

THE MAGAZINE FOR NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

NORTHWEST

ALUMNI MAGAZINE | SUMMER 2024



TECHNICAL LEADER

*From the basketball court to the tech industry, **Bilal Clarence '05** enjoys taking the lead*

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THANKS TO DONORS

Students express gratitude | p. 19

TRACK NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Bearcats claim more titles | p. 24



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It's because of the volunteer support of countless alumni and friends – spirited people like Jan Erickson Corley – that Northwest continues to thrive.

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities at Northwest, contact the Office of University Advancement at alumni@nwmissouri.edu or 660.562.1248.

NORTHWEST ALUMNI
NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

“I’ve been a proud Bearcat for 58 years.

I came to the campus in the fall of 1966. The semester started two weeks late because they were finishing the two new high-rise dorms, Phillips and Franken.

I was an elementary education major with a minor in having fun. Every morning I would get up and put on a dress or skirt – yes, that was required for class. All of our meals were served in the cafeteria with only a 20-meal plan. After lunch, time was spent in the old Spanish Den, usually playing some kind of card game.

My teaching career didn't last long, but living in Maryville and raising our family meant staying connected with Northwest. We took advantage of the many cultural and sports programs.

When the children became school-age and were going to Horace Mann Laboratory School, I went to work at Northwest. What was to be only a part-time job with the food service became a supervisory job running the Tower View restaurant and snack bar.

When my husband, Roger, retired from the faculty, I retired also but continued to be active in Northwest activities. As a retirement present, we booked a Caribbean cruise during the fall of the football team's first national championship. Who knew the Bearcats would be going to the championship game? We never missed another one. After Roger died in 2012, I've continued to go to as many activities at Northwest as possible.

Many things have changed over the years. Buildings were built, and buildings were torn down. Rules and styles have come and gone. Northwest is still going strong, giving young adults a quality education that leads them into their future.”

Jan Erickson Corley '70

Member, Northwest Alumni Association Board of Directors



Bilal Clarence '05 has gone from playing pro basketball to a director of engineering at Google.

NORTHWEST

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The mission of the *Northwest Alumni Magazine* is to foster connections between alumni, friends and Northwest Missouri State University. The University strives to inform readers of the accomplishments of Northwest's alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students and to positively position the University in the hearts of its many constituents to increase public and private support.

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Economic development projects are making Maryville a city worth exploring beyond the Northwest campus.



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DEAR FRIENDS

Technology powers modern society. Industries, such as transportation, agriculture, financial services, healthcare, education, retail, communication, education and government, rely heavily on technology innovation and skilled technology professionals. Since 1966 when Northwest offered its first Fortran programming class taught by Dr. Ron Moss, the School of Computer Science and Information Systems has accepted the challenge of preparing students for the technological needs of the future.

In 1996, we formalized our relationship with industry by establishing a Professional Advisory Team that brings experts together from varied industries and small and large companies. This relationship results in an agile curriculum that prepares students for new careers and jobs that do not yet exist.

The School of Computer Science and Information Systems offers seven majors, 12 minors, four graduate programs and one graduate certificate. Profession-based experiences are infused throughout the curriculum through real-world client projects, capstone courses and experiences, and industry internships. Students are encouraged to build skill sets that allow them to develop creative solutions to complex, challenging problems that will benefit society, see the world through a different lens and collaborate with others. Something one might not expect is the wide range of campus organizations and activities in which our students participate outside of the School, such as vocal or instrumental music, service and volunteerism, government, religious and spiritual organizations, fraternity and sorority life, or athletics and intramurals.

Our featured alumnus, Bilal Clarence '05, has been remarkably successful because he understands how technology, data and business intersect. He was a student-athlete and a leader who never forgot his Northwest roots.

Carol S. Spradling

Dr. Carol Spradling '88
Emerita professor,
School of Computer Science
and Information Systems



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PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

NORTHWEST BEGINS NEXT ERA WITH INAUGURATION OF TATUM



Board of Regents Vice Chair Mel Tjeerdsma '77 and Chair Roxanna Swaney '84 placed the University's chain of office on Dr. Lance Tatum's shoulders as his family stood beside him. For the occasion, Northwest unveiled a new chain of office and medallion that replaced the set in use since the inauguration of Dr. B.D. Owens '59 in 1977.



First Lady Jill Tatum and daughter Zoe look on as son Thad smiles at them during the inauguration ceremony.

Pomp, circumstance and the glow of a new beginning filled Bearcat Arena as Northwest celebrated the inauguration of its 11th president with an April ceremony that featured well wishes for the new leader's success while setting a course for the institution's future.

"It was immediately clear to me that students were the focus at Northwest Missouri State University," President Dr. Lance Tatum said during his inaugural address. *"That attribute, a well-developed legacy from the days of this institution's role as a Normal School, spoke to my student experience. An experience connected to committed faculty and hardworking staff. An experience that built and shaped me into who I am today. Through the hard work and support of faculty and staff at Northwest, we will continue to uphold the mission and values of this University. Values of delivering outstanding instruction, meaningful mentorship and committed support to grow and nurture our students so they may achieve their educational and professional goals."*



Northwest leaders and keynote speaker Dr. Jack Hawkins, the Chancellor at Troy University, watch as President Tatum gives his inaugural address.



Members of the Bearcats in Blazers student group attended the inauguration of Northwest President Tatum and posed for a photo with him afterward.

President Tatum delivered his inaugural address to a large audience in Bearcat Arena that included Northwest faculty, staff, alumni and students as well as community supporters, delegates from across the state and friends of the Tatum family.



Scan QR Code to watch the inauguration ceremony.



Northwest students and President Dr. Lance Tatum (right) talk with a state lawmaker during the Student Senate's annual legislative reception.

NORTHWEST STUDENTS VISIT CAPITOL TO ADVOCATE FOR UNIVERSITY

Northwest students made their case for the institution in February, visiting the capitol building in Jefferson City and engaging legislators during the Student Senate's annual legislative reception.

The objective of the legislative reception is for students to speak with state lawmakers and advocate for Northwest while gaining insight into the legislative process. Students navigate the capitol halls in small groups and visit the offices of state representatives and senators, sharing Northwest's story and working to gain support for University programs, campus upgrades and appropriations.

This year, 19 students made the trip with University staff, including President Dr. Lance Tatum.

Elizabeth Motazed, who served as Student Senate president and the University's student regent during the academic year, said the experience made her proud to be a Missourian and helped her feel more connected with the state. A senior from Joplin, Missouri, Motazed completed her bachelor's degree in social studies-history education this spring.

"It made me proud to be a Bearcat," she said. "It was great to represent Northwest and advocate for a place that really just means so much, and it really showed me that Northwest is an awesome place."

AQUARIUM WELCOMES TURTLE NAMED BOBBY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH NORTHWEST

Bobby Bearcat has a new friend in the state's animal kingdom through Northwest's support of a partnership to provide critical care and rehabilitate loggerhead turtles.

A loggerhead turtle named Bobby – so named in honor of Northwest's mascot – inhabited Johnny Morris' Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium (WOW) this spring in Springfield, Missouri, as part of a partnership involving the aquarium, Northwest, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Turtles Fly Too.

"The Northwest community knows Bobby Bearcat as a spirit leader and goodwill ambassador for our campus,"

Brandon Stanley '01, '16, Northwest's



assistant vice president of marketing and communication, said. "We are proud to extend our Northwest pride through this partnership and highlight the incredible work being done to rehabilitate these animals."

When temperatures drop each winter, hundreds of endangered sea turtles wash up on land and face life-threatening illnesses. In January, 16 cold-stunned turtles from the New England coast arrived in Springfield and were met by an expert animal care team from WOW. The turtles were successfully released May 14, off the coast of Georgia.

This marks the fourth consecutive year WOW, which is recognized as the only sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation center in the Midwest, has initiated the project. This year, WOW connected with the state's colleges and universities to name the turtles and serve as exclusive partners in the rescue and rehabilitation efforts. For more information, visit www.wondersofwildlife.org/sea-turtles.

Bobby, a loggerhead turtle named in honor of Northwest's mascot through a partnership with Johnny Morris' Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium.

TOWER AMONG BEST COLLEGIATE YEARBOOKS FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Northwest's Tower yearbook was recognized in March by Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) as one of three Pacemaker Award recipients, crowning it as one of last year's best college yearbooks and a winner of the award for the third consecutive year.

"I am just monumentally impressed and proud of the work our students produce on a continuing basis," said Steven Chappell, the director of Student Media at Northwest. "For us to achieve this three straight years is a difficult task, and it's our first three-peat as a Pacemaker winner."

Tower joined yearbooks produced in 2023 by staffs at the University of Miami and Baylor University as this year's Pacemaker recipients. ACP began presenting the prestigious Pacemaker Award to collegiate newspapers after the organization's founding in 1921, before adding yearbooks, magazines and websites to the competition. Tower yearbook is now a 13-time Pacemaker recipient.



NORTHWEST EARNS NEARLY HALF A MILLION DOLLARS IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES

Evergy, which supplies the campus with electrical energy, presented the institution in March with a large check for \$409,646 to celebrate energy-efficient projects during the last five years that have saved Northwest the equivalent of a year's worth of energy in 254 homes.

"Evergy's incentive rebates have allowed Northwest to accelerate a variety of projects aimed at increasing energy efficiencies," Dan Haslag, the University's assistant vice president of facility services, said. "As energy conservation is an important element of our institution's sustainability plan, we look forward to ongoing opportunities through Evergy's energy savings program."

Northwest began participating in Evergy's Business Energy Savings Program in 2019. Since then, the University has completed nearly two dozen projects – including LED lighting upgrades, energy audits and a retro-commissioning of HVAC systems – and used Evergy rebates to make energy-efficient upgrades that reduce energy usage and cost.

This summer, Northwest began a multi-year project that will transform and modernize the campus's central plant. The total cost is estimated to be no more than \$105 million and it will take two to three years to complete, making it the largest capital project in the institution's history.



Evergy representatives presented Northwest leaders with a rebate check for its energy-efficient projects during the last five years.

DEAN, FACULTY ANNOUNCE RETIREMENTS

Northwest celebrates these six individuals who are retiring during the 2023-24 academic year and have dedicated a combined 145 years of service to the University.

DR. REBECCA DUNNELL

professor of music
22 years of service

DR. MIKE STEINER '85

dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
27 years of service

DR. MATT SYMONDS '90, '94

professor of health science
28 years of service

DR. RICK TOOMEY

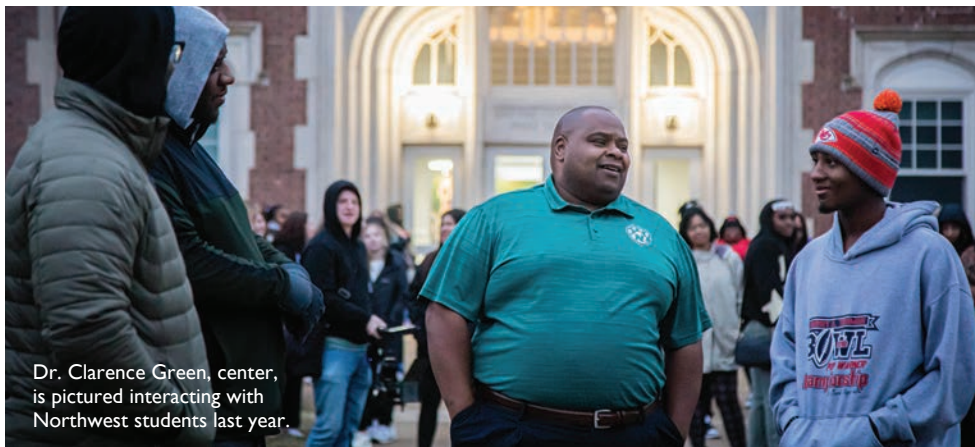
associate professor of chemistry
25 years of service

CSILLA TASI

senior instructor of mathematics and statistics
15 years of service

DR. JIM WALKER '85, '86

professor of marketing
28 years of service



Dr. Clarence Green, center, is pictured interacting with Northwest students last year.

GREEN RETIRES AFTER 28 YEARS

Dr. Clarence Green '94, '10 – a familiar face at Northwest since earning a bachelor's degree at the institution – retired from the University on March 31.

"I am incredibly grateful for the experiences, growth and countless memories I have gained during my time with Northwest," Green said.

"The opportunities for personal and professional development that I have been provided have been

invaluable. I have had the privilege of working alongside some of the most talented students, faculty and staff, and I am sincerely thankful for the support and mentorship I have received throughout the years."

Green served the University in numerous capacities since joining it in 1996, including as Northwest's interim president during the 2022-23 academic year. He also served in the roles of interim vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion and as the interim vice president of human resources.

As part of his law enforcement career spanning more than 25 years, Green was appointed Northwest's chief of police in 1997 and led the University Police Department until his retirement. In 2019, Green was named Northwest's vice president of culture, with oversight of the Office of Human Resources, the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, and University Police.

WANT MORE TO THE STORY?

Read content appearing in this issue of the *Northwest Alumni Magazine* and other Northwest news by scanning this QR code.



TECHNICAL LEADER

*From the basketball court to some of the most recognized brand names in the tech industry, **Bilal Clarence** enjoys taking the lead.*

Bilal Clarence '05 is taking a break between meetings in a "huddle room" he shares with another director at Google's Sunnyvale, California, campus. The room – which resembles a small living room with cushy furniture and a monitor hung on the wall over a credenza – neighbors an upper floor flank of the office building where Clarence's team assembles at a field of workstations.

A couple times a week – when he's not working in his office at home or another one of Google's satellite locations throughout the world – Clarence boards a Google bus at a stop near his Berkeley home and rides it to the Sunnyvale campus, just south of San Francisco. The bus works as a mobile office for Google employees, so he's already participated in a conference call, prepped for meetings and answered a slew of emails by the time he steps onto the campus.

His morning schedule included a lengthy meeting to discuss personnel and promotions. After lunch, he had a meet-and-greet with a Google leader, a meeting to receive an update on work his team is doing for the company's YouTube team and then another meet-and-greet with a company director. The last item scheduled for his workday was a deep dive with his team into an infrastructure project aimed at providing better reliability and data bandwidth to clients.

"I barely sit at that desk, because I'm mostly in meetings," he said, waving at his workstation beyond the huddle room. "But when I do, it's either checking emails or just reading because there's so much to learn. I'm reading up on things, tinkering with things, kind of educating myself on the Google ecosystem."

Ecosystem. Type that into a Google search and you'll get myriad results with links to definitions, YouTube videos and science-based websites. An Oxford Languages definition describes ecosystem as "a complex network or interconnected system," and a summary of a Wikipedia page describes a system where "biotic and abiotic components are linked together through nutrient cycles and energy flows."



"The background I have, and the competencies that I bring with me, gives me an edge in a lot of ways."

BILAL CLARANCE



As director of engineering for Google's graph serving team, Clarence is a driver of its ecosystem and the results of every Google search. In simple terms, his team is responsible for steering the data supplied to Google's Knowledge Graph, an information box displayed alongside search results. Clarence also deploys his experience in the data privacy governance space as a trust lead at Google, providing guidance on regulatory impacts and policy and security issues.

And yet, tech is a second career for Clarence, who began his professional life as a basketball player. As he turns 45 this year, he feels lucky to have found two careers matching his passions.

"The background I have, and the competencies that I bring with me, gives me an edge in a lot of ways," he said. "I know how to meet people where they are. Every person out there on the floor with me, they react to my leadership differently, and that's true in corporate life. You have to meet them where they are. What are the motivations? What are their fears? What are their ambitions? And then you have to

treat them like individuals because if I treat everybody the same I'm not gonna get the best out of them."

DANISH BEGINNINGS

Clarence was born and raised in Copenhagen, Denmark, the son of a Danish mother and Caribbean father. He grew up bilingual and Muslim – a faith he continues practicing today – and, in doing so, gained an appreciation for different cultures.

He loved soccer, too, and worked jobs delivering newspapers, sorting recyclables at a grocery store and selling clothing at a department store to help pay for the costs of playing his chosen sport. But a growth spurt around age 14 turned him to basketball.

An invitation to try out for a basketball club set up Clarence for a kind of success he never anticipated. "There's a lot you can gain from soccer – angles, cutting, positioning, spacing, all that stuff – so that came sort of naturally," he said of his transition to basketball. "Setting plays came very naturally to me, but I was extremely raw."

Still, Clarence showed a tenacity and eagerness to learn. He made Denmark's U16 national team and was competing against some of the world's best basketball players, "beating folks that I have no business beating," he said. At 17, he made the roster of a semi-pro team in Denmark. He began to realize that perhaps he could make a living playing basketball and started the process of taking his game to America.

COMING TO AMERICA

During the early 2000s, the internet was still in its infancy, and highlight packages of amateur athletes were not yet being shared all over social media platforms. Clarence had to rely on building relationships.

For starters, he learned how to cut hair. Among his patrons was an opposing player whose brother-in-law was an assistant coach at Miles City Community College

in Montana. At the other player's recommendation, Clarence sent a videotape with his highlights to the team's head coach, who was impressed and offered Clarence a full scholarship.

He had a successful first year at Miles City, averaging 14 points and earning all-conference honors. Although he attracted interest from a few Division I programs, Northwest entered as a potential suitor during his second season in Montana.

When he traveled to Maryville for a workout with the Bearcat men's basketball team in 2003, Clarence impressed the coaching staff enough to receive a scholarship offer to play at Northwest. But Clarence was quick with a counteroffer. He wanted to meet with an academic advisor before he committed.

While growing up in Denmark, he aced math but never thought about it as a potential career path. At Miles City, an instructor noticed his aptitude for it and suggested he enroll in a computer science course. "I took it and it blew my mind," he said. "I felt like I found something that I could be as passionate about as basketball. And so I was like, all right, this is what I want to do."

Clarence wanted to make sure Northwest could place him on a path to professional success outside of basketball. So Bearcat head coach Steve Tappmeyer set up a meeting for Clarence with Dr. Carol Spradling '88, a faculty member in the computer science department. During their initial conversation, Spradling offered guidance that fit his aspirations and candidly told him his status as a basketball player wouldn't provide him any leverage over other students in the classroom.

Clarence bought in and made Northwest his next home. Hands-on projects at the University, combined with internships at Cerner in Kansas City and a financial institution in Nebraska, furthered his interest in the software field and digital media. The logic of coding and problem-solving made sense to him and he found fulfillment in it.

"The euphoria there is real," he said. "But I think the notion that I'm literally creating an experience online – that was something that really resonated with me. ... This is coming from a guy who never touched computer games – never touched computers, really. I was always out playing. As a child, I never owned a computer, a gaming console or anything like that."

PLAYING TIME

At the same time he was finding his niche in computer science, Clarence continued his basketball career, playing with the Bearcats during the 2003-04 and 2004-05 seasons. Among the achievements he is most proud of is that the 2003-04 Bearcat team was the first in school history to be ranked No. 1. That team also advanced to the NCAA Division II Elite Eight for just the second time in school history.

"It felt like we were competing for something," Clarence said. "It felt like a foundation had been laid ... Because of the success of the program, we felt like we could realize the next step. We fell short, but it was a great experience."

Upon graduating from Northwest with his bachelor's degree in interactive digital media with a computer science emphasis, Clarence embarked on a professional basketball career with teams in Madrid and Germany, in addition to captaining the Danish national team. He took pride in his shooting ability and his role as a defensive stopper, a team player with a high IQ. Most of all, he took pride in being coachable and being a leader on the court.

But injuries also wore on him, and he understood he needed to prepare for life after his basketball career ended.

Bilal Clarence, who played basketball for two years at Northwest (center photo) divides his time at Google on its Sunnyvale, California, campus and in his home office.





Bilal Clarence walks to his workstation between meetings at one of Google's office buildings.



McKee '06, who ran cross country and track at Northwest, and they made their home in California. Today, they have two sons, ages 10 and 12.

DEVELOPING AND ADVANCING

During three years in Los Angeles, Clarence started his post-basketball career as a software developer with a series of startup companies amid the initial boom in smartphone apps. Though working for smaller companies – for low pay with the constant threat of layoffs and uncertain leadership – yielded its own unique problems, Clarence took advantage of opportunities to develop his skill sets and learned how to navigate the computing field.

He built technology infrastructure at small companies, along with a network of peers that eventually got him to Silicon Valley. Clarence joined Apple in 2012 as a software engineer focused on its online store and mobile app and quickly became a productive part of the team. A year later – amid a company reorganization – another leader with the online store snatched Clarence

to make him a lead software engineer with Apple's Retail Product Data team. The role afforded him opportunities for new work, additional responsibilities, and the freedom to take risks and try new things. It also allowed him an opportunity to gain managerial experience overseeing teams in India as well as in the San Francisco area.

He learned from the experience, particularly by stepping out from his role as an individual contributor and leading others.

"My leadership philosophy had already taken shape even without being in the capacity of a manager, and that comes from sports," Clarence said. "The things I learned on the basketball court translate really well to the work life. More people who have been in sports and have experience should be looked to be hired in the corporate world. I think the things we learned in team sports are absolutely critical, especially in positions of leadership."

THE NEXT PHASE

After a three-and-a-half-year stint with Capital One from 2019 to 2022, Clarence spotted an opportunity for advancement and

"I told myself, 'Look, at some point, this thing is not gonna bounce anymore. So you need to set yourself up for success once that happens,'" Clarence said. "That was basically the focus for me was to build up a résumé and the skillset that would allow me to go and transition successfully."

As Clarence continued honing his computer science skills, he started by assisting with his agent's website. He learned as many computing languages as he could and accepted freelance work, creating business websites. During a summer with the Danish national team, he secured a job in London, working it on weekdays and then flying back to Denmark for weekend basketball practices.

In 2009, Clarence retired from basketball. He married his longtime girlfriend, Dia

transitioned to Google, where he assumed his current role leading a team that is perfecting the company's data engine – and driving new iterations of computing.

"That's probably what's most exciting to me right now about being at Google is this next phase of search or AI experiences," Clarence said. "I feel very privileged to be at the company that is a leader in the space and will shape the future of this stuff. Having a lens, quite honestly, on the trust and safety of that, I feel is a really important aspect of it. At Google, we need to get it right."

If you haven't read or seen the hype, AI – artificial intelligence – is the latest technological frontier being applied to tasks such as writing academic papers, summarizing lengthy service contracts and responding to customer complaints. Predictions indicate it will eventually factor into every industry. Google, of course, is in the thick of the race to develop it, investing billions of dollars into their data enterprise to populate AI tools.

While the benefits and advantages of AI technology are still being debated, Clarence is as interested as anyone in its potential.

"As people of the workforce, we need to figure out how to leverage this technology," Clarence said. "I think it's wrong to assume or come from a place of combating it or resisting it. It's here, it's gonna stay."

AI technology is expected to help employees shed mundane tasks to refocus on their specialties. Clarence envisions AI tools helping software engineers, for example, become better, more efficient developers. He also acknowledges questions related to how AI could impact society and the human race.

"I do think we have to be very conscious and careful about what effect this has on our kids, what effect this has on the polarization that is true around the world," he said. "I think, for the creators of this technology, there's a social responsibility

that we have to take very seriously. ... But do I think computers are taking over the world? No."

He added, "I think it's exciting. It's kind of like the ocean. It's fun, but you have to respect it. I think being in technology, you have to respect the opportunity and also make sure that you hold yourselves and people around you accountable and responsible."

LEADING THE WAY

Within the Google ecosystem the energy flows through office buildings outfitted with plant life, work pods and conference rooms furnished with large monitors, whiteboards, charging stations, sticky notes and every other office supply a "Googler" might need to fuel idea generation and collaboration. Meeting rooms are labeled with eco-friendly names, such as "Fishing at Sunset" and "Cloud Shadows."

"Google's an incredible place," he said. "The problems we're solving, the things we're trying to figure out, the challenges that we have – you don't get those sorts of problems and challenges in many places."

In an industry that evolves rapidly, Clarence will pass two years at Google this summer and continues seeking ways to enhance his skills, not just in software engineering but as a leader. He's proud of the career experience that's shaped him into a well-rounded leader, and he's proud to be a part of the engineering ethos at Google. He's also proud to be leading teams of people and helping them thrive – similar to the ways his coaches and teachers helped him, from Denmark to Northwest.

"I'm passionate about creating that environment for my people," he said. "The broader impact I have, the more people I can impact positively, and maybe more people will say, 'You know, when I worked with Bilal, I did some of the best work of my life.'"



Greetings from

MARYVILLE

WHETHER YOU WANT TO SHOP, EAT OR JUST PLAY, MARYVILLE IS WORTH EXPLORING BEYOND THE NORTHWEST CAMPUS

Tales abound about the paths and hangouts Bearcats frequented during college days in Maryville, but a recent surge in development and modernization of older properties has the city generating new stories for residents and visitors.

With funding support from façade grants, new businesses around Maryville’s courthouse square have helped rehabilitate the city’s downtown district – and brought a refreshing vibe and vitality to the city. Activities in a downtown “pocket park” – which now features a historic fountain that was located for decades outside Northwest’s Administration Building – and other events around the square, including a farmer’s market and a variety of festivals, are a draw for families. And there’s more to come with the city making plans to turn an alleyway into a covered, open-air pavilion.

At Maryville’s southside, a \$13 million transformation of South Main Street provides a more welcoming thoroughfare for people entering the city and includes improved access points to numerous restaurants and retailers.

Beyond the city’s retail districts, nature and dynamic outdoor spaces are everywhere – from the Missouri Arboretum on the Northwest campus to the city’s growing network of paved pedestrian and bicycle paths, to Mazingo Lake Recreation Park, which offers an escape with opportunities for camping, fishing and other water activities.

HERE’S A SNAPSHOT OF SOME OF THE MOST NOTEWORTHY IMPROVEMENTS IN MARYVILLE DURING THE LAST DECADE:

2015

A revamped Fourth Street corridor from the city’s downtown to the campus entrance includes an archway and bridges the two neighborhoods.



2016

The opening of the Watson 9 youth golf course designed by golfing legend Tom Watson at Mazingo Lake Recreation Park complements the park’s nationally recognized Sechrest 18 course and makes Maryville a top destination for golfers.





GREG MCDANEL '02,
CITY MANAGER SINCE 2012

“Maryville is not just a place to spend your college years. It’s a welcoming, safe and inviting community that continuously evolves while retaining its unique charm. By returning, alumni can reconnect with old friends, make new memories and witness firsthand the exciting developments that are propelling Maryville forward.”



TYE PARSONS '98,
CITY COUNCIL MEMBER SINCE 2019
AND MAYOR FROM 2022 TO 2024

“I’ve had the opportunity to host many Bearcat classmates returning to town for one reason or another – homecoming, sports, concerts and theatre productions – and the one thing I hear from all of them is how they cannot believe the positive changes on campus and in the city. The progress in our community is nothing short of astounding, particularly given our population and geographic isolation. New businesses, redesigned streetscapes, a booming downtown district and incredible amenities at our Mozingo Lake Recreation Park are just a few of the highlights returning Bearcats should visit on their trip home.”



DEANN HUBER DAVISON '03, '20,
APPOINTED IN 2022 AS MARYVILLE'S
FIRST TOURISM DIRECTOR

“Bearcats would be amazed at the changes that have happened in Maryville, specifically over the past 10 to 15 years. Bearcats can still find their favorite spots, but the Maryville community has embraced progress and has put a greater focus on providing an exceptional experience for residents and visitors alike.”

2018 A conference center and restaurant at Mozingo Lake Recreation Park – adjacent to a 40-unit lodge completed in 2017 – add more reasons to check out the picturesque recreation area east of Maryville.

2021 The Thomson Splash ‘N’ Play, located in Maryville’s southwest corner, features water structures and picnic spaces, making it a prime park destination for families.



2023 The city of Maryville completed its multi-year overhaul of South Main Street, which added turn lanes and traffic signals to improve safety, along with decorative streetlights, pedestrian paths and trees. The refresh has helped attract brand name stores and prompt remodels of existing businesses – and a similar revamp of Main Street’s remaining stretch extending to State Highway 71 is underway with completion anticipated in 2025.

To learn more about things to see and do in Maryville, go online to visitmaryville.org.

SCHOLARSHIP HONORS MARKETING INSTRUCTOR'S COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS, UNIVERSITY

A new endowed scholarship recognizes a longtime faculty member and dedicated alumnus for his legacy at Northwest and his impact on students.

The Russ Northup Marketing Scholarship will be awarded annually to a marketing major who is a sophomore, junior or senior and maintains a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25.

Brian Hesse '95 is providing cash gifts totaling more than \$25,000 to establish the scholarship honoring Northup. Hesse says Northup had a tremendous influence on him as an instructor and academic advisor, and they maintain a friendship beyond the classroom today.

Hesse, who is the co-owner, president and chief executive officer of aluminum distributor PerenniAL, gives credit to Northup for his professional success and for instilling confidence in his abilities.

"As a former 'average' student of his, I remember many conversations in his office about my future and what he saw in me," Hesse said. "He was always positive — no criticism in any negative way. Russ was the professor who always had a line at his door during office hours. Students fed off his knowledge and enthusiasm. He was a marketing master and was able to put textbook concepts into real-world scenarios that piqued students' interests."

Northup '65, '90 — after serving in the military and working in private business — joined Northwest's faculty in 1990 and taught marketing and management courses until retiring in 2004.

Northup, who was an advisor for the American Marketing Association and the Turkish Student Association, received the Dean's Award for Service and the Tower Service Award in 1997. He also



received the Northwest Alumni Association's Distinguished Faculty Award in 2004.

Additionally, he was an alumni advisor for the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity for 12 years and was recognized in 1993 by its national chapter as Grand Prytanis Key Leader.

In 2008, Northup was honored by Northwest's M-Club Hall of Fame with a Meritorious Service Award in recognition of his work as the University's faculty athletics representative from 1998 to 2004 and a stint as the athletics department's compliance director.

Hesse hopes his gift to help Northwest establish the scholarship inspires others to consider similar scholarships honoring faculty members who have made significant impacts.



TATUMS ESTABLISH SCHOLARSHIP FUND TO HELP EDUCATION MAJORS

Northwest's new president and first lady have committed to supporting future education students attending the institution by establishing an endowed scholarship.

Dr. Lance and Jill Tatum recently pledged gifts totaling at least \$25,000 to create the Lance and Jill Tatum Scholarship in

collaboration with the Northwest Foundation Inc.

"There are many educators who invested in us over the years, who helped to mold and develop our love for learning," Jill Tatum said. "We are forever grateful and hope to pay it forward."

The Lance and Jill Tatum Scholarship is open to sophomores, juniors and seniors who are majoring in education and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.75. An individual scholarship of no less than \$1,000 will be awarded annually to the recipient determined by a selection committee of faculty representing the School of Education. The first scholarship will be awarded for the fall 2024 semester.

"We are thrilled Dr. and Mrs. Tatum have already made such a meaningful gift to benefit Northwest students," said Mitzi Craft Marchant '91, '09, vice president of university advancement and executive director of the Northwest Foundation. "This is quite a testament, demonstrating their support for Northwest and our students as well as their commitment to continue the University's strong culture of giving. We are hopeful others will follow in their lead, by making their own gift to Northwest or even supporting the Tatums' newly endowed scholarship."

SYMONDS PLEDGES SUPPORT TO MARTINDALE HALL UPGRADES, CAPPING 28-YEAR NORTHWEST CAREER

A longtime Northwest faculty member is paying tribute to the institution and academic field that shaped his career with a gift supporting its renovation of Martindale Hall. Dr. Matt Symonds '90, '94, who retired from Northwest this spring, has pledged \$20,000 to the project.

"People made an impact on me, and I know what those experiences – hands-on experiences in the classroom – did for me," Symonds said. "I just want others to experience that."

Symonds, who joined the University's staff in 1996, is transitioning to his next role as the executive director of the Missouri Society of Health and Physical Educators (MOSHAPE). He has been a member of the organization for about 30 years and served as its president in 2010. As executive director, he will manage MOSHAPE's operations and assist its Board of Directors.

In the meantime, Northwest is entering the final phases of its plans to renovate and modernize Martindale Hall, a project that will address space needs and centralize operations for allied health sciences programs. When complete, the renovated space will house the University's foods and nutrition lab, a well-being lab and a sports science lab as well as classrooms for

collaboration and lounge spaces.

Northwest completed a \$1.3 million renovation of Martindale Hall's third floor last year that includes academic laboratory spaces to support nursing, human services and school counseling programs as well as faculty offices.

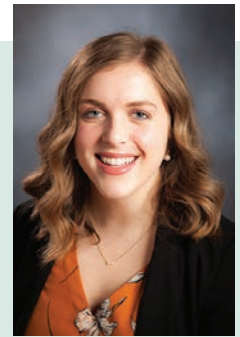
"We've really expanded the technology we have in our labs and the things that students can learn how to do while they're here, so the expanded lab spaces are going to be super helpful to provide more students with more access and experiences," Symonds said.

Symonds worked in campus recreation as an undergraduate student, and that experience helped him land a role as a graduate assistant. He helped the athletics department with game ticket sales and took on other responsibilities to support Bearcat athletic programs. Upon finishing his master's degree, Symonds accepted an offer to join the Northwest staff.

He served as business manager and events coordinator in the Department of Athletics, before joining the faculty in 2002. In 2012, he was named a department chair and subsequently became founding director of the School of Health Science and Wellness during the 2015-16 academic year.



Mitzi Marchant



Elizabeth Cline

MARCHANT RETIRING FROM NORTHWEST AFTER 25 YEARS, ALUMNI OFFICE WELCOMES CLINE

Mitzi Craft Marchant '91, '09, who held multiple roles since joining the institution in 1999, most recently as vice president of university advancement and executive director of the Northwest Foundation, is retiring June 30.

Marchant, who served from 2014 to 2018 as director of corporate and foundation relations and then as director of donor engagement until 2021, was instrumental in the highly successful Forever Green campaign Northwest concluded in 2021. She also was vice president of university relations, chief public relations officer, director of advancement communication, and director of information and marketing.

"Northwest has been part of my life since I was a freshman in 1987. At that time, I never dreamed I would return someday and have such a rewarding career serving my alma mater," Marchant said. "I've been fortunate to work with some amazing colleagues, leaders, alumni and students, many of whom I am proud to call friends, and to also play a part in uplifting this University for future generations of Bearcats."

Elizabeth Geier Cline '19 joined the Office of University Advancement in March as its alumni relations and communications specialist. A native of Council Bluffs, Iowa, she returned to Northwest from Missouri Valley College, where she was employed during the last two years as a marketing and communication specialist and director of alumni relations. Cline succeeds Carma Greene Kinman '85, who accepted a new role as an administrative specialist in the Office of the President at Northwest.



NEW SCHOLARSHIP HONORS LEGACY OF WESLEY STUDENT CENTER CO-DIRECTOR

For 35 years, Marjean Potter Ehlers '72 and her husband, Don, served as co-directors of the Wesley Foundation at Northwest, impacting hundreds of students' lives through their mentorship, care and support. That legacy is continuing after Marjean's passing last December through a new scholarship created in her memory.

The Marjean Potter Ehlers Memorial Scholarship is now available to full-time undergraduate students with a minimum 3.0 GPA and a major in psychology. The scholarship will award an amount of no less than \$1,000 per year with preference given to students active in Wesley Foundation programming, a United Methodist-based campus ministry.

"Our hope is that those who receive the scholarship will have a sense of the importance that Marjean placed on education, on relationships, on faith, and that her very being was about helping people and coming alongside them in their student journey," Don said. "I hope anyone who receives this scholarship would get a sense that she's walking with them."

The Ehlers connected as high school classmates in Sioux Rapids, Iowa, and wed four years after their high school graduation. They were married for 51 years until Marjean's death.

After Marjean completed her bachelor's degrees in psychology and sociology at Northwest, and Don graduated from Iowa State University, the couple began their careers as co-head teachers at a daycare center and embraced their interests in a shared career. In 1975, they began as associates in ministry at the Wesley Foundation at the University of Northern Iowa, where

they earned master's degrees in counseling and remained for five years until moving to Maryville.

Through the decades and connections they made, they were known as impactful leaders at Northwest as well as in campus ministry throughout the region and nation. They completed doctorate degrees in educational leadership and policy analysis at the University of Missouri-Columbia and seminary work, culminating with their ordination as United Methodist clergy.

In addition to establishing an internship program for students interested in ministry and hosting numerous social, recreational and ministry activities at Northwest's Wesley Student Center, the Ehlers often were called upon to provide support and counsel to students, faculty and staff in times of crisis at the University. Additionally, Don served as an adjunct instructor at Northwest from 2009 to 2011 and then as an instructor of psychology from 2012 to 2017.



COUPLE EXTENDS SUPPORT OF BUSINESS PROGRAM THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP

A new scholarship honors the impact Northwest's business program made on one couple and their family while supporting future students interested in business.

Starting in the fall, the Hunsicker Family Scholarship will be awarded annually to a

Northwest undergraduate student pursuing a major in the Melvin D. and Valerie G. Booth School of Business. Eldon '70, '71, and Janelle Wollenhaupt '71 Hunsicker are pledging gifts totaling more than \$25,000 to establish the scholarship.

The couple met while taking classes together as they pursued their degrees in business education at Northwest. They began their careers as teachers before transitioning into office environments.

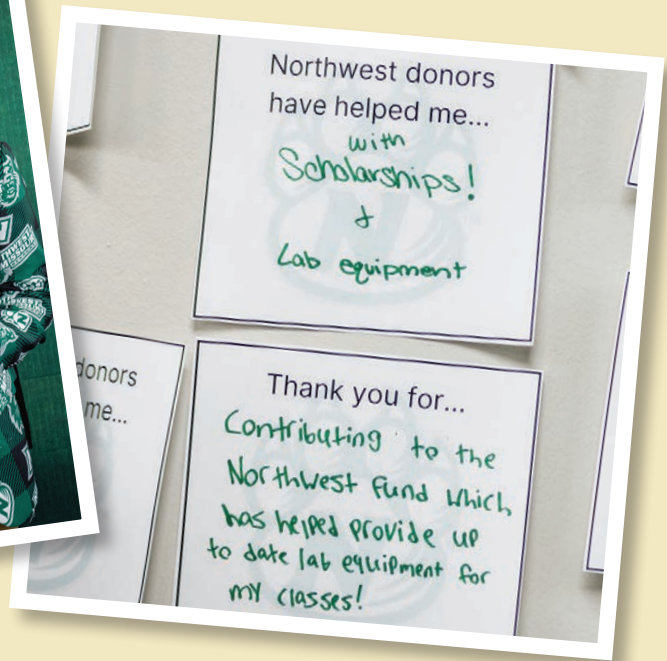
Both recently retired, Janelle was the assistant business manager for Ottumwa Community Schools, and Eldon spent 45 years in the insurance industry as a partner with NOEL Insurance, which has offices in Ottumwa, Eddyville and Osceola in Iowa. He also was an adjunct instructor at Buena Vista University in Iowa for 35 years.

Additionally, the Hunsickers were deeply involved in the Ottumwa region, each serving in multiple leadership roles in their community. Eldon served on the state board

of the Independent Insurance Agents of Iowa for 13 years and on the national board of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America for three years.

Coming from Hatfield, Missouri, Eldon had several family members who attended Northwest before him. Conversely, Janelle had never heard of Northwest while growing up in Massena, Iowa, and came to the University as a first-generation student. But both were inspired to pursue business education degrees by high school teachers they hoped to emulate.

"It just seems important that we do our part now to assist other students as they come through those programs, especially in business because it's been so good to us," Eldon said. "We hope that this will be a little bit of something that will help others as they come through the program so that we send more good business graduates out into the world."



Thank you, donors!

Students express appreciation to donors on heels of successful Bearcat Day of Green

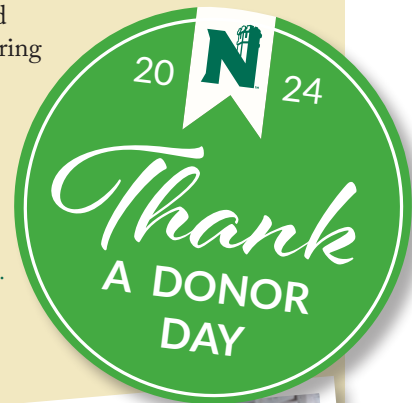
Northwest students showed their gratitude for the donors who support them and the University's programs during the institution's annual Thank a Donor Day in April.

"Donors who support Northwest are choosing to help provide students with opportunities they otherwise may not have had," Tess Lovig '20, the annual giving and alumni relations specialist at Northwest, said. "That's a noble gesture that deserves to be recognized. Everyone in the Northwest community benefits from

donations in some way, and by participating in Thank a Donor Day, Bearcats have the chance to thank these donors for their generosity and kindness."

One week prior, the Northwest Foundation's fourth annual Bearcat Day of Green campaign raised \$111,725 for University initiatives, during a span of 1,905 minutes – a tribute to Northwest's founding year. This year's fundraising total increased by nearly 12 percent, compared to last year's Bearcat Day of Green.

To learn more about the Bearcat Day of Green, go online to dayofgreen.nwmissouri.edu.



ALUMNI GATHERINGS

Get involved today! For more information about joining Northwest Alumni Association chapters and activities, call 660.562.1248 or email alumni@nwmissouri.edu.

THE NORTHWEST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HOSTED A SERIES OF GATHERINGS IN FEBRUARY FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS LIVING IN THE AUSTIN, DALLAS AND HOUSTON AREAS.



Dallas-area alumni gathered at The Reserve - Las Colinas in Irving. Left to right in the front row behind Duane Havard '90 are Mike Rooney '74, Jill Tatum, Jana White Hanson '02, Jan Saville Smith '65, Lu Ann Tunell, Shelley Caniglia '02, Sudha Parchuri '22, Dr. Lance Tatum and Marvin Jackson '64. In the back row are Unesh Channegowda '22, Vishnu Reddy Shaga '22, Jim Sperry '69, '72, Warren Hawk '73, Ed Grondahl, Nick Glasnapp '03, Mary Glasnapp, Gary Tunell '67, Paula Bullard O'Connor '86, Todd Keiser '95, Kevin Sharpe '91, Tony Miles '00, Sam Mason '88 and Cindy Calalca Richardson.



Alumni gathered at Christian's Tailgate Bar and Grill in Houston. Left to right in the front row are Jana Hanson '02, Richard Study '74, '77, Kristin Study '03, Ame Johnson '77 and Mary Le Johnson. In the back row are Duane Havard '90, Kevin Thompson, Shannon Paulsen '99, Kathy Nullins Study '73, '81, Robin Ross, Janila Jenkinson Porter '68, '72, Tom Hays '96, Trish Costello and James Costello '71.



Left to right in the front row at Moontower Saloon in Austin are Carolyn Moore, Allan Mackenzie, Kathleen Timberlake Miller '84, '89, and Kelly Miller Simmons '82. Left to right in the back row are Duane Havard '90, Mark Avitt '80, Kitty Nelson, Joe Nelson '19, Teresa Rutledge, Gary Dry and Jana White Hanson '02.



CHEERING THE MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM IN MINNESOTA

Alumni and friends gathered in March in Mankato, Minnesota, where the Bearcat men's basketball team was playing in the regional rounds of the NCAA Division II tournament. Sitting left to right around the table are Kris Guthrie, Barb Walk '91, Jana White Hanson '02, Billy Mackey, Jan Erickson Corley '70, Duane Havard '90, Vickie Weldon, Linda Raney Girard '64, Greg Hartman '03, Sue Swink, Marshall Swink, Polly Ketterman Havard '87 and Lanny Guthrie.



MID-MISSOURI ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

The Mid-Missouri Alumni and Friends Chapter gathered in January at Paddy Malone's Irish Pub in Jefferson City. Sitting left to right around the front table are Steve Riepe, Gayla McKinnie '71, Randy Wheeler '83, '85, Polly Ketterman Havard '87, Sherry Burrell, Rodney Burrell '63 and Duane Havard '96. Standing left to right in the back are Toni Prawl '84, Dennis Ceglenski '85, Allen Tatman '86, David Teeter '86, Mary Beth Marrs, Alan Marrs, Buck Brooks '95 and Lynne Brooks.



FRIENDS VACATION IN CURAÇAO

A group of 22 Northwest alumni and spouses gathered in January on the Caribbean island of Curaçao for a vacation celebrating retirements and anniversaries. Left to right are Kenneth Derks, Jacqueline Derks, Michael Turner, Janet Scheiber Turner '86, Melissa McEnroe Leggett '82, Mark Leggett '83, Rudy Zuniga, Carla Zuniga, Pamela Davis Williams '86, Bill Williams '85, Mary Kennedy Lanning '84, Jean Heier, Timothy Heier '83, Stuart Anderson, Leeanna Robertson, Paul McKnight '84, Frances McKnight, Wade Long '79 and Jean Ismert Long '78 (standing in back), Carol Sturm, Steve Sturm '78, Ginger Schroeder, Todd Schroeder, Richard Lanning '85, Mark Friday '78, Regina Hill Friday '80, Mary Hughes, Robert Hughes, Dixie Coleman, Douglas Coleman, Charles Henderson and Patricia Lamkin Henderson '83.



KANSAS CITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

The Kansas City Alumni and Friends chapter gathered in December at KC Bier. Left to right in the front row are Jennifer Hewitt '86, Sandy Grove Valline '59, Damian Valline Bridges '84, Polly Ketterman Havard '87, Sheila Yoder Wogomon '95 and Sue Spiers '96. Left to right in the back row are Tom Hanson '80, Steve Holle '80, '81, Blake Mackey '13, Michelle Gunsolley Jaycox '93, Jamie Jaycox '91 and Duane Havard '90.



WEST CENTRAL IOWA ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

The West Central Iowa Alumni and Friends Chapter gathered in February at Brickhaus Brews in Manning, Iowa. Left to right are Blake Hinners '19, Brad Staley '19, Keith Freese, Maureen Mader Freese '86, Jake Peterson '17, Aly Goos '14, Ty Lauritsen '18 and Tyler Behrens.

NORTHWEST ALUMNI
NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI CHAPTERS

For more information about a chapter or to get involved, contact the Northwest Alumni Association at 660.562.1248 or alumni@nwmissouri.edu.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND A CHAPTER NEAR YOU.

Join the Northwest Alumni Association at
MIAA Day with the Kansas City Royals

Kansas City Royals vs. Chicago White Sox

Sunday, July 21

Look for the Northwest canopy and Northwest Alumni Association near Gate A on the left-field side of the stadium. Giveaways will be available at the tent.

First pitch at 1:10 p.m.
Tickets are \$25 each.

Seats are located in left field upper deck section.

Tickets will be distributed electronically one week prior to the game.

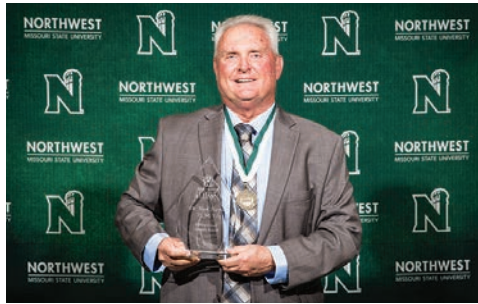
Discount parking passes are available to purchase at <https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/northwestalumni2>.

For more information, visit www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/events or call 660.562.1248.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HONORS 8 FOR SUCCESS, SERVICE

Eight distinguished members of the Northwest family were honored in April during the annual Alumni Awards Banquet for dedicating their time, talent and service to the University as well as for accomplishments in their chosen fields.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Dr. Mark Harpst '77, '80, '83



DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD
Dr. Jeffrey Thornsberry



DISTINGUISHED FACULTY EMERITUS AWARD
Dr. Christine Benson '89



HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD
Bill Brinton



NORTHWEST TURRET SERVICE AWARD
Marsha Alsburry Leopard '71, '76
and Lynn Leopard '76



YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD
Johnathan McQuaide '05



PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD
Lesley Martin '02

NORTHWEST ALUMNI NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

MISSION:

The Northwest Alumni Association fosters lifelong relationships through the giving of time, talent and funds to initiatives and opportunities that advance the University, its alumni, future alumni and friends.

2024-25 NORTHWEST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Matt Gaarder '97, Maryville

VICE-PRESIDENT

Kimberly Massey Cole '93, Overland Park, Kan.

PAST-PRESIDENT

Dr. Allison Kahre Atkinson '06, '11, '19, Dearborn, Mo.

MEMBERS

- Brandon Benitz '00, '08, Kearney, Neb.
- Chris Blum '92, Lincoln, Neb.
- Damian Valline Bridges '84, Kansas City, Mo.
- Janice Erickson Corley '70, Maryville
- Scott Ellis '98, Chillicothe, Mo.
- Maureen Mader Freese '86, Arcadia, Iowa
- Mike Harbit '84, Nevada, Mo.
- Cherine Heckman '77, '83, Columbia, Mo.
- Debra Parsons James '82, Kearney, Mo.
- Melissa Moody Mincy '03, West Des Moines, Iowa
- D'Vante Mosby '18, Kansas City, Mo.
- Suzi Schuckman Post '06, Lee's Summit, Mo.
- Brad Summa '91, Ballwin, Mo.
- Dave Teeter '86, Montgomery City, Mo.
- Sheila Yoder Wogomon '95, Blue Springs, Mo.

EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

- Duane Havard '90
Director of Alumni Relations
- Elizabeth Geier Cline '19
Alumni Relations and Communications Specialist
- Tess Lovig '20
Annual Giving and Alumni Relations Specialist
- Emily Wormsley Greene '71
Northwest Foundation Inc. Representative
- Mitzi Craft Marchant '91, '09
Vice President of University Advancement and Executive Director of the Northwest Foundation Inc.
- Lori McLemore Steiner '85
Assistant Vice President of University Advancement and Chief Finance Officer of the Northwest Foundation Inc.

LEARN MORE

Read about the achievements of this year's Alumni Award recipients by scanning this QR code.



NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

Class of **1974****50th**
YEAR
Reunion

October 18-19, 2024

Join us for your 50th-year reunion
during Homecoming weekendInvitations for the reunion will be mailed.
Registration begins July 1 with a Sept. 13 deadline.**For more information:**Visit www.nwmissouri.edu/50th-Reunion
or contact the Office of Alumni Relations
at 660.562.1248 or alumni@nwmissouri.edu.**HOMECOMING**
OCTOBER 13-19**VARIETY SHOW**

- Thursday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m.
- Ron Houston Center for the Performing Arts
- TICKETS: \$5; purchase at www.nwmissouri.edu/getinvolved/homecoming/.

FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY

- Friday, Oct. 18, 2 p.m.
- Joyce and Harvey White International Flag Plaza

M-CLUB HALL OF FAME BANQUET AND INDUCTION CEREMONY

- Friday, Oct. 18, 6:30 p.m.
- J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom
- COST: \$35 plus online processing fees; tickets may be purchased online at bearcatsports.com/tickets or by calling Brenda Lutz at 660.562.1713.

HOMECOMING WELCOME

- Saturday, Oct. 19, 8 a.m.
- Michael L. Faust Center for Alumni and Friends
- Free refreshments

- Homecoming buttons and reunion ribbons will be available to graduates from 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019.

HOMECOMING PARADE

- Saturday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m.
- The parade begins at the corner of Ray and College Avenue. It will proceed east to Northwest's main entrance at Fourth Street and conclude at Fourth and Main streets.

BEARCAT ZONE PREGAME FESTIVITIES

- Saturday, Oct. 19, at the conclusion of the parade
- Raymond J. Courter College Park Pavilion
- COST: Admission to College Park and pre-game activities are free. A tailgate meal is available for purchase with a main entrée, sides, dessert and non-alcoholic beverage. Indoor seating with TVs and a full bar are available inside the Pavilion.

FOOTBALL VS. CENTRAL MISSOURI

- Saturday, Oct. 19, 2 p.m.
- Bearcat Stadium
- TICKETS: \$30 chairback, \$25 railback, \$23 reserved, \$14 adult general admission (standing room only), \$10 K-12 (standing room only or visiting students); Homecoming football tickets are available to the general public beginning

Saturday, Sept. 28, by visiting bearcatsports.com/tickets. Prices increase on game day; all tickets have processing fees added.**PLACES TO STAY****MARYVILLE**

- America's Best Value Inn: 660.562.3111
- Bearcat Inn & Suites: 660.562.2002
- Cobblestone Inn & Suites: 660.224.2222
- Holiday Inn Express & Suites 660.562.9949

ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI

- Drury Inn & Suites 816.364.4700
- Hampton Inn 816.390.9300
- Holiday Inn Express & Suites 816.232.2500
- Stoney Creek Inn 816.901.9600

CLARINDA, IOWA

- Cobblestone Inn & Suites 712.850.1471
- Super 8 by Wyndham 712.545.0013

Events are subject to change or cancellation. Visit www.nwmissouri.edu/getinvolved/homecoming/ for more information.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS x4

RUNNERS CLAIM FOUR MORE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Bearcat track and field squads sent 19 competitors to the NCAA Division II national championship outdoor meet May 23-25 in Emporia, Kansas, and returned with two national championships – to go with two national championships at March’s indoor national championship meet in Pittsburg, Kansas.

Senior Tiffany Hughey earned her fifth national championship as a Bearcat by taking the 400-meter dash crown at the outdoor meet and broke her own school outdoor record with a time 52.03. The men’s 4x400-meter relay team of junior Prince Griffin, junior Gavyn Monday, sophomore Logan Arellano and sophomore Truman Hare won a national championship of their own with a time of 3:06.41.

Additionally, the women’s 4x400-meter relay team of Hughey and junior Chloe Saenz, sophomore Luisarys Toledo and senior Kaylee Harp finished second nationally with a school record time of

3:33.23. The men’s 4x100-meter relay team of sophomore Dominic Sedlacek, junior Joel Dos Santos, Monday and senior Enrico Cavagna finished third in the nation with a time of 39.70 seconds.

As a team, the Bearcat women scored 22 points to place 11th at the national championship meet – their highest finish in program history – and the men earned 17.5 points for 15th place. The Bearcats received 21 All-American honors at the outdoor meet with Griffin, Hughey, Monday and Toledo each earning All-American status in two events.

At the indoor national championships, Hughey claimed the 400-meter crown and held a spot on the 4x400-meter relay title-winning team. She set a school indoor record by winning the 400-meter title with a time of 52.58 and was part of the relay quartet with Saenz, Harp and Toledo that set a NCAA Division II indoor record in the title run with a time of 3:35.30.

In May, Northwest hosted the MIAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships for the first time since 2016. The Bearcat women took second, while the Northwest men placed fourth.

Toledo captured the women’s high-point scorer award with 28.5 points. She was the MIAA champion in the long jump and placed second in the javelin.

Clockwise from top left Truman Hare, Logan Arellano, Gavyn Monday, Prince Griffin



Tiffany Hughey



Blake Morgan



Luisarys Toledo

WOMEN'S TENNIS RETURNS TO NCAA TOURNAMENT, MEN UPSET IN MIAA TOURNAMENT

She also was a part of the conference championship 4x400 relay squad and a runner-up in the 400-meter dash.

Hughey blew away the field in the women's 400-meter dash and anchored the Bearcat 4x400m relay to gain a pair of MIAA crowns. Harp also tallied two titles as she won the 800-meter run and was a member of the 4x400 relay team with junior Jaedy Commins as its fourth member.

On the men's side, senior Reece Smith completed a four-year reign in the 3,000-meter steeplechase with his fourth consecutive MIAA crown in that event. Smith has tallied six outdoor MIAA championships and is only the fourth Bearcat to win six or more league titles.

During the indoor track and field season, the Bearcat women and men each earned top-10 team finishes and produced 23 All-America performances. The women attained their highest team finish in program history by scoring 28 points and earning seventh place at the national meet, the third top-10 women's team finish in Northwest history. The men earned 28 points in sixth place for their sixth top-10 finish in program history.

Senior high jumper Blake Morgan was honored as the NCAA Division II Elite 90 Award winner, which is presented to the individual with the highest cumulative GPA at the national championship meet. He carries a 4.0 GPA in biology with an emphasis in biomedical sciences.

At the MIAA Indoor Championships in Topeka, Kansas, the Bearcats claimed six event championships. The women placed second with 108 points, while the men took third with 75.5 points. Northwest had 35 track and field athletes earn MIAA academic recognition during the indoor season, and 34 earned the status during the outdoor season. Eight Bearcats garnered MIAA Scholar-Athlete status during the indoor season with 3.50 cumulative GPAs and a top-three finish at the MIAA Championships, while nine were honored during the outdoor season.

The Bearcat women's tennis squad gained the program's 21st NCAA Tournament appearance and tied for the third-most dual victories in a season with a 22-5 record, while the men wrapped up their 2023-24 season with a dual mark of 13-7.

The women ranked as high as No. 17 in the season and entered the NCAA Tournament ranked No. 20 in the country. They produced the 24th NCAA tournament victory in program history with a 4-1 triumph over the Augustana Vikings and then nearly took down the No. 15-ranked Nebraska-Kearney Lopers, who prevailed and advanced to nationals in Florida with a 4-3 victory.

Six women gained all-MIAA recognition, including a pair of first-team honorees in junior Laura Preto Sieiro and senior Angela per Moreno. Prieto Sieiro also earned the MIAA's Co-Sportsmanship Award. Second-team selections went to sophomore Marielena Muench, junior Carolina Oliveira, and seniors Sofia Pignataro, Tessa Kwakernaak and per Moreno.

Per Moreno collected 24 singles wins and 22 doubles victories on the season, which both rank as top-10 totals in Bearcat history. Prieto Sieiro gained 23 singles triumphs to tie for 10th in school history.

The women had five players gain a spot on the MIAA's Academic Honor Roll and four student-athletes were recognized as MIAA Scholar-Athletes.

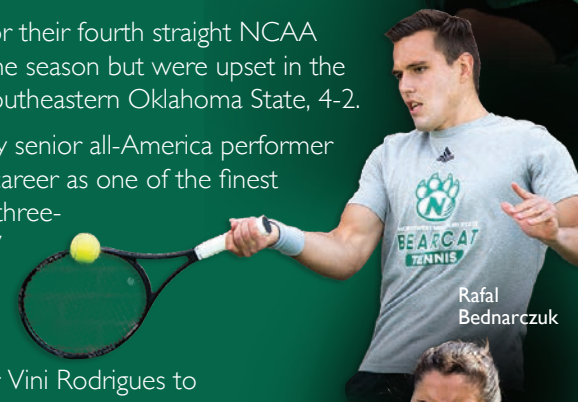
The Northwest men were in contention for their fourth straight NCAA Tournament bid up to the final match of the season but were upset in the first round of the MIAA Tournament by Southeastern Oklahoma State, 4-2.

Five players earned all-MIAA honors, led by senior all-America performer Andrea Zamurri, who capped his Bearcat career as one of the finest performers in program history. Zamurri, a three-time MIAA Player of the Year, collected 77 career singles wins and 64 all-time doubles victories. He ranks No. 6 on the Bearcat singles win chart and No. 9 on the doubles list with 64 triumphs. He paired with junior Vini Rodrigues to capture second-team all-MIAA honors in doubles. Zamurri also landed honorable mention status at No. 1 singles after going 21-5 on the year.

Senior Rafal Bednarczuk was an honorable mention all-MIAA pick at No. 4 singles, while Seniors Mason Meier and Martin Sanchez also garnered honorable mention all-league status at No. 3 doubles. Meier and Sanchez led the team with 15 doubles victories. Five men captured academic honor roll accolades from the MIAA, including Rodrigues and Sanchez gaining scholar-athlete status.



Tessa Kwakernaak



Rafal Bednarczuk



Sofia Pignataro



Andrea Zamurri

BASEBALL MAKES FIRST MIAA TOURNAMENT IN FIVE SEASONS

The Bearcats put up record-setting numbers in home runs and walks as it reached the MIAA Tournament for the first time since 2019. Northwest ripped 54 home runs to break the mark of 51 set in 1988 and drew 280 walks to erase the mark of 231 set in 2004.

The Bearcats completed the season with a record of 21-30 overall and 12-21 in MIAA play to earn the No. 7 seed in the MIAA Tournament. Northwest gained momentum midway through the MIAA slate by winning two of three from No. 8-ranked Missouri Southern. It was the first series win over a ranked team for Northwest since topping No. 7-ranked Central Missouri in 2006.

A quartet of Bearcats gained spots on the all-MIAA third team led by the league's strikeout leader, senior starting pitcher Casey Stalzer, junior relief pitcher Jacob Gajic, sophomore designated hitter Trey Morris and junior utility man Ryan Williams. Senior outfielder Caden Diel and junior second baseman Cole Slibowski earned honorable mention accolades.

Gajic secured a team-best eight saves and struck out 56 batters in 56 innings of work. He closed his Bearcat career with 17 saves to rank tied for second in program history.

Williams flirted with batting .400 before finishing at .391, which ranked No. 5 in the MIAA. He set the Bearcat single-season walks record with 48 and led the MIAA in on-base percentage at .523.

Morris nearly set the Northwest single-season RBI mark with 63, ending the season three short of the mark set by Ron Czanstkowski in 1989.

Stalzer struck out a league-best 99 batters in 72 1/3 innings pitched. He collected a team-high six victories and struck out at least eight batters in nine of his 14 starts. He whiffed a career-high 13 batters in an 11-3 win at Fort Hays State.

Northwest had 22 players earn MIAA Academic Honor Roll distinction. Williams and redshirt freshman pitcher Jayme Fritts gained the MIAA's Academic Excellence award with perfect 4.0 GPAs. Gajic and Williams attained MIAA Scholar-Athlete status.



Cole Slibowski

SOFTBALL GRABS FIRST WINNING SEASON IN MIAA IN SIX YEARS

The Bearcats gained a spot in the MIAA Tournament for the first time since the 2018 season and matched its win total from a season ago with a 28-25 campaign and 15-11 record in MIAA play.

Juniors Lillie Filger and Skylar Pieper earned all-MIAA honors as Filger tallied second-team status as an outfielder and Pieper gained honorable mention honors as an infielder. Filger also earned a spot on the MIAA's Gold Glove squad.

Filger notched National Fastpitch Coaches Association Second-Team All-Central Region accolades as she led the team in hits (80), batting average (.435), runs scored (38) and stolen bases (7). She became only the fifth Bearcat to be selected as an NFCA all-region performer and is the second Bearcat in history to reach 80 or more hits in a season, joining Kendra Smith's 83-hit season in 2000.

Senior infielder Abby Nolte wrapped up her career having tied Katy John (2003-2006) for the most games played (213) in program history. Nolte ranks No. 4 on Northwest's career home run chart

with 37 round-trippers. She also tallied the sixth-most RBI in a career with 134.

Senior Breck Dickey collected the second-highest career strikeout total in school history with 426. She also ranks in the Bearcat record book with 36 career wins (No. 8), 107 pitching appearances (No. 3) and 469 innings pitched (No. 7).

The Bearcats had 14 players named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll. Dickey, senior infielder Sophie Mayhugh and Nolte posted perfect 4.0 GPAs to receive the MIAA's Academic Excellence Award.



Lillie Filger

GOLFERS PLACE EIGHTH IN MIAA, HOFFMAN ADVANCES TO REGIONAL

The Bearcat women's golf team recorded its lowest four-player team scoring average in program history in 2023-24 with a 315.6 in 24 rounds, breaking the old mark of 319.1 set during the 2018-19 campaign.

Junior Paige Hoffman earned second-team all-MIAA honors and her second consecutive trip as an individual to the NCAA Central Regional, where she placed 29th. She recorded a season stroke average of 76.4 in 27 rounds and has played 57 career rounds at Northwest with a 75.89 stroke average. She has 17 top-10 finishes, nine top-five finishes and one victory.

The Bearcats best finish was third place at the 12-team Southwest Minnesota State Classic in March at the Wigwam Resort – Blue Course in Arizona. Northwest placed eighth at the MIAA Championships at Silo Ridge Country Club in Bolivar, Missouri, where Hoffman was the top Bearcat finisher with a tie for 19th.

Junior Madilyne Schlaepfer ranked second on the team with a 77.46 scoring average in 24 rounds. She recorded five top-10 finishes and three top-five efforts on the year.

Senior Elly Speece finished her career with the second-best stroke average in program history (81.20) in 71 rounds as a Bearcat golfer.

All eight team members were honored on the MIAA's Academic Honor Roll. Schlaepfer and sophomore Lauren Kohl earned spots on the MIAA's Academic Excellence list with 4.0 GPAs.



Paige Hoffman

MEN'S BASKETBALL SEASON ENDS IN SWEET 16

The Bearcat men's basketball program continued its dominance of NCAA Division II opponents in 2023-24 by reaching 25 wins for the 10th straight season with an impressive 29-5 campaign.

The Bearcats earned the program's 24th all-time NCAA Division II Tournament appearance and 11th straight berth, but their run to a fifth national title was stopped in stunning fashion on a buzzer-beater by the eventual national champion, Minnesota State University, Mankato, on the Mavericks' home court in the Central Region final.

Still, the Bearcats extended their reign atop the MIAA by capturing their 11th consecutive regular season title – and 24th overall – with a conference record of 20-2. Northwest is the only MIAA school to have captured 20 or more wins in a league season in conference history, achieving the mark in three of the last four seasons.

Senior forward Wes Dreamer was named the MIAA Player of the Year, marking the ninth straight year that a Bearcat claimed the league's top individual honor. Dreamer captured NABC All-America status as he led the Bearcats in scoring with 17.8 points per game and rebounding with 6.4 boards per contest. He capped his career as one of six MIAA players to sink 300 or more three-pointers and he finished with 1,864 career points, which ranks fifth in school history.

Sophomore guard Bennett Stirtz notched second-team all-MIAA status as he averaged 15.2 points per game and tallied a team-best 47 steals. He scored 20 or more points in 11 games, including a career-high 29 points vs. Southwest Minnesota State. He also was a three-time MIAA Athlete of the Week selection.

Junior forward Daniel Abreu captured the Most Outstanding Player award at the 2024 MIAA Tournament by averaging 17.3 points per



game in leading the 'Cats to the title. Abreu scored in double figures in each of Northwest's final 12 games.

Senior guard Mitch Mascari became just the program's second Academic All-America selection, joining Bob Sundell '89. Mascari also was named an honorable mention all-MIAA pick as he tied for the league lead in three-pointers made (82).

Junior guard Isaiah Jackson was named to the MIAA all-defensive team and received an all-MIAA honorable mention. He led the Bearcats in assists (146) and finished his Bearcat tenure ranked No. 10 in career assists (289). He ranked fourth in the MIAA in assists per game (4.6) and in assist-to-turnover ratio (2.2).

WOMEN ADVANCE TO FIRST NCAA TOURNAMENT SINCE 2011

The Bearcat women's basketball team earned its seventh NCAA Division II Tournament appearance in school history as the program continued its upward trend.

The team finished 23-8, putting up a 20-win season for only the ninth time and the fourth-most wins in program history. Northwest opened the season with seven consecutive wins for the best start to a year since the 1997-98 campaign and was ranked as high as No. 23 in the Dec. 11 D2CSC Top 25 poll.

Head coach Austin Meyer '06, '08, guided Northwest to a second-place finish in the rugged MIAA with a 16-win conference season. That total is the second-most in program history, only bested by the 2010-11 team that went 18-4 in league play and won the regular season MIAA crown. Northwest recorded two wins over ranked opponents with a 76-68 win over No. 16-ranked Central Missouri on Jan. 25 and a 69-55 victory over No. 15-ranked Fort Hays State on Feb. 3.

Northwest gained an at-large bid to the NCAA Central Region Tournament in Bethany, Oklahoma, and drew a familiar foe in Fort Hays State. It marked the Bearcats' fourth meeting with the Tigers during the season, and Fort Hays ended Northwest's season by a score of 62-47.

Junior guard Molly Hartnett tallied second-team all-MIAA honors as she led the squad in scoring (12.5 points/game) and



assists (101). She also was named the MIAA's "A Game" Scholar-Athlete at the MIAA Tournament with a perfect 4.0 GPA in elementary education.

Junior guard Caely Kesten secured third-team all-MIAA status and senior forward Jayna Green earned a spot on the MIAA's All-Defensive squad. Green capped her career as the program's all-time blocked shots leader with 195.

The Bearcats had 12 student-athletes earn MIAA academic recognition for their work in the classroom on the hardwood. The quartet of Hartnett, junior forward Emma Atwood, sophomore guard Lindsey Kelderman and junior guard Peyton Kelderman each tallied MIAA Academic Excellence awards with 4.0 GPAs.

KEELEY NAMED NORTHWEST'S 21ST HEAD MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

Northwest welcomed Matt Keeley as its next men's basketball head coach and introduced him to the community April 24.

"I'm very confident in bringing Coach Keeley on board to lead our men's basketball program," Director of Athletics Dr. Andy Peterson '07, '08, '10, said. "I've known him for a long time, having scrimmaged, coached and recruited against him over the years and know who he is as a person and a competitor. He will be an asset to our program, our department, our institution and our community. I can't wait to get started working with him in this next evolution of Bearcat men's basketball."

Keeley, a native of Great Bend, Kansas, served as the founding head coach of the men's basketball program at Ottawa University Arizona during the past seven seasons and has a career head coaching mark of 113-89. He was named the 2023 NCCAA National Coach of the Year and guided the Spirit to three consecutive national tournament appearances, including a national runner-up finish in 2021 and a spot in the 2023 Fab Four. Keeley also secured back-to-back GSAC tournament championships during his time in Arizona.

"I am so excited and equally honored to join the Northwest Missouri State program as the next men's basketball coach," Keeley said. "Being on campus, you quickly realize that Northwest is a truly special place whose biggest asset is its amazing people. My family and I can't wait to work alongside all the Bearcat family in the local community and beyond to continue the program's success."

Before starting the program in Arizona, Keeley was an assistant coach at his alma mater, MidAmerica Nazarene University in Olathe, Kansas, from 2009 to 2017 and a graduate assistant there



Left to right, Dr. Andy Peterson, Matt Keeley and Northwest President Dr. Lance tatum celebrated Keeley's arrival as the next head coach of the Bearcat men's basketball program in April.

during the 2004-05 season. Keeley also is no stranger to the MIAA as he spent two seasons as an assistant coach at Washburn University from 2007 to 2009.

Keeley earned his bachelor's degree in secondary business education and a master's degree in leadership and management at MidAmerica Nazarene. As a student-athlete, he was the starting point guard from 2000 to 2004. The Pioneers qualified for the national tournament in each of his four years, making two runs to the quarterfinals of the NAIA National Championship and a national runner-up finish in 2001. Keeley earned All-American honors during his junior and senior years, leading the NAIA in assists as a senior. He was named the HAAC Player of the Year in 2004, a Champion of Character Award winner and was an Academic All-American. He was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in 2014.

He and his wife, Jana, have four children, Cade, Reese, Cam and Rylee.

McCullum accepts head coaching duties at Drake



The Ben McCollum era of Bearcat men's basketball came to an end in April when the program's head coach for the last 15 seasons – the most successful run in NCAA Division II history – was named head coach at Drake University, an NCAA Division I institution in Des Moines, Iowa.

"I've always felt like the jump to Division I is something that, from a challenge perspective, I wanted to make," McCollum said during his introductory news conference at Drake.

He emphasized his desire to remain in the Midwest and find the right fit for him and his family, saying, "The reason I got into college coaching is to make a difference on people's lives and the community surrounding it."

McCollum '03, '05, a native of Storm Lake, Iowa, led Northwest to four national championships in 2017, 2019, 2021 and 2022. In 2020, the Bearcats were ranked No. 1 in the nation when the COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of that year's national tournament.

He amassed a record of 394-91 and won more than 30 games in a season five times. In 2019, Northwest became just the fifth team in Division II history to finish undefeated, going 38-0. His teams won 13

MIAA regular-season titles and eight MIAA Tournament titles.

McCollum added to his long list of individual accolades by being inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in May. At Northwest, he earned five Coach of the Year awards from the National Association of Basketball Coaches – the most in Division II – and is a nine-time MIAA Coach of the Year.

He played for the Bearcats from 2001 to 2003, helping lead them to their first-ever Elite Eight appearance in 2002. He began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at Northwest and served as an assistant coach at Emporia State University for four seasons before returning to Maryville.



BASEBALL'S LOE RETIRES AS ALL-TIME WINS LEADER

Darin Loe, who led the Bearcat baseball program for the last quarter century, retired after the 2024 season and departs as the program's all-

time leader with 592 career wins.

"I have been blessed to have the opportunity to work at Northwest and raise my family in such a close-knit community," Loe said. "I cherish the relationships that I have had the opportunity to build in

Maryville, on campus and especially in our athletic department. The thing I will miss the most after retirement is the interactions in our department and with our student-athletes.

Loe, who became the Bearcat baseball skipper in 2000, spent 31 years as a collegiate manager and posted 748 career victories. He guided the Bearcats to the MIAA regular season baseball title in 2018 – the program's first since the 1983 season – and coached 102 Bearcats to all-MIAA honors. His Northwest win total ranks No. 4 all-time among MIAA baseball coaches.

After a successful pitching career at Valley

City State University in North Dakota, Loe was drafted by the Seattle Mariners in the 1989 amateur draft. He played three seasons in the Mariners' organization before entering the coaching ranks and earning a master's degree at Dakota State University. Prior to arriving in Maryville, he was a head coach at Baker University in Kansas and at Missouri Valley College.

In June, Northwest announced Tony Jandron as Loe's successor. Jandron previously served as an assistant coach at Illinois State University, Central Michigan University, Northwood University and College of DuPage.

BOERIGTER INDUCTED INTO DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

Bob Boerigter, who served as director of athletics at Northwest from 2001 until 2010, was inducted in June to the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) Hall of Fame.

"Dr. Bob," as he is known, served as a coach and administrator in intercollegiate athletics for 45 years, including as MIAA commissioner from 2010 until retiring in January 2017. During his nearly half a century in collegiate athletics, Boerigter served as director of athletics at five institutions and in multiple capacities

at the national level. At Northwest, he was the lead administrator for the Department of Athletics, including recreational sports, club sports, campus recreation and the fitness center.

He received the Division II Athletics Director Association Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018. In 2023, he was inducted into both Northwest's M-Club Hall of Fame and the MIAA Hall of Fame, and he is a member of the Hastings (Nebraska) College Hall of Fame.



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KXCVCV 90.5 FM, the 100,000-watt FM public radio station that broadcasts from the Northwest campus, is entering its 26th season as the flagship for Bearcat sports broadcasts.

An anchor of Bearcat athletics broadcasts since 1985, John Coffey '82 returns as the "Voice of the Bearcats" with Matt Tritten '11, who is entering his ninth year with the broadcast.

In addition to Bearcat football games, tune in for the "Bearcat Coaches Show" at noon on Tuesdays and "In the Trenches with Rich Wright" at 6 p.m. on Thursdays.



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2024 BEARCAT FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

AUG. 29 (THU.) / 6 P.M.	MINNESOTA STATE
SEPT. 7 (SAT.) / 7 P.M.	NEBRASKA-KEARNEY
SEPT. 14 (SAT.) / 6 P.M.	FORT HAYS STATE
SEPT. 21 (SAT.) / TBD	MISSOURI SOUTHERN
SEPT. 28 (SAT.) / 1:30 P.M.	EMPORIA STATE (FAMILY WEEKEND)
OCT. 5 (SAT.) / 3 P.M.	WASHBURN
OCT. 12 (SAT.) / 2 P.M.	CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
OCT. 19 (SAT.) / 2 P.M.	CENTRAL MISSOURI (HOMECOMING)
NOV. 2 (SAT.) / 1:30 P.M.	NORTHEASTERN STATE
NOV. 9 (SAT.) / 2 P.M.	MISSOURI WESTERN
NOV. 16 (SAT.) / 1:30 P.M.	PITTSBURG STATE (SENIOR DAY)

HOME GAMES IN GREEN AT BEARCAT STADIUM





CLASSNOTES

INNOVATIVE CARE

Jameson instills range of experiences in chiropractic practice

Dr. Samuel Jameson '98, '02, has always had a desire to help others. Yet, the path he took to his career in chiropractic care has been anything but direct. Today, he calls it “the most difficult job I've ever loved.”

In January, he opened Jameson Chiro Plus, in Columbia, Tennessee, the latest step in a chiropractic career he began 15 years ago.

Combining chiropractic precision and fundamentals of kinesiology with biological medicine and advanced neuro-immunology, Jameson concentrates on treating patients with chronic immune dysfunctions and complex health issues in addition to enhancing athletic performance and well-being. His commitment to integrating varied healthcare methodologies has positioned him to assist patients facing multifaceted health challenges – and as a leader in his field.

After starting on a path toward becoming a physical therapist, Jameson – a native of Chillicothe, Missouri – transferred to Northwest in the fall of 1994 and eventually completed a bachelor's degree in physical education and health. He began his career as a physical education teacher and coach – and added a master's degree at Northwest – but still felt the pull of his potential in the healthcare field.

Dissatisfied with teaching, Jameson had become interested in chiropractic care, particularly its applications to muscle testing and kinesiology. His wife, Haley Hoss Jameson – whom he met while she was an assistant professor of dance at Northwest from 1999 to 2002 – suggested he spend time shadowing a local chiropractor.

That experience motivated him to enroll at Cleveland Chiropractic in Kansas City, from which he graduated in 2008.

Jameson soon opened his first practice in Lawson, Missouri, and stayed there until 2015 when his family relocated to Nacogdoches, Texas, where Haley had joined the faculty at Stephen F. Austin State University. Jameson also served on the faculty in its Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences and taught consumer health, core concepts of health and foundations of kinesiology.

In 2018, though, Jameson received a call from a friend in Kansas City inquiring about his interest in speaking with Dr. David Jernigan, a leading innovator of precision bioenergetic testing and treatment technologies. Jernigan was seeking a doctor with Jameson's skill set in Chiropractic Plus Kinesiology, or CPK, a treatment technique that incorporates kinesiology – human movement and function – as well as functional medicine and neuroendocrinology to assist patients with chronic conditions.

“It's a unique way to test the body and use that to determine how we're going to work synergistically with the body to help it heal,”



1950s

Tom Nenneman '59 and his wife, Donna, celebrated their 65th anniversary in May.

1970s

Barb Biffle, attd. '68-'75 works as an administrative coordinator at the University of Nebraska School of Natural Resources. She also performs as "Heartland Tales & Tunes," which presents local and regional history.

Tim '71 and Sherry Barnes '72 Vuagniaux celebrated 50 years of marriage last year. Tim recently retired after 50 years as a licensed psychologist serving clients around Sedalia, Missouri. Sherry is retired from working as a teacher and school psychological examiner in the Sedalia School District.

Dr. Jim Cloepfil '78 retired in December from Eyecare Associates of Southwest Iowa in Shenandoah after 41 years as an optometrist.

Dr. Allen Reavis '79 is dental director at Atchison (Kansas) Community Health Clinic and recently was elected to a four-year term as a trustee of the American Dental Association, representing Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

1980s

Dr. Jay Raveill '80 retired in December as a professor of biology at the University of Central Missouri after 26 years of service.

Don Anderson '81 is the 2024 recipient of the Iowa Football Coaches Association Walt Fiegel Coaching Award for high character, integrity, concern for kids and service to the profession. He has been a head football coach for 40 years at the high school level and coached for one year at Buena Vista University.

Mike Morgan '82 retired in December after 19 years as city manager of Kearney, Nebraska. He also served the cities of Des Moines, Iowa; Dallas, Texas; Delaware, Ohio; and Salina, Kansas; during his 38-year career.

Stu Osterthun '83 retired in March after 16 years as administrative director of marketing and communications at Southeast Community College in Beatrice, Nebraska. He was employed at Northwest as a marketing specialist from 2005 to 2007.

Melissa Fair-Esposito '84 is retiring this summer as principal of Dickerson Elementary School in Chester, New Jersey, where she has worked for the past 22 years.

Bruce Bennett '85 recently celebrated 50 years at North Polk High School in Alleman, Iowa, where he is a computer science and financial literacy teacher.

Mike Richards '85 was elected in November to the Iowa Central Community College Board of Directors. He worked in seed sales and then joined the Iowa Central faculty in its agriculture technology department from 2008 until retiring in 2022. He is employed now as a land manager for Home State Bank in Jefferson, Iowa.

Rick Sandquist '86 was inducted last fall into the Iowa Central Community College Hall of Fame. He amassed 390 wins as Iowa Central's head baseball coach from 1996 to 2002 with five NJCAA World Series appearances and 425 wins as head softball coach from 2006 to 2010 and from 2016 to 2020. He also served as the school's athletic director from 2010 to 2018.

Michael Ighoyiwi '87 recently published a book, "God Speaks to People Today: Learn 64 Methods on How to Hear from the True Living God Today." He is retired from University Health-Behavioral Health in Kansas City and has been pastor of New Life Christian Fellowship for 24 years. He and his wife **Linda Lewis Ighoyiwi '87** reside in Oak Grove, Missouri, where she is employed as a reporter with Focus on Oak Grove.

Jeffrey Gearheart '88 is employed as a senior vice president with Renaissance Reinsurance and resides in New York City.



KAREN DANIEL '80

was recognized in April by the Women's Employment Network (WEN) with its 2024 Beth K. Smith Award, which honors individuals and corporations who share a common vision of supporting women in the community and are committed to advancing the mission of WEN. She is a retired Black and Veatch executive director, chief financial officer and president of its Global Finance and Technology Solutions Division, in addition to extensive service on corporate and civic boards. In 2020, she joined the ownership group of the Kansas City Royals and serves as the board president of the Kansas City Royals Foundation. She also is president of the FWC26 Executive Committee and Board of Directors, a nonprofit organization charged with fulfilling Kansas City's duties for the FIFA World Cup in 2026.

Jameson said. "It's going back to the basic chiropractic premise that the body knows how to heal, and if you can remove enough stress from the body that the body can heal itself."

Before opening his newest practice this year, Jameson had spent the last six years working with Jernigan, first in Wichita, Kansas, and then in Franklin, Tennessee, at an advanced alternative healthcare center for chronic illness. There he learned how to apply biological medicine, homeopathy and herbal medicine in his treatments.

"If it's got an acronym, I've probably treated a patient with it," Jameson said. "But really what we're attempting to do is to optimize the body."

Jameson's patients, most frequently, are affected by Lyme disease.

He also has treated people with mast cell activation syndrome (MCAS), amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and multiple sclerosis (MS). He's treated patients with fibromyalgia, postural tachycardia syndrome (POTS) and systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS).

Often, Jameson's patients have tried traditional medical treatments without success, and he takes pride in applying innovative techniques to relieve pain where other doctors could not.

"A lot of times we're kind of their last hope, but we have really good success treating the patients," he said. "It takes time; it's not a quick fix, but it's extremely rewarding when the patients start seeing the light and they see things improving. They're able to start thinking better; their pain is reduced."

CHARTING HER COURSE

McLaughlin embracing love for recreation, business in career

Megan McLaughlin '03 grew up in Maryville with a passion for being outdoors and an entrepreneurial spirit. A day on a boat with her family in 2008 inspired her to make those interests her career.

"I had been on boats my whole life," McLaughlin said. "That entrepreneurial excitement started to take over and led to a business plan on how I could do this on a daily basis. I was seeking a way to make it easier for friends and families to be able to enjoy these beautiful waterways and have less stress on vacation."

McLaughlin is the owner and operator of Island Time Charters in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Her business offers one-of-a-kind experiences that explore the natural environment surrounding the island with historic settings, sandbar cookouts, sunset excursions and fireworks.

Now, with 17 years of experience as a boat captain, she maintains a U.S. Coast Guard master boat captain license, in addition to other certifications. She credits the lessons she learned at Northwest for the way she balances her active and busy life.

"Balancing classes, collegiate athletics and extracurricular activities taught me how to create and achieve my goals – how to balance scheduling demands and how to be self-motivated,"

McLaughlin said. "These are skills I am constantly putting to use and grateful for every day in my business."

As a Maryville native, McLaughlin attended Horace Mann Laboratory School, planted trees around Bearcat Softball Field and played kickball next to Colden Pond. After graduating from Maryville High School, she earned soccer and tennis scholarships to attend Northwest. While her mother, Lana Linville McLaughlin '80, is an alumna, her father, Dr. Patrick McLaughlin, taught business law courses at the University.

"That was my dream come true," McLaughlin said. "Being a 'bear cub,' I watched those athletes my whole life and I couldn't wait to put on that Bearcat green jersey and represent Northwest."

In addition to competing with the Bearcat soccer and tennis teams and participating in several student organizations, McLaughlin was a founding member of the Northwest Golf Club. The University eventually added women's golf as a varsity sport, and

McLaughlin's father served as the program's first head coach from 2006 until his retirement in 2014.

"Northwest created such a dynamic environment to grow and learn,"

McLaughlin said. "The professors were always motivating and encouraged students to get the best out of their education."

McLaughlin's knack for entrepreneurship goes back generations, however. Her great-grandparents owned a nursery and garden center. Her grandparents operated a dairy farm and quilting business. Her father owned a legal practice, and her sister worked as an entrepreneurial consultant for businessman Wayne Huizenga.

She gained her appreciation for the business and operations side of the recreation field while working at the Maryville Country Club as a lifeguard and as a clubhouse attendant at Mozingo Lake Golf Course. While completing her bachelor's degree in business management and marketing at Northwest, McLaughlin completed an internship on Hilton Head Island and earned the opportunity to become an assistant golf professional. She stayed in that role until launching Island Time Charters.

"I wanted to create a life with a flexible work environment, one that allowed me the ability to still be able to share in those special moments with family and friends," McLaughlin said. "It is very well known in the self-employed world that your best preparation for tomorrow is doing your very best today, and I certainly live by that mantra."

Megan McLaughlin (center) enjoys creating fun for families as the owner of Island Time Charters.



1990s

Tia Brown '92 began work in February as vice chancellor for administration and finance at the University of Montana Western. She had served since 2019 as assistant dean of academic affairs in the Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship at Montana State University.

Karensue Calhoon Hensley '92, '97, recently became a building principal for the Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled and supervises schools in Joplin and Monett. She retired last year after 26 years with the Joplin school district, serving as a middle school counselor for most of her career.

Dr. Scott Stephens '92 recently was named director of prairie and boreal conservation with Ducks Unlimited. He spent the last 13 years with Ducks Unlimited Canada, most recently as its director of conservation strategy and support, and previously spent 15 years with Ducks Unlimited overseeing research and conservation planning across the U.S. Great Plains.

Kim Garton Mildward '93, '00, began work in March as a project manager with Nodaway County Economic Development. She had worked for the last 25 years in various roles with Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments, most recently as an economic development planner.

Philip Lite '94 has been named head football coach at Ottumwa High School, where he has worked since 2021 as a physical education teacher and an assistant football coach. Previously, he coached at Staley High School in Kansas City, winning a state football title in 2017.

Pam Craig Johnston '96 was honored as a member of North Central Missouri College's 2023 Distinguished Alumni. Her teaching career spans decades at Spickard Elementary School and Trenton R-9, before returning to North Central to teach reading and writing.

Kelly Ferguson '98 acquired a majority interest in Meyocks, a branding and marketing agency in West Des Moines, Iowa, and became its president in January. He was employed at Meyocks from 1998 to 2002, rejoined the agency in 2009 and has been a member of the company's executive team since 2020. He also serves as president of the Americas region for the Advertising and Marketing Independent Network Worldwide.

Dana Jermain '98 began work in January as managing partner for Deloitte's Kansas City office, which provides audit, consulting, tax and financial advisory services.

James Johnson '98 was appointed by Gov. Kim Reynolds to serve as superintendent of banking in the Iowa Department of Insurance and Financial Service. He is president and chief executive officer of PCSB Bank in Clarinda, where he has served in a variety of roles since 2000.

Kevin Sorensen '98 is in his 26th year of teaching and currently resides in Henderson, Nevada, where he teaches psychology in the Clark County School District.

Leslie Dickherber '99, '00, '08, was promoted last fall to assistant quartermaster at the Missouri Military Academy in Mexico, Missouri, where she had served for two years in cadet transportation, the tailor shop and cadet store assistant. Previously, she taught physical education and business for 21 years at Smithville High School.

Mark Servé '98, began in April as head football coach at La Salle College Preparatory in Pasadena, California. Previously, he was a head football coach and physical education teacher at Westlake High School in Thousand Oaks, associate head coach and offensive coordinator at Sierra Canyon School in Chatsworth, and assistant head football coach and offensive coordinator at Pierce College in Los Angeles, all in California.

2000s

Amy Sullivan Holder '02, '05, was selected this spring as a Missouri semifinalist for the Golden Owl Award, a recognition of agricultural educators, sponsored by Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. She has worked in education for 21 years and currently is an agriculture education instructor in the Gallatin R-V School District.

Kara Ferguson Davis '05 completed her Ph.D. last year in health promotion, education and behavior at the University of South Carolina and works as an assistant professor of community health at the University of South Carolina Upstate in Spartanburg.

Andrea Tompkins '05 was named 2023 Higher Education Art Teacher of the Year by the Arkansas Art Educators Association. She joined the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 2019 as its inaugural art outreach specialist after serving as manager of the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts and more than 20 years of work in high school and collegiate programs in Arkansas and Missouri.

Joel Osborn '08, '11, was inducted last November into the Iowa High School Athletic Association's Football Hall of Fame. He is the head football coach at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas.

Dr. Fallon Cordell Stiens '09 received the inaugural AHEC Alumni/Advocates of the Year award. She has operated a private dental practice in Stanberry, Missouri, since 2013.

Bridgette Liston Watson '09 recently was appointed executive director of the Council Bluffs (Iowa) Schools Foundation. She had served as the foundation's director of development since 2019 and previously worked at Iowa Western Community College in a variety of roles.



IAN CARLE '00

received his Doctor of Education degree last December from the University of Kansas. He is an instructional coach in the Independence (Missouri) School District and resides in Independence with his wife, **JENNIFER JENSEN CARLE '01, '02**, who is a teacher in the Blue Springs School District.



EMILY HEISTERKAMP '05

is traveling this summer to India as a participant in the Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms Program. She is an elementary music teacher at Westside Community Schools in Omaha, Nebraska, and was employed previously as a middle school and high school band director.



ANNIE MACK VEST '10

was selected in December by Gov. Kevin Stitt to serve as director of Oklahoma Emergency Management.



MELISSA MCBRAYER '22

married Dr. Bill Hall on June 24, 2023. She is an elementary special education teacher in the Shawnee Mission School District, and they reside in Overland Park, Kansas.



JAKE ALBANEZ '23

broke the Guinness world record for "Fastest Half Marathon in a Graduation Gown" by a male last November during the Good Life Halfy in Lincoln, Nebraska. He finished the race in a time of 1 hour, 28 minutes, 59 seconds, beating the previous record of 1 hour, 31 minutes, 58 seconds.

2010s

Greg Miller '10 began work in January as managing editor at KCTV/KSMO in Kansas City, Missouri. He previously was employed in roles as anchor, reporter and senior producer at TV stations in St. Joseph, Missouri; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Wichita, Kansas; and St. Louis.

Ben Schumacher '11 was announced in March as a strength and conditioning assistant with the Green Bay Packers. He had worked as an assistant director of athletic performance at the University of Minnesota since 2017. He also has held assistant strength and conditioning roles at Vanderbilt University, the University of Nebraska and Harvard University.

Porter Groves '13, '15, is employed with Rain Bird-Golf Division as the Northeast District sales manager.

Brianna Maitlen '16, '18, began work in February as head volleyball coach at Southwestern Community College in Creston, Iowa. She had been a middle school counselor and volleyball coach for Sioux City Community Schools since 2018.

Molly Bryan '16 was hired in February as public information coordinator for the city of Jefferson City, Missouri. She was previously employed as community relations manager with the city's parks and recreation department and as a public affairs specialist for the Missouri National Guard.

William Long '16 recently joined FCS Financial as a loan officer in Columbia, Missouri.

Miranda Foster Mizera '17 was named head volleyball coach at Savannah (Missouri) High School. Previously, she was head volleyball coach at St. Joseph Central High School and Maryville High School, where she won a state championship in 2020.

Brad Roberts '18 was promoted to president of Commerce Bank in Moberly, Missouri, in March.

Jeana Curtis '19 is completing her third year as an agriculture instructor and FFA advisor at LaPlata (Missouri) R-II High School. She also has served as Mrs. United States Agriculture and is Missouri's current Mrs. Advocate USA.

Molly Gardner '19 began work last fall with Wisconsin Public Radio as its Eau Claire regional manager. Previously, she was a director and producer at WEAU-TV in Eau Claire and marketing manager for dining at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Brittany McGee '19 recently was appointed to the Pottawattamie County (Iowa) Conservation Board. She is the promotions coordinator for Pottawattamie County Public Health.

Jace Pine '19 was named in December as the city of Maryville's fire chief. He joined the Maryville Fire Department in 2015.

2020s

Cort Hardy '21 was named in March as a physical education teacher and high school basketball coach in Carl Junction, Missouri. He previously was employed at schools in Seneca, Webb City and Neosho.

Kevin Nguyen '22 was appointed in December by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to Michigan's LGBTQ+ Commission. A Master of Policy and Political Social Work student at the University of Michigan, he is an intern with an Ann Arbor City Council member and works as a community engagement and development assistant with the dispute resolution center of Washtenaw and Livingston counties.

Eli Bales '23 recently was named head football coach at Sidney (Iowa) High School, where he also is a physical education teacher and strength and conditioning coordinator.



WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

New job? New child? New spouse? New address?

Scan the QR code to complete the online class notes form.

You can also send news and photographs to the Northwest Alumni Association at alumni@nwmissouri.edu or use the enclosed envelope.

Please send digital photographs as high resolution files or enclose photo in envelope. Please include a self-addressed envelope for the photo to be returned.

SUPER OPPORTUNITIES

Mass media alumni report from NFL's brightest stage

When the Kansas City Chiefs met the San Francisco 49ers in this year's Super Bowl at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, a pair of former classmates were sitting just feet from each other among the rows of global media covering the event.

Chris Roush '15 was there as news director with KQTV in St. Joseph, Missouri, and Brandon Zenner '15 works as a sports reporter and anchor with KWCH in Wichita, Kansas. The two men began contributing to Chiefs coverage soon after graduating together from Northwest with mass media degrees – when Roush joined KQTV as a sports reporter and Zenner spent six years as a sports reporter and director at the News-Press in St. Joseph before moving to Wichita. Now, nearly a decade into their careers, they feel fortunate to take in the football team's recent run of championships from a view that few fans get to see.

"It's been wild," Roush said. "We talked about that a few times when we were both in St. Joe and then even this time around, too, (saying) 'Huh, it's weird that we went from Maryville to Las Vegas.'"

At Northwest, Roush took an interest in broadcasting, particularly doing play-by-play for athletics. He interned at KQTV, was a sideline reporter on Bearcat Radio Network broadcasts and gained experience during a summer internship with the St. Joseph Mustangs independent baseball team. He also was general manager of KZLX and a news editor for The Northwest Missourian.

Roush connected well with the storytelling aspects of broadcast journalism and excelled in the hands-on learning environment Northwest offers, learning to report about a variety of sports and events through multiple mediums.

"I get to tell stories of what happens behind the scenes or off the field, court, mat, whatever, and I think that really kind of set me up," Roush said. "We went out and did this stuff. It wasn't just sitting in the classroom."

Similarly, Zenner cut his path at Northwest as a news editor and editor-in-chief of The Missourian in addition to working on

KNWT and KZLX.

"I'm here because of Northwest Missouri State, and I wouldn't change that for the world," he said.

Both now have extensive experience covering Chiefs seasons, from training camp to the team's run of AFC Championship appearances. Zenner has been in attendance at each of the Chiefs' three Super Bowl victories since 2020, but Roush's first Super Bowl experience came this year.

"There's nothing like Super Bowl week," Zenner said. "Just whenever you're in that town, there's just so much buzz. They go all out, there's signage everywhere, the fans from all over the country, all different teams, and then the atmosphere on game day."

Although seeing the Chiefs win another Super Bowl was exciting, Roush says one of the most memorable moments for him was conversing with other media members. He was seated in the press area during the game with reporters from Forbes and connected with a videographer from Germany during the postgame news conference.

"That experience of meeting people from across the world that are all covering the same thing you are – when you never really thought that was something that you would have the chance to do – that's pretty rare of an opportunity," Roush said.

For Zenner, it's the thrill of talking with Chiefs players and witnessing their jubilation after each victory.

"If you would've told me when I was in college at Northwest Missouri State that I'd be covering the Chiefs and they would be a dynasty, I would not have believed you," he said.



Chris Roush has covered the Kansas City Chiefs since joining KQTV in 2015 and reported from this year's Super Bowl.



Brandon Zenner covered his third Super Bowl in February as a sports reporter with KWCH in Wichita, Kansas.

IN MEMORIAM

Northwest extends its condolences to the families and friends of these individuals.

Margaret Copeland Anderson '69, age 76, of Wheaton, Illinois, died March 19. She taught high school in Maywood, Illinois, and junior high school in Fairbanks, Alaska, and then was employed at Ball Horticultural in West Chicago.

Nancy Ann Baker '76, age 70, of Leon, Iowa, died Jan. 29. She worked as a registered nurse at Ringgold County Hospital in Mt. Ayr, Iowa, and in Missouri at Gentry County Memorial Hospital in Albany, Pineview Manor in Stanberry and Worth County Convalescent Center in Grant City.

Donald Bennett '58, age 87, of Santa Barbara, California, died Dec. 30, 2023. He had a 38-year career in its school district as a math teacher, dean of instruction, assistant principal and various director roles.

Melissa Franklin Biermann '02, age 44, of Excelsior Springs, Missouri, died March 19. She began her teaching career in Savannah and had taught at Excelsior Springs Middle School since 2005.

Donna Gray Blair '71, '80, age 76, of Coralville, Iowa, died Nov. 13, 2023. She was a teacher and coach in northwest Iowa.

Phyllis Reed Brandes '72, age 73, of Hancock, Iowa, died Feb. 6. She taught in Oregon, Missouri, and in Treynor, Shelby and Avoca in Iowa, retiring in 2010.

Craig Carmichael '91, age 54, of Saint Peters, Missouri, died Jan. 31. He worked in radio as a program director in Cape Girardeau, Missouri; Lincoln, Nebraska; Fayetteville, Arkansas; and Charleston, South Carolina; and then worked in marketing in the St. Louis area.

Nan Turner Carter '53, age 95, of Savannah, Missouri, died Dec. 30, 2023. During 32 years in education, she taught at Trenton High School, North Central Missouri College and in the South Harrison School District. She also coached for more than 40 years and is a member of the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, St. Joseph Mustangs Hall of Fame, the Missouri ASA Softball Hall of Fame and the North Central Missouri

College Athletic Hall of Fame.

Bill Caskey '72, age 83, of Clarinda, Iowa, died Oct. 22, 2023. He served in the U.S. Air Force and then taught in Exira and Missouri Valley before returning to southwest Iowa to farm.

Robert Chadwick '61, age 88, of Omaha, Nebraska, died Jan. 19. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and then worked as a computer analyst for Mutual of Omaha.

Judy Clevenger '72, age 73, of Greenwood, Arkansas, died March 8. She served as director of Scott Sebastian County Regional Library for more than 40 years, retiring in 2018.

Don Combs '61, '71, age 86, of Bloomfield, Iowa, died Dec. 26, 2023. He had a 35-year teaching and coaching career in Prescott, Iowa; Hopkins, Missouri; College Springs, Iowa; and in South Page and Davis counties in Iowa. He was inducted into the Iowa Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in 1992.

George Coulter Jr. '53, age 93, of Newport, Vermont, died Oct. 3, 2023. He served in the Marine Corps and worked in human services, retiring in 1993 as executive director of Northeast Kingdom Mental Health Service.

Mark Cretsinger '88, age 61, of Coon Rapids, Iowa, died Feb. 12. He spent more than 20 years as an elementary and middle school teacher in Iowa and Missouri and was a high school wrestling coach.

Ronald Czanstkowski '90, '91, age 56, of Mountain Home, Arkansas, died Feb. 6. He was a high school math teacher and coach, junior high principal and administrator in Mountain Home Public Schools.

Robert Darrah '73, age 72, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died Jan. 25. He was a cook, working many years

at the Hitching Post restaurant in Maryville, and a professional antiquer, which included managing Jesse James Antique Mall in St. Joseph.

Dahlman Davis '62, '70, age 83, of Maitland, Missouri, died March 14. His 33-year career in education included teaching in Osceola, Iowa, and Barnard, Missouri, and as principal in Barnard, Maysville, California and Odessa in Missouri, retiring in 1996. He subsequently was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives and served the 122nd district until 2002.

Charles Doran '58, age 91, of Tipton, Indiana, died Jan. 18. He served in the U.S. Navy and started his 25-year finance career with the U.S. Forest Service in Amarillo, Texas, before moving to Cadillac, Michigan, and then Bedford, Indiana, with the Hoosier National Forest.

Kenneth Dowden '57, '69, age 88, of Jefferson City, Missouri, died March 8. He was a teacher and school administrator for 14 years in southwest Iowa and northwest Missouri and later worked for the Missouri Department of Mental Health, retiring in 1999.

Carol Chilcote Duncan '53, age 94, of Kansas City, Missouri, died Nov. 16, 2023. She taught in St. Joseph schools and then in Kansas City, retiring in 1990 after nearly 40 years.

Ian Dunlap '04, age 42, of Jefferson City, Missouri, died Dec. 8, 2023. He was chief of staff for former Sen. Wes Shoemyer, deputy director of scheduling for former Gov. Jay Nixon, director of legislative and constituent services for the Department of Corrections, and legislative director for the Department of Public Safety before joining the Heartland Credit Union Association in 2017, serving as executive director of the Missouri Credit Union Association.

Ray Dunn '59, age 90, of Kearney, Missouri, died Jan. 28. He served in the U.S. Army and began his career as a business teacher and basketball coach in Quitman and Burlington Junction in Missouri. He then was a high school principal and basketball coach in Clearfield, Iowa, before moving to Kearney, where he was a principal and assistant superintendent in charge of transportation and non-certified personnel, retiring in 1989.

Joe Dyke '71, '00, age 86, of Stover, Missouri, died Feb. 28. He taught in Elwood, Kansas, and in King City, Platte City and Faucett in Missouri. He then was an assistant principal in Moberly and principal in Faucett, before serving as a superintendent in Jamesport and Stover. He served as education director for the Missouri Department of Corrections in Jefferson City, Licking and Tipton. He also spent many years as an official at sporting events.

Beatrice Jones Farnan '58, 87, of Denver, died Nov. 16, 2023. She was an educator.

Ted Findley '65, age 80, of Grant City, Missouri, died Feb. 18. He was a farmer.

Kathryne Seabaugh Ford '68, age 77, of Cosby, Missouri, died Dec. 2, 2023. She taught second grade in Savannah before becoming a librarian in the Savannah and St. Joseph school districts. She also taught at the Ruth Huston Learning Center in St. Joseph.

Jimmie Frank '65, age 82, of Buffalo Center, Iowa, died Dec. 26, 2023. He worked in the farming and trucking industries.

Lorna Mayfield From '73, age 82, of Maryville, died March 6. She taught

first grade for more than 30 years at Eugene Field Elementary School in Maryville.

Eva Lee Hess Griffin '59, age 85, of Fairfax Station, Virginia, died Nov. 28, 2023. She was a music teacher and church choir director.

Vicki Grispino '77, '89, age 82, of Maryville, died Jan. 24. She taught kindergarten in the North Nodaway R-VI School District and first grade at Eugene Field Elementary School in Maryville, retiring after 32 years.

Jason Guthery '07, age 39, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died Dec. 30, 2023. He was employed for 15 years as a teacher and coach at Lafayette High School in St. Joseph.

Fran Hagan '73, age 74, of St. Louis, Missouri, died Feb. 26. She taught at the elementary level in the Affton School District during a career spanning nearly 40 years.

Marvin Harper, age 76, of Barnard, Missouri, died March 9. He served in the U.S. Army and was employed at Northwest from 1983 to 2010 as a groundsman, truck driver and custodial supervisor.

Mark Hawkins '86, age 66, of Ballwin, Missouri, died Nov. 1, 2023. He was a financial advisor and then established an investment firm, Hawkins Advisory Services LLC.

Carolyn Henry '72, age 88, of Kansas City, Missouri, died March 25. She retired in 1995 from the Maryville R-II School District, where she taught for 22 years. She also taught in rural Nebraska; Lexington, Kentucky; and Lawrence, Kansas.

Bob Herman '87, age 60, of Missouri Valley, Iowa, died Jan. 26. He worked at Creighton University for 34 years as associate financial aid director.

Melissa Thompson Howard '78, age 67, of Ozark, Missouri, died Oct. 17, 2023. She taught science in northwest Missouri for six years before moving to Aurora, where she taught seventh-grade science, retiring in 2014.

Adrian "Bud" Hunt Jr. '81, age 65, of Weston, Missouri, died March 6. He was a landlord in Maryville and worked multiple jobs, including as circulation manager at the Maryville Daily Forum; industrial arts teacher in Ravenwood, Missouri; and truck driver.

Geneva "Gina" Ing '76, age 89, of Ashland, Oregon, died Feb. 4. She worked in fundraising for NPR stations and fine arts organizations.

David King '86, age 78, of Bedford, Iowa, died Dec. 8, 2023. He farmed and worked at Precision Pulley Idler in Lenox, retiring in 2007.

Dr. Penny Oswald Kowal '66, age 80, of Omaha, Nebraska, died Nov. 29, 2023. She spent most of her career with Millard Public Schools, working in director and associate superintendent roles, retiring in 2002.

Laurel "Dee" Mark Leach '61, age 84, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, died Jan. 19. She taught in Coon Rapids and Council Bluffs.

Judi Joubert Leeper '70, age 77, of Hurst, Texas, died Nov. 2, 2023. She was an administrative assistant with MassMutual Insurance and a librarian in Massachusetts, a school resource director in Rhode Island, and a middle school substitute teacher in Hurst, retiring in 2015.

Norma Smith Leffingwell '51, age 93 of Tabor, Iowa, died Oct. 21, 2023. She taught in Tabor for 31 years.

Diane Fisher Lierz '85, age 61, of Topeka, Kansas, died Jan. 7. She worked in retail management for Walmart.

Janice Long '99, age 77, of Mound City, Missouri, died Oct. 25, 2023. She worked as an Avon district manager, daycare teacher and elementary school paraprofessional.

Patricia Luther '71, age 76, of Jefferson, Iowa, died March 20. She was a third grade teacher and operated a preschool before working at an agency providing counseling and

educational programs in several Iowa counties.

Sam Mascuilli '74, age 74, of North Little Rock, Arkansas, died Dec. 21, 2023. He worked in education for 38 years as a teacher and counselor, retiring in 2015.

Kade Maupin '18, age 28, of Maryville, died Nov. 6, 2023. He was a musician and farmer.

Evelyn Hughes McKay '66, age 99, of Clarinda, Iowa, died Oct. 26, 2023. She taught for 35 years at schools in East River, Pleasant Hill and New Market, retiring in 1988.

Dr. Samuel McNaughton '61, age 84, of Syracuse, New York, died Jan. 18. He had been a member of the biology faculty at Syracuse University since 1966.

Edward Micus '71, age 80, of Mankato, Minnesota, died Feb. 10. A veteran of the Vietnam War, he became assistant director of the Center for Creative Success at Mankato State University, where he taught English and writing courses.

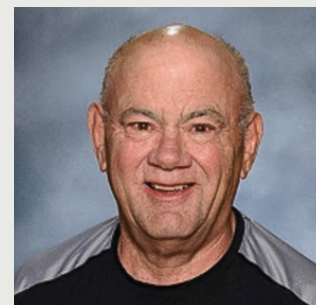
Bob Miller '82, age 81, of Albany, Missouri, died Feb. 20. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he worked as a production planning supervisor at Corning Glass Works in New York. In Albany, he owned and operated clothing stores and was a production manager at the Tempmaster and Johnson Controls manufacturing plants.

Dr. Tom Narak '75, age 74, of West Des Moines, Iowa, died Dec. 18, 2023. He had a 41-year career as an educator and school administrator in Nebraska and Iowa, including as superintendent of the West Des Moines and Indianola school districts.

Greg Nees '77, age 68, of Richmond, Missouri, died Feb. 21. He taught music at Orrick, Stet and Adrian and then worked for Turner Music and Carlson Systems. Later he worked at Cisco Tool in Kansas City and became owner of the business in 2017.



Dr. Russell Euler, age 73, of Maryville, died Dec. 8, 2023. He was a professor of mathematics and statistics at Northwest from 1982 to 2017.



John Frangoulis '80, age 73, of Troy, Missouri, died Nov. 21, 2023. He was an educator and coach at the high school and collegiate levels, including Baker University and the University of Missouri-Columbia, during a career spanning 51 years.



Dr. Nigel Hoilett, age 54, of Guys Hill, Jamaica, died Feb. 17. He was a member of Northwest's agricultural sciences faculty from 2013 to 2021.

LET US KNOW If you learn of the death of a Northwest graduate, please submit in writing or via news clipping the name of the deceased (and maiden name, if appropriate), year(s) of graduation from Northwest, date of death, age, city of death, city of residence and a brief listing of career accomplishments. In addition, submit your relationship to the deceased and your telephone number to the Office of University Advancement, 800 University Dr., Maryville, MO 64468-6001, or email alumni@nwmissouri.edu. Submissions may be edited for length and clarity.



Alan Marshall '76, age 70, of Sedalia, Missouri, died on July 27, 2023. He worked at a variety of jobs, including teaching high school special education. During the last 20 years, he worked as direct staff support and as a medical technician.



Dr. Larry Riley, age 78, of Maryville, died Jan. 16. He was a professor of psychology at Northwest from 1971 until retiring in 2007.



Kay Thomas '71, age 74, of Springdale, Arkansas, died Nov. 26, 2023. She taught second grade in Weston, Missouri, for 13 years and then had a sales career, selling educational tools to school districts in northwest Missouri and as a client representative with Nicholson Meyer Capital Management in Kansas City. She served as president of the Northwest Alumni Association Board and was a member of the Northwest Foundation Board of Directors.

Bob Neese '70, age 79, of Palmetto Bay, Florida, died Feb. 25. He served in the U.S. Air Force and was an auditor at JCPenney in addition to several business and financial positions in higher education.

Virginia Skroh Neff '88, '98, age 71, of Maryville, died March 9. She taught elementary special education and worked with incarcerated adults on General Educational Development tests.

Arlene Ostrander Osterloh '69, age 76, of Waterloo, Nebraska, died Jan. 13. She worked in interior design, eventually operating her own business, Arlene Osterloh Design.

Bill Ott '68, age 78, of Fredericksburg, Iowa, died Dec. 22, 2023. He served in the U.S. Army and then worked on various entrepreneurial ventures, including with an egg business, as the owner of a trucking business, at a propane company and as a security guard for the Hostess company.

Ken Peek '92, '94, age 54, of Kansas City, Missouri, died Feb. 9. He taught physical education and health at Liberty North High School, where he was head track and javelin coach, retiring last September. Previously, he coached in Plattsburg, North Kansas City, Staley, Belton and Oak Park.

Donald Peters '78, age 67, of Peculiar, Missouri, died Dec. 10, 2023. He began his career in Fort Wayne, Indiana, selling animal feed with Allied Mills and then joined Bristol-Myers to sell animal pharmaceuticals, retiring after 30 years.

Robert Peterson '77, age 68, of Oglesby, Illinois, died Nov. 21, 2023. He was a high school teacher and coach before becoming an athletic director, dean of students and principal.

Donald Pierpoint '58, age 87, of Overland Park, Kansas, died Dec. 21, 2023. He worked in finance and accounting at school districts in Mercer, Missouri, and Brighton, Colorado; Texas Eastman Co. in Longview, Texas; Tarkio (Missouri) College; and Black & Veatch International.

Robert Pumphrey '55, age 90, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died Dec. 13, 2023. He was a high school guidance counselor for 34 years.

John Reese '72, '81, age 73, of Corning, Iowa, died Jan. 29. He raced harness horses and was a driver for many stables as well as his own. In 2009, he was inducted into the Iowa Harness Horseman's Hall of Fame.

Dick Reeves '58, age 92, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, died Jan. 28. He was an educator in public schools and retired after 35 years.

Robert Reimers '73, age 82, of Griswold, Iowa, died Jan. 25. He taught and coached at Essex High School and then at Griswold during a 30-year career.

Owen Roberts '98, age 69, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died Oct. 12, 2023. He worked for Cargill and Quaker Oats before opening his own business, Roberts Professional Services.

Tony Schieber '64, age 87, of Iowa City, Iowa, died Nov. 22, 2023. He served in the U.S. Army and was employed with RSM McGladery in Iowa City, retiring in 1996.

Patricia Phillips Schulenberg '64, age 81, of Lee's Summit, Missouri, died Jan. 22. She taught high school English and French in Richmond, Missouri, and then in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Dr. Larry Sipes '59, age 86, of Quincy, Illinois, died Dec. 18, 2023. He was a teacher, principal and superintendent in Kansas and Missouri, before joining the faculty at Western Illinois University for 31 years.

Bill Sparks '63, age 83, of Las Vegas, died Jan. 5. He served 20 years in the Marine Corps and worked at Hallmark Cards in Kansas City, managing several manufacturing divisions.

Mike Spolar '66, age 84, of Knoxville, Iowa, died Nov. 20, 2023. He was a member of the Iowa National Guard and U.S. Marine Corps. He worked in education for 28 years as a junior high teacher, coach, guidance counselor and principal in Knoxville, retiring in 1994.

Mike Stanley '70, age 75 of Harlan, Iowa, died March 24. He was a high school teacher, coach, athletic director and principal at schools in eastern Iowa, retiring in 2004. He also worked as an athletics official for nearly 50 years and is a member of the Iowa Association of Track Officials Hall of Fame, the Iowa High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame

and the Iowa High School Athletic Directors Association Hall of Fame.

Dr. Sue Tuttle Sundberg '84, age 78, of Santa Fe, New Mexico, died Nov. 29, 2023. She taught eighth-grade math in Maryville and math education at Northwest until 1988 before joining the math and computer science faculty at the University of Central Missouri, retiring in 2011.

Gene Suplee '74, age 71, of Anita, Iowa, died Nov. 25, 2023. He was a certified electrician and worked at Meisner Electric and DeVries Electric.

Donna Ward Thompson '58, age 91, of Kansas City, Missouri, died Oct. 6, 2023. She was a teacher in the North Kansas City School District.

Vern Thomsen, age 83, of Papillion, Nebraska, died Dec. 16, 2023. He was a teacher and coach at the high school and collegiate levels for 34 years, including as head coach of the Bearcat football team from 1983 to 1987.

Frank Trump '72, '84, age 83, of Trenton, Missouri, died Nov. 26, 2023. He served in the U.S. Air Force and was an educator, teaching electronics and woodworking in Malaysia, American Samoa and the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Peter Van Bramer '61, age 85, of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, died Nov. 9, 2023. He was a teacher and later served as director of admissions at Madison Area Technical College from 1972 to 1995.

Bruce Wahl '76, age 75, of Pennsburg, Pennsylvania, died Jan. 29. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, he taught math and coached for 22 years in Lake Ozark, Missouri, and then was a junior high math tutor in Pennsylvania, retiring in 2011.

Brian Walston '78, age 67, of O'Fallon, Missouri, died Jan. 12. He had a career in banking, retiring from Citi as an underwriting manager in 2018.

Mary Ellen Disburg Wilcox '63, age 82, of Grayson, Georgia, died Sept. 17, 2023. She taught art in Audubon, Iowa, and was a professional artist and designer.

John Zimmer '98, age 51, of Overland Park, Kansas, died Feb. 28. He was a banker.



NORTHWEST POSTCARD

Hundreds of students, faculty, staff and community members gathered April 8 outside the B.D. Owens Library on the Northwest campus to view the solar eclipse.

Hosted by the University's Department of Natural Sciences, the observation provided attendees with solar glasses and the opportunity to view the eclipse through telescopes with solar filters. Viewers in Maryville saw about 90 percent of the sun covered by the moon during the event, which will not happen again in the contiguous United States until 2044.

NORTHWEST

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