

SPRING 2009

# *connections*

Minot State University Alumni Association & Development Foundation

**MSU Launches  
the Careers  
of Health  
Professionals**



# PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



‘These successful graduates point to faculty advisors who made special time to help, small class sizes, academically demanding courses and instruction, excellent individual programs and faculty and one-on-one relationships with faculty.’

**M**inot State University continues to do exceptionally well in our classrooms, our activities on campus and our general initiatives and strategies for improvement. Our university’s exciting work to reach our Vision 2013 goal is progressing well. We’re taking significant and notable steps to examine our university’s performance on regional and national benchmarks to determine how well we are doing and what we can do to improve our support and academic services for students. To become one of the premier, public, regional universities in the “great” Great Plains encourages us to compare our performances to 10 aspiration universities in the Great Plains.

For example, the faculty-to-student ratio is a good indicator of quality and enhanced classroom learning. The average ratio for the 10 aspiration schools is 18:1,

with a few schools reporting ratios as high as 20:1 and 22:1. I am very proud to report that our ratio in 2008 was 15:1. That ratio is the lowest of the 10 aspiration schools. Our commitment for students to be seen and be heard is realized clearly in this favorable student-to-faculty ratio. While we have a way to go on some indicators, we are doing exceptionally well on others, which suggests to me that we will be able to claim proudly by 2013 or before that we are indeed one of the premier universities in the Great Plains.

This edition of *Connections* provides testimonials of our university’s outstanding character and ample evidence to indicate we are a premier university. The stories of our graduates who have gone into medical fields describe Minot State University students with a variety of interests and backgrounds. There is, as you will read in these pages, a consistent

and strong observation that the nature of our classes and our teaching is second to none. These successful graduates point to faculty advisors who made special time to help, small class sizes and favorable faculty-to-student ratios, academically demanding courses and instruction, excellent individual programs and faculty and one-on-one relationships with faculty. It is certainly reassuring to read how well we fulfill our mission and historical commitment to student success. It is also a pleasure to read that these graduates have concluded that coming to Minot State University was the best decision they have made. One of these graduates exclaimed that he is a “proud Beaver.” These stories of our graduates make it pretty clear why all of us are proud to be Beavers!

— DAVID FULLER  
President



Offspring follow different medical paths	4
Being on the right path	6
A host of mentors benefit grad	7
Quite a pair	8
Student discovered a career at Minot State	10
Grad carves out unique niche	11
Spotlight on Excellence	12
History	14
Development Foundation	15
Alumni Happenings	16
Athletics	18
Alumni Features	20
Class Notes	22
In Memoriam	27
Baby Beavers	30

## MSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President: Brenda Foster '84/'92  
 President-Elect: Linda Christianson '72 & Deb Schultz '72/'91  
 Vice President for Outreach: Linda Christianson '72  
 Vice President for Events: Kelly Hayhurst '87  
 Vice President for Promotions: Ryan Hertz '00  
 Past President: Darwin Langseth '74

### OFFICERS

Robert Anderson '83  
 Amy Artz '01  
 Leslie Barney '80  
 Kristi Berg '95/'00  
 Randy Burckhard '74  
 Larry Eidsness '76  
 Dennis Faulkner '71  
 Greg Fjeld '81  
 Mike Gietzen '01  
 Blake Hanson '04  
 Kelsey Holt '97  
 Judi Kitzman '92  
 Gloria Lokken '72  
 Lisa Olson '89  
 Tonya Pearson '91  
 Alison Repnow '95  
 Chuck Repnow '83  
 Jan Repnow '84  
 Ann Rivera '04  
 Ellen Simmons '68  
 Angela Zerr '00  
 DelRae Zimmerman '04

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Dr. David Fuller, MSU President  
 Marv Semrau, Vice President for Advancement  
 Tawnya Bernsdorf '04/'08, Director of Alumni Relations & Annual Giving

### CONNECTIONS STAFF

Writer & Editor: Frank McCahill  
 Writers: Cathy Jelsing, Mark Lyman  
 Layout & Design: Sandra Nordstrom '77,  
 Director of Publications & Design Services

### MSU ADVANCEMENT OFFICE

Vice President for Advancement: Marv Semrau  
 Director of Alumni Relations & Annual Giving:  
 Tawnya Bernsdorf '04/'08  
 Donor Relations Coordinator:  
 Kate Neuhalfen '07  
 Major Gifts Officer: Mark Schnabel '74  
 Database Manager: Kathy Huettl '08  
 Director of Marketing: Teresa Loftesnes '07

## ON THE COVER

Dr. Jack Wilson '84, doctor of anesthesiology, stands in the hall of Mayo Clinic. See story on page 6.  
*(Wilson and Dascher photos courtesy of Mayo Clinic.)*

*connections* is published two times a year by the Minot State University Alumni Association and Development Foundation. Send comments, articles or photo submissions to *Connections*, MSU Alumni Office, 500 University Avenue West, Minot, ND 58707. Telephone 701-858-3890 or 1-800-777-0750. Fax 701-858-3179. E-mail: alumni@minotstateu.edu

Printed on Forest Stewardship Council certified stock. Third class postage paid at Fargo, ND 58101

# Offspring follow different medical paths



## Three siblings ... Three health care professions

All three of Randy and Pat Burckhard's children have entered the medical field, although each has selected a different niche.

Randy Burckhard credits his wife with their children's academic achievements.

"My wife is a teacher, so my kids had a great start. They all loved school," he said.

Ironically, neither parent is in health care. Randy Burckhard works in public relations, and Pat Burckhard teaches fifth-graders. Both are Minot State graduates.

The transformative event for all three kids was a health care occupations class they took at Minot High School. They visited clinics, hospitals and offices, job-shadowing and questioning medical professionals. Each was drawn to a different field. Minot State served as an early nexus for their diverging paths.

"I brag about Minot State to my friends. My kids got a great education there," Randy Burckhard said.

Despite their common background, each of the Burckhard children has constructed a distinct narrative.

### The Nurse

"I always wanted to be a nurse," said Jerica (Burckhard) Larson, the oldest sibling. "I always dressed up as a nurse at Halloween. That was what I was going to do."

To achieve her life-long goal, Larson enrolled at the University of Mary in Bismarck but then transferred to MSU after a year.

"It was more affordable at Minot State," she said. "All three of us were able to live at home during some of our college years, I came out with no loans, which is unheard of."

The MSU nursing program allowed her to explore the profession's many options.

"The area that sparked my interest was the operating room," said Larson, a 1999 graduate. "That's where I've been working for 10 years. I like the teamwork there. I like having to focus on one patient at a time."

Larson and her husband Lance have two boys, ages 3 and 7.

### The Chiropractor

As Tiffany Burckhard-Teets explored health care careers, she had to confront some messy realities. A weak stomach excluded dentistry, and a fear of large dogs ruled out veterinary medicine.

But chiropractic medicine intrigued her as a career. She attended Minot State and credits professor Michael Thompson with preparing her for the rigors of professional school.

Burckhard-Teets completed her education at Northwestern College of Chiropractic in Bloomington, Minn. She then returned to Minot and joined the practice of Steven Lipp and Mark Mosser, two other Minot State graduates.

"There's a sense of gratification in knowing I'm helping somebody," she said of chiropractic medicine. "I enjoy connecting with people."

Burckhard-Teets is married to Brock Teets, an MSU grad and former basketball player at Minot State who currently teaches and coaches at Berthold High School. The couple has a 3-year-old daughter and an infant son.

### The Future Orthodontist

Jason Burckhard, the youngest in the family, decided to pursue a dental career. At MSU, he appreciated the small classes and a dynamic biology faculty.



"They demanded a lot," he recalled.

"It wasn't like I could just show up and get by. It was a lot of work to get through the program. I'm very happy I went to Minot State."

He remembers his pre-dental advisor Richard Barkosky fondly.

"He always made time for you," he said. "He was a good guy; he was fun to hang out with."

After Minot State, Jason Burckhard attended the University of Minnesota Dental School. He is currently completing a residency in orthodontics at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He is engaged to Andrea Albertson, who is attending chiropractic school in Minneapolis.

"She and I would both like to come back to North Dakota," he said. "We need to find a place that can offer opportunities for both of us."

With a little help from MSU, a generation of Burckhards will contribute to the state's health and well-being for years to come.

— FRANK McCaHILL

# Being on the right path

## *Jack Wilson's journey to the Mayo Clinic*

If someone had told a teenage Jack Wilson he'd someday be working for Mayo Clinic as a doctor of anesthesiology, he probably would have thought they were crazy. His high school grades were mediocre. His greatest interest was running track. And a career in medicine was never on the radar.

But two weeks after starting business classes at Minot State University, Wilson switched his major to biology and started thinking about medical school.

Today, seated in his office in the anesthesiology department in one of the world's most renowned medical centers, Dr. Jack Wilson is philosophical. "All roads lead to the one you are on," he said. "I never really had a grand plan. I just took life as it came and it led me to a good place."

Wilson's life started in Minot, where he was born. He spent his early childhood in Carpio, N.D., and in 1965 his family moved to Minot, where his father, Wiley Wilson, became MSU's most revered track coach. His mother, Hermelle Wilson, taught physical education at MSU.

"I pretty much grew up at Minot State," Wilson said. "I spent more time in Swain Hall than at home." In fact, when the Souris River flooded in 1969, the Wilsons and other coaches' families moved into Swain Hall for a month. "I don't think our parents were all that happy," Wilson said, but it was a heavenly arrangement for a grade-school kid and his live-in pals, who spent hours playing hide-and-seek all over the hall.

Drawn by proximity, familiarity and the opportunity to pursue both football and track, Wilson enrolled at MSU in 1979. Football went away his sophomore year, because he couldn't make both practice and afternoon chemistry labs. He thinks he probably made the right choice.

Wilson transferred to the University of North Dakota his junior year, but when an advising error left him short a class, he returned to MSU for a fifth year, which turned out to be a good thing. He ran track another year. He picked up a second major in psychology. And he met his future wife. "Our first date was on my graduation day from Minot State in 1984," he said. In 1986, he proposed to audiology graduate student Suzanne Sinclair in the parking lot outside her MSU dormitory. In 1987, they married in Augustana Lutheran Church, just across from campus.

Wilson earned his medical degree at UND, completed his residency in anesthesiology at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville and went to work for MeritCare in Bemidji, Minn. But after three years in practice, Wilson found he missed being in an academic environment, so he accepted a one-year fellowship to study pain medicine at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. The fellowship ended, but Wilson decided to stay when he was offered a staff position. When he retires, Wilson says it will be from Mayo. "I consider this the best medical center in the world," he said, "and I'm very happy to work here."

Wilson's day typically starts at 6:30 in the morning and ends in late afternoon, unless he's on one of his trimonthly 24-hour call shifts. His specialties include regional and obstetrical anesthesia and pain medicine. With more than 200 operating rooms, there's a huge demand for his services. In fact, anesthesiology is the second largest department in the Mayo Clinic.



In addition to providing anesthesia in the operating rooms and obstetric suites, Wilson teaches anesthesiology residents, fellows and medical students in both clinical and classroom settings. He also conducts examinations and consultations with pre-op patients in Mayo's outpatient anesthesiology clinic. And he lectures at medical symposiums and workshops throughout the United States and abroad.

The qualities that attracted Wilson to Mayo as a young doctor are the qualities that keep him at Mayo today: diversity of patients — from the famous to regular folks, highly coordinated delivery of services, constant learning and the culture. “The people who work here are here because they like to help others,” he said. “They like to teach, they like to do research and they like working in a collegial environment.”

In retrospect, Wilson muses that his path to Mayo may have started when he was a preschooler. He remembers being 3 or 4 years old when he overheard playmates speaking in awed tones about a sick parent being taken to see doctors at a faraway “Mail Clinic.” “I thought it must be a really special place if there was a clinic in a post office.”

Indeed, it was and still is a special place.

— CATHY JELSING

# A host of mentors benefit grad

## *Minot State proved to be the right fit for one student with ambitious career plans*

**A**ndy Carver grew up in Minot and hoped to join his father in the medical field. After high school, he attended the University of North Dakota, but he soon experienced the ragged feeling of being out of place. Classes were too large and professors a little remote.

He transferred to MSU after his first year and immediately noticed a difference. “Class sizes were just right,” he said. “You could learn from other students and form study groups. You could always talk to your professors, and they were always willing to help.”

Carver also made the most of opportunities to do undergraduate research, working under associate professor Mikhail Bobylev in organic chemistry.

“Doing bench-top research allowed me to appreciate the power of the scientific method and how I could apply it elsewhere, specifically in medicine. It was an invaluable learning opportunity,” he said.

While at Minot State, Carver chose to focus on veterinary medicine. To gain experience, he worked at Minot's Pinkerton Animal Hospital, operated by Dr. Louis Pinkerton. Carver developed a practiced hand with cats and dogs.

“Louis is great at trying to involve students,” he said. “I had a lot of hands-on experience. Dr. Pinkerton and the other vets there are wonderful mentors.”

Carver is currently a first-year student in the University of Minnesota's veterinarian medicine program. After vet school, Carver says his career could take him anywhere, but he could picture himself practicing in Minot.

He chose veterinary medicine because he likes the variety the field offers.

“In the human field, you have to specialize — to only surgery, ophthalmology, dermatology, etc.,” he said. “In the vet field, especially in a small community like Minot, you get to do everything — surgery, cancer treatment, emergency care and more. That diversity is a plus.”

Looking back at his still unfolding academic career, Carver feels the best decision he made was attending Minot State.

“If you're a pre-professional, it's a good school to be at,” he said.

— FRANK McCAHILL



# Quite a pair

## MSU athletes score careers at Mayo

A good part of Kayla Blom, '02, and Josh Dascher's, '03, college courtship took place courtside. He watched her play basketball. She watched him play football and run track.

The couple still calls it a “date” when Kayla watches Josh officiate at a high school basketball or football game. But such dates have become sparse in the past few years. “A lot of times we’re like two trains passing in the night,” Josh said. “The other day was the first time we sat down at the kitchen table together in at least two weeks.”

The Daschers are looking forward to more free time in the spring, when Kayla completes her training as a nurse practitioner. It will be her third nursing degree, the second she started since joining the nursing staff at Minnesota’s prestigious Mayo Clinic.

Kayla and Josh moved to Rochester as newlyweds in June 2003. Josh had just graduated from MSU with a double major in radiologic technology and business management. He wanted to complete his two years of clinical training at Mayo. Kayla, a recent MSU nursing graduate, was hired as a registered nurse.

Josh became a registered radiologic technologist, worked in the X-ray department, recently became a certified MRI technologist and has spent the past couple of years working in Mayo’s massive MRI department.

Kayla works in Mayo’s emergency room. While working at Mayo, she earned her master’s in nursing education through Winona State University, has taught nursing at a local junior college, and in a few months will take her nurse practitioner board certification exam.

It seems only a pair of athletes could go the distance on such intense career climbs, but there’s more to it than physical endurance. There’s passion.

Kayla was a senior at Burke Central High School in Lignite, N.D., when her father was diagnosed with cancer. She’d been planning to use her college basketball scholarship to study physical education or history. But a nurse at one of her dad’s medical appointments changed all that.

“I could tell how much this nurse cared about Dad, and I could see she really liked what she was doing. She was making a huge difference in his life,” Kayla said. “Watching her work with my dad made me decide that’s what I wanted to do, too.”

In nursing, the All-American basketball player discovered a profession with a myriad of career options. She’s worked in trauma and general surgery, cardiac surgery and now Mayo’s 40-bed emergency room. Between hectic 12-hour shifts, she studies for what she hopes will be a slightly slower-paced career in family practice.

What makes it all worthwhile? Simply, she said, when a patient says, “Thank you. You did a great job.”

One unexpected thing Kayla has learned at Mayo is just how good the nursing program is at Minot State. “I can tell you firsthand from teaching, the education I got at MSU is just as good, if not better, than what nursing students are getting here,” she said. “The program at MSU is very demanding. You had to

‘Nursing students who do rotations here aren’t getting nearly as much hands-on experience as we got.’

work hard and make sure you knew what you had to know.” At Mayo, the classes are larger, the patients are sicker, and Kayla said, “Nursing students who do rotations here aren’t getting nearly as much hands-on experience as we got.”

Josh loves going to work every morning because his job blends two of his favorite things: people and science. Always a “science guy,” Josh came to MSU from Glasgow, Mont., on a partial football and track scholarship. He enrolled as a biology major, but soon found a better fit in radiologic technology.

Today, he works alongside more than 65 professionals who operate and interpret test results produced by the clinic’s 24 MRI scanners. During one 10-hour period, his department will serve more than 200 patients.

“First and foremost, I’m there to help the patients, because I really do want them to succeed at the test,” Josh said. “I try to be as compassionate and understanding as I can.” But he’s also fascinated with the science. “It’s exciting to be on the forefront of technology that’s so quickly evolving and improving.”

In the next five years, Josh hopes to put his degree in business management to use, perhaps as a Mayo department supervisor, or maybe in another setting. “It would be pretty tough to leave what we’ve got going here,” he said, “but if the right circumstances were to come around, we can see ourselves coming back to the Minot community. We enjoyed our time there immensely.”

— CATHY JELSING





# Student discovered a medical career at Minot State

*University sharpens graduate's career focus*

**S**herwood native Jordan Keith majored in biology and hoped to become a doctor, but he wasn't sure of the field. He ruled out surgery and dentistry but was otherwise adrift in the universe of possibilities.

As he mulled his options, Keith fueled his ambition through contact with a high-octane science faculty.

"It had to do with how motivated and enthusiastic the professors were," he said. "They enjoyed what they were doing and made it fun for us. One of my favorites was Chris Beachy. He excited us to want to learn, to be better, to be smarter. He's one of the best teachers I've ever had at any level."

In his junior year, Keith chose optometry as a career after a positive stint at a Minot eye clinic.

After working in this intellectual hothouse, many biology majors go on to professional schools, Keith noted. He enrolled in the optometry program at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Ore.

In the fourth year of the program, he explored the profession through three-month rotations in Portland, Ore., Atlanta, Virginia Beach, Va., and Rochester, Minn. He is currently completing a residency in ocular diseases with the Kansas City Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

"These vets are 60, 70 and 80 years old," he said. "A lot of them have diabetes, high blood pressure and glaucoma. I'm learning how to treat them. Saving someone's vision is very rewarding. This is what I want to do."

When he completes his residency, Keith hopes to work in a hospital setting where he can treat patients and mentor optometry residents. His dream is to work amid the shining glass towers of the Twin Cities.

"I miss the north; I miss snow in the winter-time," he said.

With his penetrating intelligence and driving ambition, Keith could have attended any trophy college of his choice. But he didn't.

"Minot State is one of the best decisions I've ever made," he said. "I'm a proud Beaver."

— FRANK McCAHILL



# Grad carves out unique niche

*Combined passion for biology and art creates a scientific and medical illustrator*

**H**eidi Richter graduated from MSU in 2005 with degrees in art and biology. She next earned a master's degree in biomedical communication at the University of Toronto.

She currently works at Precision Graphics in Champaign, Ill. The firm creates illustrations for major publishers and corporations across the country.

As a youngster, Richter displayed an early talent for drawing. She later inherited a love for science from her dad Rod, who earned a degree in environmental science from MSU.

Richter next enrolled at Minot State to meld her disparate interests.

"Minot State is great in both areas of biology and art," the Minot native said.

"In biology, it's unique in that undergraduates can do research. And the art staff is just exceptional."

Small class sizes and one-on-one relationships with professors provided a perfect setting as Richter feverishly challenged both sides of her brain.

"Dr. Chris Beachy was very influential in biology," she said. "Walter Piehl was my mentor in art. Although our styles differed greatly, I learned a lot from him."

Despite working on a double major, Richter was never self-sparing in her contributions to the campus community. She wrote for the student newspaper, contributed to the arts journal, served as a writing tutor and worked at the Northwest Art Center.

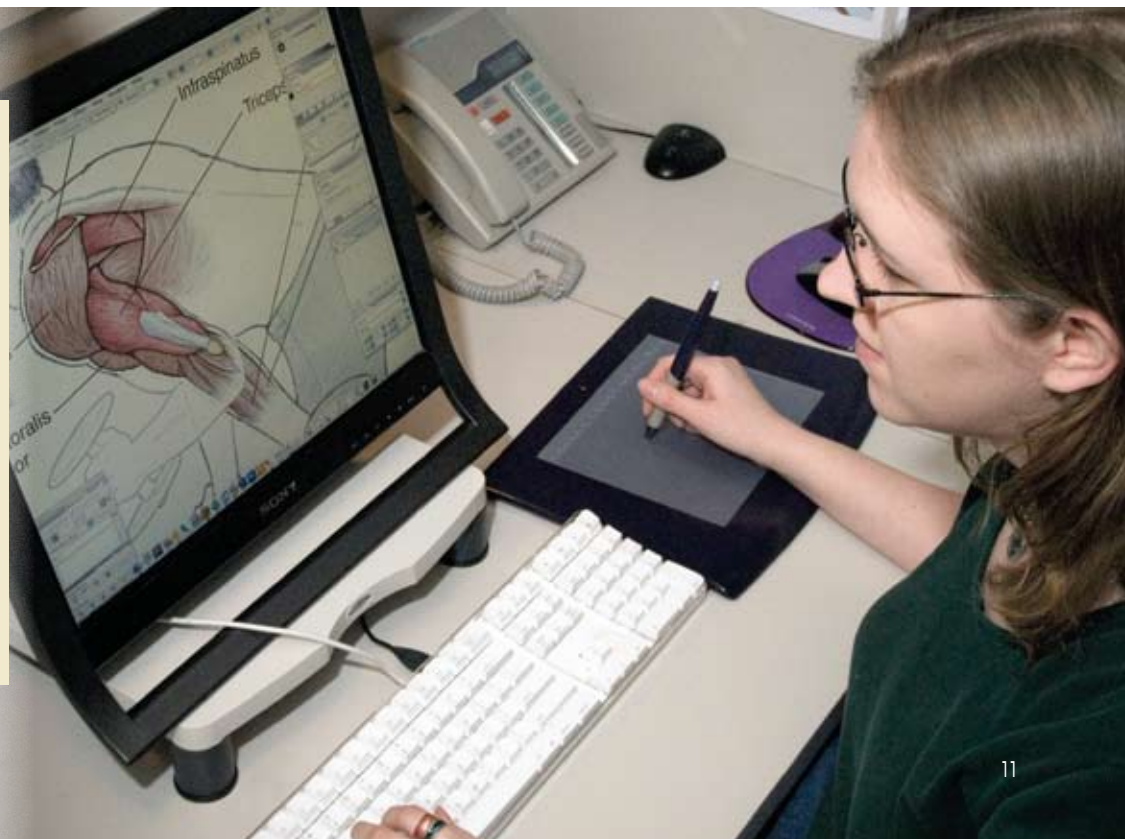
Richter has found her footing in her chosen career and plans to branch out as a freelance illustrator. Her principal interest is paleo-art, which deals with evolution and dinosaurs.

Minot State has been a durable presence in the Richter clan for decades. Her grandfather Walter Richter was a member of championship basketball teams in the 1930s. Her sister Jenna earned a degree in radiological technology in 1991. And her mom supports women's basketball through its Adopt-a-Beaver program.



— FRANK McCAHILL

Small class sizes  
and  
one-on-one  
relationships with  
professors  
helped Richter  
develop  
both sides of her  
brain.



# SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE

## Meet our students

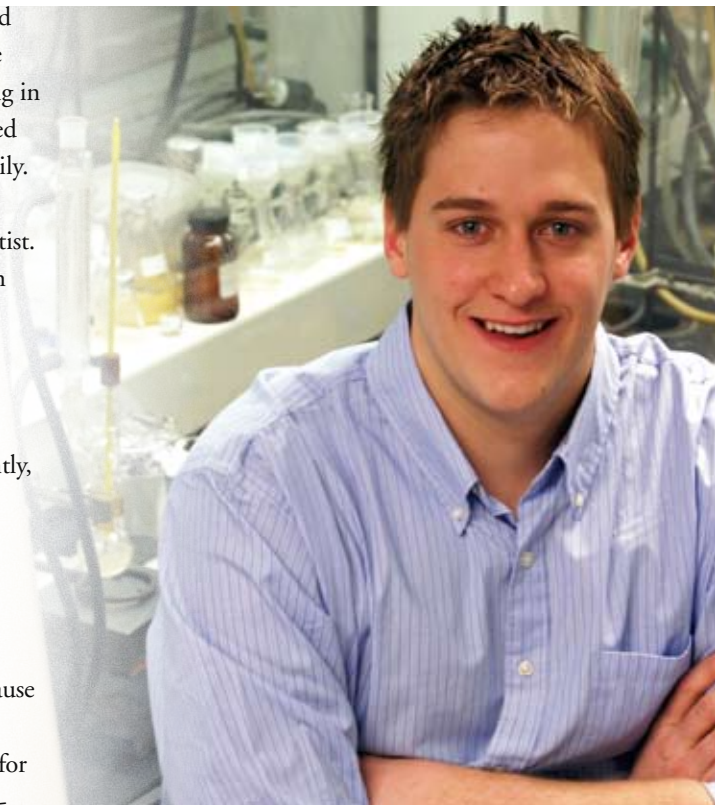
### Mortensen destined for medical school

**SCOTT MORTENSEN, STANLEY, N.D., CHEMISTRY**

I took an interest in Minot State University because it allowed me to have a well-rounded life while attending school. I love the outdoors and frequently spend nights in a tree stand or out hunting in the field with my dog. I also found that Minot is centrally located and allowed me to be a part of numerous activities with my family.

During my freshmen year, I decided to major in chemistry, feeling it would prepare me for my future goal of becoming a dentist. This program not only prepared me but also made my application to dental schools shine in front of reviewers. At Minot State, the professors truly help you become engaged. I happened to get involved with research under Mikhail Bobylev, associate professor of chemistry. It took hard work and dedication, but it led to various opportunities that would have never been possible. Recently, I presented my research work at the 236th American Chemical Society's National Meeting in Philadelphia. The benefits of these sorts of opportunities seem to cascade.

I spent the summer before my senior year getting ready for the arduous task of applying to dental schools. It started with getting recommendations from my professors, which is easy at MSU because they all know their students by name, and they are happy to help. Next, I spent hours upon hours in the library at MSU, preparing for the Dental Admission Test. This exam makes or breaks an application to dental schools, and I can say that the instruction at MSU is top of the line. I got interview offers at numerous schools across the country and accepted interviews at five of them. I was accepted by each school I interviewed with. I will be starting my first semester of dental school at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Lincoln, Neb., in the fall of 2009.



## Meet our faculty

### Excellence in teaching

**LORRAINE WILLOUGHBY, BUSINESS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT**



Lorraine Willoughby, a professor of business information technology, embodies the concept of “excellence in teaching.” In 1987, she began her teaching career at Minot State University by filling in part time; she moved into a tenure-track position in 1989. Willoughby was the 2002 recipient of the MSU Board of Regents Faculty Achievement Award and the 2002 U.S. Professor of the Year for North Dakota.

“Teaching has always been my passion,” Willoughby said. “I thoroughly enjoy sharing my knowledge with my students and get great pleasure when they return to campus and visit me.”

Willoughby teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in management information systems on campus and online. She believes students learn best by applying concepts learned in class to real-world projects. To facilitate this, she continues to collaborate with many local and statewide businesses.

In addition to being the program director for the master of science in information systems and master of education in business education, she is the director of the Job Corps Executive Management Program. The JCEMP, which is tailored for junior to midlevel Job Corps managers who aspire to be center directors, is the only program of its kind in the country.

## Research and study opportunities

# Nursing students engage community with Health Clinic

The Adult Health Maintenance Clinic is the ultimate experience in hands-on service learning for Minot State nursing students and a real-life benefit for the hundreds of seniors who visit the clinic. The clinic provides an environment where people ages 55 and older can receive foot maintenance and have other critical health concerns addressed. Just ask project leaders Holly Armitage or Joy Corey.

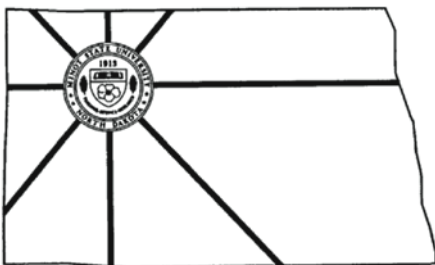
“We have an aging population in the state, and by providing a clinic that is geared toward their needs, we are filling an important part of health care in the region,” said Minot State senior nursing student Corey.

“This project shows our critical-thinking skills, where you have to look outside of the textbook in order to meet the needs of the region and stretch yourself as a student to become the best nurse possible,” said Armitage, who is also a senior MSU nursing student.

The Adult Health Maintenance Clinic began as a Public Health Nursing class project in the fall of 2007. The students assessed the region surrounding and including Minot, and they identified the need to address foot care and other health-based topics for the elderly population. In the fall of 2008, the students implemented the clinic and have now turned it into a model program for the region and the state.



## Nominations Sought for Golden Awards



Minot State University Alumni Association continues to accept nominations for consideration for the Golden Award. Deadline for nominations is May 22.

Selection for the award is based on one or more specified criteria. The Golden Awards

committee reviews the nominations and selects names to be submitted to the Alumni Board of Directors for final approval.

Anyone interested in nominating someone should utilize the official nomination form. This can be found on the Web site at [www.minotstateu.edu](http://www.minotstateu.edu) or contact the Alumni office (701-858-3234). The next recognition event is set for Sept. 24, 2009, in the MSU Conference Center.

*Have you received copies of these issues of Connections?*

With changes in postal endorsements, anyone with a change of address may not have received the copies pictured. If you wish to receive them, we will be glad to honor your request. Contact the Alumni Office at 701-858-3234 or e-mail [alumni@minotstateu.edu](mailto:alumni@minotstateu.edu).

Also, let us know if you would rather receive *Connections* electronically.



# HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY

We see the beaver, the campus mascot, everywhere we look on campus but it was not always so. In fact, it was not until 1924, 11 years after the birth of the institution, when the State Normal School at Minot achieved collegiate status and became Minot State Teacher's College that it was even considered.

On February 6, 1925, during a campus assembly, Pauline Marion Roach, nicknamed "Pud," a member of the freshman normal school class, proposed the institution select a mascot, as other regional campuses had done. Her choice was the "Beaver." In a rather lengthy speech, she explained the necessity for the mascot and pointed out the reasons for her choice. Foremost, she noted, the beaver is a native of the region along the Mouse River, that he was "a builder and a hard worker, both characteristics of the school." She also noted how "he perseveres quietly but with a goal well sighted" and compared the creature to the 1925 basketball squad. The students "broke in with vigorous applause at several instances" during her presentation. A vote was taken, and the Beaver was "unanimously initiated" into our college tradition. A few lusty Beaver yells at the close of the session "clinched" the name and its acceptance.



Pauline "Pud" Roach

'(The beaver) was a builder and a hard worker ... he perseveres quietly but with a goal well sighted.'



Following soon afterward, the school's basketball and football teams took on the Beaver name and new cheers were developed. Future editions of the Red & Green further highlighted the Beaver. Photographs and sketches of the Beaver began to appear in campus periodicals and catalogs. Even the campus training school took on the "Beaver," and in 1926 the Beaver Kits basketball squad entered the season with Beaver embroidered on their game jerseys. The Beaver was fully indoctrinated into campus life.

— An excerpt from the draft *History of Minot State University*, written by Jonathan Wagner and Mark Timbrook for the 2013 centennial celebration.



Over time, the school's mission and name changed, but the stalwart beaver continued to serve in his important post. In 2005, thanks to a contest involving more than 700 Minot-area fourth-graders, he finally got a name: Buckshot.

Buckshot's looks have changed during his long career, but the qualities that make him and his kind great representatives for Minot State University remain the same.



**Beavers are intelligent and highly skilled. They're strong. They achieve success through team effort. And when there's a job to do, they get it done.**



**Beavers are capable of changing their environment. They understand the importance of preserving natural resources. They watch out for their own kind and are good neighbors to others.**



**Beavers are social animals. They're unfailingly loyal, have strong family ties and enjoy having fun. They even play practical "jokes" on each other.**

Today, Buckshot rallies school spirit during athletic events and student gatherings across campus and proudly represents Minot State University throughout the community and beyond.

**Go Beavers!**

*'The scholarship has really helped me financially in meeting my goals ...'*

**A**n old-fashioned winter has encompassed much of North Dakota this year. The snow has piled high. Travel and generally moving around have been difficult. We are also reminded in daily news accounts that the national economy is in a difficult situation.

Even though northwestern North Dakota has seen a strong economy largely due to energy development, Minot State has not been immune from the national economic downturn. The MSU Development Foundation has been prudent in investment strategies that have cushioned the blow that many university foundations have experienced. I do not intend to dwell on the negative, but the reality is that our endowments have seen a reduction in value.

The majority of Minot State's endowments provide financial aid for student scholarships. With continued pressure on the cost of higher education, a downturn in financial support could be the difference in students choosing to reach for their goals or settling for something else. You may be among those who were fortunate to have received some help with your education. Therefore, you recognize the importance of this investment in students.

We are optimistic that the endowment investments will bounce back, so we can continue to build the support for our students. But, at the present time, there is less financial support available.

There is a solution to this need for student financial aid.

We have all been affected in some way by the economy. If you find yourself in a position where you could provide some interim scholarship aid for Minot State students, you could have a big impact on a student's life. We have strength in numbers. Even modest amounts, when added to many others, would immediately go to students in a powerful way and give them the chance they deserve.

These unique circumstances we find ourselves in provide an opportunity to become an even stronger force in the future of Minot State. As we visit daily with our alumni and friends, the passion for Minot State University's vision to serve students rings loud and true. Together, we will continue this legacy.

Thank you for your consideration. If you would like to participate, please contact the foundation office at 1-800-777-0750 ext. 3890, e-mail at [marv.semrau@minotstateu.edu](mailto:marv.semrau@minotstateu.edu), donate online at [www.minotstateu.edu](http://www.minotstateu.edu), or send to Minot State University Development Foundation, 500 University Ave W, Minot, ND 58707.



— MARV SEMRAU  
Executive Director,  
Minot State University Development Foundation

*To the Humanities Scholarship Committee,*

*I would like to take the time to thank you for giving myself and other students the opportunity to attend Minot State University. Your support and generosity is greatly appreciated. I am currently a senior at Minot State majoring in broadcasting and public relations. The scholarship has really helped me financially in meeting goals with my career choices. I'm proud to say I will be graduating from MSU this May.*

— Amber Jensen  
Kenmare, N.D.



# ALUMNI HAPPENINGS



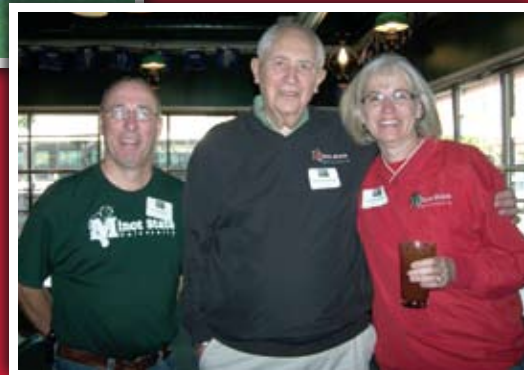
July 2008  
Alumni event in Bismarck.  
Event hosts Byron '86  
and Chris '73 Blowers.



Summer Golf Tour 2008  
Kenmare



MSU President, Dr. David Fuller with the  
2008 Golden Award recipients: Charles  
Repnaw '83, Dr. Jill Fuller '79, Jan Repnaw  
'84 and Gary Stenejem '64.



Ted Brinkman '75, Maynard Sandberg '55  
and Joan Brinkman at the pregame social  
in St. Paul, Minn., September 2008, when  
the MSU football team took on Concordia-  
St. Paul.



Alumni board members  
Kristi Berg '95/'00, Ellen  
Simmons '68, Randy '74  
and Pat '74 Burckhard,  
Deb '73/'89 and Chuck  
Schultz serving food  
at the Alumni and  
Beaver Booster  
Basketball Appreciation  
Night in January.





MSU alumni and friends visiting the Desert Botanical Gardens, featuring the work of renowned artist Dale Chihuly.



Evinda "Vicky" (Ramstad) Johnson '48 and MSU President Dr. David Fuller.



Jackie Hegstad, Mary Manross '69 and retired faculty member professor emeriti Joe Hegstad.

## Arizona Events 2009

Friday, March 6 — 'Why Not Minot' social in Sun City West

Saturday, March 7 — Tour of the Desert Botanical Gardens in Phoenix

Saturday, March 7 — Barley Pop Southwest Social at the home of alums Jack '71 and Joanne '73 Lundeen in Scottsdale



Dyanne Altringer, Don Hummel '75, Sherry Hummel, Terry Kolbo '72, Dwight Ormiston '69 and Steve Taggart.



VP for Advancement, Marv Semrau, host of the Saturday night social Jack Lundeen '71 and Executive Director of Beaver Boosters, Chad McNally '93.

# Putting the bench behind him

*Stan Schauer simply loves to play basketball*

That was never more evident when, as a freshman, Schauer opted to forgo a semester of eligibility for Minot State University to play city league. It wasn't the normal thing to do, but for Schauer, now a senior, it was a chance to work on his game.

"I wasn't strong enough, quick enough and couldn't shoot the ball well enough, but I kept trying," Schauer said. "I just love to play. I would go to practice every day, play noon ball, then I would go to (Bishop) Ryan or Our Redeemer's to play open gym. When someone asked me if I wanted to play in the city league, I said, 'Yeah, that's exactly what I want to do.'"

"I went to coach, and I don't think he was too happy about it, but it was fun and we won our league."

While MSU Head Coach Mike Hultz might not have been happy then, as he looks back on the story, it has become one of his favorites.

"He was suiting up and playing a little, but at Christmas, he asked if could practice but not play so he could play city league. He forgone his eligibility to play city league," Hultz said, laughing. "But that's Stan. He loves to play."

The story didn't end with him leaving, however. Schauer stayed with the team, stayed with basketball and became a solid player for the Beavers.

"He has worked hard and grinded it out," Hultz said. "I am really happy for him because he has worked hard to get to where he is. I never question his effort."

Schauer's work ethic and love of basketball have kept him going. He came to MSU from Fessenden to play football, but ended up walking on, making the team in his second year in school. He is still technically a walk-on. That reason is sometimes enough to keep him going.

"Me and Braden (former MSU player Braden Bosch) would talk about it. We both walked on with no scholarships and were playing as much as anybody," Schauer said. "It would be nice to get some money, but I like knowing that I do it because I like to play basketball."

For the first couple of seasons, Schauer didn't see much of the court. But during that time, he came to an understanding that he was a role player. He credits his parents as an influence to keep sticking it out.

"I talked to my parents many times. They would come to every game. Even if I sat at the end of the bench, they would still be sitting there in the stands," he said. "They said, 'You are helping the team.' I knew that I was going to be a practice player but tried to work my way up.

"I think about that all the time."

— Michael Linnell

reprinted with permission from the Minot Daily News

**'I am really happy for him because he has worked hard to get to where he is. I never question his effort.'**



# Hultz takes over first in all-time wins

Minot State University Men's Basketball Coach Mike Hultz reached a milestone on Feb. 25. With a win over rival Dickinson State in the 2009 Dakota Athletic Conference playoffs, Hultz became the Minot State basketball coach with the most all-time wins.

"I'd like to congratulate Coach Hultz for reaching the career-win milestone of 176 wins," said Rick Hedberg, Minot State University athletic director. "It's quite an accomplishment when you look at the coaches who have gone before him. Mike works very hard, and we appreciate the work he has done for our department and the university."

Hultz passed a name beloved by Minot State alumni and fans to take over first place. Herb Parker, head basketball coach from 1938-59, tallied 175 wins. Hultz has led Minot State men's basketball teams to 176 wins during 11 seasons on the bench.

"I am very surprised by this. I don't know what to say," Hultz said. "It is an honor to be listed with a man like Herb Parker, who was such a well-respected guy here. I have had great assistant coaches in Steve Grabowski, Chris Johnson, Taro Fujimoto and Craig Smith and student assistants like Tim Brandt and Jordan Cooper. And, obviously, I couldn't have done it without great players."

In his years at MSU, Coach Hultz has reached 17 wins six times. In the past five seasons, Hultz-led teams have earned more wins than any other team in the DAC. Minot State basketball teams have won 20 games or more twice in the last 11 seasons, have advanced to the National Association Intercollegiate Athletics national tournament twice in the past five seasons, and captured the season title once and the DAC tournament championship twice.



## MSU Named Champions of Character Institution

Minot State University, through its Athletic Department, has been named a "Champions of Character Institution" for the 2007-08 school year. This is the seventh-consecutive year that MSU has been recognized as a Champions of Character Institution.

"We're excited, once again, to be chosen as a Champions of Character institution," said Athletic Director Rick Hedberg. "This is an annual goal of our department, and I really need to commend our coaches and student-athletes on their commitment to this program."

During the past year, MSU student-athletes have been involved in such projects as an elementary reading program, character development presentations in local schools, a drive for a local food pantry, a giving tree Christmas project through the Domestic Violence Center, involvement and support of the North Dakota Special Olympics, and fundraising for breast cancer research through the Coaches vs. Cancer program.

"Our involvement on campus and in the community is important for our department," Hedberg said. "The community supports us a great deal, and we want to be able to give something back."

**Become a member of the  
BEAVER BOOSTER CLUB  
and support our athletes!**



The Beaver Booster Club enthusiastically assists the Minot State University Athletics Department in promoting and maintaining the highest level of excellence. The club

provides funds to support athletic scholarships for students who have distinguished themselves in competition and in the classroom. It also provides funds for special needs of the Athletics Department. **Contact Chad McNally at 701-858-4451, 1-800-777-0750, ext. 4451 or [chad.mcnelly@minotstateu.edu](mailto:chad.mcnelly@minotstateu.edu) and become a member today!**

# ALUMNI FEATURES

## Remembering Minot State's early years

One centenarian remembers the time when Minot State Teacher's College was just entering its adolescence.

Irene (Snippen) Nelson attended summer sessions in 1925 and 1927 to obtain her standard teaching certificate. She skipped the 1926 session to help out on the family farm near Roseglen.



"I took advanced algebra, physical ed and geography," the 104-year-old alumna told *Connections*.

Nelson and several classmates stayed with a family near the college while attending the eight-week sessions. Minot was a flourishing city in the 1920s, growing from 10,476 people in 1920 to 16,099 by 1930.

"We walked home for lunch and walked back for the afternoon," she said. "The teachers had cars; we all walked."

Nelson returned to Roseglen only once each summer. Their classes were all-consuming, yet they occasionally widened their circle of interest.

"We were always studying, except the night we went to the (state) fair," she said. "We went to plays, anything that was advertised as good."

Nelson attended Minot State at a pivotal time in its history. In 1925, the N.D. State Legislature appropriated \$65,000 for an auditorium and gymnasium. The school later named the auditorium for George McFarland, the college's president at the time.

That same year, the school took a large step toward becoming the cultural center of the region. With a \$5 pledge, Emma Cotton started a fundraising campaign for a new pipe organ for the projected auditorium. The faculty chipped in \$1,300, and the Kimball Company of Chicago installed the \$12,500 instrument in 1932.

After she received her certificate, Nelson taught in one-room schools for four years. She left teaching to marry Carl Nelson in 1928. The couple lived on farms in the Roseglen area and moved to Ryder in 1937. They had three daughters.

When her husband died at the age of 47 in 1951, Nelson moved to Minot and worked in the lingerie department at J.C. Penney's. She retired from retail sales at age 62.

"My age told me I had to get out," she said.

Until late last year, Nelson lived alone in her Minot home. She currently lives with daughter Marlyns Rodahl.

Nelson still retains photos and memorabilia from her Minot State years. As she looked into the dark recesses of time, her recall of her time on campus is remarkably vivid. "It was so long ago," she said.

— FRANK McCaHILL

## Graduate recalls a Depression-era Minot State

One alumna liked Minot State so much she attended the school twice.

Lorraine Smith first took classes from 1936 to 1938, earning a standard teaching certificate. She then taught in several one-room schools south of Minot.

In the late 1960s, she returned to earn a bachelor's degree in education and then taught in several North Dakota towns and on a Montana Indian reservation.

The years peeled away as Smith reminisced with *Connections* staff about her early days at Minot State.

"That first stretch was in the Depression years," she said. "I worked on the National Youth Administration, which was a government program for youth."

A New Deal program, the NYA operated from 1935 to 1943 as part of the Works Progress Administration. On the Minot State campus, the NYA built the president's house and a Student Union, which stood where the current administration building is located. Smith worked in the science and home economics departments as part of the program.

The 90-year-old Smith recalled mandatory general assemblies presided over by the iron-willed George McFarland, the school's president from 1922 to 1938. History professor Hazel McCulloch, for whom a residence hall was later named, was a beloved mentor.

"She was a good teacher and a good friend," she said.

Smith's first-person experience of one-room schoolhouses clarifies the gauzy image found in the popular imagination.

"They were by far the best school experience," she said. "You rarely ever had more than a dozen kids, sometimes less. One year I had only six. You didn't have all the eight grades either. You'd have an assortment of grades."

The hard soil of adversity produced an admirable yield, the former teacher noted.

"A teacher had great respect in those days," she said. "Everybody obeyed their parents and everybody else's parents in the community."

Smith's commitment to teaching was later tested in the crucible of an Indian reservation.

"It was the hardest work I ever put in, also the most rewarding," she said.

After 20 years in the classroom, Smith joined the North Dakota Farmers Union staff and served as an educational director and field worker for 22 years. She organized youth groups and conducted summer camps for the grassroots organization.

— FRANK McCaHILL

## OUR READERS WRITE

Alumni and friends of Minot State University are encouraged to submit their memories and notes for this feature of *Connections*. Send your items to MSU Alumni, 500 University Ave W, Minot, ND 58707 or e-mail to [alumni@minotstateu.edu](mailto:alumni@minotstateu.edu).

### Graduate finds satisfaction in serving

The convergence of several factors sent one MSU alumna on a voyage of personal discovery.

As Hurricane Katrina left her ugly signature on the Gulf Coast in the fall of 2005, Verla Rostad watched the TV news coverage in silent horror.

As she did, she was also reading evangelist Rick Warren's best seller "A Purpose Driven Life."

"I was on the chapter about how you serve God by serving others," the 1976 graduate said. "I felt there was a coincidence that was being driven by a higher power."

Then a fortuitous glance at the local newspaper revealed that the local Red Cross chapter was training volunteers for disaster relief.

"That completed the triangle for me," she said.

The gravitational pull was too much for Rostad to resist. She signed up for Red Cross training and then deployed to a super shelter in Lafayette, La., for three eye-opening weeks of service.

Right after the storm, the shelter housed 7,000 refugees from New Orleans. When Rostad arrived six weeks later, it was down to 400 people. Each victim received a cot, a blanket and food. Some marinated in this soul-crushing environment for up to nine weeks before they moved into FEMA trailers.

"They were living with no privacy, no personal space," she said. "I was really impressed. I don't know if I could do it as long as they had."

When Hurricane Ike slammed into Texas in the fall of 2008, Rostad again volunteered and found herself in a small shelter in Waco. Once again, she found hope amid the horror. She befriended an Hispanic couple and their 9-year-old son. The grateful mother gave Rostad a school photo of the boy when the family left for home.

"They touched my life, and I probably touched theirs, yet I'll never see them again," she lamented.

When she isn't flying off to the damaged borders of the country, Rostad volunteers at the Red Cross office in Minot, often working with military personnel.

Although her career with the Red Cross is new, service to others radiates through Rostad's résumé. After graduating from MSU with a math education degree, Rostad taught for 13 years. She then joined her husband Jim in operating Minot's Finest Collision Center, where she has served as office manager for 19 years.

She is a past president and a former board member of the MSU Alumni Association.



— FRANK McCAHILL

Greetings,

Recently, I received the summer issue of your *Connections* magazine, and I appreciate it very much. It is a long time since I graduated from Minot State Teacher's College — class of '41 — when the enrollment was only a few hundred. I remember that a few years ago when I was visiting relatives in Minot, I drove to the university to look around a little and was impressed very much by the new buildings. For example, the library building, which I thought is great compared to what was the library when I was there, which consisted of mainly a large room on the top floor of the main building. And the science building interested me also, since I went into the field of chemistry later. At that time, the science department consisted mostly of three rooms, I believe, one each for biology, chemistry and physics.

Well, thank you again and keep up the good work!

— ARTHUR A. SCHMITZ '41  
Arlington Heights, Ill.



### Get Geared up with MSU Beaver Gear!

Apparel and gift items can be purchased at MSU's Online Bookstore.

[www.minotstateu.edu](http://www.minotstateu.edu)



# Class notes...

## '60s.....

**David Reiser '60**, Chicago, had four of his songs featured in a London music revue last fall. The revue was presented at the Battersea Barge, a restaurant/theater permanently moored in the Thames River in November and the Rosemary Branch Theatre in November. Reiser has written music and lyrics for 48 musicals, 29 of which have been published.

**Gwen Marsh '68**, Bismarck, is an accompanist for choirs at Century High School.

**Linda A. (Senechal) Bruner '69**, Fort Collins, Colo., graduated from Montana State University in 1985. She is the coordinator of the cardiac unit at the Medical Center of the Rockies in Loveland. She has two daughters, four granddaughters and one grandson who all live in Colorado. She is married to Keith, who is employed in real estate.

## '70s.....

**Janice L. (Ator) Anderson '70**, Bourbonnais, Ill., retired after 32 years of teaching mathematics in grades 7-12. She is now setting up a copywriting business and intends to write children's books in the near future.

**Paul Nitsch '70**, Minot, was named a recipient of the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Eagle Award in February.

**Carl Selvig '70**, Drake, is the new high school principal and PE teacher at the Drake School District. He is married to Diane (Martinson) Selvig and they have three children and three granddaughters.

**Steve Blikre '71**, Minot, achieved membership in the Million Dollar Round Table—the Premier Association of Financial Professionals. Blikre is a 16-year MDRT member. Attaining membership in MDRT is a career milestone achieved by less than 1 percent of the world's life insurance and financial services professionals.

**Jim Blomberg '72**, Minot, has joined the staff at the Max School District as the superintendent of schools. He and his wife, Connie, a retired English teacher, have a son living in Minneapolis who is a graphic designer.

**David Brendsel '72**, Williston, has been named executive vice president of First National Bank & Trust Co., in Williston. He has over 30 years of banking and financial planning experience.

**Jim Lokken '72**, Williston, became the police chief for the City of Williston in July. He has served in law enforcement for 35

years—33 years for the Williston Police Department. He served as the assistant chief for seven years prior to becoming the chief. He and his wife, Peggy, have a son, Les, a trooper with the N.D. Highway Patrol.

**Randy Naslund '73**, Fargo, joined Wells Fargo Private Client Services as a financial consultant in January. He has more than 21 years of experience in the financial services industry. Before joining Wells Fargo, he was a securities broker and investment advisor for A.G. Edwards & Sons.

**Laura (Haugen) Gullickson '74**, Alexander, is employed as an RN in the Ambulatory Surgery Center in Williston. Her son, Morgan, is a doctor of veterinary medicine in Washington. Her daughter is a freshman in graduate school in veterinary medicine at Manhattan, Kan.

**Duane Matcha '74**, Albany, N.Y., is currently living in Vilnius, Lithuania, as a Fulbright Scholar teaching medical sociology and the sociology of aging. He was named a Fulbright Scholar to the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, six years ago. He received his Ph.D. in sociology from Purdue University and is a professor of sociology at Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y. He has authored five books, has published research articles and has delivered numerous conference papers.

**Marcia Olson '74**, Bismarck, received a Ph.D. in teaching and learning in 2004 from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.

**Kevin Iverson '76**, Grand Forks, has joined Edgewood Vista Management in Grand Forks as the director of risk management. Iverson recently served as executive director for the Red River Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross and chief operating officer for the Occupational Development Center in Thief River Falls.

**Ken Busch '77**, Kenmare, has come out of retirement and joined the Powers Lake School District to serve as the half-time special education teacher.

**James Sweizer '78**, Charles Town, W.Va., has assumed the role of President of the Council of Colleges and Military Educators at the annual symposium in Honolulu, Hawaii, in February. CCME is the only national organization for professional military educators. He currently serves as American Public University System Vice President of Military Programs. As the VP at APUS,

Sweizer oversees all military outreach activities and serves as the main liaison between the university and Department of Defense agencies.

**Timothy Sweet '79**, Marcellus, N.Y., is working at Syracuse University as the Director of Energy and Computing Management. This department oversees all areas of sustainability at the university.

## '80s.....

**Kevin Iverson '80**, Mansfield, Texas, was recently promoted to audit director for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service at Dallas. He is responsible for planning, directing and controlling worldwide audit activities for an organization with over 43,000 associates at 3,000 facilities worldwide, in more than 30 countries, five U.S. territories and 49 states. AAFES provides department stores, convenience stores, gas stations, restaurants, theaters, vending, online shopping and other businesses producing over \$9 billion of annual revenue. He and his wife, Laurie (Miller), have three daughters, Melissa, Kristie and Nicole.

**Sylvia Timboe '80**, Minot, was named a May recipient of the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Eagle Award. She is employed at the office of Dr. Paul Frieberg. (Note: An error in employment was made in the previous *Connections*.)

**Vicki Blankenship '81**, Fairbanks, Alaska, was reappointed to the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee by Gov. Sarah Palin. Blankenship has been a self-employed social services consultant and trainer since 1992. She founded and previously worked as a counselor for Family Centered Services of Alaska from 1986-92, and has been extensively involved as a volunteer on juvenile justice issues in the interior. She serves on the citizen's advisory board for the Fairbanks Youth Facility, and is Alaska's representative to the U.S. Department of Justice's national juvenile justice advisory committee.

**Tim Mihalick '81**, Minot, will assume the role of president and CEO of Investors Real Estate Trust in September. Mihalick has been employed with IRET since 1981, starting as a financial officer, becoming vice president in 1992 and chief operating officer in 1997. IRET was founded in 1970 and is one of the oldest real estate investment trust companies in the nation. They own 25 properties in Minot and many more throughout the Midwest.

**Brian Palmer '81/'84**, Rolla, is the new superintendent of the Mount Pleasant School District. He was formerly a teacher in the Divide County School District in Crosby.

**Lonnie Berg '82**, Surrey, was named the 2008 digital solutions specialist of the year by Midwest Business Systems. He manages the Minot branch of MBS.

**Alan Berdini '83**, Minot, was named a November recipient of the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Eagle Award. He is employed at Arrowhead Miracle Mart. The award recognizes outstanding customer service.

**Valeria Shestko '93**, Tucson, Ariz., joined the counseling staff of The Haven in Tucson. She has worked in the behavioral-health field for 13 years, specializing in addiction counseling.

**Peggy Andersen '85**, moved to Cottonwood Falls, Kan., from California in September. She is now closer to her grandchildren and enjoying the change of pace.

**Mike Eckert '85**, Bismarck, was named 2008 parole and probation employee of the year at the N.D. Department of Corrections, Division of Adult Services, annual banquet held in Bismarck in September. He has been employed with the DOCR since 1986 as a parole/probation officer. He lives in Bismarck with his wife and children.

**Linda (Fisher) Wallace '85**, Kokomo, Ind., has been appointed dean of the Indiana University Kokomo School of Nursing. She was a faculty member at Minot State from 1985 to 1988.

**Norma Theis '86**, Minot, was named the ND Elementary School Counselor of the Year at the N.D. School Counseling Association conference in February in Bismarck. She has been a counselor at North Plains Elementary at Minot Air Force Base for 7 1/2 years and a school counselor for a total of 17 years.

**Stephanie Bennis '86**, Norwich, was named an agriculture and commercial industry specialist for Wells Fargo Community Bank in the Mobridge, S.D., area.

**Michael Hady '86**, El Paso, Texas, was awarded All-City Boys Track Coach of the Year in June in the city of El Paso. He is currently the head boys track coach at Franklin High School and teaches elementary physical education at Green Elementary. He led the Franklin High School Cougars boys track team to its first district title since 1999. The team won

districts in the freshman, junior varsity and varsity divisions. The varsity and junior varsity squads went undefeated during the season. He has been coaching at Franklin High School since 1999. He has coached football, basketball and track for 22 years overall.

**Barry Striegel '86**, Grand Forks, was awarded an Elevator Grant from the Coleman Foundation of Chicago at the 26th Annual Entrepreneurship Education Forum held in Austin, Texas, in November. Striegel is the Director of Youth Entrepreneurship Education at UND's Center for Innovation. The center helps entrepreneurs, students and researchers launch new technologies, products and ventures, develop business and marketing plans, access talent of universities and secure venture financing. It is a division of the UND College of Business and Public Administration.

**Michael Balas '87**, Rochester, Minn., is employed with the Federal Air Marshal Service. He and his wife, Greta, have two daughters, Olivia and Sophia.

**Melanie Boyes '87**, Casper, Wyo., was awarded the 2009 Natrona County School District Teacher of the Year Award. She is a ninth-grade language arts teacher at CY Junior High School.

**Terry Collins '87**, Chaffer, Mich., has been working in the automotive world for the past 20 years in Detroit. He has been married 13 years and has two children.

**Shelly R. Harris '88**, Aberdeen, S.D., has been selected to serve as the deputy area director for Aberdeen Area Indian Health Service. She began her career with the Indian Health Service in 1989 as a registered nurse for the Quentin Burdick Memorial Health Care Facility. She became the nurse educator at Quentin Burdick in 1995. She served as chief executive officer at the Rosebud Health Care Facility on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota starting in May 2005.

**Jodi Keller '88**, Minot, has joined the staff at The Village Family Service Center in Minot. She works as a pregnancy and adoption social worker for the Adoption Option program, a partnership of The Village Family Service Center and Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota. Adoption Option offers creative adoption opportunities.

**Greg Yale '81**, Beulah, has joined the Beulah High School staff as the math teacher, teaching classes in geometry, applied calculus and remedial math. He is also the assistant

football coach and is involved in the basketball program. He and his wife, Robin, have a son.

**Todd A. Borrison '89**, Davenport, Iowa, is the girl's basketball coach at Assumption School in Davenport. He led the team to its fifth consecutive state tourney this past season, winning the state title with a record of 27-0. It also ranked 22nd nationally. This was Todd's eighth state tourney and third state title. He is married to Trish, a bank manager at Valley Bank, and they have two sons.

**Chris Kulesa '89**, West Fargo, is now an authorized agent working exclusively with Noridian Mutual Insurance Company in Fargo. She serves as a main NMIC insurance contact for employer groups in northwestern Minnesota. She previously was a group benefits consultant for Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota.

**Michael A. Lucy '89**, Minot, has been recognized for customer satisfaction excellence under the J.D. Power and Associates Distinguished Insurance Agency Program. He has been an agent for American Family Insurance since 1992.

## '90s.....

**Karen Brandvold '90**, Bottineau, joined the staff at Bottineau School District as the Grade 3 teacher. She previously taught fifth grade at the Ojibwa Indian School in Belcourt from 1998-2005 and has been a substitute teacher in the Bottineau School District.

**Eileen Folmer '90**, Powers Lake, has rejoined the staff at Powers Lake School District as the resource room aid. She teaches third- and fourth-grade spelling, language, science, social studies and art in the afternoons.

**Greg Hiltner '90**, Minot, joined the Bottineau School District as the district's director for ED students. He previously worked for the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in Minot for 10 years and in the Glenburn School District for one year.

**Taryce Malnaa '90**, Minot, was promoted to shareholder by Brady, Martz & Associates P.C. She has been with Brady Martz since 1990. She is a certified public accountant, a certified specialist in estate planning and a member of the N.D. Society of CPAs and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

**Curtis Marschner '90**, Torrington, Wyo., joined the staff in August as a mathematics teacher at St. Joseph's Children's Home in Torrington.

**Sheila D. Walcoff '90**, Rockville, Md., joined the law firm of McDermott Will & Emery as a partner in the firm's health law department. MWE has an incredible health and life sciences platform and a stellar team of attorneys and professionals in addition to a strong international presence and diverse client base. She will be concentrating her practice in the health law department's Life Sciences Government Strategies Practice Group, which will enable her to significantly expand her life sciences and federal policy practice and continue to focus her work in genomics/personalized medicine. She and her husband, Jeff, welcomed the birth of their second son, Jaden Blake on August 30, 2008. He has an older brother, Skyler, to welcome him home.

**Jeremy Brandt '91**, Beulah, has joined the staff at Beulah High School as the business teacher and boy's varsity basketball coach. He and his wife, Heather, have two children. They moved to Beulah from Lake Metigoshe.

**Ricky R. Martin '91**, Mullins, S.C., retired from the United States Air Force and began a career in counseling. He worked for Circle Park Behavioral Health Services as a clinical counselor for 12 1/2 years. He completed a master's degree in counseling in 2004. He has been employed as children's and adolescent counselor for Marion School District One in Marion, S.C., since July.

**Steve Fennewald '92**, Surrey, was promoted to assistant vice president at Gate City Bank in Minot. He is a mortgage loan officer based in the bank's downtown Minot office and has been with Gate City Bank since 2001.

**Amy (Mitchell) Fisher '92**, Maquoketa, Iowa, was recently married. She is employed at US Bank. She has a 13-year-old son.

**Penny (Priscilla) Mounce '92**, Tacoma, Wash., completed an MSNED in May 2007 and is the RN Option program coordinator/primary instructor at Clover Park Technical College in Lakewood, Wash. She also works two days a week as the diabetes educator in an internal medicine clinic in Tacoma. Over the past 15 years in Tacoma, she has worked med-surg, ICU, float, wound care and was the initial coordinator of Madigan Army Medical Center's diabetes program. She also volunteers as part of the medical staff at Camp Leo Diabetes Camp.

**Darla (Verbitsky) Bakko '93**, Fargo, is the proud parent of a baby girl, McKenna Louise, born in February 2008. Darla works at the NDSU Extension Service in Fargo.



**Brian Nelson '92**, Minot, was inducted into the Minot High School Athletic Hall of Fame for accomplishments in basketball, track and football. He also participated in MSU basketball and track. Brian is a captain on the Minot Fire Department and co-owner of Exercise Equipment Center. He is married to **Christy (Carlson) '92**, and they have two sons and a daughter. Brian is the son of Bob and **Judy (Sneve) '64 Nelson** of Minot.

**Sheryl (Yesenko) Burkhart '93**, Brandon, S.D., left the Flandreau Indian School after teaching and serving as dean of students for 11 years in October. She is now an ELL English teacher for the Sioux Falls School District. She teaches students from all over the world who are new to the United States. She is married to Tracy, and they have three sons.

**Melissa (Finkbeiner) Scheresky '93**, Max, has joined the staff at Edgewood Vista in Minot as the clinical supervisor. She began her nursing career at St. Joseph's Hospital in Minot and became director of nursing at Garrison Memorial Hospital and Nursing Facility. She has also worked as the McLean County public health nurse for First District Health Unit with an office in Garrison. The past three years she has worked for SCCI-Triumph Hospital in Mandan.

**Donna (McGinnity) Hegstad '94**, Minot, is the behavior intervention specialist with Souris Valley Special Services.

**Margaret (Held) Johnston '94**, New Salem, has joined the staff at the New Salem schools as the EMH teacher. She and her husband, Mark, and two sons, moved back to New Salem from Minot, where she had been employed with the Minot Public School system.

**Todd Keller '94**, Minot, has been named the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by the Minot Exchange Club. Keller is a Crosby native and a 19-year veteran of the Ward County Sheriff's Department.

**Glen Meier '94**, Ankeny, Iowa, oversees research and development for a renewable energy group.

**Penny Schneider '94**, Corinth, Texas, is working as an air traffic controller at the Dallas-Fort Worth Tracon. She is engaged to Greg LaJuene, who also works as an air traffic controller.

**April (Armstrong) Boucher '95**, Nipawin, Sask., has joined the staff at L.P. Miller Comprehensive School in Nipawin, teaching diversity education for Grades 7-9. She had spent the last year in England, teaching at a special needs school.

**Jeremy Boyce '95**, Minot, received the Outstanding Performance Award from RE/MAX International Inc., for being No. 1 in individual sales for the RE/MAX Mountain States Region/North Dakota in July.

**Steve C. DeMers '95**, Boise, Idaho, teaches at Rocky Mountain High School in Boise. He is part of an instructor team that partners with the Idaho State Department of Interior presenting the "Fire-Up for Summer!" program, a partnership effort of the Idaho BLM, Meridian School District and Northwest Nazarene University. These instructors manage and teach the three-week summer course. They are instrumental in developing site specific curriculum to ensure the course will give students a "real world" experience as land management scientists. The team received the Cooperative Conservation Award, which recognizes the importance of connecting today's youth with the environment. The team has also been awarded a grant from NASA and is working on a grant from the National Science Foundation.

**Robert T. Taylor '95**, Granby, Colo., is a weekly newspaper columnist for the Sky-Hi Daily News in Granby. He is also a contributor to the Bismarck Tribune and Bismarck's magazine, Inspire. He is married and has two children.

**Kari Jostad '96**, Bottineau, has joined the staff at Bottineau School District as the kindergarten teacher. She was a kindergarten teacher in the Dunseith Public School District since 2005.

**Dave Morris '98**, Las Vegas, Nev., has been teaching in Las Vegas for 11 years and is currently the math strategist for an elementary school.

**Kathryn Zurcher '98**, St. Paul, Minn., is the associate director of admissions at Luther Seminary in St. Paul.

**Allison Larson '99**, Windsor, Colo., has been named the new center director at the KinderCare Learning Centers in Windsor. She spent the past year as a director in Fort Collins. She and her husband, Joe, have two daughters.

**Tim Olson '99**, Marshall, Minn., joined the Marshall Area YMCA as the CEO/



executive director in November. He and his family relocated to Marshall from Colorado Springs, Colo., where he held the position of associate executive director for the Garden Ranch Family YMCA.

**Michelle Geffre Shaffner '99**, Minneapolis, Minn., is married to **Stephen Geffre '99** and they had a baby, Samuel Anthony, in June. He weighed 6 pounds, 7 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches long. Michelle will be starting her 10th year teaching seventh-grade English in Apple Valley. Stephen is a staff photographer at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. He also has a freelance-photography business and is busy with magazine and wedding photography. Stephen's daughter, Abbey, is a seventh-grader.

## '00s.....

**Alexis Hendricks-Tharp '01**, Mesa, Ariz., works for the University of Phoenix online as enrollment manager for the Western Region Education programs. She and her husband, Nick, have a son, Alexander.

**Christel Laskowski '01**, Minot, has been promoted by Eide Bailly LLP. She provides auditing and consulting services and has extensive experience in rural electrical and telephone cooperatives.

**Jason Vollmer '01**, Bismarck, is a financial analyst IV in the treasury services department for MDU Resources Group, Inc. He previously was a financial analyst III in the corporate accounting department. Vollmer joined MDU Resources in 2005. Prior to that, he was a political subdivision auditor for the N.D. State Auditor's office.

**Renata (Rensch) Buen '02**, Minot, has joined the mortgage team at Town & Country Credit Union. She will be an executive mortgage officer. She previously was employed at Wells Fargo and Bremer banks in their mortgage departments.

**Marlene Srock '02**, Minot, was one of five 2009 recipients of the National Educational Association's Horace Mann Award for teaching excellence. She is a first-grade teacher at Bel Air Elementary.

**Gabe Rauschenberger '04**, Minot, received the North Dakota Association of Career and Technical Education's Outstanding Young Educator in Technology Education award in September. Gabe is the technical education teacher at Minot High School-Central Campus. While attending Minot State, he served as the student body president.



**Rebecca Sand '04** married **Ryan Wilson** in Minot. Ryan attended MSU. Rebecca is the daughter of **Colleen (O'Connell) Sand '72** and the late Randy Sand.

**Jill (Wheeling) Cope '05**, Yakima, Wash., is the registrar at Perry Technical College.

**Kristy Heskin '05**, Towner, has joined the staff at TGU-Granville, as the second-grade teacher. She will marry Jerry Kuntz in May 2009.

**Paul P. Robinette Jr. '05**, Grand Forks, is enrolled at UND and working on his graduate degree in American history with a focus on Great Plains history. His wife, **Mary '05**, is enrolled with Ashford University online, working toward a degree in social science with a focus in education.

**Kristen Saxon '05**, Wahpeton, has joined the staff at Wahpeton Middle School as the physical education and health teacher. She received her master's degree at NDSU. While attending NDSU, she was an assistant teacher for wellness classes and coached softball at Valley City State University.

**Andrew Zurcher '05**, Turtle Lake, has joined the staff at the Turtle Lake-Mercer School District as the sixth-grade instructor. He is the third generation of teachers in his family, with a sister who is also a teacher.

**Amanda Fett '06**, Westhope, has joined the staff at Westhope High School.

**Lori Hauf '06**, Dickinson, has joined the staff at Dickinson State University as an instructor of business and computer science.

**Britt L. Lawson '06**, Brandon, Manitoba, is employed for McKenzie Seeds in Brandon as a brand manager. After some different experiences and learning adventures, she notes that she found the job she wanted when she left MSU. McKenzie Seeds is Canada's No. 1 packet seed company. She works with a variety of people, including designers to purchasers to logistics people to production managers. She helps it all come together so that the product lines remain fresh and updated for the consumer but still make it to their destination in time for the retailer to sell their products from coast to coast.

**Nicole Luther '06**, Lake Havasu City, Ariz., is the third-grade teacher at Oro Grande Elementary School in Lake Havasu City.

**Jessica Pfau '06**, Devils Lake, is in her third year of teaching English at Four Winds High School at Fort Totten.

**Timothy Plesuk '06**, Valley City, has joined Microsoft Corp., Fargo, as a support professional. Plesuk was previously employed as a software consultant at Eagle Creek Software in Valley City.

**Laura Schaff '06**, New Town, joined the New Town School District at Edwin Loe Elementary as the special education/learning disabilities teacher for kindergarten through fifth-grade students.

**Chris Schilken '06**, Devils Lake, joined the Devils Lake Chamber of Commerce as the head of Forward Devils Lake, an economic development program for the Devils Lake area.

**Ashley Seykora '06**, Towner, has joined the staff at TGU-Towner as the language arts instructor, cheerleading coach and drama club advisor. She is married to Dan Seykora, who also teaches in Towner.

**Jesse Bergstedt '07**, Wimbledon, has been hired by Cancer Center of North Dakota as a radiation therapist. He will administer radiation therapy treatments to patients at the center in Grand Forks, under the direction of William Noyes, M.D.

**Erin Brurud '07**, Williston, has joined the staff at Grenora School as a second-grade teacher. She previously taught one year in Trenton.

**Morgan Grundstad '07**, Grand Forks, has been accepted at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences. She started a four-year, patient-centered curriculum in the doctor of medicine program in August.

**Trisha Koeplin '07**, Crookston, Minn., is the new county executive director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency. She will be the shared manager for the Crow Wing-Cass and the Aitkin-Itasca FSA offices in Minnesota. She is in charge of directing and managing program and administrative operations in these four counties. She and her fiancé, Jay, make their home in the Brainerd Lakes area.

**Codie Miller '07**, Minot, was named a November recipient of the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Eagle Award. She is employed at Easter Seals of North Dakota. The award recognizes outstanding customer service.

# CLASS NOTES

Please let us hear from you with news of your career updates, marriage, family, address change, etc. While you're at it, include a photograph if you have one.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Alumni Association  
 Minot State University  
 500 University Avenue West  
 Minot, ND 58707  
 e-mail: alumni@minotstateu.edu

**Lana Morelli '07**, Saskatoon, Sask., started law school at the University of Saskatchewan in November.

**Amanda Moser '07**, Dickinson, joined the Strom Center staff as the HTC Community Development Project coordinator.

**Lindsey Nitsch '07**, Stanley, joined the New Town School District as the second-grade teacher. She lives in Stanley with her fiancé and three-month-old daughter.

**Sara Robertson '02/'07**, Minot, has joined the staff at TGU-Granville as the Title I math and reading teacher. She is married to Chad Faken, a Minot police officer.

**Kal Triplett '07**, Fargo, has joined the Richland School District in Colfax, N.D., as the 5-12 grade PE and health teacher, assistant football coach and athletic director.

**Natalie (Drader) Tuff '07**, Minot, is working as an ICU nurse at Trinity Health in Minot. She plans to eventually do travel nursing.

**Tina Webb '07**, Minot, has joined the staff at TGU-Granville, as the 7-12 science instructor. She previously worked at the Falkirk Mining Company near Underwood for two years as a geologist. She is married and has two children.

**Kristan Allen '08**, Minot, has joined the staff at Lewis & Clark School District, teaching music to students kindergarten through grade 12. She and her husband, Adam, are parents to, Judah, born in August.

**Justin Bursinger '08**, Bottineau, joined American Bank Center as a financial service representative in Minot.

**Martin Dahl '08**, Minot, has joined McLean Electric Power Cooperative in Garrison as the general manager/CEO. He was previously employed at Verendrye Electric in the Minot office.

**Jocelyn Grann '08**, Westhope, has joined the staff at Westhope High School.

**Jessie Hockhalter '08**, Grand Forks, has joined the management team of Maple View memory care community in Grand Forks.

She is responsible for providing information to prospective residents, families and referral sources on the service available at Maple View.

**Bethany LaBarre '08**, Devils Lake, joined the staff at Langdon Area Elementary School system as the kindergarten through sixth-grade special education teacher.

**Allyson (Veazey) Mayer '08**, Burlington, has joined the staff at the North Shore School District at Makoti as the speech teacher. She and her husband, Mike, have three children.

**Jacqueline Prellwitz '08**, Minot, has joined the staff at Bob Callies Elementary School in Garrison as the sixth-grade teacher.

**Danielle Ramos '08**, Minot, has joined the staff at TGU School District as the grade 7-12 math instructor at Granville.

**Heath Rankin '08**, Florence, Ariz., has joined the staff at the Pinal County Sheriff's Office as a deputy cadet. He has been a civilian observer with PCSO and the Florence and Coolidge police departments.

**Troy Roness '08, Tioga**, joined the Tioga Public Schools as a physical education, health and science teacher in August 2008.

**Trent Sherven '08, Ryder**, joined the staff at Max High School as the 7-12 math instructor in August 2008.

**Matt Sundahl '08**, Minot, joined the staff at the Max School District as the physical education instructor. He and his wife, Tara, have two daughters.

## ATTENDED .....

**Michael Offerdahl**, Mandan, got married in July to Stacy. He is employed as the director of public/media relations of the NBA Development League Dakota Wizards.



The next issue of *Connections* will focus on education. We'd appreciate hearing stories about unique education careers, noteworthy achievements, awards and/or special interest stories. E-mail: [alumni@minotstateu.edu](mailto:alumni@minotstateu.edu) by May 1.

# In memoriam...

*It is with honor that we dedicate this section to recognize alumni and friends who have passed away from approximately July 2008 to February 2009, or as submitted.*

## '30s.....

- '30 Schrader (Anderson), Norma; Osnaprock.
- '31 Flohr (Benedict), Sara M.; Minot.
- '31 Harris (Christianson), Verna M.; Kenmare.
- '31 Nordberg (Bergheim), Anne G.; Denver, Colo.
- '34 Lessard (Olson), Olga L.; Fair Oaks, Calif.
- '34 Potratz (Olson), Laura; Rugby.
- '34/'37 Tangedahl, Thorfin N.; Bismarck.
- '35 Botz (McDougall), Jean; Grand Forks.
- '35/'40 Dreyer (Melby), Helga; St. Paul, Minn.
- '36 Johnson (McElwain), Viola K.; Tacoma, Wash.
- '37 Dahl (Ingbritson), Bernice I.; Williston.
- '37 Thompson (Johannengsmier), Marian; Towner.
- '38/'40 Skogen, Helen J.; Richland, Wash.
- '39 Bratlee, Agnes; Leeds.
- '39 Carlson, Donald D.; Missoula, Mont.
- '39 Fitzgerald, David M.; Seattle, Wash.
- '39 Simmons (Rime), Hazel; Ryder.
- '39 Unwin, Henrietta M.; Reading, Pa.
- '39/'51 Smith (Winderl), Gertrude; San Francisco, Calif.

## '40s.....

- '40 Aarseth, Kamilla; Seattle, Wash.
- '40/'74 Francis (Whitt), Beulah C.; Minot.
- '41 Coughlin (Hyde), Virginia M.; Minot.
- '41 Hettwer (Korb), Ethel; East Grand Forks, Minn.
- '41 Meuth (Evenson), Sylvia; Watford City.
- '42 Tornow, Rev. E. Edward; Fargo.
- '43 Austinson (Gumeringer), Julia; Bakerfield, Calif.
- '43 Strong (Foster), Marjorie Ruth; Albuquerque, N.M.
- '46 Kraft, Peter A.; Linton.
- '47 Appelt (Howard), Marion M.; Harvey.
- '47 Kvelstad, Inga T.; Humboldt, Calif.
- '47 Reuter (Nelson), Ardeline V.; Great Falls, Mont.
- '48 Michelson, Harold D.; Bismarck.
- '48 Norton, Dr. John T.; Scottsdale, Ariz.
- '48 Solga, Richard; Vacaville, Calif.
- '49 Hill, James; Anchorage, Alaska.
- '49 Hills (Burkholder), Harriet; Modesto, Calif.
- '49 Jorgenson (Hegseth), Anna; Williston.
- '49 Nelson (Carlson), Betty; Spearfish, S.D.

## '50s.....

- '50 Fjeld (Lee), Dorothy; Minot.
- '50 Hunter, Harlan O.; Sun City, Ariz.
- '51 Johansen, David; South Fulton, Tenn.

- '51 Strandberg, Edward V.; The Dalles, Ore.
- '52 Miller (Whetter), Joan; Bellingham, Wash.
- '53 Drabus (Anderson), Twila; Kenmare.
- '54 Loucks, Jerome D.; Walnut Creek, Calif.
- '55 Klabo, Dorothy M.; Springfield, Ore.
- '55 Stevick (Matzdorf), Eunice E.; Minot.
- '55 White (Nussbaum), Doris Ann.; Colorado Springs, Colo.
- '56 Hagemester Kirkeide (Knote), Patricia; Fessenden.
- '57 George, Virginia P.; Bismarck.
- '59 Mueller (Carr), Helen; Minot.

## '60s.....

- '60 Bjelland (Ness), Sigrid Della; Anchorage, Alaska.
- '62 Laskowski, Henry J. "Joe"; Minot.
- '62 Malnourie, Lena; Garrison.
- '63 Buchanan, James P. Jr.; Morrison, Ill.
- '63 Pommier, Irene M. (Zeltinger); Minot.
- '64 Clott (McQuen), Delores I.; Spokane, Wash.
- '64 Fisk, Janice M. (Rust); Minot.
- '66 Melius, Dennis E.; Aurora, Colo.
- '66 Thompson, David A.; Phoenix, Ariz.
- '69 Hames, Walter Lee, Jr.; Auburn, Calif.

## '70s.....

- '70 McConn (Narum), Mable B.; Minot.
- '70 Nessel (Rossow), Donna L.; Boise, Idaho.
- '71 Holter, Wallace V.H.; Minot.
- '71 Kleingartner, Rev. Dr. Connie; Chicago, Ill.
- '71 McCauley, Charles A.; Grand Forks.
- '71 McLaughlin, Caroline M.; North Loup, Neb.
- '72 LaFrance, Robert C.; Devils Lake.
- '73 Dravland, Gerald A.; Ashley.
- '73 Halls, Adeline; Bottineau.
- '73 Severson, Pamela; Apache Junction, Ariz.
- '75 Bettermann (Klubben), Beatrice L.; Minot.
- '77 Johnson (Rue), Doris Jean; Minot.
- '79 Herzog (Pitcher), Vivian L.; Central Point, Ore.
- '79 Marquart (Graybill), Betty Lou; Bismarck.

## '80s

- '80 Beaupre, Arthur M.; Sun City, Ariz.
- '84 Johnson (Laducer), Leona; Rolla.
- '84 Stenberg, John A.; Minot.
- '85 Henderson, Penny A.; Minot.
- '86 Knutson (Grindberg), Greta B.; Bismarck.
- '88 Wolf, Brian M.; Helena, Mont.
- '89 Klipfel (Helfenstein), Bonita K.; Bismarck.

## '90s.....

- '91 Currie (Preece), Joy M.; Lincoln, Neb.
- '91 Heyne (Putnam), Norma H.; Linton.
- '91 Morin, Ronald S.; Belcourt.
- '92 Gabel (Miller), Robyn D.; Minot.
- '93 Gefroh, Gerald G.; Minot.

- '93 Green, Richard W.; Minot.
- '97 Hill, Fredrick Keith; Regina, Sask.

## '00s.....

- '00 Dokken, Sheldon; Minot.
- '04 Wilson, Rebecca (Sand); Minot.

## Attended.....

- Axelson (Larson), Alva; Minot.
- Berdahl, Veronica E.; Shrewsbury, N.J.
- Bertsch, Herbert; Jamestown.
- Bridges, Charles D. III; Navy Program; Mercer Island, Wash.
- Brunner (Boechler), Eva; Minot.
- Byorum, Carole S.; Sun City West, Ariz.
- Cayko, Jason; Fairview, Mont.
- Edwardson (Mollerud), Irene; Minot.
- Erdmann (Krueger), Elenora "Toodles"; Beulah.
- Fisher, James M.; Scottsdale, Ariz.
- Fosaen, Brent Alan; Cando.
- Freeman, Lucille; Yreka, Calif.
- Gackle (Michaelson), Hazel G.; Velva.
- Gronaas (Skjoiten), Selma A.; McVillage.
- Haugen, Myrtle L.; McMinnville, Ore.
- Herbel, Donald; Alsen.
- Hildebrandt (Foley), Marian; Grafton.
- Hinzpeter, Gordia; Lake Metigoshe.
- Hoff, Luella (Myhre); Parshall.
- Jensen (Sand), Harriett M.; Colorado Springs, Colo.
- Jensen (Whitson), Irene O.; Stanley.
- Johnson (Flem), Alice M.; Sherwood.
- Johnson (Granrud), Myrtle E.; Everett, Wash.
- Jollo, Vincent J. Jr.; Navy Program; Powell Butte, Ore.
- Klebe (Hanson), Gladys; Willow City.
- Kraig (Schaefer), LaVera J.; Aberdeen, S.D.
- Langford, Craig; Minot.
- Laskowski, Henry J. Jr.; Minot.
- Lutz (Child), Olive; New England.
- Martin, Ron W.; Williston.
- Matze (Bonner), Dawn Marie; Williston.
- McCarthy, Lucille; Yreka, Calif.
- Mock (Rohrer), Karen Sue; Burlington.
- Moldstad, John A.; Bloomington, Ind.
- Moreland, Carol (Peg) N.; Palm Harbor, Fla.
- Nathan, Harold R.; Minot.
- Nelson (Johnson), Esther L.; Flaxton.
- Nelson (Eaton), Naomi; Lignite.
- Novak (Dostert), Bernice R.; Minot.
- Osman, James R.; Billings, Mont.
- Peterson (Belford), Noella C.; Knoxville, Tenn.
- Register, Gerald "Jerry" D.; Hutchinson, Minn.
- Rensch, Cassi D.; New Town.
- Resvick (Johnson), Ethel M.; Rhinelander, Wis.
- Ringo, Roy; Chicago, Ill.
- Ryan (Hosman), Shirley; Sioux Falls, S.D.
- Saltsman, Craig E.; Minot.
- Sande (Haugen), Hattie; Coulee.

# In memoriam (cont'd) . . .

Scammon (Allen), Mary A.; Gaithersburg, Md.  
 Schaefer, Don; Minot.  
 Slaaten, Ralph; Bismarck.  
 Slorby, LeRoy A.; Minot.  
 Smith (Shively), Edith P.; Cumberland, Md.  
 Smith (Kluck), Sharon Rae; Minot.  
 Sommerfeld (Nelson), Alice S.; Grand Forks.  
 Tarvestad, Leslie V.; Tucson, Ariz.  
 Thiele (Thompson), Donna E.; Ely, Nev.  
 Their, Sister Rita; Dubuque, Iowa.  
 Thingvold, A. Roger; Minot.  
 Ueckert (Berg), Viola L.; Beach.  
 VanEckhout (McGhan), Margaret; Bottineau.  
 Van Vleet, Lt. Col. John A.; Osprey, Fla.  
 Vlasin, Wendell D.; Fargo.  
 Watkin (Eller), Carolyn J.; Fargo.  
 Watters (Granum), Georgia Lorraine;

Sparks, Nev.  
 Webster (Johnson), Gayle; Minot.  
 Williams, James H.; Towner.  
 Wilson (Sand), Rebecca L.; Bismarck.  
 Wold (Lunde), Orphi A.; Minot.  
 Wynne, Floyd L.; Klamath Falls, Ore.  
 Zwicker, Reinhold L.; Turtle Lake.

Kopp, Viola; Des Lacs.  
 Lesmeister, Wendelin L.; Surrey.  
 Pederson, Gladys C.; Minot.  
 Simonson, James; Minot.  
 Snyder, Elaine; Makoti.  
 Vestre, Maxine J.; Minot.  
 Weisenburger, Richard; Minot.

## Friends .....

Andrist, Elaine; Crosby.  
 Baker, Forrest; Moses Lake, Wash.  
 Borkhuis, Roger A.; Minot.  
 Ehrman, Carolie; Anamoose.  
 Esterby, Owen Arthur "Art"; Minot.  
 Froemming, Paul Albert; Mission Viejo, Calif.  
 Gullickson, Esther "Daune"; Rugby.  
 Gulson, Martin G.; Mohall.

## Former Faculty/Staff .....

Loy, H. Michael; Moorhead, Minn.  
 Running, Ole; Makoti; December 2008. He was employed in the plant services area.  
 Vestre, Maxine J.; Minot; December 2008. Employed as an instructor in the Nursing Department in the 1990s.



# 2009 Commencement

Members of the MSU Class of 2009 will receive degrees on Friday, May 15, at the MSU Dome. Commencement begins at 10 a.m. Join us on this festive day to welcome the newest members of the Minot State University alumni family.

## DIPLOMA FRAME ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed (payable to MSU Alumni Association)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

VISA     MasterCard

City \_\_\_\_\_

Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail the frame(s) to me. I have added shipping and handling cost of \$15 per frame.

Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Polished brass w/mat \_\_\_\_\_ @\$26 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Solid wood w/double mat \_\_\_\_\_ @\$42 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Briarwood w/double mat (pictured) \_\_\_\_\_ @\$62 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping & handling \$15 per frame (if applicable) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

green mat \_\_\_ burgundy mat \_\_\_ red mat \_\_\_ TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_



*High-quality frame plus unique mat with the MSU logo and "Minot State University" in gold foil lettering. Custom designed to display your MSU diploma at a fraction of the cost of custom framing. Not available anywhere else! Comes in choice of polished brass or solid wood. Proceeds help support ongoing activities and projects of the Alumni Association. Display your achievement with pride!*

# Homecoming 2008



Carol Sue Butts '70 and Wayne Schempp '70/'02 served as the 2008 Homecoming Parade Grand Marshalls.



Alumni Association and Enrollment Services Homecoming Parade Float.

Singing the MSU Fight Song at the Alumni Reunion.



Participants of the Rose Parade celebrated their 40th anniversary.



Special halftime performance by the MSU music department and members of the Rose Parade.

## Join us for Homecoming 2009!

SEPT. 24: Golden Awards, 6:30 p.m. — MSU Conference Center

SEPT. 25: Mu Sigma Tau Reunion, 5 p.m. & Alumni Reunion, 7 p.m. — Holiday Inn

SEPT. 26: Parade, 10:30 a.m.; Football Game, 1:30 p.m.; Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet, 6 p.m. — Holiday Inn



**BABY BEAVER**

Have you recently had an addition to your family? We want to know! Contact Kate at [kate.neuhalfen@minotstateu.edu](mailto:kate.neuhalfen@minotstateu.edu) to receive a free T-shirt for your new little Beaver! Please be sure to tell us the name, birth date, place, weight and length. Also please provide your graduation year, spouse's name and contact information.

After you have received your baby beaver T-shirt, send us your baby's photos! E-mail your photo to [kate.neuhalfen@minotstateu.edu](mailto:kate.neuhalfen@minotstateu.edu).

**Aubrey June Anderson** was born April 9, 2008, in Bismarck to proud parents **Jennifer (Kuntz) Anderson '03** and her husband Shawn. Aubrey weighed 7 lbs., 7 oz. and was 21 inches long.



**Nick Monley '08** and **Alethea (Guitian) Monley** welcomed the birth of daughter **Kenleigh Lynn Monley**, born October 11, 2008. She weighed 6 lbs., 7 oz. and was 19 3/4 inches long.



Congratulations to **Dallas '05** and **Carrie (Sandstrom) Varty '06** on the birth of their daughter, **Camdyn Elle Varty**, born April 30, 2008. She weighed 7 lbs., 10 oz. and was 21 inches long.



**Eva Rose Piehl** was born to Levi and **Michelle (Davis) Piehl '00**, of Anchorage, Alaska. She was born December 29, 2008, at 11:02 p.m. She weighed 7 lbs., 10 oz., and was 20 inches long.



**Campbell Noel Trudell** was born to **Cameron Trudell '01** and **Becky (Kottsick) Trudell '04** on December 24, 2008, at 3:20 p.m. She was 7lbs., 8 oz. and 19 3/4 inches long.

## Alumni Online

The MSU Alumni Association maintains a database of alumni and provides an online directory. The listing includes all graduates on file, as well as former students, including their name, maiden name, city, state and class year.

Alumni who have requested the university not release their information will be excluded. If you are not interested in being included, want to update the information listed or provide information for inclusion, please e-mail your information to [alumni@minotstateu.edu](mailto:alumni@minotstateu.edu). We are continually updating, so visit often.

## Moving

**OR HAVE A TEMPORARY ADDRESS?**

**SEND YOUR NEW ADDRESS TO:**  
MSU Alumni Association,  
500 University Avenue West, Minot, ND 58707  
or e-mail us at: [alumni@minotstateu.edu](mailto:alumni@minotstateu.edu)

*We hope to see you at the*  
**2009 Minot State University Alumni Association**  
***GALA Dinner and Auction***

**Alumni Association**

***Gala***  
*dinner & auction*

***Saturday, May 9***

*social: 5:30 p.m.*

*dinner: 6:45 p.m.*

***Grand International Minot***

The 2009 MSU GALA will be taking place this spring! You are cordially invited to attend the 26th annual Minot State University Alumni Association GALA Dinner and Auction. This event promises to be a night filled with elegant atmosphere, music, fine dining and the opportunity to support Minot State University.

When you arrive, valet parking will be provided by the MSU Athletic Department. Look for a bright red display of geraniums and read the story behind the legend of how MSU decided on red and green as its signature colors. Buy one or more

of these red and green beauties, provided by the MSU-Bottineau's Horticulture Department, to take home or request it to be planted on campus.

Your generous contributions to the GALA enables the Alumni Association to support various projects on and off campus. A major focus of the GALA supports the Alumni Endowment fund for awarding scholarships. For the 2008-09 school year, \$21,000 was awarded in scholarships.

To order tickets, contact the Alumni office at 701-858-3234 or email: [alumni@minotstateu.edu](mailto:alumni@minotstateu.edu).

***This event is a superb opportunity to support Minot State University.***

“We've all heard the stories about the difference one person can make in someone's life. At Minot State University, one instructor dramatically changed the course of my life and continues to inspire me today. Without the education and life lessons I received, I truly would not have the successful career I do today. I largely attribute that to Minot State University. That's why I decide to give back to MSU.”

— **DelRae Zimmerman '04**

*proud member of the MSU Alumni Association  
\$1,000 President's Club Contributor  
DelRae is a Minot realtor.*



*Photo courtesy of  
Otis and James Photography.*



**Minot State**  
**UNIVERSITY**

**Alumni Association**

500 University Ave W  
Minot, ND 58707

*Change service requested*

Non-profit org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 1890  
Fargo, ND 58102