

THE MAGAZINE FOR NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

# NORTHWEST

ALUMNI MAGAZINE | WINTER 2023



## INTRODUCING THE TATUMS

### ENROLLMENT RECORD

Headcount passes  
10,000 students | p. 5

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# PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU

It's because of the volunteer support of countless alumni and friends – spirited people like Cherine Heckman – that Northwest continues to thrive.

I am proud to be a Bearcat. As a member of a four-generation Bearcat family from northwest Missouri, I have been around Northwest all my life, and I am very grateful for not only the academic education I received but also the skills and knowledge I gained by being involved on campus in Delta Zeta sorority, the Bearcat Marching Band, Homecoming Committee, intramural sports and so many more organizations. Each of these helped me gain leadership, organizational and communication skills – all skills that I used in my career as a teacher and enrollment manager in higher education.

When I retired, I decided it was time to give back to Northwest because it had given so much to me as a student. My family had already established a scholarship in honor of my parents, so I was looking at other opportunities for me. I got involved with the local Northwest Alumni Association chapter. When the opportunity came to be on the Northwest Alumni Association Board of Directors, I jumped at the chance. As a member of the Board, I get to volunteer at the Homecoming tailgate by working at the alumni tent, handing out spirit beads and other swag. One of the best parts of doing this is meeting other alumni and sharing Northwest stories. I also have worked at the Alumni Awards Banquet and the Northwest booth at the Missouri State Fair.

The most rewarding volunteer activity I do is representing Northwest at some of the college fairs in mid Missouri. Seeing high school students run to the table to get Northwest information makes me proud to be a Bearcat. Visiting with students and their parents, telling them about the academics, the student life and the beautiful campus is so fun. I also get to visit with Bearcats who are teachers and administrators at each school.

Giving back to Northwest is so rewarding. Anyone can do it. Just contact the Northwest Alumni office. If there is an alumni chapter near you, join and help other Bearcats connect.

Cherine Heckman '77, '83

*Northwest Alumni Association Board of Directors*



**If you are interested in volunteer opportunities  
at Northwest, contact the  
Office of University Advancement at  
[alumni@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:alumni@nwmissouri.edu) or 660.562.1248.**





Bobby Bearcat escorted Dr. Lance Tatum and his family into the Administration Building during his first day as Northwest's president on June 1.

## NORTHWEST

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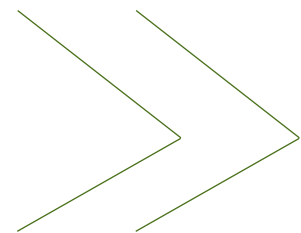
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The mission of the *Northwest Alumni Magazine* is to foster connections between alumni, friends and Northwest Missouri State University. The University strives to inform readers of the accomplishments of Northwest's alumni, friends, faculty, staff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

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# DEAR FRIENDS

I believe in Northwest Missouri State University's principles, which have become my personal goals – I learn, I connect, I care, I practice civility and I show pride. There is nothing that challenges all these goals more than change – that sometimes pesky reality check. I am reminded daily that I must expect change in every situation and every moment. Over the years, I keep learning to hold loose reins on what happens in my life and stay focused on my dreams.

Northwest as an institution also has to be agile and proactive to navigate changes in the economy or higher education, for example. Change is a daily occurrence – and inevitable when there is a change of leadership.

For those of us who have had the chance to meet Northwest's new president, Dr. Lance Tatum, and first lady, Jill Tatum, you know what talented and special people they are. All through the hiring process and even today, I appreciate how genuine and transparent they are, how kind and positive they are, and how committed they are to the ideals of education and Northwest.

Recently, I heard a friend of the University say, "Northwest is like a train. People get on and people get off, but the train keeps moving forward." You can rest assured that Northwest is moving forward and building on its legacy of quality.



Roxanna Swaney '84  
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## RECORD ENROLLMENT

Northwest logged a **record headcount of 9,664** students during its census in September – and 10 days later, the University **surpassed 10,000 students for the first time in its history.**

Northwest increased both its undergraduate and graduate headcounts to 5,615 and 4,468, respectively. Additionally, students in the fall hailed from **46 states and 34 other countries.**

Although the University annually conducts its enrollment census 20 days after the start of the fall semester to record its official headcount for state and federal compliance requirements, enrollment numbers fluctuate throughout the academic year due to Northwest programs – particularly for graduate, certificate and dual credit students – that service the region, offer professional development opportunities and do not follow a traditional academic calendar. As a result, Northwest continues to experience unprecedented growth in its dual credit, graduate and online sectors.



## AMONG TOP SCHOOLS IN MIDWEST

Northwest is included on U.S. News and World Report’s list of “2024 Best Colleges,” which ranks the institution among the top 25 public regional universities in the Midwest.

Northwest came in at No. 22 on the list of public regional universities in the Midwest, which is an improvement of 13 spots from No. 35 last year. The ranking places Northwest third

among public schools in Missouri, trailing only Truman State University and the University of Central Missouri.

Among all regional universities in the Midwest, U.S. News ranks Northwest at No. 76, up 28 spots from No. 104 in 2023.

Additionally, Northwest ranks No. 33 among regional universities in the Midwest and second among Missouri public institutions on U.S. News’s list of “Best Colleges for Veterans,” a new ranking this year.

## POSITIVE FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Moody’s Investors Service, in September, upgraded Northwest’s financial outlook to positive and affirmed its bond ratings as a reflection of the University’s consistently favorable operating performance.

Northwest’s improved outlook from a stable rating as a result of Moody’s last assessment of the University in 2018 to a positive rating this fall – as well as the affirmation of its A2 issuer rating and A3 revenue bond ratings – reflects favorable trends in reserve growth and sustained strong operating performance.

Moody’s cited Northwest’s “regionally important role with a very solid financial position” and the University’s ability to attract non-resident and international students, which has supported its enrollment growth.



Left to right are Northwest Facility Services staff members Tim Hill '93 and Shane Baumgart at KCIC’s Sustainability Awards Breakfast.

## GOLD-LEVEL SUSTAINABILITY

Northwest was honored in October by the Kansas City Industrial Council as a Gold Level recipient of its Sustainability Award for commitment to energy efficiency.

Northwest was the only educational institution in the state to receive the Gold Level prize among 11 organizations to receive the Sustainability Award, including the Kansas City Art Institute and Kansas City International Airport.



## THOMPSON-RINGOLD BUILDING DEMOLISHED

Northwest demolished its Thompson-Ringold Building this fall, taking another step in its multi-year plan to address aging facilities.

The two-story building completed in 1931 to serve as the hub for industrial arts programs underwent multiple expansions and remodels throughout its lifespan. Eventually, it was named to honor two long-time faculty members in the industrial arts – Kenneth Thompson, who served at Northwest from 1942 to 1975, and Howard Ringold, who served from 1945 to 1975.

After Northwest stopped offering industrial arts programming during the early 1990s the building supported a variety of uses during its remaining decades, including as a temporary home for staff offices and programs while other campus buildings were renovated.

The University, in recent months, also completed demolitions of North Complex and Phillips residence halls. The grounds previously occupied by the demolished buildings are being transformed into green space. The University is evaluating future uses for the locations and has no plans to build new structures at this time.





Dr. Jerry Qi, an associate professor of computer science and information systems, teaches a digital forensics course in the cybersecurity lab.

### UPGRADES TO COLDEN HALL SPACES HELP PREPARE STUDENTS FOR TECH CAREERS

A remodeled classroom and other spaces on the lower floor of Colden Hall this fall are enhancing the learning experience for students in the School of Computer Science and Information Systems.

A room that previously was a networking lab with outdated equipment was transformed during the summer months into what is now a cybersecurity laboratory, equipped with a virtualization server, desktop computers and modern networking equipment for students to use. It also features cameras for video conferencing and multiple projection screens that allow students to receive instruction from multiple angles within the classroom.

Two other labs on the lower floor of Colden Hall were combined to make a larger room equipped with Mac computers for iOS coursework, round work tables and multiple screens to facilitate collaboration.

Additionally, a makerspace provides an environment where students can experiment with a variety of gadgets and try things like 3D modeling and printing, virtual reality and soldering.

“The cybersecurity lab offers students a secure setting to apply their classroom knowledge, allowing them to practice what they learn in classes,” Dr. Joni Hull Adkins ’95, ’01, the director of the School of Computer Science and Information Systems, said. “We know keeping up with the latest technology tools is imperative in our computing fields to help our graduates be competitive in the job market.”



### NORMAN CONTINUES LEGACY OF AWARD-WINNING GEOLOGY STUDENTS

Shelby Norman, a senior geology major with an environmental emphasis from Lee’s Summit, Missouri, is the 2023 recipient of the O.R. Grawe award from the Association of Missouri Geologists, making her the ninth Northwest student to receive the award since 2004.

Norman was recognized during the association’s annual conference in October. Winners receive an engraved Brunton pocket transit, among other prizes. She is active in Northwest’s geology program, serving as a teaching assistant, an Earth science tutor at the Student Success Center, a member of the Geoclub and president of Sigma Gamma Epsilon national honorary Earth science society. After completing her bachelor’s degree in the spring, she hopes to advance her education and pursue environmental policy.

### COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENTS ATTEND, DEVELOP WEB APPLICATION FOR INTERCOLLEGIATE HORSE SHOW



Northwest students worked with horse show administrators this fall to create a web application to assist with horse assignments and other tasks.

Eight graduate students from the School of Computer Science and Information Systems applied their skills and knowledge this fall in a real-time setting by creating a web application for the Regional Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). Northwest students attended a horse show in Belvue, Kansas, where they developed a website to assist the IHSA in assigning horses to riders.

Dr. Aziz Fellah, associate professor of computer science and information systems, advised the project as part of a graduate-directed project course. Catherine Holthaus, an instructor of language, literature and writing, introduced Fellah to the project. Holthaus also is a club sponsor for the Northwest Horsemen’s Association.

“I’m deeply appreciative of Dr. Fellah, computer science and the students who’ve invested their time and energy,” Holthaus said. “Their work, resulting from months of dedication, showcases the exceptional work our academic programs do on campus and just how much even smaller club teams like ours can give back through their dedication.”



## NORTHWEST JOINS TRADE MISSION TO PHILIPPINES

Northwest was represented this fall in a seven-day trade mission to the Philippines with nine U.S. companies to advance agricultural technology and food security in Southeast Asia while educating international and business leaders about the opportunities the University offers.

While the trade mission brought together select U.S. agricultural companies and manufacturers – including Cargill, John Deere, Sukup Manufacturing and Valmont – Northwest was the only educational institution invited to participate in the mission, which showcased U.S. innovation to support the agricultural supply chain.

Thomas Merlot, the director of Northwest's International Involvement Center, and Dr. Rod Barr '87, '95, '09, the director of Northwest's School of Agricultural Sciences, represented the University during the mission.

"I want to show that Northwest is committed on all fronts not only to offer academic opportunities for international students but also understand and serve as a leader in international education," Merlot said. "Dr. Barr played a key role in the mission and it was such a great experience to see



Thomas Merlot (right), the director of Northwest's International Involvement Center, converses with Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, the secretary of environment and natural resources of the Philippines, during an October visit to the region.

him share knowledge and practices with both local and international organizations. I look forward to opening this opportunity to other departments and seeking new opportunities for our faculty to get involved in our international efforts."

## BROWN IS 2024 GOVERNOR'S AWARD WINNER

Dr. Debra Brown, an assistant professor of music in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts, will receive the 2024 Governor's Award for Excellence in Education.

The Governor's Award is sponsored by the Missouri Council on Public Higher Education and presented annually to an outstanding faculty member representing each of Missouri's four-year public institutions.

Recipients are chosen based on criteria for effective teaching, advising, innovation in course design and delivery, service to the university and community, and a commitment to high standards of excellence and success in nurturing student achievement.

Brown, who joined the Northwest faculty in 2017, has taught courses related to American popular music, the intersection of arts, and music methods in elementary and secondary schools.

She consistently receives high student evaluations, including comments referring to her passion, kindness, innovation and being a role model. She has remained focused on teaching in both music and in education while serving as associate department chair and overseeing all aspects of music, including the mentoring of other teachers.

Additionally, her participation and leadership in workshops and pedagogy-based conferences, supervision of education fieldwork and sponsorship of guest artists provides value-added benefits that supplement in-class instruction for students.



## CHAPPELL AMONG INDUCTEES INTO COLLEGE MEDIA ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Northwest Director of Student Publications Steven Chappell, a college media advisor with more than three decades of service to the College Media Association (CMA), was inducted into CMA's John A. Boyd Hall of Fame this fall.

Chappell, an instructor of mass media at Northwest, arrived at the University in 2012, when he succeeded Laura Widmer '79, who was director of student publications at Northwest from 1983 to 2012. Prior to Widmer, Dr. Linda Smith Puntney was the advisor of the Tower yearbook from 1976 to 1978. Widmer and Puntney also are members of the CMA hall of fame, and Chappell credits both, among others, as significant mentors to his college advising success.

Chappell has been a media advisor and active member of CMA since 1993, advising student publications previously at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Missouri—Columbia, Stephens College in Columbia, Truman State University, Middle Tennessee State University and Simpson College in Iowa. He worked for 10 years as a professional journalist in Alabama before becoming a college media advisor.





By Mark Hornickel

Design by Kim Surprise

Photography by Todd Weddle

# *Introducing* the Tatum

Northwest's new president and first lady are focused on investing in the future of the University



*Grand  
Marshall*





Dr. Lance Tatum and his wife, Jill, had finished dinner on a Thursday night last February at their Montgomery, Alabama, home and were settling down to watch TV. They had visited Maryville the prior week – during Lance’s 58th birthday – as the last of four finalists to interview for the roles as Northwest’s next president and first lady. They knew a decision was coming and prayed for their selection.

Lance knows the process of a university presidential search is complex and fragile, with variables that play into every decision. It started earnestly for the Tatums the prior December when Lance was notified that he was being considered to become Northwest’s next president. In January, he interviewed, via Zoom, with the search committee. The morning after that, he received an email inviting him and Jill to visit Maryville and meet campus groups as a finalist for the presidency.

When that Thursday night in February wore on, Lance took their dog outside and left his phone on a table inside the living room. As he returned, Jill told him he missed a phone call from the firm managing Northwest’s search. Lance’s stomach turned with emotion. He knows search firms don’t call the people who aren’t selected for jobs.

He took a minute to catch his breath and headed to the bedroom. He dialed the number and began pacing. The voice on the other side of the call answered, *“Hello, Mr. President.”*

The Tatums rode in Northwest’s Homecoming parade as its grand marshals. Calling the experience one of the highlights of their first semester at Northwest, Lance said. “It just feels like a college campus, and it acts like one, too.”





## WHY NORTHWEST?

Northwest ushered in its latest era when Lance began his work as the 11th president in the University's 118-year history on June 1. A crowd of Northwest employees, students, alumni and community members gathered on the front lawn of the Administration Building that morning as the Tatum family – which includes children, Thad and Zoe – received the welcome.

Prior to arriving at Northwest, Lance had served since 2019 as the senior vice chancellor for academic affairs and chief academic officer at Troy University in Alabama. It's the place where he

earned a bachelor's degree in physical education and a master's degree in foundations of education. It's also where he served in a variety of roles since joining his alma mater in 1998 as a faculty member in sport and fitness management. He served Troy as vice chancellor for its campus

in Montgomery, vice chancellor for its Global Campus, dean of the College of Education, and chair of the Department of Kinesiology and Health Promotion as well as a faculty athletics representative.

*"We always said that when the right opportunity opened up, and if we were fortunate enough to be offered the job, we'd be ready."*

DR. LANCE TATUM

As senior vice chancellor, he was responsible for all aspects of Troy's academic mission and its 32 academic departments, including strategic planning, budgeting and program reviews.

Jill, who comes from a family of educators, is accomplished in her own career. She spent 14 years as a classroom teacher, beginning in urban Montgomery, and then worked 16 years with the state's education department, serving as a literacy specialist. She also earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Troy University.

Reviewing Lance's accomplishments at Troy and hearing the Tatums talk about their appreciation for that institution begs the question: Why Northwest?

"My goal was to be a university president," Lance says. "We always said that when the right opportunity opened up, and if we were fortunate enough to be offered the job, we'd be ready. I did not apply to any job that I wouldn't take."

The Tatums were ready for a growth opportunity, while Thad and Zoe are exploring their own opportunities as students at Auburn University. As the Tatums learned more about Northwest, they felt a pull to invest in another institution the way Troy University and people in Alabama invested in them.

"When we started meeting people who were associated with Northwest, we were like, 'Wow, there's substance here. There's opportunity here. There's people here who believe in this place,'" Lance said of his initial interactions at Northwest.

The couple laughs now about Jill cautioning Lance early in the process not to become emotionally invested in the idea of becoming Northwest's president. But they couldn't help it. As the process



reached its conclusion and the Tatums returned to Alabama to await a decision, Jill told Lance she would be “devastated” if they weren’t selected.

“We were so passionate about Northwest Missouri State University that we wanted to be a part of the fire,” Jill said. “We wanted to be a part of this culture. We wanted to be a part of what was going on.”

## THE MAKING OF NORTHWEST’S NEXT PRESIDENT

Born in Brinkley, Arkansas, a town of about 4,000 people, Lance’s path to the Northwest presidency began, of course, with his parents.

His father, Leo, was employed with the clothing company Phillips-Van Heusen Corporation. He was the first in his family to attend college and completed a bachelor’s degree in industrial management at what is now the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Lance’s mother, Betty Jo, never attended college. A skilled basketball player, she received an offer to play at an Arkansas college but wanted to go to work instead and met Leo after she was placed at a Van Heusen sewing machine next to his mother.

Betty Jo, the youngest of nine children, was a fighter, which Lance says factors into his personality as a leader who defends his beliefs and works to find common ground with others.

“She was quick to defend her family,” he said, remembering an oft-told story in the Tatum family of when Lance, as a boy, was called after school to fight a classmate. Betty Jo Tatum insisted they confront the bully and she accompanied her son to the top of a neighborhood hill, where she used some colorful language and snuffed out the ordeal in about 10 seconds. “That was her mentality. She

confronted everything head-on.”

During his 40 years in administrative roles with Van Heusen, Leo Tatum moved his family from Brinkley to southern Alabama, back to Brinkley, to Pennsylvania and finally back to southern Alabama. Those moves had a profound effect on Lance and helped him learn to appreciate different communities and cultures.

“All that moving around really helped me learn how to meet people, how to get comfortable within the community,” Lance said. “But it also taught me happiness comes from within and from your relationship with God. It’s not necessarily the place; you make the place. That was a big part of us coming to Maryville.”

The next significant mentor in Lance’s life was Barbara Hicks, a high school English teacher in Ozark, Alabama, who helped him see his leadership potential beyond being a baseball player. With her encouragement, Lance joined the school newspaper and later became its editor. Ironically, the experience earned him a scholarship to Troy, but he decided instead to continue his baseball career at Wallace Community College as an infielder hoping to get a shot at going pro.

Playing college ball, however, was “a real shock to my system, physically as well as emotionally,” Lance said. Two years at Wallace helped him come to a realization that he needed to prepare himself for a different profession.

After a summer of unloading semi-trucks for Van Heusen, Lance enrolled at Troy and began pursuing coursework in sports and recreation. He also knew he needed employment of some kind and found his way into a part-time job at Troy’s aquatics center. It was there that another mentor – Dr. Don Jeffrey, then the director of aquatics at Troy – further altered the course of Lance’s life. Within six months of starting as a desk worker and checking IDs, Lance was supervising the lifeguard staff and developing



From top to bottom, President Tatum greeted incoming students during Northwest’s Summer Orientation Advisement and Registration (SOAR) sessions in June; President Tatum handed out Chick-fil-A sandwiches to students during the first day of classes on the Northwest campus in August; President Tatum conversed with first-year early childhood education majors Briana Crites and McKenna Black after they won a residence hall room-decorating contest in October.





schedules. As he finished his undergraduate degree, Lance was teaching sailing.

Jeffrey, who later became dean of Troy's College of Health and Human Services, encouraged Lance to advance his education, first by completing a master's degree and then a Ph.D. in sport management at Florida State University. It was Jeffrey again who helped bring Lance back to Troy as a department chair and then, while Jeffrey was a vice chancellor, recommended Lance to become Troy's chief academic officer.

The care and mentorship of people like his parents, Barbara Hicks and Don Jeffrey played pivotal roles in Lance's

successful career. But as Lance moved up the administrative ladder at Troy, leaving his mark on a diverse set of people and programs, a void in his life was filled when he met Jill. During his introductory news conference at Northwest last March, Lance called her his "greatest supporter and most constructive sounding board."

Lance was raising Thad and Zoe, his children from a previous marriage, as a single father when his sister and a friend of Jill's matched the couple. Lance and Jill had crossed paths as Troy students, but their connection then never amounted to more. Today, they have been happily married for eight years.

"Jill just has this light about her that makes you feel important, connected and loved," Lance said. "I always thought that was the most remarkable thing – that we could walk into a room, because almost immediately she gets thrown into this environment where we're having to go to community events or institutional events, and it was like she had been a part of those groups her entire life."



## ENVISIONING NORTHWEST'S FUTURE

As the Tatums enter the second half of their first year at Northwest, planning is underway for Lance's inauguration on April 19, when the new president will outline his vision for the University.

Since arriving in Maryville, the Tatums have focused on educating themselves about Northwest's culture, history and traditions – while taking care not to disrupt the University's momentum.

Fall gatherings with alumni and friends in Kansas City, Omaha and Des Moines – dubbed the "Tatum Tour" – gave the couple an opportunity to meet and begin to build relationships with people who are closely connected with Northwest. Additionally, the president has accepted numerous invitations to speak with community groups, and the couple has hosted several student and alumni groups at the Thomas Gaunt House, the historic presidential residence on the Northwest campus.



Clockwise from top left, President Tatum participated in his first commencement ceremonies at Northwest in December; the Tatum family – Thad, Lance, Jill and Zoe – were welcomed to Northwest on June 1 outside the Administration Building; the Tatums greeted first-year students in August during the annual March to the Tower, which commemorates the students' passage into the Bearcat family.



“Northwest Missouri State has a rich and very strong past,” Lance told a group of alumni and friends who gathered in October to meet him in Kansas City. “It doesn’t take a lot of time and conversation to see how the University has impacted the lives of its graduates. What speaks to Jill and I when we talk to outside groups, it’s about the students. During my interviewing process, I tried to make sure that the committee and everyone understood – for me it’s about serving students.”

While Lance believes the

and continues to adjust recruitment strategies to remain competitive in the higher ed market.

“I knew coming in that there were no major cracks in how Northwest was conducting business,” Lance said. “Decisions had been made before my arrival that put the University in a really strong position. Now, the challenges are the challenges of higher ed; the challenges are the challenges of regional universities. But those were not a surprise to me.”

Among his other priorities during the fall was signing off on an

*“People are hungry for what is the next evolutionary step for this University. I think that is probably the greatest motivating factor for me.”*

DR. LANCE TATUM

foundation of Northwest is strong, he recognizes the University has challenges, too, and one of his first charges is to stabilize enrollment. Although Northwest achieved another record overall headcount this fall, the number of degree-seeking undergraduate students – the students at the core of the campus culture who occupy classrooms, live on and around the campus, and participate in student organizations – is short of where the University wants it to be.

Northwest is not an outlier in that area as higher education works to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and braces for the so-called “enrollment cliff” as fewer students enter and graduate high school. To offset any projected enrollment drop, Northwest recently restructured its scholarship model

overhaul of Northwest’s antiquated infrastructure. In September, the Board of Regents gave its approval for the University to embark on a project that will transform and modernize the campus’s central plant. The total cost is estimated to be no more than \$105 million and it will take two to three years to complete, making it the largest capital project in the institution’s history.

At the core of the new president’s vision is reinvesting in Northwest. That means enhancing Northwest as an attractive place that provides students with a memorable college experience and prepares them for gainful employment, and supporting the institution’s employees with resources necessary to ensure the University’s sustainability for the long-term.

“What I’ve really been pleased to



President Tatum addressed Northwest faculty and staff during the University’s All-Employee Meeting to launch the fall semester in August. “I have learned much about Northwest, Maryville, the region and the state, but I also know there is much left for me to learn,” Tatum told the gathering. “As a lifelong educator, I know one’s education never ends, and my commitment to you is that I will continue to work daily to make Northwest a place that you, our students and alumni, and our citizens of Maryville, can be proud of.”

begin to understand is that people have this great sense of what is next,” Lance said. “People are hungry for what is the next evolutionary step for this University. I think that is probably the greatest motivating factor for me.”

As the Tatums serve Northwest as president and first lady, they will continue to draw inspiration from the people who invested in them and helped them be successful in their careers.

“Everything we do will come from that perspective,” Lance said. “It is not about Lance Tatum or Jill Tatum. It is about Northwest, and we will do what is in the best interest of Northwest.”





# STORIED SERVICE

**Donation of family collection reveals depth of graduate's military career, White House connection**

Just days before leaving the White House at the end of his term in January 1953, President Harry Truman wrote to Maj. Ray Miller and commended him for the attention Miller provided to the Truman family and staff as the assistant White House physician.

"Your personality, character, and medical skill are highly praiseworthy. I am happy to congratulate you on the superior service you have performed in the fulfillment of your duties in the White House," reads the letter, which is signed in black ink by Harry Truman and typed on white paper with a White House letterhead.

For Miller, a 1937 Northwest graduate, it was just one noteworthy achievement during a remarkable military and medical career that will receive new attention after his

children donated a large collection of his personal artifacts to the University. Among the dozens of items University Archives received are Ray's medical equipment, military uniforms, pins and honors, diaries written while he was a high school student and serving in World War II, presidential travel logs and photos as well as additional written correspondence between the Truman and Miller families.

At Northwest, unfortunately, Ray's story had been lost to the passage of time. It was only when the eldest of his three sons, Doug Miller, contacted

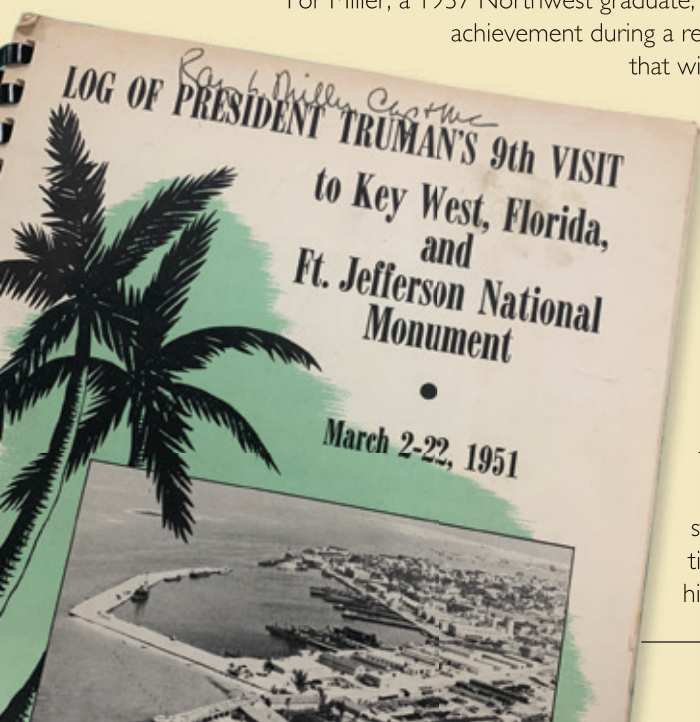
the University about taking possession of the artifacts that Ray's accomplished career gained new light.

"This is a story like I have never seen referenced in any of the Northwest history books or anything that he had any connection to Northwest," Jessica Schmidt Vest '07, the University's archivist, said. "It's neat that this all kind of uncovered somebody we had lost track of, so to speak."

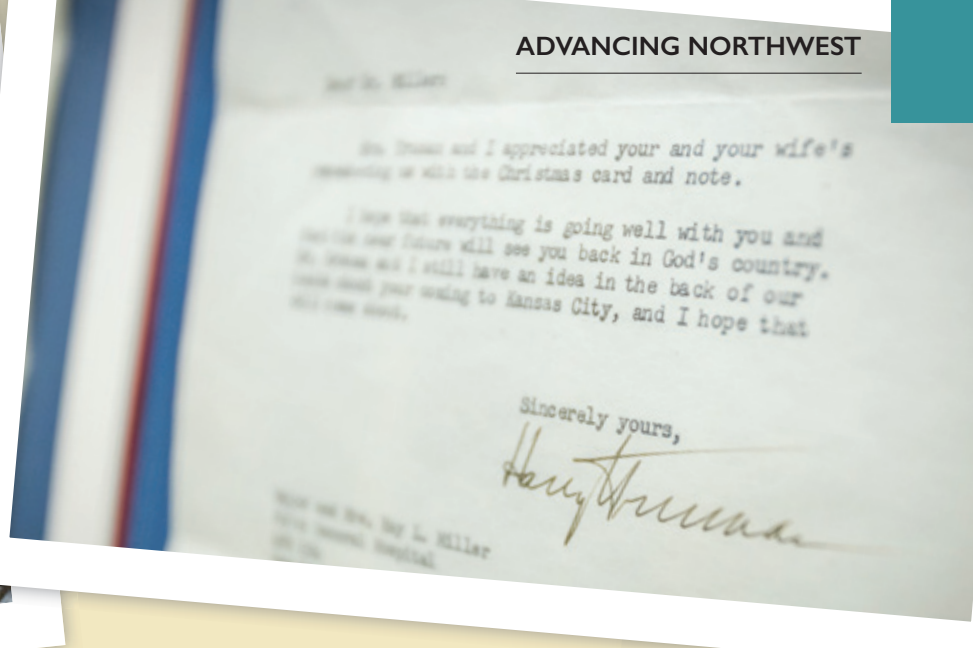
Ray was born in Maryville in 1913 to Nathaniel and Florence Miller as the oldest of four children and began his illustrious military career when he joined the 128th Field Artillery of the Missouri National Guard at age 17. After graduating from Maryville High School, he went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Education in biology at what was then Northwest Missouri State Teachers College.

During that time, he wed Virginia "Ginnie" Yates, a native of Shenandoah, Iowa, who attended Northwest briefly. The couple was married for 57 years and lived throughout the world before their final decades in Tacoma, Washington. Ray died in 1991, and Ginnie died in 2004; both are interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

"He always wanted to be a doctor, and he somehow managed to find the funds during the Great Depression to go to med school," Doug said. "He lived and died medicine. Up until his death, he continued to work seven







From left to right: Sam Meservey, a junior history major from Chillicothe, helped catalog Ray Miller's medical tools as an intern in University Archives. A framed portrait of Miller. Some of Miller's medical equipment donated to Northwest includes his physician's bag with a stethoscope and blood pressure cuff, along with a microscope, field surgery kits and his surgical glasses.

days a week. He'd be a cardiologist five days a week at Western Clinic in Tacoma. Day six and seven – Saturdays and Sundays – he'd put in rounds at nursing homes in Tacoma. So he was incredibly proud of that and his military career especially."

In 1940, as the U.S. edged closer to entering World War II, Ray was a sophomore medical student at the University of Missouri-Columbia when his Guard unit was mobilized. He wound up serving in England and in Germany during the war and participated in D-Day as a tank destroyer artillery officer in First Army under the command of Gen. Omar Bradley.

After Ray returned to the United States in 1945, he resigned his Army commission as a lieutenant colonel and joined the Army Reserves to resume his medical studies. Ginnie worked as a typist in the war department at the Pentagon, and the couple started their family in Arlington, Virginia.

Then in 1950, barely a graduate from George Washington Medical School, Ray was invited to join the Truman family's personal medical staff as an Army captain, and served until Truman left the White House. As a native of Missouri and member of the 128th Field Artillery during World War I, Truman was well-connected with Maryville veterans. In fact, he visited the Northwest campus on Feb. 6, 1955, to participate in the dedication ceremony of its National Guard Armory

building, which is the Jon T. Rickman Electronic Campus Support Center today.

Although Doug was a young boy when the Trumans occupied the White House, he remembers several stories that have become Miller family lore, including a night in March 1952 when Madge Wallace, the president's mother-in-law, wanted to see the Millers' youngest son after his birth.

"Mrs. Wallace called my mother and said, 'I'm sending a limo to the house. I want to see the baby,'" Doug recalled. "This limo pulled up in front of this quite modest apartment complex in Arlington, and my mom and my newborn baby brother were loaded into a limo and went to the White House. (Wallace) took the baby from my mom and rocked my younger brother in a rocker in the private dwelling section of the White House."

After the Truman presidency, Ray returned to active duty as a major and served again in England and Germany from 1955 to 1959. During the 1960s, he accepted assignments as chief of medicine at Valley Forge in Pennsylvania, Fort Bragg in North Carolina and Fort Lewis in Washington before his service took him to Vietnam, where he served in 1966 and 1967 as commander of the 44th Medical Brigade, overseeing 17 MASH hospitals. He was awarded the Technical Medal First Class for his service as a medical director and the Legion of Merit, the Army's second-highest decoration for duties not involving ground combat.

Ray then returned to Valley Forge and ended his 26-year active Army career in 1968 as a colonel. He worked the remainder of his life in Washington state as an internist at Tacoma's Western Clinic and medical director of the Tacoma Lutheran Home.

Vest, with the assistance of three public history students last spring, processed and catalogued the Miller family's collection. As exhibits are rotated in campus spaces, the items from Ray's career will be included, as they were this fall at Veterans Commons in Valk Center.

In addition to the profession-based learning opportunities that the collection can now offer students and researchers at the University, Doug hopes his father's artifacts are a source of inspiration and pride for a Maryville native and Northwest alumnus whose military and medical achievements earned him full honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

"You can do anything if you set your mind to it, essentially, and that's what he taught us as boys growing up," Doug said. "That was one of the most important tenets we learned from our father was that you can achieve anything if you're willing to put the time and the effort into it."





Angelo and Paula Savaiano are pictured on the Kissing Bridge while visiting the Northwest campus last year for their 50th-year reunion.

## COUPLE EXPRESSES GRATITUDE FOR EDUCATION THROUGH GIFT TO MARTINDALE HALL PROJECT

A former Bearcat student-athlete and his wife – a Nodaway County native and also a Northwest alumna – are the latest “health champions” joining a growing list of donors and friends who are supporting a renovation to modernize Martindale Hall.

Angelo '72, '74, and Paula Moyer '72, '73, Savaiano have remained connected with the University since completing their degrees and continue to give toward areas of need at the institution as a way of showing their gratitude for Northwest.

“We love supporting the football, basketball and the alumni events,” Paula said. “We have a lot of loyal Bearcat friends who live closer to Maryville and also attended Northwest, and we like to continue to keep up those relationships.”

Northwest completed a \$1.3 million renovation of Martindale Hall’s third floor last spring that includes academic laboratory spaces to support nursing, human services and school counseling programs as well as faculty offices. That, however, was just the first phase of long-term plans to update the entire building as Northwest is raising funds to match a state grant and fund the \$17 million project total by December 2024. When complete, the reimagined space will be home to a diverse portfolio of bachelor’s degree programs related to nutrition, nursing, recreation, applied health sciences, physical education, psychology and human services.

To commemorate the Savaianos’ generosity, a psychology lab will be named in their honor and provide students with new opportunities to engage in research projects related to cognition, learning and biological factors connected to psychological functioning.

After beginning their careers in education, Paula began staying home to raise the couple’s three daughters, and Angelo entered the trucking business. He joined Roadway Express in 1976 and stayed with the company until retiring in 2008 as vice president of corporate accounts. The couple resides today in LeClaire, Iowa.

## KAWASAKI SUPPORTS MCKEMY CENTER RENOVATION, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corporation added its support to Northwest’s efforts to boost workforce and economic development in the region.

The manufacturer committed \$100,000 to a renovation of Northwest’s McKemy Center for Lifelong Learning, where the University is launching a systems management program for manufacturing and agribusiness.

With the support of partners such as Kawasaki, the McKemy Center is now home to revised and expanded programming with welding booths, laboratory space, and safety and infrastructure upgrades. The University also is developing coursework in the areas of welding, precision measuring, electronics and electricity, mechatronics, personal protective equipment and safety, robotics and other industry-standard certifications.

“Kawasaki is a tremendous partner for our University, community and state,” Jill Brown, the director of corporate relations and a major gift officer at Northwest, said. “We are incredibly grateful for their years of support and especially excited to see how this new endeavor allows our collaboration to flourish and better address the employment needs of the area.”

Kawasaki, which is Nodaway County’s largest employer and a driver of northwest Missouri’s economy and workforce development initiatives for more than 30 years, also is a valued supporter of Northwest programs. Last spring, Kawasaki donated \$40,000 to the Northwest Foundation in support of two scholarship programs as well as the University’s Visiting Writers Series.



Northwest, on Nov. 8, celebrated the completion of its renovation of the McKemy Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Pictured left to right are Provost Dr. Jamie Hooymann; Tim Melvin '84, production manager for assembly materials at Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corporation; Dr. Rod Barr '87, '95, '09, director of the School of Agricultural Sciences; student Meghan Hunerdosse; President Dr. Lance Tatum; Dr. Marvin Hoskey, a retired assistant professor of agriculture; and Matt Bax '09, an instructor of agricultural sciences.

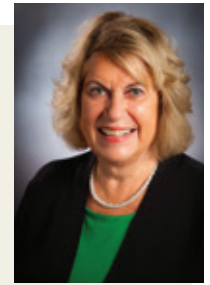


# NORTHWEST FOUNDATION WELCOMES 7 NEW MEMBERS

The Northwest Foundation Inc. has appointed seven new members to its Board of Directors to help guide the University's advancement and grow private support. These new members joined the Board in July.

## SUSAN JOHNSON HOCKENSMITH '72

She resides in Manchester, Missouri, and has owned Lakeside Children's Academy since 1992. Additionally, she operates Pony Bird, an organization she and her husband, Dana, co-founded in 1977 for non-ambulatory children.



## JODY ATHEN

A resident of Hamburg, Iowa, she is retired after a career in accounting and human resources manager roles. She and her husband, Don, are active supporters of Northwest.



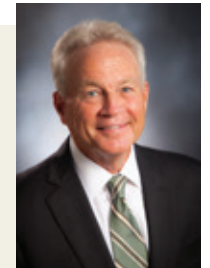
## MATT GAARDER '97

He is a Maryville resident and owner of Rapid Elite, a provider of printing and shipping services. He broadcast Bearcat football and basketball games for 20 years as a partner with the Bearcat Radio Network and continues to serve as the public address announcer for Bearcat football, basketball and baseball games.



## MIKE KELLY '78

A resident of Lee's Summit, Missouri, he retired in 2020 after 35 years with Thomas McGee Group, a division of Risk Strategies, in Kansas City. Previously, he worked in supervisor and management roles with insurance agencies.



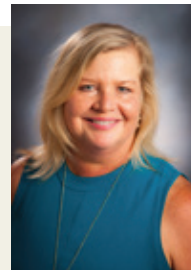
## DR. TERRY BARNES '70, '72

He resides in Columbia, Missouri, and retired in 2016 as the assistant provost for community college partnerships and a graduate school professor at the University of Missouri—Columbia. His 46-year career included numerous other higher education roles, including assistant vice president for academic affairs at Northwest from 1988 to 1992.



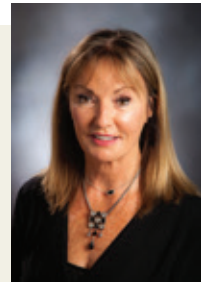
## JENNIFER HEWITT '86

She resides in Lenexa, Kansas, and is a principal consultant with New Jersey-based NICE System Inc. Previously, she worked for 28 years in director and manager roles with Sprint.



## REBECCA SUMMA SULLIVAN (ATTD. '69-'73)

She resides in Leawood, Kansas, and retired in 2016 after 23 years with Lockton Companies as senior vice president and healthcare team leader. She spent 43 years working in a variety of roles in the insurance industry.



# #BEARCAT DAY OF GREEN

Support Northwest during our  
annual online day of giving!

April 2 & 3, 2024

1905 Minutes to Celebrate Northwest



**NORTHWEST FOUNDATION, INC.**  
NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY





## MARYVILLE COUPLE CONTRIBUTING SUPPORT TOWARD DEVELOPMENT OF MICRO-CREAMERY

Rex Brod '82 and his wife, Vicki, have joined the University's Homesteader society, a group of donors providing gifts of \$25,000 or greater in support of the Agricultural Learning Center (ALC). With their gift, the Brods are advancing the construction of a micro-creamery inside the ALC at the R.T. Wright Farm.

Last summer, Northwest's Board of Regents approved plans for the micro-creamery, giving the School of Agricultural Sciences an opportunity to enhance profession-based learning for its students and the potential to one day offer milk and other dairy products to consumers.

Northwest maintains a dairy herd of approximately 70 cattle at the Wright Farm, which is located north of the Maryville campus and used to teach agriculture students about dairy health, management and collection. A lack of processing facilities at Northwest, however, means students' learning ends after the collected milk leaves the farm.

The proposed project will remedy that gap, allowing students and regional producers to experience the entire lifecycle of dairy production, from herd management and collection through processing, food production, safety testing and potentially even the marketing and retail of fluid milk, ice cream, butter, cheeses or other dairy products.

The Brods were motivated to support the micro-creamery project with a gift to the Northwest Foundation not only as a show of appreciation for their long-standing connection with the University but also because of their interest in supporting agriculture initiatives.

"Hopefully it will give more opportunities, especially in agriculture," Rex said. "The hands-on experience of working with a dairy or livestock or even agronomy and dealing with plant science – that's invaluable. So to be able to help someone along on their walk and maybe their love of agriculture is important to us."

Rex graduated from Northwest with a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics and was active in agriculture organizations as well as the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. Prior to attending Northwest, he developed a passion for agriculture while growing up on a small diversified farm in southeast Nebraska.

The Brods have lived in Maryville for 28 years and raised four children around the University campus. Rex is a market president for U.S. Bank in Maryville, and Vicki, who has worked in education for 15 years, is the registrar at Maryville High School.

## RETIRED COMPUTER SCIENCE PROFESSOR SUPPORTING WOMEN, DIVERSITY IN COMPUTING THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

Dr. Carol Spradling '88, a computer science and information systems faculty member for 32 years at Northwest, recently established the Diversity in Computing Scholarship endowment and provided additional funding to the University's Women in Computing Scholarship, which she established in 2016.

The inaugural Diversity in Computing Scholarship will award \$1,000 to a student for the 2024-25 academic year. Recipients shall be sophomores, juniors or seniors enrolled full-time at Northwest with a minimum 2.00 GPA, and preference will be given to Black, American Indian, Alaska Native, Hispanic, Latino, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander students.

Additionally, Spradling's recent gift increases the Women in Computing Scholarship's annual award to \$1,000. It is awarded to an undergraduate female with a minimum 3.00 GPA with a preference for students who have made significant contributions through involvement or technology-related employment on campus.

"The tech sector lacks a diverse pipeline as it relates to women and minority populations," Spradling said. "One way to address this issue is to provide scholarship funding that encourages diverse populations to enroll and remain in a variety of computing majors in the School of Computer Science and Information Systems. The Women in Computing and Diversity in Computing scholarships are my attempt to provide tangible and sustained progress toward a diverse pipeline goal."







**NORTHWEST FOUNDATION, INC.**  
NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

# MAKE A GIFT TO NORTHWEST WITH AN IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

If you are 70 or older, an IRA charitable rollover is a way you can help Northwest and receive tax benefits.

**CONSIDER THESE ADVANTAGES:**

- Avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to the Northwest Foundation
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year
- Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions
- Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts
- Help further the work and mission of the Northwest Foundation

Visit [northwestlegacy.org](http://northwestlegacy.org) to learn about the many advantages of IRA charitable rollover gifts and other ways to give to Northwest.

## SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

### ALUMNUS ESTABLISHES SCHOLARSHIP FOR AG, BUSINESS STUDENTS THROUGH IRA ROLLOVER

Ed Jones '60 took advantage of the benefits available through an individual retirement account (IRA) and leveraged a qualified charitable distribution to establish a scholarship for agriculture and business students while paying tribute to the education he and his late wife received at Northwest

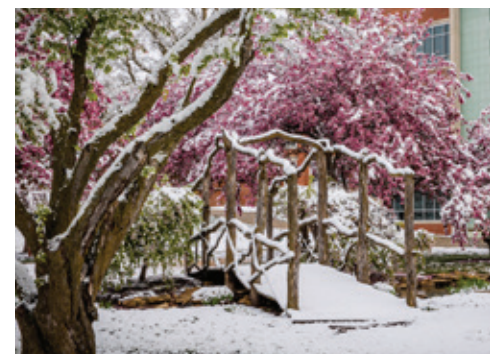
Graduates of North Harrison High School in Eagleville, Missouri, and South Harrison High School in Bethany, Missouri, who attend Northwest are now eligible to apply for the Ed and Judy (Bolar) Jones Scholarship.



Judy and Ed Jones

"I hope it gives people in local schools an opportunity to go on to college and obtain a college education that can broaden their experience and let them have the opportunity that Judy and I did over our working careers," Ed said. "We can set an example for younger people to see that – coming from a small community – if you work hard and get an education, you do have opportunities."

The Ed and Judy (Bolar) Jones Scholarship fund remains open to accept future contributions from donors. To contribute to the scholarship or give to other Northwest initiatives, visit [www.nwmissouri.edu/giveonline](http://www.nwmissouri.edu/giveonline) or contact Northwest's Office of University Advancement at 660.562.1248.



### NORTHWEST FOUNDATION REPORTS SUCCESSFUL FY23, MAINTAINS FOCUS ON SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

Northwest Foundation Inc., the fundraising arm of the University, achieved one of its most successful years during the last five decades while supporting continued upgrades to campus facilities and scholarship funding. Scholarship support, which remains a central mission of the Foundation, totaled nearly **\$1.5 million and funded 1,467 scholarship awards** to Northwest students during the last fiscal year.

Learn more about giving to Northwest and review donor listings by visiting [www.nwmissouri.edu/foundation/annualreports/](http://www.nwmissouri.edu/foundation/annualreports/).



# ALUMNI GATHERINGS

**Get involved today!** For more information about joining Northwest Alumni Association chapters and activities, call 660.562.1248 or email [alumni@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:alumni@nwmissouri.edu).

## ST. JOSEPH ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

The St. Joseph Alumni and Friends Chapter hosted its 15th annual Barn Party in September at the home of Vic and Denise Kretzschmar.

Lying in front is Jackson Curley and sitting left to right in the first row are Paula Northup Miller '95, Mary McClanahan '71, Art Homer, Northwest President Dr. Lance Tatum and first lady Jill Tatum, Greg Pierpoint '80, Robin Pierpoint, Frances Fine, Charlotte Knorr, Charles Knorr, Jacob Wood '17 and Shelby Letuli Wood '19. In the second row are Polly Ketterman Havard '87, Jan

Erickson Corley '70, Bill Penniston '74, Mary Ann Penniston, Emily Wormsley Greene '71, Debra Gutzmer, Sue Taylor, Jennifer Davidson Harman '97, '99, Steve White '79, Marvin Fine '64, '71, Laurie Drummond Long '92, Susan Peugh Sexton '73, Christine Stobbs Schmitter '86, Denise Bower Kretzschmar '71 and Vic Kretzschmar '70, '71. In the third row are Duane Havard '90, Martin Curley '09 with Cooper Curley, Mark Gutzmer, Rob Bolin '83, Scott Harman, Harold Johnson '64, Debby White, Carole Lininger Johnson '63, '92, Nancy Headrick '78, Joe Zimmerman '70, Angie Mollenhour, Gretchen Mollenhour Curley '08, Carma Greene Kinman '85, Mike Kinman '81 and Bruce Schmitter.



## ST. LOUIS ALUMNI AND FRIENDS CHAPTER

The St. Louis Alumni and Friends Chapter gathered in September at Rock and Brews in Chesterfield, Missouri. On the left, from front to back, are Kevin Terry '73, Lindsay Gillespie '21, Meena Correll '00 and Fiona Correll. On the right side from front to back are Ann Summa, Brad Summa '91, Ainsley Rogers, Gery Rogers '79 and Mike Rogers '76.



## WILSON HALL RESIDENTS REUNITE

Left to right during a reunion in July are Laura Miller Eastham, Cindy Sherrill Riddle, Robyn Hackworth-Brueggeman '86, Darla Wilkins Stalder and Sue Johnson Bustamante. The women have remained friends since 1982 when they lived together on the second floor of Wilson Hall in South Complex.

## ALUMNI CHAPTERS

For more information about a chapter or to get involved, contact the Northwest Alumni Association at 660.562.1248 or [alumni@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:alumni@nwmissouri.edu).



SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND A CHAPTER NEAR YOU.





### SIGMA SIGMA SIGMA

Twenty-five alumni of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority gathered for their third biannual reunion Oct. 6-7, which included a tour of the Northwest campus and a lunch and dinner at the home of Emily Wormsley Greene.

Pictured in Roberta Hall, left to right in the front row, are Kathy Sweeney Hora '74, Julie Parker Anderson, Debbie Long Kirkpatrick '71, Debbie Palaska Levitch '72, Patty Saltzman Hemington '72, Vicki Horton Hargens '71, Veronica Jones Alderson '73 and Vicki Snell Kephart '71. In the back row are Melinda Heck Tally, Bev Peteman Schelling '72, Becky Summa Sullivan, Jeanie Pyles Burnett '73, Emily Wormsley Greene '71, Debbie Snodgrass Hinman '89, Arlene Horner Alexander '71, Diane Engelbrecht Buckley '71, Barb Lundergan Jensen and Jane Ingles Pepper '72.



### CENTRAL IOWA ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

The Central Iowa Alumni and Friends Chapter gathered in August at Felix & Oscars in Des Moines. Left to right in the front row are Polly Ketterman Havard '87, Margaret Patterson, Phil Patterson '74, '78, Jim Wilson '66, Jon McAvoy '69, Betty Meyn '71 and Ann Knauss. In the back row are Duane Havard '90, Faith Spark, Jane Laughlin Sullivan '74, Tim Sullivan '75, Renee Hahn '95, Judy Bunch, Deni Spark '73, Dennis Bunch '69 and Rich Knauss '70.



### INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI

International alumni of the University visited the Michael L. Faust Center for Alumni and Friends in November during a weekend visit to Maryville. Pictured left to right in front are Zarina Abu '88, Azlina Ahmad '89, Tony Baboolal '93, and Sallehuddin Hasnan '90. In back are Kumaraswamy Shanmukham '88, Imran Kamadia '90, Adel Abbasi '89, Silesh Ethirajulu '90, Ravi Iyer '87 and Sam Smalldon '91.



### NORTHWEST RETIREE ASSOCIATION

Members of the Northwest Retiree Association participated in a guided tour of the Missouri Arboretum at the Northwest campus in September. Left to right in the front row are Dr. Karen Schaffer, Mary Anne Butler-Torgimson, Dr. Janice Brandon-Falcone, Dr. Johanne Fairchild and Dr. Christine Corrigan Benson '89. In the back row are Rosalie Weathermon '74, '00, Benjamin Graham '76, Ken Nelson, Barb Nelson, Dr. Louise Horner, Channing Horner, Dr. Tom Zweifel, Jolaine Zweifel '00, Dr. Jim Eiswert and Dr. Theo Ross.



### TOURIN' BEARCATS VISIT SCOTLAND

The Tourin' Bearcats, Northwest's travel program for alumni and friends, visited Scotland May 15-24 and explored the Isle of Skye, Armadale Castle, Loch Ness, the Orkney Islands, Dunrobin Castle and Edinburgh Castle in addition to participating in a bagpipe lesson, sheepdog demonstrations and a Scottish cooking experience. Left to right in the front row are Peggy Watts, Janet Mullock, Mary Valentine, Richard Mullock, Damian Valline Bridges '84, David Barnett '96, Shirley Campbell Barnett '84, '93, Mitzi Craft Marchant '91, '09, Mark Marchant, Michael Steiner '85, Lori McLemore Steiner '85 and Polly Ketterman Havard '87. In the middle row are Diane Anderson Peters '72, Diana Spire '99, Vivian Wright '71, Nancy McCrory '89, Celia Davis '89, Norma Burton Strombom '68, Nancy Bishop '68, Christina Heintz '99, Beverly Blackford, Gelene McKee, Margaret Rooney Pierson '75, Les Clark '00, Jeanne Clark, Sarah Woodruff Arnold '70, Ida Giffin, Faith Giffin '98 and Samuel Wright '62. In the back row are Duane Havard '90, Brian Stewart, Jayson Lockhart '21, Clare Travis '21, Deborah Fannon, Robin Lindhorst, Tara Nolte, Kurtis Fink, Jim Blackford '72, James McKee, Wayne Pierson '73, Michael Jackson '94 and Keith Arnold '69.



# NORTHWEST ALUMNI

NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY



Pictured left to right, in the front row, are Suzi Post, Emily Greene, Kimberly Cole, Cherine Heckman, Debra James and Carma Kinman; in the middle row are Tess Lovig, Janice Corley, Sheila Wogomon, Maureen Freese and Melissa Mincy; in the back row are Dave Teeter, Matt Gaarder, Brandon Benitz, Duane Havard, Chris Blum and Dr. Allison Atkinson.

## 2023-24 NORTHWEST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### PRESIDENT

Matt Gaarder '97, Maryville

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Kimberly Massey Cole '93, Overland Park, Kan.

### PAST-PRESIDENT

Dr. Allison Kahre Atkinson '06, '11, '19, St. Joseph, Mo.

### MEMBERS

Brandon Benitz '00, '08, Kearney, Neb.  
 Chris Blum '92, Lincoln, Neb.  
 Damian Valline Bridges '84, Kansas City, Mo.  
 Janice Erickson Corley '70, Maryville  
 Maureen Mader Freese '86, Arcadia, Iowa  
 Cherine Heckman '77, '83, Columbia, Mo.  
 Debra Parsons James '82, Kearney, Mo.  
 Melissa Moody Mincy '06, West Des Moines, Iowa  
 D'Vante Mosby '18, Kansas City, Mo.  
 Elizabeth Motazedi, student member, Joplin, Mo.

Suzi Schuckman Post '06, Lee's Summit, Mo.

Dave Teeter '86, Montgomery City, Mo.  
 Sheila Yoder Wogomon '95, Blue Springs, Mo.

### EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

Duane Havard '90, Director of Alumni Relations  
 Carma Greene Kinman '85, Constituent and Alumni Relations Specialist  
 Tess Lovig '20, Annual Giving and Alumni Relations Specialist  
 Emily Wormsley Greene '71, Northwest Foundation Inc. Representative  
 Mitzi Craft Marchant '91, '09, Vice President of University Advancement and Executive Director of the Northwest Foundation Inc.  
 Lori McLemore Steiner '85, Assistant Vice President of University Advancement and Chief Finance Officer of the Northwest Foundation Inc.

### MISSION:

The Northwest Alumni Association fosters lifelong relationships through initiatives and opportunities that advance the University and its alumni, future alumni and friends.



## SAVE THE DATE!

Northwest Alumni Association  
**ALUMNI AWARDS BANQUET**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024**

**Agricultural Learning Center**

5 p.m. Social  
 6 p.m. Dinner and awards presentation

### The 2023-2024 Alumni Awards recipients:

**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD**  
**Dr. Mark Harpst '77, '80, '83**

**DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD**  
**Dr. Jeffrey Thornsberry**

**DISTINGUISHED FACULTY EMERITUS AWARD**  
**Dr. Christine Corrigan Benson '89**

**HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD**  
**Bill Brinton**

**PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD**  
**Lesley Hostetter Martin '02**

**TURRET AWARD**  
**Lynn '76 and Marsha Alsbury '71, '76, Leopard**

**YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD**  
**Johnathan McQuaide '05**

For more information about the Alumni Awards Banquet and other upcoming events, visit [nwmissouri.edu/alumni/events/](http://nwmissouri.edu/alumni/events/). Details will be published online as they become available.



# WELCOME TO THE 'VILLE HOMECOMING

## TRADITIONS REIGN AS BEARCATS PARTICIPATE IN 2023 ACTIVITIES

Northwest showed its pride Oct. 15-21 during the annual Homecoming week, which took the theme this fall of “Welcome to the 'Ville.” Activities filled the week, including traditions such as the Variety Show, International Flag-Raising Ceremony, Homecoming parade and the Homecoming football game. The University also welcomed the class of 1973 for its 50th-year reunion activities.



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1. During the annual Variety Show, Darren Ross and Obioma Nwuba were crowned Northwest's Homecoming king and queen. Ross, of St. Louis, is a senior computer science major; Nwuba, of Anambra State, Nigeria, is a junior early childhood education major.

2. Bearcat running back Jay Harris rushed for 123 yards in the Homecoming football game and received the Don Black Award, which is presented to the most valuable Northwest player in the Homecoming game. Northwest lost the game, however, to Pittsburg State, 28-7.

3. The Bearcats in Blazers student group cheered the Bearcat football team during the Homecoming football game.

4. Deep Shikha, a student from India, raised her native country's flag during the annual International Flag-Raising Ceremony, which celebrates Northwest's international students and diversity at the Joyce and Harvey White International Plaza.

5. Phillip Motazedzi (left), a freshman digital media major from Joplin, Missouri, was honored for his portrayal of Bobby Bearcat with a People's Choice Award as the Best Skit Actor in the Variety Show.

6. Student organizations got creative with canned and boxed food items during the annual Donation Creation contest in the J.W. Jones Student Union. During the contest, students build Homecoming-themed scenes with food items that are donated to local food pantries when the week concludes. This year, student organizations donated more than 1,639 pounds of food items.

7. Graduates of Northwest in 1973 returned to the campus during Homecoming weekend for the annual 50th-Year Reunion.



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# 2023 FALL SPORTS RECAP

## FOOTBALL

The Bearcats put up a 7-4 record and extended NCAA Division II's longest-active winning season streak to 28.

The Bearcats won five of their final six games, including the last three by scoring at least 50 points – a scoring spree Northwest had not achieved in three straight contests since 2011. Northwest began the season at 2-3 after dropping MIAA matchups to Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University and the University of Central Missouri.

Northwest placed three players – junior defensive lineman Jake Fisher, sophomore running back Jay Harris and junior cornerback Cahleel Smith – on the All-MIAA first team. Fisher gained his All-MIAA status by leading the Bearcats in tackles-for-loss and sacks. Smith captured his third straight first-team honor and established himself as one of the premier corners in the league.

Harris did something no other Bearcat running back had done in a season by rushing for at least 100 yards in all 11 games. He ranked No. 3 in the nation in rushing yards per game (130.3) and in rushing yards (1,433). He also stamped

his name in the record book with a 274-yard, four-touchdown effort against the University of Central Oklahoma on Oct. 7. His single-game total that day tied for the fifth-best single-game rushing performance in school history, and his four rushing touchdowns of 15, 64, 45 and 44 yards tied for the third-most in a game by a Bearcat. No other running back in the nation had three rushing touchdowns of 40 yards or more in a game during the season as Harris tallied 14 rushing touchdowns on the year to lead the team with 84 points scored.

Northwest landed 16 other players on the all-conference teams. Senior wide receiver Kashan Griffin, junior offensive tackle Derec Weyer, sophomore defensive lineman Kobe Clayborn and senior linebacker Isaac Vollstedt gained second-team honors. Senior quarterback Mike Hohensee and junior safety Charles Gadie notched third-team All-MIAA status. Northwest garnered seven honorable mention All-MIAA performers in junior linebacker Andrew Dumas, junior kicker Noah Guastella, sophomore linebacker Bryce Krone, sophomore offensive lineman Wes Merriman, sophomore defensive lineman Clayton Power,



Jay Harris



Mike Hohensee

junior offensive lineman Jake Winslow and sophomore running back Tank Young.

Hohensee capped his Bearcat career by reaching the program's top 10 in completion percentage (2nd, 68%), touchdown passes (5th, 63), punt average (4th, 38.8), passing yards (7th, 6,503), passing completions (7th, 489) and total offense (7th, 7,124).

Hohensee finished the season by tossing 13 touchdowns and 740 yards in







Avery Kemp

leading Northwest to its final three wins against Washburn University, Northeastern State University and the University of Nebraska-Kearney. With six touchdown passes at Northeastern State, he tied the Bearcat single-game record.

The Bearcat defense and special teams put up impressive numbers as well. Northwest ranked No. 3 in the nation in rushing defense, allowing 58 yards per game, and with 13 recovered fumbles while ranking No. 1 in fewest punt return yards allowed. The Bearcats also were atop the MIAA in limiting opponents on third-down conversions at 29.3%, which ranked No. 18 in the country. Northwest ranked No. 2 in the MIAA and No. 11 in the nation with 26 turnovers gained.

Northwest fared well in the classroom, too, with 58 student-athletes gaining MIAA academic recognition with a 3.00 GPA or higher. Five players – Clayborne, Dumas, Fisher, Power and Winslow – achieved MIAA Scholar-Athlete status by carrying GPAs of 3.50 or higher and being named All-MIAA on the field. Clayborne also captured the MIAA Academic Excellence Award with a perfect 4.00 GPA.

## CROSS COUNTRY

The men's cross country squad qualified for the NCAA Division II Championships for the 13th

Drew Atkins



time in program history while crowning its eighth All-America performer.

The men's squad gained a berth in the NCAA meet with a tremendous performance Nov. 4 at the Central Region meet in Joplin, Missouri. With the top three teams earning automatic qualification to the national meet, the Bearcats gained the spot by one team point over Washburn, 126-125. The third-place team finish catapulted the Bearcat men to the NCAA meet two weeks later in Joplin, where they took 24th in the nation.

Sophomore Drew Atkins highlighted the national meet as he became Northwest's eighth men's cross country All-America performer. He covered the 10,000-meter race in a personal-best time of 30:15.5, which ranks as the fourth-best in school history.

The Bearcat women also had a strong season that featured finishes of second place at the Griffon Twilight, third place at the Gans Creek Classic and sixth place at the MIAA Championships. The women finished ninth at the NCAA Central Regional after ranking as high as No. 7 in the region and No. 26 in the nation during the season.

The squads combined to land 11 student-athletes on the MIAA Academic Honor Roll.

## VOLLEYBALL

The Bearcats concluded their eighth consecutive winning season at 15-14. The Bearcats went 10-10 in MIAA play and earned the No. 6 seed for the conference



Ella Caffery

tournament, where they dropped a 3-0 decision to No. 12-ranked Nebraska-Kearney in the quarterfinals.

Head coach Amy Phelps Woerth '05 took over as the all-time wins leader at Northwest with a 3-0 win over Fort Hays State on Nov. 4, which also was her 200th career win in 11 seasons at the helm of the Bearcat program. She surpassed the previous mark of 199 wins by Sarah Pelster, who coached at Northwest from 1991 to 2002.

The Bearcats were represented by four members on the All-MIAA teams. Junior Abby Brunssen gained first-team status after leading the squad in kills (250), blocks (101) and points scored (306). Junior Avery Kemp secured second-team All-MIAA honors after she topped the team in hitting percentage (.293) and ranked second on the squad in kills (222), blocks (71) and points



# 2023 FALL SPORTS RECAP

scored (280.5). Junior libero/defensive specialist Kyah Luhning and redshirt freshman setter Ella Caffery captured honorable mention All-MIAA accolades. Luhning had a team-best 466 digs, which ranked fifth in the MIAA. Caffery led the squad in assists (829) and service aces (33).

Thirteen players earned MIAA academic honors, including Scholar-Athlete honors for Caffery, Kemp and Luhning.

## SOCCER

The Bearcat women's soccer team put together a balanced attack of offensive skills and defensive domination to produce a third-consecutive winning season under head coach Marc Gordon. Northwest went 8-5-6 overall and 5-2-4 in MIAA play and qualified for the MIAA Tournament before falling to eventual champion Emporia State.

The Bearcats went unbeaten in their final nine regular season matches with six consecutive shutouts. Sophomore goalkeeper Lily Ellis became the school's all-time shutout leader with eight in 2023 after posting 14 shutouts in 2022. She also made 78 saves this fall and allowed only 14 goals in 15 matches.

Seniors Kaylie Rock and Teagan Blackburn closed their Bearcat careers as the top goal scorers in program history. Rock knocked in a team-best nine goals to push her four-year career total to 28 while Blackburn netted one goal and finished second all-time with 19. Blackburn and Rock share the career record for game-winning goals at nine.

Northwest landed six players on All-MIAA teams. Ximena Arnau captured co-MIAA Freshman of the Year honors after scoring three goals and tying the team lead in assists at four.

Rock became only the second Bearcat to earn first-team All-MIAA honors in three seasons. Ellis,



Ximena Arnau



Kaylie Rock



Michael Delebois

sophomore Moira Franck and junior Lucia Fernandez captured third-team All-MIAA status. Sophomore transfer Siri Ott gained honorable mention All-MIAA accolades as a midfielder. Fernandez also landed a spot on the MIAA All-Tournament squad.

Northwest had 17 players earn MIAA academic honors, including Scholar-Athlete status for Ellis, Fernandez, Franck and Rock.

## TENNIS

The Bearcat men's and women's tennis teams put a majority of their focus on the ITA Central Regional tournaments this fall.

The men's squad sent seven participants Sept. 15-17 to Topeka, Kansas, where the doubles team of senior Michael Delebois and sophomore Jan Skerbatis advanced to the semifinals before bowing out to a pair from Harding University.

The women's team had six performers in action Sept. 22-23 in Edmond, Oklahoma. The trio of junior Carolina Lima De Oliveira, senior Angela Per Moreno and senior Tessa Kwakernaak reached the round of 16 in singles as they knocked off ranked foes from Missouri Western State University. Kwakernaak added another win to advance to the quarterfinals.

## GOLF

The women's golf team posted record lows in tournament action this fall, including scoring records for 18 holes (295) in the second round of the Midwest Intercollegiate and 36 holes at the USF Fall Invitational.

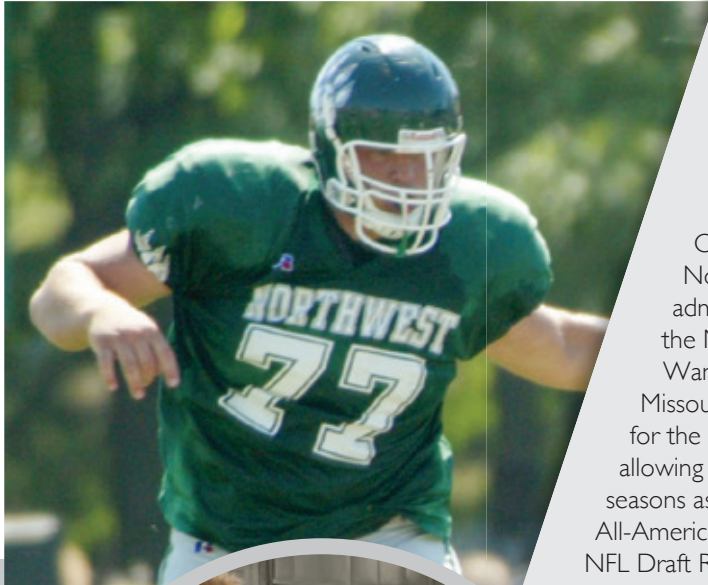
Junior Paige Hoffman put up a pair of single-round 68 scores to set the 18-hole individual record for the Bearcats. She tied the 36-hole mark with a 144 at the Central Region Preview in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. She also tallied four top-10 finishes in the fall and led the team with a 75.67 scoring average in 12 rounds.

Junior Madilyne Schlaepfer captured medalist honors Sept. 18-19 at the Drury Panther Invite. She became the 16th medalist in program history and is the seventh Bearcat to win a tournament. Schlaepfer secured three top-five finishes in the fall and ranked second on the squad in scoring at 75.92 per round.



Paige Hoffman





## WAND JOINS MISSOURI SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Seth Wand '03, a former football player for the Bearcats and in the NFL, in October became the 13th Northwest player, coach or administrator to be inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. Wand, a native of Springfield, Missouri, was an offensive tackle for the Bearcats from 1999 to 2002, allowing only one sack in his three seasons as a starter. He was named an All-American first-team selection by the NFL Draft Report and competed in the

2003 Senior Bowl. He was named a first team All-MIAA offensive tackle, and he was named twice to the All-American first-team by the College Sports Communicators and the American Football Coaches Association. He also was an Associated Press Little All-American.

Wand was selected in the third round of the 2003 NFL draft by the Houston Texans and played 53 games in the NFL, including starts at left tackle in all 16 games for the Texans during the 2004 season. He also played for the Tennessee Titans in 2006 and the Oakland Raiders in 2007 and 2008.



## FORMER MEN'S

# BASKETBALL

## PLAYERS, COACHES REUNITE

Members of Bearcat men's basketball teams during the 1980s reunited on the Northwest campus in August.

The gathering brought together the last three Bearcat men's basketball head coaches (above). Steve Tappmeyer coached the team from 1988 to 2009; Lionel Sinn coached the team from 1979 to 1988, and Ben McCollum '03, '05 has

led the team since 2009. They also are the three winningest coaches in program history.

Attending the reunion were, left to right in the front row, Mike Coleman; Tom Bildner; Nello West; head coach Lionel Sinn; Steve Tappmeyer, an assistant coach from 1981 to 1985; and Joe Jorgensen '86. In the middle row are Jon Erwin, Brian

Stewart, Mark Yager '83, Dave Honz '85 and Vic Coleman '85. In the back row are Tony White '85, Tod Gordon '84 and Bob Sundell '89.

To read more about the reunion and their memories of Bearcat men's basketball during the decade, visit [www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/magazine/](http://www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/magazine/).



NORTHWEST WELCOMES NEWEST HALL OF FAME CLASS

# M-CLUB

Northwest inducted its 2023 M-Club Hall of Fame class Oct. 20 during an annual banquet as part of Homecoming weekend activities. Seven individuals and two teams joined the Hall of Fame, which now lists 171 individual inductees.

The M-Club Hall of Fame was established for individuals in 1980, and teams were first enshrined in 1989.



**DR. BOB BOERIGTER**  
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

- Guided the Bearcat athletics department from 2001 to 2010 in era that included 20 MIAA championships for Northwest teams.
- Driving force behind creation of Fall Classic at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri, which drew more than 20,000 fans seven times for football games featuring Northwest and Pittsburg State, including a crowd of 26,659 fans during the first matchup in 2002.
- Led renovation and transformation of Rickenbrode Stadium to Bearcat Stadium.
- Served as NCAA Division II chair for national committees supporting football, championships, planning and finance, and management council.
- Added women's golf to Bearcat athletics in 2007.
- Served as MIAA Commissioner from 2010 to 2017.
- Inducted into MIAA Hall of Fame on June 6, 2023.



**TOM FUNK**  
BASEBALL

- Played for Bearcats from 1981 to 1983.
- Earned first-team All-MIAA status in 1983 and was an honorable mention pick in 1981.
- Tossed a two-hit shutout in an 8-0 win over Southeast Missouri State to clinch the MIAA regular season title in 1982 and led the Bearcats to back-to-back MIAA titles with a berth in 1983 NCAA Midwest Regional.

**KELLY GREENLEE PARKER '85**  
VOLLEYBALL

- Played for the Bearcats from 1982 to 1985.
- Was a three-time first-team All-MIAA performer in volleyball, becoming one of three Bearcats to accomplish that feat.
- Holds school records for career aces (326) and single-season service aces (114).
- Tied for first in matches played in a season (60) and ranks 10th in career points scored (1,521).
- Listed on MIAA Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll two times.



**JACHELLE SASSER '98**  
TRACK AND FIELD

- Was a member of the Bearcat track and field teams from 1995 to 1998.
- Four-time NCAA Division II All-America performer in high jump; finished second in 1995 and tied for fifth in 1997 at NCAA indoor championships and sixth in 1995 and eighth in 1997 at NCAA outdoor championships.
- Four-time MIAA champion, winning outdoor high jump in 1995, 1997 and 1998 and indoor triple jump in 1997.
- Owns school records in outdoor high jump (5'10") and indoor high jump (5'10").
- Ranks second at Northwest in outdoor triple jump (39'10.5") and indoor triple jump (39'6").



- Ranks third in program history in complete games (18), tied for fourth in career shutouts (4), tied for fifth in career wins (18).
- Appeared in eight games for the Houston Astros in 1986, becoming one of three Bearcats to play Major League Baseball.





**DAVE TOLLEFSON  
FOOTBALL**

- Played for the Bearcats in 2004 and 2005.
- Awarded 2005 MIAA Defensive Player of the Year and set Northwest single-season sack record (12.5).
- Tallied four sacks in win at Missouri Western in 2005, which ranks as the second-most sacks in a single game in Bearcat football history.
- Became fourth Bearcat to earn an invitation to the Hula Bowl after the 2005 season.
- Selected to All-MIAA second team in 2004 with 8.5 quarterback sacks.
- Selected in the NFL Draft as a seventh-round pick of the Green Bay Packers in 2006 and played six seasons in NFL, capturing two Super Bowl victories with the New York Giants in 2007 and 2011; finished career with Oakland Raiders in 2012.



**ADAM DORREL '98, '00  
FOOTBALL**

- Played for the Bearcats from 1994 to 1997, helping the team win MIAA titles in 1996 and 1997.
- Selected to All-MIAA first team and to Daktronics All-America second team and AP Little All-America team in 1997.
- As head coach of the Bearcats from 2011 to 2016, earned a record of 76-8 overall and led teams to MIAA titles in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 and NCAA Division II national titles in 2013, 2015 and 2016.
- Three-time AFCA National Coach of the Year.

**MATT LONGACRE  
FOOTBALL**

- Played for the Bearcats from 2011 to 2014.
- Two-time MIAA Defensive Player of the Year in 2013 and 2014.
- Finished his career as program's all-time leader in tackles-for-loss (47) and quarterback sacks (30.5).
- His 12 sacks in 2013 rank as the fourth-best single-season total in program history, and he led Northwest in sacks in all four of his seasons.
- Earned All-America accolades in 2013 and 2014 (AP Little All-America, Daktronics, D2Football.com, Don Hansen).
- Played four seasons in the NFL with the St. Louis Rams and saw action in 38 games; retired after the 2018 season, playing his final game in Super Bowl 53 against the New England Patriots.



Left to right are Bryant Hummel '14, '17, Matt Meinert '13, coach Rich Wright '96, Matt Longacre, and Trevor Adams '13

**2013 FOOTBALL TEAM**

- Earned Northwest's fourth NCAA Division II football national championship and became fifth Division II football program to capture the national title with a 15-0 record.
- Defeated nine ranked opponents and tallied an average scoring margin of +28.0 during the season, scoring 40 or more points 12 times.
- Set total offense season record with 7,204 yards.
- Quarterback Trevor Adams led the nation in passing completion percentage (72.5) and passing efficiency (192.5).
- All-America selections were quarterback Trevor Adams, offensive lineman Cody Carlson, defensive backs Brandon Dixon and Brian Dixon, linebacker D.J. Gnader, and defensive linemen Matt Longacre, Eric Reimer and Brandon Yost.



Left to right, representing the 2013-2014 men's tennis team were head coach Mark Rosewell, Lluís Altimires '14, '16, Mark Clements, who served as associate athletics director for the internal operations, Dr. Bob Boerighter, who served as MIAA commissioner, and Madasani Ankith Reddy.

**2013-14 MEN'S TENNIS TEAM**

- Became first team in program history to reach the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division II national tournament.
- Finished 19-4 overall and 5-0 in MIAA dual action, ranked No. 18 in final ITA team rankings.
- Captured MIAA regular season and tournament titles.
- Romain Boissinot was named MIAA Freshman of the Year
- Five Bearcats earned first-team all-MIAA honors in singles: Boissinot, Alvaro Riveros, Lluís Altimires, Julien Couronne and Fin Glowick.
- Sergio DeVilchez played No. 1 singles and went 12-6 in dual action.





Dr. Carol Miller stands with a longleaf pine last summer at Lovett Pinetum in Strafford, Missouri. During her 40 years of teaching, Miller has taken a special interest in environmental law.  
*(Photo by Kevin White / Missouri State University)*

# CLASSNOTES

## LEGAL SCHOLAR

Alumna's teaching, research achievements earn national honors

Dr. Carol Miller '79 has developed a reputation during her long career as not just an impartial law teacher but a prolific researcher, having more than 100 publications under her name. Last summer, she added another honor to her list of achievements when she received the Distinguished Career Achievement Award presented by the Academy of Legal Studies in Business (ALSB).

"I was very pleased," Carol said. "It was like the cherry on top of my career."

Now in her 40th year of teaching, she serves as a distinguished professor of business law at Missouri State University in Springfield, where her teaching and research interests focus on environmental law, constitutional law, tobacco regulation and eminent domain.

She has accumulated 30 research-related awards or fellowships during her career, including ALSB's National Excellence in Research Award in 2007 and a best article award from The Missouri Bar. Among other awards and honors, she received the Missouri Lawyers Media Women's Justice Award as a legal scholar in 2010. At Missouri State, she is a recipient of its Board of Governor's Public Affairs Award in 2019 as well as a three-time recipient of its Dean's Research Professorship and a three-time recipient of its University Foundation Research Award.

She has been a member of ALSB – an association of nearly 1,000 college-level teachers and scholars specializing in the law field – since 1982, and she served as its president during 2012-13.

In the classroom, her research and the way she teaches students about the legal field may be more important now than ever – particularly when it comes to environmental law, as the world grapples with climate change and debates regulations. Students laud her as a challenging instructor who is passionate about the subject matter and allows them to respectfully offer differing viewpoints.

"I have a lot of assignments because things are constantly changing," she said. "They need to know how to look up and apply – not memorize – something that by the time they get out of school has changed."

Today, Carol remains closely connected to Northwest and retains her parents' home in Maryville. To uphold her support of the University, Carol and her mother, Mary Belle Miller, established the Dr. Leon F. Miller Graduate Grant Award in 2012 to honor Carol's father, who served Northwest as chair of the education department, Horace Mann director, dean of instruction and dean of the Graduate School during a 35-year span. Additionally, Carol and her parents established the Gayle Miller Bilden Memorial Scholarship for chemistry majors in honor of her younger sister.

"It's especially important for me to honor my dad's memory there," Miller said. "That scholarship is extremely important to me, and I hope it helps in a little way, and future graduate generations have some awareness of what he did at the University."



## 1970s

**Jack Williams '74, '90**, recently published a novel, "The Curious Case of Commander Cole." He is retired after 20 years as a teacher, administrator and superintendent of schools.

**Ann Fogle Levine '77** was recognized in August as the Des Moines Diocese's teacher of the year. She has taught first grade at St. Malachy Catholic School in Creston, Iowa, for 45 years.

**Deb Masker '77** retired last summer after 46 years in education, including the last 24 years as a vocal music teacher in the Council Bluffs (Iowa) Community School District.

**Diane Lawrence Thomsen '77** recently retired after a 38-year career as a legal assistant at Strong & Strong PC. She also served 12 years as the Nodaway County public administrator.

## 1980s

**Laurie Anderson Gotsch '80** retired in 2022 as lead insurance clerk with Henry County Health Center in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, after 39 years of employment. She resides in Mt. Pleasant with her husband, Charles.

**Steve Lucito '80** has joined Missouri Valley College in Marshall as its director of track and field and cross country as well as track and field head coach. He has coached for 45 years and produced 128 All-Americans, four NCAA Division III national champions, two NCAA Division III runner-up finishes and 21 conference titles.

**William Mullin '80** retired recently after 18 years as a high school industrial technology teacher in the Creston (Iowa) Community School District. He resides in Creston with his wife, Julia.

**Mike Gallagher '81** was appointed in August as a member of the North Central Missouri College Foundation Board of Directors. He is employed as a senior vice president for Connections Bank in Savannah, Missouri, and has worked in banking in northwest Missouri for 30 years.

**Trent Hampton '82** joined Lakes Gas in 2019 as its chief executive officer in Minneapolis. He spent the previous 17 years in varied legal and risk management roles with Kansas City-based Ferrellgas.

**Mark Reavis '82** recently was promoted to regional manager of operations and logistics with BradyIFS. He is responsible for 10 distribution facilities in the Midwest and Southeast regions of the United States.

**Dr. Dale Crozier '83** retired last spring as superintendent of the Eastern Allamakee Community School District in Lansing, Iowa, and MFL MarMac Community School District in Monona, Iowa, where he had served since 2001. His career also included teaching in Akron, Iowa; service as a principal and superintendent in Nebraska; and superintendencies at Midland Community School District in Wyoming, Iowa, and Oxford Junction Consolidated Schools in Oxford Junction, Iowa.



**Bob Caldwell** retired from the Andrew County (Missouri) Commission in December 2022 after eight years of service. He previously worked 30 years with the U.S. Department of Agriculture as director of the Andrew County Farm Service Agency. He continues to serve as pastor at Stanberry United Methodist Church and resides in Savannah with his wife, **Bertha Smith Caldwell '76**, a retired elementary teacher.

**Mike Harbit '84** was named 2023 Citizen of the Year by the Nevada (Missouri) Rotary Club. He is the owner and general manager of KNEM/KNMO Radio in Nevada, where he has been employed since 1987.

**Mike Richards '85** was recognized last spring by Greene County FFA as the Honorary Chapter Member. He is a land manager at Home State Bank in Jefferson, Iowa, and previously was an associate agriculture instructor at Iowa Central Community College.

**Curt Wormington '85** began in July as president of Reyco Granning, a U.S.-based designer and manufacturer of suspension systems for the transportation industry. Previously, he was a vice president and general manager at Carlex Glass.

**John Pukala '86** was inducted in May into the St. Louis Metropolitan Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He was athletic director and a football coach at De Smet Jesuit High School from 2017. Previously, he was athletic and activities director at Hazelwood Central High School, where he also coached for 28 years.

**Brent Lorimor '88** received the 2023 Friend of Agriculture Award in July from the Shenandoah (Iowa) Chamber and Industry Association. He taught vocational agriculture in eastern Iowa for three years before returning to his family farm in Fremont County, which he represents as a delegate with the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation.



**Dr. Lacey Morris Adams** was named last spring as director of elementary education for the St. Joseph (Missouri) School District. Her education career spans nearly 23 years as a principal and teacher in St. Joseph.



**Lt. Col Joe Wood** retired last January as deputy of the Requirements Development Division with the U.S. Department of the Army, concluding a combined 42 years of federal service. He resides in Lawton, Oklahoma.

## 1990s

**Rob Carmichael '90**, who has served as head athletic trainer for Culver-Stockton College in Canton for nearly 30 years, was inducted into the Missouri Sports Medicine Hall of Fame in June.

**Ron Czanstkowski '90** recently was inducted into the athletic hall of fame at Mountain Home (Arkansas) High School, where he serves as student services director. Previously, he was a math teacher, receiving the district's Teacher of the Year award in 1997. As a coach, he led Mountain Home to its first state baseball championship and was named a state coach of the year.

**Mike Bussard '91** and Dara Russell were married in July. He is regional vice president at Pacific Life Insurance Company, and the couple resides in Brentwood, Tennessee.

**Judy Eckstein Henry '91** was appointed in September as Taylor County (Iowa) auditor. She began working in the office in 2005 as deputy auditor and had served as deputy recorder since 2015.

**Brian Ostermann '91** was named in April as head women's basketball coach at Emporia State University. He has coached 34 seasons at the collegiate level, including the last nine at Kansas State University.

**Julie Schieber McConkey '91, '96**, retired last spring from the South Nodaway R-IV School District, where she taught business and math during a 19-year span. Her 32-year career also included teaching at Union Star.

**Charles Baggs '95** recently retired after 25 years in the Clark County School District in Las Vegas. He was an elementary school teacher and then a school administrator for the last 17 years.



## NORMAN FAMILY SELECTED AS 2023 NORTHWEST FAMILY OF THE YEAR

The Norman family of Lee's Summit, Missouri, is Northwest's Family of the Year, a recognition bestowed each fall during the University's Family Weekend festivities on a family who best represents the "Bearcat family" and demonstrates a strong commitment to the University.

The family's affiliation with the University began with Dr. Gary and Ramona Collins, who moved to Maryville in 1965. Ramona, who grew up on a farm outside of Maryville, also graduated from Horace Mann High School on the Northwest campus in 1959.

Gary started the first part of his 28-year career at Northwest as an instructor of physical education and head coach of the Bearcat wrestling program. After completing his Ph.D. and teaching and coaching stints at other schools, he returned to Northwest in 1978, resuming his roles as a physical education instructor and wrestling coach. He retired from the University in 2001.

Ramona, meanwhile, joined the Northwest faculty in 1965 as an instructor in the physical education department but stepped away from the classroom the next spring to begin raising the couple's children – Geri, Janne and Brad. She rejoined Northwest in 1984 as executive secretary for the vice president of finance and then was the assistant director of human resources from 1987 to 2002.

All three of the Collins' children completed at least one degree at



Pictured left to right during the Family Weekend recognition of the Norman family are Janne Collins Grover '96, Eryn Tinsman-Grover, Zach Grover, Gary Collins, Ramona Collins, Rylee Norman, Geri Collins Norman '88, Kevin Norman, Student Senate President Elizabeth Motazed, Director of Alumni Relations Duane Havard '90, Northwest President Dr. Lance Tatum, Dillon Grover, Shelby Norman, Kinsey Collins, Kevin Grover '91, '02, Brad Collins '92, '96, and Julie Callahan Collins '93, '96.

Northwest. Extending the family's tradition to a new generation of Bearcats, three of Gary and Ramona's eight grandchildren – Rylee Norman, Shelby Norman and Dillion Grover now attend Northwest.

"It is so exciting to have our family be recognized for all of the great things that have happened to us through Northwest, through all the relationships we have made and through the activities we have been able to do at Northwest," said Rylee, who is now pursuing a master's degree at Northwest. "We just love Northwest. It's a great school."

**Dr. Theresa Cullen '96, '99**, recently was named director of the Arkansas Tech University Center for Faculty Learning, Innovation and Faculty Engagement. She joined Arkansas Tech in 2020 and has served as head of the Department of Teaching and Educational Leadership and professor of curriculum and instruction. She was an associate professor and the John and Jane Kenney Endowed STEM Fellow at University of Oklahoma from 2006 to 2020.

**Kelly Ferguson '98** recently was elected president of the Advertising & Marketing Independent Network's Americas Board of Directors, overseeing the activities of independent marketing agencies in North America and South America. He has been employed since 2009 with Meyocks branding and marketing agency in West Des Moines, Iowa, and is a member of its executive team.

**Dr. Ginger Brickey Jones '98, '01, '06**, began in July as principal at Salina (Kansas) South High School. She has been an educator for 25 years, most recently as assistant superintendent at the Richmond R-XVI School District in Missouri, with 11 years as a teacher in career and technical education.

**Gary Murphy '98, '16**, began this fall as principal at Lindbergh Elementary School in St. Joseph, Missouri. Most recently, he was director of special education in the Clinton County R-III School District in Plattsburg. Previously, he taught in St. Joseph schools.

**Amy Paige '98** is an accountant for The Fabulous

Fox theater in St. Louis in addition to work as an equity stage manager for a local theatre company and serving as treasurer and co-regional rep for the Stage Managers' Association.

**Chad Weller '98** was promoted in July to public works assistant director for operations in the city of Joplin, Missouri. He has worked for the city for 15 years as a professional surveyor while overseeing several of the city's infrastructure projects.

**Joe Gaa '99, '04**, began work in September as city administrator Marshalltown, Iowa. He has worked in city administrator roles since 2010, serving in Woodbine and Chariton in Iowa; Dickinson, North Dakota; and Aberdeen, South Dakota.

## 2000s

**Christy Jones '01** began work in July as assistant superintendent for the Southern Boone County R-I School District in Ashland, Missouri. She has worked in education for 25 years in Kansas and Missouri, including 16 years as an administrator.

**Ann Gritzmacher McDonald '01** joined Central College in Pella, Iowa, as a lecturer of business management for the 2023-24 academic year.

**Greg McDaniel '02** was appointed in June to the International Town and Gown Association's board of directors. He has served as the city manager in Maryville since 2012.

**Toby Young '02** was named the School Administrators of Iowa's 2023 Middle-Level Principal of the Year. He is PreK-8 principal with

the MMCUR district in Remsen, Iowa. He started his teaching career as a K-12 physical education teacher with the Farragut Community School District and then was a teacher and coach with Fremont-Mills Community School District in Tabor before the last 10 years with MMCUR.

**Sara Magnus Draper '03** was promoted in March to executive director of the Nebraska chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, where she had been a program specialist since 2010.

**Megan Cavanaugh Musselman '03** was honored as a 2023 Fellow of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists for excellence in pharmacy practice. She is a clinical pharmacist and North Kansas City Hospital Pharmacy Residency Program coordinator.

**Lindsay Geier Pechek '03** recently was promoted to executive director of Newborn Hope, a Colorado nonprofit providing resources for babies and families impacted by prematurity.

**Chauncey Rardon '03** began this fall as principal at Hawthorne Elementary School in Kearney, Missouri. Most recently, he was elementary school principal in Lathrop since 2003 and previously taught third and fifth grade in Brookfield.

**Kelsey Pickering '04** was named last spring as football coach at Edwardsville (Illinois) High School, where he serves as a physical education teacher and was an associate football coach for the last 15 years.

**Mike Wemhoff '05** joined 21st Century





**Mandy Long Crider** was recognized last spring with the Savannah (Missouri) R-III School District's Rookie of the Year award. She began work as a special education teacher in Savannah in 2022 and has worked in special education since 2009.

'08



**Courtney Ellis** began this fall as principal at Horace Mann Elementary School in Springfield, Missouri. Previously, she was an assistant principal and a special education teacher in the district.

'19

Equipment in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, as vice president of precision ag technology in June. His experience in the software development industry includes 14 years with John Deere and as director of product development at Telligen, a health management company.

**Amanda Fichtner Jens '06** was named Principal of the Year by the Council Bluffs (Iowa) Community School District last spring. Now in her fourth year as principal at Kirn Middle School, she previously taught math and was an instructional coach and assistant principal in the district.

**Mark Lewis '06** and Katelyn Haymes were married July 21. He is a financial advisor with Edward Jones, and the couple resides in West Plains, Missouri.

**Ashley Pride Marriott '06, '11**, began this fall as principal at Bessie Ellison Elementary School in St. Joseph, Missouri. Previously, she taught for seven years and was an elementary principal for nine years in the North Nodaway R-VI School District in Hopkins.

**Dennis Sharkey '06** joined The Mexico (Missouri) Ledger last spring as its editor. He spent time previously as an editor at the Platte County Citizen, Mound City News and Oskaloosa Independent.

**John Kesselring '09** began work in July as the K-2 building lead with Bishop Garrigan Catholic Schools in Algona, Iowa. He began his teaching career as a K-12 physical education teacher and coach in the Coon Rapids-Bayard school district for seven years before moving to Fairmont, Minnesota, where he taught middle school physical education and health. During 2022, he coached football at Winona State University in Minnesota.

**Kate Lydon '09, '15**, began this fall as principal at Maryville Middle School, where she had been employed as assistant principal since 2015.

**Amy Sheeley '09, '10, '16**, joined the title reading staff in Creston (Iowa) Community School District's elementary and middle schools. She had taught at the elementary level for 13 years.

## 2010s

**Jordan Bischel '11** was hired in June as head baseball coach at the University of Cincinnati. He was a head coach at Central Michigan University for the last five seasons and previously was head coach at Northwood University in Michigan and Midland University in Nebraska.

**Kate Walter '11, '13**, is a fishery observer coordinator based at the Southeast Fisheries

Science Center in Galveston, Texas, where she coordinates training, reviews data collection and organizes trip assignments.

**Kyle Schroeder '13** was named in August as director of program development for the University of Cincinnati baseball program. Previously, he was an assistant coach at Central Michigan University, Northwood University in Michigan and Midland University in Nebraska.

**Paul Vaillancourt '14** recently joined the Special School District of St. Louis County as a special education teacher after four years at Truman High School in Independence, Missouri.

**Bryston Williams '14, '16**, joined the University of Wyoming men's basketball coaching staff in March. He previously served as an assistant coach at Indiana State University for two seasons and as an assistant coach with the NBA's Detroit Pistons for three seasons.

**Nate Jeter '15** began work in July as principal at Nodaway-Holt High School in Graham, Missouri. For the last six years, he was a high school teacher at Tarkio High School and previously was an environmental compliance/regulatory specialist with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

**Dan Miller '15** began in July as principal at Kearney (Missouri) Middle School. He had been assistant principal at Kearney High School since 2018 and previously taught social studies.

**Katy Lindsey '16** was named in June as the head soccer coach at Liberty North High School, where she teaches, had been an assistant coach since 2019 and was named Class 4 Assistant Coach of the Year in 2022.

**Bryce Cardwell '18, '20**, joined the Small Business Development Center and Missouri Rural Enterprise and Innovation Center in Kirksville, Missouri, in September as a small business counselor.

**Rachel Dibbins '18** is a licensed social worker and, since 2021, has been a fellow at Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic in Centerstone, North Carolina.

**Haley Fitzpatrick '18** recently joined KTVI in St. Louis as a weather reporter. Previously, she worked as a meteorologist at television stations in Columbus, Mississippi, and Waco, Texas.

**Cole Sales '18** recently was named among the Professional Convention Management Association's "20 in their Twenties." He is a marketing manager at eShipping.



**Cole and Erika Lines Buffington** welcomed their second child, Kameron, on March 29, joining older brother, Bennett. Cole is employed with the YMCA of Greater Omaha, Nebraska, and Erika is employed with the Central High School Foundation.

'14

'15

**Seth Brunkhorst '19** joined Callis, a marketing and advertising agency in Sedalia, Missouri, as an account executive in September.

## 2020s

**Jennifer Bordenkircher '20, '21**, began work in July as assistant principal at Robinson Elementary School in the Kirkwood (Missouri) School District. She had been a fifth grade teacher in the district for three years and has been an educator for 16 years.

**Cole Crawford '20** joined the Creston (Iowa) Community School District in the fall as a middle school and high school physical education and health teacher. He previously worked in the Wayne Community School District.

**Lance Jeffers '20** recently was hired as assistant coach of the women's basketball program at Cowley College in Arkansas City, Kansas. He spent the previous 17 years coaching high school basketball, leading Sedan (Kansas) High School teams to 10 league titles and four state tournament appearances.

**Clayton Long '20** began in August as emergency manager for Fremont County (Iowa), where he had been serving as deputy emergency manager.

**Madeline Forney Dowis '21** began in July as assistant principal at Eugene Field Elementary School in Maryville. She previously was a special education teacher at the school.

**Dana Dunbar '21** recently was named coordinator of compliance and student-athlete services at



McNeese State University in Louisiana. She spent the past two seasons there as director of softball operations.

**Morgan Eubank '21** started this fall as assistant principal at Westchester Elementary School in Kirkwood, Missouri. She has been an educator for 10 years.

**Joy Huddleston '21, '23**, joined the Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments in August as coordinator of the Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program.

**Emily McCall '21** recently was named assistant principal at St. Pius X High School in Kansas City, Missouri. She has been teaching and coaching tennis at Kansas City area schools since 2012.

**Max Spitzmiller '21, '23**, began work in August as a residence hall coordinator and assistant baseball coach at Southwestern Community College in Creston, Iowa.

**Jordan Steffen '21, '22**, began work this fall as an assistant principal at Timberland High School in Wentzville, Missouri. Previously, he was a Spanish teacher at the school and taught in the Francis Howell School District.

**Logan Wilson '21** started this fall as activities director and assistant principal at Branson (Missouri) Junior High School. Previously, he taught physical education and health and coached at Carthage and Seneca schools.

**Dalton Hill '22** began this fall as head strength and conditioning coach, head football coach and assistant wrestling coach in the Palmyra (Missouri) R-1 School District. He worked last year as a teacher and assistant football coach at Mark Twain High School in Center.

**Kayla Hollister-Graham '22** began work in July as principal at Campbell Early Childhood Center in Springfield, Missouri, where she has most recently served as a behavior interventionist and has been employed with Springfield Public Schools since 2018.

**Vicki Hume '22** began employment this fall as PK-12 principal for Essex (Iowa) Community Schools. She previously taught in Essex and Omaha, Nebraska, schools.

**Rachel Peavler '22** recently joined Scotland County Hospital in Memphis, Missouri, as program director with its Senior Life Solutions group therapy program. As a licensed practical nurse, she previously worked in long-term care and as an ear, nose and throat clinic nurse.

**Colby Sorensen '22** began work this fall as an elementary physical education teacher and head wrestling coach in Clarinda, Iowa. He spent last year as a teacher and coach in Red Oak.

**Trent Pummill '23** is in his first year as athletic director with the Community R-VI School District in Laddonia, Missouri, where he also serves as track and field head coach and teaches high school social studies.

# BEARCATS CONNECT

Alumni assist graduate student achieve career in federal government

There was a time when Carson Long '16 thought he would have a career as a math teacher and coach, but a graduate assistantship and a fortuitous encounter at Northwest changed all of that and modeled the impacts of the Bearcat network.

Long completed his Ph.D. last summer in operations research at the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology. In October, he began work at the Pentagon as an operations research analyst with the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force Studies and Analysis. He achieved both with the guidance and care of Dr. Jackie '66 and Carl '66, '70, Henningsen.

Long, a native of Graham, about 20 miles from Maryville in northwest Missouri, selected Northwest to pursue a Master of Business Administration degree and secured a graduate assistantship in the office of the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

"I knew their education was top-notch and that it would likely provide me with a better opportunity to find a job or a career shortly thereafter," Long said.

On a summer day in 2015, Long was walking the campus during a lunch break when he exchanged greetings with a man sitting on a bench outside the J.W. Jones Student Union. That man was Carl Henningsen, who was visiting the campus with his wife, Jackie, a member of the Northwest Foundation's Board of Directors.

After Carl inquired about the reasons Long was attending Northwest, Long revealed his hope of moving into government work specializing in operations research in Washington, D.C.

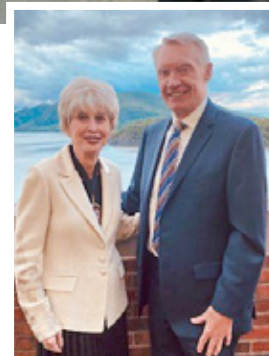
"Of course the light went off," Carl said. "I told him, 'You really need to talk to my wife because she just spent the last 25 years in the Pentagon with the Air Force.'"

Jackie retired in 2014 after a 29-year-career in the Department of Defense that included applying analysis to nuclear deterrence and conventional warfighting assessments and serving as a principal analytic advisor to five successive top Air Force leaders.

When Jackie returned to the Northwest campus that October for the Foundation



Carson Long (left) is pictured with his doctoral advisor, Dr. Brian Lunday, outside the Air Force Institute of Technology after defending his dissertation in August.



Jackie and Carl Henningsen

Board's fall meetings, she set up what she called "an informational interview" with Long to learn more about his career interests and goals. Jackie explained the myriad opportunities Long could pursue within the federal government

After a stint at Cerner in Kansas City, with Jackie's help, Long joined The Perduco Group, a business analytics company and defense contractor in Dayton, Ohio, as an operations research analyst. He was placed alongside military veterans and skilled analysts providing algorithm development and analytic support for a variety of Air Force and Joint organizations.

"It was really a special joy working with Carson because he's from Northwest and from my career field," Jackie said. "I was a math major; he was a math major. He was someone who really had an understanding of the path he was interested in, and it was a path I'd already walked."

In the fall of 2019, Long was selected as a SMART scholar, a program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense, to help him pursue a Ph.D. The four-year program was a stepping stone to civilian work with the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Studies and Analysis.

Now with a doctorate degree to his name, Long hopes for a broad and lengthy career in military strategy while advancing his education further. Long also hopes he can do for future graduates what the Henningsens have done for him.

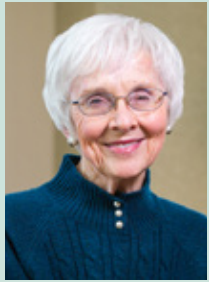
"It's a special place, and we want to get all those Bearcats out in the world doing great things so that people can continue to see what Northwest Missouri State produces," he said.



# IN MEMORIAM

Northwest extends its condolences to the families and friends of these individuals.

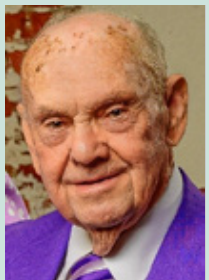
**Ronnie Adamson**, age 64, of Maryville, died June 24. He was employed at Northwest for 42 years as a supply clerk and materials handler with the purchasing office.



**Dolores Albertini**, age 85, of Prairie Village, Kansas, died July 19. She worked at Northwest as a librarian and was active on the campus and in the community during a span of 42 years. She also co-authored "Towers in the Northwest," which

chronicled the University's history from 1956 to 1980, with her husband, Dr. Virgil Albertini.

**Stephanie Allen**, age 64, of Maryville, died June 17. She worked at Northwest as a custodian from 2012 to 2020.



**Jack Anderson '61**, age 90, of Jefferson, Iowa, died May 31. He served in Korea and Japan during the Korean War, reaching the rank of sergeant. As an educator in Iowa, he taught in Walker, Menlo and Rippey before becoming a principal in Rudd-Rockford-Marble

Rock Schools and then in Jefferson. From 1979 until retiring in 1996, he was superintendent of the East Greene Community School District. He also was a member of the Iowa High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the Iowa High School Athletic Association's Officials Hall of Fame.

**Bill Archer '75**, age 71, of Conception Junction, Missouri, died July 11. He was a farmer.

**Bill Arnold '71**, age 74, of Murray, Iowa, died April 29. He was a member of the Murray Volunteer Fire Department, serving as a first responder, EMT and eventually as fire chief. He also was a jailer and dispatcher with the Clarke County Sheriff Department.

**Kimberly Asher**, age 60, of Barnard, Missouri, died July 25. She worked as a custodian at Northwest from 2013 to 2021.

**Lyle Atkins '72**, age 74, of Overland Park, Kansas, died Oct. 23. He worked in construction in Denver, Colorado, and then was a stockbroker for seven

years before returning to Kansas City and working on the construction of new homes in Overland Park, retiring in 2008.

**Beccy Turner Baldwin '73, '94**, age 71, of Hopkins, Missouri, died June 17. She taught at West Nodaway and North Nodaway schools, established Kids Day Out Preschool in her home and served as principal for North Nodaway Elementary. She was employed with Northwest's Regional Professional Development Center as director from 2002 and 2019.

**Dr. Ted Baldwin '52**, age 92, of Lawson, Missouri, died April 8. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and then practiced medicine for 50 years in Excelsior Springs, retiring in 2015.

**Lilyan Summa Barnes '52**, age 97, of Sedalia, Missouri, died June 2. She taught near Denver, Missouri, and then became a licensed practical nurse at Gentry County Hospital and at Albany Colonial Manor Nursing Home and was a hospice care volunteer.

**Robert Briggs '67**, age 77, of Roswell, Georgia, died July 24. He worked in research and marketing.

**Mary Ann Martin Bumbacher '66**, age 78, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died July 27. She taught eighth grade language arts in St. Joseph schools for 30 years.



**Dr. Bob Bush '57**, age 88, of West Des Moines, Iowa, died Sept. 25. He taught elementary school for one year in St. Joseph, Missouri, and then was employed at NASA for five years before joining the Northwest staff in 1968.

He served in administrative positions at Northwest until retiring in 2002. He also served 27 years in the Missouri Air National Guard and five years with the Air Force Reserve, retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

**Michael Biggs '04**, age 60, of Olathe, Kansas, died Sept. 26. He had been employed with Regal Plastics for 36 years.

**Beverly Johnson Bird '49**, age 96, of Maryville, died July 8. She began her career with St. Joseph Light and Power Company and retired in 1983 after 17 years with LMP Steel and Wire Company in Maryville.

**Patricia Evans Brost '70**, age 76, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died June 24. She was a school teacher for 49 years, teaching language arts and French at Nodaway-Holt High School; Mid-Buchanan High

School; Maur Hill Mount Academy in Atchison, Kansas; and Savannah High School as well as composition at Missouri Western State University.

**Wade Bruggeman '59**, age 86, of Charter Oak, Iowa, died June 8. He began his 38-year career as an English and French teacher at Charter Oak High School before moving to Denison High School and then was high school principal in Sergeant Bluff-Luton and at Charter Oak-Ute High School, retiring in 1997.

**Earlene Ijams Christie '68**, age 77, of Appleton City, Missouri, died April 25. She was an educator, serving the Butler, Eagleville, Ridgeway, Appleton City, Hughesville, Concordia, Martinsville and Knob Noster school districts.

**Jerry Cluff**, age 73, of Nampa, Idaho, died Aug. 27. He was employed with Northwest Facility Services as a boiler operator and plant operator from 2002 to 2016.

**Thomas Croxell '69**, age 79, of Plano, Texas, died March 5. He worked as a scientific programmer in the oil industry and taught mathematics at local junior colleges.

**Dr. Helen Davis '44**, age 100, of Boulder, Colorado, died Sept. 7. She established an art therapy program at Fitzsimons Army Hospital in addition to leading the Colorado Women's College art department and the Boulder Valley School District art program, and she helped develop the Boulder Arts Commission.



**Marjorie Cockayne Dearmont '57**, age 86, of Bertram, Texas, died June 3. She was an educator for more than 30 years.

**Clarence Ebrecht**, age 79, of Maryville, died May 22. He was employed with the grounds crew at Northwest from 1986 to 2013.

**Elaine Donovan Elliott '59**, age 86, of Newton, Iowa, died April 5. She taught second grade in Galva and then worked many years in the business office of Skiff Medical Center in Newton.



**Mary Ann Engles Eggleston '86**, age 75, of Louisburg, Kansas, died Sept. 21. She was an educator for four decades in Drexel, Missouri, and Louisburg, where she pioneered computing and technology programs.





**Dr. Marilou Joyner '75, '78, '82**, age 74, of Kansas City, Missouri, died June 3. Her 40-plus-year career included work as a speech therapist, school counselor, elementary and middle school principal and superintendent at various school districts in northwest Missouri, before joining the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, serving eight years as an assistant commissioner. She spent four subsequent years as executive director of the Kansas City Higher Education Partnership, advising school districts on accreditation, and three years as president of the Blackwell Education Support Team, a Kansas City consulting firm. For 23 years, she owned Cameron Group Care Inc., an intermediate care facility for developmentally disabled adults that also offers residential and vocational resources and services. Her service to Northwest included membership on the Northwest Foundation Board of Directors and the University's Board of Regents, chairing it in 2019-20.

**Renaë Ottemann Ernesti '98**, age 47, of Columbus, Nebraska, died Oct. 12. She was a vice president and data processing officer at Madison County Bank, where she had been employed since 1999.

**Roger Fenn '61, '73**, age 84, of Cameron, Missouri, died May 25. He taught and was a principal in Winston before becoming a sales representative with Western Chemical Company. He then joined HPI Products in St. Joseph where he retired as vice president of corporate development.

**Michael Findley '87**, age 57, of Winston Salem, North Carolina, died Aug. 5. He had been employed with Linde Inc. for 33 years as an account manager.

**Peggy O'Hara Foubert '82**, age 82, of Ipswich, Massachusetts, died July 1. She began her career with RCA Technical Systems before moving to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Lincoln Laboratories as a technical publications editor.

**Brenda Greenland '89**, age 56, of Tingley, Iowa, died March 4. She worked at Innovative Industries in Mount Ayr.

**Ken George '01**, age 47, of Decatur, Illinois, died May 18. He had been an assistant professor at Millikan University in Decatur since 2021. He also worked as a set designer and set design instructor at Casper College, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Oklahoma State University, Louisiana State University, Stephens College and University of Central Missouri.

**Shirley Moore Hanna '58**, age 87, of Maryville, died May 7. She taught in Sheridan, Missouri, before joining Nodaway Valley Bank in Maryville, where she worked as comptroller and retired in 2000 after 29 years.

**Norman Heflin '68, '94**, age 84, of Kansas City Missouri, died June 27. He served in the U.S. Army in Korea and taught art at public schools and community colleges in Clarinda, Iowa; and in South Nodaway, Barnard and Kansas City in Missouri.

**James Hefner**, age 84, of Maryville, died May 20. He was employed at Northwest as a custodian from 2006 to 2017.

**Phyllis Foster Herbster '67**, age 92, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died June 19. She taught at rural schools and then in St. Joseph and King City, retiring in 1985.

**Gary Howard '79**, age 69, of Northmoor, Missouri, died June 29. He owned and operated Howard Reality, Howard Construction and A/D Security and later worked for DFS before retiring.

**Michael Hughes '72**, age 75, of Chicago, died May 25. He was a coach, administrator and teacher at several Chicago-area schools and worked in sales at Prudential.

**Duane Iwen '63**, age 83, of Omaha, Nebraska, died June 13. He was employed with schools throughout Omaha, including as an elementary school principal, retiring in 1998.

**Dean James '67**, age 86, of Hopkins, Missouri, died Aug. 7. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and worked as a farmer and independent insurance agent.

**Gene James '59**, age 87, of Bettendorf, Iowa, died Sept. 12. He worked in drafting and design at Solar Aircraft in San Diego; Martin Marietta Company in Denver; and Bendix/Litton/Northrup Grumman in Davenport, Iowa.

**Jennifer Kottman Johnson '75**, age 69, of Stanberry, Missouri, died June 12. She taught at Craig High School before becoming a high school science teacher at Jefferson C-123 and retired in 2012 after 30 years in teaching.

**David Jones, '79, '90**, age 66, of Salem, Missouri, died July 6. He worked for Central Soya, Midas and Alice Chalmers before owning an A&W Restaurant in Emmetsburg, Iowa. He spent the last 20 years driving for Tyson Foods.

**Dr. Joan Jay Jones '52**, age 94, of Framingham, Massachusetts, died July 9. She started her teaching career in a one-room school house in Missouri and

taught at Boston College for 35 years.

**Joseph Kane '70**, age 87, of Remsen, Iowa, died May 4. He served in the U.S. Army and then began his career with the Remsen-Union Community School District, working as a junior high teacher, high school and middle school principal, and driver's education instructor, retiring in 1991.

**Lois Keever**, age 96, of Maryville, died June 16. In addition to farming with her husband, she worked at Northwest as a secretary in the alumni office from 1974 to 1980 and in the admissions office from 1982 to 1992.

**Shirley Alden Kelley '52**, age 91, of Hopkins, Missouri, died June 15. She was a teacher in the northwest Missouri communities of Gallatin, Hamilton, Stanberry, Graham, Maitland, Skidmore, Maysville, Clarksdale, Hopkins and Pickering for more than 35 years.

**Dr. Willis King '59**, age 86, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, died April 28. He taught high school science in Bedford, Iowa, for several years before joining the faculty at Eastern College in St. Davids, Pennsylvania, and then at Elmira College in New York. In 1993, he embarked on a career in computer software development in Columbus, Ohio, retiring in 2013.

**Michael Kortmeyer '75**, age 78, of Mount Vernon, Iowa, died May 11. He was an educator and coach, serving as high school principal for Lisbon Community Schools and as superintendent for Louisa-Muscatine Community School District and Huntley Community School District 158 in Illinois, retiring in 2006.

**Carla Rippstein Kuenzi '61**, age 85, of Norfolk, Nebraska, died June 12. She worked for Tupperware and was employed with Norfolk Public Schools in the central office and at the middle school library, retiring in 2011.

**Doug Kunze '70**, age 76, of Persia, Iowa, died Aug. 15. He was a farmer.

**Jerry LaBrue '77**, age 69, of Osage Beach, Missouri, died May 14. He taught industrial arts for 12 years at high schools in Climax Springs and Tuscombina before moving into insurance work.

**Ron Langford**, age 78, of Skidmore, Missouri, died Sept. 20. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, he worked for LMP, Moog and was a custodian at Northwest from 2003 to 2010.

**Rick Loft '81**, age 76, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died April 11. He worked at Silgan Containers and was an associate pastor at Green Valley Baptist Church in St. Joseph.

**Duane Long '67**, age 78, of Urbandale, Iowa, died May 25. He taught math and computing in Eagleville, Missouri; in Granger, Iowa; and at Des Moines Area Community College and AIB College of Business in Des Moines, retiring in 2006. He also founded and owned Software First Training Center.

**Dr. Gweldon Long '57**, age 91, of Maryville, died Sept. 18. He served in the U.S. Air Force and



later started a dental practice in 1961 in Maryville, retiring in 2005. He also was a member and president of the Northwest Foundation Board of Directors.



**Ruth Collins McQuerry '45**, age 99, of Orange, California, died May 21. She taught home economics in Hopkins, Missouri, before becoming a homemaker.

**Joyce Meldrem**, age 67, of Ames, Iowa, died May 9. She was employed at Northwest from 1989 to 2004 as a librarian in the B.D. Owens Library.

**Dale Midland**, age 90, of Maryville, died Aug. 5. He was a faculty member in Northwest's English department from 1961 to 1995.

**Larry Miller '75**, age 82, of Carroll, Iowa, died April 9. He was a school principal, activities director, math teacher and coach, retiring in 2005.

**Mary Jane Miller**, age 65, of Maryville, died March 29. She was a secretary in Northwest's residential life office from 1995 to 2002.

**Donna Mullins '68, '74**, age 75, of Perryville, Missouri, died Dec. 13, 2022. She began her teaching career in Dunlap, Iowa, before moving to Perryville, where she taught math for 30 years, retiring in 2000.

**Winifred Nelson Negaard '52**, age 94, of Pigeon, Michigan, died April 2. She had a career spanning more than 25 years as an elementary teacher in Keokuk, Iowa, and as a teacher and principal in Guilford, Missouri.

**Pat Tryon Papenheim '63**, age 81, of Kansas City, Missouri, died Aug. 21. She was a family and consumer science teacher at Anita High School and in Des Moines public schools in Iowa.

**Billie Patton '67**, age 79, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died Aug. 25. He was employed by American Family Mutual Insurance Company for 39 years.

**Darlene Weldon Patton '64**, age 80, of Plano, Texas, died April 5. She was a high school business teacher in Glenwood, Iowa, before starting a 30-year-career with IBM in sales support positions in Omaha, Nebraska; Minneapolis; Dallas; and Tulsa, Oklahoma. She then held marketing positions with SpaceCom Systems, Verizon and Sprint.

**Dr. Glen Pedersen '68**, age 77, of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, died April 29. He served in a variety of administrative roles at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, Nebraska. He then was the president of Murray State College in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, from 1994 until retiring in 2003.

**Shari Kunkle Petersen '73**, age 72, of Anita, Iowa, died April 9. She was employed at Main Street Market in Anita.

**Shirley Dieterich Peterson '57**, age 86, of Arvada, Colorado, died May 3. She taught in Denver Public Schools before becoming a safety inspector with the National Park Service.

**Carl "K.R." Pierpoint**, age 98, of Creston, Iowa, died June 6. He attended Northwest for one year in 1942, before entering the U.S. Navy during World War II and was inducted into the University's M-Club Hall of Fame as a member of the 1942-43 men's basketball team. He was a State Farm agent in Maryville for more than 35 years.

**William Pitts '86**, age 61, of Maryville, died May 8. He operated Fishers Cleaners and a home improvement business.

**Wally Prawl '59**, age 86, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died April 16. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and a school teacher and administrator, retiring as principal at Lafayette High School.

**Cheryl Booth Ray '76**, age 68, of Bethany, Missouri, died June 12. She was a speech and language pathologist in public schools for many years. She and her husband also owned the Savannah Reporter newspaper for a period of time.

**Debra Dolph Reed '77**, age 66, of Burlington Junction, Missouri, died Sept. 3. She taught elementary school for 34 years at the Mound City R-II School District and then for five years at St. Gregory Barbarigo Catholic Church School in Maryville.

**Merlyn Rees '70**, age 81, of Shenandoah, Iowa, died March 6. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he was employed with the Farmers Home Administration in Shenandoah and then the Rural Development Agency in Atlantic.

**Joel Robertson '92**, age 53, of Chanhassen, Minnesota, died Sept. 25. He was a financial analyst.

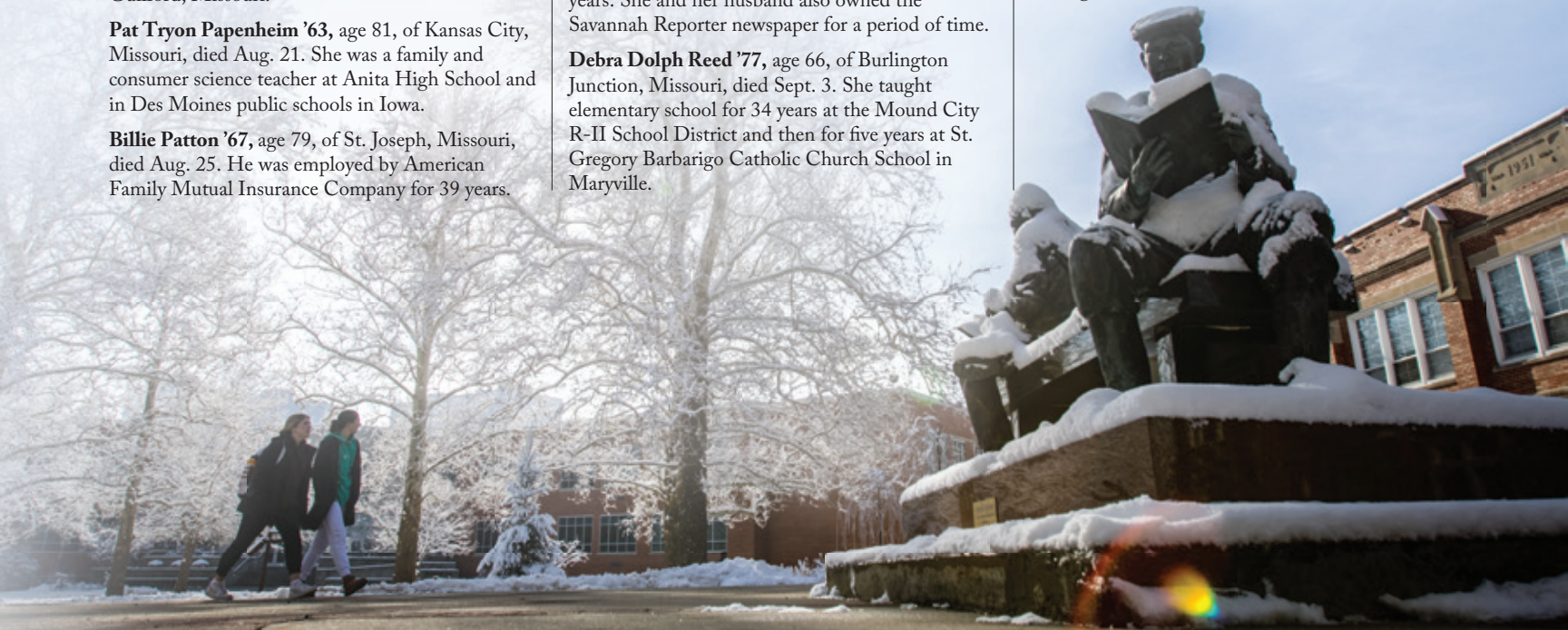
**Ted Robison '58**, age 87, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died April 25. He served a two-year tour with the Army in Germany and then began his banking career. He became vice president of Nodaway Valley Bank in 1964 and was elected president in 1977, serving in that role until 1995, when he was named chief executive officer and chairman of the bank's board of directors. He served as chairman emeritus of the board from 2015 until his death. He served on Northwest's Board of Regents from 1983 to 1989.

**Rosemary Rogers '98**, age 75, of Little Rock, Arkansas, died March 28. She taught in Cleveland, Ohio; St. Joseph, Missouri; and Little Rock; retiring in 2015.

**James Rood '53**, age 92, of Largo, Florida, died July 25. After serving in the U.S. Army, he began his career as a business and physical education instructor and coach with Clearfield Community Schools in Iowa before becoming an administrator and superintendent of the Pekin School District in Iowa, retiring after a 38-year education career.

**Dorothy Iske Rouse '66**, age 78, of Kansas City, Missouri, died June 20. She taught in the St. Joseph and Kansas City school districts, retiring in 2003.

**Wes Ruggles '75, '77**, age 72, of Persia, Iowa, died Sept. 1. He began his career as a school guidance counselor in Stella, Nebraska, prior to teaching at Walnut, Panora-Linden, Woodbine, Logan-Magnolia, Harlan and Underwood schools in Iowa, retiring in 2009.





**Deborah Parker Briace Scanlon '89**, age 56, of Missouri City, Texas, died July 6. She was a partner with Forvis in Houston, specializing in audits and consulting in the financial services industry.

**Don Schooler '61**, age 83, of Springfield, Missouri, died May 7. He served six years with the National Guard and had a lifelong career in banking, including as president of United Missouri Bank in Brookfield, from 1962 to 1974, and founding Don W. Schooler and Associates, a private banking recruiting company.

**Earl Shultz '75**, age 86, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died Aug. 14. He taught and coached in Peculiar, Stewartsville and Dearborn, retiring in 1995.

**Ann Pierpoint Simmons '71**, age 73, of Creston, Iowa, died June 13. She taught Spanish and English at Creston High School for more than 35 years, retiring in 2009, and was a substitute teacher for 10 more years.

**Philip Stone '62**, age 82, of Plymouth, Minnesota, died April 7. He taught at Ogden (Iowa) High School for 44 years.

**Wreatha Jarvis Terry '57**, age 87, Jonesborough, Tennessee, died April 19. She was a band director and elementary school music teacher, retiring in 1998 after 38 years.

**Norma Wilson Tibbetts '68**, age 76, of Independence, Missouri, died May 25. She worked as a substitute teacher in Wichita, Kansas, and in Independence. In 1982, she started Snickerdoodles, a children's clothing consignment shop, and then established a clothing bank, Tabitha's Closet, in 2002, which has since served more than 30,000 children.

**Norma Yeater Tilton '49**, age 94, of Kansas City, Missouri, died April 23. She and her husband purchased and operated The Mirror Place, a glass and mirror business, retiring in 1987.

**Marsha Underwood '72, '83**, age 73, of Villisca, Iowa, died Aug. 23. She taught in Bethany, Missouri, and in Villisca and Creston in Iowa.

**Larry Watkins '68**, age 79, of Dolgeville, New York, died June 12. He was resident naturalist of the Florence Jones Reineman Wildlife Sanctuary and Beaversprite in Oppenheim for 16 years. He then became a science teacher with

the Oppenheim-Ephrath School District, retiring in 2007.

**Peggy Newberg Wellington '62**, age 81, of Ozark, Missouri, died March 4. She operated a home daycare in Maryville.

**John Williams '62**, age 83, of Dardenne Prairie, Missouri, died Oct. 4. He had a 35-year career as an agent with the Internal Revenue Service.

**Marjorie Rezac Wilson '70**, age 95, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died Sept. 26. She was a teacher, retiring from the Mid-Buchanan R-V School District and Doniphan County (Kansas) Special Services.

**Janice Spencer Wilson '73, '01**, age 73, of Bedford, Iowa, died Aug. 6. She taught English and music at the Bedford Community High School. She later became a counselor at Shenandoah Medical Center and joined Midwest Mental Health in Shenandoah.

**Sandy Winegarden '74**, age 71, of Rome, Wisconsin, died Aug. 4. She taught in Sabetha, Kansas; Seward and Lincoln in Nebraska; and in North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale public schools in Minnesota; during a 40-year career, retiring in 2014.

**Esther Winter**, age 72, of Hastings, Nebraska, died Sept. 19. She taught at numerous Lutheran high schools and was a member of Northwest's English faculty from 1989 to 2000 as well as Central Community College and the University of Central Missouri, retiring in 2012.

**Janet Ware Wollard '59**, age 87, of Hardin, Missouri, died Oct. 10. She began her teaching career in Rivertown, Iowa, and then taught at Stet High School and Hardin-Central in Missouri, retiring after more than 20 years.

**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 career 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**, or email [alumni@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:alumni@nwmissouri.edu). Submissions may be edited for length and clarity.





## NORTHWEST POSTCARD

The Madraliers sang after Bobby Bearcat turned a switch to light a Christmas tree Nov. 28 on the lawn of the Thomas Gaunt House, the historic presidential residence on the Northwest campus.

A holiday season tradition at Northwest for more than a decade, University President Dr. Lance Tatum and first lady Jill Tatum hosted the ceremony, which returned to the Gaunt House after occurring at the Memorial Bell Tower since 2019.



THE MAGAZINE FOR NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

# NORTHWEST

ALUMNI MAGAZINE | WINTER 2023

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*Elevated scholarships*

# DAY ONE.

**HELP US GROW THE BEARCAT FAMILY**

Northwest alumni and friends, we need your help connecting with future Bearcats. Please share the contact information of students who would benefit from Northwest's **ELEVATED SCHOLARSHIPS**. By doing so, you can showcase your pride in Northwest and help deserving students with a 2.75 GPA or above to receive scholarships and in-state rates.