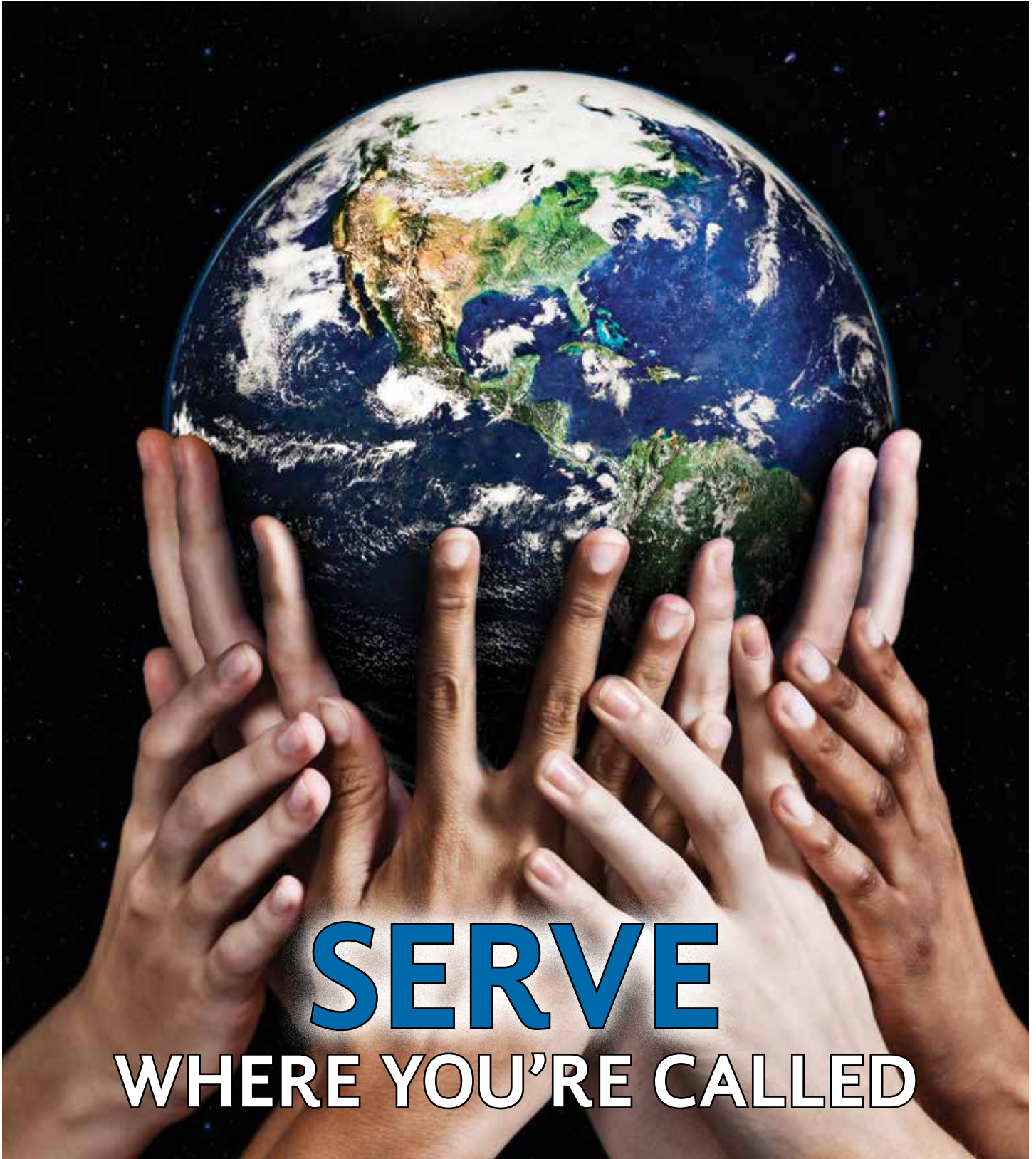




WESLEYAN TODAY

WINTER 2016-17



SERVE

WHERE YOU'RE CALLED

DWU breaks ground on new black-box theatre and welcome center

Announces Ron and Sheilah Gates Department of Theatre

Despite the rain, Dakota Wesleyan University carried on with its groundbreaking ceremony on what will be a new \$1.2 million theatre and welcome center.

The theatre will be attached to the south side of Dakota Discovery Museum on the east side of campus. The project includes a black-box theatre, office space, dressing rooms, bathrooms, workshop and a green room. There will also be a new welcome center for the university and museum. The facility is expected to open by fall 2017.

Donors to the project include DWU faculty and staff, and major donors: **Ron HD'15 and Sheilah Gates**, of Mitchell; **The Leland Case Trust**; **The Sam F. Weller Family Foundation**, of Mitchell; **Mike and Lesta Turchen**, of Hill City; the **Mitchell Area Charitable Foundation**; and **Mark Puetz and Katie Murphy**, of Mitchell.

“Our theatre students and I are absolutely ecstatic that we will soon be honing our craft and presenting our productions in a space that is being built for a sole purpose, and that is theatrical performances,” said Dan Miller, theatre director and professor. “We are so grateful for the support and investment that these donors are making in furthering arts education.”

The groundbreaking ceremony followed Opening Convocation where Ron and Sheilah Gates were also thanked and honored through the naming of the theatre department: the Ron and Sheilah Gates Department of Theatre.

“The city of Mitchell is incredibly lucky to have such friends as Ron and Sheilah; their generosity of spirit is felt throughout the community but especially for us on campus through the extraordinary opportunities our students have received through their support,” said DWU President Amy Novak.



Ron HD'15 and Sheilah Gates



From left to right: Brad Pratt '79, president of the DWU Board of Trustees; Dan Miller, DWU theatre director; Ron HD'15 and Sheilah Gates; Mark Puetz of Puetz Corporation; Alaina Bertsch, DWU senior; Madison-Ainsley Miller '16; and DWU President Amy Novak.

table of contents

WESLEYAN TODAY • Winter 2016-17 • Volume 22

FEATURES



14

Betty Oldenkamp '82
Making a Career of Service: The Oldenkamp File
ALUMNI FEATURE



15

Serve Where You're Called
Have RV: Will Serve Others
COVER STORY



18-19

Volleyball and Football
Volleyball: Reversing Course; Football: Dual Threat
SPORTS FEATURES

INSIDE

- 5 Snapshots: Blue & White Days
- 8-11 DWU News: People and Places
- 20 Sports Shorts
- 22-27 Class Notes
- 28-29 Distinguished Alumni Awards
- 30-31 Face Value



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

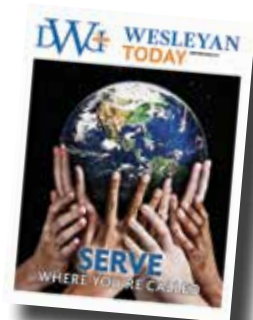
Editor: Lori Essig
Staff Writers: Mari Olson
Graphic Designer: Chad Larson '94
Sports Contributors: Nick McCutcheon, Jerrett Mills '16
Photographer: Mari Olson
Stock Photography: istockphoto.com
Printer: Forum Communications Printing, Fargo, N.D.

Administration: Amy Novak, president; Theresa Kriese, executive vice president; Joseph Roidt, provost; Kitty Allen, vice president of institutional advancement; Lori Essig, vice president of marketing and communications; Fredel Thomas '14, dean of admissions.

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.

COVERSTORY

Dakota Wesleyan's commitment to service is part of its motto, its curriculum and the spirit of being a Tiger. This issue of Wesleyan Today highlights many stories of alumni and students who have dedicated their lives to serve where they're called.



SERVE WHERE YOU'RE CALLED

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Woven deep within the Dakota Wesleyan ethos lies a commitment to strengthening our common humanity through service. Service calls us to use our gifts, talents and abilities to advance the genuine well-being of those we encounter.

Service to students is a basic tenet of life at DWU, as is service by students, staff and faculty – each lending personal skills and professional expertise to assist others through campus activities, community projects, mission trips, and numerous volunteer opportunities that extend the service commitment of DWU well beyond our campus borders.

Service demands courage and action, as well as sensitivity, understanding and care. Today, more than ever, this value is needed as we seek to lift each other up, value our differences and celebrate our common goal to improve our world. Experiences that position us in spaces and places that may be unfamiliar help us appreciate diversity while simultaneously building relationships of respect and understanding.

This past fall, I witnessed our community in action in countless ways.

For example, I connected with a group of young alumni who have all started their careers on the Lower Brule Indian Reservation, and who are networking with one another in efforts to benefit Native American youth through the Boys & Girls Club and the high school.

In our Mitchell community, our student clubs, athletic teams and even academic classes have found a variety of ways to serve.

- Business professor Dr. Katie Morrison and her students spent the fall semester developing a financial literacy class for residents at the Abbott House, a home for abused and neglected girls.

- The men's and women's basketball teams read to preschoolers at a local church. The volleyball team shopped for Salvation Army Angel Tree gifts at Christmas time, and Tiger football players conducted their annual service day in the fall where they tackled projects for people who needed some assistance.
- Students in Dr. Anne Kelly's social psychology class formed mentor relationships with members of the James Valley Senior Center and spent the semester developing an appreciation for intergenerational dialogue.
- Over spring break, Student Ministry Council students will head to Omaha for an urban plunge. And this summer, students will go to Israel and Peru to expand their ministry outreach.

One of my favorite service opportunities happened again this fall semester. Our employees and their families served a traditional Thanksgiving meal to our students. It is a wonderful way for those of us who work at DWU to show just how grateful we are for the students who choose the Wesleyan experience.

From our founding, DWU has been a place that has welcomed students from all backgrounds and strived to equip them for lives of service. Today, we honor that same commitment made by our founders more than 130 years ago. In the spirit of John Wesley, we must use our actions and words to be God's light in the world.



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

SERVE

WHERE YOU'RE CALLED



Women's basketball players **Sarah Carr** and **Kynedi Cheeseman** read to preschoolers at First Lutheran Church.

SERVE

WHERE YOU'RE CALLED



Christine Mauszycki '03, assistant professor of accounting, is on gravy duty at the annual Thanksgiving dinner for students.

SERVE

WHERE YOU'RE CALLED



President **Amy Novak** and her husband, **Ken**, do some dirty work during the Great Wesleyan Giveback in April.



Snapshots

BLUE & WHITE DAYS 2016



The Tigers take the field for Blue & White Days in a game against Doane.



Abby Ouellette, of Vermillion; Lexy Jo Deneke, of Rapid City; Rachael Kriz, of Geddes; and Jacey Jira, of Hartford, all cheer on the Tigers during the homecoming football game.



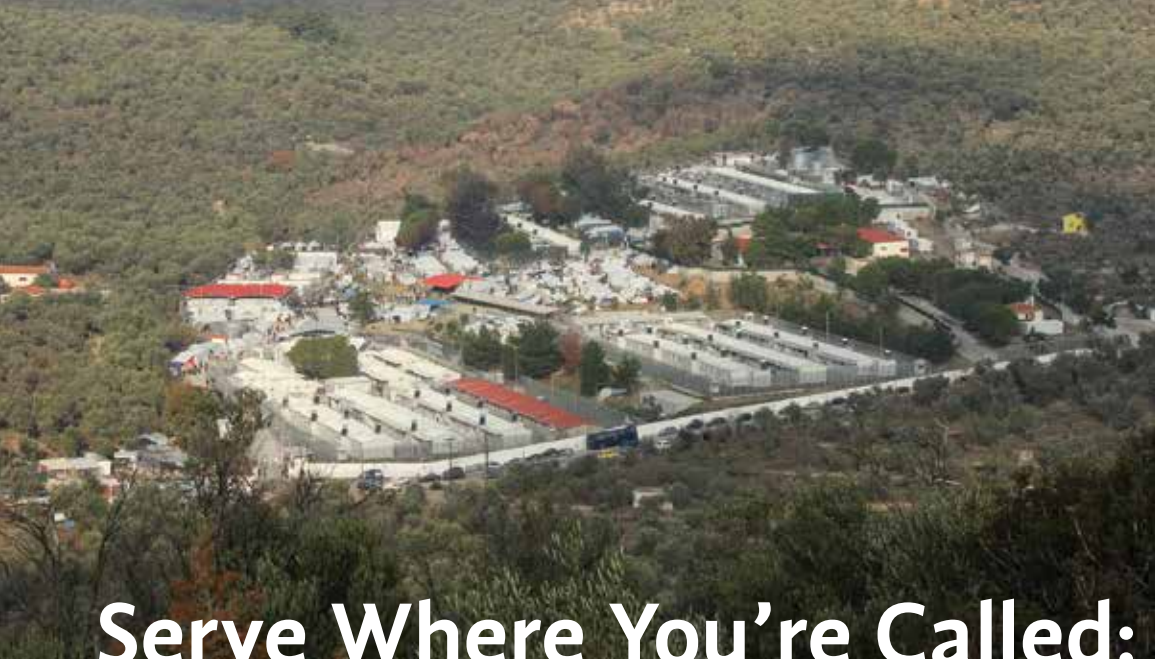
Donneen McKay '65, Jackie Wentworth '83 and Peter Masella '65 strike a pose at the alumni tent before the parade.



Dan Mitchell, of Volga, and Lauren Tadlock, of Rapid City, were named this year's homecoming king and queen.



The Future Teachers Organization had a Mario Brothers-themed float in this year's parade, theme being "Video Games."



Serve Where You're Called: One Student's Summer with Refugees

By Mari Olson

It's one thing to read about refugees or to watch sea-soaked children pulled from black rafts on TV. It's an entirely different thing to walk among them, to be tasked with their safety and gifted their trust.

At 22 years old, sophomore pre-med student **RALPH HELMUTH**, of Alexandria, accepted an unusual amount of responsibility for thousands of strangers when he decided to volunteer for Euro Relief in Lesbos, Greece. Lesbos, also spelled Lesbos, is an island in the Aegean Sea about five miles off the coast of Turkey, where thousands of Syrian, Afghan and Pakistani refugees are detained after fleeing their war-torn countries.

Helmuth learned about the position at the Moria Refugee Camp when his sister and a friend, both employed with Euro Relief, recommended him for a vacant site manager position. He spent three months there last summer.

The camp was separated into two sections: one for single males; and one for families, single women and other

vulnerable cases, which had walls and security gates, called the Family Compound.

"So much changes every single day, the (Greek) police make decisions, the (Greek) military make decisions, so everything changes, but overall I was responsible for the housing, safety, food and clothing for the Family Compound," he said.

At the time he was there, there were about 3,000 displaced persons from 75 nationalities at the camp, but at its peak it has been as high as 8,000, he said.

Helmuth lived in an apartment outside of camp, but came to work each morning for the shift change and daily briefing around 7:30 a.m.

"Most people were sleeping; it was very peaceful," he said, adding that the smells greeting him weren't of coffee or baking, but of the stench of trash due to the insufficient number of garbage receptacles.

Within an hour, everything would change as the camp awakened, ready for breakfast, which is a croissant and an orange, sometimes a carton of juice. Lunch would often be under-cooked potatoes, a lump of feta cheese and a hunk of bread, or pasta and feta cheese. He said Middle-Easterners do not typically like pasta, but at this camp the refugees were not given ingredients to cook for themselves.

The Family Compound consists of barracks with rooms about 20 by 20 feet fitting up to 30 people, and up to 50 when needed. Outside are tents and Refugee Housing Units, which are also used by the rest of camp outside of the compound. These tents are inexpensive two- and six-man tents, and the RH Units are plastic tents that fit up to 15.

With winter coming, Helmuth said someone came up with the idea to spray foam inside the tents for insulation.

When Helmuth describes the struggle each individual and family goes through to make it to the camp, he said it takes a lot of money to get out of their countries, mostly because the only way to escape is by hiring smugglers.

When refugees reach Turkey, smugglers will charge \$2,000 to \$4,000 per person (that was the going rate last summer in U.S. currency); with that, a refugee could buy a seat on a boat or ferry across the Mytilini Strait to Lesbos – at least they are told it's a boat.

"When they get down to the shore ... it's just an inflatable raft with a little engine on it that is made for eight, sometimes 10 people, and the smugglers pull out their guns and force 40 to 50 people on these things," Helmuth said. "So much danger, sometimes the waves are

high in that sea, and they're forced onto these rafts ... and often a little way out to sea, their motor will stop because (the smugglers) put in enough fuel to just get them out, and they just have to float to the other side and hope that they make it. That's the main reason that there are so many casualties in that sea. At one point I think there was an average of 15 people a day being drowned in the sea – a tragic amount of casualties. But these people would never know what they're getting themselves into until they had a gun to their head."

Once ashore, they are technically under arrest and must wait 25 days before applying for asylum, and then sometimes months for their paperwork to be processed.

"They're getting anxious; their whole life has been



Map graphic made with help of Google Maps; photographs submitted by Ralph Helmuth



crushed and so they know ... they need to make a new life for themselves and their family, and they can't start that process," Helmuth said.

He noticed that some people seemed to be chosen at random while others sat waiting, told every day to come back the next – a daily ritual with daily disappointment.

"Instead of having this camp be a transit refugee camp where people stayed a few nights, they are now there for months, and they have no idea when they're going to leave," he said. "That was the main cause of tension in the camp. If refugees talked to me about something hard they were going through, it was that their paperwork wasn't being processed.

"If there was a case that I knew, especially a vulnerable case, I'd take it to the asylum office and try to talk to people, work with them to see if we could push them through somehow."

Tension was great on all sides and Helmuth's job was to negotiate that ground – whether it was cultural disagreements between nationalities, which was common, or anxiety due to paperwork, or frustration with the police and military.

"People trying to break into the compound happened daily," he said. "Sometimes you'd have a mini riot on your

hands, but with patient explanation and discussion, the problem could usually be settled."

Or, he added, if the people had family inside, they were allowed to visit within the Family Compound with an escort.

He made many friends among the refugees, both in the Family Compound and in the open camp. It was through the help of those friends who volunteered as translators that he and others were able to be the most effective in calming riots and understanding their causes.

"Five days after I got there, a massive fight broke out between (Afghans and Syrians). It was getting dark toward evening ... and I started hearing this massive yelling from the back part of camp. And this group just erupted in what sounded like war cries, and then the other group, and then they started flinging rocks at each other."

His priority was to the Family Compound, but the camp manager was gone at the time so he knew he had to take responsibility for both sides. There was another problem: a group of volunteers in an information hut, which was directly in the middle of the two rioting sides.

"I started radioing to make sure all the volunteers were safe and called for lockdown of the entire Family Compound, but then I knew we had to do something about these guys down there because they're in the middle of it, but the problem is I can't just go up there because there are a thousand rocks flying right now."

Then a wounded Afghan man ran directly into the information tent with men after him, and then there were six men fighting and throwing rocks in the tent with the volunteers. With the help of refugee friends, they were able to get them out of the tent and away from the compound.

After running back and forth behind the groups – to avoid being stoned – and using translators or English-speakers he knew, and disarming people of rocks and metal rods when he could, the riot settled after two hours. The next morning they found rocks lodged in the information hut's ceiling and elsewhere.

"I made some close friends who were refugees and acted as translators, and some of them were mature enough not to take sides, and then that would really help us, and help us understand the back story of what was happening. If we didn't have them, we couldn't have done what we did."

Helmuth said that even though there were problems which often derived from miscommunication between refugees, volunteers and the authorities, he feels like being a part of the solution to those problems was great experience.

"A lot of it is making decisions based on your own discretion, what's going to be best for the people, what's going to be best considering everyone, what decision will have the greatest return of investment."

He became good friends with both the police chief and the military major in charge of the camp.

"That was one of the best parts of my time there, to be able to work closely with the military major as well as the police captain and having their support to make things better for everyone there."

The refugee camp was an entirely new experience for Helmuth, who has done missionary work in several parts of Asia, Iraq, and also missionary training in Ghana, Africa. All his previous travels helped him quickly scale cultural barriers and begin dialogue with those refugees who could speak English, but the emotional toll of daily conflict resolution was what he said burns volunteers out – not their lack of experience.

"Dealing with human trauma and relationship conflict every single day ... making peace between people ... and then every single day you still have to disappoint people," he said.

He explained that there wasn't a person he met who hadn't lost a loved one along the way. Some of the people in the camp still have access to phones and the Internet, or can go into the city to check, so they get constant reminders of the carnage their families are going through, of the people being killed who don't have the resources to get out.

"One of my friends from Aleppo, she showed me a video of her house being blown up (that her sister sent to her)," he said. "They're facing those kinds of things and getting those kinds of updates."

Still, with the tensions and anxiety, the frustration and raw fear, the loss of family members, Helmuth said the people, somehow, hadn't given up all hope.

"When I talked to them, they often talked about their future with a sense of despair; it was a kind of hopelessness, but they always had hope of a better future, and that's the only thing they lived on," he said. "A lot of pain, a lot of trauma, but very little hopelessness. (A friend of a friend) was taken by ISIS and was beheaded, and then his head was sent to his mother. Life after seeing something like that would never be the same.

"But they had hope to get through and to have some kind of future."

At 22 years old, dealing with the emotional trauma, physical trauma and racial disputes Helmuth faced every single day, he said that his faith is what led him there and what sustained him. He said that he saw the burnout happen more quickly for volunteers who didn't lean on their faith in Christ.

"The fact of the matter is, it would have been really hard to get through those three months and to remain sane without knowing that God was in this and that God was leading me to this," he said. "The overarching reason I went was because I knew God wanted me to go, and I was doing this under Christ."

The trip was mostly funded through his father's accrued airline miles and from international travel funds donated to DWU by alumnus John Grinager '75.

Now that he's stateside again, Helmuth has reached out to refugee and volunteer friends still at the camp and hopes to visit again.

"I have a friend there that started when I did, and he's still there. He sounds pretty worn out, and he told me that some of the refugees who are still there from my time have asked about me; that's something. I'd really like to go back some day."



COLLEGE BRIEFS

DWU named as 'College of Distinction' for 2016-17

Dakota Wesleyan University is once again featured on CollegesofDistinction.com, an online college guide. Based on the opinions of guidance counselors, educators and admissions professionals, Colleges of Distinction™ honors colleges excelling in key areas of educational quality.

In order to qualify, DWU was required to demonstrate excellence in the four distinctions: engaged students, great teaching, vibrant communities and successful outcomes. The goal of Colleges of Distinction™ is to provide students, counselors and parents with information about colleges and universities that excel in these four areas. Featured schools take a holistic approach to admissions, consistently excel in providing undergraduate education and have a national reputation. This is Dakota Wesleyan's sixth year on the list.

DWU announces record enrollment for fall 2016

It's a headline that bears repeating – Dakota Wesleyan University has set another new enrollment record.

This year, DWU's enrollment is at 900 total, which includes a new record for online students, as well.

"We couldn't be happier with the numbers we're seeing," said Fredel Thomas '14, dean of admissions. "We feel that with the overall competitive market in higher education and the decreasing size of graduating high school classes in the region, the fact that we are not just holding steady, but increasing, is something that really encourages us, makes us proud."

DWU's 2015 enrollment was 895 and 2014's was 824. Transfer numbers are also back up this year with 83, which is the highest since 2012.

2015 President's Higher Education Honor Roll released; DWU named in two categories

Dakota Wesleyan was named in two categories for the 2015 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

DWU was named to the honor roll for general community service for 2015 and also named to the honor roll with distinction in interfaith community service.

The award is a reflection of DWU's service to community and the world. According to its website, the honor roll recognizes institutions of higher education that support community service programs as well as "raise the visibility of effective practices in campus community partnerships."

Dakota Wesleyan athletics ranks high on NAIA Social Media Index

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics ranks the social media presence of the 250-plus colleges and universities in the NAIA. Among all schools, DWU ranks fifth in the Social Media Index. The rating is calculated based on total likes/followers per enrollment of the institution. Go to naiasocialmedia.com for more information.

Wesleyan's business department receives accreditation by IACBE

Program also receives national ranking

The Board of Commissioners of the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE) has granted first-time accreditation to Dakota Wesleyan University's business and management programs offered through its department of business.

The Dakota Wesleyan University Department of Business has undertaken a rigorous self-evaluation; has undergone a comprehensive, independent peer review; and has demonstrated compliance with accreditation principles, including outcomes assessment, strategic planning, curriculum, scholarly and professional activities, resources, internal and external relationships, international business education, faculty, and educational innovation.

"We have worked incredibly hard to make Dakota Wesleyan's business department one which houses a robust curriculum and competitive program, one that can truly compete in the world's market," said Dr. Monty Bohrer, professor and director of the business graduate program.

The DWU Master of Business Administration program was also ranked the No. 11 "Best Buy" among distance M.B.A.s by GetEducated.com's national online degree review team.

This affordability ranking is based on a comprehensive review of more than 450 regionally accredited M.B.A.s.



"Dakota Wesleyan's M.B.A. is still relatively new, but we are proud of the progress we have made, our recent accreditation by the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education, the growth in our program and now this," Bohrer said. "The fact that we have been recognized for our competitive program, and now we are ranked 11th out of 450 in affordability, shows that DWU is a great choice academically and financially, which of course, makes great business sense."

Dakota Wesleyan's M.B.A. program is 100 percent online and is completed in eight-week courses that begin at three different start points in the year. Students can also complete the program attending part time or full time.

Visit www.dwu.edu under "Adult and Online Learning" to learn more.



DATELINES

June: Ken Ketel '62, of Rapid City, joins the Dakota Wesleyan University Board of Trustees.

June 9-10: Nearly 200 certified nursing assistants attend DWU's first CNA Summit.

June 13: Rural Teacher Corps Project meets at DWU with teachers from across the country.

Aug. 21: The annual Freshman Food Drive collects 3,400 pounds of food for the Mitchell Area Food Pantry.

Sept. 9: Rabbi Pesach Wolicki, an Orthodox Israeli rabbi, and Dr. Naim Khoury, a Palestinian Christian pastor, visit campus to discuss the Jewish-Christian relationship in Israel.

September: The DWU theatre department performs "Boeing, Boeing."

September: Dr. Paul Miskimins, of Mitchell, joins the Dakota Wesleyan University Board of Trustees.

Oct. 19: The Rev. Omar al Rikabi speaks at the Mitchell Area Youth Night and campus worship.

Oct. 20: Shantel Krebs, South Dakota secretary of state, visits campus to get out the vote.

Oct. 26: Rep. Kristi Noem-R visits on campus during her campaign for re-election to Congress.

Oct. 27-31: The DWU Theatre Club hosts a haunted house in downtown Mitchell.

November: DWU is named as one of the top five online bachelor's programs in South Dakota by Affordable Colleges Online.

Nov. 3: The South Dakota Hunger Summit is held on campus with Jesse Roesler, director of "Starfish Throwers," which included a special screening of film the night before. The Rev. Jeff and Rhonda Hayes and family, of Sioux Falls, receive the McGovern Hunger Ambassador Award.

Nov. 4: Paula Hawks-D speaks on campus during her campaign for South Dakota's congressional seat.

Dec. 6: Keith Weller, systems administrator, receives the Professional Excellence Award for staff, and Tracy Hadler, assistant nursing professor, receives the Professional Excellence Award for faculty.

www.dwu.edu/news

COLLEGE BRIEFS

DWU recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of the best regional colleges

Dakota Wesleyan University is once again ranked among America's best regional colleges for the Midwest, according to the recently released U.S. News & World Report "Best Colleges 2017."

The annual study by U.S. News & World Report is a collection of data taken from regional colleges, high school counselors and various sources to create a comprehensive look at what colleges offer and how they assist students on their road to success. Everything from class size to financial assistance to how competitive admission processes are, are taken into account, in addition to location, campus activities and sports offered, alumni giving and retention.

"With the expansions on campus and alumni and community involvement that Dakota Wesleyan has experienced over the years, we are always proud when outside entities recognize the wonderful things happening right here in Mitchell," said DWU President Dr. Amy Novak.

DWU is ranked among regional colleges in the Midwest, which includes 12 states.

Dakota Wesleyan named to Victory Media's 2017 Military Friendly® Schools list

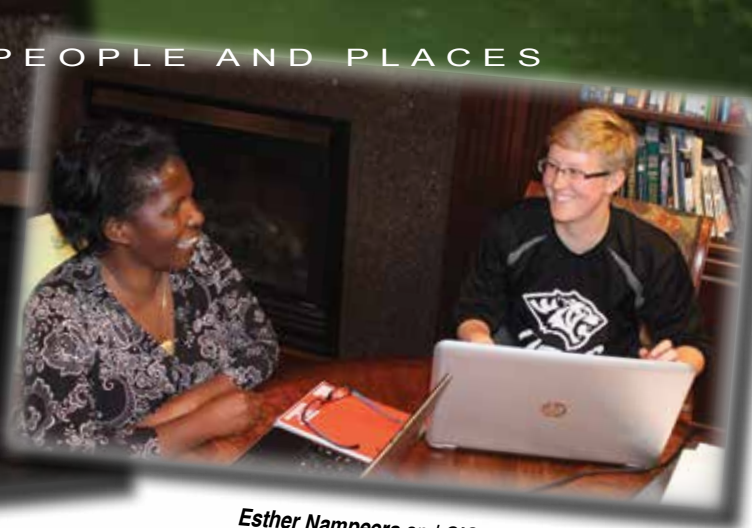
Dakota Wesleyan University has earned the 2017 Military Friendly® School designation by Victory Media.

First published in 2009, Military Friendly® Schools serves as a resource for veterans and is also the publisher of G.I. Jobs®, STEM Jobs SM and Military Spouse magazine. Each year, the list of Military Friendly® Schools is provided to service members and their families, helping them select the best college, university or trade school to receive the education and training needed to pursue a civilian career.

"Dakota Wesleyan University has always been proud of our students and alumni who have served in our military, and we are pleased to receive this designation," said Fredel Thomas '14, dean of admissions at DWU. "Men and women who are looking to attend college or finish degrees after service will find Dakota Wesleyan welcoming and ready to work with them as they navigate this next step in their civilian careers."

Dakota Wesleyan will be showcased along with other 2017 Military Friendly® Schools in the annual Guide to Military Friendly® Schools, special education issues of G.I. Jobs® and Military Spouse magazine, and on www.militaryfriendly.com.





Esther Nampeera and CiCi Schneider

building sustainable school lunch program through innovation

By Mari Olson

It was a chance conversation over lunch that might just change one small corner of the world.

ESTHER NAMPEERA, from central Uganda, Africa, was looking for a seat during the 2014 World Food Prize Conference luncheon when Dr. Alisha Vincent, the director for the McGovern Center at Dakota Wesleyan, invited her to sit.

They immediately found they had something in common – an interest in food security in East Africa.

Nampeera is a Ph.D. candidate and former Borlaug Fellow at Iowa State University, studying plant health science and management. Her research focus is entomology, and she has been conducting research for years in Kenya to find pest- and weed-resistant seed for maize, the primary crop in the region. Maize isn't just produced to eat, but is a cash crop. Vincent is the co-founder of an educational nonprofit based in Uganda. Through her McGovern Center work, she has led students in service-learning trips and research projects in Uganda and Rwanda to aid in local business development, education, livestock production and food security.

Their partnership had the potential to significantly help an area plagued by failing crops and insufficient food sources.

"Esther has been working with us since last Christmas on a comprehensive farmer and school lunch improvement project," Vincent said about their collaboration. Also involved are several DWU students: CiCi Schneider, junior, psychology major, of Sioux Falls; Anna Pazour, junior, elementary education major, of Chamberlain; Amy Zeller, junior, nonprofit administration major, of Elk Point; Erik Wehlander, sophomore, special education major, of Iroquois; Maddi Bauer, senior, biochemistry major, of Wall; and Dr. Rocky Von Eye, former professor, dean and provost, who retired this past fall.

They began with training sessions led by Nampeera, then conducted approximately 300 surveys of farmers and school children.

"The information in the survey was designed to tell us what the major issues were for ensuring that farmers reach their potential and what inhibits kids from getting food at school and at home," Vincent said.

They discovered that aphids and a weed called Striga were the primary problems facing farmers, as well as drought, which contributes to families having less food at home to feed their children and less product to sell.

Nampeera's research hopefully will help farmers with these problems. She used McGovern Center funds to purchase pest-resistant seeds and is also going to introduce new crops to the area that are more vitamin-rich, like spinach and orange-flesh sweet potatoes – both crops that are not currently grown in the region. Due to the drought, planting was postponed until early December, but they hope to have the preliminary results by July of this year.

Schneider, Nampeera and Nampeera's son, who is an engineer, are working together to introduce hydroponics and vertical farming to the area, as well. Hydroponics will provide the means to grow leafy vegetables like spinach, and vertical farming will help the farmers grow more crops on less land. Schneider and several other students took a tour of Mebius Nursery in Mitchell to learn different ways to grow crops and conserve water, which several planned to share when they traveled to Uganda over Christmas break.

Also discovered through the survey was that many students did not have access to a noon meal.

"We interviewed about 200 pupils from seven schools. We found out it was only one school that was taking (offering) lunch, and it was a private school," Nampeera said. "The government (schools), they were not taking lunch; during lunchtime, they were lying under trees. Even when they go home, they were not coming back."

The McGovern Center's goal is to create sustainable school farms. Working with Nampeera, they are developing two school farming projects where they will bring seeds and an agricultural curriculum to these schools and instruct the teachers on how to create sustainable school lunch programs with food grown by the children. The curriculum is compiled by Schneider and Pazour, with the help of Vincent and Carly Hubers, McGovern Center program coordinator, based on information from land-grant universities across the states and other entities.

Vincent also obtained a grant from the Champion House Foundation in Chamberlain for \$3,000 to build two clean-water drinking wells at the two schools that can also be used to help irrigate the crops.

The goal is to feed 100 children on one to two acres of land.

"We are working to develop it in a way that is low-cost and sustainable," Vincent said. "It's exciting because we will use innovation to offer things that aren't typical like spinach, leafy greens and orange-flesh potatoes. It's also significant because the school that we will work with has the highest prevalence of kids in the region who don't eat during the day and don't come back to school after the lunch break."

Look for updates on the trip on the McGovern Center's blog: www.mcgoverncenterblog.com.

DR. ALISHA VINCENT: alvincen@dwu.edu





DWU/MTI PARTNERSHIP

This fall, administrators at Dakota Wesleyan University and Mitchell Technical Institute formalized a new advising plan for students who want to attend DWU and MTI simultaneously for a B.S. in business administration with an agriculture emphasis.

This collaborative effort brings together the best of two worlds: agriculture instruction in state-of-the-art facilities at MTI, combined with strong business, communication, problem-solving and teamwork skills from DWU.

Students who wish to pursue the DWU business/MTI ag program will work with a DWU adviser to follow a planned pathway for the program. They will take their MTI courses while attending DWU. This means they can also participate in intercollegiate sports if they maintain the minimum credit requirement at DWU (9 credits; 12 credits total between both institutions). As long as students maintain the 12-credit minimum, financial aid will apply to both institutions. Because the program coursework is laid out, there is a high likelihood that students will graduate within four years, rather than the typical five or more years at state institutions.

DWU and MTI admissions officials are working together to recruit to the program, which is already generating interest from prospective students who intend to pursue agricultural banking, insurance, farm management or other related career paths.

Officials are exploring other programs in which the educational experience can span both campuses.

DWU is also committed to accepting associate's degrees from MTI and other technical schools so students can earn a bachelor's degree online or on campus, typically in only two additional years.



DAKOTA WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY



Mitchell Technical Institute



Zoey Osmotherly



Tucker Kingsbury

Two DWU entrepreneurial students place at Innovation Expo

Two Dakota Wesleyan University students not only made it to the final round during this year's Innovation Expo – they placed.

ZOEY OSMOTHERLY, a freshman from Oelrichs, and **TUCKER KINGSBURY**, a freshman from Letcher, were two of the six finalists at the Innovation Expo hosted on Oct. 13 by the Enterprise Institute at the Orpheum Theater, Sioux Falls. There were almost 200 college students from six universities across South Dakota.

All six finalists received \$100 for making it to the end, and Osmotherly's idea for window protectors came in second, giving her \$200. Kingsbury's idea for a distracted driving sensor came in fourth. Both students are part of a 200-level entrepreneurial course at DWU with Dr. Ryan Van Zee, director of the Kelley Center for Entrepreneurship, and Teresa Quinn, assistant director of the Kelley Center for Entrepreneurship. Students in

these classes have been developing business ideas since the beginning of school and were encouraged to submit them to the Innovation Expo.

Osmotherly's idea of a vehicle window protector is created to protect windshields from chipping or cracking when struck by gravel kicked up by other drivers. Using the same technology already invented to protect cell phone screens, Osmotherly would use that same tempered glass in a three-layer film that consumers could apply themselves.

Kingsbury wants to decrease the number of distracted drivers on the road. His idea of a distracted driving sensor, which turns the driver's cell phone into a car-locking mechanism, would prevent drivers from checking their phones or operating their phones by hand because the phone would be required to be plugged into a circuit within the car's console in order for the vehicle to operate. All phone calls would be directly linked to the car's radio system (like a Bluetooth). If the driver wished to use his/her phone, he/she would then have to pull over to unplug it or else a sensor would trip and the car would cease to run. For those who do not have a cell phone, there is a chip that could be purchased to insert into the console. The main demographic is distracted teen drivers, and the main consumers would be their parents.

During the expo, several South Dakota entrepreneurs spoke on all aspects of innovation and entrepreneurship throughout the day.



THINKING

outside the box and writing on walls

By Mari Olson



Dr. Ryan Van Zee

Welcome to class, where students are encouraged to doodle, illustrate, diagram and write all over the walls.

A year ago, Dakota Wesleyan opened two innovation labs on campus – classrooms built in the McGovern Library with wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling surfaces that act as marker boards. Each room is also equipped with a TV screen, cordless keyboard and mouse, and unconventional desks on rollers with storage for students' book bags, as well as a slot for smartphones and even a cup holder.

The classrooms are the brain child of Dr. Ryan Van Zee, associate professor of entrepreneurship and director of the Kelley Center for Entrepreneurship.

"The new innovation labs allow professors to bring their experience to our students in a way that engages each student not only on an intellectual level, but also physically and socially," Van Zee said.

The walls are coated in IdeaPaint, something that was invented in 2002 at Babson College by students who realized through their own study sessions that there would be a

market for paint that allowed people to write on the walls.

"I wanted to be able to show my students something tangible on their first day," Van Zee said. "If you have an idea for something but aren't sure if, as a student, you are qualified to fulfill that need, look around you; these walls were invented by students like you and sparked a new niche in the industry."

The innovation labs are used across disciplines on campus. Several professors from English to mathematics to religion are teaching their own courses within the labs.

"Using the labs almost forces greater creativity and student learning engagement," said Dr. Joel Allen, assistant professor of religion. "I continually ask myself, 'How can students research or problem-solve their way through to learning what I want them to know?' In most class periods, at some point, students will have to go online and research a topic and then outline and analyze their results on the boards."

"All students can brainstorm their ideas on the walls, and then I can sort students into small groups based on interesting parallels or contrasts between the ideas," said Dr. Derek Driedger, associate professor of English and dean of the College of Adult and Professional Studies. "When students view their ideas in comparison to the class, we can quickly find out who has the most original or thoughtful response, and when we move from one topic

to the other, we can leave the earlier brainstorm or analysis on the walls and it makes for an effective review at the end of each class."

The classrooms are so popular that the education department on campus recently renovated a computer lab into an innovation lab of its own.

DWU offers an entrepreneurial leadership major and minor, but Van Zee also developed a freshman course for every student to take, introducing them to the entrepreneurial mindset and showing the direct relation that good business sense has with a liberal arts education.

"Performing artists and athletes find much success in this field because of their experience executing their craft in front of an audience and on their own," Van Zee said. "These self-motivated individuals are needed in an entrepreneurial field, and here they can continue on their path of progress. Their creative minds are given the perfect stage through business. The arts are needed in this field and can bring an authenticity that is so necessary to sales."

Students in entrepreneurship classes are tasked with developing ideas and marketing strategies in their first year – some have turned their ideas into reality, such as a

student who created baskets full of everything a first-time mother could need, and another student who decided to bake and sell cookies in her neighborhood, along with hot chocolate and cider, and raised enough money to pay for her textbooks for the semester.

"The Kelley Center for Entrepreneurship is the premier entrepreneurial center in the region because of the demands we place on our students," he added. "As freshmen, students with the entrepreneurial leadership major find themselves already pursuing their passions. They are required to execute and measure their own process of entrepreneurship in the classroom and the community in an innovative program that ensures they begin building their résumé their first day."

The next project for Van Zee and his colleague, Teresa Quinn, assistant professor of entrepreneurship and assistant director of the Kelley Center, is to write a textbook on entrepreneurial innovation, called "The Innovation Guide."

"We have been unable to find a textbook that really covers teaching innovation as a process," he said. "This book will offer examples and rationale of how to teach the innovation process in a systematic and replicable way."

DWU SHARK TANK:

Dakota Wesleyan students take part in their own version of Shark Tank.



campuscameraclicks

a look at the DWU Campus Community



Like clockwork, at the beginning of each fall semester, DWU students, staff and faculty (and some of their families) all pitch in to help move the freshmen into Dayton Hall.



Some time ago the student life and athletics departments joined forces to bring a pool and picnic evening to DWU students on campus early for fall sports, cheerleading and athletic training. As part of the fun/chaos, the DWU football freshmen often engage in the "belly flop contest."



The DWU Cheer Team is the largest it has been in a long time – 24 students – and they are seen practicing in Jackson Plaza in August.



Dr. Bethany Melroe Lehrman, assistant professor of chemistry, is social media's "chemistry cat" for Halloween.



The DWU float for this year's Parade of Lights went down Mitchell's Main Street. **Jayden Digmann**, son of **Jared '05** and **Ashley Schoenfelder '06 Digmann**, and freshman **Robert Voje**, of Parkston, played the Tigers, trimming a tree before a roaring fire. (Photo by Matt Gade, Mitchell Daily Republic)

MAKING A CAREER OF SERVICE: THE OLDENKAMP FILE

wt feature

By Lori Essig

Like many Dakota Wesleyan students, **BETTY OLDENKAMP '82** came to DWU from a small South Dakota town. Today, her work as the president and CEO of Lutheran Social Services (LSS) touches the lives of fellow South Dakotans across the state.

When Oldenkamp first encountered DWU, it was through theatre professor Darryl Patten '60 who was judging an oral interp contest in which she was competing. Later, she attended a church youth group event on campus, and ultimately made the decision to attend DWU as a speech and theatre major.

Oldenkamp's decision to change the focus of her studies to psychology and sociology was the first step in a successful career of serving vulnerable populations.

The first years of Oldenkamp's career were in direct services, working at the adjustment training center in Pierre and then as a residential supervisor in Madison. She was promoted within that organization, then was hired by the South Dakota Department of Human Services in the division of developmental disabilities, where she eventually became the director.

In 1997, Oldenkamp became the director of the division of mental health at the South Dakota Department of Human Services. At that point, she was overseeing 11 community mental health centers that provided services for about 14,000 people. Her first challenge as director was to relocate the agency from Yankton to Pierre and to re-establish its infrastructure. Some of her accomplishments include developing the medication program for the needy and providing disaster-related mental health services in the wake of the Spencer and Oglala tornadoes.

In 2001, then-Governor Bill Janklow appointed Oldenkamp cabinet secretary for the South Dakota Department of Human Services. She appreciated Janklow's commitment to her department.

"He was fun to work for, very dynamic," Oldenkamp said. "He had a real soft spot for people with disabilities."

At the end of 2005, Oldenkamp got a call from a search firm looking for a new executive for Lutheran Social Services, based in Sioux Falls. She put off returning the call, thinking she didn't have any candidates in mind for them. When she finally talked to the firm, they made it clear that she was the candidate they were most

interested in pursuing.

Now, with more than 10 years of service at LSS, she reflects on the great change the organization has seen during her tenure. The staff across the state has grown from 325 to more than 500. She and her board have experienced a decline in residential services and have had to explore new options for existing facilities. She's particularly pleased with a partnership with the Pennington County detention center, whereby LSS created shelter care – a short-term group care facility for youth – and reception services where law enforcement can transport youth to wait in a safe environment to be picked up by a parent or guardian.

"Our goal is to connect kids with services and support," she said.

Oldenkamp says that the services LSS provides are valued and appreciated by thousands of people, but like most large organizations, there are misconceptions. For example, individuals do not need to be Lutheran to receive services.

The range of services offered by LSS varies by community and is based on local service needs in any given place. Overall, the list is extensive and touches on all ages from youth to elderly, from adoption services to pregnancy counseling, from fatherhood and re-entry counseling for incarcerated men to resettlement services for new Americans, as well as disaster response, foster care, youth mentoring services – and more.

"We know that 50,000 times a year, we are touching peoples' lives," Oldenkamp said.

Although Oldenkamp's position is administrative and requires much travel and typical office work, her face lights up when she talks about connecting with LSS clients.

"This fall, some of our teens were stuffing our Christmas mailing," she said. "And I received a call that some of the girls wanted to meet me because they had seen my name on the letters, and they were curious. It was so fun to visit with these young women."

Oldenkamp also finds time to serve as a mentor to a high school student through the LSS mentoring program.

"I began in direct services, so no matter how busy I get, it's still nice to have the opportunity to interact directly with those we serve."



Betty Oldenkamp



AWARDS

- Governor's Award for Employee Excellence (twice)
- Distinguished Service Award from the Rocky Mountain Council of Community Mental Health Centers
- DWU alumni award for Distinguished Service to College and State
- Larry Oppold Memorial Award from the Sioux Empire United Way

BOARDS

- South Dakota Board of Nursing (term ended October 2016)
- Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce (term ended October 2016)
- Sioux Falls Development Foundation
- Lutheran Services in America
- State Council of Juvenile Services
- Dakota Wesleyan University Board of Trustees



Betty Oldenkamp '82

Have RV: Will Serve Others

By Lori Essig



wt feature

“It’s a pretty worthwhile way to spend your retirement.”

That’s how **CONNIE HOWARD** feels about her work with NOMADS – Nomads on a Mission Active in Divine Service. Since 2004, **Connie ’65**, a retired teacher, and her husband, **John**, have been participating in service projects throughout the United States. While they’ve mainly done winter projects in southern states, there are projects available year-round, all across the U.S.

NOMADS provides volunteer labor for United Methodist organizations. According to the organization’s website, NOMADS started in 1988 when some Midwesterners were wintering in Texas and decided they were bored. They reached out to local United Methodist churches to offer their services, and NOMADS was born. That year, 24 members completed five projects. In the last 28 years, NOMADS has grown to about 1,000 members doing 150 service projects each year.

The Howards say they began to plan trips around NOMADS projects, aiming for 10 to 12 weeks away from their Rapid City home during the coldest months of the year. They might do a three-week project in California, then spend a few weeks sightseeing and traveling to their next project, which lasts another three weeks.

“You know what NOMADS really stands for?” Connie asked. “Nice Old Methodists Avoiding Deep Snow.”

NOMADS are RVers – they must have an RV of some type to live in while they are working. Projects typically last for three weeks, and the United Methodist sponsoring organizations provide parking and hookups for the volunteers; the volunteers are responsible for all travel expenses, meals and other incidentals.

“We try not to go to the same place twice, though we have repeated a couple of sites,” Connie said. “We’ve worked projects in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, California, Arizona and South Dakota. Each place has its



Connie Howard '65

Serve Where You’re Called



John and Connie '65 Howard

special joys.”

A typical week begins on Monday at 8 a.m. with devotions. The workday lasts until 4 p.m. with lunch and coffee breaks. The work week ends at 4 p.m. on Thursdays, so volunteers have three-day weekends for recreation, exploring and relaxing.

The work sites offer a range of work projects, from construction to office work.

“The rule is that if any job makes you uncomfortable or is beyond your ability, you don’t do it,” said Connie, whose jobs have included replacing the fluorescent light ballasts and bulbs in an office building, cutting up an old bathtub with a Sawzall, and lots of painting.

John, who is accustomed to working with hands-on projects, says that their 36-foot Winnebago Journey has “plenty of storage for tools.” Although work sites provide supplies and sometimes a few

tools, he prefers to bring his own so that he isn’t caught without the right piece of equipment.

“And the deal is,” joked Connie, “John loads all of his tools, and if there’s room when he’s done, I get to go along!”

The Howards say they don’t often work with the same volunteers, and making new friends is part of the fun of being NOMADS.

“We have an easy camaraderie because we have a lot in common,” John said. “We all have RVs, skills to share, a willingness to learn new skills, we’re not afraid to get our hands dirty, and we have a desire to help others.”

“We have made lifelong friends on these three-week projects,” Connie added.

The Howards shared stories of some of their projects and the lessons learned.

In Brownsville, Texas, they worked on a home inhabited by a three-generation, all-female family. The home was in bad shape due to a termite infestation. One of the women, ill with cancer, was a devout Catholic who went to Mass each morning and told the volunteers that she always prayed for them.

Even though the family had little, they insisted on preparing a couple of meals for the NOMADS.

“The meals were delicious, but it was humbling to eat their food



Serve Where You’re Called



because we knew they did not have a lot to share," Connie said. "But we've learned that we have to allow those we are serving to give back to us if they wish."

In Dulac, La., another lesson learned involved accommodating the wishes of a homeowner, even when it didn't seem to make sense.

"We were working on a (Hurricane) Katrina-flooded home," John said. "Our job was to rip out the kitchen and replace everything. The homeowner insisted on saving and using the countertop – it was just a normal countertop, not unique, but special to them. So we installed the new cabinets and moved the old countertop back where it had been because that's what the homeowner wanted."

Connie recalled that Louisiana was also where the pastor served communion using oyster crackers and grapes.

"We usually have communion to celebrate the end of a project," she said. "Through our work we hear lots of faith stories, and that helps strengthen our own faith."

The Howards' commitment to service is integral to their lives; they participate in a variety of local volunteer projects. That commitment to serving others did not end when retirement began; it just took a new direction with the addition of NOMADS.

"We get more than we give," she said. "And even though we are retired, we still have a lot to give."



Mardel and Roger '59 Tanquist



David Hallett '59



Pearl Hallett



Lyn ex'56 and the late Donald '53 Rahn

Serve Where You're Called

ROGER '59 AND MARDEL

TANQUIST, of Bonney Lake, Wash., have been NOMADS for about 10 years and committed to their first three-week project in 2013. Since then, they've completed six NOMADS projects in California and Arizona, and they are scheduled for two more in 2017. On the Tanquists' first project in California, Connie and John Howard were the project leaders.

"John had a wonderful selection of tools, the use of which he shared generously," Roger said. "He sent me to the store in his truck to get some power tools that I've used on every project since then."

The Tanquists have also participated with Volunteers in Mission (VIM), a mission agency of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. Through VIM, they spent two three-month stints in Illinois and two months in Mexico. They also spent five years as volunteer lay pastors at Grand Coulee/Hartline (Wash.) UMC, and eight months as volunteer interim directors at Ocean Park (Wash.) United Methodist Camp.

"NOMADS projects provide opportunities to give back while experiencing new areas and working with fascinating people," said Roger.

DAVID '59 AND PEARL HALLETT,

of West St. Paul, Minn. (summer), and Fort Myers, Fla. (winter), have been involved in NOMADS since 2002.

"We saw a sign on an RV with the NOMADS logo, and since it was a UMC project, we inquired," David said. "We were looking for something to do in the winter in our RV. We have worked on nearly 20 projects from California to Florida. In most cases we felt like we were making a contribution to local communities and the people in those communities."

The Halletts worked three summer projects in Wisconsin cooking for volunteer staff at a day camp for handicapped children and their families. They also did a project with Roger and Mardel Tanquist at Storm Mountain UMC Camp in the Black Hills.

MARILYN "LYN" RAHN EX'56 and her late husband, **DONALD '53**, were NOMADS from 1993 to 2004. They participated in three projects each year for a total of 33 from South Carolina to Arizona. They only repeated two locations during their NOMADS time.

The best part of the group, according to Lyn, was meeting people with a similar mindset about serving others. She also appreciated meeting the people who were helped.

"The satisfaction and pleasure we received from their gratitude was tremendous payment," Lyn said.

REVERSING COURSE

wt feature

By Nick McCutcheon
Sports Contributor

In three short years, the Dakota Wesleyan University volleyball team has turned its fortune around under head coach Lindsay Wilber, as the Tigers finished 2016 with a winning record, a first for the program since 1993.

The Tigers completed an 18-14 campaign, while picking up four wins in the Great Plains Athletic Conference, the most for DWU since 2010. The success was not a surprise to Wilber, who knew she had the talent and experience on this year's team to make a step toward the top of the GPAC.

"When I took this job three years ago, I had a milestone list each year of what we wanted to accomplish," Wilber said. "Having a winning season was a priority in my first few years. These seniors worked hard to achieve what we did this season."

Since taking over at DWU, the highest number of seniors Wilber saw in one year had been three, as the Tigers were a young team. That changed dramatically in 2016, as the team entered the season with seven seniors on the roster, with a majority of DWU's production coming from that group.

The undisputed leader on the court for the Tigers in 2016 was senior Lauren Tadlock, who returned for her final season, taking her game to new heights. The Rapid City, S.D., native set new career highs in every category across the board, playing all six rotations throughout the 32-game schedule. Tadlock led the team's offense with 547 kills (4.52 per set) and a hitting percentage of .233. She was the go-to player all season when DWU

needed a point. In just three seasons, Tadlock climbed all the way to third on the DWU all-time kills list with 1,328.

Her outstanding season garnered All-GPAC First-Team honors, the first Tiger to receive such an award since Pam Horner '04 in 2002. She was also named an AVCA All-Region Honorable Mention, also a first for any Tiger volleyball player in 14 seasons.

Joining Tadlock in the potent Tiger attack was senior Dana Misiaszek. The Mitchell native had her best season since joining DWU as a transfer in 2014. Misiaszek was second on the team in kills with 317 (2.62 per set), while adding 234 digs. Misiaszek closed her career with 732 kills and 476 digs, adding 112 total blocks and was named an All-GPAC Honorable Mention this season.

"Lauren and Dana could have graduated in May, but didn't because they knew this team was special," Wilber said. "Their leadership, dedication and belief in me as a coach when I didn't have much experience made this winning season happen."

The only four-year starter for the Tigers in 2016 was senior Taylor Spence. After starting her career as a six-rotation outside hitter, Spence made the move to Libero in her final campaign and performed at an extremely high level. Spence finished three digs shy of the school's single-season record with 728. She more than doubled her digs per set average coming into the season with 6.02, earning Spence her first conference postseason honor, placing on the All-GPAC Team as an honorable mention.

"Spence was made for the Libero position," Wilber said. "I am so glad she embraced it when I brought it to her this past summer. She was our most consistent passer and her quickness on the court was what kept rallies alive for us as our blocking was a weakness. She was two votes from making the All-GPAC Second Team, but she most definitely deserved to be there."

For the first time in her career at DWU, Wilber will be looking for a new setter in 2017, as senior Michelle Van Epps completed her final run with the team, orchestrating the most productive Tiger offense in recent memory. Van Epps set a new career high with 1,243 assists for the Tigers, ranking 26th in the NAIA. She leaves DWU third on the school's all-time assists list with 3,263.

Other seniors for the Tigers included Emily Pengilly, Marissa Soderberg and Shelbie Budmayr, who all played a role in helping push DWU back to a competitive program in the extremely deep GPAC, which sent three teams to the national semifinal and produced the eventual national champion.

The future looks bright for DWU with the emergence of young players like Rebecca Frick, Mallory Cooper, Kimberly VanBockern, Sydney Fritz and Sydney Eddy among others.

"I have recruits email me every day wanting to be a part of DWU volleyball, and that wasn't the case in the beginning," Wilber said. "Part of it is winning, but the bigger part is players want to be a part of a program that works hard, competes and has fun, too."

LAUREN TADLOCK





Dual Threat

DWU quarterback **DILLON TURNER** throws over and runs through competition in record-breaking 2016.

wt feature

By Nick McCutcheon
Sports Contributor



A double take was likely the most common reaction to Dakota Wesleyan University football box scores in 2016, especially with the eye-popping numbers put up by junior quarterback **DILLON TURNER**.

Turner had arguably the most prolific offensive season for any player in the more than 100 years of DWU football, as he was unstoppable passing and running. The Salem, Ark., native's tremendous season culminated with being named the Great Plains Athletic Conference Offensive Player-of-the-Year, the first Tiger to win the award.

"For Dillon to reach that level says a lot about him, his ability and the offensive production in general," DWU head coach Ross Cimprl said. "Dillon was a great athlete when he came in, and he was always able to make plays with his feet. The area he has done a tremendous job at is throwing the football. He has done a great job of working on his mechanics and timing, and it has paid off."

The season was highlighted by Turner's unbelievable performance in a narrow win at Dordt College. The 42-37 victory saw Turner go 31-of-39 passing for 402 yards and three scores, while adding 22 carries for 204 yards and another score on the ground as he garnered GPAC Player-of-the-Week honors.

Turner is the first Tiger to throw for more than 3,000 yards and rush for 1,000 more in a single season. His 3,197 passing yards were the most for any DWU quarterback in one year, while Turner's career passing total ranks behind only Tiger great Jon Bane. In three seasons, Turner has passed for 7,304 yards, putting him within striking distance of Bane's Tiger record of 9,365 and of becoming the first Tiger to throw for more than 10,000 yards with another great season as a senior.

"I would be lying if I said I didn't think about it once or twice, but it is not something that I dwell on," Turner

said. "My goal when I was a freshman was to be the all-time passing leader when I graduated, and now that I have that chance it is exciting. Most importantly though, is to do as much as I can to help bring a conference title to DWU and hopefully a good playoff run."

The yards in the passing game came through the efficiency of the Tiger offense. In 2016, Turner hit 63 percent of his passes – 232-of-368 – setting a new career best.

The yards through the air were extraordinary, but the objective of the offense is to put the ball in the end zone. Turner did that over and over again, leading to the frustration of opposing defenses each week. Turner hit his receivers for 39 touchdowns in 2016, nearly doubling his career total. All the while, he threw just nine interceptions, a better than four-to-one ratio compared to his touchdown tosses.

What is a defense to do when a quarterback is hitting receivers all over the field for big plays? Well, if opponents tried to take away the DWU pass, Turner stepped up and ran the ball right at them. The 6-foot-1, 215-pounder looked like a seasoned running back when he decided to take off.

Turner averaged 6.9 yards per carry on 151 runs in 2016 to total 1,043 yards, including a career-best run of 75. He added eight more scores on the ground, losing just three fumbles.

The offensive production from Turner in 2016 put him up with the best in the nation. He finished the season ranked second in the NAIA in total offensive yards per game (385), third in total offense (4,240 yards), eighth in total passing yards (3,197), ninth in passing efficiency (166.10), ninth in passing yards per game (290.6) and 17th in total rushing (1,043).

The numbers Turner has put up from the moment he stepped on the DWU campus are unreal, but the most important number for any football team is wins, and no quarterback in Tiger history has accumulated more of those in three seasons than Turner. Since taking over as the primary signal caller midway through the opener of his freshman season, Turner has won 24 games, marking the best three-year span ever for the program.

COACH ROSS CIMPL: rocimpl@dwu.edu





SHORTS

Visit www.dwuathletics.com for sports updates.

Men's Basketball

The No. 12 Tigers head into 2017 with an overall record of 15-4 and a 6-1 record in the Great Plains Athletic Conference. The Tigers traveled to Las Vegas for the Trip Sports Las Vegas Hoopla where they won both games. They beat Dubuque and Central Christian 84-67. DWU played in the Mike Miller Classic, beating York 92-90 and Southeastern 106-97. Senior Tate Martin became the all-time leader in career assists at DWU and currently has 712 assists in his career. He broke the record against Jamestown on Nov. 26. The Mitchell native also scored his 1,000th point against York on Dec. 29. Martin averages 13.6 points and 8.7 assists per game. Trae Vandenberg broke the 1,000-point mark as well with a 24-point and 10-rebound performance against Southeastern. Junior forward Jason Spicer leads the team with 21.6 points per game and averages 6.5 rebounds. He scored a career-high 30 points against Jamestown. The Sioux Falls, S.D., native also leads the team in field goal percentage, shooting 64 percent.

Women's Basketball

The DWU women's basketball team had their first No. 1 ranking in the NAIA since the 2004 season. The Tigers competed over the holiday break in Honolulu, bringing home two wins. Currently, the No. 8 Tigers have a 13-2 overall record and are 5-2 in the GPAC. Junior forward Ashley Bray leads the team with 12.5

points per game. Bray had a season-high 20 points against Dordt and leads the nation in free-throw percentage, shooting 94 percent. Sophomore Rylie Osthus has continued to build off her freshman season and leads the team in assists with 4.2 per game. She currently sits in 17th-place in the nation in total assists with 63. Erica Herrold averages 11.2 points per game, while fellow senior Kristin Sabers has 8.5 points per game. The Tigers had a statement 91-81 win against No. 9 Morningside.

Wrestling

The DWU wrestling team has faced stiff competition to begin the season, as they seek their first dual victory. Sophomore Matt Schirado took fifth at the Luther Hill Invitational. Schirado wrestles in the 197-pound weight class. Under second-year head coach Nick Hutcheson, the Tigers look to keep building on their young roster as they have one senior in Trevor Peter.

Cross Country

The Tiger men's cross country team finished the season in seventh place at the GPAC Championships, while the women finished 10th. Junior Jeremiah Panec qualified for the national meet, as he finished in fifth place with a time of 25:32 in the GPAC Championships. At nationals in Elsau, Ill., Panec brought home a 135th-place finish. For the women, freshman McKenna Rogers finished in 43rd place in the GPAC Championships as the top runner for the Tigers.

Football

The DWU football team followed up a No. 14 finish in 2015 with another outstanding season in 2016. The Tigers finished at No. 16 with an overall record of 8-3 and a GPAC record of 6-2. For the third straight season, the seniors became the winningest class in program history with 32 wins. Senior Brady Mudder was named AFCA-NAIA Coaches' All-American Second Team and received All-GPAC First-Team honors. The Garretson, S.D., native finished his career with 177 total tackles and ranked No. 9 in the NAIA in total sacks. Mudder finished his senior season with 57 tackles, 9.5 sacks and 17.5 tackles for loss. Junior quarterback Dillon Turner was named GPAC Offensive Player-of-the-Year for his outstanding performance. He ended the regular season in first place in the NAIA in total offensive yards per game, with more than 4,000 yards. Turner ranked No. 2 in total offensive yards per game with 385 and No. 8 in total passing yards with 3,197. The 6-foot-1 junior broke the record for total touchdowns in a season with 47 in 2016. The DWU offense broke the record for total offensive yards in a season with 5,694 and total passing yards in a season with 3,229. Other All-GPAC First-Team members were seniors Dustin Livingston and Adam Bormann. Bormann was also named to the CoSIDA Academic All-America Team, along with junior receiver Hayden Adams.

Men's Golf

The DWU men's golf team was unable to complete the GPAC season as the GPAC Championships were canceled due to rain and will be made up in the spring. Senior Michael Whitney was tied for fifth before the weather halted the tournament. In the final tournament of the season, the Tigers took first place at the Swope Memorial Golf Course in Kansas City, Mo. The men edged out Missouri Valley by one stroke with a total of 581. Senior Coleman Caldwell took third, while fellow Tigers Connor Preston and Whitney finished in a tie for fifth.

Women's Golf

The Tiger women's golf team

was also unable to finish their fall GPAC season due to weather. Senior Kristin Sabers finished in a tie for sixth, while Nicole Nelson finished in a five-way tie for 15th. DWU finished the GPAC Qualifier in 10th. Earlier in the season, the Tigers competed at the Saint Mary/Midland Fall Invitational. Nelson finished in 26th with a total score of 182, while freshman Emily Sharkey finished in 59th. The Tigers will continue their season in spring 2017.

Men's Soccer

The DWU men's soccer team finished their season with a 2-1 victory on Senior Day against Concordia. The Tigers were 3-13 overall and 2-7 in the GPAC. The DWU men's soccer team had three GPAC All-Conference members: senior Peter Wartenberg, junior Derek Brenner and sophomore Gaston Miteff.

Women's Soccer

The Tiger women's soccer team fielded a young team in the 2016 campaign. The Tigers defeated Dordt 1-0 late in the season to pick up their final win. Senior goalkeeper Kira Miller and freshman forward Alyssa Weidler each earned All-Conference honors for the Tigers.

Volleyball

Under third-year head coach Lindsay Wilber, the DWU volleyball team finished with their best record since 1993 with an 18-14 record. The Tigers started the season hot, winning six of their first seven games. Senior Lauren Tadlock finished her senior season with All-GPAC First-Team honors. She was the first player to receive this award in 14 seasons. She finished the regular season at sixth in the nation in kills per game with 4.5 and eighth in total kills with 547. Senior Libero Taylor Spence and senior Dana Misiaszek each received All-GPAC Honorable Mention. Spence finished the season with 728 digs and averaged six per game, which ranked sixth in the nation. She also ended her career with 1,637 digs, which put her at fourth all time on the DWU career digs list. Misiaszek finished her career with 732 career kills.



INDOOR TRACK

Dakota Wesleyan University is welcoming alumni, as well as current athletes, to a Track & Field Open Meet on **Feb. 4, 2017**, at the DWU/Avera Sports and Wellness Complex on campus. The indoor track and wellness building opened last February, and this will be a chance for alumni to see the new facility in action. Unattached athletes may register online at www.directathletics.com. Click on “sign up” and create an account. There is a \$20 entry fee.

Unattached athletes must be 18 or older and prepared to compete with collegiate athletes. There will also be an alumni mile run that is free and open to all. Email Derik Fossum '12, '13, DWU's head track and field and cross country coach, at defossum@dwu.edu, with the subject line “Alumni Mile” to sign up for the alumni mile run or to ask questions about the meet.

***ATHLETE:** Jared Rabenberg, Britton, S.D., freshman*



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 to tell us what's new with you.

1960s

James D. McLaird '62, HD'05 wrote a new biography, "Hugh Glass: Grizzly Survivor," published by the South Dakota Historical Society Press in May. The book is available through the SDHSP, the DWU Campus Bookstore and Amazon, among other distributors.

1970s

The Rev. Bill Gran '71 and his daughter, **Stephanie Gran Baxa '98**, were recognized at the June meeting of the Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church for the 20th anniversary of *Devozine*, a devotional magazine for young people. The two were integral in getting the publication started 20 years ago.

Leon Washington III '72 was named dean of enrollment management at Villanova University in Pennsylvania.

1980s

Jackie Meyer Wentworth '83 was named sales manager at the Sioux Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau for group tours, events, reunions, ethnic/cultural arts and travel writers.

Henry Hughes '87 released a book, "Back Seat with Fish: A Man's Adventures in Angling and Romance," which is available at bookstores, including the DWU Campus Bookstore and on Amazon. This memoir includes a chapter about his experiences at DWU and fishing South Dakota waters from 1983 to 1987. He is a professor of literature and writing at Western Oregon University.



www.atazenentertainmentllc.net



www.atazenentertainmentllc.net

Blue & White Unite
DWU
September 17th, 2016

BLUE & WHITE UNITE PHOTO BOOTH:

Lou Ora Nelson Busk Houk MH'50, '51, HD'12
and Russell Peirce '51

Blue & White Unite
DWU
September 17th, 2016

BLUE & WHITE UNITE PHOTO BOOTH:

Carmen Foiles Mach ex'80, Steve Mach '77,
Lynn Frederick '77, Mary Vessey Frederick '76,
Brad Pratt '79 and Teresa Mach Pratt '78



Tiger Pride

Alumni showed their support during the Blue & White Days football game, shown in front, left to right: **Kyle Gerlach '15**, **Abby Fossum Stearns '15** and **Jared Stearns '15**, and **Dylan Lynde '16**.

1990s

The Rev. Darwin Kopfmann '92 was officially appointed chaplain in the grade of captain in the Civil Air Patrol, an auxiliary of the United States Air Force, on Aug. 26, 2016. Additionally, he leads worship services at Pringle UMC and/or Edgemont United Methodist Church once per month.

Chad Larson '94 will have one of the four new tennis courts at Hitchcock Park in Mitchell named in his honor after tennis families and friends secretly raised \$10,000 for the naming privilege. Chad also received the United States Tennis Association's Jack Dow Adult Development Award, which goes to an individual whose efforts have had the greatest impact on promoting and improving recreational and adult competition for that year. Larson has been the assistant boys' tennis coach for the Mitchell Kernels for the past 12 years and has worked as the graphic design specialist for almost 20 years at DWU.

Ryan Huber '97 received the Charles H. Burke Community Leadership Award from BankWest. The award recognizes one individual who exemplifies the company's commitment to community service. Ryan is the regional president of BankWest, and he and his family live in Mitchell.

2000s

Don Hedrick '02, of Rapid City, was honored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police with the "40 Under 40 Award."

Donella Headlee '03, of Sioux Falls, married Darrell Herman on July 18, 2015. Donella completed a family medicine residency in Sioux Falls and began a fellowship in primary care sports medicine at Duke University.

Josh Oltmans '07 was named head baseball coach at Doane College in Crete, Neb.



GRUNDLAND

DROP KICK: Grunland and Payne

Last summer, we received a letter from **Philip Grunland**, son of the late **Harold Grunland ex'22**, in response to the information in the 2016 winter Wesleyan Today about the 100th anniversary of the 1915 world-record drop kick by **Mark Payne ex'18**.

Philip pointed out that his father was four years younger than Payne, and they were neighbors.

"He taught my father how to drop kick, playing sandlot football in Mitchell," he said in the letter. "In any case, my Dad has the third longest drop kick on record. Imagine, the two fellows who have two of the three longest drop kicks on record are both from the tiny school of Dakota Wesleyan in Mitchell, South Dakota!"

Philip went on to point out that his father was the star running back for the DWU football team, as well as the captain of the basketball team.

"He treasured his time at the university," Philip wrote, "and in his heart-of-hearts he always considered Mitchell as his hometown. He often spoke reverently of his teammates: Deller, Speak, Link and Harmon, etc."

The elder Grunland died in 1970.

class notes.



Jory Hansen '07, '09 was named director of development at Dakota Wesleyan University.

Tanya Plagmann Blue '09 and her husband, Andrew, of Cavour, welcomed a son, Micah, in June 2016.

Scott Schmidt '09 was named director of the World's Only Corn Palace in Mitchell.

2010s

Allison Clarke Muilenburg '11 and her husband, Tim, welcomed a daughter, Susannah Louise, on May 14, 2016. She joins her big sister, Molly.

Cassie Kiner '11 and **Austin Werkmeister '16** were married on June 18, 2016. They welcomed a daughter, Hailey, in February 2016.

Alex Hinz '13, of Littleton, Colo., graduated law school at the University of Denver and is working for Independent Sports and Entertainment Worldwide in their baseball division.

Brooke Bair '16 is an assistant manager of events and operations for Argus Event Staffing in Denver. She primarily works for the Pepsi Center, an arena that seats up to 21,000 and is the home of the Denver Nuggets, Colorado Avalanche and the Colorado Mammoth. She also works with the Dick's Sporting Goods Park and the Paramount Theatre. Brooke serves as a liaison between tour and team managers, venue operations and the staffing team.



www.atozentertainmentllc.net

Blue & White Unite
DWU
 September 17th, 2016

BLUE & WHITE UNITE PHOTO BOOTH:

Bob Kjelden '71, Jerry Anderson '71, George Bittner '71, Dave Backlund '70, Jim Glenn ex'70, Jim Martin '73 and Wayne Heisinger '69



Campus Bookstore

Get your Tiger gear at the DWU Campus Bookstore located in the McGovern Library or shop online at DWUTigerApparel.com.



DWU Campus Bookstore:

605-995-2805

dwubookstore@dwu.edu





TOP: The Rev. Alan Nagel '80 and his daughter, the Rev. Tiffany Nagel Monroe, were ordained together in the Oklahoma Annual Conference on June 1, 2016. (Photo credit: Hugh Scott, Oklahoma Annual Conference)

LEFT: President Amy Novak had a visit this summer by Howard Powers, a 1956 DWU alumnus, who was in town visiting family. Mr. Powers graduated from Dakota Wesleyan with a Bachelor of Arts degree in art and has been teaching art at the same school in Monahans, Texas, for the past 60 years. Imagine the legacy he has created – several generations of the same families have been in his classroom.



DWU Women's Basketball Alumni Game

The 2016-17 DWU Tiger women's basketball team took on alumni on Oct. 16, 2016, at the Corn Palace. Pictured from left to right, back row: **Coach Kevin Lein**, of Harrisburg; **Emily Overgaard Robinson '04**, of Sioux Falls; **Kristi Anderson Smith '08**, of Sioux Falls; **McKenzie Dvoracek Randall '11**, of Chamberlain; **Tera Ellefson Koupal '04**, of Wagner; **Abbey DeWolf Mikkelsen '05**, of Sioux Falls; **Tacey Faulhaber Dykstra '05**, of Kimball; **Stacy Schultz Nowak '06**, of Harrisburg; **Amanda Williams Block '04**, of Platte; **Jami Berry Gropper '04**, of Long Valley; and **Randi Morgan Haines '04**, of Brandon. Front row: **Amanda Hart '14**, of Lincoln, Neb.; **Celeste Beck '15**, of Mitchell; **Ashley Johnson Walder '10**, of Watertown; **Brittany Hills Graf '13**, of Watertown; **Katie Lewis Fite '05**, of Madison, Neb.; **Allison Johnson West '10**, of Sioux Falls; **Taylor Piper '14**, of Vermillion; and **Ashley Mailey Pfeifer '11**, of Mitchell.

Friends

Bob Tatina, biology professor emeritus, lives in Sawyer, Mich., where he and Nancy are active with their church, Feeding America and nature conservancy organizations. Together, they authored "The Three Oaks of Three Oaks," published in the Historical Society of Michigan Chronicle. In addition, Bob had two papers published in the Michigan Botanist.

Deaths

Doris Crockett Rogers c'41, of Lake Mary, Fla., died on Sept. 10, 2016.

Donna Fritz Raterman '44, of Bonesteel, died on April 19, 2016.

Clifford Anderson ex'46, of Kenneth, Minn., died on July 29, 2016.

Gladys Aarnes Trosen MH'47, of Tillamook, Okla., died on Dec. 24, 2015.

Constance Brown Perkins '47, of Fremont, Neb., died on July 17, 2016. She is survived by her daughters, **Carol Perkins '83** and **Carla Perkins Watkins ex'72**.

Dorothy Rork MH'47, of Desert Hot Springs, Calif., died on July 18, 2014.

Wendell Davis '48, of Lodi, Calif., died on May 3, 2016. He is survived by his wife, **Fern Bruget Davis '48**.

Thomas Moriarty '48, of Bentonville, Ark., died on Jan. 5, 2016.

Ramona Watkins McNamara '50, of Old Lyme, Conn., died on May 9, 2016.

Marvin Schindler '50, of Roseville, Minn., died on June 1, 2016. He is survived by his wife, **Ellen Smith Schindler ex'51**.

Laird McRae ex '52, of Longview, Wash., died on March 25, 2016. He is survived by his wife, **Carol**, and his sister, **Roberta McRae Jones '51**.

class notes.

Darwin Roti '53, of Mitchell, died on June 11, 2016. He is survived by his wife, **Pat Moses Roti MH'51**.

Dorothy Hight '54, of Harlingen, Texas, died on Oct. 2, 2016.

Martha Jurgensen Reynolds '54, of Rockwall, Texas, died on May 10, 2016.

Harry Dutt '56, of Santa Barbara, Calif., died on Oct. 29, 2016. He is survived by his wife, **Anita Radabugh Dutt '58**.

Darrell Hilton ex'58, of Mitchell, died on May 17, 2016. He is survived by his wife, **Lois Brandenburg Hilton MH'53**, his son, **Jerry Hilton ex'91**, and his sister-in-law, **Blanche Hachner Hilton MH'48**.

Richard Mayer '58, of Nicollet, Minn., died on May 10, 2016.

Gene Becker '59, of Aberdeen, died on July 26, 2016.

Ruth Salazar Bustamante '59, of Lima, Peru, died on June, 17, 2016.

Richard Halverson '59, of Kennebec, died on June 24, 2016.

Frederick Huether '61, of North Platte, Neb., died on June 24, 2016.

Lucille Bobeldyk Brink '62, of Sioux Falls, died on Feb. 29, 2016.

John Ingalls '62, of Las Vegas, died on Oct. 30, 2015.

Edith Lager Olson '63, of Miller, died on May 5, 2016.

Helen Harrison Strawn c'65, of Bay City, Mich., died on Sept. 24, 2016.

Russell "Rusty" Sunderland '66, of Sisseton, died on March 28, 2016.



NO PLACE LIKE HOME

BLUE & WHITE DAYS Sept. 29-30, 2017

Legacy Banquet • Parade • Football Game
Alumni Reunions (Classes Ending in 2 and 7)

class notes.



A Nebelsick Reunion

Children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of **Earl '59** and **Rowena Roman MH'55 Nebelsick** came out in force to support Earl and Rowena, Grand Marshals of the Blue & White Days Parade in September.

Standing, left to right: **Barb Grassel Nebelsick '83**, **Gary Nebelsick '81**, of Elk Point; **Joel Haveman**, **Huxley Haveman**, **Kaylor Swenson**, **Olund Swenson**, **Jasper Allard**, **Mary Haveman**, **Blake Allard**, **Leslie Nebelsick Allard '07**, of Jefferson; **Brooks Allard**, **Kelsie Nebelsick Hagelin '10**, of Brooklyn Park, Minn.; **Keri Nebelsick '07**, of Sioux Falls; **Dawn Nebelsick**, **Larry Nebelsick '79**, of Canistota; **John Van Liere**, **Rowena Roman Nebelsick MH '55**, **Earl Nebelsick '59**, of Mitchell; **Terry Nebelsick '78**, of Huron; **Diana Nebelsick**, **Dawson Lowery**, **Daschle Lowery**, **Brian Lowery**, **Jennifer Nebelsick Lowery '04**, of Tea; and **Anniston Lowery**, **Patrick Tschetter**, **Tanner Pietz**, **Linda Nebelsick-Pietz '86**, **Doug Pietz '89**, of Huron. Sitting, left to right: **Mike Swenson**, **Maddock Swenson**, **Candice Van Liere**, **Vayda Van Liere**, **Lindsey Swenson**, **Habie Swenson**, **Katelyn Tschetter** and **Isaac Tschetter**.

2017 Date Book

- **Feb. 16-19** – “An Evening of Samuel Beckett Plays,” DWU Theatre Production
- **Feb. 19** – Dakota Wesleyan Band and LyricWood Orchestra Concert
- **Feb. 26** – Winter Choir and Bells Concert
- **March 6-10** – Spring Break
- **March 16** – Conference for Leadership, Innovation and Social Change
- **March 17-19** – “The Marvelous Wonderettes,” DWU Musical Production
- **March 24-26** – “The Marvelous Wonderettes,” DWU Musical Production
- **April 23** – La Noche Caliente: A Concert of Spanish Music
- **April 28** – Honors Convocation
- **April 29** – Athletic Awards Banquet
- **April 30** – Spring Ring Concert
- **May 2** – Great Wesleyan Giveback
- **May 7** – Commencement
- **Sept. 29-30** – Blue & White Days

www.dwu.edu/events

The South Central South Dakota Science and Engineering Fair at Dakota Wesleyan that **Dr. Mike Farney** and **Jody Strand** organize each year has lasting effects on its participants. **Jordan Krell**, originally of Plankinton, has gone on to create his own science fair – the Flint Michigan Science Fair, including an award named for Farney. Krell participated in the DWU fair in 2006, 2007 and 2008, placing all three years.

The Rev. Roger Cheek '69, of Mount Morris, Ill., died on June 20, 2016.

Margaret Mohnen Bruns '71, of White Lake, died on June 16, 2016.

Dwight Tschetter '71, of Minnetonka, Minn., died on June 14, 2016.

Nanda Olson Gearhart '74, of Youngstown, N.Y., died on June 12, 2016.

Kenneth Adams '75, of Hartford, died on May 31, 2016. He is survived by his sisters, **Betty Adams Christensen '79**, **Diana Wick '93** and **Joanna Adams Hofwalt '78**, and a brother, **Gary Adams '76**.

The Rev. Arley Ellingson '78, of Donnellson, Iowa, died on May 26, 2016.

David Trevor '79, of Aberdeen, died on June 22, 2016.

Ricky Eads '83, of Claremore, Okla., died on May 3, 2016. He is survived by his wife, **Julie Pooley Eads '82**.

Tyler McKeegan '90, of Lake Andes, died on Aug. 14, 2016.

Evelyn Wirth Evans '94, of Mitchell, died on June 5, 2016. She is survived by her son, **Jerad '95**, and her daughter-in-law, **Holly Farnsworth '95 Evans**.

Lisa Ludens Rudloff '08, of Winnetooth, Neb., died on July 24, 2016.

Matthew Lund '09, of Spencer, Neb., died on July 11, 2016.

FRIENDS: **Nancye Early**, wife of former president of Dakota Wesleyan University **Dr. Jack Early HD'69**, died on June 15, 2016.

FRIENDS: **Jaxson Viereck**, son of **Stephen Viereck '10**, great-grandson of **Jack HD'13** and **Deb Billion**, and great-great-grandson of **Frances Wagner '38**, **HD'87**, died on May 23, 2016.

Distinguished Alumni Awards



Dakota Wesleyan University recognized three alumni with Distinguished Alumni Awards at the annual Legacy Banquet during Blue & White Days.



Bob Kjelden '71

Bob Kjelden received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Leadership and Public Service.

Kjelden grew up in White, S.D., and graduated from Dakota Wesleyan in 1971 with a major in business administration. In 1972, International Dairy Queen Inc. hired him in the international planning and budgeting department, which he would later head.

In 1978, he obtained an M.B.A. from Minnesota State University-Mankato, and that same year was hired as a staff consultant at Larson, Allen, Wieshaair & Company – now CliftonLarsonAllen

– one of the nation's largest accounting and consulting firms.

Kjelden was offered a partnership and named the director of management advisory services in 1983, and just three years later was the youngest partner to be elected to the Larson, Allen, Wieshaair & Company Executive Board.

That experience served as the foundation to launch UV Color in 1993, a company that was instrumental in the research, design and marketing of the open-loop secure gift card package for Visa, MasterCard and American Express. Before gift cards, UV Color was the sole supplier of long-distance phone cards for AT&T. In addition, it was the manufacturer of "chase" trading cards for The Topps Company Inc., and was the main manufacturer of the "chase/foil" Pokeman trading card. Kjelden served as the chief financial officer and chief operating officer, growing the company to a value of \$50 million with 350 full-time and 600 temporary employees. He received the UV Color's Life Achievement Award in 2006.

Kjelden sold UV in 2007, but he stayed for an additional two years on a retaining basis. He then attempted retirement, which lasted until 2011 when he co-founded Card Cells Inc. – another prepaid gift card company, manufacturing open-loop gift cards, the term applied to cards that are accepted by most retailers as cash.

Kjelden and his team developed the technology that provided for digital printing and higher security. In 2015, Card Cells was sold to an international organization having production facilities in the U.S., South America, Spain, Europe, Singapore and Dubai. He is currently nearing the end of his three-year employment agreement.

While building his professional career, he obtained certifications in management consulting and management accounting, he served on the board of directors of UV Color for 15 years, and on the board of directors of Card Cells Inc. for three years. He is a founding member of the Family Firm Institute at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, a program dedicated to helping and nurturing family-run businesses.

He has also served on the Dakota Wesleyan U Board of Trustees, the M.B.A. Board of Advisers at the University of St. Thomas and served three terms on the Turtle Lake Homeowners Association in Shoreview, Minn.

Kjelden and his wife, Laurie, live in Shoreview, Minn., and have three children and two granddaughters.



Curtis Rolfe '57

The Rev. Curtis Rolfe received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Arts and Humanities.

When Rolfe was nine years old, he dedicated his life to Christ, and more than anything he wanted to be a missionary when he grew up. He clung to that hope throughout his youth, but when he reached high school, a chronic heart condition forced him to alter his course, so he set his sights on parish ministry instead.

Having grown up in Mandan, N.D., he found his way to Dakota Wesleyan University and graduated in 1957. Following graduation, he applied to three seminaries and was rejected by all of them. Although his cardiac condition had been surgically corrected, his health was deemed unfit for a rigorous career in ministry. For a time, he considered teaching. He then was invited to serve as the minister of education at the United Methodist Church in Pierre. After a year of experience, he decided to give ministry another try. He applied to Garrett Theological Seminary, one of the seminaries that had originally rejected him. "When they refused me a second time," Rolfe said, "I wrote to them and told them I was coming anyway."

Rolfe served 36 years as an ordained pastor in churches in the Northern Illinois Conference, and for two years in Blyth, England. While in seminary, he worked for the Northwestern University United Methodist Wesleyan Foundation, and in his last year at Garrett Seminary, he started a fellowship program

for students at Kendall College in Evanston, Ill.

It was in 1959 that he began a small business of repairing leaded glass windows in homes and churches; he sold his business in 1962 when he took his first pastoral appointment. Just three years later, he was given the remains of the Mueller Stained Glass Company of Milwaukee, and then was invited to do a program on stained glass for the Chicago CBS television station. Suddenly, he was back in the stained glass business.

For more than 50 years, Rolfe has taken the stories of the Bible and translated them into beautiful works of stained glass art – 144 church windows in the U.S. and 14 abroad. He has also renovated many windows in churches, homes and businesses. He authored several articles for the Stained Glass Quarterly, and he even led a 21-day stained glass tour to England, France and Germany.

Rolfe was also commissioned by United Methodist Bishops' Cabinets to design windows for 18 retiring district superintendents and bishops throughout Illinois, Michigan and California, each window depicting their life story of service.

Beyond his two vocations in the humanities and arts, Rolfe's list of community service is long. In the 1960s and '70s, he took part in the Civil Rights movement and protested against the war in Vietnam, marching in Washington three times. He has served as a volunteer chaplain at prisons, police departments and hospitals; directed music and youth camps; led youth conferences on weeklong bicycle trips; and helped organize a food pantry and chaired it for seven years. He started a group ministry at Cook County Jail in Chicago and started a program called "Hi Neighbor," where volunteers from various churches traveled to depressed areas in Rockford, Ill., conducting a mobile vacation Bible school. His love and devotion to his community earned him the 2011-12 Glen Ellyn, Ill., Person of Character award for his service to his neighborhood.

Rolfe and his wife, Leanne, have three children and two grandchildren.



Peter A. Masella '65

Dr. Peter A. Masella received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Donna Starr Christen College of Healthcare, Fitness and Sciences.

Masella was born in the Bronx, and after attending New York City public schools, he found his way to Dakota Wesleyan University, graduating in 1965 with a biology major.

Following graduation, he returned to the East Coast where he conducted postgraduate work in cell biology at Long Island University, and for a short time worked in the Brooklyn criminal court system. In 1967, he attended the University of Bologna in northern Italy, where he received his medical degree in 1972.

He returned to the U.S., completing his internship at New Rochelle Hospital in New Rochelle, N.Y., and residency at Metropolitan Hospital in New York City. In 1977, he became an attending physician at Metropolitan Hospital and was appointed to the faculty of New York Medical College. He became involved in Covenant House, an adolescent shelter, and Metropolitan Hospital's Youth Health Services in East Harlem. It was during this time he established the first adolescent inpatient service and clinic at the Lincoln Hospital Center in the South Bronx, and ran an adolescent clinic at Lenox Hill Hospital in Manhattan.

In the 1980s, he was a consultant for Episcopal Mission Services and Variety House for Children, serving special needs children.

He was later recruited to start the first pediatric and neonatal inpatient unit at St. Barnabas and Union Hospitals. He served

as chief of pediatrics at St. Barnabas and as president of the medical board at Union Hospital. In 1990, he opened a private pediatric office near his childhood home, where he still serves the children of the Bronx today.

Always striving to help yet "one more kid from the Bronx," in 2001 he became a consultant with Leake & Watts Services in Yonkers, working with teenagers in residential treatment centers, which led to a position with Woodfield Detention Center in Valhalla, N.Y., providing medical care to arrested youth ages 11 to 16. Fifteen years later, he still travels to Valhalla three mornings a week to provide care.

In addition to his medical practice, Masella has taught primary care medicine for four decades to first-year medical students for New York Medical College, and he provides pediatric training to nurses who are completing their nurse practitioner's degree.

Masella has been a part of several significant medical cases, one which was during the early rise of HIV/AIDS. Children were being admitted to area hospital emergency rooms with a rare lung infection later identified as HIV, a new disease at the time. When the children tested positive for HIV, the state of New York would not alert the acting physicians due to confidentiality laws. Because doctors were not informed of test results, they could not administer proper treatment and some of the children died. He worked tirelessly and led the charge to overturn the law so children who tested positive for HIV could receive immediate and appropriate care.

At Lincoln Hospital in the mid-1980s, he admitted a patient for acute respiratory distress. It was discovered that the patient was smoking "crack." After the patient revealed the "recipe" for its production, Masella began research on its neurological effect on newborns born to crack-addicted mothers. This initiated an entirely new field of research as he became involved with issues relating to youth addicted to street drugs and provided medical care to them.

Masella and his wife, Elsie, have one adult son.

FACEvalue

ROCKY VON EYE

She has nearly 50 years of teaching under her belt with 22 awards and honors, has assisted with 11 funded proposals, conducted teaching workshops in nearly all 50 states, traveled four continents, completed six mission trips and has served as everything from professor to provost at Dakota Wesleyan.

And to think, she was once told she was only in school to get a husband.

ROCHELLE VON EYE was born and raised in a small town near Parkston called Beardsley. The youngest of 10 children, she was named after her oldest sister who died in infancy. Her father often called her Katie, short for her middle name Katherine, and her friends at school nicknamed her "Rock."

"In high school, I didn't want to be identified as female because I knew what was going to happen," she said in reference to not knowing any females in math professions. So when she grew up, she took it to the next level. "I was always called Rock anyway, so I just changed my name on everything. I stripped my résumé so you would never know I was on the female bowling team or part of the Catholic Daughters ... absolutely cleaned that résumé so you could not be able to tell who was coming to see you (for an interview)."

She graduated from Parkston High School in 1968 and embarked on college at South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. She began with an interest in architecture, but eventually moved to the engineering program.

"I wanted to be an engineer, but female engineers in 1968 were not the most popular thing in the world," she remembered, pointing out that at Mines there were only 13 females. She was most often the only female in any of her classes. "Throughout the entire time I was there, I was told, 'You're just here to get a husband ... you really don't have a chance.' I was dean's-listed every year; yeah, I had a chance.

"I am not a person who gets angry, but that made me very angry. Because I know so many of the other ladies just left, people who were brilliant."

There was one professor, a Professor Schultz who had worked on the Manhattan Project, who started a study session for the female students at his home, but in the end, Rocky only knows of five who stuck with the program and two who went on to careers as engineers.

"The rest transferred and chose more 'female-friendly' degrees," she said.

Rocky transferred to South Dakota State University and finished her math and education degrees.



Dr. Rocky Von Eye has traveled to multiple countries for work, mission trips and for fun. Here, she is in Egypt in 2010. During that same trip, she also traveled to Jordan. (Submitted photo)

She doesn't have any regrets about going into education – a profession that has challenged and allowed her to learn and grow as a mathematician and as a mentor.

Her first teaching job was at Brookings Middle School when she was 21 years old. Five years later she began teaching at Lake Area Technical School, where she met her husband, Jim, who was a carpenter and began the building trades program at LAT. Jim got a job in Wheatland, Wyo., as a carpenter, and Rocky secured a position at a power plant where she used her math and Spanish skills and began a career in human resources. This job took them to Pine Ridge Reservation in southwestern South Dakota where Rocky continued her work in HR and helped Jim finish nearly 50 homes on the reservation.

Her next move would be to Wessington Springs, an interview that she remembers with some humor. Since she had stripped gender from her résumé, the principal didn't know it was a woman coming to interview for the math position. Since it was also Aug. 20 and they needed a teacher, she was hired on the spot. During her two years there, she taught whatever classes they needed – everything but English.

Then there was a massive drop in enrollment

and "last in was first out," and Rocky found herself in need of a job. At this same time, she and Jim bought a farm near Plankinton, the same farm she lives on today. The Wessington Springs principal, who admired her work, put in a word for her and she was hired at Plankinton High School.

"God has always provided," she said matter-of-factly.

While teaching, she never stopped educating herself. She completed a master's degree in mathematics education, chemistry and computer programming along the way, and began a programming class at Plankinton High School. Plankinton also asked her to complete her chemistry certification, which led her to Dakota Wesleyan University and professors Loren Hills and Dr. Michael Farney.

"Dr. Farney wanted to meet me and visit our (Plankinton's) lab to see what we were doing, because my students had won all the top awards at the programming contests," Rocky said. "Between Loren and Dr. Farney, they convinced me I needed to be here (at DWU), so I came here as a teacher for programming."

In addition to programming, she taught math



FACEvalue ROCKY VON EYE



Dr. Ashley Schoenfelder Digmann '06 and Dr. Rocky Von Eye get ready for Service Day in 2013. (Photo by Kyle Herges)

and statistics. Over the next 30-plus years at Dakota Wesleyan, she would serve as professor; department chairwoman; assistant academic dean; acting vice president of academic affairs; division chairwoman for education; acting vice president of academic affairs and dean of faculty; dean of the Donna Starr Christen College of Healthcare, Fitness and Sciences; and finally, as provost from 2013 to 2016.

Her independent spirit has fueled her passion for learning, but has also carried her through some of the harder times – like the time she tried to buy a house so she could restore and flip it. She wanted to do this herself, and in her name so that the proceeds wouldn't be tied to the farm.

"What I learned was that married females could not have a house loan without having her husband co-sign," she said. "I was disgusted by this, and (Jim) was very disgusted that I couldn't get a loan. He felt they were degrading him and degrading me."

She ran into the same problem when trying to buy a car 40 years ago, and a tractor much more recently – either no one wanted to sell to her without speaking to her husband first or wouldn't return her calls.

"Iverson's let me buy a car and never asked once. They got nine new cars out of that (over the next 40 years)."

When her husband, Jim, passed away in 1996, she lost her best friend and partner. Rocky has always had strong faith, and she also has a wonderful family in their three children – a stepson and two stepdaughters – and nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild, but it was the fact that she and Jim were partners in everything that kept her going after he was gone.

"As a widow, it was really nice having done all those things and fought through it all, because I knew what to do. I did all of our business, investing, farm loans; I knew everything," she said.

She has spent years coaching local farm women on how to partner with their husbands on running the family farm so they wouldn't be caught unprepared, like other widows she has known.

She has also spent the majority of her adult life mentoring young mathematicians.

"Teaching is a calling. I could tell you where every single one of our math majors are since 1984; I know where they are, what they're doing; I've taught their grandchildren; I've taught their great-grandchildren."

Rocky has also quietly advocated for those struggling in other ways.

"I can smell abuse a mile away, and that just breaks my heart," she said. "I became the tank of gas they needed to get somewhere for safety

or the \$20 in their pocket, and I have never, ever not been repaid. So being generous is easy when you know it's going to help somebody, and they're going to pay it forward to somebody else or pay it back."

She has only taken a break from teaching to earn her doctorate, putting in nearly 50 years in education, 32 of those years at Dakota Wesleyan.

Now it is time to retire.

She announced formally last summer, and the campus said its final goodbye in December. Now, what are the plans ahead for Dakota Wesleyan's most avid supporter and busiest professor?

"I'm going to take a little time off; I really haven't taken much time just for me," she said. "Everything has been about work. This is my life and I love it here, and I don't see myself giving up my involvement here, but I'm going to take some time."

Some of that time will be doing one of the things she loves the most – traveling – coupled with the thing that is synonymous with her life – service.

Rocky has been to Tanzania, Africa, twice on service-learning trips along with students and faculty from DWU. In 1984, she was awarded the Presidential Award in Mathematics for Teaching and used her \$5,000 award to travel and give workshops to teachers on how to teach mathematics. She has visited all 50 states for her workshops, and from 1989 to 1993, she traveled the world using her \$250,000 award from the Kellogg Fellowship.

She has taken students to the former Soviet Union. In fact, she was there with 25 students when Estonia declared its independence, and she and her group landed in Brussels right after Stalin's statue was taken down. She has been to Canada, all over Europe, Africa, Japan, Central America, Latin America, South America, Egypt, Jordan, 19 states in Mexico, and is planning to travel with DWU religion assistant professor Dr. Joel Allen's group this summer to the Holy Land.

"Some of these trips were service, some mission work, some teaching and some for fun. When I travel for myself, I always make sure there is a historical component."

In all, Rocky has worn so many hats – professionally, academically, personally – but a word that might describe her best is "guide." She has guided so many to so many places, with such humility. To meet her, you would never doubt her genuine interest and affection. The obstacles she has faced throughout her life, her own part in chipping at the proverbial glass ceiling, have resulted in an inner strength that has benefited people around the world and more than 30 years of Dakota Wesleyan graduates.

"I have been truly blessed to be both a student and colleague of Rocky's. She has been my mentor for many years and truly demonstrates servant leadership in everything she does. She has touched so many lives during her time at DWU, including mine. As a young, professional woman, I cannot imagine a better mentor or friend." – Dr. Ashley Schoenfelder Digmann '06, assistant professor of math and education department chair

Does your New Year's resolution involve beginning or completing your degree?



Check out
DWU's online
programs:

- RN to Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Arts (degree completion)
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Arts in Education

These programs are fully online, allow flexibility for full-time or part-time study, and offer multiple start dates in 2017.

• For more info or to apply today:
www.dwu.edu/online-adult-students



DAKOTA WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY