

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

ARCHWAYS

GO BIG | FALL 15 | VOLUME 15, ISSUE 3



SOLID FOOTING

With both feet finally in NCAA Division III, NWU takes the field into another intensity.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Nebraska Wesleyan's
reputation is built on
bold talk combined
with bold action.*

Dear Alumni and Friends,

In sports, as in life, talk is easy and success is hard. America's competitive nature calls for people, teams and institutions to do more than merely talk a good game.

Nebraska Wesleyan's reputation is built on bold talk combined with bold action. Here is Nebraska Wesleyan's bold talk, in the form of our vision statement:

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.

We live out this vision through strategic action. We recently rebuilt our curriculum to more fully integrate transformational experiences—like internships, service learning, study abroad and collaborative research—into our students' work here.

We're renovating residence halls and planning future improvements to create a more dynamic living and learning environment.

And we just welcomed the largest first-year class in 50 years—a class recruited on a national scale, drawing students from 21 states.

Our move into the Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference as an exclusive NCAA Division III affiliate is part of Nebraska Wesleyan's vision for expanding our national reach.

The company we keep matters. Nebraska Wesleyan University is among *U.S. News and World Report's* list of the top 150 national liberal arts universities. Of these 150 strong schools, 147 are affiliated with the NCAA. And three are affiliated with the NAIA.

It's this simple: To be an outstanding national liberal arts university, we must run with truly outstanding national liberal arts universities. We must mean what we say. And we must back up our words with meaningful action. That's what strong reputations are built on.

As we live out our vision, Nebraska Wesleyan's reach expands. Our students find exciting new opportunities to compete and succeed on a national stage. And to all of you who are alumni, the value of your Nebraska Wesleyan degree grows.

Yours truly,

—Fred Ohles
President



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Cover photo by Chris Smithberg

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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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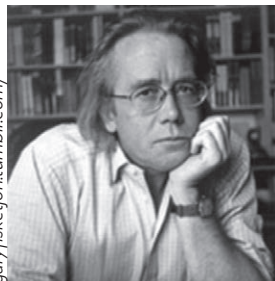


Photo by Jennifer Heywood



Photo by Jennifer Heywood



Photo courtesy Kansas State
University



Gary Fisketjon, "Remembering Kent Haruf" ▶18

Gary is vice president and editor-at-large at Alfred A. Knopf Publishing. In addition to editing the work of Kent Haruf ('65), Gary's authors include Donna Tartt, Tobias Wolff, Julian Barnes, Cormac McCarthy, Haruki Murakami and many others. He lives in New York and Leiper's Fork, Tenn.

Bruce Chapman ('83), "Prairie Wolves in Print: Our Souls at Night" ▶19

Bruce has taught English, oral communication and theatre at Lincoln Northeast High School for 30 years. He was honored at Lincoln Public Schools' 2015 "Thank You, Teacher" event, held as part of Nebraska Teacher Recognition Day on March 3. He lives in Lincoln with his wife, Assistant Professor of English Sandra McBride ('84), in a home filled with the things they enjoy most: books, art, dogs, turtles and tortoises.

Quinn Hullett ('18), "Ashes to Ashes" ▶20

Quinn is a sophomore from Lincoln. She's been active in the English and Communication Studies departments since her first semester on campus. An avid reader and passionate writer, she can often be found with her nose in a book. This past summer, she interned at the YMCA of Lincoln specializing in community outreach and is now interning in the university's Office of Marketing and Communications, focusing on public relations.

Carlin Daharsh ('18), "Introduction to Opportunity" ▶24

Carlin was elected student body vice president in her first year on campus. She is president of the student organization, Young Democrats. The political communication major has worked on the floor of the Nebraska Legislature and interned this past summer for the new progressive think tank, State Innovation Exchange (SiX).

Justine Nelson, "Bomb-sniffing Science" ▶37

Justine works as a client manager for the Division of Communications and Marketing at Kansas State University. When she isn't managing client projects, she works as a freelance writer. She lives with her husband in Manhattan, Kan.

Letters

In a Culture That Calls People out, NWU Called Me in

I served last year as coeditor of NWU's newspaper, *The Reveille*. One of my articles included a phrase that was unintentionally offensive. In this case, my mistake was racially offensive.

I'm not writing about the incident here to further apologize, as I've already apologized to *The Reveille's* readers (in print and at NWUreveille.com). I'm relieved to say that most people seem to have accepted that apology and taken this chance for a positive dialogue. Nor am I writing to beat myself up. After realizing my mistake, trust me, I felt bad enough.

I'm writing instead to praise the way this community of scholars responded to my mistake. NWU professors and staff sent me emails and talked with me privately to explain why my choice of words carried offense.

Even though I was upset, I understood that those exchanges were not attacks on me, but opportunities to learn. It was an illustration of "calling in" versus "calling out."

What we're trying to do here is a radical unlearning of everything we have been configured to believe is normal.

of everything we have been configured to believe is normal."

In a culture that loves to publicly shame, I was called in instead. Not only was my error brought to my attention in a loving and kind manner, it opened the opportunity to have hard but worthwhile conversations on race.

T. J. McDowell ('96), NWU's assistant dean of students, told me, "We all make mistakes, but it's how you respond that says a lot about a person's character."

As much as I wish my mistake never happened, I'm relieved to say I've learned a lot from it. I've learned more than just what not to say. I've learned the importance of responding to feedback without being defensive. And I've learned how blessed I am to go to a school that calls students in instead of out.

It's a method that protects even as it pushes us to learn and grow. I hope NWU continues to hold true to that method for every student.

Lizzy Cox ('17)
Aurora, Neb.

It is ... times like this that I am very pleased that both of my children have chosen to attend Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Kindness Matters

I was reading the most recent *Archways* and was so pleased to see your editorial note regarding David Mickey ('39) [Summer 2015, Letters, "One Whom One Never Forgets"]. What a kind gesture for you to add his address and encourage others to make him feel less isolated. I will write him a note even though I, myself, am not an alumna.

It is, however, times like this that I am very pleased that both of my children have chosen to attend Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Kindness matters.

Tracy Haefele
Lincoln

EDITOR'S NOTE

After Elizabeth Barrett Potter ('18) matriculated at NWU last year, her mother, Beth Barrett, wrote this piece for the Gothenburg Times. As the class of 2019 took its First Walk, Barrett offered her essay on a parent's perspective to us, which we reprint with permission.

Floating in Uncharted Space

During the nine months I watched my belly protrude into space, well-wishers kept telling me how my life would change forever once the baby was born. Still, I was unprepared for how quickly Elizabeth Barrett the writer and teacher became "Betsy's mom," and it happened so subtly.

Not until Betsy was a high school junior did I realize just how intertwined our lives had become. Her activities became my activities. And, well, I lost myself.

Months before she left for Nebraska Wesleyan, I knew no one could prepare me for "the letting go" experience.



Members of the class of 2019 took their First Walk under the arches in August.

Once that day arrived, we had plenty to take care of before it happened—moving in, dropping and adding courses and attending a poignant matriculation ceremony. Around dinnertime, we both knew it was time for me to leave.

In the tiny room with concrete walls, we sat on her cheery, yellow comforter and cried for a while. It felt good to get it out.

More tears poured out on the long drive home, and I was feeling OK when the cats greeted me in the dark. More than a month has passed and I still sometimes feel untethered, like an astronaut floating around the Milky Way.

Her activities became my activities. And, well, I lost myself.

Although my daily activities have not changed much, the empty space in the garage grabs my heart each time I pull in or out. And sometimes the loneliness is overwhelming.

Kids leave home, parents die, pets get sick.

Like a tree growing in a difficult place, writer Joyce Sequichie Hifler describes how the plant sends down deep roots to grapple for firm footing.

Seasons of sadness one day bring fountains of joy and the roots grow stronger to weather life's next big change.

Beth Barrett
Gothenburg, Neb.

Archways projects the enthusiasm, energy and unique nature of Nebraska Wesleyan: its institutional spirit and the personal relationships of the people who make it possible.

More Than the Typical Puff Stuff

With every issue of *Archways*, I intend to write you. It is an absolutely outstanding publication—so much more than the typical puff stuff that has marked this type of college magazine over the years!

Congratulations. Not only is it loaded with information about what's going on at NWU, it also addresses current issues and the role of the liberal arts in connecting with the world at large. More than that, *Archways* projects the enthusiasm, energy and unique nature of Nebraska Wesleyan: its institutional spirit and the personal relationships of the people who make it possible—faculty, staff, students and leadership.

Hopefully, the relatively new “togetherness,” “family” approach on connection will lead to greater alumni participation and financial support.

Where I'm coming from: At NWU, I majored in English, edited the newspaper, worked for the *Lincoln Journal* (no internship programs then) for three years, then went on to teach (Westside High, UNO, MCC), freelance and desktop publishing (the new thing). After the sudden death of my husband, I worked in development (grant writing, etc.) for College of St. Mary. Now? Retired, I volunteer at Westside Schools.

So, from someone who's been there, you truly bring the excitement of NWU learning to all who receive *Archways*. Thank you.

Marilyn (Miller) Marsh ('60)
Omaha

From One Editor to Another

I just received my copy of *Archways* for summer 2015, and thought I'd let you know how much I enjoyed it—especially the story, “Dismantling the Unabomber.” This was an extremely interesting and well-written story.

As editor of another college magazine, I commend you for drawing on such dynamic material and for your ability to tell the story.



*How many
schools
produce
alumni this
courageous?*

How many schools produce alumni this courageous? And how many university administrators are brave enough to see their stories told this way?

Keep up the good work.

Charles Culbertson
Bridgewater, Va.

Spellbound Reading

Archways is one magazine that I take the time to read cover to cover. The summer 2015 issue held special fascination for me.

As a retired forensic death investigator for Lancaster County, and of an age to remember, I was spellbound reading the article (kudos to the article's editor) about Max Noel and catching the Unabomber. I'll bet a man who served as a great resource for me in a published forensic article of mine was a contemporary of his in the FBI. I wish I had known about our NWU connection in those days.

And, speaking of connection, I now live in San Antonio, Texas, and two of our best friends here are huge, lifelong fans of George Strait. I can't wait to tell them he's a fellow alumnus! [The San Antonio resident and alumnus George Strait ('57) who wrote a summer letter to the editor ("Always a Gentleman") is not "the King of Country."]

I remember Coach Bachman and his family with fondness, and I chuckled at how Dean Evans and his wife began their romance ["In Memoriam"].

Thank you for a fascinating issue—again!

Lindsay Sinn ('75)
San Antonio, Texas

The Nature of My Mathematical Work

I was of course very pleased and honored to be recognized by the Alumni Association. However, the brief summary of my career that appeared in *Archways* ["NWU Honors Legends and Legacies," summer 2015] was accurate, but may give a misleading impression of the nature of my mathematical work.

The assignment algorithm was a very minor part of my mathematical research; I published it shortly after finishing graduate school and thereafter left the field entirely. As time went on, I was surprised to find that people in the field found it useful, and that occasionally someone would ask me, "Are you the Munkres of the Munkres algorithm?" (I had never called it that, of course!)

My major research was in the field of differential topology, which studies higher-dimensional analogues (called "manifolds") of our familiar two-dimensional surfaces. It is highly geometric in nature. My other major efforts involved authoring two texts in addition to the topology text mentioned. Their titles are *Elements of Algebraic Topology* (a graduate-level book) and *Analysis on Manifolds*. Please consider this letter not as a correction but as an addendum to the article mentioned.

James Munkres ('51)
Lexington, Mass.

*Occasionally
someone would
ask me, "Are you
the Munkres of the
Munkres algorithm?"
(I had never called
it that, of course!)*

NWU Expertise Fuels Pluto Fly-by



Photo courtesy NASA/JHUAPL/SwRI

New Horizons is equipped with a notoriously slow data connection. It'll be 16 months before all the data—like this image of Pluto—reach Earth.

Archways readers met “Alice” last winter [“Comet Catcher,” winter 2014–2015]. Alice is a shoebox-sized ultraviolet spectrograph aboard the Rosetta spacecraft, which made humanity’s first contact with a comet last year. Alice’s job was to determine what gases were present on the comet by reading the ultraviolet wavelengths emitted from the surface. And Assistant Professor of Physics **Nathaniel Cunningham’s** job was to keep the spectrograph calibrated and in playing shape over its 3 billion-mile commute.

Alice has an identical twin—also named Alice—aboard NASA’s New Horizons spacecraft. In July, this spectrograph reached its target—the dwarf planet, Pluto.

Rosetta and New Horizons are both in the process now of “dumping” the UV data their Alices provided back to Cunningham’s colleagues on Earth.

“UV is a very fruitful place to look when you want to learn more about the materials present, especially in gases,” Cunningham told the *Lincoln Journal Star*. “Gases emit ultraviolet light when electrons jump from one energy level to another and that tells us more about the elements present.”

While the analysts’ work is only beginning, both Alices now can look forward to an extended sabbatical. “For the rest of existence,” Cunningham said, “it’s coasting through space.”

THE FINAL: An NWU physics professor has served on a team calibrating instruments on two pioneering spacecraft for seven years.

Biologist Wins Coveted Prouty Teaching Award

A creative force in and out of the lab has won NWU’s highest faculty honor: the Prouty Teaching Award. Professor of Biology **Angela McKinney** “celebrates our successes and gives guidance when experiments don’t go as planned,” said one student.

McKinney chaired the Biology Department from 2006 to 2013. In 2013, she brought the SEA-PHAGES Program to NWU’s introductory biology courses. SEA-PHAGES (Science Education Alliance-Phage Hunters Advancing Genomics

and Evolutionary Science) is a discovery-based undergraduate research course using complex genome annotation and bioinformatic analyses to discover new viruses in local soil samples.

McKinney played a part in advancing NWU’s connection to the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Science Education Alliance through the SEA-PHAGES Program. It’s all part of an effort to infuse experiential opportunities into a Nebraska Wesleyan education.

“In addition to having students

read about science, we want them to have a hands-on, investigative approach to learning about how science is really done,” McKinney said.

Other 2015 finalists for the Prouty Award included Assistant Professor of Nursing **Molly Fitzke**, Assistant Professor of Accounting **Steve Hegemann**, Associate Professor of Communication **Karla Jensen**, Assistant Professor of Health and Human Performance **Tamra Llewellyn** (’06) and Assistant Professor of Music **John Spilker**.



Photo by Shane and Sunny Photography

McKinney coordinates NWU’s Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program, supporting minority students in the STEM fields.

THE FINAL: NWU honors professors like McKinney for offering the personal attention and experiential learning opportunities that lead to student success.



Pioneer Hall Gets Facelift

Today's Pioneer Hall is much more modern, accessible and comfortable thanks to a \$2.3 million renovation completed this summer with generous support from the Sunderland Foundation.

Pioneer now boasts modernized rooms, new heating and cooling units, new energy-efficient windows, an elevator and significant technology upgrades. High-density wireless internet brings powerful access to where students live and learn. And technology-rich study spaces help students collaborate.

The Pioneer project follows a similar renovation to Johnson Hall in 2012.

THE FINAL: Major renovations to Pioneer Hall are part of NWU's strategic plan to make NWU a better place to live and learn.



Photos by Lane Hickenbottom

Amenities include a refurbished kitchenette, a gas fireplace, communal work spaces, lounge areas and private meeting spaces—all with updated furniture and lighting.

NWU Moves to Provide Better Care

The numbers from the American College Health Association (ACHA) are sobering. In its 2014 survey, nearly half of college students (47.8 percent) reported having felt that “things are hopeless” at some point in the last 12 months. One third of respondents said they’d found it “difficult to function.” And 8.6 percent said they’d considered suicide.

Each of these numbers is up from ACHA’s 2004 survey.

It’s a trend with tragic national consequences. MIT lost four students to suicide in the last academic year alone. And at NWU, **Janelle (Schutte) Andreini** (’94), director of the Career and Counseling Center, said 10 students were hospitalized for mental health reasons in the 2014 fall semester.

That number marks an alarming increase over Nebraska Wesleyan’s recent past.

“We’re seeing demand for our personal counseling services skyrocket,” she said. Why?

Andreini said more students who struggle with mental illness are choosing to pursue college than was true in the past. A generation of students who’ve grown up with social media come to campus digitally connected, but often emotionally and socially isolated—a tendency that

may hinder resiliency in a campus environment. Likewise, more students with mental illness may select schools like NWU for their small size, safety and personal supports.

Whatever the reasons, Andreini and others are determined to meet increased demand with increased supports.

“You’ve heard that life happens outside of 8 to 5,” said **Brandi Sestak**, NWU’s director of residential education. “So do mental health concerns.” Nebraska Wesleyan staffs residence halls with live-in residence life coordinators and peer assistants who serve as “first responders” during these 2 a.m. crises. “We all have good pajamas,” Sestak said, “because eventually, everyone sees us in them.”

The Career and Counseling Center is changing in response to increased needs, adding a fourth part-time personal counselor and our first social worker to provide direct case management. We’re expanding time slots for personal counseling beyond 45 hours per week. Nebraska Wesleyan is also laying plans to split its career services from its personal counseling to grant students facing mental health concerns greater privacy and better access.

Andreini said these structural changes combine with Nebraska Wesleyan’s supportive culture to make a real difference for students. “Nebraska Wesleyan does an outstanding job of letting all our students know we care about them.”

For a growing number of students, that culture can be more than just “Nebraska nice.” It can be lifesaving.

THE FINAL: Nebraska Wesleyan is changing to respond to an increased need for mental health services.



Student Center Grill Man Hangs up His Apron

For hundreds of people on Nebraska Wesleyan’s campus, **Bill Putnam** was the man to see when you were hungry for good food and better conversation. For years, Putnam manned the grill at Sodexo’s Archway Café, the popular coffee shop in the Roy G. Story Student Center. He retired after commencement in May.

Steven Dow, director of information services and a regular Archway Café customer, called Putnam one of those rare people who could keep orders moving and still focus on each person as though they were the only one there.

During the lunch rush, the line to order would often run the length of the café. But that line wasn’t a wait so much as it was an opportunity to chat with Putnam—one of the more interested and interesting personalities on campus.

Provost **Judy Muyskens** called Putnam “a great friend to so many of us.” In his absence, Archway Café’s menu may be unchanged. But the flavor is different.

THE FINAL: “Personal attention to students” is an NWU core value. That attention comes from more than just professors.





Left to right, top to bottom:
Julie Anderson, Daphne Hall, Stephanie
Moline, Rachel Pakora, Matt Tewes, Tarryn
Tietjen, Mark Walz



Board Elects Governor Emeritus

The Board of Governors honored Larry L. Ruth ('67, Hon. LL.D. '15) at its annual meeting by electing him governor emeritus. Ruth served on the board from 2005 to 2014 and was its chair from 2006 to 2010.

He joins emeriti governors Duane Acklie, B. Keith Heuermann, Gordon "Mac" Hull ('59), Lindy Mullin ('67), Hon. Warren Urbom ('50) and F. Thomas Waring ('53).

NWU Adds Seven to Board of Governors

Nebraska Wesleyan's Board of Governors recently welcomed seven new members to its ranks.

Julie Anderson ('97) is principal at AG Strategy Group in Bethesda, Md., providing strategy consulting and corporate writing services to technology companies. She was a member of the President's Board of Advisors from 2013 to 2015.

Daphne Hall ('92) is senior vice president of college access programs at EducationQuest Foundation in Lincoln. This is her second stint on Nebraska Wesleyan's top governing body. She previously served on the Board of Governors while president of Nebraska Wesleyan's Alumni Association from 2011 to 2013.

Stephanie Moline ('82) is executive vice president of the corporate banking group at First National Bank of Omaha. She has a business executive degree from University of Virginia Darden School of Business and serves on the Nebraska Independent College Foundation Board.

Rachel Pokora is professor of communication

and faculty vice president for faculty affairs at Nebraska Wesleyan.

Matt Tewes ('17) is a student member of the Board of Governors. The Lincoln native is student body president majoring in political science and economics.

Tarryn Tietjen ('16) is a student member of the Board of Governors. She is from Hebron, Neb., and is majoring in psychology and communication studies.

Mark Walz ('88) is chairman, president and CEO of Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Nebraska. He served on the President's Board of Advisors from 2013 to 2015.

These new members join the following board officers for the 2015-2016 academic year: **Judith (Trimble) Maurer** ('69), chair; **Susan Gourley**, vice chair; **Richard Peterson** ('59), secretary; and **L. Bradley Hurrell** ('73), treasurer.

THE FINAL: Four alumni, two current students and a professor are the newest additions to Nebraska Wesleyan's governing body.

Unlock the Nebraska Wesleyan University experience.

Access NWU offers full tuition assistance to the Nebraskans who need it most.

Giving makes it possible.

Designate your **Archway Fund** gift to scholarships at
nebrwesleyan.edu/donate.



SOLID FOOTING

With both feet finally planted in NCAA Division III, NWU can swing for the fences.

Sports have all kinds of terms for being between. A batter caught between looking and swinging is “tied up.” And a base runner stuck between first and second is “in a pickle.”

Nebraska Wesleyan University has found itself in an institutional pickle of sorts since the 1980s. As the nation’s last NAIA/NCAA Division III dual affiliate, we’ve asked our student-athletes to compete with one foot in each world. And they’ve done so with remarkable success.

Since 2000 alone, NWU has won an outstanding 69 team conference championships. Every men’s team has at least one conference crown in that span. And we’ve placed first or second in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) All-Sports Trophy competition eight times.

We’ve done so well standing astride the boundary between the NAIA and NCAA III that it’s come to appear natural.

Matt Harris (’93) can tell you it’s not. The NWU golf alumnus and board member knows what it’s like to stand with one foot on dry ground and the other calf-deep in the water, trying to hit a ball lodged in that muddy in between.

Like every other golfer on the planet, Harris prefers both feet on the fairway and a clear look at the pin.

Nebraska Wesleyan took a historic step to improve its

athletic footing on July 20.

That day, President **Fred Ohles** and Athletic Director **Ira Zeff** announced that Nebraska Wesleyan had accepted an invitation to join the Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (IIAC). With the move, NWU plants both feet in NCAA III, ending our affiliation with the NAIA and the GPAC effective July 1, 2016.

The decision has perplexed some. Why jettison rivalries just down the road to join a conference across the Missouri River?

Head Football Coach **Brian Keller** (’83) understands the concerns, but approaches the switch with anticipation. “We’ll miss our relationships with the GPAC schools—especially those Nebraska schools that we have so much history with. But we look forward to new challenges on new stages,” Keller said. “We get to develop a new history here—in a conference that approaches academics and athletics more like we do.”

FAIR PLAY

It makes sense that **Madi Francis** (’17) wants to teach. The junior elementary education major is a star student of softball. NWU’s designated hitter studied opponents’ tendencies and used her knowledge to her advantage at the plate.

She’d crowd pitchers wanting to work inside. And when they hoped she’d chase something

A NEW WEIGHT CLASS

One group of fans is 100 percent behind NWU’s move to the IIAC: fans of NWU wrestling.

NWU added wrestling—a sport required for IIAC membership—this summer, hiring Coach **Brandon Bradley** in July.

Bradley helped launch a wrestling program at Ferrum College in Ferrum, Va., and coached many national qualifiers at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. UWW produced six All-Americans in 2013 alone.

He called the job “a great opportunity to start a brand new NCAA III wrestling program in the state of Nebraska and compete in one of the toughest conferences in the nation.”

away, Francis rarely obliged. As a result, she was third on her team in hits (38) and second in RBIs (21) as a sophomore.

Once on base, Francis’s familiarity with her opponents also served her well. She could spot a pitcher’s long windup, or a catcher’s awkward crouch—clues that told her when to take second. She led NWU in stolen bases with 15.

But some of the things Francis knew about her opponents didn’t help her compete. She knew, for instance, that her NAIA opponents recruited, practiced and played by more lenient rules. As America’s only NAIA/NCAA III dual affiliate, NWU navigated two rulebooks. Whenever those books differed, NWU followed the stricter standard.

This odd footing has handed certain advantages to NAIA opponents. Athletic scholarships, longer seasons,

earlier recruiting and redshirting combined to make Nebraska Wesleyan’s road in all sports slightly uphill. But Francis, like generations of NWU alumni in every sport, isn’t interested in excuses. She’s interested in getting better—on the field and in the classroom.

And here is where Nebraska Wesleyan’s dual affiliation gets especially interesting. While following NCAA III rules in an NAIA conference has handed athletic advantages to opponents, it has also handed academic advantages to Nebraska Wesleyan student-athletes. NCAA III rules protect their time, encourage their study and advance their academic experience.

Nebraska Wesleyan’s academic philosophy, embodied in its NCAA III membership, helped Francis take home one more accomplishment in her successful sophomore season.



Balance is key to Madi Francis's power at the plate and in the classroom.

Photo by Chris Smithberg

She was named Nebraska Wesleyan's 153rd Academic All-American.

Fast-forward to Francis's senior season. The player from Lincoln Northeast High School will step inside the batter's box knowing one more thing about her new IIAC opponents: that they practice and play by the same guidelines she does.

A CLEAR PATH

Nebraska Wesleyan's move into the IIAC creates a straightforward path to NCAA championship opportunities.

In the past, our dual affiliation has meant that each team

had to declare before the season began whether it would compete for postseason play in NCAA III or NAIA. For those teams choosing NCAA III, the bar for a championship berth was high.

Rayna Cain's volleyball team knows just how high. With no NCAA III programs in the GPAC, her Prairie Wolves had to rely solely on their nonconference schedule versus NCAA III opponents to qualify.

So Cain moved aggressively to put her 2014 squad in tournaments against the toughest NCAA III competition she could find. The margin for error in those matches was roughly

zero. "If you're 10-2, you can forget it," Cain said. "Go 11-1, and you better be lucky."

Assistant Athletic Director Jo Bunstock ('97) said there was no guarantee that even perfection would be good enough. "If you're 12-0, you've got a shot."

NWU took down nationally ranked opponents like 11th-ranked Washington University. In the span of four hours, they beat ninth-ranked Christopher Newport University and 11th-ranked Colorado College to finish a perfect nonconference slate. Still, they had to hold their breath to receive an at-large

bid to the regional tournament in St. Paul, Minn. There, they fell to the regional host, the University of Northwestern-St. Paul, 1-3.

"The girls did as much as they could possibly do in the off-season to make sure we got in, and they did a great job," Cain said. Although the ending wasn't what they'd hoped for, Cain called the experience "a step we wanted to take."

The move to the IIAC and an exclusive NCAA III affiliation is another step NWU Athletics wanted to take.

"The path to national



ACADEMICS FIRST

Nebraska Wesleyan University is a national leader in CoSIDA Academic All-Americans, outperforming every NAIA school.

University of Nebraska (NCAA I)	318
Notre Dame (NCAA I)	246
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (NCAA III)	221
Stanford University (NCAA I)	190
Pennsylvania State University (NCAA I)	189
Emory University (NCAA III)	161
Augustana College (III.) (NCAA III)	157
Nebraska Wesleyan University (NCAA III)	153
University of Alabama (NCAA I)	137
University of Georgia (NCAA I)	133

NWU also is among the top schools in NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships since 2001.

Stanford University (NCAA I)	75
Emory University (NCAA III)	68
University of Nebraska (NCAA I)	39
University of Alabama (NCAA I)	36
Nebraska Wesleyan University (NCAA III)	29
Gustavus Adolphus College (NCAA III)	28
University of Tennessee (NCAA I)	26
University of Florida (NCAA I)	24
Kenyon College (NCAA III)	23
University of Missouri (NCAA I)	23

A BIGGER STAGE

NCAA III affiliation means NWU competes on a stage with triple the student-athletes.

Number of participating colleges and universities

NCAA III : 450

NAIA : 250

Number of participating student-athletes

NCAA III : 183,500

NAIA : 60,000

GAME ON

NCAA III provides more routes to national championships.

Championships

NCAA III : 28

NAIA : 23

Sports per school average

NCAA III : 18

NAIA : 13

tournaments won't be any easier in the IIAC," Bunstock said. "The competition is very high. But the path to that goal will be clear [with a conference schedule filled with NCAA III

opponents]. And I think that clarity is something our student-athletes deserve."

And for those student-athletes and teams qualifying to compete for national



championships, Coach **Ted Bulling** ('80) said a better experience awaits in the NCAA. The six-time national coach of the year has coached student-athletes at both NAIA and NCAA championships. He said NCAA championships tend to be better organized, better funded and more supportive of competitors.

For instance, the NAIA requires schools to pay their way to championships—an expense that athletic departments struggle to predict and

budget for. And understaffing has tended to impact NAIA championships in Bulling's experience. He recalled a case where an announcer had to put a call out over the loud speaker asking for a volunteer to rake the long jump pit.

"With the NCAA, it's different," he said. The NCAA's revenue, organization and principles create a better experience for student-athletes. "You get there. You're welcomed. You're supported," he said. "You're treated like champions."

KNOW YOUR COMPETITION



BUENA VISTA UNIVERSITY

STORM LAKE, IOWA

Mascot: Beavers

IIAC member since: 1922 (charter member)

Men's Basketball: 9 of last 19 IIAC championships

Volleyball: surges from worst (2012) to first (2014)



CENTRAL COLLEGE

PELLA, IOWA

Mascot: Dutch

Member since: 1922 (charter member)

Big picture: 11 NCAA III championships in six sports

Softball: Coach George Wales, NCAA III wins leader (1,041)



Photo by Lane Hickenbottom

Coach Rayna Cain has a career .757 winning percentage versus NCAA III opponents at NWU.

After all, that's what our student-athletes are there to become.

SUCCESS CYCLE

Nebraska Wesleyan's reputation exists in a symbiotic relationship with you. When you succeed as alumni, the value of your Nebraska Wesleyan degree grows.

That growth leads to more opportunities. Those opportunities lead to more growth. And

on and on.

You're part of a growing legacy that includes student-athletes like Francis and 152 other Academic All-Americans. Alumni like you built the foundation of success in athletic competition, academic endeavor and professional achievement. Together, you are conference champions, national qualifiers, All-Americans, Fulbright scholars, ER doctors, teachers, coaches, trainers, mentors, entrepreneurs and CEOs.

Your legacy sparked this

GRADS RACE

NWU's four-year graduation rate nearly doubles the NAIA average. And our full-time retention rate (78%) beats the NAIA by 12 points.

Six-year graduation rate

NWU : 68%

IIAC : 62%

GPAC : 54%

NAIA : 43%

opportunity for Nebraska Wesleyan to join the Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. It's a move onto the larger regional and national stage that only the NCAA provides. And it's a move that fits Nebraska Wesleyan's vision to be an outstanding national liberal arts university.

AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME

Matt Harris chaired Nebraska Wesleyan's Athletic Affiliation Task Force, the Board of Governors subcommittee of alumni, coaches, professors, students and board members responsible

for making a recommendation on dual affiliation. Once the task force drew what the Arbor Day Foundation CEO called "the readily apparent conclusion" that dual affiliation was no longer in Nebraska Wesleyan's best interest, it had one more job.

"We had to recommend a side," Harris said. "NAIA and the GPAC, or NCAA III and a new athletic home?"

The task force explored the benefits of each in meticulous detail for months. The decision boiled down to a question of identity—and belief. Who are we? What do we stand for?

"We always liked to say that the experience at Nebraska Wesleyan is different from what



COE COLLEGE CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

Mascot: Kohawks

Member since: 1997

NFL alumni: Buffalo's Marv Levy and Fred Jackson

Tennis: 7 of 9 IIAC women's titles / 10 of 15 IIAC men's titles



UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE DUBUQUE, IOWA

Mascot: Spartans

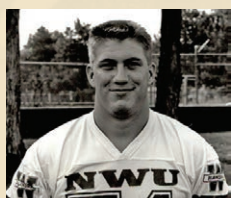
Member since: 1929

Big picture: Surging in basketball, women's soccer and football

Football: NCAA receptions leader, Michael Zweifel ('12) (463)

NO FINISH LINE

The accomplishments of NWU student-athletes show how athletic performance connects to things larger than the game.



Jason Licht ('93)

biology, football

Jason turned an internship with the Miami Dolphins into an NFL career. Today, he's general manager of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.



Alyssa Stanek ('15)

exercise science, volleyball

Alyssa led NCAA III in blocks last year. Now the NCAA Postgraduate Scholar shifts her attention to blocking disease as a med student at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.



Jay Lemons ('83)

philosophy, physical education, track & field

As an endurance athlete, Jay still ranks among NWU's all-time leaders. As a professional, he leads as well, serving as president of Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Penn.



Shea Rasmussen ('12)

athletic training, basketball

Shea is NWU's third-leading scorer and record holder for career three-pointers. The program's first All-American remains connected to sports as a certified athletic trainer in the Denver area.

you'll find anywhere else in the GPAC," Harris said. As he examined the choice, he grew to believe an exclusive NAIA affiliation risked eroding those differences.

National associations that allow athletic scholarships (NCAA I, NCAA II and NAIA) have lower graduation rates than NCAA III, which does not award them.

"What we want most for our student-athletes is for them to graduate with a rich liberal arts experience enhanced by athletic competition," said William Motzer, NWU vice president for enrollment management. Successful student-athletes, he said, show impressive balance in managing athletic team goals with their own academic, personal and professional goals.

"It's a balancing act for universities, too," Motzer said. "Had we chosen a path where the numbers predict falling graduation rates, I believe we could have slipped off that balance."

As it stands, NWU holds

Nebraska's second-highest four-year graduation rate, Motzer said, behind only Creighton University.

Nebraska Wesleyan has a history of eschewing athletic scholarships in favor of academic and athletic balance. "We've always been different that way," Motzer said.

For Harris and the task force, the question was whether NWU should carry on that distinction. "Do we believe we're different or not?" he asked.

Harris urged the task force and the Board of Governors to have the courage to reach out and take the university in a new direction—a direction in line with NWU's traditional principles.

"This was something I learned at Nebraska Wesleyan. When you make decisions on principle—not convenience—you'll be well served in the long run."

The task force and the Board of Governors shared Harris's view of Nebraska Wesleyan's reach, and the university moved.



LORAS COLLEGE DUBUQUE, IOWA

Mascot: Duhawks

Member since: 1926-1954, 1986-present

Soccer: 18 IIAC men's and women's championships in 18 years / 4 NCAA men's semifinals since 2007



LUTHER COLLEGE DECORAH, IOWA

Mascot: Norse

Member since: 1922 (charter member)

NCAA qualifiers in 10 sports over 10 years
Women's swimming: IIAC's only 2-time national champion, Clare Slagel ('16)

Coach Emeritus **Harold Chaffee** welcomed the decision, calling it “an idea whose time has come.” He said, “This is going to be great for NWU Athletics.”

As assistant athletic director, Jo Bunstock is eager to begin managing a “one-rulebook athletic department.” Ending dual affiliation will make her job a little more straightforward. But that’s not what has Bunstock most excited.


“Now we’re in line with what we’ve claimed to be all along,” she said. “I’m excited to see us aligning ourselves with schools that are more like us.”

In the same way, the move also aligns NWU with the kind of schools we aspire to be more like. Bunstock pointed to the indoor track & field championships NWU hosted last year. In the lane to your left might be an engineering major from MIT. And in the lane to your right, an aspiring neurologist from Johns Hopkins.

Granted, much separates

Alumni like Tommie Bardsley ('14) set a high bar for today's student athletes.

NWU from the likes of Johns Hopkins (endowment: \$3.5 billion) and MIT (endowment: \$12.5 billion). But our student-athletes compete with the same integrity, the same drive and the same philosophy about the relationship between academics and sport.

President Ohles put it this way: “NCAA III is America’s loudest and clearest voice for a balanced approach to being a student-athlete.” Nebraska Wesleyan improves its own balance when we stand with both feet in that principled camp. 

THE COMPANY YOU KEEP

NCAA affiliation aligns NWU with others on the list of outstanding liberal arts schools.

*US News and World Report's
Top 150 national liberal arts universities*

NCAA affiliates  147

NAIA affiliates | 3



SIMPSON COLLEGE INDIANOLA, IOWA

Mascot: Storm

Member since: 1922 (charter member)

Softball: consistent NCAA qualifier

Women's basketball: 11 IAC championships since 1998



WARTBURG COLLEGE WAVERLY, IOWA

Mascot: Knights

Member since: 1937

Wrestling: 11 NCAA III championships

Women's track & field: 8 NCAA III championships since 1996

Remembering Kent Haruf

Knopf editor Gary Fisketjon had a deep friendship with one of his favorite authors.

I knew **Kent Haruf** (‘65) before we’d ever met. Not because I’d read and admired his first novel, *The Tie That Binds*, when it came out in 1984; certainly not because of his second, *Where You Once Belonged*, which I somehow hadn’t been aware of. Not even because I loved *Plainsong* when, in 1998, his agent sent in the manuscript and I suspected, after reading the opening chapters, that it was perfect for me, and for Knopf. It turned out I was right.

No, I came to know Kent in the course of preparing his book for publication. On my

Then, on September 22, came an email I’ll never forget: “Here’s a little surprise for you.” In the attachment was Our Souls at Night.

end, this amounts to reading a book more closely than any normal person ever would; to understanding the book at practically the DNA level; to scribbling responses that often are minute, almost persnickety, each meant to draw the author’s attention to anything that might endanger the magical spell he or she has already cast so well.

Editing is a very intense, private exchange on every page, and the writer always has the last word.

So I went through *Plainsong* and sent the pages to Kent with this unspoken agreement: If he couldn’t read my handwriting, I’d translate; if he couldn’t see what I was suggesting, I’d explain myself better; but most of all, that he could put my comments to whatever use he wanted, and that I never looked back to check on a single thing.

This, I like to think, set us off in the direction of friendship before we’d ever clapped eyes on each other. That didn’t happen until

I accompanied him on part of *Plainsong*’s promotional tour. We met in Milwaukee on a bright fall day. By then, his novel had already won so many devotees that it was, for me, an unfolding amazement.

Readers who’d taken so much from his work were now lining up to give something—adoration, trust, celebration—back to him. Between those happy, frantic events, we were left to ourselves and finally got to really know each other.

Thus began a dear friendship that grew deeper over 15 years. We enjoyed our now-familiar engagement with *Eventide* and *Benediction*. We spent time together at our homes in Colorado and Tennessee. We each came to know—and value—the other’s wife and family and friends. We suffered through a bad TV movie of *Plainsong* and got to see, together in Denver, wonderful stage adaptations of both that and *Eventide*.

And then, gradually, Kent’s health began to fail. What was gradual became sudden in February 2014, when he was told his condition was untreatable and fatal. For a couple months, outside his home in Salida and amongst his family, Kent was mostly silent. Then his spirits seemed to lift through the summer, with talk of what he was reading, of hailstorms and aspens and football and all the quotidian stuff that makes up daily life.

While I didn’t know where this encouragement was coming from, it was a sea-change that made his friends grateful and happy. Still apprehensive, yet hopeful despite the odds. Kent, true to his nature, wasn’t indulging in wishful thinking.

“I wake each day and try to see what I might do that is of some value and joy. It’s a strange life. I don’t know how long it’ll go on. I don’t look past tomorrow. Anything beyond tomorrow seems like hearsay. Or fairy tales.”

OK, I’m sure we all felt, *but let’s just keep going.*

Then, on September 22, came an email I’ll never forget: “Here’s a little surprise for you.” In the attachment was *Our Souls at Night*, which he’d begun writing on May 1, a novel

that Cathy alone knew about and that was, he said later, “what was keeping me alive.”

In his last interview, Kent describes the importance of concentration. Concentration powered his ability to reveal, as he hoped to, “the fundamental, irreducible structure of life, and of our lives with one another.”

Once more we were back on the horse, this time with an indefinite but literal and pressing deadline. As before, Kent had revised the book several times before I read it. As before, I gave him every comment I could offer. As before, he had the last word (with Cathy as his indispensable amanuensis). He finished going over the copyediting nine weeks later—around Thanksgiving, as it happens—and died the following Sunday, November 30.

Two weeks earlier, we had talked about a new book, on which he was making notes. Less than a week earlier, Kent had told his great friend Mark Spragg that he wanted to be around (in seven months) to see what sort of reaction *Our Souls* received. Only days before, he said he was “sure going to work hard” to attend *Benediction*’s stage premiere in February. He said, “I don’t feel like death is right around the corner, but if it is, it’s a bigger corner than I thought it was.”

And so, after facing death down for four years, Kent at long last had to turn that corner. But not until he had seen this magnificent new book through to completion. He had also seen, and liked, the cover we’d proposed. Hell, we were still talking about the Broncos and the Oregon Ducks. So I like to think his final days were as fulfilling as they possibly could’ve been.

And here’s what I know for certain: Before leaving, Kent gave us another wonderful gift.

He believed, rightly, that *Our Souls at Night* is “completely separate” from his earlier books, with “a different tone and suggestiveness.” He never stopped growing, as a writer, as a friend, as a man. 🍷

A version of this essay first appeared on medium.com in May. We reprint it with permission.



Our Souls At Night

By Kent Haruf ('65)

Alfred A. Knopf, 2015 | 179 pages | \$24

—Reviewed by Bruce Chapman ('83)

There are a few works of fiction (Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird* comes to mind. And Anne Tyler's *Breathing Lessons*. Ernest Hemingway's Nick Adams stories.) whose storytelling is so easygoing and whose language is so seemingly simple that the reader can be lulled into the erroneous belief that there is little more. Add to this list Kent Haruf's *Our Souls At Night*.

The book physical is a slim, maroon volume, the size of a diary or personal journal. Indeed, this is what Haruf offers us, the tender tale of one couple's intimacy. The book begins with widow Addie Moore presenting widower Louis Waters with "a kind of proposal."

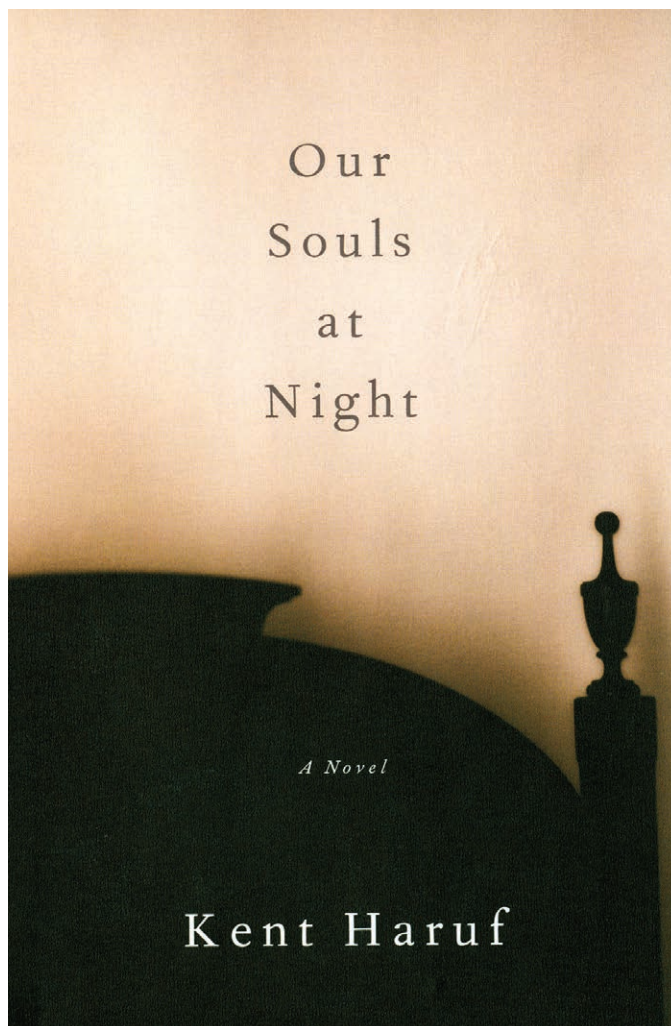
I wonder if you would consider coming to my house sometimes to sleep with me.

What? How do you mean?

I mean we're both alone. We've been by ourselves for too long. For years. I'm lonely. I think you might be too. I wonder if you would come and sleep in the night with me. And talk.

With Louis's agreement, we are swept away, once again, to Holt, Colo., and Haruf's themes of loneliness and its unconventional remedies, questions of what constitutes a family, and quiet cracks at redemption. As spring turns to summer and Addie and Louis become intimate through the stories they tell each other, we come to know them too. We become privy to reminiscences of children, infidelities, aging and death. The conflict arises with those who will not accept Addie and Louis's unusual arrangement.

Much of the joy in reading a Haruf novel is the dialogue. Sparse, vibrant, resonant, the language of the people of Holt tells us as much about place as it does about character. Its ease and



I wonder if you would consider coming to my house sometimes to sleep with me.


simplicity is its beauty. Some of my friends and students complain about Haruf's lack of quotation marks, but a few pages in and I hardly notice their absence.

The characters, as well, speak to me. Addie, Louis, the elderly neighbor lady, Addie's grandson. They are not only inhabitants of Holt, but are people I know. Neighbors, family, church members. Haruf's characters, to a one, are fully written, empathetic, and surprising. In one chapter, Haruf himself makes an appearance; I found the scene so playful and unexpected, I stopped so I could read it aloud to my wife.

Louis, it turns out, isn't convinced by Haruf's earlier work. "I can't imagine two old ranchers taking in a pregnant girl," he says of *Plainsong*. And when Addie opines that their relationship might make for an interesting story, he responds, "I don't want to be in any book."

I'm sad Haruf will never again pull another reluctant

character into being. But I'm pleased to have made the acquaintance of Addie and Louis and to know their stories.

The lyrics to a popular song read, "We are how we treat each other when the day is through ... We are how we treat each other, nothing more." In this parting gift of a novel, with its masterful storytelling, compelling characters and quiet compassion, Haruf has once again treated us well. 



The emerald ash borer threatens 37 trees on campus—less than 10 percent of NWU's total. But this majestic green ash south of Old Main is one of them.

Ashes to Ashes

NWU prepares for the bug burning its way through American ash trees.

—By Quinn Hullett ('18)

Twenty or so years ago, somewhere in Asia, deep inside a crate made of ash wood, a pregnant beetle hitched a ride to Michigan. Thousands of miles from her native predators, this beetle and her children found life in America to be good. Very good.

Her emerald offspring have since ravaged North American forests. “The invasive emerald ash borer (EAB) has decimated tens of millions of ash trees in Midwestern and Eastern states and into Canada,” said **Matt Harris** ('93), chief executive officer of the Arbor Day Foundation. The foundation estimates EAB has killed 40 million ashes in Michigan alone.

I don't know how many times I've written off a tree thinking, “We'll have to take that down next year,” only to see it bounce back.

to managing community and campus trees is developing a clear plan,” Harris said. Good tree planning has helped make NWU one of the founding members of the Arbor Day Foundation’s “Tree Campus USA” program.

Nebraska Wesleyan’s plan for EAB calls on Bergers and his team to make monthly treks across campus to inspect ash trees for signs of infestation. They look for the telltale D and S-shaped holes the borers make as they enter and exit the trunk and branches. They will report any findings to Nebraska’s Tree Advisory Committee, which will then make further inspection.

With no cure, EAB-infested trees must often be cut down. That’s a fate Bergers wants to avoid. His desire is to maintain

And it’s not done. The U.S. Forest Service claims the pest may eventually kill most of North America’s 8.7 billion ash trees.

As of this issue’s publication, EAB has not yet been discovered in Nebraska. But **Duane Bergers**, NWU’s grounds manager, said our campus isn’t immune. “It’s not a matter of if, but when.”

NWU is planning for that when. “We’ve found that the best approach

ash trees on campus as long as they show signs of health. “It’s humbling,” Bergers said. “I don’t know how many times I’ve written off a tree, thinking, ‘We’ll have to take that down next year,’ only to see it bounce back. It reminds me I’m not in charge.”

But what if none of Nebraska Wesleyan’s ash trees can be saved? How would our campus change?

“That level of loss would leave its mark,” said Vice President for Finance and Administration **Tish Gade-Jones** ('92), the administrator who oversees NWU’s physical plant. “But one of the things that makes our campus beautiful is the diversity of trees and shrubs we have. That diversity is a great strength.”

In the university’s earliest years, many of the trees planted were Austrian pines. Several still tower today near Old Main. But leaders recognized that this monoculture left us vulnerable. If a pest, fungus or disease wiped out these pines, campus would be left barren. So, for generations, we’ve planted with diversity in mind.

“Today, our campus arboretum includes well over 400 trees,” Gade-Jones said. “And 37 of them are ashes. Of course, we don’t want to lose 8 or 9 percent of the trees on campus. But the variety we have here means we could withstand it.”

Strength in diversity is just one lesson trees have to teach. Bergers pointed to the redwood—a huge species that, ironically, grows shallow root systems. A 350’ redwood may only send roots down 6’. By itself, such a redwood would topple. “But in a cluster—in a forest—those shallow roots intertwine,” Bergers said, meshing his calloused fingers. “Through grace, they hold each other up.” **n**



Photo courtesy Michigan State University



Photo courtesy US Department of Forestry

Smaller than a penny, the emerald ash borer is capable of wiping out forests of ash trees.

THIS IS HOW POWER WORKS

National experts speak out on race, violence and politics in America.

Last semester, NWU hosted a Pulitzer Prize winning expert to speak on race, a renowned feminist to speak on sexual violence, and a former White House staffer to speak on transforming American politics.

These three powerful speakers revealed much about power in America.

RACE

Racism cons American whites.

In March, Starbucks launched a social campaign, “Race Together,” to encourage conversation about race. It fell flat.

PBS journalist Gwen Ifill tweeted, “Honest to God, if you ... engage me in a race conversation before I’ve had my morning coffee, it will not end well.”

Pulitzer Prize winning columnist Leonard Pitts can relate. “There already is a lot of talking about race in America,” he said. “It’s just that much of it is very unproductive.”

He said, “Before we can have a discussion of race, I believe we need to have an education on race.” He spoke to more than 1,000 as part of NWU’s Mattingly Distinguished Scholar Lecture and First United Methodist Church’s Peacemaking Workshop.

He called race an artificial concept that exists “primarily because we agree it exists.” The black/white divide, Pitts argued, serves moneyed interests, not white interests. How many Confederate whites—men too poor to afford slaves—died fighting to protect the ability of richer men to have them?

He sees the same divide “bamboozling” whites today. “If you are poor and white, you know about aggressive policing. You know about inadequate schools. You know about poor access to health care. You have a lot in common with the poor and black.”

Of the 45 million Americans in poverty, 30 million are white. But framing poverty as a minority issue divides and silences the poor. “It’s a con job,” Pitts said. “Why not stand up together? If 45 million Americans say anything together, they’ve got to be heard.”



Photo courtesy twitter.com/leonardpittsjr1

“Everyone has biased opinions,” Pitts told a student who asked about avoiding bias in her schoolwork. “Only when you’re aware of your blind spots can you catch yourself and make the effort to look around or through them.”

VIOLENCE

Men, we have a problem.

Jackson Katz loves his job. “I give these talks where all I do is point out the obvious,” he said in his April 17 Forum Lecture.

It’s obvious to Katz that men have a violence problem—one they often duck by shifting focus. We frame rape as a “women’s issue” even though 99 percent of rapists are male. It’s like calling 9/11 a “passenger issue.”

Omitting the perpetrator is no accident. “This is how power works linguistically.”

We see school shootings and ask, “What’s wrong with kids?”

Katz asked his audience to name a school shooting over the last 20 years with a female shooter. No one could. Katz knew of only one.

“Now imagine that 99 percent of these shootings were done by girls. Would we be asking, ‘What’s wrong with kids these days?’ No. We’d be asking, ‘What’s wrong with girls?’ So why aren’t we asking, ‘What’s wrong with boys?’”

There’s nothing innately wrong with boys. But Katz argued there is something wrong with how media drive norms of masculinity. Katz called changing those norms “one of the great projects of the human species.”

It involves tackling notions of “normal” violence and pornography. And it involves dismantling the notion that feminism hurts men.

“Preventing violence against women helps men tremendously,” Katz said. “If you’re a 7-year-old boy cowering in the closet while somebody hurts your mom, you’re not witnessing abuse. You’re being abused.”



Photo courtesy Jacksonkatz.com

Katz believes that stopping gender violence involves changing our ideas about masculinity. “Our notions of what makes men men can no longer be about a willingness to inflict and tolerate pain.”

POLITICS

Washington's broken.

Make no mistake. **Nick Rathod** ('97) is a progressive. He's worked as a special assistant to President Obama; he joined the liberal think tank, the Center for American Progress; and he helped Sen. Elizabeth Warren establish the Consumer Financial Protections Bureau.

But when Rathod looks to his political right—at how conservatives groom candidates and advance policies—he likes what he sees.

"People tell me I sound like a conservative," Rathod said in his April 28 Curtis Lecture on Public Leadership. "For generations, conservatives have believed in moving their agenda in the states—not in Washington. They pour resources into ... nurturing a farm team of elected officials beginning very early."

He said progressives just aren't oriented this way. Rathod pointed to FDR's New Deal, LBJ's civil rights bills and Obama's Affordable Care Act—all progressive legislation rooted in a Washington-first approach and passed via Democratic majorities in Congress.

Those majorities are gone. And a Washington-first mentality won't work when Washington is so broken. Rathod sees a slew of reasons for Washington's brokenness, including polarized media, abused filibusters and gerrymandering.

For Rathod, gerrymandered House districts also reveal the effectiveness of conservatives' states-first approach. By investing in candidates at the state and local level, Republicans came to hold 31 governorships (to Democrats' 18). And in 24 of those 31 states, Republicans also hold both chambers of the legislature.

These leaders have drawn districts to protect a growing number of Republican seats in the U.S. House. In 2012, this map helped Republicans win a lopsided majority of seats despite securing 48 percent of the national vote. Republicans added still more seats in 2014 with 52 percent of the vote.


"Regardless of anyone's opinion about whether their policies are right or wrong, it is a simple fact that investments [conservatives] have made in states have allowed them to freely move their agendas forward," Rathod said.

Rathod isn't about to wring his hands and curse the unfairness of



"We really are living at an important inflection point in the history of our country," Rathod said. "The decisions we make as Americans about our values and priorities will define what happens to our children and their children."

it all. Instead, he's directing State Innovation Exchange (SiX)—an organization he founded to apply a states-first approach to progressive policies. SiX applies conservative wisdom to building a progressive farm team of effective candidates.

To NWU students eager to spark change—progressives and conservatives alike—Rathod offered the same advice: "Hope begins where you're sitting. Don't turn to Washington," he said. "Turn down O Street." 

POLISCI 1010:

Introduction to Opportunity

How much can a born politician learn from an introductory course?

—By Carlin Daharsh ('18)

A career in politics has always been my plan. I can't remember a time when I wanted to be anything else. A doctor? A movie star? Where was my astronaut phase? Even in my space-explorer daydreams, I still end up addressing poverty on Mars, or securing female Martians' right to vote. (Is that weird?)

All I know is I recognized my passion for civil justice early. And I chose NWU to put that passion to work.

My spring semester included a class I took begrudgingly: POLISCI 1010, Introduction to U.S. Government and Politics. "Introduction" is what got me. Politics and I had already been introduced, thank you. I wanted to jump to the good stuff.

But Professor **Julie Stevenson** only fostered my love for politics and challenged me beyond what I expected. If I still thought her course was too basic for me, that idea vanished once **Nick Rathod** ('97) came to speak. Nick is a former special assistant to President Obama. [Read more about Rathod's background on the previous page.]

Nick spoke to our class about his nonprofit, SiX (State Innovation Exchange). He spoke easily, and I almost forgot he'd worked alongside the president of the United States as the country teetered on the brink of economic collapse. He once sat where we were. Coming back to NWU made him grin over his memories.

The past White House deputy of intergovernmental affairs told us about SiX and its mission: "SiX aims to encourage cross-pollination among states, providing a platform for the best ideas to spread and grow." He spoke with determination that SiX will affect modern political thought, and pride in its work to advance a more transparent political system. And Professor Stevenson recognized before I did that I was staring at the coolest internship opportunity any 19-year-old political communication major could dream of.

All summer, I worked remotely with two interns in San Francisco and Washington, D.C. Our weeks started with conference calls and assignments at 8 a.m.—maybe not a college student's summer ideal. But the early mornings never bothered me because the work didn't seem like work.

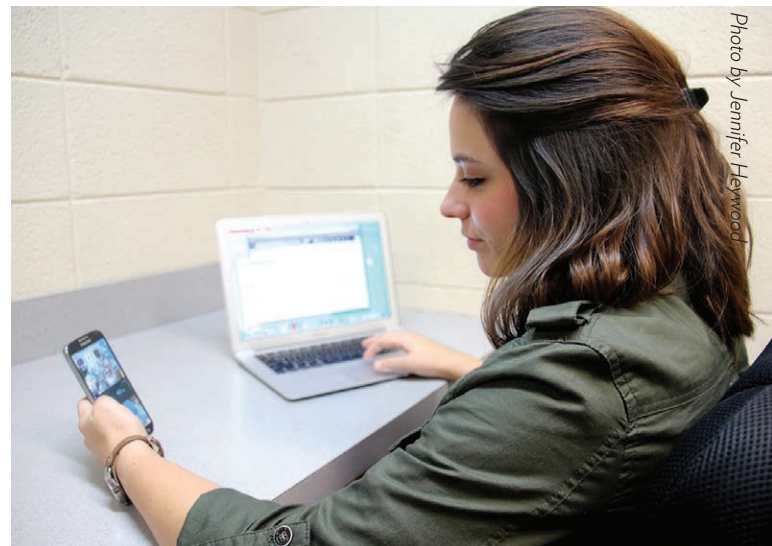
One moment, I'd research student loan policy, and the next, I'd collaborate on petitions urging lawmakers to stand strong on issues for working families. Every day, I got to work with a team that cares about fighting poverty, supporting equal pay for equal work, making college affordable and modernizing elections.

This internship has made me even more proud to be part of P-Wolf Nation. NWU alumni in every field give us an amazing legacy. They're the reason Nebraska Wesleyan enjoys this reputation for excellence.

My internship with SiX has molded me into a student with more confidence in myself and in the career I'm building.

Nick proves you can go from Old Main to the West Wing. The path he took started where I am. Our paths will be different, but I know mine can lead to similar success. As I prepare for another semester at NWU, I won't overlook my next introductory course. There's no telling what opportunity it might introduce. **N**

Carlin Daharsh was elected student body vice president in her first year at Nebraska Wesleyan University.



I was staring at the coolest internship opportunity any 19-year-old political communication major could dream of.

Student Pride

Prestige scholars and awards

NWU Leads US in 2015 NCAA Postgraduate Scholars

Nebraska Wesleyan University is the only school in the entire NCAA to complete a postgraduate scholarship hat trick. Three NWU student-athletes took home \$7,500 NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships this year.

Nebraska Wesleyan University is the nation's fifth leading producer of NCAA Postgraduate Scholars with 49. Forty-five of these scholarships have come in the last 20 years alone.

Alyssa Stanek ('15) was a middle hitter and exercise science major at NWU. She was a 2014 AVCA Division III All-American with a 3.87 GPA. Her 155 blocks in 2014 doubled the total of her closest teammate.

Brock Taute ('15) was an aggressive competitor in track & field and cross country who was also nearly flawless in the classroom. The physics and business administration major posted a 3.99 GPA. He holds the second-best time in school history in the 3,000-meter steeplechase (9:05.21).

Connor Zumpfe ('15) led the GPAC in receptions in 2014 with 69. Those 69 receptions and the 1,068 receiving yards they produced both rank second in NWU history. Zumpfe was an exercise science major with a 3.95 GPA.



Photo by PEC Photo



Photo by Anderson Studio

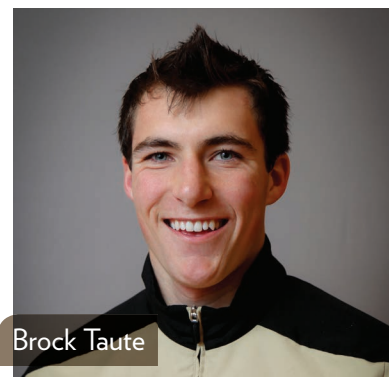


Photo by PEC Photo

UN Experience Plants a Seed for Ag Supporter

Cicely Batie ('15), a global studies and German double major, traveled to the United Nations to serve as a student delegate at the Council of American Students in International Negotiations (CASIN).

Professor of Political Science **Robert Oberst** connected Batie to the opportunity after watching her involvement in Nebraska Wesleyan's Model United Nations. In New York, she observed the U.N. Body of Economic and Social Issues with an eye toward population development solutions in food production and security.

"There were delegates and representatives from many countries, which required translators in English, French, Arabic, Russian, Spanish and Chinese," Batie said. "In one meeting, I sat next to a Russian, and in another, I sat with somebody from the Swiss Mission. I bonded with Germans about my study abroad experience. It was incredible to get out of my comfort zone and get to know new people."

After graduation, she moved to Washington, D.C., to serve as a staff assistant for U.S. Senator Deb Fischer and attend graduate school. Her career goals involve supporting international agriculture in the developing world.



Photo by Geoff Johnson



Fulbright Scholar Returns to Her Grandmother's Native Home

Cassie Criner ('15) of Beatrice will spend the next year in Germany teaching English. Criner is one of 53 Nebraska Wesleyan students who've earned Fulbright Scholarships in the last decade.

Cassie studied German at Nebraska Wesleyan, where she earned her bachelor's degree in May. As an NWU student, she studied abroad in Berlin, Germany, and Vichy, France.

"My grandmother was the last one to speak German as her native language," she said. "It's a language that I wanted to learn for a long time."

Criner hopes her year in Germany is only the beginning. She plans to receive certification that allows her the opportunity to continue teaching English as a foreign language.

NWU Fields Four Academic All-Americans

NWU track & field produced three Academic All-Americans in distance runner **Brock Taute** ('15), sprinter **Katie Krick** ('16) and thrower **Samantha Dolezal** ('16). And NWU softball fielded a fourth in all-purpose player **Madi Francis** ('17).

Taute is a two-time Academic All-American and a national qualifier in the steeplechase and the indoor mile. The physics major is now a graduate student at Stanford University.

Krick achieved All-American status in the indoor 400. She is a communication studies major.

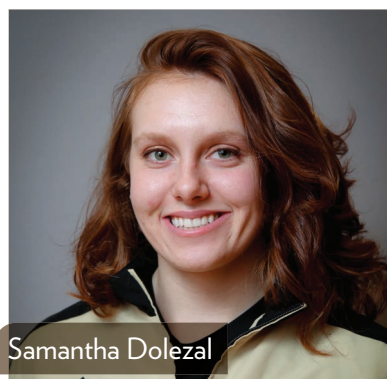
Dolezal is a three-time Academic All-American. She also earned All-America status in the indoor and outdoor shot put last year. Indoors, she finished second nationally. She majors in health and fitness studies.

Francis is an outfielder, catcher and designated hitter. Her 15 stolen bases led the team, and her .319 batting average was third. The elementary education major is Nebraska Wesleyan's 153rd Academic All-American.

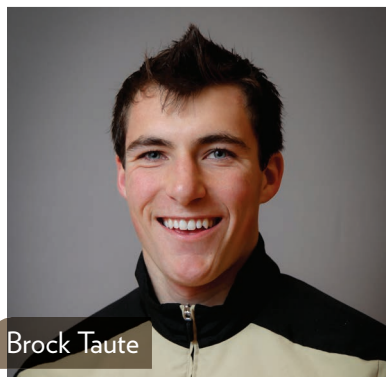
That total ranks eighth in the U.S., trailing only Nebraska, Notre Dame, MIT, Penn State, Stanford, Emory and Augustana (Ill.).



Katie Krick



Samantha Dolezal



Brock Taute



Madi Francis

Photos by PEC Photo

The difference is **OPPORTUNITY**

GENEROSITY OPENS DOORS AT NWU

2014-2015 Annual Report of Giving

Fiscal year: June 1, 2014, to May 31, 2015



Your Difference-makers

I don't like to assign homework. (I'm nobody's professor.) But I want you to take out your pen and paper. And I want you to make a list.

Write down the names of the people who've had the biggest impact on your life. Who made you stronger? Who made you wiser? Who helped color the way you see the world?

More names. Who influenced your career? Who gave you the tools you needed to do your job well? Who taught you that doing your job well matters?

Now who shaped your sense of humor? Your work ethic? Your curiosity? Your sense of duty?

Who pushed you hardest? Who gave the best advice? Whose hand was there when you were down?

If you're as lucky in life as I've been, your list is long. It's heavy on family and close friends. And while I can't presume that Nebraska Wesleyan professors or classmates absolutely made your list, I won't be shocked if they did. I talk to alumni every day who tell me incredible stories about how the teachers, coaches, mentors and loved ones they met here made their lives better.


If this is a list of people who supported you, it's also a list of people you support. The bonds we share inside our families and friendships are two-way avenues. With our loved ones, we accept help when it's natural to take it. And we give help when it's natural to give it.

With our best teachers, that two-way street can feel less apparent. Sure. They helped us when it was natural—in the classroom, the lab, their offices. But when is it natural for student to help teacher?

For hundreds upon hundreds of alumni, Nebraska Wesleyan's Archway Fund and endowed scholarships are that natural place. They're your opportunity to express appreciation for life-changing help. Your place to return the favor. Your chance to support the people who made a difference for you.

As you read this annual report, I hope you'll consider an annual gift to the Archway Fund as well as a gift to establish or support an endowed scholarship in the name of the teacher who was your biggest difference-maker.

Sincerely,



John B. Greving

Vice president for advancement



THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE NUMBERS

More than numbers, raising support for Nebraska Wesleyan University is about people—about relationships. Meet the team of professionals out there raising funds—and friends—on behalf of NWU.

John Greving

vice president for advancement
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major gifts officer
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development officer
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Erika Paschold ('11)

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Jacquelyn Rezac

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vice president for advancement*
dstark@nebrwesleyan.edu

Amy Vasey ('11)

information systems specialist
avasey@nebrwesleyan.edu

Nancy Wehrbein ('75)

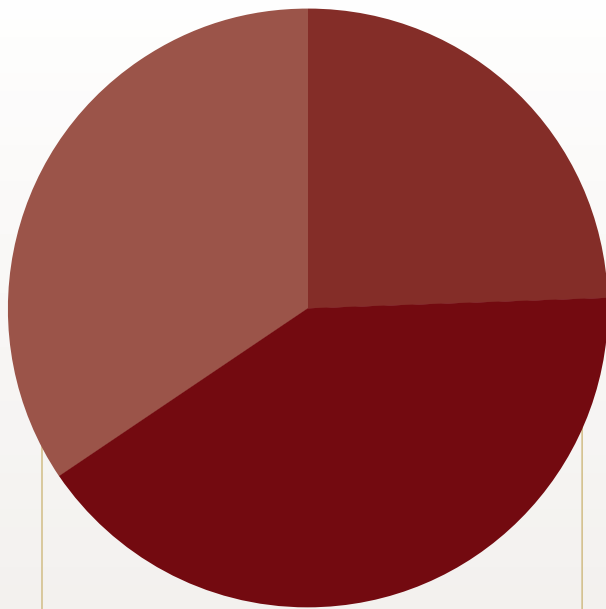
*director of sponsored programs
and foundation relations*
nwehrbei@nebrwesleyan.edu

Lori Wellman

*manager of research and
prospect management*
llwellman@nebrwesleyan.edu

Jack Ohle has joined the advancement staff as a senior advisor. He served as vice president for advancement from 1977 to 1988, during the presidency of John White.

nebrwesleyan.edu/donate



Dollars Raised in 2014-2015 by Gift Type

Archway Fund	\$1,530,395
Restricted gifts and endowment	\$2,574,637
Realized estates and planned gifts	\$2,132,404
<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$6,237,436

Bridging the GAP

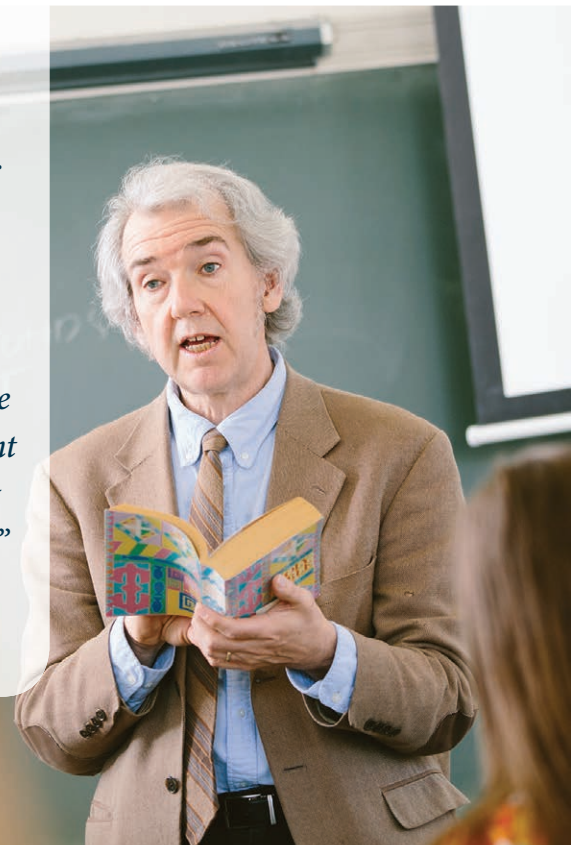
Tuition covers roughly two-thirds of the cost to educate one Nebraska Wesleyan student. Gifts fill the gap to keep NWU running. Without private support, there is no Nebraska Wesleyan University.



Good Neighbors

"A liberal arts education ... creates the kind of people I hope to have as my coworkers, my neighbors, my fellow-citizens. And liberal arts institutions, like a good many other excellent things, can only keep going if we help them keep going."

Scott Stanfield
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH



Looking for your name?

All those who made gifts in the **2014-2015 fiscal year (June 1, 2014, to May 31, 2015)** will receive Nebraska Wesleyan's exclusive Donor Honor Roll in the mail in the coming days.

Nebraska Wesleyan University's 2014-2015 audited financial overview will appear in the winter issue of *Archways*.



Alumni	55%
Friends	22%
Corporations, foundations and organizations	17%
Parents	6%

This is what ACTIVE ALUMNI DO

It's easy to stay in touch and involved with Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Connect with us.

- ▶ Join the thousands who follow NWU on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.
- ▶ Update your information at alumni.nebrwesleyan.edu.

Come home.

- ▶ Catch a game, play, concert or lecture.
- ▶ Join the fun at homecoming.

Serve your community.

- ▶ Lend-a-Hand to Lincoln has gone nationwide. Volunteer in the name of NWU in your city.
- ▶ Serve on campus by speaking in class or offering internships.

Keep learning.

- ▶ Consider a master's degree in business, nursing or education.
- ▶ Explore the offerings at NWU's Leadership Institute.

Be an ambassador.

- ▶ Tell great students about NWU.
- ▶ Tell NWU about great students at nebrwesleyan.edu/refer-a-student

Show your pride.

- ▶ Get your NWU gear at the campus bookstore.
- ▶ Let your friends know you're a fan.

Give back.

- ▶ Give to the Archway Fund every year.
- ▶ Support the endowed scholarships, special projects and departments that matter most to you.

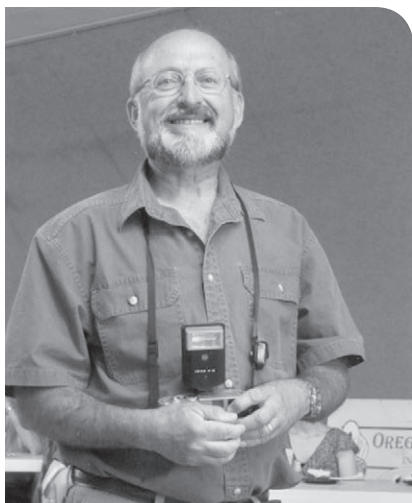
Recruit students and alumni.

- ▶ Hire NWU students and alumni.
- ▶ Support internship opportunities for NWU at your workplace.

Network with NWU.

- ▶ Attend alumni events in your area.
- ▶ Seek out the alumni in your professional and social circles.





The Human Element

People are the force behind one physician's gifts to NWU.

Dr. Bob Mikkelsen's ('67) evolution at Nebraska Wesleyan began with a big, fat "F".

"It was my first month at Nebraska Wesleyan, and [Professor of English] Bill Kloefkorn assigned us to write a paper on a great idea. I only realized later that he had in mind a great abstract idea. So I wrote about the Model T—and the paper came back with a big F across it!"

Kloefkorn sat down with him to talk about expectations. "I understood what he was looking for after that," Mikkelsen said. "That was my introduction to abstract, critical thinking, and one I never forgot."

Nor has he forgotten the value of everything he learned at NWU. He supports the Nebraska Wesleyan experience because "the ability to think—to adapt and change throughout your career—is more essential than ever. Today, in my leadership position in a group of 120 physicians, I find it's all about people—the human element. That's why keeping the liberal arts alive and thriving, and making a Nebraska Wesleyan education available for students who couldn't otherwise afford it, is vital."

Mikkelsen's giving has evolved right alongside him. Why? "Because it's fun. Fun to increase and vary my giving to make new opportunities possible."

From the Bottom Up

Giving is about a solid base—and a higher reach.

Over the years, Dr. Bob Mikkelsen's giving has evolved to touch every level of this pyramid of support to Nebraska Wesleyan University.

PLANNED GIVING

"As you mature, you think about your legacy. An estate gift is a good way to create something enduring."

SPECIAL PROJECTS

"I supported renovations in Olin ... and scholarship funds to help as many students as possible."

ARCHWAY FUND

"The unrestricted nature of annual giving is vital for a university."



A Place for Uncommon Interests

Support makes the difference for students with eclectic tastes.

Not every college could accommodate Laura Brill's ('15) academic interests. She knew she loved theatre. At her Houston, Texas, high school, she discovered she enjoyed physics, too.

As she looked at colleges, she wondered whether she could dive into two fields as demanding and different as theatre and physics.

The question made admissions counselors at some schools twist their eyebrows. "Well, I guess you could..."

But at Nebraska Wesleyan, Brill's academic advisor was direct. "Absolutely, you can."

Your gifts support a campus environment where Brill could bring the two fields she loved together in her research. She applied her physics knowledge to a theatre setting, designing a project to improve the acoustics of NWU's McDonald Theatre.

Your support helped Brill launch a graduate career in theatre design focusing on the science of optimized sound.

"I want to change somebody's experience in the theatre," Brill said. "If I can change how a 5-year-old sees their first Broadway show, that's incredible." Giving makes it possible.

NWU can support broad interests because alumni and friends give broad support.

You fund the scholarships that make NWU affordable for Brill and hundreds of students like her.

You equip departments with the tools they need—from stage lighting to lab instruments.

You sustain professors who want their students to branch out.

We're serious about keeping the Nebraska Wesleyan experience affordable. In the last two years, NWU has increased its aid awards by \$2.8 million. Your gifts make this investment in our students possible.

Change in Financial Aid Distributions

2010-2011 \$15,015,000

2011-2012 \$15,112,000 (+\$97,000)

2012-2013 \$15,610,000 (+\$498,000)

2013-2014 \$17,991,000 (+\$2,381,000)

2014-2015 \$18,425,000 (+\$434,000)*

*unaudited figure

NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT

New donors find new ways to make a difference.

Nebraska Wesleyan's first-time donors come in all shapes and sizes.

- ▶ They include **recent grads** eager to show appreciation as their careers get off the ground.
- ▶ They're **parents** who recognize that the value their children get at NWU stretches beyond the cost of tuition.
- ▶ They're **alumni** who give after an *Archways* article, an office conversation or a class reunion struck a chord.
- ▶ They're **friends** responding to a letter from NWU or a call from a student.

They're joining the fold in growing numbers.

New donors last year included:

89 young alumni (2005-2014)

40 parents

97 pre-2005 alumni

Scholarships

The Archway Fund supports an array of NWU scholarships, including Access NWU, a new scholarship that covers full tuition for academically strong Nebraskans with significant financial need.

Academic departments

Support the department that set you up for success. You can designate the department or program you want to support—anything from chemistry to communication.

NWU athletics

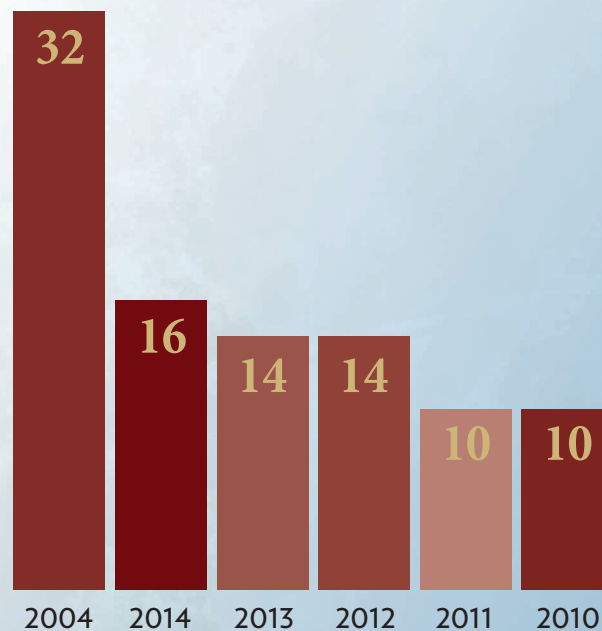
Help student-athletes win in sports and life. Archway Fund gifts also advance the athletic experience at NWU.

NWU faculty

Return the care NWU professors showed you. Designate your Archway Fund gift to faculty support to fund great teaching at Nebraska Wesleyan.

New Donors by Class

The class of 2004 produced the most first-time donors this year as classmates rallied to support a class gift as part of their 10-year reunion.



We can't continue offering students an exceptional education without the support of the people reading this magazine. Be a difference maker. Make your first gift to NWU at nebrwesleyan.edu/donate

THANK YOU.

Nebraska Wesleyan University makes a difference in thousands of lives each year. And your annual gifts make a real difference for the university.

Your gifts make the Nebraska Wesleyan experience possible. Thank you.

NEBRASKA
WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY
THEATRE
PRESENTS

IT'S ONLY A PLAY

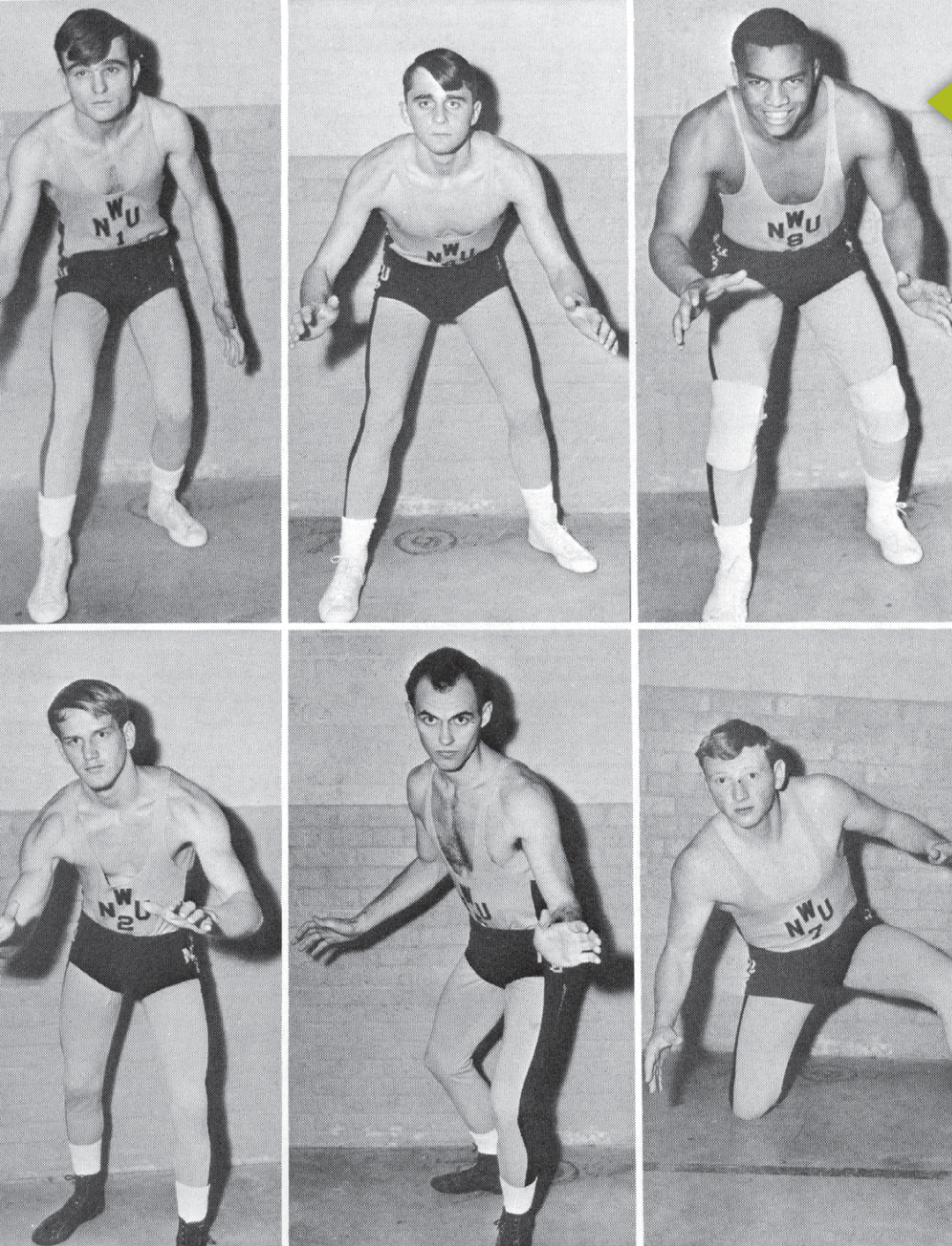
Catch opening night of this comedy about opening night.

› 7:30 p.m.

› November 12

Tickets and showtimes at
theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu





MYSTERY PHOTO

Like new again

Wrestling makes its return at NWU in 2016. That's welcome news to alumni wrestlers. Can you name these six?

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



Come to order

The chair recognizes Ms. Sandberg ('73) and Mr. Mickle ('74).

Your mystery parliamentarian is Mick Mickle. The photo was likely taken in 1972 in C. C. White. Mick is a lawyer and works in the judicial system in Lincoln.

The secretary general was Joy Sandberg, who went on to earn a master's degree in Boston, and worked in Denver, Colo. She died of brain cancer in about 2000, I believe.

I would have been next to Joy as the secretary of M.U.N. that year. I graduated with a degree in education and went on to earn a master's degree at Syracuse University.

This photo is a blast from the past for me. Joy was a dear friend of mine.

—**Alice (Harbach) Philippi** ('73)

The guy on the right is me. I was surprised to open the magazine and find myself with a full head of hair.

—**William "Mick" Mickle** ('74)

I was just studying my yearbooks getting ready for my 40th reunion and there were Joy Sandberg and Mick Mickle. I loved M.U.N. in C. C. White!

—**Kathy Pearse LaFayette** ('75)

The guy, originator of the '70s mustache, the greatest left-handed tennis player since Rod Laver and the surprisingly un-creepy personality for someone who spent summer nights babysitting dead people at the Metcalf Funeral Home, is Mick Mickle.

Nice pants, Mick. Who shot the couch?

—**Hal Guyer** ('75)

I graduated in 1974 with the individuals in the Mystery Photo. I remember both of them. I cannot identify the woman on left by name, but I surely remember her face. The student on right is William "Mick" Mickle. Both, as I remember them, were very good students.

—**Ron Lynch** ('74)

The Model U.N. delegate on the right is my brother, Mick Mickle. What a cutie!

—**Michele (Mickle) Ernst** ('81)

As one-half of a Phi Tau-Alpha Gamma merger of 38 years, I can identify the campus leaders in your Mystery Photo. The striking blonde is senior Joy Sandberg, who was president of Alpha Gamma Delta fall semester 1972 when I was going through rush. Sadly, I remember the late Joy as bright, savvy and super nice.

The handsome guy in the photo is Phi Tau "Mick" Mickle, who was a year ahead of my husband, Rick Mark ('75). (Mick's younger brother, the late Rick, was a groomsman in our wedding in June 1977.)

Joy and Mick are participating, as I did, in Model United Nations in 1973. Secretary General Joy is probably saying something like, "Now about that resolution..."

Yes, those were the days when we idealistic college students thought we could tackle global problems like war, famine, racism and xenophobia. By the way, does M.U.N. still exist on the NWU campus?

—**Becky McDonald Mark** ('76)

EDITOR'S NOTE

It's back! Students recently reformed the Model U.N. at NWU.

BOMB-SNIFFING SCIENCE

NWU study partners set their minds to detecting dirty bombs.

By Justine Nelson

A relationship formed at NWU has taken Kyle Nelson and Ben Montag to the forefront of research in radiation detection.

The odds are scary. The 85 national security experts former U.S. senator Richard Lugar surveyed put the likelihood of the U.S. suffering a nuclear event by 2030 at roughly one in four. One of the more likely (and troubling) scenarios: a smuggled and detonated “dirty bomb.”

Two young Nebraska Wesleyan alumni have built careers on preventing just such an attack. But before **Ben Montag** ('08) and **Kyle Nelson** ('08) could find their calling, they had to find each other.

A powerful partnership

Originally set on forensic science, Montag discovered interests in physics, math and chemistry at NWU. In one chemistry course, he stumbled upon a strong study partner in Nelson—a classmate with his eyes set on a law degree.

The two laid-back personalities forged a friendship aching organic chemistry exams together. They turned their academic focus to chemistry and built a professional partnership in the lab.

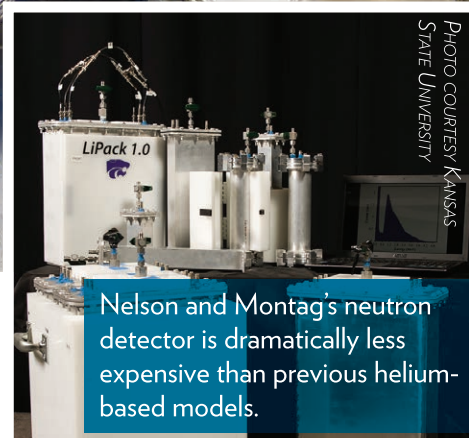
Professor of Chemistry **David Treichel** recognized their potential and connected them to research opportunities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

“Kyle and Ben were highly motivated. They sought out interesting projects and worked hard to get results,” Treichel said.

And while some would-be chemists require a lot of encouragement, others need a professor who knows when to get out of the way. Treichel was more than happy to point Montag and Nelson in a general direction and then watch them go. “I just provided access to laboratory equipment and offered a little guidance.”

After NWU, Montag and Nelson headed south to Kansas State University for degrees in nuclear engineering. There, they applied their chemistry background to research in Professor Douglas McGregor’s Semiconductor Materials and Radiological Technologies Lab.

Nelson earned his Ph.D. in 2013 and Montag followed in 2015. Their work centered on developing efficient means for detecting dirty bombs’ hallmark radiation.



Nelson and Montag’s neutron detector is dramatically less expensive than previous helium-based models.

Neutron nuance

From their days in Lincoln, the two had researched boron-based compounds for semiconductor diodes in computer chips. They knew these compounds could be converted to neutron detectors. Neutrons are a basic building block for every element of the periodic table. While neutrons are in every element, very few of them ever emit free neutrons.

Some of the elements that release free neutrons are in nuclear weapons. Detect the neutrons, and you detect the bomb.

Think of radioactive material as a campfire. Thick brush may hide the flames. But if you can feel the radiant heat, smell the smoke and see the glow, you know you’re near the fire.

Feeling the particular fire of an undetonated dirty bomb can have huge security



Larger systems could scan cargo in shipping ports or border crossings. The same devices could scan luggage in airports. Smaller handheld or backpack devices are well suited for manual searches. Soldiers with portable devices could also discreetly detect and respond to radiation sources on the battlefield.

An Oscar for invention

The project was submitted to the Research and Development (R&D) 100 Awards in 2014. The R&D 100—known as “the Oscars of Invention”—recognize the top technology products of the year. Award winners hail from industry, academia and government-sponsored research. This past year, Montag, Nelson and researchers from Kansas State University, Saint-Gobain Crystals and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency were awarded for their work on lithium foil multi-wire proportional counter neutron detectors.

Montag and Nelson headed to Las Vegas, Nev., to attend the awards ceremony in November 2014.

“I was elated to be there,” Nelson said. “It was like being in a dream. It was inspiring to be around some of the world’s greatest inventors.”

The same qualities that made Nelson and Montag good study partners and friends back in Organic Chemistry put them on par with the world’s greatest inventors. “We think about things logically, talk it out and listen to each other’s ideas,” Montag said. “Like with any friendship, you know what buttons to push and what buttons not to push.”

Together, the two will keep pushing to reduce the risk of a potential nuclear attack. They continue to research, experiment and make adjustments with the goal to commercialize their detectors by year’s end.

“The idea is to have these detectors in border security, shipping ports and airports,” Montag said. “If we can get the detectors produced and secured across the country, we know we’ve done our job.”

Knowing that what you’re doing could save someone’s life—that’s the coolest part.

implications. “The main drive (of our research) is national security,” Montag said. He said improving our capability to detect radioactive material at our borders and in our ports could reshape the way this country protects itself.

“Making radiation detectors that could find a dirty bomb or a nuclear weapon someday is motivating when you get up in the morning,” Nelson said. “Knowing that what you’re doing could save someone’s life—that’s the coolest part.”

The details of detection

Montag and Nelson described three types of radiation detectors: scintillators, semiconductors and gas tubes. Their graduate research focused on the most common type: the gas tube detector.

Gas tube neutron detectors are filled with helium-3 gas and contain a wire strung down the tube’s middle. The wire—less than a human hair in diameter—is charged with more than 1,000 volts. When the helium absorbs neutrons, they split into two relatively high-energy particles. As these absorption products deposit energy in the gas, they create free electrons. Negatively charged

electrons migrate toward the positively biased wire, creating a small pulse of electricity, which in turn indicates the presence of a neutron.

Helium-3 based gas tube detectors have one big flaw. There’s not enough helium-3 to go around. That scarcity renders the device exorbitantly expensive.

Montag and Nelson saw an opportunity to apply a different technology to replace helium-3 tubes. Nelson had the vision to use lithium-6 foils, similar to those used in lithium-ion batteries, and replace the precious helium-3 with more readily available argon.

Lithium-6 uses the same detection process as helium-3 based systems. Together, Montag and Nelson were able to create a replacement technology just as effective as helium-3 at significantly lower cost.

The technology is remarkably versatile as well. Small, handheld versions must get fairly close to the source to detect radioactive material. But larger systems—roughly the size of a bookcase—can detect strong radiation sources 100 yards away.

Montag and Nelson’s systems can be built to size depending on the need.



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1. Give securities instead of cash.
2. Make a gift and receive income payments back from NWU.
3. Make gifts from a closely held business.
4. "Loan" property to NWU for several years and then pass it on to your children or grandchildren.

Intrigued?

For more information, contact:

Brenda McCrady, J.D., *director of planned giving*
402.465.2129

bmccrady@nebrwesleyan.edu



Calendar

Mark your calendar and watch your mail for information. All NWU alumni welcome.
Contact Shelley McHugh ('91) for details at smchugh@nebrwesleyan.edu or 402.465.2123.



OCTOBER 27

NWU soccer vs. Doane

NWU hosts Doane at Abel Stadium one last time as conference foes. The women play at 6 p.m. with the men to follow at 8 p.m.

OCTOBER



31
NWU volleyball vs. Mount Marty

Start your Halloween on the hardwood at Snyder Arena. The Prairie Wolves receive their first serve at 1:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER



5
Visiting Writer Series

J. D. Schraffenberger, poet and editor of *North American Review*—the nation's oldest literary magazine—reads from his work at 6 p.m. in Elder Gallery.

16, 17
Opera scenes

NWU students perform scenes from multiple operas in O'Donnell Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

DECEMBER

1
Holiday open house: Lincoln

Lincoln-area alumni gather at the Nebraska Club for food and holiday fun from 6 to 8 p.m.

5
Elizabethan Feast

This holiday tradition features costumes, food and fanfare including performances by the Nebraska Wesleyan Chamber Singers in Smith-Curtis's Great Hall at 6 p.m. Call Kathy Benischek for tickets at 402.465.2269.

8
Holiday open house: Omaha

The Happy Hollow Club is the site for holiday festivities for Omaha-area alumni from 6 to 8 p.m.

10
Holiday open house: Hastings

Tri-cities alumni will venture to the Lochland Country Club in Hastings for a fun holiday gathering from 6 to 8 p.m.



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