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wesleyan

TODAY



Wesleyan Commits to Wellness



SUMMER 2014

Blue & White Days

SEPT. 18-20, 2014

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF RANDALL SCHOLARS

THURSDAY, SEPT. 18

- 5 p.m. Groundbreaking for the new Health and Wellness Center
- 6:30 p.m. Legacy Banquet – honoring donors and distinguished alumni

FRIDAY, SEPT. 19

Informal alumni get-together at Blarney's

SATURDAY, SEPT. 20

- 10 a.m. All-class alumni gathering at CorTrust Parking lot
- 10:30 a.m. Parade: "Rise of a Roaring Empire"
- 11:30 a.m. Pregame tailgate at Joe Quintal Field
- 1 p.m. Homecoming football game vs. Northwestern College
- Evening Reunions
 - Class of 1964 Golden Reunion
 - Classes of 1971-74 Reunion
 - A special reunion of former Randall Scholars
 - Reunion classes ending in 4 and 9



Ron and Charlys Randall

Are you planning a class reunion?
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www.dwu.edu

Online registration is available on July 20.

CONTACT US: alumni@dwu.edu or 605-995-2603



GO GREEN!

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alumni@dwu.edu.

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wesleyan TODAY

Wesleyan Today is distributed to alumni, parents and friends of Dakota Wesleyan University.

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COVERSTORY

DWU has announced plans to break ground this fall on a new wellness center on campus. Ten million dollars have been raised to begin construction on the new building. See page 16.

Cover photo shows, top to bottom: past Morrow Gym, present Christen Athletic Center, future wellness center



Administration: Amy Novak, president; Theresa Kriese, executive vice president; Rocky Von Eye, provost; Lori Essig, vice president for university relations.

Wesleyan Today is designed to communicate news about all facets of the university to its constituents. Send class notes and address changes to: Institutional Advancement, Dakota Wesleyan University, 1200 W. University Ave., Mitchell, SD 57301-4398, call (605) 995-2603 or email alumni@dwu.edu.



Spring

is a time
of new beginnings

Each year at Dakota Wesleyan University, we look forward to the many recognition events and celebrations that surround the academic year's end. In my first year as president, I decided that I wanted to meet every graduate before May 3, the day I would hand them their diplomas. So I asked each student to come to my office for a mock interview. I thought it would be valuable to hear about their time at DWU, and wanted to see how they are representing themselves and their soon-to-be alma mater as they head out into the world.

Well, I was amazed. Not only was it wonderful to connect – and in many cases, reconnect – with these students, it was an eye-opening opportunity to hear about their remarkable Wesleyan experiences, their goals, dreams and plans. I'd like to share just a few of those stories with you.

- **TIFFANY SHARP**, a biology major from Colorado, is spending her summer living in a tree house and working in an elephant camp in Thailand. She wanted an international experience because she thinks it's important to gain a global perspective, so she will be working with an organization committed to increasing the elephant population.
- **MITCH BREEN**, a communication and business major from Wagner, is taking his entrepreneurial spirit back home. He is already a licensed insurance agent, and after working with the Kelley Center for Entrepreneurship, he conducted market research and determined that the Wagner area is ripe for his new business venture, Open Range Land and Auction.
- **NATALIE MUNGER**, a graphic design major from Kimball, joined Innovative Systems as a user-interface designer for mobile applications.

- **ALEXIS MOORE**, a communication and sports management major from Miami, is taking his own experiences of resiliency to the young women of the Abbott House. He is a supervisor of 38 people and works with the parents, young girls and their families to build bridges for the future.
- **AUTUMN KRUEGER**, who grew up in Harrisburg, is headed to Candler School of Theology in Atlanta on a full scholarship to become a future United Methodist pastor in the Dakotas.
- And on page 12, read about **AMANDA BURTON**, a young woman whose tenacity has taken her from homelessness to law school.

Their experiences are varied, and their dreams are lofty. Having heard the passion that they each expressed uniquely, I am confident that Dakota Wesleyan University alumni will continue to make a significant, positive impact on our small towns, our region and our world.



Amy C. Novak
President
Email: Amy.Novak@dwu.edu



Snapshots

COMMENCEMENT 2014

For more DWU graduation photos, visit:

- www.dwu.edu (click on Flickr logo)



Kelli Swenson, of Chamberlain, and Shelby Andersen, of Ethan, decorated their hats for Commencement.



Kelli Swenson, of Chamberlain, a senior at Dakota Wesleyan University, received the Bishop Armstrong Peace and Justice Award from Dave Mitchell, professor of business administration and economics.



Dave Mitchell and daughters Nancy Mitchell, of Philadelphia, and Patti Duffy, of Fort Pierre, accept an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters on behalf of Ann Mitchell, who passed away in 2012. Ann taught children's literature at DWU from 1973 to 2001 and was awarded the honor posthumously. (photo by Lifetouch Special Events)



Kim Johnson, of Sioux Falls; Amanda Hart, of Alexandria; Micaela Erickson, of Milan, Minn.; and Taylor Piper, of Mitchell, pose for a picture before graduation services begin. These women have been basketball teammates for the past four years.



John Husmann, associate professor of history at DWU, was awarded the prestigious Clarke Award for Teaching Excellence.

FUSION



A story of pioneer spirit

President **Amy Novak** congratulates the Rev. **Brandon Vetter '03** during his announcement that Fusion has grown to such success that it will become its own church. Fusion began two years ago as an outreach worship service one Sunday each month for campus and community members and has grown to 150 attendees per week, with only about 10 to 20 in crossover from the campus weekly worship services held on Thursdays.

DWU campus pastor announces Fusion services to become separate church, will become full-time Fusion pastor

By Mari Olson

They came by horse, wagon and train – early missionaries setting out West to bring a sense of the familiar to the prairie – planting churches and creating universities to foster their ideals.

Nearly 130 years later, that same pioneer spirit still thrives – just with a modern twist.

The Rev. Brandon Vetter '03, who has served as campus pastor at Dakota Wesleyan University since 2006, announced in February that a church has been planted on the 129-year-old United Methodist campus. The weekly Fusion service, held on campus on Sundays in cooperation with the First United Methodist Church (FUMC) and the Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church, has become its own entity, separate from both university and the FUMC. This development is largely due to Vetter's spiritual leadership on campus and his innovative approach to reaching out to the community, according to DWU President Amy Novak.

Dakota Wesleyan University's campus ministry, knowingly or not, created a paradigm shift when the university recommitted to the innovative spirit of the early Methodists by founding a new church community on the university campus.

"When I think of the early Methodist circuit riders who founded Dakota Wesleyan University with nothing but faith to guide and sustain them, I look at what Brandon and the FUMC have done here on campus, and I see that same pioneer spirit, reaching out to young people in an innovative way," Novak said. "Fusion's creation, and now its establishment as its own church, speaks to the ethos that founded us: 'How do we bring the church to those who are unchurched? And more importantly, how do we help others reconnect with Church?' When we successfully do this, we begin to truly change our world."

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BY THE NUMBERS

Dakota Wesleyan University's campus ministry has grown at a steady rate in the past eight years – check out these stats!

20-30: Campus worship size in 2006

140: Campus worship size in 2014

850: Enrollment at DWU

400: DWU residential students

6: Number of mission participants in 2006

42: Number of mission participants in 2014

200: Total number of mission participants since 2006

\$300,000+: Total amount of mission fundraising since 2006

2012: Year DWU and FUMC partnered to create on-campus community worship, Fusion

2014: Year Fusion became a church

150: Number of Fusion attendees

600+: Number of Mitchell community members attending United Methodist services per week (at FUMC, DWU and Fusion)

Vetter said that about 150 people attend Fusion services weekly; the majority are young families.

"Fusion is an opportunity for the United Methodist Church to reach a group of people who prefer a less traditional approach," Vetter said. "We use pop culture, video clips, new music and a casual atmosphere to deliver the Gospel – those things won't appeal to everyone, but they appeal to our congregation.

"Our philosophy is 100 percent in the teachings of the United Methodist Church and with a very open atmosphere – we want this to be a place where people are comfortable having questions – where faith and doubt can come together," he said.

Vetter also believes Fusion's success is due to its location, Dakota Wesleyan's campus being viewed as an approachable space to those who have never been to church before. The concept of a university's campus ministry planting a church is unique nationwide, Vetter said.

"To my knowledge, it's never been done before," he said. "The idea came a few years ago and just grew from there. Dakota Wesleyan and the FUMC and the Bishop of the Dakotas Conference have all been so supportive of this idea – the amount of freedom I have been given to experiment and just try it has been extraordinary. I'm not sure if there is another campus that would have let me do this."

Dakota Wesleyan University offers weekly campus worship that attracts about 140 attendees. The campus worship service has grown by more than 100 worshipers in the eight years Vetter has been campus pastor.

The growth of the Fusion community is one of many initiatives on the DWU campus to inspire spiritual growth and development of its students. In 2011, DWU launched a Christian leadership major with emphases in missions, church planting and ministry.

"DWU remains committed to encouraging young people to discern how God is calling them to serve, regardless of their academic interest or career aspiration," Novak said. "By encouraging the dialogue of mind and soul, DWU hopes to encourage students to examine how their talents can be used to transform our communities and our world."

Vetter will begin his full-time duties for Fusion on July 1, and the campus will welcome the Rev. Eric Van Meter as the new campus pastor.

"Brandon is and will always be a part of the Dakota Wesleyan family, and he leaves a great legacy," Novak said. "Creating a church on campus makes history for DWU, and it's exciting for all of us."

DWU welcomes new pastor

Dakota Wesleyan University welcomes a new campus pastor this summer, the Rev. Eric Van Meter.

Van Meter comes to DWU from Arkansas State University, Paragould, Ark., where he has served as campus minister since 2007 – a calling inspired through self-discovery.

"My time as a student in campus ministry was the transformative experience of my adult life," he said about his own college experiences. "Through both the way I was loved and the way I was expected to show love to others, I discovered a way of living that was more beautiful than anything I'd imagined before. When I found out I could serve God, love others and even get paid to do it, I realized that ministry was the vocation for me."

Van Meter is a graduate of Arkansas Tech University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Asbury Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree.

He will begin at DWU on July 1, succeeding former campus pastor Brandon Vetter who will assume full-time duties for Fusion on July 1, as well.

"Brandon and the students have made such a great situation here, and Denise and I felt so at home when we visited," Van Meter said.

At Arkansas State University, Van Meter served as campus minister and helped grow and stabilize its campus ministry to a group that regularly trains and guides 50 to 70 young adults each year. Before ASU, he served as the executive pastor at St. James United Methodist Church in Little Rock, where he assisted to supervise a staff of more than 30 full-time employees, conducting weekly worship to a congregation averaging 1,000.

The decision to come to Dakota Wesleyan was not made lightly; Van Meter said he and his wife prayed over the decision to return to the Dakotas, having served United Methodist Campus Ministry in Rapid City from 2002 to 2004. With all his experience in campus ministry being at state schools, people close to him began suggesting his gifts would fit perfectly at a Christian university.

"As I started to look around and I came across DWU, it was everything I was looking for – a strong ministry connected with campus life, a great place for my family and an opportunity to teach in a classroom setting," he said.

He and his wife, Denise, and children, Zachary, 10, and Jonathan, 8, will make their home across the street from campus.

"Everything worthwhile that I've done in my life has frightened me at least a little; the same can be said for moving to DWU. I'm very excited, but also a little nervous," he said. "I'm coming into this with a lot of ideas and hopes. I'm confident we're going to continue to do beautiful ministry at DWU, and I'm excited to help create that in the years ahead."



The Rev. **Eric Van Meter**, sons **Jonathan** and **Zachary**, and wife **Denise**



DWU presented "Les Misérables" in late March on campus with a cast of 70 students, staff, faculty, community members and children. It's a 150-year-old story of love and redemption with war as its backdrop, produced by the DWU music and theatre departments, and sponsored by **Ron and Sheilah Gates** and **Wayne and Mary Puetz**, all of Mitchell. From left to right: sophomore **Madi Miller**, of Mitchell, as Eponine; junior **Kira Stammer**, of Mitchell, as Cosette; **Mark Puetz**, of Mitchell, as Marius; choral director **Clinton Desmond**, as Jean Valjean; and senior **Lacey Reimnitz**, of Corsica, as Fantine.



Dave Mitchell with daughters Patti Duffy and Nancy Mitchell

Sculpture is dedicated in honor of Mitchells

A new sculpture, "Beyond Belief," dedicated to Dave and Ann Mitchell, was installed in the McGovern Library this spring. The unique relief features the celestial cycle and world religions, and it celebrates the fact that all humans are interrelated. Funding for the sculpture was secured through gifts from friends, colleagues and former students of the Mitchells.

"Dave and Ann have fostered connections and built relationships over the course of their lives," said DWU President Amy Novak during the dedication. "Don Messer, former DWU president and the person who invited the Mitchells to Dakota Wesleyan University, said, 'Committed Christians, they epitomized inclusiveness, social justice, academic excellence, honesty, humility, generosity, environmentalism, ecumenism, and an openness to all people regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation or nationality.'"

Dave Mitchell has been a professor of business administration and economics at DWU since 1972 and is one of the longest serving professors at the university. Ann Mitchell taught children's literature at DWU from 1973 to 2001; she passed away in July 2012 after a long battle with cancer.



Bob Goff headlines new DWU conference

DWU hosted its first Conference for Leadership, Innovation and Social Change in April with New York Times best-selling author **Bob Goff** as the headliner. Goff spoke to a full crowd for the Mitchell Area Youth Night and then served as the keynote speaker for the conference the next day. Goff, who wrote, "Love Does," spoke to the audience about being genuine, being intentional in how you live your life and putting yourself in the position to help others. Other speakers spoke on topics of innovation and cross-generational understanding. For more information about the day, visit www.dwu.edu.



Applying What I Know Now

... thanks to DWU's Digital Campus

Like many professionals carefully balancing family, friends and busy work schedules, Kimberly Lofgren '05 debated whether she should add pursuing a graduate business degree to her list of "things to do." As the director of finance and administration for the Mitchell Area Chamber of Commerce, Lofgren wanted to be sure that whichever program she chose, it would provide the ultimate flexibility she was seeking for her life, as well as an immediate and tangible advantage on the job.

"I wanted to enroll in a program that best suits my interests and allows me to use the skills I have gained through the program and apply them to the current world I am working in," Lofgren said.

When she was ready to go for it, Lofgren chose DWU based on the quality education she received

in her undergraduate program. She enrolled in DWU's online M.B.A. in Strategic Leadership in January, and six months into it, has already completed half of her program. Not only does DWU's digital campus provide a perfect solution to enhance her career, but with no required log-in times and the ability to earn a degree in one year, it is flexible enough for her as a mother of two young children.

"Between work and busing kids to activities, I have found that I can log in and complete my homework in the evening while they are sleeping," Lofgren said.

But more than convenience, which is already one of the biggest factors for adults seeking to invest in their education, DWU offers adult learners like Lofgren the ability to transcend the experience from the classroom into everyday life.

"The courses in the online M.B.A. program have enabled me to broaden my thinking and understanding of the business environment, allowing me to understand the issues small businesses face and how best to help solve their problems," Lofgren said.

Even while still a student, Lofgren can already anticipate how she will leverage the relationships in her program.

"It has opened up a network of peers with like experiences to consult with, bounce new ideas

and problem-solve," she said.

Just halfway into her program, Lofgren already notes the personal and professional growth she has seen in herself.

"A recent course I completed on business and environmental issues forced me to argue both points of the issue and understand the opinions of each side. The issues were global as well as regional, and it helped me to think critically about issues from varying perspectives and diverse cross-cultural viewpoints."

To those who are standing on the border of making an investment in their education, specifically pursuing an M.B.A., Lofgren recommends the program.

"Go for it," she said. "The M.B.A. is something that no one can take away from you. It is a great accomplishment."

For more information on how you can begin your journey, visit www.dwu.edu or email Amber Turner, online admissions counselor, at digitaldwu@dwu.edu, or call 855-439-8932 (4-DWUWEB).

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Wesleyan nursing student wins first place Governor's Giant Vision Award

Ashley Kingdon-Reese, a DWU nursing student, has won this year's Governor's Giant Vision Award in the student category with her business plan for Independent Health Solutions.

Kingdon-Reese, of Huron, was named the winner of the \$5,000 award on April 15 at the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) Conference banquet in Sioux Falls. Kingdon-Reese plans to open doors to Independent Health Solutions in Huron by this summer. They will offer home healthcare services, independent from any particular hospital.

"I believe this will be the first agency in South Dakota that will be independent (from a hospital), offering care equally, without competition between difference agencies," Kingdon-Reese said.

Home healthcare begins with a doctor's assessment that a patient could better recover at home, under the supervision of a home care nurse. This can be for a variety of reasons, Kingdon-Reese said, for instance, if the patient's needs do not require 24-hour attention of a hospital staff and could be treated at home. Another reason could be to prevent exposure to hospital germs or possible infection for patients with compromised immune systems.

"Prior to this, all house healthcare came from a hospital," she said. "Independent Health Solutions would be a hub, a place where nurses will be and the public is welcome. The front area will have a conference room for family meetings to take place with or without the patient."

Independent Health Solutions would offer temporary nurse staffing and also provide catered education for anyone in the field.

McGovern Center awards first Legacy Scholarship

Dakota Wesleyan University's McGovern Center for Leadership and Public Service has named its first McGovern Legacy Scholar.

Amy Zeller, of Elk Point, was named the 2013-14 McGovern Legacy Scholar during DWU's Randall Scholarship Day. The McGovern Legacy Scholarship is a new scholarship offered at the university in tribute to Sen. George McGovern who passed away in 2012. Zeller is an incoming DWU freshman and is the daughter of Tim and Tama Zeller.

The McGovern Legacy Scholarship is currently the largest scholarship offered at DWU and covers tuition up to 16 credits for each semester in the 2013-14 academic year and is renewable for up to four years of continued enrollment at DWU with maintenance of academic requirements and involvement with the McGovern Center. This scholarship was created to honor McGovern and the 1972 campaign volunteers, while educating and inspiring future generations of students to volunteerism, public service and to work for a just society.

The Friends of the McGovern '72 Campaign Scholarship fund was established in 2012 through the Leonard and Sophie Davis Foundation in remembrance of the 40th anniversary of the presidential campaign to honor McGovern and the 1972 McGovern Presidential Campaign volunteers. Thousands of 1972 campaign volunteers' lives have been positively impacted by their volunteerism and by the life and legacy of Sen. McGovern, according to Alisha Vincent, McGovern Center director.

DWU athletic training, nursing students conduct interdisciplinary response simulation

By Mari Olson

The DWU Department of Athletic Training and the DWU Arlene Gates Department of Nursing combined forces for an interdisciplinary response simulation to allow students in both departments the opportunity to experience a realistic emergency situation.

The scene began with two DWU football players, Matt McManus and Tanner Munk, during a mock practice on the DWU practice field. When Munk took a pretend bad hit, DWU athletic trainers on duty responded to the scene under the supervision of Dr. John Swisher, with Avera Medical Group Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, acting as the team physician. The football player suffered a spinal injury, and the athletic trainers assessed the situation, determined treatment and carried it out.

"Our goal for the event was to provide a realistic experience for our students which would not only challenge their knowledge and skills, but also expose them to the realistic interdisciplinary culture of healthcare," said Lana Loken, athletic training professor and clinical education coordinator. "Healthcare providers do not work in a vacuum. We work together with others who are trained to fulfill a specific role in the healthcare system."

After the athletic trainers were met by EMTs (portrayed by students), the patient was carried on a backboard to the Corrigan Health Sciences Center. There, the students regrouped upstairs in the Arlene Gates Department of Nursing, where the

Thompson Simulation Labs were set up as a hospital emergency room.

Enter the DWU nursing students, supervised by Dr. Martin Christensen, Mitchell physician, acting as the ER doctor. He took the students through the process of treating the patient, who was replaced by a simulation mannequin. DWU nursing professors stood outside the room and supervised the process from monitors, feeding information about the patient's vitals to the students through the P.A. system.

"Both departments worked together closely for a couple months planning the scenario's details, partnering with physicians, and encouraging students to join in on this learning experience," said Carena Jarding, assistant professor of nursing. "No grades

were attached to this, as we wanted to offer a fun, engaging, yet realistic scene so that students could connect theory with clinical practice in a nonthreatening and safe environment."

The simulation labs are set up to be monitored and recorded for educational purposes, and the footage was broadcast into an adjoining classroom for other athletic training students and nurses to observe.

DWU offers a Bachelor of Science degree in athletic training, an Associate of Science two-year nursing program and a fully online upward mobility Bachelor of Science program in nursing. The placement rate for athletic training students into graduate school or employment was 100 percent this year, and the 40-year-old DWU nursing program has a 100 percent placement rate.



Students from the DWU Department of Athletic Training act out an emergency simulation on the football practice fields, with the help of Dr. John Swisher, with Avera Medical Group Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, acting as the team physician. More photos: www.facebook.com/dwublue.



DATELINES

December: Carena Jarding '00, assistant professor of nursing, receives the South Dakota District 7 Nurse of the Year Award at the South Dakota Nurse Association State Convention in Aberdeen.

Jan. 15: The Weekend Snack Pack Program, in conjunction with DWU, hosts Snack Pack the Palace during a basketball game at the Corn Palace to raise funds and food for the local program.

January: The Highlanders tour and perform in Kimball, Chamberlain, Belle Fourche and Piedmont.

March 22: DWU's Future Teacher's Organization hosts the 16th annual Dr. Seuss Carnival.

April 12: DWU chapter of Children's Miracle Network hosts a 5K Glow Run fundraiser.

March 26: Nursing student Briana Jung, of Warner, receives the Nursing Training Scholarship from the local chapter of the Forty and Eight.

March: Jessica Muller, of Platte, is named first vice president for the South Dakota Student Nursing Association for 2014-15; and Lacey VanLaecken, of Letcher, will be the board's new recording secretary.

March 28-29: Tim Mullican, professor of biology, and Brian Patrick, assistant professor of biology, present during the annual South Dakota Academy of Science meeting. Patrick is re-elected as a member-at-large to the executive committee of the academy, joined by Paula Mazzer, assistant professor of biochemistry, elected to the same position for the first time. Mullican is elected as the webmaster for the academy.

April 1-3: The Enactus team places third in the quarterfinals at the Enactus United States National Exposition in Cincinnati.

April: Lori Bork '85, Diane Sandhoff and Lana Loken are each promoted to full professor status; Dan Miller is promoted to associate professor and granted tenure; and Jesse Weins '03 is promoted to associate professor and granted tenure.

April: Donna Johnson, assistant professor of education, joins the board of directors of the Upper Midwest Branch of the International Dyslexia Association this spring.

May: Jesse Weins '03, dean of the College of Leadership and Public Service, and Sean Flynn, history professor, co-author an entry on the Bill of Rights for the reference book, "The Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice."

May 8: Karen Knoell, university registrar, and Dan Miller, associate professor of communication and theatre director, receive the Professional Excellence Award for the spring term for staff and faculty; and Leah Rado, sports information director, receives the Presidential Award for Outstanding Service.

May: Jesse Weins '03, dean of the College of Leadership and Public Service, publishes and co-edits "Sexting and Youth: A Multidisciplinary Examination of Research, Theory, and Law," with Todd C. Hiestand.

www.dwu.edu/press

COLLEGE BRIEFS

DWU featured on Values.com

Dakota Wesleyan is a featured university on Values.com – a website and nationwide campaign to promote values that make a difference. Values.com is produced by the Foundation for a Better Life and the messages appear on television, movie theatres, billboards, radio and the Internet.

The three students' profiles featured include: Andrew DeVaney, junior, of Sioux Falls, and the nonprofit organization Win/Give that he created with a friend, which includes donating school supplies to needy children in other countries; Ana Morel, junior, of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, who has taken part in, as well as organized and acted as translator for several mission trips for the university; and Brent Matter, senior, of Cavour, who mediated a partnership between DWU and a local nonprofit, the Weekend Snack Pack Program, to help secure office space on campus as well as working with campus organizations to secure the nonprofit other amenities like donation boxes, volunteers, marketing and a vehicle. These profiles are featured at: www.values.com/values-on-campus.

Loken given NATA Athletic Training Service Award



Lana Loken, athletic training professor and clinical education coordinator, was selected as one of the 2014 National Athletic Trainers' Association Athletic Training Service Award recipients.

"The award recognizes NATA members for their contributions to the athletic training profession as a volunteer at the local and state levels," according to its website. To be eligible for the award, members must be in good standing, have 15 years of membership in NATA and be BOC certified for 15 years.

Two Dakota Wesleyan employees retire



Adele Jacobson

Adele Jacobson, a professor in the nursing department, and Nancy Sonne, assistant professor of nursing, both retired from DWU this spring.

Jacobson has worked for Dakota Wesleyan since 2005 and retires from the position as administrative chairman of the Arlene Gates Department of Nursing. Sonne, an assistant professor of nursing at DWU, has worked for the university since 2002.

Jacobson, of Huron, was a leader in the establishment of the Huron nursing program. She also chaired the DWU Assessment Committee for many years and is credited with creating assessment standards for campus programs.

Sonne was one of two faculty members who created DWU's LPN to RN program in Sioux Falls. She spent at least two days each week in Sioux Falls teaching in the program.

"Both of these women have been servants for DWU," said Kim Mohr, assistant professor of nursing.

"Adele has been an extremely hardworking, committed leader who led by example and showed her commitment to DWU nursing every day," she said. "Nancy has been a quiet leader in our faculty who I consider to be a mentor and friend, encourager, great team player, and committed to the success of each and every one of her students."

EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

from couch surfing to the courtroom

By Lori Essig

When faced with uncertainty and instability at home, some teenagers act out. Amanda Burton's circumstances left only one mature choice: to leave.

Burton, who graduated from Dakota Wesleyan in May, was born in Ohio. Her parents divorced when she was 3, and she spent her childhood moving – to Alabama, back to Ohio, then to Pennsylvania, again to Ohio, next to Illinois.

When she and her mother arrived in Illinois midway through her junior year of high school, she was growing tired of what she called her "mom's poor decisions," and was frustrated with her own lack of stability. She was considered homeless by her school district because she did not have a permanent address and was "couch surfing" at friends' houses.

On the advice of her older brother, she decided to take matters into her own hands and explore emancipation – a legal process which would allow her to become independent from her parents before the age of 18.

She went online, found the necessary forms and began the process.

"It was hard, because I love my mom," Burton said. "I had to talk about guilt and manipulation, had to tell my mom's dirty little secrets. I didn't want to hurt her, but I needed to have control of my life."

Thanks to supportive friends and their parents, Burton persisted through the process. She had to demonstrate three things to the judge: she was in an unstable environment; she was able to care for herself; and she had a plan and a support system.

Two months into her senior year of high school, she was legally emancipated. She said she "cried a little," withdrew from school and headed for South Dakota with a friend and his mother.



AMANDA BURTON

At Stevens High School in Rapid City, she met a girl who she calls "my adopted sister." Burton met Haley Sieve through symphony band and All-State Band.

"God worked great things for me," Burton said.

Sieve's parents invited Burton to live with them, and she is still in awe of their generosity.

"They were a gift from God," she said. "They asked for nothing in return. They just wanted me to be able to be a kid; I fit into their family. It's one thing to be independent, but it is great to be in a family that is whole."



Her choice to attend DWU after graduating from Stevens High School was partly due to the fact that she felt that she connected with the people, and she liked the small size of the school and the classes.

She chose to major in criminal justice and pre-law, subjects that intrigued her. When she talks about her Trial Experience class, she says she was like a "kid in a candy store." She felt so energized by the legal process.

"Amanda has many qualities that will help her to be a good attorney," said Jesse Weins '03, chair of the criminal justice department and dean of the College of Leadership and Public Service. "She is hardworking and detail-oriented. She goes after what she wants and is not slowed by setbacks or challenges. She's confident about her decisions and not afraid to speak her mind."

Her most recent decision holds the key to her future. After being accepted to several law schools, she ultimately chose Drake University Law School in Des Moines, Iowa. Being offered a full-tuition scholarship was an indicator to Burton that they were willing to invest in her and her future.

She plans to pursue a career in family or constitutional law. In Burton's opinion, the juvenile justice system needs reforms, and she's willing to take on the task.

"I'm big on rights," she said. "And I've already had my first successful case."



we are on a Mission

Omaha

Dakota Wesleyan University sent 16 people – 14 students and two staff advisers – to Omaha, Neb., over spring break to participate in Urban Plunge. This was the first time a DWU group has worked with Urban Plunge, an outreach organization that sets up volunteer work. DWU served food at three different facilities, including a shelter for homeless war veterans, a shelter that houses nearly 900 homeless people on any given night, and a homeless shelter for men. As well as serving food throughout the week, the group also helped families “shop” for food at a food pantry in South Omaha and packed boxes of food. They also volunteered at Cross Training Center, Soby Ranch and Together.



Mexico

In a place where poverty and privilege live side-by-side, DWU sent 26 people – 22 students and four staff advisers – to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, over spring break. The team worked on two church construction sites. At one site, the students did construction work for the foundation of a church and community center. At the second site, the team helped add a second floor to an existing church for middle and high school youth, and moved its plumbing. For three different mornings, the team split into three groups with one group visiting a local orphanage to play with children nursery-age to about 6 years old. DWU also hosted several feeding ministries throughout the week, providing food to two neighborhood get-togethers, one near each church community, and also for an English class for young students, conducted by American and Canadian women who volunteer to teach. DWU students assisted with the English classes, as well.



Africa

Alisha Vincent, director of the McGovern Center, led a group of 12 people to Uganda and Rwanda, Africa, in May. Vincent was joined by 10 Dakota Wesleyan students and her daughter, Esperance, as well as Tonya Anderberg, wife to DWU’s former associate director of young adult ministry Brian Anderberg, who passed away last October. A church, dedicated to Brian, was funded in partnership with Mitchell Fusion and DWU, which also partnered to create a library for a school that has 600 children. Wesleyan students also conducted training workshops for teachers in conjunction with Esperance Education Institute (EEI), which is a nonprofit run by Vincent. Students have also been assisting as classroom teachers in Rwanda and researching the feasibility of starting a school lunch program at the school there. Amanda Hart, who graduated from DWU in May, led a basketball camp for secondary-level students in Rwanda. DWU’s team assisted with Livestock for Life through the McGovern Center, where they raised funds and distributed more than 20 goats and other essentials for animal production. Vincent and several other students will stay in Africa for an extension of the trip through June.



THREE DECADES OF

RANDALL SCHOLARS

wt feature

Randall Scholars have been a mainstay at Dakota Wesleyan University for 30 years. In 1984, Ron and Charlys Randall, of Mitchell, made the first contribution toward an endowment that has been responsible for scholarships to nearly 180 students.

Missy Herr-Valburg '94, director of admissions at DWU and a former Randall Scholar, says the scholarships have had a lasting impact on the campus.

"With this endowment, we have the ability to attract high-achieving students who bring so much to campus in terms of leadership," she said. "We look to them to be campus ambassadors, leaders and potential future employees of DWU."

Currently, a Randall Scholar receives at least \$15,000 toward tuition each year. To qualify, students must have a high school GPA of 3.5 and an ACT score of 24. They must also demonstrate a strong commitment to leadership and service.

"They are all leaders in different ways, which is so important to our campus," said Herr-Valburg. "Some are athletes. Some are involved in the arts. Others

provide a tremendous amount of time to student organizations. With about 20 Randall Scholars on campus at any given time, they make a huge impact on our community."

The scholars are a microcosm of all DWU alumni – they are in education, business, the ministry, law, medicine – and they all started at Wesleyan, thanks to the gifts from the Randalls.

In celebration of three decades of

scholarships at this year's Blue & White Days, DWU will host a reception for all current and past Randall Scholars. All past Randall Scholars were invited to update the university on where they are now. The information will be used to document their successes in a scrapbook for Ron and Charlys Randall.

On the next page are a few of the many Dakota Wesleyan scholars who responded to the survey.



Left to right: **Jim Beddow**, former DWU president; **Ron Jenkins**, former DWU Board of Trustees member; **Charlys Randall** and **Ron Randall**

Ron Randall is the former owner and CEO of Randall Stores Inc. (now Coborn's in Mitchell), and his wife, **Charlys**, is a past member of the DWU Board of Trustees. Ron, a native of Sioux City, Iowa, attended the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. Charlys, a native of Brookings, attended SDSU and USD. The Randall Scholarships were established by Ron and Charlys in memory of Ron's father, **F. Dwain "Doc" Randall**, and are the university's most prestigious scholarships. These competitive scholarships are awarded to students who display a strong talent for leadership and service.

MARK RENTSCHLER '90



**Distribution Finances Manager
Securian Financial Group
Savage, Minn.**

"The Randall Scholarship was the tipping point in my decision to attend Wesleyan, and it led me to a place where I could safely test my leadership skills. The leadership lessons I learned through trial and error (mostly error) while at Wesleyan have served me well time and time again throughout my career."

DAVE ASLESEN '93



**Pastor
Grace United Methodist
Church
Lake Bluff, Ill.**

"The Randall Scholarship was my gateway to a successful degree in higher education."

PAULA LARSON '02



**Brownsfield Program Grants
and Outreach Coordinator
State of Tennessee
Department of Environment
and Conservation, Recreation
Division
Nashville, Tenn.**

"DWU set the stage for me to find my niche in extracurricular activities, service and a diversity of classes which was all made possible through the Randall Scholarship."

KRISTY GOULD '92



**Associate Professor
of Psychology
Luther College
Decorah, Iowa**

"I felt that by being selected as a Randall Scholar was an expectation for me to become involved and take on leadership roles during my time at DWU, as well as to excel academically. The rich experiences I gained both inside and outside the classroom set me on a successful path to graduate school and ultimately to teaching at a small, liberal arts college much like my alma mater."

JOELLE CHILDS HERMAN '99



**Chiropractor
Herman Chiropractic (Wayne
and Pender, Neb.)
Wayne, Neb.**

"The Randall Scholarship made it possible for me to receive a quality education, which made me well prepared for graduate school, but also made it possible for me to become very involved in campus activities. The activities, organizations and people I met taught me so many things about working with others which was important in preparing me to be a successful doctor and business owner."

JOHN CAWLEY '04



**Physician
Associates in Family Medicine
Fort Collins, Colo.**

"The Randall Scholarship helped shape the person I am today. With this award, I not only became part of the Dakota Wesleyan family, but I also joined a tradition of leaders and innovators – embodied by the other Randall Scholars and by Ron and Charlys themselves. The experiences I had at Dakota Wesleyan developed and refined my personal traits of compassion, humility, servant leadership, faith and devotion, and have shaped me in to the person, father, innovator, educator and physician that I am today."

JENNIFER NEBELSICK LOWERY '04

**Superintendent of Schools
Tea Area School District
Tea, S.D.**

"Being a Randall Scholar emphasizes the importance of being a servant leader, promoting Dakota Wesleyan University with the utmost integrity and drive for excellence."



If you know someone who would benefit from a Dakota Wesleyan education, contact Missy Herr-Valburg, DWU director of admissions, at admissions@dwu.edu or call 605-995-2650.



Wesleyan Commits to Wellness

Dakota Wesleyan University will break ground in September for a new \$10 million health and wellness center.

The total \$15 million project will include the health and wellness center, renovations to the Christen Family Athletic Center, and an operating endowment.

FEATURES

The new health and wellness center will be located on the south side of Norway Avenue, just across from the current practice fields. The first step toward this project will be a 85,000-square-foot, one-story facility, including:

- a 200-meter indoor running and walking track
- four indoor multipurpose sport courts
- locker rooms
- 4,000 square feet of wellness space dedicated to cardiovascular equipment, weights and fitness training
- a wrestling room
- classroom space for seminars and leadership training
- strength and conditioning training space

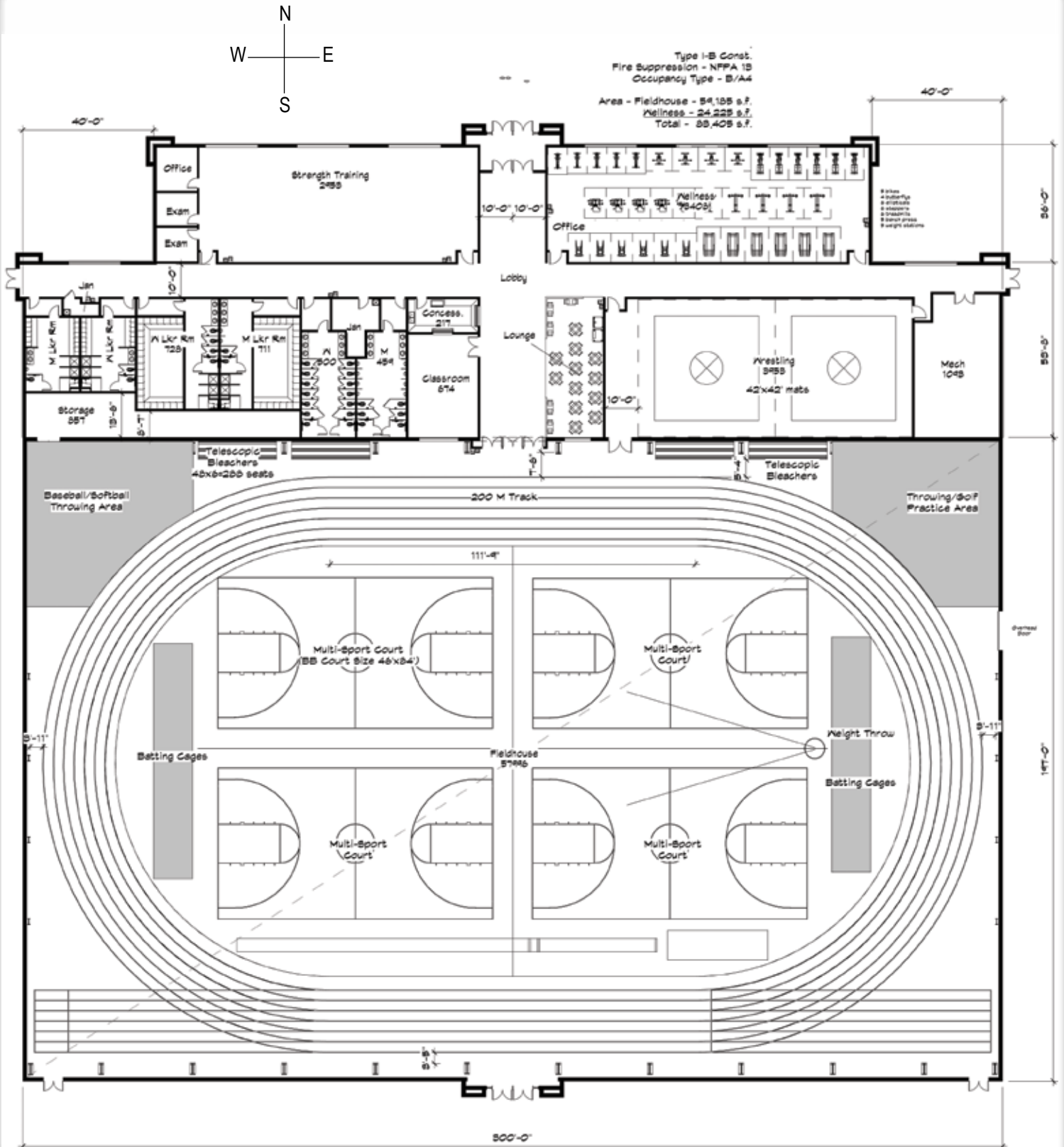
COST

New health and wellness center: **\$10 million**
Renovation of Christen Athletic Center: **\$3 million**
Operating endowment: **\$2 million**
TOTAL: \$15 million



This project is currently in the design phase. The elevation and floor plans are likely to change before construction begins.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER FLOOR PLAN



Officials will break ground in September for the new wellness center at DWU. President Amy Novak points out that this is a three-part project. The second phase will include renovations to the existing Christen Family Athletic Center to upgrade heating and cooling units, expand the athletic weight room, expand the athletic training space, office space for coaches and athletic trainers, and a remodel of the large locker room spaces. Institutional leaders are working with donors for this as well as a \$2 million operating endowment.

“Our students need and deserve a facility in which they can pursue their athletic aspirations as well as personal wellness,” Novak said. “Our student-athletes are severely limited in their practice space. Further, our general campus population rarely has an opportunity to exercise or work out because the university’s growth has nearly doubled the number of athletes on campus over the past two decades, rendering our current athletic center largely unavailable. Our students need this facility, our university community needs this facility, and our long, cold winter has verified that our Mitchell community also needs this facility.

“The interest and support for this project has been tremendous, but I must give credit where credit is due,” Novak said. “At the board of trustees meeting last fall, our board endorsed this project with their votes and shortly thereafter, with their financial commitments. With this strong start, many generous donors became enthused about this project and by February, we knew this facility was going to become a reality sooner rather than later. We are truly humbled and blessed by significant gifts that were pledged to this project.”

PATRICK BELLING

HEAD CROSS COUNTRY AND TRACK AND FIELD COACH

“The new wellness center will give the track team a place to call ‘home.’ It will be a place to practice, a place to have home meets, possibly host the GPAC Indoor Track Championships, and a place where their guardians, friends, siblings, and campus community can come and watch them compete. This would be a place that the team and DWU can be proud of.”



TRAE BERGH

JUNIOR, CROOKS, S.D., MEN'S BASKETBALL ATHLETE

“As a student-athlete, this new wellness facility will greatly benefit the experience at DWU. It will also be great for nonathletes, providing more time and space for intramurals and different activities. More gym space will help athletes have more time to be able to play their sport without interfering with other activities going on in the gym. Along with the Corrigan Health Sciences Center, this new wellness facility will help Dakota Wesleyan take another step in being a top university in the area.”

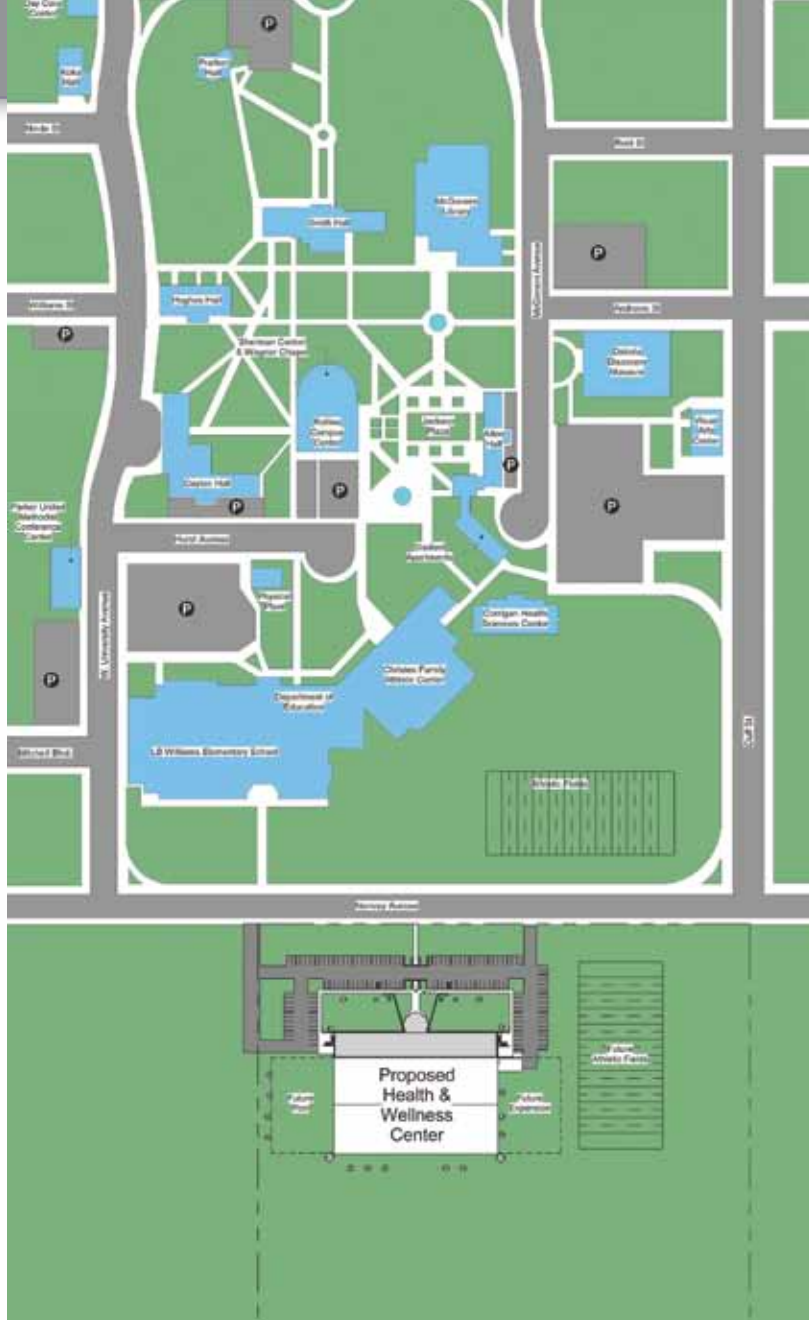


Support this project with your gift today.

give.dwu.edu



AMY NOVAK:
amnovak@dwu.edu



JESSICA FOSSUM

SENIOR, CANTON, S.D.,
TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETE



“A new wellness facility is going to help create more success for DWU athletes. Not only will it attract more student-athletes to DWU, it will allow those athletes to have a much better experience. They will be able to have practice at times that are more beneficial to their academic success. Also, the facility will provide for a safer environment that will prevent injuries, aches and pains that currently occur due to practicing on surfaces that are not ideal. Everybody on the track team is so excited for this facility. We are all so thankful for the people who made it a possibility.”

LEXI WILDE

JUNIOR, GILLETTE, WYO., WOMEN'S SOCCER ATHLETE

“I’m really excited about the new wellness center. Since soccer is an outdoor sport and we live in South Dakota, we often have a tough time getting practices in when the weather is bad. Having this facility will ensure our practice times, not to mention all of us girls are super excited about it and I think having a new facility will help us get even more motivated to train!”



TIGERS SHOCK THE GPAC

wt feature

By Leah Rado
Sports Information Director

After being picked to finish ninth in the 2014 Great Plains Athletic Conference preseason coaches' poll, the Dakota Wesleyan University softball team adopted "Shock the GPAC" as its season motto.

The coaches' poll was released in January, and the Tigers took it to heart and got to work right away. DWU started its season with a one-run win against the No. 22 team in the NAIA on its spring break trip, went on to hand Morningside College – which was receiving votes in the NAIA at the time – its first GPAC loss of the season, and ended the year with its first-ever win at the GPAC Postseason Tournament.

Along the way, the Tigers tied or broke seven individual records, four team records and won 22 games, making 2014 the best season in Dakota Wesleyan softball history.

"It's hard to get everything that needs to be said about these ladies in a couple of quotes, so I will just say that, from start to finish, this group stayed extremely focused on the task and worked harder in the weight room and in practice than I have ever seen them," said head coach Ed Kieff. "Staying focused is not easy with school work and distractions, including the weather, but they found a way to do it and put together the best season in school history. But

this is just the beginning for this group as they are young."

DWU finished the season with a 22-18 overall record and an 11-9 conference mark, good for fifth in the GPAC. Along with a split against Morningside, which won the GPAC regular and postseason titles, the Tigers also swept Hastings and split with Concordia. Both teams finished ahead of Dakota Wesleyan in the conference standings.

Along with the records and wins, Dakota Wesleyan was also recognized by the league on several occasions. The Tigers, who hadn't had a conference player-of-the-week since 2011, had two players – senior Jill Dickson and sophomore Lindy Snook – earn weekly honors in 2014. DWU also had five All-GPAC selections, including three first-team picks – the most in program history. The Tigers had just three total All-GPAC First-Team honorees heading into the 2014 season, but Snook, Hailey Unger and Dani Klassen all earned the honor at the end of the year.

Two keys to the Tigers' success in 2014 were their offense and their pitching. Dakota Wesleyan set the team record for runs scored with 181, besting the previous record by nearly 20 runs. The Tigers also set the record for doubles in a season with 61 and stolen bases in a season with 61. DWU's 22 wins also marked the most wins in a season by five. The Tigers won 17 games in both 2007 and 2012. A home

*Above: DWU senior pitcher **Jill Dickson** throws a pitch during a GPAC doubleheader against Hastings College on April 25 at McWhirter Field.*



*DWU sophomore shortstop **Lindy Snook** fields the ball and looks to make the throw in a game against Presentation College on April 10 at McWhirter Field.*



DWU junior outfielder **Dani Klassen** records a hit against Presentation College on April 10 at McWhirter Field.

sweep of Hastings College on April 25 pushed DWU over the 17-win mark for the season to set the record.

"I think a key to success would have to be the team working together and everyone just getting along," said Devinne Facile, a junior outfielder. "Even if there were some issues, no one brought them onto the field, and there was always a lot of communication."

The Tigers, who have qualified for the GPAC Postseason Tournament in each of the past three seasons, picked up their first-ever win at the tournament on May 1. DWU, the fifth seed, lost 10-2 in six innings to No. 4 Hastings College in its first game of the day, but came back to beat Dordt College 8-2. The Tigers picked up a second postseason win the next day when they beat Doane College 7-3 thanks to a sixth-inning grand slam from Snook. DWU's season ended with an 8-7 loss to Concordia University after the Bulldogs scored the winning run on a two-run single in the fourth inning. The Bulldogs went on to earn a berth in the NAIA National Championships after making the conference tournament title game.

The Tigers' two postseason wins helped Kieff, who wrapped up his third season at Dakota Wesleyan in 2014, become the winningest coach in Tiger softball history. Kieff is now 49-74.

"The thing about exciting softball is it can also be very hard on the coaching staff," Kieff said. "This team made several exciting comebacks throughout the season and had several moments that really amazed people. As a season, this one was filled with great performances from freshmen to seniors. Sweeping Hastings in two one-run games. Losing badly to Morningside, then run-ruling them the next game. Unger's walk-off homer and Snook's grand slam against Doane.

"It was truly a season filled with exciting softball."

Even the Tigers' 20-plus hour drive to Tucson, Ariz., for their spring break trip was a success. DWU went 5-5 on the trip, including a 3-2 win

over No. 22 Park University and a 1-0 win against Baldwin Wallace University, and the road trip was a memorable one.

"The bus ride to Arizona was my favorite memory," Facile said. "I thought it was going to be awful, and it was long, but I got to spend it with my closest friends and we had a lot of fun."

Individually, Dickson and Klassen both set two records, and Snook finished her sophomore season with three season records. Dickson, a right-handed pitcher from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, finished her second and final season with the team with a 16-8 mark and set the record for pitching wins in a season, and she also set the record for pitching strikeouts in a season with 132. Dickson, who struck out 13 batters in a victory over Dordt College, finished her career with a 21-23 record and 239 strikeouts. She earned GPAC Pitcher-of-the-Week honors after throwing a two-hitter and helping DWU beat Morningside 10-1 in five innings.

Snook finished her second season with the team with three individual season records. The Temecula, Calif., native set the record for hits (53), doubles (17) and RBIs (31) in a season, and she was named the league's player-of-the-week after recording 16 hits, 10 RBIs, three doubles, two homers and one RBI in six games. She finished second in the NAIA in doubles per game (0.4), and second in the conference in batting average (.449) and doubles and third in slugging percentage (.712).

This was Klassen's first season with the Tigers after transferring from Dodge City Community College in Dodge City, Kan., but the junior center fielder made an immediate impact for Dakota Wesleyan. She broke the school record with 36 runs scored this season and tied the record for stolen bases with 27. The Niverville, Manitoba, Canada, native finished second in the GPAC in stolen bases and tied for fourth with 13 doubles.

Chelsea Moody, the Tigers' senior first baseman from Mitchell, finished her four-year career with the school's career record for fielding percentage. In four seasons, she recorded a .980 percentage at first base and finished with 692 putouts.

"Individually these are great records and shows just how talented and dedicated these ladies are," Kieff said. "Skill will only take you so far. Dani Klassen works hard in the weight room, which only adds to her speed and strength. Dickson has been pitching at a high level for years, and her experience helped the team. Snook worked hard all year in the cage and the weight room, and it showed on the field. Hailey Unger is right there with Lindy in the weight room, and the cage as well.

"Moody is a Mitchell native with much to be proud of. We are looking forward to her coming to the coaching staff next year."

Unger didn't set any records for the Tigers, but the sophomore catcher had a stellar season for DWU, and she earned All-GPAC First-Team honors for the second straight season. Unger, who is also a Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, native, had 201 putouts and 18 assists and finished with a .982 fielding percentage from behind the plate. She finished second on

the team with 28 RBIs and had a .377 batting average.

Junior Bailey Gummer was also honored after the season and earned All-GPAC Honorable Mention accolades. The infielder from De Smet batted .308 and had a .429 slugging percentage. She had a .948 fielding percentage, including 62 putouts, and saw time at first base in several games for DWU.

Four of the five All-GPAC honorees return for the Tigers in 2015. In fact, Dakota Wesleyan only lost three players to graduation in May in Dickson, Moody and outfielder Tiffany Sharp, and Moody returns to the team as an assistant coach next season.

"The 2015 team will look a lot like last year's as we return all but three players," Kieff said. "All of the returners have made major contributions, which gives us a lot of experience going into the season."

With so many players returning after a record-setting season, Dakota Wesleyan has nowhere to go but up in 2015. The Tigers experienced a taste of postseason success in 2014 with a pair of tournament wins, but are still working on their goal of making it to the next level and earning a spot in NAIA postseason play.

DWU also knows that, after a record-setting year in 2014, any level of success next season will no longer shock the GPAC, but the Tigers are OK with that.

"Jim Misiaszek (DWU assistant coach) and I obviously have high expectations for this group, and I am sure the ladies' top goal will be to win the conference and the conference tournament in 2015 and do some damage at the national level," Kieff said. "This is far from our goal only two seasons ago, which was simply to make the conference tournament. We have come a long way in a hurry and expect to build on this success going forward. Coach Misiaszek and I are proud of this group and are excited to get started in August."



Tiger catcher **Hailey Unger** works the plate during a nonconference doubleheader against Presentation College on April 10 at McWhirter Field.



ED KIEFF:
edkieff@dwu.edu



Dakota Wesleyan University junior **JESSIE FOSSUM** competes in the long jump at the Mount Marty Twilight meet on April 22 in Yankton. Fossum, a Canton native, set the school record in the outdoor heptathlon at the Great Plains Athletic Conference Outdoor Championships in May with 3,700 points. She also set the record in the indoor pentathlon with 3,048 points. In 2014, Fossum also recorded the seventh-best mark in the outdoor javelin (92-feet-3 inches) and the second-best 60-meter hurdle time in Tiger indoor history in 9.83 seconds.



SHORTS

Visit www.dwuathletics.com for sports updates.

Baseball

The DWU baseball team finished 27-24 overall and 10-10 in the GPAC in 2014. The Tigers hosted the GPAC Postseason Tournament where they went 3-2 and made a run to the championship game, losing 10-1 to Midland University. Senior left-handed pitcher Kyle Larson earned All-GPAC First-Team honors, and freshman shortstop Ben Spitznagel and junior catcher Ben Ladner were named to the second team. Cole Wenande (2B), Jonah Johnson (OF), Jared Neilan (OF), Wes Snyder (LHP), Kevin Hatcher (LHP) and Sam Schumacher (UTL) earned honorable mention accolades. Juniors Christian Doyle and Alex Meyer earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete recognition.

Men's Basketball

The Tiger men came one second away from earning a trip to the NAIA National Championships in 2013-14. DWU made the GPAC Tournament semifinals, where it lost 108-106 in overtime to Morningside College on a last-second layup. Dakota Wesleyan finished 18-14 overall and 10-10 in the league and picked up a handful of wins against ranked teams, including a season sweep of Hastings College, ranked No. 6 and No. 13 in the NAIA at the time. DWU also upset No. 8 Midland University – which finished runner-up at the national tournament – 83-80. Junior forward Jalen Voss earned NAIA All-American Third-Team honors and was named to the All-GPAC First Team. Sophomore Trae Bergh was named to the second team and junior Kris Menning and redshirt freshman

Tate Martin earned honorable mention. Bergh tied the school record for 3-pointers in a game (10), and Martin led the GPAC with 185 total assists and 6.1 assists per game. Senior James O'Halloran earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete honors.

Women's Basketball

The Tiger women's basketball team finished 18-13 overall and 10-10 in the GPAC, marking its third straight winning season. DWU was mentioned in the NAIA Top 25 Coaches' Poll much of the season and made it to No. 25 in the Jan. 28, 2014, poll. DWU's signature win this past season came on Feb. 12, 2014, when for the first time since 2009, the Tigers beat Northwestern College 97-76 at the Corn Palace. The Red Raiders were No. 3 in the NAIA at the time. Senior Amanda Hart and juniors Celeste Beck and Katie Johnson earned All-GPAC Second-Team honors, and senior Kim Johnson earned honorable mention accolades. Hart set the record for 3-pointers in a career (383), and Beck finished first in the GPAC and third in the NAIA in 3-point percentage (.442). Hart, Beck, Katie Johnson, Micaela Erickson and Taylor Kuhn all earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete honors.

Men's Golf

The Dakota Wesleyan men's golf team finished seventh in the final GPAC standings in 2013-14. The Tigers recorded two top-five finishes during the spring portion of the schedule, including a fifth-place finish at the fourth and final GPAC Qualifier of the season. DWU also took fifth at

the Mount Marty Invite in late April. Sophomore Tyler Burr was the Tigers' top finisher as he tied for 19th in the league's individual standings. Burr and freshman Thomas Hogg earned All-GPAC Honorable Mention accolades. Gabe Dirksen finished third individually at the Mount Marty Invite, Burr took fifth at the last qualifier, Austin Hieb tied for sixth at the third GPAC Qualifier and Anthony Husher tied for sixth at the Wild West Shootout to lead the Tigers.

Women's Golf

The Tiger women's golf team continued to dominate the GPAC in 2013-14, winning its sixth straight conference title and 11th in the past 12 years. The conference title sealed the Tigers' 11th straight trip to the NAIA Women's Golf National Championships where they finished 19th and missed the three-day cut by four strokes. Dakota Wesleyan also continued its individual domination, as sophomore Lauren Fitts won her second straight GPAC Women's Golfer-of-the-Year award. Fitts' award marked the sixth straight year the Tigers have boasted the league's individual champion. Fitts, along with teammates Chelsea Burbach, Jenna Winckler and April Barnett, all earned All-GPAC First-Team honors. Burbach finished second in the league standings, Winckler tied for fourth and Barnett took 10th. DWU recorded four top-three finishes in the spring season, including wins in the third and fourth qualifiers.

Softball

The DWU softball team set 12 individual and team records in 2014, including wins in a season with a 22-18 overall record. The Tigers finished fifth in the GPAC with an 11-9 mark and picked up their first-ever win in the GPAC Postseason Tournament. DWU landed three players on the All-GPAC First Team – another record. Sophomores Lindy Snook (shortstop) and Hailey Unger (catcher) and junior Dani Klassen (outfield) earned first-team honors, and junior utility player Bailey Gummer and senior pitcher Jill Dickson earned honorable mention. Snook set the record for hits (53), doubles (17) and RBIs (31) in a season. Klassen finished with records for runs scored (36) and tied the record for stolen bases (27),

and Dickson set the record for pitching strikeouts (136). As a team, DWU set records for runs (181), doubles (61) and stolen bases (61) in a season. The Tigers' biggest win of the year came when it beat Morningside College 10-1 in five innings for the Mustangs' first GPAC loss of the season. Chelsea Moody and Tiffany Sharp earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete honors.

Track and Field

Sophomore Nicole Court-Mendez continued to rack up honors in her second season with the Tiger track team. She made history in the 2014 indoor season by earning the third and fourth All-American honors of her career when she finished eighth in the 3,000-meter race walk at the NAIA Indoor National Championships and eighth in the 5,000-meter race walk at the outdoor national meet. She is one of just two Tiger athletes – in any sport – to earn four All-American honors. Skylar Forgey earned All-GPAC honors after taking eighth in the 1,000-meter run at the GPAC Indoor Championships. Several athletes recorded times and marks that are in the top 10 in DWU track history throughout the 2014 indoor and outdoor seasons, including Jessica Fossum, who set the record in the outdoor heptathlon with 3,700 points.

Wrestling

The Tiger wrestling team crowned two All-Americans for the second straight year in 2013-14. Richard Rios finished fourth at 133 pounds, and Trevor DeVestern took fourth at 165 pounds to lead the Tigers at the NAIA National Championships. DeVestern is just the second DWU wrestler to earn multiple All-American honors. Rios and DeVestern, along with Tyler Sarringar and Kyle Gerlach, earned All-GPAC honors, and Gerlach, Nick Hutcheson and Sarringar earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete accolades. As a team, Dakota Wesleyan had the highest team GPA in the NWCA with a 3.33. Sarringar and Gerlach made the NWCA NAIA All-Academic Team. DeVestern set the school record for winning percentage (89.2) and team points earned (94.5) in a season, and the Tigers set team records for points earned (488.5) and individual winning percentage (56.3) in a season.



Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

On April 26, Dakota Wesleyan inducted an outstanding class of former athletes and a contributor to the DWU Athletic Hall of Fame. Family, friends and former teammates and coaches attended the recognition banquet.



DR. LUCIO MARGALLO was recognized for his contributions to Dakota Wesleyan athletics as one of the Tigers' team physicians. Margallo came to Mitchell in 1985, and he has been working with the DWU athletic teams ever since. He works closely with the athletic training program and the athletic training students. He attends home football and basketball games, as well as volleyball, wrestling and baseball, among other sports. All of his work with Tiger athletics is on a volunteer basis. Margallo is a doctor of medicine at Avera Medical Group Internal Medicine Delaney Clinic.



JACK MITCHELL, a 1950 DWU graduate, was a three-year starter on the Tigers' offensive line. The Cambridge, Ohio, native was part of the 1945 team that went 4-0 and was named the state champion. As a freshman that year, he was named to the 'mythical All-State team.' Dakota Wesleyan went 12-13 in his career, and he started every game of the three seasons he played before moving back home to Ohio to start a family. He coached and taught in Plankinton for four years before moving back to Ohio again, where he worked in the newspaper industry for 39 years. He is retired and lives in South Carolina.



EMILY JANSSEN PETOSKE graduated in 2002 after four seasons with the DWU women's basketball team. She was a four-year starter and played a large role in starting a dynasty for the Tiger women, including the best season in DWU women's basketball history in 2001-02. The Emery native earned All-Conference Second-Team honors as a sophomore in 2000, and she was named to the league's first team as a junior and senior in 2001 and 2002. She also earned All-American Honorable Mention honors in 2002. Petoske scored 1,536 career points, and she still holds the school record for points (44) and field goals (20) in a game. She lives in Sioux Falls and is a case manager for the Sioux Falls Area CASA Program.



MIKE SLAUGHTER, a 1986 Dakota Wesleyan graduate, was a member of the Tiger men's basketball team. The center from Columbus, Ohio, earned All-SDIC Honorable Mention as a junior and first-team honors as a freshman. He scored 1,361 career points and averaged 12.4 points throughout his four years. He was part of the 1984 SDIC co-championship team and the 1985 tri-championship team, and he helped the Tigers win 15 or more games in each of his first three seasons. Slaughter lives in Sioux Falls and works at the Volunteers of America of the Dakotas, and he is also a deacon at the Apostolic House of Deliverance.



class notes.

We welcome alumni news for the **Class Notes** section of *Wesleyan Today*.

Please note that we edit Class Notes for length, with priority given to news specifically about alumni of Dakota Wesleyan. Go to the "Alumni & Visitors" link at www.dwu.edu and click on "update your information" to tell us what's new with you.

1950s

Lin Jennewein '57 is on the Rapid City Mayor's Committee on Human Relations and is preaching in Pringle.

1960s

Marilyn Moeckel Sweeden '60 is thankful to be alive after escaping an electrical house fire that consumed her house, car and all personal belongings early in the morning on Dec. 24.

Paul Carlson '62 released his 20th book, "West Texas: A History of the Giant Side of the State," published by the University of Oklahoma Press.

Page Burdette '64 and his wife, Lois, plan to attend his 50th class reunion in September. He is president of the Potomac Housing Realtors in Martinsburg, W.Va.

Herb '64 and **Judy Mayer Meserve '64** are enjoying a quiet retirement with four lively grandchildren.

Stu '65 and **Georgiann Crum Crouse '64** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception in Mesa, Ariz.

Harry Eiss ex'65 has a business which is a World Peace Site through World Citizen.

Judie Van Winkle Stewart '65 and her husband, Gordon, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 27 by going on a Caribbean cruise.



DWU theatre director **Dan Miller** led a group of theatre students to London from May 17-26 as part of the Bachelor of Fine Arts program, though non-majors were also welcome. From left to right: **Kira Stammer**; **Kyle Gilles**; **Jon Kleinschmit**; **Jeff Holstein '12, '13**, DWU student activities coordinator; **Ann Thury**, **Brittney Kaufman**, **Jake Habermann**, **Megan Reimnitz** and **LizBeth Spinar**. They saw "The Book of Mormon," Shakespeare's "Titus Andronicus" at the Globe Theatre, "Blithe Spirit" with Angela Lansbury, as well as viewing: "1984," "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," "Wicked," "Phantom of the Opera," and "39 Steps." They also took a day trip to Windsor Castle, Bath and Stonehenge and some students visited Harry Potter World. (photo by Dan Miller)

Sharon Lundberg Lunder '66 has been a hospice nurse for 30 years. She works at Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls.

Don Bowman '67 and his wife, Sharon, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last July. They have three married daughters, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Paul L'Heureux '68 is now retired.

Gary Miller '69 retired last September after 44 years in federal, state and local government positions.

1970s

Karen Clark '72 completed her 10th year of teaching at Mitchell Technical Institute.

Debbie Sperlich Ryks '73 retired after 40 years of teaching in the Ethan School District.

Judy Jensen Saylor ex'75 is currently serving as pastor to the Wakonda-Irene-Viborg United Methodist Church.



Larry Goins '75, athletic director, Desert Oasis High School, Las Vegas, received a Distinguished Service Award from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA). He was honored in December in Anaheim, Calif., during the 44th annual National Athletic Directors Conference conducted jointly by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and the NIAAA.

class notes.

Mary Vessey Frederick '76 retired in May after having taught middle school and high school science for 31 years.

Steven Oster '79 is a project manager for the Office of Information Technician Product Development with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Kirk Strain '79 attended the Little League World Series games in Williamsport, Pa., in 2013 to watch his son, a shortstop and pitcher on the Urbandale, Iowa, Little League All Star Team, compete.

1980s

Tammie Tripp Ruffle '81 and her husband, Douglas, moved to Nashville, Tenn. She works as an executive assistant at the General Council of Finance and Administration of the United Methodist Church.

1990s

Cindy Kane Novachich '90 is the founder and head of the Weekend Snack Pack Program which is housed on the DWU campus.

Nicole Morrison-Mathern '96 lives in Bismarck, N.D., with her sons, Nick and Nate. She is the co-owner of URL Radio and owner of Maximum Potential.

2000s

Taylor Gantt '02 assumed the position of president at St. Michael's High School in Santa Fe, N.M., in May. He has served as director of advancement at St. Michael's, where he also previously taught personal finance, marketing, accounting, computer literacy and served as a head coach.

Adam Tyhurst '06 works at Spearfish High School as a math teacher and boys' varsity basketball coach.



Florida Alumni Gathering: The Ties That Bind

This group of alumni gather together every year in Florida. From left: **Clem Lagala '64**, Port Saint Lucie, Fla.; **Nancy Price Carter '66**, Baltimore, Md.; **Evalyn Sougstad Beasley '65**, Madison; **Sandy Ebel Butler '66**, Sebastian, Fla.; **Myles Kennedy '66**, Spearfish; **John Stoduto '65**, Cudjoe Key, Fla.; **Al Koch '66**, Timberlake, N.C. Center: **John Butler '65**, Sebastian, Fla.



Minnesota "Service Together" Gathering

In February, a group of alumni and friends gathered to practice the DWU motto of "Sacrifice or Service" by volunteering to pack food for Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen, Minn. Kneeling in front, from left: **Theresa Kriese**, DWU executive vice president; **Vicki Heckel Hamblet '72**, Ramsey, Minn.; **Barb Sweet**, Delano, Minn.; **Lisa Nemer-Noah**, Eagan, Minn. (daughter of Barbara Rollins Nemer '64); **Carol Butz Myslivecek '76**, Edina, Minn.; **Gary Benke**; **Amy Novak**, DWU president; and **Jeff Daniels '64**, Fairfax, Minn. Middle: **Kitty Allen**, DWU development officer; **Karol Davis Eichelberg ex'61**, St. Michael, Minn.; **Lori Wartenberg**, Chaska, Minn. (parent of current student Peter Wartenberg); **Rita Stoner '66**, Bloomington, Minn.; and **Charlotte Lehman Daniels '66**, Fairfax, Minn. Back row: **Jim Hamblet '72**, Ramsey, Minn.; **David Noah**, Eagan, Minn.; **Ike Eichelberg**, St. Michael, Minn.; **John Sweet '68**, Delano, Minn.; **Niels Wartenberg**, Chaska, Minn.; **Berniece Schmidt**, Excelsior, Minn. (parent of alumni **Jay ex'95** and **Justin Schmidt '96**); **Brad Pratt '79**, North Mankato, Minn.; **Dan Dyke '82**, Eden Prairie, Minn.; and **Donneen Dale McKay ex'65**, Burnsville, Minn. **Mark Gustafson ex'81**, not pictured, and his family joined the service group for lunch.

class notes.



Alumni Gathering in the Rockies

DWU hosted a Colorado alumni/friends gathering in early March in conjunction with the spring tour of the Dakota Wesleyan Choir and the Wesleyan Bells. Enjoying breakfast on a snowy Colorado morning were, from left to right, front row: **Theresa Kriese**, DWU executive vice president; **Andrew Bakken '09**, Boston; **Beth Fahey Kroger '91**, Louisville, Colo.; **John Kroger '89**, Louisville, Colo.; and **David Christensen '69**, Golden, Colo. Middle row: **Don Messer '63, HD'77** and **Bonnie Messer**, Centennial, Colo.; **Amy Novak**, DWU president; **Erin Desmond**, DWU instructor of voice and university accompanist; **Gloria Zapp**, Arvada, Colo.; and **Kitty Allen**, DWU development officer. Back row: **Charity Kear '10**, **Glenn Duggin** and **Sean Binder**, all of Denver; **Gordon Zapp**, Arvada, Colo., former DWU coach.



The Wagner Girls

On a recent trip to visit Dakota Wesleyan University alumni in Florida, **Jackie Wentworth**, DWU director of alumni relations, spent an evening with DWU matriarch **Frances Blessing Wagner '38** and members of her family. Shown from left to right, in back: **Bruce Cutler '71**, Sanibel, Fla.; **Jack Billion HD'13**, Sioux Falls, former DWU Board of Trustees chairman. Front row: **Deb Wagner Billion**, Sioux Falls; **Frances Blessing Wagner '38, HD'87**, Sioux Falls; **Barb Wagner Cutler '71**, Sanibel, Fla.



The New York Boys

This group of alumni got together last summer in New York. From left to right, back row: **Frank Friscia '70**, New Rochelle, N.Y.; **Richard Burns '70**, West Islip, N.Y.; **Tom Nekiunas '68**, Summerhill, Pa.; **Matt Fauvell '70**, West Islip, N.Y.; **Joe Cognitore '69**, Rocky Point, N.Y.; and **David Fujishiro '68**, Honolulu, Hawaii. Middle row: **Ron Gallo '71**, Red Wing, Minn. Front row: **Kenneth May '68**, Farmingdale, N.Y.; and **Patrick "the Eagle" Pasacreata '69**, New Rochelle, N.Y.

Joe Schoenfelder '08 received a Master of Arts in theatre from Arizona State University and is now pursuing his doctorate. He and his wife, Katie, have three children, Atticus, Clyde and Luna.

Births

Christy Rohlfs Saltsman '00 and her husband, Brad, welcomed a girl, Kyley Ann, on Aug. 4, 2013.

Jeremy ex'02 and **Julie Bauer Hand '03**, welcomed a boy, Sebastian Archer, on Aug. 5, 2013. He joins a brother, Cole.

Jeana Simons Ahlers '05 and her husband, Ryan, welcomed a boy, Gus Steven, on July 17, 2013. He joins a sister, Ruby, age 2.

Cassie Kiner '11 and **Austin Werkmeister** (current DWU student) welcomed a daughter, Hannah Jo, on March 12, 2013.

Kala Rucktaeschel Cuka '12 and her husband, Joseph, welcomed a daughter, Kennedi Jo, on Aug. 26, 2013.

Christen Backes Mitchell '12 and her husband, Dusty, welcomed a daughter, Karen Ann, on Feb. 2, 2014.

Deaths

Doris Eaton Shipley '33, of Sturgis, died on Jan. 27, 2014.

Dorothy Lehr Bleeker '37, of Bridgewater, died on March 17, 2014.

Shirlee John Phillips '40, of Great Falls, Mont., died on Jan. 11, 2014.

Mildred "Corky" Cork Thorp '41, of Littleton, Colo., died on March 25, 2014. She is survived by her sons, **Roger ex'69** and **David ex'72**.

Marvis Berg Scott MH'43, of Mitchell, died on Dec. 9, 2013.

Mildred Williams Jorgensen MH'45, of Mount Vernon, died on Jan. 26, 2014.

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Helen Althen King '45, of Corvallis, Ore., died on March 22, 2014. She is survived by her sister, **Florence Althen '44**.

Marvin Espedal ex'46, of Mitchell, died on Jan. 20, 2014.

Norma Tastad Black ex'47, of Grimes, Iowa, died on Jan. 15, 2014. She is survived by her husband, **Lyle Black '48**.

Dick Shearer '48, of Mitchell, died on Feb. 23, 2014.

Mildred Bottum Trongard '48, of Milwaukee, Wis., died on Nov. 22, 2013.

Jim Morse '49, of Rapid City, died on March 10, 2014.

Mary Kaye Rose '49, of Little Falls, Minn., died on Dec. 30, 2013.

Florence Kimball Burau ex'51, of Crystal Bay, Nev., died on March 24, 2014.

Gwen Cork Nohr ex'51, of Littleton, Colo., died on March 9, 2014.

Lad Stacey ex'51, of Berrien Springs, Mich., died on March 8, 2014. He is survived by his brother, **Lionel Stacey '53**.

Mary Dolliver ex'52, MH'52, of Wagner, died on Feb. 26, 2014.

Joyce Olson Mills MH'52, of Mitchell, died on April 24, 2014.

Hilda DeGroot Settje '56, of Springfield, died on Jan. 12, 2014.

Jean Scherer Yamada '56, of Honolulu, Hawaii, died on Jan. 20, 2011.

Joseph Agnitsch '58, of Bettendorf, Iowa, died on March 28, 2014. He is survived by his wife, **Connie Strong Agnitsch MH'54**.

Lowell Kjenstad '58, of Bangor, Maine, died on March 7, 2014.



Visiting the Holy Land

Joel Allen, assistant professor of religion at DWU, led a group of 12 to Israel this spring. Left to right: **Brooke Warne '12**, Rapid City; **Bishara Awad '64, HD'11**, Bethlehem, Israel; **Carol Stoops Hildebrand '65**, Eugene, Ore.; and **Maggie Baird Fink '65**, Sioux Falls. The group met with Awad at Bethlehem Bible College, which he founded in 1977.



Westward, They Sang

The Dakota Wesleyan Choir and Wesleyan Bells took a three-state tour in February, stopping in Scottsbluff, Neb.; Guernsey, Wyo.; and Longmont and Brighton, Colo. Above, some of the choir members pose for a photo with **Bruce '73** and **Gail Hoe Heimbeck '74**, of Guernsey, where the Heimbecks organized DWU's performance at the Guernsey Public School. Through them, the choir was also reconnected to the Fredericks who arranged for the students to tour historic Register Cliff, formerly owned by the Frederick family. Chet and Harriet Severin Frederick, both deceased, met at DWU and graduated in the 1930s.

class notes.



Alumni Connection

Don Blumenberg '57, left, and his wife, **Judy**, connected with former DWU basketball player **Mitch Bain '10** in the Bahamas in March. Bain is an accountant at a Sandals resort in the Bahamas, his home country.



What's My Fee?

John Sweet '68, Delano, Minn., shows a book that he checked out of the Layne Library while a DWU student in the '60s. Forty-seven years later, John chose to return the book this past spring, along with the maximum fine of \$5. He should be glad that the library doesn't account for inflation.

Eunice Phillips Postma '58, of Parkville, Mo., died on Dec. 17, 2013.

Marlene Paulson Hawn MH'59, of Machesney Park, Ill., died on May 28, 2013.

Marvin Parks ex'60, of Montevideo, Minn., died on April 17, 2014.

Alma Ludwig ex'63, of Mitchell, died on Feb. 20, 2014.

Mike McKay '63, of Burnsville, Minn., died on June 4, 2014.

Betsy Carlson ex'65, of Sioux Falls, died on April 8, 2014.

Richard Buck '68, of Leesville, La., died on Feb. 19, 2014.

Louise Martin Pody '68, of Mitchell, died on Dec. 1, 2013.

Wayne Nelson '69, of Toronto, Ontario, died on Jan. 25, 2014.

Brooke Haurberg '70, of Dahinda, Ill., died on Dec. 12, 2013. He is survived by his wife, **Kathy Penny Haurberg '70**.

Conni Corey Johnson '70, of Clayton, Ga., died on March 24, 2014. She is survived by her husband, **Jim Johnson '72**.

John Thomas '70, of Jacksonville, Fla., died on Dec. 6, 2013.

Isabella McNary Herman '71, of Rapid City, died on Jan. 26, 2014.

Nancy Merrill Richter '71, of Sturgis, died on Dec. 27, 2013.

Linda Young '73, of Mitchell, died on Jan. 21, 2014.

June Christensen Hohn '75, of Mitchell, died on March 6, 2014.

Stan Waddell '77, of Phoenix, died on April 15, 2013. He is survived by his wife, **Lynda St. Clair Waddell '76**.

John Hockett Sr. '80, of Winner, died on March 9, 2014.

Carol Nemmers Kurth '84, of Big Spring, Texas, died on Jan. 22, 2014.

Friends

Mary Weinkauff, DWU English professor from 1969 to 1989, is teaching in the Northern Great Lakes Synod's Lay School for Mission and performs supply preaching in the North Woods.

Vera Kilstrom, of Mitchell, died on Jan. 11, 2014. She worked at DWU as a bookkeeper from 1955 to 1982.

Ardis Ruark, of Pierre, died on April 16, 2014. She worked at DWU from 1961 to 1965 as an English instructor.

Bettie Jean Clymer Lundsford, of Amarillo, Texas, DWU dean of women from 1965 to 1974, died on May 14, 2014.

For more Dakota Wesleyan alumni gathering photos, please visit our gallery at www.dwu.edu/alumni/photos.

2014 Date Book

- **Aug. 23-24** – New Student Orientation
- **Aug. 25** – Fall Classes Begin
- **Aug. 28** – Opening Convocation
- **Sept. 1** – Labor Day (no classes, offices closed)
- **Sept. 18** – Health and Wellness Center groundbreaking and Legacy Banquet
- **Sept. 18-20** – Blue & White Days
- **Nov. 22-30** – Thanksgiving Break (academic holiday)

www.dwu.edu/events

Add the alumni office to your Christmas card mailing list; we love to hear from you!



FACEvalue

TYLER SARRINGAR

Take it to the mat

Wrestling career highlights:

- Captain of wrestling team – junior and senior seasons
- GPAC nominee for A.O. Duer Award
- Four-time member of NWCA-NAIA All-Academic Team
- Two-time Daktronics-NAIA Wrestling Scholar-Athlete
- 2012 NAIA Champion of Character
- Four-time NAIA Wrestling Tournament qualifier
- Holds DWU record for reversals in a season (31 in 2011) and career (99 over four years)
- 90 career wins (ranked fourth in DWU all-time wins history with 90-57 record)

“When I signed Tyler, I got everything I’d hoped for and more. The greatest thing to know about Tyler is that he improves everyone’s life that he interacts with. He was a fantastic representative of our wrestling program and university. I consider myself very fortunate for having spent the last four years with him and look forward to watching him continue his success story as his life moves on past DWU.”

— Matt Sedivy '06
Head Wrestling Coach, 2009-14



FACEvalue

meet TYLER SARRINGAR

AGE: 22 HOMETOWN: Pierre, S.D. MAJOR: Athletic Training



Where you've seen him

- DWU wrestling team
- DWU Athletic Training Club
- Resident assistant
- Wesleyan's Got Talent
- Dancing With the Stars (above)
- Wesleyan Idol
- Pep Rally performances
- Children's Miracle Network Tigerthon (dance marathon fundraiser)
- MAATA District V Student Leadership Council, student representative for South Dakota
- Peru mission team (twice)
- New Student Orientation leader
- Service Day
- Youth wrestling camps and referee
- Student ambassador
- Annual food drive
- Trio tutor for chemistry, biology and English
- Scotchman candidate

FACEvalue

Why Wesleyan?

Well, at first, I didn't want to come to Dakota Wesleyan. My parents (Bill '88 and Joanne Herber Sarringar '87) both went to school here so I decided in high school that I was not going to come here. I was actually at a wrestling tournament the summer before my senior year of high school and met Coach Sedivy at that tournament. He started talking to me about wrestling in college so I thought I might as well just take a visit to Dakota Wesleyan. My mother told me that athletic training would be a great field to go into if I wanted to continue on with a career in physical therapy. DWU allowed me to wrestle in college as well as pursue my academic career. This university also had a "family-like" atmosphere to it. Those qualities of Dakota Wesleyan were why I chose to attend this university.

In 50 years, someone is going to write a biography about you – what is the title?

Title: Been There, Done That
First Chapter: A Nerd Is Born
Last Chapter: Ain't Looking Back Now

Learning, leadership, faith and service – DWU's motto. During your education here, when did you experience any of the above?

I would have to say that I was able to experience all of the above during my two mission trips to Peru. I was able to see things on those trips that I never would have imagined seeing. I learned that there are so many people in this world who are less fortunate than me, but they have so much more than I do. They have greater faith, family and friends than I can ever imagine. It changed my faith in a way that I cannot describe with words. I only hope that I can act with the same kindness and spiritual faith that I was exposed to on those two trips.

Describe yourself in three words.

Extroverted, charismatic, achiever

What is a favorite DWU memory?

Every time I get asked this question, the answer changes. One memory that sticks out is how I received the nickname "Nerd." My freshman year of wrestling, I was walking back to Dayton after practice. There was snow on the ground, and I was walking ahead of three of the older wrestlers, Tanner LaValliere, Ray Rickenbach and Nick Hutcheson. Little did I know that they were making snowballs behind me, when suddenly they all yelled, "Get some friends, Nerd!" They proceeded to throw snowballs at me the whole way back to Dayton. After that, "Nerd" stuck. To this day, more people call me "Nerd," "Nerdicus" or "Nerdy" than call me Tyler. Even when I was wrestling, the team would yell "Nerd" instead of my name. One of my opponents actually thought that the crowd was making fun of him during a dual my senior year. This is why I love this memory so much.

I value ...

friends, family, coaches, professors, students, academics, faith, my cauliflower ear, wrestling, entertaining others, music and movies.

Plans following graduation:

I am attending physical therapy school at the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, this fall. After graduating there, I plan on starting a career as a physical therapist/athletic trainer somewhere in the mountains. Once I graduate P.T. school, I would only live as far east as Rapid City. I love Denver, so anywhere in the Rocky Mountains would be my ideal place to live.

I never imagined ...

that I would be able to have the experiences that I have had at DWU. There's no way that I would have had any better experience if I would have gone somewhere else. I have been able to meet lifelong friends, become a more outgoing person, and participate in the things that I love and cherish. DWU has made me who I am, and I could never imagine my life without it.



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Scotchman and Miss Wesleyan named

Trent Robbins, Watertown, and **Kelli Swenson**, Chamberlain, were named Scotchman and Miss Wesleyan for 2014. Robbins is a double major in mathematics and business, and Swenson is a double major in business administration and leadership and public service with a concentration in policy communication. Other candidates for Miss Wesleyan include: **Breanna Clark**, Loveland, Colo.; **Valerie Hummel**, Yankton; **Natalie Munger**, Kimball; **Samantha Sandau**, Tripp; and **Kayla Summerville**, Platte. Other candidates for the Scotchman include: **Joe Ford**, Vermillion; **Chase Kristensen**, Plankinton; and **Tyler Sarringar**, Pierre.