

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

ARCHWAYS

LIVE COLORFULLY | WINTER 21-22 | VOLUME 21, ISSUE 4

PAINT THE TOWN

University Place gets a fresh coat.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



The lighting of the arch near First Church is a new NWU tradition. Our campus is a special place where school spirit and the holiday spirit wind together beautifully.

*We're making
profound investments
in the people, programs
and facilities at
Nebraska Wesleyan.*

Dear Alumni and Friends,

For nearly 20 years, Nebraska Wesleyan theatre students have embraced the holiday spirit with their adaptations of the Charles Dickens classic, “A Christmas Carol.”

The play tells the story of the meanspirited Ebenezer Scrooge who is visited by the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. He eventually learns important lessons about transformation, redemption, love and compassion. It’s always a crowd favorite!

I’m thrilled to see full audiences return to campus after a year of pandemic-related limitations. The vibrant costuming, twinkling lights and glorious caroling by our talented casts can put just about anyone—even Scrooges—into higher spirits.

We take that uplift with us into our daily work on NWU’s new multiyear strategic plan.

Among its initiatives is the Elder Theatre Center renovation. The project’s “first act” invested \$1 million into new seating, lights, an adaptable stage and improved accessibility. Now we focus on “Act II,” which will include updates to better serve our students and patrons and provide opportunities to deepen our community connections through events, lectures and performances

You don’t need a Ghost of Christmas Future to see our strategic plan unfolding. Splashed along the pages of *Archways* are photos of a community-based mural project that has brightened the neighborhood facades. While not directly tied to our strategic plan, this project organized by the LUX Center for the Arts has energized University Place and reaffirmed our commitment to transformational relationships here and beyond our campus perimeters.

Put simply: We want to be a catalyst to lift up our communities.

The strategic plan is our roadmap as we move forward in exciting and ambitious ways. The Elder Theatre Center renovation is one early example of our plan to invest in our physical assets—so our buildings match our academic and cocurricular excellence.

As we rethink our campus spaces, we see great opportunities to deepen our community partnerships in the arts and beyond. Establishing a University Place creative district (see page 12) will help NWU to intersect with neighborhood efforts. The community-based mural project painted us a bright picture of the possibilities that await us.

Our commitments are more than fanciful New Year’s resolutions. We’re driven to make real progress on all 21 of our plan’s strategic initiatives. We’re making profound investments in the people, programs and facilities at Nebraska Wesleyan. Our dedicated faculty, staff and administration will carry the good work and momentum into 2022. Our work will undoubtedly catapult us upward to being the best university in Nebraska. I look forward to sharing more about our progress and results.

I wish you a prosperous new year!

Darrin Good

—Darrin Good, President



9



18



25

CONTENTS

Winter 2021-2022 | Volume 21, Issue 4

ON THE COVER

Paint the Town

Emerge LNK's University Place murals paint a picture of an increasingly colorful campus community. ▶10

HISTORY'S ARC

In Support of Abbie S. Hodgetts

When the effects of time shifted NWU's historic archways, the university shifted into action. ▶18

The Kunkel Violin

A combat-wounded alumnus leaves a fascinating liberal-arts legacy in medicine, archeology and music. ▶19

SPECIAL SECTION

2020-2021 Financial Overview

NWU's financial stability rests on strong stewardship. ▶22

NWU

NWUniverse ▶5

About the cover

Brazilian artist Eder Muniz's new two-story mural stands on 48th Street just north of Baldwin Avenue.

Departments

2 From the President

4 Letters

Alumni Pages

25 Mystery Photo

27 Class Notes



A Different Kind of Homecoming

Togetherness just matters more now. ▶6

CONTRIBUTORS

STAFF

Eric Wendt ('99)

Editor

ewendt@nebrwesleyan.edu

Melanie Reinmiller

Art director

mreinmil@nebrwesleyan.edu

Peggy Hain

Director of marketing

phain@nebrwesleyan.edu

Kara Peters ('96)

Assistant director of marketing

kpeters@nebrwesleyan.edu

Amy Vasey ('11)

Class Notes editor

avasey@nebrwesleyan.edu

Ryley Egger ('15)

Sports information director

regger@nebrwesleyan.edu

Archways advisory committee

Graciela Caneiro-Livingston, John Greiving, Mary Hawk, Shelley McHugh ('91), William Motzer, Sara Olson ('95), Erin Palmer, Hunter Reeves ('19)

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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

The Teacher I Will Never Forget

I read in the fall issue of *Archways* that (Professor of Education) **Betty Grassmeyer** passed away. She was an extremely good teacher and instructor. Betty worked hard and cared about her students. Betty was very special in my eyes and many others'. Betty had concerns about students and had open doors to help.

She is the teacher I will never forget, and I am very grateful to her.

Joe R. Neumann ('76)

Chappell, Neb.



Betty Grassmeyer

CORRECTION

Our fall issue's cover story, "An Awakening Sound," told the story of **Graeme Dodworth** ('01), who regularly returns to campus to play bagpipes during commencement. The story referenced a second, unnamed bagpiper, who likewise performed at her commencement.

She is **Erin Williams** ('04) of Omaha. And she performed at Nebraska Wesleyan University's 2004 commencement, not in 2002 as mentioned.



Students' work displayed in the lobby of Lucas Hall, November 2021.

Photo by Noah Deist

NWUNIVERSE

NWU Is High on the Lists

U.S. News & World Report, *Washington Monthly*, *Princeton Review* and *Niche.com* announced their 2022 college rankings in September. And Nebraska Wesleyan University was ranked as a top regional university, a best value and best in academics.

U.S. News & World Report named NWU a top regional university, a best value and a best in undergraduate teaching among Midwestern regional universities. NWU came in 24th on its list of 157 schools providing a full range of undergraduate majors and master's degree programs.

Washington Monthly ranked NWU among its best master's universities. This list includes universities that award master's degrees but no doctoral degrees. NWU was *Washington Monthly's* top school in Nebraska, coming in 49th on its list of 616 schools.

Princeton Review also included NWU on its unranked list of the Midwest's best colleges. The list selects top colleges from a dozen states: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas,

Niche.com ranked NWU as the best small college in Nebraska.

Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

And *Niche.com* ranked NWU as the best small college in Nebraska. It topped *Niche's* list for the state's best value, best academics, best professors, best campus, best student life and best college for student-athletes.

Virtual Visions and Ventures Breaks Boundaries

The 2021 Visions and Ventures symposium on September 21 and 22 was offered via Zoom. It was the first in the series' history to feature a panel that was exclusively female and exclusively people of color.

They presented on the topic of breaking down boundaries of race, class and the environment.



Photo courtesy The Guardian

Naomi Oreskes is a professor of history of science at Harvard. She is a renowned geologist, historian and expert in the reality of anthropogenic climate change.



Photo courtesy The Guardian

Catherine Flowers is founder and director of Duke University's Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice. The MacArthur Fellow's activism addresses sustainable solutions to the root causes of poverty.



Photo courtesy Aligned Magazine

Joycelyn Longdon is a climate researcher at Cambridge University and founder of Climate in Colour, which aims to diversify the people working in climate science and related social justice issues.



Photo courtesy School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Latoya Roby Frazier is a MacArthur Fellow and professor of photography at the Art Institute of Chicago. Her work depicts the unsettling reality of American postindustrial cities divided by poverty, racism, health care inequality and environmental toxicity.





A Different Kind of Homecoming

The last year and a half have changed what it means—and how it feels—to come home. At Nebraska Wesleyan, homecoming weekend (October 8-10) was another warm example of the joy to be found in our togetherness.

“Whether it was our alumni recognition events, reunions, performances, athletic competitions, campus tours or simply catching up with friends at the tailgate party, our alumni shared story after story with us of their experiences at NWU, a place they continue to love and appreciate so deeply,” said President Darrin Good.

Top to bottom, left to right



- › Art (and horror) lovers took in an exhibit of thriller movie posters.
- › Football alumni mentored current student-athletes.
- › Library visitors took in the “Americans and the Holocaust” exhibit.
- › Reunion gatherings were fun for all.
- › The Howl Like Hell pep rally was heroic fun.
- › Platinum PWolves kept it in line.
- › Students howled like hell.
- › Friendships are built like this.
- › NWU took on the University of Dubuque Spartans at Abel Stadium.
- › Homecoming is about sharing stories.
- › Hall of Fame inductees take the field.
- › Alumni musicians perform.



Photos by Noah Deist, Chad Greene, Sam Mfinanga, Michael Reinmiller, and Chris Smithberg

Greek Leader Takes Theta Chi's Top Service Honor

Hunter Smith ('21) filled his Nebraska Wesleyan experience with service to others. As president of Theta Chi Fraternity's Gamma Phi chapter at NWU, Smith helped raise thousands for the USO, American Cancer Society, Junior Achievement and the Nebraska Strong Initiative for local flood victims.

The history major and political science minor from Broken Bow, Neb., became particularly involved in issues of poverty and food security. He expanded NWU's partnership with FoodNet to connect the dining hall's surplus food to local pantries and missions. He established a new partnership where Theta Chi members delivered food for Meals on Wheels. And he partnered with the United Way to open a pantry for students and community members.

Smith was equally committed to academic excellence, earning a place at the Fulbright U.K. Summer Institute for study in Northern Ireland and establishing a Theta Chi "4.0 Luncheon" where fraternity alumni came back to honor current members with perfect GPAs.

For these efforts and others, the national fraternity awarded Smith its 2021 Reginald E. F. Colley Award. The Colley Award is Theta Chi's most prestigious collegiate honor, recognizing distinguished service to alma mater, fraternity and community.

"I fully credit Theta Chi for my growth as a man," said Smith, who teaches and coaches in Waverly, Neb. "Theta Chi presented me with numerous opportunities to grow my leadership skills while maintaining the responsibility of offering an assisting hand to others.... The diverse perspectives and viewpoints within Theta Chi taught me how to become an empathetic leader."



Wymans Pay Tribute to NWU Staff

Retirement has been busy for NWU Music's William and Tami ('80) Wyman. But the two of them haven't forgotten Nebraska Wesleyan University—or the people who keep it running.

After the Wymans' 2019 retirements, alumni and friends came together to establish an endowment in their honor. The Wymans used that endowment to establish two new awards.

One annual award honors a custodian, grounds or maintenance staff member, and the other applauds an administrative assistant.

The first William and Tamara Wyman Awards were presented to Carpenter Ray Aldridge and Music Department Administrative Assistant Kathleen Benischek.

Aldridge has served NWU for more than 40 years. In addition to his carpentry work, he has served as a maintenance technician and university locksmith. (He literally opens new doors for NWU students.)

Benischek has served as an administrative assistant for Nebraska Wesleyan's Department of Music, the physical plant and the Student Life Office for nearly a quarter century. She has handled the needs of faculty, staff and administrators, and has helped thousands of Nebraska Wesleyan students.

"I'm so grateful to Bill and Tami for choosing to honor NWU staff in this way," said University President Darrin Good. "Be sure to congratulate Kathy and Ray when you see them on campus!"

After the Wymans' 2019 retirements, alumni and friends came together to establish an endowment in their honor.



Photo by Noah Deist

Mayor's Arts Award Goes to NWU's Lisa Lockman

On November 8, the Lincoln Arts Council honored Professor of Art **Lisa Lockman** and a dozen other individuals and organizations at the 43rd annual Mayor's Arts Awards. Lockman received an Artistic Achievement Award in the visual arts category for her ceramic work.

Other honorees in this year's class included the Lied Center for the Performing Arts and renowned author and psychologist Mary Pipher.

The Lincoln Arts Council hosted a reception and awards presentation at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts. The event's theme, "The Arts Find a Way," focused on the arts' role in uniting, supporting and inspiring our community throughout the challenges of the pandemic.



Photo by Michael Reinmiller



Photo by Noah Deist

Student Diversity Climbs in 2021

Nebraska Wesleyan University continues to see increases in ethnic and geographic diversity on campus. Twenty-four percent of students in this year's first-year class are ethnic minorities. And 28% of the class came from 21 states outside Nebraska.

The incoming class featured increased economic diversity as well, with a record 27% of first-year students receiving Access NWU Scholarships as part of a fully funded tuition scholarship program for

Pell-eligible students.

Partnerships with regional community colleges and scholarship programs for transfer students and Phi Theta Kappa members (an honorary for outstanding community college students) buttressed NWU's enrollment figures among transfer students.

These efforts tempered the pandemic's negative impacts on college enrollment. Both NWU and the University of

Nebraska-Lincoln saw 2.7% declines in full-time undergraduate enrollment this fall, mirroring national trends.

"This information is important because it not only allows us to recognize the diversity growth, but it also opens the opportunities at NWU to a new set of students," said **Wendy Hunt**, NWU's assistant director for diversity and inclusion. She said a more diverse student body "expands our mission and vision" for the university's future.

PAINT THE TOWN

Community partners
elevate the arts
in University Place.



The LUX Center for the Arts stands at 48th and Baldwin, in University Place's old city hall. A century ago, its offices would've teemed with community leaders chasing a vision for the town's economic and cultural future.

That's no less true today.

"Like every business here, we see lots of traffic going by on 48th Street," said Katelyn Farneth, the LUX Center's exhibition and gallery shop director. "What we want to see more of is foot traffic—people who see our neighborhood as a cool arts area. People who want to slow down and come be a part of it."

Farneth had an idea, she said, "to enhance

the neighborhood a little bit, and make these spaces more attractive and accessible."

That idea grew into Emerge LNK—a community-based mural project bringing regional, national and international artists to Lincoln this summer to create uplifting and eye-catching murals on neighborhood businesses as they reemerge from the pandemic.

"Katelyn had the vision and the positivity to say, 'Let's make this happen,'" said Joslyn Schmutte ('16), the LUX Center's communication director. Schmutte led the project's promotional efforts, fostering local buy-in and helping forge valuable partnerships.

It was an easy sell, Schmutte said. "There's this sense that northeast Lincoln needs this kind of investment and energy. And people here were eager to help."

The LUX Center raised tens of thousands of dollars in grants, cash and in-kind donations. The Cornhusker Hotel gifted rooms for visiting artists. Ayars & Ayars Inc. lent scaffolding and lift equipment to literally elevate the artists. And Nebraska Wesleyan students, faculty and staff took part in cleanup efforts to prep walls, alleyways and parking lots ahead of the work.

"The community here was just on-board and willing to try something new," Schmutte said.



Photos by Jocelyn Schmutte ('16)



ANA MARIETTA | Suds N' Scissors, 2621 North 48th (left)

Houston, Texas | Mural sponsor: Rhonda Seacrest | Artist sponsor: Lincoln Community Foundation

"The mural I've created for Emerge is inspired by the ability that we all have to make impossible things come true through art—like fish that can fly or birds that can swim."

EDER MUNIZ | Electric Tattoo, 2633 North 48th (right)

Salvador da Bahia, Brazil | Mural sponsor: Ayars & Ayars | Artist sponsor: Ameritas

"I get inspired by the relationship between nature and human beings—how we miss this relationship, and how much we need that."



BEFORE



AFTER



FOCUS SMITH

Jerusalen Bakery, 2700 North 48th
(above)

Rapid City, S.D.

Mural sponsor: Bold Nebraska

Artist sponsor: Union Bank & Trust

Emerge LNK is a success in itself. But both the LUX Center and NWU see the effort as a steppingstone toward bigger things for University Place.

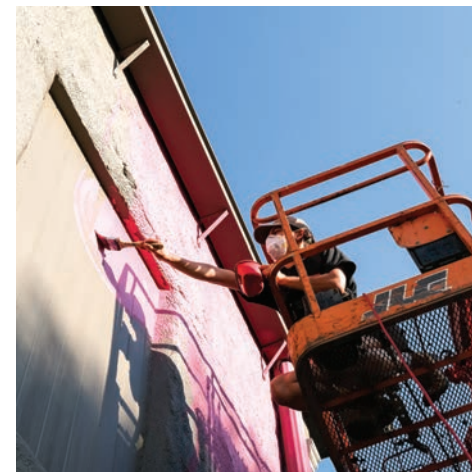
The local arts center and the liberal arts university are partnering—with each other and with neighbors across University Place—to advance the arts and revitalize the economy here.

“We want to help establish University Place as an official creative district with the Nebraska Arts Council,” said President **Darrin Good**. “It’s in Nebraska Wesleyan’s strategic interest to help lift our community by creating purposeful partnerships here in University Place and everywhere our alumni have an impact.”

NWU Professor of Art **Lisa Lockman** and Theatre Operations Manager **Julie (Ott) Wilshusen** (’90) are helping to lead this outreach in the effort to establish a creative district in University Place.

“This can’t be something the campus just imposes on the community,” Wilshusen said. “To really work, this has to be a transformational relationship—one where campus and community come together in new ways. That means breaking out of our perceived boundaries.”

Wilshusen added that it’s equally important to take an open view of what kind of art a creative district might create. “Art itself is a broad term,” she said. “And a University Place creative district would



embrace more than the visual arts. There's music, craft, theatre, the written word." And Nebraska Wesleyan's breadth would expand what's possible within the district.

Taken together, the university and University Place fit the Nebraska Arts Council's description of an ideal creative district as "a well-defined geographic area with a high concentration of creative resources and activities." NWU adds a steady flow of exhibitions, concerts, readings, performances, lectures, arts faculty, visiting artists, students and courses to this creative mix.

Certification as an arts district, the council said, "can bolster [the] creative economy, enhance vitality and improve livability.

This can support a region's ability to grow jobs and increase educational and creative opportunities for residents and visitors."

Lockman, who won a 2021 Mayor's Arts Award (see page 9), said these benefits can trigger a positive echo effect between a surging community and a thriving university.

"When the neighborhood is engaged in the arts," she said, "when there are more things to do and see nearby, our campus looks that much better to prospective students and families." Likewise, stronger enrollment makes it just a little bit easier for small business owners in University Place to expand that clothing store, sustain that restaurant or try that new venture.

Standing in the shade of one small

business, in an open lot that once held a community hardware store, Farneth gestured toward Nolan Tredway's colorful, ivy-framed painting.

"These murals," she said, "they're about getting our foot in the door. They're about showing that we have the capacity here to make big things happen."

In the same way, these murals are also about getting a foot *out* the door. In University Place, "art has left the building." It's moved beyond the gallery space, and scaled the traditional boundaries of the quiet campus. It's on the street. It's in the marketplace. It's out where a proud neighborhood's residents live and work.

And it's not looking back. **n**



ORIA SIMONINI

Lux Center for the Arts, 2601 North 48th (above)

Omaha, Neb.

Mural sponsor: Cornhusker Marriott Hotel

"The three stencils used were taken from Hmong paj ntaub (flower cloth); it is said that it comes from Hmong women who communicated with a visual code when their own language was forbidden. The three symbols I chose are the elephant's foot (luck), the heart, and the home. I was thinking of Amaya's grandparents, who migrated to Nebraska decades ago. Amaya reaps the fruits of their labor and journey, to be surrounded by luck, the home and love."

NOLAN TREDWAY

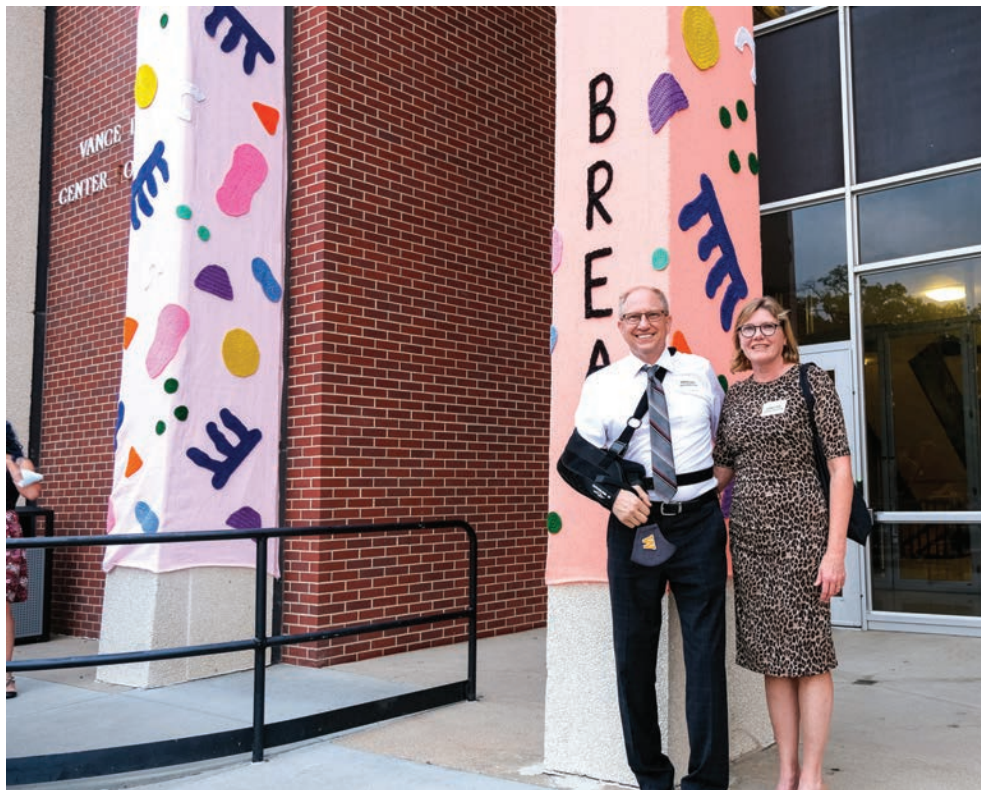
CBD Remedies, 2723 North 48th (right)

Lincoln, Neb.

Artist sponsor: Firespring

"We all recognize our world is changing. We have an opportunity to reimagine our future, and create change in this pivotal moment."





ISHKNITS

Rogers Center for Fine Arts, 5000 Saint Paul Avenue (above)
Philadelphia, Penn.

"I am a yarn-bombing artist. So that means I knit and crochet or use a variety of fibers and adhere it somewhere in public. A lot of my work focuses on feminism and elevating women's voices. I take this typically feminine medium, knitting, and I'll adhere a really impactful statement onto it that raises awareness about a variety of different issues."



WATIE WHITE

Gaga's Greenery, 2626 North 48th (top)

Omaha, Neb.

Mural sponsor: Cornhusker Marriott Hotel

Artist sponsor: Cline Williams

"The work installed in Lincoln as part of Emerge is a series of largescale woodcut portraits of social changemakers in Omaha and Lincoln. It's part of a project I've been calling '100 People,' where I'm profiling a hundred social change advocates throughout the region."

SHAWN DUNWOODY

VFW Post 131 Harris-Fraley Post, 2431 North 48th (above)

Rochester, N.Y.

Artist sponsor: Unanimous

"In everything I do, I bring a 'stay creative' thinking to the table and aim to integrate the needs of the people, the possibilities of technology, and the genius of great experiences."

How will you make your mark?

Thoughtful gift planning—through your will or trust, retirement plan, charitable gift annuity, life insurance and more—can pave the way for tomorrow's students.

You can help NWU prepare for its future while planning for your own.



Contact: Mary Hawk, director of development,
402.465.2139 / 402.465.2124



NEBRASKA
WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

In Support of Abbie S. Hodgetts ('96)

NWU moves to stabilize an alumna's overarching place in school history.

You might not remember Abbie S. Hodgetts ('96) of Brooklyn, N.Y. But trust us; you've come across her name in the past. You've even looked up to her. And her place in Nebraska Wesleyan University's history is both elevated and secure.

Fellow '96ers might be scratching their heads. *Abbie Hodgetts from Brooklyn ... I can't place her. Was she an Alpha Gam?*

Forgive them. They're thinking of the wrong class of '96. This Abbie Hodgetts was in NWU's class of 1896.

Here's what we know about Abbie: She was the daughter of Dr. Alfred and Henrietta Hodgetts. The family traveled west from Brooklyn "into the pioneer work of the Methodist ministry in Nebraska." She'd go to high school in Omaha, and her father would serve on Nebraska Wesleyan University's first board of trustees in 1887.

As an NWU student, Abbie would tutor in Latin and Greek and go on to teach high school in David City, Neb. She'd also contribute to her senior class gift: a stately stone arch erected just northwest of the (not yet Old) Main Building.

Each stone in that arch wore the engraved name of one student. Thanks to her place in the alphabet, Hodgetts' name, the 13th of 26, found its way near the arch's top. And for the last 125 years, her stone has rubbed elbows with the keystone of NWU's most famous archway.

The pushes and pulls of 500 seasons—with their

uncounted breezes, freezes and thaws—rubbed those rubbing elbows raw. Cracks formed in the mortar, and eventually, at some unmarked moment in the spring of 2021, the arch slipped about an inch at the joint between "Abbie S. Hodgetts" and "H. A. George."

Maintenance staff found a similar slip in the class of 1897's arch to the south.

These arches mean too much to the university to (literally) let slide. These are the archways of First Walk at matriculation and Final Walk at commencement. They're the namesakes of *Archways* magazine, the Archway Curriculum, the Archway Seminar, the Archway Fund, the list goes on ...

So Jim Ruzicka, director of the physical plant, turned to a trusted partner, Jordan Masonry of Wahoo, Neb., to restabilize and repair the university landmarks.

The company finished repair work on both arches in August, readying Hodgetts and her classmates for the 125 years to come. **n**

When it comes to supporting NWU's Archway Fund, you don't need to be a mason or structural engineer to help. Stable, consistent annual giving keeps Nebraska Wesleyan on a firm foundation.



Photo courtesy of Jordan Masonry

Photo by Noah Deist



Photo by Noah Deist

The Kunkel Violin

An NWU soldier-healer-artist-historian passes down an unusual liberal-arts legacy.

Brandon May's ('24) Nebraska Wesleyan experience would be changed in 2021 by the gift of an unusual violin.

The brilliant maker of that violin likewise had his Nebraska Wesleyan experience dramatically changed—some 105 years earlier—by a bullet.

Lloyd Kunkel (1919) was an NWU freshman and a National Guardsman when he left school to deploy to the U.S.-Mexico border in the spring of 1916. Hungry for supplies that March, Mexican revolutionaries under Pancho Villa's command had crossed the border and raided the nearby town of Columbus, N.M., killing eight.

Kunkel was among the 10,000 troops President Woodrow Wilson would send in response. During this push across the border, a shot from a Mexican sniper grazed the 19-year-old Kunkel in the head.

"It kind of addled my brain a little," he told the *Lincoln Journal* in 1984.

We can picture the Nebraska teenager toppled over in the dry brush, holding his head, unsure in that ringing moment just how badly he was hurt. Assuming it flashed, what sort of life might have played before his eyes?

Kunkel was the son of a "dirt-poor Methodist circuit preacher," his daughter, Dorothy Kunkel ('56) recalled. His childhood home, to the extent that he had one, was a string of bare parsonages zigzagging across southeast Nebraska. NWU's 1916 *Coyote* lists his hometown as Dorchester, Neb.—but that was likely little more than the last stop of an itinerant childhood.

"Circuit preachers weren't paid a salary," Dorothy said. "They just made a portion of whatever the collection plate brought that Sunday. And a lot of the people in those congregations—they weren't any better off than my grandfather."

At 13, Kunkel had scrounged together enough money selling garden seeds to buy himself a cheap violin. "It was a cigar box of an instrument," Dorothy said. And he played it, on humid days and dry, until it fell apart in his hands.

As the 19-year-old Kunkel felt the edges of the cut that sniper's bullet drew along his head, could the split shell of that violin have also traced across his mind?

We can't know that. But we do know this broken violin, this treatable wound, and



Lloyd Kunkel,
circa 1915



Dorothy Kunkel,
circa 1955

this grazing bullet (now buried somewhere secret in the Mexican sand) all became artifacts of a dynamic life. It's a life Kunkel would harmonize around three of his strongest loves—for music, for medicine, and for archeology.

After his service in Mexico, Kunkel would leave NWU again to fight in the First World War. He returned from that bloodshed determined, not to graduate from Nebraska Wesleyan, but to enter medical school in Omaha. He'd go on to serve as a country doctor in a string of tiny towns like Tobias, Neb.

He eventually settled in Weeping Water, Neb., and opened a clinic out of his home during the Great Depression. Like his father's congregations, Kunkel's Weeping Water patients often had little money to pay for his services. "So they bartered," Dorothy said. "He'd treat them sometimes in exchange for things like eggs or milk."

Weeping Water had appealed to him, Dorothy said, for its archeological potential. "My father was deeply interested in Plains Indians. And he conducted all sorts of archeological digs—near Weeping Water Creek and on the surrounding farmland." And a Harvard archeology student would write his doctoral dissertation on Kunkel's work in Cass County.

World War II arrived and Kunkel would serve again, this time as a medical officer, in North Africa and Italy. And his time in Italy rekindled his interest in violins.

"That broken violin from his childhood gave him his first look at their construction," Dorothy said. "Then in Italy, I think he got to hear and learn so much more, and that interest in becoming a luthier really took off."

Dorothy's childhood home filled with her father's three-headed interests. "The clinic was there, so there were patients coming in and out and an x-ray machine. There were the artifacts from all his digs—digs where I got to 'help,'" she said.

"And downstairs were his violins. He'd have several of them going at once in different stages. I couldn't tell you how many hours and hours went into each one; the process was so intricate and involved."

Her mother, Dorothy Holman Kunkel,



Photo courtesy Lincoln Journal

At 13, Kunkel had scrounged together enough money selling garden seeds to buy himself a cheap violin ... And he played it, on humid days and dry, until it fell apart in his hands.

was herself an accomplished pianist, and the house buzzed with their music and activity. They'd drive the younger Dorothy to Lincoln on weekends for violin lessons with NWU's Professor of Violin **Geralyn Bennett**, wife of Professor of Voice **Oscar "Pop" Bennett**. And when it came time to choose a college, the opportunity to continue studying with Bennett helped Nebraska Wesleyan win out.

Did Dorothy ever feel like her father forced her to choose Nebraska Wesleyan or the violin?

"No, not at all," she said. "My parents let me become who I was. I never heard any lectures. 'You gotta do this,' or 'You gotta be that.' They let me find my way."

And she's grateful her way wound through Nebraska Wesleyan. "It's where I started. It's a great school with great principles," she

said. "You can see I'm Methodist in my heart."

From Nebraska Wesleyan, Dorothy went on to the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, where she earned bachelor's degrees in music performance and music education as well as a Master of Music in music education supervision.

She'd teach high school strings in Villa Park, Ill., and Traverse City, Mich. And she'd work at the Interlochen Center for the Arts in Interlochen, Mich. Her high school musicians performed more than once at the Kennedy Center for the Arts.

"I could be quite the task master," she said. "But I really do believe children love a combination of clear boundaries and high expectations."

She said, "I'd set my expectations a little higher than what I thought they could reasonably reach. And pretty often, they'd go even higher than that." She laughed. "Sometimes, I think they got mad and said to themselves, 'I'll show this lady what I can do.' And they would show me!"

Today, Dorothy divides her time between Florida and Michigan. Back in Weeping Water, there's a small museum named after her father. The Kunkel Building is part of the Weeping Water Valley Historical Society, which Kunkel helped found. It houses a healthy supply of archeological artifacts and historical pieces connected to his work.

Dorothy still owns a few of the approximately 80 violins and violas her father made. "They need to be played," she said, "to stay in shape."

Dorothy plays two of them regularly. She decided another one belonged at Nebraska Wesleyan—the place where father and daughter both studied. She made



Photo by Noah Daist

Brandon May

arrangements and handed the instrument off to the Music Department last spring.

"It's so unusual to have an instrument donated with this level of detailed provenance of its construction—at least, outside of Stradivarius and Guarneri instruments, which are worth millions," said Professor of Music Jana Holzmeier. The Kunkel violin's unique Nebraska Wesleyan connection adds to its value here.

When Holzmeier learned of Dorothy Kunkel's plan, her mind went to her students. "We had two violin majors with poor-quality instruments. And they couldn't necessarily afford to purchase new ones," she said. "We knew this gift would make a substantial difference in one of their lives."

Enter sophomore Brandon May of Lincoln.

"I got to meet Dorothy when she brought the violin to campus," May said. "She took me through its history and told me a little about her father." May called their meeting "just a really nice conversation between two violinists."

It's so unusual to have an instrument donated with this level of detailed provenance of its construction—at least, outside of Stradivarius and Guarneri instruments, which are worth millions.

He lifted the caramel-colored instrument from its case with care. "This," he said, "is my performance violin—not something you want to gum up with tape or anything." (Violin students will often mark difficult finger positions with tape or stickers on the fingerboard until they become second nature.)

Built in 1978, the Kunkel violin had rarely been played prior to landing in May's hands. "When you have a violin that hasn't been played in some time, it's kind of like rehabbing it from a leg injury," May said. "It takes some time to get it back up to speed. But a violin that's hardly ever been played at all? That's almost like a baby learning how to walk. And you can expect it to take a little longer."

He lifted the Kunkel violin—a baby at age 43—to his chin and raised its bow. "We're feeling more and more comfortable with each other now."

May and the Kunkel violin made their public performance debut in Nebraska Wesleyan's O'Donnell Auditorium on the evening of October 12. The Beta Pi chapter of the national music honorary, Mu Phi Epsilon, hosted the unveiling. Its apt title: "Not Just Any Recital."

It was much more. It was both a debut—and an artful homecoming more than a century in the making. **N**

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Fiscal Year June 1, 2020–May 31, 2021

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Dear Alumni and Friends,



The 2020-21 academic year was one for the books. We didn't know how the year would play out but took inspiration and confidence from the dedication and hard work of our faculty, students and staff. We were pleased that our first-year traditional enrollment stayed above 400 students for the sixth consecutive year with 427 first-year traditional undergraduates and 58 transfers. Graduate and adult enrollment continued to be soft.

Our safety precautions helped protect the health of students, faculty and staff through both in-person and online instruction.

We continued to post a strong financial balance. Our net assets increased 19% to \$138 million. Gifts and grants reached \$9 million. This 34% increase over the prior year was due to the generosity of our donors in response to the pandemic.

Market conditions were favorable, and the endowment increased to an all-time high of \$77 million at fiscal end. Net tuition dipped slightly from the prior year at \$27.6 million as financial aid distributions increased to \$33.8 million.

Due to COVID-19, the federal government passed three separate grants. These funds are provided in two portions: institutional aid for defraying expenses associated with coronavirus and student aid for emergency grants to students. The funding Nebraska Wesleyan received from the three different acts totaled approximately \$8.7 million, with \$5 million related to institutional aid and \$3.7 million related to student aid.

We predict it will take several years to return to the enrollment levels we experienced before the pandemic. But we are grateful for the strong foundation we have to draw from through changing circumstances. Our core value of personal attention to students has made a difference in the lives of the people we serve.

Nebraska Wesleyan's overall success rests on the support of our gracious donors and alumni as well as the stewardship and care from our faculty and staff.

Sincerely,

Tish Gade-Jones ('92)

Vice president for finance and administration



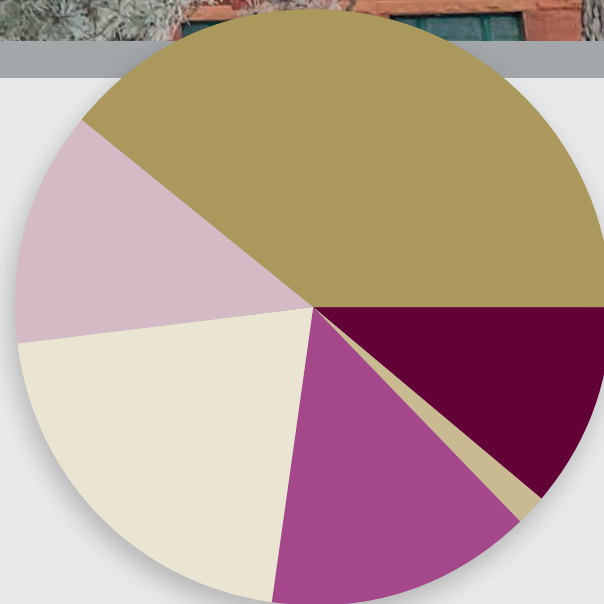
► STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets

Total Assets \$157,848,000

Total Liabilities \$19,933,000

Total Net Assets \$137,915,000



Expenses

Instruction \$16,038,000

Academic Support \$5,260,000

Student Services \$8,509,000

Institutional Support \$5,905,000

HEERF Student Grants \$691,000

Auxiliary Enterprises and Other \$4,531,000

Total Expenses \$40,934,000

► STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES 2020-21

Revenues

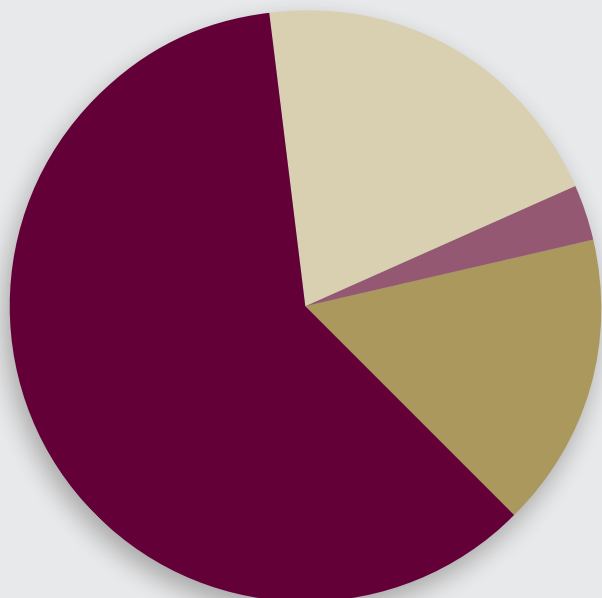
Net Tuition and Fees \$27,590,000

Gifts and Grants \$9,322,000

Investment Earnings \$1,319,000

Auxiliary Enterprises and Other \$7,297,000

Total Revenue \$45,528,000



Change in Assets from Operations \$4,594,000

Other Changes in Assets (\$17,194,000)

Change in Net Assets \$21,788,000

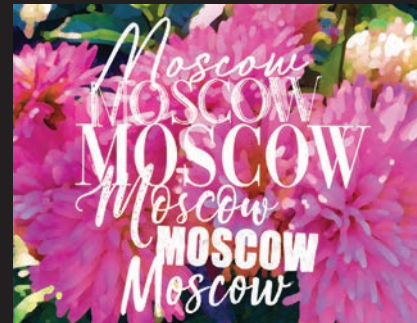
Net Assets, Beginning of the Year \$116,127,000

Net Assets, End of the Year \$137,915,000

Oh, the places you'll go!

NWU Theatre has magic
in store this spring.

- > **Umbra**
January 20–23
- > **Bondagers**
January 27–30, February 3–6
- > **Little Women**
February 17–20, 24–27
- > **The Three Sisters**
March 24, 26, 27, April 2, 3
- > **Moscow Moscow
Moscow Moscow
Moscow Moscow**
March 25, 26, 31–April 2
- > **Seussical**
April 21–24, 28–May 1
- > **In Sorrow's Guise:
An Immersive
Medea**
May 12–15





ALUMNI PAGES



Shelley McHugh ('91)

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

A king, two queens and a joker

In the '60s, a trip to King's was always good for a laugh. Can you name these four royals?

Send your responses to:

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

MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED



Cut to the chase.

The one carving the pumpkin in the *Archways* magazine is Vicki (Parks) McLaughlin ('94). I've worked with her at Scheels for the last 16 years. Love her!! Go P-Wolves. I'm an alumna and now my niece goes there and my other niece graduated from there last year.

—Kristina (Hosek) Jacobson ('05)

I enjoy the Mystery Photos. It's fun to see photos from my era, 1986-90! On the right is Terri or Terrill (Starks) Hendershot ('90). She was my friend and in the AGD Sorority. She passed away several years ago. I don't remember the name of the girl on the left.

—Amy Feidler ('90)



Late to the show

I was surprised (but maybe shouldn't be, as I didn't write in myself) that nobody identified my friend and former roommate, Bronson (Tyler) Gilmore ('06), backstage with the correctly identified Caroline Eckman ('07); both were giants in their own rights in the NWU Theatre scene of the mid to late 2000s. Both are brilliant performers and I loved seeing them in action.

I couldn't let this go unaddressed. Sorry for the late feedback. Crazy to see people of my era already making this page of *Archways*!

—Cody Olander ('06, MFS '08)

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