Northwest

Players, families and fans celebrated the National Championship win in Florence, Ala.

INSIDE
- Northwest brings home its third national football championship
- SIFE group directs student entrepreneurship conference
On Nov. 5, 10 members of Northwest’s Students in Free Enterprise organization guided high school students during the 4th annual Youth Entrepreneurship Summit (YES!) in Chillicothe.

The summit invited 120 high school students from four counties to display their creative talents in the areas of entrepreneurship by evaluating issues presented by a dozen businesses and organizations. Northwest students aid in this process by serving as table captains for groups of high school students, and guide the evaluation process to conclusion.

“The SIFE students provide the right blend of youth working with youth that reinforces a basic success principle of YES!” said Steve Holt, director of the Small Business and Technology Development Center of Chillicothe. “Additionally, they are excellent ambassadors for Northwest and model the life changing choice to pursue a college degree.”

The YES! Summit provides important experiences for high school students, Northwest students and the businesses involved.

“What makes this a great project is the feedback we get from the companies we work with at the conference,” said Clifton Wilson, student advisor for SIFE and a senior in financial business management and economic development from Mound City. “I’m able to talk to many of the companies that attend and it is amazing the number of ideas which are used that the students propose. It makes you feel good to know that if you mentor them with just a couple of ideas they can take it and develop it into a full presentation.”

The Northwest chapter of Students in Free Enterprise was founded in 2000, and is part of the international organization. The goal of the organization is to promote entrepreneurship education among high school and college students, as well as the community. The Northwest chapter consists of about 20 members and has competed at the regional level every year since 2001, and has twice qualified for the national SIFE competition. SIFE members take on about 15 projects a year, including holding their own YES! Camp for 5th and 6th grade students on the Northwest campus.

“SIFE has helped me hone and improve almost every skill on my business tool belt,” said Jason Orme, SIFE president and senior in accounting and corporate finance from Red Oak, Iowa. “I am more organized, a better problem solver, more creative, a much better communicator and a motivator. I have also developed a massive network of faculty, students and business professionals nationwide through SIFE.”

Jason White, SIFE advisor and Northwest faculty member, encourages all students to consider becoming involved with the organization. One of the benefits, he says, is that major U.S. corporations sponsor the organization, and hold career fairs at the regional and national competitions, offering internships and jobs exclusively to SIFE students.

“The SIFE alumni network is very large,” White said. “SIFE is not just a ‘membership’ organization. It is a tremendous résumé, skill and character building activity.”
Five Northwest computing students were recognized Dec. 4, after competing in a research competition sponsored by the Kansas City Power & Light Co. Shan Lynn, manager of enterprise systems support for KCPL and a Northwest alumnus, said the utility organized the contest as a means of strengthening its relationship with Northwest in anticipation of new hires of graduates with degrees related to information technology.

Two two-person teams and one individual received recognition for research papers and presentations and split $1,000 in prize money. They were:

- First place ($500), Jordan Assel, Cameron, and Lance Walley, Cameron, “Software Development in the DARPA Grand Challenge”
- Second place ($250, tie), Rebecca Bagley, Mercer, and Dustin Singleton, Linneus, “Mobile Devices Change Security”
- Second place ($250, tie), Abhimanyu Gullapalli, India, “Development of Ubiquitous Computing Environment”

Dr. Dean Sanders, professor of computer science and information systems, said the competition was open to Northwest students taking either software engineering I or systems analysis design. All entries were required to address some aspect of software development.
Deborah Toomey, instructor of marketing and management, received the 2009 Outstanding Advising Certificate of Merit (Faculty Academic Advising category) from the National Academic Advising Association. The award was presented Sept. 30 during the 10,000-member association’s annual conference in San Antonio, Texas.

The award is presented annually to individuals who have demonstrated excellence in serving as academic advisers and academic advising administrators. The Faculty Academic Advising category includes individuals whose primary responsibility is teaching but who make significant contributions to their institution’s advisement program.

Toomey, nominated for the award by Dr. Chi Lo Lim, chair and associate professor of marketing and management, was one of 13 advisers nationwide honored with a certificate in the Faculty Academic Advising category. She began her Northwest career in 1997 as coordinator of student orientation and transfer affairs and later was assistant director of student advising and associate director of admissions before joining the Melvin D. and Valorie G. Booth College of Business and Professional Studies faculty in 2004.

Northwest offers interdisciplinary nanoscience degree

In order to meet the growing demand for nanoscientists, Northwest has developed a unique, interdisciplinary major that combines areas of biology, chemistry and physics.

The National Science Foundation has projected that the already $10 billion nanotechnology sector’s economic impact will grow to $1.1 trillion per year over the next 10-15 years, creating millions of new jobs. More than 80 percent of these jobs will require advanced education and training specific to the field.

“Students should consider pursuing a nanoscience major at Northwest because it provides a strong interdisciplinary background with plenty of hands-on laboratory experience in a new, state-of-the-art facility,” said Gretchen Thornsberry, assistant professor of biological sciences. “Our students will be well-prepared for careers in this rapidly expanding field.”

Students in nanoscience have the opportunity to attend classes and conduct research in the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, a high-technology business incubator and academic facility which houses corporate tenants, laboratories and classrooms.

Nanoscience is the study of materials at the nanoscale, or one-billionth of a meter, or approximately one one-thousandth the size of the period at the end of this sentence. The possibilities for research in this field are almost limitless, but two of the most visible research focus areas are in technology and medicine. Nanoscale technology research helps make computers smaller and faster, and recent nanoscale medical research focuses on detecting diseases.

Students who receive a degree in nanoscience may be qualified to work in product development and improvement for companies such as Apple, Coppertone, Dupont, Eastman Kodak and Lancome. Work could include improving sunscreens to developing smaller, lighter personal musical players to targeted pharmaceuticals to antimicrobial clothing. The average starting salary for graduates in this field is $42,000.
Crisis response conference provides planning experience to PR students

Northwest students organized a Crisis Response Conference, held Wednesday, Nov. 18.

Since 2003, students in the Advanced Public Relations Practicum class taught by Dr. John Fisher, assistant professor of communication, theatre and languages, have had the opportunity to organize a conference based on a topic selected by Fisher. Conferences have drawn more than 100 attendees.

“I’m quite impressed by how well the students do when it comes to planning a conference of this magnitude,” Fisher said. “The 15 students in my class this trimester have really taken this assignment from day one and planned it themselves. They’ve done everything from determining the program and inviting the speakers, and they’re experiencing all of the challenges involved in planning a conference. They’ve handled themselves very professionally.”

In addition to a “surprise simulation” at the beginning of the conference, Dr. Mark Corson, associate professor of geosciences, demonstrated how to use a fire extinguisher; Dru Burns, University Police officer, demonstrated self-defense tactics; and Tanja Shimak, a Northwest graduate student, discussed proper first aid techniques. Dr. Jerry Wilmes, director of wellness services and emergency coordinator at Northwest, gave the keynote address. The conference concluded with a panel discussion involving each of the presenters.

Steen takes top honor at three-state music contest

Chacey Steen, a junior music education major at Northwest from Kansas City, recently won first place in the junior women’s division at the National Association of Teachers of Singing Regional Student Auditions. The award includes a $300 prize.

In the competition finals, Steen sang the aria “Dear Husband, Come This Fall” from the opera “John Brown” and was voted the winner by all of the voice teachers present at the convention.

Three other Northwest students were semifinalists at the competition: freshman Cody Bradley of Maryville, junior Matthew Wesely of Colin, Neb., and senior Daniel Rasmussen of Jefferson, Iowa.

The students are instructed by Dr. Sheila Phillips, assistant professor of music at Northwest.

Computer programming students place third at regional competition

Computing students from Northwest gathered in Parkville, Mo., Oct. 24 for one of the 11 programming competitions in the Mid-Central Region that comprised the opening round of the 34th annual IBM-sponsored Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest.

Northwest programmers joined students from Park University, the University of Central Missouri and the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Ten three-member teams participated at the Park University site; Northwest entered three teams in the competition.

Scott Bell, instructor of computer science/information systems, said Northwest’s top team, Northwest Bearcats, which included Dustin Singleton, Dana Estes and Tyler Griesbach, tied for first in the number of problems solved (four). The team was ranked third out of 10 based on the amount of time it took to solve the problems. Northwest Cats, which included Lalitha Paneetea, Bhogaraju, Thejasvi Manyam and Mohammad Nabil Shaik, took sixth place, and Northwest Green, which included Nikhil Nijawan, Pavan Kishore Ventrapragada and Raghunath Pavan Talla Pragada, placed eighth.

Overall, there were 140 teams competing in the Mid-Central Region. The Northwest Bearcats team tied for 28th place and was ranked 69th after determining the amount of time to solve the problems.

The annual competition draws tens of thousands of students from universities in more than 80 countries on six continents. The teams that solve the most problems correctly in the least amount of time advance to the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest World Finals in February where 100 regional champions meet in China to compete for awards, scholarships and prizes.

Jazz musicians selected for state all-collegiate ensemble

Northwest trombonist Veeer Ransom, a sophomore education major from Grain Valley, was selected for the 2010 Missouri All-Collegiate Jazz Ensemble. In addition, Northwest bass player Matt McGrory, a senior education major from Leawood, Kan., was selected as an alternate.

The 21-member ensemble, chosen based on a competitive recorded audition, includes students from 13 colleges and universities throughout Missouri.

Student yearbook, newspaper honored for excellence

Northwest’s “Tower,” yearbook and “The Northwest Missourian,” the University’s student newspaper, received awards for excellence at the Associated Collegiate Press/College Media Advisers National Convention.

The 2008 “Tower” received a Pacemaker Finalist Award, placing it in the top 15 of all college yearbooks nationally. Chris Lee, a recent Northwest graduate, was the yearbook’s editor. Since 1927, the Pacemaker has been the highest honor available to ACP members. It is considered one of the most prestigious awards in collegiate journalism.

“The Northwest Missourian” placed second in the Best of Show category for small school publication Web site’s for its www.NwMissouriNews.com site. It also placed third in the Best of Show category in multimedia packages for its coverage of Northwest President Dr. John Jasinski’s inauguration. Seth Cook and Courtney Edwards are editor and managing editor, respectively, of “The Northwest Missourian” and www.NwMissouriNews.com. Best of Show awards were presented to the top five colleges in each category.

Laura Widmer, assistant professor of mass communication, is director of student publications at Northwest and faculty adviser to both the “The Northwest Missourian” and “Tower.” She is a recipient of the National Scholastic Press Association Pioneer Award, past-president of College Media Advisers and a member of the CMA Hall of Fame.
Dear Bearcat families,

We live in challenging times, so taking stock of our accomplishments and connecting to our values gives us hope that the Bearcat family will rise to the occasion and continue to build on our proud reputation. Our students, athletes, alumni, faculty and staff prove each day we have reason to be proud of our accomplishments and energized for future accomplishments.

All of us in the Northwest family are celebrating this month, as the Bearcat football team brought home our third national title. These are impressive athletes — seniors on the team have gone undefeated in the MIAA, and have played in the title game every year they have been at Northwest. However, these athletes’ achievements aren’t just on the playing field.

Student-athletes in all of Northwest’s 16 sports are posting graduation rates that are far exceeding Division II averages according to the latest Academic Success Rate (ASR) reports released by the NCAA. The average six-year graduation rate of Division II student-athletes is 71 percent, but Northwest’s student-athletes are graduating at an 87-percent clip. Northwest’s football program has an ASR of 85 percent, while Division II ASR for football is 53 percent. Nine Northwest teams, including eight women’s programs, boast an ASR above 90 percent.

While we at Northwest are proud of the on-field accomplishments of our student-athletes, we are most proud of the well-rounded students that attend Northwest, who push themselves to achieve great things in the classroom, on the field and in student organizations.

It was a busy fall trimester for First Lady Denise and myself. We had the distinct pleasure of visiting with alums all across our region. Listening to the stories, memories and hopes for the University really exemplified to us what Bearcat pride is all about. We are blessed at Northwest to have such passionate and engaged alums, and we look forward to many future conversations about how we can work together to support this great institution.

As we begin 2010, Northwest, like many families, is looking at tight and tough budget projections. I want you to know that Northwest remains committed to contain costs and focus on issues of access, affordability and student retention and graduation. We remain committed to providing high-quality education at an affordable price, and preparing your student for success both in the classroom and beyond.

We also remain committed to having a safe and healthy campus. As the flu season continues, Northwest employees are staying vigilant and working to educate our students on how to stay healthy. For more information on how to prevent catching and spreading H1N1 and the seasonal flu, as well as what you should do if you are experiencing flu-like symptoms, please visit www.nwmissouri.edu/alert.

At Northwest, we take pride in our accomplishments and draw strength from them as we set out to make 2010 another great year.

Go Green. Go White. Thanks for being a part of the Bearcat Family.

With Bearcat pride,

Dr. John Jasinski

Calendar of Events

**January**

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<td>Missouri Academy: Preview Day</td>
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<td>Four-State Honor Music Festival</td>
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<td>Women’s and men’s BB at Emporia State</td>
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<td>Women’s and men’s BB at Washburn</td>
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<td>Women’s and men’s BB vs. Fort Hays State</td>
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<td>DeLuce Gallery: Art Student Show opens</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Women’s and men’s BB at NE-Omaha Distinguished Lecture Series: Harold Ford Jr.</td>
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<td>Show Choir Festival</td>
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<td>Women’s and men’s BB at Pittsburgh State</td>
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<td>Studio Jazz Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble concert</td>
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<td>Mid-term examinations</td>
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<td>25-27</td>
<td>Theatre: “Music Man”</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Women’s and men’s BB vs. MO Southern</td>
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<td>28</td>
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For more information about Northwest, visit www.nwmissouri.edu or call 660.562.1212

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