

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS TO LAST A LIFETIME

Northwest

FAMILY

▶ MAY 2008 • VOLUME 15 • NUMBER 3



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800 University Drive
Maryville, MO 64468-6001

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Feeling right at home

Brooke Beason, a junior in interactive digital media, found what she was looking for right at home.

Beason transferred to Northwest her second semester of her freshman year. Having grown up in nearby Hopkins, Mo., she initially thought she needed to move away to “broaden my horizons and meet new people.” After a semester at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., Beason said she just didn’t feel right.

“I didn’t feel like me there, it was very surreal,” she said. “I started researching what universities had a degree program I was interested in, and it turned out I found the program back home. My major is a perfect fit for me, and I realized I could broaden my horizons and meet new people right here at Northwest.”

There was an added bonus, too.

“I have lunch with my mom every Monday,” Beason said. “I’m really close to my family. My mom had a hard time when I moved away.”

Beason wasted no time getting involved. She is the secretary of Student Senate, a peer advisor for freshmen seminar, the vice president of Business and Professional Women, working on a committee trying to make Northwest’s campus smoke-free, the multimedia editor of the *Northwest Missourian* online and works part-time as an office assistant on campus.

So how does she keep sane with all of these commitments?

“I don’t look at it like, ‘Oh, now I



Brooke Beason

have to go do this,” she said. “When I get involved with something, I form relationships with people. I look at it as, ‘Oh, now I get to go do this so I can see these people.’”

Attending the weekly Campus Crusades for Christ gatherings serves to keep her sane, too. This group of students meets every Thursday, where they worship together and listen to a live band.

While she keeps herself busy with activities, Beason also enjoys academics at Northwest.

“The Mass Communications department has been amazing,” she said. “The faculty is genuinely interested in helping us prepare for our careers. We get hands-on experience in our interests. My advisor, Jacquie Lamer (instructor in mass communication), has been awesome.”

Beason is looking forward to broadening her horizons and exploring a new country in May. She is studying abroad in Italy for a month, on a faculty led tour with Phil Laber, art professor.

“It’s something I’ve always wanted to do,” she said. “I love to travel, and the perfect time to do it is while you’re a student and you have the opportunity.”

As for transferring to Northwest, Beason feels she made the right decision.

“I just feel so at home because of the community atmosphere,” she said. “Maryville and Northwest are so interlocked and supportive of each other. And it’s hard to explain Northwest pride, but everyone I know is very proud to be a Bearcat, and I am, too.” ■

Dr. Robert P. Foster

Former president dies at age 90

Dr. Robert P. Foster, seventh president of Northwest, died early Monday, March 10, at his home in Kansas City. He was 90.

Services took place Saturday, March 15, at the First United Methodist Church in Maryville with Northwest President Dean L. Hubbard officiating. A reception followed from 2-4 p.m. in the First Ladies Dining Room.

In honor of Foster, Dr. Hubbard ordered that flags on campus be flown at half-staff.

Foster served as University president from 1964 until his retirement in 1977.

On March 23, 1943, he married Virginia Mutz Foster, who survives of the home. The couple lived in Maryville following Dr. Foster's retirement until moving to Kansas City about two years ago.

Other survivors include two sons, Robert P. Foster III, Geneva, Switzerland, and Douglas Kemp Foster, Dallas, Texas; two daughters-in-law, Dori Wielandt Foster, Geneva, Switzerland, and Lisa Tresnicky Foster, Dallas; and five grandchildren.

Born May 24, 1917, in Warrensburg, Foster was the son of Robert Porter Foster and Oda Magnolia Long Foster, who preceded him in death. Also preceding him in death were his brother, Augustus L. Foster, and sister, Lucille Foster.

Foster attended public schools in Warrensburg and what is now the University of Central Missouri, earning a bachelor's degree in 1939. He was a teacher, coach and high school principal at Carrollton (Mo.) High School from 1939 until 1942.

At the beginning of World War II, Foster was also working on a master's degree at the University of Missouri-Columbia but left to join the U.S. Navy. He served from December 1941 until October 1945 in the North Atlantic and Caribbean theaters of operation, rising to the rank of lieutenant commander. As a civilian he remained active in the American Legion, eventually becoming state commander and a member of the organization's national Foreign Relations Committee.

After the war, the Fosters moved to Maryville, where they purchased the E.L. Townsend Grocery Co., which Foster operated until 1948, when he was named registrar and director of admissions at Northwest. He resumed his studies at MU and completed his master's degree in education in 1951.

Dr. Foster served as registrar at Northwest from 1948-1959 and received his doctorate in education from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1960. He was Northwest's dean of administration from 1959 until his appointment as president in 1964.

During his years as president, Foster led efforts to expand



Dr. Robert P. Foster

the campus by acquiring land and building new facilities. He was instrumental in securing nearly \$15 million for capital improvements and in the creation of the Northwest Foundation, which has since raised tens of millions of dollars in support of the institution and its students.

Construction projects completed during Foster's administration included the Garrett-Strong Science Building; the Olive DeLuce Fine Arts Building; four high-rise residence halls; a major expansion of the J.W. Jones Student Union; and the Donald N. Valk Building, which currently houses the Department of Agriculture.

Renovations to Colden Hall, Martindale Hall and the Administration Building were also completed during Dr. Foster's tenure as president, along with construction of the first Foundation-funded structure, the Memorial Bell Tower.

New facilities, expanded academic programs and a growing student population led to an institutional name change in 1972 from Northwest Missouri State College to Northwest Missouri State University.

One of Foster's most significant achievements at Northwest was his leading role in securing funding for the establishment of KXCV/KRNW radio, the University's 100,000-watt public radio station.

Throughout his University career, Foster was noted for his close relationships with students, for whom his office door was always open. As a former college athlete and high school coach,

(See Foster, page 8)

Northwest students visit

Interacting with representatives and senators

On Tuesday, March 11, more than 50 Northwest students, faculty and staff headed to Jefferson City, Mo., for Lobby Day at the State Capitol.

The day, an annual event for Northwest since the mid-1980s, began with breakfast at the Capitol. Students then broke into separate groups to pass out gifts from Northwest to all the representatives and senators. After lunch, the students met with Rep. Trent Skaggs, a Northwest alumni, who gave a tour of the Whispering Gallery (where a whisper can be heard in another part of the building, thanks to the design of the architecture) and a viewing area at the top of the dome. Then, the students met with Rep. Mike Thomson, who took photos with all of the students and Bobby Bearcat, and gave the students a complete tour of the Capitol. Thomson took the students to the House and Senate floor and described the legislative process that occurs on both, as well as addressed student questions.

Jackie Elliott, vice president for student affairs, said that the day gives students a chance to learn through experience.

"It is important for our students in that it provides them an opportunity to become engaged citizens regarding state government and legislative issues," Elliott said. "Students are able to interact one-on-one with various legislators."

Jasper Mirabile, a senior in political science from Kansas City, Mo., agrees.

"For me, the whole day is a load of fun. From the time the students arrive until we depart, the trip is not your ordinary, boring field trip to the zoo," Mirabile said. "There are a lot of other people down at the Capitol at the same time, so there is a lot of interac-



Northwest students and Bobby Bearcat at the State Capitol.

tion. The students can get a chance to meet with some of their local representatives, ask them any question and see how the legislative process works from a representative's point of view."

Mirabile said the day also speaks to Northwest's involvement with the govern-

ment.

"I think that parents should know that Northwest takes pride in being involved in politics that benefit the school," Mirabile said.

Robert Dewhirst, professor of history, humanities, philosophy and political science,

at Jefferson City Capitol

teaches students about Missouri government



has been taking students to Lobby Day since 1987.

"It is one of the events that I look forward to every year," Dewhirst said. "Our kids do well, the feedback we've gotten from the legislators has always been good, and it looks good for the university."

Dewhirst said that when Northwest began sending students down to the Capitol, it was the only state university to do so.

"It is a learning process for the students and for our legislators," he said. "When

the legislators think of Northwest, they think of the students they've met. At this early of an age for the students, it's a great experience for them to have an idea of what the legislators do. They gain a valuable life lesson that they'll carry with them from now on."



Jasper Mirabile

at the Missouri State Capitol allows a student to work for a trimester serving a state representative or state senator. Students can receive 12 credit hours for the internship, and be eligible for one of four \$3,000 stipends to assist with living expenses in Jefferson City.

Legislative interns are responsible for helping analyze legislation as it moves through the political process, writing press releases and tracking press coverage, assisting constituents with problems, leading tours of the Missouri State Capitol and attending hearings and work sessions where issues are debated, among other responsibilities.

"Being the intern down here last year gave me the opportunity to meet a lot of representatives from the Kansas City area, where I'm from, and who I continue to keep in touch with," Mirabile said. "When you are down here, you get the chance to build a relationship with them, since you work together the whole time you are interning at the Capitol."

Suzie Schuckman, graduate student in English from Lee's Summit, Mo., also was a

Students can also have the opportunity to spend more than a day at the Capitol.

Mirabile was a Northwest Legislative Intern at the State Capitol last year. The Legislative Internship



Missouri State Rep. Mike Thomson with Bobby Bearcat.

legislative intern. She says Lobby Day is important to all students, regardless of politics.

"Our mission is to make Northwest's voice heard in Jefferson City," Schuckman said. "It is so important because it teaches students to question and challenge their state government. I would encourage every Northwest student to attend at least one year, and if possible, all four years because it is a wonderful learning experience." ■

Consider a graduate degree

You are working hard to get your child through school. But what about you? Or, maybe your child is nearing graduation and moving on to a career in Kansas City or St. Joseph. Now is the perfect time for you or your senior to consider a graduate degree.

Northwest offers opportunities for graduate degrees in Kansas City and St. Joseph, in addition to the Maryville campus. Both Outreach centers offer graduate degrees in education, as well as an MBA. Some degrees can be completed in as little as 18 months.



Frank Grisipino teaches at the St. Joseph Center.

The graduate degrees offered at the Outreach sites cater to working professionals. Many classes meet only on Thursday evenings and every other Saturday. Courses can be designed to fit almost anyone's schedule.

Both facilities are state of the art, with ITV classrooms and wireless Internet.

The Northwest Kansas City Center is located at Blue Jay Tower Plaza, 8 Victory Lane in Liberty, Mo., near Liberty High School.

The Northwest St. Joseph Center is located at 706 Felix Street in downtown St. Joseph.

For more information, please call 660.562.1476, or visit www.nwmissouri.edu/outreach. ■

Programs of Study

- ▶ M.S.Ed. Teacher Leadership
- ▶ M.S.Ed. Educational Leadership: Elementary
- ▶ M.S.Ed. Educational Leadership: Secondary
- ▶ Education Specialist
- ▶ Doctorate in Education
- ▶ Superintendent Certification Option
- ▶ M.S.Ed. Elementary (self-contained)
- ▶ M.S.Ed. Reading
- ▶ M.S.Ed. Teaching: English Language/ELL Certification
- ▶ M.S.Ed. Special Education
- ▶ M.S.Ed. Teaching: Early Childhood Education
- ▶ M.S.Ed. Teaching: Instructional Technology
- ▶ Alternative Certification
- ▶ M.S.Ed. Health and Physical Education
- ▶ M.S. Recreation
- ▶ Master of Business Administration

Project Plant-A-Tree

The University community fought back after three long months of winter and a December ice storm that downed nearly 80 trees and snapped off hundreds of limbs and branches across the Northwest campus.

Hundreds of trees were damaged by the storm, some of them as old as Northwest itself. All were part of the Missouri Arboretum, a state designation given by the Legislature to the campus tree stand, which comprises 125 varieties.

Students, faculty and staff took part in Project Plant-A-Tree in April, at the Memorial Bell Tower. The event was part ceremony – honoring employees who

worked to keep the campus open and safe during and after the storm – and part work detail, as volunteers planted new trees to replace those that were lost.

President Dean L. Hubbard, a representative from the National Arbor Day Foundation and Maryville Mayor Chad Jackson all delivered speeches.

Hubbard and first lady Aleta planted a tree in honor of the ice storm workers. Lezlee Johnson, associate director of environmental services, demonstrated correct planting techniques before participants moved to locations where new trees were placed in the ground.

Bobby Bearcat celebrated with the crowd, and members of the Northwest Department of Music performed.

Financial support for tree replacement came from campus groups, organizations, offices and departments who responded to the president's call to make "this campus and this arboretum better than it ever was." Faculty, staff, students, alumni and other friends of the University may continue to support fundraising efforts for the arboretum through the Northwest Foundation. Anyone wishing to donate should go to www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/tree.htm for details. ■

Family & Consumer Sciences celebrate 100 years

Students and faculty from the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences celebrated Family and Consumer Sciences Week March 17- 21.

This year's emphasis marked the department's 100th year as an academic unit at the University.

Dr. Frances Shipley, professor and FCS department chair, said the week-long celebration is important because it recognizes the accomplishments of FCS students and faculty throughout the academic year.

The week's central event was the annual FCS recognition banquet.

Special recognitions went to new students who have joined the department since April, 2007, all graduating seniors, winners of departmental scholarships and the top student in each of the department's four majors (child and family studies; foods and nutrition; textiles, apparel and furnishings; and family and consumer science education). ■

Student laptop program to expand

Plans to expand Northwest's laptop computer distribution program moved forward with Student Senate approval of an Office of Information Systems proposal to increase the University's technology fee from \$7 to \$10 per credit hour.

The expansion, scheduled for implementation in fall 2008, will provide every full-time Northwest undergraduate and graduate student with a new, fully loaded laptop computer, whether or not the student lives on campus.

Full-time undergraduates are those enrolled in at least 12 credit hours of classes. Full-time graduate students must have signed up for at least 9 credit hours of academic work.

Dr. Jon Rickman, vice president for information systems at Northwest, said the University needs to commit to the expansion this spring in order to get the best deal possible on the purchase of approximately 5,500 laptops at a cost of about \$4 million. In addition to providing new computers to all full-time students, the plan calls for using existing machines as rentals to part-time students. ■

Each new 1.8 gigahertz computer will come with 2 gigabytes of random access memory. The machines will be pre-loaded with the Microsoft Windows operating system and Microsoft Office 2007 software. New computers checked out to full-time students will remain in service for three years before being replaced and reclassified as rentals.

As is the case under the existing laptop program, students will be responsible for the full replacement cost of lost or stolen laptops, and all check-outs, check-ins and repairs must be completed at the University's Electronic Campus Support Center.

The University's laptop program began in fall 2005, when more than 2,200 notebook computers were distributed to students living on campus. Northwest has a long tradition of providing students with the latest information technology resources and made national headlines in 1987 when it became the first public university in the United States to create a comprehensive electronic campus. ■

CHS Foundation to fund agriculture scholarships

A new partnership has been formed between the Northwest Foundation and the Minnesota-based CHS Foundation in an effort to assist Northwest students pursuing careers in agriculture.

The CHS Foundation will fund three \$1,000 scholarships to be awarded for the 2008-2009 academic year, according to Andrea Wagner, Northwest's corporate and foundation relations development officer. The scholarships will be given to continuing Northwest students working toward agriculture-related degrees in preparation for careers in agribusiness or production agriculture.

"Northwest is excited about this new affiliation with CHS," Wagner said. "In fact, the CHS Foundation believes so strongly in Northwest and its quality students that it plans to continue to fund several scholarships annually."

CHS Inc. is a grains and energy company based in Minnesota that works with farmers and farm supply companies and has begun to expand its operations into Missouri. The company's mission is to invest in the future of rural America, agriculture and cooperative business through education and leadership development. ■



Rod Barr, agriculture instructor, jumps into Colden Pond as part of the Up 'til Dawn finale.

Colden Pond Plunge raises \$1,700 for charity

S skies were clear, and the temperature had climbed into the lower 40s, but it still wasn't exactly swimming weather as the four winners of the Colden Pond Plunge jumped into the icy reservoir behind Colden Hall on campus.

The stunt raised \$1,700 for Up 'til Dawn, a student-led charity drive benefiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

In the days leading up to the event, students and others placed money in containers in the J.W. Jones Student Union labeled with the names of those competing for a chance to jump. The four entrants who brought in the most money earned the right to take the Plunge.

Taking the Plunge were Logan Galloway, a senior management/marketing major from Des Moines, Iowa; Steven Wilson of Alpha Kappa Lambda, a sophomore elementary education major from Plattsburg; Rod Barr, an instructor in the University's Department of Agriculture; and Wesley Miller of Phi Delta Theta, a senior broadcasting major from Raytown.

Contributors placed \$700 in the containers, but Barr raised another \$1,000 on his own, according to Campus Activities Director Angel McAdams Prescott.

During the event, safety was the first consideration. The bottom of Colden Pond was checked for obstructions, and the jumpers landed practically in the arms of Maryville Public Safety officers wearing insulated, waterproof suits. ■

Northwest receives U.S. Bank partnership award

Northwest has received U.S. Bank's Top Campus Bank Partnership award, which recognizes the high number of University students who activate their Bearcat IDs for use as USB debit cards.

Director of Auxiliary Services Mark Hetzler said that as of December 2007 nearly 81 percent of all Northwest students had chosen the Bearcat Card/U.S. Bank option, which allows them to use their University ID as an ATM or point-of-service debit card virtually anywhere in the world.

Hetzler said the program began in January 2003. He said that since U.S. Bank submitted its successful bid for providing the service, student participation has grown by more than 13 percent a year.

The award means that Northwest has the highest percentage of student participation among 39 colleges and universities nationwide that have formed card or branch partnerships with the Minneapolis-based bank.

Services provided to students who open a U.S. Bank account and activate their Bearcat Cards include:

- Free U.S. Bank ATM transactions. Campus ATMs are located in the J.W. Jones Union and at The Station.
- No minimum balance.
- No monthly maintenance fee.
- Unlimited check writing.
- Free first order of Bearcat checks.
- Free Internet banking, including electronic bill paying. ■

Calendar of Events

ACADEMICS

May

- 2 Final exams end
Trimester ends
- 3 Commencement, 10 a.m., Melvin & Valorie Booth College of Business and Professional Studies, and Graduate School; 2 p.m., College of Arts & Sciences, and College of Education & Human Services
- 5 Missouri Academy May Session begins
- 8 Online Verification available through Aug. 4
- 12 Summer trimester begins
Last day to enroll or add a May Session course
May/June Session begins and Registration
May through July Session begins and Registration
- 13 Last date to establish credit by departmental test-out for a May Session course
Last date to enroll or add a May/June Session course
- 14 Last date to establish credit by departmental test-out for a May/June Session course
- 15 Last date to enroll or add a May through July Session course
Last date to establish credit by departmental test-out for a May through July Session course
Last date to enroll or add a Summer trimester course
Last date to establish credit by a departmental test-out for a Summer trimester course
- 18 SOAR (Summer Orientation Advisement Registration)
- 19 Last date to place a May Session course on audit
Last date to place a May Session course on pass/fail
- 20 SOAR
- 21 SOAR
- 22 Last date to drop a May Session course
Last date to place a May/June Session course on audit
Last date to place a May/June Session course on pass/fail
- 23 Last date to place a May through July Session course on audit
Last date to place a May through July Session course on pass/fail
- 24 SOAR
- 26 Memorial Day observed (no classes)
- 27 SOAR
- 28 SOAR
Last day to withdraw from May Session

- 30 Last day to place a Summer trimester course on audit
- 31 Missouri Academy commencement

June

- 6 May Session ends
Last date to drop a May/June Session course
- 6-7 Missouri Academy summer orientation
- 9 June Session begins and Registration
Last day to enroll or add a June Session course
June/July Session begins and Registration
- 10 Last date to establish credit by departmental test-out for a June Session course
Last date to enroll or add a June/July Session course
- 11 Last date to establish credit by departmental test-out for a June/July Session course
- 13-14 Missouri Academy summer orientation
- 16 Last date to place a June Session course on audit
Last date to place a June Session course on pass/fail
Last date to withdraw from May/June Session course
- 19 Last date to drop a June Session course
Last date to place a June/July Session course on audit
Last date to place a June/July Session course on pass/fail
Last date to drop a May through July Session course
- 20 SOAR
Last date to drop a May through July Session course
- 21 SOAR
- 23 Last date to place a Summer trimester course on pass/fail
- 24 Last date to withdraw from June Session
- 30 Last date to drop a Summer trimester course

ACTIVITIES

May

- 3-4 Outdoor Track MIAA championships, Bearcat Stadium/Herschel Neil Track, 4 p.m.
- 10 Outdoor Track at Emporia State Twilight Qualifier, Emporia, Kan.
- 17 Missouri Academy prom
- 22-24 Outdoor Track NCAA national championships, Cal-Poly Pomona, CA

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

Foster

he strove to make the University a place where young people had the opportunity to develop academically, socially and athletically. In 1981, the University's Robert P. Foster Aquatic Center was named in his honor.

Foster served on the board of curators for Central Methodist College in Fayetteville and Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He was a member of the Maryville United Methodist Church, Lions International, the Maryville Chamber of Commerce, the Bearcat Booster Club, the Masons and the Maryville Industrial Development Corp.

Active for many years in Boy Scouting, Foster was a chieftain in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and a recipient of the Silver Antelope Award, one of Scouting's highest honors for longstanding service to youth.

The family requests that memorial donations be made to either:

- The Northwest Foundation Robert P. Foster Scholarship Fund, 800 University Drive, Maryville, MO, 64468 or
- The Boy Scouts of America, Pony Express Council, P.O. Box 8157, St. Joseph, MO, 64508. ■



Northwest

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

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

Editorial Board: Matt Baker, Jackie Elliott, Brad Landhuis, Angel McAdams Prescott, Beverly Schenkel, Joan Schneider, Rose Viau