

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

ARCHWAYS

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UNMANNED

AUTOMATION
IN THE AGE
OF AMERICAN
ANXIETY



FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Our success depends
on solid partnerships.*

Dear Alumni and Friends,

In her commencement address to the class of 2016, Deborah (Jones) Frison ('77) encouraged graduates to celebrate their commencement as a beginning; the start of a new chapter where their many reasons for coming to NWU draw together.

"Enjoy the journey ahead and believe yourself equipped to find purpose in your life, discern your path and fulfill your destiny," she advised.

She reminded nearly 500 graduates that their professors, advisors, mentors and NWU staff have all worked as partners to prepare them for that next chapter.

It is a partnership, indeed.

Our success depends on solid partnerships. We have many wonderful examples to point to. Our partnership with nearby Dawes Middle School provides opportunities for students at both schools to learn from each other. Our new partnership with the TeamMates Mentoring Program will help more students to receive a fine Nebraska Wesleyan education. Our partnerships with businesses and organizations in Lincoln and across the country provide internships to countless students. For the past 11 years, our Student-Faculty Collaborative Research Fund (created through the Fleming estate) has helped our students and faculty work together in places like Ireland, Chile, Scotland, Bolivia, New York City, Washington, D.C., and Seattle.

This issue of *Archways* highlights how our alumni embrace partnerships in their work:

- An alumnus eye surgeon partners with two Olympic swimmers to reach more people with treatable blindness.
- An alumnus business leader partners with two young "flight nerds" to turn a fun idea into a multimillion-dollar company.
- An alumna comedian coauthors a book that relies on contributors to craft a deeply funny and uplifting story.

Exciting new partnerships are unfolding right now as we bring a new science facility within our reach. Alumni, friends, corporations and foundations have already committed 70 percent toward this \$27 million project. We've worked closely with First United Methodist Church, our neighbors and area businesses to ensure our relationships remain strong, and that this major step forward for NWU contributes to the greater good beyond the campus.

We have great momentum. The excitement was palpable at commencement. That energy feeds our boldest academic endeavor in more than 35 years. And I look forward to partnering with you to make it happen.

Yours truly,

—Fred Ohles
President



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CONTRIBUTORS

STAFF

Eric Wendt ('99)

Editor

ewendt@nebrwesleyan.edu

Melanie Falk

Art director

mkf@nebrwesleyan.edu

Peggy Hain

Director of marketing

phain@nebrwesleyan.edu

Kara Peters ('96)

Marketing and production manager

kpeters@nebrwesleyan.edu

Amy Vasey ('11)

Class Notes editor

avasey@nebrwesleyan.edu

Alex Linden ('03)

Sports information director

alinden@nebrwesleyan.edu

Archways advisory committee

John Greving, Mary Hawk,
Shelley McHugh ('91), William Motzer,
Judy Muyskens, Sara Olson ('95),
Erika Paschold ('08), P.J. Rabel

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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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Christine Fullerton, book reviewer, *The Awkward Phase*

▶14

Christine is the public services librarian at Chadron State College in the beautiful Pine Ridge area of northwest Nebraska. A native Nebraskan, she attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Nebraska Omaha. Christine holds master's degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Denver. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, the outdoors and traveling.



Fred Ohles, "Tribute to a History Teacher" ▶45

Fred became Nebraska Wesleyan's 16th president in 2007. That year, as he worked to absorb everything he could about NWU, the historian turned again and again to the quintessential three-volume history of NWU by Professor of History David H. Mickey ('39). (You can see the thick black spine of vol. III above Fred's shoulder on our summer 2007 cover.) Fred would soon meet and befriend David, who died this May. Fred shares a tribute.



Rachel Nullmeyer, illustrator, "Exchange of Ideas" ▶28

Rachel is a graphic designer from Seward, Neb. She studied art at Concordia University and worked as a graphic design manager at the Lincoln-based ad agency KidGlov before joining Nebraska Wesleyan University's Marketing and Communications Office. She got married this summer and honeymooned in China.

I Was Forever Changed

Thank you for the moving article in the spring issue of *Archways*, “The Lesser Angels of Our Nature”. Surely the author of that piece deserves a byline, both to accept responsibility and credit for it.

Prof. [Nan] Graf’s stories and reflections were especially meaningful for those of us who attended NWU during her “era.” The article spurred my memories of the brief but powerful presence of the psychology professor, **Tom Windham** (circa 1967-70), a colleague and friend of Prof. Graf’s.

Prof. Windham was, for many of us, the first African-American faculty member we had experienced. He introduced us to the concept and reality of institutional racism. What a wakeup call! I was forever changed when he put *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* in my hands. I remain grateful.

Jo Young Calhoun (’70)
Denver, Colo.



Details Matter

I loved the title of your article about me [“The Lesser Angels of Our Nature”] and also the central “thrust” of it, but the following part on page 16 is incorrect:

“And she walked into a Cody, Wyo., fifth grade classroom complete with an exceptional teacher.
“He taught me ...”

I’ve never been to Cody, Wyo., and the teacher was a “she”: Miss Emma Duis of Casper, Wyo., where I lived throughout fifth grade. The advice of Miss Duis is correctly stated [in the article]: “You can learn from anybody—good teacher or bad.”

The reason this is important to me is that not long before I fell and had major hip surgery, I’d contacted an assistant editor at a major publisher about my idea for a book about Miss Emma Duis, who was a dedicated, creative teacher in spite of low pay in the 1930s. After I left Casper, she became active for other teachers in the state, regarding low pay and no retirement pay. (This information I received from the University of Wyoming archives in Laramie.) I also put a letter to the editor of the *Casper Tribune* for information from others; I received letters from other teachers

who’d had her as a teacher, from former neighbors, and from students who had her as a teacher when she moved on to junior high or high school. So I wasn’t the only one who rated her highly.

Even though I’m 88 and not as informed about her as some at the University of Wyoming and the *Casper Tribune* letter writers, I still want to write about her because my own experience in her classroom was life-changing.

That’s why it seemed important for me to point out the incorrect information.

Because your article was so good, I hesitated to write about this minor error.

Nan Graf
Colorado Springs, Colo.

But They Didn’t Mind at All

After reading Mrs. **Janet Lu**’s letter about the renovation of our beloved library this morning (“A Reinvigorated Library”), I have some memories about my love for CWL (Cochrane-Woods Library) from when I ruled the campus (a little joke).

Every day and night during my five years at NWU (1984-1989), I’d go see the lovely Mrs. Lu and her staff to flirt with. They made me feel like a lucky man.

I’ve flirted with the beautiful girls at the library who loved me for my sense of humor and, yes, I irritated my male classmates, but they didn’t mind at all. My male classmates and I hung out sometimes and I did my studying as well as my research for many papers I had to write for my classes. That goes the same for the Super Bowl every January when I went to the library to flirt with Mrs. Lu. She and I are still friends, although we don’t see each other often.

When Old Main was not accessible then, I’d see Prof. **Harold Hall**, the English Department chair, to choose my classes for each semester. We met in the area with the Lincoln city map on the wall. I am deeply thankful for the late Prof. Hall for making some accommodations to meet me at CWL.

I’m happy that CWL will be changed for the 21st century, but I will always hold the library in my heart and I am lucky to be part of CWL’s memories.

Tom Heeren (’89)
Wichita, Kan.



Janet Lu

My New Nom de Plume

From many disparate threads you wove together an article ["The Lesser Angels of Our Nature"] that is thoughtful and articulate. Let us hope that it will cause some alumni to further consider the negatives of intolerance and discrimination.

I'm glad that you based it on **Nan Graf**. As a student I greatly admired her outstanding support of civil rights. I have a vivid memory of her offering evening yoga instruction for anyone interested in the lobby of the fine arts building. We all brought our towels for the cold, hard floor.

I've been reading [the late Professor of English] **Bill Kloefkorn's** memoirs. What a master writer he was. I was in only one of his classes and I wish I had known him better.

And thank you for my new nom de plume, "Jack Bell."

"Jack Bell"

Somewhere in the American Southwest

Their Gifts Are Special

I look forward to your *Archways*, and have been impressed often. Your spring 2016 edition, however, was especially good. "The Lesser Angels of Our Nature" was a real winner! You and your staff should be proud.

My wife Sherry and I enjoyed the recognition of **Harry** ('59) and **Reba Huge** in this publication ["World of Opportunity"]. Their gifts to NWU are special.



Harry and Reba Huge

Dennis Witt ('59)
Gold River, Calif.

Shocked and Pleased

Thank you for a great article, "The Lesser Angels of Our Nature." I wonder who wrote it? The artwork/illustrations are excellent as well, but I don't know who did them, either. I was shocked and pleased by the quality of this article and the one following: "Warning: The Education You Are about to Receive May Involve Periods of Discomfort" by Professor of English **Gerise Herndon**.

I would add that some of today's students may be coddled by "helicopter parents," but we may never know who are the coddled and who are the ritually abused or molested or who experienced trauma of any kind already. And, as we know from reading *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, many non-whites live in constant trauma. These folks are most appreciative of trigger warnings.

Thank you again for the quality magazine. When conversation about white privilege is coming to the forefront, along with renewed voter suppression laws, the Black Lives Matter movement, and outright racist comments among presidential candidates, the timing is excellent.

Rhea Miller ('72)

Friday Harbor, Wash.

Is the Blush Mine?

Is the blush mine, for not seeing, or yours, for not printing, a byline to credit the author of "The Lesser Angels of Our Nature"? This was one of the best pieces of journalism I've seen in years, but I could find no author listed.

Many kudos to whomever.

Ken Kokjer ('63)

Fairbanks, Alaska

EDITOR'S NOTE:

"The Lesser Angels of Our Nature" was written by Eric Wendt ('99), editor, and designed and illustrated by Melanie Falk, art director.

Because our small team crafts the bulk of each magazine, we haven't typically given bylines to Wendt and Falk. (Their names would abound.) That policy is worth reconsidering, especially on major features.

Develop a Deeper Understanding

I must congratulate you on consistently publishing a college magazine of the highest quality. When I receive each issue, I read it from cover to cover, enjoying the many articles that it contains. The issues I really appreciate are the ones that are organized on different topics since they help me develop a deeper understanding of the topic. The [spring 2016] issue had a very good article about facing our own faults and what that can do for ourselves and those around us ["The Lesser Angels of Our Nature"].

I also enjoy how you highlight what is happening across the university with stories, pictures and the like from different departments, whether it is athletics, academics or alumni. I especially liked from the last few issues the book reviews. It was very nice to see the articles about **Kent Haruf** ('65) [fall 2015]—what a great writer and professor! It is nice to be able to stay informed even though I cannot visit very often since I do not live in Lincoln.

Keep up the great work!

Derek L. Leslie ('94)
Omaha, Neb.

It Was a Privilege

The news that **David Mickey** ('39) had recently died reached me on May 20. It was a privilege to have been in several classes taught by him in the early 1950s. He was a great teacher and a good friend. My wife, **Lynelle [(Adams) Brown]** ('53), and I attended several alumni reunions after our graduations and, as we strolled the campus, we often encountered Prof. Mickey and he never failed to recognize us and call us by name.

One of my fond memories of him was the time, during my junior year, when I was in his "History of England" class. During that same semester, I was in an English literature class taught by Prof. **Harold Hall**. I had submitted a paper entitled "Shakespeare as a Historian," and it was criticized rather severely by Prof. Hall. I received a grade of "C," and I suppose that was generous on Prof. Hall's part.

Later that term, I revised the essay and submitted it to Prof. Mickey. Surprisingly, I received a grade of "A" and a comment from him that it was one of the finer papers that he had read that year.

Several years later, I shared that story with both professors and they seemed to get a kick out of it.

People such as David Mickey come along very rarely. He played a major part in my experience as a Wesleyan student. What a joy it was to sit at his feet.

Bill Brown ('55)
Akron, Ohio

Better Than Ever

I look forward to reading *Archways*. The last couple of years have been better than ever and make me wish I had attended more homecomings and alumni affairs in Lincoln.

Unfortunately, **Ward [Thayer]** ('61) and I lived in many different locations in the past 56 years, few of which were close enough to do so.

Ward passed away in November 2015 after a life of service in rehabilitation, correctional and drug and alcohol counseling. My working life was spent in administrative offices of several universities and city governments. I now live in an assisted living facility.

Keep up the good work.

Linda Nelson Thayer ('60)
Dallas, Texas

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. Contact us.

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

Email: ewendt@nebrwesleyan.edu
Phone: 402.465.2133

*The last couple of
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Photos by Dan Luedert



COMMENCEMENT IS THE TIME TO RISE AND SHINE

Nearly 500 students joined the ranks of proud Nebraska Wesleyan alumni as graduating members of the class of 2016 on a bright and crisp May 14. Generations of alumni were there to greet them—including **Deborah (Jones) Frison** ('77, Ped.D. '15), who delivered the commencement address. Frison is deputy commissioner of school improvement and support at the Nebraska Department of Education.

Also receiving honorary degrees were **Daniel Elsener** ('77, L.H.D. '16), president of Marian University, Indianapolis, Ind.; and **Marsha Lommel** (LL.D. '16), Lincoln, retired president and CEO of Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital.

Professor of Chemistry and Forensic Science **Dan Strydom** and Professor of Religion **David Peabody** were also honored upon their retirements. They share a combined 46 years of service in teaching at Nebraska Wesleyan University.



COMMENCEMENT CONTINUED



A Line in the Literary Sand

As adult literacy falls, Nebraska Wesleyan's curriculum takes a stand.

Times are changing. For decades, the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) has broken literacy rates into five categories. Its most recent study dissolves Level 5—its top level—because too few adults today can reach its benchmarks.

The median American in PIAAC's 2013 survey scored at Level 1, or "below basic" literacy. That's not quite the cellar. Roughly 3 percent of adults globally score at "below Level 1," or "non-literate." And U.S. scores squeaked in just above those in Austria, Cyprus and Poland.

If American literacy exists on a downhill stream, NWU swims against the current. Society at large may settle for "Dick and Jane" literacy; we continue to reach for Dickens and Jane Austen.

Nebraska Wesleyan's new Archway Curriculum expands writing-instructive and discourse-instructive coursework throughout students' four years. And it interweaves research and information technology components to ensure that students' literacy is more than just functional. It must apply to intricate tasks and complex problem-solving.

"Our goals extend far beyond 'Can you read this?'" said Provost **Judy Muyskens**. "Our curriculum instills a transformative, dynamic literacy."

Muyskens added, "The question is: Can you learn from what you read and apply it to a purpose? Can you use your literacy to solve a problem? Can you use your literacy to make your own life—or someone else's life—better?"

THE FINAL: Counter to national trends, NWU's curriculum instills "dynamic literacy."



Photo by Zach Tuttle

Shakespeare's Tip for Avoiding Tragedy: Listen Well

Shakespeare's plays are full of role reversals and flip-flops. So it's appropriate that Stephen Buhler's title for the 25th Holder Lecture on April 21 was a Shakespeare passage turned on its head.

"Action is eloquence, and the eyes of th' ignorant / More learned than the ears," Volumnia counsels her son in *Coriolanus*. (Or: Your audience will learn more by your actions than your words.)

But Buhler's lecture, "Eloquence Is Action," argued that most Shakespeare plays flow in the opposite direction. Action doesn't lead to eloquence. Eloquence triggers action.

"In play after play, Shakespeare portrays the devastating results of not listening," Buhler said. Characters are showered in eloquent persuasion. The path away from mayhem is laid out in detail. But the eloquence usually beads off their backs. And the plays' action unfolds from their imperviousness.

The Holder Lecture was established in memory of the late professor, provost and administrator, **Kenneth R. Holder**. Buhler was introduced by Professor of English **Rick Cybert**, who has held Holder's professorship since Holder vacated it to become provost in 1987. This year's topic of rhetoric in Shakespeare fit an entire season of theatre performances and programs marking the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death.

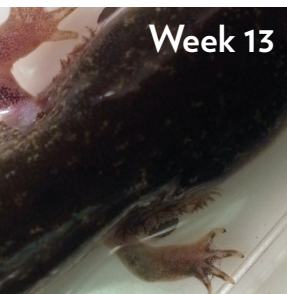
Think such academic lectures are dry? Buhler's address was bookended by uproarious performances by NWU Theatre students. And Buhler began his own remarks by setting Shakespeare's "Sonnet 18" to country music. (Their eloquence triggered the action of laughter.)

THE FINAL: The 2016 Holder Lecture in English joins plays and a rare books exhibit to honor Shakespeare on the 400th anniversary of his death.

*In play after play,
Shakespeare portrays
the devastating results
of not listening.*



Week 2



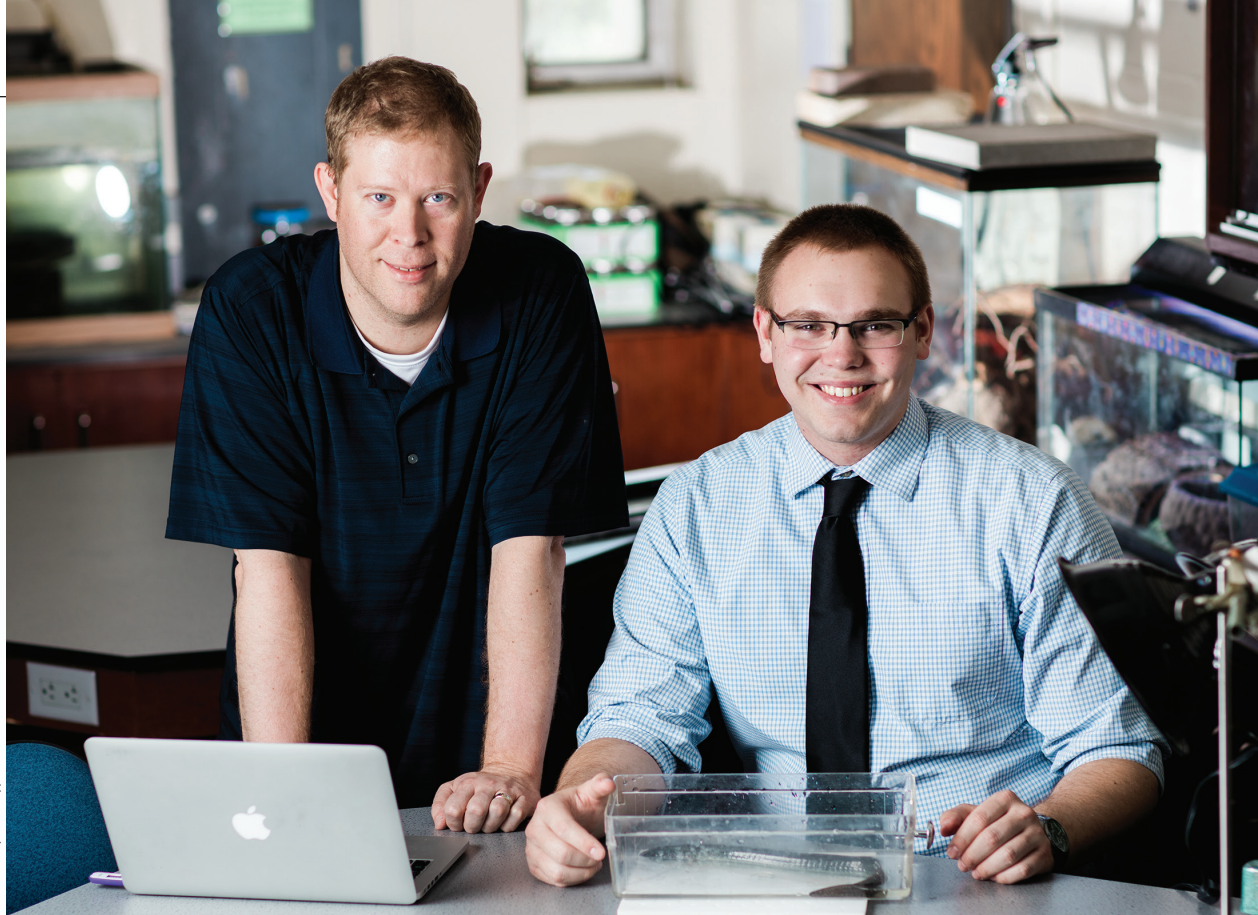
Week 13



Week 25

Salamander limb photos
courtesy of Adam Braegelman

Photo by Geoff Johnson



A Once-in-a-regeneration Discovery

Professor of Biology **Gary Gerald** (left) didn't buy the odd little amphibian for groundbreaking research. He just wanted to add some variety to the organisms in NWU's zoology lab.

What's more, the salamander arrived damaged goods. This variety, genus *Siren*, looks more eel than salamander, with stubby little vestigial front limbs like two pinky fingers. Well, normally two. The siren that arrived at Olin Hall was missing one of them.

Oh well, Gerald thought. His zoology specimen was just that much more unusual.

Now, some salamander species can regenerate lost limbs. But not sirens. Evolution had taken their hind limbs away. They moved like eels. For decades, biologists had concluded that limb regeneration did them little good. And so, over eons, they lost that ability, too—probably missing it no more than the hind limbs they no longer recall having.

But, not long after this siren arrived, senior biochemistry major **Adam Braegelman** ('16) (right) noticed signs of digit formation and tissue remodeling. It looked like this weird little amphibian was gearing up to do

something science thought impossible.

He told Gerald what he saw. And together, they watched. They took weekly pictures and observed over six months as this siren (which they aptly named Prometheus—after the mythological Greek figure who regrows his liver every night for Zeus's eagle to devour again for eternity) regrew its little leg.

Herpetological Review accepted their findings for publication this year.

The experience gave Braegelman a rare undergraduate publication in a respected scientific journal. "It's really put my name on the map a bit more, and has given me more opportunities," he said.

He and Gerald have designed follow-up studies to examine limb regeneration among multiple sirens in controlled environments. But, come fall, Braegelman will move on to graduate study in bioengineering at the University of Notre Dame. He said his NWU experiences have prepared him well for what's to come.

"I've shown that, yes, I can do research," he said. "I have the skills."

THE FINAL: Keen observation earned a biochemistry senior a biological breakthrough and publication in an esteemed science journal.

—Quinn Hullett ('18) contributed reporting to this article.

NWU Student Joins MIT Researchers to Hit the Brakes on Cancer

Adam Braegelman's research publication helped him land a fellowship at MIT, where he studied how cancers metastasize.

"Metastasis is really the lethal part of cancer," he said. It's where malignancies jump borders to attack patients from new directions. Interrupt metastasis, Braegelman said, and you can hold cancer still enough to let existing treatments work.

His research focused on a pair of CXCR3 chemokine receptors in cells. One of these receptors tends to speed metastasis, and the other can slow the same processes.

"Look at them as the brake and throttle in your car," he said. "What cancer biochemists are trying to do is find ways to decrease the 'go' signals and increase the 'stop' signals," he said. "Push less on the gas and more on the brake."

Cancer is simply cell division that's driven off the road and is rolling out of control. "If we can figure out which way a cancer will roll," Braegelman said, "there's a chance we can turn a tumor against itself."



Photo by Allegra Boverman

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The Awkward Phase

By Tyler Gillespie and Claire (Meyer) Linic ('11)

Skyhorse Publishing, 2016 / 218 pages / \$13

—Reviewed by Christine Fullerton

“Do you remember how weird our parents let us be?”

Jane Hammer poses this question in the opening chapter of *The Awkward Phase*. As kids, she and her sister created an elaborate backyard fantasy world, complete with costumes crafted out of plastic grocery

bags. Her essay, “We Are Still These Weird Little Girls,” sets the book’s stage: This will be a wonderful celebration of our quirky childhoods.

Tyler Gillespie and Claire (Meyer) Linic’s (’11) *The Awkward Phase* is based on their popular blog, which collects photos and stories from adults reflecting on their experiences as self-professed weird kids. Built from the reminiscences of comedians, writers, educators and others, the stories touch on a wide range of topics, including coming of age, coming out and coming unglued.

Our questionable fashion choices and unrequited crushes leap front and center as these contributors relate uproarious and heartwarming stories. They lead us on journeys where we get to create a training bra out of old underwear; go to prom in a tricked out wheelchair; finagle our way out of volleyball practice; pen Reba McEntire fan fiction; and shake hands with (a violently ill) Minnie Mouse.

Each of us remembers teetering on our own adolescent high wire. Often, the places where we quavered, the moments where we all but lost it, are the moments that most shaped our current selves. But, sometimes, our awkward selves had some flat-out great ideas.

In “Hobo Debbie Gibson: A Brief Halloween Retrospective,” Caroline Harrington roots her present-day love of infographics to childhood Halloweens where she and her friends made detailed maps highlighting the houses clinically proven over years of study to serve the best candy.

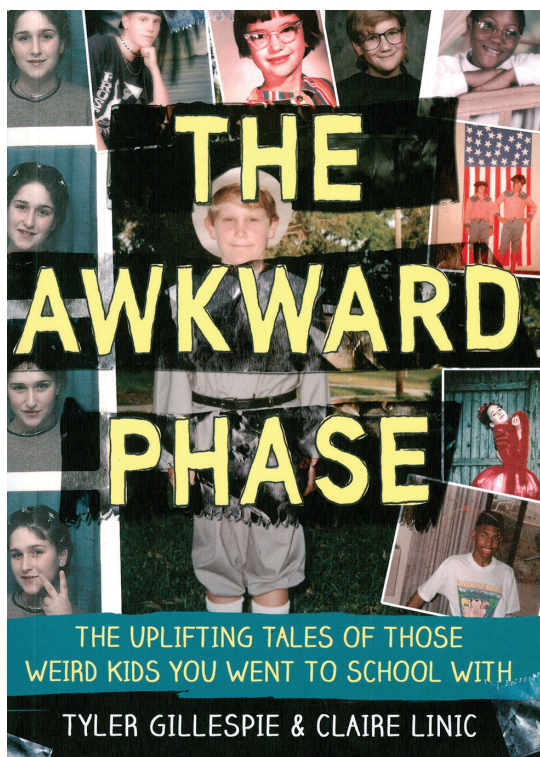
Other times, our immature selves showed remarkable maturity. In “A Pair of Jane Goodall Khakis,” Shannon Noll relates how she and her sister would dress up in tutus they hated just to please their mother. Noll explains, “You remember that time you opened up a present, and it was a box that had once held furnace filters? You declared, Just what I always wanted, because that’s what they say in movies. Did you really want furnace filters, or were you just trying to make someone happy? This is kind of like that.”

In this short anecdote lies the crux of Gillespie and Linic’s book: that self-acceptance is a glorious thing. It’s a glorious thing in an author, too.

Linic is an alumna of both NWU and Second City—a proven improv comic who graced the cover of this magazine three years ago (wearing a cape and holding an accordion). Her communication studies professors and classmates know she brings the funny. But she used this, the occasion of her first book deal, essentially to hand the microphone to others—to let all of us be the funny ones.

She and Gillespie merely guide this book, never allowing it to veer toward meanness. Their selflessness—the very opposite of awkwardness—successfully hits that sweet spot where “hilarious” and “touching” touch noses.

The Awkward Phase creates a space where everyone is in on the joke. In this way, our former selves are no longer cause for embarrassment. They’re something to celebrate. **n**



Did you really want furnace filters, or were you just trying to make someone happy?



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Building Momentum

The time is now for a new science facility at NWU.

Chris Dunker ('08), an education reporter for the *Lincoln Journal Star*, broke the front-page story in February: NWU will build a new home for its programs in biology, chemistry and psychology.

"For ... years, leaders at the liberal arts college in northeast Lincoln have been drawing plans and raising funds for a \$27 million, three-story building with 75,000 square feet of space," Dunker wrote.

The story triggered excitement and questions in the Nebraska Wesleyan community. We're eager to share that excitement and answer those questions.

Why build now?

Nebraska Wesleyan hasn't built an exclusively academic facility since 1981. And it hasn't built a science facility since 1968—the year before we landed on the moon. Of course, science learning has changed dramatically since then.

Angie Muhleisen ('81), president and CEO of Union Bank & Trust, chairs a group of alumni, physicians, scientists, business leaders and friends invested in seeing this building project to fruition. "We cannot ask a

50-year-old facility to frame Nebraska Wesleyan's programs as a place for outstanding 21st century science," she said.

A top facility will help NWU recruiting match our outstanding faculty and programs in the laboratory sciences.

Why NWU?

NWU holds a distinct place in Nebraska's higher education landscape. No one else in our region prepares scientists, healers, educators and scientifically literate citizens like we do. NWU combines outstanding science programs with a strong tradition of liberal arts learning.

The results are graduates who are more than experts in a specialized sliver of their fields. Our alumni are versatile thinkers who understand their subjects and the larger world around them.

"We're fostering scientists," said Associate Professor of Psychology **Frank Ferraro**. "That's why I like it here."

This new science facility at Nebraska Wesleyan matters because having these versatile scientists and problem-solvers in Nebraska matters.

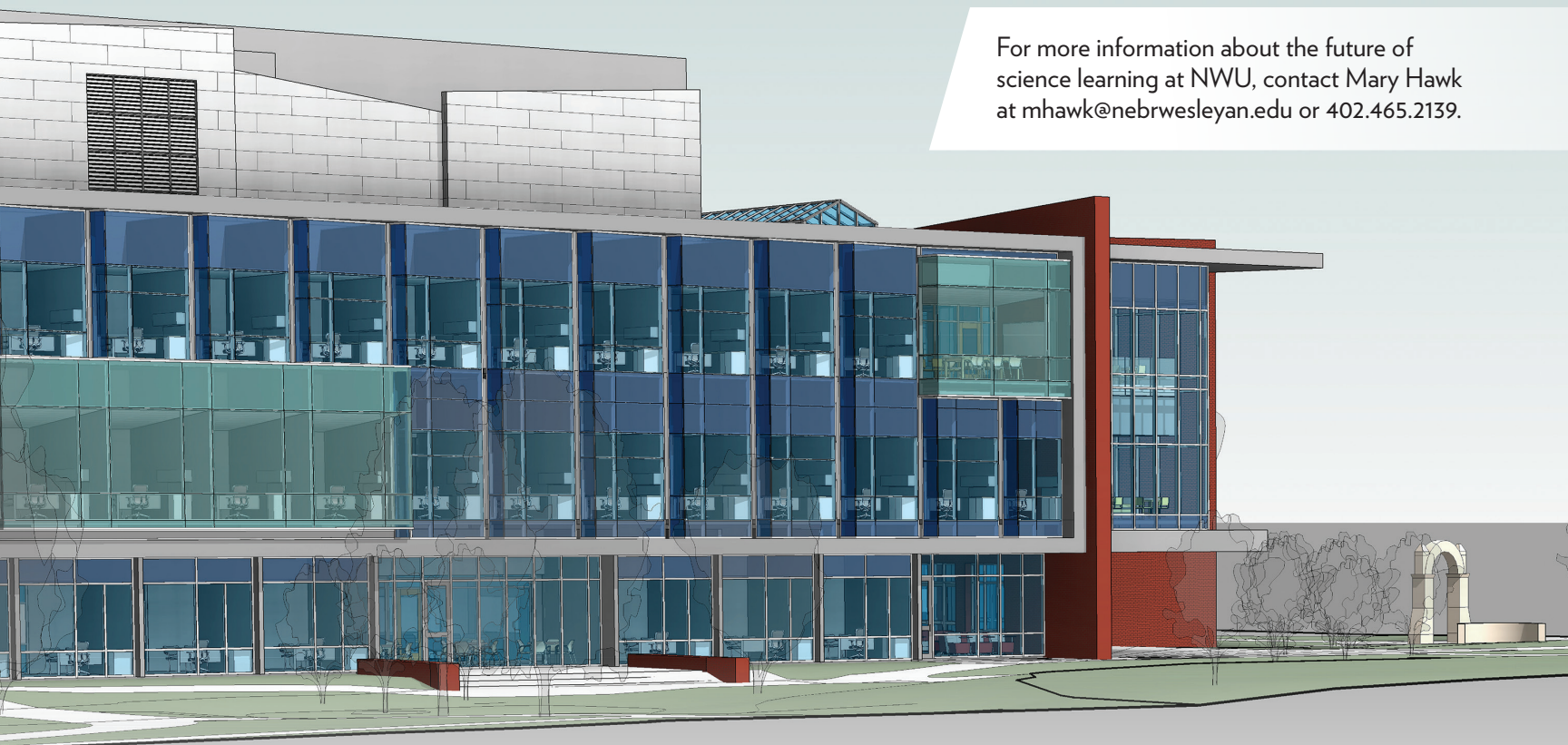
Nebraska Wesleyan's vision is to "be an outstanding national liberal arts university, where the educational experience transforms each student to lead a life of learning, service, leadership and success in a diverse world."

"To become that outstanding national liberal arts university," said President **Fred Ohles**, "we must make our boldest move in academic facilities in half a century: a new home for science learning."

Who is behind the project?

Alumni, friends, corporations and foundations have already committed \$19 million as of this spring, or 70 percent of the \$27 million project. Tom Celli of Celli-Flynn Brennan in Pittsburgh, Penn., serves as architect, and designs are in-hand for a facility on 50th Street between St. Paul and Baldwin Avenues.

Leaders from Nebraska Wesleyan and First United Methodist Church signed a memorandum of understanding regarding the facility's site and shared goals for the neighborhood on February 1.



For more information about the future of science learning at NWU, contact Mary Hawk at mhawk@nebrwesleyan.edu or 402.465.2139.

The Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission strongly endorsed Nebraska Wesleyan's proposal, which the Lincoln City Council approved in June.

The project enjoys strong support from University Place residents and businesspeople. "We view this project as a big positive for University Place businesses as NWU is a large driver of economic activity in this neighborhood," said Brett Harris, owner of Madison Avenue Lofts. He said the facility "will enhance that activity by bringing campus closer to 48th Street, promoting more pedestrian traffic for retail businesses."

Harris also endorsed the plan's "progressive urban design, which would integrate the NWU campus with ... the neighborhood through thoughtful site planning, architecture and landscaping."

Why 50th Street?

While Nebraska Wesleyan's student body, programs and academic quality have all grown dramatically over the years, the physical campus has not. First United Methodist Church trustee, Lynn Ayers, described NWU in the *Lincoln Journal Star*

as "hemmed in and [needing] to grow."

The 50th Street site honors University Place's quintessential historic buildings: First Church and Old Main.

First Church keeps access to shared parking on St. Paul Avenue.

NWU minimizes impact on its valuable green spaces and arboretum.

The facility fits the campus master plan's westward growth toward 48th Street.

The proximity to math and physics departments in Olin connects STEM students.

The facility turns an underused green space into an academic quad with Olin, Old Main and Rogers.

Why join the effort?

Nebraska Wesleyan's ongoing strength in the sciences isn't a given. We come together now to equip NWU with a science facility that rises to the level of our programs—a

facility uniquely suited to the way our outstanding professors teach.

We must act boldly to grow Nebraska Wesleyan's historic strengths in all arts and sciences.

It's up to us to create a dynamic, hands-on learning environment for our students—complete with laboratory/learning spaces where Professor of Chemistry Jodi Ryter ('90) said students will be free to "learn, turn and do."

It's up to us to support a facility that fosters the way biologists, chemists and psychologists collaborate today.

And it's up to us to build a facility that displays the active science learning we value. Visible lab spaces showcase to all NWU students the bold and exciting work of scientific inquiry.

NWU invites every student to join in that effort.

And we invite you to join this bold effort to advance science learning at Nebraska Wesleyan.

"I'm where I am today because my professors wanted the best for me," said Dr. Tom Waring ('53). "As an alumnus, I want the best for NWU." 🍌

UNMANNED

AUTOMATION IN THE AGE OF AMERICAN ANXIETY

—By Eric Wendt ('99)
Design by Melanie Falk



Kathleen Parker is a little anxious—about robots.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist worried in March that America's "masters of the future are furiously working to create robots that promise to make better decisions ... than their human bosses."

She asked, "What whimsy awaits? The drone that brings you coffee and a bagel?"

"Such futuristic developments are upon us. The dehumanization to come won't leave much for humans to do," Parker warned, "other than cause mischief."

With time on our hands, worry in our heads, and mischief in our hearts, we turned to three alumni "masters of the future"—leaders working in different (robotic) arms of the automation industry.

And we asked them: How did you learn to stop worrying and love the bots?

ATTACK FROM ABOVE!

DRONE MAKERS HOVER OVER BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY.

Last July, William Merideth of Bullitt County, Ky., was arrested for something countless gun-owning Americans have dreamed of trying. He strode into his yard, lifted his shotgun, and blasted a hobbyist's drone out of the sky.

Merideth isn't alone. In March, a resident of Edmond, Okla., used a .22 to shoot down a "spying" drone. (Turns out this drone was actually conducting a commercial gutter inspection nearby.)

No matter how many shots are fired, **Steve Brugman** ('89) said this particular genie isn't going back into its bottle. The CEO of Snaproll Media works with the "two teenage flight nerds" most responsible for rubbing that lamp in the first place:

Tennesseans Spencer Valdez and Preston Ryon.

"These were the kind of kids who took jobs sweeping out aircraft hangars just to keep themselves busy until they were old enough to get their flight licenses," Brugman said. Flying was their reason for breathing in the mid-2000s. Engineering, photography and videography were their interests.

"They were building drones before most people knew what the word meant," Brugman said. They attached cameras to their creations early on. "It's what they did for fun."

By 2008, this fun hatched a small business. They were soon shooting music videos and commercials from above. Then came film work.

The jaw-dropping 2010 film, "The Art of Flight," put Valdez and Ryon firmly on the moviemaking map. Despite its title, this documentary wasn't about pilots or drones. It was about extreme snowboarders.

The daredevils on camera and the pilots behind it shared a drive for new territory—new moves made in unlikely places. "I can tell you from experience," said one snowboarder, "if I'm going into something that's really intense, and someone else has ridden it before me, the level of intensity is totally dropped down a notch."

The young snowboarders improvised thrilling moves. And the young pilots improvised thrilling machines. You can watch both by YouTubeing "The Art of Flight" movie trailer. (Warning: The language gets salty.)

Valdez and Ryon still push. "We're only tapping into a portion of what drones can do," Valdez told *The Tennessean* in August.

The partners wanted to tap that potential to grow their business. But they recognized they were pilots, not businessmen. An accountant introduced them to Brugman,

whom they hired as CEO in 2014. Then they watched Snaproll Media grow 600 percent.

To date, their movie credits include "Fast and Furious Six," "Divergent: Insurgent" and



They were building drones before most people knew what the word meant. It's what they did for fun.

"Point Break 2." They're working on a new "Baywatch" film now. They've shot music videos for the likes of Taylor Swift, and their commercial credits include Toyota, Audi and others. One of their drones even made a cameo appearance in a Nissan commercial during Super Bowl 50.

Snaproll Media's upward flight mirrors drone use nationwide. The rapid change

has come with public anxieties. “There’s a tremendous amount of emotion surrounding this technology,” Brugman said. Emotion enough to send homeowners to their gun closets.

Snaproll Media has largely dodged this fire by staying tucked inside the film industry. Snaproll was the first of only six companies to receive FAA exemptions to operate drones for the Motion Picture Association of America. Today, they are “one of about three companies that land the predominance of high-end film jobs.”

But once you fly outside that narrow niche, Brugman said, competition increases and regulatory clarity vanishes. “Who’s in charge?” he asked with real frustration. “Is it the FAA? State agencies? Local municipalities? It all has to be adjudicated.”

Once those questions are settled, Brugman predicts an explosion in commercial drone applications. His focus is on surviving the current uncertainty and positioning Snaproll Media for the moment the fog lifts. “Once regulations and attitudes change—we’re there.”

Legislation won’t eliminate privacy concerns. But Brugman believes public perceptions of drones will shift over time. Most of us don’t see security cameras inside grocery stores and think, “Somebody’s spying on me while I choose grapes.” We think (if we think at all), “The store has a legitimate interest in preventing theft, and the people on the other end are doing their job.”

Our reaction to commercial drones may one day be similar. Not, “Somebody’s prowling,” but, “Somebody’s working.”

Today, the entertainment industry comprises about 80 percent of Snaproll Media’s work. But Brugman is focused on the other 20 percent. Why?

Brugman pulled out his laptop to show footage that gets him more excited than “The Art of Flight”. A camera looks down upon a huge Macy’s department store. A recent shower has left a few kidney-shaped pools on the roof. We pass over rooftop heating and cooling units. Over here are the

facility’s electrical boxes. And here, above the food court, is the exhaust and ventilation equipment.

“Roof inspections,” Brugman said with a reverence that snowboarders might reserve for “the quad cork 1,800.”

Videos like these are also useful for the insurance industry. Is an operation organized to protect safety? Does it minimize fire risk? Actuaries can use footage like this to inform their assessments. Drones can also mitigate risk in their own right, lessening the need for engineers and others to climb buildings and work in dangerous environments.

“In the entertainment industry, the margins are high, but you’re never going to become a \$100 million business,” Brugman said. The volume is too low, the complexity too great. “But in commercial industry, you will have \$1 billion drone businesses.”

So the thrill-seeking flight nerds who’ve filmed superstars hitting high notes and snowboarders brushing fingertips over treetops are moving onto ... *factory flybys*? Are Valdez and Ryon OK with that?

“It’s pretty cool to go to Tahiti and shoot the world’s best surfers all day,” Brugman said. But Valdez is now 26, and Ryon, 31. “They’ve kind of been there and done that.”

But positioning Snaproll Media to become a \$1 billion player in an industry just taking flight? Now that’s big air.

HANDS OFF!

AN ART AS OLD AS HUMANITY
GETS A ROBOTIC TOUCH.

Things don’t get much older than ceramics. Ceramicists spend decades mastering techniques dating back millennia. Absorb that history, and it’s tempting to believe there’s nothing new under the ceramic sun.

But, once in a strange while, a rare animal is born—a creature so different, so odd, that it changes our perception of what’s possible. Karen (Karr) Linder (’82) holds the reins to one such creature—an Omaha company she cofounded and named after the Lakota

word for that rarest beast: a white buffalo.

Tethon 3D (pronounced *teeth-on*) takes all the ancient tools of the ceramics trade—the clay, the glazes, the kilns—and adds something new: the 3D printer. Yes, Linder can print clay into just about any form allowed by physics and the imagination. Her printer lays down “sheets” of clay powder, adds a liquid fixative to the precise areas on each sheet where she wants the clay to bond, and builds a three-dimensional form from the base up.

On this day, she prints a vase. But it doesn’t look like a vase inside the printer. It looks like a large block of fine sand, its top marred by a wet ring, as if someone had lifted a cold drink.

Push aside the block’s edges like a sand castle’s fortifications. Vacuum out the damp ring’s center. And what remains is a precisely printed vase—a vessel that is, depending on your view, an artistic and industrial marvel, or an aberration of nature.

“Some folks will say we’re destroying the handmade culture of ceramics,” said Greg Pugh, Tethon 3D’s director of technical operations. But Linder disagrees with that view. She lifted another printed vase, this one already fired in the kiln. Its surface is intricately mottled, as if the clay had somehow been woven. Inside its many gaps and grooves are details so fine that no hand or handheld tool could approximate them.

“We’re not replacing what a human does,” Linder said, “because a human would never do this.”

She and Pugh walked down a hall to show a few next-generation ceramic printers that work quite differently from the white buffalos in Tethon’s main studio. These boxy machines eschew powdered clay in favor of a liquid slip-like clay resin. This resin is photo-cured and hardened using precise, ultraviolet lasers.

Tethon 3D uses both “wet” and “dry” ceramic printers to serve a client base stretching across more than 20 countries.

What’s the future of 3D ceramic printing? Pugh patted this small, resin-based machine.



In the entertainment industry, the margins are high, but you're never going to become a \$100 million business. But in commercial industry, you will have \$1 billion drone businesses.



Photos by Lane Hickenbottom



Push aside the block's edges like a sand castle's fortifications. Vacuum out the damp ring's center. And what remains is a precisely printed vase—a vessel that is, depending on your view, an artistic and industrial marvel, or an aberration of nature.

"This guy," he said. He predicted it won't be long before this type of printer will hold a common presence in the studios and factory floors of ceramicists and machinists everywhere. Rare no longer, entire herds of white buffalo may soon nibble away at pieces of art and industry all over the planet.

Wouldn't that ubiquity eliminate Tethon 3D's rare place in the market? If these printers became as common as the kiln, wouldn't Tethon 3D go extinct?

Not at all, said Linder. "We become the materials supplier," she said. "We're the blade in the razor." The feeder of 100,000 buffalo.

Linder is as uncommon as the commercial creature she's created. She is herself a chimera in the liberal arts tradition—a businesswoman, a scientist, a writer, a communicator.

"Three-D acts as the hub," Pugh said, connecting all of his boss's areas of expertise. "This is art," Pugh said. "It's also engineering. It's business and medicine and archeology and architecture."

"There are a lot of pieces to this company," Linder said. "And it takes imaginative people to connect all of them."

That's why she doesn't see herself as in the automation business. She's not dehumanizing anything. "People are all over this work," she said. "It's not automation. It's customization."

ROBOT FEVER!

AUTOMATION ISN'T THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE. IT'S THE PRESENT.

Alumni with children of a certain age know Disney's 2014 robot film, "Big Hero 6." One of its main characters is Baymax, a marshmallow of a robot invented to be the future of medicine.

Explaining the robot's parade-float appearance, Baymax's inventor said he was "going for a nonthreatening, huggable kind of thing." That's probably wise, because in the real world, a robot "standing between you and your doctor" would be seen very

much as a "threatening kind of thing."

But robotics already play an enormous role in our health care. Most patients just don't see it because those robots operate inside what Dr. Rod Markin (77) called "the black box of the lab."

Markin is the University of Nebraska



We're not replacing what a human does, because a human would never do this.

Medical Center's chief technology officer and associate vice chancellor for business development. His inventions have transformed the way that busy black box operates.

Picture an intricate subway system for test tubes. Markin's system routes each patient's blood sample to the necessary analyzer, uncaps its vial, conducts the analysis, recaps and stores the tube, and interfaces with additional programs to process and share lab results.

His invention avoids risks for contamination inherent in human handling. And it turns a 24-hour undertaking into a one- or

two-hour process—giving patients and physicians a day's advantage in treatment decisions.

Markin sold one of his inventions to Siemens in 2007. And a similar product went to Cerner Corporation out of Kansas City, Mo., in 2013. Known now as "Cerner Labotix," the company describes Markin's invention as "a customizable open-automation system that facilitates preparation, sorting, routing and storage of specimens."

As intricate as the Cerner Labotix looks from the outside, Markin said his technology "is really about software." He said, "Your iPhone has this cool screen and case and button, and it all looks great. But somebody had the genius to create the software that makes it work." His systems rely on a similar relationship between hardware and software.

Markin's work in clinical lab automation earned him a place this spring as a fellow in the National Academy of Inventors. Past NAI fellows include 27 Nobel laureates and 27 inductees of the National Inventors Hall of Fame. He was honored in April at the Smithsonian and inducted at the U.S. Patent Office.

"If I have a skill," Markin said, "it's finding a problem and seeking a technology to address it." Too often, he said, people want to flip that approach, beginning with a technology and force feeding it to a problem, like robotic "hammers looking for nails."

Once he identifies a health care problem, he doesn't run out to build a health care robot. Rather, he looks at how other industries handle similar problems. He thinks about restaurants and car manufacturers and software companies.

"The best solution to a problem in one field," he said, "is often a technology that already exists in another." How might that technology be adapted to suit a hospital or lab?

"Rod is a rare breed," said Michael Dixon, president of UNeMed, a for-profit company that works with UNMC to commercialize its ideas. "It's uncommon to have a skilled clinician who also has such a keen understanding



Photo by Lane Hickenbottom

If I have a skill, it's finding a problem and seeking a technology to address it.

of business and what it takes to develop a product. Not only is he a prolific inventor with 35 patents, but he's also helped turn those ideas into products—products that have built startup companies or have sold widely in multinational companies.”

We often frame efficiency as a dehumanizing force—placing the priorities of the machine above the value of the person. Markin doesn't see it that way. The same emphasis on efficiency that led him to reshape clinical lab operations has also reshaped surgical operations, with equally impressive results.

“When I was a medical student, many operations now done with laparoscopy were done then by opening you up ‘stem to stern.’ And patients were much more traumatized.” He referenced a friend who recently underwent a bowel reconstruction and triple bypass procedure. “They had him up and walking that evening and he was home in five days.”



Photo courtesy Clinical Lab Products magazine

That's about as long of a hospitalization as a simple gallbladder removal used to require. (Today, gallbladder surgery is often an outpatient procedure.)

Similar efficiency improvements have also reshaped anesthesiology. If you think of degrees of anesthesia as underwater depths, the old model typically plunged patients to the ocean floor. Today, anesthesia is carefully dosed to match the patient and the procedure, taking people no deeper underwater than necessary. “This also decreases trauma and improves recovery,” Markin said.

People like Kathleen Parker aren't the only ones animated by all that's become automated in our world. Anxieties about privacy,

economic opportunity and even what it means to be human today are real. But the Steve Bruggmans, Karen Linders and Rod Markins of our world respond with some human questions.

When you're sick, would you like your lab results in an hour or a day?

Would you prefer those results to be more accurate or less?

If drones can prevent workplace injuries and save money, should we fly them?

Should the art of the possible expand or contract?

The solutions may sometimes be robotic. But the outcomes are always human. **n**

Goals in Sight

To know what motivates Olympian Missy Franklin, meet the alumna she calls Dr. Mike.

—By Eric Wendt ('99)

By the time this magazine reaches you, Missy Franklin will have already arrived in Omaha for the U.S. Olympic swim trials (June 26 to July 3). She will have smiled sweetly, because that's her nature. And she will have exploded, because that's also her nature.

Don't let that foot-long smile fool you. Missy Franklin's burn to win could boil off an Olympic-sized pool. That drive has already led her to five Olympic medals in London, four NCAA championships at Cal, a U.S. record in the 100-meter backstroke and a world record in the 200-meter backstroke.

We may more easily recognize that fire in another brand of world-class athlete. You can't miss it in the Roger Clemenses, the Serena Williamses and the Ndamukong Suhs of the world. But Franklin's motor burns just as hot. It simply runs on a different fuel.

If you're wondering what this non-alumna (a Colorado native and Cal Bear) is doing in *Archways* magazine, the answer is in her unusual fuel. It's a fuel she happens to share with an unusual alumna.

A chance meeting brought Missy Franklin together with ophthalmologist **Michael Feilmeier** ('01) in March 2015 and sparked an unexpected partnership. Franklin and "Dr. Mike" met at an awards ceremony in Nashville, Tenn., where they both received the U.S. Junior Chamber's "Ten Outstanding Young Americans" (TOYA) Award.

Feilmeier was honored for his work restoring sight for patients in developing countries. And Franklin was honored for her prowess



Photos Courtesy Swim for Sight

in the pool and her philanthropy out of it. Past recipients of the Jaycees' prestigious honor include the likes of JFK, Bill Clinton, Dick Cheney, Gale Sayers and Elvis Presley.

The 19-year-old Franklin found herself star-struck in Nashville. "I literally was sitting there with my jaw open. I was looking at founders and CEOs and special military agents. And I can't even pronounce what Dr. Mike is," she said. "And then there's, you know, swimmer."

Franklin dismissed the idea of comparing her accomplishments to theirs. "Hey, guys!" she said, her voice thick with sarcasm. "I can swim

—continued

SPRING SPORT SUMMARY



Photos by Chris Smithberg



Baseball

The 2016 Prairie Wolves produced 12 wins (up for the second straight year), two All-GPAC players in **Sam Ayars** ('16) and **Matt Orozco** ('18), and an Academic All-District catcher in **James McKain** ('16).



© keelerphotography

and not drown. Pretty cool!"

She had to tell herself, "Instead of looking at the differences between you and the other nine [TOYA winners], try and look at the similarities." When she did that, she said, "The one thing that really stood out to me was, we're all doing what we love."

That and a commitment to service joined the swimmer and the surgeon.

Franklin and Feilmeier soon discovered they have something else in common: They're both big Brad Snyder fans.

If you haven't heard of Snyder, we'll fill you in. He's a U.S. Navy lieutenant with tours as an explosive ordnance disposal officer in Iraq and Afghanistan. In September 2011, he was in Afghanistan, working to move two service members who were wounded in a blast. That was when he stepped on an IED, and was badly wounded, himself.

"In that moment, I had thought through everything and had reconciled my death," he told *People* magazine. "I thought, 'I'm OK. I'm OK to pass on.'"

Snyder would keep his life, but he lost his vision.

When he first learned about opportunities to train, and perhaps compete, in adaptive athletics, Snyder was skeptical. "But then I saw an opportunity to prove to my family and my community that I wasn't going to be a victim."

Exactly one year after the blast, Snyder was in London with

Franklin, competing at the 2012 Paralympic Games. Like Franklin, he took home multiple gold medals in swimming. And, eight months later, Franklin and Snyder joined Prince Harry of Wales in lighting the torch at the 2013 Warrior Games in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The two Olympians are partnering again this summer to support Dr. Mike in his global efforts to restore people's sight. Snyder is eager to promote Feilmeier's work. "Being blind sucks," he told Feilmeier's wife, Jessica Feilmeier. No surgeon can bring Snyder's vision back. But Snyder knows that Feilmeier can help thousands of others.

"I know what it's like to be left in darkness," Snyder said. "But it brings me great joy to shed light on curable blindness and help others get sight-restoring surgeries." Wherever he competes or speaks, he tries to raise awareness—and funds—for Feilmeier's work restoring sight in countries with inadequate access to care.

It's a message that resonated with Franklin. After turning pro, one of the first things Franklin did was leverage \$50,000 to help launch Swim for Sight, which supports Feilmeier's surgeries all over the world. On a recent trip to Harar, Ethiopia, Feilmeier and three other surgeons conducted 950 free, sight-restoring surgeries.

"We personally pay the costs of our travel, our food and our lodging for all of these trips," said Jessica Feilmeier, who works as development director for the University of Nebraska Medical Center's

SPRING SPORT SUMMARY

Golf

NWU men's golf, which owns 11 conference crowns since 2000, missed its mark somewhat in 2016, finishing eighth at the GPAC championships. The women, meanwhile, surged, winning team invitations at Doane and NWU. They finished fourth at the GPAC championships, and **Kelsey Marshall** ('16) earned Academic All-District honors.



Photo by Lane Hickenbottom

Softball

NWU was led by four-time All-GPAC performer **Rachel Kubik** ('16). Kubik topped the team in virtually every batting statistic and finished with the best career batting average in NWU history. Five teammates joined her on this year's All-GPAC lists. NWU was runner-up in the GPAC Postseason Tournament and finished the season 21-19.

Photo by Chris Smithberg

International Division of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences.

"What's left is our consumable costs for these surgeries, which comes down to just \$25 per surgery," she said. "That means that with a gift of just \$25, you can restore sight to a blind person living somewhere without access."

For every lap Franklin swims in Omaha, Feilmeier is giving sight to another person somewhere on the planet, for free. People's gifts combine with Franklin's and others' to add to the number of patients Dr. Mike and Swim for Sight can reach.

"I am so excited to support Swim for Sight," Franklin said. "Swim for Sight has been absolutely incredible in pledging that for every \$25 donation they receive, they will give one free sight-restoring surgery to someone in need."

Franklin may have been star-struck at the TOYA Awards in Nashville. Back in Omaha, it was Feilmeier's jaw that dropped to see world-class athletes perform.

"I am so pleased that Missy and Brad have partnered with us to make Swim for Sight a success," he said. "Thanks to their help and the support of the University of Nebraska Medical Center and our Swim for Sight partners, we will be able to help even more patients in developing countries. This surgery will not only improve their quality of life, but in most cases, it will give them their lives back."

Tariq Orodé was one such patient in Ethiopia. She had been blind for seven years. Once, she even overheard her daughter praying for her death so that she might focus on her children's care instead of her mother's. "I cannot blame her," Orodé said through an interpreter.

"I can hear my daughter and grandson in the corner, but I have never seen him. I want to see him," she said.

You can learn more about Swim for Sight at swimforsight.us. And you can support the school that helped launch Dr. Mike's career in medicine and global service at nebrwesleyan.edu/donate.



After the procedure, her grandchildren sat on her lap. "I can see them and help them and love them," she said. "That's all I wanted when I was blind. And now I have it."

Another Ethiopian patient said, "For years I lived in the dark, part dead, part asleep. Now, my sight and my world and my life have all returned."

Dr. Mike has knelt in Ethiopia and pulled the bandages back. He's been the first thing that hundreds of people have seen in years. There's something white hot in their reactions. Something burning in their joy. Missy Franklin can feel it.

"You're inspiring other people just by doing what you love," Franklin said.

Here is a taste of that high-octane thing that fuels both Feilmeier and Franklin. It energizes Franklin "as an athlete, as a woman, as a daughter of Christ." She watches the bandages drop. She sees the joy. And she draws energy.

Brimming with that energy, the Olympian said, "I would like to make a promise to you. [I promise] I am nowhere near done."

She said, "I am so excited to show you not only what I have left in me in the pool, but the philanthropic efforts I can make with the rest of my life. I am 100 percent trusting in God's plan, and I'm going to do whatever I can to stay on the path that He's laid for me. And I want to promise you that this is just the beginning for me."

To Dr. Mike and everyone else out there who stays dedicated to what they love, Franklin said, "You have sparked an incredible flame."

Competitors in Rio, take notice. She said, "I'm just going to let that fire burn." 🏊‍♀️



Tennis

Fierce nonconference matchups prepared NWU women's tennis well for GPAC competition. The women finished 13-11 overall and 7-1 in GPAC play. The men's season was in many ways a mirror opposite. The men competed at their best during their nonconference slate, but were winless in team conference matchups. They finished 7-15.



Photo by Chad Greene

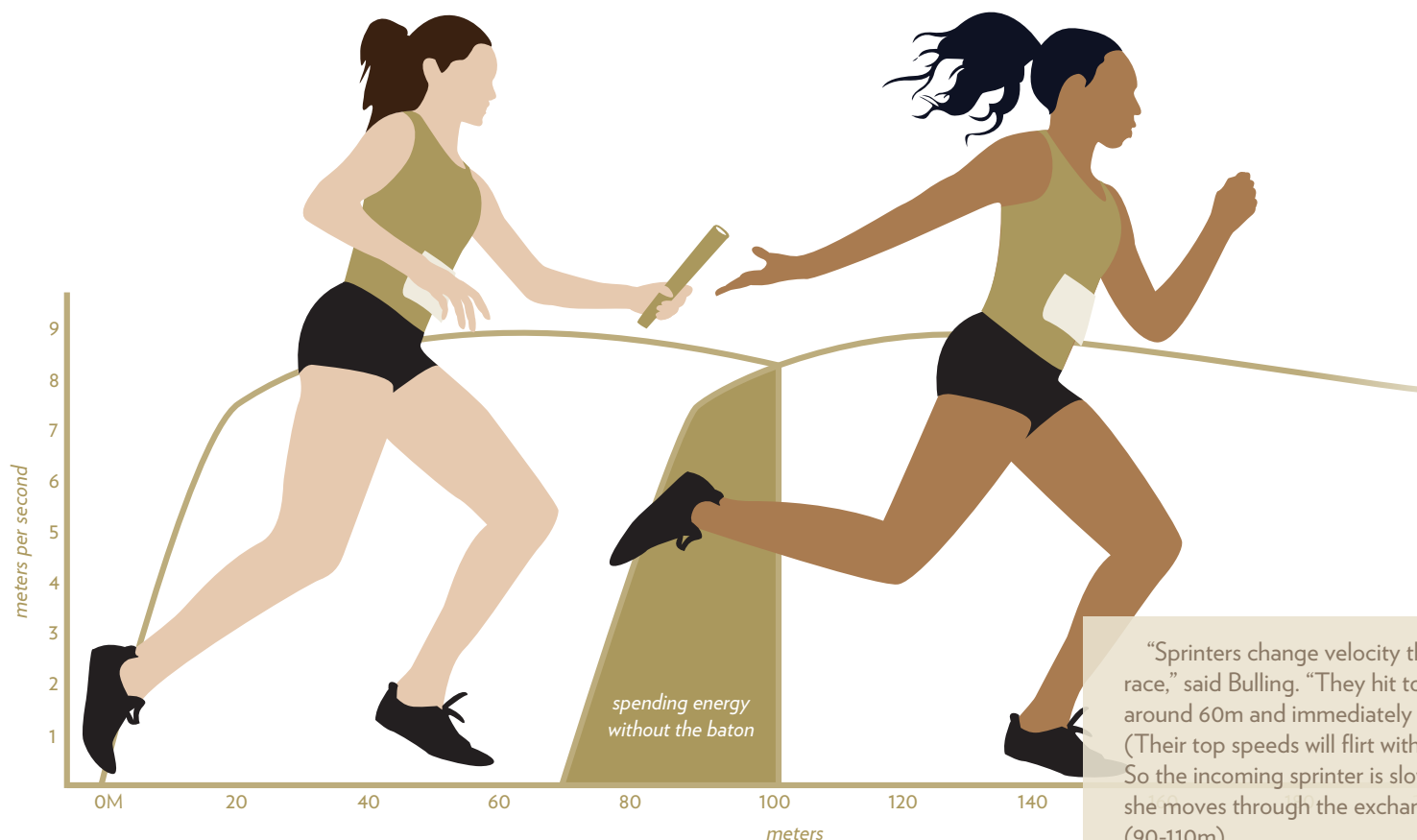


Illustration by Rachel Nullmeyer

“Sprinters change velocity the entire race,” said Bulling. “They hit top speed around 60m and immediately slow.” (Their top speeds will flirt with 20 mph.) So the incoming sprinter is slowing as she moves through the exchange zone (90-110m).

The first leg of a 4x100 is usually the slowest, because she’s the only one carrying the baton from a standstill. Ironically, this “slowest” leg approaches her exchange with the highest velocity. That’s because she’s the only one running a true 100m. Her teammates all run about 130m, accelerating before they take the baton. That means that while the first leg peaks with 40m remaining, her teammates will begin to slow with about 70m to go.

There could be a small advantage in taking the baton early in the zone (thus minimizing the incoming sprinter’s deceleration). “But you can’t cheat physics,” Cunningham said. This tactic simply adds distance to the second leg, increasing her deceleration.

Sport Science: **Exchange of Ideas**

Coach and physicist talk high-speed relay exchanges.

Head Coach **Ted Bulling** (‘80) conducts Nebraska Wesleyan’s 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams—a task akin to keeping several runaway trains running on time. What’s more, Bulling’s trains must link with one another at top speeds to exchange precious cargo.

The logistics of 4x100 baton exchanges—done blindly, for there is no time to turn and look—are intricate to the extreme. Success and failure are separated by hundredths of a second.

With margins this narrow, we asked Assistant Professor of Physics **Nathaniel Cunningham** for help plotting the perfect exchange. As a member of the teams of astrophysicists that successfully rendezvoused with Pluto and a comet recently, he knows a thing or two about high-velocity exchanges.

Track & field

NWU flexed its muscles at the NCAA III championships in Waverly, Iowa. NWU’s 4x400 relay (**Elizabeth Jones** (‘19), **Abbie Hunke** (‘17), **Kaylee Jones** (‘19) and **Katie Krick** (‘17)) won with the fourth-fastest time in NCAA III history (3:41.09).

Ashton Rakow (‘16) won the 400 hurdles with the fifth-fastest time in NCAA III history (59.17).

Samantha Dolezal (‘16) was about an inch away from joining them as national champions. The six-time All-American’s mark in the shot put (47’ 8.5”) took second.

Krick added to her All-America honors by placing seventh in the 400 (55.73). The men’s 4x100 (**A. J. Farrand** (‘16), **Malik Morris** (‘18), **Zach Holka** (‘17) and **Craig Timmons** (‘17)) placed fifth with a season-best 40.95.



Photo by Lane Hickenbottom

The Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference just added some teeth.

The Prairie Wolves join IIAC competition this fall.

Watch the action.
Game schedules at
NWUsports.com



Student Pride

Prestige scholars and awards

Model Diplomat Moves to Madrid

Sitting still is not Lucy Sjulín's ('15) strength. The Spanish and global studies alumna helped reestablish Nebraska Wesleyan's Model U.N. chapter. In her study abroad, internship, student-faculty collaborative research and involvement with the Global Service Learning service group, Sjulín studied and served in six countries as a Nebraska Wesleyan student.

Now, a Fulbright Scholarship will send Sjulín abroad again—this time to Madrid, Spain, where she'll teach English at a secondary school and prepare students for Model U.N. conferences.

She is the 54th Nebraska Wesleyan student to earn the prestigious scholarship. A team of NWU faculty—including Associate Professor of Spanish **Catherine Nelson**, Assistant Professor of History **Steven Wills**, Professor of Political Science **Robert Oberst**, Professor of English **Gerise Herndon** and Associate Professor of History **Meghan Winchell**—supported Sjulín in her Fulbright application.



Photo by Geoff Johnson

NWU Propels Five JETs

A trio of graduating seniors and a pair of alumni have been accepted into the prestigious Japanese Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program. **Laura Bruening** ('16) and **Edson deOliveira** ('16) of Omaha and **Ophelia Morreale** ('16) of San Leandro, Calif., join alumni **Rachel Boellstorff** ('13) and **Jordan Klasek** ('10). The five will spend next year teaching English in Japan.

Bruening and Morreale are both musical theatre majors and Japanese minors. DeOliveira recently returned from Brazil where he studied as a Boren Scholar. He is a biology major. Boellstorff majored in political science and minored in global studies. And Klasek studied international business and theatre.

Many NWU faculty and staff were involved in their successful applications to this selective program, including Assistant Professor of Japanese **Yuko Yamada** and Assistant Professor of History **Steven Wills**.

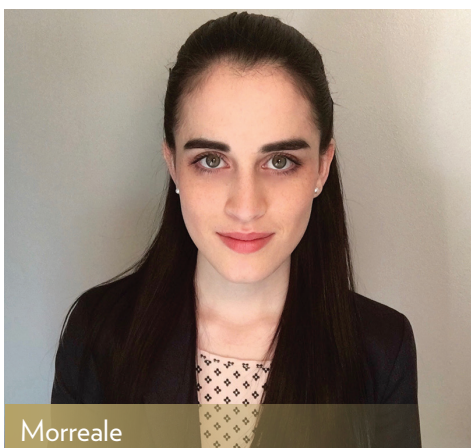


Bruening



deOliveira

Photo by Zach Tuttle



Morreale



Klasek

MYSTERY PHOTO

Groundbreaking Research

As NWU works to break ground on a new science center, we dug up this campus photo of a politician with a shovel.

Can you name the politician? And what's he breaking ground for?

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



Call Waiting

Hello? Did I lose you? No one returned our call for the identities of these two flip-phone callers.

Alumni News

NWU Adds Seven to Athletic Hall of Fame

Nebraska Wesleyan University will induct seven new members to its Athletic Hall of Fame in a September 24 breakfast and ceremony. The event is part of NWU's 2016 homecoming. Register to attend at nebrwesleyan.edu/homecoming.

This year's inductees include:

Don Hoelting ('83) (baseball)

Hoelting served as a second-team All-American at second base, ranking on NWU's all-time charts for triples, saves and games played.

Wendi (Rocole) Jeffers ('00) (track & field)

Rocole was an eight-time All-American holding school records in outdoor 4x100 and indoor 4x400 relay and outdoor 200 and indoor 300.

Taci Laws-Lyden ('95) (basketball)

Laws-Lyden was fourth on NWU's career scoring list when she graduated. Today, she stands at seventh in both career scoring and career rebounds. She is a two-time first-team all-NIAC player.

Travis Solano ('01) (baseball)

This GPAC Player of the Year went 11-0 on the mound as a senior, threw two career no-hitters and set the school career record for RBIs (137), runs (144) and doubles (39). He led NWU baseball to a 2001 GPAC title.

Patrick Sweeney ('89) (football)

This 1987 athlete of the year is a two-time Academic All-American and All-NIAC defensive back.

Chad Wemhoff ('98) (football, track & field)

Wemhoff was a four-time Academic All-American in football and track & field. He is second in career interceptions and fourth in career receiving yards. He was also a seven-time All-American in track & field and ran on a national champion 4x400 relay team.

Ann Ringlein (Spirit of the Plainsman Award)

Coach Ringlein is one of the biggest names in Lincoln distance running. She has spent the past 21 cross country seasons and 20 track seasons serving as an assistant coach for NWU. In 2000, Ringlein received the prestigious Ambassador Award from the Girls and Women in Sports and Fitness Committee for Lincoln and Lancaster County. She was also the GPAC Women's Cross Country Coach of the Year in 2011.

2016 *Home*COMING

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY



Homecoming Schedule

Here's just a glimpse of what's set for homecoming, September 22-25. Check alumni.nebrwesleyan.edu for the full schedule with the latest details.

Thursday, September 22

- › **Legends and Legacies alumni award dinner**, 6 p.m., *Country Club of Lincoln*

Friday, September 23

- › **50th reunion luncheon and medallion ceremony**, 11:30 a.m., *Prairie Wolf A/B*
- › **Alumni Academies**, 3 p.m., *Smith-Curtis*
Choose between fascinating presentations in chemistry (Prof. Jodi Ryter) or astronomy (Prof. Nathaniel Cunningham).
- › **Class reunions**, 6:30 p.m., *Country Club of Lincoln*
 - Group reunion (1965 and earlier, with special tribute to 1956 class)
 - 1966
 - 1976
 - 1986
 - 1996

- › **Class reunions**, 6:30 p.m., *Blue Blood Brewing Company*
 - 2006
 - Group reunion (2012-2016)
- › **"Howl Like Hell" pep rally**, 8 p.m., *Abel Stadium*

Saturday, September 24

- › **Athletic Hall of Fame inductions and award breakfast**, 9 a.m., *Prairie Wolf A/B*
- › **Golf cart parade**, 10:45 a.m., *campus*
- › **Tailgate and carnival**, 11 a.m., *Taylor Commons*
- › **Football vs. Coe College**, 1 p.m., *Abel Stadium*
- › **Soccer vs. Loras College**, women: 5:30 p.m., men: 7:30 p.m., *Abel Stadium*
- › **Class of 1966 memory night**, 7 p.m., *Engine House Café*

Sunday, September 25

- › **Pops concert featuring Bijon Watson**, 5:30 p.m., *O'Donnell Auditorium*

NWU HONORS Legends AND Legacies

—By Amanda Broulik

One of the highlights of homecoming at NWU (September 22-25) is the annual Legends and Legacies banquet. That's where NWU pays special tribute to outstanding alumni for life and career accomplishments. Here's an inside look at the alumni honored this year.

You're invited to attend this year's banquet on September 22 at 6 p.m. at the Country Club of Lincoln.



Jack Plummer ('58)

Alumni Medal of Honor

Dr. Jack Plummer has always asked large questions. What motivates us? What influences our behavior? Nebraska Wesleyan was "a perfect fit for me to challenge my curiosities."

Throughout his 50-year career in psychology, he continued to ask big questions, specifically about how brain injuries affect us—"the way we move, the way we feel, the way we think, and, in many ways, who we are." He created Connecticut's first brain injury program as director of psychology at Gaylord Specialty Healthcare. He's chaired two boards of the American Psychology Association, won numerous professional awards and recently donated a valuable collection of medical texts and research materials to Cochrane-Woods Library.

Josh Berry ('04)

Young Alumni Achievement Award

Josh Berry helps entrepreneurs build their businesses. He credits NWU's Career Center for helping him start a successful career right out of college. His first job was with the global talent assessment company, Talent Plus, where he spent nearly a decade consulting clients "from Bahrain to Bogota" on business strategy, leadership development and talent management. A highlight of his career was giving a keynote speech in Spanish at the top Peruvian human resources conference in 2008 (using the fluency he built with NWU Spanish professors Joyce Michaelis and Rita Ricaurte).

In 2013, he started Econic, a consulting company that has helped over 100 startups and corporate innovation teams.



Photo by Geoff Johnson

Steve Krueger ('74)

Alumni Achievement Award

Dr. Steve Krueger has never been content sticking to the way things have always been done. His work in cardiology has been about developing new ideas to advance patient care. A cardiologist with Bryan Health since 1988, Krueger now runs the Bryan Heart Improvement Program (BHIP), which researches, monitors and treats heart failure patients.

He was recognized by the Lincoln Fire Department for his work assessing the risk of heart failure among firefighters. He is also program director of Bryan Heart Athlete Care, which studies athletes' hearts to discover warning signs that could help predict heart attacks.

Photo by Geoff Johnson



Angelo Stabler ('09)

Young Alumni Loyalty Award

While still a student at NWU, Angelo Stabler started a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization from only a vision and with no financial foundation. That organization, Guidance to Success Youth Club, offers tutoring and mentoring to at-risk elementary, middle and high school students. His goal has been to discover “long-term solutions to overcoming the obstacles that impede Lincoln youth from embracing their dreams and obtaining the possible.” Stabler had to manage similar obstacles and credits his NWU experience with helping him “overcome the odds and break down barriers.”

He’s received the Kenneth R. Holder Memorial Award, East Nebraska District Service to Mankind Award, Lancaster County Service to Mankind Award and the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Leadership Award.



Photo by Geoff Johnson

Gary George ('82)

Alumni Humanitarian Award

Since graduating from NWU, Rev. Gary George has served as a minister, registered nurse, health-care administrator, professor, counselor, volunteer and more. While his list of service accomplishments is long, he insists he can’t take credit. “The common thread throughout my life has simply been teamwork—the recognition that I’ve never done anything alone.”

With the Lutheran Volunteer Corps, George worked in a free medical clinic that serves low-income and homeless residents of Washington, D.C. He was the executive director of the Nebraska AIDS Project in the early 1990s, and worked as a nurse in the cardiac care unit at Creighton University Medical Center. He is currently the executive director of Omaha’s Hospice House—The Josie Harper Residence. He teaches gerontology and social work at the University of Nebraska Omaha.

Daphne Epp-Hall ('92)

Alumni Loyalty Award

Daphne Epp-Hall knows how to recognize talent and give good people the room and resources to do their best work. She addresses challenges with an infectious energy and creativity. The active alumna serves on the Board of Governors, and has been president of the Alumni Executive Council and consultant to the Enrollment and Marketing Committee.

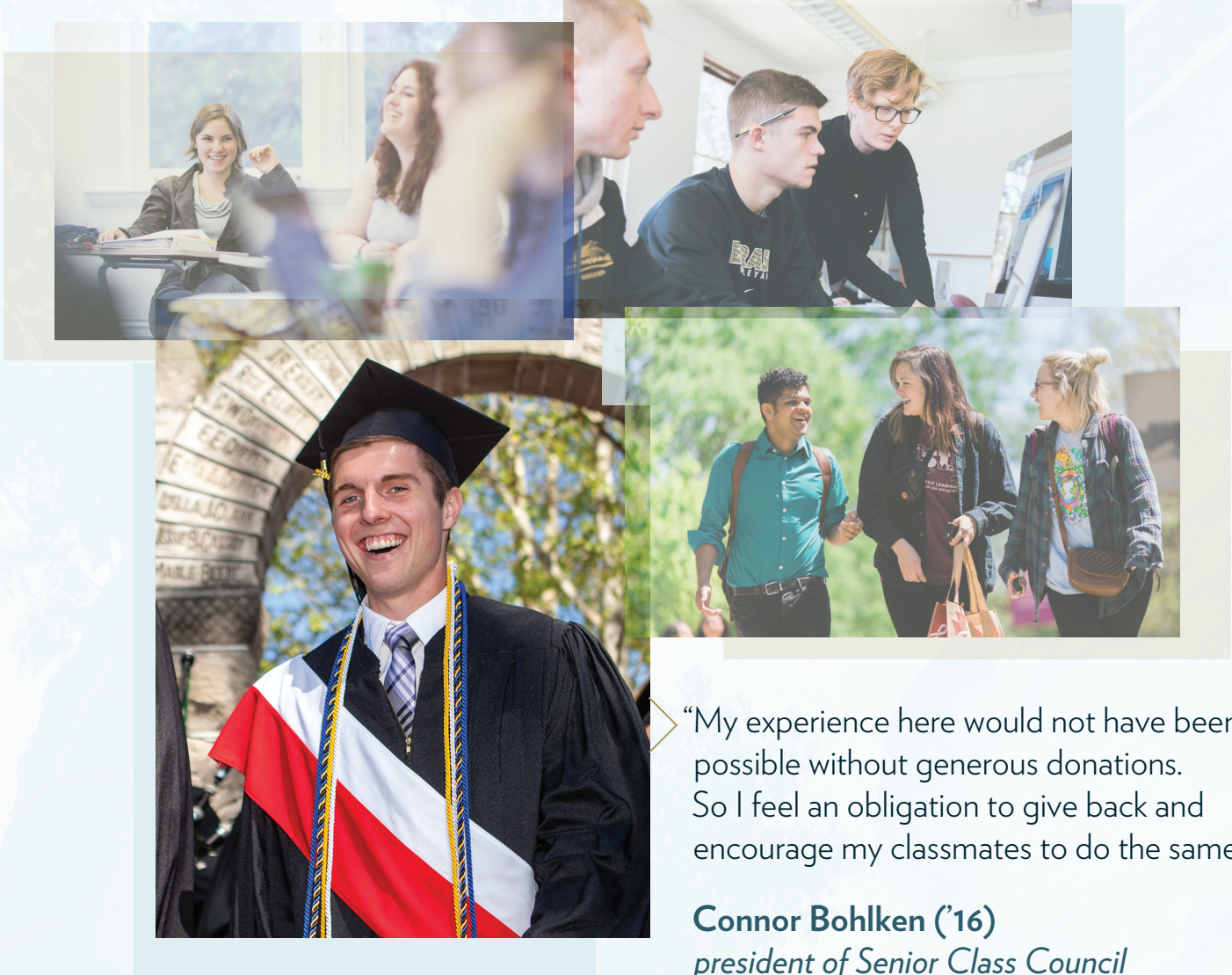
Epp-Hall appreciates Nebraska Wesleyan’s role in her success and works to help others access an excellent education. She is senior vice president of college access programs at Lincoln’s EducationQuest Foundation, and has won numerous distinguished service awards. “Nebraska Wesleyan was a perfect match,” she said, “and it’s been my pleasure to give back and pay it forward.”



Photo by Geoff Johnson

To the 2,060 alumni, 541 parents, 465 friends, and 225 graduating seniors who supported the Archway Fund last year...

Thank you.



“My experience here would not have been possible without generous donations. So I feel an obligation to give back and encourage my classmates to do the same.”

Connor Bohlken ('16)
president of Senior Class Council

Year after year, you keep *Nebraska Wesleyan strong.*

Are you 70 ½ or older? Do you have an IRA?

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You can have your IRA administrator transfer up to \$100,000 to Nebraska Wesleyan University.

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To learn more, contact
Brenda McCrady
402.465.2129
bmccrady@nebrwesleyan.edu



Calendar

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



AUGUST



11 NWU Theatre season opener: West Side Story

This blockbuster musical is a modern "Romeo and Juliet" story. See theatre.
nebrwesleyan.edu for tickets and show times.

27 NWU soccer

Fans nostalgic for the Doane/NWU rivalry can catch the women's exhibition match in Crete at 6 p.m.

Alumni Lend-a-Hand

Contact Alumni Relations if you are interested in hosting a service project in your city.

SEPTEMBER

13-14 Visions and Ventures Symposium

Renowned speakers and interactive events explore the relationship between our technology and our humanity.

17 NWU football

The Prairie Wolves play their first-ever conference game as IIAC members versus Wartburg at Abel Stadium at 1 p.m.



Photo by Chad Greene

25 Pops concert

Homecoming events end with a bang and a beat with the Symphonic Band's annual pops concert at 5:30 p.m.

OCTOBER



Photo by Chris Smithberg

22 NWU volleyball

The Prairie Wolves wrap up their regular season home schedule versus Coe College at 3 p.m.



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