

With a new book, a new position as president of the Omaha Press Club, various ongoing side projects and a full-time position managing media relations for the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Wendy Townley has become a mover and shaker of Omaha.

In late May, the Omaha native released her book *Nerdy Thirty* to a warm reception.

"It's a hilarious book," said Townley. "It's essentially a collection of essays that I've written about life experiences I've had leading up to turning 30 that are kind of nerdy."

Townley, 31, said she never imagined she would write a book, but after five years of blogging about her "awkward" life experiences turned into a published work, she said she now sees that "anything is possible."

"The biggest 'aha!' moment that I've had from this experience is that now that I'm in the position that I have a book out, I can help other writers," Townley said.

In addition to being an author and a self-proclaimed nerd, she describes herself as outgoing, creative, and always willing to learn new things. Townley's hobbies include exploring the Omaha nightlife and social scene and, more recently, teaching herself to cook.

She's also an advocate for community service, volunteering her public relations know-how to several nonprofit organizations around Omaha. "I think a lot of times young professionals think that volunteering only means rolling up your sleeves and painting a house or picking up a park, where for me, I've been fortunate enough to volunteer in a public relations sense," said Townley.

One of the main things Townley is passionate about is helping other people. "I will always make time to help somebody with a project or trying to get connected with somebody else. This is such a small town that usually I can get in touch with somebody through a couple degrees of separation."

Added Townley, "I'm really impressed by the caliber of people in Omaha who are doing their own unique, creative things, so that's a big drive for me to stay in Omaha."



Wendy Townley