

# Wayne State College

Magazine for alumni and friends  
Winter 2018

## All About Students

Read about our exceptional, passionate students,  
all part of the Wildcat family. *Page 4*



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# President's Message

## Dr. Marysz Rames



### Welcome to the Winter 2018 edition of the Wayne State College Magazine for alumni and friends.

Many of you have heard me talk about our students and the passion I have for ensuring they have the opportunities, facilities, and resources they need to get a high quality education at the most affordable cost. Our students consistently demonstrate that the teaching and learning environment we maintain encourages their success in the classroom, in the community, and in their chosen professions.

The following pages highlight 11 of our students who in many ways exemplify the depth and breadth of the Wildcat student body. Each of the students has a unique story to tell, yet they are unified in their expressions of gratitude for the education and support they are receiving here at the college. Many of these students are here because of your generous support of the college's scholarships.

One of the most important things we do for our students is continually improve and create facilities designed to enhance their chosen programs of study. I am pleased to report that work is well underway on our three major facilities projects: The Center for Applied Technology, the Press Box Replacement Project, and the Criminal Justice Crime Scene Investigation Facility.

The Center for Applied Technology, for which we broke ground in November, is now a massive steel skeleton rising from the ground on the east side of Gardner Hall. We are eager for the December completion of the facility, which will provide our students with cutting-edge instructional spaces in pursuit of industrial technology, manufacturing, and construction management degrees.

The Press Box at Memorial Stadium has been torn down and the steel for the new structure has begun to outline the facility. The new press box will provide modern amenities for media partners broadcasting our football games, valuable recruiting and meeting spaces, and state-of-the-art facilities for our students involved in the production of game day broadcasts.

Work is also progressing on the Criminal Justice Crime Scene Investigation Facility just south of the Willow Bowl. This \$350,000 facility will provide a practical training site to augment classroom instruction. Future criminal justice professionals can learn how to enter a structure that may have a crime occurring such as hostage situations, active shooters, raid entry procedures, and building searches. The facility will also provide a site for students to conduct a crime scene investigation by collecting, documenting, and processing criminal evidence.

Our alumni also continue to make us proud with their accomplishments. We have the great pleasure of honoring our graduates at each graduation ceremony and during Homecoming. This issue of the magazine provides some highlights of both events as well as several other alumni success stories from graduates working to make a difference in their communities, schools, and industries.

I hope that you will be filled with as much pride as I am as you read about the Wildcat family. You truly are a wonderful testament to the power of education in transforming not only your personal life but the lives of those around you. Your support plays a vital role in helping us provide quality academic programs, state-of-the-art facilities, and scholarships for each new generation of students. Go Cats!

# all about students

They come from the rural Midwest, the coasts, urban areas, and overseas. They bring a wide range of passions and interests with them, all looking for different things.

But when these dynamic students venture to the campus of Wayne State College in small-town Nebraska, they notice something that distinguishes it. Cited time after time, it is what makes this place extra special – the supportive people they meet, the Wildcat family.

“It just feels like home,” the students often say – even if it’s their first visit here.

Wayne State takes pride in building these young people who already have so much to offer. These students know the value of a quality education and are quick to acknowledge the generous support available to them here. They are genuinely interested in serving as contributing members of society through medicine, teaching, art, business, and many other career fields. And they know there is no better place to learn how to do this than at Wayne State College.

But don’t take our word for it. Read for yourself about our exceptional, passionate students, all part of the Wildcat family, on the following pages.





# MEET THE WILDCAT FAMILY

## Dulce Torres

**Hometown:** Wayne

**Year:** Senior

**Majors:** Organizational leadership and public relations

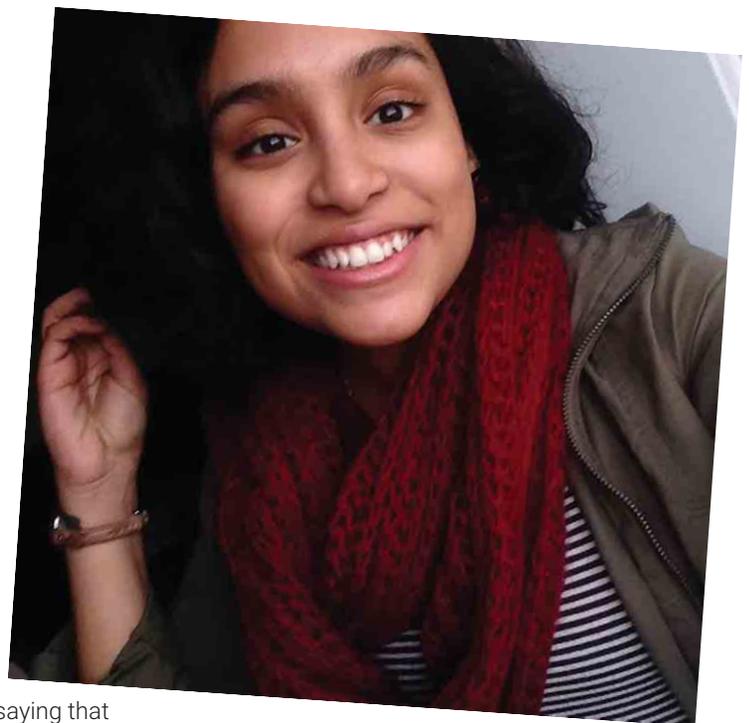
**Career goals after graduation:** To be quite honest, my ultimate dream is to have a summer Bible camp. That, of course, is something that I will definitely have to work hard for. It is indeed possible, however! Not saying that my dream is not possible, but in real terms, I would love to work for Wayne State College as an admissions representative to recruit students like myself. I am bilingual, so I can use my talents to reach out to Hispanics to come to a college that changed my life and made life amazing for me. I enjoy talking to different people and listening to their stories. What better way to do that than to work in that profession?

**Extracurricular activities at WSC:** TRiO Student Services mentor, XAE Honor Society, Lambda Phi Eta Communication Honor Society, Drama Club, Latinos United, Spring Children's Show, PR Club, Career Services Ambassador Program

**Why did you choose to attend WSC?** I initially wanted to go to the University of South Dakota. I enrolled in the university, but something did not seem right. Something inside me was saying that Wayne State is the right school. In my culture, we are known to have family close. We are not known to leave each other. My mom and dad were saddened because their girl was leaving the nest. I came to the conclusion of, why spend more on schooling when I have a perfect, affordable, and close-to-home school? I am the second of four but the first one to actually attend college. Ultimately, Wayne State was right for me because I was in a town that I loved and a community that supported me since day one.

**What support have you experienced at WSC that has made your time here a success?** I can go on and on about the help I have received here. Besides God's grace to me and an abundance of support, scholarships and grants are getting me through school. I am lucky to be debt-free. I could probably write a book on all my influences/mentors I have had, but to sum it up, I have had quite a bit of support from not only family members, but also community and faculty members. I have been truly blessed.

“ I am the first one in my family to go to college. Thinking that I would NEVER make it to my senior year, here I am. Being a first-generation college student really put pressure on me because I wanted to make my parents proud. They want me to have what they did not have. Although I did have support, I was doing things alone, such as FAFSA, applying for colleges, scholarships, etc. I was scared. I knew that Wayne State was for me because any questions I had, someone was always there. They never left me with a question unanswered. If a school is truly for you, everything will fall right into place. Nothing will get in your way. ”





“ I am so thankful and grateful for all of these opportunities that have helped me throughout my education career! ”

## Allison Niemeier

**Hometown:** Kansas City, Mo.

**Year:** Sophomore

**Majors:** Secondary education biology, special education (K-12)

**Career goals after graduation:** I would love to work in a high school and teach an upper level biology course. I would love to potentially co-teach classes with special education teachers.

**Extracurricular activities at WSC:** Softball (pitcher)

**Why did you choose to attend WSC?** I chose WSC because it felt like home. The softball team, faculty, staff, and students were all very welcoming. I loved the small-town atmosphere.

**What support have you experienced at WSC that has made your time here a success?** I have received so much support from all the faculty and staff. Our softball coaches, Shelli Manson and Krissi Oliver, are very supportive. They do a great job emphasizing how important academics are and making sure we are successful within the classroom. I have also utilized the counseling department on campus. They really helped me with my transition into college, and it's nice to be able to talk to an outside person. I'm very thankful WSC provides counseling services for us. The education department has been phenomenal. Dr. Laura Franklin has helped me immensely within the education department. She has guided and helped me find my passion within education. I have also received various scholarships through the school. I am currently on an athletic scholarship, and I have also received an LGBTQ scholarship. I am so thankful and grateful for all of these opportunities that have helped me throughout my education career!

“ Coach Brink, my teammates, faculty members... I feel like everyone I meet in Wayne is always willing to help me if I need anything. ”

## Antoine Bardou

**Hometown:** Saint Chély d'Apcher, France

**Year:** Senior

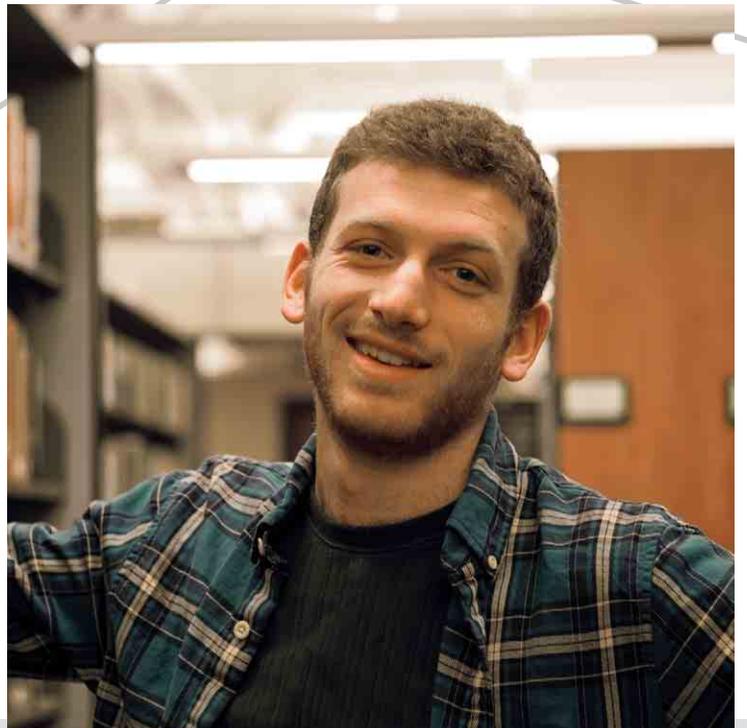
**Majors:** Business administration, minor in international business

**Career goals after graduation:** I am currently applying to graduate school back in France (Grenoble Ecole de Management) for the Master of International Business Program. My long-term goal is to find a managerial position that has strong international ties.

**Extracurricular activities at WSC:** Multicultural Club, cross country, track and field, WSC Geography Bowl

**Why did you choose to attend WSC?** The track and field program and the fact that Wayne State does offer international business were the two main factors that pushed me to pick WSC. I also really enjoyed my visit in 2016, and Wayne has everything a middle-distance runner like me can use to be successful (indoor track, outdoor track, great coaching staff, great training room, endless gravel and dirt roads).

**What support have you experienced at WSC that has made your time here a success?** Coach Brink, my teammates, faculty members... I feel like everyone I meet in Wayne is always willing to help me if I need anything. From a financial point-of-view, the international student scholarships, as well as the athletic scholarships, are tremendously helpful.



*Bardou is the first in his family to attend college in the United States. He transferred to Wayne as a junior from Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, Iowa.*

“The professors here at Wayne State College have helped me out tremendously after my nine-year absence from college. The students in the communication department have made me feel like I’m a part of the family and have made the transition a lot easier for me.”

## Kirk Clark

**Hometown:** Moline, Ill. My wife and I moved here four years ago because I accepted a job with the WSC baseball team.

**Year:** Senior

**Major:** Speech communication

**Career goals after graduation:** Continue coaching and get my master’s degree in sport management

**Extracurricular activities at WSC:** Pitching coach and recruiting coordinator for the baseball team

**Why did you choose to attend WSC?** I attended college at Iowa Western Community College, then Creighton University. I signed to play professional baseball after my junior year at Creighton. I played professionally for seven years. I got a call from Coach Koch when I was still playing, and he offered me to become the assistant coach here. I felt like it was too good of an opportunity to pass up. Finally, after my third year coaching, my wife and I decided it was time for me to go back and get my degree.

**What support have you experienced at WSC that has made your time here a success?** The professors here at Wayne State College have helped me out tremendously after my nine-year absence from college. The students in the communication department have made me feel like I’m a part of the family and have made the transition a lot easier for me.

*Clark is also a first-generation student.*



## Alyssa Fisher

**Hometown:** Grand Island

**Year:** Senior

**Majors:** Finance, marketing

**Career goals after graduation:** I will enter the job market and pursue a career related to my finance or marketing degree. I have not settled on a specific career path as my major and emphasis allow me to move in multiple directions. I am also considering pursuing a post-graduate degree.

**Extracurricular activities at WSC:** Rugby, Sigma Beta Delta Honors Society, Phi Beta Lambda treasurer, Greece study abroad program, National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) flag football, intramurals

**Why did you choose to attend WSC?** The primary reason I chose to attend WSC was for its affordability and reputation for quality education. I also liked the smaller class sizes and easy access to everything on campus. My final decision was made when I was granted the Nebraska State College System (NSCS) Board of Trustees Scholarship.

**What support have you experienced at WSC that has made your time here a success?** I have received excellent support in a number of areas at WSC. Receiving the NSCS Board of Trustees Scholarship has given me the opportunity to graduate debt-free.

“Numerous professors (specifically in the business department) have provided encouragement and gone out of their way to assure my growth as a student, along with assisting my personal growth. Examples of this include being more than willing to meet after classes to help me master material, and even something as simple as asking how my day is or how my rugby game went. I truly appreciate the time my professors put into getting to know me personally.”



“ The professors here have been so supportive and have helped me grow so much in becoming a future teacher. Also the admissions office workers have been some of the best people to work with! ”



## Jesse Mayo

**Hometown:** Madison

**Year:** Fifth-year senior

**Majors:** Art education (K-12), special education (7-12), coaching

**Career goals after graduation:** Teach in a rural school and start working on my master's in administration

**Extracurricular activities at WSC:** Navigators, Art Education Club, rugby

**Why did you choose to attend WSC?** I chose Wayne because of their great education program, and the cost was so affordable.

**What support have you experienced at WSC that has made your time here a success?** The professors here have been so supportive and have helped me grow so much in becoming a future teacher. Also the admissions office workers have been some of the best people to work with!

*Mayo will also be the first person in his family to graduate from a four-year school.*

## Bryant Carlson

**Hometown:** Fremont

**Year:** Senior

**Majors:** Chemistry health sciences

**Career goals after graduation:** Attend the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Medicine and study to become a physician

**Extracurricular activities at WSC:** Holland Academic Success Center Science Help Desk staff, Admissions Navigator, Health Science Club, Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) participant

**Why did you choose to attend WSC?** I chose to attend WSC because of the small-town family atmosphere that I experienced my first time on campus as a junior in high school. I immediately fell in love with the beautiful campus and everything it had to offer. When I came here to interview for the RHOP program, I immediately noticed the true care and concern the instructors had for their students. It was clear to me that the instructors weren't afraid to tell students when they needed to study harder or to congratulate them when they succeeded. I loved this about my small high school, so when it came time to select a college, WSC was a no-brainer.

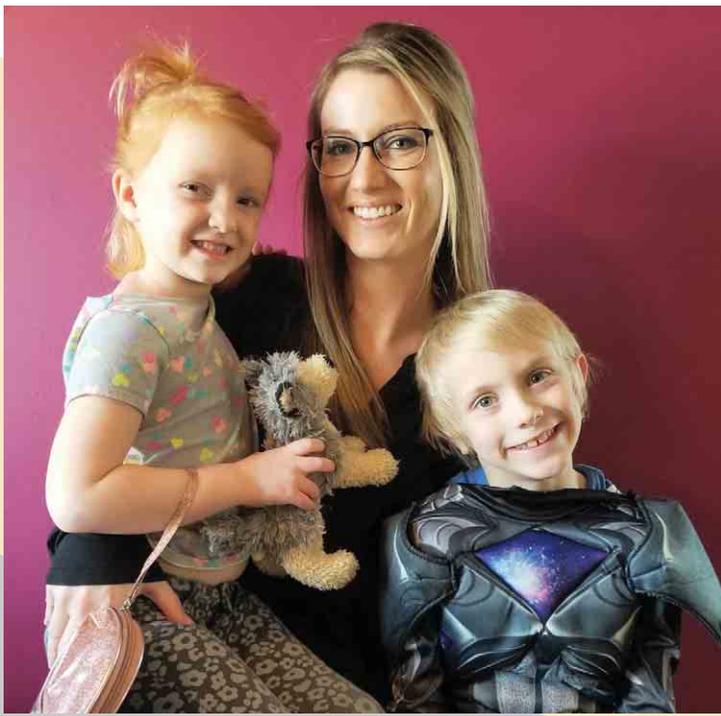
**What support have you experienced at WSC that has made your time here a success?** The RHOP program has pushed me to become the best student I could be, helping me to prepare for medical school. Instructors such as Drs. Doug Christensen, Shawn Percy, and Gustavo Zardeneta have all challenged me along the way to become the best student (and person) I could become. They, too, told me when I needed to study harder and were some of the first to congratulate me when I did well on a test. The generous support from our alumni and Foundation donors has also helped me graduate college debt-free, something I'll be forever grateful for.

“ My experiences at WSC have also allowed me to be involved in the Wayne community. Participating in the Wildcat Academy of Leadership and Knowledge (WALK) program my freshman year enhanced my leadership skills. I now have the pleasure of serving the Wayne community as the assistant manager at the Majestic Theatre and as a staff member at the Wayne Community Activity Center. Wayne has become my home. ”

*Carlson's grandfather, Rich McGill '70, MSE '72, is a Wayne State College alumnus.*







## Elisa Jensen

**Hometown:** Lewellen (currently lives in Norfolk)

**Year:** Junior

**Major:** Pre-medicine

**Career goals after graduation:** I plan to apply for medical school this next year and remain open-minded as far as specialties go, but I certainly have a love for surgery!

**Extracurricular activities at WSC:** Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society

**Why did you choose to attend WSC?** I initially went to school at Southeast Community College in Lincoln as a single mother and became a certified surgical technologist. After working in surgery for nearly five years, I knew I was dedicated to a career in health care but also recognized my desire to further my education. Fortunately, living in Norfolk, Wayne State College is an easy commute and well-known to medical schools for producing well-prepared undergraduates. As a non-traditional student, I was leery about going back to school but believed WSC would be a good fit for me with smaller classes and more of a one-on-one learning opportunity.

**What support have you experienced at WSC that has made your time here a success?** With the help of my professors who clearly have a love for what they teach, I went from doubting myself to feeling confident in my ability to succeed. I am forever grateful to the life sciences professors at WSC for their investment in my education. I never imagined just how intrigued I would be by the material covered in all of my classes, and I truly look forward to the rest of my time at Wayne.

“With the help of my professors who clearly have a love for what they teach, I went from doubting myself to feeling confident in my ability to succeed. I am forever grateful to the life science professors at WSC for their investment in my education.”

To meet more Wildcats, go to [www.wsc.edu/news](http://www.wsc.edu/news)

## Jadin Todd

**Hometown:** Fountain Valley, Calif.

**Year:** Senior (December 2017 graduate)

**Major:** Criminal justice

Minor: Biology

**Career goals after graduation:** Work in crime scene investigation or a crime lab

**Extracurricular activities at WSC:** Soccer Club, Wildlife Society, Active Minds, Criminal Justice Association, Biology Club, New Student Orientation Ambassador and Team Leader, Delta Upsilon, Navigators, Alpha Phi Sigma, Criminal Justice Honor Society, and Honors Scholar

**Why did you choose to attend WSC?** I didn't know where I wanted to go coming out of high school, so my parents helped me and hired a college coach. She asked me what I wanted out of a school. I said I wanted a small, affordable college, out of state, a high percentage of four-year graduates, and one that would work with my GPA, SAT, and ACT scores. Five schools popped up, and Wayne was the second one for me to visit. I loved their program, the culture was completely different, and the tour was amazing. I said I would try it out for a year, and if I don't like it, I can always transfer. But here I am graduating!

**What support have you experienced at WSC that has made your time here a success?**

“I've had support from every single person here, from my department chair to the lunch ladies in the cafeteria. I couldn't have made it through college without the help of everyone here. I know I could have three jobs right now with the admissions staff talking me up. I know I wouldn't have had an internship without Career Services. I know I wouldn't have a job ready for me without my professors, once I graduate. And I know I wouldn't have been so happy and grateful to be graduating from this college if I hadn't gone here. Thank you, Wayne State College, for such a great four years of my life!”





Keith Knudsen '81 (center) received the 2017 Alumni Achievement Award at the winter commencement ceremony in December. Keith is pictured with (left to right) dad Harry Knudsen, wife Karen Knudsen, son Mitchell Knudsen '12, and son Greg Knudsen.

## Knudsen '81 Receives Alumni Achievement Award

Keith Knudsen was honored with the Alumni Achievement Award by the Wayne State Foundation at the winter 2017 graduation ceremony. Knudsen graduated from Wayne State College with a degree in business administration/finance in 1981. He graduated from the Graduate School of Banking in Boulder, Colo., in 1991. He serves as a trustee of the banking school and was chairman of the school in 2015-16.

Knudsen began working at Security National Bank in February of 1981 and serves as president/CEO and director of Security Bank (Laurel, Osmond, Allen, Hartington, Coleridge). Security Bank was named Extraordinary Bank of the Year in 2017 by the Institute for Extraordinary Banking in Minneapolis.

Knudsen has been an active member of the Nebraska Bankers Association (NBA). He was a member of the first Nebraska Bankers Association Leadership Program class. Knudsen served as an NBA board member from 2002-05 and is a past chairman of the Operations, Lending, and Government Relations Committees. He continues to share his knowledge of the banking industry by presenting at area, state, and national events and conventions.

As a proponent for education and the youth of his community, Knudsen served on the Laurel-Concord Schools Board of Education from 1993 to 2004. He has also served the Laurel community and surrounding area as a member/president

of the Laurel Chamber of Commerce; member/chairman of the Hillcrest Care Center Board; member of the Laurel Development Company; member of the Providence Medical Center Board; and Laurel Rescue Unit volunteer.

Knudsen was elected to the Laurel City Council in 2010 and serves as member and president of the council. He also serves as chairman of the Fund Advisory Committee of the Laurel Area Community Foundation, a member of the Laurel Economic Development Advisory Council, and a Nebraska Ambassador for the Department of Economic Development.

Keith and his wife, Karen, are members of the Wayne State Foundation trustees.

## Winter 2017 Commencement

Wayne State College held its commencement ceremony for graduate and undergraduate students Dec. 15 in Rice Auditorium. A total of 205 degrees were conferred by President Marysz Rames. Those students receiving their degrees included 159 undergraduates and 46 graduate students of the college's Master of Science in Education, Master of Organizational Management, Master of Business Administration, and Education Specialist programs.

Speakers included Carla Robinson of Akron, Iowa (invocation), daughter of Deb Robinson of Akron and the late Joseph Robinson; Denton Beacom of Hooper (undergraduate commencement speaker), son of Matt and Carrie Beacom of Hooper; and Andrew Clayton Gelbart of Omaha (undergraduate commencement speaker), son of Ralph Gelbart of Omaha and Julia Gelbart of Sioux City, Iowa.



Andrew Gelbart

Carla Robinson

Denton Beacom



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**Dr. Lidice Aleman**, assistant professor of Spanish, published a literary criticism book in Spanish, "Construcción racial y de género en la poesía de la Revolución Cubana [Racial and Gender Construction of the Cuban Revolution Poetry], 1959-1989: Georgina Herrera, Excilia Saldaña y Soleida Ríos." Universidad de Antioquia, 2017.

The book examines the identity categories of gender and race in the Cuban context of the first 30 years of the revolution and focuses on black and mulatto women, in which both categories converge. This work analyzes the literary discourse of the Afro-Cuban female poets between the 1960s and 1980s and discerns the role of self-representation that each of these poets constructs within the framework of being a black or mulatto woman. Also, since gender and race are redefined by the dominant power, the book analyzes the political hegemonic discourse of the period in relation to race and gender, and illuminates its role in preserving racial stereotypes as well as the patriarchal normative of gender.

Aleman also presented a paper at the XXVII Annual Conference of the International Association of Female Hispanic Literature and Culture entitled "Caridad Atencio: desencanto social y transgresión en su discurso poético de los noventa [Social Dissatisfaction and Transgression in Caridad Atencio's Poetic Discourse of the Nineties]." The conference was held Nov. 9-11 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. **1**

**Brian Begley**, assistant professor of theatre, was awarded a South Dakota Arts Council Touring Grant for the 2018-20 granting cycle. His performance company, Discovery Movement Theatre, has been endorsed by the SDAC Touring Program since 1984. They have toured across the U.S., and in Canada, Mexico, and Costa Rica.

**Dr. Randy Bertolas**, professor of geography and chair of the Department of History, Politics, and Geography, was inducted into the Hall of Fame of Pi Gamma Mu at the organization's triennial student convention Nov. 2-4 in Kansas City, Mo. Founded in 1924, Pi Gamma Mu is the international honor society in the social sciences.

Bertolas became the faculty sponsor of the Nebraska Delta chapter of Pi Gamma Mu in 1998, and the chapter has been cited on PGM's International Rolls of Merit or Distinction during every year of his tenure. Dr. Bertolas also served the International Executive Committee of Pi Gamma Mu as Chancellor of the North/Northwest Region from 2005 to 2008. More information about the Pi Gamma Mu Hall of Fame can be found at: <http://pigammamu.org/hall-of-fame/index.html>

Bertolas also serves as faculty advisor of Gamma Theta Upsilon, Phi Kappa Phi, and the Explorers Club.

Bertolas received his PGM Hall of Fame plaque from WSC professor emeritus **Dr. Jean Karlen**, former international president of Pi Gamma Mu. **2**

**Dr. Barbara Black**, professor of education, is working in conjunction with Gloria Christiansen of Neligh, and Dr. Sam Herley, the Director of Oral History at the University of South Dakota and Black's youngest son, on a one-room country school project for Antelope County. Together they are raising funds to move an old one-room school building, Antelope County District No. 70, to join the Neligh Museum Complex, which includes a pioneer church and the Pierson Wildlife Museum Learning Center.

Black and Christiansen have given numerous presentations throughout the surrounding communities (Neligh, Elgin, Clearwater, Oakdale, and Orchard) to gather stories and information from teachers and students who taught or attended the one-room country schools in Antelope County.

The schoolhouse is currently in the process of moving to Neligh. By January, the basement was dug, and the cement was poured and set. Also as of this time, the schoolhouse was planned to be moved in February (date TBD at the time of print).

Neligh is Black's hometown. She hopes to publish a book after she retires. **3**

Christiansen's husband, Brian, who is also involved with the project, is an alumnus of Wayne State College (B.S. '68, MSE '74). Gloria also began her education at WSC before moving with Brian for his Air Force tour during the Vietnam era.

**Dr. Alan Bruflat**, professor of modern languages, presented a paper, "Buried Past, Uncertain Future in the Poetry of Alvaro García," at the European Studies Conference on Oct. 6 at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. **4**

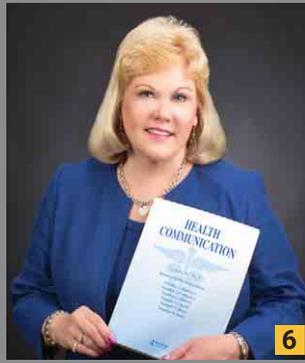
**Dr. Sally Clark**, associate professor of mathematics, and **Dr. Barbara Hayford**, professor of life sciences, published a paper titled "Linking Taxonomic Diversity and Trophic Function: A Graph-Based Theoretical Approach" for the National Academy of Sciences.

The work for the project began during the 2015-16 school year with Hayford and Marcella Jurotich (who was in high school at the time) as a science fair project / junior research experience. The project is an analysis of ecological / biodiversity data from streams. Clark served as a math consultant for Jurotich as she developed an understanding of graph theory tools to apply to her project. Jurotich then presented her project for the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Washington, D.C.

In 2016-17, the project expanded to include Kaitlyn Dougherty, a Wayne State honors student. Jurotich and Clark



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also participated in weekly honors meetings with Dougherty and Hayford. Dougherty contributed some statistical analysis of the data and presented the findings in April at the Math on the Northern Plains Undergraduate Conference at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, S.D. Following the presentation that day, Dougherty was recruited by the University of South Dakota to attend graduate school for mathematics. She is currently in her first year of graduate study there.

**Dr. Donovan Conley**, professor of exercise science, along with **Dr. Kevin Hill**, associate professor of health and physical education, **Dr. Tammy Evetovich**, dean of the School of Natural and Social Sciences, and former exercise science graduate student, Shane Warehime, co-authored a research paper titled "Effects of Footwear on Running Economy and Preferred Foot Strike Pattern in Collegiate Distance Runners." This paper was presented at the national meeting of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) held in Denver in May, and the abstract was published in "Medicine and Science in Sport and Exercise." In addition, Conley, Evetovich, and former exercise science graduate student, Daniel Flahie, have submitted a paper titled "Acute Caffeine Ingestion Enhances Upper and Lower Body Torque During Isometric and Isokinetic Muscle Actions" for presentation at the national ACSM meeting to be held in Minneapolis in May and June 2018.

**Dr. Kelly Dilliard**, associate professor of earth science, presented a talk titled "Sequence Stratigraphy of the Upper Sekwi Formation: Implications for the Early Cambrian of Western Laurentia" in June for the Rocky Mountain Section of the Geological Society of America conference at Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta. **5**

**Dr. Mary Elliott**, assistant professor of family and consumer sciences (fashion merchandising), gave a keynote presentation Nov. 9 titled "Shifting Forward: Surviving the Decision to Become an Early Adopter of Educational Technology" at Trinity Valley Community College in Athens, Texas, for National Distance Learning Week.

Elliott also had a case study accepted in September for publication to the Bloomsbury Fashion Business Cases digital resource database, which will go live in fall 2018.

**Dr. Randa Lumsden Garden**, professor of communication, and **Dr. William Seiler**, professor of communication 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

was previously published online by Taylor and Francis, is now available in print in the 2017 Health Communication Journal. **6**

**Dr. Brian Hanson**, assistant professor of political science, served as a fellow for the National Rural Health Association and conducted research on how policy changes by Congress would help rural EMS providers better serve their communities.

**Dr. Glenn Kietzmann**, professor of biology, was presented the Nebraska State College System Teaching Excellence Award in May and was honored with a dinner in November. The award recognizes the importance of teaching to the mission of serving students, communities, and Nebraska by providing high quality, accessible educational opportunities. Each year a faculty member within the college system is awarded the Teaching Excellence Award by the Board of Trustees. A faculty member who is held in the highest esteem by colleagues and students is nominated from each college, and a single recipient is selected by the board. **7**

**Dr. Karl Kolbeck**, associate professor of music, was invited for a solo performance at ClarinetFest 2017 in Orlando, joining the ranks of the top clarinetists from around the world who were invited to perform at the conference in July. Kolbeck performed "Sonata in B-Flat for Bass Clarinet and Piano" by Owen Elton. The conference was hosted by the International Clarinet Association. Kolbeck's travel was funded by a VPAA Grant. **8**

**Dr. Trisha Kolterman**, assistant professor of business, presented "The WOW Factor of Emotional Intelligence: Taking Students from Classroom Concepts to Career Success" on April 12 at the National Business Education Association national convention in Chicago. The presentation engaged participants with interactive activities to demonstrate how to understand emotions, and to utilize emotions in business management situations.

**Dr. Michael Marek**, professor of electronic media and mass communication, presented in July at the 18th International Computer Assisted Language Learning Conference at the University of California Berkeley.

He also had a peer-reviewed paper published on the subject of privacy in educational use of social media. Three of his articles have been accepted and are pending publication.

Marek was also honored with a prestigious Distinguished Service Award and medal from the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, the Civil Air Patrol, for his leadership in strategic planning for the national communications program of the organization.

*Faculty News continued on the next page*



9



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**Marlene Mueller**, professor of art and design, created a drawing titled "Blaze," which was accepted into the two-tiered juried exhibition for the 2017 Nebraska Artist Biennial at Gallery 1516 in Omaha. As a finalist for the drawing/printmaking award, the chalk and charcoal drawing was reproduced in the exhibition catalog and was purchased prior to the preview opening Nov. 2. The subject of the drawing is debris collected and stored from the 2013 Wayne tornado, which was ultimately set afire years later. **9**

**Dr. Jeryl Nelson**, professor of business, presented a paper at the national meeting of the Decision Sciences Institute in Washington, D.C. The paper, "A Comparison Between Online and On-Ground Case Teaching in an Undergraduate Strategy Course," was presented as a part of the teaching innovations track. The Decision Sciences Institute develops scholars that produce, use, and disseminate knowledge primarily within and across information systems, analytics, and supply chain management to improve decision involving systems, technology, and processes. **10**

**Meghan O'Connor**, assistant professor of print media, served as a faculty mentor to Briley Wiese and Elley Coffin, who completed the "Roost" roof mural project, in Concord. The mural was painted on a giant tarp measuring nearly 50 x 30 feet and affixed to a roof during the holiday season.

In April, O'Connor was awarded first place at the annual Norfolk Arts Center Juried Show, in Norfolk.

Also in April, she presented a paper titled "Talk-the-talk, Walk-the-walk, now Draw!" at the Foundations in Art: Theory and Education Conference in Kansas City, Mo.

**Dr. Mike White**, assistant professor of electronic media, led electronic media students Oct. 20 in shooting and producing a music video as part of a service-learning project for the Sioux City Conservatory of Music (SCCM). The production was a reimagining of the U2 video "Where the Streets Have No Name" including a rooftop and drone footage. The work was shown Nov. 11 in conjunction with the student performance at the Annual SCCM Orpheum Show.

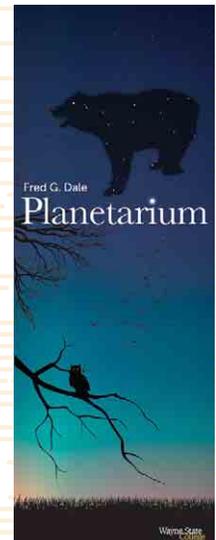
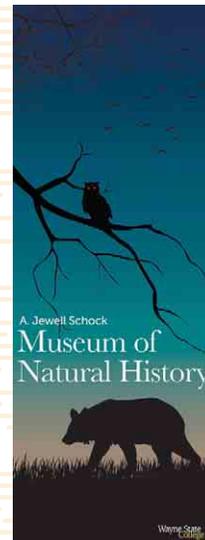
On April 5, White will host the first Wildcat Spirit Film Festival at WSC. The festival is open to high school and college students and is free to enter and attend. Categories include narrative, comedy, documentary, sci-fi/fantasy, and horror. **11**



**Josh Piersanti**, associate professor of graphic design and chair of the Department of Art and Design, **Meghan O'Connor**, assistant professor of print media, and 18 graphic design students collaborated with the John G. Neihardt State Historic Site to restore damaged historical photographs of the Blackbird Family, Omaha Tribe. The project continues this spring.

Piersanti and students Andrew Gelbart and Taylor Burbage collaborated with the Museum of Anthropology at Wayne State College to create large interior and exterior visitor signs for Connell Hall. The designs of graduating senior Andrew Gelbart were selected, professionally printed, and installed at Connell Hall.

Piersanti and 11 graphic design students collaborated with the Fred G. Dale Planetarium and A. Jewell Schock Museum of Natural History to create visitor signs for Carhart Science. The designs were professionally printed and installed at the main entrances to the building.



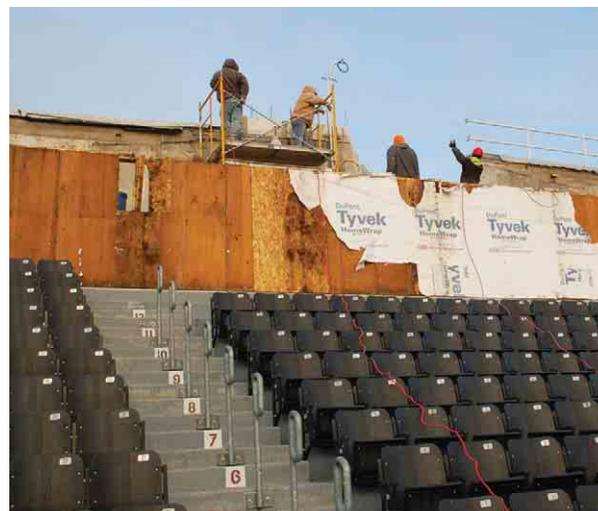
## Criminal Justice Crime Scene Investigation Facility

Wayne State College is excited to announce that construction has begun for the new Criminal Justice Crime Scene Investigation Facility (CJCSIF). The \$350,000 building project is south of the Willow Bowl and is scheduled to be completed by the fall 2018 semester.

This 1,800-square-foot building will provide a practical training site to augment classroom instruction where future criminal justice professionals can learn the proper techniques to conduct a crime scene investigation. Students will receive hands-on learning experience studying evidence documentation, bloodstain spatter analysis, fingerprint acquisition, firearm trajectories, and shoeprint casing.

In addition to the educational experiences related to criminal investigations, the facility will allow students to gain courtroom experience associated with cases they investigate, such as testifying in court, introducing evidence effectively, interviewing witnesses, and conducting a mock trial.

To learn more about the CJCSIF and to watch live construction progress, visit [www.wsc.edu/foundation](http://www.wsc.edu/foundation).



## Wildcat Press Box

Work began Nov. 27 demolishing the old press box and beginning construction of the new press box. The old box served the college for nearly 40 years. The new box will provide a safe and modern environment as well as more work space for media and staff broadcasting and recording home events. The new 5,220-square-foot press box is set for completion in the summer of 2018.

## Center for Applied Technology

Wayne State College held a groundbreaking ceremony Nov. 16 for the new Center for Applied Technology. The \$15.2 million facility is east of Gardner Hall and is scheduled to open on campus in 2019.

Wayne State recognized support from industries, foundations, private donors, and the City of Wayne during the ceremony. The Wayne State Foundation worked closely with industry leaders around the state to encourage support for the new building. Industry and foundation support for the project included major gifts from Timpte, Inc., The Raimondo Family Foundation of Behlen Manufacturing, Lozier Foundation, William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation, The Sherwood Foundation, and The Sunderland Foundation.

Wayne State offers Nebraska's only industrial technology education degree in which teachers can earn certification in this field. The Center for Applied Technology will serve as a gateway of opportunity for students to experience industrial manufacturing in an environment that cultivates interest and excitement in industrial technology. Complemented by top-notch faculty who deliver an industry-based curriculum, this center will attract students from high schools and community colleges to seek careers in this growing area.

Construction and site preparation for the new facility began in May 2017, with completion set for December 2018.



# WSC Homecoming



A ribbon cutting and grand opening was held for the U.S. Conn Library during Homecoming. The event included a WSC Faculty Art Show held in the Nordstrand Visual Arts Gallery, tours of the renovated library, a program with remarks by President Marysz Rames and Wayne State Foundation CEO Kevin Armstrong, recognition of library donors, ribbon cutting, and performance by the Wildcat Marching Band.



WSC alumni, faculty, and staff gathered for the Carhart Alumni Reunion held in the Carhart Science Building.



The Scholarship Luncheon was held during Homecoming. Scholarship recipients and donors gathered for a luncheon featuring student speakers and recognition for donor support of scholarships.



The 2017 Wayne State College alumni employees signed a banner and were recognized during the WSC Alumni Employee Appreciation Social in the Kanter Student Center.



The Wayne State College Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Matthew Armstrong, performed during the WSC Alumni Appreciation Social.



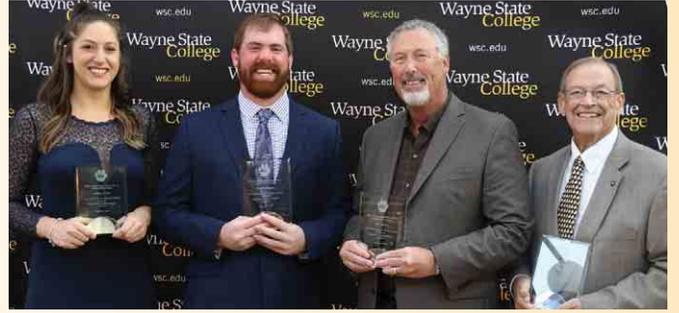
Wayne State alumni, faculty, and staff gathered for the 20th Anniversary WSC PRIDE Brunch held in the Kanter Student Center.



New Wayne State Foundation trustees were announced at the annual meeting during Homecoming. Front (left to right): Diane Brummer '73, Carol Koenig (new trustee in 2016), Lyle Koenig '66 (new trustee in 2016), Cynthia Schomberg, Jane Budde, and Val Koeber '05. Back (left to right): Pat Garvin, Kevin Brummer '71, Linda Boles '66, Bruce Boles, Alan Cook (died Jan. 20), Tom Schomberg '64, Chris White '96, Jim Budde '62, and Bill Koeber '63. Not pictured: Jean Davis '77, Travis '99 and Shannon '97 Fredricksen, Liz Garvin '93, Tom '74 and Patty Hastings, Jerry '70 and Margo Overton, Lukas Rix '10 and Mark Kanitz, and Jean '90 and Grant Snyder.



The 2006 Women's Cross Country Team was inducted into the Hall of Fame. Pictured (left to right) are: Athletic Director Mike Powicki, Megan Brink '09, Melissa Davis '10, Megan Zavorka Thomas '10, Molly Mills '10, and Sarah Walsh '10. Team members not present include Ashley Smith '08, Erin Esslinger '07, Meghan Costello, Ashley Kilker '10, and Ashley Baumbach '10.



Three individual athletes and one contributor were inducted into the Hall of Fame. Pictured (left to right) are: Ashley Arlen '12 (women's basketball), Troy Pribnow '09 (football), Tim Hurley '79 (football), and Curt Frye (contributor).



Four Wayne State College alumni were presented with Outstanding Alumni Awards during Homecoming. Pictured (left to right) are: Danelle Smith '98 (School of Business and Technology), Merle Larson '59 (School of Arts and Humanities), President Marysz Rames, Diane Sabatka-Rine '84 (School of Natural and Social Sciences), and Dr. Bob Uhing, MSE '86, '88, and Ed. S. '91 (School of Education and Counseling).



Dr. Ron Holt '89 was presented with the inaugural President's Award for Diversity during the WSC Homecoming Outstanding Alumni Banquet.



The Wayne State classes of '67 and '77 were honored during the President's Society Brunch for celebrating their 50th and 40th reunions.



The 2017 Alumni Service Award was presented to Kam Reeves '79. He was congratulated by Laura Robinett, Director of Alumni Relations, and WSC President Marysz Rames.



Molly McCartney



Antoine Bardou



Megan Gebhardt



Erin Gross

## Cross Country

**6** Total number of meets

### Top Wildcat finishers:

Antoine Bardou, senior  
Isaias Solorio, junior  
Molly McCartney, freshman

### NSIC Conference Championship results:

Men – 10th place  
Women – 13th place

### Wildcat Honors

#### NSIC Fall All-Academic Team:

Antoine Bardou, senior  
Nathan Pearson, sophomore  
Mary Alderson, senior  
Josephine Peitz, sophomore



Follow the Wildcats at  
[www.wscwildcats.com](http://www.wscwildcats.com)

## Volleyball

**19-12**

Season record

**12-8**

NSIC record: eighth place in NSIC

Lost in five sets to 2017 national champion  
Concordia-St.Paul in the NSIC Tournament

### Wildcat Honors

#### NSIC All-Conference Team:

Erin Gross, senior RH (First Team)  
Jaci Brahmer, redshirt freshman MH (Second Team)

#### NSIC Fall All-Academic Team:

Bree Ackermann, senior  
Erin Gross, senior  
Megan Gebhardt, junior  
Payton Ruhl, junior  
Maria Wortmann, junior  
Morgan Alexander, sophomore  
Tarrin Beller, sophomore  
Haley Kauth, sophomore  
Katie Stephens, sophomore

#### Academic All-American Division II Volleyball Team:

Megan Gebhardt, junior (Second Team) –  
second player in school history to receive Academic  
All-American honors, joining Jennifer (Hefner) Clark '11



Christina Stasi

## Soccer

**4-8-6**

Season record

**3-7-5**

NSIC record

Joe Cleary's first year as head coach

### Wildcat Honors

#### All-NSIC Team:

Christina Stasi, junior  
(Honorable Mention)

#### NSIC Goalkeeper of the Week:

Rachel Grisham

#### NSIC Fall All-Academic Team:

Hannah Knight, senior  
Brooke Buzzell, junior

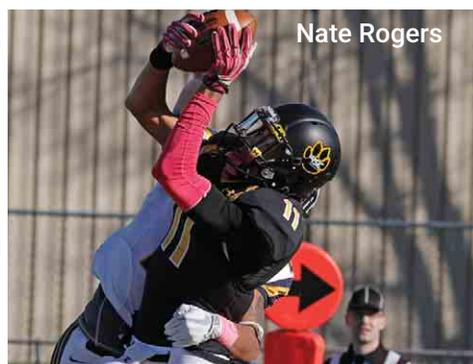
Natalie Rech, junior  
Christina Stasi, junior  
Alexis Strothers, junior  
Madison Burgard, sophomore  
Lauren Fleming, sophomore  
Rachel Grisham, sophomore  
Sophia Ketchmark, sophomore  
Chloe Madigan, sophomore  
Calista Moch, sophomore  
Carleigh Wilson, sophomore



Zach Osborn



Glenn Harris



Nate Rogers

## Football

**6-5**

Season record

**4-3**

NSIC South Division record, fourth place in NSIC

**& 32** Wildcat defense forced 32 turnovers (third most in NCAA Division II during regular season and second in the NSIC)  
**& 24** interceptions (second most in school history for a single season)

### Wildcat Honors

#### NSIC All-Conference Honors (All-South Division):

Zach Osborn, senior QB (First Team)  
Nate Rogers, senior WR (First Team)  
Glenn Harris, senior DB (First Team) – also named to the D2CCA All-Super Region 4 Second Team and D2Football.com All-American Honorable Mention  
Mike Milenkovich, junior OL (Second Team)  
Xavier Graham, junior DL (Honorable Mention)  
Rashad Trimble, senior RB (Honorable Mention)  
Layne Sullivan, junior WR (Honorable Mention)  
Tyler Thomsen, sophomore LB (Honorable Mention)

#### NSIC Fall All-Academic Honors:

Kevin Camacho, senior  
DaQuan Samuel, senior  
Logan Weinandt, senior  
Taylor Reedy, junior  
Layne Sullivan, junior  
Cole Tirrel, junior  
Aaron Bleil, sophomore  
Odessa Clark, sophomore  
Kolbie Foster, sophomore  
Ethan Knudson, sophomore  
Jacob Protzman, sophomore

**Giving Tuesday 2017 – #Gr8Day2Give Results**

On Tuesday, Nov. 28, the Wayne State Foundation launched its first-ever Giving Tuesday campaign with the theme “#Gr8Day2Give,” and you helped us raise a total of \$21,200! For that, we thank you!

Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving held on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving. The #Gr8Day2Give campaign took place online through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and the college’s website, with the goal of increasing our alumni giving participation.



WSC alumni did just that. Many of you participated by making a donation to Wayne State for the first time, helping spread the word on social media by sharing posts, encouraging fellow Wildcats to give back, and submitting matching gift requests to your employers.

Two WSC alumni, Dr. Ron Holt '89 and Greg Ptacek '08, also created matching gift challenges to add creativity and excitement to the campaign.

Your support of Wayne State truly has an impact. Thank you for giving back on Giving Tuesday 2017!



**Wayne State Alumni and Friends Tour Italy**

The Wayne State College Alumni and Friends Tour “Toast to Tuscany” took place Oct. 12-23. Italy charmed its visitors with irresistible food, awesome architecture, diverse scenery, and unparalleled art. Places visited included Venice, Mestre, Montecatini Terme, Ravenna, Cinque Terre, San Gimignano, Siena, Florence, Rome, and Assisi. The group toured Saint Mark’s Square, visited a glass factory, went on a Gondola ride, paid tribute at the American Cemetery in Florence, and toured fishing villages built on mountainsides. Alumni and friends also visited an olive oil farm, toured the Uffizi Gallery, and saw Vatican City, the Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter’s Cathedral.

Wayne State Alumni and Friends on the tour included Judith Boelts, Mike and Vicki Bousquet, Jean Davis, Thomas and Valerie Finley, Katherine Goodro, Bob Johnson, Jean and Gerald Karlen, Karen and Phillip Kelton, Vic and Jan Kensler, Christian and Mary Kingery, Jim Lindau and Joyce Reeg, Phillip and Ruth Nelson (*died Jan. 22*), Bruce and Sheri O’Neel, Michelle Petersen, Marcella Picha, Sandra Sandquist, Sharon Sass, Don and Diane Soukup, Rod and Loreta Tompkins, Kevin Armstrong, and Deb Lundahl.



**Kevin Armstrong**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Wayne State Foundation  
402-375-7534  
kearmst1@wsc.edu



**Deb Lundahl**  
Director of Major Gifts  
Wayne State Foundation  
402-375-7209  
delunda1@wsc.edu

**Estate Planning**

Have you ever thought about adding the Wayne State Foundation to your will? Here are a few simple bequest samples to help get your estate plan started. Feel free to share this information with your professional advisor the next time you update your estate plan.

**THE UNRESTRICTED GIFT**

I give to the Wayne State Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, located in Wayne, Nebraska, USA, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_\_% of my estate; or the property described herein) for its general purposes.

**GIFT FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSE**

I give to the Wayne State Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, located in Wayne, Nebraska, USA, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_\_% of my estate; or the property described herein) to be used for \_\_\_\_\_(specify purpose).

**IRA Charitable Rollover Permanently Extended**

The IRA charitable rollover, allowing taxpayers age 70½ or older to make tax-free charitable gifts of up to \$100,000 per year directly from their Individual Retirement Accounts to eligible charities, including colleges, universities, and independent schools, is now a permanent part of the U.S. tax code.

The IRA charitable rollover, or qualified charitable distribution (QCD), is a special provision allowing qualified donors to use their IRA assets to make donations directly to public charities, including the Wayne State Foundation.

Please contact your IRA custodian, Kevin Armstrong, or Deb Lundahl for more information on how to make an IRA charitable rollover gift or for estate planning.

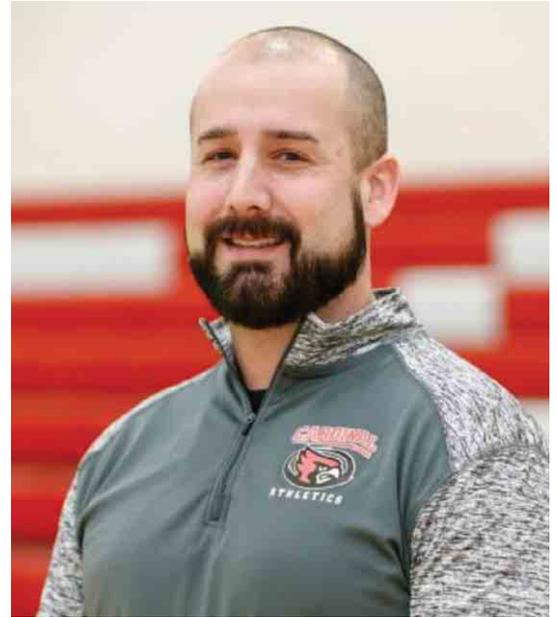
## Pickinpaugh '05 Receives Milken Educator Award

Jon Pickinpaugh teaches eighth grade science at South Sioux City Middle School where he was surprised and honored in January with the 2017 Milken Educator Award and \$25,000 to spend how he wishes. He is the only Milken Educator Award winner from Nebraska this year and is among the 44 honorees for 2017-18.

Milken Educator Awards, hailed by Teacher Magazine as the "Oscars of Teaching," has been opening minds and shaping futures for 30 years. Research shows teacher quality is the driving in-school factor behind student growth and achievement. The Milken Family Foundation initiative not only aims to reward great teachers, but to celebrate, elevate and activate those innovators in the classroom who are guiding America's next generation of leaders.

Pickinpaugh has led the school's development and implementation of Nebraska science state standards and uses a variety of instructional strategies in his classroom, including bell ringers, videos, direct instruction, gradual release of responsibility, stations, and hands-on lessons. He coaches wrestling and football and believes that character education is a vital part of coaching.

After school, Pickinpaugh teaches students about healthy living and weight training. Spending time with his students in the weight room gives him an opportunity to talk with them about life outside of school.



## Wayne State College Arizona Alumni Reunions



### Sun City Alumni Reunion

Wayne State alumni met Jan. 7 for an alumni reunion at the Palmbrook Country Club in Sun City, Ariz. Attendees included: (front, left to right) WSF Director of Major Gifts Deborah Lundahl, Ginger Robson, Marilyn (Throckmorton) Anson '55, Roberta (Finn) Blattert '63, Tamara Rinehart, President Marysz Rames, Susan (Reeh) Menking '55, Charlotte Schmidt, Tom Marsicek '70; and (standing, left to right) Gaylene (Griepentrog) Conger '67, Beth (Galloway) Leamer '71, MSE '83, Barb (Breitkreutz) Kanter '76, Don Robson '56, Jim Kanter, Elwin Anson, Larry Conger '66, Roger Engelbrecht '48, Lyle Blattert '63, Bob Carhart, Don Rinehart '77, La Von Fischer '72, MSE '76, Marilyn Carhart, Michelle Bush, Carole Schmidt, George Menking '56, Howard Schmidt, Patrick Bush '06, Steve Srb '72, WSF CEO Kevin Armstrong '99, MBA '15, and Robert Schmidt '59.

### Mesa Alumni Reunion

Wayne State College alumni gathered Jan. 4 for a reunion at The Harp Pub and Restaurant in Mesa, Ariz. Attendees included: (seated, left to right) Curt and Dianne Frye, Joyce (Kern) Reeg '85, Barbara (Mayne) Shainholtz '55, Jean (Eynon) Blomenkamp '68, MSE '69; and (standing, left to right) Chris White '96, Larry '66 and Gaylene '67 (Griepentrog) Conger, Ron Sorensen, John Hoppe, Vicki Pick, Jim Shainholtz, Barry Phelps '70, Duane Blomenkamp '68, Jim Lindau, Dave Noyes '70, MSE '76, Pegg Noyes, WSF CEO Kevin Armstrong '99, MBA '15, and WSF Director of Major Gifts Deborah Lundahl.



## Jahmal Cole '05 – My Block, My Hood, My City

Jahmal Cole, a 2005 Wayne State College graduate, found his passion and calling helping teenagers and underprivileged youth. After walking on with the basketball team at WSC and graduating with a degree in speech communication/corporate, community, and public relations, he decided to head back to his hometown of Chicago to make a difference in his neighborhood.



Cole formed a non-profit organization - My Block, My Hood, My City - whose mission is to help teenagers overcome the poverty and isolation they face, boost educational attainment, and expose them to opportunities that make a difference in their lives. My Block, My Hood, My City provides underprivileged youth with an awareness of the world and opportunities beyond their neighborhood, taking students on explorations focused on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), arts and culture, citizenry and volunteerism, health, community development, culinary arts, and entrepreneurship.

My Block, My Hood, My City helps introduce Chicagoans to places in their city they've never seen or experienced. Every month, a group of interested teenagers goes on a city-wide exploration, visiting businesses, artful intersections, and communities. These explorations encourage teens to get out of their comfort zones and see what Chicago can offer beyond their neighborhoods.

Cole has been an advocate for education reform in Chicago and is passionate about improving schools. He also serves as a frequent speaker at colleges in the Chicago area and is the author of "The Torch of Decency: Rekindling the Spirit of Civic Organizations," "Athletes and Emcees," "Exposure is Key: Solving Violence by Exposing Teens to Opportunities," among other publications.

Recognized for his contributions to the community, Cole is the recipient of many awards, including a 2012 Certificate of Appreciation from Governor Pat Quinn, 2012 Chicago Ideas Award Winner presented by Mayor Rahm Emmanuel, 2013 Scion Motivate Winner presented by Toyota, 2016 Chicago Urban League Innovator Award, 2017 Outstanding Commitment to Community Service Award, and 2017 Mazda Drive for Good Competition Winner, among other awards. He was also named one of Huffington Post's 15 Inspiring Chicagoans.

For more information about Cole's work, visit [www.formyblock.org](http://www.formyblock.org).

## Sign Up to Receive the E-Newsletter

The Wayne State Foundation and Alumni Office has started emailing monthly newsletters to keep you informed about upcoming events, school news, project updates, alumni stories, and much more. We hope you are enjoying our e-newsletter, and we welcome ideas and submissions if you would like to share.

Not receiving the e-newsletter? We don't want you to miss out! Contact Laura Robinett, Director of Alumni Relations, to share your email address for our emailing list.



Laura Robinett  
Director of Alumni Relations  
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## Phi Sigma Epsilon 50th Anniversary Reunion

The Wayne State College Sigma Gamma Chapter of Phi Sigma Epsilon held its 50th anniversary reunion on campus Oct. 14.



The Wayne State College Sigma Gamma Chapter of Phi Sigma Epsilon held its 50th anniversary reunion on campus Oct. 14. The reunion included a banquet with a social hour, welcome from President Marysz Rames, dinner, program, special entertainment, and group photo. Front (left to right): Steve Lambert, Roger Nansel, Jim O'Hare, Bery Mackey, Denny Galloway, Ron Larson, Mike Scribner, Ken Vanourney, Bob Berg, and C.A. Rininger. Back (left to right): Ed Hansler, Bill Maske, Byron Klebe, John Smith, Bob Kelly, Pat Driscoll, Dave Watchorn, Dave Wilson, Tim Lesch, Dan Stoller, Carl Adamson, John Cleveland, Chris Nielsen, Keith Fagot, Marty Lesch, Chris Lesch, Vince Hammerl, Ron Scribner, Roger Madden, Dennis Hanson, Dave Swanson, and Roger Bellinghausen. Attended but not pictured: Gary Wright, John Gould, and Greg Prorak.

**Fred Schnell, NWAC Hall of Fame Inductee**

Fred Schnell, a 1987 graduate of the Wayne State College Master of Science in Education program, was inducted into the Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC) Hall of Fame in June 2017 for his 27 years of service to Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) in Gresham, Ore., where he serves as a health and physical education instructor, and to the NWAC.

While at WSC, Schnell served as an adjunct instructor in health and physical education, and was hired as a full-time faculty member in the fall of 1990. He was also the assistant men's basketball coach from 1985 to 1990. His wife, Melodee Schnell, was a former residence hall director of Bowen Hall at WSC.



Fred Schnell

Schnell served as the MHCC men's basketball coach for eight seasons, leading his team to a second-place finish in the NWAC Championship in 1994, and three third-place finishes in the NWAC Southern Region. After coaching, he worked at MHCC as the associate and head athletic director. He also served as the Mt. Hood men's commissioner, was a member and chair of the NWAC Men's Basketball Committee, and an NWAC Executive Board member.

Today, Schnell focuses on his role as a health and physical education instructor at MHCC, teaching classes on weightlifting, life fitness, and basketball skills.



H&R Construction Co. employs two Wayne State graduates, Tanner Boyle '17 (left) and Greg Topf '04 (center). H&R Construction is owned by WSC alumnus Nate Herbst '01 (right).

**Nate Herbst '01- H&R Construction**

Nate Herbst was raised in the small town of Salix, Iowa. After graduating from Westwood High School in 1997, he chose to enroll at Wayne State College. Herbst was a linebacker for the Wildcat football team, a highlight of many of his memories as a student-athlete. In 2001, Herbst graduated with a degree in industrial technology/industrial management – construction, and a minor in business.

After graduating from WSC, Herbst worked for a general contractor in Sioux City, Iowa, where his primary responsibilities were estimating and managing construction projects up to \$30 million. In 2010, he and his partner decided to start their own construction company. Each of them borrowed as much money against their homes as the bank would allow, and in August of that year, H&R Construction Co. was formed.

H&R Construction in South Sioux City specializes in construction projects that range from a few hundred thousand dollars to well over \$25 million. Herbst said their primary focus is commercial, industrial, and institutional projects, such as automotive dealerships, manufacturing facilities, cold storage warehousing, schools, and hospital construction.

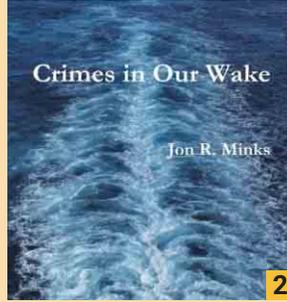
H&R Construction employs 42 talented individuals as laborers, carpenters, superintendents, and project managers, two of which are also WSC alumni. Greg Topf '04 is a senior project manager, and Tanner Boyle '17 is in the supervisor training program.

"Both are exceptional employees with very strong work ethics," Herbst said. "H&R Construction has always been focused on delivering better customer service than our clients expect. Our vision, mission, and values are the core to our success."

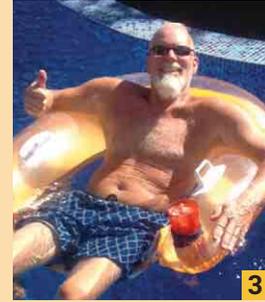
For more information about H&R Construction, visit [www.hnrco.com](http://www.hnrco.com).



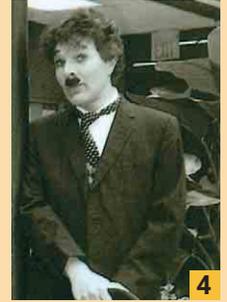
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4

(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** is grateful to be living in her own home and driving herself to attend many local events in the community of Gering. She said attending WSC opened a whole new world to her which she has enjoyed. She and her husband, John, have four children. She taught elementary school in Wakefield, Plattsmouth, and Lincoln and home-schooled for two years while the family lived in Turkey.

**1961 Angie Neuharth** hosted the Pile Hall reunion again this year at the Wisner Yacht Club. This is the 20th year the group has gathered for a noon potluck luncheon. Former park ranger and guest speaker Janice Wobbenhorst '70 gave a presentation on birds. Attending are: (front, left to right) Eileen (Stueckrath) Kucera '57, Norene Kuhr, Doris (Leiding) Kuester '59, Barb (Donze) Peters, Jeanette (Jaeger) Vahle '65, Theola (Sadler) Peck; and (back, left to right) Clara (Chambers) Heinemann '60, Kathy (Ott) Haber '61, Pearl Kander, Carol (Dibbert) Whipple '62, Emogene (Isom) Andrews '72, Jeanette Wobbenhorst, Janice Wobbenhorst '70, and Angie (Dowling) Neuharth '61. **1**

**1968 Adrian Minks** and her husband Jon enjoy their retirement years in Omaha. Jon has published an action thriller, "Crimes in Our Wake," a sequel to his novel, "Cold Case Club." His works are available in both paperback and Kindle versions. **2**

**1972 Doug Barel**s and his wife, Joan, are enjoying retirement in Costa Rica. **3**

**1974 John LaPuzza** retired in 2016 after a career as a cosmetologist, actor, and broadcaster in the Omaha area. He now resides in Tucson, Ariz. **4**

**Carol (Gregg) Tramp** retired in May from a 27-year teaching career at Wynot Public Schools. She and her husband, Norman, reside near Wynot. She plans to enjoy time with their children and grandchildren, and will consume any idle hours with travel, quilting, and genealogy projects.

**1976 Joseph Kafka** is a practicing attorney in San Jose, Calif. He has written a second novel, "Bad Medicine," which he describes as a legal thriller. His novel is available as a Kindle e-book. **5**

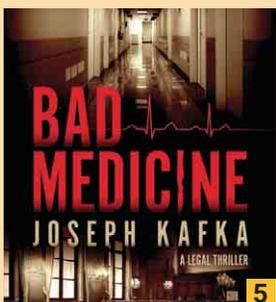
**1983 Kathryn Davenport** resides in Winston Salem, N.C., where she operates KrafyKatsHandmade. She specializes in creating and making pet and children's wear, selling her products online. **6**

**David Stoural** resides in Peoria, Ariz., where he is employed at Culver's as a maintenance/inventory manager. **7**

**1985 Brett Frevert**, founder and managing director of CFO Systems, LLC, Omaha, announces that his company has once again earned a place on the Inc. 5000 list of fastest-growing companies in America. CFO Systems, LLC, provides financial and HR leadership to middle-market entities across the United States, serving clients as interim and timeshare CFOs and controllers, providing practical, experienced financial leadership on the clients' schedule.

**1986 Tim Buez** is the Greene County Community Schools Director of Technology and is in his 31st year in education in Jefferson, Iowa. This fall he was presented with the Iowa Technology & Education Connection Local Leadership Award at the annual ITEC conference in Des Moines. He was cited for his 24-7, 365-days-per-year work ethic; for being a mentor for many other technology directors; and for always looking for ways to offer the best to his staff, students, and community while getting the best bang for the taxpayer's dollar. Tim and his wife, **Denise '86 (Hult)**, reside in Jefferson. **8**

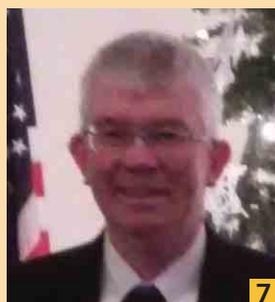
**1988 Julia Paluka** resides in Thornton, Colo., and is honored to be a nominee for Certified Property Manager of the Year at this year's Institute of Real Estate Management Awards in Chicago. The IREM hosts the REME awards to recognize real estate management excellence. She began her career in property management following graduation and serves as area manager for the RMR Group, Denver, managing properties in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and Idaho. She is also the RMR Group's Broker of Record for Colorado and Kansas. **9**



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**Dave Wamberg**, a resident of Fullerton, served as a Nebraska 2017 State Fair Grand Marshal. His involvement with the Nance County Fair and many other charities contributed to being chosen for this honor. Both he and his spouse, Kim, teach at Fullerton Public Schools. **10**

**1995 Lori (Mathis) Long** was honored in November with the Outstanding Fundraising Executive Award by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Eastern Oklahoma chapter. As executive director of the Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges, she oversees daily operations of the center. Lori has raised nearly \$31 million for the organizations throughout her 19-year career. She resides in Broken Arrow, Okla., with her husband, Robert, and their two children. **11**

**1998 Brian W. Kruse** was appointed by the Governor of Nebraska to serve as election commissioner for Douglas County. In his new position, he is responsible for conducting elections for all political subdivisions within the county. **12**

**Rebecca Hoobler** of Hastings was chosen as a candidate for the Nebraska Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Woman of the Year. LLS is the world's largest voluntary health agency dedicated to blood cancer and funding research. She first became involved with the charity nine years ago at Hastings Longfellow School where she is employed as a preschool teacher. Rebecca is a past coordinator for the Pennies for Patients program at Longfellow, raising more than \$7,000, and she hopes to continue her involvement when she starts the Walk by Night Campaign. **13**

**Holly Koinzan** and Jason Roubal were married and reside in Omaha. Holly is an HR specialist for the Department of Veterans Affairs. **14**

**2000 Tonya Wagner** and Allen Simpson were married April 29 and reside in Lincoln. Tonya is an HR specialist for the Department of Veterans Affairs. **15**

**2004 BJ and Sara (Ehlers '08) Gotch** would like to announce they've adopted a baby girl, Brinley Mae, born July 14. She joins a brother, Wyatt, 4, at their home in Ashland. **16**

**2006 Andrea Stava** and Matthew Bedore were married July 7. Andrea is the assistant general manager of operations for the Omaha Storm Chasers. The couple resides in Omaha. **17**

**2008 Jared and Samantha (Williams '10) Hahn** announce the birth of their first child, Brixton Elliot, on July 11. They reside in Norfolk, where Jared is employed at Nucor Steel and Samantha teaches instrumental music at Norfolk Catholic Schools. **18**

**Stacy (Pelican) Hellwege** and her husband, Kirk, announce the birth of a daughter, Harley May, on May 1. They reside in Doniphan. Stacy is a pharmacist for Keith's Pharmacies in Hastings. **19**

## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, April 3**

Black & Gold Performing Arts Series Presents "Catapult"  
7:30 p.m., Ramsey Theatre

**Thursday, April 12**

South Sioux City Chamber Business After Hours at College Center

**Saturday, April 28**

WSC Alumni Party Zone at Sioux City Bandits Game

**Saturday, May 5**

Spring Commencement

**Saturday, July 14**

30th Annual WSC Wildcat Golf Classic  
Eagle Hills Golf Course, Papillion, Neb.

**Sept. 24-29**

Homecoming 2018

For more information, go to [www.wsc.edu/alumni-events](http://www.wsc.edu/alumni-events)



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**Trudi Cadenbach** and Therese Noonan were united in marriage and reside in Columbus. Trudi teaches science at Columbus High School. **20**



**2009 Tamara Nash**, Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in Sioux Falls, S.D., was honored at the Council for Opportunity in Education annual conference held in Washington, D.C. She was one of five TRIO alumni recognized by COP as National TRIO Achievers. In her acceptance speech, Tamara said, "Upon arriving at college (WSC), I quickly found a home in the TRIO program. I was empowered to challenge myself and take difficult classes. I quickly became involved in our TRIO program as a peer tutor and mentor. It is there I developed the love of public service – a love that has guided my academic and professional goals since." **21**

**2010 Brett and Molly (Gibson) Mills** reside in Grand Island along with daughters Leah, 5, and Addison, 2. Brett is a police officer for the Grand Island Police Department. Molly is a reading teacher at Cedar Hollow School of Northwest Public Schools in Grand Island. **22**

**2012 Andrew Peters, Jr.**, resides in Oakland Park, Fla. He is the director of scientific affairs at ProSupps in Frisco, Texas. **23**

**2014 Elizabeth Fajman** taught for the toddler program at a day care center in her hometown of Columbus after graduation. She then relocated to Papillion where she teaches for the toddler program at Russell Child Development Center for Creighton University in Omaha. **24**

**Lindsey Krug** and Benjamin Wages were united in marriage and reside in Orlando, Fla. Lindsey is employed at Walt Disney World. **25**

**2016 Andrew Larsen and Jamie Wendt** were united in marriage June 24 in Leigh. The couple resides in Lincoln. Jamie is employed at Exstrom Physical Therapy as a physical therapist technician and is enrolled in the physical therapist assistant program at Southeast Community College. Andrew is a substitute



teacher for the Lincoln Public and Waverly school districts. **26**

**2017 Abby Stewart** and Austin Tucker were united in marriage on June 3. The couple resides in Norfolk. **27**

## WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU? TELL US!

Did you recently get married? Have a baby? Relocate? Get promoted? We'd love to hear about it!

Visit [www.wsc.edu/alumni](http://www.wsc.edu/alumni) to share what's happening in your life! Click on "**Submit Class Notes**" to share photos and news about weddings, babies, or other special events. Click on "**Update Your Information**" to notify us of changes in your name or address.

*Help us stay connected with our alumni.*

Laura Robinett  
Director of Alumni Relations  
402-375-7370  
[larobin1@wsc.edu](mailto:larobin1@wsc.edu)



### Wayne State College Alumni Social Media Links

Facebook: Wayne State College Alumni  
Twitter: @AlumniWSC  
Instagram: @wscalumni (Wayne State College Alumni)  
LinkedIn: Wayne State Foundation

### Wayne State College GOLD Club Social Media Links

Facebook: Wayne State College GOLD Club  
Twitter: @WSCGOLD



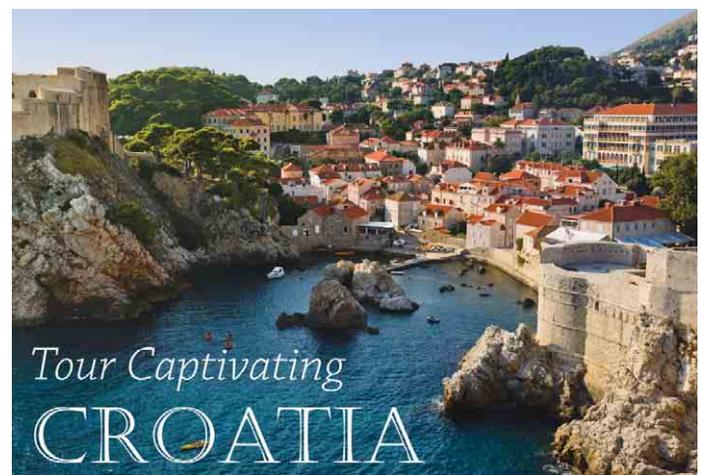
## IN MEMORY OF

Craig A. Magwire '43, 94, Wilsonville, Ore.; Jan. 30.  
 C. Arlene (Surber) Everton '44, 94, South Sioux City; Dec. 10.  
 L. Maxine (Bartels) Bobier '45, 92, Arvada, Colo.; Dec. 26.  
 Elba (McGee) Lau '49, 88, Lincoln; Nov. 22.  
 Mitchell F. Nielsen '49, 87, San Antonio, Texas; Sept. 6.  
 Viola (Hansen) Wilson '54, 83, Grand Island; July 28.  
 James E. Fitzpatrick '50, 89, Washington, Utah; Jan. 22.  
 Robert L. Bichel '51, 87, Olathe, Kan.; May 31.  
 Marjorie (Ehlers) Cooper '51, 94, Lee's Summit, Mo.; Aug. 4.  
 Orville J. Hassler '51, 93, Emerson; July 30.  
 Viola (Hansen) Wilson '54, 83, Grand Island; July 28.  
 Lewis J. Copple '56, 88, Norfolk, June 12.  
 Donald D. Bofenkamp '57, 83, Niles, Ohio, Aug. 25.  
 Donald D. Bremer '58, 83, Oceanside, Calif.; Jan. 14.  
 Donna (Hodgens) Linder '58, 81, Onawa, Iowa; Dec. 4.  
 Wallace T. Wilcox '58, 83, Midland, Texas.  
 Jerome F. Pugsley '59, 80, Gering; Oct. 21.  
 Iona O. Bump '60, 98, Hastings; Aug. 18.  
 Karen (Estes) Hunter '60, 79, Wisner; Nov. 18.  
 James A. Elsberry '61, 77, Fremont; Aug. 7.  
 Clarice (Carr) Wendte Nielsen '61, 96, Sioux City, Iowa; Sept. 12.  
 William R. Schmitt '62, 79, Fort Collins, Colo.; Dec. 11.  
 Glenda (Thomsen) McIntire '63, 74, West Des Moines, Iowa; Nov. 22.  
 Edward R. Mundil '65, 74, Hooper; Aug. 9.  
 Vernon L. Robinson '65, 74, Springfield, Mo.; Oct. 3.  
 Carla (Sievers) Boeshart '66, 78, Emerson; Jan. 21.  
 Susan (Holdcroft) Leonhardt '66, 72, Litchfield Park, Ariz.; July 26.  
 Ruth Ellen (Herrill) Nelson '66, (74), Surprise, Ariz.; Jan. 22.  
 Dennis J. Neubrand '66, MSE '69, (74), LeMars, Iowa; Aug. 6.  
 Norma Jean (Nelsen) Owens '66, MSE '74, 90, Lincoln; Aug. 22.  
 Alice 'AJ' Anderson-Long '67, 70, Omaha; Oct. 4.  
 Elwood Ferry '67, 76, Minneapolis, Minn.; Sept. 9.  
 Ronald L. Soenksen '67, 72, Pierce; July 23.  
 Mark R. McKay '68, 72, Gering; Oct. 17.  
 Rita (Dunning) Naughtin '69, 90, Grand Island; Dec. 27.  
 Doris (Schneider) Phillips '69, 79, South Sioux City; July 11.  
 Alvin L. Christensen '70, 71, Waterloo; March 12.  
 James F. Rasicot '70, 71, Harlingen, Texas; July 3.  
 Galen J. Benson '71, 68, Rio Rancho, N.M.; Nov. 3.  
 Kathleen (Klein) Fink '71, 68, Omaha; Sept. 1.  
 Berniece (Johnson) Kinney '71, 98, Albion; Jan. 2.  
 Samuel P. Singleton, Jr. '71, 68, Leesburg, Va.; Aug. 31.  
 Milan E. Petersen '72, 72, Tilden; June 19.  
 Roberta (Fegley) Boeshart '73, 79, St. Paul, Minn.; June 10.  
 Marty Going '73, 67, Omaha; June 23.  
 Steven E. Duncan '74, 70, West Point; Sept. 24.  
 Jo Ann (Volwiler) Stoltenberg '76, MSE '79, MSE '82, 85, Wayne;  
 Aug. 14.  
 Michael 'Mic' Clark '77, 69, Louisville, Ky.; Aug. 18.  
 Laura (Hansen) Olsen '77, 62, Marne, Iowa; June 21.  
 Elizabeth B. Romanoff, MSE '81, 72, Plainview; Oct. 2.  
 Linda R. Hellbusch '83, 73, Denton, Texas; Aug. 7.  
 Norma (Nelson) Monson '84, 88, Albion; Aug. 28.  
 Kristy L. Kavan '85, 58, Fremont; July 27.

Alvena (Hegwer) Wilson '88, 86, Pender; Jan. 12.  
 Brenda Noll-Norvell '93, 47, Sioux City, Iowa; Nov. 10.  
 Jenny (Shane) Stracke, MSE '00, 48, Atkinson; Sept. 20.  
 Christopher G. Kuehler '01, 42, Rapid City, S.D.; Sept. 30.  
 Justin A. Davenport '05, 34, Grand Island; Nov. 5.  
 John C. Greer, MSE '05, 69, Norfolk; Sept. 28.  
 Carly (Buchholtz) Kreibaum '06, 33, Sutherland, Iowa; Oct. 1.

## FRIENDS WE WILL MISS

Alan Cook, 69, Dallas, Texas; Jan. 20.  
 Andria Cooper, 44, Wayne; Feb. 5. Andria was an assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Wayne State College. She was the driving force behind the creation of WSC's Criminal Justice Crime Scene Investigation Facility, which is under construction.  
 William Hyett, 92, Des Moines, Iowa; Sept. 2.  
 Richard Lund, 93, Wayne; Nov. 23.  
 Vicki (Moore) Skokan, 75, Wayne; Oct. 30. Vicki retired from WSC in 2003 after serving 19 years as an accounting clerk.  
 Mary Jane (Cordes) Spear, Auburn; April 29.  
 Leota Swanson, 93, Wayne; Nov. 4. Leota was employed at WSC for 12 years as a custodian prior to retiring in 1986.  
 Wayne E. Wessel, 80, Wayne; June 25.  
 Daryl J. Wilcox, 87, Wayne; Jan. 10. Daryl retired from WSC in 2013 after serving for 20 years as a professor in the School of Education and Counseling.



*With Wayne State College Alumni and Friends*

**October 2 - 13, 2018**

For a detailed brochure and registration form,  
 go to **www.wsc.edu/alumni-events**.

*Included in the itinerary is the Istrian town of  
 Rovinj, just announced by TripAdvisor as #8  
 on the Travelers' Choices awards for  
 Destinations on the Rise.*

# Wayne State College

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## New Program Beginning Summer 2018: **MSE in Special Education (Online)**

Wayne State College will be offering a fully online Master of Science in Education degree in special education (SPED) beginning in the summer of 2018. Through this advanced degree program, four tracks will be available for people interested in a career and graduate level training in special education:

- For certified teachers looking to add a SPED endorsement to their certificate
- For teachers with a SPED endorsement seeking an advanced degree to broaden and deepen their knowledge
- For special education professionals interested in a leadership and administrative role as a special education supervisor
- For those who have their bachelor's degree and are looking to begin a teaching career in special education

According to the Nebraska Department of Education, the number of special education teaching positions left unfilled or filled by those that were not fully qualified was 23.7 percent during the 2016-17 school year. The United States Department of Education also reports there is a national shortage of special education teachers. The fully online program options can assist school systems in hiring fully qualified special education teachers.

Learn more by visiting

[www.wsc.edu/mse](http://www.wsc.edu/mse) or by emailing [onlinesped@wsc.edu](mailto:onlinesped@wsc.edu)

# Wayne State College

