

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

# ARCHWAYS

SWARM TOGETHER | FALL 2017 | VOLUME 17, ISSUE 3

Introducing  
**BOLD  
DESIGNS**

THE CAMPAIGN FOR NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY



*The Mood  
of Bees*

In one student's bold interest in bees, we see this campaign's designs for NWU's future.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



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*Today, we're five years into a campaign that we've kept fairly quiet—until now.*

## Dear Alumni and Friends,

Two of our English words, “campaign” and “campus,” have the same root. They’re from a Latin expression for a level area of ground. On such a level spot, like-minded people could set up camp, or even erect the buildings for a university—a campus. And on such a spot, like-minded people devoted to that university can seek a victory together by contributing monies to strengthen it—a campaign.

It’s fun to recount this bit of etymology on campus as we launch Bold Designs: The Campaign for Nebraska Wesleyan University. Elsewhere in this issue, Vice President **John B. Greiving** describes this particular campaign, and he does it well. What I offer below are two snippets from NWU’s history that show how important such a rallying can be.

In 1901, **DeWitt Clinton Huntington** was chancellor. Nebraska Wesleyan settled its debts of \$95,000 that year with a campaign to which alumni, board members, friends, businesses, churches and “a lady from New York” made gifts. The grandfather of our late Professor of History **David Hopwood Mickey** (’39), board member **John Hopwood Mickey**, was a donor then. His contribution was \$6,000. It equals \$165,000 today. Wouldn’t you know it, that’s the amount given to Bold Designs by one of our current NWU governors.

Decades later, President **Vance Rogers** rallied alumni and friends to a fund-raising “kick-off” lasting just two years, 1966-68, that resulted in \$3.5 million of gifts. By 1973, the total raised under the moniker, “A Decade of Fulfillment,” reached \$12.5 million. It included two grants from the Olin Foundation, in 1966 and 1974. Altogether, that round of charitable activity brought major academic, student life and facilities improvements to our campus.

A campaign in the 1980s garnered in the \$20 millions and one in the 1990s in the \$40 millions.

Today, we’re five years into a campaign that we’ve kept fairly quiet—until now. Its success is vital for Nebraska Wesleyan’s ability to sustain, well into the 21st century, the excellence, the value, the nurturing community and the exceptional results for which our sunflower of a school has always been known.

Thank you—now and always—for all that you can do at this vital rallying moment for NWU.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Fred Ohles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

—Fred Ohles  
President



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

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

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Photo by Joel Bricker ('19)

**Amanda Broulik**, “The Mood of Bees” ▶20

As NWU’s advancement writer and communications coordinator, Mandy wears many hats. But the beekeeping veil she donned for this article on Nebraska Wesleyan’s newest student organization was a first.



**Matt Haney**, illustrator, “Rise of the Flying Chaucers”

▶40

Matt is an illustrator and graphic artist in Omaha. He’s a lifelong lover of films, comic books, animation and forgotten pop culture. If Matt doesn’t get to sketch at least once a day, he “gets a little weird.”



**Steven Nordeen** ('72), “Rise of the Flying Chaucers”

▶40

Steven is a professor emeritus of pathology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He’s also a poet, a writer and a baseball fan with vivid 45-year-old memories of his time on a ragtag student-faculty baseball team. He lives in Aurora, Colo.

Ca  
Ear  
Bla  
Ric  
Ste

# Letters

## Around in 40

I just wanted to let *Archways* magazine know that this is the 40th anniversary of the first trip to NCAA Nationals ever made by a Nebraska Wesleyan men's golf team. Team members were Steve Harris ('78), Dean Moors ('78), Scott Lawson ('79), Tom Gage ('80) and me. We traveled to Ohio to compete, and our coach was Harold Chaffee.

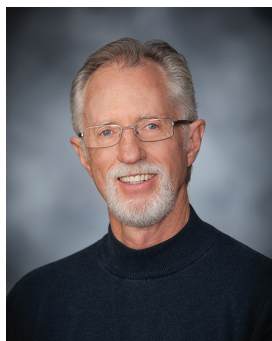
Tom and I played with [Athletic Director] Ira Zeff in the 'W' Club Golf Tournament at Hillcrest in June, and we visited a bit about it then.

I'm proud of our team and the long tradition of national success in golf that we launched in 1977.

**Scott Kasl** ('81)

## Where Credit's Due

I really appreciate receiving the magazine and the information it provides. I understand that you have a tough job gathering all of what's happening on campus for publication and no one can be aware of all the goings-on on campus. However, I was a bit disappointed that I saw no mention of the retiring faculty members in this edition.



**Garry Duncan**

There was a nice profile of the retiring provost ["Transformational Provost Transitions to Retirement"], but no mention of anyone else. My father, **Garry Duncan**, retired from Nebraska Wesleyan this spring after nearly 40 years in the Biology Department. He served as chair of the department several times, brought in over \$10 million in grants to the university, and won the campus-wide teaching award three times (which, I believe ties him for the most wins with Prof. **Loretta (Good) Fairchild** ('66)). Much of his work was on display in the magazine, but, sadly, not his name.

He is lead investigator and author of the \$650,000 grant from the National Science Foundation that was profiled ["NSF Advances NWU STEM Students"], and he has worked tirelessly to help raise funds for the new science building. I hope you are able to find space in an upcoming issue to mention his retirement and the retirement of other faculty members.

**Aaron Duncan** ('03)

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.**

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## Musicologist Wins Prouty Teaching Award

Assistant Professor of Music and Gender Studies **John Spilker** begins each semester by inviting his students to review and sign a contract. By signing his “Ground Rules for Class Discussion,” students agree to be open-minded, evaluate their own opinions, then set them aside when appropriate for academic dialogue.

Spilker’s ability to empower students as leaders and foster productive classrooms are just two reasons he was named the 2017 Margaret J. Prouty Teaching Award winner. The annual award recognizes faculty for making a difference for students.

“Dr. Spilker is always challenging his students to reach outside of their comfort zones to explore and learn from other disciplines,” said **Cassidy Besse** (’17) in her nomination.

During his six years at NWU, he has revised music courses to align with the Archway Curriculum; chaired the Pedagogy Study Group for the American Musicological Society; and has given several scholarship presentations. His academic work has been recognized by the Association of American Colleges & Universities, the Higher Learning Commission and the Society for American Music. The United Methodist Church Division of Higher Education recognized him as the university’s “Exemplary Teacher” in 2015.

His students shared countless examples of Spilker’s devotion to their success.

“He has made such a strong impact on our department, our campus, and

**THE FINAL:** A music professor is honored for advancing Nebraska Wesleyan’s core values of diversity, the liberal arts and personal attention to students.



**John Spilker** (right)

*Dr. Spilker is always challenging his students to reach outside of their comfort zones.*

most importantly, our students in ways that will affect us all for the rest of our lives,” said **Joel Brown** (’18).

“He has the special ability to relate to all types of people, and equally care for and respect them,” said **John Estudillo** (’17), who worked with Spilker as a New Student Orientation leader. “And even though I’ve never had him in class, he still takes time out to check in on my personal development.”

Photo by Lane Hickenbottom



Photo by Zach Tuttle (’17)

## NWU Welcomes New Provost

When Provost Emerita **Judy Muyskens** announced her plans to retire at the end of the 2016-2017 academic year, faculty and administrators knew replacing her would be no small task. Professor of English **Scott Stanfield** served on the provost search committee. He was heartened by the strengths of the people they reviewed, and excited about the one who would ultimately accept Nebraska Wesleyan’s job offer: **Graciela Caneiro-Livingston**.

“She has a deep, intuitive understanding of our mission and of the kind of school we are,” said Stanfield, “but she also has an ability to imagine new connections and make them happen.”

Caneiro-Livingston spent the past 22 years at Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa, with the last 12 as dean of undergraduate studies. In that role, she supervised undergraduate programs, academic advising, career services and experiential learning program.

As a professor of Spanish, Caneiro-Livingston won Clarke’s Meneve Dunham Excellence in Teaching Award and was involved in Compass, Clarke’s signature program integrating experiential learning into its curriculum. She helped expand Clarke’s study abroad program and led collaborative efforts between Clarke and Loras College.

Caneiro-Livingston earned her undergraduate degree at Universidad de Santiago de Compostela in Spain, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Spanish literature from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

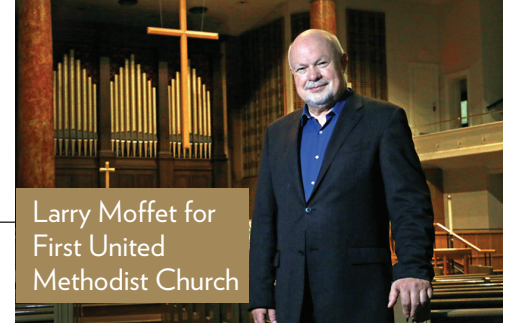
**THE FINAL:** Nebraska Wesleyan’s new provost has a strong history supporting experiential learning and international study.



Angie Muhleisen



Duane Acklie

Larry Moffet for  
First United  
Methodist Church

# Board of Governors Gives Three Cheers

Nebraska Wesleyan University's Board of Governors holds its spring meeting the day before commencement. That way, more members from across the country have the opportunity to be part of Nebraska Wesleyan's biggest day of the year.

"Commencement is such a proud and happy celebration," said **Susan Gourley**, the board's chair. "Attending as a governor reminds us of the importance of being entrusted with the governance of our wonderful university. It was an honor for me to personally congratulate each graduate."

That celebratory mood reverberated through the board meeting. The board approved what Gourley called "three resolutions of honor and appreciation." Consider them three cheers for the current state of the university.

**Angie Muhleisen** ('81), who chaired the campaign committee responsible for raising funds for the future Duane W. Acklie Hall of Science, was honored with the designation of governor emerita.

The board also formally honored the life of the late **Duane Acklie**, himself a former

board chair. Accepting the resolution was **Jeff Schumacher**, a current board member and Acklie's son-in-law.

The third cheer came in the form of a resolution of appreciation to First United Methodist Church, Gourley said, "for their cooperative spirit in planning for construction of the Duane W. Acklie Hall of Science, and in providing temporary practice space for the NWU wrestling team." The team will move into a new athletic practice facility this fall.

## Board Welcomes Familiar Faces

Steven K.  
Brugman

Mark A. Schulze



Rachel Pokora



Meghan Winchell

Suzanne (Peterson)  
Sughroue

Riley Shenk



Evan Marshall

Two NWU alumni were elected to the Board of Governors in June.

**Steven K. Brugman** ('89), Franklin, Tenn., is an account executive at Oracle Corporation. He also has active business partnerships with Snaproll Media and Employdata LLC. He earned an MBA from Duke.

**Mark A. Schulze** ('88), Argyle, Texas, is vice president of operations support at BNSF Railway. He holds an MBA from University of Texas at Austin.

Other new members include:

- > **Suzanne (Peterson) Sughroue** ('02, MBA '17), director of development at Madonna Foundation in Lincoln, serving as president of the NWU Alumni Association for 2017-2019;
- > **Riley Shenk** ('18), Grand Island, Neb., serving as student body president;

> **Evan Marshall** ('19), Seward, Neb., student member.

NWU faculty members on the board include:

- > **Rachel Pokora**, professor of communication studies, serving as faculty vice president for faculty affairs;
- > **Meghan Winchell**, associate professor of history and chair of the History Department, serving as faculty president;

Board officers for 2017-18 are **Susan Gourley**, Ruston, Wash., chair; Hon. **John M. Gerrard** ('76, L.H.D. '12), Lincoln, vice chair; **Judith (Trimble) Maurer** ('69), Tampa, Fla., secretary; and **L. Bradley Hurrell** ('73), Charlotte, N.C., treasurer.

Outgoing board members include Rev. **Charlotte Abram**, Omaha; **Jeff Butterfield**

('98), Hickman, Neb.; **Dan Flanagan**, Omaha; **Kaitlyn Klein** ('17), Silver Creek, Neb.; **Richard "Skip" Legge** ('82), Omaha; **Karen Linder** ('82), Omaha; **Robert Scott**, Lincoln; **Kent Seacrest**, Lincoln; and **Ria Shome** ('19), Overland Park, Kan.

**Angie Muhleisen** ('81, LL.D. '12), president/CEO of Union Bank & Trust, was elected governor emerita. Muhleisen served on the Board of Governors from 1994 to 2004, has been a consultant to the advancement committee in the years since, and chaired the campaign cabinet. She joins emeriti members **B. Keith Heuermann** (Sc.D. '03), Phillips, Neb.; **Gordon "Mac" Hull** ('59), Columbus, Neb.; **Lindy Mullin** ('67), Lincoln; **Larry L. Ruth** ('67, LL.D. '15), Walton, Neb.; and **Dr. F. Thomas Waring** ('53), Fremont, Neb.

Photos by Allison Woods ('19) unless otherwise marked

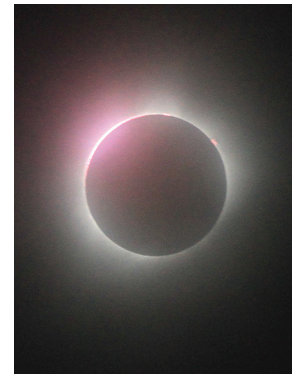


Photo by Peggy Hain

# Class Eclipsed

**NWU students take in totality on August 21.**

NWU rarely cancels class on the mere prediction of natural events. (Snow's coming? Get your scrapers handy, because, more than likely, we're still on.)

So it was a rare thing, indeed, when NWU altered classes months ahead of a natural event forecast for August 21. NWU shortened early-afternoon classes on the first day of the fall semester so students, faculty and staff could gather on Taylor Commons and take in the total solar eclipse.

Emceeding the event was Associate Professor of Physics **Nathaniel Cunningham** (left), an astrophysical and planetary scientist. His work has contributed to NASA's New Horizons mission to Pluto and the European Space Agency's Rosetta mission orbiting a comet.

Professor of Communication Studies **Karla Jensen** (above) even led an eclipse-themed yoga session. The clouds thinned at just the right moment and everything aligned for another life-changing campus experience.

**THE FINAL:** Did you miss the eclipse? Set up your camping chair in Hot Springs, Ark., and you'll be set for the next two to hit the U.S. The paths of totality intersect there for eclipses on April 8, 2024, and August 12, 2045.



# Student-athletes Break Ground on a New Practice Facility

For high school wrestlers in small towns across the Midwest, setting up the practice facility is often part of practice itself. Before they wrestle each other, they wrestle the mats off carts and into position. Practice might end with the same process in reverse.

On June 13, Nebraska Wesleyan wrestlers did a different kind of work to set up their practices. They grabbed shovels and helped break ground on a new practice facility.

The 5,400-square-foot facility north of Abel Stadium will feature space for two practice mats, an exercise area, an athletic training room, a locker room and a coach's office.

"This was a great day for Nebraska Wesleyan University and the Prairie Wolves wrestling program," said **Brandon Bradley**, NWU's head wrestling coach. "We will now have a permanent home to call our own and show off to recruits as we continue to build this wrestling program into a championship contender."

Twenty-six wrestlers were part of NWU's return to wrestling in the 2016-2017 season.



Photo by Zach Turtle (17)

NWU wrestlers, coaches and administrators worked together as teammates on June 13.

THE FINAL: NWU wrestling will call a new facility home for practices this fall.

## PRAIRIE WOLVES UNLEASHED

A young team, a new facility and a proud tradition come together.



NWU wrestling begins season two at home, November 4. > [NWUsports.com](http://NWUsports.com)



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Learn more at [nebrwesleyan.edu/msn/mba](http://nebrwesleyan.edu/msn/mba)





2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT OF GIVING  
**POSITIONING NWU**  
*TO MOVE BOLDLY*

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Fiscal year: June 1, 2016, to May 31, 2017

## Dear friends,

This past year at Nebraska Wesleyan, we have focused on building. We started building the Duane W. Acklie Hall of Science. We're nearing completion of a new athletic practice facility, and our students now have access to a new counseling center. We're building new programs from the ground up. And we've been building momentum as we prepare for Bold Designs: The Campaign for Nebraska Wesleyan University. But this year has also focused on breaking.

Breaking records, that is.

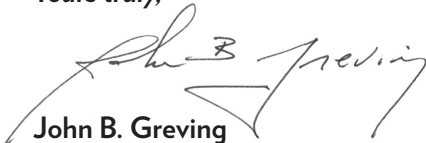
The 2016-2017 fiscal year broke the record for alumni Archway Fund giving, topping \$1 million for the first time in our history. Overall giving is also the highest it has ever been. Our first-ever giving day, "The Main Event," was a phenomenal success, bringing in \$217,159 from 731 donors in only 24 hours.

This brings me back to building momentum. A university can only build a bright future when its foundation is solid and secure. The 5,051 alumni and friends who gave back to Nebraska Wesleyan University last year all strengthened that foundation. This generosity has set us up for success as we look toward the future—as we carry out our bold designs.

We are all a part of building Nebraska Wesleyan's future. Every day, alumni, students, faculty, staff, parents and friends come together to make NWU a leading national liberal arts university. Every day, a scholarship makes attending a student's dream school possible. A faculty member is given the resources to keep learning and exploring. A student is offered a life-changing experience. And work is done to keep building and enhancing campus learning spaces.

I look forward to continuing that momentum as we work together to create another record-breaking year.

*Yours truly,*



**John B. Greving**

*Vice president for advancement*



## THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE NUMBERS

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

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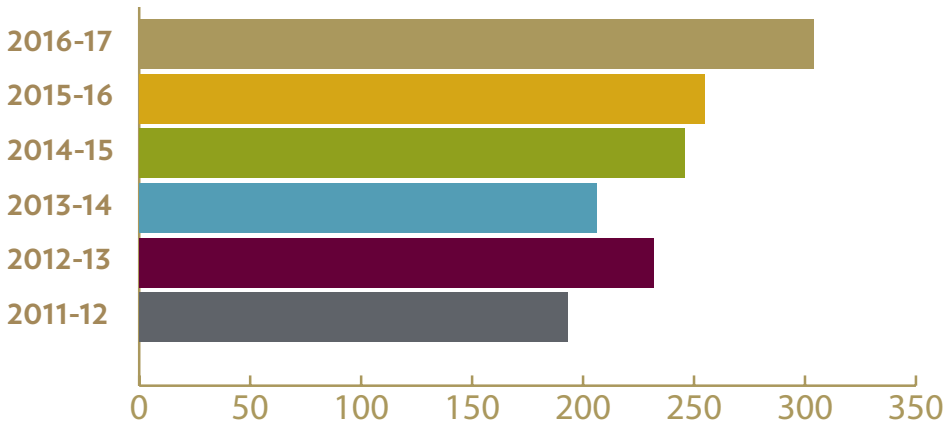
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[nebrwesleyan.edu/donate](http://nebrwesleyan.edu/donate)

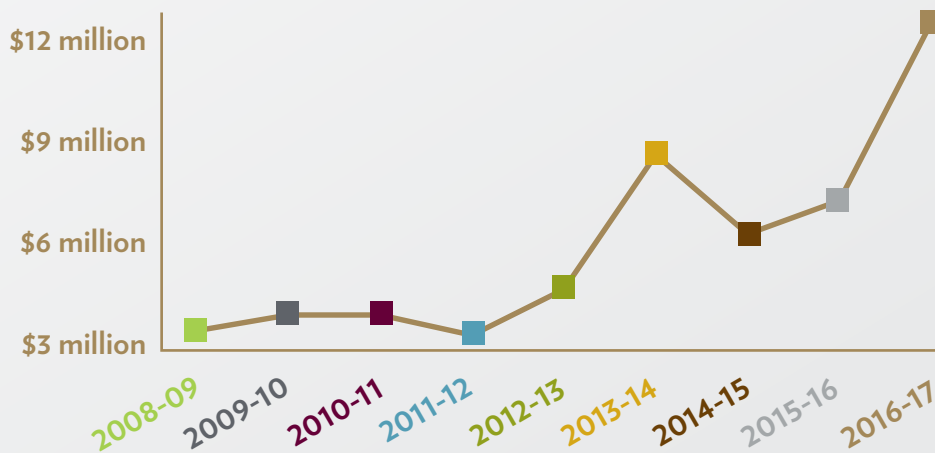
## NEW ARCHWAY FUND DONORS

Thanks in part to “The Main Event,” Nebraska Wesleyan’s first-ever giving day, we had the highest number of new Archway Fund donors in years.



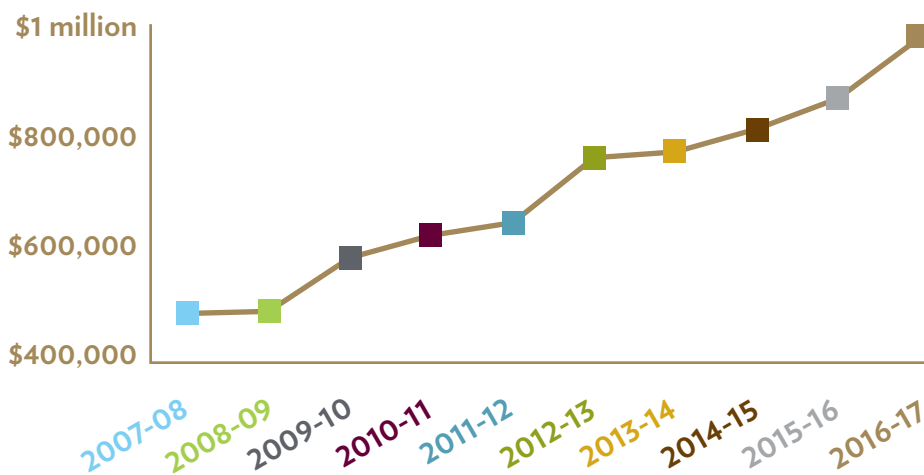
## MULTI-YEAR TRENDS: TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED

These positive trends reflect the generous and growing support of NWU alumni and friends.



## MULTI-YEAR TRENDS: ALUMNI ARCHWAY FUND GIVING

For the first time, alumni crossed the \$1 million mark for the Archway Fund.



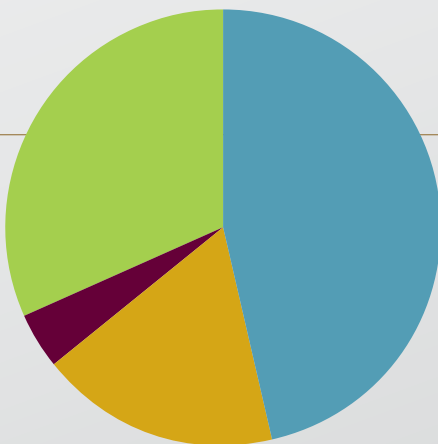
*“I decided to give and volunteer on Giving Day because I’m so thankful for my NWU family and my NWU education. Honestly, when I heard what the goal was, I thought it was pretty lofty. But as we crushed that initial goal, it just got more and more exciting. My hope is that NWU continues to be a top-notch university that develops students who are ready to lead in their communities. As Giving Day proved, we have a strong network of alumni and friends who are dedicated to making sure that happens.”*

—Amy Schlichting ('05)



*DOLLARS RAISED IN  
2016-17  
BY GIFT TYPE*

<span style="color: brown;">■</span> Restricted gifts and endowment . . . . .	\$8,633,660
<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Archway Fund . . . . .	\$1,593,550
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Realized estates and planned gifts . . . . .	\$2,213,407
<hr/>	
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>\$12,440,617</b>



*GROUPS THAT GAVE*

<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Alumni . . . . .	2,598
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Parents . . . . .	1,007
<span style="color: purple;">■</span> Corporations, foundations and organizations . . . . .	226
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Friends . . . . .	1,768
<hr/>	
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>5,599</b>

## COVERING THE GAMUT

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



# Thank you.

Nebraska Wesleyan University exists for you and because of you. Your faith and investment in NWU is what allows us to serve our students well. Thanks to your commitment, NWU is ready to take bold action from a position of strength.

If you've given to Nebraska Wesleyan, please accept our sincerest thanks. If you haven't given yet, please accept this invitation to begin today.

[nebrwesleyan.edu/donate](http://nebrwesleyan.edu/donate)

# NWU Theatre presents Heathers

The meanest girls at school are about to get a lesson in this hilarious, homicidal musical.

## McDonald Theatre

- > October 26–28 and November 2–4 at 7:30 p.m.
- > October 29 and November 5 at 2 p.m.

# HEATHERS

*The Musical*



Tickets at [theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu](http://theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu)



# Introducing **BOLD DESIGNS**

## THE CAMPAIGN FOR NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Every day, NWU professors teach their students to be bold. To imagine possibilities. To build and create.

That boldness stands at the heart of Nebraska Wesleyan's mission. One hundred thirty years ago, a group of visionaries saw potential in an open field of sunflowers. They did more than imagine. They laid the foundation of a great university. Today, we work to live by the lessons of our founders and our faculty. To do more than imagine. To be bold in the things we build and create.

Buildings are rising. We work to give our students resources to succeed in a changing world. We teach. We serve our communities. We grow and evolve. We dream big.

At the Black & Gold dinner on September 7, we took a bold step. To a room packed with hundreds of alumni and friends, we introduced Bold Designs: The Campaign for Nebraska Wesleyan University.

We've been building toward this moment for a while. It has been almost a quarter century since NWU last endeavored to launch a major campaign.

In the last few years, we've introduced the Archway Curriculum. We've committed exclusively to our NCAA Division III identity and joined the Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. We moved our Omaha location, added competitive new programs

and renovated many facilities. And in April, we broke ground on the Duane W. Acklie Hall of Science, one of the most ambitious projects of our time. As the shovels hit the ground on that memorable day, we opened a new chapter in NWU's history.

Our successes have led us to Bold Designs. This \$62 million campaign, which includes the Acklie Hall of Science, focuses on four fundamental goals:

1. Create premier learning spaces
2. Open doors for generations of students through scholarships
3. Recruit and support the best faculty
4. Advance life-changing student experiences.

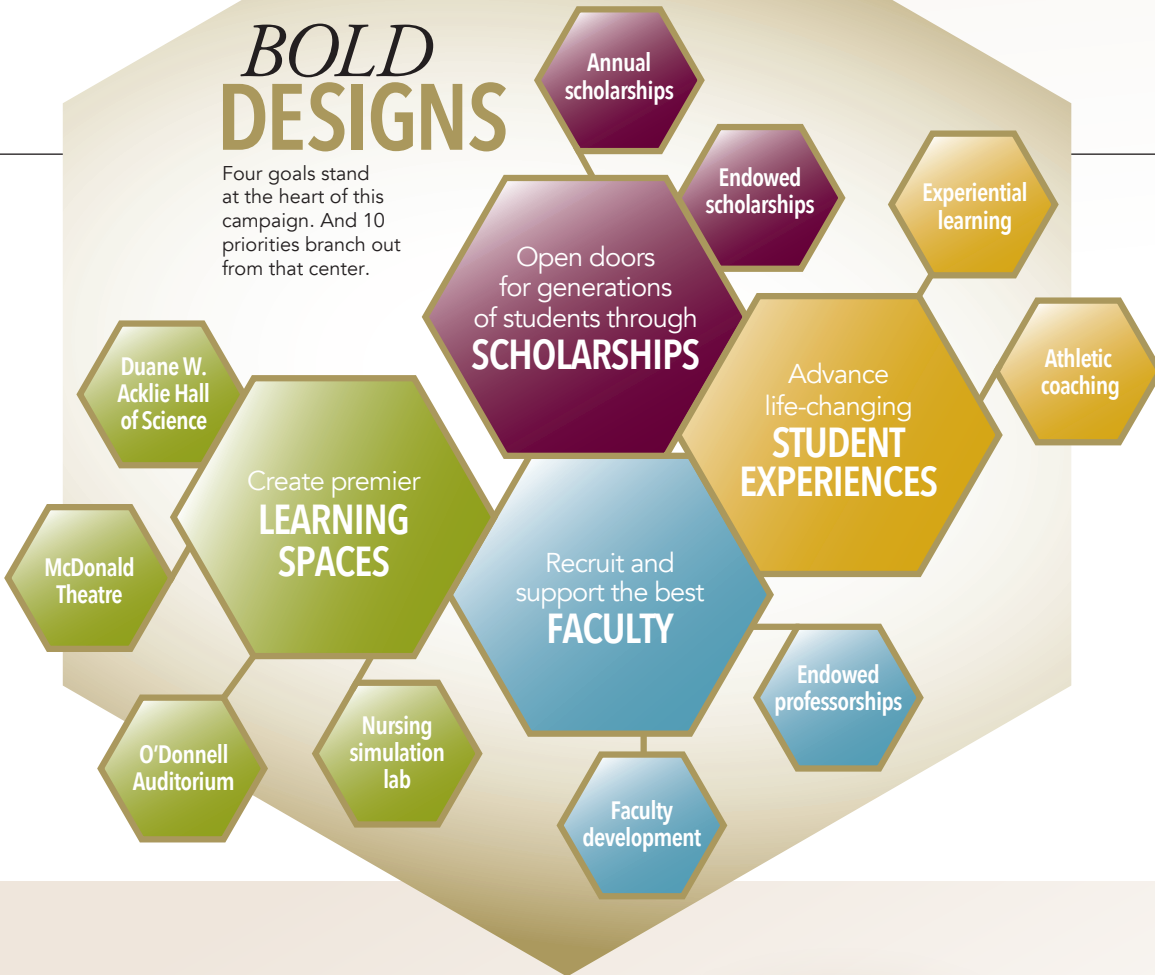
When we do these four fundamental things, we'll have boldly advanced Nebraska Wesleyan University as a leading national liberal arts university.

The entire Nebraska Wesleyan community will feel the impact of this campaign. The waves that begin here—on this sunflower field that bloomed into a campus—will spill forward into the communities our alumni serve. Emboldened by our faith in one another, our reach will become global.



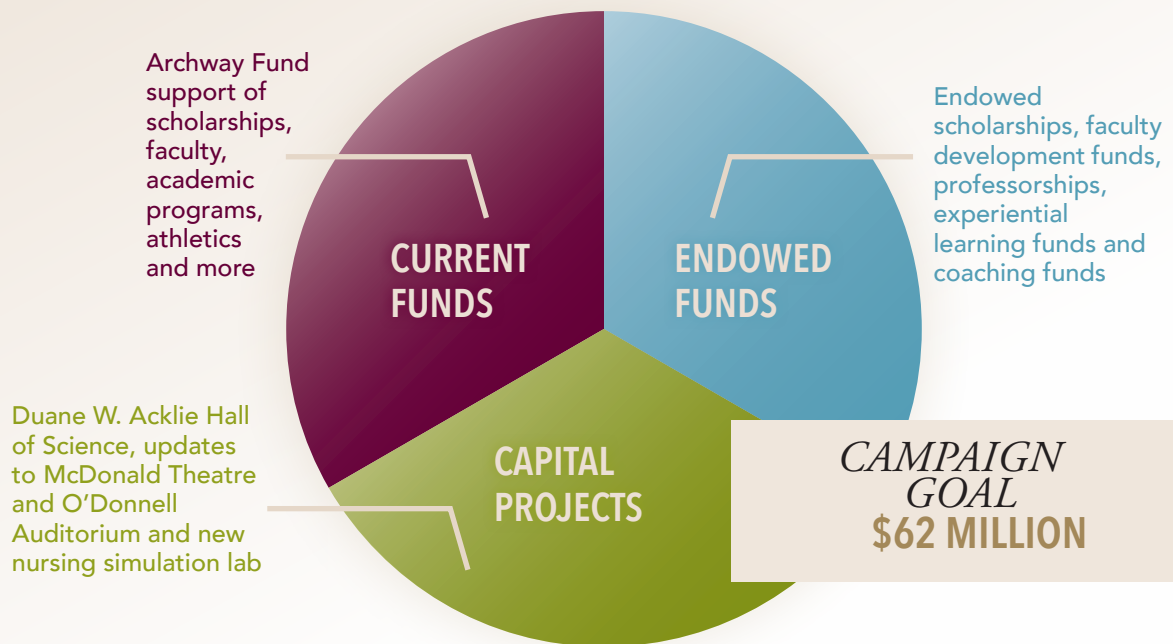
# BOLD DESIGNS

Four goals stand at the heart of this campaign. And 10 priorities branch out from that center.



To learn more about Bold Designs and how you can be a part of it, visit

[nebrwesleyan.edu/bolddesigns](http://nebrwesleyan.edu/bolddesigns).





1. Larry Ruth ('67), 2. Daniel Novinski ('19), 3. Susan Gourley, 4. Marty White, 5. Jim Creigh, 6. John Greving and Phyllis Acklie, 7. Karen Ricker ('71) with Fred Ohles and Susan Gourley, 8. Karla Koval ('82) and Denise Bulling ('82), 9. Liana Sandin ('81), 10. Fred Ohles and Mayor Chris Beutler, 11. Robert Burns with Fred Ohles and Susan Gourley, 12. Cheryl Keyser ('70), 13. Phil Mullin ('65), Rick Otto ('70), Senator Robert Hilkemann ('69), 14. Angie ('81) and Dan Muhleisen





# *BOLD* DESIGNS — in — *The* **BLACK & GOLD**

*Banquet marks the launch of a bold campaign.*

—By Amanda Broulik

Never before in its history has this annual night of thanks held quite so much meaning. This year's Black and Gold celebration, an annual event honoring Nebraska Wesleyan's most generous donors, also marked the public launch of Bold Designs: The Campaign for Nebraska Wesleyan University.

The donors and friends who gathered in the Cornhusker Marriott on September 7 were among those who have made this historic announcement possible.

The launch of Bold Designs, fueled by the fundraising success of the Duane W. Acklie Hall of Science and a record-breaking year of giving, filled the Lancaster Ballroom with exhilaration and gratitude.

Gratitude carried through each speaker's remarks. "At its heart, this evening isn't about us as an institution. It's about you," said vice president for advancement and master of ceremonies, **John Greving**. "Without you, we would not have been able to take this bold step forward."

This night has given the university community even more confidence. There was a shared energy that extends beyond the ballroom walls and will be carried through the entire campaign. Campaign chair, **Larry Ruth ('67)**, said the night demonstrated "a willingness of others to dream with us."





Photos by Dan Luedert

# The Mood of Bees

*You can learn a lot from the hive.*

—By Amanda Broulik

Hanna Arrowsmith ('19) is searching for the queen. Her biology professor slides out the waxy frames for careful inspection. They spot drones and insects in various stages of development, passing the frames around for all to see. Still no queen.

"To bee or not to bee, that is the question," Associate Professor of Biology Jerry Bricker proclaims, maybe a little amused at himself. Arrowsmith groans from behind her mesh veil. She's heard Bricker's puns before.

Arrowsmith is a biology and modern languages major from Syracuse, Neb. She founded the club this past year. (She'd groan again if we called her its queen.) Before moving to Syracuse, she grew up on a cattle ranch near Bassett, Neb., a town of 600 a half-dozen miles south of the Niobrara. Like the river, she says, her love of the Sandhills has "never ceased flowing through my heart and soul."

It's tempting to plant her interest in bees to the little girl romping among wildflowers along the Niobrara's sandy banks. But Arrowsmith points years later and miles southeast to a high school job closer to Weeping Water Creek. Since high school, she's worked for All About Family, a company providing home health services to seniors near Avoca, Neb.

"The wife of one of my clients is a beekeeper," she says. "She'd talk to me about her bees all the time and give me honey from her hive." The woman's stories and the taste of that honey stuck with her. "I said, 'One day, I'm going to do that, too.'"

That one day came when Arrowsmith was waxing about bees with her friend, Joel Bricker ('19), Prof. Bricker's son. Joel laughed and said, "You know my dad's a beekeeper, right?"

So Arrowsmith—buzzed? Took a bee-line? No. She walked. Arrowsmith walked to Prof. Bricker's office and said she wanted to learn everything she could about bees. He handed her some of his personal books to read over the summer. She came back to campus in the fall with knowledge to match her enthusiasm. He helped her write a proposal for a university beekeeping club. Arrowsmith presented her proposal to Student Affairs Senate, where it was unanimously approved and awarded a start-up fund of \$2,600.


The club's membership includes roughly two dozen students studying everything from the sciences to music. And because Arrowsmith intends to sell the club's honey on campus, the group has drawn interest from business and marketing majors as well.

"I love how excited everyone is," Arrowsmith says. "I think beekeeping represents something missing in

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## *The woman's stories and the taste of that honey stuck with her.*

It's a gorgeous, cool and sunny May morning in the Bricker backyard. Members of NWU's new beekeeping club see a lot to like in their hive inspection. Plenty of eggs and larvae are developing within the honeycomb's crevices. But Arrowsmith isn't feeling sunny. A missing queen, she knows, would spell disaster.

**CAMPAIGN CONNECTION:** 

Attracting and retaining the kind of professors who lend their personal books and turn their backyards into classrooms is a Bold Designs priority.



our generation. Getting involved in things like beekeeping or crafting or gardening—it teaches resourcefulness, understanding a trade, and doing something for your community. People are making a connection between something fun and something important in the world today.”

---

*Beekeeping teaches resourcefulness, understanding a trade, and doing something for your community.*

The honeybee is a vital pollinator, responsible for a third of the country's food supply. Yet, it has seen its population plummet in recent years. Entomologists presented the first-ever

study to map wild bees in the U.S. at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Among the areas hardest hit is a long stretch of the Great Plains that includes much of eastern Nebraska. Bee populations in hives around Lincoln saw a 40 percent drop just last year.

Global trends don't look much brighter. Last year, the United Nations reported roughly two out of five of the world's invertebrate pollinators, including bees, are threatened by extinction.

It's difficult to precisely pinpoint the cause of these alarming die-offs because bees exist in delicately balanced ecosystems reliant on a multitude of factors. Scientists point to long-term problems related to land use, pesticides, invasive species, diseases and climate change.

But why such sharp declines in such short order? The short answer is: We don't really know.

One thing we do know is that urban

beekeeping is rising in response. Today, beehives are active at some of the world's most famous locations—from the gardens of Buckingham Palace to the rooftops of the Paris Opera House and New York City's Whitney Museum of Art. And thousands of hobbyists on farms, ranches and suburban backyards are joining a vibrant conservation movement.

The movement has inspired Bricker to begin developing a lab course covering arthropod and insect classification, flowering plant anatomy, bee biology, hive diseases and human impacts on pollinators.

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While he only started beekeeping six years ago, Bricker's interest goes back much further. He grew up on a small farm in Michigan, the progeny of "Chicago city slickers turned agriculturalists." The young Bricker helped care for an apiary on his family's property run by the farm's previous owner.

"I can't recall a time when I didn't feel a connection to the land and the bucolic nature of the farmstead," he said. "I guess beekeeping is a reaffirmation of my lifelong love of the outdoors and our natural heritage."

Bricker may call himself an "intermediate beekeeper," but he handles his hives with surgical precision. Beekeeping, he says, is a meditative practice. He finds himself aware of and in tune with the current mood of his bees. Today, the bees seem patient and accepting of our presence. That isn't always the case.



CAMPAIGN CONNECTION:



Supporting life-changing scholarships like Access NWU is part of Bold Designs: The Campaign for Nebraska Wesleyan University.

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*NWU is where you can have these wild ideas and actually see them come to fruition.*

“There are times when it’s clear from the frequency of their wing vibrations that they’re angry or irritated,” he said. “It’s those times that cause me to stop and accept that we all (humans included) have good and bad days, and that time, breathing space and acceptance are the best responses.”

Bricker acknowledged, “It’s difficult to live an urban life and be in communion with nature. Beekeeping allows that to happen in a way nothing else does.”

Arrowsmith shares Bricker’s connection to these moody insects. “It’s absolutely fascinating to be able to feel the hive’s emotional state as their buzzing increases or decreases.” Arrowsmith and Bricker are proof an invertebrate’s feelings can be felt in the spine. They’re proof that humans can feel and follow the collective throttle of the hive.

Arrowsmith accelerates into her thoughts on hum frequencies, then stops herself. Apologizes. “Seriously, I could talk about bees for hours,” she said. “But here’s the thing—I would have never discovered all of this if I hadn’t had these opportunities here. NWU is where you can have these wild ideas and actually see them come

to fruition.”

Arrowsmith is among the first class of Nebraska Wesleyan students eligible to receive an Access NWU Scholarship. It’s a life-changing, full-tuition award for high-achieving students with significant need. The day she found out she’d received one, she cried. She could feel the hum of her own future change its intensity.

She hadn’t yet met Prof. Bricker, but she could already sense this is a campus where the doors of professors’ offices stand open. She can enter with a question and leave with an answer—and an armload of lent books. This is a place where the classroom stretches

into her teachers’ green backyards.

It’s a campus as alive as any hive. And Arrowsmith remembers sliding into its peculiar sound. Here, she explores the sciences and modern languages. She discovers a new love for opera, becomes a student ambassador, represents NWU at conferences on mental health, and volunteers throughout the city.

The unattuned ear might come across Arrowsmith’s odd assortment of experiences at NWU and hear only noise. But Arrowsmith feels its cohesion, its unexpected connections. She sees the sides of her interests interlocking, like so many hexagons,





into something whole.

“Beekeeping impacts my research and helps me excel in my science classes,” she said. “My language studies are helping me pursue a future in psychiatry because I want to have a bilingual practice one day. Opera performances have helped me with my languages. Last year, I sang in Czech, Russian, Italian and even Chinese.”

#### CAMPAIGN CONNECTION:

Bold Designs prioritizes the student experience so people like Arrowsmith can fully engage as artists, scientists, innovators and citizens.

Arrowsmith will soon stretch her language skills again with two semesters in Spain. There, she'll learn by both observation and feel.

“Because of beekeeping, I’ve learned to observe what’s going on around me more so than before. Sometimes you just have to take a few spare seconds to close your eyes and listen to the world around you.”

Back in Bricker’s yard, NWU’s beekeepers grow quiet, keying into the hive’s calm drone. Bricker breaks the silence.

“There she is!” Long live the queen. Everyone gathers close to see her. The queen bee is calm, shifting a bit from side to side. She’s larger than her surrounding drones, and wears her heraldry in a faded, yellow dot. She is both ordinary and majestic. Spineless and spine-tingling.

“Isn’t she something to bee-hold?” Bricker says.

This time, Arrowsmith doesn’t groan. The hive is safe. 

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*Sometimes you just have to take a few spare seconds to close your eyes and listen to the world around you.*





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Join Bold Designs by making an Archway Fund gift at [nebrwesleyan.edu/donate](http://nebrwesleyan.edu/donate). And visit [facebook.com/NWUgiving](https://facebook.com/NWUgiving). Contact Erika Paschold at 402.465.7574 or [epaschol@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:epaschol@nebrwesleyan.edu).

# Swaziland Revisited

## To see the impact of a forward-looking education, look back.

Nebraska Wesleyan promises students a life-changing education. But you may be skeptical about such marketing. After all, one of the ways NWU changed your life was to encourage you to scrutinize big claims like that. (See what we did there? Your doubt confirms our point!)

Cleverness aside, it's important for us—alumni and the university alike—to look back on our work and ask ourselves: Are we keeping our promises? Do we live by the codes we profess? And do we profess those codes because they sound good, or because they do good?

Take Nebraska Wesleyan's emphasis on global service. Sure, photos from service learning trips to needy places look good on a social media feed. They're excellent PR. But do those experiences truly change the arc of our students' lives?

*Are we keeping our promises?*

*Do we live by the codes we profess?*

Janelle Andreini ('94) challenged us to find out. She's assistant dean for student success and campus community, and a former coordinator for Nebraska Wesleyan's student-led Global Service Learning (GSL) program.

On her advice, we checked in on alumni from a decade-old GSL trip. In 2007, Andreini and a dozen NWU students traveled to Swaziland where

they volunteered at health clinics and planted gardens to provide nutritious food for AIDS patients.

"We didn't want to just come and go on this whirlwind trip," Vanessa Martinez ('08) told *Archways* in 2007. "We wanted to go in and have a lasting effect."

So ... what was the effect?

GSL students chose Swaziland for their service because they saw a huge need. Swaziland had one of the world's highest adult HIV/AIDS infection rates. That rate is still among the world's highest, but it's fallen dramatically. NWU students played a small part in a global effort that's lowered Swaziland's adult HIV infection rate from 40 percent in 2007 to 26 percent today.

If the service trip had a small impact on that global effort, it had an enormous impact on the career paths of the NWU students who took part. Andreini helped track down the current careers of most students on that trip. The fingerprints of global service were visible virtually everywhere she looked.

**Megan Hershiser** ('07) directs corporate engagement for Girl Rising, a global campaign supporting girls' education.

**Jake Hoy-Elswick** ('07) helps students chart their own global journeys as director of international programs at Doane University.

**Caroline Ideus** ('07) teaches English Language Learners at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

**Desereé Johnston** ('14) collaborated with international partners as part of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization and is pursuing a master's degree in security studies at Georgetown University.

**Vanessa Martinez** supports the human rights of detained refugees with the International Detention Coalition.

**Chase McGrath** ('09) helps farmers feed the world as an international trade specialist with the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service.

**Amanda Paredes** ('07) teaches Spanish in Friend, Neb., and raises funds for Constru Casa, a Guatemala nonprofit.


**Austin Pedersen** ('07) is a lead international relations officer with the U.S. Department of Labor.

**Joy Weir** ('07) teaches at GEMS Cambridge International School in Abu Dhabi.

**Jarryd Widhalm** ('09) works for Kiva, an international nonprofit that uses lending to address poverty.

This 10-year-old service trip bore immediate fruit for patients in Swaziland. It bears fruit still in the lifelong commitment to service we see in the students who planted those gardens in the first place.

"It can be easy to throw up your hands in the face of huge issues," Andreini told *Archways* a decade ago. "But trips like this give Nebraska Wesleyan students a valuable global perspective. And they show that we can address problems, even when they're bigger than we are. When we refuse to be passive, we do make a difference."

That's good marketing. It also happens to be true. 

### CAMPAIGN CONNECTION:



Bold Designs supports faculty and staff (like Janelle Andreini) who will cross oceans to "go the extra mile" for their students.

## Then ...

A decade has passed since this 2007 service trip to Swaziland.



## Now ...

Joy Weir ('07) teaches in the United Arab Emirates.

## Now ...

Chase McGrath ('09) supports ag-industry trade to meet global food needs.



## Now ...

Austin Pedersen ('07) does work honored by the secretary of labor for preventing goods made with forced labor from entering U.S. markets.



## Now ...

Jarryd Widhalm ('09) uses micro-lending to address poverty on a global scale.

### CAMPAIGN CONNECTION:

Opportunities like Global Service Learning's service trips are pivotal parts of the student experiences supported by Bold Designs.

# Made Human

NWU artist brings to life the man who made her legally human.

—By Eric Wendt ('99)

Angel Geller ('18) crouched low, working quietly at the foot of a giant column of clay. As an NWU art major, Geller could speak to the properties of the clay at her fingers—its earthen, elemental nature. As a peace and justice minor, she could speak also to the significance of the human rights hero taking shape in that clay.

Geller was assisting the renowned artist, Benjamin Victor, on his 10' 2" sculpture of an American civil rights icon: the Ponca leader, Chief Standing Bear. The Donald Miller Campbell Family Foundation commissioned Victor to complete a bronze of Standing Bear, which will be unveiled on Lincoln's Centennial Mall just north of P Street on October 15 at 12:30 p.m. Back in March, Victor trucked his nearly complete clay colossus from his Boise, Idaho, studio to Lincoln for a series of open studio sessions. Those sessions, held in Union Plaza's Jane Snyder Trail Center, gave Lincolnitites a valuable peek at the work in progress.

Victor is the only living artist to have two sculptures in the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall. He thoroughly researches the historical figures he sculpts. And everything he learned about Standing Bear made him grateful to have Geller as his Lincoln assistant.

"I'm from the Umonhon Tribe of Nebraska," Geller explained. And the Umonhon—or the Omaha, as they're more commonly known—share a deep bond with Standing Bear's Ponca.

"I get to say I beaded his moccasins," said Geller. "If you know anything about Standing Bear's story, you'll know why that fact almost brings me to tears every time I think about it."



Photo by Lane Hickenbottom



Photo by Pat Aylward

*I get to say I beaded his moccasins. If you know anything about Standing Bear's story, you'll know why that fact almost brings me to tears every time I think about it.*

Federal authorities pushed the Ponca off their ancestral homeland along the Niobrara River in the spring of 1877. Standing Bear and more than 500 of his people walked the Ponca Trail of Tears through Nebraska and Kansas to Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma. The stresses of the forced journey killed nine—including Standing Bear's infant granddaughter.

On June 6, the hungry Ponca huddled outside Milford, Neb., some 20 miles west of the field of wild sunflowers where Nebraska Wesleyan would be founded a decade later. A tornado tore through their camp, injuring many and overturning a boiling kettle onto Standing Bear's baby granddaughter, who died from the scalding.

The deadliness didn't pass with the storm. Nor did it leave them once they arrived in Indian Territory. Famine, malaria and squalor

would take roughly 150 more Ponca in 18 months. With a quarter of his tribe lost, it was far deadlier to be a peaceful, agrarian Ponca Indian in this period than it was to be a Union soldier fighting through the ravages of the Civil War.

The ill in Indian Territory included Standing Bear's son, Bear Shield. Dying and heartsick, he implored his father to bury him back home along the Niobrara. To fulfill that wish, Standing Bear and roughly 20 others would leave on foot without federal permission and in blizzard conditions. They nearly made it. But before they could arrive, they were caught among friends on the Omaha Reservation and held in Fort Omaha.

The Ponca's plight garnered national attention. Sympathetic whites raised funds and assembled a legal team to challenge the constitutionality of their arrest. Standing

#### CAMPAIGN CONNECTION:

In addition to assisting Victor, Geller found opportunity to intern with the renowned artist, Jun Kaneko. Bold Designs seeks to expand experiences like these for more Nebraska Wesleyan students.

Bear became the first Native American plaintiff in a U.S. court. He secured his place in U.S. history by successfully arguing for the personhood of Native Americans.

That's the broad-strokes history. But to fully understand the surge of Geller's tears as she nestled beads into the sculpture's moccasins, we need to know more about the bonds between Standing Bear's Ponca and Geller's Omaha.

The word Omaha means "against the current." And as the currents of warfare, disease, drought, lost buffalo and stolen land swept over Ponca and Omaha alike, the neighbors and ancestral relatives leaned on one another again and again to survive.

Lincoln journalist Joe Starita described the Ponca's straits in his acclaimed 2008 book, *"I Am a Man": Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice*.

"Throughout Standing Bear's childhood, the squeeze from the [warring] Lakota to the west, an infusion of whites from the east, and the specter of disease all around never let up. Fifty years into the new century,"

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## *Geller's Omaha ancestors ... received Standing Bear and 20 other Ponca—bloody-footed, hungry, fugitive and frostbitten—in 1879.*

Starita wrote, "the wild game began to rapidly disappear, and it wasn't long before the only buffalo on the plains lay in piles of bleached, white bones."

All the while, Geller's Omaha were as generous with food and supplies as their own survival allowed. When raiding whites or Lakota destroyed Ponca homes, uprooted their crops or shredded their moccasins, the Omaha helped them stand.

An 1865 treaty with the U.S. promised the cooperative Ponca 96,000 acres near the



Photo by Pat Aylward

mouth of the Niobrara and stretching into the Dakota Territory. The U.S. would sign in error a separate treaty in 1868, granting a much larger tract of land encompassing those same acres to the more bellicose Lakota. The Lakota didn't particularly want the Ponca land and hadn't asked for it. Still, surrendering it to their enemies felt absurd. And future conflict seemed assured.

After four such treaties where the U.S. promised the Ponca land, food and protection while delivering next to nothing, the nearly annihilated Ponca turned instead to the Omaha. Chiefs signed an agreement in 1873 in which the Omaha sold part of their own reservation to the Ponca so they might survive in peace. But the U.S. intervened to block the agreement, thanks to opposition from Nebraska's senators, Thomas Tipton and Phineas Hitchcock. Nebraska, they contended, had enough Indians. Let the Ponca deal with their fate just north of the Missouri River in Dakota Territory.

The double-granting of the Niobrara valley to the Ponca and the Lakota, and the subsequent dismantling of the Ponca's agreement with the Omaha, created a vacuum. Where, exactly, were Chief Standing Bear's decimated Ponca supposed to exist?

The federal answer to that question came at gunpoint in 1877. Walk south, with the current, to Indian Territory.

Geller beaded the chief's moccasins and thought about what those feet had endured. Hoping to secure the Ponca's cooperation, U.S. authorities had previously escorted the chiefs by train for a tour of Indian Territory. The territory south of Kansas, they said, was vast and idyllic. And the Ponca chiefs were invited to see for themselves and select a new home from the very best of it.

The chiefs arrived and saw sandy soil and sick, starving Indians. The Ponca chiefs declined the U.S. offer to move and asked to be taken home to the Niobrara. But the whites said there would be no ride home until the chiefs selected the tract for their tribe's relocation. Rather than do that, Standing Bear and some of the others ducked out at night and walked north, against the current, home.

So the Trail of Tears in the spring of 1877 was actually the second time Standing Bear's feet had walked the length of Nebraska and Kansas. And, to bury his son, those feet would walk that distance a third time in the winter of 1879.

Beading the moccasins proved tedious work. But how could Geller complain? Her hands might ache. But they didn't bleed. She placed each bead with a tenderness, literally caring for Standing Bear's feet. Geller's Omaha ancestors felt a similar care when they received Standing Bear and 20 other Ponca—bloody-footed, hungry, fugitive and frostbitten—in 1879.

Neither the Omaha's care nor their sovereignty could stop U.S. authorities from tracking down the fleeing Ponca and arresting them on Omaha land. This arrest differed from previous U.S. blunders, broken promises and atrocities only in that the Ponca would be given redress in court.

Standing Bear's case, held in U.S. District Court in Omaha, would center on an interpretation of the 14th Amendment's Section 1: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States ... are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

The defense argued the 14th Amendment didn't apply for the simple fact that Standing Bear was not a person in the eyes of the law. Therefore, despite his U.S. birth, he was not a citizen with constitutional protections. Standing Bear's lawyers begged to differ.

"No!" responded one. "It is a libel upon religion; it is a libel upon missionaries who sacrifice so much and risk their lives in order to take to these Indians that gospel which Christ proclaimed to all the wide earth, to say that these are not human beings."

Not only was Standing Bear a man, the plaintiff's council argued. He was also a better man. "Who of us all would have done it? Look around this city and State and find, if you can, the man who has gathered up the ashes of his dead, wandered for 60 days through a strange country without guide or compass, aided by the sun and stars only, that the bones of that kindred may be buried in the land of their birth."

After closing arguments, in a rare move, Judge Elmer Dundy allowed Standing Bear himself to address the court. In a gesture captured in Victor's bronze, Standing Bear stood on tired feet and showed his hand to Judge Dundy. He spoke through an interpreter—his friend, Bright Eyes. (It's worthwhile here to note that the most famous

words ever uttered by a Ponca man were interpreted and relayed to a white audience by an Omaha woman.)

"That hand is not the color of yours," Standing Bear said, "but if I pierce it, I shall feel pain. If you pierce your hand, you also feel pain. The blood that will flow from mine will be of the same color as yours. I am a man. The same God made us both."

It is tempting to end, as most tellings of this story do, with Standing Bear's triumph in court. This uplifting legal victory forced the captured Ponca's release from prison. But it freed them into homelessness. Their 96,000 acres in the Niobrara valley were still the legal possession of the Lakota, their agree-

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### *What's more American than loving your son and the traditions of your people so much that you would risk everything to honor a promise?*

ment to buy nearby land at a fair price from the Omaha still scuttled by Congress.

The Ponca were divided, north and south, with Standing Bear's homeless faction struggling for years to gain legal claim to their ancestral homeland, and Chief White Eagle's larger faction choosing to make the best of their slowly improving lives along the Salt Fork in present-day Oklahoma.

The Northern Ponca would never get their land back as a tribe. In the end, it was divvied instead, not to the tribe, but to individual Ponca. After the dividing was done, Ponca individuals received a combined total of 27,202 acres of their original 96,000-acre reservation—a 70 percent loss.

Starita wrote, "Standing Bear received Allotment No. 146: a 297.8-acre parcel of rich, dark soil hugging a bend on the west

bank of the [Niobrara]." He farmed it quietly until his death in 1908. He was buried in its hills.

Larry Wright, Jr. (MAHS '07) is chairman of the Northern Ponca and teaches history at Lincoln High School. He told Starita about the way he teaches Standing Bear's story. "What's more American than loving your son and the traditions of your people so much that you would risk everything to honor a promise? What's more American than preferring death in a freedom flight home to dying slowly as a prisoner in a place you hate, a place you have no connection to? I mean, this was a man who took on the U.S. government on a different kind of battlefield—and he won. When you think about it, it's one of the best American stories we have."

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Ripples of America's civil rights story roll forward today in fascinating ways, particularly in Nebraska. Our capital is named after the man whose legacy includes the 13th Amendment, which ended slavery, and the 14th, which extended citizenship to those freed. Nebraskans have long honored Abraham Lincoln with a powerful, 10' 2" bronze statue on the Capitol's west side.

On October 15, Lincolmites will unveil another 10' 2" bronze of a man who stood just as tall in reshaping America's civil rights story. If Lincoln bequeathed us the 14th Amendment, Standing Bear reached out his hand and stretched it into its intended shape.

Back in March, Geller reached out her hand and settled another bead into the clay moccasin. The young Omaha woman took something earthen and helped make it human. It was another gentle act of kindness running in an ancient current between the Omaha and Ponca. It was a caring gesture made 138 years after Standing Bear had reached out, touched Geller, and made her human before the law. **n**

Quinn Hullett ('18) contributed reporting for this article.



Photo by Allison Woods

## Thirty-year Coaching Veteran Leads Prairie Wolves

When NWU women's basketball takes the court to start the 2017-2018 season this November, they'll be led by a new face. Nebraska Wesleyan University hired **Sam Dixon** as head coach in May.

Dixon's coaching resume is long and impressive. He spent the last four seasons as a top assistant with the Big Ten Conference's Northwestern University. He helped the Wildcats to three postseason appearances, including the 2015

NCAA Tournament. As an associate head coach for Clemson University and an assistant coach at the University of Arizona, he helped lead both programs to NCAA Tournament bids.

Dixon has also coached men's and women's teams at the University of Akron, Furman University, Denison University, Northern Illinois University, Kent State, the University of New Mexico, Davidson College

and Northern Kentucky.

At Furman, Dixon recruited five 1,000-point scorers and coached five student-athletes who went on to play as international professionals. He also assisted USA Basketball U20 and U21 world championship teams.

"I am thrilled that Sam Dixon is the next head women's basketball coach of the Prairie Wolves," Athletic Director **Ira Zeff** said. "The breadth and depth of his coaching experiences are outstanding. He is a great addition to our coaching staff and will continue to lead the NWU women's basketball program in the right direction."

Dixon leads a surging Nebraska Wesleyan program that made its first-ever conference tournament appearance last year. NWU's 13-13 record under **Britni Mueller** was its best in 16 seasons. Coach Mueller resigned at season's end after four years with the program. All five of last year's starters return, giving Dixon a core of experienced team leaders. **n**

### CAMPAIGN CONNECTION:

Strengthening Nebraska Wesleyan's coaching staff is a Bold Designs campaign priority. NWU coaches are powerful mentors for hundreds of student-athletes.



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.





Hahn's donated pieces were on display in Elder Gallery in May during a reception in her family's honor.



Photos by Zach Tuttle (17)

## World Traveler Brings Art and NWU into the Family

Natalie Hahn is almost sheepish when she admits she never attended Nebraska Wesleyan University. Still, the 40-year U.N. diplomat born in Central City, Neb., gave to NWU from her impressive collection of African art because she sees the university as part of her family.

When Hahn looks inward on her family's history, she sees NWU connections stretching back nearly a century. Her mother, **Grayce Hahn Burney**, and aunt, **Mildred Stevens Anderson**, attended in the 1920s. And her list of alumni cousins reaches double digits.

NWU feels just as much like family when Hahn looks outward. She built a career serving the well-being of Africans through the Institute for International Agriculture in Nigeria, UNICEF in Malawi and the U.N.'s

Fund for International Partnerships. Leaders in both Malawi and Nigeria named Hahn an honorary chieftain.

She's a fierce believer in study abroad. She established the Malaika Foundation to support global education in Nebraska. When she looks at NWU, she may not see her alma mater, but she certainly sees a kindred spirit.

The Malaika Foundation wants to see one in 10 of Nebraska's college students studying abroad. To get there, the foundation encourages schools to follow Nebraska Wesleyan's lead, where already two in five students graduate with international experiences.

She gave art from her African travels to inspire Nebraska Wesleyan students to venture off campus. Engage the world. Absorb its beauty. And make it a better place to live.



Natalie Hahn

### CAMPAIGN CONNECTION:

It takes deliberate support to foster a 40 percent study abroad rate at NWU; Bold Designs helps deliver that support for the sake of student experiences.

Come to MAMA. The Midwestern African Museum of Art (1935 Q Street in Lincoln) has many pieces from Hahn's extensive collection.

# Student Pride

Prestige scholars and awards



Katie Krick



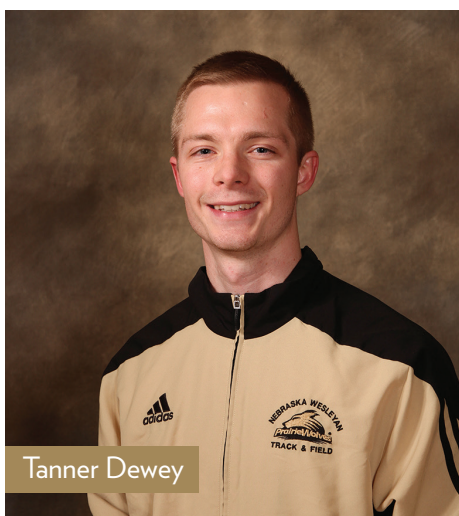
Elizabeth Jones



Kaylee Jones



Garrett Sellhorst



Tanner Dewey



Zach Holka

## Six Prairie Wolves Named Academic All-Americans

Six NWU track & field student-athletes earned CoSIDA Academic All-America status in June. That total ranked second for the year among NCAA Division III track & field/cross country programs, behind only MIT's eight.

Nebraska Wesleyan's three female Academic All-Americans are also national champions. Katie Krick ('17), Elizabeth Jones ('19) and Kaylee Jones ('19) were members of NWU's 4x400 relay team that won national indoor and outdoor titles this year. Krick is the second woman in school history to become a three-time Academic All-American. She is also one of 30 finalists for the NCAA Woman of the Year Award to be announced October 22 in Indianapolis.

On the men's side, NWU's 2017 Academic All-Americans include Garrett Sellhorst ('16, MBA '18), Tanner Dewey ('17) and Zach Holka ('17). This academic honor comes on top of All-America performances at this year's national outdoor championships. Sellhorst is an All-American triple jumper. Dewey and Holka earned All-America status in the men's 4x400.

NWU ranks eighth in all divisions with 168 Academic All-Americans in school history.



## A major focus of Bold Designs is growing NWU's endowment.

### *What are endowed funds?*

Endowed funds are permanent sources of funding created by alumni and friends of NWU to support student scholarships, faculty, departments, programs and much more. Endowed funds are invested, and each year a portion of the earnings is used to support the specified purpose. Any remaining earnings are put back into the fund so it may grow over time.

When you establish an endowed fund, you make a gift that keeps on giving—*forever*.

**Contact** Brenda McCrady, director of planned giving,  
at 402.465.2129 or [bmccrady@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:bmccrady@nebrwesleyan.edu).





# ALUMNI PAGES



You're a part of the Nebraska Wesleyan community—no dues required.

---

## 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](http://alumni.nebrwesleyan.edu).

## MYSTERY PHOTO

### We're stuck.

Who's behind the wheel of this Mustang? And who's providing the extra horsepower?

#### Send your responses to:

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

## MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED



## You braved the tightrope

Coach Bulling balanced ID-ing our photo subjects with memories of his teammates.

The Mystery Photo in the summer 2017 issue brought some great memories for me. The coach working with his rat is **Jim Germer** ('80). Jim was a teammate of mine on the track team. I am watching Jim's rat pretty intently as we were locked in a fierce Rat Olympic battle. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that my rat, Mac Rat (note my T-shirt) did win the most events in the competition. Standing behind me is Mac's co-coach and fellow track team member, **Bill Dietrick** ('80). As an added note that links NWU alumni, Bill's indoor shot put school record was broken by my son, **Elliott Bulling** ('11). Bill still holds the outdoor record. Thank you for the great picture!

—**Ted Bulling** ('80)

director of NWU track & field and cross country

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you

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the right connections.

Garrett Sellhorst ('16, MBA '18)

Learn more about our MBA Programs in  
Lincoln and Omaha at [nebrwesleyan.edu/mba](http://nebrwesleyan.edu/mba).



## Johnson Receives NWU's First Rosentrater Act of Valor Award

No one in the university's 130-year history represents courage and sacrifice quite like the late Professor of Philosophy **John Rosentrater**. The late Professor of History **David Mickey** ('39) called him "one of those giants who, from time to time, walks upon the earth."

Rosentrater served with the U.S. Army's 32nd Red Arrow Division during the First World War, and survived a gunshot wound to the head and multiple gas attacks. For his wounds and valor in combat, Rosentrater received a Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster and three Bronze Stars. He was even nominated for the country's highest military award, the Medal of Honor.

Rosentrater followed his military service with a long career as a professor of philosophy at Nebraska Wesleyan University, touching generations of alumni with a soft-spoken integrity and kindness.

A century after his military service, Nebraska Wesleyan University established a new award in his name: the John Rosentrater Act of Valor Award. This new award seeks to honor alumni whose heroic service falls beyond the call of duty.

Its first recipient was **Bob Johnson** ('60). In Vietnam, Johnson led Hotel Company, 2nd Battalion 4th Marines and was wounded in combat. He received a Purple Heart in 1967 and a Bronze Star in 1969. He retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1981.

Johnson received the Rosentrater Act of Valor Award on September 28 as part of Nebraska Wesleyan's 2017 Legends and Legacies banquet.

"The Nebraska Wesleyan community honors the myriad of ways our alumni serve their country, from servicemen and women on the battlefield, to nurses and doctors in our hospitals, to teachers in our classrooms," said Vice President for Advancement **John Greiving**. "Our world needs wise people with the courage of their convictions. John Rosentrater and Bob Johnson are together the perfect embodiments of that wisdom and that courage joined together."



Award winner **Bob Johnson** ('60)



**Josh Berry**



**Sam Mosser**

## NWU Adds Two to PBA

The President's Board of Advisors (PBA) provides advice to President **Fred Ohles** in fulfilling 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 twice each year. Innovation was the focus of the spring 2017 meeting.

President Ohles welcomed **Josh Berry** ('04) and **Samantha (Spencer) Mosser** ('98) as new members. Berry is co-founder of Econic LLC in Lincoln; Mosser is Omaha president of Union Bank & Trust Company. Ohles expressed appreciation to outgoing members **John Batchler** ('97), Valley; **Steve Brugman** ('89), Franklin, Tenn; **Mary Lou (Rogers) Fredrickson** ('71), Bennet; **Marilyn Hutchinson** ('69), Kansas City, Mo.; **Dr. Jo (Afrank) Kinberg** ('82), Lincoln; and **Mark Schulze** ('88) Argyle, Texas.

Photo by Jennifer Gracin Photography



Illustration by Matt Haney

# Rise of the Flying Chaucers

*Heads bobble when NWU professors and students take the field together.*

—By Steven Nordeen ('72)

The Flying Chaucers were a ragtag bunch. The year was 1970 or '71. The memories, the names, dim a bit with age. The Chaucers were a slow-pitch softball team, part faculty, part students and all-NWU.

Our battery (our pitcher and catcher for the non-baseball aficionados): two sociologists, Professor **Glenn Bush** and Professor **William Cascini**. They were ancient, so thought my 20-year-old self, both pushing 50. Bush's hair and mustache were grey, for crying out loud. Professor of Psychology **Cliff Fawl**, second baseman and department chair, had a glove I swear he must have swiped from Rogers Hornsby. Its fat leather fingers weren't even laced together. The inestimable Professor of English **Bill Kloefkorn** was our sometimes first baseman and Professor Emeritus of Philosophy **John Walker** manned the outfield. I was shortstop. **Pete Blakeslee** ('72), dobro-player extraordinaire and Walker's occasional accompanist, together with Cascini, gave the Chaucers just enough power hitting to keep the outfielders honest.

On this magical night, the Chaucers faced off against the powerful Lincoln JCs. The Chaucers were in many ways the antithesis of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. The JCs were loaded with former jocks, physically intimidating, if a bit soft in the middle from a decade or so behind desks doing whatever it was business-types did then. They sported sharp, pinstriped jerseys and a few smirks at our mismatched T-shirts and Fawl's antiquated glove.

Their disdain seemed justified when the Chaucers went down tamely in the first. Their smirks bled into derisive guffaws as the JCs promptly plated five on a couple homeruns.

The JCs followed the first inning with big swing after big swing, resulting in a spate of long fly-outs to the Chaucers' intrepid outfield.

The plucky Chaucers began chipping away with a run here and a run there. They caught the leaders and forged ahead late in the game to the utter dismay of the disbelieving JCs. Bush fed them a steady diet of tempting pitches that eluded their exasperated swings. The Chaucer infield gobbled up topped ground balls like so much crackerjack.

---

*They sported sharp, pinstriped jerseys and a few smirks at our mismatched T-shirts and Fawl's antiquated glove.*

The JCs threatened a rally in the final inning. But Fawl eyed a laser lined to second, leaped up with that Depression-era mitt and aborted any comeback.

Final score: Flying Chaucers 9, Lincoln JCs 5.

It was the finest hour of the Chaucers' brief existence. The obligatory post-game handshakes were most satisfying as the bested pinstripes filed past us in our clashing T-shirts.

Call us Flying Chaucers. Call us Plainsmen. Call us Prairie Wolves. Call us whatever you want. But when you put Nebraska Wesleyan students together with Nebraska Wesleyan professors, one thing you can't call us is mismatched. **u**



# Calendar

Mark your calendar for these alumni events. All are welcome.  
Contact Shelley McHugh (91) for details at smchugh@nebrwesleyan.edu or 402.465.2123.

## December 4 NWU men's basketball

An old rival returns to campus as the Prairie Wolves take on Doane University. Tip-off is at 8 p.m.



Photo by Chris Smithberg

## OCTOBER



Photo by Chris Smithberg

## 27 NWU volleyball

Halloween comes early for St. Louis-area alumni as the howling Prairie Wolves take on Transylvania University at Washington University's Baden Invitational. First serve at 7:30 p.m.

## NOVEMBER

### 1 Raising Cane's Day

All Lincoln locations give 20 percent of sales to NWU from 5 to 8 p.m. when customers mention NWU.

### 3 NWU in the Tri-Cities

Alumni in Grand Island, Kearney and Hastings join Alumni Relations and President Fred Ohles for a look at NWU's bold plans for the future.



### 30 NWU theatre presents: A Christmas Carol

The Dickens classic is an NWU tradition, bringing the magic of the holiday season to McDonald Theatre. Shows run November 30-December 3, 7-10. Visit theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu for tickets and show times.

## DECEMBER

### 1 NWU in KC at Union Station

Alumni Relations and President Fred Ohles give Kansas City alumni a look at NWU's bold plans for the future.

### 6 Lincoln holiday open house

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

### 19 Omaha holiday open house

Omaha-area alumni and friends gather for the holidays at Happy Hollow Club.



Photo by Geoff Johnson

### 11-14 Final exams

All some students want for the holidays is a successful finals week. Wish them the best as they close out the semester with exams.



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