

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

# ARCHWAYS

PROVE IT | SPRING 2019 | VOLUME 19, ISSUE 1

PLUS:

NWU  
chooses its  
17<sup>th</sup>  
president.

## Unswayed

Good science  
can move mountains—  
*if it can move  
public opinion.*



## FROM THE PRESIDENT



*The honor that goes with  
having worked here we  
will carry with us always.*

### Dear Alumni and Friends,

When I began this joyous work nearly a dozen years ago, I attended a week-long seminar with 45 other new college presidents. It was designed to familiarize us with the multiple responsibilities that were coming with our new roles.

I clearly recall one presenter's comment: "You've embarked on a sprint and a marathon."

Hearing that, it sounded more than a little exhausting. This work has certainly been busy. And like any good runner, I've needed to make every second count. There have been lots of uplifting moments—much like a runner's high, you could say.

Now, being some 90 days from my finish line in this role, I bid you a fond farewell.

Rosemary and I have enjoyed getting to know many of you. We've treasured hearing from and about many more. We've marveled at your dedication and generosity. All of you know that Nebraska Wesleyan is a special, high-achieving university.

The honor that goes with having worked here we will carry with us always.

I'm certain NWU's quality, reputation and success—so highly regarded for generations—will continue under new leadership. As I shared with the faculty, staff and students in early February, Darrin Good is a brilliant choice for Nebraska Wesleyan's 17th president. Rosemary and I were immediately and deeply impressed by Darrin and his wife, Diana, when we met them. We felt a personal warmth from both of them. We recognized their appreciation for this kind of university here in the heartland.

For me it is immensely satisfying to know that after the busy and important work that remains to do over the next few months, presidential leadership at NWU will be in the most capable hands I could imagine.

Our students cross their own finish lines every four years or so. Yet the institutional track is perpetual. For 131 years now, so many people have devoted themselves to keep NWU strong, healthy, progressing and contributing at a high level to the well-being of our society.

As our mission says, we are dedicated to intellectual and personal development. As our vision states, we see ourselves on a path to becoming an outstanding national liberal arts university. Nebraska Wesleyan has impressive programs for traditional students, for adults and for master's candidates.

It was innovative to launch this institution as a university in 1887. Innovation continues to be a hallmark of NWU today.

Please stay close to this school. Give it all that you can in your own ways, in time, talent and treasure. It's worth each of them. NWU's successes today and tomorrow are reflections of all of you together—your commitments, and your achievements.

A heartfelt thanks from Rosemary and me, to you.

Yours truly,

—Fred Ohles  
President



7



11



24

# CONTENTS

Spring 2019 | Volume 19, Issue 1

## SCIENCE AND HEALTH

### ON THE COVER

#### Unswayed

You won't believe how good we are at disbelieving evidence. ▶13

#### The Great Givers-back

Meet the ferociously caring woman behind NWU nursing. ▶18

#### Introduction to Acklie Hall

A first-class science facility holds its first classes. ▶22

## HOW WE SEE

#### You Had Me at Hello

Research shows that when teachers greet students at the door, they look at schoolwork differently. ▶21

#### Surface Readings

Look beyond the surface of this beautiful campus. ▶26

#### Seeing Shaka Taylor

The greatest running back in NWU history didn't always see himself playing college football. ▶29

## NWU

#### NWUniverse ▶7

#### Art ▶28

#### Sport ▶29

#### Student Pride ▶33

## Departments

#### 2 From the President

#### 4 Letters

## Alumni Pages

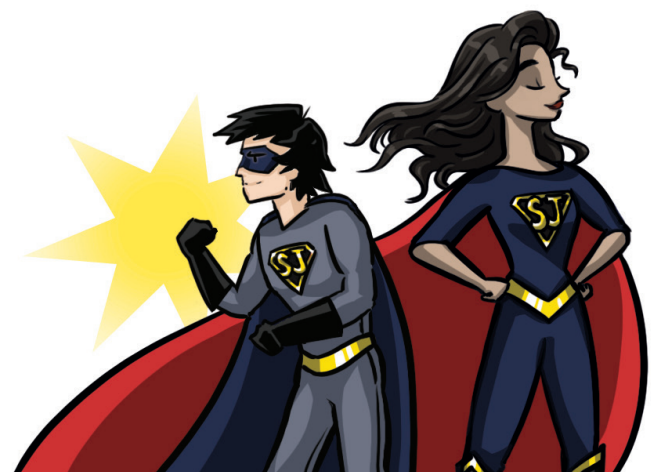
#### 35 Mystery Photo

#### 37 Alumni News

#### 39 Class Notes

#### 47 Calendar

Want to save the world?  
Pack a lunch. And bring a sidekick.  
▶9



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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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# Letters

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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## A Down-to-earth and Caring Couple

Congratulations on the excellent issue of *Archways* focusing on “The Fred Ohles Legacy.”

I’ve known Fred and Rosemary Ohles ever since they came to NWU. They are a truly down-to-earth, caring couple who focus on their mission in bringing the NWU community together and working for the goal of providing an excellent education. They are easy to talk with, they are always patient and willing to listen to others. They are wonderful role models for me, and I’m very glad they will reside in Lincoln after their retirement.

I think it is very nice of NWU to acknowledge the people who love, care and contribute to the excellent education at NWU.

**Janet Lu**

Longmont, Colo.

*Professor Emerita of Library and Instructional Technology*

## Waves of Positivity

Congratulations on producing a fine magazine depicting a great university, Nebraska Wesleyan!

I enjoy reading the magazine each quarter and was especially interested in your winter issue because of the swimming information included. Having been a swimmer in my past life and as a two-time Washington state swimming champion in the early 1950s and having attempted to get Woody Greeno interested in establishing a swimming team in the early 1960s, it was gratifying to note that Nebraska Wesleyan finally established a swimming team.

Thank you for the article, and go Prairie Wolves! (Plainsmen in my era.)

**Lyle A. Gesch ('63)**

Lakewood, Wash.



## So It Goes, Our Story's Never Done

On November 19, 2018, the Nebraska Wesleyan community lost a familiar, notable voice. Retired philosophy professor **John M. Walker** died at 78 of complications of bone marrow cancer. He taught at Nebraska Wesleyan University from 1969 to 2002.

I met John nearly 40 years ago when I was a new professor getting my campus orientation. In the student center, psychology professor **Cliff Fawl** introduced me to a man in T-shirt and shorts, on his way to the gym. Wouldn't I, this philosophy professor and Oklahoma transplant asked, come along and shoot some hoops?

It was the kind of invitation I'd hear John repeat hundreds of times in the coming years—a grinning openness that welcomed all comers, whether the game was basketball, music, an ethics seminar or a backyard potluck.

John and I would become frequent traveling companions, team-teaching partners, Wesleyan Writers Group colleagues and Plainsman tailgaters. We sometimes shared canoes and tents as a part of Professor of English **Bill Kloefkorn's** legendary Loup River Expeditionary Force.

In Old Main, where John taught philosophy and talked ethics, aesthetics and politics, his discussions often came accompanied with a little guitar music. Professor of English **Jim Schaffer's** office was beneath John's. He knew whenever John was up there by the foot tapping out a pleasant beat above his head.

John made a lasting mark on Lincoln's community of musicians. He'd play his hybrid Okie-Nebraska bluesy-folky music in any venue where people gather: house concerts, coffee shops, the Zoo Bar or Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center. He played with, and supported, anyone who wanted to make authentic, local music. And they often got his legendary gumbo or fruit cobbler as a part of the deal.

Music, food, teaching, basketball—for John these were all means of connecting with the people around him. The song, the meal, the lesson, the game: they never really stopped. They paused, reemerged, and continued to flow, the connections deepening with each return.

On the basketball court, he and I were old men guarded by 18-year-olds. When I'd head fake, he'd cut. I knew where Baseline Johnnie was headed. And he knew the ball would be waiting for him there. Connection often bested youth.

It is a beautiful thing, knowing where your brother is headed. John called it church, and described it like this in his 2012 book, *What the Hoops Junkie Saw*:

"Maybe we will all get in a flow that takes us outside ourselves. Somebody knows without looking that a teammate is going to make a break for the hoop and gets him the ball with a bounce pass through two defenders and the shooter lays it in with a grace that seems drawn from some celestial artist's canvas.... Everybody smiles, just happy to be there."

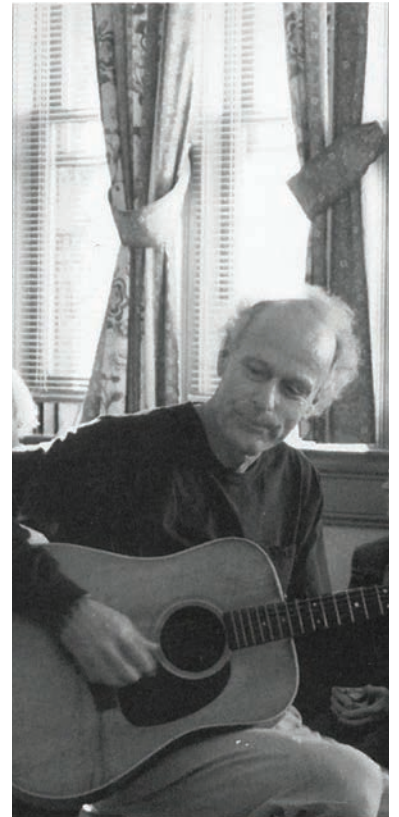
John Walker was, as his friend Terry Keefe said, totally absorbed in life. This transplanted Okie found a home in Nebraska, writing and singing in loving terms about the people and the land of his adopted state. He said it best in his lovely composition, "Nebraska Skies."

So hold me here when I have fears of dying,  
of changing things and some unknown tomorrow.  
Hold me where Nebraska skies around me  
will tell my soul your story's never done.  
Oh so it goes, our story's never done.

### Ken Keith

Omaha

*Professor Emeritus of Psychology Ken Keith taught at NWU from 1980 to 1999.*



A celebration of Walker's life will be held at 2 p.m. on June 29 at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln.

# The Rudder and Soul

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

*On January 18, 2019, the university held a small celebration to mark the opening of Duane W. Acklie Hall of Science. Attendees included members of Nebraska Wesleyan's Board of Governors and the construction project's major donors.*

*Among the speakers at this small event was the daughter of Phyllis and the late Duane Acklie, Dr. **Laura Acklie Schumacher** ('78). She led a prayer with those gathered.*

*We share Acklie Schumacher's prayer here so more members of the Nebraska Wesleyan community might join in it.*



*Left to right: Holly (Acklie) Ostergard,  
Halley (Ostergard) Kruse,  
Laura Acklie Schumacher ('78),  
Jeff Schumacher*

Dear Heavenly Father,

Our hearts and minds are filled with thanksgiving for this lovely new building now teeming with infinite possibilities for future generations.

It has come to fruition due to the collaboration of some unselfish and unsung people who, as your servants, saw the greater good was bigger than themselves. We marvel at their dedication and are gratified for their vision and perseverance for this worthy cause.

How fitting, Dear God, that the spacious windows of this new building look out to First United Methodist Church and onto Old Main. Good science will always need the rudder and soul of God looking over its shoulder and the building blocks from old knowledge to create new intellect. God, bless the busy minds of students who will pass through these doors filled with the hopes and dreams of their youth. May this building foster a haven for hospitality, growth and understanding and be a cogwheel for helping them master themselves and their life's work.

To professors and staff: God's blessings as you settle into the daily ebb and flow of four-year cycles of molding and shaping future scientists, leaders and health professionals.

Our world depends on learned people like you to teach science with the ideals of truth, freedom, integrity, ethics and charity.

To the men and women whose hands, feet, brains, grit and creativity built this mighty structure: We thank you, God, for their masterpiece. It is so much more than bricks and mortar. It is opportunity, potential and change. Our world is hungering for new ways to care for its people and care for the earth. Help our building be a part of fresh, new ideas and opportunities for those endeavors.

In closing, Dear God, our hearts are brimming with gratitude as we celebrate this new chapter at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Look kindly on every task that will happen behind these sturdy walls of learning, the click of every computer keyboard, the sweep of every broom, the peering of every eye into a microscope and the swirling of every beaker and test tube. May the modern technology of tomorrow always find a seamless fit with God's humanity.

And as the rain falls lightly on its lofty roof, the sun shines warmly through its expansive windows and the winds blow softly through its new trees, may this building be a place of eternal optimism for every person who enters its doors and lives in your mighty world of creation.

Amen.

**Laura Acklie Schumacher ('78)**  
Lincoln

## NWU Names Darrin Good Its 17th President

The Nebraska Wesleyan University Board of Governors announced the appointment of **Darrin Good** as the university's 17th president on February 4. Good is vice president of academic affairs and dean of the faculty at Whittier College near Los Angeles, Calif. Like Nebraska Wesleyan, Whittier College is an independent liberal arts institution founded in 1887.

He follows **Fred Ohles**, who is retiring after 12 years as Nebraska Wesleyan University's president.

"Good is an accomplished professor and leader in higher education," said **Susan Gourley**, chair of Nebraska Wesleyan's Board of Governors. "He is known for his commitment to consensus building and shared governance. And he is a true champion of diversity, equity and inclusion."

The move from LA to Lincoln will bring Good closer to his Midwestern roots. Good has previously served as an associate provost and dean at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn., and taught biology at his alma mater, Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill. He holds a PhD in biology from the University of Kansas.

"The news of Darrin Good's appointment makes me all the more excited for Nebraska Wesleyan University's future," said Ohles. "It warms me to think of the welcome he and his wife, Diana, will continue to receive from this special community. Rosemary and I will do all we can to make their transition into this important work as smooth and effective as possible."

Good will assume the presidency on July 1, 2019. Our summer issue will feature an in-depth look at Darrin and **Diana Good** and their path to Nebraska Wesleyan University.



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*"The news of Darrin Good's appointment makes me all the more excited for Nebraska Wesleyan University's future."*

—Fred Ohles



# NWU Nurses Take Top Honors

The awards keep coming for NWU nurses. In 2017, the March of Dimes honored three NWU nurses at its Nebraska Nurse of the Year Awards ceremony. They included Associate Professor of Nursing **Sue (Mohr) Gabriel** (MFS '03, MSN '05), **Sydney Wergin** ('18) and **Cassie (Ehrisman) Newton** ('07, BSN '18).

That momentum carried into November 2018. That's when **Katie Noble** ('19) was named a March of Dimes Nebraska Student Nurse of the Year. That same month, the Nebraska Action Coalition also named Assistant Professor of Nursing **Jamie Hilderbrand** (MSN '07) a 40 Under 40 Emerging Nurse winner.

"I always make sure my students know how much I love nursing and what they can do to be a nursing leader in school and after graduation," Hilderbrand said. "I truly believe that fostering future nursing leaders begins on the first day of nursing school."

**THE FINAL:** NWU's nursing program continues to produce award-winning students, nurses and educators.



Jamie Hilderbrand



Katie Noble

**Do you want to grow within one of the most important career fields on Earth?** NWU offers these nursing programs in Lincoln and Omaha.

- > Four-year prelicensure BSN (Lincoln only)
- > RN to BSN
- > MSN
- > Nebraska's only MSN/MBA
- > MSN to MBA Bridge

## David Whitt Named Exemplary Teacher

He's known for his love of mythology and comic books, but his passion for teaching is no myth and no joke.

**Dave Whitt**, professor of communication studies, has been named the United Methodist Church Division of Higher Education 2019 Exemplary Teacher. The award honors a professor who excels in teaching and is committed to value-centered education.

"Dave is well organized yet flexible, creative, personable and funny," said one student nominator. "The combination creates a trust where students feel comfortable taking chances and making mistakes."

In his 27 years at NWU, Whitt has taught public speaking, mass media, persuasion and speaking in the professions.

**THE FINAL:** The United Methodist Church's Exemplary Teaching Award is part of a relationship that goes all the way back to Nebraska Wesleyan's founding.

Whitt often takes his courses beyond the NWU classroom, creating opportunities for students to work with Dawes Middle School students to improve their public speaking.

"Prof. Whitt is an excellent professor, always reading, learning and pushing himself to enhance student learning," said another nominator.

"It is easy to see how deeply he cares about his students," said another nominator. "His door is always wide open."



David Whitt

Photo by Allison Woods (20)

## Rita Lester Is NWU's Faculty Mentor of the Year

Back in April 2018, NWU's top teaching honor went to a "rookie" professor. Rev. **Jonathan Redding**, visiting assistant professor of religion, was the first person to ever receive the Margaret J. Prouty Faculty Teaching Award in his first year at NWU.

Then in December, the university honored the veteran **Rita Lester** professor who helped make Redding's early success possible. Professor of Religion **Rita Lester** was named Nebraska Wesleyan's Faculty Mentor of the Year.

"My first year here went better than I could have ever hoped," Redding said, "and it was in large part due to Prof. Lester's wisdom, kindness and expertise as a mentor."

The Faculty Mentor of the Year Award honors professors for fostering colleagues' professional growth.

In her 20 years at Nebraska Wesleyan, Lester has also won the Prouty Teaching Award and the Carnegie Nebraska Professor of the Year Award. One nominator for the mentor award applauded Lester for never resting on her laurels.

"(Since those teaching awards), Prof. Lester has continued to improve her teaching and help interested colleagues to do the same," said this nominator.



Rita Lester

Photo by Lauren Andres (21)

### CAMPAIGN CONNECTION:

Bold Designs supports faculty development efforts in order to attract, develop and retain the very best teachers at NWU.



# Career Center Assembles an All-pro Spring

Kim Afrank has made a career out of helping NWU students launch careers. She and her colleagues in the Career Center assembled several events this semester to help students spot and seize exciting job opportunities.

Career counseling is no longer something that exists outside the classroom experience at NWU. "These events have been used to meet learning objectives, offer extra credit, incorporate a professional development activity, or build in a shared experience," Afrank said.

Here's a quick look at career events from this semester.

## Dress the part

On the evening of January 27, NWU students, faculty and staff received 40 percent off professional attire at JCPenney.

## A working dinner

On February 17, interested NWU students received a five-course meal and a seminar on business dining etiquette.

## Backpack to Briefcase

The Career Center's top event brought more than 40 employers to campus on February 28 to connect with 129 job and internship seekers.

## Interview prep

On March 26, students learned what to expect, what to wear and how to prepare for job interviews.

## Mock interviews

NWU's April 17 mock interviews will let students hone their skills with employers from the community.

## Internship showcase

On April 30, underclassmen will learn from their peers about a variety of internship experiences.



# Social Action Figures

Grant helps NWU students join the fight for social justice.

Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties is a non-profit with a mission to empower people living in poverty. A new grant gives Community Action a powerful sidekick in this work: Nebraska Wesleyan University.

The \$19,000 grant from the Cooper Foundation gives NWU students service learning options with Community Action. These opportunities for involvement are part of NWU's "Justice Thread," which explores social justice issues from different academic perspectives.

Tara Gregg, NWU's director of sponsored programs and foundation relations, applauded the Cooper Foundation grant for "offering students deeper engagement with the course content and providing meaningful support to Community Action Partnership."

Students in Assistant Professor of Political Science Kelly Clancy's course, "Justice: An Introductory Experience," will devote service hours to several Community Action programs including supportive housing, Early Head Start and financial well-being.

# What's in a 10-block Walk?

A new grant takes middle schoolers on a life-changing journey.

A campus visit shouldn't be a big deal. It's just a walk. A conversation or two with NWU professors and current students. Maybe lunch in the dining hall.

But our admissions counselors have seen it hundreds of times. A high school senior visits NWU, and the way she thinks about her entire future changes. Suddenly, pie-in-the-sky dreams don't seem so pie-in-the-sky. With the right teachers and classmates and coaches behind you, you can do big things.

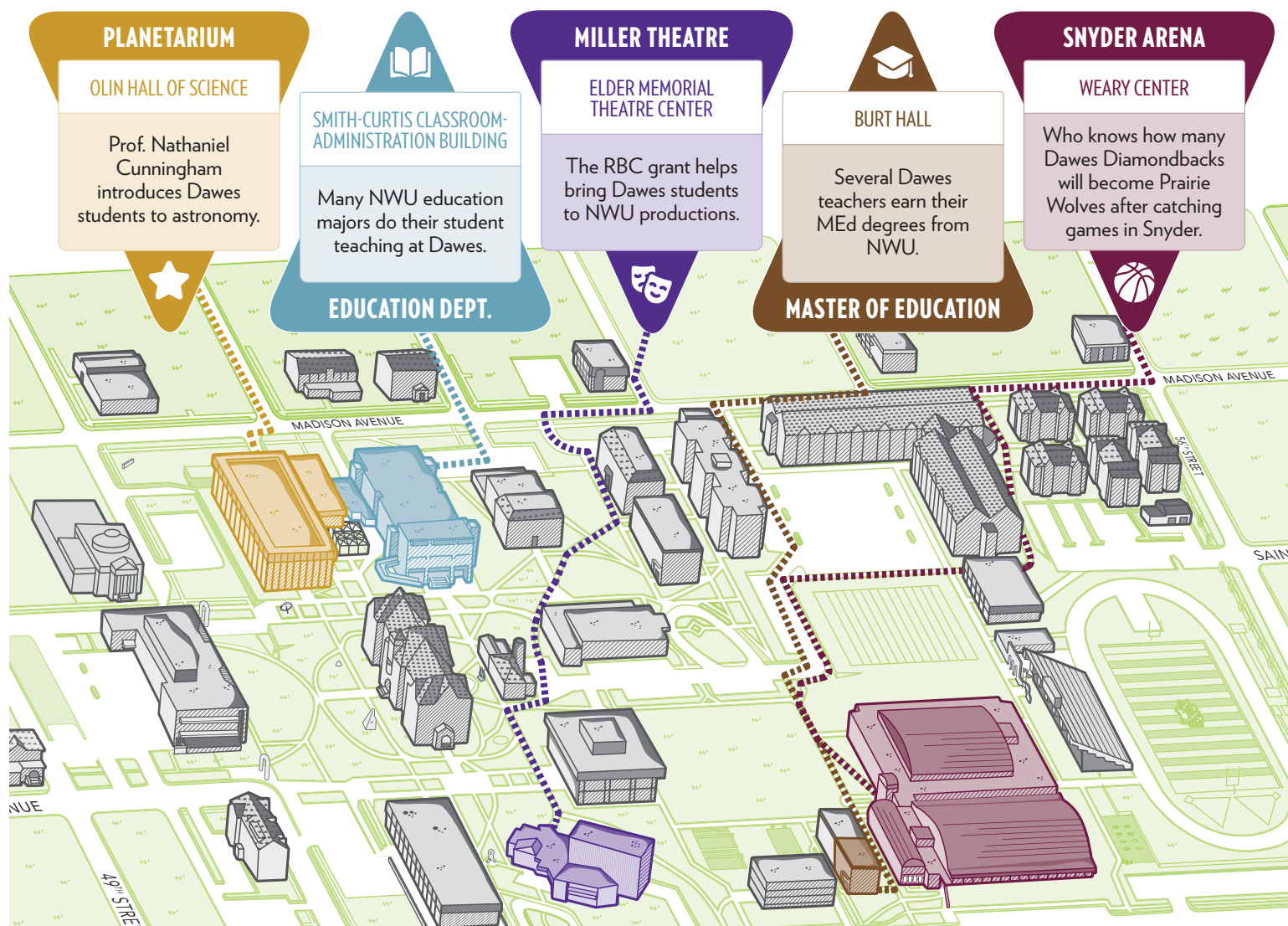
If a visit to Nebraska Wesleyan can widen the eyes of high school seniors, imagine what it might do for a kid in middle school.

A grant from RBC Wealth Management imagines exactly that. And it creates opportunities for Lincoln children at Dawes Middle School to see Nebraska Wesleyan for themselves. The \$3,000 initiative helps Dawes Diamondbacks make the 10-block trip south to NWU for academic enrichment events, planetarium demonstrations and theatre productions.

The goal is to connect Dawes students to the Nebraska Wesleyan community, give them positive experiences and help them picture a future for themselves that includes an outstanding college education.

## Campus Connections

Dawes Middle School and NWU have connections all over campus.







## Service Learning Group Heads to Puerto Rico

Nebraska Wesleyan University's award-winning Global Service Learning (GSL) student group selected San Juan, Puerto Rico, for its international service trip last December.

Katie Noble (19) of Grand Island, Neb., said she and her GSL colleagues "had the opportunity to reconstruct houses damaged from Hurricane Maria, interview residents and experience Puerto Rico's unique culture."

GSL is America's first student-led international service-learning group, and plays a meaningful part in the university's emphasis on experience-based learning, service and international study.



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# Unswayed

Good science holds unbelievable power—*when it's believed.*

—By Eric Wendt ('99)

The relationship between science and belief is ... *complicated*.

In some ways, our beliefs about science are irrelevant. Facts are facts. And the makeup of Neptune's atmosphere, say, or the biome hidden within a hyena's bowel, doesn't need to care what we believe about it. It just is.

Scientists themselves are often ambivalent about belief. Tell a scientist, "I don't believe you," and she'll likely respond: "I wouldn't either. That's why I made my experiment replicable. If I'm off, I'll be eager to learn where and by how much."

In other words, scientists are comfortable

with scientific skepticism. But not all skepticism is scientific. And when the public's distrust of evidence is rooted in pseudoscience, or political tribalism, or anti-intellectualism, or "fake news," the consequences can be quite real.

What we believe about science often impacts our behavior, our health and our public policy. And pseudoscience can warp those beliefs from two directions: It can give a veneer of credibility to the false. It can also strip credibility away from the true.

"Because pseudoscience typically tries to pass for science, filtering out the genuine from the counterfeit can be tricky," Tania Lombrozo, a psychology professor at the University of California Berkeley, wrote for

13.7, NPR's science blog. "And yet doing so effectively can affect the quality of our public and private decisions."

Do we believe immunizations increase or decrease the risk of disease? Do we think genetically modified organisms threaten the food supply or expand it? Do we accept that our energy use can alter the course of our changing climate?

The answers offered by sound science have the potential to improve—or even save—millions of lives. But what if we don't believe?

## Testing beliefs

Lindsey Jones ('13) contends science has a bit of a communication problem.

Jones is a biogenetic researcher fresh off her PhD from the University of California San Francisco. There, the NWU biology major studied brain tumor genomics, creating fresh cell lines from patients' extracted tumors. Her research team used these cell lines to explore the effects of different cancer therapies.

In Jones's work, steps forward often became tangled with steps sideways and backward. Jones described examining how cancer cells responded to a new type of chemotherapy associated with milder side effects.

Chemotherapy is essentially the controlled application of a poison that's slightly more devastating to cancer cells than it is to healthy tissue. Doctors dose that poison at a rate high enough to kill a tumor but not so high as to kill the patient. It's an effective but grueling strategy.

Jones found it exciting to think about attacking a tumor with a different approach that might make patients less sick. You can imagine her wanting to believe in the efficacy of a more merciful drug. That belief, however, needed testing.

Using tumor cell lines Jones established, she and her lab colleagues discovered that this promising chemotherapy was unfortunately associated with higher rates of hypermutated gliomas. A glioma is a tumor within the glia—the tissue that connects neurons in the brain. A hypermutated glioma is one where mutations occur with abnormal frequency. (Any glioma is bad. But a hypermutated glioma is typically more

---

*In a culture with a  
growing anti-intellectual  
bend, wishy washiness  
equals weakness.*

aggressive and harder to stop.)

For Jones, it was another example in an endless stack of scientific "yes, buts." Yes, the new chemotherapy could make patients feel less ill. But it could also turn their tumors into something deadlier.

Given this reality, it's little wonder that scientists develop the habit of checking their statements. They draw limits on what they know. George Eliot wrote that "the very breath of science is a contest with mistake." So the speaking scientist weighs each breath to stay in that contest.

Here lies science's communication challenge. "This habit of continuously attenuating everything you say gets boring and confusing," Jones said. "It's difficult not to sound wishy washy." And in a culture with a growing anti-intellectual bend, wishy washiness equals weakness.

*All that fancy education, and are you really sure of anything, Dr. Jones? Why should we believe a word you say when it hardly sounds like you trust any of it yourself?*

Part of Jones would enjoy dismantling each anti-science argument she finds online—the rickety claims of climate deniers, anti-vaxers and such. But to what end? Her scientific inclination to measure each breath

kicks in.

"I really struggle personally with how to combat this anti-intellectualism without turning people away forever," Jones said. Because what good does winning an argument do if she loses the person?

## **A wiser way**

Jones believes there's a better way to engage the public with science. She's building her career on it.

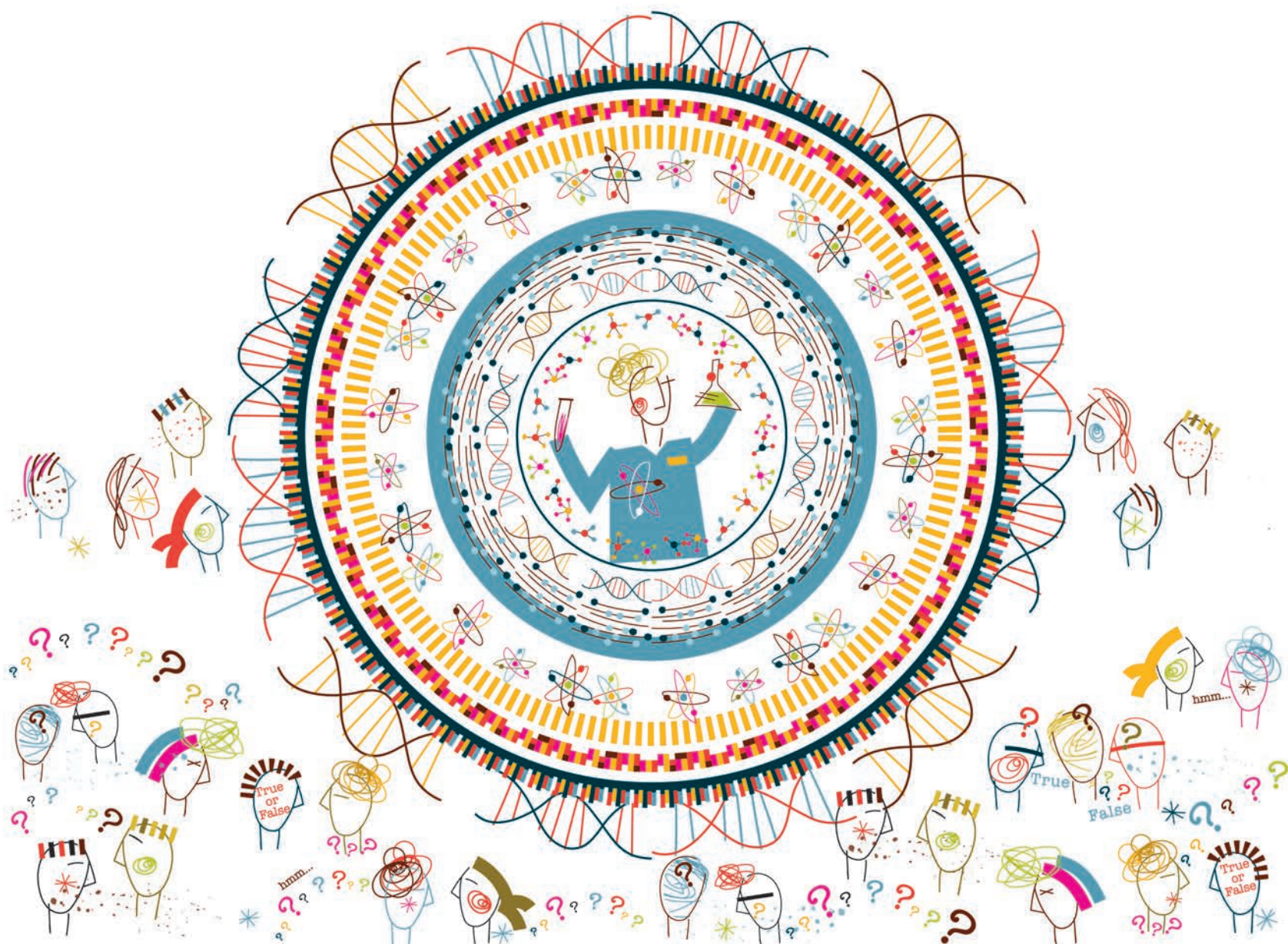
Jones is a scientific content specialist at Color Genomics, a new San Francisco Bay area biotech company with a personal genetic test kit. Send in a saliva sample, and Color will produce a thorough gene analysis geared for either medical or personal use.

"There's the clinically actionable testing where we can determine your risk of developing certain hereditary cancers," Jones said. She also described cases where a patient's genetic makeup can guide treatment decisions.

"Then there are the non-clinical trait reports—the 'fun side' of genetic testing," Jones said. "That's where I work."

She called those trait reports "a great way for the general public to enter the science of genomics and learn more about what our genes can or can't say about us."

**Bette Olson** ('73) is a former NWU registrar and career counselor as well as a Jones family friend. She called Jones "a true liberal arts graduate (who) has combined her biosciences background, her written and oral communication skills and her passion for



helping others into a career path that never before existed.”

Olson said, “Her primary interest is communicating research in a manner that an ordinary human being can understand. Her job is to ... take the complexity of DNA sequencing and communicate it to the wider public.”

Put another way: Jones is tackling science’s communication problem head-on.

“People assume your DNA is completely prescriptive,” Jones said. “I want to help people understand it’s subtler than that. And what we observe—our phenotype—is the result of our genes in combination with our environment and our behaviors within that environment.”

Her trait reports do more than make the science accessible; they make scientific knowledge desirable. Would the general public dive into a journal publication about the latest developments in DNA sequencing? Maybe not. But will they read a report catered to help them understand their own genetic traits? Enthusiastically, yes.

“We come to people where they are,” Jones said. “And I love sharing why this science matters.”

## A whirlwind of factors

Simply by “coming to people where they are,” Jones has made herself a rare bird in science. “With the huge exception of

teachers,” she said, “very few positions in science and research are truly public-facing. And there’s really nothing in the academy that rewards you for sharing science information with the general public.”

The current within the scientific community moves in the opposite direction. “We prioritize and reward an incredibly narrow focus,” Jones said. Scientists are encouraged to specialize. And as their focus narrows, so does their audience. As a result, scientists don’t necessarily develop the ability to communicate ideas outside their silo of expertise.

“Those are skills that don’t come naturally to many scientists,” she said.

So, why do they come naturally to Jones?





"I hadn't really reflected on that before you reached out," she said. "But I employed those skills a lot at Nebraska Wesleyan." As a New Student Orientation leader, Jones was responsible for connecting with incoming students from all backgrounds. She made it her job to help them forge relationships with each other. And as vice president of Student Affairs Senate, she represented students in every discipline. "It's just not possible to do well in those roles if you stay in your silos."

Professor of Psychology **Marilyn Petro** pointed to the role Nebraska Wesleyan's writing-intensive curriculum plays in shaping communicative scientists. "Writing-instructive and speaking-instructive courses are scaffolded into the requirements for a psychology major," she said. "That way, when our majors arrive at their senior research and capstone experiences, they've already spent several semesters building the skills they need" to communicate well about their scientific work. That's true across the sciences at NWU.

Jones credited influential teachers like Professor Emeritus of Biology **Garry Duncan** and Professor of Biology **Jerry Bricker** for challenging her to look at problems from many perspectives. That combination of Nebraska Wesleyan's interdisciplinary curriculum, life-changing experiences and outstanding professors molds a different kind of scientist—one who can do the advanced

*When we're less able  
to distinguish fact  
from abundant fiction,  
we become less  
trustful of legitimate  
science reporting.*

work and articulate to anyone exactly why that work is important.

When Jones looks at the problem of public distrust in sound science, she sees a whirlwind of complex factors in play. She points out at the public. She also points in at the scientific community.

Our public schools have struggled to fund science programming, she said. And pseudoscience has thrived on the internet. As a result, Jones said, the public's science literacy has dipped. When we're less able to distinguish fact from abundant fiction, we become less trustful of legitimate science reporting.

A 2018 study by the Pew Research Center supports Jones's conclusions. It showed that while more than two-thirds of Americans get news via social media, "a majority (57 percent) say they expect the news they see there to be largely inaccurate."

We've become less literate—and more distrustful.

Meanwhile, an insular scientific community hasn't built the communication skills it needs to stop the bleeding.

We can focus on the public's need to embrace solid science. Or we can focus on science's need for better communicators. Either way, Jones's wisdom holds. "We need to come to people where they are." And the need is imperative.

Look at the nastiest problems our world faces. A changing climate is supercharging storms, lifting seas and stretching fire

## Spotting Pseudoscience

The boundaries between science and pseudoscience are blurrier than we'd like to think. "To identify pseudoscience, we can't just evaluate whether some definition does or doesn't apply," Tania Lombrozo of UC Berkeley said. "Instead, we consult a checklist of warning signs, symptoms that science has gone wrong."

> Does it rely on an individual's authority as a guide to what's true?

> Is it willing to test its claims or revise them in light of new data?

> Does it rely on experiments that have since failed to replicate?

We can apply these same metrics, Jones said, to our beliefs. "Be open to learning, open to challenge. Seek multiple sources, multiple experts."

seasons. We have billions upon billions of people to feed. And the same economies that lift us out of hunger are themselves hungry for energy that must come from somewhere.

We are powerless against these challenges without science. And science is just as powerless to help us—if we lack the wherewithal to come to the evidence, believe what's worthy and act with wisdom. **n**





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

### *What are endowed funds?*

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

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

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







## *Feel what it means to “live nursing comprehensively.”*

—By Eric Wendt ('99)

Charlotte Liggett didn't like the look of her mother's big toe. But a sore toe might have ranked as the least of Rosemary Hartter's worries. She'd had serious heart conditions since her late 80s, including mitral valve prolapse and aortic stenosis.

"Because of her age and her belief that God was in control," Liggett explained, "she chose not to have any procedure done to correct the condition." She opted instead to stay as active as she could—even mowing for her hometown's cemetery past her 92nd birthday—and let things run their natural course.

Then, as she grew weaker, Rosemary achieved a rare distinction. She became a seasoned hospice veteran. She received care at Charlotte's sister's home in Eureka, Ill. And her heart kept working. At 93, she was more than a year older than her cardiologist thought possible.

Now her toe had a complaint? Well, it would just have to get in line and wait its turn.

Still, Liggett shook her head as she adjusted the blanket over her mother's feet. What had begun as a little thing—maybe a scratch, a pressure sore or a hangnail—had grown into a bit of an infection. A grumpy, red little thing, and her daughter didn't like the look of it.

Nor did her hospice nurses. It looked uncomfortable, yes. And the nurses cared about Rosemary's comfort. But, given her fragility, it also looked ominous, like a spark dancing near a fuse.

They examined her toe and saw the phantom dominoes biology had set up in a row on her foot, running along her leg and up toward her organs. They looked at her sore and thought: *sepsis*.

Liggett liked the recognition she saw on the nurses' faces. To a nurse, sepsis is a fighting word. And Liggett felt reassured watching nurses gearing up to fight (again) for her mother.

While Liggett drew comfort from the nurses' presence, there's a chance Liggett made those same nurses more than a little nervous. You see, Liggett is kind of a big deal.

Over her long career, the chair of Nebraska Wesleyan University's Department of Nursing has "covered the waterfront" of the profession. She crisscrossed Indiana and Michigan in a variety of

# The Great Givers- back

Prof. Liggett has experienced both the weight and the uplift of caregiving.

clinical positions at hospitals through the 1970s, working her way into administrative and managerial roles in the 1980s, then executive roles in the 2000s and 2010s. She holds an MSN and an MBA. She is a former vice president of nursing at CHI Health St. Elizabeth and vice president of strategy for Catholic Health Initiatives-Nebraska.

Standing 5'2" "on a good day," Liggett can be a bulldog when she chooses. She recalled butting heads with an egotistical neurosurgeon who had a history of mistreating nurses. Liggett had finally had it.

"I talked him into the wall." One more unkind word in their direction, she said, "and I won't allow any nurse of mine to work with you." By "nurse of mine," Liggett meant any of the hospital's 400 nurses.

"I don't know how you'll operate, but it won't be here," she said. Liggett wasn't exactly sure how she'd follow through on this promise, only that she would.

If Liggett's loyalty to her staff ran that hot, it's anyone's guess how she might react to a mistake with her mother. The homecare nurses at Rosemary's bedside were determined not to find out.

Liggett smiled, not at her power to intimidate, but at the memory of those nurses' performance.

"They did right by my mother," she said.

So did Liggett. She'd taken family medical leave from NWU in December 2016 to provide whatever help she could in Eureka. "I lived in the home with my sister and mom," she recalled. "I'd come back to Lincoln for short periods, three to five days, to take care of personal business and teach hybrid classes here."

Even with an understanding employer, the strain of juggling demands was immense for Liggett. She called on her faith. "It is only because of God's strength and mercy that I could provide care to my mother and continue to teach at NWU," she said.

It was beyond anyone's power to cure her mother. But, working together, the family and nurses could do what was best for her well-being. Oral and intravenous antibiotics are mighty weapons,

## *It's About Family.*

"Balancing work and family caregiving taught me a lot," Prof. Liggett said. "Here are a few things I learned."

- > Caring for our loved ones can be difficult, but it can also bring great joy.
- > It's important to keep yourself active—mentally, physically and spiritually.
- > Take advantage of your time with your loved one to learn more about them and gain wisdom.
- > Watching a loved one slip away is difficult, but it allows you to begin grieving, and eventually helps you move on.
- > Serious situations don't mean we can't laugh at ourselves or lighten the mood, both for your loved one and other caregivers.
- > Be compassionate.
- > Accept help—and meals—from others.
- > Stay connected to your friends, even if they're far away, through phone calls, email and social media.

but their reach is only as good as the patient's circulation. Was blood flow to Rosemary's extremities strong enough to deliver adequate medicine to the tip of her toe? They hedged their bets with a simple antibiotic salve.

We're not lauding the salving of an elderly woman's toe as a brilliant medical move. It was a small catch—the kind of routine play a good nurse might help make many times in a day. But it interrupted that string of dominoes that threatened Rosemary's well-being. It helped her.

To Liggett, the people who helped her mother through those last months were serving God. "My mother believed strongly in Matthew 25:40, 'In as much as you have done it unto the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me.' She taught me to live my life the same way."

Liggett recalled her mother's caregivers as she sat at a small table at University Place's MoJava coffeehouse. She warmed her hands around a wide cup, its surface a swirl of cream and coffee.

"My mother died with a healthy big toe," she said. "I'm very proud of that."

Liggett knows her way around both a bedpan and a boardroom. She brings a wealth of clinical, managerial and executive experiences with her into Nebraska Wesleyan classrooms.

"Nursing has been changing by leaps and bounds since 2010," she said, referring to the year Congress passed the Affordable Care Act. "And it's not slowing down."

More than 40 years into her nursing career, you might expect Liggett to talk about rapid change with a sense of exasperation (as in: Get me off this crazy rollercoaster). But Liggett's attitude in that coffeeshop was exactly the opposite.

Our health care system needs big changes, she said. So let's get moving and make them. She's convinced that well-trained nurses, like the ones studying today at Nebraska Wesleyan University, are

## NWU Nursing OPEN HOUSES

Drop by to meet faculty and explore NWU's convenient, customized and career-oriented BSN, MSN and MSN/MBA programs.

### Omaha

June 4, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., 14010 FNB Parkway, 7th floor

### Lincoln

June 5, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Acklie Hall of Science

ideally suited to lead these revolutionary changes.

"We're the ones whose training and work are the most holistic," she said. "It's nurses who touch every aspect of a person's well-being." She ticked them off on her fingers and thumb. "The physical, spiritual, psychological, mental, social."

She sipped her coffee and said, "We're the ones who understand all the systems that relate to wellness and high functionality. We're the ones trained to collaborate with the widest range of people. We work with the physicians. And the occupational therapists. And the social workers. The psychologists. The family. Even the cafeteria staff to suit people's nutritional needs."

At this point in our interview, the nursing professor broke character to do something remarkably in character. "Hold on," she said.

Liggett set down her cup, stood and slid with surprising quickness to another table behind me. I turned from my notepad and noticed for the first time a lone older gentleman with a cane. He'd brought his own cushion to the coffeehouse, a square of foam padding encased in a deer hunter's drab camouflage. He'd placed it on his wooden chair and was trying to lower himself onto it. But the seat cushion kept sliding out. With one hand on his cane, a slippery cushion and an uncooperative hip, the man found himself in a bit of a spot.

"Can I hold that for you?" Liggett said of the cushion she already held. She righted it on his chair and put her other hand, polite but firm, on his shoulder blade. And she guided him safely down.

"There."

Just as deftly, she turned and brought herself back to our table.

## Big Numbers. Big Responsibilities.

At more than 3 million, nurses are the largest segment of the American health care workforce. They also face some of the largest demands.

### The BSN expectation

Nine years ago, half of nurses had bachelor's degrees. Next year, 80 percent will.

### The MSN distinction

Only 13 percent of nurses today have master's degrees. And they're positioned to seize emerging career opportunities.

### The nursing leader

When nurses lead as full partners with mutual respect and collaboration ...

- > Teamwork and patient outcomes improve.
- > Costs and medical errors drop.
- > Nurses' job satisfaction climbs.

Source: *National Academy of Sciences, 2018*

"I'm sorry," she told me. "Maybe I'm obtrusive, but I can't help it. He was having some trouble."

Then she picked back up as if no break in our conversation had occurred. "The advantage we have in nursing is this incredibly broad spectrum we work in," she said. "I believe we're best suited to change this system for the better because we're the ones who live it the most comprehensively."

I thought about that—about what it means to "live nursing comprehensively"—and realized I was being shown as much as told over coffee, two blocks from campus. Nursing is about systems and data and coordination of care. It is also about watchful eyes, seat cushions and an open palm warm against a sinking shoulder blade.

Our conversation wagged from there between the professional and the personal. We talked about dignity at the end of life. Her mother's toe. My father: a once-strong man who died last spring, more or less of a poked elbow. (Sepsis and

those phantom dominoes ...)

I described to her what I'd seen with my father. We called aging and disease the great takers of human dignity. And nurses, we agreed, are the great givers-back.

To most of us, dignity is an abstraction; it's something we comprehend conceptually, like heaven or goodness. But to Liggett—and to nurses of every stripe—dignity is also visceral. It can spill out from us, or be taken, like an appendix.

Another person's dignity is something nurses learn to both revere and reject. What nurses do for a living, we agreed over our cooling coffee, is they take that dignity that spills out of us. They lift it up. And they give it back. 🙏



# You Had Me at Hello

When teachers greet students at the door, improvements follow them inside.

If a middle school teacher wants to curb disruptive classroom behavior, a study published last year in the *Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions* has advice. Saying, “Hey, how ya doing?” may be wildly more effective than “Hey, knock it off!”

The study involved an investigation of what it called “the Positive Greetings at the Door (PGD) strategy” in middle schools. The study’s authors wrote, “Results revealed that the PGD strategy produced significant improvements in academic engaged time and reductions in disruptive behavior.”

Youki Terada of the George Lucas Educational Foundation described PGD’s logic this way: “Spending a few moments welcoming students promotes a sense of belonging, giving them social and emotional support that helps them feel invested in their learning.”

Offering two-dozen individualized greetings at the door


versus a single one to the entire class may feel like an inefficient use of time. But it’s one that the study’s authors said pays off. “Teachers who spend time on the front end [greeting students at the door] ... will eventually save more time on the back end ... reacting to problem behavior,” they said.

“Greeting students at the door is one strategy that fits with a larger philosophy of positive psychology that we explore in our program,” said Tanya Martin, director of Nebraska Wesleyan University’s Master of Education program in curriculum and instruction. “That philosophy,” she said, “is based on teachers building strong relationships individually with their students.”

Angela Plugge embraces this positive psychology model as principal of Dawes Middle School in Lincoln. That’s why she encourages her teachers to pursue their Master of Education at Nebraska Wesleyan

University, calling it “a comprehensive program to develop master teachers.”

“Teachers enrolled in NWU’s program engage their students with confidence, intention and passion,” Plugge said. As a result, she said, “Students are learning more. I hear them talking more, engaged in more complicated learning tasks and doing more challenging things in the classroom. Even more exciting, our students are meeting the challenge. They’re reading, writing and talking more in their classes than I have seen before.”

Plugge is convinced that the learning that happens at NWU has transformed the learning that happens at Dawes. “Dawes Middle School is a special place,” Plugge said. “And Nebraska Wesleyan has helped us build and sustain this culture.” 

## The Teacher as Researcher

*In NWU’s Master of Education in curriculum and instruction, each teacher designs research to tackle challenges they face in their own classrooms. They’re paired with a research coach—an experienced researcher with a doctoral degree who helps them refine their projects to get the most useful results.*



Apply today to NWU’s MEd program and receive a scholarship worth \$40 per credit hour. Classes start in June. [nebrwesleyan.edu/MEd](http://nebrwesleyan.edu/MEd)





Photos by Geoff Johnson unless otherwise noted







# Introduction to Acklie Hall

A first-class science facility held its first classes in January.

For so long, Duane W. Acklie Hall of Science was no heavier than an idea. As more people gathered behind it, that idea drew weight. Construction turned that concept into something tangible. The building took shape, and excitement centered on its heaviest aspects: brick, mortar, steel.

But as ironworkers wielded and welded steel beams, Professor of Chemistry Jodi Ryter ('90) kept her focus on the lighter elements. She gave heaviest thought to how the building would soon handle air.

Proper air handling is crucial to the research and hands-on learning that happens in Nebraska Wesleyan's experience-rich Department of Chemistry. The ventilation needs of Ryter's department is precisely why the chemistry labs stand on the new facility's top floor. It's easiest and safest to ventilate potentially dangerous fumes up and out when those experiments are run on the floor nearest the roof.

Ryter appreciates other aspects of the building's airiness. Acklie Hall's spacious classrooms and labs, she said, are designed to suit a teaching model where students "learn, turn and do." It's about removing the walls separating classroom instruction from the practical application of that learning.

"And we're thrilled to have WINDOWS and LIGHT," she said in an email, her caps lock button conveying something of her glee. "The view of Old Main is very grand," she said. But Ryter is even more excited about the view students have looking in on the new laboratories.

"We've worked hard to design (a facility that puts) science on display," Ryter said. When students in the hallways have views into the labs, she said, they can see their peers involved in experiments at the bench or using instrumentation. They get a literal window into what they can accomplish, too.

With a new view of what's possible in science, success builds on success. And something as light as an idea gathers impressive weight. 🏠

## *You're Invited.*

Acklie Hall of Science is even more impressive in person. Join us for the building's official dedication at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 1.



Photo by Chad Greene

# *How Will We* Finish?

*The Campaign for Nebraska Wesleyan University enters the final stretch.*

Bold Designs, our first major campaign in a quarter century, has focused on four fundamental goals to advance NWU as a leading liberal arts university.

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

Thousands of you have jumped on board, and the impact of this campaign is already taking shape around us. As we turn into the final stretch, we're counting on you to help us finish strong. This is our moment. Let's show what we're made of.

If you haven't already, we invite you to join us and be part of something bold.

***Please make your gift by May 31.***

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Hawk at [mhawk@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:mhawk@nebrwesleyan.edu) or 402.465.2124.  
[nebrwesleyan.edu/giving](http://nebrwesleyan.edu/giving)

## **EVERY GIFT MATTERS!**

Over the course of the campaign, 10,918 donors made gifts of \$100 or less, totaling over \$1.5 million.



Photo by Danny Reise

*"From new weightlifting equipment and a new athletic practice facility to the addition of wrestling and swimming programs, we've recently seen some impactful investments in NWU Athletics. Hiring more coaches is the clear next step. Several committed donors have gotten the ball rolling. With further help from alumni and friends, that momentum is sure to pick up speed."*

—Dale Wellman, NWU men's basketball coach



## ACKLIE HALL OF SCIENCE

The Duane W. Acklie Hall of Science opened for students in January. Thanks to alumni and friends, we surpassed our \$27million goal, raising \$28,637,574.



## O'DONNELL AUDITORIUM

Thanks to a gift from Liana Sandin ('81) and the Pearle Francis Finigan Foundation, a new LED lighting system has been installed in O'Donnell Auditorium.

Totals as of March 1, 2019

## GROWING THE ENDOWMENT

Dollars raised for endowment: \$8,655,106

Goal: \$9 million

### SCHOLARSHIPS



\$17,331,346 current

\$18 million goal

### ARCHWAY FUND

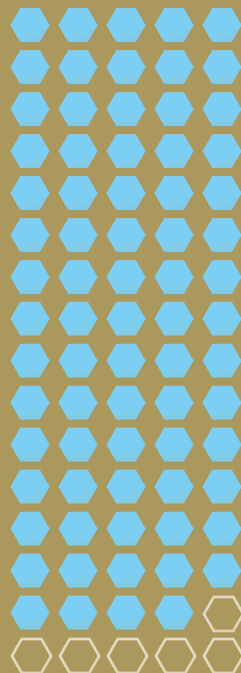
Alumni giving over the course of the campaign

\$811,263  
2012-2013

\$1,079,527  
2017-2018

The Archway Fund supports every goal of Bold Designs, and every year it is essential to the day-to-day operations of the university.

### ENDOWED FUNDS



74 new fully  
endowed funds

Goal: 80

### FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

The Fred and Rosemary Ohles Faculty Professional Development Endowment was established by Judith ('69) and Keith ('69) Maurer and has raised \$655,475. This fund provides an opportunity to support NWU faculty while honoring Fred and Rosemary Ohles' service to Nebraska Wesleyan.

### SERVICE LEARNING

An endowment for service learning has been established. As a newly endowed fund, it will live in perpetuity and can accept gifts of any size. This fund will help students apply classroom knowledge to the surrounding community, allow faculty to expand curriculum and connect campus to more agencies in need.



# Surface Readings

GET A  
DIFFERENT  
FEEL FOR  
CAMPUS.

Nebraska Wesleyan taught you to look closely.  
So we took a zoom lens around campus to do exactly that.





## ROUGH CORNERS

Old Main was built 132 years ago with stone formed more than 300 million years before that. (Talk about old ...) The Colorado red sandstone gets its warm color the same way an old Ford does: through rust. The porous nature of the stone allows its iron content to oxidize into this distinctive red.



## THE MONDO AT GREENO

The mottled, grippy substance called Mondo is known as the fastest surface in track & field. It's also one of the kindest on runners' feet. On their tracks, Mondo claims, "athlete contact with the surface is minimized, foot stability is enhanced, and movement efficiency is maximized with significant improvement in athletic comfort and performance."

Just so much Mondo mumbo jumbo, you say? Tell it to the twins, Elizabeth ('19) and Kaylee ('19) Jones, and their combined 12 NCAA III national championships.



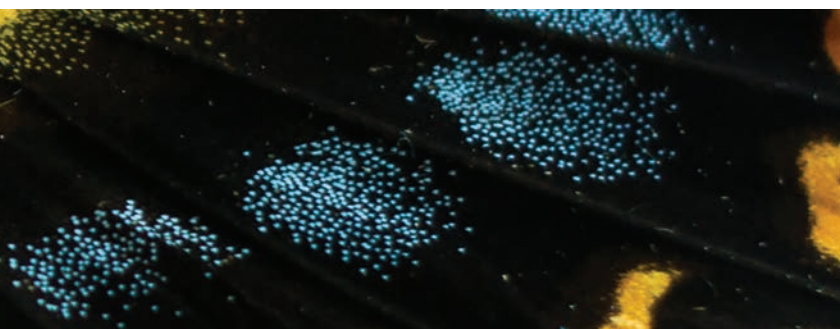
## TIP OF THE CAP

Starting in 1926 and carrying into the 30s, first-year students wore beanies like this one during "Freshman Week." The earliest green beanies were replaced in later years by yellow and brown caps. This green original lives on in the university's archives.



## WOODWORK WITH A HISTORY

The construction of Duane W. Acklie Hall of Science involved removing a number of mature ash and oak trees. This towering installation running through the building's center makes use of this harvested wood.



## ON THE WING

This Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (*papilio glaucus*) is from the Biology Department's expansive Lepidoptera collection. The colorful specimen made the short flight from Olin Hall to Acklie Hall of Science with thousands of its closest friends in December. With a little luck, biology students will soon have ample opportunities to study Eastern Tiger Swallowtails in live action. Professor of Biology Jerry Bricker consulted on new plantings near Acklie Hall with the goal of attracting more native insects and pollinators to campus.

Photos by Allison Woods ('20)



# An Abundance of Talent

New grant dials up theatre students' professional access.

In theatre, talent attracts talent. So many gifted performers are drawn to Broadway, for instance, because that's where you find so many gifted performers.

A similar magnetism comes into play at Nebraska Wesleyan University. Here, ambitious faculty have set the pace for a volume of production that few undergraduate programs in the country can match. As a result, NWU Theatre has developed a national reach for especially driven theatre students. Students majoring in theatre are one of the most geographically diverse groups on campus. And NWU is where they find the greatest abundance of opportunities to perform.

"When I visited NWU, they told me, 'We prepare you to make a living in theatre,'" said Julia (Cottingham)Wilkinson ('17) of Shorewood, Wisc. "That's all I wanted—to make my living doing what I love. Now I'm a working singer and actress based in New York. I'm doing what I was well trained to do and seeing the world in the process."

Nebraska Wesleyan produces more than 40 shows annually. BFA students work in an average of six of those shows each

year—meaning they graduate with two dozen NWU productions on their resume.

That speaks to quantity of experience. But how does NWU Theatre match that quantity with quality? Again, the answer involves talent.

Theatre students benefit artistically from daily interactions with their professors and classmates. The university expands this talent pool by regularly bringing in guest artists who stretch students in new directions.

A new \$17,800 grant from the Pace Woods Foundation is advancing that effort. The grant program brought guest choreographers to campus to work with students on a pair of popular musicals this year: *Mamma Mia!* (pictured at right) and *Xanadu*.

"What makes NWU so unique is how students work side by side with NYC cutting-edge industry professionals on full productions," said Hollie Howard, a Broadway performer and choreographer who has served as an NWU guest artist on multiple productions. "If you want to understand what to do, how to do it, where to go, who to know—NWU is the place for you."

She said, "I believe in this program. If I




Photo by Dan Luedert

were 18 again, I would attend NWU."

Q Smith, another Broadway performer who visited in 2017, lauded the vocational value of Nebraska Wesleyan's guest artist program. "It's an absolute must that students see the real business of show business," she said. "NWU students get that great education in a healthy environment where the artists come to them."

The Pace Woods Foundation grant also supported work in the opposite direction—by taking NWU students to the artists. Over spring break, NWU theatre students traveled to New York City, where they engaged in one-on-one coaching with theatre professionals and talent agents.

It's another example of the kind of experience that attracts talent. 

## W-CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Support  
NWU Athletics**

by doing what you love.



**JUNE 3, 2019**

Hillcrest Country Club in Lincoln

**36-TEAM 4-PERSON SCRAMBLE**

11 a.m. check-in and lunch, noon start, dinner to follow

For registration and sponsorship information, contact Dale Wellman at [dwellman@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:dwellman@nebrwesleyan.edu) or register at [nwusports.com/wclubgolf](http://nwusports.com/wclubgolf).



# Seeing Shaka Taylor

To see the field, NWU's most elusive back had to change the way he saw himself.

—By Alex Linden ('03) and Eric Wendt ('99)

The hardest thing to coach in a running back is vision. Coach **Brian Keller** ('83) knows it's a process preparing backs to see the hole as it opens. To "see" when they must be patient behind their blockers or slash ahead and improvise.

Some backs arrive with great vision. Most don't.

You might guess **Shaka Taylor** ('19)—the young man who would become arguably the greatest running back in NWU history—had it from the start. He didn't.

In fact, Taylor finished high school with an unusual vision problem for Keller to solve. Today, he's NWU's all-time leading rusher. But the summer after his graduation from Lutheran High Northeast in Norfolk, Neb., Taylor didn't even see himself as a college football player. His vision was to play community college basketball.

But first, one last football game: the 2014 Nebraska Shrine Bowl. This all-star football game for high school seniors dates back to 1958 and raises money for Shriners Hospitals for Children. Teams practice at Nebraska Wesleyan, giving Keller an up-close look.

"It only took a practice or two and you could tell (Taylor) would fit into what we like to do," Keller said. The two spoke, and Taylor's vision shifted.

"I wasn't ready to be done with football," Taylor said. He would come to Nebraska Wesleyan and play both football and basketball.

He saw the field often his first year. Not so much, the basketball court. (He played a total of one minute in three games for NWU, taking one shot, a miss.) He decided to concentrate exclusively on football.

## WINTER SPORT SUMMARY

### Women's basketball

There's a foundation being built in NWU women's basketball. NWU's seven conference wins are its most since 2006. **Caitlin Navratil** ('20), a junior guard from Littleton, Colo., broke the school record for points in a season. The first-team all-conference player returns to lead a squad determined to improve upon this year's 12-14 record.

### Men's basketball

NWU followed their 2018 NCAA III national championship with the greatest regular season in school history at 24-1. They repeated as A-R-C regular season and tournament champions and entered the national tournament ranked first in the nation. NWU fell in the second round to St. Thomas. **Ryan Garver** (right) was the A-R-C MVP and NCAA III leader in assists. **Dale Wellman** was named A-R-C coach of the year. Watch for more basketball coverage in our summer issue.



Photo by doublephotography





Photos by Chris Smithberg

That focus paid off. By 2015, Taylor was a versatile threat rushing, receiving and returning. He averaged 110.9 all-purpose yards per game and was an honorable mention all-conference player.

A knee injury erased his 2016 season, shifting his focus to his rehab and teammates. His bonds with them fueled his drive to come back stronger in 2017.

He ran with abandon on that rehabilitated knee, playing through an elbow injury that put a huge brace on his left arm for most of the season. Even one-armed, he was a first-team All-IIAC back and a 1,000-yard rusher. His 188.4 all-purpose yards per game ranked eighth in NCAA III.

Taylor could've ended his career on that note and allowed his body to heal. But the brotherhood he'd formed with his teammates—including a corps of 23 returning seniors—was something he couldn't leave.

He took a medical redshirt for his lost 2016 season. And he returned for 2018 to rewrite records with his friends. "Everyone dreams of breaking records," Taylor said, "but when you have a group of guys like my teammates here at NWU, it means more."

He exploded again in 2018, repeating as a 1,000-yard rusher and a first-team American Rivers Conference selection. He rushed, received and even threw for scores. His 29 career touchdowns broke a school record set a dozen years before his birth. And his 2,771 yards eclipsed Roy Jacobson's ('03) career rushing record.

"What I'll take from this experience is all the friendships I was able to make," Taylor said. "Records are nice. But the people I accomplished this with mean more to me—especially this last year's group of seniors."

It wasn't just Taylor's vision that changed over his time here. With that wild hair, Walter Payton's number and those Eric Dickerson goggles, Shaka Taylor changed our vision of what a Nebraska Wesleyan running back can be.

His head coach put it this way: "I don't know if there's been a better offensive weapon in school history." 🏈

Coach Keller will have new help recruiting football record-breakers. *Caleb Barnes* is NWU's new full-time assistant football coach with a main focus on recruiting. He spent the last five seasons with Luther College.

## Swimming

The men posted the most dominant season in school history, finishing 7-1 in dual meets, then won the Midland Invite. They also took the school's first-ever overall victory at the national Liberal Arts Championships, where **Carter Lyons** ('19) was named male swimmer of the meet. **Greg Flemming** was named men's coach of the meet. While not

an NCAA III championship, this is the top national swim meet for schools of our type.

The women also took a meaningful step forward, posting their first wins in two seasons. They showed much promise in several close losses as well, finishing 2-6 in duals. They were fifth out of 11 at the Liberal Arts Championships and took second at the Midland Invite.



Photo by Lane Hickenbottom

## Five for the Ages

Look back on Shaka Taylor's top five football performances.

### 5. October 20, 2018 vs. Luther

*A 26-yard run makes Taylor NWU's all-time leading rusher.*

- > 25 carries, 127 yards, 1 TD
- > 7 catches, 68 yards

### 4. November 3, 2018 vs. Buena Vista

*Taylor sets NWU's rushing TD record and adds a TD reception.*

- > 22 carries, 126 yards, 1 TD
- > 6 catches, 52 yards, 1 TD

### 3. October 13, 2018 at Loras

*Taylor tops 200 yards with a 62-yard TD run.*

- > 22 carries, 210 yards, 1 TD
- > 7 catches, 54 yards

### 2. September 30, 2017 vs. Loras

*Taylor scores a football hat trick.*

- > 29 carries, 135 yards, 1 TD
- > 5 catches, 46 yards, 1 TD
- > 1-1 passing, 30 yards, 1 TD

### 1. November 4, 2017 vs. Simpson

*Taylor scampers for a 78-yard score on his way to career bests in rushing and receiving, earning NCAA III Player of the Week honors.*

- > 30 carries, 230 yards, 1 TD
- > 9 catches, 134 yards, 2 TDs

# When Winners Face Loss

NWU professor eyes student-athlete grief.

The court, the field, the track, the mat, the pool—these are the places where student-athletes often feel the most alive. When dealing with the death of someone dear to them, student-athletes often turn to these same places for a sense of normalcy. They want back into “the zone” of high athletic performance.

Sometimes, grieving athletes find that zone of emotional release closed off.

The University of North Texas Center for Sport Psychology published in an essay, “During the process of grieving, athletes’ physical, cognitive and emotional states can all be affected. Performances may be sluggish, mental mistakes may be more frequent, and ... athletes may be more susceptible to injury as they cope with the stress of this loss.”

When a student-athlete's identity is entwined with athletic performance, the drop in play can become another loss to grieve. Complicating matters is the social pressure athletes feel to “play through pain.” What happens when they can't?

Professor of Social Work **Lisa Borchardt** ('92) understands the pressures that student-athletes feel. She played basketball for NWU in 1989. Today, she studies the needs of grieving student-athletes. And her Nebraska Wesleyan University colleagues are impressed with her research. In November, she won the 2018 NWU Faculty Scholarship Presentation Award for her work, “Loss in NCAA Division III Sports: A Photovoice Narrative of Loss and Grief in the Lives of Student-athletes at Nebraska Wesleyan University.”

1 in 3

A third of NWU students are NCAA III athletes.

And a third of U.S. college students have lost a friend or loved one in the last two years.

## CAMPAIGN CONNECTION:

Awards like this combine with Bold Designs efforts to support faculty professional development at NWU.

## Wrestling

The Prairie Wolves are building a tradition. NWU posted its best regular-season record in its three-year contemporary history. **Eron Haynes** ('22) of Omaha became NWU's first NCAA III qualifier, reaching in the 125-pound division. The first-year wrestler placed eighth in Roanoke, Va., to become NWU's first wrestling All-American.

## Track & field

NWU women's track & field remains a nationally powerful program. They won their second A-R-C crown in three years, propelled by victories in the 4x400 and 4x800 relays. At the NCAA III indoor championships in Boston, NWU finished fifth as a team. **Anna Frazier** ('20), **Kaylee Jones** ('19), **Aspen Rolfes** ('22) and **Elizabeth Jones** ('19) took a sixth-straight NCAA III title in the 4x400. In individual events, **Elizabeth Jones** (3rd, 400m) and **Dayton Dolincheck** ('21) (2nd, shotput) achieved All-America status.

NWU's men were also highly competitive with a team victory at the Grinnell Invitational and a third-place finish at the A-R-C indoor championships. And **Trent Koehler** ('21) earned his third All-American finish by placing fifth in the long jump.





# Change the Game

NWU Athletics has seen enormous success since joining the American Rivers Conference (formerly the IIAC). Underneath that success lies a persistent challenge in funding for full-time assistant coaches.

Our Bold Designs campaign endows funds so NWU can hire more full-time assistant coaches to recruit and mentor quality student-athletes.

**Game Changers** is an exclusive group of donors whose individual support of NWU Athletics exceeds \$10,000. This generous group is helping to build our coaching staff and strengthen our teams.

NWU is grateful for these Game Changers who are impacting the future of NWU Athletics.

Kevin ('86) and Julie (Vermeer) ('88) Cook | men's basketball | Overland Park, Kan.

P. R. ('70) and Betty Farmer | men's golf and football | Geneva, Neb.

Dana ('86) and Cindy (Shudak) ('94) Janssen | men's basketball | Lincoln

Steve Joekel ('75) | men's basketball | Omaha

Randy Larsen ('85) | men's basketball | Overland Park, Kan.

Steve ('71) and Robin (Scheidies) ('72) McKelvey | strength and conditioning | Lincoln

Scott ('89) and Susy (Martin) ('90) Miller | men's basketball | Lincoln

Kent Payne ('85) | men's basketball | Aurora, Colo.

Don Peterson ('90) | football | Overland Park, Kan.

Mark ('85) and Chele (Haessler) ('86) Peterson | football | Omaha

Lee Richardson ('75) | track & field | Omaha

Brian ('91) and Julie Salmon | football | Bennington, Neb.

Jeff ('91) and Arlene Sieck | football | Columbus, Neb.

Larry ('61) and Sheryl Snyder | men's basketball | Lincoln

Bart Stitzel ('88) | football | Windermere, Fla.

Dr. Pat Sweeney ('89) | football | Plano, Texas

Dr. Tom White ('86) | football | Omaha

Contact Susy Miller at 402.465.2188 or [smiller4@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:smiller4@nebrwesleyan.edu) to learn more about becoming an **NWU Game Changer**.



NEBRASKA  
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# Student Pride

Prestige scholars and awards



Photo by Lauren Andres ('21)

## Ukrainian Heads to Germany Via NWU

Vladislav Blazhievskiy ('20) of Lincoln is Nebraska Wesleyan University's 49th winner of the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. He is using the scholarship to spend the spring semester at Nebraska Wesleyan's newest sister school: Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (KU) in Eichstätt, Germany.

"Germany is appreciative of migration, language learning and intercultural communication," Blazhievskiy said, crediting the Gilman Scholarship for "(allowing) me to learn the German language at the highest level."

For Blazhievskiy, an international business major and German minor who immigrated to Lincoln from Ukraine as a sixth grader, the scholarship represents an attractive business opportunity. "I want to comprehend (Germany's) intercultural and economic success in recent years."

Following his graduation from NWU, he plans to apply his German language skills in international finance and banking.



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## MYSTERY PHOTO



### Band— the final frontier.

Spock and a police officer hit all the right notes at Abel Stadium. Can you beam up their identities?

**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  
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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).

## Now We Know Our Juliet and Romeo.

A great many of you came forward to name NWU's star-crossed lovers.

I can definitely name the star-crossed lovers. They are Mary (Miller) Moore ('68) and me, John Carter. (OMG ... We look so young!)

—**John A. Carter** ('68)

Mary Miller and John Carter are the subjects of the latest *Archways* mystery photo. The picture was taken in the spring of 1967. Ironically, I had played the father to Mary's Helen Keller in Omaha Benson High's "The Miracle Worker"; in Wesleyan's "Romeo and Juliet" (in which Jack Parkhurst and I were also cast) I played Capulet—her father again. The production was mounted by Henry and Phyllis Blanke.

Mary married Craig Moore ('67); they have two sons (the elder of whom took my Masterpieces course). Mary holds a master's degree in theatre from TCU, where she directed Shaw's "Dark Lady of the Sonnets"—a play about Shakespeare. After living on both coasts for many years, the Moores retired to Omaha.

Thanks very much for publishing this photo. Mary Miller Moore is a woman of courage and one of the great alumni of our theatre program.

—**Roger Cognard** ('67),  
professor emeritus of English

I don't know who the young lady is, but I believe the gentleman is John Carter, a very dear friend from high school and college.

—**Dorothy Peterson Vaughn** ('67)

The photo is of John Carter as Romeo and Mary Miller as Juliet in the Nebraska Wesleyan production of "Romeo and Juliet," which was directed by Henry Blanke. I played Mercutio.

—**Chuck Danskin** ('67)

I am not certain who the Romeo actor is, but I am pretty certain the Juliet actress is Mary Miller. Am I correct?

—**Janet (Sharer) Claassen** ('70)

The two are Mary Miller and John Carter. They were often playing opposite each other in Enid Miller Theatre productions.

—**Kathy Rice** ('69)

The two pictured in the Mystery Photo are Phi Tau member John Carter and my good friend and Willard Sorority sister Mary Miller Moore. They were both in many plays during their four years at Nebraska Wesleyan and were always outstanding in the roles they played. Mary, John and I all graduated in 1968.

—**Jerri Reher Haussler** ('68)

Clever use of a quote from "Romeo and Juliet" to draw attention to the Mystery Photo, Mr. Editor! Their "roses" by their other names are Mary Miller and John Carter. Their performances did "smell as sweet" in this show as in numerous other roles they both interpreted on the Enid Miller Theatre stage in the mid 1960s.

Thanks for the Mystery Photo feature as well as the other fine articles and information in each *Archways* issue!

—**Janis Hays Brown** ('68)

John Carter and Mary Miller are the thespians in the photo. Mary was a Willard and John a Phi Tau.

—**Dorothy (Lynch) Mazur** ('69)

That is Mary Miller and John Carter from "Romeo and Juliet" in 1967.

—**Lynne (Bentley) Baller** ('69)



What a joy to open my *Archways* to see this beautiful photo of great and longtime friend John Carter as Romeo and Mary Miller as Juliet in the spring 1967 production. I had begun my freshman year fall '66 as a vocal music major. Auditioning for "The Sound of Music" that fall introduced me to Prof. Blanke and the Theatre Department. As a member of the nun's chorus I began to meet the upper-class theatre students. I was soon hooked, changing my major to theatre spring of the following year.

This "Romeo and Juliet" made quite an impression on me. I became a staunch member of the theatre cohort with many productions as actor, director, production staff and four-year veteran actor and costume staff of Brownsville Village Theatre 1969-1972. Upon graduation from NWU '71, I attended the University of Texas receiving my MFA in costume design and directing in 1974.

After two years at Wayne State, Detroit, and 15 years at University of Florida, I moved to Virginia as head of design and



# Alumni News

have now served as professor of drama and costume at the University of Virginia from 1990 to the present.

After 45 years of teaching and professional design work, I credit the performances of John and Mary as the “hook” that set my career in motion.

Thank you for selecting this lovely photo as the “Mystery” and sending me back through so many, many memories.

—**Gweneth West** ('71)

*P.S. Nan Graf was one of my favorite professors. Thank you for including the lovely tribute to her. John Walker was a favorite of the theatre cohort. I look forward to your tribute to him.*

John Carter is Romeo. He and I were very good friends in high school and Nebraska Wesleyan. He took me to the senior prom at Northeast High School totally out of kindness since I did not have a date for that event. I would love to catch up with him about the last 50+ years.

—**Sharon (Sheri) Anderson Clark** ('67)

Romeo and Juliet were played, respectively, by John Carter and Mary Miller, both from the class of 1968 and both avid members of Plainsmen Players. Both impacted my life in their focus and seriousness of purpose.

—**Robert Willoughby Jones** ('68)

Those star-crossed lovers were John Carter and Mary Miller from this 1967 production in the old Enid Miller Theatre.

—**Merrie (Knight) Crawford** ('67)

The Mystery Photo is of John Carter as Romeo and Mary Miller as Juliet in the NWU production of “Romeo and Juliet.” It was probably during the spring semester in 1966. I was Paris, Juliet’s betrothed, in that production, so I was killed by Romeo during the last scene of the show. Great fun during the rehearsals and production periods.

—**David McClure** ('69)



(Left to right) Jim Moran ('89), Scott Miller ('89), Curt Reimer ('88), Bill Weed ('89), Assistant Coach Ron Scheidt, Steve Peterson ('89), Steve Brugman ('89), Charlie Burt ('89), Kirk Penner ('92), Kent Lightbody ('92), Coach Jerry Schmutte ('67)

## Final Four x Six

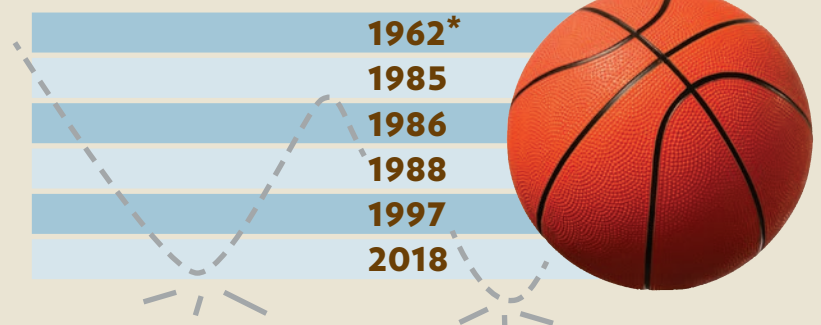
**NWU honors 1988 NCAA III Final Four men's basketball team.**

Nebraska Wesleyan's defending national champion men's basketball team knows firsthand just how hard it is to reach the NCAA III Final Four. On January 19, the program and the university stopped to honor another one of the few teams to accomplish that feat.

The 1987-88 men's basketball team reached the Final Four and finished with a 24-6 record. They were recognized with a pregame reception and a ceremony at halftime of the men's game.

Nebraska Wesleyan University men's basketball has an impressive six Final Four appearances in its history.

### NWU in the Final Four



\*The NCAA III men's basketball tournament dates back to 1975. The 1962 team reached the semifinals of the NCAA Small College Division.

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## Duane W. Acklie Hall of Science Dedication

**May 1, 2019, at 4 p.m.**



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# Calendar

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



Photo by Dan Luedert

## May 11 Commencement

The Nebraska Wesleyan community gathers on Taylor Commons at 1 p.m.

## APRIL

### 9 KC Alumni Event

Alumni and friends gather at Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art at 6 p.m. for a hosted reception.

### 25 Track & field: Prairie Wolves Invitational

One of the proudest track & field programs in NCAA III holds its home invitational at Woody Greeno Track. Action begins for both the men and the women at 3 p.m.



### NWU Theatre: The Robber Bridegroom

NWU opens its final production of the season in McDonald Theatre at 7:30 p.m. This barn-raisin' southern thrill of a musical is based on the novel by Eudora Welty. Visit [nebrwesleyan.edu/theatre-tickets](http://nebrwesleyan.edu/theatre-tickets) for tickets and show times.

## MAY

### 3, 4 NWU baseball

The Prairie Wolves wrap up regular-season play at home against Central College. Friday's first pitch is at 3 p.m. Saturday's comes at 1 p.m.



Photo by Geoff Johnson

### 5 University Choir concert

NWU's award-winning choir performs its last concert under Prof. Bill Wyman's direction at 3 p.m. in O'Donnell Auditorium.

## JUNE

### 18 College World Series Tailgate

Union Bank & Trust Company is partnering with NWU to host a CWS tailgate at Old Mattress Factory in Omaha from 4-7 p.m.

## UPCOMING



Photo by Lauren Andes ('21)

# NWU

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