

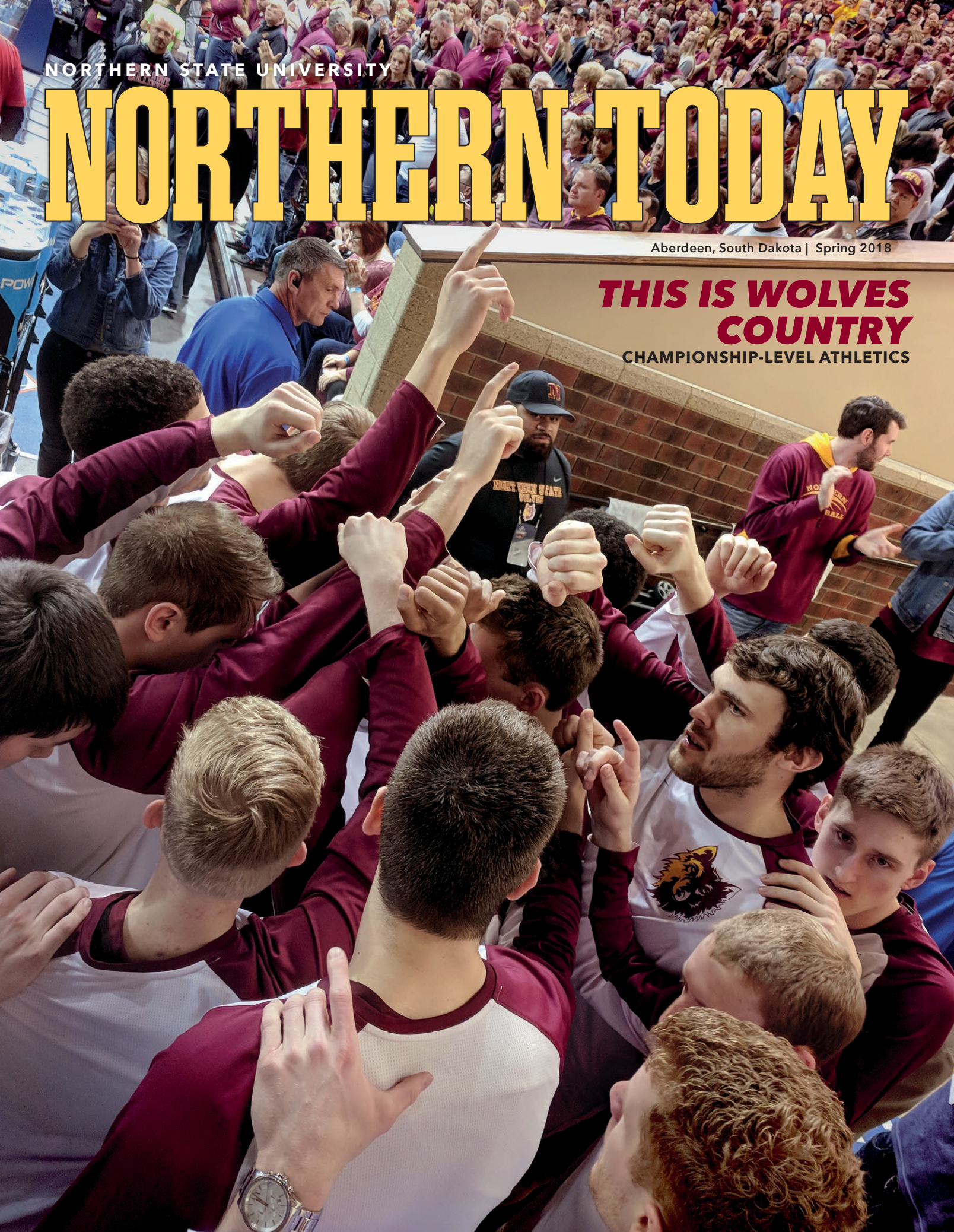
NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY

NORTHERN TODAY

Aberdeen, South Dakota | Spring 2018

**THIS IS WOLVES
COUNTRY**

CHAMPIONSHIP-LEVEL ATHLETICS



NORTHERN TODAY

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NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY
COMMUNICATIONS AND
MARKETING FOR THE NORTHERN
STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION**

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ABOUT NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Northern State University is a premier residential, regional, liberal arts institution characterized by outstanding instruction, extraordinary community relations and unparalleled co-curricular opportunities. In August 2017, NSU was again named by U.S. News and World Report as one of the best regional undergraduate public schools in the Midwest. For more information, visit our website at northern.edu.

Northern Today is published biannually by Northern State University, 1200 S. Jay St., Aberdeen, SD 57401, for Northern alumni and friends. Recipients receive the publication after completion of a degree or by requesting a subscription.

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16 Athletics Recap

Letter from the President

The team may be done, but Northern is just getting started.

THROUGHOUT MY TIME as president of Northern, I've continually used the phrase "enhancing the student experience." The men's basketball team's run to an NCAA National Championship game is exactly the kind of experience our community, alumni and university deserve. For three epic nights in March, more than 9,000 combined fans – made up of alumni, faculty, staff and students – took part in an experience none of us will or should ever forget.

People from around the nation cheered on the Wolves; in fact, the NCAA reported nearly 1.3 million people watched the championship game.

We cannot expect every season or team to produce these results; that is the nature of sports. We can expect our teams to compete every game and our fans to support them – just like they've always done. But there are many other ways you, as a fan, can support our teams and the university in addition to buying tickets and showing up for games. You can buy officially licensed Wolves gear and wear maroon and gold every Friday. You can donate to the Educational Impact Campaign (educational-impact.com) or support scholarships via the Foundation.

However you're able to show your support, now is the time.

We recently broke ground on our Regional Science Education Center and the Athletic and Recreation Fields. Great Plains East and West, our second and third new residence halls, will open their doors to 299 students this fall. Our educational partner, the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, will soon unveil final architectural concepts for its new building.



Northern and the community of Aberdeen are on the verge of unleashing their potential. The Northern we've all been accustomed to is about to change, becoming even better.

Our men's basketball team fought through adversity and showed a level of determination and grit synonymous with our community, students and alumni. They also showed us a path toward a higher level of success we can all strive to achieve.

Words cannot describe the immense pride I felt while standing on the sidelines, cheering on our Wolves. Thank you, Wolves Nation, for showing the state and nation what we're all about at Northern State University.

Go Wolves!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy M. Downs". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Tim Downs

Learn more about the Educational Impact Campaign at educational-impact.com

Upcoming Events

■ JULY 13

NSU Wolves Golf Classic
Lee Park Golf Course,
Aberdeen, S.D.

■ AUG. 19

Foundation and Alumni Day at the
Brown County Fair
Brown County Fairgrounds

■ SEPT. 15

Alumni and Friends Tailgating
Moorhead, Minn., 1:30 p.m.

■ SEPT. 27

NSU Foundation Annual Meeting
Centennial Rooms, noon

■ SEPT. 28

50 Year Club Luncheon
"Celebrating the Class of 1968"
Centennial Rooms,
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Hall of Fame Banquet

Best Western Ramkota, 5 p.m.

■ SEPT. 29

Gypsy Day Parade
Main Street, 9 a.m.

Alumni and Friends Tailgating

Clark Swisher Activities Complex,
noon

NSU Football Gypsy Day Game

Clark Swisher Activities Complex,
2:30 p.m.

■ OCT. 6

Alumni and Friends Tailgating
St. Paul, Minn., 10:30 a.m.

■ OCT. 17-20

Man of La Mancha
JFAC Harvey and Cynthia Jewett
Theater, 7:30 p.m.

■ NOV. 17

20th Annual Northern Night
NSU Scholarship Fundraiser
Dakota Event Center

■ DEC. 4

Holiday Extravaganza
JFAC Harvey and Cynthia Jewett
Theater, 7:30 p.m.

■ DEC. 5-JAN. 25

Sara Christensen Blair Art
Exhibition, JFAC Gallery

NSU students instrumental in BOR fee increase approval

Northern State University students weren't satisfied with their level of general activity fees (GAF), so they took it upon themselves to get it changed.

NSU students Tyler Harris, Alysha Martinez, Zackery North and Kayla Sproles went before the South Dakota Board of Regents at a meeting in Spearfish this spring to ask that a student referendum be considered, resulting in a \$3 per credit hour general activity fee (GAF) increase. These fees fund activities directly tied to

the student experience on campus.

The four students – all of whom serve on the NSU Student Government Association – explained how the students would allocate the increase in funds. They also shared that Northern students had already voted to approve a higher GAF amount, and were heavily educated about the topic before they voted on the referendum. All tuition and fee rate recommendations must receive approval by the Board of Regents, which occurs once a year in March.

■ Regional Science Education Center



A groundbreaking ceremony was held in April for the Northern State University Regional Science Education Center. The state-of-the-art center, which will open

for the fall 2019 semester, will advance educational and research opportunities for the university and entire region.

■ Athletic and Recreation Fields project



This spring, NSU broke ground on the first project of its Educational Impact Campaign, with a groundbreaking ceremony held in April for the Athletic and Recreation Fields project. The project



includes a new football practice field and women's soccer field to be built east of Jerde Hall. Completion is expected in August 2018. Visit northern.edu/master-plan to learn more.

'The Hate U Give' author to deliver 2018 NSU Common Read Lecture

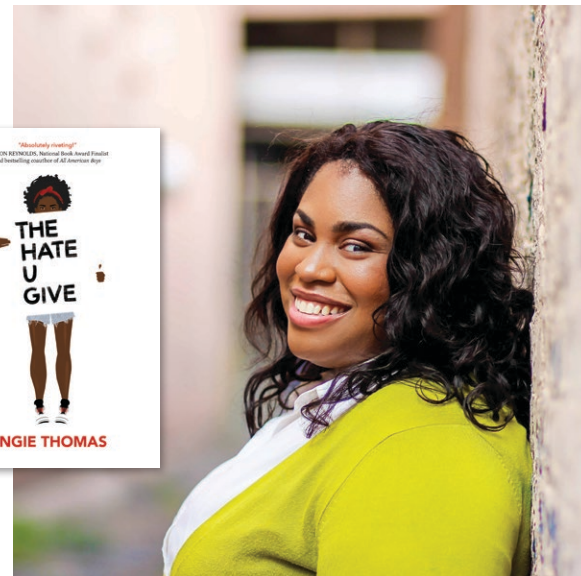
Angie Thomas, author of the No. 1 New York Times bestselling book "The Hate U Give," will deliver Northern State University's 2018 Common Read Lecture.

Thomas will speak at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14, in the Johnson Fine Arts Center. The event – Northern's eighth annual Common Read Lecture—is free and open to the public.

The award-winning "The Hate U Give" has received starred reviews from eight literary journals and has been optioned by Fox 2000 and Temple Hill

Production. The book is available for purchase at the NSU Wolf Shoppe.

The NSU Honors Program sponsors the NSU Common Read, with funding from student fees and donations to the NSU Common Read. For more information, contact NSU Honors Program Director Dr. Erin Fouberg at erin.fouberg@northern.edu.



© Anissa Photography



Goodbye, Coach Fred

After 39 seasons with the Wolves, Northern State University Head Women's Basketball Coach Curt Fredrickson announced his retirement this spring.

Fredrickson leaves his post as the winningest coach in Northern State history with an 846-306 record, two NAIA National Championships and numerous conference titles.

In his final season with the Wolves, Fredrickson won a share of both the NSIC North Division and NSIC Overall Championships. The overall crown was the first for NSU in 20 years, since last winning in 1997-98.

The Aberdeen native started his

career with the Wolves as a student-athlete on the football and baseball teams, earning All-American honors in both sports in 1974. He joined the NSU coaching staff as a football assistant following his playing career, and was named the head women's basketball coach in 1977-78.

Going forward, the Wolves will be led by Paula (Stolsmark) Krueger ('95), previously the team's associate head coach and a former NSU standout.

New halls attract more students to on-campus housing



Housing applications are up 20 percent from last spring at Northern State University as more students are attracted to the university's new residence halls.

As of March 1, 157 new students had applied to live at Northern this fall, said NSU Director of Residence Life Marty Sabolo. That compares to 127 housing applications last year at that time, and 89 the previous year.

Sabolo said the rising application numbers can be attributed to three new, modern residence halls on campus: Wolves Memorial Suites, which opened in fall 2017; and Great Plains West and Great Plains East, both set to open in fall 2018.

NSU Distinguished Alumna shares powerful advice for students

When Carolyn Thompson faced a cancer diagnosis and was given eight weeks to live, she believed in one powerful truth.

“I believed I was going to survive and that God would have a great and mighty purpose,” said Thompson, a 1991 graduate of Northern State University.

That was 2015. Today, Thompson is in remission, has published a book, and is running a successful business.

As the 2018 Distinguished Alumna for the NSU School of Business, Thompson encourages NSU students to believe in their own powerful truths – to believe in themselves.

“If you don’t believe in yourself, how are you going to get someone else to buy in?”

Thompson – who describes herself as an entrepreneur with the heart of a teacher who happens to practice law – also empowered students to take control of their own future.

“If you want a result, you’re in charge of that. Things don’t just fall in your lap,” she said. “There is no traffic in the extra mile. I try to train my kids: it’s not hard to be extraordinary, just do a little extra. God did not call us to be mediocre. Even in my sickness I tried to stick with that positivity.”

NSU Felt Like Home

A native of Parkston, Thompson said it was a high school admissions counselor visit that first sparked her interest in NSU. She was so impressed that she needed to check out Northern – and she loved what she found. She had been on other college visits, but when it came to NSU, “I just felt at home,” she said.

It was a safe, small campus where she felt comfortable and felt like she could grow.

“NSU just really gave me a great foundation to get my core education and then dream big,” she said.

At Northern, Thompson took a business law class taught by Professor R. James Krueger, which got her interested in law. Accounting Professor Paul Everson also showed an interest in her career, encouraging her to obtain her CPA and go to law school, which she did.

After graduation, Thompson got a full scholarship to law school, then became a partner in a well-established Sioux Falls law firm.

Found Her True Calling

But even before she gained the necessary analytical skills at NSU, Thompson obtained crucial communications skills by growing up working at a corner café, talking and listening to customers – and that’s where she truly found her calling.

“I poured coffee for every farmer in Hutchinson County,” Thompson said.

Through good times and bad, she heard a lot of stories – some that were traumatic, where families had to sell land because they couldn’t make payments due to tough financial times or poor estate planning that led to taxes and family feuds. When she got to Northern and learned about estate taxes, she knew this would be a way to help families keep their farms.

In 2003, Thompson made the decision to leave her firm to start her own business – a difficult choice, but the right one. Thompson Law P.C., an estate and business planning law firm in



Sioux Falls, strives to positively impact families, helping them leave a legacy for their loved ones – not solely in terms of financial means, but also with a reflection of the values and beliefs that can be shared for generations to come.

Sudden Diagnosis

But on April 9, 2015, Thompson was diagnosed with a rare, aggressive form of acute myeloid leukemia, with only 40 reported cases in recorded history. She essentially went from being in perfect health one day to having six to eight weeks to live the next, and no guarantees on treatment.

“Luckily, I was a woman of faith before the diagnosis with a strong foundation and trust in the Lord,” Thompson said. Like many people’s faith, her dependence and trust in the Lord strengthened through difficult times. This would be no exception.

That August, she underwent a stem cell transplant, spending eight months in Houston. Chemotherapy made it difficult to work, but she stayed positive – and expected others to as well.

FREE book download: Thompson’s book, “Cutting to the Core: Finding What Matters Most through the Eyes of a Survivor of Life and Business,” will be free to download from Amazon on June 19. **Download the book at:** <https://www.amazon.com/Cutting-Core-Finding-Survivor-Business-ebook/dp/B06XTXXMXT>.

“I just needed positivity,” she said. “I just wanted people to know that my God has a reason for this and I trusted Him.”

Though she lives with lingering side effects – lower energy, muscle and joint pain, a weak immune system – she is now in remission, with a positive prognosis and a faith even stronger.

The experience led her to publish her book, “Cutting to the Core: Finding What Matters Most Through the Eyes of a Survivor in Life & Business,” in which she shares stories of faith, support and an unbeatable spirit.

Raising Awareness about Leukemia

Now, Thompson is passionate about raising awareness and funds in the fight against leukemia. To spread the word about the national “Lemons for Leukemia” challenge, she made a video and challenged NSU students, faculty and friends in the area to be tested and have their DNA registered in the national “Be the Match” registry. The “Lemons for Leukemia” challenge is similar to the ALS ice bucket challenge, but instead of raising dollars to combat a disease, it is collecting DNA from individuals who

may just “be the match” for someone with a life-threatening illness.

Thompson was the catalyst for the April 30 “Lemons for Leukemia” event on campus to add people to the national Be the Match registry. For her stem cell transplant, a stranger (who, too, was on a college campus halfway across the country when he decided to answer the call to participate in the Be the Match program) was literally a perfect 10 out of 10 match to her. So she knows first-hand the importance of people getting on the national donor database, because those closest to her – her family – were only a 5 of 10 match to her.

Thompson said she was an appreciative person before she was sick, but now she is even more so.

“Now I’m appreciative of the very small things.”

That applies to parenting, too.

“When you have to FaceTime your kids for 8 months, you just see things differently,” she said.

Set Your Own Course

Thompson, who lives in Brandon, has three children: son Taylor, 20; daughter Rachel, 16; and son Will, 15. She said

even before she was sick, she was very much into teaching her children about legacy and character, not just because of her 21-year career in estate planning, but because, she believes, it is the only thing that if embodied can truly pass down and create a positive ripple effect for generations to come.

“Fortunes can be built and lost, many times over. Who you are, what you believe, and what or who you stand for can monumentally change the future through what you share with those near to you. Money can’t do that,” she said, adding, “It’s not about your net worth, it’s about who you are and how you treat people.”

That’s another truth she believes in: In your journey, it’s about the truth you believe and the people who walk alongside you that are most important.

And from her rich, successful life experience, Thompson wanted to stress to students that graduation day is not the end – it is just the beginning.

“You’ve got to take hold of your future,” she said. “There are a lot of hours in the day. You decide how to use them, and who you’re with – your circle of influence. Choose wisely.”

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

College of Arts and Sciences: Dr. Rochelle Nolte

Dr. Rochelle Nolte is the NSU Distinguished Alumna for the College of Arts and Sciences.

Capt. Nolte has had a highly successful career with the U.S. Public Health Service, and she attributes that success to NSU and the top-notch professors who wouldn’t settle for anything less than her full potential.

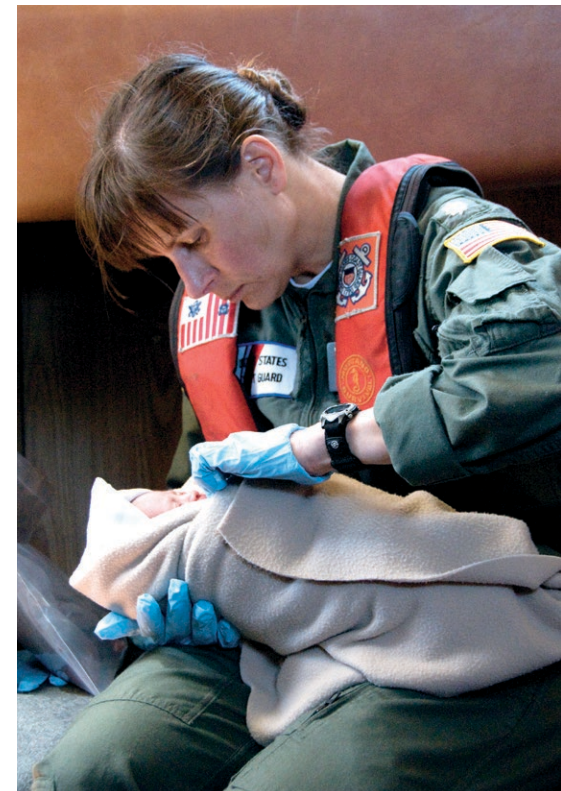
“My experiences with the Public Health Service have been beyond anything I ever could have dreamed up for myself. I never could have imagined such a great career,” she said. “I have Northern to thank for that.”

Nolte said receiving the Distinguished Alumni award was very humbling.

“The foundation for all I’ve achieved was laid for me at Northern by the faculty there,” she said.

Capt. Nolte attended NSU from 1988 to 1992, graduating summa cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in biology and environmental science. At Northern, she was active in 4-H, Cadet Club and ROTC – she was even named the ROTC Cadet of the Year for two consecutive years and was awarded the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal and National Defense Service Medal.

Nolte said she chose NSU because a



good scholarship made it affordable, and the best part of attending was having “involved and energetic faculty who got to know us, encouraged us, and opened doors for us.”

Her advice to current students: “Make the most of your time at Northern and take advantage of all it has to offer.”

After graduation, Nolte applied and was accepted to the esteemed military medical school Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS). Dr. Nolte graduated with her Medical Doctorate in 1996 and went on to do her internship and residency in Family Medicine at Fort Belvoir, Va. She also completed a fellowship in geriatric medicine at Johns Hopkins Bayview and a Sports Medicine Fellowship at Fort Belvoir.

While working to continue her education, she also worked as a member of the disaster medical assistance team, a group of professional medical personnel that provide rapid-response medical care or casualty decontamination during a terrorist attack, natural disaster or other national or international emergencies. Her missions included serving as an emergency responder in two hurricanes, the World Trade Center attacks, the Brentwood Post Office attacks involving airborne anthrax, the Pentagon, the Salt Lake City Olympics, presidential inaugurations and events, and the Kosovar Refugee Crisis.

Capt. Nolte’s distinguished service has been recognized by several awards, including Commendation Medals, Special Assignment Awards, Presidential Unit Citations, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Crisis Response Service Awards.

Capt. Nolte’s experiences have included serving with the U.S. Coast Guard in various roles. While with the Coast Guard, she was named the PHS Clinical Physician of the Year. Now at the Bureau of Prisons in San Diego, Calif., she plays a critical role in caring for patients with complex medical and psychiatric problems, and improving care in the BOP by bringing bedside ultrasound to this setting to prevent unnecessary delays in treatment or trips out of the facility for imaging and by bringing acupuncture techniques for pain control to this population to decrease the use of narcotic medications. She continues to teach medical students and residents.

Dr. Nolte is married with two daughters, has authored publications, spoken at numerous conferences and workshops, and is a member of various medical associations.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

‘You are best off being YOU’

Distinguished Alumnus Maunu encourages grads to be the best version of themselves.

It might be tempting to try to imitate the methods of others who are accomplishing great things, but Chris Maunu has this advice for new Northern State University graduates: “be you.”

“You are best off being YOU,” said Maunu, NSU’s 2018 Distinguished Alumnus for the School of Fine Arts. “The very best version of YOU. You have a unique set of gifts and talents, and they are best used if you are your most authentic self.”

Maunu delivered the spring commencement address on May 5 in the Barnett Center. A 2003 graduate of NSU, Maunu received his Master of Music in Vocal Performance in 2005 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He has been director of choral activities at Arvada West High School in Colorado since 2006 and has grown the program into a large, robust and high-achieving musical destination, resulting in nationwide recognition.

Maunu’s efforts and successes also led to him being named a finalist for the 2018 Music Educator Award at the 60th GRAMMY® Awards this year out of thousands of educators across the United States. This prestigious honor is presented by the Recording Academy and Grammy Museum to recognize current educators who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education. Maunu also received a Commendation from the House of Representatives for his work in the choral field.



At Arvada West, nearly 200 students have been accepted into all-state choir under Maunu’s tutelage, including 34 in each of the last two years – the most of any school in Colorado last year. Most recently, the Arvada West Vocal Showcase choir was named one of seven finalists for the 2017-18 AMERICAN PRIZE in Choral Performance.

They were also invited to perform at the 2017 American Choral Director’s Association National Conference, the most prestigious honor for a choir of any level in the United States. Maunu’s choir was one of only three high-school mixed choirs selected, performing alongside choirs from Europe, Asia and South America. His program is only the third high school in Colorado history to be invited to perform for the ACDA.

Maunu and his ensembles have performed in Carnegie Hall; The Kennedy Center; Orchestra Hall in Chicago and Minneapolis; as well

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

School of Education: Bryan DeBates

Bryan J. DeBates is the 2018 NSU Distinguished Alumnus for the Millicent Atkins School of Education.

as High Mass at St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican in Rome and High Mass at St. Mark's Basilica in Venice.

A published author, Maunu has presented numerous workshops and clinics on men's choir recruitment, music program building and repertoire. He recently hosted the NSU Chamber Singers on their Colorado tour, presenting a joint concert and hosting a residency at Arvada West with the NSU students and Dr. Timothy Woods.

"Singing is one of the most vulnerable activities that exists. We create sound from within our bodies and share it, opening ourselves up to judgment and criticism. My goal as a choir teacher is to help my students to develop courage through singing and becoming vulnerable, authentic human beings," Maunu said. "Northern was a terrific place for me to grow in this respect. When I arrived at NSU, I didn't have a great deal of confidence as a performer, much less as a future teacher. The faculty welcomed me, gave me opportunities to perform, and helped me gain the confidence necessary to be successful in the music field. I am forever grateful."

Maunu said the student-faculty ratio was a big factor in why he chose to attend Northern.

"I wanted to attend a university that was large enough to have a lot of great programs, but small enough so the classrooms had a more personal feel," he said. "NSU was the perfect balance in that respect."

The highlight of his time at Northern was the community of the performing arts department.

"It was an incredibly passionate and welcoming group of students and professors," Maunu said. "Being in that environment helped me develop my skills in music and education, while helping me to become my most authentic self."

DeBates, who works for the Space Foundation as vice president of education, graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Northern in 1993. While at Northern, DeBates played football, earning First Team All-Conference honors as a free safety, was named an NAIA Division I All-America Scholar-

Athlete, and played on two conference championship teams in 1990 and 1992. He was also on the track team, served as president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and was a Gypsy Day royalty finalist. He earned a master's degree with honors in Space Science Education Leadership from Regis University, Denver, in 2006.

"My goal when I left Northern was to make a difference in the world. The skills I learned from going to school here went well beyond just an education and has allowed me to do that," DeBates said. "What many students going to school here don't yet realize is that you will get so much more at Northern than just an education and a diploma. You will learn life skills that will allow you to succeed through the toughest situations and will truly allow you to change the world."

In his Space Foundation position, DeBates administers the development and implementation of the Space Foundation's global education programs that support science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) education. This includes establishing project goals



and developing education programs to support the efforts of classroom educators and Space Foundation education partners. As vice president, DeBates directs the Space Foundation's education programs, including the popular Discover the Universe field trips and the Space in the Community outreach program. He oversees the Space Foundation's Discovery Center space museum

and education center in Colorado Springs, and its education labs. He also ensures the programs follow the Space Foundation's mission to inspire, educate, connect, and advocate for the global space community.

Prior to starting his position at the Space Foundation in 2006, DeBates taught fifth grade at Timberwilde Elementary in San Antonio, Texas, and Title I math and reading at Ipswich Elementary in Ipswich, S.D.

DeBates has been honored for his achievements in education through numerous awards, including being named the 2014 recipient of the prestigious Frank J. Malina Astronautics Medal presented by the International Astronautical Federation, Time Warner Cable's National Crystal Apple Award, the Air Force Association's Alamo Chapter Teacher of the Year, the Air Force Association's Christa McAuliffe Memorial Award and the Colorado Medal of Merit. He was selected by Texas A&M as a recipient of the Educator's Shape the Future Award and was cited in the U.S. Congressional Record for his contributions to education.

T H I S I S

WOLVES COUNTRY

NSU men's basketball team makes historic national championship appearance in home state

FOR NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY, 2018 will be remembered as the year the men's basketball team united the state of South Dakota with an electrifying national championship appearance at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls.

The Wolves made history with a record-breaking season that drew an unprecedented level of hometown support – and “hometown” extended far beyond the borders of the NSU campus.

In March, the whole community of Aberdeen “marooned out” all championship week as the Wolves kept advancing, each game more thrilling than the last.

More than 9,000 combined fans – including alumni, faculty, staff and students – cheered on NSU at three games, creating a sea of frenzied maroon at the Sioux Falls arena.

One fan captured the hearts of all of Wolves Nation. When Lucille Tollifson headed down to Sioux Falls on the NSU fan bus, it wasn't the first time she'd watched the men's basketball team at nationals – she also took a Northern fan bus to Kentucky 20 years ago.

Her story was followed by local, state and national media outlets as she cheered on the Northern team.

“It's just an exciting time to be able to watch those Wolves play,” said Tollifson, who turns 90 in June.

Tollifson was far from the only one cheering on NSU. By the championship game, people from around the nation were watching the Wolves, with the NCAA reporting more than 1 million viewers.

The experience was unforgettable for the entire NSU community.

“It's been such a game-changing time at Northern, with so much positive

momentum on campus, and the Wolves' historic season propels us even further forward,” said NSU President Dr. Tim Downs. “Words can't even express how proud I am of the entire team, and how grateful I am to all of Wolves Nation for coming out in droves to support our student-athletes and our university.”

Community support is nothing new to NSU, but what made this level of support unique was how far it reached. By the March 24 championship match, the entire state of South Dakota was cheering for Northern – even beyond, with alumni and fans across the nation and in other countries expressing their support.

Even supporters of rival schools showed up for NSU. Everyone in South Dakota rallied behind them, with diehard Coyotes and Jackrabbits becoming Wolves fans.

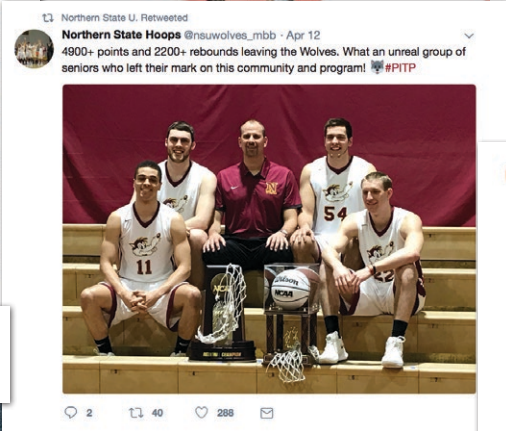
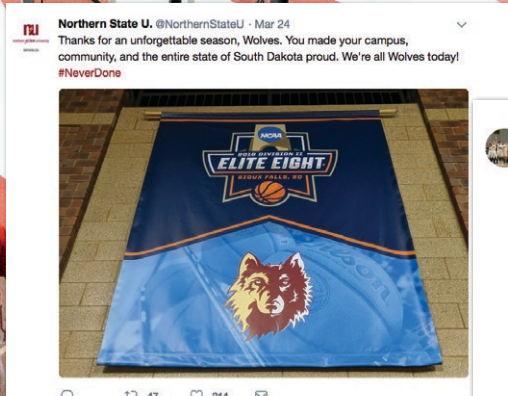
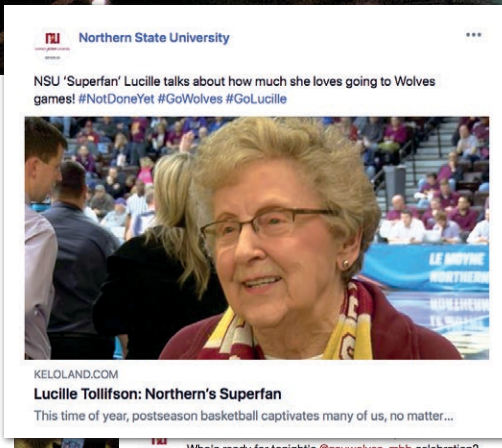
The championship game came down to the final moments, and unfortunately, it did not end in Northern's favor. But fans immediately voiced encouragement and pride, pointing out what an accomplishment the team had achieved.

In a season recap video, Coach Paul Sather expressed his pride for his players, and also praised the phenomenal support of Wolves fans.

“The atmosphere in the Elite Eight tournament was like nothing you could even imagine. From a national championship stage, to have 95 percent of those people in that arena cheering for Northern State was an incredible, amazing feeling. And you felt like you had everybody supporting you,” Sather said. “Winning the games was fun, but to have that kind of support – that's so much a part of why this run that we had will never be forgotten.”

That support continued with a community celebration held on the NSU





campus in April, when the public was invited to meet with Sather and NSU players.

Overall, the men's basketball season was a fitting kick-off for a thrilling series of events planned for the university.

"The far-reaching support for our students and our university is phenomenal, and I'm excited for those supporters to keep showing up for Northern as we move forward with more exciting projects for our campus," Downs said.

Campus projects include the Regional Science Education Center and the Athletic and Recreation Fields, currently under construction; two new residence halls opening this fall; and a new South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and regional sports complex yet to come.

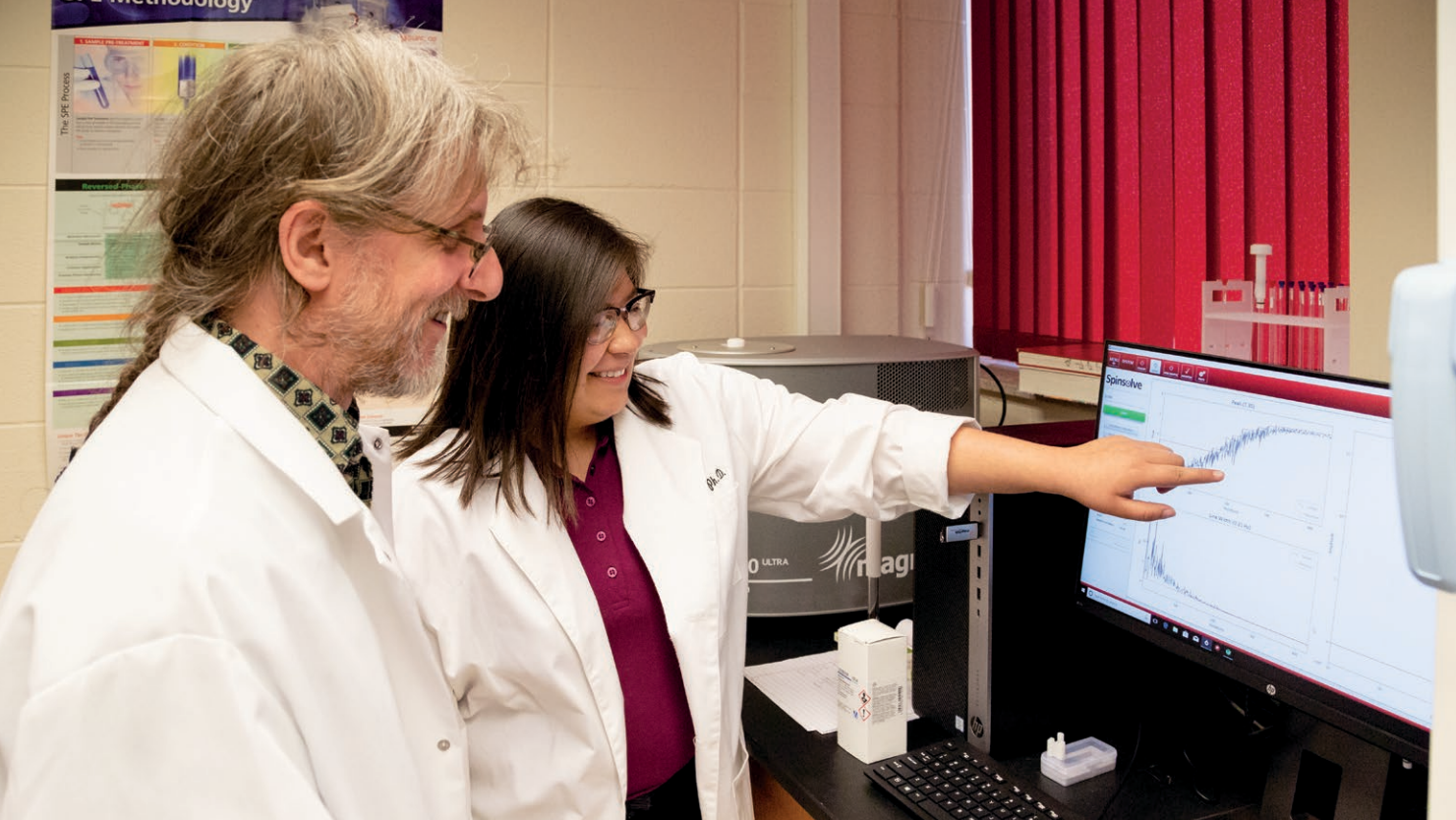
"All of these projects – along with an outstanding athletics program, as our Wolves demonstrated so clearly – are perfect examples of what I mean by enhancing the student experience," Downs said. "And our students aren't the only ones who benefit. The success of our teams and our campus improvement projects truly enhance the experience for the whole community, region and state – for all of Wolves Nation."

Downs thanked the NSU athletic department, men's basketball coaches and student-athletes for the excellent season.

"They all well represented Northern and our community as athletes with the highest level of sportsmanship and honor," he said. "We will cherish the efforts of this team for decades into the future."

The year 2018 will always be remembered as a game-changing time for Wolves Country – as a time when everyone in South Dakota was a Northern Wolf.





IMPACTING HEALTH

NSU students, professor part of research that could lead to cure for Huntington's

While her friends are working typical summer jobs, Northern State University student Cindy Venegas is spending her summer conducting research for a project that could lead to a cure for Huntington's disease.

"It's very cool," said Venegas, an Aberdeen native pursuing a bachelor's degree in biology and an associate in biotechnology. "It's amazing to be able to do research as a sophomore in college."

"That's an opportunity unique to NSU," said Dr. Jon Mitchell, associate professor of biology, who works with Venegas. "That's the Northern advantage."

Mitchell and Venegas, along with NSU senior Zach Fleming, have been working for the past year to purify the sheep ganglioside GM1, which has been found to impact the effects of Huntington's disease and potentially other neurodegenerative diseases.

It's advanced research, Mitchell said, and it's funded thanks to a

South Dakota EPSCoR (Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) grant that pays for wages, some research equipment and consumable materials.

"It doesn't happen very often that students get the opportunity to get a little bit of a wage and do some hard science," Mitchell said. "This is not easy stuff and no one's doing it."

Collaborative Effort

The work is a collaborative effort with GlycoScience Research Inc. (GRI), located near Brookings. GRI founders, Dr. Larry Holler, DVM, Ph.D., in the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department at South Dakota State University, and Sue Holler, diagnostic specialist at SDSU, have been working on these sheep since 1998. They have

identified a new sheep source for production of GM1 gangliosides that will exceed normal levels 30 to 40 fold, providing needed raw materials for downstream pharmaceutical applications against Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's and dementia.

Patients with Huntington's disease are deficient in GM1 ganglioside, but the Hollers and GRI have discovered that treating Huntington's patients with this GM1 ganglioside has shown to drastically reduce its symptoms to the point of cure.

"These guys are trying to cure Huntington's," Dr. Mitchell explained, adding, "They want to convince the FDA that GM1 could be the answer." Additionally, this



Photograph courtesy Cindy Venegas



Photograph courtesy Cindy Venegas

“It doesn’t happen very often that students get the opportunity to get a little bit of a wage and do some hard science. This is not easy stuff and no one’s doing it.”

Dr. Jon Mitchell

GM1 restoration may have a similar effect on patients with Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s and dementia.

Dr. Mitchell partnered with the Hollers and GRI through I-Corps, an NSF-funded program where faculty and undergraduates partner with a business to develop and execute a plan to generate innovative new technology.

In addition to the SD EPSCoR grant, Dr. Mitchell also credited Mel Ustad at the South Dakota Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED) for professional support. This project also involves collaborations with Avanti Polar Lipids and Dr. Dan Engebretson, chair of the Biomedical Engineering Program at the USD Graduate Education and Applied Research (GEAR) Center in Sioux Falls.

Working Toward a Cure

While this treatment is in very early stages, its impact is certain.

“It is a cure,” Venegas and Mitchell both said.

The Hollers are continuing their work toward getting GM1 approved by the Food and Drug Administration as a treatment. Mitchell and his students’ involvement is more peripheral.

“Our big project is not to cure Huntington’s. Our contribution consists of working on another important component: isolating and quantifying

the GM1 ganglioside from afflicted/non-afflicted lamb muscle to definitively show no significant differences in GM1 levels between the two meat sources – basically, showing that the GM1 afflicted lamb meat would be safe to consume. Therefore, their data would support advocacy of GM1 lamb meat to be marketed through normal, USDA/FDA-approved channels.”

They’re using a couple of different monitoring approaches. In one, they use a fluorescent molecule that will bind to the GM1 to quantify the amount. The other method is standard biochemistry, Mitchell said, monitoring levels using NSU’s new nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometer. This piece of equipment was purchased thanks to a \$52,991 Research and Development Innovation Grant from the South Dakota Board of Regents.

Future Possibilities

The GM1 project is ongoing, and they’re hoping EPSCoR funding will continue. They’re also hoping to gather data and eventually send Venegas to a nationwide meeting to present on the project.

Other future possibilities include actually making GM1. Only a sugar separates GM1 from other gangliosides, Venegas said, so if they can isolate the GM2 or GM3 gangliosides and move

some of the sugars around, they might be able to make GM1.

Mitchell said their work has involved picking up blood samples from a sheep farmer in Forbes, N.D., and it’s great that the students are getting to see all aspects of research.

“You get to go out in the field, and you get to see it in the labs, and then you get to see the potential for helping folks,” he said. “You get to see the end product.”



Research Will Help with Career

Impacting people’s health is amazing, Venegas said, and is in the area of what she wants to do for a career. She hopes to attend the University of California, Berkeley, pursuing a master’s degree and Ph.D. in biological engineering, and possibly work in pharmaceuticals.

Her undergraduate research at Northern has given her a great start – and it’s an opportunity not found at all colleges.

“In bigger schools, you don’t really see that,” Venegas said, adding, “Actually doing hands-on stuff is pretty great.”

“The Blairs”: a Masterpiece in the Making

A creative force of mass proportions, the Northern State University Art Department has left its mark, or brushstroke, nearly everywhere you look on campus, in the community and even on a global scale.



FROM THE BRILLIANT exhibitions displayed throughout the Northern Galleries to the masses of yarn that can be found around campus when the Art Club “yarnifies” NSU, there is certainly no shortage of creativity flowing into and out of the NSU Art Department.

Its wild success is due in part to the constant hard work of NSU art students and the genius of the six professors who have shaped the department over the last several years – two of whom just so happen to call each other husband and wife.

The phrases “The NSU Art Department” and “The Blairs” seem to be synonymous with one another at this point, “The Blairs” being a reference to Dr. Greg Blair, associate professor of art/Northern Galleries director, and Sara Christensen Blair, professor of art/chair of the department of art and theater. This duo seems to be doing it all with the art department, alongside their coworkers.

Upon completing graduate school in 2004, Christensen Blair found herself teaching at NSU, while Blair commuted to teach in Duluth, Minn. Three

years later, the stars seemed to align for Blair as the position he currently holds became vacant. Soon thereafter, the Blairs found themselves working alongside one another at NSU. While this concept may sound daunting and risky to many, it seems to be quite the opposite for these two.

“People ask us all the time if we drive each other crazy by working at the same institution, but it’s really not like that at all. Even though we work in the same department, we can (and do) go entire days without seeing each other at work. It’s like we’re in two completely different worlds at work,” chimed in Blair, who teaches art history and sculpture courses, while Christensen Blair teaches graphic design, mixed media and general art foundation courses. “The thing we share the most are the students in our classes.”

It is clear that the Blairs are onto something as the room electrifies the moment they start to discuss the connection they share with their students.

“My favorite thing is that students come in with an idea of what they think art is and it’s enthralling to show them what it can be and what they can do with that information,” said Christensen Blair. “The idea that I can be integral in the present/future success of my students is something that continues to inspire me to be passionate about what I do on a daily basis.”

“I get to continuously be in an environment of learning and teaching where I am able to help students refine their visions and make them a reality. I don’t think you can put a value on the ability to experience such a thing,”

said Blair. “We’re in a position where we can get to know each and every single one of our students on a scale that you just wouldn’t find at another institution.”

Through the creation and development of new programs, such as a B.F.A. in Studio Arts, and through the amazing opportunities they have created for art students, such as field-related trips around the country/world, the Blairs have been instrumental in leading the art department in the direction it is headed on a global scale.

“The greatest experience(s) I have had thus far at Northern would definitely be the opportunities I have had to travel with students to places like Italy, New York City, and Chicago,” said Christensen Blair. “It’s so important to immerse

future artists in art from new places and people. Through the eyes of students, I have been able to fall in love with some of my favorite places in the world again and again.”

The Blairs themselves will travel to Portugal and Ontario, Canada, over the next several months to present at art conferences, all while Christensen Blair continues to perfect her upcoming exhibition, which will be displayed in the Johnson Fine Arts

Center Gallery this November.

It is abundantly clear that the future of the NSU Art Department is shaping up to be nothing short of a masterpiece. The drive and passion exhibited by its students and the professors who call the department home will serve as pillars to the future success of art at NSU.

“Greg and Sara have been a big part of my Northern life,” said art student Erinn Rigg. “They’re intelligent, creative professors with the best sense of humor, which has vastly enhanced my educational endeavors and college experience. I’m very thankful to have had the opportunity to not only be taught by them, but to build a strong professional and personal relationship with them as well!”

“The idea that I can be integral in the present/future success of my students is something that continues to inspire me to be passionate about what I do on a daily basis.”

Sara Christensen Blair



Athletics Recap

Updated May 2018

WITH THINGS WINDING DOWN

on campus, the Northern State athletic department celebrated its student-athletes with a variety of events.



The men's basketball team was honored with a season celebration after their NCAA National Finalist finish, while 95 student-athletes attended the sixth annual Maroon Tie Banquet, which honors sophomores through seniors with a 3.5 GPA or higher. The Wolves headed out for the 16th annual Day of Champions, where 170 student-athletes and coaches volunteered a total of 1,065 hours to the Aberdeen community and surrounding areas.

NSU Student Athlete Advisory Committee hosted the first annual Thunder Awards on April 30, honoring the best and brightest from the 2017-18 season. Highlights included Miranda Ristau and Jack Schmidt (pictured above) winning the Hildred Wolfe and Clark Swisher top female and male student-athlete awards, as well as Derrick Dinger being named the Alpha Wolf Fan of the Year and Dacotah Bank being honored as the Corporate Sponsor of the Year.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

THE 2017-18 WOLVES went 26-6 overall, winning a share of the NSIC North Division and NSIC Overall Championships. It had been 20 years since the Wolves won an NSIC Overall crown. Northern also qualified for the fifth straight NCAA Central Region Tournament, notching their first regional victory in those five seasons over Arkansas Tech. Jill Conrad and Miranda Ristau were named to the NSIC All-Conference teams, with Ristau earning NSIC Player of the Year honors. The Warner native was named the CoSIDA Academic All-American of the Year®, as well as a member of the D2CCA and WBCA All-America Honorable Mention teams. Both Ristau and Conrad also became members of the Northern State 1,000 point club. On May 1, head coach Curt Fredrickson announced his retirement after 39 seasons and 846 wins with the Wolves. NSU also announced the promotion of Paula Krueger to the head coach position for the 2018-19 season.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

THE WOLVES reached new heights in 2017-18, with the Wolves finishing second at the NCAA DII National Finals after just the second trip to the NCAA Elite Eight in school history. The runner-up finish is the highest for any NSU team to date at the NCAA Division II level. Northern broke the single season school record for wins, going 36-6 on the year, while tying the school record with 18 consecutive victories in the opening months of the season. Head coach Paul Sather was named both the NSIC and NABC Central Region Coach of the Year. Four Wolves were named to the NSIC All-Conference teams (Smith, Pollard, Peterka, Doyle), while Ian Smith was named to the NABC and D2CCA All-Region teams. NSU recorded the first conference championship of his coaching career, and the first for Northern State since the 2002-03 season. Northern then went on to win the NSIC/Sanford Health Basketball Tournament, notching the first championship for the program since 2005.



SWIMMING

NORTHERN SWIMMING tallied two dual victories on the year over U-Mary and Minnesota Morris under the direction of first-year head coach Nicole Monanian. They broke eight school records in the 200 medley relay, 50 free, 100 free, 500 free, 100 back, 200 back, 200 free relay, and 400 free relay, and swam to three all-conference performances. Edda Skoric advanced to the NCAA Championships after hitting an NCAA 'A' cut time and finishing third overall in the 200 back, notching the second All-American honors of her career. She was also the NSIC Champion in the 200 backstroke.

TRACK AND FIELD

THE WOLVES TRACK AND FIELD student-athletes posted a busy indoor and outdoor season, qualifying two for the NCAA Indoor Championships, and sitting with three student-athletes in the top 20 of their events nationally prior to the NSIC and NCAA Outdoor Championships. Tanner Berg (weight throw) and Hanneke Oosterwegel (400m) took on the NCAA Indoor Championships, and have both hit NCAA provisional marks in the hammer and 400m hurdles for the NCAA Outdoor Championships. Sasha Hovind will look to become an 11-time All-American at Northern State, as the senior has hit an NCAA provisional mark in the 5000m (sitting 11th in the nation) and an NCAA

auto qualifier in the 10,000m (sitting sixth nationally). The Wolves broke three indoor school records in the 60m hurdles (Oosterwegel), the weight throw (Berg), and the 4x800m relay (Itoitz Rodriguez, Donovan Miller, Adam Leach, and Jacob Schweitzer). Prior to the outdoor postseason, NSU broke two school records in the 10,000m (Sasha Hovind) and hammer throw (Berg). Tanner Berg was named as the NSIC Indoor Newcomer of the Year and the NSU Thunder Awards Freshman of the Year. Hanneke Oosterwegel added to her NSIC Championships, winning the indoor 400m. Next up for the Wolves is the NSIC Championships (May 11-12) and NCAA Outdoor Championships (May 24-26).

SOFTBALL

IN THEIR FIRST SEASON under the direction of head coach Jenny Fuller, the Northern State softball team went 29-22 overall and 18-10 in the NSIC. Despite poor weather conditions in the opening weeks of the season, the Wolves were fortunate to play their home contests from the Presentation College Dome, just across town. They finished the league regular season fifth in the standings, qualifying for the NSIC Tournament, where they notched an opening round win over St. Cloud State. The 9-3 win over the Huskies was the first tournament victory for the Wolves since the league shifted to the qualification structure in 2007. Jamie Fisher and Courtney Sjerven were named to the NSIC All-Conference first team, marking the first time since 2006 that two Wolves were honored on the first team. Fisher, as well as Kennady Thompson, were also named to the NSIC All-Conference Gold Glove team. Fisher led the team throughout the season on the pitching mound with a single season school record 22 victories.



BASEBALL

THE WOLVES battled poor weather conditions in the Midwest throughout the NSIC season, with a total of 12 game cancellations. Despite the shortened schedule, Northern qualified for the NSIC Tournament after taking 3-of-4 from Winona State in the final weekend of the regular season. The Wolves finished the regular season with a 20-18 record overall and 13-13 mark in the NSIC. They earned the eighth seed in the tournament and opened the week against Minot State. Jack Schmidt was honored as the Clark Swisher Athlete of the Year for Northern State, marking the first time in the award's history that a baseball (only) player was honored. Prior to starting the NSIC Tournament, Schmidt broke four career records at NSU with 171 runs scored, 263 hits, 61 doubles and 175 runs batted in.

WRESTLING

THE WOLVES GRAPPLERS notched two dual victories in 2017-18, defeating Dakota Wesleyan and Dickinson State. Head coach Rocky Burkett coached the second All-American of his career in 2017-18 as Blake Perryman (165) finished third at the NCAA National Championships. Perryman, as well as Kenny Jones, opened the season winning the Jimmie Open and led the team with records of 25-4 and 12-5. Jones saw an early end to his season after a leg injury prior to NSIC competition. The Wolves were named to the NWCA All-Academic team list, while five individuals (Castellanos, Holtan, Perryman, Lura and Horn) were named to the Scholar Athletes team. Tanner Olson earned the NSU Thunder Award for Upset of the Year, after his victory win over No. 1 Larry Bomstad of St. Cloud State.

FOR THE MOST CURRENT ATHLETIC NEWS VISIT NSUWOLVES.COM

CELEBRATIONS

1948 Kathryn (Kahoe) Compton, Derby, Kan., celebrated her 92nd birthday in January 2018.

1959 Donald Brown, Naples, Fla., celebrated his 55th wedding anniversary with his wife, Annie Brown, on May 3, 2018.

2008 Bryar Johnson and Cameron Johnson had a second baby boy, Beckham Johnson, on Sept. 6, 2017.

2012 Amber Wolken, Conde, S.D., married Bryce Sombke.

2014 Mitchell Hoellein married Michele Rogers on Oct. 7, 2017.

2015 Emily Monsen, Berlin, N.D., married Jeremy Nelson.

CLASS NOTES

1974 Stephen Bakken, Blue Earth, Minn., reached a lifetime goal when he traveled to all 50 states. Joining him were children Tedd Bakken and Kate Kit Tieche.

1976 Vicki (Kubik) Hubner retired from teaching after 38 years, with most of those being in the Tripp-Delmont, S.D., School District. She now works in Retail Services at Avera McKennan in Sioux Falls, S.D., and in data entry at a Sioux Falls, S.D., clinic.

1981 Julie Walkins received the National Retired Teachers' Association "With Our Youth" Award for her work with young people in Spearfish, S.D., following her retirement in 2014.

1992 Dean Kinnoin moved from Surprise, Ariz., to Rochester, Minn., to accept the director of operations position with Boys and Girls Club of Rochester in January 2017.

1995 Dr. Todd Brist has been elected to serve on the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) Board of Trustees.

1996 Jon Kretchman, Fargo, N.D., has been selected to receive the 2018 Water Ski Hall of Fame Award of Distinction from the USA Water Ski and Wake Sports Foundation Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

1999 Michael Olafson, Sioux Falls, S.D., was appointed president of Capital Prepaid Services (Capital). Olafson previously served as vice president at Capital.

2007 Michael Wurtz is employed as the director of admissions and student services at The Master's Seminary in Los Angeles, Calif.

2011 Charat "Nicky" Khattapan-Thoreson completed her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership in Information Systems and Security.

2015 Madeline Wood is the Illinois Music Education Association District 2 president-elect.

2016 Tracy Stallman has been named the new elementary principal for Clark School District in Clark, S.D. She currently teaches first and second grade in Doland, S.D.

2017 Brothers **Taylor Zemlika** and **Tyson Zemlika** of Watertown, S.D., were both recently awarded the Pacesetter 40 honor.

IN MEMORIAM

1930 Milton Hoffman, Aberdeen, S.D., on Nov. 8, 2017

1941 Oscar Huber, Bowdle, S.D., on Sept. 9, 2017

1943 Doris (Coles) Salem, Glenham, S.D., on Oct. 28, 2017

Arlene (Beckwith) Emly, Tacoma, Wash., on Aug. 5, 2017

1946 Anna (Knott) Fleming, Riverside, Calif., on Dec. 1, 2017

1947 Robert Artz, Fargo, N.D., on Oct. 23, 2017

Vella (Olson) Hougen, Larimore, N.D., on Nov. 1, 2017

1948 Zona (Schreiber) Young, Aberdeen, S.D., on Nov. 9, 2017

Allan Thede, Sept. 3, 2017

LaVayne (Rovang) Langan, Reno, Nev., on Feb. 13, 2018

1950 Conrad Bicknese, Redfield, S.D., on Oct. 24, 2017

Donald O. Fisher, Britton, S.D., on Dec. 18, 2017

Lois (Bierschbach) Ewalt, Webster, S.D., on Jan. 26, 2018

1951/1976 Jeannette (Warkenthien) Protexter, Pierre, S.D., on Jan. 8, 2018

1951 Maris Williams, Britton, S.D., on Nov. 23, 2017

1952 Dorothy (Quist) Stillson, Britton, S.D., on April 9, 2018

1953 Winifred (Bertrand) Fawcett, Groton, S.D., on Feb. 19, 2018

1954 Sally (Lagoo) Jones, Aberdeen, S.D., on March 12, 2018

1955 Dr. James Hovland, Sioux Falls, S.D., on Jan. 24, 2018

Gene R. Alwin, Sisseton, S.D., on March 17, 2018

Dean Minder, Mitchell, S.D., on March 8, 2018

1956 LaVerne Irene (Lerew) Barton, Ellendale, N.D., on Feb. 15, 2018

1957 Harlow Herman, Aberdeen, S.D., Nov. 7, 2017

Jean (Roesch) Uhrich, Rapid City, S.D., on March 14, 2018

1959 James "Jim" Finger, Sarasota, Fla., on Feb. 18, 2018

1959/1962 James B. Keckler, Sioux Falls, S.D., on Aug. 5, 2017

1960 Glen Strom, Osseo, Minn., on Aug. 17, 2017

Carol (Dreyer) Feuerstein, Sioux Falls, S.D., on Jan. 21, 2018

Harold "Don" Rensberger, Sioux Falls, S.D., on Feb. 26, 2018

Richard Wik, Faulkton, S.D., on March 15, 2018

1963 Phyllis (Schmidt) Kendziorski, Slippery Rock, Pa., on Jan. 20, 2018

1964 Susan (Woodward) Tracy, Bloomington, Minn., on Nov. 8, 2017

Karen (Shillingstad) Gatewood, Mobridge, S.D., on Jan. 21, 2018

1965/1972, Robert "Bob" Weigel, Aberdeen, S.D., on Jan. 27, 2018

1966, Roger Roth, Warner, S.D., on Nov. 21, 2017

Lyle Elton, Chandler, Ariz., on Jan. 16, 2018

Richard R. Clemetson, Wessington Springs, S.D., on Feb. 14, 2018

Terrence K. Pekron, Deming, N.M., on March 5, 2018

1967 Rev. Charles Sunderland, Bath, Maine, on Oct. 22, 2017

Daniel “Danny” Kealey, Sioux Falls, S.D., on April 21, 2017

Dorrit (Bjordal) Reeves, Ivanhoe, Minn., on Jan. 15, 2018

Gerald E. “Jerry” Ochs, Aberdeen, S.D., on March 3, 2018

1968 Charles Robinson, Sioux Falls, S.D., on July 27, 2017

David Grandpre, Minneapolis, Minn., on Nov. 22, 2017

1969 LaVerne L. Guidice, Eureka, S.D., on Jan. 25, 2018

1970/1990 Sr. Donata Daml, Aberdeen, S.D., on Jan. 27, 2018

1970 Donna (Rabenberg) Lie, Spearfish, S.D., on Jan. 4, 2018

Rev. Dwayne Snell, Tyler, Minn., on Jan. 17, 2018

1971 John Salzsiedler, Minneapolis, Minn., on Nov. 24, 2017

1972 Kerry P. Malkerson, Mesquite, Texas, on Aug. 21, 2017

R. Kerry Johnston, Aberdeen, S.D., on Feb. 6, 2018.

Penelope (Sieh) de Hueck, Aberdeen, S.D., on Dec. 26, 2017

Darlene (Teske) Neuharth, Eureka, S.D., on March 18, 2018

1973 Rev. Daniel Malchow, Waukesha, Wis., on July 15, 2015

Jane L. Hermann, Minneapolis, Minn., on Nov. 14, 2017

1974 Jane (Schafer) Walczak, Buffalo City, Wis., on Aug. 24, 2017

Loren M. Kambestad, Rapid City, S.D., on Jan. 18, 2018

1977 Roland “Rollie” Pedersen, Sioux Falls, S.D., on March 28, 2018

1978 Wesley Geist, Eagle, Colo., on Oct. 12, 2017

1981 Sheri (Nelson) Deibert, Herreid, S.D., on Dec. 28, 2017

Mary (Collins) Parquet, Midland, S.D., on May 30, 2017

Marty Schlotte, Webster, S.D., on Jan. 16, 2018

1985 Bradley A. Waltman, Sioux Falls, S.D., on Jan. 31, 2018

Loren Lutz, Webster, S.D., on Jan. 28, 2018

1987 Delpha (Schaible) Dumdei, Aberdeen, S.D., Nov. 10, 2017

1988 Tracy (Askland) Tanner, Arlington, Texas, on Dec. 26, 2017

1991 Craig Erickson, Aberdeen, S.D., on Dec. 29, 2017

1992 Denise (Vetch) Jung, Aberdeen, S.D., on Nov. 21, 2017

1996 Viola (Noteboom) Vander Tuin, Mitchell, S.D., on July 20, 2017

2001 Mary (Red Legs) Grass, Eagle Butte, S.D., on Nov. 22, 2017

2002 Sarah Gengler Hart, Big Stone City, S.D., in March 2018

2016 Zachary Warren Nelson, Bowdle, S.D., on Sept. 24, 2017

CLASS OF 1945 GRADUATE

More than 70 years after her own graduation, Jeanne (Gleason) Roers is giving back to students of her alma mater.

Roers, who will be 96 in July, is providing scholarships for future teachers through a gift annuity to the Northern State University Foundation.

“I’ve always felt that teachers’ education wasn’t (well) funded, and there weren’t a lot of scholarships,” she said, adding, “I still have a connection with Aberdeen, even though I don’t have any family left there anymore and can’t physically go there anymore. I just always thought Aberdeen could use everything they could get.”

An Aberdeen native, Roers has lived in Dow Rummel Village retirement community in Sioux Falls for almost 16 years. A resident of its independent living section, Roers has worked as the retirement community’s librarian for the past 14 years.

Roers studied education, political science and English at Northern State Teachers College starting in 1940. She said attending Northern was a great experience – though it occurred during a difficult time for the nation.

“Things were really, really bad in the 40s,” she said. “It was the Dust Bowl and Depression. I was lucky to be able to go to school at all.”

Her first two years, enrollment was good, she said, with regular college activities. But then many people were called to military service. A lot of female students left to work in Washington or in the war plants.

Her first husband, Roy Gleason, was killed in World War II in 1943.

“There should be a brick somewhere on campus with his name on it,” Roers said.

Gleason was a student at Northern for two years before he enlisted in the Air Force the day after the Pearl Harbor attack. Roers said she traveled with her husband as long as he was in the United States – she was gone a whole year before coming back to Northern.

“When I married, I promised my husband and my father that I would graduate, so I was back in college while he was missing in action,” Roers said. “I was doing my practice teaching then.”

Roers kept that vow, graduating in 1945.

“It was difficult,” she said. “But I did everything that I promised I would do.”

In 1946, Roers moved to Denver with her second husband, the late Howard Roers, who was also from Aberdeen and served with the Marine Corps. in the South Pacific.

Reflecting back on her time at Northern, Roers said one of her favorite instructors was Professor Murphy, who taught history.

“He was an old infantry captain in World War I, and he had the most extensive history knowledge that inspired me,” she said. “And he taught history the way I would want to teach it, if I had – make it interesting beyond the boring text books. History really is a novel.”



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