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-Orrie Covert  
Vice President for  
University Advancement

## The 1905 Society – making the future brighter

A year and a half ago, as Northwest was approaching its centennial year and the successful completion of the University’s inaugural capital campaign, there was a lot of buzz and excitement on campus.

Not only were there special events to help celebrate this milestone, but there were projects being completed to ensure that these moments in Northwest’s history would not soon be forgotten. Many of these events and projects were made possible by the vision and financial support of a generous group of 100 individuals – the Centennial Society.

Because of the leadership and support of the Centennial Society, a new society has been formed to continue the momentum that this group of visionaries helped create which will lead Northwest into its next 100 years.

*The new 1905 Society* will be a vital initiative in the future of Northwest.

“Needs are infinite, we all know that,” said Orrie Covert, vice president for university advancement. “What we don’t

know is exactly where the most crucial needs are going to be within our University from

year to year. By providing flexible, unrestricted support, *The 1905 Society* can help to better position Northwest in meeting these varied future needs as they arise.”

Covert said whether the needs lie in the form of scholarship support, additional financing for capital projects or the extra funds needed to upgrade campus technology, this group will help ensure the financial health and wellbeing of the University for years to come.

For more information on *The 1905 Society*, including how to join, please contact Laurie Long in the Office of University Advancement at (660) 562-1248 or [laurie@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:laurie@nwmissouri.edu). ■

# The 1905 Society

With any unrestricted gift of \$1,000 or greater, you can become a member of *The 1905 Society*. Membership will come with recognition of your dedicated efforts to assist in Northwest’s continual prosperity and growth as well as exclusive invitations to campus events. *The 1905 Society* members will help make the future of Northwest even brighter, so please join today.

## Wagner is new Northwest development officer

Andrea Kearns Wagner ’00 recently joined Northwest’s Office of University Advancement as a development officer.

Wagner is responsible for managing a pool of donors for Northwest’s College of Education and Human Services. She also leads the advancement office’s corporate and foundation relations initiative.

“Northwest’s advancement office is coming off an outstanding capital campaign which raised more than \$43.5 million – well beyond the original goal,” Wagner said. “I’m excited to be given the opportunity to build on that and continue their success.”

Wagner has previously served as an enrollment and counseling research secretary for the Missouri Academy of Science, Mathematics and Computing, a sales representative at Med4Home and an account representative for Wells Fargo Financial in St. Joseph.

She and her husband, Will, who is the assistant head football coach/defensive backs coach for the Bearcats, live in Maryville with their son, Brooks, and are expecting their second child in January.

Wagner, whose office is in the Advancement Center, can be contacted at (660) 562-1248 or [andrea@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:andrea@nwmissouri.edu). ■



## Blackford becomes president of the Northwest Foundation Board

Jim Blackford '72, senior vice president of Citizens Bank and Trust in Maryville, has been named president of the Northwest Foundation Inc. Board of Directors. Blackford has been a member of the board since 2001, most recently serving as vice president.

Blackford said he is honored to lead the organization whose members are responsible for managing the resources given by donors to the Northwest Foundation which ultimately benefit the University. He also gives credit and respect to his predecessor, Chuck Place '72 of Albany.

"Chuck Place and previous Foundation board presidents have each added successive levels of growth to this organization," Blackford said. "During his tenure, Chuck championed many initiatives which established new benchmarks for the Foundation. One of the most important was the board development process. Chuck understood that much can be accomplished by developing a quality board."

Blackford emphasized that just because the high-profile capital campaign which raised more than \$43.5 million has concluded, fundraising for the University has not ceased.

"The cost of providing public higher education is generally funded by state support, tuition

and private giving," he said. "Given that the national projected trend of state support, as a percentage of the total operating budget, is spiraling downward, coupled with the market-driven need to keep tuition costs reasonable, an increased importance is being placed upon private giving. Our goal is to meet the ever-increasing demand that is being shifted to private support to help keep quality education affordable at Northwest."

Blackford and his wife, Beverly, the executive secretary to Northwest's dean of enrollment management, have two sons. Nathan received his undergraduate and master's degrees from Northwest and is now employed with Cerner Corp. in Kansas City. Tanner completed three years of pre-pharmacy work at Northwest and is now in his third year of pharmacy school at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

"Northwest has been a special place for my extended family and me," Blackford said. "I truly believe that to whom much is given, much is expected. This presidency affords me the opportunity to pay back to Northwest in a small way the many advantages that have been extended to our family through our Northwest experience. This is a way that I can 'pay it forward' for all that we have received." ■



**Blackford**



**Place**

*The Northwest Foundation promotes the welfare, goals and programs of Northwest Missouri State University. Its mission is to encourage, receive, invest, manage, steward and disburse private support on behalf of Northwest's donors, for the benefit of the University, its students, faculty, staff and alumni. Established in 1971, the Foundation operates independently of the state institution as a separate 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation governed by its own board of directors.*

## Gateway, Northwest celebrate partnership

In recognition of an agreement valued at \$2.5 million between Northwest and Gateway, one of the world's top computer companies, Northwest recently renamed two campus facilities.

The Gateway Electronic Campus Support Center is located at the former armory building,

just east of the baseball field, and the Gateway Call Center is in the Northwest Alumni House.

The partnership began in 2001 when Northwest received more than 2,000 Gateway computers. In 2004 and 2005,

the University received more than 3,000 notebook and tablet computers. Today, every Northwest student living in a residence hall receives a Gateway notebook computer. ■



Clipping the ribbon at the September dedication ceremony were (from left) Dr. Jon Rickman, vice president for information systems; Rita Hanks, Northwest Board of Regents president; Kevin Shabow, Gateway Senior Director of Sales; and Jim Blackford, president of the Northwest Foundation.

## Shelton's gift endows scholarship for Native Americans

Already an annual tradition, the Northwest PowWow's impact will now additionally assist future generations of Northwest students financially in celebration of Native American

culture.

Upon learning of the Northwest PowWow and of the organization's ongoing efforts to endow The Native American Scholarship fund, Earl Shelton '49 of Kihei, Hawaii, recognized his opportunity to give back to his alma mater. In

celebration of his 81st birthday and in honor of his Native American ancestry, Shelton generously gave \$100,000 to permanently endow The Native American Scholarship fund in the Northwest Foundation.

The Native American Scholarship was established to assist juniors and seniors who are actively involved with Northwest PowWow and who demonstrate dedicated involvement and commitment to the preservation, promotion and celebration of Native American heritage in general.

After completing his Northwest degree in

secondary English education, Shelton furthered his studies in graduate school at the University of Arkansas. His 30-year teaching career began in the Missouri Ozarks. The last 15 years of his teaching career were spent on Maui, in both private and public schools and the University of Hawaii. He has called Maui home for more than 41 years.

Northwest's PowWow is a celebration of Native American heritage and culture as expressed through dance and song as well as through the fellowship of friends and family. While there are hundreds of tribes in the United States, each with its own traditions, the PowWow offers a time for all tribal people to come together in celebration of their common culture. More than 3,000 participants and spectators have attended the annual Northwest PowWow. To show its appreciation, the Northwest PowWow Council sent Shelton an embroidered Northwest blanket and performed a ceremonial dance in his honor during the third annual celebration in Bearcat Arena in October.

Just as the PowWow is an open celebration, contributions to The Native American Scholarship fund also are welcomed from individuals and organizations wishing to join in honoring Native American culture. Questions about PowWow or inquiries about contributing to the Native American Scholarship fund can be directed to Dr. Barbara Crossland, sponsor of the Northwest PowWow Council, at [barbara@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:barbara@nwmissouri.edu) or (660) 562-1776, or to Laurie Long with the Office of University Advancement at [laurie@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:laurie@nwmissouri.edu) or (660) 562-1248. ■



The Northwest PowWow features talented contest dancers with competitions in divisions for men, women, junior/teen and tiny tots. The multiple dance categories include traditional, grass, fancy, fancy shawl and jingle dress. Although he was unable to attend this year's annual event, Earl Shelton '49 was honored with a ceremonial dance for his dedication to Native American culture and his support of The Native American Scholarship fund.



## Remember Northwest in your will

**You, too, can help to ensure that future generations of students benefit from Northwest's rich tradition of academic excellence by remembering Northwest in your will.**

**Contact Northwest's Office of University Advancement at (660) 562-1248 or [advance@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:advance@nwmissouri.edu) for more information.**