

THE MAGAZINE FOR NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

NORTHWEST

ALUMNI MAGAZINE | WINTER 2022



OPEN TO ALL

Tiffany Fixter '07 promotes education, inclusivity at Brewability

BEARCAT STATUE

Bronze sculpture dedicated
in October | p. 5

MARTINDALE HALL

Renovation begins to
support health, wellness | p. 14

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Four teams advance to
NCAA postseason | p. 24

PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU

It's because of the volunteer support of countless alumni and friends – spirited people like Kimberly Massey Cole – that Northwest continues to thrive.

After graduating, I would occasionally attend Northwest football and basketball games near Kansas City. However, more than 20 years had passed when I first returned to the Northwest campus to watch my nephew play football. That is when the sense of Bearcat pride overwhelmed me! As I looked around the campus, I observed that the University had transformed in numerous ways. I then became excited about my college friends seeing the changes.

What began as a plan to gather in Maryville for a Homecoming reunion grew into a mission to lend my time and talents to the Black Alumni and Friends Chapter to have a means to support Black students as they navigate their college experience at Northwest. Words cannot express what an amazing feeling it was to be a part of raising funds to endow a scholarship, name it after the first Black graduate of Northwest, Joe Bell '63, and then award the first scholarship to a very deserving student.

In addition, I am able to give back by being a member of the Northwest Alumni Association Board of Directors. I have the opportunity to volunteer in multiple capacities, all while working with a great group of people. It has given me a front seat view of the impacts that active alumni, who give of their time and resources, can have on the lives of current and future students of our beloved alma mater.

Kimberly Massey Cole '93

Member of the Northwest Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Black Alumni and Friends Chapter



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



Fixter owns and manages Brewability, a bar and restaurant providing training and jobs in the brewing and hospitality industry for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

On the cover, Fixter stands with Brewability employees Jorge and Rachel.

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OPEN TO ALL
 Tiffany Fixter '07

NORTHWEST

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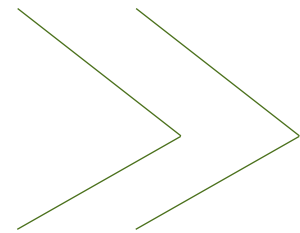
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The mission of the *Northwest Alumni Magazine* is to foster connections between alumni, friends and Northwest Missouri State University. The University strives to inform readers of the accomplishments of Northwest's alumni, friends, faculty, staff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

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DEAR FRIENDS

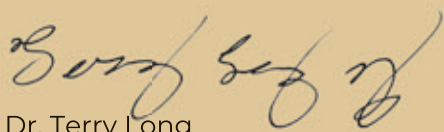
The cover story in this edition about Tiffany Fixter '07 and Brewability immediately reminded me of the responsibility Northwest's School of Health Science and Wellness has in supporting the well-being of our surrounding community and region.

Well-being is complex. It is impacted by our physical and emotional health but also by where we work, play and socialize. For the disability community, unemployment is a massive hurdle that comes as much from societal attitudes as from impairment. Tiffany has created a universally designed and inclusive business environment that allows for strengths to be harnessed and potential to be realized, directly impacting the well-being of both employees and patrons.

Recognizing the power of collaboration and profession-based training, the School of Health Science and Wellness strives to prepare future professionals to address health and wellness challenges for all segments of society. One way we accomplish this is by engaging students in community-based initiatives like Brewability. Whether it is supporting military veterans, engaging with senior citizens, ensuring the health and welfare of young people or addressing the needs of people with disabilities, students and faculty are creating opportunities for citizens of all types to flourish.

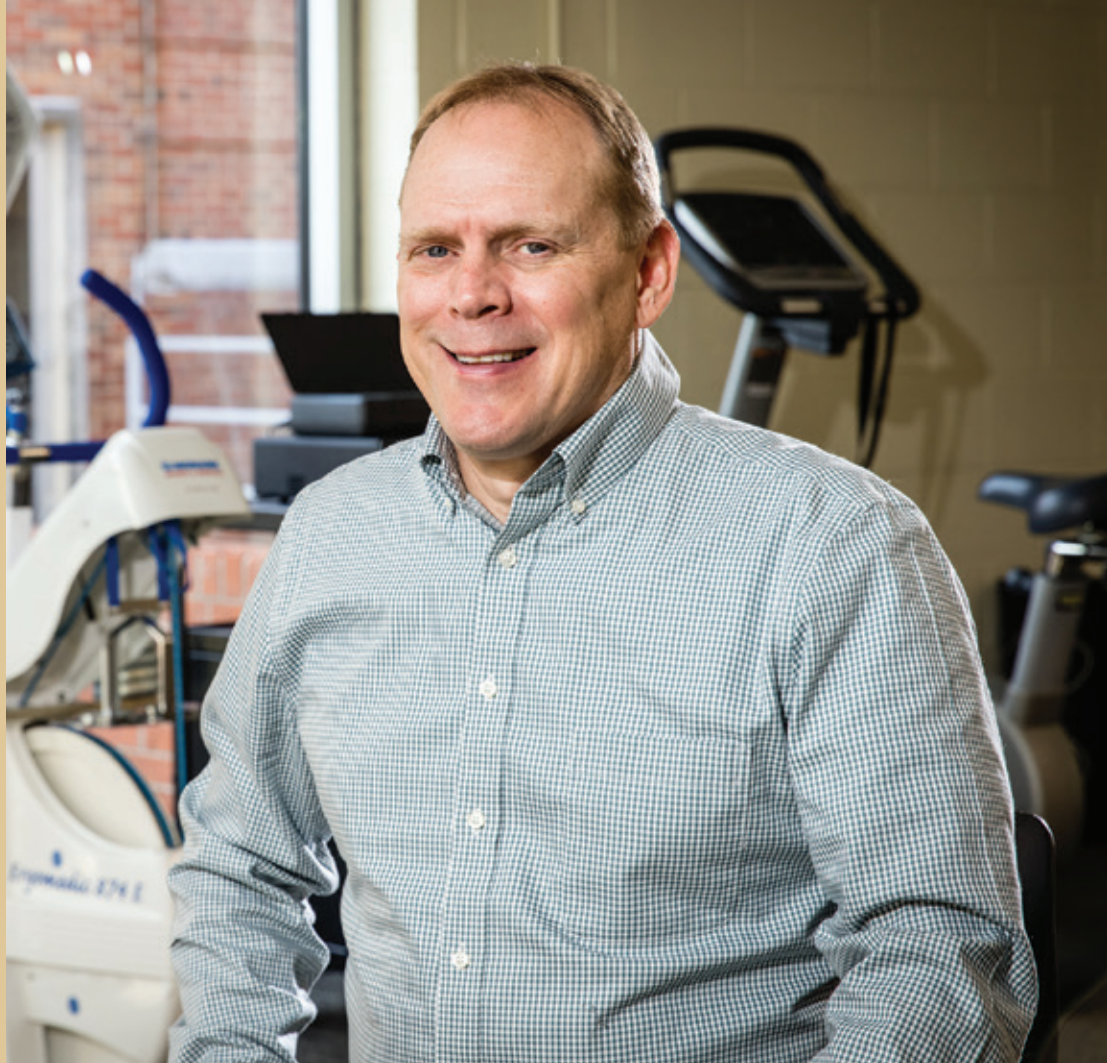
In 2021, our profession-based internships engaged students in more than 50,000 hours of field work, a workforce contribution valued at more than \$1 million. Northwest continues to build academic programs that align with need, and the anticipated renovation of Martindale Hall, which houses the School of Health Science and Wellness, will enhance our learning spaces in a way that empowers our vision of community partnership and collaboration.

People like Tiffany who are leveraging their own strengths to uplift others are a reminder of how powerful the accomplishments of our students, alumni, faculty and staff can be.



Dr. Terry Long

Director, School of Health Science and Wellness



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NORTHWEST SURPASSES 8,000 MARK FOR FIRST TIME

Northwest's total headcount this fall is 8,505 students, making it the highest enrollment in the institution's 117-year history. The number also represents an 8.1 percent increase from a year ago and the fifth consecutive fall that Northwest achieved overall growth.

The University also achieved a record retention rate with 79.5 percent of last year's freshman class choosing to return to the University this fall.

Although its overall headcount set a new high, Northwest recognizes it has work to do. Enrollment of on-ground undergraduate students at its Maryville campus decreased by 6 percent. Fueled by a surge in online enrollment, Northwest students represent 37 countries and 47 states.

"We remain committed to a thriving, comprehensive university experience, and our record retention rate confirms that students selecting Northwest value our strong academic programs, holistic student support, co-curricular experiences and profession-based learning opportunities," Dr. Allison Strong Hoffmann '99, '03, Northwest's assistant vice president of admissions and student success, said.

FALL 2022 ENROLLMENT NUMBERS

Graduate students 3,197 (↑ **24.7%**)

Online enrollment 2,546 (↑ **18.4%**)

International students 855 (↑ **17.9%**)

Dual credit enrollment 559 (↑ **16.5%**)

First-time freshmen 1,095 (↑ **13.6%**)

Underrepresented students 1,840 (↑ **13.4%**)

First-time transfers 309 (↑ **1.3%**)

SEARCH UNDERWAY FOR NEXT UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

A 15-member committee of Northwest faculty, staff, students and alumni have begun the search for the University's next president with an intent to name the institution's next leader this spring. The Presidential Search Committee convened in December to begin reviewing applicants and tentatively plans to start its interview process in January.

Anthem Executive, a Houston-based search firm, is assisting Northwest with its recruitment of the next president and produced an 11-page national search prospectus that details the opportunity available to candidates as well as the requirements of the role and desired traits and experiences. The prospectus was compiled based on information gathered from University stakeholders in the fall during a series of input sessions and through an online survey.

For more information and updates related to the presidential search, visit www.nwmissouri.edu/presidentsearch.

NEW BOBBY BEARCAT STATUE EXHIBITS UNIVERSITY PRIDE

Northwest dedicated a new campus landmark that adds to the University's deep pride in its mascot.

A new statue depicting Bobby Bearcat stands east of the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse near College Park Drive in honor of Dr. John and Denise Jasinski, who served as the University's president and first lady from 2009 through last spring. It was made possible by Ron Houston, a friend of Northwest who has generously supported numerous building projects and academic initiatives.

"Universities across the nation have erected statues of their mascots for decades," Northwest Interim President Dr. Clarence Green '94, '10, said during the Oct. 22 dedication ceremony. "What makes us stand apart from everyone else is ours

is Bobby Bearcat. What we have before us is a representation of family, culture, connection, a rich history and great pride. Future students, current students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends now have another university symbol on our campus to take pride in. Our campus will continue to change, but something that will remain constant and an image of our great community will be this statue."

Brandon Crandall, a freelance sculpture artist, designed and sculpted the bronze statue, which stands about 8 feet tall and weighs about 650 pounds.



Left to right are Student Senate President Elizabeth Motazed; sculpture artist Brandon Crandall; Northwest friend and donor Ron Houston; Joe Jasinski, son of Dr. John and Denise Jasinski; and Northwest Interim President Dr. Clarence Green.



EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM PROVIDING QUALITY CARE FOR COMMUNITY, PROFESSION-BASED EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS

Two years after Northwest’s School of Education received a state grant to offer a child care and early education program, and one year after the University opened its early child care center, the program is thriving and helping people of all ages advance their learning.

“We’re working every day to make it better,” Laura King, the director of Northwest’s Horace Mann Laboratory School and the Phyllis and Richard Leet Center for Children and Families, said. “It’s a partnership with our families, with our teachers, with our pre-service teachers. It’s been a real blessing, and to see how far we’ve come in one year is a huge accomplishment.”

With the state funding aimed at improving the quality and availability of child care and

early education programs, Northwest reconfigured the Leet Center in Everett W. Brown Education Hall, which also serves preschool children ages 3 to 5, by transforming a preschool classroom into a space that now provides infant and toddler child care for children ranging in age from 6 weeks to 3 years.

Families served by the Leet Center may participate in the Missouri child care subsidy program, which provides child care support to families who need it most.

The early child care center also helps Northwest provide valuable profession-based, clinical experience for early childhood majors in combination with the Leet Center’s mission as a community hub for quality child care. Expert, professional supervision provides a win-win for future



Racheal Wood, an associate teacher in the infant-toddler area, and staff at the early childhood center adapt activities and spaces as children grow.

teachers and families in surrounding communities.

“We get to see the teachers model it and act it out, and we get to see firsthand how they handle situations,” Lexy Minton, a junior early childhood major from St. Joseph, said. “That’s been really helpful for me. I’ve realized how children can learn through play at such a young age.”

To read more of this story, visit www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/magazine/.

STUDENT NAMED PHYSICAL EDUCATION MAJOR OF THE YEAR

A decision to pursue her passion for physical education at Northwest has Abagale Lingle taking on leadership roles she hadn’t imagined previously, and now she’s representing the University and her field at a national level.

The Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) honored Lingle as its Major of the Year during the organization’s national convention last spring in New Orleans, Louisiana. The award celebrates outstanding undergraduate students in the health, physical education, recreation and dance professions who are nominated by faculty.

This fall, she appeared on the cover of SHAPE’s magazine, Momentum, sporting a Northwest Physical Education Club T-shirt with the Bearcat paw.

“Being nominated by my professors at Northwest Missouri State was a huge honor by itself, but being selected to receive this award has been mind-blowing,” Lingle said. “I have only been in this major and organization for two years. Yet, the amount of support I have received and personal connections I have built from being involved in this amazing group has helped guide me toward becoming a quality educator for the physical education profession.”

After transferring to Northwest, Lingle quickly joined the Physical Education Club and was elected its president last year. Simultaneously, she joined the SHAPE America Undergraduate Student Leadership Network to learn more about physical education and open doors to additional opportunity and networks. At the state level, she is MOSHAPE’s future professional president-elect and was awarded the MOSHAPE Outstanding Major of the Year.

Additionally, she is the afterschool activity coordinator at Horace Mann Laboratory School on the Northwest campus. There, Lingle is gaining profession-based teaching experience by creating lesson plans that she implements in the afterschool program.



GRANT AWARD HELPING NORTHWEST RECRUIT, RETAIN FUTURE TEACHERS

Eight Northwest students are participating this year in a grant-funded program aimed at providing them with valuable mentorship while helping local school districts address teacher shortages.

Northwest’s School of Education received a \$40,000 grant from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to launch the teacher recruitment and retention program designed to recruit and retain underrepresented teachers. Each of the selected students received a \$3,000 scholarship for the 2022-23 academic year.

By working collaboratively with the Maryville R-II School District and the Savannah R-III School District, Northwest faculty hope the program helps recruit and retain future educators through innovative approaches aimed at historically underrepresented teacher candidates. By providing mentor support and fostering connections, the School of Education believes teacher candidates will experience a greater sense of belonging and be retained in Northwest’s teacher preparation program.

To read more of this story, visit www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/magazine/.



SWINK FAMILY NAMED 2022 FAMILY OF THE YEAR

The Swink family of Maryville earned the recognition bestowed each fall on a family who best represents the "Bearcat family" and demonstrates a strong commitment to Northwest. Left to right are Sherry Swink; Arnold Swink; Jennifer Morris Swink '01, '19; Abby Swink; Kara Swink Petrovic '05; John Petrovic '01, holding Charlie and with Jack standing in front of him; Aiden Petrovic with Lucy Petrovic standing in front of him; Anna Swink '21; Director of Alumni Relations Duane Havard '90; Brian Swink '01, '15; Student Senate Vice President Dami Popoola; Northwest President Emeritus Dr. Dean Hubbard; Henry Swink, a sophomore international business major; Northwest Interim President Dr. Clarence Green '94, '10; and Interim Director of Campus Dining Sara Tompkins. The Swink family also includes Doug Swink '95 and Ryan Gove, a Northwest hall director from 1997 to 2000. Sponsored by Campus Dining, the recognition comes with a \$750 scholarship and other prizes, including an introduction during halftime of the Family Weekend football game.

INGRAHAM IS 2023 GOVERNOR'S AWARD WINNER



Dr. Nissa Ingraham, an associate professor of professional education who joined the Northwest faculty in 2006, will receive the 2023 Governor's Award for Excellence in Education. The Governor's Award is sponsored by the Missouri Council on Public Higher Education and presented annually to an outstanding faculty member representing each of Missouri's four-year public institutions. Recipients are based on 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. Ingraham's diverse and impactful responsibilities have included teaching a new educational diagnostician master's program, offering Spanish-language programming for Horace Mann Laboratory School students, and instructing numerous education, Spanish methods and doctoral students. Ingraham's students commend her as extremely caring with lofty expectations. As a scholar, she routinely publishes in top journals, presents at prestigious conferences and is a highly regarded qualitative researcher. Her nominator wrote, "Dr. Ingraham is an incredible teacher with far-reaching impact, and her truly excellent work enables so many to be successful. She is a model of teaching excellence."

PAST, CURRENT FACULTY HONORED BY ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS

Four journalism educators with connections to Northwest and decades in the field were among 101 individuals who received the Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) inaugural Pioneer award in October. The honor distinguishes journalism educators and advocates who have provided exceptional leadership to collegiate media programs as well as contributions to collegiate journalism and service to ACP.



Laura Widmer '79 served as an assistant professor of mass media and student publications director from 1983 through 2012. She is credited with raising the bar for excellence for Northwest student publications.



Steven Chappell joined Northwest and succeeded Widmer in 2012 as director of student publications. He has more than 25 years of college newspaper advising experience to go with professional newspaper roles in Alabama and Missouri.



Dr. Bob Bergland joined Northwest in 2019 as an associate professor of mass media. Previously, he advised the student newspaper and yearbook for 22 years at Missouri Western State University. He has been connected to the journalism field since 1983.



Dr. Linda Smith Puntney served as advisor of the Tower yearbook from 1976 to 1978 and continued to advise Northwest journalism students through training sessions and workshops. Today, she is an emeritus assistant professor at Kansas State University.

STRICKLAND NAMED NEXT DAU PROFESSOR OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Dr. Katy Strickland, an associate professor of music and the director of bands at Northwest, has been named the Department of Fine and Performing Arts' third Dennis C. Dau Professor of Instrumental Music.

Faculty are selected to receive the three-year appointment based on continued exemplary service in the field of instrumental music, a high level of productivity and significant impact at Northwest.

Strickland joined the Northwest faculty in 2013 and was the University's recipient of the 2018 Governor's Award for Excellence in Education. She has played a significant role in the growth of the Bearcat Marching Band while incorporating technology and unique instruction methods into classes and rehearsals. She served as chair of Northwest's Department of Fine and Performing Arts from 2017 through last spring.



To make a gift in support of the Dennis C. Dau Endowed Professorship in Instrumental Music or for more information about the Northwest Foundation, contact the Office of University Advancement at 660.562.1248 or advance@nwmissouri.edu.



OPEN TO ALL

TIFFANY FIXTER
PROMOTES
EDUCATION,
INCLUSIVITY AT
BREWABILITY

By Mark Hornickel

Design by Kim Surprise

Photography by Todd Weddle



IT'S a Friday night in November at Brewability in downtown Englewood, Colorado. Nearly every seat is occupied as local band Dear Marsha belts out classic rock favorites and leads crowd sing-alongs.

What people find at Brewability is anything but another joint serving pizza and beer. Rachel, who has Down syndrome, is waiting on tables, delivering pans of made-to-order pizza with purpose. Juliana, who is visually impaired, is gracefully working the bar and pouring glasses of beer. And when Jose, a kitchen worker who has Down syndrome, joins Dear Marsha for a rousing round of Prince's "Purple Rain," the crowd lovingly cheers him on.

"If you come to Brewability and you don't leave feeling great, there's something wrong with you," Dear Marsha vocalist Raina Ayres says between songs.

Brewability – a bar and restaurant providing training and jobs in the brewing and hospitality industry for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities – brims with inclusivity, acceptance, smiles and laughter. It's the dream-come-true of Tiffany Fixter '07.

"People say 'The vibes are good here.' That's what they say – 'the vibes,'" Fixter says as she watches over the room with pride.

A DESIRE TO HELP OTHERS

Fixter, who grew up in Lincoln, Nebraska, is a daughter of entrepreneurial parents. Her father, who grew up in the Denver suburb of Englewood, has worked in the jewelry industry for most of his life, and her parents own an antique store in Estes Park. To help Brewability move to its Englewood location in 2019, Fixter's mother sold her bakery.

"I should have taken some more business classes at Northwest 'cause now I'm doing it," Fixter jokes.

Still, when Fixter headed to Northwest, her mother nudged her toward education. She became an elementary education major with a cross-categorical emphasis in K-12 special education. She also joined Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority and enjoyed participating in philanthropy activities to support Special Olympics, in addition to working with Maryville families with disabled children.

"Even growing up, in elementary school and middle school and high school, I was always helping out kids with disabilities," she said. "I just kind of always have done that and a lot of charity work with my dad. He was involved in Kiwanis, so when I was in high school I started Key Club there. It's really important to give back, so that was ingrained in me as a kid."

After studying abroad for a semester in Australia, Fixter returned to Northwest to finish her bachelor's degree and secured an internship as a practicing teacher in Kansas City Public Schools – an experience in an urban setting that presented numerous challenges for which she concedes she was not prepared. But she persisted and took on a master's degree program through the University of Kansas, teaching during the day and attending classes at night.

"I actually wanted to work for Disney World, being the guest relations person," said Fixter, who completed her master's thesis about vacation experiences for people with autism. "I was really interested in people with disabilities and how they interact with the community."

In 2014, Fixter decided to leave teaching and relocated to the Denver area to become the director of a day program for adults with disabilities. That lasted for barely a year until, Fixter says, she was let go for showing a lack of creativity.

"I really thought it was like moving up, being in charge of a huge program, but it was definitely a switch from being a public school teacher," Fixter said of the program that had her overseeing the care of 135 individuals who had medical needs that required her to earn additional certifications.

"I realized that I only had one person out of the 135 who had a part-time job," Fixter said. "It felt like wasted potential."

A BUSINESS IDEA BREWS

So Fixter created Brewability in 2016 with help from a Kickstarter funding campaign. She envisioned a family-friendly space where adults with disabilities are gainfully employed and every aspect of the operation is purposeful. She wanted a place where employees and customers alike could feel safe and in control.

It hasn't been easy. Fixter's journey with Brewability has been a continuous process of trial and error in the face of pushback and threats from people who disagree with her inclusive business model. She trialed the concept at a Denver incubator for craft brewers and then opened Brewability's first location in a garage at an industrial park in northeast Denver.

"It showcases what people with disabilities can do and how they should be involved in our community," Fixter said. "They shouldn't be hidden away in day programs. They should be out in the community. It's OK if they want – if it's medically OK for them to do so – to have a beer. They're not children. Everybody needs a purpose."

Then, in 2018, one of Brewability's customers offered Fixter a turnkey pizzeria in Denver's Cherry Creek neighborhood. Fixter took it and opened Pizzability, although she didn't have any experience operating a pizza restaurant.

"My mom and I went to the Las Vegas pizza convention and signed up for every class we could, just to learn everything we could about pizza," Fixter said. "Then you've got to dive in and do it."

Eventually, though, Fixter had to confront the complexities of managing two locations that she was leasing, and neither were prime spots for the accessibility Brewability and Pizzability needed. With both leases expiring, Fixter began looking for a location she could purchase to merge the two concepts.

She found it in the middle of downtown Englewood at a century-old building with history as a public market, appliance store and music store. With her mother's help and some grant funding, Fixter moved the businesses into their current single location in late 2019.





LISTENING AND ADAPTING

Brewability is centered in a vibrant downtown strip of Englewood, near a hospital with a leading brain injury and spinal cord treatment center, as well as the Colorado Center for the Blind.

With about 25 employees who operate the business under her guidance, Fixter has implemented systems that enable staff independence. The beer taps are color-coded and have Braille labels. Menus are available with pictures for patrons who cannot read and in Braille for those who are visually impaired.

Brewability also partners with Special Olympics and hosts “Blind Bingo” nights with the National Federation of the Blind. On Saturday mornings, it offers programming that includes Zumba, adaptive fitness, wheelchair stretching, Pilates and self-defense training – in addition to being a hotspot for watch parties and birthday parties.

Fixter adds amenities and services largely based on ideas and feedback provided by patrons.

“I don’t have a disability, personally, so I think it’s really important to listen to people that do and not make decisions just based on what I think they need,” she said. “It’s just keeping a list of what people mention they might need because somebody else is going to come in and might need that, too.”

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Pizzability sign from the former Cherry Creek location hangs on a back wall of the Englewood building as a reminder of the business’s origins. In the meantime, Fixter dreams of expanding to the building’s rooftop, refurbishing its basement for additional dining space and adding an elevator. More than that, she wants to inspire people and show other business

owners what people with disabilities are capable of doing.

It’s not uncommon for parents – particularly those bringing children with disabilities to Brewability for the first time – to cry as they settle into the restaurant’s warm and caring atmosphere.

“They can see that there’s an opportunity for their kid when they grow up, and there’s a safe place for them to dine,” Fixter said. “They’re accepted and not stared at. That happens almost weekly, but it still gets me every time.”

Brewability also has an effect on people who are not accustomed to interacting with others who have disabilities.

“It’s important to be so customer-facing and interactive because there are people that have never interacted with someone with a disability until they come in here,” Fixter said. “It’s a great opportunity to directly educate our customers.”

CLOSING TIME

By around 10:15 p.m. on that Friday night in November, the band had finished playing and the noise that filled the room had dissipated to a soft buzz of conversation accompanied by the clinking of glasses and plates. One by one, as employees finished their duties for the night, they came to a table where Fixter was seated to exchange hugs and “love yous.”

Fixter beamed again as she watched them exit the building with caregivers or to catch their waiting transportation. The success stories surrounding her employees are so numerous now, it’s difficult for Fixter to pick out even a handful that are most meaningful to her.

“Every day there’s something,” she says. “It’s hard to remember where they started because they’re just so independent now. Everything just clicks. I’m really proud of them.”

"It showcases what people with disabilities can do and how they should be involved in our community. They shouldn't be hidden away in day programs."

Tiffany Fixter



RACHEL 41, has worked at Brewability since 2019. Asked what she enjoys most about working at the business, she said, "I love making pizza and dancing, too, and singing."



ALEX a 32-year-old bartender, with his 8-year old guide dog, Paolo, enjoys serving customers and talking sports with them. Alex, who is visually impaired and autistic, was one of Brewability's first employees.



JACOB 21, is a cook and bartender who learned about the business from his behavioral therapist. "It's a very good thing – more inclusion in today's society – because that's what needs to happen. It makes me feel happy."

FACES OF BREWABILITY



JULIANA 24, has only 40 percent of her sight and began bartending at Brewability after meeting Fixter at a job fair. "It's empowering," she said. "I'm very grateful to her for what she's done for me and being able to be around people who all have a story, and it's just a very welcoming environment."

SERVING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH PURPOSEFUL EDUCATION & OUTREACH

NORTHWEST UPLIFTING HEALTH SCIENCE AND WELLNESS THROUGH MARTINDALE HALL RENOVATION

As healthy living and quality health care become increasingly important in today's society, Northwest and its School of Health Science and Wellness are committed to addressing those needs through high-quality, state-of-the-art educational programs – which will soon be delivered in a reimagined Martindale Hall.

Last spring, Northwest's Board of Regents approved a \$1.3 million plan to renovate the third floor of the building, targeting a 4,260-square-foot section that includes multipurpose space and storage areas. That construction – which also includes academic laboratory spaces to support nursing, human services and school counseling programs as well as faculty and staff offices – is underway, and \$1 million is being funded through the generosity of donors.

But it's also just the first phase of long-term plans to update the entire building. The Missouri General Assembly approved \$8.5 million for the project, and Northwest is raising funds to match that state grant and fund the \$17 million project total by December 2024.

"Martindale Hall and the School of Health Science and Wellness is worthy of that investment," Northwest Interim President Dr. Clarence Green '94, '10, said. "The School of Health Science and Wellness produces employees for a job sector that is in very high demand. Also, this project and this renovation will allow us to improve services that we offer and offer those services in a more engaging atmosphere."

Renovations to improve the quality, efficiency and relevance of Martindale Hall are long overdue. The facility – which includes a gymnasium, classrooms and faculty offices – opened in 1926 to provide physical education for the mind and body. Fast forward nearly 100 years to a society

that understands health and wellness encompasses much more.

Purposeful adjustments to School of Health Science and Wellness offerings during the past decade have led to significant enrollment growth in critical areas spanning labs and offices in four buildings across the Northwest campus. With that in mind, the renovation project aims to unify those areas in one building and provide spaces for studying well-being, recreation and abilities, sport science, foods and nutrition, psychology and school counseling as well as an E-Learning Studio.

The reimagined Martindale Hall will be home to a diverse portfolio of bachelor's and master's degree programs for nutrition, nursing, recreation, applied health and sport sciences, physical education, psychology and school counseling. Pre-professional tracks also are available for athletic training, occupational therapy, physical therapy, social work and a variety of other medical and mental health fields.

"Every student on campus, at some point in time, is taking a class or using a facility in Martindale Hall, so it really is a truly impactful project," Dr. Terry Long, the director of the School of Health Science and Wellness, said. "We will be transformed into one of the most innovative and engaging learning environments on campus. It's truly a game-changing opportunity."

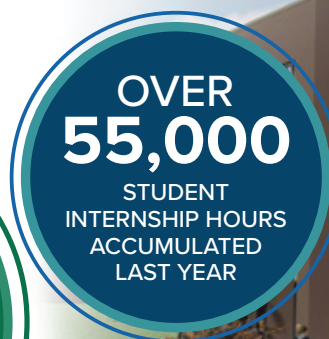
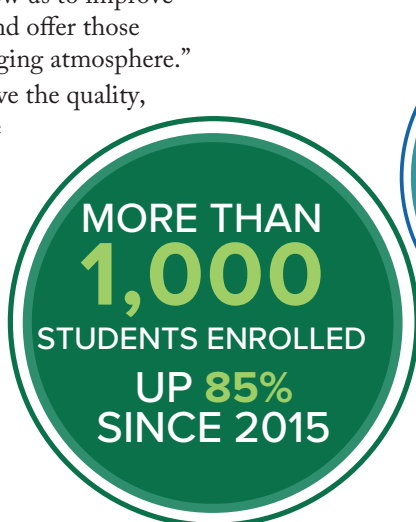


LOCAL HEALTH CARE SUPPORT

Mosaic Life Care, a physician-led health care organization based in St. Joseph, Missouri, has added its support to the project, pledging \$250,000 to the Northwest Foundation.

Nate Blackford '97, '99, who serves as president of Mosaic Medical Center-Maryville, said it supports the Martindale Hall project in alignment with its interests in workforce development, specifically in health sciences.

"I do very strongly believe that both of our organizations share a common culture, and that culture is a championship culture, a





Northwest and Mosaic Life Care leaders gathered in September at Martindale Hall to share their plans to uplift the School of Health Science and Wellness.

desire to be great, a desire to deliver high-quality care to our patients and exceptional outcomes to our students,” Blackford said.

Mosaic supports Northwest on numerous initiatives. Among them, Mosaic supplies athletic trainers to Bearcat athletics programs, medical expertise at the University’s Wellness Center and a sexual assault nurse examiner in collaboration with the University Police Department. Mosaic staff also serve on the Northwest nursing program’s advisory board, and several University faculty and staff members serve on various Mosaic boards. Further, Mosaic provided major support toward the construction of the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse and partnered with the University to host vaccination

clinics in the fieldhouse at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To help students gain profession-based skills they need, Mosaic has begun partnering with Northwest Career Services to offer paid internships to students studying in non-medical fields.

“Northwest is a very important partner for us when it comes to workforce development, and it’s important that we continue to work together to make Northwest and Mosaic as successful as possible,” Blackford said.

GOPPERT FOUNDATION PROVIDING ASSISTANCE

The Goppert Foundation also is supporting the renovation with a \$200,000 gift to the Northwest Foundation.

Corey Strider '96, who serves as vice president of The Goppert Foundation as well as president and chief executive officer of Goppert Financial Bank of Lathrop, Missouri, said the foundation saw the need to support the project as part of an effort to uplift the School of Health Science and Wellness and students entering the medical field.

“We realized there’s a huge need to support and get people into the medical field right now,” Strider said. “The demand has picked up, and there’s just an ever-growing need. What better way to support Northwest with renovating this building and especially with that field in mind.”

Like Mosaic, The Goppert Foundation is a significant supporter of Northwest, having previously provided funding assistance for scholarships and the University’s Agricultural Learning Center. Additionally, it supports initiatives in the areas of child and youth services, social and human services, the economically disadvantaged population, education, hospitals and minorities.

“Northwest continues to provide quality education for students,” Strider said. “The University has done a great job of saying, ‘This is what we need, and this is what we’re doing, and we will be very responsible with the funds that you give us.’ So far, that’s been the case, and that’s why we continue to give.”

\$17
MILLION
FACILITY

16,000
SQUARE FEET OF
NEW SPACE
36,000
SQUARE FEET OF
RENOVATED SPACE

JOIN US IN ENSURING A HEALTHIER TOMORROW

To make a gift to support the Martindale Hall project, contact the Office of University Advancement at 660.562.1248 or visit www.nwmissouri.edu/GiveOnline.

GREENS CREATE SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS ASPIRING TO WORK IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

Throughout their long affiliation with Northwest and the Maryville communities, Dr. Clarence '94, '10, and Chelli Davis '93, '03, Green haven't often viewed themselves as leaders. That is changing, though, as they become more reflective on their professional success and the abilities they have to leave a positive impact on others.

One way the couple is doing that is by establishing The Green Family Scholarship through a recent \$28,000 cash gift to the Northwest Foundation. The scholarship fund, which is open to receive additional contributions, will award annual scholarships of no less than \$1,000 to incoming Northwest freshmen, sophomores, juniors or seniors who indicate an interest in pursuing a law enforcement career. Preference for the scholarships will be given to Black students, particularly females.

As a veteran of law enforcement, Clarence is passionate about supporting individuals who are interested in entering the field and increasing its diversity. He notes that data shows that college-educated law enforcement officers generate fewer citizen complaints, are less likely to be terminated for misconduct and are less likely to use force. At the same time, law enforcement agencies are being challenged to enhance diversity and increase the number of women in their ranks.

"Policing has been a great profession and is really in need of women and diverse candidates, so I really wanted to put my money where my mouth is to influence folks to make an easier path for them to enter into policing," Clarence said. "Having worked in a diverse department, I think it's very important to get better and richer ideas, to communicate and just work better with all people."



Dr. Clarence and Chelli Green

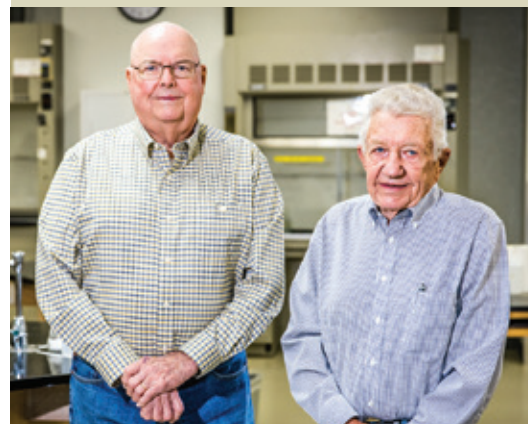
With nearly 30 years of law enforcement experience on his résumé, Clarence is serving as Northwest's interim president during the 2022-23 academic year and has served the University in numerous capacities since joining the institution in 1996. For a long time, Clarence says, he didn't see himself as a person who was influential or could inspire others.

"I learned that I probably did have influence – after reflecting on it," he said. "I would like to inspire people to give to the institution that I know helped them. It helped me and my family. If we can inspire folks to give, we can build a lot together as a team."

Similarly, Chelli, a science teacher at Maryville Middle School, has dedicated herself to sparking students' interests in learning and bettering themselves.

"I've tried to always instill the love of learning and being a lifelong learner in kids," Chelli said. "So any way that we can help out students and give them a little extra support so they're able to do that, I'm excited about it."

To read more of this story, visit nwmissouri.edu/alumnimagazine.



Dr. Harlan Higginbotham and Dr. Ed Farquhar in a Garrett-Strong science lab

RETIRED FACULTY CREATE SCHOLARSHIP TO SUPPORT ACCREDITED CHEMISTRY STUDENTS

A pair of retired faculty, Dr. Harlan Higginbotham '59 and Dr. Ed Farquhar '58, recently established a \$50,000 endowment to award scholarships to students seeking an American Chemical Society (ACS) accredited chemistry degree.

The Higginbotham-Farquhar Chemistry Scholarship fund will award two \$1,000 scholarships annually to juniors or seniors during the fall and spring semesters at Northwest. Preference will be given to students pursuing the University's ACS-accredited Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and who may be considering post-graduate studies.

After earning their graduate degrees together at Iowa State University, Higginbotham and Farquhar returned to Northwest as chemistry faculty in 1964.

Higginbotham retired from Northwest in 1999, and Farquhar retired in 2001. Both men were instrumental in obtaining ACS accreditation for the Northwest chemistry degree in 1967.

Today, Northwest's ACS-certified major in chemistry prepares students with a comprehensive and deep exposure to the many aspects of chemistry. Students are intellectually challenged and gain an appreciation of how the discipline impacts their daily lives. The degree program is designed to prepare up-and-coming professional chemists for careers in research institutions, industry or the pursuit of graduate studies.



Dennis and Anne Sapp

SCHOLARSHIP HONORS ALUMNA WITH PASSION FOR EDUCATION, HELPING STUDENTS

Denny Sapp '68 has established the Anne Morgan '69 Sapp Dream Team Scholarship through the Northwest Foundation to honor his late wife, a passionate educator, in recognition of her time at the institution.

"She was just always there to do something for somebody else," Denny said. "The empathy that she had was unreal. I just never knew anybody like her. I guess

that's why I wanted to be part of her life."

The scholarship will assist students who qualify for the Northwest Promise, previously known as the American Dream Grant, and the inaugural scholarship of \$1,000 will be awarded for the 2023-24 academic year. Denny told Anne about the scholarship's creation on her birthday, July 29, just weeks before she died on Aug. 14, after a three-year battle with multiple myeloma.

"She was incredibly tickled about it, knowing that it was going to be a scholarship for people who were in need," Denny said.

Anne graduated with a bachelor's degree in English and was an active member of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority, serving as its president. Denny, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in secondary education with an emphasis in industrial arts, was active

in the Phi Sigma Epsilon fraternity and met Anne while he was serving as its house manager.

As a member of the U.S. Navy, Denny made three deployments to Vietnam, recording 367 combat missions and receiving numerous decorations. He then was assigned duties as a test and evaluation pilot at the Naval Weapons Center in China Lake, California. He was selected to join the Blue Angels in Pensacola, Florida, where he flew as a solo demonstration pilot in 1975 and 1976. He retired as a captain after 23 years of Navy service and then flew for Western Airlines, Alaska Airlines and Delta Air Lines.

The couple moved frequently due to Denny's Naval service, and Anne carried her passion for education with her. She finished her teaching career at Gig Harbor High School in Washington, where she taught for five years and was voted favorite teacher three times by the senior class.

"I wanted people to understand what kind of a person she had been and the accolades that she had received her entire life," Denny said. "She was always willing to step to the background and not be in the limelight. She liked to sit in the front row of class, but she never wanted to be in the limelight."



Anne was crowned Northwest's Tower Queen in 1968

#BEARCAT DAY OF GREEN

March 28-29, 2023

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1905 Minutes to Celebrate Northwest



NORTHWEST FOUNDATION, INC.
NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

LASTING LEGACIES



Mary Asbell

The former husband of a loyal Northwest alumna has named the Northwest Foundation as the sole beneficiary of his annuity in honor of his late wife.

When Mary Asbell Mackenzie '69 died in 2019, she left the annuity to her husband of 29 years, Allan S. Mackenzie II. Through his deferred gift of the annuity – which Mary's father, Eldon H. "Bud" Asbell, set up for her while she attended Northwest – the funds will benefit the Edna Mary Asbell Music Endowment that Mary established to honor her mother, Edna Mary Monk Asbell '36, and her career as an English and music teacher.

While Mary's mother was a teacher, her father managed and owned insurance agencies in Maryville, in addition to being an avid supporter of Bearcat athletics. Mary, who was born in Maryville, graduated from Northwest with a bachelor's degree in secondary education with an emphasis in English and

"She was just a wonderful person from a very good family background. She had all of the values that we cherish and, even with her difficulties – she only had use of one side, which made everything difficult for her – she excelled. She retired in upper management and was an ordinary person having an extraordinary life."

– Allan S. Mackenzie II, former husband of Mary Asbell Mackenzie

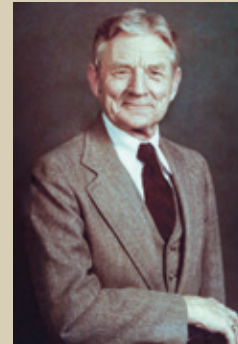
was active in Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority, among other organizations.

After earning a master's degree in library science, she worked as a clinical librarian at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. In 1991, she became the senior associate director for extramural and outreach services for the School of Medicine's Preston Smith Library at Texas Tech University.

She taught, conducted workshops, edited research papers for physicians and wrote supporting publications. She also held leadership positions in several professional organizations, including the Medical Library Association, which twice awarded her the William Postell Professional Development Award. Even after retiring in 2002, she continued to substitute at the library.

All the while, Mary refused to let her own medical challenges deter her from achieving so much during her career and lifetime. During Mary's youth, doctors removed a large acoustic neuroma at the base of her skull that left her disabled for the remainder of her life.

In retirement, Mary loved Northwest and her time on the Northwest Foundation Board of Directors, on which she served from 2008 until 2013. During the couple's visits to Maryville, Allan saw firsthand Mary's appreciation for Northwest, the Maryville community and the friendships she maintained.



Eldon H. "Bud" Asbell



Edna Mary Monk Asbell

Donating part or all of your unused retirement assets such as a gift from your IRA, 401(k), 403(b), pension or other tax-deferred plan is an excellent way to make a gift to Northwest.

CONSIDER THESE ADVANTAGES:

- It's simple to set up.
- You maintain control of your assets.
- It provides a gift to Northwest in an amount you believe is appropriate, and you can still provide for your loved ones.
- It provides an estate tax deduction.
- It provides for a cause you deem worthy at Northwest.
- It includes membership in the Northwest Foundation's James H. Lemon Heritage Society.
- It leaves a lasting legacy at Northwest.

Contact the Office of University Advancement at 660.562.1248 or advance@nwmissouri.edu to learn about the many advantages of bequests, beneficiary designations, IRA charitable rollover gifts and other ways to give.



MCKEMY CENTER RENOVATION PLANNED TO SUPPORT NEW PROGRAM, MANUFACTURING TRAINING

A renovation to the McKemy Center for Lifelong Learning will soon help Northwest train students and employees to enter the manufacturing job field while uplifting a field with persistent labor shortages.

The McKemy Center will become home to a revised and expanded systems management for manufacturing and agribusiness program. The renovation will create laboratory space as well as safety and infrastructure upgrades.

It will include welding booths as well as a VRTEX virtual reality welding training simulator to promote the transfer of welding skills and body positioning while reducing waste associated with traditional welding training.

Northwest received \$750,000 for the project from MoExcels state funding and has a goal of raising an additional \$1.5

million. Northwest aims to complete the renovation by June 30, 2023, to allow for programming to begin in the fall of 2023.

“Northwest prides itself on providing industry-focused, hands-on education through profession-based learning opportunities,” Jill Brown, director of corporate relations and major gift officer at Northwest, said. “The McKemy renovation is a tremendous opportunity for students to do such hands-on education in the agribusiness and manufacturing system.”

Northwest will develop and expand courses that offer non-credit certifications or an earned credentialed systems management badge. Students will receive education in welding, precision measuring, electronics, mechatronics and safety.

“The School of Agricultural Sciences is consistently looking for innovative ways to

improve what we offer to students,” Dr. Rod Barr ’87, ’95, ’09, the director of Northwest’s School of Agricultural Sciences, said. “The expansion of programming in systems management will better prepare students for today’s workforce in both agriculture and manufacturing.”

To support the McKemy Center project, contact the Office of University Advancement at 660.562.1248 or visit www.nwmissouri.edu/GiveOnline.

FAMILY ESTABLISHES BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP IN MOTHER’S MEMORY



Mary Lee Eisenbarger Farris

Laurel Farris Goforth ’93 recently established the Mary Lee Eisenbarger Farris Scholarship in memory of her mother, Mary Lee ’38, who died in 2020 at the age of 102. The Goforth family set up the scholarship to extend Mary Lee’s legacy as well as assist students pursuing degrees in the field she loved.

“A lot of her students became teachers,” Laurel said. “Several of them came to her celebration of life and said, ‘I became a teacher because I was inspired by your mom.’”

Laurel, along with her husband, Carroll, and their son, Zane, funded the scholarship through her IRA and private donations.

A \$1,000 award will be given annually to assist Northwest students pursuing a degree in business technology, business education or management information systems. The scholarship recipients will be full-time Northwest students with a grade-point average of 2.50 or higher. First preference will be given to graduates of Mid-Buchanan High School in Faucett, where Mary

Lee taught for many decades before retiring in 1983, and second preference will be given to graduates of South Harrison High School in Bethany, where she grew up.

Despite being born into extreme poverty during the 1918 flu pandemic and growing up during the Great Depression, Mary Lee desired to teach business as a young girl. Her aunt, a clothing model in Detroit, loaned Mary Lee \$200, which was enough to pay her Northwest tuition and fees for three years. In 1938, Mary Lee graduated from Northwest with bachelor’s degrees in business education and English.

“She had a real good knack for numbers,” Laurel said. “Growing up poor, you don’t have money. You dream about having resources and being able to invest those resources. I think that was a goal for her.”

At Mid-Buchanan, Mary Lee taught typing, shorthand, bookkeeping and general business classes. She also was instrumental in establishing a Future Business Leaders of America chapter at the school. Additionally, Mary Lee continued her education by completing courses in computer science and programming languages.

ALUMNI CHAPTER NEWS

Get involved today! For more information about getting involved in a Northwest Alumni Association chapter, call 660.562.1248 or email alumni@nwmissouri.edu.



COLORADO

Members of the Colorado Alumni and Friends Chapter gathered in November at Brewability in Englewood to watch the Bearcat football team's victory against Missouri Southern State University. Pictured above, left to right, are Mark Hornickel '01, '13, Chris Thomas '01, Connie Johnson Wilson '62, Deloris Polsley Wamecke '61, Alicia Kostka Delaney '09 and Tiffany Fixter '07.



WEST CENTRAL IOWA

Members of the West Central Iowa Alumni and Friends Chapter gathered in March for their inaugural meeting in Carroll. Left to right in the front row are Duane Havard '90 and Tami Kramer Meiners '92; in the second row are Joshua Blair '14, Taylor Dorsey Blair '14 with Mason Blair, chapter president Aly Goos '14 with Ridge Behrens, Tyler Behrens, Polly Ketterman Havard '87, Kessie Schwarte, Jason Schwarte '92, Dan Thompson and Kandy Hester Thompson '88; in the back are Keith Freese, Maureen Mader Freese '86, Jake Petersen '17, Brad Staley '19, Ty Lauritsen '18, Cass Weitl '16 and Travis Freese '17.



SAVE THE DATE!

Northwest Alumni Association
ALUMNI AWARDS BANQUET

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023

Agricultural Learning Center

5 p.m. Social

6 p.m. Dinner and awards presentation

The 2022-2023 Alumni Awards recipients:

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Dr. Jacqueline Henningsen '66

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD
Dr. Shantel Farnan '95, '99, '08

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY EMERITUS AWARD
Dr. Carol Spradling '88

HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD
Angela Moskow

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD
Dr. Leslie Doyle '97

TURRET SERVICE AWARD
Michael Faust '74

YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD
Devon Lee Brown '10

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



ST. JOSEPH

The St. Joseph Alumni and Friends Chapter hosted its 14th annual Barn Party in November at the home of Vic and Denise Kretzschmar. Left to right in the first row are Greg Pierpoint '80, Chris Schmitter '86, Scott Harmon, Jennifer Harman '97, '99, Courtney Brooks, Denise Kretzschmar '71 and Debbie Hinman '89. In the second row are Mary McClanahan '71, Polly Ketterman Havard '87, Susan Sexton '73, Frances Fine, Mary Ann Penniston, Robin Pierpoint, Joe Zimmerman '70, Danny McClanahan '73. In the back row are Nancy Headrick '78, Duane Havard '90, Pam McClanahan, Harold Johnson '64, Carole Johnson '63, '92, Marvin Fine '64, '71, Bill Penniston '74, Bill Brooks '00, '91, '16, and Vic Kretzschmar '70, '71.



WESTERN IOWA/EASTERN NEBRASKA

The Western Iowa and Eastern Nebraska Alumni and Friends Chapter gathered in October at Barley's in Council Bluffs, Iowa, with the Bearcat men's basketball program's 2022 NCAA Division II national championship trophy. The group also heard from Elly Speece, a member of the Bearcat women's golf team, and her father, Preston. Left to right in the front row are Ron Cody '88, Ashley Cavanaugh '16, Elly Speece and Polly Ketterman Havard '87. In the back row are Bill Lewis, Kathy Webb Reckling '91, '94, Randy Cody '99, Preston Speece, Duane Havard '90 and Mat Daniels '92.



BLACK ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

The Black Alumni and Friends Chapter gathered during the Homecoming weekend in October on the Northwest campus in Maryville. Left to right in the front row are Deitra McGaughy-Conley '03, current Northwest students DJ Ross and Nick Bolton, and Brittany Roberts '16. In the second row are Abdul Abdullah '02, Jarvis Redmond '90, Pamela Westbrook-Hodge '91 and Keyonna Overton. In the third row are Jermaine Simmons, Kimberly Massey Cole '93 and Charles Watson. In the fourth row are Dr. Tyrone Bates Jr. '02, Lajasmia Dye-Bates and Kendra Moore '04.

NORTHWEST ALUMNI

NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

MISSION:

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

2022-2023 NORTHWEST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ST. LOUIS

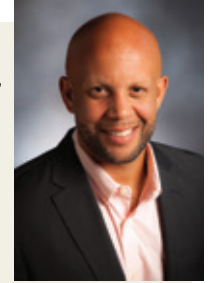
The St. Louis Alumni and Friends Chapter gathered Nov. 19 to watch the Bearcat football team's victory in the first round of the NCAA Division II playoffs. Pictured left to right from the back are Brad Summa '91 and Dana Hockensmith; Ann Summa, Gerry Rogers '79, Heather Herweck-Luckner '97, Meena Correll '00 and Mike Rogers '76; Chris and Andy Luckner, Valerie Byrn '01; Molly and Chris Lancaster '04; Kevin Terry '73; Ainsley Correll; Susan Johnson Hockensmith '72; Olivia, Adalyn, Kinslea and Nathan Lancaster '04; and Holly Lancaster.

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.

BILAL CLARANCE '05

A resident of Berkeley, California, is an executive engineering leader with Google.



RODNEY EDGE '84

Resides in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, where he is president and chief executive officer of Materiel Solutions, LLC, a global logistics firm that specializes in business development in federal government, commercial and international sectors.



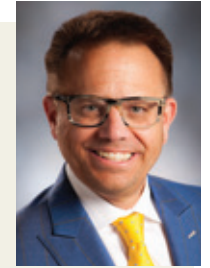
RYAN HAMILTON '93,

of Liberty, Missouri, retired from a successful career at Cemer and now manages Hamilton Sport Complex, a non-profit foundation that provides access and growth opportunities to youth in the Kansas City, Missouri, area through sports.



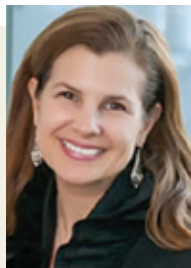
BRIAN HESSE '95

resides in Mamaroneck, New York, and is co-owner, president and chief executive officer of aluminum distributor PerenniAL.



ANGELA MOSKOW

a resident of Gladstone, New Jersey, is the chief operating officer for Booth Legacy Ventures after working in the healthcare field for nearly three decades.



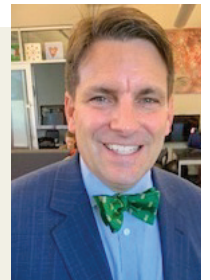
DERYK POWELL '93

resides in Lake Quivira, Kansas, and is president and chief operating officer of Velociti Inc., a leading provider of technology deployment and support services.



DR. THOMAS VANSAGHI '91

resides in Kansas City, Missouri, and is employed at William Jewell College as an assistant professor of nonprofit leadership and director of strategic planning.

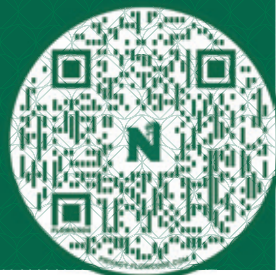


NORTHWEST ALUMNI
NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI CHAPTERS

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

SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND A CHAPTER NEAR YOU.



NORTHWEST FOUNDATION REPORTS SUCCESSFUL FY22, MAINTAINS FOCUS ON SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

Northwest Foundation Inc., the fundraising arm of the University, again achieved a high level of scholarship distributions and secured **\$5.8 million in donor funding during Fiscal Year 2022**, which ended June 30. Scholarship support remains a central mission of the Foundation, which awarded nearly **\$1.3 million in financial assistance through 1,420 scholarships** during the last fiscal year.

Learn more about giving to Northwest and review donor listings by visiting www.nwmissouri.edu/foundation/annualreports/.

BEARCATS GOT GAME

HOMECOMING

TRADITIONS REIGN, BEARCATS CELEBRATE VICTORY DURING HOMECOMING

Northwest showed that “Bearcats Got Game” during its annual Homecoming week, Oct. 16-22, and celebrated with traditions that included the Variety Show, International Flag-Raising Ceremony, Homecoming parade and Homecoming football game.

The University also welcomed the class of 1972 during its annual 50-year reunion activities.



1. At the conclusion of the Variety Show, Foster Huggins and Hadley Douglas were crowned Homecoming king and queen. Huggins, of Kansas City, Missouri, is a senior physical education major. Douglas, of St. Joseph, Missouri, is a senior human services major.

2. Members of the Bearcat football team surrounded No. 7 Kashan Griffin in celebration during the Homecoming football game. Griffin, a junior wide receiver, accounted for 200 all-purpose yards in the Bearcats' 36-3 win against Northeastern State University and received the Don Black Award given to the most valuable player in the Homecoming game.

3. Student groups dressed as characters from Super Mario Bros. to Hungry Hungry Hippos and other popular games while participating in the Homecoming parade.

4. Rehaman Naguru Abdur, a graduate student from India who is studying applied computer science, raises his native country's flag during the Homecoming week's annual International Flag-Raising Ceremony, which celebrates Northwest's international students and their heritage.

5. Students performed skits and olio acts during the Variety Show at the Ron Houston Center for the Performing Arts.

6. Representing the Class of 1972 during the 50-year reunion were, seated left to right in the front row, Judith Gregory Hlawatsch, Karen Hardy Ross, Angelo Savaiano, Paula Moyer Savaiano, Beverly Peterman Schelling and Mary Hamilton Purdy. In the second row are Roderick Shain, Robert Berning, Joyce Lawrence Coffman, Rosanna Kay Jones Carey, Pamela Bowen, Susan Johnson Hockensmith, Faith Baker Percell, Karen Weller Price, Cheryl Torres Johnson and Sharon Barnes Shain. In the third row are David Primm, Walter Koscinski, Linda Gittins Wendl, Nancy Bredensteiner Middaugh, Richard Johnson, Darrell Ohde, Gary Smith, Jerry Percell, Paul Flanary and Gary Meyer.

BEARCATS HANG TOUGH

FOOTBALL SHOWS RESILIENCE IN YET ANOTHER NCAA PLAYOFF RUN

The 2022 Bearcat football team epitomized resilience as it battled through a pair of early season setbacks to continue the program's streak of 18 consecutive appearances in the NCAA Division II playoffs.

Northwest not only reached the playoffs and secured yet another postseason victory, the football team came within a defensive stop on the road against the No. 1-ranked team in the nation before bowing during the postseason's second round.

Defense was the name of the game throughout the campaign as the

Bearcats limited opposing teams on the ground and on the scoreboard. Northwest ranked No. 4 in the nation in rushing defense by allowing only 64.2 yards per game on the ground. Additionally, Northwest ranked No. 13 in the country in scoring defense as it allowed 16.1 points per game. The Bearcats held seven of their opponents, including both playoff teams, to 19 points or less.

Leading the charge was MIAA Defensive Player of the Year Elijah Green, becoming the third Bearcat defensive lineman in three seasons and the 12th Bearcat since 2000 to earn the league's top defensive honor. Green tallied an MIAA-best 12 quarterback sacks and 22 tackles-for-loss.

Northwest also had 12 players earn all-MIAA honors, including first-team selections for

Green, defensive lineman Zach Howard, running back Jamar Moya and defensive back Cahleel Smith.

REGULAR SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

After a 3-0 start to the season that included victories over Fort Hays State, Lincoln and Central Missouri, the Bearcats suffered a 23-14 loss at Central Oklahoma. Northwest bounced back the next week at home and shut down Missouri Western, 16-3.

The Bearcats then ventured to Pittsburg State for a top-10 matchup. The Gorillas built a 21-3 halftime lead, but the Bearcats battled back and closed the gap to 24-22 on a Braden Wright touchdown run with 12 seconds left in the game. Northwest's two-point attempt to tie the game was ruled incomplete, however, by the officials after tight end Cole Hembrough appeared to secure the catch in the back of the end zone. The Gorillas hung on for the victory, putting the Bearcats postseason hopes in jeopardy.

The next week at Bearcat Stadium, Northwest delivered a





nail-biting 32-30 win against Washburn. Northwest held a pair of 13-point leads in the contest before Washburn stormed back and took a pair of one-point leads including 30-29 with 24 seconds remaining in the game. But quarterback Mike Hohensee, wide receiver Kashan Griffin and Moya engineered a three-play, 43-yard drive in 16 seconds to set up a game-winning field goal attempt. Kicker Cole Lammel drilled a 36-yard field goal with 2 seconds left to secure the win.

After a 36-3 thrashing of Northeastern State in Northwest's Homecoming game, the Bearcats hit the road for another tough tilt with Nebraska-Kearney. Northwest faced a 24-14 fourth-quarter deficit but relied on its ground game to pull out a 28-24 victory. Northwest rushed for a season-high 312 yards in the game, including 150 in the fourth quarter.

Then, Northwest thumped Missouri Southern at home, 27-5, to set up a big matchup at Emporia State in the MIAA finale. The Hornets came into the contest

ranked No. 22 in the country and riding a six-game win streak. Northwest used a stout defensive effort to stymie the Emporia State passing attack and intercepted three passes, including a Cahleel Smith pick in the end zone with 48 seconds left to clinch the 27-21 victory. The victory put Northwest at 9-2 overall and in sole possession of second place in the MIAA standings.

BEARCATS EXTEND PLAYOFF STREAK

A first-round playoff assignment loomed in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, at No. 3 Ouachita Baptist, which had an unblemished mark of 11-0. The Bearcats tightened the screws on the Tigers, which came into the contest with the nation's fourth-best rushing attack, averaging 305.8 yards per game. Northwest held Ouachita Baptist to 18 rushing yards en route to a 47-17 blowout win.

The second-round matchup between two NCAA Division II playoff goliaths awaited Nov. 26 in Allendale, Michigan.

Northwest and Grand Valley State had met six times in the playoffs since 2005 with three of the games coming in the national championship. Northwest (26) and Grand Valley State (21) have made the most Division II playoff appearances and have combined for 10 national championships.

After Grand Valley State broke through for a first-quarter touchdown to take a 7-0 lead that lasted into the third quarter, Northwest got on the board with a field goal and a safety to cut the Lakers' lead to 7-5. After a blocked punt by linebacker Andrew Dumas, Northwest was set up for a late-game rally. Hohensee led a 12-play, 42-yard drive that culminated with a 25-yard field goal by Lammel to give Northwest its first lead of the game at 8-7 with 3:49 to play.

Facing a third-and-one at its 37-yard line, Grand Valley State hit on a 52-yard pass play to move the ball to the 11-yard line. Two plays later, Grand Valley State took a 13-8 lead, and Northwest saw its season come to an end.

2022 FALL SPORTS RECAP

BEARCATS REPRESENTED WELL IN POSTSEASONS



The Bearcat Volleyball team claimed its first-ever MIAA title with a home win Nov. 2 against No. 21 Central Oklahoma.

VOLLEYBALL

For the first time in program history, the Bearcats claimed a MIAA regular season volleyball title after battling through a rugged slate with a 17-3 record.

Under MIAA Coach of the Year Amy Phelps Woerth '05, the Bearcats began the season at the Lady Buff Classic in Canyon, Texas, and toppled national power West Texas A&M on its home floor to begin the year at 4-0. Northwest then secured victories against No. 16 Angelo State and No. 3 Western Washington.

Northwest closed league play with an 11-match win streak that included an improbable rally from a 13-8, fifth-set deficit at home vs. Fort Hays State and triumphs against No. 8 Nebraska-Kearney and No. 21 Central Oklahoma. As the No. 1 seed in the MIAA Tournament, Northwest toppled Missouri Southern in the quarterfinals before bowing to eventual tournament champ Washburn in the semifinals.

Next, Northwest captured the program's third NCAA Division II Tournament appearance and second consecutive trip to the tourney with an at-large selection in the Central Region. Northwest drew No. 7-ranked St. Cloud State in a first-round matchup and lost in four sets to end the season.

The Bearcats had four first-team all-MIAA picks in setter, outside hitter Jaden Ferguson, middle hitter Avery Kemp and outside hitter Payton Kirchhoefer. Rezac was named the MIAA MVP, becoming the fourth Bearcat to earn the honor. Rezac, Ferguson and Kirchhoefer each tallied AVCA All-America honors – marking the first time Northwest had three picks in the same season. Twelve players earned MIAA academic honors, and six earned MIAA Scholar-Athlete honors in Ferguson, Kristen Ford, Kemp, Kirchhoefer, Kyah Luhning and Rezac.



Alyssa Rezac

SOCCER

The Bearcats earned the program's second consecutive trip to the NCAA Division II tournament as head coach Marc Gordon guided the team to a school-record-tying 13 victories. Northwest went 8-3 in league matches to tie its most MIAA wins with the 2021 squad.

The Bearcats won their final seven matches of the regular season to secure third place in the MIAA. Northwest then won its eighth straight against Washburn in the quarterfinals of the MIAA Tournament, giving the Bearcats a new school record for consecutive victories. The streak ended when Northwest lost a 1-0 decision to Emporia State in the MIAA semifinals.

The Bearcats earned a trip to Bemidji, Minnesota, for the first round of the NCAA tournament and a matchup with No. 12-ranked Minnesota State. The Bearcats took a 1-0 lead in the first half on a goal from Caroline Sanders, but the Mavericks notched an equalizing goal in the second half. The teams would stay tied through two overtime periods and Minnesota State advanced to the next round via a 3-1 edge in penalty kicks.

Redshirt freshman Lily Ellis was named the MIAA Goalkeeper of the Year with a school-record 13 shutouts, ranking her No. 3 in the nation. Senior Letycia Bonifacio earned the MIAA's Co-Defensive Player of the Year award and her third first-team all-MIAA honor. Junior Kaylie Rock secured first-team all-MIAA status and led the team in goals (6), assists (13), points (25), shots (62) and shots-on-goal (31). The Bearcats had 18 squad members earn MIAA academic honors with sophomore Maddie Taylor earning the Academic Excellence Award with a perfect 4.0 GPA in elementary education.





Drew Atkins

CROSS COUNTRY

The Bearcat women qualified for the national championship race as a team for only the third time in school history and an All-America performance in Seattle. The women also took third at the MIAA Championships and placed seventh at the NCAA Central Region Championships, only nine points out of fourth place.

Senior Amber Owens secured a 28th-place finish and All-America status at the national meet, becoming the third women's All-America cross country runner in program history. Senior Caroline Cunningham put her name atop both of the 5,000-meter and 6,000-meter record books with the fastest times in school history and was crowned the MIAA individual champion at the MIAA Championships in Joplin, Missouri, where Owens finished second as the Bearcats went 1-2 at the conference meet.



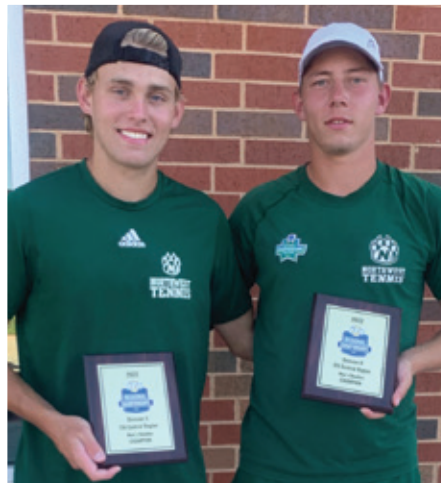
Amber Owens

The men's team was led by freshman Drew Atkins, who put up Northwest's second-fastest time in the 8,000-meter and the fifth-best in the 10,000-meter. Atkins notched a 14th-place finish at the MIAA Championships. The men's strongest performance of the season came at the Platte River Rumble in Ashland, Nebraska, where the Bearcats took third place and Atkins placed sixth with a time of 24:01.4 in the 8,000-meter.

The Bearcat cross country teams had 11 student-athletes honored as members of the MIAA Academic Honor Roll. Cunningham, Kaylee Harp and Emily Saalfeld each earned the Academic Excellence Award with 4.0 GPAs. Cunningham and Owens also earned MIAA Scholar-Athlete status.



Caroline Sanders



Mason Meier and Jan Skerbatis

TENNIS

The Bearcat men's doubles duo of Mason Meier and Jan Skerbatis went from unseeded to ITA Central Region doubles champions in September on its way to going 5-0 to earn a spot in the 2022 ITA Cup. They captured a consolation win in Rome, Georgia, on Oct. 14 to finish 1-2 at the national meet.

It marked the fourth straight season that head coach Mark Rosewell had a men's singles or doubles team competing at the ITA Cup. In the final fall rankings, Meier and Skerbatis earned a No. 10 national ranking in doubles. Michael Delebois was ranked No. 30 and Andrea Zamurri was ranked No. 33 in the national singles rankings.

For the women, Vera Alenicheva finished the fall season ranked No. 42 in the nation in singles play, and is ranked No. 4 in the Central Region. Alenicheva and Tessa Kwakernaak earned a No. 5 fall ranking in doubles in the Central Region. Alenicheva went 3-1 at the ITA Central Region before falling in the quarterfinals.



Vera Alenicheva



Paige Hoffman

GOLF

The Bearcats saved their best team performance for the last fall tournament at the Midwest Classic at Mazingo Lake Golf Course in Maryville, where Northwest placed fifth.

Sophomore Paige Hoffman put together a terrific fall season that included five top-10 finishes and a team-best 75.60 stroke average. She tied for the second-lowest round in Bearcat history with a score of 70 in the second round of the NSU Golf Classic in Catossa, Oklahoma. She completed the fall season ranked No. 145 in GolfStat's NCAA Div. II rankings. The team ranked No. 108 in the final GolfStat fall rankings.

NORTHWEST WELCOMES 2022 M-CLUB HALL OF FAME CLASS

M-CLUB

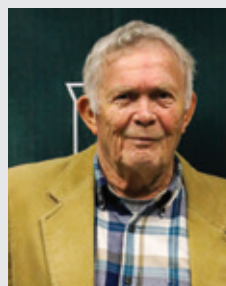
Northwest inducted its 2022 M-Club Hall of Fame class Oct. 21 during an annual banquet as part of Homecoming weekend activities. Six former student-athletes along with the 1991-92 men's track team and the 2006 Bearcat football team joined the Hall of Fame, which now lists 164 individual inductees.

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



Cassie Lowell Auxier '14, Women's golf

- 2012 MIAA Women's Golfer of the Year
- Four-time First-Team All-MIAA selection
- Four-team NGCA All Scholar-Athlete
- Holds Northwest medalist record with eight first-place performances
- Finished career with the lowest stroke average (81.44) in Bearcat history



Harvey Hallum '69, Wrestling

- Posted a record of 43-3-2
- Fifth at 1964 NCAA College Division Tournament
- Second at 1963 Missouri Valley AAU Tournament, which served as a qualifier for 1964 Olympics
- Voted Most Valuable by teammates in 1963
- Helped Northwest to a 42-dual match win streak



DeShaun Cooper, Men's basketball

- NABC First-Team All-America selection in 2014
- Two-time First-Team All-MIAA selection in 2012 and 2014; MIAA MVP in 2014
- MIAA Freshman of the Year in 2010
- No. 4 in program history in assists (489)
- No. 7 in school history in scoring (1,702 points)
- Helped Bearcats to regular season MIAA titles and NCAA Tournament appearances in 2012 and 2014



Larry Maiorano '69, Men's golf

- Four-year dual meet mark of 42-6
- 13-time meet medalist
- 83-win percentage in match play
- The Bearcats went 38-10 during his four-year career
- Served as team captain his sophomore, junior and senior seasons



Jared Erspamer '09, Football

- D2CCA First-Team All-America in 2007
- AP Little Third-Team All-America in 2007
- MIAA Defensive Player of the Year in 2007 and First-Team All-MIAA selection
- Tied for No. 4 in school history with 83 playoff tackles



Jenny Simmons Scherfenberg '04, Women's track and field

- 2003 NCAA Division II indoor national champion in pole vault
- Earned All-America honors at 2003 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships
- Holds Northwest's No. 2 mark of 11 feet, 11.75 inches in indoor pole vault

BEARCAT PROS

ROBERTS, HUDGINS HAVING SUCCESS AT NEXT LEVEL

Two more Northwest alumni have taken their talents to the highest level of professional sports and represented the Bearcats well this fall.

Sam Roberts '21, who finished his career with the Bearcat football team last year, was a sixth-round draft pick by the New England Patriots in the 2022 NFL draft.

Through Dec. 12, Roberts had played in five games and recorded two tackles for the Patriots. He made his first NFL tackle in a 29-0 win against the Detroit Lions on Oct. 9 and added his first solo tackle as a professional in New England's 38-15 triumph over the Cleveland Browns on Oct. 16.

After leading the Bearcat men's basketball team to its third consecutive NCAA Division II national championship last March, Trevor Hudgins '22 was signed by the NBA's Houston Rockets to a two-way contract. He made his NBA debut Oct. 22 against the Milwaukee Bucks and made a three-pointer in four minutes of action.

Hudgins has spent a majority of the season in the NBA G League as a member of the Rio Grande Valley Vipers. Before being called back to the Rockets on Dec. 11, he had played in 15 games for the Vipers and averaged 16.5



Courtesy of Rio Grande Valley Vipers

Trevor Hudgins



Courtesy of New England Patriots

Sam Roberts

points and 5.8 assists per game. He had knocked in 60 three-pointers while shooting 37.7 percent from beyond the three-point arc. On Nov. 11, Hudgins scored a season-high 30 points and buried 10 three-pointers in a G League game against Birmingham.



Left to right in front are Cody Burmeister '95, Jaysen Horn, Darryl Wagner '92, coach Richard Alsop '73, Eric Green '92 and Matt Elick '93. In back are Horace Tisdell '99, Ron Perkins '94, Terry Kam '92, Ken Peek '92, '94, Dave Burns '92 and Robb Kellogg '92.

1991-1992 men's track and field team

- Captured the Bearcat men's program's last MIAA indoor track and field championship
- Featured three individual champions, one relay champion and five runner-up performances
- 13th at NCAA Championships with All-America performances by Terry Kam (high jump), Kendrick Sealy (1,500-meter) and Eric Green (800-meter)
- Third at MIAA outdoor championships
- Terry Kam earned outdoor All-America status in decathlon
- Rich Alsop was named the MIAA Indoor Coach of the Year



Left to right are coach Mel Tjeerdsma '77, Abe Kaoud '09, Diezeas Calbert '06, '08, Joah Beagley '06 and Gerritt Hane '07.

2006 football team

- Went 9-0 in MIAA play and 14-1 overall
- Made Bearcat program's fourth NCAA Division II national title game appearance
- Scored 509 points with average scoring margin of +22.4 points per game
- Head coach Mel Tjeerdsma collected his eighth MIAA Coach of the Year Award and the Division II Schutt Sports Coach of the Year award
- First-team all-MIAA selections were defensive back Diezeas Calbert, linebacker Ben Harness, defensive lineman Kyle Kaiser, outside linebacker Reid Kirby, running back Xavier Omon, tight end Mike Peterson, linebacker Thomas Smith, defensive lineman Ryan Waters and wide receiver Kendall Wright

“I COULDN’T BE PROUDER
OF COMING OUT OF
NORTHWEST OR MORE
PLEASED WITH HOW
WELL PREPARED I WAS.”

Dr. Heath Parker



CLASSNOTES

TEACHING MEDICINE

Parker grateful for Northwest education in preparation for medical career

In more than 20 years of practicing medicine, Dr. Heath Parker '92 has built a resume that features extensive and diverse experiences in emergency medicine, adult and pediatric hospital medicine, primary care and advanced wound care, including as a medical director with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

But in all that time, Parker also found a knack for teaching and began work last June as dean of the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine Auburn Campus in Alabama.

A Texas native, Parker was recruited to play football at Northwest, but he quickly realized the academic opportunity available to him at the University. From early on, Parker aspired to advance his education to medical school and majored in biology at Northwest, in addition to volunteering at what is now Mosaic Medical Center-Maryville to earn his EMT certification.

“I couldn’t be prouder of coming out of Northwest or more pleased with how well prepared I was,” Parker, who was a member of the Bearcat football team from 1988 to 1991, said. “I got a tremendously strong education from a pre-medical standpoint, and it prepared me. I can’t think of anyone from any other school that I went to medical school with or in my experience so far that got as good of preparation.”

Upon completing his bachelor’s degree at Northwest, Parker headed to Kansas City University of Medicine and Bio-sciences, where he earned his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree. He then completed an internal medicine and pediatrics residency at Baylor Scott and White Medical Center at the Texas A&M University Health Science Center, where he was appointed chief resident and clinical instructor.

Parker has served as a medical director for multiple emergency departments, primary care clinics and hospitalist programs, including as director of hospital clinical operations for a multi-specialty facility and chief medical officer for an integrative care organization. Through all of it, he always found himself teaching.

“Starting in residency, I was always teaching; I was always interested in teaching students and teaching residents,” he said. “I was a chief resident at Baylor Scott and White for my final year there and got an academic appointment at Texas A&M, and that led to me continuing to teach a lot – even while I was practicing over the years.”

While in Knoxville, Tennessee, Parker served as assistant professor of pediatrics and internal medicine at Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine, where he was the founding chair of pediatrics.

1960s

George Kerns '63 retired in 1999 after a 36-year career as a senior geophysical advisor with Mobil oil company. He resided in Medan and Jakarta in Indonesia and in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, as his career took him to six continents and 69 countries. He and his wife, Diana, share time at homes in Farmers Branch, Texas, and in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Northern Virginia.

1970s

Dr. David Crouse '73 is retired after 42 years with the chemistry faculty at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tennessee. He began his career at TTU after earning his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and taught general and organic chemistry, spectroscopy and polymers. He and wife, Ellen Haggard, who attended Northwest, celebrated their 49th anniversary in September.

Bob Lade '78 retired from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) on July 1 after eight years as director of officiating initiatives. Previously, he was the director of campus recreation for 33 years at Northwest, in addition to coaching football and teaching in the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. He resides in Kansas City, Missouri, with his wife, Diane Morley Lade '92, and son, Robbie.

Pat Kelly '79 and **Ken '80 Schreiber** retired in May after more than 40 years in education. Pat taught at Underwood Elementary in Underwood, Iowa, for 43 years, receiving the Charles E. Lakin Outstanding Teacher Award in 2021. Ken worked for six years at Omaha Cathedral High School and then for 36 years at Saint Albert High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he was assistant principal, athletic director and baseball coach for the last 25 years. His teams won state championships in 1996 and 1999, and he was inducted into the Iowa High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in 2007. He also was named Iowa Athletic Director of the Year in 2022.

"From that time on, I was always working clinically but teaching predominantly medical students and eventually worked my way into a full-time teaching job," he said.

Now with more than 10 years of academic experience, Parker previously served as associate dean of clinical medicine and chief administrative officer of the DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine on the University of Tennessee campus. He also served as associate dean of clinical sciences,

1980s

Teresa Schuelke '85 is a planning consultant with Fidelity Investments and resides in Mesa, Arizona.

Brig. Gen. Sharon Martin '88 retired last spring as assistant adjutant general with the National Guard's Missouri Joint Force Headquarters in Jefferson City after 33 years of service. She also retired in 2020 as a fire apparatus operator with the Kansas City Fire Department after 25 years of service.

Chad Reece '88 recently was promoted to vice president of authorities and trade relations with Winnebago Industries Inc. A 34-year veteran of the company, he has served in numerous roles, including director of company relations and director of advertising and marketing. He resides with his spouse in Forest City, Iowa.

Cindy Wolfe '88, is the owner of Fitness Den, a fitness center in downtown Hiawatha, Kansas. She retired from teaching in 2005 after nearly 20 years in Missouri and Texas.

Deborah Scanlon '89 was reappointed in June by Gov. Greg Abbott to the Finance Commission of Texas, which has oversight of the Texas Department of Banking, the Department of Savings and Mortgage Lending, and the Office of the Consumer Credit Commissioner. She resides in Missouri City, Texas, and is employed as an audit partner with FORVIS, LLP.



Dr. Eve Mechanic Hoover

is co-author of "PANCE/PANRE Challenge: Quick Q&A Review," a board exam review book for physician assistants, and was selected as a Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. She is an associate professor with Midwestern University's physician assistants program and lives with her family in Glendale, Arizona.

'97



Marc Vasquez married

Trina Gutierrez Oct. 21 in Kansas City, Missouri. He recently accepted a role as a cybersecurity education and training specialist with the Department of Homeland Security's Cyber Infrastructure Security Agency.

'97

1990s

April Burge '95 is department chair for English at Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona. She resides in Oro Valley with her children, Violette and Zane.

Kenneth Oliver '95 recently was promoted to executive vice president of advancement and university operations at Kansas Wesleyan University. He and his wife, Michelle, reside in Salina, Kansas.

associate professor and chair of internal medicine and pediatrics at the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine.

With partnerships involving Virginia Tech University, the University of Louisiana-Monroe and Auburn University, the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine strives to prepare future physicians to meet the needs of rural and medically underserved populations as well as promote research to improve human health

— a mission Parker, with the team-oriented mindset he developed as a student-athlete — is dedicated to helping students fulfill.

"Our graduates can go into anything they want, but we try to find those students that are mission-centric, that are more likely to want to go into a primary care and serve underserved rural areas," Parker said.

He resides in Auburn, Alabama, with his wife, Amy Austerman Parker. They have four children.

ALUMNA CREATES APP TO ASSIST DISABLED COLLEGE STUDENTS

Dr. Cindy Fisher '80 helped numerous students with disabilities during a long teaching career and now has developed a mobile app to help students with disabilities accomplish difficult tasks.

After graduating from Northwest with her bachelor's degree in elementary education with an emphasis in learning disabilities, Fisher taught for 40 years in the Kansas City area. She worked with students ranging in ages from kindergarten to 21 years.

She had always known she wanted to be a teacher and took advantage of the opportunity to pursue her degree in Northwest's nationally recognized teacher preparation program.

"I chose Northwest because my high school counselor was very impressed with the college and highly encouraged me to go there," she said. "Northwest is also close to Kansas City and an affordable option, which was important to me, as well as a great choice because of the teacher education program offered there."

Additionally, Fisher honed her teaching skills at Northwest's Horace Mann Laboratory School, which is located on the

University campus and serves students in grades kindergarten through sixth grade.

"Horace Mann was a tremendous advantage to me as an elementary education major," she said. "We took classes in the campus elementary school, observed classrooms and taught lessons. Being immersed in an elementary school while taking classes provided me with valuable experiences. I also remember creating portfolios of lesson plans for various subjects that I could draw upon later when teaching."

Outside of the classroom setting, she was active within student organizations, including Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority, for which she served as the treasurer, and Cardinal Key honor society.

"My sorority experiences were valuable to me," Fisher said. "I tend to be an introvert, so being a part of a group of women helped me to get out and mix with people. Being treasurer provided me with some leadership experience as well."

Now, even in retirement, she continues to spend time trying to help individuals with disabilities.

As a special education teacher, Fisher noticed when students struggled with tasks and had no resources to help them work through those challenges. Her experiences sparked her idea to create Smart Steps,



a mobile app that provides students in transition with tools to self-advocate, plan and organize. It is designed with college-age students in mind to help them reduce anxiety, self-advocate, stay in college and graduate. The app, Fisher says, acts like a coach on their phone.

"I am currently working with autism support groups, life coaches and young adults both in and out of the classroom setting by helping them learn how to use it," Fisher said. "I plan to enhance the app with more features. My goal is for Smart Steps to be used by a bigger audience."

For more information about the Smart Steps mobile app, visit www.smartsteps4me.com.

Jacque Hower Oglesby '97 is employed as a fitness instructor at Maryville Parks and Recreation and a billing assistant at Northwest Missouri Cellular. She resides in Maryville with her husband, Terry.

Dr. Tena Wurdeman Bennett '98 was named assistant vice chancellor for auxiliary enterprise in July at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, where she has worked since 2006 in roles as director of its Student Center, associate director and assistant director of facilities and operations at the Student Center, and facilities and operations coordinator for recreational sports and services. Previously, she held similar positions at Washington State University and Southeast Missouri State University.

Mark Shivers-Delgado '98 obtained an Associate of Science degree in registered nursing from City College of San Francisco in May. He is a licensed RN in California and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in registered nursing from San Francisco State University and a career as a surgical nurse.

2000s

Kirsten Anderzhon Anderson '00 authored "More Than Words: Turn #MeToo into #ISaidSomething," a nonfiction book published Oct. 4 that focuses on empowerment and support for people who have experienced toxic work environments. She resides in Des Moines, Iowa.

Megan Tady '02 is a writer and editor living in Easthampton, Massachusetts. Her debut novel, "Super Bloom," is scheduled to be published in May 2023, and she has a second book scheduled for publication in the fall of 2024.

Shelley Bramschreiber '03 began work in July as principal at Ottumwa High School in Iowa after serving as its associate principal since 2019. She has worked in education for 29 years as a teacher and administrator.



Lisa Shawler Parrish joined Holmes Murphy insurance brokerage as a shareholder in June. She is a human resources business partner in the company's Waukegan, Iowa, office.

'01

**Thomas Sanchez**

recently was named among Washington, D.C.'s "Tech Titans" by Washingtonian magazine. Sanchez is chief executive officer of Washington, D.C.-based digital marketing firm Social Driver. He and co-founder Anthony Shop also were named Business Leaders of the Year by the D.C. Chamber of Commerce.

'02

**Carla Keller-Tran**

and her husband, Adam, welcomed twin sons, Leon Vincent and Maxwell Dean, June 16. Carla is employed as a research administrator at University of Kansas Medical Center, and the family resides in Independence, Missouri.

'04



Annie Mack Vest has joined Freese and Nichols, a Texas-based consulting firm serving clients across the southeast and southwest United States with the design and management of infrastructure projects, as a mitigation and disaster planning lead.

'10

Candi Chadwick Slobodnik '04 recently was promoted to central states regional manager at Agents National Title Insurance Co., where she is tasked with agency relationships in Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. She also oversees sales and underwriting teams in her region. She has more than 13 years of experience as a title attorney.

Ryan Douglas '06, '08, is an accounting instructor at University of Mount Olive in North Carolina and recently was recognized as its Dr. Thomas R. Morris Professor of the Year. He joined the university's faculty in 2018 and is pursuing a Doctor of Business Administration degree in accounting from California Southern University.

Scott Harvey '07 began work in July as chief communications officer for the St. Charles (Illinois) School District. He has served in communications roles for 15 years, including as the news director for KETR in Commerce, Texas, and then for KSMU in Springfield, Missouri. Most recently, he was communications and media coordinator at Joliet Junior College.

Katharine Jacobs '07 recently was promoted to the roles of environmental specialist and quality inspection supervisor with United Launch Alliance LLC at Vandenberg Space Force Base in California. She oversees a team of inspectors charged with quality assurance and quality control on the launch pad as well as a team working in a metrology and calibration laboratory for support equipment. She also has been involved with launch operations supporting NASA missions.

Erin Murphy Christensen '08, '10, was named KC Tech Council's chief operating officer after serving the organization as program manager since October 2020. Before joining the KC Tech Council, she spent five years at the University of Missouri-Kansas City's Bloch School of Management, developing a corporate outreach program.

Clay "Jamie" James '08 was named assistant principal at William Matthew Middle School in Kirksville, Missouri. Previously, he was a math teacher in Maryville, and a track and field assistant coach and a math and business teacher at Nodaway-Holt R-VII. His wife, Ashlee Casady James '03, '09, is a guidance counselor for the Kirksville R-III School District.

Laura Voss Lester '08 and her husband, Joshua, welcomed a baby boy, Theodore "Teddy" Lee, on July 5.

Erica Shanks '09 has joined MountainTrue, a North Carolina environmental and conservation nonprofit, as green riverkeeper and watershed outreach coordinator. She spent the previous 10 years in the agricultural field, supporting new and beginning farmers, managing farmer's markets, running her own small farm business and advocating for the protection of farmland.

2010s

Dr. Joseph Saffold '10 completed residency training at the University of Kansas School of Medicine – Wichita Family Medicine Residency Program at Wesley Medical Center and has joined the school's faculty.

Sara Meidlinger Pochon '11 graduated from Peru State University in July with a master's degree in education and is a second grade teacher at Perkins County Elementary School. She was married last year to Brady Pochon, and they reside in Ogallala, Nebraska.

Nicole Richardson '11, '14, and Andrew Clements '14 married in October 2021 and reside in Casa Grande, Arizona. Nicole is employed with Arizona Milk Producers as promotions and marketing manager, and Andrew works as a merchandiser with Arizona Grain.

Melissa Robbins '11 married Johnathan Hutcherson on July 30 at Union Station in Kansas City, Missouri. They reside in Trimble, Missouri, and she is a lead teacher at Uncle Sam's Academy.

Trey Williams '14 joined Fortune magazine in June as a senior writer covering work and life. He previously worked as a reporter for The Kansas City Star and as a business reporter in New York, covering Wall Street for MarketWatch, and in Los Angeles, covering Hollywood for The Wrap.

Madison Emery '17 joined Mosaic Medical Center – Maryville in January as a family therapist. Previously, she was a social worker with Clarinda Regional Health Center in Iowa and with the state of Missouri.



Michelle Greenwell and Alex Westhues

were married Oct. 8 in Glasgow, Missouri. Michelle is the tourism specialist for the Moberly (Missouri) Area Chamber of Commerce, and Alex works for the Walmart Distribution Center in Moberly.

Sydney Thummel '18 began in July as executive director of the Missouri Beef Industry Council. Previously, she served as manager of membership for the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.



Grace Niemeyer

joined Swanson Russell advertising and public relations agency in July as a public relations associate based in Lincoln, Nebraska. Previously, she worked as a project manager and manager of content services at Propaganda3 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Jack Macias '19 and **Kenzie Ashford '20** were married May 29. Jack is employed as an event support coordinator at the University of North Texas, and Kenzie is a teacher in the Arlington Independent School District.

2020s

Tucker Quinn '20 and **Carrie Strachan '20** reside in New Windsor, Illinois, with their 2-year-old beagle, Murphy. Tucker is director of digital media at Monmouth College, and Carrie is employed at Hope's Bridal and Prom in Davenport, Iowa.

Josh Rexroat '20 has joined Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, as assistant director of athletic communications. Previously, he was a sports information assistant at Pittsburg State University in Kansas.

Brianna Billie '21 was named head softball coach at Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina. She had served as an assistant coach at Northwest during the past three years.

Sherri Orris '22 began the fall as associate principal at Mt. Pleasant Middle School in Iowa. She has worked in education for 30 years, teaching grades first through sixth and as an instructional coaching for elementary and middle school.

Dray Starzl '19, '21, was named boys basketball head coach in May at Brookfield (Missouri) High School.

WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

New job? New child? New spouse? New address? Send your latest news to the Northwest Alumni Association at alumni@nwmissouri.edu or complete the online class notes form at www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni/magazine/classnotes.htm.

You may also submit a photograph. Please include a self-addressed envelope for the photo to be returned, or email it, in high resolution, to alumni@nwmissouri.edu.

LOVE FOR THE STARS

Alumnus' gift includes naming of observatory area in honor of longtime astronomy professor

The memory of a beloved faculty member and his passion for astronomy and teaching are now enshrined at the viewing area he envisioned.

Northwest in November dedicated its outdoor observation area at the Mozingo Outdoor Education Recreation Area (MOERA) as the Jim Smeltzer Astronomy Observation Area as the result of a gift to Northwest by Darin Stephens '95 in honor of Dr. Jim Smeltzer, who served as a professor of astronomy and physics from 1969 until retiring in 2003. Smeltzer died

in 2006, ending his five-year battle with a rare form of cancer. Funding provided by Stephens also will help create the Jim Smeltzer Community Astronomy Program.

Stephens, as a freshman student at Northwest, fondly remembers meeting Smeltzer in a field west of the University's high-rise residence halls while Stephens was gazing at the night sky with a Celestron CA telescope. An astronomy enthusiast himself, Stephens had attracted the interest of a number of students, and it wasn't long before Smeltzer came around, too.

After completing his bachelor's degree in physics at Northwest, Stephens applied the knowledge he gained from Smeltzer to an internship at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. He went on to have a 20-year career with Bushnell, a company specializing in production of sporting optics and outdoor equipment, and supervised the development of astronomical telescopes.

In 2017, Stephens launched his own company, Red Bros. Outdoors, and provides product development consulting in the optics field.

"All of the space exploration that has just recently really gotten a lot of traction with SpaceX and other companies has really reignited that interest," Stephens said.

The observation area at MOERA, a 320-acre parcel of land that Northwest operates



Northwest dedicated its outdoor observation area at MOERA as the Jim Smeltzer Astronomy Observation Area in November. Left to right are Northwest Interim President Dr. Clarence Green '94, '10; Lisa Crater '12, office manager at the Department of Natural Resources; Darin Stephens '95; Naoma Smeltzer, widow of Dr. Jim Smeltzer; Sherry Smeltzer Barnes '88 and Lisa Smeltzer '88, '92, daughters of Jim Smeltzer; Dr. Mark Corson, chair of the Department of Natural Sciences; Lori McLemore Steiner '85, assistant vice president of University Advancement and chief finance officer of the Northwest Foundation; and Dr. Michael Steiner '85, associate provost and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.



Dr. Jim Smeltzer regularly attended NASA conferences and returned to the classroom to share the knowledge he gained with students.

at Mzingo Lake Recreation Park east of Maryville, is a testament to Smeltzer's dedication to sharing the wonders of space with others, Stephens said.

Smeltzer selected the location of the observation and outdoor telescope viewing area for its remoteness and geographic height, and Stephens offered advice as the professor was building the facility. Stephens said he feels fortunate to have toured the observation area with Smeltzer after it was finished, seeing firsthand the pride he held for it.

"Doc was not a seeker of the spotlight and, candidly, wouldn't have promoted his name to be put on anything," Stephens said. "But I, for one, appreciate his dedication to astronomy and, more importantly, his passion for astronomy. Passion is so important, especially in today's world. Without passion, life is mundane. It is good for us all to find our passion and to share it."



Northwest students study the night sky at the recently renamed Jim Smeltzer Astronomy Observation Area.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Bill Anders '12, age 31, died July 25, in Tampa, Florida. He was an entrepreneur and was involved with several start-up companies.

Billy Arthaud '73, age 71, of Maryville, died July 11. He was a farmer and worked in the assessor's office in Daviess County, where he was elected county commissioner and served 18 years. He also worked in livestock feed sales and then was a residential mortgage banker in St. Joseph from 2000 until retiring in 2014.

Max Bartram '57, age 87, of Aurora, Colorado, died Sept. 20. He spent his career with Denver Public Schools from 1957 through 1992, first as an elementary school teacher for 23 years and then in the employee benefits office.

Steven Bell '84, age 60, of Ottumwa, Iowa, died July 17. He practiced physical therapy in Cedar Rapids before moving to Ottumwa in 1985. He eventually created Southeast Iowa Physical Therapy, which he owned and operated until 2005. He then was a contract physical therapist for agencies in southeast Iowa.

Margaret Schildknecht Birkenholz '72, age 102, of Hopkins, Missouri, died Aug. 23. She worked as a teacher and later as a school librarian.

Gary Boyd '70, age 74, of Kearney, Missouri, died July 22. He worked for Burd & Fletcher packaging company in multiple roles during a 49-year career.

William Brandt '64, '75, age 81, of Coon Rapids, Iowa, died July 21. He lived in three states and worked in 14 school districts as a teacher, principal and superintendent.

Elizabeth Yaeger Bray '68, age 86, of Nashville, Tennessee, died Sept. 8. She enjoyed painting, doll collecting and gardening.

Brenda Bromley '89, age 64, of Easton, Missouri, died July 25. She retired from East Buchanan Middle School after 32 years of teaching.

Anthony Brown, age 66, of Maryville, died May, 28. He worked in public relations and journalism, including as media information specialist at Northwest from 2004 to 2009 and then as a reporter and editor with the Maryville Forum until retiring in 2019.

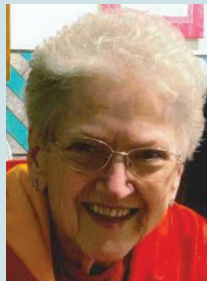
Rolf Buntaine '70, age 76, of Little Rock, Arkansas, died May 19. He worked as area manager and owner of Herff-Jones in Arkansas.



Dr. Betty Johnson Bush '60, '70, age 83, of West Des Moines, Iowa, died Sept. 1. After teaching assignments in St. Joseph and Columbia, Missouri, she joined the Northwest faculty in 1983 and later served as the chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and interim

dean of the graduate program. Among numerous teaching accolades, she was Northwest's first recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Education in 1992. She retired in 2002 but continued to supervise student teachers and mentor beginning teachers. She served on the Northwest Foundation Board of Directors from 2009 to 2015, and she was a 2014 recipient of the Northwest Alumni Association's Distinguished Faculty Emeritus Award.

Wilda Jean Campbell '63, age 94, of Maryville, died Aug. 6. She taught for 22 years in Missouri public schools.



Doris McBee Cloninger '72, age 72, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died May 12. She taught at the Western Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center and at Webster Learning Center in St. Joseph.

Terry Day '65, age 80, of Gladstone, Missouri, died May 15. He spent his career in the clothing business, starting with Lee in Kansas City, Missouri, and then with Wrangler subsidiary Blue

Bell in Greensboro, North Carolina, and eventually as vice president of manufacturing for Big Smith Apparel in New York City and Carthage, Missouri. He founded Pride-Maker Apparel and operated it until selling in 2005.

Colleen Means Dempsey '73, age 71, of Oakhurst, California, died Aug. 19. She worked for 30 years as a senior meter reader for Pacific Gas and Electric Company in Fresno and Oakhurst, retiring in 2014.

Lon Edwards '72, age 72, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died Sept. 13. He worked as a programmer for the former Missouri Methodist Medical Center from 1975 until 1984 and then worked for Dodson Insurance, Jackson County Circuit Court, Klindt Corporation and EDS, all in the Kansas City area. During the 2000s, he worked for Percepta in Denver, Colorado, before returning to Missouri, ending his career with US Bank in 2017.

Geary Engemann '67, age 78, of Wathena, Kansas, died June 24. He taught at Wathena High School for 31 years, retiring in 2001.



Ronald Ferris, age 80, of Maryville, died Oct. 14. He joined the Northwest faculty in 1966 and retired in 2009 as an assistant professor of history.

Stephen Feurt '57, age 88, of Blue Springs, Missouri, died Aug. 14. He spent the majority of his 30-plus year career in sales at Hillyard Inc. in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Phillip Gray '61, age 82, of Stanberry, Missouri, died Sept. 2. He taught for 34 years, including 31 at Stanberry High School, where he also coached football, basketball and golf, retiring in 1999.

Dr. George Green '58, age 86, of Wilmington, North Carolina, died Aug. 9. He taught economics at the University of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh and University of Maryland. He later served as executive director at Wharton Econometric Forecasting Associates and then as chief of the Business Outlook Division at the U.S. Department of Commerce until his retirement.

Jarrel Ham '74, age 75, of Platte City, Missouri, died July 19. His career included service with the U.S. Army in Germany and Vietnam as well as 18 years with the Air National Guard. He also taught high school history and was an assistant basketball coach in Nortonville, Kansas, and Lawson, Missouri, before finishing his career with the U.S. Department of Army as an educational specialist.

Mike Harter '85, age 71, of Fairbank, Iowa, died July 18. He worked as a teacher on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in Mission, South Dakota, and in Orient, Iowa; as a high school principal in Russell and at Wapsie Valley High School; and as superintendent for East Greene Schools and Wapsie Valley Schools before retiring in 2014.

Edwin Hascall '55, 88, of Coin, Iowa, died May 11. He began his teaching career in Kellerton and continued in the South Page School District where he taught math classes for 40 years, retiring in 1995.

Joyce Baker Haws '54, age 89, of Country Club, Missouri, died Aug. 26. She taught in Shenandoah and Marshalltown in Iowa.

Jim Headrick '56, age 93, of Overland Park, Kansas, died July 8. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and spent his career in sales, retiring from Pfizer in 1992 after 30 years.

John "Jack" Henry Jr. '70, age 75, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, died March 17. He began his career as a librarian at Antilles High School in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He then worked for a marketing company in Kansas City, Missouri, culminating as president of sales at the company's headquarters in Virginia Beach.

Jerry Hepp '70, age 88, of Lincoln, Nebraska, died May 26. He served in the U.S. Army, stationed in Panama during the Korean War, and the Nebraska Army National Guard for 30 years. He also taught architectural and mechanical drafting at Beatrice High School for 30 years.

Daniel Hudek '69, age 76, of Sloan, Iowa, died Sept. 7. He retired as a high school guidance counselor in Hinton, Iowa.

Larry Hofmann '64, age 83, of Ackley, Iowa, died June 4, 2022. He worked in investment banking for Harris Trust & Savings in Chicago and then headed a bond trading program at the United Bank of Denver in Colorado.



Larry Holley, age 76, of Liberty, Missouri, died May 12. He was head coach of the Bearcat men's basketball team for the 1977-78 and 1978-79 seasons before becoming head coach at William Jewell for the next 40 seasons, retiring in 2019 with a career coaching record of 832-460. He was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in 2009.

Jeanine McCamy Irinyi '73, age 71, of Kansas City, Missouri, died July 28. She taught in Missouri and Oklahoma, specializing in music and special education.

Nathan Itao '19, age 24, of Platte City, Missouri, died May 16. He was a marketing specialist with Tightlines UV lure company.

Jeff Jobe '83, age 61, of Des Moines, Iowa, died June 15. He worked for 38 years with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and helped farmers create cooperatives, diversify crops and improve farming methods in the U.S., Ukraine, Ethiopia and Nigeria.

Dwain Jones '50, age 95, of Liberty, Missouri, died July 29. He worked many years at the General Motors Fairfax and Leeds plants, retiring in 1988 as a process engineer and tooling supervisor.

Larry Kruse '65, age 82, of Glenwood, Iowa, died Aug. 7. He worked at Glenwood Resource Center for 35 years as business manager and then as assistant superintendent. He also served for 30 years with the Iowa National Guard.

Elizabeth Barr Knawa '64, age 78, of Huntley, Illinois, died Feb. 12, 2021. She taught elementary school in Blue Island and Tinley Park, Illinois.

Dick Krambeck '62, age 83, of Clive, Iowa, died Aug. 17. He served with the U.S. Army Reserves and worked as a teacher and football coach for 11 years. He then went into ministry, serving United Methodist churches in Nebraska and Iowa. He also was chaplain for the Harrison County Sheriff's Department and the Iowa State Patrol for the Council Bluffs district, retiring in 2001.

Florence Abarr Lawhead '42, age 100, of Mt. Ayr, Iowa, died July 7. She was teacher and homemaker. She served on the Northwest Foundation Board of Directors and was active in the Northwest Alumni Association.

Barbara Leshner '89, age 83, of Blue Springs, Missouri, died Aug. 31. She worked as a librarian at Northwest.

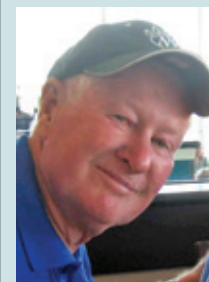
George Lewis Jr. '68, age 81, of Peculiar, Missouri, died Aug. 15. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and worked as an educator and administrator in the Raymore-Peculiar School District for more than 25 years. He also co-founded Mid-America Athletics Sales and Reconditioning to recondition football equipment for high schools, colleges and the NFL, building the business for more than 10 years until selling to Riddell, a leading football equipment manufacturer.

Francis Logan '65, age 86, of Parkville, Missouri, died Aug. 19. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and then taught junior high industrial arts in the Park Hill School District for 27 years, retiring in 1994. The Industrial Arts Association of Missouri named him Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 1979.

Dick Logerwell '71, age 80, of Kansas City, Missouri, died May 7. He worked in Fairfax, Missouri, and Anselmo-Merna, Nebraska, as a science and math teacher, coach and principal before moving to Kearney, Missouri, where he was an elementary school principal, assistant superintendent and superintendent.

Judith McGhee '79, age 71, of Indianola, Iowa, died June 23, 2022. She had a 40-year career, teaching at elementary schools in Westmoreland, Kansas, and Lamoni, Iowa, and then at Graceland University.

Brian McLaren '72, age 72, of Alamosa, Colorado, died Oct. 4. He served in the U.S. Army as a biochemist technologist before starting his career as a teacher. He worked with the U.S. Postal Service for the last 35 years.



Jim Meadows '62, age 85, of Indianola, Iowa, died Aug. 10. He served in the Iowa Air National Guard before a 31-year career as a pilot for United Airlines.

Mark Phillips '84, age 60, of Arkansas City, Kansas, died April 5. He was a track coach at Cloud County Community College, Kansas City Kansas Community College, Johnson County Community College and at Cowley County Community College. He was inducted into the NJCAA Track Coach's Hall of Fame in 2021.

Clifford Pierce '53, age 89, of Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, died Sept. 17, 2022. A veteran of the U.S. Army, he worked in the grocery industry as a retail consultant in Wichita, Kansas, a director of store design and engineering in Memphis, Tennessee, and an independent consultant in Hot Springs Village.



Doris Pierce, age 93, of Vancouver, Washington, died June 13. She was an assistant professor of political science at Northwest from 1957 to 1962 before joining the Purdue University campus in Hammond, Indiana, retiring in 1994.

Renée Presley '72, age 92, of Savannah, Missouri, died June 20. She taught English at Savannah High School for 10 years. After teaching, she joined Haney & Associates in Boston, directing capital building campaigns for hospitals and hospices.

Kenneth Price '65, age 79, of Lincoln, Nebraska, died June 15. He taught English and speech at Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca schools for 32 years.

Marilyn Pope '65, age 78, died May 22, in Las Cruces, New Mexico. She had many careers that included teaching and farming. She also was head of the Socorro Chamber of Commerce and director of the Geronimo Springs Museum in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico.

John Ramsey '70, '72, age 83, of Dawson, Nebraska, died Sept. 23. He taught at South Holt, Vandalia and Oregon in Missouri, before becoming principal at Dawson and a superintendent at Table Rock and Elk Creek in Nebraska. He also worked in farming, construction and the trucking industry.

James Redel '76, age 90, of Anamosa, Iowa, died June 25. He was a teacher and coach.

John Reighard '70, age 77, died Sept. 8 in Phoenix, Arizona. He was owner and president of Aspen Carpet Cleaners in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and later an insurance agent with Humana before retiring.



Raymond Reynolds '68, age 76, of Corning, Iowa, died July 9. He taught for 33 years until retiring from Corning Elementary in 2001. He then trained student teachers for Buena Vista University in Creston, worked as the county youth coordinator for the Iowa State University Extension

and at Hy-Vee Pharmacy until retiring again in 2021.

Duane Ridnour '70, age 83 of Sidney, Iowa, died July 23. He was a history teacher and coach in Sidney and was principal at Sidney High School for 28 years.

Bill Runkles '74, age 74, of Nebraska City, Nebraska, died May 23. He began teaching in Rock Port, Missouri, before moving to Nebraska City where he taught high school biology, anatomy and physiology.

Cleanne Ferguson Schieber '62, age 80, of Iowa City, Iowa, died Sept. 24. She was a substitute teacher and coached high school swimming.

Tim Schiesl '00, age 51, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died July 10. He was a middle school language arts teacher for more than 20 years.



Larry Sheldon '60, age 83, of Johnston, Iowa, died Feb. 27. He began his professional career as a certified public accountant with Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company and then was vice president of European subsidiaries with Delavan Manufacturing Company. He also was a

managing partner with McGladrey and Pullen in Des Moines before retiring in 1999.

Rev. Walter Steele '62, age 87, of St. Joseph, Missouri, died May 5. He worked at the state hospital in St. Joseph and was a United Methodist pastor.

Jean McClurg Stocks '53, age 90, of Webster City, Iowa, died July 9. She was a home economics teacher in Rockford, Iowa. She later worked as a dental assistant and then as part-owner of a craft

consignment shop and as a displaced homemaker coordinator at North Iowa Area Community College.

Mary Harris Terhune '61, age 82, of Savannah, Missouri, died June 22. She worked in Walmart's crafts and fabric department in St. Joseph, Missouri, for 22 years and at businesses she owned with her husband, the Rock Shop and the Coin and Jewelry Exchange.

Dona Thacker '60, age 89, died June 2, in New Albany, Indiana. She was an elementary school teacher in St. Joseph, Missouri.



Dr. Charles Thate, 91, of Harrisonville, Missouri, died May 4. He spent nearly 50 years in education as a professor and administrator, joining Northwest in 1960 as a faculty member and then serving as dean of administration, vice president of student affairs

and provost until 1976.

Robert Wade '58, age 85, died July 17, in Savannah, Missouri. After serving in the Army Reserve in St. Joseph, Missouri, he sold insurance and raised Polled Hereford cattle.

Gene Whitmer '51, age 92, of Chillicothe, Missouri, died Sept. 12. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force and then spent 39 years in education. He was a high school math and science teacher at Osborn; a math teacher, administrative assistant to the superintendent and principal in Trenton; high school principal in Richmond; and an assistant superintendent with the Chillicothe R-II School District.

Carole Williams '82, age 78, of Maryville, died July 4. She taught math and computer science for 42 years at high schools in Independence, Blue Springs and Bethany as well as North Central Missouri College.

Joe Williams '84, age 66, of Richmond, Texas, died June 9. He worked as a store owner, counselor, recreational therapist and coach.

Morris Wilson '51, age 92, of Romeo, Michigan, died May 23. He had a career spanning 42 years as a teacher, coach and athletic director in Roseville, Michigan.

Kathleen "Kim" Wood '81, '92, age 64, of Massena, Iowa, died June 9. She began her teaching career in Moorhead and Murray before teaching special education in the Griswold Community School District for 34 years.

Bruce Woodward '98, age 65, of Maryville, died May 21. He worked in the maintenance department at Northwest.

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. Submissions may be edited for length and clarity.



NORTHWEST POSTCARD

A Northwest student competes during a gaming session inside the University's esports room in the J.W. Jones Student Union.

With the opening of the esports facility in 2020, competitive gaming joined Northwest's intramural offerings, and the Esports Club competes against other school clubs in a variety of gaming events.

THE MAGAZINE FOR NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

NORTHWEST

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