Every Gift Counts!

96% of students receive DWU scholarships

21% of students are the first in their family to attend college

100% of your contributions go toward student scholarships

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DAY OF GIVING

Watch social media on Nov. 1, 2017
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Wesleyan Today is distributed to alumni, parents and friends of Dakota Wesleyan University.

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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.
As I walk across campus in the spring, I am awed by the beauty of creation on display at Dakota Wesleyan University. Trees are in bloom, the grass is vibrantly green, and the fountains are flowing and splashing. It’s an atmosphere I sometimes take for granted, and I’m sure others do, too.

However, I wish to offer credit where it’s due – to the hard-working men and women who make up the DWU physical plant staff. They are the people who make their way to campus when we have a snowstorm so the sidewalks can be shoveled and the parking lots plowed. They set up and tear down for a seemingly endless schedule of banquets, recitals, performances, honors events, breakfasts and luncheons throughout the school year, but especially during the spring semester.

This is the crew who is faced with not-quite-empty dorm rooms – the flotsam and jetsam of students, the things left behind that no mother wants in her basement for the summer.

They are on campus from early morning to early evening, mowing the lawn, moving equipment, and checking for pipes that leak and ceiling tiles that are broken. They are cleaning, constructing, destructing, planning, organizing ... with an endless collective sense of humor and a positive attitude.

When visitors come to our campus, they usually comment on its beauty and cleanliness. As the academic year ends and summer begins – undoubtedly the time when the physical plant crew is ramping up projects that have been dormant all year – this seems like the perfect time to acknowledge and thank them for their excellent work.

I invite you, our alumni and friends, to make a visit to DWU part of your summer plans, so you can see for yourself what I enjoy every day. If you see the crew in blue, be sure to tell them “Thanks.”

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

COMMENCEMENT 2017

For more DWU graduation photos, visit www.dwu.edu. Click on the Flickr logo.

Officially graduated, the Class of 2017 stands for its final recognition on Sunday, May 7.

Accounting major Patrick Whetham '17, of Garretson (left), and sports management major Neil Nagle '16, of East Grand Forks, Minn. (right), snap a photo before Commencement with Jerry Luckett, associate professor of business.

Commencement attendees saw another round of fun and creative grad caps this year.

Provost Joe Roidt stands on stage during DWU’s Commencement with special speaker Dusty Johnson, of Mitchell, and honorary doctorate recipients Dennis Kaemingk and John Clarke, both of Mitchell.

Mason Cahoy, of Mitchell, is hooded by Kyle Herges, assistant professor for digital media and design. DWU added a hooding ceremony to Baccalaureate services this year, and graduating seniors asked the faculty or staff person of their choice to present their hoods.
FRIDAY, SEPT. 29
• Campus tours
• Legacy Banquet honoring donors and distinguished alumni

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30
• Tiger Tail Trek 5K
• Alumni gathering (CorTrust Parking Lot, Mitchell Main Street)
  • Parade
  • Pregame tailgate (Joe Quintal Field)
  • Homecoming football game

BLUE & WHITE UNITE
ALL-ALUMNI REUNION • SATURDAY EVENING
HIGHLAND CONFERENCE CENTER
2000 Highland Way, Mitchell, S.D.

HIGHLIGHTING REUNION YEARS

OTHER REUNIONS
1992 DWU Tiger Football Team
1997 Nursing Alumni
Performing Arts (music and theatre)

SUNDAY, OCT. 1
• Worship services

DON’T MISS!
DWU CAMPUS BOOKSTORE
HOURS: Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

MCGOVERN LIBRARY
McGovern Legacy Museum
Java City Coffee Shop

DAKOTA DISCOVERY MUSEUM
(east side of campus)

RON AND SHEILAH GATES
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE PRESENTS:
“A MUSICAL REVUE”
SEPT. 29-30 and OCT. 1

For more information and to register: www.dwu.edu/alumni-visitors.
DWU DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

COLLEGE OF LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC SERVICE
Betty Oldenkamp ’82 Sioux Falls, S.D.

Betty Oldenkamp has been the president and CEO of Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of South Dakota since 2006. LSS provides a variety of services and touches all age groups across South Dakota, from youth to elderly, from adoption services to pregnancy counseling, from fatherhood and re-entry counseling for incarcerated men to resettlement services for new Americans, as well as disaster response, foster care, youth mentoring services – and more.

Before joining LSS, Betty had several positions in human services, first in direct services and then as director of two different divisions of the South Dakota Department of Human Services – the division of developmental disabilities and the division of mental health. In 2001, then-Gov. Bill Janklow appointed her cabinet secretary for the South Dakota Department of Human Services.

Betty has received many awards for her work and service: the Governor’s Award for Employee Excellence (twice); a distinguished service award from the Rocky Mountain Council of Community Mental Health Centers; and the Larry Oppold Memorial Award from the Sioux Empire United Way. She is a member of the DWU Board of Trustees.

DONNA STARR CHRISTEN COLLEGE OF HEALTHCARE, FITNESS AND SCIENCES
Terry Dolan ’62 Glenview, Ill.

Dr. Terry Dolan is a neuroscientist who has spent his career at various academic research facilities studying human development and developmental disabilities.

He earned his Ph.D. in psychology and physiology at the University of Texas-Austin in 1966, which launched a 36-year career. His work included teaching and administrative positions at Loyola University in Chicago; he was the program director in the behavioral neural sciences at the National Science Foundation in Washington; he was a Von Humboldt Scholar at the Neurophysiology Institute at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg in Germany; and he directed the Waisman Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he was instrumental in the center’s establishment as one of the largest research centers on human development and developmental disabilities in the world. In 2001, he was invited by the royal family of Saudi Arabia to develop a national research and treatment center on childhood diseases and disabilities for Saudi Arabia.

Terry served as personal science adviser to Eunice Kennedy Shriver for 15 years, and in 1990, traveled with Sargent Shriver to the Soviet Union to start Special Olympics there.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES
Jim Gritzner ’69 Des Moines, Iowa

Jim Gritzner is a district judge for the Southern District of Iowa. Appointed by President George W. Bush, he entered service in 2002. He served as chief judge from 2011 to 2015, and on March 1, 2015, he assumed senior status.

Jim earned his law degree from Drake University Law School in 1979, and he was in private law practice for 20 years in Des Moines, Iowa. As a trial attorney, he practiced nationally in fire and explosion-related litigation, and he also worked on product liability, commercial interference, unfair competition, trade secrets, business litigation, antitrust, medical malpractice, professional discipline, negligence law, advertising and media. From 1985 through 1990, he was counsel to the Committee on Professional Ethics and Conduct of the Iowa State Bar Association, as well as counsel to the Client Security and Attorney Disciplinary Commission of the Iowa Supreme Court. He also served on the Iowa Board of Parole.

Before becoming an attorney, Jim worked as a producer, reporter, news director, announcer and news anchor in television and radio. He is a member of the Highlanders, a men’s quartet that occasionally still returns to DWU to sing for special events.

Alumni award winners will be honored at the LEGACY BANQUET on SEPT. 29, 2017.
Research in the limelight

By Mari Olson

Dakota Wesleyan psychology and biology/biochemistry students were involved in two different conferences in Chicago this spring – biology/biochemistry students attended the Experimental Biology Conference, and psychology students presented at the Psi Chi poster sessions at the Midwestern Psychological Association.

PSYCHOLOGY AT DWU

Psi Chi is the national honor society for psychology, of which Dakota Wesleyan has a chapter. DWU psychology students have presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association poster sessions since 2000.

“DWU’s placement rate is considered quite high, according to Dr. Anne Kelly, DWU psychology professor, as only two or three students who have applied since 2000 haven’t been accepted,” said. “This year, 10 students applied and were accepted, which is the largest number of submissions Kelly has ever had in one year. Those whose work was accepted: John Fabrizius, of Casper, Wyo.; Kevin Lopez, of Long Beach, Calif.; Andrew Schwader, of Howard; and Mazzer.

Kelly said. “Because we are a small program by comparison (to larger universities), our department and require that students complete a research project in order to complete the major.”

Ten DWU students’ research was accepted to present at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago this semester. From left to right: Alexandra Sterling, Jacqueline Valdes, Jaymie Lillestol, Kayla Vanden Hoek Weber and Emily Pengilly. Not shown: John Fabrizius, Elizabeth Klein, Lorissa Loepky, Kristin Sabers and Zachary Uttecht.

BIOCHEMISTRY AT DWU

Biology and biochemistry students in Dr. Paula Mazzer’s research group presented posters, including: “Time resolved IRMS study of staurosporine induced apoptosis in murine astrocyte cells,” presented by Kayla Vanden Hoek Weber, of Corsica; Sara Husher, of Winner; and Mazzer; and “Cytotoxicity of urban dust and diesel exhaust particulates in murine astrocyte cells,” presented by Tyler Fortuna, of Gillette, Wyo.; Peyton Price, of Norfolk, Neb.; Kevin Lopez, of Long Beach, Calif.; Andrew Schwader, of Howard; and Mazzer.

Weber presented at both this conference and the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference.

“At the Experimental Biology Conference, I was able to learn new techniques in research, including the CRISPR/Cas9 system, which may impact the future of medicine,” Weber said. “Being able to show off what we have done in the lab and compiling all our work into a poster is gratifying as we get to show off what we have been working on and what we are proud of.”

Dr. Bethany Melroe Lehrman also presented with two students from the CHAOS Club (Chemistry, Health and Other Sciences), Micayla Bamberg, of Corsica; and Mikayla Street, of Revillo – both of whom assisted Lehrman in a project through the HOPES Grant, which helped DWU students fund science projects presented at L.B. Williams Elementary School in Mitchell. Their project was called “CSI: Choosing Science and Innovation,” which engaged elementary students in forensic sciences.

“Obedience, Empathy, and Positive and Negative Feedback on Task Compliance.”

“The topics our students choose are their own and reflect their own interests,” Kelly said. “Because we are a small program by comparison (to larger universities), we are able to supervise independent student research and work closely with students to carry out their projects. In fact, we have a strong research focus in our department and require that students complete a research project in order to complete the major.”

The experience students receive through their research projects is invaluable to their education, but also as preparation for continuing education or careers, Kelly said.

“When they graduate from our program, there is no doubt that they can replicate their procedures on different topics because the autonomy they receive through our program fosters creativity, independence and self-management – these are key attributes to being successful in any research, or even a career,” Kelly said.
DATELINES


Feb. 16-19: The Ron and Sheilah Gates Department of Theatre performs “An Evening of Samuel Beckett Plays.”

Feb. 19: The Ron and Sheilah Gates Department of Music presents the Winter Concert with Wesleyan Band and LyricWood Orchestra.

Feb. 26: The music department presents “Love Is a Many Splendored Thing.”

March 3-9: The music department goes on tour with seven concerts in four states.

March 15: Mitchell Area Youth Night presents Rabbi Pesach Wolicki, associate director of the Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation.

March 16: The Conference for Leadership, Innovation and Social Change invites speakers Rabbi Pesach Wolicki and Darryl Nordquist, president and CEO for Special Olympics South Dakota.

April 8: The 19th annual Dr. Seuss Carnival takes place at L.B. Williams Elementary School.

April 23: The music department presents “La Noche Caliente” concert.

April 28: Dr. Bethany Melroe Lehrman, associate professor of chemistry, wins the Exemplary Teacher Award.

April 30: The music department hosts the Spring Ring Handbell Festival.

May 2: The Great Wesleyan Giveback takes place across campus and the Mitchell community.

May 10: Employees are recognized for years of service, including Dr. Michael Catalano, professor of mathematics and dean of the Donna Starr Christen College of Healthcare, Fitness and Sciences, for 25 years; Carol Weiss, accounts receivable accountant, for 30 years; and Dr. David Mitchell, professor for business administration and economics, for 45 years.

May 10: Deb Ellis, custodian, receives the 2017 Presidential Award for Outstanding Service.

May 10: Dr. Barbara Duffey, assistant professor of English, and Allen Jenks, maintenance technician, win the Professional Excellence Awards for spring term.

www.dwu.edu/news

COLLEGE BRIEFS

DWU listed as one of U.S. News & World Report’s Best Online Programs

Dakota Wesleyan University’s online bachelor’s program was named one of the best by U.S. News & World Report for the second year in a row.

The 2017 U.S. News & World Report Best Online Programs rankings were released in early January and can be accessed at www.usnews.com/online. DWU offers an online RN to B.S. in nursing and a Bachelor of Arts degree-completion program, in addition to a Master of Business Administration and Master of Arts in Education degrees.

“We’re pleased with the early success in enrollment and the recognition received for our online programs,” said Derek Driedger, dean of the College of Adult and Professional Studies. “Dakota Wesleyan strives to maintain a cost-effective and supportive experience for online students as they complete their bachelor’s in nursing or a Bachelor of Arts degree.”

Dakota Wesleyan marks accreditation milestone

Dakota Wesleyan University received notification of its continuing accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission and has now been an accredited institution of higher education for the past 100 years, having initially been accredited in 1916.

“Dakota Wesleyan’s recent institutional reaccreditation is testament not only to the extensive work undertaken by faculty and staff in preparation for the recent site visit, but also the collective work they have done since the previous site visit 10 years ago,” said Dr. Joe Roidt, DWU provost. “Like any university, we are constantly striving to improve what we do, but the recent reaffirmation of our accredited status by the Higher Learning Commission indicates to us that we are doing many things well.”

Weins selected for interfaith understanding seminar in Chicago

Dr. Jesse Weins ’03, dean of the College of Leadership and Public Service and associate professor of criminal justice, will participate in the Teaching Interfaith Understanding Seminar hosted by DePaul University in Chicago this summer.

The seminar will be June 18-22, and Weins is one of 25 faculty members chosen to participate.

“We at DWU help students develop the kind of civic engagement skills needed to converse fruitfully with others of different persuasions,” Weins said. “We’re planning to enhance our curriculum, in part to reverse the troubling trend in American culture of verbal attacks and a lack of compassion for those who have different beliefs or come from a different place. This seminar is a valuable opportunity.”

Dr. Jesse Weins ’03
Flynn selected to participate in ‘The 20th Century Presidency Seminar’

Dr. Sean J. Flynn, professor of history, is one of 30 faculty members selected to participate in The 20th Century Presidency Seminar in Washington, D.C., this summer.

Flynn, who has taught at Dakota Wesleyan University since 1999, was chosen out of nationwide applicants for the seminar, which is offered by the Council of Independent Colleges and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. The multidisciplinary seminar, which will include both history and political science faculty, takes place at Stanford University’s Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Center in Washington.

“It will likely be a reading- and dialogue-intensive seminar,” Flynn said. “The participants will examine effective presidential leadership and what made some presidents more effective than others.”

An emphasis will be placed on the presidencies of Franklin D. Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, and how well they communicated their visions, exercised political flexibility, and established trust and credibility with the American public.

McGovern Center names Abbott House ‘Community Partner of the Year’

The McGovern Center honored the Abbott House with the Community Partner of the Year award for providing meaningful service-learning experiences to DWU students.

Students from Dr. Anne Kelly’s experimental psychology class, an upper-level research class, were asked to do in-depth research about neurofeedback for the Abbott House. The Abbott House was considering using neurofeedback therapy, a type of real-time biofeedback on brain activity that can be used to help the brain learn to function more effectively.

“Our work with Abbott House provided my students with the opportunity to conduct the type of research that will make a difference in the kind and quality of treatment that people in our community receive,” said Kelly. “My students did the work that many psychologists do, and I would be hard-pressed to imagine a better learning experience for students than taking on the role of professionals within our discipline.”

The McGovern Center, on behalf of DWU, is seeking ways to integrate student learning in academic courses with community engagement. These mutually beneficial partnerships are meant to address community needs and ultimately create positive social change.

DWU band students selected for honor bands; director chosen for master class

The Ron and Sheilah Gates Department of Music has been hard at work this past year with multiple concerts, a choir tour over spring break, collaboration with the theatre department on the spring musical, and much more.

The instrumentalists have made headlines this semester as well, with three students accepted to the South Dakota Intercollegiate Band, one student chosen for a national band, and Bethany Amundson, instrumental instructor and director of bands at DWU, selected to attend a master class for conducting in London.

Mellissa Spitzer, senior from Mitchell; Rheanna Pheifer, junior from Platte; and Bryce Blank, sophomore from Rapid City; auditioned and were chosen for the South Dakota Intercollegiate Band in Sioux Falls. This was Pheifer’s second year performing in the band, which Amundson is particularly proud of because flute is a highly competitive area. This is also the second year Amundson has seen three students chosen for the band.

Spitzer was one of only three students from South Dakota chosen for the CBDNA National Small Band Programs Intercollegiate Band, which performed in mid-March. She joined students from 59 other colleges and universities across the nation.

Amundson has elevated the university’s instrumental program since her arrival in 2015. In addition to encouraging students to audition for honor bands, she auditioned for and won a spot at the Women’s Conducting Masterclass with Marin Alsop and the BBC Concert Orchestra in London in January. Members of the LyricWood Orchestra and its director Elizabeth Soladay, of Mitchell, who also plays in the orchestra, helped Amundson record her audition. Her audition was her first time conducting an orchestra.

The 2017-18 schedule for DWU’s music department will be released soon and posted online at www.dwu.edu.
Kelley Center staff publishes entrepreneurship textbook, innovation workbook

By Mari Olson

The entrepreneurial spirit is a difficult thing to define, but at its core is a unique perspective on how things don’t just work but can be changed – it’s called innovation.

That’s why two Dakota Wesleyan professors have created an innovation workbook and an entrepreneurship textbook.

“Innovative Thinking: Innovation Guide Student Workbook,” a workbook for freshmen, and “The Entrepreneurial Experience: Start Your Business,” a textbook meant for upperclassmen, are both available on Amazon. The innovation guide is a three-credit course with a one-credit option, and the entrepreneurship textbook is a three-credit course with an online component.

Both are the work of Dr. Ryan Van Zee, associate professor of entrepreneurship and director of the Kelley Center for Entrepreneurship at DWU, and Teresa Quinn, assistant professor of entrepreneurship and assistant director of the Kelley Center.

Van Zee actually has been working on innovation curriculum for more than 10 years, but decided to partner with Quinn in order to create text that is more accessible on the undergraduate level. They wrote the innovation guide because they feel that students must first learn how to see the world and cultivate ideas.

“Innovation is at the heart of entrepreneurship. You can have an idea without a business, but you can’t have a business without an idea,” Van Zee said. “Most of the innovation curriculum (available right now) focuses on engineering. This innovation curriculum came from philosophy. The problem is that philosophy is not very accessible. And that’s where Teresa came in. She rewrote it in an accessible way ... for the freshman level.”

“I knew something big was there in the original online version of the innovation guide, but it just didn’t speak to college freshmen,” Quinn said. “It needed a full rework to appeal to a younger, idealistic generation.”

The textbook follows with how to transform ideas into a business. In many examples, Van Zee and Quinn outline how to make money without investing anything by using free services available online.

They chose to self-publish on Amazon because they recognize that entrepreneurship is a living thing that grows every day, and they anticipate updating it on an annual or biannual basis. They used their innovation workbook in their own classes this past year. The textbook was published in late May.

Van Zee describes innovation as developing original ideas, as well as tweaking something already established. But how do you teach someone to think in an innovative way?

“No one has this on the globe. We know how to make a nurse; we know how to make a lawyer; we don’t know how to make an entrepreneur,” Van Zee said. “There’s still a 75 percent failure rate; it’s just a disaster.

“This is the first country in human history that formed a government on top of the free-market system. At Dakota Wesleyan, we realized this country is based on business, and if you want to understand any business you really have to understand how it all began, so the first class we teach is COR 101, which is the entrepreneurial spirit is a difficult thing to define, but at its core is a unique perspective on how things don’t just work but can be changed – it’s called innovation.

The student projects ranged from creating real business models to setting nonprofit goals. Classes last semester set goals that included ventures from a woodworking business to figuring out a way to help 50 students relax.

“We had one student each semester reach out to a local kennel to bring puppies to campus as a stress-reliever,” he said. “And both students exceeded their goals – more than 50 people showed up to play with those puppies, and everyone was smiling and taking photos. I was there and picked up one of the puppies, and I could even feel the stress just dissolving. They met their goal.”

Van Zee and Quinn are living what they teach: They identified a need, filled that need – and their passion is evident.
The trees around the Sherman Center are in full bloom in springtime at Dakota Wesleyan.

Twelve DWU representatives took part in the university’s third mission trip to Trujillo, Peru, in May. This year’s team focused on teaching healthy habits to children at a local elementary school, staffing vacation Bible school, and doing painting and repair work at the Center for Attention and Education for Families (CAEF). Pictured here, from back, left to right: Denise Van Meter, associate campus pastor; Chelsea Kulm, of Mitchell; Andrew Schwader, of Howard; and Arin Winger, TRiO Support Services administrative assistant. Center: Donna Gerlach, campus nurse; Natasha Letcher, of Bridgewater with unidentified child; and Sierra Crater, of Cavour. Front row: Danielle Van Kooten, of Volga; Ashton Diede, of Menno; Niki Nelson, of Platte; Laura Hoiten, of Sioux Falls; and Gerlach’s daughter, KayLa Berndt. (submitted photo)

DWU theatre students took a trip to the U.K. in May to absorb the culture and to see 10 performances and musicals. They visited many places, including Shakespeare’s birthplace of Stratford-upon-Avon, the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough, London, and even “Platform 9¾.” They took in the following shows: “Twelfth Night,” “Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time,” “Woman in Black,” “The Book of Mormon,” “The Play That Goes Wrong,” “Don Juan in Soho,” “Phantom of the Opera,” “STOMP,” “The Lion King” and “Kinky Boots.” Pictured from left to right are: Lily Jones, of Omaha, Neb.; Dyrani Clark, of Loveland, Colo.; Alaina Bertsch, of Mitchell; Ian Hyde, of Irvine, Calif.; and Chris Gollnick, of Bradley. (submitted photo)

Dakota Wesleyan nursing students, athletic training students and students involved in CHAOS (sciences) Club partnered with the Rural Health Initiative at DWU to host a health fair for L.B. Williams Elementary School students earlier this semester in the Christen Family Athletic Center gym. The children were split into groups and learned about the function of the colon, the function of the human heart (and also got to touch cows’ hearts), how the brain’s neurons work, and about proper stretching techniques to improve flexibility. This was the first year DWU hosted a health fair. Shown here are nursing students, senior Matthew Fouberg, of Mitchell, and junior Breanne Styles, of Mitchell, giving children a tour inside the inflatable heart on loan from Avera Queen of Peace.
By Mari Olson

The world of athletic training has changed considerably since Dr. Lana Loken and Dr. Dan Wagner first joined the profession; and with changes come the constant need for revision to the program and curriculum at Dakota Wesleyan University.

This is why DWU’s new athletic training master’s degree will take the place of its current Bachelor of Science degree in athletic training – a decision made based on new professional standards requiring professional athletic trainers to be master’s prepared.

In an effort to stay current and competitive, Loken and Wagner, who co-chair the athletic training department at DWU, set to work creating a program that allows students to obtain their entire education, completing a Master of Athletic Training degree in five years as opposed to six or more.

Beginning this fall, freshmen will declare as pre-athletic training and be advised by the athletic training faculty on courses and prerequisites that are required to apply for DWU’s athletic training program. This is a common model for medical professions which do not require a four-year bachelor’s degree to apply, only a designated number of course credits and/or clinical credits and prerequisites.

“Athletic training is a medical profession, and to follow suit in training and education, the program is adopting this ‘pre-med’ model, but that’s not to say that students could not still obtain a four-year degree and apply for our Master of Athletic Training program – they certainly can,” said Loken, clinical education coordinator and athletic training professor.

In cases where students wish to obtain a bachelor’s degree, wish to fulfill athletic eligibility, and/or transfer from another program, the application process will be the same as it is for those students who declared pre-athletic training as freshmen – the difference is time.

“You can take our program as quickly or as slowly as you want to,” Loken added. “There will be incoming freshmen with enough college credits that they could finish the pre-AT portion in two years and apply for the master’s program and if accepted, finish an M.A.T. in four years. There are also students who will take six or seven years because they are student-athletes who redshirt as freshmen and have four years of eligibility – we will work with all students on the path that works for them.”

DWU received approval from the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) in December, and at the time, DWU was one of two schools in South Dakota to offer the program, but recently one more university has chosen to make the switch. This program change is nationwide, but not all programs will make the transition, they said.

“When we first began the process, we were told that maybe 30 percent of schools were going to have the three-plus-two program with a master’s degree, partly because of the work, resources and faculty standards that are required, but now they are projecting 70 percent of schools will make the switch because the requirement for a master’s degree has become that necessary to stay competitive and relevant in the field,” said Wagner, director of athletic training and professor of athletic training.

“Healthcare is constantly evolving and with it, the requirements in higher education and professional standards,” Wagner continued. “What sophomores in athletic training are learning today is material I learned during my master’s program, so the content and rigor of athletic training programs really are on par with a master’s program. The change to DWU’s program will be that students at DWU can finish their courses and prerequisites in three years and apply for the two-year master’s degree.”

For students who declare as freshmen and choose the five-year track, they will not only graduate one year earlier than their peers, thus entering the field sooner, but they will also benefit from DWU’s master’s program price tag: two years of DWU’s M.A.T. is less than one year of a bachelor’s.

“Our program is rigorous. It is accredited, we have a track record for testing and placement that we are extremely proud of, and by offering a three-plus-two degree completion program for a master’s, we know we are going to fill a niche in an industry that right now is losing a lot of programs nationwide that do not have the ability to push forward with these standards,” Wagner said.

Each incoming class will be capped at 20. DWU also has partner schools in area community colleges which have strong programs that pair well with DWU’s – the DWU admissions transfer counselor works with these schools to ensure that declared pre-AT students take all the necessary courses so when they graduate, they can finish their third year of prerequisites at DWU and immediately apply for the master’s program, still completing the full program in five years.

Any current or incoming student at DWU can discuss the new program with athletic training faculty at any time, and applications for the M.A.T. degree will open this fall; classes will begin summer 2018. For more information about the program, visit www.dwu.edu/academics/majors-minors/athletic-training.

DWU athletic training staff, left to right: Dan Wagner, Randi Christensen, Lana Loken and Jarod Guthmiller
Kelly Pfeifer '03 has found a way to make college basketball a large part of his life and career well beyond his days as a Tiger.

"During the summers when I was a student, I refereed team camps," said Pfeifer. "Coach (Doug) Martin encouraged me and told me I should get into coaching or reffing."

Fast forward 14 years: Pfeifer just finished a basketball season that saw him referee 91 NCAA Division I games in 27 states.

As a DWU student, Pfeifer majored in education and thought he would be a teacher and coach. But his career was circuitous, and he's done everything from working for UPS to owning and managing a bar/restaurant to banking. In 2010, while working for UPS, he was approached about a promotion that would require a move out of Mitchell. He had recently met a woman who caused him to rethink his future.

"When I met Ashley (Mailey '11), I knew I didn’t want to leave Mitchell," he said.

Perhaps it was providential that one of Pfeifer’s noon basketball teammates was an owner of Mitchell’s Vantage Point Solutions, an engineering and consulting company.

"Vantage Point had started a banking division and basically needed someone to sell banking-related services," Pfeifer said. "The timing was perfect."

Pfeifer signed on with Vantage Point, and as the customer relations manager he works with banks on their security, regulatory compliance and technology challenges. For about half of the year, however, he scales back to part time so he can travel the country refereeing basketball.

Throughout his time working in various fields, basketball has been the constant; he moved from refereeing the team camps at DWU to junior varsity high school games at the Corn Palace. Two years after graduating from DWU, he started officiating games in the Great Plains Athletic Conference. Then, it was on to the Northern Sun Conference and junior colleges in Minnesota.

"In 2009, I attended a DI camp in Kansas City and was hired to the Summit League," he said.

Now, he is a referee for 11 Division I conferences, but the travel isn’t prohibitive for Pfeifer.

"We live right in the middle of the country," he said. "It's pretty easy to get anywhere."

Although 14 years out of college, Pfeifer is still incredibly fit – a necessity for a guy whose job includes running up and down a basketball court for 40 minutes. He sweats by yoga, which he does four or five days a week, he lifts weights regularly and does some kind of cardio activity, though he doesn’t include running in his in-season workouts.

"I want to save my knees for the game," he said.

In March, he officiated the Arizona versus North Dakota game in the first round of the NCAA Division I Tournament, and his goal is to continue officiating for many years to come. Pfeifer says he is "accustomed to the stage" that is Division I basketball, and relates it to his time as an education student.

"Reffing is a lot like teaching," he said. "The kids are just older." Even with his intense schedule, Pfeifer remains connected to his alma mater. He volunteers with the men’s and women’s basketball teams, and he and Ashley are involved with TeamMakers, as well.

"Kelly continues to be a great supporter of our basketball team," said men’s head basketball coach Matt Wilber. "While his career in officiating is taking off and he is as busy as ever, he still volunteers his time to help us with scrimmages and working with our guys any time I ask him for help. It has been awesome to see a DWU alum take off in the college basketball world at the level that Kelly is a part of."

Pfeifer is quick to give credit for his success to his supportive spouse and to his alma mater.

"We love being able to give back to the college," Pfeifer said. "Because everything ties back to DWU."
The Final Bow
for Patten-Wing as Theatre Takes New Stage

By Mari Olson

2017 THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES: "The Marvelous Wonderettes" was this spring’s musical, and the last play staged in Patten-Wing. As the cast took its last bow, Patten-Wing Theatre was officially retired for DWU productions.

THE HISTORY of theatre at Dakota Wesleyan is actually anything but dramatic – from the beginning years of oratory and pageants to the eventual addition of drama courses and full seasons – the theatre presence has been gradual and constant.

This spring, the curtain closed on the Patten-Wing Theatre, which served Dakota Wesleyan as a chapel, auditorium, recital hall and theatrical stage for 105 years. Though it’s possible Patten-Wing will be used by student groups for different activities, its days as the college’s official stage are done.

It seems appropriate now to look back on some of the milestones of the DWU theatre department, and in particular Patten-Wing, as the university prepares to inaugurate its new black box theatre this homecoming.

ACT I: Setting the Stage

Dakota University was founded in 1885, and by 1910 there was a need for more space to accommodate enrollment and program growth. Science Hall became the school’s third academic structure when it opened in 1912.

Inside this beautiful new quartzite, four-story building were labs, classrooms, offices, a museum, lecture hall and the university’s chapel.

The chapel’s south wall featured three stained glass windows representing the melding of faith, sciences and the arts. They provided the backdrop to chapel services, public lectures, recitals, musical performances and eventually pageants and productions of a more dramatic nature. From 1941 to 1976, they were covered with plaster on the inside to block out the light, but were uncovered and restored and black curtains were purchased.

1916 CLASS DAY DANCE: In addition to chapel services, the DWU music department used the space for concerts, and students interested in public speaking and performance might have given recitals or performed pageants, such as the class day dance shown here.

1929 ORCHESTRA
**ACT II: Drama’s Growth**

Though drama was not a part of the original curriculum at DWU, the student and staff participation in plays and pageants is probably to credit for the evolution of the program.

In the beginning, elocution courses and individual classes were the foundation of what would later develop into a formal dramatics education, coming by way of the award-winning oratory and debates, student and staff-produced plays, and recitals and pageants. The first student presentation of original drama was Feb. 22, 1895, in the former College Hall chapel.

DWU’s first drama courses fell under English literature in 1910, and 10 years later Shakespeare and other “dramatic interpretations were among the courses regularly offered to summer school students.”

In approximately 1946-47, director Willard Jordan began incorporating productions and lessons to teach college students how to teach drama at the high school level.

“The all-college Christmas Masque held in 1926 showed elements of the traditional theatrical background that was becoming a part of the Wesleyan students’ training,” wrote Katherine Tracy Schilling ’47 in “The History of Dramatic Art at Dakota Wesleyan University, 1885-1956.”

**ACT III: Pageantry and Musicals**

Student-directed plays are still a part of the DWU theatre experience, and they can be traced back to 1923 with student-directed senior plays. Pageants and recitations were also incorporated into university celebrations, such as Commencement, the university’s 25th and 50th anniversaries, and as recently as the groundbreaking for the new theatre.

Musicals have been performed on and off campus throughout the university’s history. Though there was an 18-year gap between 1993’s production of “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” and 2011’s revival of the DWU musical with “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” the musical is again an annual event under the direction of Dan Miller, theatre director, and Dr. Clinton Desmond, choral director.

**PHIL KAYE ’42:** The senior play became a popular staple to Commencement events, and clubs and honor societies were created supporting the arts, especially under the direction of DWU graduate Phil Kaye ’42, 1947-56, who in addition to regular productions, created a new organization, the Theatre Goers, and established scholarships for entering drama students. He also founded the Drama Guild, the Prompt Book, and brought the Theta Alpha Phi organization back to life.

**1928 ROBIN HOOD:** Large stage productions started to appear like “Robin Hood,” performed in the Metropolitan Theatre in Mitchell, with music by Dakota Wesleyan University Orchestra.

**1950-51 RELIGIOUS DRAMA TOUR:** This photo from the Tumbleweed shows the Religious Drama Tour actors who performed “This Night Shall Pass.” The English department, as well as clubs and societies like Zeta Alpha, Theta Alpha Phi, the Religious Drama group, the Drama Guild, the Show Goers and others, all encouraged, motivated and/or produced much of the early theatre on campus and continued throughout the decades to come. The Religious Drama group toured the region to perform student-directed and acted plays.

**1993 YOU’RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN**

**1935 PHRENO COSMIAN STUDENT NEWSPAPER:** This copy of the Phreno discusses plans for the upcoming Golden Jubilee for DWU, where the students produced a pageant at the Corn Palace celebrating “Fifty Golden Years.” The pageant traced the school’s history from pioneer days and involved more than 500 people from DWU and the Mitchell public schools.
In fall 2016, DWU celebrated the groundbreaking for a new black box theatre with an office, dressing rooms, green room, scene shop and a state-of-the-art space to teach and experience the art of theatre. This new building is attached to the Dakota Discovery Museum on the east side of campus.

Under his tenure, Miller has added a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree to the university’s programming – the only private university B.F.A. offered in the state; began an association with the Kennedy Center so that theatre students participate in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, many receiving various accolades for their work; formed a relationship with Sioux Empire Community Theatre; and also Miller continues to lead theatre trips to London for students to experience professional performances.

*It is an exciting time for the arts at Dakota Wesleyan University as we open a facility with the purpose to share, teach and enhance the university community with the rich history and artistry of theatre,* Miller said.

Drama has been a part of the university’s culture and entertainment since the doors opened to its first students more than 130 years ago.

Drawing the curtains to a close on Patten-Wing is saying goodbye to an old friend, but DWU’s department of theatre will continue to mold the university experience as the curtain rises on a new facility.
By Jerrett Mills ’16
Sports Contributor

No-look, one-handed passes were the signature move of Mitchell native TATE MARTIN, sending fans into a fired-up frenzy on cold winter nights in the World’s Only Corn Palace.

After recording one of the most storied careers in the history of Dakota Wesleyan University men’s basketball, Martin etched his name into the DWU record books after passing Lynn Frederick ’77 for most assists in a season with 286. The 40-year-old record wasn’t the only milestone surpassed by the prolific passer. Martin also broke the record for most assists in a career with 832, passing Frederick who had tallied 618 from 1973 to 1977.

After playing for Mitchell coaching legend Gary Munson, Martin traveled north to Bismarck, N.D., where he began his college basketball career at NCAA DII University of Mary. However, Martin’s stay in the north was short-lived, and he transferred home to DWU.

“It was a no-brainer to come home and play in the Corn Palace,” Martin said. “I wanted to start a career with my former teammates and friends Jade Miller and Trae Bergh.”

In his first-ever game in a Tiger uniform, Martin showed his dynamic ability by dishing out 14 assists; he went on to lead the Great Plains Athletic Conference in assists with 185, and that was just the beginning. The next season was one to remember as Martin was a key component to the Tigers when they tallied a runner-up finish at the 2015 NAIA Men’s National Basketball Championship in Point Lookout, Mo., guiding the Tigers to national prominence.

“That was the most memorable part of my career, going down to Branson for the first time,” Martin said. “Making a run to the national championship is something we will all cherish for a lifetime. When you look back, you don’t look back at the wins and losses, but the journey and the best season DWU men’s basketball has ever had.”

However, the next two seasons were the turning point for the 5-foot-11 point guard. As Martin began to blossom into the high-flying motion offense of Tigers’ head coach Matt Wilber, the Tigers grew into one of the top-scoring threats in the nation.

“Coach Wilber’s and my relationship took off,” said Martin, “and he had a trust in me that went beyond the basketball court, and made my confidence on the floor reach a new level.”

After tallying a season-high 29 points against Tabor College on Nov. 14, 2015, Martin propelled the Tigers to a 23-11 record and another trip to the NAIA National Championship in 2016. For his efforts, Martin was named All-GPAC First Team and All-American Honorable Mention for the first time in his career. He also posted his highest scoring average in his career with 14.8 points per game.

Martin ultimately saved the best for last heading into his senior season. Sparked by a seven-game winning streak in the first part of the season, including wins over Southeastern University and York College in the Mike Miller Classic, the Tigers were poised to make a run in the competitive Great Plains Athletic Conference.

On Feb. 12, the Tigers welcomed Concordia University to town, and a packed Corn Palace crowd witnessed one of the best games of Martin’s career...

DWU took a 2-point lead into the locker room at halftime, and Martin had recorded only nine points. But he came out on fire after the half, and went on to tally a career-high 35 points on 14-of-21 shooting from the field and 12 assists. The Tigers fell in overtime 109-106, but 10 days later in the GPAC Tournament, DWU took care of the Bulldogs 95-90 in Mitchell.

“He’s got the best vision I have seen in a point guard,” said Wilber.

The Tigers went on to receive an at-large berth into the NAIA Men’s National Basketball Championship, making it the third time Martin led the Tigers to Branson. DWU fell to the College of Idaho 98-93, but not without a fight.

“He wanted to be a leader and being at that point guard position really helped,” Wilber said. “I am really proud of him and how he developed into that position, and we won games because of it.”

Martin was named the 2017 GPAC Player-of-the-Year and was named an NAIA All-American First-Team honoree. He finished with 1,257 points, putting him in the Top 35 in all-time scoring.

“Looking back, that last year was special for me, not because of some of the records I had, but the relationships I made, especially with Coach Wilber and coach Jacob Brandt,” Martin said. “When I look at those relationships, they had a lot of confidence in me to be a leader, which is why I had the season I did. I just want to thank Wilber and Brandt for having that trust in me.”

Following his graduation, Martin will be moving to the sidelines and will assist Wilber as a graduate assistant coach next season. He hopes to eventually become an athletic director or work in the front office for a professional basketball team.
During his senior year in high school, **TY HOGULUND** flushed a two-handed slam dunk at the DWU Classic in the World's Only Corn Palace. The audience included many Dakota Wesleyan University fans and coaches, including head men's basketball coach Matt Wilber.

Fast-forward one year, and Hoglund drained eye-popping 3-pointers and multiple slam dunks in front of near-capacity Corn Palace crowds – this time in a Tiger uniform. The Tiger freshman was one of the top recruits in the state of South Dakota. He was the South Dakota Class “A” Player-of-the-Year, Gatorade Player-of-the-Year and Mr. Basketball, averaging 26.5 points per game at Dell Rapids High School. The list of accolades grew during his freshman year at DWU.

After making it to the NAIA Men’s National Basketball Tournament in Branson, Mo., Hoglund was second on the team in points per game with 18.4 and led the team in steals, starting in every game as a freshman. For his efforts, Hoglund was named NAIA All-American Honorable Mention and Great Plains Athletic Conference Freshman-of-the-Year. He was also the third leading scorer in the GPAC.

“Ty was just dynamic,” said Wilber. “He had such a good year, and you talk about a guy who got better as the year went on. He was such a sponge for a guy coming out of high school.”

Hoglund became the third freshman in DWU basketball history to receive freshman-of-the-year honors, following David Nour (2001-02) and Jalen Voss (2011-12). In just one year, Hoglund tallied 608 points and is on track to become a member of the 1,000-point club and possibly the prestigious 2,000-career point club, among names that include Alan Miller ’86, Greg Hansen ’74 and Brady Wiebe ’11, all of whom have retired jersey banners hanging in the Corn Palace.

“We have had Class “A” and Class “B” guys who have had great success here, and that’s what Ty is,” Wilber said.

But, it’s just the beginning. What does the future hold for the talented sophomore who grew up in a town of fewer than 4,000 people?

“He is one of our guys who will assume a bigger leadership role now that Tate is gone,” Wilber noted. “He doesn’t take days off, and guys who do that can assume a leadership role.”

On the court, Hoglund put on impressive offensive displays, adding to the threat of offensive weapons Jason Spicer, Trae Vandeberg and Tate Martin. Reaching triple digits in the Corn Palace became a common occurrence.

“Tate took me in as a big brother and showed me how to be a leader,” Hoglund said. “At any level of basketball, there isn’t a better passer than Tate Martin. He can pass with all of them. I would take him passing the ball over any point guard in the nation.”

However, it was just the first year for Hoglund, and the Tiger faithful cannot wait until the doors open to the Palace for next season. Wilber and Co. lose just one senior in Martin and return a plethora of talented youth.

“I came to DWU because of the culture on the court and on campus,” Hoglund said. “I see my professors in the community, and they ask me about the game last night or how I am doing and it doesn’t stop there. Coach Wilber is a player’s coach, and we don’t thank him or coach Jacob Brandl enough for everything they do.”
Erica Herrold became one of the prominent scoring threats in the history of Dakota Wesleyan University women’s basketball. Herrold stamped her name in the DWU all-time scoring list, climbing to fifth with 1,618 points in her career. The Dimock native was named an NAIA All-American twice and was an All-GPAC First-Team performer as a junior and senior. Herrold tallied a career-high 25 points and six rebounds in her final year as a Tiger, helping DWU reach the NAIA DII Women’s National Basketball Tournament for the second year in a row.
Men’s Basketball
The DWU men’s basketball team finished the 2016-17 season ranked 20th in the final NAIA Division II Men’s Basketball Coaches’ Top 25 Poll with a 23-10 record. The Tigers fell 98-93 to the College of Idaho in the first round of the NAIA Division II Men’s Basketball National Championships. The lone senior, Tate Martin, was named NAIA All-American First Team and the GPAC Player-of-the-Year. Martin finished with 1,257 points, putting him 33rd in DWU history; along with 832 assists, good for first in DWU history. Ty Hoglund made an immediate impact in his freshman season as he was named NAIA All-American Honorable Mention and GPAC Freshman-of-the-Year. Heading into their final seasons, Jason Spicer and Trae Vandeberg look to lead the Tiger offense after each joined the 1,000-point club in their junior campaigns. Spicer was named NAIA All-American Honorable Mention and All-GPAC First Team, while Vandeberg was named All-GPAC Second Team.

Women’s Basketball
The 2016-17 team tied the 2015-16 team for third most wins in program history with 27. The DWU women’s basketball team finished the season ranked eighth in the final NAIA Division II Women’s Basketball Coaches’ Top 25 Poll. The Tigers lost 83-75 in the second round of the NAIA Women’s Division II National Basketball Championships to Eastern Oregon University. In the first round, the Tigers defeated Milligan College 66-54. Ashley Bray was named NAIA All-American Second Team and All-GPAC First Team after scoring her 1,000th-career point. Bray led the team with 12.9 points and 5.7 rebounds per game. Erica Herrold finished her career with an NAIA All-American Honorable Mention nod and an All-GPAC First-Team finish. Herrold ranks fifth in the DWU all-time scoring list with 1,618-career points. Rylie Osthus continued her success at the point guard position for the Tigers after being named All-GPAC Second Team. Amber Bray, Kristin Sabers and Sarah Carr were named All-GPAC Honorable Mention. The Tigers grabbed their first No. 1 ranking in the NAIA since the 2004 season.

Wrestling
The young DWU wrestling squad looks to improve off their 2016-17 season after graduating one senior. The Tigers were led by sophomore Matt Schirado who finished fourth at the NAIA North National Qualifier. Schirado wrestled in the 197-pound weight class. Sjon Snitly finished his first season with the Tigers with a fourth-place finish at the NAIA North National Qualifier in the 149-pound weight class. Head coach Nick Hutcherson enters his third season at the helm of the DWU wrestling team and has added four recruits for the 2017-18 season.

Baseball
The DWU baseball season ended in the GPAC Tournament in a 17-11 loss to Morningside College. The Tigers finished the season 18-31 overall. The Tigers landed eight players, including six seniors, on the All-GPAC Honorable Mention list. Patrick Whetham recorded a 4-5 record as the ace for the Tigers and led the team in strikeouts with 66. Jared Neian led the offense with eight home runs, 37 RBIs and a .225 batting average. DWU graduated 13 seniors from last year’s roster, but will bring back experience in the lineup, including a talented group of recruits who will look to make an immediate impact.

Softball
Five members of the DWU softball team earned All-GPAC honors during the 2017 season. Paige Kinley led the team in various categories, including batting average (.384), at-bats (159), runs (33), hits (61), triples (2), slugging percentage (.535) and stolen bases (6). Sophomore Amber Budmark became a crucial piece for the Tigers with a .338 batting average, five home runs and 30 RBIs. Lorissa Loeppky led the team on the mound after a 9-10 record with a 5.08 ERA and led all pitchers with the lowest opponent batting average at .311. The Tigers graduated two seniors and look to add more depth to the roster with returners and signees for the 2018 season.

Women’s Golf
Senior Kristin Sabers concluded her athletic career on the golf course this spring, notching a second-place finish at the GPAC Championships at the Quail Run Golf Course in Columbus, Neb. She shot a four-round total of 324, while freshman Emily Sharkey finished in the Top 40 with a total of 414. As a team, the Tigers finished in seventh place with a total of 1,487.

Men’s Golf
After the GPAC Championships were postponed in the fall of 2016 due to inclement weather, the DWU men’s golf team brought home a third-place finish this spring. Senior Tom Hogg finished tied for second overall in the conference with a four-round total of 305. Connor Preston concluded his first season tied for 13th after shooting a total of 314. The Tigers graduate seven seniors, but bring in seven new members for next season.

Women’s Track
Sophomore Kamberlyn Lamer competed at the NAIA Women’s Outdoor Track and Field National Championship in the long jump in Gulf Shores, Ala. She qualified for the championships with a school-record leap of 18-1 3/4. Lamer finished in 40th-place at the championships with a leap of 16-7 3/4. At the GPAC Outdoor Championships, Lamer finished fifth in the heptathlon. Freshman Alyssa Weidler took fifth in the long jump with a jump of 17-2 1/4, while Kristen Longville finished seventh in the triple jump at 34-9.

Men’s Track
The outdoor season concluded at the GPAC Championships with senior Gabe Dirksen taking home a fifth-place finish in the Decathlon. Lane Tibbs finished his season with a fourth-place finish in the 3,000-meter steeplechase in 9:57.48. Jeremiah Panec finished the 1,500-meter run in 12th with a time of 4:10.37. The Tigers graduated one senior while returning a number of experienced athletes and signees for next season.

Tiger Schedules
Visit www.dwuathletics.com to view updated athletic schedules for Wesleyan’s fall sports.

TeamMakers
Visit www.dwuathletics.com/teammakers/ to join TeamMakers, DWU’s booster club. These funds help Dakota Wesleyan recruit the highest quality student-athletes from South Dakota and beyond.

Follow us on:

#BleedBlue
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 and visitors” link at www.dwu.edu and click on “update alumni information” to tell us what’s new with you.

1940s

Ellen Dalzell Brady '42 welcomed a new great-granddaughter, Cora Gene. Cora is the daughter of Jackie McOmber Zinkgraf ex'06 and Adam Zinkgraf, and she joins a 3-year-old sister, Zoey Rae.

LaVerne Moe Olson '49 is the librarian of the Presho Public Library and previously worked as a teacher/librarian in the Presho School District from 1946 to 1994. In 2006, she became a Modern Woodmen Junior Club leader.

1950s

Del Black ex'56 co-authored a locally best-selling book “From Worst to First” about the history of Kansas City Major League Baseball.

1960s

Stu '65 and Georgiann Crum '64 Crouse are now full-time Arizona residents and are enjoying the sunshine and scenery of the Southwest. They are active members of the Red Mountain United Methodist Church in Mesa.

Larry '65 and Carol Malde ex'67 Hasz have announced that Larry will be retiring from farming.

Vianne Schooler Stensaas '65 and spouse, Harlan, are enjoying their 20 great-grandchildren. The couple recently visited Washington D.C., and enjoyed a Gaither cruise to see the glaciers in Alaska.

Dakota Wesleyan installed a new sign on the corner of Norway Avenue and Duff Street, welcoming people on the south side of campus. The sign was completed at the end of fall semester, and the landscaping was finished this spring.

The J. Leonard Jennewein Memorial Scholarship Fund

The J. Leonard Jennewein Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in memory of Leonard Jennewein, a distinguished and influential professor of English and history from 1955 to 1968. An anonymous donor is offering a challenge to fellow alumni to join him with donations to complete the funding.

Make a gift online or by mail.

Mail:
Institutional Advancement
J. Leonard Jennewein Scholarship Fund
Dakota Wesleyan University
1200 W. University Ave.
Mitchell, SD 57301

Online:
www.dwu.edu/give
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class notes.

1970s

Nola Gall Lonigro ’70 retired from her position as a music teacher. She is now giving part-time instrumental lessons and enjoys participating in six bands and two choral choirs, while directing a bell choir and children’s church choir.

Betty Van Soest ’70 retired in 2014 after teaching second grade in White Lake for 44 years.

Rex Piercy ’71 and his spouse, Lee Johnsen, spent 10 weeks in Hawaii, Australia and New Zealand. In Hawaii, Rex did pulpit supply for a church on Kauai. He will return there in the fall to do a three-month coverage while the pastor is on sabbatical.

Bob Knebel ’73 was appointed senior pastor of West Hartford United Methodist Church in West Hartford, Conn., on July 1, 2016.

Bruce ’73 and Gail Hoe ’74 Heimbuck recently moved to Cheyenne, Wyo., following Gail’s retirement from her position as community education coordinator in Guernsey, Wyo. Bruce is continuing his part-time work in community development for Guernsey. They traveled to Australia and New Zealand this spring and look forward to exploring Eastern Europe next year.

Judy Jensen Sayler ex’75 lives in Wakonda with her spouse, Roger. Judy begins her fifth year as a pastor, appointed to Wakonda and Irene United Methodist churches.

1980s

Anne Hoy Kriese ’84 and Doris Hoy Brekhus ’86, along with the Rev. Joel Higgins, former DWU campus pastor, and other members of Celebration United Methodist Church in Brandon, went on a medical and construction mission to the island of La Gonâve, Haiti.

Scott Dornbush ’85 has been appointed senior pastor of Kingwood United Methodist Church in Kingwood, Texas. He will begin his new appointment on July 1.

Lyndon Overweg ’88 was named Person of the Year by the Mitchell Daily Republic. Lyndon is the chief of the Mitchell Public Safety Department. He received this honor for his efforts and dedication to Mitchell, which includes helping lead a massive fundraising project for the city’s future Veterans Park. (Photo by Matt Gade/Daily Republic)

1990s

Mike Rogers ’90, right, principal at East Middle School in Sioux City, Iowa, was the winner of the 2017 Tolerance Week Courage to Teach award. (Photo courtesy of Sioux City Community School District)

Commencement

DWU graduated 236 students on May 7 at the Corn Palace. Shown from left to right: Michelle Van Epps, of Lakefield, Minn.; Aisha Abbink, of Scotland; Taylor Smith Risse, of Saratoga, Wyo.; and Shelbie Budmayr, of Belle Fourche.

Judie Van Winkle Stewart ’65 and her spouse, Gordon, went on a 13-day trip to Israel and Jordan. They had a wonderful experience that included riding a camel and being baptized in the Jordan River.

Betty Van Soest ’70 retired in 2014 after teaching second grade in White Lake for 44 years.

South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard presents Anna Marie Teachout Thatcher ’70 and her spouse, Graham, an award for Outstanding Support of the Arts by an Individual. The Thatcher’s live in Rapid City.
class notes.

Nancy Dokken Deiter '95 and spouse, James, will celebrate 55 years of marriage in June. They have three children, six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. Nancy notes that DWU was one of the best experiences of her life.

Travis McIntosh '97 will be the Riverton Lady Wolverines' head girls' basketball coach in Riverton, Wyo.

Alison Gantvoort Tendler '97 will join the DWU Board of Trustees this fall. Alison is a partner and co-owner at Vance Thompson Vision in Sioux Falls and has worked as a cataract, refractive, cornea and oculoplastic surgeon since 2006. She is also the spokeswoman for RESTASIS.

Cody Schuler '98 was named the executive director of the Fargo-Moorhead Coalition for Homeless Persons. The coalition is made up of more than 60 partners working together in achieving permanent solutions to prevent, reduce and end homelessness. Cody has been with the organization for the past two years, serving as assistant director of the coalition and coordinator of the North Dakota and West Central Minnesota HUD-mandated coordinated entry program.

2000s

Christy Rohlfs Saltsman '00 and her spouse, Brad, welcomed their second daughter, Abby Sue, on Sept. 29, 2016. She joins a big sister, Kyley Ann. The family lives in Gettysburg.

Kary Brooks Davis '01 recently graduated from Argosy University of Denver with a Master of Education Administration. She is currently a Title One instructional coach in the largest school district in Colorado Springs. She coaches teachers in effective strategies to increase achievement for urban, low-socioeconomic students.

Becky Swanson '04 is now a professor of mathematics at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colo. Becky is married to Steve Pankavich, and they have a new daughter, Eloise.

DWU Grads at Minnesota Vikings Game
Brendan Sheppard '01, Jason Campbell '01, Dan Nelson '02, Brook Begeman '01, Walter “Joe Kane” Reeves III '00 and Chris Marquardt '01 enjoy a trip to the new Minnesota Vikings stadium.

Wiebe's No. 32 Basketball Jersey Retired
Former Dakota Wesleyan All-American Brady Wiebe '11 had his number retired before the Tigers played Hastings College on Jan. 27, 2017. Brady stands with his spouse, Kristin, and their son, Paxton.
Jory Hansen '07, '09 and his spouse, Dani, celebrated the birth of their son, Brayden Curtis. He joins his two-year-old sister, Claire.

Keri Nebelsick '07 joined Avera Medical Group Optometry in Mitchell.

2010s
Malik Stewart '10, of St. Cloud, Minn., has accepted a position as a development officer for the institutional advancement office at the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, Minn. He was formerly in the admissions office for both Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University.

Kelsie Nebelsick '10 recently married Kevin Hagelin.

Seth LaBounty '11 has been appointed as Pastor of Discipleship at Pierre First United Methodist Church.

Jordan Miller '11 filmed an episode of “Run2Gun,” his fitness and hunting TV show on the Midco Sports Network and the Pursuit channel, at the DWU/Avera Sports and Wellness Complex last fall. It aired in January.


Valerie Hummel LaBounty '14 has been appointed pastor at Southeast Pierre United Methodist Church, beginning July 1. She graduated from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree on May 12.

Autumn Krueger '14 has been appointed pastor at Anchor Park United Methodist Church, Anchorage, Alaska, beginning July 1. She graduated this spring from Candler School of Theology in Atlanta with her Master of Divinity degree.

Worship Under the Stars
Worship Under the Stars featured music by... ukuleles! The little stringed instrument has enjoyed popularity on campus. Back row, left to right: Ariana Arampatzis, Niki Nelson, Nick Raab, Sydnee Hamann and Bryce Blank. Front row: Kiana Kuchta, Mikayla Street and Mckenna Rogers.

DWU Spring Choir Tour
The Highlanders and Wesleyan Bells pose with Brad Pratt '79, DWU Board of Trustees chairperson, at a church in Mankato, Minn.
class notes.

Megan Reimnitz ‘14 is now the owner of Adorn Boutique, a clothing store in Mitchell.

Joe Selvig ‘14 teaches English at a Top 10 nationally ranked public high school in Beijing, China.


Andrew DeVaney ‘15 received a full-tuition Kern Scholarship to Denver Seminary. He is currently in his second year of the Master of Divinity program. Andrew is the CEO and founder of AsOne Ministries, and works as a Justice Seminarian at Bloom Church in Denver. (See story at right.)

Kelsey Warns Morgan ‘15 joined the Dakotas United Methodist Foundation staff as an administrative assistant in December.

Dustin Steckler ‘16 has accepted a position teaching high school mathematics in Dell Rapids.

Deaths


Lois Williams Giesler ‘40, of Salem, died Nov. 29, 2016.


DWU connections to East Africa grow

AsOne Ministries is a Christian nonprofit organization created in July 2015 by Andrew DeVaney ‘15 (shown above). DeVaney recruited volunteers and board members to round out his organization, which serves in parts of Uganda and Rwanda to promote church empowerment.

This spring, AsOne combined forces with Esperance Education Institute (EEI), a nonprofit created by Dr. Alisha Vincent, director of the McGovern Center at DWU. EEI’s focus on education and entrepreneurship – particularly empowering local women with the knowledge and resources to support their families – had many of the same goals as AsOne Ministries. Through EEI and the McGovern Center, Vincent mentored students who created soap projects, small-business planning, education planning and raised funds for Livestock for Life – a program that gifted livestock to local families. Vincent now serves as the chairwoman of the AsOne Ministries Board.

In addition to DeVaney and Vincent, the following DWU alumni and staff are also involved: MacKenzie Stevens ‘15 serves as director of media and design; Jordan Buchholz ‘16 is serving with Tendo Education Centre, helping with teacher training and development; Isaac Van Essen, of Sioux Falls, serves as the board’s secretary and is also returning this summer to volunteer; Dr. Katie Morrison, assistant professor for business and economics at DWU, serves as treasurer of the board; and Dr. Joel Allen, associate professor of religion, serves on the board. In the past, other DWU students and alumni have also taken part in AsOne Ministries and EEI service-learning trips, and AsOne is now offering internship opportunities.

To learn more about this organization, how to volunteer or donate, visit its website at www.asoneafrica.org.
Flossie Lindblad Stechmann '47, of Mitchell, died March 8, 2017. She is survived by a sister, Bernice Lindblad McKillip '41, and a daughter, Gail Stechmann Dawn '72.

Norma Foster Kokesh '47, of Mitchell, died Dec. 12, 2016.

Nancy Sugg-Koenig ex'47, of Kansas City, Mo., died March 17, 2017.

Ellen Hegvold Crockett '48, of Mitchell, died March 7, 2017.


Bill Peterson ex'51, of South Sioux City, Neb., died Feb. 28, 2017.

LaJoy Clendening Thompsen MH'51, of Esmond, died Nov. 22, 2016. She is survived by her daughter, Lynette Thompsen Steiner MH'75, and her granddaughter, Rachelle Steiner '17. LaJoy has a long family tradition of DWU graduates.


LeNora Woods Busk '54, '67, of Madison, died Dec. 18, 2016. She is survived by her spouse, David Busk '60.

AdaRae Iverson Hartford MH'56, of Redfield, died March 1, 2016.

Richard Roth '56, of Rhinelander, Wis., died Oct. 8, 2016.


Betty Nelson Patten '59, of Mitchell, died Jan. 10, 2017. She is survived by her daughter, Tammy Patten Parks '83. Betty comes from a family that has a long tradition of DWU alumni.

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**DWU Alumni Open Mile**

DWU alumni and friends participated in a friendly competition during the Alumni Open Mile at the first indoor track meet held in the DWU/Avera Sports and Wellness Complex on Feb. 4, 2017. Pictured back row, left to right: William Schiefer, Colin Duffy '10, Bob Lemmon, Thomas Madut '10, DWU professor Dr. Joel Allen and Sarah Weidler '12; front row: Jessie Pederson Fossum '13 and DWU professor Dr. Alisha Vincent.

**Proud to Stay Home Scholarship**

Jeff Larson '89, standing right, presented five Mitchell Kernels football student-athletes with the Proud to Stay Home Scholarship. Bryce Geraets, front left; Cody Reichelt; Seth Paulson; Spencer Neugebauer; and Alex Klingaman, standing left; received the scholarship in memory of Marlene Larson, mother to alumni Jeff, Scott Larson '91 and Chad Larson '94. Each year scholarships are given to Mitchell football and/or baseball recruits who stay home to compete for the DWU Tigers.
class notes.

Gwendolyn Williams Hoffer '60, of Reliance, died Nov. 18, 2016.

Geraldine Nammenga Waldo MH'60, of Paris, Texas, died March 10, 2016.

Ophelia Breisch MH'61, of Scotland, died April 11, 2017.


Delmer Johnson ex'62, of Sioux City, Iowa, died April 12, 2017.


Nellie King '65, of Mitchell, died Dec. 20, 2016.

Daryll Vitaska '65, of Houston, died Feb. 20, 2017.

Joe Kotrba ex'66, of Mitchell, died Jan. 24, 2017. Joe is survived by his daughters, Michele Kotrba Rumbolz '98 and Jenny Kotrba '01.

Cheryl Baldwin Myers ex'67, of Mitchell, died Nov. 24, 2016. She is survived by her spouse, Jim Myers '67, and her son, Jason Myers '98.


Ruth Fiala Mitchell '69, of Mitchell, died Dec. 14, 2016. She is survived by her daughter, Donna DeGeest ex'89.

Judy Hofer '69, of Emery, died April 12, 2017.

Jean Franz MH'70, of St. Cloud, Minn., died April 14, 2017.


Robert Roth ex'71, of Laramie, Wyo., died May 2, 2017.

Allan Yeow ex'73, of Wilmington, Del., died Dec. 10, 2016.

Scotchman and Miss Wesleyan

Ariana Arampatzis, of Aberdeen, and Andrew Schwader, of Howard, were chosen as this year’s Miss Wesleyan and Scotchman. Arampatzis was a religious studies and nonprofit administration double major and has begun working for the DWU advancement office following graduation. Schwader was a biochemistry major and plans to study medicine. Other Miss Wesleyan candidates included: Macey Chambers, of Blunt; Dyrani Clark, of Loveland, Colo.; DiMera Dvorak, of Lake Andes; Lorissa Loeppky, of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; and Kayla Vanden Hoek Weber, of Corsica. Other Scotchman candidates included: Matthew Bader, of Pierre; Kevin Lopez, of Long Beach, Calif.; Jesse Olsen, of Mount Vernon; and Trevor Peter, of Dell Rapids.

Bishop Armstrong Peace and Justice Award

Cierra “CICI” Schneider, a senior at Dakota Wesleyan University, was named this year’s recipient of the Bishop Armstrong Peace and Justice Award during DWU’s Honors Convocation. Schneider, of Sioux Falls, is a double major in psychology and nonprofit administration, with a political science minor.

Clarke Award for Teaching Excellence

Dr. Clinton Desmond, director of choral activities and associate professor of music, was awarded the prestigious Clarke Award for Teaching Excellence during DWU’s Commencement services at the Corn Palace. The award was presented by John and LuAnn Clarke, of Mitchell. Desmond, who joined the staff at Dakota Wesleyan in 2010, is also the chairman for the Ron and Sheilah Gates Department of Music. He conducts the Dakota Wesleyan Choir, The Highlanders, The Singing Scotchmen, and teaches voice, theory and history.
Retirements

BOYD BLUMER HD’16 has retired from Dakota Wesleyan. He had been a religious studies adjunct at the university since 1997 and also joined the physical plant staff in 1999, both teaching and working in maintenance as needed. During a retirement recognition at the end of the year, he was hailed for his patience and wisdom, caring in the classroom and his willingness to tackle any project the campus needed.

“Of all the many gifts Boyd has given DWU, the most important may be a simple willingness to listen to the stories individuals tell, to accept those stories as they come and to speak God’s grace into them,” said President Amy Novak. “One of my favorite stories: a freshman student told me during finals, ‘My friends told me I had to take Boyd’s class before he retired, and I’m so glad I did. He wrote personal responses to every paper. I saved all the ones he sent me because they were so genuine.’”

LORI ESSIG has retired from her position as vice president of marketing and communications. She had been with Dakota Wesleyan since 1999. In her position at DWU, she oversaw strategic institutional marketing and communications efforts for admissions, institutional advancement, academics, special events and media relations. During a retirement recognition at the end of the year, President Amy Novak commented on her dedication to the campus and the value of her abilities, such as the facilitation of events like the McGovern Library dedication – complete with arranging the transportation and security for President Bill Clinton.

“Lori has been a remarkable asset to DWU,” Novak said. “She has truly spearheaded a new era of momentum at the university. She was the voice and the vision behind the Wesleyan story, and she courageously put DWU in a position to thrive. Her insight, wisdom, ability to coordinate a fantastic event and attention to detail will be deeply missed.”

James Bigelow ’73, of Hillsboro, Texas, died Nov. 8, 2016.

Lucy “Lu” Hoover ’74, of Boalsburg, Pa., died Dec. 3, 2016. She is survived by her spouse, Kathalene Weckerly ex’76.

Doris Rysavy ’82, of Sioux Falls, died March 1, 2017.

Beverly LeBeau ’84, of Boise, Idaho, died March 26, 2017. She is survived by her son, Duane Dorman ex’00.


Dawn Tweed ’94, of Rapid City, died April 9, 2017.

Tyron Arrington ex’09, of Arlington, Texas, died March 17, 2017.

Friends

Thomas Ray, of Muncie, Ind., died Jan. 7, 2017. Thomas was a past professor of music at DWU.

Loy Witherspoon Jr., of Charlotte, N.C., died Jan. 15, 2017. Loy was a past professor of philosophy and religion and served as the director of campus religious life at DWU.

Stanley Planton Jr., of Chillicothe, Ohio, died Jan. 14, 2017. Stanley was the head of the DWU library before moving to Chillicothe in 1979.

Clyde Lehman, of Mitchell, died March 10, 2017. Clyde previously worked part time in grounds maintenance at DWU.

Terry Hanson, of Mitchell, died March 14, 2017. Terry worked in the maintenance department at DWU for 14 years until his retirement in 2005. Terry is survived by his spouse, Gloria Cofer Hanson ’92, and his daughter, Crystal Hanson Moore ex’99.


2017 Date Book

• Aug. 18-20 – New Student Orientation
• Aug. 20 – All College Church
• Aug. 24 – Opening Convocation
• Sept. 29-30 – Blue & White Days
• Sept. 29-Oct. 1 – “DWU Musical Revue: Highlights From the Last Eight Years of Musicals,” theatre/music production
• Oct. 9 – Fall Break
• Oct. 15 – Fall choir, bells concert
• Oct. 22 – Fall band, orchestra concert
• Nov. 3-5, 10-12 – “Art by Yazmina Reza,” theatre production
• Nov. 20-24 – Thanksgiving Break
• Dec. 2-3 – Christmas at Dakota Wesleyan
• Dec. 8 – Service of Lessons and Carols

www.dwu.edu/events
Isaac Van Essen graduated in May. From the time he was a sophomore, he combined his entrepreneurial spirit with his love of back-road adventure. He founded Team4Runner, a social media-based business dedicated to like-minded individuals. Because of his respected voice in outdoor adventure and related gear, the brand Freespirit contracted with him to manage the company’s social marketing platforms, and he has developed strategic partnerships with additional companies. Team4Runner has more than 60,000 followers on Instagram and helps connect people with their favorite brands. Isaac has worked closely with the Kelley Center for Entrepreneurship along the way, from feasibility studies to financing to developing marketing strategy.

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES:

The main activity, and the one I was most invested in, was serving with Campus/Student Ministry Council for three years. I did a little of everything, including leading small groups, playing Cajón in worship settings, and serving on the exec board, as well as managing and developing social media for ministry events. I was a member of CEO, was an RA in Dayton Hall for two years, and I was active in the local church. I spent two-plus months in remote Rwanda/Uganda in 2015, 2016, and I will go again in 2017 with AsOne Ministries, the organization I helped found. Business has also been big. In 2016, I started two small businesses which collaborate and complement one another: Team4Runner, which is a community, and ClicOutdoor, adventure brand marketing.

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS:

Generous, optimistic, exaggerative

DESCRIBE DWU IN THREE WORDS:

Encouraging, rigorous, opportunity

WHY WESLEYAN?

I came here to run track and live with my good friend from high school. I wanted a faith-based but entrepreneurial-minded school. I ended up growing in ways I never imagined, doors opened and closed that the Lord guided me through, and developed relationships that I will have forever. Wesleyan was an avenue for me to mature, be challenged, think differently, develop my relationship with Jesus – and also goof around while I still could!

FAVORITE DWU MEMORIES:

I met my girlfriend and lived with my best friend. My memories drift back into reflection on each year spent at Wesleyan. From move-in day freshman year and the realization and preparation of this new season of life, to meeting my girlfriend all in the same year. From the countless memories campus ministry brought and an evening spent with a guest speaker, Bob Goff, to the many memories made from participating in and hosting events, exploring the campus late at night and traveling to track meets on the weekend. Out of them all, my fondest memory is meeting my girlfriend and being able to do life with people in a meaningful way.

WHAT DO YOU VALUE?

My relationship with Jesus, meaningful friendships, people and opportunity.

WHAT KEEPS YOU UP AT NIGHT?

Things to accomplish the next day.
FACEvalue
ISAAC VAN ESSEN
Ambitious? Let’s do this.

You know us, we know you. If you’re ready to further accelerate your career, we can help – with flexible, 100% online degrees in business, education and nursing. And, our supportive faculty will continually challenge and motivate you to achieve your dream.

Get started today at info.dwu.edu