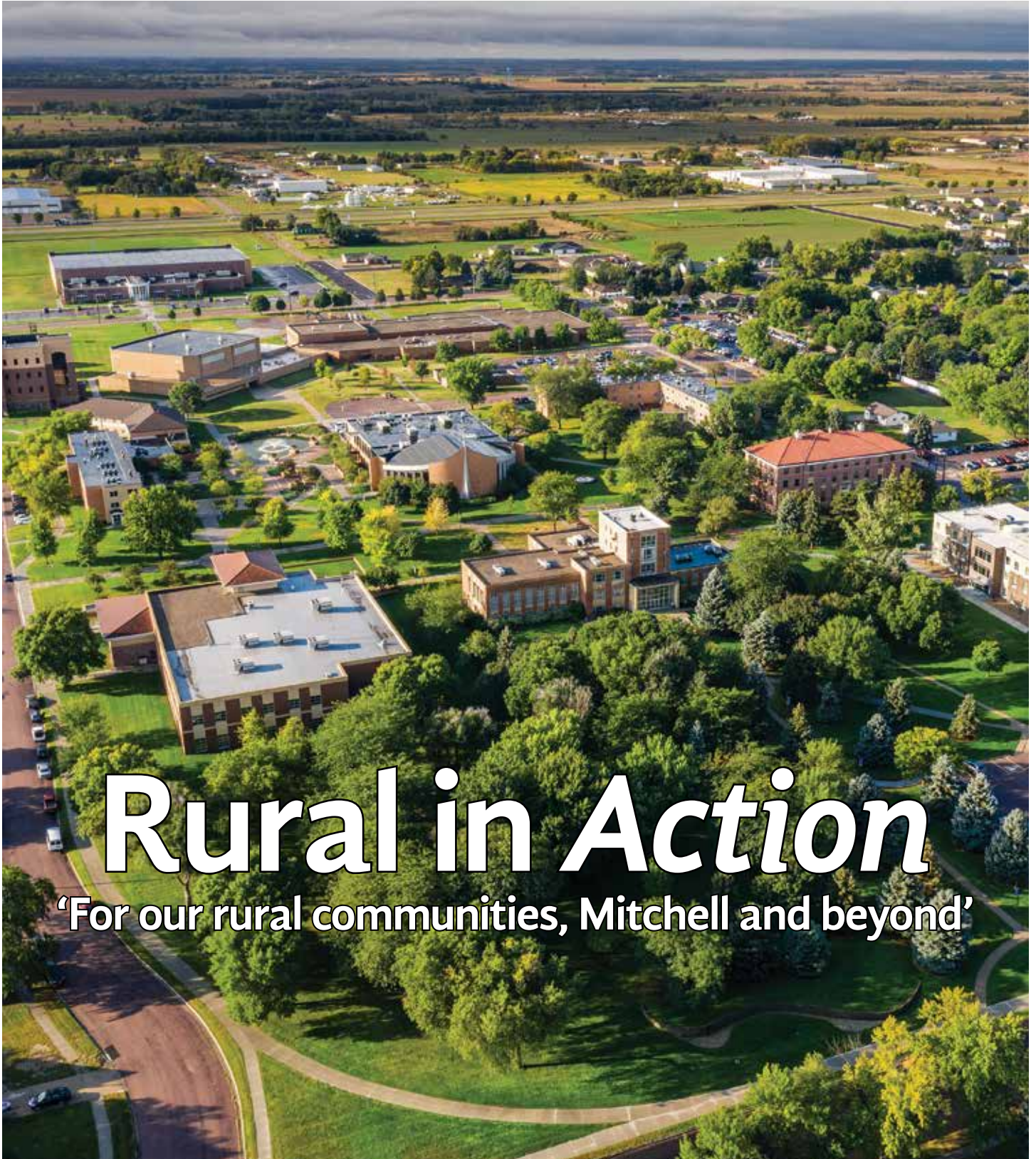




WESLEYAN  
TODAY WINTER 2018-19



# Rural in Action

‘For our rural communities, Mitchell and beyond’



# Introducing ...



# DWU ESPORTS

## Scholarships Available!

On Dec. 4, 2018, Dakota Wesleyan University launched **ESPORTS**, an online, multiplayer video gaming program that offers undergraduate students the opportunity to compete on a national level. DWU is the third university in South Dakota to offer **ESPORTS** and the first to be a member of the National Association of Collegiate Esports.

### DWU ESPORT GAMES:

- Overwatch
- League of Legends
- Rocket League
- Counter-Strike: Global Offensive
- Fortnite

*“At many levels, you have student participation in football, band, theatre, etc., but there are other voices and faces to be heard and seen that, given a different venue or outlet, can contribute and excel. There are careers available that focus on esports from management positions, video content creators, social media, casters and sales. The opportunities are growing every day, and with gaming all over our campus and the world, why not spotlight those students and abilities?”*

– Chad Harvey, director of IT, esports director and coach

For more information, visit [www.dwu.edu/esports](http://www.dwu.edu/esports).

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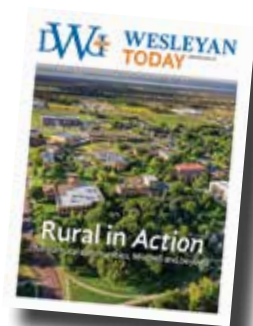


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## COVERSTORY

DWU has educated rural leaders for 134 years and with new exciting partnerships, the future looks even brighter. "Rural in Action" is a snapshot of two success stories – one current student and one alumna – who have applied their education to their chosen field and are ready to make their mark on their respective rural communities. See page 15.



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

*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](mailto:alumni@dwu.edu).

# FROM THE PRESIDENT:

For the past decade, Dakota Wesleyan University's faculty and staff have stood as models of courageous leadership. Rather than continuing to apologize for our size or location, our university community embraces our rural heritage and position. We sought to become an example of a thriving university in rural America by relishing the opportunity to be an institution not just *in* the community, but rather *with and for* the community. We've invited a variety of business and industry members to become partners in creating a rural renaissance that celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit and opportunities that exist in rural America.

Throughout this edition of Wesleyan Today, we feature the creative partnerships that are revitalizing our region's economy and equipping our region's labor force. Wesleyan now operates with a partnership mindset propelled by a mission to fuel our rural area with the leadership to bring sustainable growth to the Great Plains. This pivot

to embracing our rural roots originates in our institutional culture demonstrated by the generous support of our faculty and staff – 94 percent of whom give back annually to the institution. The celebration of rural emerges in the creative work of our faculty to cultivate a core curriculum that responds by developing community-based learning projects, leadership development, professional communication skills, financial literacy and technology fluency necessary to strengthen our rural communities. This shift celebrates who we are and where we are as it catapults the university to record enrollment and fundraising.

Our story is unique and this January we are one of four universities from across the region featured in the forthcoming book, "Pivot: A Vision for the New University." Courage defined our university

spirit as it has sought to adopt new programs, advance new learning pedagogies and collaborate with our communities and business interests from across the state and region. DWU has become a national voice in writing a new rural narrative – one built on courage, conviction and the commitment to be innovative, bold and authentic in our development of the next generation of leaders for rural America and the world.



**Dr. Amy Novak**

**President**

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**Twitter:** @PresidentNovak



# Snapshots

## BLUE & WHITE DAYS 2018



The annual all-alumni reunion, Blue & White Unite, brought in the crowds this year over homecoming weekend. (photo by Ariana Arampatzis '17)



DWU's cheerleading team waved pink pom poms during this year's Blue & White Days football game in recognition of breast cancer awareness. Shown here with her squad is freshman **Kelsi Hart**, of Mitchell.



Freshmen **Jaden Bloemendaal**, of Edgerton, Minn., and **Molly Pengra**, of Hot Springs, were named the 2018 beanie king and queen, and seniors **Sam Naasz**, of Winner, and **Rylie Osthus**, of De Smet, were crowned this year's homecoming king and queen.



**Elaine Wells** Goes '74, **Larry Goins** '75 and **Bruce Heimback** '73 all catch up at the alumni tent before the Blue & White Days parade.



DWU's little tiger shakes hands with the crowd during the Blue & White Days parade on Main Street.



# Dakota Hall DORM DEDICATION

Dakota Wesleyan University dedicated its newest residence hall, Dakota Hall, on **Aug. 14, 2018**, with a large outdoor ceremony followed by refreshments and student-led tours.

Dakota Hall is just more than 30,000 square feet with 57 rooms and a 114 occupancy. There is communal space and a study room on every floor, a kitchenette on first and third floor, and a laundry room on second. The building is also set up for both wired and wireless internet.

Inside, a massive floor-to-ceiling mural commemorates the founding of DWU with an image of the university's first building, Merrill Memorial Hall. The original name of Dakota Wesleyan University was "Dakota University," which was the inspiration for the residence hall's name, Dakota Hall.



**TOP:** Students enjoy the community space inside Dakota Hall. **RIGHT:** Students are greeted by the floor-to-ceiling mural of the first building on campus – Merrill Memorial Hall.



Ribbon cutting, from left to right: **Virginia Lambert**, Mitchell Chamber of Commerce ambassador; **President Amy Novak**; **Rita Johnson '70**, vice chair of the board of trustees; **Theresa Kriese**, executive vice president; sophomore **Becca Letcher**, of Bridgewater; senior **Ryan Chase**, of Huron, student senate president; sophomore **Lacey Wipf**, of Freeman; **Mark Puetz**, of Puetz Construction; **Louie Schoenfelder '06**, director of the physical plant; and **Kim Mohr** and **Audrey Stahl**, both chamber ambassadors.



# Alumni Welcome CENTER DEDICATION

DWU celebrated the dedication of the Alumni Welcome Center during Blue & White Days with a special program, reception and group photo of those in attendance. The Alumni Welcome Center is located in a newly renovated space inside the Dakota Discovery Museum and houses the advancement and alumni offices, as well as serving as the university's official place of welcome.



Holding the ribbon for the ceremonial ribbon cutting are, from left to right: **Kimberly Zoss Lofgren '05, '14**, Mitchell Chamber of Commerce; **Jory Hansen '07, '09**, director of development; **Kitty Allen**, vice president of advancement; **Brad Pratt '79**, board of trustees member; **Mike Denney '69**; **President Amy Novak**; **Doug Powers '78**, chairman of the board of trustees; **Dylan Dethlefsen '18**, development officer; and **Ariana Arampatzis '17**, resident director and creative content strategist.



**Brad Pratt '79**, former chairman of the board of trustees, greets and shows gratitude to those attending the dedication ceremony during Blue & White Days.

**Oct. 12, 2018**

# COLLEGE BRIEFS

## DWU hits enrollment record

Dakota Wesleyan's enrollment for fall 2018 was at 949, which is up 31 students from last year's record. The university welcomed 238 new traditional students this fall, including 70 transfer students and 168 freshmen.

## Dakota Wesleyan announces four new board of trustee members

Dakota Wesleyan University has welcomed four new members to its board of trustees.

- **DR. JOHN IFEDIORA '79**, of Washington, D.C., is professor of economics emeritus at the University of Wisconsin System. He is currently an economics professor at American University in Washington, D.C., and the director and editor-in-chief at the Council on African Security and Development.
- **JEFF JARES**, of Sioux Falls, is the founder and president/CEO of Claims Associates Inc.
- **CINDY KRALL**, of Mitchell, is a freelance writer and faith-based speaker and blogger.
- **SCOTT SWIER**, of Avon, is the CEO, founder and managing partner of Swier Law Firm, Prof. LLC, and leads the law firm's business litigation practice group and education law practice group. He is also an adjunct professor at the University of South Dakota School of Law.

## Student wins Student Idea Competition; five awarded FAST grant funds

**SETH SOESBE**, a senior from Gregory and an entrepreneurial leadership major with a concentration in construction management, took first place at the Student Idea Competition in October with his idea for a self-driving robot, RoboCon, which would be used to fasten subfloor panels. This competition is part of the annual Innovation Expo in Sioux Falls. Soesbe received \$350 for first place. He also received a \$600 award and first place during a Shark Tank-style competition on campus judged by Gary Archambault from Small Business Innovation Research. Archambault awarded five students funds from a FAST grant for colleges; the funds are expected to be used by students to enhance their business plans and hopefully apply for the Governor's Student Giant Vision competition in the spring.

The four other students receiving awards were:

- Second place, \$500, **BRANDON SLAMA**, junior, of Shakopee, Minn. – TWIYC, pronounced "twice," is a custom-designed clothing company with several lines of clothing and accessories.
- Third, \$400, **KAMBERLYN LAMER**, senior, of Crooks – Butter Me Up is a homemade flavored butter company.
- Fourth, \$300, **LONDON NEUGEBAUER**, senior, of Mitchell – Aerial Photography and Design provides professional aerial photos and videos of land or events.
- Fifth, \$200, **ZAKK RYHERD**, junior, of Menno – Unrivaled Football Academy teaches the game of football, academics, career building and community service to students during on-site football camps at schools.

## FACULTY STAFF NEWS

- **THE REV. JOEL ALLEN**, Ph.D., associate professor of religion, saw his submission, "Early Rabbinic Interpretations of Genesis 1-2," published in the book, "Since the Beginning: Interpreting Genesis 1 and 2 Through the Ages," edited by Kyle R. Greenwood.
- **DR. MIKE CATALANO**, professor of mathematics and dean of the Donna Starr Christen College of Healthcare, Fitness and Sciences, presented at the annual conference of the National Numeracy Network in October at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich. The name of his talk was "Using the Gini Coefficient and Other Measures of Inequality in a Quantitative Literacy Context."
- **DR. SEAN J. FLYNN**, history professor, published "Without Reservation: Benjamin Reifel and American Indian Acculturation" last fall. Flynn was also a guest speaker and author for the 2018 South Dakota Festival of Books.
- **JON HART '11, '12**, athletic director, was named to the board of directors for the NAIA ADA (Athletic Directors Association) and chosen to serve on the NAIA National Championship Task Force.
- **DR. JOHN LANG**, director of the McGovern Center, spoke about the legacy of Sen. George McGovern '46 in leadership and public service at the rededication of the McGovern Memorial in Avon in September.
- **DR. PAULA MAZZER**, associate professor of biochemistry, copresented research with students last October. Mazzer and senior Hope Menning, of Corsica, presented "Optimizing Lipid Extraction in Anabaena" at the Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, in Ames, Iowa. At the same conference, Mazzer also copresented "Comparing ROS in Murine Microglial Cells in Response to Two Different Types of Particulate Matter" with junior Luke Merrill, of Sioux Falls, with research also conducted by junior Kelsey Buchmann, of Tripp; junior Mikayla Street, of Revillo; Nathan Stadem '18 and Tyler Fortuna '18.
- **FREDEL THOMAS '14**, vice president for admissions and marketing, spoke at the National Small College Enrollment Conference in Louisville, Ky., in July, presenting information on developing, executing and maintaining a strategic plan for small, private institutions. She also spoke at Mitchell's "Biggest Break" event in October describing what it takes to define success.
- **DR. DAN WAGNER**, director of the athletic training program, was honored in June by the South Dakota Athletic Trainers' Association with the Educator of the Year Award. Wagner is also an athletic training professor and preceptor.
- **DR. MATT ZENS**, assistant professor of athletic training, had an article published in the Journal of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery, "The Position of Sling Immobilization Influences the Outcomes of Anatomic Total Shoulder Arthroplasty: A Randomized, Single-Blind, Prospective Study." He also was a speaker for the South Dakota Occupational Therapist Annual Meeting in Sioux Falls on the topic, "Functional Outcomes and Expectations Following Total Shoulder and Reverse Total Shoulder Arthroplasty."





# DATELINES

**June 14:** DWU announces Fresh Ideas as the university's new food service provider.

**Aug. 19:** Freshman Food Drive brings in more than 3,000 pounds of food.

**Aug. 22:** DWU hosts Welcome Fest for new students.

**Sept. 8:** Student Ministry Council hosts a 5K walk/run for Make-a-Wish Foundation.

**Sept. 17:** Kirsten Jasper, an assistant attorney general for South Dakota, speaks for Constitution Day.

**Sept. 25:** President Amy Novak speaks during the Rural Higher Education Institute held on campus.

**Oct. 4:** The Arlene Gates Department of Nursing hosts a Community Action Poverty Simulation on campus.

**Oct. 14:** The Ron and Sheilah Gates Department of Music presents "Rock 'N' Roar" concert.

**Oct. 21:** The Ron and Sheilah Gates Department of Music presents "Dance" concert with the Wesleyan Band, LyricWood Orchestra and a professional ballerina.

**Oct. 24:** Mitchell Area Youth Night brings magician/comedian Joshua Jordan to campus.

**Oct. 25:** Leaders in the trust management field meet on campus for a "Trust Talk" to discuss the industry and DWU's new graduate certificate program.

**October-November:** The Ron and Sheilah Gates Department of Theatre presents "Little Shop of Horrors."

**Nov. 1:** Michael Prate, food sovereignty coordinator with Rosebud Economic Development Corporation, is keynote for this year's Hunger Summit at DWU. Also, Nyla Bergan, of Watertown, and Sandra Kangas, of Pierre, are presented this year's McGovern Hunger Ambassador Awards.

**Nov. 8-10:** The Highlanders go on a fall tour to six eastern South Dakota high schools and churches.

**Dec. 1-2:** The Ron and Sheilah Gates Department of Music presents "Christmas at Dakota Wesleyan."

**Dec. 6:** Dr. Mohammad Zeeshan Qamar, of Sanford Health in Sioux Falls, is invited to campus to share the traditions and history of Islam.

**Dec. 17:** Erin Desmond, voice and piano instructor, and Chad Larson, graphic design specialist, are named the winners of the fall Professional Excellence Awards for faculty and staff.

# We're Honored

*DWU recognized nationally*

## DWU ranked by U.S. News & World Report: Best Regional Colleges-Midwest, Best Value School

Dakota Wesleyan University is ranked among America's Best Regional Colleges-Midwest and named a Best Value School-Midwestern Regional College, according to the U.S. News & World Report 2019 Best Colleges rankings, which were released Sept. 10. This is the sixth time that Dakota Wesleyan is ranked as one of U.S. News & World Report's Best Regional Colleges-Midwest and the second year the university is named a Best Value School.

## DWU one of 50 Best Places to Work by Prairie Business Magazine

Prairie Business Magazine named Dakota Wesleyan as one of the 50 Best Places to Work in the northern Plains. DWU is the only college or university on this year's list, and the designation is achieved through employee nominations through anonymous employee-satisfaction surveys. The survey sought input on each employer's benefits, workplace culture and employee morale, among other factors. Prairie Business received more than 1,300 nominations from employees from around the region.

## DWU ranked by College Consensus

College Consensus, a college review aggregator, recognized Dakota Wesleyan University as one of the Best Colleges and Universities in South Dakota for 2018. This ranking is established by collecting real student reviews online and the school's ranks from the most reputable college ranking publishers.

## DWU's master's programs recognized by three online sites

- DWU's Master of Arts in Education program is listed as No. 14 for best online master's degree in education administration by Onlinemasters.com. DWU's M.A. in education was also listed as Best for Educational Policy Analysts. Onlinemasters.com reviewed every online Master in Education Administration program in the country and identified the top 50 for their academic quality, student success and affordability.
- Intelligent.com ranked DWU's Master of Arts in Education program No. 10 in the country. The list includes 30 nationwide programs, ranked after assessing 84 universities and colleges and 350 programs.
- The master's program was also recognized by onlinembapage.com as a Best Value MBA program for 2019-20.



# CORN PALACE

## Dakota Wesleyan awarded three-year design contract

By Mari Olson

Dakota Wesleyan University's digital media and design program has been awarded a three-year contract to design the murals for The World's Only Corn Palace in Mitchell. DWU students will design the next three themes, including the 2020 theme, "South Dakota Home Grown."

This announcement follows a successful first year with DWU students designing the 2019 murals, "Salute to the Military," under the direction of Kyle Herges, associate professor of digital media and design at DWU.

"The Corn Palace director approached me last year to see if there was interest among students to participate in this project, and we jumped at it," Herges said. "How many design programs get to say their art goes onto a state landmark that is publicized nationwide? This is invaluable experience at their level."

Herges said that students are already at work coming up with designs for next year.

"Working with Kyle and the Dakota Wesleyan students has been a great experience," said Scott Schmidt '09, Corn Palace director. "This first year was sort of a pilot year – the Corn Palace has always

hired one artist to design the murals, and this is definitely the first time we have asked students, but you can see they really care about the project. With this year's theme, they came together to create murals for every military branch and managed to tie many of them to South Dakota. I think people are going to be really impressed."

The Corn Palace also hosted a formal dedication of the murals on Oct. 26 with community members and veterans in attendance, who were encouraged to stay and nail ears of corn to the USS South Dakota submarine mural, which was still being finished at the time.

"The dedication of this year's 'Salute to Military' murals couldn't have gone better. We had a great turnout and a lot of support from the community," Schmidt said. "I think we've had a lot of special themes in the past, and definitely murals that have amazed, but I think it's safe to say there is something quite special about honoring your servicemen and servicewomen. When you couple that with this year's dedication of the USS South Dakota submarine, this year is unique."

The USS South Dakota is a Virginia-class nuclear submarine. The Corn Palace revealed the 2019 theme a year ago with crew members from the USS South Dakota in attendance. The last vessel named for South Dakota was the USS South Dakota battleship, which served from 1942 to 1947. A mural commemorating the battleship is on the front of the Corn Palace, while the submarine is on the southwest corner.

There are nine murals in all with the two front-facing murals measuring 20 by 30



DWU students in the digital media and design program helped design this year's "Salute to Military" murals for the Corn Palace in Mitchell. Shown here are the DWU students who helped design this year's murals: **Lydia Gerber**, of Canton; **Chloe Solberg**, of Dell Rapids; **Mckenna Rogers**, of St. Michael, Minn. (did not assist with 2019 designs); **Shailhyn Schweigert '18**, of Mitchell, formerly of Burke; and **Isabelle Barraza**, of Rapid City. Not pictured are **Timmi Grablander**, of Mission; **Liam LaFrance '18**, of Winnipeg, Manitoba; and **Megan Peltier '18**, of Sioux Falls. Gerber, Solberg, Rogers and Barraza will participate in the designing of the 2020 murals.

feet wide. Last year, Herges incorporated the mural designs into one of his classes. For the next round, he has opened it up to all digital media and design students. The process for selection will be the same – the students will present their designs to the Corn Palace Committee for approval – those selected will go on to grace the palace walls beginning fall 2019.



# Taking the Classroom Outdoors

MISSION: LAKE MITCHELL



Submitted Photos

By Mari Olson

This isn't the first time **DR. PAULA MAZZER**, associate professor of chemistry, has taken her classroom outdoors to research in the real world – but this year she added another level.



Dr. Paula Mazzer

DWU students are assisting city officials with problem solving the algae situation for Lake Mitchell.

"The algae in Lake Mitchell has grown beyond our control, and the city has spent years of study and thousands of dollars trying to find a solution – and it was through a consulting firm, Fyra, that a committee was formed, and I was asked to take part," Mazzer said. "I thought turning my genetics class into a research study was the perfect opportunity for our students to get field experience."

The first thing Mazzer did was enroll in a class over the summer through the University of New Hampshire's Genomic Center. UNH received a grant to train professors in genomic techniques to use in the classroom, and as part of the training, Mazzer's class receives free genomic analysis and use of the university's super computer for five years.

The students set out over Labor Day weekend and took water samples all around Lake Mitchell, using Anecdata, a citizen science site and app, which also geo-traced where the samples were collected. Those samples were then stripped down to their environmental-DNA, or e-DNA, and sent to UNH.

"UNH's Genomic Center used its next-generation genomic sequencing to sequence the samples, and we analyzed the data using their super computer," she said. "The fact that we can let our students do this hands-on is phenomenal."

Students are also learning command line data analysis.

"Command line is a non-graphic, zero bells and whistles way to input data – and also still considered the cutting edge of genetic analysis programming," Mazzer said.

The research results are still being calculated, but several facts are known. Lake Mitchell does contain some samples

– very small amounts – of the toxic algae microcystin that is unsafe for children and small animals, and the lake's nitrogen/phosphorous levels are uncommonly high.

"A pristine lake's nitrogen and phosphorous levels are around 35 parts per billion, and normal is between 40 and 80," Mazzer said. "Lake Mitchell's levels are 600 to 1,200 parts per billion. We have a fertilizer problem."

Lake Mitchell is a 90-year-old man-made reservoir that is considered shallow for a lake – with its greatest depth around 24 feet. Shallow is a problem because when the wind picks up, the water churns sediment at the bottom, raising fertilizer and other vegetative components that would normally settle in a lake, creating prime algae food. The lake is also receiving runoff from 650 acres of land per acre of water – a normal reservoir drains 40 acres of land per acre of water.

Mazzer agrees with Fyra's suggestions to dredge the lake of 90 years' worth of sediment and capping what is left, then creating a wetland area to control the fertilizer runoff from entering the lake and installing a culvert. She believes the only solution is to address both problems – the current fertilizer and that which will keep filtering in.

"No one knows how the toxic algae got here, but it's here and it's thriving due to the abundance of fertilizer," Mazzer said. "We also don't know all the types yet, but samples have shown bacterial algae, single-cell and higher organism, so we have a lot of kinds to contend with."

The next step for Mazzer's genetics classes will be to repeat the study for several years to track the trends.

"Even though this project is amazing real-world experience for our students, hopefully one day Lake Mitchell won't be such a fantastic outdoor classroom," Mazzer said. "And I'm sure our students would have an amazing sense of accomplishment if they could say some day they helped the city solve this problem."

**DWU** DR. PAULA MAZZER  
Paula.Mazzer@dwu.edu

# Merrill looks to future of healthcare on reservations

By Mari Olson

Travel's greatest gift is opening the voyager's heart and mind to new cultures, new ideas and new people – and sometimes it takes a trip across the world to see what is right at home.

**LUKE MERRILL** was a freshman at Dakota Wesleyan when he traveled to Uganda with the McGovern Center for a service-learning trip. Merrill, a pre-med student majoring in biochemistry and minoring in business, assisted with a health clinic.

"It was an amazing experience," he said. "And when I got back home, I overheard someone describing how healthcare there was similar to what they have seen or heard provided on reservations in South Dakota. Now, I think that's a big overexaggeration and they were trying to make a point, but it got me interested, made me ask questions."

Merrill, now a junior at DWU, grew up in Sioux Falls and said that he was surprised to hear that healthcare workers on reservations might have disadvantages or fewer resources and was surprised at himself for never wondering about it before.

"I've lived here my whole life and never thought about it," he said. "I wanted to learn more."

Merrill began working with Darla Korol, who was an assistant professor of human services at DWU at the time.

"Ms. Korol loves the reservations in South Dakota and the people, and she's a big advocate and very knowledgeable of American Indian history and the

conditions on the reservations," Merrill said.

Korol encouraged Merrill to check into Indian Health Services (IHS). Merrill began his research comparing histories of treaties between the U.S. government and South Dakota tribes and researched IHS records. Merrill also interviewed Sen. John Thune about concerns he sees with healthcare on reservations.

"One of the biggest problems is finding competent healthcare workers who are also culturally educated to know what American Indians are looking for," Merrill said. "We need incentives to get healthcare workers onto reservations, and we also need to address the mental health issues found there."

Merrill has yet to gain permission to interview IHS workers or to conduct interviews on reservation land, but fate has a way of bringing the right people together.

Merrill was nominated for the prestigious Newman Civic Fellowship last spring, which paired him with a mentor, Dr. Phillip Becker, of Mitchell, to use as a sounding board. He also attended the Newman Fellowship Conference in Boston in November at the Kennedy Institute, which gave him the opportunity to network with other community-driven students and participate in a senate immersion experience.

The Newman Civic Fellowship, which is through Campus Compact, fosters and supports students who choose research and projects geared toward community improvement and problem solving. Each fellow is paired with a mentor and resources



Junior **Luke Merrill**, of Sioux Falls, poses beside the Kennedy Institute in Boston this November while attending the Newman Civic Fellowship Conference. (Submitted Photo)

to help him or her develop strategies for social change, according to the fellowship's website. The fellowship is for one academic year, but Merrill plans to pursue his research into his senior year, as well.

"Luke is a very kind, very humble, very smart student who has invested a tremendous amount of time volunteering with the hospital systems in Sioux Falls, as an EMT and for overseas missions. We thought he was well-deserving of this prestigious award," said Dr. Alisha Vincent, director of special academic projects and initiatives and the person who connected Merrill with Korol.

Part of the criteria for the fellowship includes engaging in collaborative efforts with others on and around campus to create social change. Merrill job-shadowed Dr. Becker all

summer, as well as a doctor at Wagner Community Memorial Hospital in order to be closer to a community with an IHS facility. He is also in contact with a doctor with ties to Pine Ridge and another researcher who has worked with IHS.

Research is inspired by the question, "Why?" and supported by hard data – but Merrill's overall purpose is far less clinical.

"I really want to know if there is a way to help the U.S. government and tribal governments communicate better in order for Indian Health Services to function at its best – and also for public hospitals to work with IHS in a way that serves the American Indian community well," Merrill said. "I really just want to see if there is a way to help."

# campuscameraclicks

a look at the DWU Campus Community



The big, green man-eating plant from outer space took the stage this fall as The Ron and Sheilah Gates Departments of Theatre and Music at Dakota Wesleyan presented "Little Shop of Horrors." The comedic musical was performed over two weekends with an additional showing on Halloween night – selling out during almost every performance. Shown here is plant shop owner Seymour, played by DWU freshman **Jonathon Freeman**, of Mitchell; and Audrey II (the giant plant), voiced by DWU senior **Erik Wehlander**, of Iroquois, with **Dr. Brian Patrick**, associate professor of biology, as puppeteer. (Submitted Photo)



Professional ballerina **Lena Mazel**, with Fall Contemporary/Aerial Dance in Nashville, Tenn., performed with the Wesleyan Band and LyricWood Orchestra in October for a special performance called "Dance."

"I had the idea of doing a dance-themed concert last year, as I was interested in exposing members of the band to dance music from other cultures and time periods," said Bethany Amundson, director of DWU's bands. "[Mazel] performed with the Lyricwood Orchestra on the Strauss-Shoenberg arrangement of the 'Kaiserwaltzer,' as well as on an excerpt from the ballet 'Don Quixote.'"

In addition to the ballerina, the band featured a saxophone section on seasonal big-band jazz pieces, and the Lyricwood Orchestra performed an Irish dance, a Tango and Camille Saint-Saenz' "Dance Macabre."



The Future Teachers Organization (FTO) – a club for education majors – at DWU wrote a National Education Association CREATE grant last year and was awarded \$3,000 to create neighborhood libraries in Mitchell. Members of FTO stand beside a little library in Pioneer Park, left to right: **Brittany Bergquist**, vice president, junior, of Wolsey; **Kiana Kuchta**, secretary, junior, of Sioux Falls; and **Emily Brunsing**, president, junior, of Wagner. Not shown are **Jill Ricke**, treasurer, junior, of Sioux Falls, and **René Pruitt**, associate professor of education and FTO adviser.



DWU rolled out Digital DWU on the first day of school, Aug. 20. This is a university-wide initiative incorporating technology into classrooms by use of Apple TVs and iPads. Staff handed out iPads to all full-time, on-campus students, which are now integrated into most curriculum at DWU.



In June, Dakota Wesleyan University partnered with Dakota Resources to bring RuralX to Mitchell for a two-day economic and community development event. RuralX is designed to bring rural champions together from across the region to discover and share new ideas, tools and processes for rural development. **President Amy Novak** took part in a panel discussion.

# Family Ties

for one DWU family, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree

By Jan Larson



LEFT: Terry Nebelsick  
1978 yearbook photo

## TERRY NEBELSICK '78

left Dakota Wesleyan University understanding the value of service and the potential impact he could have on those around him.

Education was in his blood, and he credits that to his father, Earl Nebelsick, a 1959 DWU graduate who spent 34 years educating students in rural areas. Nebelsick knew he wanted to follow in his father's footsteps and attend DWU.

"My dad was my hero, and I never really considered anywhere else," he said.

While on campus, Nebelsick enjoyed the performing arts and developed confidence as a communicator. After earning his Bachelor of Arts degree, he went on to earn a Master of Arts degree and educational specialist degree from the University of South Dakota.

His career began as a teacher, coach and athletic director in Artesian. He changed course and went into radio broadcasting

for two years, but soon found himself in the classroom again.

"When I visit classrooms, students often ask me what I like about my job," Nebelsick said. "I enjoy influencing our young people, our schools and our communities."

After radio broadcasting for KWYR Radio in Winner, Nebelsick taught and coached for Gregory High School. He then transitioned to high school principal for McCook Central, Lead-Deadwood and Huron Public School districts for 25 years. He is currently in his eighth year as Huron superintendent of schools. He joined the Dakota Wesleyan University Board of Trustees in 2016 when he recognized another opportunity to be a voice for young people.

"Dakota Wesleyan is totally focused on where we must go and what we must become in order to bring young people to our campus, help them grow in service and decency, and give them a voice in the future of our state and region," he said.

Nebelsick's ability to stay in tune with his students represents his commitment toward the value and impact that rural education has to the region and nation.

**"Every student in our rural communities deserves to be prepared to do one of two very important missions:**

**become a great influence and contributor in their hometown region or make an impact on others regardless of where their career path takes them,"** he said.

## The Nebelsick Family

Nebelsick comes from a family with strong ties to DWU. His parents, Earl '59 and Rowena, a 1955 graduate of the Methodist School of Nursing and nurse for 40 years, were married in 1956 and had five children, Terry '78, Larry '79, Gary '81, Lori ex'79 and Linda '86. The DWU family legacy continued with Barb Nebelsick '83, spouse to Gary; and the next generation with Jennifer Nebelsick Lowery '04, daughter of Terry and Diana; Leslie Nebelsick '07, daughter

of Gary and Barb; and Keri '07 and Kelsie '10 Nebelsick, daughters of Larry and Dawn.

In addition to the connection to DWU, the Nebelsick family members share a similar bond in their choice of occupations. As Earl and Rowena served as educator and nurse, their children and multiple grandchildren have followed, serving in similar roles as teachers, superintendents, physicians, clinic administrators, therapists and a nurse, like Rowena.

"I hope that we have earned a reputation of giving more than we've taken," Nebelsick said. "I know we are rich from our experiences in the communities that we serve."



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The Nebelsick family, left to right, front row: Earl '59 and Rowena MH'55; middle row: Lori Nebelsick Gullett 'ex79, Dawn Nebelsick, Barbara Grassel Nebelsick '83, Linda Nebelsick Pietz '86 and Diana Nebelsick; back row: Dave Gullett, Larry Nebelsick '79, Gary Nebelsick '81, Doug Pietz ex'89 and Terry Nebelsick '78.



Terry's family, left to right, front row: Dawson Lowery; middle row: Dr. Kayla Nebelsick, Daschle Lowery, Dr. Jennifer Nebelsick Lowery '04, Diana Nebelsick holding Westin Nebelsick, Dr. Rachel Nebelsick and Jeremy Nebelsick; back row: Dave Hartz, Brian Lowery and Anniston Lowery with Terry Nebelsick '78.

# Rural in Action

‘For our rural communities, Mitchell and beyond’

By Mari Olson

*Dakota Wesleyan*

*University doesn't just know what it means to live rural; for 134 years, the university has thrived in it.*

It is this intimate understanding of how rural communities work, from emerging economies to small-town main streets to healthcare and everything else that keeps a community growing, that has positioned DWU to acclimate to change and prepare its students for the future.

“Dakota Wesleyan University remains committed to its rural roots,” said President Amy Novak. “We believe that rural America represents a wellspring of innovative thinking, a fertile ground for community partnerships, and a space and place that deserves our investment – both in terms of human capital as well as economic capital. Our vision has been to be an active leader, collaborative partner, and an incubator for economic growth and entrepreneurial thinking **for our rural communities, Mitchell and beyond.**”

This vision has led to expanding majors and programs in rural healthcare and business, as well as supporting community members already practicing in the field, by way of degree-completion programs, graduate certificates and program collaboration with community and technical schools.

## Rural Healthcare's Vital Role

Educating nurses has been Dakota Wesleyan's honor for 47 years and with a large number of DWU nursing alumni working in rural communities, the Arlene Gates Department of Nursing keeps its finger on the pulse of rural healthcare.

“Healthcare in rural America is changing,” said Stacy Eden, administrative chair of the Arlene Gates Department of Nursing. “Technology advancements with eCare resources allows for consultations from specialists to rural areas like never before. However, nurses still need to be able to care for these patients. Our nursing grads are being trained to think conceptually. This means they will

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be able to critically think and apply knowledge across patient situations even when they might not be considered the expert. This is one way we are working to help nurses be adaptable to both rural and urban practice environments.”

**CHELSEA KULM**, of Mitchell, graduated from Dakota Wesleyan's Associate of Arts in nursing program in 2016 and then the Bachelor of Science in nursing program in 2017. Having grown up two blocks from the university, she never saw herself going to school “that” close to home, so she began college elsewhere.

“But I knew I wanted a smaller,



Chelsea Kulm

Submitted Photo

closer school, and I knew a lot of the professors here," she said. "I transferred my sophomore year, and it was the best thing I ever did."

Kulm completed her practicum at Avera St. Benedict Health Center in Parkston and applied to several places right after receiving her associate degree. She found her new home at Douglas County Memorial Hospital in Armour, a 12-bed facility where she has worked as a floor nurse for the past two years.

Her work at two rural hospitals has given her experience in multiple aspects of nursing – from emergency care to general wellness – and reinforced what she already knew, that a rural community's accessibility to healthcare is important.

"You have your slower days. I've learned to enjoy those, use them for education; and then you have your really busy days and really have to prioritize," she said. "In a rural hospital, you're not just the nurse, you're also the social worker and sometimes you're the advocate. You wear a lot of hats."

Because of its distance from much larger facilities with specialists, Kulm's hospital is connected via telemedicine, which provides rural hospitals the opportunity to videoconference in doctors for special consults.

"Our hospital sees everything from farm accidents to burns to heart conditions to coughs, and using videoconferencing allows our patients to see specialists without driving hours to a larger town," Kulm said.

Kulm has noticed that if rural healthcare is missing anything, it is more accessibility to mental healthcare, and she has noticed a need for certified nursing assistants (CNAs) and resident nurses (RNs) for rural nursing home facilities.

The growing need for both nurses and CNAs is one of the reasons DWU began its Rural Health Initiative in 2015 with the help of the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation grant and trained more than 100 CNAs. The goal is to increase the

number of RNs and CNAs in rural communities. The grant has ended, but Dakota Wesleyan has since graduated 25 more CNAs.

"A career in rural nursing is fulfilling – I certainly feel that way," Kulm said. "Working in a smaller hospital means I am given every opportunity to fine-tune my skills in multiple areas. And working in rural really provides me the opportunity to get to know my patients and form a community where I work, both in the hospital and in Armour."

## Big Plans in Rural America

Dakota Wesleyan, Mitchell Technical Institute and Mitchell's BankWest have all joined efforts to promote rural entrepreneurship.

Current examples of those efforts are the two majors launched within the past two years by DWU and MTI – a Bachelor of Science degree in entrepreneurial leadership from DWU with a concentration in construction management from MTI, and a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from DWU with a concentration in agriculture from MTI.

**SETH SOESBE**, 22, will graduate this May as the first DWU-MTI student to complete the B.S. in entrepreneurial leadership and

building construction. Through the skills he learned at MTI and the business acumen acquired at DWU, he has already created a successful and profitable construction business in Mitchell. This business is further developing by BankWest's commitment to fostering young entrepreneurs through its Entrepreneurial Center, which opened in October.

Soesbe, a graduate from Douglas High School in Box Elder, moved to Gregory to be closer to his grandparents before beginning classes at Mitchell Technical Institute. Finding MTI and then DWU and then connecting to BankWest was all a matter of networking – but clearly he was always a student worth believing in.

"When I was in middle school, I told myself I wasn't going to post-high school education. I said I was going to do those online surveys for cash and live with my grandparents," Soesbe said with a laugh. "I went through a rough time when I was a kid, but in high school I got a little better. I got associated with the football team, and that was a social network that really brought me up. And then one of my coaches pulled me aside my senior year and was like, 'Hey, what are you doing? You've got to get this figured out.'"

After finding out that Soesbe was



Seth Soesbe



interested in learning a trade, his coach encouraged him to apply at MTI. Soesbe's coach happened to also be the former high school coach to an instructor for architectural design at MTI, Jim Mahoney. Soesbe enrolled in classes and began working for a contractor in Gregory, Steve Syfie, who became his mentor.

"I really enjoyed the education (at MTI) and getting out on my own and trying to be successful," Soesbe said. "And that's kind of what led me to Dakota Wesleyan. My MTI instructor pulled me aside and said, 'You want to run your own business? They (DWU) have a program specifically for that which is chaining with ours, and I think it'd be good for you.'"

Soesbe was the first student to enroll in the new joint program. Since then, he placed first at the Student Idea Competition in Sioux Falls this fall with his idea for a RoboCon, a self-driving robot to fasten subfloor panels, and was awarded \$600 from the Small Business Innovation Research FAST grant in December.

"Ryan Van Zee (director of the Kelley Center and entrepreneurship professor at DWU) helped me expand and see where I needed to go with my business and get everything rolling with it," he said.

"At Tech, they teach you how to get the license and the skillsets, but the business world is vastly unexplored for me. Coming over here, I felt like a pioneer. Here, I'm really learning how the business world works and how to connect with people."

Van Zee then made Soesbe aware of an opportunity to apply for a spot at BankWest's newly established Entrepreneurial Center. In addition to having access to a free office space and a conference room, two lucky students also have access to resources to grow their businesses, including one year of entrepreneurial consultation from ELO CPAs and advisers and legal entity information from Morgan Theeler LLP in Mitchell.

"We hope that the Entrepreneurial Center at BankWest will serve as

a valuable resource for budding entrepreneurs to build and grow their businesses that will inevitably contribute to the success of our local economy," said Ryan Huber '97, regional president for BankWest, Mitchell. "We are pleased to partner with Dakota Wesleyan to give their students an advantage in their entrepreneurial ventures. Any barrier we could alleviate for up-and-coming business owners in our community contributes to economic development and fulfills our mission to help customers and communities succeed."

Soesbe fully intends to grow his business, Soesbe Contracting, and is more interested in staying in Mitchell than moving to a larger city.

"Here in Mitchell, it's really a gentle community," Soesbe said. "I'm kind of established here, and I really enjoy it. ... The connections I've made, and the development and growth potential I have are pretty big right now. I can always expand out to other places later, but I like it here."

Soesbe's hours are 2:30 to 6 p.m., Monday and Tuesday. To contact him, call **605-431-2445** or email at **soesbecontracting@gmail.com**.

By playing from their strengths, DWU, MTI and BankWest are strengthening their community and those surrounding.

## Rethinking 'Rural'

"Unfortunately, in the national media, the word 'rural' often is linked with population decline, white male disenfranchisement, with the opioid epidemic, but in reality, there are some significant strengths of our rural communities that deserve thoughtful attention," Novak said. "There is considerable entrepreneurial activity that often occurs in rural regions where, because of limited resources, people are often naturally more inclined to be innovative."

In a recent article by the Wall Street Journal, research suggests that rural regions are more likely to produce entrepreneurs than their

urban counterparts.

"Rural communities often benefit from the strength of community," Novak said. "Much can be accomplished when groups of different stakeholders come together to support a particular effort or cause. Rural places have also become adept at leveraging technology for economic growth and productivity. DWU intends to be at the forefront of a rural renaissance that helps communities understand how to envision themselves under new conditions. While our towns may not look like they did in 1950, they may become new hubs of thinking, learning and engaging that illustrate the value of small communities for decades to come."



## Graduate Certificate Programs

In addition to the Rural Health Initiative and DWU's partnership with Mitchell Technical Institute on joint degrees in business-agriculture and entrepreneurship-construction, the university has also added two new graduate certificate programs this year to further education for those already in the field.

- **GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN NONPROFIT CHURCH LEADERSHIP**, designed to provide clergy with learning and competency development in financial stewardship, human resources, fundraising and management.  
[dwu.edu/churchleadership](http://dwu.edu/churchleadership)

- **GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN TRUST MANAGEMENT**, created as an answer to a growing shortage of trust managers in South Dakota. This certificate prepares individuals for a career in the ever-increasing job market of trust management and is endorsed by the South Dakota Trust Association.  
[dwu.edu/trustmanagement](http://dwu.edu/trustmanagement)


**wt feature**

# reaching new HEIGHTS

**By Ian McClanahan '16**  
Sports Contributor

Following a season that saw new heights, records broken and young talent returning for another season, the Dakota Wesleyan University volleyball team looks to continue the recent success and take the next step toward success in the Great Plains Athletic



**Lindsay Wilber**  
DWU Head  
Volleyball Coach

Conference and on the national stage.

The DWU volleyball team kicked off the season with nine straight victories and multiple GPAC Player-of-the-Week honors; however, head volleyball coach Lindsay Wilber mentions how the success happens long before the team takes the court.

"As I look at how far the program has come in the past five years, I really credit that success to our players," Wilber said. "The character of the players in our program is the reason we have such a high-quality culture. We have a mixture of talented players currently in our program and many of them are South Dakota kids. That helps us; now other high school players competing and watching our athletes know them and think, 'Hey, maybe I can play at Wesleyan, too!' Our 2019 class has some high-level athletes who will continue to push our team to only get stronger."

Leading the charge for the Tigers is junior outside hitter Rebecca Frick, of Yankton,

who was named to the All-GPAC First Team. Frick led the team with 504 kills, 469 digs and 20 aces. She finished second in the conference for total kills per set and finished fourth in the GPAC in digs. Frick also ranked nationally in kills per game with 4.5 and ranked seventh in total kills. She reached 1,000 kills and 1,000 digs this fall, currently sitting fourth in school history for kills with 1,210 and 12th for digs with 1,015.

Frick is just one of the many local standout talents that helped the Tigers reach new heights last season. In all, there are 13 athletes from South Dakota, three from Nebraska, and one from Iowa, Minnesota and Wyoming.

"When I look at how far we have come since my first year in 2014 when we won only one conference match and only eight matches overall, I just smile," Wilber said. "It has been the players' commitment from the beginning that has garnered this success. I didn't have any previous head coaching experience, but I knew that the love and passion I had for the game of volleyball and seeing volleyball athletes succeed was what could help in moving DWU volleyball in the right direction. Each member of this program, whether it was my first year in 2014 or this fall, has contributed to the growth in our program."

Wilber's recruiting techniques have helped the Tigers gain traction in the GPAC, where six out of 32 teams competed at the 2018 NAIA Volleyball National Championships, including three teams in the top 10 of the final Coaches' Postseason Top 25 Poll.



**Rebecca Frick**

In Wilber's five years at the helm of the DWU volleyball program, the Tigers have increased their winning percentage in the conference each year, including narrowly missing out of the GPAC Postseason Tournament last season. The top eight teams in the conference at the end of the season move onto the GPAC Postseason Tournament, but even though the Tigers were tied for seventh, a tiebreak rule kept them out of the tournament.

"The athletes regularly come to open gyms in the summer, put in the needed time in the weight room and get it done

in the classroom as well,” Wilber said on the commitment off the court. “At the beginning of each season, I make goals for myself and for our team of what I want to accomplish during the entire year. Each year, we have been able to achieve them. We have gone from an eight-win season to now expecting a .500-plus season every fall. We continue to make strides on and off the court each season.”

It’s not just the performance on the court that pushes the volleyball players. Instead, hosting local camps for all ages has helped the Tigers give back to the local community and the surrounding area.

“We put on camps in the summer and are fortunate to see almost 150 athletes in our individual camps from kindergarten to 12th grade,” Wilber said. “We also host a high school team camp every summer where we usually host between 30 to 40 teams.”

Wilber is also a club director for the Corn

Palace Area Club volleyball team. Since taking over as club director, her athletes have joined the movement and began coaching and assisting these local area volleyball teams.

“Volleyball is the fastest growing sport among female athletes and the growth in our club supports that,” Wilber said. “When I started coaching and helping with the club four years ago, we had 80 to 90 athletes participate. This winter, we had more than 180 athletes try out for our club. It is awesome to see the sport of volleyball growing in South Dakota. Our players also have a huge part in this as a lot of them coach club teams. This next spring, we have 10 of our current players coaching or assisting a team. It’s all about spreading the passion we all have for volleyball.”

Not only does the volleyball team take time to help volunteer with camps and give back to the community, but the

student-athletes also put in the work in the classroom to hold one of the top GPAs in the NAIA. In 2017-18, the DWU volleyball team finished with a 3.77 GPA, the fourth highest GPA in the NAIA, earning them a spot on the NAIA Scholar Team.

“They are becoming coaches both in high school and college, pursuing med school, completing master’s degrees, and becoming athletic trainers and nurses,” Wilber said. “The list could go on about the success of our graduates, and that makes for a very proud coach.”

Whether it is the success on the court, the volunteer work contributed throughout the community or the dedication in the classroom, it is safe to say the culture revolving around DWU volleyball has changed for the better.

“To see your former players succeed in life after they leave your program is what is the most rewarding,” Wilber said.

## DWU named Five-Star Champions of Character Institution

By Ian McClanahan '16  
Sports Contributor



The Dakota Wesleyan University Athletic Department was named a Five-Star Champions of Character Institution by the NAIA in September for the second consecutive year. The award is an honor scorecard based on character, academics, conduct, awards and community service.

“We couldn’t be prouder to receive this honor from the NAIA,” said Jon Hart ’11, ’12, director of athletics at DWU. “Our coaches, student-athletes and staff work extremely hard to represent the values of the NAIA to the highest level in the classroom, community and on the playing field. This recognition is a direct reflection of those efforts.”

According to a press release by the NAIA, schools use a scorecard to measure the pursuit of character-driven athletics. If a school scores a minimum of 60 points out of 100, it is named a Five-Star Institution. Within the award, there are distinction levels which are based on how many

points an institution earns. The DWU Athletic Department achieved gold status with a perfect score of 100.

Throughout the NAIA, 171 institutions earned the Five-Star Institution award. Also, 16 conferences earned the prestigious award, including the Great Plains Athletic Conference of which DWU is a member of.

Within the NAIA there were only 12 schools that achieved a perfect score. They were: **DAKOTA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY**, Benedictine College, Briar Cliff University, Bryan College, California State University-Maritime, Columbia College, Hannibal-LaGrange University, Lawrence Technological University, Mount Mercy University, Shawnee State University, St. Ambrose University and the University of Saint Francis.

Of the 12 schools with a perfect score, DWU is one of only three institutions to be honored with a perfect score for a second straight year, including St. Ambrose University and Hannibal-LaGrange University.

Earlier this year, 15 DWU athletic programs earned NAIA Scholar Team honors, as the football team had the second highest GPA in the NAIA for the second consecutive year.

“The Champions of Character designation reflects the outstanding commitment of our students and coaches to exemplifying our commitment to academic excellence, leadership, service and integrity in actions – both on and off the field,” said DWU President Amy Novak. “We have long recognized the value of athletics in learning critical life skills, and this designation confirms Wesleyan’s commitment to running programs that invest in developing the whole person. I am absolutely proud of what this says about our students and our entire athletic department.”





# SHORTS

Visit [www.dwuathletics.com](http://www.dwuathletics.com) for sports updates.

## Men's Basketball

After winning its last seven out of nine games, the No. 15 DWU men's basketball team currently posts a 14-5 overall record and a 8-4 record in the GPAC. The team picked up its most impressive victory to this point of the season on Jan. 2 when it defeated then-No. 2 Morningside College 86-82. Ty Hoglund leads the team with 26.9 points per game and ranks first in the conference in scoring. Hoglund now has 1,657 career points with 484 points thus far this season. Nick Harden is averaging 18.3 points per game in his first season at DWU. He also leads the conference in steals with 52 total steals on the season. Leading the team in made 3-pointers, Samuel McCloud has 57 netted 3-pointers and is averaging 11.3 points per game. The Tigers currently rank third in the nation in 3-point field goals made per game, averaging 12.5, fifth in assist-to-turnover ratio at 1.6 and 11th in the nation in total steals with 161.

## Women's Basketball

The DWU women's basketball team comes into 2019 ranked No. 1 in the nation and boasts an overall record of 19-1 and is 12-1 in the GPAC. Most recently, DWU picked up wins on Jan. 13 over (RV) Midland University 98-78 and on Jan. 9 over then-No. 12 Dordt College 81-66. On Jan. 2, DWU topped then-No. 8 Morningside College 91-67 at the Corn Palace. Junior guard Kynedi Cheeseman leads the team in points with 18.6 points per game. Rylie Osthus leads

the team with 5.3 rebounds and six assists per game. She currently ranks first nationally in total assists with 119 on the season. Sarah Carr is second on the team in scoring, averaging 17.9 points per game, and Makaela Karst is averaging 11 points per contest and leads the team in total blocks with 23 on the season. The team currently ranks first in total rebound defense with 27.8 and free-throw percentage at 82.7 percent.

## Wrestling

The DWU wrestling team is in search of its first dual win of the season after facing tough competition. Freshman Cole Halouska notched a first-place finish at the Auggie-Adidas Invitational in Minneapolis. Halouska took home first place after a close 3-2 victory in the final match. Bradley Dohmen also grabbed a fifth-place finish and has been wrestling well for the Tigers at the 285-pound weight class. The final home dual is against Southwest Minnesota State University.

## Cross Country

The women's cross country team recorded its best finish in school history with a seventh-place finish as a team in the Great Plains Athletic Conference Championships in North Bend, Neb. McKenna Rogers paced the women as she finished in 27th with a time of 20:07.33 minutes. Samantha Schuyler finished close behind with a 31st-place finish, and Kelsi King tallied a 33rd-place finish.

The men's cross country team placed 10th in the GPAC championships, as Rex Schlicht came in 61st place after completing the race in 29:47.32.

## Football

The DWU football team finished the 2018 season with a 2-9 overall record and was 1-8 in the GPAC. The Tigers received 14 All-GPAC honors. Trevor Wietzema capped off a historic career as a Tiger as he was named to his second All-GPAC First-Team nod. Freshman Daniel Libolt made his presence known being named All-GPAC First-Team kick returner and All-GPAC Honorable Mention at the wide receiver position. At kick returner, Libolt ranked third in the NAIA in total kickoff return yards with 598 yards, while averaging 27.2 yards per return, good for fifth nationally. Dillon Rork and Tyler Wagner were both named to the All-GPAC Second-Team Defense. Rork finished his senior campaign with 53 total tackles, 6.5 tackles for loss, three sacks and two interceptions. Wagner led the team with 92 total tackles, while recording 14.5 tackles for loss and 3.5 sacks. Spencer Neugebauer was tabbed with All-GPAC Second Team after leading the team with 829 receiving yards and three touchdowns. Other All-GPAC members include Jonny Withrow, Sam Naasz, Dawson Grotjohn, Emmanuel Christopher, Eathen Gaulke, Trey DeCroock, Mitch Johnson and Luke Loudenburg.

## Men's Golf

The Dakota Wesleyan University men's golf team finished in 10th place in the Great Plains Athletic Conference Fall Championship at Willow Run Golf Course in Sioux Falls. Freshman Nolan Wiegel tied for second out of 54 golfers. Wiegel tallied a 70 on day one and a 71 on the second day for a total of 141.

## Men's Soccer

The DWU men's soccer team finished the season 4-12-1 and 1-9-1 in the GPAC. The most impressive win for the Tigers came on Sept. 30 at NCAA Division II opponent University of Mary as DWU collected a 2-1 double overtime victory. The Tigers finished 10th in the nation

for total saves with 133 saves. Seniors John Sutherland and Gaston Miteff were named All-GPAC Honorable Mention.

## Women's Soccer

The Tiger women's soccer team finished the 2018 season with a record of 6-11 and 4-8 in the GPAC. The Tigers were led by Alyssa Weidler who led the GPAC in goals with 16 last season. She was also named to the All-GPAC First Team, the first women's player to do so since 2014. Freshman Marina Brightman was a bright spot for DWU as she tallied seven goals on the year. Seniors Brooke Forsman and Stephanie Banvelos were both named All-GPAC Honorable Mention.

## Volleyball

Multiple milestones guided the DWU volleyball team to a record of 17-14. Junior Rebecca Frick was named to the All-GPAC First Team. Frick recorded 1,000 kills and 1,000 digs this fall, and she currently sits fourth in school history for kills with 1,210 and 12th for digs with 1,015. Joining Frick on the All-Conference list was Bridgett Knobbe and Emily Brunsing, as both were named All-GPAC Honorable Mention. Knobbe tallied 1,050 assists and 247 digs this season. Brunsing led the team in blocks with 126 total blocks, which was good for second in the conference. Brunsing also notched a career high in kills this season with 198. Mallory Cooper collected 1,000 digs, recording the feat in the last game of the season against Briar Cliff University. DWU finished the season in a four-way tie for seventh place in the conference, but the Tigers did not reach the GPAC Postseason Tournament.

## Tiger Schedules

Visit [www.dwuathletics.com](http://www.dwuathletics.com) to view updated athletic schedules for Wesleyan's sports.

Follow us on:



#BleedBlue

# TIGER FOOTBALL

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Senior **LUKE LOUDENBURG**, of Canova, looks to turn the corner in a Great Plains Athletic Conference contest against Northwestern College on Sept. 22, 2018, at Joe Quintal Field. Loudenburg led the team with 865 rushing yards and eight touchdowns to go along with 107 receiving yards. In his career, he has tallied 1,988 rushing yards, averaging 4.7 yards per carry, with 19 touchdowns.



# 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](http://www.dwu.edu) to tell us what's new with you.

## 1940s



**Irma Slocum '43** enjoyed time with her daughter, **Becky Andrews**.

A tree was planted on campus this spring in honor of **Blanche Hachner Hilton MH'48**.



### **First LPN-B.S. Nursing Grads**

Twenty nursing graduates and their families attended the first Sioux Falls-based Dakota Wesleyan Nursing Pinning Ceremony on Dec. 14, 2018, at the First United Methodist Church in Sioux Falls. These 20 students were the first graduating class of Dakota Wesleyan's LPN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

## 1950s

**Bernard Brenner '50**, of Arcola, Pa., was honored by the Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass., on Nov. 1, 2018, with an art exhibit. The exhibit marked the 10th anniversary of the donation of 73 pieces of Brenner's works to the institute by his daughter, Rebecca Brenner, which included an archive of photographs, slides, sketchbooks, drawings, computer-generated art, news articles and publications about his art. Brenner died July 11, 2004.

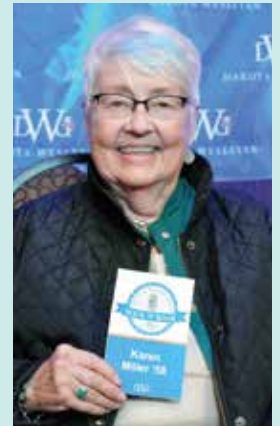
**Elsie Bartling ex'50**, of Vancouver, Wash., celebrated her 90th birthday in July.



**Donna Hale Meeker '58, '79** and **Nyle Meeker '58** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this past year.

## BLUE & WHITE UNITE

**CLASS OF 1958:** Attending the Blue & White Unite all-alumni reunion this year was **Karen Miller**.



**CLASS OF 1973: Bruce Heimback** and **Wendy Lamont** attended the all-alumni reunion during Blue & White Days.

## BLUE & WHITE UNITE



**CLASS OF 1968:** Coming together for their 50th year reunion at Blue & White Unite during homecoming were members of the Class of 1968, shown left to right, front row: **Beverly Freeman Morse, Susan Ulrich Kurth, Bonnie Gaetze Denney, Pam Pagel Palmer, Sheila Carroll DeVries and Eileen DeVries Wilson;** back row: **Bob Lucas, Leighton Kaloupek, Randy Pence, Don DeVries and John Sweet.**

### 1970s

**LeAnn Mack '74**, of Mobridge, retired in May 2018 after 44 years of teaching at Freeman Davis Elementary School.

**Kitty Tyler '74**, of Fort Myers, Fla., is thoroughly enjoying retirement. She has become an avid traveler with trips to Norway, France, Israel, Jordan, Peru, Ecuador and Australia, with plans for more.

### 1980s

**Carol Lawhun '83**, of Rapid City, was appointed for a three-year term as commissioner to the South Dakota Real Estate Commission by the governor in June 2018. Carol owns Carol's Classes Real Estate School in Rapid City.

### 1990s

**Ralyna Schilling '96** and **Tressa Wede '99**, both of Mitchell, were inducted into the Honored Women Educators of South Dakota. First organized in 1954 as the Annie D. Tallent Club, Honored Women Educators of South Dakota recognizes women who have given distinctive service to their field of education.

**Lisa Hohn Larson '95**, of Mitchell, joined the DWU team as a visit coordinator for the admissions department.

### 2000s

**Jenny Bridge '03**, of Alexandria, was inducted to Hanson High School's Athletic Hall of Fame on Sept. 8, 2018.

### 2010s

**Shannon Sandoval '10**, of Mitchell, was named Mitchell's new fire marshal by the Mitchell Fire Department. His duties began on Aug. 27, 2018.

**Penny Titze Tilton '10**, of Mount Vernon, joined the Arlene Gates Department of Nursing at DWU as an assistant professor, nursing program director and associate chair of nursing.



**Dr. Todd Muehler**

### Endowed Business Chair Announced at Convocation

**The Rev. Vicki Miller Taggart and Mark Taggart**, of St. Louis, Mo., were honored during Dakota Wesleyan University's opening convocation ceremony in August with the John Wesley Award for giving. They were joined by their son, **Stephen Taggart**, far left, and also by Keith's sister, **Ardith Miller '50, HD'18**; his brother- and sister-in-law, **Jim '59 and Lois '58 Blades**; and Keith's nephew, **Robert Blades**. They presented **Dr. Todd Muehler**, associate professor of business, the first Keith B. Miller Endowed Chair in Business. This endowed position is named for Vicki Miller Taggart's father, **Keith Miller '47**. This chair position recognizes a faculty member who models Miller's spirit, characterized by fiscal prudence, integrity, ethical decision making and a commitment to supporting the success of business people across North and South Dakota.

## class notes.

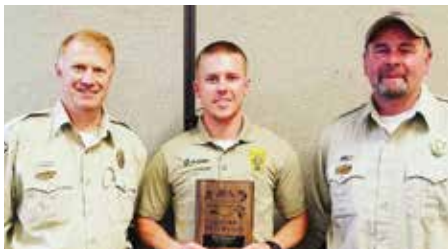
**Jordan Gau '11**, of Mitchell, was promoted to associate director of admissions at Dakota Wesleyan.

**Jesse '13** and **Leah Miller Bennett '13**, of Aberdeen, welcomed a son, Jordan Joseph Bennett, on Oct. 11, 2018, at 7 pounds and 1 ounce. Leah is a physician's assistant at Horizon Healthcare, and Jesse is a medical sales representative at Arthrex.

**Brittany Hills Graf '13**, of Summit, welcomed a daughter, Berkeley Ann Graf, on April 30, 2018.

**Christen Hildebrandt '13**, of Sioux Falls, and Kelby Robinson were married on July 21, 2018.

**Joel Reinesch '13**, of Mitchell, started his new role as an assistant professor of criminal justice at DWU on Aug. 15, 2018.



**Josh Thompson '13**, of Spearfish, was named Officer of the Year by the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers. He was nominated for the award because of his work addressing drug and vandalism issues, including one case in which a marijuana distribution was taking place on a state game production area. Josh is active in outreach and educational programs in the Spearfish area. He assists with career days, DARE programs, youth wrestling and multiple ride-along programs.

**Yutzil Rodriguez Becker '14** and her husband, Terry, of Pierre, welcomed a son, Avett Lee Becker, on Dec. 14, 2018, at 6 pounds and 7 ounces.

**Renee Ziegler Schroeder '14**, of Mitchell, received the Mitchell Daily Republic "Best of Mitchell Award" for "Best Nurse." She was previously employed by Avera Medical Group Obstetrics and Gynecology and recently joined DWU's Arlene Gates Department of Nursing faculty.



### Minneapolis Alumni Gathering

DWU alumni gathered in Minneapolis over a weekend in August. Shown from left to right, front row: **Lynette McManus Wagner '78**, **Kris Rasmussen '79**, **Ruth Ann Garshnick Dill '79**, **Tim Mach '79** and **Bev Beckmann Mach '78**; back row: **Bonnie Haines '78**, **Dan Wagner**, **Vi Boyer '78**, **Dave Dill '78**, **Karol Fleischauer Broderson '76** and **Brad Broderson '75**.

## BLUE & WHITE UNITE



**CLASS OF 1978:** Coming together for Blue & White Unite during homecoming were members from the Class of 1978, front row, left to right: **Sue Thompson Westgard**, **Lynette McManus Wagner**, **Bev Beckmann Mach** and **Teresa Mach Pratt**; back row: **Terry Nebelsick**, **Doug Powers** and **Bob Ruedebusch**.



**CLASS OF 1983:** Attending the Blue & White Unite all-alumni reunion this year were members of the Class of 1983, from left to right, front row: **Carol Balcom Lawhun**, **Teressa Schoenfelder-Gebel** and **Jackie Meyer Wentworth**; back row: **Tamara Boynton Williams** and **Laurie Storm Young**.



## BLUE & WHITE UNITE



**CLASSES OF 1986-89:** Members of the Classes of 1986-89 snap a photo at the Blue & White Unite reunion, shown left to right, front row: **Dan DeVries '88, Jane Nienhueser Sebert ex'89, Bill Sebert '87, Jodi Metter Landgaard '89, Bob Sebert '87 and Bette Reeves '86;** back row: **Doug Greenway '88, Janet Ehlke Greenway '88, Jill Kirby DeVries '88, Donna Mitchell DeGeest ex'89, Rita Einck Phillips '88 and Cindy Chernotik Tuttle '88.**



**A DWU CAMPUS TOUR:** Dakota Wesleyan alumni arrived during Blue & White Days 2018 to view the new Alumni Welcome Center and to take a tour of campus. Left to right: **Linda Nebelsick Pietz '86, Beth Conroy '86, Lori Biddle '85, Barb Metzger Shaff '84, Rita Krause Robison '84 and Patty Jensen Ogren '86.**

**Matthew Hockert '16**, of West Fargo, N.D., and Meghan Bovee were married in June 2016. Matt began the physician assistant program at the University of North Dakota in May 2018 and will graduate in May 2020.

**Jerrett Mills '16**, of Winside, Neb., began a new position as the associate dean of student life and athletics at Northeast Community College. Jerrett also married **Katarina Godfrey '18** in August 2018.

**Alex Nelson '16** and **Alli Blow '16**, of Sioux Falls, were married on Nov. 17, 2018.

**Nicole Court-Mendez Porter '16**, of Madras, Ore., graduated with her Master of Science degree in 2018 from South Dakota State University. She has accepted a position working as an athletic trainer at Madras High School in Madras, Ore.

**Michael Rohde '16**, of Colome, is a third-year student at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. He interned at the Swine Medicine Education Center at ISU where he conducted research on a new synthetic boar pheromone product on sows.

**Ariana Arampatzis '17**, of Mitchell, recently began her new position as resident director and creative content strategist for DWU.

**Lily Miiller ex'17**, and her fiancé, Cody Hall, of Harrisburg, welcomed a son, Abram Arthur Hall, on Sept. 14, 2018, at 7 pounds and 11 ounces. Lily owns an animal care business called Paws Out.



**Dr. Mike Farney**



**Dr. Dave Mitchell**

## Share Your Memories!

After a combined **87 YEARS** of service to Dakota Wesleyan University, **Dr. Michael Farney** and **Dr. Dave Mitchell** will retire in May 2019. As we prepare for the departure of these two remarkable and pivotal leaders for DWU, we wish to share a collection of memories from alumni and friends. Please send your stories, comments and photos to [alumni@dwu.edu](mailto:alumni@dwu.edu).

## class notes.



**Clark Butler '18**, of Discovery Bay, Calif., is currently enrolled at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, as a law student. He enjoyed a visit with fellow alumnus **Jim Gritzner '69**, who now serves as U.S. district Judge in Des Moines. Butler is the recipient of the Opperman Scholarship, named for **Dwight D. Opperman ex'50**.

**Dylan Dethlefsen '18**, of Mitchell, joined the team in the advancement office at Dakota Wesleyan as a development officer.

**Natasha Letcher '18**, of Mitchell, joined the admissions team at Dakota Wesleyan as an admissions counselor.

## Friends

**Dr. David Scott Gines**, of Dover, Del., was named the new director of athletics at Delaware State University in July 2018. Scott was a former director of athletics/sports at Dakota Wesleyan University.

**Dr. Teri Morgan**, of Mitchell, was inducted into the Honored Women Educators of South Dakota. Teri was a previous Spanish language instructor at DWU.

**Roger Musick HD'07**, of Mitchell, was inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame Class of 2018 in recognition of his accomplishments. As founder and CEO of Innovative Systems, Roger leads nearly 200 employees from the Mitchell headquarters in providing custom billing, mapping, video and voice software, and support to telecommunication companies.

## BLUE & WHITE UNITE



**DWU CHEERLEADERS:** Gathering during Blue & White Days were DWU cheer team members, from left to right, front row: **Bette Reeves '86**, **Tamara Boynton Williams '83**, **Teresa Schoenfelder-Gebel '83**, **Donna Mitchell DeGeest ex'89** and **Laurie Storm Young '83**; back row: **Jackie Meyer Wentworth '83**, **Cindy Chernotik Tuttle '88**, **Jill Kirby DeVries '88**, **Janet Ehlke Greenway '88**, **Jodi Metter Landgaard '89**, **Rita Einck Phillips '88**, **Cheryl Miller Heisinger '69** and **Bonnie Gaetze Denney '68**.



**SCOTCHMEN AND MISS WESLEYAN CANDIDATES AND WINNERS:** Past Scotchman and Miss Wesleyan candidates and winners took a photo during Blue & White Days. Shown here are, from left to right, front row: **Jory Hansen '07, '09**, **Sue Thompson Westgard '78**, **Bev Beckmann Mach '78**, **Bob Ruedebusch '78** and **Paula Roddewig Ruedebusch '79**; back row: **Dylan Dethlefsen '18**, **Jackie Meyer Wentworth '83**, **Jodi Metter Landgaard '89**, **Rita Einck Phillips '88**, **Tamara Boynton Williams '83** and **Bette Reeves '86**.

## BLUE & WHITE DAYS

Mark Your Calendar: Oct. 3-6, 2019



### DWU Alumni Gathering at Lake Mitchell

Dakota Wesleyan alumni gathered at Lake Mitchell to celebrate 30 years of friendship. Shown here, from left to right, front row: **Jane Nienhueser Sebert ex'89**, **Sue Jacoway Schoenfelder '88**, **Lynn Gassman Herber '86**, **Jill Kirby DeVries '88**, **Rita Einck Phillips '88** and **Janet Ehlike Greenway '88**; back row: **Bill Sebert '87**, **Roger Schoenfelder '88**, **John Herber '86**, **Dan DeVries '88**, **Bob Sebert '87**, **Doug Greenway '88** and **Glenn Thuringer '88**; not pictured: **Jodi Metter Landgaard '89** and **Eric Hanks '88**.



### On the Campaign Trail

**Matthew Krall '18**, shown right, was a history major at DWU and worked on **Dusty Johnson's** campaign team last fall and now will serve as a special assistant to Johnson in Washington, D.C. Johnson, shown left, won South Dakota's congressional seat in November and visited campus several times during his campaign.



### McInroy Receives Award

DWU nursing student **John McInroy** received a \$5,000 scholarship from the Sanford Department of Veterans and Military Services on Oct. 24, 2018, at DWU's Sioux Falls location. McInroy is in the LPN-Bachelor of Science in Nursing program and is a decorated Army veteran, including receiving the Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Combat Action Badge, National Defense Service Medal, and other multiple personal and unit awards. **Paul Weckman**, of Sanford Health Military and Veteran Services, presented the award.

## Deaths

**Gladys Blair Ludens ex'29**, of Morrison, Ill., died March 12, 2016.

**Beth Ahern Allen '37**, of Locust Grove, Va., died Nov. 5, 2018.

**Mary Margaret Britton Thiel '38**, of Alexandria, Minn., died Dec. 29, 2017. She is preceded in death by her siblings, **Glenn Britton '60** and **Florence Britton Smith '41**, and sister-in-law, **Dorothy Duncan Britton '62**.

**Frances Blessing Wagner '38, HD'87**, of Sioux Falls, died Nov. 6, 2018. She is survived by her daughters, **Barb Wagner Cutler '71** and **Marji Wagner Myers '66**. She is preceded in death by her spouse, **Bob Wagner '36, HD'53**; her daughter, **Kate Wagner Landin '64**; her brother, **Melvin Blessing '30**; and her sisters, **Lois Blessing Frickey '43**, **Edna Blessing Leach '29** and **Esther Blessing Rollins '40**. Frances was a past member of the DWU Board of Trustees.

**Gwen Swartout Longtin '41**, of Bellevue, Wash., died April 28, 2018.

**Harris Halstead '42**, of Montevideo, Minn., died May 8, 2018.

**Verna Markhardt Borgmann '44**, of White Lake, died Oct. 17, 2018.

**Volney Johnson ex'45**, of Meridian, Idaho, died Oct. 18, 2018. He is preceded in death by his spouse, **Elaine Godber Johnson '44**.

**Anita Sundstrom Cremer '46**, of Spencer, died July 15, 2018. She is survived by her daughter, **Karen Cremer Hofer ex'81**. She is preceded in death by her siblings, **Signe Sundstrom Bachman '57**, **Olga Sundstrom Peterson '36**, **Lennart Sundstrom '36, '71**, **Erma Sundstrom May '38, '70** and **Natalie Sundstrom Fridley '41, '67**, and her sisters-in-law, **Louise Sundstrom '68** and **Iris Bunce Sundstrom '60**.

**Do you know someone who would benefit from a DWU education?**

Contact the DWU Admissions team and schedule a campus visit.

**605-995-2650** or  
**admissions@dwu.edu**

## class notes.

**Kaija Bruget Jared '46**, of Mission Hill, died June 10, 2018. She is survived by her sister, **Fern Bruget Davis '48**, and preceded in death by her spouse, **Marvin Jared '48**, and her brother-in-law, **Wendell Davis '48**.

**Dorene Staley Ziemann ex'49**, of Martin, died Aug. 30, 2015.

**Maurice Jamison ex'50**, of Summerset, died Oct. 4, 2018. He is survived by his granddaughter, **Jamie Olson Martinson '01**.

**William Carlson ex'51**, of Mitchell, died Aug. 24, 2018. He is survived by his spouse, **Elsie Franek Carlson MH'48**, and his daughter, **Denise Carlson Fluth '92**.

**Darlene Van Schaick Sturges '51**, of Columbia, Mo., died April 20, 2018. She is preceded in death by her spouse, **Allen Sturges ex'55**.

**Wayne Laird ex'52**, of Mitchell, died June 22, 2018.

**Alice Arhart Olson MH'52**, of Oacoma, died Sept. 19, 2018.

**Pearl Oldenkamp Ahnberg MH'55**, of Rapid City, died Oct. 30, 2018.

**Wayne Edinger '55**, of Mitchell, died Nov. 3, 2018.

**Joanne Anderson Friedrich '55**, of Mitchell, died July 19, 2018.

**Dean Semple '55**, of Springville, Calif., died Jan. 4, 2016.

**Dorothy Knight Willman MH'55**, of Wessington Springs, died Sept. 20, 2018.

**Bill Kalb '56**, of Yuma, Colo., died July 24, 2018. He is preceded in death by his mother, **Cora Owen Kalb '27**, and his spouse, **Doris Deuchar Kalb '56**.

**Joyce Fristad Peterson MH'56**, of Viborg, died Sept. 25, 2018.

**Howard Powers '56**, of Monahans, Texas, died July 1, 2018. He is preceded in death by his brother, **Harold Powers '59**.

**Dale Fluegel '57**, of Chamberlain, died Oct. 19, 2018.

**Bess Westberg Henderson '57**, of Kansas City, Mo., died April 20, 2018.

**Mark Koenig ex'58**, of Lake Havasu City, Ariz., died Feb. 5, 2018. He is preceded in death by his spouse, **Carol Palmer Koenig ex'60**.

**Donna Hale Meeker '58, '79**, of Sioux Falls, died Sept. 11, 2018. She is survived by her spouse, **Nyle Meeker '58**, and her children, **Ann Meeker Gaines ex'88**, **Jim Meeker '87** and **Doug Meeker ex'83**.

**Mary Lou Gilfillan Tilberg '60**, of Ethan, died May 13, 2018. She is preceded in death by her spouse, **Randall Tilberg '57**.

**Darlene Kellner Goldhammer ex'61**, of Hayward, Calif., died May 3, 2018.

**David Etchells '64**, of Hudsonville, Mich., died July 7, 2018.

**Diane Hoffman Halstead '64**, of Powell, Wyo., died July 6, 2018. She is survived by her spouse, **Marlitt Halstead '63**, and her brother, **Jerry Hoffman '63**.

**Cal Hofer '64**, of Cumming, Ga., died Sept. 1, 2018.

**Carol Sheridan Thayer ex'64**, of Coral Springs, Fla., died Feb. 16, 2015.

**Alona Parkening Petersen '65**, of Pukwana, died July 25, 2018.

**Alice Mendel Axemaker '69**, of Bridgewater, died Sept. 10, 2018.

**Karla Arends Leach '69**, of Sioux Falls, died Nov. 12, 2018. She is survived by her daughter, **Conni Leach McCormick '86**, and is preceded in death by her spouse, **Darrel Leach '63**.

DWU REMEMBERS



**DONNA "MUFFY" STARR CHRISTEN '51, HD'91**, of Huron, died Jan. 6, 2019. Donna and her husband, Paul '50, HD'70, have been devoted supporters of Dakota Wesleyan since their school days and worked together to not only create success in their professional lives, but also to see the success and growth of DWU. The Christen Family Athletic Center bears their name, and the Corrigan Health Sciences Center and the DWU/Avera Sports and Wellness Complex could never have been completed without the Christens' leadership and generosity. After the completion of the new science center, DWU named the Donna Starr Christen College of Healthcare, Fitness and Sciences for her.

Donna was also instrumental in the establishment of the Spirit of Dakota award. She served as an officer of the Methodist Hospital in Mitchell and on the board of directors of the South Dakota Community Foundation, and most recently as director and chairman of the Christen Group LLC; director, vice president and assistant secretary/treasurer of CG Properties LLC; and a member and manager of Christen Co. LLC, all of Huron. She is the co-founder and chairman of the Christen Hohm Lusk Greater Huron Area Foundation and chairman of the James and Zelda Ruddy Nursing Scholarship Foundation.

In addition to their numerous DWU awards, Donna and Paul were named Distinguished Alumni recipients, and Donna also received an Honorary Doctor in Humane Letters in 1991. They have also received the Outstanding South Dakota Philanthropists of the Year award in 1990, the Distinguished Civil Service award from the Huron Chamber of Commerce in 1991 and were included in "The Philanthropy 50: America's Most Generous Donors of 2011" by The Chronicle of Philanthropy.

## class notes.

**Jesse McGraw Jr. '69**, of Blairsville, Pa., died June 18, 2018.

**Ron Povolio '69**, of Keansburg, N.J., died Feb. 2, 2018.

**Karen Clark '72**, of Mitchell, died Oct. 14, 2018.

**Mildred Feldhaus Willoughby '72**, of Mitchell, died June 8, 2018.

**Dave Phillips '74**, of Mitchell, died March 18, 2018.

**John Wilson '75**, of Hot Springs, died June 11, 2018. He is preceded in death by his father, **Thomas Wilson '65**, and his sister, **Patricia Wilson '68**.

**Gary Brink '77**, of Bandon, Ore., died Jan. 27, 2018.

**Terry Martinek '79**, of Berrien Springs, Mich., died July 23, 2018.

**Benjamin Hill LaPointe ex'79**, of Cody, Neb., died Dec. 18, 2017. He is survived by his spouse, **Charlotte Beauvais LaPointe '77**.

**Vicki Larsen '88**, of Irene, died April 1, 2018.

**Jeff Westra '88**, of Duluth, Minn., died Aug. 27, 2018.

**Carla Stevenson Chesbrough '07**, of Pine City, Minn., died June 27, 2018.

**FRIENDS: Bishop Arthur James Armstrong HD'70**, of Casselberry, Fla., died July 17, 2018. Elected in 1968, he became the youngest Methodist bishop in the United States at the age of 43. As president of the National Council of Churches, he was called "the most influential religious leader in America" by the U.S. News & World Report in 1982. Bishop Armstrong left an indelible mark on Dakota Wesleyan University, its trustees, and administrative leadership, faculty and students. His legacy permeates our continued commitment to developing leaders for the transformation of the world. Bishop Armstrong was a past member of the DWU Board of Trustees.

**FRIENDS: Dorothy Kellogg**, of Watertown, died Sept. 15, 2018. Dorothy served on the DWU Board of Trustees from 1986 to 1995.

**FRIENDS: Tony Kummer**, of Mitchell, died Aug. 4, 2018. He was a custodian at DWU, retiring in 1990.

**FRIENDS: Frank B. Murray**, of West Grove, Pa., died Sept. 14, 2018. He is preceded in death by his father, **Frank Murray ex'32**. He was the great-great-grandson of DWU's first president, William Brush.

## 2019 Date Book

- **Feb. 12** – Around the World Cultural Festival
- **Feb. 24** – Winter Choir, Band and LyricWood Concert
- **March 1** – Our Lenten Journey: The Highlanders and Wesleyan Bells Spring Concert
- **March 2-10** – Spring Break
- **March 21** – Stark Lecture; Jerry Walls, speaker
- **March 22-24** – "The Game's Afoot" by Ken Ludwig, DWU Theatre Production
- **March 29-31** – "The Game's Afoot" by Ken Ludwig, DWU Theatre Production
- **April 10** – Capstone Day
- **April 14** – Palm Sunday Concert: LyricWood and Dakota Wesleyan Choir
- **April 26** – Honors Banquet
- **April 27** – Athletic Awards Banquet
- **April 28** – Spring Choir, Bells and Band Concert
- **April 30** – Great Wesleyan Giveback
- **May 4** – Nursing Pinning Ceremony
- **May 4** – Baccalaureate
- **May 5** – Commencement; Steve Jarding, speaker
- **Oct. 3-6** – Blue & White Days

[www.dwu.edu/events](http://www.dwu.edu/events)

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN Nonprofit Church Leadership



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The responsibilities and roles that churches are asking their pastors to assume today are far broader and more complex than they were only a generation ago. In consultation with working pastors, Dakota Wesleyan University has developed a program that educates clergy beyond the traditional seminary experience. The 21-credit curriculum strengthens pastors' knowledge and abilities in the area of finance, personnel, management and stewardship.

*"Dakota Wesleyan's nonprofit church leadership program is a great opportunity for our churches. It is preparing bold, confident, spirit-led leaders who are helping our congregations adapt to their constantly changing mission fields." – Bishop Bruce Ough, Bishop of the Dakotas-Minnesota Area of the United Methodist Church*



For more info, visit [www.dwu.edu/churchleadership](http://www.dwu.edu/churchleadership).

# FACEvalue

DR. BETHANY MELROE LEHRMAN

## The Best of Both Worlds

By Hannah Bowes  
DWU marketing major

From leopard wedges to mud boots, **DR. BETHANY MELROE LEHRMAN** lives in two worlds.

By day, she is an associate professor of chemistry at Dakota Wesleyan University; at night, she returns home to her farm where she trades in her red pen for a shovel. On top of her full-time job as a chemistry professor and her husband's full-time job, her family runs a purebred Simmental cattle operation near Spencer and shows hogs throughout the spring and summer.

Melroe grew up on a farm outside a small town in North Dakota, where they also raised cattle and would travel across country showing them.

"I graduated with eight kids in my class," she said about her small-town upbringing. "It was a small school. I was a multisport athlete, on yearbook and in band and everything else – a lot like so many of our students here at DWU."

She had her mind set on attending college and playing volleyball. After an unfortunate ACL tear her senior year of high school, she was unable to play. She left for college but after two years felt that something was not right.

"The first school I attended had very few rural students. I felt like something was missing. I just needed more people like me," Melroe said.

She then transferred to South Dakota State University in Brookings where she finished her Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and was encouraged to complete her Master of Science degree and Ph.D. She began teaching at Dakota Wesleyan in 2011. Since then, she has received a Faculty Professional Excellence Award and Exemplary Teacher Award. She also was awarded the HOPES grant from the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, which allowed her to do science outreach with area elementary students. She is chairwoman of Department of Chemistry and Physical Science, a faculty adviser for CHAOS, and chairwoman of the General Education Committee. This year, Melroe also took on the role as interim dean of the Donna Starr Christen College of Healthcare,



*Dr. Bethany Melroe Lehrman works with a student in a lab.*

Fitness and Sciences.

"It's important to have work-life balance," she said. "I love teaching, and I love the farm. I love my students, and I love my family. I'm lucky, though, I don't work to live or live to work; I have a passion for both."

Some of that balance comes in unexpected ways. Her family is very passionate about the show pig industry. They have made lifelong friends through pig shows, as well as bonded as a family.

At the age of 2, her son, Cash, now 12, showed his very first pig at the state fair. Her daughter, Emerson, 8, has also hit the ring, truly making this a family love.

In the summer, Melroe and her family spend their time designing feeding plans, exercising the hogs and maintaining their skin and hair. Each hog walks a mile a day and gets plenty of pampering in the form of brushing and lotioning, personal cooling systems, and ice cream on hot days. Summers are packed with traveling and preparing for shows. They show locally in Iowa and South Dakota circuits and nationally at the World Pork Expo in Iowa and the Summer Type Conference in Illinois. With the circuit beginning as early as April, most weekends they can be found at a show.

"That's just become our world," she said.

Melroe has a reputation on campus for being a dedicated and focused professor, but she is also an advocate for her students' success.

"In the classroom, I know the first thing I have to do is win them over. If I can get them on my side, maybe I can get them to join the chemistry journey," she said.

There has been a lot of work put in by the chemistry professors to make the program what it is today.

"I am really proud of the biochemistry program at Dakota Wesleyan and how much it has grown. Professor (Paula) Mazzer and I came in at the same time, and the number of majors in the program has increased. The hard work has paid off, and I'm really proud of our students."

DWU biochemistry graduates are scattered throughout the country working, pursuing graduate degrees and attending health professional schools. She keeps up with as many of them as she can and takes personal pride in her students and their accomplishments.

"I always think no matter where I am at, I am always 'Mom.' I'm either Mom at home to my kids or a mom here on campus. It's rewarding to see our kids go on and do great things ... in the show ring or in the world."

FACEvalue



**FACE***value*  
MELROE LEHRMAN

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