

THE MAGAZINE FOR NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

NORTHWEST

ALUMNI MAGAZINE | SUMMER 2023

GAME TIME

Tommy Thrall '06
broadcasting in the
big leagues with
Cincinnati Reds

NEW PRESIDENT

Dr. Lance Tatum introduced | p. 5

BECOME A MARTINDALE CHAMPION

First phase of renovation complete | p. 15

TRACK NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Bearcats claim four titles | p. 24

PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU

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

“My time at Northwest as a student was so meaningful, not only for the education I received to propel me into the rest of life but for the friendships and memories that stick with me. After two years away from Maryville after graduation, I had the opportunity to move back and help broadcast Bearcat football and basketball games for 20 years.

Living in Maryville gives me a great opportunity to give back to the University that gave me so much. Rarely have I turned down an opportunity to help, and getting to serve on the Northwest Alumni Association Board of Directors as well as the Bearcat Booster Club board have been amazing experiences. I have met so many more alumni and fans of Northwest and appreciate every one of them.

My children, Kallie and Myles, attended Horace Mann Laboratory School on the Northwest campus, and my wife, Sherry, has been a huge supporter of me, helping out wherever she can. Owning a business in Maryville has also allowed me to help grow the relationship between the community and the University that is vital to the success of both. I feel like I can never give back enough to Northwest Missouri State because of all that I have experienced in life as a result of what the University did for me.”

Matt Gaarder '97
President, 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 or 660.562.1248.

NORTHWEST ALUMNI
NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY



8
GAME TIME
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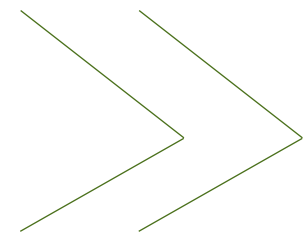
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The mission of the *Northwest Alumni Magazine* is to foster connections between alumni, friends and Northwest Missouri State University. The University strives to inform readers of the accomplishments of Northwest's alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students and to positively position the University in the hearts of its many constituents to increase public and private support.

contents



30

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Carrie Huke Hibbeler '88
 advocates for charitable
 causes with Kansas City TV



35

FIELD TO FINISH

The Rosier family is diversifying
 its fourth-generation farm into a
 distillery destination

TRADITIONS

- 4 Dear Friends
- 5 Northwest News
- 14 Advancing Northwest
- 18 Alumni Connections
- 24 Bearcat Sports
- 30 Class Notes
- 36 In Memoriam
- 39 Northwest Postcard

DEAR FRIENDS

Spring in Missouri brings two special and celebrated traditions: baseball and graduation. In this issue of the *Northwest Alumni Magazine*, you'll get to read about alumnus Tommy Thrall '06, who is one of the radio broadcasters for the Cincinnati Reds. He has a great story to tell, and we couldn't be prouder about where he's landed.

One of the great moments in a faculty member's career is watching their students cross the stage at graduation. The School of Communication and Mass Media has been fortunate to have many young people earn that right, and we celebrated our most recent graduates in May. It's a time to reflect on just what they've had to go through to get where they are. The experiences they've had in classes with engaged professors, the late nights studying or editing video projects, and the internships that have prepared them for the workplace and its culture – they all help get Bearcats ready to graduate.

Plus, when we watch new graduates cross the stage, we know a sea of alumni is ready to help them. We've been lucky in Wells Hall, which serves as the home of the School of Communication and Mass Media, to have many of our alumni provide resources and assistance to help prepare students before they graduate and afterward, including John Coffey '82, who is featured in this issue for his work with KXCV-KRNW. As they say in "The Lion King," it's the circle of life.

As the seasons pass at Northwest, we are always excited to send our graduates into the world to make it a better place. Speaking for the faculty and staff in the School of Communication and Mass Media, I thank all of our alumni for giving back to make Northwest the special and great place that it is. You make a difference.

Dr. Matt Walker
Director
School of Communication and Mass Media



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John Moore, right, introduced Dr. Lance Tatum as Northwest's next president at a March news conference.

DR. LANCE TATUM AT A GLANCE

DEGREES

B.S. in physical education from Troy University

M.S.Ed. in foundations of education from Troy University

Ph.D. in sport management from Florida State University

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

Began as assistant professor of physical education at Gordon College in Barnesville, Georgia

Joined Troy University as a faculty member in 1998

Served Troy University as vice chancellor for campus in Montgomery, Alabama; vice chancellor for Global Campus; dean of the College of Education; chairperson of the Department of Kinesiology and Health Promotion; Faculty Athletics Representative

FAMILY

Wife, Jill; their two children, Thad and Zoe, attend Auburn University

TATUM BECOMES 11TH PRESIDENT, LOOKS TO BUILD ON 'SOLID FOUNDATION'

Dr. Lance Tatum – who served the last 25 years in multiple roles at Troy University in Alabama – began his work as Northwest's next president June 1.

"It's a positive sign when you leave an interview wanting the job more than you did when you arrived, and that was certainly true for Jill and I in our visit to Maryville," Tatum said to a crowd filling the J.W. Jones Student Union Boardroom during an introductory news conference in March. "I could not be more grateful to all the members of the Board of

Regents and the Northwest university community for trusting me with the profound responsibility of leading this great university."

The announcement concluded a search process the University began last June. Regents selected Tatum after gathering input from Northwest stakeholders, including a University search committee. Tatum was among four finalists who visited the Maryville campus in February for interviews with stakeholder groups and public forums.

"He brings with him considerable experience and success in strategic planning, student recruitment and retention,



Dr. Clarence Green, left, joins Dr. Lance Tatum for conversation during Tatum's introduction to the Northwest community in March. Green served as interim president during the 2022-23 academic year.

community involvement, classroom teaching and fundraising, just to name a few," said John Moore '78, a Board of Regents member and chair of the Presidential Search Committee. "When speaking to others about him as part of our due diligence process, there were two consistent themes that came through from every person we talked to. Number one, that he is authentic. What you see and what you hear from him, you get. And number two, he's a servant leader. It is not about him, it's about the organization."

Tatum said his previous successes resulted from inclusive and transparent processes, and he intends to approach his work at Northwest similarly.

"My goal is to build upon the solid foundation that exists here at Northwest," Tatum said. He added, "It was overwhelming to hear how the people love this university and the pride that they show in being part of it. For someone who is drawn to opportunities to serve others and to help individuals succeed, it was impossible to resist the invitation to join this great university."



Left to right, Jill and Lance Tatum, talk with Jill Brown, Northwest's director of corporate relations and major gift officer, and Leisha Beckemeyer Barry, Northwest Foundation president, during a March concert featuring Northwest music ensembles at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, Missouri.

CHEERS TO 40 YEARS OF OWENS LIBRARY



Dr. B.D. and Sue Owens spoke with members of the Northwest community in March during a celebration of the library building's 40th anniversary.



The B.D. Owens Library today is a versatile campus space that facilitates research and collaboration.

Northwest celebrated the impacts of its library and the legacy of its namesake on March 14, marking the anniversary of the building's opening exactly 40 years earlier.

With Dr. B.D. '59 and Sue Wright '57 Owens in attendance for the event, Northwest reflected on the institution's evolution since the couple's years as president and first lady from 1977 until 1984 and thanked them for their contributions.

A hub of student activity on the Northwest campus today, the B.D. Owens Library houses the Student Success Center, Learning and Teaching Center, International Involvement Center, Writing Center and a Starbucks.

The facility opened its doors to public use for the first time March 14, 1983, when students returned from their spring break and it replaced the Wells Library, a historic campus building that was completed in 1939 but no longer met the needs of the growing University.

As technology has shifted library materials to digital modes, Northwest has reshaped the Owens Library in ways that make the facility more indispensable to the campus than it was when it opened.

"We continue to plan ways to adapt to evolving student use," Dr. Mike Steiner '85, associate provost of undergraduate studies and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said, pointing to the many mobile work stations, whiteboards and other resources scattered throughout the

building to support student learning. "It's still fascinating to me to walk around here at seven o'clock on a Wednesday evening and see the enumerable ways that students are figuring out or deciding how to use the library."

NORTHWEST ACHIEVES RECORD SPRING ENROLLMENT FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Northwest again broke enrollment records during the 2022-23 academic year with its latest census showing the highest spring enrollment in the institution's history.

Overall enrollment this spring increased nearly 10 percent from a year ago to a headcount of 7,923. For the third consecutive spring, the University set record graduate enrollment with 3,407 students, an increase of 31 percent from a year ago.

The spring semester enrollment counts follow a fall census that showed Northwest surpassing 8,000 students for the first time in its 117-year history and a record headcount of 8,505 students.

Traditionally, spring enrollment totals are lower than those recorded during the fall semester. Yet, the spring headcount ranks as Northwest's second-highest census count in its history, just ahead of the University's headcount of 7,870 students in fall 2021.



THREE CAMPUS BUILDINGS COMING DOWN

Northwest is demolishing two former residence halls and an academic building this summer as part of a multi-year plan to address residential facilities. The University began preparing North Complex and Phillips residence halls for their removal after the conclusion of the spring semester.

"We are at a point now that allows us to remove buildings that were slated to be demolished years ago," Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Matt Baker said, adding their removal will reduce residence hall capacity from about 2,800 beds to about 2,300 beds. "That's still excess capacity. We are balancing the use of our funds to invest in student spaces to help with recruitment as well as addressing infrastructure challenges. Both of those buildings are beyond their useful life in terms of deferred maintenance."

North Complex was completed in 1962 and last housed students regularly in 2018, though a small number of students lived in the building at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and Northwest offered it as a low-cost alternative to other residence halls. Phillips Hall, one of four seven-story residence halls on the campus, was finished in 1966 and last housed students in 2014.

In addition, Northwest plans to demolish the Thompson-Ringold Building, which was built in 1931 for industrial arts programs and has housed various departments and offices in recent years.

WANT MORE TO THE STORY?

Read content appearing in this issue of the *Northwest Alumni Magazine* and other Northwest news by scanning this QR code.



HOSPITAL ART EXHIBITION PROVIDES PROFESSION-BASED EXPERIENCE, SHOWCASE FOR ARTISTS

For Northwest student Anaya Walker, working as the curatorial intern for the “Art of Healing Galleries” exhibition this past year was an opportunity to create a soothing environment for patients and visitors of Mosaic Medical Center-Maryville.

Under the guidance of Northwest Assistant Professor of Art Dr. Karen Britt, Walker was responsible for creating the exhibition’s timeline, collecting art entries, designing posters and handling public relations.

The senior graphic design major from St. Louis enjoyed seeing her hard work result in a successful exhibition opening. The collaborative partnership that Mosaic and Northwest began last year represents an integration of the power of art with medicine.

“One of my favorite parts was seeing the joy light up on people’s faces, especially the artists when they saw their work on display,” Walker said. “It was lovely to see people gather around art and dive into discussions.”

Walker aspires to work with animation studios, and her internship with the “Art Healing Galleries” exhibition was an opportunity to apply the lessons of her coursework as well as further her graphic design, communication and administrative skills.



Abigail Davis



Halie Engler

EDUCATION MAJORS RECEIVE TEACHING AWARD FROM STATE MATH COUNCIL

Two Northwest students – Halie Engler, a senior middle school math education major from Blue Springs, Missouri, and Abigail Davis, a senior elementary education major from Jefferson City, Missouri – received the Missouri Council of Teachers of Mathematics (MCTM) Outstanding Preservice Teacher of the Year award in December.

Engler received the MCTM award, in part, for her work as a study group leader in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and as a supplemental instructor in Northwest’s Student Success Center. “It reassured me that I was doing impactful things,” she said. “It was definitely reassuring and a confidence boost for going into my career.”

With a similar passion for becoming an educator, Davis, has gained experience teaching at St. Gregory Barbarigo Catholic School in Maryville and as a preschool teacher assistant at an early learning center. “I have always just loved learning and teaching other kids how to learn and how to grow,” she said. “Watching them get that ‘aha’ moment really seals the deal for me.”

RETIRING FACULTY

Northwest celebrates these seven faculty members who retired at the conclusion of the spring semester with a combined 185 years of service to the University.

DR. MARK CORSON,
professor of geography,
25 years of service

DR. KURTIS FINK,
associate professor of mathematics
and statistics,
38 years of service

DR. RAFIQ ISLAM,
professor of chemistry,
26 years of service

DR. JOHN POPE '96,
associate professor of geology,
21 years of service

DR. SHELLEY RABEL-RILEY '88,
associate professor of chemistry,
14 years of service

DR. DEB JOHNSON TOOMEY '94, '96,
associate professor of marketing,
26 years of service

DR. NANCY JOHNSON ZELIFF '81,
professor of computer science and
information systems,
35 years of service

2022 TOWER AMONG BEST COLLEGIATE YEARBOOKS IN NATION

Northwest’s Tower yearbook was recognized in March by Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) as one of three Pacemaker Award recipients, crowning it as one of last year’s best college yearbooks and making it a winner of the award for the second consecutive year.

Tower joined yearbooks produced in 2022 by Ouachita Baptist University and Kansas State University staffs as Pacemaker recipients announced during the ACP Spring National College Media Conference in San Francisco.

“To be recognized – repeatedly – as one of the best student media programs in the nation through this award demonstrates the strength of our mass media program and depth of talent of both our faculty and students,” said Steven Chappell, the director of student publications at Northwest.



Game Time

Tommy Thrall broadcasting in the big leagues
with Cincinnati Reds

Story by Mark Hornickel | Design by Kim Surprise | Photography by Todd Weddle



The time is approaching 6:40 p.m. on the first Monday of April. With pages of game notes and a scorebook on the desk in front of him at Great American Ball Park in Cincinnati, Tommy Thrall '06 leans forward in his chair and listens for a cue in his headset.

“Beautiful night for baseball,” Thrall says to fans tuning in to hear the radio broadcast of that night’s Reds game. “It was cloudy, overcast, a little rainy this morning, but, boy, the clouds have burned off and we are left with just a picturesque night.”

Thrall quickly reads the game’s starting lineups,

leaving about 30 seconds for him and his broadcast partner, Jeff Brantley, to discuss the pitching matchup. In the next moment, the game’s first pitch crosses home plate for a strike as the Reds opened a three-game series against their division rival Chicago Cubs.

The Reds had won two of their first three games to start the 2023 Major League Baseball season, when hope and optimism for a championship run are high in nearly every ballpark.

Thrall knows those feelings well. Combined with his persistence and penchant for saying “yes,” they helped him get to his seat in the Reds radio broadcast booth.

Thrall can barely remember a time when he didn't want to be a baseball announcer. One of his first memories is a time sitting in the living room of his childhood home in Smithville, Missouri, where his parents were watching a Kansas City Royals game. The TV commentator's voice caught Thrall's attention and he began taking interest in the action on the screen.

"I remember thinking at one point, like, 'Wait a second, there's a job where you get to travel around, see the country, watch baseball for a living and talk on the radio? Well, that's what I want to do,'" Thrall said. "Because I figured there was no way I was ever going to be good enough to play."

At age 10, Thrall had an opportunity to meet Denny Trease, the play-by-play man whose voice caught Thrall's ears those years earlier. Trease was so impressed with Thrall's impression of Denny Matthews, the Royals' longtime play-by-play announcer, that he invited the kid on his radio show. That was Thrall's first on-air experience, and he hasn't stopped.

After starting his résumé as a public address announcer for basketball, football and soccer games at Smithville High School, Thrall went to Northwest as a broadcast major with a business minor. He had barely finished moving onto campus when he started doing play-by-play for Maryville High School football games with student-managed radio station KZLX. That work soon connected him with John Coffey '82, the voice of the Bearcat Radio Network, who became an influential mentor to Thrall throughout his student career at the University.

Coffey emphasized preparation for every broadcast and using available resources to help listeners understand the topic. Thrall

also heeded Coffey's advice to practice, regularly checking out recording equipment and returning with tapes for Coffey to evaluate.

"He was just one of those kids that you knew from the very start that he had a goal and he was going to go after it," Coffey said. "Some kids that come in, they want to do it, but then when they find out that you've got to do more than just go on the air and do it, they kind of back away. Or some of them think that they'll just take the classes and ESPN's going to come calling when they graduate."

Matt Gaarder '97, who was then the news and sports director at KNIM in Maryville, also noticed Thrall's drive to try things and pitched him an opportunity to broadcast eight-man football games.

"I had this philosophy that, if somebody asks you to do something, you just say 'yes,'" Thrall said. "If it's a chance to go call anything, announce anything, you just say 'yes' and figure it out. And so of course I said, 'sure.' And I hung up the phone and I thought, 'What is eight-man football?'"

Thrall figured it out, and the gig led to him not only broadcasting Missouri's eight-man football championship game but announcing eight-man football games in northwest Missouri for the rest of his collegiate broadcast career.

"He got the opportunities, took advantage of those opportunities and did an amazing job," Gaarder said. "Obviously, if you look at where he is now, he was doing games that people didn't want to do, but he wanted to and took the bull by the horns."

To go along with being hired by Northwest's Department of Athletics to provide play-by-play for all Bearcat baseball games, home and away, the ultimate example

of Thrall's work ethic and motivation to gain experience might be the 24-hour span he logged during a fall weekend his senior year at Northwest. He worked a Friday afternoon on-air shift at KZLX in Wells Hall, headed across town to broadcast a Spoofhound football game at Maryville High School and capped the night by returning to Wells for a late shift until 1 a.m. on National Public Radio affiliate KXCXV-KRNW. The next day, he worked a morning on-air shift at KNIM and then reported from the sideline of a Bearcat football game that afternoon for the Bearcat Radio Network.

"It was to try to get as much experience as I possibly could," Thrall said. "Then, once I got out and I was getting paid, you had to do as many jobs as you could just to make ends meet, because you're kind of paid by gig. Some of it early on was by choice. Others, as I got later, it was more by necessity. But the thing was, it was always fun. I always enjoyed all the work."

But calling baseball games was all Thrall really wanted to do. "It's the sport I love the most," he said. "I like the day-in and day-out aspect of it. There's a storytelling element there, too, and it lends itself to being a little bit more descriptive."



Thrall began his career as most professional ball players do, paying his dues and slogging in the minor leagues with a hunger to get to the bright lights of a big league ballpark. After securing a broadcasting role as a Northwest student with the Kansas City T-Bones in an independent professional baseball league and putting in five seasons there, Thrall bounced to the Myrtle Beach Pelicans, an Atlanta Braves



REDS ON RADIO



affiliate in South Carolina, for a year and then to the Quad City River Bandits, a St. Louis Cardinals affiliate in Iowa, for two years before landing with the Pensacola Blue Wahoos, a Reds affiliate in Florida, for seven years.

In 2015, Thrall was named the Southern League Broadcaster of the Year for his work with the Blue Wahoos – a sign that his smooth, natural broadcast voice was beginning to get some notice – as he was cultivating a sturdy network of people around the league. In addition to voicing Blue Wahoos baseball, Thrall ingrained himself in the Pensacola community by doing play-by-play for University of West Florida football and basketball games, working as a sports reporter for WEAR-TV and even doing shifts as a DJ for a country radio station.

“That’s the grind of it all is to be ready for all the assignments that you have, whether it’s a high school football game on Friday

night, followed by a college game on Saturday, and then you’ve got another baseball game on Sunday to do somewhere,” Thrall said. “It’s not just doing them and being prepared for all of them, but getting to all of them.”

When 2018 arrived, there was talk in the Reds organization of Marty Brennaman, a hall of fame broadcaster who had been with the franchise since 1974, nearing retirement. After calling some spring training games for the Reds, Thrall entered the running to be Brennaman’s successor. That September, Thrall was in Biloxi, Mississippi, preparing to broadcast a Blue Wahoos game, when he received a phone call offering him a tryout with the big league club.

Brennaman was hosting a weekend golf tournament and the Reds needed someone to do the radio play-by-play for three games. Of course, Thrall said, “yes.”

“Now I’ve gotta figure out how to get out of a high school football



Tommy Thrall joined the Cincinnati Reds’ “Reds on Radio” broadcast team in 2019. Partnered with former Major League pitcher Jeff Brantley (above on right), Thrall occupies the radio booth for a storied baseball franchise whose previous play-by-play announcers include Marty Brennaman, Joe Nuxhall and Waite Hoyt.





Tommy Thrall says he is “all-in” with the Reds and is hopeful the franchise can recapture championship glory. On the opposite page, Thrall interviews Reds manager David Bell and chats with Reds catcher Curt Casali before a game.

game on Friday,” Thrall remembered. “There’s a radio broadcast of a college football game on Saturday and a Blue Wahoos playoff game that I was supposed to broadcast on Sunday, but yeah, sure, I’m free.”

When Thrall made it to Cincinnati, nerve-racking rain delays factored into every game. But the Reds won two of the three, and Thrall clicked with Brantley, a big league pitcher for 14 seasons who joined the Reds broadcast team in 2007. Thrall had achieved his dream of calling a Major League Baseball game.

“I remember sitting here thinking, ‘Man, there are a lot more seats,’” Thrall said. “I’ve been to games here as a fan. I had been up to shadow Marty and Jeff before, but then to actually sit in the chair to broadcast, it was very, very surreal and incredibly special.”



The Reds were pleased with Thrall’s work, and he officially joined their broadcast team in 2019, Brennaman’s last season,

to host the “Reds on Radio” post-game show and produce stories and interviews for the pre-game show. In 2020, Thrall’s wait to become the Reds’ full-time play-by-play radio announcer was extended when the COVID-19 pandemic delayed and shortened the baseball season to 60 games. But since then, Thrall has settled into his broadcast chair nicely and is winning over fans in the process.

Dave “Yid” Armbruster, the producer and engineer for the Reds Radio Network since 1986, met Thrall during a spring training game in Pensacola and became an early supporter of him.

“There’s now a very good comfort level where he now knows he belongs,” Armbruster said. “Early on, that’s a learning curve, especially when you follow Marty Brennaman. I think he’s confident in what he does.

He’s gotten better as time goes on. He’s really good.”

In a short time, Thrall and Brantley have developed a chemistry that is noticeable on the airwaves and in their broadcast booth. During games, Brantley drinks Coca-Cola and delights in throwing the empty glass bottles into a trash can behind him in the broadcast booth, intent on making a clinking sound that’s audible to radio listeners when they crash against other discarded bottles. “That’s one of the sounds of summer – an empty Coke bottle clinking in the trash can,” Thrall said to



their radio audience after the sound made it onto a broadcast during the Reds' home series against the Cubs. "It goes hand in hand with the crack of the bat."

Their shared passion for baseball is evident, and Brantley says the pairing has reached a point where they can finish each other's sentences.

"The best part, I think, about Tommy is he can laugh at himself, and you have to be able to do that in this job because you're not gonna be perfect," Brantley said. "If you're trying to be perfect all the time, you're gonna mess up bad because you get too uptight. And one thing that Tommy is not is uptight. I mean, he's cool as a cucumber, and he's excited about doing the games."

For Thrall, the key is trying to reflect the emotions a fan is likely feeling during the highest and lowest moments of a game.

"I don't know if that's right or wrong. It's just kind of how I've always felt," he said. "You get excited when fans get excited. You get disappointed when fans are disappointed by something that happens, and that's OK."



Although recent seasons have not been bright for the organization, the history of the

Cincinnati Reds – one of baseball's most storied franchises – is not lost on Thrall. Founded in 1869 as the Cincinnati Red Stockings, they have the distinction of being baseball's oldest professional team. In the 1970s, the Reds were a perennial power with a lineup known as the "Big Red Machine" that won the World Series in 1975 and 1976.

After signing on in Cincinnati, Thrall read books about the Reds to educate himself about the team's history and tried to soak up as much as he could from Brennaman, who publicly praised Thrall during the transition.

"Marty spent 46 years here, and I got to work with him, and he was incredibly helpful at trying to encourage the fans to give me a chance, too, and he spoke to that during his retirement, which was incredibly nice," Thrall said. "That meant the world to me."

Thrall also has tried to learn from the fraternity of baseball announcers who work in the booth next to him on any given night – from hall of famers like Pat Hughes with the Chicago Cubs and Bob Uecker with the Milwaukee Brewers to a wave of younger broadcasters like the Los Angeles Dodgers' Joe Davis, with whom Thrall connected as a minor league broadcaster before Davis succeeded the legendary Vin Scully.

"I think you have to listen to as many of them as you can – and so I do," Thrall said. "Vin Scully's storytelling

was second to none. Bob Uecker's humor is unreal, but he does it in such a way that it works perfectly with a broadcast. And then Jon Miller (with the San Francisco Giants) just has this energy and enthusiasm when he speaks that just makes him fun to listen to. Those are the things that you kind of take away that, to me, make a great radio broadcast. Good energy, some humor and good storytelling – because it's about the game. You're just the vessel that brings the game to the fans."

Now 39 and in his fifth full season with the Reds' radio broadcast team, Thrall admits there were a few times throughout his minor league years that he thought about quitting, discouraged that his big league dreams might never come true. He can see now with a thankful set of eyes how each stop positioned him for the next and says he is "all-in" with the Reds.

Thrall knows firsthand that the preparation and waiting isn't easy, but achieving the goal is worth the work.

"I don't think the shine wears off," he said. "You get a little bit more comfortable, which I think is a good thing, but there's times where I still think, 'Wow, this is real life.' It's been so long chasing a dream that you start to think is never going to happen. When it does, it's just so surreal."



IOWA COUPLE EXTENDS SUPPORT WITH GIFT TOWARD MCKEMY CENTER RENOVATION

Don and Jody Athen are supporting further development of Northwest's School of Agricultural Sciences through a gift to the Agricultural Systems Management Fund, which supports renovations to the McKemy Center for Lifelong Learning.

As a result of their most recent \$75,000 gift, the entry to the McKemy Center will be renamed the Athen Family Entry.

"We consider ourselves friends of the University, and that opens up opportunities for students," Don said. "We like to see advancements in education across different fields. Our business is always looking for the right employees, and we feel that Northwest is able to supply many different disciplines."

Although the Athens did not earn degrees at Northwest, their bond with the institution inspires them to support its focus on student success and help advance the careers of

graduates in agriculture-related fields.

The Hamburg, Iowa, couple built a connection with Northwest through AgriVision Equipment Group, which formed in 2014 through a merger of four family-owned John Deere dealerships. Athen Implement had been supporting farmers in southwest Iowa since 1941.

During Northwest's highly successful Forever Green campaign, which raised more than \$55 million for a variety of initiatives, the Athens provided \$100,000 to help fund the Agricultural Learning Center as well as a \$25,000 gift to establish the Don and Jody Athen Scholarship.

The couple's most recent gift, Jody said, further supports Northwest's mantra of preparing students to be "career ready, day one."

"The University has a great ability to change



or develop courses at a much more rapid pace than a lot of larger institutions," she said, adding, "A number of the employees for AgriVision Equipment Group have come through Northwest. They have proven to be well-rounded and very good employees."



MCKEMY CENTER RENOVATIONS RECEIVE GRANT SUPPORT; NEW PROGRAM TO SUPPORT MANUFACTURING TRAINING

Renovations to the McKemy Center for Lifelong Learning are underway to help Northwest train students and employees in the manufacturing field and uplift a field with persistent labor shortages.

When complete, the remodeled McKemy Center will become home to revised and expanded programming related to systems management for manufacturing and agribusiness. The renovations include laboratory space, safety and infrastructure upgrades and welding booths.

"Northwest prides itself on providing industry-focused, hands-on education through profession-based learning opportunities," Jill Brown, director of corporate relations and major gift officer at

Northwest, said. "The McKemy renovation is a tremendous opportunity for students to do such hands-on education in the agribusiness and manufacturing fields."

In support of the program, the CHS Foundation awarded Northwest a grant of \$363,634 to assist the University with developing coursework in the areas of welding, precision measuring, electronics and electricity, mechatronics, personal protective equipment and safety, robotics and other industry-standard certifications. The grant funding also will help Northwest purchase classroom equipment and implement a Systems Management Academy for high school students and teachers.



By offering comprehensive systems management training and skill development, as well as certifying those skills with industry-recognized stackable credentials, Northwest will help increase the labor force for the manufacturing and agribusiness industry clusters. The McKemy Center renovation project, which is expected to cost approximately \$2 million, received \$750,000 in state funding from the MoExcels program. Northwest has a goal to complete the renovations by June 30 to allow for programming to begin in the fall of 2023.



O'RILEYS INVESTING IN MARTINDALE HALL PROJECT TO ASSIST FUTURE STUDENTS IN HEALTH SCIENCE, WELLNESS FIELDS

Seann '93 and Christi Apple '92 O'Riley have deep connections to the city of Maryville and Northwest that have instilled lifelong bonds and pride. Their shared interest in helping Northwest better prepare students and strengthen regional partnerships inspired them to provide \$25,000 in support of the renovation of Martindale Hall.

"We both have a passion for our hometown of Maryville and the important collaboration between the University and the city itself," Seann said. "The vibrancy of the University translates to the vibrancy of Maryville, so there's always going to be an undercurrent for us to invest back in our community."

In addition to serving as home to the School of Health Science and Wellness, Martindale Hall occupies a prominent location along College Avenue between Lamkin Activity Center and the Joyce and Harvey White International Plaza.

"It's eye-opening when you fast forward 30 years since we were there, and you realize it's a facility that's got a great location that could serve the University well," Seann, who also is a member of the Northwest Foundation Board of Directors, said. "This is a big endeavor that we feel is worth the time, the energy and the money to dedicate and for alumni and people that have ties to Northwest to get behind and help take a step forward."

Seann is the chief lending officer at Nodaway Valley Bank, an institution that was founded in Maryville 155 years ago and now has banking locations throughout north Missouri in addition to a recent expansion into the Kansas City market. Christi was employed for several years with Hallmark in Kansas City before staying home to raise the couple's children.

RETIRED NEUROLOGIST, ALUMNUS CONTINUING SUPPORT OF NORTHWEST WITH EYE ON UPLIFTING HEALTH SCIENCE, MARTINDALE HALL RENOVATIONS

Northwest alumnus Dr. Gary Tunell '67 and his wife, LuAnn, share a passion for higher education as well as health science and wellness. With that in mind, they have pledged \$25,000 to support the University's Martindale Hall improvement project, and the nursing program's new office suite will bear the couple's name.

Adding to their previous scholarship gifts and donations, the Tunells are always looking for ways to give back to the University. In 2020, Gary joined the Northwest Foundation Board of Directors, which allows him to give back to the University at a deeper level.

"We think it's an obligation," said Gary, who is a Maryville native and attended Horace Mann Laboratory School on the Northwest campus. "We are fortunate to be able to help financially, and we want to set an example for other alumni. It's an honor and a privilege to be able to give back for the benefits that we've reaped from Northwest."



He retired in 2020 after a 39-year career as a physician and president of Texas Neurology, his private practice in Dallas. Simultaneously, he spent 21 years as chief of neurology at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. He also served as president of the Dallas Epilepsy Board and president of the Texas Neurological Society.

In retirement, he remains committed to mentoring the next generation of physicians. He lectures to residents and interns at Baylor University Medical Center, conducts physical examinations for underprivileged kids and continues medical education courses to keep up with trends in medicine. Additionally, he serves on the professional advisory committee for Northwest's online nursing program by offering guidance related to curriculum and trends in the nursing field.

BECOME A HEALTH CHAMPION

Northwest's School of Health Science and Wellness is committed to addressing the region's physical and mental health needs through high-quality, state-of-the-art educational programs, delivered in a reimagined Martindale Hall.

Northwest completed a \$1.3 million renovation of Martindale Hall's third floor in April that includes academic laboratory spaces to support nursing, human services and school counseling programs as well as faculty offices.

That remodel is the first phase of long-term plans to update the entire building. The Missouri General Assembly approved \$8.5 million, and Northwest is raising funds to match the state grant and fund the \$17 million project total by December 2024.

The renovation and expansion will enhance Northwest's competitive edge in recruiting quality students interested in careers in health care while strengthening regional partnerships related to health science and wellness.



Interested Health Champions should contact the Northwest Foundation at 660.562.1248 or advance@nwmissouri.edu.

CHAMPIONS OF CARING
Gifts of \$25,000 - \$99,999
CHAMPIONS OF KINDNESS
Gifts of \$100,000 - \$249,999
CHAMPIONS OF EXCELLENCE
Gifts of \$250,000+



ALUMNI SET UP BUSINESS, VOCAL MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS WITH GRATITUDE FOR STUDENT EXPERIENCES

As beneficiaries of Northwest’s profession-based education model, Brian Hesse ’95 and his wife, Holly, are now giving back to the institution that helped shape their careers. The couple recently pledged \$100,000 to the Northwest Foundation to establish the Brian Hesse Scholarship for Business and the Hesse Family Scholarship for Vocal Music.

“Northwest is an amazing place to get your education,” Brian said. “We’re delighted to provide these scholarships to help ensure graduating high school students have a good opportunity to succeed in life.”

Brian and Holly met at Northwest and have been married 26 years. Holly attended Northwest from 1992 to 1996 as a vocal music education major before completing bachelor’s and master’s degrees at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She taught vocal music for 10 years in St. Louis and Chicago before leaving the classroom to raise the couple’s two children, Jaxon and Ella.

Today, the Hesses reside in Mamaroneck, New York, and Brian is co-owner, president and chief executive officer of aluminum distributor PerenniaAL. With 25 years of experience in the metals industry, Brian launched PerenniaAL last year with a commitment to ensuring sustainable services in the aluminum industry.

“As I grew and developed, I was able to take those skills that I learned at Northwest and hone them into what I wanted to do in my life – whether that was sales, marketing, a president and CEO or owning a company,” he said.

FORMER FACULTY, ALUMNI ESTABLISH SCHOLARSHIP TO ASSIST PRE-LAW STUDENTS

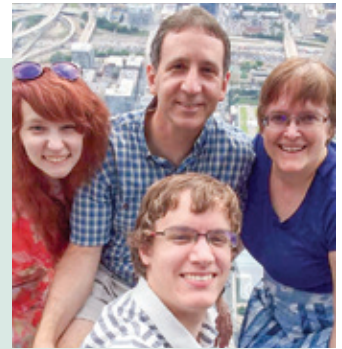
The former colleagues and students of a respected and beloved Northwest faculty member have created a scholarship in his memory. The Dan Smith Memorial Scholarship celebrates the legacy and impacts of Smith who died of cancer last year at the age of 59. He had been a member of the Northwest faculty for 23 years, specializing in pre-law and political science in the University’s Department of Humanities and Social Sciences.

“I don’t think he realized what an effect he had on his students until he got sick,” said his wife of 34 years, Sue, who is employed at Northwest as a registrar services specialist. “He used to say to me, ‘You know, I didn’t realize how much support I had,’ and it’s a shame to have to find out that way, but there was such an outpouring from former students.”

After Smith’s passing, Dr. Bob Dewhirst and Dr. Dave McLaughlin – who were faculty colleagues, mentors and friends to him at Northwest – led the establishment of the scholarship.

Smith joined the Northwest faculty in 1999 after a decade of practicing law in Washington, D.C. Through his teaching emphasis in law and civil liberties, he was passionate about sharing his expertise and preparing students for law careers. Additionally, he served as an advisor for the pre-law program, Pre-Law Society and Student Senate, and he oversaw the University’s legislative internship program, which places students in the offices of Missouri lawmakers each spring.

The Dan Smith Memorial Scholarship remains open to accept future contributions from donors. To contribute to the scholarship, or give to other Northwest initiatives, visit www.nwmissouri.edu/giveonline or contact Northwest’s Office of University Advancement at 660.562.1248.



The Smith family captured this favorite family photo during a vacation in Chicago. Clockwise from the top are Dan, Sue, and their children Benjamin and Fitz.



Margaret Wade Long

SCHOLARSHIP TO ASSIST STEM EDUCATORS HONORS TEACHER’S MEMORY

The family of a Northwest alumna recently established a scholarship in recognition of her commitment to teaching and to support students pursuing secondary education degrees in math and science.

Stewart Long created the Margaret Wade Long Scholarship for Teachers of Math and Science in memory of his mother, Margaret, who died in 2020 at the age of 95. Stewart set up the scholarship to honor Margaret’s teaching career and her time at the University.

Margaret graduated from Northwest in 1948

with a bachelor’s degree in education.

Due to the military career of Stewart’s father, the family moved frequently, and Margaret carried her passion for education with them. She was a substitute teacher in Germany during the 1950s after World War II and, after returning from Germany in 1964, she was a full-time third-grade teacher in Springfield, Virginia. She retired from teaching in 1971.

“That was her calling, and she was very good at that,” Stewart said.

LASTING LEGACIES

Leonard Read '70 and his wife, Sara, have pledged a deferred six-figure gift to the Northwest Foundation that will assist future students and faculty at the University. In doing so, the couple designated funding to establish a perpetual scholarship for students studying science, technology, engineering or math as well as an endowed professorship in natural sciences.

With no children of their own, the Reads are interested in investing their money where it can help others.

"We want to try to give the money to somebody that has limited opportunity to go to college and give them a chance to get into a STEM-type impact program where we need help within the United States," Leonard said.

As a native of Glenwood, Iowa, Leonard chose to pursue his bachelor's degree in chemistry at Northwest because he perceived it as the best value for higher education in the region.

"They gave me a good, basic education, which is what I needed," Leonard said. "I think that made a big difference. They had a good chemistry program, and I got a well-rounded education above and beyond that."

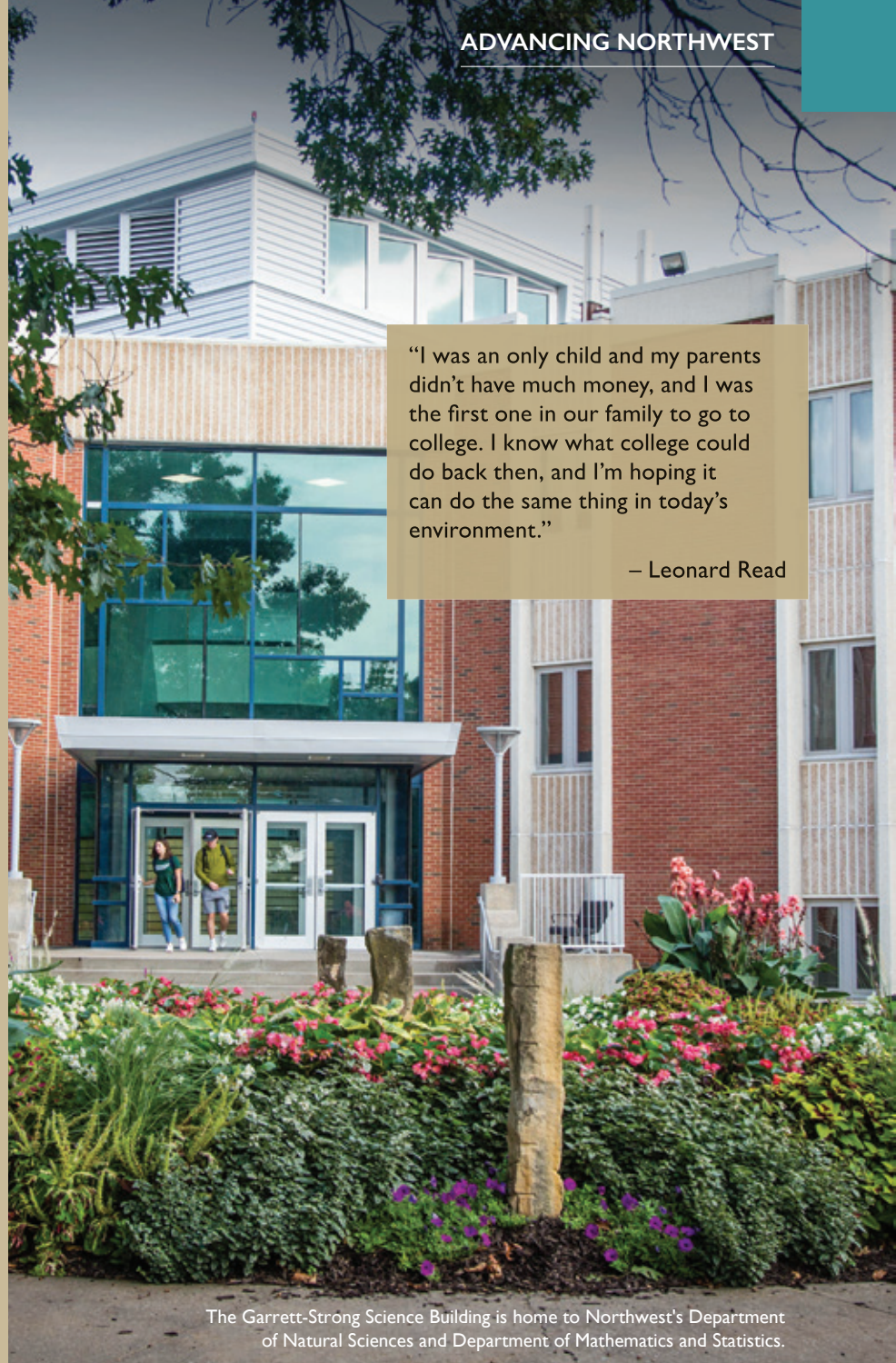
After completing his bachelor's degree, Leonard moved to Iowa State University for graduate-level coursework and completed a master's degree in physical chemistry.

Ready to launch his career, Leonard secured work in a crime lab with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in Washington, D.C., where he assisted with investigations, conducting tests and analysis during a four-year span.

From there, he took his expertise to a crime lab with the United States Postal Inspection Service for 13 years and then 10 years in postal engineering before retiring in 2004 after five years with the United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General.

"I was an only child and my parents didn't have much money, and I was the first one in our family to go to college. I know what college could do back then, and I'm hoping it can do the same thing in today's environment."

— Leonard Read



The Garrett-Strong Science Building is home to Northwest's Department of Natural Sciences and Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

Donating part or all of your unused retirement assets such as a gift from your IRA, 401(k), 403(b), pension or other tax-deferred plan is an excellent way to make a gift to our organization.

CONSIDER THESE ADVANTAGES:

- It's simple to set up.
- You maintain control of your assets.
- It provides a gift to Northwest in an amount you believe is appropriate, and you can still provide for your loved ones.
- It provides an estate tax deduction.
- It provides for a cause you deem worthy at Northwest.
- It includes membership in the Northwest Foundation's James H. Lemon Heritage Society.
- It leaves a lasting legacy at Northwest.

Contact the Office of University Advancement at [660.562.1248](tel:660.562.1248) or advance@nwmissouri.edu to learn about the many advantages of bequests, beneficiary designations, IRA charitable rollover gifts and other ways to give.

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.



MINNEAPOLIS ALUMNI & FRIENDS CHAPTER

Alumni and friends in Minneapolis gathered in March at Surly Brewing Co. and met with Northwest business students and faculty as they toured the city. Left to right in front are Kimberly Massey Cole '93, Laura Widmer '79, Jen Miller-Reynolds '92, Joyce Seals Roddy '75, Pat Roddy '75 and John Stacey '03. In back are Greg Weigand, Jeri Seals Weigand '75, David Reynolds '92, Paul Meyering '88 and Duane Havard '90.

ARIZONA ALUMNI GATHERED IN FEBRUARY AT PARADISE LOUNGE IN PHOENIX



Left to right are Seal Burrell, Dr. Bob Burrell '70, Barry Monaghan '69, '76, Nancy Peters, Teresa Kelly McCune '74 and John McCune '73.



Left to right are Brandi Kapfer Abernathy '11, '12, McKenna Standerford Morrison '19 and Jackson Morrison '19.

ST. LOUIS ALUMNI AND FRIENDS CHAPTER



The St. Louis Alumni and Friends Chapter hosted its 15th anniversary celebration in May at Brick House Tavern and Tap in Chesterfield. Left to right are Lindsay Gillespie '21, Susan Johnson Hockensmith '72, Meena Ewing Correll '00, Kevin Terry '73 and Aaron Bunch '04 with Nathan and Thomas Bunch.



WEST CENTRAL IOWA ALUMNI & FRIENDS CHAPTER

The West Central Iowa Alumni and Friends Chapter met in February at Kerp's Tavern in Carroll. Left to right are Jason Schwarte '92, Kessie Schwarte, Aly Goos '14, Tyler Behrens, Ashley Brincks '19, Colin Brown '18, Maureen Mader Freese '86 and Keith Freese.



KANSAS CITY ALUMNI & FRIENDS CHAPTER

The Kansas City Alumni and Friends Chapter gathered in February at Jazzy B's, owned by Brandon Simpson '99, in Lee's Summit. Left to right in front are Suzie Schuckman '06, Sheila Yoder Wogomon '95, Hunter Zentner '22 and Scott McGregor '85. In back are Jeffrey Post, Duane Havard '90, Brad Zentner '85 and Simpson.

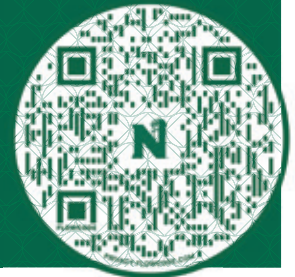
NORTHWEST ALUMNI

NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

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.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO
FIND A CHAPTER NEAR YOU.



STUDENT SENATE GATHERING

Alumni and current members of Student Senate gathered on the Northwest campus in January to celebrate the organization's 100th year. Pictured at left on the staircase, from the front are Donald Kixmiller '60, Dianne Kixmiller, Ed Douglas '74, Jim Oliver '71, John Moore '78, Thomas Vansaghi '91, Trent Skaggs '95, Alex Drury '08, Abby Stephens Elliott '06, '08, Asma Hassan '20, Abby Freeman '09, Andrew Maddux '12 and Elizabeth Motazedi. Pictured sitting and standing to the right of the staircase, from the front, are Kandace Inskip, Darren Ross, Jatin Thakkar, Jaelee Pittel, Judi Hassan, Kindly Jones, Elisha Westover, Sakshi Maddux, Chloe Devries, Allie Huynh, Dami Popoola, Matt Munger, Lucas Prater, Riley Steele, Nicholas Guess and Brayden Major.

Join the Northwest Alumni Association for a Northwest Day at The K

Kansas City Royals
vs. Minnesota Twins

Sunday, July 30

Look for the Northwest flag, canopy and Northwest Alumni Association van in Parking Lot J near Gate A on the left field side of the stadium.

Giveaways will be available at the tent.

First pitch at 1:10 p.m.

Tickets are \$13.

Seats are located in left field upper deck sections 409-411.

Tickets will be distributed electronically one week prior to the game.

Discount parking passes are available to purchase at <https://fevo.me/nwmsparking>.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/events or call 660.562.1248.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HONORS 8 FOR SUCCESS, SERVICE

Eight distinguished members of the Northwest family were honored in April during the annual Alumni Awards Banquet for dedicating their time, talent and service to the University as well as for accomplishments in their chosen fields.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Dr. Jacqueline Vincent Henningsen '66



DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD
Dr. Shantel Sondgeroth Farnan '95, '99, '08



DISTINGUISHED FACULTY EMERITUS AWARD
Dr. Carol Blom Spradling '88



HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD
Angela Moskow



NORTHWEST TURRET SERVICE AWARD
Michael Faust '74



YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD
Devon Lee Brown '10



PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD
Dr. Leslie Doyle '97



PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD
Sharon Cross Bonnett '65, accepted on her behalf by grandson Renner Shipley

NORTHWEST ALUMNI NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

MISSION:

The Northwest Alumni Association fosters lifelong relationships through the giving of time, talent and funds to initiatives and opportunities that advance the University, its alumni, future alumni and friends.

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 '02, 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 Motazed, Joplin, Mo.

Suzanne Schuckman '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

Dr. Joyce Pivala '70, '74, '82,

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.

LEARN MORE

Read about the achievements of this year's Alumni Award recipients by scanning this QR code.



NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

Class of **1973****50th**
YEAR
Reunion

October 20-21, 2023

Join us for your 50th-year reunion
during Homecoming weekendInvitations for the reunion will be mailed
Registration begins July 10

For more information:

Visit www.nwmissouri.edu/50th-Reunion
or contact the Office of Alumni Relations
at 660.562.1248 or alumni@nwmissouri.edu.**HOMECOMING**
OCTOBER 15-21**VARIETY SHOW**

- Thursday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m.
- Ron Houston Center for the Performing Arts
- TICKETS: \$5; purchase at www.nwmissouri.edu/getinvolved/homecoming/.

FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY

- Friday, Oct. 20, 2 p.m.
- Joyce and Harvey White International Plaza

M-CLUB HALL OF FAME BANQUET AND INDUCTION CEREMONY

- Friday, Oct. 20, 6:30 p.m.
- J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom
- COST: \$35 plus online processing fees; tickets may be purchased online at bearcatsports.com/tickets or by calling Kiersten Schneider at 660.562.1713.

HOMECOMING WELCOME

- Saturday, Oct. 21, 8 a.m.
- Michael L. Faust Center for Alumni and Friends

- Free coffee and hot chocolate
- Homecoming buttons and reunion ribbon will be available to graduates from 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018.

HOMECOMING PARADE

- Saturday, Oct. 21, 9 a.m.
- The parade begins at the corner of Ray and College Avenue. It will proceed east to Northwest's main entrance at Fourth Street and conclude at Fourth and Main streets.

BEARCAT ZONE PREGAME FESTIVITIES

- Saturday, Oct. 21, at the conclusion of the parade
- Raymond J. Courter College Park Pavilion
- COST: Admission to College Park and pre-game activities is free. A tailgate meal is available for purchase with a main entrée, sides, dessert and non-alcoholic beverage. Indoor seating with TVs and full bar are available inside Pavilion.

FOOTBALL VS. PITTSBURG STATE

- Saturday, Oct. 21, 2 p.m.
- Bearcat Stadium
- TICKETS: \$30 chairback, \$25 railback, \$23 reserved, \$14 adult general admission (standing room only), \$10 K-12 (standing room only or visiting students); Homecoming football tickets

are available to the general public beginning Monday, Oct. 9, by visiting bearcatsports.com/tickets. Prices increase on game day; all tickets have processing fees added.

PLACES TO STAY**MARYVILLE**

- America's Best Value Inn: 660.562.3111
- Bearcat Inn & Suites: 660.562.2002
- Cobblestone Inn & Suites: 660.224.2222
- Holiday Inn Express: 660.562.9949

ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI

- America's Best Value Inn: 816.279.1671
- Drury Inn & Suites: 816.364.4700
- Hampton Inn: 816.390.9300
- Holiday Inn Express & Suites: 816.232.2500
- Stoney Creek Inn: 816.901.9600

CLARINDA, IOWA

- Cobblestone Inn & Suites: 712.850.1471
- Super 8: 712.542.6333

Events are subject to change or cancellation. Visit www.nwmissouri.edu/getinvolved/homecoming/ for more information.



STEADY VOICE

John Coffey remains a reliable mentor to students, narrator of Bearcat sports

Even as John Coffey '82 enters his 39th year as the "Voice of the Bearcats" this fall, he's not sure he's achieved a perfect broadcast. Though his partner on the Bearcat Radio Network, Matt Tritten '11, argues Coffey hit the mark on a February 2020 night in Bearcat Arena when Trevor Hudgins '22 landed a jump shot at the end of regulation to beat Missouri Southern by one point and claim a MIAA regular season men's basketball championship.

After a missed Missouri Southern free throw, Northwest's Ryan Hawkins '20 rebounded the ball and passed it to Hudgins as the game's final seconds ticked away. Tritten held his breath and raised his hands to the air while Coffey made the call, which

earned him and the network a first-place award from the Missouri Broadcasters Association.

"There's a lot of times that we'll go through a big moment at the end of a game, and John will be like, 'I don't think I hit that quite right,'" Tritten said. "Are you kidding me? I listened to it live. It was pretty right."

For Coffey, the accolades are nice. But the value of his work with Northwest's National Public Radio affiliate, KXCV-KRNW, and the Bearcat Radio Network lies in relationships he's developed through the years – on and off the air – with Northwest students, faculty, staff, coaches, alumni and fans.

Coffey has traveled countless miles to ensure Northwest games are accessible to fans. That includes being on the radio broadcasts for all 14 of the NCAA Division II national championship games involving Bearcat teams since the football program's first trip to a national championship game in 1998 in Florence, Alabama.

"I've seen a lot of history come through and unbelievably lucky, too, when you look at six football national championships and four basketball," Coffey said. "To be able to watch those, it's something that I never thought would happen to get one, let alone be able to broadcast that many on both sides."

Until Coffey came along, the duties of calling the play-by-play of Bearcat athletics games were handled by students on the low-power, student-managed KDLX, which is now KZLX. Thus, Coffey was the Bearcats'



John Coffey, pictured in the 1981 Tower yearbook, gained experience as a Northwest student on KDLX and KXCV.



John Coffey announces play-by-play for all Bearcat football and men's basketball games on KXCV-KRNW, the flagship of the Bearcat Radio Network.

Bearcat broadcasts.

Coffey, who was named KXCV-KRNW's station manager in 2019, also was instrumental in expanding the network to stations covering northern Missouri, southern Iowa, northeast Kansas and southeast Nebraska. Additionally, he has propelled it into emerging media vehicles, such as podcasts and the launch of its Bearcat Public Media mobile app.

At the same time, he helps carry KXCV's long tradition of helping to prepare students for careers in the broadcast field and elsewhere. Under his supervision, Northwest students have gone on to successful broadcast careers at organizations including ESPN and other NPR affiliates throughout the country. Graduates of the program have received awards from the Missouri Broadcasters Association for feature reporting, news series, and documentary and public affairs programming.

"That means a lot," Coffey said. "I really enjoy that part because I like seeing them come in early and just see how they progress and the confidence that they get by the time they graduate. I always enjoy seeing the success they have."

Coffey also has earned a reputation for being fair and trustworthy with Bearcat players, coaches, opposing teams and game officials.

"That sticks out more than anything else about John is that he loves the Bearcats, but he expresses it in a very professional way," Mel Tjeerdsmas '77, a former Northwest football head coach and athletics director, said. "He's developed such a positive reputation amongst not just our fans but people all over."

That was exemplified after a men's basketball game last season when a fan of an opposing team approached Coffey. The fan told Coffey he hadn't realized the broadcast team's affiliation with Northwest because of the fairness they showed during the broadcast.

"I just try to convey the tension and excitement at the game for the people that are home listening, to kind of bring them into what's taking place in the arena and make them feel like they're right there," Coffey said. "Hopefully I've been able to do that from time to time."

first professional play-by-play caller.

By Tritten's count, Coffey has broadcast 460 consecutive Bearcat football games, dating from the start of the 1985 season through 2022.

"There's just a certain amount of dedication and hard work, and your best ability is availability," Tritten said. "Whether it's to be on games or to help students, it's all about the availability to put himself out there to make sure that he's ready for whatever anybody needs."

Beginning as a Northwest student in the fall of 1978, Coffey worked hard to sharpen his signature broadcast voice, gaining experience on KXCV as well as KDLX.

"There were several of us at that time that went through and would practice and even pair up and take a tape recorder out and sit in the corner of Rickenbrode (now

Bearcat Stadium) or at Lamkin Gym at the time and practice and try to get on the air," Coffey said, acknowledging former KXCV Station Manager Rollie Stadlman '70 and News Director Jeff McCall as mentors who helped him hone his play-by-play calling.

After completing his bachelor's degree at Northwest, Coffey worked as the news director for a station in Fairbury, Nebraska, and returned to Maryville to join KNIM in 1983 as its news and sports director.

Beginning with the 1985 football season, Coffey partnered with a rotation of Bearcat coaches and athletics staff to deliver the play-by-play of games on KNIM. In 1999, Coffey moved to KXCV-KRNW's airwaves and partnered with Matt Gaarder '97 to help launch the Bearcat Radio Network, which was one of the first networks to cover NCAA Division II athletics and gave fans throughout the world online access to

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS x 4



RUNNERS CLAIM TWO INDOOR TITLES, TWO OUTDOOR TITLES

The Bearcat track and field teams capped their 2023 by capturing a pair of national championships at both of their indoor and outdoor finales, including double women's 4x400 relay titles.

The Bearcats sent 22 national qualifiers – 10 women and 12 men – to the NCAA Division II outdoor track and field championships May 25–27 in Pueblo, Colorado, and left with 26 All-America accolades – 15 for the women and 11 for the men – as the women's team finished 13th and the men placed 22nd.

Chloe Saenz, Luisarys Toledo, Kaylee Harp and Tiffany Hughey won the women's 4x400 relay in the championship meet's final event and set a school record of 3:33.44 to complete a sweep of the indoor and outdoor national championships in the event. It also was the first national championship for a Bearcat women's outdoor relay team.

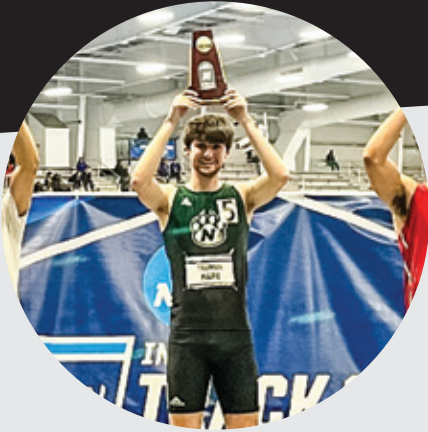
On day two of the outdoor championships, junior Reece Smith blew away the field on his way to a second consecutive national title in the men's 3,000-meter steeplechase. Smith finished 5.73 seconds ahead of his closest competitor in a time of 9:07.03. He also earned an All-America honor with a sixth-place finish in the 5,000-meter run, giving him four career outdoor All-America accolades to go with two indoor All-America nods.

Toledo, a sophomore, broke her own school record and earned

All-America honors, placing second in the nation with a mark of 6.34m (20' 9.75") in the women's long jump on day one of the outdoor championships. On day three, she gained her second All-America honor with an eighth-place finish in the women's 400-meter dash in a time of 54.04.



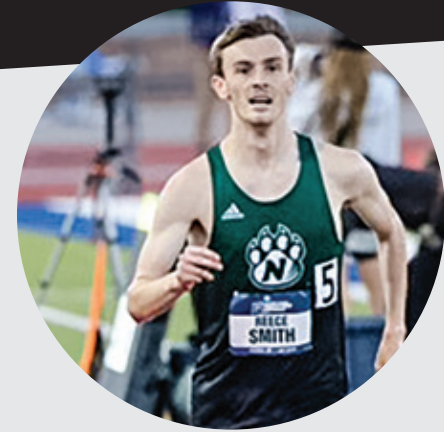
Left to right, **CHLOE SAENZ, LUISARYS TOLEDO, KENNEDI CLINE, and TIFFANY HUGHEY** hold their indoor track national championship trophies after setting the Division II record in the women's 4x400 relay.



TRUMAN HARE won the national championship in the indoor men's 400-meter dash.



LUISARYS TOLEDO was the national runner-up in the outdoor long jump.



REECE SMITH claimed his second consecutive outdoor national title in the men's 3,000-meter steeplechase.

Harp, a junior, also was among the Bearcats to earn indoor and outdoor All-America honors, placing 12th at the indoor championship and seventh in the outdoor championship in the women's 800-meter run.

Additionally, senior Dakota Schmidt completed his Bearcat career with a 16th-place finish in the men's javelin, becoming a two-time NCAA outdoor All-American in the event. He also was honored with the prestigious NCAA Elite 90 Award, which is presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average at each of the NCAA's championships. He is the third Bearcat to earn the Elite 90 Award, joining football player Trevor Adams in 2013 and men's basketball player Jaran Richman in 2021.

"It's fun as a coach to know in the first couple weeks of practice that this team was different and special," said head coach Brandon Masters, who was named to the MIAA Women's Outdoor Track and Field Coaching Staff of the Year with assistant Nikki Wetstein, assistant Wick Cunningham '17, '19, throwing coach Derrick Schluter and graduate assistant Lisette Perez. "This team's success comes from having leaders that wanted more, athletes that believed in their coaching staff and believed in goals we set as a team from our first team meeting."

Earlier in May in Jefferson City, Missouri, the Bearcat women captured the program's third MIAA outdoor track and field championship with four individual MIAA champions along with the 4x400 relay crown.

Toledo was the meet's top female point-scorer as she tallied individual titles in the long jump and the 400-meter dash and took third in the 200-meter dash. Senior Caroline Cunningham, a two-time MIAA indoor champ in the mile run, posted her first outdoor MIAA championship by winning the 3,000-meter steeplechase. Harp took first-place honors in the 800-meter dash and capped the weekend by helping the 'Cats win the 4x400-meter relay with Saenz, Hughey and freshman Kennedi Cline.

The Bearcat men took fifth place at the conference championship as Smith claimed his third consecutive 3,000-meter steeplechase MIAA title and his second 5,000-meter crown to give him five career outdoor MIAA championships.

INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD SEASON

The Bearcats sent a program-record 21 student-athletes to compete at the NCAA Division II indoor track and field national championship meet in Virginia Beach, Virginia, in March and secured 16 All-America titles to go with national championships in the women's 4x400 relay squad and the men's 400-meter dash.

The 4x400 relay team of Saenz, Toledo, Cline and Hughey set the Division II indoor record with a time of 3:36.76. Later, Truman Hare did not let the big stage affect his performance as a freshman and claimed the national title in the men's 400-meter dash with a time of 46.99.

The men tied for seventh at the national indoor meet, and the women tied for 10th. By the end of the indoor season, the Bearcat women had notched 10 school records and the men tallied six.

"I knew the women would be extremely tough to beat this year, not only at the conference level but also a potential top-10 team in the country," Masters said. "What I didn't know is how the men would come together as a team and do something extraordinary. I thought we were a top-20 team, but to finish seventh overall was a testament to the character and talent."

The Bearcats geared up for the national meet at the MIAA indoor championship at Pittsburg State University. There, the women's distance medley relay squad of Whitney Post, Olivia Sattlefield, Alyna Thibault and Harp captured the MIAA title with a meet record time of 11:51.96. Not to be outdone, the Bearcats added MIAA championship performances from Bailey Blake (women's 800m), R.J. Williams (men's 600-yard run), Toledo (women's 600-yard run) and the women's 4x400-meter relay team of Saenz, Cline, Sattlefield and Hughey.

The women finished second at the MIAA indoor championship, and the men finished fifth. The Bearcats also had 31 student-athletes – 18 women, 13 men – earn MIAA academic recognition for their work in the classroom.

"This is the closest team I've ever had," Masters said. "We are a family. It is the hardest-working team I've ever coached, and it's the most fun I've ever had as a coach. Those are absolutely the ingredients for a team that will accomplish great things."

SPRING SPORTS RECAP

GOLF

Sophomore Paige Hoffman put together the finest women's golf season the Bearcat program has ever seen, becoming the fourth to qualify for the NCAA regional meet and the first to earn a spot at the national championship meet. She wrapped up play in the NCAA Division II



Paige Hoffman

women's golf national championship with a final round score of 78 and tallied a three-day total of 232.

Hoffman, who joined Northwest this year after transferring from the University of South Dakota, earned first-team all-MIAA honors and was the individual medalist at the MIAA golf championship. She also earned a spot on the Women's Golf Coaches Association All-Central Region squad.

She produced 11 top-10 finishes in her first 12 meets of the season. Her only non-top-10 finish came with an 11th-place in March at the Duffie Ford Lincoln Invite in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

She completed her season with a handful of Bearcat records, including most rounds played (30), lowest single-season stroke average (75.43), most single-season top-10 finishes (11), lowest single-round score (68) and lowest two-round score (144). She also produced six of the 10-lowest rounds in Bearcat golf history, including the lowest with a four-under round of 68 in the NCAA Central Regional in Larchwood, Iowa, where she tied for third.

TENNIS

The Bearcat men landed the program's 23rd NCAA Division II tournament appearance and advanced to the Sweet 16 in Orlando, Florida, where they fell to Cameron University. The men were led by three-time MIAA Player of the Year Andrea Zamurri, who notched first-team all-MIAA status for the third consecutive season and was ranked among the top 20 players in the nation throughout the season.

Senior Fabien Calloud capped his Bearcat career with 144 combined singles and doubles wins to rank No. 5 in school history. His 73 singles wins rank No. 6 in program history, and his 71 doubles wins also rank No. 6 in school history.

Head coach Mark Rosewell was named the MIAA/GAC Men's Tennis Coach of the Year after guiding the Bearcats to a perfect 7-0 mark against MIAA/GAC foes. He captured his 1,200th coaching win at Northwest April 12 and has a career coaching record of 1,204-574 at Northwest, which includes 29 MIAA regular season titles and 43 NCAA tournament appearances.

Additionally, Jan Skerbatis was tabbed MIAA Freshman of the Year with 14 singles wins, including a mark of 5-2 in MIAA/GAC duals, while Northwest's first-team all-MIAA selections were Zamurri, Calloud, Mason Meier and Michael Delebois.



Fabien Calloud

The Bearcat women rose to an all-time program high of No. 7 in the national rankings en route to an 18-5 season with their 13th MIAA title. Rosewell collected his 11th MIAA Women's Tennis Coach of Year, while five players – Tyffaine Pais, Carolina Lima De Oliveira, Vera Alenicheva, Tessa Kwakernaak and Angela per Moreno – earned first-team all-MIAA honors.

Alenicheva recorded a team-best 17 singles wins at No. 1 singles and teamed with Kwakernaak to go 17-4 in doubles dual action. Pais and per Moreno notched a mark of 15-4 at No. 3 doubles.

The women put together a 12-match winning streak from March 8 through April 14 that tied for the third-longest streak in program history. The Bearcats dropped a pair of matches to close the season with an MIAA tournament semifinal loss to Northeastern State and a home loss to Missouri Western in the NCAA tournament's second round.

BASEBALL

The Bearcats finished with a record of 13-34, tying for 11th in the MIAA standings.

Senior Ryan Koski led the squad in batting average (.337), runs (38), hits (55), doubles (13), home runs (13), RBIs (58), slugging percentage (.669), walks (28), sacrifice flies (4), on-base percentage (.443) and on-base plus slugging (1.112). He capped his career ranked second in walks (97), tied for seventh in home runs (22) and seventh in RBIs (126).

The pitching staff ranked No. 15 in the nation in strikeout-to-walk ratio (2.56) and led the MIAA in fewest walks per nine innings (3.43), which also ranked No. 18 in the country. Max Spitzmiller finished as the program's all-time

BEARCATS SECOND IN 2022-23 MIAA COMMISSIONER'S CUP STANDING

The Bearcats claimed five MIAA team championships during the 2022-23 season and tied for their best-ever finish in the Commissioner's Cup final standings.

Northwest topped the conference in volleyball, men's basketball, women's tennis, men's tennis, and women's outdoor track and field. The Bearcats finished second in the Commissioner's Cup standings behind Pittsburg State.

"We have had a terrific year in all of our competitive venues, and our placing in the MIAA Commissioner's Cup speaks to that," Northwest Director of Athletics Andy Peterson '07, '08, '10, said. "However, I am most proud of the consistent growth and slow-build we have seen the last couple of years since COVID. It shows we are building this the right way and our success isn't just a flash in the pan for all our programs. I'm proud of where we are as a department, but I'm more excited about where we are going



Bearcat head coaches Ben McCollum '03, '05 (men's basketball), Amy Phelps Wwoerth '05 (volleyball), Mark Rosewell (tennis) and Brandon Masters (track and field) hold their team's 2022-23 MIAA trophies.

holistically, and hopefully the positive momentum continues to drive us forward."

The Commissioner's Cup is an all-sports award presented at the end of each academic year to the league's top performing school in conference play, based on a point system that reflects the finish of each team.

leader in innings pitched (333 1/3) and No. 2 in total strikeouts (294) while Alex Slocum recorded 15 career wins to tie for No. 10 in program history. He ranks third in all-time pitching appearances (70), and his 167 strikeouts rank No. 7 in program history.

The Bearcats had five players earn all-MIAA honors. Koski captured third-team all-MIAA status while Slocum, Spitzmiller, sophomore pitcher Jacob Gajic and sophomore infielder Cole Slibowski secured honorable mention status.

SOFTBALL

The Bearcats increased their win total by 13 games from last season under second-year head coach Naomi Tellez and posted their first winning season since 2017 with a 28-24 mark.

Four athletes earned All-MIAA accolades with junior Avery Anderson gaining a spot on the Gold Glove team by not committing an error in the outfield and ranking fourth on the team with 43 hits, including a

grand slam against Lincoln. Freshman outfielder Omara Love, sophomore outfielder Lillie Filger and senior infielder Olivia Daugherty earned honorable mention all-MIAA status.

Daugherty led the team in batting average (.379), on-base plus slugging (1.183), doubles (11), triples (1), home runs (13), RBIs (48) and slugging percentage (.702). She finished her Bearcat career second all-time in home runs (43), second all-time in RBIs (152) and third all-time in slugging percentage (.633). She also finished top five in the MIAA in RBIs, home runs, slugging percentage and on-base plus slugging.

Filger batted .371 and led the team with 56 hits, 23 multi-hit games and 19 stolen bases in 20 attempts. Love had the third-most hits on the team (56) with a .359 batting average with 10 doubles and 15 stolen bases.



Breck Dickey



Bearcats repeat as MIAA regular season, tournament champions before stunning end

The Bearcat men's basketball team reached 30 wins for the fourth time in five seasons on its way to securing a 10th consecutive MIAA regular season title and a 10th straight NCAA Division II tournament berth under head coach Ben McCollum '03, '05.

As the No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament's Central Region and a regional host for the fifth time in program history, Northwest hammered Southern Arkansas in its opening-round matchup, 94-69, in front of a jam-packed Bearcat Arena.

Unfortunately, the Bearcats saw their quest to win four consecutive Division II national titles come to an end in the second round against Southern Nazarene University. The No. 15-ranked Crimson Storm used a hot-shooting night to stun the Bearcats, 61-57, and end their season with a record of 31-3.

Northwest began the season ranked No. 1 in the nation and won its first 10 games before losing Dec. 17 at No. 22-ranked Emporia State. The Bearcats bounced back

with four more wins before No. 7-ranked Central Oklahoma topped them Jan. 12 in Edmond. The Bearcats then pounded out 17 straight wins, avenging each of their losses with home wins against Emporia State and Central Oklahoma.

Northwest captured its 11th MIAA Tournament championship in March with a 61-53 win over Central Oklahoma at Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City. It marked the Bearcats' eighth straight MIAA tournament final appearance.

Northwest used lockdown defense and superior shooting all season, and it showed as the Bearcats became only the second team in NCAA Division II history to lead the nation in scoring defense (56.3 ppg) and shooting percentage (52.4).

Senior Diego Bernard capped his Bearcat career as the MIAA's Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year, making him only the fifth player in MIAA history to claim both awards in the same year. It was the eighth consecutive year that a Bearcat was honored as the league's Player of the Year.

Bernard earned NABC All-America honors for the first time in his storied Bearcat career. He led the Bearcats in scoring (16.3 ppg), rebounds (1.65), assists (1.17), steals (.72), field goals made (1.96) and free throws made (1.22). He also completed his Bearcat career

with the third-highest scoring total (2,205 points), trailing only Justin Pitts '19 (2,459) and Trevor Hudgins '22 (2,829). Bernard finished as Northwest's all-time leading rebounder with 963.

Bennett Stirtz became the seventh Northwest player to earn MIAA Freshman of the Year status. Stirtz, who also gained second-team all-MIAA recognition, ranked third on the team in scoring (12.6 ppg). He played in all 34 games with 27 starts and led the Bearcats in minutes per game (34.5). He ranked first in the MIAA in field-goal percentage (60.1%) and in assist-to-turnover ratio (2.3). Additionally, he tied for No. 16 in the nation in total steals (65), the most by any Division II freshman during the season.

Junior Wes Dreamer gained second-team all-MIAA honors for his play. He ranked No. 2 on the squad in scoring (12.8 ppg) and drained a team-best 79 three-pointers. He notched six 20-point scoring games, including a season-high 27-point effort against Missouri Western in the quarterfinals of the MIAA Tournament.

McCollum earned his fifth career NABC Central District Coach of the Year award and his eighth MIAA Coach of the Year honor. He has produced an overall record of 365-86 in 14 seasons at the helm of the Bearcat men's basketball program.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SEES POSTSEASON PLAY FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR



Jayna Green



Molly Hartnett

The Bearcat women's basketball team finished its second consecutive season at .500 or better for the first time since the program's 2007-08 campaign.

Northwest went 15-15 overall in 2022-23 and bounced back from an 0-5 start in MIAA play to take the No. 8 seed in the MIAA Tournament in Kansas City with a league mark of 10-13. After a 70-54 first-round win over Newman, the Bearcats bowed out to top-seeded Nebraska-Kearney in the quarterfinals.

Sophomore Molly Hartnett earned third-team all-MIAA honors, and sophomore Kelsey Fields gained honorable mention status. Junior Jayna Green secured a spot on the MIAA's All-Defensive team.

Hartnett led the Bearcats in scoring (13.3 ppg) and assists (91) with 20-plus points in five games. She also led the MIAA and ranked No. 10 in the nation in free-throw percentage (90.7%).

Fields topped the MIAA in rebounding, averaging 9.2 per game, and posted double-figure rebounds in 14 contests. She also led the team with five double-doubles, including a season-high 20 points with 16 rebounds in a

72-48 win over Lincoln on Jan. 21. She grabbed a career-high 18 rebounds in a 68-46 win over Northeastern State on Feb. 11.

Green became the program's all-time leader in blocked shots and accumulated 140 blocks since joining the program in 2019-20. She was credited with a team-best 35 blocks this past season.

The women's basketball team had 14 student-athletes earn MIAA academic honors. Hartnett, Fields, sophomore Peyton Kelderman and sophomore Evelyn Vazquez each earned spots on the College Sports Communicators Academic All-District team.

As the team looks ahead, head coach Austin Meyer '06, '08, announced in May the hiring of long-time coach and hall of famer Chris Guess as assistant coach. Guess has spent the last 32 years as a high school coach in Iowa, where he captured a pair of state championships at Waukee High School. Guess was inducted into the Iowa Basketball Hall of Fame in 2022 and led his teams to 15 state tournament appearances during tenures at Centerville, Glenwood, Ottumwa and Waukee.



BOERIGTER JOINS MIAA HALL OF FAME

Dr. Bob Boerigter, who served as director of athletics at Northwest from 2001 until 2010, was inducted into the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association Hall of Fame on June 6 as part of its 2023 class.

"Dr. Bob," as he is known, has served as a coach and administrator in intercollegiate athletics for 45 years, including as MIAA commissioner from 2010 until 2017. During his time as commissioner, the MIAA produced 10 national champions in six sports. Boerigter also received the Division II Athletics Director Association Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018.

Boerigter has served as director of athletics at five institutions, making his final stop in the role at Northwest, where he was the lead administrator for the Department of Athletics, including recreational sports, club sports, campus recreation and the fitness center.

After completing a bachelor's degree in physical education, Boerigter began his career in 1972 at Northwestern College in Iowa where he assumed the roles of basketball, baseball, football and golf coach. He earned a master's degree from the University of Northern Colorado and a Ph.D. from the University of Utah.

2023 BEARCAT FOOTBALL SCHEDULE FEATURES 5 GAMES AT BEARCAT STADIUM

AUG. 31 (THU.) / 7 P.M.	AT MISSOURI SOUTHERN
SEPT. 7 (THU.) / 7 P.M.	EMPORIA STATE
SEPT. 16 (SAT.) / 7 P.M.	AT FORT HAYS STATE
SEPT. 23 (SAT.) / 1:30 P.M.	LINCOLN (FAMILY WEEKEND)
SEPT. 30 (SAT.) / 1 P.M.	AT CENTRAL MISSOURI
OCT. 7 (SAT.) / 1:30 P.M.	CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
OCT. 14 (SAT.) / 1 P.M.	AT MISSOURI WESTERN
OCT. 21 (SAT.) / 2 P.M.	PITTSBURG STATE (HOMECOMING)
OCT. 28 (SAT.) / 1 P.M.	AT WASHBURN
NOV. 4 (SAT.) / 2 P.M.	AT NORTHEASTERN STATE
NOV. 11 (SAT.) / 1:30 P.M.	NEBRASKA-KEARNEY (SENIOR DAY/AG DAY)

HOME GAMES IN BOLD AT BEARCAT STADIUM



CLASSNOTES

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Hibbeler using promotions, broadcast experience to advocate for charitable causes

During a career spanning more than three decades in the broadcasting field, Carrie Huke Hibbeler '88 has developed a knack for executive producing and building partnerships that are founded in her passion for community.

As a youth growing up in Kansas City's Northland, Hibbeler wanted to be creative and held aspirations of working in the advertising industry. Today, she is executive producer and community affairs director at WDAF-TV, the Fox affiliate in Kansas City.

"I really wanted to be in advertising, but I didn't know how to describe the job that I wanted," Hibbeler said. "I wanted to be creative."

She began working for KDLX, Northwest's student-managed radio station, as well as KXCX, Northwest's National Public Radio affiliate, during her first year at the University and was hooked on broadcasting. Between coursework and radio shifts, she also was active in Phi Mu sorority and Cardinal Key, and she became president of the Student Ambassadors.

During a summer internship at KRMS, an AM radio station in Lake of the Ozarks, she was dubbed "Country Carrie" and had the distressing task during one shift of monitoring a tornado and instructing listeners to take cover as it cut through the region. Another internship in the promotions department at KMBC-TV in Kansas City helped Hibbeler solidify where she wanted to take her career.

"I learned all of these things early enough, so by the time I

graduated I had a much better idea of what I wanted to do," she said. "If I had to redo it all over again, I would definitely go back to Northwest. I loved the experience. I liked that I was given the opportunity to experience areas of interest."

After beginning her career as the promotion coordinator at KSMO-TV in Kansas City, Hibbeler left television for a two-year stint as executive director of the Kansas City Radio Broadcasters Association. She then spent time working part-time in marketing and promotions.

In 2005, Hibbeler decided to return to TV and stepped into the community affairs role at WDAF. She was tasked with working with local, regional and national nonprofits to share their stories, assist with fundraisers and connect viewers to resources. As her responsibilities expanded, she added the executive producer title and annually produces events such as School Day at the K, the Snake Saturday and St. Patrick's Day parades. She also produced the Royals' World Series championship parade in 2015 and the Chiefs' Super Bowl championship parades in 2020 and this year.

In her dual roles, Hibbeler works closely with sales staff and a creative team to develop promotions and partnerships that not only promote the TV station but community endeavors.

"We have this loud speaker to share information," she said. "Not only do we share the bad news, but we need to be able to share good news, too."

Hibbeler is passionate about promoting the Fox4 Love Fund for Children, which partners with youth advocates – such as case

1970s

Bill Krejci '73, '76, was named the 2022 USA Baseball Coach and Educator of the Year. He has worked with USA Baseball for three decades as a coach and instructor for national teams and developmental programs, most recently with the Fun At Bat program. He has coached baseball at the high school and college levels for 50 years and resides in Plainfield, Illinois.

Rick Stockdell '73 retired in December as an associate professor of broadcast journalism at the University of Arkansas, where he had served for 42 years. He also served for 34 years as station manager of KUAF, the university's National Public Radio station, retiring from that role in 2019.

Marcia Allen Hansen '74 graduated in December from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Doctor of Educational Ministry degree. She resides in Appleton, Wisconsin, with her husband, Dr. Dennis Hansen '74.

Tom Danner '75 received the National Eagle Scout Association's Outstanding Eagle Scout Award in February for his consistent volunteer work in northeast Iowa. He retired in 2018 as a teacher and wrestling coach, having received numerous awards, including induction into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2016.

Don Edwards '78 was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame April 23. While coaching boys and girls basketball for 20 years at Jefferson High School, his teams won 824 games that included three state championships, 16 district titles and 18 conference championships. He also is a three-time Missouri Basketball Coaches Association Coach of the Year and coached softball teams to three state titles.

Ric Watson '79 retired in May 2021 as a quality assurance administrator with American Family Insurance. He resides with his wife in Parkville, Missouri.

1980s

Dave Montgomery '82 is in his 35th year as teacher and coach. Last fall, both of his girls and boys cross country teams at Highland High School in Gilbert, Arizona, finished as state champions, earning him recognition as the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association's Arizona Cross Country Coach of the Year.

Mark Lee Gardner '83 is an independent author and historian. His latest nonfiction book, a dual biography of Lakota leaders Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull and titled "The Earth Is All That Lasts: Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull, and the Last Stand of the Great Sioux Nation," was published last year.

Dr. John McGuire '83, '99, recently was named the Welch-Bridgewater Endowed Chair for Sports Media in the School of Media and Strategic Communications at Oklahoma State University. He joined the university in 2002 and teaches media and journalism courses. He also has co-edited two books about ESPN.

Russ Reiter '86, '96, retires June 30 as superintendent of the Independence (Iowa) Community School District after 37 years in the education field. He had served as superintendent since 2018 and previously was superintendent of the Oskaloosa and Mt. Ayr community school districts. In 2010, he was honored as the Green Hills Area Education Agency Superintendent of the Year.

Allen Andrews '89 was appointed in November by Missouri Gov. Mike Parson to director of the Division of Employment Security within the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. He served in the Missouri House of Representatives from 2014 until 2022. He has also



Edward Hymes

joined Planet Fitness Inc. in January as its president and chief operating officer. Previously, he served as president and chief executive officer of Jiffy Lube International, a subsidiary of Shell Oil Company. He began work at Shell in 2001 and served on its global Downstream Acquisitions and Divestments Leadership Team.

'89

been president of Andrews Family Corporation, a manufacturing business, since 1990.

1990s

Davine Davis '94, '98, '01, received the Missouri Music Educators Association's John G. Patterson Leadership Award in January in recognition of exemplary leadership in the field of music education. She has served as assistant executive director with the Missouri State High School Activities Association since 2004 and previously taught music for 10 years.

Lance Fredrickson '96 was named in March as one of 44 semifinalists for the 2023 Minnesota Teacher of the Year award. He teaches kindergarten at Oak View Elementary School in Maple Grove and has taught in Osseo Area Schools for 20 years.

Andrea Lantz Gurney '97 was named principal last fall of the Schleswig (Iowa) Community School. Previously, she taught physical education in Odebolt for 13 years before returning to Schleswig and teaching physical education and health for kindergarten through eighth grade as well as computers.

managers, therapists, counselors and medical care providers – to fulfill unique, unmet needs of children throughout Kansas City. She also actively works with Kansas City Chiefs players' charitable foundations, American Red Cross Disaster Relief, Salvation Army and Variety Children's Charity of Greater Kansas City, an organization committed to providing adaptive equipment and opportunities for children with developmental disabilities.

But one charitable cause is especially dear to Hibbeler. In 2010, she co-founded Band of Angels with Mike Meyer of Meyer Music Company after she was inspired by a series of news segments WDAF aired about declining support for school arts programs. With a goal to collect 50 used instruments, they amassed 350 that were cleaned and resold or loaned to kids who needed them.

Since then, Band of Angels has provided 3,000 instruments to students and schools. It also has awarded \$275,000 in scholarships and helped send 400 students to music camps. Singer Barry Manilow has joined instrument drives, and the organization has

received assistance from musicians who perform with Billy Joel and Beyoncé. Donated instruments that are beyond their usefulness are either transformed into pieces of art and sold or recycled.

For her part, Hibbeler's numerous accolades include an Excellence in Community award from the National Association of Broadcasters and a coveted Crystal Bell Award for Public Service Campaign from the National Ad Council. She also has two regional Emmy awards on her résumé for public service and interactive media, stemming from the work she and a team did to create and produce a series of weather DVDs for families.

"I encourage students to experience as much as they possibly can because it gives insight into what they want to do for the rest of their lives," Hibbeler said. "Just by being a hugger for Special Olympics when I was a Phi Mu or doing an Easter egg hunt with Head Start kids, I realized I really like the philanthropy piece of it. At that point, I never knew that's what I would end up doing really for most of my career."

HIKING A NEW PATH

Sutcliffe inspiring others by confronting mental health struggles

Bobby Sutcliffe has seen a lot of battles in his lifetime – from simpler ones that played out on ballfields in Missouri and Idaho to more complex encounters on foreign landscapes as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. He’s finding peace after all of it now in cross country hikes and raising awareness about mental health.

This summer, Sutcliffe is hiking the Continental Divide Trail, starting at Glacier National Park in Montana and traveling south through the Rocky Mountains to the Mexico border. In 2021, he completed the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, a journey from Mexico to Canada through California, Oregon and Washington.

“I’ve just been

blessed with both being a school teacher and helping kids, the Marine Corps, different kinds of things,” Sutcliffe said. “But this, it’s been a little bit different for me.”

Having grown up in Raymore-Peculiar, Missouri, Sutcliffe enrolled at Northwest with the intention of earning a college degree and honing his baseball skills so that he might have a chance to play professionally. He was a member of the Bearcat baseball team from 1984 through 1987 – at the height of his older brother Rick’s all-star career as a Major League pitcher with the Chicago Cubs.

Personal struggles derailed Sutcliffe at Northwest, however. He didn’t complete the student teaching required of education majors and fell a semester short of finishing his



bachelor’s degree at the University. After working for several years in the restaurant industry, Sutcliffe felt a calling in 1993 to enlist in the military and eventually joined the 1st Force Reconnaissance Company, an elite unit of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Looking back on his years at Northwest, Sutcliffe says he remains a loyal Bearcat and maintains connections with former teammates and coaches.

“I think things happen for a reason,” he said. “You can’t play for four years in a great program and school and not feel like a Bearcat through and through.”

With the Marine Corps., Sutcliffe was trained in hostage rescue and direct action missions, often setting the explosive charges on walls and doors that helped his comrades breach their targets. Though his body took a beating with each mission, Sutcliffe continued his military career until 2001. That year, he suffered a traumatic brain injury when his parachute became tangled after a helicopter jump, and he crashed into the side of a mountain, his helmet likely saving his life. At a time when medical personnel were still learning about the lasting impacts of brain injuries, Sutcliffe tried returning to active duty but found himself making errors and struggling mentally.

“I had to call it a shortened career and get out,” he said. “At that time, I didn’t really use the VA, but I knew something was wrong with me. Ultimately, I have struggled a lot over the years with different things from headaches to depression to migraines. But you learn mental toughness and you just kind of move on.”

After receiving a medical discharge from the military, Sutcliffe finished his bachelor’s degree in kinesiology at Boise State University in Idaho and began a new career as a physical education teacher and baseball coach. In addition to his teams winning multiple conference, district and state championships, Sutcliffe met his wife, Terri,

Bobby Sutcliffe, who played four seasons with the Bearcat baseball team, is confronting his mental health struggles and raising awareness for others through hiking. He is pictured here crossing Kings Canyon during his hike of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail last year.



and they began their family.

Then, in 2017, Sutcliffe was drawn back to Missouri and became the general manager at Ballparks of America, a campus of baseball facilities in Branson. But the effects of his brain trauma still gripped him, and he was barely into his first season in Branson when a headfirst fall over a retaining wall caused him additional harm. His depression and PTSD symptoms worsened. He resigned from Ballparks of America and sought treatment at a mental health facility.

"The thing that I've learned over the years is that, with my history of the parachute accident, with sports and with different kinds of things, your brain can only take so much," Sutcliffe said.

As medical staff set short-term goals for him, Sutcliffe started finding joy in hiking the foothills and mountains near Boise. The revelation set him on a newfound path that is not only helping him heal but bringing attention to mental disorders.

"It was about finding myself on the trail, not being so dependent on all the medication and pills to get me through to the next moment or day," Sutcliffe said. "Everything was about just stepping off."

Sutcliffe's hike of the Pacific Crest Trail took him four months across 2,650 grueling miles. Carrying only basic necessities, he hiked 20 to 25 miles each day. He took time to soak in his surroundings, eating freeze-dried food and other natural sources, such as berries, he found along the way. Most often he set up a tent for overnight rest but occasionally stepped off the trail for a night in a hotel and a warm shower.

As he progressed, Sutcliffe found his health improving dramatically, mentally and physically. He also shared his journey – which he calls "Hike and Heal" – on Facebook, inspiring people throughout the country who also battle mental illnesses. Since completing the Pacific Crest Trail, Sutcliffe said he feels "an extreme desire" to continue hiking and helping others by telling his story.

"People have their different ways of getting through everyday life," Sutcliffe said. "Some might fish, but for me it was hitting the trails. It was wondering what was next around the corner and the unknowns."

Sutcliffe stepped off on his next hiking adventure in June. The Continental Divide Trail spans 3,100 miles and will take him take six months to finish.



Dr. Tanya Loughead was appointed in February as communication director of the New York State American Association of University Professors. She is a professor in the Department of Philosophy at Canisius College in Buffalo.

Erin Campbell Hudson '98 has joined the Southwest Iowa Planning Council as community development director and oversees its housing and planning teams. She previously worked in roles with Youth Emergency Services, West Central Community Action, Concerned Inc. and Manning Senior Living.

Nick Inzerello '98 joined First National Bank of Omaha in November as vice president of commercial banking. He had worked for 20 years in sports markets, most recently with strategic product market initiatives for Ascension Health St. Vincent Sports Performance Center and Hudl.

Angela Livingston '99 recently was promoted to vice president of geospatial services at Pape-Dawson Engineers Inc. in San Antonio, Texas. She has 24 years of experience and is an expert in geospatial mapping and 3D laser scanning.

Shannon Paulsen-Thompson '99 joined Red Clay Consulting in February as vice president of advisory services. With more than 20 years of experience in utility transformations, she spent the previous five years as a program director at Madison Gas and Electric and held various management positions with Kansas City Power and Light.

2000s

Nathan Leopard '02 assumed the role of director of development in the Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech last year and leads its fundraising. He had served as director of major gifts at Penn State University's Smeal College of Business since 2015 and now resides in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Christopher Nicholson '02 was promoted last December to chief operator of communications with Troop H, St. Joseph, of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. He joined Troop B in Macon as a

telecommunicator in 2002 and transferred in 2004 to Troop H, where he was promoted to assistant chief in 2012.

Toby Young '02 was named 2023 Iowa Middle Level Principal of the Year by the School Administrators of Iowa. He serves as PK-8th grade principal in Remsen and has worked in education for 20 years, beginning as a K-12 physical education teacher in Farragut and then as a middle school social studies teacher, physical education teacher and coach with Fremont-Mills.

Sheldon Mifflin '05 recently was named hatchery manager at the Missouri Department of Conservation's Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery in Branson. He has worked at Shepherd of the Hills for 12 years and previously was at the Lost Valley Fish Hatchery in Warsaw.

Karen Hockenberry '06, '19, recently was named vice president of Visory, a provider of technology management, cybersecurity and hosting solutions for accounting, wealth management and construction industries. Previously, she was vice president and chief customer officer at Connectria and held senior services roles at Maritz Motivation Solutions, InterVision Systems and Netelligent Corporation.

2010s

Katie Luers Frieden '12, '22, is a high school science teacher at Oelrichs (South Dakota) Public School. She and her husband, Daniel, reside in Buffalo Gap with their two children and are expecting a third child this summer.

Victoria Hadel Draftz '12, '20, and her husband, Michael, welcomed a daughter, Elizabeth Nicole, on Nov. 22, 2022. She is an accountant with Dairy Farmers of America and they reside in Kansas City, Missouri.

Trent Figg '13 was hired as the first head football coach at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was a senior offensive analyst at the University of Oregon in 2022 and previously coached at William Jewell College, Southern Arkansas University, Missouri State University and University of Hawaii.

Kirsten Hamilton '14 joined Clarinda (Iowa) Regional Health Center's medical team last December as a women's health provider.

Audrey Kubayko Linke '15, '20, was honored in January with the Southwest Iowa Bandmasters Association's Young Band Director Award. She is a middle school band teacher in Creston, Iowa.

Andrew Pool '15 was promoted to senior vice president and chief credit officer at Pinnacle Bank, which he joined in 2017. He resides with his family in Marshalltown, Iowa.

Jacob Wood '17 and **Shelby Letuli '18** were married Nov. 5, 2022. The couple is employed at Northwest, where Jacob is executive assistant to the president and Shelby is assistant director of admissions for recruitment.



Northwest alumni teaching at Creston (Iowa) Elementary School showed their University allegiance recently during the school's "We went to college, and you can too!" campaign to encourage students to continue their education. Pictured left to right are Rose Wignall '88, Lisa Tomas '97, Callie Gossman '22, Kelsey Donner '21, Kara Larson '92, Ashley Weis Thomson '06, Paula Chubick Jacobson '91, '00, Kara Henrichs '19, Sarah Geist Stephens '10, Jessie Weis McClellan '09, '12, Brenna Baker '19, Cindy Goodale Goins '98, '05, Madison Skarda Gravlin '19 and Alyssa Higgins '20.



Nathan Lewis and Madison Pike were married May 21, 2022, in Kansas City, Missouri. Nathan is employed as an accountant with Myers and Stauffer LC, and Madison is an underwriting analyst with New York Life.

Drew Davis '19 recently was appointed by the Missouri Department of Conservation as a conservation agent for Henry County, joining conservation agents and field staff that serve natural resources and outdoor recreation in the Kansas City region.

Amy Klaas '19 was promoted in February to consumer banking officer at Central Bank of Boone County. She resides in Columbia, Missouri.

Amber Ohnmacht '19 is a healthcare administrator at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, South Carolina. As an officer in the Medical Service Corp. of the U.S. Air Force, she completed training last year for health services administration in San Antonio, Texas. She was honored with the AETC Commander's Award, the Stephen L. Miegs Top Graduate Award for Health Services Administration for superior academic achievement and high standards of leadership and teamwork.



Kirayle Jones and Grace McDonnell were married Dec. 31, 2022, in Omaha, Nebraska. They are teachers and reside in Omaha.



Emily Meneely Fluckey, center, was a special guest of Missouri Gov. Mike Parson and first lady Teresa Parson during the governor's State of the State Address on Jan. 18. The governor recognized Fluckey, a first grade teacher in the Meadville R-IV School District, as a representative of Missouri educators who benefitted from the Governor's Teacher Baseline Salary Grant Program.

2020s

Ben Shifflett '20, a residential mortgage loan specialist at Nodaway Valley Bank in Maryville, was recognized by Mortgage Investment Services Corp. as its Top Mortgage Loan Producer in Missouri for 2022. He joined the bank in 2019 and was named an assistant vice president last year.

Tonya Aaron '21, was promoted to director of nursing services at Ozarks Healthcare. She began her career there 13 years ago as a nurse in its obstetrical department before a promotion to supervisor of the department and then to manager of its Women's Center.

Tabitha Thompson '21 recently was named director of the State Fair Community College-Lake of the Ozarks campus in Osage Beach, Missouri. She previously served for six years as an assistant principal in the Lebanon R-III School District.

Jeff Meredith '22 began work in January as the Carthage (Missouri) Economic Development Corporation's first chief executive officer. He served the previous 10 years as executive director of the Monett Chamber of Commerce and six years at the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce.

WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

New job? New child? New spouse? New address? Send your news to the Northwest Alumni Association at alumni@nwmissouri.edu, use the enclosed envelope or complete the online class notes form at www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/magazine/classnotes.htm.

You may also submit a photograph. Please include a self-addressed envelope for the photo to be returned, or email it, in high resolution, to alumni@nwmissouri.edu.

FIELD TO FINISH

Fourth-generation farming family creates distillery destination

The Rosier family has farmed land near Mound City, Missouri, for four generations but knew they needed to diversify their row crop operation to sustain it for future generations.

So last year – after years of researching alternative uses and planning – they launched R/Farm Distillery, redirecting a portion of their land to producing premium whiskey. Since opening to the public, the farm has begun to develop a reputation as a relaxing destination where visitors can sip handcrafted cocktails while learning about nuances of agriculture and the distilling process.

“We basically took a leap of faith and just jumped,” said Dylan Rosier ’11, who co-founded R/Farm with his brother, Cole ’13, and their parents, Kirby and Kim. “We didn’t have a clue what we were getting ourselves into either, and it’s probably a good thing we didn’t know because it has been a haul for the last three solid years.”

The family filled its first barrel of bourbon in March 2022 and opened their tasting venue that April. Located just off Interstate 29 on one of the highest points in northwest Missouri, R/Farm offers breath-taking views of the region’s rolling hills. Its private event room pays tribute to Mound City with historic photos and refurbished doors from a demolished downtown building. The large social room features a grain bin repurposed

from the farm as a backdrop for the bar area alongside handmade furniture crafted from reclaimed barn wood and scraps.

The Rosiers’ commitment to family and the region also is evident on the walls where photos depict their farming history next to some of their grandfathers’ barn ladders.

“We wanted an opportunity to be an asset to the community,” Dylan said. “We wanted to be a spot where people can come to enjoy some craft cocktails and visit with their friends and family while enjoying the views.”

The family includes Dylan’s wife, Lauren Haer Rosier ’11; Cole’s wife, Holly Howard Rosier ’16; Gage Rosier ’14 and his wife, Ashley McGinnis Rosier ’14.

Each brings unique skill sets and experiences to the operation. With such a personal stake in the operation, the Rosiers have worked hard to hone their processes.

“As a family we’re pretty good at that,” Dylan said. “Don’t get me wrong. We’re a family. You’re going to have your days. But we do a good job working together.”

The distilling operation comprises a 60-acre section of the Rosier family farm. After harvesting their grain and turning it into corn flour, the Rosiers add water and heat their mix to nearly 200 degrees. The bourbon mash is then run through a fermenter and distilled. When the process finishes, the product goes into wood barrels for aging.

They made 105 barrels last year, filling

about 60 percent with bourbon and the remainder with rye. The bourbon is not yet available to the public, however.

“When we started from scratch, we just started the clock,” Dylan said. “Our oldest barrels are a year old, so we’ve probably got another couple years, at least, before we’ll actually have a bourbon on the market. But when we do it will be all ours – everything from us planting it, to harvesting it, to milling it and cooking.”

While R/Farm bottles their product by hand, the family regularly hosts bottling parties for friends and community members to join. A “farmhand” club offers swag and discounts as well as opportunities to participate in exclusive tastings.

The Rosiers also pride themselves on selling only the products that they have a hand in creating. To complement their drink menu, which includes non-alcoholic mocktails and juices, R/Farm offers a menu of appetizers and welcomes food trucks.

“We make all of our juices and all of our simple syrups,” Holly said. “The ingredients that go into our cocktails are premium as well. It’s all fresh, and we try to use as many local things as possible.”

Outside, visitors can walk among the rows of whiskey wheat and whiskey rye crops, providing them with a full sensory experience. For some, a stop at R/Farm is their first time seeing crops up close.

“They can come in and see the stuff growing,” Dylan said. “We can talk about what we do and explain what we call modern agriculture.”



Members of the Rosier family behind the development of R/Farm Distillery are, left to right Dylan Rosier, Lauren Haer Rosier, Gage Rosier, Ashley McGinnis Rosier, Holly Howard Rosier and Cole Rosier.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Arlene Blank Andersen '52, age 92, of Omaha, Nebraska, died Nov. 16, 2022. She taught at elementary schools in Riverton and Shenandoah, Iowa, with a focus in reading for 30 years until retiring in 1997.

Carolea Archer '86, '89, age 92, of Kansas City, Missouri, died Nov. 19, 2022. She was a registered nurse and nurse educator in addition to owning several businesses with her husband in northwest Missouri; Red Oak, Iowa; and Nebraska.

Harriet Garton Augustin '64, '78, age 80, of New Braunfels, Texas, died Sept. 19, 2022. She taught 11 years in public schools in Missouri and Texas and two years at Haskell Junior College in Lawrence, Kansas. She then taught in the business school and supervised student teachers for 26 years at Texas State University, retiring in 2005.

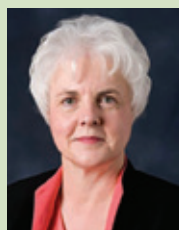
Barbara Jean Baker '53, age 91, of Wichita, Kansas, died Dec. 10, 2022. She was a public school librarian.

James Beck '70, age 75, of Guthrie Center, Iowa, died Dec. 23, 2022. He was a third-generation owner of Beck Auto Parts and farmed.



Dr. Scott Bell, age 50, of Maryville, died Dec. 5, 2022. He was a member of the Northwest faculty in computer science and information systems from 2007 to 2010 and from 2014 to 2021.

Richard Borchardt '66, age 79, of Overland Park, Kansas, died March 20. He worked for the Internal Revenue Service for 19 years. He later worked for Defense Finance and Accounting for 14 years until retirement.



Sharon Cross Bonnett '65, age 78, of Maryville, died May 28. She taught English in Kansas City, Missouri, and Norwalk, Connecticut, before returning to Northwest in 1972 as a secretary for KXCV. During a 34-year career with the radio station, she advanced

to roles as producer, program director and general manager.

Chuck Boyer '71, age 75, of Southern Pines, North Carolina, died Jan. 16. He served in the Army National Guard and then spent his entire career in banking, working with Commerce Bank in Kansas City, Missouri; as a loan officer and vice president at Lexington Bank and Trust; as vice president of Mid-South Bank in Pinehurst, North Carolina; and retiring in 2013 as manager of First Bank in Aberdeen, North Carolina.



Jim Burk '70, age 74, of Ankeny, Iowa, died July 9, 2022. He worked with his father at Burk Ford in Perry, Iowa, and then worked in sales training for Wilson Learning Corporation. He continued in sales, retiring in 2015.

Dorothy Newman Burnett '72, age 87, of Wichita, Kansas, died Jan. 13. She was an elementary teacher for 30 years, including 27 years in the Atlantic (Iowa) Community School District.

John Burns '83, age 67, of Audubon, Iowa, died Nov. 16, 2022. He farmed and worked for Vigortone Feed before becoming a teacher. He then was employed at Swift Meat Packing in Des Moines and as a long-haul trucker.

Larry Cady, age 82, of Maryville, died Oct. 21, 2022. He served in the U.S. Air Force and in the U.S. Navy. He was employed at Northwest as a truck and bus driver from 1981 through 2007.

Charles Carr Jr. '67, age 83, of Hiawatha, Kansas, died March 20. He was employed with Bankers Dispatch Corp. and Kansas Gas Service, retiring after 43 years.

Jane Bowman Caskey '94, age 52, of Savannah, Missouri, died Dec. 13, 2022. Her career as a caregiver for Progressive Community Services spanned more than 20 years.

Carl Chatfield '60, age 91, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died March 30. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean conflict and retired from the St. Joseph School District after 30 years as a teacher, coach and administrator.

Georgia Linville Clark '65, age 79, of Stanton, Iowa, died Dec. 28, 2022. She was a teacher in Hamilton, Missouri, and Lamoni, Iowa, and then was the administrative director for Halland Village apartment community in Stanton for nearly 40 years.

Ellie Shippy Closson '82, age 85, of Blue Springs, Missouri, died Dec. 25, 2022. She taught elementary school for 28 years in Cedar Falls, Buckingham and Lamoni in Iowa and then in the Blue Valley School District in Overland Park, Kansas, retiring in 1999.

Irma Fordyce Collins '71, '75, age 88, of Maryville, died March 13. She taught special needs education in Skidmore, Missouri, for more than 20 years.

Stephen Coult '91, age 66, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died Jan. 25. He taught for 40 years, most recently at Staley High School in Kansas City, Missouri.

Maureen Greeley Cruth '63, age 80, of Gravity, Iowa, died July 13, 2022. She worked as a medical technician from 1971 until her retirement from Grape Community Hospital in Hamburg, Iowa, in 2014.

Grace Hoffman Ebrecht '71, age 76, of Maryville, died Dec. 14, 2022. She was a teacher and later a licensed practical nurse for 30 years.

George Fountain '63, age 83, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died Oct. 19, 2022. He operated a plumbing business until becoming a real estate agent and retired in 2000.

Dr. Linda Garand '82, age 64, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, died March 18. She was an associate professor in the School of Nursing at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

Johnathan Gay '14, age 29, of Kansas City, Kansas, died Feb. 22, 2022. He was employed with Pharmacy First in Overland Park, Kansas, as an information technology specialist.

Kirk Goranson '75, age 69, of Lincoln, Nebraska, died Feb. 24. He was a production manager with Hormel in Minnesota and Wisconsin and then worked for John Deere dealerships in Fairbury, Crete and Seward in Nebraska.

Courtney Gorforth '58, age 91, of Stanberry, Missouri, died Nov. 26, 2022. He served in the U.S. Air Force for four years and retired after 31 years as a teacher and counselor in the Stanberry R-II School District.

Albert Grable '60, age 89, of Stewartsville, Missouri, died Jan. 7. He served in the U.S. Army and then began his career as a high school mathematics teacher. He later was employed with the St. Joseph Terminal Railroad and retired from Mead in 1995.

Bernadine Reimers Hardisty '68, age 75, of Avoca, Iowa, died May 8, 2022. She began her teaching career in Avoca and then in Walnut where she served for 32 years, teaching media, math and business. She also taught income tax, G.E.D. courses and math at Iowa Western Community College.



Don Henry, age 91, of Denton, Texas died March 4. He was employed at Northwest from 1970 to 1980 as business manager and later treasurer. He also was employed in finance roles at University of Missouri-Kansas City; Stephens

College in Columbia, Missouri; Texas Women's University; and Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

Garney Hill '74, age 70, of Gladstone, Missouri, died Sept. 28, 2022. He had a nearly 50-year career in retail grocery with Safeway, Food Barn, Skaggs and Hy-vee while living in St. Joseph, Gladstone and Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Harold Holaday, age 89, of Barnard, Missouri, died Nov. 16, 2022. He farmed all of his life and was employed at Northwest as a custodian from 1985 to 2002.

Eula Pritchett Hunt '82, age 62, of Platte City, Missouri, died Dec. 21, 2022. She worked at McCormick Distillery in Weston, where she served as customer service and distribution manager.

Ron Ives '62, age 84, of Kansas City, Missouri, died Dec. 7, 2022. He began his teaching and coaching career at Polo High School before moving to Liberty High School, where he remained for the rest of his career. He also served as athletic director for the Liberty School District.

Marvin "Pete" Jacobs '64, age 87 of Auburn, Iowa, died Feb. 19. After serving in the U.S. Army in Korea, he worked for Custom Farm Service in Fonda and then as a loan officer for GAB. He sold farm equipment for Arts Way Manufacturing and Rounder skid loaders. He became partner and owner of the Mill City Loader Corporation and continued farming until 2020.

Gene Johnson '58, age 89, of Jefferson City, Missouri, died Nov. 15, 2022. He was a school principal in Plattsburg and Odessa and a superintendent in Lathrop.

Ronald Johnston '72, age 78, of Raymore, Missouri, died Oct. 23, 2022. He was a police sergeant in Maryville and a member of the Army and the Missouri Air National Guard, serving in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He also worked for various insurance companies, retiring in 2013.

Cate Kenny '94, age 71 of Skidmore, Missouri, died Dec. 13, 2022. She taught K-12 art in the Mound City R-2 School District.

Delores Miller Krumme '56, age 92, of Overland Park, Kansas, died Nov. 10, 2022. She taught elementary grades in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Brian Lage '10, age 34, of Ogden, Iowa, died Dec. 12, 2022. He was employed in agronomy operations at Key Cooperative in Kelley, Iowa.

Carl Lake '57, age 86, of Lake Ozark, Missouri, died Dec. 6, 2022. He and his wife, Emily, operated Lake's Fudge Shop in Lake Ozark.

Ron Langford '64, age 80, of Lee's Summit, Missouri, died Jan. 10. He began his career in St. Louis as a national bank examiner with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in the U.S.

Treasury Department and then transferred to Kansas City, Missouri. After service in the U.S. Army, he continued examining banks in the U.S., eastern Asia and England until 1991. He worked with CNB Financial Corporation in Kansas until 1997 and then was vice president and senior financial auditor with UMB Bank until 2004. He retired from work with the Housing Development Corporation in 2012.

Richard Larson Jr. '71, age 78, of Essex, Iowa, died Dec. 25, 2022. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He farmed for 10 years and then was employed with the Page County Soil and Water Conservation District from 1984 until retiring in 2009.



Dr. William Lecklider, age 91, of Niles, Michigan, died Feb. 13. He served in the U.S. Army in Korea and then began his career teaching music in Van Wert, Ohio, and later in Allen Park, Michigan. He taught music at Northwest from

1966 to 1975 and then at Schenectady Community College in New York. He finished his career as an administrator at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Margaret Thompson Locke '75, age 92, Maryville, died Dec. 15, 2022. She worked as a licensed practical nurse at the Worth County Convalescent Center for more than 30 years.

Wayne Long '73, age 71, of Overland Park, Kansas, died March 3. He worked as a data collector and insurance underwriter before spending 25 years with Halls department store.

Steven Mayfield '75, '80, age 71, of Syracuse, Nebraska, died Oct. 13, 2022. He worked for 13 years as a district sales manager with Kent Nutrition Group, an animal feed manufacturer in Muscatine, Iowa, and then was a conductor with Union Pacific Railroad.

Joyce Mendenhall '69, age 75, of Fayetteville, Arkansas, died Feb. 25. She was employed with F.W. Woolworth Company for 35 years, managing stores in Springfield and Grandview in Missouri; Ottawa, Kansas; Amarillo, Texas; and Fayetteville. She then worked 18 years with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, retiring in 2021.

David McWhirter '72, age 72 of Allison, Iowa, died Feb. 10. In addition to farming and raising hogs, he worked at Allison Implement, the Black Hawk County Assessor's Office and retired as a mail carrier in 2015.

Larry Millender '84, age 62, of Mayer, Minnesota, died Nov. 26, 2022. He began his career with the YMCA in roles of aquatic director, youth sports coordinator and executive director in Shawnee, Oklahoma; Conroe and Dumas in Texas; and Kansas City, Missouri. After relocating to Minnesota in 1997, he worked for several cities in leadership and recreation roles.

Charles Miller '69, age 76, of Joplin, Missouri, died Jan. 12. He was a Vietnam War veteran, teacher, school librarian and insurance adjuster.

Robert Mires '76, age 68, of Little Flock, Arkansas, died Dec. 19, 2022. He farmed in the Clearmont, Missouri, area and then moved to Arkansas where he worked for Walmart for 30 years.

Charlie Monjar, age 74, of Cameron, Missouri, died Dec. 27, 2022. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and was employed at Northwest as a driver from 1993 to 2003.

Jolene Anderson Mullins '72, age 72, of Bettendorf, Iowa, died March 23. She began her teaching career in Savannah, Missouri, before moving to the Quad Cities, where she taught second grade and was a reading specialist in the Pleasant Valley Community School District, retiring in 2007.

Mark Nelson, age 75, of Hopkins, Missouri, died Nov. 22, 2022. He was a mechanic and then was employed at Northwest from 1996 to 2010 as an elevator technician.

Elaine Ferguson Nichols '63, '81, age 81, of Maryville, died March 14. She taught mathematics at Park Hill, Nodaway-Holt and Maryville schools as well as Northwest during a 40-year career.

Amy Nolan '85, age 59, of Winterset, Iowa, died Jan. 25. She worked as an associate at Winterset Elementary School, then as an abstractor for Madison County Abstracting and most recently was program manager for Community Resources in Service to People (CRISP).

Kathy Bolton Northup '77, age 67, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died Jan. 16. She had a 38-year teaching career in South Page, Iowa, and in the St. Joseph School District.

Geraldo Pazar '99, age 48, of Lenexa, Kansas, died March 3. He worked as a real estate agent.

David Perry '93, age 65, of Grant City, Missouri, died Jan. 13. He taught instrumental and vocal music in northwest Missouri schools.

Kathie Maschke Pickard '70, age 74, of Iowa Falls, Iowa, died Nov. 8, 2022. She was a teacher for more than 40 years, specializing in special education and learning and behavioral disorders, retiring in 2014 from the Iowa Falls-Alden school district.

Ronald Rauch '72, age 81, of Grant City, Missouri, died Nov. 26, 2022. He worked as executive

director of the Area Agency on Aging, retiring in 2007.

Mark Renaud '63, age 82, of Scottsdale, Arizona, died Jan. 27. He worked for State Farm Insurance as a claims adjuster in Salem, Oregon, and Pocatello, Idaho, before moving to Atlantic, Iowa, where he became a partner with Beaudine Manufacturing, a maker of household lamps and shades, and co-founded HughMark Trucking to deliver products. After closing the business in 1991 and returning to Salem, he started Mark Renaud Insurance Services and later opened Alpha Bravo Construction Company.

Seth Richardson '00, age 44, of Keota, Iowa, died Jan. 13. He was employed with Farmers Co-op in Keota.



Dr. Ann Cowan Rowlette '55, age 89, of Maryville, died Feb. 18. After beginning her teaching career as a high school home economics instructor, she was employed at Northwest as a faculty member in the former Department of Family and Consumer Sciences from 1971 to 2004.

Helen Chapman Schilling '43, age 101, of Clarinda, Iowa, died Dec. 5, 2022. She taught home economics, among other classes in Wiota, Walnut, Clarinda and Callendar in Iowa.

Bob Schobert '64, age 81, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, died Oct. 9, 2022. He began his career as a teacher in Mallard and Cedar Rapids. He then sold industrial supplies, eventually becoming a senior sales engineer with Ingersoll Cutting Tool Co.

Leslie Smith '74, age 71, of Olathe, Kansas, died July 15, 2022. She had a 30-year health care career as a physician's assistant in Cedar Falls, Iowa; Olathe and Overland Park, Kansas.

David Sours '74, age 75, of Nixa, Missouri, died Oct. 29, 2022. He served in the U.S. Air Force and then began his teaching career in South Carolina. He next taught in Olathe, Kansas, at a vocational technical school, then entered sales in the printing industry, and returned to teaching graphics and imaging at Pittsburg State (Kansas) University.

Mark Spratt '98, age 49, of Richmond, Missouri, died Dec. 11, 2022. He worked for 25 years at Job Corps and at Richmond Middle School as a school counselor.

Bill Summa '55, age 89, of Independence, Missouri, died Nov. 12, 2022. He served in the U.S. Army and then taught social studies at William Chrisman High School in Independence until his retirement in 1988. He also coached football, cross country and track and was inducted into the Missouri State Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1992.

Bill Sutter '60, age 84, of Kirkwood, Missouri, died Nov. 19, 2022. He worked as an attorney for Pet Inc. for 27 years, retiring in 1995 as vice president, general counsel and secretary.

Clifford Tamm '60, age 88, of Harlan, Iowa, died Sept. 24, 2022. He served in the U.S. Navy before a teaching career in Parkville, Missouri; Carson-Macedonia; and Harlan Community High School, where he taught social studies and U.S. history and coached football, basketball, track and tennis.

Gene Teeter '85, age 86, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died Feb. 20. She taught home economics, English, social sciences and physical education in Iowa, Illinois and Missouri during her 28-year teaching career.

Roy "Dean" Travis '59, age 89, of Westminster, Colorado, died Oct. 30, 2022. He served in the U.S. Army and was hired by the Lamar (Colorado) School District in 1959 as its first full-time elementary school physical education teacher, a position he held for 34 years.

Shawn Hess With '06, age 40, of Urbandale, Iowa, died Oct. 19, 2022. She was a homemaker.

Mark Wahlert '03, age 41, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died Nov. 21, 2022. He worked as a tax preparer.

David Walsh '75, age 70, of Keokuk, Iowa, died Dec. 25, 2022. He was employed for 19 years as the international purchasing director at Methode in Carthage, Illinois, and most recently at Roquette America for nine years, retiring last year.

Mildred Walter '71, age 94, of Lenox, Iowa, died Dec. 6, 2022. She was a piano player, accompanying numerous choirs and ensembles, and taught in Lenox and Prescott schools.

Anna Roberts Woolson '57, age 86, of Indianola, Iowa, died Sept. 28, 2022. She began her career teaching piano and music appreciation at Iowa Western Community College before transitioning into urban development, working for 23 years with non-profits, the city of Des Moines and the state of Iowa.

Daisy Workman '62, age 92, of Pickering, Missouri, died Nov. 8, 2022. She was a school teacher and farm wife.

Sharon Zollman '87, age 79, of Independence, Missouri, died Jan. 25. She and her husband raised dairy cattle for 20 years on a farm in Grant City.

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 telephone number to the Office of University Advancement, 800 University Dr., Maryville, MO 64468-6001, or email alumni@nwmissouri.edu. Submissions may be edited for length and clarity.

NORTHWEST POSTCARD

Northwest students Kailyn Peterson, as SpongeBob SquarePants, and Landon Hudson, as Patrick Star, performed in Theatre Northwest's production of "The SpongeBob Musical" April 13-16 in the Mary Linn Auditorium at the Ron Houston Center for the Performing Arts.

The musical featured characters popularized by the Nickelodeon animated television series on their quest to save the citizens of Bikini Bottom from a disastrous volcanic eruption that threatened to destroy their undersea world. In collaboration with music faculty Dr. Rachel Velarde and Dr. Paul Hindemith, Northwest's production was directed and choreographed by Artist-in-Residence Courtney Laine Self, a professional director, choreographer and teaching artist based in New York City.



NORTHWEST

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For more information, contact the Northwest Alumni Association
at alumni@nwmissouri.edu or 660.562.1248.