INSIDE

• ESL students learn about American culture through volunteer work
• Colleges honor faculty for excellence and achievement

The Victor family of Omaha, Neb., which includes five graduates, was named Northwest Family of the Year.
For Kiley Swopes’ first internship, she dreamed big

Swopes had long been interested in serving in the military, but health problems prevented her from enlisting. One day, the junior broadcasting and journalism major from Warrensburg, Mo., was conducting an interview for The Northwest Missourian, the campus newspaper. Her subject turned the tables and interviewed her about her interests, and encouraged her to contact Career Services about a program with the government called the Workforce Recruitment Program, designed for talented college students with disabilities. Swopes arranged a meeting with Career Services and received help with her résumé and arranged an appointment to interview for the program.

After a few months, she received a call from the Department of Defense Education Activity in Arlington, Va. The DoDEA is a school located in various areas all over the world for children whose parents are active duty or Department of Defense civilians. The Arlington location serves as the schools’ headquarters. Swopes was offered an internship as an Audio/Visual Production Assistant.

“I applied for internships, whether big or small, as much as you can,” she said. “Don’t settle if there is an internship offer the following advice.

“Apply for internships, whether big or small, as much as you can,” she said. “Don’t settle if there is an internship you really want. Always be willing to meet new people, because so much is based on networking. Lastly, don’t be afraid to make mistakes. That’s what your internship is all about.”

Volunteer work brings U.S. culture home to ESL students

It was a busy summer for a group of international students at Northwest who put in long weeks during America’s traditional vacation season honing their speaking and writing skills through the University’s English as a Second Language program.

In addition to spending at least 20 hours a week in the classroom, completing intensive homework assignments and spending one or two sessions a week talking to a native English speaker, or “conversation partner,” ESL students participated in local volunteer projects that provided them with insight into American customs and culture.

ESL Instructor Anne Lech said the projects, which included helping out with the campus-based portion of the Heart of America Tractor Cruise in June, gave students from China, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and other countries a chance both to practice their English and meet Americans from many walks of life.

Besides helping set up facilities for the tractor cruise in College Park, ESL students assisted the Pride Lions Club in serving a Saturday-morning pancake breakfast. They also registered participants, sold T-shirts and tickets and cleaned up following the event, which raised $23,000 for Special Olympics, the Abbie Neff Foundation and Muscular Dystrophy Camp.

“From this activity, I learned that it will be a strong power to help weaknesses if each person dedicates a little,” said Ninglin Ying of China. “We collected a lot of money because more and more volunteers donated.”

Other ESL summer experiences included marching in the Nodaway County Fair Parade as part of the Habitat for Humanity entry. The students spent a portion of the long Fourth of July weekend painting a Habitat playhouse that sold for $1,200 in a charity auction to benefit the organization, which uses donations and “sweat equity” to provide new housing for lower income families.

“I like this kind of activity and enjoyed it,” said Feng Qin, another Chinese student. “Before this event, I didn’t have many chances to be a volunteer. It is a significant activity. Not only did it get money in donations, but also it gave me a chance to gain some experience for helping others.”
Victors of Omaha are Northwest Family of the Year

The Victor family of Omaha, Neb., was recognized during halftime of the Saturday, Sept. 19 Family Weekend home football game at Northwest’s 2009 Family of the Year.

Sponsored by University food service and maintenance vendor Aramark, the Family of the Year award is bestowed each fall during the University’s three-day salute to families who have students attending Northwest. The recognition comes with a $750 scholarship and other prizes.

Megan Victor, the daughter of Tom and Mary Victor of Omaha, Neb., nominated her family for the award. She and her brothers, Chris Victor and Tim Victor, are triplets, all graduating from Northwest in 2009. Chris and Tim live in Omaha, Neb. Megan is a graduate assistant in the Talent Development Center and will graduate with a master’s in education in 2010. In addition, her sisters, Jodi Victor McDaniel and Julie Victor Moore — who are twins — are Bearcat alumni. Jodi and her husband, Chad McDaniel, graduated from Northwest in 2003 and live in Mount Vernon, Wash. Julie graduated in 2004 and 2006, and her husband, Matthew Moore, graduated from Northwest in 2003 and 2006. They live in Gretna, Neb.

Each of the Victors was highly involved as Northwest students. Jody was president of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority, was a Student Ambassador and was Alpha Omega president; Julie was president of Phi Mu sorority and was senior class president; Megan was president of Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority and Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority and was a Student Ambassador; and Tim and Chris were involved in Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and worked on campus.

“Our parents have successfully put five kids through college in a matter of 10 years. We are all Bearcats for life,” wrote Megan Victor in her Family of the Year application. “…As alumni, our pride in the school and everything it stands for continues to grow. Once a Bearcat, always a Bearcat!”

Photos feature Family Weekend events, a three-day salute to families with students attending Northwest.
Northwest’s College of Arts and Sciences, Melvin and Valorie Booth College of Business and Professional Studies, and College of Education and Human Services recently announced winners of the annual Deans Faculty Awards for outstanding teaching, research, service, student support (Booth College only) and collaboration in 2008. The Booth College winners were Jacque Lamer, instructor of mass communication (teaching); Dr. Janet Marta, associate professor of marketing/management (research); Dr. Rod Barr, instructor of agriculture (service); and Dr. Nancy Zeliff, professor of computer science/information systems (student support).

College of Education and Human Services winners were Patricia Thompson, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction (teaching); Dr. Terry Long, associate professor of HPERD (research); and Dr. Joyce Piveral, associate professor of educational leadership (collaboration).

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hat does the term “Electroni

campus” mean to you? Some of us remember when this was unveiled and when then-Gov. John Ashcroft "flipped the switch" to

launch our Electronic Campus. Northwest has continued to adapt ever since, ensuring the technolo-
gical needs of students, faculty and staff are not only met, but expectations exceeded.

Given the University’s continuous commitment to technology, it’s no surpris- e we are surpassing the field within wireless technology. After visiting with Dr. Jon Rickman, vice president of information systems, I’ve learned that expanding the on-campus wireless data network was delayed for years while waiting for higher capacity and higher speed technologies. With the release of the “N level” wireless technology in 2008 the wait was finally over, and the deployment of this new

est wireless technology on campus has been steady and continuous.

Dr. Rickman assures me the cur- rent installation schedule will provide wireless data, Wi-Fi services to most of the major populated areas on campus by the end of this trimester. Installations this fall are continuing in Tower Suites, Forest Village Apartments, Hudson-Perrin and South Complex, and North Complex will be completed next summer.

So what does this mean?

It means Northwest will be one of the few universities that provides wire-
less coverage to most of its campus with N level service and also provides students with laptops having N level capabilities. N level has the capacity to transmit 130 million bits per second as compared to the previous wireless level, which had a capacity of 11 mil-

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Deans Awards honor faculty excellence, achievement

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Northwest enrollment hits an all-time high

Northwest’s Office of Enrollment Management has released record-breaking enrollment figures for the fall 2009 trimester.

Northwest’s total student headcount is 12,708, which is 173 more students than at this time last year. In addition, 3,051 full-time and part-time students are enrolled at Northwest, which represents an increase of 354, or 11.4 percent, over last year.

Beverly Schenkel, dean of enrollment management said the first-time freshman class of 1,469 is up 35 students from last year. This is a record number of freshmen for the University, with 89 percent of the growth coming from Mis-
our and outside areas.

Northwest officials also pleased with the retention rate of stu-
dents who were full-time in fall 2008. The University retained 73 percent of these students, well above the national average of 70 percent for moderately selective institutions.

“Our high freshmen retention rate indicates student satisfaction as well as student success are priorities at Northwest,” Schenkel said. “It’s impor-
tant that our students achieve those high levels of success as the University is going through a time of growth.”

The number of international students at Northwest is also at all-time high with 270 international students enrolled at the University, which is an increase of 20 students over fall 2008. A total of 170 student foreign exchange programs are beginning their first year of study at Northwest. Coaches with the greatest number of student attendees to the University include India, China and Korea.

Campus recycling effort introduces reusable shopping bag program

An effort to reduce the volume of waste going into trash and landfills, the Northwest demonstrates our commitment to protect the environment. Northwest officials have organized a cloth shopping bag program designed to encourage students, faculty, staff and others to carry their purchases in an environ-
mentally responsible manner.

Earlier this year, the committee, which, along with the Office of Resi-
dential Life, sponsors the University’s "Reduce Your Pawprint" campus sustainability initiative, received an $8,700 state Department of Natural Resources grant administered through the North-
west Missouri Regional Solid Waste Management District.

The grant, along with a $4,900 match in University Applied Research funds and additional support from Northwest food service provider ARA- MARK and the Bearcat Bookstore, means that the committee will be able to give away approximately 15,000 cloth shopping bags to students faculty and staff during the 2009-10 academic year.

Reconciling Committee member Nancy Baxter of the Office of Finance and Operations, said the hope is that students and other members of the Northwest community will use the Bearcat-green bags, which carry the “Reduce Your Pawprint” sticker, while shopping both on and off campus.

Baxter said the effort will eliminate an estimated 600 pounds of paper and plastic this year from the local waste stream, a figure that should increase as more people get into the habit of shop-
ing with reusable bags. That’s signifi-
cant because 3,200 plastic shopping bags weigh only 35.5 pounds. A similar number of paper bags weighs more than 260 pounds.

New Admissions Web site offers blend of information and interactivity

The Office of Admissions has a new look on the Web. Admission staffs along with technicians from the Office of Informa-
tion Systems and Marketing/University Relations personnel developed and created the redesign over the summer. The new Web site features a colorful, clean design and enhanced interactiv-
ity, including video clips and a virtual campus tour.

To view the new admissions Web site, go to www.nwmissouri.edu/admissions.

“As we reviewed feedback from our prospective students and their parents – the two segments that I’ve been listening to most closely – and they were telling us that the site is fun and has a youthful, modern look that is informa-
tive and easy to navigate,” Schenkel said. “It’s important that the site be functional as well, and I’m glad we’ve been able to find that balance.”

Other new features on www.nwmissouri.edu/admissions include an option on social net-
working with links to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and flickr. There is also a new homepage link called Show Your Pride that lets future Bearcats discover or post Northwest-related images in the form of buddy icons, desktop wallpaper, non-on-transfers and cell phone wallpapers.

“These are great features not just for prospective students that we work with, but also for our current stu-
dents and alumni,” Schenkel said.

Northwest signs joint admissions agreement with Metropolitan Community College

O rginals from Northwest and the Metropolitan Community College – Kansas City have signed a joint admission agreement designed to enhance educational opportunities for students at both institutions.

The agreement includes a joint admission provision that will allow students to take advantage of facilities and programs at both Northwest and MCC while making the transition from one year’s academic degree to the next year’s academic degree.

Potential benefits for students in- clude the ability to attend both schools simultaneously; receipt of a Northwest ID usable at the University’s B.D. Owens Library, campus dining facilities and the Bearcat Bookstore; and stu-
dent admission to Northwest athletic events, concerts and lectures.

“Both Northwest and Metropolitan Community College are committed to expanding the educational opportuni-
ties available in our region,” said North-
west President Jon Jasinski. “Northwest has an excellent reputation of service in the greater Kansas City area, and everyone at Northwest is looking for-
toward to the good things that are going to come out of this new relationship.

Our agreement creates new avenues for students who wish to build on the solid academic foundation provided by MCC as they move on to complete bachelor’s degrees from Northwest.”

Under terms of the agreement, which goes into effect this fall, students qualifying and remaining eligible for joint admission must meet all entrance requirements set forth by both institu-
tions. However, students admitted to both Northwest and MCC must follow Northwest’s requirements could be admitted to a specific program after achieving eligibility for transfer student admission.

From the President

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Family Matters

We lost one of our family members recently, sophomore Britnee Baldridge. Whatever our fault, let us all provide a Bearcat prayer on behalf of Britnee to her family and friends. Our faculty and staff worked diligently and with such grace to ensure the Northwest community has been able to address this difficult situation. My special thanks go to Director of Counseling Tim Crowley and his staff as well as our residence hall colleagues. I trust all of us will use this as an occasion to reflect and understand that sometimes the situations we face really need to be put in perspective and we should indeed live life to its fullest, just as Britnee did, as her friends have so warmly shared.

With Bearcat Pride,

John Jasinski, President
new undergraduate degree program in nanoscience, a rapidly advancing field relating to structures on the atomic and molecular scale that can function like tiny machines. A nanometer is a billionth of a meter, and nanotech objects are typically 100 nanometers or less. That’s approximately 1,000 times smaller than the width of a human hair.

Gov. Jay Nixon: New center will ‘grow the business leaders of the future’

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Nixon praised the CIE as a unique partnership between private enterprise and higher education, and said the concept of combining the scientific and research resources of a university with the vision and energy of the center’s entrepreneurial tenants holds great promise for economic growth.

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Published six times during the academic year by the Offices of Enrollment Management, Residential Life, Student Affairs, Advisement Assistance, Career Services and University Relations.

Editor: Mallory Murray
Designer: Teresa Carter
Photographer: Darren Whitley

Calendar of Events

November
1 Tower Choir concert
2 Encore: “Street Beat”
4 Last date to withdraw from the University
6 Volleyball vs. Central Missouri
7 Football vs. Central Missouri
8 Tower Choir concert
12 Modern Language Day
13 Volleyball vs. Truman State
13-14 Theatre: “Supergirls! Tales of Life, Love, and Captain Nebraska”
14 Missouri Academy: Preview Day
15 Final installment due
16 Men’s basketball vs. Upper Iowa
17 Wind Symphony concert
19 Volleyball regionals
20 Men’s basketball vs. Benedictine College
20 Preregistration appointments for spring 2010 end
20 Volleyball regionals
20-21 Women’s basketball: Winsted Reeves Classic
20-21 Theatre: “Supergirls! Tales of Life, Love, and Captain Nebraska”
20 Guest Artist Recital: Paul Basler, horn
21 NCAA football playoffs: second round
21 Jazz Ensemble concert
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22 Tower Choir/University Chorale concert
23 Studio Jazz Ensemble concert
24 Thanksgiving break begins at 5 p.m.
25 Women’s basketball vs. UMSL
26 Men’s basketball vs. Baker
28 NCAA football playoffs: quarterfinals
29 Men’s basketball vs. Graceland
30 Thanksgiving break ends, 8 a.m.

For an up-to-date calendar, go to www.nwmissouri.edu/calendar

December
2 Women’s/men’s basketball vs. Emporia
3-5 Volleyball NCAA Elite Eight
4-5 Yuletide Feaste
5 Missouri Academy: Preview Day
5 NCAA football playoffs: semifinals
7 Women’s/men’s basketball vs. Washburn
8 Wind Symphony and Jazz Ensemble Holiday concert
11 Classwork ends
12 NCAA football championship
13 Theatre: “Alice in Wonderland”
14-18 Final exams
18 Trimester ends
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