

W WAYNE STATE COLLEGE

Magazine for Alumni and Friends • Summer 2022



Looking to the Future: **Strategic and Facility Plans**
Chart the Course for Wayne State College



03 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE DR. MARYSZ RAMES

Dr. Rames presents the Wayne State College Strategic Plan 2022-2028. This new plan supports the momentum of the college with a data-driven blueprint that will inspire students, strengthen communities, and serve our region.

09 SPRING 2021 COMMENCEMENT

Wayne State College celebrated spring commencement on May 7. Roger Steele '79 was awarded the Alumni Achievement Award; Dr. Mark Hammer was presented the State Nebraska Bank & Trust Teaching Excellence Award; and Dr. Paul Karr and Jeff Meyer were congratulated on their retirement, and recognized for their years teaching excellence.

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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

*As president, I am pleased to present to you, our alumni and friends, the Wayne State College Strategic Plan 2022-2028. This new plan supports the momentum of the college with a data-driven blueprint that will **inspire** students, **strengthen** communities, and **serve** our region.*



The plan advances strategic goals and initiatives that leverage the College's strengths, minimize weaknesses, and seize opportunities. Our goals are clear: improve retention and graduation rates, provide high-quality academic programs and campus facilities, support workforce and economic development in the region, maintain affordability and access, and manage resources for sustainability.

This ambitious strategic plan emerged from the work of the Wayne State College Strategic Planning Leadership Council. The council solicited campus stakeholder and community needs and evaluated WSC's competitive position while assessing the College's culture, processes, performance, systems, services, and programs in order to create a plan that includes strategic goals, initiatives, and key performance indicators (KPIs).

These strategic goals and initiatives are carefully aligned with the Nebraska State College System strategic plan and the College's strategic enrollment plan. Each goal consists of strategic initiatives linked with action steps, all of which are measured by a dynamic set of KPIs designed to constantly monitor progress. The strategic plan also calls for a midpoint review in the third year to assess progress and reallocate resources as needed.

Early in the process, internal and external stakeholders were committed to reviewing and updating the College's long-standing vision and mission. The council also agreed that a full expression of the College's core values would set the stage for establishing goals and initiatives that align with the College's identity. The new vision statement, mission statement, and core values precisely define our highest aspirations for the college, our commitment to the students we educate, and the guidance we have set for ourselves as we perform our important work.

I am proud to present the components of the College's new Strategic Plan. Together, we have built a path forward that incorporates the vision our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends have crafted while supporting the great people and programs that have defined Wayne State for generations. I am grateful for the feedback we received from so many of you early in this process and confident that this strategic direction represents your greatest hopes for the College and distinguishes Wayne State in the landscape of higher education.

INSPIRE. STRENGTHEN. SERVE.

INSPIRE. STRENGTHEN. SERVE.

A NEW VISION

The College adopted a vision statement that reflects the highest aspiration for WSC's place in higher education: "Wayne State creates an environment of rigorous teaching, active learning, and meaningful service that engages students on a path to transformational leadership."

A RENEWED MISSION

The College renewed its mission statement by considering the students it serves, WSC's responsibility to the communities that its students come from, and the College's role in the region: "Wayne State **inspires** students through access to affordable, high quality academic programs, personalized support services, and a culture committed to diversity, sustainability, and creativity. The College **strengthens** communities by engaging students in experiential learning and leadership opportunities. Wayne State **serves** the region through cultural opportunities, strategic partnerships, and innovative economic development programs." A new tagline emerged from the mission statement process that will serve as the shorthand statement for who we are and what we do: "**Inspire. Strengthen. Serve.**"

"Together, we have built a path forward that incorporates the vision our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends have for us while supporting the great people and programs that have defined Wayne State for generations." - President Marysz Rames



WAYNE STATE COLLEGE CORE VALUES

Wayne State has identified six Core Values that guide the creation and execution of WSC's strategic goals and initiatives. These core values encapsulate the fundamental beliefs of the college and form the foundation upon which Wayne State performs work and conducts itself. These values serve as a critically important component of the strategic planning process by ensuring the College considers its commitment to the attributes that have made us who we are today.

- **Culture and Community:** We celebrate a campus culture that exemplifies our mission and vision, serving the region through academics, arts, and athletics.
- **Diversity:** We create a supportive environment that engages each individual's unique contribution and empowers personal growth.
- **Engaged Learning:** We integrate classroom experience with practical application, supporting students to live their learning through co-curricular opportunities, internships, service, and research.
- **Innovation and Agility:** We boldly question conventional knowledge while building innovative solutions for tomorrow's challenges.
- **Partnership:** We collaborate with business, civic, and educational leaders to provide a broad range of learning opportunities for students.
- **Sustainability:** We embrace environmental sustainability by balancing the needs of the future with our daily stewardship of resources.

WAYNE STATE COLLEGE STRATEGIC GOALS

The College's strategic goals drive priorities, allocate resources, and guarantee Wayne State has the capabilities needed to meet expectations in and out of the classroom. Each of the strategic initiatives that support the goals are aligned with Wayne State's Core Values.

Goal 1: Student Success and Completion

Ensure all students have the necessary support to graduate.

Strategic Initiatives

- Enhance the educational experience for all students through curricular and co-curricular opportunities
(Core Values: Culture and Community, Engaged Learning)
- Recruit and retain students, faculty, and staff from underrepresented communities to align with regional demographics
(Core Values: Diversity, Partnerships)
- Implement Student Success Initiatives that drive degree completion
(Core Values: Diversity, Engaged Learning)
- Optimize Institutional Enrollment
(Core Values: Innovation and Agility, Partnerships)
- Ensure all facilities appropriately support student success, engagement, and learning
(Core Values: Engaged Learning, Culture and Community)

Goal 2: Institutional and Academic Quality

Deliver high-quality academic programs, support services, and co-curricular activities.

Strategic Initiatives

- Identify and assess the need for undergraduate and graduate academic programs to meet regional needs
(Core Values: Engaged Learning, Innovation and Agility)
- Improve delivery of all academic modalities and support services and determine areas for future growth
(Core Value: Innovation and Agility)
- Assess academic program accreditation
(Core Value: Innovation and Agility)
- Evaluate, create, and improve domestic and international opportunities for student cultural exchange
(Core Values: Diversity, Culture and Community)
- Ensure academic facilities appropriately support teaching and learning
(Core Values: Engaged Learning, Culture and Community)
- Implement an Enterprise Risk Management plan
(Core Value: Innovation and Agility)

Goal 3: Regional and Economic Impact

Serve as an incubator of ideas and catalyst for social and cultural enrichment as well as economic development.

Strategic Initiatives

- Identify and establish educational partnerships to facilitate career paths for students that meet regional needs
(Core Values: Innovation and Agility, Partnerships)
- Identify new and expand existing opportunities for experiential learning
(Core Values: Engaged Learning, Partnerships)
- Expand the arts, cultural, and athletic influence of the institution by hosting events throughout the region
(Core Values: Engaged Learning, Culture and Community)

Goal 4: Access and Affordability

Provide students with access to affordable undergraduate and graduate programs.

Strategic Initiatives

- Identify and deliver strategies for engaging and preparing underrepresented and/or economically disadvantaged students to earn a degree or certificate
(Core Values: Diversity, Engaged Learning)
- Increase funding for scholarships
(Core Values: Diversity, Engaged Learning)

Goal 5: Financial Sustainability

Effectively manage resources to secure Wayne State's long-term financial stability.

Strategic Initiatives

- Decrease campus use of non-renewable energy sources and enhance recycling efforts
(Core Values: Sustainability, Innovation and Agility)
- Increase external funding sources through federal, state, and private grants to support institutional initiatives
(Core Value: Innovation and Agility)
- Implement lifecycle funding for capital equipment and technology expenses
(Core Value: Innovation and Agility)





The Vision 2030 Facility Master Plan

Our new Facility Master Plan, which aligns with the College's new Strategic Plan, boasts the same measured approach to ensuring each facet of the academic, athletic, and residential experience meets the expectations of the Wayne State community.

In addition to the creation of the College's new strategic plan, Wayne State has developed the Facility Master Plan. A walk across the Wayne State College campus reveals the power of the campus master planning process. From the expanded soccer field and renovated Memorial Stadium and turfed football field to the Campus Commons, Pile Hall, Benthack Hall, Conn Library, Center for Applied Technology, Bowen Hall, the Student Center, and the Willow Bowl, the progress is hard to miss. The past 20 years of planning has delivered renovated academic, athletic, and living spaces designed to meet the needs that the Wayne State community identified as critical to student success.

The Vision 2030 Facility Master Plan aims for a similar high-impact, high-yield blueprint that will meet the needs of our current and future students, staff, and faculty. The new plan calls for significant renovations to Berry and Morey residence halls, Brandenburg Hall, Peterson Fine Arts Building, Rice Auditorium, and the Rec Center, along with improvements to the Carhart Science Building, Connell Hall, Gardner Hall, Hahn Administration Building, Humanities Building, Studio Arts Building, Conn Library, and the Student Center. The plan also calls for parking and circulation enhancements and a variety of standalone site improvement projects that will improve campus landscaping and lighting, enhance the outdoor experience, and improve drainage and irrigation.

Throughout our history, Wayne State has provided services and programs that enrich the lives of individuals and communities throughout the region. Most importantly, the College has provided access to quality and affordable higher education to students who otherwise might have lacked a pathway to a four-year degree. Our commitment to academics in this plan includes the complete renovation of Peterson Fine Arts Building

to ensure we have first-rate performance and practice spaces and Humanities Building work that will significantly improve students' academic experiences. Each of our academic buildings is slated for work that will refresh spaces and provide collaborative learning environments.

Along with a focus on academics, another of the major campus projects is the addition and renovation of the athletics and recreation complex. Additional athletics and recreation planning calls for increasing the number of outdoor residence hall recreation sites such as basketball and sand volleyball courts, turf and track replacement for Memorial Stadium, throwing venue improvements, conversion of the soccer field to multi-sport turf, synthetic turf fields for the baseball and softball fields, and improved accessibility and drainage at the intramural and practice fields.

The Vision 2030 Facility Master Plan also makes clear the need for improvements in the College's residence halls. Foremost in this planning is Berry Hall, which has been identified as the top priority among residence halls. The College is committed to either replacing or renovating Berry to provide suite-style living for students who wish to live on campus, which is detailed in the Residential Life Master Plan along with other recommendations for improvements to campus living.

This new campus master plan looks at the College's needs, current and future space utilization projections and recommendations, and future maintenance and capital investment strategies. The new plan also includes concurrent planning through the Housing Master Plan, Parking Master Plan, and the Athletics Master Plan, with each step of these processes guided by consultation with students, staff, faculty, alumni, and community members to identify priorities and opportunities.

Wayne State has a proven track record of envisioning the needs of the future through careful research, planning for the priorities that emerge from the process, then acting on those plans to bring community dreams to life. Our new Facility Master Plan, which aligns with the College's new Strategic Plan, boasts the same measured approach to ensuring each facet of the academic, athletic, and residential experience meets the expectations of the Wayne State community.

Wayne State College Extends Tuition Guarantee to Non-residents

Wayne State College has expanded its Tuition Guarantee Program to include new freshmen and transfer students from outside Nebraska, further enhancing opportunities for students from across the region to complete their degrees. The program, which was originally launched in 2020 for Nebraska residents, recognizes the need for a quality, affordable education pathway for out-of-state students.



Ron Holt Civic Engagement Award Winners Named

Hannah McGill of West Point and Brianna Parsons of Omaha were named the Ron Holt Civic Engagement Award winners for the 2021-22 academic year. The annual award, started by Dr. Ron Holt '89, recognizes graduating Wayne State College seniors who have served as an exemplary role model and contributed to the service ethos of the college campus and community at large. The award includes a \$500 gift, trophy, and graduation recognition.

To read more on these stories, please visit
www.wsc.edu/news

Wayne State Breaks Ground for Career Scholars Norfolk Housing

Wayne State College, in collaboration with DEG Enterprises and DACO Construction, broke ground April 27 for the Norfolk Student Housing development for the Growing Together Career Scholars Program in Norfolk. The housing units will support Wayne State's career scholars, who will live in downtown Norfolk their senior year as they perform two semesters of cooperative education with an employer. WSC's first cohort of students will arrive in Norfolk in Fall 2023.



Wayne State and Central Community College Sign New Agreement

WSC and Central Community College signed a new agreement in January that provides expanded educational opportunities for CCC students. The new degree partnership allows graduates who complete their Associate of Applied Science degrees at CCC to transfer all of their completed academic credits to Wayne State to earn a bachelor's degree in technology. The agreement allows WSC to accept up to 80 credit hours for the 120-credit hour program.



NSF Awards Grants to WSC

This spring, WSC received two grants from the National Science Foundation to promote STEM programs. In February, WSC was awarded the Track 1 Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship grant focused on recruiting talented students into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) educator preparation. This five-year, \$1.2-million grant from the National Science Foundation includes \$745,000 of funding for students entering STEM-education fields.

In March, Wayne State received an NSF Scholarship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program (S-STEM), for \$750,000 for a six-year period to strengthen and expand student-centered activities and infrastructure in STEM education. More than \$540,000 of the funds have been earmarked for scholarships for students in biology, chemistry, and math degree programs who intend to pursue careers in research and discovery.



Nallely Maldonado and Kiara Hochstein

Spring 2022 Commencement

Wayne State College held commencement ceremonies for graduate and undergraduate students May 7, in the college's historic Willow Bowl amphitheater. A total of 618 degrees were conferred by President Marysz Rames, including 419 undergraduates and 199 graduate students.

Kiara Hochstein of Wayne gave the commencement address at the graduate ceremony. Hochstein graduated with a Master of Science in Organizational Management in Human Performance and Wellness Management. She also holds a B.S. in Exercise Science from Wayne State, graduating in 2020. She is the daughter of Dale and Laura Hochstein of Wayne.

Nallely Maldonado of South Sioux City gave the invocation at the undergraduate ceremony. Maldonado graduated with a B.S. in Elementary Education with a reading and writing endorsement. She is the daughter of Maria Santos and Ramon Maldonado of South Sioux City and is married to Horacio Vallecillo.

Dr. Mark Hammer Receives Teaching Excellence Award

Wayne State College is proud to announce that Dr. Mark Hammer, professor of biology, was presented the State Nebraska Bank & Trust Teaching Excellence Award at the college's May 7 commencement ceremony. Hammer has taught at Wayne State since 1996.

Matthew Ley, chief executive officer and trust officer of State Nebraska Bank & Trust in Wayne, presented the award during the undergraduate ceremony. This prestigious honor recognizes rigorous standards that require a superior level of effective teaching.

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

Hammer earned his Ph.D. in plant science from University of Arkansas-Fayetteville in 1992; his master's degree in forestry from Clemson University in 1985; and his bachelor's degree in forestry from Iowa State University in 1983. In addition to his work as a professor of biology at Wayne State, Hammer advises students who are



From left to right: Matthew Ley, chief executive officer and trust officer of State Nebraska Bank & Trust; Dr. Mark Hammer, recipient of the State Nebraska Bank & Trust Teaching Excellence Award; and President Marysz Rames.

interested in a career as a conservation biologist and students participating in the pre-physician assistant pathway in the Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP).

"I am especially honored to receive this Teaching Excellence Award from State Nebraska Bank and Wayne State College because of the College's outstanding students, alumni, faculty, and staff," Hammer said.

Hammer's courses include Biology Concepts, Ecology, Experimental Plant Science, Great Plains Flora, Evolution, and Medical Terminology. His research interests

include seed biology, seed dispersal, and prairie ecology.

He has been published widely in peer-reviewed publications, delivered multiple scholarly presentations at scientific meetings, and mentored many undergraduate research students. He is a board member of the Prairie Plains Resource Institute, past president and current board member of the Nebraska Native Plant Society, Environmental Sciences section chair of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences, and past board member of the Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Roger Steele '79 Receives Alumni Achievement Award

Roger Steele received the Alumni Achievement Award from the Wayne State Foundation during the undergraduate commencement ceremony May 7. He graduated from Wayne State with a bachelor's degree in pre-law studies in 1979.

Steele was born in Bassett and graduated from high school in Pierce. He attended Creighton University School of Law from 1981 until 1984, when he received his J.D. degree. Steele's areas of practice of law include representing insurance companies, businesses, private individuals, and school districts.

Steele was elected to the Grand Island City Council in 2014. He was elected mayor of Grand Island, a city of 53,135 residents, in November 2018. As mayor, Steele has directed an historic amount of public works for his growing city. Additionally, he has worked with Wayne State to develop a cooperative education program, which will allow WSC students to take paid internships in Grand Island businesses during the students' senior year. This program has enthusiastic support from Grand Island businesses because they want the opportunity to hire hardworking Wayne State students.

Steele and his wife, Liana, practice law at Steele Law Office in Grand Island. They have twin daughters, Leslie and Laura.



From left to right: President Marysz Rames; Roger Steele '79, recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award; and Kevin Armstrong, CEO of the Wayne State Foundation.

Retiring Faculty: Dr. Paul Karr and Jeff Meyer

Professor of chemistry Dr. Paul Karr began teaching at Wayne State College in August 1993. He earned his Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Wichita State University in 1993, and his Bachelor of Science degree from Missouri Southern State University in 1975.

During his Wayne State career, Karr advised the Chemistry Club, Rodeo Club, College Republicans, and was co-advisor of the Science Fiction Club. He served on the Faculty Senate and various campus committees.

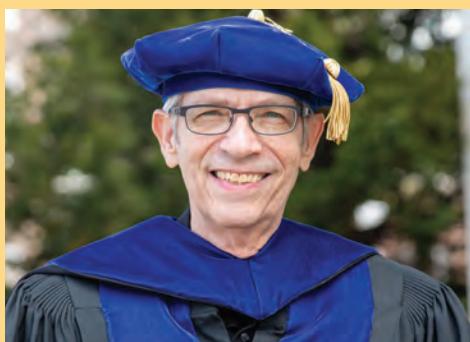
Karr is a member of the American Chemical Society, the Nebraska Academy of Science, and the American Association of University Professors.

"The most rewarding aspect of working at Wayne State College has been interaction in both the classroom and laboratory with the wonderful Wayne State students," Karr said.

Jeff Meyer began working as an instructor in the Health, Human Performance, and Sport Department at Wayne State College in 2001. He earned his Master of Science in Education from Wayne State in 1996 and his bachelor's degree from Chadron State College in 1980. He taught intercollegiate athletics/compliance, sports marketing, and the business of professional sports at Wayne State.

Meyer served as the co-director of the Students Pursuing Occupations Related to Sports (SPORTS) Club and a volunteer with the American Volleyball Coaches Association. Before coming to Wayne State College, he served as an associate athletics counselor at the University of Wyoming from January 1997 to August 2001.

"I have greatly appreciated the rewarding experience of working at Wayne State where I could teach students and they could apply those lessons immediately outside the classroom," Meyer said.



Dr. Paul Karr



Jeff Meyer



Peterson Renovation Project Continues at a Strong Rhythm

The Peterson Fine Arts Renovation has been moving forward at a steady pace since beginning in Fall 2021. Construction and fundraising efforts continue to progress thanks to the collaborative efforts of WSC personnel, contractors, and project supporters. Students and faculty are eager to utilize the updated facility to learn, practice, and perform.

In the first four months of 2022, demolition has turned into rebuilding. Crews working on the project have begun to expand the stage, install steel beams to create the band and choir addition, and pour the concrete shell for the new elevator. On April 8, in conjunction with architects Jackson-Jackson & Associates and builder Hausmann Construction, WSC held a topping out ceremony, placing the final beam into the new addition.

If all goes as planned, some of the first performances will be held in December with the entire project to be complete in Spring



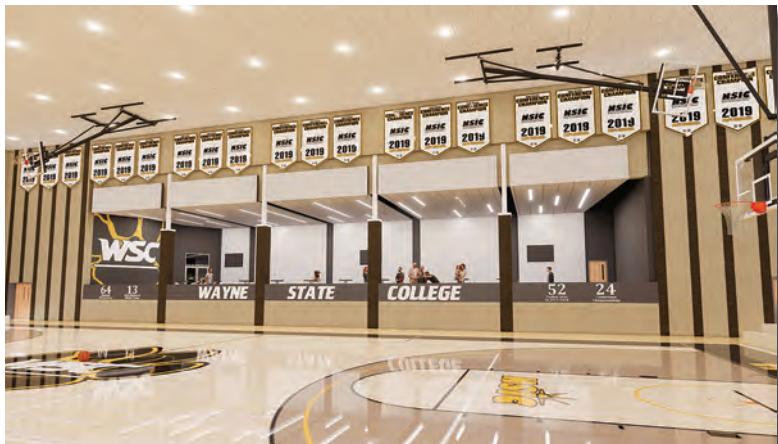
2023. The Wayne State Foundation has raised \$1.2 million and continues to accept gifts in support of the project. Thank you to those who have supported this renovation!

If you'd like to follow this project more closely, please visit the Wayne State College Alumni Facebook page, where updates are shared regularly.

Photos are from the April 8 topping out ceremony.



Rice Auditorium Stage to be Converted to Open-air Club Room



Wayne State has started construction on the Rice Auditorium stage to transform the area to an open-air club room with premium fan seating and in-game hospitality.

The project will enclose the current stage and create an open-air room to provide premium fan seating and in-game hospitality for Wildcat volleyball and men's and women's basketball games in Rice Auditorium along with providing a multi-use area for student-athlete recruitment and team meetings.

Construction on the Rice Auditorium Club Room project has begun with completion date set for the start of the 2022-23 school year in the fall. Cost of the project is approximately \$450,000, which is being funded by private gifts and grant funds.

"We are very excited to get this project completed," said Mike Powicki, WSC athletics director. "It has been on our list of priorities for the last two years, but the pandemic has delayed things a bit. The newly renovated space will make a drastic improvement to the overall aesthetics and arenalike appeal of Rice Auditorium."

The reconstructed area on the stage will feature a newly constructed half wall with countertop and seating that will span the length of the court with aesthetic pillars to help enclose the space. The Rice Auditorium Club Room will also showcase a new vestibule and entry point with drop ceilings and lighting along with restrooms, additional graphics, and carpeted floors with an open area including pub-style tables and additional seating for hospitality.

"For the longest time we have been known as 'the facility with the stage' so we are excited to repurpose this space in an impactful way and create an elevated club area that will really transform our facility," added Powicki. "This project will provide an enhanced fan experience for our Cat Club members and season ticket holders for Wildcat volleyball and men's and women's basketball."



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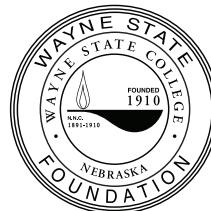
Where Giving Is Needed Most

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.

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



Wayne State Foundation
1111 Main Street • Wayne, NE 68787
402-375-7510



The Wayne State Athletics Department is planning a \$25.5 million athletic and recreation renovation project, which includes the addition of an air-supported structure and major renovations to the Rec Center, Rice Auditorium, and the Kirk Gardner Indoor Athletic Complex.

Athletics Department Announces Major Additions and Renovations to Indoor Facilities

The Wayne State Foundation has raised \$1.1 million of the \$5.5 million of fundraised dollars needed to supplement the college funds that will pay for the project.

Over the last three years, WSC has seen 20 percent growth in enrollment, 200 percent growth in club sports, 25 percent growth in intramural participation, and the addition of two varsity athletic programs. Because of this growth, facilities need to be developed to service students' needs.

The renovation project will feature a new air-supported structure connected to the Rec Center by an auxiliary link. The structure will house an indoor track; two pole vault boxes; two jumping pits; two throw circles with safety cages; a turf field; baseball, softball, and golf hitting cages; and locker rooms for the

men's and women's track and field teams.

The open-air alley space between the Rec Center and Rice Auditorium will be filled in as an expanded lobby for social gathering, studying, offices and storage, and a new student weight room. The indoor track and courts will also be upgraded, while racquetball rooms will be converted to general student locker rooms and additional offices and classrooms.

Renovations to Rice Auditorium will include new restrooms, a larger concession area, and expanded ticketing areas.

The Kirk Gardner Indoor Athletic Complex, which previously housed the swimming pool and was converted to an indoor turf area in 2020, will be transformed into an auxiliary practice gym with a wood floor for men's and women's basketball, volleyball, camps, and other student activities.

The athletics addition and rejuvenation will be a transformational, multi-phased construction project that will greatly impact Wayne State's intercollegiate athletics, recreation, and student-wide wellness programs. These historic improvements will be critical in WSC's ability to continue to recruit and retain students by providing an exceptional overall student engagement experience.





Abbey Kurnmel



Mekky Winyarat



Kim Vidlak



Riley Holmberg

GOLF

Team highlights

2nd place NSIC Women's Golf Championships
(best finish ever) – 54-hole score of 993
Nebraska Intercollegiate Invite Champions

Individual highlights

Abbey Kurnmel – NSIC Individual Champion/
NSIC All-Tournament Team. +14 over par 230 (76-76-78).

All-NSIC

Mekky Winyarat (Second Team)

Postseason Honors

Mekky Winyarat – NSIC Newcomer of the Year

NSIC Winter All-Academic Team of Excellence

Abbey Kurnmel
Paige Peters

NSIC Winter All-Academic Team

Jazmine Taylor

SOFTBALL

Season record: 15-38
NSIC record: 12-18, 10th place

All-NSIC Second Team

Kim Vidlak
Riley Holmberg

All-NSIC Gold Glove Team

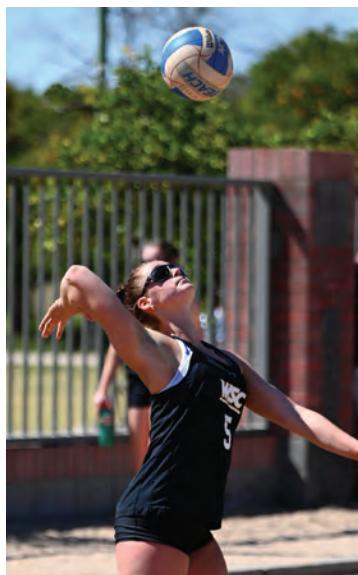
Jenna Etmans
Samantha Felt

NSIC Spring All-Academic Team of Excellence

Kortney Buresh	Kamryn Sparks
Emily Hale	Kim Vidlak
Abby Husing	

NSIC Spring All-Academic Team

Morgan Beaty	Riley Holmberg
Ashley Bohanon	Katie Humburg
Callie Carraher	Mary Krystofiak
Hadley Chvatal	Michaela Smith
Jenna Etmans	



Jordan McCormick



Kelsie Cada

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Season record: 14-6

Team Highlights

Ottawa (Kan.) Beach Tournament Champions
AVCA Small College Beach Championship
Bronze Division Champions

Pairs Highlights

Kelsie Cada/Jordan McCormick top pairs record at 16-4



For all Wildcat news, visit
www.wscwildcats.com



Justin Eagins



Jordan Janssen

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Season record: 14-12
NSIC record: 11-8, 3rd place in NSIC South Division

All-NSIC

Justin Eagins (First Team)
Jordan Janssen (Second Team)

NSIC Winter All-Academic Team of Excellence

Ben Dentlinger

NSIC Winter All-Academic Team

Jordan Janssen
Nate Thayer

Follow the Cats at
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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

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Season record: 9-15
NSIC record: 6-14, 7th place in NSIC South Division

All-NSIC South Division

Kylie Hammer (First Team)
Kylie Hammer (NSIC South Division Player of the Year)

D2CCA All-Central Region First Team

Kylie Hammer

Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award (3.75 GPA or higher for seniors)

Kylie Hammer

NSIC Winter All-Academic Team of Excellence

Kylie Hammer
Kassidy Pingel

NSIC Winter All-Academic Team

Ashley Gustavson



Kylie Hammer

CoSIDA Academic All-District VII First Team

Kylie Hammer

CoSIDA Academic All-American Third Team

Kylie Hammer

BASEBALL

Season record: 19-26
NSIC record: 13-18 (9th place)

All-NSIC First Team

Andrew Hanson

All-NSIC Second Team

Alex Logelin

All-NSIC Defensive Team

Conner Fiene
Alex Logelin



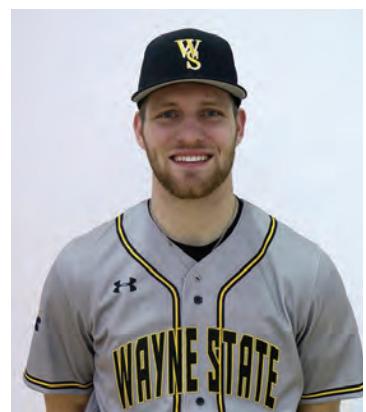
Andrew Hanson

NSIC Spring All-Academic Team of Excellence

Chris Cornish
Kyler Essink
Ryan Petersen
Noah Roberts

NSIC Spring All-Academic Team

Nathan Anderson
Hunter Babe
Kolt Davis
Andrew Hanson
Alex Logelin
Ryan Obrecht
Josh Renken
Garrett Svoboda
Logan Walters
Josh Yelick



Alex Logelin

Wildcat News

MEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

7th place at NSIC Indoor Track and Field Championships (40 points)

All-NSIC

Logan Moeller (2nd place – Triple Jump)
Dylan Kneifl (3rd place – High Jump)

NSIC Winter All-Academic Team of Excellence (3.60 GPA and above)

Aaron English
Brock Hegarty
Bryce Holcomb

NSIC Winter All-Academic Team (3.20-3.59 GPA)

Nathan Hiemer
Michael Kuentz
Will McGonigal

NSIC Elite 18 Award (Top Scholar Athlete at NSIC Championship)

Brock Hegarty

MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

5th place at NSIC Outdoor Track/Field Championships (54.5 points)

All-NSIC

Noah Lilly (1st place – Decathlon)
Alex Brandt (2nd place – Decathlon)
Dylan Kneifl (2nd place – High Jump)
Cole Christoffersen (2nd place – Hammer Throw)
Logan Moeller (3rd place – Triple Jump)

NCAA Division II Outdoor National Qualifiers

Cole Christoffersen (Hammer Throw)
Dylan Kneifl (High Jump)

USTFCCA All-Central Region

Cole Christoffersen (Hammer Throw)
Dylan Kneifl (High Jump)

NSIC Spring All-Academic Team of Excellence (3.60 GPA and above)

Aaron English Nathan Pearson
Brock Hegarty Gabe Peitz
Nathan Hiemer Abe Schroeder
Bryce Holcomb

NSIC Spring All-Academic Team (3.20-3.59 GPA)

Dylan Kneifl
Michael Kuentz
Will McGonigal

Myles Brand All-Academic With Distinction Award (3.75 GPA or higher for seniors)

Aaron English
Bryce Holcomb

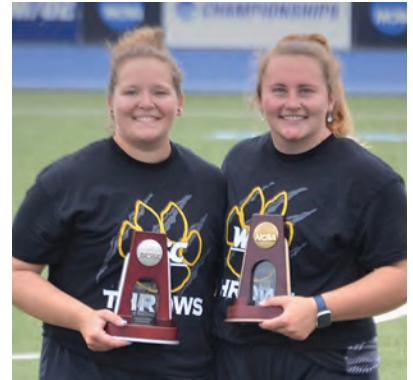


WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

9th place at NSIC Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships (19 points)

All-NSIC

Mckenzie Scheil (3rd place – Weight Throw)



Mckenzie Scheil and Brooklyn Chipps

USTFCCA All-Central Region

Mckenzie Scheil (Shot Put and Weight Throw)
Brooklynn Chipps (Weight Throw)

NCAA Indoor National Qualifiers

Mckenzie Scheil (6th place, All-American – Weight Throw)
Brooklynn Chipps (Weight Throw)

NSIC Winter All-Academic Team of Excellence (3.60 GPA or above)

Nicole Heeren	Allie Rosener
Marin Jetensky	Mckenzie Scheil
Kendra Paasch	Jadin Wagner

NSIC Winter All-Academic Team

Brooklynn Chipps
Keyla Sambo

WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

8th place at NSIC Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championships (34 points)

Tie for 18th place at NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships (14 points)

All-NSIC

Mckenzie Scheil (1st place – Hammer Throw)
Mckenzie Scheil (3rd place – Shot Put)
Brooklynn Chipps (2nd place – Hammer Throw)

USTFCCA All-Central Region

Mckenzie Scheil (Hammer Throw)
Mckenzie Scheil (Shot Put)
Brooklynn Chipps (Hammer Throw)

NCAA Division II National Qualifiers

Mckenzie Scheil (2nd place, All-American – Hammer Throw)
Mckenzie Scheil (Shot Put)
Brooklynn Chipps (3rd place, All-American – Hammer Throw)

NSIC Spring All-Academic Team of Excellence (3.60 GPA or above)

Megan Hansen	Allie Rosener
Nicole Heeren	Mckenzie Scheil
Marin Jetensky	Brooke Solomon
Kelsey Larsen	Makenna Taake
Annie McCartney	Jadin Wagner
Kendra Paasch	

NSIC Spring All-Academic Team

Brooklynn Chipps Keyla Sambo
Sarah Cotton Emily Smollen

Myles Brand All-Academic With Distinction Award (3.75 GPA or higher for seniors)

Nicole Heeren
Marin Jetensky



Hall of Fame Banquet

The Hall of Fame Banquet celebrating the 2021 inductees was held April 30, 2022.

Hall of Fame inductees include, from left to right: Joe Wendte '11, Katie Goetzinger Voth '11, Ross Buncek '12, Ron Jones '63, MSE '66, Adam Endicott, Natalie Endicott, and Kim Endicott '98.



The 2009 Baseball Team inductees include, front row, from left to right: assistant coach Brian Disch '04, MSE '07, Brett Keim '13, Joe Wendte '11, Nick Bidroski '11, Derek Eversole '11, Jereme Johnson '11, Jared Hegdahl, Brandon Polk '11, Josh Nielsen '11, Josh Yost '10, assistant coach Brian Sulzman '10, and head coach John Manganaro '93, MSE '94; and back row, from left to right: assistant coach Bruce Schlecht, assistant coach Adam Walkenhorst '06, assistant coach Ryan Lennerton '10, MSOM '12, John Snyder '10, Mike Bisenius '12, Reid Lancaster '11, Tadd Johansen '12, Taylor Welk '19, Josh Voth, Jake Ritzdorf '13, John Plasha '11, and Alex Koch '10 (current Wildcat head coach).



Second Annual Women's Wildcat Open

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend the second annual Women's Wildcat Open golf tournament. The 9-hole scramble will take place Friday, July 29, at the Wayne Country Club in Wayne. Registration fee includes dinner, gifts, and prizes. All proceeds support Wayne State College student-athletes! To register your team, visit www.wsc.edu/alumni-events. Contact Megan Finn, Director of Athletic Development, at mefinn1@wsc.edu or 402-369-0979.



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

Phonathon 2022

You helped us raise more than \$205,000!

Thanks to you, our generous Wayne State alumni, friends, and parents, the Wayne State Foundation raised more than \$205,000 in gifts and pledges through our annual Phonathon fundraising campaign.

Our 29 student callers and five student managers enjoyed calling you earlier this year to update your information, share exciting progress happening at Wayne State, and ask you to consider making a gift to support the efforts of Wayne State College. Many of you responded with positive feedback, and we thank you for your support. When we begin our next calling campaign in January 2023, we encourage you to get to know your student caller and share your advice and experiences as a WSC graduate.

Phonathon 2023 will launch in November with a letter to past donors sharing the exciting advancements at Wayne State and our goals for the academic year. Phonathon calling will begin in January. You will have the opportunity to show your support for WSC by making a donation through the letter or in response to the call. If you have not been receiving phone calls, please be sure to update your information at www.wsc.edu/alumni.



Alumni Giving Percentage: Your support makes a difference!

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

No matter the size of your gift, the individual support is reflected in the alumni participation rate. All gifts truly make a difference.

How to Add Wayne State to Your Will

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).

MAKE A GIFT WITH YOUR IRA

Would you like to make a difference for our Wayne State 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 gift from your IRA. This popular gift option is commonly called the IRA charitable rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD for short. 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.

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



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Melissa Nelsen
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\$107K Raised for Scholarships During WSC's Second Annual Giving Day

The Wildcat family came together April 22 to support the second annual WSC Giving Day, a virtual 24-hour campaign where all proceeds went directly to student-scholarships at Wayne State College. A total of 446 gifts were made totaling \$107,000, which surpassed the \$75,000 goal.

Totals for each team were:

GENERAL ACADEMIC

Total raised: \$9,080.85
Number of donors: 33

GENERAL ATHLETIC

Total raised: \$3,816.24
Number of donors: 17

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Total raised: \$5,107.89
Number of donors: 39

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

Total raised: \$6,239.75
Number of donors: 30

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Total raised: \$5,794.55
Number of donors: 8

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, HEALTH, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Total raised: \$5,000
Number of donors: 21

BASEBALL

Total raised: \$28,832.86
Number of donors: 87

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Total raised: \$2,368
Number of donors: 17

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Total raised: \$1,497.60
Number of donors: 10

CHEERLEADING

Total raised: \$2,178.53
Number of donors: 18

FOOTBALL

Total raised: \$9,924.47
Number of donors: 52

GOLF

Total raised: \$4,008.08
Number of donors: 14

SOCCER

Total raised: \$2,533.30
Number of donors: 18

SOFTBALL

Total raised: \$1,293.38
Number of donors: 14

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD / CROSS COUNTRY

Total raised: \$4,787.12
Number of donors: 17

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD / CROSS COUNTRY

Total raised: \$5,000
Number of donors: 13

VOLLEYBALL

Total raised: \$8,846.88
Number of donors: 33

WSC Giving Day aims to inspire all of Wildcat Nation – students, alumni, friends, faculty, and staff – to come together, show pride, and support scholarships at Wayne State College.

By raising critical funding, we can continue to offer a quality education that is affordable and accessible, as we can give students a college experience that truly changes their lives.

We cannot thank you enough for your gifts and support. This will make a significant impact on scholarships at Wayne State. Go Cats!



GIVING DAY STUDENT QUOTES



"As a first-generation student and first-generation college athlete, this scholarship allowed me to pursue new opportunities for me and my family, and that means the world to me."

JAY SAUNDERS

Men's Basketball
Omaha, Neb.
Studying Sports Management



"The biggest thing that my scholarship has provided me is opportunities both finance-wise and social-wise. With my classes, I've been able to meet many people with the same ambition and goals as myself. My scholarship has made it possible to meet people and make these connections that will last a lifetime. Finance-wise my scholarship has made it so I can focus more on my studies and less on how I'm going to pay for each semester. When it comes to going on to grad school after my education at Wayne, it makes a big difference knowing that I will graduate with absolutely zero student loan debt. That will make a big impact on my life from here on out."

ASHLEY SCHEMEK

Humphrey, Neb.
Studying Chemistry
Health Sciences

Melissa Nelsen Joins Wayne State Foundation

The Wayne State Foundation is pleased to announce the addition of **Melissa Nelsen '99, MSE '11**, as Director of Major Gifts.

"I am very honored to be joining the Wayne State Foundation and am excited to work alongside an exceptional team while connecting with fellow alumni and friends of Wayne State College," said Nelsen.

"The Foundation is very pleased to have Melissa join our team," said Kevin Armstrong, Wayne State Foundation CEO. "Her experience in fundraising and relationship management will help the Foundation continue to raise much needed funds for scholarships, building projects, and other initiatives taking place at Wayne State."

Nelsen brings more than three years of experience working in fundraising from her previous role as the Foundation and marketing director at Providence Medical Center in Wayne.

Nelsen and her husband **Kyle '00**, who is the facilities director at WSC, have called Wayne home since 2000, after graduating from WSC.

"I am anxious to be back at Wayne State College in this capacity and look forward to building relationships with others who are focused on providing an exceptional WSC college experience and successful outcomes for our students," said Nelsen. "Wayne State College was the best choice for me when I was exploring my higher education options, and I'm forever grateful WSC made it possible for me to continue my education."



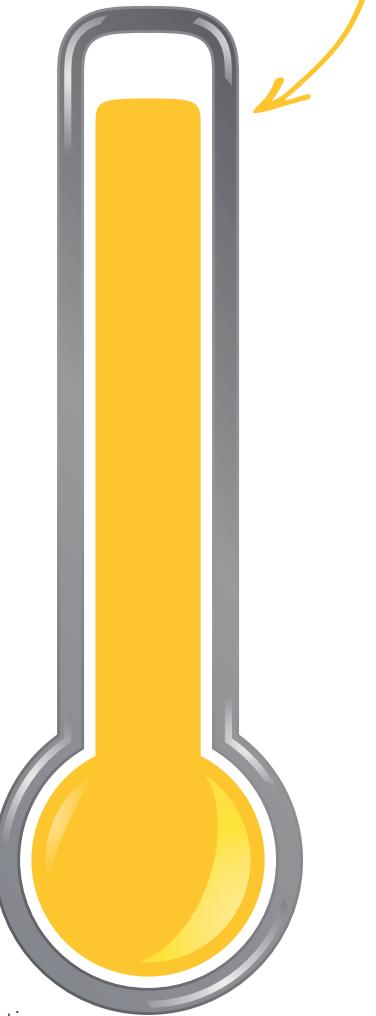
Scholarship Campaign Update

Almost to our GOAL!

The Wayne State Foundation launched the "Invest, Empower, Transform" Scholarship Campaign in October 2021 and has raised \$25.9 million of the \$30-million goal.

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.



**\$25.9 million
of the
\$30-million goal**

has been raised by the Wayne State Foundation
since the launch of the "Invest, Empower,
Transform" Scholarship Campaign in October 2021.

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 about the campaign, please visit www.wsc.edu/scholarshipcampaign.



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George '56 and Susan '55 Menking Share Their Love for Africa through Philanthropy

During their retirement years, in addition to traveling all over the world to 75 countries, George '56 and Susan '55 Menking have devoted themselves to sharing their love for Africa through philanthropy.

The Menkings began traveling to sub-Saharan Africa in 1991, going on safari, visiting game parks and historic hotels, and simply enjoying Africa's natural beauty.

"We love Africa now because of the people, but also the animals and beauty of the land," said George. "How exciting is it to fly over the famous Nile, to be surrounded by 300 elephants, to see lions hunting close up, to be in Kenya at the time of the Great Migration of wildebeest, and staying at the foot of 19,000-foot Mount Kilimanjaro. There is nothing like it in the whole world."

In 2011, they were at the Masai Mara National Reserve and walked down to a Masai dung hut village. While there, George said, they visited a corrugated elementary school jammed with 60-plus children and met Betty and Steve Muntet, the school's directors.

George said they believed God had led them to the Muntets, and they began sponsoring Masai children attending secondary boarding schools in southern Kenya. At one time they were sponsoring as many as 14 high school students' education. At the same time, they began financing the construction of their own elementary boarding school for 300 Kenyan children. The school, Mara Shiners Academy, is located by the east entrance to the Masai Mara National Reserve.

Completed construction of the academy includes an eight-classrooms building, a separate two-classroom kindergarten building, a multipurpose hall with a kitchen, dormitories, and two residential structures. Supporting the school are a large acreage for a vegetable garden and pasture for school cows, a schoolbus, and a land cruiser for transportation and safari game drives in the Masai Mara. The school also has a deep freshwater well providing water for the school and for the surrounding Masai community. The school is operated by the Muntets. To their credit, Mara Shiners Academy consistently scores at the very top on national exams among elementary schools in southern Kenya.

While building the Mara Shiners Academy, the Menkings also became the catalyst for beginning construction of a secondary boarding school in Erep, Uganda, to be operated by E3 Africa, an organization based in Phoenix. The first building of Saint Thomas Aquinas College, a large multipurpose hall, is named after Susan. The Menkings also financed the first two classroom blocks (a total



"Our motivation for establishing a substantial charitable budget came from a desire to enjoy God's gifts while we are still on earth."

- George Menking '56

of four classrooms), a dormitory, and the St. James The Greater Chapel on the campus. In 2018, George was inducted into the local tribal hierarchy as a chief, complete with a regal chair on the school campus.

Along with their son Mark, the Menkings also financed the construction of dormitories, bathhouses, and a high-tech center at a small high school in Tamale, Ghana. At the same time, George and Susan financed the development of two wells, providing fresh water for 15,000 people.

"Our inspiration came from God and love of our fellow human beings," said George. "Our motivation for establishing a substantial charitable budget came from a desire to enjoy God's gifts while we are still on earth."

Following their charitable efforts in Africa, the Menkings have continued their significant involvement with the Wayne State Foundation. The Menkings were one of the lead donors of the Bentack Hall renovation, where the Dr. Susan Menking, Ph.D., Counseling Training Center was named in honor of their involvement and contributions.



The Mara Shiners Academy, located in Kenya, was funded by George '56 and Susan '55 Menking.

Miles Berg '09

Studied life science/health science

I have so many great memories of my time at Wayne State College. From dorm/RA life to intramural activities; countless hours spent in the library/science buildings to the many trips to the student center – all memories were amazing. The RHOP Program provided me an opportunity that I will forever be grateful for – I explain this “hidden gem” of a program to all local high school students that shadow me in the dental office. To this day, every time I enter the town of Wayne, I get a good feeling – Wayne has a unique charm that is difficult to describe. The college and town feed off each other in such a positive way and share a tremendous bond.

What are you doing now? I am a general dentist in York. I have been practicing here since 2014.

What did you love most about your time at

Wayne State College? I enjoyed recognizing nearly all the faces on campus. This extended beyond fellow students. I felt that I had amazing relationships with many professors who truly cared about my success.

What do you remember most about your time

at Wayne State College? The countless friends and relationships that I built. I reminisce about the off-campus get-togethers, the dorm room life, the trips to the cafeteria, the study groups that were developed, intramural activities, and many, many other activities that involved hanging out with friends.



Katie Berg '09

Studied art/graphic design

I spent four years at WSC mostly in the art building learning all aspects of the field. When I wasn't working on projects or studying, I enjoyed playing a variety of intramural sports and working in the ITC center with Loise. She was the sweetest! I had friends on and off campus, so it was nice to enjoy the city of Wayne as well and getting to know Wayne, which eventually became my home before moving to York. WSC will always be one of my fondest chapters of life.

What are you doing now? I live in York and have worked as a graphic designer/marketing specialist for Timberlyne out of Wayne for almost 11 years.

What did you love most about your time at Wayne State College?

I love the friendships I made with students and faculty with the smaller class sizes making it easy to interact with everyone. The campus was beautiful and easy to navigate. I was honored to complete my internship at WSC in the College Relations Office where I was given the opportunity to work on a variety of projects with some great mentors.

What do you remember most about your time at Wayne State College?

I remember having a close-knit group of friends in our core group of classes who spent countless hours working on projects together.



Ron Holt '89

Studied biology/chemistry

I have many fond memories of my time at WSC. What sticks out the most is how much the professors and coaches believed in me before I could believe in myself. It was because of the encouragement of my advisors that I am a physician today.

What are you doing now? I am currently a student health psychiatrist at San Francisco State University (SFSU). I also graduated from SFSU in May with an M.A. in sexuality. I've always been interested in teaching/educating in addition to the practice of medicine, so what better way to do this but go back to graduate school to get an additional master's degree. I am not sure what the future holds at present, but I envision practicing psychiatry and teaching on a university campus. I love being around college students who are eager to learn and make a difference in the world.

What did you love most about your time at Wayne State College? I loved all the opportunities that WSC afforded me: being a pre-med student, a student-athlete, an RA, and getting a top quality education from professors who were truly dedicated to teaching and the well-being of the students.

What do you remember most about your time at Wayne State College? My fondest memories are the wonderful connections I made with professors, coaches, and classmates. Many of those relationships continue today!

For upcoming events, visit: www.wsc.edu/alumni-events

Logan Masters '10, MSE '13, Promoted to Head Football Coach

In February, the Wayne State College Athletic Department promoted Logan Masters '10, MSE '13, from offensive coordinator to head coach of the Wildcat football program. He took over for John McMenamin, who



resigned to become wide receivers coach at Tulane University.

Masters will begin his third year with the Wildcats in the fall after spending three seasons coaching offense at Chadron State College (2017-2019). Masters played wide receiver at

Wayne State from 2006 to 2009, coached offense at Wayne State from 2010 to 2016, and was inducted into the Wayne State Athletic Hall of Fame in 2020.

"I am honored and humbled to be the next head coach at Wayne State College," said Masters. "I am beyond thankful for this opportunity to lead our football program. It's a very special thing for me to be able to be the head coach of my alma mater and continue to give former players, alumni, and community members something to be proud of!"



Nick Muir '03 Named CIO at Wayne State College

In April, Nick Muir '03 was named Chief Information Officer at Wayne State College. Muir has been with Wayne State College since 2003, working as a computer support specialist, Help Desk director, IT user support director, interim Chief Information Officer, and associate Chief Information Officer. Muir holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Wayne State College, majoring in computer information systems with a minor in computer science.

"I am honored to be named to the CIO position, and as a WSC alumnus I am proud to be a part of the great things happening at Wayne State," said Muir. "Thank you to the WSC faculty and staff who played a significant role in my education preparing me for a career in information technology, and to my family, mentors, and co-workers for their guidance and support along my professional journey. I look forward to continuing to serve the Wayne State students, faculty, staff, and community in this new role."

In Your Own Words continued...

Trisha Peters '04, MBA '12

Studied business administration (marketing and public accounting)

Wayne State was the logical choice for my college education. My goal was to stay close enough to home so I could help with the family business and save on costs and avoid student loan debt. I was fortunate to be awarded a John G. Neihardt Honors Scholarship to cover tuition and housing expenses. Plus, I worked a part-time job at a local firm in downtown Wayne that eventually led to the opportunity to start my own business. The Wayne community has always offered opportunities that might not have been available to me in a larger city or without the network of support I received from the professors and staff at Wayne State College.



What are you doing now? I am the broker/owner of White Farmhouse Realty, LLC, located in the heart of downtown Wayne. My firm also offers residential/acreage/farm/commercial sales and property management. We are a proud community partner assisting Wayne State students, professors, and professional/support staff locate housing in Wayne and the surrounding communities!

What did you love most about your time at Wayne State College? Looking back, Wayne State offered me the opportunity to develop lasting relationships with lifelong friends. We don't get to see each other nearly enough, but we can pick up right where we left off anytime we are able to get together. College was a place to collaborate and build relationships with people who shared similar interests and experiences while also having a different perspective on life.

What do you remember most about your time at Wayne State College?

Late nights working on individual or group projects in the computer labs before personal computers were the norm for most students.

Katie Mace MSE '11 Awarded \$25K Milken Educator Award

Katie Mace MSE '11, a high school English teacher at Lyons-Decatur Northeast High School in Lyons, was surprised with a \$25,000 Milken Educator Award by the Milken Family Foundation during a schoolwide assembly in April. Mace is the second recipient in Nebraska for the 2021-22 season and the first ever from Lyons-Decatur Northeast Schools.

The Milken Educator Awards are regarded as the "Oscars of Teaching" and celebrate the American teaching profession. Recipients are honored during their early to mid-career for their achievements and for the promise of what they will accomplish in the future.

In addition to the unrestricted cash prize, honorees attend an all-expenses-paid trip in June to the Milken Educator Awards Forum in Los Angeles.



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1973 **Jon Habben** is the past president of the National Rural Education Association and is now serving as treasurer of the National Rural Education Foundation. Habben still serves the Nebraska Rural Community School Association on the Legislative Committee. This is his 49th year serving Nebraska public schools. Habben moved to Wayne after attending Iowa Central Community College (Eagle Grove) to finish his BAE in social sciences. A few years later, while teaching and coaching at Osceola, Habben finished his first M.A. in history. "WSC was very important to my growth as a teacher and building a belief in academic rigor toward the later M.A./Ed.S./Ed.D. in education administration and the rest of my career and service," says Habben. "WSC was terrific for me!"

1973 **Nancy (Robinson) Nish** recently was in Alaska for a few years serving as a teacher and a school counselor. Her job included flying or traversing weekly from Bethel (400 miles west of Anchorage) via a small airplane, boat, or snow machine to remote villages on the tundra or near the Bering Sea: Mekoryuk, Kipnuk, Tununak, Cheffornak, Newtok, Nightmute, Napaskiak, and Oscarville. Nish met wonderful native Alaskan youth and families during her time in Alaska.

1

1978 **Gregory "Greg" Anderson** recently retired after five years of practicing law and 35 years as a vice president and trust officer at Wells Fargo. His wife, **Sally (Martens) Anderson (BFAE '76)**, also recently retired. They will be focusing on family, travel, and their ever-evolving bucket list.

2

1986 **Eugene "Gene" Bechen** is currently serving as the director of the School of Education at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa.

Daniel "Dan" Stalp recently co-authored his third book called "The Last Reunion." All three books are part of the fictional "Reunion" book trilogy. The books are about four classmates who attend their high school class reunions over several decades. The classmates learn about careers, family, and overall relationships.

3

1997 **Pamela "Pam" (Hannagan) Schumacher** began a new job in August 2021 as operations director at Oak + Lotus Yoga Studio in Austin, Texas. She also teaches classes at the studio, as well as a neighborhood community center. Schumacher has been a yoga teacher since 2018, earning her 200-hour certification in a Trauma



7



8

For upcoming events, visit:

[www.wsc.edu/
alumni-events](http://www.wsc.edu/alumni-events)

Informed Hatha Flow Teacher Training Program with international certification through Yoga Alliance.

4

1998 **Sandi (Sell) Wachter** will be teaching sixth grade at Prairie Queen Elementary in Papillion for the 2022-23 school year.

1999 **Seville Lee** held the grand opening for his new clothing store in West Des Moines, Iowa, in October 2021. 84Fresh is a storefront in Valley West Mall and offers custom clothing, BMX items, screen printing, skateboards, and an impressive shoe selection. Seville, his wife, and children have a home in West Des Moines.

Matt Wachter will be teaching industrial arts at Elkhorn North High School starting in the school year 2022-23.

2002 **Matt Kneifl** was named among the 2022 Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Advisors ranking No. 11 of all Iowa wealth advisors.

5

Heather (Bausch) Rinne says, "Our duo became a trio this year. Our daughter Lauren was born on July 24."

6

2005 **Nikki (Field) Heidemann** was recently promoted to clinic laboratory director at Boone County Health Center in Albion, overseeing five clinic laboratories in the area.

7

2009 **Amanda (Covington) Breedon** and her husband, Danny, welcomed their third child, Samantha, into the world Aug. 18. Big brothers Jaxson and Edison are thrilled to have their sister.

8

WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU? TELL US!

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



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9



10



11



12



13

Adrienne (Svitak) Didier and her husband Clay welcomed their second child, a daughter, Rose Didier, born Oct. 29. Rose's older brother Luke didn't know what to think about her taking over his old crib, so he asked to have his picture taken with her when she was in the crib. Her godparents, **Sophie and Neil Risinger**, are also graduates of WSC. **9**

Neil Risinger and Sophie (Dubas) Risinger of Kearney added to their crew. Daniel J. Risinger was born May 1, 2021, and joins older brothers John and Adam. Daniel has a rare genetic condition called congenital central hypoventilation syndrome (CCHS). **10**

2010 Lindsey (Grim) and Brian Chapman (2009) just welcomed Kyler James Chapman to the world in October – future WSC football player, just like daddy! **11**

2011 Derrick File married Amy Johnson in July 2013. They currently live in Omaha and have four sons – Colin, 5; Bryce, 3; and identical twins born at 30 weeks in June 2021, Ethan and Max. File works in IT for Nebraska Methodist Health System. **12**

2009 Jacob "Jake" and Alyssa (Kozak) Lutt met at WSC in 2017 and married in Wayne on June 19, 2021. Alyssa is originally from Gretna while Jake is from Wayne. Jake currently works at Sunrise Foods International in Pender as a grain trader. Alyssa works at the State Nebraska Bank and Trust campus branch as a customer relations representative and operations assistant. They bought a house in Wayne in July 2020 and have just finished renovations. They love living in Jake's hometown. There's no place like Wayne, America! **13**

2019 Brianna Ward is engaged! After meeting **Cody Giesecking '17** at Wayne State when they were students, she knew he was the one. Giesecking popped the question in February 2022, and their wedding date will be in 2023. They are both proud Wildcats! **14**



14

WSC ALUMNI & FRIENDS TOUR Rescheduled to Spring 2023 Australia & New Zealand



For additional information, please contact
Melissa Nelsen at 402-375-7209 or menelse1@wsc.edu.
Find updates at www.wsc.edu/alumni-events.
Trip will be limited to 30 travelers.



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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.

IN MEMORY OF:

Rachel C. (Sass) Lay '41, 102, Hastings; March 5.
Maxine A. (Fiscus) Fish '43, 96, Coleridge; Dec. 5.
Clifford E. Sovereign '50, 94, Kearney; April 3.
LaVonne R. (Albright) Buxton '51, 91, McCook; Nov. 20.
Jeanette A. (Taylor) Tomjack '51, 89, Ewing; Feb. 6.
Marvel M. (Krekow) Bolick '52, 89, Austin, Texas; Jan. 25.
Lois A. (Beaumont) Hallowell '52, 90, Fremont; Nov. 16.
Genelle L. (Park) Trowbridge '52, 88, Norfolk; Oct. 23.
Elizabeth "Betty" A. (Schuster) Salber '53, 87, Elgin; March 21.
Shirley B. (Suehl) Brudigan '54, 85, Hoskins; Nov. 16.
Marilyn (Gildersleeve) Hegert '54, 86, Lincoln; Jan. 24.
Bonnie F. (Sorensen) Sandahl '54, 86, Wayne; Oct. 3.
Marilyn G. Anson '55, 89, Glendale, Ariz.; Nov. 13.
Donald "Don" M. Robson '56, 90, Sun City, Ariz.; March 13.
Walter "Keith" Carstens '57, 85, Holstein, Iowa; Aug. 24, 2021.
Barbara H. (Ewert) Deegan '57, 84, Columbus; March 2.
Dr. Robert J. Rice '57, 91, Sioux City, Iowa; Dec. 14.
Jean F. (Britney) Hardin '58, 84, Longmont, Colo.; Jan. 20.
Janice R. (Erickson) Johnson '58, 84, Oakland; Feb. 2.
Larry J. Krysl '58, Houston, Texas; Jan. 23.
Lawrence D. Piper '58, 87, Dakota City; July 24, 2021.
Mary Jane (Vrana) Thoms '58, 91, Athens, Ga.; Dec. 24.
Joan S. (Jacobson) Jensen '59, 85, Norfolk; Nov. 23.
Marcella (Benne) Drolescher '60, 85, Orlando, Fla.; Dec. 18.
Carolyn M. (Bessey) Withee '60, 82, York; Dec. 8.
LeRoy E. Ernst '61, 81, Lincoln; Nov. 13.
Lowell D. Zimmermann '61, 84, Newton; Oct. 25.
Judith D. (Hodoway) Herbold '62, 83, Sioux City, Iowa; March 8.
Charles "Chuck" M. Hiner '63, 82, Spirit Lake, Iowa; Jan. 8.
Thomas "Tom" W. Stover '63, 80, Fremont; Nov. 25.
Dean R. Hasch '64, 79, Marvin, S.D.; Oct. 28.
Michael A. Holderness '64, 80, Des Moines, Iowa; Nov. 20.
Gary "Sully" K. Sullivan '64, 80, Grand Island; March 10.
Lanoy (L.G.-Norm) Norman '65, 81, Pender; Jan. 28.
Frances "Fran" Smith '65, 77, Jackson; Nov. 13.
Philip L. Sock, Jr. '66, 78, Longmont, Colo.; Dec. 25.
Carolyn R. (Herling) Cech, '67, 79, Clarkson; Oct. 18.
Duane C. Ellermeier '67, 77, North Bend; Oct. 28.
William E. Evans MSE '67, 90, Webster City, Iowa; Jan. 22.
James F. McNamara Jr. '67, 77, Omaha; Oct. 20.
Eileen J. (Houfek) Neubauer '67, 79, Yankton, S.D.; Jan. 25.
Sharon F. (Kollmorgen) Bossow '68, 76, West Point; Jan. 2.
David L. Dooley '68, 75, Sioux City, Iowa; Nov. 13.
Alvina A. (Robinson) Heller '68, 86, Norfolk; Dec. 29.
Martin A. Wilke '68, 76, Boise, Idaho; March 6.
Elizabeth "Bette" (Pendegast) McConahay MSE '69, 91, Norfolk; Dec. 12.
Michael "Mike" Oglevie '69, 74, Ellenton, Fla.; Jan. 1.
Kathleen (Casey) Rollman '69, 74, Lincoln; March 5.
Richard H. Ehrler '70, 73, DeWitt, Iowa; April 12, 2021.
Sheila A. (Stecher) Patrylak '70, 73, Omaha; Dec. 17.
Barbara "Babs" J. (Feller) Albers MSE '71, 90, Beemer; Feb. 8.
Lyla F. (Marotz) Fuhrman '71, 88, Norfolk; March 26.
Beth J. (Galloway) Leamer '71, 84, Sun City, Ariz.; Feb. 13.
Lloyd L. "Rusty" Petersen, Jr., '71, 73, Norfolk; Dec. 29.

Edward A. George '72, 71, Lincoln; Oct. 27.

Sally A. (Mowinkel) Hiebenthal '72, 70, Herman; Dec. 14.

Leroy "Lee" O. Loseke '72, 87, Columbus; Feb. 16.

Ruth G. (Nelson) Miner '72, 91, Wakefield; Dec. 21.

Douglas (Doug) C. Livermore '73, MSE '76, 74, Sioux City, Iowa; Feb. 5.

Dennis D. Wilson '74, 75, Red Cloud; Feb. 19.

Joan C. (Rosberg) Benson '75, 67, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Nov. 14.

Pauline R. (Olson) Miller '75, 69, Ponca; Jan. 14.

Kim S. Jackson '75, 67, Fremont; Oct. 21.

Susan M. Koenig '77, 65, Grand Island; Feb. 3.

Betty J. Henschke '78, 66, Wakefield; Nov. 19.

Joseph "Joe" O'Neill '78, 65, Atlantic, Iowa; Dec. 20.

Alex J. Meyer MSE '79, 80, Snyder; Dec. 21.

Joyce M. Byerly '80, 64, Atkinson; Dec. 31.

Stacia A. (Stone) Steensnes '82, 101, Newman Grove; March 12.

Arlene M. (Watchorn) Gnirk '83, 86, Lincoln; Dec. 8.

Dorothy A. (Schwarten) Urbanec '83, 96, Pender; Feb. 22.

Brent W. Chase '85, 62, Allen; Dec. 13.

Michael L. Hansen '93, 66, Fort Scott, Kan.; Dec. 24.

Linda M. (Nordby) Beam '96, 71, Coleridge; Nov. 14.

Kenneth W. Westring MSE '97, 75, Columbus; Nov. 18.

Eileen M. (Olson) Gengler MSE '99, 68, Spencer, Iowa; Jan. 10.

Craig E. Kelly '99, 70, Jefferson, S.D.; Sept. 18.

Dona K. (Purdie) Stamm '03, 65, Lincoln; Feb. 16.

Greta L. Smith '05, 39, Wayne; Dec. 19.

Katrina M. Nissen-Peabody '21, 44, Norfolk; Jan. 19.

FRIENDS WE WILL MISS:

Billy "Bill" G. Allen, 94, Columbus; March 7.

Glennadine V. (Roland) Barker, 86, Wayne; Jan. 5. Barker worked for Chartwells at Wayne State College for 15 years.

Janice J. (Jeppesen) Beck, 87, Louisville; Dec. 17.

Jack A. Conner, 81, Dakota Dunes, S.D.; Dec. 30.

Helen A. (Lukens) Cory, 93, Yankton, S.D.; Nov. 9.

Cleora J. (Baker) Fisher, 86, Albion; Dec. 29.

Lenice M. (Koza) Frank, 96, Stanton; Dec. 22.

Louis E. Fowler, 86, Warrensburg, Mo.; Dec. 30.

Ila J. (Uecker) Friedrich, 87, Plainview; March 25.

Angela C. (Cady) Harney, 44, Oakland; Feb. 26.

Dennis A. Lichty '69, 79, Norfolk; Dec. 11. Lichty taught at Wayne State College beginning in August 1992, retiring in 2016.

Joseph "Joe" P. McMenamin, 70, Omaha; Feb. 23.

Stacey E. Pecena, 52, Wayne; March 13.

Ruby A. (Menkens) Roberts, 89, Wakefield; Dec. 10.

LaVern (Wragge) Schulz, 90, Pierce; Feb 14.

Carolyn M. Seier, 68, Newman Grove; Jan. 13. Seier worked at Wayne State College from September 1983 until January 2007.

Judy J. (Nelson) Sherman, 74, Wayne; April 11. Sherman worked for Chartwells at Wayne State College for two years and then was the custodian at Bowen Hall from September 2005 until May 2014. She enjoyed being the dorm "mom" for many students.

Robert "Bob" Sherry, 85, Wayne; Feb. 3. Sherry worked at Wayne State College from August 1987 until his retirement in June 2003.

Marjean G. (Pehrson) Shively, 93, Lincoln; Nov. 14.

Dorothy C. (Schlickbernd) Wiesen, 92, Canby, Minn.; March 18.

Ruth E. (Thiede) Williams, 92, Clearfield, S.D.; Dec. 17.



2022

Homecoming

OCT. 3-8
Wild About Wayne State!

For 2022 events, visit:

WWW.WSC.EDU/HOMECOMING

Questions? Please contact:

Amber Sperry, Director of Alumni Relations
Wayne State Foundation
1111 Main Street • Wayne, NE 68787
402-375-7370 • amsperr1@wsc.edu

We are planning on seeing you at Homecoming, but all events are subject to change. For the most current information, please visit: WWW.WSC.EDU/HOMECOMING





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