

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

# ARCHWAYS

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

# ARCHWAYS

BRACE YOURSELF | WINTER 2017-2018 | VOLUME 17, ISSUE 4

## HAYWIRE!

*Are you ready for things to go sideways?*

*Are you ready for things  
to go sideways?*

*Are you ready for things  
to go sideways?*



## FROM THE PRESIDENT



---

*We prepare NWU students to do well. We also prepare them to respond appropriately when things “go haywire.”*

### Dear Alumni and Friends,

Each week, a group of faculty, staff and students gathers for 20 minutes in the Story Student Center for “Mindfulness Monday.” There, Professor of Communication Studies **Karla Jensen**—who has extensively researched mindfulness—invites participants to practice being present in the moment.

That weekly exercise provides a short but welcome time for students to see beyond those pressing projects and papers; an opportunity for faculty to catch their breath in the midst of grading exams. It’s a time to train our minds to respond thoughtfully to our environment.

Together, all of us at Nebraska Wesleyan are charged with equipping students with the variety of skills they’ll need as graduates. We want them primed to respond successfully and flourish in their environments. We prepare them with courses, experiences and integrated studies filled with rich opportunities to connect, think analytically and immediately apply what they learn. Our acclaimed Archway Curriculum does a remarkable job of ensuring that NWU’s newest alumni are ready for work and life.

It’s germane that the study of chaos is one of nine “threads” that make up one key aspect of our Archway Curriculum. This particular thread weaves together 25 courses ranging from postmodernism to social theory to global revolution and rebellion to art and activism. (By the way, we expect to have 12 threads altogether soon.)

We prepare NWU students to do well. We also prepare them to respond appropriately when things “go haywire.”

Even in the most orderly lives, chaos creeps in. We all need the ability to anticipate and manage the situations we can influence. When things seem out of control, it’s especially valuable to apply those lessons we learned inside and outside the classroom. That’s when we exhibit true grit.

This issue of *Archways* is filled with stories of remarkable alumni—gritty men and women who have literally and figuratively weathered storms and flourished after.

- There’s the philanthropist who gives back to the campus community that held her up after a tornado destroyed her family’s farm.
- There’s the theatre alumna who survived hits from Hurricanes Irma and Maria.
- There’s the state patrol officer honed for high-stress situations.
- There’s the coach with a plan for game-day chaos.
- And there’s the nursing student balancing the demands of work and school with the needs of her six young children.

I’m mindful of the resilience their stories show. They are remarkable people; so are you. Together, we share a strength and faith that give us calm in the stormiest of circumstances.

We can’t know just how stormy the year ahead will be. But we can trust in the learning and work that brought us to this important moment. As 2018 begins, I wish you great peace, much joy, and precious mindfulness.

—Fred Ohles  
President



8



27



37

# CONTENTS

Winter 2017-18 | Volume 17, Issue 4

## ON THE COVER

### Haywire!

Plan for those times when nothing goes according to plan. ▶11

## NEW BALLGAME

### The Chaotic Six

In baseball and life, *what* you do with calm determines *how* you do in chaos. ▶14

### Something in Me

A born leader transitions from catching pitches to catching bad guys. ▶15

### Computing an Edge

Lincoln company gives NWU athletes and interns a competitive advantage. ▶27

### Homecoming 2017

Alumni return to campus for the big game—and so much more. ▶36

## STORMS

### A Visit from God

Twin hurricanes test the mettle of a Virgin Islands alumna. ▶17

### An Untangling

In a tornado's wreckage, life can unravel—or untangle. ▶21

## NWU

### NWUniverse ▶7

### Art ▶25

### Student Pride ▶29

### Financial Overview ▶30

## Departments

### 2 From the President

### 4 Letters

## Alumni Pages

### 33 Mystery Photo

### 35 Alumni News

### 40 Class Notes

### 47 Calendar



### Our Souls at Night

Can Robert Redford recreate an alumnus's magic? ▶25

# CONTRIBUTORS

## STAFF

**Eric Wendt ('99)**

**Editor**

ewendt@nebrwesleyan.edu

**Melanie Reinmiller**

**Art director**

mreinmil@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 Greving,  
Mary Hawk, Shelley McHugh ('91),  
William Motzer, 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 17, 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.

Photo by Allison Woods ('20)



**Lauren Andres ('21)**, staff student photographer  
Lauren is from Gothenburg, Neb., and is considering one or two majors in history-social science education, language arts education, psychology and Spanish. Photography has been a passion of Lauren's since she discovered it as a means of coping with depression, anxiety and trauma. She got involved with NWU's Office of Marketing and Communications as a way to incorporate photography into her college experience. Lauren is also active in Women's Choir and Mental Health Club. In her free time, she watches "Will and Grace" reruns, obsesses about sloths and writes poetry.

Photo by Zach Tuttle ('16)



**Emmalie Harris ('18)**, "A Heightened Sense of Focus" ▶19  
Emmalie is a regular *Archways* contributor in her role as a student writer in NWU's public relations office. She is active in Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority; NWU's literary journal, *The Flintlock*; the Gender Advocacy Place; and the English student honorary, Sigma Tau Delta.



**Ken Keith**, "A New Film and an Old Friend" ▶25

Ken was an NWU professor of psychology and a former colleague of the late professor of English, **Kent Haruf ('65)**. Ken reviewed a film based on his friend's posthumous novel, *Our Souls at Night*. He also wrote a tribute to Haruf in our winter 2014 issue. Ken is retired from the University of San Diego's psychology department and lives in Omaha.

Photo by Allison Woods ('20)



**Allison Woods ('20)**, staff student photographer  
Allison is an NWU art major and a journalism minor from York, Neb. The future photojournalist has served as a student assistant photographer in the Office of Marketing and Communications for a year. Photography played a big part in her international trips to Ecuador and Costa Rica. Allison enjoys cooking for her friends, playing with cats and soaking up nice weather whenever she can.



## Thanks, Max

Recently on the Discovery Channel, an eight-episode series aired called “Manhunt: Unabomber.” I was only 15 years old when the Unabomber was captured in Lincoln, Mont., so I was intrigued to watch the series in order to learn more about this event in history (since I didn’t keep up with the news when it was actually happening in the first place).

What made me want to watch it even more was knowing that an NWU alumnus was part of his capture. I couldn’t remember the complete story, so I went online to the *Archways* magazine archives and reread the article from the summer 2015 issue entitled, “Dismantling the Unabomber.” Fascinating stuff, to say the least!

When I first read the article back in the summer of 2015, I didn’t necessarily understand the importance of his role in Ted Kaczynski’s capture, but now having read it again after completing the series, I’m once again proud to be an NWU alumna among such incredible people as D. Max Noel (’64).

Thank you to Max for your sacrifice and work in capturing the Unabomber and thank you to *Archways* magazine for sharing his story in the first place, and for having it accessible for reference, even after it was published two years ago.

**Julie R. (Gaughen) Warford** (’03)  
Wahoo, Neb.



## Staying the Course on Title IX

In September, the U.S. Department of Education announced changes to guidance on how college campuses can comply with Title IX. This guidance does not require schools to change their current policies and procedures for resolving Title IX complaints. However, the guidance does allow schools to raise their evidentiary standards for misconduct findings from the “preponderance of evidence” to “clear and compelling” standards. The guidance also allows mediation to resolve complaints. It also removes the 60-day time frame in which to resolve complaints that was previously required of colleges.

Nebraska Wesleyan University remains committed to our efforts to prevent sexual assault, harassment, intimate partner violence, stalking and retaliation, so we will not change any of our sexual misconduct and harassment policies and procedures.

- We will continue to resolve complaints in a timely manner.
- We will continue to provide due process for both parties including the ability to appeal findings and sanctions.
- We will continue to work to ensure that no students are prevented from accessing our outstanding educational programs because of any form of sexual misconduct.

At Nebraska Wesleyan University, “community” is one of our core values. Sexual assault, harassment, intimate partner violence and stalking are clear violations of that value. As a community, together we have made great strides in our prevention efforts and our response to complaints of sexual assault and harassment. We do not plan to curtail those efforts and responses.

**T. J. McDowell, Jr.** (’94) and **Susan Wortmann**  
*McDowell and Wortmann are Nebraska Wesleyan University’s Title IX coordinators.*



# I Am Not Alone in the Performance of Service

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

*Robert Johnson ('60) received NWU's first John Rosentrater Act of Valor Award for his service in Vietnam as a U.S. Marine. We share his remarks upon accepting his award here, so that alumni might learn or remember more about that "not too popular war over 50 years ago."*

Thank you so much for your warm welcome to this old alumnus. I am humbled by the recognition that my actions, in a not too popular war over 50 years ago, have brought. It is a particular honor that this award is linked to the name of one of my professors here at Nebraska Wesleyan, Prof. **John Rosentrater**. Dr. John was a truly valorous and humble soldier of the First World War. In that awful conflict, he exhibited great personal courage and compassion that has inspired many of us who knew him.

Nebraska Wesleyan has had a great influence on my life, so this award is particularly heartwarming to me. My Wesleyan education made it possible for me to become an officer in the U.S. Marines. That granted me the privilege of commanding men of courage and honor willing to risk their lives in a great struggle. The professors at Wesleyan had helped to prepare me for the challenge through their influence on my ability to think critically while emphasizing the importance of character in a position of responsibility. At various times, I had from 200 to 800 Marines under my command and I often prayed for guidance in protecting my charges from unnecessary harm. My prayers were answered even while we were in constant combat. Not a single one of my men was killed in action, although a number of us were wounded.

Wesleyan also provided me another great benefit: the association with many friends within the campus, fraternity and on the fields of sport. I learned to appreciate friendships made in friendly

competition. My football teammates, fraternity brothers and fellow classmates were very important as was the wonderful young woman who has shared my life for 55 years. I have only one regret from my time at Wesleyan, and that is that I was unable to get Ms. Halbert to come to any of our football games.

I am proud of the honor that you have granted me, but I am not alone in the performance of service to my country, my community, or on behalf of others in need of protection and humane service. There are many first responders, including police officers, fire fighters and ordinary people who place their lives and limbs in jeopardy for the sake of others. I hope that this award allows Nebraska Wesleyan to identify many more whose sacrifices are well worth memorializing.

Thank you all for this honor, but particularly my wife, Cleta, and family who accepted the hardships of frequent moves and separations for many years.

**Robert Johnson ('60)**  
Prattville, Ala.

---

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](mailto:ewendt@nebrwesleyan.edu)  
**Phone:** 402.465.2133



## NWU's One-stop Academic Workshop Turns 20



Photo by Lauren Andres ('21)

The Cooper Foundation Center for Academic Resources first opened its doors in Cochrane-Woods Library in 1997. Twenty years later, its mission remains to help students at all stages with writing and speaking projects and study skills.

Its first director, Professor of English Rick Cypert, oversees a center staffed by faculty and trained student consultants. Those consultants, Cypert said, have often taken the same courses as their clients, and can speak from experience about professors' expectations.

While "the Coop" exists to serve its clients, one of the center's earliest student consultants, *Archways* magazine's editor, Eric Wendt ('99), contends the consultants benefit at least as much.

"That's where I took my first steps as an editor—helping other people's words take better shape," Wendt said. "Rick and Sandy [McBride ('84)] prepared us well to work with all kinds of students."

He remembered students who were "trying to learn English and write at the college level at the same time." They forced Wendt to see his native language differently. "When they asked a grammar question, they deserved a better answer than, 'Just because.'"

Wendt also remembered incredibly talented writers who'd come in to make their work even sharper. "They could write me under the table," Wendt said. "We'd workshop their papers, and I'd turn around and ask if they'd mind taking a look at mine."

**THE FINAL:** The Cooper Center marks 20 years helping students "read up, write on and speak out."



Photo by Lauren Andres ('21)

NWU will hang banners for its 1973, 1974 and 1975 conference championships in an evening ceremony on January 10.

## Prairie Wolves Move into New Practice Facility

The mats are down and the doors are open at Nebraska Wesleyan's Athletic Practice Facility just north of the Abel Stadium gates. The new facility provides NWU wrestlers and cheerleaders with a practice venue, locker room and coach's office. And NWU student-athletes in all sports benefit from the exercise area and additional athletic training room.

Wrestling coach **Brandon Bradley** called the new facility a vital step forward as NWU recruits and supports top students and wrestlers.

NWU's last home wrestling meet is January 10 at 7 p.m. versus Buena Vista.

**THE FINAL:** The team that once practiced in the basement of First United Methodist Church now has a permanent home on campus.

## American Psychological Association Honors NWU Education Professor

It feels good when smart people speak well of you—when you're the talk of the town, the campus, the conference. Lately, **Randy Ernst** ('83, MAHS '07) has been feeling good indeed.

The NWU assistant professor of education is respected for his expertise in positive education. This year, the American Psychological Association did more than talk kindly about Ernst. They named an entire talk after him.

The APA held its annual convention in Washington, D.C., in August. There, the Committee of Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools (TOPSS) held its first Randal M. Ernst Lecture. Ernst joined Amy Fineburg, advanced programs specialist for Jefferson County Schools in Birmingham, Ala., for a joint discussion of issues facing high school psychology teachers.

Ernst was a founder of TOPSS and helped develop the first AP psychology test. Today, he directs Nebraska Wesleyan's young Master of Education program with its unique emphasis on fostering resilience in children and teachers alike.

### CAMPAIGN CONNECTION:

Bold Designs helps NWU attract and retain nationally regarded professors like Randy Ernst.





10-18-17

## Acklie Hall of Science Taking Rapid Shape

What once existed only as a shared vision of NWU faculty, administrators and friends now has concrete shape. Work on the Duane W. Acklie Hall of Science has progressed quickly since Nebraska Wesleyan's groundbreaking on April 4.

The foundation is laid and a frame of steel has risen at 50th and Saint Paul. The building's shell is now nearly erected. Work remains on budget and on schedule for completion in early 2019.



Photo by Allison Woods ('20)



11-15-17



### CAMPAIGN CONNECTION:

Bold Designs supports premier learning spaces like the Acklie Hall of Science.



12-12-17



# SCC Students Find New Pathways to NWU

The path between Southeast Community College and Nebraska Wesleyan University is well tread. Since 2013, 617 students have transferred to NWU with credits from SCC. Thanks to a new “Pathways Partnership” between the two schools, that route is now more affordable.

“We want SCC students,” said **William Motzer**, vice president for enrollment management. “We have a track record of their success here and we would like to see more of them enrolled. We can offer them an excellent atmosphere to complete their bachelor’s degree,” he told the *Lincoln Journal Star* in October.

The NWU Pathways Scholarship Program offers scholarships or tuition discounts at NWU to students with 18 to 64 credits earned at SCC.

SCC students transferring to Nebraska Wesleyan’s traditional undergraduate program earn an annual \$15,000 Pathways

Scholarship. Members of Phi Theta Kappa and Kappa Beta Delta, national honorary societies for two-year and business students, respectively, see that scholarship rise to \$17,000.

SCC students transferring into Nebraska Wesleyan’s adult degree completion programs receive a \$15 per-credit-hour tuition discount.

While SCC holds transfer agreements with other institutions, they are designed only to ease the process of transferring credits. This is the first partnership to include a financial incentive.

“SCC students undergo a seamless transition to NWU because many of the classroom opportunities they’ve already experienced and desired at SCC—small classes, personal attention and academic excellence—are core to Nebraska Wesleyan’s mission, too,” said NWU President **Fred Ohles**.



Photo by Lauren Andres ('21)

Presidents Fred Ohles and Paul Illich celebrate the new NWU/SCC partnership.

## CAMPAIGN CONNECTION:

Opening doors to students through scholarships like this one is a Bold Designs priority.

# Huge Society Adds 10 New Members

The Nebraska Wesleyan University chapter of the Huge Society inducted 10 new members in an October 22 ceremony on campus. 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. Since then, the society has inducted 55 members.

This year’s new members include:

**Andrea Bennetts** ('21), O'Neill, Neb.  
**Reagan Bowen** ('21), Grand Island, Neb.  
**Andrea Cuka** ('21), Waynesboro, Penn.  
**Emma Good** ('21), Ainsworth, Neb.  
**Chase Hoffschneider** ('21), Burwell, Neb.  
**Katherine Kjendal** ('21), McCook, Neb.  
**Grace Moravec** ('21), David City, Neb.  
**Abigail Overturf** ('21), Longmont, Colo.  
**Hyeonju Wang** ('21), Hebron, Neb.  
**Jenna Whitmore** ('21), Superior, Neb.



Photo by Allison Woods ('20)

THE FINAL: The Huge Society honors outstanding scholars in all fields at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

# NW you

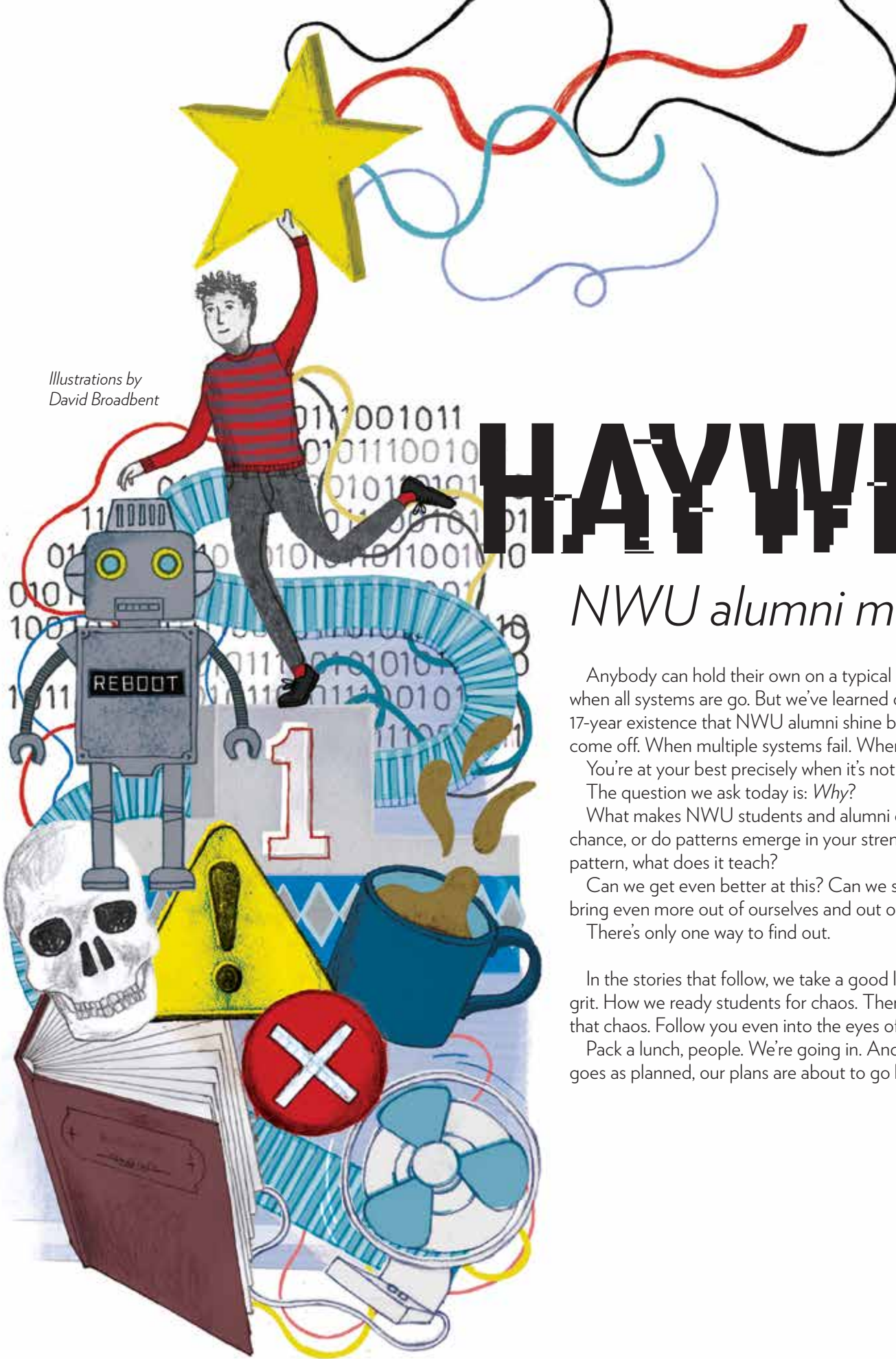
Be a leader with  
the right connections.

Katie Clabaugh

Learn more at [nebrwesleyan.edu/MBA](https://nebrwesleyan.edu/MBA)



Illustrations by  
David Broadbent



# HAYWIRE!

*NWU alumni major in grit.*

Anybody can hold their own on a typical day at the office. A day when all systems are go. But we've learned over *Archways* magazine's 17-year existence that NWU alumni shine brightest when the wheels come off. When multiple systems fail. When the stuff hits the fan.

You're at your best precisely when it's not easy to be.

The question we ask today is: *Why?*

What makes NWU students and alumni good in a crisis? Is it all chance, or do patterns emerge in your strength? And if there's a pattern, what does it teach?

Can we get even better at this? Can we stand in the chaos and bring even more out of ourselves and out of each other?

There's only one way to find out.

In the stories that follow, we take a good look at how NWU teaches grit. How we ready students for chaos. Then we follow you out into that chaos. Follow you even into the eyes of hurricanes.

Pack a lunch, people. We're going in. And if our little experiment goes as planned, our plans are about to go haywire.

# Truer GRIT

NWU turns teachers into tougher cowpokes.

If you believe grit is innate—something you either have or you don't, like brown eyes or double joints—Assistant Professor of Education **Randy Ernst** ('83, MAHS '07) is here to wear you down and change your mind. As director of Nebraska Wesleyan University's Master of Education program in curriculum and instruction, he's teaching teachers to teach grit.

American notions of grit are wrapped up in cowboy toughness, thanks in large part to the 1969 John Wayne film, *True Grit*. But Ernst contends that truer grit isn't about blindly (or in Wayne's eye-patched case, half-blindly) pushing ahead. Ernst links teachers' grit to their ability to see a challenge and find a smarter way forward.

Less cattle driver. More researcher.

Ernst said every teacher "has that inner researcher. We help them harness it."

Someone teaching multiple sections of a course may look back at their 9 a.m. session and ask: What went well? What didn't? They might take a slightly different approach in their 11 a.m. session, and sharpen it further still at 2. "That's research," Ernst said. "And it solves problems."

Nebraska Wesleyan's M.Ed. program helps teachers take a more structured approach in their research. "We help teachers explore topics relevant to the problems of practice they face in their classrooms," he said.

A PE teacher may know not every student enjoys gym. How can he assess and play to the strengths of his least-engaged students? How can he get them to enjoy the exercise that will help them stay healthy?

A Spanish teacher doesn't dispute the latest research showing greater outcomes in classes where 90 percent of teaching happens in Spanish. But she's nowhere near that mark. How does she get there? What happens when she takes this on?

Nebraska Wesleyan's M.Ed. program in curriculum and instruction pairs its graduate students with research coaches. These mentors help them build replicable research projects that explore these problems of practice. Their results change how they teach and increase their resiliency as professionals.

"Our graduate students are coming up with results that the teaching world wants to know," Ernst said. In sharing their research, they share their grit.

Grit can be taught, Ernst said. It can also be caught. He

pointed to a wonderful feedback loop with positive psychology in the classroom.

"Resilient teachers wind up modeling and sharing that resilience with their students." More of those kids start liking gym, enjoying reading, diving into math. "They do better, and problems with classroom behavior drop." Which makes teaching even more enjoyable. Which makes learning more enjoy-

able. And on and on.

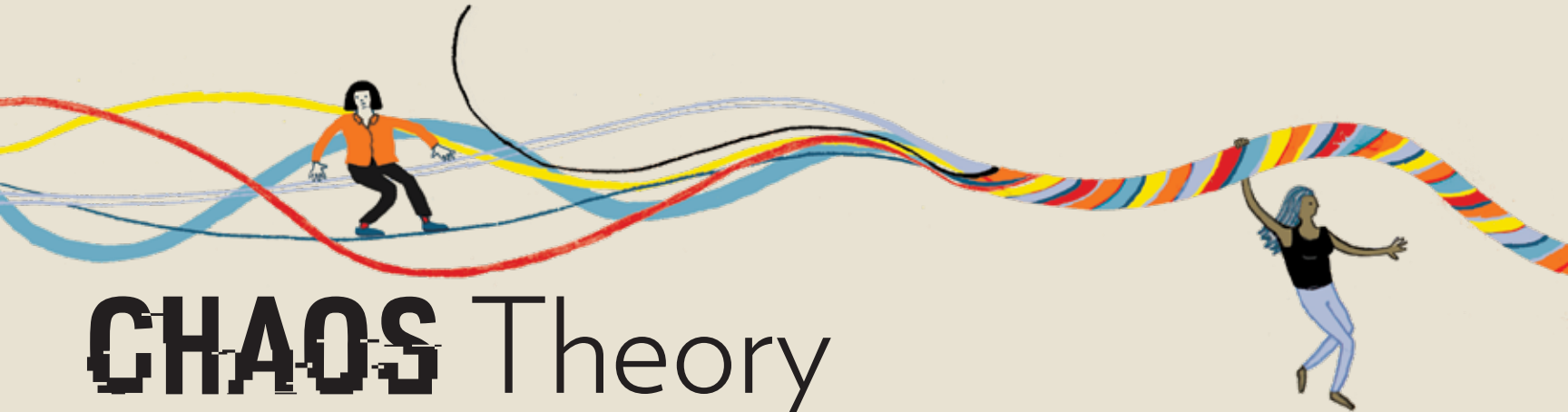
Their grit grows, becoming truer and truer still. [n](#)

---

Interested in pursuing your M.Ed.? Contact Annie Fink at 402.580.7151 or [afink2@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:afink2@nebrwesleyan.edu).







# CHAOS Theory

Grasp the academics of anarchy.

Follow NWU alumni into the most hectic work environments—the trading floors, ICUs and kindergarten classrooms of the world—and look at their poise. The more tumultuous their circumstances, the mellower they seem to become.

Watch them calmly solve problems long enough, and you might wonder: Does Nebraska Wesleyan teach a class on thriving in chaos?

“Actually,” said Provost **Graciela Caneiro-Livingston**, “we offer 25.”

The study of chaos is one of nine interdisciplinary course “threads” NWU offers as part of its acclaimed Archway Curriculum. These nine threads make up the curriculum’s “integrative core,” which “prepares students to confront the multifaceted challenges that face them as members of a diverse and global society.”

In other words, it prepares NWU students for chaos.

NWU’s chaos thread equips students “to recognize the integrity of otherness,” and resist “the urge to remodel it back into the already-known, with which they are more comfortable.”

Professor of English **Scott Stanfield** is a big proponent of the threads that make up NWU’s integrative core. Stanfield has taught in the chaos thread (as well as in the democracy, human health and disease, identity, and science and religion

threads). His “academic promiscuity” has led to some good-natured ribbing from colleagues. “You want to know more about threads? Talk to Scott. That guy will thread with anybody.”

Stanfield chuckled quietly and admitted, “It’s true. I will.”

His Old Main office swims with books—thousands of volumes where characters real and imagined sink or float, each in her own calamity. To enter his office is to accept a degree of chaos. To take an uncomfortable risk that this or that stack might just tumble on top of you. Yet it’s a comfortable space for this same reason. Here you sit, happy in literature’s too-tight hug.

And without even cracking a book, you take in one of the canon’s finer lessons in chaos: To grow, you must get comfortable being a little uncomfortable.

Stanfield said NWU accelerates that growth with its emphasis on boundary-stretching experiences through things like artistic performance, study abroad and internships.

“Our students don’t graduate having experienced everything under the sun,” Stanfield said. “But they do leave with a tremendous amount of experience doing things for the first time.”

Expose them to enough chaos, and its newness becomes less jarring. It’s familiar, even when it’s unlike anything they’ve seen. They’re willing to try. To

## Courses in chaos

Check out a few courses in NWU’s chaos thread.

### ENG 2240: Topics in World Literature: Revolution and Radical Change

Crisscross between the Russian Revolution, Black Power and the Stonewall Riots.

### THTRE 3260: Greek Drama

You think your world’s chaotic? Meet Oedipus. And Electra. And Odysseus ...

### RELIG 2800: Apocalyptic Imagination in America

It doesn’t get any more chaotic than the end of time.

### HIST 3700: Revolutions in Latin America

Latin America offers up for examination a stewpot full of chaotic coups.

adapt and try again.

**Sara (Adams) Boatman** (‘65) is professor emerita of communication studies and a former NWU vice president. She said NWU students’ comfort with the new comes with a valuable side effect: courage.

Last year, she published a book on leadership with her late husband, **Tom Boatman** (‘66), *Successful Supervision: Essays from Experienced Supervisors*. Sara Boatman wrote, “For effective supervision, courage is essential, and unfortunately rare. Courage to say, ‘I was wrong.’ Courage to trust staff. Courage to give a new idea a chance. Courage to let staff fly—and shine. Courage to say, ‘That’s wrong.’ Courage to fight battles

selectively. Courage to be fair. Courage to say no. And courage to say yes.”

In chaos, comfort and courage are key. [n](#)



# The CHAOTIC Six

What you do with calm determines how you do in chaos.

Head Baseball Coach **Scott Ballinger** (MAHS '12) thinks a lot about anatomy. The anatomy of a baseball game. Anatomy of a winning roster.

"A baseball game is maybe two hours," he said. And most of that time appears empty. "Inside those two hours, you only have about six minutes of direct action." Six screaming minutes of baseball in flight decide the game's every play.

And the anatomy of a winning roster? It's the one with players who use the 114 minutes of calm to master the chaotic six.

For Ballinger, baseball's central question is: "What do you do with the 15 seconds between pitches?"

Ballinger sees a tremendous amount of work happening inside those "breaks." He coaches players to give those breaks a structure—an anatomy. They begin their 15 seconds with self-evaluation. "Are you feeling stress?" he asked. "Understand it. Respond to it. Calm your heart rate and get back into rhythm."

Second stage: Plan. "How did the last pitch change your scenario?" Picture and plan for the plays most likely to come your way. On a well-hit grounder with a runner on first, I'll turn two. Anything soft, I'll take what

they give and go to first. With a leadoff that short, I probably got nothing on a line-out, but I'll check.

Stage three: Commit. There's no time to reevaluate in the moment. Buy in now and make your movements automatic.

"The last step," Ballinger said, "is just boom! Compete."

Calm. Plan. Commit. Compete. Over and over.

Ballinger said players improve by condensing stage one. Players who quickly handle anxiety win extra seconds to plan and commit. They use that time to prepare for more chaotic scenarios. The steal. The wild pitch. The pickle. Outstanding players react well in chaotic situations because they plan and commit well.

If the key is time spent planning and committing, shouldn't a poised player skip stage one and jump straight to planning? Ballinger said no. When all systems are go, checking feeds confidence.

Stage one: How'm I doing?

I'm lizard still and calm as a ninja.

Stage two: OK then. This guy went yard last time. He'll stretch a double when he shouldn't. You know where

you need to be.

Stage three: Sir, yes, sir. I'll get there.

Stage four: Boom. Compete.


The hitter pelt a 2-2 changeup to right center, thinking standup double. Ballinger's players think differently. The right fielder bypasses his cut man and fires at second. It's a little short, but the shortstop handles it off the hop and uncurls backward toward the bag. Glove meets ankle and Mr. Longball is out at second.

Teammates hoot, but the shortstop hardly reacts. It wasn't

a surprise. It was a plan. He stands up, flips the ball to his pitcher and slides back into position.

How'm I doing?

I'm lizard still and ninja calm ...

"Stay humble," said Ballinger. "Stay humble and destroy. That's our motto." 



## CAMPAIGN CONNECTION:

Bold Designs supports great coaching.



# SOMETHING in Me

How is it that leaders rise?

New Nebraska State Patrol Officer James McKain ('16) doesn't want his life flashing before his eyes.

"In high-stress situations," he said, "you have about one breath to make a decision." One breath to make sense of chaos and decide whether to use lethal force.

"And that person in front of you doesn't really care that you were up all night with a crying kid, or whether your wife is happy with you or sad." He said, "All that stuff, you just have to forget it and be locked into that moment to make the best possible decision."

He may not want it there, but if McKain's life were to flash uninvited before his eyes at that crucial moment, it would make a tremendous sight.

He'd see a country kid from North Platte. A millennial, yes, but a boy whose mother raised him "with the mindset of 'It's not dark out yet. Go play outside.'" Video games were a last resort for McKain—that thing you did when it was too dark to shoot blue rock or work on the goose blind. Too dark to "hack away in the batting cages with my dad."

In that flash, McKain would

---

*In high-stress situations, you have about one breath to make a decision.*

see an Eagle Scout working on merit badges. He'd see an NWU criminal justice major. A Prairie Wolf, a catcher, pitcher, team leader. He'd become a husband and father before he became an NWU graduate. He'd see the faces of his wife and child. He'd see in himself all at once a husband, father, student and athlete. He'd see someone who'd learned the hard way how to squeeze the most from his time.

And maybe—just maybe—in that flash, he'd see the young man so many people around him have always held in the highest respect.

---

Roughly 300 people of all stripes expressed interest in being part of 2017's class of new Nebraska State Patrol officers. And more than 90 percent were rejected. McKain was one of just 23 people invited for 23 intensive weeks of paramilitary training and

classroom preparation in Grand Island, Neb.

"I don't know," he said. "They saw something in me."

McKain quickly slid conversation toward the things he saw in his classmates. "Everybody brought different skillsets," he said, "and we all were asked to mesh together." He pointed to mechanics as particularly valuable in the patrol's carrier division, "MMA [mixed martial arts] guys for SWAT [special weapons and tactics] tracks," and good shooters, often with hunting backgrounds like his own.

"They basically told us, 'We know you're qualified. But we want to see how determined you are.'" Instructors probed the recruits' determination in an environment McKain compared to a military boot camp.



"There was a bunch of screaming and yelling," he said. He described a shared and physical accountability on the patrol that resonated with his baseball experience.

"We're a team," McKain said. "One of us makes a mistake, everybody pays."

He described this tough environment without complaint. Discomfort and accountability were just two more pieces of equipment in McKain's world—like a goose blind or a catcher's mitt—tools he needed to reach a goal. In McKain's view, there is no such thing as comfortable conditioning.

He called NWU baseball "the perfect transition" for his training in Grand Island. In that dugout were the same team dynamics. In that batting cage, the same need for focus and repetition. On that mound, exposure to another variety of stress. In the demands of his coaches, a familiar drive to teach.

McKain's strong relationship with his head coach, **Scott Ballinger** (MAHS '12), helped him see the best in the instructors who pushed him hard at the State Patrol.

"Baseball's full of tough competitors, too."

With Ballinger, McKain

learned to separate what was and was not meant to be personal. "Having a family of my own, I wasn't your typical player," he said. "We're both dads. We could talk about what it's like having a 1-year-old."

Because these conversations were so personal, he could see in a new way how other aspects of their relationship were intensely not personal. "He could chew me out, then ask about my family," McKain said. "I'd tell him how everyone was doing, and he'd say, 'Great. Now pushups.'"

The two fathers learned to swing between the personal and impersonal. Ballinger traveled to North Platte with his son to hunt geese with McKain and his father. McKain remembered sitting in that blind, consciously not talking about baseball. He didn't want to appear to leverage a friendship into an advantage.

Then Ballinger would share his excitement for players all over the roster—players who might just mop the diamond with McKain's head. Exchanges like that put McKain at ease. There'd be no special treatment. They also lit a fire. McKain would compete. Just you watch.

That relationship helped prepare him for what was coming with the State Patrol. "They weren't being jerks," he said of his instructors. "They were trying

to teach me something." It was McKain's job to stay open to learning it.

Of the 23 recruits who began the training, McKain and 17 others saw it through to the finish. They were honored as new patrol officers in an August ceremony in the Capitol rotunda. Speakers included Governor

---

*In McKain's view,  
there is no such  
thing as comfortable  
conditioning.*

Pete Ricketts and Attorney General Doug Peterson. The crowd included Coach Ballinger.

The ceremony was the opposite of a crisis situation. All the same, Ballinger saw his player's life flash before his eyes twice. The attorney general spoke, describing the qualities that the D. R. Shearer Marksmanship Award was established to honor.

"I sat there listening," Ballinger remembered, "and I thought, 'That's James.' They went on and there was just no question. I said, 'That award is his!'"

And it was.


The ceremony continued, and they began describing the Superintendent's Leadership Award. "And the same thing happened. They described what the award was all about and it was almost ridiculous. I told myself, 'That's James, too! Get on with it already and give it to him!'"

And they did.

The marksmanship award was nice, McKain said, but it kind of rolled off his back. "There were three or four of us there, and our stats were almost identical," he said. "It could have gone to any of us."

The leadership award, however, touched him differently. "That one is determined by your peers," he said. He guessed that award could easily have gone to the most popular recruit. "And that wouldn't have been me," he said.

The fact that the new officers voted him as their strongest leader was remarkable. He looked for excuses. Maybe it was the leadership skills he built as an Eagle Scout. Maybe it was his work as a catcher, where he had to keep his pitcher upbeat and the entire infield on the same page.

"Or maybe it's my parents' fault," he said. "I don't know. They saw something in me." 

## CAMPAIGN CONNECTION:

Bold Designs supports the kind of coaching that transforms the lives of our student-athletes.





# A VISIT from God

When company comes in the form of twin hurricanes, you've got to 'keep your head on.'

Had she lived in Houston, Texas, and watched Hurricane Harvey coming, Kristin Brabec's ('99) plan would have been different. "I'd have left for Nebraska in the time it takes to pack a bag and gas up the car."

But Brabec doesn't live in Houston. She lives on St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands. And fleeing an island isn't so simple. Jeremy Konyn-dyk, former director of foreign disaster assistance at USAID, put it this way: "The logistical challenges of operating in an island setting make pre-storm evacuation impossible and slow down post-storm relief."

Brabec tracked Hurricane Irma's course through the first days of September. She connected the dots toward her dot of an island, and made a different plan. "It wasn't in my mind to leave—only to prepare."

She was scared to ride out a hurricane. "But what scared me more was the fear that if I left, I wouldn't be able to get back."

---

Brabec is a licensed, board-certified massage therapist and holistic health practitioner. She tries to stay keenly aware of any messages her body and soul send. And she'd been antsy for a month. "My inner voice was

telling me: Something bad is coming."

Once that voice was confirmed by satellite radar, Brabec didn't mess around. "They tell you to be ready for three days without services." Brabec looked at St. Thomas's size, isolation, infrastructure and resources; she doubted three days of supplies would cut it. "A direct hit's gonna be bad," she said.

So she didn't prepare for Hurricane Irma thinking in terms of days without assistance; she prepared for weeks. Brabec and her partner, Ram, secured dozens of five- and six-gallon jugs of water and box after box of smaller bottles. They stocked up on enough nonperishable food to feed a football team. Cleaning supplies, gasoline, oil lamps, batteries, cash.

"We were even good on Q-Tips and Listerine," she said.

This stockpile was a big factor in the couple's favor as Irma arced. Another asset even more vital: the integrity of their shelter. Ram and Brabec worked as live-in caretakers of a wealthy family's home—a structure built to withstand a lot. Unlike many on the island, they could take some confidence in the roof and walls protecting them.

Still, they worried. Brabec had grown up on a farm near

Wahoo, Neb., with a healthy respect for storms. "In a tornado, everything's sudden. You get your warning and you take shelter." Hurricanes give you notice—and time to fret.

Brabec stayed occupied. Had you been a fly on the wall the day before Irma, you might have assumed Brabec was preparing for important company. Everything got a thorough cleaning. "I did eight loads of laundry knowing we'd lose power." The vacuum got a workout. Everything had to be in place ahead of the chaos.

"I kept thinking, 'God is coming to visit.'"

They finished the last of their perishables at dinner on the eve of Irma, dismissed their fridge and went for a short walk.

"Ram and I made one last tour around, knowing things wouldn't look the same," she said. "There was such a serious quiet here, a distorted peace laced with fear, I will never forget."

She closed the shutters. Irma came September 6.

---

"It was like someone was holding a power washer outside every window." There was no stopping the water. But the roof held.

As wet as it was, Irma made

Brabec think of fire. "It looked like a red-hot sawblade on the maps," she said. And it moved "in a slow burn." After it passed, Ram shoved water off the carpet and out with a push broom. Brabec flipped a flat shovel over and worked it like a squeegee.

She took in the damage around her and thought again of fire. "The palms look fried. There are no leaves. I don't know anything about war," she said, "but this is how I imagine it looks. It's like you ran the island through a wood chipper."

---

Then came more. Still punch-drunk from Irma, St. Thomas received Hurricane Maria on September 20. "Irma had more wind," Brabec said.

Or maybe it just felt that way. Maria hit an island already shorn—jagged, but weirdly aerodynamic in its leaflessness. There was less to rip. Roofless buildings gaped at Maria, gargled and spit with the indifference of the already-destroyed. But their vulnerable residents were anything but indifferent.

"What it did was send everybody back into shock," James Smith, a St. Thomas ferry operator, told the *New York Times*. "I hear my shutters rattle at night,

and I get excited.”

And unlike a shelled house, an already damaged economy can always be devastated more. “On a per-capita basis, the often out-of-mind Virgin Islands carry more debt than Puerto Rico,” Jeremy Peters wrote for the *Times*. “Wall Street analysts have warned that the territory may be unable to pay back the nearly \$2 billion it owes creditors and keep up with billions more in payments it is required to make into a pension system that is projected to be insolvent in less than six years.”

Irma and Maria only added to the economic rubble.

Tourism accounts for a third of the Virgin Islands’ gross domestic product—and a large portion of Brabec’s customers. One vacation season is surely lost. And there are no guarantees of a rebound after.

“We’re in survival mode,” Brabec said.

The hours of a hurricane pass in “varying degrees of absolute dread.” But those hours are a literal wind sprint compared to the ultra-marathon that follows. “Unless your roof is off and you have to take a chance on making it to your neighbors, or your walls blow out and you have to shelter in a bathtub holding on,” she said, “the real blow is the aftermath when the excitement has drained and you have to deal with a huge mess.”

While the structure held and

stands in better shape than a great many homes on the island, Brabec said, “This house is barely livable at this point.” She welcomed officials inside, public servants who were seeking viable short-term housing options for military personnel and electrical linemen. They passed.

Brabec spoke to *Archways* in early October. “Every day, I cook over a fire,” she said. “I bathe with a five-gallon bucket. The bugs are biblical. There’s mold. Our schools and hospitals are closed. The garbage is piling.” Rumors bounced that the water was unsafe. So she was still using stored and captured water a month after Irma.

Her expectation, she said, was that she’d be cooking by fire into the holidays. That prospect didn’t faze her. “I’ve never felt alone in any of this.” Quite the opposite.

Brabec receives surprise visitors all the time, she said. She described heating a sauce over the fire. “And a memory of my grandmother grabbed hold of me.” Her grandmother was a Nebraskan shaped by the Great Depression. “I remember she’d make this spaghetti sauce I loved as a kid. I’d watch her stir in water and ketchup—to stretch it out and make it last. Here I was, doing the same thing.”

Every one of us, she said, comes from a long line of family who did fine without modern conveniences. How can she feel alone when she carries what they’ve taught?

She carries similar wisdom from her NWU professors. The theatre and English major played Hester Prynne in *The Scarlet Letter*. She remembered

a rehearsal where Professor of Theatre **Henry Blanke** stomped his foot in frustration. “Kristin Brabec! You could be a damn good actor if you’d learn to concentrate!”

Blanke’s frustration is 20 years gone; his lesson stays—even after Brabec stepped away from the theatre arts and into the healing arts. She said, “Concen-

Nature, he told Brabec and her classmates, is way better than drugs. “He taught me: Value your self-control. Because it’s everything. Give it up and you forfeit your right to make decisions for yourself.”

Brabec arranged kindling for another supper with Ram, building a delicate pyramid of sticks over a nest of torn paper.

---

*Value your self-control. Because it’s everything. Give it up and you forfeit your right to make decisions for yourself.*

tration is so key in meditation.” She thinks of that rehearsal in the calmest of ways now, and focuses her concentration on the tasks at hand.

She remembered reading a transcript of a commencement address Professor of English **Mary Smith** delivered decades ago. “Mary said, ‘We are what we habitually do.’” Brabec never forgot that sentence. She puts effort into cultivating her good habits and eliminating bad ones.


“Through all of this, I still meditate every day,” she said. “I have to. If you use your good habits as an anchor, they’ll hold you up in a crisis. They’ll help you when the s\*\*\* hits the fan. I know if I stop now, I’ll be in trouble.”

The stress Virgin Islanders are under is enough to drive some to drink, or seek release in drugs. She remembered Professor of English **Larry McClain** lecturing on Hunter Thompson’s mescaline-dotted *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. McClain urged his students not to become numb to “the simple high of a sunset.”

She struck a match to light her nest and cupped her hands against the breeze. She could smell garbage, yes, but also her new little ribbon of white smoke, the waiting onion she’d already chopped. She thought of her parents outside Wahoo, on a day too wet to harvest. She thought of her own daily harvest—the wisdom tended her by her family, by her teachers—forever ripe for use.

Brabec knows that when she talks about inner strength, she can sound like a counselor at a spiritual summer camp. But this is no retreat, she said. “This is nothing nice for anyone. Cultivating inner strength and having a good attitude doesn’t mean looking through rose-colored glasses, but emerges from the real nitty gritty,” she said.

“There’s a saying here in St. Thomas: ‘You got to keep your head on.’ Well, I’m keeping my head on,” she said from an island still in chaos.

“I’m trying to live skillfully. I’m committed to ride steady.” 



#### CAMPAIGN CONNECTION:

Supporting professors who make their students stronger is a Bold Designs priority.





# A Heightened Sense of **FOCUS**

Twelve years and six kids later, a driven alumna returns to nursing.

—By Emmalie Harris ('18)

Cassie Newton ('06, BSN '18) saw the chaos coming. She anticipated the stress. Braced for it. Even chose it.

The secretary at CHI Health St. Elizabeth's progressive and critical care unit wanted out of clerical work and into a nursing career. So the mother of *six children under 12* chose to go back to school and finish her Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

She'd paused her education at the Bryan School of Nursing a dozen years earlier to start a family. Now, her family was why she was so determined to return to it.

"There are just so many different things you can do with a nursing degree," Newton said. "I knew this time around, with what I wanted to do, that it would be good for my family." She was

drawn to nursing's security. The demand for quality nurses is so high, she said, "I would never have to worry about a job. There will always be something available for good nurses."

Unaware of Nebraska Wesleyan's new pre-licensure nursing program, Newton explored other BSN programs in Nebraska. Each looked at the prerequisites she'd earned a dozen years earlier and disregarded them as expired. Newton resigned herself to starting over from scratch.

She contacted NWU to request transcripts. That's when she found out about Nebraska Wesleyan's program. And because she was an alumna, the university accepted all of her previous coursework. She called enrolling in Nebraska Wesleyan's pre-licensure BSN program "a no-brainer" and threw herself

---

*I anticipated that I was going to have hard times. I set the expectations high.*

into the chaos of work, school, clinicals and home life with a half-dozen young children.

With so many demands, Newton had plenty of readymade excuses for mediocrity. But she wasn't interested in excuses. "I anticipated that I was going to have hard times," she said. "I set the expectations high."

She credited her husband and their extended families in Lincoln for helping her meet her great expectations. "We have to be hyper organized," Newton said. "We go day to day. It takes a small village to get everything done our family requires."

With their help, she's thrived.

"My husband and I knew these were going to be the most difficult years of our lives," she said. "But what's been rewarding is that our family has really dug in and worked hard to make this happen."

Newton may point to her family, but Molly Fitzke, nursing professor, puts credit squarely on Newton's relentless shoulders.

"Cassie is tenacious," Fitzke said. "She strives for knowledge. Her passion and commitment to learn as much as possible inspire me." She called Newton an incredible advocate and leader for her classmates.

Newton's first stint as a Nebraska Wesleyan student resulted in a degree in exercise science in 2006. She loved that experience. But coming back represented something even greater. "Going around this time, I felt like I gained so much more," she said. "And I know it had to do with my motivation to do well for my family. There was a heightened sense of focus."

She said the support she found on campus brought out her very best. "That environment is what makes Nebraska Wesleyan as great as it is."

She used that support to rise to the challenge of a demanding internship in CHI Health St. Elizabeth's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), where she worked three 12-hour shifts per week. She also worked with a transport nurse to observe high-risk vaginal deliveries and cesarean sections.

Newton could relate to the families she met in the NICU and in the delivery room. She could feel the strain the mothers were under.

"They're constantly worrying about their baby and they're not

---

*Going around this time, I felt like I gained so much more. And I know it had to do with my motivation to do well for my family.*

focused on taking care of themselves," she said. "It's nice to ease their worries and get to know them more and let them know that my day was more than just caring for their baby. It was more than that. It was about getting to know them and their family

and figuring out what's going to work best for them when they go home."

Newton knows from experience that when families are firing on all cylinders, there's no limit to what they can do together. [n](#)

## "Tell me you've done this before ..."

Whether you're headed for a flu shot or emergency surgery, nothing reassures quite like experience. NWU nursing students gain valuable experience through clinicals and internships. We also expose students to a wide range of common and emergency care situations in our nursing simulation laboratory.

"Sim labs" provide a controlled environment where NWU students can master different procedures before they face real patients. So when that nervous patient asks, "Have you done this before?" even Nebraska Wesleyan's newest nurses can honestly answer, "Plenty of times. Don't worry. We've got this."



Photo by Geoff Johnson

### CAMPAIGN CONNECTION:



Bold Designs supports premier learning spaces at NWU—including a second new nursing simulation lab.



# An UNTANGLING

A community untwists what a tornado tangled.

—By Amanda Broulik

When a phone call came through the Johnson Hall switchboard around 9 p.m. on August 28, 1979, **Karla (Wolford) Koval** ('82) felt her stomach drop.

She'd heard about storms that evening near her hometown of Shenandoah, Iowa. She hadn't worried. A tornado had damaged her family farm back in 1964 when she was just 4. That history calmed her. The Wolfords and many others in Page County, Iowa, paid their dues in '64. That spring, summer and fall produced more tornadic storms than the county had seen in the 15 years that followed. Lightning never strikes twice ...

News to the contrary arrived in that phone call from her boyfriend back in Shenandoah. Her family's home had been hit. Everything was gone.

"My first thought was, 'My parents are dead,'" Koval recalled. She was crying too hard at first to hear his reassurance that they'd survived. Her folks had fled to the basement as the storm hit. And as soon as they looked up, they saw sky. The house above them had vanished—as if raked away by the edge of a furious palm.

Koval didn't sleep that night. Her roommate, **Denise (Gettman) Bulling** ('82), stayed up with her. Come morning, she threw some clothes in a suitcase and headed east on Highway 2.

She found the tornado's path a gouged wasteland. Trees still standing were stripped—even of bark. Bumper crops were flattened. The ground was spotted with the mismatched rubble of neighbors' homes.

The Wolford family's 1872 farmhouse would never be rebuilt. Not far from the open basement where her parents fled, Koval recognized her mother's cross necklace, its chain tangled in a bare branch. It had been a wedding present from Koval's father.

She untangled it delicately and carried it back.

"Keep it," her mother told her. Let it remind her "to keep the faith."

She'd wear it on her own wedding day.

Roaming through the wreckage, Koval reminded herself she was lucky. Her parents survived. But her future suddenly looked as bleak as the landscape.

The Wolfords lived harvest to harvest. They'd lost their home, their crops. She had no idea how she'd possibly afford

to stay at NWU.

"There was nothing that made my father happier than being able to pay for my schooling. It meant everything to him." Koval paused, having a hard time finishing that thought. "And he couldn't do that anymore."

She told her father she'd drop out of school; get a job back home; help out.

He wouldn't hear it.

When she got back to Nebraska Wesleyan, she discovered she had an appointment with **Karen McCammond**, associate dean of students.

"I had been excused from my classes for the day," she remembered. "When I got to Karen's office, she said the school was going to work out some financial aid. 'Don't worry about the next semester,' she told me. They had already come up with a plan."

NWU administrators had talked to First United Methodist Church about her situation, and the church offered a grant. The university then connected her to additional scholarship opportunities and helped her apply for more aid. Combined, these sources covered her tuition for the rest of the year.

Koval's parents recently showed her a letter they received from the late President **John White** a week after the storm.

It read, "All of us at Wesleyan were so very sorry to hear the news about your home being destroyed by the tornado. We are very thankful, as we know you are, that none of the family was hurt. The Student Affairs office will do all that



---

*In times of trouble,  
you need to feel  
like you're a part  
of something.  
Nebraska  
Wesleyan was that  
something to me.*

is necessary to assist Karla in notifying the appropriate people and compensating for being away from campus. If there is any other way in which we can help, please let us know."

Her parents held the letter for years, grateful for the Nebraska Wesleyan community's help through that tough time.

Teachers likewise wrote to express their condolences. Staff in Johnson Hall helped her get settled back into her routine. Her hall-mates had even pulled together some money for her.

With so many people investing in her, Koval threw herself into her studies. "I remember feeling as if I had to work harder—to be more successful—because of that financial help. It inspired me to keep going."

She said, "I think, in times of trouble, you need to feel like you're a part of something. Nebraska Wesleyan was that something to me."


---

Come 1980, Koval took out a small student loan and continued to work to help pay for her tuition. By her senior year, her father was able to help out again. It was his dream for her to finish school. And it meant something to help her accomplish it—to help her become the first person in her family to graduate from college.

The Wolfords moved into town after the storm and farmed their land from there until retirement. The house is long gone, but the land remains in the family for a fifth generation.

Koval's story unfolded as an answer to a simple question: "Why do you give back to Nebraska Wesleyan?"

The question sent her back, made her cry. Embarrassed, she started at the beginning. The phone call in Johnson Hall. Her roommate staying up with her all night. A necklace untangled and given—one of the many gifts in 1979 that helped her keep moving.

"Nebraska Wesleyan means everything to me," Koval said. "I always told myself I was going to pay back the money that allowed me to stay in school. I am so grateful that so many people stepped up and helped me out when I needed it. I just want to do the same." 

#### CAMPAIGN CONNECTION:

Bold Designs supports scholarships that help keep students at NWU even when misfortune strikes.

Choose the region's only  
MSN/MBA joint degree.



NW you

Bryan Perrin ('12)

Expect more from  
your nursing career.

IN OMAHA

Brenda Ballou

[bballou@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:bballou@nebrwesleyan.edu)

402.580.6538

IN LINCOLN

Brianna Remm

[bremm@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:bremm@nebrwesleyan.edu)

402.580.8781

Be a leader in nursing.



NEBRASKA  
WESLEYAN  
UNIVERSITY



# (Di)visions and Ventures

What's the answer when the things that divide us multiply?

In an electrical circuit, every problem boils down to a disconnect.

The real world is wildly more complicated. And nothing is more complex than the issues that divide Americans.

Nebraska Wesleyan gathered three renowned speakers to tackle those complicated issues during its annual Visions and Ventures symposium. And what they found was simple disconnection.

**Bryan Stevenson** is a defense attorney, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative and author of the best-selling *Just Mercy*. He described disconnections in the narratives we use to understand social problems.

"We've chosen to understand alcohol dependency as a health issue," Stevenson said. "And we've chosen to understand drug addiction as a criminal issue." Our narrative frames for those problems dictate our response. One person gets treated. The other gets sentenced.

We see the consequences of this disconnect. U.S. prisons overflow with the addicted; 70 million Americans

now have arrests, and one-third of Alabama's males have lost the right to vote.

Stevenson said America's narratives of racial difference have long shaped our criminal justice system. He pointed to the law's treatment of "savage" Native Americans. The U.S. was more than a century old

before a court in Omaha became the first to recognize the personhood of Native Americans. [See "Made Human," fall 2017.]

In recent decades, the parlance of "super predators" has recast many African American boys as unfit for the legal protections we typically grant children. Stevenson described how kids as young as 13 have been tried as adults, given sentences decades longer than their age, and placed in adult prisons.

Once our narratives frame another as savage,

Stevenson said, we quickly feel justified in behaving savagely. "Solving our problems requires changing our narratives." He challenged NWU students to "get proximate to the country's toughest problems," change those broken narratives and remain hopeful—even when the work is difficult.

**J. D. Vance** is a veteran, lawyer and author of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller, *Hillbilly Elegy*. Like Stevenson, Vance looks at America's political narrative and sees disconnects.

Our polarized politics encourage us to look at social problems as binary. The problem of people trapped at the bottom is either the result of a systemic lack of opportunity (says the left), or of a decay in personal responsibility (says the right).

"But this 'left versus right' mentality misses an important part of the story," Vance said. "There are a thousand things in between."

Vance outlined his family's struggle on the economy's bottom rung. Even after climbing upward, they faced new struggles to thrive. "Sometimes, the

things you learn to survive in one environment just aren't helpful in another environment," he said. "It's not as easy as giving them an opportunity and then just expecting them to take it."

Vance described having to learn a new language of

Photo by Allison Woods ('20)



Photo by Lauren Andres ('21)



nuances to navigate a thicket of unfamiliar environments. Each nuance was a new hurdle he had to clear as a student, professional, and even a partner. He approached disagreements with his girlfriend in a way just as binary as our politics. “Scream or withdraw,” he said. “Those were the two arrows in my quiver.”

For the disadvantaged, success isn’t as simple as accessing an opportunity or pulling a bootstrap. “We have to figure out the nature of the barriers people face. And

they’re different for everybody.” So is the weight of the histories they carry.

“The demons of our youth follow us around.”



Photo by Allison Woods (20)

If Stevenson and Vance want to rewrite narratives about race or politics, **Hanna Rosin** wants something

simpler. She’d just like our narratives about marriage to keep up with reality. Rosin is a senior editor at *The Atlantic* and founder of Slate’s DoubleX section. She’s the author of *The End of Men*, an examination of changing gender dynamics.

Despite her book’s provocative title (which Rosin described as “gender war-y”), she wasn’t looking for a fight. “I’m noting shifts, not arguing for them,” she said.

When she reported on heterosexual marriage, she saw changes driven by education and economics. She said data on marriage success track strongly with education. “Happy marriage has become one more luxury enjoyed primarily by the college-educated elite.”

And the college-educated elite is increasingly female. “Today, women are earning three degrees for every two earned by men.” Women already hold a slim majority (51.4 percent) in American managerial and professional positions—a wild shift from the 1980s, when women held one in five.

These trends suggest economic power will continue to swing toward educated women. And shifting power dynamics affect relationships.

Rosin encouraged her NWU audience to dismantle zero-sum notions of marriage where one partner is strong only when the other is weak. She pointed to the relative resiliency and happiness of “seesaw marriages,” where leadership or economic advantage can swing back and forth between partners over time. In these marriages, a lost job or added child may move responsibilities one way or the other, and concerns about who’s winning give way to a truer sense of shared stakes.

### **But wait! There’s more ...**

Visions and Ventures has become much more than a lecture series. This year’s symposium included several well-attended interactive features, including a poverty simulation exercise, a refugee and immigrant panel, student-facilitated dialogues, volunteer opportunities and more.

Faculty and staff could also choose one free book from the three main speakers—a popular new perk for the many bibliophiles on campus. [n](#)



### **CAMPAIGN CONNECTION:**

Provocative speakers challenge NWU students to see relevant issues in new ways. Bold Designs supports funds that attract the best speakers and teachers to our campus.



# A New Film and an Old Friend

FILM REVIEW

## Our Souls at Night

Netflix, 2017

Based on the novel by **Kent Haruf** ('65)

—Reviewed by Ken Keith

I was excited to learn recently of yet another thing Robert Redford and I have in common. Beyond our rugged good looks and far-reaching fame, it turns out that Redford and I are both **Kent Haruf** ('65) fans as well.

My wife, Connie, and I were fans enough to travel to Salida, Colo., in September for the Kent Haruf Literary Celebration, honoring the late author's life and works with stage adaptations, discussions of his novels, and remembrances from friends and loved ones. (We were NWU's unofficial ambassadors, letting readers know about Haruf's background as a 1965 alumnus and English professor from 1985 to 1991.)

And Redford was fan enough to produce and star in a film adaptation of Haruf's last novel, *Our Souls at Night*. The Netflix film directed by Ritesh Batra and costarring Redford and Jane Fonda was highly anticipated among those at the Salida celebration. It came out in late September and is available now.

The film opens with a scan of the Colorado high plains—country that, in Haruf's words, "may not be pretty, but it's beautiful." From there, the story evolves in keeping with that description. Addie Moore (played by Fonda) has a proposal for Louis Waters (played by Redford). Her proposal may not be indecent, but it's scandalous all the same



Image courtesy of Netflix

in Haruf's Holt, Colo.

Both Louis and Addie have been widowed for years, and she has come to raise a question. I want to suggest something, she says, a proposal. Would he, she wonders, be interested in coming to sleep with her—it's not about sex, she assures him. No, it's about getting through the night, about having someone to talk to.

Louis agrees, setting into motion a warm and intriguing relationship. It also sparks complications that span their separate families and the small town they share.

The script makes good use of Haruf's dialogue, and although it may be hard to forget you're watching Fonda and Redford, their portrayals of small-town Colorado souls are credible and moving.

"Our Souls at Night" is a quiet, thoughtful film, poignant and believable. See it. And if you've not yet read Haruf's novel, I come to you with a proposal. Find it. Take it to bed with you. Settle in. You'll find yourself wanting its talk to carry you into the night. After all, as Addie says, the nights are the worst. [n](#)

Ken Keith taught psychology and was a faculty colleague of Haruf's at NWU. He and Professor Emeritus of Philosophy John Walker have taught Haruf's work as part of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. They were also speakers at the 2017 Kloefkorn Writers Series.

It's going to be a **bold** spring.

# NWU Theatre Spring Season

## Death of a Salesman

January 18-21, 25-28

## Peter and the Starcatcher

February 1-4, 8-11

## Well

February 15-18, 22-25

## The Bridges of Madison County

March 15-18, 22-25

## She Kills Monsters

April 5-8, 12-15

## Cabaret

April 19-22, 26-29



Tickets and show times at [nebrwesleyan.edu/theatre-tickets](https://nebrwesleyan.edu/theatre-tickets)





# Computing an Edge

Can we use software to program better athletes?

We live in a post-*Moneyball* world where, in sports, information trumps instinct. The ways to winning have changed. Goodbye, hunches and “the way it’s always been.” Hello, sabermetrics, informatics and video data analysis.

It would be easy to dismiss this data-first approach to sports as bloodless, wonky or too removed from the ground-level action. But the results are in. The accountants are winning. And winning is cool.

In our information-rich world, Hudl is Julius Erving cool. The Lincoln-based sports performance analysis software company is one of the most lucrative offshoots of the data revolution in sports.

“Hudl was started a little over 10 years ago,” said **Connor Vidlock** (’15), a Hudl quality analyst. “Our software allows coaches and athletes to collaborate on top of video, and now we’ve expanded into reports and analytics.”

Today, Hudl boasts nearly 6.4 million users and more than 164,000 active teams—including 29 NBA franchises and NWU football. The company is valued in the nine figures with offices in Lincoln, Omaha, Boston, London, Sydney and Mumbai. Vidlock and the rest of Hudl’s Lincoln staff moved into its new \$25-million, seven-story headquarters in the West Haymarket in December.

Hudl’s rapid growth stems from a transformation in how coaches and athletes prepare with video and statistical analysis. Hudl brings actionable information out of the chaotic noise of sports.

“Hudl has even changed the way opponents can exchange film with each other,” said **Kevin Crume**, NWU football’s defensive coordinator. “Gone are the days of meeting halfway with the other team on a Sunday morning.”

Crume also coordinates Nebraska Wesleyan’s football recruiting. He said Hudl has transformed that arena as well. “I remember the days of having stacks of VHS tapes and DVDs. That is no more. We subscribe to Hudl Recruit, where we can review high school film and



Photo by Dan Luedert

Coach Crume uses Hudl software to review game footage with the team.

highlight videos for recruits. It’s made it a one-stop shop.”

These efficiencies are why thousands of schools are willing to invest in Hudl.

“You take the time we used to spend preparing for an opponent, and Hudl has cut that time in half—and probably even cut that in half again,” Brent Davis told the *Standard-Times* of San Angelo, Texas. Davis is a high school football coach in West Texas.

The efficiency gains are so substantial that Hudl territory manager Germont Jackson said they do more than save coaches’ time. “We’re saving marriages. I’m not joking.” That Sunday morning Crume would otherwise spend driving halfway across Iowa to swap tape with a Wartburg coach? Now he can spend it with his family.

(continued)

## FALL SPORT SUMMARY

### Cross country

The women repeated as IIAC champions, while the men placed third. Four NWU women placed in the top 10 at the meet in Waverly, Iowa. And NWU’s coaches were named the IIAC women’s coaching staff of the year.

At nationals, the women placed 23<sup>rd</sup> and the men placed 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Football

While a 2-8 record may not show it, the 2017 Prairie Wolves featured a remarkably prolific offense. NWU set a school record for total offense with a 608-yard effort in a 45-38 win over Simpson College. Shaka Taylor was an All-IIAC RB while QB Jonathan Carti lead the IIAC in passing yards and passing TDs.

### Soccer

Abel Stadium was good to the men, who rode an outstanding 8-0-1 home record to a fourth seed in the IIAC tournament. NWU fell in the semifinals to top-seeded Luther College. For the women, great defense was the recipe for success. NWU allowed just one goal across its five victories to finish 5-11-1.

If Hudl has been a valuable resource for NWU athletics, NWU has likewise been an important resource for Hudl. “Being in our backyard, Hudl has asked permission to use our stadium for testing purposes—mostly with a new review system,” Crume said. “We’re very open to them testing at Abel Stadium. It’s a great relationship.”

And Nebraska Wesleyan’s student body and alumni provide Hudl a valuable talent pool. Vidlock started at Hudl as a coach support intern while he was an NWU business major. He credited his professors for helping him make the internship leap. “The faculty really prepared me for the hard problems. How do I put myself out there? How do I market myself?”

Vidlock did the rest, turning his internship experience at Hudl into a full-time job offer. Today, he manages a portion of Hudl’s Lincoln interns.

“Before they leave, I tell them, ‘Hey, this may be your first [internship experience], but make sure it’s not your last.’” Like the coaches and athletes who use Hudl’s software, Vidlock views internships through a competitive lens.

“If you’re not doing [internships] when you’re in college, you’re really at a disadvantage. You don’t get that real-world experience, and ultimately, you’re behind the people who do.”

Vidlock looked back on the way NWU emphasized professional experiences as part of his business education. “I think about that and I’m really thankful I had that opportunity,” he said. A window. An edge. An advantage. Whether it’s in athletics or the marketplace, it’s what every competitor looks for. “And Nebraska Wesleyan gave that to me.” [n](#)



Photo by Dan Luedert

Ali Stajduhar ('14) and Connor Vidlock ('16)

*The faculty really prepared me for the hard problems. How do I put myself out there? How do I market myself?*



#### CAMPAIGN CONNECTION:

Bold Designs supports coaching and internships as vital parts of the NWU experience.



2006 Men's Golf Team

## NWU Adds to Hall of Fame

Eleven years ago, members of the men’s golf team did something no other Nebraska Wesleyan team before them had ever done: They lifted a national championship trophy. And on September 30 during homecoming, Nebraska Wesleyan University honored the 2006 national champions, inducting the entire team into the Athletic Hall of Fame.

The 2006 team included Coach **Brett Balak** ('91), **Travis Davis** ('06), **Jon Deines** ('06), **Jeff Holm** ('06), **Tyler Lawson** ('08) and **Aaron Stockton** ('07).

Joining them in this year’s hall of fame class were:

**Taci Laws** ('95), women’s basketball

**Kelly (Sheaff) Mullendore** ('96), softball

**Justin Rice** ('97), football

**Nate Thomas** ('98), men’s basketball

**Josh Beaver** ('01), football and track & field

**Justin Hertzel** ('03), baseball

Veteran sports broadcaster **Dick Janda** was honored with Nebraska Wesleyan’s Spirit of the Plainsman Award.

## Volleyball

NWU thrived in Snyder Arena with a strong 6-2 home record. It was a different story on the road as the Prairie Wolves finished 11-17 overall. They qualified for the conference tournament for the second-straight season, where they fell to Buena Vista, 0-3.

## Women’s golf

NWU saved its best performance for its sole home tournament, winning the NWU Fall Classic at Highlands Golf Course on September 19. Senior Sally Barie won her second individual title with a solid 81. The women finished sixth at the IIAC tournament in Indianola, Iowa. And Sam Boal earned her fourth all-conference honor.

## Women’s tennis

After winning nine conference crowns between 2001 and 2013, NWU is finding its way. The Prairie Wolves finished the fall season 2-7.



# Student Pride

Prestige scholars and awards



Photo by Lauren Andres ('21)

## Athletic Trainer Scores Scholarship Hat-trick

Kelsey Bahe ('18) of Wood River is the first Nebraskan to sweep three athletic training scholarships at the state, regional and national level. Bahe won the Nebraska State Athletic Training Scholarship, the Mid-America Athletic Training Scholarship and the National Athletic Training Scholarship.

Bahe wasn't initially going to apply for the final award, assuming the national stage put it beyond her reach. She credited the encouragement she received from Assistant Athletic Trainer **Samantha Wilson** for giving her the confidence to apply.

"So I did and God blessed me with that," said Bahe.

Bahe is involved in Nebraska Wesleyan University's Athletic Training Student Association. She also serves as president of the student leadership council for the Nebraska State Athletic Trainers' Association (NSATA). She's built valuable experience working with NWU men's soccer, indoor track & field, men's basketball, baseball and volleyball. She has also worked with UNL's injury prevention clinic, and at Lincoln East and Lincoln North Star high schools.

Her plans include athletic training, teaching and coaching at the high school or college level. "Getting that hands-on experience is important," she said, "so you're confident in the workforce."



NWU Opera presents

## Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss

Friday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, April 8 at 3 p.m.

O'Donnell Auditorium

> [Tickets at the door.](#)

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



## Dear Alumni and Friends,

Nebraska Wesleyan University's 2017 financial operations show strong financial growth in an environment of sustained, healthy enrollment. From that footing, we've reinvested in the student experience and gained momentum with construction under-way on a new science center.



Our net assets increased 16 percent to \$105 million. We continue to receive strong support from donors through gifts and grants. Market conditions were favorable as endowment earnings were 13.2 percent for 2017. Financial aid distributions continue to rise, reaching \$23.5 million. Still, net tuition also increased to \$26.7 million, up 6 percent from last year. We continue to focus on the value of the education our students receive at Nebraska Wesleyan.

## Healthy Enrollment

In fall 2016, for the second consecutive year, we had a first-year class of more than 400. We continued to enroll high-achieving students with the average GPA for the class at 3.6. We continued to focus our efforts on recruiting culturally diverse students. Seventeen percent of the incoming class in 2016 came from minority backgrounds, a 2 percent increase over the prior year. Nebraska Wesleyan also continues to see growth in the joint MSN/MBA degree. The degree provides a unique opportunity for our students to receive their Master of Science in Nursing with an emphasis on the business side of the industry. We were also excited to launch the Master of Education in 2016-17. We anticipate increased enrollment as more educators become aware of the program.

## Reinvesting in the Student Experience

We reinvested resources from our increase in net assets toward an athletic practice facility. The 5,400-square-foot facility houses two wrestling mats, exercise equipment, an athletic training room, showers and lockers. We currently have 30 student-athletes on the wrestling team with the opportunity for growth.

## Momentum through Construction of a New Science Facility

Through the generous support of alumni, friends, corporations and foundations, we broke ground in April 2017 on the Duane W. Acklie Hall of Science. This building will house our biology, chemistry, and psychology departments. We also received a \$700,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, which will provide substantial support for students in STEM fields.

We look forward to the upcoming year as we enter the public phase of Bold Designs: The Campaign for Nebraska Wesleyan University. This campaign provides an opportunity to advance NWU as a leading national liberal arts university.

Sincerely,

Tish Gade-Jones ('92)

Vice president for finance and administration



## ► FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

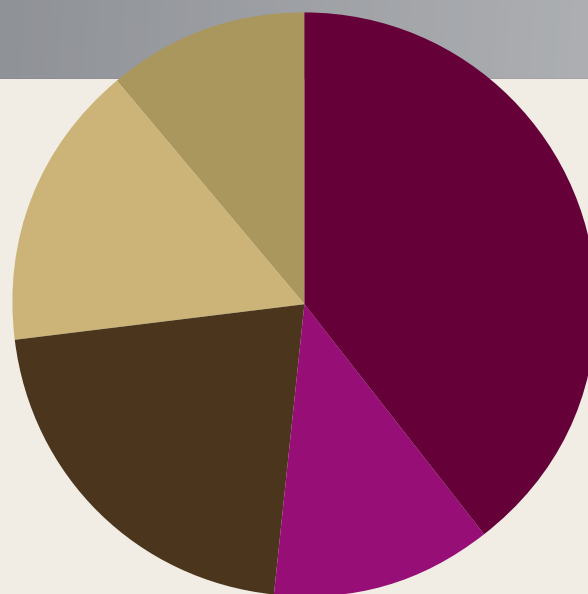
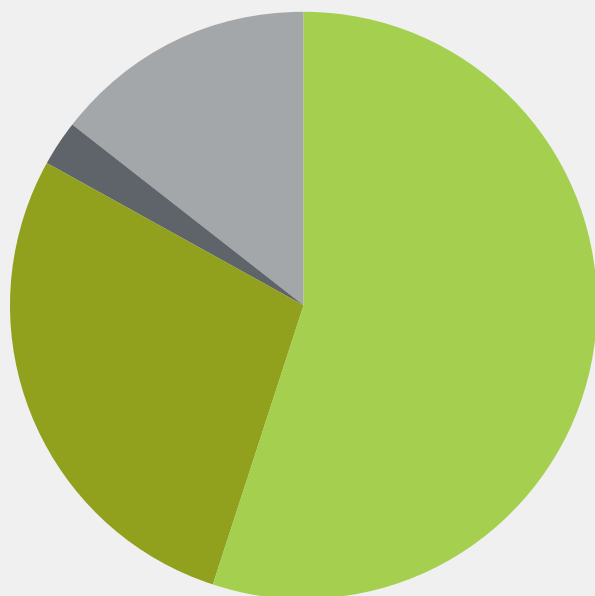
### *Assets*

Total Assets	\$130,118,000
Total Liabilities	\$24,784,000
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$105,334,000</b>

## ► STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES 2016-17

### *Revenues*

Tuition and Fees	\$50,191,000
<i>Less: Financial Aid</i>	<i>\$23,534,000</i>
Net Tuition and Fees	\$26,657,000
Gifts and Grants	\$13,516,000
Investment Earnings	\$1,240,000
Auxiliary Enterprises & Other	\$6,896,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$48,309,000</b>



### *Expenses*

Instruction	\$15,760,000
Academic Support	\$4,930,000
Student Services	\$8,536,000
Institutional Support	\$6,311,000
Auxiliary Enterprises & Other	\$4,413,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$39,950,000</b>

Change in Assets from Operations	\$8,359,000
Other Changes in Assets	\$5,978,000
<b>Total Change in Assets</b>	<b>\$14,337,000</b>
Net Assets, Beginning of the Year	\$90,997,000
Net Assets, End of the Year	\$105,334,000



## Who's Afraid of a Little Cold?

University Choir warms the north on its winter tour.

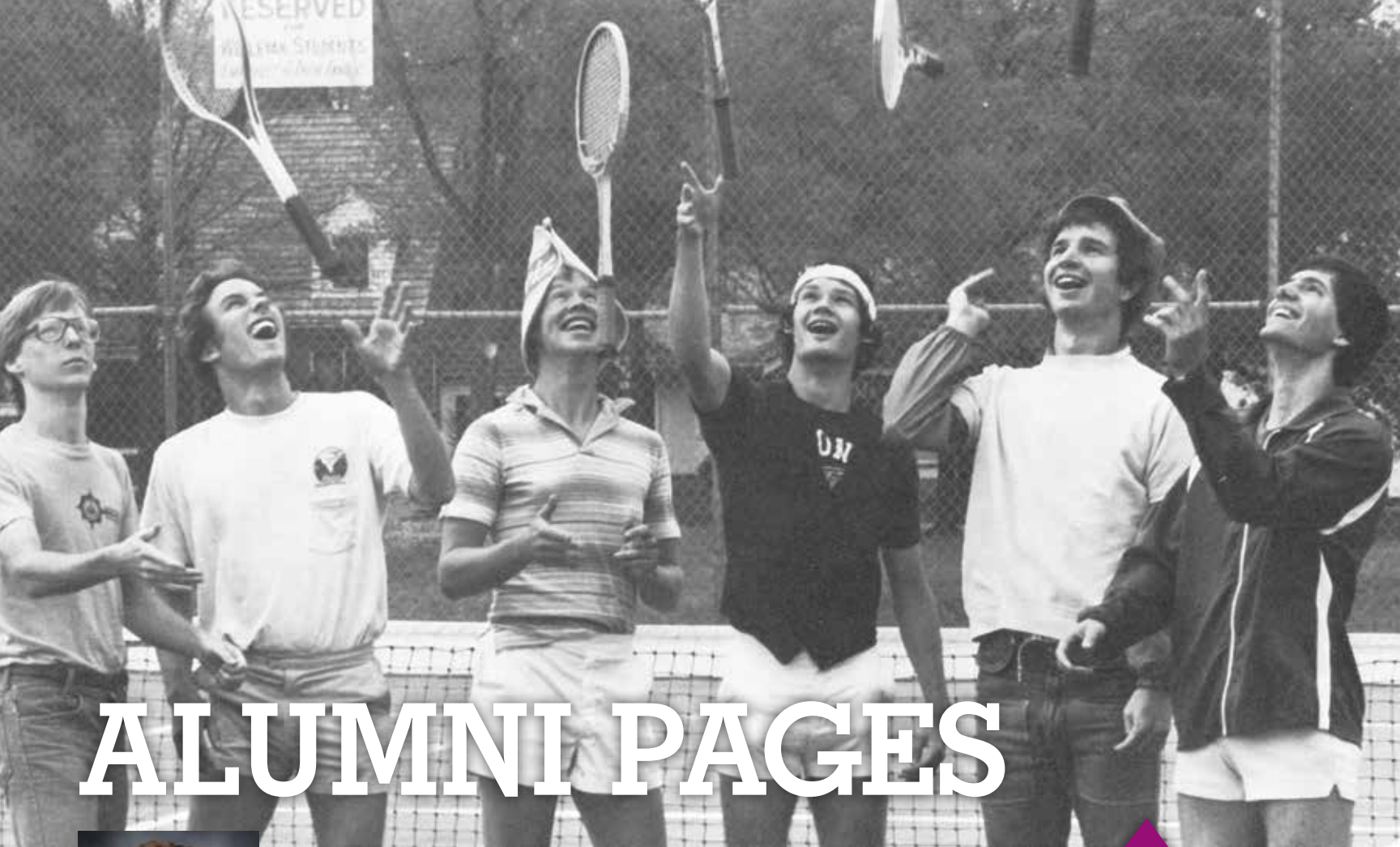
Catch Nebraska Wesleyan's award-winning choir in your area.

### January 2018

- > 3  
**First United Methodist Church**  
York, Neb. / 7 p.m.
- > 4  
**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
Des Moines, Iowa / 7 p.m.
- > 5  
**Christ United Methodist Church**  
Rochester, Minn. / 7 p.m.
- > 6  
**Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church**  
Minneapolis, Minn. / 7 p.m.
- > 7  
**Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church**  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
8:30\* and 10\* a.m.
- > 8  
**First Lutheran Church**  
St. Peter, Minn. / 7 p.m.
- > 9  
**First United Methodist Church**  
Sioux Falls, S.D. / 7 p.m.
- > 10  
**Grace United Methodist Church**  
Sioux City, Iowa / 7 p.m.
- > 12  
**First United Methodist Church**  
Omaha, Neb. / 7 p.m.
- > 14  
**First Plymouth Congregational Church**  
Lincoln, Neb.  
9\* and 10:30\* a.m.  
  
**O'Donnell Auditorium**  
**home concert**  
NWU / 7:30 p.m.

\*Performances are part of worship services





# 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

Their names are up in the air.  
Can you serve up the identities of these six tennis aces?

### Send your responses to:

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

## MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED



### You got us moving again.

While there's still some question about the woman behind the wheel, your responses have us moving in the right direction.

The car pusher on the left is Mike Loshkajian ('71), my fellow fraternity brother from Zeta Psi. Mike drowned a year or two after this photo was taken.

—**Elvon “Al” Taft** ('71)

The Phi Kappa Tau in the middle is George Witt ('70), from Lincoln. The driver is Cheryl Reyher, of course.

—**William Schlichtemeier** ('70)

I believe that's Linda Stansbury behind the wheel with Mike Loshkajian and George Witt providing the extra horsepower in a photo from the winter of 1968-69.

—**Mark Anderson** ('71)

While I wouldn't bet the ranch, I believe the mystery photo in *Archways* is of Michael Loshkajian and me. If so, the photo would have been taken in 1968 or 1969. We were both members of Zeta Psi. Sadly, Michael was killed in a boating accident in 1972 and is buried in Nebraska. I can't recall the name of the young lady, although I think she was a member of Phi Mu. Possibly Alpha Gamma Delta. Unfortunately, I no longer have my yearbooks, so I can't look at the chapter composite photos from either year.

—**Mike Roush** ('69)

I think the driver may be Pat (Plautz) Walker ('69), but I'm not 100 percent sure. I am sure of the horsepower, though: Mike Loshkajian on the left and George Witt (now known as Becky Witt) with the cigarette. Mike passed away in 1972, and Becky is the owner of George Witt Service, Inc.—a successful Honda and Toyota repair shop in Lincoln.

—**David Morris** ('93)

*(although I was an undergraduate in 1968-1971)*



# Alumni News

## Meet Your Alumni Executive Council

Nebraska Wesleyan welcomes alumni involvement and investments of all kinds. And we're heartened by the thousands of alumni who freely give of their time, talent and treasure.

One way alumni contribute is through involvement on the Alumni Executive Council (AEC). This volunteer council officially meets twice a year to learn more about the current life of the university and offer alumni perspectives on Nebraska Wesleyan's vision and direction.

"It's a great way to take your involvement in Nebraska Wesleyan University to a higher level," said **Shelley (Benischek) McHugh** ('91), director of alumni relations. "We are very grateful for the advice and commitment from our AEC members."

### Current AEC members include:

**Will Armstrong** ('92), financial advisor, Edward Jones

**Nick Bedlan** ('01), vice president, Lawson Kroeker Investment Management

**Clark Bellin** ('96), vice president, Mundy and Associates

**Jennifer (Smith) Benson** ('98), vice president, Fremont National Bank and Trust

**Jeff Bliemeister** ('94), chief of police, Lincoln Police Department

**Matt Byington** ('00), orthopaedic surgeon, Prairie Orthopaedic and Plastic Surgery

**Kristin (Brichacek) Carlson** ('07), manager, Labenz & Associates LLC

**Thomas Christie** ('74), community administrator, Lincoln Public Schools

**Kate (Honeyman) Engel** ('06), director of communication and culture, Nebraska Innovation Campus

**Kay (Bowmaster) Green** ('67), retired technology specialist, Lincoln Public Schools

**Geoff Hogeland** ('98), partner, Firespring

**Dan Lambe** ('92), president, Arbor Day Foundation

**Kirk Lott** ('85), lead consultant, Inforce Management, Allstate Insurance Company

**Scott McLain** ('82), CEO and president, Garner Industries

**Scott Miller** ('89), director of finance and accounting, Lincoln Industries

**Josh Norton** ('05), partner, Koley-Jessen Attorneys

**Ben Pankonin** ('02), founder, Social Assurance Co.

**Shawn Peed** ('04), chief operations officer, Sandhills Publishing

**Sheryl (Rupp) Rinkol** ('99), author and Titanic historian

**Suzanne (Peterson) Sughrue** ('02), director of development, Madonna Foundation

**Scott Young** ('01), executive director, Food Bank of Lincoln

Interested in getting more involved with fellow Nebraska Wesleyan alumni? Contact McHugh at 402.465.2123 or [smchugh@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:smchugh@nebrwesleyan.edu).

## Honoring NWU's Legends and Legacies

Each homecoming, we pay tribute to outstanding alumni at NWU's Legends and Legacies awards ceremony.

Nominations for 2018 are now open.

**Learn about award categories and nominate deserving alumni**

at [nebrwesleyan.edu/alumni/alumni-awards](http://nebrwesleyan.edu/alumni/alumni-awards) or 402.465.2123.

# 2017 Homecoming

## NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

### Science, sports and the arts shine on your campus.

Nebraska Wesleyan University marked homecoming September 28 through October 1. With a campaign underway and construction unfolding on the new Duane W. Acklie Hall of Science, alumni got a clear view of our bold designs for Nebraska Wesleyan's future.

The facility's exterior basement walls were established, giving visitors their first concrete sense of the building's outline. Science-related topics took center stage on Friday with an interactive panel discussion featuring current and retired science faculty, a tour of NWU's nursing simulation lab and a comparative analysis of health care systems in the U.S. and the U.K.

**Hannah Rittscher** ('18) and **Ty Garner** ('18) were crowned homecoming queen and king at the "Howl Like Hell" pep rally. Rittscher is a communication studies major from Clearwater, Neb., and Garner is an environmental studies major from Broomfield, Colo.

Alumni rode a rollercoaster of a football game versus the Loras College Duhawks on Saturday. After a staggering 91 points scored, the Prairie Wolves fell a touchdown short, losing 42-49.

NWU soccer then split a pair of matches with Loras, as the women fell 1-5 against a nationally ranked Duhawk squad and the men followed with a 3-1 NWU victory. Junior forward **Jake Kennedy** ('19) caught fire, scoring two goals and assisting on the third. The effort earned him IIAC offensive player of the week honors.

Art lovers were treated to an Elder Gallery exhibition, a frenetic production of Shakespeare's "A Comedy of Errors," a Music Department open house and a pops concert in O'Donnell Auditorium.

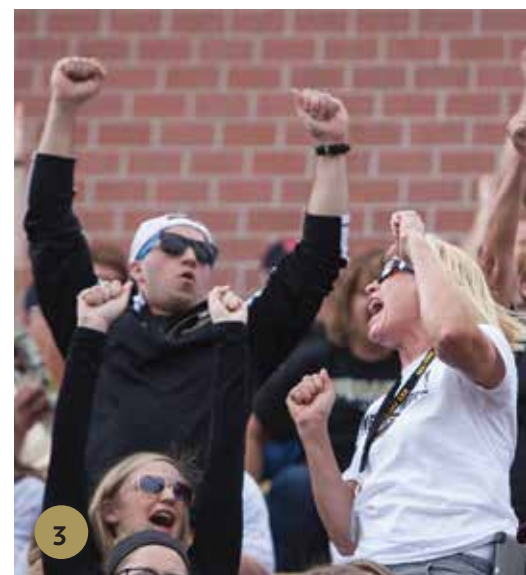






Photo by Sarah Hwang / Red Feather Photography



Photo by Jennifer Heywood ('15)

1. NWU welcomed its 2017 Legends and Legacies award winners.
2. Members of the class of '67 received medallions.
3. Fans filled Abel Stadium.
4. Alumni and faculty led panel presentations.
5. The golf cart parade was big fun.
6. A theatre reception included students in costume.
7. The Music Department hosted an alumni reception.
8. Cheerleaders kept the energy up.
9. The 50th class reunion included big laughs.
10. The class of '67 presented a reunion gift at halftime.
11. Phi Mu alumnae shared hugs, laughs and memories.



Photo by Dan Luedert



Photo by Michael Reimiller



Photo by Dan Luedert



Photo by Dan Luedert



Photo by Jennifer Heywood ('15)



Photo by Allison Woods ('20)



Photo by Dan Luedert



# Homecoming continued...



12. Prof. Karla Jensen showed her yoga moves.
13. Generations of alumni tailgated together.
14. NWU hall of famers took the field.
15. Blue Blood Brewery hosted reunion parties.
16. It was fun to reconnect.
17. Retired faculty shared excitement for the future of science at NWU.
18. Alumni enjoyed hearing from science faculty.





## *New year. New giving possibilities.*

If you have an IRA and are 70½ or older, you will be making plans to take your required minimum distribution in the new year.

Before you do, consider using an IRA qualified charitable distribution to support the Archway Fund, create or add to an endowed fund, or support other worthy areas at NWU. Your gift may satisfy your required minimum distribution while being excluded from your taxable income. Make your philanthropy go further in 2018.

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



NEBRASKA  
WESLEYAN  
UNIVERSITY

# Calendar

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

## January 8 First day of classes

Spring may feel far away,  
but the spring semester  
begins now.



Photo by Dan Luedert

## JANUARY

### 10 NWU Wrestling event

NWU will honor wrestling alumni and hang banners for its 1973, 1974 and 1975 conference championships in the new practice facility. Events begin with a 6:15 p.m. facility tour.



Photo courtesy Sports Authority Field

### 28 NWU Scholarship Event in Denver

Sports Authority Field is the place for prospective students to learn from a special group of NWU faculty, counselors and alumni.

### 30 Bold Designs event in Phoenix

Larry ('67) and Pat ('68) Ruth host Phoenix-area alumni for this NWU campaign event at Wrigley Mansion at 6 p.m.

## FEBRUARY



### 1 NWU theatre: Peter and the Starcatcher

The whole family will love this Tony-winning Peter Pan prequel. The curtain rises on opening night in McDonald Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

### 16 NWU track & field

Action begins for the NWU Open in Knight Fieldhouse at noon.

### 25 Symphonic band concert

O'Donnell Auditorium hosts Nebraska Wesleyan's symphonic band for this free concert at 5 p.m.

## MARCH

### 6 Bold Designs event in Denver

Alumni and friends gather at the Wellshire Event Center for this 6 p.m. campaign event.

### 14 NWU softball

The Prairie Wolves make their home debut at University Place Park, taking on Concordia University at 5 p.m.



Photo by Chad Greene

### 23 NWU baseball

The Prairie Wolves begin conference play at NWU Field against Coe College. First pitch: 3 p.m.





NEBRASKA  
WESLEYAN  
UNIVERSITY

5000 SAINT PAUL AVENUE  
LINCOLN, NE 68504-2794



Traditions at NWU are ongoing.  
Your ongoing support makes it possible.

Please make your Archway Fund gift today at [nebrwesleyan.edu/donate](http://nebrwesleyan.edu/donate).  
Visit [facebook.com/NWUgiving](https://facebook.com/NWUgiving) to see your gifts in action.

Contact Erika Paschold at 402.465.7574 or [epaschol@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:epaschol@nebrwesleyan.edu)



FSC logo

10% post  
consumer  
recycled  
logo

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