Student Senate president praises safety on campus
Freshmen residence halls will be ready for fall occupancy
Various skill sets benefit Campus Safety officer in current job

She's a mother, a veteran, a first-degree black belt in karate, a licensed truck driver, an emergency medical technician and a certified massage therapist. Her full-time job just happens to be as an officer for Northwest's Department of Campus Safety.

Kristina Hargin has led an "enriched" life.

"I couldn't think of another job that allows me to use all of my skills," Hargin said.

The 44-year-old has been a Campus Safety officer since January 2005. Her background has assisted her in many aspects of the job, including conducting rape aggression workshops.

"We'll do the workshops as often as requested," she said. "Rape aggression defense is mostly about avoidance. Don't put yourself in a dangerous situation. But if you do, we also teach escape techniques."

Hargin said it was important for a person to trust their intuition.

"If you see something, and it doesn't make sense to you, tell us," she said. "If we don't look out for each other, we'll never feel safe."

Hargin learned to adapt to her surroundings at an early age. She said she was fortunate to get to experience the world when her Vietnam and Korean War veteran father moved the family from one Air Force community to another. Those global experiences greatly influenced Hargin after she settled down.

Born in Michigan, Hargin lived in Texas, the Philippines and California before graduating from Stanberry High School. For the next 10 years, Hargin worked with persons with mental disabilities that included serving clients of the Albany Regional Center, a Department of Mental Health facility supporting 1,700 people in 12 counties in northwest Missouri. Most of the time she did contract work for the DMH. In her final year, she worked directly for the state of Missouri as a behavior intervention technician.

During that time, when Hargin was in her 20s, she obtained her commercial driver's license and began martial arts training.

In 1993, she and her husband moved to Iowa, and she changed careers. She went into massage to compliment her husband's chiropractic business. She attended school in Omaha and became nationally certified. Soon, the couple opened a martial arts school. Two years later, she joined the Army National Guard, driving a truck for her transportation unit in Iowa.

"Massage therapy is my second job right now." She operates River Song Massage out of her home at 210 W. Third St. in Maryville.

Not knowing whether a career as a massage therapist would support her, Hargin joined the Guard. She was 33 when she endured boot camp with 17- and 18-year-olds in Alabama.

In 1996, Hargin became a Police Officer for Maryville Public Safety, with dual responsibilities with the fire department.

After five years, she left her job at MPS to devote full-time to massage therapy.

She became interested in martial arts after one of her clients in an independent living program wanted to take lessons. Once a week, Hargin took the young man to Maryville for lessons. After a time, Hargin decided to get on the mat herself. She and her then-12-year-old daughter Jessica (now grown) earned first-degree black belts at the same time.

"Martial arts are about staying on a path, not giving up and discipline," she said. "The mental discipline comes into play in situations more than the physical aspect. It's more of a 'you're not going to control me' mentality. And it's about perseverance."

Away from Northwest, Hargin enjoys working with animals. Besides her own animals, she is on the Nodaway Humane Society Board and has been active several years with neglected and homeless animals in the area. That work led her to start Northwest Advocates for Animal Awareness.

"I felt I had something to share with Northwest students that could both help them and address some animal issues," she said.
When Alex Drury, Student Senate president and Student Ambassador, gives a campus tour, he’s almost always asked the question: How safe is the campus? He’s quick to respond.

“I point out the Lighthouse Project and the accessibility to emergency contacts if a student feels threatened or wants an escort home,” Drury said. “I mention the FOB system (keying system for residence halls) and our Campus Safety Department. I also tell them that Northwest is a dry campus, which makes it even safer.”

The Lighthouse Project is a federal grant awarded to Northwest that provides education, intervention and victim advocacy services for student victims of sexual assault, relationship violence or stalking.

According to Drury, a senior from Blue Springs, Mo., parents are generally pleased once they hear what Northwest offers in terms of providing a safe campus. Drury’s parents had similar questions before he enrolled at Northwest.

“They liked Maryville, the real homey feel, and they saw that there was a lot of support for the university in town, so that made them feel comfortable,” Drury said.

Drury, elected president of Northwest’s student body this past spring, said as a staff, Student Senate has not discussed campus safety. He said campus safety at Northwest was “not a big issue.”

“Safety is handled very well here,” said Drury, an organizational and speech communication major. “It’s a very safe campus atmosphere. The Campus Safety Department is open 24 hours, and you just don’t hear about anything bad going on. Our residence halls are safe. The FOB system is great. And in other buildings, people keep an eye on who’s in the (J.W. Jones Student) Union at night. And the campus is well-lit.”

Drury said there were some safety issues that he hopes to address during his term.

“I think there are some areas of campus where the lighting could be improved,” he said. “And as for fire safety, I think that could be looked at, especially in the residence halls.”

Drury said the Virginia Tech tragedy made everyone think about their environment and their safety.

“What Northwest does makes you feel at home,” he said. “I was thinking ‘wow, that could happen here.’ And then you think about all of the safety measures that have been implemented at Northwest. It made college students and administrators think about what could be done to make this a safer place.”

Besides safety, Drury also talks about the importance of communication.

“I definitely want to improve communication between organizations,” he said. “And I want to make Student Senate more diverse.”

Helping to increase attendance at student activities also is an issue.

Drury is a very busy student. Besides being a Student Ambassador and student body president, he is a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity; honor societies Blue Key, Cardinal Key, Mortar Board and Order of Omega; is a Peer Advisor; and serves on the Student/Faculty Disciplinary Committee.

He plans to graduate in spring 2008 and either pursue a master’s degree in education or go to law school.
Northwest’s Department of Campus Safety, located on Ninth Street east of the Administration Building inside the Environmental Support Services Building, consists of two divisions: University Police, and Parking and Traffic Services. The Department employs 10 state-certified commissioned police officers, one Office Manager/Dispatcher, one Parking Enforcement Officer, and five Student Dispatchers.

The department has primary responsibility for all law enforcement and safety on campus and works closely with outside law enforcement agencies to better serve the community.

Campus Safety has adopted and is committed to a community policing philosophy in its daily operations. It is staffed with officers 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Campus Safety works closely with the University Health and Safety Manager, Residential Life Staff, Freshman Seminar office, Office of Student Affairs, other University offices and student organizations on safety-related issues.

Northwest is served by a 911 emergency phone system. All 911 calls made from a campus telephone go directly through Campus Safety’s dispatching center. The dispatching center at Campus Safety handles all 911 emergency and non-emergency incoming calls. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to report emergencies and criminal activity to the Department of Campus Safety at extension 1254.

The Safe Ride Home Program was implemented in spring 2004 and is run by Northwest students. The program employs 10 “Safe Ride Home Drivers,” and operates from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. Friday and Saturday. The purpose of the Safe Ride Home Program is to provide transportation to safe locations for all Northwest students.

Programs

The Department of Campus Safety provides literature and presentations to students, faculty and staff upon request. Topics include: Alcohol and drugs; bicycle safety; burglary, theft and crime prevention; emergency; how to party safely; identity theft; parking and traffic; personal safety; Operation ID; Safe Ride Home; self-defense education; sexual assault and rape prevention; sexual assault: The Lighthouse Project; and workplace violence.

Report a crime

The Department of Campus Safety Web site includes a form in which victims of a crime can report on. If a person has been a victim of a crime or has information regarding a crime, they may submit the form to Campus Safety. If they wish to be contacted, they are to include their contact information. Persons reporting the crime have the option of remaining anonymous.

Northwest hosts school safety summit

A two-hour discussion between security experts, law enforcement and public school administrators highlighted a “Summit on School Safety” held April 26 on the Northwest campus.
The event was designed to engage area schools in reviewing and refining processes for preventing, responding to and enhancing security systems. The summit featured Paul Fennewald, Missouri homeland security coordinator, and University officials. About 75 people attended.

Fennewald, who served as an FBI special agent for more than 20 years, was named to his current post by Gov. Matt Blunt in 2005. He was designated the FBI’s Weapons of Mass Destruction Liaison to the state of Missouri in 1999. He joined the Missouri Department of Domestic Preparedness in 2004, training first responders on Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings and Prevention and Response to Suicide Bombings.

While with the FBI, he participated in investigations of the terrorist bombings of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, and the USS Cole in Aden, Yemen. He also was involved in the investigation that followed the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

Rita Hanks, president of the Northwest Board of Regents, moderated the summit. Topics and presenters included:

State perspective: Fennewald.
Legal context: Joe Cornelison, general counsel for Northwest.
Proactively negotiating legal constraints: Don Schneider, Northwest regent and former member of the U.S. Secret Service.
Identification and response to individual concerns: Dr. Jerry Wilmes, Northwest’s vice president for student affairs/director of wellness services, and Dr. April Haberyan, assistant professor of psychology, sociology and counseling at Northwest.
Response to crises: Clarence Green, Northwest director of campus safety.
Enhancing our systems: Dr. Jon Rickman, Northwest vice president for information systems.

Green named to state Campus Security Task Force

Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt has named Northwest Director of Campus Safety Clarence Green to a blue-ribbon Campus Security Task Force charged with evaluating college emergency response plans and ensuring close communication between higher education and the public safety/first-responder community.

Green said he was invited to join the panel shortly after the governor announced his intention to form such a group in the aftermath of the April shootings at Virginia Tech.

He said his name probably came to the attention of state officials due to his work with Missouri Homeland Security Coordinator Paul Fennewald in connection with adapting the Missouri Emergency Response Planning Team school database, known as ERPT, to colleges and universities.

The ERPT system gives law enforcement personnel and other first-responders instant, computer-based access to floor plans, evacuation procedures, shelter locations and other critical “pre-intelligence” in the event of an emergency.

One of the task force’s first priorities, Green said, will be to conduct a security and emergency preparedness survey of Missouri colleges and universities, both public and private. The group also is to compile a comprehensive report over the summer focusing on initiatives designed to ensure that campuses remain as safe as possible.

In spite of the Virginia Tech tragedy, and in the face of growing concerns voiced by parents, students, faculty and administrators, Green said it was important to remember that the nation’s campuses remain fundamentally safe places to live, work and learn.

“Schools are among the safest places you can be in America,” he said. “Tragedies such as those at Virginia Tech and Columbine affect our psychology and, to an extent, reflect the world as it is. But, predominantly, our schools are safe places.”

Blunt selected state Director of Public Safety Mark James and Dr. Robert Stein, commissioner of higher education, to lead the task force. Fennewald, who headed up a Summit on School Safety at Northwest, is a member as well. Other appointees include Dr. Henry Givens, president of Harris-Stowe State University, and Col. James Keathley, superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. ■
Northwest Family talks with
Clarence Green, Director of Campus Safety

Clarence Green has worked for Northwest’s Department of Campus Safety for nearly 11 years, nine as the director. Prior to working at the University, Green worked four years as a police officer for Maryville Public Safety. A 1991 graduate of Northwest, Green played defensive tackle for the Bearcats under Bud Elliott. While completing his education, Green also worked at a juvenile detention facility. He and his wife Michelle have three daughters, Kelsi, Kaylee and Brooklyn, and one son, Elijah.

**NF:** How safe is the (Maryville) campus of Northwest Missouri State University?

**Green:** “I think all college campuses are relatively safe. School settings are safe places to be. But really, I don’t know what safe is. St. Louis, Mo., is one of the most violent areas in the United States, but I lived there and felt safe. Parents may come from a place where car break-ins just don’t happen. And when their son or daughter has their car broken into, they may not think the campus is safe. Safe is a very relative term.”

**NF:** What does Campus Safety, as a department, do every day to ensure the safety of students, faculty, staff and visitors?

**Green:** “We have active patrol units out and about in vehicles and on foot. We are very visible to campus. We also conduct security checks of buildings and parking lots. We try to account for visitors on campus through visitor parking permits. We have a key control system, which has moved us more to an electronic system that details who enters and exits a facility. And we’ve been using the key fob system for several years. It’s on all of our residential halls. The doors are on a timer and are locked after hours so that we have controlled access to the facility.”

**NF:** What can students, faculty, staff and visitors do to help create a safe campus environment?

**Green:** “Safety starts first with you personally. Be aware and understand your surroundings and who you’re going to see. Try to pre-plan. Try to anticipate where problems may lie. Walk in well-lit areas and utilize emergency phones. We have a Safe Ride Home program that can be utilized after hours. Travel with groups of people. We conduct a safety survey twice a year. As a result, we’ve added more than 100 lights across campus during the last five years. We went from a low yellowish light to a halide bulb, so it’s much brighter. And we make sure shrubbery is cut back.”

**NF:** What is the biggest challenge facing college campuses in terms of safety and security?

**Green:** “Communicating with everyone our expectations of safety and security and their role in an emergency. What if a tornado strikes? What about a fire? What if a disgruntled person comes into your office? We need to do a better job communicating our expectations in case of emergency.”

**NF:** What improvements to campus safety plan to be made during the 2007-08 academic year?

**Green:** “We’re looking at integrating more digital closed-circuit television systems throughout campus. They will be used forensically after a crime has been committed, but also before hand to look at the movement of individuals. We will implement it in phases, installing them on the exterior of structures such as exits and entrances. These also can assist us during event management.”

**NF:** Are all Campus Safety officers trained?

**Green:** “Yes. We train every year with local police. We are all certified police officers on campus, not security guards. We are armed and trained to handle all types of emergencies.”

Clarence Green has worked for Northwest’s Department of Campus Safety for nearly 11 years, nine as the director. Prior to working at the University, Green worked four years as a police officer for Maryville Public Safety. A 1991 graduate of Northwest, Green played defensive tackle for the Bearcats under Bud Elliott. While completing his education, Green also worked at a juvenile detention facility. He and his wife Michelle have three daughters, Kelsi, Kaylee and Brooklyn, and one son, Elijah.

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Greeks raise more than $4,000 for hospice
Northwest’s Greek-letter community raised more than $4,000 for SSM Hospice and Home Care Foundation during the inaugural Greek Golf Classic and other events associated with the University’s annual Greek Week celebration.

Affiliated with SSM St. Francis Hospital, the foundation is nonprofit and provides hospice services to indigent patients and their families in addition to educating the public about palliative care for the terminally ill.

Since 1993, the foundation has made hospice care available for patients in surrounding counties regardless of their financial situations.

Northwest students Sarah Smith and Ashley Kneirim were this year’s Greek Week co-chairs. Students Alicia Kastka and Hollie Ryan served as co-chairs for the golf tournament, which was held April 21 at Mozingo Lake.

Fraternities and sororities competed in a penny war throughout Greek Week, April 9-15. The penny war was a friendly competition to see which organization could raise the most money. At the end of the week, the penny war raised $448.

Regents approve 6.4 percent tuition increase
At a special meeting June 5, the Northwest Board of Regents approved a 6.4 percent increase in tuition and fees for the 2007-08 academic year. In terms of dollars, students who are Missouri residents will pay $2,16.35 per credit hour, or $2,596.20 for a 12-hour trimester.

Speaking of quality programs and high retention and graduation rates, Northwest President Dean L. Hubbard told the board that the price is “a good deal to consumers who base decisions on value. We have an absence of course-based fees and due to the level of our scholarships and employment opportunities we provide, the borrowing rate on the part of Northwest students is low. That means Northwest students graduate with less loan repayments.”

Additionally, Northwest students receive primary textbooks and notebook computers with their tuition, the president said. “That’s a $1,500 value.”

Northwest’s graduation rate of 61 percent has been nationally recognized as an outstanding rate among public universities. Hubbard added this success is due to the amenities the students receive as well as the University’s low student/faculty ratio, approximately 22 to 1.

Northwest to open classroom facility in St. Joseph
Courses traditionally offered in St. Joseph through Northwest’s Graduate School will move into a home of their own this fall when the University opens a newly leased facility at Felix and Seventh streets.

Graduate dean, Dr. Frances Shipley, said Northwest has offered post-baccalaureate courses in St. Joseph for more than 40 years, but always in classrooms provided by Missouri Western State University or local schools.

The new center will occupy 14,000 square feet in a building owned by developer Winston Bennett, a leader in ongoing efforts to revitalize the city’s historic downtown. It will comprise four classrooms, four offices and two small reception areas along with handicap-accessible entrances and restrooms. Ample parking is available both on the street and in a nearby parking garage.

Freshman residence halls near completion
The Hudson and Perrin freshman suites on the east side of campus is nearing completion. Rooms will be ready for nearly 500 freshmen when they arrive on campus for the fall trimester in August. Workers are putting on the finishing touches, including lighting, fire systems and painting. The halls will be ready for furniture in early July.

The complex is made up of two individual buildings, Hudson Hall and Perrin Hall, which are connected with acommons area. Amenities include air conditioning, furnished rooms, individual temperature controls, high-speed Internet connection per resident, study and lounge areas and semi-private baths.

The halls are designed in pod style “neighborhoods.” Each wing contains two pods that will have approximately 10 rooms housing 20 students.

Hudson and Perrin will carry the names of the original residence halls that were razed on the same site in spring 2005. Nell Hudson was the University’s first woman registrar; Alice Perrin was the first dean of women.

Ticket prices set for 2007-08 seasons
Are you ready for some football?
The Bearcats, NCAA Division II national runners-up for the second consecutive season in 2006, open the 2007 campaign on Aug. 23 with a game under the lights at Bearcat Stadium.


For advance ticket purchases, call the Northwest Student Services Desk at (660) 562-1212 or order online at NorthwestBearcats.com.

Football
Reserved seating for season $55, Reserved seating for adult $12, Reserved seating for K-12 or visiting students $5, Standing room only adult $8, SRO for K-12 or visiting students $5, SRO for Northwest students FREE.

Tickets for the Fall Classic VI at Arrowhead on Oct. 6:
Club level $25, Field level adult $20, Northwest or Pittsburg State students $10, High school students and under $10. Children 2 and under will be admitted free when accompanied with an adult and must sit in the same seat as the adult.

Basketball
Reserved chairback for season $100, Reserved railback for season $80, Reserved railback $10, Reserved railback $8, General admission adults $6, General admission K-12 or visiting students $3, General admission for Northwest students FREE.

Volleyball
General admission adults $2, General admission K-12 or visiting students $1, General admission for Northwest students FREE.

For all sports, all high school and college students must show a valid school ID card to receive the discounted student prices.
Students to be introduced to new authorization form

In early July, the following e-mail will be sent to all Northwest students:

To: All Northwest Students  
Cc:  
Subject: Authorize the Release of ‘Selected’ Information to Your Parents  
****We are protecting your information****

You should complete the new FERPA ‘Release of Information’ form available in your CatPAWS account (Student and Financial Aid Tab). You will indicate to whom Northwest is authorized to discuss/release your educational records such as billing information, financial aid and grades.

If parents or other individuals contact an office requesting information on billing, financial assistance or grades, we cannot talk with them unless they have been authorized by the student.

Click on the link below to authorize individuals. It’s quick and easy.  

You should complete the new FERPA ‘Release of Information’ form available in your CatPAWS account (Student and Financial Aid Tab). You will indicate to whom Northwest is authorized to discuss/release your educational records such as billing information, financial aid and grades.

The authorization form has two purposes: 1) To authorize Northwest to talk to parents (or whomever students authorize) about student bills, grades, etc. when they call asking for information. 2) Once they complete the online authorization, it also creates a Northwest ID and PIN for each authorized user. If the student wants to grant online access to this information, including online payment, they give them the ID number and PIN that was created. There is a login page on the parents and family link from the homepage titled Authorized Users. It is actually just a link to CatPAWS, but when the myNorthwest online community is launched in spring 2008, it will be the same button, just going to a different link. There also is a button on the Cashiering homepage to pay online.

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Upcoming Events

August
2  July Summer session ends  
Comencement, 7 p.m.
6  Fourth Summer Session begins and registration
12  Forest Village Apartments open to residents, 8 a.m.
15  First installment due
16  August Summer session ends
19  MO Academy Adventure Week (19-26)  
Missouri Academy first year students move-in day
20  Online Verification available through Aug. 26
23  Advantage (23-26)  
Residence halls open for freshmen move in, 7 a.m.
24  University/College meetings  
Residence halls open for upperclassmen move-in, 7 a.m.
Textbook pick-up, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., The Station
Soccer at Upper Iowa Volleyball at Nebraska-Kearney Classic  
Student payday
25  Missouri Academy second year students move-in day  
General Registration, 9 a.m.-noon
Volleyball at Nebraska-Kearney Classic
26  Textbook pick-up, 1-5 p.m., The Station
27  Classes begin
Fall 2007 student teachers’ mandatory first day in classroom
29  T.A.K.E. women’s self defense class
31  Soccer vs. St. Cloud, 2 p.m.
Volleyball at St. Edwards Classic

September
1  Women’s/Men’s CC IntraSquad/Al-Umni Volleyball at St. Edwards Classic
2  Soccer vs. Wayne State, 2 p.m.
3  Labor Day, no classes
4  Faculty Recital: Dr. William Richardson, trumpet, 8 p.m., CJT
7-8  Bearcat Volleyball Classic
8  W/M CC Bearcat Collegiate Open
9  Soccer at NE State (OK), 1 p.m.
10  Robert Royhl Painting Exhibit opens, DeLuce Gallery
Royhl slide lecture, 7 p.m., FA 244
12  Visiting Writers Series: Rebecca Aronson and John Gallaher, 7 p.m.
Volleyball vs. Southwest Baptist, 7 p.m.
14  Soccer at Southwest Baptist
Volleyball vs. Truman State, 7 p.m.
15  BRUSH (Beautifying Residential Housing Using Student Help)
Second installment due

Northwest Football Schedule

Aug. 23 vs. Arkansas Tech, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 8 at Nebraska-Omaha, 6 p.m.
Sept. 15 at Missouri Western, 6 p.m.
Sept. 22 vs. Truman State, 1 p.m.
Sept. 29 vs. Southwest Baptist, 6 p.m.
Oct. 6 vs. Pittsburg State at Arrowhead Stadium, 2 p.m.
Oct. 13 vs. Central Missouri, 1 p.m.
Oct. 20 at Fort Hays State, 2 p.m.
Oct. 27 vs. Washburn (Homecoming) 1:30 p.m.
Nov. 3 at Emporia State, 1 p.m.
Nov. 10 vs. Missouri Southern, 1 p.m.
Nov. 17 NCAA Playoffs-First Round
Nov. 24 NCAA Playoffs-Second Round
Dec. 1 NCAA Playoffs-Quarterfinals
Dec. 8 NCAA Playoffs-Semifinals
Dec. 15 NCAA Championship

For more information about Northwest, visit www.nwmissouri.edu or call 660.562.1212

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