In 1984 President B.D. Owens, right, passed the presidential chain of command to incoming President Dean L. Hubbard. Hubbard will be passing the chain of command in July after 25 years of service.
Center helps Katrina survivor put career back on track

Eric Greely Sr., an assistant principal and business teacher at Liberty (Mo.) High School, knows what it's like to lose everything. He also knows what it's like to move on, keep the faith, put down new roots and begin again.

In 2005, Greely, his wife Desha, and two sons, Caleb and Eric Jr., then 10 and 13, fled New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina devastated the city and left their home flooded by eight feet of water.

“We lost everything,” Greely said, except a large van, which allowed the family to escape to Fort Worth, Texas, where they started putting their lives back together.

Ultimately the Greelys relocated to the Kansas City suburb of Gladstone. Desha, who was employed by Hewlett-Packard in New Orleans, was able to stay with the company, which transferred her to Kansas City after the storm.

Eric, who worked in the corporate world for 15 years before deciding to become a teacher, put his career on hold and dedicated himself to “making life as normal as possible” for his family, a task that included such challenges as restoring the Greelys’ frozen bank account, getting the boys back in school and playing football, and replacing birth certificates and other lost documents.

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

The center, which offers degree programs in education and business, is located in a four-story office building adjoining the Liberty High School campus. It’s proximity to where Greely lives and works, coupled with evening and “blended” courses that take advantage of the Internet, televised teaching and other distance-learning technologies, has made it possible for Greely to complete work on his education specialist degree, which he will receive this fall.

“Northwest is a fabulous college that has really addressed the needs of our community, I can't say enough about the caring and understanding teachers and the curriculum. It's the quality of the teachers that sets the curriculum apart, because they have worked as school administrators, and they bring that breadth of knowledge into the classroom.”

Greely added that the center’s education programs are especially well suited to Liberty and surrounding Northland communities, which are experiencing rapid growth that has created high demand for certified teachers and administrators with special skills and advanced degrees.

“What a great idea it was to put the Kansas City Center here in Liberty,” Greely said. “This partnership with Northwest is helping us become a better district.”
The growth of Northwest’s Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship continued Thursday, July 31, with the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Northwest and Practical Sustainability LLC of Chesterfield.

The agreement was signed by Northwest President Dean L. Hubbard and Practical Sustainability Managing Partner Earl R. Beaver, Ph.D.

An environmental, chemical and biological consulting firm, Practical Sustainability will use dedicated space within the center’s business incubator to provide analytical support to healthcare facilities working to reduce the incidence of MRSA and other infections. The firm also plans to work with biological research operations that need assistance with issues related to the use, manufacture and disposal of nano materials (particles smaller than 100 billionths of a meter) and biological substances.

MRSA, or Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, is a type of bacteria that is resistant to antibiotics and can result in severe abscesses and soft-tissue infections. Staph infections, including MRSA, are an especially serious problem in hospitals and other healthcare facilities serving patients with weakened immune systems.

In addition to its function as a business incubator for high-technology commercial ventures, Northwest’s Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) will also serve, on its completion, as an academic research facility housing the newly formed Graduate Applied Research Center.

In accordance with that mission, both Northwest and Practical Sustainability plan to work to create opportunities for University students and faculty to conduct research and acquire technical and scientific experience. Company operations may also create ancillary employment opportunities for students in such areas as administrative support.

Definitive agreements governing Practical Sustainability’s presence at the center must still be approved by the University’s Board of Regents. If all goes as planned, the company could set up shop at the CIE by April 2009.

According to projections, Practical Sustainability expects to have approximately four employees working at the CIE with an average salary of around $50,000. Anticipated growth could eventually increase that payroll to as many as 18 employees.

Beaver founded Practical Sustainability in 2003. He is also chair emeritus of the New York-based Institute for Sustainability, senior technical advisor of RJ Lee Group Inc. of Pittsburgh and chair of the National Accounts Committee for the Global Footprint Network.

After earning a Ph.D. in physical chemistry and chemical engineering from Texas Tech University, Beaver spent 30 years at Monsanto, where his responsibilities included development of new environmental technology solutions for company operations, internal and external advocacy relating to sustainability and pollution prevention and the development of various sustainability and eco-efficiency tools.

The author of numerous publications and patents, Beaver has received both the Lawrence K. Cecil Award from the Environmental Division of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and the AIChE’s Gary Leach Recognition Award.

Two of Practical Sustainability’s current employees have ties to Northwest. Jonathan Wistrom graduated from the University in 2008 with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry. Intern Sakshi Uppal is a junior chemistry major with a minor in biology.

Practical Sustainability becomes the center’s third client. Earlier, Carbolytic Materials Company signed a memorandum of understanding pursuant to which it will locate its research and development activities at the CIE. CMC extracts carbon black, a substance used in the manufacture of plastics and rubber, along with combustible oil and gas, from shredded automotive tires. CMC also has announced plans to build a processing plant in Maryville and will use the center as a base for its research and development operations.

Funding for the $24.4 million CIE, which is now undergoing interior construction, is being provided through Missouri’s Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative, a measure designed to fund science and technology facilities at public colleges and universities statewide.

To learn more about Practical Sustainability LLC, visit the company’s Web site at www.practicalsustainability.com.
Dr. Dean L. Hubbard, 69, ninth president of Northwest Missouri State University, will retire next summer at the end of the 2009 fiscal year.

Hubbard announced his intention to step down at the June 26 Board of Regents meeting. He assumed the presidency on July 1, 1984, and will have served as the institution’s top administrator for 25 years, the longest term ever by a Northwest president.

“It is, of course, with great sadness that I announce my forthcoming retirement,” Hubbard said. “There are simply no words to describe the deep affection Aleta and I feel for this University after so many years. Both of us want to express our heartfelt thanks to all of the faculty members, staff and students, past and present, whose friendship and dedication have graced our lives. Together, we have accomplished so much. It goes without saying that, whatever the future holds, Aleta and I will always be Bearcats.”

Over the past quarter century, Hubbard has become a symbol of the University’s leadership role in Missouri higher education. He arrived at Northwest after serving as international consultant in Asia and as a college administrator in California and Nebraska. He holds a Ph.D. from Stanford University, a degree in Korean language from Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea, and bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich.

Under Hubbard’s leadership, Northwest has gained national recognition for its “Culture of Quality,” an initiative designed to foster continuous improvement in all aspects of University operations. Among many other distinctions in this area, Northwest has won the Missouri Quality Award three times – in 1997, 2001 and 2005 – and is the only educational institution in the state to have done so.

Internationally recognized for his work in the field of total quality management, Hubbard served as a member of the Board of Examiners for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award as well as the Excellence in Missouri Foundation board of directors. He received the Missouri Governor’s Quality Leadership Award in 1998.

During the 1980s, Hubbard was instrumental in making Northwest the first comprehensive electronic campus in the United States. That effort continues today, the most recent development being the University’s decision to provide every full-time student, including those living off campus, with a fully programmed laptop computer.

A first-generation college graduate, Hubbard has worked for decades to make higher learning affordable for those lacking the financial means to continue their education. One of his most visionary ideas has evolved into the American Dream Grant, a needs-based program that provides tuition, room, board, books and the use of a computer to lower-income students during their first two years at Northwest.

Other initiatives rooted in the twin promise of educational and economic opportunity include Northwest’s Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. When completed in 2009, this combination research center and high-tech business incubator will combine academic and entrepreneurial resources needed to help make Missouri a full participant in the 21st century’s global marketplace. The CIE will provide unparalleled learning and research opportunities for Northwest students and faculty in a wide range of disciplines, from nanoscience to market research.

Hubbard also has supported the expansion of Northwest’s pioneering alternative fuels program, which transforms recycled cardboard, paper and agricultural wastes into most of the energy used to heat and cool the campus. It is estimated that this environmentally sound process has saved the University $10 million dollars over the past two decades compared to the cost of purchasing natural gas.

On other fronts, Dr. Hubbard’s long experience on the international scene has paid benefits through the University’s International and Intercultural Center, which provides valuable multicultural experiences to future leaders whose careers will depend on their ability to build multinational relationships.

A resident of Korea from 1966 to 1971, Dr. Hubbard is a recipient of the prestigious Global Korea Award from the Council of Korean Studies, which honors individuals who make significant contributions to the worldwide Korean community. It is highly unusual for a non-Korean or non-Korean-American to be considered for this distinction.

The author of numerous articles and papers, Dr. Hubbard’s most recent published work is The Hubbard Cycle: Seven Steps to Improved Quality and Reduced Costs, “a summation of the planning process at the heart of Northwest’s internationally recognized system of continuous process improvement.”
The Hubbard Cycle: Seven Steps to Improved Quality and Reduced Costs, a summation of the planning process at the heart of Northwest's internationally recognized system of continuous process improvement.

President Hubbard announces plan to retire in '09.
Distinguished Lecture speakers

The Office of Campus Activities has announced the speakers for Northwest’s 2008-09 Distinguished Lecture Series.

Sponsored by Campus Activities with support from the Office of the Provost, the annual series brings nationally and internationally prominent writers, thinkers, artists, scholars and public figures to campus, where they share insights and experiences during free lectures open to all members of the University community and the general public.

Distinguished Lecturers for 2008-09 include:

Jay Carney, Washington bureau chief for *Time* magazine.” (8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 2, Performing Arts Center)

Carney has been writing about politics for *Time* since 1993 as a White House, congressional and general correspondent.

As one of a handful of journalists on Air Force One with President George W. Bush on 9/11, and as a reporter with unprecedented access to Vice President Dick Cheney and other senior administration figures, Carney is uniquely equipped to discuss all facets of the Bush presidency.

Carney has enjoyed an extensive career with *Time* and previously served as deputy Washington bureau chief, a correspondent in the Moscow bureau and as bureau chief in Miami.

Eugene Jarecki, documentary filmmaker (8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17, Performing Arts Center)

Jarecki is an award-winning dramatic and documentary filmmaker and visiting senior fellow at Brown University’s Watson Institute.

After training at Princeton as a stage director, Jarecki turned to cinema in 1992, and his first short film, *Season of the Litterbees*, premiered at the 1993 Sundance Film Festival before winning both a Student Academy Award and the Time-Warner Grand Prize at the Aspen Film Festival.

Most recent work, *Why We Fight*, won the 2005 Grand Jury Prize at Sundance. He also directed the award-winning film, *The Trials of Henry Kissinger*.

Arun Gandhi, peace activist (8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, Performing Arts Center)

Gandhi is the founder of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence and the grandson of statesman and spiritual leader Mohandas K. Gandhi.

Born and raised in apartheid-era South Africa, Arun Gandhi was sent at age 12 to live with his grandfather in India, where he observed first-hand the profound national campaign for liberation through nonviolent means.

The younger Gandhi went on to lead successful economic and social reforms in India before coming to the United States and founding the institute.

In seeking to continue his grandfather’s legacy, Gandhi has worked to provide insight into one of history’s most influential leaders while stressing the importance of nonviolent political and social change.

John Bul Dau, Sudanese war survivor (8 p.m. Monday, March 16, Performing Arts Center)

Featured in Christopher Quinn’s documentary, *God Grew Tired of Us*, Dau has experienced trials and hardships that most Americans would find difficult to imagine.

Born in war-torn Sudan, Dau became one of 27,000 “lost boys” driven from their villages when the government began attacking the ethnic minority population in the southern part of the country.

Forced to walk to refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya, he faced starvation, disease and violence before humanitarian efforts brought him to the United States.

Currently studying public policy at Syracuse University, Dau has helped raise thousands of dollars in relief funds for his native country in the hope that Sudan will “become a place where people are welcome and hope is restored.”

For more information about the Distinguished Lecture Series and other programs sponsored by the Office of Campus Activities, go to www.nwmissouri.edu/campusactivities or call Angel McAdams Prescott, director of campus activities, at 660.562.1226.
Chakraborty receives NSF nanoscience grant

Dr. Himadri Chakraborty, assistant professor of chemistry and physics, has received a $40,000 grant for nanoscience research from the National Science Foundation. Continuing on the availability of funds, NSF expects to continue the grant through fiscal year 2010, which would bring the total award to $120,000.

The research project undertaken by the grant is titled “Subshell Differential Photoionization Studies of Single- and Multi-Walled Fullerene Endohedrals.”

Chakraborty said his work will involve the study of nanoparticles through computer calculations, modeling and simulations. The term nanoparticle is generally used to refer to a small particle with a size in all three dimensions of less than 100 nanometers. A nanometer is one-billionth of a meter, or about the length a fingernail grows in one second. Another comparison is to a human hair, which is between 60,000 and 100,000 nanometers in diameter.

The tiny structures Chakraborty will be studying have a number of emerging applications in medicine and nanotechnology, such as the more efficient and effective delivery of drugs to diseased cells. Endohedrals may also someday be used to build ultra-compact supercomputers small enough to fit inside someone’s pocket.

Chakraborty said he will use the NSF funds to purchase a new mainframe computer and to hire student research assistants. The grant also will pay for a limited amount of domestic and international travel.

The opportunity to do more research enhances the classroom experiences he is able to provide for his students, Chakraborty said.

“It’s one thing just to explain something from a textbook,” he said. “It’s something else to walk in and say, ‘Now here’s something we’ve just found that’s really interesting’”

US Bank continues support of American Dream Grant

For the third consecutive year, US Bank has provided support for Northwest’s American Dream Grant, a pioneering initiative designed to make college affordable for students from lower-income families.

The bank’s latest gift of $1,000—along with gifts of $500 in 2006 and $750 in 2007—will help fund the program, which covers tuition, fees and other expenses for qualified students during their first two years of study at Northwest.

“US Bank is a proud supporter of Northwest and the American Dream Grant,” said Market Manager Rex Brod. “By helping these students achieve their education, we are creating many opportunities for them that otherwise might not occur.”

American Dream Grant recipients meet Northwest admissions criteria and come from families with an EFC of $2,000 or less. The grant pays virtually all college expenses during a student’s first two years at Northwest, including tuition, fees, room, board, books and the use of a laptop computer. The student contribution is $1,000 per semester, which can be earned by working, often on campus, for a few hours a week.

“We appreciate US Bank’s continued support of the American Dream Grant,” said Andrea Wagner, Northwest’s development officer for corporate and foundation relations. “Without supporters like US Bank, many of these students would not have the means to attend college.

“Each year the number of students receiving the American Dream Grant has continued to grow. Every gift to this program makes a difference in the lives of recipients.”

For information about making a contribution in support of the American Dream Grant at Northwest, call the Office of University Advancement at 660.562.1248 or e-mail advance@nwmisouri.edu.

Quake felt by Northwest group at China conference

It’s one thing to describe an experience as “earth-shaking event,” it’s quite another to be there when the earth actually shakes.

That’s exactly what happened to a group of seven Northwest faculty members, spouses and students who traveled to China last month for the International Forum on Sport, Exercise and Leisure at Hebei (ho-e-bay) Normal University in Shijazhuang (shih-ja-zhwaung).”

On the second day of the conference, May 12, Dr. Jeff Ferguson, associate professor of health, physical education, recreation and dance, was anchoring a three-part session on sport and leisure curriculum design when everyone in the room felt vibrations coming up through the floor.

Within seconds, it was apparent the vibrations were being caused by an earthquake, Ferguson said, and the seminar participants, who were on the fifth floor of a 27-story building, scrambled down the stairs and hurriedly made their way to the relative safety of a nearby park.

The force of the quake was enough to make the skyscraper “shimmy and shake,” and Ferguson said neither he nor anyone else at the conference immediately realized that the heart of the seismic disturbance was more than 1,000 miles to the southwest in Sichuan province—a catastrophic event that claimed more than 60,000 lives and registered 7.9 on the Richter scale.

English-language television news reports soon began to reveal the scope of the tragedy, Ferguson said, noting that the coverage appeared to be surprisingly complete and accurate for a nation in which the government has been known to exercise tight control over the media.

Fortunately for members of the Northwest HPERP contingent, the quake was too far away to cause any significant damage or injuries in the forum’s host city. Ferguson said he knew of one conference participant who had family living near the quake’s epicenter, but they apparently survived unharmed.

Altogether, 32 educators from the United States took part in the forum, whose sponsors included Hebei Normal University, Kent State University and the Journal of Sport and Leisure.

In addition to attending or present-ing at conference sessions, Ferguson said members of the Northwest group got a quick look at venues being prepared for the upcoming Olympic Games and toured various athletic and recreational facilities. Other stops included national landmarks such as Tiananmen Square; the Forbidden City, center of the pre-revolutionary imperial government; the emperor’s Summer Palace, now a vast public garden; and the Great Wall.

Ferguson said many of the discus-sions and presentations at the forum concerned curriculum development in recreation and leisure, a growing area of interest for Chinese educators.
**Emergency text service**

Students may now sign up for Bearcat Alerts, an emergency text messaging system designed to increase the university's ability to communicate with students during a time of crisis. A link is available at www.nwmissouri.edu, click in the bottom, left-hand corner. Sign-up takes about two minutes.

Scott Walk, health and safety manager, said the program adds another layer to the University's emergency response plan.

"The goal for an emergency coordinator is to alert as many people in as short of a period of time as possible," Walk said. "Communication is key in an emergency situation."

The text-messaging program is voluntary and is open to all Northwest students, faculty and staff. Users must have a Northwest account in order to sign up for alerts. The alerts will cost students only what their cellular phone plan dictates for normal text messages.

Text-messages will be sent only in emergency situations, which could include University closings, immediate threat/violence situation on campus, tornado, emergency situations of an extreme nature and periodic testing. Messages will not be sent for advertisements, marketing or to communicate campus or community events.

"I only anticipate that we will test the system semi-annually," Walk said. "Other than that, students will only hear from us if an emergency situation would arise."

Textcaster, the company selected to operate this program, was chosen because local school districts use the program, ensuring that the program would work in northwest Missouri.

"Our goal is to get as many people to sign up for this program as possible," Walk said, "so that we can communicate with as many people as possible should an emergency situation arise."

Along with the text-messaging program, the University has several other emergency notification measures in place. The Simplex System sends audible alerts throughout campus buildings for weather and emergency situations. Additionally, an emergency e-mail will be sent out and the emergency will be posted on the University Web site. KNIM and KXCV radio stations will also broadcast the announcement.