

# W WAYNE

## STATE COLLEGE

Magazine for alumni and friends • Winter 2022

### SUPPORTING STUDENTS

Foundation Launches Scholarship Campaign,  
page 4



# CONTENTS

## 8 PROJECT UPDATES



**03 PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**  
**DR. MARYSZ RAMES**

**04 WSC FOUNDATION LAUNCHES SCHOLARSHIP CAMPAIGN**  
*Providing support for Wayne State scholars*

**10 COMMENCEMENT**

**14 DR. RICHARD J. COLLINGS**  
*Nov. 11, 1946, to Nov. 2, 2021*

**15 FACULTY NEWS**

## 12 HOMECOMING



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

### Administration

Dr. Marysz Rames, President  
Steven Elliott, Vice President for Academic Affairs  
C.D. Douglas, Vice President for Student Affairs  
John Dunning, Vice President for Information Technology  
Angela Fredrickson, Vice President for Administration and Finance  
Kevin Armstrong, Chief Executive Officer, Wayne State Foundation

### Wayne State Foundation Staff

Amber Sperry, Director of Alumni Relations  
Megan Finn, Director of Athletic Development  
Mitch DeBoer, Controller  
Lana Chapman, Foundation Office Assistant  
Katie Olesen, Alumni Office Assistant  
Lori Bebee, Office Assistant

### Wayne State Foundation Executive Board

Brenda Carhart, President  
Donald Koeber, Vice President  
William Dickey, Secretary/Treasurer  
Leslie Bebee  
Jerry Carlson  
Brett Frevert  
Glenda Gallisath  
Matthew Ley  
Adrian Minks  
Randall Pedersen  
Carter “Cap” Peterson  
William Reeg  
Michael Riedmann  
Byron Schafersman  
Donald Soukup

### Editorial Staff

Jay Collier, Director of College Relations  
Amanda Broberg, Editor  
Trudy Muir, Graphic Designer  
Angie Steffen, Writer, Photographer

*Towns and cities listed in this publication are in Nebraska unless noted or generally understood.*



**WILDCAT NEWS**



**ALUMNI NOTES AND NEWS**



### Where’s the Wildcat?

The Wayne State Wildcat is hidden on one of the pages of this magazine! Think you can find it? The first person to find it and call the Wayne State Foundation and Alumni Office at 402-375-7526 with your name and the magazine page number will get a prize from the Wayne State Foundation!



# President's Message

## DR. MARYSZ RAMES

**Invest. Empower. Transform.** The Wayne State Foundation has launched a scholarship campaign for our students, and we need your help. The theme for the campaign lays bare in just three words the power of your contributions. **Invest** in the future of students and their place in the working world. **Empower** students with the means to earn their degree without the heavy burden of debt. **Transform** the lives of students and future generations by believing in their dreams of the power of education.

Wayne State has long served our region by providing an excellent education that is both accessible and affordable. For the more than 50 percent of our students who are the first in their family to pursue a four-year degree, a Wayne State education is only made possible by scholarships. That was true for many of you, as well. Now, we are asking you to give back to support the next generation of students who can achieve the success you have achieved to position themselves as the next generation of donors.

Each gift to the Wayne State Foundation helps a student take that next big step in their life toward a career that will serve not just their family but thousands of families around them through a robust workforce and a powerful economy. Each gift advances another generation of entrepreneurs, business owners, and dreamers like yourself who provide the spark and imagination to drive communities forward.

Please read the testimonies provided below from three of our students and note the power of your contributions in the lives of three future professionals who chose Wayne State because our College met their need for an affordable path to their careers. Your generosity makes a difference. Thank you ... and, Go Cats!



*For the more than 50 percent of our students who are the first in their family to pursue a four-year degree, a Wayne State education is only made possible by scholarships. That was true for many of you, as well.*



### MASON LEE

*"Affordability definitely played a big role for me coming to Wayne State. Not every college has an affordable education, and being able to obtain a degree without spending a lot is very relieving. I have a few academic scholarships and a football scholarship that have helped to further reduce the amount of money I need to spend, and I'm very thankful for that."*

Hometown: Wayne, Neb.  
Programs of Study: Business Administration, Sport Management



### BAILEY COONS

*"I knew that coming to Wayne State meant I could get just as good of an education and learn just as much, if not more, than a more expensive college or university, but without the extra stress of unreasonable debt. College is expensive, with or without loans and scholarships. But at Wayne State, the costs are within reason, especially for all the opportunities you get. My scholarship means a lot to me. It has allowed me to pursue everything I was interested in instead of just settling for the bare minimum."*

Hometown: Sargent, Neb.  
Programs of Study: Psychology, Sociology, Criminal Justice



### DESTINEE WILKINS

*"For me, a scholarship allows me to take more classes to further my education and possible future career. As a double major, I'm taking twice as many classes, which means twice the expenses. So having a scholarship - even if it's \$1,000, \$2,000, or \$3,000 - helps limit the amount of debt I'll have coming out of college and allows me to take the extra classes needed to advance my education."*

Hometown: Atlanta, Ga.  
Programs of Study: Criminal Justice, Political Science



## INVEST. EMPOWER. TRANSFORM.

### Wayne State Foundation Launches Scholarship Campaign for WSC Students

The Wayne State Foundation officially launched the “Invest, Empower, Transform” Scholarship Campaign on Oct. 1 with a ceremony in the Willow Bowl during Homecoming 2021. The campaign runs through fiscal year 2025 and encourages donors to: **invest** in the future by increasing the number of well-educated, forward-thinking Wayne State graduates; **empower** students by providing them with the unique opportunity to build character, commit to their goals, and excel in their career, sport, and life; and **transform** lives by supporting students who value learning and are committed to reaching their educational goals.

Supporting this campaign builds on a proud legacy of giving back to an institution that has served as a turning point in so many graduates’ lives. An investment in Wayne State voices a powerful endorsement that a college degree is much more than just accumulated knowledge and technical expertise. A Wayne State College degree transforms lives, lifts families, and helps secure our future.

**Campaign Goal: \$30,000,000**



## INVEST in the Future

**Scholarships change lives.** More than 50 percent of Wayne State College students are first-generation students. Scholarships serve as a gateway to help them achieve a college degree. For many students, attending college isn't possible without financial help. There is a greater chance that students who apply will actually enroll in classes at Wayne State College if they receive a scholarship. Scholarships help close the gap between the total cost of attendance and financial assistance a student receives, making it more financially feasible to attend college.

**Scholarships impact the region and meet workforce demands.** 81 percent of WSC students are from Nebraska, and most graduates stay to live and work in the state, supporting the economy and building community here in the region. Regional service has always been a significant part of the mission of Wayne State College. With almost 76 percent of Wayne State graduates staying in Nebraska, we are committed to meeting the workforce and economic demands of our state and region. Scholarships and investments in our students will help increase the number of graduates who go on to serve as leaders in Nebraska and the Midwest region. Wayne State's new Center for Applied Technology is one example of how the college is focused on meeting area workforce demands. After the Nebraska Department of Education identified industrial technology teachers as a critical need across the state, Wayne State College answered the call with this new state-of-the-art facility. Also, Nebraska is one of the top three states with the fastest growth in technology jobs. The Center for Applied Technology serves as a gateway of opportunity for hundreds of students to prepare for careers in today's manufacturing industry.

**50%**  
**First-Generation**

More than 50% of Wayne State College students are first-generation students. Scholarships serve as a gateway to help them achieve a college degree. **For many students, attending college isn't possible without financial help.**

## EMPOWER Students

**Scholarships matter.** Scholarships empower students to succeed. Wayne State College students often describe how scholarships and financial support enable them to focus on their education, succeed in the classroom, stay involved in campus activities, and volunteer in their communities. Scholarships provide students with the opportunity to commit to their education, excel, and meet their goals.

**Scholarships reduce student load debt.** In 2019, Forbes Magazine stated student loan debt is the highest ever, at \$1.5 trillion. With additional scholarship support, we can increase the number of students who graduate with little or no debt, helping reduce financial stress after graduation.

**Scholarships help student-athletes.** Scholarships empower student-athletes to strive for success on and off the field. In competition, WSC student-athletes are given the opportunity to build character supporting their educational goals and sport. With generous scholarships, Wayne State College is able to recruit top student-athletes from around the region. However, when comparing the amount of scholarship dollars awarded to student-athletes, we fall short to our conference and Division II competitors. By increasing our athletic scholarships, WSC will become more competitive across all sports.

**70%**  
**of WSC students  
graduate with debt**

With additional scholarship support, we can increase the number of students who graduate with little or no debt, helping reduce financial stress after graduation.

## TRANSFORM Lives

If you've been impacted by Wayne State, we ask you to consider giving back. For some of us Wayne State College is our alma mater, a place we once called home. It helped shape who we are today and set us on a path toward success. For some of us, Wayne State College is our community resource. So many people in our region depend on the programs and outreach that help enrich our lives.

For some of us, Wayne State College is our business partner. We look to the school as a source of talent that will help us move forward in the marketplace. For all of us, Wayne State College is a place that holds our confidence.

**100%**

Wayne State alumni who have graduated in the past year who are either employed or in grad school

*Based on the most recent graduate survey of 508 students (88% response rate)*

INVEST. EMPOWER. TRANSFORM.

## Giving Back: Making a Difference



“Give the next generation an opportunity to fulfill their goals and dreams. Make a difference in someone’s life. I encourage other individuals, corporations, and foundations to support this campaign and very special college. This campaign can be successful with all of us working together.”

**Leslie Bebee,**  
Trustee / Executive Board Member



“I started my first annual scholarship my senior year of college. It was for \$50. And I thought to myself, ‘it’s only \$50.’ And then I realized it’s not about *how much* I give, but *that* I give! Because giving is more than just about money. It shows the recipient you also care.”

**Ron Holt ‘89, Trustee**



“A scholarship to me means a great chance for opportunity. With Wayne State College and my scholarship, I’m now able to continue my education with a very reduced expense, which means I’m able to go into graduate school (law school) with not as much debt – actually having no debt here at Wayne State College because of how inexpensive it is. But at the same time, I have

opportunities it offers me. I’ve gotten involved a lot on campus throughout my three years here, and I wouldn’t trade it for anything in the world. That’s why I’ve chosen Wayne State College, and that’s what my scholarship means to me.”

**Justin Kenney**  
Major: Business Administration (Management)  
Hometown: Milford, Neb.



“A scholarship to me means the ability to pursue my dreams and goals without having to worry about what I’m going to do next and how to pay for it. It has allowed me the opportunity to pursue athletics through soccer to compete at a higher level, but also to double major, have an amazing social life, and be involved in and around campus.”

**Regan Ott**  
Majors: Psychology and Applied Human and Sport Physiology



“The reason I support Wayne State and the scholarship program is that the strengths of the college are to provide an affordable, quality education focused on individual student success. This has been the case from the time I started here 55 years ago until today. The teachers, administration, and the Wayne State Foundation are all focused on student success each and every day.”

**Terry McClain ‘70, Trustee**



“This scholarship campaign is a win-win for everyone involved. The alumni and friends of Wayne State can give back to the college that made an impact in their lives. The students get a chance to have a great education and enter the workforce fully prepared for all the opportunities presented to them.”

**Brenda Carhart, ‘93, MBA ‘96,**  
Trustee / Executive Board Member

## 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.

### Endowed Scholarships

Endowed scholarships provide perpetual awards for Wayne State students. A minimum of \$25,000 is required before the scholarship fund begins to be awarded. A donor has five years to reach the \$25,000 principal amount. Endowment funds are invested, and a portion of the earnings are awarded each year as scholarships.

#### Endowed Options: Academic and Athletic

- Start a new endowed scholarship with an outright or estate gift (choose name and criteria)
- Give to an existing endowed scholarship
- Support the Wildcat Endowed Scholarship (all students eligible)

### Annual Scholarships

Annual scholarships are awarded each year to students in the full amount that is received from the donor. Annual scholarships are funded with a minimum award of \$1000. They are active only for the time period the donor wishes to fund the scholarship. A minimum five-year commitment is encouraged.

#### Annual Options: Academic and Athletic

- Start a new annual scholarship (choose name and criteria)
- Give to an existing annual scholarship
- Support the Wildcat Annual Scholarship (all students eligible)
- Support the Wildcat Student-Athlete Annual Scholarship

### Consider Making a Gift to Support the Scholarship Campaign

Please join us in supporting the remarkable institution of Wayne State College. Your generosity is a tangible expression of the value you place on WSC. Like us, you'll find that giving is a wonderful way to say, "Wayne State College touched my life."

If you have any questions about donating to Wayne State College or about the scholarship campaign, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Wayne State Foundation or our campaign leaders.

To make a gift, or to learn more details about the campaign, please visit [www.wsc.edu/scholarshipcampaign](http://www.wsc.edu/scholarshipcampaign).



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



Amber Sperry  
Director of  
Alumni Relations  
Wayne State Foundation  
402-375-7370  
amperr1@wsc.edu



Megan Finn  
Director of  
Athletic Development  
Wayne State Foundation  
402-375-7543  
mefinn1@wsc.edu





## Benthack Hall Renovation

Wayne State completed the total renovation of Benthack Hall, home of counseling, education, and the family and consumer sciences programs, and hosted a ribbon cutting and official opening of the facility this fall as part of Homecoming festivities.

The new facility features a state-of-the-art counseling training clinic; foods lab with six student kitchen stations and a teacher/guest demonstration area; textiles, apparel, and interior design lab spaces with major software platforms used in the industry; "sample room" for interior design; and two state-of-the-art education labs to complement the content labs across campus.

One lab is devoted to the study and instruction of English/language arts, reading, writing, and literacy development. The other lab is devoted to the instruction and study of the sciences, mathematics, and technology in education.



John and Theresa '78 McTaggart (center). The William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation recognized the McTaggart family by naming the McTaggart Family Student Lounge and the Bud and Mitzi McCullough Education Lab in their honor.



Dennis and Marcia Hult '59. The Hult Family Learning Lab honors the distinguished classroom teaching careers of the Hults.



George '56 and Dr. Susan '55 Menking. The Dr. Susan Menking Ph.D. Counseling Training Center recognizes Dr. Menking's passion for teaching and practicing psychology.



Don and Diane Soukup '71. Benthack Hall Room 110 recognizes the generous support provided by the Soukups.



## New WSC Signs

Wayne State College has new flare thanks to two new letter structures on campus, including a new “WSC” located on the west side of the student center and a branded “W” logo currently set by the football field. The “W” is moveable and can be set at different locations on campus.



## New Outdoor Courts

Wayne State resurfaced the Nature Trail and outdoor courts this summer with a combination of funds from student fees and the College. The project included new tennis courts, a pickleball court, basketball courts, multipurpose courts, and new lights and fencing.

## Peterson Fine Arts Building Renovation

Wayne State College hosted a groundbreaking ceremony Nov. 11 to begin the renovation of the Peterson Fine Arts Building. The ceremony took place in the atrium of Peterson and east of the building where the new addition will be built.

Speakers at the ceremony included Dr. Marysz Rames, President of Wayne State College; Dr. Paul Turman, Nebraska State College System Chancellor; Kevin Armstrong, Wayne State Foundation CEO; Dr. Dave Bohnert, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities; and two music students, Sarah Wibben of Wayne and Wynter Fulsas of Oakdale.

To contribute or learn more, visit [www.wsc.edu/donate](http://www.wsc.edu/donate) or contact the Wayne State Foundation at 402-375-7510.





Glenda Gallisath received the 2021 Alumni Achievement Award at the winter commencement ceremony Dec. 17. Pictured are (from left to right) alumni director Amber Sperry, Gallisath, President Marysz Rames, and Wayne State Foundation CEO Kevin Armstrong.

## Dr. Glenda Gallisath - Alumni Achievement Award Recipient

Dr. Glenda Gallisath received the Alumni Achievement Award from the Wayne State Foundation during the December commencement ceremony. The award is presented to a graduate who has attained outstanding achievement in his or her career and/or through community service and has provided support to WSC.

Gallisath graduated from Wayne State College in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Management) with honors. She earned an MBA from the University of South Dakota and began her career in higher education in 1985 as a full-time business faculty member at Morningside College (now University) in Sioux City, Iowa. In a few years, Gallisath transitioned to a full-time academic administrative position at Morningside and later served in various leadership roles at Western Iowa Tech Community College through 2000. Gallisath also earned a Ph.D. in Higher Education at Iowa State University and completed the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University.

For 25 years, Gallisath served as the dean and vice president levels at community and two-year colleges, and at public and private baccalaureate and graduate institutions in rural and urban settings in the Midwest. Her accomplishments often focused on developing new academic programs, academic partnerships with high schools and colleges/universities, and

community outreach. She has periodically taught graduate courses in business administration and educational leadership.

Throughout her administrative career, Gallisath has presented at regional and national conferences about assessment of student learning, institutional effectiveness, and student success. She currently serves as the Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment at Walden University, which specializes in providing access for adult students to graduate degree programs. Gallisath is also active with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) that accredits colleges and universities in the United States. She has been an accreditation liaison officer at several institutions, and since 2013 she has served as a mentor to institutions in the HLC's Persistence and Completion Academy and now the Student Success Academy. She has served on HLC task forces regarding assessment and is a facilitator for the HLC Assessment of General Education seminars. Gallisath has been a presenter at several HLC annual conferences and currently serves on the HLC Annual Conference Advisory Committee.

A Wymore native, she is the daughter of Dorothy Gallisath and the late George F. Gallisath of Beatrice. A resident of Des Moines, Iowa, she has been a trustee of the Wayne State Foundation since 2012 and was appointed to its executive committee this fall.

## Winter 2021 Commencement

Speakers at the commencement ceremony were (from left to right) Tanner Johnston, Sabrina Sack, and Emma Todd.



Wayne State College held a commencement ceremony for graduate and undergraduate students Friday, Dec. 17, in Rice Auditorium. A total of 285 degrees were conferred by President Marysz Rames. Those students receiving their degrees included 176 undergraduates and 109 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 Tanner Johnston of Wausa and Sabrina Sack of Waverly. Johnston is the son of Camille and Kyle Johnston of Lubbock, Texas. He is married to Carlie, and they have two daughters, Lennon and Baylor. Johnston received a

bachelor's degree in special education K-12. Sack is the daughter of Patricia Sack of San Salvador, El Salvador, and Herbert Sack of Lincoln. Sack received a bachelor's degree in elementary education.

Graduate speaker was Emma Todd of Neola, Iowa, daughter of Davin and Denise Dickerson of Neola. Todd received a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling. Todd's family has several Wayne State connections. Her husband, Jaden, graduated from WSC in 2019. Her grandfather, Martin Steenbock, is also an alumnus. Her twin brothers, Sam and Noah Dickerson, will graduate from WSC in the spring. Her sister-in-law, Jaden Dickerson, also graduated in December.

## 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.

### 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).

### QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION FROM IRA

Would you like to make a difference for our students and save some money in the process? You can save on income taxes and support Wayne State at the same time by making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to the Wayne State Foundation. To be eligible:

- The donor must be at least 70½ years old at the time the distribution is made. Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) begin at age 72.
- The maximum amount a donor can transfer is \$100,000 per taxpayer per year.
- The gift must be outright. Gifts to donor advised funds or to life income vehicles do not qualify.
- The gift must be transferred directly from the IRA account by the IRA administrator to the Wayne State Foundation.

### HOW DOES THE CARES ACT IMPACT IRA DISTRIBUTIONS?

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was established in March 2020, but provisions of this act still extend to 2021. The CARES Act did not change the rules for QCDs or RMDs, but under the CARES Act, an individual can elect to deduct 100% of his or her Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for cash charitable contributions. This allows individuals over 59½ years old to take a cash distribution from their IRA to give to a charitable organization like the Wayne State Foundation, and offset tax attributable to the distribution, up to 100% of their AGI for the current tax year.

*The Wayne State Foundation does not offer professional tax advice. Please consult with your tax or financial advisor for guidance regarding IRA distributions.*



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



Amber Sperry  
Director of  
Alumni Relations  
Wayne State Foundation  
402-375-7370  
amsperr1@wsc.edu



Megan Finn  
Director of  
Athletic Development  
Wayne State Foundation  
402-375-7543  
mefinn1@wsc.edu

# 2021 HOMECOMING

## Honored Classes - '60, '61, '70, '71, '80, and '81



**Honored Class of 1960.** Front row, from left to right: Dee Zanders and Dr. David Johnson. Back row, from left to right: Lucile (Rehbein) Watterman and Gerald Thomsen.



**Honored Class of 1961.** From left to right: Dorothy (Lentz) Cull, Gary Cameron, and Gary Krallman.



**Honored Class of 1970.** From left to right: Tom Marsicek, Ron Rolfes, Don Koeber, Craig Ford, Claudia (Niemann) Koeber, and Eldred Laubsch.



**Honored Class of 1971.** Front row, from left to right: Dennis Reinert, Sally (Scheck) Reinert, Cheri (Bessey) Bundren, Millie (Miller) Drey, and Diane (Massman) Soukup. Back row, from left to right: Vance Wolverton, Vic Kenler, Jeannine (Means) Wriedt, and Don Soukup.



**Honored Classes of 1980 and 1981.** From left to right: Donald Schernikau, Karen (Reestman) Riesberg, Kent Riesberg, Jeanie (Ramold) Miller, Sharon (Miller) Garvin, Lois (Bright) Stage, and Brian Rubeck.

**Homecoming Royalty:** Carter Ossian of David City and Chloe Kirschenmann of North Bend were crowned the 2021 Homecoming King and Queen.



**For more about Homecoming, visit [www.wsc.edu/homecoming](http://www.wsc.edu/homecoming)**



**WSC Alumni Employees:** Wayne State College hosted a reception for employees who are alumni of WSC on Sept. 28 during Homecoming.



**Wildcat Football:** The Wildcats defeated Winona State 38-21 to win their Homecoming game Oct. 2.



**Outstanding Alumni Awards:** From left to right: Barry Thomas '02 (School of Education and Behavioral Sciences), Mary Haas '92, MSE '01 (School of Arts and Humanities), Larry Guenther '91 (School of Business and Technology), and Joseph Guenther '88 (School of Business and Technology). Not pictured: Dr. Brandon Grimm '02 (School of Science, Health, and Criminal Justice).



**Hall of Fame Awards:** From left to right: Mike Powicki, WSC Athletic Director, Bob and Deb Ensz (Contributors), Mara Hjelle-Bischoff '11 (Athlete, Basketball), Sara Wells-Bents '15 (Athlete, Track and Field), Frederick Bruno '10 (Athlete, Football), Logan Masters '10 (Athlete, Football), Dr. Marysz Rames, WSC President. Not pictured: Laura Dolezal-Klutman '09 (Athlete, Volleyball).

## New Endowed Scholarships and Civic Engagement Award Presentations



Two new endowed scholarships started by **Dr. Ron Holt '89** were presented to their namesakes during Homecoming. The Dr. Ron Holt Civic Engagement Award Reception was held Sept. 29. The inaugural alumni award recipient was **Dean Jacobs '86**. Holt surprised Jacobs with an endowed scholarship started in his name, the Dean Jacobs Endowed Scholarship. Jacobs graduated from Wayne State College with a degree in biology and a minor in art education. After working in corporate America, Jacobs left to pursue a dream to travel around the world and to understand the world we share. Jacobs brings his knowledge and experiences of the beauty of the world to children and adults everywhere. He leaves his audiences inspired and empowered to make this world a better place. Holt also presented an endowed scholarship in honor of **Dr. Marysz Rames**, President of Wayne State College. The surprise announcement was made at the end of the scholarship launch ceremony in the Willow Bowl.



*Dr. Richard Collings, former WSC president, enjoyed getting to know students by making it a point to dine with them in the WSC cafeteria each week.*

**D**r. Richard James Collings of Morganton, N.C., died Nov. 2. He was born Nov. 11, 1946, in Owensboro, Ky. Collings was the 11th president of Wayne State College, serving from 2004 to 2010.

Collings held a bachelor's degree in international studies from the University of Louisville and, like so many Wayne State students, was the first in his family to attend college. He earned a master's degree in Latin American studies and a Ph.D. in political science, both from Tulane University. He served stateside in the United States Army during the Vietnam War.

The Wayne State website notes in its history section that Collings said he felt right at home when he and his wife, Marilyn, were on campus. Marilyn was a well-loved member of the Wayne State family and active in many organizations in the city of Wayne.

"I was the first person in my family to get a bachelor's degree, let alone two graduate degrees, so I can relate to the students at Wayne State, many of whom are first-generation college students," he said.

While president of Wayne State, Collings emphasized student learning built on a foundation conducive to teaching and learning. His second priority was to connect with place-bound adults in the community for undergraduate and graduate program needs. He also prioritized the economic outreach that Wayne State provides.

"The school must stimulate the local economy and welcome the community—both adults and students—to come to our

events and programs on campus," Collings said.

Collings was especially fond of the time he spent with students on the Wayne State campus. He taught an honors class for Neihardt Scholars and quipped that the students probably worked harder than they expected. Collings also made a point of dining with students in the WSC cafeteria each week, delighting in getting to know Wayne State students and hearing from them directly about why they chose the college and how their studies were going.

## **Dr. Richard James Collings, 11th President of Wayne State College**

Nov. 11, 1946, to Nov. 2, 2021



He was a regular fixture at Wayne State athletic events and rarely missed the opportunity to catch a cultural event on campus. Collings also spent considerable time fundraising for the Wayne State Foundation and noted in an interview conducted for the College's centennial in 2010 that one of his best days was when he secured his first \$1-million gift for Wayne State.

Collings spent his career serving smaller state colleges. Before serving as president of Wayne State, he was vice chancellor for academic affairs at Western Carolina University from 1996 until 2004, and dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and provost and vice president for academic affairs at Kutztown University from 1989 until 1996. He began his career as professor of political science and assistant provost at Southeast Missouri State University from 1977 until 1989.

According to his obituary, Collings was a caring husband, father, grandfather, brother, and educator. He loved God, served as a leader in his United Methodist churches, and was active in Rotary Club and other civic and volunteer activities. His dry sense of humor kept the family laughing and everyone who knew him benefitted from his kind and gentle manner.

Collings was the son of the late Milton H. Collings, Jr., and Jean Ladmore Collings and stepmother Gertrude Miller Collings. He was preceded in death by his brother, John Russell Collings, and his beloved wife of 46 years, Marilyn Linville Collings. He is survived by three children, Kelly Collings Hawkins (Seth) of Morganton, N.C., Michael Collings (Katherine) of Sylva, N.C., and Kirsten Collings (Mark Hays) of Washington, D.C., and 12 grandchildren: Ethan, Kai, and Noah Hawkins; Olivia, Walter, Sebastian, Martha, Isaiah, Victor, and Gabriel Collings; and Calliope and Daphne Collings-Hays. He is also survived by his sister, Adreana Anderson (Tom) of Louisville, Ky., and numerous beloved cousins, nieces, and nephews.

A celebration of life was held Nov. 21 at First Presbyterian Church-Morganton. Memorials can be directed to the Dr. Richard and Marilyn Collings Endowed Honors Scholarship at Wayne State College. Make a general donation online at [www.wsc.edu/donate](http://www.wsc.edu/donate) and add "Collings Scholarship" in the comment section, or send a donation to Wayne State Foundation, 1111 Main St, Wayne, NE, 68787.

Obituary appeared at Sossoman Funeral Home website: [www.sossomanfh.com/obituary/10084-dr-richard-james-collings](http://www.sossomanfh.com/obituary/10084-dr-richard-james-collings)



**Dr. Joe Blankenau**, professor of political science, and **Dr. Brian Hanson**, associate professor of political science, are guest editors for a special edition of *Great Plains Research* (31:2) titled “Exploring the Politics and Policy of the Great Plains.” Blankenau also authored an article for the special edition, “Comparing Health and Health Care from a Subnational Perspective: Saskatchewan and Nebraska.” **1 2**

**Dr. David Bohnert**, professor of music, was named Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities beginning Oct. 1. His last day as Director of Bands at WSC was Nov. 6. The Music Department presented a gift to Bohnert that day during a special halftime performance at the football game. **3**

**Drs. Doug Christensen** and **Shawn Percy**, professors of biology, and **Dr. Danielle Peekenschneider**, associate professor of biology, secured funding through the NE-INBRE grant (funded by the National Institute of Health) for the purchase of a BD flow cytometer. This instrument allows our students to expand research opportunities that include detection of very specific proteins on the surface of cells. It is being used in student-driven research in areas of cancer research and vaccine technology. Christensen and Percy have been involved with this grant for two decades and have provided dozens of students the opportunity to obtain high quality undergraduate research experiences. Many of these students are now Ph.D.’s at academic and research institutions throughout the country. **4 5 6**

**Francine Fox**, associate professor of art, will be providing illustrations for published research by Dr. David Roubik of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI). Roubik specializes in orchid bees and is a leading authority in his area. The research and artwork are currently planned to be published in the STRI’s Annual Research Review Book, and additional publications using Fox’s artwork are planned for the future. **7**

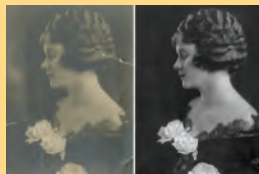
**Dr. Michael Keibler**, Executive Director of Cooperative Education and Industry Liaison, and **Dr. Trish Kolterman**, assistant professor of business, accompanied 13 Growing Together Career Scholars to the Collegiate Entrepreneurs’ Organization Global Conference in Tampa, Fla. Students attended keynote presentations by nationally known entrepreneurs and networked with 500 students from across the nation. The students participated in several activities to develop team-building and decision-making skills. Networking with faculty advisors and business leaders, Keibler and Kolterman promoted the Growing Together program and invited influential Fortune 500 executives to visit Wayne State College. **8**

**Dr. Brian Kufner**, associate professor of business, earned an HR Management and Analytics: Unlock the Value of Human Capital certificate through The Wharton School in November 2020. **9**

**Dr. Pat Lutt**, professor of business, and **Dr. Lindsay McLaughlin**, assistant professor of business, undertook self-study modules and the exam on Google Analytics during the summer of 2021. Lutt and McLaughlin are now Google Analytics Individual Qualification Certified by Google. Marketing with Social Media and Marketing Analytics will be added to the curriculum beginning Fall 2022. Only 2 percent and 15 percent of Business School Marketing Programs respectively require these classes as part of their marketing program (Langan R, Cowley S, Nguyen C. The State of Digital Marketing in Academia: An Examination of Marketing Curriculum’s Response to Digital Disruption. *Journal of Marketing Education*. 2019;41(1):32-46. doi:10.1177/0273475318823849).

McLaughlin was selected to attend the Gallup Global Strengths Coach Conference. This conference is a vital part in the preparation of becoming a globally certified Gallup Strengths Coach. Upon completion of the exam and coaching evaluations from clients, McLaughlin will be officially certified. **10 11**





13



14



15



16

**Dr. Christian Legler**, assistant professor of education, presented “A Self-Study of the Dual Credit Liaison Role” at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Annual Meeting in February. Additionally, his manuscript “Supporting STEM Teachers through Online Induction: An E-Mentor’s Exploration in Cyberspace” was recently published in the Journal of STEM Teacher Education. **12**

On Oct. 1-3, **Dr. Chuck Parker**, professor of economics and faculty athletics representative, participated with 16 other renowned faculty experts in the NCAA Division II FAR Fellows Institute at the NCAA Headquarters in Indianapolis. The purpose was to develop an enhanced understanding of the roles and critical functions of a Division II Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR). Presentations and discussions covered leadership and collaboration skills, the role of the FAR in strategic communications among different campus constituencies, and protection of student welfare, with a special emphasis on themes of academic and athletic success, mental health and well-being, and inclusion.

**Joshua Piersanti**, professor of art, and freshmen graphic design students restored historical photographs of the City of Wayne for the Wayne Historical Society in Spring 2021.

Piersanti and sophomore graphic design students also designed visitor signs for the John G. Neihardt State Historic Site as a service-learning project. The new signs make the site more visible and accessible, while clearly directing visitors to each of the site’s areas of interest. Piersanti and his students received the John G. Neihardt Foundation’s Marie Vogt Volunteer Appreciation Award, the first recipients of the award, for the sign project. The award was accepted by Lisa Nelson, the director of WSC Service-Learning. **13**

**Dr. Jason Price**, associate professor of Earth science, currently has a paper in review with the journal Quaternary Research titled, “Climatic controls on phosphorus concentrations in The Loch, Loch Vale Watershed, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado,

USA, since the last glacial maximum.” This paper is co-authored with WSC students Mackenzie Eskey and Edward Johnson ’20. Research in Rocky Mountain National Park continues with students Eskey, Jordan Booth, and Zachary Spieler. Price has also led the Department of Physical Sciences and Mathematics’ procurement of an X-ray diffractometer (XRD), which is a research instrument used to measure the spacing of planes of atoms in solid chemical compounds. The XRD will be used for both teaching and research in the physical and forensic sciences. **14**

**Dr. Ben Vilkas**, ssistant professor of education, and **Dr. Sara Walsh**, associate professor of education, presented at the annual National Co-Teaching Conference. Their presentation, Supporting Social-Emotional Learning in Co-Teaching, focused on ways that K-12 teachers can utilize the co-teaching model effectively to benefit their students. Vilkas and Walsh provide free training and support to all local teachers that commit to utilize the co-teaching model when hosting a WSC student during his or her clinical practice experience. **15 16**

Vilkas also presented at the annual MIDTESOL conference. In his presentation, Graphic Novels: A Super Strategy, he summarized current research on utilizing graphic novels with K-12 students and focused on how this popular genre can be used for students that are learning English as a Second Language. Next year, Vilkas will serve MIDTESOL as the program chair for the MIDTESOL conference to be held in Kansas City, Mo. MIDTESOL (Mid-America Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) is an organization that strives to support the endeavors of all who teach English in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska to people whose native language is a language other than English.

Assistant professor of communication arts **Dr. Michael White’s** feature film “To Live Again” earned him the title of Best Iowa Film Maker Award at the Spring Field Caldonia (Minnesota) Film Festival. The feature also won five Iowa Motion Picture Awards, including the Award of Excellence for Best Feature. White’s short film “A Day with Lily” won three IMPA awards, including the Award of Achievement for Best Screenplay. Both films are continuing their festival tours. “To Live Again” is now available on major streaming platforms. **17**

**Dr. Deborah Whitt**, professor of communication arts, was nominated and appointed to serve a two-year term on Senator Ben Sasse’s Academy Nominations Advisory Board. The advisory board assists Sasse in evaluating and identifying the best qualified Nebraska students to receive a congressional nomination to one of the U.S. Service Academies. **18**



17



18





## WSC VOLLEYBALL

Overall record: 22-8  
NSIC record: 14-6 (4th place)

### All-NSIC Team

Taya Beller – First Team      Kelsie Cada – Second Team  
Maggie Brahmer – First Team      Rachel Walker – Second Team

### Elite 18 Award (Top Scholar-Athlete at an NSIC Championship)

Lauren Jacobsen

### Wildcat Honors:

Rachel Walker – NSIC Setter of the Week (Sept. 13 and Oct. 11)  
Maggie Brahmer – NSIC Offensive Player of the Week (Oct. 4)  
Taya Beller – NSIC Defensive Player of the Week (Sept. 27)

### NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence (3.60 GPA or higher)

Lauren Jacobsen, senior      Jordan McCormick, sophomore  
Jessie Brandl, sophomore      Rachel Walker, sophomore  
Kelsie Cada, sophomore      Taya Beller, redshirt freshman  
Elly Larson, sophomore

### NSIC All-Academic Team (3.20 – 3.59 GPA)

Maggie Brahmer – redshirt freshman



Taya Beller

## CROSS COUNTRY

### NSIC Conference Championship Results

Men – 11th place | Women – 12th place

### Top Wildcat Finishers

Will McGonigal, junior (top WSC runner at first three events)  
Brock Hegarty, senior (top WSC runner at two events)  
Brandon Mundorf, sophomore (top WSC runner at NCAA Regional)  
Allie Rosener, senior (top WSC runner at all six events)

### NSIC Outstanding Senior Award Winner

Bryce Holcomb

### Wildcat Honors

Will McGonigal – NSIC Men's Cross Country Athlete of the Week (Sept. 21)

### NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence (3.60 GPA or higher)

Brock Hegarty, senior      Amanda Mote, senior  
Nathan Hiemer, senior      Allie Rosener, senior  
Bryce Holcomb, senior      Andrea Torres, senior  
Marin Jetensky, senior

### NSIC All-Academic Team (3.20 – 3.59 GPA)

Will McGonigal, junior



Brock Hegarty



Bryce Holcomb



Allie Rosener

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

Overall record: 6-8-4  
NSIC record: 6-6-3 (9th place)

### All-NSIC Team

Megan Phillips – Second Team  
Chloe Schlines – Second Team

### NSIC Goalkeeper of the Week (Sept. 13)

Katherine Hageman

### NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence (3.60 GPA or higher)

Madison Craig, senior  
Megan Phillips, senior  
Brooke Worrel, senior  
Chloe Schlines, junior  
Regan Ott, junior  
Tori Solley, junior

### NSIC All-Academic Team (3.20 – 3.59 GPA)

Madison Kemp, senior  
Payton Haliburton, junior  
Jace Poelstra, junior



Megan Phillips



Chloe Schlines

## FOOTBALL

Overall record: 7-4

**NSIC South Division record:** 3-3 (4th place)

First seven-win season for WSC football since 2011

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

Nick Bohn – NSIC Offensive Newcomer of the Year

Alex Powders – NSIC South Division All-Conference

First Team Special Teams

Nick Bohn – NSIC South Division All-Conference

Second Team Offense

Louis Gray – NSIC South Division All-Conference

Second Team Offense

Taurean Grady – NSIC South Division All-Conference

Second Team Offense

J'Von France – NSIC South Division All-Conference

Second Team Defense

Alex Kowalczyk – NSIC South Division All-Conference

Second Team Defense

Ryan Parker – NSIC South Division All-Conference

Second Team Defense

Kevin Ransom – NSIC South Division All-Conference

Second Team Defense

### CoSIDA Academic All-District Super Region 4 First Team

Nick Gray

### Wildcat Honors

Nicholas Joynt – NSIC Defensive Player of the Week (Oct. 25)

Alex Kowalczyk – NSIC Defensive Player of the Week (Oct. 11)

Alex Powders – NSIC Special Teams Player of the Week (Sept. 27)



**Nick Bohn**

### NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence (3.60 GPA or higher)

Austin Coffman, senior

Grayson Garey, junior

Alex Lindsay, senior

Ryan Kennedy, junior

Alex Thramer, senior

Alex Powders, junior

Nick Gray, senior

### NSIC All-Academic Team (3.20 – 3.59 GPA)

Kalei Aukai, senior

Cade Jochum, sophomore

Isaac Schafbuch, senior

David Kunes, sophomore

Mason Lee, junior

Jonathan Owens, sophomore

Caleb Brouse, sophomore

Jalen Robinson, sophomore

Carter Church, sophomore

Noah Scott, sophomore

Casey Hutchings, sophomore

Tysen White, sophomore



**Jazmine Taylor**

## WOMEN'S GOLF *Fall season*

1st place at Nebraska Intercollegiate Meet at Norfolk Country Club

3rd place at Concordia-St. Paul Golden Bear Classic

3rd place at SMSU Mustang Invitational

**Team has broken the school record for 18-hole round five times.**

**Individual school record of 78 was broken eight times in the fall.**

Sophomore Jazmine Taylor

• New school record 73 at Nebraska Intercollegiate Invite (Oct. 8)

• Tied school record 73 at Midwest Classic in Missouri (Oct. 18)

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



## Frevert '85 Reminisces on Opportunity to Chase Farming Dream

All of his life, Brett Frevert '85 dreamed of one thing: farming. When he turned 16, that opportunity came.

Frevert grew up southeast of Wayne, and one day in 1979 he saw an ad in the Morning Shopper, placed there by Don and Barb Pedersen, whose farm was located just four miles from Frevert's home. (The Pedersens are also the parents of Randy Pedersen '71.) Frevert visited the Pedersen farm, and his job interview with Don went something like this:

"I'd like to work for you."

"Have you ever cultivated corn?"

"No, sorry," Frevert answered, disappointed, thinking his chance was gone.

"That's okay, you'll learn!"

Frevert's reaction? "I was on cloud nine!" he said. "I was going to realize my lifelong dream of farming, and not just farming, but farming for Don Pedersen, one of Wayne County's biggest, best farmers! Holy smokes, jackpot!"

As the weather warmed up, fieldwork started, and Frevert worked for the Pedersens for seven years. He learned to grow corn and beans, stack hay, and work very hard. His payment was \$2.75 per hour, 60 hours per week.

Frevert then attended Chadron State College from 1981 to 1983, encouraged by the Pedersens. He left CSC in 1983 to expand his own farm operations, continue working with the Pedersens, and work in a local bookkeeping/tax prep firm in Wayne during the winter.

He then decided to complete his business degree in accounting through Wayne State College, graduating in 1985.

Unfortunately, the 1980s saw an ag crisis, and Frevert realized his time farming would soon come to an end.

"The banker said 'no more – use your accounting degree!'" Frevert said.

That banker, Galen Wiser '75, knew Frevert could be successful in other areas and encouraged him to persevere in a direction other than farming.

"I could always see that Brent had great potential. His intellect just stood out," said Wiser. "I felt he also had some entrepreneurial skills he could develop that would carry him beyond his farming operation."

So, Frevert took his advice and pursued a financial career.

"I was lucky. Blessed. With the money Barb paid me every Saturday, combined with the funds from selling my corn, beans, hogs, and cattle, I could pay the bank note and buy two suits to start at Touche Ross [an accounting firm] in January 1986."

The Pedersens also decided it was enough for them and retired in the late 80s, though Randy says his parents continued working, his dad for a local farmer, for about 15 years after.

Following a CPA career and positions in the corporate world, Frevert launched CFO Systems, a nationwide firm that helps companies grow, in October 2004.

"We work with nearly any industry, but my favorite, of course, continues to be the ag space," Frevert said. "I work with ethanol plants, cattle feeders, commodity brokers, and aerial applicators. Good businesses. Good people. Salt-of-the-earth American entrepreneurs. People who know how to build a multi-million dollar company from scratch, on a gravel road. People who hire people who have never cultivated corn, but are welcomed with a similar 'That's okay, you'll learn!'"

*In 2021, Frevert started a scholarship in memory of the Pedersens, the Donald H. and Barbara Jo Pedersen Ag Scholarship, to give back and provide opportunities for students like him for years to come. "They taught me a lot," Frevert says of the Pedersens. "A lot about life, a lot about work, a lot about family, a lot about 'give the kid a chance, he'll learn!'"*

*"They taught me a lot. A lot about life, a lot about work, a lot about family, a lot about 'give the kid a chance, he'll learn!'"*

- Brett Frevert '85



Donald H. and Barbara Jo Pedersen

## 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 more. We hope you are enjoying our e-newsletter, and we welcome ideas and submissions.

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).

**Alumni Band Reunion**

Band alumni gathered for a reunion and halftime performance during the home football game during WSC Family Day on Sept. 18. The Wayne State Alumni Office plans to make this an annual tradition each year on Family Day.



**Wildcat Football Reunion**

Football alumni gathered for a reunion in the Ernest and Lyla Swanson Club Room on Nov. 5. Attendees were: (front row) Don Koenig '66, Bart Emanuel '82, Ken Nadrchal '75, Kirk Gardner, Bill Lambrecht '72, Dennis Danielson '85, Darrin Barner '91, and Coach John McMenamin; (back row) Dean Ott '75, Gary Cameron '61, BJ Lambrecht '11, Nick Lambrecht '13, Kevin Armstrong '99, John Hughes '75, James Scott '94, Cory Reeder '94, Joel Osborne '09, Scott Mayer '89, Jeff Wagner '90, Paul Dean '92, Andrew Spanjers '07, and Regg Swanson '75.

**Wrestling Reunion**

Approximately 70 wrestling alumni, friends, and family gathered for a reunion and banquet in the Frey Conference Suite on Oct. 24. Pictured are organizers of the event, including: (left to right, standing) Craig Hellwege '76, Jim Meyer '75, Fred Spale '75, Mike Riedmann '76, Greg Vander Weil '79, MSE '82, Paul Sok '77, and Mike Borer; and Jerry Mundil (seated).





## PHONATHON 2022

Wayne State College students and student managers are excited to begin the Wayne State Foundation's 2022 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 was 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 begins Jan. 19.

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

*2022 Phonathon student managers: (front row, from left to right) Ashleigh AVECILLA, Brooke Young, and Naudia Larsen; (back row, from left to right) Regan Ott and Cory Bugiel.*

## Employee Campaign 2021

The Wayne State Foundation hosted a celebratory reception Nov. 12 for its WSC Employee Campaign on the stage in Rice Auditorium while the Wildcat volleyball team took on St. Cloud State. The Employee Campaign is a fundraising initiative on campus that encourages employees to give back to Wayne State. Thank you to all WSC employees who give back to WSC!



## Neihardt Conference Hosted at WSC

A conference honoring John G. Neihardt, titled "Youth Remembered, 1881-1901," was held at WSC on Sept. 20-21, hosted by Wayne State College and Humanities Nebraska. The conference featured a panel discussion, archival exhibit, a book sale, Chamber Coffee, presentation by Dr. Meena Dalal, walking tour of historic downtown Wayne, and a Native American dance performance. Pictured, from left: Dalal, Dr. Joseph Weixelman, and Nancy Gillis, who served as panelists for the conference. Dalal was the organizer of the conference.



*Clockwise from front: WSC women's golf coach Joey Baldwin, Liz Sharer, Lanie Severson, Melissa Eischeid, Andrea McMenamin, Kari Patefield, WSC alumni director Amber Sperry, and Natalie Endicott (center).*

## Women's Wildcat Open Golf Tournament 2021

The inaugural Women's Wildcat Open Golf Tournament was held July 30. The event hosted 80 women with a variety of fun games located along the course and a dinner afterwards. All proceeds went to support Wayne State College student-athlete scholarships. The tournament was a huge hit and plans are already underway for next summer.

*Following a successful career of pro boxing, DaVarryl Williamson, a 1993 graduate of Wayne State College, now runs TOS Boxing Gym in Englewood, Colo., and will be inducted into his home state's sports Hall of Fame in May.*



## DaVarryl Williamson '93 to be Inducted into Colorado Sports Hall of Fame

Pro boxer and Wayne State College graduate DaVarryl J. Williamson '93 is set to be inducted into the 2022 Colorado Sports Hall of Fame on May 4. Williamson graduated from Wayne State with a bachelor of science degree in recreation and a minor in coaching.

While at Wayne State, Williamson was known across the campus as "JU-JU." Williamson was very active in college. He played football and basketball and was a member of the Yell Squad (cheer team). He appeared as the Wildcat mascot Willy and acted in theater productions as the Generous Genie in "Aladdin" and Card Soldier in "Alice in Wonderland." He served as Vice President of the Minority Student Association (MSA), played in a wide variety of intramural activities with dormmates from Morey Hall, and served as the emcee at Riley's Night Club, hosting numerous "Eric & JU-JU" bashes and winning the lip sync competitions with songs like "Calendar Girl" and Sinead O'Conner's "Nothing Compares to JU."

Williamson was born in Washington D.C. at a time of civil unrest after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Williamson's mother Constance was suffering from drug addiction and his father Willie was incarcerated at the time of his birth. Williamson was placed in foster care for nearly a decade and attended numerous schools, including six elementary, two middle, and one high school. An unexpected new connection with his reformed father reshaped Williamson's life, he says, igniting a love of sports and a sense of consistency, discipline, and a true understanding of mankind and bravery. This emotional growth allowed for his athletic abilities and instinct to emerge, reflects Williamson.

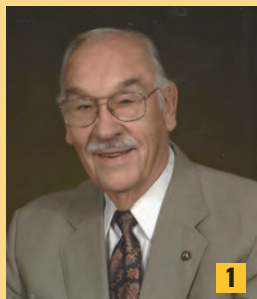
Upon receiving his degree from Wayne State College, Williamson had an opportunity to try out for the Indianapolis Colts football team. He used boxing as conditioning to prepare for the tryout. This training sparked an interest in amateur boxing, which would shortly find Williamson with an offer from Northern Michigan University USOC Olympic Training Team. Through rigorous training and discipline and studying the sport, Williamson became a part of the U.S. National Boxing Team and was the only heavyweight

national champion winning in 1996, 1997, and 1998. Williamson ended his six-year amateur career in 2000 as a 10-time national champion with a record of 120 wins out of 137 bouts, with 103 wins by knockout. He fought his first professional fight in his hometown of Englewood, Colo. As a pro boxer, Williamson won 27 of 35 bouts, with 23 by knockout. After Williamson's last fight in 2014, he was ready to pivot again and pursue what he says is his life's true calling – to be a teacher and mentor.

Williamson established Englewood's Touch of Sleep (TOS) Boxing Gym in 2010 with a local entrepreneur, Steve "Kid America" Garland, and Andy "Big Sexy" Klein. In 2015, Williamson started Touchstone Youth Boxing Program along with Matt "Google" Palermo, who is now the principal of Charles Hay Elementary School in Englewood. The program focuses on constructive encouragement with an emphasis on education, fitness, self-worth, and community. Only nine children participated in the pilot year partnering with Englewood Middle School, but today hundreds of children have been through the program. TYP encourages healthy living, boosting confidence, developing skills in and out of the ring, and participants are also offered homework and tutoring support.

In addition to the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame, Williamson has numerous championships, honors, and accolades, including the 2015 Colorado Golden Gloves Hall of Fame, the USOC Athlete of the Month for October 1998, the 2017 Englewood Schools Outstanding Volunteer, Martin Luther Legacy Award, 2018-2019 Charles Hay World School Volunteer Award, City of Englewood Citizen of the Year Award nomination, and a top 20 finalist for the National Civic League's All America City Award. Williamson says the recognitions he values above all others are for contributions to his community and his dedication to education.

Williamson is currently working toward becoming an adjunct professor at Wayne State College to teach the history of boxing. Williamson also has a book scheduled to be released in late 2022.



1



2



3



4



5

**1952** After graduation, **Howard Borchard** joined the army during the Korean War. In 1954, he began a 19-year career with the Hartley, Iowa, school system as a teacher, principal, and superintendent. Borchard followed that career with 30 years as the owner of Hartley Electric in Hartley. Borchard says, "I have the receipt for my first semester in 1949, and it shows tuition was \$1.50 per hour. We rented our books. There was a \$5 charge if you were from out of state. Total cost \$29. Next spring (2022) is the 70th anniversary for the class of 1952. As the saying goes, 'Time flies when you're having fun.'" Borchard and his wife of 67 years, Carol, reside at their home in Spirit Lake, Iowa, during the summer. **1**

**1968** **Captain Edwin (Ed) Kelly** and his wife Sue are independent explorers who are the first people in world history to complete both the Great Loop of America and the Great Loop of Europe - circling the oceans, seas, and rivers around Europe and eastern North America on their own catamaran Angel Louise. Since the COVID pandemic, they have been involved in a project called Left Turns Around America, involving a circle to all four corners of the lower 48 states. Their travels are currently in an all-weather vehicle. They have been referred to as "The Exploring Nomads" in print and have explored in 49 countries on five continents. Kelly is still professionally active as a member of the Iowa State Bar Association, a former senior federal prosecutor, and a former United States Senate staffer. **2**

**1970** **Frieda Dietrich** is a university counselor for grades 11 and 12 at the International School of Amsterdam in the Netherlands beginning this fall, her third time working with them. In the past year, Dietrich has been doing short contract work at international schools, most recently in Bangkok and Thailand. Before that, she worked in Cairo, Singapore, and Delhi. Dietrich has spent almost 25 years working outside the U.S. but still calls Greeley, Colo., home. **3**

**1970** **Dr. Vance D. Wolverton** retired from Northern Kentucky University where he was a professor of music. Wolverton is a chair emeritus for the Department of Music at California State University in Fullerton, Calif. He and his wife Peggy currently reside at Immanuel Lakeside Village in Omaha. **4**

**1973** **Peggy (Howe) Wolverton** recently retired from Northern Kentucky where she was an adjunct professor of music education for six years, teaching Music for the Elementary Classroom Teacher, as well as Elementary Music Methods for music majors. Wolverton also taught private piano in her home and served as substitute organist in northern Kentucky and Cincinnati, Ohio, churches. She became the full-time organist at the Covenant-First Presbyterian Church in downtown Cincinnati for four and a half years, playing the massive Austin pipe organ built in 1915. Wolverton played the instrument's 100th anniversary rededication recital and initiated the church's organ scholar program, mentoring graduate students in pipe organ from the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music. **5**

**1975** **Beverly (Kubik) Evans** retired after 40 years of teaching music in Nebraska, South Dakota, and Iowa. **6**

**1977** **Steven Borer** is currently working part-time for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Athletics Department in event services. Steve retired from the public school system where he was an educator, coach, administrator, and activities director. **7**

A group of eight Kappa Delta Gamma sorority sisters reunited for several days in Hilton Head Island, S.C., in August. Six lived in the big red Kappa house, and all were very active members, as well as active on campus. Wearing pink t-shirts reminiscent of those worn in the 1970s during a sunset cruise are: **Lana Peterson-Pressler '77**, Lincoln; **Mary Cerny Smith '77**, Lexington; **Ronell Dodd Nemecek '76**, Lincoln; **Lyn Timperley Kempcke '77**, Blair; **Shelley Patterson Anderson '76**, Bluffton, S.C.; **Jan Sherry Krein '76**, Lincoln; **Sharon Runkle VerderMeer '77**, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; and **Jean Lambrecht Hellwege '77**, full-time RV-er. **8**



6



7



8



**1978** **David and Joelene (Gustafson) Carper '80** met at WSC, married in 1979, taught and coached, and have recently retired from teaching. Dave taught industrial technology and coached for 42 years, and Joelene taught business education for 39 years. They have three children and eight grandchildren. **9**

**Denise Holmes** took early retirement from her full-time job to become a full-time caregiver for her mother. She still has her alteration and cleaning businesses, and they are thriving. Holmes states, "I finished refurbishing my 1940s house, and I had so much fun that now I'm working on my 1912 house." In her spare time, Holmes plays darts, makes quilts, and does volunteer work.

**1986** **Rich Bisaccia** was named interim head coach of the Las Vegas Raiders on Oct. 11. This is his fourth season with the Raiders, previously serving as their special teams coordinator, and his 20th season as an NFL coach. Bisaccia began his coaching career in 1983 at Wayne State College, coaching defensive backs and special teams. He switched to offensive coach in 1984, tutoring quarterbacks and wide receivers for the next four seasons (1984-1987). He holds a bachelor of science degree in PK-12 health and physical education from WSC.

**James Zanker** was a full-time church musician from 1986 to 1999. Zanker states, "My education at Wayne State College was absolutely crucial to me being successful, and I did enjoy a lot of success." He is still involved with sacred church music and owns and runs the professional music group "The Unclouded Day Vocal Ensemble." In 1999, Zanker changed primary careers and started a second career in insurance sales, which he has really enjoyed. "I believe the knowledge, the discipline, and the life skills I learned while at Wayne State have been monumental benefits to me in this role," says Zanker.

**1988** **Byron Bonsall** has been promoted to director of business development at Fremont Hospital, the largest behavioral health facility in the Bay Area of California.

**Julia "Julie" Paluka** was awarded the 2021 REME Award for Certified Property Manager of the Year at the IREM Global Summit in Las Vegas

on Oct. 14. The REME (Real Estate Management Excellence) Awards recognize and celebrate the achievements of the essential work that real estate managers and firms do each day. IREM (Institute of Real Estate Management) is an international real estate association of more than 20,000 members. The CPM of the Year Award is its highest individual honor. **11**

**1989** **Kristin (Windeshausen) Henkenius** is currently a school counselor at Fremont Public School in Fremont. **12**

**1993** **Margo Sandahl** is an early childhood educator / pre-K special education educator at Stamford Public School, in Stamford, Conn. **13**

**1994** **Gregory Bergman** is currently serving as the director of bands at Newton High School in Newton, Kan. **14**

**1996** **James Reese** is an associate professor of English and director of the Great Plains Writers' Tour at Mount Marty University in Yankton, S.D. Reese's poetry and prose have been widely published, and he has performed readings at venues throughout the country, including the Library of Congress and San Quentin Prison. Reese's awards include a first place Allen Ginsberg Poetry Award, a Distinguished Achievement Award from Mount Marty University, and a Distinguished Public Service Award in recognition of his contributions to the Education Department at Federal Prison Camp Yankton. His books include "These Trespasses," "Ghost on 3rd," and "Really Happy!" A fourth collection, "Dancing Room Only," is forthcoming by New York Quarterly Books. His first nonfiction book, "Bone Chalk," was published by Stephen F. Austin State University Press. **15**

**2002** **Bobbie (Nissen) DePaulo** and her husband, David, announced the birth of their daughter, Lexi Sue, on March 12, 2021. She is welcomed home by her brother Luca, 3. The family resides in El Mirage, Ariz. **16**

**Holly (Amen) Koob** is currently employed at NoRedInk in Tucson, Ariz., as the manager of partnerships. **17**







18



19



20



21



22

**Heather (Buryanek) Meyers** is currently a fiscal technician with the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors in Enola, Pa. **18**

**2003 Barrett McGinn** MSE, is currently serving as the athletic director at Des Moines Area Community College and was named the 2021 NJCAA Athletic Director of the Year. This award is given to a National Junior College Athletic Association athletic director who best exemplifies the overall purpose of leading their institution, athletic department, student-athletes, and community through positive initiatives and contributions. McGinn started at DMACC in 2006 as an assistant men's basketball coach and has been serving

as the director of athletics since 2016. McGinn states, "My time at Wayne State as a graduate assistant men's basketball coach was one of the best periods in my life, and I was very blessed to have had great students, faculty, and staff at WSC to help me obtain my master's degree and grow as a basketball coach and as a person. I will always cherish my time in Wayne." **19**

**2005 Jon Allemang** is a high school science teacher at Westside Community Schools in Omaha. Allemang teaches chemistry and Earth and space science along with coaching the quiz bowl team. **20**

**2007 Jamie (Stech) Halverson** is an associate professor of general education at Clarkson College in Omaha, where she teaches intercultural communication and global health courses. **21**

**2011 Christy Jessen** is currently working for Opportunities Unlimited in Sioux City, Iowa, as a direct care professional. **22**

**2012 Andrea (Rohde) Bertino** married Tim Bertino '10 in May 2012. They currently live in Omaha and have three daughters and one son. She is currently a stay-at-home mom while Tim works for Nebraska Methodist Health Systems. **23**

**2016 Carrie (Cravens) Boteo** recently graduated with a master's degree in technology for education from the University of South Dakota. She married Josue Boteo on Aug. 28. **24**

**Katlyn (Ahrens) Gentrup** owns The Little Green Treehouse Daycare at her home in West Point. Pictured are Katlyn and her family: husband, Kyle; and children, Carter, 9, Harper, 2, and Stetson, 1 month. **25**

**2017 Mason Schweizer** is a sports editor and radio broadcaster for The Daily Journal/STARadio in Kankakee, Ill. **26**

**Alexandria (Bartels) Torrez** married Ben Torrez on March 14, 2020. Alexandria passed the Nebraska bar exam in August and is practicing law in Omaha. **27**

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

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



Help us stay connected with our alumni.

Amber Sperry  
Director of Alumni Relations  
402-375-7370  
amsper1@wsc.edu



Share what's happening in your life!

Visit [www.wsc.edu/alumni-events](http://www.wsc.edu/alumni-events) to submit photos and news about weddings, babies, or other special events, or to notify us of changes in your name or address.



23



24



25



26



27



28



29



30



31



32

**2018 Lindsay Bruce** graduated from UNMC College of Pharmacy in May 2021 with her Doctorate of Pharmacy. She is currently working at the Nebraska Medicine Outpatient Pharmacy in Omaha. **28**

**Andrew Eaton** is currently the newscast director for KMTV 3 News Now in Omaha. KMTV is the CBS affiliate for western Iowa and eastern Nebraska.

**Nataliah Hopkins** is an occupational therapist at Liberty Commons Rehabilitation Center in Wilmington, N.C. **29**

**Jayme Krejci** is an attorney with Jacobsen Orr Lindstrom Holbrook, P.C., LLO, in Kearney. **30**

**Ryan Needham** majored in criminal justice and minored in coaching. Needham was hired by the South Dakota Highway Patrol and moved to Pierre, S.D., to complete the 13-week South Dakota Basic Law Enforcement Academy and the South Dakota Highway Patrol Academy. His Highway Patrol Class 64 graduated in April 2021 after 10 weeks of specialized academic training and 11 weeks of field training. After graduation, he was assigned to the Northern Plains Squad and stationed out of Belle Fourche, S.D. Needham is currently living in Spearfish, S.D., and patrolling the roads in the northwest part of the state to the Wyoming, Montana, and North Dakota borders. **31**

**2021 Morgan Chase** is a family support specialist with the Family Access Center in Sioux City, Iowa. **32**

## 'Chain Gang,' Including 2 WSC Alumni, Honored for Years of Service

During halftime of the Nov. 6 home football game vs. Sioux Falls, Wayne State athletics honored three people who served as the "chain gang" for 30 years at Wildcat home football games (1989-2019). **Tom Hagmann '74, Mic Daehnke '77**, and Joel Ankeny worked nearly every home football game at Wayne State along with numerous games at the NSIC Metrodome Classic in Minneapolis over the years.

Each was presented a commemorative ball and a Wayne State jacket along with a piece of chain to mark their years of service to Wayne State athletics.



## WSC ALUMNI & FRIENDS TOUR Rescheduled to Spring 2023 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

Eleanor L. (Gustafson) Weems '44, 99, San Antonio, Texas; May 1.  
 Donna F. (Broeker) Sydow Fredrick '47, 93, Grand Island; July 28.  
 Duane H. Dorr '49, 96, Page, Mich.; Sept. 2.  
 Harvey W. Holcomb '49, 95, Tacoma, Wash.; May 29.  
 Philomenia O. (Gesiriech) Pape '49, 94, Longwood, Fla.; July 12.  
 John E. Dier '50, 99, Holdrege; May 18.  
 Gayle J. (Thompson) Pearson '50, 93, Oakland; Oct. 13.  
 Jean M. (Rees) Watts '50, 90, Vermillion, S.D.; July 5.  
 Catherine 'Cathy' L. (Hauser) Wibbels '50, 91, Columbus; Sept. 19.  
 Helen M. (Kastrup) Hansen, '51, 88, Coleridge; Sept. 17.  
 Morland "Mac" G. McManigal '52, 91, Green Valley, Calif.; May 22.  
 Irene G. (Thomas) Payne '53, 86, Grand Island; June 20.  
 Sally M. (Palmer) King '54, 86, Tekamah; July 29.  
 Carole E. (Tuttle) Petersen '54, 86, Mankato, Minn.; July 16.  
 Norma (Peterson) Rickett '55, 85, Newcastle; April 6.  
 Dixie C. (Zanders) Benton '56, 85, Lincoln; June 13.  
 Marilyn J. Sudbeck '57, 84, Bremerton, Wash.; July 16.  
 Wayne D. Gersiriech '58, 91, Barstow, Calif.; July 21.  
 Henry "Hank" Alfrey '59, 84, Elkhorn; Oct. 8.  
 Harlow D. Dover Jr. '59, 89, Lincoln; Oct. 13.  
 Willis G. Howard '59, 97, Rapid City, S.D.; July 3.  
 Burton "Burt" St. John '59, 85, Sheridan, Wyo.; June 20.  
 Janis K. (Hall) Swanson '60, 79, Pender; Sept. 30.  
 Edwin L. Wooten '60, 82, Davenport, Iowa; Aug. 18.  
 Marlan J. Hill '61, 83, Sioux City, Iowa; Jan. 6, 2021.  
 Patricia C. "Patsy" Keitges Potter '61, 82, North Platte; Aug. 14.  
 Richard "Dick" A. Pound '61, 81, Jefferson, Iowa; Feb. 2, 2021.  
 John E. Bernthal '62, Lincoln; July 23.  
 Francis "Frank" J. Blankenau '62, 81, Lincoln; Oct. 22.  
 Stanley R. Schaulis '63, 80, Lincoln; Aug. 8.  
 Richard J. Mintken '67, 76, The Villages, Fla.; May 30.  
 Mark A. Tomes '67, 74, Aurora, Colo.; Nov. 2, 2020.  
 Monte R. Smith '68, 79, Brownsville, Texas; Aug. 17.  
 Roger L. Uecker '68, 75, Omaha; Sept. 23, 2020.  
 Sharilyn K. (Anderson) Lemke '69, 72, Osmond; April 29.  
 David N. Nordstrand '69, 79, Salinas (Las Palmas), Calif.; Sept. 19.  
 Laurine A. (Stokes) Bartling '70, 98, Lincoln; May 28.  
 James "Jim" G. Hornbeck '70, 73, Missouri Valley, Iowa; July 28.  
 Joan R. (Myers) Chilvers MSE '71, 93, Pierce; Dec. 22, 2020.  
 Russell A. Roether '71, 73, Milford; June 13.  
 William "Bill" E. Roth, MSE '71, 86, West Point; July 9.  
 Mary C. (Nygren) Morgan '73, 69, Cedar Rapids; Aug. 10.  
 Ronald (Ron) N. Hampton '74, 79, Norfolk; Oct. 16.  
 Dona (Dobb) Painter '74, 71, Hoskins; Sept. 21.  
 Larry L. Rabbass '74, 70, Fremont; July 21.  
 Malcolm "Mac" E. Thompson, Jr. '74, 70, Palm Springs, Fla.; May 22.  
 Albert J. Halls '80, Onancock, Va.; Jan. 4, 2021.  
 Dorothy H. (Carlson) Wallace, MSE '82, 90, Oakland; Sept. 26.

Marian (Maas) Wecker '82, 61, Chambers; Sept. 30.  
 Laura L. (Blenderman) Straight '83, 60, Wayne; May 21.  
 Mary J. Roemer '83, 60, Scribner; May 25.  
 Barbara J. (Whitehurst) Wittgou '84, 71, Stanton; Aug. 9.  
 Keriane Benschhoof '85, 58, Plainview; Feb. 12, 2021.  
 L.C. Liddell '86, 57, Kansas City, Mo.; July 17.  
 Gwen A. Score '86, 56, Columbus; May 1.  
 David L. Schindler '88, 74, Odell; July 2.  
 Kathleen A. "Kathy" (Gillilan) Frank '91, 76, Wausa; Aug. 28.  
 Marlene F. (Flege) Carpenter '94, 79, Chandler, Ariz.; Aug. 25.  
 Paulette L. (Walnofer) Anderson '95, 61, Rogers, Ark.; Aug. 29.  
 Karl Rasmussen '97, 47, Sioux City, Iowa; Sept. 24.  
 Thomas "Tom" A. Thomas '95, 77, West Point; Oct. 12.  
 Lynette M. (Miller) Larson '01, 69, Homer; May 18.

## FRIENDS WE WILL MISS:

Pearl J. (McReynolds) Abrahams, 88, West Point; July 31.  
 Lena (Inness) Braun, 98, Norfolk; Sept. 5.  
 Andrew Burroughs, 31, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Oct. 6. Burroughs began working at Wayne State in 2019. He was an adjunct faculty in the Counseling Department.  
 Mary Lou (Gartner) Butts, 88, O'Neill; Aug. 27.  
 Mabel F. (Petersen) Eilers, 97, Mesa, Ariz; April 23.  
 Marian M. (Roberg) Fisher, 90, Council Bluffs, Iowa; June 2.  
 Joan (Fuhrer) Green, 84, Burke, S.D.; July 27.  
 Arllys E. (Johnson) Hansen, 101, Stanton; Aug. 24.  
 Ardyce M. (Swanson) Johnson, 90, Laurel; Aug. 25.  
 Dr. Robert H. Lohrberg, 90, Lincoln; Aug. 5. Lohrberg was the director of housing/placement and the director of administrative services at Wayne State from 1981 until his retirement in 1995.  
 Elaine D. (Test) Menke, 91, Wayne; Sept. 8.  
 LaJeane (Miller) Marotz, 92, Winside; Sept. 27.  
 Dr. William R. Palmer, trustee, 72, Omaha; Aug. 5.  
 Lucille (Husband) Peterson, 95, Wayne; Dec. 3. Peterson served Wayne State College in a variety of part-time positions until becoming secretary to the president in June 1971. She held the position for 31 years, serving nine Wayne State presidents.  
 LaVera L. (Dallman) Roemhildt, 88, Norfolk; April 25. Roemhildt taught at Wayne State from 1968 until her retirement in 1995.  
 Nila (Cary) Schrunk, 84, Ewing; July 16.  
 Betty J. (Volquardsen) Stewart, 89, West Point; Sept. 19.  
 Jeanette F. (Pohlman) Weatherholt, 82, Stanton; April 26.

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



WAYNE STATE FOUNDATION  
1111 MAIN STREET  
WAYNE NE 68787  
[www.wsc.edu](http://www.wsc.edu)

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
ABPC

WSC Giving Day is a scholarship 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 scholarship funding, we can continue to offer a quality education that is affordable, accessible, and gives students a college experience that truly changes their lives. Every dollar of proceeds goes directly toward scholarships!

**Amber Sperry**  
Director of Alumni Relations  
[amperr1@wsc.edu](mailto:amperr1@wsc.edu)  
402-518-0271

**Megan Finn**  
Director of Athletic Development  
[mefinn1@wsc.edu](mailto:mefinn1@wsc.edu)  
402-369-0979

Visit [wsc.edu/givingday](http://wsc.edu/givingday)