

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

ARCHWAYS

SERVE AND PROTECT | WINTER 2016-2017 | VOLUME 16, ISSUE 4



THE MATTER OF LIVES

As cities split,
can Lincoln rally together?

FROM THE PRESIDENT



All of us on campus strive to instill these same values in our students today that were instilled in you.

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Lincoln Police Chief **Jeff Bliemeister** ('94) is intensely focused on his goals for a safer and more unified Lincoln. (See our story on page 11.) He measures winning in strong communities and peaceful streets.

As I write you, the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers, under the direction of General Manager **Jason Licht** ('95), have won five straight and are tied for first with Atlanta in the NFC South. (See our story on page 22.) The Bucs have surged thanks to a defense that's forced an NFL-leading 25 turnovers.

They've surged also thanks to a talent-rich roster created largely by their strategic and fiercely competitive GM. Licht's tongue was only partly in-cheek when he said, "I'd burn my car every week for a win."

Bliemeister and Licht's experiences are unique, but their stories share broad strokes with countless NWU alumni. They're competent, prepared leaders who make decisions in complex and often unforgiving environments. Nebraska Wesleyan is where they learned to solve problems, weigh risks, stay versatile and move with confidence. Their liberal arts educations prepared them for important work.

Your story is likely similar. All of us on campus strive to instill these same values in our students today that were instilled in you.

At Nebraska Wesleyan University, we work continually to demonstrate our value. We show a willingness to take smart risks:

- > overhauling a general education curriculum to help students better connect courses, experiences and life purpose;
- > launching new graduate programs;
- > joining a new athletic conference.

We make such bold plans and take such bold steps with confidence. That's one reason we're beginning site preparations now for a new science center. We're confident in the momentum of this project due in great part to the generous support of alumni and friends.

I'm grateful that you who are alumni value your Nebraska Wesleyan education. I'm equally appreciative for your continued support of this fine university.

Yours truly,

—Fred Ohles
President



7

19

26

CONTENTS

Winter 2016-2017 | Volume 16, Issue 4

ON THE COVER

The Matter of Lives

New police chief calls on Lincoln to rally together. ▶11

POETRY

Poet Speaks on Black Lives

NWU hosts acclaimed writer and MacArthur fellow, Claudia Rankine. ▶6

A Life, But of the Most Bizarre Kind

Art and science throw strange sparks when a surgeon in training turns to poetry. ▶20

SPORT

I Am Not Afraid

An alumnus who grew up halfway between the towns of Champion and Last Chance won't back away from the NFL's win-now expectations. ▶22

NWU

NWUniverse ▶6

Student Pride ▶25

Financial Overview ▶26

Departments

2 From the President

5 Letters

Alumni Pages

29 Mystery Photo

32 Alumni News

38 Class Notes

47 Calendar



Ever wonder where French silk pie came from? The answer: An alumna's kitchen. ▶43

Photo by Kristin Larson ('16)

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

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

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

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

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

Archways (USPS 074-700)

Periodicals Postage Paid at Lincoln, Nebraska
Volume 16, No. 4

Postmaster:

Please send address changes to:

Nebraska Wesleyan University

Attn: Address Change

University Advancement Office

5000 Saint Paul Avenue

Lincoln, Nebraska 68504-2794

isadv@nebrwesleyan.edu

Archways is published quarterly by

Nebraska Wesleyan University

5000 Saint Paul Avenue

Lincoln, NE 68504-2794.

Letters

Diversity Makes Us Smarter

As we near the inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump, people across the Nebraska Wesleyan community are experiencing a diversity of reactions ranging from pride and happiness to concern and fear. We're a diverse people. As we have from our founding, we continue to wrestle with what America is and what comes next.

At Nebraska Wesleyan, I take it as an honor to be part of a diverse community. Diversity makes us smarter. Research by Columbia senior vice dean Katherine Phillips has shown that when we anticipate that we'll be conversing among people who have different ideas, we prepare more and therefore we learn more. We learn not only from listening to other viewpoints but also from having been more engaged in our preparation. We think more critically when surrounded by those who bring different ideas to the table.

This presidential campaign wasn't an example of a diverse community talking and learning together. Let us instead welcome other viewpoints in our civil discourse. Let us accept that we may argue and disagree with our fellow citizens. Let us learn from our engagements, and let us keep our respect for each other.

Our community can focus on our commonality while benefitting from our diversity. As teachers and as friends of higher education, we can recommit ourselves to the work of teaching diverse students about our shared citizenship, our shared government, our shared American history, and our shared rights and responsibilities as citizens.

After the tumult and incivility of this campaign season, my reading has taken me back to President Franklin Roosevelt's 1941 "Four Freedoms" speech. His words gave me great comfort. FDR spoke of "the simple, the basic things that must never be lost sight of in the turmoil and unbelievable complexity of our modern world."

He pointed to freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear. "Since the beginning of our American history we have been engaged in change, in a perpetual, peaceful revolution," he said, "a revolution which goes on steadily, quietly, adjusting itself to changing conditions."

The continuation of both liberty and peace, FDR argued, hinged on "the hands and heads and hearts" of millions of free people and dozens of free nations "working together in a friendly, civilized way." This is Nebraska Wesleyan's model.

Though strained in both 1941 and 2016, American friendliness and civility remain. To keep that so in the New Year to come, we can remember how FDR closed his speech: "Our strength is our unity of purpose."

Judy Muyskens

Provost

As we have from our founding, we continue to wrestle with what America is and what comes next.

The Essence of What NWU Does

As my wife and I have been in the process of moving from one residence to another, I have not had the opportunity to get a good look at the summer edition of *Archways* until today. As always the articles are interesting, but I was particularly taken with the notices of the deaths of three alumni that have meant a good deal to me.

Prof. **David Mickey** ('39) was not just my teacher, he was a life-long friend of my parents, **Vicente Colón**, former dean of admissions at NWU, my mother, **LoRene Colón**, and to me. Dave inculcated in me the importance of exacting literary research in all aspects of academic endeavor. Even after my parents died, he remained a dear friend. I looked forward to speaking with him each time that I returned to Lincoln to visit friends and family.

Cliff Squires ('50) was a personal hero to me from the first time that I saw him play football and basketball at NWU when my father joined the faculty. He was a hero, not just because of the way he played ball, but because of his genuine friendly ways. He was called Cappy by his teammates at Nebraska Wesleyan, and I called him Cappy because he represented unassuming leadership to me.

NWU baseball coach **Ron Bachman** ('60) was a football teammate for a short time, just before he was deployed by the military to Korea. He was also a fraternity brother, baseball coach to my nephews at NWU, and a dear friend for many decades until he could no longer remember who I was due to dementia. Ron can only be described as a very good person in every way. I miss the telephone calls that we shared over many years.

Prof. Dave Mickey, Cliff Squires and Ron Bachman, three Wesleyanites from different eras, illustrate the essence of what NWU does for its charges. Their lives reflect how NWU helps develop individual talents and strong personal relationships. These elements of character development encouraged the petals of their innate humanity to blossom. I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to have known these fine men, each of whom influenced the course of my life.

V. Franklin Colón ('59), M.D.
Lebanon, Ohio

A Suggestion to Honor

It was a pre-Halloween delight to view the appearance of the shade of Professor of English **Mary Smith** in the fall issue of *Archways* ["A Robe by Another Name"]. Although I was a physics major, Mary, along with **Leon Satterfield** and, especially, **Bill Kloefkorn** of the English Department were among the faculty that made my four years at Nebraska Wesleyan an exceptional experience.

I have a suggestion for *Archways* to honor these three incredible faculty. How about soliciting poems from alumni, then publishing those chosen in *Archways*?

I'd suggest that a small committee chosen by *Archways* could do the selection. I'd suggest that **Twyla Hansen**, for whom Bill Kloefkorn was a mentor, and who, thanks to Google, I now know is the Nebraska state poet, be asked to participate on the committee.

Steven K. Nordeen ('72)
Arvada, Colo.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We're game if you are.

Send your poems or essays that show how Smith, Satterfield or Kloefkorn touched your lives to the address below. Or, if you'd like to point to another influential NWU professor, feel free. (All three of them liked to keep their writing assignments loose, after all.)

The only thing keeping us from asking Twyla Hansen to select our winners is the hope that she'll want to write something instead.

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

Photos by Red Feather Photography



“Rankine suffers no fools,” says performance artist William Pope.L, “but ... articulates the trauma and contradictions of what happens when one person is spat upon and another person spits.”

Poet Speaks on Black Lives

Poet Claudia Rankine argued that a great deal of the anguish expressed in the Black Lives Matter movement is rooted in the imagination. She wasn't saying the pain itself is imagined.

That pain comes back around, again and again ... because of a failure in the imaginations of people wielding power.

The pain is all too real. Rather, that pain comes back around, again and again, in a seemingly endless circle, because of a failure in the imaginations of people wielding power.

“Because white men can't police their imagination,” she said, “black men are dying.”

Rankine is the winner of the PEN Open Book Award and the PEN Literary Award. Her book, *Citizen: An American Lyric*, was the first to be named a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in both poetry and criticism. (It won

in poetry.) She is also the winner of a \$625,000 2016 MacArthur Fellowship, popularly known as a MacArthur genius grant.

She came to Nebraska Wesleyan University in October to speak and read. Her visit was supported by NWU's Forum Committee, the Wolf Fund, the Action Council on Diversity and Inclusion and the Visiting Writers Series.

“I wanted to begin to understand how we get these major moments—the murders of black men—these kinds of moments ... where you think, ‘How did that happen?’” she said of *Citizen*. “And I wanted to track it back and say, ‘Well, if people in their daily lives begin by believing and saying these small things, they will add up to major, major aggressions against people just because of the color of their skin.’”

Limited imagination has allowed “the black body to become a criminal body,” she said. She put it another

way in her poem, “Stop-and-Frisk”. “And you are not the guy and still you fit the description because there is only one guy who is always the guy fitting the description.”

With the combination of racism and the proliferation of guns in America, Rankine doesn't see the cycle of violence ending anytime soon. But if it does, it will be due to changes in the American imagination.

“We like it when our leaders are readers,” she told a packed audience in a Q & A that attracted not just poets, but NWU students in sociology, political science, philosophy and more. “Reading informs what's possible in the moral imagination.”

Rankine's work is now part of the moral imagination of the Nebraska Wesleyan community. She said, “I feel like it's my personal mission to keep those stories [of violence against black men] as present as I am possibly able to keep them present.”

THE FINAL: MacArthur genius Claudia Rankine explores the impacts of violence through poetry.

NWU Fraternities Take Home Big Awards

Nebraska Wesleyan University's fraternity and sorority members posted the nation's highest all-Greek GPA last year. As if that weren't enough, all three NWU fraternities followed with major chapter awards.

At the 62nd Phi Kappa Tau national convention, Nebraska Wesleyan's chapter took home awards for academic excellence, community service and philanthropy. **Connor Dethlefs** ('16) received the William H. Shideler Award for Outstanding Chapter President. NWU's chapter also took home the esteemed Maxwell Founder's Four Award as one of the top PKT chapters in the U.S.

NWU's Theta Chi chapter earned the Chapter Achievement Award, the second highest undergraduate chapter award. "Their past president, **Connor Bohlken** ('16), also received the James Ralph 'Shug' Jordan Award

for being the top scholar-athlete in Theta Chi in 2015-2016," said **Mindy Dilley**, assistant director of student involvement.

And for the third consecutive year, NWU's Zeta Psi chapter earned the Gold Chapter Award, which is given to only three Zeta Psi chapters in Canada, the U.S. and the U.K. They were deemed the top chapter in the U.S. this year.

Dilley herself has been recognized for her outstanding support of Greek life at NWU. She has received two national Greek chapter advisor of the year awards from Phi Kappa Tau.



Mindy Dilley

THE FINAL: All three NWU fraternities earned awards as top chapters this year.



Photo by Paul Hadley

NWU Inducts Eight to Huge Society

Nebraska Wesleyan University hosted an October 8 induction ceremony for eight new members of NWU's chapter of the Huge Society. The society honors top scholars earning recognition and scholarship support from the Harry and Reba Huge Foundation. **Harry** ('59) and **Reba Huge** established the Huge Scholars Program at NWU in 2006.

The society now includes 46 NWU students and alumni in a great variety of fields. This year's inductees include **McKenna Bancroft** ('20) of Lincoln; **Drew Damme** ('20) of Blair, Neb.; **Marco Gutierrez** ('20) of Lincoln; **Mitchell Jindra** ('20) of Crete, Neb.; **Katelin O'Connor** ('20) of Grand Island, Neb.; **Andrew Vasquez** ('20) of Omaha; and **Kellyn Vuchetich** ('20) of Lincoln.

In addition to these seven students, NWU also inducted Edward D. "Chip" Robertson, Jr. to the Huge Society as a new member of the Harry and Reba Huge Foundation's board of directors. He is a former chief justice of the Missouri Supreme Court.

THE FINAL: NWU's chapter of the Huge Society now includes 46 top scholars.

Site Preparations Begin for Science Center

For years, the work of "clearing a path" for a new science facility at NWU has been abstract. This fall, that work became literal.

"We're capitalizing on our momentum and taking necessary first steps to prepare for a new building," said President **Fred Ohles**.

Those first steps included closing a one-block stretch of 50th Street between St. Paul and Baldwin Avenues and removing 26 trees to make room for the center and two new parking lots. Nearly half of those harvested trees will be used in campus furniture and construction elements.

"It's gratifying to know the trees will have a new life on campus," said **Tish Gade-Jones** ('92), vice president for finance and administration. "We look forward to planting new trees when the building is complete."

To date, alumni, friends, corporations and foundations have committed \$23 million toward the \$27 million project.

"The momentum to move from discussion to site preparation is encouraging," said Ohles. "Now we shift from site preparation to brick and mortar. The next \$4 million in gifts will ensure that it happens."



Photo courtesy of Tetrad Property Group

Harvested lumber will be reused on campus.

Tips for Testy Test-takers

—By Emmalie Harris ('18)

You've seen the bumper stickers: "As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in school." For NWU students stressing as they cram for exams, Kim Corner ('98) might just be the answer to those prayers.

Corner directs NWU's counseling services. As part of a new "Wellness for P-Wolves" program, she held a fall lunch and learn with useful tips for students coping with test anxiety. While her goal was to foster students' success on exams, her advice is equally helpful for those tests we face after our college days—in everything from job interviews to business presentations to performance reviews.

Her first piece of advice: Don't expect all your stress to go away. It's OK to be nervous. In fact, moderate stress helps keep us motivated and sharp.

Corner offers these tips to bring those performance anxieties inside the "optimal zone."

BE PREPARED.

- **Ask questions.** What will the test cover? How will it be structured? It's less stressful to prepare for something you can see coming.
- **Prepare your body.** That means good sleep, food and hydration. And watch your caffeine. Sure, that third Red Bull might push you through the 2 a.m. cram session. But it does you no favors if you fall asleep during your test.
- **Enter with the right mindset.** Forget last-minute cramming. Don't compare what others have studied. Take confidence in your preparations.

BE RELAXED.

- **Respond to the stress you're feeling.** Breathe. Move. Loosen up.
- Take a cue from athletes and **visualize your performance.** Picturing yourself doing well can help you release tension.

BE POSITIVE.

- Before you tackle the first problem, **ask yourself: "How am I?" Answer: "I am well prepared."** Affirmation helps you focus on the questions to come.
- **Challenge your negative thoughts before they snowball.** Look outside the moment and rationally separate actual consequences from perceived ones.

It's normal to feel anxious in front of life's tests. But when you're prepared, relaxed and positive, those nerves need never spill over to fear.

Hey, you're a Nebraska Wesleyan grad. You got this.

THE FINAL: Test-anxiety strategies can help in all of life's tests.

German Professor Named NWU Exemplary Teacher

Laura Franz is a part-time German instructor who gives students full-time attention.

When she's not teaching in Old Main, she can be found cheering at Abel Stadium or applauding in McDonald Theatre and O'Donnell Auditorium.

"She has students in football, soccer, volleyball, cross country, tennis and cheerleading," said Cathy Nelson, chair of the Modern Languages Department. "She attends at least one of every one of those events for her students every semester."

Her commitment to students is just one reason why the United Methodist Church Division of Higher Education named her this year's Exemplary Teacher. The award is given to an NWU professor each year who exemplifies excellent, value-centered teaching.

"Laura requires individual meetings with all of her students to make sure that they are understanding the material and are doing well in class and in life," noted Nelson.

That commitment to students

in and outside of the classroom has resonated well with students. "Thank you for not only helping me learn German, but also helping me figure out how I can achieve my goals later on in life," said one student nominator.

Franz co-chairs the Nebraska District of the Metropolitan Opera National Council



Laura Franz

auditions. In 2014, she established a fund at Lincoln's Ross Media Arts Center to provide NWU students discounted tickets to opera and theatre broadcasts.

Associate Professor of Mathematics Melissa Erdmann

said, "Laura does all this with a kindness that must be stemming from a heart of gold."

Photo by Zach Tuttle ('17)

THE FINAL: Award-winning German professor is fluent in the lives of her students.

Alumnus Leads NWU's Master of Education Program

Assistant Professor of Education **Randal Ernst** ('83, MAHS '07) is the new director of Nebraska Wesleyan University's Master of Education program in curriculum and instruction. He takes the baton from his colleague, Associate Professor of History **Kevin Bower**, who saw the M.Ed. program through its planning and 2016 launch.

Bower's excitement for the program has always been rooted in its focus on helping teachers help their students. While some M.Ed. programs are geared to prepare future administrators, Nebraska Wesleyan's emphasis is different. "Our program is made for teachers," Bower said. "It's for teachers who want to find new ways to bring out the best in their students."

Bower said the young program is in excellent hands with Ernst.

Ernst's footprints are visible all across the Nebraska Wesleyan experience. He's been both a traditional NWU undergraduate and a graduate student, earning his Master of Arts in Historical Studies from NWU in 2007. He has taught both undergraduate

and graduate courses, and has served in NWU's Education Department as well as in its Psychology Department.

His background in psychology has helped him see what he's called "a rift ... between what we want most for our kids and what we teach."

Ernst said, "There is room in elementary, secondary and higher education curricula to teach both the tools for accomplishment and the skills for well-being." We can teach our kids to be ambitious and successful, even as we show them how to be happy and healthy.

Nebraska Wesleyan's M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction is part of an emerging field of positive education, helping outstanding teachers to facilitate better learning by fostering their students' well-being. NWU alumni are playing a large part in the new graduate program's early enrollment strength. They know Nebraska Wesleyan's quality firsthand, and recognize the value of the personal attention they'll receive from NWU professors like Bower and Ernst.



Photo by Dan Luedert

Randy Ernst (right) will advance the program Kevin Bower (left) got up and running.

Our program is made for teachers ... who want to find new ways to bring out the best in their students.

THE FINAL: Teachers interested in pursuing an NWU Master of Education are encouraged to inquire and apply. The first 40 enrollees (20 in Lincoln and 20 in Omaha) receive a scholarship worth \$40 per credit hour.

Master of Education in Lincoln and Omaha

NW
you



Explore MEd scholarships at nebrwesleyan.edu/MEd





NEBRASKA
WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

THEATRE

SPRING 2017 SEASON

The Lion in Winter
January 19-22, 26-29

Noises Off
March 16-19, 23-26

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
February 2-5, 9-12

Electra
March 30-April 2, 6-9

Love and Information
February 16-19, 23-26

Into the Woods
April 20-23, 27-30

CABARETS

March 23-26
April 27-30

Visit theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu for tickets and show times.

THE MATTER OF LIVES

New police chief calls on Lincoln to rally together.

THE MATTER OF LIVES

Illustrations by Ian Keltie

Jeff Bliemeister ('94) is a cop—not a public speaker. Soaring rhetoric isn't his thing. But on July 14, a few months into one of the city's toughest jobs, Lincoln's new chief of police stepped up to the microphone to address an unsettled crowd of 800 at a rally labeled, "Black Lives DO Matter."

This was more than simple stage fright. Bliemeister took the stage knowing he fit the description of what Americans have seen so often in grainy video footage—officers quick to resort to unjust force.

Bliemeister wanted to show how he and his department differed from that perception of bias. But he wasn't sure he had eloquence enough to do it.

"It was definitely outside my comfort zone," Bliemeister said.

He was there to speak, but also to hear. He'd waded through some heckling to understand the concerns of those rallying. And he'd express his heartfelt goal to protect public safety. He tamed the tremble in his voice, and asked the crowd for help.

He asked for their help in diversifying his force, so that his 94 percent-white department might more closely reflect an 86 percent-white Lincoln. He asked for support in expanding LPD's use of body cameras. His department of 320 officers today owns just four such cameras, with little budgeted for more. He asked for their openness to tough conversations like this one. And he asked them to remember that everyone in Lincoln—black, white, brown and blue—has a shared stake in a peaceful city.

"The whole question of 'black lives' and 'blue lives'—it shouldn't be either-or," said Professor of English Scott Stanfield, who attended the rally. "We shouldn't be picking sides, and [Bliemeister] grasped that."

As false as the "black vs. blue" dichotomy is, Stanfield held that to throw up our hands and shout that "all lives matter" isn't the tidy solution it seems. Such a response doesn't seek to address injustice so much as defer tough conversations about it.

Peace often requires discomfort. Langston Hughes's 1951 poem, "Harlem," asks what can happen when we defer discomfort and leave racial injustice unaddressed.

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore—
And then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over—
like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?

While other cities have faced explosive riots over police brutality and deferred reforms, Lincoln's event was entirely peaceful—if not entirely comfortable. But comfort is something Bliemeister and his department are willing to sacrifice for peace.

TEAL TO BROWN TO BLUE

Nebraska Wesleyan University was where Bliemeister grew accustomed to "productive discomfort." He came to NWU in 1990 from West Point, Neb. It was a big leap from a town of 3,000 to a city nearly 100 times larger. "But I came here because I felt

He ignored orders to drop his weapon. Instead, he raised it.

[Nebraska Wesleyan's] staff cared about my personal development," he said.

He majored in biology. And, with an eye toward medical school, he took part-time jobs as an autopsy assistant and phlebotomist. His discomfort with all that blood was enough to change his plans. He traded teal scrubs for the brown uniform of a Lancaster County sheriff's deputy in 1996. He would wear that uniform for 20 years, trading it for a blue one when he became the Lincoln Police Department's chief in April.

But there was one moment—two years into his stint as a sheriff's deputy—when blood would again change his plans.

Bliemeister recounted the night of September 2, 1997. He was one of three deputies called to a rural home north of Lincoln. Inside was Bryan Hoover, a white man a couple years younger than Bliemeister.

Hoover had an unstable and violent history. He'd threatened to shoot officers during a traffic stop, and had contemplated suicide. Hoover had gone to a house in Lincoln looking for a fight. When his target failed to come outside, Hoover fired a gun through the window. No one was injured.

Bliemeister and two other deputies responded to Hoover's house, where the situation again turned violent. The three officers hunkered down in a ditch while Hoover, armed with a long gun, walked down his driveway toward them. He ignored

orders to drop his weapon. Instead, he raised it.

“Having the real and true sense when that firearm was leveled that my own life was at risk, I was thinking of my family,” Bliemeister said.

Hoover fired at the deputies and missed. Bliemeister returned fire, killing Hoover. He and the deputies climbed out of the ditch together.

Bliemeister was placed on leave—standard procedure after a shooting. Isolated from his colleagues, he was left to ponder what ending someone’s life meant for his own.

“I don’t believe I was mentally prepared for all of that,” Bliemeister said.

The resulting investigation, thorough but straightforward, found Bliemeister was justified in shooting Hoover. He was cleared for reinstatement. Reinstating himself, however, would be harder. Bliemeister knew his actions were justified. But he wasn’t sure he wanted to serve again.

The personal, professional and spiritual sides of ourselves can collide in these career decisions. The best path isn’t always clear.

Bliemeister chose to leave the sheriff’s department. He took a job at State Farm. Instead of protecting lives, he’d try insuring them. After two months, he “realized that was not my passion,” and changed course. He returned to the Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office.

A ROCKY START

Twenty years later, on April 26, 2016, Bliemeister became the Lincoln Police Department chief. The city was in the midst of an unusually violent spring. After a 2015 with a single homicide, Lincoln had already



suffered its fourth murder of 2016 just eight days prior to Bliemeister’s start. Before the summer was through, LPD would investigate five more homicides.

One of them was Marlene Rashidi, 20, who was shot to death in north Lincoln. Another woman, Dezarae Mann, was also shot but survived. Witnesses told police that Germichael Kennedy, a black man, was the shooter.

An African American officer, Sergeant Mario Robinson, found Kennedy about six hours after the shootings. The *Lincoln Journal Star* quoted transcripts of Robinson’s grand jury testimony: “I basically tell him to let me see his hands.... I can’t see his hands. I put my Taser back and go to my firearm. He doesn’t say a word to me. I keep telling him you’re under arrest and let me see your hands, and he just stares at me and stands

there with his hand inside his shorts.”

The two fought, and Kennedy fled. Robinson and a second officer pursued. The run decayed into a jog and then a walk as they tired. Kennedy pulled his handgun, but kept it pointed down. “I’m still yelling, ‘Stop, drop the gun, drop the gun.’ ... He continues to walk,” Robinson said.

Robinson was joined then by Officer Josh Atkinson. Robinson testified, “I try to make eye contact because I want to see what he’s doing. By the time when I look up, he points his handgun right at my face.” Testimony from three witnesses corroborated Robinson’s telling.

Officers then fired 17 rounds, 13 of which struck Kennedy. Kennedy became the first African American killed by Lincoln police since 1991.

Sheriff’s Captain Josh Clark investigated



the police shooting. He testified, "Sergeant Robinson had given more commands than I have really seen in my career as far as the initial contact with Mr. Kennedy." He added that once Kennedy drew his weapon, "Robinson displayed a lot of patience as far as continuing to give commands and recognizing initially that handgun was pointed to the ground."

Kennedy's mother, Shirley, wished that patience had extended further still. She felt police had targeted her son. She filed complaints with the local, regional and national NAACP.

Bennie Shobe, Jr., president of the Lincoln NAACP, said his association investigates complaints for potential civil rights violations. In Kennedy's case, the evidence suggested "everyone acted appropriately," Shobe said.

While Shobe saw no racial bias in this instance, the 18-year Lincoln resident said he's felt racism firsthand. Growing up in 1960s Kentucky, Shobe recalled his father visiting a sit-down restaurant, but waiting in

the car for his order. He didn't understand until later that the restaurant didn't allow blacks in the dining room.

Shobe, who works for the Department of Labor, was on a panel that reviewed Bliemeister for Lincoln's chief. "He stood head-and-shoulders above everybody," Shobe said. "He's in the community every night. He's going to keep pushing Lincoln forward."

That doesn't mean Shobe hasn't criticized him. On May 21, Zakira Rhodes, 13, was stopped by Lincoln police because she seemed to fit the description of a woman they were seeking. Rhodes was told to exit a car along with her father and brother. A photo obtained by KOLN-TV shows Rhodes standing with her arms raised and her back to two officers with guns drawn.

Police were actually seeking Rhodes' older sister, Guanissa, who was 21. The older Rhodes had allegedly threatened two people. "We made a mistake in identification, and I owned that mistake," Bliemeister said.

But Shobe asked how police could mistake a 13-year-old for 21. "There's a whole lot of literature about the sexualization of young black women, and our society tends to look at black girls as being adult at an early age. The Lincoln Police, while well meaning, did that," said Shobe. "They quickly admitted they screwed up. They operated on some stereotypes that were unfair."

Lincoln's total of nine homicides in 2016 (as of December 6) is its highest number since 1998, and a sizable jump from one murder last year. Other violent crimes, like aggravated assault (+1.7 percent) and robberies (-14.3 percent) have not spiked.

Bliemeister and Public Safety Director Tom Casady told the *Lincoln Journal Star* in September that the number of murders was not indicative of a trend.

"They don't cluster here in Lincoln in time or in space," Casady said. "They don't have a common cause that is amenable to direct police action."

The newspaper noted that Lincoln's murder total the past two years is smaller than those seen in most similar-sized U.S. cities.

Casady credited Lincoln's culture for these relatively low totals. "We have strong blocks, strong neighborhood associations, tightknit neighborhoods and lots of neighbors who know each other really well," he said. "They watch out for each other."

Still, Lincoln's 2016 rise in murders has made officers more aware of their surroundings, Captain **Mayde McGuire** (MFS '05) said. "Most of the homicides are by gunfire," she said. "We've also had an uptick in shootings where people weren't killed. There are a lot of guns out there, and they can go a long distance."

STARTLING SIDES OF OURSELVES

McGuire has been with the department since 1998, and is LPD's second-shift commander. When she was 7, she wrote a paper titled, "My Name Is Mayde McGuire and I Want to Be a Police Officer." She's proud of her NWU Master of Forensic Science degree, proud of being admitted to the police academy on her first try, and proud of her work.

"It's not a blue collar job. It is a profession," McGuire said.

And when officers show bias, use excessive force or even laugh at racist humor, McGuire takes issue on behalf of her entire profession. "And they say, 'I don't mean it,' but can you be OK with it? That's not right," she said.

There can be great pressure to stay quiet in the face of biased or hateful speech, said Claudia Rankine, a globally acclaimed poet and 2016 MacArthur fellow. (Our story on her campus visit is on page 6.) "We're trained to use silence as a way to move through those uncomfortable moments. But allowing the space to hold that racism

should feel worse," Rankine said.

"If you hear something racist and say, 'What makes you feel comfortable saying that?' everyone's going to look at you," she told NWU students. "But if you say nothing, you're going to have to look at you all night long." Rankine's advice to NWU students: "Give the garbage back. Say, 'You hold it. I won't hold it for you.'"

In the same way, McGuire called on all officers to actively reject bias in their colleagues. "We don't want to be associated with bad officers," McGuire said, speaking for departments across her profession. "They put us in danger."

The harm caused by biased policing is evident in cities across the country.

We've seen high-profile incidents in places like Ferguson, Mo., and Minneapolis, Minn. The U.S. Department of Justice released a report about Baltimore, Maryland's police department in August. The 164-page report detailed frequent unconstitutional stops, searches and arrests; unjustifiable racial disparities in the rates of stops, searches and arrests; use of excessive force; and retaliation against free speech.

Baltimore police conducted numerous

strip searches of citizens, including a woman who was stopped for having a headlight out. More than 60 complaints were filed in Baltimore from 2010 to 2015 for similar searches without cause.

*Give the garbage back.
Say, 'You hold it. I won't
hold it for you.'*

The Nebraska State Patrol has also been scrutinized for bias in ticketing. Professor of Sociology **David laquinta** has taught a course at NWU on race relations for decades. In the past, he's used a 2009 study of traffic tickets issued by Nebraska troopers. It showed that whites had their cars searched during 4.1 percent of traffic stops; blacks had their cars searched 6.2 percent of the time; and Hispanics were searched 8.9 percent of the time.

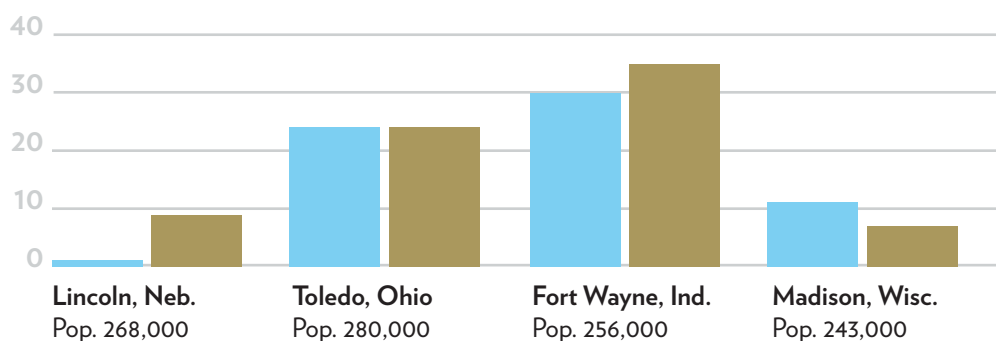
The report also showed that whites and Asians were the least likely to be arrested during stops, and most likely to receive warnings instead of tickets. Blacks were arrested during stops at about six times the rate of whites.

While the data raise disheartening questions, laquinta commended the state patrol for doing the study and releasing results. Their transparency and willingness to face scrutiny, he said, are models he hopes his students follow. And he's just as willing to use data to look for bias in the Nebraska Wesleyan community as he is with the Nebraska State Patrol.

laquinta has decades of data from

HOMICIDES BY CITY

■ 2015 ■ 2016 (as of October 7)



his courses that reveal startling sides of ourselves as a campus community. For many years, he's surveyed NWU students on whether they believe they can draw conclusions about people's socioeconomic status based on surnames alone. Every year, most students report they disagree or strongly disagree that they can make such conclusions.

He then gives them six names—all associated with different white ethnicities—saying that each of the six individuals is from a different economic class. And he asks them to guess at their order from wealthiest to poorest.

If biases weren't at play, laquinta's survey results would show great randomness. Year after year, they do not. Pluralities from each class consistently put the English name on

I want us to do the work it takes to be that good person every one of us wants to be.

the top of the list, followed by the Jewish name. And, year after year, pluralities put the Irish and Polish names at the bottom.

"If this is what we do based on the sounds of people's names," laquinta said, "imagine what we do with people's skin tones or the shapes of their eyes."

Students are often jarred by the biases laquinta's exercises reveal. It's not unusual for some to become defensive and uncomfortable. Rather than eliminate that discomfort, laquinta wants to make it productive. "I try to make clear that this isn't about you," he said. "This is about us. This is about our biases as a community, and what we can do

about them."

He said, "I want it to compel us to do the work—not to others, but to ourselves. I want us to do the work it takes to be that good person every one of us wants to be."

That work—that productive discomfort—lies at the heart of an NWU education. That same work might also lie at the heart of a healthy Lincoln Police Department.

THIS MAN'S HEART

Bliemeister's Nebraska Wesleyan education—with its elements, not just of biology, but also of sociology, psychology, history, demography, political science and communication—is an experience in navigating complexity. It's an experience that results in a comfort with productive discomfort. And it's an experience that helps build principled leaders.

laquinta said police leaders like Bliemeister "need to stand up for individuals with tough jobs, and look for systemized biases at play at the same time." That's not easy. laquinta acknowledged the risks on either side of the tightrope Bliemeister is asked to walk. "When these chiefs come forward and take these positions [acknowledging the problems of bias in policing], they're putting a lot on the line."

When Bliemeister took the microphone at the July rally, the woman who'd invited him to speak sat to his right. Janet Goodman Banks is a nurse, pastor, "a breast cancer survivor for seven years," and a Lincoln resident for 21 years. She is also the leader of The Women in the City ministry. She co-organized the rally, which was unaffiliated with the national Black Lives Matter organization.

"Seeing how unequally balanced [the justice system] is, and has been for some

time, we felt a need to express ourselves in a positive, nonviolent, way," she said.

Goodman Banks looked out on the crowd and said she was overwhelmed by the number of white faces she saw. It reminded her of the peace rallies she grew up around in the 1960s. Still, those rallies weren't inherently peaceful.


"[Bliemeister] had to know that some in the crowd would be suspicious, or skeptical, or even hostile," Prof. Stanfield said, "and he was willing to address that audience. It showed a lot of character."

If Bliemeister's appearance constituted a risk, it was one Goodman Banks was determined to minimize. She said her rally's goal was to hold bad cops accountable, not chastise the ones doing their job well. "If the shoe doesn't fit, don't wear it," Goodman Banks said. "If it doesn't pertain to you, you shouldn't be offended."

Bliemeister wasn't offended. He was eager, if nervous, to speak. And when a handful of hecklers saw fit to interrupt him, it was the pastor who kept the peace. She took the microphone and admonished those speaking out of turn.

It was a small moment, but a meaningful one. An African American stepping forward to serve and protect a white officer committed to serving and protecting their shared city. The hecklers quieted. The crowd applauded. And the descriptions of everyone there stretched, just a little. In the pastor, a citizen. In the officer, a citizen. In the crowd, 800 more citizens.

Goodman Banks' kindness made the event a little less of a rally against, and a little more of a rally together.

"I felt the chief deserved the respect to be heard. He didn't have to be there," she said. "I wanted people in this city to hear this man's heart." 



Honoring NWU's Legends and Legacies

Each homecoming, we pay tribute to outstanding alumni at NWU's Legends and Legacies awards ceremony. It's never too early to nominate someone for 2017.

Learn about award categories and nominate deserving alumni
at nebrwesleyan.edu/alumni/alumni-awards or 402.465.2123.





Meet today's needs. Create tomorrow's opportunities.

When you give to the Archway Fund, you provide financial aid for students, support for faculty and opportunities in and out of the classroom.

You also position NWU for a stronger future.

Give today at nebrwesleyan.edu/donate. And visit facebook.com/NWUgiving.
Contact Erika Paschold at 402.465.7574 or epaschol@nebrwesleyan.edu



What's Next?

New technologies trigger old questions.

Nebraska Wesleyan University's sixteenth Visions and Ventures Symposium explored the implications of new technologies. The theme for the September event was "Press Shift: Our Changing Place in a High-tech World."

Steve Brugman ('89) served as the symposium's first speaker. Brugman is a familiar face to *Archways* readers. The partner at Snaproll Media, a pioneer in the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) industry, played a prominent role in our summer cover story, "Unmanned: Automation in the Age of American Anxiety." He spoke on the economic opportunities and privacy

concerns brought about by drone technology.

Jessica Jackley founded KIVA, the world's first peer-to-peer micro-lending website. KIVA uses technology to connect cash-strapped entrepreneurs all over the world to affordable capital via loans as small as \$25 from socially minded investors. Jackley is the author of *Clay Water Brick: Finding Inspiration from Entrepreneurs*

"If you can access your files from home," he warned in 1999, "so can a hacker."

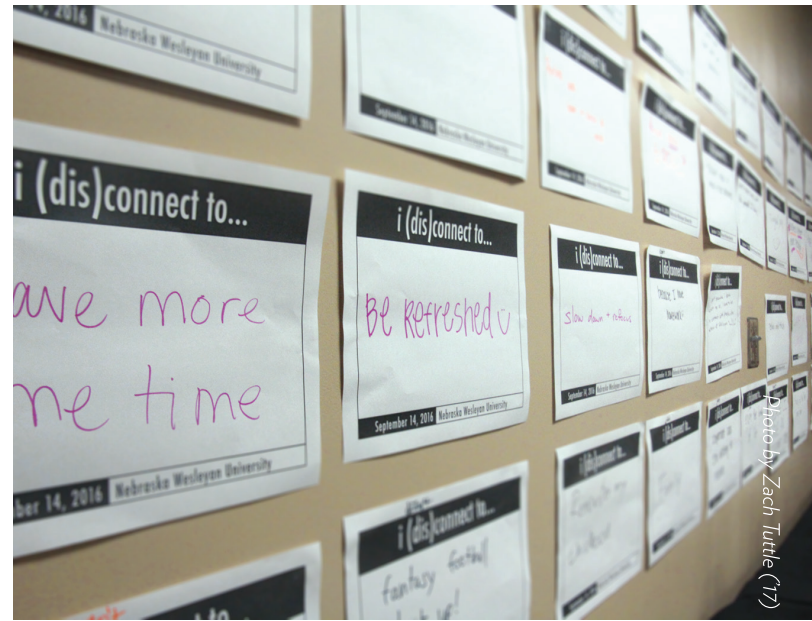
Who Do the Most with the Least.

And statistician Talithia Williams spoke on the health and privacy impacts brought about by technology measuring and analyzing quantifiable personal data, such as heart rate, sleep patterns and body temperature. Her research has yielded appointments at the National Security Agency and NASA.

To help students consider the impact technology has on their lives, NWU invited students to take part in "Disconnect to Connect," a voluntary technology fast where students refrained from cell phone and internet use for just 20 hours. (Go ahead and try this at home. We recommend using a nice print magazine to help see yourself through.)

While the technologies inside UAVs, micro-lending websites and health-tracking devices are new, the questions they raise are not. We looked back to an NWU publication that predates Fitbits and Predator drones. The December 1999 edition of *Nebraska Wesleyan University* (*Archways* magazine's predecessor) included a piece called "Eye on the Millennium: Technology and the Workplace."

In that article, former Professor of Biology **Brian Viets** predicted an explosion in the prevalence and power of cell phone technology. "The idea is that you have a computer that goes



Students examined the impacts of technology with the help of a purposefully low-tech message board.

everywhere with you. When you're away from the office, you can schedule appointments, access your desktop files, check email and perform other functions."

Viets saw no reason why there wouldn't one day be "a watch with these capabilities."

Shawn Mummert ('95) predicted these computerized cell phones would "probably become as common as microwaves and VCRs."

Viets recognized that the technological benefits would come tangled in complexities. "If you can access your files from home," he warned in 1999, "so can a hacker."

And the former director of Nebraska Wesleyan's Career Center, **Geri Cotter**, had concerns for our well-being. "I worry about our mental health," she said. "I see that the lines between work and home are becoming less clear-cut because of technology."

Cotter predicted another implication of new technology: the heightened need for professionals with a liberal arts education. "In the coming decades," she said, "people will have to love to learn. You're going to be left behind if you're not someone who is proactive and can take the initiative."

Her advice may not be new, but it holds. 🐢



Photos by Dan Luedert

A Life, But of the Most Bizarre Kind

Art and science throw strange sparks when a surgical poet teaches at NWU.

—By Eric Wendt ('99)



Hickman's "Art-Zilla" stands proudly on her desk.

It's difficult to define what separates great poets from good ones. But you know it when you feel it. Great poets reach inside us, find that elemental thing deep in our chests, and cup it in their palms.

That could be what gives Visiting Assistant Professor of English **Mary Hickman** an advantage over the merely good. You see, Hickman has reached inside other people's chests—not figuratively, but literally—and held their hearts in her hand.

"One of my jobs [as a surgical assistant] was to hold back the heart in order to expose the other side for grafting," Hickman wrote in the introduction of her new book, *Rayfish*. "The bizarre intimacy of my hand placed on a stranger's heart, the precision of the stitches, and the formal routines and grids of the surgical field felt simultaneously organic and artificial, familiar and foreign."

Her experiences as a scientist and artist have shaped her work into something rich and strange—a fascinating "mix of the mechanical and the emotional."

Surgery has fed Hickman's unusual voice. "There's such a rich field of language there," she said. "If I'd have just stuck to the humanities, I'd have had a much harder time seeking that out."

Science has had such an impact on Hickman's imagination, she said, that if she had to start her undergraduate education over again, she'd choose to be a physics major. "Imagination is so key to physics, and I want that three-dimensionality in the way I look at the world," she said. "I want that for my students, too."

Some of Hickman's poetry is explicitly medical, as this from "Eva Hesse":

We want to know what went wrong, in the cellular, the microscopic parts, in the lipids and tissue. ... But the body ultimately stays what it is: combines of organ, bone, tube.

Or this, from “The Women We Were in Books”:

I’ve assisted in two kinds of plastic surgeries: additions and subtractions. I either supplement the body so that it rounds out and fills or I tuck the body into itself, scraped free of excess fat or skin. ... I’ll remove what they’ve come to give up, I’ll increase what they’ve come to receive, and I’ll record each transaction in book and memory.

She also uses the visceral to touch the abstract, as with this from “Shenzhen”:

I have known the soul is figure and form, a boiling up of blood around the heart.

And in “Everything Is Autobiography and Everything Is Portrait,” she writes:

What I increasingly feel—that awful phrase “spiritual grandeur”—I feel it like the cap of a jellyfish behind my tongue.

Her poems can both heal and slice. “Go back into yourself and look,” she writes in “Shenzhen”. “If you do not yet see yourself beautiful, then cut away, polish.”

When she found herself more interested in writing about surgery than performing it, she left medical school to explore writing. She’d always considered herself a writer, she said, “But, honestly, I didn’t realize poetry was something you could study.”

She soon learned, earning a spot in America’s top creative writing graduate program: the Iowa Writer’s Workshop. “I got a golden ticket,” she said.

This program has produced an astounding list of writers, including Raymond Carver, Rita Dove, **Kent Haruf** (65) and Flannery O’Connor.

Today, Hickman is earning accolades that show she belongs in such company. In September, she won the Academy of

American Poets’ James Laughlin Award. With a generous cash prize, a residency in a four-star South Beach hotel and distribution of her next book to thousands of members, it’s among America’s most coveted poetry prizes.

Step into her Old Main office, and she’s more eager to show you another prize. “Have you seen my Art-zilla?”



Imagination is so key to physics, and I want that three-dimensionality in the way I look at the world. I want that for my students, too.

On her desk stands a crude, gold-glittered mockup of Nebraska’s capitol. Poised atop it, King Kong-style, is a smiling clay dinosaur. “[Associate Professor of Art] **David Gracie** and I both won one of these as part of the Lincoln Mayor’s Arts Awards. Twyla won one, too, which was kind of a sweep for Nebraska Wesleyan,” she said, referring to **Twyla Hansen**, NWU’s former head groundskeeper and the late Professor of English **William Kloefkorn**’s successor as Nebraska’s state poet. “I just love mine. I show it to everyone.”

While Hickman wasn’t familiar with Kloefkorn before coming to NWU, she’s happy to stand in his shoes. “Twyla taught me about Bill—about what he means,” Hickman said. “Bill’s the one who inspired her to

start writing poetry. Look at her now.”

Hansen crisscrosses Nebraska as state poet, visiting school after school—like Kloefkorn had before her.

Hickman may not have recognized their fingerprints, but the community these poets helped build is what attracted Hickman to NWU in the first place.

Associate Professor of English **Brad Tice** had invited Hickman to read on campus in 2015. When she arrived, she saw something unexpected: She saw people who were neither students nor professors.

“They didn’t know me,” Hickman said. “They were just people who live nearby—people who wanted to hear some poetry.” That reflection of poetry’s place in University Place won Hickman over.

“I really resent whoever sequestered poetry to the boundaries of campus,” she said. Once she saw NWU as a place where those boundaries had fallen, she jumped at the chance to teach here.

The “visiting” tag in her title means Hickman’s term at Nebraska Wesleyan will soon end. She’ll be job hunting.

Hickman long ago accepted the uncertainty of an artist’s path. (“It is a life but of the most bizarre kind,” she wrote.) She’s called many places home on her path through Asia, Europe and the U.S.

Her credentials as a Laughlin Award winner—and let’s not forget that Art-zilla trophy—will surely vault her toward the top of poetry professor searches across the country. Still, Nebraska Wesleyan will hold a dear place.

“The collegiality and community I’ve found here is unlike anything I’ve ever seen,” she said. “Great poetry and great teaching are just part of the legacy here. It’s allowed me to tap a creative environment I find very productive.”

And the poet who’ll soon have several offers to choose from said, “That’s why I’m so much more interested in staying than leaving.” 🏠

Hickman will deliver a free, public lecture on writing across disciplines at 7 p.m., January 25, in Olin B Lecture Hall.

“I Am Not Afraid” Is Mantra of Bucs GM Licht

—By Martin Fennelly

EDITOR'S NOTE

Days before the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers opened their season with a victory over the Atlanta Falcons, the Tampa Bay Times ran this column on the man piloting the Bucs' ship, General Manager Jason Licht ('93). We reprint it here with permission.

Bucs general manager Jason Licht sat in the empty dining room at One Buc Place. The hay is mostly in the barn. Licht and Dirk Koetter, the new coach, are making final tweaks to the roster. All that's left after that are real games, beginning Sunday at Atlanta.

“I feel very confident about this team,” Licht said. “It’s a different feeling than I’ve had in the past.”

The season looms for Licht, 45, who is 8-24 in his first two seasons as GM and on his second coach. Licht will have to own a lot of what happens from here out.

Goes with the job. And a hefty salary. Licht lives in a nice house with his wife and their three young children. There’s a pool — yes, the very pool Licht walks into after wins while still wearing his suit. Licht promised the kids he would do it, and it took off. He left six suits dripping wet last season, one for each Bucs win. He would love to do it more this season.

“I’d ruin every suit in my closet for a win,” Licht said, laughing. “I’d burn my car every week for a win.”

He understands why people keep score on his draft picks and free agent signings.

“But you can’t go into a draft or free agency picking or choosing scared,” he said.

Then he said something else:

“I’ve always just been, my whole career — and life, for that matter — digging out of adversity, coming out of adverse situations.”

I thought back to something Licht said in January when Koetter was made coach.

“I love pressure,” Licht said. “My entire life, since I grew up as a kid, been through a lot of pressure situations. I have great parents, a great foundation. Been through tough times growing up. Don’t want to get into it. The more pressure, the better, so bring it on.”

On Thursday morning, Licht stood in a hall and talked about his mother and father, Ron and Karen, about his family’s struggles

when he was growing up. Ron held an engineering degree from Nebraska. A very smart man, a caring man. It was just tough times. Jason Licht wasn’t on a woe-was-me kick, but he wanted to explain.

“My dad is the greatest man I know, my best friend,” Licht said. “He taught me a lot, especially how to deal with adversity and overcome things. Growing up, we moved around a lot, from town to town, him trying to find work in a fledgling industry, irrigation sales. When we settled in Colorado, we moved from house to house, always something cheaper. Never had much. But my parents did their best. They were awesome. Just tough financial times.”

The Lichts, Ron and Karen and their two children, moved from Nebraska to Iowa. Then to Colorado, to Yuma, population 3,524, a few hours east of Denver. On a map, Yuma is roughly halfway between the towns of Champion and Last Chance.

Karen taught elementary school for 42 years. “She was our rock,” Jason said. His



I’d burn my car every week for a win.

FALL SPORT SUMMARY



Cross country

NWU men and women used strong performances in La Crosse, Wis., to crack the NCAA III national rankings in October. The women won NWU’s first IIAC crown and the men placed second. At nationals, Tanner Brown’s 38th place finish was NWU’s highest since 2007.

Football

NWU football discovered the strength of IIAC offenses in its first season in the conference. NWU allowed 35.3 points per game in conference play, finishing with a record of 4-6.

sister, Patti, now teaches at the same school. But growing up was different, financially strained at times. The Lichts would rent, but they'd have to move, two weeks' notice. "It just became part of life," Jason said.

"I didn't have money for college. I had some small-school scholarship offers. But I chose to walk-on (at Nebraska). I didn't want to burden my parents. But they couldn't have been more supportive."

Licht played guard and linebacker at Nebraska before transferring to Nebraska Wesleyan. His parents found a way to send their son \$50 here, \$100 there. Licht received financial aid and took out student loans. He worked summers as a bartender.

"My dad said, 'Don't ever let anything stop you from what your dream is,'" Licht said. "He told me, 'You'll always find a way.' We always found a way. I just paid my student loans off last year. My family is on its feet now. They're fine. ... Oh, I loved paying off those student loans. We celebrated."

He smiled.

"I'll give you a quick story. I'm at Nebraska on the freshman team. My dad didn't miss a single game. He would drive seven and a half hours. Get up super early, drive, see the game, then we'd get something to eat, then he'd drive on back.

"Well, my dad had this prized silver dollar

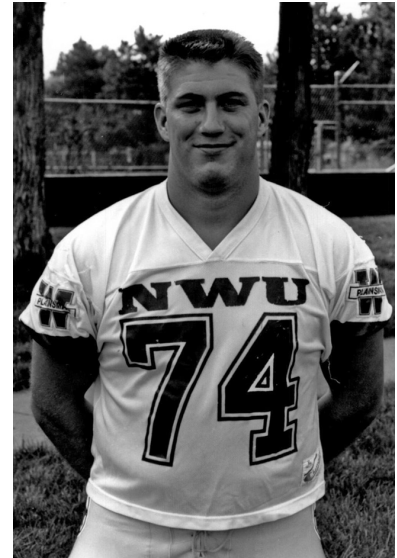
collection that his dad had passed on to him. As kids, we'd look at them. They were in like a bait and tackle box, and inside were all these silver dollars. I found out my dad sold the collection, the whole thing, for gas money just to see me play my whole freshman year. I don't think they were worth much more than regular dollars, but he had them all and used them for gas so he could watch me play. I'm more appreciative of that than if he had been able to pay for my college."

Licht smiled again:

"I guess my whole point is, I'm not afraid. I'm not afraid of unorthodox or unconventional ways of doing things, because life is not always from point A to point B. I'm not trying to be a martyr. People go through hard times. My dad is still alive. His biggest lesson was hard work and don't let anybody tell you that you can't do something. You can come from a town of 2,000 people, not much money, but you can still go to college where you want. You can even become a GM. Why not? You're grateful for what you have. And you're not afraid to take risks. It's not 'Oh, I'm afraid to sign or pick this player.' You can't be afraid."

Jason Licht knows where he came from. And what he learned.

Silver Dollars Playbook. [n](#)



My dad sold the collection, the whole thing, for gas money just to see me play. I'm more appreciative of that than if he had been able to pay for my college.



Photo by Chris Smithberg

Women's soccer

NWU's success in 2016 was built on defense. In their seven wins, NWU allowed just four goals. And inconsistent offense defined their losses, where they scored just four goals in 11 matches.

Kaitlyn Sullivan earned All-IIAC honorable mention in her first season.

Men's soccer

Fans of NWU soccer chewed fingernails all fall as the men went to overtime four times, saw three draws and played in only five matches decided by more than two goals. They finished 7-7-3.



Try and keep up.

Stats, highlights and live action at NWUsports.com



SPORT

NWU ranked second in the conference with 59 student-athletes in fall sports named to the IIAC's All-Academic team.

Volleyball

Despite a road-heavy schedule full of new opponents, NWU volleyball logged an above-.500 record in its first IIAC season, finishing 15-14 overall and 5-3 in conference play. They fell 1-3 to Central College at the IIAC tournament in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Women's Golf

NWU's strong season was highlighted by a dual victory over Doane and a second place finish at the NWU Pink Classic. They never placed lower than fourth all fall, and finished fourth in the IIAC championships in Waverly, Iowa.

Women's Tennis

NWU entered the IIAC off its game. After winning seven of 10 conference championships between 2004 and 2013, NWU managed a single victory versus Buena Vista University this fall, finishing 1-8.

Student Pride

Prestige scholars and awards



Spirituality is a key part of assessing patients, as it can have a great effect on a person's health.



Science and Soul Come Together for Nursing Student

One of the most important things anyone can learn at Nebraska Wesleyan University is how to combine your intellectual interests with your life's purpose. For **Sydney Wergin** ('18) of Aurora, Neb., that means studying nursing as a science, and practicing it as a part of her faith.

Her faith and her strength in the sciences won her a spot in a five-week preceptorship in California this summer, through the Christian organization, Medical Strategic Network. She joined a team working with patients at Loma Linda Medical Center, holding prayers and spiritual conversations while completing health assessments.

"Spirituality is a key part of assessing patients, as it can have a great effect on a person's health," said Wergin. "It's important for health care providers to understand the link between our physical health and our spiritual."

She shadowed family practitioners and mental health professionals, gaining insights on how science and spirituality overlap in their work.

"I know that I will be able to assess my patients' emotional and spiritual needs on a much deeper level," she said. "I believe that I will be able to talk with my patients with much more ease."

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Nebraska Wesleyan University's 2016 financial operations show a mixture of growing enrollment, enriching student value and focusing on strategic investments.

Our net assets were stable at \$91 million. While unfavorable market conditions hindered our endowment, those headwinds were offset by the strong support we continue to receive through gifts and grants. The endowment has since rebounded after fiscal year-end. Financial aid distributions continue to rise, reaching \$21 million, as we respond to the needs of the students we serve. We are continuing to strengthen the diversity of our student population.



Enrollment growth

Nebraska Wesleyan had the second-largest incoming class in many decades during the 2015-16 school year. Residence halls were near capacity. Nebraska Wesleyan's adult and graduate programs continue to see growth, most notably in the Master of Business Administration program, which launched in the fall of 2014.

Student value

We invested in a new personal counseling center for our students to address mental health, cultural issues, life planning, stress management and achievement of educational goals. Our small staff of counselors has expanded hours and now includes a nurse practitioner. We enriched our Title IX program and have added the services of Voices of Hope to assist with our commitment to proactively create and maintain a welcoming, safe, healthy and educational environment for all students.

Strategic investments

We invested in improved wireless access in our residence halls and academic buildings and enhanced our technology in classrooms. We've invested more in coaching to support the recruitment of talented student-athletes.

We continue to be disciplined in the way we use the university's debt capacity, limiting our debt issuances to revenue-producing projects. One result of this disciplined approach is the affirmation in September 2016 of our bond rating by Standard & Poor's of A-/Stable.

We continue to strive for solid fundraising, growing enrollment and ongoing support of experienced faculty and staff to strengthen the value students receive at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Sincerely,

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

► **FINANCIAL OVERVIEW**

Assets

Total Assets	\$115,887,000
Total Liabilities	\$24,890,000
Total Net Assets	\$90,997,000



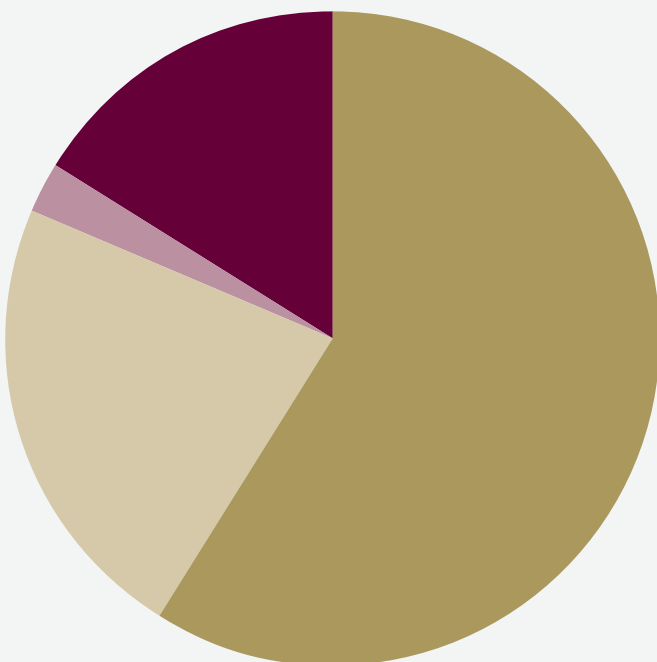
Expenses

Instruction	\$15,936,000
Academic Support	\$4,844,000
Student Services	\$7,964,000
Institutional Support	\$4,355,000
Auxiliary Enterprises & Other	\$5,829,000
Total Expenses	\$38,928,000

► **STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES 2015-16**

Revenues

Tuition and Fees	\$46,078,000
<i>Less: Financial Aid</i>	\$20,970,000
Net Tuition and Fees	\$25,108,000
Gifts and Grants	\$9,562,000
Investment Earnings	\$1,034,000
Auxiliary Enterprises & Other	\$6,802,000
Total Revenue	\$42,506,000



Change in Assets from Operations	\$3,578,000
Other Changes in Assets	(\$3,403,000)

Total Change in Assets **\$175,000**

Net Assets, Beginning of the Year	\$90,822,000
Net Assets, End of the Year	\$90,997,000



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.

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

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;
- > Your total IRA gift(s) cannot exceed \$100,000 per year. The transfer can count toward your required minimum distribution but is not limited by it.

Contact: Brenda McCrady, director of planned giving,
at 402.465.2129 or bmccrady@nebrwesleyan.edu.



MYSTERY PHOTO

Elementary, Dear Watson

We're calling on our best gumshoes to help track down this mystery man.

Send your responses to:

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

ALUMNI PAGES

All alumni are part of
the NWU community—
no dues required.
This is your NWU.



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



Directory Assistance

You looked up the identity of this smiling alumna.

The student directory of Nebraska Wesleyan University was a big help to me my freshman year in 1966 because it allowed me to contact and communicate with my classmates at NWU. The photo of Joyce Stewart, editor, was from *The Plainsman* 1966 edition. I don't have the directory but I recall those days gone by with warmth and fondness. I still communicate with many schoolmates to this day.

—**Gene Crump** ('69)
Lincoln

Joyce Stewart Baird, class of 1966, is the editor pictured. She was well known to me as a sister Phi Mu. I followed in her footsteps as the coeditor of the student directory in a following year. Will you award bonus points for my copy of that year's directory?

—**B. J. Good** ('69)
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

The difference is your success.

Nurses are responsible for more than ever before.

Be prepared for your future. Explore these NWU nursing options and take your career to the next level.

Adult programs

- > RN to BSN
- > MSN
- > MSN/MBA joint degree
- > MSN to MBA Bridge
- > Post Master's certificate

Traditional students

- > 4-year BSN



Bryan Perrin ('12)
Complete Children's Health, Lincoln

Request information at nursing.nebrwesleyan.edu



Keep Climbing that Next Mountain

NWU remembers leader and giver, Duane Acklie.

—By Amanda Broulik

Duane Acklie once wrote, “When someone learns in conversation that I am chairman of the Board of Governors of Nebraska Wesleyan University, the same question often pops up. What sorts of people are associated with Nebraska Wesleyan?”

The university is fortunate that one honest answer to this question has long been: “People like Duane Acklie.”

Duane, who passed away in September at age 84, was a lawyer, entrepreneur and respected businessman. He was an advisor to U.S. presidents and even a military counterintelligence officer. He was a philanthropist, husband, father, mentor and friend. He was also a self-proclaimed country boy.

Duane was raised on a farm near Madison, Neb., and attended a one-room schoolhouse. His first business venture was peddling his family’s watermelons on a corner of Highway 81. When competition popped up, he adapted. He got his learner’s permit, sold loads to grocery stores and ended up in the wholesale melon business before graduating high school.

That entrepreneurial spirit reignited in 1971 when he and his wife, Phyllis, moved to acquire Crete Carrier Corporation. They formed a holding company to make the acquisition and named it LRC, Inc. (for “Last Red Cent”). Indeed, the business didn’t have an easy beginning; neither he nor Phyllis took a salary the first year. But their investment bore fruit as Crete Carrier grew into one of the largest privately owned trucking companies in the nation.

Duane was known for treating employees and partners alike with sincere respect and humility. “Time after time, I witnessed a driver sometimes shyly and almost reverently approach Duane as he ate lunch in the

Crete Carrier cafeteria,” said Dick Peterson (‘59), Duane’s business associate and friend of 56 years. “‘Mr. Acklie,’ they would say, ‘I just wanted to shake your hand and tell you how much I appreciate the opportunity you gave me.’ Duane would smile and graciously in his quiet way respond with his own thanks for the driver’s contribution to the company’s success.”

Duane’s relationship with Nebraska Wesleyan started in 1974 when his daughter, Laura, was a student. He later served as chair of the Board of Governors from 1983 to 1986 and was recognized with an honorary Doctor of Laws in 1988.

He was also a valued friend and advisor to President Fred Ohles. “Duane was always generous to me with his time, his advice and his encouragement,” Ohles said. “Imagine someone admired equally for his kindness and his business acumen. That was Duane Acklie.”

Duane and Phyllis were members of the Huntington Society for their lifetime giving, members of the Presidents Society for more than 20 years and most recently contributed generously to NWU’s campaign to build its new science center.

“He and Phyllis knew this project would be transformational for Nebraska Wesleyan, and they stepped forward to support it,” said Angie Muhleisen (‘81), chair of the campaign cabinet and longtime friend. “Duane has touched many lives through his acts of



Imagine someone admired equally for his kindness and his business acumen. That was Duane Acklie.

kindness, and this gift will help generations of students. He was a one-of-a-kind individual and he will be sorely missed.”

NWU has greatly benefited from a generosity Duane would have been reluctant to call extraordinary. “We consider ourselves an ordinary couple who care about people and the community,” he once said. “We would rather call it ‘giving’ than philanthropy, because it isn’t just about how much money you have. When I started in law, we had no money to give, so I handled all adoptions for no fee. That was something I could do.”

Duane gave Nebraska Wesleyan’s commencement address in 2009, as graduates prepared to enter the workforce in a time of great economic uncertainty. He told the graduating class, “Today, you are graduating from a great university. You have climbed the first mountain. The education you have received is the best assurance you can have that you will weather this storm and enjoy your place in the sun.

“You are the best,” he said. “Keep climbing that next mountain.” 🏔️

Advisory Board Welcomes New Member

The President's Board of Advisors (PBA) provides advice to President Fred Ohles in the fulfillment of Nebraska Wesleyan's mission, vision and strategic plan. Its members include alumni, parents or children of alumni and other devoted friends of the university. Each is an ambassador for Nebraska Wesleyan University.

The PBA meets on campus each fall and spring. The focus of October's meeting was communicating NWU's value proposition. President Ohles welcomed Evan Sheaff ('15) to the group and expressed appreciation to Don Dorr ('61), Hanover, Penn., upon completing his term of service. Sheaff is an event and sponsorship specialist at CHI Health St. Elizabeth in Lincoln.



Evan Sheaff



Angie Muhleisen ('81)

NWU Honors Philanthropy at the Black and Gold

With one of the largest attendances in the event's history, the 2016 Black and Gold celebration had the camaraderie and enthusiasm of an NWU class reunion. But the crowd that gathered in the Country Club of Lincoln Ballroom on September 8 was actually comprised of many disparate groups. Alumni, parents, faculty, staff, friends and corporate leaders support Nebraska Wesleyan for different reasons, but all are motivated by a unifying sense of pride in NWU.

The Black and Gold recognizes members of NWU's lifetime and annual giving societies by celebrating the tremendous impact of their generosity. Hanna Arrow-smith ('19), a psychology and modern languages major, talked about the moment she found out she'd received an Access NWU Scholarship, making her dream of attending NWU a reality. She thanked the attendees, acknowledging that her story wouldn't be possible without them.

"You've inspired me to work that much harder to pursue my education and my future calling," Arrow-smith said. "And you inspire me to one day give back to my alma mater and my community as you have."

Angie Muhleisen ('81), chair of the NWU campaign cabinet, gave guests an inside look at the university's progress toward funding its new science building, while thanking all those who have already made gifts for their generosity and vision. She talked about the campaign's incredible momentum and the impact this building will have on our university, our city and our region.



Be inspired.

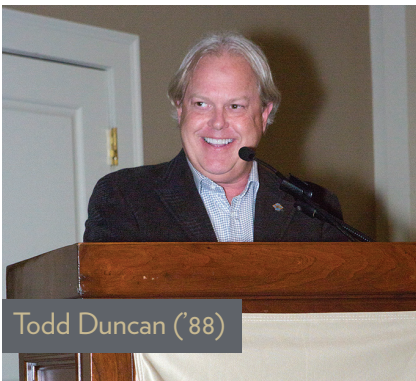
 Follow us at facebook.com/NWUgiving



John Greving



Hanna Arrowsmith ('19)



Todd Duncan ('88)



Linda Paul ('65), center



The Wampler family



Ohles family with Board chair Susan Gourley

2016 Cornerstone Society inductees

The Cornerstone Society honors donors whose outright gifts total \$1 million or more.

- ▶ G. Elaine Blowers
- ▶ Thomas J. and Rhonda L. Peed

2016 Huntington Society inductees

The Huntington Society honors donors whose outright gifts and lifetime commitments total \$100,000 to \$999,999.

- ▶ Brenda Bence ('83) and Daniel Jackman
- ▶ Todd ('88) and Connie ('87) (Bishop) Duncan
- ▶ Marilyn Jo (Smith) Gruber ('55)
- ▶ Roderick E. and Patricia D. Harley
- ▶ The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
- ▶ Fred and Rosemary Ohles
- ▶ Linda (Nichols) Paul ('65)
- ▶ The Sunderland Foundation
- ▶ Justyn ('49) (Wada) and Kazuo ('46) Tada
- ▶ Deanna S. ('57) (Yeo) and Chee-Teck Tan
- ▶ Joe F. and Doris C. Wampler

2016 Heritage Society inductees

The Heritage Society honors donors who have made deferred gifts.

- ▶ Amy D. Bertelson ('74)
- ▶ Jeffrey S. Brown ('89)
- ▶ Susan E. Cassata-Charbonneau ('91) and Larry Charbonneau
- ▶ Paul and Janet C. Lu
- ▶ Lynne M. Mills ('77)
- ▶ Fred and Rosemary Ohles

2016 Homecoming

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Neither rain nor lightning delays, nor eventual losses in football and men's and women's soccer could dampen alumni spirits as Nebraska Wesleyan University marked homecoming on the fourth weekend of September.

"An event of this magnitude requires all hands on deck," said Vice President for Advancement **John Greving**. "And with Saturday's rainstorm, we nearly needed an actual ship!"

While the forecast and the scoreboard didn't go Nebraska Wesleyan's way, homecoming isn't about sunshine and victory. It's about welcoming good friends home. "We braved the elements and came together as a community," Greving said.

That, friends, is a big win.



1. Phi Mu alumnae gather for lunch. // 2. 2016 Homecoming Royal Court: Kristen Hasty, Megan Johnson, Katie Krick (queen), Olivia Wolfe, Mitchell Heavican, Garret Lorenzen (king), Gabriel Rivera, Cody Schilling. // 3. Class of 1966 receives 50-year medallions. //

4. Prof. David Treichel plays with fire at the Alumni Academy.





5

Photo by Chad Greene



10

Photo by Paul Hadley



8



11



9



12

Photo by Paul Hadley



5. NWU honored six at the Legends and Legacies banquet. // 6. This is why we come together. // 7. Hall of Fame winners Don Hoelting ('83), Patrick Sweeney ('89), Chad Wemhoff ('98), Wendi (Rocole) Jeffers ('00), Travis Solano ('01), Ann Ringlein. // 8. NWU

cheerleaders show undamped spirit. // 9. Class of 1966 meets in Havelock. // 10. This year, the class of 1966 has given \$80,060 and counting to the Archway Fund, capital projects and the endowment. // 11. P-Wolf pride is rainproof. // 12. Class of 1956.

Photos by Dan Luedert unless otherwise indicated



1



5



2



6

Photo by Chad Greene



3



7



4

Photo by Chad Greene



8

Photo by Kristin Larson '16

1. Straight shooters at the tailgate. // 2. Clearly pass interference. // 3. Classes of 1986 and 1996. // 4. Classes of 2012-2016. // 5. Pops concert rehearsal with guest artist Bijon Watson. // 6. Class of 2006. // 7. Class of 1976. // 8. Golf cart parade.

Start a legacy.



NW
you

Your alumni status makes an NWU education more accessible. The children, grandchildren and siblings of NWU alumni receive automatic, renewable \$1,000 Alumni Legacy Scholarships.

Encourage family members to apply to NWU today.





Winter Tour Takes University Choir to the Southeast

Nebraska Wesleyan's award-winning University Choir sets out soon on its annual winter tour. Catch them in your area.

January

- > 4
Milford United Methodist Church
Milford, Neb. 7 p.m.
- > 5
Second Presbyterian Church
Kansas City, Mo. 7:30 p.m.
- > 6
First & Calvary Presbyterian Church
Springfield, Mo. 7:30 p.m.
- > 7
Independent Presbyterian Church
Memphis, Tenn. 7:30 p.m.
- > 8
Independent Presbyterian Church
Memphis, Tenn.
8:30 and 11 a.m. worship services
- > 9
Manchester United Methodist Church
Manchester, Mo. 7 p.m.
- > 10
St. John's United Methodist Church
Davenport, Iowa 7 p.m.
- > 11
First United Methodist Church
Blair, Neb. 7 p.m.
- > 13
St. John Lutheran Church
Council Bluffs, Iowa 7 p.m.
- > 15
St. Paul United Methodist Church
Lincoln 10:30 a.m. worship service
- O'Donnell Auditorium**
NWU 7:30 p.m.



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.

January 19

NWU theatre: *The Lion in Winter*

The night before we inaugurate a president, NWU opens a play about transitions of power. Henry II is the lion in winter—the king near the end of his reign. Who will succeed him? The play opens in Miller Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Check theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu for additional show times and tickets.



JANUARY

19

Alumni event: Nashville, Tenn.

Alumni in the Nashville area gather for food, fun and live music at Puckett's Grocery and Restaurant at 6:30 p.m.



Photo by Dan Luedert

24, 26

M.Ed. open houses

Hear NWU's M.Ed. director, Randy Ernst ('83, MAHS '07), speak on "The Positive Classroom: Interventions Promoting Well-Being." He speaks in Lincoln on the 24th in Smith-Curtis Administrative Building's Great Hall. He speaks in Omaha on the 26th on the seventh floor of 14010 FNB Parkway. RSVP at 402.465.2329.

FEBRUARY

2

NWU theatre: *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*

How far will two con men stoop to lift \$50,000 from a rich heiress? NWU opens this popular musical at McDonald Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

Check theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu for additional show times and tickets.

4

Alumni basketball

NWU men's and women's basketball alumni reunite at Snyder Arena for food, fellowship and friendly competition. Women play at 10 a.m. Men play at 11 a.m. Lunch is at noon.

MARCH

15

NWU softball

The Prairie Wolves make their 2017 home debut at University Place Park, taking on Peru State College at 5 p.m.

21

NWU Music: faculty concert

Music professors take the stage at O'Donnell Auditorium for a free concert at 7:30 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE > September 28–October 1

REUNION YEARS / 2013-2017 / 2007 / 1997 / 1987 / 1977 / 1967 / 1966 and earlier

2017
Home
COMING





NEBRASKA
WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

5000 SAINT PAUL AVENUE
LINCOLN, NE 68504-2794

Your life. Your MBA.

NW
you

Take your career to the next level.

Apply at nebrwesleyan.edu/mba.

Take courses in Lincoln or Omaha.



Archways magazine is printed on paper certified by the Forest Stewardship Council®.
FSC® certification indicates demonstrated commitment to environmentally and socially responsible forest management.