

The 1905 Society seeks members

A new society, The 1905 Society, is being formed to continue the momentum initiated by the Centennial Society.

“Like any growing institution, history has shown us that Northwest’s needs are infinite,” said Orrie Covert, vice president for university advancement. “Given the phenomenal rate of technological and societal changes, identifying tomorrow’s crucial needs is challenging. By providing flexible, unrestricted support, The 1905 Society can help to better position Northwest in meeting these needs as they arise.”

With any unrestricted gift of \$1,000 or greater, you can become a member of The 1905 Society. Membership will come with recognition of your dedicated efforts to assist in Northwest’s continual growth and prosperity as well as exclusive invitations to campus events.

As The 1905 Society matures, memberships will run concurrent with the Northwest Foundation’s fiscal year (July 1–June 30) on an annual basis. As memberships evolve, charter members will be engaged in activities during the upcoming academic year. ■

For more information on The 1905 Society, contact Laurie Long in the Office of University Advancement at (660) 562-1248 or laurie@nwmissouri.edu.

Alumni enjoy telling stories of good ol’ days

Nearly every evening at the Gateway Call Center in the Alumni House basement, an exceptional group of dedicated students makes connections with Northwest alumni and friends. These students, known as ‘Cat Callers, keep alumni and other University supporters informed about campus events and student activities. The callers also seek donations to benefit the University and its students through the Northwest Annual Fund.

“As a ‘Cat Caller, these students have a unique opportunity that other students on campus don’t experience,” said Mark Stewart ’03, ’06, a development officer who oversees the Northwest Annual Fund. “There are typically some wild and exuberant stories from alumni that normally begin with ‘When I was at Northwest,’ and go expressively from there.”

The ‘Cat Callers agree that hearing stories from alumni who graduated 20, 30, 40 even 50 years ago is what they enjoy most.

Business-minded Bearcats network in Kansas City

The benefits of professional networking are substantial – especially when it involves fellow Bearcats. That’s what several Northwest alumni and friends discovered by attending a new networking initiative in the Kansas City area.

The idea for Northwest Networks – Kansas City, as the group is called, was initiated by Northwest Foundation board member Dan Runde ’81. Runde, the vice president of commercial lending at Citizens Bank and Trust in Kansas City, was involved in a similar business networking group and was certain the concept could be used for a group of business-minded Northwest alumni.

“At each meeting, graduates have an opportunity to meet other Northwest alumni, build ties to each other and reconnect with the University,” said Polly Howard ’00, a development officer for Northwest’s Melvin D. and Valorie G. Booth College of Business and Professional Studies.



Seabrin Stanley and other Northwest ‘Cat Callers spend evenings in the Alumni House’s Gateway Call Center visiting with Bearcat alumni about anything from Greek organizations and favorite professors to Homecoming and donating money to the University.

“The working atmosphere and the people I work with are great,” said Nikkie Hamilton, a sophomore accounting and corporate finance major. “But most of all, I like talking to new people who share their personal stories from when they attended Northwest. I’m amazed, and so are they, at how the University has changed through the years.”

Chances are, the next time you receive a phone call from Northwest, you may be talking with one of these devoted ‘Cat Callers. Don’t hesitate to share your Northwest stories with them and consider making a gift to the Northwest Annual Fund. ■

Runde said he hopes to bring Northwest alumni and friends together without a predetermined agenda other than relating to one another from a business standpoint and promoting the successes of Northwest graduates and the University.

“It’s a concept based on networking business people with a common connection, knowing that Northwest would be a strong tie,” Runde said. “If we can build a group based on the common bond that we’re all Bearcats and at the same time further the advancement of the University beyond its current culture, then that’s what I hope attendees will take away from this group.” ■

If you’re interested in being a part of Northwest Networks – Kansas City, which is open to all Northwest alumni, contact Dan Runde at drunde@cbcfamily.com or Polly Howard at (660) 562-1248 or pollyh@nwmissouri.edu.

Daughter's passion for elephants prompts gift to Northwest

A display in Northwest's new Darwin Museum of Life Sciences came to fruition, thanks in part to a lead gift by a Northwest alumna who has a passion for science.

Linda Borgedalen Baer '83 was one of several Northwest alumni and friends who contributed funds to purchase the most complete mastodon skull known to be on display in Missouri. In addition to the skull, fossils, a mollusk collection and a history of microscopy are featured in the museum.

"The projects I am most interested in have to do with long lasting impacts on beautification and education," said Baer, who supported this project because her daughter, Mikayla, has been fond of elephants (a close relative of the mastodon) since she was a few months old.

Dr. David Easterla, distinguished university professor of biology, was certain this was a project that would be close to Baer's heart.

"Linda was one of the best students I have ever had," Easterla said. "Her dedication and success prompted me to ask her for help. With her help and the help of other alumni and friends as well as the Northwest Foundation, we were able to keep the mastodon skull right here in Nodaway County, which is the county where it was found five years ago. It would have been unfortunate to see the skull leave this area."

Baer earned a degree in pre-professional zoology at Northwest. While a student, she was involved in many organizations, including Cardinal Key, Student Ambassadors, Pre-Med Club, Missouri Collegiate Student Government Association, United States Student Association and Student Senate, serving as president her junior and senior years.

"Being student body president was the absolute best experience I was involved in at school. It enabled me to get my first job right out of school," Baer said. "It gave me exposure to public speaking as well as planning and running an organization."

Currently, Baer is president of ABcomm Inc., a medical education company she runs with her business partner in Champaign, Ill., and Scottsdale, Ariz. This year, the company will conduct more than 6,500 continuing medical education programs for physicians.

"I've been fortunate in my business and personal opportunities," she said. "Our business has been very successful and grown dramatically over the past decade. Continuing education is a rewarding area, and science continues to be important in my business world."

In addition to Baer, others who contributed funds used to purchase and display the skull include John H. and Florence Haggard, Dave J. Easterla '85, Bank Midwest, Drs. Robert '57 and Betty Johnson '60 Bush, Dr. David A. and Debbie Cowden '82 Easterla and Dr. George and Juanita English. ■

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The lead gift by Linda Borgedalen Baer '83, pictured with her daughter, Mikayla, has enabled Northwest to retain the most complete mastodon skull known to be on display in Missouri. The artifact (left), discovered recently in Nodaway County, is now located in Northwest's Garrett-Strong Science Building.



Westman leads off with gift for a new baseball stadium



Just like his two sons who currently play baseball at Northwest, Dr. Ben Westman '78 was a standout player for the Bearcats nearly 30 years ago. Westman and his wife, Kay, have made a significant gift to the University to benefit a new baseball stadium.

Like many parents of high school student-athletes, Dr. Ben '78 and Kay Westman of Smithville were involved in the college selection process with their sons Ryley and Britt. Understandably, Ben, a former Bearcat baseball player, was elated when the boys chose to follow in his footsteps by attending and playing baseball at Northwest.

"I don't know what college would have been like without baseball," Ben said. "I really believe in the importance of Northwest's baseball program and what it meant to me to be able to play there as well as what it means to my kids now."

After being "reintroduced" to Bearcat baseball through their sons, the Westmans have chosen to support the baseball program in another fashion – by making a financial gift to support the future home of the Bearcats.

"I understand that my contribution has no effect on my kids ever being able to use the

new field," he said. "This support was made for future Bearcats to enjoy what my sons and I were able to enjoy. I want to see the baseball program prosper."

The current baseball facility has been in place since 1957. Because of the University's physical growth through the years, the baseball stadium is in a less-than-desirable location that does not allow for future expansion. Furthermore, minimal updates have been made to the facility while the funds that would be used for such have been set aside for the new facility. Nevertheless, the current condition of the stadium remains detrimental when it comes to recruitment.

"To stay afloat, be successful and truly prosper, we must have a new facility," Ben said. "Northwest is pushing the envelope at the bottom of the league in terms of baseball facilities, and that really needs to be addressed."

A \$4 million state-of-the-art facility on an entirely different plot of land is being proposed. The land has been purchased, and additional substantial gifts like the Westmans are a necessity for the project to be given the green light.

"This project not only frees up that current land to be used for more appropriate needs, but it also provides the baseball program with the needed facilities to help recruit and maintain the best student-athletes and then ultimately prosper," said Mark Stewart, athletics development officer.

Ben, like many Bearcat baseball players, was greatly influenced by his coach, Jim Wasem. And he hopes his former teammates will follow his lead.

"One of my best memories was playing for Jim Wasem," Ben said. "He was not only a great coach, but he was an incredible teacher of life. I'm making an appeal to guys of the Wasem era to target their efforts to get enough funds together so that we can get the field named 'Wasem Field.'" ■

For more information about the new baseball facility, including how you can help, please contact Mark Stewart in the Office of University Advancement at stew@nwmissouri.edu or (660) 562-1248.

2007 Annual Fund Business Alliance

"Hy-Vee works to support all aspects of the University, the same institution that brings a lot to Maryville. By giving to Northwest through the Business Alliance, Hy-Vee is able to offer unrestricted support, which

aids the University in areas of the most need. Oftentimes that's the most crucial support because it helps in areas that are not always as visible to the public. We are proud to offer that flexible support."



Greg Chapman

Director, Maryville Hy-Vee
Member, Annual Fund Business Alliance

For more information or to become a member of the Annual Fund Business Alliance, contact Mark Stewart at stew@nwmissouri.edu or (660) 562-1248.