

The Missouri Academy – a ‘gem in the backyard’

I'm not quite sure if the Maryville community and the state of Missouri fully appreciate what a “gem in the backyard” we have in the Missouri Academy of Science, Mathematics and Computing. For those who are not familiar with this unique and innovative program, let me begin this way: The Missouri Academy is one of only six early-entrance-to-college residential schools in the United States. High-achieving and talented students who have completed 10th grade at their traditional high schools are selected to live and study at Northwest with their peers. Their curriculum is rigorous and consists of college coursework taught by professors at Northwest. Missouri Academy students sit in the same classrooms with traditional college students, and professors have the same high expectations for these students as they do for traditional college students.

By most measures, this program has been a success since its inception in August 2000. A few key successes include:

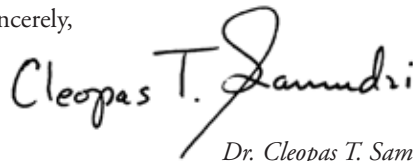
- More than 80 percent of Missouri Academy students maintain a Grade Point Average of 3.0 or higher, with about 40 percent of them consistently on the Northwest Honor Roll every trimester.
- Approximately 99 percent of Missouri Academy graduates go on to four-year baccalaureate degree programs throughout the country, where more than 75 percent pursue degrees in science, technology, engineering or mathematics programs. They maintain an average GPA of 3.6 at their new schools.

What is most interesting is that more than 92 percent of the Missouri Academy graduates say that the quality of undergraduate instruction at Northwest is as good as or better than that at the schools to which they transfer. Since many of our graduates have indeed gone on to some of the well-known schools in the country, this consistent result from the past three graduating classes clearly speaks to the high quality undergraduate education at Northwest.

Missouri Academy students are not just “geeks” and “bookworms.” Many are not only talented in science, mathematics and computing, but also in music, arts, the humanities, athletics and community service. They have performed extremely well at local, statewide and multi-state appearances for Model United Nations, Boys State and Girls State, community service projects in Maryville and the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast, Northwest musical ensembles and theatre.

I invite you all to visit this gem in our backyard, this special school, this amazing place we call the Missouri Academy.

Sincerely,



Dr. Cleopas T. Samudzi
Dean of the Missouri Academy
Director of the Honors Program



Dr. Cleo Samudzi, dean of the Missouri Academy and director of Northwest's Honors Program, has built a first-class program that consists of more than “geeks and bookworms.”

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 ...

As I read the article about KXCV celebrating 35 years, it brought back thoughts of my time on campus in the late '40s. My way of playing records was to use a device called a phono oscillator to get the signal from the turntable to a nearby radio. A phono oscillator was actually a weak AM radio transmitter. After a while it became known that others in the men's quadrangle rooms could also hear the records that I would play. Before long, when I would return from class I would often find that other residents would put records on and then go back to their rooms and listen. I guess this was the first "radio station" on campus. In the very late days of my stay on campus, a microphone was added to occasionally give an unsuspecting new resident a special welcome.

Roy E. Lilley '49

Iremember working with Steve Chor in the telecom office one summer. We did a lot of work during that summer wiring all the dorm rooms for Ethernet and installing new computers. I enjoyed my time at Northwest, and I gained a lot of experience for the real world.

Richard Coathup '98

The remembrance submitted by Bill Elam in a recent issue of this magazine caught my attention because I had a similar experience during my years at Northwest. Shortly after I purchased an old 1926 Overland, my roommate

Pete Younger gave me a dare I could not resist one Friday night after a visit to the Palms. He dared me to drive my Overland down the campus sidewalk and honk my "burp-burp" horn as I went by President (J.W.) Jones' residence. I could not let a dare like this pass me by. Needless to say, a little yellow note was in my box the next Monday morning to see Dr. Jones. As I walked into his office, he looked at me quite sternly and said, "Mr. Malson, you know why you are here don't you?" He knew I did, and he then said, "Don't let it happen again!" I thought I saw a twinkle in his eyes as I did an about face and scooted from his office. The girls liked my old Overland also. One Saturday morning we counted 22 of us on board as we went up Fourth Street and around the courthouse square.

Jim Malson '50

It was a warm spring morning, and my walk from Phillips Hall toward class seemed routine enough – until I heard a cry for help. There, standing under a tree, was a girl I knew (who will remain nameless for the obvious reason). She was frozen in place and yelled, "Mark, I'm stuck." Her hair was in a bun. Sticking through the bun was a low tree branch. It had gone through just like a fish hook. I set my books down, broke the branch end off the tree and got the "hook" out of her hair. Amazingly, we made it to class on time. That was part of the fun of going to Northwest, even a walk to class could be an adventure.

Mark Hereford '81



The phono oscillator used by Roy Lilley in the 1940s is on display in Northwest's Warren Stucki Museum of Broadcasting.

Do you remember these events?

1957

The Northwest Missourian receives its seventh consecutive first-place certificate from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. *Towers in the Northwest*

Northwest begins its wrestling program. *Transitions: A Hundred Years of Northwest*

1967

Donna Merritt is crowned Homecoming queen, and Carolyn Kading is crowned Tower queen. Martha Geyer is selected by her peers to reign over the annual "Hanging of the Greens" Christmas festivities in Residence Hall, later called Roberta Hall. *Towers in the Northwest*

1977

By the end of the fall semester, all but two residence halls adopt a new but controversial policy. The policy allows men to walk unescorted in the residence halls during open hours. Many female residents are unhappy with the new policy. *Tower yearbook*

1987

Northwest students flock to the corner of Fourth and Buchanan streets for the world's shortest St. Patrick's Day Parade. *Transitions: A Hundred Years of Northwest*

Rob DeBolt imitates Johnny Carson's "Carnac the Magnificent" at the Homecoming Variety Show. *Tower yearbook*

1997

Comedian David Spade, a former member of TV's "Saturday Night Live" cast, performs his stand-up routine in a packed Mary Linn Performing Arts Center. *Transitions: A Hundred Years of Northwest*

Colden Hall is temporarily closed for renovations. *Tower yearbook*

Blunt signs landmark higher education bill

Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt visited Northwest in the spring to sign ceremonial copies of an omnibus bill that will provide \$24.4 million for the University's Center of Excellence.

"The Center of Excellence will combine academic and (corporate) resources to ensure that Northwest's students have a strong background in and understanding of the emerging biotechnology sector," Blunt said.

Northwest President Dr. Dean L. Hubbard said Blunt shares the University's vision that "by combining academic and entrepreneurial resources a center could be created with the synergy needed to advance both the study and the commercialization of science, and with that also advance the economic development of northwest Missouri."

Considered one of the most comprehensive higher education measures in years, the bill authorizes the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority to sell assets valued at \$350 million,

most of which will go for new construction and renovation projects on campuses statewide. In addition, the legislation approximately doubles funding for need-based scholarships in Missouri.

Blunt said the funding plan will "put higher education in reach for more Missouri families than at any other point in our state's history" by increasing funding for state-assisted colleges and universities, stabilizing tuition and adding scholarships that will "open the door for thousands of students in Maryville and across the state." ■



Gov. Matt Blunt smiles as he signs omnibus higher education legislation on the Northwest campus. Among other things, the bill provides \$24.4 million for the University's Center of Excellence.

Northwest opens facility in downtown St. Joseph

Courses traditionally offered in St. Joseph through Northwest's Graduate School moved into a home of their own this fall when the University opened a newly leased facility at Felix and Seventh streets.

Graduate Dean Dr. Frances Shipley said Northwest has offered post-baccalaureate courses in St. Joseph for more than 40 years, but always in classrooms provided by other schools.

Northwest's new St. Joseph Center occupies 14,000 square feet in a building owned by developer Winston Bennett, a leader in ongoing efforts to revitalize the city's historic downtown.

The remodeled facility is comprised of four classrooms, four offices and two small reception areas.

The center offers courses for students seeking advanced degrees in school counseling, educational leadership and business administration. Most of the classes take place in a traditional face-to-face setting, but a few are blended, meaning instructors deliver some content via instructional

television or other electronic means.

The St. Joseph Center is the second academic facility created by Northwest beyond the borders of its 102-year-old Maryville campus. In 2006, the University opened the Northwest Kansas City Center in Liberty, which occupies the top two floors of a four-story office building owned by Liberty Public Schools.

For more information about course offerings at the St. Joseph Center, call (816) 364-5000 or e-mail Northwest's Graduate School at gradsch@nwmissouri.edu. ■



Northwest President Dr. Dean L. Hubbard addressed a contingent of supporters at the grand opening of Northwest's new St. Joseph Center. Prior to the new facility, Northwest offered post-baccalaureate courses in St. Joseph for more than 40 years in classrooms provided by other schools.

Northwest, Missouri Southern formalize MBA agreement

The presidents of Northwest and Missouri Southern State University met this fall to lay the foundation for a new online master's degree program in business administration.

Northwest President Dr. Dean L. Hubbard and Acting President Terri Agee of Missouri Southern, located in Joplin, signed a memorandum of understanding creating the jointly administered program, which is scheduled to launch in fall 2008.

The schools earlier joined forces on two other collaborative programs, a master's degree in teaching (instructional technology) and a master's degree in elementary education (early childhood).

The new MBA's curriculum will mirror Northwest's traditional MBA, which requires candidates to complete 33 hours of graduate credit in addition to a research component. Courses will be delivered via the Internet, instructional television and other electronic means.

According to the MOU, an advisory board comprising representatives from both institutions will oversee the program, and diplomas issued to graduates will bear the names of both schools. ■

Northwest Alumni Magazine honored for excellence

The Northwest Alumni Magazine has received the APEX 2007 Award of Excellence.

For nearly 20 years, APEX (Awards for Publication Excellence) has conducted an international competition that recognizes a variety of publications, including newsletters, magazines, annual reports, brochures and Web sites. This year, nearly 5,000 entries were submitted.

Northwest's alumni publication, which is distributed three times a year to more than 50,000 Northwest alumni and friends, was among 66 Award of Excellence winners for magazines and

journals consisting of 32 pages or more. Other winners in the same category included *AAA Living* and periodicals produced by the American Diabetes Association and the North Carolina State University Alumni Association.

John DeLellis, editor and publisher of Communication Concepts, the company that sponsors the competition, said the APEX Awards are based on excellence in editorial content, graphic design and the ability to achieve overall communications effectiveness and excellence.

Mitzi Lutz '91, who has served as editor of the magazine since its inception in 2000, said she is honored that the publication has earned international recognition.

"I consider myself very fortunate to be associated with the *Northwest Alumni Magazine*," Lutz said. "I've met some fascinating alumni through the years, and I like to think that I, along with my co-workers, have played a small part in reconnecting thousands of Bearcats with their alma mater." ■



A near-record 1,400 eager freshmen – with the help of moms, dads, sisters and brothers – carried in their belongings during this fall's annual move-in day prior to Advantage Week, a series of orientation activities lasting until the day before classes resume. About 450 of the first-year students live in the new Hudson and Perrin residence halls. ■

Assistant professor named ‘emerging artist’

Laura Kukkee, assistant professor of art at Northwest and head of the Department of Art’s ceramics program, is one of the 16 Emerging Artists of 2007 featured in the May issue of *Ceramics Monthly*, the world’s largest and most comprehensive ceramic arts periodical.

Kukkee, a native of Canada who arrived at Northwest in the fall of 2004, describes her work as standing apart from any one tradition or movement, but said she strives to establish a “current and personal visual language created by the synthesis of the formal traditions of ceramics and the decorative arts.”

Using traditional objects such as narrative vessels and betrothal dishes as a starting point, Kukkee said she tries to “rethink the rules, toss out some, reduce and simplify others and amplify and exaggerate still others.” ■



Laura Kukkee (right), assistant professor of art, was selected by *Ceramics Monthly* as one of the magazine’s Emerging Artists of 2007. Last spring, Kukkee and her students constructed the art department’s first-ever wood kiln, which was used to fire more than 150 clay objects over three consecutive days and nights.

Challenge U gives youngsters college knowledge

More than 150 urban Kansas City students spent a series of week-long sessions on the Northwest campus this summer studying epidemiology, robotics and rockets. The middle and high school students were participating in Challenge University, a program that encourages

low-income inner city kids to stay in school and to pursue a college education.

This is the fourth year for Challenge U, which Northwest helped create in cooperation with Kauffman Scholars, a college access initiative funded through the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. The program has proven so successful that the Northwest model has been adopted by a half-dozen other public universities in Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas.

Staffed by a team of Northwest faculty and administrators in cooperation with Kauffman Foundation personnel, Challenge U is designed to “help students who may be less fortunate realize that college is an option,” said Program Director Carla Mebane. “We want Northwest – and the idea of going to college generally – to be in their everyday vocabulary.”

Mebane said Challenge U is successful because of innovative faculty and staff who help students develop processes and skills that can be transferred to any area in life.

“We need to invest in these kids in order to get a return,” she said. “Our future relies on them.” ■



As part of Challenge U, a program Northwest created in cooperation with the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, inner city youth spent time on the Northwest campus this summer studying epidemiology, robotics and rockets.

‘Friends’ assist international students

As a member of the Northwest family, good friends shouldn’t be hard to find, especially for international students making the adjustment to a new school in a new country.

That’s the idea behind Friends of International Students, an organization that pairs Northwest students from outside the United States with Maryville families and individuals who offer information, assistance, hospitality or even a home-cooked meal.

Once enrolled in the program, friends are expected to have contact with their student at least once a month and attend group events twice a year.

Ann Lech, who teaches English as a second language at Northwest, founded Friends of International Students four years ago as a community-based organization.

“Many of these students feel a lot of loneliness,” Lech said. “They’re also just unfamiliar with how things work. If they can pick up the phone and call someone about a question they have or ask for advice, that’s a very important link.”

Student response to the program has been both positive and heartwarming, she said. ■

Temporary diversion becomes permanent passion

For the past two years, Shoba Mansukhani Brown '71 of Maryville has volunteered her time to the American Red Cross helping victims of natural disasters. From hurricanes in Florida to floods in New York, Kansas and Minnesota, Brown is willing to lend a hand.

When her husband, long-time Northwest administrator and former State Rep. Everett W. Brown died, instead of sitting around, she inquired – on a whim – about being a volunteer for the American Red Cross.

“I signed up, took classes and within a couple of weeks I was on my way to Florida to help with Hurricane Wilma,” she said.

Although she was there to help victims of the hurricane, she, too, received help by momentarily forgetting about the loss and sadness in her own life.

“Besides making friends, working and having fun doing that, I found that helping somebody else made me forget about myself,” Brown said. “Volunteering in this capacity requires a lot of giving of yourself, but it comes back to you in so many ways.”

The United States is divided into eight Red Cross service areas, and when a disaster occurs, the local chapter springs into action. Brown, a member of the Northwest Foundation Board of Directors, is a volunteer with the Midland Empire Chapter in St. Joseph. She said oftentimes a disaster quickly escalates beyond the local chapter’s means and resources, at which time trained volunteers from the chapter’s service area are brought in to assist. In a major situation, as was the case with Hurricane Katrina, volunteers from across the U.S. are recruited.

Brown said one challenging aspect about being a volunteer is knowing how to act and react when thrown into a disaster situation for the first time.

“Each situation is unique, and we can’t tell the clients that we’ll take care of everything because we can’t,” she said. “It’s almost like applying a Band-Aid. We respond to the immediate emergency, help them get their bearings by providing



When the community of Winona, Minn., was devastated by a flood, Shoba Brown and her Red Cross cohorts were there to lend a helping hand.



Shoba Brown and her Red Cross partner, fellow Bearcat Kevin Connell '74, were overwhelmed with emotion when the residents of the disaster-struck neighborhood they were assisting presented the pair with a plaque to express their sincere appreciation.

For more information about getting involved in the American Red Cross, visit www.redcross.org/donate/volunteer/.



With a comforting smile and encouraging words, Shoba Brown enjoys providing assistance to those in need.

shelter, food and some financial assistance, counsel them and direct them to other agencies, churches and FEMA.”

Brown, who “got to clean toilets in a shelter my first time out,” said one of her favorite responsibilities while on a deployment is driving the ERV, the emergency response vehicle. The mobile feeding unit also is used for bulk deliveries and as an on-site office for case workers and healthcare workers. The ERV drivers are the first to enter the disaster-ravaged areas and often are the ones to find unserved or affected areas and pass the information on to the Red Cross headquarters.

“It’s gratifying and humbling to be able to bring some comfort, offer a moment of respite and refreshment, give someone a chance to talk or perhaps put a smile on someone’s face,” Brown said.

While all victims of natural disasters are grateful for the help they are given by the Red Cross, Brown has observed that there are those who are sometimes reluctant to accept any help.

“There is a sense of pride in these people,” she said. “They will try and help themselves or go to family and friends first. We try to let them know that the help isn’t charity, but a gift from the American people made possible by donations from people just like them.”

The desire to help others in need is something that Brown doesn’t see changing in her life.

“I think Red Cross volunteers are a peculiar breed of people,” she said. “We choose to work 12 to 14 hours a day. Many times we sleep on narrow cots in crowded shelters listening to a symphony of snores. However, we meet people from all walks of life, and every disaster I’ve been to has resulted in lasting friendships. This really gets into your blood.” ■

Retired faculty enjoy life in the fast lane

WILLIAM TROWBRIDGE

Riding his motorcycle and working on the perfect sonnet is what Dr. William Trowbridge enjoys about his retirement. Since retiring in 1998 after 27 years of teaching in Northwest's English department, Trowbridge also has been teaching part-time in the University of Nebraska's MFA in writing program.

Trowbridge, a poet, has published four books, three chapbooks and is currently in the process of writing his latest book of poetry with the working title, "Fool."

"I enjoy the act of writing itself: the craftsmanship, the putting together of words to evoke thought and emotion," he said.

Trowbridge also keeps busy working in his Lee's Summit community at The Writer's Place.

"The Writer's Place is an old mansion that was remodeled and given to the Kansas City writer's community for literary readings, workshops, lectures and social events," he said. "I am on the board, and I also give readings there now and then."

Furthermore, Trowbridge is a part of the Raintree Lake Homeowners Association and is involved with the Unitarian Church.

In his spare time, he likes to relax by reading or doing yard work. He also enjoys traveling and hopes to someday return to England.

"I fell in love with England the first time I set foot there," Trowbridge said. "I guess part of the appeal was from being an English major. There were all the people and places I'd only read about before, and I very much enjoy the English culture."

As a writer, Trowbridge said his goal in retirement is to write the perfect sonnet. However, he admits that it's impossible for everyone to agree on the perfect sonnet.

"An artist always ought to aim at perfection, however impossible it is to attain," he said. ■



Retirement doesn't mean Dr. William Trowbridge is slowing down, thanks in part to his sleek Triumph Sprint ST.

NANCY THOMSON

When Dr. Nancy Thomson '71, '80, who retired from teaching management information systems at Northwest in 2000, has time to relax, she loves riding her Harley Sportster, traveling, golfing and immersing herself in the Maryville community.

Since retirement, Thomson not only worked as the training and ISO coordinator at LMP Steel and Wire in Maryville, but she started her own consulting business and was executive director of the Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments for two years.

In addition, Thomson initiated work with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources on a water project called The Water Partnership in Northwest Missouri to help find solutions for the region's dwindling water supply.

"We have depleted our aquifers in this part of the region, and long term we don't have a good, strong water supply," Thomson said.

But no matter how busy Thomson becomes in her community, traveling is her true passion.

"I love to travel," she said, "and I would do it every other week if I could."

Thomson has been to 34 countries, including Italy, Switzerland, the Netherlands and China, but her favorite place was Austria.

"It's beautiful," she said. "There's a train ride from Innsbruck to Salzburg and back. When you go around a mountain side you'll see a valley open up and you'll think this is the most beautiful scene you've ever seen. Five minutes later I'll go around another curve and think this is the most beautiful thing I've ever seen."

Thomson and her husband, State Rep Mike Thomson '68, '71, continue to support the Bearcats by attending Northwest football games.

"Bearcat green runs in our blood," she said.

She encourages former students and colleagues to contact her at nst360@embarqmail.com. ■



Dr. Nancy Thomson '71, '80 has traveled worldwide, including one trip to Alice Springs, Australia, where she was presented a gift from a member of an Aboriginal camp.

A straight path, *curves* and all

*One day, through the primeval wood,
A calf walked home, as good calves should
But made a trail all bent askew,
A crooked trail, as all calves do.*

*Since then three hundred years have fled,
And, I infer, the calf is dead.
But still he left behind his trail,
And thereby hangs my moral tale...*

**“Why is that path so crooked,
and why can’t I straighten it?”**

As a civilian equivalent to a three-star general in the U.S. Air Force and a former teacher who encouraged her female students to embrace math and science, this is a question Dr. Jacqueline Vincent Henningsen '66 often asks herself and others.

When she was a student at Northwest, one of Henningsen’s instructors recited this poem, “The Calf Path” by Sam Walter Foss, which recounts how the calf’s crooked trail continues to be followed for centuries and warns of the risks of blindly following the path others have trod.

“The poem has stayed with me all these years and has influenced my personal and professional life,” said Henningsen, who today works in the Pentagon for the Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

From an early age, Henningsen refused to follow the same path of many women before her. There were plenty of detours along the way, but Henningsen successfully navigated these alternative routes, never accepting them as road blocks. She encourages others, especially women, to have that same mindset.



Making the most of it

Science always fascinated Henningsen. So much so that she wanted to pursue a career as a research chemist – a non-traditional career choice for a woman in the 1960s. She excelled in chemistry classes at Northwest, and the next logical step was selection as a student lab assistant.

“However, academically talented women at that particular time in our country were more commonly expected to move into the helping fields than being ‘invited’ to work in the back rooms of labs,” Henningsen said.

Instead, she accepted a resident assistant position and set out to make the most of the opportunity.

“Many times people ask my advice about what they should decide,” Henningsen said. “I tell them there isn’t a bad choice, unless it’s immoral or illegal. There’s only a choice, and once you make that choice you live that choice to the upmost of your abilities.

It’s not about settling, or losing your dreams. It’s your life, so make whatever you’re doing at the time special.”

During her sophomore year at Northwest, she and her high school sweetheart, Carl Henningsen ’66, ’70, were married. The newlyweds lived on campus, juggling work and classes, and later welcomed a son,



By their junior year, Carl and Jackie Henningsen, sweethearts since their high school days in Omaha, Neb., were married and had a son, Jeff. Jackie later student taught at Maryville High School, and Carl student taught in the nearby Jefferson School District.

coached. In 1971, the Henningsens returned to their hometown, Omaha, Neb. By this time, Henningsen, who had received a master’s in math education and educational psychology through a National Science Foundation fellowship, was recognizing a trend in her female students – a troublesome path that prompted her to take action.

“You’ve come a long way, baby!”

“Knowing my own experiences,” Henningsen said, “I was concerned that young women were still being subtly discouraged from aspiring to career fields that required foundations in math.”

Under a federal grant, Henningsen developed a program geared toward encouraging girls to remain in math

programs that could open doors to traditionally male-dominated, and higher-paying, career fields.

The program was based on the themes: “Do You Know Where You’re Going To,” named after the popular Diana Ross song, and “You’ve Come a Long Way, Baby,” the ad

slogan for Virginia Slims cigarettes. Henningsen had concluded women didn’t “know where they were going to” and certainly hadn’t “come a long way.”

“Our research determined a lot of math anxiety was based on societal attitudes,” Henningsen said. “The guys seemed to recognize that taking math, whether they liked it or not, opened doors to opportunities. They ‘knew where they were going to.’ The young women seemed to internally judge their current capabilities separate from longer term goals. Their attitude was, ‘If I’m not strongly reinforced as being exceptionally good at math, then it must mean I shouldn’t do it at all.’ This made them very susceptible to authority figures who advised them to not ‘bother your pretty little head with math and science.’

“I would level with my female students that you



As the first civilian and female to hold the position of Director for Studies and Analyses, Assessments and Lessons Learned for the U.S. Air Force, Jackie Henningsen’s picture is displayed on a wall alongside her male predecessors.

(Background photo) The Air Force Memorial in Arlington, Va., is a national place of pride, reverence and remembrance dedicated to the men and women of the United States Air Force. The memorial was given to the nation during a formal dedication on Oct. 14, 2006.

don't have to love math, you can also treat it as a challenge, but encourage them not to give up without a good fight," she said. "I tried to show them that with a foundation in math, I have more options."

Henningsen practiced what she preached. During this time, she dabbled in several technical subjects before finding her passion was in operations analysis



PHOTO BY USAF

and optimization. She began a second master's degree at the University of Nebraska, and was asked to be a full-time instructor while she completed a Ph.D. in industrial and management systems engineering.

The path to the Pentagon

Armed with a new degree, Henningsen, who is not one to look backward or to be afraid to blaze her own trail, said

she couldn't see herself returning to the high school classroom or continuing the 100-mile-a-day commute to Lincoln, Neb. Instead, she sought a summer internship at the Strategic Air Command Headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Neb.

"At the time, I couldn't tell one airplane from the other, and I sure didn't know anything about the uniforms," she said. "But my prospective boss said in the interview, 'you aren't marrying the job so why not give it a shot?'"

As it turned out, it couldn't have been a better fit.

In just six years, Henningsen had risen to chief of assessments and was the senior woman in the 150,000-person command. During Operation Desert Storm, she was recognized for her work using operations analysis to support the warfighter in battle. However, in 1992 when the Air Force restructured, Henningsen knew it was time to "go mobile." Next stop: the Pentagon.

Henningsen joined the Cost Analysis Improvement Group in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, assuming oversight of strategic and space launch programs. She subsequently worked with the Partnership for Peace program helping former Soviet-bloc countries like Bulgaria, Hungary and the Czech Republic prepare for NATO membership. In 1998, she returned to the Air Force with an appointment to the Senior Executive Service. She currently has a three-star equivalent rank as the Director for Studies and Analyses, Assessments and Lessons Learned – the first civilian and female to hold this position.

"Our office's mission is threefold," said Henningsen, who has a staff of 230.

A rare find

Henningsen recognizes that without the special partnership she has with Carl, her life may have taken a vastly different path.

"It's pretty rare," she said, "to find a man like Carl. Each of us started on traditional career paths in teaching, but he was never intimidated by my desire to pursue a more non-traditional career field. When the opportunity came to move to Washington, D.C., he willingly walked away from his career so I could continue to grow in mine. He's so incredibly supportive, which is just his character and something he does effortlessly."

But just because Carl, who taught and coached for 27 years, ended his teaching career, it didn't mean he would really retire. In Washington, D.C., he coordinated large tours for students visiting the nation's capital and now is enjoying acting. He has appeared as an extra in commercials, print ads, a stage production, TV shows such as "The West Wing" and HBO's "The Wire" as well as motion pictures, including "Head of State," "Wedding Crashers" and "Syriana."

"I do a lot of tuxedo work as a senator," he said. "Although a Midwesterner at heart, I guess I now have the typical D.C. look!"



Carl Henningsen, now a background actor, retired from the teaching profession in Nebraska so Jackie could advance in her field with the military. "Jackie is brilliant, beautiful and unassuming," Carl said about his wife. The couple, married 43 years, have lived in the D.C. area since 1992 but still consider the Midwest home.

"We illuminate emerging issues for the senior leadership of the Air Force, sharpen the warfighter's edge and fireproof resource investment decisions."

As part of this mission, Henningsen and her staff are actively engaged in modernization and recapitalization studies that demonstrate the implications of the nation's aging aircraft fleets as well as risk-based analyses of Air Force roles in joint operations. She is responsible for the Air Force Lessons Learned and the combat analyst programs.

Henningsen, who is now accustomed to the formalities of the military, including being addressed with "yes ma'am" and having staff come to attention when she enters a room, admits she stands in awe of the talented young people in today's Air Force.

"With a full gamut of roles open to women, from fighter pilots, to missile squadron commanders, to astronauts, the sky is certainly not the limit," she said. "These young women certainly 'know where they are going to!'"

A day never to be forgotten

Sept. 11, 2001, is a day etched in the minds of every American. On that horrific day, Henningsen was working in the Pentagon, the site of one of the attacks. The images that linger in her mind – and the significant impact the terrorist attacks will forever have on our country – continue to move her to tears.

"It was the first morning meeting with our new Chief of Staff," she said. "We had just started when they brought up the newscasts of the first plane hitting the World Trade Center. Just like everybody, we watched in stunned silence. A few minutes later the second plane hit, and at that point the world knew it was no accident."

Henningsen's meeting quickly concluded. Shortly thereafter an announcement was made for everyone to evacuate the building.

"I wasn't impacted when the plane hit the Pentagon because I was on the exact opposite side of the building," she said. "But once we were outside, the smell of jet fuel instantly told what had happened."

As the 30,000 Pentagon employees gathered outside, they could see black smoke emerging in the sky, and those with medical training were asked to assist.

Amid the chaos, Henningsen started walking home.

"As I came around to the hill where the Air Force Memorial now stands, I could see just how awful



USAF PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. GARY COPPAGE

Jackie Henningsen was in the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, when terrorists crashed a hijacked airplane into the side of the building. On her walk home that day, she was overcome with emotion, falling to her knees because of the atrociousness of the attack and what it meant for the country's future.

it really was, and I fell to my knees. It was beyond words ... something I'll never forget."

One year later on an identical bright blue sky day, she sat through a memorial service for those who lost their lives at the Pentagon. The service was held on the opposite side of the building, and during a moment of silence, a white cloud emerged in the sky exactly where there had been black smoke the year before.

"I couldn't help being inspired by the symbolism of hope in this image," she said.

Inspiring indeed. After all, Henningsen is a perfect example of someone who has inspired others to reach their full potential. As a result, her path to success, curves and all, is one that has taken her straight to the achievement of her aspirations.

*A moral lesson this might teach
Were I ordained and called to preach;
For men are prone to go it blind
Along the calf-paths of the mind ...*

*They keep the path a sacred groove,
Along which all their lives they move;
But how the wise old wood-gods laugh,
Who saw the first primeval calf! ■*

Steiner is new financial officer

Lori McLemore
Steiner '85 recently joined Northwest's Office of University Advancement and the Northwest Foundation as the foundation financial officer.

In her new position,



Steiner is responsible for overseeing the internal audit and all financial reporting aspects

of the Northwest Foundation and the Office of University Advancement.

Prior to her employment at Northwest, Steiner was a certified public accountant. She was employed at Curry, Lenhardt & Co., CPAs in St. Louis for 12 years, and for the last 10 years in Maryville she prepared taxes for more than 400 clients.

She graduated summa cum laude and was involved in the Bearcat Marching Band as the featured twirler during her days as a student. Her husband, Dr. Mike Steiner '85, became a member of Northwest's history, humanities, philosophy and political science faculty in 1997.

Steiner, whose office is in the Alumni House, can be contacted at (660) 562-1248 or steiner@nwmissouri.edu. ■

Northwest continues to embrace multiculturalism

This spring, Northwest's first scholarship strictly for international students will be awarded. The Society of International Ambassadors Scholarship was made possible thanks to donations from members of the society.

The Society of International Ambassadors started two years ago to strengthen the University's cultural environment. Members made pledge commitments with the understanding that their contributions would be used solely for international initiatives. Some of these initiatives are the scholarship program, an emergency fund for international students and culturally-diverse lectures and programs.

Currently at Northwest, undergraduate international students are eligible for only a few entrance scholarships. Continuing scholarship opportunities are even more limited. It was this limited availability that solidified the SIA members' decision to create and fund a continuing scholarship. The \$500 scholarship will be given each year to an international undergraduate student who will be continuing his or her education at Northwest.

Jeffrey Foot, director of international affairs and a member of the SIA, said he is excited to see widespread support in the form of a scholarship for international students.

"International students bring the world and its diverse cultures to Northwest," Foot said. "This scholarship distinguishes one student who exemplifies positive contributions to Northwest through campus involvement, solid academic performance and leadership." ■

For more information about the Society of International Ambassadors or its new scholarship, contact Polly Howard at pollyh@nwmissouri.edu or (660) 562-1248.



The Society of International Ambassadors Scholarship will financially assist Northwest's undergraduate international students more than ever before.

Nodaway County couple gives \$1.5 million to Northwest

A Nodaway County couple recently made a \$1.5 million planned gift to Northwest benefiting the University and its students.

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

The American Dream Grant, the only grant of its kind in the nation, is Northwest's groundbreaking needs-based financial aid initiative that really is making dreams come true for undergraduates who might otherwise find a college education beyond their financial reach.

Students qualifying for the American Dream

Grant come from families with incomes of \$30,000 or less and meet Northwest's moderately selective admissions criteria. Unlike other needs-based programs, the grant pays virtually all college expenses during a student's first two years at the University, including tuition, room, board, books and the use of a laptop computer. Any remaining costs can be covered by working a few hours each week on campus.

"There are clearly many students who could benefit from the American Dream Grant who are right here in our own backyard," said Jim Blackford '72, president of the Northwest Foundation. "When financial barriers for students are eliminated, they're able to concentrate on academics and achieving their life goals." ■

Scholarship supports student-athletes

As a fan of Bearcat athletics, the late Frank “Chip” Strong Jr. ’73 loved watching and supporting the men’s basketball team. But even more important to Strong than how many conference championships the Bearcats had was how many young men walked across the stage at graduation. Strong’s main concern was that once student-athletes completed their eligibility, they stay in school and earn a degree.

Strong’s family and friends have taken action to help this vision become a reality for former student-athletes when it otherwise may not be an option. Upon Strong’s death in October 2006, his daughter, Allison Strong ’01, ’03, and long-time friend and business partner, Dr. John Baker, established the Chip Strong Memorial Scholarship to assist men’s basketball players who have not yet completed their degrees but have used all of their athletic eligibility. The endowment will allow for up to \$1,000 per year to be awarded.

“My father always preached the importance of obtaining a college degree,” Allison Strong said. “He loved Bearcat athletics and especially men’s basketball, so it was a natural fit to set up a scholarship in his memory to help Coach (Steve) Tappmeyer’s players complete their education. This is just a small way we can carry on my father’s belief in the importance of education while also giving back to Northwest.”

Strong’s affiliation with Northwest ran much deeper than being an avid sports fan. His first encounter with Northwest came when he was



Because of his passion and support for Northwest student-athletes, family and friends of the late Chip Strong established the Chip Strong Memorial Scholarship to assist men’s basketball players who have not completed their degree but have used all of their athletic eligibility.

a student at Horace Mann Laboratory School, which he attended through seventh grade. After graduating from Maryville High School in 1969, he spent a year at the University of Missouri-Columbia before transferring to Northwest, earning a bachelor’s degree with honors in 1973. He became an attorney in Maryville and served Northwest in several capacities, including being president of the Bearcat Booster Club, vice president of Northwest’s Board of Regents and a member of the Northwest Foundation Board of Directors. ■

For more information about how you can contribute to the Chip Strong Memorial Scholarship, contact Northwest’s Office of University Advancement at advance@nwmissouri.edu or (660) 562-1248.

Foundation conducts internal audit

In response to ever-changing standards and the current climate of modern non-profit corporate entities, the Northwest Foundation’s Committee on Board Governance and Risk Management made the recommendation that an improved internal audit function would enhance compliance with applicable standards.

As a result, last spring, under the direction of Dr. Steve Ludwig, an assistant professor of accounting/economics/finance, several Northwest accounting students conducted a preliminary internal audit of the Northwest Foundation. These findings were presented to the Foundation’s Board of Directors at its April meeting.

“The internal audit initiative was implemented to enhance an already sound accountability system,” said Jim Blackford ’72, president of the Northwest Foundation. “Through the creative design of utilizing upper-level accounting students from Northwest’s Booth College of Business and Professional Studies, this process has proven to be a win-win solution in providing this expertise for the Foundation while offering a meaningful hands-on experience for our students.” ■



THE BEARCAT MARCHING BAND NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Bearcat Marching Band, Northwest Wind Symphony and Jazz Ensemble will fly to England to participate in London’s gigantic New Year’s Day parade. Financial support from alumni and friends is being sought to help participants defray the cost of the trip.

To learn how you can help, contact:

Carl Kling, Director of Bands
(660) 562-1794
ckling@nwmissouri.edu



Matthew White was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho.

Whites establish scholarship in son's memory

Steve '80 and Julie Conner '81 White have turned the pain of losing their only child into an opportunity for Northwest students who share their son's interests.

Their 20-year-old son, Matthew, was on track to graduate from Northwest this past spring, but he died in a car accident in May 2005 after completing his sophomore year at Northwest. Just days before his death, the agricultural business major from Savannah told his parents he wanted to pursue a career in soil conservation after graduation.

"He decided he could never work behind a desk all the time," Steve said. "He figured this was one way he could spend 50 percent of his time out in the field and the other inside. He just really loved the outdoors."

His love for the outdoors and Northwest prompted his parents to establish the Matthew White Memorial Scholarship Fund.

"We're big believers in education, and each year at the ag banquet, because of this scholarship, his name will be read," Julie said. "That's one way to help keep his memory alive."

Matthew was a third generation Bearcat. His mother, father and grandparents, Lloyd '49 and Marilyn Fulkerson '47 White, all met as students at Northwest.

"Matthew enjoyed life and his time in Maryville," Steve said. "Like us, he loved Northwest, and it didn't hurt that it was close to home and so many in his family had also attended Northwest."

The Matthew White Memorial Scholarship Fund, established last year, benefits students who major in agriculture with preference to Missouri graduates from Savannah or North Andrew high schools.

The Whites hope the scholarship fund will continue to grow and help other Northwest students with an interest in agriculture. They also encourage other alumni to give back to their alma mater.

"When Matthew died, we were surrounded by so many people who cared and showed their support to us," Julie said. "Many of those showing their support were people we met at Northwest and continue to be close friends with. We never lost our love for Northwest, and it makes us proud that Matthew loved the university as much as we did." ■

Persons interested in contributing to the Matthew White Memorial Scholarship Fund can do so by using the envelope in the center of the magazine, calling (660) 562-1248 or making an online donation at www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/giving/onlinegiving.htm.



You can make a difference — The Northwest Annual Fund —

Your gift to the Northwest Annual Fund supports student scholarships and financial aid

Your gift can enable students with financial need to break through the economic barriers and open doors for their future. At Northwest, 80 percent of students receive some sort of financial aid, and financial assistance is often a deciding criteria when selecting a college. Merit and need-based scholarships help Northwest attract some of the best and deserving students.

It takes dedication and support to build an outstanding university that inspires learning and changes lives. Your gift, coupled with the generosity of thousands of other dedicated alumni, friends and corporate partners, will make a great university even better.

To make a gift to the Northwest Annual Fund, call (660) 562-1248, e-mail advance@nwmissouri.edu or visit www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/giving/onlinegiving.htm.

2008 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, 2008

Contact Brenda Untiedt for a nomination form at (660) 562-1248 or alumni@nwmissouri.edu or complete the appropriate form at www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/events/awards/nominations.htm.

The award nomination deadline is Feb. 15, 2008, and the awards banquet is in late September.

Distinguished Alumni Award
Recognizes a Northwest graduate for his or her exceptional professional and personal achievement and extraordinary distinction in a chosen field.

Distinguished Emeritus Faculty Award
Recognizes a former faculty member for his or her outstanding teaching, service and/or research contributions at Northwest.

Distinguished Faculty Award
Recognizes a present faculty member for his or her 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 talents benefit and promote the University and the Northwest Alumni Association.

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

Alumni and friends tour Scotland

The Tourin' Bearcats' latest excursion was a nine-day trip to Scotland in August enjoyed by 24 Northwest alumni and friends.

The trip, sponsored by the Northwest Alumni Association, included stops in Glasgow, Broadford, Inverness, Dundee and Edinburgh. The travelers took a ferry across the Sound of Sleat to the Isle of Skye, visited subtropical gardens and toured a whisky distillery in the Highlands. In addition, the tourists hit several practice balls at St. Andrews Golf Course, had coffee and shortbread at the Scone Palace, visited the Edinburgh Castle, saw the world-renowned Military Tattoo and took a guided tour of the World Heritage Site at New Lanark. ■

(Top) Steve Sutton '71, Bonnie White Sutton '71, '96, Kathy Plummer O'Riley '71, '86, Mike Graham, Kris Teale '91 and John Teale '73 make a toast at the Glenlivet Distillery near Tomintoul, Scotland.

(Middle) The Tourin' Bearcats gather in front of the Scone Palace for a group picture.

(Bottom) Several of the travelers visit in the hotel lobby before dinner in Glasgow.



2007-2008 Alumni Association Board



Members of the 2007-2008 Northwest Alumni Association Board of Directors include (front row) Nicole Bankus Porterfield '91, Jackie Lionberger Damiani '71, '76, Amy Willits Harlin '95, Mel Young '67 (middle row) Mark Pickerel '76, John Van Cleave '73, '89, Larry Maiorano '69, '74, Tim Sullivan '75, Kay Thomas '71, Vic Kretzschmar '70, '71, Cindy Tjeerdsma Akehurst '01 (back row) Jim Blackford '72, Dave Snider '80, '83, Neil Neumeyer '98, Allen Kearns '62, Hal Wilmarth '69, Paula Northup Miller '95 and Mike Zech '86. Steve Moss '87 is not pictured. ■

Alumni chapter news

MARYVILLE

The Maryville Alumni and Friends Chapter continues to gather for monthly socials at Carson's Sports Grille on the second Thursday of each month.

The chapter hosted the Summer Bash reunion at the Alumni House and, as the freshmen were moving into their residence halls, chapter members distributed complimentary water to the newest Bearcats and their families.

In October, the chapter participated in Northwest's Homecoming parade with members of other Northwest alumni chapters.

If you would like more information about getting involved in the Maryville Chapter, contact the Northwest Alumni Association at alumni@nwmissouri.edu or (660) 562-1248. ■

DALLAS

In June, members of the Dallas Chapter took shots at each other playing paintball in Grapevine, Texas. They agreed that anyone who says it doesn't hurt to get hit by a paintball is not telling the truth.

This summer, chapter members met at a dueling piano bar, volunteered at the North Texas Food Bank, went to the Improv Comedy Club and visited a microbrewery. In the fall, the Dallas Chapter gathered for several happy hours at Love and War in Texas.

To get involved in the Dallas Chapter,



1



3

contact President Deb Tripp '92, '96 at Tripp-Deborah@aramark.com. ■

KANSAS CITY

The Kansas City Chapter had a great summer hosting happy hours throughout the metropolitan area. The chapter also had a wine and cheese social at the Dot Gallery that was part of Kansas City's First Friday Art Walk and co-sponsored a poetry reading with Dr. William Trowbridge at the Kansas City Library.

The chapter was involved with the annual Fall Classic at Arrowhead, assisting with the pregame tailgate party as well as an event at The Quaff the night before the game.

For more information about the Kansas City Chapter, contact President Jennifer Hewitt Smith '86 at Jennifer.L2.Smith@sprint.com. ■

SOUTHERN IOWA

The Southern Iowa Chapter participated in several local parades, proudly displaying the chapter's banner along the parade route. In June, members of the Southern Iowa and Central Iowa chapters enjoyed a relaxing evening at the Southern Hills Winery in Osceola, Iowa, followed by dinner at Terrible's Casino. Chapter members also assisted with the booth at the Iowa State Fair. The chapter plans to sponsor a trip to campus to attend an Encore performance.

To get involved, contact President Dennis Bunch '69 at bunchhardware@frontiernet.net. ■



2



4

Is your chapter missing?

Don't forget to submit information and pictures for inclusion in the spring issue of the *Northwest Alumni Magazine* by Jan.

10. Items should be directed to Brenda Untiedt at brenda@nwmissouri.edu or Alumni House, 800 University Dr., Maryville, MO 64468.

1. Members of the Dallas Chapter were running for cover on the paintball course in Grapevine, Texas.

2. Jennifer Hewitt Smith '86, Stephen Woolfolk '99, Brian Stewart, Damian Valline Bridges '84 and Larry Maiorano '69, '74 attended a poetry reading by Dr. William Trowbridge, a retired Northwest English professor, at the Kansas City Library.

3. The Southern Iowa and Central Iowa chapters enjoyed a wine-tasting event at the Southern Hills Winery in Osceola, Iowa. Pictured are (front) Jane Briley '61, Cindy Goodale Goins '98, '05, Dennis Bunch '69, Jane Laughlin Sullivan '74, (back) Joan Lynch Jackson '65, Darin Goins, Tim Sullivan '75 and Tiffany Young '06.

4. Members of the St. Joseph Chapter entered a Northwest-themed float in the annual Apple Blossom Parade.



Tim Sullivan

“By helping the University that helped me, I get a good feeling in my heart (and a membership card in my wallet).”

Tim Sullivan

Friend raising is Alumni Association’s top **priority**

There is a special place in my heart for Northwest, and I suspect you share that feeling. It is an honor to serve as president of the Northwest Alumni Association Board of Directors. Our mission statement guides the Alumni Association to establish and maintain connections with the Northwest family. We like to reduce the mission to two words: friend raising.

Thirteen chapters from Mid-Missouri to Japan provided more than 200 chances this past year for you to connect with the Northwest family. The variety of events was impressive: a Mardi Gras dinner; helping patients with crafts at a children’s hospital; a wine and cheese social; marches in local parades; hosting the Bearcat jazz band at a local chapter event; a Northwest professor reading poetry at the local library; and, of course, socials at local watering holes and football watch parties. Friend raising is fun!

All alumni and friends are welcome at all Northwest Alumni Association events anytime and everywhere. Please come, have fun and connect with friends, new and “old,” who share that special feeling toward Northwest.

As part of the Central Iowa Alumni Chapter activities, I had the delight of working the Northwest booth at the Iowa State Fair in August. The fun included putting a Bearcat paw tattoo on

the 14-week-old daughter of an alumna, “selling” Northwest to prospective students, talking with current students about the football season and meeting alumni of all ages. The fair, Bearcats and friend raising go together well.

Because of a strong relationship with the Northwest Foundation, no dues are charged by the Alumni Association. Becoming a member is simple: help current Northwest students by donating \$40 or more to the Northwest Foundation and you become a member of the Alumni Association for a year. I think of it as payback. By helping the University that helped me, I get a good feeling in my heart (and a membership card in my wallet).

Please look for Northwest Alumni Association events near you. If you don’t know if there is a chapter where you live, get the full listing of locations and officers at www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/chapters.htm. Then come, participate in the friend raising and make new memories.

Bearcat best,

*Tim “Sully” Sullivan ’75
President, Northwest Alumni Association*

Alumni flock to the ‘Ville for Summer Bash reunion

Nearly 100 people from six states returned to Northwest for the Summer Bash Alumni Reunion.

The annual event at the Alumni House, which also included a golf scramble at Mzingo Lake Golf Course and a tribute to Greek organizations, was hosted by members of the Northwest Alumni Association’s Maryville Chapter. Following the social and dinner, the reunion included karaoke and a talent contest. ■



Donna Richmond ’71 and Jane Laughlin Sullivan ’74 enjoy visiting at this year’s Summer Bash Alumni Reunion.



Dave Snider ’80, ’83 (center) is surrounded by the ladies: Wendy Waldman Borgmeyer ’86, Jennifer Hewitt Smith ’86, Diane Watson ’87, Ann Reichert Leming ’89, Damian Valline Bridges ’85, Polly Parsons Howard ’00 and Jana White Hanson ’02.

Northwest ranks high for athletes' classroom success

The Chicago-based National Collegiate Scouting Association has ranked Northwest 15th among all NCAA Division II universities in its fifth-annual Collegiate Power Rankings.

The rankings rate colleges and universities comprehensively based on student-athlete graduation rates, academic strength and athletic prowess.

Northwest is part of an elite group comprising fewer than 6 percent of colleges and universities nationwide who made the organization's Top 100 list for 2007.

"With so many great schools to choose from, NCSA's power rankings objectively help student-athletes compare collegiate opportunities so they know how institutions stack up pound for pound," said NCSA CEO Chris Krause. "This ranking shows that Northwest not only places

importance on winning games but on academics and graduating players as well." ■



The University's B.D. Owens Library is frequented by many student-athletes, one of the many factors that contribute to Northwest being recognized by the Collegiate Power Rankings.

For the latest information on your favorite Bearcat sports team, visit

www.northwestbearcats.com

- ◆ Schedules
- ◆ News Releases
- ◆ Media Guides
- ◆ Rosters
- ◆ Statistics
- ◆ Ticket Information

Field dedication

When the Bearcats ran out under the new lights at Bearcat Stadium in August for their first night game of the season, they sank their cleats into the new synthetic turf field named for Head Coach Mel Tjeerdsma.

Northwest's Board of Regents approved a proposal to name the field after Tjeerdsma, following a presentation by Athletics Director Dr. Bob Boerigter.

In his remarks to the board, Boerigter summarized Tjeerdsma's stellar career at Northwest and said that for more than 13 seasons the coach has "set a standard by which all future members of (his) profession will be measured."

Prior to the 2007 season, Tjeerdsma had a .786 winning percentage, had captured eight MIAA championships and had advanced to the NCAA playoffs nine times. Under his leadership, the Bearcats reached the national title game four times and won back-to-back national championships in 1998 and 1999. ■



Aug. 23 was a night to remember for Bearcat football fans. Not only was the game played under the stadium's new lights, but it was eventually called because of lightning. However, the highlight of the evening came just before kickoff when Coach Mel Tjeerdsma was recognized for his outstanding Northwest career by having the field named in his honor. Tjeerdsma (above) thanked the fans and his family (right) revealed "Mel Tjeerdsma Field."



Class notes

1945

MARTHA POLSLEY GAMBLE ♦ and her husband Robert, celebrated their 60th anniversary on Aug. 24. They live in Gladbrook, IA.

1955

JACK AND JEAN JENSEN (ATTD. '54-'56) WIECHMANN ♦ celebrated their 50th anniversary on Aug. 11 while traveling in Spain. They live in Omaha, NE.

1960

TOM AND KATHRYN CLARK ('59) ADAMS will celebrate their 49th anniversary in December. Tom was inducted into the Missouri Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in July. He has coached 21 years, 19 at Richmond High School, with 103 victories in his career. They live in Richmond and have two children and five grandchildren.

1962

LARRY AND MARGARET CARTER KENSINGER celebrated their 45th anniversary in August. They live in Knoxville, TN.

1969

MARVIN DICK is retiring as principal of Assumption Catholic School in Granger, IA, after a career of 35 years as a school principal in both public and faith-based schools. He also has taught and served as a

student teacher supervisor at Buena Vista University, Graceland University and Iowa State University.

1972

CLIFFORD AND GERRE SCHMITZ NELLES ♦ live in Excelsior Springs. Cliff retired from Ford Motor Company after 34 years as the environmental clerk. He is now an RCRA inspector with Booz, Allen and Hamilton. Gerre is a collector of student loans at Citibank.

1973

NAN TIEHEN BONE (MASTER'S '01) ♦ is the principal of St. Teresa's Academy in Kansas City. She was a teacher and a special projects coordinator in Shenandoah, IA, for 26 years, a principal in Tarkio for three years, and a principal at St. Peter School for three years. She and her husband, **BILL BONE '73**, have two children, Adam, 25, and Abby, 22.

VIRGIL MOORE

has returned to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game after serving as director of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

1974

JOHN CONAGHAN is president of the Old Republic Title Company of Kansas City.
MARK CONYERS is pastor at Northgate Baptist Church in Kansas

City. He has more than 25 years in the ministry and has been a consultant for the Missouri Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist General Convention of Missouri. He and his wife, Debbie, have two children.

1975

WILLIAM ESPEY ♦ is the managing director of First Republic Wealth Advisors, an investment advisory subsidiary of First Republic Bank, located in San Francisco, CA. Prior to joining First Republic, he was director of Citigroup Private Bank for nine years. Before that, he was vice president and private banker at Wells Fargo Private Client Services in San Francisco.

LENORA BAILEY MILES

is a buyer's specialist for Reece & Nichols in Liberty. She taught for 32 years, the last 17 in the Platte County School District.

CAROL MILLER

received the 2007 National Excellence in Research Award from the Academy of Legal Studies in Business for her Journal of Legal Studies Education article. She is a distinguished professor at Missouri State University in Springfield where she has taught business law since 1984.

1976

TOM AND JEANNINE STERVINO AKINS celebrated their 30th anniversary in August. They have two children, Lucy, 20, and Chet, 17. Tom is employed with FEMA doing management and training for those who work in disaster-ridden areas. Jeannine recently was named the 7-12 art chairperson for the Lee's Summit School District.

TERRY BUHOLT (MASTER'S '81, SPECIALIST '91)

retired as superintendent of the West Nodaway School District in June. He also served as principal in the North Nodaway and Chillicothe school districts. He and his wife, Sheryl, live in Maryville and have four children, Hilarie, Kristin, Megan and Bryce, and six grandchildren.

1978

MARK MITCHELL is a professor of chemistry and chair of the department of chemistry and biochemistry at Kennesaw State University in Georgia. He previously was interim associate dean for natural sciences and mathematics and professor and chair of the chemistry department at Clark Atlanta University.

JEFFREY PETERS

is the senior pastor at Bethel Assembly of God in Elkhart, IN. He and his wife, Marilyn, have

The tradition of the Hickory Stick began in 1930 when Northwest President Uel Lamkin sent a cane fashioned from a hickory tree grown at the birthplace of the then-president of the Kirksville college – now Truman State. In 1931, it became the start of a traveling trophy contest the Bearcats have grown to love. The victor of the Northwest-Truman State football game has kept the stick, dipping the end in the winning school's color. The stick also features the scores of each game played between the two schools. The 30-inch piece of wood has been the prize for the oldest traditional trophy game in NCAA Division II history. Truman leads the Hickory Stick battle with a 42-26-4 record. Northwest won this year's game, 53-6, and has kept possession of the traveling trophy for the last five years.



Teale finds staffing solution

John Teale '73, president of Midland GIS Solutions, doesn't have to look far when he needs a new hire. All he has to do is look toward Northwest. Of the company's 19 employees, 17 are Northwest alumni and one is a retired Northwest geography professor.

"It's fun to work with these talented young men and women who are so energetic and knowledgeable," said Teale, whose company is based in Maryville.

Midland GIS Solutions is a full service GIS mapping company providing services to counties, municipalities, utility companies and other entities throughout the Midwest. Midland is Missouri's leading GIS provider and has completed more projects in the state than all other GIS firms combined. Midland GIS Solutions and affiliate company, Midland Surveying, were established from Midland Engineering, which was founded in 1973.

"The focus of the company gradually changed through the years," Teale said, "from an initial focus of civil engineering to land surveying and mapping principles."

been in the ministry for more than 25 years. Their new address is 1538 Garden St., Elkhart, IN 46514.

1982

LELAND MORRISON

is superintendent of the Burlington (IA) Community School District. He and his wife, Sandra, have nine children.

JEFF AND VICKI GORDON SOGARD

live in Carlisle, IA. They have three daughters: Chelsea, a senior pre-med

major at Northwest; Kendra, a sophomore math major at Northwest; and Paige, a senior at Carlisle High School. Jeff is the middle school principal at Clarke Community Schools in Osceola, IA. Vicki teaches family and consumer sciences at Bondurant-Farrar Community Schools.

1983

ROB COWELL

is assistant principal of human resources in the Hazelwood School District in Wildwood.

One of the main reasons for the change in the company's direction was the availability of staff and talent.

"Northwest has one of the best and most notable GIS

programs in the Midwest," Teale said. "Northwest provides us with a large talent pool of young GIS professionals just outside our door. Having so many Northwest alumni in one building creates a fun atmosphere. Whether it's reminiscing about former professors or talking about a Bearcat football game, Midland GIS Solutions is its own tightly knit community of Northwest alumni." ■

For more information about Midland GIS Solutions, visit www.midlandgis.com.



As president of Midland GIS Solutions, John Teale '73 (center) surrounds himself with fellow Bearcats, including (from left) Matt Sorensen '94, Katie Shepherd '05, Kirk Larson '97 and Ryan Schieber '01.

He completed an Ed.D. degree this summer from Maryville University in St. Louis. He and his wife, Kim, have two children, Megan and Mike, and are St. Louis Cardinals fans.

1984

KEVIN HULSEBUS

is an area agronomist for growers in the east and southeastern portion of Iowa for Garst Seed Company. He was previously a district sales manager in eastern Iowa for Garst. He lives in Atkins, IA.

DOUG PADEN (MASTER'S)

is vice president of marketing services for Cameron Insurance Companies in Cameron. He has been with the company since 1980 and has received his CPCU, CIC, AIS and AAI designations in insurance. He has taught continuing education courses to independent insurance agents and has served the majority of his career with Cameron as a marketing supervisor in St. Joseph and northwest Missouri.



A note from Iraq:

I wanted to take an opportunity to send a message to my friends at Northwest from Iraq. I am a captain in the USMC and a weapons and sensors officer in the F/A-18D Hornet. My unit is VMFA(AW)-121, the Green Knights, and we are currently deployed to Al Asad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

My good friend Paul Edmonds '98 recently sent me a Northwest flag, so I took it with me on my last mission. This photo was taken right before we launched on a mission in the vicinity of Ramadi and Fallujah.

I hope everyone is doing well back in the states.

*Capt. Jon Von Seggern '97
U.S. Marine Corps*

He is the curriculum director for the Savannah R-2 School District.

1989

KEVIN DANIEL (MASTER'S '95, SPECIALIST '97)

is the associate superintendent for instructional services in the Raymore-Peculiar School District. He received the Central Office Award at the Powerful Learning Conference in St. Louis. The award recognizes persons serving in a school district central office position who have provided exceptional support to schools participating in the Missouri Accelerated School Project or Missouri Professional Learning Communities Project.

1986

DAVID (MASTER'S '88, SPECIALIST '89) AND JILL HARRISON COX ♦

live in Gladstone. David finished his doctorate through the University of Kansas in May. He is a principal in the North Kansas City School District, where he has worked for 21 years. Jill recently joined K and Company as a senior staff accountant. They have two children, Caroline, 11, and Richard, 9.

BETH BAIER MAYNES

and her husband, Jim, live in Treynor, IA. Beth teaches at Heartland Christian School in Council Bluffs, IA. Last year, their daughter Elissa, 15, went through chemotherapy and surgery for Ewings Sarcoma. She is now cancer free. They also have a son, Justin, 13.

1987

NANCY FINKEN

is the network manager at NET Radio, Nebraska's NPR station. She previously served as NET Radio's programming director/assistant radio network manager for seven years and eight years as NET Radio's news director.

GREGORY HADLEY

is a professor of English and American cultural studies and coordinator of the Communicative English Program at Niigata University of International and Information Studies in Japan. His book, "Field of Spears," explores the account of one B-29 crew near the end of World War II and of the villagers near Niigata who captured them when their plane was shot down on July 20, 1945.

1988

JON AND KELLEY YAGEL ('95) BALDWIN ♦

live in Maryville with their son, Gabe. Jon earned the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties certification as an orthopedic clinical specialist. He is currently a physical therapist at St. Francis Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine in Maryville. Kelley is the director of communications for the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

DEAN AND JANET NESBIT (ATTD. '87-'89) BLACKABY

live in Helena, MT, with their four children. Dean is a special assistant attorney general and provides legal counsel to the Montana State Fund.

TIM (MASTER'S '96) AND SUSAN MILES ('87) MATTSON ♦

have two sons, Nic and Tate, and live in Maryville. Tim received an Ed.D. in educational leadership from Saint Louis University in May.

1990

TONI WEAVER COX

is principal at Searcy Elementary in Gallatin. She taught elementary school in Jamesport for eight years and was an elementary principal in Jamesport for seven years. She has been the middle school principal in Trenton for the past two years. She and her husband, David, have three daughters.

SHELLEY SEDDON GILES

is an online editor for *Hollywood Life* magazine (formerly *Movieline*). She lives in the Hollywood Hills with her husband, Rhett Giles, who is an actor and producer.

KENDELL HALE

is the head men's and women's tennis coach at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He was previously the coach at Rockhurst University for 11 years. He is the only

coach to be named the USPTA College Coach of the Year four times.

JANNA FRESH WESTCOTT and her husband, David, announce the birth of Sara Jane on April 6. She joins Mitch, 11. Janna is a controller at Berger Devine Yaeger Inc., an architecture firm in Kansas City.

1991

LEEANN REENTS LEONARD ♦ is an associate vice president of investments at A.G. Edwards & Sons in St. Joseph. She has been with the company since 1996.

1992

LAURIE LANDSNESS BESCO is a program counselor in Student Support Services at Southwestern Community College in Creston, IA.

LISA KENKEL CARLSON is the head women's basketball coach at Lewis University, a Division II program in Romeoville, IL. She also is the senior woman administrator. She previously was the associate head coach at Winona State University for three years.

KYLE DREDGE

and his wife, Cara, announce the birth of Sophia Grace on July 18. She joins Zach, 14, Molly, 11, Meg, 6, and Kate, 2. Kyle is the pastor at the Disciples of Christ Christian Church in Woodward, IA. Cara is a stay-at-home mom. They live in Redfield, IA.

JENNIFER BAKER FRANCIOTTI is a news reporter at WBAL-TV in Baltimore, MD. She previously was a traffic reporter for MetroNetworks.

BYRON WEBSTER is director of product marketing at itzbig. He received an MBA from McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas in Austin.

1993

TRACY BEATTY is the softball coach and physical education teacher at Dundee-Crown High School in Carpentersville, IL. She coached girls basketball and softball at Woodland High School in Streator, IA, from 1995 to 2007. Her Woodland teams won five consecutive Midstate Conference championships from 2000 to 2004.

MATT ELICK

and Kristi Dark were married June 30, 2006, in South Bend, IN. They were expecting their first child in August. Matt is in sales at Steel Warehouse and recently completed his first marathon that finished at the 50-yard line of Notre Dame Stadium.

WILLIAM HALLOCK JR. (MASTER'S '98)

is an assistant professor and chair of the Department of Applied Technology at Clarion University, Venango Campus in Oil City, PA. He recently was a Denver-based educational consultant for schools in an 11-state region, including leadership of student mastery of state assessments. He will complete a doctorate in

education leadership this fall at the University of Kansas. He and his wife, Jennifer, own a 100-acre farm in Shippenville, PA, and are the parents of Julia, 11, Austin, 2, and Renee, 1.

LANCE MILLER

earned a doctor of education in administration from Saint Louis University in May. He is an assistant principal in the Belton School District. He and his wife, Lona, have three children, Sam, Myla and August Joseph.

DOUG MORRISON

is a vice president at Bartlett & West, an engineering firm in Topeka, KS. He directs the Geo-Info Division, supervising geographic information production and delivery. He also oversees the firm's technology resources to develop effective applications and new business opportunities.

1994

TOM AND HEIDI SCHLEGELMILCH ('95) ALGER announce the birth of Marjory Lee on May 30, 2006. She joins Ben, 3. Tom works for GE Commercial Finance, and Heidi works from home as a copywriter.

BECKY DEYOUNG COLWELL ♦ and her husband, Paul, announce the birth of Evan Paul DeYoung on March 18. He joins Bennett, 4, and Katelyn, 2. Becky is the transfer coordinator in the School of Nursing at Avila University. Paul is the assistant principal and athletic director for the Turner School District.

KATHLEEN KENNEDY

is a public relations manager at the Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Tulsa, OK. She also recently received Accreditation of Public Relations through the Universal Accreditation Board of the Public Relations Society of America. She lives in Tulsa, OK.

JAYNE PAULEY PARKER

and her husband, Bruce, announce the birth of Ryan Matthew on Aug. 14. He joins Leah, 2. Jayne has earned her Associate of General Insurance designation through CPCU-IIA. She is employed at Great West Casualty. Bruce is a claims support specialist. They live in Smithland, IA.

1995

ROB ELLIS

is vice president of City Wide Maintenance Company in Lenexa, KS. He has served as director of operations and lead of the non-contract revenue division within the company.

CHRIS GEGG

is news director at the NBC affiliate in Madison, WI. He has worked at TV stations in Detroit, Nashville and Tampa. Chris received the Young Alumni Award from the Northwest Alumni Association in 2004.

MANXI WU

and Liwen Liu announce the birth of Tony Ruoyu on June 9. They live in Raleigh, NC.

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.)

Wolff transforms ‘Loser’ experience into a winning combination

At age 24 and 365 pounds, Marty Wolff '03 needed a change in his life. But was reality television the answer?

Wolff, willing to try anything, decided to stand in line seven hours with thousands of other hopefuls to be on the hit NBC show “The Biggest Loser” where contestants compete to lose the most weight. He knew his personality would be a perfect fit for the show. Little did he know how great the show would be for him.

Wolff, who was a high school teacher in North Kansas City when he auditioned for the show, had struggled with weight his entire life. Throughout college, he began to embrace it, accepting it as part of his identity. His personalized license plate even read “IM FAT.” But under it all, he knew his obesity was leading him down a dangerous path.

“I knew I had to do something about my weight,” Wolff said. “I started a diet when I was in college at Northwest after a weigh-in during a wellness class and was able to lose some weight, but I didn’t keep it off.”

Once he was accepted on the show, Wolff looked forward to hamming it up on camera.

After all, he had plenty of practice being the stereotypical “jolly fat guy.” However, he had no preparation for the strenuous workouts and the emotional, physical and mental struggles to come.

“I was not expecting to basically be beat to a pulp,” Wolff said. “We worked out everyday for six to eight hours straight. It was unlike any workout I had ever done.”

After losing 146 pounds on the show, Wolff found out more about himself than he could ever imagine.

“I learned I need Marty time,” he said. “Working out and focusing on myself is therapeutic. Before I can give myself to others, I need to better myself first.”

During the show, Wolff found strength in fellow contestant Amy Hildreth. Their bond allowed them to lean on each other and face their biggest fear together, their weight.

After the show, both Wolff and Hildreth – who are now engaged – wanted to share what they learned with others struggling with weight issues. As a result, the two started a business, Reality Wellness, based in Omaha, Neb., that focuses on individual, motivational and results-oriented tasks.

“We both feel we were given a gift,” Wolff said. “We want to work one-on-one with people and help them live a healthy lifestyle. Our business is great because we can push people to their limits, because we know their limits firsthand.” ■

For more information about Marty Wolff and Reality Wellness, visit www.realitywellnessinc.com.



PHOTO BY CHRIS HASTON/NBC UNIVERSAL



PHOTO BY NBC UNIVERSAL

NBC’s publicity photograph (right) of Marty Wolff prior to the reality show is quite a contrast to his leaner and stronger physique at the show’s conclusion. By eating healthy and working out six to eight hours a day, Wolff lost 146 pounds.

1996

JENNIFER ARCHDEKIN

is serving north-west Missouri as a unit public affairs representative for the Missouri Army National Guard. She previously was director of commu-



nications for the Midland Empire Girl Scout Council. She lives in Agency with her husband, Kyle, and daughters, Hannah and Abigail.

JENNIFER DICKSON BOOTH ♦

is leaving the Chicago Department of Revenue to stay home with her twin daughters born in January.

BRENT AND COURTENAY HILL ('97) MORRIS

announce the birth of Kate Sophia on Feb. 28. She joins Jake, 4. Brent is a broker at Colliers Turley Martin Tucker. They have relocated to Kansas City from Denver, CO.

BECKY VACEK NICKS

announces the birth of Allyson Lynn on April 25. She joins Brandon, 7, and Ryan, 4. Allyson’s father,

SHAD NICKS '95,

was killed by a drunk driver 18 days after she was born. Becky would like to thank everyone from Northwest for their love and support during this difficult time.

1997

JENNYFER DELONG

and Mike Pedersen were married May 4 in Kansas City. Jennyfer teaches

seventh-grade math in the Park Hill School District. Mike is a supervisor at Lincare. They live in Smithville.

MATT GAARDER ♦ and his wife, Sherry, announce the birth of Kallie Louise on May 7. They live in Maryville.

ERIC HENNIGAN is an AFLAC representative.

MELISSA FLETCHALL MATTSON

is the deputy city clerk and collector in Bethany. She has four daughters.

JENNIFER NORMAN and Joseph Thornton were married May 3 on a



beach in the Mayan Riviera. Jennifer is a sales manager at Centex Homes. They live in Fenton.

1998

DAMON ALSUP (MASTER'S '00) and Kate Gentry were married May 12. Damon is a health teacher and football and track coach at Benton High School, and Kate is a records manager for the St. Joseph School District. They live in St. Joseph.

RICHARD COATHUP ♦ and his wife have moved from Humble, TX, to Kingwood, TX. He is a Web developer at National Processing Company.

MICHELLE DRAKE and Brad Smith were married May 25 in Las Vegas, at Treasure Island Wedding Chapel. Michelle is a customer services representative at Cardell Cabinets, and

Brad is a supervisor at Cardell Cabinets. They live in Converse, TX

PATRICK JOHNSON (MASTER'S '00) ♦

is a lecturer at Emerson College in Boston, MA. He previously was the director of forensics at Northwest.

COLIN AND JONI JONES ('99) MCDONOUGH

announce the birth of Dalton Jones on April 27. Colin is an associate media relations director at the University of Northern Iowa, and Joni is a copy editor at *The Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier*. They live in Cedar Falls, IA.

AMY SHUTT REIMAN

and her husband, Bradley, announce the birth of Gabriel Luke on Jan. 3, 2006. He joins Noah, 5. Amy is a licensed marketing assistant at Clay County Farm Bureau, and Bradley is a sixth-grade teacher. They live in Spencer, IA.

CHRIS ROGERS

is the head soccer coach at Carthage High School. He and his wife, Tracy, have two children, Aiden and Abby Kate.

MEGAN MCFARLAND STUCK has left her job as director of the Kaysinger Basin Regional Planning Commission to stay home with her children.

MICHAEL TJELLE AND AMIE HOGE (MASTER'S '05)

were married June 23 in St. Joseph. Michael is a teacher in the North Platte School District, and Amie is a teacher in the North Kansas City School District.

ROBBYN WRIGHT

and Marc Schultz were married June 9 in Omaha, NE.



Robbyn is a physical education teacher, and Marc is a special education teacher, both with the Millard Public Schools.

1999

DWON LITTLEJOHN

is employed by the Jackson County Sheriff's Department.

RYAN AND BROOKE SNODDERLEY KINSELLA

announce the birth of Collin Ray on Aug. 21, 2006. Ryan is in sales at MFA in Burlington Junction, and Brooke is in sales at Snodderley Lumber Co. They live in Elmo.

JEFFREY LUKENS

and Megan Levine were married Sept. 1 in Middlebury, CT, and they now live in Southington, CT. Jeff received a master's in divinity from Andover Newton Theological School in May and is pursuing ordination in the United Church of Christ. Megan is a marketing assistant at Celebration Foods.

TRAVIS AND GAYLE MCINTOSH MANNERS

announce the birth of Ella Faith on Dec. 6, 2006. Travis is a physical therapist at Omaha Sports Physical Therapy, and Gayle is a help desk/desktop manager at Physicians Mutual Insurance. They live in Omaha, NE.

YASMINE OSBORN ♦

is a diversity and grants coordinator for the U.S. Tennis Association. She was inducted into the Northwest M-Club Hall of Fame in October 2006. She lives in Atlanta, GA.

SUSAN SHEETS

is a captain in the U.S. Air Force, and recently relocated from Germany to Oklahoma City. She was one of 16 officers selected for the Logistics Career Broadening Program. She has completed one remote tour in South Korea and two deployments to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

ADAM SMITH

is a commercial lines account executive at The Insurancenter. He is responsible for producing new commercial business for the agency. He lives in Springfield and is active in the Springfield Jaycees, Downtown Rotary Club and Springfield Little Theatre.

2000

CASEY AND SHANNON FLINN ('01) BEANE

announce the birth of their second son, Dawson Flinn, on Aug. 16. Casey is an account executive at Coventry Health Care of Kansas, and Shannon is a homemaker. They live in Kansas City North.

JEANNE SWARNES DERR

and her husband, Jerrid, announce the birth of Carson on July 22. They live in Papillion, NE.

Don't miss the Bearcat Connection e-newsletter

If you haven't notified Northwest of your current e-mail address, do so immediately so you don't miss another issue of the Bearcat Connection e-newsletter. This free electronic publication is sent every other month – if we have your e-mail address – and provides news and events of interest to all Northwest alumni and friends.

Send your preferred e-mail address to:
alumni@nwmissouri.edu



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.

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

REGAN DODD (MASTER'S '02) will pursue a doctorate in health education from the University of Kansas. She previously was the men's and women's tennis coach at Baker University.

JUSTIN AND DAWN STRITZEL ('99) ENGELHARDT ♦ have been married six years and have one daughter, Amari, 2. Justin is a project analyst at H&R Block, and Dawn is a kindergarten teacher in the North Kansas City School District. They live in Liberty.

JARROD JAMES earned a master of arts degree in management from Bellevue University in Nebraska.

NICOLE FULLER KNOWLES and her husband, Ryan, celebrated their first anniversary in April. She is a registered nurse and recently transferred to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Nebraska Medical Center. Ryan is a body shop technician at Kenworth of Omaha. They live in Treynor, IA.

BETH DORREL LAMPE is a disability resource aide at Ozarks Technical Community College. She has two children, Kevin, 13, and Oliver, 1. They live in Willard. Contact her at lampee@otc.edu.

MAC LEE and Kelsey Neal were married Aug. 4 in Hamilton. Mac works at The Wild Outdoors in Cameron, and Kelsey is pursuing an elementary education degree at Missouri Western State University and is employed at American Family Insurance in St. Joseph.

LINDA MATTON (MASTER'S '03) is the elementary principal in the Northeast Nodaway R-V School District. She and her husband, Francis, live in Conception Junction with their five children, Todd, Renae, Craig, Madelynn and Alex.

TIM AND JENNIFER SPRECKELMEYER ('03) MEYER were married April 2, 2005, and announce the birth of Ean Miles on April 16, 2006. They live in Maryville.

DIANNA COOKE RINGLEB and her husband, Chris, announce the birth of their second son, Kyle Morris, on May 28. Dianna is a first-grade teacher in the Millard Public School District, and Chris is a radiology technologist. They live in Omaha, NE.

ANDREA BLIZZARD SIEMEK and her husband, Michael, announce the birth of Ryan Michael on April 13. Andrea is a training coordinator at ConAgra Foods, and Michael is a civil engineer at Aquila. They live in Omaha, NE.

SARAH THOMAS and Jose Cepeda were married in October 2006. She teaches general music at St. John's Episcopal School and was recently inducted into the Sigma Alpha Iota Baltimore Alumnae Chapter. In June 2006, she competed in her first triathlon and finished sixth. They live in Columbia, MD.

2001

J. DREW BONTRAGER is the city manager in Cameron.

DAVID ELMS (MASTER'S) AND CORI ELIFRITS ('97)

were married July 14. David is an assistant principal, athletic director and baseball coach at Mid-Buchanan High School in Faucett. Cori is a physical education teacher and girls basketball and softball coach in the Buchanan County School District in DeKalb.

DREW GOFFINET is an attorney at Gunn, Shank & Stuver, PC in Kansas City.

DERRICK GRIFFIN and his wife, Jill, announce the birth of Kinley Adeline on Dec. 13. Derrick is an investment officer for the Missouri State Employees' Retirement System, and Jill is director of Columbia's Finest Child Development Center. They live in Columbia.

MONICA KNAPP is a program analyst specializing in terrorism and narcoterrorism for the Jorge Scientific Corp. in Arlington, VA. She has graduate degrees from American University's School of International Service in Washington, D.C., and Jagellonian University in Krakow, Poland.

MARIA NANNINGA ♦ and Conrad Lundvall were married May 5 in Maryville. Maria is an administrative



assistant at Imagination Station Child Care in Omaha, NE, and Conrad

is a plumbing apprentice at Jimmy's Plumbing Co. They live in Omaha, NE.

NATHAN AND SARA SITZMAN ('02) SLEYSER announce the birth of Ella Nicole on July 7. Nathan is a special education teacher at Norwalk Middle School, and Sara is a reporter at the *Record-Herald* and *Indianola Tribune*. They live in Winterset, IA.

JOEL WALD and his wife, Cristina, were married in 2004 and have one child. Joel is a teacher in the North Kansas City School District. They live in Liberty.

2002

JOE AND BRENDA STOLL ('98) ALLEY announce the birth of Jaelyn Ruth on July 11. Joe teaches computer science at Maryville Middle School, and Brenda is a counselor at the Maryville Treatment Center. They live in Maryville.

JASON BENTRUP AND ROXANNE HANZELKA ('03) ♦ were married May 5 in St. Louis. They honeymooned in Italy for two weeks. Jason is a senior programmer/developer at Maritz Research, and Roxanne is a children's worker at the Missouri Department of Social Services - Children's Division. They live in St. Louis.

CHRISTOPHER CARPENTER graduated from William Jewell College in Liberty in May with a BSN in nursing. He was named the outstanding student of the BSN-Accelerated Track program. He also received the Army Nurse

Corps "Spirit of Nursing Award" in recognition of academic excellence, leadership and commitment to the nursing profession. He and his wife, Julie, and son, Joseph, live in Kansas City.

TIFFANY GREGG received a degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School in May.

STEPHEN AND NICOLE URSCH ('03) HAYNES

announce the birth of Russell Jeffery on June 7. Stephen is a systems technician at CI Select, and Nicole is an AVP-banking center manager at UMB Bank. They live in O'Fallon.

QUENTIN KEARNEY

is an entrepreneur buying and selling companies.

CHRISTOPHER AND JEALAIN VACCARO ('00) MARPLE ♦

live in Dubuque, IA. Jealaine is studying toward a master's in divinity at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA.

JUSTIN MARRIOTT

is a police officer for the city of Independence. His first child was born in May.

RYAN MARRIOTT

is employed by the Missouri Department of Probation and Parole in Kansas City.

JOEL AND KENNA DEMOTT ('01) MILLER

announce the birth of Hallie Koel on Oct. 18, 2006. Joel is an eighth-grade history teacher at Savannah Middle School, and Kenna is a third-grade teacher at South Nodaway R-IV Elementary. They live in Savannah.

JOHN OTTE AND ALLISON CLEVINGER

were married Aug. 4 in Savannah. John is a consultant for Cerner, and Allison is a communication arts teacher and assistant basketball coach in the Liberty Public School District.

JOHN AND JULIE MCCRARY SCHROETER

announce the birth of Corban Gerald on Dec. 19, 2006. He joins John Charles, 2. John is a GIS technician for the city of Olathe, KS.

BRETT AND MELISSA GIZA ('03) WELLHAUSEN

announce the birth of Carsen Marie on May 12. Brett is engaged in farming and cattle feeding for Wellhausen Farms and Feedlots, and Melissa is an accountant for the Iowa State Auditor's Office.

2003

ANNE-LAURE CABANIS (MASTER'S)

has worked the past two years as an international marketing analyst for a French bank in Manhattan, NY, and recently was featured in the French business magazine, *Challenges*. She now lives in France.

THAD AND SARAH ZIMMERMAN DEAN

live in Springboro, OH. Thad received a doctorate of osteopathic medicine in 2007 and is currently completing his residency in Dayton, OH, in orthopedic surgery. Sarah received a master's in physical therapy at Rockhurst University in 2006 and is a physical therapist at Kettering Memorial Hospital.

JENNIFER MORRIS KELLY (MASTER'S)

was named the St. Joseph School District Teacher of the Year.

MEGAN LILES

and Matthew Cobb were married Aug. 4 in St. Joseph. Megan is a teacher in the St. Joseph School District, and Matthew is a manager at ACME Music and Vending.

BRYCE NIELSON AND BRANDY SONNICHSEN ('04)

were married Oct. 28, 2006, in Maryville. Bryce is in sales at Consolidated Electrical Distributors, and Brandy is a marketing

services representative at American Equity Investment Life Insurance Co. They live in Grimes, IA.

JIM PATTERSON

received the Linda Beach-board Beginning Teacher Award for the 2006-2007 school year. The award is given to an outstanding individual who exemplifies great work and support of special needs students. He was nominated for his work as a risk instructor at the Career and Technology Center of Fort Osage in Independence. He is pursuing a master's degree in special education.

CARLA STRONG PEERY

and her husband, Jake, announce the birth of Logan on Nov. 20. He joins Jacob, 2. They live in North Kansas City.

ABAGAIL SIMPSON PIERPOINT

has earned a law degree from William & Mary and has accepted a position with the Missouri Attorney General's Office in Kansas City.

Northwest's annual "Meet the Greeks" barbecue starts the week of recruitment for sorority and fraternity hopefuls. The barbecue allows students interested in Greek life to meet members of each organization and learn what makes them unique. There are 17 recognized fraternities and sororities at Northwest, and the total Greek population is about 700 students – 15 percent of the Northwest undergraduate student body.



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.



MICHELLE TAFOYA is pursuing a graduate degree in environmental policy and management through an online program at the University of Denver. She lived in Whitefish, MT, for the past two winters, working at the Whitefish Community Aquatic and Health Center and volunteering for the National Parks Conservation Association. She has spent summers as a ranger in Glacier National Park since 2001.

JAMES WIEDERHOLT

was promoted to staff sergeant in the Missouri Army National Guard in August. He is a member of Battery A, 1st Battalion 129th Field Artillery in Albany where he is a section chief. He works at JT Auto Transport in Stanberry.



SCOTT AND NICOLE BAXLEY ('04) WINKLER announce the birth of Nolen Scott on June 29. Scott farms and is a Pioneer Seed dealer. Nicole is an office support assistant for the Randolph County FSD. They live in Salisbury.

DOMINIC WONDERLY AND BETH STIENS ('00) were married May 26. Dominic is employed at Kawasaki, and Beth is a fifth-grade teacher at West Nodaway School in Burlington Junction. They live in Maryville.

2004

MARK BULLIMORE AND MELEA ZACHARIAS

were married July 7 in

Parkersburg, IA. Mark is a physical education instructor in the Excelsior Springs School District, and Melea is employed at Capital One Home Loans in Overland Park, KS.

DARBY CATON

and Eric Niswonger were married May 19 in St. Joseph. Darby is a resource scientist for the Missouri Department of Conservation, and Eric is a science teacher in the Chillicothe School District. They live in Chillicothe.

CANDI CHADWICK

graduated from Creighton Law School.

JIM ELSE AND CORTNEE VOLLERS

were married May 19 in Camdenton. Jim is an assistant manager at Menards, and Cortnee is studying clinical laboratory science and works in the pathology lab at Children's Hospital. They live in Omaha, NE.



CHRISTY FORNEY

is a grant administrator at Maryville Public Safety. In November 2006, she completed the State Emergency Management Agency's Professional Development Series.

JOHN HIATT

was a participant in the Kansas City Marathon in September 2006.

JOSH KLEINLEIN AND KRISTIN STUBBLEFIELD ('05)

were married July 14 in Savannah. Josh is an auditor at KPM&G Auditing, and Krystin is a science teacher in the Savannah School District.

LISA MICHAEL KONECNE

is a teacher for the Corning (IA) Head Start program. Her husband, Cody, is a fuel truck driver for Farm Service Co-op. Their daughter, Layla Ann, is 1. They live in Corning, IA.

KERRI MARTIN

is pursuing a master's degree in English.

ANDREW PARMENTER

received a juris doctorate degree from Washburn University



School of Law on May 12. He and his wife, Krysta, live in St. Joseph.

STEPHEN ROBISON III (MASTER'S)

and Micah McClure were married April 17 in Las Vegas. Stephen is a Realtor at Conroy and Associates, and Micah is a case manager at the Missouri Career Center. They live in St. Joseph.

TRAVIS AND STACEY BIRKLEY (MASTER'S '07) STOKES

announce the birth of Lauren Joy on April 30. Stacey is the Career Development Coordinator-Employer Relations in the Office of Career Services at Northwest. Travis is a campus ornamentalist at Northwest.

JARED AND SARAH ALM WEBER

announce the birth of their son in September 2006. Jared received a law degree from Creighton University in May.

ERIC WILLIS

received a law degree from Pepperdine University in May and has accepted a

position as a transactional attorney in Las Vegas.

2005

NICHOLAS GROOMER AND ABBIE STIENS ('06)

were married June 16 in Maryville. Nicholas is a teacher and coach at Nodaway-Holt High School, and Abbie is a loan assistant at Bank Northwest in Stanberry.

JENNIFER KERNER (MASTER'S)

and Dirk Allsbury were married Sept. 29 in St. Joseph. Jennifer is a marketing coordinator at RJ Promotions, and Dirk is the sales manager at KQTV in St. Joseph and owner of Stardusk Disc Jockeys.

JASON MARX AND ALISON PARKHURST ('06)

were married Oct. 14, 2006. Jason is a farm assistant at Gannon Hog Farms, and Alison is the assistant manager at Theisen's Home-Farm-Auto. They live on a hog farm north of Colfax, IA.

DYLAN MINOR

is employed with the Missouri Department of Economic Development and is pursuing an MBA from Lincoln University.

SAMMY PANETTIERE

is a staff assistant for U.S. Sen. Kit Bond.

2006

BESS BALDWIN

and Pete Rolofson were married June 2 in Hopkins. Bess is a preschool teacher at Head Start in Maitland, and Pete is a machine operator at LMP Steel and Wire in Maryville.

BILLY BURNS

is a student at Washington University Law School in St. Louis.

SONYA CROSS

is pursuing a master's degree in school counseling at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

DEREK GILLESPIE

is an analyst with Enserco Energy Inc. in Golden, CO.

JASON GREENE

is a graduate student in political science at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

ZACHARY KEITH AND AMANDA KISKER ('07)

were married June 23 in Chillicothe. Zachary is a history teacher at Platte County High School, and Amanda is a fourth-grade teacher in the Platte County School District. They live in Platte City.

JARED KIRK

and Raven Frizell were married June 23. Jared is a member of the Missouri Air National Guard as a night vision instructor, and Raven is a litigation specialist at Tempest Recovery Services.

MICHELLE MARQUIS

and Ryan Vulgamott were married June 15 in Columbus, NE. Michelle is a math teacher at Central High School in the Omaha Public School District, and Ryan is an inventory specialist at Hy-Vee. They live in Omaha, NE.

BEN MCMILLEN

is attending the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School.

COURTNEY MORGAN

and Jacob Newton were married June 23 in Wathena, KS. Courtney is a second-grade teacher in the St. Joseph School District, and Jacob is employed at Summit Truck Bodies in Wathena, KS.

SUZIE SCHUCKMAN

has returned to Northwest to pursue a master's degree in history. She previously worked on the senate campaign for Claire McCaskill.

JEFF SNOW (MASTER'S)

is the head athletic trainer at William Jewell College in Liberty. He previously was the athletic trainer at Lee's Summit West High School and was an intern for the Kansas City Chiefs training staff.

MANDY TRYON

is a social worker for incarcerated juvenile males with the Missouri Division of Youth Services.

CRAIG WILMES AND LESLIE BURNS ('07)

were married July 14 in Maryville. Craig is the assistant manager at MFA Agri Service in Conception Junction, and Leslie is employed at Priority 1 Realty.

CRYSTAL WOODBURY

and Jared Green were married June 23 in St. Joseph. Crystal attends Cleveland Chiropractic College in Kansas City. Jared attends Northwest and is employed at LMP Steel & Wire in Maryville as a machine operator.

BRIANNE WYATT

has been accepted to the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School.

BRIAN YOUTSEY AND JILL CULLEY

were married June 2 in Cameron. Brian is a platoon sergeant at the Thayer Learning Institute in Kidder, and Jill is a fund accountant at State Street in Kansas City.

CHARLA "CHARLIE" KIRCHHOFF CAMPBELL '64

65, died Nov. 30 in St. Louis. She taught preschool and kindergarten.

RENEE HOLLINGSWORTH COVERDELL '75

53, died May 30 in Kansas City. She lived in Knob Noster and was a third-grade teacher at Whiteman Elementary School for the past 16

2007**SARA CHAMBERLAIN**

has accepted a fellowship to William & Mary Law School.

DOUG KARLESKINT (MASTER'S)

is an assistant coach for the Stephen F. Austin State University basketball team in Nacogdoches, TX.

CASSIE PEDERSEN

and Jody Edson were married June 23. Cassie is a direct care aide at Concerned Services Inc. in Stanberry, and Jody is an oil salesman at MFA Oil and Propane Co. in Stanberry.

ANGELA SMITH

is an anchor/reporter for St. Joe Now. She also assists in the weather division of the St. Joseph cable channel.

LINDA GENOA STANDERFORD

earned a bachelor's degree in speech communication from Northwest. She previously attended Northwest from 1983 to 1986. She is the office manager for Northwest's Talent Development Center. Her husband, **JOHN STANDERFORD '86**, teaches vocal music at Bedford (IA) Community Schools.

years. She previously taught in the Hickman Mills School District, Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho and at Myrtle Beach Air Force Base in the Department of Defense School Systems.

I Did
you
know?

- Northwest offers 103 undergraduate majors and 40 master's programs.
- Northwest students do not have to buy their primary textbooks, a practice that has been in place for many years. Northwest has implemented a rental program where students pay \$5 per credit hour for their books.
- Ninety-two percent of Northwest freshmen return after their first trimester.
- The number of international students at Northwest is at an all-time high. There are currently 247 international students enrolled at the University, 62 more than last year. Countries with the greatest number of students attending Northwest are India, Japan, Korea and Nepal.

In Memoriam

ANTONIA FERNANDEZ BARBOSA '74 (MASTER'S)

73, died Aug. 11 in St. Joseph. She was a retired elementary school teacher in the St. Joseph School District.

MORLYN "WYNN" BARRETT '55

76, died May 31 in La Jolla, CA. He was a certified financial planner and in the 1960s became owner of a securities and

insurance broker-dealership in Kansas.

LEORA FOSTER TUNKS BLAIR '55

95, died June 25 in King City. She retired from teaching in 1975.

MARTHA "MARTI" WINGER BOYDSTON '91 (MASTER'S)

56, died June 12. She lived in Camden Point and was an elementary teacher in the North Platte School District.

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.

In Memoriam (continued)**MARSHA CROWELL '60**

69, died May 20. She taught for 38 years at Granger Elementary School in Des Moines, IA, retiring in 1998.

DORIS LOGAN CUMMINS '36

92, died May 9 in Maryville. She worked for financial businesses and taught business in Wiota, IA, before World War II, and at Maryville High School after the war. She was a bookkeeper at Cummins Furniture in Maryville for 40 years.

GARY CURTIS '67

61, died May 7 in Johnston, IA. He taught at Des Moines Tech and Des Moines Lincoln High School for 33 years. After retirement, he was an SPD technician at Broadlawns Medical Center.

JOHN "JACK" DIETERICH (ATTD.)

died June 21. He was a project leader for the USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Station, located on the Arizona State University campus in Tempe. He was a United Nations consultant in the Republic of Chile, the Philippines and Mongolia. He retired from the Forest Service in 1983. After retirement, he volunteered as a reading mentor to first-grade students.

PAUL FORE '57

74, died July 8. He lived in Albuquerque, NM, and retired from the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service.

CYNTHIA GABEL '76

52, died Aug. 20 in Olathe, KS. She was the

assistant athletic director at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She was in her eighth year at UMKC and had spent 19 years on the enforcement staff at the NCAA.

BOB GREGORY '42

86, died June 11 in Maryville. He retired in 1986 from Northwest as assistant director of athletics and business manager. He taught and coached at Maryville High School and in Grand Island, NE, before becoming Northwest's basketball coach, assistant football coach and coach of spring sports in 1954.

MARY LOU MELVIN HALLIDAY '63

85, of Tarkio died Aug. 20 in Glenwood, IA. She was a teacher in Burlington Junction and Tarkio, retiring in 1980.

MARY CUNNINGHAM HANDLEY '41

90, died May 26 in King City. She taught at one-room schools and later at Stanberry Elementary. During World War II, she worked in Kansas City for the Social Security Administration.

NYDRA JORGENSON HELZER BURNS HARTMAN '66

91, died June 30 in Maryville. She was a retired teacher.

JOHN HELLERICH '52

78, died June 19 in St. Joseph. He taught and coached football in Fairfax, DeKalb, Hamilton, St. Joseph and Greenfield, IA. He also worked for the U.S. Postal Service, retiring in 2002 after 31 years of service.

VIRGINIA HILLIX

80, died July 13 in Kansas City. She taught drawing and painting at Northwest from 1964 to 1976 before moving to Kansas City.

MARVIN HOGAN '58

70, died May 12 in Greeley, CO. He was the merchandise manager for Carpenter Paper Co. prior to his retirement.

GARY JOHNSON

67, died May 25 in Denver, CO.

RODNEY JOHNSON '73

56, of Soldier, IA, died July 16. He was a farmer and worked for Johnson-Leitz Construction.

CLARA ALLEN LUCHT '43

85, died May 25 in Panora, IA. She taught two years in Charter Oak, IA, and 40 years at Panora-Linden High School as a business education teacher.

PHYLLIS TURNER MUTTI '32

95, died July 20 in Des Moines, IA. She was a teacher.

SHAD NICKS '95

36, died May 13 in Gretna, NE. He lived in Omaha, NE, and was killed by a drunk driver while riding his motorcycle. He was a Douglas County deputy sheriff for seven years.

ALMA LOUISE PARSONS '40

96, died May 2 in Cameron. She retired from teaching in 1976.

MARILYN ZBIERSKI POLOUS '63

66, died July 24 in Irving, TX. She was a teacher for 20 years.

DONALD SANDFORD

89, emeritus professor of music at Northwest, died June 17 in Flower Mound, TX.

WADE SCHARFF '78

54, died Aug. 13. He lived in Spartanburg, SC.

GENEVA LANCE SMITH '43

died Sept. 14, 2006, in Manteca, CA. She was an interior decorator and housewife.

HARRIET WELLING SMITH

94, died July 24 in Gower. She was a teacher for more than 50 years and retired from Hyde Elementary School in St. Joseph in 1983.

MARGARET TURNER STEPHENS '36

92, died June 20 in Liberty. She taught in Forest City and Oregon and also worked at Turney-Stephens Grocery Store.

GARY TIETZ '67

62, died Aug. 13 in St. Joseph. He was the librarian at Central High School in St. Joseph for 31 years and then a librarian at Rolling Hills Library for three years.

JENNIFER CLINE VERZELLA '89

died in Florida. She was a Methodist minister and leaves two daughters.

DARRELL WALKER '59

died Dec. 1, 2006. He was a retired school administrator in northwest Missouri, retiring as superintendent from the Cameron School District.

RANDY WEBER '79, '87

49, along with his wife and son, died April 14 in a private aircraft incident near Farmington, IA. He lived in Charter Oak, IA, and was employed by Liquid Feeds and Commodities in Fremont, NE.