Staying positive

Staying positive when times are tough is easier said than done. The economic turmoil we have all experienced over the last year has been tough to say the least. Like most other organizations, the Northwest Foundation has felt the impact. However, it is important to note that even in tough economic times there are many positive ways the Foundation is able to help the University.

For example, the Northwest Foundation recently completed a $7.7 million bond issue to assist the University with two major construction projects on campus. This funding has made the completion of the new Studio Theatre and the renovations of classrooms and faculty offices in Valk Hall realities. In addition to the bond issue, the Foundation and University are working in cooperation on a number of other strategic priorities such as The Village at Northwest and the R.T. Wright Farm.

It is important to remember that the Northwest Foundation can assist Northwest in more ways other than just traditional fundraising. The current economic conditions will soon pass, and like in the past, the Northwest Foundation will weather the storm and come out better for it in the future.

Sincerely,

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

A message from the president

In good times and bad, the core mission of the Northwest Foundation is that of providing scholarship assistance. With the downturn in the financial markets, friends of the Foundation may be wondering whether it will have an impact on our ability to fund student scholarships.

The answer is maybe. For the 295 endowed scholarship funds managed by the Foundation, we use a three-year rolling average of fiscal year-end balances to help provide more consistency from year to year. Because it is spread out over a three-year period, the effect can be muted if there is a timely market recovery.

Another moderating factor is the Foundation’s investment in bonds, which have done well due to the drop in interest rates. In addition, six months prior to the market’s swoon, the board worked with its professional investment adviser to place a portion of the endowment into investments less correlated to the stock market. That has proved to be a good decision, with those investments significantly outperforming the broad market indices. While several tactical moves have helped us avoid the full effect of the market downturn, our overall objective is a long-term strategy that reflects the investment timeline of the Northwest Foundation, which is perpetuity.

A third positive factor is the amazing acceptance of the Adopt-A-Bearcat program. The many generous contributions to this program allowed us to award a total of 275 scholarships for the current academic year. Adopt-A-Bearcat gifts made now will serve as a bridge over the current bear market, helping us maintain scholarship support levels to Northwest students.

Despite being buffeted by turmoil in the markets, our glass is decidedly half-full. As we enter a New Year, we’re thankful for those who have helped restore a beautiful campus by contributing to the tree restoration fund in the wake of last winter’s devastating ice storm. We’re thankful for the sustained excellence of Bearcat football that led to an 11th playoff bid in Coach Tjeerdsma’s 15 seasons. And we’re thankful for the many friends of Northwest who continue to help us provide support to the University and its students.

Mike Faust ’74
President,
Northwest Foundation

MISSION

The Northwest Foundation promotes the welfare, goals and programs of Northwest Missouri State University. Its mission is to encourage, receive, invest, manage, steward and disburse private support on behalf of Northwest’s donors, for the benefit of the University, its students, faculty, staff and alumni. Established in 1971, the Foundation operates independently of the state institution as a separate 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation governed by its own board of directors.
In conjunction with the national championship game in Florence, Ala., the Northwest Foundation hosted a pregame social for invited alumni and friends Friday night prior to the game at On the Rocks, a new restaurant in downtown Florence. Alumni and friends enjoyed food, drinks and the opportunity to socialize with fellow Bearcats.

The renovation and relocation of the women’s basketball and volleyball locker rooms was completed this past fall. The renovation includes separate locker room areas for both teams consisting of individual wood lockers with built in ventilation systems for each student-athlete. In addition, the new locker room provides a lounge area complete with furniture and a flat screen television. Many alumni and friends have stepped forward to support the project by sponsoring a locker in the new facility. Financial assistance from individuals and businesses is being sought to sponsor the remaining lockers in the facility.

In addition, contributions continue to be solicited for the Degree Completion Program as the demand for funds to support Northwest student-athletes to complete their degree requirements remains high. ❖

For more information, contact Neil Elliott at neile@nwmissouri.edu.
Agriculture tops the list of new priorities for the Melvin D. and Valorie G. Booth College of Business and Professional Studies. Dr. Tom Billesbach, dean of the college, along with agriculture department faculty are working on a long-term plan for the department, particularly the University Farm. Specific needs have been identified through working with the University’s architect on a master plan for the outbuildings and land on the farm property. An advisory board also is being established to review the plans and make suggestions. The anticipated completion date on the master plan is spring 2009. Funding possibilities for this project will include naming opportunities and corporate involvement.

The Student Enterprise Zone within the Northwest Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship is expected to open later this year and is gearing up for tenants. When complete, the CIE will include laboratories, offices and other facilities for up to five business incubator tenants. The academic module will comprise a half-dozen laboratories, specialized chemistry and biology research facilities, offices, a "clean room" and a general classroom. On the academic side, the CIE will allow Northwest to develop new academic programs in such areas as nanoscience while meeting increased student demand for courses in biology, chemistry and other scientific disciplines.

The Performing Arts Center’s new Studio Theatre opened in November. A theatre dedication evening recognized a lead donor of the facility, Ron Houston, as well as DST Systems Inc. for continued support for the theatre department. A dinner and program for the donors and friends were followed by a performance of "The Birds."

Renovations to the Olive DeLuce Fine Arts Building will begin this summer. The choral rehearsal rooms and other practice rooms are the first area of the building to receive a face lift. In addition, the newly renovated Valk building now houses the Department of History, Humanities, Philosophy and Political Science on the building’s lower level. ❖

For more information, contact Teresa Macias at teresa@nwmissouri.edu.

Join the Tourin' Bearcats for a scenic Alaska Interior Land Tour
- May 29 – June 3
- $1,299 per person, plus airfare
- $350 deposit due Jan. 29
- Final payment due March 20

If interested, contact the Northwest Alumni Association at alumni@nwmissouri.edu or (660) 562-1248.

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

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Securing additional scholarship dollars for Northwest students continues to be a high priority. It is with gratitude that the Northwest Foundation announces receipt of a $1 million cash gift from the estate of Max and Armond Quimby to establish the Quimby-Walker Scholarship fund. The couple’s generosity will benefit Northwest’s neediest students through the American Dream Grant program.

Having grown up during the Great Depression, the couple knew what tough times were, and they never forgot where they came from. Raised on a farm in Hastings, Iowa, Max was a salesman for Life Savers in Kansas City when he met Armond Walker, a business student and elevator operator from Pattonsburg. They married in 1940 and lived in California. They toured the Northwest campus in summer 1986 with Armond’s brothers, Royce and Buck, and their wives. Assisting Northwest, where Buck had attended in the 1930s, was a decision for which Max and Armond felt their entire family could be proud.

Financial reports detailing the FY08 activity of each respective Northwest Foundation scholarship fund through June 30, 2008 were sent to donors in October, and scholarship administrators were informed of the awards available for the upcoming 2009-10 academic year.

University Advancement staff continues to visit with alumni and friends about the benefits afforded to Northwest through unrestricted giving. To date, 56 individuals and businesses have joined The 1905 Society for FY09 with unrestricted gifts of $1,000 or greater. ❖

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

New scholarships are continually established in the College of Education and Human Services. The Fred Fuhr Memorial Scholarship will benefit students in the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance who have declared physical education as their major. This scholarship was established by the family of the late Fred Fuhr who was a dedicated student-athlete and 1960 Northwest graduate. Memorials collected for this scholarship will provide $500 scholarships the next two years, and the family intends to keep Fuhr’s legacy alive by contributing at least $500 for future academic years.

The second newly established scholarship is the Lorna From Spirit of Education Scholarship. From’s son and daughter-in-law have established a $500 pass-through scholarship that they intend to fund annually in honor of her career in education. From graduated from Northwest in 1973 and taught at Eugene Field Elementary School in Maryville for more than 30 years. This scholarship will be awarded to an undergraduate student majoring in elementary education.

A few other initiatives for which the CEHS is seeking funding are the Building Bridges Program, which strives to close the gap between the transition from high school to college ($10,000 annually), the Urban Internship Program ($45,000 annually) and International Service Learning Projects through the Department of Psychology, Sociology and Counseling ($3,000 annually). ❖

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

The Northwest Alumni Association is continually trying to accomplish its goal of connecting alumni to Northwest by offering events and opportunities to get together with fellow Bearcats and friends. Currently, there are 15 alumni chapters within the alumni association and the goal is to add at least one more geographical chapter this fiscal year in the Springfield area.

The Tourin’ Bearcats travel program completed a Pacific Northwest cruise in September and the third annual Bearcat ski trip earlier this month. An Alaskan Interior Land Tour is scheduled for May 29–June 3.

In addition, the Northwest Alumni Association hosted 36 alumni and friends who returned for the Golden Years Society Reunion during Homecoming.

The Northwest Alumni Association was responsible for several alumni events surrounding the football national championship game in Florence and will be present for similar events at the MIAA conference basketball tournament in Kansas City.

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

Intercultural and International Center

The recipient of the first Society of International Ambassadors scholarship is Isioma Clement Nwadozi, a pre-med major from Nigeria. He was selected by Northwest’s International Programs and Studies Committee for the $500 award. This is the first scholarship established solely for international students. Thanks to SIA members, the scholarship has been endowed and is on track to award at an increased amount in the near future.

The IIC also is working on Faculty Intercultural Development Pathing. This is a speaker series and training program about interculturalism. The purpose is to help expand an understanding of diversity on Northwest’s campus and to help students recognize their own culture, how cultures differ and how to interact with others of differing backgrounds. A scholarship program involving these initiatives is on the list of funding priorities for the IIC.

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

Corporate and Foundation Relations

DST Systems Inc. of Kansas City accepted the Northwest Foundation proposal for $15,000 to support Theatre Northwest initiatives. This latest gift brings DST’s total support for Theatre Northwest initiatives to $50,000 since 2004. In honor of DST’s support, the south entrance to the new Studio Theatre addition to the Performing Arts Center is now named the DST Systems Inc. Theatre Entrance. Jessica Cassidy, a DST representative and 2000 graduate of Northwest, attended an event on campus the project.

Support from corporations and foundations is continually being sought for several projects serving all areas of campus. A few of the projects currently being researched for corporate and foundation support are the American Dream Grant, renovations to the foods lab in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, support for the Encore Performing Arts Series, KXCV and additional support for the Studio Theatre.

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

Northwest, St. Francis celebrate quality awards

Representatives from Northwest, St. Francis Hospital and Health Services, the office of Gov. Matt Blunt, the Excellence in Missouri Foundation and the city of Maryville attended a Missouri Quality Award reception in November on the Northwest campus.

Both Northwest, a four-time winner, and St. Francis, a three-time winner, received 2008 Missouri Quality Awards, which the foundation presents annually to businesses and institutions that demonstrate excellence in continuously improving essential processes that govern management and operations.

Northwest President Dean L. Hubbard said Northwest's longstanding policy of putting the needs of students first is the most important reason for the success of the University's internationally recognized Culture of Quality initiative.

Founded as a cooperative business, academic, labor, government and health care initiative, the Missouri Quality Award promotes quality awareness both statewide and nationally.

Green named president of state law enforcement group

Northwest Campus Safety Director Clarence Green is the new president of the Missouri Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators.

MACLEA was founded in 1992 by a group of university police directors and chiefs who saw the need for an organization equipped to create networking and training opportunities for member officers, staff and administrators.

A 1994 Northwest alumnus, Green has led the University’s Department of Campus Safety since 1996. An active participant in statewide efforts to improve safety and security on Missouri’s college and university campuses, Green worked closely with the Missouri Homeland Security coordinator in adapting the Emergency Response Planning Team school database for use by institutions of higher learning. He also has helped develop computerized threat assessment tools capable of measuring risks posed by individuals who display “red flag” characteristics and behaviors.

In 2007, Green was appointed by Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt to serve on the state’s Campus Security Task Force, which was charged with evaluating campus emergency response plans and improving communications between higher education and the public safety community.

Regents consider proposal for new residence hall

Northwest’s Board of Regents met in mid-December and heard a staff presentation with regard to Northwest’s Residence Hall Master Plan.

Phase I and Phase II of the plan, construction of new suites and apartments on campus and completion of a new freshman residence complex housing nearly 500 students, were finished in 2005 and 2007.

Phase III called for construction of a 200-bed apartment building to open in fall 2010. That portion of the plan was amended by the board and now recommends construction of a suite-style residence hall housing between 320 and 340 students and comprising classroom space and dining facilities.

The board is still considering how best to pay for the proposed residence hall. Alternatives include a traditional bond issue or moving to a developer-financed design/build concept, which University officials believe will speed construction and perhaps make it easier for Northwest to obtain financing in a tight bond market.