

THE MAGAZINE FOR NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

# NORTHWEST

ALUMNI MAGAZINE | WINTER 2024

## SENSE OF PLACE

Ted Place '99

### BEST IN MIDWEST

U.S. News and World Report  
ranks Northwest high | p. 5

### MARTINDALE MAKEOVER

Renovation changing face  
of building | p. 16

### CHAMPS REUNITE

1998 and 1999 football teams  
mark anniversary | p. 27



# PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities at Northwest, contact the Office of University Advancement at [alumni@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:alumni@nwmissouri.edu) or 660.562.1248.

**NORTHWEST ALUMNI**  
NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

It's because of the volunteer support of countless alumni and friends – spirited people like Vic and Denise Kretschmar – that Northwest continues to thrive.

Being members of the Bearcat family has been an important part of our lives. Attending college in Maryville brought us together – and 50-plus years later, we're still reaping the benefits of all that Northwest Missouri State University has to offer.

Our collegiate years provided us with an excellent education, a caring community, strong professional networks, lifelong friends and great memories. It's exciting to watch as our beloved alma mater continues to strive for and achieve excellence in so many areas.

As proud alumni, we love to share the many attributes of Northwest with future Bearcats. With our beautiful campus, top-notch faculty, numerous campus organizations, the outstanding Bearcat Marching Band and national championship sports teams, just to name a few – why wouldn't you want to be a Bearcat?

It also has been our joy to give back to the institution. Vic served on the Northwest Alumni Association Board of Directors, and we are

founding members of the St. Joseph Alumni and Friends Chapter. Over the years, it's been fun gathering with our Northwest crew for socials, football tailgates, golf tournaments, scholarship fundraisers, and – our personal favorite – hosting our fall kick-off event: the annual Bearcat Barn Party at our rural home in Hemple, Missouri. What a blessing to renew friendships and cultivate new ones with so many Bearcat brothers and sisters.

If you're not involved, we challenge you to find a way to reconnect to Northwest. Join an alumni chapter or start your own. Come home for Homecoming. Take a trip with the Tourin' Bearcats. Sponsor an Adopt-A-Bearcat Scholarship. There are so many rewarding ways to say, "Thank you, Northwest!"

Vic '70, '71, and Denise Bower '71 Kretschmar  
*St. Joseph Alumni and Friends Chapter*



- 0 a.m. Welcome & Passing of the Gavel
- Introduction of Mike Johnson
- Introduction of New Board Members
- 5 a.m. University Presentation: Dr. Lance Tatum
- 15 a.m. University Infrastructure Presentations
- :30 a.m. Tour: Foster Fitness Center & Lamkin Activity Center
- :00 p.m. Lunch
- 10 p.m. Finance Committee
- 30 p.m. Advancement Committee
- 05 p.m. Governance Committee
- 40 p.m. Membership Committee
- 15 p.m. Executive Committee
- 30 p.m. Sip & Shop – The Student Body
- 30 p.m. Dinner – The Palm’s Bar & Grill

Ted Place '99 brings a passion for Northwest and community building to his role as president of the Northwest Foundation.

## NORTHWEST

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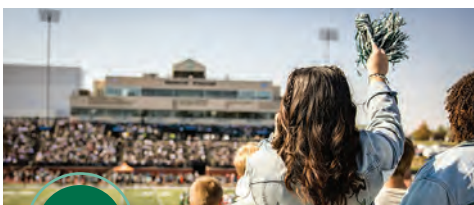
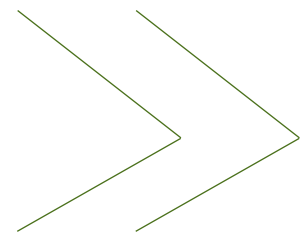
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The *Northwest Alumni Magazine* is published two times a year by the Office of University Marketing and Communication, the Office of University Advancement, Northwest Missouri State University and the Northwest Foundation Inc., 800 University Dr., Maryville, MO 64468-6001.

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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## CHEERS TO 100 YEARS

Northwest celebrated the anniversary of its first Homecoming in October.



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## LEADING FARMER

James Hepp '13 is earning accolades for his farming work and contributions to his community.

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# DEAR FRIENDS

I'm reminded daily of the lasting impact our shared experiences at Northwest have had on our lives. From the friendships we formed to the lessons we learned — inside and outside the classroom — our time as Bearcats has shaped who we are today. I have seen so many of you embody Northwest principles in your careers, communities and personal lives, and it fills me with pride to be part of such a remarkable network.

One such connection involves the subject of our cover story, Ted Place, and his late father, Chuck, who was president of the Northwest Foundation Board of Directors more than 20 years ago. Chuck was an intense leader, and he had a plan to elevate Northwest with his vision and philanthropy. Chuck led the way in establishing the first comprehensive campaign when Bearcat Stadium was built to meet the needs of our championship-winning football program. In addition, we took a next step to enhance our endowment of support for students and academic programs. Ted's mother, Linda, with two degrees from Northwest, also has dedicated time to leading the Alumni Association.

Today, another Place family member leads the way in Ted — a proud alumnus and talented leader ready to elevate our Foundation and institution at yet another opportunistic and challenging time.

As you enjoy reading our cover story and more, I encourage you to reconnect with Northwest. Our vibrant community is counting on you to get involved. Our shared history and collective potential continue to be a source of strength and inspiration.

Help us shine the light on Northwest in 2025. Let us continue to support one another, celebrate our successes and uplift the next generation of students.



Michael Johnson '85  
Vice President of University Advancement,  
Executive Director of Northwest Foundation Inc.



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Northwest's cybersecurity laboratory features modern classroom amenities while giving students an opportunity to practice digital forensics, software engineering and secure programming.

## NORTHWEST RECEIVES NATIONAL CYBER DEFENSE DESIGNATION

The University recently was designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense by the Maryland-based National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity.

“Gaining the designation as a Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense is the result of relevant curriculum, talented faculty and efforts to share cybersecurity knowledge,” Dr. Joni Hull Adkins '95, '01, the director of Northwest's School of Computer Science and Information Systems, said. “Students will benefit from a robust cybersecurity curriculum, federal scholarship eligibility, connections to others in the cybersecurity community and internship opportunities while faculty can participate in professional development opportunities. Ultimately, we hope this designation will help us to grow our undergraduate cybersecurity major to meet the industry need for security professionals.”

Institutions with the designation have met requirements set forth by the National Security Agency. It awards designations to institutions committed to helping reduce threats to the national infrastructure by promoting education and research in cyber defense while providing the nation with a pipeline of qualified cybersecurity professionals.



Students posed for photos in front of Northwest's Administration Building as they arrived to begin the fall semester in August.

## U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT RANKS NORTHWEST AMONG TOP SCHOOLS IN MIDWEST

Northwest came in at No. 20 this fall on U.S. News and World Report's ranking of public regional universities in the Midwest, which is an improvement from its position at No. 22 last year. The ranking places Northwest as the top moderately selective institution in the state and second among all public schools in Missouri, trailing only Truman State University.

Among all regional universities in the Midwest, U.S. News ranks Northwest at No. 67, up nine spots from No. 76 last year.

While U.S. News evaluated nearly 1,500 four-year bachelor's degree-granting institutions, the Midwest classification includes all public and private universities in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin as well as Missouri.



## UNIVERSITY SURPASSES 9,000 MARK FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Northwest enrolled 9,152 students this fall, maintaining a threshold it crossed for the first time last year, although the tally represents a 5.3 percent decrease from last year's record headcount.

This year's enrollment total breaks six consecutive years of growth at the University, which included record enrollments during the past four years. The unprecedented period of growth at Northwest led to its headcount rising by 40.9 percent between 2018 and 2023, propelled by increases in the dual credit, graduate and international segments.

“Enrollment remains a key priority at Northwest as we celebrate passing 9,000 students for a second consecutive year and continue our focus on maintaining a balanced enrollment portfolio,” Dr. Allison Strong Hoffmann '99, '03, Northwest's associate provost for enrollment management and student success, said. “While our online enrollment segments continue to grow steadily, we remain laser-focused on our on-ground recruitment efforts to ensure Northwest continues to offer a vibrant collegiate experience.”

While the University's in-state student population is 6,095, Northwest students hail from a total of 49 states this fall. The University's international student population represents 8 percent of the student body and hails from 47 other countries with most of those students coming from India, Nepal, Nigeria, Morocco and South Africa.



## BUFFALO WILD WINGS GO ENHANCES CAMPUS DINING PALETTE

Buffalo Wild Wings Go opened in April on the Northwest campus and is the first of its kind on a college campus, offering the retailer's chicken wings and other classic menu items for dine-in and takeout orders. It is located inside The Station, adjacent to the high-rise residence halls on the west edge of the campus.

Buffalo Wild Wings Go joins dining options on the campus that include Starbucks in the B.D. Owens Library. Additionally, the J.W. Jones Student Union offers Chick-fil-A, McAlister's Deli and Qdoba Mexican Eats as well as Bearcat Commons, which is located in the building's lower level and offers a variety of rotating menu items in an all-you-care-to-eat food court setting.

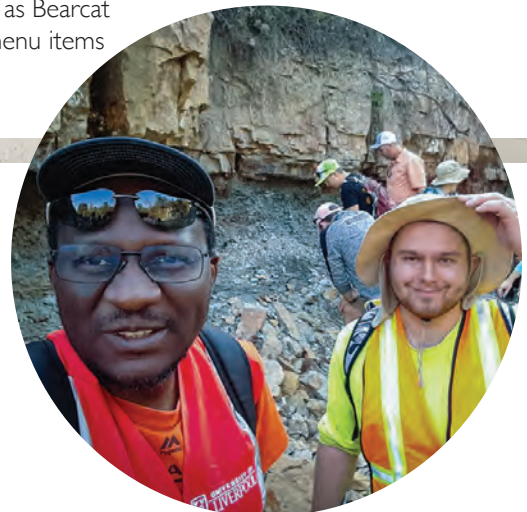
All Northwest dining locations are open to the public during their regular hours.

## GEOLOGY ALUMNUS KEEPS GRAWE AWARD WITH NORTHWEST

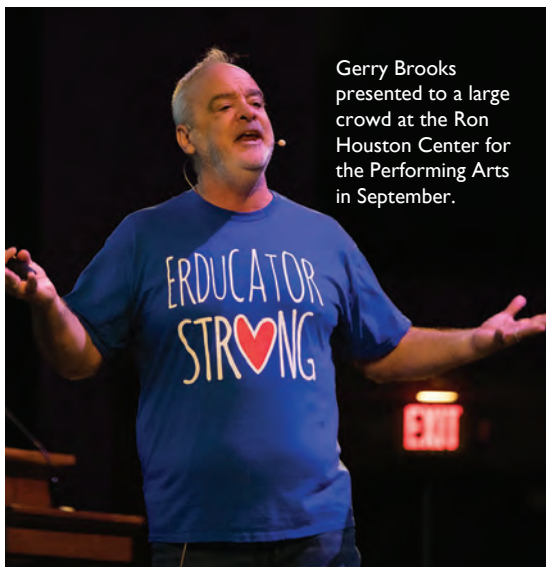
Hunter Weakley '24 recently received the O.R. Grawe Award from the Association of Missouri Geologists, making him the University's 11th recipient in 25 years.

"I was really surprised," Weakley, who graduated last summer with a bachelor's degree in geology, said. "I was pretty happy that I actually got it and very happy that my professors nominated me for it."

The association annually presents the Grawe Award to the top junior or senior geology major in Missouri. Winners are selected based on a nomination letter, a written statement from the nominee, the nominee's academic transcript and letters of recommendation. Recipients of the award receive an engraved Brunton pocket transit and case, a plaque and certificate of recognition as well as a cash stipend of \$300.



Hunter Weakley, right, is pictured with Dr. Onema Adojoh, an assistant professor of geology at Northwest, while visiting a geologic site.



Gerry Brooks presented to a large crowd at the Ron Houston Center for the Performing Arts in September.

## LECTURE RAISES MORE THAN \$8,500 FOR STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND

Northwest President Dr. Lance Tatum and first lady Jill Tatum presented representatives of the University's Pay It Forward Fund Committee in October with a check for \$8,565 from the proceeds of a lecture on the campus.

The proceeds were garnered as a result of a Sept. 22 lecture at Northwest that featured Gerry Brooks, a longtime friend of the Tatums and a veteran educator whose humorous videos have gained him a vast social media audience.

The Pay It Forward Fund provides assistance to Northwest students who may be struggling financially while engaging them with resources available to be successful academically and socially. Funds are dispersed to assist with the costs of items such as supplemental textbooks and course supplies, medical needs, tuition or emergency transportation.

For more information or to contribute to the Pay it Forward Fund, contact the Office of Student Affairs at [saffair@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:saffair@nwmissouri.edu).



## HEPWORTH NAMED DEAN OF COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Dr. Elise Gutshall Hepworth '00 began work in September as the next dean of Northwest's College of Arts and Sciences. Hepworth, who had served since 2020 as assistant vice president and vice provost in the Office of Academic Affairs at Missouri Western State University, succeeded Dr. Mike Steiner '85, who retired July 31.

"We could not be more excited to have Dr. Hepworth join our academic team," Northwest Provost Dr. Jamie Hooymann said. "She is a true Bearcat and has a reputation for excellence. Dr. Hepworth will bring her vast experience in higher ed as well as her passion for student success. She is going to be a perfect fit for Northwest's continued excellence."

The dean of the College of Arts and Sciences serves as the College's chief academic and administrative officer. Hepworth

is responsible for ensuring the College's academic programs, research, faculty development and student outcomes are of the highest quality while allocating resources to advance the College's mission. She also will have involvement in Northwest initiatives related to student enrollment, retention, graduation, assessment and accreditation.

"It is an honor to return to my beloved alma mater and give back what was provided to me as a young person discovering my own talents and skills," Hepworth said. "My goal is to champion innovation, support our talented educators and enhance the educational experience for our students."

Hepworth joined Missouri Western in 2014 as a faculty member in its School of Fine Arts and previously taught in the Department of Music at Wayne State College in Nebraska. She has served as a guest conductor, adjudicator and clinician for numerous choral groups throughout the region, and she holds memberships in several choral and music education associations. In addition to a bachelor's degree in music education from Northwest, she has a graduate diploma in vocal performance from New Zealand School of Music, a Doctor of Arts degree in vocal pedagogy from The University of Mississippi and a master's degree in music education from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She also holds national certifications in the pedagogies of Zoltán Kodály and Orff Schulwerk.

## HIATT IS 2025 GOVERNOR'S AWARD RECIPIENT

Dr. Shelly Winstead Hiatt '81, '94, will represent the University this spring as its 2025 Governor's Award for Excellence in Education recipient. She teaches courses related to psychology and school guidance and counseling.

The Governor's Award is presented annually to an outstanding faculty member representing each of Missouri's four-year public institutions.

Northwest's recipient is chosen from faculty members who receive the University's Faculty Excellence Award for teaching and exemplify criteria for effective teaching and advising, innovation in course design and delivery, service to the University and community, and a commitment to high standards of excellence and success in nurturing student achievement.

Hiatt's students describe their classroom experiences as informative, understanding and compassionate. A graduate student in the school counseling program stated Hiatt "models the behaviors and methods she expects from her school counseling students."

Undergraduate students also consistently remark on the hands-on experiences they have in her classroom and that her feedback motivates them to work hard on the assignments she gives. During the 2023-2024 academic year, student feedback repeatedly praised her organization, engagement, communication and ability to provide enlightening information without overwhelming students.



## CULLIN APPOINTED POLICE CHIEF

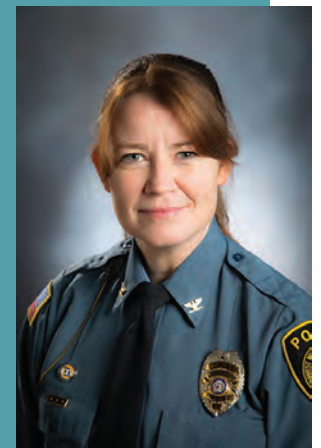
Amanda Nigh Cullin '04 is Northwest's next chief of police, succeeding Dr. Clarence Green '94, '10, after his retirement from the University last spring.

"Amanda brings a wealth of experience in law enforcement and outstanding leadership to the position," Northwest President Dr. Lance Tatum said. "I am confident she will transition smoothly and seamlessly into her new role to continue enhancing the safety and security of our campus community."

Cullin, who graduated last March from the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, most recently served as lieutenant of administration in the University Police Department. She rejoined the Northwest staff in 2015 as a communications and project coordinator for the University Police Department, having been employed with the department previously as a police officer.

Before returning to Northwest, she was employed with the Jefferson C-123 School District, where she taught English arts, social studies and early childhood parent education for 10 years.

"I love working with our team on the continued success and growth of Northwest and the University Police Department," Cullin said. "I look forward to ensuring we are effectively meeting the evolving needs of our campus local community."



# Sense of Place

Ted Place was enveloped in Northwest at an early age and now has a leading role in shaping its future, following a path his parents also steered.

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When Ted Place '99 thinks of his first memories of Maryville and Northwest, he goes to a time when — at age 7 or 8, en route to a Bearcat football game with his parents — he found a \$20 bill lying on the ground in front of the Olive DeLuce Fine Arts Building. After failing to find the bill's owner, Ted proudly invested the money in concessions at the football game.

It is a fitting story, considering the roles — professional and volunteer — he maintains as an adult to find funding for worthy causes.

As the chief development officer at the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, he is overseeing a campaign to invest significant local and national philanthropic support into programs and physical upgrades to that facility, which includes the iconic Liberty Memorial.

As the new president of the Northwest Foundation, he is helping lay groundwork for the University's next comprehensive campaign, bridging generations of Bearcats and encouraging them to consider ways they may assist their alma mater.

He also is carrying on a legacy of advocating for Northwest and supporting the institution in ways his parents — Charles "Chuck" '72 and Linda Nichols '72, '09, Place — instilled in Ted when he was a child visiting the Northwest campus.

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Story by Mark Homickel







Linda Place leads Ted and his younger sister, Erin, toward the Administration Building during a walk on the Northwest campus in the early 1980s. (Place family photo)



Ted, photographed at Colden Pond as a child in 1979, became familiar with Northwest at an early age. The Place family has maintained their strong connection with the University from Ted's parents, Chuck and Linda, to his children, Ben and Claire, pictured at a Bearcat football tailgate in 2009. *(Place family photos)*

# A

s Northwest alumni and Maryville residents through the early 1980s may remember, a P.M. Place discount store was among the businesses anchoring Maryville's downtown. Founded in 1910 by Ted's great-granduncle, Pryor M. Place, in Lathrop, Missouri, P.M. Place Stores Co. had about 50 locations at its peak in rural towns scattered across Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Illinois.

In 1975, Chuck Place – after beginning his career as a certified public accountant in Iowa City, Iowa – joined the family company as an assistant manager. Eventually, he climbed to chief executive officer, overseeing its transition to an employee-owned structure.

“We grew up going in and out of small-town discount stores, thinking about end caps and how the Christmas trees were placed,” Ted, the oldest of Chuck and Linda's three children, recalls with laughter.

During those years, the Places lived in Maryville for a short time, just blocks from the Northwest campus, before ultimately settling about 35 miles east in Albany. As a child, Ted also began to see the charm of the Northwest community and the support its people showed each other.

While his parents were proud Northwest alumni, Ted was a regular at Science Olympiad events and band contests on the campus. During Homecoming weekends year after year, he watched his parents rekindle bonds with former classmates, fraternity



brothers and sorority sisters – people he came to know like extended family members.

“Northwest was not just a place; it was also these people and their kids,” he said. “It was really interesting. ... They’re building families, they’re building businesses, but their ties were Northwest.”

Ted’s path to a career in his family’s company might have seemed predetermined, but the retail environment was changing by the late 1990s and P.M. Place Stores sold to Shopko in 1999, allowing Chuck to retire at the age of 48 and turn to philanthropic work.

“The beautiful thing about that was that it was employee-owned,” Ted said. “People that were running cash registers – and they were clerks, and they were assistant managers – owned a piece of this small-town company. ... They kept their jobs, and they got a payout as owners. You’re always proud of the ‘family business,’ but if it’s gotta go, what a great legacy to leave in all these small towns along the way.”

## FINDING A PLACE AT NORTHWEST

As Ted thought about attending college, no other college or university compared to what Northwest had to offer. He earned his bachelor’s degree in journalism with a broadcasting minor.

“Northwest would allow me experiences that I wasn’t going to get at other places,” Ted said. “It’s also a place where you don’t have to be fully formed on day one. You can walk in and you can raise your hand and be like, ‘Hey, is anyone writing about intramural sports? That’s something I might be able to do. Can I give it a try?’”

Ted says he was a guy who liked “to do absolutely everything.” He enjoyed life in the residence halls and remains connected with his hallmates from the third floor of Richardson Hall. He also was active with Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity, serving as its philanthropy chair, treasurer and president.

Similarly, Ted’s wife, Kate Carrel Place ’99, ’00, ’08, grew up in the rural community of Clarksdale, Missouri, learning about responsibility and service to others in her parents’ hardware store. The couple has known each other since childhood and Kate has enjoyed a successful career in education, working currently as the principal of gifted programs in North Kansas City Schools. In 2017, she returned to



Ted portrayed a Bearcat superfan during Phi Sigma Kappa’s skit in the 1998 Homecoming Variety Show. *(Tower yearbook photo)*

A P.M. Place Co. store stood in the background as the Bearcat Steppers and Bearcat Marching Band marched through downtown Maryville during the 1974 Homecoming parade. *(Tower yearbook photo)*

Northwest to present its Ploghoft Diversity Lecture, then as the principal of Briarcliff Elementary, a richly diverse school within a district focused on strengthening inclusion.

“A student, if they get involved at Northwest, they are in a prime position to do well no matter what path they take,” Linda said. “Ted went in with the attitude of ‘When I see someone on the sidewalk, I’m going to say hi. I’m going to know everybody by the time I graduate.’ Now I look back and having that attitude and having that culture to be able to do that has helped him be really successful in the path he’s taken. And Kate’s taken great advantage of Northwest education, and I would put her up against any educator from any school.”

## A PASSION FOR COMMUNITY BUILDING

Ted began his professional career with a stint in marketing and group relations at Worlds of Fun in Kansas City, Missouri, and then went to work for Hillcrest Ministries, a not-for-profit in Liberty. Next, he worked in development roles at Kansas City University, an osteopathic medical school, for about 10 years. In 2013, he began a nine-year stretch in development roles at KCPT, Kansas City’s PBS station, where he facilitated a campaign that included a remodel to modernize its newsroom for the digital age.

In 2022, the time was right for him to try something different when he accepted the role of chief development officer at the National World War I Museum and Memorial. There, he manages a development team in the midst of a fundraising effort to improve the museum's galleries, digitize its collection and build education programs, in addition to maintaining the building's exterior. It's an important next step for the museum, which draws international interest and attracted more than 1 million visitors in 2023.

"It's been a wonderful move," he said. "Every day I drive up the driveway, and I get out and I look out over Kansas City. It doesn't get better than that."

One might think Ted must have a sizable interest in history to take on a role with the museum. While that is partly true, his satisfaction is linked more deeply to his passion for community-building – something instilled in him by his parents, through their interactions with friends, neighbors and store customers, and honed throughout his professional career.

"It's like this in any line of work," Ted said. "It's just connecting people with something that they are passionate about. A lot of times people think that we are a war museum. I want to show them that we're something different, and that's a really fun way to spend my days."

## BACK TO THE PLACE HE STARTED

As Ted's career advanced, he never strayed far from Northwest, in large part because of his parents' involvement with the University.

After he retired from Place's, Chuck volunteered his time and efforts with a plethora of organizations in Albany and elsewhere, including as president of the Northwest Foundation Board of Directors from 2004 to 2006. He was a key figure in the success of Northwest's first-ever campaign, which centered on increasing scholarship amounts and raising funds to renovate and expand Bearcat Stadium. That campaign,



Ted began serving in July as president of the Northwest Foundation Board of Directors, leading the 36-member volunteer board in its work to develop and steward philanthropic resources for the benefit of the University and its students. (Photos by Todd Weddle)





Ted with his wife, Kate, and their children, Claire and Ben. (Place family photo)

with its slogan “\$21 million for the 21st century,” exceeded expectations and raised more than \$40 million. In 2003, Chuck received the Northwest Alumni Association’s Turret Service Award.

In 2009, though, Chuck lost a battle with cancer and died at the age of 59. The Place family established the Charles M. Place Memorial Scholarship through the Northwest Foundation in his honor.

“I feel like someone was taking good care of him because he did an awful lot of really great work between 49 and 59 that he would not have had a chance to do if he were running a company,” Ted said.

Ted’s mother, Linda, is retired from a career in teaching and education consulting. In recent years, she also has actively engaged with Northwest as a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors from 2012 to 2019, including serving as its president from 2015 to 2017. Linda received the Alumni Association’s Turret Service Award in 2021.

“I felt like I had just kind of always been around,” Ted said. “When my father got engaged (with the Northwest Foundation), you start to hear what’s going on at the University, and then my mom was involved as well.”

In 2018, Mike Johnson ’85 connected with Ted and the two met over coffee. Johnson didn’t have to do a lot of talking. Ted is driven by an instinct to “show up,” and Johnson’s invitation to advocate for Northwest at a deeper level appealed to him.

“I can certainly advocate and help make connections and just be someone that understands both sides of the alumni perspective and the board perspective,” Ted said. “I also understand what the development team is going through, what staff is going through – things like that because I watch it. I know what some of the challenges are.”

But Ted admits he needed some help finding his voice after he took his seat with the Foundation Board of Directors. He credits Carl Hughes ’76, a member of the Board from 2014 to 2023, for doing that.

“When you show up to something like the Foundation, I’m pretty sure everybody there was smarter than I was, and it takes someone to just give you a little bit of a nudge,” Place said. “So I’d be sitting next to him and I’d jot something down, and he’d be like, ‘Well, say it.’ I just remember being very empowered because, if Carl Hughes tells you that, he’s just got that voice that everybody listens to.”

Ted joined the Foundation Board of Directors in time to help see it through the University’s “Forever Green” campaign, which concluded in 2021 with more than \$55 million raised for initiatives related to scholarships, student life and academic excellence. That campaign resulted in the completion of two major capital fundraising projects – the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse and the Agricultural Learning Center.

Now, as seeds of Northwest’s third campaign are being planted, Ted looks forward to bundling initiatives people care about into a campaign agenda that makes sense for the University. He’s excited to facilitate those conversations with Johnson, who returned this year as the vice president of university advancement and executive director of the Northwest Foundation, and others.

So much of Ted’s thinking connects to his place as a Bearcat and an appreciation for moments at Northwest to which other alumni can easily relate – the majesty of the Administration Building, the chimes sounding from the Memorial Bell Tower, the smell of a residence hall. He also understands the University is facing societal headwinds related to doubts about the value of higher education and students’ changing needs and desires. Today’s Northwest students are very different from those who occupied the campus during prior decades.

“It’s about remembering yourself as that first-generation college student and how it helped you, while at the same time recognizing that the experience is very, very different,” Ted said. Despite the differences, he adds, “There’s these amazing threads that I think really speak to the initiatives that have been put together and that will be put together in the future.”

Ted also thinks a lot about what his father might say if he were still living. Ted began his tenure as president of the Foundation Board of Directors in July, almost 20 years to the day after Chuck did the same in 2004.

“Knowing the people who have filled that role is very, very humbling to think that my name is there, so I feel a weight to get it right,” Ted said. “Certainly, when you’re sitting there and you’re in a meeting and you’re the vice chair, it starts to sink in. ... I also know that this entire line of people has been driven by a passion for this little, impactful place.”



## *A Century of Northwest Homecomings*

A CENTURY OF HONORING OUR PAST, EMBRACING OUR PRESENT, AND INSPIRING OUR FUTURE.

Northwest's spirited past captivated the campus in October when the University celebrated its annual Homecoming week with "A Century of Homecomings" as the theme to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the institution's first Homecoming.

The festivities included traditions such as the Variety Show, the International Flag-Raising Ceremony, the Homecoming parade and the Homecoming football game. The University also welcomed its class of 1974 for the annual 50th-year reunion activities.

# *@heers to*



Colorful banners created by student organizations to illustrate the decades comprising Northwest's history adorned the J.W. Jones Student Union during Homecoming Week.



Phillip Motazedi, center, was honored for two consecutive years with the People's Choice Best Skit Actor for his portrayal of Bobby E.



Sigma Sigma Sigma and Sigma Phi Epsilon performed their skit, "The Legend of Bobby Bearcat's Groove," as students entertained an audience during the annual Homecoming Variety Show.



Alpha Sigma Alpha claimed prizes for Overall Parade Winner and Homecoming Supremacy Winner. The sorority performed as 1920s flappers in the parade's dancing clowns contest.



Alpha Sigma Alpha and Tau Kappa Epsilon took the first-place award for their Variety Show skit, "Back to the 50s."

### SOME NORTHWEST HOMECOMING HISTORY

**OCT. 10, 1924:** The first general Homecoming took place in conjunction with an annual district teachers' meeting – although the Philomathean literary society had been having a Homecoming for 11 years. The activities included a Friday night social event, the Bearcat football game on Saturday and a dance that night in the Administration Building gymnasium.

**1941:** The first Homecoming queen was Betty Drennan of Corning, Iowa.

**1947:** Faculty member John Harr agreed to chair Northwest's Homecoming activities – which he did for the next 20 years – and the University's modern-day Homecoming week was born. The Variety Show and house decorations were added to the festivities while the parade grew to include

more marching bands, large floats, jalopies and clowns. The football game against Southeast Missouri ended in a 0-0 tie, and the weekend closed with a Homecoming dance featuring big bands.

**1950:** Classes were shortened to allow students to complete preparations for Homecoming.

**1954:** An estimated 12,000 people attended the Homecoming parade, and the



Sal Bonadonna was crowned Homecoming king, and Chloe DeVries was crowned Homecoming queen at the conclusion of the Variety Show.



Graduates of Northwest in 1974 returned to the campus during Homecoming weekend for the annual 50th-year reunion. Seated left to right in the front row are Frederick Maharry, Vaughn Sothman, Larry Sidney, Greg Campbell, Douglas Watsabaugh, John Sklenar and Venita Scholl Escher. Standing in the middle row are Rolfe Taylor, Nancy Ketchem Riekof, Jane Laughlin Sullivan, James Hazen, Margee Shewmaker Shaffer, Teresa Kelly McCune, Mark Pettegrew and Diane Jacobs Renner. In the back row are Leellyn Schultz Tuel, William Hedge, Ed Douglas, Bob McGuire, Michael Corbett and David Siemsen.



the second Award as the Bearcat.



Jake Weber, a sophomore wide receiver from Williamsburg, Iowa, accepted the Don Black Award from Vinnie Vaccaro '73 after the Homecoming football game. Weber caught six passes for 93 yards and a touchdown to earn the award presented to the most valuable player in the annual game. The Bearcats lost the game, 35-30, to the University of Central Missouri, dropping Northwest's record to 48-28-1 in Homecoming games since 1946.



International students paraded across the campus, carrying the flags of their native countries to the International Flag-Raising Ceremony on Walkout Day.



Bobby Bearcat posed for a photo with a pair of fans at the Bearcat Zone tailgate before the Homecoming football game.

# 100 years!

Tau Kappa Epsilon float burned.

**1965:** Northwest celebrated its 19th annual Homecoming with two queens, Dorothy Hardyman and Marlene Kelly, after election transgressions were discovered and the Student Senate opted to allow the duo of queens.

**1977:** The first Walkout Day occurred in 1915, when students walked out of classes and declared the day an unscheduled holiday, but it wasn't until 1977 when the University established

it as the Friday of Homecoming week.

**1980:** Two queens, Gina Henry and Donna Lord, were crowned as the Homecoming theme, "Diamond Memories," coordinated with the 75th anniversary of Northwest's founding.

**1987:** Homecoming activities occurred during a snowstorm.

**1988:** Northwest's earlier-than-usual Homecoming activities

caused extra stress for student organizations trying to prepare, starting with the annual Variety Show on Thursday, Sept. 22.

**1990:** Steven Anderson, of Glenwood, Iowa, was selected as the first Homecoming king, joining queen Leanne Hagan, of Maryville.

**1998:** The Joyce and Harvey White International Plaza was completed, and the flag-raising

ceremony became an annual event during Homecoming.

**2020:** Homecoming activities were limited as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and cancelation of the football season. The annual Walkout Day featured a short afternoon parade on the campus and a "Homecoming showcase" with performances by the Bearcat Marching Band and Bearcat Steppers at the Memorial Bell Tower.

## TWO GIFTS FROM CHARITABLE TRUSTS BENEFITTING MICRO-CREAMERY PROJECT

U.S. Bank Wealth Management, representing two charitable trusts, recently awarded a total of \$25,000 to Northwest and the Northwest Foundation to support the University's micro-creamery expansion.

The Foundation received \$20,000 from the Gary G. Taylor Trust and \$5,000 from the Harry and Helena Messick Charitable Trust.

Northwest's Board of Regents approved plans in 2023 for the micro-creamery, which is scheduled to be completed this spring inside Northwest's Agricultural Learning Center.

Located at the University's R.T. Wright Farm, the Agricultural Learning Center and the micro-creamery allow the School of Agricultural Sciences to enhance profession-based learning for its students and the potential to offer milk and other dairy products to consumers.

Northwest maintains a dairy herd of approximately 70 cattle at the Wright Farm, which is located north of the Maryville campus and used to teach agriculture students about dairy health, management and collection. A lack of processing facilities there, however, means

students' profession-based learning ends after the collected milk leaves the farm.

The micro-creamery will remedy that gap, allowing students and regional producers to experience the entire lifecycle of dairy production, from herd management and collection through processing, food production, safety testing and potentially even the marketing and retail of fluid milk, ice cream, butter, cheeses or other dairy products.

Additionally, the University wants to help improve the state's dairy industry by offering expanded education and training opportunities for regional producers and agriculture students.

## MARTINDALE HALL RENOVATION CHANGING FACE OF BUILDING

Northwest has begun the next phase of a project that is dramatically altering one of the campus's oldest buildings in alignment with its efforts to strengthen partnerships and programs emanating within its School of Health Science and Wellness.

Martindale Hall closed for the construction and expansion project in May. It is expected to reopen in time for fall classes in 2026.

When complete, the renovated facility will house the University's foods and nutrition lab, a well-being lab and a sports science lab as well as classrooms, collaboration spaces and lounge spaces.

To meet the total project cost of \$17.5 million, the Missouri General Assembly approved \$8.5 million with a requirement that Northwest raise the remaining project funds.

Martindale Hall opened in 1926 as the University gymnasium and was renovated and repurposed for academic programs between 1973 and 1975.







MICHAEL JOHNSON '85



MELISSA WELLHAUSEN '03, '19



CHRISTIAN DIXON '22



RENEE SCHLAG

## FOUNDATION, UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT WELCOMES NEW LEADER, STAFF

Northwest's Office of University Advancement this fall welcomed four staff members, led by Michael Johnson '85, a familiar face at the institution.

Johnson returned to Northwest in August as vice president of university advancement and executive director of the Northwest Foundation Inc.

"Mike has a heart for Northwest Missouri State University, and we are excited to have him back at the University," Northwest President Dr. Lance Tatum said. "His 38 years in higher education and his experiences and past successes with building and expanding

alumni relations – as well as his work with numerous campaign initiatives – position Mike to successfully lead our efforts in advancement and alumni relations. I look forward to working with him as the good work of our advancement and alumni staff continues."

Johnson returned to the role he served in at Northwest from 2011 to 2018, having worked since then as director of gift and estate planning at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. He succeeds Mitzi Craft Marchant '91, '09, who retired in June.

Previously at Northwest, Johnson was instrumental in laying the groundwork and initial fundraising for the successful "Forever Green" campaign, which concluded in 2021 with more than \$55 million raised for initiatives related to scholarships, student life and academic excellence.

Johnson also was employed at Northwest from 1995 to 2004 as director of alumni relations and before that as operations

manager of KXCV-KRNW, Northwest's National Public Radio affiliate. From 2004 to 2011, Johnson was employed with the University of Northern Colorado Foundation in alumni development and donor relations roles.

Additionally, Melissa Giza Wellhausen '03, '19, joined the University Advancement staff in October as chief finance officer in coordination with the retirement of Lori McLemore Steiner '85. Wellhausen had served for the last 13 years as the director of human resources and auditor for Page County, Iowa. She also was employed previously as a senior auditor for the state of Iowa and as an accountant with Ernst & Young LLP in Des Moines.

Christian Dixon '22 transitioned to his new role as an annual giving specialist in the Office of University Advancement in August after two years as a recruitment coordinator in Northwest's Office of Admissions.

Renee Schlag joined the staff in October as its executive secretary. She came to Northwest from Missouri Western State University where she was an administrative assistant. She also served as an auction manager and marketing director at Younger Auction Company in Maryville for 22 years.



## RETIRED FACULTY, STAFF LAUNCH SCHOLARSHIP TO SUPPORT ASPIRING LEADERS

Retired employees of Northwest – having dedicated decades of service in their varied roles to helping students succeed – are maintaining that covenant by establishing a scholarship to support student leaders.

The Northwest Retiree Association, in partnership with the Northwest Foundation, recently created the Northwest Retiree Leadership Scholarship and is now raising funds to endow the scholarship. It is awarded to a full-time student serving as an ambassador of Lead Green, a non-credit, co-curricular-based program designed to develop leaders. Lead Green students develop knowledge and skills through a multi-tiered program that includes a leadership module, workshops and a mentorship program.

“Leaders determine the course for change in the world, whether they are officially labeled leaders or leading by example,” said

Dr. Christine Benson ’89, who retired in 2020 after 23 years of teaching mathematics and statistics. “Leaders also come from all major programs. Since the membership of the Northwest Retiree Association comes from many different departments, and were both faculty and staff, focusing on leadership was a logical choice.”

Creating a scholarship has been a goal of the Retiree Association since its founding in 2018.

“We want to promote Northwest and help students. As employees, we did that during all of our tenures at Northwest, and we want to continue to give back,” said Rosalie



Rosalie Weathermon is pictured with Riley Steele, a junior psychology major from Kansas City, Missouri, who received the Northwest Retiree Leadership Scholarship for 2024-25.

Weathermon ’74, ’00, who retired in 2015 after 15 years in Career Services and now serves as the association’s president.

The Northwest Retiree Association serves as a resource to assist University employees with transitioning to retired life while maintaining a connection with the institution and providing a community for social and intellectual activities. Any former Northwest employee and spouses or partners are invited to join the organization.

## SCHOLARSHIP TO ASSIST MATH, STATISTICS STUDENTS

Marvin Jackson ’64 and his late wife, Ruth, attended multiple colleges and universities throughout their lifetimes, but their fondest memories at Northwest inspired them to create a scholarship for students in their last year at the institution.

“I’ve never forgotten Maryville,” said Marvin, who has made his home in Dallas for more than three decades. “I’ve been gone well over 50 years now, but it’s always had a soft spot.”

Marvin recently pledged \$25,000 through the Northwest Foundation to create the Marvin and Ruth Jackson Mathematics Scholarship for students who are in their senior year and studying a major in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

Through their shared appreciation for education, the Jacksons often talked about ways they could invest in the institutions that prepared them for success in their careers and assist future generations. Understanding the burdens that many college students carry as they near the

finish line of their degree programs, the couple saw an opportunity to assist those undergraduates.

“We were able to get along fine for a while, but that last year was always a killer for both of us because you were trying to get a job, maybe just getting married, going to make a move somewhere, and it got to be kind of rough financially,” Marvin said. “That’s why we decided to do something for a college student in their final year.”

Because the couple’s visits to Maryville and the Northwest campus through the years made such an impression on Ruth, she directed Marvin during her final months of life to create a scholarship that could assist Northwest students.

After graduating from Northwest, Marvin began his career as a junior high math teacher in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and served as an assistant principal at two different junior high schools there, bookending two years in Vietnam with the U.S. Army. He also served as an assistant principal at a high school in



Marvin and Ruth Jackson, pictured after they married in 1992.

Wyoming before retiring from education in 1978. As a second career, he became a computing consultant for an Iowa-based education agency and then found employment as a programming analyst with Texas Utilities in Dallas, working there from 1982 until retiring in 2013.

On Christmas Eve in 1992, Marvin and Ruth wed in Maryville and enjoyed 30 years of marriage before Ruth died in 2022. A native of Oklahoma, she had retired as a paralegal with the Environmental Protection Agency.

# NORTHWEST FOUNDATION WELCOMES 7 NEW MEMBERS

The Northwest Foundation Inc. has appointed seven new members to its Board of Directors to help guide the University's advancement and grow private support. These new members joined the Board in July.

## JIM DAVIS '98, '00

is a Maryville resident and has served as chief financial officer and executive vice president at Nodaway Valley Bank since 2000.



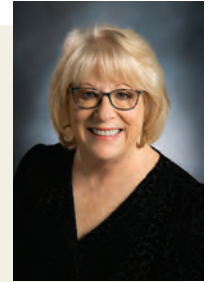
## KEVIN FULLERTON '88

resides in Mission, Kansas, and is the owner and creative director of Springboard Creative, a branding and graphic design studio he founded in 2006. Before that, he worked at a variety of Kansas City advertising agencies.



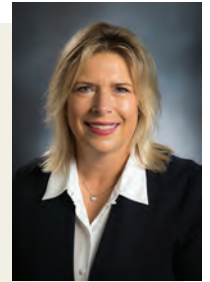
## JENNY ARTHUR BURKHEAD '77

who resides in Kansas City, Missouri, has worked in real estate in the metropolitan area for more than 40 years and currently is a salesperson and broker with Jenny Burkhead Group and Keller Williams.



## GINA GRUHN '93

is a resident of Morristown, New Jersey, and is employed with Optum as senior vice president and market president for strategic partnerships. As a healthcare executive, she has held roles previously with Coface, Express Scripts and Medco.



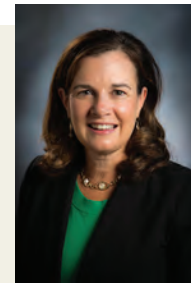
## DR. NANCY HEADRICK '78

of Kansas City, Missouri, is retired from an education career spanning more than 30 years. She served as director of a teacher preparation program with the Southern Regional Education Board and in leadership roles with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and with Family, Career and Community Leaders of America.



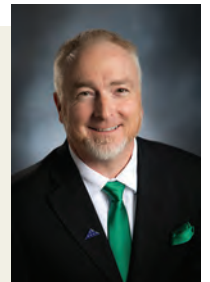
## DR. KERRY MILLER ROE '91, '95

a resident of Kansas City, Missouri, is employed with Scholastic Inc. as a professional learning manager for the Midwest region. She also has 20 years of experience as an elementary school principal, retiring from the Park Hill School District in 2020.



## DARIN STEPHENS '95

resides in Independence, Missouri, and is president and owner of Red Brothers Outdoors, which specializes in hunting accessories and optics and optoelectronics product development. Previously, he worked for Bushnell Outdoor Products as a senior product manager.



# #BEARCAT DAY OF GREEN

Support Northwest during our annual online day of giving!

April 2 & 3, 2025

1905 Minutes to Celebrate Northwest



**NORTHWEST FOUNDATION, INC.**  
NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

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## NORTHWEST FOUNDATION REPORTS SUCCESSFUL FY24, CONTINUES FOCUS ON SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

Northwest Foundation Inc., the fundraising arm of the University, **secured \$5.7 million in total giving during Fiscal Year 2024** in its efforts to support scholarships and campus upgrades. Scholarship support, which remains a central mission of the Foundation, **totaled nearly \$1.4 million and funded 1,437 scholarship awards** to Northwest students during the last fiscal year.

Learn more about giving to Northwest and review donor listings by visiting [www.nwmissouri.edu/foundation/annualreports/](http://www.nwmissouri.edu/foundation/annualreports/).

# 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](mailto:alumni@nwmissouri.edu).



## WESTERN IOWA/EASTERN NEBRASKA ALUMNI AND FRIENDS CHAPTER

The Western Iowa/Eastern Nebraska Alumni and Friends Chapter and Northwest Alumni Association staff met in July at Smokin' Oak Wood-Fired Pizza and Taproom in Omaha before a "jazz on the Green" concert.

Seated left to right in front are Elizabeth Geier Cline '19, Ron Cody '88, Denise Geier, Jacqueline Vincent Henningsen '66, Carl Henningsen '66, '70, Becky Livengood '78, Keven Livengood and Laurie Drummond Long '92. Standing in the middle row are Shane Miller '19, Sierra Horan Miller '19, '22, Kirayle Jones '21 with Elsie Jones, Grace McDonald Jones '21, Kenzie Schumacher Liles '19 with Emery Liles, Brooke Ravenscraft '17, '20, Anna Hutchinson, Fred Hutchinson '85, and Polly Ketterman Havard '87. In the back are CJ Blum, Chris Blum '92 and Duane Havard '90.



## ALUMNI AND FRIENDS SHOW BEARCAT PRIDE AT STURGIS RALLY

Northwest alumni and friends gathered in August at the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota. Left to right are Joe Kempf '75, Sue Erickson Lilly '77, '83, Susan Larson Hagen '77 and Jim Gillham '76, '80.



## ST. JOSEPH ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

The St. Joseph Alumni and Friends Chapter gathered for an evening of food, fun, fellowship and Bearcat Bingo during its 16th Barn Party on Oct. 11 at the home of Vic and Denise Kretschmar. A silent auction and 50/50 raffle also benefited the chapter's scholarship fund.

Kneeling in the front row are Cooper Curley, Jackson Curley, Grayson Svendsen and Joey Nash. Seated in the second row are Courtney Brooks, Anitra Svendsen '05, '07, and Everly Svendsen, Sherni Reeves '57, Keddy Springer Vaccaro '73, '82, Vinnie Vaccaro '73, Jan Erickson Corley '70, Emily Wormsley Greene '71, Charlotte Knorr, Charlie Knorr '61, Marvin Fine '64, '71, and Debbie Snodgrass Hinman '89. Standing in the third row are Roxanna Swaney '84, Deb Vaudrin Ballin '89, '98, Gretchen Mollenhour Curley '08, Sandy Pettit-Weber '92, '99, Jennifer Davidson Harman '97, '99, Marlin Roach '90, Gay Osborn Dittmore '67, Nancy Headrick '78, Mary McClanahan '71, Shannon Nash, Frances Fine, Tammie Schmitz, Sue Taylor, Debra Gutzmer and Denise Bower Kretschmar '71. In the back row are Duane Havard '90, Martin Curley '09, Connie Alexander, Art Homer, Byron Alexander, Scott Haman, Harold Johnson '64, Carole Lininger Johnson '63, '92, Mike Nash, Joe Zimmerman '70 and Joel Nash, Linda Raney Girard '64, Doug Schmitz '92, Rob Bolin '83, Mark Gutzmer, David May '80, Pam May '80, and Vic Kretschmar '70, '71.



**TKE ALUMNI CELEBRATE 70 YEARS**

More than 200 alumni of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity gathered May 31 through June 2 in Maryville to celebrate 70 years since the Delta Nu Chapter's founding at Northwest in 1954. The weekend's golf tournaments and activities raised more than \$10,000 for the fraternity and \$6,700 toward 28 individual scholarships through the Northwest Foundation.



**CENTRAL IOWA ALUMNI AND FRIENDS CHAPTER**

The Central Iowa Alumni and Friends Chapter gathered in June for an Iowa Cubs game in Des Moines. Pictured left to right, from front to back, are Dennis Bunch '69, Rich Sungren '68, Mary Sungren and Judy Bunch; Renee Hahn '94, Vicky Brown Wilson '66, Jim Wilson '66 and Ben Taylor '72; Perry Miller, Libby Hutzler Miller '91, Tim Sullivan '75 and Jane Laughlin Sullivan '75; Dennis Spark '73, Faith Spark, Betty Meyn '71, Dawnette Plumb '92 and Eric Wilson; Melissa Mincy '03, Marie Schreck Agey '90, '08, and Ken Agey '89.

**WEST CENTRAL IOWA ALUMNI AND FRIENDS CHAPTER**

The West Central Iowa Alumni and Friends Chapter gathered Nov. 8 for a tour of the Templeton Distillery before dinner at Barrel Smoke BBQ and The Still Bar & Grill in Templeton. Pictured left to right are Smoke Behrens, Steve Shaffer '83, Margee Shewmaker Shaffer '74, Ashley Brincks '19, Beth Haner, Chris Haner '83, Katie Haner, Colin Brown '18, Ty Lauritsen '18, Jake Petersen '17 and Aly Goos Behrens '14



**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](mailto:alumni@nwmissouri.edu).



SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND A CHAPTER NEAR YOU.

**TOURIN' BEARCATS TAKE TO SPAIN**

The Tourin' Bearcats travel program for alumni and friends explored Spain, May 24 through June 4.

Seated left to right in front are Janet Kelly Epperson '75, Brenda McClelland, Ruby Booth Riggs '66, Sue Zebelean Wagner '70, Nell Cowden '69, '71, '73, Monica Jenkins Wood '90, Susan Gladstone Tucker '76, '77, Paul England '81, Mary Eson, Jackie Vincent Henningsen '66, Carl Henningsen '66, Brice Willson '04, '05, Thad Willson, Theo Willson, Gretchen Whitman Willson '06, '10, and Christine Kerns. Standing in the middle are Selena Lawson '04, Stephanie Lawson, attd. 95-96, Polly Ketterman Havard, '87, and Emily Oster. Standing in the back are Terry Rinehart '75, '77, Kay Bromert, Bob Tucker, Karen Karg Woodard '79, '98, Robin Lindhorst, Susan Whitman '02, Michael Dalsing, Dell Epperson '75, Justin Whitman '08, Mike Kinman '81, David Barnett, Shirley Campbell Barnett '84, '93, Dr. Lance Tatum, Jill Tatum, Donna Davis Oster '89, JoAnn Oster, Ed Oster '87, Jim McClelland, Carma Greene Kinman '85, Fernando Fernández, David Sanchez and Duane Havard '90.



# NORTHWEST ALUMNI

NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY



Pictured left to right in the front row are Kimberly Cole, Emily Greene, Cherine Heckman, Debra James, Damian Bridges, Suzi Post and Elizabeth Cline. In the middle row are Brad Summa, Dave Teeter, Melissa Mincy, Sheila Wogomon, Amaira Peterson, Maureen Freese, Allison Atkinson and Janice Corley. In the back row are Christian Dixon, Chris Blum, Matt Gaarder, Brandon Benitz, Mike Harbit, Scott Ellis and Duane Havard.

**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.

Amaira Peterson, Platte 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

Christian Dixon '22, Annual Giving Specialist

Emily Wormsley Greene '71, Northwest Foundation Inc. Representative

Mike Johnson '85, Vice President of University Advancement and Executive Director of the Northwest Foundation Inc.

Melissa Giza Wellhausen '03, '19, Chief Finance Officer of the Northwest Foundation, Inc.

**MISSION:**

*The Northwest Alumni Association fosters lifelong relationships through initiatives and opportunities that advance the University and its alumni, future alumni and friends.*



## SAVE THE DATE!

Northwest Alumni Association  
**ALUMNI AWARDS BANQUET**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025**

**Agricultural Learning Center**

5 p.m. Social

6 p.m. Dinner and awards presentation

**The 2024-2025 Alumni Awards recipients:**

**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD**  
**Robyn Brinks Lockwood '91, '93**

**DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD**  
**Dr. David Kiene**

**DISTINGUISHED FACULTY EMERITUS AWARD**  
**Dr. James Eiswert**

**HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD**  
**Bob FitzSimmons**

**PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD**  
**Carrie Huke-Hibbeler '88**

**TURRET AWARD**  
**Vic '70, '71, and Denise Bower '71 Kretzschmar**

**YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD**  
**Nick Peterson '09**

For more information about the Alumni Awards Banquet and other upcoming events, visit [nwmissouri.edu/alumni/events/](http://nwmissouri.edu/alumni/events/). Details will be published online as they become available.



**NORTHWEST FOUNDATION, INC.**  
NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

# JOIN FELLOW ALUMNI AND FRIENDS WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE TODAY — AND FOR DECADES TO COME.

At Northwest Missouri State University, your impact extends far beyond your time on campus. By making a planned gift to Northwest, you can ensure that future generations of Bearcats will benefit from the same opportunities that shaped your journey.

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# 2024 FALL SPORTS RECAP

## CROSS COUNTRY

The men's cross country team recorded its second-best finish in school history, boasted three All-America performers and captured its first MIAA team title in 52 years this fall.

Under the direction of MIAA Coach of the Year and USTFCCCA Regional Coach of the Year Wick Cunningham '17, '19, the Bearcats claimed the second MIAA team championship in cross country program history. Senior transfer Grant Bradley became the first Bearcat male to win the MIAA individual championship, traversing the 8K course at Missouri Western State University in a time of 23:21.05, and Northwest had three of the top four finishers at the conference championship with Bradley in first, junior Nate Mueller in third and junior Drew Atkins in fourth.

The MIAA conference championship was the third race the Bearcat men won this fall.

The Bearcats also captured team crowns at the Roy Griak Invitational in Minneapolis and the Griffon Invite in St. Joseph, Missouri. Northwest had four competitors gain USTFCCCA All-Region status in Atkins, Bradley, Mueller and junior Tyler Blay.

With a second-place finish at the NCAA Central Regional in Joplin, Missouri, the Bearcats punched their ticket to the NCAA Championships in Sacramento, California. Northwest battled raining conditions Nov. 23 at the national meet and came away with a 10th-place team finish and three All-America accolades.

It marked the second-best team result in men's program history, only bested by a fifth place in 2019. Northwest's trio of All-America performances came from Bradley in 18th, Atkins in 19th and Mueller in 24th with his second consecutive All-America achievement.

The Bearcat men had 10 student-athletes



Alyna Thibault



Grant Bradley



Pictured left to right at the NCAA Division II Cross Country Championships are Tyler Blay, Brandon Mundorf, Nate Mueller, Sam Shipp, Grant Bradley, Drew Atkins and Riley Witt.



achieve a spot on the MIAA's Academic Honor Roll. Sophomore Riley Witt was named an MIAA Scholar-Athlete after nabbing All-MIAA honorable mention status with an 18th-place finish at the conference meet. Sophomore Ethan Easter was named an MIAA Academic Excellence Award recipient with a 4.00 GPA in agricultural science.

The Bearcat women's cross country team had a trio of runners gain All-MIAA status, and a duo finished in the top five at the conference meet.

Senior Alyna Thibault placed fourth and junior Lydia McGlocklin was fifth to help the Bearcats to a fourth-place team finish at

the MIAA Championships in St. Joseph. Sophomore Mayson Hartley garnered honorable mention All-MIAA status with a 20th-place finish.

The women capped their season with an eighth-place team finish at the NCAA Central Regional in Joplin. Thibault (15th) and McGlocklin (18th) gained USTFCCA all-region honors for their regional race finishes.

The Bearcat women had nine student-athletes receive recognition on MIAA's Academic Honor Roll. Hartley and McGlocklin gained MIAA Scholar-Athlete honors.

## VOLLEYBALL

The volleyball program continues to stack up winning seasons as the Bearcats put together their ninth consecutive above .500 season.

Amy Phelps Woerth '05, the program's all-time wins leader with 216 victories, guided the Bearcats to a 16-12 record and a 9-7 mark in the MIAA. Northwest reached the semifinals of the MIAA Tournament, after knocking off No. 25-ranked and No. 4-seeded Washburn in the quarterfinals.

Northwest faced the toughest schedule in the country in 2024 as its opposition had the nation's best winning percentage (66.1%). The Bearcats recorded three victories over top-25 foes with a five-set win at No. 25-ranked West Florida during the second weekend of play in Pensacola, Florida. Northwest also recorded a five-set win against then-No. 24-ranked Washburn in its home opener at Bearcat Arena on Sept. 27.

Senior Abby Brunssen capped her Bearcat career with a unanimous selection to the All-MIAA first team. Brunssen led the squad in kills (318), blocks (113) and points (382).

Senior Payton Kirchhoefer landed second-team All-MIAA status. She ranked second on the team in kills (274), and her 1,277 career kills rank No. 10 all-time for Bearcat players.

Senior Kyah Luhning also gained second-team All-MIAA laurels. Her 562 digs ranks as the ninth-best single-season total in Bearcat history, and she ranks No. 7 in school history with 1,410 career digs.

Sophomore Ella Caffery was an honorable mention all-MIAA performer. She led the squad in assists (813) and ranked second in blocks (57).

Northwest had 13 volleyball players named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll. Brunssen, Caffery, Kirchhoefer and Luhning were honored as MIAA Scholar-Athlete recipients. Kate Frakes, Gabrielle Gartner, Sophia Gartner, Kirchhoefer and Luhning all tallied 4.00 GPAs and were selected as MIAA Academic Excellence Award recipients.

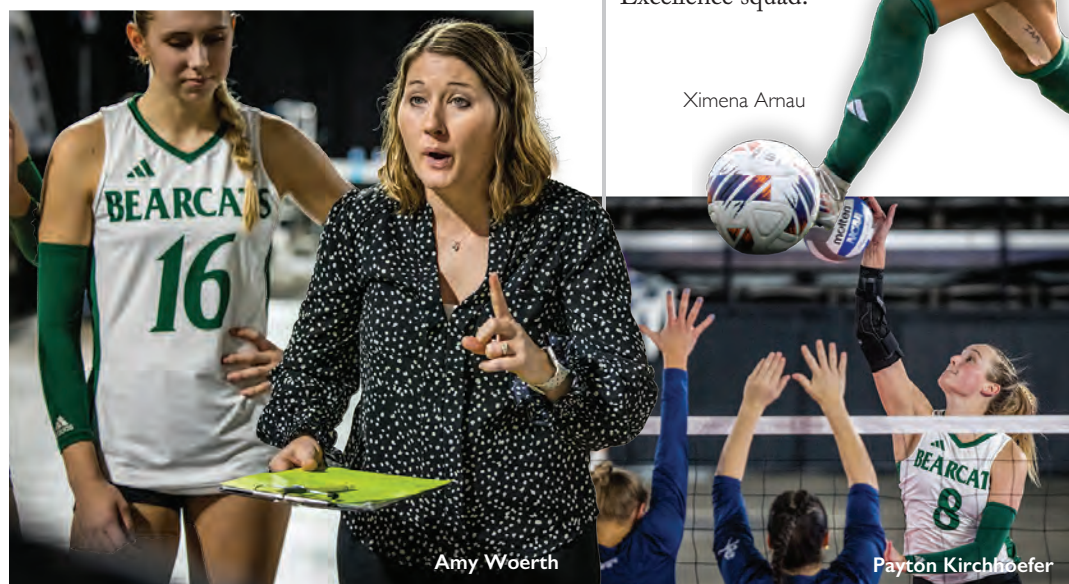
## SOCCER

The women's soccer team put together its fourth-straight winning season this fall under the direction of seventh-year head coach Marc Gordon and placed sixth in the MIAA standings. Northwest had an eight-game unbeaten streak in MIAA play from Sept. 29 through Oct. 25 with a 5-0-3 record while allowing just seven goals. The Bearcats' challenging non-conference schedule also yielded ties against No. 2 Grand Valley State (1-1) and No. 15 Minnesota State (0-0).

Sophomore midfielder Ximena Arnau, with six goals and two assists, captured first-team All-MIAA honors and second-team all-region honors. Sophomore Ekaterina Theoharidis was named a second-team All-MIAA player as she scored 10 goals and 25 points, coming up just one short of matching the school records for each mark.

A trio of Bearcats were named honorable mention All-MIAA in sophomore Makenna West, junior Moira Franck and junior Lily Ellis.

Northwest had 18 players named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll. Ellis, Franck, Theoharidis and West were honored as MIAA Scholar-Athlete selections. Theoharidis and West each put up 4.00 GPAs to earn slots on the MIAA's Academic Excellence squad.



Ximena Arnau

Amy Woerth

Payton Kirchhoefer

## GOLF

The women's golf team got a fresh look this fall with the addition of new head coach Lathan Croy '22, '24, and put up school-record-shattering efforts throughout the fall season.

The Bearcats produced a pair of second-place finishes at the Southwest Minnesota State Mustang Invite and the Midwest Fall Golf Classic at Mozingo Lake Golf Course in Maryville.

Northwest had the lowest

18-hole round in program history with a score of 290 in the first round of the Grace Shin Regional Preview in Edmond, Oklahoma, on Oct. 7. The Bearcats came up with the first two sub-600 36-hole scoring tournaments in program history at the Grace Shin Regional Preview (587 strokes) and at the Mustang Invite (597 strokes).

Senior Paige Hoffman notched the 36-hole scoring mark of 138 at the Grace Shin Regional Preview. She won the event for her second career medalist honor in a five-hole sudden-death playoff and tied the 18-hole school record of 68.

Senior Madilyne Schlaepfer gained her second career first-place finish at the Battle at Bayside in Brule, Nebraska, on Sept. 9-10.



Madilyne Schlaepfer



Marielena Muench

Vini Rodrigues

## TENNIS

Competition for the Bearcat women's and men's tennis teams this fall resulted in two players earning ITA Central Region rankings.

The Bearcat women sent five performers to Edmond, Oklahoma, for the ITA Central Region tournament Sept. 20-21. Junior Marielena Muench ranked No. 6 in singles in the Central

Region and reached the quarterfinals of the ITA regional, notching three victories.

The men's squad had seven individuals participate in the ITA Central Region meet in Topeka, Kansas, Sept. 27-28. Sophomore Dominik Wijntjes was No. 13 in the Central Region men's singles rankings and posted a pair of wins at the ITA regional tournament.

## FOOTBALL

The Bearcats finished 6-5 to extend the program's winning season streak to 29 years – the longest active streak among NCAA Division II programs.

The Bearcats overcame an 0-2 start by winning four straight games over No.

25 Fort Hays State, Missouri Southern,

Emporia State and Washburn. After two more setbacks, Northwest secured wins over Northeastern State and Missouri Western. Northwest dropped its season finale against No. 13-ranked Pittsburg State, 23-7.

Senior defensive lineman Jake Fisher was named the MIAA Defensive Lineman of the Year and gained first-team All-MIAA honors. He led the squad in tackles-for-loss (13.5) and quarterback sacks (6.5).

Senior defensive back Cahleel Smith

became only the third Bearcat to be a four-time first-team all-MIAA selection, joining Jamaica Rector '04 and Red Graham (1924-28) as the others in program history. Junior linebacker Carter Edwards gained first-team All-MIAA status, ranking second on the team in tackles (57) and third in tackles-for-loss (8).

Fourteen players earned all-MIAA honors and 56 student-athletes were named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll.

## FOOTBALL PROGRAM MAKES COACHING CHANGE

Northwest announced the hiring on Dec. 5 of John McMenamain '02 as the 21st head coach in its football program history.

McMenamin, a native of Elkhorn, Nebraska, most recently served as the offensive co-coordinator, pass game coordinator and wide receivers coach at Tulane University in New Orleans. Before that, he was the head coach for two seasons at Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska, where he served as an offensive coordinator from 2011 to 2014. McMenamain

also held coaching roles at the University of Central Missouri; Midland University in Fremont, Nebraska; the University of Nebraska-Omaha and Omaha Central High School.

At Northwest, McMenamain played football for the Bearcats from 1998 to 2002. In his final year, he was a team captain, first-team All-MIAA quarterback, and finished with 27 Northwest and MIAA passing records.

McMenamin succeeds Rich Wright '96 after Northwest announced in November that it would not renew Wright's contract when it expired Dec. 31. Wright had served as head coach since 2017.



# CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS REUNITE 25 YEARS LATER

Northwest paid homage Nov. 16 to a pair of Bearcat teams that helped mold the winning tradition the University knows today by celebrating members of its 1998 and 1999 national champion football teams.

Led by coach Mel Tjeerdsma '77, the 1998 team became the first Division II program to finish 15-0 when it beat Carson-Newman, 24-6, to capture the school's first NCAA national title. Loaded with firepower on both sides of the ball, the squad featured MIAA Offensive Player of the Year Chris Greisen '99 at quarterback with fellow All-American honorees Aaron Becker '01 on the defensive line, linebacker Aaron Crowe '99, offensive linemen Steve Coppinger '98 and Sherman Wilderness '97, and defensive back Twan Young.

The 1999 team, which finished with a record of 14-1, was known for its tenacity and ability to rally, including an epic 58-52 comeback against Carson-Newman in four overtimes to win its second national championship. The team was led by Travis Miles '01, '02, as its quarterback with All-American honorees Tony Miles '00 at wide receiver, running back David Jansen '00, kicker David Purnell '00 and offensive lineman Chad Thompson '99.

"There's a lot of pride in everything that we've done since then, and people – when they walk on campus, even for recruiting – step out on the field, and you see those first two years up there," said Joe Quinlin '00, who was a member of both championship teams and is now a strength and conditioning coach for Bearcat athletics. "It's a foundation. It's a cornerstone for what we have going."

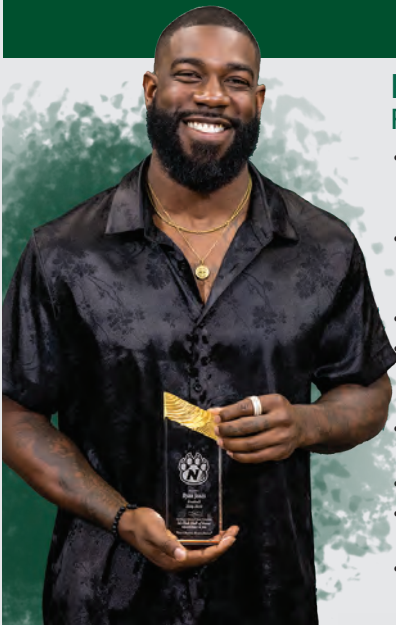


NORTHWEST WELCOMES NEWEST HALL OF FAME CLASS

# M-CLUB

Northwest inducted its 2024 M-Club Hall of Fame class Oct. 19 during an annual banquet as part of Homecoming weekend activities. Seven individuals and two teams joined the Hall of Fame, which now lists 176 individual inductees.

The M-Club Hall of Fame was established for individuals in 1980, and teams were first enshrined in 1989.



**RYAN JONES**  
FOOTBALL, 2006-2010

- Named 2010 MIAA Defensive Player of the Year as he led MIAA with six interceptions, including two returned for touchdowns.
- Named first-team All-America in 2010 by AP Little America, D2Football.com, American Football Coaches Association and Don Hansen Gazette.
- Played in 56 career games and registered 191 career tackles.
- Credited with 52 career passes defended (38 pass breakups and 14 interceptions), which ranks third in MIAA history and tied for 26 in NCAA Division II history.
- Ranks No. 8 in program history with 14 interceptions, including four in postseason play.
- Earned first-team All-MIAA status in 2009 and 2010.
- Member of the 2009 NCAA Division II national championship team.
- Presented Phil Voge Award in 2007 as Northwest's top freshman, tallying 53 tackles, three blocked kicks, two interceptions and a 72-yard fumble return for a touchdown.



**ERIK PETERSEN '92**  
FOOTBALL, 1988-1991

- Gained second-team Associated Press Little All-America honors in 1991.
- Earned three consecutive first-team All-MIAA selections in 1989, 1990 and 1991.
- Completed career as the Bearcats' all-time sacks leader with 21.5 and currently ranks No. 6 in program history.
- Tallied 152 career tackles.
- Led Northwest in sacks and tackles-for-loss in his sophomore (8 sacks, 7 TFLs), junior (9 sacks, 5 TFLs) and senior (4.5 sacks, 1 TFLs) seasons.

**KIRA LAZENBY '10**  
WOMEN'S SOCCER, 2008-2009

- The first Bearcat women's soccer player inducted into the M-Club Hall of Fame.
- As a goalkeeper, her 20 wins and 83.8% career save percentage rank third in program history.
- Recorded eight shutouts in her two seasons as a Bearcat, setting the single-season and career shutout marks for the program.
- Named MIAA Goalkeeper of the Year in 2009 and tallied first-team all-league status.
- Named MIAA Defensive Player of the Week on Oct. 13, 2009, after leading Northwest to shutout wins over Washburn and Truman State.
- Gained second-team All-MIAA honors in 2008.
- Transferred to Northwest from UTEP.





**KENDRA SMITH PORTER '00**  
SOFTBALL, 1997-2000

- Became eighth Bearcat to gain Academic All-America honors as a senior in 2000.
- Finalist for 2000 Ken B. Jones Award, recognizing the MIAA's top student-athletes.
- Named a first-team All-MIAA selection twice as an outfielder and earned second-team all-MIAA status in 1997 and 1998.
- Completed career as the program leader in hits (237), batting average (.396), runs (115) and stolen bases (51).
- Hit .456 as a senior for the third-highest single-season total in program history with 83 hits, which remains the program's single-season record.
- Holds the MIAA record with a 24-game hitting streak from March 28 through May 6 in 2000.
- Captured league batting title with .440 average in 1999 while helping the Bearcats to the MIAA tournament title.



Members of the 2007 and 2008 Bearcat football teams attending the fall induction ceremony included, left to right in the front row, Gerrit Hane '07, Xavier Omon '07, Mike Peterson '06, '10, Joel Osborn '09, '11, and Rich Wright '96. In the back row are Ryan Jones, Sean Paddock '09, '11, Reid Kirby '08, Jon Goss '07, '09, and Tommy Frevert '09.

**2007 FOOTBALL TEAM**

- Finished with a 12-2 overall record and 9-0 in MIAA play.
- Beat three top-four ranked teams in the NCAA Division II playoffs to reach Northwest's third straight NCAA Division II national title game – No. 4-ranked West Texas A&M, 56-28; No. 2-ranked Chadron State, 26-13; and No. 1-ranked Grand Valley State, 34-16 – before losing to Valdosta State in the final.
- The semifinal victory at home against Grand Valley State featured Xavier Omon '07 capping the scoring with a raucous 98-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter, snapping Grand Valley State's 40-game winning streak and its shot at three consecutive national titles.
- Head coach Mel Tjeerdsma '77 was honored as the MIAA Coach of the Year.
- Omon was named the MIAA offensive MVP, and Jared Erspamer '09 claimed the league's defensive MVP award.

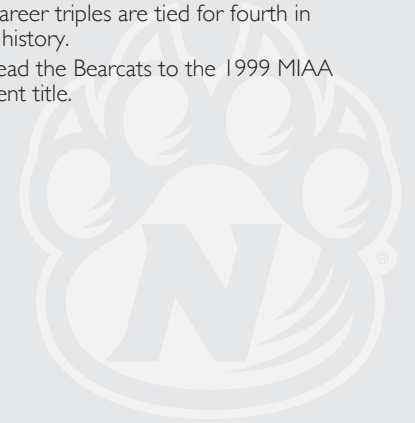
**2008 FOOTBALL TEAM**

- Reached fourth consecutive NCAA Division II national championship game, finishing with a 13-2 overall record.
- Finished 9-0 in MIAA action to extend a conference winning streak that reached 49 games in 2011.
- After losing their season opener at home against Abilene Christian, the Bearcats won 13 consecutive games – including playoff wins against Pittsburg State, 38-35; No. 2-ranked Abilene Christian, 45-36; and North Alabama, 41-7 – before losing to Minnesota-Duluth in the championship game.
- Quarterback Joel Osborn '09 earned the MIAA offensive MVP award.
- Myles Burnside '09, '10, was named MIAA defensive MVP and was selected as the Daktronics National Defensive Player of the Year and the Football Gazette's National Defensive Back of the Year.
- Head coach Mel Tjeerdsma '77 was named the AFCA National Coach of the Year.



**AMANDA URQUHART '00**  
SOFTBALL, 1997-2000

- Played in 134 games and made 133 starts during four seasons at third base for the Bearcats.
- Northwest's only three-time first-team All-MIAA pick in softball program history and earned second-team status in 1997.
- Recorded 383 assists, which ranks No. 3 in school history.
- Posted a .341 career batting average with 189 hits and 113 RBI.
- Her 10 career triples are tied for fourth in program history.
- Helped lead the Bearcats to the 1999 MIAA tournament title.





(Photo by Conrad Schmidt/  
Iowa Farm Bureau)

# CLASSNOTES

## LEADING FARMER

Hepp's passion, determination yield success

From helping local farmers harvest as a teenager to entering a crop-sharing agreement with a high school friend's family, James Hepp '13 is earning accolades for his work and contributions to his community.

In December, Hepp, of Rockwell City, Iowa, was one of three individuals to receive the 2024 Iowa Farm Bureau Young Farmer Leadership Award in recognition of farmers, ages 18 to 35, who actively contribute to their communities and demonstrate leadership within their county Farm Bureau and other groups.

He also was one of four finalists for the 2024 Iowa Leopold Conservation Award, which honors farmers and forestland owners who go above and beyond in their management of soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat on working land.

"Receiving the recognition from the Iowa Farm Bureau and the Iowa Leopold Conservation Award is a big deal," Hepp said. "I was really shocked when I got the call for both awards. I have really big shoes to fill, and I have just begun on my journey towards profitable, conservation-minded farming."

Hepp began his career as a crop insurance adjuster, first in Missouri and then in Iowa. Still wishing for a life in the field, though, he filled gaps in his insurance work by helping friends with corn and bean crops and cow-calf operations.

"That's where I really got hooked on farming," Hepp said, noting he likes to stay busy. "With crop adjusting, some weeks you would work 60 to 80 hours. Then, some weeks you'd go two weeks with nothing

to do. That drove me crazy."

Then, Hepp got a call from a high school friend whose father was nearing retirement and looking for help on their farm. Hepp started crop sharing with the family, maintaining 80 acres of corn and 80 acres of soybeans.

The agreement allowed Hepp to experiment with conservation and management practices. Within a few years, 1,400 acres were transferred to Hepp and he now farms soybeans, corn, rye and oats on the property. Hepp purchased the family's equipment and facilities. The family even sold their house to Hepp so he could live on the farm and start a family of his own.

Outside of maintaining his farm, Hepp works as a crop insurance agent and operates his own agency. In 2020, Hepp married Paige Volkens '17, and the couple has two young sons.

Additionally, he just finished his third year as president of the Calhoun County Farm Bureau, serves on the corn growers board and is a trustee for his township. He has volunteered at his local fire department since he was 19. He also serves as commissioner of the Calhoun County Soil and Water Conservation District.

In recognition of his Young Farmer Leadership Award, the Iowa Farm Bureau is providing a \$2,000 community grant to a local nonprofit. Hepp has directed it to the Hometown Heroes Memorial Ride in Rockwell City, which honors public safety professionals killed in the line of duty.

## 1960s

**Sarah Porter Byers '60** taught physical education for 30 years in Clearwater, Florida. She resides in Largo, Florida.

**Roger Weitlich '62** has authored a memoir, "The Father's Trust: Navigating Life's Journey." He retired as a controller with Ventura Foods in St. Joseph, Missouri.

**Barry Monaghan '69, '76**, was inducted into the Mount Ayr (Iowa) Community Schools Hall of Fame in September. After service with the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and more than a decade in teaching, he transitioned to the banking industry and advanced to president and CEO of Guthrie County State Bank and continues to serve as chairman of the board and president of Guthrie County Bancshares Inc.

## 1970s

**Laurie Hinz Fell '77, '85**, was honored last spring by the Charles E. Lakin Foundation, which annually recognizes educators in rural districts, with its Outstanding Teacher Award. She taught in Atlantic, Iowa, for nearly 30 years, retiring in 2014, and returned to teach kindergarten during the last two years.

**Michael Wutke '77** retired in 2022 after 10 years as an area supervisor of instruction with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and was recognized by the Missouri Association of School Administrators as Outstanding Emeritus Educator for 2020-21 in the Southwest Region. His wife, **Janet Brunner Wutke '78**, retired in 2021 after a 35-year career in accounting, banking and financial planning. They reside in Marshfield, Missouri.

**Kathy Brown '79** was inducted into the West Virginia Broadcasting Hall of Fame in October. She began her career in 1980 as a midday news anchor for WSAZ-TV in Huntington, West Virginia, and continued there as a reporter, managing editor and bureau chief until 2002. She then began practicing law and launched her own law practice in 2009. She now resides in Fuquay Varina, North Carolina.

## 1980s

**Amy Lawrence Torres '84** retired May 31 after 28 years of teaching in Laredo, Texas. She spent 12 years in the military before her teaching career.

**Dr. Denise Woods '85** is the founder of Total Care Chiropractic, a state-of-the-art clinic providing comprehensive and innovative chiropractic services that she established in 2004 in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

**Dr. Thomas Paulsen '87** was promoted in June to dean of the School of Agriculture and Aviation at Morningside University in Sioux City, Iowa, after serving as department head of its Regina Roth Department of Applied Agricultural and Food Studies since 2016.

**Chad Reece '88** is vice president for government and industry relations of Winnebago Industries in Forest City, Iowa, where he has been employed for 36 years, and was unanimously elected in June to serve as chair of the Iowa Association of Business and Industry Board of Directors for the 2025 fiscal year.

**Steve Schieber '89, '94**, began work in May as president of CHI Health St. Francis in Grand Island, Nebraska. He has more than 25 years of experience in health care leadership, most recently as chief executive officer for a four-hospital Critical Access Region with Kansas City, Missouri-based Saint Luke's Health System.

## 1990s

**Jodi Hester Baier '91** began this fall as a high school Spanish teacher in the Perry (Iowa) Community School District. She previously taught Spanish for 19 years in the Adel-De Soto-Minburn Community School District.

**Kelly Halsted '91** was named in April as the vice president of economic development of the Killeen (Texas) Economic Development Corp. She has more than 25 years of experience in global economic development at the state and local levels and most recently spent 12 years as economic development director for the Greater Fort Dodge (Iowa) Growth Alliance.

**Amy Farber Houts '91** was honored recently by the Missouri Writers' Guild with a first-place award in the category of Best Children's Picture Book for "God's Earth is Something to Fight For."

**Dirk Waller '92** was inducted in October to the Iowa High School Speech Association Hall of Fame. He has been a history teacher and speech coach at Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa, for 24 years.

**Dr. Heather Conley '93** began work in July as vice president of academics and innovation at Riverland Community College in Austin Minnesota. Previously, she worked as an independent contractor in addition to employment with Minnesota State College Southeast, Highlands College at Montana Technological University, Kirkwood Community College, Simpson College, Iowa State University and Montana State University Billings.

**Chelli Davis Green '93, '03, '23**, began this fall as principal at Eugene Field Elementary in Maryville. She has more than 30 years in education, including more than 22 years in the Maryville school district as an elementary and middle school teacher.



**TRACY PEDERSON PORTER '86, '89**, was honored as the Missouri Art Education Association Elementary Art Educator of the Year for 2024. She retired this year after 31 years of teaching in Missouri and Kansas.



**TIM '87 AND ALICIA REYES '91 SATRE** celebrated 31 years of marriage in May. Tim is a certified financial planner and operates Satre Financial Group Inc. Alicia is a physician liaison with Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas. They reside in Sour Lake, Texas.



**TOM COLE '95, '97**, began Aug. 1 as city administrator for Platte City, Missouri, continuing nearly 30 years of government administration. He and his wife, **Katherine Mason Cole '96**, reside in Liberty, Missouri, where she is a children's pastor at Liberty Christian Fellowship.



Members of the Gose family include, in back from left to right, Tracey and Peter Gose, Grant Gose, and Diane Scheneman Gose. In front are Tracey and Peter's children, Graham and Gillian.

was a local pharmacist, avid supporter of Bearcat athletics and advocate for student organizations as well as a leader with the American Association of University Women. "When I was in high school (in Maryville), Dad was so instrumental in getting the Owens Library, getting the performing arts center built, and just his enthusiasm was so infectious," Peter said.

Peter was active with Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and Student Senate and was a student ambassador and Freshman Seminar instructor. He is employed with Lumen Technologies as regulatory affairs director. He also has served as an instructor for the Executive MBA program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and as a guest lecturer at Washington University in St. Louis.

Grant's mother, Diane Scheneman '89 Gose, was a member of the Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority and a SigEp Golden Heart. She also was a Residence Hall Council member and participated in numerous education-based organizations. She is employed as a special education teacher with Omaha Public Schools in Nebraska.

Grant's uncle, Chris Gose '92, also was active with Sigma Phi Epsilon and Student Senate. He is the founder of CCI Communications, an integrated telecommunications firm providing global enterprise-level voice and data services. He and his wife, Michelle, reside with their children in Holladay, Utah.

## GOSE FAMILY SELECTED AS 2024 NORTHWEST FAMILY OF THE YEAR

The Gose family of Parkville, Missouri, is Northwest's Family of the Year, a recognition bestowed each fall during Family Weekend activities on a family who represents Northwest and demonstrates a strong commitment to the institution.

Grant Gose, a senior cyber assurance major, nominated his family to honor their legacy at the University. His grandfather, Warren Gose, served as the vice president of finance at Northwest from 1980 until retiring in 1996; he died in 2014.

"He'd just be very pleased. He really lived for the University," said Peter Gose '87, '88, Grant's father and a son of Warren.

At Northwest, Warren oversaw financial aspects related to the construction of B.D. Owens Library, the Ron Houston Center for the Performing Arts and alternative energy programs. He also worked closely with then-President Dr. Dean Hubbard and Dr. Jon Rickman to obtain the funding needed to launch Northwest's innovative "electronic campus" initiative in 1987, making it the first public institution in the nation with networked computers in every residence hall room and faculty office.

Warren also taught accounting courses at Northwest and was a member of the Maryville Rotary Club. His wife, Barbara,



**CHRIS TRIEBSCH '97** was named in April as chief communications officer for the city of Lincoln, Nebraska, leading a communications team in the Office of the Mayor and overseeing communications in coordination with 13 city departments.

Liberal Arts program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He resides in Shawnee, Kansas.

**Scott Jones '99** has worked as a writer and producer with Disney Branded Television in Los Angeles since 2006. Among his most recent projects, he was involved with the trailer and social media shorts for Disney Television Animation's "Big City Greens the Movie" and marketing for "Elton John Live: Farewell from Dodger Stadium" on Disney+.

## 2000s

**Jeff Brewer '95** was named in June as the director of athletics at Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kansas, where he has served as head softball coach since 2019 in addition to assistant athletic director. Previously, he coached at Lyon College in Arkansas, Pratt Community College in Kansas and Carleton College in Minnesota.

**Brandy Maltbia Woodley '97** was honored in May with the Federal Executive Board's Distinguished Community Service Award for excellence in public service. She is an editor at the Department of Military History at the U.S. Army Command and

General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and serves as a member of the Park Hill School District board.

**Jeff Jorgenson '98** received the 2024 Friend of Agriculture Award from the Shenandoah (Iowa) Chamber and Industry Association in August. He has farmed in Fremont County for 28 years and also received the Iowa Soybean Association's Policy Champion Award earlier in the year.

**Dr. Steven Melling '99** was promoted to teaching professor and named director of the Bachelor of

**Justin Burton '01** joined KXXV-KRHD, the ABC television affiliate in Waco, Texas, as station manager in June. He most recently served as managing director with Spectrum News 1 in Austin, Texas, and has had previous assignment editor, news director and newsroom roles in Portland, Oregon; Bakersfield, California; Kansas City, Missouri; Los Angeles; and Beaverton, Oregon.





**THOMAS SANCHEZ '02** recently was appointed board chair of The Trevor Project, a leading organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBTQ+ youth. He has been a board member since 2016 and continues as chief executive officer of Social Driver, a Washington, D.C.-based digital marketing firm he co-founded.

at the University of Kansas, a strategic partner manager at TreviPay and vice president of business development at Photon Commerce, among other roles.

**Janelle Higgins '09** recently was named an assistant softball coach at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. She served as head coach for the past 12 seasons at North Platte (Nebraska) Community College.

## 2010s

**Matt Matthews '10** recently was named executive director of the Anton Art Center, a nonprofit offering a variety of programming in Mount Clemens, Michigan. He has more than a decade of experience in nonprofit leadership, most recently as associate director at Playworks Michigan.

**Dr. Samantha Davis '11** began work in July as coordinator of counseling for the St. Joseph School District. She had served as department chair of counseling at Lafayette High School in St. Joseph for six years and previously worked in the Union Star and Liberty school districts.

**Clint Coffelt '12** joined the FCS Financial teams last spring in Maryville and St. Joseph as assistant vice president of crop insurance. Coffelt and his family have a small row crop and cow-calf operation near Skidmore, where they have farmed and lived for the last 14 years. Previously, Coffelt was employed as a crop adjuster with Great American Crop Insurance, serving northwest Missouri, northeast Kansas and southwest Iowa.

**Anthony Williams '12, '17**, was appointed in July as the first deputy superintendent and chief law enforcement officer of Indiana University Public Safety. He had served with Northwest's University Police Department for nearly 15 years.

**Shea Boughton '13** is employed as an English teacher with Sine Education Service in Saraburi, Thailand. He previously taught in Thailand in 2020.

**Dan Carlson '13** transitioned this fall to strength and conditioning coach at Litchfield (Illinois) High School, where he was the head football coach for the previous three seasons. He has taught social studies at high schools in Belleville, Collinsville and Litchfield.

**David McDorman '13, '14**, was named last spring as athletic director at Liberty North High School. He had been a teacher and administrator at Liberty High School for the past decade, most recently serving as principal since 2019. His wife, **Eva McDorman '08**, recently was promoted to education and training director at The Builders, a Kansas City-based chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America.

**Michelle Pelzer Spunaugle '13** recently began work as conservation director with Page County (Iowa) Conservation. She previously worked as a park ranger and manager in Hamilton County, Black Hawk State Park and Lake Manawa State Park, all in Iowa.

**Sarah LaBarr '01** works as a singer and actor and recently was elected to a four-year term as central regional vice president for Actors' Equity Association, the union representing professional actors and stage managers working in theaters throughout the country. She also serves as the chair of Equity's National Public Policy Committee.

**Mat Vleisides '01** was recognized in May as a Blue KC Sporting Samaritan. He is in his second year as a special services teacher at Pleasant Lea Middle School in Lee's Summit, Missouri. He has worked in education for 23 years as a teacher, coach and administrator.

**Eric Weuve '01, '04**, joined the farm business management team last spring at Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. He has taught ag education at the collegiate level since 2006, most recently at Ellsworth Community College in Iowa Falls, and he farms with his father near McCallsburg, where they grow corn and soybeans.

**Justin Mahoney '02** recently joined First Business Bank as president for the Kansas City market. He has more than 20 years of commercial banking experience.

**Carrie Howard Livengood '02, '13**, began this fall as a high school principal in the West Nodaway R-I School. She has worked in education for 19 years as a junior high and high school math teacher, most recently as a middle school math teacher in the Craig School District, and in administration.

**Dr. Kevin Schlomer '02** began work in July as principal of Clarke Elementary School in Osceola, Iowa. His wife, **Jennifer Boyer Schlomer '02**, is employed as a counselor with Des Moines Public Schools, and they reside in Indianola, Iowa.

**Jon Sandoval '03** recently joined Minnesota-based Sunrise Banks as its chief information officer. He had been employed with Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, Iowa, since 2013, most recently as vice president and director of information technology. He also worked in IT roles at Aviva Investors in Des Moines and London, and at Hewlett Packard in Corvallis, Oregon.

**Bryan Seiter '04** recently joined Acuity Insurance as regional market director. He resides in St. Joseph, Missouri.

**Dr. Kara Ferguson Davis '05** joined the faculty at University of South Carolina Upstate last year as

an assistant professor of community health. She also has had a variety of roles at Furman University, University of South Carolina and Radford University.

**Cameron McCoy '05** has joined Iowa PBS as its director of content. His prior experience in television production and educational programming includes work as a video producer with the Iowa Department of Education and as a producer and director with Iowa PBS.

**Kelly Smith Vongnarath '05, '11**, was named in May as vice president of student life at Carl Albert State College in Poteau, Oklahoma. She has more than 15 years of experience in higher education in roles such as academic success advisor at Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, advising coordinator for the college of STEM and director of Upward Bound Math/Science at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, and director of new student orientation at Texas A&M University-Commerce.

**Dr. Ryan Douglas '06, '08**, joined College of the Ozarks this fall as an assistant professor of business. He had served in various roles at the University of Mount Olive in North Carolina since 2018. His career also has included faculty roles at Grantham University in Arkansas and Highland Community College in Kansas. He also worked in accounting roles for Cerner Corp., Burns and McDonnell, Ferrellgas Partners L.P. and Mediware Information Systems.

**Melissa Sullivan '06** is a merchandising execution associate at Home Depot in St. Joseph, Missouri. She has been employed with the company for 17 years.

**Alisha Samuel '06, '09**, recently was named assistant coach for track and field at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York. She has coached previously at St. Catherine University in Minnesota, William Jewell College in Missouri and Oberlin College in Ohio.

**Dallas Giedd '08, '15**, began this fall as superintendent of the Jefferson C-123 School District. He has 19 years in education, including the last three as a K-12 physical education teacher at Jefferson and 14 years in the Park Hill School District as a math teacher and administrative intern.

**Dr. Angela Murphy '08, '13**, joined Pidgin in April as its vice president of marketing and solutions. She was employed previously as an instructor



**DR. BRIAN GERAGHTY '14** was honored in October by Kansas City University with its Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD) award. He completed his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree with a Master of Arts in biomedical ethics from Kansas City University in 2018 and serves as an orthopedic surgery trauma fellow at Duke University Hospital.

**Amanda Ueligger '13** began work in July as principal at Parkway Elementary School in St. Joseph, Missouri. She has been employed with the district for 12 years as a teacher, math interventionist, summer school site director, curriculum advisor and most recently as assistant principal at Lindbergh Elementary.

**Hannah Iversen '14, '21**, started in July as the director of special services in the Kearney School District. She has been a special education professional since 2013, most recently as the special services process coordinator for Grain Valley R-V School District.

**Tuff Wimberly '14** has been employed as a game warden with the New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish since November 2015 and was promoted in March to sergeant of the Belen/Grants Supervisory District.

**Brianna Dillavou '15** was named director of the Southern Prairie Family Fitness Center in Creston, Iowa. She previously taught middle school and high school history in St. Joseph, Missouri.

**Sydney Broner Johnson '15, '20, '21**, began this fall as assistant principal at Dogwood Elementary School in the Kearney (Missouri) School District. She had been an elementary teacher in the school district since 2016.

**Dr. Meredith Ussery '15** began work in July as principal of Princeton (Missouri) R-V Junior High and High School. She had served as the district's special education director for the past eight years and has been with the district since 2009.

**Dr. Maci Hicks '16** completed her residency training in June with the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita Family Residency Program at Smoky Hill Family Medicine in Salina, Kansas. She has begun practicing with Memorial Health System Heartland Health Care Clinic in Abilene, Kansas.

**Tyson Higel '16** authored a book of poetry "Confessions of a Stutterer," published in September. He lives in Bellingham, Washington, where he works as a nurse, and his writing has appeared in numerous literary magazines.

**Dr. Jeals Brines '17** recently joined the Family Medicine team at Cass Health in Atlantic, Iowa.

She completed her family medicine residency in June at Unity Point Health Iowa Lutheran Hospital in Des Moines.

**Michael Hobson '17** was named in May as the beach volleyball head coach at Austin Peay State University in Tennessee. He has more than 10 years of professional and collegiate coaching experience, most recently at the University of Louisiana Monroe.

**Dr. Mikaila Wallace '17** has joined Mosaic Family Care-Maryville. She completed her residency in August at the family medicine program in Lincoln, Nebraska.

**Dr. Danae Schieber Holtman '18** joined Reign Physical Therapy in Maryville last spring. She was previously employed at Mosaic Medical Center-Maryville in its outpatient/inpatient therapy center.

**Marissa Jarnagin '18, '21**, recently was named School Counselor of the Year by the Missouri School Counselor Association. She is a counselor at Platte County High School.

**Jacob Watson '19** began in July as assistant superintendent for the Southern Boone County R-I School District in Ashland, Missouri. He served previously as a principal in Camdenton, Cole County, Eugene and Jamestown and taught in Tipton.

## 2020s

**Dana Dunbar '21** joined the University of Nebraska Athletic Department as finance coordinator. She was employed previously as the director of softball operations and the coordinator of compliance and student-athlete services at McNeese State University in Louisiana.

**Christine Pruett '21** began this fall as assistant principal of Zitzman Elementary in Pacific, Missouri. She has worked in the Meramec Valley R-III School District since 2017 as a fifth-grade teacher and most recently as the district's curriculum and instructional coach.

**Dennis Dent '22** began this fall as principal of Clark County R-1 High School in Kahoka, Missouri. He served as the school's assistant for the

previous two years as well as head boys basketball coach and assistant football coach.

**Kaitlin Graham '22** is a freelance copywriter and resides in St. Joseph, Missouri.

**Dylan Klewer '22** began this fall as the assistant primary and intermediate principal for the Cassville (Missouri) R-IV School District. He began his career there as a special education teacher.

**Stephanie Martin '22** began in July as assistant principal at Cedar Ridge Elementary in Branson, Missouri. She has been employed with the school district since 2018, most recently as a special education teacher.

**Avery Mather '22** was promoted to vocal music director at Smith-Cotton High School in Sedalia, Missouri. He had been an elementary school music teacher in the district for the past two years.

**Mallory McConkey '22** was promoted in July to assistant women's basketball coach at Doane University in Nebraska. She served as a graduate assistant for the past two years, completing a master's degree this year.

**London Brown '23** recently joined FCS Financial as a loan officer in Columbia, Missouri. He transferred from the FCS Financial Maryville office, where he spent the last year training.

**Liz Goodwin '23** started this fall as principal for pre-K through sixth grade with the Pekin (Iowa) Community School District. She has spent 17 years in education, including the last seven at Washington Community Schools in Iowa.

**Mallory Mahon '23** began this fall as principal of Fairfield (Iowa) High School. She has worked 16 years in education, including as band director and coordinator of student services in the Fairfield Community School District.

**Amanda Prine '23** began this fall as a second-grade teacher in the Fort Scott (Kansas) School District and is in her 14th year in education.

**Ty Ratliff '23** began this fall as principal at Shenandoah (Iowa) High School after six years with the school as a physical education instructor, strength and conditioning coach, and head football and track coach.

**Sam Reeves '23** joined KLKC Radio in Parsons, Kansas, last spring as an account executive. He worked the previous year as a sports broadcaster and sales representative with My Town Media in Pittsburg, Kansas.

**Keli Schneider '23** was named Teacher of the Year last spring by Washington's Investment In Great Schools (WINGS) Foundation. She has worked in education for 15 years, including the last 13 years as a first-grade teacher in the Washington, Missouri, school district.

**Carson Wilson '23** is pursuing a Master of Science in Anesthesia at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine while serving as a student anesthesiologist assistant.

# IN MEMORIAM

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

**Sally Agre '68**, age 78, of Coon Rapids, Iowa, died May 30. She taught in Forest City for 53 years.

**Barbara Antle '56**, age 90, of Stewartville, Missouri, died July 22. She was an educator in the St. Joseph School District.

**Katherine Davis Baldwin '73**, age 80, of Hopkins, Missouri, died May 21. She had a 31-year teaching career at schools in Sheridan and Pickering in Missouri and primarily in Bedford, Iowa.

**Col. Jennings "JB" Beavers II '68**, age 77, of Jacksonville, North Carolina, died June 2. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 31 years and then was employed with Coastal Carolina Community College and Marine Corps Community Services as director of base education.

**Gary Bergstrom '85**, age 81, of Lincoln, Nebraska, died July 31. He served in the U.S. Navy and had a career in teaching social studies, driver education and coaching in Blue Hill and Stanton in Nebraska and in Bridgewater-Fontanelle and Griswold schools in Iowa, retiring in 2005.

**Harvey "Mert" Beuerman '58**, age 87, of Merced, California, died March 22. He taught chemistry at Merced College for 31 years.

**Marvin Black '57, '72**, age 88, of Bentonville, Arkansas, died July 23. He taught for 37 years in Iowa schools, primarily mathematics, and served as an administrator.

**David Church III '11, '21**, age 75, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died Aug. 2. He had careers in advertising and later in teaching.

**LeRoy Coffelt**, age 77, of Ravenwood, Missouri, died Nov. 3. He served in the U.S. Army and then worked for several years at Laclede Chain, the Maryville Treatment Center and Northwest from 1995 to 2000 as a boiler operator.

**Taylor Coker '18**, age 27, of Kansas City, Kansas, died Nov. 12. He was employed at Edward Jones as a financial advisor.

**Bob Cornelison '66**, age 81, of Rochester, New York, died July 14. After serving in the U.S. Army, he was employed as a chemical engineer with Eastman Kodak Company and then had a second career in horticulture, working at various nurseries.

**Mervyn Copeland '60**, age 84, of Carmel, Indiana, died April 8. He was an educator and served as a civilian employee with the Department of the Army at the Pentagon for 30 years.

**Patty Beeks Dowden '70**, age 75, of Kansas City, Missouri, died Aug. 5. She served as a substitute teacher in Maryville schools and taught adult basic education. She also was employed as a secretary at Union Carbide and clerked auctions.

**Autumn Sparks Early '04**, age 42, of Leawood, Kansas, died April 9. She was a teacher at The Goddard School for Early Childhood Development and Awesome Kids Preschool in Leawood.

**Reggie Edelman '67**, age 79, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died Aug. 12. He worked in social services for 30 years.

**Marian John Everhart '63**, age 90, of Skidmore, Missouri, died July 23. She taught elementary school for 42 years.

**Caroline Fankhauser '74**, age 88, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died Sept. 20. She taught for 32 years, retiring in 2002.

**Raymond Faye '67**, age 80, of Yukon, Oklahoma, died July 6. He served in the Illinois National Guard and was employed in production and manufacturing with Western Electric, later as AT&T and then Lucent Technologies.

**Donnie Fields '98, '09**, age 50, of Green Castle, Missouri, died Sept. 14. He was a teacher and coach.

**Dennis Fineran '73**, age 73, of Denison, Iowa, died July 10. He owned and operated a construction business and was co-owner of Community Oil. He also worked as a farmer, driver's education instructor and police officer, and he served as mayor of Denison for six years.

**Karen Randall Fischer '64, '86**, age 81, of King City, Missouri, died May 26. She spent more than 30 years in elementary education, mostly teaching second grade in King City. She also taught in Independence, Amazonia and Savannah.

**Annette Flint '79**, age 66, of Fremont, Nebraska, died May 3. She worked as a designer of seasonal merchandise and home décor for several companies.

**Ray Forret '58**, age 91, of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, died May 19. After serving in the U.S. Army, he taught high school industrial arts for 20 years in Calumet and West Union in Iowa. He then managed Wesley Woods Camp in Indianola, Iowa, and was employed as a security guard with Wells Fargo Bank for 20 years until his retirement.



**James Gabriel '71**, age 76, of Catonsville, Maryland, died Sept. 4. He served as the chief financial officer of Baltimore Catholic Charities for three decades.

**John Garner '55**, age 91, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, died Aug. 26. He served in the U.S. Marines and then began his 30-year-career with Caterpillar Inc., starting as a sales representative in Peoria, Illinois, then as a service manager overseeing operations in Africa, and eventually in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he was president and chief executive officer of a dealership. He spent the last 11 years of his career as president of Flavorite Laboratories in Memphis, Tennessee.

**Josephine "Jody" Campbell Garreau '71**, age 75, of Lake Saint Louis, Missouri, died June 20. She worked in social services in Chillicothe, Maryville and Houston in Missouri, before moving to South Korea, where she worked in social services with the U.S. Army and continued that work at Fort Bliss, Texas, and at VA hospitals in St. Louis.

**Martha Lewis Geist '47**, age 97, of Ames, Iowa, died April 17. She taught in Corning, Red Oak, Mount Ayr and Creston before moving to Ames where she taught junior high for 22 years.

**Stephen Goodlet '73, '82**, age 72, of New Market, Missouri, died Jan. 28. He taught in the West Platte School District from 1973 until retiring in 2020.

**Nancy Green '77**, age 80, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died Oct. 8. She taught for 30 years.

**Jan Bagley Grider '71**, age 75, of Carrollton, Missouri, died Oct. 16. She was a preschool, elementary and middle school teacher for more than 25 years.

**Byron Gunsolley Jr. '68**, age 78, of Maryville, died Sept. 8. After service in the U.S. Army, he worked for 22 years at the Maryville Daily Forum and then at St. Francis Hospital until retirement.

**Bill Henton '71**, age 76, of Neosho, Missouri, died Aug. 6. He taught junior and senior high school and coached for 36 years.

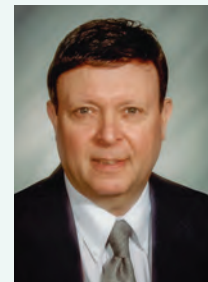
**Shirley Heumader '59**, age 88, of Palm Desert, California, died May 9. She was an elementary school teacher and principal in the Sunnyvale School District for 26 years.



**Dr. Barbara Heusel**, age 89, of Tallahassee, Florida, died May 10. She was a faculty member at Northwest from 1990 until retiring in 2005 as a professor of English. She also taught at Furman University in South Carolina, Wake Forest University in North Carolina and at Florida State University.

**Steve Hilton '78**, age 75, of Bullhead City, Arizona, died April 10. He served in the U.S. Army and spent many years working in southern California as a lab tech, consultant and IT administrator, retiring in 2016.

**Susan Jones Hunt '76**, age 70, of Kansas City, Missouri, Oct. 15. She was a teacher for 32 years in the Park Hill School District in Kansas City, Missouri, retiring in 2008.



**Doug Jackson '71**, age 78, of Jefferson, Iowa, died July 8. He was a music teacher.

**Dr. Ted Jamison, Jr. '64**, age 91, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died Oct. 22. He served in the U.S. Air Force and then taught at Westmar College in Iowa, San Antonio College, Southwest Texas State University, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Bellevue University and Del Mar College. He also served as historian for the Strategic Air Command at Offutt Air Force Base at Omaha, Nebraska.

**Richard Jennings '70**, age 76, of Stanberry, Missouri, died May 4. He was a lifelong farmer.

**Deon Jensen '57**, age 89, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died Aug. 5. He taught instrumental music for 30 years.

**Betty Johnston '86**, age 71, of Omaha, Nebraska, died Oct. 9. She taught second grade and sixth grade in the Griswold (Iowa) Community School District and then was its elementary principal until retiring.

**Carol Nelsen Kallesen '86**, age 87, of Audubon, Iowa, died Aug. 21. She retired in 2000 after 42 years of teaching.

**Ed Kavanaugh '60**, age 86, of Kansas City, Missouri, died June 28. He practiced orthodontics for 57 years.

**Dawn Carlson Keenan '87**, age 75, of Manchester, Iowa, died July 6. She was employed as an upper elementary special education teacher in Corning and Independence and then was a program assistant with B&D Services and Midwest Opportunities.

**Marlin Kinman '74**, age 75, of Ravenwood, Missouri, died Nov. 12. He was a teacher and administrator in South Nodaway and Northeast Nodaway schools, retiring in 2003 after 32 years. Since then, he had been employed with Price Funeral Home in Maryville.



**Gerry Kramer**, age 83, of Pittsburg, Kansas, died April 26. He taught at Northwest in marketing and management from 1988 to 1999 and was an adjunct faculty member from 2002 until 2012.

**Brent Kuehl '92**, age 53, of Ankeny, Iowa, died Aug. 6. He worked in trading, most recently with MidAmerican Energy.

**Kevin Leedom '92**, age 66, of Pickering, Missouri, died March 16. He owned and operated a home improvement business.

**Myra Morey Lillie '69, '72**, age 77, of Mesa, Arizona, died June 5. She taught in Bolckow, Missouri, and in Algona and Creston in Iowa, retiring in 2002.

**Jack Little '58**, age 88, of Springfield, Missouri, died April 1. He began his education career as a physical education teacher and coach in Garden City, Missouri, and then was a principal at Sherwood High School in Creighton, an advisor and director of housing at the University of Central Missouri and principal at Clinton High School, retiring in 1988.

**Larry Love '76**, age 69, of Jackson, Tennessee, died Sept. 9. He was employed in manufacturing with Bendix Corporation and Delta Faucet Co.

**Lindsay Little Mattix '04, '05**, age 41, of Lenexa, Kansas, died Sept. 10. She was employed with Oracle, formerly Cerner Corp.

**Fritz McGinness '61**, age 89, of Leawood, Kansas, died Aug. 31. He began his career as a high school teacher, coach, assistant principal and athletic director and then was an assistant director with the Kansas State High School Activities Association for five years. He served as an assistant and associate director of the National Federation of State High School Associations from 1977 to 2000.

**Gilda Guynn McIntosh '82**, age 77, of Columbia, Tennessee, died Nov. 2. She was employed as a director of nursing.

**Charles Meek '59**, age 91, of Chillicothe, Missouri, died Oct. 7. He served in the Air Force as a military policeman and then was employed for 33 years as a high school history teacher, basketball coach, junior high school principal and high school principal.

**Jason Melnick '98**, age 51, of Milan, Missouri, died Nov. 13. After playing professional football in Germany, he became a teacher and coach, working in Maysville, Maryville, Schuyler County, Kirksville, Smithville and Milan.

**Allyn Monaghan '71, '83**, age 75, of Guthrie Center, Iowa, died Aug. 2. He worked as a high school history teacher and coach in the Adair-Casey Community School District before becoming a high school principal in Buffalo Center, Iowa, where he received a School Administrators of Iowa Principal of the Year award. He ended his career as a high school principal for the Hubbard-Radcliffe Community School District.

**David Moore '69**, age 82 of Fitchburg, Wisconsin, died June 2. He served in the U.S. Army and had a career in the insurance industry, retiring in 2005 as chairman and chief executive officer of Ameritas Life Insurance Corp.



**Doug Moore**, age 81, of Platte City, Missouri, died May 2. He served in the Army and farmed in Gravity, Iowa, before working as farm manager at Northwest from 1984 to 2003 and then as part of the University's grounds crew until 2008.

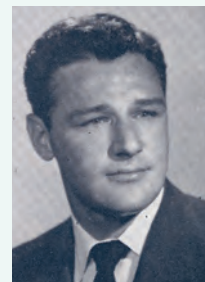
**Sister Mary Teresa Morris '83**, age 72, of Atchison, Kansas, died June 5. A nurse since 1972 and a member of Mount St. Scholastica Monastery since 1978, she served in hospitals, long-term care facilities and home health settings.

**Dr. Geraldine Busby Murphy '65, '69**, age 88, of Lenexa, Kansas, died Aug. 21. She taught for 27 years at North Nodaway High School in Hopkins, and then worked in the registrar's office at Northwest.



**Kay Murphy '70**, age 92, of Omaha, Nebraska, died Oct. 10. She was employed at Northwest as a reference librarian from 1964 until 1997.

**Shari Blunt Myers '96**, age 51, of Maryville, died July 10. She worked for 30 years at Maryville Living Center.



**George Nathan '54**, age 97, of Mountain View, California, died June 9. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and retired as a sales rep with Sahara Sports Wear. In 1972 at Northwest, he established the Don Black Award, which is presented annually to the most

valuable Bearcat player in the Homecoming football game.

**Betty Williams Nelson '61**, age 84, of Skidmore, Missouri, died July 26. She taught home economics in the Maryville R-II School District prior to starting a family.

**Ronald Nissen '74**, age 78, of California, died Sept. 20. He worked in construction in California, retiring in 2022.



**Russ Northup '65, '90**, age 81, of Mound City, Missouri, died June 15. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1966 until retiring in 1994 after 28 years of service. After a career in business and management, he taught marketing and management courses at Northwest from 1990 until retiring as an assistant professor in 2004.

**Dr. Arthur Norton '58**, age 91, of Warrensburg, Missouri, died May 9. He served in the U.S. Air Force and was a professor and chair of the Department of Accounting at Central Missouri State University from 1965 to 1993.



**Angie Pettit '95**, age 51, of Lone Jack, Missouri, died April 19. She was a special education teacher in Oak Grove.

**Jeff Peiffer '80**, age 67, of Sioux City, Iowa, died July 20. He taught and coached at high schools for more than 40 years as well as coursework for Northeast Community College, Western Iowa Tech Community College and various online schools, in addition to owning and operating a home inspection business.

**Dorothy McCartney Phillips '52**, age 93, of Bella Vista, Arkansas, died May 27. She was a high school teacher and later was employed with Hallmark, Zondervan publishing company and InterVarsity Press, retiring in 1991.

**Dr. Richard Phillips '57**, age 90, of Boulder, Colorado, died July 10. He began his career as an associate minister at Syracuse University Methodist Church. He then taught at Baker University and was director of the American Youth Foundation before returning to Syracuse University to become dean of Hendricks Chapel in charge of religious life on the campus from 1981 until 1999.

**Charlie Plummer '72**, age 76, of Liberty, Missouri, died April 24. He served in the Army Reserves and began his career as a teacher before becoming a house painter.

**Sue Shriver Propst '67**, age 78, of Lexington, South Carolina, died Sept. 30. She began her career as a teacher and then was a principal in Council Bluffs, Iowa, schools before transitioning to work at IBM and then in real estate, retiring in 2012.



**George Rose**, age 88, of Maryville, died Oct. 17. He was a painter and spent 35 years teaching studio art, art appreciation and art history. He taught at Southwest Missouri State University and Boston University before 17 years at Northwest, retiring in 2000. He also was a visiting artist instructor at Indiana University, Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, American University in Washington, D.C., and multiple schools in New York.

**Beatrice Ross '76**, age 77, of Kearney, Missouri, died Aug. 19. She taught in Stanberry, Grant City, Stewartsville and Oak Grove, retiring in 2005.

**Hilton Sander '70**, age 76, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died Nov. 7. He was employed at Quaker Oats.

**Kay Andrew Sanders '73**, age 73, of North Pole, Alaska, died Sept. 30. She taught in Fairbanks, Alaska, retiring in 2002.



**Dr. Dean Savage '59**, age 88, of Maryville, died June 27. He joined the Northwest faculty in 1961 as the fifth-grade teacher at Horace Mann Laboratory School and then held administrative positions as director of Horace Mann, chairman of the Department of Elementary and Special Education, and dean of the College of Education, retiring in 1991.

**Roger Schmitz '97, '03**, age 52, of Lawson, Missouri, died May 1. He taught and coached basketball in Stanberry and Oak Grove before serving in the Lawson school district as an assistant principal, assistant superintendent and superintendent. He had spent the last year with St. Pius X High School in Kansas City as an assistant to the president.

**Jon Shawver '93**, age 56, of Greenwood, Missouri, died Oct. 29. He was a teacher and coach at Oldham and Englewood Christian schools in Independence before moving to Raymore-Peculiar Academy in 2005.

**Ky'Mar Simpson '24**, age 22, of Grandview, Missouri, died July 5. He was employed in accounting in Kansas City.

**Steven Skarin '76**, age 69, of Ida Grove, Iowa, died May 13. He spent 30 years with Universal Underwriters Insurance Co.

**Lisa Smeltzer '92**, age 61, of Maryville, died March 27. She served as the office administrator at First Christian Church in Maryville for 25 years, retiring in 2023.

**Monica Parks Spinner '62**, age 84, of Effingham, Illinois, died Sept. 5. She spent most of her teaching career in special education, working in Denver; Minneapolis; Fargo, North Dakota; and Kansas City, Missouri. Her last 25 years were with the Illinois Department of Corrections, most recently as a supervisor of the special education program.

**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 official for numerous athletics events spanning 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.

**Kyle Stephenson '73, '77**, age 73, of Weston, Missouri, died July 12. He spent nearly 40 years in education as a teacher in Savannah; principal in Stoutland, Richland and Plato; and superintendent in Keytesville, Concordia and Weston.

**Gloria Jackson Swift '59**, age 87, of Wheatland, Wyoming, died Sept. 22. She taught kindergarten teacher in Morton, Illinois, retiring in 2005.

**LaDonna Taylor '60, '84**, age 86, of Corvallis, Montana, died Sept. 4. She was a teacher for more than 35 years, finishing her career in Kirksville, Missouri, and then operating an antique store in Green City, Missouri.

**Curtis Tempel '77**, age 70, of Sedalia, Missouri, died May 19. He worked in manufacturing and retired in 2021 as a sourcing manager with Serta Simmons Bedding.

**Tom Thompson '75**, age 79, of Ravenna, Ohio, died Oct. 4. He served with the U.S. Army and established a State Farm Insurance agency, which he operated for 30 years until he retired in 2002.

**Herbert VanVactor Jr. '71, '75**, age 75, of Stanberry, Missouri, died Oct. 24. He taught for several years in northwest Missouri and then worked as an insurance agent for 37 years.

**Luke Violett '22**, age 45, of Guilford, Missouri, died April 18. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps, retiring after 21 years as a master sergeant, and then joined Tenneco Inc. as an operations manager.

**Ken West '72**, age 79, of Waukon, Iowa, died May 3. He served in the U.S. Army and began teaching in Mound City and Hopkins in Missouri. He then was an elementary principal in the Morman Trail and West Liberty school districts and was principal at Waterville Elementary School in Waukon from 1986 to 2003.

**Judy Wilmes**, age 76, of Maryville, died June 22. She was employed at Northwest from 1978 until retiring in 2015 as accounts payable supervisor.

**Lawrence Zirbel '50**, age 86, of Kansas City, Missouri, died May 19. He was a World War II veteran and spent 37 years in education as a teacher in Bethany, King City, Tarkio, the Center School District in Kansas City and the last 20 years of his career as a counselor in the Hickman Mills District, retiring in 1986. He also officiated athletics at the high school and college levels, among other contributions to sports that earned him induction into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in 1993.

**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 daytime telephone number to the **Office of University Advancement, 800 University Dr., Maryville, MO 64468-6001**, or email [alumni@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:alumni@nwmissouri.edu). Submissions may be edited for length and clarity.



## NORTHWEST POSTCARD

Northwest agriculture faculty and students – including Suzi Fredricks, a first-year student from Indianola, Iowa, who is majoring in animal science – showed their livestock during a friendly competition in November at the Agricultural Learning Center when the Block and Bridle student organization hosted a Little National Western show.

Opened in 2021, the Agricultural Learning Center features a large exposition space for events such as the livestock show. The facility also houses classrooms, laboratories, a kitchen, study spaces and the soon-to-be-completed micro-creamery.

Scan the QR code to read about the livestock show and see more photos.



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# NORTHWEST

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