

ARCHWAYS

KNOW THE ODDS | WINTER 14-15 | VOLUME 14, ISSUE 4



FROM THE PRESIDENT



It used to be that strategic planning could be done once a decade.... Today higher education is challenged on many sides, and the rate of change has accelerated.

Dear Alumni and Friends,

During 2013-2014, Nebraska Wesleyan refreshed its strategic plan. The new plan, the Archways Plan 2017, focuses tightly on a small number of most important steps we will take to ensure a strong future. The Board of Governors asked that we make the strategic update a top priority last year. With that encouragement, we completed our development of the Archways Plan 2017 in nine months, with broad participation. That was about half of the time we had spent some years ago on development of the Archways Plan 2012.

It used to be that strategic planning could be done once a decade. Most of the key circumstances affecting us changed that slowly. Today, higher education is challenged on many sides, and the rate of change has accelerated. The climate has altered so much that it seemed right this time to give the new plan a significantly shorter horizon, just three years.

The **Archways Plan 2017** has five interlocking **strategic objectives**:

- ▶ Grow and diversify beneficial revenue streams
- ▶ Focus on essential programs and expenses
- ▶ Hire, retain and support faculty and staff dedicated to meeting strategic objectives
- ▶ Create a dynamic living and learning environment
- ▶ Identify, recruit and retain students destined for success at NWU

Together those five strategic objectives contribute to our ability right now to meet Nebraska Wesleyan's **overriding objective**:

- ▶ Provide a transformative educational experience

They also move us forward toward the eventual **fulfillment of our vision**:

- ▶ Nebraska Wesleyan University will be an outstanding national liberal arts university, where the educational experience transforms each student to lead a life of learning, service, leadership and success in a diverse world.

With such a careful focus, Nebraska Wesleyan is positioned well to meet current challenges and continue to thrive. You can expect to read regularly about aspects of the Archways Plan 2017 in action on the pages of this magazine in coming months.

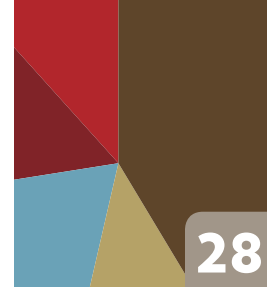
—Fred Ohles
President



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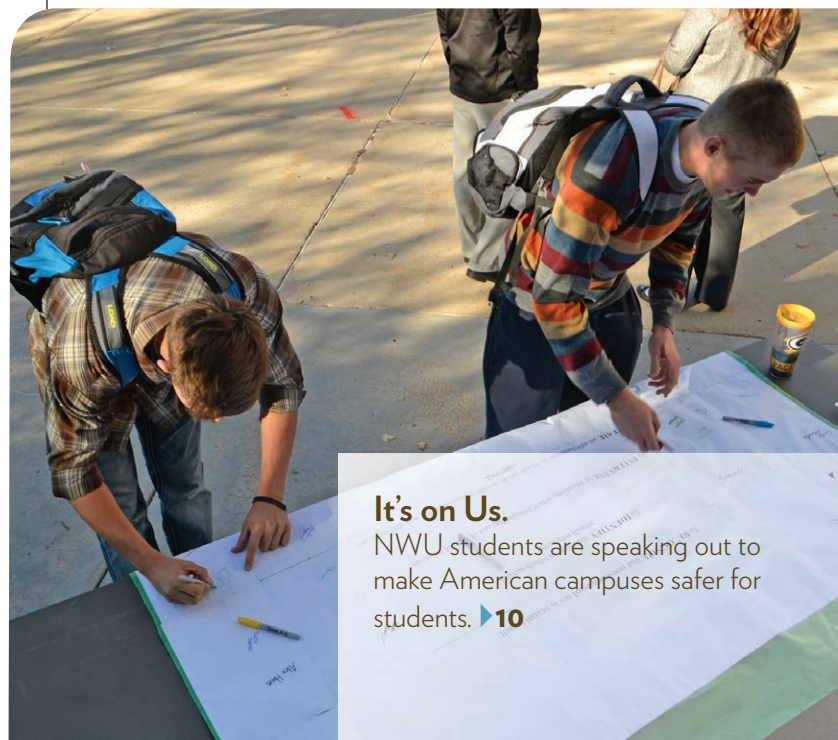
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Nebraska Wesleyan University is an academic community dedicated to intellectual and personal growth within the context of a liberal arts education and in an environment of Christian concern.

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.

Archways (USPS 074-700)
Periodicals Postage Paid at Lincoln, Nebraska
Volume 14, No. 4

Postmaster:

Please send address changes to:

Nebraska Wesleyan University

Attn: Address Change

University Advancement Office

5000 Saint Paul Avenue

Lincoln, Nebraska 68504-2794

isadv@nebrwesleyan.edu

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



Parker Miles Blohm, photographer, “NWU Honors Legends and Legacies” ▶37

Parker is a photographer and videographer based in Seattle, Wash. Originally from Tulsa, Okla., Parker studied at the University of Missouri School of Journalism. Having worked for a variety of publications and organizations around the nation, he now calls the Pacific Northwest his home. When he's not working, Parker enjoys watching documentaries, being outdoors and drinking espresso.



Alexandra Langley ('14), “Forty Years of Feminism and Faith” ▶20

Alex is the online organizing and communications associate for Generation Progress at the Center for American Progress in Washington, D.C. As a political science and Spanish double major at NWU, she served as a United Nations delegate for the Council for American Students in International Negotiations at the 58th Commission on the Status of Women. Alex attributes her service-oriented work to her education and sense of community at NWU and her membership in Willard Sorority.



Ian Seo, Illustrator, “Risk,” “Comet Catcher” ▶13, 21

Ian has always admired the quirky artwork of the golden age comics. His nostalgic illustrations recapture that spirit. A background in graphic design helps him create the right period look for each of his illustrations. Ian lives in Toronto.



Ken Keith, “Goodbye to an Old Friend” ▶30

Ken was a professor of psychology at Nebraska Wesleyan University from 1980 to 1999. His tenure at NWU overlapped that of the late assistant professor of English, Kent Haruf ('65). The two forged a friendship that followed Kent to Salida, Colo., and Ken to San Diego, Calif. Ken taught at the University of San Diego until his retirement. He now lives in Omaha.

Letters

Science Is Bigger Than That

I am writing concerning your piece, "Is There a Scientist in the House?" [summer, 2014]. Science graduates do NOT consist only of MDs and PhDs. I am not sure if you are really wanting a "scientist." If you went to NWU you may have become a physician—either MD or DO—and still not be a scientist but practice medicine. You may have graduated from NWU and become a DNP or a PharmD or a DDS and still not be a scientist.

I believe a selling point of NWU would be how many were accepted to graduate programs in the health sciences.

We are desperately short of health care workers, so please look at all of them. You may have missed the boat in this article, but I bet a follow-up article would get you back in the boat!

Connie Hyde

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

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



Be heard. Send your letters to:

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Lincoln, NE 68504

Email: ewendt@nebrwesleyan.edu

WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE?

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Visions and Ventures Tackles Topic of Hunger

Nebraska Wesleyan University welcomed national experts on food issues to campus in September for its 14th annual Visions and Ventures Symposium titled “Famished: Science and a Hungry World”.

Anthony Schutz, associate professor of law at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, delivered a lecture he titled, “Do We Have a Right to a Full Plate?”

Chef, educator and author Bryant Terry’s lecture was titled “Food Justice: At the Intersection of Food, Politics, Poverty, Public Health and the Environment”.

Author Vicki Robin spoke on “Blessing the Hands that Feed Us: What Eating Closer to Home Can Teach Us about Food, Community and Our Place on Earth”.

Sally Mackenzi, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor of plant science explored “What Does GM [genetically modified] Technology Offer to Agriculture in the 21st Century?”

And Saru Jayaraman, director of the Food Labor Research Center, offered a look “Behind the Kitchen Door” to explore food labor practices.

You can watch video of Mackenzi and Jayaraman’s symposium lectures at nebrwesleyan.edu. Just click on the “Watch Live Events” button in the lower middle of the page and select the September 18 videos.



US News & World Report Confirms It: NWU a Top National Liberal Arts University

U.S. News & World Report has again named Nebraska Wesleyan University a top national liberal arts university. NWU stands as Nebraska’s highest ranked liberal arts college, and in the top quarter of the roughly 600 liberal arts colleges nationally. *U.S. News & World Report* uses metrics like student-faculty ratio, graduation rates, retention rates, peer assessments, financial resources and alumni giving to make its determinations.

President **Fred Ohles** takes the whole “college rankings game” with a considerable grain of salt. “We are proud to be recognized as a top national liberal arts university,” he said. “However, for colleges, it’s the outcomes that really matter. And it’s our students’ outcomes that are truly great.”

Ohles pointed to Nebraska Wesleyan’s repeated status as a top producer of Fulbright scholars with 32 winners in the last 10 years. NWU students have also tallied a Rhodes Scholarship, two Goldwater Scholarships and four Truman Scholarships in the same period.

Then there’s Nebraska Wesleyan’s top-10 status among all universities with 149 Academic All-America Awards and 46 NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships. And don’t forget Nebraska Wesleyan’s 86 percent medical school placement rate.

None of these accomplishments factors into *U.S. News & World Report*’s rankings. But they do give a clearer sense of Nebraska Wesleyan University’s ability to propel students and alumni toward great things. In the end, our graduates’ successes are our best measuring stick.



▲ Generations of alumni came together to honor their professor and conductor on his 40th anniversary at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Nebraska Wesleyan, he said, was meant to be a step along the road to other jobs.

“Doc” Wyman Marks an Award-winning 40th Year Holding NWU’s Baton

He’s taught well over 1,000 students to make the most of their voices. Some of those students were biology, physics, psychology and business students looking for the opportunity to enjoy a musical hobby. Others were music majors who are now conducting choirs and teaching in classrooms across the country.

For 40 years, Professor of Music **William “Doc” Wyman** has taught music at Nebraska Wesleyan University and directed its University Choir. And this year, he received Nebraska Wesleyan’s Roy G. Story Award, which honors a person who “has significantly enhanced the national stature and reputation of Nebraska Wesleyan University.”

Wyman came to NWU after teaching stints in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Nebraska Wesleyan, he said, was meant to be a step along the road to other jobs. But he soon found the faculty and staff support was unlike anything he’d experienced.

“I have stayed at Nebraska Wesleyan for 40 years because I found I was able to develop a strong choral tradition here,” Wyman said.

That tradition, he said, “is indeed something special.”

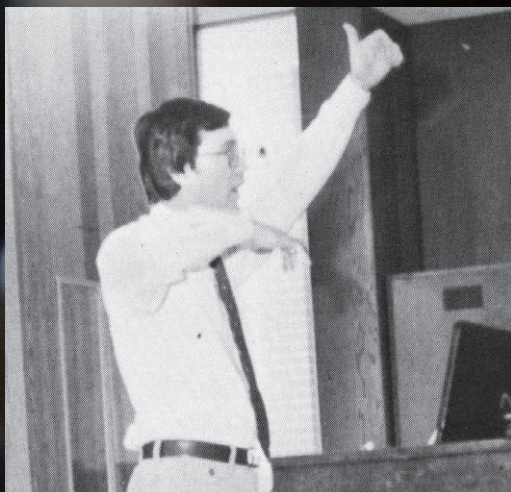
The University Choir leads national tours each winter. It’s taken eight international tours with a ninth to Ireland coming in May. It’s performed at the American Choral Directors Association National Convention and at Carnegie Hall three times in the past five years.

He’s a Fulbright scholar, a Nebraska Choral Directors Association Outstanding Choral Director of the Year, a Nebraska Music Educators Association Hall of Fame inductee, and a Cornell Runestad Award winner.

He is also a teacher known for unorthodox approaches. He’s given countless students conducting lessons underwater. “Students have a tendency to be tense and mechanical,” he said of beginning students’ conducting styles. “The resistance of the water assists students in developing tension-free control and muscle memory.”

The university marked Wyman’s milestone with an alumni reunion concert of more than 100 singers during homecoming.

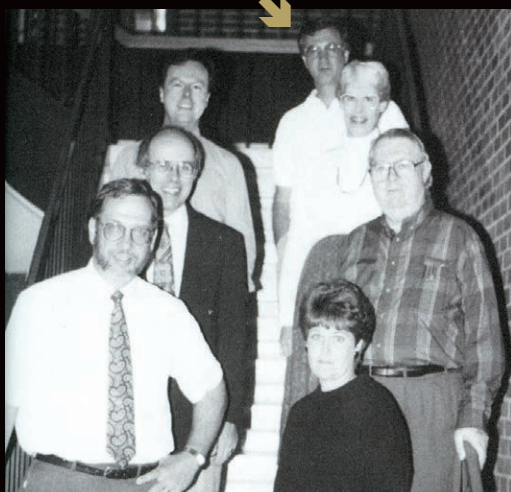
THROUGH THE YEARS



1980



1984



1995

University Choir Hits the Road

Professor of Music William Wyman takes his star performers to the Lone Star State and beyond in the University Choir's 2015 winter tour. Catch this award-winning choir in your area.

Beatrice, Neb.

January 6, 7:30 p.m.

Centenary United Methodist Church

Wichita, Kan.

January 7, 7 p.m.

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Richardson, Texas

January 8, 7:30 p.m.

Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church

PRE-CONCERT ALUMNI AND
PROSPECTIVE STUDENT RECEPTION

5:30-7 p.m. / Urban Rio Cantina and Grill
1000 14th Street #100, Plano, Texas

San Antonio, Texas

January 9, 7 p.m.

Alamo Heights United Methodist Church

Houston, Texas

January 11, 7:30 p.m.

Lakewood United Methodist Church

Austin, Texas

January 12, 7 p.m.

Saint John's Methodist Church

Oklahoma City, Okla.

January 13, 7:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

Salina, Kan.

January 14, 7:30 p.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church

Liberty, Mo.

January 15, 7:30 p.m.

Liberty United Methodist Church

PRE-CONCERT ALUMNI AND
PROSPECTIVE STUDENT RECEPTION

5:30-7 p.m. / Tanner's Bar and Grill
8250 N. Church Street, Kansas City, Mo.

Red Oak, Iowa

January 16, 7:30 p.m.

Wilson Performing Arts Center

Lincoln

January 18, 9 a.m.

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

7:30 p.m.

O'Donnell Auditorium

It's on Us

NWU students take a stand against sexual violence.

A desire to make a difference led **Alex Langley** ('14) to Nebraska Wesleyan University and a degree in political science. That same desire led her to Washington, D.C., where she took a job with the Center for American Progress. There, she serves as the online organizer for the White House's "It's on Us" campaign to stop sexual violence.

The campaign centers its efforts on compelling the public "to recognize that non-consensual sex is sexual assault; to identify situations in which sexual assault may occur; to intervene in situations where consent has not or cannot be given; and to create an environment in which sexual assault is unacceptable and survivors are supported."

The campaign's popular celebrity video on sexual assault has gone viral. Huge numbers of individuals and students across the nation have watched the video and taken the campaign's pledge to help stop the violence. And NWU students are proudly among them.

"At Nebraska Wesleyan University, we aim to do everything possible to emulate the goals presented by the 'It's on Us' campaign," said NWU's student body president, **Evan Sheaff** ('15). He urged students, faculty and staff to sign the pledge outside Great Hall. In just a handful of hours, more than 560 Nebraska Wesleyan community members did exactly that.

Alumni can take the same pledge at ItsOnUs.org.

"We all recognize that signing a pledge won't make the problem magically go away," Sheaff

said, "but it's a step in the right direction."

NWU students are also producing posters in the style of the "It's on Us" campaign featuring campus "celebrities" speaking out. And in November, Sheaff and his colleagues in the Student Affairs Senate (SAS) took another step in the direction of increased awareness. It passed a resolution in which, "SAS formally recognizes and gives ... support to the It's on Us campaign."

Student voices reflect how prominent violence prevention is in the campus conversation at Nebraska Wesleyan. And Professor of Social Work **Lisa Borchardt** ('92) wants to take that campus dialogue even further.

Borchardt sees the classroom as the place for effective sexual assault prevention. "That's where we discuss the issue thoroughly and head-on. It's where we can integrate violence prevention into not just every student's orientation, but into every student's educational experience."

She said NWU's new Archway Curriculum provides an opportunity to further ingrain violence prevention into Nebraska Wesleyan's culture. The curriculum incorporates experiential components and emphasizes the continued development of life skills from effective communication to better budgeting and stronger resumes.

"We can and should integrate violence prevention as another life skill we build in our students through this amazing new curriculum," Borchardt said. "It will launch us so far above and

beyond what other schools are doing."

She added, "What better way is there to show our students that their safety, their health and

their happiness matter to us? What better way is there for us as professors and students to change our culture for the better?"



Photos by Jennifer Heywood ('15)

A campus that talks about sexual violence is better equipped to stop it. NWU students turned out by the hundreds to pledge support for the It's on Us campaign.

Doing more to prevent sexual violence

- ▶ NWU invites national experts in gender violence prevention—like Jackson Katz, Naomi Klein and Jessica Valenti—to speak on campus.
- ▶ NWU requires training for students, faculty and staff on sexual violence and reporting requirements.
- ▶ NWU uses clear policies to make virtually all students and staff mandatory reporters. If you know something, you say something.
- ▶ NWU gives survivors defined confidential resources. Staff members who can maintain confidentiality include the university minister, nurses in Student Health Services and professional counselors in the Career and Counseling Center.



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RISK

**HANDLING UNCERTAINTY
REQUIRES A NOVEL APPROACH.**

Illustrations by Ian Seo

→FOREWORD

Where we come to accept
a certain element of danger

Don't be alarmed. But as you sit with this magazine, you're at risk for all sorts of calamity. And there's a good chance—or a high risk—that you misunderstand many of those looming risks.

Now, that's not out of foolishness. It's because you're human. And grappling with risks—overestimating some, underestimating others—is just part of the deal.

We can't eliminate life's instability. But we can become better risk grapplers. That's why we spoke with two doctors in the business of helping others understand and respond to the hazards we face.

Read on. Because to ignore what they have to say is, in a word, risky.

CHAPTER ONE

Where we experience a chilling demonstration of the nature of risk

Outside your window is a tree—a silver maple. And parked beneath it, a car—your blue Subaru.

And one more thing. In the silver maple is a snake. Right there—entwined with a branch 11 feet above your blue Subaru—is a black mamba.

Absurd! you say. *There are no black mambas in the U.S.*

But her olive length sways undeniably in the wind. Her tongue tastes the air. Her black-eyed stare says, *Sure there*

aren't. Come outside.

You must leave for work. So you grab your keys and try to think logically about risk. Out of 314 million Americans, five will die of snakebites in a year. That compares to about 35,000 deaths in auto accidents.

I'm not afraid of my Subaru, you tell yourself as you step outside, *and it's 7,000 times more likely to kill me than that serpent.*

Correct, says the mamba. *Come closer.*

You walk over your lawn and think about deadliness—how your car has so much of it and the snake so little. But where do you train your eyes?

I will not bite, says the mamba.

You fiddle with your keys next to a large, blue risk that does not scare you, looking up at a small, olive risk that has you terrified.

You hear a hiss and fear kinks your throat. Serpents lie!

But the hiss isn't coming from the snake. It's just the sound of the wind through the leaves of the silver maple. Your throat unkinks.

You feel relieved, even as you hear the snap. The wind sends a large, snakeless branch of the silver maple down. You see its jagged yellow end plunge as if in slow motion. As its pointed heaviness sinks past the mamba on its way toward your forehead, you think, *This is a risk I had not considered.*

It's a small risk—about 34 Americans die each year from wind-related tree failures. Still, that's enough to make trees seven times more deadly than snakes. That wooden risk passes inches from your nose, gouging the ground near your feet like a giant's golf tee. You exhale, fluttering the maple leaves that came to rest on your cheek.

Underground, the jagged branch has ruptured a sprinkler line. It sends up a geyser that slaps your chin and throat, then relents down the front of your shirt into a cold and open flow at your feet.

And you ask yourself, *What is the risk that my basement will flood?*



CHAPTER TWO

Where we discover that, sometimes, “the only way out is in”

The risks that occupy the forefront of our minds—our “mambas in the maple” if you will—are often the most life-changing, even if they’re not the most life-threatening. Dr. Jerry Bockoven’s mind, for instance, found itself stuck on a risky career move. The former psychology professor sat in his Nebraska Wesleyan office and stewed. “At the time, I said to myself, ‘Am I really going to walk away from a fully tenured position at a school I love? What am I? Some kind of idiot?’”

Hardly. But a trip to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., changed Bockoven’s focus. “I lost friends in that war,” he said. “I found their names on the wall, and I touched the letters.”

When he returned home, something unexpected was waiting in his mailbox. It was a letter from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. “It was a call to psychologists,” Bockoven said. “It basically said, ‘We need you.’”

Veterans and active duty service members are committing suicide at alarming rates. Active-duty suicides set a record high in 2012, exceeding combat deaths in Afghanistan. And U.S. veterans commit suicide at a tragic rate of 22 per day. The VA wanted psychologists like Bockoven to help staunch the bleeding.

“Brace yourself,” Bockoven said, “because I’m going to say some nice things about the government. The VA and the Pentagon looked at these numbers and said we have to respond with the very best evidence-based science. We have to put our resources toward what works best to fix this problem.”

Bockoven agreed strongly enough to take a risk. He walked away from the security of tenure at NWU. He joined the VA’s Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System where he now works with veterans of conflicts ranging from World War II to Afghanistan. He sees patients who suffer from traumatic brain injuries, depressive disorders, anxiety disorders and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Bockoven said combat experiences inevitably complicate the ways people perceive, process and respond to risk. “In combat, the alarm system is always on high

because it’s life and death,” Bockoven said. “People come home and they’re still getting those alarm messages.”

So the old muffler on the side of the road becomes a likely IED. The man on his smartphone calling in sick becomes a scout calling in your position. You don’t know who is at the door, or in that delivery truck, or hanging out with your kids. But you do know one thing: They cannot be trusted.

Living in this state of hyper-vigilance is agony. “Your brain won’t let you sleep when there are tigers all around you,” Bockoven said.

And when you’re the only one who seems to see these tigers, your margin for error falls to zero. “I’ve met a lot of supermen and superwomen who feel they must be perfect to protect themselves and their loved ones. Their constant footing is: If I make a mistake, people die.”

Bockoven helps people with PTSD out of that tangle. He uses one of the two most proven methods science has to offer—an approach known as Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT). “It’s the best we’ve got,” he said.

It’s a good thing the veterans Bockoven serves are more than a little brave, because CPT involves some frightening risks. Instead of fleeing, Bockoven asks his patients to stop and stare the tigers down. Instead of swallowing anti-anxiety medication to knock the edge off the fear, he asks them to straight up feel it.

VET U

G.I. Jobs magazine
has named NWU
a “Military Friendly
School” for the
past six years.



"No more avoiding," Bockoven said. "They have to go back in their memory and re-experience what's hurt them. The only way out is in."

CPT calls on patients to look cognitively at the moments that triggered their traumatic stress and compare those experiences to their current circumstances. "I'll ask, 'What did your brain tell you at that point?'"

Stuck in a firefight, a veteran's brain might have pulsed, "Make a mistake and you're dead," over and over again.

Bockoven will unpack that and ask, "And what happens if you make a mistake today? Will you be embarrassed?" One Iraq veteran told Bockoven it was "like he was trying to move forward with a rope tied around his ankle." Just

*No more avoiding.
They have to go
back in their memory
and re-experience
what's hurt them.*

pulling harder wasn't the solution. Instead of tight vigilance, the veteran needed some slack.

"He had to go back and find what the rope was tied to. Now, that involved going back to a pretty dark place," Bockoven said. But he came back out free.

There can be a simplicity to epiphanies that belies PTSD's complexity. And Bockoven made clear that he does not speak for his patients, the VA or the government. Still, he found sincerity and truth in one Afghanistan veteran's response to

CPT. That sincerity showed Bockoven that the risk of his own professional leap, from serving NWU students to serving U.S. veterans, had paid off.

"I get it," the veteran told him. "It's over. That was then. This is now."

CHAPTER THREE

Where we meet a man who defuses time bombs

You know firefighting is a risky business. But the nature of the risks firefighters face might surprise you.

For instance: What's the biggest killer of on-duty firefighters?

Fire seems an obvious answer. Or maybe smoke. Maybe it's trauma—from falls off ladders or collapsing buildings. Or maybe it's motor vehicle accidents as distracted drivers gawk.

All are good guesses. And all are wrong.

Firefighters' number one killer—accounting for a whopping 45 percent of at-work fatalities—is heart failure. In fact, firefighters have heart attacks at triple the rate of the population as a whole.

Enter Dr. **Steven Krueger** ('74), a cardiologist with Bryan Health in Lincoln. Five years ago, he developed a risk assessment study for Lincoln firefighters. Participating firefighters completed a "HeartAware" survey and conducted a follow-up interview. These data went into a point scale that Krueger developed to assess each firefighter's relative risk for heart disease.

Some screens revealed undetonated time bombs. "We discovered one patient who was fighting fires with a 98 percent blockage," Krueger said. Surgery prevented a near-certain heart attack.

"More often, and just as importantly, we found correctable, treatable risk factors," he said. "And we were able to help them address those risks by lowering their cholesterol, their blood pressure or their weight."

But why do firefighters—heroic people who are generally fitter, stronger and more active than the rest of us—have three times more heart attacks than the people they protect?

Nick Thill is a 17-year veteran of the Lincoln Fire Department. The thick-shouldered former Marine has run several half-marathons and is mulling the idea of running the full Lincoln Marathon in 2015. His risk of heart attack appears to be about as high as his risk of frostbite in August. But he runs partly because he knows looks can deceive.

"It's the nature of the work," Thill said. "It's 2 a.m. and that alarm sounds. You go from deep sleep to high alert. Throw on 80 or 90 pounds of gear and head out. It puts

a good strain on you."

Cardiologists like Krueger call it "sudden physical stress," and it's a significant risk factor for heart failure. Thill feels added pressure when he's at the wheel. "I've got to get my team there, and I'm thinking about road construction or traffic or anything that might slow us down."

Thill managed similar bursts of stress and physical demands in the Marines. "You had these situations where you never really knew what was happening. But in the military, everybody's so young. Your body can take all that."

The younger Thill may have been more inclined to storm into situations and make decisions on the fly. But at 44, Thill has found he must manage his stress differently. "Now I take that extra breath. I think about that next step. What equipment will I need? What choices am I going to have to make?"

It's a rational mindset that's changed the way Thill looks at physical training. "There's a lot of heavy lifting [to firefighting]. But almost everything I do now is all cardio. It's about keeping my heart and lungs strong and keeping my weight where it needs to be."

That's music to a cardiologist's ears.

A similar rational mindset has changed the way Krueger looks at firefighters. "After getting to know these guys, I consider them heroes," he said. But they're heroes with very human hearts. "We treat each of them like they were heart patients."

RISK OF SUCCESS: ELEVATED

When he chose NWU, Dr. Steven Krueger's "risk" of becoming a cardiologist increased dramatically. An astounding 86 percent of Nebraska Wesleyan students taking the MCAT have been accepted into medical school in the last 12 years.



AFTERWORD

Where we come to grips with both our weakness and our strength

While Bockoven's psychology and Krueger's cardiology may seem removed from one another, theirs is the shared science of problem solving. The science of understanding and responding to risk. The science of helping people live fuller lives.

This is the bond that joins the sciences at NWU. It's what connects the work of so many of our talented alumni. And it's the reason why this university seeks new collaborations, new discoveries and new facilities in the sciences.

Bockoven and Krueger's work with veterans and firefighters reveals to us a flaw in our mental frames for "hero" and "patient". We too often see strength and vulnerability as mutually exclusive. Bockoven and Krueger show us that we make this mistake at our peril.

Even if the dangers we face in our own lives don't typically include fire and artillery, how we see our heroes can inform how we respond to risk. Human strength does not eliminate human vulnerability. Nor does our vulnerability erase our strength.

When we absorb those truths, we can sidestep the risks we are wise to avoid. We can outwit our imagined mambas and false tigers. And we can free ourselves to tackle more powerfully the risks we know we must face. ▢



NEBRASKA
WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

Student Pride

Prestige scholars and awards

Biology Grad “JETs” to Japan

Nebraska Wesleyan University was a place where **Andrew Reuss** ('14) could study biology and explore his interest in Japanese culture. He befriended Japanese exchange students, enrolled in Japanese classes, took part in Japanese round table discussions and wrote to a pen pal in Japan.

But he never studied in the land of the rising sun. Until now.

Reuss was accepted into the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program, which promotes grassroots international exchanges in Japan. He joins **Jamie Reed** ('14) as NWU's second JET winner this year.

“I’m looking forward to meeting new people and working with children,” Reuss said. “I’m also excited for the chance to try all the different Japanese cuisines, visit historical sites, participate in traditional festivals and advance my Japanese comprehension and fluency. Basically, it’s an incredible chance to immerse myself in the culture I love.”

Once he returns to the U.S., Reuss plans to attend medical school.



Photo by Dan Luedert

▼ Beth Adamson-Strauss (fourth from left) met with several “girl advocates” invited to speak at the Economic and Social Council’s Youth Forum at the UN.



▲ And that’s Adamson-Strauss (left) with her friend, Leymah Gbowee (right), the Liberian activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Keeping the Faith

A young alumna reflects on the accomplishments of “Mama Beth” and a generation of feminists.

By Alex Langley ('14)

Last spring, as a senior political science major at NWU, I received a rare invitation to attend meetings of the United Nation’s Commission on the Status of Women. For 10 days, I watched international diplomats and leading feminists at work. And my view at the U.N. gave me the real sense that I was standing on the shoulders of generations of feminists who came before me.

What I didn’t realize then was that two of those shoulders at the U.N. belong to an amazing alumna. **Beth Adamson-Strauss** ('74) directs the board of the U.N.’s Working Group on Girls, a coalition of more than 80 international nongovernmental organizations protecting the human rights and advancing the prospects of girls.

She and I are both Nebraska born and raised, self-proclaimed feminists who used our opportunities at Nebraska Wesleyan University as springboards for work in women’s international policy and world citizenship.

“NWU helped shape my values in doing good for others, being strong in my faith, and in living an organic life,” she said.

Adamson-Strauss majored in sociology and theology at NWU. She also made room for coursework in political science and psychology as well as for involvement in Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority and the Model U.N. These experiences prepared her well for Yale Divinity School and an international career in helping women and girls.

“Would I have become what I’ve become had I not attended NWU?” Adamson-Strauss asked. “I don’t believe so.”

Through the Working Group on Girls and the United Nations, Adamson-Strauss has traveled to 37 countries and influenced the lives of countless girls and young women—many of whom refer to her as “Mama Beth.”

Talk about a working mother; Mama Beth chaired the Working Group on Girls committee at the 51st Commission on the

*She was frustrated
by the media’s
portrayal of “bra-
burning feminists.”
The public, she
feared, was missing
the whole point.*

Status of Women. She drafted “girl-friendly” language for pieces of international public policy. And she started the International Day of the Girl Child while working with UNICEF and U.N. women.

Her accomplishments haven’t been without their frustrations. Adamson-Strauss’s journey began during the feminist movement of the 1970s. She was frustrated by the media’s portrayal of “bra-burning feminists.” The public, she feared, was missing the whole point.

The movement’s purpose was to recognize that women around the world have an uphill battle for equality.

Forty years later, that battle continues on a global scale. She and I discussed the 30,000 young girls who are forced into child marriage every day, and the 20,000 who die from unsafe childbirth. Through it all, Adamson-Strauss maintains a tireless and faithful drive. It’s a drive that emphasizes the imperative of “hanging onto the hope of the strides we have made and remaining grateful for the differences that can be made.”

The responsibility for these positive changes will continue to fall on service-oriented world citizens like Adamson-Strauss. That’s a reality that hasn’t changed in the 40 years since she graduated from NWU. And it’s a reality that deepens my pride in Nebraska Wesleyan and the good work it prepares us to do. ■

COMET CATCHER

A tool calibrated by NWU physics professor is on Rosetta—the first spacecraft to reach a comet.

How far can the work of one professor reach?

Most often, this is an abstract question. But with Assistant Professor of Physics **Nathaniel Cunningham**, the odometer gives a concrete and impressive reading: 3 billion miles and counting.

That's how far the European Space Agency's Rosetta spacecraft travelled in loops over 10 years, five months and four days to reach its destination: a comet nicknamed "Chury" roughly 250 million miles from Earth. Rosetta marks humanity's first rendezvous with a comet.

One of Rosetta's instruments is a shoebox-sized ultraviolet spectrograph named Alice. By measuring the ultraviolet light the comet emits, Alice can help determine what gases—like neon, hydrogen, argon or helium—might be present on Chury. "The ultraviolet spectrum is the key place to look for gases," Cunningham said, "because most electron transitions in gases release light in the ultraviolet spectrum."

Each gas behaves differently, releasing ultraviolet light of a slightly distinct wavelength. A sensitive spectrograph like Alice can detect what Cunningham called "the different harmony of notes" particular to each gas. That is, if Alice is calibrated correctly.

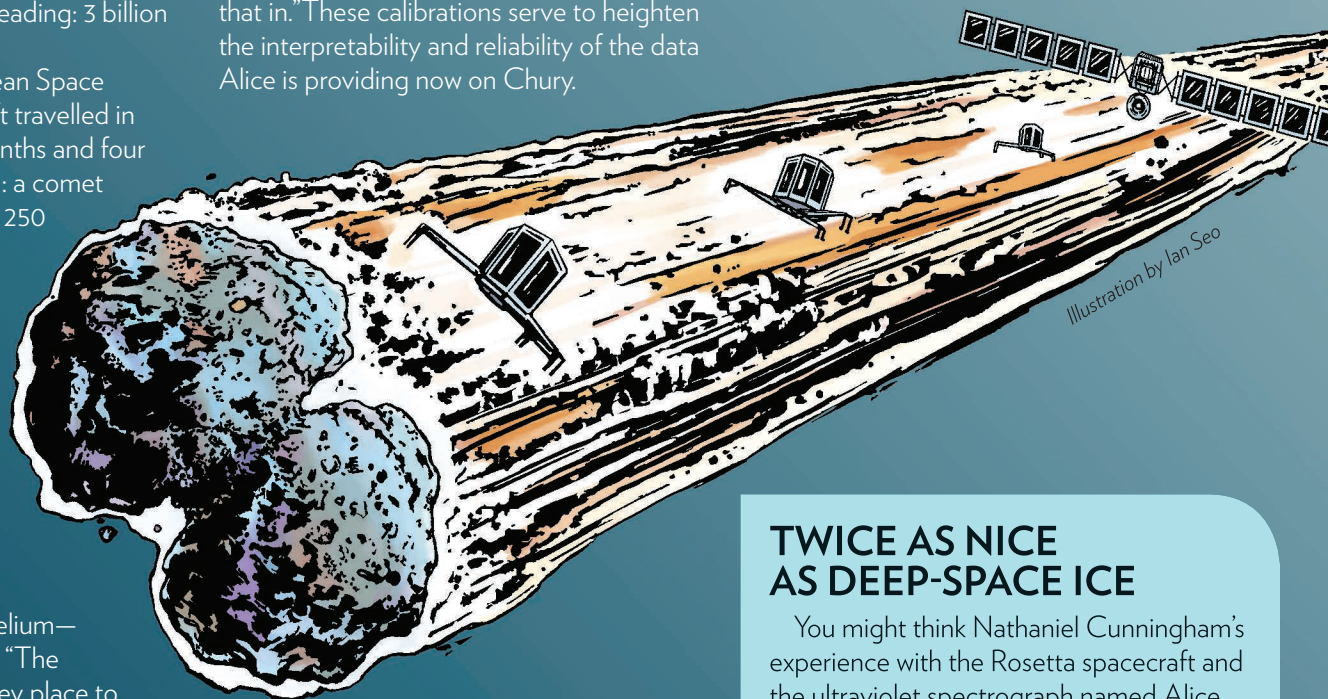
That's where Cunningham and his teammates with the Southwest Research Institute come in. The team has been responsible for Alice's regular "on the fly" calibrations. The team fired up Alice on multiple occasions throughout Rosetta's lengthy commute to answer important questions about its in-flight performance.

"We'd point Alice at a known standard—say, a star emitting a known amount of

ultraviolet light—and check the instrument's sensitivity at various wavelengths," Cunningham said. "Does the instrument behave the same way over time, or is dust affecting results? We need a known standard to fill that in." These calibrations serve to heighten the interpretability and reliability of the data Alice is providing now on Chury.

by heat.

Chury and Alice offer humanity a pristine look back in time. **n**

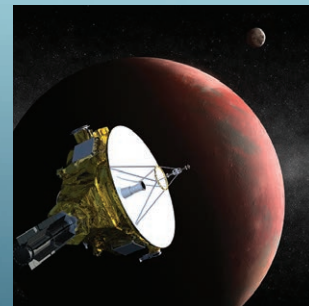


TWICE AS NICE AS DEEP-SPACE ICE

You might think Nathaniel Cunningham's experience with the Rosetta spacecraft and the ultraviolet spectrograph named Alice represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. That's not quite true.

Cunningham has worked with another ultraviolet spectrograph (also named Alice) on NASA's New Horizons spacecraft, which is currently hurtling toward Pluto at more than 36,000 miles per hour.

It's set to pass within 6,000 miles of the dwarf planet on July 14, 2015.



Artist rendering courtesy Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory/Southwest Research Institute (JHUAPL/SwRI)

That's all well and good, you might say. But what difference does it make whether this comet has, say, a little more argon than scientists expected, or a little less helium?

Cunningham said Chury's composition will shed light on the original building blocks of our solar system. "What we have here on Earth is what I'd call 'highly processed' material," he said. The Earth has enough mass that the heavier elements have sunk toward the core. And we're close enough to the sun that much of the material has been molten in the past, which causes chemical changes.

"Chury is so valuable because it has 'unprocessed' material," he said. At just four kilometers in diameter, Chury lacks the mass necessary to sink its heavier elements. And its distance from the sun means its substances have never been chemically altered

How to Dress a CHIMP, Joe Pesci and Reese Witherspoon with a COURT ORDERED sewing machine

One alumna threads her way to Hollywood.

By Mike Malloy

When **Melissa Bruning** ('93) was a child, she enjoyed baton twirling. The competition, the training, the practicing—that was all fine. But what she truly loved was designing her outfit.

That was when Bruning discovered what she wanted to do for a living. “I loved drawing, I loved sewing and I loved theatre,” Bruning said.

After graduating from Nebraska Wesleyan—the school where her parents met—she went on to New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, which led to a stint in New York with a not-so-stable theatre troupe.

That job had an unexpected impact. When the troupe didn’t pay her as promised, Bruning was forced to sue. The money she was owed simply didn’t exist, so the court awarded her the troupe’s sewing machine, which she still uses. She put that machine to work in costumes for commercials and more than a dozen small-budget films.

She’s costumed the likes of Joe Pesci and Helen Mirren (“Love Ranch”), Christopher Walken (“Kill the Irishman” and “\$5 a Day”) and Jon Hamm and Kristen Wiig (“Friends with Kids”). And this summer, Bruning hit the big time as lead costume designer for the blockbuster “Dawn of the Planet of the Apes.”

The daughter of two artists and Nebraska



▲ Phyllis Blanke (left) called Bruning (right) a rare talent who understood what costumes add to a show.



Wesleyan graduates—**Marcia Tichy** ('69) and **Les Bruning** ('70)—Melissa Bruning relied mainly on herself during much of her career. She chose the fabric; she threaded the needle; she spattered stage blood on shirts for fight scenes. But when director Matt Reeves asked her to work on the second installment of the “Apes” franchise, Bruning arrived in a new world.

“I actually had staff,” she said.

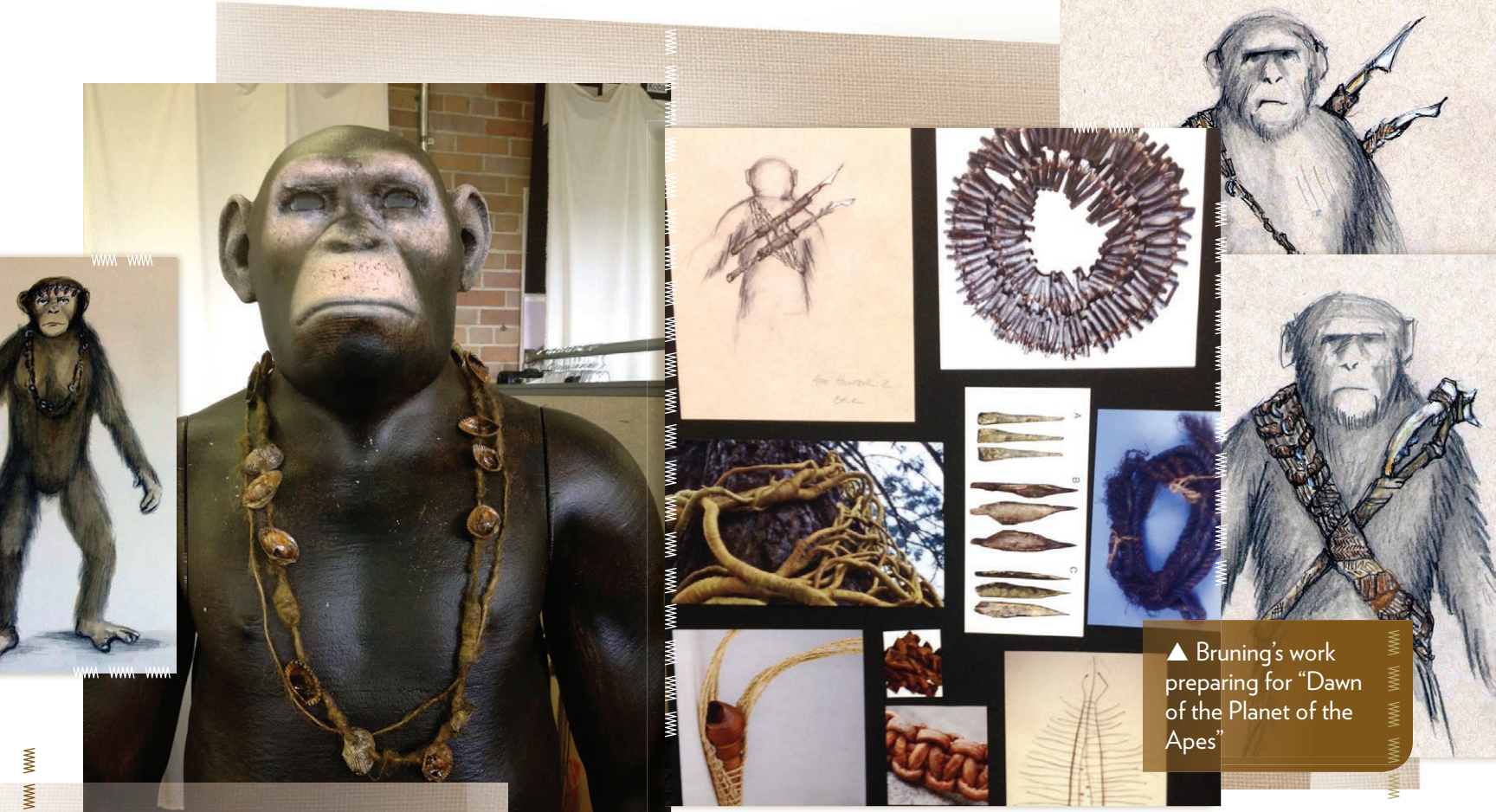
She had a department of “Dying and Distressing” at her disposal—an entire crew trained in making new clothing look well-worn. The extra hands were much needed for a film set in post-apocalyptic San Francisco, where apes rule the nearby rural areas and humans forage the city’s rubble for food and clothing.

Costume work began before casting, which Bruning said is typical. And Bruning set out to create costumes for actors of unknown size. She assumed the female lead would be a size 4 or smaller, she said, “because it’s Hollywood.” Enter veteran actor Keri Russell, whom Bruning fitted about two hours before the first camera test.

Because scenes are often shot out of order on a film, actors need multiple versions of outfits in various stages: clean, slightly dirty, torn or bloodied. Other factors make flexibility even more necessary.

“Sometimes you’re going to shoot this at a location and for whatever reason the location wasn’t available and now you’re shooting in a different place and the shirt is the same color as the wall,” Bruning said.

Her 17th film, the currently-in-release “Wild”, offered different challenges. The



She's costumed the likes of Joe Pesci, Helen Mirren, Christopher Walken, Jon Hamm and Kristen Wiig.

adaptation follows a young woman, played by Oscar winner Reese Witherspoon, coping with trauma by embarking on a 1,100-mile solo hike through the Pacific Northwest. The story's early-1990s timeframe required Bruning to make some dubious fashion choices.

“Canvas shorts, wool socks, T-shirts, ugly sports bras. Teal with a hint of fuchsia piping was a big thing,” Bruning said. “In another 10 years, the ’90s will be cool, but they’re not right now.”

Research for the film took Bruning back to her 1993 NWU yearbook. There, she found lots of flannel and big eyeglasses. And on page 104, she found a photo (opposite page) of herself at work on a costume design alongside her mentor, Professor

Emerita of Theatre Phyllis Blanke.

“Of all the students I’ve had, she was, emotionally, one of my dearest,” Blanke said. “She was also one of the most talented of the students I’ve had because she was so focused on costume design.”

Blanke said many theatre students would simply go to the closet and pick out something that was close enough. Bruning would do more. She'd research the time period; she'd uncover what characters would wear in certain situations.

"Melissa understood that without having to be told," Blanke said.

Blanke's husband, Professor Emeritus of Theatre **Henry Blanke**, was NWU's theatre director at the time. He thinks of Bruning like a daughter and recalls his protégé's commitment to her craft. He also remembered a time when that commitment nearly got her in trouble. As part of his improv class, Bruning and her friend, **Michelle (Pierce) Tabor** ('93), painted one of Les Bruning's sculptures on display outside the Smith-Curtis Classroom-Administration Building's west entrance.

"We were there all day long, and people were like, 'It's so great you're doing something with it,'" Bruning said.

But campus security raised their eyebrows.

“They were ready to carry her away for defacing the statue,” Henry Blanke said.

Imagine her phone call home.


“Dad, I’m afraid I kind of ran into some trouble with campus security today.”
[Audible sigh.] “What did you do, Melissa?”

"Well, they say I sort of defaced your sculpture maybe a little bit."

That run-in aside, Bruning's time at NWU, where the Blankes helped her create her own degree in technical theatre, was the first step toward a career in film.

"It's because I was able to do so much designing as an undergraduate that I was accepted to NYU. It helped me get ahead of the competition," Bruning said.

Bruning and her husband, actor Derek Cecil, who plays Seth Grayson in the TV drama, "House of Cards," had a son, Beau, in early 2014. The rest of the year was focused on motherhood. But Bruning, who has already signed on for the third "Apes" installment, knows she can come back to her court-ordered sewing machine on her own terms.

“Now that I’m in the studio circle there’s a lot more opportunity,” she said. “It’s the first time that I can actually not worry what my next job is.” 

Oversize Load

AWARD-WINNING ART PROFESSOR PACKS HIS PAINTING—AND HIS TEACHING—WITH PHYSICALITY

David Gracie doesn't want his students to paint like him. (Many give it a shot anyway.) For Nebraska Wesleyan's 2014 Prouty Teaching Award winner and the holder of the Ralph W. and Esther E. Petersen Endowed Chair in Art, it's more about encouraging artists to paint with a deeper consciousness.

"I wouldn't say I want them to be more serious," Gracie said. He takes his students' seriousness as a given. "But I want to help them be more considered."

And he encourages his students to consider the physical nature of paintings. "When you see a Rembrandt in person—when you see it in the flesh—it has a different physicality," he said.

Gracie paints for that physicality—and for the way the physical bumps against the abstract. When he critiques work, it's almost always on physical terms.

He doesn't care for what he calls "thin" paintings. It's not that he's against thin paint. His own paint is thin. He means thin like cheap tissue. Thin like chicken broth or a poor plan. Regardless of style, Gracie wants his students' work to be something more nuanced than $1 + 1 + 1 = 3$. He wants it to be well considered, well fed, well built. Thick.

"Painting is something like architecture," he said. "You build it." [n](#)



▲ David Gracie will often paint subject matter—like ice cubes or a dropped cupcake in the grass—that he said "just begs to be dismissed." He shook his head and laughed. "I don't know why I keep doing this to myself."



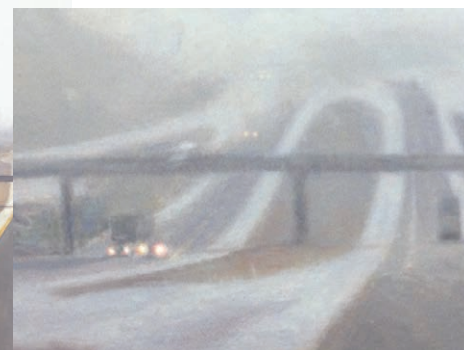
HOME BUILT

Home often presents a moving target in David Gracie's work. Here, he gives us a look at "Oversize Load" in stages.

"I thought about doing this painting a decade ago. I was on the road a lot and I liked the idea of home being something in transition."



"When I started, it wasn't going to be such a whiteout. But working on the atmosphere between the viewer and the object just started to become this nice metaphor for painting."



"I wanted to make the painting feel both physically present and atmospheric."



"If I had a canned answer about how everything fit together in a painting, it would just be executing more than creating. I think you should always allow that door to be a little open."



Photo courtesy of Crew Keller (17)

- ▲ “Today we’re all wearing No. 9.”
—@NEWesleyan via twitter
- ▲ “Our hearts are breaking for Maury’s family and we ask for your continued thoughts and prayers for them.”
—Brian Keller (’83), head football coach

Remembering Maury

Nebraska Wesleyan University’s homecoming victory on October 11 was followed by a devastating loss on October 12. NWU tight end and elementary education major **Maury Lorence** (’15) of Doniphan, Neb., died in an accident along Interstate 80 outside Lincoln.

More than 500 students and friends gathered on Taylor Commons for a candle-light vigil in his honor October 14. And his teammates wore his jersey number on their helmets for the rest of the season.

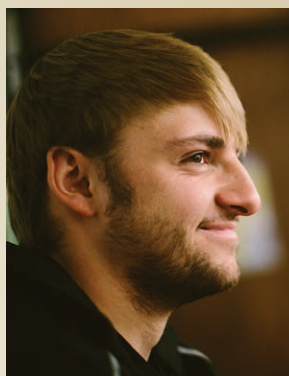


Photo by Geoff Johnson

Maury Lorence

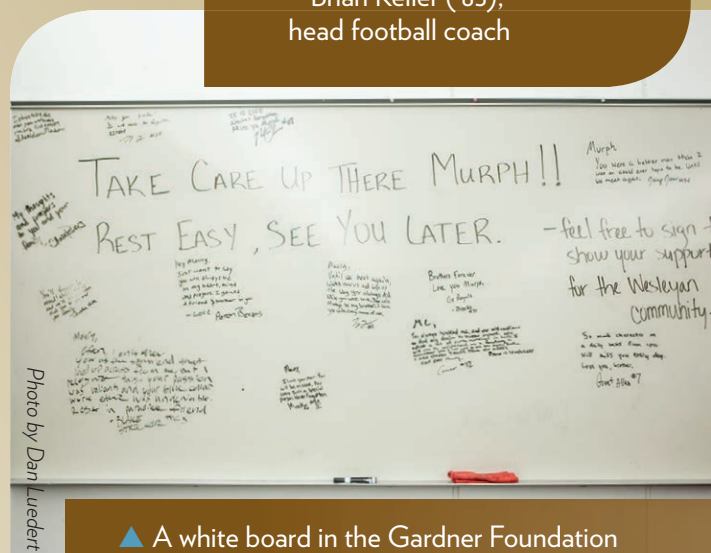


Photo by Dan Luedert

- ▲ A white board in the Gardner Foundation Strength Complex became a place for student-athletes to pay tribute to their classmate.

SPRING SPORT SUMMARY

Cross country

Gabi Jenkins (’16) starred on this year’s team, and was fourth at the Woody Greeno Invitational, finishing behind only two junior college runners and an NCAA II competitor. She qualified for nationals where she placed 30th.

Gabi Jenkins ▶



Photo by Chris Smithberg

Football

Competitive nail-biters were the norm for NWU in 2014 with half its games decided by one score. The team finished 4-6 and produced two Academic All-Americans including the Academic All-American of the year, Connor Zumpfe.

Where Wins Are Made

NWU unveils the Gardner Foundation Strength Complex.

Ask coaches where wins and losses are determined and their answers might vary quite a bit by sport. Head Volleyball Coach **Rayna Cain** might point inside the attack line. Men's Basketball Coach **Dale Wellman** might answer with the free-throw line. And Head Football Coach **Brian Keller** ('83) might say the red zone.

But it's just as likely that each of these coaches will give an identical answer. Where are wins made? In the weight room.

Thanks to a \$100,000 grant from the Gardner Foundation of Wakefield, Neb., Nebraska Wesleyan University's weight room and circuit room received hefty upgrades this fall. The new Gardner Foundation Strength Complex features new weights and strength equipment—complete with Prairie Wolves colors and logos.

Three types of equipment allow NWU student-athletes to do “functional training” designed around sport-specific integrated movements. And the new double-sided power racks provide a dozen stations for student-athletes to perform the fundamental lifts that carry across every sport. The new equipment is available to intercollegiate athletes and the student body as a whole.

“This functional training equipment now allows our teams to do sport specific movements and workout programs,” said **Derek Frese**, NWU's strength and conditioning coach.

The generosity of the Gardner Foundation has greatly enhanced this university, and will continue to enhance the experience of this community for years to come. [n](#)

▼ Logos, school colors and state-of-the-art equipment motivate athletes in the Weary Center's newly renovated Gardner Foundation Strength Complex.



Photo by Dan Liedert



Photo by Lane Hickenbottom

▲ Members of the Gardner family cutting the ribbon in a halftime ceremony were (left to right) Timarie Bebee-Hansen ('05), her son, Leslie Gardner-Beebe, Tim Bebee and Garek Bebee ('11).

Soccer

Solid defense was NWU's recipe for success for both the men and the women. The men took their first three victories by shutout; the women took their first five the same way. The men finished the season 7-9-1. The women finished 8-6-3.

Volleyball

NWU started red-hot with 10 straight wins. NWU won the Washington University Labor Day Classic, the Bethel University Tournament and the Pikes Peak Challenge in convincing fashion, on their way to an NCAA tournament bid and a 22-7 record.

NWU volleyball added a 12th NCAA tournament appearance in 2014. ►



Photo by Lane Hickenbottom

Fiscal Year June 1, 2013–May 31, 2014

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Several factors combined to continue the positive results of our financial operations in fiscal year 2014. An operating budget surplus, very strong support through gifts and grants and continued growth in the endowment resulted in an increase in net assets of \$9.9 million for the year, an increase



of 9.4 percent that builds upon the strong foundation already in place. As net revenue grew 13.3 percent, expenditures increased less than 1 percent. We're continuing to grow and diversify our revenue streams while focusing on essential programs and expenses.

During fiscal year 2014, our community developed Archways Plan 2017, a strategic plan with a vision to provide a transformative educational experience with an emphasis on creating a dynamic living and learning environment, and identifying, recruiting and retaining students destined for success. We renovated the dining operation, now named Prairie Point Dining Center, and rebranded the coffee shop, now known as the Archway Café, with Starbucks products to better suit the student experience. A new, prominent location for University College is providing improved visibility in Omaha with a Master of Business Administration and other innovative programs.

The swimming program, led by Coach Greg Fleming, inaugurated its first season this fall with a refurbished swimming pool, brand new equipment and a group of talented student-athletes. A new weight complex for all student-athletes was made possible by a generous grant from the Gardner Foundation and will help our students remain competitive. We are investing in our student recruiting programs and in efforts to identify at-risk students and help them succeed.

We continue to hire, retain and support faculty and staff dedicated to meeting our strategic objectives. As five experienced faculty retired this spring, we hired new faculty with excellent credentials in their respective fields. Installation of new high-density wireless access in a number of academic buildings, including Olin Hall and Smith-Curtis Classroom-Administration Building, is designed to keep pace with the rapidly growing use of technology in the classroom. Our successful wellness program is helping to both improve employees' health and reduce costs for medical care. Costs will decrease for the second year in a row since implementation of that program.

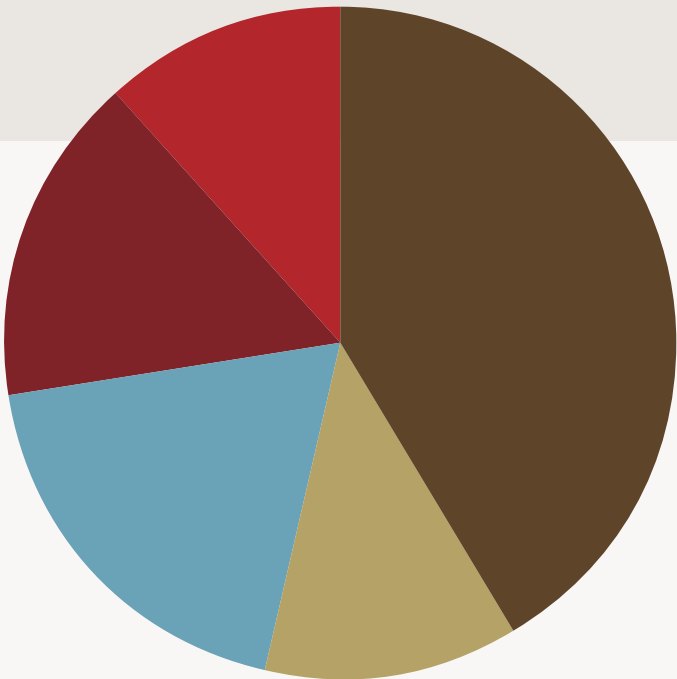
We look to continue progress as we move forward in 2014-2015 with a large class of outstanding students. We hope to see many of you on campus throughout the year.

Sincerely,
Clark T. Chandler
Vice President for Finance and Administration

▶ FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Assets

Total Assets	\$115,284,000
Total Liabilities	\$27,120,000
Total Net Assets	\$88,164,000



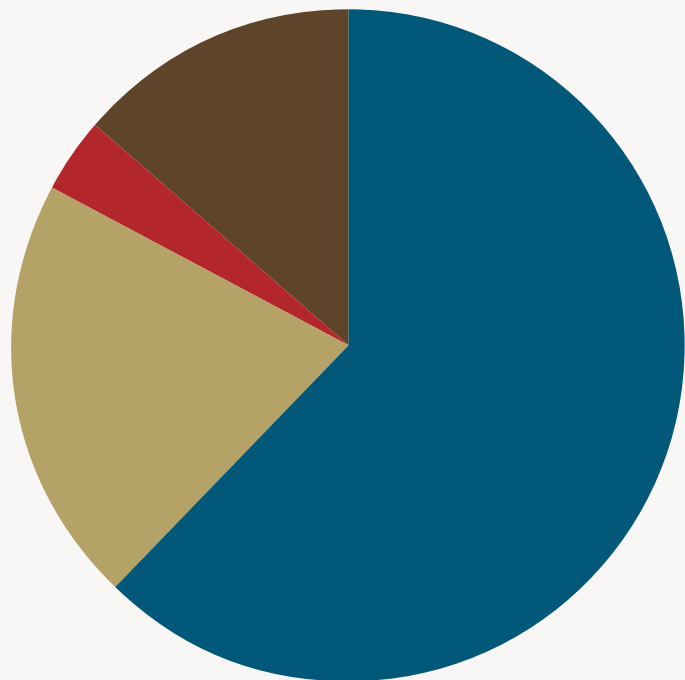
▶ STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES 2014

Revenues

Tuition and Fees	\$44,094,000
Less: Financial Aid	\$17,991,000
Net Tuition and Fees	\$26,103,000
Gifts and Grants	\$8,684,000
Investment Earnings	\$1,493,000
Auxiliary Enterprises and Other	\$5,651,000
Total Revenue	\$41,931,000

Expenses

Instruction	\$15,177,000
Academic Support	\$4,514,000
Student Services	\$6,968,000
Institutional Support	\$5,734,000
Auxiliary Enterprises and Other	\$4,268,000
Total Expenses	\$36,661,000



Increase in Assets from Operations	\$5,270,000
Other Changes in Assets	\$4,674,000
Total Change in Assets	\$9,944,000
Net Assets, Beginning of the Year	\$78,220,000
Net Assets, End of Year	\$88,164,000

Goodbye to an Old Friend

—by Ken Keith



Photo by Michael Lionstar

On November 30, I lost an old friend, the Nebraska Wesleyan community lost a classmate and teacher, and the literary world lost a distinguished writer. Kent Haruf ('65) died at his home in Salida, Colo., following an extended illness.

The author of such compelling novels as *The Tie That Binds*, *Where You Once Belonged*, *Plainsong*, *Eventide*, and *Benediction* made the fictional high plains town of Holt a place we all recognized. It is the place where we grew up, where we struggled to find a foothold in the world, where we fell in and out of love, and faced the realities of life and death. In *West of Last Chance* (with Peter Brown), writing of his beloved Great Plains, he said, "It isn't pretty, but it's beautiful."

Kent declined to compare himself to the authors who were his influences, particularly Faulkner, Hemingway, and Chekhov. Modesty kept him from acknowledging what so many of his readers know—that he belongs, without question, in their company.

His work has been recognized with many awards; *Plainsong* was a finalist for the

National Book Award, *Eventide* received the Colorado Book Award, *West of Last Chance* won the Dorothea Lange-Paul Taylor Prize, *Benediction* was short-listed in Britain for the Folio Prize, and *The Tie That Binds* received the Whiting Writers' Prize. *The New York Times* called *Plainsong* a novel "so four-square, so delicate and lovely, that it has the power to exalt."

There were other awards, but Kent was less interested in awards than in telling the spare, honest stories of the small town people he knew and loved. He was unafraid to face the stark challenges of the characters who inhabited Holt, and he wrote deliberately, knowing he was telling not just the stories of Holt, but of us all. He said, "I have tried not to write too small, and I want to believe I have tried not to live too small, either." Haruf did not live small; he was a kind and generous friend and a beloved teacher, with a gentle, self-deprecating sense of humor.

In 2013, in *Benediction*, Kent wrote the eloquent, unvarnished story of Dad Lewis and his inexorable progression toward death

from cancer. Dad knows he will be dead by the end of summer, that it will "be as if he never was." Soon after, Kent told me that now his own true work was "the effort to try to understand how to die: living each day with intention." He said he loved this physical world and was beginning to realize that it will go on—people getting up, eating, going to the post office or library—without him. The irony in this is that Kent described exactly how we all should live all the time, and he lived a life that shows it—from his Peace Corps days in the 1960s to his later generous support of students and young writers.

Not long after the release of his first successful novel, *The Tie That Binds*, Kent returned to NWU, where he taught from 1986 to 1991. In that book, he wrote this opening line: "Edith Goodenough isn't in the country anymore." Our old friend's final line will come in the spring, with the publication of his last novel, *Our Souls at Night*. **n**

Ken Keith taught psychology at NWU from 1980 to 1999. He lives in Omaha.



MYSTERY PHOTO

Tonight,
we eat like kings.

Help us flush the names of these two hunters.

Hungry for more? Act fast. Nebraska's pheasant, quail, partridge and turkey season ends January 31.

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

MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED



The (Willard) house always wins

One Willard alumna laid down her cards for this photo.

The Mystery Photo in *Archways* magazine is from a Willard pledge party, I believe when I was a sophomore. Those in the photo are Stephanie (Gates) Wiese ('91), Sharon (Lundquist) Mitchell ('91), Heather (Price) Suey ('92), Leigh-Ann (News-ham) Ochsner ('91), myself, Laurie (Haier) Zimmerman ('93) and Heidi (Pehrson) Huss ('91).

—Kelli (Lindsay) Grosshans ('91)

Take that call.

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

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

Jenny Hood ('16)

Fremont, Neb.

Elementary education and special education major

You'll be glad you did.



Alumni News



Photos by Lane Hickenbottom

◀ Food lovers had another awesome tailgate and reunion parties to enjoy.



◀ NWU honored its many philanthropists with a tribute to the Gardner Foundation and reunion class giving at halftime.



The Athletic Hall of Fame got some new faces with the induction of ▶ (left to right, top to bottom) **Scott Nelson** ('96) (track & field), **Traci Quick** ('95) (softball), **John Hansen** ('88) (football), **Noland Urban** ('01) (football), **Christina Renner Boesiger** ('99) (volleyball), **Dean** ('70) and **Bev** ('71) **Swanson** and the ▲ **1989 football team**.



HOMECOMING 2014

Good Food, Fans, Photos, Football, Philanthropy and Friends

Homecoming at NWU had something for everyone in 2014.

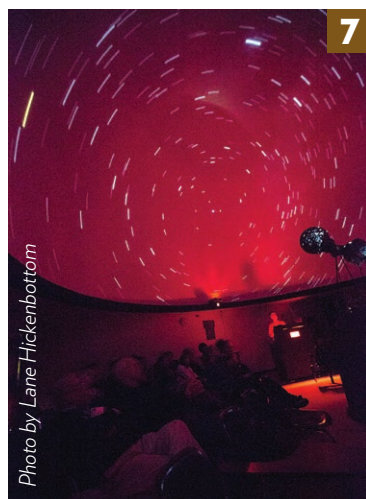


▲ **Brenden Love** ('15) and **Kelsey Erhart** ('15) were crowned homecoming king and queen. And the entire homecoming court were popular participants in NWU's traditional golf cart parade.



1. Kirk Koczanowski ('14) (*left*), Colton Schied ('14) (*center*) and Grant Nordby ('15) (*right*) shared some laughs at the 2004-2014 reunion party.
2. Cheryl Heinrichs Walsh ('81) (*left*) had Assistant Professor of English Sandra McBride ('84) (*center*) and Dave Swartzendruber ('84) (*right*) laughing at the 1984 reunion party.
3. Members of the class of 1964 (*left to right*), Carolyn Clifford Mitchell, Marilyn Woodward Wagner, Richard Nelson and Patricia Brooke Nelson show off their 50-year medallions.
4. Joyce and Craig ('64) Urbauer and Lavon Gramann (*right*) share introductions.
5. Erv Unvert ('53) (*left*), Jim Lightbody ('54) (*center*) and George Stephens ('55) had stories to tell.

6. Author Jennifer Cognard-Black ('91) (*left*) greeted book fans of all ages during her Alumni Academy session.
7. Assistant professor of physics Nathaniel Cunningham led a planetarium discussion of the galaxy for star gazers.
8. For art lovers, NWU hosted an exhibit of Professor Emerita of Art Susan Horn's photographs. The title of that exhibition—"Past and Present"—was perfect for homecoming as a whole. Homecoming brings together generations of alumni and current students to honor this university's past and enjoy its here-and-now.



NWU Honors Legends and Legacies

Each year at homecoming, we honor a select few alumni whose accomplishments and contributions to NWU and to society deserve special recognition.

We celebrate them at the Legends and Legacies Alumni Award Banquet. It's one of the many traditions that makes homecoming at NWU great.

This year's alumni award winners more than live up to Nebraska Wesleyan's traditions of excellence, service and citizenship.



Now I See

Eye surgeon brings vision to patients in developing countries.

Dr. Michael Feilmeier ('01) received NWU's Young Alumni Achievement Award for his work to restore sight to needy patients across the developing world. In addition to serving as surgeon at Midwest Eye Care, he is an assistant professor and medical director of the Division of Global Blindness Prevention at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

In the past three years, Feilmeier and his team at UNMC have restored sight to more than 1,000 blind patients in Haiti and Africa. He has also trained surgeons in Nepal, India, Haiti, Ethiopia and Ghana.



Photo by Chad Greene

Rocket Scientist and English Professor Give of Themselves

Decades of support yield NWU's Alumni Loyalty Award.

Wayne Lang ('56) has founded and chaired academic departments in physics and computer science. He's worked in jet propulsion labs for the Galileo Jupiter spacecraft. And Phyllis (Martin) Lang ('60) has taught English and mass communication and has written, edited and published materials in the arts and in history.

They contribute financially to Nebraska Wesleyan University because they believe the school helped make their professional contributions possible. "Our Nebraska Wesleyan education provided a solid framework of knowledge and skills which allowed us to change, to meet the challenges of the unexpected, and, perhaps most importantly, to thrive in new endeavors.

Their generosity toward the university is long-standing and varied. They have supported scholarships honoring Professor Emeritus of Physics **Walter French** and the late Professor of English **Harold Hall**. They supported the recent track resurfacing project, campus gardens and class gifts. And Phyllis was a founding member of the President's Board of Advisors.

Photo by Dan Luedert



Photo courtesy Metro Community College

A Lifetime for Students

Two college presidents take home Alumni Achievement Awards.

"All of my proudest accomplishments directly relate to students," said Jack Huck ('69) (*left*). Huck is retiring after a distinguished career as interim chancellor, chancellor and president of Southeast Community College in Lincoln.

Huck played key roles in two successful accreditations, the founding of the Learn to Dream Scholarship program with Union Bank & Trust and Nelnet, and the creation of the Career Academy with Lincoln Public Schools. SCC named its Jack J. Huck Continuing Education Center in his honor.

Randy Schmailzl ('76) (*right*) wore many hats, first at Westmar College in Le Mars, Iowa, and later at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha. At Westmar, Schmailzl coached football, directed athletics and served as dean of enrollment management and retention and as dean of students. And at MCC, he climbed the ranks as director of enrollment management, dean of student services, provost, executive vice president, interim president, and president.

Schmailzl said his ability to play so many roles is rooted in his Nebraska Wesleyan experience. "I felt an educational impact immediately at Nebraska Wesleyan. It exposed me to so many opportunities."

YOU CAN NOMINATE ACCOMPLISHED ALUMNI (yourself included) to be honored at our next *Legends and Legacies Alumni Award Banquet* at nebrwesleyan.edu/alumni-and-friends/alumni-awards.

Photo by Parker Miles Blohm



“Pushing Boundaries” Founder Honored for Service

Alumna works for the wounded and for the caregiver.

When a car accident left Sharon (Goff) Northrup’s (‘64) late husband paralyzed, their lives changed instantly. And her NWU background in health and exercise science became hugely important.

The lack of exercise-based therapy programs near their Seattle-area home led Northrup to found Pushing Boundaries, the Pacific Northwest’s only exercise-based therapy center. The nonprofit focuses on both therapy for the individual and support for the family and caregiver.

“Give to the world the best that you have and the best will come back to you,” is a maxim Northrup lives by and exemplifies to the people Pushing Boundaries serves. For her work, she has earned NWU’s Alumni Humanitarian Award.

“Nebraska Wesleyan University’s commitment to a small campus population creates the sense of community, family and faith,” Northrup said. “These are the values that helped define me and continue to guide me in everything I do.”



Photo by Dan Luedert


Sound Judgment

NWU honors alumnus and federal judge with Medal of Honor.

Judge John Gerrard’s (’76) legal career has long been on the fast track. Just 19 years after his graduation from Nebraska Wesleyan University, Gerrard sat on the Nebraska Supreme Court. At 41, he was the youngest person ever appointed a justice of that court.

In May 2011, President Barack Obama nominated Gerrard to be U.S. district judge for the District of Nebraska. The Senate confirmed that nomination in 2012. Like one of his predecessors on the federal bench, Judge Warren Urbom (’50), Gerrard is also active in Nebraska Wesleyan University’s governance, serving on NWU’s Board of Governors.

His recent professional recognitions include the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts National Award, the Legal Pioneer Award from the Nebraska State Bar Foundation, and the Nebraska Judicial System’s Distinguished Judge for Improvement of the Judicial System Award.

For his service on and off the bench, Gerrard is Nebraska Wesleyan University’s 2014 Medal of Honor recipient. 

Representatives from Ameritas (right), Sandhills Publishing (below left), and Union Bank & Trust (below right) were on hand to accept awards for corporate support to NWU.



Friends Paint the Town Black & Gold

Country Club gala honors
NWU's most generous donors.

The Black & Gold Gala is Nebraska Wesleyan University's celebration of philanthropy. It honors the university's most generous donors—members of Nebraska Wesleyan's lifetime and annual giving societies—and recognizes all the opportunities they make possible for today's students.

The 2014 gala took place at the Country Club of Lincoln on September 11. There, a select few corporations and individuals were inducted into lifetime giving societies and honored with special awards.

Two corporations were inducted into Nebraska Wesleyan's Cornerstone Society for total giving in excess of \$1 million. CEO JoAnn Martin represented Ameritas, and President Angie (Dunlap) Muhleisen ('81) represented Union Bank & Trust Company in the inductions.

Founders Thomas and Rhonda Peed represented NWU's 2014 Corporate Citizenship Award winner, Sandhills Publishing. The Peeds also joined Julie Anderson ('97), Sidney ('54) and Shirley Anderson, the late Eleanor (Engleman) Dixon ('37), Burton ('59) and Natalie Galaway, and the late Roberta (Barnard) ('39) and Fred Muscheites as 2014 Huntington Society inductees. The Huntington Society honors those who make planned gifts to Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Representing the student body at the Black & Gold Gala was Brenda Maldonado ('15) of Sargent, Neb. Maldonado is the recipient of the Vicente A. and LoRene M. Colón Scholarship. She expressed her gratitude for this scholarship and all the doors it has opened to her throughout her Nebraska Wesleyan experience.

"I am merely one voice amongst my peers. I assure each and every one of you that the impact you've had on our generation is astounding and humbling," Maldonado said. "I see my peers as some of the strongest and most motivated people I could ask to be surrounded with, and it's very much thanks to each one of you sitting before me today. Thank you for having paved the path as students and for continuing to do so as alumni." 🍷



Brenda Maldonado (right) said that alumni generosity—like that shown by this year's Heritage Society inductees (above)—has made her Nebraska Wesleyan experience possible.

Photos by Paul Hadley