

# W WAYNE STATE COLLEGE

Magazine for alumni and friends • Summer 2020



**Wayne State College  
Unveils Bold New  
Look with New Logos**

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# President's Message

## DR. MARYSZ RAMES

### **Greetings Wildcats,**

Like most higher education institutions, Wayne State College's faculty, staff, and students were thrust into responding to a pandemic situation that, until this year, had been a common item on the crisis plan but not one that many of us would have expected to exact such an immediate and heavy toll on so many sectors of American society. I am proud of our community and the resilience shown in the face of unprecedented disruptions of the semester. Our faculty skillfully navigated a one-week transition to remote delivered courses. Our staff and administrators ensured continuity of all of our operations. And our students pushed through to a successful completion of the academic year.

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*I want to extend a special note of gratitude to those of you who gave to the Wayne State Foundation this spring in support of our Emergency Assistance Fund to meet the immediate needs of current students and the needs of students who will enroll as freshmen this fall. Your generosity means so much to the College.*

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Given the need to reclaim some level of normal operations balanced with concerns about health and safety while planning for a return to face-to-face classes this fall, the Wayne State team has gained a new appreciation for the institution's need to be flexible, nimble, creative, and innovative to serve the region. Forward-thinking institutions will emerge from this crisis stronger and more adept at fulfilling their mission. I am determined as President of Wayne State that our College will be among those who continue to rise to this challenge.

What we do now for the College will affect our ability to continue to deliver a quality education that is affordable and accessible. That is why it is so important for the College to stay on track with initiatives aimed at improving our teaching and learning spaces and expanding workforce development. The coronavirus will remain a dominant point of consideration in all planning, but we must also continue to look toward the future of the College and the region we serve.

The Benthack Renovation project begins this summer and is expected to be complete at the end of summer in 2021. As you will read in the following pages, the renovated building will house the department's family and consumer sciences programs, as well as the Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership and the Department of Counseling. While Wayne State has outstanding teacher education,

counseling, and family and consumer sciences programs, the purpose of the Benthack project is to provide cutting-edge, state-of-the-art learning environments for these programs. I encourage you to read more about the ways the project will renovate classrooms, labs, and office spaces to transform our academic programs.

I am also proud to report that the College has launched the Northeast Nebraska Growing Together Cooperative Education Program in partnership with the Aksarben Foundation to support workforce and economic development in Northeast Nebraska. The kickoff of the coop program was made possible by the Aksarben Foundation, which has agreed to support the first cohort of cooperative education scholars.

The first Cooperative Education cohort of 30 students will begin their education at Wayne State College as freshmen in the fall for a three-year on-campus education followed by a fourth year living and working in Norfolk with a local business during a nine-month period. Students were chosen for the selective cooperative education program from the incoming freshmen class to live in a community of learners at Wayne State where they will receive a prescribed and accelerated curriculum that will prepare them to work in a Norfolk business during their senior year. The program is limited to students pursuing majors in either business, computer science or computer information systems, electronic media, or journalism.

The cooperative education program is one of several strategies connected to the "Northeast Nebraska Growing Together" initiative that was developed as part of the Aksarben Foundation challenge to address the workforce crisis in Nebraska, under the leadership of Mike Flood, founder of Flood Communications and News Channel Nebraska and current Aksarben board member.

Wayne State continues to press forward on key projects to ensure the College meets the needs of students, faculty, staff, and the people of the great state of Nebraska who rely on us for our continued contributions to the strength of our workforce and economy. I am so appreciative of the support many of you provide each day to ensure we can fulfill our mission of teaching and learning excellence, student success, and regional service. I want to extend a special note of gratitude to those of you who gave to the Wayne State Foundation this spring in support of our Emergency Assistance Fund to meet the immediate needs of current students and the needs of students who will enroll as freshmen this fall. Your generosity means so much to the College. Stay safe and healthy ... and, Go Cats!



Nicholle Edwards



Cory Frewing



Maddie Knobbe



Alexandra Linder



Morgan Sudbeck

## Wayne State College Celebrates Spring 2020 Graduates, Postpones Ceremonies

While Wayne State was unable to hold the traditional commencement ceremonies for graduate and undergraduate students May 9 in the college's historic Willow Bowl amphitheater, Wayne State plans to host a ceremony for graduates later this summer, provided conditions permit the gathering. To mark the occasion of spring graduation, WSC asked graduate candidates to submit images to be used in a celebratory photo gallery on the college's website. Wayne State College extends the warmest congratulations to its newest alumni!

A total of 578 degrees were conferred by President Marysz Rames. Those students receiving their degrees include 401 undergraduates and 177 graduate students of the college's Master of Science in Education, Master of Organizational Management, Master

of Business Administration, and Education Specialist programs.

Wayne State asked five seniors to address graduates via the college's website for spring commencement: Nicholle Ann Edwards, a Summa cum Laude elementary education major from Homer, Neb.; Cory Frewing, a Summa cum Laude geography major from Norfolk, Neb.; Maddie Grace Knobbe, a Magna cum Laude international business major from West Point, Neb.; Alexandra Marie Linder, a Summa cum Laude pre-K-12 vocal music education major from Oakland, Neb.; and Morgan Sudbeck, a Magna cum Laude speech communication major from Hartington, Neb.

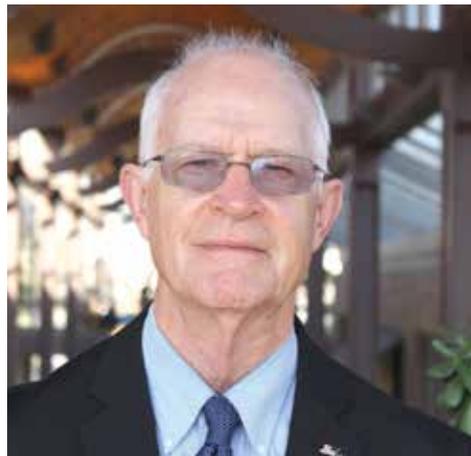
For photo galleries, videos, and a list of all Spring 2020 graduates, please visit [www.wsc.edu/graduation](http://www.wsc.edu/graduation).

## Dr. Don Hickey Receives Teaching Excellence Award

Dr. Donald R. Hickey, professor of history, has been named the State Nebraska Bank & Trust Teaching Excellence Award winner for the 2019-20 academic year. This prestigious honor recognizes rigorous standards that require a superior level of effective teaching. Hickey, who was called the "Dean of 1812 scholarship" by *The New Yorker* in 2012, began as an assistant professor at Wayne State in 1978.

David Ley, State Nebraska's chairman of the board, established the teaching award in 1998 as a way of recognizing and strengthening outstanding teaching at Wayne State College. State Nebraska Bank & Trust has been serving the Wayne community for more than 125 years and supports the college in many ways, including numerous scholarships, capital investments, employment of students, and service on the Wayne State Foundation Board of Trustees.

During his 42 years at Wayne State, Hickey has also held concurrent positions as a visiting lecturer at the University of Illinois in 1981; John F. Morrison Professor of Military History, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., 1991-92;



co-director and professor, Nebraska Semester Abroad Program, 1994; Visiting Professor of Strategy, U.S. Naval War College, Newport, R.I., 1995-96; and Mark W. Clark Professor of History, The Citadel, Charleston, S.C., 2013.

Hickey has written a dozen books and more than 100 articles, mostly on the War of 1812 and its causes. These have appeared in scholarly journals as well as popular journals and encyclopedias.

"My first book, *The War of 1812: A Forgotten*

*Conflict*, has been in print since 1989 and is now in its second edition," Hickey said. "I won two national awards for this book, and I believe it has become the standard account of the war from the American perspective. I have another book, *Don't Give Up the Ship! Myths of the War of 1812*, that is devoted to exploring (and exploding) many widely held myths associated with the conflict. My latest book, a foray into Native American history, is entitled *Tecumseh's War: The Epic Conflict for the Heart of America*. It is scheduled for publication in the fall of 2020."

Hickey has served on various editorial boards and referee for numerous presses, scholarly journals, and consulted on several film projects.

Hickey noted in his personal statement for the award that "since coming to Wayne State in 1978, I've taught and mentored thousands of students. My regular rotation consists of regular and honors U.S. history surveys, a senior research seminar, and a specialized course, usually in early national America (1789-1815). Each of these courses is presented in a way to expose students to different aspects of the study of history."

# A BOLD NEW LOOK

Wayne State College Introduces  
First New Logos Since 2005





**We are proud to unveil a new look and feel for Wayne State College. Our redesigned visual identity consists of a re-imagined wordmark and the addition of an iconic W and Wildcat mascot that reflect the energy and vitality of the College. This process began early in Fall 2019 and culminates with this reveal.**

“Our brand is what sets Wayne State College apart from other colleges and universities,” said President Marysz Rames. “Throughout the college’s history, the visual component of our brand has been refreshed. Sometimes it has been out of necessity, such as a name change, and at other times it has been to recognize new energy and direction at the college. And while there are things that remain uncertain around us right now, there is still a great deal of certainty about who we are and what we do.”

While the new Cat is a dynamic addition to the College’s logo inventory, it is not meant to replace the iconic Paw logo that has been used for Wayne State athletics since the 1980s. The new Cat logo will supplement and complement the existing athletics brand.



Wayne State College, like nearly all higher education institutions since March, had to adjust to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

“It is a testament to the hard-working faculty, staff, and students

that the College was able to nimbly adjust to the situation without sacrificing an effective response to the public health emergency or progress on the work underway on its brand,” Rames said. “Wayne State moved through the redesign from a position of strength in enrollment and resources, the same characteristics that guided the College’s response to the virus.”

Wayne State’s visual identity is an important part of its brand, as it is for all institutions. Logos are the shorthand route to thinking about the College in the context of the messages associated with Wayne State.

“We are still that same small college that welcomes students each year for a high-quality, personalized education that is affordable and accessible,” Rames said. “We are still committed to teaching and learning excellence, student success, and regional service. What has changed is the set of symbols that represent us in the landscape of higher education.”

The Wayne State archives chart the college’s use of a variety

1915 Women’s Basketball Team



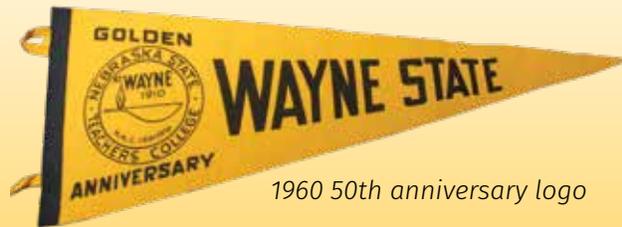
1948 Men’s Basketball Team



## Identifying with Wayne State College Through the Years



1920 logo



1960 50th anniversary logo

# Wayne State College

2005 logo

# WAYNE STATE COLLEGE

NEBRASKA

1990s logo



1985 75th anniversary logo

of images to project the College's visual identity. Our symbols and acronyms range from NNC (Nebraska Normal College 1891), WSN (Wayne State Normal 1914), NSTC (Nebraska State Teachers College 1928), and WSTC (Wayne State Teachers College 1958) to WSC (Wayne State College 1963).

"This is the first time in more than 15 years that Wayne State College has reimagined its visual identity," said Jay Collier, director of College Relations. "The last update was the adoption in 2005 of the Wayne State College wordmark so prevalent on our current printed and digital materials. And while the mark served us well, the look had grown dated. So we took a fresh look at the College to see what we could do to breathe new life into our look and feel ... while still honoring our past."

The new logos reflect the College's return to its visual roots.

"One letter stood out, though, among the archival entries: the W," said Collier, who oversees communications and marketing at the college. "Letter jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, athletic jerseys,

**“** We are still that same small college that welcomes students each year for a high-quality, personalized education that is affordable and accessible. We are still committed to teaching and learning excellence, student success, and regional service. What has changed is the set of symbols that represent us in the landscape of higher education. **”**

**- President Marysz Rames**

1959 Ringing the Victory Bell



1964 Homecoming



pennants, yearbooks, and mascots featured the iconic W from our earliest days. As we looked for a new icon to accompany a new wordmark, we took a cue from our history and incorporated the W into our new family of logos.”

Another constant since 1921 has been the Wildcat. The college was formerly known as the Tigers and the Teachers until 1921, when “in a close-fought game against a much larger and heavier rival, someone (quite possibly the college newspaper sports editor) decided that ‘Wildcats’ was a more fitting symbol than ‘Tigers’ for the small but spunky team, and the label quickly caught on,” according to Wayne State historical accounts.

The new Cat logo was created by Kristi Nelson, a 2002 graduate of Wayne State who majored in graphic design. Nelson serves as marketing coordinator for the College. The W and wordmark were created by award-winning designers at Clark Creative Group in Omaha, with whom Wayne State has worked for the production of television, radio, and digital advertising.

For more information, please contact Jay Collier, Director of College Relations, at 402-375-7325 or jacolli1@wsc.edu.



To watch the logo reveal video, download wallpapers, and learn more about the college’s logos and visual identity, visit [www.wsc.edu/branding](http://www.wsc.edu/branding).

*“One letter stood out, though, among the archival entries: the W. Letter jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, athletic jerseys, pennants, yearbooks, and mascots featured the iconic W from our earliest days. As we looked for a new icon to accompany a new wordmark, we took a cue from our history and incorporated the W into our new family of logos.”*

## Timeline of WSC Changes

- 1891** – Nebraska Normal College (NNC) established
- 1914** – Name changed to Wayne State Normal (WSN)
- 1921** – Adoption of the Wildcat as the college’s mascot, replacing former identity as the Tigers and the Teachers
- 1928** – Name changed to Nebraska State Teachers College (NSTC)
- 1958** – Name changed to Wayne State Teachers College (WSTC)
- 1963** – Name changed to Wayne State College
- 1980s** – Adoption of the Paw logo
- 2005** – Adoption of the Wayne State College wordmark
- 2020** – New Wayne State College wordmark and addition of Cat logo

1991 Athletes photo for media guide



2001 Homecoming



## Kristi Nelson '02 Designs WSC's New Cat Logo

**Who better to design a new logo for Wayne State College than a lifelong Wildcat herself?**

Kristi Nelson is a 2002 graduate of Wayne State with a B.S. in Art (graphic design concentration) and the creator behind the college's new Cat logo. She also serves as the marketing coordinator for Wayne State, a position she has held since 2016. The role includes designing print publications, helping build and maintain the college website, providing SEO analysis and research, and supporting the college's marketing strategies.

As WSC started on the rebranding project, a cat seemed an obvious choice for a logo.

"When the initiative came down to rebrand WSC with a new logo, we took cues from our history, our current path, what other institutions were doing, and then conducted student and staff surveys as to what their thoughts were for a new logo," Nelson said. "Every indication led us to the same conclusion – the people wanted a cat, we wanted a cat. It was time for a cat."

Creating the Cat initially came in the form of working on a logo for Wayne State's new e-sports program. Nelson used photos of Willy Wildcat as inspiration. After her first iteration of the esports cat, the branding team realized they could successfully pull off a more serious and stylized cat icon that could be used beyond sports, since there

*"As a student, I didn't understand the reach or see the impact that WSC has on the region, or why any of that matters. Now that I work for the college, and more specifically in marketing, I really get to see how all the pieces fit together. If our marketing efforts can positively affect the life of one student, no matter how indirect, by helping them discover WSC, and they go on to find their place, their passion, their future profession, that's the most meaningful outcome we could hope for."*



was no intention of replacing the Paw.

From there, the new Cat was born – "something modern that could lead us into the future," as Nelson describes it.

Before working for WSC, Nelson spent most of her career designing and building websites, as well as designing t-shirts and mascot art for local sports teams. She returned to WSC after graduating in 2002 to take additional classes in computer information systems (programming and database development) to aid in her web design career. She also became an accomplished graphic designer, but that's a status she worked hard to earn after graduation, pushing herself to diversify her skillset to stay employed and support her family. She started entering design contests in 2013, and as her skills developed and improved with time, she won several first and

second place awards for logos and t-shirt design. This even led to designing fan gear for schools in the Southeastern Conference (SEC) and other freelance projects, which she still enjoys doing.

Coming back to work for her alma mater and design its logo, Nelson said, has been special.

"I feel like I've come full circle to where I once started," she said. "I'm honored and proud that Wayne State chose to use my design, even after hiring a professional design agency to create the wordmark and other pieces of our new visual identity."

Though the marketing role is mostly behind-the-scenes work, she feels the work is important and has the potential to impact students' lives. Helping them discover WSC and their passion, she says, is the meaningful part, rather than counting sales, profits, or even enrollment numbers.

"I enjoy seeing the progression of education, programs, and opportunities that the college has to offer, and how that impacts the region," Nelson said. "I feel like I'm part of something big, something that matters. As a student, I didn't understand the reach or see the impact that WSC has on the region, or why any of that matters. Now that I work for the college, and more specifically in marketing, I really get to see how all the pieces fit together. I get to see how those initiatives and opportunities are important and why they matter. If our marketing efforts can positively affect the life of one student, no matter how indirect, by helping them discover WSC, and they go on to find their place, their passion, their future profession, that's the most meaningful outcome we could hope for."

2019 Current Willy Wildcat





Rendering of Benthack north side

## Renovations and New Labs Planned for Benthack Hall

Benthack Hall, which has been home to the Department of Technology and Applied Science at Wayne State College, will be renovated during the 2020-21 school year. The renovated building will house the department's family and consumer sciences programs, as well as the Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership and the Department of Counseling. Industrial technology programs, which are part of the Department of Technology and Applied Science, are now based in the Center for Applied Technology, which was completed in 2018.

While Wayne State College has outstanding teacher education, counseling, and family and consumer sciences programs, the purpose of the Benthack Hall renovation is to transform the existing classroom, office, and laboratory facilities into cutting-edge, state-of-the-art learning environments for these programs. The intent is to provide a welcoming, inviting atmosphere and sense of community to a prominent location on campus, while showcasing high quality academic programs that reflect the forward-thinking, professional environments our students will experience in their future careers. This project will activate the campus's major pedestrian corridor, while creating transparent, collaborative learning spaces that encourage hands-on learning and student interaction.

Benthack was built in 1972 and currently does not have the lab or instructional space that aligns with today's industry or PK-12 career academies. The transformation of Benthack will provide WSC with a modern facility to enhance the educational program

and increase the number of graduates. With an updated state-of-the-art facility, WSC hopes to increase the number of students enrolled in education, counseling, and family and consumer sciences programs.

To enhance the quality of the educational program, the renovation includes two state-of-the-art education labs. These labs will be used to instruct education students and will also serve as sites for after-school programs. Students from surrounding school districts will participate in after-school programs designed to assist children who are struggling with various topics as well as host educational experiences for children interested in strengthening their understanding of subjects. These programs will be included as practicum credit for college students in their sophomore year. With the addition of these labs, Wayne State will be one of the few colleges that provides students with the opportunity to engage with children from their sophomore to senior years.

The Benthack project will also include a state-of-the-art counseling training clinic for students to perfect their psychotherapeutic practices with clients. This clinic aims to serve our surrounding communities' needs regarding behavioral and mental health. The full-service training clinic will be supervised by licensed professional counselors serving people of all ages, families, and individuals experiencing a variety of diagnoses and treatment needs. The Counseling Department strives to become a leader in producing highly trained clinical providers to serve our rural community starting with the capabilities and functioning of this training facility.

Rendering of student lounge



Rendering of kitchen classroom



***The renovation will provide a welcoming, inviting atmosphere and sense of community on campus, while showcasing high quality academic programs that reflect the forward-thinking, professional environments our students will experience in their careers.***

The Benthack project will include more square footage for the foods and nutrition, fashion, and interior design programs. The new space for foods and nutrition will include a commercial kitchen supporting the introduction of culinary and hospitality skills into the curriculum. Necessary equipment and furniture upgrades for the fashion major, including a body scanner and digital fabric printer plus a combination of state-of-the-art software, will make it possible for fashion majors to gain digital knowledge and skills within the full spectrum of the fashion industry. Interest in careers in interior design are growing rapidly. Interior design students need updated facilities and technological resources to apply theory and practice in alignment with current residential and commercial design professions. The project will provide the necessary facilities and resources to support continued growth in the interior design program.

Family and consumer science education majors have recently seen an increase in enrollment numbers. With numerous high school career academies nearby, new educational partnerships, and larger, improved facilities, family and consumer science is expected to see increased student enrollment and a greater need for advanced technology.



## Ron Holt Civic Engagement Student Award



*Rachel Grisham*

Rachel Grisham of Columbus was named the Ron Holt Civic Engagement Award winner for the 2019-20 academic year. The annual award, started by Dr. Ron Holt '89, goes to a graduating Wayne State College senior who has served as an exemplary role model and contributed to the service ethos of the college campus and community at large. Grisham's award includes a \$500 gift, trophy, and graduation recognition. The winner was chosen from among four finalists, which included Cory Frewing, Sarah Lorenzen, and Elizabeth Sederburg.



*Cory Frewing*



*Sarah Lorenzen*



*Elizabeth Sederburg*

## Inaugural Ron Holt Civic Engagement Alumni Award

Dean Jacobs '86 was chosen as the inaugural winner of the Ron Holt Civic Engagement Award for an alumnus of Wayne State College. Like the student version, this award was started by Dr. Ron Holt '89 and recognizes a WSC alumnus for his or her service to the community. Jacobs received a trophy, medallion, certificate, and \$500 donated to a Wayne State Foundation fund of his choosing.

Jacobs has led Wayne State students on several study abroad trips, incorporating service projects into their education abroad.

"Dean has devoted his life to inspire others to be their best selves," said Holt. "His selfless dedication to serving mankind and the world are the very reasons he was chosen for this inaugural alumni award."



*Dean Jacobs '86*

# Scholars Selected for Wayne State's New Cooperative Education Program

Wayne State College, along with Growing Together, An Aksarben Workforce Initiative, are proud to announce the inaugural scholarship winners for the selective Northeast Nebraska Growing Together Cooperative Education Program. This first cohort of 30 students will begin their education at Wayne State College as freshmen in the fall for a three-year on-campus education followed by a fourth year living and working in Norfolk with a local business during a nine-month period.

The students selected for the program include:

- Accounting: Braden Ehlers of Norfolk
- Agri-business: Brogan Jones of Allen and Jarvis Smith of Harvard
- Business management: Ty Erwin of Laurel, Abigail Gardner of Chadron, Blake Kobs of Ashland, Alexander Lyons of Dwight, Jaegher Ogden of Atkinson, Conor Ramold of Neligh, Paige Sackschewsky of Waco, Shane Stahn of Central City, and Amber Voboril of David City
- Computer information systems-programmer/analyst: Hailey Samson of York
- Computer science: Caroline Akinngbagbe of Plainview, Trevor Boggs of Greenwood, Cailee Brugger of Wayne, Noah Burwell of David City, Mindy Demke of Wakefield, Seth Dey of Syracuse, Gregory Downing of Chadron, Raymond Mauldin of Norfolk, and Jakob Schaefer of Whitman
- Electronic media: Oliver Fox of Lincoln, Callasandra Hurley of York, and Cory Martinson of Wausa
- Finance: Summer Schroeder of Clearwater
- Journalism: Delaney Meyer of Lincoln
- Marketing: Aubree Howell of Omaha and Zoey Kreikemeier of West Point
- Office administration: Austin Pierce of Brainard

"Wayne State is truly committed to this program, which is designed to support economic and work force development in Northeast Nebraska," said Wayne State College President Marysz Rames. "The pool of students demonstrated the academic strength, tenacity, and grit we have come to expect of prospective Wayne State students. We expect great things from this inaugural group of scholars."

Students were selected for the selective cooperative education program from the incoming freshmen class to live in a community of learners at Wayne State where they will receive a prescribed and accelerated curriculum that will prepare them to work in a Norfolk business during their senior year. The program is limited to students pursuing majors in either business, computer science or computer information systems, electronic media, or journalism.

"As the Growing Together project takes off, it's extremely exciting to have so many applicants who want to be a part of this effort to learn and work in Northeast Nebraska. We look forward to meeting the inaugural class of scholars and welcoming them into the community of Norfolk over the next four years," said Angie Stenger, Executive Director of Growing Together.

During the students' first three years in Wayne, they will have the opportunity to engage with Norfolk business partners through site visits, job shadowing, and mentorships. In their senior year, they



Left to right: Paul Turman, Chancellor of the Nebraska State College System; Josh Moenning, Mayor of Norfolk; Mike Flood, owner of Flood Communications and Aksarben Foundation board member; WSC President Marysz Rames; Sandra Reding, President of the Aksarben Foundation; and Gov. Pete Ricketts.

will move to Norfolk where they will earn 18 credit hours by working about 30 hours per week in a local business. As part of the program, they are required to reside in housing in the downtown Norfolk area, which will provide them with the opportunity to engage academically and socially with their peers. This portion of the program helps them connect with the community and gain an appreciation for the many exciting social and cultural opportunities available in the city of Norfolk. Upon graduation, the goal is for the students to be hired into full-time positions in Northeast Nebraska.

"This program will be critical to the continued development of our regional economy," Rames said. "Given the current public health emergency and its effects on our economy, Wayne State's partnership with Growing Together/Aksarben to provide pathways to four-year degrees for students committed to Northeast Nebraska is more important than ever."

To ensure students have financial support to remain focused on this program, they were awarded a scholarship that provides: \$2,500 for the freshman year, \$3,000 in the sophomore year, \$3,500 in the junior year, and \$5,000 toward tuition and up to \$10,000 in housing for the senior year, which brings the total scholarship package to \$24,000. The Aksarben Foundation is supporting the first cohort of cooperative education scholars with a gift of \$360,000.

"Growing Together is a whole new concept, and that's what's exciting about it. As we aim to retain and attract young talent to the area, we are proud to support this first cohort of co-op scholars and look forward to watching as they evolve through the program," said Sandra Reding, President of the Aksarben Foundation.

The cooperative education program is one of several strategies connected to the "Northeast Nebraska Growing Together" initiative that was developed as part of the Aksarben Foundation challenge to address the workforce crisis in Nebraska. Under the leadership of Mike Flood, founder of Flood Communications and News Channel Nebraska and current Aksarben board member, a group of community leaders identified six bold strategies to transform Northeast Nebraska:

- Downtown development
- Founders in residence
- Cooperative scholarships
- Workforce retraining
- Artists in residence
- Early childhood education

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

**Season Record:** 10-22

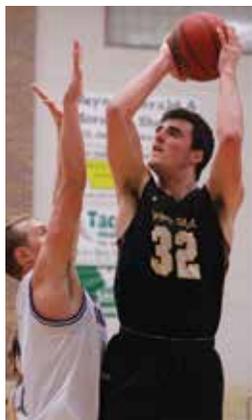
**NSIC Record:** 7-15

### All-NSIC

Jordan Janssen (Second Team)

### NSIC Winter All-Academic Team

Ben Dentlinger  
Jordan Janssen  
Nate Thayer



Jordan Janssen



Nate Thayer



Ben Dentlinger

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

**Season Record:** 16-13

**NSIC Record:** 11-11

### All-NSIC

Erin Norling (First Team)  
Halley Busse (Second Team)

### D2CCA All-Central Region Second Team

Erin Norling

### NSIC Winter All-Academic Team of Excellence

Brittany Bongartz Erin Norling  
Halley Busse Haley Vesey  
Kylie Hammer

### NSIC Winter All-Academic Team

Amelia Ivester Selena Shady  
Autumn Mlinar Taylor Wangerin

### CoSIDA Academic All-District VII First Team

Erin Norling

### CoSIDA Academic All-American Second Team

Erin Norling (first ever WSC player to get Academic All-American honors)



Erin Norling



Halley Busse

## MEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

9th place at NSIC Indoor Track and Field Championships (22 points)

### All-NSIC

Cade Kalkowski (2nd – Hammer Throw)

### NCAA Division II Indoor National Qualifiers

Cade Kalkowski – Weight Throw  
Dylan Kaup – Weight Throw

### USTFCCCA All-Central Region

Cade Kalkowski – Weight Throw

### NSIC Winter All-Academic Team of Excellence

Aaron English  
Brock Hegarty  
Nathan Hiemer  
Bryce Holcomb  
Dylan Kaup  
Jakob Kemper  
Dylan Kessler  
Nathan Pearson  
Bailey Peckham

### NSIC Winter All-Academic Team

Ben Allen Cade Kalkowski  
Preston Davis Kyle Lowe  
Jayle Hinkle Justin Rohloff



Cade Kalkowski



Dylan Kaup

## WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

10th place at NSIC Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships (22 points)

### All-NSIC

McKenzie Scheil (1st place – Weight Throw)  
McKenzie Scheil (3rd place – Shot Put)

### USTFCCCA All-Central Region

McKenzie Scheil – Weight Throw

### NCAA Division II National Qualifier

McKenzie Scheil – Weight Throw

### NSIC Winter All-Academic Team of Excellence

Marin Jetensky Sarah Stang  
Kim Johnson Kenzie Sullivan  
Amanda Mote Kori Siebert  
Jordyn Pester Andrea Torres  
Allie Rosener

### NSIC Winter All-Academic Team

Ali Dykman  
Mikayla Marvin  
Molly McCartney  
Sophie Noecker



McKenzie Scheil

## Aaron Ras Named Repeat Winner of NSIC Elite 18 Award for Baseball



Aaron Ras

The Northern Sun Conference announced in April that Aaron Ras of Wayne State College was named recipient of the NSIC Elite 18 Award in baseball for a second year. The award is given to the student-athlete holding the highest grade point average with the most credits earned among the 15 institutions playing baseball in the NSIC.

A junior left-handed pitcher from Bancroft (Bancroft-Rosalie High School), Ras holds a 4.00 grade point average majoring in interdisciplinary studies. In his three years at Wayne State, Ras has an 8-7 record with a

5.28 ERA in 29 appearances and 19 starts while striking out 98 batters in just 92 innings of work. He has held opponents to a .238 batting average. This season, Ras had a 0-2 record in three appearances before the season was halted due to COVID-19.

As a freshman in 2018, Ras was named the Wayne State Male Athlete of the Year after posting a 5-2 record and 4.02 ERA allowing just 24 earned runs in 53.2 innings pitched with 44 strikeouts.

“Aaron is a player that puts in the work, on and off the field, even when no one is looking. He is a genuine kid that takes pride in his hard work and dedication on the field as well as in the classroom. Aaron is more than deserving of the award, and I am proud to say he is a Wayne State Wildcat.”

- Alex Koch, WSC head baseball coach



Once a Wildcat, Always a WILDCAT!

Follow the Cats at [WWW.WSCWILDCATS.COM](http://WWW.WSCWILDCATS.COM)

### BASEBALL

**Season Record:** 8-7 (season cancelled after Mid-Term Break due to public health emergency)

#### Wildcat Honors

Andrew Hanson – NSIC Player of the Week (Feb. 10 and Feb. 25)

CJ Neumann – NSIC Player of the Week (Feb. 18)

Ryan Obrecht – NSIC Pitcher of the Week (March 16)

#### NSIC Spring All-Academic Team of Excellence

Bryce Bisenius

Colin Chick

Dylan Emanuel

Jake Lemar

Ryan Petersen

Aaron Ras

Lawson Zenner

#### NSIC Spring All-Academic Team

Brandon Barker

Andrew Hanson

Alex Logelin

CJ Neumann

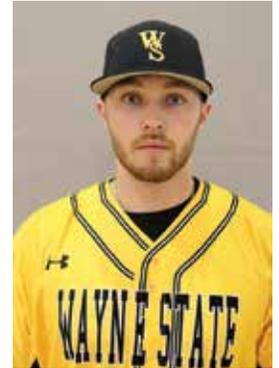
Josh Renken

#### NSIC Elite 18 Academic Award

Aaron Ras (repeat winner)

#### CoSIDA Academic All-District VII First Team

Bryce Bisenius



Bryce Bisenius

### SOFTBALL

**Season Record:** 10-13 (season cancelled after Mid-Term Break due to public health emergency)

#### NSIC Spring All-Academic Team of Excellence

Kortney Buresh

Ashley Hernandez

Maddie Moser

#### NSIC Spring All-Academic Team

Makenna Adkison

Michaela Smith

Kamryn Sparks

Kim Vidlak



Ashley Hernandez





*Front row (left to right): Brock Hegarty, Nathan Pearson, Jack Doughty, Bailey Peckham, and Dylan Kessler. Back row (left to right): Assistant Coach James Bowlin, Bryce Holcomb, Jakob Kemper, Nathan Hiemer, Will McGonigal, and Head Coach Marlon Brink.*

## **Wayne State College Men's Cross Country Team Posts Best Grade Point Average in NCAA Division II**

The Wayne State College men's cross country team recorded the top grade point average in NCAA Division II for the 2019 season according to a release from the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association as the Wildcats received the USTFCCA All-Academic Team Award with a 3.82 grade point average. This is the ninth consecutive year that WSC has earned the coaches' association All-Academic honor.

To qualify for the honor, an institution must have at least a 3.00 team cumulative grade point average and scored at an NCAA Division II regional competition during the season.

Wayne State was one of 11 teams from the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference to collect the All-Academic Award.



## **Former Wildcat Punter Named to D2Football.com All-Decade Team**

Former Wayne State College All-American punter Randy Weich was named in April to the D2Football.com All-Decade Football Team, earning Second Team honors. The 50-member team was selected by staff of D2Football.com with input from Division II coaches across the country.

Weich, a 6-2, 245-pound punter from Pierce High School, set nearly every punting record during his four years at Wayne State College from 2009-12. He was voted to six All-American teams as a senior in 2012, averaging 44.8 yards per punt to rank third in NCAA Division II, and closed his collegiate career by being selected to play in the All-American Bowl at the Metrodome in Minneapolis.

Weich closed his WSC career averaging 43.9 yards per punt on 189 kicks and holds the top three single season averages along with the two longest punts in Wayne State history – 95 yards versus Augustana in 2010 and 85 yards in 2012 at the University of Sioux Falls. He also had 53 punts of 50 yards or more.

Following his career at Wayne State, Weich played professional football for one season in 2014 in the FXFL (Fall Experimental Football League) for the Omaha Mammoths.

## Deb Lundahl Retires from Wayne State Foundation; Laura Robinett Named New Director of Major Gifts

Long-time Wayne State Foundation employee **Deb Lundahl** retired this spring after 22 years of service with the Wayne State Foundation. Her last day was May 1.

Lundahl retired as the Director of Major Gifts, a position she held from 2014 to 2020. She began her career with the Wayne State Foundation as the alumni secretary in 1998. In 2000, she became the Foundation secretary for a brief period before taking the position of Director of Alumni Relations, which she held for six years. Lundahl advanced to Director of Development and Alumni Relations in 2006 and was in that position until 2014 when she became the Director of Major Gifts.

“Wayne State College is an easy place to love and a hard place to leave,” Lundahl said. “I will always be grateful for my time with my Wildcat alumni and campus family.”

The Wayne State Foundation would like to sincerely thank Lundahl for her many years of dedicated service, expertise, and leadership, and wish her the very best in her retirement. Unfortunately, a retirement celebration will not take place for Lundahl due to COVID-19.

**Laura Robinett**, former Director of Alumni Relations for the Wayne State Foundation, advanced to the Director of Major Gifts role May 4, after the retirement of Lundahl. Robinett served as the Director



Deb Lundahl



Laura Robinett

of Alumni Relations from 2016 to 2020.

Prior to joining the Wayne State Foundation, Robinett served as the office assistant for the Department of Art and Design and Department of Music at Wayne State. She graduated from Wayne State College in 2013 with a bachelor’s degree in journalism and double minor in art and online media. She is currently pursuing a master’s degree in business administration from Wayne State.

“I am honored to be able to move into this position with the Wayne State Foundation,” Robinett said. “I am very grateful for this opportunity and am anxious to continue working with our wonderful alumni and donors to help promote the advancement and development of Wayne State College.”



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Chief Executive Officer  
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Laura Robinett  
Director of Major Gifts  
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Amber Sperry  
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Alumni Relations  
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Megan Finn  
Director of  
Athletic Development  
402-375-7543  
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### 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 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, Laura Robinett, Megan Finn, or Amber Sperry for more information on how to make an IRA charitable rollover gift or for estate planning.

**The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act** was passed on March 27, 2020. Below are key provisions related to charitable contributions:

- The CARES Act temporarily suspends the 60% charitable contribution deduction limitation for qualified cash contributions for individual taxpayers who itemize deductions.
- A new above-the-line charitable deduction of up to \$300 is available to taxpayers who do not itemize deductions.
- The CARES Act waives Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) for IRAs and other qualified retirement plans. Loyal donors may still use the IRA Rollover to support the mission of the Wayne State Foundation.

## Phonathon 2020

*You helped us raise more than \$192,800!*

Thanks to you, our generous Wayne State alumni, friends, and parents, the Wayne State Foundation raised more than \$192,800 in gifts and pledges through our annual Phonathon fundraising campaign.

Our 36 WSC student callers and four student managers enjoyed calling you earlier this year to update your information, share exciting progress happening at Wayne State, and ask you to consider making a gift to support the efforts of Wayne State College. Many of you responded with positive feedback, and we thank you for your support. When we launch our next calling campaign in January 2021, we encourage you to get to know your student caller and share your advice and experiences as a WSC graduate.

Phonathon 2021 will launch this November with a letter to past donors sharing the exciting advancements happening at Wayne State and stating our goals for the academic year. Phonathon calling will begin in January. You will have the opportunity to show your support for WSC by making a donation through the letter or in response to the call. If you have not been receiving phone calls, please be sure to update your information at [www.wsc.edu/alumni](http://www.wsc.edu/alumni).

### Alumni Giving Percentage: Your support makes a difference!

Wayne State's percentage of alumni giving (also known as alumni participation rate) is something all donors, at any level, can impact. The alumni giving percentage is a number the Wayne State Foundation can boast when reaching out to other foundations, businesses, and organizations for financial support. It's evidence that our alumni believe in the mission of Wayne State College and are willing to give back.

No matter the size of the gift, your individual support is reflected in the alumni participation rate. **In 2019, that number was 9.7%, and you can help that number grow.** All gifts make a difference!



Phonathon 2020 student managers (from left to right): Bayley Holloway, Miranda Scheerger, Ashleigh Avecilla, and Brandy Langley.

## Wayne State Foundation Names Amber Sperry as New Alumni Director



The Wayne State Foundation welcomed Amber Sperry on April 27 as the new Director of Alumni Relations.

Sperry attended high school at Allen Consolidated Schools and graduated from Wayne State College in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in family and consumer sciences, with an emphasis in interior design and fashion

merchandising. She not only loved the friendly and small-town feel that Wayne State College had to offer, but also how the professors knew students by name and genuinely cared about their success.

For the past eight years, Sperry has been working in property management and is a licensed realtor in Wayne. She is married to her high school sweetheart, Kyle Sperry, a 2016 Wayne State graduate, and they have a 2-year-old son, Kyler. In her spare time, Sperry enjoys playing volleyball, golfing, home decorating, and spending time with friends and family.

Sperry is looking forward to working with alumni, staff, and friends to continue growing and cultivating relationships within the Wayne State family.

## Spring 2020 Senior Gift Challenge

Approximately 114 Wayne State College seniors and master's graduates of the Spring 2020 class met the Senior Gift Challenge by pledging to donate \$20.20, or another amount, to the WSC Students Assisting Students Endowed Scholarship, pledging more than \$2,200 total for the semester.

The Senior Gift Challenge, which started with the Fall 2018 class, aims to create a culture of giving back to Wayne State College among each graduating senior class by asking students to pledge the amount of their graduation year to the Students Assisting Students Endowed Scholarship. The Senior Gift Challenge will also help complete the funding needed to endow the scholarship.

The Senior Gift Committee, made up of students from Student Senate and the Philomathean President's Honorary Society, helped promote the campaign and encouraged students to participate. Students who pledged to support the scholarship were given a philanthropy medal to wear at commencement.

## Mesa, Ariz., Reunion



The Wayne State Foundation hosted an alumni reunion Jan. 9 at The Harp Pub and Restaurant in Mesa, Ariz.

Front row (left to right):

Director of Major Gifts Deb

Lundahl, Vicki Pick, Barbara Shainholz '55, Jim Shainholz, Joyce Reeg '85, and former WSC President Curt Frye. Back row (left to right): Ron Sorensen, Jim Lindau, Nancy Griswold, Larry Conger '66, Gayle Conger '67, John Hoppe, Ed Barnat '65, Ruth Barnat, Dave Noyes '70, Jim Chambers, Phyllis Chambers, Linda Martindale, James Martindale '72, Pegg Noyes, Lonnie Nixon '75, Dennis Sealey '70, Dianne Frye, Matthew Emanuel '00, and Wayne State Foundation CEO Kevin Armstrong '99.



## Sun City, Ariz., Reunion

The Wayne State Foundation hosted an alumni reunion Jan. 5 at the Palmbrook Country Club in Sun City, Ariz. Front row (left to right): Marilyn Anson '55, Marilyn Carhart, WSC President Marysz Rames, Tamara Rinehart '78, Burnice Sladek '84, and Ginger Robson. Back row (left to right): Director of Major Gifts Deb Lundahl, Steve Rames, Elwin Anson, Foundation CEO Kevin Armstrong '99, Ray Leafstedt '50, Robert Carhart, Jay Hart '89, LaVon Fischer '72, Barry Phelps '70, Charlotte Schmidt '58, Ron Sladek, Robert Schmidt '59, Don Rinehart '77, Don Robson '56, Curt Ott '77, and Ruth Ott '78.

## Where Giving Is Needed Most

Where is that at Wayne State College? Where giving is needed most is our Greatest Needs Fund, an unrestricted fund that provides the fuel to run the Wayne State Foundation. The Wayne State Foundation serves as a vehicle for WSC alumni, friends, corporations, and foundations to use when supporting the college.

Below are some of the programs and areas where Greatest Needs Funds are used:

- Academic scholarships
- Athletic scholarships
- Community scholarships
- Magazines, publications, and mailings
- Operating expenses
- President's executive discretionary accounts
- Program statements for capital projects
- Building/land purchases
- Donor recognition boards
- College support

**For more information please contact:**

**Kevin Armstrong** - 402-375-7534

**Laura Robinett** - 402-375-7209

**Amber Sperry** - 402-375-7370

**Megan Finn** - 402-375-7543

Wayne State Foundation  
1111 Main Street • Wayne, NE 68787

Your gifts to the Greatest Needs Fund allow the president and the college the flexibility and discretion to address unexpected needs as they arise. These funds assist the college and the president in continuing to build on WSC's reputation as a college of distinction – a dynamic, evolving institution whose mission is to prepare students for responsible leadership and citizenship roles.

**L**ynn Dobson graduated from Wayne State College in 1971 with a degree in art and industrial education. While at Wayne State, Dobson took the greatest interest in 3D design classes and specialized in sculpture. He also studied drafting, woodworking, metal technology, blacksmithing, electricity, shop drawing, and management skills, all of which would prove to serve him well as he ventured into a career as an organ builder.

As president and artistic director of Dobson Pipe Organ Builders in Lake City, Iowa, Dobson and his firm have acquired an impressive reputation by completing 97 new organs and 45 restorations and rebuilds of older instruments since the company's founding in 1974. Though firmly rooted in the traditions of fine organ building, Dobson's artistic approach to elements of organ design has never been bound by the practices of those who have gone before him. He attempts to conceive each instrument as a unique work of art.

Dobson's interests in architecture, gardening, the visual arts, and the study of nature may seem peripheral to organ building, but they in fact are so intertwined as a single discipline that these interests become inseparable and define who he is, how he lives, and what he does. Dobson experienced the ways of craftsmen at an early age. When the barn on the family farm burned in the winter of 1954, a new, traditionally framed barn was built the following summer. At the age of 5, Dobson was given his first toolbox and tools by the carpenters so he could "help" them with their work. Over the next dozen years, the same carpenters returned each summer, eventually building an entirely new set of buildings on the farm.

Exposure to the organ and its music first came through Dobson's sister, a church organist, and continued through personal reading, study, and working for an organ service company during his college years. By the time he graduated from college, Dobson had designed an organ that he then built during the year following his graduation. This instrument served Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux City, Iowa, from 1974 until the church closed in 2009. It was subsequently given by Our Savior's to Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Dakota Dunes, S.D., where it continues to serve as part of a vibrant worship community.

Dobson Pipe Organ Builders' first contract came from one of Dobson's former



*Lynn Dobson '71 serves as the president of Dobson Pipe Organ Builders in Lake City, Iowa.*

teachers, Antony Garlick, a music professor and composer at Wayne State College. When Garlick moved in 1986, he sold the organ to Mary Brooks of Doylestown, Pa. In 1998, she in turn sold it to The Church of the Holy Spirit in Harleysville, Pa. Dobson was once again called upon to move the organ and made several additions to suit its new, larger home.

Dobson Pipe Organ Builders currently employs 23 people, and their recent work includes a large organ for the Cathedral of our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, the largest new cathedral built in modern times. Dobson's team worked with the Pritzker Prize-winning architect Rafael Moneo from Spain on the design of this project. Dobson also designed an organ for The Kimmel Center for the Arts in Philadelphia, home to the Philadelphia Orchestra, one of the top five orchestras in the world. Dobson was also commissioned to build an organ for St. Thomas Church in New York City. St. Thomas Church is home to the famous choir of men and boys. The organ project was dedicated during the 100th anniversary year of the founding of the choir school, only one of two residential boarding choir schools for boys in the world and the only one in the United States. This organ became Dobson's largest organ, having 126 ranks of pipes, or 9,741 pipes, the most complex design project of his career.

International projects include an organ for Merton College at Oxford University in England, the first American organ to be installed in any of the renowned British

Universities, and an organ for St. James King Street in Sydney, Australia, to be installed in 2022 as the first new organ built in the United States and exported to Australia.

Dobson has continued to undertake sculptures and other art projects, completing many commissions for churches, residences, and schools. The sculptures are made entirely from fragments of wood left from building organs, an expression of the symbiotic relationship.

Dobson remains involved in the daily activities of Dobson Pipe Organ Builders. His work includes travel to meet with clients, architects, and contractors in developing new projects. At the shop, Dobson generates the initial mechanical and visual designs of all new organs and works closely with members of the firm as more detailed designs are made and construction takes place. His work on site includes installation of the instrument, collaborating on the tonal finishing process, and final examination of the completed instrument. Attending the dedicatory event of a completed project provides Dobson with the satisfaction of seeing and hearing the finished instrument in the environment for which it was created.

For the full story, please visit [www.wsc.edu/alumni](http://www.wsc.edu/alumni).

For more information on Dobson Pipe Organ Builders, visit [www.dobsonorgan.com](http://www.dobsonorgan.com).



Left: Curt Ott receives the Coast Guard Commendation Medal presented by Captain Errol Brown, the first African-American admiral in the Coast Guard. Right: Ott (far right) stands with an Alaska air crew in orange cold-weather flight suits.

## Wayne State College Prepares Curt Ott '77 for Coast Guard Pilot Career

***Curt Ott often thinks of Wayne State College as his “prep school,” because he can’t imagine an institution of higher learning preparing him any better for the career field he chose and the life adventures he’s experienced.***

Ott met his wife, Ruth Bruner, at Wayne State. He was raised in Oakland and Ruth is from Wausa. They both graduated from Wayne State: Curt in 1977 with a degree in business management and an economics minor, and Ruth in 1978 with a degree in elementary education.

“Both of us paid for college ourselves, so attending WSC was a great choice,” Ott said. “Wayne State was, and continues to be, a good value in higher education.”

Ott then applied to the Coast Guard. The selection process for Coast Guard officer candidate school was long and involved. He was one of 73 selected from more than 1,000 applicants. Ott finally arrived at, graduated from, and departed Navy Flight School in Pensacola, Fla., as a Coast Guard helicopter pilot.

Ott received orders to Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City, N.C., his first aviation assignment.

“I began flying training missions to gain the skills necessary to actually find and rescue people without killing myself in the process,” Ott said. “We generally flew the HH-3F helicopter with a crew of four, later in my career adding a rescue swimmer as the fifth crewmember. Teamwork was absolutely essential if the crew was to succeed and survive.”

After three and a half years, Ott received orders to Kodiak, Alaska. Not long after they arrived in 1984, Ott was one of the duty pilots when they launched at 3 a.m. to search for a sinking commercial fishing boat near Seward, Alaska. The 60-knot winds

drove the heavy snow sideways and caused severe turbulence. During the two-hour flight to the boat, the crew radioed they were abandoning ship. Instead of delivering a dewatering pump to save the boat, they were now looking for the crew in the whitecaps of the 30-foot seas. They hoisted the four surviving boat crew members and delivered them to a waiting ambulance in Seward. That night, they succeeded and survived, receiving Air Medals for their work.

After Alaska, the Ott family moved to Mobile, Ala., where Ott served as an instructor pilot for the Coast Guard Aviation Training Command, the training and evaluation center for Coast Guard aviation. It was in Mobile where their two sons began to develop as baseball players, leading their older son, Mike, to become a high school coach, and their younger son, Thom, to ultimately play at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln during their first College World Series appearance.

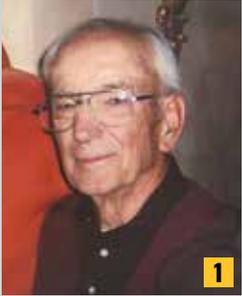
Five years in Mobile was followed by orders back to Elizabeth City, N.C., for a second tour. During Ott’s last year in Elizabeth City, he was selected for Commander (Lieutenant Colonel). When a new command was established in Portsmouth, Va., Ott received orders to the new Integrated Support Command. Since it was a new command, all the operating procedures had to be written.

“We drafted, updated, and rewrote hundreds of documents,” Ott said. “Who could have guessed that laboring over term papers in Bowen Hall would be such a great training ground for this job?”

As Ott’s final tour in his Coast Guard career, he was assigned to be the director of Operations Bahamas and Turks and Caicos (OPBAT) in Nassau, Bahamas. The Coast Guard’s role is primarily to provide aviation resources and expertise in support of this mission. Ott was also included in coordinating law enforcement efforts with the British High Commission in Nassau.

Ott retired from the Coast Guard in 2000 with almost 23 years of service. He was subsequently hired by the Maryland State Police as a medevac helicopter pilot. He flew for them for 17 years.

For the full story, please visit [www.wsc.edu/alumni](http://www.wsc.edu/alumni)



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**50 Joyce R. (Root) Best** was honored Oct. 6, 2019, by the St. Louis Ethical Society with their Ethical Action Award for her work with peace, justice, and social equality. Best was active in the civil rights movement with the Committee of Racial Equality (CORE) and other organizations. Three hundred people celebrated with music, speeches, and an Albanian luncheon.

**Kenneth E. Hughes** taught, coached, and was the principal for six years at Hartington High School in Hartington. In Denver, Hughes taught for two years at Hill Jr. High. He taught and coached from 1960 to 1988 at Thomas Jefferson High School in Denver. From 1988 to 1998 he helped coach football at Ponderosa High School in Parker, Colo. He spent two years in the army serving in Korea during the Korean War. He was awarded the Bronze Star and two bars. He married Twila Riley on June 23, 1957, in Pierce. Hughes died Feb. 25, 2020, leaving behind his wife, three children, seven grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. **1**

**62 Ivan I. Kaiser** retired from the University of Wyoming faculty position after 30 years of service. **2**

**66 Dennis D. Walters** retired from teaching in May 2005. He retired from coaching after 45 years in October 2019. His latest coaching was with boys and girls golf, but during the 45 years he coached wrestling, football, basketball, track, and golf. **3**

**69 Eugene F. Beerbohm** was awarded the 2019 Friend of Kearney Award, the highest honor presented during the Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce annual meeting. **4**

**70 Diane L. Ehrhardt** retired in May 2010 after teaching for more than 30 years. She is enjoying her family and traveling. She and her husband, Lonnie, celebrated their 50th anniversary Dec. 28, 2019. **Lonnie Ehrhardt** graduated from WSC in 1970. He taught and coached for more than 30 years.

**71 Daniel D. Bertsch** retired as a high school teacher but is currently teaching at Simpson College.

**72 Bruce A. Burton** spent 37 years in education as a teacher, coach, guidance counselor, secondary principal, assistant superintendent, and superintendent of schools. He retired in 2009, and his wife, Carol, retired in 2013 after 38 years as an elementary teacher, K-12 special education teacher, and middle school administrator. They live in Lincoln.

**Loralee (Nelson) Hunzeker** married in the fall of 1972 to **Dale L. Hunzeker '71**. She was a teacher in a high school and college setting and did personal counseling before her retirement. She continues to play French horn in many musical ensembles across the country since her graduation. She has two children, both in the military following college. One is a professor at George Mason University, and the other is serving as a psychiatrist and presently deployed to Afghanistan. She has five grandchildren ages 4-8. **5**

**Sherry R. (Goodrich) Kraemer** retired after 40 years of running Sherry's Childcare in Norfolk.

**73 Jon K. Habben MAE '81** retired after 37 years in public education (teacher, coach, principal, athletic director, and superintendent) and eight years as executive director of the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (including 200 K-12 Nebraska districts and educational service units). He served as the 2018-19 president-elect and is serving in 2020 as president of the National Rural Education Association. **6**

**75 Don Stapleton** retired after 35 years in the meat industry as an account manager with John Morrell Food Group/Smithfield Foods. Stapleton began his career with Wimmer Meats of West Point. Don and his wife, Jeannie, enjoy traveling and spending time with their three sons, their spouses, and eight grandchildren in Wisconsin. **7**



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## Sign Up to Receive the E-Newsletter

The Wayne State Foundation and Alumni Office emails 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.

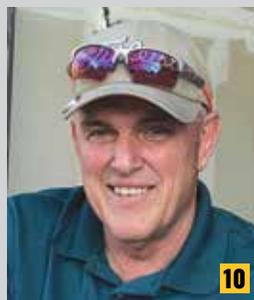
Not receiving the e-newsletter? Contact Amber Sperry, Director of Alumni Relations, to share your email address for our emailing list at 402-375-7370 or [amsper1@wsc.edu](mailto:amsper1@wsc.edu).



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**77 Steven J. Borer** retired in 2013 as the assistant principal/activities director at Seward High School in Seward. His entire career was spent in Nebraska as a teacher, coach, and administrator. He received his BAE in physical education/athletic training from WSC in 1977 and an MAE in administration and athletic administration from UNK in 1989. He also earned a certified master athletic administrator designation from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association in 2010. He and his wife, Helen, live in Seward and have three children and three grandchildren. He currently works part-time for UNL Athletic Event Services and officiates track meets in the spring. **8**

**Brian W. Elliott** retired from teaching high school and college and coaching football and wrestling. He taught automotive, welding, and physical education. He is still building cars and recently finished a three-year project. He rescued a 1951 two-door hardtop Victoria Ford out of a farmer's field in Pierce. Period street rod flathead, V-8, three-speed overdrive – Elliott says it came out beautiful! He has been married to Cary (Kinslow) Elliott from Wayne for 39 years in August. They will be grandparents of a baby boy in June. They are looking forward to a new chapter in their lives! **9**

**David B. Hahn** lives in Fort Worth, Texas, and has been working at Western Sugar Cooperative for 30 years. He is currently the sales manager there. **10**

**Don L. Rinehart** recently retired from coaching track and cross country at Embry Riddle University in Prescott, Ariz. As assistant coach he had the privilege of being a part of eight CalPac Conference Championships and coaching eight NAIA All-American runners. He and his wife, **Tami K. (Thompson) Rinehart '78**, are members of the Wayne State Foundation's Board of Trustees. **11**

**81 Arlene M. (Naughtin) Schleicher** retired from Grand Island Public School. Her husband, **Robert "Bob" Schleicher '80**, passed away Nov. 16, 2019.

**82 Andrew "Drew" Kaptain** retired in 2016 after 31 years teaching with New Haven Public Schools in New Haven, Conn. Mountain and road bike racing has been keeping him busy. He visited good friends in Wayne and Norfolk in December 2018. **12**

**83 Kathryn E. Davenport** has been living in North Carolina for 36 years and is enjoying the warmer weather. She has two Chihuahuas, Maizie and Bella. **13**

**86 Eugene "Gene" F. Bechen** was recently appointed interim director of the School of Education at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa.

**87 Terry A. Graver** retired after 35 years of coaching and 33 years of teaching physical education, health, and social studies at Clarkson High School, Elkhorn High School, and Elkhorn South High School. **14**

In May 2019, **Alan "Al" C. Lindsay** retired from teaching industrial technology in four high schools in Nebraska for a total of 32 years. He began teaching drafting and design at WSC in August 2019.

**89 David F. Whitt** edited and contributed to the book "Popular Music in the Classroom: Essays for Instructors," published by McFarland. This is his fourth book since 2008. The previous three were on comparative mythology. **15**

**92 Brenda J. (Kramper) Myrthil** quotes "Slow and steady may not win the race, but it sure helps you finish!" She recently completed her fifth full marathon and her 10th half marathon. She thanks God for the ability, motivation, and opportunity to run. **16**

**94 Laurie L. (Brabec) VanName** is the owner of SparqCreative, Inc. She currently lives in southern Florida with her husband, Darren, and three children: Trevin, 15, Jax, 13, and Rosie, 10. They stay busy with all



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their sports, activities, and trips to the beach. **17**

**96 James W. Reese** is an associate professor of English and director of the Great Plains Writers' Tour at Mount Marty College in Yankton, S.D. Reese's poetry and prose have been widely published, and he has performed readings across the country. Reese's recent nonfiction book "Bone Chalk" includes an eclectic mix from his work in prisons to his time as Willy Wildcat, the mascot at Wayne State College. Other books include "These Trespasses," "Ghost on 3rd," and "Really Happy!" His awards include first place in the 2018 Allen Ginsberg Poetry Awards, a 2018 Distinguished Achievement Award from Mount Marty College, and a Distinguished Public Service Award in recognition of his exemplary dedication and contributions to the Education Department at Federal Prison Camp Yankton. **18**

**01 Brad M. Joens** was promoted to senior vice president commercial team leader at Hills Bank and Trust Company in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. **19**

**Matt A. Starr** is a WSC graduate of the sports management program. He started his own company in 2011 and currently has more than 5,000 high school and college athletic programs as customers of his. **20**

**02 Eric L. Schnell** is a captain in the U.S. Army currently stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, as the company commander for Echo Company, 1-43 Air Defense Artillery Battalion. He has been married to his wife, Melissa, for 10 years. He recently returned from a nine-month deployment to the Middle East. **21**

**Cindy A. Vanek** received the 2019 OMA Tourism Award for Outstanding Guest Service at an Attraction. She was chosen from a field of 92 nominees across the Omaha, Council Bluffs, and Sarpy County metro area for her work with Omaha Performing Arts. Omaha's City Council president presented her with the award at a ceremony recognizing both her professional achievements and volunteer work with community events including the U.S. Olympic Swim Trials and U.S.

Figure Skating Championships.

**04 Kayla Benes MSE '09** started teaching high school special education and life skills at Malcolm Public Schools in 2019. She and her husband, Nick, welcomed their third son, Ezra, in March 2019. He joins older brothers Barrett, 6, and Riggs, 3. **22**

**Trisha M. Peters MBA '12** recently opened her own real estate company, White Farmhouse Realty, LLC, at 219 Main Street in Wayne. Her company specializes in residential, investment, acreage, agricultural land, and commercial real estate sales in Wayne and the surrounding communities. She also offers property management services and residential rental options for Wayne State College students and faculty. Peters and her husband, Tim, reside in Wayne, and Tim is employed by Titan Machinery. They have two boys, Logan, 6, and Luke, 3. **23**

**06 Kayla R. (Schmale) Hansen** and her husband, Jason, welcomed their second son, Axl, in February 2019. He joined big brother, Knox, 3. They reside in Elkhorn where Kayla is employed by C&A Industries. **24**



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





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**07 Savannah L. (Wissig) Dreher** and husband, **Jared R. Dreher '08**, welcomed their son, Jameson Eli, on Aug. 14, 2019. They reside in Omaha. **25**

**Jeffery J. Robinson** founded Siouxland Severe Weather Network, a Facebook group and public page dedicated to relaying weather information within the Siouxland area to protect our communities. He has been chasing storms as a hobby since 2002. Robinson volunteers much of his time to weather and giving the morning weather for 104.1 The Wolf based in Yankton, S.D. After graduation at WSC in December 2007, he took a job with K&B Transportation in South Sioux City and worked his way up to HR manager. Robinson has been at K&B Transportation for nearly 11½ years. **26**

**09 Amanda Breden** and husband, Daniel, welcomed their second son, Edison Jeffrey, to the world Aug. 29, 2019. **27**

After graduation, **Belinda L. Vavricek** participated in an exchange program with Changchun University of Technology in China through WSC. Once that was completed, she applied and was accepted to the Disney College Internship Program in Orlando. There she made many friends, including her roommate, Aly, and her friend, Jo, who is Australian. She spent a couple years in Orlando once her program was completed and worked at the various theme parks and properties, but later she learned Aly had gotten a working holiday visa for Australia and moved there (to the same city as Jo!), so Vavricek decided to give it a go, too! Since moving to Australia and being bitten by the travel bug, she has also lived in Japan and New Zealand, as well as traveled through several other countries. She thinks her count is up to 17. And as she wrote this, she was preparing for her final week at work, there at home, as she and her partner left the next week to backpack through South America for a year. She earned her business degree, but beginning a career has become the last thing on her list. However, she is thankful for obtaining the degree that she did as it has helped her find jobs while living and working abroad. **28**



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LinkedIn: Wayne State Foundation

#### Wayne State College GOLD Club Social Media Links

Facebook: Wayne State College GOLD Club  
Twitter: @WSCGOLD



**Stephen Carroll** lives in Omaha. He is the director of alumni relations at Skutt Catholic High School where he is also a 2005 alumnus. He is the head boys and girls cross country coach. The girls recently finished as state runner-up, and the boys were state champions for the third year in a row. He began his third year as the head boys and girls track coach last spring. **29**

**10 John P. Brady** is a sergeant with the Fremont Police Department. His wife, Nikea, is a social worker at Methodist Fremont Health. They have two girls, Lila and Lorelei. They welcomed their son, Asher Gabriel Brady, in November 2019. **30**

**14 Matthew R. Hansen** won the Northwest Regional I.O.W.A. STEM Teacher Award and was recognized for bringing hands-on work to the classroom. Hansen helped establish an industrial technology advisory board in his community to help students get real-world experience by connecting them with the people in the jobs he was preparing them to have. This advisory board also helps guide the curriculum Hansen puts in place for his students in the area of industry.

**16 Tahler M. (Robinson) Novotny** married her high school sweetheart, Jared, on April 21, 2018. They had their first baby, Aubree, on March 19, 2019. Just this past summer, they built a house and moved to Ashland, Jared's hometown. Novotny is currently a teacher at Boys Town (going on five years), and her husband works at TD Ameritrade. **31**

**19 Chantal R. (Lawson) Kohl** says, "It's crazy to think that I've been graduated from WSC for almost a year now. I've been exploring the field a little bit, and I've decided to pursue an accelerated nursing program. I miss WSC so much and continue to visit campus as my husband, Colton Kohl, is finishing up his last semester. We got married Feb. 29, 2020. We met during our senior year of high school, and after graduation, he attended UNL, and I attended WSC. The distance was challenging, and the huge university lifestyle was taking a toll on his mental health. He loved WSC when he'd come visit me, so I encouraged him to look into our programs. I was taking a general education music course at the time, History of Rock and Roll with Professor Jefferies (loved that class!), so I kind of reached out for him by talking with my teacher and getting introduced to Dr. David Bohnert. I'm so thankful for the music faculty encouraging him to come to WSC, because transferring made our relationship grow even more! Four years later, we're now about a month married, and we couldn't be happier. Thanks, WSC." **32**

## IN MEMORY OF

- Maurine (Ernst) McNally '36**, 102, Omaha; Jan. 12, 2020.  
**Clara Ann (Peterson) Tennis '39**, 100, Piedmont, Calif.; Nov. 9, 2019.  
**Melvina A. (Barta) Dinklage '41**, 99, Norfolk; April 16, 2020.  
**Betty R. (Stewart) Geiser '41**, 98, Louisville, Ky.; March 2, 2020.  
**Carol J. (Marohn) Iwohn '41**, 98, Columbus; Nov. 28, 2019.  
**Bethyl R. (Calderwood) Plendl '45**, 94, Hinton, Iowa; Nov. 29, 2019.  
**Arlene V. (Nelson) Jones '47**, 94, Lincoln; Jan. 17, 2020.  
**Joanne (Johnston) Walmer '47**, 91, Orchard; Jan. 31, 2020.  
**Hollis L. (Johnson) Frese '49**, 89, Wayne; Dec. 13, 2019.  
**Lawrence "Whitey" L. Nelson '49**, 93, Mapleton, Iowa; Jan. 7, 2020.  
**Donald L. Baugous '50**, 89, Lincoln; Jan. 3, 2019.  
**Kenneth "Ken" J. Echtenkamp '50**, 95, West Point; April 16, 2020.  
**Kenneth E. Hughes '50**, 91, Denver; Feb. 25, 2020.  
**Irene R. (Hix) Mueller '50**, 90, Pender; Jan. 20, 2020.  
**Kathleen M. (Miller) Sheldon '50**, 90, Albion; Feb. 13, 2020.  
**Ida F. (Halverson) Charles '51**, 89, Scottsdale, Ariz.; April 25, 2020.  
**Vida B. (Perrin) Archer Clark '51**, 88, Oakland; Nov. 14, 2019.  
**Glenda M. (Landell) Folck '51**, 88, Bloomfield; April 18, 2020.  
**Verlene H. (Fuerhoff) Gunderson '51**, 91, Wausa; Jan. 12, 2020.  
**Paul R. Latta '51**, 92, West Des Moines, Iowa; April 8, 2020.  
**Joan E. (Ericson) Mallatt '51**, 90, Lincoln; Feb. 9, 2020.  
**Delores M. Nebola, '51**, 94, Albuquerque; April 2, 2020.  
**Claudia L. (Bergeon) Nitzel '51**, 87, Homer; March 22, 2019.  
**Barbara L. (Bartak) Cruickshank Reifschneider '51**, 87, Lincoln; Dec. 7, 2019.  
**Lorene V. (McNutt) Kordenbrock '52**, 90, McCook; Jan. 28, 2020.  
**Ramona D. (Miska) Marquardt '52**, 88, Nickerson; Jan. 31, 2020.  
**Genevieve R. (Foecke) Owens '52**, 89, Crofton; July 6, 2019.  
**Carol M. (Johnson) Reed '52**, 87, Lincoln; May 5, 2020.  
**Helen M. (Garvin) Tunink '52**, 89, Randolph; Jan. 1, 2020.  
**James A. McMahon '53**, 85, Macon, Ga.; Feb. 29, 2020.  
**Rosemary (Meysenburg) Reiter '53**, 87, Holdrege; Nov. 27, 2019.  
**Alice H. M. (Koch) Steckel '53**, 90, Fullerton; Nov. 19, 2019.  
**Jacquette "Jackie" A. (Mosel) Bartak '54**, 84, Ewing; March 22, 2020.  
**Marilyn M. (Strudthoff) Schlautman '54**, 84, Fremont; Dec. 20, 2019.  
**Janis D. (Nelson) Wicks '54**, 87, Walnut Creek, Calif.; Dec. 21, 2019.  
**Nelda R. (Wightman) Kugler '55**, 86, Wayne; March 8, 2020.  
**Madelon K. (Munro) Thiede '55**, 83, New Hope, Minn.; April 6, 2019.  
**Nadeen (Preston) Boettger '56**, 84, Arlington; Nov. 28, 2019.  
**Betty J. (Long) Dolezal '56**, 82, Clarkson; April 11, 2020.  
**Kenneth S. Eng Jr. '56**, 82, Columbia, Miss.; Feb. 28, 2020.  
**Clair P. Kneifl '56**, 83, Blair; April 7, 2020.  
**Ronald R. Park '57**, 84, Omaha; Jan. 10, 2020.

**L. Gail Axen '58**, 88, Norfolk; Jan. 2, 2020.  
**Gerald "Jerry" L. McCauley '58**, 83, Arden Hills, Minn.; April 12, 2020.  
**Virgil L. Nelson '58**, 86, North Platte; March 30, 2020.  
**Claudette F. (Eby) Waldrop '58**, 82, Arvada, Colo.; Jan. 22, 2019.  
**Louis D. Allison '59**, 83, Norfolk; March 23, 2020.  
**Charles "Richard" Barnett '59**, 82, Peoria, Ill.; June 18, 2019.  
**Albert "Al" G. Dumbleton '59**, 87, Sebring, Fla.; March 24, 2020.  
**Robert "Bob" F. Green '59**, 81, Lincoln; Jan. 30, 2020.  
**Vaughn L. Lawrence '59, 82**, Lincoln; Dec. 2, 2019.  
**Henry "Hank" A. Van Kirk '59**, 87, Winona, Minn.; Dec. 11, 2019.  
**Norma J. (Hausworth) Bradley '60**, 78, Fort Dodge, Iowa; Jan. 24, 2016.  
**Karen G. (Shaver) McGee '61**, 78, Stillwater, Minn.; May 20, 2019.  
**Ruth E. (Martensen) Preston '61**, 78, Randolph; Nov. 23, 2019.  
**Lloyd D. Lanik '62**, 81, Wahoo; March 28, 2019.  
**Charles W. Mellor '62**, 81, Port Orange, Fla.; Jan. 19, 2020.  
**Larry M. Olson '62**, 78, Sloan, Iowa; Jan. 27, 2020.  
**Lucille D. (Brockman) Cunningham '63**, 94, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Nov. 14, 2019.  
**Mary E. Krohnke '63**, 78, Denison, Iowa; Dec. 11, 2019.  
**Nyla L. (Ashburn) Alexander '64**, 84, Grand Island; March 18, 2019.  
**Jerome "Jerry" L. Dalton '64**, 77, Bloomfield; March 8, 2020.  
**Kenneth E. Hansen '65**, 75, Norfolk; Feb. 17, 2020.  
**James "Jim" W. Huttman '65**, 76, Bloomfield; Aug. 21, 2019.  
**Ralph L. Jaeger '65**, 81, Sioux City, Iowa; Dec. 19, 2019.  
**Erma M. (Iwami) Paloma '65**, 77, Corona, Calif.; Feb. 7, 2020.  
**Clifford E. Schilling '67**, 74, Wisner; Jan. 26, 2020.  
**Robert "Bob" D. Stadlander '67**, 76, Iowa City, Iowa; Nov. 16, 2020.  
**Robert "Bob" E. Stehly '67**, 78, Yuma, Ariz.; Feb. 8, 2020.  
**Rita K. (Vequist) Wagner '67**, 76, Lincoln; Dec. 19, 2019.  
**Timothy A. Denney '68**, 73, Norfolk; Jan. 30, 2020.  
**Martin L. Smith '68**, 73, Omaha; Jan. 6, 2020.  
**Donald "Don" J. Tappe '68**, 73, Norfolk; April 14, 2020.  
**Ann E. (Werthmann) Fox Vermillion '68**, 72, Council Bluffs; April 29, 2020.  
**Wayne G. Hopkins '69**, St. Paul, M.N.; Jan. 26, 2019.  
**Raymond L. Kounovsky '69**, 73, Kearney; Jan. 7, 2020.  
**Marcia (Guenther) Quinonez '69**, 69, San Francisco, Calif.; Dec. 10, 2019.  
**Wanda L. (Dutton) Samson '69**, 72, South Sioux City, Iowa; Oct. 20, 2019.  
**John W. Block '70**, 76, Atkinson; April 5, 2019.  
**Larry L. Herbolsheimer '70**, 69, Roach, Missouri; June 16, 2017.  
**Leland B. Nordine '70**, 72, Centennial, Colo.; Dec. 11, 2019.  
**Marvin A. Steffen '70**, 71, Oklahoma City, Okla.; April 25, 2020.  
**Margaret "Maggie" A. (Johannsen) Stingley '70**, 71, Dakota City; Jan. 1, 2020.  
**Karl D. Charipar '71**, 68, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; June 27, 2018.  
**Richard C. Merten '71**, 71, Loveland, Colo.; Oct. 4, 2019.  
**Sandra L. Jorgensen '72**, 65, Spokane, Wash.; Oct. 27, 2019.  
**Marilyn R. (Klanderud) Rastede '72**, 69, Yankton, S.D.; Nov. 11, 2019.

**Dale L. Carlson MSE '73**, 87, Plainview; March 8, 2017.  
**Eugene "Gene" L. Kulhanek '73**, 74, Howells; March 13, 2020.  
**James "Jim" A. Utesch, '73**, 87, Akron, Iowa; Oct. 26, 2019.  
**Rita L. (Meyer) McDonald '74**, 69, Williamsburg, Iowa; April 15, 2020.  
**Patricia "Patti" K. (Sorensen) Engle '76**, Kingsley, Iowa; Oct. 31, 2019.  
**Diane R. Wells Glaspie '76**, Lincoln; April 30, 2020.  
**Lowell "Emil" D. Koerting '77**, 81, Amarillo, Texas; April 12, 2020.  
**David A. Prescott '76 MSE '77**, 74, Grand Island; Dec. 13, 2019.  
**Karen E. (Munson) Weinrich '77**, 71, Nixa, Mo.; April 16, 2020.  
**Mary L. (Ginn) George MSE '79**, 88, Winside; Jan. 3, 2020.  
**Theresa E. (Dugan) Dusatko '80**, 59, Doniphan; Feb. 1, 2020.  
**Robert C. Haigh '80**, 71, Merville, Iowa; April 9, 2020.  
**Stephen "Steve" R. Mrsny '80**, 58, Omaha; Nov. 2, 2019.  
**Robert "Bob" C. Schleicher '80**, 61, Grand Island; Nov. 16, 2019.  
**Ronald M. Koch '81**, 60, Ponca; Dec. 27, 2019.  
**Barbara J. (Wright) Babutzke '83**, 86, Plainview; May 20, 2016.  
**Ronald E. Synovec '86**, 81, Pierce; Feb. 23, 2020.  
**Elizabeth (Redder) Krupicka '87**, 71, Niobrara; Feb. 22, 2020.  
**Russel L. Wieseler '92**, 50, Lincoln; Dec. 10, 2019.  
**David A. Adams '93**, 56, Clear Lake, Iowa; Jan. 8, 2020.  
**Vicki L. Bolduan '95**, 63, Madison; March 30, 2020.  
**Arnold "Bruce" Menuey '95**, 83, South Sioux City; Feb. 4, 2020.  
**Bridget L. Marr '00**, 44, Omaha; Jan. 12, 2020.  
**Korey Eriksen '05**, 35, Wayne; March 3, 2020.  
**Brandon P. Sands '10**, 33, Allen; Feb. 6, 2020.

## FRIENDS WE WILL MISS

**Mary L. (Seymour) Beard**, 93, Decatur; April 7, 2020.  
**David A. Boyer**, 64, Madison; Jan. 21, 2020.  
**Elizabeth A. (Goetz) Dale**, 91, Fort Collins, Colo.; Oct. 19, 2019.  
**Mavis M. (Roberts) Dalton**, 72, Lincoln; July 28, 2019.  
**JoAnn M. (Lasher) Engbrecht**, 81, North Platte; Nov. 15, 2019.  
**Donna L. (Getscher) Ewing**, 74, Wayne; Jan. 29, 2020. Ewing worked in the counseling center as an office assistant from 1991 to 2008.  
**Hazel Flyr**, 98, Arnold; Nov. 28, 2019.  
**Shirley Mae Gubbels**, 86, Randolph; March 26, 2020.  
**Joanne M. (Sheahan) Hamsa**, 86, Lincoln; Jan. 7, 2020.  
**Donna D. (Shever) Hansen**, 97, Correctionville, Iowa; Feb. 8, 2020.  
**William "Bill" D. Holland**, 91, Aurora; Dec. 26, 2019.  
**Lester J. Mann**, 65, Wayne; Dec. 26, 2019.  
**Marcia M. (Hammond) Meisner**, 84, Ever, Wash.; Sept. 11, 2019.  
**Lillian L. (Hanson) Peterson**, 101, New Smyrna Beach, Fla.; Jan. 22, 2020.  
**Sidney A. Saunders**, 78, Memphis, Tenn.; Sept. 15, 2019.  
**Leroy D. Tejral**, 77, Beatrice; Dec. 12, 2019.  
**Mary A. (Koenig) Thiele**, 87, Clearwater; Feb. 23, 2020.  
**Dorothy M. (Halva) Thomson**, 80, Lynch; April 24, 2020.  
**John C. Veencamp**, 95, Cherokee, Iowa; Aug. 21, 2019.  
**Gertrude L. (Day) Wiepen**, 93, Coleridge; Dec. 30, 2019.  
**Ramona M. (Werner) Williams**, 84, Valley; Jan. 19, 2020.



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