

**Maryville Daily Forum**  
**Thursday, Aug. 3, 2017**

**Dr. John Jasinski, Northwest Missouri State University President**

There is certainly a different vibe at Northwest Missouri State during the summer months, but a great amount of activity continues to take place in the confines of Bearcat Nation, from students adding to their resumes through a range of internships and profession-based experiences throughout the country to the collection of athletic, music and specialty camps we continue to host.

The summer trimester is a time that many of our faculty use to lead unique courses and take students to places that enhance their learning and provide tangible, profession-based experiences not found in the classroom. Here are some examples of experiences offered this summer:

- Associate Professor of Recreation Dr. Sue Myllykangas led our Exploring Recreation Resources course for the 11th time this summer, taking a group of students to Colorado for a 12-day, high-impact, three-credit hour experience that annually gives students opportunities to observe professionals in the field of parks and recreation.
- Psychology faculty members Dr. Keely Cline and Elizabeth Dimmitt led a course, titled Psychology of Childhood Imagination, Creativity and Magical Thinking, and coordinated a study abroad experience to London through which students studied childhood imagination and creativity. Students studied childhood development within cultural and temporal settings and examined research literature about the topic before exploring places in London that were relevant to the literature they read.
- Geology faculty Jeff Bradley and Dr. John Pope led students on a 14-day trek to explore some of our greatest national treasures in the western United States – Great Sand Dunes National Park, the Grand Canyon, Death Valley and Zion National Park, to name a few.
- Business faculty Dr. Steve Ludwig and Dr. Tiebing Shi traveled with students to China and visited a variety of cutting-edge companies as part of an annual offering that gives our international business majors and other students a unique perspective of business practices in other countries.

Additionally, we continue to explore and build on partnerships that not only further our students' learning but help to enhance our region and beyond while driving economic development.

- In June, we hosted the second annual AgriVision Equipment Precision Agriculture Summer Academy, which brought together 20 students and agriculture educators from throughout the region to learn about the latest precision agriculture technologies from Northwest faculty as well as AgriVision staff.
- Under the leadership of Dr. Terry Long, our School of Health Science and Wellness partnered with the Wounded Warrior Project to host two rounds of Project Odyssey, one for veterans in June and another for veterans and their spouses in July. Terry

says it best: "This is a way for us to reach out and use our resources to support the surrounding community and the region, beyond Maryville and Nodaway County."

- Elizabeth Dimmitt, with the assistance of students and several community volunteers, organized Camp Cope, a day camp to help children learn and develop skills for coping with grief and loss. Elizabeth aligned the camp with a summer course during which her students learned about theories of grief and loss and development needs of children and then put their knowledge to practice at the camp.
- This week we welcomed the Missouri Broadcasters Association, broadcasting students and professions from throughout the Midwest as we host a 10-day Radio Talent Institute. Thanks to School of Communication and Media Director Dr. Matt Walker and others for their involvement in this endeavor.

Amid all of this, our Facility Services team has been hard at work refreshing the campus for the return of our students in less than a few weeks. A remodel of the renamed Dean L. Hubbard Center for Innovation is complete to accommodate our School of Agricultural Sciences' move to that building

Repairs to the roof on Wells Hall are underway, and work is beginning to update and enhance the first floor kitchen and lounge areas in Dieterich and Millikan residence halls.

We also are excited, of course, by the sight of construction equipment moving dirt at the sight of the future Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse.

In anticipation of Northwest's first day of classes on Aug. 28, we are recharging and gearing up for the start of the new academic year. In doing so, we will continue to message the importance of an educated populace, civil proceedings and uplifting all people and communities.

*Dr. John Jasinski is the 10th president of Northwest Missouri State University. For news and events at Northwest visit [www.nwmissouri.edu](http://www.nwmissouri.edu).*