

Connections

The incredible life of
**MICHAEL
SABA**



Alumni Association and
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▲ Spring 2019



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President's message



Greetings from the frigid MSU campus! I realize many of you reading this are in North Dakota experiencing the same winter conditions we have been enduring the past couple months here in Minot. It has been a few years since we have had a good old-fashioned ND winter, but we definitely got one this year. To those of you in warmer climates, I sincerely hope you are not taking your balmy winter conditions for granted — please enjoy them!

One of my favorite activities is reading bedtime stories to our 7-year-old daughter, Anna, and our 4-year-old son, William (at least, I used to do the reading, it is fun now since Anna is doing most of the reading!). The other night we were reading a family favorite, "Curious George". It was a book she had brought home from her elementary school library. On the inside of the front cover was the following inscription: "Property of Campus Laboratory School Library, Minot State College, Minot, ND." Clearly, this is a

copy of "Curious George" that has been around many decades and likely been read a few hundred times in Minot as a bedtime story over those years. Seeing those words etched on the inside of a first-grader's school library book in 2019 is a wonderful testament to the impact our campus and our graduates have had in this, and so many other communities, for decades and decades.

While this inscription is a powerful reminder of all the teachers we have educated, I also think of all the coaches and school administrators who have come from MSU, and further all of the accountants, managers, law enforcement officers, bankers, nurses, social workers, broadcasters, musicians, artists, addiction counselors, speech pathologists, scientists, IT specialists, business owners, doctors, lawyers, and on and on and on who have graced our campus and gone on to do wonderful work. Our graduates are also dedicated volunteers, board members, community pillars, elected officials, and so on. This campus, and our graduates, truly help create the fabric of society, not just in the Minot and surrounding areas, but in whatever places they now call home.

You will read in this issue of Connections about several MSU alumni who are doing great things and meaningful work such as Michael Saba, Brady Burckhard, Amber (Jensen) Ruzicka, Katie Langemo, Kathy McCann, the feature on attorneys Dean Frantsvog, Jon Backes, Judith Howard, Kyle Craig, and (soon to be!) attorneys Danielle Foster and Emily Christensen, as well as our very own Miss ND USA Samantha Redding and Miss ND Teen USA Caitlyn Vogel.

All of these individuals are wonderful representatives of Minot State University, and it is a privilege and our humble honor to help share with you their important stories.

So, to all of you reading this — alumni, friends, and supporters — thanks for everything you do in your communities, and thanks for helping maintain and ensure our strong legacy and important heritage at Minot State. The world is a little better place because of the lives you lead and the many ways in which you contribute.

As always ... **GO BEAVERS!**

▲ Steven W. Shirley, Ph.D., President

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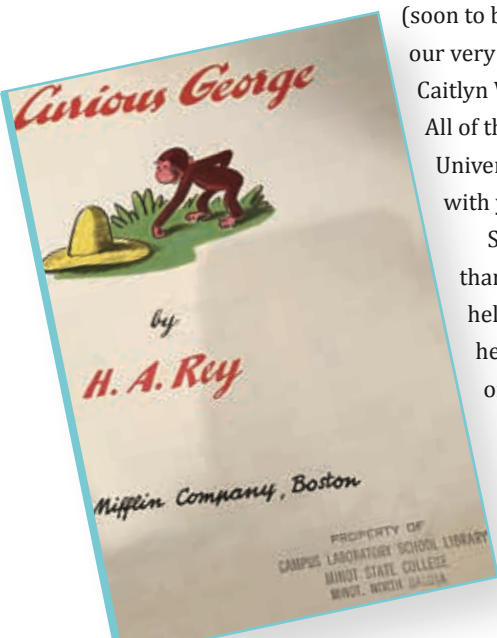
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The incredible life of Michael Saba: p 7-9 photos furnished by Michael Saba
The incredible life of Michael Saba: p 9 photo (bottom) courtesy of Tom Plooster
Burckhard working to make a difference: p 17 photo furnished by Brady Burckhard
Dual roles help Ruzicka become a community leader: p 18 photo furnished by Amber (Jensen) Ruzicka
Langemo continues to come home to Summer Theatre: p 20-21 courtesy of Chad Gifford
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Deadline to submit nominations:
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The incredible life of MICHAEL SABA

by Michael Linnell

MICHAEL SABA '65 HAS SPENT A LIFETIME TREKKING THE GLOBE. It seems fitting his next pursuit in life is as a member of the South Dakota House of Representatives in Pierre, South Dakota. His newest adventure brings him nearly back to his hometown of Bismarck.

“Growing up in North Dakota and traveling in the Dakotas and Minnesota, I always felt comfortable here,” he said prior to beginning his term as the representative from District 9. “You kind of know where to put your feet down, how the roads work — quadrants instead of squiggly lines. That sense of coming home was a part of my decision to run.”

But, it isn't like Saba, the former Peace Corps volunteer, Mobil Oil manager of Middle East Affairs, director of international development for Avera Health, executive director for development for Sanford Children's Clinics, and vice president for international development for ALSAC/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, is looking for a retirement gig.

“I've always been interested in politics, going back

to running for the United States Senate in North Dakota in 1980,” Saba said. “But I didn't really want to run again. The party kind of found me. I had moved to South Dakota and was getting to know people and people were getting to know me, and I just started to go to some meetings. I was tremendously inspired by the Women's March (last year) and felt this is women's time in politics, and I was committed to finding three women to run here in our area. I helped find two but told the party if we couldn't find another, I would run.

“I lost the election two years ago and figured I needed to find about 400-500 votes. Well, we did find those and won by 68 votes. I had to wait through a recount because of the close margin, and I guess I lost one vote

in the recount. This state is very Republican, so it is not easy to win. I'm one of just 11 members of the House from the Democratic Party.”

While his politics might differ from the majority, he isn't backing down from his convictions. Saba sees himself as a champion for the taxpayer, for international business, and — most importantly — as a bridge builder.

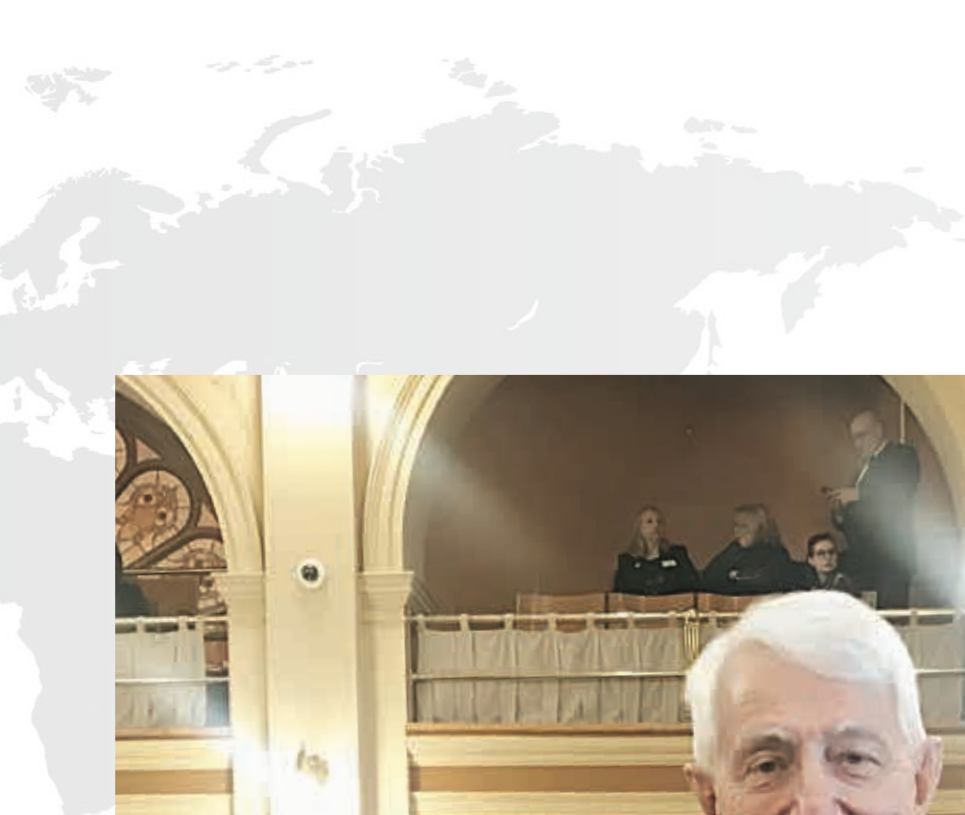
“When I've talked to my Republican colleagues and they ask what am I going to try to get done, I've told them I will put the taxpayer first,” he said. “That is very important to me. And, international business is a big thing for me, something I've been very good at. I've led delegations from both North and South Dakota; I feel that is a strength. After I've explained that, they look

at me and say, ‘Are you sure you're a democrat?’ To me, that's one of our problems, too much of politics is polarity. That's not good for our country or our state.

“I'm hoping to bridge that gap, provide skills that can make a difference. I want to use my strengths to assist.”

Saba's international business has its roots from an unlikely place — the Peace Corps. It was still a concept and didn't have a name when he first heard about the program during a speech from then Senator John Kennedy.

“I can remember as a kid, my father had a set of World Books and I read every single volume of those. I was fascinated with the world,” he said. “When I heard Kennedy speak of what is now the Peace Corps, my goodness, this is the experience I want to have. There is a bigger



“My best college professors, undergraduate through doctorate, were at Minot.

Two guys, **Charlie Hoffman and Dennis Winters,** were the most **outstanding.**

I learned more from them about so many things than anyone else.”

world out there and I want to experience it.”

During his time in the Peace Corps, his penchant for helping others, especially children, began. He worked as a teacher in Malaysia and Thailand in the 1960s and helped build a children’s hospital in Egypt, setting in motion a passion for helping that led to his involvement in Avera Health, Sanford Health, and St. Jude Children’s Hospital.

“One of the most important things I learned in the Peace Corps is how privileged we are in this country, how much we have,” he said. “With St. Jude, a saying that is imbedded in me forever is, ‘children should not die in the dawn of life.’ It’s unacceptable. Through the research and work at St. Jude, we now have a 95 percent cure rate for leukemia. But, in El Salvador, for example, where there are kids who have cancer but don’t know it because it hasn’t been diagnosed, 95 percent doesn’t mean a thing. We have done a lot, but we can do a lot more.”

Saba took a chance to introduce himself to Kennedy during the campaign speech in Fargo. It wasn’t his first meeting with a sitting or future president, nor was it his last. He has met every former president since Eisenhower except for former President George W. Bush — of whom he feels confident he will still get to meet. Some of it

has been being in the right place at the right time and some has been a mantra of adventure handed down from his father, Naif.

“I’ve been told my life has been Forest Gump-ish,” Saba joked. “But for me, I’ve never been afraid to move forward. My dad was fearless and when Eisenhower was in Bismarck, he hauled me over the convertible — security was a little different then — to shake Eisenhower’s hand as a kid. For Kennedy, I just pushed to the front of the line. Lyndon Johnson was circumstantial; he stopped in Malaysia on his way to Vietnam and journalist Bill Moyers met some of us working in the Peace Corps, so he brought us to the tarmac where the president’s plane was and I shook his hand. We got a copy of that and it was our Christmas card that year.”

His meeting with Kennedy and the creation of the Peace Corps also prompted his move from North Dakota State University to Minot State, where he would earn biology and teacher education degrees.

“I started out in pre-med with a pharmacy scholarship to NDSU,” he said. “I finished two and a half years, but realized it wasn’t for me. I needed some life experiences, so I dropped out of college to go south and worked on a shrimp boat and as a carpenter. I knew I needed to go back to college because at the time

you needed a degree for the Peace Corps and I was intrigued by Minot State. I really liked the attention you could get from the professors at a smaller college.



Former President of the United States of America, George H. W. Bush



Former President of Egypt, Anwar Sadat



Former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela



Saba has met every former president since Eisenhower except for former President George W. Bush — of whom he feels confident he will still get to meet.

Former President of the United States of America, Jimmy Carter

It just felt right. For me it was a tremendously good decision. It was really the right choice for me. I'm proud to have been at Minot State."

His sense of adventure almost cost him everything, however. While working on putting together a conference with Western and Middle Eastern oil companies and government officials in 1990, he was rounded up by Saddam Hussein's regime

and held hostage for 10 days in the Al Rasheed Hotel in Baghdad. Iraq had just invaded Kuwait. To add to the dilemma, his wife was eight and a half months pregnant with their youngest son, Daniel.

"I always did a lot of traveling with my work and kind of said in the back of my mind, 'Saba, you're going to get caught in one of those situations,'" he said. "I was

scheduled to leave Baghdad at noon and had called a taxi to go to the airport, but the taxi driver said the airport was closed. That seemed strange, but the driver said it happens from time to time. I went back in and my wife called to ask if I was OK. I didn't know what was going on, so I turned on the TV and CNN was reporting there were troops heading into Kuwait and all hell broke loose."

The Americans in Baghdad were moved to the Al Rasheed and remained there.

"We weren't called hostages, but were referred to as guests," he said. "There were Americans and Brits, all Westerners, a lot of oil field workers. The oil field workers came in with handcuffs and had guns on them. We were able to go to the American Embassy in a bus to get a briefing, but the embassy wasn't much help at all."

After 10 days, Saba — with the help of 1960s British pop singer Engelbert Humperdinck — decided he was not going to miss the birth of his child and escaped with another American via taxi to the Jordanian border.

"I was walking in the hotel and they had Muzak playing, probably the whole time, you don't really hear it, but that day I heard Engelbert singing, 'Please release

me, let me go,'" he sang. "I said, 'Engelbert, thank you brother, I'm out of here.' It was getting weird in the hotel; more Americans were coming in handcuffed, we were lined up and didn't know if we would be shot or not. We got a taxi about four in the morning and took off out the back door. We were stopped twice by the Iraqi troops. I could speak pretty good Arabic at that point and I told them, 'I'm not in this fight with you. My wife is eight and a half months pregnant and I just want to get home before my son is born.' Each time, they told us to come in and have some tea and cookies, and then they let us go our way."

After his harrowing escape, Saba worked to release the rest of the hostages, joining a delegation that included boxing legend Muhammad Ali and former Texas governor John Connally. Saba later testified before Congress and appeared on shows like "Nightline" and "Oprah" to communicate the story of bringing hostages home and later met Humperdinck after telling the story of his escape.

"Of all the hostages taken with me, only one died, and that was from a heart attack," Saba said. "Through all of these experiences, one of the biggest lessons I've learned is it isn't how much I knew, it was how little I knew."

The freshman senator from Sioux Falls will use his expertise from decades of life lessons as he begins to navigate his first foray into public service.

"To understand issues," he added, "we have to be sensitive enough in our lack of knowledge to see problems from other's perspectives." ▲





LAWYERS

▲ by Dan Fagan **of today and tomorrow**

The next time you find yourself in need of a lawyer, you may consider looking up one of your former classmates from Minot State University. A multitude of Minot State grads have gone on to law school and subsequently achieved success in the legal arena.

Minot State professor of business and practicing attorney Dean Frantsvog '97 shares his passion for the law with his students in class. Despite coming from a lawyer-free family and not knowing any in the community, he decided in high school that he wanted to be a lawyer.



During his undergraduate years, Frantsvog called numerous law firms around Minot in an attempt to land an internship but to no avail. Never one to be deterred, he went on to earn a Juris Doctorate degree from Hamline (Minnesota) University School of Law and returned to Minot to teach and practice law.

On a weekly basis Frantsvog is approached by students who are considering a career in law.

"I love to sit down with students and talk about their goals and ambitions," Frantsvog said. "I like to give them my take on law school and the career and see if it's right for them."

Frantsvog's first question to curious students is why they are interested in the profession, and emphasizes that a good lawyer is someone who has a penchant for reading, research, and writing.

"It's not always what you see on television," he said. "I just want to make sure that

they don't have a false perception of what the practice of law entails. But, I also talk to them about how many different job opportunities a law degree can provide."

When discussing Minot State grads who have gone on to law school, he is quick to point out they aren't just admitted but are excelling at a notable rate.

Emily (Roark) Christensen '17 and Remington Kostenko '16 are currently attending University of North Dakota Law School and both are ranked near the top of their respective classes.

Christensen took Accounting 300 with Frantsvog and later served as a legal assistant at his law firm.

"It was a great opportunity — I worked on legal documents, learned the stylistic language that attorneys write in, sat in on client meetings, and so much



more," Christensen said. "Dean always gave me realistic expectations of what

law school was like, how you study, and what professors tend to be like. I never felt that I was unprepared or had unrealistic views on what law school was going to be like."

Christensen, like Frantsvog, has wanted to be a lawyer since high school. The ability to help people is big motivation for her to become a lawyer.

"What's great about that is that case law and statutes provide you with information to use creative lawyering to achieve an outcome for your client," said Christensen. "The law is a structural canvas that gives you the bare bones to create an argument."

Danielle Foster '16 is currently in her third year at UND Law School, and plans to practice tax law after she completes her degree. Foster stretches her multitasking powers to the max by juggling ever demanding coursework, a grad assistantship

with the UND accounting department, national law and business competitions, and work with a student-run venture capital fund, the Dakota Venture Group.

Foster has already secured a job offer with Deloitte, a multi-national accounting firm. Foster, who studied accounting at Minot State, will work as a tax consultant after she graduates and passes the bar exam.

"It's not necessarily your typical law firm setting," Foster said, "but it's really what I've always wanted to do."



Kyle Craig '11 was planning on putting his English degree to work as a teacher, but started to consider an alternative path after Minot State English professor Eric Furueth suggested a career in law.

"Professor Furueth mentioned adapting the skills I learned from my English courses to the law," Craig said. "The more I looked into it, the more I liked it."

Craig graduated law school in 2014, returned to Minot, teamed up with George and Robert Ackre, and established the Ackre and Craig Law firm. Craig decided to take a different route than many of his law school friends who joined large law firms in Fargo and Minneapolis.

"I didn't want to work in an office with 50 other lawyers," Craig recalled. "I wanted hands-on experience and I wanted to go to trial."

Craig recalls his first day of trial as being a bit terrifying. During the voir dire, a legal term for the jury selection process, Craig had a deer in the headlights moment as he was questioning a potential

juror. Now with five years of trial experience under his belt, he feels in his element in the courtroom.

In 2018 alone, Craig took nine cases to trial. He enjoys the prospect of trial because it gives his clients a chance to say their piece and be vindicated. Craig estimates that overall he has taken 95 percent of his cases to trial.



KYLE CRAIG

Craig's biggest test in the courtroom came in 2017, when he was defending a client facing a 20- to 30-year prison sentence.

"I knew right away when I met and talked with my client that there was no way he was capable of doing the things he was charged with," Craig said.

The trial lasted three days. In the end, the jury reached a not guilty verdict.

"It was so fulfilling to know that I was able to help him in that situation," Craig recalled.

Minot's Jon Backes '84 didn't follow the traditional route of attending law school right after graduation. He first spent a couple years in real

estate and decided to parlay that into the business side of the law.

"I knew when I first got to college I wanted to be involved in business," he said. "After working in real estate for a few years, I looked into law school — my family has a few lawyers in it, my dad (Orlin Backes '58) was a lawyer — and decided it would be a good fit for me and what I wanted to achieve as a career."

He joined a commercial law firm in Denver after graduating from the UND Law School, working in business law, securities underwriting, and working with mutual funds. Upon returning to Minot, Backes, who has practiced with the McGee law firm since 1993 and is now a partner in McGee, Hankla & Backes, P.C., understood he would have to broaden his area of expertise.

"I did some banking law in Denver, but knew that we would have to broaden it a

fair bit here. If you wanted to have a securities practice, you wouldn't be all that busy at times," Backes said. "I got into business planning, working with hospitals and clinics in the area, and when the oil boom came, we did a lot of oil and gas work, with both oil companies and individuals who owned mineral rights.

In the end, clients seek you out because of an issue and they want your help to figure out how to best deal with it. That goes across all areas of practice. We are trying to figure out the economics of the transaction."

Backes believes that's where his Minot State education pays off.

"Law is a hugely broad deal," he said. "What Minot State taught me was when you look at a transaction, no matter what it is, there are certain elements that come with it for the buyer, seller, lessor, or lessee — there are certain outcomes you want to see — and we are trying to provide them with those protections. Minot State's broad-based education translated very well into law school."

Judith Howard '62 has been practicing law in Minot since 1978. Howard graduated MSU with an education degree and worked as a teacher for a number of years before deciding to become a lawyer. She attended UND Law School at a time when few women were accepted into law school.



JUDITH HOWARD

"I certainly was not your usual law school student," Howard recalled. "There weren't very many women, and very few of us were single mothers."

Upon graduating law school, Howard specialized in family law and earned a reputation for taking on difficult cases from all over the state. In 1993, she opened her own law firm in Minot — Howard & Associates, P.C. — and shifted the focus of her practice to estate planning.

"Minot State was so crucial to my success as an estate planning attorney," Howard said. "When I meet with clients to discuss their estate, I approach the meeting as a teacher. I go to the board in my office and I draw pictures to help them understand their options."

Howard credits her passion for estate planning, partly, to her North Dakota roots, and her understanding of people's relationship to the land.

"Here in North Dakota we are very close to the land," Howard said. "We work hard, raise a family, and create a legacy. It's important to have a way to pass on that legacy." ▲



JON BACKES

alum **from DAY** one

Hannah Heisler

Social work ▶ Minot

In Hannah's short time at Minot State, she has quickly become an involved student. She is a freshman senator on the Student Government Association, a member of Phi Beta Lambda, and a member of Lutheran Campus Ministries. She is active in Zion Lutheran Church as a Sunday School teacher.

Why did you choose Minot State?

I am originally from Minot and wanted to stay close to home for school. Minot State feels like a big campus while offering smaller class sizes.

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

Minot State has given me broad choices of classes, but I can still get one-on-one experiences.

What is your favorite quote?

"You must do the things you think you cannot do."
— Eleanor Roosevelt

What has been your favorite class?

So far it has been my University 110 class. It is a part of the First Year Experience classes and has given me a group of friends right from the beginning.

Who has been your most influential professor?

Jean-Francois Mondon. He has made classes fun and enjoyable.

What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

Minot State offers a big-campus feel while still staying local. The whole community supports Minot State, so it feels like it's home even when you're not on campus.

What is your most memorable moment at MSU?

While a member of the Minot High School choir, I sang with the Minot Symphony Orchestra at Ann Nicole Nelson Hall. The late nights and the three-hour practices were super hard work but so much fun.

Alex Perez

Graphic design with minor in marketing Mayaguez, Puerto Rico (raised in Minot)

Alex is a veteran who returned to Minot after his military service. He is the owner of Toy Collectible Company, an online store he opened in December 2018, securing partnerships with Hasbro, Mezco Toys, and Entertainment Earth.

Why did you choose Minot State?

I moved to Minot when I was 10 years old and immediately fell in love with Minot's friendly community. After getting out of the military, I convinced my wife it's the best place to raise our kids.

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

I had a rough time finding my path after getting out of the military. Bill Harbort and Andy Heitkamp set time apart from their busy schedules to help me maximize my military credential and apply it to my academic plan.

What is your favorite quote?

"A dream written down with a date becomes a goal. A goal written into steps becomes a plan. A plan backed by actions makes your dream a reality." — Greg S. Reid

What has been your favorite class?

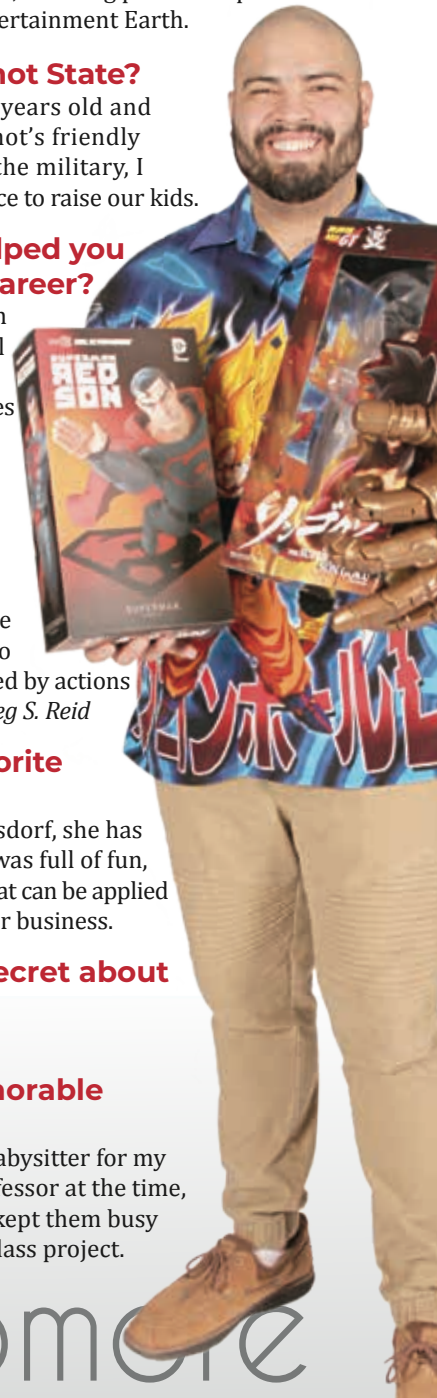
Marketing 321 with Tawnya Bernsdorf, she has done an incredible job. The class was full of fun, interactive activities and projects that can be applied towards marketing yourself or your business.

What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

Hands down Tuesday Soup Day!

What is your most memorable moment at MSU?

Last semester, I could not find a babysitter for my evening class. Greg Vettel, my professor at the time, allowed me to bring my kids and kept them busy while I was able to complete my class project.



freshman sophomore

alum **from DAY** one

Emily Falldorf

Nursing ▶ Bemidji, Minnesota

Emily is a three-year starter on the Beavers volleyball team and is a coach in the Minot Junior Volleyball program. She is a member of the Sexual Violence Awareness Committee and is an active member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

Why did you choose Minot State?

Minot State was one of the few schools where I could play volleyball and earn a nursing degree. A lot of schools said I needed to change my major to play.

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

The support from the professors and the community has been great. It is hard to find accredited programs where you can get your BSN.

What is your favorite quote?

"She believed she could, so she did."
— R.S. Grey

What has been your favorite class?

Maternal newborn nursing. I want to become a midwife.

Who has been your most influential professor?

Kim Tiedman. Her support with volleyball and with school is awesome. She really helped me with my foundation in nursing. She is a genuine person who cares about me.

What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

How nice everyone is. The community and the school.

What is your most memorable moment at MSU?

During my sophomore year, we beat Bemidji State for our first NSIC win. It was especially nice because it was Bemidji State, I wasn't going to lose to Bemidji.

J'Kobe Wallace

Music education ▶ Minot

J'Kobe will graduate in May and begins student teaching next year, hoping to eventually teach music at the high school level. He is president of the Minot State chapter of the National Association for Music Education, in pep band, and coaches cheerleading at Minot High School.

Why did you choose Minot State?

I was in theater in high school and was a part of the Minot State Summer Theatre. It exposed me to campus and to being a student here.

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

I was able to help plan and lead the Northwest Music Festival this year and that gave me a good foundation in leadership.

What is your favorite quote?

"I am not my worst performance," — Kind of my own thing, synthesized from other quotes.

What has been your favorite class?

Elementary music methods taught by Dr. Rebecca Petrik. It showed me what actual teaching is like for a soon-to-be student teacher.

Who has been your most influential professor?

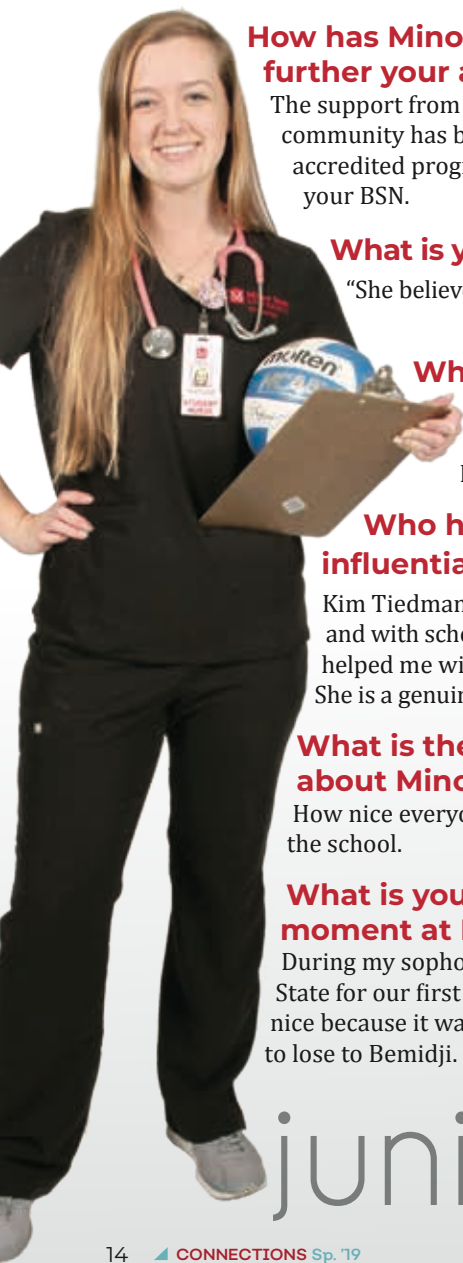
Dr. David Rolandson — he is the epitome of professionalism, and Dr. Petrik, who is such a good resource for all things education.

What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

Minot State gives you the resources for students to put themselves out there in a super-safe environment.

What is your most memorable moment at MSU?

Forming an acapella quartet. We are just a group of music students who like to sing.



junior

senior

Josh Trosen

Master of sports management ▶ Hackensack, Minnesota

Josh is currently an active duty member of the United States Air Force stationed at Minot Air Force Base. He graduated from St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota, with a degree in nursing. He likes to be active — running, fishing, riding motorcycles — are just a sample of his favorite activities.

Why did you choose Minot State?

Minot State is a local university with many great opportunities, and the specific sports management program is helping prepare me for a career and my Air Force career.

What is your favorite quote?

“Life is 10 percent what happens to you and 90 percent how you react to it.”

— Charles Swindoll

What has been your favorite class?

Sports media and event planning. It has expanded my understanding of what can go into event planning in a detailed manner.

Who has been your most influential professor?

Dr. Linda Cresap. When starting the class, I knew it would be a challenge, but she was always willing to help us and wanted us to learn.

What is your most memorable moment at MSU?

Not one specific moment, but in all moments, I have felt welcome as a student at Minot State. There are activities going on for students with various interests.

Rick Heit '08

Broadcasting and professional communication: PR and advertising ▶ Minot

Rick is the University's digital media director and photographer, but that only scratches the surface. He is also the owner/photographer at Rick Heit Photography, Minot State's Tabletop Gaming Club advisor, regional financial clerk for his local church, board game designer, and runs a YouTube channel with his kids.

Why did you choose Minot State?

As a student, I wanted to change my career and I knew MSU would give me a solid education to achieve that goal.

How has Minot State helped you further your career?

As a student, I created a promotional video series for the broadcasting and professional communication department. That series gave me instant name recognition when I applied for my career at MSU.

What is your favorite quote?

“Not knowing the truth doesn't make you ignorant. Not wanting to know the truth is what makes you ignorant.”

— Anonymous

Who was your most influential professor?

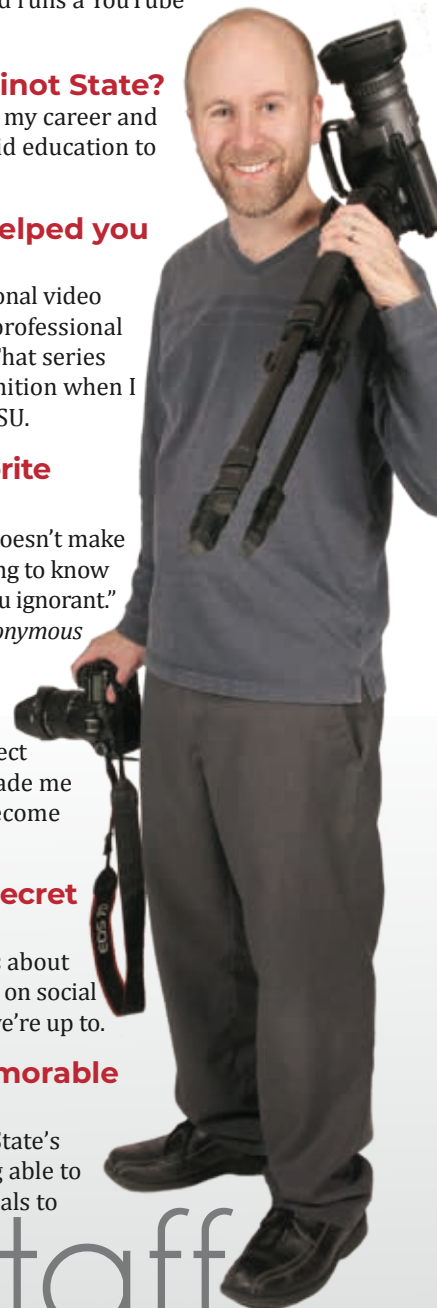
Neil Roberts' passion for his subject matter during my orientation made me comfortable in my decision to become a student.

What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

I don't believe in keeping secrets about Minot State. I'm the guy who gets on social media and tells the world what we're up to.

What is your most memorable moment at MSU?

Being able to experience Minot State's centennial celebration and being able to create many promotional materials to promote it were once in a lifetime experiences.



master's

staff

BURCKHARD **working**

▲ by Michael Linnell

After taking a pre-medicine curriculum course and watching an ophthalmologist perform a cataract surgery, Brady Burckhard '12 knew what he wanted to do with his career.

But it would have been hard for him to imagine he would be part of a team performing 90 surgeries in a day in the Philippines.

Burckhard, in his third year of residency at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Health Science, traveled to Manila and Tacloban City, Philippines as a part of an elective international rotation. The rotation resurrected a nearly 20-year-old program started in 1978 by Dr. Guillermo de Venecia and his wife, nurse Marta de Venecia, who established the Free Rural Eye Clinic in the Philippines to provide cataract surgery and other ophthalmologic care to indigent patients.

"The program got fired back up again this year and I took an interest," Burckhard said. "It was a unique experience. Most of the time, there are a group of faculty on a trip, but this time I went by myself and worked with the surgeons in the Philippines."

Part of his trip included working in an urban setting in Manila at Cardinal Hospital and at the University of Santos Tomas, an academic center.

The second half of the trip was southeast of Manila in Tacloban City — exposing Burckhard to a completely different type of healthcare.

"The people in this area really don't have access to good healthcare," he said. "There were many individuals who we saw that had been blind for 10 or 15 years. We did a high volume of surgeries; it was basically an assembly line. We had six surgeons in a room and the people were lined up to

get in. After you finished one, another would lay down, you would put a drape over them, sterilize as best as you could and do the surgery. After that, another would come in.

"We operated from 8 A.M. to 9 P.M. — basically nonstop."

While Burckhard is proud of his work during the international rotation, he feels much more needs to be done.

"This was a drop in the ocean," Burckhard said. "We were able to do about 90 and millions need to be done. We need a lot of people to be involved in programs like this. We really take for granted how well we have it here. You are humbled by it."

Burckhard credits MSU and its professors who gave him research opportunities and pushed him to excel, giving him a solid foundation and setting him up for what will become a 14-year collegiate career.

"The smaller class sizes really gave me the opportunity to have close interaction with faculty and allowed me to have so many research opportunities," he said. "Dr. (Naomi) Winburn helped convince me to do a double major in biology and chemistry and to look into medical school. The research I was able to do with Dr. (Mikhail) Bobylev, getting to present at Posters on the Hill and at other organic chemistry conferences, and the great recommendation letters they wrote, really set me apart when I applied to medical school.

"It was a great fit for me." ▲



to make a difference



Dual roles help **RUZICKA** become a community leader



▲ by Michael Linnell

Amber (Jensen) Ruzicka '09 has always been someone who gets involved.

It started during her undergrad at Minot State University and working for the University's public information and marketing departments and the Rural Crime and Justice Center, and has continued to her current position as Operations Manager for the Missouri Slope Areawide United Way in the Bismarck-Mandan area.

So becoming Chairwoman for the Bismarck-Mandan Young Professionals Network is no surprise.

"I was lucky at Minot State; I was in student government as a student senator, I was the SGA representative for Staff Senate, and I worked in the public information and the marketing office," she said. "I was very fortunate to be able to learn from everyone.

"When I first moved to Bismarck, attending Chamber events or events like that, it was kind of intimidating, I didn't feel like I fit in. Being in Young Professionals Network helped me have others around me that were feeling the same way. There is such a strong service aspect to it."

Ruzicka, who majored in broadcasting at Minot State, began her work with the Young Professionals Network while living in Minot, and moved into an ambassador role before being asked to run for the executive level.

"I was a co-leader with the ambassadors and that was the perfect opportunity to help new people get involved in Bismarck-Mandan. Seventy percent of the new people who join are new to the area," she said. "After a year, I was asked to run for vice president and became chairwoman in May."

The combination of United Way and Young Professionals Network is a perfect fit. Ruzicka works with area business leaders in much of the same way with the two entities.

"I've been able to help get young professionals built up through my work at United Way; I've been able to make some good connections," Ruzicka said. "It was unexpected that I came into a leadership role with YP, but it has certainly helped me make more connections."

Those connections helped Ruzicka build Women's United — a service group within the United Way featuring donors that give \$500 or more — from a membership total you could count on one hand to nearly 350.

"It has been really exciting to see it grow," she said. "I now have a steering committee and a subcommittee that plans our fundraising. It's all about empowering women. We have worked with the backpack program and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, those are our two big projects. A lot of times women want to volunteer, but just don't know how to get involved. It's been exciting to oversee all of that."

The aspect of giving back to the community is what drew Ruzicka to the United Way in the first place.

"The biggest thing is they are a voice in the community," she said. "The United Way does so many great things for the community. That was something that was missing for me, an opportunity for connection. There are a lot of business leaders who are involved and it's inspiring to be a part of that community." ▲



LANGEMO continues to come



“MY FAIR LADY”

Katie Langemo ‘11 considers the Minot State University Summer Theatre stage on the north slope of campus a second home.

After all, she practically grew up there, acting since she was 4 years old.

“That hillside is my place in the world,” she said. “I can’t imagine spending my summer any other way.”

While she has moved away from the Magic City and can only participate in a limited fashion, the extent of Summer Theatre’s importance on Minot and the surrounding communities isn’t lost on Langemo.

“I think Minot is very fortunate to have Summer Theatre,” she said. “It’s an absolute gem. I worked in the

box office and when people would come up to buy tickets and it was their first time attending, they were absolutely amazed at the quality. It’s really hard to not love Summer Theatre.”

That passion for the now 50-plus year old event led her to earning a degree at Minot State in theatre arts and music and is the driving force behind returning to her second home as a choreographer. She has choreographed one show each of the past eight seasons.

Her first, “The Drowsy Chaperone” in 2011, was one of the final pieces of her senior project.

“I was working on finishing my senior project and (Minot State associate professor of

theatre arts) Aili (Davidson) Smith ‘98 suggested I choreograph some songs for Summer Theatre. She assigned me three songs, including a tap number. It was my first time choreographing on that level and I really loved it. I’ve continued to choreograph every summer.”

Langemo makes the 600-mile journey home each summer, taking vacation time to complete her work. Since “The Drowsy Chaperone” in 2011, she has worked on “Crazy for You” (2012), “Jesus Christ Superstar” (2013), “Big River” (2014), “The Music Man” (2015), “Oklahoma!” (2016), “Rock of Ages” (2017), and “Seussical” this past summer.

Her inspiration for choreography comes from the score and the script. Her craft, however, is repetition.

“Others might be different, but for me, my style is to read the script and understand the story first,” she said. “I listen to the songs in the show and work in order. I listen to a song over and over and over on repeat, close my eyes, and get pictures in my head. It doesn’t all come at once, but I might see a spot on the stage — a specific moment. From there, I’m usually

dancing around and improving the movements. Sometimes I go from start to finish, other times I figure out sections and then fill out in between.”

Her history with Summer Theatre, along with earning a double major in music and theatre, has translated into her career as well. She is the lead program coordinator for Project Success in Minneapolis.

“After graduation, I wanted to experience Minneapolis. I worked as a child supervisor at the Guthrie Theater,” Langemo said. “Throughout my life I’ve worked with kids and have great joy working with the youth. I also wanted to stay in theater, that was important for me, and got the opportunity at Project Success. It really lined up well with my passions and talents.”

Project Success, a 501(c)(3) organization, began in 1994 by founder Adrienne Diercks helping high school students in Minneapolis’ North Community High School. The project partners with Twin Cities theaters, including the famous Guthrie Theater, to assist students to achieve their maximum potential through the arts and other curriculum.

“A huge part of what we do is inclusion, breaking down barriers,” Langemo said of Project Success. “I produce musicals at three different schools, working as a production manager, but will help arrange rides home from rehearsals or help students get tickets for professional theaters. We have up to 80 or 90 students in the cast at one time, so



I try to support them in any way I can.”

Project Success is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2019. The program now works with 19 Minneapolis public schools and assists

home to Summer Theatre

14,000 students in both high school and middle school.

“We work with every single student in the school,” she said. “We have in-class time

and meet with them individually as much as possible to help them set goals for their future.”

Langemo believes the education she

received at Minot State has set her up to succeed in both the theater and nonprofit worlds.

“Minot State gave me an opportunity to have a broad experi-

ence in the theater, try new things — acting, building sets, selling tickets, lighting. It was very hands on,” she said. “It took everyone in the department

to come together to make a show work. In the nonprofit world, you wear many hats, and I developed those skills at Minot State.” ▲

▲ by Michael Linnell

“MY FAIR LADY”

“THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE”



“CRAZY FOR YOU”

College of Education and Health Sciences

TEACHER EDUCATION AND KINESIOLOGY

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YOUR GIFT TO THE UNIVERSITY strengthens the Minot State experience and makes a difference in the lives of our students. With your financial support, we can do even more and impact the College of Education and Health Sciences students by implementing critical learning tools. The Gordon B. Olson Library is an essential learning center for the students and could benefit from your generous gifts, too. Here are some ways you can empower our students' learning. For more information on how you can make an impact, please contact Rick Hedberg at Rick.Hedberg@MinotStateU.edu or 701-858-4483.



1. An \$800 donation will purchase one **SWIVEL**. This video capture system allows students in teacher education to observe and record their own teaching and share the video with faculty to receive feedback regarding their teaching methods. Four Swivel systems are needed.

2. A contribution of \$5,000 will purchase an **ELECTROCARDIOGRAM (ECG) RECORDER** to teach nursing students how to perform an ECG. With the purchase of an ECG the students will acquire hands-on practical experiences in nursing.

3. A gift of \$5,000 will purchase **IHT'S WRIST-BASED WEARABLE PHYSICAL EDUCATION HEART RATE MONITORS**. Designed to personalize and monitor students' physical education activity, they are the number one trend in the fitness industry. It is key that Minot State students are prepared to implement this new technology.

Gordon B. Olson Library



1. A gift of \$1,300 will purchase a **COLOR PRINTER**. The library is not able to provide color printing services. Students often request this service and are sent across campus for their color printing needs.

2. Your gift of \$3,300 will purchase a **MICROFILM READER PRINTER**. Our current microfilm readers are over 25 years old. Microfilm machines are still utilized to access old runs of newspapers. Two readers are needed.

3. The current projection screen is in need of replacement. Your \$1,000 gift will allow for the purchase of a new **PROJECTOR**.

REDDING & VOGEL

use pageants to promote passions

isterhood is an important tenet in the pageantry world.

For 2019 Miss North Dakota USA, Samantha Redding, and 2019 Miss North Dakota Teen USA, Caitlyn Vogel — both current Minot State students — that bond began long ago.

Redding, a senior in the special education program, and Vogel, a freshman enrolled in the nursing program, grew up in Burlington, and their families have known each other for years.

“It was crazy,” Redding said. “We joked about it for weeks beforehand saying, ‘sister queens, I see it, it’s going to happen!’”

“Usually the titleholders don’t really know each other before pageant weekend, but we have the same passion for people with disabilities so that’s going to work well. We’re going to be doing a lot about the value of inclusion and attending many events that are dear to our hearts,” Vogel added.

As Miss North Dakota USA and Miss North Dakota Teen USA titleholders, their volunteer opportunities will increase, something that is important to Redding and Vogel.

“For my part, I’m going to teach people the value of inclusion and she’ll (Redding) teach about the acceptance of everyone,” Vogel said.

“We’re both into volunteering, so I think it’s

going to be a balance of wearing the crown and the sparkles and the heels, and wearing a t-shirt and yoga pants and doing the volunteer work,” Redding said. “We both have over 500 volunteer hours, me in my college career and (Vogel) from high school, that we’ve accumulated. I know my goal is to at least double that in the next year.”

Redding and Vogel are committed to enjoying the upcoming year. Beyond volunteering, they will frequently travel out of state, engaging with communities and other titleholders. They will also prepare for, and compete in, the Miss USA and Miss Teen USA national pageants in 2019. They earned their respective titles in November 2018.

“Whether it’s pageantry or doing stem research or being rodeo queen or being a mom, whatever you find your passion for, you need to do that. You need to just do it,” Redding said about the importance of breaking out of the comfort zone. “Don’t let anybody tell you that you can’t do it, or that you shouldn’t do it. (Miss North Dakota) has opened so many doors.”

“It’s the opportunity of a lifetime,” Vogel said. ▲



“We’re both into volunteering, so I think it’s going to be a balance of wearing the crown and the sparkles and the heels, and wearing a t-shirt and yoga pants and doing the volunteer work,” Redding said.



Caitlyn
VOGEL

Samantha
REDDING

Kathy McCann

Creating an opportunity FOR WOMEN TO COMPETE

▲ by Nicole Thom-Arens

Before Minot State had organized women's basketball, a group of women, all students at the university, bought t-shirts from the bookstore, painted numbers on them, and drove to Bismarck to play Bismarck State College. As Sheryl Solberg '73 tells it, the administration at Minot State were not supposed to find out about the game.

"We wanted to start basketball, and actually we were told that we could probably just leave that as just kind of an activity for our WRA (Women's Recreation Association),"

Solberg recalled. "I don't remember if we won or lost — that doesn't really matter. Our problem was that the score got called in by Bismarck State, so it was in the newspaper.

We were kind of in a little bit of trouble, but the next year, we had basketball."

It's an origin story made for Hollywood, and the leading lady was real-life pioneer of women's athletics at Minot State, Kathleen (Kathy) McCann '60. As fate would have it, McCann almost never made it to Minot State as

MINOT STATE
BEAVERS

an educator. She was in negotiations with administrators at North Dakota State University when she heard from her sister, Marge, that Minot State was looking to hire and hoping she would apply.

ball, volleyball, and softball programs at the university. She also coached women's golf, tennis, and track and field.

"I have to admit it was frustrating," McCann said of getting women's programs started. "At first, I even had girls

say, 'Do you think I could try out for the men's tennis team?' I said, 'Well you could, but that won't help women's athletics if

you do.' It was just frustrating not to have anything." McCann never had the opportunity to compete in high school or college athletics, which inspired her to single-handedly take on the fight to place women on the field and on the court at Minot State.

"There were a lot of women there like me and my sister that didn't have the opportunity, so I guess we just thought we'd do it," McCann said.



"The truth was, I had just been talking to NDSU about a position when my sister, Marge, called and told me about the opportunity at Minot State. I always loved Minot State and I was happy to get the chance to return. It also worked great since Marge was teaching in Minot at the time," McCann said.

During her tenure at Minot State, McCann started and coached the women's basket-

"Almost right away, I started that softball team because I knew I had some really good kids. They were good athletes and good, honest kids. Those young women put as much into it as anybody could. They just were so devoted to it, and they worked hard."

Softball was perhaps the easiest team to start because there were other teams to play. Many women of McCann's generation and the one to follow

Photos above were taken from Minot State University BEAVER yearbooks: 1969 – 1974

McCANN'S persistence in establishing women's athletics at Minot State led to lifelong friendships and, in some circumstances, changed lives.

did play organized softball during the summer. In fact, McCann and her older sister, Madaline, are both in the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame.

"I had taught at Valley City State, so I was familiar with the schools, coaches, and teams in the eastern part of the state. I knew we could find softball teams to play against," McCann said.

During the team's first two seasons, they

traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, to play in the College Softball World Series — during their second appearance, Japan sent a team to the tournament.

Nadene Johnson '72 was one of McCann's first softball players.

"It was great fun (playing in the College World Series)," Johnson recalled.

"But, we only probably played three, four games before we went down there, and some of them (the other

teams) had already played 30 games, so we didn't have the experience that they did, but we sure gave it a try."

McCann's persistence in establishing women's athletics at Minot State led to lifelong friendships and, in some circumstances, changed lives. Solberg had left Minot State short of completing a two-year business degree. The opportunity to play softball brought her back to the university where she found new inspiration.

"I was kind of a college dropout," Solberg said candidly. "I really disliked school. And when I came back, I was around people that wanted to not only be involved in athletics but they were good students and they wanted to be teachers and coaches. I kind of caught that disease, so I ended up being a teacher and a coach, which being a teacher was one of the furthest things from my mind when I graduated from high school. Being around my teammates, my fellow students in the physical education department, and mostly McCann and Nadene (Johnson) it just kind of gave me a whole new perspective on life. I, to this day, am very grateful."

Solberg graduated from Minot State and

went to teach at Mayville-Portland where she established the women's basketball team and coached the team to a state tournament championship victory in the team's second year. She went on to have a 34-year career with the North Dakota High School Activities Association.

Both Solberg and Johnson, who went on to coach golf and volleyball at Minot High School, hold high praise for McCann and the opportunities she worked to provide for young women in the late 1960s and early 1970s — years before Congress would pass Title IX.

"The most incredible part of this, in my opinion, was that we had a member of the Minot State staff that just went ahead and did this. And, Kathy was not getting paid, you know that, but what she did was she answered the wish of a bunch of women that wanted to be involved in sports. It was as important for her as it was for us to actually become involved in athletics. We wanted the opportunity and she helped manufacture it, just the plain truth," Solberg said.

Even in 2019, it's difficult to imagine how one woman could have the tenacity to continue driving progress. For McCann, an

athlete who won all of the championships in her high school intramural sports competitions, motivation came from an up-bringing of equality.

"Our dad was so fair. He had six boys and four girls, but we were all treated the same way. Boys did dishes like we did. We were just used to everything being pretty fair. Then you get into women's athletics and you find out, 'Oops, this isn't fair.' That was part of the driving force," McCann said.

McCann left Minot State in the early 1980s. She earned a doctorate in administration from the University of North Texas. As fate would have it, when McCann graduated and looked to move back to North Dakota, the University of North Dakota was hiring in its athletics department. McCann applied, got an interview, and got the job working as the intramural director, facilities coordinator, and coordinator of women's athletics. In 1991, she was named an assistant athletic director and retired from that position in 2003. McCann was inducted into Minot State's Hall of Fame in 1995.

"I had a great time," McCann said. "I've had a great life." ▲



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Country Club

The Minnesota Twins won the World Series, “Three Men and a Baby” was number one at the box office, and “The Legend of Zelda” was released for the Nintendo Entertainment System.

Welcome to 1987.

At the Minot State continuing education department, Carol Sue (Lokken) Butts '70 and Teresa (Kraft) Loftesnes '07/'15 were brainstorming new ideas. Although the department hosted athletic camps for youth, they knew an important element was missing.

“What if you weren’t an athlete or didn’t want to play a sport?” Loftesnes said. “It seemed fitting, coming to the campus to have fun, educating them over the summer, and giving parents the option for their children to learn.”

The following summer, College for Kids began.

“We started out with just a few classes,” Butts said. “But it was so very popular that it really grew into quite an offering every summer. Children came from all over.”

College for Kids quickly established itself as a fun, educational program offering

MSU COLLEGE FOR KIDS

Relevant through the decades

▲ by Amanda Duchsherer

a wide range of class sessions in the summer months and several hundred children soon enrolled every year.

While College for Kids was still in the planning stages, Minot State professor Tom Seymour taught technology classes across campus and, in the summer, Computers for Kids camps. When College for Kids launched, camp brochures listed his program as an option.

“The kids learned how to talk to people around the world with Gopher (a predecessor to the web).

We taught them communications, taught them word processing, taught them how to do spreadsheets. Those were the main things back then,” Seymour said. “When I got to the final years (of teaching Computers for Kids), we were starting to look at webpages.”

Computers for Kids slowly evolved into Exploring Robotics, one of today’s most popular course offerings, as technology advanced. An important factor in College for Kids’ continual success is that willingness to adapt.

“I try and make sure we have something for everybody,” Amy (Thomas) Woodbeck '06, current education coordinator for the Minot State Center for Extended Learning, said. “It is usually based on past successes, but it’s also important to go off of what kids are interested in right now. I’ll ask on our (College for Kids) Facebook page if there are any new ideas. Some interesting classes come through that way.”

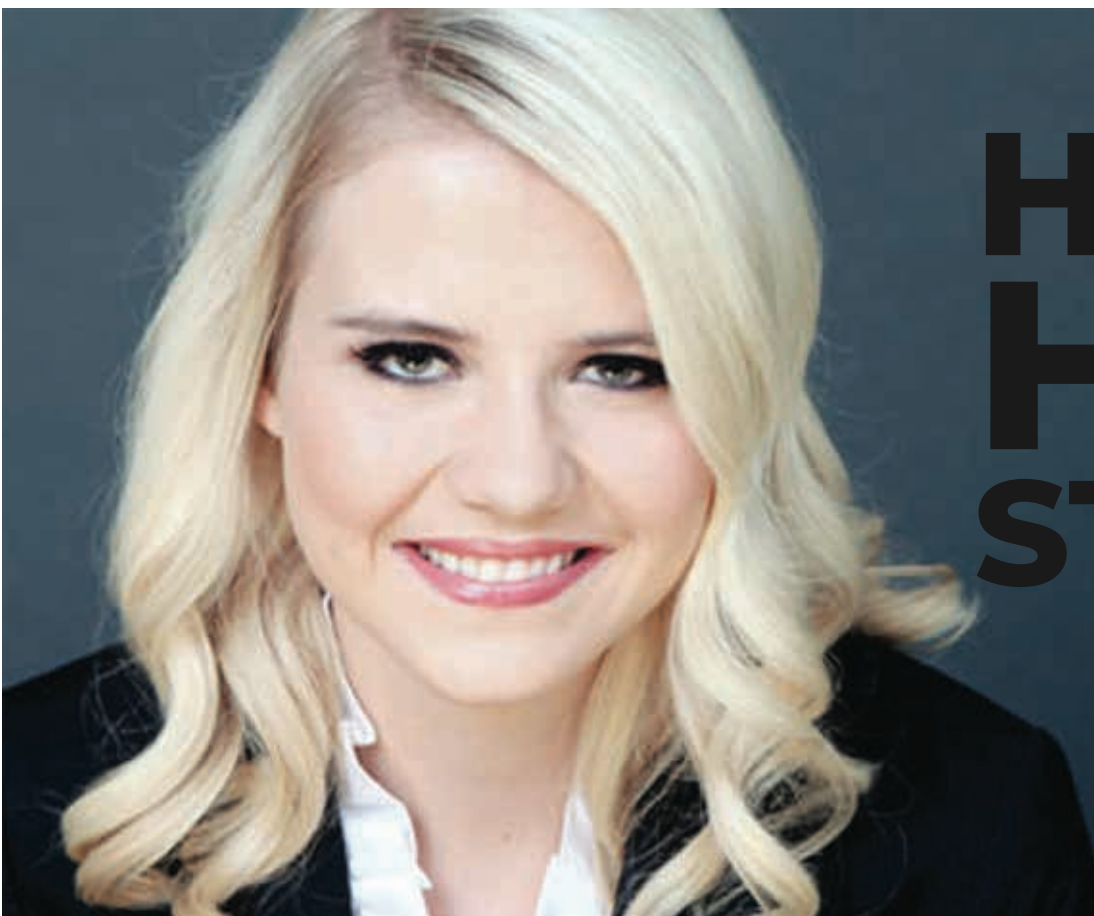
The atmosphere at College for Kids is just as important as the class offerings. As camp participants settle in and get comfortable, their participation and excitement increases as each hour — and day — goes by. It is no surprise, then, that many sessions are now attended by second generation camp goers.

For Butts and Loftesnes, creating excitement at Minot State was a core goal.

“For many of these children and their parents, it was the first time they’d been on the university campus,” Butts said. “It was more than just the classes. It was getting new people on our campus and seeing that Minot State is a friendly, welcoming place.” ▲

The photos below feature three decades of College for Kids camps — circa. 1989 – 2018.





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1958

Richard Dendinger retired from teaching in the chemistry department at St. Cloud State in 1999.

1974

Gary Stefanowicz retired as senior auditor from Overland Solutions after a 43 year career in the insurance industry. He and his wife, Holly, reside in Williston. Gary operates the Wildrose Nursery during the warmer seasons. The nursery was started by his grandfather F.E. "Mix" Stefanowicz in 1923. The plans are to continue operations until 2023.

1975



Rich Christen retired after 43 years of teaching, first as a high school history teacher in North Dakota and Minnesota, and for the last 20

years as a professor of education at the University of Portland. During his teaching career, Christen received a distinguished teaching award from the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars and an outstanding teaching award from the University of Portland. He and his wife, Victoria, will spend part of their retirement volunteering with Basic Rights Oregon, an organization that promotes LGBTQ equality in Oregon.

1977



Randy Hedberg has been promoted to the associate head coach/passing game coordinator for the North Dakota State University Bison

football program. Hedberg has been with the program for the past five seasons. He was the head coach at Minot State University for eight seasons from 1982-89 and St. Cloud State for nine seasons from 1999-2007 before moving to the FCS level as the quarterbacks coach and co-offensive coordinator at Southern Illinois for six years prior to joining the Bison.

1980



Tom Trisko retired after 38 years in education. Trisko spent the past 21 years as a high school principal/community education and activi-

ties director at Brandon-Evansville Public Schools in Minnesota. Following graduation, he taught and coached for 10 years in Badger, Minnesota and seven years in Bertha-Hewitt, Minnesota. He and his wife, Brenda, have two sons. Brenda retired from Douglas Machine in Alexandria, Minnesota. They plan on doing volunteer work, traveling, and enjoying life.

1981



Tim Mihalick has been appointed to the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education. He will fill the unexpired term of Greg Stemen.

Mihalick is a business development officer at First Western Bank & Trust of Minot. He is a member of the MSU Board of Regents.

1982

Donna Bumann retired from teaching in 2016. Bumann worked as an English language learners teacher with refugees and immigrants for over 15 years. She and her husband, Craig '81, who passed away in 2012, have two children. Donna has been spending time traveling both in the U.S. and internationally.

1983



Edna (Edwards) Sailor published a novel entitled "Alfalfa Girl, The Path from Childhood Molestation to Soul." Sailor is currently semi-

retired and writes for the New Town News and Mountrail County Record. She lives in New Town and has three children and six grandchildren.

1987

Doreen (Edwards) Harvey received the Minot Public School District Air Force Association Teacher of the Year and the North Dakota AFA Teacher of the Year awards.

1988



Rich Jahner recorded his 150th win as a football coach at Bemidji State University. Jahner ranks first for most wins by a football coach

in BSU history. He has been a part of three NSIC titles and two bowl game appearances. As the defensive backs coach, five of his players have earned All-American honors.

1993

Tod Graeber, administrator of CHI St. Alexius Health Garrison and Turtle Lake, received the Sister Boniface Timmons Leadership Award. Recipients of this recognition are individuals who personify the qualities of Benedictine servant leadership which are characterized as being mission driven, innovative, and visionary.

1994

Jody Skogen was promoted to the rank of captain and serves as the administrative services commander overseeing training, safety and education, dignitary protection, capitol security, and human resources for the North Dakota Highway Patrol. Skogen began his career with the NDHP in 1995 and attended the highway patrol academy. After graduation, he was a traffic trooper in Harvey. He was promoted to sergeant in 2005 and lieutenant in 2009. He served as the Motor Carrier Operations Lieutenant. Skogen graduated from Northwestern University Traffic Institute's School of Police Staff and Command.

1995



Michael LeBeau, vice president of clinics at Sanford in Bismarck, has been named president of Sanford Bismarck.

Dr. LeBeau has been with Sanford Health for more than 10 years, specializing in kidney care as a nephrologist. The New Town native has been instrumental in the organization's growth in central and western North Dakota. He graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Medicine in Grand Forks and currently serves on the Sanford Board of Trustees.

Michael Myk is running the Advanced Placement European History program at Queen Elizabeth High School in Edmonton, Alberta. Myk earned his masters in education from the University of Alberta in 2001.



Shane Schmeichel is the principal at Coronado High School in Coronado, California. Schmeichel previously served as the CHS assistant

principal and director of the Coronado School of the Arts and had 17 years of experience prior to that in Minnesota.

1999



Jennifer (Miller) Kraft, director of the Minot Adult Learning Center, received the 2018 North Dakota Association for Lifelong Learning (NDALL) Outstanding Leadership/Service Award.

2000



Justin Anderson is the executive director of the Minot Area Council of the Arts. Prior to joining the MACA, Anderson worked at the Souris

Valley Humane Society as the director of communications and development.

Tristan Van de Streek was appointed to a judgeship in the East Central Judicial District. He will be chambered in Fargo. Van de Streek served as an assistant state's attorney in Cass County since 2007, handling all manner of criminal prosecution, from jury trials in double homicide cases to enforcing prohibitions on unleashed dogs. He has conducted training for law enforcement on investigative practices and courtroom procedures; advised the county on contractual issues and other matters; and helped develop a domestic violence multi-disciplinary team with law enforcement and probation and service providers so that domestic violence offenders could receive treatment and education. Van de Streek previously served as assistant Fargo city attorney and city prosecutor from 2005 to 2007, managing thousands of cases each year, and as assistant city attorney in Minot from 2003 to 2007, where he also was an associate at the law firm Van de Streek and Ward. A lifelong North Dakotan, he earned his law degree in 2003 from the University of North Dakota School of Law in Grand Forks and a bachelor's

degree in history in 2000 from Minot State University. He is a member of the Cass County Bar Association and the North Dakota State's Attorney's Association and is active as a youth group leader in his church.



Marie (Weber) Hallof, North Dakota Guaranty & Title, received the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Eagle Award in November. MACC

sponsors the program to recognize Minot workers who exhibit superior customer service.

2002

Charlotte (Williams) Ferrel was named the regional director of the Northwest Human Services Center based in Williston. Ferrel has supervised the center's extended care services team since 2017 and the nursing department since 2014. She joined the center in 2007 as a nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist. Ferrel has been a nurse since 1996 and holds a master's degree in nursing from the University of North Dakota. She has certifications as a family psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner and a clinical nurse specialist in adult mental health from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Her experience includes work in acute and psychiatric inpatient care settings, as well as long-term care and quality assurance. She also previously worked as a nursing clinical instructor at Williston State College.

2003



Jesse Bengson is a professor in the psychology department at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, California.

2004



Tawnia Bernsdorf, instructor in the College of Business at Minot State University, was named one of the 2018 40 under 40 top business professionals in the northern plains by Prairie Business magazine.



Jacquelyn (Cayko) Free is a family nurse practitioner at MonDak Family Clinic in Fairview, Montana. Free also serves as the county health officer,

school concussion liaison, home health, and hospice representative for Richland County and is the only certified diabetes educator in the area. She received her master's degree from the University of Mary. In her spare time, she is the assistant coach for girls basketball.

2005



Scott Staudinger was named the Central Region representative to Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve national board of directors.

The Central Region encompasses North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ohio. This is an official Department of Defense volunteer position. He has spent 20 years in the military. Staudinger is the vice president at Cloverdale Foods Co. in Mandan.

2006

Jeff Brandt is the high school principal for the Washburn School District in Washburn.

Aaron Ottmar of the North Dakota State Fair was recognized at the 128th Annual Convention of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions as a graduate of the Institute of Fair Management. Ottmar enrolled in the program in 2014 and was one of 38 graduates honored at the IAFE Convention in San Antonio, Texas. He has been employed with the NDSF for 16 years.



Kayla (Titus) Thomas, FNP-C, is a member of the family care team at Trinity Health East Ridge. Thomas worked for nine years at Trinity

Health, where she served as a staff nurse and assistant nurse manager in labor & delivery and obstetrics. She later became a hospital supervisor. She earned her master of science in family nurse practice from UND and spent two years serving the primary care needs of patients at CHI St. Alexius Health in Minot.

Kayla and her husband, Shawn, have two sons.

2007

Chelsea (Carlson) Nagel is the director of radiology at the hospital in Linton. Nagel has been a radiology technologist at the hospital for over two years. She was previously employed as a radiology technologist at Medcenter One/Sanford in Bismarck, from 2007 to 2013, where she became a board certified CT technologist, then at Mid Dakota Clinic for about three years. She and her husband, Ryan, live on a farm north of Linton and have two children.

2008

Nicole Anderson teaches kindergarten at Bob Callies Elementary School in Garrison. Anderson previously taught grades pre-k, kindergarten, first grade, fifth grade, and sixth grade in Tioga.



Brock DesLauriers, vice president and North Hill branch manager at First International Bank & Trust in Minot, was named one of the

2018 40 under 40 top business professionals in the northern plains by Prairie Business magazine.



Vanessa (Anderson) Lystad is a shareholder in the Vogel Law Firm, which has offices in Fargo, Bismarck, Grand Forks, Moorhead,

Minnesota, and Minneapolis. Lystad, a Jamestown native, earned her J.D. from the University of North Dakota School of Law. She focuses on employment law in the firm's Fargo office and handles administrative complaints, provides advice for North Dakota and Minnesota employers on employment compliance issues, investigates workplace complaints, and generally represents employers in employment litigation.



Jason Trainer is the vice provost for enrollment management at Indiana State University. Trainer oversees the development of a comprehensive enrollment plan designed to enhance the university's reputation and promote its

enrollment and student retention. He previously served as the director of admissions at the University of North Dakota.

2009

Jamie Jackson is a systems engineer at CompuNet in Bozeman, Montana. Jackson's responsibilities include designing and deploying wireless networks. He previously worked as a network analyst at Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck.



Sara (Birkeland) Medalen has been nominated for the 2018-2019 LifeChanger of the Year award.

LifeChanger of the Year award is a national recognition program that honors K-12 public school educators and employees who are making a difference in the lives of students by exemplifying excellence, positive influence and leadership. Medalen was nominated by Sunnyside principal Cindy Cook, who said she develops positive relationships with students and cares for each child's individual needs and learning styles.



Kendra Meyer is a principal pricing strategy analyst for Medtronic, a global healthcare solutions company. Meyer's responsibilities include providing financial and business support for Medtronic's cardiovascular group.

2011



Jazmine (Wolfe) Schultz is a financial representative with Northwestern Mutual in Minot. Schultz has attained her 6 and 63 investment licenses.

She achieved Pacesetter 40 honors by setting 40 clients on the path to achieving financial security during her first six months and Pacesetter Second 60 honors by signing 60 new lives in her second six months as a representative. Schultz received the 2018 network new representative of the year, central region top 10 female leaders in client acquisition, and central region bronze awards.

Class notes



Stephanie (Pfeifer) Silverthorn is the human resources director at Town and Country Credit Union. Silverthorn joined Town and Country in 2014. In 2017, she was promoted to HR generalist where she managed daily activities including recruitment and staffing, benefits administration, employee relations, record keeping, and regulatory compliance. She earned her SHRM-CP Certification in 2017.

2012



Anthony Anderson is serving on the board for the Rotary Club of Minot. Anderson is an attorney with Olson & Burns, PC. He practices commercial law, specializing in business planning, commercial transactions, and financial institutions.

2013



Damon Kinchen, Verizon Wireless, received the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Eagle Award in November. MACC sponsors the program to recognize Minot workers who exhibit superior customer service.



Danielle (Cook) Rued was named the Executive Director for the Minot Public School Foundation.

Spencer Wheeling received a doctorate degree in geology from the University of North Dakota in August 2018.

2014

Zane Axtman is a Farmers Union Insurance agent in Mohall. Axtman, a native of Rugby, worked as a crop adjuster for the past 10 years.

Terry Effertz began a one-year clerkship with the North Dakota Supreme Court on Aug. 1. She earned a law degree from the University of North Dakota School of Law in May 2018.

Jared Olson, a Crosby native, was promoted to the rank of sergeant with the Ward County Sheriff's Office. Olson started with the sheriff's office in 2011 as a part-time jailer while pursuing his degree. He moved to patrol in 2013 and investigations in 2016.



Cameron Stone is an Edward Jones financial advisor in Minot and the surrounding areas.

2015



Jenna (Motylewski) Krause teaches junior high English at Hazen Middle School in Hazen. Originally from Pacifica, California, Krause first found herself in North Dakota when a soccer scholarship led her to MSU. She taught language arts

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at Minot High School for one year. She and her husband relocated to Bismarck where she coordinated a before-and-after school program. Jenna and her husband, Chris, have a son and live in Bismarck.

2016



Jocelyn Walz joined Town & Country Credit Union as an executive mortgage officer at the Minot Main location. Walz previously worked in the mortgage lending sector in the Williston market.

2017



Cheyenne Larson is a fifth grade teacher at B.M. Hanson Elementary in Harvey.

2018

Paula Cabatingan is working as a marketing assistant for the North Dakota State Fair Association.



Jocelyn Haman is a kindergarten teacher for Velva Public Schools. Haman is pursuing her master's in education concentrating in reading through Minot State.

Kelly Heinze is the speech language pathologist for grades pre-k through 12 at Bob Callies Elementary and Garrison High School in Garrison.

Attended:



Jen Janecak-Hartman is the director of Campus Services for Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College in New Town. Hartman previously served as the admissions and recruitment director and interim registrar. She and her husband, Dr. Kerry Hartman, have four children and two grandchildren.

Friends:

Duane and Sharlene Tollefson celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sept. 21 with a private family celebration. Duane was co-owner of Tollefson's Furniture, Tollefson's Carpetland, and the Carpet Garage. Sharlene was a registered nurse at Trinity Hospital. Duane served on both the MSU Alumni Association Board and the MSU Board of Regents.



Mike Vetter is the business development officer for American Trust Center in Minot. Vetter will focus on developing new relationships in the northwestern portion of North Dakota. He previously was an independent insurance agent for Knights of Columbus and is the owner and photographer of Michael J Photography.

Minot State University's 106th Commencement Ceremony

Friday, May 10, 2019 ▶ 10 A.M. ▶ Minot State Dome

We invite family and friends unable to attend the ceremony to watch the ceremony via Minot State's homepage.

To view photos, go to social media and search for **#MinotStategrad19**.

Go to MinotStateU.bncollege.com to find graduation gifts and diploma frames.



In memory

It is with honor we dedicate this section to recognize alumni and friends who have passed away from approximately September 2018 through January 2019 or as submitted.

Graduates

'32 Evenson (Holland), Olive; Marysville, Wash.
'33 Mercer (Butler), Norma; Mesa, Ariz.
'37 Nelson (Armstrong), Fern; Sherwood
'42 Torkelsen (Daleness), Leona; Cando
'42 Williamson (Norsby), Eleanor; Minot
'43 Sorensen (Benest), Beverly; Antioch, Ill.
'46 Barke (Nelson), Hazel; Fargo
'46 Trohimovich (Allmaras), Merita;
 Auburn, Wash.
'47 Sogard (Rose) Mavis; Williston
'49 Michelson (Neset), Shirley; Fargo
'50 Bernsdorf, Darrell; Minot
'51 Brisson, James; Cheyenne, Wyo.
'52 Pearce (Larson), Gladys; Helena, Mont.
'52 Stadum, Ina; Fargo
'53 Ames (Hoffman), Elaine; Hot Spring
 Village, Ark.
'54 Nelson, Floyd; Salt Lake City, Utah
'55 Niewoehner (Parker), Mae; Upham
'56 Hembree, Robert; Minot
'56 Brandt, Sheldon "Ted"; Cleveland, Tenn.
'57 Courmyer (Pfeifer), Viola; Rugby
'57 Cowley, Cleve; Mandan
'58 Brown (Rowe), Mary; Ames, Iowa
'58 Johnson, Ken; Minot
'58 Lysne, Richard; Velva
'59 Rude, Virgil; Minot
'59 Skabo (Scharnowske), Joan; Bismarck
'61 Davick, Roger; Bellevue, Neb.
'62 Ranum, Donald; Williston
'64 Washek (Flammang), Janet; Sawyer
'65 Harmeson (Chambers), Bonnie;
 Cleveland, Tenn.
'65 Kukowski (Weinholz), Deanna; Las
 Vegas, Nev.
'66 Everson, Leland "Lee"; Mora, Minn.
'66 Minette, Raymond; Fargo
'66 Nielsen, Larry; Grand Forks
'66 Vetter, James; Velva
'67 Gerjets, Larry; Minot
'67 Marquart, Richard; Rochester, Minn.
'68 Lawson (Helmers), Ethel; Minot
'69 Boyle, Thomas; Fargo
'69 Stokke, Vern; Vancouver, Wash.
'72 Wilson, John; Tioga
'73 Keller, Robert; Mobridge, S.D.
'76 Hall (Monia-Sturm), Mona; Lincoln, Neb.
'76 Fisher (Cuddy), Mary Ann; Scottsdale, Ariz.
'76 Sunwall (Shobe), Frances; Fairview Mont.
'77 Goodman, David; Aberdeen, S.D.
'77 Lemke (Mouck), Connie; Aberdeen, S.D.
'78 Keller, Franklin; Lisbon
'78 Perius, Jeanne; Bismarck
'79 Worner, James; Battle Lake, Minn.

'85 Heinle, Myron; Goodyear, Ariz.
'87 Christopherson (Reddick), Meri-Jac;
 Naples, Fla.
'87 Sletto (Haugen), Susan; Mandan
'87 Yuly, Curtis; Minot
'88 Bentz, Wendella; Minot
'88 Lucier, Virgil; Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
'88 Miller (Mason), Judith; Twin Falls, Idaho
'93 Volk (Schmaltz), Cindy; Minot
'97 Borud (Sundley), Robin; Minot
'01 Bullis (Hrabcsak), Sandra; Williamsburg, Va.

Attended

Anderson (Anderson), Cecilia; Bismarck
Aus, Phillip; Norwich
Birdsall (Mann), Phyllis; Berthold
Bruce (Hand), Madeline; Parshall
Byrne, Michael; West Fargo
Cook (Froholm), Caroline; Minot
Corbin, Donald; Fort Collins, Colo.
DeGree (Irwin), Fern; Minot
Delk (Chambers), Clara; Georgetown, Texas
Engkvist (Hofstad), Alice; Maddock
Fettig (Pickner), Donna; Chamberlain, S.D.
Fordyce, Annette; Yakima, Wash.
Gefroh (Kraft), Regina; Bismarck
Geyer, David; Minot
Harris (Nertros), Dorothy; Kenmare
Hornbacher, Alan; Drake
Howey, Margaret; Minot
Johnson (Hunt), Darlene; Gardar
Juergens, Jr., Leo; Minot
Kringen (Hamnes), Marceil; Williston
Kulaas, John Richard "Dick"; Wenatchee, Wash.
Lee (Gilbertson), Grace; Watford City
Mahoney (Hanson), Audrey; Sawyer
McCloud, Jr., Richard "Ponch"; Belcourt
Mulvihill (Kuiet), Gloria; Klamath Falls, Ore.
Nelson, Mervill; Tioga
Nielsen, Ellen; Black Mountain, N.C.
Olson (Hedmer), Betty; Libby, Mont.
Preskey (Souther), Evelyn; Minot
Porter, Bobbie; Saratoga, Wyo.
Reese (Hendrickson), Emily; Rolla
Rogers, Andrea; New Town
Schley (Bittner), Blanche; Grand Forks
Schuler (Campbell), Jessica; Anamoose
Smette, Gordon; East Grand Forks, Minn.
Smith, John; San Antonio, Texas
Stromme, Lewis; Minot
Tanberg, Jeff; Minot
Taylor, David; Fleming Island, Fla.
Torno, Marlin; Minot
Uran (Johnson), Pam; Stanley
Wyman (Smith), Anita "Jeanne"; Bottineau

Friends

Ballman (Ramhurst), Lois; Fargo
Bergan (Skogen), Marian; Minot
Bohn, James; Minot
Caldwell, Dean; Minot
Carlson (Undlin), Colleen; Lansford
Cashman, Tim; Minot
Heere, Melvin; Minot
Hull, Douglas; Minot
Karna, Darrell; Ryder
Krause, Ronald; Sarasota, Fla.
Loftesnes, Howard; Bismarck
Miller, Edward; Glenburn
Modin, Jr., Ralph; Kenmare
Roen, Donald; Douglas
Schlieman, Clarence; Minot
Schott, William; Mandan
Sluke, Daniel; Minot
Stafford, Robert; Minot
Turner, Ray; Minot
Whetter, Robert; Minot
Zakopyko, Warren; Minot

Faculty and Staff

Bodine, Robert ('61), former men's basketball coach; Voltaire
Melby (Johnson), Sylvia "Suva", former business office employee; Minot
Moran (Hayden), Connie, former employee of food services; Minot
Ramey, Gary ('04), former instructor in management information systems; Minot
Rostad (Black), Dorothy, former administrative assistant to the student union director; Bismarck
Willis, Thomas, retired professor emeritus of fine arts; Lubbock, Texas

Look who's NEW!



Have you had
an addition to your
family recently?

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.



Bertram

Acelynn Makayla was born July 31,
2018 to **Erik Bertram '08** and his
wife, Hannah.



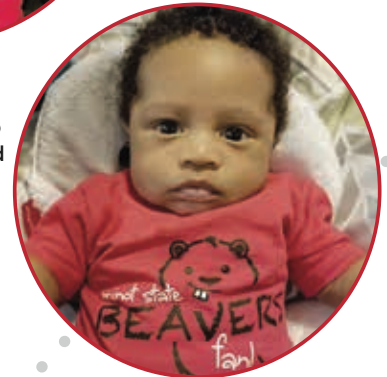
Earich

Luka Rainier arrived
Aug. 20, 2018 to
Grant Earich '10 and
wife, Abbey. The family
resides in Washington, D.C.



Enander

**Samantha (Johnson)
Enander '10** along with
husband, Ashton, had
Cora Rae on Aug. 21,
2018.



Ford

Gill Lee was born Feb. 20, 2018 to
proud beaver parents **Gill '08** and
Christen (Lethridge) Ford '06.



Hansen

Dan '11 and **Brittany (Jacobsen)
Hansen '13** welcomed Elias Martin
Luis on Aug. 17, 2018.

Baker

Noah Allan arrived Nov. 29, 2017.
Proud parents are **Jennifer (Sauter)
Baker '11** and her husband, Chris.



Helm

**Lacey (Doan) Helm
'14** and her husband,
Andrew, had Brady
Michael on July 2,
2018. The family
resides in Mont.



Huffman

Brittany (Johnson) Huffman '08
and her husband, Dennis, had
Henry Lee on Aug. 25, 2018.

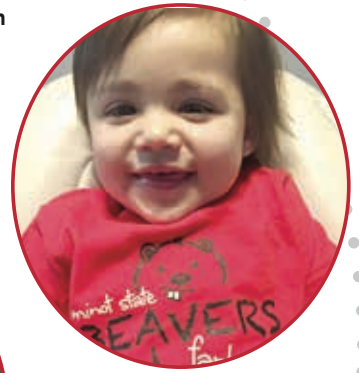
Johnson

Hayes Alexander, son of **Tenille (Armstrong) Johnson '08**, and her husband, James, was born June 27, 2018.



Nelson

Ian arrived July 1, 2018. Proud parents are **Beth (Walz) Nelson '11** and her husband, Eric.



Larson

Proud parents, **Kalvin '13** and **Keri (Nelson) Larson '13**, had Krew Allen on Sept. 29, 2018.



Rasmusson

Samantha (Lucy) Rasmusson '15 and husband, Ryan, welcomed Lincoln on Jan. 17, 2018.

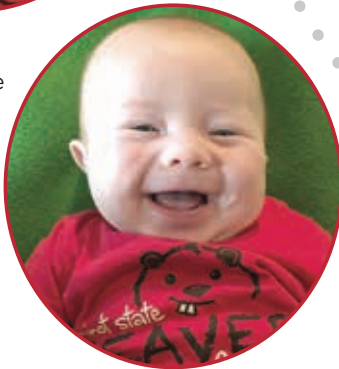


Perdue

Tara Perdue '08 along with her husband, Miguel Tarin, welcomed Skylah Tarin on July 10, 2017.

Lee

Samuel entered the world May 5, 2018. He was welcomed by parents **Chase '12** and **Amy (Greene) Lee '07** and joins siblings, Camden and Addilyn.



Rodriguez

Grayson made his debut Aug. 23, 2017. He was born to **Maria (Jaramillo) Rodriguez '07** and her husband, Bryant. He joins siblings, Anyssa and Gavin.



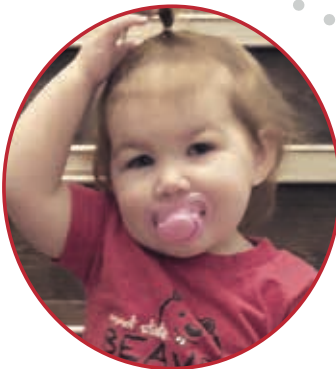
Ruzicka

Asher Luke was born on Nov. 21, 2017 to **Amber (Jensen) Ruzicka '09** and husband, Kirk.



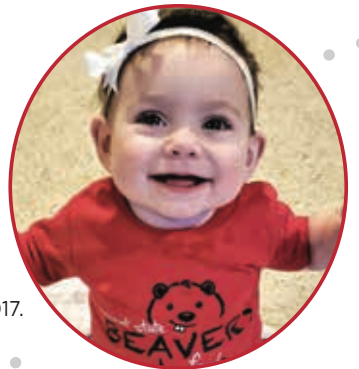
Lennox

Amanda (Cooper) Lennox '05 and husband, Rob, welcomed Elsie Rose. She joins sister, Georgia.



Schatz

Skylar, daughter of **Kayla (Nelson) Schatz '13** and husband, Kyle, was born Dec. 20, 2017.



Mason

Clara Vi was born June 14, 2018 to **Kirk Mason '13** and his wife, Jacinta.



Zrymiak

Haley (Roth) Zrymiak '06/'08 along with husband, Tyler, joyfully welcomed Wilder on Feb. 17, 2017.





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We are a family today because of Minot State University. We both arrived at Minot State in the fall of 1985, Mike from Powers Lake and Nancy from Velva, and were introduced to each other — by Dr. Tom Seymour — in the spring of 1988.

Mike graduated in 1989 and Nancy in 1990. Our children have continued the tradition of attending Minot State. Samantha graduated in 2015, Ashley 2016, Haddie 2018, and Jocelyn is currently a sophomore. Who knows, our grandchildren may someday attend Minot State as well.

Whether it's owning your own business or being an educator, we understand and value the importance that Minot State University has played in our lives and the importance it holds within our community.

▲ Mike and Nancy (Pedersen) Lucy