

## Political science internships send students worldwide

In the spring of 1978, my wife and I piled into our Honda Civic and traveled along northern Missouri over what our son would later call roller coaster hills, across one-lane bridges and through small towns on a road leading to an unknown town in the middle of “nowhere.” Just before we crossed the 102 River east of Maryville, we came across two men on horses herding cattle into a corral. Welcome to Bearcat country!

I had come to interview for a public administration opening in Northwest’s political science department. After I received the job, I was given the responsibility of developing an internship program for the political science department. Under this internship program, we have sent students to work at all levels of government, throughout the United States and worldwide – including Poland, Czech Republic, the Marshall Islands, Germany, England and Japan.

Currently, there are two special internship programs open to all Northwest students: The Washington Center and The Missouri Legislative Internship. The Washington Center offers students an opportunity to serve in a variety of venues in the vibrant Washington community. Last semester’s intern worked with the Heritage Foundation. The Missouri Legislative Internship offers Northwest students a \$3,000 stipend to serve an internship in Jefferson City. In the spring, a Northwest student worked with Rep. Trent Skaggs. Not only is Skaggs a 1995 Northwest graduate, but as a student he participated in

an internship in Germany.

During my 29 years at Northwest, I have grown to respect the students at this institution. They tend to be first-generation college students from working-class families. They have held jobs before coming to college and work while in college. When we send them out on an internship, they simply roll up their sleeves and go to work. Their strong work ethic creates the building blocks for success as students, as interns and as citizens.

As you’ll read in this issue’s cover story about State Sen. Brad Lager, Northwest graduates succeed in so many areas – in law school, in graduate school, in their professions and in life. They make a difference in Maryville, in Nodaway County, in Kansas City, in Jefferson City, in Washington, D.C., and in the world.

And after 29 years, I’m proud to say I’m still a Bearcat!

Sincerely,



*Dr. David L. McLaughlin*

Associate Professor  
Department of History/Humanities/  
Philosophy/Political Science



Since arriving at Northwest in 1978, Dr. David McLaughlin has spearheaded the University’s internship program for students studying political science.

### Your opinion counts!

Let us know what you think of the *Northwest Alumni Magazine* by taking the online survey at [www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/magazine/survey.htm](http://www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/magazine/survey.htm).

With your assistance, the magazine will continue to improve with every issue.

The mission of the *Northwest Alumni Magazine* is to foster connections between alumni, friends and Northwest Missouri State University. The offices of University Advancement and University Relations strive to inform readers of the accomplishments of Northwest’s alumni, friends, faculty, students and administration and to positively position the University in the hearts of its many constituents to increase public and private support.

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