

Maryville Daily Forum column
Thursday, June 6, 2013
Dr. John Jasinski, Northwest Missouri State University President

The summer trimester at Northwest Missouri State is in full swing now, and, as usual, there is much hustle and bustle on the campus as we provide educational and supporting opportunities that cross well beyond our own students.

The arrival of June marks the start of an array of summer camps sponsored by our athletics teams and the Department of Fine and Performing Arts. Northwest is proud to host youth of all ages and from all areas of our region and beyond who attend these camps and take advantage of the opportunities to learn from our talented faculty, staff, coaches and alumni.

In fact, we'll have more than 700 football campers coming to campus this weekend, and we are proud to host the seventh annual Maryville Young Players musical theater production, directed by our own Pat Immel and Vanessa Parsons. Coming up, June 14 marks this summer's first SOAR – Summer Orientation Advisement and Registration. Please welcome our incoming freshmen and their families as well as the summer campers to our beautiful campus.

Several construction projects are under way, including the upgrades to dining areas in the J.W. Jones Student Union, The Station and B.D. Owens Library. Work crews moved into the Student Union during the first week of May, and already the space is dramatically transformed. Additionally, roof repairs are continuing at Millikan Hall, the Olive DeLuce Fine Arts Building and Lamkin Activity Center. In all, Facility Services Director Dave Bridge and his team are working toward tackling 18 capital improvement projects this summer.

In the meantime, Northwest continues to reap accolades for its faculty, staff and comprehensive programming. We recently learned from Director of Career Services Joan Schneider and her team that Northwest's latest placement rate – the percentage of Northwest graduates who gain employment or continue their education within six months of graduations – is 97.4 percent compared to 95 percent one year ago. Also of note, we learned 72.2 percent of students scored at the 50th percentile or higher on the most recent general assessment, compared to 60 percent a year ago.

Additionally, Northwest recently was named as one of the top five energy reducers among 120 competitors in the Campus Conservation Nationals. The top five schools are Northwest, Oregon State, St. John's University, North Carolina State University and Harvey Mudd University. These schools all achieved 16 to 19 percent reduction in competing buildings. Northwest ramped up its energy reduction efforts in late fall, and this will give us a great kick start for the upcoming academic year.

To continue with positive notes, Northwest recently announced a deferred estate gift with a current value of more than \$500,000 to establish the Richard Allman and Margaret Peterson Three-Dimensional Art Fund to the University through the Northwest Foundation to benefit art students.

And we are so proud of alumnus Darryl Johnson of Smithville High School who was named a National Teacher of the Year recipient and will be honored at a Hall of Fame ceremony this month. Please also congratulate Sherri Reeves, our former women's basketball coach, assistant athletic director and senior women's administrator; former basketball player Janet Clark Moody; and individuals who were part of the 2009 Bearcat football team on their upcoming induction to the MIAA Hall of Fame. They will be honored during a ceremony today in Kansas City, and we are so proud of each of them.

Northwest's summer enrollment is strong with a total student headcount of 2,571 students. Furthermore, undergraduate credit hours are up 11 percent this summer, meaning students taking coursework this summer are enrolled in more hours. Our online enrollment also has reached a new high with the students who are taking at least one online course comprising about 70 percent of the University's total enrollment this summer.

As you can tell, with students taking classes on campus and online as well the large number of visitors to campus, Northwest is a beehive of activity. I encourage you to watch the calendar on the Northwest homepage for events throughout the summer that may interest you, including the Summer Movie Series, sponsored by the Office of Campus Activities at 7 and 9 p.m. each Tuesday night. Also, mark your calendars for Saturday, June 22, for the third annual Northwest Night at the St. Joseph Mustangs.

Thank you for your continued support of everything we do at Northwest, and have a fantastic June.

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