

# W WAYNE STATE COLLEGE

Magazine for alumni and friends • Winter 2021



# 2020

**WE'RE STILL STANDING!**  
Learning, studying, and  
working hard through  
pandemic challenges



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The Wayne State Magazine is a publication mailed to alumni and friends of Wayne State College. The Alumni Magazine is funded by the Wayne State Foundation. Comments and letters can be mailed to: Wayne State Foundation, Wayne State College, 1111 Main St., Wayne, NE 68787



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#### Where's the Wildcat?

The Wayne State Wildcat is hidden in one of the photos of this magazine! Think you can find it? The first person to find it and call the Wayne State Foundation and Alumni Office at 402-375-7370 with your name and the magazine page number will get a prize from the Wayne State Foundation!



# President's Message

## DR. MARYSZ RAMES

### ***Happy New Year from Wayne State College!***

*I believe I can speak for most of the world in bidding farewell to what was in many respects a chaotic year that proved difficult for us all in ways we never expected when we began 2020. While the past year held many challenges for Wayne State, the year was also marked by students, staff, and faculty rising to the occasion.*

This issue of the Wayne State Magazine features a look at how our students who were in the middle of student teaching and internships managed to finish their work after the pandemic forced Wayne State to suspend in-person classes and switch to remote delivery during the spring semester. We are proud of the way our students, staff, and faculty rallied around a common goal of successfully completing the semester. Their tenacity and grit spoke volumes about who we are as an institution.

Of course, this fall semester brought a new set of circumstances as we returned to face-to-face classes. But through a campus-wide commitment to the four pillars of hygiene, masks, social distancing, and self-screening, we managed to conclude the semester as it began: with the in-person classes that our students indicated were so important to their education.

This issue of the magazine also explores our new Growing Together Career Scholarship Cooperative Education Program. The Nebraska Legislature approved the Career Scholarship Program in August to provide \$1.6 million in scholarships over four years to Wayne State College students who are pursuing careers in critical workforce areas such as business, communications, and computer science. The new funding will help support Wayne State's Cooperative Education program as part of the Aksarben Foundation's Northeast Nebraska Growing Together initiative launched in the spring of 2019.

This scholarship offers students an opportunity to attain their four-year degree with a scholarship that ranges from \$2,000 to \$10,000 per year while providing career experience through a work-integrated model of cooperative education. The investment made by the state will provide affordable access to a four-year

college education and decrease debt for the scholars in the program while supporting Wayne State's goal of responding to workforce demands with career-ready graduates.

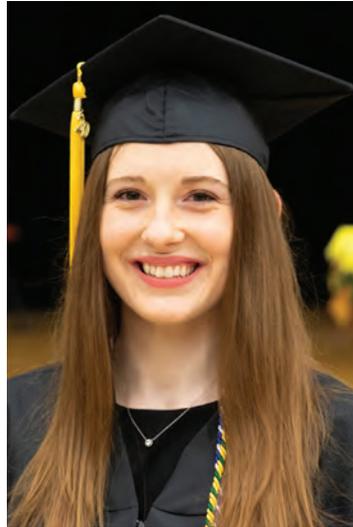
While fall sports such as football, soccer, volleyball, cross country, and the fall season for women's golf were canceled by the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference and the NCAA due to COVID-19, more than 100 students showed interest in joining the college's new esports program this fall. The final roster included 46 students who competed in the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference. Wayne State had several teams finish high in the standings, competing in six gaming titles: Valorant, Overwatch, Fortnite, Hearthstone, Rocket League, and Super Smash Bros.

And finally, I am pleased to end this message by reporting that the College had another year of record enrollment! This fall's freshman class of 821 was close to the largest in Wayne State's history, second only to 1968 at the height of the Vietnam War. Freshman class growth, combined with a 2.4% increase in graduate students and a 5.94% increase in returning undergraduates, put the College at 3,865 total students, which is 4.77% more than fall 2019. Wayne State's total enrollment has grown 20% in the past three years.

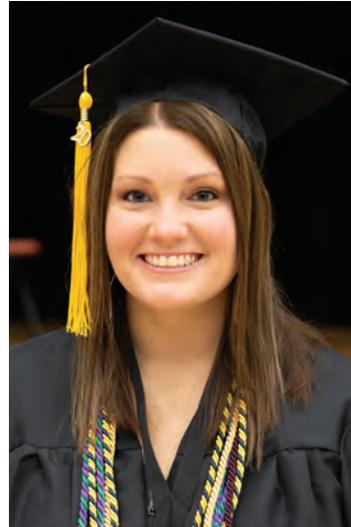
So much of our success can be attributed to the support we receive from our alumni and friends in the form of scholarships to aid the recruitment process and funds to help us renovate our facilities. Our College is a bold first choice at the right price, with the right academic programs, and the right opportunities for students to excel in and out of the classroom. Thank you for being such a terrific supporter of Wayne State. Go Cats!



Oswald Adohinzin



Meg Osnes



Emilee Soucie



Stephanie Liska

## Wayne State Commencement

Wayne State College held a commencement ceremony for graduate and undergraduate students Friday, Nov. 20, in Rice Auditorium. Due to health restrictions, the event was livestreamed only with no guests, and only a portion of the graduates were in attendance. A total of 236 degrees were conferred by President Marysz Rames. Those students receiving their degrees included 164 undergraduates and 72 graduate students of the college's Master of Science in Education, Master of Organizational Management, Master of Business Administration, and Education Specialist programs.

Undergraduate speakers included Oswald Adohinzin of Benin, West Africa, nephew of Wayne State professor of chemistry Dr. Darius Agoumba and Endia Casey-Agoumba; Meg Osnes of Wayne, daughter of Thomas and Julie Osnes of Wayne; and Emilee Soucie of Papillion, daughter of Joseph and Lorri Soucie of Papillion. Graduate speaker was Stephanie Liska of Wayne.

## Schafersman '04 Receives Alumni Achievement Award

Byron Schafersman received the Alumni Achievement Award from the Wayne State Foundation during the November commencement ceremony.

Schafersman graduated from Wayne State College in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in speech communication. He is an entrepreneur who has created a business portfolio with a footprint spanning the upper Midwest that includes real estate development, beverage distribution, technology, software, finance, and aviation.

A Hooper native, Schafersman is the son of Mark and Jean Schafersman. He lives in Dell Rapids, S.D., with his wife of 11 years, Amber, also a 2004 graduate of WSC. Byron and Amber have been trustees of the Wayne State Foundation since 2018. Together they have two children, Kady (9) and Cameron (5).



President Marysz Rames (left) and Laura Robinett, Director of Major Gifts for the Wayne State Foundation (right), presented Byron Schafersman '04 with the Alumni Achievement Award at the commencement ceremony Nov. 20.

## RISING TO THE CHALLENGE AT WAYNE STATE COLLEGE

*In spite of the challenges a global pandemic has presented, Wildcats are pushing through to get the best education and experience they can while also remaining safe and health-conscious.*

Forced to transition to remote classes last March in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequential social restrictions, students, faculty, and staff were challenged to switch gears abruptly in the learning environment. Five months later, however, Wayne State College welcomed its second largest freshmen class ever to campus.

The pandemic may have created challenges to academics and experiences, but Wildcats won't let it stop them from learning, studying, and working hard.

The Pride of Wayne State Marching Band may be the ones who have stated it best with their inspirational "Triumph"-themed marching show this year: "Come Together," "Don't Stop Believin'," "High Hopes," "I'm Still Standing," and "Believer."

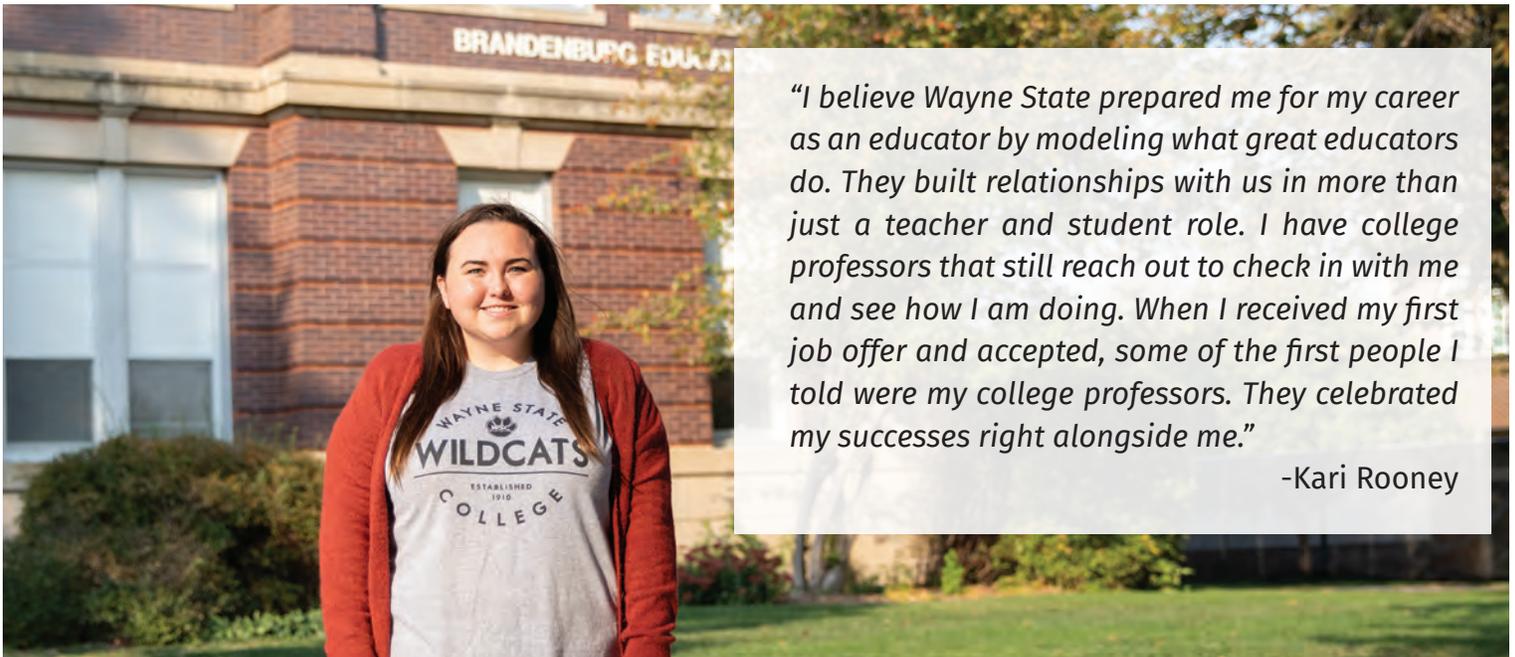
We will triumph. We're still standing.

### ***There is life on campus!***

Though there are many things different about the 2020-21 school year, Wayne State students have been doing what they can while also taking precautions to remain safe and healthy.

#### **While adhering to guidelines, activities include:**

- Athletic scrimmages and practices
- Some classes and choir practices held outdoors (in good weather)
- Livestreamed concerts
- Intramurals
- Planetarium shows
- Commencement



*"I believe Wayne State prepared me for my career as an educator by modeling what great educators do. They built relationships with us in more than just a teacher and student role. I have college professors that still reach out to check in with me and see how I am doing. When I received my first job offer and accepted, some of the first people I told were my college professors. They celebrated my successes right alongside me."*

**-Kari Rooney**

## Student Teaching

One of the most widely spread challenges faced during the pandemic was how to continue teaching and learning. Recent graduate **Kari Rooney** found this out firsthand as she began her student teaching at Wakefield Public School during the Spring 2020 semester.

In March, when the school decided to close, Rooney was subbing and distributed homework packets for her cooperating teacher. She didn't realize at the time it would be the last time she'd see her first graders.

Rooney said the challenges the school faced made it hard to reach some families and connect with their students. This included some not having internet access and not being a one-to-one school. But, the teachers worked to find other ways to reach out and stay connected.

"The teachers at our school were absolutely amazing and truly modeled what great teachers do for their students," she said. "I know some teachers who dropped off materials to students' homes, who stayed each day late into the night creating ways to help parents teach their own children, and some who video chatted with their students weekly trying to keep their relationships strong."

Rooney graduated from Wayne State in May 2020 with an elementary education degree and was hired as the 4-6 language arts teacher at Wakefield. At the time of this writing, they have continued to be able to have class in person while wearing masks.

At the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, Rooney asked her students what made remote learning challenging for them. Two of the most common challenges were difficulty in completing homework

*Student Teaching continued on page 7*



***“All professors have been very understanding especially during this pandemic as I hold an essential employee position.”***

## Finding Work

Finding an internship or job during the pandemic was another common challenge, but many Wildcats stayed the course until they obtained what they were looking for or needed to fulfill degree requirements.

**Courtney Kamler** of Shickley is a current senior and pre-med student. She was able to secure an internship for the Fall 2020 semester, which was required for her field of study in biology.

Kamler’s fall internship was with Priority Medical Transport as an EMT. She said it wasn’t as challenging as she thought when she applied, but all new employees and the staff had to complete a daily self-screen for COVID-19 during the week of new hire orientation, and still do when they go to work.

With the internship site in Hastings, about three hours from Wayne, it is imperative that Kamler manages her time well and stays organized, balancing work with classes, which means communicating regularly with professors for classwork.

“All professors have been very understanding especially during this pandemic as I hold an essential employee position,” she said. “They are flexible and notify me of any assignments that need to be completed, and I attempt to submit the assignments before I leave town.”

Kamler prioritizes patient health and strives to make patients feel as comfortable as possible – a welcome trait especially during a time of more unknowns.

“I absolutely love the internship I have. I find great joy in being able to care for and relate to the patients that I transport,” she said. “Throughout the internship, I have found that patients really value a good bedside manner. Every patient contact I have means the world to me, as I know that it can be a terrifying and unknown experience as they change hospitals and possibly leave close relatives behind. I always strive to make the patients feel as comfortable and at ease as possible while also providing the necessary care to the best of my abilities and explaining all procedures.”

Recent graduate **Raynier Huggins** had more of a challenge, however. Huggins had planned an internship managing events with a sports complex in New York, which was owned and ran by Huggins’ former soccer coach. But then the internship, which was required for his degree, was canceled due to COVID.

So, Huggins instead worked out a couple alternative internships in Wayne – working with the WSC soccer team and with the Wayne Community Activity Center. Because of the delay, Huggins’ official degree completion and graduation had to be extended to the end of the fall semester.

Despite the upset of his initial plans and the added stress, Huggins pulled through and made it work for him.

“At first it was hard just because it ruined my initial plans,” said Huggins. “But family and friends helped me get through it by looking for solutions, or just simply taking my mind away from the situation with their jokes.”

***“These past couple of months have been the most stressful times of my life filled with sleepless nights and constant overthinking,” he said during the fall, “but in the end it’s working out well for me so I’m grateful for that.”***





## Learning and Studying

Many students and families have shared passionately about how important the face-to-face college experience is to them and to their educational plans. By working together, WSC successfully completed the fall semester.

Senior **Fernando Lopez Bribiesca**, who lives off campus, shared that he caught the virus just before the fall semester started and quarantined at home. He said he could not concentrate on any of his studies, but his professors were understanding and allowed him to make up work when he felt better.

Despite being sick, Bribiesca was not about to let it set him back. He stayed focused, worked very hard to catch up on school work, and is doing well now.

***“As an off-campus student, the challenge was hard, but at least I didn’t have to worry about being around my peers,” he said. “I have a strong work ethic and got caught up fast. Once I was physically able to do my homework, I finished most of my late work in a day or so.”***

Public health, of course, has taken front and center stage during this time. **Josephine Peitz**, who graduated in the spring with a life sciences/biology degree, chose to continue her education by pursuing a master’s in public health with Johns Hopkins University, with remote classes this semester.

Peitz says what drew her to public health is studying the prevention of disease before it happens, rather than the treatment after a disorder develops that most health professions deal with. She has found it particularly interesting to learn about disparities in health care, which she believes the current pandemic has brought to light.

***“Witnessing these differences in real time has been important for myself and many other people,” she said. “It has also really opened my eyes (and I’m sure a lot of other people’s) to how important the public health sector is in preventing illness rather than just relying on doctors and other medical professionals to treat us for illness after we have contracted it.”***



*Student Teaching continued from page 5*

without a teacher to remind them and not being able to see their friends and teachers. The social aspect was also a challenge for the teachers – not being able to see or get to know students in person makes teaching more difficult.

So, Rooney said, she makes creating relationships with her students an important part of her teaching. She spends time with each of them during lunchtime to get to know them personally and show them she cares. She says she has always known that establishing relationships is important, but she understands why even more now. And, it’s the same thing she learned and experienced while at Wayne State.

“I believe Wayne State prepared me for my career as an educator by modeling what great educators do,” she said. “They built relationships with us in more than just a teacher and student role. They truly cared about our lives outside of us being students, they learned about what our interests were, what our goals professionally and unprofessionally were. I have college professors that still reach out to check in with me and see how I am doing. When I received my first job offer and accepted, some of the first people I told were my college professors. They celebrated my successes right alongside me.”



## Job Searching Tips from the WSC Career Services Office

Q&A with Jason Barelman, Director of Career Services

*The WSC Career Services Office is a great resource for current students looking for internships and jobs. But did you know these services are available to WSC alumni as well? Learn more from Jason Barelman, Director of Career Services:*

**Q: What are some general job search tips you can offer for anyone looking for a job, and what are some specific tips for job searching related to pandemic challenges?**

A: During these tough times, continuing your job search is important. We are all needing to adjust to new ways of doing things, including conducting a job search. Companies are still hiring, but the process has changed with most hiring activities going virtual. If you are creative, flexible, and patient, you will succeed. Although the hiring process is constantly shifting and the timelines are changing, stay positive and motivated in your job search.

Be ready for the hiring process to take longer than usual. Set aside time each day to search and apply for jobs. Finding a job is a job! Use online job search sites such as Indeed, LinkedIn, and Glassdoor, as well as your alma mater's job board, Cat Tracks. Set job alerts and receive notifications when positions in line with your interests are posted. Be willing to take a temporary job to demonstrate your abilities. Network, network, network! Now might be a good time to reconnect with faculty, staff, and friends from Wayne State College. Reconnect with the Career Services Office and become familiar with their services and resources available to WSC alums. Re-evaluate your plans and adjust as needed. Go outside your comfort zone, compromise, and focus on short-term opportunities, which can benefit your long-term goals.

**Q: What resources and help can your office provide to WSC alumni who may be looking for a job during this time?**

A: We provide the same services to our alumni as we do our current students. If you need your resume/cover letter reviewed or have questions about the job search process, call or email us.

**Q: How can employers work with your office to recruit Wayne State College students as possible interns or full-time hires?**

A: Employers are welcome to post all job opportunities, full-time, part-time, seasonal, and internships, on our online job board, Cat Tracks, free of charge! Visit [www.wsc.edu/career-services](http://www.wsc.edu/career-services).

**Q: Can alumni participate in WSC career fairs?**

A: Alumni are always welcome to attend our Career Fairs – either on campus or virtually! Right now, we are planning to have an in-person career fair in the spring – provided that the pandemic has slowed down and we are back to our normal processes.

**Q: Anything else you'd like to get the word out about your office as it relates to alumni?**

A: We look forward to reconnecting with our alums! Whether you are looking for a job or have a job to post, please contact us!

**Career Services may be contacted at 402-375-7425 or at [careerservices@wsc.edu](mailto:careerservices@wsc.edu).**



## Wayne State Welcomes Second Largest Freshman Class in College's History

In August, Wayne State College proudly announced the second largest class in its history with 821 new freshmen on campus for the 2020-21 academic year. The 11.7% increase is just five students short of the largest ever class that entered in 1968 during the height of the Vietnam War.

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***“Wayne State is a bold first choice for students from all walks of life. We provide a quality, personalized education from distinguished faculty and staff who care about you and want you to be successful. Our continued growth is a clear testament to our living and learning environment, which values hands-on, experiential learning.”***

-President Rames

The freshman class growth, combined with a 2.41% increase in graduate students and a 5.94% increase in returning undergraduate students, puts the college at 3,865 total students, which is 4.77% more than Fall 2019. Wayne State's total enrollment has grown 20% in the past three years.

“We are delighted to sustain such positive growth at the college,” said WSC President Marysz Rames. “The challenges we all face with the pandemic and its effects on so many aspects of our lives made our work that much harder. But the flexibility and creativity of our employees helped maintain the face-to-face experience that so many of our students indicated was a priority for them.”

Opportunities for Wayne State students come in the form of

expanded academic offerings, new initiatives and partnerships, access to the most affordable four-year and graduate degrees in our region, generous scholarship packages, and new and renovated facilities. Each of these areas played a critical role in positioning the college for sustained growth.

“To welcome another record freshmen class to Wayne State is a direct reflection of who we are as an institution,” said WSC Admissions Director Kevin Halle. “That is, we are accessible, affordable, and committed to providing opportunities.”

The college has continued to add to its quality academic programs to meet the demand of the Nebraska economy and workforce. Additional academic pathways include agriculture, engineering technology, fermentation science, mechanical and agricultural engineering, manufacturing management, applied science, and accelerated nursing.

“Wayne State is a bold first choice for students from all walks of life,” Rames said. “We provide a quality, personalized education from distinguished faculty and staff who care about you and want you to be successful. Our continued growth is a clear testament to our living and learning environment, which values hands-on, experiential learning.”

“Although presented with some challenges late spring and summer, our staff and the campus continued to serve prospective students through creative online opportunities,” Halle said. “We were available then, and we are available now as we enter a new recruitment cycle.”

# Career Scholarship Program Provides Support for Wayne State

In August, the Nebraska Legislature approved the Career Scholarship Program to provide funding for student support aimed at growing the state's workforce in high-demand fields. The newly created Career Scholarship Program will provide a total of \$1 million in scholarships in its first year to be awarded to Chadron State, Peru State, or Wayne State College students who are pursuing careers in critical workforce areas. The new funding, signed by Gov. Pete Ricketts on Aug. 6, will help support Wayne State's Cooperative Education program as part of the Aksarben Foundation's Northeast Nebraska Growing Together initiative launched last spring.

This scholarship offers students an opportunity to attain their four-year degree at an affordable cost while providing career experience through a work-integrated model of cooperative education. Scholarships can range from \$2,000 to \$10,000 per year to cover tuition, fees, and room and board expenses. The scholarship is renewable for up to four years for students who remain eligible. The investment made by the state will provide affordable access to a four-year college education and decrease debt for the scholars in the program.

Wayne State College, along with Growing Together, an Aksarben Workforce Initiative, announced the inaugural scholarship winners for the selective Northeast Nebraska Growing Together Cooperative Education Program in April. This first cohort of 26 students received scholarships provided by the Aksarben Foundation and began their education at Wayne State College as freshmen this fall for a three-year on-campus education to be followed by a fourth year of living in Norfolk while working for a local business. This year, WSC students are pursuing degree programs across business, communications, and computer science.

"It's important to realize that the 'employability journey' in today's global marketplace is no longer a linear path," said Michael Keibler, Wayne State's new Executive Director of Cooperative Education and Industry Liaison. "Students are expected to graduate with multiple competencies that stretch from critical thinking to leadership to collaboration. The Career Scholarship program provides students the ability to attend college and graduate with those competencies and a year of important real-world experience."



*"The program connects students to college, and in turn, the college connects students to employers. Each of these connectors helps feed a stream of career-ready graduates into the employment sector, which not only grows businesses but the community and allows Northeast Nebraska to remain competitive in a global market environment."*

- Michael Keibler

"The Career Scholarship program can be seen as a way to connect 'affordability to aspirations', meaning that students who aspire to graduate from college will now have a financial path to afford college, reducing their financial pressures," Keibler continued. "The Career



The first Growing Together Co-op Program cohort of students, at the beginning of the 2020-21 semester.

## College Scholars

Scholarship program connects students to college, and in turn, the college connects students to employers in the new Growing Together Co-op program. Ultimately, each of these connectors helps feed a stream of career-ready graduates into the employment sector, which not only grows businesses but the community and allows Northeast Nebraska to remain competitive in a global market environment.”

Keibler joined Wayne State in July after 11 years working at the University of Louisville in career development roles where he coordinated cooperative education, clinical electives, service learning, and global program initiatives for medical and engineering students. Outside of higher education, his earlier roles were in sales management and a tour of service in the U.S. Air Force. Keibler earned a bachelor’s and master’s from the University of Louisville in Organizational Development and a Doctorate in Education from Morehead State University specializing in Adult and Higher Education Leadership.

“Cooperative education programs are a partnership between the student, industry, and college,” Keibler said. “My goal is to create collaborative learning and working opportunities between the three. To do so, it’s crucial to develop an engaging career readiness program surrounding cooperative education as a means to really prepare students to successfully transition into the workforce in Northeast Nebraska. Secondary to this, my goal is to build on our educational partnerships with the local communities and employers through the co-op program and engage our students directly with industry.”

Keibler has found Wayne State to be prepared to provide hands-on learning. The college is committed to combining on-the-job learning in a mandatory co-op program with an accelerated curriculum to help Growing Together students gain real-world experience that allows them to graduate in four years with a year of industry experience. In the end, the back-to-back co-op semesters promote a more in-depth learning experience that requires students to become a practitioner in their field and move their learning from conceptual to real-world application.

“This is co-op at its best,” Keibler said. “We have a strong curriculum in place founded on core tenets that develop career readiness and is flexible to experiential learning. Leveraging those strengths will leave clear footprints for other students to follow in the years to come.”

**Business leaders who would like more information about cooperative education should contact Keibler at [mikeibl1@wsc.edu](mailto:mikeibl1@wsc.edu) or 402-375-7198.**

**Business leaders who would like more information about the Growing Together program should contact Executive Director Angie Stenger at [angie@growingtogetherne.com](mailto:angie@growingtogetherne.com) or 402-860-7439.**

## **WSC Academic Affairs Administrative Structure Shifts Schools and Departments**

The 2020-21 school year began with a new academic affairs administrative structure, including the renaming of two schools and rearranging of departments.

Near the end of Spring 2020 there were two dean vacancies, one in the School of Business and Technology and one in the School of Natural and Social Sciences, two of the largest schools in the college. There was also a vacancy in the Director of Assessment position.

Before beginning the search process, President Marysz Rames and Vice President of Academic Affairs Steve Elliott revisited gaps in the existing academic structure. After studying the data, it became evident there needed to be a more equitable workload, reporting structure, and distribution of supervisory duties among the four academic schools, the Honors Program, Service-Learning, Institutional Assessment, and Institutional Research.

After receiving NSCS board approval in June 2020, Wayne State is now in a better position to serve students and has recruited outstanding individuals to serve in these critical leadership positions. The following changes went into effect this year:

- The Department of History, Politics, and Geography was added to the School of Arts and Humanities, which increased the number of departments in the school from four to five.
- Dr. Anne Power became the new dean of the School of Business and Technology in August. Power received her doctorate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has more than 18 years as a management faculty member, where a majority of her time was dedicated to academic leadership in business and accounting.
- The Department of Psychology and Sociology was added to the newly renamed School of Education and Behavioral Sciences (formerly the School of Education and Counseling), which increased the number of departments in the school from two to three.
- After serving as the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs from 2019 to 2020, Dr. Ron Loggins became the new dean of the newly renamed School of Science, Health, and Criminal Justice (formerly the School of Natural and Social Sciences).
- In the Office of Academic Affairs, the Director of Institutional Research (formerly the Institutional Research Analyst) will now oversee the Assessment and Accreditation Coordinator (formerly the Director of Assessment).
- In an institutional effort to increase the profile of our co-curricular program offerings, Service-Learning has joined forces with the Honors Program, led by Dr. Yasuko Taoka, dean of the School of Arts and Humanities.

# Wildcat Esports Kicks Off Inaugural Season



*"I've gotten a lot out of the WSC esports team. With COVID taking away in-person tournaments for the foreseeable future, I was really missing the feeling of self-growth and improvement that came with competing. Our esports team has been a great outlet for that, as well as being home to a bunch of people I would now consider close friends. It really has been a wonderful experience. One I really needed."*

Cameron Harding  
 (Super Smash Bros. – Ultimate)  
 Year: Senior  
 Hometown: Schuyler, Neb.

The Wildcat esports team made its debut this school year with a competition schedule beginning Sept. 28. Nine of WSC's 11 teams made the playoffs in November, with two teams making it to their championship rounds.

More than 100 students showed interest in joining the program, which selected 46 students (43 males and three females) for the roster in ECAC-sponsored gaming titles. Opportunities are still available for gamers not on the official roster through Discord, a centralized communication server that acts as a hub where anyone on campus can meet and play together.

The esports team is coordinated by Nick Sutton, who says Wayne State students have displayed exceptional talent even in the first year of operation.

"Coming into this semester as a new program we had no idea what to expect," said Sutton. "However, it turns out that WSC has an elite player pool to choose from. During tryouts we came across a wide range of talent in multiple gaming titles such as Rocket League, Valorant, and Super Smash Bros."

Wayne State is part of the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) and currently competes in seven gaming titles: Valorant, League of Legends, Overwatch, Fortnite, Hearthstone, Rocket League, and Super Smash Bros. The ECAC's esports platform is expanding the geographic footprint of the conference nationally.

During the summer of 2020, WSC created "The Den," a \$100,000 esports arena with state-of-the-art equipment, located in the lower level of the Kanter Student Center and reserved for esports athletes only. The arena features 12 high-end PCs and all the necessary accessories that the team will use for practice and competition, along with four flat-screen television displays for spectator viewing during competitions.

Competitions take place Monday through Thursday. Typical competition days start at 6 p.m. with an hour of warmup/replay review, with matches beginning at 7 p.m. and running until 8 or 9 p.m. Specific game titles for each day are set by ECAC.

All ECAC competitions can be watched at [twitch.tv/wscwildcats](https://twitch.tv/wscwildcats). The spring esports season is set to begin in February.

"We are looking forward to next season, as our students are proving to be very competitive in the ECAC," said Sutton. "There is no doubt in my mind that we will continue to find success as this program grows at WSC."

## Fall Esports Recap

Teams labeled "Black" are varsity. Teams labeled "Gold" are junior varsity. Results are out of 75 schools competing in the ECAC esports league.

**Overall Record:** 42-28 (Excludes Fortnite and League of Legends. Fortnite's season is points-based, not win-loss, and League of Legends did not compete in ECAC this season.)

### Top Team Finishers:

Rocket League Black – 2nd place  
 (final record 10-1)

Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Black – 2nd place  
 (final record 7-2)

Fortnite Black – 4th place  
 Fortnite Gold – 6th place

### Other Results:

Valorant Black and Valorant Gold teams placed in the top 8, Overwatch Black placed in the top 32, Hearthstone placed in the top 16, and Rocket League Gold placed in the top 16.



Esports athletes representing games played at Wayne State, from left to right: Matthew Williams (Overwatch, Valorant), Derek Ross (Hearthstone), Hudson Pfenning (Super Smash Bros.), John Klemmensen (Valorant), Nathania Mercelina (League of Legends), Dylan DeMoss (League of Legends), Jameson Albin (Valorant), and Jordan Johnson (Fortnite).



## Kirk Gardner Indoor Athletic Complex

The new Kirk Gardner Indoor Athletic Complex opened Sept. 21.

The complex is located where the natatorium and pool previously existed. With no definite solution available to fix the pool, WSC identified and committed resources to renovate the natatorium to make its use more consistent and versatile. The new complex space repurposes the facility with a multiuse, artificial turf surface, protective netting system, and additional office space to accommodate the growing student intramural athletic program and fulfill a need for indoor training space for our varsity sports programs.

The complex features a turf surface with netting the size of a basketball court. With the use of a netting system, the area can be broken down into two or three areas for use by multiple groups. The basic idea is to provide a shared space for individuals and/or groups to use during this open time. Anticipated use includes individuals or groups wanting to play catch with a baseball, softball, football, or to play soccer, dodgeball, or Frisbee. Footballs, soccer balls, and dodgeballs will be available to be checked out.

The facility was funded by private donations and college funds.



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## How To Start A Scholarship

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

### ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS

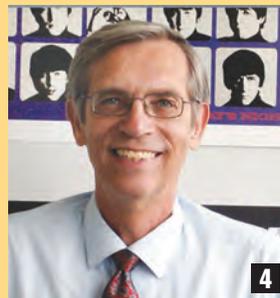
Annual scholarships are awarded each year to students in the full amount that is received from the donor. A minimum \$500 contribution is required before the scholarship fund will be awarded.

### ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

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

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

Contact Kevin Armstrong, Laura Robinett, Amber Sperry, or Megan Finn for more information on how to start a current scholarship or fund a scholarship through your estate.



“The Professional Counselor” publication chose **Dr. Alison Boughn**, assistant professor of counseling, as the recipient of the 2020 Dissertation Excellence Award for her dissertation, “Child Psychological Maltreatment.” TPC is the official electronic journal of the National Board for Certified Counselors. **1**

**Dr. Barbara Engebretsen**, professor of exercise science, co-authored a paper with WSC alumni and current students Kelly Cech '20, Josephine Peitz '20, Edgar Munoz, and Tabitha Shonie. The paper responded to a request for papers on “Teaching Through COVID-19” by the Science Education & Civic Engagement: An International Journal publication, and it was published in Summer 2020. The students were honors students in Engebretsen’s Introduction to Personal, Public, and Global Health class.

Engebretsen has been taking 5-10 students to the Global Health Conference-Midwest at Creighton University every February, and in 2020 they were updated on COVID-19 by Dr. Sharon Medcalf, UNMC College of Public Health Director of Health Security and Biocontainment Center.

Engebretsen and WSC exercise science students have also established an Exercise Is Medicine Stakeholder Advisory Board, made up of campus and community health care practitioners, including Providence Medical Center doctors, physical therapists, and mental health providers, the WSC Student Health and Counseling Center, and community fitness professionals. The club has been recognized nationally as a Silver Campus, awarded virtually during the national American College of Sports Medicine meeting in May. **2**

**Dr. Carol Erwin**, associate professor of family and consumer sciences, was chosen as the Region V Teacher Educator of the Year by the Association for Career and Technical Education. The ACTE Excellence Awards promote merit in career and technical education (CTE) by recognizing individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to CTE, programs that exemplify the highest standards and organizations that have conducted activities to promote and expand CTE programs. Award winners serve as inspirational leaders to ACTE; they embody the core values of serving students and being committed to CTE. **3**

**Dr. Phillip Fox**, associate professor of history, developed and taught a new history course on “The Two World Wars, 1914-1945” in the spring semester of 2020. He also had a new article on the practice of history and its implications for certain approaches to political theology published as “The Limits of Historical Inquiry: A Critique of Oliver O’Donovan’s political concepts based on Herbert Butterfield” in the spring/summer 2020 issue of the peer-reviewed interdisciplinary journal *Fides et Historia*. Two professional conferences, one hosted by York University and Trent University in Toronto, Ontario, and the other hosted by Baylor University in Waco, Texas, accepted his proposed paper presentations on the ascension of Philip V of Spain in 2020; however, both have been postponed to 2021 because of the pandemic. He also worked with Shelby Hagerdon in the historical research for her honors project, which included the production of the short film “Sigmund and Dora.” She premiered the film at the Majestic Theatre in Wayne on Sept. 22.

**Dr. Paul A. Karr**, professor of chemistry, participated in several research projects during 2020. The research endeavors led to the following peer-reviewed research papers, which focused on the search for solar collecting molecules, chemosensors, anticancer via photodynamic therapy (PDT) compounds, and novel materials for use in electronics:

Distance Matters: Effect of the Spacer Length on the Photophysical Properties of Multimodular Perylene-diimide-Silicon Phthalocyanine-Fullerene Triads. Published in *Chemistry, A European Journal*. Publication date: 21 January 2020 / DOI: 10.1002/chem.201905605.

Nanomolecular singlet oxygen photosensitizers based on hemiquinonoid-resorcinarenes, the fuchsonarenes. Published in *Chemical Science-The Royal Society of Chemistry*. Publication date: 18 February 2020 / DOI: 10.1039/D0SC00651C.

Persubstituted Triphenylamine Bearing Zinc Porphyrin to Host Endohedral Fullerene, Sc3N@C80: Formation and Excited State Electron Transfer. Published in *The Journal of Physical Chemistry*. Publication date: 11 June 2020 / DOI: 10.1021/acs.jpcc.0c04392.

Electron and energy transfer in a porphyrin-oxoporphyrinogen-fullerene triad, ZnP-OxP-C60. Published in *Physical Chemistry*



Chemical Physics. Publication date: 16 June 2020 / DOI: 10.1039/D0CP02696D.

Selective Phase Transfer Reagents (OxP-crowns) for Chromogenic Detection of Nitrates Especially Ammonium Nitrate. Published in Chemistry, A European Journal. Publication date: 15 July 2020 / DOI: 10.1002/chem.202003166. **4**

**Dr. Karl Kolbeck**, associate professor of music, participated in a world premiere performance of “Visitations from the Dark” for alto saxophone, bass clarinet, and piano by Howard Buss at the North American Saxophone Alliance 2020 Biennial Conference held March 6-9, 2020, at Arizona State University. **5**

Kolbeck was a featured guest artist/clinician for the Second Annual Palmetto Clarinet Festival held March 14, 2020, at Newberry College in Newberry, S.C.

Along with **Drs. Sarah Farr** and **Angela Miller-Niles**, associate professors of music, Kolbeck was also invited to the International Clarinet Association’s ClarinetFest 2020 in Reno-Lake Tahoe, Nev., June 24-28. (This event was cancelled due to COVID-19.) **6 7**

**Dr. Brian Kufner**, associate professor of human resource management, earned his SHRM People Analytics Specialty Credential in February 2020. He was also interviewed for an article published in the Norfolk Daily News on March 26, 2020, titled “Length of job tenure depends on many different factors.”

In May 2020, Kufner chaired a committee to review and revise management curriculum for the National Standards for Business Education (2020), published by the National Business Education Association. The achievement standards and performance expectations outlined in the book can be used to guide business curriculum taught at the national, state, and local levels. **8**

**Dr. Christian Legler**, assistant professor of education, collaborated with **Dr. Nicholas Shudak**, Dean of the School of Education and Behavioral Sciences, and **Dr. Mark Baron**, assistant to the dean, to present, “Student to Teachers through Educator Pathways: Imagining Teacher Education through Career Academies” at the Association of American Colleges and Universities’ 2020 Conference on Global Learning: Lessons on Global Learning from Higher Education’s Response to a Global Crisis conference held Oct. 8-10.

The conference was scheduled to take place in Miami; however, it was changed to a virtual format due to the pandemic.

Legler was also recently appointed to serve on the Association of Teacher Educators’ Commission on Advocacy. **9**

A research study about COVID-19 by recently retired professor **Dr. Michael Marek** and colleagues has been published by the International Journal of Distance Education Technologies (IJDET). The article, “Teacher Experiences in Converting Classes to Distance Learning in the COVID-19 Pandemic,” explored the challenges faced by teachers and students from the short-notice conversion of college classes from face-to-face to online during the initial phase of the pandemic in the spring of 2020.

Marek and his team surveyed higher education faculty around the world. Most respondents experienced much higher workloads and stress than in face-to-face classes. Previous experience with online distance learning predicted positive faculty response. Less than half of the teachers used a school-provided learning management system, such as Canvas used by WSC. Instead, they used a wide range of other technologies. Respondents said they learned the need for adaptability and good planning, emphasizing doing what it takes to serve their students.

**Dr. Jason Price**, associate professor of Earth science, published a paper in the July 2020 issue of the journal Applied Geochemistry entitled, “Using plug-flow column reactor data to constrain calcic mineral weathering rates from watershed mass-balance methods: Lithogenic apatite dissolution and phosphorus fluxes into the Loch Vale Watershed ecosystem, Colorado, USA.” This paper was co-authored with former student Jacob Nunez. Price was also recently elected as vice chair of the Limnogeology Division of the Geological Society of America. In addition, Price presented an oral paper at the virtual Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in October 2020 entitled, “Climatic Controls on Phosphorus Concentrations in The Loch, Loch Vale Watershed, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado, USA: Apatite Weathering and Paleoclimate from The Late Pleistocene to Early Holocene.” He continues his research through a National Science Foundation-EPSCoR grant with recent graduates Emerson Andelt and Edward Johnson, and current student Mackenzie Eskey. **10**



11



12

**Dr. Midge Simmons**, assistant professor of special education in the Educational Foundations and Leadership Department, presented “Navigating the Legal Potholes in Higher Education Section 504 Services” at the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Conference on Feb. 8, 2020, in Portland, Ore. **11**

**Dr. Yasuko Taoka**, dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, and Dr. Nicholas Shudak, dean of the School of Education and Behavioral Sciences, recently published a book chapter together: “The Institution as Learner: Challenging the Metaphor of Debt in Higher Education” in Leadership Strategies for Promoting Social Responsibility in Higher Education, Emerald Publishing 2020.

**Dr. Mike White**, professor of mass communication and film advisor, collected three awards at the 29th Annual Iowa Motion Picture Awards (IMPA) held via Zoom on Aug. 8. “Ever Fallen,” White’s first full-length feature film that premiered in October 2019 at the Majestic Theatre in Wayne, won the Award of Excellence in the Screenplay (Produced) category and the Award of Achievement in the Live Action Entertainment – Long Form (Under \$50K) category. “The Ghost in Her,” a 13-minute film about a cynical rebel facing a former girlfriend, won the Award of Achievement for the Live Action Entertainment – Short Form category. **12**



### Suzanne & Walter Scott Foundation Donates Anatomage Tables to WSC

Wayne State College has been the recipient of five Anatomage Tables within the past year, thanks to the generosity of the Suzanne & Walter Scott Foundation. These tables allow virtual dissection so that all students can start with a fresh experience. The tables are utilized in addition to cadaver-based anatomy and are accessible after hours for enhanced student study opportunities to better prepare future health care professionals.

During the fall of 2019, the Wayne State Foundation, along with President Marysz Rames and Dr. Tammy Evetovich, former dean of the School of Natural and Social Sciences, cultivated a relationship with the Suzanne & Walter Scott Foundation that focused on supporting the Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) and pre-professional medical programs at Wayne State. The foundation developed a strong respect for WSC’s commitment to rural health care and contributed funds to support the purchase of the Anatomage Tables. Each of the tables has a list price of approximately \$80,000.

The Suzanne & Walter Scott Foundation is a public charity and supporting organization of the Omaha Community Foundation.

## 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

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.

**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

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Follow the Cats at  
**WWW.WSCWILDCATS.COM**

- Sports Schedules
- Scores
- News releases
- Team information
- Watch Wildcat athletics online
- and more...

## JOIN CAT CLUB

All Cat Club proceeds go to support the Wayne State Student-Athlete Scholarship Fund. Cat Club membership comes with various giving levels and benefits.

For more information, visit

**WWW.WSCWILDCATS.COM**

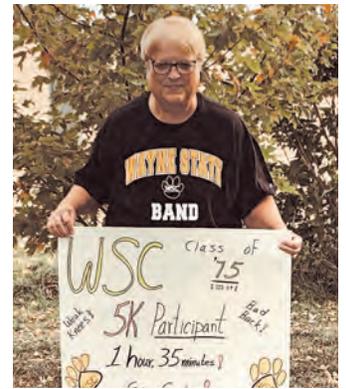
## Run For the Paw Virtual 5K

The Run for the Paw Virtual 5K took place Sept. 27-Oct. 3. This event was held to bring together school spirit and support while Homecoming festivities had to be postponed.

Prizes were awarded to the fastest male, female, and best post-race selfie.

- Fastest Male: Jordan Bramblett | Prescott, Ariz. | 15:44
- Fastest Female: Ariana Anderson | Prescott, Ariz. | 18:58
- Best Post-race Selfie: Beverly Evans '75 | Aurelia, Iowa

Thank you to everyone who participated as we were able to raise more than \$3,700 in our first year. All proceeds went directly to assist with funding student-athlete scholarships. A big thank you to our sponsor, Pac 'N' Save.



## CatBacker 2020

The CatBacker Golf Tournament was held July 10-11 (held over two days this year to allow for social distancing). Forty-three teams registered for the event. Attendees enjoyed breakfast, 18 holes of golf, pin and raffle prizes, snacks, and dinner.

The overall winning team members were Joey Baldwin, Kari Baldwin, Mark Brown, and Amy Brown. All proceeds went to support the WSC Student-Athlete Scholarship Fund.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the tournament, donated prizes, and provided hole sponsorships. A special thanks to Michael Foods, Pac 'N' Save, The White Dog, and our title sponsor, Windstar.



## The Wildcat Golf Classic 2020

The 32nd Annual Wildcat Golf Classic at Eagle Hills Golf Course in Papillion was held June 20. A total of 35 teams attended the event, a record amount of teams to date. All proceeds support the WSC Student-Athlete Scholarship Fund.

Attendees enjoyed 18 holes of golf, pin prizes, raffle prizes, a silent auction, and dinner. The winning team members were WSC students Casey Brentlinger, Henry Penner, Jordan Janssen, and Izac Reifenrath.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the tournament, donated prizes, and provided hole sponsorships. A special thanks to NP Dodge Real Estate, this year's title sponsor.

## Foundation Annual Meeting – New Trustees

The Wayne State Foundation, in lieu of Homecoming on campus, held its annual meeting for its Board of Trustees via Zoom on Oct. 2. During the meeting, the Foundation recognized its new trustees for the 2020-21 fiscal year:

- |                                  |                                      |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Verna Mae Baier '64              | Karen Longe '89 and Mark Hill        |
| Justin '07 and Allison '08 Davis | Deb and Bruce Lundahl                |
| Dean '68 and Margi '66 DeBuhr    | Amy '02 and John Miller              |
| Dr. Melissa Dobbins              | Janna Rutledge '77                   |
| Pat Ivers '72                    | Van '65 and Jan '65 Steckelberg      |
| Karen '70 and Phillip Kelton     | Vance '71 and Peggy '73 Wolverton    |
| Brett '02 and Janell '04 Kramer  | Stephen '82 and Cynthia '82 Zelinsky |

## Employee Campaign 2020

The Employee Campaign is a fundraising initiative on campus that encourages employees to give back to Wayne State with a friendly competition between faculty, professional staff, and support staff to see which group has the highest participation rate. This year, the professional staff had the highest percentage of giving. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the Wayne State Foundation was unable to host a celebratory reception. **Thank you to all WSC employees who give back to Wayne State College!**

**Mark your calendars!**

# COMING IN APRIL 2021 WSC GIVING DAY

WSC Giving Day is a giving campaign that aims to inspire all of Wildcat Nation – students, alumni, friends, faculty, and staff – to come together, show pride, and support their alma mater. By raising critical funding, we can continue to ensure a quality education that is affordable, accessible, and gives students a college experience that truly changes their lives. WSC Giving Day will take place each year, with the inaugural event in April 2021.



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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.

Trustee Feature:

## Shannon Briese '97, MBA '13

Shannon Briese, originally from Correctionville, Iowa, graduated from Wayne State College with a bachelor's degree in communication arts in 1997. She graduated in three and a half years with honors in the major, participated in forensics, and was a member of Cardinal Key. She also completed her MBA in 2013 from Wayne State.

Cost played a big role in Briese's decision to come to Wayne State.

***"The affordability of WSC allowed for a quality education without the burden of student loan debt," Briese said. "That is for both the undergraduate and graduate degrees I obtained. This made the decision to go to law school easier because I was not burdened with existing debt from prior degrees."***

In the fall of 2016, Briese entered law school at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock – William H. Bowen School of Law. It was the culmination of a lifelong dream of becoming an attorney. Briese's many clerkships focused on public service and included working for the Arkansas Attorney General, the Center for Arkansas Legal Services, and the Pulaski County Public Defender's Office. Most recently, she was a temporary law clerk for Associate Justice Josephine Linker Hart of the Arkansas Supreme Court, which she said was an invaluable experience.

In addition to public service through her career, Briese enjoys being active in her community. She spent many years as a volunteer with Junior Leagues in the areas she has lived and has many memorable Junior League volunteer opportunities, including participating in the Reading is Fundamental programs.

"One volunteer opportunity I had was practicing conversational English with an individual that was also studying for her citizenship exam," Briese said. "It was an honor to help Irma study to achieve her dream of becoming a U.S. citizen. Also, I was also able to spend a



week in New Orleans during the Rebuild New Orleans that focused on cleanup after Hurricane Katrina."

Briese became a trustee of the Wayne State Foundation in 2017.

"I am grateful to Darold and Maxine Bobier for the opportunity to become a trustee," Briese said. "Their enthusiasm and love of WSC was inspiring. I was able to attend a trustee meeting as their guest. It was great to hear about the changes to WSC over the years."

Briese also remembers making her first contribution to Wayne State, \$25 through the 1998 Phonathon, and encourages others to give back in any way they can.

"All contributions to WSC are important no matter the size," Briese said. "There are a variety of ways that donors can contribute to match a person's affinity to WSC."

Briese currently resides in Stuttgart, Ark., with her golden retriever, Oliver.



## Phonathon 2021

Wayne State College students and student managers are excited to begin the Wayne State Foundation's 2021 Phonathon Campaign.

During Phonathon, WSC students contact alumni, friends, and parents to update their information, talk about exciting progress happening at Wayne State, and ask you to consider supporting WSC with a gift. Our students are looking forward to talking with you to hear your stories about Wayne State, and to share their experiences as well.

The Foundation's annual Phonathon campaign begins with a letter to past donors that is sent in November. If you choose to make your annual gift by responding to the letter, you will not receive a Phonathon call. Phonathon calling will begin Jan. 20.

Thank you for your support each year to Wayne State College through the Phonathon Campaign.

2021 Phonathon student managers, from left to right: Brandy Langley, Ashleigh AVECILLA, Brooke Young, and Jace Kremer

## WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

The following testimonials are story highlights from Wayne State's recent Oral History Project conducted last year, a project partnership between the Wayne State Foundation and Publishing Concepts LP (PCI).

**“When I stepped foot onto campus, I knew that’s where I needed to go.**

I got out of the car, and by the time I got to the Student Center, I had made my decision. I hadn't even talked to anybody. I had walked up and knew that that was where I needed to go. The campus was beautiful, everybody that I met with was so nice, and there were opportunities that Wayne could offer that other schools could not. I could be involved in so many different things. I was involved in many different clubs and organizations that really shaped me into who I am today. I was involved in the Drama Club as well as Residence Life, where I met some of my best friends. I was also involved in the Music Department, Concert Choir, Voice Studio, and Madrigals, where I met some good friends, but I also met the love of my life. Music really drove us together and was the foundation for us to start our relationship. I will forever be thankful to WSC for bringing us together. It was really nice that I could have that opportunity to be involved in so many things, but it was also small enough that my education was going to be personal. I didn't really want to be a number in a classroom for a teacher. I wanted to get to know people personally. It was a very nice personal education feel, and as I went into education, that really helped form a lot of my philosophies as a teacher. My professors were amazing role models for how to treat your students, and that is by far the best 'non-curricular' thing I learned, and I carry it with me in my classroom to this day.”

- Victoria McNamara '18



**“I truly enjoyed my time at Wayne State.** I received a scholarship, which enabled me to continue my education and make some lifelong friends. I was a member of Chi Omega Sorority. Living in the sorority house and all the activities we shared with the fraternities and the other sororities on campus stood out for me. We had Greek Olympics with a tug of war, pyramid building, egg toss, relay, and Greek Sing. I played varsity volleyball and varsity softball, and the competitions and the travel that we did as teams are treasured memories. I also participated in all sorts of intramural sports and student government. Some of the things that became formative events in my life at Wayne State were studying German, spending two summers in Europe, and traveling around Germany. I grew immensely from that and grew more appreciative of my life as an American. I built on those experiences I had traveling with Wayne State foreign language groups. Those experiences were influential in my joining the U.S. Navy, my 28-year career as a naval officer, and my subsequent involvement in politics and elected office. What makes me smile about Wayne State are the fond memories I had there as a student, as an athlete, and as a sorority sister. The feeling of community and the strong academic base that I received at Wayne State laid the groundwork for my further academic study and two master's degrees. It was a formative time of my life, and I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Wayne State. I was greatly honored to have received the Alumni Achievement Award in December of 2018.”

- Debra Bodenstedt '78

### 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 [amsperr1@wsc.edu](mailto:amsperr1@wsc.edu).

**“When I was in high school back in the late 1960s, Wayne State had a great summer music camp that would bring in 300 to 350 students, and I attended for four summers.** That was a real nice college visit because I got to spend a week on campus. I got to meet music professors. The thing that stuck out in my memory was Dr. Ray Kelton, who was a band director, a brass teacher, and my trumpet teacher. He was a father figure and a male role model to me. On Friday afternoons when other students were going home for the weekend, Dr. Kelton and I would play duets in his office. Dr. O’Leary, the woodwind professor, was a wonderful teacher. Both of these gentlemen were wonderful men. Something that makes me smile now is that they have energetic music faculty right now, and I see a lot of positive things going on.”

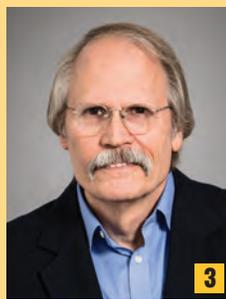
**- Robert Johnson ‘75**



**“I had two older brothers, Brian and Kevin Wiese, and an older sister, Lisa Wiese, who went to Wayne.** I was at the campus a lot during high school and was really familiar with it. I also knew I wanted to try and compete in track and field in college, and at Wayne State, I was able to walk on. I was a social sciences major, so the professors I saw a lot were Dr. Joseph Weixelman, Dr. Randy Bertolas, and Dr. Mark Leeper. They were three social sciences professors that I took a ton of classes with and really enjoyed them, as well as Dr. Barbara Engebretsen in the Health, Human Performance, and Sport Department. All of them had a huge impact on me as a student and as a person in general. Wayne State in general was really awesome regardless of major. You really are treated as a person first and then as a student and everything else. I wasn’t a scholarship kid for track, but Coach Marlon Brink let me walk on, and then evidently I did all right! I was on a scholarship my last two years and had two school records on relays. I also ended up being the college’s first ever three-time Academic All-American in any sport. Rich Canole made the biggest impact on me from a coaching standpoint and a life standpoint. Another coach who came after him was Travis Kamm. After I graduated and did my student teaching in Wayne, I wanted to try out coaching, so they let me volunteer coach with the team. I ended up working with Coach Kamm a lot. He and I ended up being really good friends. Even though he had coached me for two years, we ended up being coworkers, and we still text all the time our coaching ideas!”

**- Mickey Doerr ‘14**





**67 Dawn D. (Lerch) Hawk** taught junior high and high school students for 50 years. She retired in 2017. Her husband, **Floyd "Russell" Hawk '71**, taught high school business and government for 34 years until he had to retire in 2004 due to debilitating effects of multiple sclerosis. He has lived with MS since 1989. Dawn and Floyd celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 14, 2019. **1**

**70 Timothy W. Irish, MSE '73** was selected to be the Army Reserve Ambassador for the State of Nebraska by the Office of the Army Reserve at the Pentagon. He retired from the army after 38 years. He is president of Designed Properties LLC in Omaha. His spouse Sondra, is a retired school principal at Westside School System in Omaha. They have three children (Cort, Kelsey, and Patrick) and seven grandchildren.

**Ronald D. Scribner** has been retired since 2015 but has been substitute teaching in the Omaha area. Ronald and his wife, Monica, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August 2020. **2**

**73 Lynn S. Johanson's** mystery novel, "Rose's Thorn," was published by Level Best Books in March and is available online and in major bookstores. He was a former theatre major at WSC and holds an MFA degree from UNL. He is also an award-winning playwright and retired from Western Illinois University on July 1. **3**

**Susan M. (Malander) Replogle** is currently retired and living in Eckert, Colo. Photo features her daughter, Sarah, at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles. Sarah lives in Los Angeles and works in television and movie productions as an extra actress. **4**

**81 Janelle L. McQuistan** recently retired from her position as academics coordinator for the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, at the Marine Corps Air and Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif. She is now studying vedic sciences at Maharishi Kavic Vedic Nyas in Uttar Pradesh, India. **5**

**86 James P. Zanker** is a long-term care insurance specialist and the owner of Sound Financial Solutions in Fort Wayne, Ind. **6**

**88 Eric J. Selk** completed his tenure as executive director of HopeNow, a non-profit created after the 2008 recession at the behest of the U.S. Treasury Secretary and the banking industry. During 13 years of service, Selk and his team helped thousands of Americans across the United States stay in their homes in the face of great financial challenges. He moves on now to several new and exciting opportunities inside and outside the industry he has served for more than a decade. His first love, he says, is working with people and finding solutions to difficult problems.

**89 Dave F. Whitt and Byron Bonsall '88** created the 80s music podcast "Welcome to the Boomtown." Episodes can be found on Apple Music/TV/iTunes, Podomatic (boomtownpodcast.podomatic.com) and Mixcloud. Follow them also on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. **7**

**93 Jim M. Kasik, MSE '93** is entering his 32nd year of education, all at Schuyler High School. In 2020, he was honored to represent Nebraska as the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) assistant principal of the year. His youngest son, Jacob, also just graduated from WSC and accepted his first teaching job as the K-12 art teacher at Wisner-Pilger Schools. **8**

**Henry J. Rehberg** is the vice president at Eaton Vance in Boston. He and his wife, Kim, reside in Raleigh, N.C. **9**

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





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**94 Craig A. Brown**, who teaches skilled and technical sciences (formerly industrial technology) at Gretna Middle School, recently had a fun challenge at his school. To break stress, the school hosted a decoration competition to represent their alma maters. His homeroom made a door hanger. **10**

**Brandon D. Vennink** resides in Dunedin, Fla., with his wife, Lei Ray Yu. He is currently the organist and director of music at Saint Ignatius of Antioch Roman Catholic Church in Tarpon Springs, Fla. **11**

**95 Monica M. (Hollenbeck) Huber** is married to Andrew Huber and together they have two daughters, Winnie and Lily. Monica is a paraprofessional and substitute teacher for O'Neill Public Schools and an EMT for O'Neill Fire and Rescue. Her husband is employed with Black Hills Energy and is a firefighter with O'Neill Fire and Rescue. **12**

**96 Stephanie A. (Bourek) Hoyt, MSE '06** is starting her 25th year of teaching music education. She is currently the fifth and sixth grade general music educator at Columbus Middle School. On July 11 she married John Hoyt, and they reside in Columbus. **13**

**Jeffrey A. (Gutschmidt) Wangsao** used his chemistry degree to land a job at a high-tech ceramics lab in Woodinville, Wash., in 1996 for Praxair Specialty Ceramics. He spent time working for an analytical lab in Seattle and then as an administrator, and had a brief stint in transportation before landing in the hazardous waste field. He spent about 12 years with PSC and then the Washington State Department of Ecology in hazardous waste compliance. Wangsao went back to school in 2016 and graduated Aug. 1, 2019, with an M.S. in industrial hygiene from Montana Technological University. He is now working for the Washington State Department of Transportation as an industrial hygienist. He was married the same year to his husband, Somnuek. They are now looking forward to their honeymoon in Somnuek's home country of Thailand where they'll meet his new in-laws. Lessons Wangsao learned are that an undergraduate degree from WSC is a

good stepping stone toward a satisfying career and that there are many careers and occupations out there he never dreamed of. He says, "Don't box yourself in, rather keep an open mind. The world you know now won't stay the same. One option people often overlook is regulation, law, and public service. There are lots of rewarding jobs in public service for those who are not intimidated by rulebooks. People who become experts in different regulations can carve out a niche." **14**

**02 Ashley Toussaint** taught history and coached football and track in Miami since he graduated. In 2009, he moved to New York City and taught there for 10 years. In 2019, he returned to Miami to help found KIPP: Miami, one of the country's premiere charter schools networks.

**03 Melissa J. (Stidfole) Pena** and Jesus Pena welcomed a baby boy, Bryson Joseph Pena, on July 25. They have a 3-year-old son, Brexton Pena. Melissa is a teacher for the Sioux City Community School District. Jesus is a business specialist at US Bank. **15**

**04 Ashley R. (Petersen) Aden** is currently working at Equitable Advisors, LLC. She is married to Erik Aden and resides in Elkhorn. **16**

**05 Bobbi L. Taylor-Kerr** is currently the coordinator at Integrated Life Choices in Littleton, Colo. She is married to Christopher Kerr. **17**

**07 Jeremy R. Fajman** earned a master of arts degree in history from the University of South Dakota.

**Jamie E. (Stech) Halverson** and husband, Sean Halverson, welcomed Bryson Sean on April 10. Bryson was 5 pounds, 12 ounces, and 18 inches. The family has been enjoying the extra time with Bryson while being able to work from home during the pandemic. **18**



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**Rebecca L. (Remmers) Parks** and husband, Dion, welcomed Holly Elizabeth Parks on April 18. Holly is welcomed at home by older sister, Alaina, 2. Rebecca is a family consumer sciences teacher at Raymond Central Public Schools. They reside in Lincoln. **19**

**09 Nicole L. (Schwarz) Cullen** married Matt Cullen on June 8, their 10-year anniversary. Nicole and Matt currently reside in Bellevue. **20**

**10 Jillian M. (Korth) Schnebel** is currently the office manager at King Steel in Norfolk. Jillian and her husband, Jon, reside in Battle Creek **21**

**Nicole R. Taylor-Liermann** married the love of her life, **Dennis Liermann '01**, on Oct. 10. **22**

**13 Jessica R. (Ludvik) Goeken** recently married Jeremy Goeken. Jessica currently works at Milestones Learning Center and Childcare in Norfolk. The couple resides in Stanton. **23**

**Matthew J. Macoubrie** achieved a master's degree in curriculum and instruction design from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 2018. He has a daughter named Victoria, born in 2019. He coaches soccer at Lincoln High School in Lincoln. **24**

**16 Jessica M. Nechkash** graduated from WSC with an early childhood inclusive education degree. She has taught for Elkhorn Public Schools and Millard Public Schools. She also had the opportunity to teach English in Italy over the summer months in 2017. Recently, she moved back from teaching at an international school in Bangkok, Thailand, for two years. She is currently teaching ELL children online. During her time overseas, she has traveled to 10 different countries and all over Thailand. She is currently residing in Maryland for a year before moving back to Omaha, where home is for her! **25**

**Amy L. (Stump) Lyon** was united in marriage to **Blake A. Lyon '10** on June 13 in Rock Rapids, Iowa. Amy is preparing for her fifth year of

teaching Spanish at George-Little Rock CSD, and Blake will begin his 11th year of teaching instrumental music and his first at Rock Valley CSD. **26**

**17 Alexandria M. Bartels** joined the Omaha law firm Gross & Welch as an associate. Bartels earned her law degree from the University of Nebraska College of Law in May. While there, she was involved in the Family Law Organization, the Student Bar Association, and the Women's Law Caucus. Bartels is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society, Pi Gamma Mu Social Sciences Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, and Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society. Bartels clerked for Gross & Welch prior to taking the bar exam. Bartels is a member of the Nebraska State Bar Association and is licensed to practice in Nebraska. **27**

**Morgan I. (Stough) Chadwick** was married April 4 to Ryan Chadwick. She graduated from Columbia College Chicago in May. **28**

**Michelle C. (Knaack) McClanahan** worked full time at a library doing public programming. She left the position after the birth of her daughter. She currently resides in Minnesota and plans to become licensed to teach there in the future. **29**

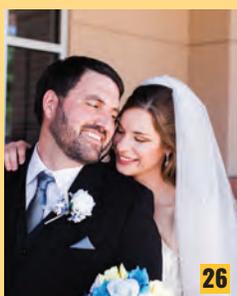
**20 Cory N. Frewing** was recently notified that his senior honors project, "The Geography of Coins: Culture, Politics, and Power depicted on Money" has been accepted for publication in the peer-review journal "Geographical Bulletin." Frewing is originally from Norfolk. At WSC, he earned his B.S. in geography and graduated summa cum laude with high honors in the major. While at WSC, Frewing served as the Lambda Zeta chapter president for Gamma Theta Upsilon, the international geographical honor society. He currently works for the federal government.



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**Pile Hall Get-Together**

The annual Pile Hall get-together was held July 17 with a noon luncheon at the Wisner Yacht Club hosted by Lyle and Angie Neuharth. Louise Moran gave an interesting presentation on Civil War history ancestors. The coronavirus did not keep the group from their annual get-together. Pictured are: (front) Sally Wolf, Eileen Kucera, Norene Kuhr, Kathy Haber, and Louise Moran, and (back) Angie Neuharth, LaVerne Hoogner, Linda Petersen, Carol Whipple, Jeanette Vahle, Clara Heinemann, Darlene Bower, Pearl Kander, and Barb Peters. **30**

**Nicole Brungardt '12 Selected for USA Bobsled Team for Second Time**

Former Wayne State College volleyball and track and field standout Nicole Brungardt was named to the 2020-21 USA Women's Bobsled National Team in November. It's the second time that the Norfolk Catholic graduate has been selected for the elite team.

Brungardt was one of seven pushers to go with three drivers selected for the 10-athlete roster that will make up USA-1, USA-2, and USA-3. She was also named to the 2018 USA National Team and just missed qualifying for the 2018 Winter Olympic Games.

Brungardt was a standout volleyball and track and field athlete at Wayne State College from 2008 to 2012 and was inducted into the WSC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018. In volleyball, Brungardt was a defensive specialist and played on four NCAA Tournament teams for the Wildcats, averaging 2.48 digs per set as a senior and 2.23 digs per set during her junior campaign.

Brungardt also competed in women's track and field for two seasons and was a four-time All-American, eight-time All-Region selection, and five-time NSIC champion in sprints and jumps. In the 2011 indoor season, Brungardt earned three All-American honors, helping WSC to its best ever finish at an NCAA Division II Indoor Championship, finishing 13th as a team.



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

Facebook: Wayne State College GOLD Club  
Twitter: @WSCGOLD



## Alex Saunders '15 Named Teacher of the Year

Alex Saunders, a 2015 graduate of Wayne State College, recently received the Teacher of the Year Award sponsored by the Bennington Public Schools Foundation. Saunders is currently in her sixth year of teaching at Bennington. She is the fifth grade teacher at Anchor Pointe Elementary and head girls soccer coach. Each year, teachers are nominated by parents, coworkers, principals, and students who write letters of recommendation about the teachers they wish to nominate. The Teacher of the Year Award is given to an instructor who has been teaching with Bennington Public Schools for more than five years.

Saunders, originally from Firth, graduated from Norris High School in 2011. She studied elementary education at Wayne State, with a coaching endorsement. Saunders also played soccer at Wayne State for four years, was a member of the Cardinal Key Honor Society, and helped coach Little League soccer in the Wayne community.

“Wayne State has a stellar education program,” Saunders said. “We worked with curriculum that was/is being used in schools, so it better prepared me on how to use it and create lesson plans. I had great professors who taught me in a hands-on way to better understand materials, and I was able to bring that to the classroom as well.”

Saunders started teaching at Bennington in 2015 and has been there since. During her first year of teaching, she participated in the CADRE Program through the University of Nebraska-Omaha, a program for teachers to earn their master’s degree during their first year of teaching.

While at Wayne State, Saunders met her husband, Johnny, and the couple currently lives in Bennington. **Johnny graduated from Wayne State in 2015** with degrees in criminal justice and sport management and played football at WSC.

*“I feel very blessed to get to do what I love each day. My students bring so much joy to my life, and it is a true privilege to love what I do. I owe a lot of my passion for education to Wayne State.”*

– Alex Saunders ‘15

## WSC ALUMNI & FRIENDS TOUR - Rescheduled to Spring 2022 Australia & New Zealand

Official dates and trip itinerary coming soon.  
Find updates at [www.wsc.edu/alumni-events](http://www.wsc.edu/alumni-events),  
or contact the Wayne State Foundation at 402-375-7209.



## IN MEMORY OF

Geraldine “Gerrie” A. (Hansen) Christensen '41, 98, Wayne; Aug. 6.  
 Florence O. (Kindler) Griffin Ferrin '42, 100, Wayne; July 5, 2020.  
 Arline A. (Gross) Baird '43, 94, Central City; Aug. 13.  
 Mary “Madelyn” (Steinhoff) Kai '43, 99, Pender; May 6.  
 Helen A. Erb '45, 99, Pender; Aug. 18.  
 Martha J. (Crellin) Rickard '46, 94, Ewing; March 19.  
 Lillian V. (Zaura) Blank '47, 92, Madison; July 25.  
 Carroll G. (Connell) Van Brocklin '47, 93, Roseville, Calif.; June 24.  
 Rodella A. (Gramberg) Wacker '47, 95, Wayne; June 30.  
 Helen A. (Shemat) Fischer '48, 91, Harlan, Iowa; May 17.  
 Marjorie M. (Arehart) Kloeppe '48, 93, Elgin; July 15.  
 Elizabeth M. (Paulsen) Norvell '48, 92, Laurel; May 17.  
 Rita M. (Theobald) Zerwas '48, 91, Manning, Iowa; July 23, 2019.  
 Miriam L. (Bonner) Samuelson '49, 92, Norfolk; July 19.  
 Nadine J. (Suhr) Johnson '50, 90, Scribner; June 29.  
 Charlotte “Jerry” G. (Lundeen) Kristensen '50, 90, Wausa; Aug. 25.  
 Elaine A. (Peters) Sovereign '50, 93, Kearney; Aug. 19.  
 Joy K. (Waltermeyer) Hansen '51, 90, Pender; Aug. 17.  
 Mary J. Mord '51, 88, Columbus; July 5.  
 Theresa A. (Windeshausen) Rice '51, 91, Osmond; Aug. 11.  
 Gwendolyn J. (Wegner) Doherty '52, 87, Bellevue; Aug. 29.  
 Lois “Darlene” (Fackelman) Biggerstaff '53, 88, Sioux Falls, S.D.;  
 June 6.  
 Barbara J. (Morey) Hypse '53, 89, Wayne; Sept. 12.  
 Mary A. Schulz '53, 97, Elk Point, S.D.; Dec. 17, 2019.  
 Jacqueline “Jackie” A. (Mosel) Bartak '54, 84, Ewing; March 22.  
 Arlene “Suzie” (Pearson) Johnson '54, 85, Concord; Sept. 24.  
 Helen M. (Kolar) Petersen '54, 85, Fremont; July 4.  
 Deloris L. (Brown) Borg '55, 90, Long Pine; Sept. 29.  
 Dorothy A. (Belz) Byers '55, 86, Columbus; April 27.  
 Donald J. Larson '55, 86, O'Neill; May 17.  
 Aileen (Peterson) Ruszczyk '55, 85, Oakland; July 10.  
 Gary J. Heyne '56, 86, Aloha, Ore.; May 11.  
 Doris M. (Reznicek) Hoff '57, 84, Columbus; July 19.  
 Beulah M. (Moser) Rokahr '57, 91, Randolph; June 27.  
 David “Dave” F. Schortinghuis '57, 86, Zionsville, Ind.; May 5.  
 Ted C. Tow II '57, 84, Overland Park, Kan.; Aug. 25.  
 Norma J. (Novak) Yosten '57, 82, Schuyler; May 7.  
 Clarice M. (Nelson) Glidden '58, 84, Denison, Iowa; July 16.  
 LaVerta A. (Thompson) Lammers '58, 88, Hartington; May 5.  
 Dolores “Dee” M. (Doescher) Schulz '58, 80, Wayne; May 22.  
 Gordon L. Zapp '58, 84, Arvada, Colo.; Aug. 2.  
 Marjorie “Marge” A. (Castan) Hagerdon '59, 80, Mapleton, Iowa;  
 June 8.  
 Jerry Loney '59, 81, Grand Island; Sept. 23.  
 Loretta J. (Neel) Pallas '60, 79, Lincoln; May 26.  
 Mary C. (Hansen) Biggerstaff '61, 80, Mitchell, S.D.; May 18.  
 Donna M. (Damme) Peterson '61, 80, Neligh; Sept. 21.  
 Vonnie E. Tangeman '61, MSE '73, 81, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Feb 7, 2020.  
 Darrell D. Heier '62, 82, Wayne; June 8.  
 Gary D. Herbolsheimer '62, 79, Pierce; Sept. 11.  
 David M. Kroger '62, 80, Lincoln; Sept. 29.  
 Charles M. Mulhair '62, MAE '63, 82, Niobrara; Oct. 6.  
 Ronda M. (Smith) Priestley '62, 80, Fremont; Oct. 14.

Dixie L. (Farrens) Waddell '62, 83, Wasilla, Alaska; Sept. 18.  
 Wilma M. (Porter) Zahm '62, 83, Grand Island; Aug. 11.  
 William “Bill” A. Wilson '67, 84, Wayne; Oct. 21.  
 David L. Chambers '63, MAE '74, 94, Lincoln; May 26.  
 Richard “Dick” N. Miller '63, 84, Oakland; Aug. 23.  
 Judith “Judy” B. (Owens) Temme '64, 77, Columbus; June 20.  
 Margaret “Peg” A. (Eucks) Bendixen '65, 80, Norfolk; July 17.  
 Ellen C. (Petersen) Norskov '67, 102, Albion; Aug. 15.  
 Sandra “Sandy” M. (Nelson) Maybon '68, 80, Norfolk; July 20.  
 Ronald E. Withem '68, 73, Papillion; May 28.  
 Beatrice “Bette” M. (Kocian) Shald '69, 73, Stuart; July 5.  
 John “Jack” H. Vaughn '69, 70, Lincoln; May 13, 2017.  
 Donald G. Birney '70, 76, Omaha; Oct. 14.  
 Mae G. Halsey '70, 89, Plainview; Aug. 22.  
 Marcia L. (Zurovski) Schutz '72, 73, Plattsmouth; May 8.  
 Jeanne M. Shaver '72, 70, Lincoln; March 9.  
 Brock W. Lehman '74, 68, Fremont; Aug. 13.  
 Robert “Larry” Ross '75, 68, Webster City, Iowa; July 28.  
 Robert “Bob” D. Farrens '79, 65, Hartwell, Ga; March 14.  
 Rick D. Benson, MSE '80, 67, Columbus; May 8.  
 Bobbie J. Reifenrath '80, 75, Laurel; June 29.  
 William “Bill” D. Gier '81, 61, Davenport, Iowa; Aug. 12.  
 William “Bill” D. Milks '82, 61, Tucker, Georgia; May 7.  
 Kathleen “Kathy” J. (Dykman) Soderberg '83, 59, Fremont; July 2.  
 Perry C. Nelson '85, 57, Louisville, Colo.; July 11.  
 Barbara A. (Reifschneider) Averett '86, 80, Columbus; Aug. 26.  
 LiChelle “Shelly” E. (Krause) Youngberg '89, 53, Sioux City, Iowa;  
 Oct. 4.  
 Wendy J. (Meggers) Grasz '93, 50, Blair; Sept. 27.  
 David L. Allen, Jr. '94, 50, Omaha; Jan. 21, 2020.  
 Corene “Corky” K. (Oelstligle) Mehlhaf '94, 48, Menno, S.D.; Sept. 9.  
 Curtis R. Woodin '97, 47, Gretna; June 28.  
 Turena L. (Mock) Bauer '00, 68, Norfolk; July 6.  
 Lena R. (Rathje) Hockabout '06, 48, Battle Creek; June 18.  
 Bradley Ayres Dickson Winter '09, 70, Black Hills, S.D.; July 21.

## FRIENDS WE WILL MISS

Bruce W. Anderson, 86, Greenly, Colo.; Oct. 5. Anderson  
 taught at WSC.  
 Mardell R. (Strelow) Baumann, 95, Norfolk; Aug 1.  
 Faunell (Dittberner) Benson, 85, Norfolk; June 15.  
 Arthur L. Dirks, 76, Taunton, Mass.; Aug. 10. Dirks was a former WSC  
 theatre professor.  
 Lillian (Broekemeier) Hagelstein, 85, Columbus; Aug. 30.  
 Elroy M. Hefner, 96, Coleridge; July 26.  
 Viola “Violet” D. (Klasna) Heiser, 83, Lynch; May 9.  
 Janice (Sander) Kucera, 67, Clarkson; March 20.  
 Joyce E. (McCracken) Papstein, 85, Lincoln; June 10.  
 Joseph G. Parker, 71, Fairbury; Sept 18. Parker was a former  
 business manager for WSC.  
 David E. Peterson, 37, Portland, Ore.; May 11.  
 Amsel L. (Maricle) Rosenbaum, 93, Albion; Aug. 25.  
 Carolyn (Muller) Steckelberg, 79, Ogallala; Sept. 20.  
 Jonah D. Stephens, Sr., 75, Wayne; Oct. 14.  
 Ernest “Ernie” L. Swanson, 91, Wayne; July 2.



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