

Memory Book

Capitol Hill Internship Program
& Washington Semester



NEBRASKA
WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

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Marilyn (Wagner) Allison 1956

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

Some of my favorite memories are sharing the experiences with Earl Allison who is my husband of 62 years. We continue to share our interest in government. We both remember the seminars covering the three branches of government, visiting the memorials, monuments, museums, and classical concerts that included Segovia and Charlie Byrd, a well known guitarist of different styles. Also memorable was experiencing Hurricane Hazel on October 15 with 98 miles per hour winds at the National Airport. I loved to ride the trolley and attend church services at the National Methodist Church across the American University campus. I enjoyed my roommates in Mary Graydon Hall and the continued friendship with one of the gals. I enjoyed the lively conversations while eating at "Maggie's," an Italian café near the campus.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Dr. E. Glenn Callen, professor of political science and sociology, encouraged me to take risks and offered me opportunities that stretched me beyond what I believed to be my limits. Professor L. Edward Mattingly spoke to my heart as he led Matins and guided me in my faith journey.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

Since graduation in 1956, I attended the University of Nebraska School of Social Work in Lincoln and earned my MSW in psychiatric social work. I married Earl Allison in August 1956 and, in 1958, he earned a Masters in Political Science at the University of Nebraska. He was employed by the CIA in Washington, DC and entered the agency's training program, which included Thai language training. I was employed as a psychiatric social worker at St. Elizabeth's Mental Hospital. We moved to Thailand and spent years serving in Southeast Asia, which included Laos, Japan, and Vietnam. We returned to the states to allow our two sons, Eric and Ethan, to attend junior high and high school. We are very proud of Eric, who retired with honors from the CIA and Ethan, a pilot, who served in the Air Force before flying for commercial airlines. He is now with Delta. We have four grandchildren. In 1985, I received my Virginia State License as a Clinical Social Worker and began working at the Women's Center in Vienna, VA. In 1996, Earl and I moved to Temple, TX. We continued to travel via Elderhostel Programs and visited Eric while he served in Africa and the Middle East.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

I am especially proud of my parents who nurtured me in the Christian faith, provided me with opportunities and the freedom to pursue my interests. I am also thankful for my education at Nebraska Wesleyan which prepared me to be a Christian, good citizen, and friend.

Becca Brune 2014

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

My best memories are centered around my time with my very close friends, with whom I was lucky to live and share all of these DC experiences. Together, we navigated being thrown into a fast-paced DC work world, which was exciting but often challenging.

I was also connected to a life-long friend that I interned with at Amnesty International. As we continue to be advocates on social justice issues, we have relied on each others' encouragement over the last four years.

Experiencing DC through our advisor, Doug's, passion for the city, its history and its current political affairs, was also exciting and educational.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

I enjoyed my Liberal Arts Seminar class freshman year more than I would have ever imagined. With Dr. Hayden Roy, I furthered my writing and research skills but did so with a creativity that helped me approach classes for the remainder of my time at NWU. Maybe most importantly, I became a huge Bob Dylan fan.

All of my social work professors, but especially Dr. Kara Cavel and Professor Lisa Borchardt, with the addition of some great adjunct instructors, helped me to develop into a well-rounded social worker. A social worker that now takes on issues in our community through policy change, but does so with a deep commitment to micro practice. The social work principles and ethics that were drilled into me in every class truly guide my everyday advocacy and work.

Dr. Sue Wortmann's classes also made a profound impact on me and I found myself taking as many classes with her as I could find. She encouraged us to ask tough questions and learn from everyone around us, to absorb yourself in your interests and to do all of this with a compassion for humans and the world we live in.

Dr. Oberst allowed me to see how vast the world is. My first trip outside of the US was a faculty led trip to India where I developed a love for seeing the world that I would not have known without traveling with Dr. Oberst. I was able to combine travel with a deep commitment to learning about the many diverse communities along the way.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

Since graduating with a Bachelors in Social Work, I have worked in the area of foster care systemic advocacy and reform in the Child Welfare Program at Nebraska Appleseed.

Besides my career at Nebraska Appleseed, I have remained involved with community organizations such as the YWCA of Lincoln, CASA of Lancaster County, Planned Parenthood, and the Women's Foundation.

Since my freshman year faculty led trip to India, travel has continued to be one my greatest joys and I have been lucky to spend time in Cuba, Thailand, Cambodia, and Indonesia.

Ashley Bykerk 2016

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

CHIP made it possible for me to spend a semester working in the White House in the Office of Vice President Joe Biden! My favorite memories include getting to meet President Obama, Vice President Biden, First Lady Michelle Obama, and Dr. Jill Biden. I also got to attend the White House Easter Egg Roll, a joint press conference between President Obama and the Prime Minister of Italy, and the arrival ceremony on the South Lawn for the Prime Minister of Japan. CHIP was the first time I lived in DC for a significant period of time, and I have fond memories of exploring museums, running along the National Mall, and enjoying the Cherry Blossom season! The CHIP house also provided an amazing and safe location to experience all that DC has to offer. I am thankful for the personal and professional growth I experienced through CHIP and will always consider CHIP one of the most valuable experiences of my undergraduate education.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Dr. Robert Oberst was very influential in my experience studying political science at NWU! Dr. Oberst taught some of my favorite classes and was fun to work with through the senior thesis research and writing process. He also served as a great academic advisor, especially when I was applying for the Truman Scholarship and completing law school applications, and I am grateful for the encouragement he provided throughout my time at NWU. Dr. Kelly Bauer was also influential during my time in the Political Science Department. I took a public policy class and a human rights class with Dr. Bauer, both of which provided helpful knowledge that I have used and expanded on in law school. Dr. Bauer also provided incredibly valuable advice while I was deciding where to go to law school and I will always be grateful for the encouragement she provided in pushing me outside my comfort zone.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

I am currently completing my third and final year of law school at Emory University School of Law in Atlanta, GA and will graduate in May 2019. I have spent my summers working in Washington, DC at the US Department of Education and the US Senate Judiciary Committee.



Jessica Clem 2006

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

Having the opportunity to participate in the CHIP experience was incredible and the time I spent in Washington was exciting, challenging, and, above all, memorable. From the minute I pulled up in front of the CHIP house in a cab (this newbie didn't realize the Metro had a stop at DCA), to the last trip I took as an intern to the National Mall, every memory in that city was spectacular.

There are too many great memories to be able to single out a favorite. Mastering the Metro, learning how to walk like a local (fast and determined), visiting the Library of Congress, running the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, interning with my nonprofit, and living with a great group of students are all top contenders.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Oh goodness, every single one. The ones that stand out the most are Dr. Kathy Wolfe, Dr. Larry McClain, Dr. Gerise Herndon, Dr. Meghan Winchell, Dr. (Doc) William Wyman, Dr. Roger Cognard, Dr. Joe Gow, and Dr. Sarah Kelen.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

Since my time at Nebraska Wesleyan, I've earned a master's degree in urban studies, traveled to seven countries, had a few creative writing pieces published, worked in local government with a stint in the AmeriCorps VISTA program, and then made a jump to the creative industry. I'm currently living in Minneapolis and working as a content strategist.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

That I inherited the drive and sometimes irritating determination of my mother and the ability to tell great stories and crack jokes like my father. I've also spent considerable time on two novel manuscripts. Hopefully, I'll soon be able to say that I'm proud to have a best-selling book.



Stephen Dakan 1961

What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

September of 1959. Most of the student units were housed at McLean Gardens, a residential apartment complex a mile or so away from American University. Four of us guys, however, were housed in a dorm (Hamilton House) on AU's main campus, because my roommate was the only African American student attending. His name was Ron Cunningham and he was from Lemoyne College in Memphis. He'd been a clerk typist in the Marine Corps, so I had someone with skills to type my project. He quickly made friends in the DC black community and I ended up doing a few social events with them.

Across the hall in the other room was Dave Cowell from Drew University in New Jersey and John Carter from Grinnel. Dave had a car which helped out a lot.

Seminars were held in the day at various locations in the area and classes held at night in what had been an apartment complex between 17th and 19th on F Street, N.W. That involved a late night bus ride back to campus.

We all learned to navigate the DC transportation system, which was mostly buses with a few trolley cars left downtown, and to automatically look for the least expensive item on the menu of any restaurant, many of which were seriously inexpensive. We also "collected" some menus for inclusion in our mandatory scrapbooks.

During the seminars covering the Judicial Branch, I attended Oral Argument at the US Supreme Court which turned out to be *Thompson v. City of Louisville*, a unanimous opinion holding that convicting Sufflin' Sam with no real evidence of a crime was a violation of substantive due process.

I was in the House building (probably for a seminar) and just stumbled into the first congressional hearings on the television show \$64,000 Questions and learned that many of the contestants had been given answers to questions by the people who ran the show. Congress later made it unlawful to fix game shows.

Washington Semester was my first time away from home because I lived in Lincoln and it was my first dorm experience. It was absolutely the best college experience I had and I was very fortunate to have been able to attend.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Ethel Booth who taught us Advanced English and a version of Creative Writing, which helped mightily in my later career.

Glen Callen, because I was a political science major (because I couldn't do math, physics, or chemistry) and David Mickey, because I was a history minor. They were great instructors and the study habits and lessons they encouraged helped me a lot in law school.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

My wife and I moved to Sarasota, Florida, in 1967, from Lakeland and I went to work for a local law firm. I was appointed County Judge in 1971 and elected a Circuit Judge in 1972 and every six years thereafter. I retired at the end of 2002 but have served as a Senior Judge (in various circuits) for the last 15 years.

Our two sons both live and work here in Sarasota. They have very nice girlfriends but no marriages nor grandchildren.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

My career as a trial judge and my years teaching Judicial Education courses to other judges.

Vince Dowding 1962

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

I enjoyed the seminars outside of classroom work and met a lot of other students from other schools.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Dr. Harold Hall at NWU influenced me greatly.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

Practicing attorney since 1965. Bruce Smith, on Washington Semester with me, later became my law partner.

Beth (Heusel) Dumesco 1975

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

Getting help from staffers working for Senators Roman Hruska and Carl Curtis on my major paper on condominium conversions, a major issue in 1974. Senator Curtis' office gave me tons of material, perhaps because he graduated from NWU.

Sleeping out on the US District Courthouse lawn to get into the Watergate trial the next morning, in late October. I heard some of the Nixon tapes. The friend I went with had a copy of *All the President's Men*, and attempted to get autographs from the players, witnesses, and media personalities. Every one of them expressed surprise, but signed when he explained it was a special birthday present for his father. Only one person refused to sign -- Connie Chung, reporter for CBS.

Going out in Georgetown, with no particular destination in mind. Back then, Georgetown was a pretty funky and eclectic place. Just walking around was fun.

Being sent out on a scavenger hunt by our program leader, Professor Thomas Timberg, during our first days in Washington. My roommate and I got stuck in a traffic circle, going around and around...

Riding the subway trolleys between the Capitol, House, and Senate office buildings. Yes, you could do that back then.

Developing a tool for offices of the agency HEW (Health, Education, and Welfare) to use in evaluating the environmental impact of their regulations and programs that was actually implemented agency-wide.

Being taken out on "field trips" by Professor Timberg to meet community leaders and grass roots organizers.

Taking off a weekend to go camping near Skyline Drive.

Playing intramural volleyball with my roommate, who was 6' 1" tall. (I'm only 5'9".) I set it up; she spiked it. We shut out one team that called us "Amazons," just because.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Miss Holding, Voice — She made me know that I was too good and too smart to settle for anything that smacked of ignorance. She insisted that I lose mispronunciations, like EYE tal ee and when she asked me, "Where the hell is EYE tal ee?" I wanted to hide under the piano. But I got it. I got it deep in my gut. Even today, people can't tell where I'm from, other than "America." People from the UK ask where I was educated. Southerners take me for a newscaster. There might have been things that held me back, but my diction wasn't one of them.

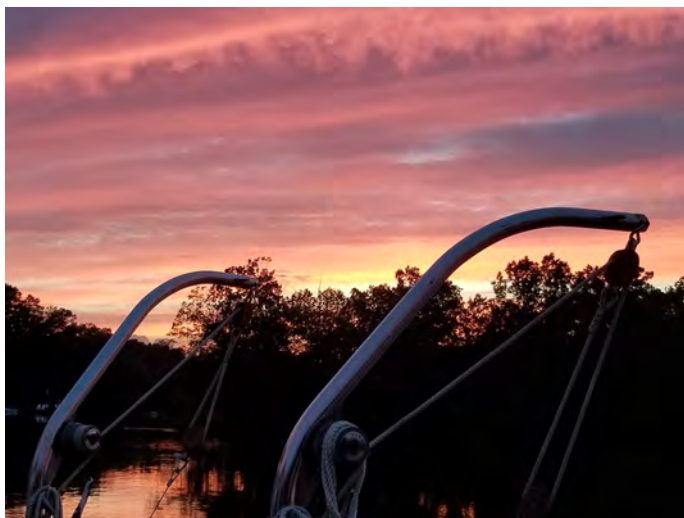
Bill Kloefkorn — Although I didn't take a class from him, when he became Nebraska's Poet Laureate I bought some of his books to give to my maternal grandmother as a gift, as my grandmother loved and wrote some poetry. I took them to Professor Kloefkorn to ask him to sign them. He asked me if I knew how special my grandmother was. I didn't. He told me things about her that I had never known. I was in shock. Fortunately, there was still time to talk with my grandmother, which I likely would not have done if not for this encounter.

Marilyn Mertens — She was a role model that showed me the possibilities of a professional career. She encouraged me to take courses outside my major, for the exposure to skills I would need. In one class, Accounting, I was one of very few women. In another class, Public Finance, I WAS the only woman. This was actually good, as I learned to tell the men that I cannot speak for all women. I can only speak for myself.

I also had an influential Astronomy professor in 1972-1973. He is important because he noticed when I was falling asleep in class and seemed to be struggling. Instead of ignoring, blaming or lecturing me, he asked what was going on, and showed that he cared. The truth was that my anchor, my paternal grandmother, had died of cancer and I was bereft. His reflection to me spurred me to get help. Without that, I don't know if I would have finished that semester.

Funny how things come down to personal interactions, over brilliant instruction and pearls of wisdom.

WHO was it that gave me the recommendation to go to Graz for the summer study? That was life changing.



What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

I graduated at the height of the OPEC oil embargo recession, spring of 1975. There were no jobs for women college graduates in Nebraska. This was very disappointing, as I had worked to go into planning in the state government. I was very interested in preserving small towns and preventing environmental disasters. My choices were to take a "get by" job or move on.

I decided to go on to graduate school in city planning, and I got into a few great schools, but I chose Georgia Tech in Atlanta, because Atlanta was booming and I had an offer in consulting. I loved Atlanta, but city planning was just too volatile a field to live on. I switched over to Georgia State's MBA program. I thought I would go into some aspect of HR, like benefits management, but I kept getting feedback that I should go into something that required speaking and influencing people, like training. I took a job with a small, specialty company in Atlanta where my manager was a recognized expert in training. This was a real growth period of my life.

During grad school, I gave birth to my only child, a daughter that has surpassed anything I could have imagined. I knew I couldn't be the "perfect mother" and everything to my daughter, so I thought long and hard on what I should focus on, the big priorities. I decided on confidence and courage. I thought that if she had these characteristics, she could take on the world with or without me. It appears that this strategy has worked. My daughter has had her struggles, but she attended an elite prep school and an ivy league college. She was a highly competitive equestrienne, competitive at top national levels. There were times when her competitions absolutely frightened me, but I knew this was her life. She now volunteers with World Vets, going to some fairly unorganized locales to support spay and neuter clinics, animal rescues, and large animal recoveries.

Early in my daughter's life, I had a difficult life decision, whether to follow my husband to Washington, DC, or stay in Atlanta. After months of long distance parenting, I decided to move to the Washington suburbs. I do not regret moving to Maryland but I do regret moving to save my marriage. That was useless.

In Maryland, I connected with companies and professional organizations. I got a job with Marriott, a Fortune 50 corporation, at their headquarters in Bethesda. They gave me many challenges and kept me in constant learning mode, but they would not promote me or put me in a position of visibility. So, when I got an offer from the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, with a 33% salary increase, I took it.

At "The Fed," I had real responsibility, for their entire training program. But, I was still held as one of the women managers, reporting to the white male officers. The women did all the work. The officers took all the credit. I was there almost five years, and I might have survived, had I not been assigned to an officer that had no employees, as he had run them all off.

I left The Fed for NASD/Nasdaq, a financial services association that was in the right place for huge growth. I was there for Nasdaq's growth from the "over the counter market" to the second largest stock market in the world. My role was facilitator, to help leaders move to the future they really wanted.

But, after eight years, my path at NASD/Nasdaq was blocked by perceptions about social status. I was a single mother, not from a socially prominent family, a creative type, someone to send out to "fix" bad situations, but not accept into the upper society.

So, I moved on. I found a supervisory position at the National Academy of Sciences. I was able to do some really good work there, implementing a program to walk new study directors through their first study with success. This lasted for three years, until reorganizations and financial problems meant layoffs. I was told I should take the opportunity to get a Ph.D. I was laid off on Tuesday, September 12, 2001.

It took a whole year to find another professional position. During this time, I revisited my professional organization, and started a job hunting support group. The rules of my group stated that we had to help each other, as opposed to competing. Those of us who stayed in the group eventually did get jobs, although not what we had before.

So, I had some jobs after this that many would consider enviable. I did a five year stint with Lockheed Martin Corporation, a Fortune 10 Corporation, that gave me some great experience and qualifications, but took a toll on my health. They put me through a coaching certification program, which I am using extensively today. But I could not hack the minimum 60 hour per week reality requirements. I had acquired Lyme Disease. I had been out on disability. I recovered, but I could not keep up with the increasingly competitive demands. The reality was that other people in my profession were working 74 hours a week. The writing on the wall showed that older professionals were being worked out. I decided to move on.

I went to Georgetown University's certificate program in Organization Development. This refilled my energy and I went back to work. I did independent contracting work, including teaching at Graduate School USA, the "Government's Trainer."

Unfortunately, I accepted a job offer from a client, a hospital in Georgetown, which I regretted. After three years of difficulty, I was reinfected with Lyme Disease, from a new tick bite. I was disabled at a bad time, winter, when I could not recover fast enough and get back to work. I was told to retire, or I would be fired.

I put what energy I had into recovery and reorganizing my life. I downsized my townhouse, getting rid of everything I couldn't see fitting into a one bedroom condo, and moved onto my boat, a 36' trawler. My boat is a very therapeutic environment. I have plenty of sun, I have only to look out the windows to see plenty of nature. It is never static, but always gently moving.

I have found a new work outlet in professional organizing. I go into client's homes, and work with them one-on-one to help them deal with their stuff. The stuff piled all over the home is a symptom of their circumstances and family dynamics. I am really helping clients in ways that impact their whole lives. I think this is about the best retirement job I could imagine.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

While I was working as a corporate trainer and organization development consultant, I made peoples lives better. I was able to do this when I convinced managers to put their employees first, or helped people move to new jobs that were better for them, or help organizations change their strategy and structure, and employees working there could enjoy success with them. Or, I helped them resolve huge conflicts, so they could be productive again and not only avoid closing but prosper. There were some diverse candidates for upper management that I gave a boost. Because people spend so much of their lives in the work environment, this mattered.

I overcame some difficult family situations and resulting psychological challenges. If there were such a test, I could pass an exam at the Masters or Ph.D. level on family dynamics and personality disorders. But, this is not the victory. I still deal with this every morning that I wake up. The victory is being able to name and call out what is going on, and help other people who are dealing with the same. I survived a horrible divorce and child custody battle. It took its toll on me, but I'm still here, I face the sunset every evening, and observe the colors and change of light. I. Am. Alive.

I have not backed down on my commitment to feminism. Some people might remember my early years at Wesleyan, when I and two other women wrote a column for the campus paper called Ms. Understandings. We wrote what we found to be the factual truth. Some of our fellow students took exception to this. Sadly, the situations and conditions we described are still happening today. The only difference is that today we have social media, and the discussion can go viral in a flash, or not, dying from lack of attention.

I took up sailing as a real pursuit. It was a perfect analogy for life, at least mine. I learned the skills, made sure I had the fundamentals, then took off when I could. I sailed to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and Bermuda, being offshore for six days at a time. I found the ocean to be fascinating, beautiful, and indifferent. I learned that my slow but determined persistence was, in fact, a survival skill. Now, I am happily content living on a boat, not a houseboat, but a real boat that is capable of moving where I need to go.

Additional comments:

The Washington Semester Program or CHIP is a great opportunity. It will expand you in many ways. Go for it!

Avoid getting too involved in "romantic" relationships. Focus on what you want to pursue in your life, and what good you can do there. Don't worry about meeting some predetermined schedule for what you should be doing and when you should be doing it. Give yourself time to figure out what family expectations and roles you might be carrying out, and whether or not these are right for you. If you haven't already, and chances are at 20 or 21, you haven't, learn about yourself. Live on your own for a while. Be patient with yourself.

Caitlin (Bennett) Forbes 2011

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

Monday through Thursday we would work at our internships and on Fridays we wouldn't work. On Fridays, we would have class with Doug in the morning and then he would take us on field trips in DC and he also took us to Montecello. It was so fun to go explore places that I wouldn't normally go to on my own.

My internship with Senator Ben Nelson changed my life! I worked in his office with a few other NWU students and alumni so I felt so supported throughout my internship. It was exhilarating to work for the Senator during the Healthcare debate in 2009. Before my internship, I didn't know much about politics so I enjoyed learning more about how Congress and the Senate work and how much research goes into policy considerations and decisions. I worked on Senator Nelson's scheduling team and, to this day, use the skills I learned from my team about professionalism and being detail-oriented when preparing memos, reports, and schedules for your boss and colleagues. My favorite part of my internship was giving tours of the Capitol building to Nebraska constituents.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

After NWU, I worked for Enterprise Rent-A-Car for five and a half years. I started in the management training program and worked my way up to be a branch manager. Since January 2017, I am now working for NEI Global Relocation. NEI is a relocation management company that helps our clients relocate employees and their families here in the US and all over the world! I work on the international team and help people move to the US and internationally wherever their work and business take them. My favorite part of my job is talking to people all over the world every day and helping them develop a plan to make their relocation go smoothly.

Burt Galaway 1959

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Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Dr. Glenn Callen - He was interested in me as an individual student and my future.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

Professor of Social Work at The University of Minnesota for 20 years.

Married 56 years, two children, fostered 35 teens over 27 years.

Traveled extensively in the US and Europe.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

Co-Author of *Social Work Processes*, a text which was used extensively around the world.

Instrumental in developing several programs for foster care and also restitution.

Additional Comments:

Unfortunately, Burt is in a nursing home as he suffers with dementia. He is at Presbyterian Homes, Lake Johanna Shores in Arden Hills, MN.

Natalie Graves 2018

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

Running into Bernie Sanders while crossing the street (4th and Massachusetts Avenue) was so thrilling that I began uncontrollably crying. Also, Easter dinner at Doug's house was such a blast. Academically speaking, attending a hearing at the SCOTUS was unreal.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Kelly Clancy - She inspired and challenged me to always fight for social justice. She took me to the opening of the Peace and Justice Museum and Memorial for the most transformative weekend of NWU.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

I have just graduated and I'm working as a recruiter at a software company while studying for my LSAT.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

Receiving a Postgraduate Scholarship from the NCAA.

Additional Comments:

CHIP is a phenomenal program :)

Virginia 'Ginger' (Koon) Haruf 1965

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

Meeting President Johnson on one of his Rose Garden Walks. I was studying the White House Press Corps. He played matchmaker introducing me to Greg Lipscomb from Texas, another student that day. The picture made the Omaha World Herald front page.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Dr. Herman because he called me at 6:00 a.m. to tell me how pleased he was with my scrapbook I had kept through the semester. It was 6" high!

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

I was married to Alan Kent Haruf for 25 years.

Enjoying friends Natalie Jones Kruetzer, Rae Hanich Haws, and other Washington Semester participants.

Teaching, beginning with Headstart in the 1960s and today substitute teaching in Longmont, CO.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

My three daughters; Sorel Haruf '91, Whitney Haruf, and Chaney Haruf Matsukis. My three grandchildren; Mayla Haruf Arnold, and twins Kenton Michael and Ethan James Matsukis.

Additional Comments:

Taking part in the Civil Rights work of the 1960s. Voter registration and the march with Dr. Martin Luther King in Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, with my fellow student and future husband, Alan Kent Haruf, and fellow classmates, Dick and Rae Hanich Haws.

September, 2017 traveled to Venice, Italy, for the world premiere of Kent Haruf's book made into movie, Our Souls at Night, starring Jane Fonda and Robert Redford.

Abby Helman 2009

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

Dear Lord, there's so many memories. I have to say, though, the arrival day still sticks in my mind like a black and white motion picture. There's no more amazing feeling than being a 21 year old female, driving into the Hill and thinking to myself, "I'm doing this." It literally gave me chills.

Another memory was in my internship at CNN. I was sitting in live on the Situation Room, while then President Elect Barack Obama, was being interviewed by Wolf Blitzer. President Obama approached me as he was leaving and thanked me for my hard work reporting. I was speechless.

A final memory was being Miss Nebraska in the National Cherry Blossom Festival. Being able to take my parents to the Grand Ball, wear a gorgeous white gown, and see the awe on my mom and dad's faces as they witnessed an incredibly historic event, was a feeling I cannot even begin to describe.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Professor Dubas influenced my life at Nebraska Wesleyan, hands down. It started when she encouraged me to study abroad in Spain my freshman year. It was a thought I had never even considered. She made that far fetched idea seem so attainable. So I did it and kept pushing the boundary after that. She made me think outside the box, empowered me to dream big as a female, and sparked an endless curiosity to never stop experiencing all the world has to offer.

I often times wonder, had I not been so fortunate to be placed in her liberal arts class, would I have had the same experiences in college? Would I be the woman I am today? Truly in my soul, I think not. She lit a fire in me I never knew existed.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

Since Nebraska Wesleyan, I have continued dreaming big. Taking my love of design back to Washington where I was one of a select group of designers chosen to decorate the White House for Christmas. I have continued my love of travel, most recently to Israel, where I was able to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Touching history millions of years old. Imagining life as it was and yet still is. I work by day as a pharmaceutical sales representative. A career I never imagined, but absolutely love. This year, I was blessed to achieve "Rep of the Year." An award given to four out of 2,000 reps in the company. I was gifted with a trip to Rome, Italy, where I tasted plenty of wine.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

I am most especially proud of living a life outside of society's standards and expectations. I have continued to dream big and challenge myself; never settling for the norm. Did I imagine being 32 years old, not married with no children? Not so much. I am, however, very content. Why? Simply because my priorities are in line with my values. I am a daughter, an aunt, and a friend to many. Truly living my life to the fullest and thanking God every day for my experiences and blessings.

Additional comments:

This photo was captured as I was floating in the Dead Sea on the banks of Israel; smiling up to Heaven.



Judithann 'Judi' (Refshauge) Hill 1962

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

Washington Semester opened a major opportunity for me. Taking grad classes at American University and a paper I wrote for a class on non-military use of nuclear energy led to an internship at the International Atomic Energy Agency at the United Nations. I knew nothing of the internship—the internship was offered to me. I spent the summer in New York City at the United Nations researching at various institutions and companies, writing articles on the work being done in the field of nuclear energy. These were published in professional journals, particularly in the field of Biology.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

Writing, teaching, publishing, traveling, and researching. Writing curricula on constitutional issues. One of the founders of the Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial in Boise, Idaho.

My first husband, Ron Slattery, was killed in a plane crash in 1962. In 1970 I married Robert Hill, had one son, Aaron, who died at age 33. I have a grandson, Ashton, now 15.



Debra L. Hoy 1974

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

Being in DC during the Watergate era and attending the Watergate hearing one day. Sitting in at the Supreme Court, playing flag football on Tip O'Neill's team, being on a fun and open campus—American University. DAR Hall—hearing Loggins and Messina. Kennedy Center concerts: Maria Muldaur, 3 Dog Night. Making friends. Consistently overdrawing my checking account, making my parents crazy!

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Jan Vermeer, who provided support and interest in Political Science. Mary Smith always thought outside of the box. Bill Kolefkorn and Leon Satterfield for their humor and writing. John Walker, philosophy and great music.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

I've been a lawyer since '78, and I worked for Lincoln Electric System for 36 years. I have two kids, Jake and Hannah, both are Wesleyan alums and Jake is another CHIP alum! I am currently retired and do mediations for the Mediation Center as a volunteer. I am a Master Gardener, currently developing the senior living community. I also golf in my spare time.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

Supporting the kids, volunteering as a mediator for parenting plans, and trying to be a good friend to people, animals, and the environment.

Ingrid (Sandall) Hutchings 1963

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Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

William Maehl, history. E. Glenn Callen, political science. Carroll Moore, general science. Philip Kaye, speech.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

- Teacher Certification: UNL 1965-1966
- University of Illinois: Krannert Center of Performing Arts, Community Liaison 1983-1993
- Robeson Crossing Inc.: 1993-2017

What are you especially proud of in your life?

Marriage to Bruce Hutchings (Architect—AIA, ASLA), who attended NWU for two years. Two sons: Mark Hutchings (CPA/Private Equity) and Steve Hutchings (BA, MA at Stanford).

Mallory Iseminger 2013

What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

A couple of my best friends did the program at the same time and I have many fond memories of being silly and having fun exploring the city together. For my morning run, I would run down the National Mall and loved seeing the Cherry Blossoms in the spring. I enjoyed my commute to work at the National Institute of Health and made new friends through my internship.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

I worked in the oil and gas industry for a couple of years but decided to quit my job and move to New Zealand. I lived there for six months and traveled Southeast Asia and the South Pacific. I'm getting married next weekend to someone I met while studying abroad in Fiji through a Wesleyan program!

What are you especially proud of in your life?

I'm proud that I always try to treat people with kindness and respect. None of your achievements will ever matter as much as the way you treated others and how you made them feel.



Nick Jasa 2003

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

Walking up to the Capitol for the first time. TV and pictures do not accurately portray the sheer size of that building. Then walking inside and entering the rotunda was awe-inspiring.

Watching a play at the Fords theater, feet away from where President Lincoln was assassinated.

Routinely running into senators such as John McCain, Hillary Clinton, Orin Hatch, Strom Thurmond, and Ted Kennedy was an everyday occurrence.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

Professionally: For the last 15 years I have been in the insurance and financial services industry, primarily at the carrier level. I've had the opportunity to lead various sales teams who recruit, train, and support independent financial advisers across the United States.

Personally: I've been married to my best friend, Jill, for 11 years. Together we have two energetic and fun boys, Alex (8) and Taylor (4), who challenge us everyday and make life interesting!

What are you especially proud of in your life?

My experiences, which the CHIP program is near the top. My time in DC was really the first step in helping me become comfortable being uncomfortable and gaining overall confidence in myself. Prior to DC, I lived exclusively in a small town, so the hustle and bustle of a large east coast city was a complete culture shock. However, with the support of the CHIP program, I completely embraced the big city life. From learning to navigate public transportation (subway, trains, taxi), crowds, the personal confidence and knowledge gained by working next to smart, wealthy, influential professionals such as senators, I built a strong professional foundation via the CHIP experience.



David Kaiser 2004

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

I was Congressman Doug Bereuter's last intern before his retirement. I was named a "Nebraska Society" intern while I was interning, which paid my way. Meeting many people from other schools, meeting all of the Nebraska delegation, and hearing Alan Greenspan testify on economy to House Committee.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Dr. Fairchild, Gleason, Carter and Wagaman for encouraging me to study economics. Dr. Epp for encouraging me to do graduate school. Dr. Peabody for the "worldly views" I have today. Dr. Jackman for advising me to study math.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

Currently, I am the Policy Director for the Governor of North Carolina. Former Economist at RTI International and Research Associate at Kaufman Foundation. I am married to Kristin Lichti ('04) and we have two children: Ben (5) and Evelyn (2).

What are you especially proud of in your life?

Family, career, and network. Publications in policy journals and government reports. Several RTI professional awards.

Rachael Kirschenmann 2016

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

Walking down the National Mall in the snow after our internships all declared a snow day. Visiting Monticello with Doug and the crew. Meeting the (then) administrator of NASA and former astronaut, Charlie Bolden, who is ironically a very down-to-earth guy.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Dr. Hayden-Roy in the History Department constantly inspired me to be curious, whether it was in class, serving as a student instructor in his Bob Dylan seminar, or writing a thesis. His eclectic range of knowledge and sense of humor (not to mention corduroy fashion) are qualities that I aspire to.

Dr. Winchell (also in the History Department) has a way of encouraging you so that you begin to doubt why you ever doubted yourself. I appreciated her much-needed reality checks as well as her not-so-gentle nudges to get to work.

Dr. Spilker in the Music Department taught me that compassion and mindfulness can go side by side with hard work and academic rigor.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

I took a few years off from school to be an assistant English teacher in France and then worked at a bookstore. But now I'm pursuing my master's degree in history and library science at the University of Maryland.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

I'm particularly proud of my adaptability and openness to new experiences—in the past two years since graduation, I taught in France, traveled to eight new countries, and moved to two new states. I'm excited to get started in graduate school, but it has been an amazing experience and a valuable lesson in flexibility.



Brad (Gilligan) Knight 2011

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

My CHIP semester started only days before what was dubbed “Snowpocalypse DC,” when this usually-snowless city was buried under 20 inches of soft powder. That marked the start of a memorable set of months that also included the passage of the Affordable Care Act and attending a speech given by President Obama in the days leading up to the vote. It included adventures to Target in Columbia Heights, the short-lived Cereal Bowl in Cleveland Park, Town Danceboutique, and many other parts of the city. Unexpectedly, it also involved a TV appearance when the reality show “Top Chef” filmed its seventh season in DC and put out a casting call for Capitol Hill interns.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

I could name many—Karla Jensen, Sandy McBride, Larry McClain, and Rachel Pokora among them. Had it not been for Phil Heckman, I wouldn’t have ended up at NWU. Perhaps most influential was Patty Hawk, who stoked my curiosity and encouraged me to pursue opportunities like the Faculty-Staff Collaborative Research Grant that sent me to DC to cover the Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear by Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert. I felt heard by her, and knew that when I would find myself in her office (often with many of my classmates) she would listen and challenge all of us to think critically, act ethically, and consider how we wanted to contribute to our communities.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

After graduating from Nebraska Wesleyan, I moved to DC where I earned my MA in Media and Public Affairs from George Washington University. I currently serve as Director of the AU Core Curriculum at American University. In that role, I provide leadership for the university-wide general education program and have overall responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the program. In 2016, I married Kevin Knight on a destination wedding in Puerto Rico. We’re thrilled that our family has recently grown with the addition of Taylor the beagle.



Kelly Krause 2004

What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

Interning at CNN was a definite highlight, especially during such an interesting (and scary, to be honest) time in our culture. I moved there in 2003, so post-9/11 and right as we were declaring war in Iraq. Chandra Levy was still big news, as were the DC snipers. I had a chance to work in the newsroom at CNN during this time and was able to sit in on the DC sniper trials. It was fascinating and certainly eye-opening coming from small-town Nebraska.

I mostly loved the non-stop education moments that CHIP offered. To learn about our history at every turn, and have non-stop access to authors, well-known media, and political big-wigs was very cool.

I made some lifelong friends during this program, and feel really grateful for the experience.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

Post-Wesleyan, I went straight back to school to work on my master's degree at UNL. A few semesters into grad school, I moved to Los Angeles (2006) to intern at E! Entertainment and the Style Network and never returned! I stayed in LA for five years, where I worked as a publicist in the entertainment industry. Clients included: Jimmy Kimmel Live, America's Next Top Model, Sony Pictures, Paramount Pictures, Miramax, and more.

I moved to Austin, TX in 2010 to run Publicity for SXSW, and 8.5 years later, I'm still here. I'm now the Conference Programming Manager, where I curate our high-level keynote and featured speakers, as well as brand activations, and oversee our Style and Retail Track of programming.

On the side, I'm a contributing writer for Forbes and write a monthly column for CamilleStyles.com called "Living Kindly." I'm an ambassador for lululemon, and host a monthly speaker series called "In the Practice" (@inthepractice on Instagram), where I talk to creatives who keep wellness at the forefront of business. I'm also a huge advocate for women on bikes and serve as a women's ambassador for Rapha. I serve on the James Beard Foundation board, where I work on their Taste of America series in Austin, TX specifically (Total foodie!). I am an advisor for WIT—Whatever It Takes, a teen entrepreneur program for Austin, TX.

Typically, I'm on Town Lake Trail running almost every day and really value movement. Thankfully, I get to travel a lot for my job, so it's a pleasure to spend time on both coasts and cities around the world. Very, very grateful for this fulfilling life!

What are you especially proud of in your life?

I'm proud of my time at Wesleyan and everything I had the opportunity to be a part of, including CHIP. Moving to DC at the age of 20 was so eye-opening and formative. That exposure certainly helped to build my confidence to move to another large city and stay curious in business and a professional capacity. So I'm proud of the professional path I've traveled and where I continue to go and grow. I'm proud that I continue to evolve and learn as well as connect to more thoughtful humans with similar ethos.

And, I'm proud that I can say I'm having fun in life — that's always my goal!



Samantha Mareno 2018

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

My experience in DC with the NWU Capitol Hill Internship Program was unmatched compared to any of my other experiences at NWU. I served as an Advocacy Intern, basically a lobbyist, with National Peace Corps Association. I never expected myself to enjoy lobbying, but I absolutely loved it. I met such incredible connections throughout my time in DC that actually helped me right after I graduated from NWU. Because of my experiences with National Peace Corps Association, I decided to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Fiji immediately after graduation!

One of the best parts about living in Washington DC is the diversity of the area. I can walk outside my front door at the same time every day but continue to meet new people (and eat new foods!). During my time in The District, I met Palestinian refugees, Moroccan diplomats, and more Congressional Representatives than I knew were serving! I'm grateful for my CHIP experience and would absolutely recommend the program to NWU students, regardless of their field of study.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

All of my professors at NWU have made lasting impressions on me, but two stand out among the rest. Dr. Oberst was the first person I met with when I toured NWU before deciding this would be the school for me. He spoke so highly of programs like CHIP and I knew this would be a great fit. Little did I know, he would end up being one of my academic advisors and would push me to take advantage of every opportunity NWU offers. Additionally, Dr. Karla Jensen was my first Archway Seminar instructor, second academic advisor, and greatest mentor at NWU. She really got to know who I was as a student and young woman, and would help guide me in the appropriate directions. It's difficult to write about how Karla made such an impressive mark on my time at NWU, because she continues to leave so much loving kindness in my life today.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

Having just graduated in May 2018, I just departed to serve as a Youth and Development Peace Corps Volunteer in Fiji! I have two more years here, but I'm excited to see how my experience at NWU will serve me next!

What are you especially proud of in your life?

As a young adult, I'm proud of how much cultural exchange I've experienced. At 22 years old, I've visited eight different countries within four different countries/regions of the world. The best part about these travels isn't what I gain, but the fact I have often been able to give back by teaching English and sharing American values with my host countries.

Additional comments:

The first photo is of my time in Washington DC through CHIP (Spring 2017) with the Nebraska state flag. The second photo is from NWU graduation (May 2018) in front of Old Main.



Matthew Mimick 2007

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

I worked for Senator Chuck Hagel with fellow Wesleyan student, August Storz, in the spring semester of 2006. I enjoyed the friendships that were made with the other interns as well as with the other members of Senator Hagel's staff, with some of whom I still keep in touch. My favorite thing to do was give tours of the Capitol Building to constituents. I never got tired of walking through the Capitol Rotunda, visiting Statuary Hall, and watching debates in the House and Senate Chambers. I also loved our weekly trips to different historical places. Of course, I also enjoyed visiting the Hawk & Dove Bar with the other students in the CHIP program.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Coach Brian Keller and Professor Loretta Fairchild. In my sophomore year at NWU, I was struggling with a few classes and with some nagging injuries from football. Dr. Fairchild both encouraged me and challenged me to better apply myself and gave me guidance on how to become a better student. Coach Keller encouraged me when I was injured and gave me a job working with the football team when I couldn't play due to nagging injuries. They both made me a better student and person.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

Working in Omaha for my family's business.

Chelsea Olmsted 2015

What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

All of us “Chippers” would go out as a house to dinner on Mondays for Blue Bowl Night at this sushi place which was in the Union Metro Station. It was definitely something to look forward to at the beginning of a work week and helped create close friendships which have continued. Going to Mt. Vernon and Monticello were sites I enjoyed, especially seeing the interesting items and inventions at Jefferson's estate. Visiting any of the historic sites or museums in and around Washington, DC are what I consider some of my favorite memories as I was able to see them due to CHIP.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Dr. Sandra Mathews-Benham and Dr. Meghan Winchell had the greatest impact on my life as what I've learned from them has continued into my professional and educational careers. Dr. Mathews was my undergraduate advisor and my first history professor at NWU. She was a vital driving force for my first years of undergrad and I am eternally grateful for the opportunities to work at the writing center and instruct a seminar alongside her. Dr. Winchell introduced me to the Capitol Hill Internship Program so, without her, I wouldn't even have these experiences or memories to write about! Beyond that, the History Theory and Method class she instructed left me with valuable insight and practice which I currently utilize in my graduate career. Both professors furthered me with valuable insight and practice which I currently utilize in my graduate career. Both professors further ignited my passion for the field of history and have remained people I reach out to for guidance and support.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

I first moved to Maryland to live with a former roommate and worked at a physical therapy site while I volunteered at the National Archives in Washington, DC. While also in Maryland, my friend and I began the tradition of an annual beach trip to Rehoboth Beach in Delaware because I just can't resist the ocean! In August 2017, I began graduate school at North Dakota State University studying public history. I was offered, and accepted, an assistantship with the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County in Moorhead, MN and have also worked with West Fargo's Bonanzaville, USA and the historic Comstock House in Moorhead. Working at such sites which don't receive an endless amount of funding challenges me to be imaginative and creative with existing limitations. This better prepares me for working in museums in the Midwest, ensuring I'll be able to remain a bit closer to home (which makes mom very happy)!

What are you especially proud of in your life?

I published an online exhibit while at NDSU, through my assistantship, using glass negatives and providing an agricultural history of the Clay County, MN area to show visitors how photos can be used to discern local histories from images. I will also be publishing panels for two exhibits related to local history in the Fargo-Moorhead area. One will help make the Comstock House both guided and self-guided based on visitor preference. The other panels will be portable and cover agricultural experiment stations which influenced changes in production methods and capabilities. Their portability will allow them to be displayed at libraries, schools, and county events.



Jake Owen 2014

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

So many memories! Making new connections/friendships was the best part of my CHIP experience. The Friday field trips with the roommates, fellow CHIP alums, and Doug were great too.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Dr. Pat Pettit - She helped me throughout my time at NWU. I wouldn't have landed an internship with Georgetown Athletics without her help.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

I started graduate school, then decided to switch my career path and moved back to Lincoln. I've been focused on paying off my student loans and have spent my free time traveling around the country.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

The CHIP program was one of the biggest reasons why I went to NWU. My whole CHIP experience was more impactful/fun than I could have ever imagined!

I still keep in touch with most of my roommates from CHIP and most of my friends/connections from my time out in DC.

Maggie Packard 2012

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

One of my favorite memories during CHIP was our trip to Philadelphia. We stopped at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and took pictures with the Rocky statue, in addition to visiting Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. Luckily, for lunch we were able to eat authentic Philly cheese steaks! Still the best Philly I have ever had to this day.

I also remember spending most of our Saturdays going to the Husker bar to watch the game, or to the Florida bar (one of the students from Kentucky was a huge Florida fan so we joined him on several occasions). It was a lot of fun trekking around DC on these days enjoying the hyped up atmosphere surrounding the games and the bars which were brimming with enthusiastic fans.

My internship with the Joint Baltic American Committee (JBANC) allowed me to visit several foreign embassies around DC, including the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. I was even able to meet and speak with the ambassadors from Latvia and the Czech Republic. On these visits, I was typically responsible for taking notes as my boss and embassy officials discussed the issues regarding the Baltics and other activities happening in Eastern/Northern Europe. These were always fascinating discussions to listen to and I always left having gained more insight and knowledge into the region. It was really exciting to have the opportunity to visit embassies and witness diplomacy in action.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Professor Hayden-Roy has been one of the stand out people from my time at NWU. I met him for the first time during Prairie Wolf Days because I wanted to learn more about the History Department. Not only did he get me excited about studying history at NWU on that day, but he encouraged me to study abroad and participate in CHIP to further my personal and educational interests. I typically took at least one class with him every semester because I thought highly of him as a professor, enjoyed his sense of humor, and was enthusiastic about the material and subjects he taught.

Professor Oberst also had a lasting impression on me because of his eccentric personality and depth of knowledge in his field. Professor Oberst never failed to make me laugh and challenge me to examine political science and its sub-fields from different perspectives. He often had barbecues at his home to which he invited the political science students and professors to attend and enjoy each other's company out of the classroom. These were always very entertaining and it was great to have Professor Oberst be willing to host.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

Since Nebraska Wesleyan, I have mostly been working in the Lincoln area.

In 2015/2016, I earned a Post-Baccalaureate Paralegal Certificate through the College of Saint Mary in Omaha.

I have taken two trips to Europe, one in 2014 and another in 2016. Both trips arose out of friends getting married, the one in 2014 was for my sorority sister from Alpha Gamma Delta and the other for a friend I made while studying abroad in Latvia. Both trips were a great opportunity to reunite with old friends and explore new countries.

In January 2017, I moved to Auckland, New Zealand as I was burned out with my current job and was itching to travel again. I worked at one of the top rated restaurants in Auckland, which happened to be in the neighborhood where I lived. When I wasn't working, I spent my time traveling around the country and visiting many of the locations where the Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit films were made. I even drove on these road trips and had to adjust to using the left side of the road. Getting your bearings spatially proved difficult at first! It became second nature though very quickly.

I moved back to the US later that year and began a job as a legal assistant at Baylor Evnen.

Lindy Pearson 2017

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

Some of my favorite memories from my experience in Washington are some of the most simple, joy-filled moments. From sharing the happenings of our days with my three roommates (shout out to the penthouse ladies of Spring 2017—Samantha Moreno, Allie Karpurk, and Ronni Peltz) to making late night trips to Shake Shack at Union Station and Ben's Chili Bowl.

My favorite memories from my internship at Compass Coffee were the monthly team meetings and getting to know my coworkers. In the short three months that I was a part of their team, I felt as if I had known them for much longer.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

The Communication Studies Department was a community within the student body that I joined late in my time at NWU, but couldn't have been more grateful to have found when I did. Every communication studies class I took was filled with enlightening conversation, students from different cultures and backgrounds than myself, professors that cared about me as an individual, and had an impact on the way I am now able to communicate with others in my daily life.

Communication through Dialogue with Patty Hawk was one of the most valuable classes I was able to take during my time at Wesleyan. Not only did it expose me to difficult conversations in a healthy environment, but also helped me navigate those difficult conversations by asking questions, seeing the issues through other lenses, and understanding others, even if their beliefs were different from my own. The communication skills I refined through Communication through Dialogue are skills I use every day.

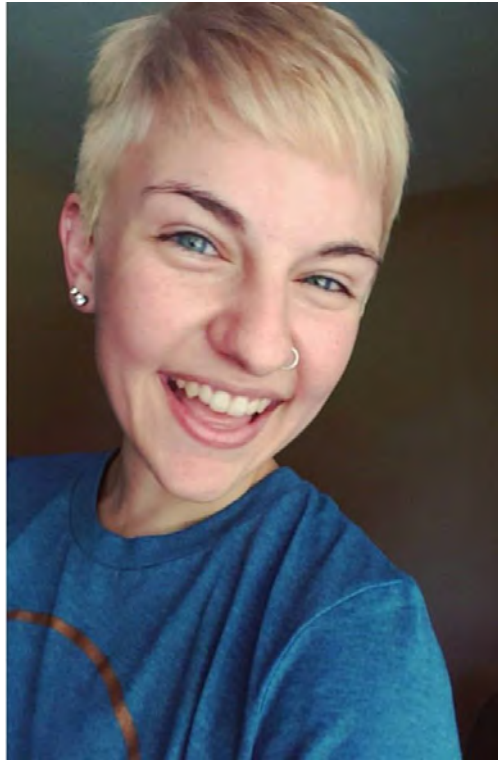
What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

Following my graduation in May 2017, I worked as a cook at Cultiva Coffee in Lincoln throughout the following summer. I tried my hand at retail for a while, and looked for a few office jobs, but I wasn't finding something that made me excited to go to work like cooking did. Since then, I have moved to Omaha, where I am attending culinary school at Metropolitan Community College to pursue my passions in Baking and Pastry Arts. I currently work at Hardy Coffee Company in their in-house bakery.

In the future, I plan to use my bachelor's degree in business administration that I earned from NWU in addition to my associate degree in Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management (anticipated Spring of 2020) to open and own my own bakery café.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

As of recent, I am most proud of my decision to attend additional schooling to pursue my interests in culinary arts. Having grown up in Lincoln, and having received financial help from my mother to attend undergraduate at NWU, this is the first time in my life where I am on my own, working for a company I love, investing in myself, and pursuing my dreams all at once. I moved to Omaha in April 2018 to enroll in Metropolitan Community College's Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management program and I am expecting to graduate in the spring of 2020.



Matt Prokop 2007

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

The semester that I spent in DC was one of the best experiences of my life. I got to work at a great internship on Capitol Hill in Senator Tim Johnson's office, see the major tourist attractions in and around DC, and make great friendships with people in and out of the house. Before I came to DC I wasn't optimistic that this would be a good experience. I didn't know any of my roommates prior to moving in, I had never experienced living in a big city, and I didn't have any past experience working in politics. I can say with great confidence that the whole semester exceeded my expectations. If a student at Wesleyan approached me about entering this program I would strongly encourage them to take part in this great opportunity.

One of the best experiences I had with my roommates was when we decided to have a Thanksgiving dinner for the whole house. Every member of the house chose their favorite entrée to cook for the feast. After all the cooking was completed everyone dressed up in suits and sat down in our classroom to enjoy the meal. What made the dinner so special was when we had everyone go around and tell what they were thankful for. I was touched to hear that my roommates expressed they were thankful to have met and develop a strong bond with me.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

The Communication Studies Department truly is a family atmosphere where everyone pushes you to be your best and prepares you to succeed in your career endeavors following your time at NWU. My education at Nebraska Wesleyan has given me the confidence that I can be an effective communicator in a variety of settings. In my career working with lawmakers, I have used persuasive tactics I learned through various classes in the Communication Studies Department.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

Currently, I am serving as the Grassroots Manager for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. One of the roles in this position is to train and empower Nebraska volunteers to take action on a variety of policy issues relating to cancer on the federal and state levels. In my six years with this organization, I have built strong volunteer teams leading to significant legislative victories. Every year I get the opportunity to travel to DC and meet with the Nebraska members of Congress as part of our national lobby day.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

In every position I have served in, I have always been driven by the power to make a difference. Having an opportunity to be in leadership roles that work with teams to produce successful outcomes has been very gratifying.



Betsy Reimer 2016

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

The relationships I made in DC were some I will never forget. Getting to experience our country's history at places like Mt. Vernon, Philadelphia, The Liberty Bell, and the many Smithsonian Museums with my friends was an experience few are able to have.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Dr. Meghan Winchell made a lasting impression on me by encouraging me to enroll in the CHIP program. By encouraging me to enroll, I was able to grow personally and experience life outside of Nebraska. Dr. Winchell continues to assist me with my professional needs when necessary and I value her input.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

Currently, I am attending the University of Nebraska in the masters of Arts in Business with a specialization in the Intercollegiate Athletics Program. I will be interning in the Athletics Compliance Office for the 2018-19 academic year.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

I am proud of the person I have become after pushing myself to try new things. CHIP was the initial "push", which has allowed me to enroll in a graduate program and go out of my way to network professionally. I believe this will pay dividends in the near future when pursuing my career.

Kelsy Reynoldson 2014

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

Because there are so many internship opportunities in DC, I was able to find one that fit a couple of my passions, while exposing me to a new realm of work that I hadn't considered before.

I wanted to be a teacher, and I also loved journalism. I found an internship at the Newseum in the Education Department. It was such a great fit for my interests and a really neat place to work and explore every day.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Dr. Schaffer believed in me. Dr. Cypert challenged me. Dr. Herndon showed me a different world.

Dr. Schaffer provided me with some amazing experiential opportunities, starting my second semester of college when he asked me to co-instruct his desktop publishing class. I went on to co-instruct several other classes with him, and each one was such a rich learning experience.

Dr. Cypert always found interesting and relevant ways for us in English Education to get a better idea of what being in front of actual students would be like. His partnership with Dawes and affording us the experience to take a class in the building and have our own after-school class is something I still think back on now that I am in my teaching career.

Dr. Herndon guided me to a place I never thought I would be able to experience; a study abroad opportunity in Rwanda. She supported my Gilman Scholarship pursuit and led the best month (and beyond) of learning I have experienced as we learned about Rwanda's genocide and reconciliation process.

These are just three, but I could go on and on about many more faculty and staff members who enhanced my life during my time at Wesleyan and beyond.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

I moved to Denver, CO and started my teaching career at a large middle school in Aurora. I spent three years there learning and growing as a teacher, loving my students and understanding how to best serve low-income, high-minority populations. I then moved to Denver Public Schools this past year for my dream job at my dream school.

I've also gotten engaged to my Wesleyan sweetheart and we hope to be married in a place that is special to us on campus next summer (2019)!

What are you especially proud of in your life?

When I think of what I have accomplished so far, I can always point back to Nebraska Wesleyan as being the base I needed to succeed in life. It might sound cliché, but my experiences at NWU truly shaped the person I have become.

Tyler Richard 2006

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

When I started the CHIP program, I wasn't sure what I wanted my career to be. I was in the musical theatre program but feeling more drawn to advocacy. The CHIP program confirmed this for me.

By participating in the CHIP program, I was able to attend meetings with leading change makers and learn about trends in policy, particularly around transgender equality, that had not yet been at the forefront of my work in Nebraska. This made me a more effective advocate and gave me a foundation for work that continues to this day.

Everything that there is about Doug.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

The best professors were the lifelong mentors and colleagues that I met through my internship.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

For over a decade, I worked to make Nebraska's motto of "equality before the law" a reality for women, LGBTQ people, immigrants, people of color, and other communities. After seven years at the ACLU of Nebraska, I moved to the ACLU's nationwide headquarters in March 2018. Recently, I had the opportunity to arrange a briefing for reporters who cover the US Supreme Court in an office not far from where my office was during my DC internship.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

The combination of my Nebraska Wesleyan experience and CHIP experience helped me see the importance of the idea that all politics are local. I'm particularly proud that my work in Nebraska and nationwide isn't just about headlines in prominent outlets, it is about empowering people to tell their own stories in the communities they call home.

My partner went to a different school in Nebraska and did the CHIP program the year after I did. On one of our early dates, we suddenly realized that we were both talking about 510 C when discussing our internship. Though we didn't meet until almost a decade after our CHIP experiences, it was still a meaningful connection and similarity. On a recent trip to DC, even though it was pouring rain, we still took a short walk from Union Station to look at the house we each once called home.



Raeanne Rider 2016

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

My favorite memory was seeing Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address (his personal copy) on the day it was given only a few hundred yards from where it was given. This day is also my birthday (March 4th) so it was quite a treat!

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Professor Mathews and Professor Winchell were wonderful influences. They pushed me to do my best (or better) and gave me confidence to do so along the way. They treated me like a professional historian and this has helped me continue my education. Because of their influence, I am currently working on a masters in Library Science.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

After graduation my now fiancé and I moved to Colorado. When I'm not working or taking graduate classes, I love to hike and be in nature.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

I am the first in my immediate family to earn a bachelors degree and I will be the first to earn a masters. I don't know if this would have been the case had I gone to a larger school. Nebraska Wesleyan was the perfect environment for me to grow!

Kimberly Rieken 2009

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

Some of my favorite NWU Chip memories involve Friday field trips including a Nationals baseball game, Mount Vernon, and the Washington Monument. Also, Saturdays watching college football with my housemates and watching the 2008 presidential election results at Hawk and Dove.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

The entire Communication Studies Department (Dave, Karla, Patty, and Rachel). Their passion for teaching and learning mixed with their positive energy made class something to look forward to. I'll never forget Karla's endless supply of Altoids and Friday dance parties in class.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

I have lived in the Kansas City area for the past eight years. Currently, I work for Ottawa University as the Associate Director of International Programs and live in Overland Park, Kansas, with my rescue dog, Riley.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

I'm proud that I've been able to obtain my MBA and help grow the international program at Ottawa University.



Brent Ruth 2007

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

My internship was at the State Department in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs. It was an eye-opening experience to get to learn about foreign policy in practice. Several of the people I worked with in that internship have become lifelong mentors. I have carried the things I learned during that internship with me throughout my career.

Living with everyone at the CHIP house on 510 C Street was a blast. We had a lot of fun hanging out in the house or venturing out into the city. Some of the people in my cohort have become lifelong friends.

Doug Steinel was the program lead at the time and I remember in our initial orientation he warned us all not to go any further East when leaving the house because it wasn't safe. We were only supposed to go West back towards the Hill. I went on to live in DC for 10 years after college and quickly found out that the area East of the house was really quite a popular neighborhood and definitely safe.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Dr. Kelly Eaton was actually on sabbatical for most of my time at Wesleyan, but I did have her for a few courses, including a really impactful one my freshman year. Even though I was a first year, I was approved to take her Politics of Europe class - an upper level course - because it was only offered every few years. I was way out of my league compared to the other members of the class but it really stood out to me as a learning experience. Dr. Eaton and I remained in touch and would reconnect many years post-college when we both worked in DC.

Dr. Cathy Nelson was my professor for a number of Spanish courses. The most influential was Business Spanish. I have continued to speak Spanish in my career and since I work in the business world, the knowledge I gained in this class has been incredibly useful. Dr. Nelson was always a great support to me and we continue to be in contact today.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

After leaving Wesleyan, I moved to Washington, DC to work on Capitol Hill for Senator Chuck Hagel. I then went to work for a non-profit, the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), where I managed democratic and economic development programs in Latin America. I rose up through the organization over the course of nearly nine years and gained a lot of valuable experience in Latin America and the Middle East.

In 2013, I got married and, in 2015, my wife, Liz, and I welcomed our son, Bolton. In mid-2016, we made a move to Atlanta, where my wife grew up, and have settled in on the city's east side. I now work at Goizueta Business School - Emory University managing a program called the Global Accelerator Learning Initiative (GALI). We collect data on startups all over the world and evaluate how business accelerator and incubator programs are having an impact. I also just began an evening MBA program at Emory and will graduate in 2021.

I've had the privilege of traveling to nearly 30 countries and have been spending more time lately speaking about our research at global conferences focused on impact investing. I still make it back to Nebraska several times a year to visit my parents, grandparents, and brother.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

I'm proud to represent Nebraska, Nebraska Wesleyan, and rural life. When I travel abroad, I get to share with people a completely different perspective of the United States than what they envision. Sharing midwestern values with other cultures is really rewarding. On the flip side, sharing my international experiences with friends and family that have not had the same opportunities is also rewarding. I'm proud of any communication or understanding barriers that I've been able to break down as a result of travel or conversations I've had.



Brent Smoyer 2004

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

Honestly, it's the little things I'll always remember, like how the house was less individual apartments, and more a whole community, despite your floor or room. One day we'd be watching movies in one apartment, the next playing board games in another. I'd iron my shirt for the next day in one of the "ladies" apartments (they had the better iron) and shoot the breeze or watch TV with them. Conversation flowed easy among all of us which made it a great pseudo-family for the semester. Aside from the people, it was the often unnoticed experiences that stick most:

- Walking back from Cannon HOB (where I worked) on a perfect DC spring day.
- Going for a jog on the Mall at 10:00 p.m. and feeling perfectly safe because of the cops on virtually every corner (this was 2003, so 9/11 was still fresh in our minds).
- The announcement that we were going to war in Iraq due to WMD's. You'd better believe Capitol Hill was tense.
- Hitting the Adams Morgan bars, then getting massive slices of dirt cheap pizza to eat as we walked back to the Metro before it closed.
- Hauling a duffle bag's worth of groceries home on the Metro.
- Being asked directions by tourists, and by the end of the semester cursing those same tourists for not knowing you're supposed to walk the escalators!
- Working with Tom Osborne in the House and the great staff I got to know. Also getting to meet a number of Congressmen of my Fraternity (Theta Chi) and former Florida Governor candidate (then Congressman) Adam Putnam. Had some great football chats with Putnam.
- Dean Doug. He was a hell of a teacher and a great all around guy.

As I get older, and get sent to DC for work a few times a year, I find myself thinking back on those days in CHIP more and more fondly. I wouldn't trade my time in DC for anything, and frankly, would relieve it again if I could. That's one of those times you could definitely call "the good ole' days."

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Dr. Vermeer - Always quick to challenge you and your views, not to be antagonistic but to make sure you could defend them on their merits and critique them thoughtfully yourself. He made me a stronger arguer and more thorough thinker. His dry sense of humor didn't hurt either. Haha. He had a way of peeling the layers off of even the simplest subjects.

Dr. Cognard - I was one credit away from being an English minor because of him! His classes were highly entertaining and engaging. He made the material (mostly Shakespeare, which I enjoyed) even more interesting and fun. I'll also never forget that the discussions we had in his class post-9/11 were some of the most cathartic and kind of comforting. I remember him and the rest of the class really opening up about the subject which I think we really all needed at the time.

Dr. Wyman - My time in University Choir was some of the greatest memories and friends I could have had in college, and I miss almost every minute (maybe not the extended rehearsals). Doc never settled and that discipline still sticks with me in my day-to-day life and career. He is a truly memorable character with a wicked sense of humor that when he finally shows it off to you, catches you off guard and makes his jokes even funnier.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

Oddly enough, most of my career and life post Wesleyan have been shaped by the things I learned in the CHIP program and the love of politics the Political Science Department helped cement.

I received my law degree from Drake University Law school in 2007 and for 10 years following worked as a legislative aide, then legal counsel to the Rules, and later, Judiciary Committees of the Nebraska Legislature.

I was elected in my own right in 2010 to the Lancaster County Board where I served one term. Rather than reelection, I chose to run for Nebraska Legislature, and came up a little short in defeat.

Since July of 2017, I have worked as State Government Affairs Director for the National Association of Professional Background Screeners. I oversee their legislative efforts in 50 states and the District of Columbia engaging in lobbying and grassroots coordination.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

Two things come to mind:

- Losing 65 lbs from my freshman year to my sophomore year at Wesleyan. Those who knew me knew that was probably one of my greatest accomplishments and even today, my life is better (and healthier) for it.

- My time both as a staffer and County Commissioner. I was lucky enough to draft a number of bills for my Senators that made a significant positive impact on small businesses and family farms in Nebraska. As Commissioner, I kept all my campaign promises keeping taxes down, while ensuring public safety and infrastructure was a top priority. I even led the privatization of the County Mental Health Center. It was an unpopular position at the time, but it had been failing for years and had a massive treatment wait list, but with extensive study and restructuring we were able to change it to private hands with some county oversight. This new model has not only saved taxpayer dollars, but now provides better treatment and has seen the wait list virtually disappear. It was a tough decision and a lot of work (and insults) that was made worth it by the people we are ultimately able to help.



Sarah (Hove) Sprinkle 2014

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

My favorite CHIP memory is meeting and falling in love with my husband. He was one of the 13 students in our C Street brownstone that semester. His southern North Carolina charm had me at hello. Our first date was a picnic at the Washington Monument watching the sunset over the Lincoln Memorial - I know, top that! We both have such fond memories of our time in DC and can't wait to go back and reminisce.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

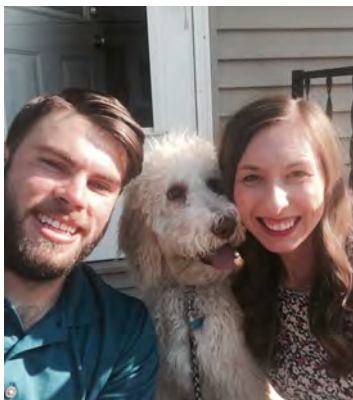
I went into college determined to major in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology like lots of freshman. After my first chemistry exam, Dr. Ryter lectured the class that if you did not receive an A that science was likely not the right path for you - I had received a B. Instead of being defeated, her lecture fueled me to continue to work harder. Dr. Ryter eventually became my advisor and under her advisement I was able to accomplish a semester in DC and still graduate early with my original goal of being a Biochemistry and Molecular Biology major.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

After graduating at NWU, I began working at GeneSeek and exploring career options in the medical field. I found my niche at UNMC completing a degree in Cytotechnology (the study of cells). I now work at a hospital in Cedar Rapids helping Pathologists diagnose cancer and other diseases. In the midst of starting my career, I married my "CHIP love" and we are now expecting our first baby - a boy!

What are you especially proud of in your life?

I am proud of the way I have used my life experiences to grow into the woman I am today.



Chelsea Stallings 2007

What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

CHIP introduced me to some amazing friendships, my own independence, a deeper understanding of politics, and big city living.

I learned pretty quickly in DC that, if I wanted to be taken seriously, I needed to understand what was happening in the world. My free time at my internship was spent voraciously reading news articles. When I went out with friends or met new people, politics was always the topic so I listened intently and soon was able to start chiming in. While I would've learned all of this at some point, CHIP really put me on the fast track to being politically active.

DC also taught me that smiling or making eye contact with strangers is weird. Wearing running shorts to the grocery store is frowned upon. The Metro (or something similar) should be in all cities if we truly want to reduce our carbon footprint and traffic issues. Home-delivery of groceries was a thing before Amazon.

And DC forced me out of my comfort zone and onto a path of finding my independence. I learned a lot about myself, Fall Semester of 2006, and on that journey, I became friends with two of the greatest gals, Heather Stang and Kelsey Strain. #TDTC

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

The whole Communication Studies Department is just amazing!! I feel every class took textbook information and turned it into real-life. When I start a new job, I think of my organizational communication class. When I watch the news, I think of the theories I learned in communication theory. When I have to give a presentation, I think of my speech class with Dave Whitt. When I travel to new places, I think of cultural communications. But Patty Hawk is the professor that made the biggest impact on me. She is hilarious, intelligent, strong, and kind. I was lucky enough to have her in my Liberal Arts Seminar class and I remember a lesson she taught us on listening. Instead of trying to debate someone or prove your point, we need to truly listen to each other. This advice is so necessary for everyone. Listening goes beyond hearing. Listening is a form of empathy and we sure could use some more empathy in this world.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

Since Nebraska Wesleyan, I moved to Colorado and have been here almost seven years! I have made a few career changes since graduation and I'm currently a writer at a marketing agency. My true passion is traveling. I've traveled both internationally and in the states and met some incredible people along the way. Currently, I'm doing most of my travel locally because Colorado and the surrounding states have a lot to explore. My partner in crime has been my pup, Carol, who is always ready to run free in the mountains.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

Yikes...this is a tough question. I'm still so young with so much more to learn! So I guess I'm proud of myself for continuing to stay open to life and whatever doors open or close. I'm proud that I continue to push myself in new directions even if they are scary.



Kristine Sudbeck 2010

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

I interned at the Smithsonian Office of Policy and Analysis back in the fall 2009 semester. This was my first true applied learning experience of qualitative research, and I fell in love! One of my favorite research projects was assisting with data collection and analysis for the National Museum of American Indian surveys that were sent all over the Americas. I was able to use my Spanish to translate some of the answers, and learned so much from the themes that emerged from people representing hundreds of indigenous communities.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Dr. Karla Jensen - I took an Intercultural Communication course with her and find myself continuing to explore concepts I learned while working among indigenous communities.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

I earned my doctorate in Educational Studies with an emphasis in language, literacy and culture from UNL, and now serve as the Dean of Academic Affairs at Nebraska Indian Community College (a tribal college with three campus locations in northeast Nebraska).



Amanda (Laaker) Vazquez 2006

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

I loved going for walks with my roommates around the Capitol at night. It was always so peaceful and beautiful.

I really enjoyed all of the adventures that came from exploring different parts of DC and the surrounding areas.

I was fortunate to get to experience cherry blossom season during my CHIP experience. Some of my favorite memories were walking around the Jefferson Memorial surrounded by the breathtaking beauty of the cherry blossoms and having a picnic lunch there next to the tidal basin with my roommates and fellow interns.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Dr. Vermeer was one of my favorite professors. I was also lucky enough to have him as my advisor. His classes were challenging and he expected a lot of his students, but he had such a passion for teaching and a love for his students that it made me want to do my very best. He was kind and motivating, and his door was always open. I am forever grateful for his guidance throughout my college experience.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

Shortly before graduating, I accepted a full-time job as Government Relations Director for the Paralyzed Veterans of America Great Plains Chapter in Omaha, a small non-profit organization that serves veterans with spinal cord injuries and other individuals living with a disability.

I am married and have four little boys and two dogs. I also volunteer on Saturdays helping teach an ESL class for Latina women at my church.

I love to travel and spend time with my family and friends.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

I am proud of the accomplishments I have made, the children I am raising, and the impact I am making on the community through my work and volunteer efforts.



Michaela (Nolte) Virchow 2013

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

Some of my fondest memories are from my semester spent in DC. I developed friendships with both my housemates and internship coworkers. I loved going sightseeing on the weekends and eating at wonderful restaurants. I gave US Capitol tours, attended a program on the White House lawn which resulted in seeing President Obama, and sat in on different sessions of Senate Committee Hearings.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

James Perry was one of the most influential professors during my time at Nebraska Wesleyan. He presented content applicable to real-life, and he was able to make the coursework for his Economics, Business Communications, and Personal Finance classes interesting.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

Upon graduating from Nebraska Wesleyan I moved to Norfolk, NE and shortly after married my husband, Orion. I passed my CPA exams and worked in public accounting doing audits and tax returns for four years. For the past year I have worked as the Budget Analyst for Faith Regional Health Services, the hospital in Norfolk.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

Passing the CPA exams.

Additional comments:

Stepping outside of my box and participating in NWU CHIP opened up a variety of opportunities for me. Looking back I am so glad I spent a semester in DC. I would encourage all students to either study abroad, do CHIP, or spend a semester experiencing something else outside of the 'norm.'

Luke Wenz 2017

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

My phenomenal roommate and I decided to go and build a snowman just outside of our apartment. That was one of the best memories for me—a young man from Arizona.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Doug was, of course, both absolutely brilliant and a phenomenal mentor, but also certifiably insane. I will never forget him and his “Porsche.”

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

I am the Deputy District Director and Campaign Director for United States Congressman Jeff Fortenberry. I still live here in Lincoln and look forward to continued travel across the Middle East.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

Ask me in twenty years when life slows down. 😊

Additional comments:

Thanks for doing this, Dr. Winchell.

Richard L. White 1964

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

Our class was present at the Bay of Pigs confrontation between Russia and the United States. It was frightening and interesting at the same time. We met with many of the Kennedy Department heads and saw or met the President, his wife, and brothers Ted and Robert.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

All of the professors I worked with left a positive impression on me. Their open and caring attitude helped me face important decisions later in life.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

After graduating from Wesleyan, I taught school in Nebraska and became politically active. In 1968, I ran as a statewide delegate for Robert Kennedy to the 1968 National Convention in Chicago, which I attended.

Later that year, I worked in a congressional campaign for the Nebraska Democratic Party under Hess Dyas, another Wesleyan graduate.

In 1973, I was elected State Chairman and served on the Democratic National Committee for 10 years. In 1976, I served as co-chair of the National Convention and presided over many parts of the Convention.

Presently, I work as a contractor with the Department of Homeland Security.

Iêda (Siqueira) Wiarda 1960

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

Visiting libraries, museums, and embassies. During Washington Semester I became acquainted with international foundations. Ford & Rockefeller Foundations were instrumental in my being able to research at the University of Florida, and in Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, and receive my Ph.D. in 1968.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

E. Glen Callen (Political Science, Public Administration), George Corfield (Geography), and David Mickey (History) — told me about the world and possibilities outside of Nebraska and the United States.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

- Ph.D. from University of Florida-Gainesville
- Taught at University of Massachusetts Amherst, Smith College, George Washington University, Department of State—Foreign Service Institute, and University of Georgia
- Teaching and lecturing around the world
- Luso-Brazilian Specialist for 25 years at the Library of Congress
- Married for 51 years, three kids

What are you especially proud of in your life?

- Connections with students, Library of Congress, and good family life
- Member of the National Council of Brazilian Women.
- Rio Branco Order Medal, 1997 — highest medal from Brazilian government

Additional comments:

Many thanks to NWU!

Jennifer Wiederspan 2008

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What are some of your favorite NWU CHIP or Washington Semester memories?

My favorite CHIP memories were living in the house with friends from multiple states. I am still close with all of my friends I met during my time in DC. I loved my internship at the Woodrow Wilson Center. I loved going to teach at Georgetown and exploring another university. I miss working daily at the Library of Congress.

Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Dr. Winchell was the greatest professor and mentor I could have ever asked for. I am so glad I listened to her to become a history major. I loved every class I ever took with her and just being in the presence of a strong, powerful female. I am so thankful for the opportunities she gave me over my tenure at Wesleyan.

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

I work at UNICO in downtown Lincoln. I have been in insurance since I graduated and I love the industry. I learn something new every day. I live in Lincoln with my Wesleyan alum boyfriend with our two cats!

What are you especially proud of in your life?

I am proud of all that I have accomplished post graduation. I am an aunt, I have a career, and I've been able to stay in Lincoln. I love to travel, and I type this out on a flight to NYC! I am glad to have a solid foundation of family, friends, and a career.



Scott Ziemba 2006

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Which professors influenced your life and made a lasting impression? Why?

Too many to list, but Rich Patrick and Hudson were favorites. Professor Hudson said on my last day in class to always "pay yourself first." Great advice!

What have you been doing since Nebraska Wesleyan?

Moved to Denver, CO in 2007 for a consulting job with Jones Knowledge Group. In 2012, I was named Senior Director of Business Services and Membership at the Boulder Chamber of Commerce. I moved to Omaha in 2014 and now work at DA Davidson as an advisor to Corporate Defined Contribution Plans and also help families plan for retirement.

What are you especially proud of in your life?

My family - wife, Joanna ('05) and my two boys, Michael (2) and Finn (4 months).





