Northwest music department believes in, expects excellence

Northwest has been a bastion of musical excellence for many decades. The University is known for having one of the top music departments in Missouri and has received many regional and national accolades.

The philosophy in the music department during my teaching career was always to assist the students to become the best they can be. The faculty has always believed in excellence rather than being satisfied with good.

Because of this philosophy, Northwest students have been prepared to enter the real world. Whether in the business world, composing, performing, recording, teaching or conducting, Northwest graduates have soared to the top of the ladder.

I have had principals and superintendents telephone me begging for another Northwest graduate to teach in their school. As I judge music contests throughout the United States, I hear accolades that Northwest graduates have touched the lives of millions of students.

Music education has not been our only forte. Our graduates, as professional musicians, continue to sell hundreds of thousands of CDs and have written hundreds of compositions published by major music companies.

One of our students who has achieved in all of the above mentioned categories is Greg Gilpin. Greg sings annually with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and toured and recorded with Sandy Patti and Ray Boltz. His solo and duet CDs have been outstanding. He has presented workshops and conducted hundreds of festivals throughout the world, and he has written and published compositions with major publishers.

I first met Greg as a sophomore in high school. His music teacher recommended that I hear him accompany a very hard composition, which the paid accompanist could not play. Greg played it and was superb. We were very pleased that Greg selected Northwest for his undergraduate studies. Now, we all are extremely proud of Greg’s professional success as an outstanding Northwest graduate.

Northwest’s Department of Music continues to produce outstanding students, like Greg Gilpin, who will enter the world prepared to excel.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr. Richard W. Weymuth
Professor Emeritus
Alumni, friends share stories about a special man

The Northwest community was saddened by the March 10 death of Dr. Robert P. Foster, Northwest's seventh president. In addition to serving as president from 1964 to 1977, Foster held positions at Northwest as registrar, director of admissions and dean of administration.

In the spring issue of the Northwest Alumni Magazine, readers were invited to share their favorite stories or remembrances of Dr. Foster. The following are just a few of the many responses from Bearcats who were influenced by this great man.

My favorite story about Dr. Foster is when he and I had our appendix out at the same time at the old St. Francis Hospital in Maryville. It was in January 1969. I was in a great deal of pain, and Mrs. Margaret Wire, house mother at Roberta Hall, took me to the hospital during a fierce snow storm. Back then, a long hospital stay was required for an appendectomy, and I missed all my finals. But, I was certainly surprised to find out Dr. Foster had his appendix out at the same time. We would visit some during the day as we began to feel better. I was an RA in Roberta Hall, and one of the girls on my floor was from Sweden. She was dating Dr. Foster's son at the time (I think she married him). They would come in the evenings and bring him a milk shake. Once they realized I was there, too, we both received a milk shake. I looked forward to the milk shake, but also to getting caught up on campus news. The entire Foster family treated me so nicely. In May 1969, during graduation, Dr. Foster announced he and I had spent some quality time having our appendix removed. I thought fondly of Dr. Foster before, but I always remembered our hospital stay.

Karen Colton Dixon '69

I was sad to read that my former president, Dr. Robert Foster passed away. He was an educationist par excellence, a fine gentleman, whose love for the institution, the students and the faculty members was extraordinary. Dr. Foster was very much at home with the students. He was a wonderful administrator whose legacy will remain memorable in our hearts. Perhaps Dr. Foster will be mostly remembered for transforming our campus as one of the most beautiful in the region. May the good Lord grant his soul eternal rest.

Chuks U Ndika '76

In May 1951, I graduated from Horace Mann High School. In June 1951, Dr. Foster (then Mr. Foster) hired me as his secretary in the Registrar's Office. Mr. H.R. Dieterich, Horace Mann principal, and Dr. E.K. DeVore, Horace Mann business teacher, had recommended me for the job. In those early years Dr. Foster would often tell people he “raised me from a pup.” After Dr. Foster returned from the University of Missouri, where he obtained his doctorate degree, he was made dean of administration. In 1964, he was chosen as the University president. In each move, he asked me to continue as his secretary. At Dr. Foster's retirement party in 1977, he told those attending that “he loved me as much as Mrs. Foster and Willie (my husband) would allow.” I worked for Dr. Foster for more than 25 years. He was the kind of man every secretary would love to have for their boss.

Monica Giesken Zirfas

Just before summer school in 1961, my wife of six weeks, Judi, and I arrived on campus to see if I could be enrolled at Northwest under President J.W. Jones. We were led to Dr. Foster’s office, and I was immediately impressed by his positive approach to my request for admission, one that could easily have been rejected. I was 28, had been working for five years after
Foster (continued)

leaving the military service, and my marriage had influenced my decision to finish a college degree. But there was a problem. I had attended Tarkio College immediately out of high school and my transcript was a disaster. As Dr. Foster reviewed it, he shook his head several times. He asked me several questions about my military service, and when he learned that I had served in the Korean War in a combat zone he stepped up his attempts to get me admitted. He added credit for my service time and for those courses that I did pass at Tarkio and announced that I could enter on probation. As an afterthought, knowing we were a newlywed couple living on a shoestring, he sent Judi across the hall to interview for a secretarial position. She got the job immediately. I graduated from Northwest three years later with grades high enough to be accepted to graduate school.

That was followed by my Ph.D. Judi and I attribute much of our success to Dr. Foster’s instincts, love of students and human understanding. We will never forget his trust in my ability to live up to his expectations. In that respect, I felt that I could never let him down.

Ted Jamison ’64

I remember Dr. Foster in a very different way, through the eyes of a child. My father came to know Dr. Foster while in college there. My father (Bob Cotter) graduated and became the alumni director under Dr. Foster, and Dr. Foster became a family friend. As a child, there were so many times I would run around the campus and visit my dad’s office while he and Dr. Foster were talking or working at an event. Every time I saw him he took the time to make eye contact with me, at the very least, and smile. Often, he’d ask me questions and make me feel very comfortable. I’m sure I didn’t have a full understanding then of what Dr. Foster did, but I knew, by his actions and words, that presidents must be good people who looked out for others – and I knew I liked him as a person. He’ll be missed.

Erin Cotter Bushey ’90

Do you remember these events?

1958
Tau Kappa Epsilon begins its fourth year on campus with a record 34-man pledge class. Tower yearbook

A highlight on the social calendar is the harvest moon dance in October, sponsored by the Dorm Council. Tower yearbook

1968
Horace Mann Junior High School closes, leaving the on-campus laboratory school with only kindergarten through sixth grade classes. Transitions: A Hundred Years of Northwest

Head Start and LPN programs begin. Transitions: A Hundred Years of Northwest

1978
Football games move from Saturday nights to Saturday afternoons and lights are removed from the stadium. Transitions: A Hundred Years of Northwest

Apple II computers are first used in teacher education, often used to teach BASIC programming language. Transitions: A Hundred Years of Northwest

1988
A record number of freshmen, 1,405, enroll at Northwest in the fall. Transitions: A Hundred Years of Northwest

Campus Activity Programmers bring country singer Charlie Daniels to Northwest for a concert in Lamkin Gym. Tower yearbook

1998
The Joyce and Harvey White International Plaza is dedicated. Transitions: A Hundred Years of Northwest

Colden Pond and the north side of the Peace Pavilion are refurbished. Transitions: A Hundred Years of Northwest

BEARCAT ROAR
“Bearcat Roar” gives you the opportunity to share your Northwest memories or stories with other alumni and friends.

Please submit remembrances along with your name, year of graduation, address and telephone number to Mitzi Lutz, editor, Northwest Alumni Magazine, Alumni House, Maryville, MO 64468-6001 or by e-mail to mitzi@nwmissouri.edu.
This year marks the centennial for Northwest’s Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, which began in 1908 as the Domestic Science program under the direction of Hettie Margaret Anthony. After many name changes and five department chairs, the family and consumer sciences department now offers four majors and enrolls about 175 students each year.

The festivities for the centennial year, with the theme “A Century of Change – A Future of Promise,” began in March with the annual Student Recognition Banquet held in conjunction with FCS Week. More than 100 alumni returned to campus and attended the banquet, which honored many of the department’s students. The banquet concluded with a surprise presentation to Dr. Frances Shipley, who retired in June after a 40-year tenure as department chair.

In addition, the FCS Centennial Committee is planning a centennial tree project dubbed a “Cen-tree of Change.” This project aims to raise money to purchase a commemorative centennial tree by selling postcards created by the children at the Early Care and Education Laboratory and Horace Mann Laboratory School to help replace trees that were lost in the December ice storm.

The final celebration will be an open house/reception immediately following the Oct. 18 Homecoming parade. The event, on the third floor of the Administration Building, will feature tours of the department as well as displays of heritage apparel, pictures and other memorabilia.

Dr. Terry Coalter, associate professor of marketing and management at Northwest, has been named a Missouri Higher Education Teacher of the Year.

Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt presented the award to Coalter during ceremonies this spring in Jefferson City.

“Education is the most important investment we can make in our own and in our children’s future,” Blunt said.

Coalter, who joined the Northwest faculty in 2000, received the 2007 Dean’s Faculty Award for outstanding teaching from Northwest’s Melvin D. and Valorie G. Booth College of Business and Professional Studies.

Order of Omega, an honor society for Northwest students who are members of Greek-letter organizations, hosted the Greek Classic at Mozingo Lake Golf Course this spring.

All proceeds from the four-person scramble benefited the SSM Hospice and Home Care Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides hospice and home-care services to terminally ill patients and families. The tournament raised $4,000 for the charity.

The Lambda Omega Chapter at Northwest works to support philanthropic events while providing members of the University’s fraternities and sororities with organizational training and community building skills. It also seeks to promote the values of commitment and service shared by all members of Northwest’s Greek-letter community.
President Hubbard announces plan to retire in 2009

Dr. Dean L. Hubbard, Northwest’s ninth president, will retire next summer at the end of the 2009 fiscal year.

Hubbard announced his intention to step down at the June Board of Regents meeting. He assumed the presidency on July 1, 1984, and will have served as the institution’s top administrator for 25 years, the longest term ever by a Northwest president.

“It is, of course, with great sadness that I announce my forthcoming retirement,” Hubbard said. “There are simply no words to describe the deep affection Aleta and I feel for this University after so many years. Both of us want to express our heartfelt thanks to all of the faculty members, staff and students, past and present, whose friendship and dedication have graced our lives. Together, we have accomplished so much. It goes without saying that, whatever the future holds, Aleta and I will always be Bearcats.”

Under Hubbard’s leadership, Northwest has gained national recognition for its “Culture of Quality,” an initiative designed to foster continuous improvement in all aspects of University operations. During the 1980s, Hubbard was instrumental in making Northwest the first comprehensive electronic campus in the United States. Hubbard also has supported the expansion of Northwest’s pioneering alternative fuels program, which transforms recycled cardboard, paper and agricultural wastes into most of the energy used to heat and cool the campus. It is estimated that this environmentally sound process has saved the University $10 million dollars over the past two decades compared to the cost of purchasing natural gas.

Northwest expands student laptop program

Northwest’s Student Senate has approved an Office of Information Systems proposal to increase the University’s technology fee from $7 to $10 per credit hour. The increased revenue will be used to provide every full-time undergraduate and graduate student with a new, fully loaded laptop computer, regardless of whether the student lives on campus.

Currently only students living on campus receive a computer, though Northwest makes laptops available for rent to those who reside off campus. Under the expanded program, the rental option will remain in place for part-time students, who would pay $50 per trimester for a used laptop.

Dr. Jon Rickman, vice president for information systems, said the University committed to the expansion in order to get the best deal possible on the purchase of 5,500 laptops at a cost of about $4 million.

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.

Providing laptop computers to all full-time students is an attractive selling point for Northwest. The University, which previously equipped only campus residents with laptops, will expand its notebook computer program in the fall.

Chapter earns national honors

Northwest’s Beta Chapter of Pi Omega Pi, a national honor society for business education majors, was recently named the No. 2 chapter in the nation.

Judges selected the chapter for national honors after evaluating a number of initiatives, including an alumni newsletter, chapter Web page, a podcasting project and involvement with high school students during Future Business Leaders of America events on campus.

The Northwest organization, advised by Dr. Nancy Johnson Zeliff ’81, professor of computer science and information systems, is the oldest active chapter in the country and has been listed in the national top 10 in each of Zeliff’s years as sponsor.

Conference explores culture, crisis communication

Northwest sponsored a public conference this spring to explore how culture can affect crisis communications. The keynote speaker, Dr. Dorothy Pennington of the University of Kansas, discussed the importance to individuals and institutions of maintaining cultural sensitivity when communicating during a crisis or its aftermath.

“In a crisis we seldom take time to consider the impact on cultures and minority groups,” said Brittany Keeshan, one of the conference’s student organizers.
It was a lesson Greg Gilpin '86 likely learned as a child in tiny Waverly, Missouri, and now his ability to “play well with others” has catapulted his career as a singer, producer, conductor, studio musician and award-winning choral composer with hundreds of publications to his credit.

“You can be the most talented person on the planet, but if you don’t play well with others, you won’t get the job,” Gilpin said from his suburban home in Indianapolis, a surprising hot spot for individuals in the recording industry. “There’s a lot of mediocre talent out there, and I’ll include myself in that group, but I know how to play well with others, show up on time and take direction. I know what my job is, and I do my best to deliver.”

This is a message Gilpin, who often guest conducts school choirs, continually emphasizes to students and teachers, and it’s something he witnessed first-hand touring as a backup singer for Sandi Patty, a well-known contemporary Christian singer.

“Sandi hires her musicians because she trusts them. She knows they will deliver. She could hire the best singers in the world, but if they don’t work well with others it could destroy everything we’re trying to accomplish,” Gilpin said. “Before every show, Sandi pulls the cast together in a huddle and says, ‘When the show wins, we all win.’ It doesn’t matter who the lead singer is, it’s about being part of the team and playing well with others.”

Performing with Patty in sold-out arenas and traveling in a plush tour bus was a far cry from Gilpin’s first experience on tour, although he wouldn’t trade the experience for anything.

“I’d been living in Alexandria, a little town north of Indianapolis where I settled right after college, and got a call out of the blue that (contemporary Christian singer) Ray Boltz needed a piano player and a singer,” Gilpin said. “I jumped at the chance, but I laugh now to think about the experience. I loaded and unloaded speakers, I sang backup and played keyboards, I drove vans and rode in the back of a truck all night long. I’d also take work with me on tour, so I’d be arranging and

(Far left) Greg Gilpin welcomes the peacefulness of creating music from his home in Indianapolis but also enjoys the excitement of live performances and the camaraderie of touring. (Inset) Hamming it up for the audience, Gilpin gets a fun kiss from contemporary Christian singer Sandi Patty.
writing during any free time I had – it was crazy. I said ‘yes’ to everything because I wanted to learn. I couldn’t believe it when Sandi Patty called and said all she needed me to do on tour was sing!”

**Inspirational ink pens**

Music has always been a part of Gilpin’s life, at least from his first piano lesson when he was 4 years old. Fulfilling his boyhood dream of becoming an archeologist or an architect soon took a back seat to his desire to make music. Maybe his infatuation with TV’s musical Partridge Family and Brady Bunch “after they started singing” should have been an indication of what was to come.

“I would literally have dreams about being in the Partridge Family, although I never aspired to be the lead,” he said. “Today, my dream is to write something that lasts a really long time that people will remember. I want to write something that inspires others.”

It’s not surprising that Gilpin strives to inspire others, for he is a man who finds inspiration in areas many people take for granted – a painting from a local artist, movies, live theatre, an enthusiastic teacher, a good book, swing dance, listening to talk radio, learning American Sign Language or working with children.

Gilpin said performing 32 Christmas shows last year with the African Children’s Choir was one of those inspirational moments that changed his life.

“The children in this choir come from nothing,” he said. “Many don’t have parents and are taken out of the streets, but they’re promised an education through college if they will be in the choir and tour for a year. What’s happening, because of music, is these children are returning to Africa and becoming doctors and lawyers and really making a difference. One of the kids told me he was going to become president of his country. You know what, he will. Those are rewarding times.”

Inspiration for lyrics, Gilpin said, often comes when and where he least expects it.

“I found the text for one of my songs on three different ink pen wrappers,” he said. “I was at a music workshop and there was a dealer there who had ink pens in plastic, and within each one was a little piece of paper that had a quote. I looked at the quote and went, ‘oh, that is beautiful.’ I picked up another, and it had a different beautiful quote. I thought they’d be great lyrics some day.”

He wrote three of the quotes down, and all were used in “Live Your Dream,” a retirement piece Gilpin recently wrote for renowned conductor Dr. Timothy Seelig, with whom he’ll be conducting at Carnegie Hall on June 6, 2009.

“Sometimes I have the lyrics for a long time, either in my head or in a book I keep. Who knows how long it will be before I use them, but sometimes the timing is just right,” he said.

This was the case for one of Gilpin’s most popular songs, “Why We Sing.”

“I had one bit of that lyric for years and years, and finally I said, ‘It’s time to write this now.’ I sat on my bed and in 30 minutes the entire piece was written,” he said. “I’m such a lyric-focused person, and I feel that ‘Why We Sing’ is one of my better attempts at songwriting. It’s a popular choral, too.”

Gilpin, who says his “big break” was receiving an education from Northwest, credits his music professors Rick Weymuth, June McDonald and Byron Mitchell and fellow student Terre McPheeters ’77, ’81 for advancing his music ability, giving him the opportunity to arrange and write and encouraging him to pursue his dreams.
‘Truck stops to Disney’

When Gilpin graduated from Northwest, he already had become a published musician, but he was still unsure of his exact career path, other than his desire to work in a studio.

“I knew I needed to sight read and be a good singer, and I already knew I could write,” he said. “At 21 years of age I had the forethought to not take a full-time job where I would become dependent upon that paycheck. I knew that if I did, I might not try some things that would allow me to grow musically.”

His plan worked, and Gilpin has been self-employed his entire career, either as a consultant or “work for hire.”

The independence has afforded him the opportunity to be involved in a variety of projects. For instance, he’s performed at the White House and for Broadway recordings, and he’s sung jingles promoting anything from credit unions to Coca-Cola.

“I love to sing these quirky, funny jingles, even when they’re bad,” Gilpin said. “My friends who hear them on the radio or TV like to make fun of me, but they’re just so much fun. Hey, I’m still getting to do music!”

He’s sung Christmas carols for a CD to be sold at truck stops, he performs on occasion with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, and he’s sung backup on a Johnny Mathis CD. His work, known internationally, has even been performed on the Billy Graham crusade. In addition, Gilpin has owned a publishing company and currently is the director of educational choral publications for distinguished publisher Shawnee Press.

Gilpin’s projects run the gamut, from singing the entire Lutheran hymn book to singing for Disney.

“Disney is a little piece of Americana right there. I had to do Disney. There were eight of us, and we were singing ‘Lion King’ tunes for a big show,” he said. “We definitely learned how Disney wants its singing done. It’s a different animal — it had to sound like Disney. Trust me, it’s quite a change to go from truck stops to Disney.”

More than just a pretty song

Between Disney, Broadway, teacher conventions and “unique” gigs, Gilpin remains committed to his music. He has more than 300 titles published and, in his home studio, writes about 20 choral compositions a year.

“I think I’m creative musically. But I also know how to fine tune the creativeness so I can make a living out of it,” he said. “Sure, I could write an incredibly creative piece and maybe five people would appreciate it, but I need a lot of people to appreciate it. I primarily write for the music education industry, so I’ve got to write something that is creative but also teaches something musically. It’s got to be entertaining, educational and challenging — not just a pretty song. It’s got to go beyond that. It’s been a 20-year process, and it’s very rewarding.”

Two of Gilpin’s biggest fans through — and prior to — this 20-year process have been his parents.

“They are incredibly supportive,” Gilpin said. “They didn’t care what I chose to do for a living. They said, ‘You can dig ditches for all we care, but just get your degree.’”

They also were instrumental in teaching him the importance of “playing well with others.” Fortunately, Gilpin listened to his parents.

To find out more about Gilpin or to hear his music, visit www.greggilpin.com.
 Mention this ad to receive the special alumni discount shown!

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Beverly Holt Shelton ’46 recently made a $31,000 donation to the Northwest Foundation to benefit current and future generations of Bearcats with a passion for music and education.

Shelton first learned about the possibility of making a tax-free charitable donation from an IRA through the church she attends. She and her late husband, Edward Shelton ’42, envisioned a new steeple for their church, so she made a charitable donation from an IRA to complete the project in memory of her husband.

Shelton liked the idea of making donations to worthy causes through her IRA, so she acted upon her son’s suggestion to set up a scholarship fund at Northwest. The Sheltons, as well as their two daughters, Linda ’69 and Joyce ’76, graduated from Northwest with degrees in education.

The Sheltons, who grew up close to Maryville on adjoining farms near Quitman, attended Northwest with the desire to become teachers. Beverly majored in music education and taught music several years in public schools and also gave private piano lessons. Ed majored in business education and was a teacher, coach and principal before retiring in 1982 as an assistant superintendent of the Independence Public School District.

In memory of her late husband, the majority of Shelton’s $31,000 gift was used to establish the Beverly J. and Edward J. Shelton Scholarship. Awards from this scholarship will be made available to continuing students pursuing a major within the field of education, preferably music or business education. Students having graduated from high schools in the Independence Public School District will be given first preference followed by students from Nodaway County high schools.

“Ed and I both felt that we received a very good education and had some outstanding professors at Northwest,” she said. “We attribute much of our professional success to Northwest, and this is a way for us to thank the University and also Nodaway County and the Independence Public School District.”

Not only did Shelton establish a scholarship that will benefit students from the community that she calls home, she made a second gift to benefit something dear to her heart. She directed $5,000 of her gift to be used to purchase a baby grand piano for Northwest’s Department of Music.

“This gift couldn’t have come at a better time as the music department is in the process of seeking re-accreditation with the National Association of Schools of Music,” said Charles McAdams, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “This helps Northwest demonstrate that we provide quality instruments for our students.”

For more information about the scholarship established by Shelton or supporting Northwest through a planned gift to the Northwest Foundation, call (660) 562-1248 or visit www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/giving.

US Bank continues support

For the third consecutive year, US Bank has provided support for one of Northwest’s top initiatives. The latest gift of $1,000, along with gifts of $500 in 2006 and $750 in 2007, has been designated to provide funds for Northwest’s unique American Dream Grant.

“US Bank is a proud supporter of Northwest and the American Dream Grant,” said Rex Brod, market manager at US Bank. “By helping these students achieve their education, they too can have the many opportunities available to them that otherwise may not occur.”

American Dream Grant recipients meet Northwest admissions criteria and come from the neediest families based on their application for federal aid. The grant pays virtually all college expenses during a student’s first two years at Northwest, including tuition, fees, room, board, books and the use of a laptop computer.

“Each year the number of students receiving the American Dream Grant has continued to grow to the point of exceeding the funding available, with up to 90 students on the waiting list,” said Andrea Wagner, Northwest’s development officer for corporate and foundation relations. “Every gift to this program makes a difference in the lives of the recipients.”
The Northwest Foundation is considering, in partnership with other Maryville entities, the development of a mixed-use village just west of the Northwest campus. The idea is still in the exploration stage, and to gauge interest, feedback has been sought from Northwest alumni and friends who graduated in 1980 and earlier. The results of that survey have not been finalized, but will soon be shared with University and community officials.

McGinnis established the Fred Lamer Excellence in Broadcasting Scholarship for students involved in KNWT, Northwest’s student television station.

“I wanted to give to an area that meant so much to me, and I want future students to be able to experience the same things I did,” McGinnis said.

At least $500 will be awarded to a continuing Northwest student each year with preference given to broadcast journalism students.

“The entire learning process, both in and out of the classroom, helps a student grow and mature,” Lamer said. “TJ took advantage of this and created many of his own opportunities. I am truly humbled and gratified by his gesture, especially at such a tender age, to help students continue their education.”

McGinnis, now a freelance videographer in Kansas City, said he credits his experience at Northwest, including the ability to job shadow when he was a student and networking with many Northwest alumni, as the reason for his success.

“I know this is really cliché, but I have always wanted to give to others who have helped me. Hopefully others will follow my lead,” McGinnis said. "As a recent graduate, I am trying to do what I can. Money will come and go, but I hope what I do with it will make a difference.”

To contribute to the Fred Lamer Excellence in Broadcasting Scholarship or for more information, contact Polly Howard at (660) 562-1248 or at pollyh@nwmissouri.edu.

University, community explore mixed-use village concept

The Northwest Foundation is considering, in partnership with other Maryville entities, the development of a mixed-use village just west of the Northwest campus. The idea is still in the exploration stage, and to gauge interest, feedback has been sought from Northwest alumni and friends who graduated in 1980 and earlier. The results of that survey have not been finalized, but will soon be shared with University and community officials.

The key components of The Village at Northwest would be a mix of single-family houses and townhouses. The Village would feature a senior living complex with options ranging from independent living to assisted living to complete nursing care. There would also be an assortment of commercial activities such as restaurants, doctors’ offices, a bookstore, a coffee shop and a dry cleaner.

“Although anyone could become a resident of the Village, we believe there are several reasons why those who are contemplating retirement in the coming years, especially alumni and friends, might find living in the Village particularly appealing,” said Orrie Covert, vice president for university advancement and executive director of the Northwest Foundation.

Similar ventures have been successful at Iowa State in Ames, Iowa, Penn State in State College, Pa., Dickinson State University in Dickinson, N.D. and Hendricks College in Hendricks, Ark. After visiting several of these communities, Maryville business leaders and University officials began entertaining the idea of such a facility in Maryville.
A new scholarship has been established in honor of retiring faculty member Dr. Frances Shipley. In addition to serving 40 years at Northwest as a family and consumer sciences professor, Shipley spent 30 of those years as the department chair and 20 as dean of Northwest’s Graduate School.

Thanks to Shipley’s colleagues and loyal alumni and friends, the Dr. Frances Shipley Scholarship received about 80 donations totaling more than $4,600 within two months of establishing the fund. The scholarship was announced as a surprise to Shipley during the 2008 Student Recognition Banquet in March.

“I sincerely appreciate what Northwest alumni and friends have done to honor my service and at the same time provide opportunities for future family and consumer sciences students,” Shipley said.

The creators of the scholarship, Beth Goudge, Connie Neal, Dr. Peggy Miller and Dr. Ann Rowlette, hope to see this fund reach the endowment level of $10,000 so that scholarships in Shipley’s name will be awarded perpetually on an annual basis.

Northwest friend honors family by creating scholarship

Northwest has always been a presence in the life of Fred Morris. Fred and his wife, Leslie, of Birmingham, Ala., are not Northwest alumni, but equally important, they are friends of the University.

Most recently, Morris has connected with Northwest in Florence, Ala., attending five of the six playoff and national championship football games the Bearcats have played at Braly Stadium. The one game he missed was the day of his daughter’s wedding – although he was able to watch the game at the reception!

His original affiliation with the University started before he was even born with his father, Buel Morris, graduating from Northwest in 1953 after 23 years of taking classes, which included correspondence work from Korea. After earning his degree, his father later served as principal in Burlington Junction.

Many other family members also attended Northwest and pursued careers in the field of education. His uncle, Clinton Morris, attended, as did his aunt, Frances Morris Rodecker, who graduated after 24 years of taking classes and, in 1974, retired from a 47-year teaching career.

Robert Rodecker, Morris’ cousin, attended Northwest before being accepted into the U.S. Naval Academy. The most recent Northwest graduate in the Morris family is Fred’s sister, Jean Morris Mairs ’63, of St. Joseph.

In honor of these family members, as well as members of both Fred and Leslie’s family who enjoyed careers in the field of education, the couple contacted Northwest about their desire to establish an endowed scholarship that will be available to students during their semester of student teaching.

“Children deserve to have the best education possible, and that can’t happen without quality teachers in the classroom,” Fred Morris said. “We want to give an extra boost to some deserving students as they enter the teaching profession and to continue a commitment to quality education that has been important to our families for generations.”

The first $450 scholarship from the Morris Rodecker Haley Scholarship Fund will be awarded to a student completing his or her student teaching during the 2009 spring semester.

For more information regarding the Dr. Frances Shipley Scholarship, or to contribute, contact Andrea Wagner at (660) 562-1248 or andrea@nwmissouri.edu.

Northwest partners with ag company for scholarships

A new partnership has been formed between the Northwest Foundation and the CHS Foundation in an effort to assist Northwest students.

The CHS Foundation will fund three $1,000 scholarships to be awarded for the 2008-2009 academic year. The scholarships will be given to continuing Northwest students who are working toward an agriculture-related degree and who wish to pursue a career in agribusiness or production agriculture.

Based in Minnesota, the CHS Foundation is the major giving entity for CHS, an energy, grain and foods grains company. Its mission is to invest in the future of rural America, agriculture and cooperative business through education and leadership development.
This spring was busy for the Dallas Bearcats as the chapter sponsored a wine tasting event in Grapevine, Texas, based on the popularity of last year’s event. Chapter members also attended a coffee house event at Saxby’s, which is owned and operated by Bill ’87 and Jody Allgood ’88 Priestley, as well as a garage sale fundraiser where proceeds benefit the chapter’s scholarship endowment. Other spring and summer events on the calendar included a family day at the Ft. Worth Zoo in April followed by social events in May and June, and a community service event at the Dallas Children’s Medical Center.

The Dallas Chapter will round out the summer with a work day at the North Texas Food Bank, a social for parents of incoming freshmen and a Rough Riders baseball game.

The Central Iowa Chapter gathered to cheer on the Bearcats in the football playoffs. In December, the chapter organized a watch party for the semi-final football game at Front Row in Des Moines, Iowa. The following week, the chapter gathered for a watch party at The Game in Urbandale, Iowa, this time for the championship game. In addition, the chapter has hosted an information session on the new MBA program being offered at Northwest. Dr. Tom Billesbach, dean of Northwest’s Booth College of Business and Professional Studies, was in attendance to provide information and answer questions.

Chapter members, and many Northwest alumni living or working in central Iowa, continue to gather the first Thursday of each month at Old Chicago in Des Moines.

The St. Louis Chapter was chartered May 15. During the ceremony at Ozzie’s Restaurant a banner and gavel were presented to the chapter. For more information about the St. Louis Chapter or to get involved, contact Northwest’s Office of University Advancement at alumni@nwmissouri.edu or (660) 562-1248.

Members of the Arizona Chapter gathered in March for a spring training baseball game. New chapter leadership is being sought. Persons interested are encouraged to contact Northwest’s Office of University Advancement at alumni@nwmissouri.edu or (660) 562-1248.
The St. Joseph Chapter gathered at Northwest’s downtown St. Joseph Center for an internet basketball watch party. The attendees toured the facility and met with Northwest representatives on the benefits and offerings of the new satellite academic facility. The chapter also welcomed new alumni to the area during a Mardi Gras celebration.

The Maryville Chapter elected new officers: Paul Wilmes ’75, president; John Van Cleave ’73, ’89, vice president; and Jamie Lindsay Long ’93, ’98, secretary. The chapter co-sponsored a free movie night on campus with the Student Activities Council. During this event, the chapter provided free water and popcorn.

The Southern Iowa Chapter celebrated its second anniversary on April 25 in Lenox, Iowa. The event, which included a catered dinner and program, was attended by more than 50 Northwest alumni and friends.

Chapter members also volunteered at the Special Olympics, attended the Northwest Encore performance of “Ring of Fire” on campus and hosted a golf outing. As in the past, the chapter will assist with the Northwest booth at the Iowa State Fair and plans to have a float in the Diagonal Labor Day parade.

The Mid-Missouri Chapter celebrated its first anniversary April 10 at D. Rowe’s in Columbia with 30 alumni and friends in attendance. Other summer events included a happy hour at Truman’s in Columbia in May; a barbecue in June at The Hog House, a venue in Montgomery City owned by Dave Teeter ’86; and a Twilight Festival happy hour in Columbia in June. On Aug. 2, the chapter organized a Northwest Student Send-off Barbecue, and chapter members will be attending a Mizzou football tailgate Sept. 13. For more information about the Mid-Missouri Chapter, visit www.midmobearcats.com.

Members of the 2008 Mid-Missouri Alumni Board include (from left) Scott Nielson ’01, Dave Teeter ’86, Ashlee Erwin ’04, Chrissy Beck ’02, Deann Driver Ege ’73, Dustin Wasson ‘03 and Derrick Griffin ’01.

Celebrating the Mid-Missouri Chapter’s first anniversary were (front row) Ashlee Erwin ’04, Leigh Bailey Head ’04, with Annabelle, Jerry Taylor ’66, Deann Driver Ege ’73, Tom Campbell ’04, Nick Deimeke ’04, Nancy Gassen Moss ’90, with Maia, Anne Taylor Davidson ’97, with Will and Ryann, (Ethan and Cooper Moss sitting on floor) (back row) Steve Sutton ’71, Clint Prange ’04, ’05, Michael Head ’02, ’03, Scott Nielson ’01, Mike Fields ’01, Derrick Griffin ’01, Chrissy Beck ’02, Dustin Wasson ’03, Phil Gooding ’76, Steve Moss ’87, Jay Davidson ’98, Frank Finley and Dave Teeter ’86.
Bobby wants YOU to join the Northwest Alumni Association and continue your involvement in the Bearcat family

To stay within IRS guidelines for donations to non-profit organizations, the minimum annual donation for membership in the Northwest Alumni Association will increase $10 to $50 per person. In addition, a joint membership is now available for $85. To simplify the membership process, the membership year will run from Sept. 1 to Aug. 31. Therefore, all membership cards will have an expiration date of Aug. 31. Donations made within the current fiscal year entitle donors to membership in the next membership year.

To become a member or for more information, visit www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/membership.htm or call (660) 562-1248.
Congratulations!

2008 Alumni Association Award recipients

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
George Maher ’58
George Maher ’58 is the chairman of the Houghton State Bank Board of Directors in Red Oak, Iowa. Maher has held many leadership positions, including president of the Houghton State Bank, the Red Oak Jaycees and the Red Oak Industrial Foundation. He also has spearheaded several successful fundraising efforts for Red Oak and Montgomery County. He lives in Red Oak.

DISTINGUISHED EMERITUS FACULTY AWARD
Dr. Elwyn DeVore ’42
Dr. Elwyn DeVore ’42, a retired dean, department chair and professor in what is now the Melvin D. and Valorie G. Booth College of Business and Professional Studies, joined the Northwest faculty in 1950. DeVore played an important role in the addition of several undergraduate and graduate degrees to the College of Business and was awarded the rank of distinguished professor in 1984. He retired in 1985 and lives in Maryville.

TURRET SERVICE AWARD
Joan Lynch Jackson ’65
A retired librarian, Joan Lynch Jackson ’65 played an integral role in establishing the Northwest Alumni Association’s Southern Iowa Alumni and Friends Chapter, serving as its first president. Jackson leads the Kids Against Hunger project at her church and is a member of the Ringgold County Group Home for Mentally Challenged Youth, the Bearcat Booster Club and the Alumni Association Board of Directors. She lives in Redding, Iowa.

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD
Dr. Terry Robertson
Dr. Terry Robertson joined Northwest’s Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance in 1992. Robertson, who currently is the department’s chair, has received many awards for his service to Northwest, most recently the Scholar of the Year Award and the Outstanding Professional Award. He lives in Maryville.

HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD
Rita Hanks
Rita Hanks served two terms on the Northwest Board of Regents. During this time, she held positions as president and vice president of the board. A self-employed consultant, Hanks is an active volunteer in the Smithville community, where she lives, and has served on the Smithville Board of Education.

YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD
Hayley Hanson ’97
Hayley Hanson ’97 is a law partner with Husch Blackwell Sanders LLP. She joined the firm in 2000 and was named partner in 2006 with a practice area devoted to education. As a student at Northwest, she was active in Phi Mu Sorority and Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society, served as a Freshman Seminar Peer Adviser and Student Ambassador and was a member of the volleyball team. She lives in Leawood, Kan.

You’re Invited!
The Northwest Alumni Association honors individuals who have given of their time, talent and service to Northwest. Join Northwest in saluting these outstanding Bearcats.

- Friday, Sept. 12
- J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom
- 6 p.m. Social
- 6:45 p.m. Dinner
- 8 p.m. Awards Presentation

All Northwest alumni and friends are invited to attend the ceremony. It’s a great way to kick off the Family Day Weekend and salute these deserving individuals.

- $30 per person
- $200 for a table of 8

For more information or to reserve tickets, visit www.nwmissouri.edu/ALUMNI/events/awards or call the Office of University Advancement at (660) 562-1248.
Three former student-athletes from the 2007 Northwest football team are continuing their work on the gridiron at the professional level.

The Buffalo Bills selected former Northwest student-athlete Xavier Omon ’07 in the sixth round as the 179th overall pick of the 2008 National Football League draft. Omon is the sixth Bearcat ever drafted by the NFL and the first since Dave Tollefson was drafted in the seventh round by the Green Bay Packers in 2006.

Omon concluded his collegiate career last season as the first player in NCAA history to rush for 1,500 yards in all four seasons. He led Division II last season with 2,337 rushing yards and became the second player in Division II history to rush for 7,000 yards during a career.

He earned four All-America awards in 2007 and was named the Offensive Player of the Year by D2Football.com, the MIAA Offensive Player of the Year and the Texas vs. The Nation All-Star Game MVP. He holds 32 Northwest game, season, career and postseason records and is the all-time leading rusher in MIAA history.

Tight end Mike Peterson, a 6-foot-3, 250-pounder from Atlantic, Iowa, signed a free agent contract with the Green Bay Packers, but was released in late July. Last season, Peterson caught 44 passes for 706 yards and had five receiving touchdowns.

The Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League signed Dallas Flynn to a free agent contract, although he was released in June. Flynn ended his career at Northwest with 19.5 sacks, fifth in all-time program records, and 34 tackles for loss, tied for sixth. He also blocked three kicks and recorded 148 tackles in his four years at Northwest.

Flynn missed playing with former Bearcat wide receiver and punt returner Tony Miles, who was granted free agency by Toronto in February and signed with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

All-time Northwest NFL Draft Selections:

- Bob Haller (Chicago Bears, 1959, 23rd round, 273rd overall pick)
- Ed Tillison (Detroit Lions, 1992, 11th round, 306th overall pick)
- Chris Greisen (Arizona Cardinals, 1999, 7th round, 239th overall pick)
- Seth Wand (Houston Texans, 2003, 3rd round, 77th overall pick)
- Dave Tollefson (Green Bay Packers, 2006, 7th round, 253rd overall pick)
- Xavier Omon (Buffalo Bills, 2008, 6th round, 179th overall pick)

Bearcats in the CFL:

- Seneca Holmes (British Columbia Lions, 2001)
- Tony Miles (Hamilton Tiger-Cats, 2002; Toronto Argonauts, 2003-07; Hamilton Tiger-Cats, 2008)
- Marcel Smith (Winnipeg Blue Bombers, 2004)

Meyer named assistant men’s basketball coach

Former Northwest men’s basketball player Austin Meyer ’06, ’08 has been named assistant coach to Steve Tappmeyer and the Northwest men’s basketball program. His official duties began June 1.

‘I’m excited Coach Tappmeyer has given me the opportunity to start my career here at Northwest at such a young age,” Meyer said. “I’m familiar with the program, and with school behind me I can devote all my efforts toward our team. I’ve met a lot of great people at this University and look forward to working with them on a professional level.”

A native of Blue Springs, Meyer played four seasons with the Bearcats from 2002 to 2006. He was the leading scorer and rebounder of the 2004-2005 squad when he averaged 13.3 points and 5.4 rebounds. Meyer is the sixth-leading scorer in program history with 1,294 points. His 215 three-pointers remain the career record.

In addition, Meyer won an MIAA conference tournament championship and made an appearance in the Elite Eight during the 2003-2004 campaign.
Fall Classic VII set for Arrowhead Stadium

The seventh annual Fall Classic at Arrowhead Stadium will kickoff at 5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 4, in Kansas City.

The Fall Classic once again pits the Northwest Bearcats against the Pittsburg State Gorillas – perennial MIAA powers. Last season’s contest lived up to the game’s name – a classic. Xavier Omon’s 1-yard leap into the end zone on fourth-and-goal gave Northwest a 37-34 overtime win in front of nearly 20,000 fans.

Northwest is 4-2 at Arrowhead Stadium and has won the past three meetings between the two teams. The Bearcats and Gorillas have been nationally ranked in 13 of the last 14 meetings, with Northwest holding a 9-4 record in those contests. In the six games at Arrowhead, 135,269 fans have watched the Fall Classic.

Arrowhead Stadium parking lots open at 2 p.m., and the stadium gates open at 3 p.m. Parking is $17 and $12.

All Bearcat alumni and friends are invited to a tailgate party hosted by the Northwest Alumni Association. The party will begin at 2 p.m. and will be located at the Arrowhead Pavilion. There will be food, music and appearances from the Northwest cheerleaders and band.

Game tickets are $25 for club level seats. Field level seats are $20 for adults and $10 for fans ages 3 through high school as well as Northwest students with a University ID. Children 2 and under sitting on an adult’s lap are admitted free. New this year is the availability of a $50 family package, which admits two adults and two children.

To order tickets, call the Northwest Student Services Center at (660) 562-1212 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or purchase tickets online at www.nwmissouri.edu/tickets.

2008 M-Club Hall of Fame inductees

The following individuals will be inducted into Northwest’s M-Club Athletics Hall of Fame. The ceremony and banquet will begin at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 17, in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom. Tickets are $17 and can be purchased by contacting Michele Steinneyer at (660) 562-1977.

David Imonitie ’75
Tennis; four-time MIAA singles champion; three-time MIAA doubles champion; three-time NCAA All-American; all-time career wins leader; lives in Houston, Texas.

David Alvey ’78
Basketball; three-time All-MIAA; currently the second all-time leading scorer in school history with 1,747 points; school record holder for single season scoring average of 23.8 points per game; currently fourth on all-time rebounding charts; lives in Tell City, Ind.

Tom Franke ’80
Baseball; All-MIAA and North Central Region pitcher; 1.36 ERA in 1976 season was ranked third nationally; all-time career leader in wins; third in career complete games; second in career shutouts; second in career strikeouts; lives in Eureka.

Mary Beth Bishop Steele ’85
Volleyball; three-time All-MIAA; first Bearcat player to be named MIAA Most Valuable Player and is one of two to ever receive the honor; school record holder in attack percentage and kills; ranks fifth on all-time list for career kills; lives in Omaha, Neb.

Steve Hansley (attd. ’83-’85)
Football; three-time All-MIAA first team; two-time AP Little All-American; holds NCAA Division II post-season record for most receiving yards in a game with 220; first Bearcat receiver to top 1,000 yards receiving in a single season; single season record holder for receptions in a game; lives in Kansas City.

Russ Northup ’65, ’90
Meritorious Service Award; former student athlete who returned to Northwest following his career in the military and private business to teach in the marketing department; served as Northwest’s Faculty Athletics Representative; following his retirement, returned to Northwest for a stint as the athletics department compliance director; lives in Mound City.

During his days at Northwest, David Imonitie ’75 was a tennis standout, claiming four MIAA singles championships.
HONORING THE CLASS OF ‘58
The Golden Years Society Reunion welcomes all classmates from 1958 and before to attend Northwest’s Homecoming festivities. Mark your calendar for Oct. 17-18, and make plans to return to campus and reunite with fellow Bearcats.

For more information, contact the Office of University Advancement at (660) 562-1248 or at alumni@nwmissouri.edu.

Itinerary

FRIDAY, OCT. 17
9 a.m. Welcome reception, Alumni House
9:30 a.m. Campus/community bus tour
11 a.m. Reunion photo, Kissing Bridge
11:30 a.m. Luncheon, J.W. Jones Student Union
2 p.m. Flag-raising ceremony, White International Plaza
6:30 p.m. M-Club Hall of Fame Athletics Banquet*

SATURDAY, OCT. 18
8 a.m. Homecoming Welcome, Alumni House
9 a.m. Parade with VIP seating
11:30 a.m. Bearcat Zone pre-game BBQ, College Park*
1:30 p.m. Football vs. Fort Hays State, Bearcat Stadium*

COST: $20
*additional cost

Variety Show
■ Thursday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m.
■ Friday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m.
COST: $5

Homecoming Golf Classic
■ Friday, Oct. 17
■ Two person scramble, tee times beginning at noon
■ Mozingo Lake Golf Course
COST: $45 per person (includes 18 holes, cart, range balls, prizes)

M-Club Hall of Fame Athletics Banquet
■ Friday, Oct. 17, 6:30 p.m.
■ J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom
COST: $17

Homecoming Welcome
■ Saturday, Oct. 18, 8 a.m.
■ Alumni House
■ Free refreshments

Homecoming Parade
■ Saturday, Oct. 18, 9 a.m.
■ Route begins in front of Roberta Hall to Fourth Street and goes east on Fourth Street to Main Street near the courthouse square

■ Family-friendly viewing area near the intersection of University Drive and Fourth Street

Homecoming Barbeque
■ Saturday, Oct. 18, 1:30 p.m.
■ Bearcat Stadium
COST: TBD

Football vs. Fort Hays State
■ Saturday, Oct. 18, 1:30 p.m.
■ Bearcat Stadium
COST: $12 reserved, $8 adult general admission (standing room only), $5 student

Order Tickets
■ Tickets will not be mailed; they must be picked up at the event.
■ Tickets may be charged to Visa, MasterCard or Discover. Reservations are not accepted without a credit card of full payment, and all ticket sales are final.
■ Football and Variety Show tickets may be purchased online at www.nwmissouri.edu/tickets or by calling (660) 562-1212.
■ Call (660) 562-1248 to register for the Golf Classic.

Call (660) 562-1977 for M-Club Hall of Fame tickets.
Seats are assigned on a best-available basis.
Ticket prices include Missouri sales tax.

Places to Stay

MARYVILLE
Comfort Inn (660) 562-2002
Super 8 (660) 582-8088
Holiday Inn Express (660) 562-9949
America’s Best Inn and Suites (660) 562-3111

ST. JOSEPH
Days Inn (816) 279-1671
Drury Inn (816) 364-4700
Stoney Creek Inn (816) 901-9600
Hampton Inn (816) 390-9300
Motel 6 (816) 232-2311
Ramada Inn (816) 233-6192
Super 8 (816) 364-3031

Events are subject to change/cancellation.
Journey prompts couple to introduce others to ‘the real Africa’

It’s only fitting that Jeff Smith ’80 has a business card that invites others to “see the real Africa.” After all, he has experienced the “real deal” on two occasions. He knows the people and speaks their language. From 1989 to 1994, Jeff served as a Peace Corps volunteer and worked on a wildlife sanctuary. Most recently he lived in Africa for 16 months working for a development organization in the southern African country of Botswana. It was this latest stint that prompted Smith and his wife, Gina, to begin offering guided tours to others who wish to experience the treasures of Africa.

“We want other people to enjoy similar experiences that we had with interesting people and different aspects of African culture,” said Jeff, who taught industrial technology at a middle school in Nata while he was in the Peace Corps.

In 2006, Jeff accepted a job opportunity in Shakawe, Botswana, as a deputy coordinator for Kuru Development Trust. That spring, he sold his Maryville general contracting business, and one week later was on a 17-hour flight to Africa. Gina, currently an admissions representative for Northwest, joined him later that month.

While in Africa, Jeff supervised a staff of 20 people and mentored the coordinator for the Trust for the Okavango Cultural and Development Initiative, a non-governmental organization that assists small business development in the Okavango region of Botswana. He helped the indigenous people develop an understanding of Western business culture and taught them about developing sustainable economic systems.

The day after his flight, Jeff made life a little easier and purchased a vehicle for the four-hour drive along a two-lane road (shared with cows, donkeys, goats, elephants and pythons) to Maun, the nearest large city where most food and everyday necessities were available. With no way to ship perishable items to the small stores in Shakawe, groceries like cheese and milk weren’t locally available.

“Our income level was down, petrol prices were up, vehicle prices were up, and repair costs were up. We didn’t want to drive all over because owning and operating a vehicle was expensive. We were very aware of that,” Jeff said.

While there were many potential dangers and inconveniences associated with traveling throughout the African countries, Gina said the good experiences outweighed the bad.

“Even the things I thought were annoying, like driving for hours to the grocery store, gave me good stories later,” Gina said. “I don’t regret anything. If you’re going to learn about another culture, the best way is to live there and see what works, what doesn’t and how people live.”

During their stay, the Smiths also enjoyed Zimbabwe and its people, although the country is on the U.S. Department of State’s travel alert list as a destination that poses imminent risks to Americans.

“I’ve been to Zimbabwe many times and loved it, but it’s hard to pick a favorite city or country when every place is so different,” Jeff said.

Another scenic visit the Smiths took was a trip to Victoria Falls. There also was beauty to be found closer to home. The Okavango Delta rippled through their backyard and attracted many tourists and bird-watchers.

The couple returned to their Maryville home in fall 2007, but now possess memories of Africa that they’ll cherish for a lifetime.

“The elephants and scenery are nice, but in the end, that’s not the reason I go,” said Jeff, who is now a general contractor in Maryville. “I go for the people I meet, to see how they live and to learn from their refreshing attitudes about life.”

For information about Jeff and Gina Smith’s guided tours, visit www.botswanabush.com, or contact Jeff at jeff@botswanabush.com or (660) 541-0947.
Parents’ love impacts more than their disabled son

Thirty-six years ago, first-time parents Dana (attd.) and Sue Johnson ‘72 Hockensmith had a choice to make. Their decision, which eventually became their life’s work, has made quite an impact on others, regardless of the less-than-ideal advice they were initially given.

The Hockensmith’s doctor presented them with two scenarios after their 1-year-old son, Philip, was diagnosed with the Cytomegalovirus that would not allow Philip’s brain to function at a level more than that of a 2-month-old. Their doctor said if they kept their severely disabled son at home, he would “ruin their lives,” causing nervous breakdowns and divorce. Or, since Philip wasn’t going to live very long, they could leave Philip in a home and forget him.

By the time Philip was 3, the Hockensmiths reluctantly placed him in a home in Sedalia, nearly five hours from their home. They struggled with their decision.

“Philip was very tiny and fragile,” Sue said. “He had seizures many times each day. There was so much patience needed in his care. Phil was always limp and unable to walk, talk, see or hear. It was a 24/7 type of stress, and we had no family living around us to help with his care. We knew we had to do something because forgetting about him in an institution was not an option.”

Instead of leaving their child in Sedalia, the young couple decided to develop a center to accommodate individuals with physical and mental disabilities, a home that was more than an “institution.” Music and bright colors would be plentiful, employees would not wear uniforms and residents would be served their favorite foods.

Together, with the support of the Jefferson County Association for Retarded Citizens, the Hockensmiths raised $25,000 from anyone who would listen to their story, acquired five acres of donated land and received a $31,000 federal grant. They named the new center the Pony Bird Home after a children’s book about a winged horse that flies a small boy to places around the world. When Pony Bird opened in 1977 in DeSoto, the same community where Dana and Sue lived, 5-year-old Philip was the first resident.

“Dana and I were able to totally bond more than ever through those years,” Sue said. “We relied on each other to overcome the grief we felt and the heartache that we carried each and every day. We tried to be optimistic and humorous in our daily living, which helped us both through that sadness of not having a healthy son.”

Philip died in 2001 from pneumonia when he was 29. However, the Hockensmiths and their two daughters knew his death would not mean the end of Pony Bird. The center has expanded to four buildings employing 135 caregivers who provide 24-hour care for 59 residents coping with severe disabilities from age 14 to 72.

“We truly loved our son for who he was and have felt blessed for his life,” she said. “We were advocates for him each and every day of his life. For one young man who never said one word, he certainly did accomplish a lot.”

Dana, an attorney, and Sue, who owns and manages a child-care facility, live in Manchester and continue to serve on Pony Bird’s Board of Directors.

For more information, visit www.ponybird.org.

Class notes

1964
TED JAMISON
and his wife, Judi, have retired to their home on Padre Island, Corpus Christi, TX, and would love to hear from anyone who attended Northwest in the early 1960s.

1968
JOHN DELONG (MASTER’S ’74)
will retire in August after a 40-year career as a teacher, principal, superintendent and business manager. He most recently was a business manager with the Genoa City Joint #2 School District in Genoa City, WI.
1969
STEVE CLARK
is the K-12 administrator at Siouxland Community Christian School in Sioux City, IA. He previously was superintendent of East Union Community School District in Afton, IA, for six years. He was named the 2007-08 Superintendent of the Year by Green Valley Area Education Agency 14. He and his wife, Connie, live in Sioux City, IA.

RICHARD PHILLIPS
(MASTER’S ‘77)
is associate vice president at the University of Houston System, Sugar Land, and vice president of the University of Houston-Victoria.

ROBERT RILEY
◆is retired and lives in DeWitt, IA.

1975
MARTY CAREY
is a counselor at Thornton Middle School in Colorado and does suicide prevention/intervention training through LivingWorks. Marty lives in Arvada, CO.

BOBBY INGELS
is the 2008 board president of the Housing and Building Association of Colorado Springs, CO. He formed his own residential and commercial development company in 2000 and previously was a superintendent for R.E. Monks Construction, a development manager for Vintage communities and land development director for LaPlata Investments.

1976
TERRY CLEVENGER◆lives in Leawood, KS, and is a career readiness instructor at Full Employment Council in Kansas City.

1977
CHERINE HECKMAN
(MASTER’S ’83)◆is vice president of student affairs at Fujairah Women’s College and Fujairah Men’s College, which are part of the Higher Colleges of Technology in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates. Contact her at cherine.heckman@hct.ac.ae.

1981
JACK HOFMOCKEL
is pastor at the United Methodist churches in Logan and Magnolia, IA. His wife, Melissa, works for the waiver house program of the Glenwood Resource Center. Their daughter, Shannon, graduated from Fremont-Mills Community Schools in May and will attend Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, IA. They live in Logan, IA.

1983
JEFFREY GOLTZ
is the litigation bureau chief for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services in Lincoln, NE. He previously was a county attorney in Richardson County, NE, for 13 years.

LINDA LAVELY◆is an administrative assistant for the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation. She previously worked 11 years with Securities America. She lives in Omaha, NE.

1985
LISA PETRY◆is a market manager with Circle K, where she has been employed for 15 years. She would like to hear from any of her seventh-floor friends from 1985 to 1989. She lives in Tucson, AZ.

GAIL FUHRIG WILSON
is director of finance for Ft. Sanders Regional Medical Center in Knoxville, TN, where she has worked for eight years. She also is pursuing an MBA in health care administration from Lincoln Memorial University.

1986
RICK AND SUSAN SVOBODA
(ATT'D.) MARTIN
live in Apple Valley, MN, with their four children. Rick is a CFO at Disciplined Growth Investors. He holds a Chartered Financial Analyst designation and has an MBA from Creighton University.

1988
LISA WISEMAN KANNAPEL
and her husband, Chris, are teachers. Lisa teaches in the Johnston Schools, and Chris teaches in the Des Moines Public School System. They have started Midwest Biscotti, LLC, and sell homemade biscotti to locally owned coffee shops and retail stores. They live in Windsor Heights, IA.

1989
JOHN PARKER
(MASTER’S ’97)
is a lieutenant colonel in the Missouri National Guard and is the battalion commander of the 129th Field Artillery in Maryville. He and his troops were mobilized in February and were deployed to Kosovo after training in Germany. This is his second deployment.

U.S. troops in Afghanistan proudly wear Bearcat T-shirts. Betty Heitman, a transfer specialist at Northwest, wanted to do something special for the soldiers at Christmas last year so she sent T-shirts from Northwest’s Department of Athletics and other organizations on campus. In addition, Heitman sent the troops a variety of Northwest items such as sunglasses and water bottles. ◆

◆ – Northwest Alumni Association Member

For the latest schedule information, visit www.northwestbearcats.com.
Where are you?

The following alumni who were members of Tower Choir are considered “lost” because Northwest does not have a current physical mailing address for them.

If you recognize someone on the list, please provide Northwest with their contact information (i.e. address, phone number, e-mail address, married name) or ask them to e-mail alumni@nwmissouri.edu or call (660) 562-1248.

To view the names of additional missing alumni, visit www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/missing/index.htm.

Marjorie McClure McGinness ’59
Karen Fisher Wilson ’63
Rose Adams Kent ’66
Sherry Bollinger ’67
Michael Combs ’67
Paul O’Connor ’67
Kay Kesterson Martin ’68
Shirley Hooper McKee ’68
Martha Clotier Parks ’68
James Quinn ’68
Ernest Campbell ’69
Arceile Rowe Combs ’69
Dee Anne Decklever ’69
Mark Adcock ’70
LaVerne Vulgamott ’70
Richard Walton ’70
Philip Farnan ’71
Barbara Baker Slater ’72
Craig Willis ’72
Margaret Clausen Wurth ’72
Mary Slump ’73
Joyce Wood ’78
Kevin Cordray ’79
Terry Griffee ’79
Ann Carlin ’80
Lori Burgin Nielsen ’83
Jeffrey Staples ’83
Gregory Meadows ’86
Mark Adcock ’87
Dana Pegg ’93
Andrea Smith Schmidt ’93
Scott Clayton ’95
Stacy Helm ’95
Andrea Hunter ’95
Corina Monarrez ’95
Annette Eckleberry ’96
Patrick Darnell ’97
Aaron Franklin ’97
Shad Ramsey ’97
Jennifer Combs Zoellner ’97
Amanda Brown ’98
Jeremy Browning ’98
Sarah Burke ’99
Adam Droegemueller ’99
Mark Murphy ’99

1991

ROBYN BRINKS
(MASTER’S ’93)
and John Lockwood were
married Dec.
1 in St.
Louis. Robyn is an instruc-
tor/lecturer in the EFS
department of education
at Stanford University.
She previously was an
author/editor at McGraw-
Hill, Elsevier Publishing
Co. in addition to teach-
ing ESL part time for
more than 10 years. She
has written several manu-
als and serves on state and
national boards for ESL
education. John leads a
research program in the
engineering department
at Stanford. They live in
Palo Alto, CA.

JEANNE O’DONNELL
HECKMAN
recently closed her pho-
tography business to be a
stay-at-home mother.
Jeannie is freelancing with
Howard Buffet and has
been to Africa on several
trips photographing for
his next book. She and
her husband, Greg, are
expecting their second
child in October. They
live in Omaha, NE.

1992

CHRISt JOHNSON
and his wife,
Nicky, an-
nounce the
birth of
Heath Garon on Nov.
26. In January, Chris was
promoted to the rank of
major and is the com-
mander of the 355th Se-
curity Forces Squadron at
Davis-Monthan Air Force
Base in Tucson, AZ.

TANYA LOUGHEAD
is an assistant professor
of philosophy at Canisius
College in Buffalo, NY. She
won the “I Joan Lorch Award,”
which is bestowed yearly
upon the professor at
Canisius who most
furtheres women's issues. She has been a professor at Canisius for three years. She and her husband, Paul Herold, live in Buffalo, NY.

SHAWN WAKE ◆

and his wife, Sandi, announce the birth of Owen Bruce on Feb. 1. He joins a sister, Rachel. Shawn is the technical director/performance facilities manager in the Department of Communication, Theatre and Languages at Northwest.

KENDRA CUMMINS WEERS (MASTER'S '96) ◆

and her husband, Brian, announce the birth of Joey Adele in August 2006. They live in Diller, NE, in a home designed by Kendra. She is a senior consultant with Mary Kay Cosmetics.

1993

RICHARD (SPECIALIST) AND WANDA JAMES (92) MORELOCK

have three children, Rick, 17, Ben, 15, and Ashley, 9. Richard is superintendent of the Northeast R-IV School District in Cairo, MO. He was superintendent of schools at Adair County R-I in Novinger for eight years before going to the Cole County School in Russellville, where he has been the past three years.

TOM AND SARA HOSFORD PERKINS

live in Wichita, KS. Tom is the assistant principal at Wichita Northwest High School, and Sara is a graphics coordinator at OEC Graphics.

The University community had the opportunity to fight back after a long winter that included a December ice storm that downed nearly 80 trees. 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, staff as well as Northwest alumni and friends took part in Project Plant-A-Tree this spring. The event was part ceremony – to honor 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.

JASON SCOTT

is a physical therapist with the rehab and sports medicine staff at St. Francis Hospital and Health Services in Maryville. His primary area of practice is the inpatient and swing-bed setting.

1994

THERESA BAYER NASH

and her husband, Bob, announce the birth of Emma on Nov. 26. She joins Colin, 10, Hannah, 10, Robby, 7, Jaden, 5, and Mia, 5. Theresa is a second-grade teacher at Northwest R-I, and Bob is employed at B&C Custom Auto Diagnostics. They live in House Springs.

MICHAEL WOHLBERG (MASTER'S '02)

recently moved to Panus Beach, FL, where he and his wife operate a catering business that specializes in tofu desserts.

1995

JOY HENRY BAILEY (MASTER'S)

was named Art Educator of the Year by the Missouri Art Education Association for the 2007-08 school year. She has taught for 20 years and has been at Smithville Middle School since 1994.

RACHEL BROWN TATUM (MASTER'S '99)

teaches first grade in the Carl Junction School District. She and her husband, Bart, have three sons, Alec, 10, Miles, 6, and Matthew, 3.

1996

JENNIFER SCHLAMP

is a producer at WFLD Fox Chicago.

JENNY CRAWFORD SCHUMACHER

and her husband, Mark, announce the birth of Elizabeth Jane Crawford on Feb. 29. She joins Luke, 4. Jenny is a high school business teacher at Southeast Polk School in Pleasant Hill, IA. They live in Des Moines, IA.

Career credential files to be destroyed

It’s time for the annual credential file audit in the Office of Career Services. Any credential file that has not been used since 1998 will be destroyed. A credential file includes job search materials such as a resume and letters of recommendation. It is not an official academic record.

Any graduate wishing to have his or her “old” file activated or archived may do so by calling (660) 562-1250 or e-mailing career@nwmissouri.edu before Oct. 1, 2008. Requests should include legal name (and maiden name, if applicable) and Social Security number.

Please note, due to the annual cycle of this initiative, files older than and inactive since 1996 already have been destroyed.
Keep in touch
As life changes, your classmates and friends want to know. Tell us what has been going on in your life by using the enclosed envelope, by e-mail at alumni@nwmissouri.edu or online at www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/magazine/classnotes.htm.

You also may submit a photograph. Please include a self-addressed envelope for the photo to be returned, or e-mail it, in high resolution, to alumni@nwmissouri.edu. (Photographs with children or pets will not be accepted.)

1997
JENEE BARNES
(MASTER’S ’99)
is the principal at Lake Contry Elementary School in St. Joseph. For the past eight years she was the elementary principal in the King City School District. She lives in Albany.

TRACY MAISEL BLOODGOOD
and her family have moved to St. Joseph. She is a scientist in Bioprocess R&D at Boehringer Ingelheim. Her husband, Jason, works at Heartland Hospital. They have one daughter.

TRACY BOTTOMS
will be the 9-12 principal in the Paris R-II School District this fall. He previously was a teacher and coach in the district.

KIERA LUCAS DILLINGHAM
and her husband, Bill, announce the birth of Lucas Jay on Oct. 30. Keri is a stay-at-home mom, and Bill is employed at Hartford Life Company. They live in Kansas City.

JOEL HEINZEROTH◆
is a major in the U.S. Army and is preparing for his third deployment to Iraq. He is currently stationed at Fort Sill, OK, where his family will live while he is in Iraq.

MICK AND EVE MECHANIC HOOVER
announce the birth of Lael Brynn in September. Lael joins Chase Bryant, 3. Mick is the manager of strategic planning at St. John’s Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis. Eve is a physician assistant at Chester Clinic, a family practice office. They live in Waterloo, IL.

CHRISTINA PALLAS HUSS
and her husband, Paul, announce the birth of Joshua Paul on March 5. Christina is an office manager at PropertyBanc. They live in Papillion, NE.

LEAH RASMUSSEN MEYER
and her husband, Brent, are both veterinarians at the Holstein-Ida Grove Vet Clinic. They have three children, Garrett, 5, Caden, 3, and April Joy, 1. They live in Galva, IA.

RHONDA ROBERTSON OESCH
and her husband, Orland, live in Mooresville with their three children, Meredith, 7, Owen, 4, and Lyla Catherine, 1. The Oeschs own a cattle operation and a custom cabinet making business. Rhonda does all the bookkeeping for both businesses and enjoys staying at home with the family.

RICHARD AND WENDY TERRY REEVE◆
live in Wichita, KS. Richard completed a master’s degree in management from Friends University in Wichita, KS. He is the director of field service with the Boy Scouts of America, Quivira Council. Wendy is a teacher at the Sedgwick County Special Education Cooperative. They have three children, Elizabeth, Cassandra and Hayden.

TYSON AND SUZY SCHNECKLOTH ROBINETT

1998
DREW HALLOCK
is manager of shipment management at Union Pacific Railroad. His wife, Kelli, is a senior business manager at Union Pacific. They were married in 2001 and live in LaVista, NE.

DANIELLE PILLOW JOHNSON
teaches first grade in the North Nodaway R-VI School District. Her husband, Matt, has completed a second master’s degree in American studies at Kansas University where he is now completing his Ph.D. They have two children, Hunter, 5, and Brooklyn, 2. They live in Maryville.

PATRICK JOHNSON
(MASTER’S ’00)◆
is a lecturer at Emerson College in Boston, MA. He previously taught in the Department of Communication, Theatre and Languages at Northwest.

PAT AND KARI ECK
(MASTER’S ’99)
HOLLOWAY
announce the birth of Anna Reese on March 28. She joins Sam. Both Pat and Kari are employed at Pioneer Hi-Bred International. Pat is a soybean research associate, and Kari is a parent corn senior quality supply analyst. They live in Adel, IA.
What can I do to quickly and easily improve my family’s financial situation?

Family financial tips from Dan Danford ’83

Consolidate similar accounts. One reason people fail financially is because they are overwhelmed by monthly statements. It might take a few minutes, but transferring all IRA accounts to the same place makes it much easier to follow each month. The same is true with other accounts. Find a convenient place where you can consolidate all your mutual funds, stocks, bonds and bank certificates.

Create a simple filing system. All that paper seems important, but it’s not. Keep a temporary file for each account, then empty it and start over after tax time each year. Your accountant can help decide what’s necessary.

Simplify your investment process. For most people, a diversified portfolio of good mutual funds will earn solid results without all the bother and fees. A few investment hobbyists love the complexity. Most people, though, benefit from the simplest possible approach.

Tune out market noise. You’ll be happier and more successful if you ignore market clutter. Almost everyone agrees that a long-term investment approach works best for most people. Yet, we’re smothered by minute-to-minute coverage of all the markets. Just skip it completely. Enjoy life without the daily noise.

Shena Grenier Coons and her husband, Jim, announce the birth of Alayna Grace on Sept. 28. Shena is a senior analyst in clinical reporting, and Jim is a technical architect. Both are employed at Cerner Corporation.

Rita DelSignore and Rodger Koefod will be married Sept. 27. She is the director of development for Northwest Children’s Home, a non-profit organization helping troubled youth. She lives in Lewiston, ID.

Amy Smith Graham and her husband, Jeremy, announce the birth of Boston Thomas on Oct. 10. Amy is in marketing with The Sunflower Group in Overland Park, KS. They live in Olathe, KS.

Lori Heffner Lager and her husband, Kevin, announce the birth of Andrew Christopher on April 10. He joins Emma, Nathalie and Gabriel. They live in Conception Junction.

John McGilligan (Master’s) moved to Fountain Valley, CA, last year and is in his second year as director of bands for Marina High School in Huntington Beach, CA. In his first year at Huntington Beach, John was named Performing Arts Teacher of the Year and last year was named Teacher of the Year. He also performs with the Huntington Beach Concert Band and will soon compete in his first 5K run.

Dan Danford ’83 (master’s), who began his investment career as a bank trust officer, is the author of two books: May I Help You? Why You Need a Fee-Only Investment Advisor and Million Dollar Management: Simple Lessons to Use Wealth Management Principles for Your Family Investments.

Top barbershop quartet joins Tower Choir for concert

Three Men & a Melody, one of the world’s premier barbershop quartets, joined the University’s Tower Choir in a joint spring concert at Northwest.

The quartet, together since 1995, features four men who are Northwest graduates. Tenor Chris Droegemueller ’96, ’02 is responsible for many of 3 Men & a Melody’s arrangements while Eric Derks ‘89 (the “melody”) fronts the foursome musically. Brian Bellof ’94, ’97 is a second-generation barbershop bass with a knack for showmanship, and baritone Brad Stephens ’96 specializes in over-the-top comedy.
Has your name changed?

In accordance with Northwest policy, to update your name you must provide a photocopy of the appropriate documentation such as marriage license or divorce decree.

Please mail or fax documentation along with a note requesting a name change to:

Registrar’s Office
Northwest Missouri State University
800 University Dr.
Maryville, MO 64468
Fax: (660) 562-1993

Contact Mary Knowles in the Registrar’s Office at (660) 562-1151 or mnoles@nwmissouri.edu with questions or for more information.

LARRY NANNEMAN is the battery commander for D Battery 129th Field Artillery in Independence. His company was mobilized with the Missouri Army National Guard in February in preparation for deployment to Kosovo. This is his second deployment. He is employed with the Missouri Department of Transportation in Springfield.

PATRICK AND SUE-ANN (’98, ’99) ZEIGER WESTHOFF announce the birth of Kohen on May 13. He joins Kolin, 4, Karson, 3, and Kevin, 2. Patrick is a mortgage lender at Wells Fargo, and Sue-ann stays at home with the boys. They live in Hannibal.

2000

CHRIS AND ELIZABETH FERGUSON (’03) BOWLES announce the birth of Daniel Cain on Feb. 10. Chris is a corn specialist at Agrigold, and Elizabeth is an academic scheduling specialist at Northwest. They live in Maryville.

AUSTIN AND ANGELA PATTERSON (’01) CHARLSON announce the birth of Harley in November 2006.

ANGIE BUTTS GILLESPIE received a master’s degree in social work in 2003 from Kansas University and became a licensed specialist clinical social worker in 2005. She is a therapist at a school for students with severe behavior and emotional disorders. She also is a certified substance abuse counselor and owns her own business in Lenexa, KS. She and Bryon Gillespie were married in 2006 in Cancún, and she has two stepdaughters. They live in Grain Valley.

JEANNIE BAKER KENYON is the accounts payable coordinator for the Kansas City Royals.

SARAH BARTON THOMAS is spending the summer at the Klingenstein Center of Columbia University’s Summer Institute. She is one of 75 independent school teachers from North America and the United Kingdom to participate in a curriculum and pedagogy development program in Lawrenceville, NJ. She lives in Columbia, MD.

2001

GEORGE AND JULEE PALTANI (’96) BOOTH announce the birth of Anthony George on Aug. 26, 2007. He joins Sebastian, 4, and Dominic, 2. George is a finance director at Superior Chevrolet, and Julee is a homemaker. They live in Raymore.

TONYA COFFELT (MASTER’S ’03) C. is a senior auditor with the Social Security Administration in Kansas City. She will be married Sept. 6.

CARRIE CLELAND and John Fisher were married Oct. 7. She received a master’s degree in educational administration and policy studies from SUNY in 2006. They plan to continue to live on the East Coast and pursue careers in higher education.

DAKOTA AND HEATHER ORTMAN (’00, ’02) DERR announce the birth of Ashlyn Grace on April 15. She joins Emma, 3, Dakota is the lead IT application analyst at Principal Financial Group, and Heather is a stay-at-home mom. They live in Des Moines, IA.

BRYAN (MASTER’S ’03) AND TAMMI LUKE (’01, ’05) GROW announce the birth of Kora Sue on March 10. She joins Bryna. Tammi is an associate director of admissions at Northwest. They live in Maryville.

MARK HORNICKEL and his wife, Kati, announce the birth of Phoebe Joanne on April 12. Mark is a reporter at the Kenosha News in Kenosha, WI.

BRIAN AND DANIELLE BICE SCHERTZ announce the birth of Owen Michael on March 10. He joins Allison, 2. Brian is a police officer for the City of Daven-

Economic predictions net professor second contest win

While most Americans would agree that the nation is passing through uncertain economic times, predicting the onset of a recession or the approach of prosperity has always proved a risky business.

But according to veteran St. Louis Post-Dispatch business writer David Nicklaus, one of the most accurate crystal balls around belongs to Dr. Mark Jelavich, professor of accounting, economics and finance at Northwest.

Nicklaus recently declared Jelavich the winner of his 2007 Economic Challenge. The award makes Jelavich, who also received the prize in 2005, the Challenge’s first two-time winner.

For 2007, Jelavich predicted 2.8 percent growth in the gross domestic product along with an inflation rate of 3.5 percent. Actual statistics for last year showed a 2.5 percent increase in GDP and a 4.1 percent rise in the consumer price index.

Jelavich also predicted an unemployment rate of 5.1 percent, which was nearly spot on compared to the actual 5 percent year-end figure.

Thirty-eight people entered this year’s competition. Nicklaus chooses the victor by calculating an error ratio for each of four basic economic predictions and adding them together. The smallest combined error rate wins.
Becker refuses to be benched despite paralysis

By John Naughton, Des Moines Register

Shelley Struthers Becker ’98 never let a wheelchair confine her ability to dream.

The third-year Kuemper Catholic girls’ basketball coach from Carroll, Iowa, has overcome obstacles – both physical and in the attitudes of others – and led the Knights to a 21-2 record last season.

A 1984 horse-riding accident crushed her spine and left the then-26-year-old mother of three paralyzed from the hips down. She’s since raised a family, gone back to college and pursued her late-blooming goal of teaching and coaching.

“I can’t worry about what other people think, because if I did, I probably wouldn’t be here,” Becker said.

Becker grew up around horses, so it was not unusual for her to take her 2-year-old mare, Dolly, on a ride through a field in Cumberland, Iowa. The troublesome horse had been temperamental. When Becker pulled on the reins, the horse reared back and fell atop her, crushing her legs against her chest under nearly half a ton of weight.

Doctors told Becker she likely would never walk again.

She gradually figured out how to take care of her children, cook and drive a car from her wheelchair.

A former high school athlete, she also held a dream to teach and coach.

She attended a community college with her daughter and then transferred to Northwest. She was at first uncertain. Could she teach from a seated position?

During a speech class, she found her fellow students listened to her. The next hurdle – could she coach?

Becker was inspired at one of her son’s high school basketball games when she watched the opposing team’s coach instruct his team from a wheelchair.

“I probably watched the coach more in that game than I did my son,” she said. “Making the decision to pursue coaching was easy. The hard part was facing the stares I received as I entered the ‘basketball coaching’ classroom (in a wheelchair) at Northwest. After that first day it got easier. That’s what I want to teach others … to find the courage to face your fears because it often leads to success, happiness and the realization of just how strong a person you can be.”

Becker started her basketball career as an assistant, eventually getting the head coaching job at Kuemper in 2006. Her first team reached the state tournament.

Coaching from a wheelchair was awkward at times. Locker rooms aren’t always accessible, and many of the referees would walk right past her to only greet her assistant, as though he were the head coach.

However, Becker said she hopes her story of faith and determination can help others well beyond the dimensions of the game.

“Everything needs to be a life lesson,” she said. “You learn from the low times, they make you stronger, and you rejoice in the good times in your life and look forward to more.”

MICAH THIESZEN

and his wife, Angie, announce the birth of Tobias Lee on Jan. 20. He joins Lily Mae. Micah is an RN on the oncology floor of Goshen General Hospital, and Angie is a stay-at-home mom with a part-time home-based business with Stampin’ Up! They live in Goshen, IN.
2002
APRIL HOUSE
and Joe Fleischman were married Nov. 8 on the beach in Nassau, Bahamas. Both are employed at Principal Financial Group. April is an IT application analyst, and Joe is an IT leader analyst senior. They live in West Des Moines, IA.
BRIANNE KGER HUNTER (MASTER’S ’07) and her husband, Jared, announce the birth of William Michael on April 11. He joins Wyatt.

2003
REED JORGENSEN AND KATE MCELLENN (’08)
were married Nov. 24, 2006, in Beatrice, NE. They live in Kansas City.
DAN LUELLEN AND ANGIE ANDERSON (’03)
were married March 15 in Las Vegas. Dan is a teacher and football and wrestling coach in the Kearney School District. Angie is a social worker for the Clay County Children’s Division. They live in Kansas City.
NICOLE NULPH SAEGH (MASTER’S ’04) and her husband, Maher, announce the birth of Matthew Elijah on Nov. 30. They live in Clive, IA.

2004
BRANDON AND MEGAN WHITTEM (’04) SCHAAF announce the birth of Blake William on Jan. 27. Brandon is a corn specialist at Agrigold, and Megan teaches sixth grade in the Fremont-Mills School District. They live in Randolph, IA.
LEE AND JANESSA TREEVES (’03) BUTTERFIELD live in Waterloo, IA. Janessa graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine. John obtained his DVM at the University of Missouri.

Movie buffs transform hobby into social networking site

Friends Alex Olson ’05 and Josh Collins ’06 have combined their two passions – the Internet and movies – to create Filmcrave.com, a movie social networking site that not only provides users with information about movies, but also the opportunity to communicate online with others who have similar interests.

Olson, who lives in Lee’s Summit, and Collins, who lives in Mission, Kan., are both employed in Web design and graphics for small businesses. For more than a year, as soon as they came home from their full-time jobs, the duo went to work planning, designing and developing the site. In August 2007, the business partners launched Filmcrave.com.

“We came into this knowing a lot about movies, the Internet and social networks,” Olson said. “We discovered that the biggest challenge was putting it all together. We approached it with the mindset of ‘anything is possible.’”

This mantra rang true in January 2008 when the co-founders received the “Best Niche Site of 2007” award from the Open Web Awards.

Creating movie lists is Filmcrave.com’s top feature. These lists vary widely, ranging from “Top 10 Favorites” to “Top Biography Movies.” However, Web surfers who aren’t necessarily movie-buffs also can benefit from the site, which features information about upcoming movies and commercial-free links to movie trailers.

“What many people like about our site is that we provide good content as well as a venue to chat with others who have a similar passion not just for movies, but for the same movies that you like,” Collins said.

While the co-founders realize that there is an unending amount of online competition, they consider themselves to be the best at what they do. “We believe we’re using great technology when it comes to usability,” Olson said. “I feel technology is a big part of our site, and it will really increase our users’ experience.”
10 things I’ll miss most about Northwest when I graduate
... according to 10 Northwest students

1. I’ll miss the Colden Pond fountain spraying me on a windy day when I’m walking on the sidewalk.
   
   Mallory Rives, Des Moines, Iowa

2. I’ll miss trying to guess the Bell Tower tune while walking to class.
   
   Kristin Summers, Mendon

3. I’ll miss broadcasting Bearcat sports.
   
   Jordan Elo, Kansas City

4. I’ll miss Homecoming, the parade and all the excitement.
   
   Amanda Robinson, Omaha, Neb.

5. One thing I’ll miss about Northwest is being able to walk everywhere because everything is so close.
   
   Melinda Bur Kemper, Old Monroe

6. I’ll miss constantly being surrounded by people I know.
   
   Ashley Innes, Concordia

7. One of the things about Northwest that I’ll miss is getting paid to walk backwards while talking…as a Student Ambassador! (I’ll also miss the abnormal human-to-squirrel ratio.)
   
   Kayla Scott, Salix, Iowa

8. I’ll miss helping start the Northwest rugby team and watching it grow.
   
   Adam Hobbs, Kansas City

9. I’ll miss leaving for class 20 minutes early because I know I’ll stop and talk to someone along the way.
   
   Dan Scheuler, Fairbury, Neb.

10. I’ll miss the sound of the Phi Sig cannon going off during football games.
    
    Stephen Wilson, Harrisonville

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**JESSICA RAY**
and Lance Murry were married May 19, 2007, in Rock Port. Jessica is a financial assistance and scholarship counselor at Northwest, and Lance is an intermediate construction inspector for the Missouri Department of Transportation. They live in Maryville.

**BRIEANN OXFORD EGINORE**
has been teaching high school biology in the Carlisle School District for three years. Her husband, Jeramie is a firefighter/paramedic with the Des Moines Fire Department. They have a 2-year-old daughter and are expecting another daughter this summer. They live in Des Moines, IA.

**KIMBERLIEGH CLINE**
and Luke Gildenhuis were married Feb. 2 and live in O’Fallon.

**SHAUNDA FRENCH**
is pursuing a master’s degree in speech communication at the University of Central Missouri. She is in a teaching assistantship and will graduate in May 2009 and then pursue a Ph.D. in communication.

**BRUCE SNOODGRASS**
(MASTER’S)
is the principal at Knoxville (IA) High School. He previously taught social studies at the high school for four years and history for three years in Platte City. He and his wife have four children.

**JOE AND KRISTIN BAKER WEINSTEIN**
were married Aug. 11, 2007 in Omaha, NE. Joe is a marketing data analyst at Petco Animal Supplies Inc., and Kristin is an auditor at Owner Guard Insurance. They live in San Diego, CA.

**HOLLY ESHKENBACH**
and Tim Dreyer were married June 23, 2007. Holly is the office manager at Allison Concrete Products in Stanberry, and Tim attends Northwest and is a drafter at Robbins Lightning. They live in Maryville.

**STEVE SERRANO**
has joined Mix 93.3 in Kansas City on the 7 p.m. to midnight shift.

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The booming sound of a cannon after a Bearcat score, coming from lawn of the Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity house just south of Bearcat Stadium, is one of the many memories Northwest students take with them once they graduate.
Colden Pond Plunge raises $1,700 for charity

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 located behind Colden Hall.

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.

Braving the icy water were Logan Galloway, a senior from Des Moines, IA; Steven Wilson, a sophomore from Plattsburg; Rod Barr, an instructor in the Department of Agriculture; and Wesley Miller, a senior from Raytown.

Colden Pond was ice covered for weeks prior to the event and Campus Safety officers had to cut a hole for the winners to leap through – on Leap Day, no less.

In Memoriam

MURIEL McDONALD ALCOTT 91, died May 18. She taught English and journalism at Northwest and was adviser for the student newspaper and yearbook.

LORRAINE PURDY ARCHER ‘44 87, died May 7. She was a tutor, kindergarten and substitute teacher in the St. Joseph School District.

JAY BAKER ’41 88, of Maryville died Feb. 29 in Cameron. He owned and operated Maryville Typewriter Exchange, now known as MTE Office Center.

RAYMOND BEEDLE ’39 92, died Jan. 8. He was a certified public accountant and co-owner of Francis A. Wright and Company, a CPA firm, from which he retired in 1980.

FRANCES VALE BURTON ’49 95, died March 17 in Norborne. She started teaching in 1936 and taught at several rural schools in Carroll, Ray, Nodaway and Buchanan counties in Missouri and in Taylor County, Iowa. She retired from teaching in 1974 and worked 18 years as the Prairie Township assessor/collector.

LARRY GATERSON ’37 92, died Jan. 17 in Tyler, TX. After service in World War II, he taught political science and economics at Arkansas Tech and Florida State. He again joined the military at the onset of the Korean War as a career Air Force officer. He taught ROTC at North Texas State University and served as a supply officer in Nebraska, England and Texas, retiring in 1969. He then taught economics at Tyler Junior College for 16 years, retiring in 1985.

HAROLD CRAIG ’62 78, died April 18. He served several Southern Baptist churches in northwest Missouri. He was a pastor at Patee Park Baptist Church in St. Joseph from 1967 to 1977 and later was chaplain at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Kansas City. In recent years, he served as international interim at several churches.

MARTHA MINER CROSS ’42 86, died April 6 in Kansas City. She was a homeemaker.

J.B. CUMMINS ’36 93, died Feb. 28 in Maryville. He owned Cummins Furniture in Maryville, retiring in 1980.

SUSAN SWAN DOUGLAS ’73, ’90 56, of Maryville died March 7 in St. Joseph. She taught high school business for 15 years in the Nodaway-Holt School District.

NEWTON ROSS FRENCH ’52 100, died Feb. 11 in Chanute, KS. She taught 14 years and was a high school publisher for several years.

ADENA KAY BOLTINGHOUSE-FRALEY ’69, ’73 60, died Jan. 16. She taught second grade for 34 years at Sylvania (OH) Stranahan Elementary, retiring in 2007.

JACQUILYN RUTH KAUFMAN GARRETT ’83 86, died May 19 in Maryville. She retired as a custodian at Northwest.

BEVERLY MCGINNESS GOFF ’39 90, died April 22 in Tucson, AZ. She was a dietitian at Providence Hospital in Kansas City, KS, a home economics teacher in Cleghorn, IA, and director of food services for the Berkeley Heights, NJ, School District.

GENE HARMENEGIES (ATTD.) 55, died March 8 in Renton, WA. He was a regional service account manager with Cisco Systems.
BETTY HEFLIN ’60 died Oct. 23, 2003. She taught physical education in Atlantic, IA, for 39 years. She was posthumously inducted into the Iowa High School Golf Coaches Hall of Fame in 2008.

GEORGE HINSHAW 86, died Feb. 14 in Maryville. He was a debate coach and taught speech at Northwest for 30 years.

DOROTHY DOWDEN HORTON ’37 93, died Feb. 12. She taught in Rosendale and was a secretary at Maryville High School before her marriage. She and her husband worked with the Bell family to establish the Horton and Bell Registered Angus Farm.

FLORENCE HATHeway HUDSON 98, died May 3 in St. Joseph. She had taught in the Darlington School District.

GEORGE HAWS ’53 of Marshalltown, IA, died Feb. 18. He was a teacher and coach.

FRANK JOHNSON ’52 77, died March 21 in Florence, AL. He retired in 1992 as a chemist with the Tennessee Valley Authority.

ELBERT JENNINGS ’65 65, of Urbandale, IA, died Feb. 19. He was a math teacher in the Des Moines (IA) Public School System for 26 years. He also taught courses at Drake University and Des Moines Area Community College.

LEE KARIKER ’70 died in September 2006.

MARVIN “RANDY” KING (ATTD.) 50, died Jan. 7. He was an employee training coordinator at the Tarkio Academy until 1996 when he became ill.

RICHARD KRANZ 82, of Rio Vista, CA, died May 24, 2007.

KATHLEEN WOODERSON LITTLE ’64 93, died Dec. 30 in Trenton. She attended Northwest from 1933 to 1937 and taught in one-room country schools during those years. After receiving her degree, she taught in Grundy County schools.

SHIRLEY MCGINNESS LOUDEN ’50 (HORACE MANN) 75, died March 19 in Barnard. She was a bookkeeper for McGinness Electric.

DEBORAH LAMBRIGHT LYNER 57, died May 3 in Savannah. She was a librarian in the Savannah School District for 20 years.

NAN MAGOON ’54 77, died April 8 in Olathe, KS. He was a teacher at Lafayette and Central high schools in St. Joseph.

LARRY MALSON ’87 (MASTER’S) 57, died Dec. 30 in Kansas City. He was the director of human resources-benefits for the North Kansas City School District. From 1988 to 2000, he was a speech and drama teacher, associate principal, principal and director of operations and human resources in the Gardner-Edgerton School District.

CHARLES MCCONNELL JR. (ATTD. ’36–’37) 89, died July 9, 2007. He worked 44 years as a claims adjuster for Farmer’s Insurance Group.

LORENE JOHNSON MCCONNELL (ATTD. ’36–’37) 89, died Aug. 26, 2007. She retired from the City of Tulsa where she worked in the city utilities division for the accounting department.

GWYNETH SWIFT MEJIA ’92 (MASTER’S) 58, died Feb. 18 in St. Joseph. She taught language arts at Bode Middle School in the St. Joseph School District.

LON MILBOURN ’73 58, died April 2 in Lee’s Summit. He was a financial consultant at Daimler Chrysler.

DONALD ROBERTSON ’57 79, died May 5 in Maryville. She was an instructor in the Department of Art at Northwest from 1963 to 1993.

CHUCK SAGASH ’78 52, died May 20 in Springfield, TN. He was vice president of sales for Bullseye Marketing in Nashville, TN.

BETTY EMMONS SCHAFER ’72 58, died Jan. 10 in Adair, IA. She taught one year in Sydney, IA, and then moved to Washington, D.C., where she owned and operated a restaurant. In 1987, she and her husband, Chris, founded Scharf Systems, Inc., concentrating on producing plastic lottery ticket dispensers. She retired in 1999.

CHERYL ARLEEN SCHMIDT ’86 46, died May 23 in Maryville.

PAUL SCOTT ’38 92, died Feb. 8. He operated Scott’s Picture Framing for 32 years.

EARL SHELTON ’49 82, died Jan. 16 in Kihei, Maui, HI. He taught in south Missouri and the State of Washington and was one of the first stateside teachers to go to Hawaii after its statehood. He remained in Hawaii after retirement.

LARRY SHUE ’60 72, died March 28 in St. Joseph. He retired from the insurance business in 1995.

MICHAEL STEPHENS ’64 56, died June 23, 2007, in Tulsa, OK. He was president and owner of Hallett Motor Racing Circuit in Tulsa, OK.

WILSON TAMMEN ’67 died in December 2006 in Tallahassee, FL. He taught high school and coached in the Kansas City area several years before accepting a teaching position at Southern Mississippi State University.

DONALD TILTON ’53 76, died May 1 in St. Joseph. He was an insurance agent and owner of Tilton, Thomas and Morgan Insurance Company in St. Joseph.

IMogene HENDERSON WILSON ’47 93, died Jan. 22 in Maryville. She taught in several rural northwest Missouri schools. She and her husband, Garvin, formed B&W Sporting Goods, Nodaway Lanes, KNIM Radio and Williams Lawn Seed Co.

AVIL LYNCH WOOD ’64 91, died March 2 in Maryville. She taught at the Union Grove school and in the West Nodaway and South Page school districts until her retirement in 1981.

Let us know
If you learn of the death of a Northwest graduate, please submit in writing or via news clipping the name of the deceased (and maiden name, if appropriate), year(s) of graduation from Northwest, date of death, age, city of death, city of residence and a brief listing of accomplishments. In addition, submit your relationship to the deceased and your daytime telephone number to the Office of University Advancement, 800 University Dr., Maryville, MO 64468-6001, fax to (660) 562-1990 or e-mail alumni@nwmissouri.edu. No pictures please. Submissions may be edited for length and clarity.
Third Annual Bearcat Ski Trip
Jan. 7-11, 2009 Breckenridge, Colorado
Starting at $545 per person

Includes:
- Roundtrip transportation on a motorcoach leaving from Maryville the morning of Wednesday, Jan. 7, and returning to Maryville by mid-morning Sunday, Jan. 11. (Other pick-up/drop-off locations may be possible.)
- 3-day ski lift pass
- 3 nights at Pine Ridge Condominiums, just steps from a Breckenridge ski lift
- Evening social
- Package options available for skiers and non-skiers

$200 deposit due Sept. 17
* based on 6 people per condo

Don't delay! Sign up today for either of these great Tourin' Bearcat trips.

Join the Tourin' Bearcats for a weeklong
Alaska Interior Land Tour
Late May 2009

Includes:
- Roundtrip airfare
- Lodging
- Bus transfers from airport to tour destinations and hotel
- Wildlife and scenic tour of Denali National Park and Preserve
- Riverboat excursion
- Scenic expedition on the McKinley Explorer luxury train

More details and pricing available soon

If interested, contact the Northwest Alumni Association at alumni@nwmissouri.edu or (660) 562-1248.