

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS TO LAST A LIFETIME

Northwest FAMILY

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The Victor family of Omaha, Neb., which includes five graduates, was named Northwest Family of the Year

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MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
NORTHWEST
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Division of Enrollment Management
800 University Drive
Maryville, MO 64468-6001

For Kiley Swopes' first internship, she dreamed big

Swopes had long been interested in serving in the military, but health problems prevented her from enlisting. One day, the junior broadcasting and journalism major from Warrensburg, Mo., was conducting an interview for *The Northwest Missourian*, the campus newspaper. Her subject turned the tables and interviewed her about her interests, and encouraged her to contact Career Services about a program with the government called the Workforce Recruitment Program, designed for talented college students with disabilities. Swopes arranged a meeting with Career Services and received help with her résumé and arranged an appointment to interview for the program.



Kiley Swopes, junior in broadcasting and journalism from Warrensburg completed a summer internship with the Department of Defense Education Activity.

After a few months, she received a call from the Department of Defense Education Activity in Arlington, Va. The DoDEA is a school located in various areas all over the world for children whose parents are active duty or Department of Defense civilians. The Arlington location serves as the schools' headquarters. Swopes was offered an internship as an Audio/Visual Production Assistant.

"My internship put a big experience on my résumé that will impress many employers when they see it, no matter what path I decide to take," Swopes said. "It gave me experiences I would have never received in class and I will use what I learned in my future career."

In her role, she was responsible for studio set up, camera and teleprompter operation, audio set up, on camera interviews, script writing, One Minute news pieces,

developing Public Service Announcements, video editing, photography and inserting content within their Web site.

"My internship helped me focus more on what I wanted to do after graduation," Swopes said. "It helped me decide that I wanted to turn away from print journalism and focus more on broadcasting. It gave me a chance to show off my skills in the business world and many of my pieces were posted on the Web."

For other students considering an internship, Swopes offers the following advice.

"Apply for internships, whether big or small, as much as you can," she said. "Don't settle if there is an internship you really want. Always be willing to meet new people, because so much is based on networking. Lastly, don't be afraid to make mistakes. That's what your internship is all about." ■

Volunteer work brings U.S. culture home to ESL students

It was a busy summer for a group of international students at Northwest who put in long weeks during America's traditional vacation season honing their speaking and writing skills through the University's English as a Second Language program.

In addition to spending at least 20 hours a week in the classroom, completing intensive homework assignments and spending one or two sessions a week talking to a native English speaker, or "conversation partner," ESL students participated in local volunteer projects that provided them with insight into American customs and culture.

ESL Instructor Anne Lech said the projects, which included helping out with the campus-based portion of the Heart of America Tractor Cruise in June, gave students from China, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and other countries a chance both to practice their English and meet Americans from many walks of life.

Besides helping set up facilities for the tractor cruise in College Park, ESL students assisted the Pride Lions Club in serving a Saturday-morning pancake breakfast. They also registered participants, sold T-shirts and tickets and cleaned up following the event, which raised \$23,000 for Special Olympics, the Abrielle Neff Foundation and Muscular Dystrophy Camp.

"From this activity, I learned that it will be a strong power to help weakness if each person dedicates a little," said Ninglin Ying of China. "We collected a lot of money because more and more volunteers donated."

Other ESL summer experiences included marching in the Nodaway County Fair Parade as part of the Habitat for Humanity entry. The students spent a portion of the long Fourth of July weekend painting a Habitat playhouse that sold for \$1,200 in a charity auction to

benefit the organization, which uses donations and "sweat equity" to provide new housing for lower income families.

"I like this kind of activity and enjoyed it," said Feng Qin, another Chinese student. "Before this event, I didn't have many chances to be a volunteer. It is a significant activity. Not only did it get money in donations, but also it gave me a chance to gain some experience for helping others." ■



ESL students helped out with the Heart of America Tractor Cruise in June.

Victors of Omaha are Northwest Family of the Year

The Victor family of Omaha, Neb., was recognized during halftime of the Saturday, Sept. 19 Family Weekend home football game as Northwest's 2009 Family of the Year.

Sponsored by University food service and maintenance vendor Aramark, the Family of the Year award is bestowed each fall during the University's three-day salute to families who have students attending Northwest. The recognition comes with a \$750 scholarship and other prizes.

Megan Victor, the daughter of Tom and Mary Victor of Omaha, Neb., nominated her family for the award. She and her brothers, Chris Victor and Tim Victor, are triplets, all graduating from Northwest in 2009. Chris and Tim live in Omaha, Neb. Megan is a graduate assistant in the Talent Development Center and will graduate with a master's



in education in 2010. In addition, her sisters, Jodi Victor McDaniel and Julie Victor Moore – who are twins – are Bearcat alumni. Jodi and her husband, Chad McDaniel, graduated from Northwest in 2003 and live in Mount Vernon, Wash. Julie graduated in 2004 and 2006, and her husband, Matthew Moore, graduated from Northwest in 2003 and 2006. They live in Gretna, Neb.

Each of the Victors was

highly involved as Northwest students. Jody was president of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority, was a Student Ambassador and was Alpha Omega president; Julie was president of Phi Mu sorority and was senior class president; Megan was president of Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority and was a Student Ambassador; and Tim and Chris were involved in Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and worked on campus.

"Our parents have successfully put five kids through college in a matter of 10 years. We are all Bearcats for life,"

wrote Megan Victor in her Family of the Year application. "... As alumni, our pride in the school and everything it stands for continues to grow. Once a Bearcat, always a Bearcat!" ■

Photos feature Family Weekend events, a three-day salute to families with students attending Northwest.

Deans Awards honor faculty excellence, achievement

Northwest's College of Arts and Sciences, Melvin and Valorie Booth College of Business and Professional Studies, and College of Education and Human Services recently announced winners of the annual Deans Faculty Awards for outstanding teaching, research, service, student support (Booth College only) and collaboration (CEHS only).

This year's Arts and Sciences winners were Amanda Petefish-Shrag, assistant professor of communication, theatre and languages (teaching); Dr. Rafiq Islam, associate professor of chemistry and physics (research); and Dr. Renee Rose, assistant professor of geology/geography (service).

The Booth College winners were Jacquie Lamer, instructor of mass communication (teaching); Dr. Janet Marta, associate professor of marketing/management (research); Dr. Rod Barr, instructor of agriculture (service); and Dr. Nancy Zelif, professor of computer science/information systems (student support).

College of Education and Human Services winners were Patricia Thompson, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction (teaching); Dr. Terry Long, associate professor of HPERD (research); and Dr. Joyce Piveral, associate professor of educational leadership (collaboration). ■

From the President

What does the term "Electronic Campus" mean to you? Some of us remember when this was unveiled and when then-Gov. John Ashcroft "flipped the switch" to launch our Electronic Campus. Northwest has continued to adapt ever since, ensuring the technological needs of students, faculty and staff are not only met, but expectations exceeded.

Given the University's continuous commitment to technology, it's no surprise we are surpassing the field within wireless technology. After visiting with Dr. Jon Rickman, vice president of information systems, I've learned that expanding the on-campus wireless data network was delayed for years while waiting for higher capacity and higher speed technologies. With the release of the "level N" wireless equipment in 2008 the wait was finally

over, and the deployment of this newest wireless technology on campus has been steady and continuous.



President Jasinski

Dr. Rickman assures me the current installation schedule will provide wireless data, Wi-Fi, services to most of the major populated areas on campus by the end of this trimester. Installations this fall are continuing in Tower Suites, Forest Village Apartments, Hudson-Perrin and South Complex, and North Complex will be completed next summer.

So what does this mean? It means Northwest will be one of the few universities that provides wireless coverage to most of its campus with N level service and also provides students with laptops having N level capabilities. N level has the capacity to transmit 130 million bits per second as compared to the previous wireless level, which had a capacity of 11 million bits per second.

Family Matters

We lost one of our family members recently, sophomore Britnee Baldrige. Whatever our faith, let us all provide a Bearcat prayer on behalf of Britnee to her family and friends. Our faculty and staff worked diligently and with such grace to ensure the Northwest community has been able to address this difficult situation. My special thanks go to Director of Counseling Tim Crowley and his staff as well as our residence hall colleagues. I trust all of us will use this as an occasion to reflect and understand that sometimes the situations we face really need to be in put in perspective and we should indeed live life to its fullest, just as Britnee did, as her friends have so warmly shared.

With Bearcat Pride,

John Jasinski, President

Northwest enrollment hits an all-time high

Northwest's Office of Enrollment Management has released record-breaking enrollment figures for the fall 2009 trimester. Northwest's total student headcount is 7,076, which is 173 more students than at this time last year. In addition, 6,051 undergraduates are enrolled at Northwest, which represents a 4.7 percent increase, or 269 students, over last year.

Bev Schenkel, dean of enrollment management said the first-time freshman tally of 1,466 is up 35 students from last year. This is a record number of freshmen for the University, with most of the growth coming from Missouri, Kansas and Illinois.

Northwest officials also are pleased with the retention rate of students who were freshmen in fall 2008. The University retained 73 percent of these students, well above the national average of 70 percent for moderately selective institutions.

"Our high freshman retention rate indicates student satisfaction as well as student success are priorities at Northwest," Schenkel said. "It's important that our students achieve these high levels of success as the University is going through a time of growth."

The number of international students at Northwest is also at an all-time high with 270 international students enrolled at the University, which is an increase of 20 students over fall 2008. A total of 107 students from other nations are beginning their first year of study at Northwest. Countries with the greatest number of students attending the University include India, China and Korea. ■

Campus recycling effort introduces reusable shopping bag program

In an effort to reduce the volume of paper and plastic shopping bags that end up in trash cans and landfills, the Northwest Recycling Committee has organized a cloth shopping bag program that it hopes will convince students, faculty, staff and others to carry their store purchases in an environmentally responsible manner.

Earlier this year, the committee, which, along with the Office of Residential Life, implemented the "Reduce Your Pawprint" campus sustainability

initiative, received an \$8,700 state Department of Natural Resources grant administered through the Northwest Missouri Regional Solid Waste Management District.

The grant, along with a \$4,900 match in University Applied Research funds and additional support from Northwest food-service provider ARAMARK and the Bearcat Bookstore, means that the committee will be able to give away approximately 15,000 cloth shopping bags to students faculty and staff during the 2009-10 academic year.

Recycling Committee member Nancy Baxter of the Office of Finance and Operations, said the hope is that students and other members of the Northwest community will use the Bearcat-green bags, which carry the "Reduce Your Pawprint" slogan, while shopping both on and off campus.

Baxter said the effort will eliminate an estimated 600 pounds of paper and plastic this year from the local waste stream, a figure that should increase as more people get into the habit of shopping with reusable bags. That's significant because 3,300 plastic shopping bags weigh only 35.5 pounds. A similar number of paper bags weighs more than 260 pounds. ■

New Admissions Web site offers blend of information and interactivity

The Office of Admissions has a new look on the Web.

Admissions staffers along with technicians from the Office of Information Systems and Marketing/University Relations personnel developed and created the redesign over the summer. The new Web site features a colorful, clean design and enhanced interactivity, including video clips and a virtual campus tour.

To view the new Admissions site, go to www.nwmissouri.edu/admissions.

"As we reviewed feedback from our prospective students and families we learned that they wanted more information about Northwest available on the Web site to help them with their college selection process," said Dean of Enrollment Management Bev Schenkel. "They also wanted a site that is more interactive with more video. Therefore, that continues to be a major goal for the coming year."

Dear Parents;

Not that we like to talk about paying taxes, but this time there is actually some good news for the parents of college students. We want to make you aware of a new federal tax credit that will be available beginning with the 2009 tax year. The American Opportunity Credit is worth up to \$2,500 of the cost of tuition and related expenses. You can claim it on your 2009 and 2010 tax returns. The credit amount starts phasing out if you make more than \$80,000, or \$160,000 if you are filing a joint return. Even if you don't make enough to file a return, file anyway because you may get up to \$1,000 back.

We strongly encourage you to check with your tax preparer to find out more about this new tax credit and how it might benefit you and your family. You can also get more information on this and other tax related questions at www.irs.gov/recovery.

Sincerely,
Del Morley, Director of Financial Assistance

The goal, Schenkel said, is to offer a Web environment where prospective students can learn about Northwest in an engaging, fun format while getting their questions answered and finding the information they need to navigate the process of making a college decision.

So far, the new site appears to be meeting those goals.

"We've been hearing from prospective students and their parents – the two segments that I've been listening to most closely – and they are telling us that the site is fun and has a youthful, modern look that is informative and easy to navigate," Schenkel said. "It's important that the site be functional as well, and I'm glad we've been able to find that balance."

Other new features on www.nwmissouri.edu/admissions include an emphasis on social networking with links to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn. There is also a homepage link called Show Your Pride that lets future Bearcats download or print Northwest-related images in the form of buddy icons, desktop wallpaper, iron-on transfers and cell phone wallpaper.

"These are great features not just for the prospective students that we work with, but also for our current students and alumni," Schenkel said. ■

Northwest signs joint admissions agreement with Metropolitan Community College

Officials from Northwest and Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City have signed a joint admissions agreement designed to enhance

educational opportunities for students at both institutions.

The agreement includes a joint admission provision that will allow students to take advantage of facilities and programs at both Northwest and MCC while making the transition from a two-year associate's degree track to a program leading to a four-year bachelor's degree.

Potential benefits for students include the ability to attend both schools simultaneously; receipt of a Northwest ID usable at the University's B.D. Owens Library, campus dining facilities and the Bearcat Bookstore; and student admission to Northwest athletic events, concerts and lectures.

"Both Northwest and Metropolitan Community College are committed to expanding the educational opportunities available in our region," said Northwest President John Jasinski. "MCC has an excellent reputation of service to the greater Kansas City area, and everyone at Northwest is looking forward to the good things that are going to come out of this exciting partnership. Our agreement creates new avenues for students who wish to build on the solid academic foundation provided by MCC as they move on to complete bachelor's degrees from Northwest."

Under terms of the agreement, which goes into effect this fall, students qualifying and remaining eligible for joint admission must meet all entrance requirements set forth by both institutions. However, students admitted to MCC but failing to meet Northwest's requirements could be admitted at a later date after achieving eligibility for transfer student admission. ■

Calendar of Events

For an up-to-date calendar, go to www.nwmissouri.edu/calendar

November

- 1 Tower Choir concert
- 2 Encore: "Street Beat"
- 4 Last date to withdraw from the University
- 6 Volleyball vs. Central Missouri
- 7 Football vs. Central Missouri
- 8 Tower Choir concert
- 12 Modern Language Day
Madralier concert
- 13 Volleyball vs. Truman State
- 13-14 Theatre: "Supergirls! Tales of Life, Love, and Captain Nebraska"
- 14 Missouri Academy: Preview Day
NCAA football playoffs: 1st round
- 15 Final installment due
Women's basketball vs. Upper Iowa
Wind Symphony concert
- 16 Men's basketball vs. Manhattan Christian
DeLuce Gallery: Erin Furimsky ceramic exhibit opens
Distinguished Lecture: Stephen Paletta
- 17 Orchestra concert
- 18 Crisis Response conference

- 19 Volleyball regionals
Men's basketball vs. Benedictine College
- 20 Preregistration appointments for spring 2010 end
- 20 Volleyball regionals
- 20-21 Women's basketball: Winstead Reeves Classic
- 20-21 Theatre: "Supergirls! Tales of Life, Love, and Captain Nebraska"
- 20 Guest Artist Recital: Paul Basler, horn
- 21 NCAA football playoffs: second round
- 21 Jazz Ensemble concert
- 21 Volleyball regionals
- 22 Tower Choir/University Chorale concert
- 23 Studio Jazz Ensemble concert
- 24 Thanksgiving break begins at 5 p.m.
Women's basketball vs. UMSL
Men's basketball vs. Baker
- 28 NCAA football playoffs: quarterfinals
Men's basketball vs. Graceland
- 29 Residence halls reopen, 1 p.m.
- 30 Thanksgiving break ends, 8 a.m.

December

- 2 Women's/men's basketball vs. Emporia
- 3-5 Volleyball NCAA Elite Eight
- 4-5 Yuletide Feaste
- 5 Missouri Academy: Preview Day
NCAA football playoffs: semifinals
Women's/men's basketball vs. Washburn
- 8 Wind Symphony and Jazz Ensemble
Holiday concert
- 11 Classwork ends
Second block ends
Northwest Dance Company fall show
- 12 NCAA football championship
Women's/men's basketball vs. UNO
- 13 Theatre: "Alice in Wonderland"
- 14-18 Final exams
- 18 Trimester ends
Commencement, Bearcat Arena, 1 p.m.
- 24 Online verification begins
- 30 Women's/men's basketball vs. Pittsburg State

Gov. Jay Nixon: New center will 'grow the business leaders of the future'

A crowd of more than 200 people, including elected officials, business leaders and senior Northwest administrators, gathered in the University's newly opened Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Sept. 9 to hear remarks by Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon and celebrate the official opening

of the 46,000 square-foot business incubator and high-tech academic facility.

Nixon praised the CIE as a unique partnership between private enterprise and higher education, and said the concept of combining the scientific and research resources of a university with the vision and energy of the center's entrepreneurial tenants holds great promise for economic growth.

"This mission of literally having in the same building cutting-edge research and entrepreneurs beginning businesses is exactly how we are going to make this connection between higher education and the business sector to grow the business leaders of the future."

The governor spoke to CIE's academic role as a home for Northwest's

new undergraduate degree program in nanoscience, a rapidly advancing field relating to structures on the atomic and molecular scale that can function like tiny machines.

A nanometer is a billionth of a meter, and nanotech objects are typically 100 nanometers or less. That's approximately 1,000 times smaller than the width of a human hair. ■



Helping with the ribbon-cutting at the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Northwest's business incubator and academic facility were (from left): Dr. Charles McAdams, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Erin Holm, Student Senate president; Brad Lager, Missouri state senator; Jay Nixon, Missouri governor; Dr. John Jasinski, Northwest president; Mike Thomson, Missouri state representative; and Dr. Tom Billesbach, dean of the Melvin D. and Valorie G. Booth College of Business and Professional Studies.

Northwest FAMILY

For more information about Northwest, visit www.nwmissouri.edu or call 660.562.1212

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Editor: Mallory Murray

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Editorial Board: Matt Baker, Jackie Elliott, Brad Landhuis, Angel McAdams Prescott, Beverly Schenkel, Joan Schneider, Rose Viau