

Maryville Daily Forum column
Thursday, June 7, 2012
Dr. John Jasinski, Northwest Missouri State University President

I hope the summer season is off to a good start for you and yours. With the summer comes a variety of wonderful activities for our region and plenty of opportunities for residents to visit our beautiful campus and experience Bearcat camaraderie.

Last week, we celebrated the opening of our new St. Joseph Center with a ribbon cutting, tours, enrollment sessions and an evening reception. It was quite a celebration, and I enjoyed visiting with so many of you who toured the facility. As you may recall, Northwest signed an agreement last fall to lease space in the Historic Green Acres building, located conveniently near the Shoppes of North Village just one mile northwest of Hwy. 169 and I-29. Northwest occupies a wing on the 92-year-old building's first floor under the terms of a five-year lease. The 5,000 square-foot space includes five classrooms as well as office space, and free parking is available.

Not only does this prime location reach students in St. Joseph and the surrounding areas to provide them with a Northwest education in a beautiful facility that is easily accessible, but it also positions our University for growth in the St. Joseph area. In fact, Northwest has offered post-baccalaureate courses in St. Joseph for 40 years. The center had been at its previous downtown location since 2007. The St. Joseph Center is one of two graduate centers Northwest operates; the other is in Liberty.

I'm honored that Northwest was asked to host last weekend's successful Relay for Life at Bearcat Stadium. I also appreciate Northwest's Walter Redden and Carli Mercer for serving as the Relay for Life steering committee co-chairs. This annual event, which this year well surpassed the \$40,000 goal, is an excellent testament to our strong community and what it really means to come together for a worthy cause.

We're looking forward to the Maryville Young Players welcoming community members to Northwest's Ron Houston Center for the Performing Arts for their spectacular performance of "Willy Wonka Jr." this Saturday and Sunday. I'm sure it will be another fine production, and kudos to Northwest's Vanessa Parsons and Pat Immel for their vision and commitment to this summer musical theatre workshop, which is now in its sixth year!

Don't forget about the Northwest football program's 18th annual Shawna Zech Memorial Classic Four-Person Golf Scramble Friday, June 15, at Mozingo Lake Golf Course. I look forward to seeing you on the golf course or at the social the evening before at the Northwest Alumni House.

I also encourage you to join me in congratulating TRIO Program Director Phil Kenkel and his team for securing funding that allows Northwest to continue its Upward Bound programming for five more years. Our 26th Upward Bound Summer Camp started this week and continues through July 5. This programming is so important in helping area youth explore the possibilities of a college education and build the types of skills that will help them succeed.

The arrival of June also brings an array of summer camps sponsored by our athletics teams and music department. Northwest is proud to host youth of all ages and from all areas of our region who attend these camps and take advantage of the opportunities to learn from our talented faculty and coaches. Thousands of kids, along with their parents and siblings, are welcomed into our community during these summer camps, which translates to a favorable economic impact to our region.

I'm also happy to hear that so many of you have been taking in the free Summer Movie Series on campus. The series continues each Tuesday night, with movie showings at 7 p.m. at the Ron Houston Center for the Performing Arts and at 9 p.m. at the Raymond J. Courter College Park Pavilion.

And finally, I invite you to join us at Northwest Night at the Mustangs later this month. Discounted tickets will be available at the Alumni House for the baseball game, which begins at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 23, at Phil Welch Stadium in St. Joseph. Bobby Bearcat, the Northwest cheerleaders and the Bearcat Steppers will be on hand, and there will be plenty of giveaways throughout the game!

Have an enjoyable summer, and thank you for your continued commitment to Northwest!

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