Wildcat Volleyball Wins NCAA Central Regional Title and Advances to the NCAA Division II National Championships
A snowstorm that brought 16 inches of snow on Feb. 2 cancelled classes for two days and left the Willow Bowl a winter wonderland.

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The cover of this issue of the Wayne State magazine for alumni and friends says it all: We love our Wildcats! Our volleyball team gave us many reasons to be proud this season as the players and coaches fought their way to the Central Region Championship and into the college’s first appearance in the Elite Eight and Final Four of the NCAA Division II national championship. I congratulate each of our hardworking student-athletes and coaches for representing Wayne State in such a great manner.

In the same way that we are committed to ensuring Wayne State provides outstanding opportunities for student-athletes to excel in their sports and academic pursuits, the college also works hard each day to provide the facilities, curriculum and partnerships integral to our continued success as an institution. I am proud to announce that Wayne State intends to create a state-of-the-art Applied Technology Center (ATC) that supports Nebraska’s economic development by graduating students at the bachelor’s and master’s levels who will serve as industrial technology teachers and manufacturing leaders in diversified manufacturing administration, construction management, safety management and computer science. The ATC would also provide Northeast Nebraska with a facility to support management training for industry, encourage ongoing employee development, foster small business entrepreneurs interested in manufacturing and engage in applied research with industry.

The Industrial Technology and Family and Consumer Sciences programs are located in Benthack Hall, which was constructed in 1972. This facility is in need of major upgrades to the ventilation, cooling and heating, windows and electrical systems. By relocating the Industrial Technology program to a new facility, there is an opportunity to renovate Benthack Hall to support Family and Consumer Sciences’ mission to provide teachers that remain in high demand in the state. The plan calls for the renovation of the main floor of Benthack Hall to accommodate Family and Consumer Sciences by creating a contemporary teaching facility for Kiddie College.

With the relocation of the Industrial Technology program, there is an opportunity to repurpose the second floor of Benthack Hall to support the undergraduate and graduate counseling programs. The college recently earned accreditation through the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), which is a highly valued designation. Included in the accreditation findings is a need to improve facilities to support this program. The second floor of Benthack Hall would be renovated to satisfy this need.

Approximately $25 million is needed to build the ATC and renovate Benthack. WSC is committing $3 million (12.5% of the total cost) to the project. WSC funds would purchase equipment for the labs and support the renovation of Benthack Hall. Nebraska Legislative Bill 755, which is working its way through the 2015-16 legislative session, would appropriate nearly $22 million during fiscal years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 to complete the project. The bill was heard in the Appropriations Committee on Feb. 9.

In addition to expanding and improving our programs and facilities, the college also aims to enhance our relationships with our regional partners. The Greater Siouxland Task Force (GSTF) was launched in the fall to study the college’s impact and opportunities in the greater Siouxland area. The GSTF will identify strategies to support learning excellence, student success, and regional service for the area, including opportunities to enhance current and initiate new external partnerships to assist economic development in the region. I have asked the task force to forward recommendations to me by April 15, at which time I will, in consultation with the vice presidents and academic deans, implement a strategy based on the recommendations.

Task force members have attended many community functions, including South Sioux City Chamber of Commerce events and WSC alumni gatherings, to become familiar with the area. The task force also has collected and begun analysis of data from several sources, including South Sioux City schools’ internal survey of freshman students, five years of data on college attendance and success from the South Sioux City National Student Clearinghouse Student Tracker report, enrollment data for WSC for the counties in the region, and demographic and income profiles for residents of Greater Siouxland. GSTF is also surveying Greater Siouxland high school students and parents as well as community members to identify areas in which WSC can better serve the region. This information is being augmented with interviews with community stakeholders from the region, including leaders in education, business, community and local government. We are confident these efforts will complement our goal of raising our visibility in the region as a strong regional partner and the college destination of choice for Siouxland residents.

Alumni support of Wayne State has played a critical role in moving forward with our projects. I am grateful to each of you for your continued confidence in our mission to ensure students succeed through an excellent learning environment committed to regional service.

Dr. Marysz Rames

President's Message
Wayne State College held commencement for graduate and undergraduate students Dec. 18 in Rice Auditorium. A total of 214 degrees (174 bachelor’s and 40 master’s and Education Specialist degrees) were conferred at the ceremonies by Wayne State College President Marysz Rames.

Invocation: Meghan Taylor

Meghan Taylor of Omaha, delivered the invocation during the graduation ceremony. She is the daughter of Mindy Brady and David Michal, and James and Amy Taylor.

Taylor majored in K-12 Instrumental and Vocal Music Education. She was the recipient of the John G. Neihardt Scholarship, Ardath Conn Scholarship and Faith Nuernberger Endowed Memorial Scholarship.

Her activities included two terms as president of the Wayne State Collegiate Chapter of the National Association for Music Education; Wildcat Marching Band drum major for two seasons; Nebraska State Bandmaster’s Association Intercollegiate Band participant; the WSC Wind Ensemble, Orchestra, Concert Choir, Chorale, Clarinet Choir and several other performing ensembles; Cardinal Key; and Gamma Delta Chapter of the honorary band fraternity, Kappa Kappa Psi.

Undergraduate Commencement Address: Lindsey Milburn

Lindsey Milburn of Rushville, Neb., delivered the undergraduate commencement address. Milburn is the daughter of Carol Milburn and the late Leonard Milburn of Rushville.

Milburn, a 2012 graduate of Gordon-Rushville High School, majored in Speech Communication, concentrating in Communication Studies. While at Wayne State, she has served as secretary, then president, for the Mu Gamma chapter of Lambda Pi Eta (national communication honor society); a member of the Philomathean President’s Honor Society; an admissions Navigator for prospective students; a Know How to Go Ambassador for
Allen ‘74 Receives Alumni Achievement Award

Greg Allen, a 1974 graduate of Wayne State, received the Alumni Achievement Award at the December graduation ceremony. He has served as senior vice president of real estate management with Farmers Mutual of Nebraska since 2013.

Farmers Mutual of Nebraska was Allen's first job out of college. He started his career in the claims department, where he held numerous positions before being promoted to vice president of claims in 1994. He was promoted to senior vice president of operations in 2001. He was elected to the company’s Board of Directors in 1998 and continues to serve on the board.

He celebrated his 40th year with the company in 2015. Allen also serves on the Downtown Lincoln Association executive board and is a trustee of the Wayne State Foundation and a member of the Executive Committee.

Allen grew up in the north-central Iowa town of Algona. He and his wife, Susan, reside in Lincoln.
leadership change

This year marks the 55th anniversary of the Wayne State Foundation. From awarding $1,200 in scholarships in 1962 to more than $2.3 million in 2015, there is no question that the Foundation has developed into a powerful engine of support for Wayne State College. This year will be no different.

We find ourselves at the dawn of a new era, in more ways than one. This is my first year as the Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation, and this is the first year for Wayne State’s new president, Dr. Marysz Rames. Together we have created a list of resolutions and goals, and we are excited to involve all of our alumni, friends and the campus community in our drive to achieve them. Never in our history have we had so many opportunities in front of us.

Even though the new year brings change, many things will remain the same. Please rest assured that the foundation will always strive to be good stewards of your donations, which allow us to provide critical private support to the college to further enhance the exceptional student development and regional service that has taken place since 1910.

I offer my sincere gratitude to anyone and everyone who has ever played a role in making the Wayne State Foundation and Wayne State College what it is today. It could not have been done without you. I look forward to many more rewarding years to come.

GO CATS!
Kevin Armstrong
CEO, Wayne State Foundation

Armstrong to Lead Foundation

Kevin Armstrong
• Born and raised in Omaha
• Graduated from Omaha Central High School
• Earned Wayne State bachelor’s degree in criminal justice in 1999
• Played football for Wayne State for four years as an offensive lineman
• Earned Wayne State MBA in 2015
• Employed by the Wayne State Foundation since 2005
• Met his wife, Heidi (Reeg) ’95 (a Wayne native), at Wayne State
• Two children: Emily, 14; Bo, 11
• Favorite memory of WSC: “Meeting lifelong friends during my time here.”
• Why I chose WSC: “I received a football scholarship and wanted to be close to my home in Omaha.”
Change of Leadership in Wayne State Foundation

Phyllis Conner, vice president for development and executive director of the Wayne State Foundation, retired in January. Conner had led the foundation since returning to the college in 2003.

Kevin Armstrong, who has served as the director of planned giving for 11 years, assumed leadership of the foundation in January. Armstrong will have a new title of Chief Executive Officer, though his duties will closely mirror those of Conner. The Wayne State Foundation Board of Trustees has expressed complete confidence in Armstrong’s ability to lead the foundation.

Wayne State Foundation initiatives since 2003

- The Centennial Campaign, an initiative that raised $21 million for scholarships, campus beautification, general fund and the renovation of Carhart Science Building.
- The restoration of the historic Willow Bowl, fully funded by alumni at a cost of $900,000.
- Athletic Improvement Project brought artificial turf to the Memorial Stadium Field on WSC’s campus, and alumni and friends contributed $631,000.
- The renovation of U.S. Conn Library is currently in progress and primarily funded by the State of Nebraska, with the Wayne State Foundation securing $3.1 million to cover the additional funds needed to fully fund the project.
- Scholarships awarded to students grew from $552,031 to $2,360,562 per year.
- The endowment grew from $6.9 million to $17.8 million.
- Assets grew from $8.9 million to $25.1 million.
- Distributions from the foundation to the College during those 12 years total $27 million.
- Funds raised total $36 million and expectancies $21.3 million.

Thank you, Phyllis!

“Phyllis is a person whose skills and talents seemed to be perfectly suited to her job. In her role as liaison to the Executive Board, I saw Phyllis know just when and how to inform the board about issues. Her calm presence helped us to keep the foundation on a smooth trajectory. She demonstrated integrity and had our full faith and trust. She will be missed!”

Adrian Minks ’68, Wayne State Foundation Board of Trustees

“I have enjoyed knowing Phyllis for many years. She was a great asset to the Wayne State Foundation during that time. I really got to know Phyllis when Dave and I traveled with the WSC group to Vietnam in 2011. What a great travel experience that was with fun and interesting Wayne State alumni. We made some new acquaintances that continue to be friends. Phyllis led us on the trip of a lifetime!”

Kaki Ley, Wayne State Foundation Board of Trustees

“Thank you, Phyllis, for your 16 years of outstanding and unwavering commitment to making the foundation and college what it is today. Your hard work and dedication have given the foundation the strong ability to serve its stakeholders for decades to come. You will be greatly missed.”

Dr. Ron Holt ’89, Wayne State Foundation Board of Trustees

“Phyllis was the consummate ambassador and fundraiser -- a professional in all respects and a pleasure to work with. She has developed relationships with the college’s alumni and constituents that will benefit the campus for years to come.”

Dr. Don Mash, WSC president 1988-98, Wayne State Foundation Board of Trustees

City, N.J. Barnes discovered that after a semester of math methods in which candidates were offered the opportunity to use manipulatives, journal, and discuss throughout the learning experiences, and have an instructor who was enthusiastic about math, the candidates felt less anxious about math.

Dr. Meenakshi Dalal, professor of economics, served as president-elect of Nebraska Economic and Business Association (NEBA) in 2014-15 and is the president of NEBA in 2015-16. WSC hosted the NEBA Conference in October 2015.

Dr. Randa Lumsden Garden, associate professor of communications at Wayne State College, and Dr. William Seiler, professor of communication studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, coauthored a research paper titled “Serious illness conversations with doctors: Patients using information from sources other than their doctors.” This manuscript, which is officially “in press” in the Health Communication Journal, is based on Garden’s dissertation directed by Seiler at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The purpose of this study was to examine how people with serious illnesses communicate information they have acquired about their illness from the internet, social media, or mass media, to their doctors. Twenty-two in-depth interviews of patients with serious or life-threatening illnesses were conducted and analyzed.

Dr. Randy Bertolas, professor of geography, recently published the “Student Atlas of Nebraska” intended for use in fourth grade classrooms. The 56-page atlas took a year to research and create, involving input from K-12 teachers across the state. Classroom sets are distributed free to fourth grade teachers who attend atlas training workshops taught by Dr. Bertolas.

Dr. Allyn Lueders, assistant professor of speech communication, joined the department in August and said she already feels at home. Her paper, “Defining anorexia recovery online: A patient’s perspective” won a Top Paper award in the Health Communication division and will be presented at the Central States Communication Association conference April 13-17 in Grand Rapids, Mich. Lueders will be traveling to Grand Rapids with other communication faculty and students, who will also present at the conference.

Dr. Catherine Rudin, who teaches linguistics and foreign language methods at Wayne State, has co-edited the forthcoming book, Advances in the Study of Siouan Languages and Linguistics, to be published by Language Science Press.

Her co-editor is James Bryan Gordon. Rudin’s main scholarly interests are in the syntax (formal analysis of sentence structures) of Slavic and Balkan languages, especially Bulgarian, and Siouan languages, especially Omaha-Ponca.

The Siouan family comprises some 20 languages, historically spoken across a broad swath of the central North American plains and woodlands, as well as in parts of the southeastern United States. In spite of its geographical extent and diversity, and the size and importance of several Siouan-speaking
tribes, this family has received relatively little attention in the linguistic literature and many of the individual Siouan languages are severely understudied. This volume aims to make work on Siouan languages more broadly available and to encourage deeper investigation of the myriad typological, theoretical, descriptive and pedagogical issues they raise.

The 17 chapters in this volume present a broad range of current Siouan research, focusing on various Siouan languages, from a variety of linguistic perspectives: historical-genetic, philological, applied, descriptive, formal/generative and comparative/typological. The editors’ preface summarizes characteristic features of the Siouan family, including head-final and “verb-centered” syntax, a complex system of verbal affixes including applicatives and subject-possessives, head-internal relative clauses, gendered speech markers, stop-systems including ejectives, and a preference for certain prosodic and phonotactic patterns.

Rudin also maintains the Omaha and Ponca Digital Dictionary, a long-term project funded by the National Science Foundation and National Endowment for the Humanities.

How to Start a Scholarship

Scholarship dollars are essential to students attending Wayne State College. Scholarships can be tailored to meet the donor’s needs or interests, including the use of estate planning. Listed below are the types of scholarships that can be established.

Annual Scholarships
Annual scholarships are awarded annually to students in the full amount that is received from the donor. A minimum $500 contribution is required before the scholarship fund will be awarded.

Endowed Scholarships
Endowed scholarships provide perpetual awards for Wayne State College students. A minimum $10,000 in contributions is required before the scholarship fund begins to be awarded. The donor may take five years to fully fund the endowment. Endowment funds are invested and a portion of the earnings are awarded each year.

An agreement between the foundation and donor is developed for each scholarship to determine how the scholarship will be awarded.

Contact Deb for more information on how to start a current scholarship or fund a scholarship through your estate.
Accreditations Provide Measure of Success

The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

Wayne State College was first granted accreditation in 1917 as a teachers college from the Higher Learning Commission. Wayne State College received notice of its continued accreditation in May 2015, with the next reaffirmation in 2024-25. WSC has elected to seek its next reaffirmation through the Open Pathway. The Open Pathway separates the continued accreditation process into two components: the Assurance Review and the Quality Initiative.

Specialized Program Accreditation

In addition to the Higher Learning Commission at the institutional level, Wayne State College also has several Programmatic/Specialized accreditations. These include IACBE, NASAD, NASM, NCATE, NDE, CSHSE and CACREP.

International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE)

Wayne State College received renewal of its specialized accreditation for its business programs through the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education in April 2015. The next reaffirmation will be in 2022.

The IACBE’s philosophy of accreditation is centered on student learning and operational outcomes, which makes it flexible and adaptable.

The business programs in the following degrees are accredited by the IACBE:

- Master of Business Administration: Business and Education

Accreditations are a process of external quality review used by higher education to scrutinize colleges, universities and educational programs for quality assurance and quality improvement. Wayne State College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission; an institutional, regional accreditor recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and the U.S. Department of Education (USDE). The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality.

Wayne State College holds institutional and specialized accreditation from the following organizations:

National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD)

The Department of Art and Design in WSC’s School of Arts and Humanities has been an accredited institutional member of NASAD since 2009. NASAD is the only organization recognized by the U.S. State Department to accredit Art units. NASAD accreditation reviews focus on educational quality, institutional integrity and educational improvements. The next reaffirmation will be during the 2019-20 academic year.

National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)

The Department of Music in WSC’s School of Arts and Humanities is accredited by NASM, the national accreditation agency for music and music-related disciplines. NASM is an association of approximately 625 schools of music, primarily at the collegiate level, but also including postsecondary non-degree-granting schools of music. The next reaffirmation will be during the 2016-17 academic year.

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)

NCATE is the teaching profession’s mechanism to help to establish high quality teacher, specialist, and administrator preparation. Their performance-based system of accreditation fosters competent classroom teachers and other educators who work to improve the education of all P-12 students.

Wayne State College is accredited under the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Standards through the CAEP Accreditation System, for a period of seven years, from 2010 to 2017. Wayne State College will seek accreditation under the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) Standards in spring 2017. Formed in 2013, CAEP is the single specialized accreditor for educator preparation, and administers NCATE accreditation.

Nebraska Department of Education (NDE)

NDE reviews and approves teacher and administrator education programs that lead to certification to teach, administer and provide special services in schools. Wayne State College is among those with an approved educator preparation program.

Council for Standards in Human Service Education (CSHSE)

CSHSE accredited the Wayne State College Human Service Counseling program for October 2015 to October
2020. This is the first time the WSC Human Service Counseling program gained national accreditation status.

The CSHSE National Standards are based on national research of human service educational programs that are grounded in relationship with service providers in their communities. In addition, the standards have been confirmed through external research. CSHSE assures the quality, consistency and relevance of human service education programs across the nation.

**Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP)**

CACREP, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, granted accreditation to the Department of Counseling at Wayne State College for Clinical Mental Health Counseling (M.S.E. degree) in February, with the next reaffirmation set for March 2018.

CACREP provides leadership and promotes excellence in professional preparation through the accreditation of counseling and related educational programs. As an accrediting body, CACREP is committed to the development of standards and procedures that reflect the needs of a dynamic, diverse and complex society. CACREP is dedicated to encouraging and promoting the continuing development and improvement of preparation programs; and preparing counseling and related professionals to provide services consistent with the ideal of optimal human development.

CACREP maintains collaborative relationships with other groups that focus on accreditation, licensing, certification, and the professional development of counselors and related practitioners.

**Student Services Accreditation**

The Wayne State College Counseling Center is accredited by the International Association of Counseling Services, Inc. (IACS), the accreditation association for university and four-year college counseling services. WSC’s Counseling Center was evaluated by IACS for high standards of counseling practice and was found to offer competent and reliable professional services to its clientele. Approval by IACS is also dependent upon evidence of continuing professional development as well as demonstration of excellence of counseling performance.

The Wayne State Counseling Center has met requirements for this accreditation since 1999 and is reaccredited through the next review, which is set for June. An annual report is required to demonstrate continued compliance with accreditation standards.
The college has surpassed the halfway point on the U.S. Conn Library renovations. Construction started during the spring of 2014 and has moved at a steady pace ever since. Students and staff are already using remodeled spaces in the basement and first floor. Efficient compact shelving now holds the majority of our book collection. Students and staff have been enjoying coffee and frozen yogurt at the new Jitters since the fall, and in January the grand main entrance was opened for the first time. Two phases of renovations remain to be completed, primarily on the east side and south side of the building. These remaining phases will provide new homes for the Holland Academic Success Center, the Teaching and Learning with Technology Center, and the WSC Archives. Wayne State remains on track to finish the project by summer 2017.
Cadaver Lab Adds Hands-on Component to Anatomy Classes

The Wayne State College Life Sciences Department has expanded the human anatomy course to include a human cadaver. Cadavers are utilized by anatomy programs across the country to enhance the education of students entering the medical field. This incredible opportunity for Wayne State students has been made possible through the generous acts of those who elect to donate their bodies after death for educational and scientific purposes. In Nebraska, the donation of human remains is made to the Anatomical Board of the State of Nebraska. This program helps coordinate this unique and generous educational resource throughout our state.

“I’m happy to see our hard work and planning come to fruition,” said Dr. Ron Loggins, Life Sciences Department Chair. “Due to the sensitive nature of adding a human donor to our program, we worked closely with many campus administrators to fulfill the requirements established by the Anatomical Board regarding our facilities. Everyone involved in bringing this opportunity to our students recognized the importance of what we had proposed and were committed to making this happen.”

The donor provides the learning tool that serves as an incredibly valuable resource for the study of anatomy. This opportunity will enhance the study of human anatomy and prepare WSC students for the rigors of medical school. Additionally, a small group of seniors will be enrolled in a new Advanced Human Anatomy course co-taught by Drs. Loggins and Glenn Kietzmann. In this advanced course, students will have a hands-on experience in which they will expand their knowledge of human anatomy as well as help prepare the donor for use by other anatomy students.

“This will provide an opportunity for me to learn and practice advanced dissection, which will better prepare me for medical school,” said Ashley Bode of Elgin, Neb., a senior in the Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) studying pre-medicine. “Utilizing a donor for the first time can be an overwhelming experience so it is helpful for students to become acclimated to that environment before going on to professional school where many other students already have some experience,” said Mary Mercier, a senior pre-dentistry student from Omaha. “It is also helpful for those of us who are visual learners; this hands-on activity will give us all a head start toward learning about our future careers.”

“This class provides us with a wonderful opportunity to learn and will be able to better prepare us for professional school,” said Cody Wisnieski of Dodge, Neb., a senior in the RHOP pre-physical therapy program. “This is just another way that WSC works to provide us with the best education possible.”

This summer, the WSC Anatomy Lab will undergo a small renovation to enhance air handling and storage capacity to allow the addition of a second donor. Having male and female donors will further enhance student learning by providing more opportunity for study.

The Rural Health Opportunities Program is a cooperative program between the Nebraska state colleges and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). The purpose of the program is to recruit and educate students from rural Nebraska who will return to practice in rural areas of the state. This program represents a commitment and dedication to the education of Nebraskans and quality health care for citizens of the state. Participants in the program spend time at WSC and UNMC, with the amount of time at each institution determined by the program.
New Professional Development School Program Combines Practical Experience with Innovative Instruction

Student success. Learning excellence. Regional service. Wayne State’s mission succeeds because the college consistently views each of these elements as equal parts of a well-rounded education. The college’s new Professional Development School pilot program at Norfolk Catholic Elementary School in Norfolk, Neb., delivers on this promise, ensuring that teacher education blends practical experience with innovative instruction while contributing to the educational experience of a regional partner.

“Wayne State College is inextricably linked to teacher preparation,” said Dr. Michael Anderson, Vice President for Academic Affairs at WSC. “Preparing teachers was the original mission of our college, and, while the School of Education and Counseling has changed over time, the school continues as an exemplar of service to the region. WSC prepares teachers and counselors with a blend of traditional methodologies and contemporary models.”

Wayne State College’s national accrediting body, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education/Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (NCATE/CAEP) defines a Professional Development School (PDS) as an innovative institution formed through partnerships between professional education programs and schools with preschool through 12th grade students.

“Essentially, a PDS teacher preparation program is a laboratory school in reverse,” Anderson said. “Future teachers learn how to teach while embedded in an actual classroom.”

The U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation recognize NCATE as a professional accrediting body for teacher preparation. NCATE accredits 670 colleges of education. NCATE is a coalition of teachers, teacher educators, content specialists, and local and state policy makers with common quality education concern. The coalition represents more than 3 million individuals.

NCATE compares the typical PDS to a teaching hospital. As practicing professions, teaching and medicine require a sound academic program and intense clinical preparation, the teaching hospital was designed to provide such clinical preparation for medical students and interns. The PDS serves the same function for teacher candidates and in-service faculty. Both settings provide support for professional learning in a real-world setting in which practice takes place.

“Wayne State College students benefit from the clinical experience in an authentic setting, the WSC faculty benefit by learning about current PK-12 curriculum/testing, and the school site benefits by having students who are prepared to assist in their classroom,” Anderson said. “WSC students are working on daily teaching activities, working to assist the implementation of a new Language Arts program, and they can address any ongoing performance concerns by focusing on a specific academic concern. In addition, the teaching faculty at both institutions can share teaching ideas and learn from each other. This collaborative effort improves teaching and learning for students in both institutions.”

Norfolk Catholic officials invited Wayne State College personnel to begin this pilot project with a focus on reading and language arts.

“In the future, Wayne State College will include science,
“This has been a wonderful experience for both [WSC student] Jenn Crosley and me. She entered our room and began building a relationship with my students. She has been flexible, consistent, and humorous. This is an excellent program for all involved. Thank you, WSC!”

- Barbara Hochstein, third-grade teacher at Norfolk Catholic

“math, social studies and reading applications so that our students can see different schools and learn to implement different subjects,” Anderson said. “As this pilot develops, the School of Education and Counseling is planning to expand the PDS program to Wakefield and Wayne.”

Dr. Joni Irlmeier, an associate professor of education and director of the graduate studies program at Wayne State College, serves as the director of the PDS. Irlmeier mentors teachers in professional development schools.

“My mentors told me they felt it was nice to have an extra set of hands and eyes in the classroom,” Irlmeier said. “They said they believe that when you have two adults in the room you do a lot more hands-on things and you can do stronger classroom management. It gives you an opportunity to do a variety of things, including work in groups.”

Irlmeier talked with WSC students who told her the program made them feel as if they were real teachers.

“PDS has been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and experience,” said Karissa Rudloff of Creighton, Neb. “There is no better way to grow as a prospective teacher than getting to work with young minds every day.”

“This has been an exhilarating experience!” Amy Specht of Columbus, Neb. said. “I am taking on the role of a teacher and learning aspects of the classroom I could never learn in a traditional campus class.”

“Amy Spect is awesome!” said JoAnn Fintowski, a Norfolk Catholic fifth-grade teacher. “From the first day she has been building relationships with the students as well as myself. One day she taught a math investigation that was really overwhelming, but she carried the entire lesson with style and grace. She kept track of those students that were not on task. She is competent, confident and a wonderful asset to our classroom. Thank you Wayne State College for this practical program.”

“This experience is one you could never get in the classroom,” said WSC student Bailey Bentjen of Wayne.

“Being able to watch a teacher in a classroom setting provides many resources to us as prospective teachers. Working with these teachers has been one of the best experiences in my education.”

“I start my day at 5 a.m., and I prepare myself for the day and put myself into the zone,” said Jenn Crosley of Niobrara, Neb. “What other program prepares not only your mind but your lifestyle for your future? I can plan lessons all day long, but being able to apply it in the classroom is invaluable.”

“The PDS experience has been very beneficial for me and my students,” said Dawne Miller, a first-grade teacher at Norfolk Catholic. “My PDS student has been able to work one-on-one with students while I am teaching whole class. She has also team-taught with me. By having her, my students are getting the extra help they need that I wouldn’t have time for. It is a win-win situation that I love!”

“This has been a wonderful experience for both [WSC student] Jenn Crosley and me” said Barbara Hochstein, a third-grade teacher at Norfolk Catholic. “She entered our room and began building a relationship with my students. She has been flexible, consistent and humorous. This is an excellent program for all involved. Thank you, WSC!”

“I have loved having [WSC student] Sarah Garcia in my room,” said Hilary Clausen, a fourth-grade teacher at the school. “She immediately was willing to walk around and check out what the students were working on.”

Michelle Bauer, a 2012 WSC graduate who teaches second grade at North Park Elementary in Columbus, Neb., looked back at her student-teaching experience as critical to her success.

“I had such a wonderful student teaching experience,” Bauer said. “I was able to spend an entire year in a classroom. I was able to see what the beginning and end of a year looks like. By the time I was student teaching, I had built a relationship with all students. It definitely made the transition less stressful. In addition to those benefits, I became very familiar with the administration and other staff. I believe in the PDS program and encourage future teachers to participate in it.”

Erica (Reitz) Zywiec, a 2012 graduate, echoed the sentiments of several alumni.

“I loved going through the PDS program five years ago,” she said. “It was an awesome experience, and I am so happy you brought it back.”
The 2015 Wayne State College volleyball team made school history in December by winning the school’s first-ever NCAA Central Region title and advancing to the NCAA Division II National Championships in Tampa, Fla., where the Wildcats advanced to the Final Four for the first time in school history.

In a span of one week in early December, the Wildcats went from barely qualifying for the national tournament to recording three impressive wins in three days against three Top 10 nationally ranked teams and advancing to the Elite Eight.

Wayne State finished the regular season placing third in the NSIC with a 16-4 league mark while posting a 27-7 overall record. The Wildcats received the No. 7 seed for the NCAA Central Regional Tournament in St. Paul, Minn., where the Wildcats took down No. 8 Central Missouri 3-1 and No. 4 Southwest Minnesota State 3-1 to reach the regional final against No. 1 Concordia-St. Paul.

In the regional final against the seven-time NCAA Division II national champions, the Wildcats recorded a sizzling .410 attack percentage with 49 kills and just six attack errors to sweep the Golden Bears 25-16, 26-24 and 25-10 to capture the school’s first-ever Central Regional title.

At the National Championships in Tampa on Dec. 10, the Wildcats used a match-high 19 kills from junior middle hitter Alyssa Frauendorfer and double-doubles from junior Michaela Mestl (14 kills, 14 digs) and senior Katie Hughes (12 kills, 18 digs) to defeat Carson-Newman of Tennessee 25-20, 25-22, 18-25 and 25-16 to advance to the semifinals the next day where the Wildcats fell in a hard-fought battle with Palm Beach Atlantic 21-25, 21-25 and 25-27 to end the season with a 28-8 record.

Wayne State finished the season ranked third in the final AVCA Division II Top 25 Coaches Poll, the highest-ever finish in NCAA Division II, averaging 657 fans in 13 home matches during the season. Wayne State has now ranked in the top 10 in home volleyball attendance for seven straight seasons.

Five Wildcat players earned All-Northern Sun Conference honors. Senior libero Courtney VanGroningen was voted NSIC Libero of the Year by league coaches along with earning First Team All-NSIC honors. She led the NSIC in league matches with 5.43 digs per set and was third overall at 5.17 digs a set. VanGroningen finished her Wildcat career with 2,170 career digs to rank second all time.

Senior setter Leisa McClintock was a repeat First Team All-NSIC selection at setter after ranking fourth in the NSIC with 11.53 assists per set. The Bishop Heelan (Sioux City, Iowa) graduate closed her Wildcat career as the all-time set assists leader with 5,088.

Senior outside hitter Katie Hughes (Seward) was another First Team All-NSIC selection for the Wildcats after recording 14 double-doubles in 20 NSIC matches.
She averaged 3.53 kills and 4.89 digs per set for the Wildcats, ranking fourth in the NSIC in digs and seventh in kills per set. Hughes closed her career as one of just seven players to record more than 1,000 kills and 1,000 digs, finishing third in career digs (1,924) and 14th in career kills (1,177).

Junior middle hitter Alyssa Frauendorfer earned First Team All-NSIC honors for a third straight season after averaging 3.23 kills and 0.64 blocks per set. The Humphrey High graduate ranked eighth in the NSIC with a team-leading .352 attack percentage. Frauendorfer surpassed the 1,000 kill mark in November and is one of 17 players in school history to achieve the feat.

Senior right side hitter Elizabeth Gebhardt (Lutheran High Northeast) received Second Team All-NSIC honors for the Wildcats after averaging 3.15 kills and 0.63 blocks per set. She became the 17th player in school history to reach 1,000 career kills after recording 14 vs. No. 1 Concordia-St. Paul in the Central Regional final.

All five players were also named to the NCAA Central Region All-Tournament Team after recording a tournament-high 19 kills in Wayne State’s win against Carson-Newman. Frauendorfer was also voted AVCA Third Team All-American while VanGroningen was an honorable mention All-American selection. Frauendorfer is just the third player in Wildcat history to receive All-American honors, joining Emily Schroeder in 2006 and 2007 (Second Team) and Jennifer Hefner in 2009 and 2010 (Second Team).

Wildcat volleyball also continues to excel in the classroom as 10 players were named to the NSIC Fall All-Academic Team. They were seniors Gebhardt, Hughes, McClintock and VanGroningen, juniors Frauendorfer, Michaela Mestl, Alex Opperman and Sydney Rose, and sophomores Bree Ackermann and Erin Gross.

McClintock was also the recipient of the Elite 90 Award at the Elite Eight Banquet in Tampa where she recorded the highest grade point average of any athlete competing in the National Championships.
Wildcats head coach Dan McLaughlin became the all-time wins leader at Wayne State College with the Wildcats’ 20-17 home win against Concordia-St. Paul on Oct. 24. It was his 63rd win during his 11 years as head coach.

The Wayne State College football team finished the 2015 season with a 4-7 record. Three of Wayne State’s losses came to teams that made the NCAA Division II playoffs with a fourth loss coming to a nationally ranked team that represented the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) in the Mineral Water Bowl.

Wayne State gained a season-high 662 yards in a season opening 58-16 win against Minnesota Crookston, and the Wildcat offensive line ranked as one of the best in the league again this season, ranking second with just 10 sacks allowed.

Offensively, senior running back Ryan Ludlow (Plattsmouth) led the way rushing for 1,039 yards on 230 carries (4.5 average) with seven touchdowns. He is the eighth player in school history to rush for more than 1,000 yards in a single season.

Defensively, senior defensive back Jon Davis (Webster City, Iowa) paced the Wildcat defense with a team-high 95 tackles on the season, ranking eighth in the league in tackles per game (8.6).

Wayne State had four players named to the NSIC All-Conference Football Team.

Ludlow, a senior running back, and junior offensive lineman Shane Finley were named NSIC South Division First Team Offense while senior defensive back Jon Davis and senior offensive lineman Taylor Jensen were NSIC South Division honorable mention.

Ludlow was one of the top rushers in the NSIC, ranking third in the league in rushing yards per game (94.5) while ranking eighth in all-purpose yards per game at 99.1. He had five games with more than 100 yards this season, highlighted by 171 yards on 32 carries with three TD’s in a 45-31 loss at Winona State.

Finley, a 6-foot-5-inch, 280-pound junior from Omaha (Roncalli Catholic HS), started all 11 games this season at right tackle. He is a two-year starter for the Wildcats and was a Second Team NSIC All-South Division selection last season.

Davis, a 6-foot, 180-pound senior, earned All-NSIC South Division honorable mention honors after leading WSC in tackles this season with 95. In South Division games, he was second in the league averaging 9.4 tackles per game.

Jensen, a 6-foot-3-inch, 285-pound senior from Emerson (South Sioux City HS), was an All-NSIC South Division honorable mention selection after receiving Second Team accolades last season. He was a four-year starter at right guard for the Wildcats, starting all but one of his 44 games in a Wildcat uniform.

Eleven Wildcats players received NSIC Fall All-Academic honors for the season. They include seniors Davis, Payton Doramus, Jensen, Ludlow and Wyatt Schuettler; juniors Jarrod Bazata, Eric Lammers, Tyler Lindsay and Bryce Quinn; and sophomores Alex Kline and Nathan Weatherby.
Plattsmouth Graduates Lead Wayne State Cross Country Teams

Plattsmouth graduates Justin Brueggemann and Andre DeSimone were the top runners for the Wayne State College cross country teams in the 2015 season.

The Wildcats competed in six meets during the season with Brueggemann, a senior, and DeSimone, a junior, finishing as the top Wildcat runner at each meet for Wayne State. Brueggemann had a season-best fourth place finish at the Dakota State Invitational on Sept. 12, while DeSimone's best run was a 16th place finish at the same meet.


The Wildcat women's team had a sixth place finish in the Dakota State Invitational and placed 15th at the Northern Sun Conference Championships in St. Paul, Minn., with 416 points.

Five runners from the two programs received NSIC Fall All-Academic honors. They were senior Nicholas Fly and juniors Corbin Lehn and Nick Schmit from the men's team, along with senior Molly Kingsley and junior DeSimone on the women's team.

Strong Finish Highlights 2015 Women’s Soccer

A strong finish to the 2015 Wayne State College women's soccer season under new head coach Bruce Erickson has Wildcat fans looking forward to the future of the program.

WSC won three of its last five games to end the 2015 season, giving the Wildcats a 4-11-3 record and 4-10-1 mark in the Northern Sun Conference. The four league wins and 12th place finish were the highest for the Wildcat program since the 2010 season.

The young Wildcat squad gained momentum in the second half of the season, getting its first-ever win against the University of Mary in 10 meetings – a 4-3 double overtime win in Bismarck, N.D.

Junior Kelsey Engstrom (Lincoln Pius X HS) led the Wildcats in scoring this season with eight points on three goals and two assists followed by freshmen Carys Hund (Elmhurst, Ill.) and Christina Stasi (Millard North HS) with seven points apiece.

Wayne State had two players named to the NSIC All-Conference Team, as senior forward/defender Josie Brown collected Third Team honors while freshman forward Christina Stasi was an honorable mention selection.

Brown, a 5-foot-8-inch senior from Elk River, Minn., had one goal and two assists this season while leading the Wildcats in shots (46) and shots on goal (23). She moved from forward to defender midway through the season, helping WSC to a strong second half finish that saw the 'Cats win three of its last five games to end the season.

Stasi, a 5-foot-5-inch forward, recorded three goals and one assist for WSC this season to finish tied for second on the team in scoring. She ranked second on the team in shots (30) and shots on goal (17) and had two game-winning goals vs. Minnesota Crookston (Oct. 3) and at the University of Mary (Oct. 24).

Wayne State had seven players named to the NSIC Fall All-Academic Team. They include seniors Brown, Amy Oates, Natalie Poppe and Hannah Thayer; juniors Engstrom and Valerie Hernandez; and sophomore Suenly Galvez.

The 'Cats are just a click away at wscwildcats.com
14 Seniors Receive Myles Brand All-Academic Award

Fourteen Wayne State College seniors, the most from any school in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference, received the seventh annual NSIC Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award announced on Jan. 14 by the league office in Burnsville, Minn. The honor, named for the late NCAA President Dr. Myles Brand, is bestowed to senior NSIC student-athletes who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 or higher, are exhausting their eligibility and on track to graduate.

“The Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award is one of the highest honors a student-athlete in the NSIC can achieve,” said NSIC Commissioner Erin Lind. “To earn this prestigious honor, one must show a commitment and dedication to both academics and athletics, characteristics which Dr. Myles Brand emphasized. I am extremely proud of all these student-athletes for their devotion to their colleges and universities, the NSIC and to their personal academic and athletic goals. I have no doubt these student-athletes will continue to achieve success in life well beyond the classroom and the competition venues.”

A record total of 132 student athletes from the 16 institutions in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference will receive the award in its seventh year. Each student-athlete will be recognized by the NSIC with a certificate of achievement and a wrist watch.

The Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference is a 16-team, 17-sport NCAA Division II Conference with teams in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

WAYNE STATE COLLEGE RECIPIENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>Major</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Andersen</td>
<td>Men’s Basketball</td>
<td>Lester Prairie, Minn.</td>
<td>Sport Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josie Brown</td>
<td>Women’s Soccer</td>
<td>Elk River, Minn.</td>
<td>Communication Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jon Davis</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Webster City, Iowa</td>
<td>Chemistry/Health Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Gebhardt</td>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>Norfolk, Neb.</td>
<td>Mathematics Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joey Greco</td>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>Omaha, Neb.</td>
<td>Sport Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie Hughes</td>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>Seward, Neb.</td>
<td>Elementary Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molly Kingsley</td>
<td>Women’s CC/Track</td>
<td>Bellevue, Neb.</td>
<td>Art Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexie Loos</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Omaha, Neb.</td>
<td>Sport Physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisa McClintock</td>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>Sioux City, Iowa</td>
<td>Exercise Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cassy Miller</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Wakefield, Neb.</td>
<td>Chemistry/Health Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spencer Morris</td>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>Genoa, Neb.</td>
<td>Computer Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sadie Murren</td>
<td>Women’s Basketball</td>
<td>Colon, Neb.</td>
<td>Business Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalie Poppe</td>
<td>Women’s Soccer</td>
<td>North Platte, Neb.</td>
<td>Life Sciences/Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannah Thayer</td>
<td>Women’s Soccer</td>
<td>Aurora, Ill.</td>
<td>Organizational Leadership</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wording Your Will

Whether you are at the beginning stage of drafting a will or finishing the details, the Wayne State Foundation can help. From time to time, we receive phone calls from attorneys wanting to know the full legal name of the foundation and sample bequest language for their clients. Please feel free to share the following information with your legal advisors to find an option that works best for you.

UNRESTRICTED BEQUEST

I give to Wayne State Foundation the sum of $__________ (or ___% of my estate; or the property described herein) for its general purposes.

SPECIFIC BEQUEST

I give to Wayne State Foundation the sum of $__________ (or ___% of my estate; or the property described herein) to be used for __________________________(specify purpose).

RESIDUARY BEQUEST

All the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, I give to Wayne State Foundation for its general purposes.

CONTINGENT BEQUEST

I devise and bequeath the residue of the property owned by me at my death, real and personal, and wherever situate, to my wife,______________, if she survives me. If my wife does not survive me, I devise and bequeath my residuary estate to Wayne State Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, located in Wayne, Nebraska, USA, for its general purposes.

Contact Kevin for more information on how to put the Wayne State Foundation in your estate plans.
State Nebraska Bank Funds Upgrades

Wayne State College athletics has completed renovations and upgrades to the men’s basketball locker room thanks to a $25,000 gift from State Nebraska Bank & Trust of Wayne. The upgrades were showcased to the Wayne community at a Wayne Chamber of Commerce coffee on Oct. 16.

“I would like to thank Matt Ley, his family and State Nebraska Bank & Trust for their generosity and continuous support of our basketball program,” said WSC head men’s basketball coach Brian Dolan. “With the improvements we have been able to make in our locker room thanks to the gift from SNB, we are able to show our recruits that we are serious about making our basketball program a top-tier program not only in the NSIC but also at the NCAA Division II level.”

The project included the reconfiguration of the locker room to provide a separate space for multimedia and film review along with installation of high-end graphics, branding and illuminated signage.

“It was a pleasure to work with WSC and the men’s basketball coaching staff on the update to their locker room,” remarked Ley, CEO of State Nebraska Bank & Trust. “Coach Dolan, his staff and WSC Athletic Director Mr. Mike Powicki are committed to improving the program and we were happy to help partner with them to realize their goals. State Nebraska Bank & Trust hopes to see a ton more pennants and conference titles in each and every locker room and gym at Wayne State College.”
Lindsey (Koch) Pittman ‘02
Lindsey Pittman was a four-year volleyball standout from Norfolk that played at Wayne State from 1998 to 2001. She is Wayne State’s all-time leader in career kills with 1,651 and ranks second all-time in career digs with 1,874 and was one of the first players in school history to have 500 kills and 400 digs in the same season. Pittman was a three-time All-NSIC First Team selection in volleyball and was Second Team Daktronics All-Central Region as a senior. During her junior season, she helped Wayne State to a 24-9 record and tied for the NSIC regular season title with Southwest Minnesota State as both teams went 16-2 in league play. Pittman was a three-year team captain and was named the Wayne State College Female Athlete of the Year in 2001 and 2002. Pittman is one of only six players in school history to have 1,000 career kills and 1,000 career digs in volleyball.

Vicki (Wamberg) Byrkit ‘85
Vicki Byrkit was a standout high jumper in high school and at Wayne State during her Wildcat career from 1982 to 1985 (only competed three years at WSC because she student taught in the spring of her senior season). The Wausa native held the school record at Wayne State for 22 years and was a two-time All-American, placing fifth in the NAIA Indoor National Championships clearing 5’ 4” and fourth at the 1984 NAIA Indoor National Championships (5’ 6”). Byrkit was also a three-time outdoor national qualifier at Wayne State and placed second at the CSIC Meet as a sophomore, junior and senior while also winning the NAIA District 11 Meet as a sophomore. Byrkit’s father, Dale, and five of the six Wamberg children graduated from Wayne State. Byrkit resides in David City where she has been employed at David City Public School since 1993 and works as a second grade teacher.

Katie Wilson ‘09
Katie Wilson was a standout thrower for the Wayne State women’s track and field team from 2005 to 2009. The Glenwood, Iowa, native helped Wayne State to three straight runner-up finishes at the NSIC Indoor Championships, winning two NSIC indoor shot put titles (2005, 2006) and five conference titles in the outdoor season. Wilson was a four-time All-American at Wayne State, highlighted by the 2008 outdoor national title in the shot put that made her the first female NCAA national champion in school history. Other All-American honors included 2006 indoor shot put (5th), 2008 indoor shot put (4th) and 2008 outdoor discus (5th). She held school records in five events and was the 2005 NSIC Outdoor Newcomer of the Year and 2006 NSIC Indoor Field Athlete of the Year. Wilson is a third grade teacher and assistant softball/track and field coach at Nebraska City High School.

Randy Pedersen ’71
Randy Pedersen graduated from Wayne State College with a degree in business administration. He worked as a financial planner until 1972. Pedersen then accepted a position with Zales Jewelers and served as a store manager until 1978 when he purchased a local jewelry store that he renamed The Diamond Center. This business is now The Diamond Center - Flowers & Wine. Pedersen has been active in the community. He has served on the Wayne city council and planning commission, served as past President of the Wayne Area Chamber of Commerce and served as chairman for the Business Improvement District on the reconstruction of Main Street. Pedersen is a member of WAEDI and the Wayne Rotary Club. He has been involved in the jewelry industry as past President of the Nebraska, South Dakota Jewelers Association and is on the Board of Directors. He is a member of the Jewelers of America and the Jewelers Security Alliance, and sits on the Merchandise Review Committee for Retail Jewelers Organization, a buying group of more than 900 independent jewelers across the nation. Pedersen also serves on the Providence Medical Center Board of Trustees and the Little Red Hen Board of Trustees. Pedersen received the Wayne State College Alumni Achievement Award in 2007. Pedersen has committed his time and support to Wayne State College as a Cat Club member, corporate sponsor, long-time season ticket holder of Wildcat Athletics, a trustee of the Wayne State Foundation, Executive Committee member and past President of the Wayne State Foundation.
Adrian (Johnson) Minks ’68 Receives Alumni Service Award

Adrian Minks is a native of Little Sioux, Iowa, having grown up on a farm and graduated from West Harrison High School in Mondamin, Iowa. She is a proud alumna of Wayne State College, class of 1968, and has since lived and worked in Omaha. She held various information management positions with Northern Natural Gas/InterNorth/Enron for nearly 20 years. Minks then transferred to Omaha Public Power District where she held several positions, ending as Vice President of Essential Services, where she was a member of the senior management team of the billion dollar public utility. She oversaw information technology, human resources and other functions. Adrian retired in 2011, with a solid record as a valued voice on the leadership team and a role model and mentor for many employees.

Minks has been active in community organizations for many years, including serving on and chairing the Women’s Center for Advancement board of directors. She was interim CEO for a six-month period and received the group’s Tribute to Women award in 2011. Minks is a strong supporter of the center’s mission benefiting women and families.

Minks served on the UNO Alumni Association board of directors and received UNO’s Distinguished Alumni Award. She served as a board member for the Greater Omaha Alliance for Business Ethics and the Institute for Career Advancement, serving as honorary chair for the 2010 ICAN Women’s Leadership Conference. She is especially proud of her service to the Wayne State Foundation, serving on the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee and chair for two years. She received the Wayne State College Alumni Achievement award in 2004.

Minks and her husband of 40 years, Jon, are happy to support Wayne State College’s mission of educational opportunities for first-generation college students. They continue to reside in Omaha and enjoy extensive travel in their retirement years.

Dr. Connie (Depperman) Petersen BS ’99 -
School of Natural and Social Sciences

Connie Petersen began her 20-year history of working in the mental health and addiction fields at R-Way in Wayne while pursuing her undergraduate degree at Wayne State. She worked at and later managed the Kirkwood House facility before becoming a community support provider for R-Way. She obtained her doctoral degree through Wichita State University in 2001. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at the Mississippi State Hospital in Whitfield, Miss., and her doctoral degree in Community-Clinical Psychology in 2007. Petersen began her career with Behavioral Health Specialists, Inc. in Norfolk as the director of outpatient clinical services. She also serves as the interim director at Sunrise Place (a short-term residential drug and alcohol treatment center) in Norfolk. Petersen’s husband, Jeff, has supported her throughout her career. They have four children: Lucas (7), Riley (5), Tate (3) and Dagney (4 months).

Outstanding Alumni Honored at Homecoming

Christa (Habrock) Dutcher, BA ‘04, MBA ‘05, BS ‘07 -
School of Arts and Humanities

Christa Dutcher graduated from Wayne State College in 2004 with degrees in Spanish and business management. She continued her studies at Wayne State as a graduate assistant while attaining an MBA. While working as an adjunct instructor at Wayne State, she decided to pursue a degree in education. Dutcher lives in Wayne and has been teaching Spanish at Wayne High School for eight years. While at Wayne High, she has taught dual credit courses through Wayne State College, started a chapter of Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (Spanish Honor Society), served as Spanish Club sponsor and has been an assistant track coach.

Kent Riesberg, BS ‘80 -
School of Business and Technology

Kent Riesberg graduated from Wayne State with a bachelor of science degree in business administration and was hired at Mutual of Omaha in the internal audit division. He later transferred to the information technology division and has worked on major projects for more than 30 years. Riesberg has been heavily involved in community work, including Boy Scouts of America, working at a local food pantry, volunteering at a dementia unit and working with his church’s teen program. Riesberg and his wife Karen ‘80 have three children, two of whom are graduates of Wayne State College.

Julia (Lorenz) Cook, MSE ‘04 -
School of Education and Counseling

Julia Cook was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah. While living in Utah, she was actively involved in teaching children how to ski. That experience led to a love of teaching in general. She completed her bachelor's degree in education at the University of Utah, moved to Fremont, Neb., and earned the master's degree in Elementary School Counseling at Wayne State College. Cook often used children’s books to enhance her classroom lessons. She is now nationally recognized as an award-winning children’s book author and parenting expert. Cook has presented in more than 800 schools across the country and regularly delivers keynote addresses at education and counseling conferences. She has published more than three dozen children’s books. The goal behind all of Cook’s books and efforts is to actively involve young people into stories and teach them to become life-long problem solvers.

Wayne State College deans presented plaques to outstanding alumni during Homecoming. (L-R) Steven Elliott, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities; Christa (Habrock) Dutcher BA ’04, MBA ’05, BS ’07; Dr. David Harycki, Dean, School of Education and Counseling; Julia (Lorenz) Cook MSE ’04; Dr. Tammy Evetovich, Dean, School of Natural and Social Sciences; Dr. Connie (Depperman) Petersen BS’99; Dr. Vaughn Benson, Dean, School of Business and Technology; Kent Riesberg BS ‘80; and President Marysz Rames.
alumni notes

(Towns and cities listed on these pages are in Nebraska unless noted or generally understood. Efforts are made to keep our news current.)

1943
Shirley (Wilkerson) Weihing resides in her home in Gering at the age of 92. She feels blessed and considers it a privilege she was able to attend WSC as it opened a whole new world for her. She taught elementary grades in Wakefield, Plattsmouth and Lincoln and even instructed in the demonstration school at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She and her husband, John, raised four children, and each earned a college degree. Shirley has traveled overseas and has visited all of the states except Maine. She has served on many local and state boards and continues to serve with the Department of the Blind.

1944
Carolyn (Malin) Fowle enrolled in classes at Wayne State Teachers College in 1941 at the age of 15. She now resides in Lodi, Calif., and is a clinical psychologist with a private practice in Lodi and Sacramento. She enjoys international travel; she and her husband have visited 81 countries. She remains active in her community and with the Lodi Memorial Hospital Foundation.

1946
Darold and Maxine (Bartels ’45) Bobier celebrated their 70th wedding on Jan. 5. They reside in Arvada, Colo., and in the fall they look forward to an annual trip to Nebraska to attend WSC Homecoming activities.

1958
Richard (MAE ’62) and Jacquelyn (Victor ’57) Guenther reside in Fort Collins, Colo., and have dear memories of Wayne State. Jacquelyn attended school on the WSTC campus for 17 years, kindergarten through college. She met her husband of 58 years on the campus. They taught for many years in various high schools and universities in the Midwest. Their final career years (after their three sons were educated, married and beginning families of their own) were spent overseas teaching and counseling in private international schools, including the American International School in Athens, Greece, Jakarta International School in Jakarta, Indonesia, and one year in Lisbon, Portugal. They feel grateful for the strong foundation they received at Wayne State where it all began.

1961
Charles “Chuck” Sass and his wife, Sharon, have relocated to Silver Spring, Md., to enjoy retirement. Chuck served as the managing editor of academic publications for the Close Up Foundation in Alexandria, Va., for 18 years. Prior to his tenure at Close Up, he taught and coached 12 years in Iowa high schools and later worked in curriculum development for nine years at the Division of Continuing Studies at UNL. Sharon (Olson) attended WSC 1965-66, later earning a degree from UNL. She retired from Palm Beach State College, Lake Worth, Fla., as the vice president for academic affairs.

1962
Jim Budde and his wife, Jane, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August. In honor of this event they treated their children and grandchildren to a Caribbean cruise. Everyone enjoyed an exciting and unforgettable time.

1983
Elizabeth (Yax) King and her husband, Terry, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Dec. 22. The couple resides in Bradshaw. They are the parents of Anna, and Rachel, who is in her senior year at WSC.

2003
Sara Kocer and Bryan Schwartz were united in marriage Sept. 19 in Omaha. Sara is the new products project coordinator for BH Media Group, Omaha. The couple resides in Papillion.

2004
Ann M. Philbrick of St. Paul, Minn., serves on the faculty at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy. She was promoted to assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Care and Health Sciences.

2005
Nick and Kristine (Fink ’06, MSE ’10) Muir announce the Nov. 10 birth of their daughter, Madeline Irene. She is welcomed home by brother Merrick, 3. They reside in Wayne. Kristine teaches junior high English at Wayne Public Schools. Nick is the associate CIO in Network and Technology Services for Wayne State College.

2009
Clint and Renee (Weber ’06) Olson announce the birth of their second son, Connor Wayne, born April 28, 2015. He is welcomed to their home in Lawrence, Kan., by big brother Corbin, 4. Clint is a case manager for the Salvation Army, working with support services for veteran families. Renee is a transfer credit analyst in the Office of Admissions at the University of Kansas.

2009
Marie (Rafferty) Kucera and her husband, Warren, announce the birth of Kaiden Joseph on March 26, 2015. He is welcomed to their home in Lincoln by big brother Ryan. Marie is employed part-time as a receptionist at LincOne Federal Credit Union, Lincoln.

SEND US YOUR NEWS & PHOTOS, TOO!

We encourage you to send photos with your alumni notes – wedding, new baby, promotion, informal gatherings with other alumni, etc.

Be sure to identify people in the photos. Digital photos with fewer than five megapixels cannot be accepted. Please remember to update your address!

Send to: Alumni Office, Wayne State College, 1111 Main St., Wayne, NE 68787 cahanse1@wsc.edu
Melinda Leaverton was united in marriage to Brian Evans on Oct. 31. The couple resides in Osmond. Melinda is a procurement specialist with Nebraska Public Power District, Columbus.

John Brady has been promoted to sergeant with the Fremont Police Department. John and his spouse, Nikea, welcomed Lila Dawn to their home in Fremont on May 27.

Bethany Kleinschmit and Chad Schock were married April 18 in Yankton, S.D. The couple resides in Grand Island. Bethany is an interior designer at Floor to Ceiling. Chad attended WSC for two years prior to graduating from UNMC, Omaha. He is a CT/MRI tech at St. Francis Hospital. Bethany and Chad say they lived, met and fell in love at WSC in Neihardt Hall.

Laura (Burtwistle) Robinett ’13 was selected in February as the new Director of Alumni Relations for Wayne State College. She began her alumni duties March 1.

Robinett has been a Wildcat since beginning her undergraduate studies at WSC. After graduating from Chambers High School in 2009, Robinett earned her bachelor’s degree in mass communications (journalism concentration) from WSC in 2013. She completed her four years as a Neihardt Scholar and graduated summa cum laude.

Robinett began working as an office assistant for the Wayne State Department of Art & Design and the Department of Music in October 2013. She has been involved with several committees, including the Support Staff Senate, of which she is currently chair. She is also involved in the Wayne community and serves on the Wayne Marketing Committee.

Robinett is looking forward to associating with alumni, sharing their excitement about WSC and broadening support for the college.

“I am honored and beyond excited to be Wayne State’s new Director of Alumni Relations and to get to work with the great Wayne State Foundation team,” Robinett said. “I am anxious to meet and work with alumni that are just as passionate about Wayne State as I am. I especially look forward to developing programs that further unite our young alumni, planning new and existing alumni events, and increasing communication with our alumni through various media platforms. Most of all, I take great pride in the opportunity to help give back to an institution that shaped my future, and to people who have always been supportive and encouraging of my endeavors.”

“I have so many fond memories of Wayne State College, and they keep accumulating the longer I’m here,” Robinett continued. “I had such a wonderful college experience here as a student and was presented with many great involvement, learning and personal growth opportunities. What I especially love about WSC is the people. The faculty and staff here are phenomenal – so forward-thinking, passionate, kind and caring. My colleagues are not only admirable professionals, but sincere friends. Our alumni are no different. Wayne State is blessed with very supportive and generous alumni who equally value the experiences they’ve shared as students.”

Robinett lives in Wayne with her husband, Jon. She also runs her own photography and graphic design business, LMB Visual Creations, in Wayne.

GOLD is a club for Wayne State College’s young alumni. Creating and maintaining relationships are GOLD’s main objectives, and members represent almost 35 percent of WSC’s total living alumni! A Graduate of the Last Decades (GOLD) alumnus is defined as a Wildcat who has graduated within the last two decades.

GOLD is a club that hosts socials for its members with occasional events at members’ cost. Come relax with us at an event and network, meet new people and enjoy learning about current affairs at Wayne State.

Goals:
- Create and maintain relationships with young alumni
- Begin a tradition of involvement from young alumni
- Provide personal and professional networking opportunities
- Attain updated contact information

Alumni Spotlight is a highlight of who current GOLD members are and what they’re up to. We love pictures!

GOLD Council is a group of members who have dedicated their time and efforts to help shape the club and its social calendar. Become a member by signing up at an event and updating your current contact information along with an Alumni Spotlight Form.

Questions? contact Laura Robinett, Director of Alumni Relations
402-375-7370 • larobin1@wsc.edu
Dr. Dave Whitt ’89 Delivers TEDx Talk

Dr. Dave Whitt ‘89 is a professor of communication studies at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, where he has taught since 1991. He teaches classes in persuasion, mass media, communication in the professions, and Songs of Ascent: The Music and Meaning of U2. He received the WSC School of Arts & Humanities Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2014.

Whitt and colleague Karla Jensen participated in TEDx Lincoln held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in October. Their topic was “Happiness is Serious Business.”

How did you come up with your topic for the TEDx talk?

Karla Jensen, one of my communication studies colleagues, and I were selected as the co-sponsors for the Nebraska Wesleyan senior class in 2012 and gave the Senior Class Charge at the baccalaureate ceremony the morning of graduation. Our tag-team speech was titled “Follow Your Bliss.” We discussed the science of happiness and tied it to our personal interests, which, for Karla, was yoga, and for me, attending concerts, particularly those by the Irish rock group U2.

When did you decide to try out for a TEDx talk?

After the baccalaureate ceremony, another of our communication colleagues suggested we turn our speech into a TED talk. We didn’t really think anything of it until last spring when we decided to apply to TEDx Lincoln because of their theme “Think.” The idea was to take our original “Follow Your Bliss” speech but update it with new content. Our goal was to encourage everyone in the audience to think about the science of happiness and to pursue happiness in their life. My individual “solo” would again focus on U2, but for TEDx I had more time to explain the joy I experience seeing them live and how this eventually led to teaching a class about U2 at Nebraska Wesleyan.

What was the process like and how did you prepare?

The process started in April 2015 when we applied online to be TEDx Lincoln speakers. There were approximately 75 applications that were narrowed down to 40. Next, we had to send in a five-minute video explaining our topic and how it related to the TEDx theme. The top 15 were then brought in for a personal interview with the TEDx committee. After this rigorous process, we were informed over the summer that we had been selected. Our first draft was over 15 pages long, which we slowly cut down to eight to make the 10- to 12-minute time limit. A few weeks before the event, we began practicing and would work on our speech 30 minutes or more each day so it was memorized.

What was the most valuable takeaway from the TEDx talk?

The speakers and topics were absolutely amazing. The whole experience was memorable, emotional and exhausting, but in a good way. I would encourage anyone who has a story to tell, or has unique insight into an event, to think about turning it into a TEDx talk. There are TEDx events in cities across the United States and around the world.

Is your TEDx talk online?

It’s posted on YouTube. You can type either “Happiness is Serious Business” or “Dave Whitt,” and it will take you to our video.
SUSAN (PETERSON) HAUSER ’70, (68), LAS VEGAS, NEV.; SEPT. 15.
MARCELLINE (MARKS) GRONAU ’70, (97), LINCOLN, FORMERLY OF CARROLL; NOV. 14.
ALICE (COUGHLIN) SCHULTE ’69, (95), HARTINGTON; AUG. 26.
EARL E. FELBER ’50, (88), MESA, ARIZ.; NOV. 15.
LOWELL M. KOEHN ’50, (87), LINCOLN; DEC. 1.
ARNOLD D. EMRY ’51, (85), WAYNE; OCT. 8.
WILLIAM F. HEINE ’52, (85), RICHLAND, WASH.; JULY 28.
ERON D. DEURMIER ’53, (88), CHESTERFIELD, VA.; OCT. 14.
JERRY R. VOLKET ’53, (84), SAC CITY, IOWA; SEPT. 27.
CHARLOTTE (BAKER) CUSTER ’58, (80), LINCOLN; SEPT. 28.
CHARLES ‘CHUCK’ LIVINGSTON, SR. ’58, (83), SIoux CITY, IOWA; JAN. 9.
CHARLES L. BERGSTROM ’59, (85), EKL HORN, IOWA; OCT. 22.
LARRY L. SIMS, MEE ’60, (82), LINCOLN; DEC. 26.
GAYLORD L. ‘PETE’ PETTerson ’60, (79), grand island; DEC. 23.
STANLEY A. WILKE ’60, MEE ’68, (80), SIoux CITY, IOWA; AUG. 30.
RODNEY D. JOHNSON ’70, (78), OMaha; DEC. 4.
LEON W. ANDERS ’62, (74), LAKELAND, MINN.; NOV. 2.
KENNETH L. DAHL ’62, (75), WAYNE; DEC. 16.
DEANNA (POULSON) SMITH ’62, (74), PAPILLION; FEB. 3, 2015.
MYRNA (BOURN) VOLLRECHT ’62, (88), STANTON; JAN. 16.
MARY (PETERSON) CHOCHON ’63, MEE ’69, (74), WINDSOR, COLO.; DEC. 4.
JANIS (FORBES) DISTERHAUT ’63, (73), WRIGHT CITY, MO.; OCT. 5.
GARY D. SCHMIDT ’63, (76), FREMONT; NOV. 27.
WARREN L. ZARETSKY ’64, (72), LAS VEGAS, NEV.; OCT. 25.
HELEN (REJMANN) GOBLIRSch ’65, (101), WAYNE; OCT. 26.
ROBERT L. WIDENER ’65, (72), KEY WEST, FLA.; OCT. 16.
HENRY S. ‘LARRY’ LAURINAT ’66, (94), JACKSONVILLE, FIA.; JULY 24.
DAVID “PETE” PETTerson ’66, (70), LAKE VIEW, IOWA; JULY 14.
NYEULAH ‘IRENE’ (GEISLER) SANDERS ’66, (86), SCOTIA; NOV. 29.
DOYLE E. DENNEY ’67, (70), GRAND ISLAND; AUG. 24.
DIANE (OBERHAUSEN) BJELL ’67, (69), COLUMBUS; AUG. 15.
KENNETH N. HANSEN ’67, (72), SIoux FALLS, S.D.; JULY 25.
DWIGHT N. KEITH ’67, (70), LINCOLN AND NAPLES, FIA.; AUG. 24.
G. JOHN LAWLER, MAE ’67, (79), LINCOLN; NOV. 7.
MARY ELLI (KINGSBURY) SUNDELL, MAE ’67, (88), WAKEFIELD; DEC. 22.
LEOLA (DAHLGREN) EBERSPACHER ’68, (83), MILFORD; OCT. 27.
RUTH (LOKEN) EKSTRÖM ’69, (106), ALBION; JULY 27.
AVIS (TAYLOR) PEARSON ’69, (96), CONCORD; JULY 21.
ALICE (COUGHLIN) SCHULTE ’69, (95), HARTINGTON; AUG. 26.
EDITH (SAHS) COOK ’70, (97), LINCOLN, FORMERLY OF CARROLL; NOV. 14.
MARCELLINE (MARKS) GRANAU ’70, (88), NORFOLK; OCT. 9.
SUSAN (PETERSON) HAUSER ’70, (68), LAS VEGAS, NEV.; SEPT. 15.

FRIENDS WE WILL MISS


CHRIS ‘JUNIOR’ DAVEY (23), YORK; JULY 3. CHRIS SERVED AS A GRADUATE ASSISTANT AND WAS WORKING TO COMPLETE A DEGREE IN THE WSC MASTERS PROGRAM IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION/EXERCISE SCIENCE. HE WAS A WELL-KNOWN MEMBER OF THE WSC MEN’S RUGBY TEAM, WHICH EARNED A 5TH PLACE FINISH AT NATIONALS.

JANET (POTTER) FLYE (88), WAYNE; JULY 30. JANET WAS THE MOTHER OF FORMER WSC PRESIDENT CURT FLYE.

JEAN (MARBRUGER) LYMAN MEINTS (100), HAMPTON, IOWA; JAN. 1.

SANDRA (WITMER) SCHULZ (76), WAYNE; OCT. 30.

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Nothing is as powerful as our alumni’s support for Wayne State College.

Chances are you know a high school student who may be in the process of his or her college search right now.

We are here to help! Maybe it's your child, grandchild or even a family friend. Encourage them to experience our campus. It's the best way to get a true feel for life at WSC.

Prospective students can choose from several Fridays dates or the more individual "Wildcat Experience" at wsc.edu/visit

It's always a great day to be a Wildcat!