Ag professor receives Friends of Growmark Award
Hire A Bearcat program launched

Career Services offers a new online job search tool, Hire A Bearcat, one of many ways students can learn about career opportunities.

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Ag’s Larson honored for role in internship program

Dr. Arley Larson, associate professor and chair of Northwest’s Department of Agriculture, recently received the Friends of GROWMARK Award at the agricultural supply cooperative’s annual meeting in Chicago. Larson was honored for his work in promoting Northwest students qualified to fill both internships and fulltime positions within the company, whose member coops supply farmers in the United States and Canada with services and supplies, including feed, fertilizer, chemicals and fuel.

In making the award, GROWMARK cited Larson’s dedication is “identifying and recruiting qualified student interns and potential employees.”

Northwest has developed “an excellent working relationship” with GROWMARK over the past 15 years, Larson said, beginning with the company’s participation in Career Day, the University’s annual job fair. Each year, one or two Northwest students receive summer internships at GROWMARK cooperatives, he said, and the company has hired a significant number of graduates. In addition, the coop annually awards two $1,000 scholarships to Northwest students.

Larson praised GROWMARK’s “purposeful” internship program, in which students working at member coops for the summer are assigned performance-based projects. After completing their internships, students give presentations about their projects at the company’s corporate headquarters in Bloomington, Ill., where results are evaluated by faculty from participating schools.

“It’s an excellent model,” Larson said. “They’re not just hiring an intern to work for them, they’re seeking to attract good employees.”

Larson joined the Northwest faculty in 1987 after earning a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and spending several years working as an economist for Agricultural Research and Management Services Inc. and the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission.

One of the nation’s historic agricultural cooperatives, GROWMARK traces its roots to the organization of several local cooperatives by Illinois Farm Bureau members in the 1920s. Then, in 1927, nine local coops organized to form the Illinois Farm Supply Co., and members still use the familiar FS trademark.

Today, GROWMARK is a regional agricultural supply and grain cooperative operating in more than a dozen states and Ontario, Canada.
For Michael Willis, the flexibility required to work in broadcasting is second nature.

Willis, a junior in broadcasting from King City, Mo., grew up helping out on the family farm.

“There is no schedule on a farm, you have to learn to be flexible,” Willis said. “If a cow starts giving birth in the middle of the night, you can’t say ‘sorry, it’s not my working hours.’ It’s the same at the radio station. When news happens, you have to be able to rearrange your schedule in order to get it covered.”

Willis works part-time at KXCV, the National Public Radio affiliate station on Northwest’s campus, and at KZLX, the student-operated radio station at Northwest. He also works for Bearcat Productions, a semi-independent video production company through the Department of Mass Communication.

“I started listening to KXCV when I was 16,” he said. “My mom recommended it to me, and I got hooked. The radio station, and your ability to get hands-on experience right as a freshman, was one of the reasons I chose Northwest.”

KXCV listeners might recognize Willis’ voice from hosting Morning Edition on Tuesdays. In this role, he reads newscasts, weather and community events in between national programming. He also works news shifts for the station, checking with people throughout the listening area for story ideas and writing stories to be read on air. At KZLX, Willis makes sure that the music is ready to play and announces events on campus. He also works on underwriting production.

“It is great if you can get an on-campus job that relates to the field you want to go into,” Willis said. “Since the jobs are on campus, they’re flexible and understanding of your class schedule, but you still get great experience and a position that is good to have on your résumé.”

And on campus jobs can lead to a great place to meet friends.

“Your best friends that you will have will be from your organization,” Willis said. “Once you have picked a major or joined an organization, you will meet people who have a similar interests, which makes for strong friendships as you work toward similar goals.”

Willis recommends that students maintain focus when in college.

“Some people will tell you to get involved in as many organizations as possible, but then you get spread too thin,” he said. “Students should figure out what they are really interested in, join organizations related to those interests, and then they can really shine. Plus, then you are busy doing what you really enjoy.”
Minor to offer new opportunities in crisis management

In an unsafe and uncertain world, college graduates are finding a growing number of opportunities among the ranks of professionals whose job it is to respond to emergencies and manage crises.

In order to better prepare students in a variety of majors who may seek careers in this challenging area, Northwest will introduce an interdisciplinary minor in comprehensive crisis response beginning with the spring 2009 trimester.

Dr. Mark Corson, associate professor of geography, serves as coordinator for the new minor, and is currently accepting inquiries from interested students.

“Basically what we see in emergency management, disaster preparation and humanitarian relief is a move toward professionalization,” Corson said. “There is an expectation that people are going to have credentials. So we felt that this was an opportunity for our students to benefit.”

Disaster relief and crisis managers are increasingly in demand in both government and the non-profit sector, Corson said, as well as in business, which has a growing need for specialists in such areas as operational continuity, consequence management and public affairs.

The comprehensive crisis response minor is a good fit for any number of major fields of study, Corson said, which is why it has was designed as a multi-disciplinary offering by faculty from a number of departments, including Matt Johnson, a history instructor whose research interests include civil defense; Dr. April Haberyan, who teaches disaster psychology; and Dr. Melody Hubbard, who is interested in crisis response as it pertains to mass communicators and journalists.

Other related areas of study include public administration; geography, which embraces hazard and vulnerability analysis; and public safety, since courses within the minor can support continuing education and degree requirements for peace officers and other first responders.

Corson’s interest in the program came about through his involvement with two field exercises open to all Northwest students and available to those enrolled in the new minor as experiential electives: Atlantic Hope at Indian Rivers State College in Florida and the International Institute for Humanitarian Aid, which is staged in the Balkan nation of Macedonia.

Both programs challenge student teams with simulations, such as an earthquake or pending civil war – or both at the same time – set in the mythical nation of Atlantica.

In Florida, students have access to a new $47 million public safety training complex, which includes a small mock city. The Macedonian experience includes a week of training in such areas as land navigation, communication, first aid and negotiation followed by a week in the field during which students try to diffuse a crisis while interacting with trained role-players portraying soldiers, rebels, hostages, government officials and victims.

Corson said both exercises have proven to be overwhelmingly positive experiences.

“You have students who say it has changed their lives and given them a new vision of who they are and what they can do,” he said. “One student told me, ‘I never thought I could be a leader, but I not only discovered that I can lead, but that people wanted me to lead, and that I’m pretty good at it.’”

Faculty are currently working to gain recognition for the minor from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which Corson said has shown positive interest.

$1.14 million grant to fund nanoscience equipment

As anticipated, Northwest has received a $1.14 million federal grant that will be used to equip nanoscience laboratories in the University’s Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

When completed next year, the high-technology business incubator and academic facility will house corporate tenants and the University’s newly formed Graduate Applied Research Center. The CIE will also include laboratories and classrooms for Northwest’s new nanoscience undergraduate degree program, courses for which are scheduled to begin in 2009.

“This federal appropriation is a great boost to the nanoscale program at Northwest,” said Dr. Charles McAdams, dean of the University’s College of Arts and Sciences. “These funds will allow students to conduct research using cutting-edge equipment not available to undergraduates at most institutions.”

The idea behind the CIE is to link technology-centered commercial enterprises with the academic resources available at a state university. Corporate tenants will benefit from research and development activities carried out by students and faculty while providing students and new graduates with real-world experience as interns, technicians and employees.

“The fully equipped center will enable Northwest to establish itself as a leader in nanoscience education and, consequently, to attract both students and well-qualified faculty,” McAdams said. “In addition, this important federal appropriation is planting the seeds of success for a partnership between higher education and business that will help Missouri by creating jobs and preparing our best and brightest young people for today’s high-tech workplace.”

The grant will allow the University to purchase two research-grade instruments essential for doing nanoscale science: a scanning electron microscope, or SEM, and an atomic force microscope, or AFM.
Award with State Humanities

Frizzell, Carneal Honored

The Ackley family of Meadville, which has a Bearcat tradition stretching across three generations, was recognized during halftime of the Saturday, Sept. 13, Family Weekend home football game as the University’s 2008 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.

Nominated by their daughter Kristen, a Northwest sophomore, Kenny and Rhonda Ackley are both University alumni. More than a half-dozen family members also spent their college years as Bearcats. Family of the Year recipients must have at least one child who is enrolled as an undergraduate at the University.

Rhonda Ackley is a middle school teacher with the Meadville R-I School District, and Kenny Ackley is a wildlife biologist at the Fountain Grove Wildlife Conservation Area. Kristen Ackley, who began her freshman year in fall 2007, is an elementary education major. Her younger sister, Rachel, still lives at home and is considering attending Northwest after finishing high school.

“There is no other place I would rather be attending college,” wrote Kristen Ackley in her Family of the Year application. “… My family and I are so proud to be lifelong Bearcats, and I look forward to my children going to Northwest someday.”

Frizzell, Carneal Honored with State Humanities Award

Two Northwest scholars are being honored with Missouri’s top award for achievement in the humanities.

Northwest Director of Libraries Robert Frizzell has been chosen to receive the Missouri Humanities Council’s Governor’s Humanities Award for his book, “Independent Immigrants: A Settlement of Hanoverian Germans in Western Missouri.” (University of Missouri Press, 2007).

Professor Emeritus of History Thomas Carneal of Maryville, who since his retirement from the University has played a key leadership role in the Nodaway County Historical Society, is being recognized for his work as a historian, preservationist and scholar. Carneal’s award specifically recognizes his accomplishments in promoting the cultural and architectural heritage of northwest Missouri.

The awards were presented Oct. 22 during ceremonies at the Governor’s Mansion in Jefferson City.

Wellsville Native Receives Networking Scholarship

Northwest student Blake Adams has been selected as one of 40 recipients of the 2008 Panduit Excellence Scholarship sponsored by the Cisco Learning Institute.

Adams, a management information systems major from Wellsville, Mo., and his co-recipients were selected from among more than 500 international applicants based on demonstrated commitment to networking education leading to Cisco Certified Network Associate certification. Of the 40 winners, only five were from the United States.

All scholarship applicants provided information about their education, experience and community service and wrote an essay focusing on career goals in the networking industry. Adams received $1,000 toward tuition in CCNA courses for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Northwest has been a Cisco Networking Academy since 2004 and offers four academy-recognized courses: network fundamentals, routing protocols and concepts, LAN switching and wireless, and accessing the WAN.

Education Majors Receive Isgur Scholarships

Four Northwest students recently received scholarships from the Jack J. Isgur Foundation.

The scholarships, which provide $750 a term for one academic year, are awarded to education majors at Missouri colleges and universities who are preparing for careers teaching arts and humanities in elementary and middle schools.

Based in Kansas City, the foundation was established by attorney Jack J. Isgur. Preferred scholarship recipients are entering their junior, or subsequent, year of college and have declared an intention to teach in rural Missouri rather than metropolitan districts.

Northwest’s 2008-2009 Isgur Foundation scholarship recipients include:

- Matthew McGory, Leawood, Kan., a 2008 graduate of Shawnee Mission (Kan.) East High School majoring in instrumental music education,
- Tyler Simmons, a 2008 graduate of Grandview (Mo.) R-I High School majoring in elementary education, and
- Amy Sweets, a 2008 graduate of Hannibal (Mo.) High School majoring in music education.

Students Lend a Helping Hand Through BRUSH

Two-hundred Northwest students gave part of their Saturday to help Maryville residents improve their homes.

Beautifying residences using student help (BRUSH), an annual event, was started in 2002 by First Lady Aleta Hubbard. On Sept. 20, students helped paint residents’ houses, mow lawns, trim bushes and rake leaves.

“It is a great way for the students to embed themselves within the community and help individuals,” said Amy Nally, director of Volunteer, Service Learning and Civic Engagement. “This is a generous way for students to give back to the Maryville community.”

Nicole Jay, a sophomore elementary education major from Beatrice, Neb., helped clean a house, scraped paint and painted a home.

“BRUSH shows that we care about Maryville and the residents, and represents the school really well,” Jay said.

For Morgan McCoy, sophomore in pre-medicine from Archie, Mo., painting houses offered some other entertainment, too.

“I remember dripping a whole gob of paint into some girl’s hair and not wanting to tell her because I figured she would be really mad,” McCoy said. “She kept looking around to see what had happened, and I was trying not to laugh.”
Early Alert Program Posts Growing Retention Success Rate

Now entering its fourth year, Northwest’s Early Alert Program continues to throw a lifeline to students who exhibit such danger signs as failure to attend class, poor academic performance, inattentiveness or a drastic change in demeanor or appearance.

Assistant Director of Advisement Brad Landhuis, who supervises the program, said that of the 81 students reported by faculty and staff during the spring 2008 trimester, 48 percent have been retained and continue to work toward a degree from Northwest.

Since its inception, the Early Alert Program has intervened on the behalf of nearly 450 students who have exhibited at-risk behaviors, and Landhuis said that each trimester has proved more successful than the last in terms of retention.

All Northwest faculty and staff members are encouraged to report students they think may be experiencing difficulty, and to remember that problems don’t always center around poor grades. A family tragedy or relationship trouble can put students at risk of dropping out of college, as can difficulties related to stress, loneliness and depression.

Students doing well in class may still exhibit signals, such as repeated tardiness or failure to report to a campus job, and that should raise a red flag with supervisors and co-workers.

Students whose names are sent into Advisement Assistance receive a non-threatening e-mail suggesting that they come to the office for a discussion about any issues that may be bothering them.

“We write and tell them that somebody cares about them,” Landhuis said. “It’s very non-threatening. Some students are intimidated by faculty, but we let them know that they are not in trouble, that nothing’s been put on their record, and that we want to offer ways to help.”

Once a student comes in, Landhuis tries to steer them to appropriate resources, such as the Counseling Center, Talent Development Center, Writing Lab or Residential Life. If necessary, he may also work with the University’s Threat Assessment Task Force to diffuse situations where students may pose a danger to themselves or others.

“It’s amazing to see the relief on their faces when they realize we can help them,” Landhuis said, adding that many students who recognize him from the SOAR and Advantage orientation programs are happy just to find a familiar face from their earliest days on campus.

Though Early Alert has a growing success rate Landhuis fears that many students in trouble never seek help and simply drop out.

“We tell them, ‘You may not even recognize that it’s happening,’” he said. “‘But it’s happening, so let’s work on it.’”

Calendar of Events

**November**

- **3** Deluce Gallery: Stephen Farrell graphic design exhibit opening and lecture, 7 p.m. (closes Dec. 5)
- **4** Madrailer concert, 8 p.m.
- **5** Volleyball vs Nebraska-Omaha, 7 p.m.
- **6** Soccer vs. Central Missouri, 3 p.m.
- **7-8** Theatre: “The Birds,” 7:30 p.m.
- **10** Volleyball vs. Missouri Western, 7 p.m.
- **13-15** Theatre: “The Birds,” 7:30 p.m.
- **15** Fourth installment due
- **16** Wind Symphony concert, 3 p.m.
- **17** Distinguished Lecture Series: Eugene Jarecki, 8 p.m.
- **18** Men’s basketball vs. Peru State, 7 p.m.
- **21** Transfer and Returning Student Orientation and Registration
- **21-22** Winstead-Reeves Invitational
- **22** Jazz Ensemble concert, 5 p.m.
- **23** Tower Choir and University Chorale concert, 3 p.m.
- **24** Encore: The Punch Brothers featuring Chris Thile, 7:30 p.m.
- **25** Thanksgiving recess begins, 5 p.m.

**December**

- **1** Thanksgiving recess ends, 8 a.m.
- **2** Wind Symphony and Jazz Ensemble Holiday concert, 8 p.m.
- **5** Classwork ends
- **6** Art Show and Sale, Fire Arts Building
- **6** Yuletide Feaste, Ballroom, 6:30 p.m.
- **6** Missouri Academy Preview Day
- **7** Theatre: “The True Story of the Three Little Pigs: The Musical,” 2 p.m.
- **8-12** Final exams
- **12** Trimester ends
- **12** Commencement, Bearcat Arena, 1 p.m.

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For more information about Northwest, visit [www.nwmissouri.edu](http://www.nwmissouri.edu) or call 660.562.1212

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**Northwest Missouri State University**

For an up-to-date calendar, go to [www.nwmissouri.edu/calendar](http://www.nwmissouri.edu/calendar)