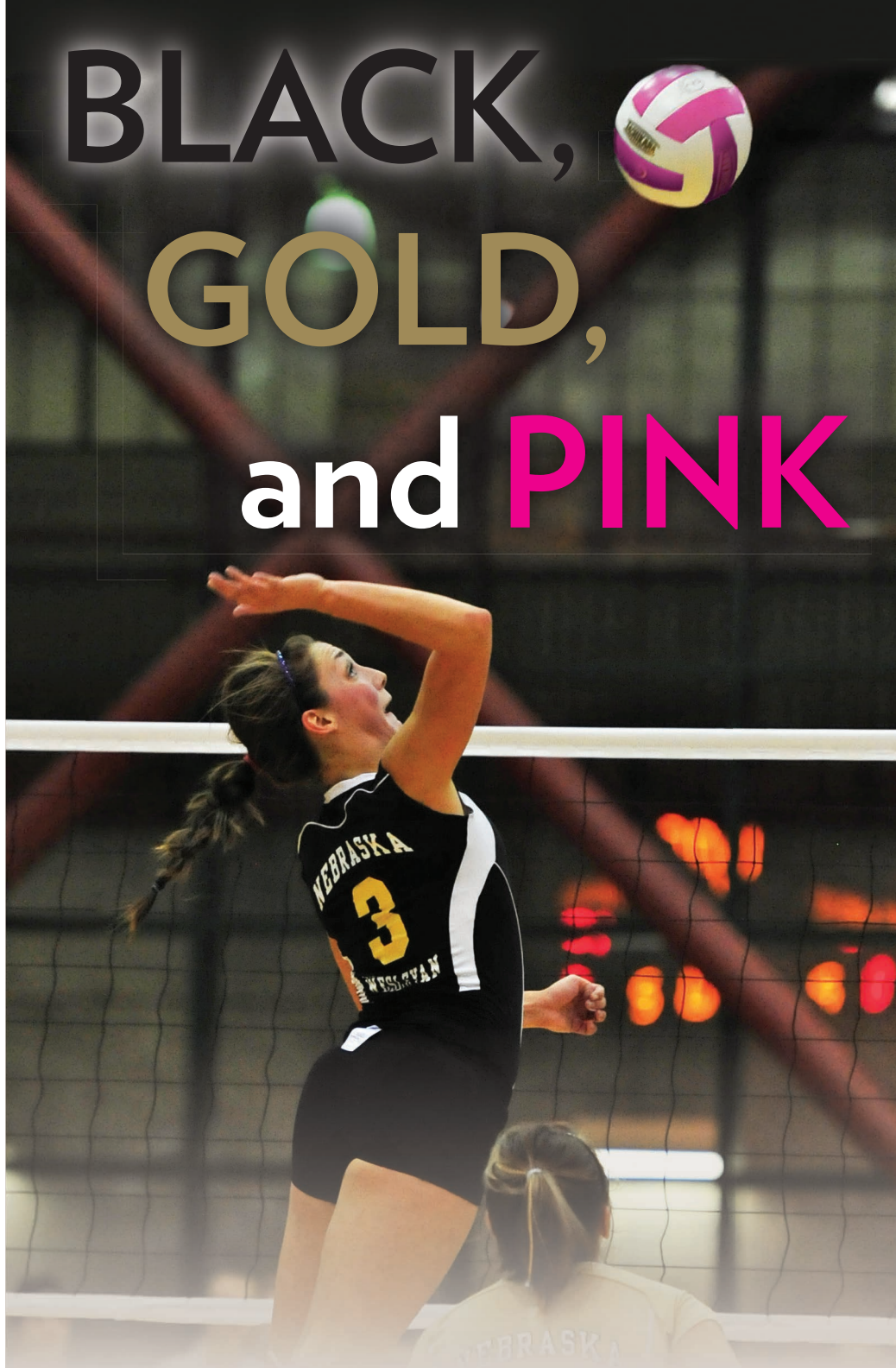
Professor of Biology Garry Duncan was Licht’s advisor. Duncan would later be struck by Licht’s intelligence, and how quick he was with a “How ya doin’?” But his first impression centered on Licht’s size. “He’s a big guy,” Duncan said, “but he doesn’t present himself as a bully.”

Licht was struck by how approachable Duncan was. “Dr. Duncan was the head of a department, yet he would still have a lot of one-on-one time with you,” Licht said. “Coming from a small high school, I was more wired for that type of environment. I felt like I maximized my ability in the classroom in the Wesleyan environment.”

He considered medical school, but he wasn’t ready to leave football behind. Using connections he’d made at Nebraska, Licht secured an internship with the Miami Dolphins. He eventually landed a job in Miami before moving up the ladder with Carolina, Philadelphia, New England, Arizona and now Tampa Bay.

That small-town medical practice never materialized, but Duncan is certain it could have. “He would have been a great physician. He’s caring and compassionate about humankind,” Duncan said. “When you see a doctor you want to know about more than what grades they got in med school. You want to know that they care about you. You want to see that they have heart.”

As Licht evaluates potential Buccaneers, yes, he measures size and speed and strength. But he also keeps an eye open for that same heart. 



NWU volleyball leads the NCAA Div. III in funds raised for breast cancer research through its annual Dig Pink event.

Come Dig Pink at homecoming versus Hastings College on  
**October 11 at 5 p.m.**

NWUsports.com





# Student Pride

Prestige scholars and awards

## Poli Sci Major Gets Rare Invite to UN Commission

When **Alex Langley** ('14) returned from her first study abroad experience—a trip to India led by Professor of Political Science **Bob Oberst**—she was upset by the powerless state she saw so many Indian women living in.

A second trip took her to Argentina, where she “felt this pressure to keep my opinions to myself.” And she grew angrier. Langley used that emotion to dig into her academic research. She earned a grant to study government policies and domestic violence in Thailand.

These experiences garnered her an invitation to the U.N.’s Commission on the Status of Women for a 10-day discussion of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls. Langley was one of only two U.S. undergraduates selected to attend.

“I felt very much in the right place walking alongside foreign diplomats,” Langley said. Instead of the anger she felt on her previous trips, she felt empowered to act.

In one U.N. session on reproductive health issues, the panel asked Langley to stand. “They told me I was among the first generation of women to grow up in control of our bodies. They said, ‘Your generation is why we’ve been working so hard. This is what we’ve put on the line.’ And I felt challenged and invited to do the same for women to come.”



## Clinton Global Initiative Funds NWU Duo’s Service to Girls

Behind every woman’s successful transition from high school to college is another often overlooked (and often treacherous) passage—that from middle school to high school. And two NWU alumnae are committed to help more girls make that leap in Lincoln.

**Rebecca Brune** ('14) ► and **Alex Langley** ('14) ▲ were two of four NWU students selected to attend the Clinton Global Initiative University—an undergraduate conference on pressing global issues. Every participant developed a “Commitment to Action” service project, either as an individual or as a small team.

Of the 700 projects submitted, only 16 received Clinton Global Initiative funding. Brune and Langley’s Young Women’s Circles Program (YWCP) made the cut.

Partnering with the Lincoln YWCA and NWU’s Gender Advocacy Place, the YWCP offers middle school girls weekly sessions on success in high school.

“When Alex and I were competing, we spoke with many women who said, ‘I wish I would have had something like that when I was that age,’” said Brune, a social work major from Lincoln.







Photo by Geoff Johnson



Photo by Chad Greene

## NWU's Leading Rebounder Pulls in Prestigious Honors

**Trevor Johnson** ('14) is a true student of the game. Film study and hard work helped the 6'5" forward from Lincoln top 1,000 career points and lead the basketball team this year in both points (17.5) and rebounds (6.3) per game.

Study and hard work have served the biology major in the classroom as well, where he holds an eye-popping 3.95 GPA. Those numbers grabbed the attention of the Rotary Club of Salem, Va., which included Johnson among its 10 finalists for the select Jostens Trophy. He's the first NWU player to be a finalist for the national trophy honoring NCAA Division III basketball players for athletic ability, academic strength and community service.

Johnson was also named a first team 2014 Capital One/CoSIDA Academic All-American. Johnson earned third team honors as a junior. And he received an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship to support his continued study.

He is the men's basketball team's first repeat Academic All-American since **Kipp Kissinger** ('98) earned his third award in 1998. NWU now has 147 Academic All-America Awards, which ranks eighth among all schools at all levels.

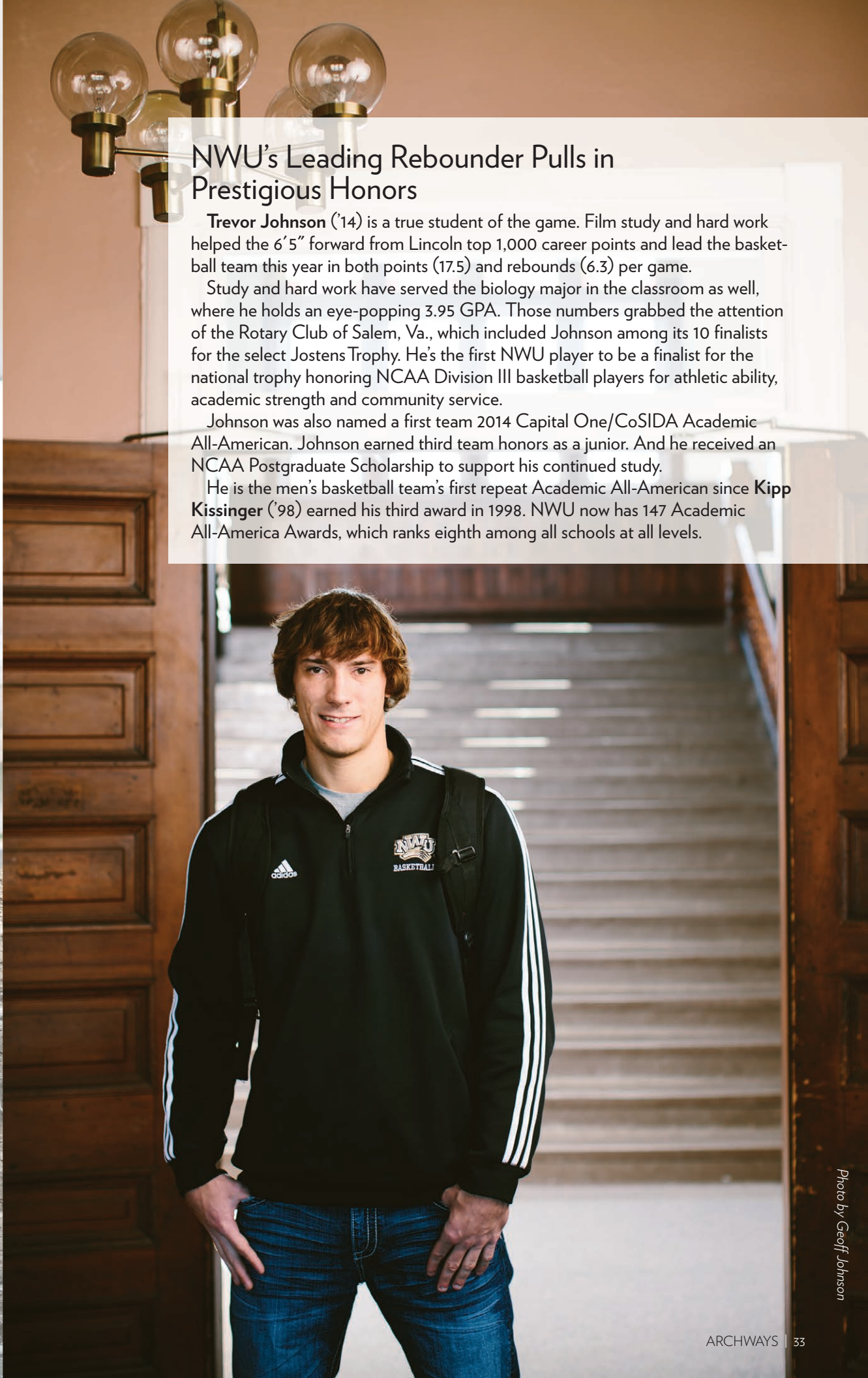


Photo by Geoff Johnson





## Track Athlete Goes the Extra Mile

Dallas Seavey, winner of the 2014 Iditarod, doesn't measure success in wins. "In my mind, the perfect race is when you finish with zero in the tank."

**Brock Taute** ('15) took this approach to the NCAA Division III Indoor Track & Field Championships, which NWU hosted at the Bob Devaney Sports Center in March. He set a grueling pace for his preliminary heat in the mile. He survived some tangled feet in the closing laps and willed himself strides in front of the pack. That pack caught him in the closing meters. Completely spent, Taute hurled himself at the finish, falling just beyond it.

While he did not qualify for the finals, he showed a full Devaney Center what it looks like to give everything you have. It's a level of effort he's shown his NWU professors for three years.

That effort earned the physics major from Bertrand, Neb., a 3.98 GPA, the highest of any male student-athlete competing at the national championships. With that distinction came the prestigious NCAA Elite 89 Award for indoor track & field. The award honors the individual who has reached the pinnacle of competition at the national championship level, while also achieving the highest academic standard.

Photo by XXXXX

## Gilman Scholarship Takes Reynoldson to Rwanda

When **Kelsy Reynoldson** ('14) learned that Professor of English **Gerise Herndon** was leading a study abroad trip to Rwanda, she said, "I instantly wanted to go." A Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship gives her that opportunity. The program supports international study for Pell Grant students to destinations outside Western Europe.

The recent graduate in language arts education from Eagle, Neb., said, "We have much to learn from Rwanda. The country's ability to rebuild and recuperate, to find the strength to come together after [the 1994] genocide, can show us much about what it's like to reconcile."

Reynoldson is spending the summer researching the rhetoric of reconciliation and forgiveness between the Hutu and the Tutsi. She said she's seeing "firsthand how the country is changing and recovering—something I could never accomplish in a typical classroom."

Learn more about NWU's trip to Rwanda on page 24.



Photo by Lane Hickenbottom



## MYSTERY PHOTO

### “Ain’t no party” like an NWU tea party

NWU is renovating the Roy G. Story Student Center dining hall this summer. So we dug deep and found this awesome 1960s photo of NWU food service workers. Whoever can name them gets extra cookies.

#### Send your responses to:

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



# 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 REVEALED

## The water's fine.

Several alumni dipped their toes in the water with answers to our most recent Mystery Photo.

The woman in the middle row, fourth from the left is Linda Larsen. She dated my brother for several years. We are still good friends and she stayed with us a year ago while attending a conference in the D.C. area.

—**Kathy (Kleager) Randall** ('70)

It was fun to see the synchronized swim team photo again.

Row one: Susan Brolsma, Linda Ramsey, Sherry Green, Ardis Ventura, Cindy Raney, Irma McKee.

Row two: Lynn Holcomb, Mary Ann Kinyon, Margo Myers, Linda Larsen, Kay Shuman.

Row three: Dorothy Wenquist, Diane Beilby, Lana Brown, Lois Dappen.

—**Mary Ann (Kinyon) Russom** ('66)

I just wanted to let you know that we were never called the Unsinkable Mollys. The group was a synchronized swimming group called the Aqua Plains.

—**Kay (Shuman) Fox** ('67)

They were known as the Aqua Plains, and were sponsored by Chelsea Heater. I coached her grandkids in swimming.

—**Greg Fleming**, NWU head swimming coach



What a pleasant surprise I received when I read through *Archways* magazine. The Mystery Photo was quite a flashback and has prompted several family discussions. I only could name one (myself) but recognized many of the faces and memories of them.

I am the last swimmer on the first row, Irma McKee, then. I only wish our wonderful coach, Mrs. Chelsea Heater, had been included in this picture. She did a wonderful job working with us to put on shows.

Thank you for the many memories that this has stimulated. Hope the club is still in force. I have not been back to any swim shows after leaving NWU.

Go Plainsmen! (I know the name changed, but I still think of us as the little plainswomen.)

—**Irma (McKee) Neptune** ('68)



## You have a familiar face ...

A few alumni swung and missed on this Mystery Photo. But we found their true identities: Michelle Jones ('90) and Timi O'Neill ('90).

I can tell you the woman on the left is Johna (Platz) Walker. The other is probably one of her Willard sisters. Johna was one of my roommates for a bit when I lived off campus. She is full of life as her picture shows.

—**Becky (Delehant) Winston** ('77)

I don't know the lady on the left but the one on the right is Katie (George) Rasmussen. I'm guessing the year was 1996 or '97.

—**Stephanie Metz-Bird** ('99)

Michelle Jones is on the left. The name escapes me of who is on the right side.

—**Leanne (Oehlerking) Snook** ('88)

Timalyn (Timi) O'Neill is the person on the right and the girl on the left is Sue or Steph maybe? Photo taken around 1986 or 1987?

I'm curious and have been since the last issue of *Archways* came out!

—**Joan Korte** ('90), associate professor of theatre

I'm pretty sure that the one on the left is Donna Frerichs and on the right is Sharon Strassler.

—**Debby Acquazzino** ('84)

Just wondering if anyone has responded to this photo. They are my Willard sisters: Michelle Jones and Sue Ryan.

—**Jody Beth Paulsen** ('90)

My guess for the girls eating pizza is Donna Frerichs and Alicia Schroeder.

—**Heidi Gockley Sherman** ('82)



# Alumni News

## 2014 HOMECOMING *Schedule*

Here's a glimpse of what's set for homecoming, October 9-12.  
Be sure to check [alumni.nebrwesleyan.edu](http://alumni.nebrwesleyan.edu) for the latest details.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

Legends and Legacies alumni award dinner  
at the Country Club of Lincoln

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

Campus tours

50th reunion lunch and medallion ceremony

Alumni Academies (including Cognard-Black's *Books that Cook* ►)

Class reunions

1963+ (with special honors to the class of '54)

1964

1974

1984

1994

2004

2010-2014

NWU Theatre: "In the Heights"

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

Athletic Hall of Fame inductions

Campus tours

Greek chapter open houses

Golf cart parade

Tailgate party and carnival

Football vs. Concordia University

Volleyball vs. Hastings College

50th reunion memory night

NWU Theatre: "In the Heights"

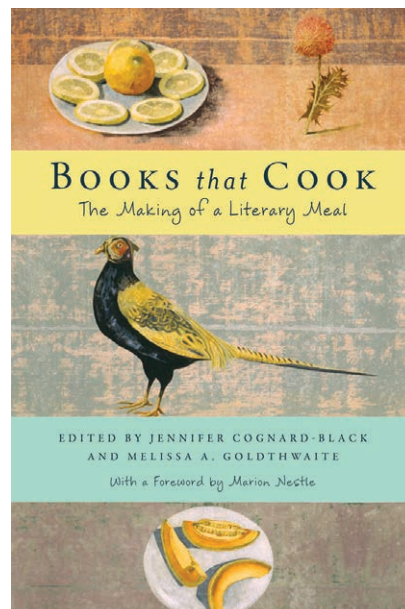
### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

NWU Theatre: "In the Heights"

Alumni choir concert honoring Professor of Music

Bill Wyman's 40th anniversary

Pops concert



"The book begins and ends with Nebraska poets," Cognard-Black said. "And it includes what Eloise [Kloefkorn] told me is very likely Bill [Kloefkorn's] last posthumously published poem."

## Cooking Something Special for Homecoming

An alumna returns with a recipe for a literary meal.

Jennifer Cognard-Black ('91) devours books. And her reading has taught her that the old maxim—"You are what you eat"—isn't quite right. She'd put it a little more broadly: We are what we consume.

Yes, food is a part of it. But we also consume our literature. We taste our culture. Drink in our traditions. Ruminates on our history.

Cognard-Black has long found herself stirred most by the literature that blends all this nourishment into one savory dish. Her latest endeavor—*Books that Cook: The Making of a Literary Meal*—which she edited with colleague Melissa Goldthwaite, is an especially rich stew.

Cognard-Black teaches English at St. Mary's College of Maryland, where she specializes in the literatures of food. Her students read works where recipes play prominent roles. Her students then prepare those dishes and share them in class. "The book truly becomes a part of you through these meals," she said.

Sound delicious? Come taste for yourself at homecoming. There, she'll serve up poetry, prose, refreshments and dessert from the best of her book.

**What:** A reading and tasting with special guests including Professor Emeritus of English Roger Cognard ('67)

**When:** Friday, October 10 at 3 p.m.

**Where:** Prairie Wolf A, Story Student Center lower level

**Why:** For food, friendship and (your NWU) family





John Batcher



Patti Peterson



Helen Sramek



Mark Walz

## NWU Adds Four to Board of Advisors

The President's Board of Advisors (PBA) 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 PBA meets on campus each spring and fall. In March, members immersed themselves in the annual Business Summit student experience and participated in a prioritization exercise for strategic planning.

Ohles welcomed four new members and expressed appreciation to four advisors who have completed their terms of service. Outgoing members include Kate Bolz ('01) of Lincoln, Bart Starr ('86) of Dallas, Texas, and Cheryl Mitchell and Ken Ellis of Stockton, Calif.

New members include John Batcher ('97) of Valley, Neb., Patti Peterson of Omaha, Helen Sramek ('70) of Alexandria, Va., and Mark Walz ('88) of Lincoln.

Batcher is a director at Foundation First Corporation. Peterson is partner at Kutak Rock LLP. Sramek is the retired president of Operation Lifesaver. And Walz is president and CEO of Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Nebraska.



## Is There a Scientist in the House?

*Are you a science grad with your **MD** or **PhD**? NWU wants to know.*

Nebraska Wesleyan University has been strong in the sciences for generations. That strength shines brightest in you.

Did you go on from NWU to earn an MD or PhD in a science-related field?

Email Vanessa Hanna and tell her when and where you earned your degree and what you're doing now.

### Why take the time?

We promote alumni in the sciences as we recruit new students. Your success shows others that Nebraska Wesleyan is the place to get a great science education.

**Email Vanessa at [isadv@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:isadv@nebrwesleyan.edu) now.**



## Tastee Memories...

The latest issue of *Archways* had an article on the Tastee Inn. I worked for Harold Jorgenson in 1949 and 1950 at his drive-inn. I have a copy of the recipe for the Tastee sandwich if anyone is interested.

([marionwspohn@hotmail.com](mailto:marionwspohn@hotmail.com))

Clyde Underwood of Fairmont Foods in University Place was a very active supporter (and supplier) for the iced milk and ice cream used in making the malts and shakes for the drive-inn.

—Marion Spohn





# A Lifetime of Service

Judge Warren Urbom's career on the bench reached across politics, race and generations.

—by Robert F. Bartle ('72)

When Judge Robert Van Pelt decided to retire from the U.S. District Court judgeship in Lincoln in 1969, many insiders pointed to Richard Smith as his likely successor. The appointment was President Richard Nixon's to make, and Smith's prominence as both a Lincoln attorney and GOP loyalist made him appealing. But Smith was comfortable in private practice.

So Smith arranged lunch with **Warren K. Urbom** ('50), a highly regarded trial attorney whose talent as a lawyer was more evident than his politics. Once Urbom confirmed that he was, in fact, a registered Republican—although one not at all active in party matters—Smith had what he needed to recommend Urbom to Senator **Carl T. Curtis** ('28). Curtis carried that nomination to President Nixon.

Whereas Van Pelt had “the look” of a federal judge with his distinguished silver mane, Urbom appeared more modest. That modesty and restraint, along with grace, sincerity, and intellect, are the qualities that would define Urbom's career as the longest-serving federal court judge in Nebraska's history. He retired on April 25, having completed 44 years in place.

Following service in the U.S. Army during World War II, Urbom left Arapahoe, Neb., and enrolled at Nebraska Wesleyan

University in 1946. He graduated with highest distinction, majoring in religion and philosophy on the one hand and history on the other with his eye set on the ministry. He proposed to fellow student **Joyce Crawford** ('51) before he entered the seminary at the Liff School of Theology in Denver, Colo.

After one summer, however, Urbom shifted course to study law at the University of Michigan, graduating with distinction in 1953. He wryly noted the disappointment of his fiancée and her family, both of whom thought they were “recruiting” a minister only to find themselves with a lawyer.

Judge Urbom was thrust into the national spotlight in 1974 as he presided over the Wounded Knee trials. The American Indian Movement's political demonstration became violent in 1973, killing three Native Americans and disabling a U.S. marshal. Dozens of charges were filed in the federal district court in South Dakota, and the Eighth Circuit asked Judge Urbom to assist.

As Urbom described in his autobiography, *Called to Justice*, 1974 was a year in which

he was about to be “absorbed by Native Americans”. He presided over federal trials in South Dakota and Lincoln. The telling aspects of his work related to his willingness to modify courtroom procedures to respect

the customs of the Native Americans and the traditions of the American courtroom.

Once Urbom understood that being compelled to stand upon his entrance to the courtroom offended Native American religious precepts, he saw no need to enforce the custom. Nor did he require them to swear oaths on a Bible. These witnesses swore instead on a sacred pipe. The significance, Urbom noted, was upon the oath itself, respecting deeply held beliefs to assure truthful testimony.

Other judges involved were not as flexible, particularly when it came to standing upon their entrance. That inflexibility resulted in disruptions in a South Dakota state court. Meanwhile, Urbom's proceedings went forward with only modest security precautions and without particular incident.

At a later proceeding, Native Americans demonstrated their particular respect for Urbom by voluntarily standing at his entrance. Urbom discounted such tributes, but by the trials' end, he had firmly established his reputation for fairness.

I asked if Urbom had offered his successors—Judge Richard Kopf and Judge **John Gerrard** ('76)—any wisdom on managing the court's docket. He replied, “I have offered no advice.” I did note that he was happy to respond to occasional questions, just as Judge Van Pelt had answered his.

Mirroring Urbom's service on the bench is his service to Nebraska Wesleyan University. During his career as a member of the Board of Governors, Judge Urbom has provided valuable counsel to no fewer than four Nebraska Wesleyan presidents. He served

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*He wryly noted the disappointment of his fiancée and her family, both of whom thought they were “recruiting” a minister only to find themselves with a lawyer.*



as chair of the Board of Governors from 1975 to 1980, and he received his honorary Doctor of Law degree from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1984. Urbom delivered the commencement address to NWU students in 1994.

My first encounter with Judge Urbom was during my senior year at Nebraska Wesleyan in the spring of 1972, when I served as the editor of the campus newspaper and he as a member of the Board of Governors. A student coalition, formed on an ad hoc basis to protest the firing of an English teacher, invited itself to the board's early morning meeting at the campus center. Urbom

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*Looking straight at death brings a sense, too, of the changing theme of living.*

withstanding his position as a federal judge, much less a governor of the university. Later in the year, I met with Judge Urbom to ask him to write a letter of reference to accompany my application to law school at the University of Michigan. I am confident his endorsement warranted my acceptance. Unfortunately, my LSAT score merited only a position on the waiting list.

Urbom dedicated his autobiography to

listened to our presentation, dropped by the newspaper office later in the day to visit, and subsequently called me to better understand the issue. Simply put, I was struck by how accessible he was, not-

Joyce, who died in 2010. He said she "made my life a pure joy." He described her trial with cancer and its impact on him in direct terms. "Looking straight at death brings a sense, too, of the changing theme of living. The pace of the notes slows. Each moment grows in worth. Time slows and sound softens. The theme eases up, and eases over. My 84th year has come and gone. My seeing eye sees less. My ears hear less. I think more slowly. People notice things like that."

People also notice lifelong character traits. Urbom's example for us, in public and private life, is simple. See things clearly. Listen well. Speak plainly, but wisely. What more to ask of those we call judge? 

You can honor Warren and Joyce Urbom with a gift to the Warren K. and Joyce M. Urbom Endowed Scholarship. Established by his former law clerks in 2005, the scholarship supports NWU students with financial need.

LEAVE YOUR CHARITABLE *legacy* AT NWU.

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