

## Students prepare for cutting-edge ag industry

Agriculture has been in a technological revolution since mankind was ejected from the Garden of Eden. In the beginning, agricultural innovation progressed slowly, but recent developments in biotechnology, geospatial science and computer engineering have thrust the industry onto the cutting edge of technological and scientific advance.

About a century ago, half the U.S. population was actively engaged in farming. Today, less than 2 percent of Americans make their living directly from agricultural production, with another 13 percent employed in agricultural processing and marketing industries. Although human investment in agriculture has dramatically decreased, productivity has grown exponentially. The self-cleaning steel plow that revolutionized farming in the 1800s has given way to auto-steer equipment. Traditional row crops, such as corn and soybeans, are being supplemented with bioenergy and biopharmaceutical crops. Those actively engaged in agriculture are entrusted with the monumental task of sustainably producing environmentally conscious products that promote human health, economic stability and national security. Keeping abreast of such constant advancements is an immense challenge faced by producers and educators alike.

Northwest agriculture department faculty are working diligently to prepare students as future industry leaders. We are currently in the planning

stages of improving classroom and laboratory facilities on campus and at the R.T. Wright Farm. Our collaboration with agricultural businesses brings cutting-edge technologies into the classroom and increases student internship opportunities nationwide. We are actively engaged in interdisciplinary endeavors to increase undergraduate research and study abroad activities. Generous time and monetary donations from alumni and friends are improving student access to educational resources. With every challenge comes opportunity, and we are working hard to prepare students for the dynamic and fast-paced world of agriculture. We are optimistic about the agriculture industry and the important role our students will play in our nation's future.

We welcome you to stop by our department sometime and visit our museum, our facilities and our students: the past, present and future of agriculture.

Sincerely,



Dr. J. Arley Larson

Chair and Associate Professor of Agriculture



Dr. Arley Larson, chair of Northwest's Department of Agriculture, appreciates the hands-on opportunities provided by the University's R.T. Wright Farm, but also recognizes there's much more that goes into training today's students for successful careers in agriculture.

*“I know of no pursuits in which more real and important services can be rendered to any country than by improving its agriculture...”*

George Washington

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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## I remember when ...

I will always appreciate what Dr. Robert Foster did for me when I was a student at Northwest.



I had four years of military service during the Korean War and worked for about 20 months before I decided I should go to college.

I came to Northwest in June 1956 wondering if I was too old to start a college career, but from the very start I was encouraged by Dr. Foster. In the fall of 1956, I was standing in a long line attempting to register for the semester when Dr. Foster grabbed me by the arm and jokingly inquired what I was doing.

He told me he was sure I had stood in enough lines during my military life and took me to the head of the line and told the young lady to give me the cards necessary for the classes I needed.

During my first summer semester, I told him of my strong desire to graduate as soon as possible and he said he understood that. He called me into his

office at the start of the fall semester in 1956 and told me he had a plan so I could graduate in August 1958. He explained to me that it wouldn't be easy, but it was possible and involved me going to two colleges at the same time. I assured him I would do my best to accomplish the goal. I never told him I had a full-time job in the evenings and weekends for fear he'd have second thoughts.

Thanks to him and his plan, I graduated in August 1958.

*George E. Maher '58*

I met Dr. Robert Foster on my first trip to the Northwest campus in 1975 after being appointed to the Northwest Board of Regents. As the institution's president he gave me a warm welcome. He took time to explain my duties and responsibilities as a regent. He made me feel welcome and eased my concerns about my new responsibilities. He proved to be a fine administrator with an extraordinary love for the institution, the students and faculty. His wife, Virginia, was very hospitable and always made everyone feel welcome.

*Alfred McKemy*

Dr. Kelley Sowards, who taught humanities, opened my eyes to the world, and because of him I knew I wanted to travel and discover for myself the great works of art and architecture. Dr. Sterling Surrey was another great teacher. One morning before class I was sitting outside his classroom telling a classmate that I hadn't read the assignment. About that time I saw Dr. Surrey standing there, and when we got in class, he of course gave one of his famous pop quizzes.

*Mary Jane Kurtz Judge '54*

I remember my first year at Northwest when there was a major blizzard and classes were cancelled for the first time in years. The theatre department had a show scheduled, and several of us walked from Hudson to the Performing Arts Center with snow up to our waists. The normally five-minute walk took half an hour!

*Carrie Cleland Fishner '01*

## Do you remember these events?

### 1958

Underclassmen are no longer allowed to enroll before seniors, allowing seniors to gain all necessary hours needed to graduate. *The Northwest Missourian*

Northwest begins its 53rd year with a record enrollment of 1,819, a 16 percent increase from the previous year. *The Northwest Missourian*

### 1968

A one-room schoolhouse is donated to Northwest. Under Tom Carneal's direction, the school is moved to a site north of the power house and east of the Administration Building. *Transitions: A Hundred Years of Northwest*

### 1978

The Office of Computing Services acquires a computer that functions as a server with multiple terminal access, making computing available to students and faculty beyond the departments of mathematics and computer science. *Transitions: A Hundred Years of Northwest*

### 1988

The use of e-mail is restricted to the hours of 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. because it becomes "nearly impossible" to access a computer during the day for academic use. *Tower yearbook*

### 1998

Ground is broken for Northwest's new Biomass Processing Center. The facility will create pellets to heat the University. *Tower yearbook*

Instead of having students who complete their graduation requirements in December return for a May commencement ceremony, Northwest adds a December ceremony. *Tower yearbook*

## Studio Theatre applauded by students, faculty, patrons

A highlight of Northwest's performing arts season was the opening of the new Studio Theatre, a \$4.3 million addition to the Performing Arts Center that will enhance learning opportunities for Northwest theatre students.

Made possible through a donor's gift to the Northwest Foundation as well as University funds, the new 5,500-square-foot theatre functions as a



Several Northwest student productions have already been performed in the new state-of-the-art Studio Theatre, which seats up to 200 people.

laboratory for the dramatic arts and contains state-of-the-art lighting and sound equipment.

"The theatre more than doubles our drama classroom space and allows productions to be staged in a variety of formats," said Dr. David Oehler, chair of the Department of Communication, Theatre and Languages. "It provides a performance environment adaptable to literature encompassing many genres, periods and playwrights."

Oehler said both majors and non-majors will benefit from the new facility, which houses courses and productions taught or supervised by six full-time faculty members.

In addition to providing a technically superior space for student productions, the Studio Theatre also eases crowded event schedules at the Mary Linn Auditorium, the Black Box Theatre and Charles Johnson Theater.

The Studio Theatre's first production was in October, and the official premiere, "Celebration," will receive a seven-show run in March. ■

## Family of Bearcats presented annual award, scholarship

The Ackley family of Meadville, which has a Bearcat tradition stretching across three generations, is the University's 2008 Family of the Year.

The Family of the Year award is bestowed each fall during the Northwest's three-day Family Weekend salute to families who have students attending Northwest. The recognition comes with a \$750 scholarship and other prizes.

Nominated by their daughter Kristen, a sophomore, Kenny and Rhonda Garrett Ackley are both Northwest alumni and graduated in 1984. More than a half-dozen family members also spent their college years as Bearcats.

Rhonda Ackley is a middle school teacher in the Meadville R-IV School District, and Kenny Ackley is a wildlife biologist at the Fountain Grove Wildlife Conservation Area. Kristen Ackley, who began her freshman year in fall 2007, is an elementary education major. Her younger sister, Rachel, still lives at home and is considering attending Northwest after finishing high school.



Northwest President Dr. Dean L. Hubbard (left) and Aramark representative Barry Beacom (far right), Northwest's director of campus dining, join the 2008 Northwest Family of the Year: (beginning second from left) Kenny Ackley, Rhonda Ackley, Kristen Ackley and Rachel Ackley.

"There is no other place I would rather be attending college," wrote Kristen Ackley on her Family of the Year application. "My family and I are so proud to be lifelong Bearcats, and I look forward to my children going to Northwest someday." ■

## New regents

Three new members have been appointed to the nine-member Northwest Board of Regents, the University's governing body.

Dr. Douglas Wyckoff of Cameron is a graduate of Lathrop High School and the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry.



Wyckoff

He has operated a private general dentistry practice in Cameron since 1992.

Gary Panethiere, Kansas City, is the legislative auditor of Jackson County. He is a CPA and graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia.



Panethiere

Bradley Gardner, a wildlife ecology and conservation major from Brookfield, is a student regent, serving on the board in an advisory, non-voting capacity. He is a member of Sigma



Gardner

Phi Epsilon fraternity and is active in the University Chorale and the 102 River Wildlife Club. ■





Dr. Gregory Haddock, who continues to teach part time, serves as the interim dean of Northwest's Graduate School.

### Northwest introduces emergency texting system

Northwest recently launched an emergency text-messaging system called Bearcat Alert, a system that will enhance communication with University students and employees during times of crisis.

Text messages, sent strictly for emergencies, may include information regarding school closings, a violent situation on campus or severe weather.

Emergency notices will continue to be sent via e-mail, posted on the Northwest Web site and announced on KXCV radio.

"It all goes back to redundancy," said Scott Walk '85, '97, Northwest's health and safety manager. "The more ways we have to communicate with staff and students in case of an emergency, the better." ■

## Haddock named interim dean

Dr. Gregory Haddock, associate professor of geography, is interim dean of Northwest's Graduate School. Dr. Frances Shipley recently retired after serving 20 years as Graduate School dean.

Haddock came to Northwest as an assistant professor in 1996 after completing his Ph.D. at the University of Idaho. He was awarded tenure in 2003 and promoted to the rank of associate professor.

Appointed chair of the Department of Geology and Geography in 2002, Haddock has served as a member of the Graduate Council, president

of the Faculty Senate and chair of the University Deans and Chairs Council.

Haddock's research background is in geographic information systems and quantitative methods used in spatial analysis. He participated in the development of Northwest's online master's program in geographic information science and is the thesis adviser, or a member of the thesis committee, for several online graduate students.

As interim graduate dean, Haddock provides administrative oversight for 40 master's-level programs, three specialist in education programs, five graduate-level certificate programs and 144 graduate assistantships in a variety of academic departments and administrative offices. He also is the administrative representative to the Graduate Council and administers the faculty research grant program. ■

## Center helps Katrina survivor put career back on track

Eric Greely Sr., an assistant principal and business teacher at Liberty (Mo.) High School, knows what it's like to lose everything. In 2005, Greely, his wife, Desha, and two sons, Caleb and Eric Jr., fled New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina devastated the city and left their home flooded by 8 feet of water.

Ultimately the Greelys relocated to the Kansas City suburb of Gladstone. Greely, who worked in the corporate world for 15 years before deciding to become a teacher, put his career on hold and dedicated himself to "making life as normal as possible" for his family. This was a task that included such challenges as restoring the Greelys' frozen bank account, getting the boys back in school and playing football and replacing birth certificates and other lost documents.

When the time came to resume his life as an educator, Greely was hired by the Liberty School District. Though he already had a master's degree, he went back to graduate school, a forward-looking career move made possible by Northwest's Kansas City Center.

The center offers degree programs in education and business, and its proximity to where Greely lives and works, coupled with evening and



Eric Greely Sr. moved his family to Missouri after they lost their New Orleans home to Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Now an assistant principal at Liberty High School, Greely recently completed all coursework through Northwest's Kansas City Center in Liberty for his specialist degree in education.

"blended" courses, has made it possible for Greely to complete work on his education specialist degree.

"Northwest is a fabulous college that has really addressed the needs of our community," Greely said. "It's the quality of the teachers that sets the curriculum apart, because they have worked as school administrators, and they bring that breadth of knowledge into the classroom." ■

## Crisis minor added to offerings

In an unsafe and uncertain world, college graduates are finding a growing number of opportunities among the ranks of professionals whose job it is to respond to emergencies and manage crises.

To better prepare students who may seek careers in this challenging area, Northwest will introduce an interdisciplinary minor in comprehensive crisis response beginning with the spring 2009 trimester.

Dr. Mark Corson, associate professor of geography, serves as coordinator for the new minor.

“What we see in emergency management, disaster preparation and humanitarian relief is a move toward professionalization,” Corson said. “There is an expectation that people are going to have credentials. We feel this is an opportunity for our students to benefit.”

Disaster relief and crisis managers are increasingly in demand in both government and the non-profit sector, Corson said, as well as in business, which has a growing need for specialists in such areas as operational continuity, consequence management and public affairs.

The comprehensive crisis response minor is a good fit for any number of major fields of study, Corson said, which is why it has been designed as a multi-disciplinary offering by faculty from

a number of departments.

Corson’s interest in the program came about through his involvement with two field exercises open to all Northwest students and available to those enrolled in the new minor as experiential electives: Atlantic Hope at Indian Rivers State College in Florida and the International Institute for Humanitarian Aid, staged in the Balkan nation of Macedonia. He said both exercises have proven to be overwhelmingly positive experiences.

“You have students who say it has changed their lives and given them a new vision of who they are and what they can do,” he said. “One student told me, ‘I never thought I could be a leader, but I not only discovered that I can lead, but that people wanted me to lead, and that I’m pretty good at it.’” ■



Northwest students participate in a field exercise at Indian Rivers State College in Florida. A new minor in comprehensive crisis response will provide undergraduates with classroom and experiential training in areas such as first aid, hostage negotiations and organizing humanitarian aid in the wake of a natural disaster.

## Electronic Campus center re-named for Rickman

In recognition of Dr. Jon Rickman’s more than 30 years of service to Northwest, the Electronic Campus Support Center has been renamed in Rickman’s honor.

Rickman, who joined the Northwest faculty in 1976, served as director of computing services for 20 years before assuming his current position, vice president for information systems, in 1996.

“I consider it a real honor to have my name on the Electronic Campus Support Center,” Rickman said. “Keeping the Electronic Campus operational, up-to-date and affordable for over 20 years has been an exciting and challenging journey.”

During the 1980s, Rickman played the lead administrative role in the creation of the Elec-

tronic Campus, which was deployed in 1987. The first comprehensive, interactive computer network of its kind at a public university in the United States, the system initially served students, faculty and staff through more than 2,300 data stations.

Most recently, Rickman has overseen the upgrading of Northwest’s laptop program, which provides all full-time students with fully loaded notebook computers whether or not they live on campus.

The Jon T. Rickman Electronic Campus Support Center occupies the former National Guard armory and serves as the administrative, maintenance and support hub for Northwest’s Electronic Campus. ■



The Jon T. Rickman Electronic Campus Support Center, named for Northwest’s vice president for information systems, supports about 22 computer labs, 800 desktops, 100 electronic classrooms and, in conjunction with the Northwest Missouri Education Consortium, 13 Internet-connected interactive television classrooms located across northwest Missouri.



*The mention of Winterset and Madison County, Iowa, most likely creates images of the county's famed covered bridges or its favorite son, John Wayne. However, nestled just a few miles north of this quiet central Iowa town and past the Hogback covered bridge is Allendan Seed Company, one of the largest native grass and wildflower producers in North America.*

At the helm of this massive operation is Dan Allen '70, a farmer who found – and filled – a niche at the time the farm crisis of the 1980s was wreaking havoc on family farms across the country.

“When it comes right down to it, the only thing I really give a whole lot of thought to is being able to buy groceries. That’s always been my focus in life, and I’ve found a way to do that,” Allen said. “If what we’re doing didn’t work, we’d be doing something else. But right now it’s just that simple, we’re filling a niche. There’s no other organization like ours in the United States.”

This soft spoken man indeed found a niche, but what enables him to continue to fulfill it is his ability to listen – and react – to plants, the market, the conservation community and even the country’s “green” conscience.

Despite being color blind, Allen grows and sells nearly 300 species of native grasses and wildflowers that encompass nearly every color of the rainbow. The business’s entire operation, which also includes bluegrass sod, corn and soybeans, covers 10,000 acres throughout four counties. Of that, about 3,000

# A 'Niche' in Time

By Mitzi Lutz • Photographs by Darren Whitley • Design by Melinda Kelsey



The button blazingstar, cardinal flower and prairie cord grass are among the more than 300 species of native grasses and wildflowers grown at Allendan Seed.



acres are dedicated to native grass and wildflower seed production.

Growing up on an acreage near Des Moines, Iowa, Allen majored in agriculture at Northwest to pursue his childhood dream of being a farmer. After he graduated, he was a farm hand in a feed yard and then worked for the Farmers Home Administration for a year. Allen also worked nights at the Firestone plant in Des Moines and, when he was bit by the entrepreneurial bug in 1973, he custom baled hay for several years. He and his wife, Sonia Neidt

Allen '70, bought their farm in 1976.

In 1980, Allen expanded their farm operation, which included corn, soybeans, hogs and cattle, to include about 10 acres for native grass seed production. Allendan Seed discovered another niche in 1993 and consequently broadened its offerings to include wildflower seed.

"The market is always changing, and when it starts to ask for something different, we adjust to meet that need," Allen said. "If I could just sell dandelion seed that would be easy!"

### *The plant speaks*

"The challenge is to think like a plant, really listen to it. I guess you could call it plant psychology," Allen said. "Each plant out there responds to a unique set of environmental stimuli, so we have to determine how to get that plant to re-seed. Those plants don't talk, so we have to figure out what their preferences are."

Another challenge lies in separating the tiny grass and flower seeds from the rest of the plant.

"The cardinal flower has seed about the size of dust, and one year we had enough to combine several hundred pounds of it," Allen said. "And partridge pea is also pretty tough to harvest. It forms a pod like a bean, but as soon as the sun hits it and it dries, it snaps open and all of the seed just flies. Timing is extremely critical, but we've figured out how to harvest it."





## The government speaks

In 1985, the federal Conservation Reserve Program was started. The program, which continues today, encourages owners of erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to plant the land in vegetative cover such as native grasses.

"The CRP fell in line with what we were doing," Allen said. "I think preserving or incorporating our ecosystem into our society is a necessity for survival of the species. As our population explodes, that environmental need is going to become greater and greater."

As president of the Iowa Native Seed Growers Association, Allen has developed a good relationship with the Department of Natural Resources. But the relationship was initially shaped more than 20 years ago to deflect a potential problem.

"There was already a state tree nursery, and it was important for us to emphasize that seed production is a lot more complicated than a tree nursery," he said. "We weren't just trying to protect our business, but we were concerned the industry would be disturbed to the point that it couldn't be effective in the response to those who wanted seed material."

Allen said a "great working relationship" has developed between the Iowa Native Seed Growers Association, DNR and Allendan Seed. In addition, not-for-profit organizations have also entered the mix.

"A percentage of the material we sell to DNR and Pheasants Forever goes right back into those organizations," he said. "This 'check-off' has generated more



The bright color and hardiness of the early sunflower make it a popular variety.

(Opposite page) Not only are the clustered flowers of mountain mint attractive, but some varieties deter chiggers and ticks and are not preferred by deer. Dan Allen visits with his daughter Kelly Hayes in the Allendan Seed headquarters, just across the driveway from the farmhouse where he and his wife, Sonia, raised their four children, all of whom work for the family business.

than \$1 million in less than 10 years. This helps maintain stability in our industry without an atmosphere of competitive hostility between a non-profit organization, like Pheasants Forever, a government organization and a commercial, private organization."

## The consumers speak

In addition to selling seed to organizations such as the DNR, Pheasants Forever and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Allendan Seeds' largest client is the Iowa Department of Transportation. The department uses the prairie native seed, called eco-type seed, for roadside enhancements. Not only do the prairie plants assist with controlling erosion, but they also help prevent blowing and drifting snow across the pavement.

"Just this morning one of the roadside contractors said he was getting all kinds of calls because he mowed a bunch of the wildflowers, and people are upset," Allen said. "That in itself is a huge reversal of how it used to be when people would get upset because there was nothing but weeds growing along the road and they wanted it mowed. This goes to show that people are starting to notice, so that's a good thing for our business."

Allendan Seed sells its seed through a competitive bid process to departments of transportation throughout the Midwest, although some states buy their seed through contractors. Therefore, Allendan Seed sells to these contractors. Their product, which is also distributed to Canada and overseas, has even reached the commercial flower market.

"We don't grow specifically for the traditional commercial market. It's just an added benefit," Allen said. "The black-eyed Susan, the yellow cone flower and the cardinal flower are the common ones, but we don't grow a lot of the material in the commercial market because there are contamination issues with the other things we're growing."

One aspect that separates Allendan Seed from other similar producers is the vertical integration of the company.

"What we do is from start to finish," he said. "Wildflower mixes can't be grown in the field. They have to be grown as monocultures and then put together. It takes a fairly big organization to be able to track and grow all of those species in the quantities needed in the mixes."

Other organizations may grow one or two species, but if they're servicing the retail market, they end up having to buy the rest of their materials from businesses such as Allendan.

"We're able to provide everything," he said. "We've listened to our customers and do what we can to supply them with what they want."

## The kids speak

Allendan Seed has about 50 employees, many whom are seasonal migrant workers, as well as the Allen's four grown children who returned to the family business



following college. Oldest son Chad Allen serves as production manager and chief financial officer; Angela Barker is the operations manager and responsible for sales and inventory; Scott Allen runs the sod business and row crop operations; and Kelly Hayes manages the greenhouses and experimental fields.

"I used to find myself biting my tongue all the time, but that's part of the transition. Now my job is to fill in the gaps between all four of their areas of responsibility," Allen said. "I also come up with some of the business's more aggressive ventures, but they have the expertise in the implementation of these ideas. The kids keep this place anchored. Since they came back home to run the business, my job has become bureaucratic – and I've always felt a bureaucrat should be working toward eliminating his job."

Relinquishing most of the responsibility to his children has also been an adjustment to Allen's work schedule.

"I hate the weekends because the kids take off," he said. "I am used to working all the time, weekends, weekdays. For 40 years it was just one long day – one day morphed into the next. Now, when you break on Friday, it's like you have to start all over again on Monday. Again, like so many times in my life, it's an adjustment that I'm learning to make." ■





## Scholarship being established for elementary education majors

The Drs. Bob and Betty Bush Scholarship is a new scholarship fund started by contributions from colleagues and friends of Professor

Emeritus Dr. Betty Johnson Bush '60 in honor of her service and contribution to Northwest, higher education and the field of elementary education.

Bush began her career in higher education at Stephens College and came to Northwest in 1983. Throughout her professional career, Bush received many honors, including Northwest's Lifetime Achievement Award for Service presented by the College of Education and Human Services at the annual Honors Convocation. Bush, who retired

from Northwest in 2002, continues to serve the University as an adviser to student teachers.

"It is such an honor for the College of Education and Human Services to establish this scholarship so that future generations can complete their degrees," said Bush, whose husband, Bob, is a 1957 Northwest graduate. "Northwest has given us so much during our careers that it is a pleasure to be able to give something back."

Upon reaching the endowment level of \$10,000, The Drs. Bob and Betty Bush Scholarship will be awarded to a junior or senior elementary education major at Northwest. ■

For more information about The Drs. Bob and Betty Bush Scholarship, contact Andrea Wagner, development officer, at [andrea@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:andrea@nwmissouri.edu) or (660) 562-1248.



A scholarship named for Drs. Bob '57 and Betty Johnson '60 Bush will be endowed once it reaches the \$10,000 level.

## Northwest Foundation adds five new board members

Five Northwest alumni recently have been appointed to the 29-member Northwest Foundation Board of Directors and include:

- W.A. "Bill" Hedge '74 of St. Joseph who is an assistant professor in Northwest's Department of Educational Leadership and pastor at St. Francis Temple in St. Joseph
- Bill Brown '63 of Platte City who owns and operates Brown Real Estate Co.
- Juan Rangel '91 of Kansas City who is the director of business development for the Metropolitan Community Colleges
- Toni Cowen Espey '83 who is a State Farm agent in Coconut Creek, Fla., and lives in Parkland, Fla.
- Gary Thompson '76 of Avon, Conn., who is an executive vice president at Hartford Financial Services Group

Orrie Covert, Northwest's vice president for

university advancement and executive director of the Northwest Foundation, said he is excited to have such outstanding individuals on the board of directors.

"These five new members, who volunteer their time on the foundation board, are certainly dedicated to Northwest and bring a considerable amount of knowledge to the table," Covert said. "Our board continues to include successful individuals with high integrity and enthusiasm for serving their alma mater."

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



Hedge



Brown



Rangel



Espey

\* Thompson photo unavailable



## TKE alumni award first scholarship

Tau Kappa Epsilon alumni of Northwest's Delta Nu Chapter awarded their 2008 scholarship to Lauren McCulley, a graduate of Truman High School in Independence.

This is the first scholarship awarded by the University's TKE alumni. Dennis Cox '74 said the \$1,000 scholarship will be offered annually. Recipients, nominated by a TKE alumnus, must be high school seniors who will attend Northwest.

McCulley succeeded in academics at Truman High School and was an active member of National Honor Society, Student Council Executive Board, A+ Program, Youth Friends and DECA. She is interested in fashion merchandising and is majoring in business with an emphasis in marketing. ■



Bruce Barlow '75 presents Lauren McCulley, a Truman High School graduate who now attends Northwest, with the first Tau Kappa Epsilon scholarship. The annual scholarship is provided by TKE alumni from Northwest's Delta Nu Chapter.

## Alumni Center plans continue, funding options explored

Plans for the proposed new Alumni Center are progressing, albeit at a slower pace than representatives from the Northwest Alumni Association and Northwest Foundation had anticipated.

Orrie Covert, executive director of the Northwest Foundation, said the Foundation's finance and executive committees are exploring many avenues to provide funds for the proposed Alumni Center.

"The present economic conditions have slowed the process of obtaining funds, but many options are being considered by the committee," Covert said. "Members of the facilities committee have put in substantial hours of thought and have worked diligently on this project."

Unless specified by the donor, gifts donated to the Northwest Foundation by Northwest alumni and friends will not be used to fund this project. Furthermore, the financing of the Alumni Center will not override University projects or take away from scholarships for Northwest students.

Steve Sutton '71, director of alumni relations, said members of Northwest's Office of University Advancement have been in constant communication with city of Maryville personnel regarding zoning requirements, permits and other necessary steps to continue with the project.

"To comply with city zoning requirements, our architect has added some redesign features that have greatly enhanced the proposed center," Sutton said. "As with almost any building project, we continue to give and take and frequently

tweak project plans to make the Alumni Center a home that all alumni and friends will be proud to visit. It's reassuring to hear of the overwhelming amount of support for this project voiced by so many loyal Bearcats."

The approximate 24,000 square-foot, two-story facility, which Northwest Foundation officials say is a priority due to significant growth in the form of rising levels of donor support and alumni involvement, will include open gathering areas, meeting and conference rooms, offices and parking. The center will be located on the corner of College and North Munn avenues, directly west of the current Alumni House, which will continue to be used for small gatherings. ■



Northwest alumni and friends in the Cincinnati, Ohio, area gathered for a Bearcat social, Cincinnati Reds baseball game and fireworks in August. Attending the event, sponsored by the Northwest Alumni Association, were (from left) Jim Turner '77, Dana Burris Irlbeck '93, Everett Irlbeck, Robin Dehn Turner '78, Kristi Sweeney '96, Andrew Lindsley, Maggie Rose Lindsley '92, Teresa Macias '97, '05, Polly Parsons Howard '00 and Laurie Long '92. Not pictured: Jim and Deborah Raus '91 Murphy and family, Jim and Melanie Brown '96 Noble and family and Steve Sutton '71, Northwest's director of alumni relations. ■

## Alumni chapter news

1. As in previous years, the Maryville Chapter provided free bottled water to new Bearcats and their families as freshmen moved into their residence halls. Assisting with the water station are Paul Wilmes '75, John Van Cleave '73, '89, Steve Sutton '71 and Jim Fall.

2. Doug '92 and Tammy Schmitz receive a Bearcat sign and other gifts as tokens of the chapter's appreciation for Doug's 2007-08 St. Joseph Chapter presidency.

3. Rick Kuhl, Ryan George '00, Dave Snider '80, '83, Mary Jo Bevard-Kuhl '84, Kendal Smith and Jennifer Hewitt Smith '86, members of the Kansas City Chapter, gather for a tailgate prior to the Snake Saturday Parade in North Kansas City.

4. Karen Mills Shawler '65, Wendell Jackson, Judy Bunch, Joan Lynch Jackson '65, Lilly Goins, Cindy Goodale Goins '98, '05 and Dennis Bunch '69 of the Southern Iowa Chapter proudly display their entry in the Lenox Rodeo Parade.

### SOUTHERN IOWA

The Southern Iowa Chapter participated in parades in Clearfield and Diagonal, Iowa, as well as the Lenox, Iowa, Rodeo parade this summer. The members used a large sign in the back of a truck and a banner to promote Northwest and their chapter. In August, chapter members assisted at the Northwest booth at the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines. Plans are being made to attend several productions that are part of the University's Encore Performance Series.

For more information about the Southern Iowa Chapter, or to get involved, contact Dennis Bunch '69 at [bunchhardware@frontiernet.net](mailto:bunchhardware@frontiernet.net) or Northwest's Office of University Advancement at [alumni@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:alumni@nwmissouri.edu) or (660) 562-1248. ■

### KANSAS CITY

The Kansas City Chapter recently elected new officers: President Brian Stewart, Vice President Terry Day '65 and Secretary Lesley Dean '01.

In July, nearly 30 Bearcats and friends attended the Kansas City T-Bones game and conducted the annual school supply drive for McCoy Elementary students and families. In August, chapter members gathered at O'Dowd's in Zona Rosa for a meet-and-greet with North-

west football head coach Mel Tjeerdsma. In early October, the chapter sponsored a happy hour at The Quaff and assisted the Northwest Alumni Association at the Bearcat tailgate party at Arrowhead Stadium prior to the Fall Classic VII.

Upcoming chapter events include a social with Northwest basketball coaches Steve Tappmeyer and Gene Steinmeyer, a happy hour event for the MIAA basketball tournament and participation in the Snake Saturday Parade in March.

The chapter would like to thank Bill Adams '81 for providing a laptop to use at alumni events and Rob St. Thomas '83 for his help with the chapter's new Web page at [www.nwalumnikc.com](http://www.nwalumnikc.com). ■

### ST. JOSEPH

Members of the St. Joseph Chapter attended a family picnic in August, Vic '70, '71 and Denise Bower '71 Kretzschmar hosted a barn party in September, and the Second Harvest Food Bank received canned food items from chapter members in November. Future plans include a trip to Kansas City's Country Club Plaza.

For more information, or to get involved, contact Dave Price '70 at [dprice@amfam.com](mailto:dprice@amfam.com) or Patty Bolin Roach '71, '90 at [abearcat@stjoelive.com](mailto:abearcat@stjoelive.com). ■





**CENTRAL IOWA**

The Central Iowa Chapter has elected new officers: President Kim Wall '01, Vice President Amy Carter '02 and Secretary Faith Spark. The chapter's annual golf outing in June was cancelled due to inclement weather. However, in July, several alumni and friends beat the heat and attended an Iowa Cubs tailgate and baseball game. The following month, the chapter partnered with Northwest's Office of Admissions to sponsor a booth at the Iowa State Fair.

Chapter members invite all Northwest alumni and friends to attend socials at 6 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month at Old Chicago on Merle Hay Road in Des Moines.

For more information about the chapter, contact Kim Wall at [central\\_iowa\\_bearcats@yahoo.com](mailto:central_iowa_bearcats@yahoo.com) or the Office of University Advancement at [alumni@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:alumni@nwmissouri.edu) or (660) 562-1248. ■

**DALLAS**

Northwest alumni and friends who are members of the Dallas Chapter volunteered at Children's Medical Center in June by helping young patients make Father's Day cards and playing games with the children. In July, chapter members volunteered at the North Texas Food Bank. Other events this fall included a garage sale, barbecue, wine tasting social and a Rough

Riders baseball game. The chapter also worked at a concession stand at a Southern Methodist football game to raise scholarship funds. ■

**ARIZONA**

A focus group for alumni and friends in Arizona took place in August. During the meeting, several events were planned and new chapter leaders were determined, including President Sandy Schiager '92, Vice President Jennifer Sullivan '99 and Secretary Ben Campbell '08.

For more information about the Arizona Chapter, contact Northwest's Office of University Advancement at [alumni@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:alumni@nwmissouri.edu) or (660) 562-1248. ■

**MID-MISSOURI**

The Mid-Missouri Bearcats participated in several events this summer and fall, including a barbecue at the Hog House, a facility in Montgomery City owned by Dave Teeter '86, and a tailgate at a University of Missouri game in Columbia. The group's winter activities included a corn maze, hay ride and camp fire, a holiday canned food drive and a basketball game at Mizzou.

For more information about the Mid-Missouri Chapter, visit [www.midmobearcats.com](http://www.midmobearcats.com). ■

5. Jane Laughlin Sullivan '74 and Megan Thole Ulrich '04 enjoy the tailgate festivities prior to the Iowa Cubs baseball game.

6. Marc '00 and Jodi Pick with their son, Nolan, join members of the Central Iowa Chapter at an Iowa Cubs game.

7. Chrissy Beck '02, president of the Mid-Missouri Chapter, feeds a calf at the Hog House barbecue.

8. This summer, the Dallas Chapter's Deborah Vernon '81, Deb Tripp '92, Katie Tripp '05, Debbie Willing Perry '73, Mercedes Ramirez Johnson '97, Barney Brinkman '79 and Colleen Brinkman volunteered at Children's Medical Center of Dallas.

9. Members of the Mid-Missouri Chapter enjoy a barbecue at the Hog House, a facility owned by Dave Teeter '86.



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**2009 Alumni Awards call for nominations**

Northwest is honoring outstanding individuals through its annual Alumni Association Awards program, and your nominations are essential to the process.

Individuals nominated should personify the University's tradition of excellence through their service and achievements.

**Award  
Nomination  
Deadline –  
Feb. 15, 2009**

Contact Brenda Untiedt for a nomination form at (660) 562-1248 or [alumni@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:alumni@nwmissouri.edu) or visit [www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/events/awards/nominations.htm](http://www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/events/awards/nominations.htm).

The award nomination deadline is Feb. 15, 2009, and the awards banquet is Sept. 25, 2009. Additional information will be available soon.

**Distinguished Alumni Award**

Recognizes a Northwest graduate for exceptional professional and personal achievement and extraordinary distinction in a chosen field.

**Distinguished Emeritus Faculty Award**

Recognizes a former faculty member for outstanding teaching, service and/or research contributions at Northwest.

**Distinguished Faculty Award**

Recognizes a present faculty member for outstanding teaching, service and/or research contributions at Northwest.

**Honorary Alumni Award**

Honors a Northwest friend who has served, promoted and loved the University in the tradition of a loyal graduate.

**Northwest Turret Service Award**

Acknowledges a graduate or former student whose significant contributions of time and talent benefit and promote the University and the Northwest Alumni Association.

**Young Alumni Award**

Honors a graduate of the last decade for exceptional achievements in career, public service and/or volunteerism that bring honor to the University. ■

**Tourin' Bearcats return to Alaska in spring 2009**

The Tourin' Bearcats travel program for Northwest alumni and friends is making a return trip to Alaska, but instead of a cruise, as was taken in June 2006, the group will experience an extensive scenic land tour.

The May 29-June 3, 2009, trip is open to the public and costs \$1,299 per person, which includes all excursions, tours, lodging and several meals. Airline transportation, about \$1,000 depending upon departure location, is not included but will be coordinated through Cotter Travel.

Steve Sutton, director of alumni relations, said alumni and friends have been requesting a return trip to Alaska after the successful Tourin' Bearcats' cruise there two years ago.

"We had 115 people who joined us for the cruise to Alaska," Sutton said. "It was such a tremendous atmosphere to have so many travelers who all had at least one thing in common – their affinity to Northwest."

Travelers fly to Fairbanks, Alaska, take a

full-day "Discover the Gold" tour on a riverboat sternwheeler, tour the Chena Indian Village, pan for gold, meet sled dogs, experience a scenic expedition on the domed McKinley Explorer luxury train to Anchorage, Alaska, and participate in a wilderness tour at Denali National Park. In addition, the trip includes an excursion on the Alaska Railroad Coastal Classic train from Anchorage to Seward, Alaska, complete with a wildlife and glacier tour of Kenai Fjords National Park.

Those wishing to participate in the Northwest Alumni Association-sponsored trip must make a reservation, with a \$350 deposit, by Jan. 29, 2009. Final payment is due March 20, 2009.

For more information about the Tourin' Bearcats trip to Alaska, contact the Office of University Advancement at (660) 562-1248 or [alumni@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:alumni@nwmissouri.edu). Inquiries also may be made to Cotter Travel at (800) 676-3233.

Additional trip details are available at [www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/travel/alaska.htm](http://www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/travel/alaska.htm). ■

**2008-09 Alumni Association Board**



The 2008-09 Northwest Alumni Association Board of Directors include: (front row) Mike Zech '86, Amy Willits Harlin '95, Jackie Lionberger Damiani '71, '76, Joan Lynch Jackson '65, Kay Thomas '71, Mark Pickerel '76, Larry Maiorano '69, '74, Jim Goecken '92, Allen Kearns '62 (back row) Brenda Untiedt '00, Kory Schramm '95, President Tim Sullivan '75, Dave Teeter '86, Steve Sutton '71, Vice President Neil Neumeyer '98, John VanCleave '73, '89, Vic Kretzschmar '70, '71 and Dave Snider '80, '83. Not pictured: Nicole Porterfield '91 and Cindy Akehurst '01. ■





## Bearcats' bout with Central captures national spotlight

Two of the most storied men's basketball programs in Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association history

soon will take the stage in front of a nationwide audience. Northwest faces the University of Central Missouri at 11 a.m. Feb. 21 in Warrensburg on CBS College Sports Network. It will be the first nationally televised Northwest basketball game.

Bryan Boettcher, Northwest's sports information director, said the Bearcats and Mules matchup is one of five Division II men's games to be shown on the network during the 2008-09 season.

Northwest and Central Missouri have com-

bined to win 28 MIAA championships and make 30 NCAA tournament appearances. Five of the last seven MIAA tournaments were won by either the Bearcats or the Mules, and each program has four titles in all.

Four-time MIAA Coach of the Year Steve Tappmeyer has led the Bearcats to nine 20-win seasons in the last 11 years and to two Elite Eights in the last seven. Northwest swept Central Missouri last season for the first time since 2003-04. The Bearcats went on to win the MIAA tournament and advanced to the round of 32 in postseason play before finishing with a record of 24-8.

The Feb. 21 date is the second half of the regular season home-and-away dual between Northwest and Central Missouri. The first meeting takes place Jan. 14 at Bearcat Arena in Maryville. ■

## LET'S GO BEARCATS

Even if you can't make it to the game, be a part of the action by visiting

[www.northwestbearcats.com](http://www.northwestbearcats.com)

- ◆ Live stats and webcasts
- ◆ Bearcat birth certificates
- ◆ Cub Club registration forms
- ◆ News releases
- ◆ Player profiles
- ◆ Ticket information
- ◆ Promotional items
- ◆ Sponsorship opportunities
- ◆ Bearcat apparel
- ◆ E-scores

## Athletes welcome locker room upgrades

The days of small, crowded locker rooms with their own "unique" aroma are a thing of the past for two more Northwest sports teams. Renovations of locker room facilities for the women's basketball and volleyball programs were completed this fall.

Dr. Bob Boerigter, Northwest's director of athletics, said the updates followed the 2007 renovation of the football and men's basketball locker rooms.

"Quality facilities – for both men's and women's programs – are of utmost importance in maintaining competitive MIAA and NCAA programs," Boerigter said.

The women's basketball and volleyball locker rooms previously were located on the lower level of Martindale Hall and consisted of small, metal lockers. The new location on the lower level of Lamkin Activity Center, previously a large, public-use locker room, has been converted to a facility capable of housing both programs while still allowing each program to have its own distinct locker areas. The new facility, complete with Bearcat green carpet, features individual wooden

lockers, each with a mirror and ventilation system, as well as a student-athlete lounge area with leather furniture and a flat screen television.

Neil Elliott, development officer for athletics, said there are opportunities for Northwest alumni and friends to support this project.

"We are continuing to solicit support for this much-needed project by seeking individuals and businesses to sponsor lockers in the new facility," Elliott said, "This is a great way to honor a former student athlete, coach or team by having his or her name permanently affixed to one of the lockers in this great new facility." ■

For more information about supporting the women's basketball and volleyball locker room, contact Elliott at [neile@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:neile@nwmissouri.edu) or (660) 562-1248.



Volleyball Coach Anna Tool addresses her team in the new fully equipped locker room in Lamkin Activity Center.























**2007****STEPHANIE COSTANZO**

is a full-time news reporter and fill-in anchor



at KLKN channel 8 in Lincoln, NE.

**LAURA DELONG**

is pursuing a master's in reading at Northwest. She is a teacher assistant in the Park Hill School District and lives in Independence.

**DANIEL STREET**

teaches physical education and health in the North Daviess R-3 School District.

**GARY WACKERNAGLE** ♦

and Olivia Cook were married March 18. He is a computer programmer analyst at West Corporation in Omaha, NE.

**2008****SCOTT LEVINE AND CHRISTINA THATCHER ('07)**

were married June 7 and live in Clinton, IA. Scott is the associate editor at the *Clinton Herald*, and Christina is a quality control lab technician at Archer Daniel Midland.

## In Memoriam

**DENNIS CAMPBELL '81**

50, died June 12 in Gower. He was an agriculture teacher and FFA adviser for East Buchanan School.

**DEAN CLARK '73 (MASTER'S)**

77, died Aug. 3 in Mena, AR. He was retired from the U.S. Air Force and from teaching in Bedford, IA.

**JUNE COURTNEY CLARK '57**

88, died Aug. 14 in Fort Collins, CO. She was an educator in Union Star for 32 years, teaching eighth grade and serving as elementary principal.

**DAVID CROZIER '40**

91, died June 7 in Maryville. He retired from Northwest after teaching 42 years and serving as the faculty representative to the MIAA conference.

**MONTRA DEVEZZ DORMAN '59**

72, died June 15 in Loveland, CO. He taught building trades at Larimer County Voc-Tech School in Fort Collins, CO, and later worked in commercial construction.

**KENNETH "TONY" D'ORTONA '06**

33, died June 15 in Idaho Falls, ID. He was employed at Jackson Lake Lodge in Wyoming in the culinary arts.

**BLANCHE WOOD HAWKINS '65 (MASTER'S)**

94, died Dec. 11, 2006, in Waco, TX, where she had lived since 1998. She retired from the St. Joseph School District. She also taught in rural Missouri schools and in Oregon state.

**CHARLES HAWKINS**

74, of Maryville, died June 28 in St. Joseph. He was a professor of accounting at Northwest and retired in 1993.

**LEWIS ISRAEL '31**

98, died July 8 in St. Joseph. He was editor of the *Bethany Republican-Clipper* from the late 1950s until his retirement in the mid-1970s.

**ROBERT JARDON**

94, died May 15 in Nebraska City, NE. He farmed in Randolph, IA

**LEROY KING (ATTD.)**

64, died Aug. 9 near Red Oak, IA. He retired from the Union Pacific Railroad in Omaha, NE.

**GROVER MICHAEL LOFTIN '70**

60, died Aug. 10 in Grinnell, IA. He was a district seed salesman for Kruger Seed Co. as well as a Hampshire hog breeder.

**SHERRY RYAN MACKEY '61**

73, died Aug. 17 in Maryville. She was a teacher and retired as the deputy clerk in Nodaway County.

**HELEN JONES MAXWELL '84 (MASTER'S)**

73, died June 3 in St. Joseph. She retired in 1998 after 33 years of teaching.

**EMMA PRICE MILLER '73 (MASTER'S)**

88, died June 8 in Albany. She taught English at Albany High School for many years. She also taught piano and was a GED instructor.

**JOSEPH OCHOA '58**

75, died May 29 in Kansas City. He retired from Honeywell after 35 years of service.

**MARGUERITE THOMPSON PITTSBARGER '54**

96, died Aug. 22 in Maryville. She taught in Nodaway and Platte counties for 37 years.

**RUTH MEYERS LARMER SAVAGE '39 (HORACE MANN) '60**

86, died July 5 in Maryville. She taught 40 years in several elementary schools and retired as a professor at Northwest in 1986.

**JUDSON "JUD" SEVY III '68**

64, died Aug. 22 in Houston. He was employed in the insurance business.

**AWALT STEFFEN '57, '59**

97, died June 27 in St. Joseph. Throughout his career, he was a newspaper reporter, an executive director of the YMCA

and owned and operated a bookstore. He also was an elementary and high school principal and superintendent, retiring in 1974.

**CHARLES VINZANT '55**

88, died June 24 in Richmond. He owned and operated a dairy farm in Princeton for 13 years and was a Methodist minister in northwest Missouri for 32 years.

**TRUMAN WILSON '50**

82, died June 11 in St. Joseph. He was in the insurance business for more than 50 years and served in the Missouri House of Representatives for two years and in the Missouri Senate for 20 years.

**LARRY ZIRBEL '50**

86, died May 19 in Kansas City. He was a teacher and counselor for 37 years, retiring in 1986 from the Hickman Mills School District. He also officiated football, basketball, baseball and softball at the high school and college levels. He worked with the Kansas City Chiefs for 44 years and umpired in the American League Championship Series for the Kansas City Royals in 1984.

### 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.

