Staying focused

Focus on the important things in life. We have all heard this saying, and many of us have said it time and time again. The Northwest Foundation, along with its board and the University Advancement staff, are focused on the important things. The Northwest Foundation mission is to "encourage, receive, invest, manage, steward and disburse private support" on behalf of the donors of Northwest, for the "benefit of the University, its students, faculty, staff and alumni."

The Better Business Bureau’s Wise Giving Alliance Standards for Charity Accountability were developed to assist donors in making sound giving decisions and to foster public confidence in charitable organizations. The standards seek to encourage fair and honest solicitation practices, to promote ethical conduct by charitable organizations and to advance support of philanthropy. This standard requires organizations to spend at least 65 percent of its total expenses on program support activities. In the last five years, the Northwest Foundation has spent more than 80 percent of its total expenses on program support to the University. This translates into more than $14 million in financial support to Northwest for scholarships, programs, capital projects and other worthy initiatives.

As you can see, the Northwest Foundation is truly focusing on the important things in life and making a positive direct impact on the future of Northwest, its students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Sincerely,
Orrie Covert
Vice President, University Advancement
Executive Director, Northwest Foundation

A message from the president-elect

When I was in grade school, the Carnegie Public Library in my southwest Iowa hometown had a summer reading program. For each book we read, we were given a gold star to stick onto a flag chart (which I still have nearly 50 years later).

At that age, it never occurred to me to wonder why it was called a "Carnegie" library. It was exactly 30 years after graduation from Northwest, when my company’s CEO asked for help in preparing a speech to college students in Beijing on the tradition of American philanthropy, that I learned the full extent of Andrew Carnegie’s legacy.

Carnegie was first among the 19th century industrial magnates to develop the modern concept of philanthropy, writing “The Gospel of Wealth” in 1889. John D. Rockefeller followed, forming in 1891 the predecessor of the modern charitable foundation. Because of the country’s pioneer spirit of self-sufficiency and rugged individualism, the charitable ethos that developed was that of helping the “deserving poor,” giving a hand up rather than a hand out.

As the ultimate hand up, education became a focal point for these early philanthropists. That tradition continues today, with gifts to education second only to gifts to religious causes. By the time the library grant program ended in 1917, Carnegie had contributed $56 million to help build 2,509 libraries.

When I joined the Northwest Foundation board in 2002, the endowment was about $11 million. It is now $19 million, with an additional $25.3 million anticipated in future planned giving. We are humbled by the generosity of the Northwest family during this decade. Our growing endowment, the vast majority of which is dedicated to scholarship support, allows the Foundation to follow Carnegie’s inspired example of investing in human capital at ever higher levels.

This message is a bit premature because officers will not be formally installed until the Northwest Foundation's fall board meeting. Should my fellow directors choose to elect me to the post, it will be an honor to serve the University where I received a superb education and gathered so many great memories.

Sincerely,
Mike Faust ’74
President-Elect,
Northwest Foundation
The renovation and relocation of the women's locker room facilities has begun. Specifically, the women's basketball and volleyball locker rooms are being relocated from Martindale to the Lamkin Activity Center and will feature separate areas for each program with individual wood lockers for the student athletes. Support from businesses and individuals, including former volleyball and basketball players, is being sought for the project.

Contributions continue to be solicited for the Degree Completion Program to support Northwest student athletes whose eligibility is exhausted but who are still working to complete their degree requirements. The demand for this program remains high.

Nodaway Valley Bank is the newest suite holder in Bearcat Stadium. They will begin using the suite during the 2008 football season.

The MIAA recently announced its 2007-08 academic honor roll. Northwest was well represented with 96 Bearcats making the honor roll. Other honors include Coach Mel Tjeerdsma being named MIAA Coach of the Year and Scott Bostwick, Northwest's defensive coordinator and linebackers coach, being named Division II National Assistant Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association.

For more information, contact Neil Elliott at neile@nwmissouri.edu.

Athletics

The 2008-09 football season will see the addition of the University of Nebraska-Omaha to the MIAA. The Bearcats and Mavericks meet Sept. 27 in Omaha.
A long-term plan for the University farm is one of the developing projects for the Melvin D. and Valorie G. Booth College of Business and Professional Studies. An advisory board is being assembled to assist with determining the best plan for the farm’s future. As the project formalizes in the next six to nine months, there will be several naming opportunities available.

The Booth College continues to work toward creating an endowment in excess of $2.5 million for students to study abroad. While the study abroad initiative is not mandatory, there is an increased effort to encourage students to seek international experience. In 2007-08, 114 Northwest students studied overseas and 122 in 2006-07. These figures compare to 71 students studying abroad in 2005-06.

Another initiative involving business graduates and alumni in the Kansas City area continues to flourish. In October, Northwest Networks – Kansas City will have been in existence for two years. More than 150 alumni in and around the Kansas City area have been connected to Northwest through their involvement with this networking group.

For more information, contact Polly Howard at pollyh@nwmissouri.edu.

The Northwest Foundation has confirmed an anonymous $400,000 estate gift to be used in the College of Arts and Sciences discretionary fund.

“This gift clearly demonstrates the donor’s affection for Northwest and the desire to directly impact academic experiences of our students,” said Dr. Charles McAdams, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “The state’s support of higher education only provides basic resources, and these important discretionary dollars will help the College of Arts and Sciences reach the next level of excellence.”

McAdams said the gift will support faculty/student collaborative research, specialized cutting-edge equipment, unique educational and cultural enhancements and international study and programming.

In addition, a $30,000 gift has allowed for a new projector to be installed in the Performing Arts Center.

Construction on the new studio theatre is moving at a rapid pace, with September being the anticipated completion date. Several naming opportunities are available within the facility, including a classroom/dressing room, the main studio lobby area, the south and the west vestibules, the studio entrance and a technical room. All naming opportunities range from $10,000 to $50,000 and will be highly visible to the public.

For more information, contact Teresa Macias at teresa@nwmissouri.edu.
The 1905 Society now includes 63 charter members who have provided unrestricted support to help the University meet its varied needs during the 2008 fiscal year. The annual appeal soon will be mailed to request FY09 memberships. The 1905 Society also will be promoted through new informational folders that highlight the priorities and programs of each development officers’ respective area.

With a record-breaking freshman class size, securing gifts for the American Dream Grant remains a top priority. An emphasis is placed on discussing and confirming the estate intentions of alumni and friends via planned and estate gifts for this and all projects of interest.

New awards will be available from agreements finalized for the TKE Alumni Scholarship, the Brice and Carolyn Johnson Family Scholarship and the Southern Iowa Alumni and Friends Chapter Scholarship.

For more information, contact Laurie Long at laurie@nwmissouri.edu.

A proposal recently has been submitted to DST Systems in Kansas City for support of Theatre Northwest initiatives. This year, the proposal requests $15,000, which is an increase from $10,000 in 2006 and 2007. During the last four years, DST has generously provided $35,000 to Theatre Northwest. These funds have provided outreach opportunities to area school children and have helped Theatre Northwest students participate in the Kennedy Center-American College Theatre Festival. Participation in this program is considered to be the most beneficial program for aspiring professionals in theatre. Upon funding of this year’s proposal, Northwest will honor DST Systems with the naming of the south vestibule of the studio theatre, currently under construction at the Performing Arts Center.

US Bank also continues its support for Northwest’s priorities. For the third consecutive year, US Bank is providing funds to benefit the American Dream Grant, Northwest’s unique needs-based financial assistance program.

For more information, contact Andrea Wagner at andrea@nwmissouri.edu.

This year marks the centennial for Northwest’s Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. More than 100 alumni returned in March for the annual Student Recognition Banquet, which was the centennial’s kickoff event. The banquet concluded with a surprise presentation to Dr. Frances Shipley who retired in June after a 40-year tenure in the department. Many of Shipley’s co-workers, friends and former students contributed to a new scholarship named in her honor. Once the scholarship is endowed, it will be awarded to a student majoring in one of the four areas within the department. The final Family and Consumer Sciences centennial celebration will be an open house on the Administration Building’s third floor immediately following the Homecoming parade.

Also within the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, a new foods lab is being planned. Renovations will begin in May 2009 with the target date for completion being Aug. 15, 2009. The cost to complete this project is about $100,000. The current foods lab, which dates back to 1979, will be replaced by a facility that offers centralized storage, a dish room and laboratory space for 24 students.

For more information, contact Andrea Wagner at andrea@nwmissouri.edu.
Alumni Relations

On Sept. 12, the Northwest Alumni Association will honor six deserving recipients at the annual awards banquet. The following are the award recipients:

- Dr. Elwyn DeVore ’42, Distinguished Emeritus Faculty Award
- Rita Hanks, Honorary Alumni Award
- Hayley Hanson ’97, Young Alumni Award
- Joan Jackson ’65, Turret Service Award
- George Maher ’58, Distinguished Alumni Award
- Dr. Terry Robertson, Distinguished Faculty Award

For more information about the award recipients, visit the “Latest News” link at www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni.

The Alumni Association chartered its 15th chapter in St. Louis on May 15. In addition, the national Alumni Association Board has four new members: Jim Goecken ’92 of Maryville, Kory Schramm ’95 of Johnston, Iowa, Joan Jackson ’65 of Redding, Iowa, and Dave Teeter ’86 of Montgomery City.

“We are grateful for these additions to our already strong board of directors,” said Steve Sutton, director of alumni relations, “and we look forward to strengthening our efforts to keep alumni connected and to promote Northwest.”

For more information, contact Steve Sutton at ssutton@nwmissouri.edu.

Alumni Center update

The proposed new Alumni Center is progressing, albeit at a slower pace than originally hoped. To comply with City of Maryville zoning requirements, the proposed structure has been moderately redesigned. Fortunately, these modifications have greatly enhanced the center. As with any building project, the facilities committee continues to give and take and continually tweak project plans to make the Alumni Center a home that all alumni and friends will be proud to visit.

The facilities committee has put in many hours of thought and has worked diligently on this project. The Northwest Foundation and the Office of University Advancement appreciates the time and expertise they have dedicated to this project, and also thanks everyone who has made suggestions and expressed their support of the Alumni Center project.

For additional information, or to make suggestions or comments, contact Steve Sutton at (660) 562-1248 or ssutton@nwmissouri.edu.
Northwest news briefs

President Hubbard announces retirement

Dr. Dean L. Hubbard, Northwest’s ninth president, will retire next summer at the end of the 2009 fiscal year.

Hubbard, 69, announced his intention to step down at the June 26 Board of Regents meeting. He assumed the presidency on July 1, 1984, and will have served as the institution’s top administrator for 25 years, the longest term ever by a Northwest president.

“It is, of course, with great sadness that I announce my forthcoming retirement,” Hubbard said. “There are simply no words to describe the deep affection Aleta and I feel for this University after so many years. Both of us want to express our heartfelt thanks to all of the faculty members, staff and students, past and present, whose friendship and dedication have graced our lives. Together, we have accomplished so much. It goes without saying that, whatever the future holds, Aleta and I will always be Bearcats.”

Regents approve 2008-09 budget package

The Northwest Board of Regents recently approved budgets for the 2008-09 fiscal year. Annual University spending is divided into the Education and General Budget, which includes salaries and operations, and the Auxiliary Enterprises Budget, which outlines projected income and expenditures for self-sustaining operations such as dining services and student housing.

The Education and General Budget for 2008-09 totals $74.8 million, up from $68 million last year, with most of the additional revenue coming from a 4 percent increase in state appropriations ($33 million, compared to $31.7 million in FY08) and a 4.1 percent increase in tuition.

This is the first Northwest budget to contain a tuition increase governed by the terms of a cap enacted last year by the state Legislature, which stipulates that such increases cannot exceed the growth of the consumer price index. Other new income includes higher fees for classroom renovation, wellness services, technology and textbook rental, which were student-approved and so excluded from the cap.

Auxiliary spending by Northwest will increase by a projected 9.3 percent in FY09, from $20.8 million to $22.7 million, based on increases approved last year in contract rates for food and housing plus a higher anticipated residence hall occupancy rate.

Electronic Campus center re-named for Rickman

In recognition of Dr. Jon Rickman’s more than 30 years of service to Northwest, the Board of Regents recently approved a recommendation from President Dean L. Hubbard to rename the Electronic Campus Support Center in Rickman’s honor.

Rickman, who joined the Northwest faculty in 1976, served as director of computing services for 20 years before assuming his current position, vice president for information systems, in 1996.

The re-named facility, which occupies the former National Guard armory on the corner of Memorial Drive and College Park Drive, will henceforth be known as the Jon T. Rickman Electronic Campus Support Center. It serves as the administrative, maintenance and support hub for Northwest’s Electronic Campus.

During the 1980s, Rickman played the lead administrative role in the creation of the Electronic Campus, which was deployed in 1987. In the two decades since, he has remained instrumental in maintaining Northwest’s national reputation for putting the latest information technology into the hands of all members of the University community, especially students.