

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

ARCHWAYS

TAKE THE LEAD | FALL 2016 | VOLUME 16, ISSUE 3

Trustworthy Intelligence

Air Force commander pilots
NWU's MBA program.

PLUS

2015-2016

Annual Report of Giving



FROM THE PRESIDENT



It all reminds me of the inspiring words of Martin Luther King, Jr., “Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve.”

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Just 72 hours after matriculating, more than 420 first-year Nebraska Wesleyan students joined our faculty and staff for a day of sorting clothes, washing windows and pulling weeds at dozens of nonprofit agencies across Lincoln. Lend a Hand to Lincoln is a 22-year tradition that establishes a strong commitment to serve at the outset of each student’s Nebraska Wesleyan experience. It connects classmates to community and fosters a sense for the value of pitching in, being there, giving back—every form of help.

Our students fill their class schedules and breaks with ambitious service learning experiences. Recently, some of our students traveled to Thailand to aid in forest restoration, to South Carolina to assist in flood cleanup, and across Lincoln to serve as medical volunteers at Clinic with a Heart. On campus, they’ve raised tens of thousands of dollars for American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life.

Our new Archway Curriculum incorporates service to empower every undergraduate student with this distinctive learning experience. Research shows that college students who tap this culture of service are more likely to be involved in their communities throughout their lives. Our alumni live this out daily.

Serving one’s country and community can take many forms. So let me flip the equation now to how NWU students receive the benefits of service, too.

We seek to serve all our students in their varied and changing needs. We changed our personal counseling services this fall to improve our response to students in crisis. Now students have better access to more counselors with faster response times in a new location with greater privacy. It’s in our 49th Street building—part of our westward growth toward 48th Street.

This issue of *Archways* introduces you to Col. **Tami Thompson**, our new MBA Program director. Prof. Thompson recently retired from the United States Air Force after 28 years of service to her country in wartime and peace. Now our graduate students have the fortunate opportunity to benefit from her service, leadership and command experience.

Our annual report also highlights wonderful examples of alumni who serve our students—providing them the opportunity to pursue enriching experiences through programs like the Capitol Hill Internship Program.

It all reminds me of the inspiring words of Martin Luther King, Jr., “Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve.” I remain grateful for your continued commitment to serve Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Ohles".

—Fred Ohles
President



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

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

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Photo by Red Feather Photography



Amanda Broulik “Annual Report of Giving” ▶23

A 2015 New Jersey transplant, Mandy works as coordinator of communications in NWU's Advancement Office. She wrote all four features in our annual report, moving nimbly from biology and parasitology (“It’s Like You’re on a Ladder”) to political science and Washington, D.C. (“Taking New Paths”), to accessibility in higher education (“Push out the Walls. Take off the Blinders.”) to music and medicine (“The Verses Repeat”). That nimbleness should come as no surprise; Mandy is an avid dancer.

Photo by Zach Tuttle ('17)



Quinn Hullett ('18) “Kenyan Carver, American Trailblazer” ▶16

Quinn is an English and communications studies double major as well as a student assistant in public relations. She reported in 2015 on the university's preparations for the emerald ash borer, a tree-killing pest that has since emerged in southeast Nebraska.



Mike Malloy, “Trustworthy Intelligence” ▶11

Mike is a regular *Archways* contributor who has profiled characters ranging from an NFL general manager to a “Planet of the Apes” costume designer. He has an extensive background in newspaper journalism.



Mary Daehler Smith, “A Robe by Another Name” ▶15

It's a stretch to call Mary an *Archways* contributor. She died a year before *Archways* magazine's 2000 debut. But this year's “First Walk” got us thinking about the tradition of NWU matriculation. We came upon an essay Mary wrote for the student newspaper on September 18, 1970, and had to share. Mary was a Harvard-educated expert in a great many things, including Victorian literature and mystery fiction. Her infectious laughter is imprinted in the memories of countless alumni between the years of 1961 and 1998.

We Can Be and Walk Together

With the massacres in Dallas and Orlando, and with their sad string of predecessors, we see our country's dangerous emotional climate. Hatred and violence—in Orlando, toward LGBTQ people, in Dallas toward white police officers, last summer toward African Americans—seem to be having the last word in our conversations.

But there is something we can do. Apart from any political action, there is a stand we can take. The German theologian Dorothee Soelle, in her book, *Suffering*, writes:

We can change the social conditions under which people experience suffering. We can change ourselves and learn in suffering instead of becoming worse. We can gradually beat back and abolish the suffering that still today is produced for the profit of a few. But on all these paths we come up against boundaries that cannot be crossed. Death is not the only such barrier. There are also brutalization and insensibility, mutilation and injury that no longer can be reversed. The only way these boundaries can be crossed is by sharing the pain of the sufferers with them, not leaving them alone and making their cry louder.

We can be and walk together with those who suffer, sharing in their pain, and when asked, speaking on their behalf.

Love cannot be legislated. It can only be lived.

Rev. H. Eduardo Boussón
University minister

Special Care, Respect and Attention

I received the summer issue of *Archways* last week and was surprised to see my picture and Tom Heeren's ('89) letter ["But They Didn't Mind at All"]. It brought back a lot of memories! I was surprised to learn that I was a "flirting librarian" to Tom. However, I know Tom very well, so I consider it a compliment from him.

Tom was a very special student in his own way. The people who worked in the library (young and old staff members), and many more on campus loved him. We treated him with special care, respect and attention because he had special needs. We would open the doors for him, push the elevator button for him, provide

pen and paper whenever he wanted to communicate with us, assist him with all the resources he needed for research, give him a pat on the shoulder to encourage him, and laugh with him when he told jokes with his special humor. Indeed, he was so delightful whenever he came to the library. I still remember his big smiles!

I think he was the first student to initiate the ramp sidewalk outside the library to give his wheelchair an easy access to the library front door. Nebraska Wesleyan was less prepared in those days for students with special needs. The library staff encouraged Tom to use the library back door, which was limited to staff use, for entrance before the ramp was done. So, Tom got to know all the "beautiful girls" who worked as library student assistants. They were well trained to treat all library users with respect and provide assistance when needed.

I think Tom was very lucky to choose NWU for his undergraduate studies; he was nourished in an environment that provides excellent academic discipline and growth with a loving, caring community. I know all the professors Tom took classes from; they are as caring (maybe flirting, as Tom might interpret it) as all the library staff members.

I saw Tom a few times after he graduated and came back to campus to visit. It was wonderful to see him with his big smiles! Yes, we are still good friends. I will give him a big hug if I see him again, and I will tell him how lucky I was to have the privilege to get to know him, and I wish him the best in life!

Janet Lu

Professor emerita of library and information technology
Longmont, Colo.

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.



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NW you

What's so special about
Nebraska Wesleyan University?

Simply: You.

Stay connected to the school you make great.



An “A+” in Failure

There’s pressure on parents and teachers to help children succeed in the classroom. But recent research from two Stanford University psychology professors suggests an ability to “fail well” may help children develop stronger mindsets throughout their lives.

“Parents have this powerful effect really early on and throughout childhood to send messages about what is failure, [and] how to respond to it,” said Kyla Haimovitz,

a coauthor of the study in *Psychological Science*.

Fail. Learn.

Adapt. Repeat.

Their study showed that parental attitudes toward failure—either as a negative experience or as a positive opportunity to grow—shape

kids’ mindsets on their own abilities. While Haimovitz and Carol Dweck’s study focused on the link between parents’ attitudes and children’s mindsets, it’s rational to conclude that teachers’ postures toward failure can be similarly influential.

Gail Heyman, a psychology professor at the University of California at San Diego, told NPR, “When children view their abilities as more malleable and something they can change over time, then they deal with obstacles in a more constructive way.”

It’s an approach to learning echoed in Nebraska Wesleyan’s new Master of Education in curriculum and instruction. “It’s not just about preparing children to regurgitate facts for a standardized test,” said program director **Kevin Bower**. “It’s giving them the skills and resiliency they need to thrive in their anything-but-standardized lives.”

In an interview for our last issue’s cover story, **Karen (Karr) Linder** (’82), CEO of Tethon 3D, credited her own business success on her ability to “fail often, fail quickly and adapt accordingly.”

She even views “accelerated failure” as a customer service. Using Tethon 3D’s ceramic printers, she helps artists and manufacturers produce prototypes of their designs. Quick prototype production allows clients to run tests, spot problems and adapt with greater speed.

Fail. Learn. Adapt. Repeat. It’s a formula for resilient kids and successful adults.

THE FINAL: Preparing kids for success in school, work and life involves a healthy amount of failure.



Photo by Geoff Johnson

Tamra Llewellyn’s (center) students describe her as “a blessing to learn alongside.”

NWU Pole-vaulter Turned Professor Clears New Height with Teaching Award

Before Assistant Professor of Health and Human Performance **Tamra (Trehearn) Llewellyn** (’06) became an outstanding NWU teacher, she was an outstanding NWU student-athlete. As an HHP major, she conducted research on the relationship between flexibility and running economy. Her results confirmed her hypothesis that less flexible runners move with greater efficiency. *The Journal of Strength & Conditioning* published her results after her graduation, which garnered national attention in 2009.

Seven years later, Llewellyn is helping today’s Nebraska Wesleyan students take their own research to another level. The university responded by awarding her the 2016 Margaret J. Prouty Teaching Award. Established by **Margaret Prouty** (’32), the honor rewards NWU faculty for the pursuit of excellence in teaching and applauds professors who make a distinct difference in their students’ lives.

“I would not have been as successful as I have been at Nebraska Wesleyan without Dr. Llewellyn,” said one student nominator. “She, without a doubt, has the students’ best interests at heart and will do anything and everything to help ensure our success.”

THE FINAL: A health and human performance professor and alumna wins NWU’s Prouty Teaching Award.

“Unruly” Board Members Conduct Campus Sit-in

As a rule, governing boards are wary of campus sit-ins. Sit-ins suggest unrest. And unrest is not a board’s best friend—especially as Nebraska Wesleyan University transitions to a new board chair.

Judith (Trimble) Maurer (‘69) has served as chair of Nebraska Wesleyan’s Board of Governors since 2013. On June 1, she completed her leadership role and handed responsibility to retired superintendent of Lincoln Public Schools, **Susan Gourley**. Maurer now serves alongside Gourley as

secretary with fellow board officers, **Kim (Roehrs) Moore** (‘90) as vice chair and **L. Bradley Hurrell** (‘73) as treasurer.

As her term entered its final winter, Maurer did an unusual thing. She partnered with a fellow board member, then-faculty president and associate professor of English, **Larry McClain**, to lead a campus sit-in of their own.

McClain asked his faculty colleagues to grant board members permission to sit in on some of their spring classes. “It’s important for the board to have the opportunity to see firsthand the most fundamental thing that NWU does—teach students,” said McClain.

Larry McClain specializes in U.S. literature and popular culture.

McClain cringes a bit whenever people frame education as a commodity, but he said board members “deserve a chance to see NWU’s ‘product’ up close.”

Thus began higher education’s least controversial campus sit-in. Eleven board members accepted the invitation to demonstrate their interest. Maurer herself sat in on five classes, ranging from Assistant Professor of Music **John Spilker**’s “World Music Culture” to Associate Professor of History **Meghan Winchell**’s “Voices of Slavery.” And Gourley joined Dr. **Thomas Waring** (‘53) in Associate Professor of Philosophy **Lisa Wilkinson**’s “Critical Thinking.” More Board members may sit in this winter as well.

By all accounts, the sit-in was peaceful. And the change it sparked is evident in an even more informed, engaged and motivated governing board.



Kevin E. Cook (‘86)



Diane Nelson



Jeff Schumacher



Meghan Winchell



Kaitlyn Klein (‘17)



Ria Shome (‘19)

Board welcomes new members

June brought the arrival of six new members to Nebraska Wesleyan’s Board of Governors.

Kevin E. Cook (‘86) is partner at BKD CPAs in Kansas City, Mo. His wife and daughter are alumnae and another child is a current NWU student.

Diane Nelson is a devoted community volunteer in the Omaha area and former first lady of Nebraska.

Jeff Schumacher is president of Capitol Casualty Company in Lincoln. His wife is an alumna.

Meghan Winchell is associate professor of history, chair of the History Department and president of Nebraska Wesleyan’s faculty.

Kaitlyn Klein (‘17) is student body president and a business administration major from Silver Creek, Neb.

Ria Shome (‘19) was elected to serve by Student Affairs Senate as a student board member; she is a biology and Spanish major from Overland Park, Kan.



Susan Gourley is NWU’s new Board chair.

The university thanks these outgoing members of the Board of Governors for their service: **Ben H. Harris**, **Larry McClain**, **Richard A. Peterson** (‘59), **Matt Tewes** (‘17) and **Tarryn Tietjen** (‘16).

THE FINAL: Board leaders got a firsthand look at the NWU experience by engaging with professors and students in action.

(Head shots on this spread are by Shane and Sunny Photography, Zach Tuttle (‘17), Red Feather Photography, Chad Greene, and provided by the subjects.)



T. J. McDowell,
Jr. ('94)



Rev. Eduardo
Boussón

NWU Administrative Council Adds Two Familiar Faces

June saw the expansion of Nebraska Wesleyan University's senior leadership team, the Administrative Council. The new members are T. J. McDowell, Jr. ('94) and Rev. Eduardo Boussón.

McDowell moved from his role as assistant dean of students to the newly created position of associate vice president. And Boussón's post as university minister adds emphasis in an administrative role.

"We are excited about the leadership, vision, work ethic and care these two proven professionals bring to our work and our decision making," said President **Fred Ohles**.

Serving with McDowell and Boussón on Nebraska Wesleyan's Administrative Council are Ohles, Vice President for Finance and Administration **Tish Gade-Jones** ('92), Vice President for Advancement **John Greving**, Vice President for Enrollment Management **William Motzer** and Provost **Judy Muyskens**.

THE FINAL: NWU promotes two proven university staffers to administrative roles.



Seven NWU students, joined by biology professors Garry Duncan and Gary Gerald, presented INBRE research findings at a Nebraska City conference in August.

NWU Researchers Seize Olympic-sized Opportunities

Still breathless from her qualifying heat in the 400 meter hurdles in Rio, 17-year-old Sydney McLaughlin—America's youngest track & field Olympian since 1972—was asked what her first Olympic race had taught her.

"These people aren't here to play," she said. "Everyone's trying to earn their spot, and I think if I want to earn mine, I'll have to work a little bit harder."

That sentiment is not lost on STEM students at Nebraska Wesleyan University. Driven undergraduates at NWU tackle serious research opportunities on big stages early in their science careers.

Nebraska's IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) offers one such platform. It's a stage where Nebraska Wesleyan's researchers have regularly shined.

When NWU students enter the INBRE program, the personal attention, instruction and coaching they receive from Nebraska Wesleyan faculty are matched with mentoring from proven scientists at other institutions.

NWU's three newest INBRE scholars gave outstanding oral presentations at INBRE meetings in Nebraska City, Neb., in August.

Jacey Hain ('18) researched with Prof. Deb Brown at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Driven undergraduates at NWU tackle serious research on big stages.

and presented findings on combination pattern recognition receptor agonists and their impact on dendritic cell cytokine production.

Dalton Hegeholz ('18) worked alongside Prof. Hernan Garcia-Ruiz, also at UNL, and spoke on antiviral activity of plant defensins.

And **Eliza Fallick** ('18) worked with Prof. Nicole Rodriguez of the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Fallick presented on early intervention strategies for children with autism spectrum disorder.

They're sharing important research with scientists in a number of biomedical fields. The message they send to incoming STEM students at Nebraska Wesleyan may be just as important. These students aren't here to play. Our students can run with scientists at this level, so long as they're ready to work hard and make the most of the amazing learning opportunities to come.

NW you

Be an entrepreneur
with the right connections.

Learn more about our MBA Programs in
Lincoln and Omaha at nebrwesleyan.edu/mba.



NEBRASKA
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Trustworthy Intelligence

NWU's new MBA director turns military intelligence into teaching savvy.

—By Mike Malloy



The new director of Nebraska Wesleyan University's MBA program is vague about her work history. That vagueness would typically raise red flags. But **Tami Thompson** isn't your typical business professor.

Thompson is happy to speak in broad strokes about her career. Press her for details on some aspects, however, and you meet quiet reluctance, then modesty, then outright refusals.

It's classified, she said.

Col. Thompson's resume is filled with intelligence analysis work with the U.S. Air Force. In the late 1980s, she served as chief of the 475th Weapons Evaluation Group's Intelligence Applications Division. She joined the Nebraska Air National Guard as a traditional intelligence officer for the 173rd Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron in 1990. Then came full-time intelligence work with the 155th Operations Support Flight. Several

promotions and deployments later, Thompson took command of the 155th Medical Group in 2011 and recently retired as commander of the 155th Mission Support Group.

Her work spans multiple combat and contingency operations in Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan and the U.S. She received nearly two dozen major awards and decorations for her service.

That service often involved interpreting information gathered from sources in war zones. Thompson's teams made determinations about the credibility of different threats.

You can get information from all sorts of people, but can you trust it?

Thompson believes that threat intelligence can be the biggest safety feature on any combat flight mission.



She described that work with a broad brush. Say Source A claims there's a weapons cache at Location B that the Taliban is using to control Town C. Is the cache a threat? Are there bigger concerns elsewhere? What are the risks of action? What are the risks of inaction? These are delicate questions.

"You can get information from all sorts of people," Thompson said, "but can you trust it?"

Question of trust

Gaining trust for her own work could be an equally delicate operation. Thompson passed many tests for trustworthiness without knowing she was taking them. A big one came early in her 28-year Air Force career when she was asked to brief a squadron at the outbreak of the Persian Gulf War.

"They tried to talk me out of it, and I didn't understand what the big deal was," Thompson said.

She stood unflinchingly in front of the group, detailing what types of anti-aircraft missiles and enemy planes troops would encounter. Years later, a sheepish general confided that he'd been wrong to doubt her.

"They didn't know if it was wise to have a female brief the aircrew members," Thompson said. "But I'm very persistent. Whenever I have to take something on, I don't get too worried about whether I can do it."

And Thompson kept pushing, serving as an intelligence analyst during the civil war in Bosnia in the 1990s. The mission, based in Germany, taught her to shift on the fly.

"I had 36 hours to get on a plane with all my equipment and bags," Thompson said. "I basically

packed, kissed my daughter goodnight and I was off."

Thompson said her most difficult—and rewarding—deployment sent her to Morón Air Force Base in Spain in the lead-up to the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan following 9/11.

"I headed out the door having no idea when I'd return," she said. "Everybody became a quick-to-deploy force. Ever since then, we've been in a mode of being deployed. You never know when you'll have to go."

Morón was a critical stopping point for aircraft moving between the U.S. and Afghanistan. It was there she learned about Afghani culture, particularly how citizens there might



Determining the trustworthiness of intelligence became the biggest way Thompson could demonstrate her own trustworthiness as a leader.

react to a U.S. presence. She also evaluated Afghanistan's military capabilities.

"We have to know weapons systems. A big part of our job is briefing the aircrew about what the threats are," Thompson said. Good information here saves U.S. lives, allowing aircrews to fly around or above the reach of the enemy's known weapons systems. While much attention is paid to the impressive capabilities of U.S. aircraft, the most integral feature determining a flight mission's success or failure continues to be the knowledge of the person controlling the aircraft. Thompson's work was largely about equipping that person with the best possible information.

Commander/mayor/professor

As a colonel, Thompson's responsibilities extended beyond intelligence analysis. "I compare commanding a mission support group to being the mayor of a city," Thompson said. "We're there to help keep the facilities running; renovations, maintaining roads, that sort of thing."

I headed out the door having no idea when I'd return.

We also have a fire department, a security forces squadron, a force-support squadron. And then I have a logistics readiness squadron, and they maintain our vehicles, replenish supplies and fuel the aircraft. The last one is communications, and they handle IT for the entire base.”

Retiring as commander was difficult for Thompson, but she wanted to pursue teaching full time. Her first taste of teaching came at the University of West Bohemia in the Czech Republic. She taught an intelligence course, as well as English, to Czech soldiers.

Her first lessons, though, were outside the classroom. Ron Polvika, a non-commissioned officer who worked under Thompson much of his career, was stationed in the Czech Republic with Thompson in the early 1990s. At the time, women didn’t hold command positions in the Czech military. Rather than confront gender biases head on, Thompson asked Polvika to deliver the first briefings.

“Whenever I would talk, I would refer to the experience Col. Thompson had in that area,” Polvika said. After a few days of hearing about this expert, the Czech soldiers began seeking out this Thompson directly. She wasn’t what they expected. Polvika said, “They opened their eyes like, ‘Oh my God, a woman officer is more experienced than our male officers.’”

She didn’t want to be glib or punitive about their assumptions. She just wanted to get to work. And in



Thompson’s Air Force Commendation Medal honors distinctive meritorious achievement, acts of courage and sustained meritorious performance of duty.

that approach, Polvika saw Thompson’s best command attributes. “She has trust in her people,” Polvika said. “Very much a common-sense approach. She lets people do their jobs whether you’re an officer or you’re enlisted.”

Thompson brought back the love of teaching she discovered at West Bohemia. In 2003, she saw an ad in a local newspaper for an adjunct instructor with Nebraska Wesleyan University, and has been teaching NWU business courses ever since.

I compare commanding a mission support group to being the mayor of a city.

Serving country, serving students

Thompson grew up in Kingsley, Iowa. Her father, Russell Walters, was a World War II Army veteran, while her older brother, Doug Walters, was in the Air Force. But it wasn’t just family tradition that led her to the military.

“I grew up fairly poor, but the ROTC scholarship was what allowed me to go to school,” she said. Knowing where she came from—and appreciating the value of an opportunity—shaped how she viewed everyone in the Air Force. And it continues to shape how she sees her MBA students today.

She learned to identify who needed a kind word, or a stern one. “She remembered every student,” said Van Truong (MBA ’16).

Truong took two classes from Thompson: “Organizational Behavior” and “Business Strategies”. Truong found them rewarding, though far from easy.

“We had a lot of homework,” Truong said laughing.

Truong valued Thompson’s professionalism and said students got to know each other through numerous group projects. Thompson was always quick to respond to email,



Thompson’s tenacity in a majority-male Air Force is reflected in her Air Force Longevity Service Award with four devices.

even after a class ended, and served as a professional reference for Truong.

“Every student is connected to her,” **Sharon Fenn** (MBA ’16) said. “She says in class, ‘Feel free to contact me,’ and she sincerely means it.” She pointed to Thompson’s prompt email replies to questions sent both early and late. Call it accountable leadership.

Provost **Judy Muyskens** said, “Tami’s experience in developing curriculum, cultivating relationships and leading teams will be instrumental in our MBA program’s continued success.”

Fenn sees that same success as tied to Thompson’s ability to blend current events with academic sources. “Every class I took from her will be the highlight of my time at Nebraska Wesleyan,” she said.

“It’s not just memorization for a test,” Fenn said. “She can exact out of you the work that’s needed without coming across like a drill sergeant.” (Thompson, of course, out-ranked drill sergeants.) “Her leadership style is something that everyone would want to emulate. She has the gravitas that you know she knows what she’s doing.”

Call it trustworthy intelligence. **n**

There for veterans

Col. Thompson joins a legacy of veterans that Nebraska Wesleyan has employed, taught, supported and honored since its inception. The Nebraska Methodists who founded both NWU and First United Methodist Church included Women’s Relief Corps members—daughters, sisters and wives of Union soldiers during the Civil War.

That legacy includes **John Rosentrater**, the quiet philosophy professor whose service in World War I earned him a Purple Heart, three Bronze Stars and a Medal of Honor nomination. And it includes roughly two dozen current NWU students—veterans who’ve served in war and peace.

To better serve them, Nebraska Wesleyan recently contracted with the Department of Veterans Affairs. This partnership provides an on-campus VA resource to students who are veterans.

Barb Shupe of the VA has on-campus office hours to help veterans get the help they may need, like navigating GI Bill benefits, obtaining assistive technology like screen-reader software, and accessing treatment for mental health concerns like PTSD. This is the first time NWU has contracted with the VA to provide added support for veterans.

“Barb’s presence on campus is a great asset to our veteran students. It gives them access to all the services available to them through the VA,” said Dean of Students **Peter Armstrong**. “At the same time, Barb makes certain that our veteran students are aware of the services that NWU provides all our students.”

Shupe also organizes training for NWU faculty and staff on how best to serve student veterans. “I’m hopeful that assistance and outreach from services the VA provides will keep us well informed, and help us to better meet the needs of our students,” said **Candice Howell**, assistant dean of students.



Barb Shupe serves veterans as a bridge between the VA and the university, making sure veteran students have the support they need to navigate both systems.

*Barb’s presence
on campus is a
great asset to our
veteran students.*



A Robe by Another Name

When 1970s classmates refused to dress up, they got dressed down.

Nebraska Wesleyan held its 129th matriculation convocation August 17, greeting 485 new and transfer students on the outset of their experiences.

Much about this ceremony remains unchanged. Professors still dress in full regalia. And nervous new students still wonder what they've gotten themselves into.

The ceremony rarely falls off script. But, in 1970, a group of students chose to welcome their new classmates in garb that spoofed their professors' robed regalia. They marched in wearing only their bathrobes.

Some NWU administrators were not amused. But Professor of English Mary Daehler Smith loved their humor. She wrote this essay—defending both the regalia and her students—for the September 18, 1970, edition of the student newspaper. (Smith leaps between biblical, Greek and Shakespearean references. We offer a few footnotes to help us leap with her.)

In spite of the ritual groans with which I greet the semi-annual occasions which make its wearing mandatory, I like putting on my academic robe. I adore dressing up, whatever the event, and I enjoy fastening the black ribbons which are all that remain of the medieval cincture, adjusting the hood, and putting the mortar-board at a jaunty angle.

I like being a part of the slovenly dignity which characterizes academic processions. Like the war-horse in Job¹, I snort among the trumpets ha ha when I hear the strains of the Academic Festival Overture.

More than anything else, I like the feeling of being an equal among colleagues whose robes indicate great achievement and distinction. The academic gown is really a splendid costume—but it is also undeniably ridiculous: impractical, unbecoming, medieval.

And so I am grateful to the delightfully imaginative students who, last Friday morning, reinforced my pride in the gown by gently emphasizing its ridiculousness. I am glad to be reminded, by forceful symbolic

language, that a robe is only a robe unless it is worn with dignity of mind and humility of spirit.

I am grateful for the reminder of the responsibility laid upon us of demonstrating again and again that we hold with Socrates² that the unexamined life is not worth living, and that our academic lives include the rigid periodic examination of ourselves,

our classrooms, our curricula: that we must, if change is right and necessary, wear our academic rue with a difference³.

I am glad and proud that our students have faith enough in us to remind us that the academic gown was never intended to be a mere cover for nakedness, but rather an outward and visible sign of an inward and intellectual grace. ■

The academic gown is really a splendid costume—but it is also undeniably ridiculous.

Notes:

1. Job 39:19-25 "Have you given the horse strength? Have you clothed his neck with thunder? ... Fiercely he paws the ground and rushes forward into battle when the trumpet blows. At the sound of the bugle he shouts, 'Ha ha!'"

2. At his trial for impiety and the corruption of youth, Socrates was given the choice between exile from teaching and death. Saying, "The unexamined life is not worth living," he chose death.

3. In Hamlet (4:5), a mad Ophelia distributes flowers as wearable symbols (or outward and visible signs) to those near her. "There's fennel for you, and columbines. There's rue for you, and here's some for me; we may call it herb of grace o' Sundays. You must wear your rue with a difference."

What are your memories of the 1970 "bathrobe matriculation"?

Join the Nebraska Wesleyan Alumni Facebook group and share your memories.



Kenyan Carver, American Trailblazer

Meet the industrious immigrant who is NWU's first MSN/MBA grad.

—By Quinn Hullett ('18)

When the usual way of doing things seems like the only way, you know you've carved yourself a rut. In Kisii, Kenya, **Alfred Ongesa** ('13, MSN/MBA '16) was familiar with both carving and with ruts. He lived in the city (roughly the same size as Lincoln) and was set to be a soapstone carver there—a sculptor like many of his relatives.

But the work felt more like a rut than an art. And he set off for the U.S. to carve himself a different niche.

In Omaha, he found a way to pay his bills working as a certified nursing assistant (CNA) in a long-term elderly care facility. He saw nursing as a job, not a career. That changed when he found himself swept up in the life stories of his patients. He discovered also the sacrifices and successes of nursing legends like Florence Nightingale. (By advocating for improvements in hygiene, Nightingale is credited for reducing the death rate

at one hospital during the Crimean War from 42 percent to 2 percent.)

The stories of patients and caregivers alike captured his interest and sparked his passion for helping others. "I felt like I had a purpose to help the vulnerable," he said.

Back in Kisii, Ongesa's family was surprised by his choice, but supportive. Except for maybe his soapstone artist father. His son had left his family's traditional trade. He'd left his country. And for what? To pursue a job normally thought of as "women's work"? How many norms can one man break?

But as Ongesa delved further into nursing, his father began to accept his son's profession and respect its value. His son was a healer. A hard worker.

Wanting the best possible training, Ongesa joined Nebraska Wesleyan's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. And this unusual nursing student hit a wall that's very much in the norm for American nurses. He struggled to complete his rigorous coursework, study for the RN board entrance exam and avoid neglecting his loved ones.

"Everything was confusing and I felt like

I was biting off more than I could chew," he said.

"I convinced myself that I was doing this for my family. I was willing to sacrifice," he said. "Every time I felt like giving up, I thought of them and got through it. The only thing left was to move forward."

Ongesa passed his nursing board exams and graduated with his BSN in 2013. Much of NWU's curriculum called for hands-on learning and reflective thinking, which pushed Ongesa to learn about the health

care needs of communities outside the boundaries of a hospital's walls. This focus on the needs of entire communities broadened Ongesa's mindset and helped him understand his patients' perspectives in a new way.

With his BSN in hand, Ongesa was eager to

begin work on his Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)—also at NWU. It was during this period that another new opportunity presented itself. Nebraska Wesleyan University introduced the region's only MSN/MBA joint degree—a direct response to the nursing industry's increasing business responsibilities.

*The more I worked
as a nurse, the more
I realized you can
make an impact.*



Photos by Dan Luedert



NEBRASKA
WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY


The joint degree program allows nurses to pursue advanced knowledge in nursing as they also build skills in marketing, finance, management, communication and leadership. The end results are resourceful nursing professionals equipped to deliver excellent care as they lead teams—or entire allied health businesses—with skill, vision and competence. Ongesa signed up immediately.

“The more I worked as a nurse,” he said, “the more I realized you can make an impact. Nurses play a critical role in policy, budgeting and strategic planning that affects every aspect of health care delivery. So when I had the opportunity for an MBA, I decided that was the best way forward for me.”

He will forever be the first person to chart that way forward at Nebraska Wesleyan. Last May, Ongesa was the first—and only—person to receive Nebraska Wesleyan’s joint MSN/MBA. (Others will soon follow.)

As he walked across the stage, his proud family—father included—watched on.

“The presence of my family from Kenya during my graduation ceremony was the most overwhelming feeling,” said Ongesa.

“I chose a career in nursing,” he said. And his father chose to be proud. “My dad being there to witness my success—that definitely was a good feeling.” 

NWU Theatre presents

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW

**For mature audiences
(with immature tendencies)**

Enter the castle of Dr. Frank ‘N’ Furter for this musical homage to 1950s B sci-fi, horror and rock.

McDonald Theatre

October 27–29, 31, November 3–5 at 7:30 p.m.
October 30, November 6 at 2 p.m.

Ticket information at
theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu

Student Pride

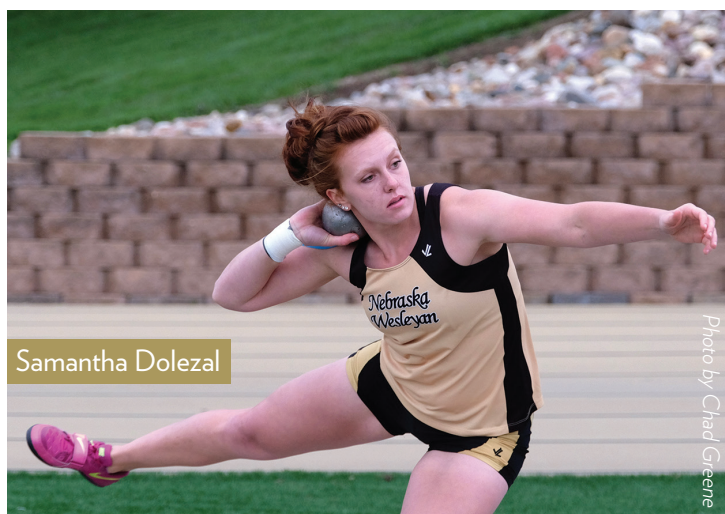
Prestige scholars and awards



Trey Bardsley



Garrett Sellhorst



Samantha Dolezal

NWU Student-athletes Earn NCAA Academic Accolades

Nebraska Wesleyan University's productivity with NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship winners continued in the spring with three more selections in Trey Bardsley ('16), Samantha Dolezal ('16) and Garrett Sellhorst ('16).

Bardsley put together one of the top senior seasons in NWU basketball history this year. The first-team NAIA II All-American won the Jostens Trophy as the top NCAA III men's basketball player. He leaves NWU ranked third in career points and is also a CoSIDA Academic All-American. Bardsley is the first student to win the Roy G. Story Award for enhancing the national stature of Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Dolezal is a two-time NCAA III national runner-up in the shotput and a 13-time all-conference thrower. She graduated with a degree in health and fitness studies and sport management.

Sellhorst is a three-time NCAA championship qualifier in the triple jump. He earned All-America honors at the 2016 indoor championships where he placed fifth. He holds the sixth-longest triple jump in NWU history. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in May.

Nebraska Wesleyan now ranks fifth in all divisions and second in NCAA III with 54 NCAA Postgraduate Scholars.

NWU is also a top national producer of Academic All-Americans, ranking eighth in all divisions for total awards. NWU tallied four more this spring, with Dolezal and Sellhorst joining track & field standouts Abbie Hunke ('17) and Katie Krick ('17). Hunke and Krick are teammates on NWU's national champion 4x400 relay.

Sophomore and First-year Earn Summer Fulbright Placements

Two NWU underclassmen secured spots in one of the most selective international undergraduate summer programs: the Fulbright U.K. Summer Institute.

Anna Donley ('18) attended a four-week program at Queen's University Belfast in Ireland, where she studied Irish history, culture, identity and heritage with a focus on conflict resolution.

Mariah Fallick ('19) is pursuing a biology major and an English minor. She entered the Fulbright Wales Summer Institute, where she explored the country's geography, culture, heritage and history.

The U.S.-U.K. Fulbright Commission offers nine institutes each year with just three to 10 slots per program. The competition for these slots is fierce. And Nebraska Wesleyan students have consistently secured select placements.

Double Majors Double Down as Gilman Scholars

The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship is a nationally competitive program that assists top students with expenses in international study. Nearly 3,000 students applied for 850 awards. Nebraska Wesleyan is the only school in Nebraska to receive multiple awards this year. Since 2001, 41 NWU students have earned Gilman awards.

NWU's latest recipients are Carlin Daharsh ('18) and Anna Donley ('18).

Daharsh, a Spanish and political science major (and frequent *Archways* contributor), is spending the fall semester at Universidad Casa Grande-Guayaquil in Ecuador.

And Donley is a Spanish and psychology major and gender studies minor spending the academic year at Universidad Popular Autonoma del Estado de Puebla in Mexico.



Anna Donley



Mariah Fallick



Carlin Daharsh

Photos by Zach Turtle ('17)

Swimming

Nebraska Wesleyan University's men's and women's swimming programs were selected by the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America's Scholar All-America Honor Roll in July.

This designation honors swimming programs with a team-wide spring grade point average of 3.0 or higher. The men tallied a 3.35 GPA while the women posted a 3.56 GPA. Both squads are coached by **Greg Fleming**.



Photo by Chad Greene



Photo by Lane Hickenbottom



Photo by Chad Greene

Tennis

The men's and women's tennis teams were each named to the All-Academic Team by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association. Both teams qualified by attaining a cumulative team GPA of 3.20 or above. Members of the women's team who were named individual scholar athletes include Natalie Cech, Torey Kogel, Bridget McKeegan, Alexandra Rieke, Katherine Ternent and Victoria Van De Veer. On the men's team, individual honors went to Matheus Bustamante, Christian Cannon and Nathan Seaton.

Women's basketball

The women's basketball team was named to the Top 25 Team Honor Roll in NCAA Division III by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association. Our women's team placed 12th with a team cumulative GPA of 3.55.



Photo by Chris Smithberg

Men's basketball

The men's basketball team received a Team Academic Excellence Award in NCAA Division III by the National Association of Basketball Coaches. The team was recognized for a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above.



Photo by Chris Smithberg

Volleyball

The volleyball team received an AVCA Team Academic Award – NCAA Division III by the American Volleyball Coaches Association. They were recognized for achieving a cumulative team GPA of 3.30 or above.



Photo by Chris Smithberg

Track & field

The men's and women's track & field teams were each named an All-Academic Team by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Association. The men's team was honored for achieving a cumulative GPA of 3.17 and the women's team was honored for achieving a cumulative team GPA of 3.59.



Photo by Lane Hickenbottom





It's on.

NWU has joined the Iowa
Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Follow the action at NWUsports.com





2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT OF GIVING **REDEFINING LEGACY**

Explore the relationships that create a stronger NWU.

Fiscal year: June 1, 2015, to May 31, 2016

More Than a Cliché

I'll be the first to admit it. "Leaving a legacy" is an overused phrase. But let's put aside the cliché for a moment and think about what lies at the heart of this idea. You might think that a legacy is something that only exists in the future, but I believe a legacy begins the day we're born.



It's the culmination of a lifetime of experiences that shape who we are. It's born out of the education we receive, the beliefs we explore and the perspective that comes with age.

But, most importantly, I think legacies represent the connections we make with people along the way.

When I ask our donors what inspires them to give to Nebraska Wesleyan, most talk about the relationships they built here—those personal connections that have stayed with them.

Think about the relationships you built at NWU. Did they change you? Did they alter your path? Do they inspire you to give back?

The stories on these pages are not about individuals alone. There's no story about one professor, one donor, or one student acting independently. These stories are about the relationships between professors and students, students and donors, and family members from different generations sharing common experiences.

That's what legacies are. They're those sparks that connect us to one another and to future generations, made when we connect our shared past to our shared future. Legacies—your legacies—make NWU what it is today.

Thank you for breathing new life into an old idea. You make leaving a legacy more than just a cliché.

Yours truly,

John B. Greving

Vice president for advancement

The People behind the Numbers

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

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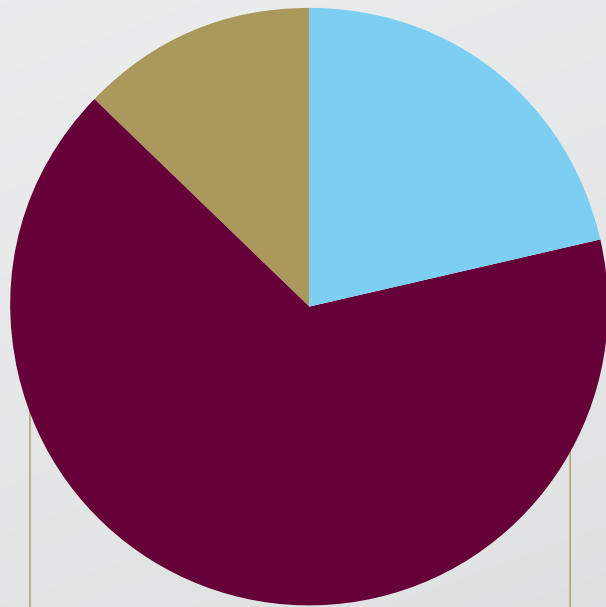
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nebrwesleyan.edu/donate



Dollars Raised in 2015-2016 by Gift Type

Restricted gifts and endowment.....	\$4,712,966
Archway Fund	\$1,549,742
Realized estates and planned gifts.....	\$916,256

TOTAL \$7,178,964



Groups that GAVE

Alumni	49%
Parents	19%
Corporations, foundations and organizations	19%
Friends	13%

Completing the PICTURE

Nebraska Wesleyan is built on three areas of giving. All three are necessary for a strong university. And many NWU donors support more than one area.



ARCHWAY FUND

MAJOR GIFTS

ENDOWMENT

- > Annual support for today
- > Meet immediate needs
- > Transformative impact for tomorrow
- > Take bold steps
- > A solid foundation for the future
- > Provide lasting security

Covering the GAMUT

The Archway Fund supports the breadth of the Nebraska Wesleyan University experience.



Looking for your name?

All those who made gifts in the **2015-2016 fiscal year (June 1, 2015, to May 31, 2016)** will receive Nebraska Wesleyan's exclusive Donor Honor Roll in the mail in the coming weeks.

Nebraska Wesleyan University's 2015-2016 audited financial overview will appear in the winter issue of *Archways*.

It's Like You're on a Ladder

Prof. Dappen on 47 years of helping NWU students climb.

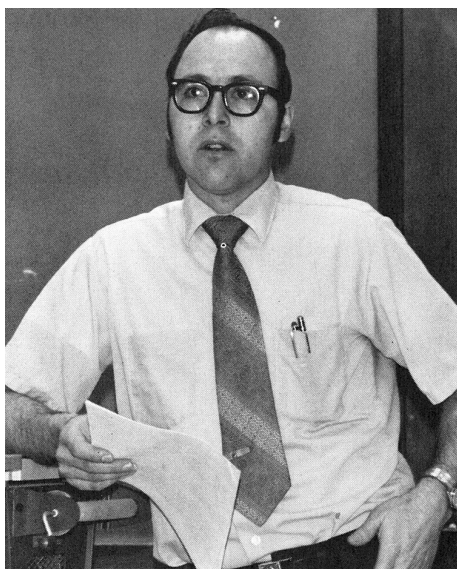
—By Amanda Broulik

Professor Emeritus of Biology **Glen Dappen** remembers the day he learned an anonymous donor had established an endowed scholarship in his name. “I was dumbfounded and speechless,” he said.

“I realized in that moment that my life as a teacher had reached students in a meaningful way, and now they’ve gone on to do bigger things.” He described his 47 years at NWU this way. “It’s like you’re on a ladder. You’ve got your hand out and you’re pulling students up, but if you also push them, then they can climb even higher.”

His alumni have appreciated the boost. “Dr. Dappen was one of the kindest and most enthusiastic professors I can remember,” his fund’s anonymous donor said. “It was obvious from the energy he brings to the Biology Department that he loves his work and he loves mentoring his students. We all owe our success to not only our own hard work, but also to the dedicated mentors who have helped us along the way.”

The scholarship may wear Dappen’s name, but a flattered Dappen said its true purpose is all about NWU students. “I realize, as that anonymous donor must have, that scholarships like this give deserving students the opportunity to fulfill their dreams and goals. And that’s one of the things I always tell my students—never give up on your dreams.”



*We all owe our success
to not only our own
hard work, but also to
the dedicated mentors
who have helped us
along the way.*

Dappen rummages through his bookshelf and drops a hefty volume onto his desk with a satisfied smile. It’s the Mayo Clinic cardiology textbook.

“Wait till you hear this—it’s just amazing,” he proclaims. “I saw a student of mine recently and she said, ‘Glen, I have a present for you.’ She handed me this, and, can you believe it, she’s the coeditor! Well, that just about knocked my socks off.”

The alumna is Dr. **Margaret “Peg” Lloyd** (’84), a cardiologist at the Mayo Clinic who has been practicing for more than 20 years. Her Nebraska Wesleyan experience included the chance to travel to Cambridge University with Dappen to study parasitology.

“We were just Nebraska kids, and there we were, at Cambridge working with the top parasitologists in the world. Today it’s pretty common for students to have those kinds of international opportunities, but back then it wasn’t. It was Dappen who made that happen,” she said.

“He is unabashedly in love with what he teaches,” she said. “Even if you don’t like bugs and worms, you will. People with no interest in parasitology would take it just to take a class with him.”

Lloyd recently joined NWU’s Doctors for Science, a group of doctors and scientists helping NWU fund its new science center. The group, which includes Dappen, has given nearly \$1.5 million for the project.

“What makes NWU special,” Lloyd said, “are those student-faculty relationships. But, in science, you also need facilities; you need equipment for those hands-on experiences. It’s about how you can translate scientific facts into scientific work.”

She continued, “Olin Hall was cutting-edge when I was there; that’s one of the things that drew me to NWU. But it is 40 years later and we need a new building. I’m supporting this initiative because I hope the students who get to study in that new building will have the same fantastic experiences I did.”



*He taught me to be excited
about learning and to take
advantage of all the information
we had access to.*

Dr. Richard Jirovec ('81) returned to campus last spring for his nephew's graduation. He couldn't believe how many things had changed and improved since he was a student. But the fundamental elements of the education he received were still very much present, including Dappen himself. Like Jirovec, his nephew also studied under Dappen and served as his research assistant.

So the professor has touched two generations of the Jirovec family. Meanwhile, Dr. Jirovec's patients include Dappen's daughter. So the student has likewise impacted another generation of Dappens.

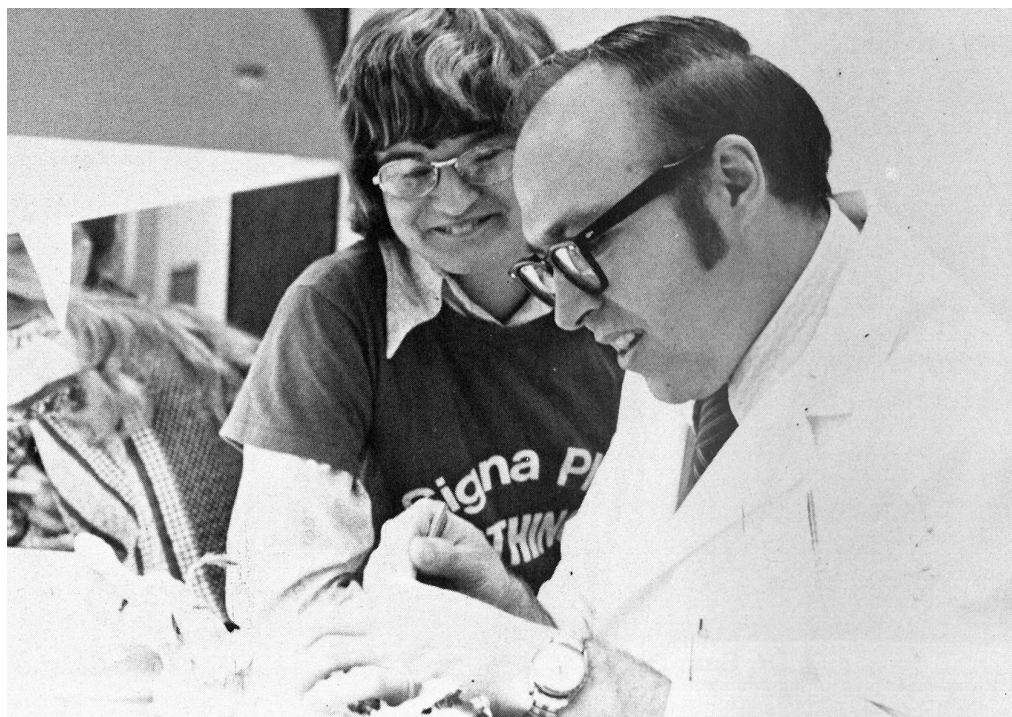
Jirovec remembers Dappen's welcoming smile and his penchant for brief doughnut breaks. But his fondest memories are of his teaching and encouragement.

"He was always open for discussion or questions, and he treated all students with respect and an open heart," Jirovec said. "I sincerely believe the opportunities I've had since graduation would not have been possible without this education and personal support."

Jirovec and his wife, **Carmen** ('83), have supported Nebraska Wesleyan's Archway Fund every year since graduation. They've recently designated their gifts to the Biology Department. "I have always felt that I have a debt to pay for those who have given their time and energies above and beyond their work description," he said.



As a first-year student, **Jackson Kube** ('16) found himself bemoaning a rigorous course load. His



attitude changed during his spring-semester zoology class with Prof. Dappen.

"He seemed so passionate about what he did, and I could see what a valuable asset he truly was to me. He taught me that learning isn't a burden; going to classes shouldn't be a drag. Instead, he taught me to be excited about learning and to take advantage of all the information we had access to. I carried this throughout the rest of my time at Nebraska Wesleyan, and it has allowed me to grow as a student and a person."

Kube conducted his senior research project on nematodes with Dappen as his advisor. He won the Carl and Shirley Joliff Memorial Biology Research Award for his work.

But it was the process that Kube most cherishes. He won't forget the Dappen doughnut breaks where "we'd talk about life and enjoy each other's company." He said, "Only looking back do you see how important little things like this can be. I'm going to miss the conversations we had more than I ever thought, and I am indebted for these moments with Dr. Dappen."


Today, Kube is an optometry student at the University of Houston. But before he graduated from NWU, he was one of 226 seniors to contribute to their senior class gift, raising more than \$3,200 for the Archway Fund. "Giving back to NWU is a way for me to show my thanks. I couldn't imagine Nebraska Wesleyan without the outstanding professors, the activities, and all the resources available to students." 



Photo by Chad Greene

Now I realize I have someone supporting me through this process. Someone who cares about me succeeding.

To learn more about the Access NWU Scholarship program, contact Erika Paschold at 402.465.7574 or epaschol@nebrwesleyan.edu.

Push out the Walls. Take off the Blinders.

A student meets the person behind her aid.

—By Amanda Broulik

On a chilly afternoon last February, two strangers sat down to lunch at Nebraska Wesleyan. They were women from different generations—opposites in many ways.

One was **Mary Sue Harris**, piano teacher, philanthropist and wife of the late state senator and Lincoln mayor, Bill Harris. The other was **Grace Brunick-Clark** ('19) from Blair, Neb., one of the first class of Access NWU Scholarship recipients.

The two were meeting because Harris funded Brunick-Clark's Access Scholarship.

Brunick-Clark was nervous. What if Harris wasn't impressed? What if she thought with regret, "This is the person I'm helping?"

"I was afraid she wouldn't like me," she admitted. But Harris, with her ebullient, nurturing personality and her penchant for calling everyone "darling," put her at ease. "We talked about music and her experiences, my plans for the future and life in general," Brunick-Clark said. "When I first got this scholarship, I didn't realize there was an actual person funding it. Now, I realize I have someone supporting me through this process. Someone who cares about me succeeding."

Harris also left their lunch feeling better. "The whole experience has enriched me," she said. "I got to talk with Grace, walk around the campus, see the students coming and going. It made me feel like I was part of it all. I knew that what I was doing was impacting Grace,


and I so look forward to watching her grow."

The meeting led Harris to recall her own liberal arts experience. "I remember distinctly the first time I realized that what I was studying in history was also what I was studying in English and in music. I got a whole, all-embracing picture of the world. A liberal arts education allows you to push out the walls and take off the blinders."

She's heartened to see Brunick-Clark push and explore in similar ways. Brunick-Clark is a biology major who also plays flute in the symphonic band and sings in the choir. And she has a clear vision of her future.

"I'm going to continue to work toward my biology degree, secure an internship at the Henry Doorly Zoo, and study abroad next spring," she said with a flash of confidence. "I have a whole plan. I want to go to grad school in Florida and go into a career in ocean conservation."

Before that lunch, the two were strangers. Today, when Harris talks about Brunick-Clark, she sounds like a proud parent. And if Brunick-Clark hits any bumps in the road at NWU, she knows she has a supporter and confidante close by.

For Harris, the decision to support an Access NWU Scholarship was obvious. "Sharing is easy; making sure it's focused correctly is the challenging part. But, with the Access NWU program and the opportunity to support Grace, I know it's focused perfectly." 

Taking New Paths

Inspired by her own experiences, an alumna helps fund Washington internships.

—By Amanda Broulik

Raeanne Rider ('16) was born exactly 129 years after President Lincoln uttered perhaps the grandest sentence in U.S. history:

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and orphan, to do all which may achieve a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

The fact that Rider knows Lincoln's second inaugural address so well tells you something about her. It's also telling that on her 21st birthday, Rider eschewed the typical bar crawl to stand just yards from where Lincoln spoke, and attend a discussion of the address. "It was a good birthday," she said.

Rider was in D.C. as part of the Capitol Hill Internship Program (CHIP). She interned with the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress—an experience that led her to pursue a graduate degree in library science.

Four years ago, **Marian (Heiss) Price** ('59) established an endowed fund to support CHIP. "I was at a time in my life when I wanted to take a new path and think about the future," Price said. "When I heard about CHIP, I didn't hesitate; I knew I needed to be a part of it."

Price studied pre-nursing at Nebraska Wesleyan and went on to graduate from Bryan Memorial Hospital School of Nursing. Her political life began in 1973 when she worked for Jim Exon's gubernatorial reelection campaign. Later, she was asked by Bob Kerrey to be his campaign treasurer when he ran for governor in 1982.

"I had never balanced a checkbook in my life!" she said about her role as treasurer. But her liberal arts education and some self-assurance came to her rescue, setting the foundation for a long political career. She was elected to the Lincoln Board of Education in 1985, then transitioned into the Nebraska Legislature in 1999, representing the 26th legislative district for

two terms.


"Every time I come back from D.C., I feel so inspired and proud to be an American," she said. "I want these students to feel that way, too. We need bright, young people dedicated to service, and they're building them at Nebraska Wesleyan."

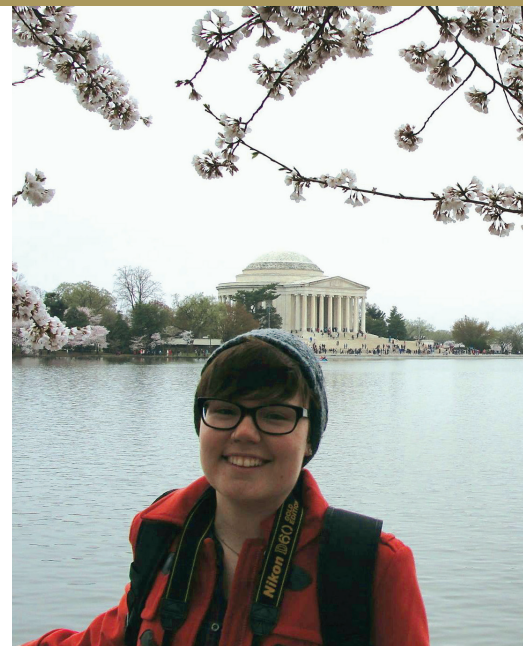
Rider has also fallen in love with D.C.'s political pulse. CHIP gave her the chance to work on "Voices of Civil Rights," a venture within the Civil Rights History Project Act of 2009, which charged the Library of Congress with unearthing and preserving memories of the civil rights movement. The project traveled the country collecting video and audio recordings, photos and written materials that represent the personal experiences of those in the civil rights movement.

"My job was to create logs of these memories, which will eventually go online," Rider explained. "Listening to more than 400 interviews, I discovered so many things about the civil rights movement I didn't know. I got to explore history on a completely different level."

Their stories underscored the importance of giving back. "I wouldn't have been able to go to D.C.—or stay in school for that matter—without help. I donated to my senior class gift, along with many of my classmates, because I want to give back. If I can provide others with even a fraction of my experience, it's worth it."

Price has met with CHIP students after they've returned. "For these students it's more than just a trip. They're so full of knowledge and enthusiasm, and for them to share this with me is extraordinary."

Rider said, "Living in D.C. woke up the activist inside me. I felt so invigorated to stand up for issues near to my heart. I had no idea I would gain so much coming into this program. I've found a path that will make me happy and successful, and I'll walk it with a better grasp of the world around me." 



We need bright, young people dedicated to service, and they are building them at Nebraska Wesleyan.

To learn more about CHIP and how you can help support it, contact Brenda McCrady at 402.465.2129 or bmccrady@nebrwesleyan.edu.

The Verses Repeat

Stories of music, science and love resonate across a family full of alumni.

—By Amanda Broulik

Kevin Wycoff (’71) sits in his living room, trying to remember the words. “All hail Nebraska Wesleyan, thy light shines far and wide...” Then he’s stuck—the next line of NWU’s hymn faded somewhat by the 45 years between him and his last University Choir performance.

His wife, Paige (Woodworth) Wycoff (’71), chimes in from the kitchen, her soprano voice resonating through their Hastings, Neb., home. “A beacon high of faith and love be ever more our guide.”

The pause that follows is soon broken by laughter and stories. With Kevin and Paige are Delane (’67) and Dorothy (Minor) (’68) Wycoff and Georgene (Crandall) Smidt (’63). Together, they represent one of five Wycoff generations of Nebraska Wesleyan University alumni and supporters. Many of them received science degrees and launched medical careers. Still, music has remained a strong thread woven into their family’s history.

Their grandfather, Ray Wycoff, played cello and started a church orchestra in the 1920s. Their love of music stayed with them throughout their lives.

Four generations of NWU graduates followed suit. While they were busy studying everything from physics to physiology, the Wycoff family was always also involved in music in one way or another—like a favorite verse, repeating over generations.

Ray received his medical degree from the University of Iowa. In the early 1920s, he and Ima became medical missionaries and moved their young family to Puerto Rico to serve at Ryder Memorial Hospital. Ray saw patients and Ima trained local girls to be practical nurses. Three years later, they moved to Lexington, Neb., where Ray would practice medicine for nearly 50 years.

Ray and Ima connected with Nebraska Wesleyan through their church. In 1955, they created the Dr. and Mrs. Ray S. Wycoff Endowed Scholarship at Nebraska Wesleyan. They couldn’t have known the scholarship

would become a legacy their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren would proudly maintain.

Ray and Ima’s children, Ruby (’41) and Keith (’42) Wycoff, were the first of the family to attend NWU. Keith would eventually serve on NWU’s Board of Governors and was awarded the 1994 Alumni Medal of Honor for lifetime achievement and service.

He used to tell his kids tales from when he was the night watchman on campus. One of his morning duties was to chime Old Main’s bell at a certain hour. On one occasion, that bell wouldn’t chime; someone had stolen the clapper. Days of investigation followed. Then, one morning at daily chapel, the clapper reappeared, strung above the stage of the C. C. White building. (The “clapper caper” was never solved.)

Ruby’s daughter, Georgene, was the first of Ray and Ima’s grandchildren to attend Nebraska Wesleyan. Georgene studied pre-nursing at NWU, finished her degree at Bryan Health and became a school nurse.

She never technically graduated from NWU, but she likes to joke that she did. Ruby was pregnant with her during graduation, so Georgene did in fact cross the NWU commencement stage.

Keith’s son, Delane, was the next to attend NWU. His future wife, Dorothy, worked as a student assistant in the chemistry stock room, handing out chemicals and pipettes to the students who came in on weekends to make up lab hours.

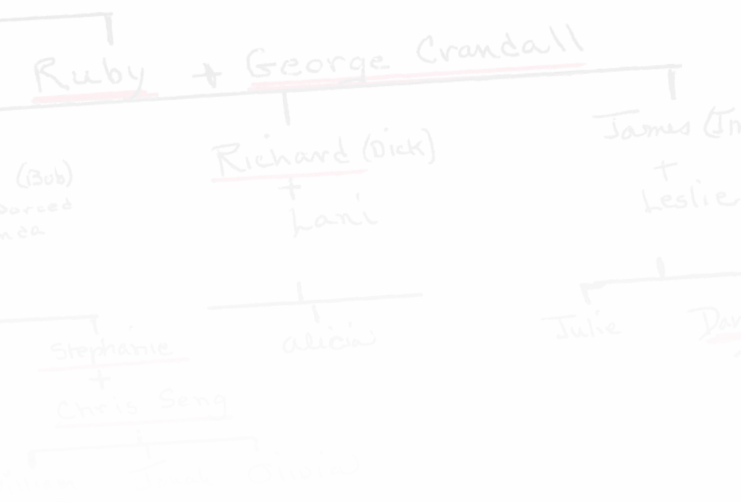
“That’s our first memory of each other,” Dorothy said. “Delane was usually behind, so he was always coming in on Saturday.”

Or, as Georgene suggested, “Maybe that’s not why he came—maybe he was just interested in the pipette lady!”

Their first date was at a movie in the old Enid Miller Theatre. It could have gone better. “Delane was a projector nerd,” Dorothy said, “so he was running the movie and changing reels, and I had to sit by myself!”

Delane earned his M.D. and specialized in clinical pathology. Dorothy earned a master’s degree in physiology, then later went to medical school, saying, “Well, if Delane could do it, I knew I could.” She also became a doctor, specializing in anatomic pathology.

*Wesleyan is where
we found each
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our way forward
into adulthood.*



Their son, **Jason Wycoff** ('95), graduated with a degree in physics, same as his grandfather.

All the “Wesleyan Wycoffs” had busyness in common. Alumni like Kevin had trouble narrowing down their curiosities. “I had such broad interests I ended up graduating with a made-up degree,” he recalled.

His advisor combined his classes, gave him some credit hours and labeled it biophysics. He ended up going into family medicine, an obvious outcome in retrospect. “When your grandpa’s your own doctor, it’s not that big of a leap,” he said.

Paige graduated with degrees in elementary education and French. She went on to teach kindergarten, co-own and operate a gift shop, and sit on NWU’s Board of Trustees and President’s Council.

Kevin and Paige met at NWU in “Music Appreciation.” They both had “W” last names, so they “sat in the back row and flirted with each other,” Paige said. Their first official date wasn’t until their senior year. They also went to a movie, but sat together.



The Wycoffs revisited many more memories that afternoon. They remembered the events that led to the “Bell-Sod Trophy” and the infamous rivalry with Doane: the “D” emblazoned into the grass on NWU’s football field and the bell stolen in retribution. And they laughed about the time Kevin made his stage debut as the horse in *Man of La Mancha*.

“They couldn’t have done that production without me,” he joked. “The whole thing would have fallen flat.”

Then there were the names of countless professors and classmates, pranks that they had pulled on each other, residence halls they had lived in, and tales of many more Wycoff alumni.

Paige said that Ray and Ima would be “enormously proud” that so many of their descendants have come to Nebraska Wesleyan and are now giving back to it. Besides music and medicine, the Wycoffs are connected by philanthropy.

“We feel very fortunate to support the place which gave us such a wonderful start,” Paige said. “Wesleyan is



where we found each other and found our way forward into adulthood. We happily join with other members of our extended family in supporting Wesleyan’s effort to provide a quality education for tomorrow’s young people.”


Over the years, many family members have given back to the university through Ray and Ima’s endowed scholarship. “We add to the Wycoff scholarship fund each year, hoping to make it grow,” said Dorothy. “Both Ray and Ima were very much loved, so it’s a good way for their direct descendants to honor them. It’s become a memorial to them.”

But their philanthropy doesn’t stop there. For more than 60 years, the Wycoff family’s generosity has touched nearly every area of the university. They have supported the Archway Fund, other endowed scholarships, faculty development, athletics and capital projects, including NWU’s new science building through Doctors for Science. Their annual gifts have supported the immediate needs of the university and their gifts to the endowment are helping to secure the future for NWU and tomorrow’s students.

Even **Will Seng** ('16), the most recent member of the Wycoff family to graduate from NWU, has supported the university by giving to his senior class gift last spring.

“Last Father’s Day, I was talking to my great-grandpa [**George Crandall** ('42)—Ruby’s husband] about his time at Nebraska Wesleyan,” Will said. “He was talking about his classes in Old Main, and it’s just incredible to think that, seven decades later, I was learning in those very same classrooms.”

“NWU gave so much to me over four years,” he continued. “It made me discover who I am as a person. Giving back wasn’t hard. I didn’t even think about it; it was such an obvious decision.”

Giving came as naturally to him as the words to an old and favorite song. 

Left to right: **Delane Wycoff**, **Dorothy Wycoff**, **Georgene (Crandall) Smidt**, **Paige Wycoff**, **Kevin Wycoff**



Thank you.

Nebraska Wesleyan University exists for you and because of you. Every year, we count on alumni like you to help build our campus, open doors for our students and support our outstanding faculty and staff.

If you've given to Nebraska Wesleyan, please accept our sincerest thanks.

If you haven't yet given to NWU, please accept this invitation to start today.

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Photos by Geoff Johnson

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Let Your Fingers Do the Walking

NWU once published a phone directory, which “comes in very handy when one wishes to call a girl for a date, call the girl across the aisle to find out what that assignment is, or to invite a faculty member to dinner on Wednesday.”

Can you name the student editor in this photo? Bonus points if you can find your copy.

Send your responses to:

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MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED

Identities Unearthed

You dug to the bottom of this Mystery Photo.

In looking at the *Archways* this morning, I believe this is a groundbreaking of the Olin Hall of Science in the early 1960s. The gentleman with the shovel is Gov. Frank Morrison. Directly behind him to his right is my father, Henry Gramann Jr. My brother, Henry “Max” Gramann was in school at the time studying business.

—**Karl W. Gramann** ('77)

I believe my brother Karl also wrote you about the Mystery Photo. My dad was in the photo, in the center with dark hat and coat. His name was Henry Gramann Jr., and was on Parents Council. I think my brother was wrong about this being Olin Hall. I was at the groundbreaking and I believe it was south of Old Main. This was Gov. Morrison and Vance Rogers in the foreground.

—**Max Gramann** ('64)

EDITOR'S NOTE

In this sibling dispute, we must side with Max. The groundbreaking was for the Rogers Center for Fine Arts.

The man in question is my good friend Gov. Frank Morrison. We sat together (briefly) at the Nebraska Centennial celebration in 1967 at Pershing Auditorium. I was taking pictures of Toni (Ramundo) Hess, my classmate at Nebraska Wesleyan. She was Miss Scottsbluff County, in the Parade of Counties. I miss Governor Morrison and his wife Maxine.

—**Gene Crump** ('69)

The man to the left, holding a piece of paper, is my dad, Charles “Chuck” E. Sconyers, for which the NWU tennis courts are named. He was the “Voice of the Plainsmen” for all basketball and football games. My dad, who was executive assistant to the president when he retired, helped raise money to build this facility, for which I am very proud.

—**Patti (Sconyers) Fisher** ('73)





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Learn more about Access NWU.
Contact Erika Paschold at 402.465.7574 or epaschol@nebrowesleyan.edu



The IRA charitable rollover has been extended indefinitely— ***there is no expiration date!***

Now is a great time to consider using an IRA charitable rollover gift to support the Archway Fund, create or add to an endowed fund, or support other vital projects at NWU.

For your gift to qualify:

- > You must be 70 ½ or older at the time of your gift;
- > The transfer must go directly from your IRA to Nebraska Wesleyan University;
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Contact: Brenda McCrady, director of planned giving,
at 402.465.2129 or bmccrady@nebwestleyan.edu.



Calendar

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



OCTOBER

11

Visiting writers series

Poet Claudia Rankine, author of *Citizen: An American Lyric*, shares her provocative meditation on race in the 21st century in O'Donnell Auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

.....

22



Photo by Lane Hickenbottom

NWU swimming

The men and women make their home debut versus Morningside at noon in the Weary Natatorium.

NWU volleyball

A road-heavy schedule takes NWU to Snyder Arena just four times in 2016. This 3 p.m. match versus Coe College is your last chance to catch NWU at home.

25

NWU music: Faculty recital

The music professors who teach students to perform take the stage themselves in this 7:30 p.m. recital in O'Donnell Auditorium.

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29

NWU football in Des Moines

Join NWU alumni and fans for a pre-game gathering at Wellman's Pub & Rooftop at 597 Market Street in West Des Moines from 10:30 a.m. to noon. NWU plays Simpson at Bill Buxton Stadium at 1 p.m.

NOVEMBER



4

Artist talk and reception

The Elder Gallery exhibition, "Schema: Works on Paper," runs October 18-December 11, with a reception on November 4 at 6 p.m. Featured artists include Colin Keefe, Samantha Mitchell, Amy Ruffo, Matt Sontheimer and Mia Rosenthal.

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10

NWU alumni in Kansas City

Save the date for an alumni gathering in KC. Details to follow.

November 5

Alumni wrestlers return

NWU's first home wrestling meet in decades is reason to celebrate. Alumni wrestlers gather on campus for a lunch and ceremony.

DECEMBER

19

NCAA cross country championships

NWU student-athletes train all year with this meet in mind. Alumni near Louisville, Ky., can check NWUsports.com for qualifiers, then watch the action at E. P. Tom Sawyer Park at 11 a.m.



Photo by Chris Smithberg

25, 26

NWU men's basketball: Snyder Classic

NWU's run and gun offense returns to Snyder Arena in this two-day, four-team tournament.



1

NWU theatre presents: A Christmas Carol

The Dickens classic is an NWU tradition, bringing the magic of the holiday season to McDonald Theatre. Shows run December 1-4 and 8-11. Visit theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu for tickets and show times.



Photo by Chad Greene

6

NWU music

This free concert is your opportunity to catch NWU's women's choir, men's glee club and the Touch of Class jazz choir in a single event. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. at O'Donnell Auditorium.

6

Lincoln holiday open house

Alumni and friends celebrate the holidays at the Country Club of Lincoln.

12-15

Final exams

Send your student care packages, well wishes and fervent prayers to campus.

13

Omaha holiday open house

Omaha-area alumni and friends gather for the holidays at Lauritzen Gardens.



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