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2014 Winter Commencement
Much has transpired since the last issue of the *Wayne State Magazine*. Separate tragedies -- an EF4 tornado and the loss of 18-year-old freshman football player Eddie Key III -- tested the resolve and hearts of the Wayne State community. I am pleased to note that in each case, the Wildcat family came together and provided the kind of relief and comfort that our alumni have come to expect from the college community.

In this issue of the magazine you can read an article based on a conversation with Wayne State Chief Information Officer John Dunning, the reluctant face of the tornado that devastated the east side of town on Oct. 4, 2013. John’s thoughts on his injuries, the recovery process and the support he received during his long road back to work shine a fantastic light on resiliency and determination in the face of severe injuries and uncertainty.

Within the pages of the magazine you will also find a significant amount of space devoted to the theme of “A College of Distinction”. To say we are proud of the accomplishments of the Wayne State community would be an understatement. From strategic planning, national rankings, and the work of past presidents Dr. Donald Mash, Dr. Sheila Stearns and Dr. Richard Collings, to the leadership challenges our students embrace and the faculty who bring honor to the college through their academic pursuits, Wayne State stands in a distinctive position among its peers in Nebraska and around the country.

Finally, I want to thank so many of you who rallied to support Wayne State with notes of encouragement and prayer as we mourned the passing of Eddie Key III. Eddie died Feb. 8 in his room in Berry Hall as a result of pulmonary edema brought on by bacterial pneumonia. By all accounts from coaches and teammates, Eddie was a wonderful person with a caring soul who made a significant impact on those around him in his short time here at the college. As a small college, the loss of one of our own is always a difficult moment, but the burden was lessened by the tremendous outpouring of support from our alumni and friends.

As always, thank you for your continued belief in the college and for bearing the torch as ambassadors of your Alma Mater.

Mr. Curt Frye  
President, Wayne State College
A College of Distinction

Many benchmarks can be used to define a “college of distinction”. Wayne State uses the phrase frequently in reference to the college’s inclusion in Colleges of Distinction, an online guide that features schools that earn national recognition by education professionals, maintain a strong focus on teaching, provide a home for a wide variety of innovative learning experiences, foster opportunities for personal development, and enjoy a strong reputation among graduate schools and employers for its outstanding preparation. The recognition by Colleges of Distinction underlines a belief long held by the college’s alumni, faculty, staff and students: Wayne State’s programs, facilities and graduates belie the notion that a small state college cannot rise to the level of national distinction.

Wayne State exceeds expectations through the deliberate process of strategic planning, which has been part of the culture of the college from its earliest days as a Normal College, and the formulation of campus master plans, which take an even longer range view of facilities and programs. The past four presidential administrations at the college exemplify the strongest adherence to the notion that the best route to positioning an institution for the future goes directly through the intersection of recognition of the challenges and opportunities awaiting the college and the self-awareness that comes from evaluating the institution’s strengths and weaknesses. Or, to put it more succinctly, knowing where we are, how we got there, and where we want to be.

Wayne State possesses a solid track record of not only dreaming big during the planning process, but accomplishing those goals as well. The college’s planning process has yielded the renovation, expansion or addition of several key facilities associated with academics, athletics, the physical plant, grounds, and parking. The projects were funded with a mixture of funds coming from the Wayne State Foundation, college cash reserves, and state funding through various legislative bills designed to appropriate funds for specific improvements related to access, safety and other issues.

The planning process also has guided the improvement and enhancement of academic areas through an emphasis on new accreditations and improving the quality of programs. Existing academic initiatives, such as the college Honors Program, have benefited from an intense emphasis that now results in Wayne State students regularly receiving invitations to present their work at the National Honors Council conference. WSC students are often the only college or university students in Nebraska invited to the prestigious National Honors Council conference. WSC students are often the only college or university students in Nebraska invited to the prestigious National Honors Council conference.

During his inauguration, President Curt Frye pledged to the college’s faculty, staff, students and alumni that Wayne State should better train future leaders to return and make a difference in their communities; make every effort to attract and retain the best faculty and staff; better serve students and Northeast Nebraska; better engage faculty and staff in the learning process; and better plan for the future of the college’s facilities to match the ever-changing needs of tomorrow’s students.

The president’s charge to the college exemplifies the continued determination on the part of the college to continually push to improve, even transform, Wayne State. The evidence of this commitment can be seen all over campus in renovated facilities and in the steady growth of the size and prestige of academic programs.

“The invaluable change to the planning process this year was to align the timing of our efforts with the state budgeting process,” Frye said. “It is our sincere hope that by bringing our plan to the state legislature by way of the coordinating arm of the Nebraska State College System, we can secure additional funding through an increased state appropriation to the college.”

The strategic priorities that emerged from the most recent planning process led by President Frye – to increase enrollment and retention, value internal and external stakeholders and increase participation in programs and activities designed to serve external stakeholders, and pursue knowledge of diversity in people, programs and culture – were the product of the entire campus collaborating to guide the submission of action plans, some of which will require additional funding and others that can be implemented right away by reallocating funds or without using any additional funding.

“The end result of this process is a more robust college, driven by data, with measurable, achievable results,” Frye said. “The college reaps the rewards of immediate action plans and long-range plans that will propel the college forward, which is a truly distinctive mark.”

The defining characteristic of Wayne State’s distinctiveness emerges from the college’s ongoing efforts to reimagine and transform itself to best suit the needs of students and provide faculty and staff with the resources needed to meet the colleges mission. Distinction proves fleeting for colleges that do otherwise.

From Plans to Completion

- New accreditations for the Music Department (National Association of Schools of Music) and the Department of Art and Design (National Association of Schools of Art and Design)
- Carhart Science Building renovation, which made Wayne State’s labs the best available to undergraduate students in the state of Nebraska
- Rice Basement renovation, which added multiple Health, Human Performance and Sport classrooms and top-notch performance labs to campus
- Stadium training facilities and plaza addition, which greatly improved weight training facilities for our athletes and improved the stadium for fans
- Studio Arts renovation
- Hahn Administration Building renovation
- Improved street surfaces and parking
- Pile Residence Hall renovation
- Neihardt Residence Hall renovation
- Construction of Network and Technology Services offices and server rooms at the Facilities Services Building
- Construction of the Campus Commons area
- Construction of the Gardner Business Building
- Facilities Services renovation
- Willow Bowl renovation
- Memorial Stadium turf and Soccer Field renovation
Wayne State Excels in College Rankings

Wayne State College was the only public college or university in Nebraska to receive recognition in this year’s *U.S. News and World Report* annual college guide, the *Washington Monthly College Guide and Rankings*, and *Colleges of Distinction*. This is the second consecutive year the college has achieved these honors.

Wayne State ranks 21st among public universities in the Midwest, and 72nd among all regional universities, both public and private, in the *U.S. News* rankings. Wayne State was 32nd among regional public universities and 88th overall last year.

*Washington Monthly* awarded Wayne State the highest overall score of any public institution in Nebraska, with the college ranked second among all public and private schools in the state. The college also ranked second for community service participation and for the quality of its service staff, courses and financial aid support in Nebraska among public and private institutions. Wayne State ranks 116th out of 684 master’s universities in the U.S.

“Obviously, rankings should never serve as the sole mark of distinction for a college,” said Wayne State President Curt Frye. “But taken as a whole, these three college guides attest to what we tell our students and alumni on a regular basis: Wayne State is a distinctive college, made up of excellent faculty and staff, and populated with some of the best students from our region. We are understandably proud to see our accomplishments noted in relation to our peers.”

Wayne State’s ranking in *U.S. News* places the college second among public institutions and fourth among both public and private schools in Nebraska. The college ranks third among the 16 schools in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference in which it competes in Division II athletics.

Other benchmarks to note among the *U.S. News* rankings data: Wayne State’s average alumni giving rate is 14 percent (only 18 out of nearly 150 schools had a higher giving rate); Wayne State is the only school in the Midwest region to report a 100 percent acceptance rate; 44 percent of WSC classes have less than 20 students; and the college’s freshman retention rate is 68 percent.

“The college clearly delivers satisfaction, access and individual attention,” Frye said. “These factors and more contribute greatly to our ability to fulfill our mission of teaching excellence, student success and regional service. A tremendous amount of the credit belongs to Wayne State’s faculty and staff for their invaluable teaching and support.”

*Washington Monthly*, founded in 1969, rates schools based on their contribution to the public good in three broad categories: social mobility (recruiting and graduating low-income students), research (producing cutting-edge scholarship), and service (encouraging students to give something back to their country).

“Unlike *U.S. News & World Report* and similar guides, this one asks not what colleges can do for you, but what colleges are doing
The rankings confirm for us what we know here in Wayne: We are outstanding stewards of the trust and support placed in us by the state of Nebraska and its students. There exists little room for doubt about the excellence of our programs or our commitment to ensuring Nebraska students have a high quality, low cost option for a college education.

"With so much emphasis being placed upon access, accountability and cost in the national debate over higher education, we are understandably proud to rank so highly in Washington Monthly," President Frye said. "The rankings confirm for us what we know here in Wayne: We are outstanding stewards of the trust and support placed in us by the state of Nebraska and its students. There exists little room for doubt about the excellence of our programs or our commitment to ensuring Nebraska students have a high quality, low cost option for a college education."

Colleges of Distinction is a college guide with a unique approach. Instead of looking for the richest or the most famous schools, the guide asks which colleges are the best places to learn, to grow, and to succeed.

"The goal of Colleges of Distinction is to provide students, counselors, and parents with information about schools that excel in these key areas," according to its website. "We describe schools that take a holistic approach to admissions decisions, that consistently excel in providing undergraduate education, and that have a truly national reputation."

A "College of Distinction" is nationally recognized by education professionals as an excellent school, strongly focused on teaching undergraduates, home to a wide variety of innovative learning experiences, an active campus with many opportunities for personal development, and highly valued by graduate schools and employers for its outstanding preparation.

"These three college guides provide a clear, comprehensive picture of where the college stands and the foundation upon which a Wayne State education is built," President Frye said. "We are a regional college of distinction."
Tradition of Decisive Leadership Breeds Distinction

Dr. Donald Mash, Wayne State’s ninth president (1987-1998), was instrumental in pointing the college toward the future. Mash’s tenure was characterized by his emphasis on building relationships between higher education and the development of greater Nebraska. During his years of service, the college assumed a larger role as a catalyst for education, the arts, cultural activity, and community and economic development.

“One of the substantial accomplishments during my time as president was the reversal of an enrollment decline,” Mash said. “I launched a very aggressive outreach program, positioning Wayne State as a true regional college of distinction by traveling around Northeast Nebraska to hold open townhall-style meetings in civic halls, cafes and restaurants, and many other venues, to get the word out about not just the excellence of our programs but the college’s contributions to the region as well.”

“I also directed a targeted initiative that constantly reinforced the comparative advantages for our students: personal attention, retention strategies, orientation programs and success stories,” Mash said.

Mash’s efforts continue to pay dividends today and played an integral, continuing role during the presidencies of Dr. Sheila Stearns (1999-2003) and Dr. Richard Collings (2004-2010). Each successive president, including President Curt Frye, recognized the importance of stressing the crucial role the college plays in Nebraska and the subsequent positive effect that message has on recruiting efforts. Even during periods of state and national decline in enrollment, Wayne State has maintained steady enrollment.

The college embarked on the first master planning process under President Mash, which drove facilities development across campus. In addition to driving physical changes to the campus, Mash initiated the transition to computer technology, effectively computerizing Wayne State.

Dr. Stearns’ path to the future for Wayne State, and one that continued to pave the way to the college’s distinctive place in higher education, was her focus on campus-wide planning, targeted state support, faculty and administrative persistence, and generous philanthropy on the part of college alumni. Dr. Mash built a solid culture of private giving by planning and implementing the college’s first national fundraising campaign, Building Bright Futures, in 1991. Stearns led the charge on the All About Students campaign launched in 1999.

Stearns tacitly endorsed the value of a Wayne State education by emphasizing her belief that everyone in society benefits from college-educated, service-oriented citizens with rewarding careers.

“The centerpiece of my vision for Wayne State College is a relentless focus on students, student learning, student life and student success,” Stearns noted in 2000.

“Working with academic leaders, we reduced the administrative overhead and silos of the college by consolidating eight divisions into four divisions, which are still in place today,” Stearns said. “This promoted more crosstalk and collaboration among faculty and their students in a variety of disciplines. We developed a facilities master plan in 2001 that prioritized investment in student learning. When budgets were squeezed, we prioritized programs such as STRIDE [now TRiO] that gave at-risk students a helping hand without lowering academic expectations. To build academic quality in music and the arts, we invested in the renovation of the Ramsey Theatre and created a lower level for expanded music space and an additional small theatre.”

President Collings, who came to the college in 2004, inherited a college determined to fulfill its mission of teaching and learning excellence, regional service and academic excellence. Like his predecessors, he put his stamp on the college’s future by guiding the Centennial Campaign to raise more than $21 million, the largest campaign goal in the history of the Wayne State Foundation that included initiatives for scholarships, campus beautification and the renovation of Carhart Science Building, which started with Phase 1 in May 2009. Collings also emphasized Wayne State’s relationship with Northeast Nebraska, forging an important partnership with Northeast Community College to build the College Center in South Sioux City to serve the area’s growing population.

“My vision for Wayne State College required focus upon teaching and learning within an environment that allows our students to reach their full potential,” Collings wrote in a reflection on WSC’s centennial. “As the college moves into the next 100 years, I challenge new leadership to embrace this mission.”
Wayne State provides multiple avenues for students who want to do more than earn a degree. The campus learning laboratory pushes down the walls of the typical classroom and challenges students to develop the leadership skills needed to make a difference in communities across Nebraska and the rest of the nation.

Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC)

Army ROTC at Wayne State College is offered through a cross enrolled program between WSC and the University of South Dakota’s ROTC Program. The college courses offered through ROTC are referred to as “military science courses” that add leadership training and management experience to academic pursuits. Students may major in any given major that will lead to a bachelor’s or graduate degree at WSC.

Leadership Laboratory

Wayne State, as the college’s mission statement says, aims at teaching and learning excellence. The classroom generally gets credit as the leading learning environment, but Wayne State pushes learning outside of the classroom by stressing leadership opportunities to build well-rounded graduates who are armed not just with the requisite knowledge of their course of studies, but with the personal and social skills necessary to enter the workforce ahead of the leadership curve.

The WALK program

Leadership shouldn’t be limited only to those with in-depth experience. Wayne State College understands this and strives to provide opportunities to students setting foot on campus for the first time. That’s why WSC teaches them to “walk.”

The Wildcat Academy of Leadership and Knowledge (WALK) is a newly implemented program at WSC that offers campus involvement and leadership opportunities to incoming freshmen. The program began in the fall of 2012 under the direction of the Office of Residence Life.

A WALK student must maintain a 2.5 GPA and complete a challenge assigned each Tuesday at the group’s weekly seminar meetings. Challenges include getting students out of the dorms and involved on campus by going to student activities or organizational meetings.

Completing challenges and practicing involvement on campus helps WALK students develop a habit of leadership. Obtaining or competing for leadership roles on campus gives students experiences they can use after graduation.
Student Leaders: Matthew Henery

Matthew Henery of Battle Creek is a junior majoring in business marketing with a minor in mass communication and business management. He serves as a resident assistant and front desk manager in Terrace Hall, Residence Hall Association National Communication Chair (vote on behalf of WSC on delegation and legislation within residence life), and a WSC Navigator.

“I felt like coming to a small school I would have more opportunities to get involved in different clubs and organizations. I knew I wanted to make a lot of friends, make a difference on campus and in the community, not to mention have the chance to build my resume. Wayne State has provided me with that opportunity.”

“Unlike others who want to do the easy thing as a leader you have to step up and do what others don’t want to do. Step up and take initiative! I strive to be like the leaders who have inspired me and shaped my life.”

“Being involved has definitely helped me to know people in classes. I had confidence going to class because I knew I would always have someone to talk to and ask questions if I needed help. Also knowing students made it easy to form study groups. It benefits your organization by knowing a lot of people, but it has helped my education more by knowing people within my academic department.”

“Once I graduate I plan to join the work force. I will be able to intermingle with other associates and help build a brighter future for my company and the employees through the skills I have learned by being involved at WSC.”

Student Leaders: Katie Mann

Katie Mann of North Bend is a junior majoring in elementary education and special education. She serves as Student Activities Board President and as a resident assistant in Berry Hall.

“Wayne State has helped me to be involved in different organizations and it has helped me to excel and gain different leadership qualities. Wayne State gave me the Leadership Scholarship out of high school and that helped push me to be involved and started the spark of me finding leadership opportunities on campus.”

“Being a leader means being there for students and helping them try to find their way at WSC. The size of Wayne allowed me to get to know people and find clubs in my major. By being involved in clubs associated with my major, I have been able to learn more and grow in ways I wouldn’t have been able to in the classroom. Also getting to meet people who are passionate about the same things you are just helps you to excel.”

“My plan for the future is to get a job as a teacher. I simply can’t wait to have my own classroom with all my little kiddos. Being involved has helped me prepare for my field of study and I have also learned many life lessons that I can apply in the future.”

"My plan for the future is to get a job as a teacher. I simply can’t wait to have my own classroom with all my little kiddos. Being involved has helped me prepare for my field of study and I have also learned many life lessons that I can apply in the future."
Student Leaders: Kelsey Oltmanns

Kelsey Oltmanns of Crofton is a senior majoring in sport management and minoring in exercise science. She serves as president of SPORTS Club (Students Pursuing Occupations Related to Sports).

“I have had many leadership roles throughout my high school and college career, but never have I had the privilege of being president of a club. This year, I am president of SPORTS Club and I absolutely love it! It teaches me how to communicate with my fellow officers and the members. I am learning how to coordinate groups, and becoming more comfortable with asking others for help.”

“People who helped me become the leader I am today are the leaders who came before me in the organizations I was involved with in junior high and high school. They were the ones I wanted to be and who I looked to when I had questions and was debating running for officer positions. They always encouraged me to become a leader and were excellent role models to follow. I still use their leadership styles in my life today.”

“The fact that people look to me to lead and represent their club is very rewarding. I enjoy working with people and coordinating events that I know are helping the members of the club and students on campus as well as community members.”

“WSC has allowed me to break out of my shell, and be the person I want to be. I have been given numerous opportunities to be part of groups and clubs on campus, which has provided me with so many real life experiences. WSC has given me the education and tools I need to be confident in being able to succeed in life.”

Ron Holt Civic Engagement Award Honors Service

Wayne State College will present the first Ron Holt Civic Engagement Award in honor of Dr. Ronald Holt, a 1989 Wayne State College alumnus, at the spring commencement ceremony. The annual award will recognize a WSC senior with a $500 award upon graduation.

Seniors who win the award should have served as exemplary role models and contributed to the service ethos of the college campus and community at large during their college career. Selected students must have participated in at least one service-learning academic or co-curricular project/event while at WSC and have maintained good academic standing with a GPA of 2.5 or higher while in college.

Throughout his educational and professional career, Dr. Holt has exhibited outstanding accomplishments as a strong advocate and champion of civic engagement and community service.

Holt is an attending psychiatrist in the Department of Psychiatry at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in South San Francisco, Calif. His community service began at WSC 14 years ago when he began returning to campus each homecoming week as a volunteer to educate students on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues and civil rights.

“Each of us has unique knowledge, skills, and abilities that can be used to help others,” Holt said. “We each have the ability to make a difference in our own special way.”

Holt has received several awards for his community service across the country. He has been awarded the College’s 2004 Alumni Service Award and the 2012 Alumni Achievement Award.

In addition to his valued work as a trustee of the Wayne State Foundation, Holt has created numerous endowed and annual scholarships at Wayne State College. He began his first annual scholarship in 1989 while a WSC senior.
Student Leaders: Alyssa Bish

Alyssa Bish of Aurora is a junior majoring in speech communication with an emphasis in organizational leadership and public relations and minoring in sociology. She is serving her second year as Student Senate president and is a community coordinator for Berry and Terrace Halls.

“I knew that coming to Wayne would allow me more opportunities to get involved, but I had no idea it would open the doors to so many opportunities and connections. I was able to get involved my freshmen year with student senate and was elected my freshmen year as Student Senate president. Through Student Senate I was able to go on an all-expense paid trip to Israel this past summer and it all started at Wayne State.”

“Being involved has allowed me to make connections across campus with different professors and faculty. I know my professors on a more personal level, because I see them outside of the classroom. We discuss issues happening on campus and they help me gain ideas and insight into the organizations I’m involved in as well as help me apply those lessons in the classroom. Teachers know what I am involved in and they use my organizations as examples in class to help me remember the concept and think critically.”

“You just get a boost of confidence when you walk into a room and you see people from clubs and organizations sitting in the same class as you. Not only do you have someone you can talk to in class, but you meet people who are passionate about the same things as you. You are more than just study buddies, but you are friends outside of the classroom because you are involved in the same things.”

“Student Senate has given me confidence to believe in myself and to push myself to try new things. Self-confidence is crucial as I start looking at graduate schools and potential employers. I know I wouldn’t have that confidence if it wasn’t for me being involved at WSC. I am not afraid of trying what seems impossible either, because through the help of many faculty, teachers, and fellow student leaders I have witnessed amazing things happen here at Wayne State. Getting Wifi in the residence halls seemed like a daunting task, but through the course of a year we were able to achieve our goal. It is also one more reason I love Wayne State because the students’ voices are heard. They want what is best for the students, and they do everything in their power to help you succeed and reach your full potential.”

“I have learned how to communicate with different types of people and get things done in a timely fashion with the resources available to me. I have learned life lessons and effective leadership strategies that could not be learned from a textbook.”

“I can’t put a price tag on the leadership qualities and life experience gained while being involved at WSC. My education has been enriched by being able to apply concepts outside of the classroom, and it has prepared me well for the future.”
Wayne State student-athletes and the athletic department are an integral part of the college’s educational mission. They also serve as important ambassadors of the college whether on the road for games or working in area schools as volunteers and mentors. They also happen to do a great job in the classroom.

Student Leaders: Kacey Eggers

Kacey Eggers of Tilden is a senior majoring in accounting and sport management. She serves as a Student Senate senator, Archery Club president, Delta Sigma Pi scholarships and awards chair (business honor society), Cardinal Key treasurer (women’s honor society), and Residents Hall Association treasurer.

“I was able to talk to Dr. Jeff Carstens, the vice president of student affairs, during my visit while deciding on a college and I told him I wanted to start an archery club if I came to WSC. Before I even came to WSC I knew I could start an archery club and the college supported me.”

Kacey started the Archery Club on campus her freshmen year and holds the title of National Champion. She has won titles every year and has competed in archery around the world through Wayne State.

“Being a leader means being able to help others and trying to be that role model people can look up to by encouraging students that they can succeed if they put their mind to it. I also push myself to not only make myself better, but the college better. We can be more than just an organization on campus. We can help make a difference. Being a leader gave me the confidence to ask teachers and students questions when I don’t understand. Teachers also know who you are when you’ve been a leader and they are more willing to work with you. They see you outside of the classroom and recognize your name from the different organizations you are involved in. Through being a leader I have also learned how important it is to be involved while in school and later on in the work place.”

“Being a leader has given me the confidence to strive for more. I know I can hold top management positions if I really tried for it. I just need to put my mind to it and I know I have the ability to be successful.”

Ten Wayne State College seniors received the fifth annual NSIC Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award announced Jan. 22 by the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) office in Burnsville, Minn. The honor, named for the late NCAA President Dr. Myles Brand, is bestowed to senior NSIC student-athletes who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 or higher and are exhausting their eligibility and on track to graduate. Wayne State had the second-most recipients of the prestigious award among all NSIC schools.

“Dr. Brand, in his leadership role with the NCAA, always gave strong support to Division II and our dual emphasis on academics and athletics,” said NSIC Commissioner Butch Raymond. “The NSIC is proud to recognize and honor this elite group of student-athletes in Dr. Brand’s honor.”

A total of 96 student athletes from the 16 institutions and two affiliated members in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference will receive the award in its fifth year. Each student athlete will be recognized by the NSIC with a certificate of achievement and a wrist watch.

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<th>Name</th>
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Gifted in the Classroom and on the Field of Play

NSIC Myles Brand Award Recipients
Dr. Don Hickey, historian, author and professor at Wayne State College, received the Samuel Eliot Morison Award from the USS Constitution Museum on Oct. 17 in Boston, Mass. This award, named in honor of the renowned maritime historian, is given for artful scholarship and desire to preserve the nation’s past for future generations. During the dinner, the museum recognized several individuals who display characteristics the USS Constitution has come to represent: dedication to community, commitment to purpose, and excellence in all endeavors.

A longtime student of the War of 1812, Hickey was called “the dean of 1812 scholarship” by the New Yorker. An award-winning author, Hickey has written seven books and nearly 100 articles on the war. He is best known for The War of 1812: A Forgotten Conflict and Don’t Give Up the Ship! Myths of the War of 1812.

Hickey joins elite company with the honor. Previous winners of the Samuel Eliot Morison Award include journalism and broadcast giant Walter Cronkite; Tip O’Neill, who served as Speaker of the House from 1977 until his retirement in 1987, making him the only Speaker to serve for five complete consecutive Congresses, and the second longest-serving Speaker in U.S. history; and David McCullough, American author and historian, and a two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States’ highest civilian award.

“This is a special honor to me for several reasons,” Hickey said. “Morison was the most prolific and accomplished historian of the 20th century, Old Ironsides is our most famous warship, and the museum in Boston dedicated to honoring this iconic ship is one the best-run facilities of its kind in the nation. I’m humbled by the honor. I certainly never thought I’d get an award that earlier went to someone like Walter Cronkite or David McCullough.”

As the memory and educational voice of the USS Constitution, the museum proudly reminds the community of her legacy and the many ways in which citizens can pay tribute to her years of service.

Planning, rankings and leadership depend on the faculty members who work tirelessly in the classroom. Wayne State faculty members regularly receive recognition for their work as professors and for the level of scholarship and expertise they bring to bear on their subject areas.

**Museum Honors Dr. Don Hickey for Preserving Nation’s Past**

Dr. Don Hickey, historian, author and professor at Wayne State College, received the Samuel Eliot Morison Award from the USS Constitution Museum on Oct. 17 in Boston, Mass. This award, named in honor of the renowned maritime historian, is given for artful scholarship and desire to preserve the nation’s past for future generations. During the dinner, the museum recognized several individuals who display characteristics the USS Constitution has come to represent: dedication to community, commitment to purpose, and excellence in all endeavors.

A longtime student of the War of 1812, Hickey was called “the dean of 1812 scholarship” by the New Yorker. An award-winning author, Hickey has written seven books and nearly 100 articles on the war. He is best known for The War of 1812: A Forgotten Conflict and Don’t Give Up the Ship! Myths of the War of 1812.

Hickey joins elite company with the honor. Previous winners of the Samuel Eliot Morison Award include journalism and broadcast giant Walter Cronkite; Tip O’Neill, who served as Speaker of the House from 1977 until his retirement in 1987, making him the only Speaker to serve for five complete consecutive Congresses, and the second longest-serving Speaker in U.S. history; and David McCullough, American author and historian, and a two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States’ highest civilian award.

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As the memory and educational voice of the USS Constitution, the museum proudly reminds the community of her legacy and the many ways in which citizens can pay tribute to her years of service.

Dr. Pearl Hansen, professor of art, received the 2013 Nebraska Art Teachers Association (NATA) Higher Education Teaching Award and the 2013 NATA State Art Teachers Award in September. The Higher Education Art Educator of the Year award is given to a member of NATA/National Art Educators Association who spends at least .51 FTE teaching art at the post-secondary level and has made outstanding contributions in teacher education, in-service and program development in the classroom and beyond, including community, state and/or national levels. The Nebraska Outstanding Art Educator of the Year Award is given to an individual who meets exceptional standards of excellence and service in art education on local, state, and national levels. It is given to a member of NATA/NAEA who spends at least .51 FTE in art education.

Dr. Elise Hepworth, associate professor of voice and music education, traveled to Sergipe, Bahia, and Alagoas, Brazil, as part of a vocational exchange through Rotary International for five weeks during the month of May and June to study the use of music in elementary education. She visited more than 15 cities and made 25 presentations to various Portuguese-speaking clubs and schools. Hepworth also completed a national certification in Orff Schulwerk, an internationally-renown music pedagogy in July of 2013 at Vandercook College in Chicago, Illinois. Hepworth presented research in November on the changing male voice to the Iowa Music Educators Association in Ames, Iowa, and the Nebraska Music Educators Association in Lincoln.

Joshua Piersanti, assistant professor of graphic design, Dr. Pearl Hansen, professor of art, and Matthew Hepworth, graphic design instructor, designed and developed a digital, mobile-friendly map and guide for the Campus Art Collection (wsc.edu/cac), allowing for interactive exploration and discovery of the more than 300 pieces of art in the campus collection. The collection includes works by many artists acclaimed locally, nationally, and throughout the world.

See pages 18 & 19 for more Faculty Notes
Welcome home

Back in Wayne, the skies were dark to the southwest and warnings had been coming in since early afternoon about conditions being ripe for a tornado in the area. It was an unusual time of year to talk about twisters. Sixth-graders were practicing football at the Wayne Community Activity Center. Wayne High School was gearing up for its Homecoming football game at WSC’s Memorial Stadium. Wayne State’s rugby team was on its field near the city softball complex preparing for an upcoming tournament. It was just another Friday evening in town.

The warning sirens started blaring across town just before 5 p.m. Looking toward the east side of town, there was a dark wall of what appeared to be heavy rain moving northeast along Logan Creek. Dunning and Anderson were driving west on Highway 35 just outside of Wayne headed into what they thought was a torrential downpour when buildings and farm implements began exploding onto the highway from the south.

Dunning guided the truck off the side of the road to seek cover as the pressure from the tornado blew the windows out of his truck. “I remember bailing out of the pickup and feeling like I stepped into a sandblaster,” Dunning said. “I remember hitting the grass and wrapping my left arm around my head to protect myself.”

Shortly after taking cover in a weed-choked ditch, a roll off construction dumpster – tumbling end-over-end in the winds of the EF4 tornado – slammed into Dunning. Anderson raced to his side. Dunning doesn’t remember the dumpster dealing its crushing blow, but does recall Anderson telling him not to move, that help was on the way.

“The first thing I noticed was his lower left leg was pointing up toward his head,” Anderson said. “I could not tell if his foot was still attached. He was turning gray. I knew he was going into shock and went up the hill to get blankets from storm chasers in cars that were stopped due to downed power lines and debris. After covering him to treat him for shock I went back up the hill to get help. The ambulance arrived shortly afterward.”

Many people on campus and in the community privately expressed concern that Dunning would not return to work for at least a year. It was a commonly agreed upon, informal prognosis based on the severity of his injuries. A little more than three months later, Dunning returned home to Wayne to begin rehabilitation and therapy at Providence and resume working part time. It was a remarkable achievement and one that took many by surprise.

Dunning’s first week after his injuries was spent in a medically induced coma due to the severity of his wounds and the procedures required to put him back together. He suffered a broken left femur, compound left tibia/fibula fracture, broken right scapula, two broken ribs, collapsed right lung, broken sixth cervical vertebra, severed right axillary artery, partially severed right radial nerve, concussive skull fracture, multiple cuts and lacerations, and his right leg was impaled by two pieces of wood.

“The first thing I remember after the tornado is a memory that came back to me while I was at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln,” Dunning said. “It was of the ambulance ride from Wayne to Sioux City. Dr. Mark McCorkindale was in the ambulance and he asked if I wanted him to sing me something. He’s a singer, too, you know. But I thought he was asking me if I wanted to sing something to him and asked him what he wanted to hear. He said ‘No, I’ll do the singing, you just breathe.’ That memory, which was prompted by someone else recounting the story, came back to me as if it was from long ago.”

Upon arriving in Sioux City, doctors immediately went to work on his injuries. Dunning, who had never had any kind
of surgery before, underwent 38 surgical procedures in roughly 14 days. Though he was in a coma for most of them, Dunning’s mind was struggling to make sense of what had happened to his shattered body.

“I don’t remember anything else between the tornado and waking up in the intensive care unit,” he said. “The strangest thing was the hallucinations. I had three or four days of horrific hallucinations while in the medically induced coma. I thought people were trying to kill me. I thought there was a sniper outside my hospital window. Every night when Mom and my wife, Ann, would leave, there would be a young man who looked very much like a gang member who would sit in an easy chair in my room all night. I never saw his face, just his feet. In another of the hallucinations, there was this amazing ceiling in my room where my blood and oxygen was coming through glass panes and I could watch this flow to my body. Of course this was my body and mind trying to process my condition, and the effects of the propofol, ativan and morphine.”

The outpouring of support in Wayne and among the Wayne State extended family was enormous. He first became aware of the volume of well wishes around the middle of October.

“Ann asked me if I wanted to see the cards,” Dunning said. “She pulled out a grocery bag and we spent probably half an hour of her opening cards and holding them so I could read them. It got to the point where I was crying pretty intensely and we stopped.”

Dunning said the support was a profound experience. “It says you’re loved in a broad yet meaningful way and when you’re lying helpless in a hospital bed it’s a pretty marvelous message to receive,” he said.

“It communicated to me how profoundly beautiful people are.”

When asked about the men and women who treated his injuries, Dunning smiled quite broadly.

“I was in three medical facilities during the course of treatment and you would think that in this situation, without being able to choose the best option for your care, that one or two of those three facilities might have substandard care,” Dunning said, “but I feel like I got absolutely incredible care everywhere we went. Not just phenomenal surgeons, but amazing nurses and therapists with a drive to help you improve that’s just peerless. I feel incredibly blessed by the care we got everywhere we went and the fact that the folks here in town at Providence kept me alive long enough to get me to Sioux City was a miracle in itself.”

Back on campus, the Network and Technology Services team found itself without its chief officer. Nick Muir ’03 was tapped to lead the crew in his boss’ absence. Dunning broke out in another of his warm, broad smiles when asked about how his crew performed in his absence.

“They are the best information technology shop anybody could ask for,” Dunning said. “When you are trying to heal there are a lot of things that can be very seriously distracting: insurance questions, funds for hospital bills, will you have a job when you go back? I did not have to worry about any of those things. People either did their jobs with skill, passion and empathy or they were incredibly generous. They made sure all we had to focus on was getting better. I will never forget that.”

One of the toughest questions for Dunning centers on setbacks from his injuries. He had a difficult time masking the concern that spread across his face while answering.

“There have been a couple of potential setbacks that were really scary,” Dunning said. “We didn’t know for a while what the cognitive impact of brain injury was going to be and when you are on a lot of drugs that is really tough to measure. That was incredibly frightening to me. We didn’t know what the impact on my voice was going to be. As it turned out neither of those things was affected. The major thing I am still working on is function of my left hand and the loss of capacity there as result of brain injury. The prognosis is good and functionality is returning slowly, but there are no guarantees in terms of how much recovery I will have in that hand.”

Dunning said he measures his days since the tornado in terms of victories large and small.

“Oh, there have been lots of victories along the way,” he said. “Taking my first drink...an Arnold Palmer. Getting into a car in the same way I used to before the accident. Buttoning my right shirt cuff. The second week at Madonna, my speech therapist gave me a cracker to see if I could swallow and that was a pretty big deal. Moving my left arm when the doctors weren’t sure I would have use of it all...that caused a party for nurses, my wife and my mom.”

There have also been surprises that have unfolded as he has moved farther and farther out of the shadow of the storm.

“I keep going back to just how beautiful people are,” he said. “I had a pretty positive outlook on humanity before this happened, but the degree to which people have expressed love and concern and care in a variety of ways just absolutely astounds me.”

Wayne State College
Dr. David F. Johnson, Jr. (center) was presented the Alumni Achievement Award at winter commencement. He is pictured with President Curt Frye and Phyllis Conner, vice president for development and executive director of the Wayne State Foundation.

Dr. David Johnson Receives Alumni Achievement Award

Dr. David F. Johnson, Jr., was presented the Alumni Achievement Award by the Wayne State Foundation during the college commencement ceremony Dec. 13. Dr. Johnson, originally from Osmond, Neb., graduated from Wayne State in 1960 with a bachelor of arts degree and married Lelia Leggat the same year.

Johnson graduated from University of Nebraska Medical Center with a medical degree in family practice in 1965 and interned at Nebraska Methodist Hospital in Omaha in 1966. He served with the U.S. Army as commanding medical officer at the Armed Forces Examining and Entrance Station in Minneapolis. He received the Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service at the end of his tour.

He became a member of Osmond General Hospital Medical Staff in 1968 and by 1969 was employed in his own clinic, where he worked until retiring in 2013. He served as hospital chief of staff multiple times in rotation with other local physicians and served on the Osmond Hospital Board for 20 years. He was a member of the American Academy of Family Practice and the American Medical Association. He was a member of Osmond Community Club and served as American Legion Post 326 Commander.

Johnson and Lelia, who died in 2003, have five children and 14 grandchildren.

Guest Commencement Speaker

Dr. Steven Ramold, a 1988 graduate of Wayne State, delivered a guest address to the graduating class during the college’s commencement ceremony on Dec. 13. Ramold is an associate professor at Eastern Michigan University, teaching in the Department of History and Philosophy since 2005. He earned his master’s degree from the University of Nebraska-Omaha in 1991 and his Ph.D. from the University Nebraska-Lincoln in 1999.

Ramold specializes in nineteenth century U.S. History, Military History, and Cultural History. He teaches a range of courses including U.S. Military History, History of World War II, History of American Sports, and the Civil War and Reconstruction. He also leads a Civil War Tour course that visits a number of Civil War battlefields and historical sites every summer.

Ramold’s primary research area is the Civil War, on which he has written a number of articles, encyclopedia entries, and book reviews. His first book, Slaves, Sailors, Citizens: African Americans in the Union Navy, appeared in 2002. He has since written Baring the Iron Hand: Discipline in the Union Army, and Across the Divide: Union Soldiers View the Northern Home Front.

Ramold and his wife, Paula, live in Ypsilanti, Mich.
Wayne State College held commencement for graduate and undergraduate students Dec. 13 in Rice Auditorium. A total of 231 degrees -- 200 undergraduate and 31 graduate -- were conferred at the ceremonies by Wayne State President Curt Frye.

Invocation Speaker

Amanda Marvin, the daughter of Mike and Kathy Marvin of O'Neill, Neb., delivered the invocation at the ceremony. She is the oldest of four siblings.

Amanda graduated with a bachelor of science degree in K-12 music education. She was a member of the WSC Marching Band, serving as co-section leader for the trumpet section. She also was a member of the Wind Ensemble, Concert Choir, Keyboard Ensemble, and the Madrigal. She served for two years as the music tutor at the Holland Academic Success Center. Amanda is a recipient of the Ardath Conn Music Scholarship. She was selected to present her honors project in New Orleans this past fall at the National Honors College Colloquium. Amanda plans to pursue a career teaching elementary music while furthering her education by attaining a master’s degree in music education.

Commencement Speaker

Michelle Adrian, the daughter of George and Carla Olsem of Dundee, Minn., delivered the commencement address. She is married to Matthew Adrian.

Michelle majored in K-12 visual arts education, graphic design, and earned a coaching endorsement. She participated in the Honors Program and earned High Honors in the major. She was on the Dean’s List, was inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society and served as Holland Academic Learning Center peer tutor in art for two years. Michelle was a Campus Crusade for Christ Servant Team Member for three years and served as WSC Circle K International president, vice president, and historian.

She plans to teach art in Southwest Minnesota and coach volleyball.

Blue Ribbon Schools

The U.S. Department of Education named five Nebraska schools as 2013 National Blue Ribbon Schools in October. The schools were among 286 nationwide. The award is based on academic excellence and success in closing achievement gaps. Two of the schools, Wakefield and Wisner Pilger, are in Wayne State’s backyard and have multiple staff and faculty with Wayne State degrees and credentials.

Leslie Bebee, a trustee and member of the executive committee of the Wayne State Foundation, said, “Wakefield is proud to be recognized as one of only a handful of Nebraska National Blue Ribbon Schools. My daughter, Timarie Hansen, who teaches and coaches in the Wakefield School System, earned her master’s degree from Wayne State College. Wayne State College is well known in the state for its excellent teacher education programs.”

Wisner-Pilger schools staff and teachers with WSC degrees and credentials include: Left to right, Marlene Grenier (Storms ’02, MSE ’08), Bonnie Styksal (Knievel ’83, MSE ’08), Jennifer McCarthy (Brand, MSE ’08), Karen Johnson (Brodersen ’74), Cathy McClary (Deming ’75, MSE ’96) Michelle McClary, Brooke Wortmann ’13, Mary Lou Beeson (Feller ’79, MSE ’93), Sharon Goeller (Seelmeyer ’69, MSE ’85), Linda Hansen (Koester ’75), John Hughes ’75, MSE ’84, Jackie Schultz (Meyer ’84), Kathrina McGuire ’84, and Rachel Borer ’06. Not Pictured: Brent Bauer, MSE ’13, Cheryl Kreikemeier (Ruma ’86, MSE ’02), and Chad Boyer ’97, MSE ’03, Ed Spec ’11 (superintendent).
Dr. Randy Bertolas, professor of geography, was recently awarded a $6,000 grant from Humanities Nebraska to be used for publication of the “Student Atlas of Nebraska” he is creating geared toward fourth-grade classrooms. When completed, the atlases will be distributed free to teachers enrolled in training workshops sponsored by the Geographic Educators of Nebraska, an organization Bertolas leads.

Dr. Adolfo Cacheiro, professor of Spanish, presented a paper at the annual meeting of the National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies held Feb. 11-16 in Baton Rouge. Cacheiro had an article titled “Fidelity to the Event in Roberto Bolaño’s ‘Laberinto’” published in the fall 2013 issue of L’Érudit franco-espagnol.

Maureen Carrigg, associate professor of mass communication, was a jury member for the Four River International Youth Film Festival in September in Karlovac, Croatia. Carrigg presented to teen filmmakers and their mentors who were also taking part in the European Festival on Youth Film. Carrigg also presented at the College Broadcaster’s National Conference in San Antonio, Texas, on remote broadcasting in October. Pictured: Four River Film Festival Jury Daniel Kusan, Vera Sopfar, Maureen Carrigg.

Dr. Meenakshi N. Dalal, professor of economics, presented a paper on microfinance, “Effectiveness of Microfinance: Case Study of Rajasthan, India” at the 2013 Great Plains Economic and Business Conference in Omaha. Dalal also was elected to serve on the board of the Nebraska Business and Economic Association at the conference.

Steven Elliott, interim dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, had sculptures exhibited at several shows around the Midwest: ARTcetera, an invitational three-month group exhibition at the Sioux City Art Center, in Sioux City, Iowa; the Edina Promenade Sculpture Exhibit, a national juried one-year outdoor group exhibition in Minneapolis, Minn.; the Ames Annual Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition, a national juried one-year outdoor group exhibition curated by the City of Ames Public Art Commission in Ames, Iowa; the Sculpt Siouxland Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition, a national juried one-year outdoor group exhibition curated by Sculpt Siouxland Board in Sioux City, Iowa; and the Faculty Exhibition, an invitational group exhibition at Nordstrand Visual Arts Gallery at Wayne State.

Dr. Jason Karsky, professor of criminal justice, presented Wayne tornado research titled “An Analysis of Social Impact Using Fischer’s Disaster Scale,” at the annual conference of the Great Plains Sociological Association held Oct. 24-25 in Fargo, N.D. North Dakota State University is home to one of the premier emergency management Ph.D. programs in the nation. Karsky, who teaches emergency management at Wayne State College, conducted an analysis that revealed the Wayne area tornado rates

Joshua Piersanti, assistant professor of graphic design, Matthew Hepworth, graphic design instructor, and 40 of Wayne State College’s graphic design students collaborated with Dr. Susan LaFlesche of the Picotte Center to restore severely damaged historical photographs of the Omaha Tribe during Spring 2013. Thanks to funding from Wayne State Service-Learning, the restored photographs were professionally matted, framed, and delivered to the center’s museum to be exhibited. Piersanti and 14 of Wayne State College’s graphic design students collaborated with the College’s Conn Library to restore damaged historical photographs dating from the early 1900s of the campus, faculty, and students, during Fall 2013. Thanks to funding from Wayne State Service-Learning, the restored photographs were professionally matted, framed, and are scheduled to be delivered to the Library to be exhibited in buildings across campus.
as a Disaster Category 3 on a scale of 1 to 10. Karsky has been conducting research on the impact of the Wayne tornado since it struck on Oct. 4. The tornado ripped through rural areas south of Wayne before making its way through the eastern portion of the community. The National Weather Service determined that wind speeds reached 170 MPH. In his research, Karsky was able to determine the social impact of the disaster by utilizing Fischer’s Disaster Scale, which was developed by sociologist Henry Fischer after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. “What the research really reveals is that Wayne dodged a bullet. I don’t want to think about what life would be like if the tornado ripped through the heart of the city. On the DC 10 end of the scale, communities face complete annihilation,” Karsky said. “What I like about this scale is it goes well beyond substantiating impact based on wind speed, injuries, or number of buildings compromised. At the heart of the analysis is an investigation into community disruption and readjustment after the tornado,” Karsky said.

Stephanie Marcellus, assistant professor of English, had her short story “Heartland” accepted for publication by Ice Cube Press. Her story will appear in the forthcoming anthology, Prairie Gold: An Anthology of the American Heartland.

Dr. Shawn Pearcy, professor of biology, Dr. Gustavo Zardeneta, associate professor of chemistry, and Dr. Doug Christensen, professor of biology, were research mentors and co-authors on several research posters presented by Wayne State College students at the Experimental Biology Convention held April 2013 in Boston, Mass. Co-authorship included the research project titled “Listeria Monocytogenes inlA/inlB as Possible Drug Delivery Systems.

Dr. David Peitz, professor of chemistry, presented “Using a Freeware Chemistry Drawing Program to Enhance Student Learning in Organic Chemistry” on Oct. 17 at the Midwest Regional meeting of the American Chemical Society in Springfield, Mo. Peitz also was elected president of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences. NAS is a professional society dedicated to providing services to its members and to all Nebraskans. The academy is affiliated with the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Association of Academies of Science.

NEW WSC Alumni Directory Coming Soon!

Wayne State Foundation has entered into a partnership with Harris Connect to produce a 2014 Wayne State College Alumni Today publication.

Our ongoing partnership with Harris Connect resulted in previous, popular editions. The 2014 edition is expected to include listing/profiles of more than 24,000 alums in a class year/biographical section as well as a geographical section denoting in which states, cities, and towns our alums reside, and an alphabetical index of all of our alumni.

For the first time, we are also including alumni photos and stories – be sure to participate to let your fellow classmates know what you are doing these days!

You may receive a phone call or postcard in the mail or even an email from Harris Connect asking you to verify your information for listing in the directory. These updates are also very valuable to the Wayne State Foundation!
Dr. Karl Kolbeck welcomes audience members as the Wayne State College Orchestra performed on Nov. 10. The orchestra is made up of more than 50 WSC students and surrounding community members who share a passion for orchestral music and performance.

The Nebraska State College System named Fran Hassler ('95 MSE) as the 2013 NSCS Counseling Excellence Award recipient. Presenting the award was NSCS Chancellor Stan Carpenter (left) and NSCS Board member Bob Engles. Hassler has been the guidance counselor at Ponca High School since 1995. She was recognized at the Board of Trustees meeting at Wayne State College on Nov. 14.

The Wayne State President's Council for Diversity and Office of Multicultural Affairs hosted Fred de Sam Lazaro, a reporter for the PBS NewsHour and regular contributor and substitute anchor for PBS' Religion and Ethics Newsweekly, on Feb. 3 and 4.
Manny Scott, an original Freedom Writer, shared his story with more than 1,000 teachers when he spoke at Wayne State on Jan. 16. Scott, whose story is told in part in the 2007 hit movie, “Freedom Writers,” spoke with more than 20 schools from Northeast Nebraska attending.

Wayne State hosted the 2013 Nebraska Art Teachers Association Fall Conference, Sept. 20 and 21. Dr. Pearl Hansen ‘71 organized the conference.

Tornado Relief

“In the wake of the recent tragedy that we were faced with in Wayne, the heart and value of our people has been a blessing,” Wayne Mayor Ken Chamberlain said. “The City of Wayne owes a huge debt of gratitude to the WSC students and student groups for their efforts in the recovery of our community. Thank you all for your efforts!”

The college rallied around the town of Wayne with students, faculty and staff volunteering to pick up debris, answer phones, serve food, babysit, and assist with fundraisers and anything else that was needed.
Wayne State Lands 40 Student-athletes on NSIC Fall 2013 All-Academic

Men’s Cross Country:
Nathan Boggess Sr. Springfield, Neb.
Greg Tracy Sr. Omaha, Neb.

Women’s Cross Country:
Molly Kingsley So. Bellevue, Neb.

Football:
Garret Bedke Sr. Pleasanton, Neb.
Charlie Davidson Sr. Wheaton, Ill.
Nathan Most Sth. Giltner, Neb.
Austen Pomazl Sr. Grand Island, Neb.
Craig Tiggges Jr. Winside, Neb.
Nathan Janke Jr. Moorpark, Calif.
Adam Stark Sr. Webster City, Iowa
Jon Davis So. Gretna, Neb.
Colby Dostal Sr. Emerson, Neb.
Taylor Jensen So. Omaha, Neb.
Tyler Johnson So. Wauconda, Ill.
Brian Kent Jr. Aurora, Neb.
Bryce Quinn So. Osmond, Neb.
Wyatt Schuettler So. Broken Bow, Neb.

Soccer:
Macy Hagen Sr. Omaha, Neb.
Caitlin Hollinger Sr. Wichita, Kan.
Norma Volkmer Jr. Lincoln, Neb.
McKenna Adams Jr. Springfield, Mo.
Jordan Hobza Jr. Omaha, Neb.
Mallory Hoy Jr. Glenwood, Iowa
Alex Mathers Jr. Firrth, Neb.
Josie Brown So. Elk River, Minn.
Bridget Hansen So. Lincoln, Neb.
Hannah Hirsch So. Jefferson, Wis.
Rachel Mabrey So. Urbandale, Iowa
Natalie Poppe So. North Platte, Neb.
Hannah Thayer So. Aurora, Ill
Kelly Voigt So. Lee’s Summit, Mo.

Volleyball:
Lexi Malm Sr. Central City, Neb.
Elizabeth Gebhardt Sr. Norfolk, Neb.
Katie Hughes Jr. Seward, Neb.
Leisa McClintock Jr. Sioux City, Iowa
Courtney VanGroningen Jr. Sterling, Neb.

Frauendorfer Named Central Region Freshman of the Year

The 2013 Wayne State College volleyball team posted a 22-10 record, finishing the season ranked 21st in the final AVCA Division II Top 25 Coaches Poll. It marked the fifth straight year and seventh time in the last nine seasons that Wayne State ended the year ranked nationally, but the Wildcats were left out of the loaded NCAA Central Regional Volleyball Tournament for the first time in nine seasons.

The Wildcats opened the season with four straight wins against Top 25 teams, including a 3-1 victory over #1 and now seven-time defending national champion Concordia-St. Paul at the Holiday Inn & Suites Lake Elmo Volleyball Classic in St. Paul, Minn.

Head coach Scott Kneifl became the all-time wins leader in Wayne State volleyball with his 215th win on Oct. 12. In nine seasons as head coach at WSC, Kneifl now owns a 224-80 career record.

The annual Pack the House Night was held Oct. 16 vs. Peru State and the match attracted a crowd of 1,086 fans, the seventh-largest crowd for a Wildcat volleyball game. Wayne State averaged 757 fans for 11 home matches this season and should be ranked in the top 10 in home volleyball attendance for the 2013 season after ranking fourth in 2012 at 668 fans per home match.

Wayne State had three players named to the 2013 Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference All-Conference volleyball team. Freshman middle hitter Alyssa Frauendorfer was selected NSIC Freshman of the Year while also earning First Team All-NSIC honors. Senior Cori Hobbs was First Team All-NSIC while sophomore setter Leisa McClintock was a Second Team All-NSIC selection for a second straight season.

Frauendorfer, a 6-0 freshman middle hitter from Humphrey, averaged 2.77 kills and 0.97 blocks per game and led WSC with a .344 attack percentage that ranked sixth in the NSIC. Her .358 attack percentage in conference matches was fourth-best in the league. Frauendorfer later was named AVCA Central Region Freshman of the Year, AVCA All-Central Region and AVCA honorable mention All-American.

Hobbs, a 6-0 senior outside hitter from Battle Creek, led WSC in hitting this season averaging 3.34 kills to go with 3.54 digs per game. She had 22 double-doubles during the season and finished her Wildcat career ranked 12th on the all-time kills list with 1,211.

McClintock, a 5-7 sophomore setter from Sioux City, Iowa (Heelan HS), averaged 10.84 assists per game to rank seventh in the NSIC this season. She had six double-doubles, highlighted by a rare triple-double with 15 kills, 39 assists and 11 digs in a 3-2 win over #11 Colorado Mines on Sept. 6.

In the classroom, Wayne State had seven players named to the NSIC All-Academic Team. They include seniors Lexi Malm and Tatum Wroblewski and sophomores Elizabeth Gebhardt, Katie Hughes, Leisa McClintock, Jennifer Nakata and Courtney VanGroningen.
The 2013 football season at Wayne State brought plenty of excitement with the completion of the field turf project at Bob Cunningham Field. That excitement turned to heartbreak throughout the season as the Wildcats went through a hard-luck season, losing five games by seven points or less, as Wayne State finished the 2013 campaign with a 2-9 record. It was the first losing season for 10 years.

Season highlights included senior running back Charlie Davidson becoming the 10th player in school history to rush for 2,000 yards. He finished the 2013 season with 1,266 yards and 11 touchdowns. His six 100-yard rushing games tied for the second-most in a single season and the 1,266 yards rushing by Davidson ranked second all-time for single season rushing, trailing only the 1,360 yard season by Elroy Brown in 1999. Davidson currently ranks seventh all-time in Wayne State rushing yards with 2,146.

Senior strong safety Austan Pomajzl tied for the team lead in tackles this season with 75, raising his career total to 318 to rank 10th on the all-time tackle chart at Wayne State College. The senior from Grand Island Northwest High School started all 44 games during his Wildcat career.

Five Wayne State players were selected to the 2013 Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference All-Conference Football Team. Davidson and junior wide receiver Adam Stark were named NSIC South Division Second Team Offense while junior defensive end Jeff Van Den Top received NSIC South Division Second Team Defense honors. Senior offensive lineman Brent Schlote and Pomajzl were named NSIC South Division honorable mention.

Stark, a 6-1, 175 pound junior from Bellevue East was NSIC All-Conference honorable mention for a second straight season. She led Wayne State in scoring this season with 11 points on four goals and three assists and finished her Wildcat career starting 71 of 72 games played.

Wayne State Soccer Field Receives Upgrades

As part of the 2013 Field Turf/Renovation project at Memorial Stadium, the Wayne State College soccer field was the beneficiary of several improvements. The field was widened to regulation width with new grass installed, a new scoreboard was installed in the northeast corner of the stadium and the field was made handicapped accessible with new fencing protecting the facility.

The 2013 Wayne State women’s soccer team also had a new coach as Tom Cliff was introduced in July as the new leader of the Wildcat program.

Wayne State had a strong finish to the season, earning a 0-0 tie at #19 Southwest Minnesota State (an NCAA Tournament qualifier) and a 5-2 win against Sioux Falls to end the season at 2-14-2 overall and 2-11-2 in the NSIC.

Senior Macy Hagen was the lone Wildcat player receiving post-season honors as the forward from Bellevue East was NSIC All-Conference honorable mention for a second straight season. She led Wayne State in scoring this season with 11 points on four goals and three assists and finished her Wildcat career starting 71 of 72 games played.

Five Wildcats Named to All-Conference Football Team

The 2013 football season at Wayne State brought plenty of excitement with the completion of the field turf project at Bob Cunningham Field. That excitement turned to heartbreak throughout the season as the Wildcats went through a hard-luck season, losing five games by seven points or less, as Wayne State finished the 2013 campaign with a 2-9 record. It was the first losing season for 10 years.

Season highlights included senior running back Charlie Davidson becoming the 10th player in school history to rush for 2,000 yards. He finished the 2013 season with 1,266 yards and 11 touchdowns. His six 100-yard rushing games tied for the second-most in a single season and the 1,266 yards rushing by Davidson ranked second all-time for single season rushing, trailing only the 1,360 yard season by Elroy Brown in 1999. Davidson currently ranks seventh all-time in Wayne State rushing yards with 2,146.

Senior strong safety Austan Pomajzl tied for the team lead in tackles this season with 75, raising his career total to 318 to rank 10th on the all-time tackle chart at Wayne State College. The senior from Grand Island Northwest High School started all 44 games during his Wildcat career.

Five Wayne State players were selected to the 2013 Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference All-Conference Football Team. Davidson and junior wide receiver Adam Stark were named NSIC South Division Second Team Offense while junior defensive end Jeff Van Den Top received NSIC South Division Second Team Defense honors. Senior offensive lineman Brent Schlote and Pomajzl were named NSIC South Division honorable mention.

Stark, a 6-1, 175 pound junior wide receiver from Elkhorn (Elkhorn HS), hauled in 35 receptions this season for a team-high 723 yards and five TDs, averaging 20.7 yards per catch. His 72.3 yards per game receiving ranked eighth in the NSIC. His 97-yard touchdown reception from Zach Osborn against Minnesota Crookston on Sept. 21 tied for the second-longest pass play in school history. Stark also had 13 kickoff returns for 217 yards and 13 punt returns for 40 yards this season.

Van Den Top, a 6-6, 235 pound junior defensive end from Hull, Iowa (Boyden Hull-Rock Valley HS), is a NSIC South Division Second Team Defense selection for a second straight season after ranking third on the Wildcat defense this season with 58 tackles. He had 11 tackles for loss for 53 yards, four sacks for 39 yards and seven quarterback hurries to go with one pass breakup.

Schlote, a 6-4, 295 pound senior left tackle from Battle Creek (Battle Creek HS), is a NSIC South Division First Team Defense selection for a second straight season after ranking third on the Wildcat defense this season with 58 tackles. He had 11 tackles for loss for 53 yards, four sacks for 39 yards and seven quarterback hurries to go with one pass breakup.

Senior defensive back Jon Davis was named to the Capital One Academic All-Super Region 3 First Team, posting a 3.95 grade point average majoring in chemistry.
WSC Awarded 2014 NCAA Cross Country Regional

The NCAA announced on Dec. 11 that Wayne State College was awarded the host site for the 2014 NCAA Division II Central Region Cross Country Championships. The event will be Nov. 22 at the Wayne Country Club.

Wayne State College has hosted NCAA regional cross country meets in 2003, 2006, 2009 and 2010. The NCAA Central Region has produced numerous national champion teams throughout the years and the event will attract more than 30 teams with over 150 runners in the men’s division and more than 200 runners expected in the women’s division.

“I am excited that we have the opportunity to host one of the premiere Division II regional meets again at Wayne State College,” remarked WSC head cross country coach Marlon Brink. “It is a great way to showcase the Wayne State campus and the city of Wayne to over 30 schools and 300+ athletes and the fans that follow them in the Central Region.”

Wayne State will also host the 2014 Northern Sun Conference Cross Country Championships two weeks prior to running the regional meet.

WSC Hall of Fame Inductees Honored During Homecoming

Tanna (Walford) Albin (Athlete) ’07
Albin was a standout high jumper lettering all four years for the Wildcats from 2004 to 2007.

Cindy (Stella ‘82) and Steve Zelinsky ‘82 (Athletes)
Cindy lettered four years for the WSC softball team from 1979 to 1982. Steve was a four-year letter winner for the Wayne State football team from 1978 to 1981.

Ryun Williams (Coach)
Williams spent nine seasons (1998-2008) as head women’s basketball coach at WSC and is the school’s all-time winningest coach with a record of 182-106. He turned the Wildcats into a Northern Sun Conference and North Central/Central Region contender.

Roland Lentz ‘56 (Contributor)
Lentz grew up in Coleridge, Neb., and is a 1956 graduate of Wayne State College. He is a strong supporter of Wayne State College and can be found at most home sporting events. He has been a Cat Club member since 2005. Roland was a major contributor to the Athletic Facility’s Turf, Track and Soccer project. He supports math scholarships at Wayne State College, where he has been a donor for more than 30 years.

2006 Men’s Track and Field (Team)
The 2006 Wayne State College men’s track and field team captured NSIC Indoor and Outdoor Championships and, coupled with the 2005 cross country team in the fall, pulled off a rare triple crown that season with conference titles. Marlon Brink was NSIC Coach of the Year. It was the first of back-to-back years that Wayne State swept indoor and outdoor conference titles in track and field.
1940

Emogene (Waring) and Kenneth Spann celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary June 5. They met on a blind date while students at WSC in 1938. The retired couple resides in Corvallis, Mont.

1968

Tom Haller, John Carrington, Ruth (Beck) Carrington ’71, Bob Stratham and Gary Tewell pictured left to right gathered June 9 for a mini WSC reunion in St. Louis, Mo. They are all residents of St. Louis and report all are happily retired.

1970

Randy Gray was recognized by the Arizona Middle Level Association as a 2012-2013 Teacher of the Year. He has been an educator for 40 years, beginning his teaching career at Rosalie High School. Randy received a master’s degree from Arizona State University and has taught in the English department at Shea Middle School, Paradise Valley Unified Schools District, Phoenix since 1979.

1973

Kent Irwin participated with a group of climbers that summited Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest point in Africa. This assembly of climbers is preparing for a summit attempt of Denali-South, the highest point in North America. Kent resides in Omaha.

1981

Jed and Pat (Meis) Friedrichsen reside in Columbia, Mo., along with their daughter, Claire, who was a recent graduate from the University of Missouri. Jed is co-founder and CEO of blendedschools.net. Pat is an associate professor in science education at the University of Missouri.

1988

John Selk, Washington, DC, is affiliated with HOPE NOW Alliance. He began as a project manager and now serves as executive director. The Alliance is a group of banks, non-profits, and investors working on the foreclosure crisis partnering with the Department of Labor, the US Treasury and hundreds of housing non-profits. John reports that his job is interesting and challenging.

1993

Paul Hartssock was promoted to vice president of planning and replenishment at Intradeco Apparel. He oversees all planning, inventory analysis, and replenishment for all divisions.

1994

Anne (Cruickshank, MSE’02) Hughes resides in Columbus with her husband, Steve, and daughters, Jacey (10) and Halle (3). Anne is a 6th grade math teacher at Columbus Middle School.

1995

Shawn D. Brink had his first novel published, The Space Between, a fantasy/Christian fiction work with assistance through Martin Sisters Publishing. He wrote his first novel while a student at WSC but the manuscript was never published. Shawn resides in Papillion with his wife and children.

Mark ‘88 and Missy ’91 (Stoltenberg) Vollmer have a daughter, Lindsay, who became University of Kansas’ first outdoor national champion after winning the heptathlon at the 2013 NCAA Championships. Mark is a 2006 WSC Hall of Fame Inductee and Missy is the daughter of Del Stoltenberg, who was the head football coach at WSC through the 1970s and 1980s. Mark Vollmer, originally from Wisner, was a two time All-American triple jumper at Wayne State during his Wildcat career from 1984 to 1988. He still holds school records today, 48’ 4 ½” indoors and 48’ 11” outdoors, both coming in the 1988 season despite competing with back problems during his career. Mark was sixth in the triple jump at the 1985 NAIA Indoor National meet at 47’ 9” and was fifth as a senior in the 1988 NAIA Indoor National meet at 47’ 7 ½”. Missy is a former Wayne High and Wayne State standout athlete. Missy and Mark teach at JC Penney High School in Hamilton, Mo., where Mark has served as Cross Country Coach and Track Coach. Lindsay is currently a junior at KU, getting her undergraduate degree in community health with plans to continue and get her nursing degree. She is listed as one of 10 NCAA Division I collegiate women on the Bowerman Watch List, which is the equivalent of the Heisman Trophy in Track and Field.
Lisa (Weber) Brandon, and her husband, Mike, reside in Bellevue with their children, Irick (5), Emry (4), and Kyler Louis, born July 8. Lisa enjoys being a stay-at-home mom.

H. Bruce Copeland and Erica Hawkins have united in marriage and reside in Raymore, Mo., with their daughter, Harper (2). Bruce has been employed at Vince & Associates Clinical Research, Inc., Overland Park, Kan., for the past six years. He serves as director of business development and marketing.

2000

Angela (Hudson) Anderson was chosen as a member of the 2013 “40 under 40” for the Greater Omaha, Sarpy County and Council Bluffs area. She is employed at PayPal, Omaha, as director of customer solutions and recently led her team of almost 600 customer service representatives to reach the company’s highest customer satisfaction scores. Amy is married to Chad R. Anderson ’99, co-owner of Balls Out Motors, Blair.

Rebecca (Preiss) Cornish is an adjunct faculty member in the criminal justice department at Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff. She earned a master of science in criminal justice degree from Kaplan University in 2013 and is pursuing a doctorate in public safety with a concentration in criminal justice from Capella University. Rebecca and her husband, Paul, reside in Scottsbluff.

2001

Jason Brozek ’01 has been promoted to the rank of associate professor and granted a tenure appointment at Lawrence University in Wisconsin. Brozek joined the Lawrence government department in 2008 as an assistant professor and Stephen Edward Scarff Professor of International Affairs. A specialist in international security, conflict bargaining and international law, his scholarship focuses on global conflicts that result from freshwater shortage. He has written briefing papers for policy makers that analyze the issue and has developed a theoretical measure that can assess the severity of conflicts among nations caused by shortages of freshwater.

2002

Ken Morrison is living, learning and teaching in Daedeon, South Korea. He is an instructor of new media technology and other courses at Linton Global College (Hannam University). Ken was the recipient of a global award from the Apple Computers Corporation when he was inducted into the 2013 global class of Apple Distinguished Educators and was named as the official facilitator of Apple’s “@Apple Meetup” Korea group for the 2013-14 school year. Ken says he enjoys living in Korea as it is a great place to study the effects of technology on society. Ken is the son of James ’63 and Dolores (Ostdiek ’72) Morrison.

Dr. Vance Wolverton, ‘71 and Lynn Dobson, ‘71

An interesting coincidence occurred in November 2013, one that made Wayne State proud of two former roommates, Dr. Vance Wolverton, a 1971 alumnus, and 1971 graduate Lynn Dobson. Wolverton had an article published in the November 2013 issue of Choral Journal, the official publication of the American Choral Directors Association. The front cover of the issue is devoted to his article, “A Unique Treasury: The Latvian Choral Anthology”. At the same time, the November 2013 issue of The American Organist featured a cover story about the new organ Dobson designed and built for Merton Chapel in Oxford, England. Dobson’s construction of the organ for a British chapel is a rare accomplishment for an American.

“Who could have imagined in 1971 that two Iowa boys, seniors and roommates at WSC, would one day have the front covers of two major music journals devoted to their work and on the same month and year no less? I believe our WSC education played no small role in our careers,” Wolverton wrote.

A native of Underwood, Iowa, Wolverton earned the BFAE magna cum laude with high honors in music from WSC. He served as drum major of the WSC marching band for four years. Upon graduation, he was accepted by audition into the first infantry Division Band at Fort Riley, Kansas, where he also served as director of the chapel choir. He was awarded a citation for Exemplary Service upon his honorable discharge. Returning to civilian life, he undertook graduate studies at the University of Iowa earning M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in music education. In 1989, he was appointed associate professor of music at California State University, Fullerton, where he served as a professor of music and chairman of the Department of Music. He was one of only two scholars from North America to be invited to present his research at a European Seminar in Finland in 1997. He was a 2004 Outstanding Alumni Award recipient from WSC. He retired from Cal State Fullerton in 2011.

Dobson studied art and industrial education at Wayne State, specializing in sculpture. By the time he graduated from college, he had designed an organ that he then built during the year following his graduation. Exposure to the organ and its music first came through his sister, a church organist and working for an organ service company during his college years. Lynn founded Dobson Pipe Organ Builders, Ltd., in 1974, near his home in Lake City, Iowa. He and his firm have built an impressive reputation by completing more than 89 organs and 35 restorations. Lynn serves as president and artistic director. Dobson, a 2010 recipient of an Outstanding Alumni Award from WSC, also has two paintings on permanent display in the WSC Campus Art Collection.
Tour Beautiful France
with Wayne State College Alumni and Friends

September 3-15, 2014

For a detailed brochure and registration form go to wsc.edu/alumni and click on the tour link.

Highlights include:
Paris ~ Versailles ~ Normandy ~ Giverny
Le Bayeux ~ Rhone Valley ~ Lyon ~ Perouges

2003
Brett and Kristen (Nestrander ’05) Hansen announce the birth of daughter, Bailey Catherine, on Sept. 28. She is welcomed to their home in Sioux Falls, S.D., by sister, Riley (3).

2005
Jon Allemang (MSE’08) and his wife, Samantha, announce the Jan. 4 birth of son, Miles Avery. He is welcomed to their in home Papillion by sister, Alexis (3). Jon teaches 8th-grade science at Westside Middle Schools, Omaha.

Trent and Jordan (Adamson ’09) Suehl announce the birth of daughter, Maysen Jo, on Sept. 18. They reside in Norfolk. Trent teaches 5th grade at the public school in Battle Creek and Jordan is employed at Midwest Bank, Norfolk.

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Switzerland and Austria Trip
Enjoyed by WSC Alumni and Friends


Send us your news & photos, too!

We encourage you to send photos with your alumni notes – wedding, new baby, promotion, informal gatherings with other alumni, etc.

Be sure to identify people in the photos. Digital photos with fewer than five megapixels cannot be accepted. Please remember to update your address!

Send to: Deb Lundahl, Alumni Office, Wayne State College, 1111 Main St., Wayne, NE 68787 or delunda1@wsc.edu
their peers at the 2013 Iowa Communication Association annual conference in Ankeny, Iowa. The ICA hosts a conference every year to allow faculty to exchange teaching and research ideas and to honor the best and brightest teachers in the state. Both are employed at Iowa Western Community College, Council Bluff, Iowa; Stech has been a full-time instructor since 2009 and White joined the staff in 2011.

2008

Jared Dreher and Savannah Wissig’07 were united in marriage. The couple resides in Omaha. Savannah is an assistant branch manager at Oriental Trading Co.

2011

Sheila Remmereid resides in Johnson. She was honored with the 2013 Nebraska State Educators Association’s (NSEA) Rookie of the Year award while in her second year of teaching 7-12 Special Education at Johnson-Brock Public School. The award was presented at the annual NSEA Convention held in Kearney.

2005

Molly Mui’05 (MSE ’08), a Spanish teacher at Elkhorn South High School, was named a Fund for Teachers 2013 Fellow. She was awarded a $5,000 education grant to embark on a self-designed journey to South America this past summer. She completed a multi-faceted study of four South American countries and sought school partnerships with schools in Quito, Lima, Santiago, and Buenos Aires to create a more in-depth learning experience for her students.

“Every day I ask my students to put themselves out there and open their minds and hearts to the world. I encourage them to constantly challenge themselves with their use of the Spanish language and to examine the different cultures around them. My students and continuous efforts to better myself as an educator are among the reasons I traveled to South America. By having the opportunity to immerse myself in the Spanish language and explore the different countries and cultures, I improved not only as a teacher but as a world citizen,” Mui said.

Wording Your Will

Whether you are at the beginning stage of drafting a will or finishing the details, the Wayne State Foundation can help. From time to time, we receive phone calls from attorneys wanting to know the full legal name of the foundation and sample bequest language for their clients. Please feel free to share the following information with your legal advisors to find an option that works best for you.

**UNRESTRICTED BEQUEST**

I give to Wayne State Foundation the sum of $__________ (or ___% of my estate; or the property described herein) for its general purposes.

**SPECIFIC BEQUEST**

I give to Wayne State Foundation the sum of $__________ (or ___% of my estate; or the property described herein) to be used for __________________ (specify purpose).

**RESIDUARY BEQUEST**

All the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, I give to Wayne State Foundation for its general purposes.

**CONTINGENT BEQUEST**

I devise and bequeath the residue of the property owned by me at my death, real and personal, and wherever situate, to my wife,__________________, if she survives me. If my wife does not survive me, I devise and bequeath my residuary estate to Wayne State Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, located in Wayne, Nebraska, USA, for its general purposes.

Contact Kevin for more information on how to put the Wayne State Foundation in your estate plans.

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Kevin Armstrong
Director of Planned Giving
Wayne State Foundation
402-375-7534 • Kearmst1@wsc.edu

Legal name and address:
Wayne State Foundation
1111 Main St. • Wayne, NE 68787
402-375-7510
Federal Tax I.D. 47-6032870

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March 22
Northern California Reunion

April 28 (1 p.m.)
Dakota Dunes Golf

May 10
Spring Commencement

June 6
Catbacker Golf

June 19
Kansas City Alumni Reunion

July 11-12
Chicken Days

July 19
Omaha Golf Event

September 2-15
Alumni Tour to France

October 2
Scholarship Luncheon

October 3 & 4
Homecoming
Charles Sass Receives Alumni Service Award

The 2013 Alumni Service Award was presented to Charles Sass (‘61) by the Wayne State Foundation at the Homecoming/Hall of Fame Banquet on Sept. 28. The award recognizes alumni who have enhanced the college through dedicated service, promotion and financial support.

Sass graduated from WSC in 1961. He received a master’s in education degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1968. After a 12-year teaching career in Nebraska and Iowa schools, he and his wife, Sharon, purchased a sporting goods business in Boone, Iowa. They sold their business in 1977 and moved to Lincoln where Chuck accepted an instructor position with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Division of Continuing Studies and served as an editor in the curriculum development department. The couple moved to Washington, D.C., in 1987, where Sass took a position in the publications department of the Close Up Foundation, the nation’s largest civic education organization. As the managing editor of academic publications, he edited and/or wrote more than 300 student and teacher publications including Current Issues, one of the most popular textbooks in social studies classrooms. Sass retired in 2006 after 18 years with Close Up and is now engaged in an in-depth study of leisure.

Chuck and Sharon Sass established the Kathryn Reimers Sass scholarship in 2005. The Sasses became trustees of the Wayne State Foundation in 2007 and are members of the Cornerstone Society and Heritage Society.

Outstanding WSC Alumni Honored

Wayne State College celebrated Homecoming weekend on campus, Sept. 26-29, which provided the college and the Wayne State Foundation with the opportunity to honor graduates for their accomplishments and support of the college.

Jeffrey Child ’02 - School of Arts and Humanities
Child received a degree in speech communications with minors in mathematics and computer science from WSC. He completed his doctoral studies and earned a Ph.D. from North Dakota State University in 2007. That same year the communication department at NDSU honored him as the Outstanding Doctoral Student of the Year. He joined the faculty at Kent State University in August 2007 and serves as the undergraduate coordinator for the School of Communication Studies.

Greg Adams ’74, MSE ’75 - School of Education and Counseling
Adams graduated from WSC earning bachelor and master's degrees in education. He was employed as a teacher of American government and economics at York Public Schools from 1976 to 2004. Adams was appointed by the governor in 1997 and again in 2000 to the Nebraska Information Technology Commission. Adams left his classroom in 2006 and entered the Nebraska Legislature. He serves as Speaker of the Nebraska Legislature.

Duane Polodna ’80 - School of Business and Technology
Polodna graduated from WSC earning a bachelor degree with accounting emphasis. After graduation he worked in the audit and tax departments at Arthur Young and Company, Omaha. He was granted a designation of Certified Public Accountant in 1982. Polodna serves as senior vice president and chief financial officer of BH Media Group, which owns and manages the Omaha World-Herald. BH Media Group is a wholly owned subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway.

Wayne Mollhoff ’74 - School of Natural and Social Sciences
Mollhoff graduated from WSC with a bachelor of science degree. He joined the Army in 1965 and served on active duty for 10 years. A retired lieutenant colonel he volunteers much of his spare time gathering information on birds in the state. Mollhoff began surveying birds in 1984 and coordinated the first Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas Project. He has donated collections of mammal specimens along with other reptile, insect and plant specimens to WSC and University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Charles Sass Receives Alumni Service Award

ENEWSLETTER

You can sign up for the electronic newsletter at www.wsc.edu/alumni/update_info/ and read the latest edition at www.wsc.edu/emails/alumni/enewsletter_fall_13/

For more alumni news, visit www.wsc.edu/alumni/
Bill Reeg '64 was a finalist for the 2014 TIME Dealer of the Year Award

Bill Reeg, a 1960 graduate of Hahn High School in Wayne, and a 1964 graduate of Wayne State College with a B.A. in Business was one of 57 finalists out of 1700 dealers nationwide for the TIME Dealer of the Year Award for 2014. The TIME Dealer of the Year Award has been called the most prestigious honor a new-car dealer can receive. In addition to exhibiting exceptional performance in their dealerships, TIME Dealer of the Year nominees perform heroic community service and are strong advocates for improving the world around them.

Reeg served in the United States Marine Corps from 1965 to 1967. Upon returning from the Marine Corps, he worked with his father at Arnie's Supermarket in Wayne. Arnie's Ford-Mercury was purchased in 1978.

Arnie's Ford is still going strong and Reeg is an active member of his state dealer association. He has held various leadership positions in the Nebraska New Car & Truck Dealers Association, including board director (since 2010), chairman (2009), third vice chairman (2008), second vice chairman (2007) and secretary-treasurer (2006). He was recently reappointed by Gov. Dave Heineman to serve a second term on the Nebraska Motor Vehicle Licensing Board. Arnie's Ford was honored as the large business of the Year at the annual Wayne Area Economic Development-Chamber-Main Street banquet in January.

Reeg gives back to the educational institution where he first learned the basics of business, serving as secretary-treasurer for the executive board of the Wayne State College Foundation. "We have a very strong bond with Wayne State College, providing scholarships as well as donating to various building projects and other campus improvements," Reeg said.

Reeg also provides educational support for a young woman in Tanzania. "She has no family and is studying toward her college degree," he said. Houses for Health, a home building project for families in Tanzania with severe medical issues, is another favored charity.

Reeg was nominated for the TIME Dealer of the Year award by A. Loy Todd Jr., president and general counsel for the Nebraska New Car & Truck Dealers Association. Reeg and his wife, Betty, have three children and five grandchildren.

TIME, Ally, and the National Automobile Dealers Association honor outstanding new-car dealers across America and their commitment to improving their communities.

Tucson

Wayne State alumni and friends gathered Jan. 18 at the Metropolitan Grill in Tucson, Ariz. Attendees included: Front: Lorna (Sexon) Parsley '73, Richard and Janis Friedrichsen '59, Betty Becker, Chris Gabriel '94. Standing: Deb Lundahl, WSC director of development and alumni relations, John and Kathy '85 (Tate) Struve, Barry Phelps '70, Deb Jahnke, Dwain '55 and Carole '54 (Tuttle) Petersen, Greg '72 and Becky '73 Walker, WSC President Curt Frye, Kristi Gabriel, and Phyllis Conner, executive director of the Wayne State Foundation.

Sun City

Wayne State Mourns the Loss of Marilyn Collings, 66

Dr. Richard Collings, president of Wayne State College from June 2003 to June 2010, lost his loving wife, Marilyn, to cancer December 27, 2013. Marilyn was active in the community of Wayne and with college activities. She always made friends easily and many alumni welcomed her friendship.

Don 58’ and Carol 54’ Bremer, who hosted alumni reunions in their home, became special friends of Marilyn and Richard.

Cap Peterson ’72, a trustee of the Nebraska State College System and the Wayne State Foundation, said, “My wife, Nana and I developed a close personal relationship with Marilyn and Richard over the six years they lived and worked in Wayne. We have a tremendous admiration for Marilyn and will miss her.”

Marilyn and Richard became trustees of the Wayne State Foundation, after moving back to their home in Sylva, N.C., to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

“Marilyn and Richard wanted to stay connected, and they have been active and generous trustees,” said Phyllis Conner, vice president for development and executive director of the Wayne State Foundation.

A fundraising effort to establish the Richard and Marilyn Collings Endowed Honors Scholarship was initiated by Wayne State Foundation trustee Dr. Ron Holt ’89.

“I want to encourage alumni and friends to contribute, as I have, toward the endowment of this scholarship that honors and recognizes the impact the Collins had upon Wayne State College,” Holt said.

Marilyn died surrounded by her loving husband, children and sister, Elaine Nunley.

She was born Feb. 15, 1947, in Louisville, Ky. She married her high school sweetheart, Richard, in 1967 and they had three children: Kelly Collins Hawkins (Seth) of Morganston, N.C., Michael Collins (Katherine) of Sylva, N.C., and Kirsten Collins (Mark Hays) of Washington, DC.

Marilyn taught special education in public schools in Missouri and Pennsylvania and worked with special needs adults in North Carolina. She was a life-long, active member of the United Methodist Church and lent her beautiful voice to church choirs and community choruses for many years.

She was a loving and devoted wife to her husband, mother to her three children, and grandmother to her six grandchildren (Ethan, Kai and Noah Hawkins and Olivia, Walter and James Sebastian Collings). She was generous with her love and made life-long friendships everywhere she lived - Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Nebraska and North Carolina. She was preceded in death by her parents, their 46th wedding anniversary in November.

A celebration of her life was held Jan. 11, 2014, at Sylva First United Methodist Church, Sylva, N.C.
Nothing is as powerful as our alumni’s support for Wayne State College.

Chances are you know a high school student who may be in the process of his or her college search right now.

We are here to help! Maybe it’s your child, grandchild, or even a family friend. Encourage them to experience our campus. It’s the best way to get a true feel for life at WSC.

Prospective students can choose from several Fridays dates or the more individual “Wildcat Experience” at www.wsc.edu/visit

*It’s always a great day to be a Wildcat!*

Office of Admissions
admissions@wsc.edu
1-866-WSC-CATS • www.wsc.edu