Board Newsletter Debuts

Welcome to the inaugural edition of *Foundation Focus*, a newsletter specifically for members of the Northwest Foundation.

The newsletter is being distributed twice a year – during the quarters when the Foundation board does not convene for full meetings – and provides a brief update on information related to the Northwest Foundation, the Northwest Alumni Association and other University initiatives.

*Foundation Focus* also is being sent to Northwest Alumni Association board members and University leadership, including members of the president’s cabinet, the Board of Regents and deans. Furthermore, it is one of several tools we’ll use in the recruitment of new Foundation board members.

As you will see, the newsletter format aligns with the college-based fundraising model, featuring an update in each area of concentration. There also are sections that will shift focus from issue to issue. For example, we might choose to focus on the American Dream Grant program one issue and then have a faculty/staff spotlight the next.

Please enjoy this issue and as always, your feedback is welcomed.

Best wishes,

Orrie Covert
Vice President for University Advancement
Executive Director, Northwest Foundation

A Message from the President

There is a theory called the “Halo Effect” which basically states that the overall impression of an entity results from the evaluation of a portion of that entity’s individual component traits. Of course, depending upon the judgment derived from the analysis of the components, the resulting aggregate impression can be either positive or negative. With so many good things happening throughout the Northwest family, our resulting positive “Halo Effect” is providing a base of support and enthusiasm from which we can build in order to continue this momentum and its associated benefits. Truly, success breeds success!

The positive occurrences are too numerous to list, but here are a few examples of the good things happening at Northwest. Recently, Northwest was recognized nationally by being the recipient of the Christa McAuliffe Award for Excellence in Teacher Education. The Northwest enrollment management team continues to report data showing upward trends in enrollment, retention and graduation rates. The Northwest Alumni Association continues to grow the alumni base and the number of active chapters participating in “friend-raising” activities for Northwest. The Advancement team is producing many donor success stories as they implement the new college unit-based system. Our investment strategies and favorable markets are providing significant return rates for our portfolio. We all enjoyed and took pride in the great football season during which Northwest was showcased nationally. The high level of performance is being continued through this academic year by several other athletic programs as well. Cumulatively, these successes produce a momentum from which all operational aspects of Northwest benefit.

As a Foundation, we too are positively impacted by this “rising tide” environment. This situation affords us opportunities for significant growth and development while at the same time placing demands and expectations upon our level of performance. I encourage each of you, as directors of the Northwest Foundation, to aggressively seek ways in which you can personally add to our overall success through your active participation. Each one brings a unique gift and ability that, when joined with those of our colleagues, creates a dynamic board fully capable of great achievement. This only adds to the positive “Halo Effect” which permeates the Northwest family.

Thanks for all that you do to make Northwest and the Northwest Foundation so successful. It’s indeed a great time to be a Bearcat!

Sincerely,

Jim Blackford
President, Northwest Foundation
The completion of a new artificial field surface and lights for Bearcat Stadium – one of the top priorities in athletics – is well under way. Help is still needed to raise the $1 million required to move forward with construction, but should final funding be in place by April 1, and barring any unforeseen setbacks, the stadium will have a new field and lights installed and ready for use by this fall.

The football stadium project should not overshadow the fact that Northwest has an extremely outdated baseball facility, and the need for a new one is crucial to the success of the program. The land for the new stadium has already been purchased, and fundraising is under way, but donors and volunteers are needed to step forward and help.

Finally, as a standing priority, there remains a constant need to help Northwest student-athletes graduate once their eligibility is exhausted. The Degree Completion Program/Redd Awards is a fund that needs an immediate boost in order to supplement recent awards and ensure support for the future. ❖

For more information, contact Mark Stewart at stew@nwmissouri.edu.
Booth College of Business and Professional Studies

Since the October 2006 meeting of the Northwest Foundation, new initiatives have come to the forefront for the Booth College of Business and Professional Studies.

We’re putting together some ideas for an entrepreneurship program offered campuswide. We have made contact with individuals at the Kauffman Foundation and hope to be working with them to finalize the details.

Study abroad remains a top priority for the Booth College as the emphasis to compete in the global world continues to increase. A $2 million endowment is needed to provide students and faculty increased opportunities to participate in international experiences.

The Booth College also is working to establish an excellence in teaching endowed professorship to attract and retain quality faculty.

We’re continuing to build relationships with alumni by getting them reconnected to the University.

The second meeting of Northwest Networks – Kansas City was last month. The group includes more than 80 business-minded Northwest alumni from the Kansas City area.

For more information, contact Polly Howard at pollyh@nwmissouri.edu.

College of Education and Human Services

Northwest recently was one of two higher education institutions to receive the 2006 Christa McAuliffe Award for Excellence in Teacher Education. This honor, along with honors received by several Northwest alumni in the education field, will be featured on the cover of the upcoming Northwest Alumni Magazine. It is our intent that the cover story, coupled with a letter of appreciation and congratulations to a selected list of prospects, will help draw support for the College of Education and Human Services.

The priorities for the College remain consistent with those during The Campaign for Northwest. The construction of a new Horace Mann facility remains the top priority, and it bears the biggest price tag – about $8 million. Funding for the English Language Learners Program is another high priority for the College.

On a more personal note, Andrea Wagner’s fundraising endeavors will be held up for a few weeks because she recently gave birth to a second son, Brayden, and she will be on maternity leave until late March or early April. Congratulations, Andrea, Will and big brother Brooks!

For more information, contact Andrea Wagner at andreaw@nwmissouri.edu.

Northwest Receives Anonymous $1.5 Million Planned Gift

A Nodaway County couple recently made a $1.5 million planned gift to the Northwest Foundation Inc.

The donors, who wish to remain anonymous, indicated their bequest will be divided evenly between the Foundation’s Venture Fund, an unrestricted fund used where the University’s needs are the greatest, and Northwest’s American Dream Grant.

“The addition of $750,000 directly to the American Dream Grant will impact many deserving students who may not have even considered a college education strictly because of their lack of financial resources,” said Orrie Covert, executive director of the Northwest Foundation.

There are currently 340 Northwest students who are recipients of the two-year American Dream Grant, which was established in 2004. In fact, more than 400 students who were awarded the American Dream Grant during their first two years of study are now attending as full-time students without grant funds. Furthermore, University officials have determined more than 1,300 students in the region financially qualify for the American Dream Grant. Of those students, 640 also meet Northwest’s admissions requirements.

Foundation Focus: Northwest Receives Anonymous $1.5 Million Planned Gift

Visit the Office of University Advancement’s recently redesigned web site. More changes are on the way, but we’re sure you’ll agree, the site is coming together nicely.
Members of the Northwest Foundation Board of Directors include: (Row 1) Jason White ’91, Immediate Past President Chuck Place ’72, Phyllis Leet ’49, Shoba Brown ’71, Ron Taylor ’79, Jim Ballinger ’67, (Row 2) Bill Price ’60, Holly Murphy-Barstow ’81, Jason Garst ’93, Jodie Mackintosh ’77, Robert Lee Stanton, Vice President Mike Faust ’74, (Row 3) Ray Hischke ’66, Don Beeson ’59, Ron Houston, Dick Wiles ’71, Phil Patterson ’74, ’78, (Row 4) Jim Joy ’57, Ron Ideker ’62, Mercedes Ramirez Johnson ’97, Dan Runde ’81, Jim Redd ’66, (Row 5) Joyce Kerber ’60, Mark Burnsides ’79, Helen Mutz ’50, Bill Gram ’52, (Row 6) Tom Carneal, Executive Director Orrie Covert, President Jim Blackford ’72. Not pictured: Bill Corken ’53, Mark Doll ’80, George Green ’58, John Grispon ’87, J.D. Hammond ’55, Jerry Moyer ’76, ’78, and Ron Woolsey ’74, ’78.

College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences has recently revised its project opportunities, and a list of major funding opportunities has been created. In addition, the department chairs are compiling a list of lower-priced “wish list” items.

The College is proud to announce that funding has been secured for the creation of a studio theatre. Funds for this project come from an anonymous donation as well as a match by Northwest. The new Black Box Theatre will be located on the south side of the Performing Arts Center, connected to the existing building. The studio will seat about 200 people and will have space for a makeup/changing room and storage facility and will have a lasting impact on Northwest students, faculty and theatre patrons.

Furthermore, the College received final approval for the nanoscale science and alternative energy degrees. This process is still in the implementation stage, and the University is working to secure additional resources in order to secure these degrees.

For more information, contact Teresa Macias at teresa@nwmissouri.edu.

Donor Relations – Scholarships

Northwest’s goal is to “support access and opportunity” for all students interested in scholarships.

Realizing a mutual need to provide a variety of award options to match donors’ interests, the Advance-ment staff continues to engage direction from University leaders in Admissions, Financial Assistance, the three colleges and athletics. While achieving each unit’s goal, the University’s recruiting and retention efforts also will be maximized.

A “conversion” of the Foundation’s scholarships has begun that will maximize limited resources and improve efficiency in our awarding and reporting processes. This conversion will move the Foundation scholarships to a decentralized award process to allow each academic unit a greater degree of involvement.

Currently, 583 Foundation scholarships totaling $301,588 have been processed for 2006-07. The 2007-08 award cycle is under way, with scholarship dollars estimated at $521,000. Efforts continue to reclassify the 65 funds remaining without a signed Memorandum of Understanding that would confirm the fund’s ability to invade principal – or not – in providing annual awards.

Securing new scholarships funded through both outright and planned gifts continues to be a top priority. Several new $10,000-$20,000 gifts have been finalized in FY07 as well as an anonymous $630,000 estate provision for the American Dream Grant.

For more information, contact Laurie Long at laurie@nwmissouri.edu.

FEBRUARY 2007
The Northwest Alumni Association continues to strive toward its goal of rejuvenating the Tourin’ Bearcats travel program. In September, we had a sold out Canada/New England cruise that included 27 alumni and friends. In January, 34 alumni and friends hit the ski slopes of Keystone, Colorado, and this month 18 alumni and friends will be traveling to Panama. In August, the Tourin’ Bearcats will be going to Scotland, and a trip to Napa Valley is being planned for the fall.

Alumni Association membership is near 5,200, about 9.5 percent of our total alumni and friends population. The Alumni Association has 12 chapters, and more are on the way. We plan to charter a Mid-Missouri chapter on April 12, and future chapter possibilities include Chicago and Washington, D.C.

The Alumni Relations office continues to plan many events throughout the year as well as assist chapters with event planning in order to keep alumni connected and informed about Northwest.

For more information, contact Steve Sutton at ssutton@nwmissouri.edu.

The scenery was beautiful and the skiing was fantastic as members of the Alumni Association’s Tourin’ Bearcats travel program hit the slopes of Keystone in January. The trip will become an annual event, with next year’s tentative dates set for Jan. 2-6.
Meet the newest board members

Holly Murphy-Barstow ’81
- Bachelor’s in Marketing, Management and Merchandising
- President of Barstow and Co., LLC
- Married to Bruce Barstow ’78, ’82
- Lives in Omaha, Neb.
- Chairwoman of Toys for Tots since 1993
- As a Northwest student, was involved in Panhellenic Council and Sigma Sigma Sigma

Mark Doll ’80
- Bachelor’s in Business Administration
- CEO/President of Doll Distributing Inc.
- Married to Julia Doll
- Lives in Council Bluffs, Iowa
- Member of the People’s National Bancorp Board of Directors
- As a Northwest student, was a member of the Bearcat football team that won an MIAA title under Coach Jim Redd

Jason Garst ’93
- Bachelor’s in Agronomy
- Manager of Garst Farms Inc. and Sky Ranch, LLC
- Married to Michelle Garst ’94
- Lives in Watson
- As a Northwest student, was involved in the Agronomy Club

Ray Hischke ’66
- Bachelor’s in Mathematics
- President of rhTechnologies
- Married to Linda Hischke
- Lives in The Woodlands, Texas
- Pilot with the Civil Air Patrol
- For 30 years he was employed at NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston in a variety of capacities including aerospace engineer and deputy manager for Flight Engineering

William C. Price ’60
- Bachelor’s in Education
- Chairman/CEO of Empower MediaMarketing
- Married to Mary Beth Price
- Lives in Cincinnati, Ohio
- Serves on the United Way Board of Directors and is a former executive vice president of the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce

Jim Redd ’66
- Bachelor’s in Education and Social Science
- Director of Athletics and Physical Education Chair at William Jewell College
- Married to Joanne Redd ’70
- From 1967 to 2001, he served in several capacities at Northwest including faculty member, football coach and athletics director

Opportunity Alert: Charitable Gifts from Your IRA

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 provides charitably minded individuals 70 ½ or older a golden opportunity to make gifts to charitable organizations directly from their IRAs. This opportunity is available for 2006 and 2007 on the following terms:
- Transfers must be directly from the IRA to a charity
- Maximum allowable transfer is $100,000 per year
- Gifts must be outright*
- No charitable deduction is allowed

*Transfers to donor advised funds, supporting organizations and charitable remainder trusts and for charitable gift annuities do not qualify.

For a complete schedule of events, visit www.nwmissouri.edu or call (660) 562-1248.