

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

ARCHWAYS

BE RELENTLESS | SUMMER 15 | VOLUME 15, ISSUE 2



DISMANTLING THE UNABOMBER

RAGE AND PATIENCE CATCH A KILLER

FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Our students' appreciation
of great teaching endures
decades after graduation.*

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Earlier this year Nebraska Wesleyan surveyed seniors in our College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (traditional-aged, full-time students). We asked about many aspects of their NWU experience. The most striking finding, though not surprising, was that every response commented about wonderful professors.

Our students' appreciation of great teaching endures decades after graduation. I saw it myself in the recent memorial service for **David Clark**, professor of communication and theatre for almost 40 years. His former students filled the pews at First United Methodist Church across the street from campus. I saw it at a recent celebration honoring our beloved long-time coach of just about everything, the still vibrant **Harold Chaffee**. Alumni recalled Coach Chaffee's influence with great spirit, laughs and tears.

When I meet alumni on my travels, invariably their talk turns to one professor or another. Or three. Or more.

Here are examples of five of today's NWU professors going above and beyond:

- › **Frank Ferraro**, associate professor of psychology, has published research on cognitive responses to nature. Now he's demonstrating that research by taking students on a summer backpacking experience in Wyoming.
- › **Angie McKinney**, professor of biology, received the 2015 Prouty Teaching Award. This year, she guided a first-year student to publish research in a scientific journal. She also helped "flip" introductory biology courses to emphasize more lab experience with fewer lectures.
- › **Kathy Wolfe** ('90), professor of English, is taking a two-year leave to serve as vice president for Integrative Learning and the Global Commons at the Association of American Colleges & Universities in Washington, D.C. She's a wonderful national advocate for the liberal arts. We're very proud of her having this prestigious appointment.
- › **Susan Wortmann**, associate professor of sociology, gave her students practical experience in community action last spring by partnering with Lincoln's Asian Community and Cultural Center. The students wrote a successful grant to fund a children's summer day camp exploring Asian culture—a program they helped design.
- › **Bill Wyman**, professor of music, coached four students in preparation for the International Festival of the Aegean, a premier summer opera workshop in Greece. These students will perform *Medea* in Italian during the 13-day festival.

If I had more room, I'd add another dozen examples. I hope these few spark memories about the contributions our faculty and staff made to your life as you learned, grew and matured here.

It's easy to give back to honor a professor who changed your life. I encourage you to add to one of the existing funds endowed in a professor's honor. Or contact us to start a new endowed fund for a professor who inspired you.

As ever, I extend my thanks to every reader who provides the support that helps Nebraska Wesleyan meet the needs of the students we serve.

Yours truly,

—Fred Ohles
President



CONTENTS

Summer 2015 | Volume 15, Issue 2

ON THE COVER

Dismantling the Unabomber ▶13

Rage and patience catch a killer.

SUSPENSE

Prairie Wolves in Print: Night Call ▶12

Suspense author Charlotte Armstrong's characters fight for their lives. And one NWU professor fights for her memory.

Forty Minutes of Fast ▶27

Full-throttle basketball pushes NWU fans to their feet.

FOUND IN CHINA

Be Dexterous and Deft ▶23

A "stupid joke" turns one student's life over to the world's opposite side.

The Religious Underground ▶25

What happens when a woman accustomed to shouting her faith from the rooftops finds herself in a place where religion moves only underground?

NWU

NWUniverse ▶7

Student Pride ▶29

Departments

2 From the President

5 Letters

Alumni Pages

33 Mystery Photo

35 Alumni News

38 Class Notes

47 Calendar

Legends AND Legacies



What do a combat medic, a cross-country champion and a pioneering mathematician have in common? ▶36

CONTRIBUTORS

STAFF

Eric Wendt ('99)

Editor

ewendt@nebrwesleyan.edu

Melanie Falk

Art director

mkf@nebrwesleyan.edu

Peggy Hain

Director of marketing

phain@nebrwesleyan.edu

Kara Peters ('96)

Marketing and production manager

kpeters@nebrwesleyan.edu

Amy Vasey ('11)

Class Notes editor

avasey@nebrwesleyan.edu

Alex Linden ('03)

Sports information director

alinden@nebrwesleyan.edu

Archways advisory committee

John Greiving, Mary Hawk,
Shelley McHugh ('91), William Motzer,
Judy Muyskens, Sara Olson ('95),
P.J. Rabel

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

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

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

Archways (USPS 074-700)
Periodicals Postage Paid at Lincoln, Nebraska
Volume 15, No. 2

Postmaster:

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

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

Photo by Jennifer Heywood ('15)



Kara Cavel and Toni Jensen, "Road Open" ▶26

Kara (*left*) and Toni (*right*) are colleagues in the Social Work Department at NWU. Kara's practice interests include children and families and addressing symptoms of chronic stress resulting from neglectful or abusive care. Meanwhile, Toni's service interests include victims and offenders of domestic and sexual violence. She has worked in the Nebraska Supreme Court's Administrative Office of Courts and Probation and for the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska.



Micah Mertes, "Be Dexterous and Deft" ▶23

Micah grew up near Wichita, Kan. He serves as an online editor at the *Omaha World Herald*. He owns a tortoise and "pretends to be a Husker fan when it's convenient."



Maria Niechwiadowicz ('14), "The Religious Underground" ▶25

Maria is a global mission fellow of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries. She serves as an education specialist with the Amity Foundation, based in Nanjing, China. She's from Sioux City, S.D. Her sense of mission and ministry is influenced by her training in musical theatre, children's ministry and dance.

Letters

A Brief Holy Moment

Your spring cover story about “The Nebraska Man,” Professor John Rosentrater, revived wonderful memories.

Every Monday, he began class with a prayer. He rested himself on his desk, folded his hands, and spoke quietly to God.

I do not remember any content, only the gracious and sincere reflection of his voice.

I do not remember any content, only the gracious and sincere reflection of his voice. It was a brief holy moment.

William W. McDermott III ('57)
Raymore, Mo.

One Whom One Never Forgets

Just a note to tell you of my great pleasure to read the latest edition of *Archways*. Your cover story [“The Nebraska Man”] revived so many fond remembrances. Dr. Rosentrater was one of my favorite instructors—one whom one never forgets.

Thank you for this very fine—and memorable—edition of *Archways*.

Please convey my warmest remembrance to your mother [Jane Wendt ('87), retired library assistant for acquisitions].

David H. Mickey ('39), professor emeritus of history
Plattsmouth, Neb.

P.S.

I feel somewhat isolated way down here in Plattsmouth. Ha!

EDITOR'S NOTE

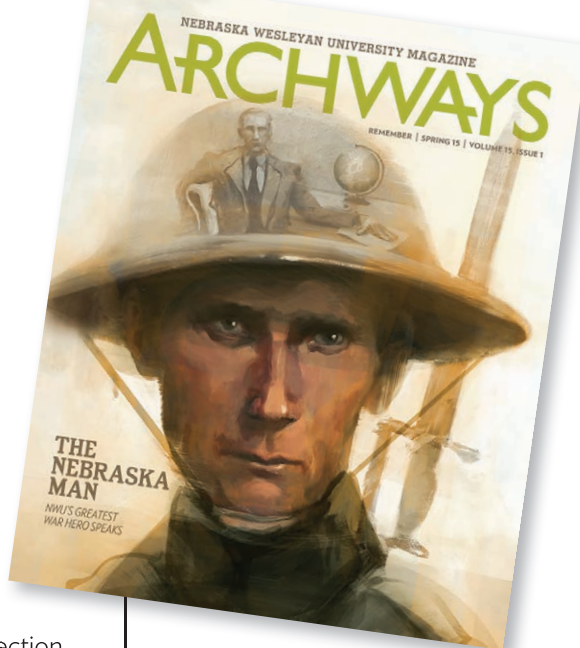
Notes from alumni and friends might just help Professor Mickey with that isolated feeling.

✉ Send him your greetings at the Masonic Home at 1300 Avenue D, Plattsmouth, NE 68048.



Photo by Chad Greene

David Mickey



What's in a Name?

[The following is taken from a phone conversation.]

I enjoyed reading “The Nebraska Man,” and wanted to share one piece of trivia about the movie that was nearly made about Professor Rosentrater [the 1941 film, “Sergeant York”].

The story we'd always heard was that the movie producers favored Alvin York because his name was shorter. “John Rosentrater” was harder to say—never mind that his story was even more heroic.

He was a fine teacher.

Donald Carlyon ('46)
Bay City, Mich.

From One Vet to Another

I want to thank you for the story about Dr. John [“The Nebraska Man”]. I met him in his philosophy class, where he was careful to pose questions for his students and leave the answers to them.

It was only after he found out that I was a vet that he was willing to talk about his personal ideas. There is no question in my mind that he is one of the finest men that I have known.

H. Jim Cyr ('57)
Aurora, Neb.

There is no question in my mind that he is one of the finest men I have known.

Always a Gentleman

"The Nebraska Man" is a great article. When I started taking classes from him in the early fifties, everyone seemed to know of his military history in World War I. We all called him Dr. Rosentrater.

He was very, very highly respected and always a gentleman.

George Strait ('57)

San Antonio, Texas

An Illustrious Past

I remember Dr. Rosentrater so well from my years at Nebraska Wesleyan: 1940 to 1944. But sitting in his classes, I had no idea he had such an illustrious past. Thank you for giving me a true picture of the man he really was.

Ethel (VanMetre) Dederling ('44)

Lincoln

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

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



Be heard. Send your letters to:

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

Email: ewendt@nebrwesleyan.edu

THE DIFFERENCE IS *Caring.*

Great professors uplift the
Nebraska Wesleyan experience.
Honor them by supporting endowed
scholarships in their names.



To learn about the different ways you can
leave your legacy, contact:

Brenda McCrady

402.465.2129.

bmccrady@nebrwesleyan.edu

NWUNIVERSE

Rain may have officially cancelled their “final walk,” but most seniors were determined to pass under the arches anyway.

Time for Change

The Nebraska Wesleyan graduates who crossed the commencement stage on May 16 are unusually accustomed to revolutionary change.

Most of them matriculated in August 2011—on the heels of the Arab Spring’s wave of political demonstrations and government overthrows. And before their college experience was a month old, Muammar Gaddafi had been ousted in Libya, protesters were occupying Wall Street and the Pentagon ended “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”

Old rules were falling fast. That same month, European scientists discovered neutrinos that appeared to break the oldest rule of all: They measured the neutrinos’ movements beyond the speed of light.

Recalibrations later brought those

neutrinos back under the cosmos’s speed limit. But the central message of that month in 2011 still remained. Yesterday’s long-held assumptions don’t necessarily equal tomorrow’s truth.

That’s why today’s college graduates must be dynamic and versatile. They must be accustomed to reconsideration, alteration and reverberation.

Working in the liberal arts tradition, Nebraska Wesleyan University fosters the versatility, flexibility and resiliency that today’s reality demands.

That’s a good thing. Because the pace of change that awaits these newest alumni promises to surpass even what they saw in their first weeks as college students.

COMMENCEMENT 2015

Master’s degree recipients: 79



Loving families and a committed faculty are two big forces behind our newest graduates’ success.



COMMENCEMENT 2015

Bachelor's degree recipients: 492



Many graduates wore ribbons in memory of their classmate, Maury Lorence.



Anna Chen ('15) (right) joined her daughter, Michelle Zhang ('12) (left), as proud Nebraska Wesleyan alumnae.

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS



> **Ron Hull**, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications, commencement speaker, Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters



> **Deborah (Jones) Frison** ('77), Nebraska Department of Education, Honorary Doctor of Pedagogy



> **Larry L. Ruth** ('67), Mueller Robak LLC, Honorary Doctor of Laws

THE FINAL: The class of 2015 saw themselves—and the world around them—change at a rapid pace during their time on campus.

Biology Students Squirrel away Data on Campus Wildlife

It's not easy teaching field biology in the midst of a quarter-million people. Cougars, caribou and copperheads all tend to steer clear of college campuses.

It's enough to turn many urban biology professors away from field study altogether. Instead, they focus their students on formulaic lab study projects. But Associate Professor of Biology **Cody Arenz** wouldn't give up on field experiences that easily. He wanted to give the 35 students in his "Introduction to Biological Inquiry" course legitimate experience in field study.

If it wasn't feasible to take 35 undergraduates far afield for regular study of wildlife, Arenz was determined to bring the field onto campus. "It dawned on me that while it's not a wilderness, our campus has squirrels that are wild animals."

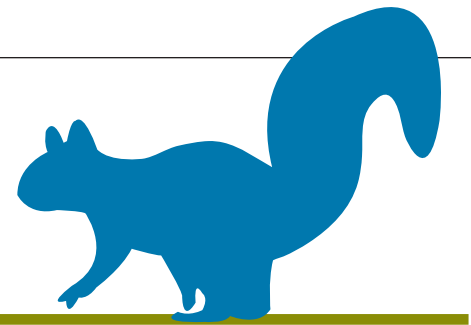
Over winter break, he teamed with

Associate Professor of Biology **Gary Gerald**—a herpetologist who typically prefers snakes and lizards—to help capture and collar 20 fox squirrels on campus.

The radio collars allow students to locate the squirrels on or near campus with a receiver and antenna. The students can then pursue their own field research on the animals' home range sizes, activity times in relation to human activity, population dynamics, and reactions to changes in seasons and food supply.

"The students work in pairs and design their own independent research project they can test on the squirrels," Arenz said. He and Gerald serve as mentors as they conduct their research and write about their results.

Many people in the course are first-year students and non-biology majors. For them, the course effectively "flips the classroom"



It dawned on me that while it's not a wilderness, our campus has ... wild animals.

by putting the fun stuff of biological inquiry right up front. Active learning, real field study and independent research opportunities in a first-semester biology course are the academic equivalent of having dessert first.

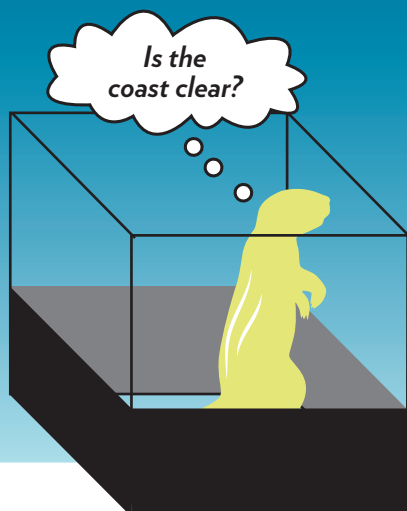
It's an approach to science learning that grabs students' imaginations. **Cicely Batie** ('15), a global studies and German major from Lexington, Neb., said, "It's a great fit for me since I'm not a biology major, and it gives me a glimpse into the world that our Biology Department engages in."

Sarah Berke ('15) contributed to this article.

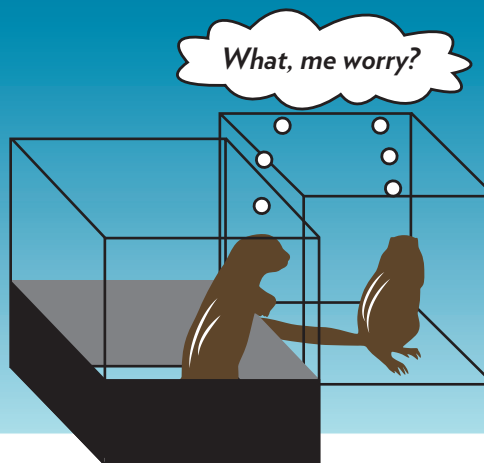
THE FINAL: Biology professors bring field study onto campus so even introductory students can have hands-on opportunities to learn and research.

GROUND SQUIRRELS ON THE LOOKOUT

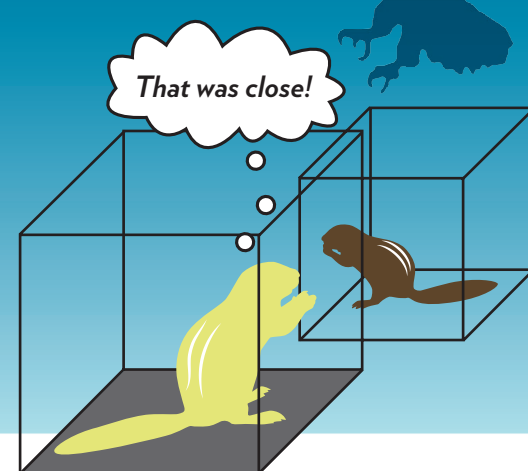
Cody Arenz has published research on how the 13-lined ground squirrel watches for predators. His study fed ground squirrels in Plexiglas boxes with different amounts of visual obstruction.



Adults with obstructed views were more alert than those who could see their surroundings.



Juveniles didn't seem to care how well they could see.



In simulated hawk attacks, vigilant adults fled faster than the lax juveniles.

President Ohles Named to NAICU Board

Nebraska Wesleyan University President **Fred Ohles** has been elected to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU).

NAICU board members set the association agenda on federal higher education policy; actively encourage support of

association priorities and initiatives; and oversee the organization's financial administration.

NAICU serves as the unified national voice of independent nonprofit higher education. The organization spearheads several major public initiatives including the Student Aid Alliance, a national coalition

that advocates for enhanced funding of the federal student aid programs; the University and College Accountability Network (UCAN), a consumer information website; and the National Campus Voter Registration Project, which engages college students in the electoral process.

NAICU serves more than

1,000 member institutions and associations nationwide.

Ohles will serve a three-year term, representing Region VII, which includes Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

THE FINAL: NWU's president is a national leader in higher education and an advocate for independent colleges.



(c) 2015, The NASDAQ OMX Group, Inc., courtesy of the Arbor Day Foundation.

Tree Advocates Hit the Big Apple

Executives at the Arbor Day Foundation spent their Earth Day on Wall Street—a place known more for concrete than cottonwoods. CEO **Matt Harris** ('93) (left) and President **Dan Lambe** ('92) (right) travelled to New York City to ring Nasdaq's opening bell and shed light on the business sense of environmental stewardship.

"Today is Earth Day, and Friday is National Arbor Day—the tree planter's holiday," Lambe told the crowd before trading on April 22. "So it is a great week to celebrate trees, and how trees help to bring solutions to some of the most complex issues facing our nation and the

globe."

Trees make for excellent business partners, Lambe said. They reduce carbon footprints, lower energy needs and increase property values.

Helping people and businesses make the most of those benefits is what the Arbor Day Foundation is all about. "The Arbor Day Foundation works with hundreds of corporations to advance sustainability through trees," Lambe said.

Nebraska Wesleyan University is one of those partners. NWU is proud to have been a part of the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree Campus USA Program every year since its inception in 2008.

THE FINAL: Alumni from the Arbor Day Foundation ring in a day of trading on the Nasdaq and make the case for sustainability through trees.

Gade-Jones Named NWU Vice President



Photo by Lane Hickenbottom

Tish Gade-Jones ('92) has joined Nebraska Wesleyan as vice president for finance and administration.

Gade-Jones brings extensive experience in accounting, auditing, financial projection and analysis, human resources and risk management. Prior to coming to NWU, Gade-Jones worked for the University of Nebraska administration, most recently as director of risk management. Her other experience includes 10 years as business manager for Gray Television Group; chief financial officer of a small, publicly traded company; and diverse assignments with a major public accounting firm.

Gade-Jones succeeds **Clark Chandler** who retired this spring after 12 and a half years of distinguished service.

THE FINAL: NWU welcomes an experienced administrator.



NEBRASKA
WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

THE DIFFERENCE IS FOCUS

COMING JUNE 2016:

A Master of Education focusing on TEACHERS

Focus on well-being. Focus on collaboration. Focus on creativity. Focus on reaching every learner.

Learn more about NWU's new M.Ed. degree:

IN LINCOLN

Weary Center for Health and Fitness
All American Room
4:30-5:30 p.m.

> September 22 > October 27 > November 17 > December 10

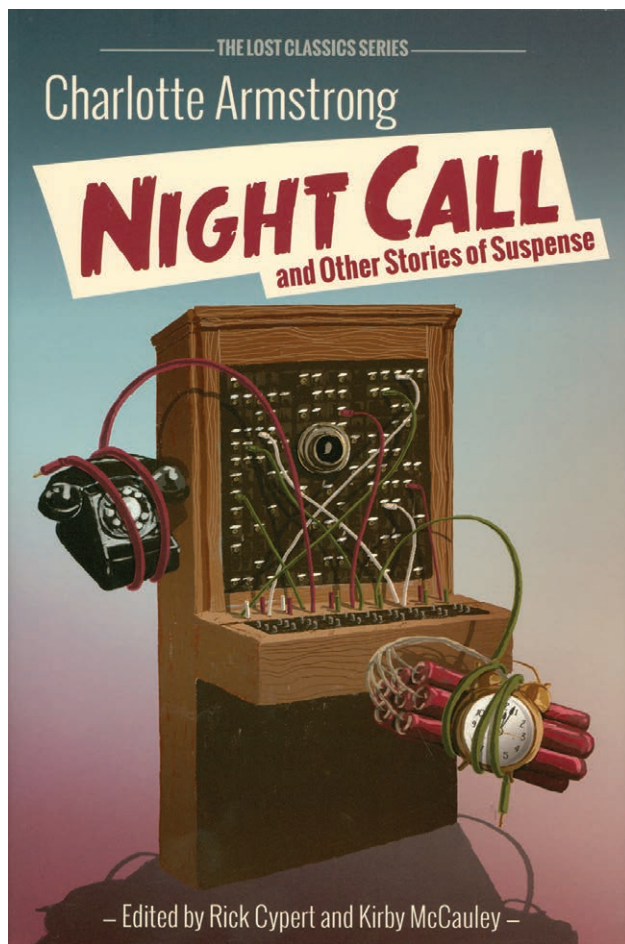
IN OMAHA

14010 FNB Parkway, 7th floor
5-6:30 p.m.

> August 12 > September 15 > October 15

> **RSVP** at 402.827.3555 or afink2@nebrwesleyan.edu

nebrwesleyan.edu/MEd



What suspense has to teach us is that there's nothing "mere" about escape. We shouldn't allow our pleasure to be so easily dismissed.

Night Call and Other Stories of Suspense

Edited by Rick Cypert and Kirby McCauley

By Charlotte Armstrong

Crippen & Landru | 318 pages | \$30

—Reviewed by Eric Wendt ('99)

After publishing *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* in 1884, Mark Twain set off with another author on a "Twins of Genius" book tour. Twain called his partner for this tour "the South's finest literary genius."

So who was Twain's artistic and intellectual twin? None other than George Washington Cable. (Raise your hand if you guessed it.)

I mention Cable only to point out that while a few writers become popular and stay that way, a great many more pass out of view. That passing is often an unnoticed shame—a quiet, second death.

Professor of English **Rick Cypert** has dedicated his recent scholarship to resuscitating the work of noteworthy 20th century genre writers. He wrote a biography and edited a story collection of NWU's most successful mystery writer, **Mignon G. Eberhart** ('20). In his latest project, he reunites with Kirby McCauley to edit select stories by the late suspense writer, Charlotte Armstrong.

Night Call and Other Stories of Suspense is part of Crippen & Landru's "Lost Classics Series." The endeavor rescues compelling detective tales from the "archives of crumbling pulp, digest, and slick magazines" and finds rare or never-published gems from authors' heirs and collectors.

In Armstrong's stories, Cypert and McCauley have found material that is both pulpy and very much worthy of rescue. There will be readers who find those two qualities—pulp and worthiness—diametrically opposed. To them, Cypert, Armstrong and I offer the same advice: Lighten up.

Let yourself enjoy what Cypert called in his introduction "the character of a character." Choose to adopt the attitude of Armstrong's protagonist in "From Out of the Garden." "Maybe I go for murderers, thought Maud—they're usually strong characters."

Cypert follows Armstrong's thrillingly fun short stories with a thoughtful afterword by her son, Jerry Lewi. Lewi quoted his mother's autobiography: "People who never read [suspense stories] tend to call them all 'mere escape.'"

But what suspense has to teach us is that there's nothing "mere" about escape. We shouldn't allow our pleasure to be so easily dismissed.

Armstrong continued, "I wonder if these people find reading a task and cannot read for fun. Or think that they ought not?"

Thanks to Cypert's rescue, you can read Armstrong's stories for fun. And you ought. [n](#)

DISMANTLING THE UNABOMBER

MEET THE ALUMNUS WHO TOOK DOWN A SERIAL MURDERER.

This is not the Unabomber's story...

Instead, this is the story of the Nebraska Wesleyan alumnus who stood outside Ted Kaczynski's Montana cabin and calmly raised a Sig Sauer Model 226 pistol inches from the serial bomber's nose.

To understand that man, we must step back from that reeking little cabin on April 3, 1996. We must pass an inner ring of hidden SWAT operators—then an outer ring of quiet snipers, prone in their hoary winter ghillie suits on the snowy slope beneath Humbug Contour Road.

And we must move back some 36 years to when **D. Max Noel** ('64) first arrived at NWU, his young eyes set, not on the FBI, but on becoming a minister and a ballplayer.

MAD MAX

Max Noel stood just 5'8". But a hot temper and athletic frame made him seem considerably larger. His temper suited the football field and baseball diamond better than the pulpit. Influenced by professors like **Marvin Stromer** in political science and **David Mickey** ('39) in history, he grew interested in politics, government and history. Soon, he slid his career goals from the ministry to civil service.

He graduated with a degree in political science and moved back to Grand Island, where he coached high school football and worked as a child welfare investigator. It was a fellow assistant coach, Joe Partington, a resident FBI agent for the Grand Island area, who spotted Noel's potential as a fed.

Noel gave the FBI a shot, and was hired and sworn in in 1968—10 years before the Unabomber's first strike. He took positions in Sacramento and San Francisco, Calif.

An affinity for weapons put Noel's FBI career on an unusual track. He became a principal firearms instructor—a designation that ensured his involvement in all sorts of critical cases: hijackings, kidnappings, extortions, homicides. FBI rules required principal firearms instructors' involvement in them all.



"If there was a big case that required tactical knowledge in implementing arrest plans," Noel said, "we'd get that call."

Noel received one such call in 1972. Two Bulgarian terrorists had hijacked Pacific Southwest Airlines Flight 710 and forced its landing at San Francisco International Airport.

As the hijackers relayed demands, Noel and a half-dozen other FBI agents stormed the plane. A shootout ensued, and Noel found himself disarming and tending to a mortally wounded hijacker. In minutes, both hijackers and one passenger were dead. Another two passengers were wounded.

Noel went on to develop Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) units in San Francisco and throughout greater California. He helped establish the FBI's elite Hostage Rescue Team (HRT), which Noel described as a "super

SWAT."

"We became very specialized, training in tactics using helicopters," he said. At that time, the only HRT units with these tactical capabilities were stationed in San Francisco, Chicago and New York. "They kept us busy."

Noel's skill set fit what his boss called his fiery personality. "Max had a highly combustible temper," said Special Agent in Charge Jim Freeman. "He flared from quiet to red-faced faster than Robert DeNiro in 'Raging Bull.'" Freeman sometimes called his supervisory special agent "Mad Max."

But if Noel was a bull, he was one that never raged with a weapon. It's a distinction central to his character. If you were a colleague who impeded his work out of laziness, incompetence or a lack of professionalism, God help you. You might see the pulse in Noel's forehead just before he verbally pulled you apart.

But in a tactical situation—a circumstance where normal people's faces grow red and their decisions grow erratic—you'd see a strangely calm Noel. He measured threats and saw options—tactics—with a lucid eye. Again and again, in a career full of tactical events, Noel would choose the measured tactic.

Put away the stun grenade. Noel would often enter situations wielding nothing more dangerous than a well-aimed lie. And he'd exit with his suspect. "I like trickery and deceit more than yelling and screaming," he said.

Given Noel's paramilitary background, it's tempting to see him as nine parts soldier and one part agent. But the same intense focus and creativity that made Noel effective in tactical operations served him equally well in investigations.

He built a reputation working labor

racketeering cases in the 1970s and '80s, including the Jimmy Hoffa case. He helped secure multiple prosecutions, and followed some of his convicts to prison, developing them into top echelon FBI informants.

Noel's informants helped uncover corruption on the federal bench. And in 1989, the FBI secured permission—for the first time in U.S. history—to wiretap the phones of a sitting federal judge. Those taps led to a conviction of Judge Robert Aguilar.

Noel's career was ascending. Meanwhile, Ted Kaczynski—whose early promise as a math prodigy had long since imploded—was in a six-year “hibernation” after his 12th bombing.

His choice to end this hibernation in June 1993 would sweep Noel away from racketeering investigations and into the hunt for a serial killer.

WELCOME TO UTF

The FBI—with its proclivity for acronyms—named this case UNABOM for “university and airline bomber.” And their target was deemed the Unabomber. He'd been quiet for so long that some agents theorized he must have died assembling one of his bombs. But two bombings in two days that June obliterated that notion.

The attacks in San Francisco and New Haven, Conn., led Attorney General Janet Reno to call for a new task force involving the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS).

FBI Inspector George Clow managed this first UNABOM Task Force (UTF) and approached Noel to join his team. Noel accepted only after it was clear he had no choice.

UNABOM was not an attractive assignment. The evidence from the

14 attacks to that point had generated a case file of 53,000 volumes with upwards of 200 pages of material per volume. “UNABOM was an information management program as much as it was an investigation,” Noel said.

This first UTF essentially spun its wheels under the load. And by 1994, FBI Director Louie Freeh sought an overhaul. Freeh placed Freeman as special agent in charge. And Freeman chose a counterintelligence agent, Terry Turchie, to be his assistant special agent in charge.

Noel welcomed the fresh eyes. In fact, he urged his new bosses to replace his own perspective with someone new.

“I wanted back on Asian,” he said, referring to a previous assignment investigating a network of Chinese money laundering and organized crime that crisscrossed languages, currencies, cultures and continents. “That was simpler.”

Freeman rejected Noel's request for reassignment. Instead, he put “Mad Max” in charge of reinvestigating each bombing going back to 1978, looking for missed evidence and new leads. UNABOM consumed Noel with logistical hurdles, bureaucratic tangles and life-and-death implications.

During this period, his wife, Kit, was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Noel's daily routine changed. After 10 or 12 hours of life and death at work, Noel moved to 12 or 14 hours of life and death at home.

Her care and UNABOM were difficult to juggle. He did his best to approach both with the same grit he admired in his wife.

Noel recalled how she reacted after chemotherapy took her hair and her family offered a wig. “She's a Nebraskan. She said, ‘Screw this! I'm not wearing a wig. Give me a baseball cap.’”

Later on in her recovery, she told

Max, “If I'm going to feel bad staying at home, I might as well feel bad at the gym instead.”

The absence of self-pity in Kit left Max with no excuses. But the whole thing shortened his already short temper. Traveling was the worst. And his work investigating bombings in nine states involved lots of it.

FBI offices in the cities he visited were required to provide him space and support—demands that didn't fit their budgets or serve their cases. “You arrive and you're looked at with jaundiced eyes from the get-go,” he said.

Their reluctance tripped his last nerve. “You don't like it, to hell with you,” he said. “You just get to the point where you know why a case isn't getting solved. People aren't attacking it with the vigor it demands. Well, that doesn't give the victims and families any solace,” he said.

“And I had more important things to do than sit around and pat myself on the back talking about how good we were doing when we weren't.”

WHO IS THIS GUY?

Noel's methodical, bomb-by-bomb reinvestigations shed new light on the suspect. He helped answer a pesky question about the first bombing. Addressed and stamped so as to appear to have come from a professor at Northwestern University, this bomb was never mailed. It was found instead in a parking lot at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Why didn't he mail it? The question confounded investigators for 16 years.

Noel and his colleagues found a painfully simple answer. The criminal “genius” had built his first package too big to fit into the mailbox. Left with a live bomb on his hands and a significant fear of being seen, the Unabomber

dropped it in a nearby parking lot and fled.

Noel's travels also took him to Salt Lake City, Utah, where he re-interviewed UNABOM's only eyewitness, Tammy Fluehe. She'd watched through a computer store window as a hooded stranger left something lying in the parking lot in

1987. "Hey! Come look at what this a_____e is doing," she'd told her boss.

Her boss's son eventually picked up what he thought was just a piece of construction debris. Gary Wright survived the explosion that tore into his face, chest and arm.

This story wasn't new to Noel. But Fluehe did reveal one maddening new insight. The only person known to have seen the Unabomber never liked the original suspect sketch.

The inaccuracy of the original sketch, which depicted the Unabomber as blond with a pointed chin, delighted the brown-haired, broad-chinned Kaczynski. He went so far as to secure a blond hair from a public restroom, clip it into pieces, and place the segments under tape in subsequent bombs to further mislead investigators.

The FBI secured a new sketch artist, Jeanne Boylan, and sent her to Salt Lake City with Noel. There, she tried to draw a more accurate representation of the Unabomber from the glimmers of Fluehe's seven-year-old memory. As Boylan and Fluehe worked, Noel served as babysitter. The plane-storming, helicopter-rappelling super-SWAT agent sprawled on the carpet with Fluehe's 2-year-old son. They watched "The Lion King."

The resulting black-and-white sketch of the man in aviator sunglasses and hooded sweatshirt would be the quintessential image of the Unabomber—at least until Noel caught up with the bushy-haired real thing.

CRIMINAL MASTERMIND?

Unabomber victims like David Gelernter have decried the way media have framed Ted Kaczynski as a "mad genius."

Madness, Gelernter argued, is a defense. And genius, a compliment. Why should the media defend or compliment this killer?

So did Noel see Kaczynski as a genius?

"He finished high school at 15," Noel said. "He was a Harvard grad with a Ph.D. from Michigan. He was teaching math at Cal Berkeley when he was 25. He had an IQ around 170. And he couldn't hold a job at a foam rubber mattress factory."

Noel's sense: Real genius solves problems. And Kaczynski couldn't wrap his mind around the simple problem of his own spiraling life.

LOOK AT ME!

The FBI's big break came in the form of the Unabomber's 35,000-word manifesto. Their suspect fancied himself a writer. "And a writer, like it or not, depends upon publicity," wrote David Gelernter.

Gelernter, a Yale computer scientist, had nearly died when he opened a package from the Unabomber in 1993. His memoir, *Drawing Life*, told the story of his ordeal and recovery.

In describing a writer's need to be noticed, Gelernter was referring to his own reluctant relationship with a press thirsty for his story. But he may as well have been describing his attacker's undoing.

The Unabomber manifesto was a neon "Look at me!" sign. An unblemished linguistic fingerprint. It was also the source of a moral dilemma for UTF investigators.

The Unabomber sent his missive to the editors of *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* (and, strangely, *Penthouse* magazine). The newspapers immediately turned it over to the FBI. Publish it in its entirety, the Unabomber said, and the bombings will cease. Refuse, and more will die.

The FBI, including UTF's behavioral psychologist, Kathy Puckett, put little stock in this promise. "Even though he says he will desist from terrorism, he can't," Puckett warned Freeman. "Even if he wants to, he won't be able to avoid sending more bombs."

So the decision to publish had nothing to do with acquiescence. Still, publishing his words could set a dangerous precedent that would encourage future terrorism. After much discussion, UTF determined publication to be, as Assistant Special Agent in Charge Terry Turchie described it, "an operational opportunity not to be missed."

It ran in *The Washington Post* on September 19, 1995. The FBI was confident that someone would read the manifesto, recognize its author and come forward.

But the calendar would carry into 1996 before UTF's decision to publish finally bore fruit. In mid-February, David Kaczynski reached out to the FBI through a lawyer, expressing concern that the manifesto strongly resembled in style and ideas the writings of his brother, Ted. His lawyer produced a copy of a 1971 letter from Ted to David to ground his suspicions.

Investigators examined the letter and were intrigued by its similarities to the manifesto. With David Kaczynski's cooperation, Freeman, Turchie, Puckett and others at UTF grew confident that their man lived alone in the woods south of Lincoln, Mont. Kaczynski's known writing was a compelling



stylistic and ideological match. He also fit UTF's increasingly specific behavioral profile of an alienated loner with Chicago roots, a university background and a westward drift.

UTF's biggest skeptic: Max Noel.

In hindsight, Noel's disbelief at this stage may sound strange. After so many years, the Unabomber's own brother had finally come forward saying, "It's him." What's not to believe?

"What people don't understand is we had 59 other people come forward saying it was their brother, too," Noel said.

"To me, it was another theory. And I'd had it up to my eyeballs with everybody's damned theories." UNABOM's dumpsters overflowed with theories

that led exactly nowhere. Noel wanted to follow facts.

He agreed that facts warranted investigation in Lincoln, Mont. But he remained skeptical of UNABOM Suspect #2,416: Theodore Kaczynski.

"He lived in a 10' x 12' cabin with no electricity or water. He had no job to finance his bombs. His only mode of transportation was a rickety bike he rode to Lincoln for groceries. He'd only ever rented a car a couple times and didn't put on many miles when he did. And you're telling me this guy is sending homemade bombs all over the country from the West Coast?" Noel said. "I didn't buy it."

RURAL RULES

Buy it or not, Noel was tasked with investigating in Lincoln, a town of about 1,000 people. Turchie and others would work on securing a warrant—if not for Kaczynski's arrest, then at least for the search of his cabin.

Noel grew up in Nebraska; he knew how tough it would be to combine the words "covert" and "small town." He wanted to control all FBI movements in and out of Lincoln—a place where so much as an unfamiliar vehicle or two could spark talk. This phase of the investigation would operate under Noel's rural rules.

He asked to speak with the most

knowledgeable, trustworthy law enforcement official in the area. That would be Jerry Burns of the U.S. Forest Service. Burns was a lifelong Lincoln resident who patrolled the Helena National Forest bordering Kaczynski's property. He even knew Kaczynski by sight, and was eager to cooperate.

Noel set to work with Burns. "I said, 'OK, Jerry. Who's the most knowledgeable about Ted Kaczynski?'" He named Butch Gehring, a lumber mill operator on the adjacent property. Is he trustworthy?

"Butch can keep quiet," Burns said. But he told Noel to stipulate one thing clearly: Don't let him tell his wife. "If Wendy knows, the town knows."

Burns introduced Noel to Gehring outside the lumber mill. "It was cold—probably in the low 20s—and spitting snow," Noel remembered. But Gehring made no move to invite him inside. After a few minutes of talk, Noel realized Gehring was testing his mettle in the cold. He tried not to shiver.

Noel told him the FBI was investigating Kaczynski for mailing some threatening letters. "That wasn't a lie, exactly," Noel said. But he couldn't just begin with, "Hey, I think your neighbor over there is the Unabomber."

Gehring looked neither particularly surprised, nor particularly cold. He outlined what he knew about his "goofy" neighbor, and Noel asked if it would be OK if he took some notes. He produced a little spiral notebook and began to write. But the ink in his pen had frozen. "I shoved it in my pants pocket to thaw against my leg and we kept talking."

A few minutes later, Noel tried his pen again with better results. "Your pen working now?" Gehring smiled and invited him inside. Noel had passed Gehring's test.

They warmed up, then Gehring offered to walk Noel down his skid road for a look at Kaczynski's cabin. Gehring's Chesapeake Bay retriever, Curly Sue, followed along. On the way, Curly Sue flushed a deer and tore into a barking chase through the brush. The ruckus swept right past Kaczynski's cabin as Noel stood transfixed, just dozens of yards away. "The cabin door swung open and this wild looking man stared at us intently. I was speechless just looking at this guy," Noel said.

"Butch didn't miss a beat and just waved and hollered, 'Hi, Teddy,' as if nothing was out of order. Just as quickly, Kaczynski nodded in Butch's direction and disappeared back into his cabin.

"And I couldn't believe what I had just seen," he said. "My God—is that what we've been looking for all these years?"

TRICKERY AND DECEIT

Inside UTF, the effort to secure an arrest warrant reached a fevered pitch. The mounting facts slowly pulled Noel into Freeman and Turchie's camp on UNABOM suspect #2,416. Kaczynski had to be their guy. Noel called himself UTF's "last convert."

Despite their confidence, UTF's evidence at that point didn't meet the threshold for an arrest warrant. They did secure, however, a warrant to search Kaczynski's property.

Freeman was adamant that Noel lead the tactical effort to nab Kaczynski during the search. He feared a Washington-led operation would create a "come-out-with-your-hands-up" standoff. Agents would be safe in this scenario, but Kaczynski would have opportunity to destroy evidence. He could commit suicide or be killed in a clash.

In cooperating with the FBI, David Kaczynski had pleaded for a humane arrest. He'd turned his brother in to see the killing stop, he said—not to see his brother die.

Freeman knew Noel offered the best path to a positive outcome. He possessed both the Hostage Rescue Team tactical background and the UTF case knowledge that no one in Quantico or Washington could ever match.

Noel's apprehension plan reflected his personality: straightforward, yet crafty. No stun grenades. No battering rams. Plan A would lead with a laser-guided lie.

Noel had learned a lot about his suspect from the manifesto and from Butch Gehring. And the trick he designed reflected a strategic understanding of Kaczynski's thinking. He was confident his deceit would work. Two teams of San Francisco SWAT operators were there in case Noel was wrong.

A first team of snipers moved before dawn to form an outer perimeter. They nestled down in the snow and watched the cabin. A second team was to move in later and at closer range to provide immediate security during Noel's operation.

Noel and Gehring sat on a porch at the lumber mill as this second team assembled. Gehring watched them step out of their vehicle and almost laughed coffee out his nose. "What's with the giant chicken suits?" Standing upright, the SWAT operators' white and grey ghillie suits did look comical—like chickens crossed with abominable snowmen. But when prone in the snowy brush, what did look funny now was almost invisible.

"Relax, Butch," Noel said. "They know what they're doing."

It took longer than expected for this second team to form an inner perimeter. Noel had outlined what gear they'd need and what gear they would not. But the team preferred to



move fully outfitted. Noel described their equipment as including a combination of tactical body armor, load-bearing vests, knives, chemical agents, gas masks, side arms with extra ammunition and long weapons, "which could have been anything from an MP-5 to a Remington 870 shotgun to an M-79 launcher."

The things they carried made their movement burdensome.

The night before, these men were in San Francisco, a handful of feet above sea level and at a latitude where spring had sprung weeks earlier. "Now they're at about 7,000 feet lugging too much gear up a mountain through deep snow," Noel said. "That's not easy." The team decided to regroup in the woods, unload and hide their gratuitous gear, then set out again.

Freeman broiled through the wait in a froth of stomach acid and worry. But Noel was in his unperturbable tactical mode. He was the picture of mellow,

sipping Gehring's coffee on the porch.

"He ain't going anywhere," Noel said. "Some things will make me blow my top, but not this. For this, I'm cool, calm and collected."

Once the SWAT team settled into position, Noel was free to move. He thanked Gehring for the coffee. Then he and another FBI agent accompanied Forest Service Officer Jerry Burns straight up the skid road to Kaczynski's hovel.

Gehring and Kaczynski had locked horns in the past over Gehring's decision to sell the mining rights to his property. Kaczynski had raged at the thought of noisy machines disrupting the land and his peace. He made clear the mining company's men had better keep their filthy boots off his property.

Burns knocked, and when Kaczynski cracked his door, he said hello. He said the gentlemen with him were representatives from the mining company. They'd be starting work soon, and they

wanted to know the precise boundaries of Kaczynski's property so they could be sure to stay off it.

"The corners of my property are clearly marked with corner stakes," Kaczynski said, as if to end the conversation.

Burns didn't miss a beat. "They're covered with snow." He asked Kaczynski to come outside and show them.

Kaczynski's last sentence as a free serial bomber was, "I need my coat." The men had decided beforehand that if Kaczynski came to the doorway, they wouldn't allow him to leave it for the cabin interior. He had hunting rifles (and, quite possibly, live bombs) inside. Burns grabbed the remarkably filthy man by the shoulder and yanked him outside.

Burns and Kaczynski stumbled in the snow, and the other FBI agent caught them both in a bear hug. Kaczynski put up a struggle, which Noel promptly ended by pointing his pistol at Kaczynski's face. The FBI, he said, had a warrant

to search his cabin.

The two SWAT teams remained unseen and unheard as the three men moved Kaczynski as planned toward another cabin. While they walked, the Unabomber asked Noel, “Am I under arrest?”

“No.”

“Can you remove the handcuffs?”

“No.”

“Am I free to leave?”

“No.”

“It kind of sounds like I’m under arrest.”

PLAN B

What if Ted Kaczynski hadn’t opened the door? What if he’d just told Burns and the mining men to get lost? Would that have triggered a deadly standoff?

“No,” said Noel. “I’ve usually got a backup plan in my pocket.”

Noel’s plan B involved a tree.

Gehring and Kaczynski had also quarreled over a huge pine near Kaczynski’s cabin. The 70’ monster stood just inches on Gehring’s side of the property line. He’d talked about harvesting it for lumber, and Kaczynski had implored him to let the massive tree be.

Noel’s backup plan would have brought Gehring over with an industrial chain saw. “If we’d have had Butch fire that thing up and start buzzing away, I’m pretty sure that would have brought him out, too.”

AN EVIL STINK

Noel spent the next 11 hours with Kaczynski as the FBI searched his cabin.

If UTF had lacked sufficient evidence to arrest Kaczynski before Burns

knocked on his door, they had it now.

The grubby space—roughly the size of a Centennial Hall double—was a bomb factory. And despite his promise to stop bombing after his manifesto’s publication, that factory was in operation. They found one package bomb ready for stamps and two more near completion. They also found a hit list of about two dozen names.

Kaczynski’s typewriter proved a forensic match to the typewritten mailing labels on his previous bombs. In copious diary entries, he admitted to several attacks. And the cabin held the original of the manifesto itself.

What stood out most to Noel about those first 11 hours with the Unabomber was the smell. “I spent the better part of a week trying to get that smell off my hands and out of my nose,” he said. “I don’t figure you’ve had any reason to smell a body that’s burned. But I have. And that’s the closest thing I can compare it to.”

This was April—at the tail end of a long, Montana winter that Kaczynski had spent cooped inside his unclean cabin. He had no plumbing and only a small woodstove for heat. “It’d be 30 below some nights, and he wasn’t about to go outside.”

Noel described the process by which Kaczynski would relieve his bowels onto newspaper, then wrap and dispose his waste in the woodstove. The killer’s smell was the smoky residue of unwashed months in these fetid conditions.

Kaczynski wouldn’t discuss his alleged crimes in those first hours, and investigators saw little reason to push. The cabin held all they needed. But Kaczynski was eager to chat.

Before the operation, the FBI had done a lot to get a better sense of the Kaczynski cabin, which was shrouded on all sides by thick forest.

“Was that you fellers up on the Humbug Contour Trail?” he asked Noel, referring to the logging road well up the slope from his property. “I saw snow machine tracks, then footprints leading down toward my place.”

Not us, Noel lied.


“I think that was you.”

Later, he asked, “Was that you down to the Miller cabin last week? I saw a feller there in a blue parka like yours.” Noel hadn’t been to the Miller cabin. But a colleague of his was there—an agent who had worn a similar blue parka.

“The thing is,” Noel said, “the only way for him to see the Miller cabin from his place was to climb this tree.” Noel described Kaczynski’s “crow’s nest” in a 75’ tree with a knotted rope running down the trunk and branches worn from where he’d made his footholds.

“He was very aware of his surroundings,” Noel said. “But he didn’t recognize things for what they were.” That realization satisfied Noel. Kaczynski had been on alert. It hadn’t mattered. The FBI closed in, and they closed in covertly. Noel’s rural rules had worked.

“He looked up at the sky at one point and he said to me, ‘You know what? Your ruse was about the only way you could get me out of that cabin.’”

Noel smiled at the math prodigy. The Harvard grad. The mastermind killer who’d called the FBI “a joke.” And he did not say what he knew to be true: that Noel had a dozen ways to pull a stinking criminal out of a hole. He just picked the simplest. 

Noel, Freeman and Turchie coauthored a 2014 memoir of the investigation, *Unabomber: How the FBI Broke Its Own Rules to Capture the Terrorist Ted Kaczynski*. This article quotes portions of that book with permission.

Thank you.

Your annual gifts to the Archway Fund are *life-changing*.



“I didn’t think I could afford Nebraska Wesleyan, but scholarships make all the difference for me. I’m so grateful to everyone who gives for making my education possible.”

Rachaell Abbott ('17)

Waverly, Neb.



You make Nebraska Wesleyan University better.

Recruit, recruit for the home team



Fill Nebraska Wesleyan's roster with top academic talent.

- Show your NWU pride.
- Encourage prospects and parents to visit campus.

Siblings, children and grandchildren of alumni get an automatic \$1,000 Legacy Scholarship.

Prairie Wolves Summer visit event: August 7

admissions.nebrwesleyan.edu ➤ 402.465.2218

**NEBRASKA
WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY**

Be Dexterous and Deft, and Never Mix Your Right Foot with Your Left

Mr. LeftRight walks a zany path to Chinese celebrity.

By Micah Mertes

At 25, Zach Ireland Splittgerber ('12) is a successful actor, talk show host and model in Beijing, China.

In the past two years, he's been in seven television shows, two movies, six commercials, eight talk shows (some of which he hosts) and seven short films.

He's recognized several times a week in Beijing. He's known there as 左右 (pronounced Zoy-yo), which means LeftRight. Fans ask him for autographs at the gym and selfies on the subway.

Splittgerber's originally from Nehawka, Neb. (population: 204), so being a minor celebrity in a city of more than 20 million in a country on the other side of the world is ... a little weird.

How is this my life?

He still asks himself this question, and he still shakes his head at the answer.

This is his life because of a dumb joke.

Splittgerber was studying acting at Nebraska Wesleyan, where he would end up doing more than 50 plays and musicals, many of them lead roles. All the while he maintained a minimum of 18 credit hours per semester. As a requirement for graduation, he needed to study a foreign language. His advisor,

Professor of Theatre Jay Chipman ('77), asked him which language he felt like learning, and Splittgerber made a "stupid joke." He said, "Mandarin. I'm only enrolled for 23 credits so I need something easy."

Chipman's eyes lit up. He was excited

someone would want to learn the language and encouraged Splittgerber to give it a try. That dumb joke was a turning point.

Splittgerber quickly took to the language. After a year, he studied in China. It was big, strange, wonderful. After that experience, he couldn't wait to go back.

Some of his NWU classmates went to Los Angeles or New York or Chicago to be actors. Splittgerber wanted to go farther.

So he scrounged up some money, quit his waiter job at China Road in Bellevue, Neb., got a plane ticket and embarked on his unlikely Chinese adventure.

He landed in China with \$500 in his pocket and realistic expectations. The plan was to teach English, save money and try to get acting jobs on the side. He hoped to be a full-time actor someday, but he wasn't counting on it.

He got a job teaching kindergarten his first day in China. His students quickly absorbed his colorful personality.

"Whenever my kids were too loud, I'd shout, 'THUNDERCATS!' to which they'd respond, 'HO!' Then they'd become silent. Also, when we were lined up and just about to leave, I'd yell, 'AUTO-BOTS!' to which they'd respond, 'ROLL OUT!'"

His job prospects quickly rolled out as well. He got a job on a reality show his first week.



Zach Ireland Splittgerber has taught, acted and modeled in China.



Why he's called Mr. LeftRight

A sweet story, actually. When Splittgerber first came to China, he got the Chinese characters for "left" and "right" tattooed on his left and right feet. He did this because when he left for college, his mom gave him the Dr. Seuss poem, "Oh, The Places You'll Go!" Whenever he embarks on something new or scary, he reads that poem to himself.

"And since China was one of my biggest adventures," he said, "I wanted to get something to remember where I was at that point in my life. The line 'Be dexterous and deft, and never mix your right foot with your left' seemed like really good advice."

After he got his tattoos, a friend referred to him as Mr. LeftRight, and the name stuck.

In Chinese, "left right" is also a way of saying "sort of" or "kind of." It's a goofy name, making it easy to remember and fitting of Splittgerber's screen personality.





▲ Zach has starred in Chinese TV and films, playing American, German and Russian roles.

American stereotypes in China

"I'm coming up on three years in China," he said, "and people are still surprised I can use chopsticks. People think that as Americans we eat cheeseburgers and pizza and hotdogs every day. When I tell them that's untrue, they get curious and interested in the differences in what's shown by Hollywood and what actually happens in the United States."

Chinese stereotypes in America

It's a stereotype that Asian students are good at math. But from Splittgerber's experience, it's an accurate one. The culture just pushes math much harder in the curriculum. Splittgerber said he once looked at the math homework of a friend's very young daughter and was baffled by it. It was basically trigonometry-level, and for this little girl it was easy.

He expressed his ignorance, and his friends were baffled by his bafflement. How do you not know something this simple?

He got a job on a talk show his second week.

The jobs kept coming. Within a few months, he had to quit teaching to make time for all the acting work.

Splittgerber has several advantages over other western actors in China. For one, he's a trained actor. He speaks fluent Mandarin and can get by in other Chinese dialects. He's 6' 2", relatively tall but not so towering to get typecast as a tough guy westerner.

Many western actors come to China to study kung fu. They're 6' 7" and, Splittgerber said, "built like these Greek gods, just insanely big dudes." He's not that.

"I show up looking like I'm held together by twigs and rubber bands," he said. "I'm 150 pounds, and if you put the right makeup on me, I look like I'm 14."

He's also good at picking up other languages and has an "ambiguously white" face,

meaning he can play a whole slew of nationalities. In his random roles, he's played a Russian reporter, a German study abroad student in a knockoff of "Glee," and a 15-year-old Canadian who learns Chinese through the power of love.

He's done several jobs at once, and some of his workdays would break a lesser person.

"The busiest day I've had," Splittgerber said, "was I got up at four in the morning, and by five I was on set for a TV show where we filmed for like four or five hours, had a 30-minute lunch break, filmed a little bit more, went to a movie audi-

tion, did a screen test, left immediately from there to go to a talk show, had to drive two hours across the city and then I think I got done at four in the morning."

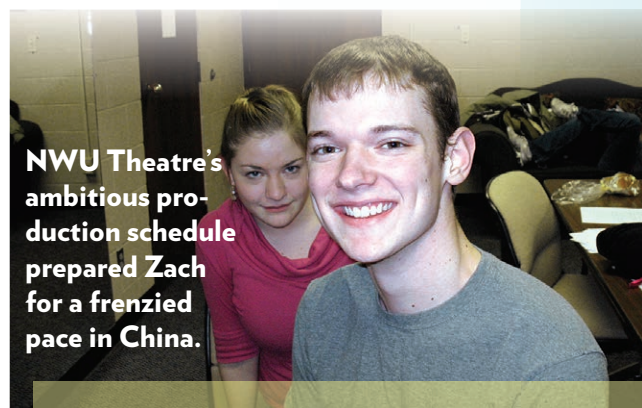
Not every day is like this, but he's a busy guy. His fame in Beijing comes partly from the sheer volume of his work. A TV show he starred in was seen by 25 million people.

He guesses on the fame-scale he's in the top 20 percent of western actors in China, a C-list. But he's only been there two and a half years.

He's certain it wouldn't have turned out like this had he gone to Hollywood or New York. He's grateful for the dumb joke that started him down this path.

"Actually," he said, "most of the things in my life just kind of happened because of some stupid joke or something idiotic happening. If someone was looking back on it 10 years from now, they would think I actually orchestrated this."

"Maybe that's what I'll tell my kids: 'You know, you have to be very regimented and smart about this.' When, in reality, nah, I was just an idiot. But it's worked out well." n



His Nebraska Wesleyan adviser

Chipman knew Splittgerber was joking when he said he wanted to study something "easy" like Mandarin. But he still encouraged him to go for it.

Chipman also worked with Splittgerber on four different theatre productions at Nebraska Wesleyan. He said the young actor's success comes from "a combination of resourcefulness, determination and, to some extent, good luck."

He remembers Splittgerber as a talented student who was always dependable, hardworking and interested in people.

A version of this article first appeared in the Omaha World-Herald in March. We reprint it with permission.

The Religious UNDERGROUND



What happens when a woman accustomed to shouting her faith from the rooftops finds herself in a place where religion moves only underground?

By Maria Niechwiadowicz ('14)

When it comes to religion, I consider myself an ecumenical mutt.

I spent the majority of my early years as an active member of the Lutheran Church, but as a student at Nebraska Wesleyan University, I was exposed to Methodist theology and also began working at a local Presbyterian church. Some of my best friends were Catholics and conservative “non-denominationalists.” This exposure to various traditions led me to study world religions in India, accept a call as a young adult missionary and see the Holy Spirit work in incredible ways.

I graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan in 2014 and embarked on a new journey as a global mission fellow of the United Methodist Church. I wanted to engage with communities, connect with the church in mission and grow in personal and social holiness. Still, I felt intimidated when I learned I’d be sent to Guyuan in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region of China to serve as an English teacher. I hesitated, but knew I needed to trust this call.

My previous experience abroad may have helped me transition to daily life in China, but that same experience in India also made my spiritual transition harder.

Indian culture includes dozens of religious traditions, which I was free to explore. In Guyuan, religion is hardly seen in public, let alone discussed. There’s a smaller scope of religious activity and fewer people who call themselves religious. The contrast made Guyuan seem quite secular.

I hadn’t expected religious censorship. But I was quickly told what I couldn’t say in

public and was informed that there were no churches officially registered through the government—and therefore no church where I could legally worship. I’d expected to feel geographically removed from home. But this sense of spiritual removal felt discouragingly foreign.

Then I met my students. As a teacher in this environment—only two or three years older than my students—I felt a strong connection. Still, I’ve had to work harder to deepen our conversations to better understand this culture.

I’ve learned many of my students have dreams but no expectations of reaching them. They have values but do not openly express them. They’re longing for a sense of purpose but don’t know where to turn.

We talk about the important people who affect our lives, the experiences that shape our thoughts, and the unexpected ways we can attain our dreams. These conversations, though not directly related to religion, have been incredibly fruitful and filled with the Holy Spirit.

I now realize I was initially blinded by the challenges facing me. In surrendering all expectations, relinquishing the fear of religious censorship and recognizing the Holy Spirit within me, I renewed my sense of mission here.

Guyuan may be less outwardly spiritual than India, but it is not devoid of the Spirit. I’ve simply had to adapt my concept of how religion appears and moves. As a missionary, it’s only part of my call to bring the light of the Holy Spirit to my placement site; the harder part is seeing where the Holy Spirit is already working.

Thanks to her Nebraska Wesleyan experience, Niechwiadowicz was both familiar and comfortable with religious diversity. What jarred her in China was the need for religious discretion.

Buddha statues inside Grotto Mount Sumeru in Guyuan Ningxia



On Affordability

NWU scholarship clears a path to social and economic opportunity.

—By Kara Cavel and Toni Jensen

The straightest path out of American poverty is a college education. However, the millions of Americans who could benefit most from that education often find themselves unable to access this path.

President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty included unprecedented efforts to help students access education such as the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and the Higher Education Act of 1965. These policies intended to make higher education accessible for all Americans. But did they work?

Enrollment rates in colleges have increased, but the gap between high- and low-income families' access to col-

lege education has grown larger over the past 35 years, and attendance continues to be stratified by family income and race.

Nebraska Wesleyan University is attempting to bridge that gap through Access NWU—an exciting new program offering full-

tuition scholarships to Nebraskans who score a 25 or higher on the ACT, earn at least a 3.0 high school GPA and present a certain level of financial need as determined by the Free Application

for Federal Student Aid. A total of 31 incoming students will receive this new scholarship this fall. These students are required to live on campus and pay for their room and board. But rent and food are expenses they'd face whether or not they were attending college.

As social workers and professors, we applaud this effort to assist promising students with financial need. This approach to improving access to education for those who may not otherwise be able to afford it is a commendable step taken by one of the leading academic institutions in our state.

While the issue of cost is important, it's not the only factor determining students' academic success and trajectory toward greater financial security. As social workers, it's our professional responsibility to also recognize unaddressed gaps in service delivery.


The success of Access NWU will hinge on the social and academic supports our students receive. Nebraska Wesleyan's network of staff in residential education, the Career and Counseling Center, the Cooper Center for Academic Resources, Cochrane-Woods Library and elsewhere plays a

pivotal part in ensuring the success of our first-generation college students. Fortunately, combining academic

and social support is something Nebraska Wesleyan has long done well.

We know our students' individual successes are partly rooted in systemic, campus-wide supports. We also know that a similar but opposing dynamic is in play. The stubborn continuation of American poverty is

rooted—not in “learned helplessness,” or in a class of people with weak work ethics—but in systemic flaws in the United States, including low wage jobs, access to resources, discriminatory practices, and many others.

In this context, the benefits of an accessible Nebraska Wesleyan University are twofold. On one hand, we're improving access to education for students in the hopes that they can improve their social and economic conditions in the future. Additionally, we're also graduating students from all backgrounds who are equipped to understand and address systemic problems in all fields—including economics, domestic policy and social work. 

*Would you like
to help fund
Access NWU?*

Contact Erika Paschold ('08),
director of the Archway Fund,
at epaschol@nebrwesleyan.edu
or 402.465.7574.

Kara Cavel and Toni Jensen are assistant professors of social work at NWU.



Photo by Chris Smithberg (double6photography)

FORTY MINUTES OF *FAST*

How a .500 team grabbed a campus's imagination.

This was the team pegged to finish last in the Great Plains Athletic Conference. A men's basketball team with a smaller roster and a new head coach unfamiliar with bruising GPAC play. Mark them in the cellar, said the experts, because that's where they're headed.

Nebraska Wesleyan's new head coach, **Dale Wellman**, wasn't so sure. He saw speed on his roster. He saw dangerous shooters. Most importantly, he saw players open to a new way of competing.

Wellman had built his reputation turning a 2-23 Alfred (N.Y.) University program into a postseason contender. He did it by emphasizing steals, offensive rebounds and shooting-shooting-shooting.

Last year, his Alfred team stood near the top of NCAA III in a slew of offensive categories, and he saw no reason why the Prairie Wolves couldn't do the same.

But a season-opening setback against Central College—in which NWU gave up a school-record 132 points—had the experts saying, "Told you so." It's a mantra they could repeat through the first half-dozen conference games in which NWU went 0-6.

Told. You. So.

But at that point the team that Coach Wellman wanted to run-run found its legs in a big way.

"Our plan all the time is to play up-tempo," Wellman said. "Pressure offense, pressure defense." It's a style of play designed to force turnovers and create steals on defense, then move in transition and shoot before the same fate catches up to you on the opposite end. They played so fast that Dick Janda, the "Voice of the Prairie Wolves" on KFOR Radio, would be nearly as exhausted as the players after calling the game.

Operating at warp speed lit up scoreboards, forcing opponents to defend the entire half-court. NWU was liable to fire away from just about anywhere their opponent wasn't. And the team cracked 100 points 10 times.

It sparked jaw-dropping statistical performances, as when junior guard **Trey Bardsley** hung 48 on Northwestern on January 24—the most by an NWU player since **Rudy Stoehr** tallied 62 in 1959. Or the half against Midland where NWU shot 72.4 percent from the floor, and 82.4 percent from beyond the arc. Or the time NWU

SPRING SPORT SUMMARY

Baseball

NWU took a step forward under first-year head coach, Scott Ballinger. NWU tripled its home wins from a year ago and finished 11-25 overall. Sam Ayars, Jordyn Johnson and Matt Schommer were honorable mention All-GPAC players.



Softball

First Team NFCA All-Region and AD3I All-Independent selection Rachel Kubik led the way for the Prairie Wolves in 2015. She batted a scorching .443 with an on-base percentage of .549 and 31 RBIs. NWU finished 11-9 in GPAC play and 19-22 overall.

Men's golf

The men finished first or second at five events this season. At the GPAC championships, NWU couldn't quite hold onto its lead on the final round against host, Northwestern. NWU took second. Cameron Farrel and Matt Unruh earned All-GPAC honors.



made a ridiculous 23 3-pointers against a flabbergasted Simpson College—shattering the previous school record of 16.

And it turned many on-paper mismatches into coin-flip games. Fans watched this “picked last” team fly and score its way through games and found themselves deeply won over. The “told-you-so” crowd fell silent as NWU followed that 0-6 conference start by taking 10 of the next 14.

LIGHT IT UP

While scoring hit a 63-year low in NCAA Division I, NWU burned up nets at a pace that led the NAIA Division II. **NWU topped 100 points 10 times in 26 games.**

After upsetting a nationally ranked Briar Cliff squad on February 7, senior guard **Byron Thompson** tweeted, “P-wolves have absolutely NO quit! How can you not love this team?”

The fans filling Snyder Arena clearly did love this throttle-down team—including the student section with its 7’ penguin, the kid in the red leisure suit, the trio of bearded men in denim dresses, the Ninja Turtle, the unicorns and the pair of biased scab referees—all of them screaming for a .500 basketball team that was anything but mediocre. [n](#)

You can watch thrilling season highlights at NWUsports.com.

AD Goes Courtside for All-Star Win

It’s been 17 years since **Ira Zeff** put down his coach’s clipboard to become Nebraska Wesleyan University’s athletic director. Zeff agreed to pick it back up to coach one game—the 2015 Reese’s Division III College All-Star Game in Salem, Va.



Ira Zeff

Photo by Shane and Sunny Photography

If Zeff felt any rust as a coach, it didn’t show as he led the West All-Stars to victory over the East. The East All-Stars were led by Zeff’s friend Mac Petty, a former coach at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Ind.

The annual match-up is part of the festivities for the NCAA Division III Final Four, and is put on by the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC). Both Zeff and Petty have NABC Division III Distinguished Service Awards in their trophy cases.

SPRING SPORT SUMMARY

Women’s golf

Kelsey Marshall and Sam Beal finished seventh and 10th respectively at the conference championships and took home All-GPAC honors. It’s the first time NWU has produced two all-conference golfers since 2002.

Tennis

NWU’s men and women experienced polar opposite seasons in GPAC play, with the men going winless and the women going undefeated. Dr. Rick Harley took his eighth GPAC Coach of the Year honor and Gaby Chaparro was GPAC Player of the Year.



Photo by Lane Hickenbottom

Track & field

NWU qualified four women and three men for the outdoor national championships in Canton, N.Y. Among them, Samantha Dolezal placed fifth in the shot put to earn NWU’s only All-American honor in outdoor track & field.



Student Pride

Prestige scholars and awards

Photo by Geoff Johnson

NWU Students Speak the Language of Prestige Scholarships

Two outstanding NWU seniors earned prestigious Boren Scholarships to fund international study in global languages. The Boren Scholarship is funded by the U.S. State Department to advance American knowledge in languages of critical importance to U.S. interests.

Edson deOliveira ('15) (*above*) will study Portuguese in the context of medical practice through patient interaction at the Hospital-School of Tropical Diseases of Alagoas.

"After a year of cultural immersion and research, I will be in an ideal position to apply for medical school and fulfill my career goal of becoming an infectious disease specialist," he said.

Brenda Maldonado ('15) (*right*) will study French and Wolof over a year in Senegal. She'll focus her attention on Senegal's education system, too.

"Despite [Senegal's] progress, many West African countries suffer from low literacy rates and access to education," Maldonado said. "Having the unique opportunity to live and study in Senegal will help me best understand the educational and political challenges the culture faces."



Photo by Lane Hickenbottom

Fulbright Scholarships Send Alumni East

A pair of Nebraska Wesleyan scholars earned Fulbright Scholarships to pursue graduate study abroad.

Eric Jackson ('14) (*below*) travels to the Georgia Republic to teach English and study the Georgian language. This is Jackson's second trip to Georgia. He first studied there as a Benjamin A. Gilman scholar in 2013.

"I knew then that I wanted to come back and explore Georgia's government," he said.

Grant Nordby ('15) (*right*), an English and global studies major, will travel to Taiwan to earn a master's degree in international relations at National Chengchi University in Taipei.

How did a student from Stanton, Neb., find himself on this path? "I honestly don't know," said Nordby. "I think it's just a testament of NWU, the liberal arts education, and what can happen if you're open-minded."



Photo by Geoff Johnson

Rising Scholars Head to the Land of the Rising Sun

Awards from the prestigious Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program brought two recent alumnae to Japan for teaching opportunities.

Jalisa Winkle ('14) (*below*), a psychology and Spanish major from Beatrice, Neb., and Rebecca Boellstroff ('14), an English major from South Sioux City, Neb., are NWU's latest JET scholars. Both will serve as assistant language teachers helping Japanese students learn English.

Winkle travelled extensively while at NWU, with study abroad experiences in Spain, Mexico, Australia and India. "I think taking the time to understand where someone else is coming from and how they might view things differently from you is one of the best things to learn as a person," Winkle said.

A military kid, Boellstroff's first experience in Japan came when she was 9, and coincided with the 9/11 attacks. "A group of Japanese citizens gathered outside the base and had a support rally for the Americans inside," she said. "That experience really drove home a sense of international community."

That display of community sparked her lifelong affection for Japan.



Photo by Lane Hickenbottom

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY THEATRE

FALL 2015 SEASON

► Chicago

August 13-15, 20-22 at 7:30 p.m.

August 16, 23 at 2 p.m.

McDonald Theatre

► August Osage County

September 17-19, 24-26 at 7:30 p.m.

September 20, 27 at 2 p.m.

McDonald Theatre

► Suddenly Last Summer

October 2-3, 8-10 at 7:30 p.m.

October 4, 11 at 2 p.m.

Miller Theatre

► Thoroughly Modern Millie

October 29-31, November 5-7 at 7:30 p.m.

November 1, 8 at 2 p.m.

McDonald Theatre

► It's Only a Play

November 12-14, 19-21 at 7:30 p.m.

November 15, 22 at 2 p.m.

Miller Theatre

► A Christmas Carol

December 3-5, 10-12 at 7:30 p.m.

December 6, 13 at 2 p.m.

McDonald Theatre

► Cabarets

September 11, 12 at 7:30 p.m.

September 13 at 2 and 7:30 p.m.

December 11, 12 at 7:30 p.m.

December 13 at 2 and 7:30 p.m.

Studio Theatre

» BOX OFFICE HOURS

2-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday
(beginning August 3)

402.465.2384

theatre@nebrwesleyan.edu

ORDER TICKETS AT

» theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu



2015 HOMECOMING *Schedule*

Here's a glimpse of what's set for homecoming, September 17-20. Check alumni.nebrwesleyan.edu for the latest details.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

- › Legends and Legacies alumni award dinner

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- › Campus tours
- › 50th reunion lunch and medallion ceremony
- › Alumni Academies ("Artistry for a Cause," "Psychological Benefits of Nature" and "Motions of the Night Sky")
- › Class reunions
 - › 1964+ (honoring class of 1955)
 - › 1965
 - › 1975
 - › 1985
 - › 1995
 - › 2005
 - › 2011-2015
- › NWU Theatre: *August Osage County*

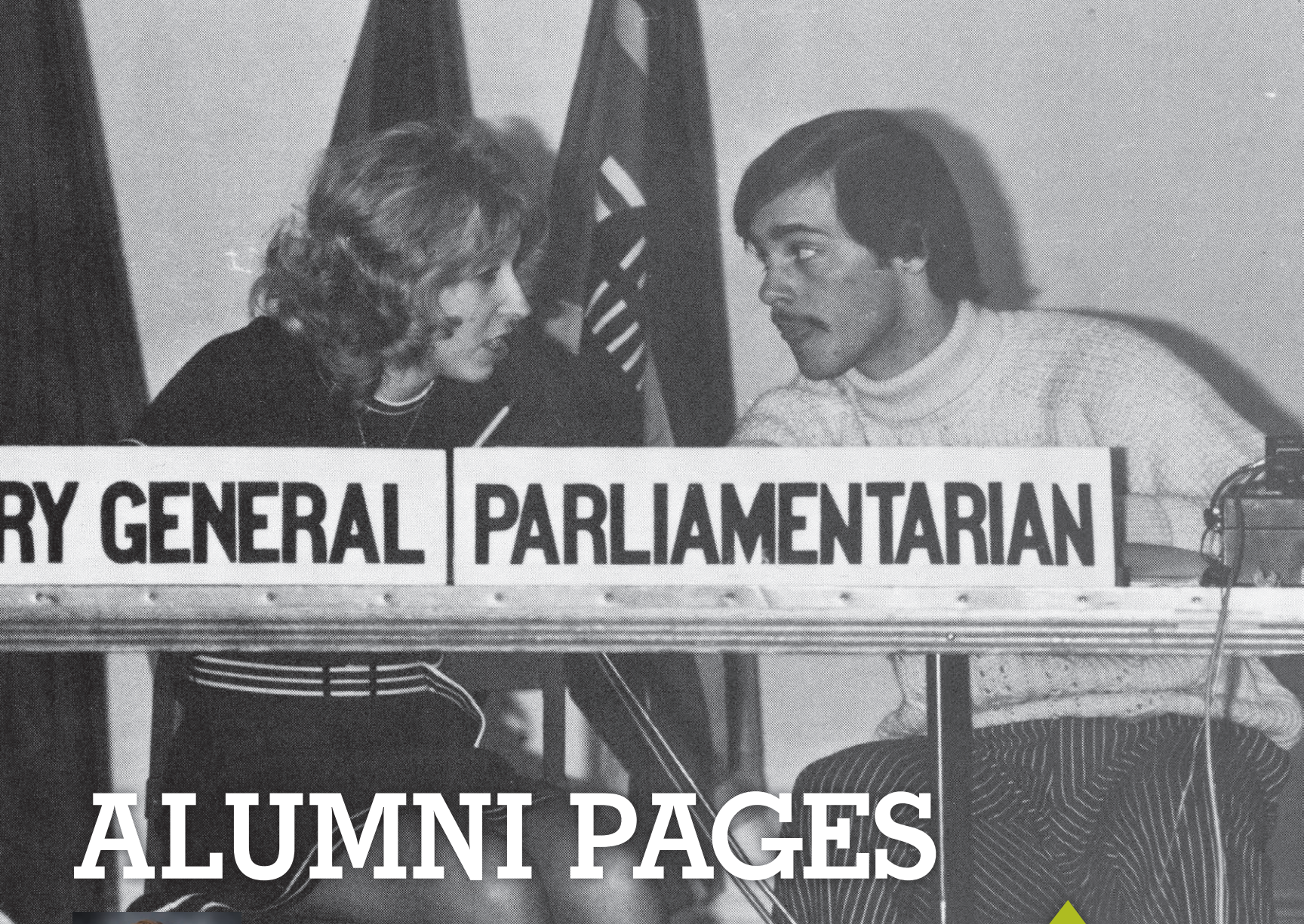
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- › Athletic Hall of Fame inductions
- › Campus tours
- › Greek chapter open houses
- › Women's soccer vs. Augustana
- › Woody Greeno Cross Country Invitational
- › Pioneer Hall renovation ribbon cutting
- › Golf cart parade
- › Tailgate party and carnival
- › Football vs. Briar Cliff
- › Volleyball vs. Hastings College
- › 50th reunion memory night
- › NWU Theatre: *August Osage County*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- › NWU Theatre: *August Osage County*
- › First United Methodist Church organ recital
- › Music Department open house
- › Pops concert featuring Ivan Rutherford





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

The face of diplomacy

Diplomatically speaking, we need your help in identifying these
Model U.N. delegates.

Send your responses to:

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

MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED



Anonymity takes one on the chin.

We left no alumnus unturned to discover the identities of these three chins.

Thanks for posting that memorable/forgettable photo!

The performers: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly. (I was the Good. The Bad was a true campus politician. The Ugly was viewed by many campus girls as Mr. Beautiful and now he goes by Dr. McDreamy.

The song: I can't remember. Either "I Can't Get No Satisfaction" or "I'm a Sensitive Man".

—Dr. Matthew Byington ('00)

Fremont, Neb.

NWU Adds Seven to Athletic Hall of Fame

Nebraska Wesleyan University will induct seven new members to its Athletic Hall of Fame in a 9 a.m., September 19 breakfast and ceremony in Prairie Wolf A and B in the lower level of the Roy G. Story Student Center. The event is part of NWU's 2015 homecoming festivities. Friends and fans may register to attend at nebrwesleyan.edu/homecoming.

This year's inductees include:

Ryan Daniels ('94) (*men's track & field*)

The nine-time All-American is one of the most dominant hurdlers in NWU history. His best time in the 110 hurdles (14.18) ranks second in school history.

Mike Einspahr ('95) (*football*)

This fierce pass rusher was an NAIA All-American first-team selection and Nebraska Defensive Player of the Year in 1994. He holds the school record for sacks in a season (13) and is third in career sacks (23).

Chad Ideus ('98) (*men's basketball*)

Ideus was a leader and honorable mention All-American in 1997—the year NWU advanced to the national championship game. His career record was 48-9 with two conference crowns.

Lee Jameson ('92) (*football, track & field*)

Jameson is quite simply the most successful kicker in NWU football history. He holds school records for career field goals (35), career PAT (92) and longest field goal (56 yards). That field goal came in NWU's only NAIA playoff victory at Chadron State. He was also an All-American decathlete.

Tracy Nichols ('94) (*women's golf*)

Nichols was the Nebraska Golfer of the Year in 1994, leading NWU to consecutive NAIA championship appearances. She was the District 11 champion, and placed fifth at the NIAC championships and 26th at the national championships as a senior.

Kristen Wakeley Holzer ('95) (*volleyball*)

When Wakeley Holzer left NWU in 1995, she held school records in career assists (3,183) and career service aces (176). Today, she ranks second and third, respectively, in those categories.

David Schultz (*Spirit of the Plainsmen Award*)

Schultz was Nebraska Wesleyan University's first certified athletic trainer, serving from 1988 to 1996. He is responsible for bringing students into the training room for hands-on experience as assistant athletic trainers.



The social bonds alumni form with classmates, professors and colleagues can actually improve our health.



A Healthy Dose of Involvement

Working together might be the healthiest thing you do all day.

The most powerful medicine in the world today may be simple togetherness. (See the “no-quit” bonds between NWU teammates on page 27.) Likewise, our most potent poison may be isolation. (See the lonely Unabomber on page 13.)

In this light, one of the best things we can do for our health is simple: We can get involved.

“If you both smoke and belong to no groups, it’s a close call as to which is the riskier behavior,” argued Harvard social scientist Robert Putnam in *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*.

Want to be healthier? Friends who walk together have a head start on the woman sweating alone on her basement elliptical.

Want to be happier? The churchgoer has a leg up on the binge-watcher.

Want to make a bigger difference? The man committed to “doing with” will typically outpace those who prefer “doing for.”

So cheers to your book club. Your golf league. Your church subcommittee. Your neighborhood block party.

Cheers to the checks you write. But cheers also to the visits you pay and the places you serve. Your involvement and connections are powerful medicine for your health, your campus and your community.

Want to get involved with NWU? You have options.

Talk to Shelley McHugh ('91), director of alumni relations, about any of these groups, and learn about more opportunities to connect. You can reach her at 402.465.2123 or smchugh@nebrwesleyan.edu.

> **Alumni Association**—Our flagship association for NWU graduates driven to see the university thrive.

> **Alumni Executive Council**—This advisory group of alumni helps the university achieve its mission.

> **Career Assistance Network**—Alumni in all fields volunteer to serve as professional mentors through NWU’s Career and Counseling Center.

> **Sunflower Club**—These retired NWU staff and faculty members get together regularly for coffee and conversation.

> **‘W’ Club**—These NWU fans are committed to the success of Prairie Wolves athletics.

> **Woman’s Wesleyan Educational Council**—This group has built buildings and supported scholarships for more than a century.

Tennessee Alumnus Joins President’s Board of Advisors

The President’s Board of Advisors (PBA) provides advice to President Fred Ohles in the fulfillment of Nebraska Wesleyan’s mission, vision and strategic plan. Its members include alumni, parents or children of alumni, and other devoted friends of the university. Each is an ambassador for Nebraska Wesleyan University. The PBA meets on campus each spring and fall. April’s meeting emphasized the spiritual and emotional lives of students.



Steve Brugman

Ohles welcomed Steve Brugman ('89) to the group and expressed appreciation to advisors who completed their service during 2014-2015. Brugman is the president and CEO of Snaproll Media in Franklin, Tenn.

Outgoing members include Julie Anderson ('97) of Bethesda, Md.; Elizabeth (Butler) Hilsabeck ('73) of Lincoln; L. Bradley Hurrell ('73) of Charlotte, N.C.; Keith Maurer ('69) of Tampa, Fla.; Vidette (Bullock) Mixon ('74) of Bronx, N.Y.; David Seems of Englewood, Colo.; and Jack Wightman ('89) of Omaha.

NWU HONORS **Legends AND Legacies**



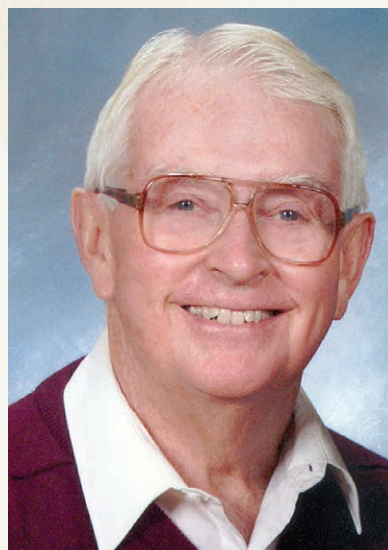
Todd ('88) and Connie (Bishop) ('87) Duncan Alumni Loyalty Award

The Duncans are incredibly committed to NWU. Todd serves on the Board of Governors, while Connie serves on the campaign cabinet behind the university's efforts to build a new science facility.

As CEO of Duncan Aviation, Todd has helped provide private flights for President Fred Ohles as he travels the country advocating for Nebraska Wesleyan. The Duncans are also generous in their financial support of NWU.

One of the highlights of homecoming at NWU (September 17-20) is the annual Legends and Legacies banquet. That's where NWU pays special tribute to outstanding alumni for life and career accomplishments.

Friends of our 2015 honorees are invited to attend this year's banquet on September 17 at 6 p.m. at Wilderness Ridge.



Courtesy Photo

James Munkres ('51) Alumni Achievement Award

Munkres' career in mathematics is truly outstanding. He is a retired professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He authored America's most widely used textbook on topology.

He is also the namesake of the Munkres assignment algorithm, a combinatorial optimization algorithm with strong applications in the airline, mass transit and delivery industries. His algorithm helps these industries create efficient networks to move people and goods.



Professor Emeritus of Physics Walter French ('48)

Alumni Medal of Honor

Professor French chaired Nebraska Wesleyan's Physics Department from 1952 to 1988. French was the second of only four chairs in the department's storied 113-year history.

As Nebraska Wesleyan plans a new science facility, it can learn a lot from French—one of the leaders who spearheaded the design of Olin Hall of Science, the department's home for the last 47 years.



Andrea (Baker) Kabourek ('00)

Young Alumni Achievement Award

Kabourek teaches more than English—and coaches more than running—to her students at Lincoln East. She teaches and coaches tenacity, commitment, drive and positivity—the same qualities that have served her through bouts with cancer.

Her mantra remains: "I can. I will."

"I can, I will ... continue teaching students how to overcome obstacles with grace, humor and perseverance," she said.

Karen (Karr) Linder ('82)

Alumni Achievement Award

NWU and the liberal arts taught Linder to be multifaceted. Her career reflects that quality. The cytotechnologist with Heartland Pathology, Inc. is a scientist, artist, entrepreneur and author.

It was her skill as a writer that set her apart as a scientist. "Sadly, writing is not a common strength for most scientists," she said. She credits her reputation in cytotechnology in large part to her ability to express complex ideas simply.

The same skill helps her in business. Her latest book, *The Women of Berkshire Hathaway*, explores the leadership qualities of several Berkshire CEOs.



Rev. Dennis Hanneman ('64)

Alumni Humanitarian Award

Rev. Hanneman has a tremendous record of service in warzones. He was a medic in the Vietnam War and a missionary in the Congo. He served with WorldVision in Mozambique, Sudan and Bosnia during their civil wars.

He called his service and ministry "just part of a basic attempt to do good in the world."

Mishayla Richardson ('11)

Young Alumni Loyalty Award

Work may take Richardson, an Omaha native, to Arizona, but she's remained very connected to campus. The certified public accountant serves on the President's Board of Advisors; she's active in alumni events; she's organized a Lend-a-Hand event in Omaha and offered advice on the development of NWU's MBA program.

