

Connections

A woman with dark hair, wearing a white halter-neck top and a maroon skirt with a large floral embroidery, is seated in a patterned chair. Behind her is a large floral arrangement with red flowers and greenery. The background features a wooden cabinet with glass doors.

Psychology
graduate returns to
help her people

Alumni Association and Development Foundation
Winter 2016

Message from the President



Reflecting back on 2015 and looking ahead to 2016, it has certainly been a time of change at Minot State University. In thinking about some of the transitions and initiatives underway, I am reminded of a famous quote by President John F. Kennedy: “For time and the world do not stand still. Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.” A few updates worthy of your attention:

MSU is in the process of establishing a new strategic

plan. This activity commenced in late 2015 and will continue into the spring. Numerous individuals, both internal and external to the campus, have been involved thus far as we establish a new plan to guide priorities and decisions for the next five years. We have held focus groups and campus forums, and will soon be implementing a survey seeking additional feedback. As we plan for Minot State’s future in best serving our students and stakeholders, I welcome any thoughts, feedback, ideas, or initiatives you would like to share. Feel free to contact me at steven.shirley@minotstateu.edu.

The campus is also preparing for our next comprehensive accreditation visit by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The HLC will visit MSU in October 2017, and multiple campus-wide efforts are currently underway in preparation for that significant visit. These accreditation visits occur every 10 years and provide an opportunity for MSU to demonstrate the many ways it fulfills its mission of educating our students.

There have been a few recent administrative changes as well, including several prompted by retirements. Dr. Cheryl Nilsen is MSU’s new dean of the College of Education and Health Sciences (CEHS). This followed the retirement of longtime CEHS dean, Dr. Neil Nordquist. Cheryl has been a professor of math for over 20 years at MSU and also earned her master’s degree here.

Last summer, Kevin Harmon began a new role as MSU’s vice president for student affairs. Kevin, an MSU alum, has been on campus the past seven years most recently serving as assistant vice president for enrollment management. He succeeds Dr. Richard Jenkins, who retired in 2015 after a 32-year career at MSU.

Earlier this month, Brent Winiger began as MSU’s new vice-president for administration and finance. Brent joins MSU from Rivier College in Nashua, N.H., and succeeds Brian Foisy who left MSU for a similar position at the University of Idaho.

Dr. Gary Rabe, professor of criminal justice at MSU, is

serving as interim vice president for academic affairs this spring while the search for a new VPAA is underway.

Also, at MSU’s affiliate campus, Dakota College at Bottineau, a new campus dean began last fall. Dr. Jerry Migler, a Rugby native, replaced Dr. Ken Grosz, who retired last summer after serving DCB for the past 35 years.

So, it is indeed a busy time throughout the campus with strategic planning, accreditation preparation, and some new faces in administrative roles. Yes, “Change is the law of life.” We are excited moving forward to continue providing a world-class education to MSU students. Our alumni, friends, and supporters play a big role in helping MSU fulfill its mission on a daily basis. The future is a bright and exciting one for the campus and our students, and we are so thankful to all of you for your support and commitment to Minot State! Thank you.

All the best with the start of 2016, and I hope to see you at future Minot State events. As always ... Go Beavers!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve W. Shirley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

STEVEN W. SHIRLEY, PH.D.
PRESIDENT

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COVER STORY

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Psychology graduate returns to help her people
 Jollie-Trottier is determined to make life better for her people on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation.

Cover Photo:

Jollie-Trottier's beautiful skirt is a digital textile print of a beadwork floral design that was done by J. Okuma. B. Yellowtail and Okuma partnered on the skirt's creation, which represents Native women supporting one another.



Psychology graduate returns to help her people

As Tami Jollie-Trottier
experienced a giddy
upward climb in her
research career, she could
never quite escape the
gravitational pull of home.

Tami Jollie-Trottier



llier

Jollie-Trottier currently serves as a clinical psychologist in her hometown of Belcourt, working to upgrade the health of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. She rejected the research world's siren song so she could return to her home reservation.

Her meteoric career began at Minot State, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology in 1999. Paul Markel, her mentor, stressed undergraduate research as a key steppingstone to a top-tier graduate program.

"Dr. Markel gave me my start in the world of research," she said. "He was really supportive of me as a native student."

Jollie-Trottier also found encouragement at MSU's Native American Cultural Center, under the direction of the late Wylie Hammond.

"That was my home base at MSU," she said of the center. "(Hammond) was always encouraging us to keep going."

The psychology student was active in the Native American Cultural Awareness Club, which sponsors a Native American Awareness Week in the fall and an Honor Dance and Powwow Celebration in the spring.

"All year we worked toward the annual powwow," she said. "That helped us develop identity. We took a lot of pride in that."

As she was about to graduate, Jollie-Trottier felt she had to take one more step.

"I wanted to get in touch with my native identity; I wanted to get a name," she said, noting that she received the sacred name "Red Wind Woman."



Jollie-Trottier

"Your name helps guide what you do in your life," she said. "I'm responsible for praying for my people, focusing on healing and helping."

After she left Minot State, Jollie-Trottier went on to earn a doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of North Dakota in

2005. She then completed a two-year fellowship in health psychology at the UND School of Medicine and one year of specialty training at the Eating Disorder and Neuropsychiatric Research Institute in Fargo.

Her career horizon in the research world was wide and limitless, but, in the end, the tug of the reservation was overpowering.

"It was the right time for me to come home to work with my people," she said.

In 2008, Jollie-Trottier began providing clinical services at the Behavioral Health Clinic in Belcourt. The town is the hub of the Turtle Mountain Reservation, home to 13,000 tribal citizens. Members also live in the surrounding communities of Dunseith, St. John, Rolette and Rolla.



The annual wellness Medicine Moon Run attracts several participants along with co-founder Jollie-Trottier and her family.

She encounters two problems in the Native American community that are growing at a worrying pace — obesity and Type 2 diabetes. The former is a deeply personal issue for the clinician.

“Dr. Markel gave me my start in the world of research,” she said. “He was really supportive of me as a native student.”

“I experienced childhood obesity for about three years,” she said, noting that she wasn’t alone. “The rate of obesity is approaching 50 percent for children in Indian Country.” The statistics across the native population are disturbing. Thirty-three percent of all American Indians are obese, and half of Indian women are overweight.

Several factors contribute to the problem, the psychologist said, including genetic predisposition, excess of processed foods and scarcity of grocery stores offering healthy foods.

Jollie-Trottier said unchecked obesity can be a precursor of a more serious malady.

“It’s correlated with the development of Type 2 diabetes,” she said. “It’s not uncommon to know somebody or have a family member with diabetes in Indian communities.”

Type 2 diabetes often leads to long-term complications, such as heart disease, stroke, kidney failure and amputation.

To confront the scourge of obesity, Jollie-Trottier conducts a 12-week weight-management program in Belcourt.

“It’s a medical diagnosis, but there’s a behavioral component to it,” she said.

She also cofounded the Medicine Moon Run, a half marathon, eight years ago. The event also includes 5K, 10K and kids’ runs. Between 150 and 200 runners participate in the event annually.

“It’s growing each year,” she said of the event. “We’re trying to keep people working toward becoming healthier.”

With her research background, the clinician also serves on the advisory board of the Tribal Nations Research Group, which investigates issues relevant to the native population. Current subjects include the oil industry’s

impact on sexual violence, smoke-free casinos, and breast cancer risk factors among Native American women.

For her fierce loyalty to her people, Jollie-Trottier received the MSU Alumni Association’s Young Alumni Achievement Award in 2015.

“I’m trying to be a leader, enhancing my identity of being a native woman,” she said.

She credits her parents, Dave and Phyllis Jollie, for her achievements to date. They returned to the Turtle Mountain Reservation in 1978 to operate a grocery store.

“They taught me about giving back to our community,” she said. “They’re the biggest inspirations in my

life. I’m so grateful that I was raised on the reservation.”

Jollie-Trottier hopes to continue the tradition with the next generation, beginning with her own children. She and her husband, Ron Trottier Jr., have three children — Aiyana, 14, Asher, 7, and Autumn, 5.

“We wanted our children to be raised on the reservation,” she said. “That’s the main reason my husband and I decided to move home.”

Jollie-Trottier burns with conviction about her return to her roots.

“This is where I need to be,” she said. “I want to work with natives, not on natives. We’re starting to heal ourselves.”

Jollie-Trottier burns with conviction about her return to her roots.



Tami Jollie-Trottier accepted her 2015 Young Alumni Achievement Award from MSU President Steve Shirley and Annette (Grant) Mennem '00/'07, MSU's Native American Center director.



Orthodontist Jason Burckhard fulfilled his dream by launching his own practice in Minot.

HOME

is where the heart is

While he would do it all over again, 12 years away from home, family, and all that he knew was enough for MSU alumnus Jason Burckhard.

Life at a distance was good, but the expression, “Home is where the heart is,” rang true in Burckhard’s mind. Ultimately, it brought him back to the Magic City.

“It was a terribly hard decision,” Burckhard confessed. “My wife, Andrea (Albertson), and I had great jobs. Professionally, things were good and falling into place, but something was missing.”

Jason Burckhard was born and raised in Minot. He graduated from Minot High and decided Minot State University was the right fit for him when it came to higher education. Jason Burckhard’s father, Randy Burckhard ’74,

mother Patricia (Wolfe) Burckhard ’74, sisters Jerica (Burckhard) Klein ’99 and Tiffany (Burckhard) Teets had all attended or earned degrees from Minot State. All three siblings entered health care professions. Not only did he



feel MSU was a good university, but it was close to home.

“MSU had all I needed,” Jason Burckhard said. “As I progressed in school, I liked it more and more. My teachers knew me by name, and I worked with a close-knit group. It was a very personalized education that left a lasting impression.”

While attending MSU from 2000 to 2003, Jason Burckhard lived at home, focused on his studies and worked most weekends. He also met his wife, Andrea, another Minot native, over one Christmas break.

“She attended Yale University, and we met through mutual friends,” Burckhard said. “We had a great time, and, before I knew it, phone calls led me to book a trip to visit her in New Haven, Conn., over Easter weekend. We dated long distance a couple of years.”

They would, however, be reunited again. During Jason’s third year at MSU, he was ecstatic to learn he was accepted at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. He jumped at the opportunity, but, again, something was missing.

“I wanted my bachelor’s degree to come from MSU,” Jason Burckhard said. “I worked really hard in the three years I spent there, and it was like leaving a family. I kept bugging my adviser, Dr. Richard Barkosky. I was only two classes short of a degree, so he found a way to transfer a couple of classes. Minot High made MSU possible,



Minot has become home for family and business for Jason and Andrea Burckhard.

and then MSU made dental school possible.”

Thanks in part to Barkosky’s doing some footwork, Burckhard earned his Bachelor of Arts in Biology from MSU in 2005. He graduated from the U of M School of Dentistry in 2007, and Andrea was now in chiropractic school in Minnesota. Burckhard moved to complete his orthodontic residency at the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 2009. After seven years of courting, much of it from a distance, Jason and Andrea married in 2009. They moved to West Fargo and lived there until 2011. Later that year, Burckhard

started practicing at Lake Minnetonka Orthodontics in the Twin Cities. He would remain there until 2015, when a growing family made the couple rethink the future.

“I am, and always will be, fond of the good people I worked with at Lake Minnetonka Orthodontics,” Burckhard said. “It was hard to tell them that Andrea and I felt we needed to move home. They wanted me there, and I loved it. But metro life is busy with two working parents, a child and no family around to help. It was hard. We decided the bottom line was family. We realized that this is what we were missing.”

So a plan was put in place. They not only decided Minot was where they wanted to be, but also where they would open their own businesses.

“We decided to start our businesses from scratch,” Burckhard said. “This allowed us to develop what we wanted in a business. I like to know all aspects of things. I need to know the nooks and crannies of my business and how we treat people, which allows me to better understand and pass that on to others.”

In July 2015, they opened the doors to adjoining businesses — Burckhard Orthodontics and Spine and Sport Chiropractic. The businesses

are beginning to grow, and relationships have played a key role in that growth.

“Andrea and I were always involved in the communities where our offices were,” Burckhard said. “I was just getting to the point where families were saying they wanted to see Dr. Burckhard. That takes time in a well-established group practice like the one I was at. But moving home, I had some of those connections instantly. I like feeling connected to where I live and work. If you treat people right, everything has potential to be what you want it to be. Since we opened, the community has been so receptive to us being here.”

Being involved in one’s community was something Burckhard often witnessed growing up.

“You see how my dad and mom are involved, and you learn from that,” he said. “Even our neighborhood growing up was like family. It took us having a family of our own to see how important that was.”

A lot can change in 12 years. The city of Minot has grown immensely since 2003, with more diverse demographics, but there was still no question for the Burckhards that Minot was where they wanted to live.

“Minot has changed and is growing, and I like that, but Minot still feels like the home we remember,” Burckhard said. “I am constantly bumping into friends and family. Like my dad, I have the gift to gab, so a ‘quick’ trip to

Target is never quick, as I am bound to run into somebody I know. And I can't get over how many young families are in church! There's so much energy here."

Burckhard noted that not only has Minot changed, but MSU has also changed, and not just brick and mortar.

I try to spread that message. You don't have to go someplace else to get a great education. You can get it right here in Minot. I love what I'm hearing about MSU."

Now that he's back in Minot, Burckhard is reconnecting with his alma mater. Robert Crackel, associate

professor of chemistry, was in search of local professionals to present to the Biology Club and asked Burckhard. "It was so fun to be back on campus and catch up with different professors," Burckhard said. "I met with the Biology Club and let the students be a major part of my presentation, so they could get information to help them in their career decisions. I talked about my career path and how MSU was a big piece of the picture for me."

the Bank of North Dakota's Deal One Loan," he said. "But being back and knowing there is so much support from the state to consolidate student loans to lower interest rates for student debt is great. When I met with the students, I told them that student loans are for real and so are the payments. I am so thankful for MSU, as I was able to pay for a lot of school when I was attending."

For Burckhard, there is no longer "something missing." He is home, near family, where he and Andrea can spend time with family. Their two sons, Blake, 2 1/2, and Bennet, 5 months, can grow to know their grandparents.

"It's been wonderful," Burckhard said, "to take our son to grandma's, and he doesn't want to leave! And all the support we have gotten from not only family, but also friends and the entire community. This past year has been ... wow."

"There is so much life at MSU, more than ever before," Burckhard said. "There's a new sense of energy that I feel. So many more people are promoting it as the great place that it is, and I try to spread that message. You don't have to go someplace else to get a great education. You can get it right here in Minot. I love what I'm hearing about MSU."

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Burckhard also noted all that the state of North Dakota is doing to support higher education.

"I moved back, and I heard all about student loans and



Jason Burckhard believes in giving back to his alma mater through student discussions.

Emerging life experiences

What results from combining knowledge and life experiences? Nontraditional learners who enrich their own learning and the learning of others. Secondly, a youthful faculty member emerges and makes an impact on and off campus by sharing his expertise with others. Ultimately, the blending of knowledge and life experiences redefines their careers.

Expertise inspires school psychologists



Joseph Engler

is often on the road sharing his expertise.

Experience is something Joseph Engler, assistant professor of psychology, believes is an important part of a student's university career. He does all he can to allow them to gain as much experience as possible before entering the workforce.

"I think it is so important to keep students' interests in mind," Engler said. "I do that by including them in presentations I give and exposing them to as much as possible."

Engler has ample opportunities to do just that. When he was hired by Minot State University in 2014, he was also elected president of the North Dakota Association of School Psychologists. Having written three publications and three book chapters since 2014, he's been asked to speak at a number of conferences regionally and nationally. He also presents regularly to school districts and school associations throughout North Dakota.

A number of opportunities arose after Engler was chosen to present at a regional conference promoting college attainment and retention for low-income and first-generation students in Spokane, Wash.

"Being elected NDASP president has facilitated good relationships with school psychologists around the state," he said. "Because of that, our students are doing practicums and internships at a number of sites around western North Dakota. I'm proud it's giving

students great opportunities to see what school psychologists do."

Engler earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from MSU and a doctorate from the University of South Dakota. During his time at Minot State, he saw all that the Magic City had to offer, so when a job opportunity arose, there was no question in his mind that MSU is where he wanted to be.

"I fell in love with the community and people," he said. "There's so much support from the Alumni Association and the community as a whole, and it always stuck with me as a student. When I moved back, I was surprised at how open people are to new ideas and change. So many other places have to go through so many processes to change, and that stalls growth. That's not happening here."

This was all reassuring to Engler and his wife, Calissa, who are raising a 2 1/2-year-old daughter, Sienna, and expecting a second child in May.

"I found that people in Minot love their kids," he said. "They want the next generation to have better opportunities. Being in school psychology, I spend my time working with the next generation. It fits perfectly with what people of North Dakota want to accomplish. Ultimately, I want to impact students at MSU, as well as students in K through 12."

Success at the crossroads of time and opportunity



Laura Hellmuth

envisions her next career in the nursing profession.

For MSU graduate Laura Hellmuth, returning to school as a nontraditional student is a multifaceted challenge that can be both inspirational and daunting. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree after earning her Bachelor of General Studies degree in May 2015.

“Academically, I’ve always done well,” she said. “When I graduated high school, I initially attended a university in Montana but didn’t finish. I met my husband in Las

Vegas, and then my life dramatically changed course. Four weeks later, I found myself in his native Australia with two duffle bags, married and expecting our first child. After that, getting my degree became less of a priority. I tried to tell myself that not everyone needed a degree, but secretly I was really disappointed that I hadn’t finished school.”

In 2012, Hellmuth, her husband and their two children came back to her home state of North Dakota.

“We chose to move to Minot because of the resources here and because it’s close to my parents,” she said. “I wasn’t planning on returning to school. But as my kids became more independent, I knew I wanted to finish what I had started.”

Nontraditional students with their wealth of life experiences often have a unique appreciation for education.

“At 18 I had my sights set on going out of state for an education,” Hellmuth said. “I would have never even consid-

ered attending MSU. I wish I could go back in time and give myself advice. My experience at MSU has turned out to be the greatest thing I could have asked for. MSU offers an affordable education, with so many great people working here.”

For Hellmuth, select faculty, the MSU POWER Center and the Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning have been key resources that have empowered her.

“I was 33 when I came back to school,” she said. “I had so many questions and very little confidence. The POWER Center and CETL have helped me tremendously. Professor Zeni Shabani has given me the guidance and confidence to reach my full potential. Before being accepted into MSU’s nursing program, I was looking at other career paths, but he saw I was capable of greater things and encouraged me to pursue a degree in nursing.”

MSU’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing opens doors to a variety of career choices, and Hellmuth has her eyes set on a career in medicine.

“I would love to explore opportunities to become a nurse practitioner or an anesthesiologist or obtain a master’s degree in nursing,” she said.

In addition to her studies, Hellmuth is a supplemental anatomy and physiology instructor, and she participates in neurobiology research under Shabani’s direction.

Veteran uses experience and knowledge to achieve success

It is easy to say that Minot State University is a destination. However, for many students, it is much more than a destination. It is an opportunity of a lifetime. This is particularly true of MSU senior and military veteran Robert Schwartz, 35.

“I grew up knowing that one day I would be a part of the U.S. Air Force’s security forces,” he said. “I have no idea what inspired it, but I just knew that it was something I wanted to do. Halfway through my time with the military, I knew that when I left the military I would move on to become a teacher. With my technical

background in law enforcement, as well as being in a leadership role, one of my main responsibilities was to teach younger airmen super cool stuff. The military brought me to Minot in 1999, and although I moved away, I planned on returning to Minot when I retired. I chose Minot State because of its history as a teacher’s college and its excellent reputation.”

Minot State’s commitment to students is grounded in teaching, scholarship and service. By extending a wealth of opportunities for engagement, MSU develops students who are more than just marketable commodities.

“I feel prepared to teach, not just because of the curriculum, but because of the dedicated faculty,” Schwartz said. “As a student, I see that it’s more than what they teach. It’s how they relate to students. The small class sizes allow me to see great professionals as role models. As a teacher-to-be, what they do and how they do it inspires me. Having been to a couple of war zones, making it out alive and seeing how great we have it gives me an appreciation for the wealth of opportunity we have. My takeaway, as a person and as a teacher, is that I have a responsibility to ensure our youth see our potential.”

Students new to MSU may not always see the ways MSU can make a difference, not just in their educational experience but also in their lives. When asked what he would change at MSU, Schwartz says he wouldn’t change a thing. As he draws nearer to graduating in May 2016 with a BSEd in history, he has advice for his fellow Beavers.

“Don’t squander the opportunities or resources available,” he said. “Take it seriously and wring every drop of wisdom and knowledge you can from your experience. Odds are you will never have the same chance to make a difference in your life.”

Bob Schwartz

credits his successful college career to the support of these three MSU faculty members (L – R) Bethany Andreasen, Jacob Sowers, and Jynette Larshus.



Master's degree delivers brighter future

The secret is out. Minot State University's history as a teachers college and its reputation for a commitment to leaders in education are major reasons why many students celebrate their education at Minot State. It's also why increasing numbers of teachers are turning to MSU for graduate degrees. For Turtle Mountain Elementary School teacher

Commitment to student success propels MSU's graduate programs. MSU is affordable and convenient, too, with course delivery systems designed to fit busy schedules and demanding lifestyles. No one knows this better than Waldera, a full-time teacher.

"The Master of Education program is easy to follow

tion courses remotely during the fall and spring semesters, so I am able to stay at home."

Great teachers have the ability to inspire, motivate and transform the way young people understand the world around them and see how they can make a difference. For Bisbee native Waldera, teaching is more than just a career; it is a dream realized.

in elementary/middle school mathematics.

"I received a postcard in the mail from MSU. The postcard explained the Master of Education program. My youngest child had just graduated from high school, and another daughter had obtained her degree from MSU. With the support of my wonderful husband and family, I thought



Jill Waldera

delights in preparing for another school day.

Jill Waldera, MSU is more than just a pretty campus.

"The faculty is exceptional," Waldera said. "They are professional and have high expectations, yet they are easy to approach, friendly and are always there for me when I have questions or need help."

and convenient for people to attend school and to continue working full time," she said. "I have had to attend summer school on campus the last three summers for math courses. A grant paid for the credits, books, room and mileage. I access the educa-

"I love teaching," she said. "I can't imagine doing anything else. I've been teaching for 27 years and plan to continue. My childhood interest in science and mathematics has inspired my desire to pursue my graduate degree with a concentration

it was a good time to see if I could handle going back to school to earn my master's degree."

Graduate students like Waldera prove that Minot State is a beacon for the future, and the outlook has never looked brighter.

Alumni answer **STEM** education



Grace VanDelinder, Courtney Hegle and Kayleah Dosch listen intently to instructor Sue Kjos.

Our future as a state and nation depends on the rigor of science, technology, engineering and mathematics — or STEM — education in our public schools,” said Bill Goetz, former North Dakota University System chancellor.

“By advancing STEM education, we build a better future for citizens and a stronger economy for our state. We are very fortunate that the 2009 Legislative Assembly had the foresight to provide the State Board

of Higher Education \$1.5 million for enhancement of STEM teacher education.”

Minot State University, as one of six NDUS schools with teacher education programs, used funds appropriated by the North Dakota Legislature to work with North Dakota K-12 teachers. MSU not only assisted educators teaching the various STEM topics but also assisted in integrating two or more topic areas as much as possible. Several of those educators are MSU alumni. They have been involved with several

STEM regional K-12 outreach projects with support from the Minot State STEM initiative.

Three MSU alumnae are combating the long-standing barriers and perceptions that caused girls to turn away from science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Melissa (Richard) Stanley ’84/’86, Edison Elementary School teacher, and Sue (Spain) Kjos ’73 and retired elementary teacher Margaret (Talbot) Spain ’72/’02, started the first STEM for Girls in Minot, and it’s catching on like wildfire.

“It was suggested we open an after-school STEM program for eighth- and ninth-grade girls,” Kjos said. “But we said, ‘No, no, no ... we need to reach these girls sooner. By eighth and ninth grade, they are so involved in other activities, and we need to get them interested now!’”

The women sent out invitations to girls in fourth- through seventh-grade classes, hoping to get a dozen who would like to work after school. Surprisingly, 32 girls wanted to take part. The first year, the girls studied electricity, astronomy and chemistry and solved varying design challenges. Since that time, STEM for Girls has grown to 50 girls in grades four through seven.

Many of the girls, after having outgrown the program, have returned to take on leadership roles. The girls have formed a board which leads the group. The agreed-upon purpose of STEM for Girls is “To learn and to help others learn, so girls understand that they are smart and can chase down their dreams.”

“The group has established norms for group performance,” Stanley said. “The areas of study are based on the girls’ input, so they can investigate topics of interest. So far this year, the girls hosted a pumpkin design challenge, utilized Littlebit Technology, and they have an upcoming physical therapy opportunity

on mandate

hosted by Minot's First Choice Physical Therapy. Plans for additional activities are in the works to complete a yearlong calendar of events."

Ackerman-Estvold, a Minot professional civil engineering and architectural consulting firm, generously sponsors the girls' program.

JoAnn (Magandy) Schapp '86/'05 is another STEM-involved alumna. She teaches at Bishop Ryan Catholic School and advises a science club for grades three to eight on Tuesday afternoons.

"We have explored The Great Ketchup Caper, Steamy Metals, Goofy Putty and Seltzer Reaction Rates," Schapp

said. "In my science classes, we do National Incident Management System activities, such as Happiness is a Straight Line, where students determine how height affects the speed of a marble. In Whirly Gig, they create helicopter blades to give them the longest hang time as well as accurately land on a cereal box. In Beetle Races, they trace the path of a beetle and calculate the beetle's speed. Then, they write a story telling about the beetle's journey."

The Minot State STEM initiative didn't just trigger work with K-12 students.

"When students are doing course work in any science,

technology, engineering or mathematics class, they are doing STEM," said Stephen Hayton, computer science associate professor and MSU STEM initiative program director. "So that means our MSU chemistry, biology, mathematics and technology majors are doing STEM. Also, science- and mathematics-education majors are too."

STEM is considered the integration of two or more specific topics of the four STEM areas of study. This integration will be beneficial for future educators.

"I want them (student teachers) to know that today's world is so rich with opportunity,

and children growing up today are truly globally connected," Stanley said. "So to deepen knowledge and help children retain content, teachers have to build connections. STEM does that for them; it helps teachers marry content. They can work on science, math or writing and truly integrate content at a level that is authentic. It is purposeful. It is the world."

To assist with continued STEM education, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction is working with the National Math & Science Initiative to bring a professional development event "Laying the Foundation" to Minot this July.



STEM for Girls enjoyed a holiday gathering while donning their Ackerman-Estvold T-shirts.

The Minot Symphony Orch

The Minot Symphony Orchestra, the fulcrum of serious music in northwest North Dakota, celebrates its 90th anniversary this year.

The MSO traces its origin to an historic building constructed in downtown Minot at the turn of the last century.

A hardware dealer named Jacobson built an opera house on Minot's Main Street in 1903. With a proscenium stage measuring 30 feet by 50 feet, the \$30,000 structure was the second-largest building in North Dakota at the time. Some claimed it was the finest house west of St. Paul, Minn.

The 450-seat opera house soon became the cultural center of Minot. It featured concerts, plays, dances, lectures and political rallies. The building was destroyed by fire in 1923, but it was rebuilt to become the home of Union National Bank. The building today houses the Taube Museum.

Early years

By 1914, the Blaine Allen Orchestra performed regularly at the Jacobson Opera House, offering perhaps half a dozen concerts over a two-year period. A conductor at a Minneapolis theater, Allen formed his orchestra with a dozen musicians from the Minneapolis Symphony. Traveling by train from the Twin Cities to Minot, the players would join local musicians to play concerts in the Magic City and smaller towns in the area.

In 1915, Allen had a chance encounter with Arturo Petrucci on the orchestra's visit to Mohall. Petrucci was a violinist from Naples, Italy, who had studied music in St. Petersburg, Russia, and Berlin. He had performed as a soloist in Europe's leading cities, including Rome, Dresden and Moscow.

With the winds of war building in 1913, the young Italian and his wife had

abandoned Europe to live with her relatives in North Dakota. He quickly developed an immigrant's love for his new homeland and its people. He gladly accepted an invitation to join Allen's itinerant orchestra when it visited the area.

Petrucci initially gave violin lessons in Mohall and Sherwood to make a living, but he later moved to Minot to join a theater orchestra that played music for silent films. When Hollywood introduced talking pictures, his job suddenly vanished.

But President George McFarland of Minot's Normal School rescued the Italian from unemployment by hiring him as the school's violin teacher and orchestra director in 1926.

Petrucci era

The destruction of the opera house and Petrucci's appointment led to two significant changes. The center of gravity for serious



Arturo Petrucci

music shifted from downtown Minot to the college, and a tight-knit collaboration between college and city musicians began to develop.

For more than three decades, Petrucci honed the skills of countless young violinists, introduced European discipline and shared his knowledge of symphonic literature. He also created a youth symphony for serious students in the area.

"He had a ton of students in it," recalled Judy (Allen) Spitzer '62, a pupil of Petrucci's when she was at Minot Model.



The 1931 orchestra, under the direction of Arturo Petrucci, assembles for a photo in the Old Main basement concert hall.

estra spans 9 decades



The longtime Minoter described the maestro as a flamboyant character who was intimidating to young students.

“He was loud and exuberant,” she said, adding that his thick Italian accent added to the terror.

Her unsettling encounter with the fiery Italian didn’t

deter Spitzer from later joining the Minot Symphony and playing clarinet with it for 50 years. In addition, she taught music in the public schools for 35 years.

To build local support for the orchestra, the music director performed for service club luncheons, directed the choir at St. Leo’s Catholic Church,

led the citywide performance of Handel’s “Messiah,” offered concerts at the Lyceum Theater and performed live on KLPM radio.

Steady growth

After Petrucci retired in 1962, Ira Schwarz succeeded him as the symphony’s music director. He saw the need to sustain the orchestra through a permanent network of supporters. To that end, the Minot Symphony Association was established in 1965, its membership drawn from 30 communities around Minot. That group was later joined by the Women’s Symphony League.

The two groups convinced civic and business leaders that the MSO was an excellent medium for drawing new businesses and residents to the area. The groups also solicited financial support from state and federal agencies.

Jerold Sundet, a later music director, encouraged the support groups to secure endowments and scholarships from generous contributors. Robert Quebbeman, his successor, established a symphony chorus, chamber orchestra and outreach program to smaller communities.

Essential core

While music directors changed regularly over the decades, the nucleus of the symphony remained local residents who shared an undiluted passion for music.

“Some of the community members have been there for 30, 40, 50 years,” said Cindy (Martin) Cook ’84, a violinist with the group for 37 years. “It’s their commitment to music and to the concept of having a symphony orchestra.”

Cook, who has also performed with small ensembles,



says nothing compares to the undiminished power of the MSO.

"I love the experience of playing in a full orchestra with 60 to 70 other members on the stage," she said. "That's the biggest reason I keep coming back."

World-class guest artists also enhance the orchestra experience for Cook, the principal at Sunnyside Elementary in Minot.

"We get to see outstanding soloists three times," she said. "We practice with them Thursday night, Saturday morning, and we do the concert Saturday night. The audience only gets to see that once."

The symphony has been a family experience for Cook. She played alongside her mother, also a violinist, for 20 years. Her two daughters joined her for one year each while attending MSU. One played violin and the other cello.

Joe '68 and Joyce (Warner) Alme '71 are also veterans of the Minot Symphony. He played trombone for 46 years, and she played flute for 44. He said a classic blend of factors

contributes to the orchestra's enduring success.

"They've had good conductors and a pool of good musicians that really wanted to play," he said.

In his almost half century with the symphony, Joe Alme played under seven different conductors.

"We never had a bad conductor," he said, admitting that he favored a recent one from Great Britain. "Dennis Simons was the best. He was good at selecting literature that everybody liked to play, and everybody liked to hear."

Despite the endless stream of conductors, the local musicians have displayed an unruffled professionalism that defines superior orchestras.

"Everybody had the greatest respect for each other because we were serious about playing," Joe Alme said.

In addition to playing with the MSO, Joe Alme directed the International Music Camp for 23 years and taught music at MSU for nine years.

In its improbable arc from vagabond music group to civic institution, the MSO has

demonstrated artistic integrity and public-spiritedness, qualities that have earned the loyalty of generations of music lovers throughout the region.

MSO today

Efraín Amaya recently joined the faculty at Minot State University and was named the music director for the Minot Symphony Orchestra, starting with the 2015-16 Season. Amaya is an American composer and conductor, born in Venezuela, where he began in musical training. Continuing his studies in the United States, he earned two bachelor's degrees in composition and piano from Indiana University, and a master's degree in conducting from Rice University.

After returning to Venezuela Maestro Amaya became the music director and conductor for one of the "El Sistema" Youth Symphony Orchestras based in the "Núcleo La Rinconada". He then returned to the U.S. where he held the



Efraín Amaya

position of resident conductor and Artist Lecturer in Music Theory at Carnegie Mellon University from 1993 to 2009. He also served as associate conductor with the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra from 1994 to 2007. In addition he has been the music director and conductor to the Greensburg American Opera, the Three Rivers Young People's Orchestra, the Westmoreland Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Carnegie Mellon Summer Orchestra and Wind Ensemble, and the Carnegie Mellon Contemporary Ensemble.

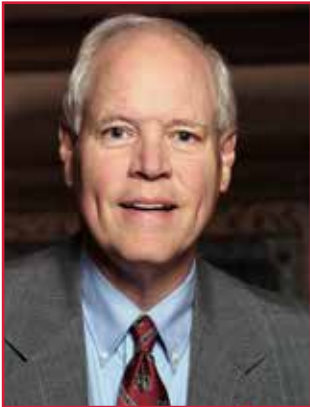


Efraín Amaya conducts the fall 2015 Minot Symphony Orchestra's concert in MSU's Ann Nicole Nelson Hall.



DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

As any foundation development officer will tell you,
where there's a WILL ... we want to be in it!



The problem is, there just aren't all that many wills out there and even fewer of them that contain charitable provisions. It is estimated that roughly 55 percent of American adults do not have a will or other estate plan in place. With respect to those individuals who have

made a valid will, only 4 to 5 percent make charitable bequests, according to estimates provided by the Internal Revenue Service.

The following responses are among the reasons given for why so many people do not have wills (Note: the totals exceed 100 percent, presumably because some supplied more than one answer):

- 57 percent said they “just haven't gotten around to making one”
- 22 percent felt that making a will wasn't urgent
- 17 percent didn't think they needed a will
- 14 percent don't have a will because they don't want to think about death.

One of the advantages in making a will is to control the ultimate disposition of your assets upon your demise. If you fail to make a will, your property is distributed in accordance with state law (known as intestacy statutes, in legal parlance). The problem with that approach is that it really is a “one size fits all” solution and may not conform to your specific wishes. Without a will, you have no say as to the guardian(s) of any minor children, and, of course, there is no way to include organizations near and dear to your heart (like Minot State University), should you have charitable inclinations.

If you have not made a will, or if your present will is outdated and in need of revision, I highly encourage you to make an appointment with your attorney to review your estate situation. A basic will can be drafted very inexpensively and is well worth the peace of mind, knowing that your affairs will be administered in the manner you wish, versus leaving everything to chance. And if you do have questions concerning a bequest to the MSU Development Foundation, we would be pleased to discuss them with you at your convenience. We can be reached at (701) 858-3399 or (800) 777-0750.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION OF MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY!

*Dan Langemo, Major Gifts Officer
MSU Development Foundation*

MINOT STATE ENSHRINES 4 INTO ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

The 2015 Hall of Fame class features former student-athletes Genevieve (Binsfeld) Hanson, Willie McCollum, LeeAnn Pekovitch and Mike Tighe.

Genevieve (Binsfeld) Hanson '07

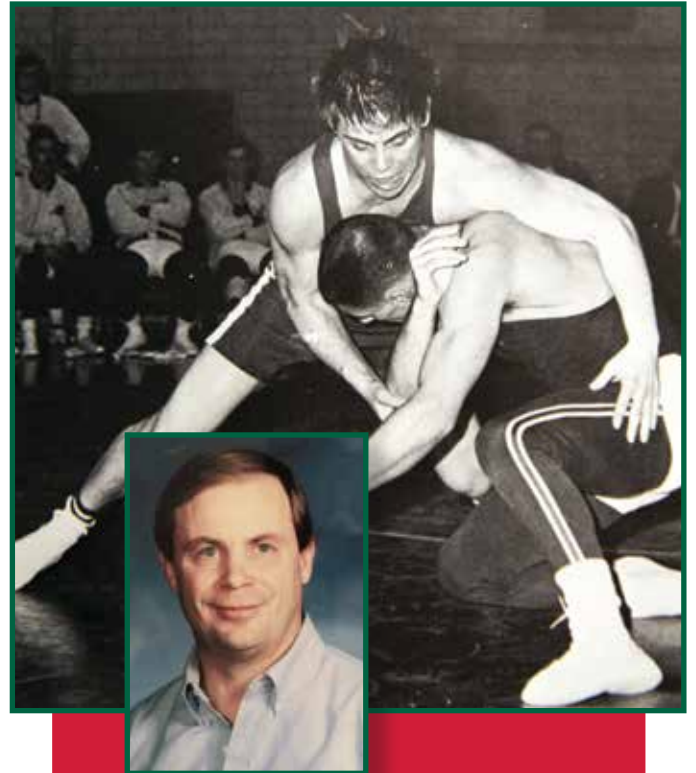
Hanson is a Watson, Saskatchewan, native who finished her career as an eight-time All-American in track and field and cross country from 2003-2007. She twice won the NAIA National Championship, first as the 2006 Cross Country National Champion and then in 2007, winning the NAIA Indoor Track and Field National Championship in the 3,000 meters.

She also has two runner-up finishes, taking second at the 2005 Cross Country Championships and the 2005 Indoor 3,000 meters. She placed third at the 2005 Indoor and Outdoor Championships in the 5,000 meters and finished seventh (2004) and 11th (2003) in her first two Cross Country national fields. To go along with her national accolades, Hanson was a seven-time Dakota Athletic Conference champion and set nine school records. She is still MSU's record holder in the Outdoor 10,000 and 1,500 and the Indoor 5,000.

Hanson earned a criminal justice degree and currently lives in Gildford, Mont., with her husband, Eric Hanson. She is a remote office paralegal for McLean & Associates, PLLC, in Missoula, Mont.



Willie McCollum '69



McCollum was a standout wrestler for the Beavers from 1965-1969. The Valley Stream, N.Y., native finished his career as a three-time conference champion and a national place winner. In four seasons, he compiled a 59-8-4 overall record and graduated with a degree in physical education.

He helped the Beavers to North Dakota Collegiate Athletic Conference team titles in 1966, 1967 and 1968 and powered Minot State to a ninth-place overall finish at the 1966 NAIA National Championship. The Beavers were 15th overall at the 1967 NAIA Nationals. McCollum earned NDCAC individual titles in 1966, 1968 and 1969, and he finished in fifth place at the 1966 NAIA National Championship. The four-year letter-winner was named team captain in 1969 and received the Beavers' Most Outstanding Wrestler and Most Takedowns awards.

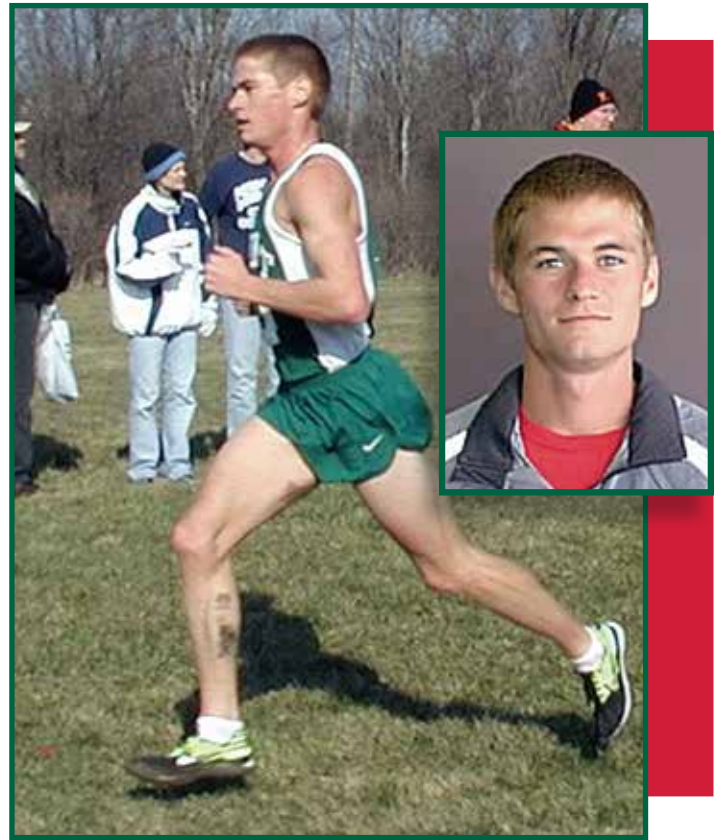
McCollum retired from coaching and teaching in 2005 and currently works at the Leland Olds Power Plant in Stanton. He and his wife, Pat, have two sons, Brian and Bill, and two daughters, Beth and Suzie.

LeeAnn Pekovitch '05/'10

Pekovitch was a two-sport standout for Minot State, earning All-America status in track and field and all-conference selections in women's basketball from 2000 to 2005. In track and field, Pekovitch, who is originally from Malta, Mont., won the javelin at the 2005 NAIA Outdoor Track and Field National Championship. She finished as a four-time NAIA All-American and went to five NAIA National meets. Pekovitch was a First Team All-DAC performer in women's basketball in 2002-03 and was named Second Team All-DAC in 2001-02.

In her five trips to the national meet, Pekovitch finished second twice (NAIA Outdoor, 2004 and 2001) and third (NAIA Outdoor, 2002) in the javelin. She was eighth in the shot put in 2001 and finished 11th (2001), 15th (2002) and 20th (2005), respectively, in the discus. She is the school record holder in the javelin at 163 feet, 7 inches. Pekovitch finished her basketball career with 918 points, 596 rebounds and 247 assists. She averaged 10.1 points, 6.4 rebounds and 2.8 assists to earn All-DAC honors in 2002-03.

Pekovitch graduated with bachelor's degrees in criminal justice (2005) and chemistry (2010) and earned a master's degree in criminology in 2012. She currently lives in Missoula, Mont., where she is a police officer for the University of Montana.



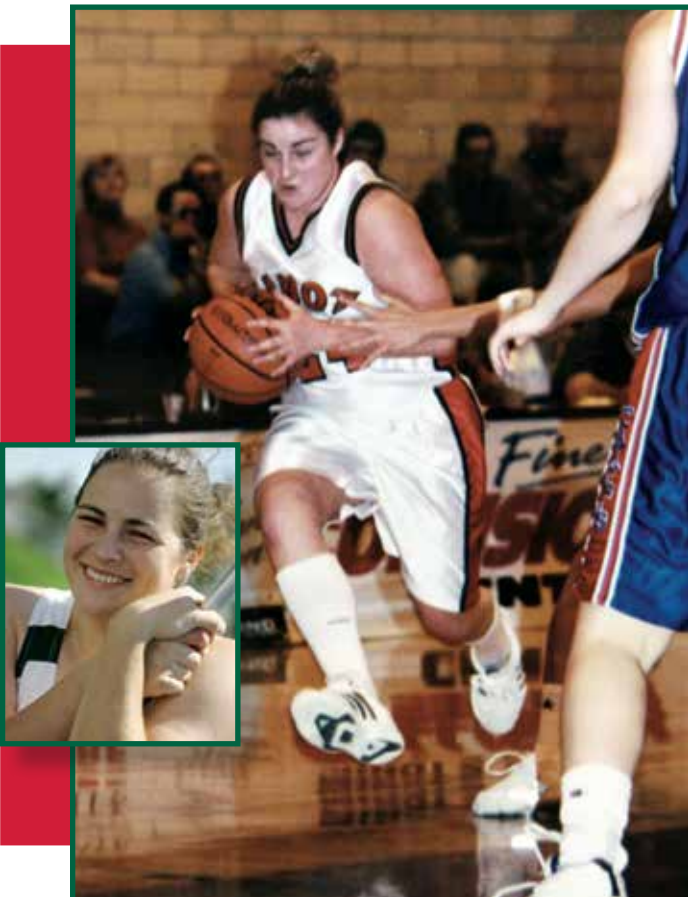
Mike Tighe '04

Tighe, from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, was a 10-time All-American and an eight-time NAIA National Meet competitor from 1999-2004 in track and field and cross country. He was a member of the 2002 NAIA National Championship team that was inducted into the Minot State Hall of Fame in 2011. He earned All-America status in 2002, when he finished seventh in the national meet.

He holds two Minot State records in track and field, setting the Indoor 5,000-meter mark and was a member of the Indoor Distance Medley Relay (DMR). A nine-time All-American in track and field, he was second four times as an individual and once with the DMR, placing runner-up in the 10,000 (2004 Outdoor), 5,000 (2003 Outdoor) and the 3,000 (2003 Indoor and 2002 Indoor). The DMR team was second in the 2002 Indoor. He was also an NAIA All-America Scholar Team member in 2002.

Tighe graduated with a business administration degree and lives in Moose Jaw with his wife, Sarah, and son Ryan, 2, and daughter Hannah, born in May. He owns/operates a snow clearing/lawn care business.

This is the 36th class to enter the Minot State Athletics Hall of Fame. The school has honored a class each year since 1980.



A look back at 2015



Clint Severson '73 and Conni Ahart hosted alumni, staff and friends of Minot State last October. Front row (L – R): Vernon Altman, Whitney Loftesnes '11, Jacek Mrozik, Dean, MSU College of Business, Conni Ahart, Chris Barney '11, Clint Severson. Back row (L – R): Julian Paintsil '15, Michael O'Dwyer '10, Matt Witwer '08, Minot Mayor Chuck Barney, Director, Severson Entrepreneurship Academy, Paige (Morningstar) O'Dwyer '12, MSU President Steve Shirley.



2015 ALUMNI REUNION IN ARIZONA: Join us at our 2016 Alumni and Friends events in sunny Arizona. (See page 28 for complete details.)



2015 HOMECOMING REUNION: Reminisce about old memories and make some new ones! Mark your calendar for Sept. 17, 2016 for Homecoming.

Meet the Greeks!

Greek life has returned to the Minot State University campus. These young men and women strongly support MSU and its tradition of service and loyalty. They reignited a legacy that is very important to MSU.

Sept. 2015 Mu Sigma Tau



Front row (L – R): Tully Garberg, Kevin Gilgallon, Josh Douglas, Chris Heinemann; Middle row (L – R): Alexander Buchholz, Ken Hurlburt, Jordan Foley, Grayson McCray, Jared French; Back row (L – R): David Lavergne, Casey Feldner, Leif Larson, Erik Larson, Cameron McBeth, Roger Herrmann.

Dec. 2015 Beta Theta



Front row (L – R): Chelsea Geis, Elizabeth Young, Jasmin Peterson, and Caley Nelson; Middle row (L – R): Naylenie Castillo, Jaileen Broadziak, Ashlee Swartwout, Jenna Wing, McKenzie Kranz, Casara Tessendorf, and Anny Duong; Back row (L – R): Shelby Pederson, Shannon Guinn, Miranda Lesseister, Brittany Johnson, Amanda Lee, and Allayna Nering.

Dec. 2015 Sigma Delta



Front row (L – R): Araceli Alonso and Angela Large; Middle row (L – R): Steffaney Price, Julisa Garcia, Deamie Brown, Erica Reeve; Back row (L – R): Maggie Flinn, Breanna Benson, Cassie Stauffer, Ashton Gerard, Brooke Zulak, Sam Stahl, Megan Druse, Kacy Price, Paula Cabatigan, Chaneil Morin, Karina Abella, Janelle Sparrow, Sylvia Wages, Cheyanne Larson.



Class notes

1971



Collin Evenson, received the 2015 Environmental Educator Award from Dean Bresciani, North Dakota State

University president, and Larry Kotchman, State Forester, at the NDSU Tree Bowl. Evenson and his wife, Beth, have added over five miles of trees to the Evenson homestead. His great grandparents filed their tree claim in Ramsey County in 1887.



Marianna (Connor) Malm was inducted into the Fargo North Hall of Fame in September. Malm

completed a master's degree in reading at Moorhead State before starting her teaching career in Williston. She moved to Fargo in 1975 where she taught at NDSU for two years before being hired to teach English at North High in 1977. Malm enjoyed a storied career in teaching at Fargo North, retiring in the spring of 2010. She received a grant for summer study from the National Endowment for the Arts; and was recognized by the North Dakota Council of Teachers of English and YWCA's Women of the Year program for her work in education. She served as advisor of North High's pom-pom group. Malm was selected to the N.D. Daneline Hall of Fame. She served two terms on the N.D. Standards and Practices Board, was a part of the N.D. Department of Public Instruction teams and was selected the North High, Fargo Public Schools and N.D. State Teacher of the Year in 2000. In 2010, through student effort, she received a Distinguished Teacher Award from the White House.

1983

Margie (Erbstoesser) Zietz retired after a 31-year career as a Minot police officer. Zietz served in a variety of roles at the Minot Police Department including patrol officer and crime prevention officer. She was named the North Dakota Peace Officer of the Year for 2006-07. Zietz is working part

time at the First District Health Unit to educate people in a seven-county area about underage drinking and binge drinking.

1984

Dave Leith, was recently honored during the NDSU Harvest Bowl for his excellence in agriculture. Leith is currently the regional director for the Minot Office of Farm Service Agency.

1986

Janet (Enander) Asheim is the elementary principal at Mohall Lansford Sherwood Schools. Previously, Asheim served the district as the instructional strategist, Title I coordinator and assistant elementary principal.

1987



Catherine (Coiner) Bonventre joined the faculty of

Guilford College in Greensboro, N.C., teaching in the Justice and Policy Studies Department. She completed her doctorate in criminal justice at SUNY Albany after earning a master's degree in forensic biology. Bonventre is an attorney and member of the New York Bar, graduating from Albany Law School (J.D.), with a concentration in criminal law. She has published in the area of wrongful convictions and has worked pro bono in murder and inmate rights cases.

Cindy Snay, of Coughlin Construction, received the Citizen of the Year Award from the Minot Association of Builders at its annual meeting in October. This award recognized her service to the association and the community.

1990



Tammy (Marthaller) Dolan is the chief financial officer for the North Dakota University System office. Dolan has

25 years of experience in state government, including extensive expertise in financial and administrative operations.

Gary Schatz is the principal at Keppel Academy Middle School in Littlerock, Calif., of the Keppel Union School District. Keppel Academy has earned the prestigious California Gold Ribbon School award and has 364 students.

1992



Jon Ravnaas has joined the Garrison State Bank & Trust's lending team. Ravnaas' 17-year banking career included being with Starion Financial in Bismarck and Bremer Bank in Minot.

1995

Jennifer (Schoffer) Closson was awarded the 2015 State Clinical Achievement Award for Montana by the American Speech Language Hearing Foundation. This award was given recognizing Closson's contributions to the advancement of knowledge in clinical practice in speech-language pathology. She was recognized for her work with autism. Currently, Closson is the director of the DeWit RiteCare Clinic housed in the Communicative Sciences and Disorders Department at the University of Montana.

1996



Jennifer (Mandan) Fox is teaching first and fourth grades at White Shield School. Fox received her master's degree in 2002.

1997



Sandi (Peck) Gilbertson is the executive director of human resources for the North Dakota State College of

Science in Wahpeton. Gilbertson, a Bottineau native, worked as the chief executive officer at Circle of Nations School in Wahpeton. She and her husband, Wade, have four children.

2002



Candi (Brown) Ziegler joined Minot's First Western Bank and Trust Systems and Network team.

Ziegler previously worked remotely for a software developing company in New York.

Mary (Kloeckner) Kohler works at Brady Martz & Associates and is responsible for bookkeeping for oil and gas clients. She and husband, Terry, live in Benedict.

2003



Travis Titus was named the interim head football coach for the University of Jamestown.

2006



Ryan Selk is an accounting assistant for Western Products' All New Gutter in Fargo. Selk and his wife, Brooke, have two children.

2007

Jennifer Heidt is a fifth grade teacher at Prairie View Elementary in New Salem. Heidt, a Mandan native, was previously employed for 11 years as a fourth grade teacher with the Bismarck Public Schools.



Kal Triplett is the high school physical education teacher and head football coach at Larimore

High School. Triplett and his wife, Lindsey, have three children.

2008

Chris Erickson is working as a right-of-way agent in KLJ's Bismarck office.

Cody Melgaard is employed at Merchants Bank in Rugby. Melgaard previously served as credit manager for Farstad Oil and prior to that was the comptroller/credit manager for more than a year with Envision. He and wife, Jenn, have two children.

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MinotStateU.edu/alumni

Class notes

Dana Thoreson is serving Rugby's Ely Elementary School in special education and the resource room. She worked for nine years in Devils Lake as an educator in the Head Start program and for the last five years has split time between Lake Region Special Education in Devils Lake and serving the Rugby Public School District as part of Lonetree Special Education.

2009



Brent Burgard joined the Ackerman-Estvold Minot office as the director of finance. Burgard previously served in various accounting and internal audit roles for a property management company.

Eddie Burl has opened Helping Hands Counseling in Fargo. Burl earned a master's degree in clinical counseling at the University of Mary in Bismarck. He has worked as a licensed addiction counselor and as a licensed clinical counselor in hospital and outpatient settings. Helping Hands Counseling specializes in clinical counseling and relationship therapy and provides DUI seminars.

2010

Kalli Swenson, captain, is the new commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 136th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. She received command of the unit Oct. 17. The Stanley native enlisted into the North Dakota National Guard in 2003 as a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 164th Engineer Battalion. While in the enlisted ranks, she deployed with the unit to Iraq in 2007 as a mechanic in support

of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After attending North Dakota's Officer Candidate School, Swenson accepted her commission in 2010 as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps. Since then, she has served as a platoon leader with the Grand Forks-based 132nd Quartermaster Company. In her civilian profession, Swenson is a physical education teacher at Simle Middle School in Bismarck. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in school counseling from the University of Mary.

2011

Erika (Tagestad) Edwards returned to Hazen after living in New Mexico and works at the Hazen Library. Edwards also makes specialized handmade beaded jewelry in between work and caring for her children, Ada age 3 and Aidric age 10.

Courtney (Egge) Uran is the business manager at McLean Electric Cooperative. Uran, a Stanley native, was the chief financial officer at Maintenance Plus for seven years. Uran and her husband, Luke ('13), have two children and reside in Garrison.

Kira (Wallstrum) Fischer is the guidance counselor at Ellendale Public School. This is Fischer's first year in the education field.

Kyra Hansen was awarded first place for her color photo "Pick of the Season" in September by the Minot Camera Club.

Shane Haug, a lieutenant with the Minot Police Department, has been assigned to the Patrol Division of the Minot Police Department as the afternoon shift commander. This position is

responsible for supervising three sergeants and 15 police officers as well as support staff.

2012



Ashley (Peterson) Sundquist is an accounting analyst 1 at Basin Electric Power Cooperative's headquarters in Bismarck.



Andre Boucher is a personal banker at Starion Financial in Bismarck.

2013



Jordan (Rumsey) Dalby joined the staff at First Western Bank & Trust in Minot. Dalby has five years of banking experience in mortgage, agricultural and consumer lending.

Sarah (Volk) Hejl is the director of nursing at Good Samaritan Society in Arthur, N.D. She came to the Good Samaritan Society after working as a registered nurse at Rosewood on Broadway in Fargo. Hejl spent three years working for Hospice of the Red River Valley. She held the position of nurse manager at Villa Maria in Fargo until accepting her current position. Hejl has three children.



McKenzie Rudolph is an account executive with KK BOLD. Rudolph provides marketing direction and expertise to clients, both in the Minot area and across the state.

2014



Nicole (Ellison) Brasfield, Ward County Sheriff's Department, and **Courtney Schall**, Trinity Pediatrics Unit, received the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce's Eagle Award in October. MACC sponsors the program to recognize Minot workers who exhibit superior customer service.



2015



Matt Yale, a Berthold native, recently joined Integrity Viking Funds as a corporate accountant.

Kalli (Engh) Smith is teaching special education for all ages at Westhope Public School. Smith and husband, Tony, live in Sherwood.

Melissa Piesuk joined the staff at New Salem/Almont Schools as a special education teacher. Piesuk was previously employed as a paraprofessional and bus driver with the Velva school district.

Katie Zeltinger joined the Mohall Lansford Sherwood Schools as a second grade teacher. This is Zeltinger's first year as a classroom teacher.



Lori Kittleson joined the Bottineau School District as a special education teacher for grades seven through nine. Prior to accepting this position, Kittleson was a paraeducator for the district.



Cody Borud, a Berthold native, is an online banking specialist at First Western Bank & Trust.

Terri (Ward) Phillion '04, Visit Minot, **Lorena (Hausauer) Starkey '11**, Hyatt House-Minot, **Megan (Perdue) Awalt '11**, Brady Martz and Associates, P.C., **Bethany Leyrer '12**, Investors Real Estate Trust, and **Jessica Demory '14** and **Kyle Stephens '14**, First International Bank & Trust, graduated from the Minot



Phillion



Starkey



Awalt



Leyrer



Demory



Stephens

Area Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Community Leadership Institute in November.

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You're invited to join MSU President Steven Shirley and the MSU Alumni Association for the 2016

ARIZONA *Reunion Events*

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

ALUMNI & FRIENDS LUNCH: Lou's Tivoli Gardens, 12535 W. Bell Rd., Surprise, Ariz. 11:30 A.M.

ALUMNI & FRIENDS SOCIAL: Hosted by Darwin and Nancy Langseth, 17842 W. Columbine Dr., Surprise, Ariz. 6 – 8 P.M.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

ANGELS SPRING TRAINING GAME: Tempe Diablo Stadium, 2200 West Alameda Drive, Tempe. 1:10 P.M. Cost for this event is \$25. Food and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. Please pay for this event at MinotStateU.edu/alumni/events.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

MSU GOLF SCRAMBLE: Club West, 16400 S. 14th Ave., Phoenix. \$89 includes cart, green fees, range balls and lunch. Shotgun start at 9 A.M. Please pay for this event at MinotStateU.edu/alumni/events.

ALUMNI & FRIENDS SOCIAL: The Culinary Dropout, 149 S. Farmer Ave, Tempe, Ariz. 6 – 8 P.M.

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

2016 NORTH DAKOTA PICNIC: Hosted by The Village: Red Mountain Park, 7745 E. Brown Road, Mesa, Ariz. 10 A.M.

PLEASE RSVP and watch for updates to the events at MinotStateU.edu/alumni, or call the Alumni Office at 1-800-777-0750, ext. 3234. If you have any questions prior to or during an event, call the Alumni Office at the number above or Janna at 701-720-0089.

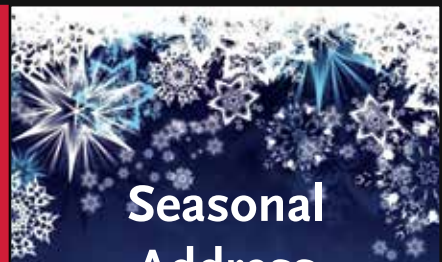


Commencement is Friday, May 13, 2016 in the MSU Dome



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Seasonal Address

Enjoy your Connections magazine while you winter somewhere sunny.

Please consider sharing your seasonal address by calling the Alumni Office at 701-858-3234 or 800-777-0750.



In Memory



It is with honor we dedicate this section to recognize alumni and friends who have passed away from approximately September 2015 to December 2015, or as submitted.

Graduates

- '43 Martinson (Moline), Lorraine; Fergus Falls, Minn.
- '44 Austin (Feury), Lois; Surprise, Ariz.
- '44 Wehrung (Purdy), Eleanor; Bismarck
- '47 Olson (Harris), Marion; Turtle Lake
- '48 Sorenson, Leslie; Bismarck
- '57 Kost, Dennis; Portland
- '57 Yates (Jensen), Loretta; San Bernardino, Calif.
- '60 Butts, Arden; Hazen
- '61 Dahl, Marvin; Fountain Hills, Ariz.
- '63 Larsen, H. Allen; Culbertson, Mont.
- '64 Strine (Wickham), Joan; Warren, Ind.
- '69 Seymour, Dennis; Mandan
- '69 Shutt (Reinke), Sandra; Cortez, Colo.
- '70 Bostow (Mitchell), Elsie; Garrison
- '70 Buettner (Nyreen), Ramona; Minot
- '74 Johnson, Terry; Minot
- '76 Draovitch, Daniel; Minot
- '85 Marck (Kim), Chongsuk; Nashville, Tenn.
- '92 Mayer, Renee; New Town
- '95 Gravseth, Todd; Golden Valley, Minn.
- '95 Harlan, John; Nampa, Idaho
- '96 Arneson (Anderson), Mildred; Stanley

Attended

- Adams (Gray), Evelyn; Steele
- Agular, Ross; Reno, Nev.
- Arrison, Robyn; Fargo

- Broden (McCarroll), Dianne; Mohall
- Bruce, Kennedy; Minot
- Bye, Arthur; Park River
- Dokken, Darrell; Leeds
- Dow (Volk), Regina; Springfield, Ore.
- Enget, Lyne; Stanley
- Erdman, Shane; Bismarck
- Fischer, Darwin; Bismarck
- Franz (Lund), Minnie; Spokane, Wash.
- Hansen (Evanchenko), Joyce; Minot
- Heller, George; Mohall
- Hickman, Wallace; Brookings, S.D.
- Howe, Howard; Bismarck
- Huizenga (Sampson), Gladys; Minot
- Just (Holle), Janice; Terry, Mont.
- Lawler, Sharon "Elaine"; Williston
- Lent, Charles; Erskine, Minn.
- Montalvo (Azure), Shirley; Minot
- Roggenbuck, Robert; Binford
- Row (Volk), Regina; Springfield, Ore.
- Schafer, Herman; Mandan
- Schmaltz, Leo; Minot
- Shelly (Thompson), Ardelle; Gillette, Wyo.
- Sherwood (Walter), Ardis; Fargo
- Sletto, Glenn; Grand Forks
- Solberg, Bruce; Williston
- Wilder, Angila; Minot
- Wilkerson (Bechtold), Rosella; Minot
- Zacher (Jaeger), Ann; Aberdeen, S.D.

Friends

- Anderson (Hinsverk), Orvella; Williston
- Babb (Skogen), Valorie; Minot
- Campbell (Berg), Phyllis; Stanley
- Holtz, Brian; Devils Lake
- Iljana (Study), Betty; Newcastle, Calif.
- Linnington (Parke), Geneva; Davenport, Iowa
- Lund (Hirn), Marian; Minot
- Ness (Ryerson), Vivian; Mohall
- Neukom (Esterby), Gail; Fargo
- Rakness (Harvey), Patricia; Richardton
- Repnow (Christensen), Marian; Garrison
- Rohrer (Black Jaeger), Rose; Rugby
- Sahl (Ehler), Elaine; Minot
- Schriock, Jerome; Fountain Hills, Ariz.
- Schultz, Charles; Minot
- Sundbakken, Larry; Minot
- Zander, Kenneth; Minot

Faculty and Staff

- Shelver, Raymond, former assistant professor of industrial arts; Sioux Falls, S.D.
- LaMar, Helen, professor emeritus of education; Minot



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Spring Honor Dance and Powwow Celebration

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Meet our newest baby beaver fans!

Have you had an addition to your family within the last 12-18 months?

We want to know! Contact Kate Marshall, donor relations coordinator, at kate.marshall@minotstateu.edu to receive a free T-shirt for your new little Beaver! Please be sure to tell us your baby's name and birth date. Also, please provide your graduation year, spouse's name and contact information. After you receive your T-shirt, email your baby's photo to: kate.marshall@minotstateu.edu.

Brunsdon

Twin boys Graham Bryant and Patrick Kincade were born July 7, 2015. Proud parents are **Paul Brunsdon '01** and his wife, Melanie DeBoer-Brunsdon.



Burckhard

Jason Burckhard '05 and his wife, Andrea, welcome their second little one, Bennett, on September 15, 2015. Bennett joins big brother Blake.



Cameron

Angela (Grudinski) Cameron '02 and her husband, Shaun, had Jace Michael on August 29, 2014. He joins brother Riley, who is 7 years old.



Casavant

Serena (Fred) Casavant '04 and husband, Trevor, happily welcomed Payton DuWayne on April 15, 2015.



Cook

Theo Greyson Wetz arrived April 22, 2015. Parents are **Callie Cook '15** and Mathew Wetz.



Dupay

Harrison Matthew was born to **Kimberly (Olson) Dupay '97** and her husband, Matthew, on Oct. 9, 2013. Harrison joins brother Drake and sister Delaney.



Frederick

Karina Lea entered the world on May 19, 2015. Proud parents are **Kevin Frederick '05** and his wife, Jana.



Mattern

Finn William was born Nov. 9, 2014, to **Mark Mattern '93** and his wife, Retha.



Opland

Melissa (Rogne) Opland '01 and husband Patrick had Hanna Rose on Nov. 19, 2014. She joins big brother Henry.



Slind

Maddin Hawkin Blaine was born June 17, 2015. Proud beaver parents are **Josh Slind '05** and **Regan (Eidsness) Slind '05**. He joins siblings, Landin and Joslin.



Titus

Mauer Aaron was born April 27, 2015, to **Matt Titus '11** and his wife, Jennifer.



Walz

Micah Edwin made his appearance on June 22, 2015. Parents are **Brian Walz '09** and **Stacy (Jaeger) Walz '09**.



Wedge

Jeremy Wedge '08 and **Ashley (Liebel) Wedge '09** welcomed Daniel Jacob to the family on March 17, 2015. He joins sister Hannah Jo.





Alumni Association
2016
Gala
Dinner & Auction

Friday, May 6, 2016

Grand Hotel

For more information and tickets please
call the MSU Alumni Office at 701-858-3234.



Minot State
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Alumni Association

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Three generations of our families received their higher education at Minot State, beginning in the late 1940s. We support Minot State for helping us have success in our careers and for offering future generations the same opportunity.

Minot State also receives our support based on its many offerings that enhance the quality of life in Minot, including theater, music and athletics. In addition, Minot State opens its first-class facilities to host local, regional and statewide events that keep Minot a vibrant community.

We plan to continue our support, so Minot State can continue providing quality education and being a key partner in the city and the region.

— Holly (Forsberg) '76/'01 and Larry Eidsness '76

