

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

ARCHWAYS

BE READY | WINTER 2015-2016 | VOLUME 15, ISSUE 4



BIOCOURAGE

*Across the country, the 2014
Ebola outbreak sparked panic.
In Omaha, it sparked resolve.*

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Who could have imagined a decade ago that Lincoln would have such ... vigor? Nebraska Wesleyan's energy over the same period is just as palpable.

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I write you in the concluding days of 2015, a year that's been very good to Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Nursing is booming! We're delighted with the new Nursing Skills Lab in Olin Hall, serving the first cohort of pre-licensure BSN students, while we continue to have significant success with the MSN.

Planning and preparations continue for a new academic building to house some of the sciences. We'll have more to report about that in coming months.

In the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the largest first-year class in 50 years enrolled this fall.

In University College, the second year of the MBA is matching the inaugural year in the number and quality of students both in Omaha and Lincoln.

In both colleges, the diversity of our students has shown a significant increase for the second consecutive year. The trend is now 15 percent students of color in each class.

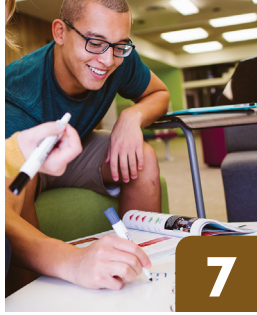
Pioneer Hall joined Johnson Hall as a thoroughly renovated residence, while other, smaller facilities projects also came to fruition.

A former board member asked me recently: Who could have imagined a decade ago that Lincoln would have such economic, entrepreneurial and cultural vigor? Nebraska Wesleyan's energy over the same period is just as palpable. We have a new, nationally heralded foundational bachelor's degree program, the Archway Curriculum. We've made remarkable progress with adult and graduate enrollment in Lincoln and Omaha. And what was once an idea to grow the campus to the west is today a bold vision with the power to transform the university's future.

The year 2015 has brought us the opportunity for student-athletes to soon compete in the Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, a league of like-minded NCAA Division III institutions. It has been a year of growing participation by younger alumni in the Archway Fund. It has been yet another year of new graduates obtaining excellent placements in graduate and professional schools, along with prestigious national awards that we have come to expect.

All of us who are Nebraska Wesleyan University have much to be thankful for as we ring in 2016. Those of us on campus count each of you, with your devotion, interest and support, among our reasons to be thankful.

—Fred Ohles
President



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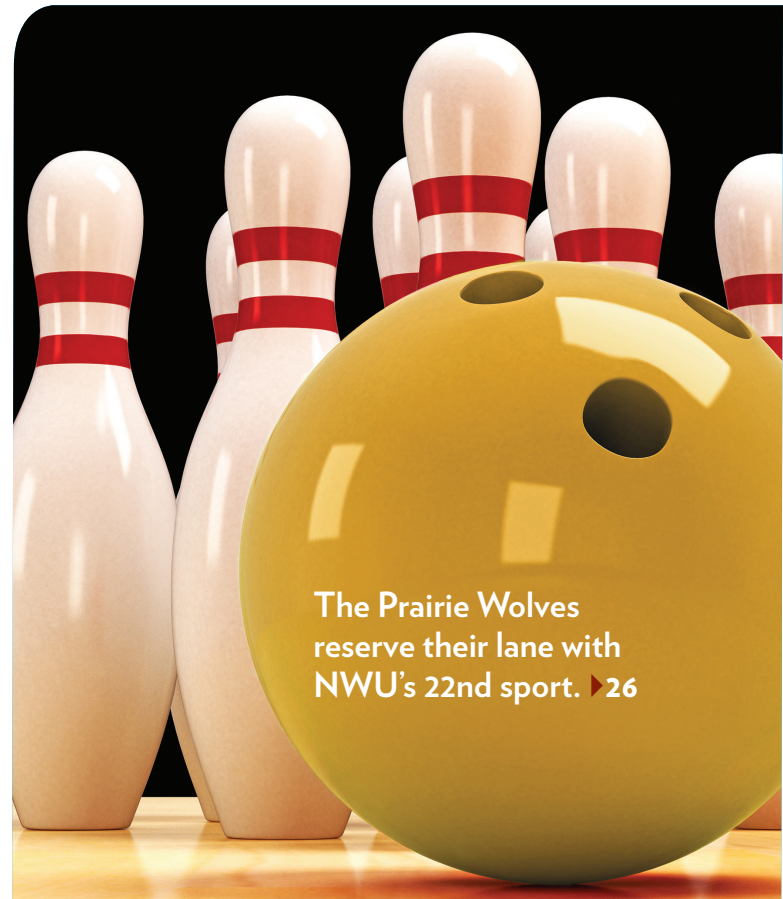
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Nebraska Wesleyan University is an academic community dedicated to intellectual and personal growth within the context of a liberal arts education and in an environment of Christian concern.

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

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Mike Malloy, “Hear to Learn” ▶21

Mike is a regular *Archways* contributor who has profiled the Tampa Bay Buccaneers general manager, Jason Licht ('95) and “Dawn of the Planet of the Apes” costume designer, Melissa Bruning ('93). As a journalist, he has covered everything from city government to the Chicago Cubs.



Alex Linden ('03), “First Frame” ▶26

Alex is Nebraska Wesleyan University's sports information director, a former NWU football player, a Royals fan and an admittedly lousy bowler.



Lindy Mullin ('67), “A Little Boy Named Robbie” ▶38

Lindy is an experienced special education teacher and retired coordinator for Lincoln Public Schools' Pyrtle Elementary. She is an emerita member of Nebraska Wesleyan University's Board of Governors and NWU's 2010 Alumni Medal of Honor recipient. Her essay is based on her acceptance speech for this award.



Photo by Kristin Streff

Chris Dunker ('08), “In Memoriam: Andrea (Baker) Kabourek ('99)” ▶46

Like Andrea, Chris was a standout endurance runner for NWU cross country and track & field. He has written for *Archways* several times, most recently profiling David Jennings ('15), the nation's only college football player with cystic fibrosis. Chris is an education reporter for the *Lincoln Journal Star*.

Letters

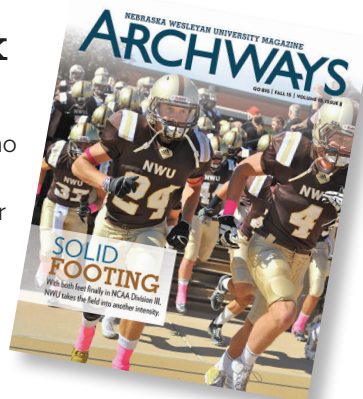
An in-depth Look

Congratulations to editor Eric Wendt ('99) and everyone else who worked on the article, "On Solid Ground" [fall, 2015]. Thank you for an in-depth look at the extensive process we went through.

The article does a good job of explaining why Nebraska Wesleyan has made the move to full-time status in the NCAA and is dropping our NAIA membership.

While considerable thought and work went into the decision and there were many factors to take into consideration, Nebraska Wesleyan is now in an environment where our values can be fully expressed and supported. Well done, *Archways* magazine!

Ted Bulling ('80)
director and head coach of
NWU track & field and cross
country
Lincoln



Nebraska Wesleyan is now in an environment where our values can be fully expressed and supported.

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

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

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

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NWUNIVERSE

Renewal Notice

Due renovations arrive at Cochrane-Woods Library.



Photos by Geoff Johnson

There's a stereotype about libraries as dim and unchanging. Then there's the cliché about librarians as prim prudes obsessed with silence. (*Shhhh!*)

"I don't think I've ever shushed anybody in my entire working life," said **Barbara Cornelius**, NWU's head of library technology. In fact, Cornelius would like to see Cochrane-Woods Library get a little louder. And she's getting her wish.

First-floor renovations have transformed Cochrane-Woods into a brighter, more popular campus destination. Walls have come down, growing collections have

moved and new furnishings and technology are sliding into place.

Today, Cochrane-Woods is an ideal spot for students to gather over coffee, study in groups or alone, and curl up over hardbacks and tablets alike.

Stand in the center of this new, open layout. To your right is a vast emerald view of Taylor Commons. And the glass entry to your left reveals rows of crabapple trees that will bloom white this spring. Suddenly, the library is a brighter, bustling and more welcoming space.

That's music to **Candice Howell's** ears.

She works on the first floor as NWU's director of student success and retention. Increased visibility and openness equals more traffic. And more traffic equals more students she can help.

"So much of what we do here is about study skills, time management and personal support," she said. "This library is the perfect place for that. We want it to be a hub of supports, with the Cooper Center for Academic Resources, the library staff and me all in easy reach."

It's all part of creating a dynamic learning environment for NWU students.

THE FINAL: Major library renovations are the result of an anonymous bequest. Want to change the face of NWU? Call Brenda McCrady about a deferred gift at 402.465.2129.

Thunderbolt Gift

An unusual scholarship amps up student work ethics.

This fall, NWU welcomed a large—and hardworking—first-year class. There are dozens of reasons why, and two of them are named **Tom** and **Rhonda Peed**.

The founders of Sandhills Publishing sent three sons to Pius X High School in Lincoln. And two of them—**Shawn** ('04) and **Zach** ('14) **Peed**—went on to NWU. Impressed with both schools, the parents established an unusual scholarship fund in 2014. The scholarship encourages Pius X students to attend NWU

and strengthens their work ethic at the same time.

The Tom and Rhonda Peed Work Ethic Fund matches Pius X students' summer earnings up to \$3,000 and credits them toward tuition at NWU.

"The exciting thing about this Work Ethic Fund is how it connects to our classroom culture," said Vice President for Enrollment Management **William Motzer**. "It supports the philosophy our professors exemplify every day: that good things happen when you put in the work."

Two years later, the university is seeing the fruits of the Peeds' commitment to hard work.

NWU has long had a strong relationship with Pius X High School. Today, it's growing stronger. Incoming classes at NWU used to include roughly eight or nine Pius X graduates. In 2014, that figure jumped to 19. This year, the number of Thunderbolts becoming Prairie Wolves climbed to 29 students.

"That's the impact of giving right there," said **John Greiving**, vice president for advancement. "It's more than the amount of the gift. It's the growth that stems from it."

He said, "Right now, 63 hard-working young people are benefiting from a Nebraska Wesleyan experience—all because one couple had an idea and made it happen."

THE FINAL: One couple's gift to NWU supports a simple notion: Hard work pays.



Sociologist Wins Exemplary Teacher Award

Associate Professor of Sociology **Susan Wortmann's** students often leave her class grappling with what they've learned—and applying it to their lives.

"This is one of those classes I will remember and be affected by for the rest of my life," said one student.

The United Methodist Church's Division of Higher Education has honored Wortmann with its Exemplary Teacher Award. The award honors NWU professors who exemplify excellent teaching, civility and concern for students.

Wortmann supports her students' experiences through projects with the Asian Community and Cultural Center, Fresh Start Home and the Nebraska

Correctional Center for Women.

She helped revise Nebraska Wesleyan's gender studies curriculum. She has served as the faculty advisor to Global Service Learning and the Gender Advocacy Place. She is also NWU's deputy Title IX coordinator.

"Perhaps the highest praise I can give her is that I want to take her class," said Associate Professor of English **Brad Tice**. "She is the kind of instructor that I often sought out as a student."

Gerise Herndon, professor of English and director of the Gender Studies Program, said, "There is no separation between Sue's teaching, her sense of ethics and her community work."

THE FINAL: The United Methodist Church supports great teaching at NWU by honoring professors like Susan Wortmann.

Good things happen when you put in the work.

Bob Dylan's Genius Balances on the Blues *"like a mattress on a bottle of wine."*

Music historian Michael Gray has published biographies on legends including Frank Zappa and Elvis Presley. But his first love will always be Bob Dylan.

Gray is the author of the first critical study of Dylan, *Song & Dance Man* in 1972, and *The Bob Dylan Encyclopedia* in 2006.

He knows the ins and outs of Dylan's sound: "People say, 'I like Dylan's music, but I don't like his voice.' And I'll ask, 'Which one?' He has several."

His recycled lyrics: "Even when you know it's a blues line, it still feels Dylanesque."

"Tough mama, meat shaking on your bones."

Even his fashion: "He wears preposterous clothes and the hat of a New Orleans funeral director."

Above all,

Gray knows the ins and outs of Dylan's genius—rooted, he said, in the country blues. "Every time he goes out on a limb, every time he's at his hippest, he uses the blues as a strength behind him."

He told his Nebraska Wesleyan audience on October 26, "The more you know of Dylan's output, the better positioned you are to hear the blues running through it."

Play Well with Others

Five-year-olds with social skills become 25-year-olds with jobs.

You won't see too many colleges advance the notion, "Everything I need to know I learned in kindergarten." You have a lifetime's worth of learning to do.

But a recent study in the *American Journal of Public Health* shows that children's mastery of certain social skills at age 5 is a powerful indicator of their well-being as adults.

Can children resolve peer problems on their own? Can they understand others' feelings? Can they share? Cooperate? Help? Listen? Offer suggestions? Be friendly?

The study began in 1991 and tracked 753 five-year-olds for the next 20 years of their lives, using police records and reports from the subjects and their parents.

Children who scored well on these social metrics were four times more likely to have a college degree at 25 than those students who showed "a little" of these skills. They were also more likely to have full-time jobs.

The children who scored poorly on these same metrics were more likely to be arrested, binge drink and apply for public housing.

These are more than life skills. They're life-changing skills.

"It's easy to see where these are skills that can lead to good outcomes," Damon Jones of Pennsylvania State University, the study's lead author, told the *Washington Post*. "We all know that when you start to succeed in relationships or in school, that's going to influence where you're headed next."

Studies like these inform the direction of Nebraska Wesleyan's upcoming Master of Education graduate program. The program's emphasis on positive psychology, student well-being and constructive classroom environments will help early-grade teachers build these essential skills in their students.

"These are more than life skills," said **Kevin Bower**, Nebraska Wesleyan's M.Ed. program director. "They're life-changing skills."

THE FINAL: A new study shows that building social skills in young children pays large dividends later in life.



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Coming to a university near you: The Amazing Self-Completing FAFSA

Last year, we reported on **Mark Wiederspan's** ('02) doctoral work with the University of Michigan's Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education ["The Case for a Simpler FAFSA," fall 2014]. Wiederspan argued that a simpler process for awarding federal student aid could boost college attendance among low-income students by as much as 25 percent.

Nebraska Wesleyan's Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid applauded Wiederspan's recommendations. But our financial aid staff expressed some healthy skepticism about the prospects for real change to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form.

Jan Duensing is NWU's assistant director of financial aid. "I've survived three different forms before the FAFSA," Duensing said in 2014. "They've been discussing how to make this better for 10 or 15 years, and it seems like all they end up doing is adding more questions."

So a September announcement from outgoing Secretary of Education Arne Duncan took financial aid experts across the country by surprise. Two major FAFSA reforms are coming.

Wiederspan advocated for a FAFSA that

asked dramatically fewer questions. That change isn't happening. The FAFSA of the future will still include 100+ questions. But the government will release the FAFSA three months earlier—in October 2016 instead of January 2017. This change will reduce the common problem of students being accepted by colleges before they know how much federal help they'll receive.

The second FAFSA reform deals with the IRS. In the past, the FAFSA required parents' tax information from the previous year. Students would often apply for federal aid before their families filed their taxes. Starting in October, students can use parents' tax information for the "prior-prior" year instead.

Duncan predicts the changes will lead to hundreds of thousands of additional students applying for federal Pell grants.

These changes come in combination with a new IRS data-retrieval tool. With this tool, parents and students will log onto the IRS through FAFSA.gov, and the tool will pre-populate much of the FAFSA for them.

So while the new FAFSA won't ask fewer questions, it will do the next-best thing. It'll answer many questions for you.

"We're very pleased with the changes on the whole," said **Tom Ochsner** ('92), NWU's

While the new FAFSA won't ask fewer questions, it will do the next-best thing. It'll answer many questions for you.

director of scholarships and financial aid. Sliding the FAFSA's release forward may mean that NWU must set its budget earlier. That shift would allow his staff to award aid packages sooner.

He called the change to accept "prior-prior" tax returns especially positive. Most applicants' returns don't change much from one year to the next, he said. "But some do. Farm incomes can fluctuate. There's job loss and illness." In those cases where current need isn't reflected on a "prior-prior" return, Ochsner can make adjustments to ensure the applicant receives appropriate aid.

"It's all about keeping Nebraska Wesleyan accessible and affordable to as many families as we can," said Ochsner.

THE FINAL: Changes from the U.S. Department of Education will make the Free Application for Federal Student Aid easier.

NEBRASKA
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PRESENTS

EXPERIENCE SHAKESPEARE THEN AND NOW

NWU marks the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death with six productions in February, March and April by (and inspired by) the Bard.

Desdemona: A Play about a Handkerchief (*interpretation of Othello*)

Othello

Illyria (*musical interpretation of Twelfth Night*)

Mrs. Shakespeare

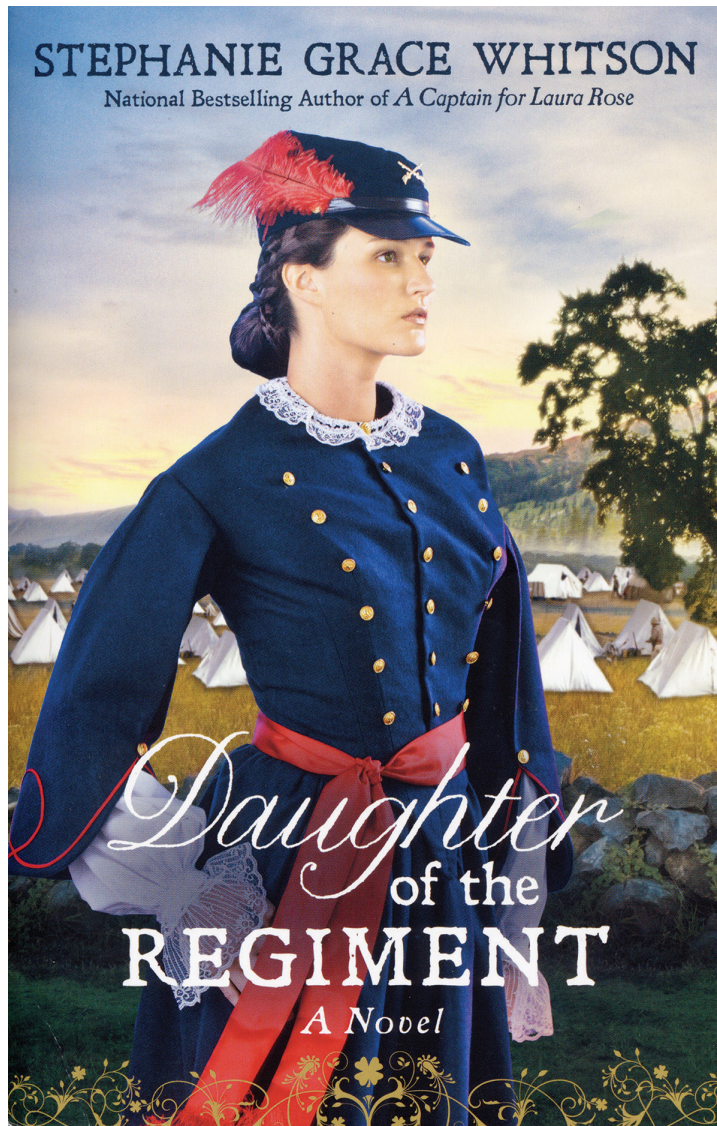
Kiss Me, Kate (*musical interpretation of The Taming of the Shrew*)

The Taming of the Shrew



Show times and tickets:
theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu
theatre@nebrwesleyan.edu
402.465.2384

See page 28 to learn more.



*“Good” and “bad” men bleed alike
in blue and grey uniforms.*

Daughter of the Regiment

By Stephanie Grace Whitson,
penname of Stephanie (Irwin) Higgins (MAHS '12)

Faith Words, 2015 | 315 pages | \$15

—Reviewed by Carlin Daharsh ('18)

The Civil War is often described as a conflict pitting brother against brother. This was especially true in those in-between places like Missouri—in border states and disputed areas caught in the boundaries between Union and Confederacy. The fictional town of Littleton, Mo., is the stage for **Stephanie Grace Whitson's** (MAHS, '12) historical novel about two women, one Union and one Confederate, tossed together on the battlefield.

When Maggie Malone hears her brother is among the Union's wounded, she falls in with a Union regiment to pursue him. Meanwhile, Libby Blair hosts the Confederate Wildwood Guard on her wealthy estate. Both women are certain the two armies will collide, but they cannot know how many men they stand to lose.

Whitson, like every historical novelist dealing with the Civil War, must grapple with the rightness and wrongness of her players and the amoral nature of survival in combat. It would be convenient to cast every Union soldier as Lincoln in miniature, or every Confederate as evil personified. Whitson declines that path in depicting a contentious county torn by opposing notions of what constitutes liberty and tyranny.

Maggie witnesses some Union soldiers driven by cruelty. And Libby cares for some largely sympathetic Confederates. “Good” and “bad” men bleed alike in blue and grey uniforms.

Like the equal-opportunity shrapnel that brings wounded men to them, the women don't focus on the politics of who is right and wrong. They find men in need of care, and they do their best to provide it. “[I]f someone I loved was hurt in some Yankee town, I'd hope there'd be kind women there who'd look past the uniform and see a man who needed help,” Libby said as she tended a Union soldier.

But when Whitson's two leading characters are finally confronted with one another, the tendency to judge returns from a surprising angle.

Libby—the southern belle—lays eyes on Maggie and assumes her to be smart and sensible. Her instinct is that Maggie would make an exceptional friend.

Maggie's first impression is decidedly less kind. She sees a narrow-waisted, empty-headed puppet. For Maggie, familiar with discrimination against her Irish heritage, it seems best to beat Libby to the prejudiced punch.

Surprising, human and dynamic moments like these give Whitson's historical novel its own compelling punch. **n**

Across the country, the 2014 Ebola outbreak sparked panic. In Omaha, it sparked resolve.

BIOCOURAGE

We don't make the best decisions when we're afraid. And the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa scared us. Deeply.

In Mississippi, hundreds of parents pulled their children from Hazlehurst Middle School after their principal returned from his brother's funeral in Zambia. Never mind that Zambia is in another hemisphere, some 3,000 miles from the outbreak. Had he gone to Recife, Brazil, he'd have been 1,000 miles closer.

In Strong, Maine, an elementary school teacher was put on leave for attending a conference in Dallas, 10 miles from a hospital where two nurses contracted the virus.

Even Syracuse University rescinded a speaking invitation to Michel du Cille, a Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist who had recently worked in Liberia. Never mind that du Cille, since returning from Liberia, had already been welcomed at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)—not exactly an agency prone to throwing caution to the wind.

Panic is human. Not even **Shelly (Gatzemeyer) Schwedhelm** (MSN '07), Nebraska Medicine's director of emergency preparedness and infection prevention, is immune. She knows what panic can do to decision-making.

That's why her biocontainment unit staff of physicians, nurses and technicians had drilled for years ahead of the outbreak. She wanted decisions made from a place

of poise and knowledge—well before their first patient ever arrived. If they were thoroughly prepared, panic need never enter the picture.

Nebraska Medicine's 10-bed biocontainment unit opened with federal and local funds in 2005. "This was a period with pretty significant biological and terrorism concerns," Schwedhelm said. The 9/11 attacks were four years old. "There was SARS in Canada, the U.S. anthrax attacks, monkey pox."

She'd trained her team for these infectious disease scenarios and many others inside a former pediatric bone marrow center—an empty hospital wing with several features that lent themselves to biocontainment.

The unit was physically isolated and on its own HVAC system. It occupied a top floor, meaning its air system needn't mingle with other wings. Access in and out could be easily controlled. It had its own autoclave and a public health lab nearby.

Its 10 beds may sound meager relative to the scale of the crisis in Africa. (The CDC put total deaths from the Ebola outbreak at 11,312 as of October 7, making it roughly five times as deadly as the 9/11 attacks.) But of the three operative biocontainment units in the U.S., Nebraska Medicine's was by far the largest. The National Institute of Health operates a two-bed unit in

THE NWU/UNMC CONNECTION

Six Nebraska Wesleyan grads started medical school at UNMC just this year. **Another five** received early admission this fall. NWU alumni regularly comprise **7 to 10 percent** of UNMC's medical school enrollment.



Photo by Zach Wallinger

Maryland. And Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, Ga., runs a three-bed unit.

“Both these units were formed near biological research labs to respond in the case of a lab accident,” Schwedhelm said. Such accidents are typically small and contained. Think a dropped vial or a punctured glove.

From the beginning, Schwedhelm and Nebraska Medicine thought more broadly about the contingencies their unit might face. “We drill quarterly for all kinds of scenarios—things like a smallpox outbreak and viral hemorrhagic fevers.” The Ebola virus is one such hemorrhagic fever.

Of all the scenarios Schwedhelm’s team drilled for over those nine years, she said, “We agreed a viral hemorrhagic fever would be the worst.” Schwedhelm smiled and shook her head. “The patients are so sick. Their needs are so high. They can lose an unbelievable amount of fluid. And those fluids are dangerous.”

The scenario the biocontainment unit feared most was exactly the contingency it would face first.

Officials from the U.S. State Department visited Nebraska Medicine in August 2014. They were considering moving Ebola-infected Americans from West Africa to the U.S. for treatment, and wanted to assess capabilities at Nebraska Medicine, NIH and Emory.

“It’s not every day the State Department

“I have this character flaw,” Schwedhelm said. “I’m always asking, ‘What if?’ ‘Then what?’ ‘What next?’” That quality might make her a great director of emergency preparedness. “But it doesn’t always make me very fun to be around.”

pays you a visit,” Schwedhelm said. “That’s when I knew it was real.”

They had an enormity of questions for Schwedhelm and the biocontainment unit’s medical director, Dr. Phil Smith. All those questions essentially boiled down to one: “Are you ready?”

Smith and Schwedhelm offered their answers, which also boiled down to one: “Yes.”

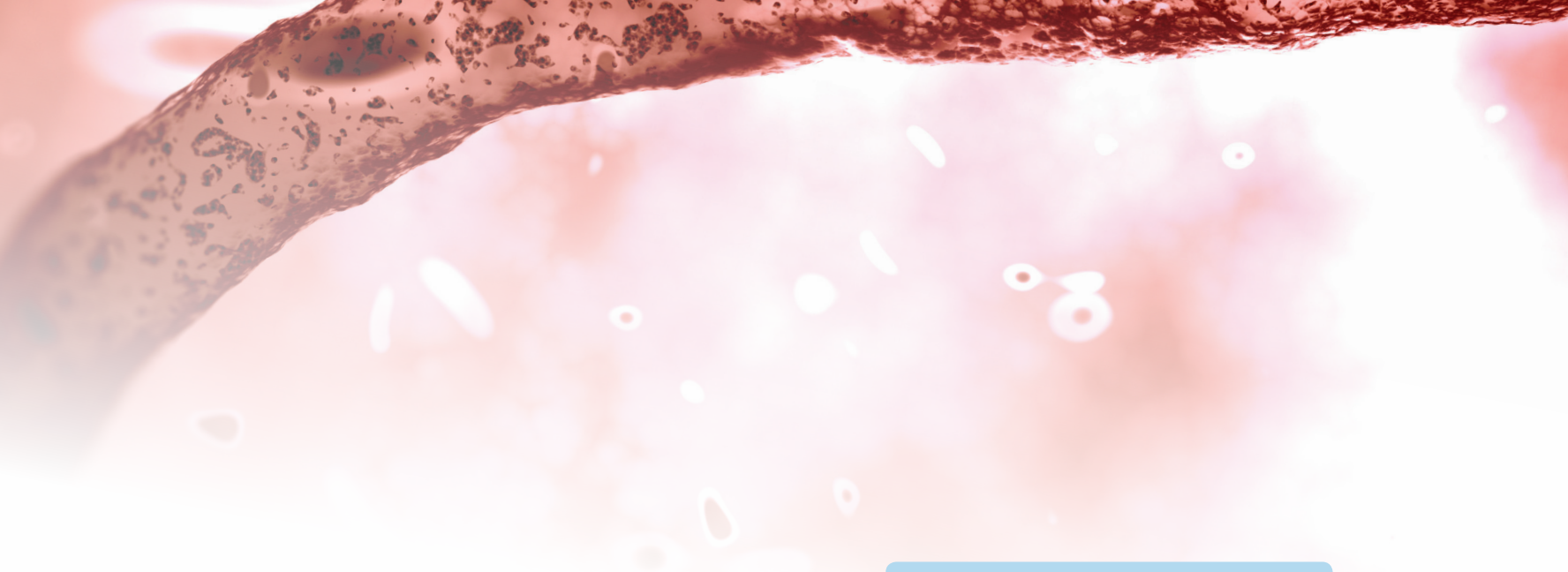
Schwedhelm recalled the soul searching that visit triggered. “I remember thinking, ‘I just told the State Department we’re

ready.’ That’s daunting,” she said. “But we are. We are ready.”

From that moment, her team “kicked into go-mode.”

They received their first patient on September 5. Dr. Rick Sacra of Worcester, Mass., was working as an obstetrician in Liberia when he fell ill. He arrived sick and immediately put nine years of preparation to test.

While treating Ebola patients was about



IN THE CLEAN AREA

Entering the biocontainment unit's clean area requires one level of protection.

as far from a game as can be imagined, Schwedhelm's position with the biocontainment unit would feel familiar to many coaches. She had poured herself into training her team. And when their performance mattered most, her job moved to the sidelines.

"My role was leadership and logistics," Schwedhelm said. "Not patient care."

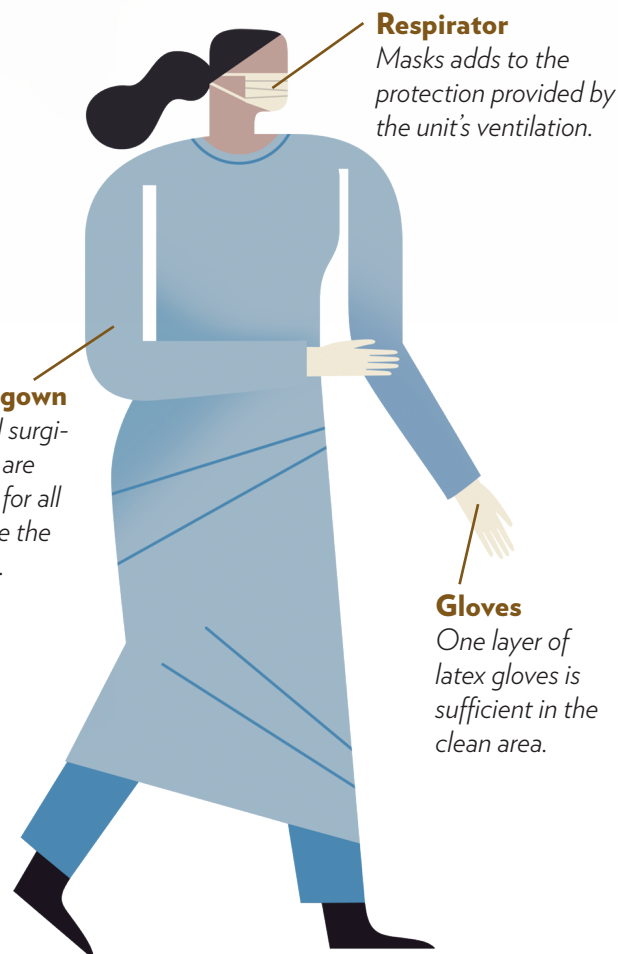
Schwedhelm's office during this time was a conference room just outside the biocontainment unit's clean zone. She worked with her team inside the clean zone at shift changes. She watched the team working, and loved what she saw.

She said that when you're in an environment where you cannot afford a mistake, it's essential to also have a culture where you're always supported. She saw a team where members held one another accountable as they held each other up.

Roughly 95 percent of what Schwedhelm's team faced went according to plan, she said. "We did make a handful of tweaks."

The biggest adjustment brought lab capabilities inside the biocontainment unit. It's no simple thing to pack Ebola-contaminated fluids into a cooler for transport and testing. Each sample required security escort to protect public health.

By bringing lab capabilities inside the biocontainment unit, Schwedhelm said, they reduced logistical demands and

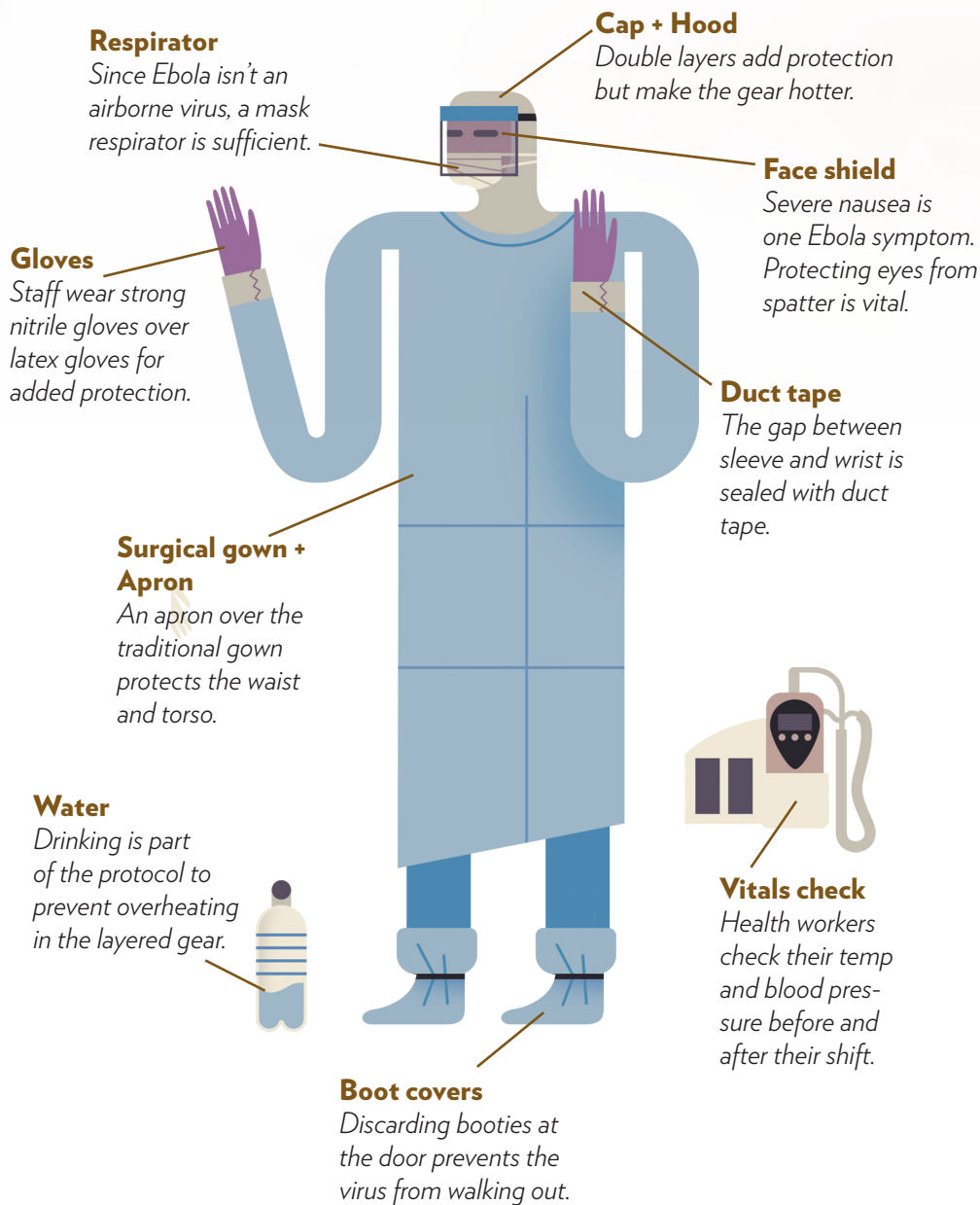


Donning/doffing partners

Teammates dress and undress for hot zone work with a "two is one, one is none" philosophy.

IN THE HOT ZONE

Approaching the patient requires more gear.



decreased wait time for lab results by one hour. "With patients this sick, that's helpful," she said.

Schwedhelm's team was prepared for the reality of patient care inside the unit. But what about the other side of the wall? Public fear and misinformation promised to make life pretty hot outside the hot zone.

Paul Baltes is Nebraska Medicine's director of communications. He said the team's desire for transparency predated Dr. Sacra's arrival from Liberia.

"We didn't want any of our patients to learn about [the presence of an Ebola-positive patient in the hospital] by watching CNN from their beds," Baltes said. "We wanted them to hear from us exactly what was happening and precisely what we were doing to keep them safe."

They drafted a letter for patients and families outlining the biocontainment unit's work and safety measures. They hand delivered it to each patient and talked through its contents.

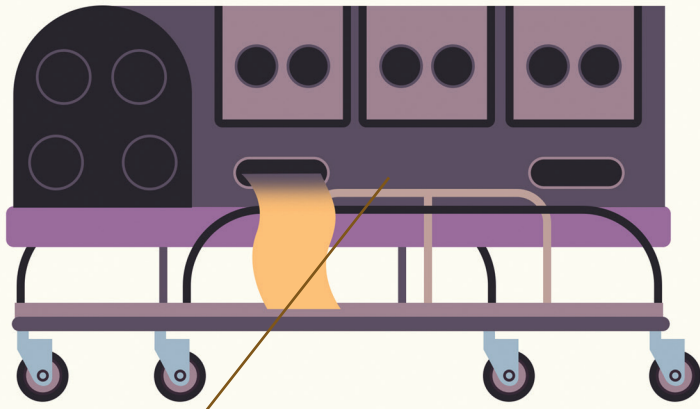
"We have a great many patients with compromised immune systems," Baltes said. "We fully expected that some would hear us out and ask to be transferred to another hospital. But that didn't happen."

Why not?

"Trust," Baltes said. "This community

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

TRANSPORT



Isopod

A special gurney brings contagious patients from ambulance to unit. Ports allow staff to place IVs and give injections without opening the pod.

CLEAN AREA

Video connection

Speaking by video whenever possible helps minimize traffic (and risk).



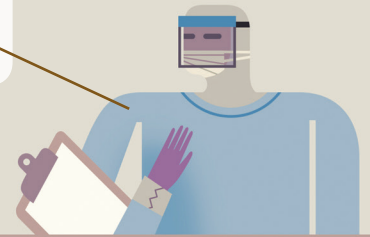
Good fences

Maintaining 100 percent containment involves strict protocols for moving between hot and clean zones.

INSIDE THE UNIT

Safety in numbers

Should a nurse need to tap out for any reason, teammates stand at the ready.



Safety measures

Tornado-proof windows and backup generators are two safeguards. "You break a window or lose power—that's a bad day."

HOT ZONE

Video connection

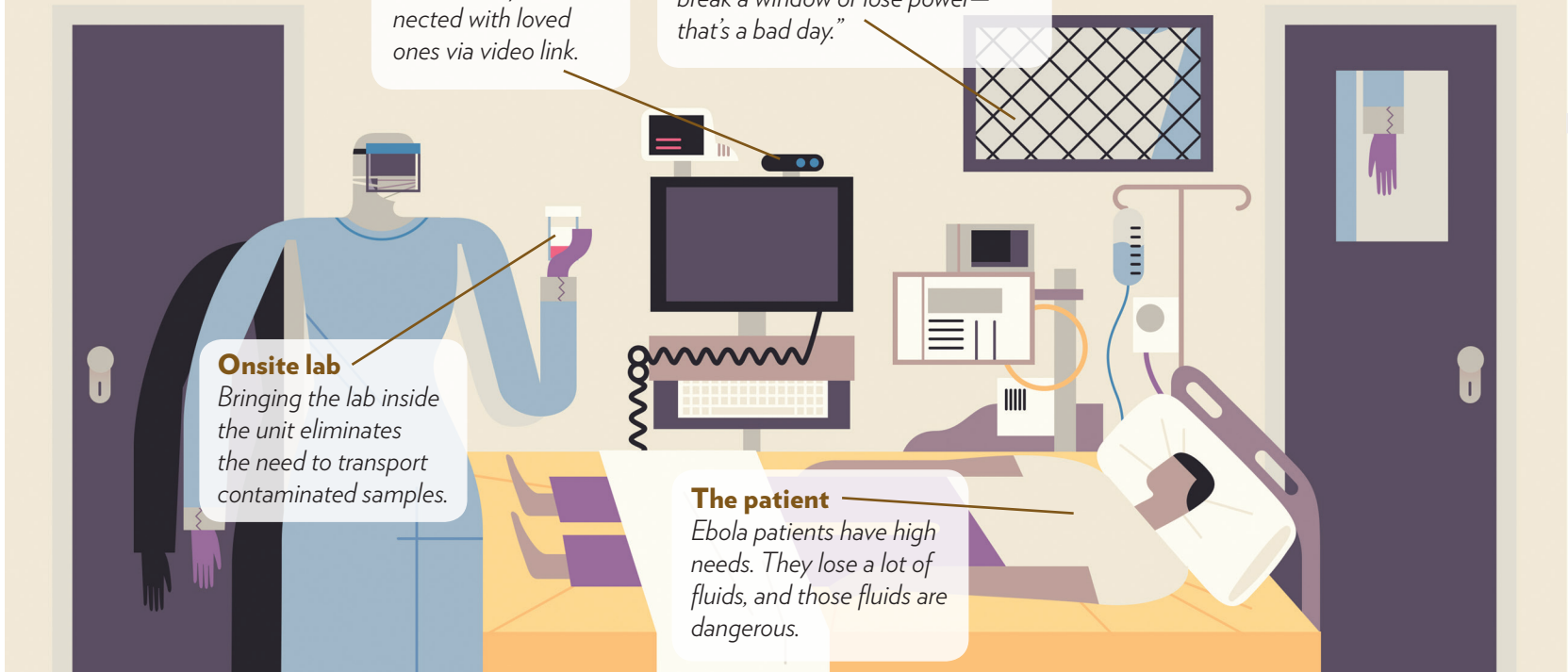
Patients stay connected with loved ones via video link.

Onsite lab

Bringing the lab inside the unit eliminates the need to transport contaminated samples.

The patient

Ebola patients have high needs. They lose a lot of fluids, and those fluids are dangerous.



COMMUNICATION

Nurses

Nurses give updates on patient care.

White House/ FDA/CDC

Federal representatives coordinate the national response.

Physicians

Doctors keep the team informed about the latest medical decisions.

Public relations

Preventing panic requires quick, clear and accurate communication.

Supplies/ waste handling

Safely moving supplies in and waste out of the unit requires a lot of logistics.

Family liaison

With the patient room off limits, direct communication with families becomes even more important.

Lab

Caring for patients this sick requires fast and accurate lab results.

CLEAN UP

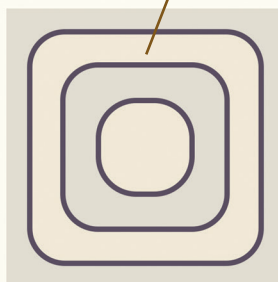
Bleach

The team uses old-fashioned bleach to clean patient rooms. Everybody pitches in—including physicians.



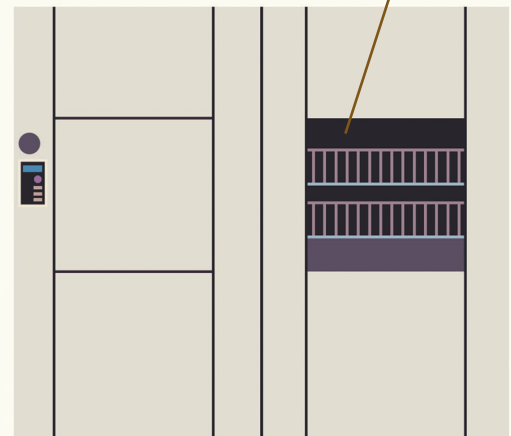
Air filtration

High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) system removes the virus from escaping air.



Autoclave

Decontaminating waste onsite saves millions. Behind this 400-pound door, temperatures above 270 degrees kill the virus.



NWU NURSING PROGRAMS

Schwedhelm is a graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan's MSN program in Omaha. She said her Nebraska Wesleyan experience "helped make the way I approach my work and my life more evidence-based."

She said, "Every bit of continuing education you have helps you balance multiple priorities."

The biocontainment unit now stands idle. But Schwedhelm's team is ready. "We developed the capacity to sustain a 100 percent model," she said. That model is stressful. But the right culture rises to it.

displayed a great deal of trust in Nebraska Medicine." In fact, Baltus said Nebraska Medicine saw an all-time high in patient volume during the Ebola response.

UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey Gold told the *Lincoln Journal Star*, "All I can say is that this is Nebraska in the best possible sense of a group of human beings who ... have courage to stand up and do the right thing to care for other human beings."

But that trust was more than just a case of "Nebraska nice." Nebraska Medicine's biocontainment unit had made a concerted effort to build that trust long before the Ebola outbreak.

"We invite the media to all our major drills," Schwedhelm said. They learn the scenarios and watch the unit's response unfold in real time.

"When a real scenario occurs," she said, "we didn't want Omaha to be surprised that we even have a biocontainment unit."

The hospital worked to be as transparent as patient privacy allowed. There were daily public briefings with White House involvement. There were "team huddles"

every morning and every night. And there were regular, private family contacts that dealt with more intimate details of patient care and decisions.

October saw a second patient with Ebola virus disease in NBC cameraman, Ashoka Mukpo. And November brought a third: Dr. Martin Salia.

Salia was by far the sickest. His case had been complicated at the outset by a false negative Ebola test in Sierra Leone. Thinking he must be sick with a less sinister virus, his case advanced for days without aggressive treatment. He arrived at Nebraska Medicine already in critical condition. He died two days later.

"In the very advanced stages, even modern techniques we have at our disposal are not enough to help these patients once they reach a critical threshold," said Gold.

Schwedhelm said video conferencing inside the unit allowed family members to see their loved ones, pay their respects and make important decisions. "Tele-health has gotten so progressive in a short amount of time." That capability, she said, meant a



Photo courtesy Nebraska Medicine

Dr. Rick Sacra's recovery and release from Nebraska Medicine's biocontainment unit called for high fives all around.

great deal to the patients' families.

Sacra and Mukpo's cases reached positive outcomes. Both patients recovered inside the biocontainment unit and walked out Ebola-free.

Each teammate reacted differently to the news. Relief. Glee. Even a tired resignation that looked a lot like sadness.

Patients' reactions to their own recovery can be equally complex. "For me ... to receive the kind of care that I got, when so many people have nothing even approximating slightly that kind of care—you know, it's a heavy feeling," Mukpo told NBC News. "I don't know if 'guilt' is the right word. But it just feels like something isn't right about that."

As for Schwedhelm, she said, "We got that first lab back that showed no virus, and I jumped. I jumped up and down and I yelled, 'We did it!'"

Once it was safe to toss the PPEs, Sacra and Mukpo could finally see the faces and bodies of the people who had cared for

them. "Before then, they only knew our staff by their eyes," Schwedhelm said.

"So you're Shelly," Dr. Sacra said. "You're Angie. You're Kate. You're Phil."

When Sacra was ready, the biocontainment unit released him in Nebraska fashion. A stereo played the Alan Parsons Project. Staff lined both sides of the hallway, clapping along. Schwedhelm explained Nebraska football's famous tunnel-walk and cautioned Sacra not to let himself get too pumped up. Her patient was healthy, but still weak. "No running," she said, and released him down Nebraska Medicine's ecstatic tunnel and out of the biocontainment unit's doors.

In the press conference that followed, Sacra told the biocontainment unit staff, "God has used you to restore my life to me. I am so grateful." He added, "I am now an official, lifetime Huskers fan! Go Big Red!"

Sacra may not realize it, but through Schwedhelm's planning, training and steady-handed care, he's part of Prairie Wolf nation, too. 🐺

WHAT'S NEXT?

With Nebraska Medicine's successful Ebola response behind it, Schwedhelm's eyes are set on the future. UNMC, Emory University and New York's Bellevue Hospital Center have partnered to create the National Ebola Training & Education Center.

"It's a constant effort to educate," she said. "Our goal is to never again be in a position where only three U.S. hospitals are prepared to respond to an event like this."

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WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

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CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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Contact Denice at 402.465.7539
or darcher@nebrwesleyan.edu

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*The M.Ed. helps teachers
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within subject areas
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diverse classrooms

Lily (left) and Mia (right) led their mothers, Susan Stibal (top left) and Beth Brady (top right) to advocate for better hearing in the classroom.

Hear to Learn

Meet the kids changing every classroom in Lincoln.

—By Mike Malloy

Lily Ardinger-Stibal failed one of the first tests she ever took. And in that failed test, she set in motion a chain of events that would help thousands of Lincoln kids to ace more of theirs.

Lily was just hours old in June 2007 when she failed her newborn hearing screen. Her mother, Instructor of Business Administration Susan Stibal, absorbed the news of Lily's profound hearing loss over months of additional testing and began thinking about Lily's future.

Stibal determined she'd do whatever she could to position Lily for success in a hearing world. She was willing to push hard. She didn't know it then, but she was about to bring nearly 38,000 of Lily's future classmates along for the ride.

Stibal and Lily's doctors soon agreed that Lily was a prime candidate for cochlear implants (CI). CIs are surgically placed medical devices that bypass damaged cochleae to send sound signals directly to the brain. Omaha's Boys Town National Research Hospital is a national leader in the procedure.

At just 10 months, Lily was one of the youngest Nebraskans at that time to receive bilateral cochlear implants. CIs had the potential to open up the hearing world to Lily, but not on their own. As she grew, she'd need intensive speech therapy to make the most of her devices.

Beth Brady ('99) is a speech language pathologist with Heartland Speech and Occupational Therapy Services in Lincoln. Brady specializes in early intervention for children with hearing loss.

Brady recalled meeting an adorable 4-year-old girl and an especially determined mother. "Susan was going to have this girl ready for kindergarten," Brady said. "That's my favorite kind of parent to work with."

Brady said CIs don't represent a "cure" for deafness. They provide what she described as "electrical hearing." Children with CIs, she said,

Photos by Geoff Johnson



need help to learn how to make the best use of their signals.

Thanks to intensive work at home and in formal therapy, Lily's speech developed on a track almost identical to her hearing peers. She entered Lincoln Public Schools' Kloefkorn Elementary (named after the late professor of English **William Kloefkorn**) as a kindergartener in 2012. She arrived, as Brady put it, "ready to rock."

Her speech and social development were

by the hall—her teacher's voice could reach. "CIs and soundfields together change the game for kids like Lily," Brady said. "Classroom soundfields are best practice for kids with hearing loss. It was an essential for Lily's classroom success at Kloefkorn."

Getting a soundfield system for Lily's classroom was never an issue. But as a business professor, Stibal knew the "market" of children who could benefit from this technology was larger than just Lily.

She happened to bump into Brady at Sheridan Elementary School's annual Fun Night. Somewhere between the popcorn machine and the balloon animals, they struck up a conversation about who

else could benefit from a classroom soundfield system.

Brady quickly thought of her own daughter.

Mia was a year older than Lily and a first grader at Sheridan. She was born with normal hearing. But chronic ear infections gave Mia what Brady called "an undiagnosed, fluctuating, mild to moderate hearing loss." Research from the Department of Education puts roughly 20 percent of young children in that same boat.

Some days, Mia's hearing was normal. Other days, she'd be clogged up and miss much of what was said. "And I couldn't always tell what kind of day it was for her," Brady said.

If Brady—a specialist in kids with hearing loss—couldn't recognize when her own daughter was straining to hear, how could teachers tell which of their students were likewise struggling?

Stibal and Brady traveled to Kearney, Neb., to attend a seminar with Carol Flexer, a University of Akron audiologist renowned for her work in pediatric and educational

audiology. From her, the two learned that the benefits of soundfield systems went far beyond kids with hearing loss.

Flexer showed that the systems are associated with significant academic gains for all kinds of students: English language learners who don't have enough familiarity to fill in the gaps obscured by noise; kids with behavioral disorders who struggle to maintain focus once they lose trail of their teacher's words; and typical kids who simply sit too far from their teacher's desk to hear clearly.

The body of research showed that in classrooms with soundfields, test scores went up. Special education referrals went down—suggesting that, for many kids, struggling to learn often boils down to struggling to hear. Even teacher sick days decreased, as teachers no longer needed to strain their voices in a constant effort to be heard.

Lily's hearing loss introduced Stibal to classroom soundfield systems. She quickly learned that the systems could help every kid do better in school.

Stibal and Brady formed a partnership rooted in their daughters' needs. But the goal of their work was always much bigger than their two girls. They began calling their project "Hear to Learn."

Stibal said that Hear to Learn was about taking the knowledge and research and energy and connections she had built throughout Lily's childhood and putting it all together to help more children across Lincoln.

Stibal and Brady designed a pilot project with a goal to equip four elementary schools with soundfield systems. Those schools included Lily's Kloefkorn and Mia's Sheridan as well as Prescott and West Lincoln.

They met with officials at LPS and with reps at different soundfield companies. Interest was there. But was money? They were determined to find out.

Susan was going to have this girl ready for kindergarten. That's my favorite kind of parent to work with.

outstanding. But Stibal and Brady shared one concern: How would Lily handle the acoustic environment of a bustling elementary school? "Listening through noise is an enormous challenge for everyone with a cochlear implant," Brady said.

Imagine yourself at a busy restaurant, eavesdropping on a conversation at a nearby table. It's a challenge, but your brain is pretty adept at zeroing in on the important signal and blocking out much of the surrounding clatter and chatter. People with CIs, Brady said, can't do that as easily.

The concern for Lily would be making out her teacher's voice over the sliding chairs, giggling neighbors and bustling hallways of a typical elementary school.

CI technology made hearing physically possible for Lily; another technology was about to make hearing her teacher a whole lot easier. Classroom soundfield systems amplify teachers' voices. Lily's teacher could wear a microphone on a lanyard, and a wireless speaker would project her voice across the entire classroom. That way, no matter where Lily sat—front, back, by the window,



Stibal and Brady took their idea to Lincoln Public Schools Superintendent Steve Joel. They estimated Hear to Learn's total price tag at \$120,000. And the two mothers committed to raising two-thirds of it themselves. Could LPS step forward with the other third?

Joel listened. He shook their hands. And he said, "I'm in."

He had little doubt Stibal and Brady would get the project launched. "I saw in the first 30 seconds that these two were highly motivated."

With Joel, they were preaching to the choir. He'd witnessed soundfields at his previous job with the Grand Island school district. And Joel deals with his own hearing loss.

Stibal and Brady hit the pavement, making the most of their considerable personal and professional networks. They backed up their pitches with the latest research. Slowly, the yeses accumulated.

About a year after that meeting with Joel, Stibal and Brady had raised \$155,000 from 10 foundations and 65 corporate and individual donors—more than enough to

adopted and integrated these devices more smoothly than any gadget of recent years. One teacher called it "the one piece of equipment I wouldn't want to ever teach without."

Stibal credited the smooth implementation to the fundamental nature of the technology itself. "This is a classroom technology like lights are a classroom technology. It's that basic," she said. "You wouldn't build a school without lights, because the students wouldn't see." These systems, she said, are just as fundamental. "They let students hear."

Lincoln's data are still being parsed. But previous studies make a strong case for Hear to Learn's academic impact.

Sue Braun, principal at Kloefkorn Elementary, initially saw soundfields as something just for students with hearing loss. Today, she recognizes the systems as assets for everyone in the room.

"It really increases attention," Braun said, especially for students who are easily distracted, English language learners, and students sitting next to rambunctious classmates.

Braun sees the devices as equalizing access to instruction. "There is research that placement in the classroom dictates the amount of instruction a student receives," she said. Soundfields make

every sentence the teacher says equal-opportunity instruction.

Joel believes Hear to Learn is increasing student achievement in Lincoln. The district agrees.

In June, LPS committed to phasing in soundfields at every school in the district by investing \$2.5 million over three years. With that investment, the benefits of Hear to Learn slid from two girls to 38,000 of their closest friends.

Professors in Nebraska Wesleyan's Education Department applaud Stibal's efforts for Lincoln's elementary students. Stibal teaches business administration courses as part of Nebraska Wesleyan's program for working adults, but the overarching tenets of her Hear to Learn program jibe well with the university's upcoming Master of Education program.

Nebraska Wesleyan's master's program is geared toward equipping teachers to create a more positive and productive classroom environment. So is Hear to Learn. The M.Ed. program focuses on supporting the well-being of children from all backgrounds. So does Hear to Learn.

"We're talking about students from various ethnic groups, students in poverty, students with high mobility, English language learners," said Professor of Education **Nancy Biggs**. "There's a focus on positive psychology and building resilience in the staff and the students."

"Teachers know that students must be abundantly prepared and equipped to reach their full potential," said **Kevin Bower**, director of the new M.Ed. program, which will launch in June. "Instructional strategies aren't enough," he said. Today's teachers must also have strategies, he said, "to deal with things like helping students maintain their well-being."

Bower called this approach a "whole-student concept."

Today, the stories of Lily Arding-Stibal and thousands of other Lincoln children point in a common direction. If you wish to reach the whole student, first, you must reach her ears. **■**

This is a classroom technology like lights are a classroom technology. It's that basic.

equip all four schools with a system in every classroom. With the extra money, they added Clinton Elementary School. Other schools like McPhee, Cavett and Norwood Park saw what was happening and raised funds to outfit their classrooms, too.

Teachers are often asked to implement the latest this or that in educational technology. Many have been around that block often enough to be skeptical. But teachers

Now Fear This

NWU circles the wagons for a Visions and Ventures discussion of fear in America.

It's scary out there.

Turn on the evening news and you see why. Terrorism. Super-bugs. Child snatchers. Epidemics of violence and disease. No wonder we're scared.

Barry Glassner, president of Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Ore., knows about the monsters beneath our beds. He's the author

Glassner's Tips for Surviving the Apocalypse

**KILLER GERMS!
SUPER PREDATORS!
CHILD SNATCHERS!
NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST!**

- ▶ Wash your hands.
"Regular soap works fine."
- ▶ Designate a driver.
"Please. I might be in the other lane."
- ▶ Put a bike helmet on your kid.
"And stop worrying about kidnapers."
- ▶ Get your flu shot.
"The 1918 flu epidemic was three times deadlier than the worst-case scenario of a terrorist nuclear attack."

plain old soap is just as effective in preventing bacterial infection. "Behind many fear mongers is a vested interest," Glassner said.

of *The Culture of Fear: Why Americans Are Afraid of the Wrong Things*. He spoke on campus as part of NWU's 15th Visions and Ventures symposium, "Be Afraid: The Nature of Fear in American Life."

Glassner said that an "if it bleeds, it leads" media culture has made it "easy to forget that we're living in the safest time and the safest place in human history."

But fear-mongering isn't just a style of reporting. It's an industry. Marketing is about convincing an audience that it needs a product. And nothing influences your sense of need quite like fear.

Fear of infection turned antibacterial soap into a multibillion-dollar industry, never mind that outside of environments like hospitals where the risk is elevated,

As water dries, blood boils

Aquaphobia is an irrational fear of water that affects fewer than two people in 100. You're free to consider that a serious problem if you like. But Maude Barlow would suggest this anxiety pales beside the fear that follows dryness.


Barlow is a U.N. senior advisor on water and winner of the Right Livelihood Award for her work advocating access to water as a basic human right.

Imagine a lush watering hole teeming with wildlife. "Now imagine that watering hole drying up," she said. Tensions flare between parched animals. "Eventually, they look at each other and think, 'You look like you've got some blood in you.'" Humans, Barlow said, are no different.

"We tend to believe in a 'mythic abundance' of water. It never occurs to people that we can run out," she said. "But we can."

Barlow argued for a new water ethic in policy and trade. "In every policy decision we make, we must ask: What is the impact on water? We can no longer give power to corporations to challenge regulations on water. We need to see water as in the public trust."

For Barlow, protecting access to clean water for all is the purest form of social justice—something worthy of our daily effort.

"Fighting for social justice is like taking a bath," she told her NWU audience. "You do it every day, or you stink." 

Running Dry

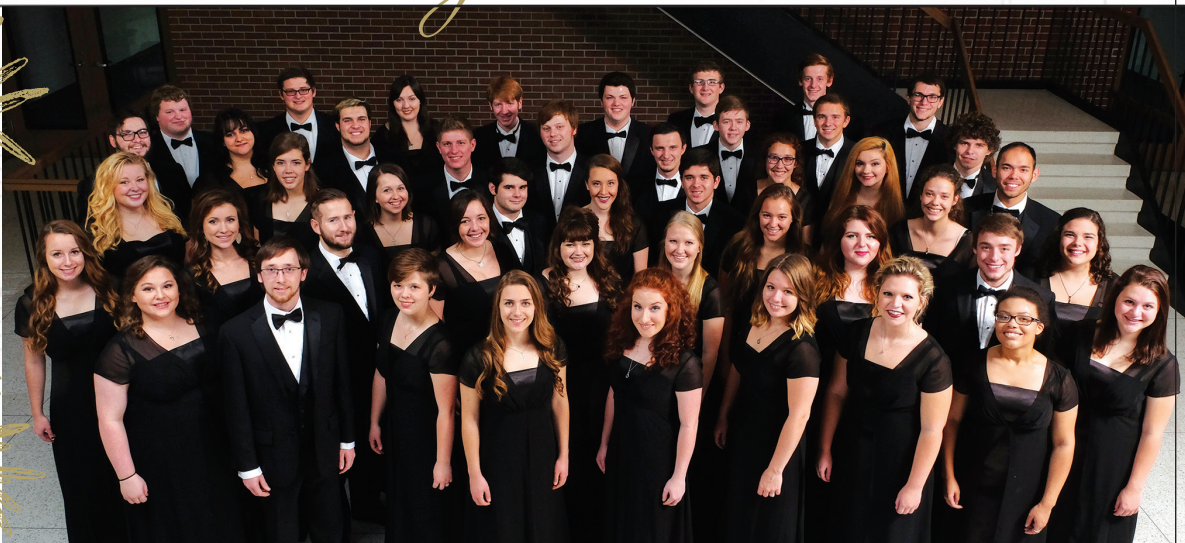
Earth's had the same amount of water for eons. But less and less is clean and accessible.

- ▶ China has half the flowing rivers it had in 1990. The rest have been cut off to feed Chinese industry.
- ▶ Uzbekistan's Aral Sea, once the world's fourth-largest lake, has lost 90 percent of its water to irrigation projects. Its eastern basin is now the Aralkum desert.
- ▶ Lake Chad in central Africa is one-twentieth its 1963 size, thanks to irrigation and climate change.
- ▶ Half the world's largest aquifers are now in "major distress."

Symposium speakers also included Rev. Karla Cooper of Doane College and Theresa Payton, White House chief information officer for President George W. Bush. Cooper spoke on public reactions to race; Payton's topic was threats to data security.

Winter Tour Takes

University Choir southwest



Nebraska Wesleyan's award-winning University Choir sets out soon on its annual winter tour.

Catch them in your area.

JANUARY

- | | |
|---|---|
| ▶ 6
First United Methodist Church
7 p.m. - Fremont, Neb. | ▶ 12
First United Methodist Church
7 p.m. - Colorado Springs, Colo. |
| ▶ 7
First United Methodist Church
7:30 p.m. - North Platte, Neb. | ▶ 13
First United Methodist Church
7:30 p.m. - Sidney, Neb. |
| ▶ 8
Smoky Hill United Methodist Church
7:30 p.m. - Centennial, Colo. | ▶ 14
First United Methodist Church
7:30 p.m. - Kearney, Neb. |
| ▶ 9
St John's United Methodist Church
7:30 p.m. - Santa Fe, N.M. | ▶ 15
Geneva City Auditorium
7:30 p.m. - Geneva, Neb. |
| ▶ 10
St John's United Methodist Church
8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. - Santa Fe, N.M. | ▶ 17
Westminster Presbyterian Church
9 a.m. - Lincoln, Neb. |
| ▶ 10
First United Methodist Church
7:30 p.m. - Albuquerque, N.M. | ▶ 17
O'Donnell Auditorium
7:30 p.m. - NWU |



First Frame

NWU adds women's bowling

—By Alex Linden ('03)

Changes continue for Nebraska Wesleyan's Athletic Department with the announcement of women's bowling as a new intercollegiate sport in 2016-17. This addition comes on the heels of NWU returning wrestling as a varsity sport next school year.

NWU hired Mike Gay as head coach in November. Gay is an experienced tennis and bowling coach and an outstanding bowler with 10 perfect games.

NWU administrators strive to keep Prairie Wolves athletics a premier program and make the Nebraska Wesleyan student-athlete experience a memorable one. Since 2013, NWU has added four sports: men's and women's swimming, wrestling and women's bowling. NWU also moved to affiliate exclusively as an NCAA III institution and member of the Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Student-athletes now can choose from 22 varsity sports to continue their athletic career as Prairie Wolves and play against top-level competition across NCAA Division III.

Vice President for Enrollment Management **William Motzer** emphasized how the new sports on campus fit within the overall plan of the university. "As our enrollment grows, we're investing in new academic and co-curricular programs to serve more students. Adding women's varsity bowling is an exciting part of that."

Women's bowling is an emerging sport sponsored by the NCAA. Bowling is conducted as the National Collegiate Championships, with all three NCAA divisions competing together. Lincoln is no stranger to outstanding college bowling. The University of Nebraska is the reigning women's bowling national champion. The Prairie Wolves and Cornhuskers are likely to cross paths at a number of regional tournaments between October and April.

NWU's bowlers join a tradition of excellence that defines Prairie Wolves athletics. Look for them—and cheer for them—at competitions throughout the Midwest. **n**

FALL SPORTS SUMMARY



Jordan Wheeler

Cross Country

NWU cross country exited the GPAC with a show of strength. The men took the conference crown with a 29-point advantage over Northwestern. The women finished second to Dordt. Sophomore Jordan Wheeler was the GPAC men's runner of the year.

Football

NWU defeated two ranked opponents in Friends University and Northwestern College to finish 4-6. Offensive lineman Jack McAreavey ('16) and kicker Kramer Rath ('18) were named to the All-GPAC second-team with five teammates receiving honorable mention.

Soccer

A dominant women's defense held opponents scoreless in five straight matches. They tallied eight shutout victories to finish 9-9. The men added five shutouts of their own, including a 1-0 victory against Doane, to finish 9-8-1.

NWU soccer had much to celebrate in their last season of GPAC play.



Volleyball

The Windy City felt like home as NWU swept Chicago's North Park Tournament. GPAC play proved tougher for NWU's young roster. The team finished 9-19 overall and 3-13 in conference.

Photos by Lane Hickenbottom

Art Seen

Nebraska's international "temple of art" goes local in show featuring three NWU professors.

—By Carlin Daharsh ('18)

For decades, Omaha's Joslyn Art Museum featured contemporary Nebraskan and Midwestern artists in a biennial exhibition. That tradition ended in 1988 as the Joslyn turned toward a more national and global footing.

After that 27-year hiatus, the Joslyn returned its gaze to local art last summer and fall with "Art Seen: A Juried Exhibition of Artists from Omaha to Lincoln". The show featured 37 Nebraskans, including three professors from Nebraska Wesleyan's Art Department: painter **Byron Anway**, multimedia and performance artist **Sarah Berkeley** and sculptor **Josh Johnson**.

The Joslyn's return to the local was welcome news to the Omaha-based fabric artist, Mary Zicafoose. "The Joslyn is the temple of art here—the hallowed hall," Zicafoose said. She called the artists working in Nebraska's two largest cities "a community that is growing more and more interested and interesting all the time."

That sense of community can be tough to tap among what are essentially hundreds of solo artists.

"I prefer to do projects on my own," admitted Johnson. "It brings me excitement to be the 'sole director' of something that makes things happen." His studio is in a three-acre warehouse—giving him room enough to move and breathe and work in any direction he chooses.

Sharing and teaching art, however, are communal acts. And Johnson is equally comfortable as a team player. In addition to teaching studio courses, the sculptor regularly assists NWU Theatre in set construction.

For Berkeley, the Joslyn exhibition amounted to a tangible affirmation of her artwork. That's ironic, considering that her art deals with the intangibles of office work. Her "I Just Work Here" series features Berkeley impersonating "a feminine persona that performs repetitive, physical, intense labor [that] yields no product."

Berkeley's series of photographs and videos debuted in April at Nebraska Wesleyan's Elder Gallery. NWU held public dialogues and events after the opening.

Berkeley is planning a new course, "Digital Media: Gender and Technology," which will discuss gender inequality in the tech industry and on the internet.

Anway describes himself as a "lifelong producer of creative content." That content includes thick, painterly oil portraits where the planes of his subjects' faces bow and bend slightly to heighten aspects of their personality. He also paints "mob scenes"—large crowds, often in conflict, where the subjects literally fight for attention.

Anway, Berkeley and Johnson have more in common than an employer and an impressive exhibition credit at the Joslyn. The NWU professors share an experience-based teaching philosophy that believes in "practice on top of theory" to influence the art and career paths of Nebraska Wesleyan students. **N**



Johnson is interested in the ways we accept fabrications of natural objects—like fake boulders in public parks. Sculptures like this one seem to bend over backwards to fabricate a natural line.



Berkeley performs "a caricature of the working woman" in her video series, "I Just Work Here." Office attire and furnishings land roughly in these natural settings, making for a work environment that's literally thorny and rocky.

The Bard and the Bibliophiles

Four centuries after his death, alumni bring Shakespeare near enough to touch.

William Shakespeare turned 400 in 1964, when Professor Emeritus of English Roger Cognard ('67) was an Omaha Benson senior. The school marked the milestone with a birthday celebration and production of "Romeo and Juliet"—with Cognard as Romeo. The experience sparked something lifelong in him.

Cognard's career would take him to NWU, where he taught Shakespeare to thousands. He continues to serve in retirement as dramaturge to NWU's Shakespeare productions.

"I wouldn't have spent 40 years doing that if I didn't think it was important," he said. For him, it's about bringing the English language's most influential figure to new audiences.

Before Shakespeare, English characters were flat, two-dimensional figures speaking flat, two-dimensional lines. "After him," Cognard said, "there's depth, conflict, personality."

April 23 brings another Shakespearean milestone: the 400th anniversary of his death. Why not use it to spark in others a lifelong interest?

It's a mission Cognard shares with Professor of Theatre Jack Parkhurst ('69). When Parkhurst joined the Theatre Department in 1999, he was told to steer clear of Shakespeare. In the previous 32 years, NWU had produced just three Shakespeare plays. "The sense was that Shakespeare was just too hard to cast with the students we had," Parkhurst said.

He acknowledged some truth to that impression. "We had six or eight theatre majors some years in the 1990s," he said. Even in a talented pool that size, you won't necessarily find a Lady MacBeth. A Hamlet. A Lear.

Parkhurst laughed at the dilemma. "I said, 'OK, so we can't do Shakespeare. Let's do "Romeo and Juliet."'" And if the pool of majors was too small, Parkhurst would help grow it.

"We had eight theatre majors in 1999," he said. "Today, we have 110." There are Othellos among them. And Ophelias. Pans and Portias.

Suddenly, NWU Theatre can do just about anything it wants—even mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death with an entire

spring of Shakespeare-related shows.

No challenge is too great. Take NWU's simultaneous productions of "Taming of the Shrew" and the modern musical interpretation, "Kiss Me, Kate." The same cast will play the same parts in alternating productions. And on the big day—Saturday, April 23—they'll do a doubleheader.


Between that day's performances, the public will have a rare look at a dynamic collection of Shakespearean artifacts privately owned by Roger and Anne Cognard, Parkhurst, Associate Professor of Theatre Joan Korte ('90), and Nebraska Wesleyan University. Anne Cognard taught Lincoln Public Schools' only high school Shakespeare course for decades. Korte frequently teaches acting for Shakespeare.

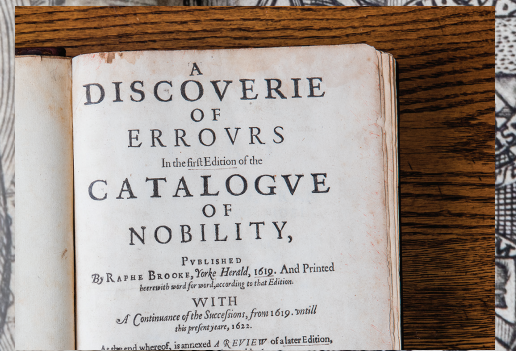
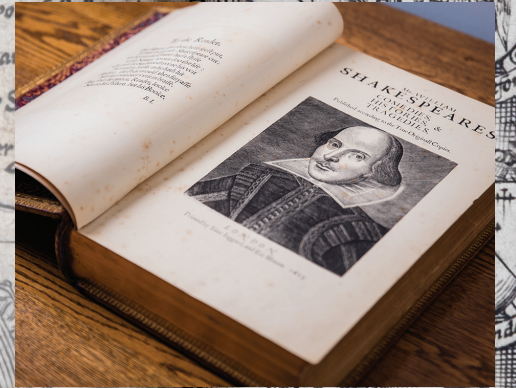
"Shakespeare's World in Early Print and Manuscript" will feature early editions of the dozen Shakespeare plays NWU has produced since 2000. There are also pieces where Shakespeare is listed as an actor; a history translated by Shakespeare's neighbor; even a legal document signed and sealed by the man who owned the land on which the Globe Theatre was built.

The Cognards, Parkhurst and Korte have long been intermittent collectors. ("These things didn't cost so much in the 1970s," Cognard said.) Decades ago, Cognard urged then-President John White to invest. White agreed to buy a first-folio leaf of "Hamlet" for about \$3,000. Today, that leaf is worth much more.

"I tried to get him to spring for a complete play for about \$33,000," Cognard remembered. "But he wasn't that springy."

NWU's leaf will be among the impressive array of items on display in Cochrane-Woods Library's rare book room from noon to 7 p.m. on April 23, the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death.

"We want to create interest with students," Cognard said. "And we want to bring something rare to the university." 



A rare exhibit of privately owned historical documents brings the work and times of Shakespeare alive for visitors on campus April 23.

GREAT LENGTHS

Jennifer Austin goes from “lost boy” to pop star in 7,742 miles.

—By Carlin Daharsh ('18)



How far will you go to pursue your dreams?

This was the central question of Jennifer Austin’s (’10) Nebraska Wesleyan experience. NWU was where Austin learned that with the right combination of knowledge, energy, ambition and support, she could cover any distance.

“I was so lucky to go to Nebraska Wesleyan,” she said. “It catered to my personal self and allowed me to decide what I believed and who I wanted to become. NWU supported me from day one.”

At NWU, Austin was active in Alpha Gamma Delta. She majored in theatre and communication studies. And she studied in Sweden.

Studying acting in Nebraska Wesleyan’s intensive—almost frenetic—Theatre Department demands an incredible amount of time and energy. The thought of adding a second major and studying abroad was enough to spin heads. “It seemed impossible,” Austin said.

Then she met Professor of Theatre Jay Chipman (’77). “He sparked my love for travel and has served as my

cheerleader ever since.”

After graduating, Austin packed her bags and moved to Melbourne, Australia. She found herself “a normal nine-to-five job” to pay the bills while she explored the acting industry.

She auditioned aboard a pirate ship—well, Melbourne’s Polly Woodside—for a role in “Peter Pan,” and was cast as a lost boy and an Indian.

She has taught singing and musical theatre to singers from ages 4 to 40 at Melbourne’s West End Performing Arts. She moved to Auckland, New Zealand, to teach private singing and acting lessons as she auditions for television, film and stage roles.

And in June, she released her debut pop album, “Take Me with You,” with Lil Dog Records New Zealand.


“It’s been a massive journey,” Austin said of her career path from McDonald Theatre to Melbourne to Auckland. “It’s probably one of the biggest chapters in my life. It’s full on, and I love it.”

Grateful for Chipman’s encouragement and influence,

It’s been a massive journey . . . [and] one of the biggest chapters in my life. It’s full on, and I love it.

Austin pays it forward by encouraging her own students to pursue their dreams. This fall—well, in New Zealand, it’s spring—that’s meant preparing her students to audition for roles in Phantom of the Opera.

Austin’s own dreams are deeper and more colorful than simply “making it big” as an actor or singer. She sees herself as an artist and an educator. An encourager—in the long Nebraska Wesleyan tradition of encouragers.

“It’s not about getting a degree at all,” she said. “It’s deeper than that. “[Arts education] is about knowing who you are and the person you want to be.” 



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Nebraska Wesleyan University's financial operations in the 2015 fiscal year show a mixture of stability, growth and areas of increasing student need.

Our net assets grew 3 percent to \$90.8 million—a result of strong support through gifts and grants. Financial aid distributions continue to rise,



reaching \$18.4 million, as we respond to the needs of the students and families we serve.

University College, which houses Nebraska Wesleyan's adult and graduate programs, saw revenue grow 7 percent, due largely to the Master of Business Administration program launched in fall 2014.

Investments in university facilities included a \$2.3 million renovation of Pioneer Hall and a new nursing skills lab in Olin Hall. We're disciplined in the way we use the university's debt capacity, limiting debt issuances to revenue-producing projects.

One result of this disciplined approach is the affirmation in August 2015 of Nebraska Wesleyan's bond rating by Standard & Poor's of A-/Stable.

Promising fundraising, a strong first-year class, prudent administrative decisions and growing enrollment projections combine to paint a bright picture for Nebraska Wesleyan's future.

Sincerely,

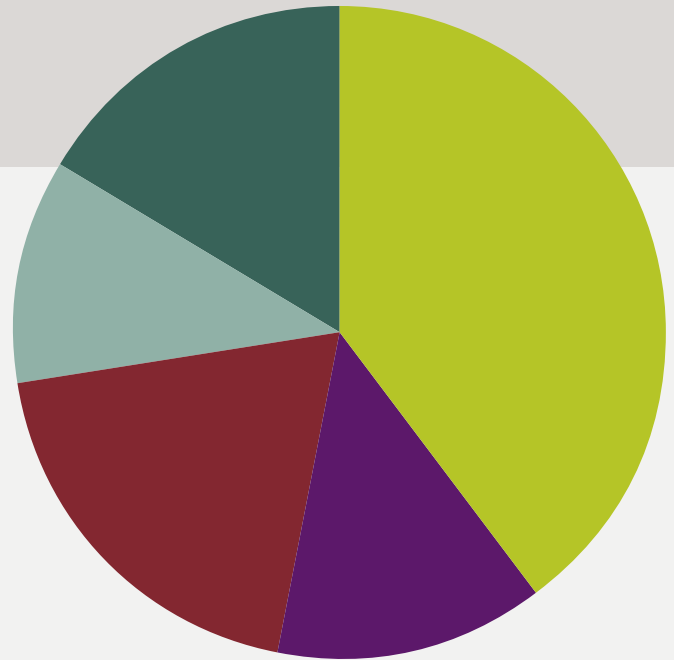
Tish Gade-Jones ('92)
Vice president for finance
and administration

Our net assets grew 3 percent to \$90.8 million—a result of strong support through gifts and grants.

► FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Assets

Total Assets	\$117,043,000
Total Liabilities	\$26,221,000
Total Net Assets	\$90,822,000



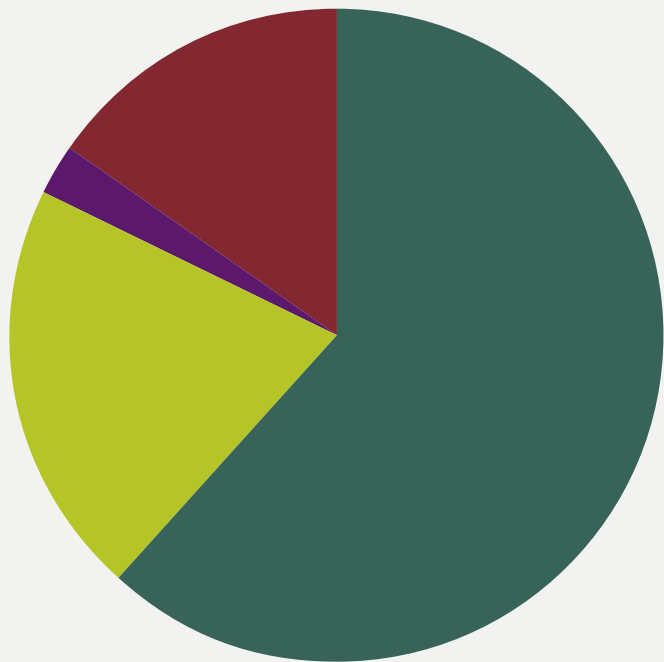
► STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES 2015

Revenues

Tuition and Fees	\$43,664,000
<i>Less: Financial Aid</i>	\$18,428,000
Net Tuition and Fees	\$25,236,000
Gifts and Grants	\$8,416,000
Investment Earnings	\$1,021,000
Auxiliary Enterprises & Other	\$6,159,000
Total Revenue	\$40,832,000

Expenses

Instruction	\$15,253,000
Academic Support	\$5,100,000
Student Services	\$7,392,000
Institutional Support	\$4,300,000
Auxiliary Enterprises & Other	\$6,215,000
Total Expenses	\$38,260,000



Change in Assets from Operations	\$2,572,000
Other Changes in Assets	\$86,000

Total Change in Assets **\$2,658,000**

Net Assets, Beginning of the Year	\$88,164,000
Net Assets, End of the Year	\$90,822,000

BLACK AND GOLD

Black & Gold Gala Reveals Student's True Colors

NWU's Black & Gold Gala didn't go as planned. The celebration honors lifetime and annual giving society members, putting NWU's biggest donors on center stage.

But a student stole the show.

Tarryn Tietjen ('16) isn't a big donor. She's a psychology and communicationwudies major from Hebron, Neb., a first-generation college student and Board of Governors student representative. She stepped up to the podium in the Lincoln Country Club Ballroom, and a night about donors became a night about the student experiences made possible by giving.

Tietjen wasn't born healthy. Doctors put her odds of survival just above 10 percent. If she survived, they cautioned, she'd never live a normal life.

These circumstances shaped how her parents saw opportunity. "They always ... believed we could do something amazing."

Over five campus visits—"Yes, I came here five times"—NWU became her dream school. Scholarships made her dream possible.

Aid connected her with Professor of Biology **Dale Benham**, "who made me realize professors are here to support you—even when you tell them you won't be a science major."

And Professor of Communication **Karla Jensen**, who was so impressed by Tietjen's work that she walked her to the office to sign the paperwork declaring a communication major.

And Professor of Communication **Rachel Pokora**, the early-riser who stayed up late on a study trip to Estonia, just to know her students better.

And Assistant Professor of Professional Studies **James Perry**, whose single backpack on the same trip exemplified simplicity of purpose.

Donors introduced her to life-changing teachers. "Without your commitment ... we would not have these incredible professors and unique opportunities as students."

Tietjen's doctors were wrong about her prognosis. "But they were right about one thing. I will never live a normal life."

Forget ordinary. "I want to be extraordinary."

She called herself a "first-generation student who will never stop fighting the odds. And I will always be grateful for those who helped me along the way—especially those who made attending NWU a reality."



Tarryn Tietjen ('16)



Nebraska Wesleyan recognizes and thanks many of its most generous donors at the annual Black & Gold Gala.

Photos by Paul Hadley

MYSTERY PHOTO

Goat Team, Go!

Here's a homecoming tradition that needs to make a comeback: Theta Chi's Great Goat Giveaway!

Can you name the winner? Bonus points if you can also name the year—and the goat.

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)

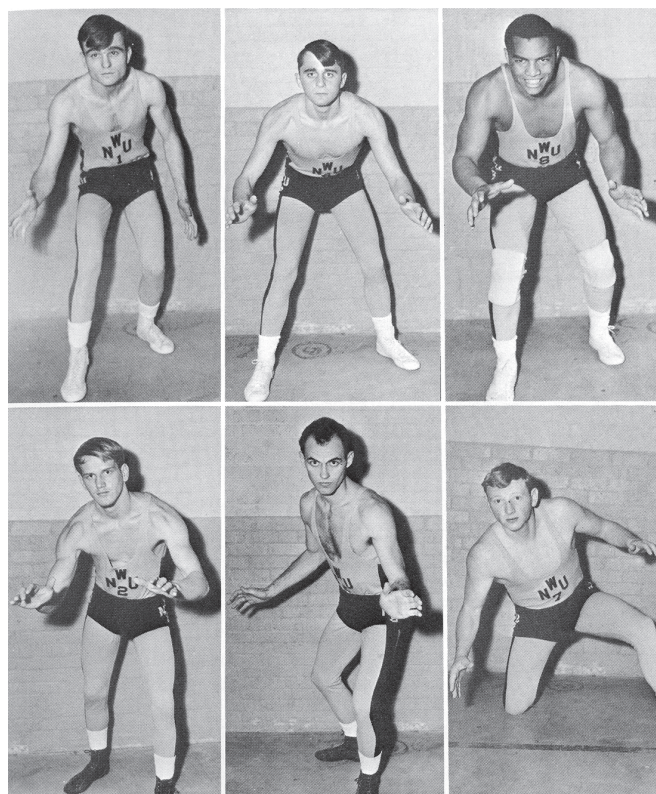
Director of alumni relations
5000 Saint Paul Avenue
Lincoln, NE 68504-2794
smchugh@nebrwesleyan.edu
402.465.2123

Update your contact information, professional details and more in our alumni directory at alumni.nebrwesleyan.edu

MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED

Identities Pinned

NWU returns to the mat in 2016. The team will join a list of wrestling alumni that includes these six.



As soon as I saw this collection of photos, I recognized Kent Renegar in the upper left corner. Kent and I were high school classmates, so I knew which yearbooks to look through to find the other men. They are, from the upper left: Kent, C. Rieber and Al Riley. Second row from left: Michael LaChat, George Ward and Dennis McGee. The photos are from the 1966-67 season.

—**Laurie (Meese) Sieg** ('67)

Al Riley is on the top right. He was from Valentine, Neb., and attended in 1966. I was on the team with him. One of my roommates, Greg Brown, was from Valentine, so Riley was around us a lot.

—**Roger Dold** ('69)

The Mystery Photo in the current edition of *Archways* includes my husband, Kent Renegar (upper left), and five of his wrestling teammates on the 1967 team. The other wrestlers (clockwise) are Chuck Rieber, Al Riley, Dennis McGee, George Ward and Mike LaChat. Not pictured is Arnie Jones. Arnie and Kent were Wesleyan's first four-year lettermen in wrestling.

—**Sandra (Kinney) Renegar** ('68)

This photo features Kent Renegar, Chuck Rieber, and Al Riley on top, and Mike LaChat, George Ward, and Dennis McGee on the bottom. Not pictured is Arnie Jones because the Mystery Photo logo is covering his photo. The wrestling team was great that year, but as we all get older, our memories cloud our recollections of things past. Al, Arnie and I played football for the '65-'66 Plainsmen. We were great also. I have lost track of these fine men and hope that they are doing well.

I wish the 2016 wrestling team the same success the '66-'67 wrestling team had. May your memories of your team grow to be memorialized in Nebraska Wesleyan yearbooks to come.

—**Gene Crump** ('69)

These 1967 wrestlers are Kent Renegar, Chuck Rieber, Al Riley, Mike LaChat, George Ward and Dennis McGee.

I also remember Al Riley was a star linebacker on the football team, and Mike LaChat appeared in some plays and was an honor student.

—**Mark Anderson** ('71)

Alumni News

HOMECOMING 2015

Photos by:
Dan Luedert,
Paul Hadley,
Chad Greene and
Jennifer Heywood



2005-2015 Reunion Party

2005-2015 Reunion Party



Students bring the noise at the Howl Like Hell pep rally.



Reunion parties give classmates the opportunity to reconnect.



Alumni get a hands-on lesson in ceramic glazing in Lucas Hall.



The Prairie Wolves enter Abel Stadium to take on Briar Cliff.



Students stack up to the competition in the "Minute-to-Win-It" event.



However you arrange them, these fans spell fun.



Tailgaters take over Taylor Commons.



The pep band leads the way to Abel Stadium.



Reunion class gifts strengthen the Archway Fund. The class of 1965 donated over \$550,000.



Classmates from 1965 receive medallions to mark 50 years as alumni.



Students deck the dining hall.



Music and theatre add to the homecoming festivities.



Cookie Monster is a big Prairie Wolves fan, and wouldn't miss the golf cart parade.



Legends and Legacies award winners include Walter French ('48) (center).



It's a chance to look back.

NWU Adds Educator to Advisory Board

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.



Deborah Frison

The PBA meets on campus each spring and fall. The focus of October's meeting was the campus master plan and University Place.

President Ohles welcomed Deborah (Jones) Frison ('77) to the group and expressed appreciation to advisors who recently completed a term of service: Gene ('57) and Jolene ('56) Braymen of San Jose, Calif.; Susan Wehrbein Cassat ('80) of Overland Park, Kan.; and Mark Walz ('88) of Lincoln.

Frison earned an honorary degree from Nebraska Wesleyan in 2015 and serves as deputy commissioner at the Nebraska Department of Education. She lives in Omaha.

Nominate a Legend

Every homecoming, NWU honors outstanding alumni at the Legends and Legacies banquet. This year's honorees included a combat medic, an MIT mathematician, a pair of aviation innovators and more. [Read about all eight honorees in our summer 2015 issue.]

It's never too early to nominate alumni for next year's honors, ceremony to be held on September 22, 2016. Learn more online at www.nebrwesleyan.edu/alumni-and-friends. Just click on "Alumni Awards" on the left.

Questions? Call Alumni Relations at 402.465.2123.

This summer NWU will add a Master of Education program in curriculum and instruction. One alumna reminds us why: Because great teachers touch lives.

A Little Boy Named Robbie

—By Lindy Mullin ('67)

Thirty years ago, on a warm fall day, Karen, the PE teacher, stopped me in the hall and said, “Lindy, will you come see a little boy in my class? Robbie can’t do some of the things he could last year.”

My heart sank.

I observed Robbie in PE class. He was shorter than the other fourth graders. He had huge brown eyes, and although he struggled to do what the others did easily, he smiled through the entire class.

A week later, we met with Robbie’s parents. During the conference, Robbie’s mother began to cry. She said, “Robbie can’t throw a baseball anymore and he can’t ride his bike. This is my worst nightmare.”

She went on to explain that her grandfather and her brother had died of a disease that quickly destroyed their bodies.

Robbie joined my special needs classroom. Soon, to his delight, he was the permanent line leader. The other children didn’t question him having that coveted position because they knew that if Robbie walked with me, he could lean against me and I could steady him with my arm around his waist.

Robbie returned from a doctor’s appointment one day and excitedly said, “Mrs. Mullin, guess what! I don’t need to wear my glasses anymore!”

I turned away to hide my tears as I replied, “Well, Robbie, that’s great!” I knew he was losing his sight and his glasses were no longer of any help.

At the beginning of the second semester, Robbie’s doctor let us know that Robbie might suddenly lose his ability to swallow. Robbie was delighted when he learned that he could eat

I am so grateful to ... the talented, dedicated professors who encouraged my dream to become a teacher.

lunch with me in my classroom every day, and we could play games until the other children returned from their noon recess.


He continued to lose the ability to do all the things little boys love to do.

Robbie never complained. He never became angry. He never cried. He just came to school every day with his wonderful smile and ever-sweet personality.

On the last day of school, I took Robbie’s picture by the big pine tree in the schoolyard. Robbie didn’t return to my classroom the next fall.

Three weeks after school started, Robbie died.

I am so grateful to this wonderful university and the talented, dedicated professors who encouraged my dream to become a teacher, who gave me the knowledge, and taught me the skills, to work with children like Robbie.

Because of those professors, I was blessed to work with a little boy who taught me about courage and patience and grit; a little boy who loved every minute of life no matter how difficult life was; a little boy who changed my life. 

Lindy received Nebraska Wesleyan University’s Medal of Honor in 2010. She is a governor emerita of NWU’s Board of Governors.

Phi Kappa Tau Wins Maxwell Award as Nation’s Top Chapter

—By Dwain Hebda ('90)

The Upsilon Chapter of Phi Kappa Tau at Nebraska Wesleyan has been recognized again as the national organization’s top chapter. The fraternity received the 2015 Roland Maxwell Outstanding Chapter Award during the Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity National Conclave, held this summer at Miami of Ohio University in Oxford, Ohio.

The award represents the sixth such honor for Nebraska Wesleyan’s Phi Tau house, the most of any PKD chapter in the nation.

Based on 2014 results, it also represents the fastest win by a chapter, coming in just the second full year after being re-chartered in 2012.

“We are proud of all that the Upsilon Chapter has accomplished in such a short amount of time,” said Tim Hudson, PKT chief executive officer. “The chapter gave a strong presentation outlining how they have internalized the values of our fraternity and developed a deep understanding of the

‘why’ of their chapter.”

Upsilon was the national fraternity’s 20th chapter and Nebraska Wesleyan’s first social organization. Originally founded as Orophilian Literary Society in 1888, it was first chartered as Phi Kappa Tau in 1923. Over the years, the charter has produced five national PKT presidents. The group’s house, built in 1928, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

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.

February 26 NWU Business Summit

Smith-Curtis is the setting for this annual event that brings NWU students and regional business leaders together. Events run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.



JANUARY

17 University Choir home concert

NWU's award-winning choir wraps up its winter tour in O'Donnell Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. See page 25 for the full tour schedule with stops across Nebraska, Colorado and New Mexico.

22 NWU track & field

The Prairie Wolf Invitational begins at noon at Knight Field House.

30 Basketball alumni event

Past Plainsmen, Plainswomen and Prairie Wolves return to Snyder Arena for lunch and a friendly game.

31 NWU Comes to You: Denver

Denver-area alumni and prospective students and parents gather to learn more about today's NWU.

FEBRUARY



Photo by Doublephotography

13 NWU basketball

The Prairie Wolves play their last home games as GPAC members versus Dordt. The women tip off at 2 p.m. with the men following at 4 p.m.

MARCH

17 NWU Theatre: Illyria

Catch opening night of this musical interpretation of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night at 7:30 p.m. See theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu for tickets and show times.

Save the date

HOMECOMING

September 22-25, 2016



REUNION YEARS:

2012-2016

2006

1996

1986

1976

1965

and earlier





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