

**Maryville Daily Forum column
Monday, July 11, 2011**

Dr. John Jasinski, Northwest Missouri State University President

Whoever says college campuses go quiet and education doesn't happen during the summer months hasn't been around the Northwest campus these last few weeks. In fact, Northwest has been absolutely buzzing.

Specifically, I want to highlight our Upward Bound program, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this summer. The federally-funded program plays a huge role in helping high school students from rural areas – many of whom are first-generation college students – develop learning techniques, social skills and other tools that will help them be successful in college. While the program runs year-round, currently 70 students are living on campus as part of a six-week residential program Northwest hosts each summer to better prepare them for the lifestyle and expectations of college.

Under the leadership of so many people throughout the years, including Phil Kenkel who oversees the program, Northwest launched its Upward Bound program in 1987. It has impacted more than 350 youth who have graduated from the program since that time. Upward Bound alumni have gone on to success, completing doctorate degrees, teaching at various universities, conducting research or holding strategic positions.

The growth and self-confidence these students develop from the time they enter the program following their freshman years to the end of their high school careers is a hallmark of the program. They also benefit from some fantastic cultural opportunities and will cap their six-week residential experience with a trip to Chicago this week.

Here's a snapshot of some of the other things that happened at Northwest during the month of June:

- SOAR, which stands for Summer Orientation, Advisement and Registration, continues to be successful and drew about 1,500 students, plus their family members, over eight dates in June. The day-long program helps new Bearcats get acclimated to the campus and culture at Northwest, as well as the Maryville community, during a series of presentations and information sessions. Incoming students also have opportunities to tour residence halls, talk with representatives from administrative offices and meet with academic advisers to begin setting up their class schedules.
- The Department of Music hosted camps for high school and middle school students over two weeks earlier in June. Our athletics staff also hosted successful camps for young athletes from across the region who want to learn from our coaches and improve their skills in football, basketball, soccer, tennis and track and field. So far this summer, Northwest has hosted about 3,730 campers – and that number is expected to be more than 5,280 when our camp season ends.
- We hosted more than 50 students from the Kansas City area for Challenge U, a residential college program developed in partnership with Kauffman Scholars Inc. that consisted of a series of summer sessions on the Northwest campus last month.
- From June 20-30, we hosted individuals from the United Kingdom in continuation of Northwest's collaboration with Birmingham City University involving our student employment program led by Paula McClain.

- During the weekend of June 18, about 400 tractor enthusiasts and community members came out to College Park on the Northwest campus for the Heart of America Tractor Cruise.
- Our free Summer Movie Series, sponsored by the Office of Campus Activities, has once again been a great success, bringing families to campus each week for a night of entertainment. There are a few movies left, so if you haven't attended one, I encourage you to do so. Showings are at 7 p.m. Tuesdays in the Ron Houston Center for the Performing Arts and at 9 p.m. at the Raymond J. Courter College Park Pavilion, weather permitting.

Additionally last month, Northwest hosted Cycling for Change participants riding for a campaign to reduce poverty and partnered with Maryville churches, which collected food items for the Ministry Center. That same day, the University hosted tours of the Jean Jennings Bartik Computing Museum in the B.D. Owens Library to celebrate Bartik's legacy as a Northwest alumna and computing pioneer. On June 11, Bearcat fans also ventured to Phil Welch Stadium in St. Joseph for Northwest Night at the Mustangs Game and created a sea of green and white in the grandstand.

In coming weeks, Northwest continues to host or partner on an array of events throughout the Midwest – including a multitude of alumni gatherings and Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship showcase events in Columbia, St. Joseph, Des Moines and Omaha.

These types of programs and opportunities do so much to enrich the people who visit our campus, enhance our Northwest community and drive economic development in Maryville, Nodaway County and beyond. Your involvement, participation and support of Northwest Missouri State also reflects the great pride we take in our community.

Dr. John Jasinski is the 10th president of Northwest Missouri State University. For news and events at Northwest, visit www.nwmissouri.edu.