National Champs!
Thursday, Oct. 11
• Legacy Banquet*
  Enjoy a formal event honoring donors and distinguished alumni.
  6 p.m., DWU Sherman Center

Friday, Oct. 12
• Registration
  Sign up for a campus tour and register for Blue & White Unite. Pick up a full schedule of events, a name tag and ask any questions to our alumni relations team.
  9 a.m.-3 p.m., McGovern Library

• Campus Tours
  Take a guided tour around our beautiful campus.
  10 a.m. and 2 p.m., McGovern Library

• Blue & White Unite*
  7 p.m., Highland Conference Center, 2000 Highland Way, Mitchell

Saturday, Oct. 13
• Alumni Gathering
  Sip coffee and enjoy delicious donuts before the parade.
  9:30 a.m., CorTrust Bank parking lot, Mitchell Main Street

• Blue & White Days Homecoming Parade
  Rain or shine, we gather with pride!
  10 a.m., Mitchell Main Street

• Tiger Tailgate
  Discover a new and improved family-friendly event hosting a variety of food trucks, kids’ inflatables and a pep rally.
  11:30 a.m., Joe Quintal Field

• Homecoming Football Game
  Go Tigers! #bleedblue
  DWU vs. Dordt College
  1 p.m., Joe Quintal Field

Sunday, Oct. 14
• Traditional Worship Service
  8:30 a.m., Mitchell First United Methodist Church, 310 N. Rowley St.

• Fusion Contemporary Worship
  10 a.m., DWU Sherman Center

• Blended Worship
  11 a.m., Mitchell First United Methodist Church, 310 N. Rowley St.
  *REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Please stop by:
• DWU Campus Bookstore
  Monday-Friday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
  Saturday: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

• McGovern Library
  Visit the McGovern Legacy Museum and the newly branded coffee shop.

• Dakota Discovery Museum
  East side of DWU campus

For more information and to register: www.dwu.edu/register.
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After 125 years of sports history, the Dakota Wesleyan University women’s basketball team accomplished what no other team could – clinching the first team national championship. See pages 15-19 to relive the Tiger celebration.

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.
On May 6, we had the pleasure of welcoming Dr. Robert Franklin Jr. as our 2018 Commencement speaker. His address, “The Vocation of Friendship,” offered a compelling reminder of the importance of friendship in our lives. He asserted that good friendship helps us to become better people. Friendship challenges us to appreciate the diversity of thought and belief, diversity of talent and giftedness, and diversity of personhood. Friendship calls us to a higher purpose, to something greater than oneself.

Dr. Franklin also spoke about what he described as the “Dakota Wesleyan magic.” He suggested that our faculty, staff, coaches and administration are the magicians and that the magic happens when we mentor our students to discover their calling. This form of friendship encourages our students to engage in what they are most passionate about and embrace their vocation with excitement.

Friends, excitement is an understatement when considering all the opportunities ahead for Dakota Wesleyan University. As a community committed to preparing servant leaders for emerging growth in a variety of sectors, we are building programs that respond to industry demands across our region. Throughout this edition of Wesleyan Today, you will find stories that describe this economic responsiveness. From our Digital DWU initiative to expanded offerings in trust management, nonprofit church leadership and degree completion in nursing, DWU’s momentum continues to build. This expansion in the academic experience, however, remains mindful of our deep commitment to guiding students to discover their passion.

Passion creates motion. The love we have for education drives our ability to improve our teaching and learning. Our friendships remind us to be accountable for fostering intentional growth and continuing to invest in building a global community of well-educated people.

Thank you for your friendship and love for Dakota Wesleyan University. We pledge to continue to support our students’ passions by creating robust academic experiences, authentic opportunities for spiritual growth, bold leadership development and cutting-edge digital learning opportunities – all with the intent of equipping our collective future for a stronger, more respectful prospect. This is our higher purpose. This is Forward Wesleyan.

Dr. Amy C. Novak
President
Email: Amy.Novak@dwu.edu
COMMENCEMENT 2018

Photo galleries from graduation events can be found at www.flickr.com/dakotawesleyan, and the 2018 Commencement address by Dr. Robert Franklin Jr. is available on the DWU YouTube channel.

Receiving a congratulatory hug following Commencement, Morgan Straub, of Deadwood, graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing with a minor in nonprofit administration.

One last team shot – following Commencement, former football players posed for a picture on the lawn by the Corn Palace. From left to right: Austin Van Poole, Austin Buysse, Damon Macleary, Dillon Turner, Lewis Hofer and Nate Smith. Not shown, but represented on the T-shirt, is Levi Rozeboom.

Ardith Miller ’50, of Draper, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters during Commencement. She also accepted an Honorary Doctor of Business Administration on behalf of her late brother, Keith Miller ’47, who passed away in 2015.

Dr. Robert Franklin Jr. gave the 2018 Commencement address, “The Vocation of Friendship,” to 193 graduates in the Corn Palace. Franklin is the senior adviser to the president at Emory University, of Atlanta, and president emeritus of Morehouse College.

The Arlene Gates Department of Nursing celebrated its 17 graduating seniors with a Nursing Pinning Ceremony the weekend of graduation.
Field to Field
One student discovers herself by helping others

By Mari Olson

College should be about discovery – but at the heart of that discovery should always be passion.

CIERRA SCHNEIDER, or CiCi to her friends, came to Dakota Wesleyan with the sole intention to play soccer – a sport that defined her previous 15 years as a student-athlete in Sioux Falls – and at the time, the only way she knew to define herself.

Her college plan was to play at DWU one year and transfer to a larger school; however, a summer internship and a DWU professor convinced her to stick around by showing her that she could shape her passion for helping others into a career.

“I knew about halfway through my freshman year in soccer (that it) wasn't going to be my future,” Schneider said. “I was really trying to reconcile that identity issue. I had always been an athlete, and it always got me everywhere I needed to be in life. I didn’t know how to picture a world without me being that athlete.”

After the insistent “pushing” by Dr. Alisha Vincent, executive director of the McGovern Center, Schneider agreed to take a nonprofit administration course in public policy her freshman year.

And that was it – she was hooked.

Vincent also worked with Dr. Anne Kelly, psychology department chair, to create two independent studies – political psychology and a seminar on program design for nonprofits.

“I think it was that moment when I realized that Dakota Wesleyan was going to be able to tailor what I was interested in and most passionate about,” Schneider said.

At the end of her sophomore year, Schneider not only decided to remain at DWU and end her soccer career, she also became the first intern at the Global Child Nutrition Foundation in Seattle, where she worked on a complicated research project to create a specialized, interest-based donor database, and also researched possible locations to launch a women-centered agricultural project through the World Food Program. In the end, they proceeded with her second choice.

“I came back from this really cool Seattle internship – my heart wasn't really in soccer and I was going through the motions, and Dr. Vincent was like, ‘You know, I have this project I think you’d be really interested in working on.’”

Vincent proposed that Schneider take the lead on an international food security project, working with Esther Nampeera, of Uganda, who was a Ph.D. candidate at Iowa State University. The school garden was meant to feed hundreds of children who normally would either go without lunch or have to travel so far from home for a midday meal that they didn’t return.

Schneider and Nampeera worked with others from DWU, as well as Mebius Nursery in Mitchell, to develop hydroponic and vertical farming techniques to increase the production of food. She was devoted to finding the best ways to produce crops that included vitamin-rich vegetables like spinach and orange-flesh sweet potatoes.

The payout was seen a year later when Schneider traveled to Uganda to see the school garden in action.

“There was one little girl – I am not an emotional person and I about cried – she was first or second grade, and she talked about how much she loved the school garden and said she used to go home every day for lunch (and not return), but since this project started, she can eat at school and remain throughout the day. She literally doubled the quantity of education she was going to get,” Schneider said.

Another boy told her that he had watched the planting at school, went home and taught his father what he learned, and that his father said that they were going to have the most food they’ve ever had this year.

“It was just a garden – that’s all it was, that’s how it started, but it will forever be a different future for them,” Schneider said.

She interviewed again this spring at Global Child Nutrition Foundation and will move to Seattle this summer, after graduating from Dakota Wesleyan with double majors in psychology and nonprofit administration and a minor in political science.

To discover her future, she only had to look behind.

“I didn’t realize that food security was something I was passionate about, but when I look back, the majority of what I did growing up, it either had a spiritual background or it had a hunger background,” she said. “Anything I’ve ever taken for granted – that’s what inspires me. I’ve always had a roof over my head; I’ve always had a meal in front of me … and not everybody gets that feeling, that roof.

“It’s important to me – to all of us – to take that humble step back.”
Traveling around the world and creating connections is simply a way of life for Dakota Wesleyan Board of Trustee member and 1975 alumnus JOHN GRINAGER.

"Grinagers have always traveled," he said. "My grandfather, who migrated from Norway, had six kids and took them all to California in 1934 in two cars. So travel has always been a Grinager thing."

Grinager came to DWU because of the family connection and to play football. His time on campus also fueled his appetite for adventure. "I met a number of foreign students who helped me to learn Spanish and to line up connections in Latin America for an extensive trip in 1973."

Grinager took a year off from college – from 1973 to 1974 – and hitchhiked from South Dakota to the Mexico border. Along the way, he stayed with DWU alumni and friends. He traveled by bus, plane, train and riverboat and hitchhiked throughout Mexico, Argentina and Brazil.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and Spanish from DWU, Grinager studied theology at Boston University School of Theology and earned a master’s degree in planning and economic development from the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota.

"At graduation, I had been accepted to the Denver School of International Studies and also at BU School of Theology," he said. "I opted for theology, in part to test a calling to ministry, but later returned to my interests in politics by working in the Carter campaign. I wanted to work with the McGovern staff, but by the time I got an offer in fall of ’78, I had been accepted to the Peace Corps."

Grinager’s fascinating professional background includes working as a student recruiter for DWU, a miner at Homestake Gold Mine, and political campaign manager for "Carter for President" and Roger D. McKellips for governor. He served as a youth pastor at First United Methodist Church in Aberdeen, before joining the U.S. Peace Corps as a sanitation inspector in Paraguay. He worked as a rural economic development consultant for Rural Ventures and later in sales for Clean-IT Group, while simultaneously working for Atlas Electrica in San José, Costa Rica. Grinager joined the Minnesota Department of Commerce as a public utility analyst, and then in 1996, he became the president/owner of Approve-It Inc., an international regulatory compliance consulting and advocacy group he continues to lead today.

Amid his interesting background includes an extensive travel list that rivals any expeditionist, featuring trips to Hong Kong, Melbourne, Acapulco, London, Barcelona and recently a safari through Botswana. As Grinager’s profession and quest for adventure have led him around the world, he has had the opportunity to build and strengthen relationships, ultimately developing lifelong connections with every step.
DWU Students Design ‘Salute to Military’ Corn Palace Murals

By Mari Olson

“A Salute to the Military” will grace the World’s Only Corn Palace this summer with nine designs representing all branches of service created by Dakota Wesleyan students in the digital media and design program.

It’s a theme with both local and statewide pride in a year when Mitchell dedicates a new park in recognition of veterans, and the state is honored by the naming of a Virginia-class nuclear submarine – the USS South Dakota.

Sophomore graphic design major Isabelle Barraza, of Rapid City, designed the submarine, the battleship and four fighter jets. She also took on the task of transferring all the designs from their sketch size to actual size – the largest at 20 by 30 feet.

“I hoped to show my support for the U.S. military (through my designs) because I have an older brother in the Army who I love and supports me being in college and pursuing my career,” Barraza said.

This is the first time DWU students have been asked to design the murals, but the connection between the university and Corn Palace dates back to the ‘40s.

Oscar Howe, who was an artist-in-residence at DWU in 1948 while also working on his college degree, designed the Corn Palace murals from 1948 to 1971. Howe, who was a Yanktonai Sioux born on the Crow Creek Indian Reservation, graduated from DWU in 1952 and became Artist Laureate of South Dakota. Many of his paintings hang on campus in the Dakota Discovery Museum. There is also a rare ceiling mural in the Carnegie Resource Center and an Oscar Howe Art Gallery on the second floor of the Corn Palace. Later, Cherie Ramsdell, a local artist and former art professor at DWU, took up the mantle and designed the murals for 2003 until 2018.

Kyle Herges, associate professor of digital media and design at DWU, saw this as an opportunity for his students to gain real-world experience for a project that is truly unique.

“Partnering with the Corn Palace is an exciting opportunity for the digital media and design program and the community, as well as for the students involved,” Herges said. “We are empowering DWU students to think beyond their traditional perspective of art and design.”

Megan Peltier, of Sioux Falls, graduated this May with a degree in digital media and design and created the helicopter mural and assisted on the salute mural.

“A project like this makes you look at the bigger picture,” Peltier said. “A project this size helps to put into perspective how teamwork and time management are important to making it successful.

“I hope this project helps to show students that there are some amazing opportunities, even going to a small school.”
First-ever DWU Capstone Day

On April 11, DWU celebrated its seniors’ accomplishments with its first-ever Capstone Day. Seniors were encouraged to present research and culminating projects from every field of study in an all-day event. Classes were canceled and the campus was encouraged to attend the sessions, which were in the McGovern Library, Corrigan Health Sciences Center and DWU Theatre, and with a poster session in the Sherman Center. There were 85 presenters in all who shared their scientific research, class projects, inventions, scholarly research and creative writing. Shown here, Nate Collins, of Belle Fourche, graduated this May with a music education major and minor in religious studies.

DWU Students Chosen for Collegiate Honor Bands

Four DWU students were chosen for honor bands this year. Shown left to right: Melissa Spitzer, flute, senior, of Mitchell; Bryce Blank, alto sax, junior, of Rapid City; and Sam Weiler, clarinet, freshman, of Mitchell, were chosen for the College Band Directors National Association North Central Division Intercollegiate Band in Kalamazoo, Mich., in late February. This honor band consists of the top college musicians from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. All three students, as well as senior flutist Rheanna Pheifer, of Platte, (pictured far right) were also chosen for the South Dakota Intercollegiate Band in late March in Rapid City.

Senior TYLER FORTUNA, of Gillette, Wyo., represented South Dakota BRIN at the state capitol in Pierre in February for the South Dakota Student Research Poster Session. Fortuna, a biochemistry major at Dakota Wesleyan, represented research he conducted on campus under the advising of Dr. Paula Mazzer, associate professor of chemistry at DWU, and worked on the project initially with DWU students Peyton Price, Kevin Lopez and Andrew Schwader, all 2017 graduates. In addition, Bethany Mordhorst and Peter Vitiello from Sanford Research collaborated on the research.

This is an annual poster session in the Capitol Rotunda, allowing the legislators to view an example of undergraduate research from around the state. One to two posters are chosen from each state university, as well as one representing Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) and one representing South Dakota Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (BRIN) – 12 in all. Dakota Wesleyan, being a private university, has not been invited to attend until this year, when SD BRIN asked Fortuna to represent the program with his team’s research, “A comparison of cytotoxicity of two types of airborne particulate matter in murine astrocyte cells.”

“Dakota Wesleyan University has provided me with amazing opportunities that I would have never been able to pursue elsewhere,” Fortuna said. “Being a biochemistry major, I was privileged with being able to perform innovative toxicological research that couldn’t have been done without my supportive professors, coaches and fellow students. This research project has opened my eyes to what future career path I would like to take.”

Fortuna, who was also a member of the Tiger football team, will begin the Integrative Systems Biology (biomedical science) Ph.D. program – with an emphasis in neuroscience – this fall at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

100% of our 2018 athletic training graduates passed the Board of Certification (BOC) exam on their first try.

(Photo by Layne Manson/EPSCoR)
Dakota Discovery Museum opens exhibit celebrating Jewish culture in South Dakota and Midwest

“Dakota Diaspora: Jews in South Dakota” and “Transfer of Memory” exhibits opened at Dakota Discovery Museum on May 15. The exhibit and accompanying programs are the result of a collaborative partnership between the Dakota Discovery Museum, the Jewish Community Relations Council for Minnesota and the Dakotas, and Dakota Wesleyan University.

“Dakota Diaspora: Jews in South Dakota” is a museum exhibit that includes photographs, art, artifacts, interviews and six program events with discussion components that tell the story of Jewish people in South Dakota’s history and their cultural contribution,” said Rod Brown, manager at Dakota Discovery Museum. “A significant component is the work of Dakota Wesleyan students who conducted interviews, networked with various South Dakota Jewish families and acquired exhibit items on loan.”

“Transfer of Memory,” a traveling exhibit from the Jewish Community Relations Council for Minnesota and the Dakotas, portrays the stories of Holocaust survivors who settled in the Midwest following World War II.

The exhibits are sponsored by the Dakota Discovery Museum with the help of the Jewish Community Relations Council for Minnesota and the Dakotas, as well as the South Dakota Humanities Council; Mount Zion Temple, of Sioux Falls; Congregation B’Nai Isaac, of Aberdeen; Synagogue of the Hills, of Rapid City; and contributions from Drs. Mike and Lesta Turchen, both of Hill City and former faculty members of DWU; and the McGovern Center at DWU. The Rev. Joel Allen, associate professor of religion, worked with DWU students and South Dakota residents to collect artifacts and interviews for the exhibit.

For information on hours, admission and additional summer events, visit the museum online at www.dakotadiscovery.com.
Madut represents state TRiO program at D.C.

Thomas Madut ’10, ’11, TRiO Student Success adviser at DWU and president of the South Dakota TRiO Student Support Services, represented South Dakota at the National College Opportunities Program Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., this March.

TRiO Support Services assists in students’ success in higher education who are first-generation, low-income and/or have learning disabilities. The summit’s primary focus was to discuss funding and other efforts made on behalf of the program, as well as to meet with state legislators.

In addition to attending various forums and seminars, Madut also met with Sen. John Thune, Sen. Mike Rounds and Rep. Kristi Noem, as well as their staffs, to discuss the program.

Appropriations for TRiO were approved this year with an increase of $60 million, making it a record for the highest funding in the history of TRiO.

Madut came to the U.S. from South Sudan as a refugee when he was a child. He later distinguished himself as a cross-country star athlete at Dakota Wesleyan, graduating with his bachelor’s degree in 2010 and a master’s degree in 2011. He was named state president for all TRiO Student Support programs in South Dakota this past fall.

“I am an example – I am proof – of how the program benefits students and promotes success,” Madut said.

DWU establishes trust certificate

There is now a new certificate program at Dakota Wesleyan – a graduate certificate in trust management.

Several major banking and financial institutions have recently identified the need for further education and tailored training in the trust management job market. DWU developed a six-course, 12-month program with curriculum designed to strengthen oral and written communication skills; enhance an understanding of wills, trusts and estates; and sharpen knowledge of financial and digital efforts. Applications are being accepted online at www.dwu.edu.

Graduate certificate in nonprofit church leadership now available

DWU is now offering a flexible, one-year program to provide ministry professionals with the opportunity to experience relevant, project-based coursework to develop projects that will provide a direct benefit to the pastor and the church and to engage with ministry professionals.

This graduate certificate in nonprofit church leadership will include several aspects, including a four-course online program that teaches church leaders how to raise funds, recruit and manage volunteers, oversee budgets, create and use strategic plans, and develop a congregation that is focused on their church’s purpose. More information and applications can be found at www.dwu.edu.
The digital world comes with one constant: technology is always changing, affecting and reinventing careers; and if higher education wants to remain relevant, it must be a part of the change.

Dakota Wesleyan’s administration and faculty not only acknowledge this fact, but also embrace it, as the 133-year-old liberal arts college proves that the key to its own longevity, and the success of its graduates, is its ability to evolve.

Digital DWU is part of that evolution.

Dakota Wesleyan launched its Digital DWU initiative Feb. 13 with a rollout fitting its purpose – to excite today’s students about education.

This new university-wide initiative includes a one-to-one program providing an iPad to each full-time, on-campus student this fall and also incorporates technology into the classrooms in new ways. DWU will expand on the already existing nursing simulation labs, innovation labs and science labs with experiences that integrate more technology into the learning and application of studies – from helping athletic training students diagnose injuries from the sidelines, to changing how chemistry projects are taught, to giving coaches the opportunity to view game footage on the travel bus.

Digital DWU is the next step in higher education at Dakota Wesleyan and will ensure its graduates have the real-world experience and tech-savvy skills needed to compete in tomorrow’s market. The university is also the first in the region to collaborate with Apple on a university-wide digital initiative.

The rollout event included iPad demonstration stations with both DWU faculty and five representatives from Apple. DWU student ambassadors also handed out free iTune gift cards and junior Aaron Ahmadu, from Houston, Texas, performed a rap he wrote and produced for the event.

"... We had to ask ourselves, beyond using social media, how can we use technology to help each of you to learn and retain more content, to communicate more effectively and to make an impact in the workplace and the world," said President Amy Novak to the crowd. "Digital DWU is our comprehensive, university-wide digital learning initiative that will be at the forefront of educational innovation, preparing students for leadership and service in the digital world. Digital DWU is our commitment.
to a model of learning that combines innovation, analysis and knowledge while leveraging the power of a digital revolution that changes the way we communicate, teach, learn and work.”

Two professors on campus volunteered to pilot the program this last semester – Dr. Lana Loken, athletic training clinical education coordinator and professor of athletic training, and Bethany Amundson, director of bands and instrumental activities.

Loken implemented the iPads in various ways across her athletic training classes, using them for presentations and research and to create a “living” textbook, written and updated by the students with the goal to remain actively updated by each class and available to current students, as well as alumni.

“No only were we able to create a book with the most current information, but also the students were able to select interactive elements that enhanced their learning environment,” Loken said. “The iPads were used as a means to research, share and consume the content for the book.”

DWU junior Maria Koenen, of Rock Valley, Iowa, was excited and nervous when she learned that she and her fellow athletic trainers would use iPads in a pilot course. She said she leans toward more traditional learning styles but was curious from the beginning.

“The class actually ended up being great,” Koenen said. “It did take me about six weeks to fully adjust my learning style to the living textbook. I had to develop a new way to study. Rather than taking notes, studying them and learning the information, I began reading through the chapters of the book a few times and following the links and then meeting up with classmates and quizzing each other on the information. It was an adjustment, but once we found a study method that worked, it was extremely effective and we loved studying from the textbook.

“The added videos and links just enhanced our understanding of the subject content that much more. As for compiling the textbook, that was a learning experience in and of itself. Researching and gathering information to be put into the book was incredibly enlightening and helpful.”

In addition to course work, athletic trainers will use the new technology in several “real-world” applications, such as using video submissions to demonstrate that they can correctly assess and treat patients using specific techniques.

In the world of music, technology is used all of the time to record, produce and synthesize, but now Amundson has the ability to make assignments to her entire class knowing they all have the same tech and apps to complete the assignment.

Her world music class piloted the iPad program, and as a class, composed and produced music for two Dakota Wesleyan radio ads, one for recruits and one for the DWU community.

“Students were nervous about doing this at first, but then dove into the project,” Amundson said. “The music they created for each ad was specifically tailored to each message, and students were very excited about and proud of the finished result. The compositions (this year) got more sophisticated as the semester went on, and I felt that students enjoyed and learned more from creating their own compositions than they did by taking traditional tests. It was wonderful to see how the students supported each other in their compositions and creative endeavors.”

Full-time, degree-seeking students in the university’s on-campus and hybrid programs will receive an iPad on the first day of classes this fall. When they become juniors, they will then receive a new iPad that becomes their personal property upon graduation. This iPad will have the student’s portfolio of projects to take with them as they enter the workforce.

“It is still important for students to receive a well-rounded education, rich in creativity and communication, because those are qualities a computer doesn’t have,” Novak said later. “It is important that we educate our students with critical-thinking skills, digital literacy, hone their creativity, and foster teamwork and collaboration because those are all things that human beings do better than computers. We are not pretending the world isn’t changing, and we aren’t discarding everything higher education stands for; what we are doing is preparing graduates for an ever-changing industry and providing them with as many tools as possible to be successful.”
This group of future leaders attended the University of Minnesota for Model United Nations in April. “Model UN is a simulation of the UN General Assembly and other multilateral bodies. Students role-play as ambassadors, debating topics as diverse as maternal health and land mines to promoting literacy,” according to its website. Pictured from left to right, back row: Peter Novak, of Mitchell; Rachel Parsons, of Philips; Ryan Chase, of Huron; Anna Schutte, of Canton; Jennifer Devine, of Belfast, Ireland; and Nathan Bader, of Pierre. Front row: Jeremiah Panec, of Junia, Neb.; Jessica Kidder, of San Antonio; Cici Schneider, of Sioux Falls; and Lacey Wipf, of Freeman. (Submitted Photo)

A week following a large snowstorm, Dr. Bethany Melroe Lehrman’s organic chemistry students were outside soaking up the sun. They turned the sidewalk into a blackboard as they practiced the process of organic synthesis.

Dakota Wesleyan will welcome students into a new dorm this fall. The co-ed residence hall will fit 114 students and is located on the west side of campus between Hughes Hall and Prather Hall. The dorm is the university’s answer to the enrollment growing the current facilities.

Campus Ministry sent a team of 12 to Trujillo, Peru, this May for a mission trip. Pictured from left to right, back row: Nick Raab, of Yankton; Thanael Certa-Werner, of Superior, Wis.; Sean Binder, director of Storm Mountain Center, of Rapid City; Bryce Blank, of Rapid City; Bethany Amundson, director of bands at DWU; and Zachary Van Meter, child of Denise Van Meter. Front row: Denise Van Meter, associate campus pastor; Natasha Letcher, senior, of Bridgewater; Katarina Godfrey, of Norfolk, Neb.; Ivy Ekroth, of Gregory; Sierra Crater, of Cavour; and Laura Hoiten, of Sioux Falls. (Photo submitted by Tasha Letcher)
National Champs!

By Ian McClanahan ’16
Sports Contributor

All photos by Matt Gade/The Daily Republic

After 125 years of sports history, the Dakota Wesleyan University women’s basketball team accomplished what no other team could – clinching the first team national championship with the 2018 NAIA DIVISION II WOMEN’S BASKETBALL NATIONAL TITLE.

Not only did the Tigers make history with a national championship, but they also marched through the tournament defeating their opponents by an average margin of victory of 16.6 points per game, holding their opponents to 62.4 points per game, while scoring 79 points per game. Broken records were a commonality throughout the season as the Tigers broke or tied 16 team records.

“From day one, my attitude has been that we can win a national title,” said Jason Christensen ’98, head women’s basketball coach. “I try to preach everything that goes back to life. Life is not easy; you are going to go out every day, and you are going to find out that you are going to have that three-day gauntlet in four days. This year’s group took that to heart and was very goal driven.”

32-6 overall record
The longest standing record that was broken was points per game which was set by the 1990-91 team that averaged 79.1 points per game. The 2017-18 team surpassed that mark by averaging 80.4 points per game. Along with the points per game record being broken, the Tigers shattered the record for margin of victory as they won by an average of 21.2 points per game, breaking the old record of 11.6 points per game set by the 2003-04 team.

“We would put up five goals before every game,” Christensen said. “If we only accomplished four out of the five, they were upset to the point where that same goal would be up there for the next game. Maybe one game we were going to hold a team to 55 points, then the next game the players set a goal to hold a team to 53 points.”

Three seniors will go down in history as paving the way for the first DWU national title as twins Ashley Bray, Amber Bray, of Anoka, Minn., and Chesney Nagel, of Springfield, each concluded a career for the record books. Ashley Bray broke into the top-five scoring list in DWU women’s basketball history with the victory over Southeastern (Fla.) in the quarterfinals and finished her career with 1,689 points, good for fourth in program history. She was named to the Great Plains Athletic Conference First Team twice and was a two-time NAIA All-American, while also being named to the All-Tournament First Team after the 2018 national basketball tournament.

“It was the goal from the beginning,” Ashley Bray said about winning a national title. “If I could go back, I wouldn’t change it for anything in the world. Being able to win it and experience it all with our team was the best feeling in the world.”

National Champs!
Twin sister Amber Bray had a breakout season during her senior year that led to an All-GPAC First-Team selection, the first of her career. She finished the season third on the team with 14 points per game, while leading the team with 6.7 rebounds per game. Her biggest game of the tournament came against IU-East (Ind.), when she led the team with 14 points and seven rebounds to kickstart the tournament run. Amber finished her career being named NAIA All-American Honorable Mention.

“Being able to make it to the national tournament has always been a dream growing up,” Amber Bray said. “Ever since I was a freshman, the goal was to make it to the national tournament. Being able to make it three years in a row showed the heart and dedication that each one of us had.”

The third senior on the roster was Chesney Nagel. Nagel’s career began with a rough start as she was sidelined with an injury before her sophomore season. However, she used the time off to learn the game from a different perspective.

“I got to see the game from a different angle sitting on the bench my sophomore year,” Nagel said. “I think that really helped me become a great leader on the court for my teammates.”

The different perspective proved beneficial to Nagel as she came back stronger than ever during her senior season. She averaged 3.5 points, 4.7 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 1.1 steals per game during her final year, while being named All-GPAC Honorable Mention for the first time in her career.

“Playing college basketball had been a dream of mine since I was a little girl, but winning a national championship was beyond my wildest dreams,” Nagel said.

It wasn’t just the seniors that carried the team. There was a plethora of supporting cast that made the DWU women’s basketball team an opponent that no one wanted to face during the tournament. Sophomore guard KYNEDI CHEESEMAN, of Alexandria, was named the national tournament’s Most Valuable Player after her performances in each game. She was the leading scorer in three of the five games, averaging 21.6 points per game throughout the tournament.
Joining her on the All-Tournament First Team was junior guard RYLIE OSTHUS. The De Smet native led the team with 5.5 assists and 1.4 steals per game throughout the season. During the tournament, she averaged 10.6 points, 3.6 rebounds and 6.6 assists per game. She caused havoc all season on the defensive end, as she ended up being named GPAC Co-Defensive Player-of-the-Year.

In all, five players were named All-GPAC team members, three players were named to the All-Tournament Team, two were named NAIA All-Americans and Christensen was named the NAIA National Coach-of-the-Year.

Whether it was the trip to Arizona for the Fultz Memorial ACU Holiday Classic, breaking numerous records or just the memories that stick with the players forever, it is safe to say that this season will go down in the history books for Dakota Wesleyan athletics.
### 2018 NAIA Division II Women’s Basketball Tournament RESULTS

**ROUND ONE:** DWU over IU-East (Ind.) 78-62; Leading Scorer: Amber Bray - 14
**ROUND TWO:** DWU over Southern Oregon 76-61; Leading Scorer: Kynedi Cheeseman - 22
**QUARTERFINALS:** DWU over Southeastern (Fla.) 78-64; Leading Scorer: Ashley Bray - 26
**SEMIFINALS:** DWU over Saint Xavier (Ill.) 81-66; Leading Scorer: Kynedi Cheeseman - 27
**CHAMPIONSHIP:** DWU over Concordia (Neb.) 82-59; Leading Scorer: Kynedi Cheeseman - 26

**DWU Single-Season RECORDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record</th>
<th>New</th>
<th>Old</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Points in a Season</td>
<td>3,054</td>
<td>2,727 (2015-16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Points Per Game</td>
<td>80.4</td>
<td>79.1 (1990-91)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Goals</td>
<td>1,096</td>
<td>971 (2001-02)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Goal Attempts</td>
<td>2,274</td>
<td>2,215 (2001-02)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Goal Accuracy</td>
<td>48.2</td>
<td>45.2 (2016-17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-point Field Goals</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>272 (2016-17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-point Field Goals Attempted</td>
<td>803</td>
<td>756 (2005-06)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assists</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>640 (2015-16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assists Per Game</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17.8 (2003-04/2012-13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Games Played</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>38 (2001-02/2002-03)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wins</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32 (2001-02)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winning Percentage</td>
<td>84.2</td>
<td>84.2 (2001-02)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opponent Points Per Game</td>
<td>59.2</td>
<td>60.9 (2016-17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opponent Field Goal Percentage</td>
<td>35.8</td>
<td>36.7 (2001-02)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opponent 3-point Percentage</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>28.7 (2011-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margin of Victory</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>11.6 (2003-04)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“It still doesn’t feel real that my career at DWU has come to an end,” Amber Bray said. “But I think it is because I couldn’t have ended my career any better way. Our team exceeded all expectations, and these will be the memories that last a lifetime.”
In just two years, Jared Rabenberg has made a lasting impact on the Dakota Wesleyan University track and field team. He tied the school record in the high jump at the Concordia Twilight Meet on May 11. The jump was 6-8 feet, tying Frank Thompson ’08, Travis Martin ’93 and Michael Rogers ’90 with the best mark in DWU history. The Britton native also tallied a mark of 45-10 3/4 feet in the triple jump at the Jim Dutcher Memorial on April 22, good for sixth in program history. In his career, Rabenberg has recorded four first-place finishes, nine second-place finishes and 27 top-five finishes between the indoor and outdoor seasons. Recently, Rabenberg earned All-American status as he took eighth in the high jump with a jump of 6-7 1/2 feet at the NAIA Outdoor National Championships in Gulf Shores, Ala., on May 24.
Men’s Basketball
After beginning the 2017-18 preseason ranked No. 10 in the NAIA, the DWU men’s basketball team had an up and down season. They began with four straight wins, followed by three consecutive losses. The 4-3 start dropped the Tigers to Receiving Votes in the first official poll of the season.

Following the slow start, DWU won 11-of-13 games, climbing to No. 19 in the nation. The Tigers finished the regular season winning five-of-six games, eventually losing in the GPAC semifinals to Morningside.

The Tigers split six of their first seven series to begin GPAC play with a 6-8 record. A bump in the middle of the season kept the Tigers out of the GPAC Tournament for the first time in seven seasons as DWU finished the season with an 11-28 overall record.

Baseball
The Tigers kicked off the season with a 5-2 victory over NCAA Division-II opponent the University of Minnesota Crookston. A few weeks later, DWU finished the annual Tucson Invitational by winning two of its final three games. Once conference play began, the Tigers split six of their first seven games.

Track and Field
The DWU men’s and women’s track and field teams sent three athletes to the NAIA Outdoor National Championships. Tyson Jenkins earned All-American status as he finished in fifth place in the shot put after a throw of 57-5 1/2 feet. Other athletes who competed were Kamber Lamer who took 13th in the pentathlon, while Jared Rabenberg took 13th in the high jump with a leap of 6-6 feet. DWU qualified four athletes to the NAIA Outdoor National Championships.

Rabenberg finished in eighth place in the high jump with a mark of 6-7 1/2 feet, good for All-American honors. Jenkins earned All-American status for a second time this season after a sixth-place finish in the shot put with a throw of 56-8 feet. Mikaela Stofferahn was the third Tiger to be named All-American as she took sixth in the discus with a toss of 140-0. Matthew Campbell was the only athlete who competed in two events as he took 21st in the discus with a mark of 148-11 and finished 23rd in the shot put with a toss of 49-6 1/4 feet.

Wrestling
Following a season without a dual victory, the DWU wrestling team has hired a new head coach in Casey Mouw. Mouw comes to DWU from Sioux Falls Roosevelt High School and has a wide range of experience from coaching at the University of Northern Iowa, to wrestling at Augustana University and the United States Military Academy. The Tigers graduated three seniors and return 14 wrestlers for next season.

Women’s Golf
The 2018 season began quickly for the DWU women’s golf team who won the Bethany Invite in McPherson, Kan. The Tigers won the tournament by one stroke after freshman Skyler Brunk tied for second with an 81. Nicole Nelson came in fifth, while Brooke Ehlers took sixth. Madison VanWalleghen tied for 13th, and Emily Sharkey came in 30th. Capping off the season at the GPAC Championships, the Tigers took home a fifth-place finish as Nicole Nelson led the charge after tying for 12th.

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Men’s Golf
The DWU men’s golf team wrapped up its first season under head coach Tom Hoek ’09 at the GPAC Championships in Eagle, Neb., on April 22-24. The Tigers finished eighth as a team at the championships, while senior Russell Pick tied for fifth after carding a 73. Other golfers who competed were Connor Preston who tied for 17th, Cade Carpenter came in 35th, Alec Johnson finished 37th and Justice Morrison placed 38th.

The highlight of the season came as Pick took first at the GPAC Spring Preview after sinking a double eagle from 226 yards away. The tournament victory was the first of Pick’s golf career.

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

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

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Danielle Bellet Evenson, a 2012 Dakota Wesleyan graduate, left her mark on the DWU women’s golf program during her four-year career. She was named Great Plains Athletic Conference Player-of-the-Year each season she was at DWU. Bellet Evenson was honored as a two-time All-American First-Team member and was named All-American Honorable Mention in 2010. In 2011, she finished as the runner-up at the NAIA National Championships. Throughout her career, she won 33 individual tournaments, was named GPAC Golfer-of-the-Week 21 different times, NAIA National Golfer-of-the-Week in 2012, NAIA All-American Scholar-Athlete twice and was an All-GPAC performer all four years.

Chris Determan, a 1996 Dakota Wesleyan graduate, was a member of the 1992 football team that went to the NAIA National Playoffs, the last football team at DWU to do so. He was a four-time letterwinner, three-time conference champion, three-time All-Conference member and named conference MVP once. During his career, Determan guided the DWU football team to a four-year record of 28-13. He currently ranks ninth all-time in DWU football history in career rushing yards (2,063), eighth in career passing yards (3,830) and fourth in career total offense (5,893).

Brady Wiebe, a 2011 Dakota Wesleyan graduate, broke numerous records during his career with the DWU men’s basketball team. Wiebe ranks fifth in DWU men’s basketball history in all-time scoring with 2,052 career points. He recorded 1,097 career rebounds, while tallying 767 made free throws in his career, a South Dakota collegiate record. Wiebe was a three-time All-GPAC First-Team selection and a three-time NAIA All-American, while being named the 2010-11 GPAC Player-of-the-Year. He helped guide the Tigers to four straight seasons of winning 24 or more games, four national tournament berths and a record of 101-33.

Gerald Neumann, a 1968 Dakota Wesleyan graduate, was a four-year starter on both offense and defense for the DWU football team. He started on the offensive line at guard and tackle, while starting on the defensive line at nose guard and defensive end. He also guided the team on special teams all four years. Outside of football, he was a member of the 1965 tennis team. Neumann was a member of Sigma Tau Delta English fraternity, as well as a sports editor of the yearbook, The Tumbleweed, during his last year on campus.
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/alumni-visitors to tell us what’s new with you.

1950s
Lou Ora Nelson Busk Houk MH'50, '51, HD'12, of Mitchell, was named a 2018 Children’s Champion during the Abbott House Education and Appreciation Celebration.

Ron Hull '52, HD'90, of Lincoln, Neb., was inducted into the Omaha Press Club Hall of Fame.

Jim Blades Ex'59 and his spouse, Lois Peterson Blades '58, of Mitchell, celebrate 58 years of marriage and 25 years of retirement this year. Much of their retirement has been spent volunteering at the James Valley Community Center, and they have logged 17,771 hours of volunteer service to date. Lois served as a tutor and a part-time business instructor at DWU.

1960s
Kent Millard '63, HD'81, of Zionsville, Ind., was hired as the president of United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

Tona DeRoos Rozum '67, of Mitchell, was named a 2018 Children’s Champion during the Abbott House Education and Appreciation Celebration.

Kathleen Johnson Nagel '69 retired from her position as the director of the Dakota Sunset Museum in Gettysburg.

1970s
Paul Slocum '71, of Mountain Top, Pa., was the recipient of the 2017 Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association Service Award.

Dennis Franck '74, of Springfield, Mo., is serving as chaplain for Cox Hospital and Intrepid Hospice in Springfield. His spouse, Jill Warner Franck '74, is benevolence manager at the National Assemblies of God office in Springfield.

Evelyn Demetos Wheelhouse '75 retired after 43 years of teaching in Hyde County. She first began teaching in Peno Township in a one-room schoolhouse, and she continued teaching in country schools in Hyde County until 1990. She retired from the Title I department at Highmore-Harrold School after 28 years. She and her spouse, DeWayne, plan to travel in her retirement.

Clarke Award for Teaching Excellence
Christine Mauszycki '03 was awarded the 2018 Clarke Award for Teaching Excellence during Dakota Wesleyan University’s Commencement services. Mauszycki is an assistant professor of accounting and business administration and chair of the DWU Department of Business and has been on staff since 2010.

1990s
Darwin Kopfmann '92, of Custer, is working as a chaplain at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice South Dakota State Veterans Home.

Larry Young '94, of Gilbert, Ariz., launched Boiling Frog Development, a professional speaking and leadership coaching business.

Terry Grindstaff '99, of La Vista, Neb., is an associate professor of physical therapy in the Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions. In January 2018, Terry served as a medical volunteer for USA Wrestling as the 23-athlete team competed in the Ivan Yarygin Golden Grand Prix in Krasnoyarsk, Russia, a major international tournament.
2000s

Hannah Reeves Walters ’03, of Aberdeen, graduated with her Doctorate of Business Administration from Anderson University in May.

Jesse Weins ’03, of Mitchell, has accepted a position at Arizona State University as principal lecturer in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. He and his spouse, Anne, and four children will move to Phoenix in November after they travel for the fall semester to Bhutan, where Jesse is serving as a U.S. Fulbright specialist at Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law. Jesse was the dean of the College of Leadership and Public Service at DWU for five years and an associate professor of criminal justice. He began working at DWU in 2008.

Nick Gianou ’06 was named partner at Skadden in Chicago.

Chris Haynes ’06, of Yankton, was named the South Dakota High School Coaches Association Boys’ Basketball Coach of the Year. He coached Yankton High School to the Class “AA” state championship.

Heather Winnan ’06 graduated from National University of Health Sciences in 2013. After graduating, she started her own chiropractic practice called Sycamore Spine and Sport in Sycamore, Ill.

Bridget Hellman Huber ’07 and her spouse, Matt Huber, had their second child, Kasen Matthew, on April 18, 2018.

2010s

Christopher ’11 and Kelsey Miller ’10 Pritchard, of Pierre, welcomed their son, Jack Owyn, on Jan. 11, 2018.

Alli Fredericksen ’12, of Mitchell, was named the executive director of the Mitchell Area Community Safehouse in Mitchell in May.
Mitch Reed '12, of Watertown, published a book, “Cardboard Confessionals,” based on a sociology project he conducted with his students when he was teaching in the Waverly-South Shore School District. Mitch is now the principle at Deubrook Elementary School in Toronto.

Nick Sterling ’13 and Megan Johnson ’15, of Melbourne, Fla., were married in 2016 and had a baby boy, Owen Thomas, in June 2017.

Ross Leonhardt ’14, of Sioux Falls, received his master’s degree in sports leadership and administration from Augustana University in 2017.

Kayla Mielitz ’14, of Aberdeen, has accepted a position as a third-grade teacher and assistant coach for the girls’ basketball team at Northwestern Area School in Mellette. She was a teacher at Hanson Middle School, Alexandria, for the past three years.

Elizabeth Schmidt Morrison ’14 is a teacher at John Paul II Elementary School in Mitchell. She teaches Pre-K through sixth-grade music and fifth- and sixth-grade band and show choir.

Shelby Steele ’14 married Alex Hickman on April 14, 2018, in Sioux Falls. They live in Geddes.

Spencer Bloch ’15, ’17 was hired in March as the senior business specialist at Mosaic in Lincoln, Neb.

Ryan Antaya ’15 is employed as a police officer in Parkston.

Taylor Kuhn ’15, of Yankton, graduated with a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from the University of South Dakota.

Rachel Leonhardt-Kent ex’15, of Sioux Falls, graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Morningside College in 2015 and is employed by Avera Behavioral Health Hospital in Sioux Falls.

Devinne Facile Mertens ’15, of Sioux Falls, and her spouse, Kody Mertens, had a baby girl, Remington, on April 30, 2018.

Lacey Reimnitz ’15, of Minneapolis, graduated with a master’s degree in music therapy from the University of Minnesota.

Katherine Lazenby ’16, originally of Mitchell, is currently in the chemistry Ph.D. program at the University of Iowa and was granted a National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship. The NSF fellowship award provides the graduate student with three years of financial support within a five-year fellowship period for graduate study that leads to a research-based master’s or doctoral degree.

Travis Moodie ’16 was accepted at Sanford School of Medicine in Sioux Falls starting this fall.

Daniel Porter ’16 and Nicole Court-Menendez ’16, of Volga, were married on Oct. 7, 2017.

Deaths

Gertrude Nagel Crisp ’37, of Rapid City, died Feb. 10, 2018.

Elinor Kundert Denney ex’37, of Lexington, Va., died March 19, 2018.


Iva Lindley Fleming ’40, of Mitchell, died March 2, 2018.

Cora Chaffee Gigax ’41, of Wooster, Ohio, died Dec. 5, 2017.

Philip Kaye ’42, HD’95, of Lincoln, Neb., died Jan. 10, 2018. Philip was a past speech and theatre professor at Dakota Wesleyan from 1948 to 1956. He was also a past member of the DWU Board of Trustees from 1984 to 1996.

Marjorie “Betty” Hays Vinson ex’42, of Rock Rapids, Iowa, died Dec. 28, 2017. She is preceded in death by her spouse, Craig Vinson ex’42.


Mae McIntyre Scheffel MH'46, '47, of Spirit Lake, Iowa, died Jan. 8, 2017. She is preceded in death by her spouse, Alvin Scheffel '48.

Zella Stevens Weidenbach '47, of Centerville, died Dec. 6, 2017.

Thomas Schlimgen '55, of Salem, Ore., died Dec. 6, 2017. He is survived by his spouse, Loretta Oster Schlimgen '55.


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Miss Wesleyan and Scotchman

Amy Zeller, of Elk Point, and Tyler Fortuna, of Gillette, Wyo., were named the 2018 Miss Wesleyan and Scotchman, the university's highest honors. Other candidates for Miss Wesleyan were: Elizabeth Anderson, of Bowdle; Sara Husher, of Winner; Natasha Letcher, of Bridgewater; Chesney Nagel, of Springfield; and Cierra Schneider, of Sioux Falls. Additional Scotchman candidates were: Tyson Allen, of Mitchell; Dylan Dethlefsen, of White Lake; Austin Van Poole, of Yuba City, Calif.; Erik Wehlander, of Esmond; and Nicholas Woslum, of Palmdale, Calif.

Ruth Moore Smith '51, of Spokane, Wash., died Dec. 3, 2017. She is survived by her son, Stanley Smith ex'74, and preceded in death by her spouse, Spencer Smith ex'51.

Viola Gross Zoodsma '51, of Modesto, Calif., died Jan. 22, 2018. She is survived by her spouse, Marion Zoodsma '52, and daughter, Julia Zoodsma Stone ex'81.

Wallace Nielson '54, of Austin, Texas, died Feb. 6, 2018.

Thomas Schlimgen '55, of Salem, Ore., died Dec. 6, 2017. He is survived by his spouse, Loretta Oster Schlimgen '55.
The Dakota Wesleyan University Department of History is hosting a European tour next summer that coincides with the 75th anniversary of D-Day. Students will visit World War I and II memorial sites in England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands on June 5-17, 2019. This 12-day trip will include guided tours to battlefields, beaches, cathedrals, dockyards, museums and war memorials, as well as sightseeing trips in London, Paris and Amsterdam through the tour company, Trafalgar. There are limited openings available for this trip. The deadline for application is Aug. 15, 2018. For more information, contact DWU history professors Dr. Sean Flynn (Sean.Flynn@dwu.edu) and Dr. John Husmann (John.Husmann@dwu.edu).
class notes.

Linda Hasche Hafner '79, '98, of Tea, died Nov. 28, 2017.

Crystal Hanson Moore ex'99, of Mitchell, died March 24, 2018. She is survived by her mother, Gloria Cofer Hanson '92.

A DWU Alumni eNewsletter was created in January and is sent every two months. It’s a great way to stay updated on news from campus and other alumni. If you haven’t received one, make sure to check your “clutter” or “spam” folders, or email alumni@dwu.edu and let the alumni office know you’d like to be added to the list.

2018 Date Book
- June 23 – DWU Night at the Canaries, 6 p.m., Sioux Falls Stadium
- Aug. 17-19 – New Student Orientation
- Aug. 19 – All College Church
- Aug. 20 – Digital DWU Orientation
- Aug. 23 – Opening Convocation
- Oct. 8 – Fall Break
- Oct. 12 – Blue & White Unite Alumni Reunion
- Oct. 11-14 – Blue & White Days
- Oct. 21 – Wesleyan Band and LyricWood Concert
- Nov. 19-23 – Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 1-2 – Christmas at Dakota Wesleyan

www.dwu.edu/events

Retirements

JEANNE KROME retired as administrative assistant in the Arlene Gates Department of Nursing in May. She began working in the nursing department in 2006. She earned her bachelor’s degree at DWU in business administration in 2010. While working in the department, the nursing program changed from a two-year associate degree program to a four-year bachelor degree program. “More than 600 students have graduated from the DWU nursing program since my employment in the department. It has been wonderful to have some nursing students return to DWU as nursing faculty and also to see many of our students as nurses in different healthcare facilities in the area. It has been very enjoyable working with the various faculty and seeing the numerous students receiving their nursing education at DWU.”

DR. DIANE SANDHOFF has retired from the Arlene Gates Department of Nursing at DWU after 29 years of service. She began at DWU in 1989 teaching OB and medical/surgical nursing and retired this May as the chair of the department.

See pages 30-31 for a special FACE Value on Sandhoff.

VICKI WELCH has retired as associate professor of communication and chair of the communication department. She began her Dakota Wesleyan University career in 1991, teaching general education courses in communication and English. She also spent many years coordinating local oral interpretation contests that brought thousands of high school students to campus. During her years at DWU, she has seen the DWU student population double in size. Nearly every student has taken a communication course. “My department has contact with almost every student. That gives me firsthand experience with the wonderful young people who have found their future at DWU.”
Leon Washington '72

J. Leon Washington is the dean of enrollment management at Villanova University, a position he has held since 2016. During Washington’s impressive 43-year career in higher education, he has held various leadership roles as vice provost for admissions and financial aid at Lehigh University; assistant vice chancellor for enrollment and student academic support at the University of California, Davis; dean of admissions at Alma College; and director of admissions at Oberlin College – the first African-American to hold this position.

Washington has continued to be a leader in recruiting minority students, a tribute to his experience with being the first African-American to graduate from all-white Wade Hampton High School and for his time at DWU as being one of 14 African-American students on campus. He also established the School of English in Brazil, where he increased enrollment from 10 to 60 students.

He earned his Master of Arts degrees from California State University and Cambridge College.

With a long and successful career in enrollment management, Washington serves on the DWU Board of Trustees and is the chair of the Enrollment Management Committee. He is also a regular and generous supporter of the Wesleyan Scholarship Fund.

Brad Pratt '79

Brad Pratt has been a courageous leader and loyal supporter of Dakota Wesleyan University in countless ways. He currently serves on the DWU Board of Trustees, where he led as chairperson for six years until retiring in March 2018. Pratt is also a former DWU Alumni Board member.

Beyond his service to Dakota Wesleyan’s boards, he has given financially to DWU for 29 years, with a cumulative giving of more than $300,000. He has contributed as a leadership donor to the Wesleyan Scholarship Fund and earned room-naming rights as a major gift donor for the DWU/Avera Sports and Wellness Complex. His most recent contribution assisted in funding the new DWU Alumni Welcome Center, which will house the institutional advancement offices and provide a space for alumni to gather.

With 30 years in the financial service industry, Pratt is a founding partner of Pratt, Kutzke & Associates, an independent financial consulting and wealth management firm. He is also the president of the Minnesota Chapter of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors.

He is involved and supports numerous local organizations, including the Mankato Area Youth Symphony and is also frequently known to drive from Mankato to support DWU athletic teams.

Mike Denny ’69

After graduating from DWU, Mike Denny received a Master of Arts degree from the University of Nebraska Omaha. He played and coached professional football for the Omaha Mustangs during the 1970s. Denny was an instructor and coach at the University of Nebraska for 31 years. He served as president of the NCAA Division II Wrestling Coaches Association. Overall, he coached 37 years, compiling a 331-117 dual meet record at the collegiate level.

After the elimination of wrestling at UNO, Denny was recruited to start a wrestling program at Maryville University. In his first five years at MU, he took his team to the NCAA Division II National Wrestling Championship Tournament twice.

Denny’s long list of athletic achievements includes: being named Omaha Metro High School Coach of the Year in 1975, and being inducted into the Omaha Metro Coaches Hall of Fame in 1984, the Nebraska Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame in 1986 and the DWU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1988. He was named the NCAA Division II Wrestling Coach of the Year in 1981, 1991 and 2009. He received the Nebraska Wrestling Coaches Association prestigious Guy Mytty Memorial Award for his outstanding dedication and service to high school wrestling in Nebraska.
WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO GO INTO HEALTHCARE?
Becoming a nurse was always my goal. I never ever considered any other profession. My mom wanted to be a nurse but never had the opportunity. She always told me that maybe she would become a nurse through me. She died before I graduated, but I know she would be proud that our dream was fulfilled.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO CONTINUE IN HEALTHCARE AS A TEACHER OF FUTURE NURSES?
I wanted to earn a bachelor’s degree when I graduated from high school. Instead, my parents felt a diploma in the nursing program would better suit my future; ... but I always kept the dream of earning a bachelor’s degree, so after 12 years of work, getting married and having two children, I enrolled in the SDSU Upward Mobility program. I remember writing my philosophy of nursing for an assignment in my last nursing course and for some reason my fingers typed, “I want to become a nursing educator.” I do not remember ever thinking about it before, but once I saw the written words, I knew this was my next journey, no questions asked.

About the same time, DWU was advertising for a master’s-prepared OB faculty position in nursing education. My husband told me to apply. ... I did and the hiring committee took a risk on me and hired me with the stipulation that I would begin in the master’s program in fall. I fell in love with the educator role and never looked back.

WHERE DO YOU SEE NURSING GOING IN THE FUTURE?
The profession of nursing has a very bright future. Regardless of where RNs work, all nursing students begin with foundational nursing knowledge as well as guidance in understanding the value of the soft skills of empathy, communication, flexibility, self-confidence and having a strong work ethic, as well as a commitment to the profession and to the organization. Beyond the foundational concepts, new concepts continue to emerge, including population health, rural health, informatics and genomics, to name only a few. These emerging areas create challenges for nursing programs to include the concepts into the curricula to prepare graduates for the new roles; however, the outcomes offer future graduates many opportunities to expand beyond the traditional nursing path. This is one reason why earning a bachelor’s degree in nursing is so essential. As new knowledge continues to emerge, nursing curricula expands. The workforce of the future requires well-educated nurses who are adaptable and committed to the profession.

Another change for the profession is where nurses work. We will always need well-prepared nurses at the bedside in rural and urban settings; however, many patients receive care outside the walls of a hospital. The Arlene Gates Department of Nursing is preparing nurses for future jobs that are not even created yet. It is a challenge but also a very exciting time to be a member of the profession.

WHAT HAVE YOU VALUED MOST ABOUT YOUR TIME AT DWU?
I value the people the most, including the faculty and staff I have been privileged to work with every day, and for the opportunity to work with the many students who have entered and left our department through the years. It is a joy to run into our former graduates and to hear about their accomplishments since graduation.

I am also very thankful to all our clinical partners who have been so instrumental in helping us educate nursing students by welcoming us into their facilities for clinical experiences; and I’m thankful for the guidance from administration, the board of trustees and the nursing advisory board.
I am also very grateful to all the generous donors who have supported the Arlene Gates Department of Nursing, including the beautiful Glenda K. Corrigan Health Sciences Center that houses our department, and for all those who have sponsored our offices and classrooms and the simulation lab and equipment. The generosity of so many have made such a difference for students, faculty and staff.

**WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR FUTURE STUDENTS AND/OR EDUCATORS?**

My advice is be comfortable adapting to how you work, where you work and with whom you work. Interprofessional teamwork is expected of all professionals. With the available opportunities, there is a place for everyone. Remain positive and open to change as it will happen often and rapidly. Find an area that feels right and put in 100 percent of your efforts to learn as much as possible. Be willing to challenge yourself to continue to grow. Finally, become a lifelong learner. Invest in yourself; you will never regret it.

**WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS AFTER RETIREMENT?**

I am looking forward to slowing down but not quitting. I want to go back into teaching online on a part-time basis. We plan to visit our children and grandchildren more and have a few short trips planned. Life is an adventure, and I look forward to what life has to offer.

**EDUCATION:** Corsica High School; Diploma in Nursing from St. John’s School of Nursing, Huron, 1973; Bachelor of Science degree from SDSU, 1989; Master of Science degree in nursing from SDSU, 1993; Doctorate of Education from Northcentral University, 2018

**WORK HISTORY:** St. Joseph Hospital, Mitchell, 1973; Dr. Maynard Porter’s office, Parkston, 1975; Methodist Hospital, Mitchell, 1985; Dakota Wesleyan University, associate degree nursing program (taught OB and medical/surgical nursing), 1989-2018, LPN-A.S. degree program in Sioux Falls, became the RN-B.S. online director, dean of the Donna Starr Christen College of Healthcare, Fitness and Sciences, administrative chair of the Arlene Gates Department of Nursing

**AWARDS:** Professional Excellence in Teaching Award, 2013; SDNA District Nurse of the Year, 2011; Exemplary Teaching Award from DWU, 2007; Certificate of Recognition from students in graduating classes of 2002 and 2003
Dakota Wesleyan women were playing basketball, under the management of the YWCA committee on physical culture, as early as 1898, nearly a decade before the Wesleyan men caught basketball fever. The women played intramural games as well as against teams outside the school, but after a few years, interest in basketball faded away. In 1907, women’s basketball resumed but without intercollegiate competition. The earliest women’s basketball photos are from 1911, as shown here. There was intramural women’s basketball on campus before the establishment of the current women’s basketball program, which began in 1975-76. Pictured here, from left to right, front row: Coach Marcia Walker, Deb Tinker ’77, Linda Harris ’86 and Kathy Callahan Fouberg ’77; middle row: Lynn Koch Buck ’77, Deb Fouberg ’79, Nancy Sturzl Dingle ’79 and Donita McLean Serr ’80; back row: Captain Sheila Cass Edwards ’76, Mary Vessey Frederick ’76, Bonnie Haines ’78 and Jeanette Davey ’76.