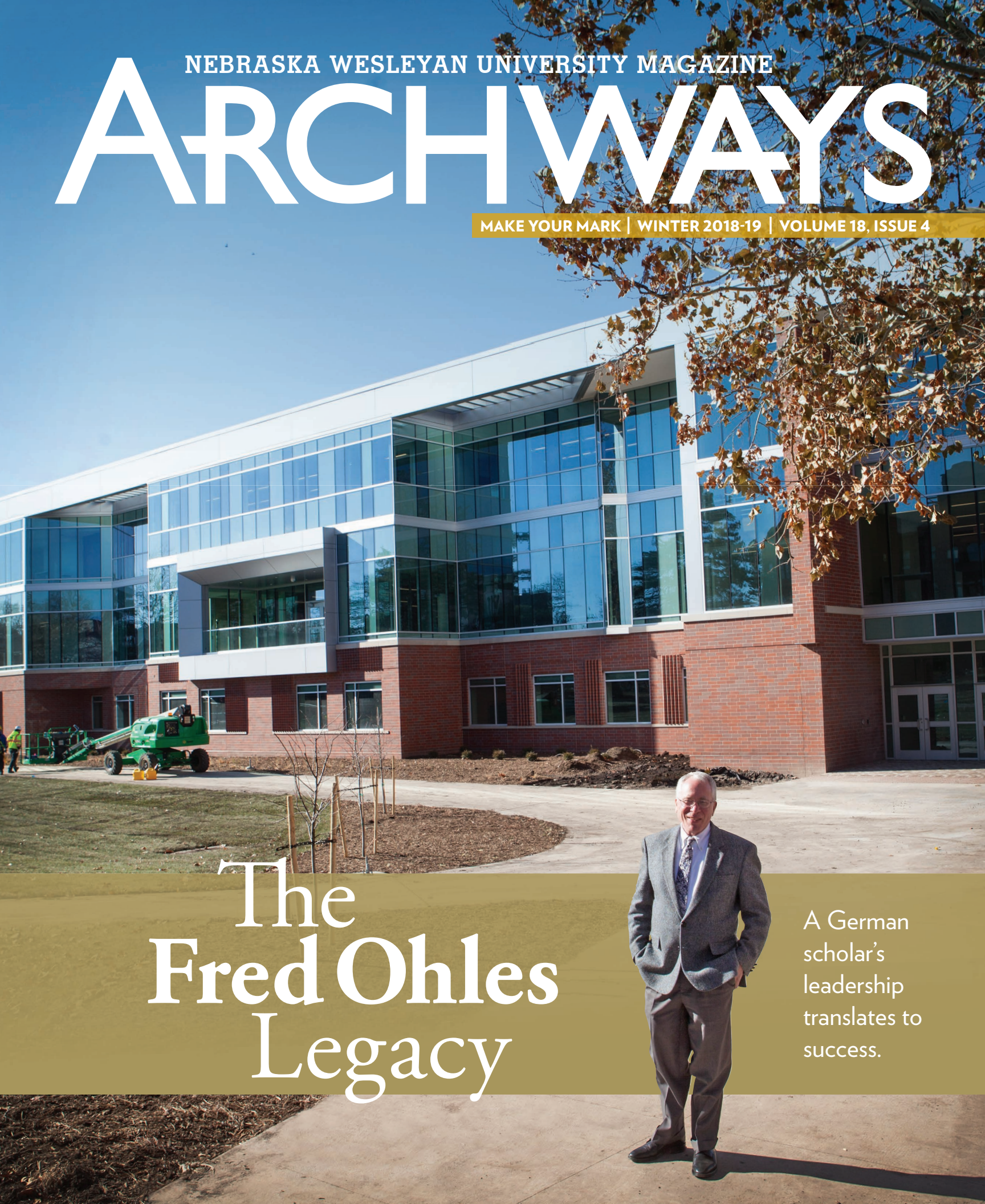


NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

ARCHWAYS

MAKE YOUR MARK | WINTER 2018-19 | VOLUME 18, ISSUE 4



The Fred Ohles Legacy

A German scholar's leadership translates to success.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



For my wife Rosemary and me both, ... being a part of Nebraska Wesleyan over these dozen years is an honor we'll never forget.

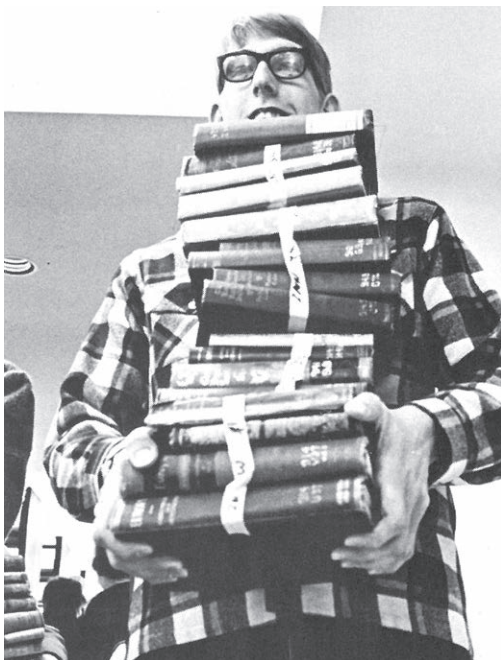


Photo from 1970 Plainsman

Dear Alumni and Friends,

“By wagon, by truck, by bag or by box, the library is on the move across campus to its new home.”

This entry in the 1970 *Plainsman* yearbook accompanies a charming photo of librarian Lois Collings’ “book brigade.” It used student volunteers, fueled by coffee and donuts, to move 80,000 books to their new home in Cochrane-Woods Library.

Nearly 49 years later, a similar procession is taking shape. Box after box is making its way from Olin Hall of Science to Duane W. Acklie Hall of Science via trucks, wagons and the helping hands of our campus community.

The move into Acklie Hall of Science began in mid-December. With holiday vacations mixed into the equation, we have a short time to move the biology, chemistry and psychology departments, unpack boxes of lab equipment and books, test and train on new state-of-the-art technology, and be ready to open the doors to teach on Monday, January 14.

We knew this would be no easy feat. We also knew we could count on the campus community to act selflessly and help make it happen. Students graciously agreed to stay on campus beyond their final exams. Faculty and staff from all disciplines and offices followed suit and will continue to help unpack in the days leading up to the 2019 spring semester.

This same gift of generosity greeted me on my arrival here nearly 12 years ago. I was moved by so many people who showed themselves ready to count me one of their own. They were equally devoted to seeing this fine university continue in its success.

The accomplishments celebrated in this issue of *Archways* magazine are significant milestones that we have reached together. Students live out our vision through rigorous academics and life-shaping experiences on campus and across the globe. The faculty’s dedication to our students is just as impressive. They mentor, challenge and cheer our students in and out of the classroom, embodying our core value of personal attention. The same can be said for our hard-working staff, whose drive is essential in our ambition to make NWU an outstanding national liberal arts university. I appreciate the parents who recognize the value of a Nebraska Wesleyan education, who entrust us with the opportunity to help their students succeed. And I’m grateful to you—our alumni and friends—who represent us in so many ways that add value to a Nebraska Wesleyan degree. You continue graciously to share of your time, talent and treasure.

It’s truly a privilege to work with so many devoted, thoughtful, caring, creative, mission-driven people. For my wife Rosemary and me both (she has put so much of herself into this enterprise), being a part of Nebraska Wesleyan over these dozen years is an honor we’ll never forget.

All of us at Nebraska Wesleyan have unfinished business to do in the months ahead — including more boxes to unpack in Acklie Hall.

With your continued support, we will go on doing this good work together and doing it well.

Yours truly,

—Fred Ohles
President



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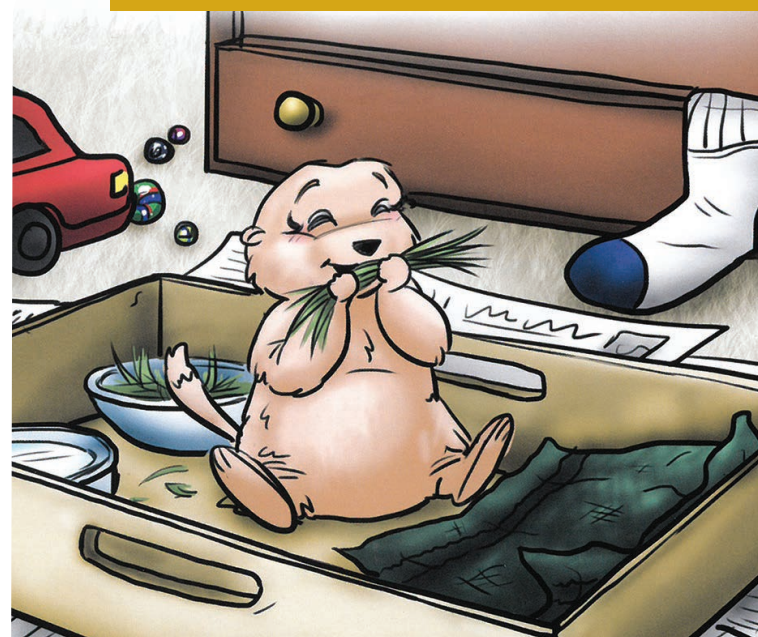
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Nebraska Wesleyan University is an academic community dedicated to intellectual and personal growth within the context of a liberal arts education and in an environment of Christian concern.

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

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NEBRASKA
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Credit for Masters

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Our fall cover, "On Mastery," received warm feedback from readers. And a few of you wanted to know who did the illustrations. We work with a number of talented illustrators from all over the world, and it's our practice to credit their work. Somehow, however, we neglected to include an illustrator byline for that article.

Time to right that wrong. He is Lawrence Lee, a professional illustrator, artist and educator working in Utah. You can see more of his work at shannonassociates.com/lawrencelee.



Remembering a Peacemaker

Professor of English **Nanette Hope Graf**, who died on September 8, was remarkable for her composure—I don't think I ever heard her so much as raise her voice—but what I most remember about her is her passion for justice.

We associate that kind of passion with raised voices, pointing fingers, shaken fists, with urgency and confrontation.

Nan's pursuit of social justice was more about patience and persistence, always being willing to listen, always being ready to speak, going to the necessary meetings and writing the necessary letters tirelessly, year after year, decade after decade. People like her are rare. She will be missed.

She was a Westerner, arriving in Lincoln in the 1950s with a master's degree in medieval literature from Stanford. (She wrote the original Cliff's Notes on Beowulf, back when that enterprise was just getting started.) She taught at the University of Nebraska briefly before marrying and starting a family (two sons, two daughters). When her children were a little older, she decided to resume her teaching career, joining the Nebraska Wesleyan English Department in 1965—just in time for the 60s.

Nan served as faculty advisor for NWU's first African-American students' organization and as sounding board for



many more students with a variety of concerns, both global and local. Medievalist though she was, she taught the school's first course in African-American literature. She got involved in the case of Mondo we Langa (then David Rice) and Ed Poindexter, Omaha Black Panthers who she was convinced had been unjustly convicted of the murder of a police officer. She began to do some teaching in prisons and to work on the abolition of the death penalty.

In the 1980s, while still teaching full-time and maintaining her involvement in a variety of organizations (Nebraskans for Peace, Nebraskans for Justice, Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty, the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union), she decided to work on her PhD at the University of Nebraska, which she earned in 1991, right about the time that she taught NWU's first course in women's literature, after advocating for one for about 20 years. After retiring in 1993, she only got busier, writing a play inspired by her death penalty activism.

Nan's generosity and exuberance energized the community in other ways, too. She was one of Lincoln's first yoga teachers, even leading a televised class for a few years. She belonged throughout the 1970s and 1980s to a locally legendary group of women academics that met weekly at Skylight Bistro (it stood on the block where the Embassy Suites is now). She was a loyal member of St. Mark's on the Campus Episcopalian Church.

Passionate, patient, and generous, Nan was also kind. When I arrived at Nebraska Wesleyan in 1989, I was not sure how having colleagues the age of my parents was going to work out. But I could not anywhere have had more welcoming, more encouraging, more supportive colleagues than **Mary Smith**, **Bill Kloefkorn**, **Leon Satterfield**, and **Nan Graf**, whose legacy inspires me every day I head into Old Main to teach.

P. Scott Stanfield

Professor of English

Opinions expressed in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of *Archways* magazine or Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Anonymous letters will not be printed. Letters may be edited for length, content and style.



Be heard. Contact us.

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Acklie Hall Is Move-in Ready

After years of steady planning and fundraising followed by months of construction, Duane W. Acklie Hall of Science is finally ready for business. Staff and faculty from across campus spent the week before Christmas pitching in to help the departments of biology, chemistry and psychology move equipment and supplies.

Professor of Chemistry **Jodi Ryter** ('90) appreciated the help. For her, the move marked the end of a hectic period.

"When the fall semester started," she said, "the reality of teaching a high-enrollment semester alongside a semester-long packing effort that culminated with the actual move the week after finals—well, I had to sit down and breathe into a brown paper bag."

Now, she and her colleagues are settling into their new offices, classrooms and windowed labs ahead of the launch of the spring semester on January 14.

"We're excited to have people walk up and down the corridors in Acklie and watch science happening in real time," Ryter said.

CAMPAIGN CONNECTION:



The culmination of tremendous imagination, planning and investment is this: a new facility designed to fit the ways our students learn in the sciences.

NWU Rises in the Ranks

U.S. News & World Report released its annual rankings of American universities in September. And for friends of Nebraska Wesleyan University, the news is good.

Among the 175 schools on its Midwestern regional universities list, Nebraska Wesleyan ranks 17th. Last year, NWU's rank put it a few tenths outside the 10th percentile (at 10.3 percent). This year, we're a few tenths inside it (at 9.7 percent). NWU's peers on this shortlist include

Valparaiso, Drake, Butler and Creighton universities.

"The rankings affirm the momentum we're experiencing here,"

said Vice President for Enrollment Management **Bill Motzer**. He noted this fall's record incoming class, Acklie Hall of Science's January opening and NWU's successful \$62 million Bold Designs campaign as signs of the great things under way on campus.

These endeavors are part of a purposeful effort to make Nebraska Wesleyan a place where all kinds of students thrive. There is growing evidence that our engagement with students works.

Case in point: another list. NWU also made *U.S. News & World Report's* list of 46 Midwestern "A+ Schools for B Students."

THE FINAL

Many factors account for NWU's high rankings—including post-graduate employment and the percentage of alumni who choose to make gifts to the university.

Top
10%
of
Midwestern
Universities



Photo by Allison Woods ('20)

2018 Huge Society inductees with Harry and Reba Huge (center).

NWU's Record Class Includes Record 16 Huge Scholars

The Harry and Reba Huge Foundation annually provides scholarships to exceptional students with the drive and potential to be leaders in society. The Huge-NWU Scholarship is Nebraska Wesleyan University's premier academic scholarship program. Each year, finalists selected for the scholarship or named recipients of the Dorothy Vorderstrasse Huge (DVH) Scholarship are inducted as members into the Nebraska Wesleyan University chapter of the Huge Society. The society's mission is to prepare future leaders with an appreciation for cultural diversity across national borders through active stewardship and community building.

The past year was one of exceptional success for Nebraska Wesleyan University and the Huge Foundation. A record 16 new students were inducted into the Huge Society, bringing its total membership of current students and alumni to 71. These 16 new members are part of Nebraska Wesleyan's record class of 487 first-year and 59 transfer students. It's a

class that adds to an increasingly diverse student body with new students from 19 states. Still, many of the newly inducted Huge Scholars reflect **Harry** ('59) and **Reba Huge's** rural backgrounds and Nebraska roots.

This year's new members include:

- Lilia Aberle ('22), Franklin, Neb.
- Kennedy Berreckman ('22), Cozad, Neb.
- Josephine Fails ('22), Wamego, Kan.
- Alexander Fairchild-Flynn ('22), Dawson, Neb.
- Joslyn Ford ('22), Lincoln, Neb.
- Audrey Hayes ('22), Lincoln, Neb.
- Corben Jacobe ('22), Deshler, Neb.
- Emalyn Kruse ('22), Lincoln, Neb.
- Han Le ('22), Lincoln, Neb.
- Thomas Robertson ('22), Lincoln, Neb.
- Amanda Schultz ('22), Deshler, Neb.
- Graham Southwick ('22), Beatrice, Neb.
- Samuel Streeter ('22), Beatrice, Neb.
- Anna Vidlak ('22), Omaha, Neb.
- Vanessa Wergin ('22), Aurora, Neb.
- Sienna Woo ('22), Centennial, Colo.

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

Nebraska's Independent Schools Pack Economic Punch

In August, the Council of Independent Nebraska Colleges Foundation (CINCF) released a study, "Nebraska's Independent Colleges and Universities: Spurring Economic Growth and Brain Gain for the State and Its Counties." While the report is heady, its findings are clear: Nebraska's 13 independent schools carry an effective one-two punch for the state's economy.

Independent schools do it by simultaneously reducing state taxpayer burdens and generating economic growth.

Nebraska spends a lot on public higher education. Only six states in the U.S. spent more per full-time public student than Nebraska's \$11,880 in 2017. Meanwhile, Nebraska spends relatively little in support of independent schools, with 34 states spending more per capita than Nebraska.

As a result, every time a Nebraskan enrolls at an independent school like Nebraska

Every time a Nebraskan enrolls at an independent school like Nebraska Wesleyan University, the state and its taxpayers save considerable money.

Wesleyan University, the state and its taxpayers save considerable money. The report estimated total Nebraska taxpayer savings topped \$158 million in 2017 alone.

In addition to reducing tax burdens, independent schools also help to power Nebraska's economy. Independent schools

effectively fight Nebraska's "brain drain" by attracting a higher percentage of students from outside Nebraska than the state's public colleges. In 2017, more than 13,200 non-Nebraskans enrolled at Nebraska's independent schools. The report estimates that more than half of these out-of-state students remain in Nebraska after graduation.

The report estimated the value of this "brain gain" at "approximately \$373.7 million of wages and salaries and \$78.2 million of state and local taxes in 2017 alone."

The report put the 13 schools' combined economic impact at \$1.43 billion, supporting nearly 14,000 jobs and generating \$53.9 million in state and local taxes through the spending of the schools and their students.

The report estimated Nebraska Wesleyan's individual impact on the economy in 2017 at 855 jobs and \$74.9 million.

THE FINAL: Independent schools including NWU have an annual economic impact in Nebraska worth nearly \$1.5 billion.

Cooper Center's Founding Director Passes the Baton

Professor of English Rick Cypert spent his first eight years at Nebraska Wesleyan University advocating, arguing, even cajoling for an academic resource center. Then he spent the next 22 years directing one.

The Cooper Center for Academic Resources was established in 1996 with a grant from the Lincoln-based Cooper Foundation.

"A lot of universities at the time were developing writing centers," Cypert said. "We wanted to support students not only in writing endeavors, but also in their speaking projects, study skills and reading strategies."

Cypert envisioned the center as a place where experienced students would provide the bulk of the academic consulting. The Cooper Center originally opened with five trained student consultants. Today, the staff of student consultants has grown by a factor of three.



Rick Cypert, Lisette Torres-Gerald

"They're always a delight to work with," Cypert said. "It's fun talking with them about the ways you can have a conversation during a consultation, then seeing them grow in their abilities."

Cypert estimated that about 150 students have provided some 20,000 consultations—helping their NWU classmates sharpen papers, hone presentations and strengthen

their studies. He predicted the Cooper Center will double this output in the 20 years to come.

The center will begin doing so under the direction of Lisette Torres-Gerald.

"Prof. Cypert has been mentoring me for this since I arrived in 2015," Torres-Gerald said. "He's given me the language to explain the writing process to others and has given me the support and confidence to run the center."

As an environmental scientist with a strong interest in social justice, Torres-Gerald is interested in challenging students to think about how they'll apply the skills they're sharpening at the center.

"How can my students use their knowledge to better humanity and to advocate for their communities?" she asks in her NWU bio. "How can they honorably work in and with communities to address pressing scientific and social concerns?"

Photo by Allison Woods (20)



Healthy Numbers

An impressive eight NWU students get early acceptance at UNMC.

Nationally, about four in 10 students who take the MCAT actually get into medical school. At NWU, the odds go up beyond eight in 10. That alone is impressive enough. But look what happened this year.

In October, the University of Nebraska Medical Center offered early acceptance to 50 top applicants from across the country. And eight of them are Prairie Wolves. That's more than double the number we'd see in a typical year.

It's more evidence of Nebraska Wesleyan's growing strength in the sciences.

Kindness Comes with Crinkle Fries

Did you know the Runza at 56th and Holdrege supports NWU? Twice a year, they share a percentage of sales. On October 3, Runza customers raised almost \$1,000 for the Archway Fund. Since 2014, Runza has given more than \$8,000. Now that's a large order. Runza's next Dine Out for NWU Day: Wednesday, March 20.



Kennedy Center Honors NWU Theatre

Nebraska Wesleyan University Theatre received special honors from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for its fall productions of "The Drowsy Chaperone," directed by Assistant Professor of Theatre Julie Heaton, and "Julius Caesar," directed by Assistant Professor of Theatre Ryan Kathman ('02). Assistant Professor of Theatre Simon Brett designed for both shows.

For 50 years, the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival has sought to "encourage, recognize and celebrate the finest and most diverse work produced in university and college theatre programs."

KCACTF reaches 20,000 theatre students each year.

In addition, four NWU students were selected to compete in the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship auditions: **Dustin Reckling** ('20) of Louisville, Neb.; **Lisa Lee** ('19) of Bellevue, Neb.; **Jon Kava** ('19) of Silver Creek, Neb.; and **Cat Pestinger** ('19) of Lenexa, Kan.

24
shows

NWU's BFA students graduate with experience in 24 theatre productions on average.

NWU Welcomes Greg Harris to PBA

President Fred Ohles welcomed **Greg Harris** ('97), Omaha, president and CEO of Quantum Workplace, to the President's Board of Advisors (PBA) in October.

Quantum Workplace is an employee engagement software tool built to help managers lead their teams. It helps managers survey employees, set goals, recognize great work, learn from feedback and analyze important data. More than 8,700 organizations use its software platform.

The President's Board of Advisors provides counsel to President Ohles in fulfilling Nebraska Wesleyan's mission, vision and strategic plan. Its members include alumni, parents or children of alumni, and other devoted friends of the university. Each is an ambassador for Nebraska Wesleyan University. The PBA meets on campus twice annually. Preparation for careers through the liberal arts was the focus of the fall meeting.





What's Going Down in Prairie Dog Town?

By Alan J. Bartels

Illustrated by Hannah Segura ('19), right

Foreword by Jane Goodall

Mascot Books, Herndon, Va., 2018 | 44 pages | \$15

—Reviewed by Eric Wendt ('99)

Each June, I travel south to visit the Flint Hills outside Emporia, Kan. Thanks to a geologic fluke, this trip feels more like a time warp than a drive. There, a stubborn layer of 250 million-year-old limestone thwarted the push of plows that would otherwise transform the bulk of the Great Plains after the Homestead Act of 1862.

So while I grew up surrounded by row crops in south-eastern Nebraska, Emporians are surrounded instead by native tallgrass prairie. Ranching landscapes like the Flint Hills and Nebraska's Sandhills look remarkably similar in 2018 to the way they were in 1818. They're jarringly beautiful places—jarring to me for the window they give into a world we've almost completely plowed under.

Alan Bartels' children's story, illustrated by the multi-talented NWU theatre major, Hannah Segura ('19), draws its setting and its characters from the Great Plains' vulnerable prairie ecosystems.

A boy named Tyler comes upon a lost prairie dog outside his house. He takes her in and names her Penny. He learns (with the help of an honest-to-goodness paper encyclopedia) that prairie dogs are social creatures. He realizes Penny needs her family. So he takes her back to the prairie dog town in the hills behind his family's house.

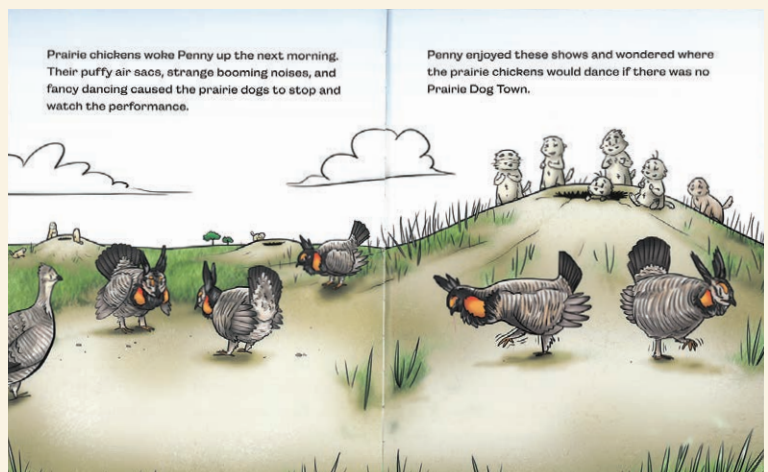
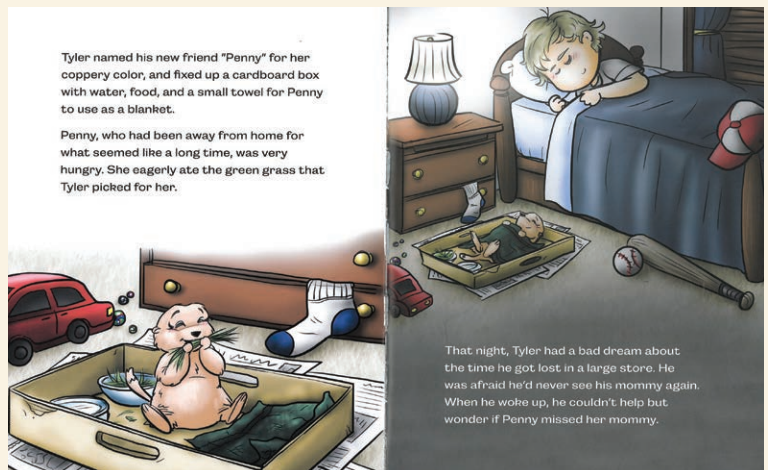
He releases her. And he watches.

It is in this watchfulness that *What's Going Down in Prairie Dog Town?* shows its heart. Thanks to Tyler's attention (and Segura's keen illustrations), we glimpse the ecologic diversity and interdependence of species that define prairie dog colonies. From salamanders and snakes to burrowing owls and prairie chickens, a vibrant cast of characters makes hearty use of the tunnels and shortened grass near the prairie dog village.

As the renowned conservationist Jane Goodall makes clear in its foreword, *What's Going Down in Prairie Dog Town?* is a book on a mission. Bartels and Segura want us to see the prairie dogs' threatened habitat for what it truly is: a teeming gem of a place that deserves our special regard. **n**



Photo by Lauren Andres ('21)





The Nebraska Wesleyan University

Translate to Success

NWU's retiring president gives language to the university's rise.

—By Eric Wendt ('99)

Fred Ohles will retire as Nebraska Wesleyan's 16th president in July. While most of us look forward to retirement, for Ohles, his approaching farewell is an occasion to look back. He remembered those earliest experiences that would shape his presidency. They weren't all what you'd call traditional. For instance: There was his stint during graduate school in Germany in the late 1970s when Ohles worked on the side as a sausage maker.

Asked how that experience translated to his current work, Ohles answered with little more than a quiet smile. But inside that grin was answer enough: It was the smile of a man who knows how the sausage is made.

Other side work, which Ohles conducted more than a decade later, would have a greater influence over his approach to the presidency. The young professor of German history saw a slow shift in his work from teaching to administration. And before his administrative responsibilities grew all-encompassing, Ohles spent some of his time writing and translating. It was this work that would help shape Fred Ohles the president in unexpected ways.

In 1990, Ohles published *The Workers' Paradise?: Robert Schachner's Letters from Australia*. Schachner was a German professor of political economy who traveled to Australia in 1906. He's an interesting study, this Schachner. In Australia, he toiled "undercover" as a sheep shearer, a gold and coal miner and factory worker to understand firsthand the working conditions of Australia's laborers.

Ohles respected Schachner's dedication to his field and to the laborers he met in his unusual social experiment. It meant a lot to Ohles to accurately capture this professor's work—to do it justice with an audience that didn't speak his language.



NWU relocates Omaha site

The move to 14010 FNB Parkway advances NWU's prominence in Nebraska's largest city.

NWU launches MBA and MSN/MBA

These graduate programs in Lincoln and Omaha are major advancements in the ways NWU serves working adults.

NWU implements Archway Curriculum

Our reinvigorated approach to engaged learning has garnered NWU national acclaim.

2014



Then in 1997, Ohles published *Biographical Dictionary of Modern American Educators* with his mother, Shirley Ohles; and John Ramsay. This volume condensed information on scores of impactful teachers working in a great variety of fields.

"You have about 200 words to account for someone's life work," Ohles said. "It was an incredible exercise in distillation."

In sharing with unfamiliar audiences the impact of other scholars' work, Ohles was unwittingly practicing a president's skillset. The leap between the invigorated translator and the effective university president isn't vast. It's a hop, really. The length of a sausage link.

Do you see what these scholars did? Ohles the translator asked. Can you appreciate the value of their work? His advocacy for Nebraska Wesleyan University would center on the same fundamental questions.

Ohles would also connect a long string of directly relevant experiences through his full-time work as a professor, administrator, dean and vice president for advancement at institutions including St. Olaf

Do you see what these scholars did? Ohles the translator asked. Can you appreciate the value of their work?

College, Illinois College, Wabash College and the Council of Independent Colleges. But his success in each new role hinged largely on his central ability to translate.

Fred Ohles could link one audience to another. He could find them a common language of understanding. And he could give them the tools they needed to work well together.

"Working well together" is key to any university presidency—a position where success hinges on relationships. And no pair epitomized working well together quite like Fred and Rosemary Ohles.

Susan Gourley, current chair of Nebraska Wesleyan University's Board of Governors, recalled something Ohles said as he interviewed for the position. "He told us he had something special," Gourley said. "He told us, 'I have a secret weapon. And her name is Rosemary.'"

Gourley laughed at the memory. "Rosemary may well be a weapon. But she's not a secret any longer."

Rosemary effectively doubled her husband's reach. The energy she brought to countless events echoed and amplified Fred's

NWU introduces men's and women's swimming

Adding swimming—including Nebraska's only NCAA men's swim team—gives NWU a new way to attract high-achieving student-athletes.

Strong in the Second Half

Most of NWU's major milestones have come in the latter half of Fred Ohles' 12-year presidency.



relentlessness. But the prominence of her role as Nebraska Wesleyan's first lady took some getting used to.

"I've always been a back-office, operations kind of person," she said, calling herself "the type of person who likes to keep a low profile."

Just don't write her off as a wallflower. Like her husband, Rosemary Ohles is a connector—one with an even keener sense for relationships. She isn't content simply shaking hands. She looks to extend networks. "I want to help people meet people."

There's a wisdom and a savviness in her approach to relationships. For instance, when **Graciela Caneiro-Livingston** began as provost in 2017, several people on campus worked to make sure she got off to a positive start. Rosemary's focus stretched a little further.

Graciela's great start would mean little, Rosemary realized, if her husband, Visiting Professor of Spanish **Dana Livingston**, was left to drift in his new city.

"The spouse of a new provost needs to be happy, too, you know." She got to know him and worked to connect him with community and philanthropic groups that fit his interests. She helped to make

Rosemary may well be a weapon. But she's not a secret any longer.

him feel at home in Lincoln.

This ability to see the human dynamics of institutional relationships would define much of Rosemary's work advocating for Nebraska Wesleyan.

Human beings, she said, want support to feel reciprocal. "They'll support what matters to you if they see that you understand and support what matters to them," she said.

"That's why Fred and I attend as many charitable events as we can."

She laughed and spoke in a voice that was at once sincere and strategic. "Charitable events are where you meet charitably-minded people."

On October 5, 2007, Fred and Rosemary Ohles were the new hires. Fred knew then that this new role would call upon his skills as a connector and translator. He'd need to stand in the academic world and speak effectively to the philanthropic one.

The former sausage maker also knew he'd need to grind. He brought his Midwestern work ethic to the job of advocating for all things Nebraska Wesleyan.

"It matters that I'm from the heartland," Ohles said in 2007. "I know

NWU re-introduces traditional BSN

The university can now reach prospective nurses who want a traditional, four-year residential college experience.

2015



NWU joins American Rivers Conference

Changing conferences and becoming an exclusive NCAA III affiliate was a bar-raising move that positioned student-athletes to compete on a brighter national stage.

2016



how much people in this part of the country care about keeping their communities strong. ... I know how much people (here) are prepared to do to see that their children and grandchildren have bright futures.”

What Ohles didn't know in 2007 was that a frightening storm was gathering. Global economic forces would soon jar communities and strain many colleges to the breaking point. Come 2008, fear would dramatically change American higher education.

The first thing fear disrupts is balance. Put a 2x4 on the floor and most of us could walk its length without trouble. But lift the board a few feet and it gets harder.

Put more at stake. Slide a Turkish rug beneath us. Put a brimming wineglass in our hand and watch it tremble. It's as if (to paraphrase *Hamlet*) the glass spills itself in fearing to be spilt. The more our balance matters, the harder it is to hold.

The economic crisis of 2008 rattled the footing of every college leader. “I can't say it put us on our heels,” recalled Larry Ruth ('67), who then chaired Nebraska Wesleyan's Board of Governors. “But we weren't on our toes.”

What Ohles didn't know in 2007 was that a frightening storm was gathering.

The turmoil shook school endowments. Jarred administrators looked around and saw a public likewise reeling. Hundreds of thousands of jobs were lost in a handclap. Savings erased. Families became instantly less able—and less willing—to borrow for college.

In many cases, the public mood on spending for college wasn't just cautious. It was hostile. The path before university presidents seemed then no wider than a shaking 2x4. In their hands they gripped the well-being of their schools. They peered down and saw no bottom.

Is it any wonder they trembled?

NWU's first-time president had a strategy in such moments—a mental counterbalance. “When things looked especially bad, I would remind myself of this university's many strengths,” he said. “And when things looked especially good, I'd remember our challenges.”

In 2008, and often in the years that followed, Ohles reflected on what had attracted him to Nebraska Wesleyan University in the first place. “At its core, I knew: Here's a very strong, durable institution. It's standing on a foundation that so many people helped to build.”

NWU launches MED

NWU's Master of Education helps teachers transform their classrooms to unite achievement and well-being.

NWU brings back wrestling

Wrestling's comeback aligns with the American Rivers Conference's strength and deepens the student-athlete experience.

NWU goes public with its Bold Designs campaign

This \$62 million effort, begun quietly in 2012, is the university's first start-to-finish campaign in 25 years.

2017



Ohles did his best to exude to others the confidence he felt in that foundation. He did his best to show balance.

Around him, schools were rapidly reacting. "Some institutions made drastic cuts in anticipation of the shortfalls they were predicting," he said. Others seemed to shut their eyes and power ahead on blind faith. "They accumulated more debt and kept running their programs as if nothing had happened," Ohles said.

"We took a middle course. We looked for balance."

Rosemary remembered the stresses of those difficult months and the unpopular decisions those fiscal realities sometimes forced. She did a lot of listening. "You have to keep asking yourself, 'What's best for the institution?' and stay willing to do that regardless of the personal cost," Rosemary said. "And you have to trust that if you stay on that course, it'll work out in the end."

Fred Ohles may not have recognized it then, but in his decisions through this period, he demonstrated the qualities the people who hired him had been seeking.

You have to keep asking yourself, "What's best for the institution?" and stay willing to do that regardless of the personal cost.

"We wanted a long-range thinker," Ruth said. The board wanted someone who could respond to immediate realities without losing sight of long-term goals.

"What Fred did was he brought a direction of certainty and stability," Ruth said. Ohles wouldn't pretend to know what might happen tomorrow. But he was certain where the university could be in the semester, the year, the decade to come if it stuck to its vision and planning.

Steady prudence, thoughtful belt-tightening and careful planning saw Nebraska Wesleyan through the alarming months and lean years that followed. "All that time, we were building relationships," Rosemary said.

As for the university's vision and strategic planning, Ohles said, "The recession changed the 'when.' It didn't touch the 'what.'"

The recession had tested the university's stability as well as the president's leadership. Both passed those tests. "And," Ruth said, "we came to see that time was on our side."

The average tenure of a university president is roughly seven

NWU matriculates a record class

The 487 first-year students and 59 transfer students who arrived on campus in August broke a school record set more than half a century earlier, in 1965.

2018



Duane W. Acklie Hall of Science opens

Starting this semester, NWU has a science facility that matches the powerful ways we teach biology, chemistry and psychology today.

2019



years. Ohles described that seven-year mark as a realistic fulcrum for the big-picture gains governing boards seek from their presidents. When Ohles retires in July, he will have been NWU's president for nearly twice that span: 12 years.

The luxury of time meant the Ohles presidency could effectively operate in two phases. Administrators, faculty and staff could concentrate on sustaining the university through a period of economic uncertainty not seen since the Great Depression. Then, with the fundamentals secured, the campus community could work to translate NWU's strength into a transformative surge.

A concise, year-by-year listing of Nebraska Wesleyan's accomplishments since Fred and Rosemary's arrival runs several single-spaced pages. The truly transformative changes—the home runs, if you will—are largely clustered after the all-star break.

Ohles' presidency hit that seven-year fulcrum in 2014. And something remarkable happened. It's as if an entire university finally stepped off that shaking 2x4 and found its feet on solid ground again.

The good vibes, the results, the honors—all of those positive things can start to snowball on you, too.

"It's an exhilarating feeling," Ruth said of coming out of the downturn. "The good vibes, the results, the honors—all of those positive things can start to snowball on you, too," he said.

For Ruth, the key moment was when construction of Duane W. Acklie Hall of Science shifted from a hope to a certainty. "Once that started, you could sense a momentum—a renaissance, even—of the entire school.

It was a feeling of: 'I knew we could do this. *Now let's go!*'"

Ohles the translator might help us understand NWU at this precise moment as like being a softball player at home at Seng Park.

The university smiles beneath its eye black and sets her feet nice and wide in the box. She digs her cleats in and laughs off ball one outside. The next pitch is tracking waist high. And what she feels on its yellow approach—with her feet beneath her and her fundamentals sound—is a lot like hunger. She swings like someone hungering to swing for seven years swings. Don't get us wrong. Slap hits are nice. And bloop singles extend innings. But, friends, this opportunity has been a long time coming. And this university—at this moment in its history—is going yard. **W**

You can honor Fred and Rosemary with a gift to the Fred and Rosemary Ohles Faculty Development Endowment at nebrwesleyan.edu/giving/donate.

Meet Hamlet

NWU's prince of Denmark is a woman of infinite zest.

—By Eric Wendt ('99)

Natalia Spengler ('19) isn't interested in likely stories. Give her a tale that twists. Make it vast. Have it kink and kick and contradict. That's when you know you have something.

You have a story that lands—like Spengler's own 2,800-mile journey—in an unexpected place. A story that slides, neatly, into the unlikeliest of roles.



Photo by Dan Luedert

First, let's hash out some contradictions.

Yes, when NWU Theatre opens its production of *Hamlet* on January 17, and Spengler utters her first, contradictory line (calling the new king, "more than kin, and less than kind"), she'll be a woman playing the part of a man. But that's probably the least interesting mismatch in her story.

There's her background. Spengler is American. And Polish. Her dual citizenship made for a childhood of travel. But her unusual worldliness pairs with an unusual isolation. Her home is a capital city, but one accessible only by ferry or seaplane. Juneau, Alaska, is America's second-largest city by area. Yet its population is just a couple family reunions larger than Kearney's.

There's her experience. Spengler hadn't performed in a single play at her high school. Yet NWU Theatre recruited her out of Juneau with the promise of a wilderness of opportunities to act.

We should stop here and admit that, though true, our saying she never acted at her high school is specious. By 18, Spengler had extensive stage experience and a deep appreciation for Shakespeare. She just didn't build them at her high school. Juneau's "Shakespeare-enamored" Theatre in the Rough was her acting home. She'd been both underfoot and onstage at the community theatre since middle school.

You can make a good argument that high schools should teach more Shakespeare. But Spengler is grateful her first exposures came outside the classroom.

"Your first taste of Shakespeare should be as a kid in the audience, watching a good production," she said, recalling the productions she'd watched as a kid in Alaska, Oregon and Europe. "Good actors help you feel so much more of what's there than you get just reading a script for class."

Nebraska Wesleyan University's first exposure to Natalia Spengler came in Chicago during the National Unified Auditions. She spoke to Professor of Theatre **Jack Parkhurst** ('69) and Professor of Theatre **Joan Korte** ('90) outside of Unifields. She impressed them immediately.

"She had this great interest in Shakespeare and a real grasp of the depth of his characters," Korte said.

Korte and Parkhurst described Nebraska Wesleyan's commitment

to Shakespeare productions and the success of several NWU alumni now working in Shakespeare companies. The two professors quietly hoped the Alaskan was as impressed with NWU as they were with her.

She was.

"The emphasis on Shakespeare was a lot of it," Spengler said. So was Nebraska Wesleyan's production volume. "Hardly anybody else in the country comes anywhere near the 40-plus productions we do here."

After that meeting in Chicago, Spengler committed to visiting campus. "NWU was high on my list, but I had to see it, you know?"

She recalled that day. "I was so sick with some horrible stomach bug." But when you've flown 2,800 miles to see a place, there's no rain check. She gritted out her tour, hoping to avoid getting sick in the lilacs outside Elder Theatre.

Despite her nausea, Spengler's strongest gut feeling was that she'd found her next home. Her top-five list shortened by four schools.

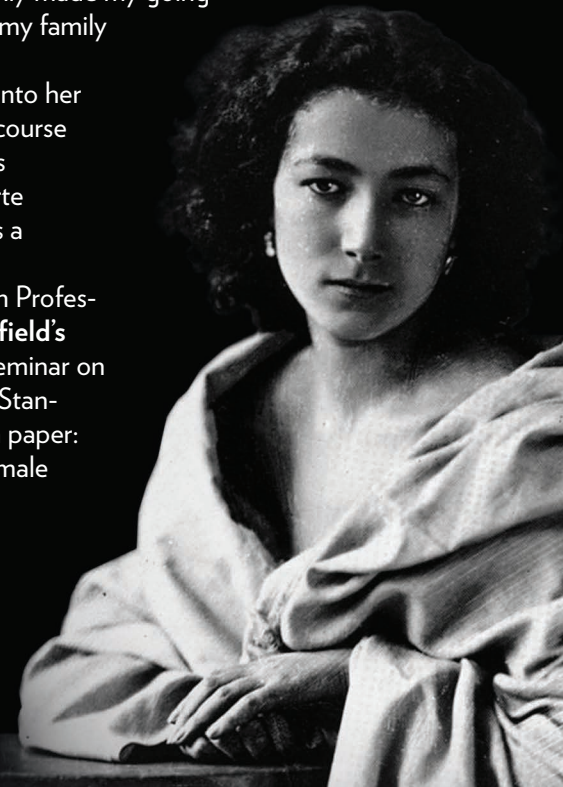
Korte and Parkhurst knew they'd landed a special student. So did the Huge-NWU Scholarship selection committee. Spengler won Nebraska Wesleyan's top academic award, named after **Harry** ('59) and **Reba Huge**. The scholarship covers the full cost of tuition, fees and room and board.

"It was super-exciting," Spengler said of winning the award. "And it's certainly made my going to college a lot easier for my family financially."

Korte signed Spengler into her junior-level Shakespeare course as a first-year student. "It's where she belonged," Korte said. She'd take it again as a sophomore.

And placing Spengler in Professor of English **Scott Stanfield's** first-semester Archway Seminar on *Hamlet* was a no-brainer. Stanfield recalled her research paper: a look at the history of female Hamlets.

One's rules of propriety make one thirst for the improper.



Theatrical gender bending is older than Shakespeare. Women weren't allowed on the London stage in the 16th century, meaning every female role in Shakespeare was originally played by a boy or man. Once women were allowed onstage, rules on their dress remained strictly conservative.

"One's rules of propriety make one thirst for the improper," wrote the novelist Mohsin Hamid. And the earliest examples of female Hamlets were meant to quench this thirst.

"Hamlet was a 'tights part,'" Stanfield explained. And by casting a woman in the role, a director could sidestep the rules on costuming, giving 18th century audiences something they'd rarely seen on stage before: namely, a woman's legs.

The first known female Hamlet to be regarded primarily for her acting wouldn't come until 1899 with Sarah Bernhardt. (A new play about this 1899 production, *Bernhardt/Hamlet*, is currently running on Broadway.)

Reactions to Bernhardt's performance as Hamlet ran the gamut. While Mark Twain held Bernhardt on a level above all other actresses, English essayist Max Beerbohm dismissed her—and all women playing men's roles—as merely "aping virility." (If you're choosing sides between them, you may find it helpful to know that while Twain has been called "the Lincoln of our literature," a 2015 anthology of Beerbohm's essays is titled *The Prince of Minor Writers*.)



You might guess Spengler's freshman research paper on female Hamlets sparked her idea to play him for her senior project. But we've already told you this isn't a likely story.

"It wasn't then," she said. That semester, *Hamlet* wasn't even among Spengler's favorite Shakespeare plays. "Everybody calls it 'the greatest play ever written.' But my attitude then was, 'Why?'"

Sure, it's a great play. But greater than *Henry V*? Greater than *Macbeth*? Spengler wasn't convinced.

Hamlet wouldn't truly grab Spengler's imagination until she went to London as a sophomore. But once it did, it never let go.

Spengler spent the spring of 2017 at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA). Through LAMDA, she got tickets to an unabridged production of *Hamlet* directed by Robert Icke and starring Andrew Scott. It was Scott's first time in a leading Shakespearean role.

Scott's Hamlet wasn't so much bloodthirsty or unfathomably insane as he was dizzy with grief. He played Hamlet as simply at a loss in the face of so much loss. And Spengler was mesmerized.

She watched the four-hour production four times, gleaning new depth from each performance. She returned to LAMDA, claimed an illness, and snuck back to watch it a fifth time. That's 20 hours of *Hamlet*. Twenty hours of testing ghosts, digging up skulls and slapping poisoned foils.

"And I loved every second."

Seeing Hamlet played as "this grieving boy" plucked a string in her psyche. "It's you," she realized. Forget Hamlet's maleness or his untouchable status—whether that be in literature or as a royal. "It's just you. There's no hiding behind anyone's preconceived notion of what his character should be."

Inspired, Spengler emailed Robert Icke with questions about his production.

The ambition of that gesture—a college sophomore firing off an email to one of the most respected directors of Shakespeare—didn't surprise her professors in Lincoln.

“She’s not afraid to reach out,” Parkhurst said. “And they reach back.”

Exactly what Spengler asked and exactly how Icke responded are things we’ll leave between the actor and the director. But it’s interesting to hold Spengler’s “it’s you” sense of Hamlet up alongside Scott’s.

“Rob, our director, has encouraged me to ... speak in my own voice as much as possible,” Scott told London Theatre. “You have to just go, ‘OK, well, what would I be like if I was in this situation?’”

Scott went on: “This is about a prince who is suffering from mental health issues. But he’s told, ‘No, you can’t do that. You have to get over it.’ And that’s where all the problems arise. And that requires a real honesty, I think, from the people who perform it.”

Spengler left London determined. She had her senior project.

She told Parkhurst about her plan the following semester. *Hamlet*. Parkhurst chuckled. “Yeah, we figured,” he said.

Spengler threw herself into every aspect of the production, save casting and directing. “I’m directing,” said Parkhurst, “but I’m attempting to do it according to her vision.”

And Spengler’s vision for NWU’s *Hamlet* is thorough.

The set, the costumes, the props will all be minimal, she said, to better showcase the language

of the play—and the Icke-inspired honesty of the players. While Icke opted for a full-length production, Spengler has streamlined Shakespeare’s longest play by line-count. “This will not be any four-hour production,” she reassured. She’s also thinned the cast to a dozen players.

Even the stage itself is purposefully narrowed. “I knew I wanted this to be on Miller Theatre’s lab stage because I want that smaller size,” she said. “I want to bring the audience close to what’s happening.”

*It’s just you. There’s
no hiding behind
anyone’s preconceived
notion of what his
character should be.*

As unlikely as Spengler’s story may be, we already know how her *Hamlet* ends. The foil is poisoned. To make doubly sure, so’s the cup. Through eight performances over 11 days, Spengler will kill, and she will die.




That last death, set for Sunday, January 27, will be especially bitter.

“The hardest thing about playing Hamlet,” Spengler said, “will be letting go.” She said that with any part you give your full honesty, “You mourn the loss of that person for a while.”

So forgive Spengler if her winter feels a little cold. If you see her after the 27th, remind her: Spring’s coming. It’ll touch Lincoln on its way north. Given patience, that same spring eventually arrives, even in Juneau, Alaska.

Her parents will fly south in May to watch her make one last trip across a Nebraska Wesleyan stage. There, she’ll wield—not a poisoned prop—but her deserved diploma. That same May, Spengler will board a plane and fly north for a quick, Alaskan summer.

In Juneau, she’ll find a familiar stage—her old Theatre in the Rough. There, a couple castle gentries and the friend of a prince will stand watch in the cold. They’ll see a ghost in the night.

They’ll run to tell Hamlet. And she’ll listen again. 

Hamlet

Miller Theatre

January 17-19, 24-26 at 7:30 p.m.

January 20, 27 at 2 p.m.

Tickets

Adults: \$10

Seniors: \$7.50

Students (K-12, college) \$7.50

nebrwesleyan.edu/theatre-tickets

—or—

402.465.2384





Photos by Dan Luedert

Revolution Revisited

A class on 1968 meets the class of 1968.

—By Amanda Broulik

“It’s a very human thing that we don’t pay enough attention to history, and it’s characteristic of youth that it will find its own way,” said **Robert Willoughby Jones** (‘68). “I experienced a great education at NWU. In the end, I wish I had listened more.”

Homecoming weekend gave first-year students in Assistant Professor of Political Science **Kelly Clancy’s** Archway Seminar, “Revolution 1968!” the chance to do that listening as Jones and several classmates reflected on a tumultuous period in American history.

Clancy’s course is built around a central question: “How can the events of (1968) help us understand the turbulence of our world today?” Students and alumni gathered in Cochrane-Woods Library to explore answers through stories, laughter and tears.

“A large group discussion at the beginning established an atmosphere of honest inquiry and trust,” said **Janis (Hays) Brown** (‘68). “That prepared us for break-out groups, which allowed us to examine more intimate issues. The students we met were so engaged and open and eager to learn. We ‘relics’ learned a great deal as well.”

Rene Remillard, husband of **Sharon (Johnson) Remillard** (‘68), talked about returning from Vietnam only to be met by protesters calling him a murderer. He remembered crying on his way home. It was the first time he’d told anyone that.

Pat (Socha) Butt (‘68) talked about her experience in NWU’s exchange program with Lane University, a historically black

It was so much more powerful hearing these real stories about how much fear people lived with.

college in Tennessee. This radical program was born in 1964, the same year the Civil Rights Act sought to end the Jim Crow era. Butt remembered experiencing hate from whites in Tennessee—for being a white woman studying at a black university.

Many alumni shared their memories of the draft.

“We had learned about the draft in class prior to this event,” said **Grant Buchanan** (‘22), “but it was so much more powerful hearing these real stories about how much fear people lived with. I didn’t realize how much of an impact it had on their day-to-day lives.”

Other alumni remembered protesting the war and racial segregation. A few recalled hearing Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy speak. For others, seeing the Vietnam death toll on the news every night remained emblazoned in their minds.

There were also happy memories. Alumni recalled pulling pranks, yearning for dates and falling in love. **Larry Ruth** (‘67) talked about sneaking into the C. C. White Building after hours and proposing to **Pat (Hall)**

Ruth (‘68) in the building’s chapel.

For some young men seeking student deferments from the draft, Nebraska Wesleyan University was a literal refuge. That feeling of protection extended to others on campus as well. Alumni described a sense of family and community on campus that brought students together and helped them feel protected.

Today’s Nebraska Wesleyan students could see themselves and their campus in these stories. They recognized that familial spirit they described—as well as an idealism and energy. That familiarity, they said, is what surprised them most.

Soon, it was time for the students and alumni to return to the present. They shared goodbyes, exchanged contact information and went their separate ways. But the discussions stuck with them.

“We found ourselves talking about the event with our classmates at subsequent reunion events that weekend,” said **Steve** (‘68) and **Prudy (Skelly) (71) Traut**. “We also enjoyed sharing these stories with some of our friends back home, several of whom are also Vietnam veterans.”

Likewise, the students came to class the following week eager to share their discussions and record those memories as oral histories.

“No matter how bad things get in the world, I realized we’ll be OK in 50 years,” Buchanan said. “And we’ll be sharing our experiences with someone else.” **n**

Access these oral histories and students’ reflections at revolution1968.wordpress.com.



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Growing up American

Library exhibition highlights immigrant children.

—By Eric Wendt ('99)

Every once in a while, something old will free itself from a box in the attic. It'll work its way downstairs and maneuver itself, through many hands, into your path. There, that forgotten thing will catch the light a certain way. And that relic from the past will transform the way you see your present day.

Last fall, Cochrane-Woods Library hosted 50 of those attic travelers in an exhibition called "Danish Children Growing up American." The exhibit featured enlarged photos of Danish children going about aspects of their new lives in the U.S. The photos represent just a sliver of the vast collections at the Blair, Neb.-based Danish American Archive and Library Center for Research and Education (DAAL).

When University Librarian **Julie Pinnell** learned about DAAL's exhibit, she knew she wanted to see it come to NWU. "I immediately thought of the Archway Seminars being taught this fall: (Vice President for Student Life) **Sarah Kelen's** 'Becoming American: Immigration and American Identity,' (Head of Electronic Resources and Access Services) **Annie Erdmann's** 'Hygge and Happiness: Life in Nordic Countries,' and (Director of Wesleyan Honors Academy) **Marian Borgmann-Ingwersen's** 'Your Human Journey.'" She thought there would be other professors who'd find connections in their classes as well.

Put Visiting Assistant Professor of History **Christopher Rasmussen** in that category. He teaches "American Immigration History." For him, the exhibit represented a valuable teaching tool on a subject of both historical and immediate relevance.

"These photos are a great entryway into the topic of American immigration because

*The argument is that such
people have forfeited
their rights as parents. ...
And, as a result, you don't
really have families here.*

they're so resonant," Rasmussen said. "You look at these children and you can't help but feel empathy."

That empathy is essential for scholars examining the racist and dehumanizing sides of America's immigration history. Rasmussen pointed to examples like the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the ethnic quota policies of the 1920s and the turning away of Jewish refugees from Germany aboard the MS St. Louis in 1939.

"The racist intentions of U.S. immigration laws have been there from the very start," Rasmussen said.

Rasmussen heard dehumanizing echoes of that history in the defenses of immigrant family separations in 2018. "You'd hear, 'What kind of parent would take their child on such a dangerous journey?'" Rasmussen said. (Never mind that American history brims with such parents, he said. They include, to quote Emma Lazarus' "New Colossus," "your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.")

Rasmussen continued, "The argument is that such people have forfeited their rights as parents—even asylum seekers who have broken no laws. And, as a result, you don't

really have families here."

But, of course, you do.

Media are largely barred from the camps where thousands of separated children have been held. Without independent eyes inside what the government termed "tender age camps," the American public has been left to call upon its own empathy and awareness of immigration's history in this country to fill in the hidden gaps.

That's where archival materials like those in the DAAL exhibit come in. DAAL's website described its traveling exhibition of 50 enlarged historical photographs. "Although the photos depict immigrant Danish children, their experience is universal among all immigrant children, no matter what their nationality."

Entering Cochrane-Woods Library and moving amongst these nearly-life-sized portraits, it was impossible to separate immigrant children as somehow outside America's true story. Such a cognitive separation would detain only our morality, and would require us to turn our backs on entire volumes of the history Americans share.

"I hoped this exhibit might spark new intellectual connections," Pinnell said. "The library's mission is to provide curricular support, enlightened programming and support of self-directed learning. This exhibit and the primary resources that the Danish American Archive gifted the library fit our mission." 📖

While NWU's exhibition ended September 28, you can access the entire collection at the Danish American Archive and Library in Blair, Neb.

Visions and Ventures Symposium Gets Gritty

Nebraska Wesleyan University held its annual Visions and Ventures Symposium on September 25 and 26. Its theme: Stories of Grit and Exploration. The symposium featured three keynote speakers.



ABC News reporter and “20/20” anchor **John Quiñones** described his path from a childhood of poverty and migrant farm work to a major news anchor desk. As host of the hidden-camera ethical dilemma news show, “What Would You Do?” Quiñones has become the face of doing what’s right for millions of viewers.



Trace Lysette stars as Shea, a transgender yoga instructor, on the Golden Globe winning drama, “Transparent.” She is also among the first transgender women to appear in speaking roles as non-transgender characters on primetime television. Lysette spoke about positive and negative influencers in her life as she struggled through her gender transition.



Ashanti Johnson is an oceanographer and superintendent of Cirrus Academy, a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) charter school in Georgia. She couples her research in aquatic radiogeochemistry with a focus on fostering the grit and professional development of young scientists. She’s been honored for her STEM mentorship at the White House and applauded in *Essence Magazine*.

The symposium also featured a series of related campus events, including an active-learning session on skills that promote resilience, an examination of immigration policy and its effect on the immigrant experience, yoga instruction and campus dialogues related to the lectures.



Photos by Allison Woods (20)

Wet or Dry, Vasquez Is Fast



Photo by Chad Greene



It seems just that one of America's top amphibious athletes would compete in the American Rivers Conference (A-R-C). Nebraska Wesleyan's **Andy Vasquez** ('20) is a gifted endurance athlete who performs equally well by land and by water.

On October 13, he struck by land, finishing fourth overall (and second in NCAA III) out of 294 cross country runners at the Jim Drews/UW-Wisconsin La Crosse Invitational, just 18 seconds behind the winner. The effort earned Vasquez A-R-C runner of the week honors.

Then on October 20, Vasquez struck by sea, finishing first in both the 1,000 and 500 freestyles as the Prairie Wolves bested Simpson

College in NWU's 20th straight dual victory. That effort also earned him American Rivers Conference swimmer of the week honors.

At the A-R-C cross country championships in Lincoln's Pioneers Park on October 27, Vasquez shined again, finishing third. He became the program's first All-American since 2007 at the NCAA III Championships, where he finished 19th. He'll swim at the Liberal Arts Championships in mid-February.

In addition to cross country and swimming, the accounting major from Omaha also competes on NWU's indoor and outdoor track & field teams, making him a four-sport student-athlete for the Prairie Wolves. **n**

FALL SPORT SUMMARY

Men's cross country

All-American Andy Vasquez ('20) took first at the Roy Griak Invite, and third at the American Rivers Conference championship, where NWU also finished third. NWU qualified two for nationals.

Women's cross country

NWU dominated the Greeno Invite, where NWU runners finished 1, 2, 4, 6 and

10 to best Chadron State. At the A-R-C championship, NWU bested Wartburg 47-51 for their third-straight crown. Ellie Beiermann ('20) finished 32nd and NWU placed 22nd as a team at nationals.

Football

A 3-7 record can't hide an incredible season by an NWU great. Shaka Taylor ('19) finishes as NWU's leading rusher and

record-holder for career all-purpose yards and touchdowns. Seniors went out winners with a thrilling home win over Buena Vista.

Women's golf

NWU's young roster included seven first-year students. They were led by Peyton Savington ('22), who finished the A-R-C championship in 11th.

NWU Hall of Fame Adds Speed, Strength, Skill

Sportscaster and 2017 Spirit of the Plainsman winner **Dick Janda** served as master of ceremonies for Nebraska Wesleyan University's 2018 Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony on October 6. There, the university inducted six alumni as hall of famers.

Gina (Murphy) Bellar ('90) was a stellar outside hitter on NWU's winningest volleyball team in 1988. Her career digs and service aces rank in the top 10 in NWU history.

Matt Byington ('00) won three national championships in the 800. In 2000, he took the indoor 800 titles in both the NAIA and NCAA III, helping the men take the top spot in the NCAA III power rankings. He added conference titles in the 1,000, indoor 880 and outdoor 800. He holds school records in the indoor 800 and outdoor sprint medley relay.

Kelly Karmazin ('97) is the men's golf program's only Academic All-American and the 1996 Golf Coaches Association Scholar of the Year. He helped NWU finish fifth at the NCAA III championship in 1994. The All-American was NIAC champion in 1997.

Jennifer (Jeffrey) Kirkland ('00) transferred from the University of



Bellar, Karmazin, Olds, Kirkland, Byington, McCallum, Ohles

Photo by Jennifer Heywood ('15)

Oklahoma in 1997 and promptly became the most decorated women's golfer in NWU history. She is the program's only All-American, and finished national runner-up at the 1999 NAIA championship in Palm Beach, Fla. In 1998, she took the NIAC individual and team crowns. That fall season, she placed third or higher in all seven tournaments, winning five of them.

Chris McCallum's ('00) cleat marks crisscross the record books for NWU men's soccer in every offensive category. In each of his three seasons, McCallum was named first-team All-NIAC, putting up top-10 marks in both career and single-season categories for goals, assists and points. His "worst" season for points (1998) ranks 10th in NWU history. Over his career, NWU's record was a scorching 56-5. He finished his senior season 19-0.

Dusten Olds ('98) was one of the most prolific passers in NWU football

history. His 483 career completions rank second, and his career total offensive yardage ranks third. As a senior, he was a first-team All-NIAC quarterback and a second-team Academic All-American. He was inducted into the National Football Foundation's list of national scholar-athletes alongside Peyton Manning in 1997. He also won the A. O. Duer Award as the NAIA's most outstanding student-athlete.

The university's Spirit of the Plainsman Award went to President **Fred Ohles**. Ohles played central parts in Nebraska Wesleyan's moves to become an exclusive NCAA III affiliate and a member of the American Rivers Conference. Under his leadership, the university added programs in wrestling and men's and women's swimming and opened a new athletic practice facility.

He continues to be a consistent face cheering on the Prairie Wolves at athletic events in many sports.

Men's soccer

The men opened hot with a 4-2 start, then dropped five straight. The offense returned in October, and NWU won four out of five. In the A-R-C tournament, they battled Wartburg to a scoreless tie, but were eliminated on penalty kicks to finish 8-8-1.

Women's soccer

NWU won five of their first six with solid

defense. They finished their nonconference slate 6-2. Conference play was the mirror opposite at 2-6.

Women's tennis

The first win for Coach Fungai Tongoona came in unsatisfying fashion with a forfeit win over Simpson. NWU defeated Buena Vista 7-0 the following week. NWU couldn't capitalize on a doubles sweep against Dubuque,

falling 5-4. NWU finished 2-6 but still qualified for this spring's A-R-C tournament.

Volleyball

NWU finished the year 9-16 with a single all-conference player in Kierra Harder ('19). Harder led the team in kills and points. Developing young players will be key for the Prairie Wolves next year, as the current roster boasts just two juniors.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



Photo by Lauren Andres ('21)

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Nebraska Wesleyan University's 2018 financial operations show a strong financial profile with positive operating results. These results coincided with sustained enrollment, expanded community college partnerships and the public launch of the university's Bold Designs campaign.



Our net assets increased 7 percent to \$113 million. We are grateful for continued strong support from donors, corporations and grant-giving institutions. Market conditions were steady with endowment earnings at 6 percent for fiscal end 2018. Financial aid distributions continue to rise, reaching \$25.2 million. Net tuition also increased more than 2 percent to \$27.3 million. Our momentum continues as we focus on student success, enrollment growth and the value of education our students receive.

Steady enrollment

For the third straight year, we welcomed a first-year class of more than 400 traditional undergraduates. Our first-year students came from 19 states. Nebraska Wesleyan continues to see growth in the joint MSN/MBA degree. The MBA program is also strong with NWU alumni comprising 35 percent of the program.

Partnering with community colleges

NWU now has five partnerships with community colleges in Nebraska and Iowa. These partnerships open more doors for community college students to obtain their bachelor's degree at NWU. The program provides a seamless transition from a community college to Nebraska Wesleyan while offering smaller class sizes, personal attention to students and academic excellence. These partnerships strengthen the institutions as well as the community.

Success of Bold Designs campaign

It had been almost a quarter century since Nebraska Wesleyan last conducted a major public fundraising campaign. The \$62 million campaign, which includes Duane W. Acklie Hall of Science, focuses on four fundamental goals: create premier learning spaces, open doors for generations of students through scholarships, recruit and support the best faculty, and advance life-changing student experiences. This campaign impacts every student now and for generations to come.

We continue to generate momentum with Duane W. Acklie Hall of Science, which was completed in December. We look forward to the upcoming year as we open doors to this new academic building. It is exhilarating to see the transformation on campus. We welcome you to visit Nebraska Wesleyan and share in our excitement.

Sincerely,

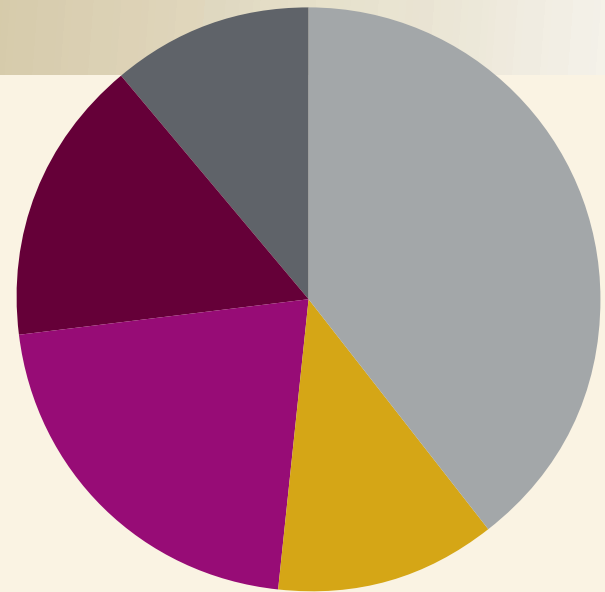
Tish Gade-Jones ('92)

Vice president for finance and administration

▶ STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets

Total Assets	\$138,429,000
Total Liabilities	\$25,317,000
Total Net Assets	\$113,112,000



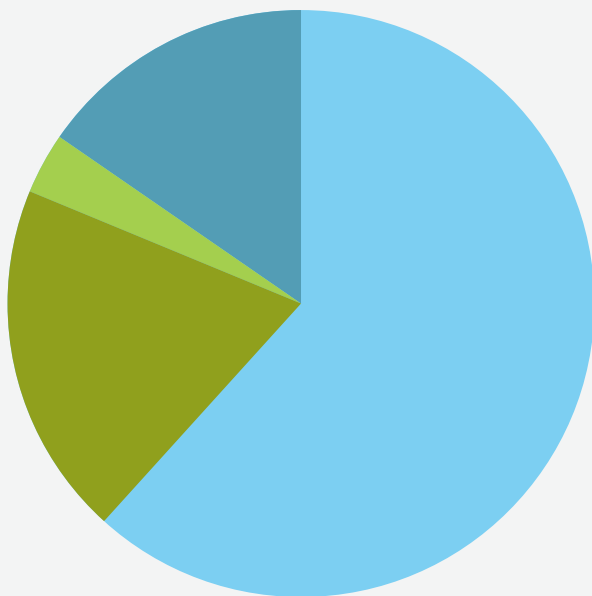
Expenses

Instruction	\$16,522,000
Academic Support	\$4,947,000
Student Services	\$8,607,000
Institutional Support	\$6,489,000
Auxiliary Enterprises & Other	\$4,529,000
Total Expenses	\$41,094,000

▶ STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES 2017-18

Revenues

Tuition and Fees	\$52,480,000
<i>Less: Financial Aid</i>	<i>- \$25,191,000</i>
Net Tuition and Fees	\$27,289,000
Gifts and Grants	+ \$8,878,000
Investment Earnings	+ \$1,398,000
Auxiliary Enterprises & Other	+ \$6,915,000
Total Revenue	\$44,480,000



Change in Assets from Operations	\$3,386,000
Other Changes in Assets	\$4,392,000
Total Change in Assets	\$7,778,000
Net Assets, Beginning of the Year	\$105,334,000
Net Assets, End of the Year	\$113,112,000

Student Pride

Prestige scholars and awards



Photo by Lauren Andres ('21)

NWU Swimmer Is Theta Chi's Top Student-athlete

Theta Chi Fraternity named **Carter Lyons** ('19) the winner of its 2018 James Ralph "Shug" Jordan Award as its top scholar-athlete at its annual convention in Las Vegas, Nev. Lyons is a mathematics and physics double major, a Goldwater scholar and a school record-holding swimmer.

He is the fourth Nebraska Wesleyan student to earn the fraternity's national honor. NWU's previous winners include **Dan Novinski** ('19), **Connor Bohlken** ('16) and **Derek Kay** ('14).

MYSTERY PHOTO

What's in a name?

Can you name the star-crossed lovers in this 1960s production of Romeo and Juliet?

Send your responses to:

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

ALUMNI PAGES

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



Shelley McHugh ('91)

Director of alumni relations
5000 Saint Paul Avenue
Lincoln, NE 68504-2794
smchugh@nebrwesleyan.edu
402.465.2123

Update your contact information,
professional details and more in
our alumni directory at
alumni.nebrwesleyan.edu.

MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED

The Floor Is Yours

We leave it to the Johnson Hall resident counselor to speak for the group.

The Mystery Photos in *Archways* are always fun to look at. This time, I was looking at myself. In the photo on the left, the middle gal is Kay (Bowmaster) Green ('67). And in the righthand photo, on the very right is me, JoEllen Farnik, a junior with all the freshmen. I was a counselor, as they called them then.

—JoEllen (Farnik) Miller ('65)



May 1964



May 1964



Alumni Program Helps Long-distance P-Wolves



For Sydney Ridgeway ('22) of Gering, Neb., Heather Douglas ('98) is another valuable resource in Lincoln.

Nebraska Wesleyan's Prairie Wolves Partners Program is making a real difference for NWU students who travel far to make Lincoln their college home.

The transition to college can be hard for anyone, especially those who are far from home and unfamiliar with life in Lincoln. NWU established its Prairie Wolves Partners Program with these students in mind.

The program matches students who come to Lincoln from outside a 300-mile radius with alumni partners. These longtime Lincoln residents are familiar with the city and can help long-distance Prairie Wolves to hit the ground running.

Need a ride from the airport? Or advice on choosing a local dentist? Want to know where to find good Thai food in Lincoln? Or replace the screen on your smartphone? Your Prairie Wolf partner has your back.

"When you're in a new place, knowing that you have a resource means a lot," said Shelley McHugh ('91), director of alumni relations. "The small things can make a big difference."

Want to help students new to Lincoln? Contact Shelley at smchugh@nebrwesleyan.edu or 402.465.2123 to join the Prairie Wolves Partners Program.

Bring achievement
and well-being
together in your
classroom.

NW
you



Hannah Wid ('18)

2018 Homecoming

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

NWU Homecoming Gives You More.

We call it “homecoming weekend,” but it’s bigger than just a weekend. Nebraska Wesleyan University’s homecoming events this year spanned four very busy days: October 4-7.

We set out to crown a king and queen at the Howl Like Hell pep rally in Knight Field House on Friday night. But we came away with more than expected. Thanks to a tie in the voting, NWU crowned a king and two queens for the first time since 1995. **Evan Marshall** (‘19), an accounting major from Seward, Neb., was crowned king. And **Claire Beshaler** (‘19), a communication studies major from Arnold, Neb.; and **Michaela**

Wells (‘19), a social work major from Lincoln, were named queens.

NWU Theatre likewise delivered more than expected. “The Drowsy Chaperone” comprised a two-for-one deal for audiences by featuring a madcap musical inside a roaring comedy.

NWU Athletics also brought something extra to homecoming this year. In addition to the traditional football and soccer matchups, men’s and women’s swimming faced off against Luther College on Friday and Saturday.

The football team came six points shy of an upset against ranked Central College,

falling 29-35. In soccer, Simpson College thumped the men, 1-4. And the women actually spent homecoming on the road, dropping a 0-1 match with Wartburg.

Coach **Greg Fleming**’s swim teams delivered the Prairie Wolves’ only homecoming victories. The men swept Luther 124-60 and 144-99 over two days, while the women split two competitive meets, 90-85 and 109-130.

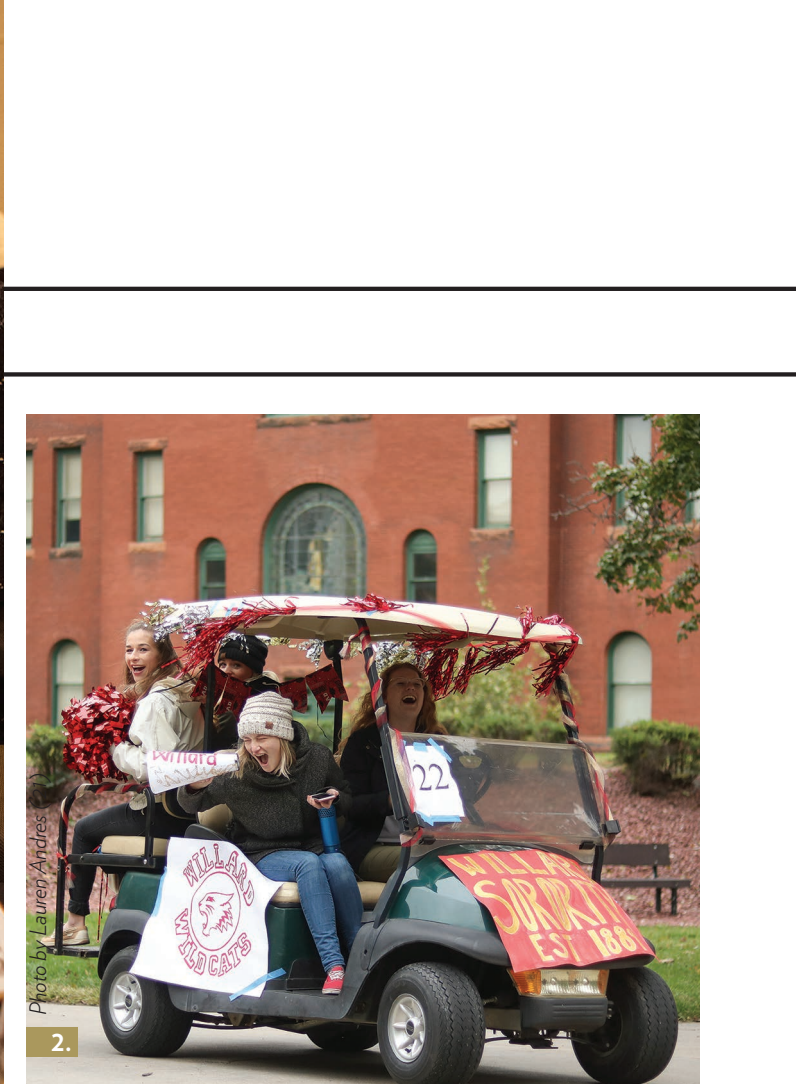
Homecoming featured special anniversary celebrations for Global Service Learning and Mu Phi Epsilon, as well as a popular all-class reunion and a reception for the class of 1968. 🏠



1. Alumni reminisced at the all-class reunions.
2. Rowdiness abounded at the golf cart parade.
3. Prof. **Gerise Herndon** and **Trang Ho Morton** (‘06) helped celebrate GSL’s 20th reunion.
4. Fans cheered the Prairie Wolves.
5. **Braly Keller** (‘20) brought fight to the Howl Like Hell pep rally.
6. **Alex Kruse** (‘19) and **Jake Kittle** (‘19) carried the colors.
7. **Ty Garner** (‘18) put the corn in the hole.
8. Homecoming royalty gathered.
9. The honor class of 1968 received medallions.



Photos by Jennifer Heywood (‘15) unless otherwise indicated





1. Rosemary Ohles and Todd Duncan ('88) shared a laugh.
2. Mu Phi Epsilon alumni and students sang.
3. Good tailgates had good food.
4. Tom Heeren ('89) reconnected with Prof. Emerita of Library and Information Technology Janet Lu.
5. Friends swapped stories.
6. The class of 1968 received special recognition.
7. Students were all smiles at the pep rally.

A Texas-sized Choir Tour

NW you



Nebraska Wesleyan's University Choir heads south—deep in the heart of Texas—for its 2019 tour. Catch them in your area.

January 3
Columbus, Neb.
First United Methodist Church
2710 14th Street

January 4
Wichita, Kan.
West Heights United Methodist Church
745 North Westlink Avenue

January 5, 6
Richardson, Texas
Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church
3901 North Star Road

January 6
Waco, Texas
First United Methodist Church
4901 Cobbs Drive

January 8
San Antonio, Texas
Alamo Heights United Methodist Church
825 East Besse Road

January 9
Richardson, Texas
First Methodist Church
503 North Central Expressway

January 10
Tulsa, Okla.
St. John's Episcopal Church
4200 South Atlanta Place

January 11
Auburn, Neb.
First Presbyterian Church
1322 19th Street

January 13
Lincoln
First Lutheran Church
1551 South 70th Street

NWU's O'Donnell Auditorium
50th and Huntington Avenue

For more information, call [402.465.2269](tel:402.465.2269).



Calendar

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



Photo by Allison Woods ('20)

January 19 Alumni basketball games

Women play at 10 a.m. and men follow at 11. Current teams play Luther at 2 and 4 p.m. The '88 men's Final Four team will be honored at halftime of the 4 p.m. game.

JANUARY

13 Kansas Rising Stars Scholarship Event

Alumni and admissions counselors join prospective students for this recruiting event at Kansas City's Union Station at 4 p.m.

.....

22 Art / Music / Theatre Scholarship Event

Prospective students and families with interests in the fine and performing arts gather in Great Hall at 6 p.m. for this recruiting event.

.....

27 Mile High Achievers Scholarship Event

Broncos Stadium at Mile High is where alumni professionals and admissions counselors join to recruit Denver-area students at 4 p.m.

FEBRUARY

2 Alumni volleyball event

NWU volleyball alumnae join the current team at a 1 p.m. reception on campus.

.....



12 STEM Professions Scholarship Event

Prospective students and families with interests in science, technology, engineering and mathematics gather in Great Hall at 6 p.m. for this recruiting event.

MARCH



21 NWU theatre: Nell Gwynn

It's opening night for this rich drama. Nell is the first woman allowed in King Charles II's company of actors. Her presence—and her performance—become legendary.

.....

30 NWU softball

Conference play opens at home at Seng Park with a 1 p.m. game against Loras College.



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are undergraduate alumni.*



Tarryn Tietjen ('16, MBA '18)

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