

SPRING 2010

# connections

Minot State University Alumni Association & Development Foundation



*Culture, Art  
& Humanities*

# PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



‘... the humanities, whether literature, art, theater, music, history, philosophy ... offer a rich and valuable education, with potential for many professional careers.’

Before Nancy and I got married, her father, a successful businessman and outstanding individual, asked us how we expected to pay the bills after we graduated. I'm sure he was wondering what we could do with degrees in art and literature, with questionable intentions to be an artist and writer. His concerns seemed to be lessened as the years went by, because he thinks now we have done well enough, but at that time, he had serious and understandable concerns about the value of our majors in the humanities.

Since then, I've grown accustomed to hearing similar concerns. I'll usually explain in response — with confidence — that the humanities, whether literature, art, theater, music, history, philosophy, and so on, offer a rich and valuable education, with potential for many professional careers. I'll also explain that at the heart of study in the humanities is our basic humanity: appreciating and respecting others, exercising ethical and moral judgments, problem solving, critical thinking, knowledge of the complexities of our world, teamwork and the skills necessary to work cooperatively with others, an interest in art and culture, and the abilities to read well and communicate effectively.

The results of a recent survey of 302 executives at private-sector and non-profit organizations underscore this point. These executives indicated that the most important intellectual and practical skills colleges should teach are, in this priority order: the abilities to communicate, think critically, analyze and solve complex problems, work collaboratively and effectively in teams, and possess the ability to innovate and be creative. And that is

my basic point: all of those skills and abilities are inherent in the study of humanities.

Compiled in this wonderful edition of *Connections* are compelling stories about a central feature of our university and community — our culture, art and humanities. We can look proudly at our outstanding faculty, our remarkable theater program, our direct association with the Western Plains Opera Company and the Minot Symphony Orchestra, our outstanding instrumental and choral programs, our artists and their shows, our poets and writers, and so much more. Minot State University offers in spades an immersion in the arts and with it the training those executives believe is essential for professional success in our complex and ever-changing world.

There are many benefits resulting from a study of the humanities, as you will read in the following pages about our accomplished students, faculty, and alumni. And there are less obvious and less practical benefits as well. They learn to appreciate fine art and music, read a challenging and intriguing novel, contemplate a provocative scene in a theatrical performance, or marvel at a beautiful metaphor or line in a poem. Both the practical benefits and those less practical come from a variety of experiences on our campus and our devotion to the humanities and the arts. The impact of these experiences on our students in their professions and their personal lives will continue to be deep and far reaching. I am sure you will enjoy reading stories about how many lives on our campus have been impacted by these studies and experiences.

— DAVID FULLER  
President



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**ON THE COVER:** Adam Henjum directs a dress rehearsal of "Alice in Wonderland." See story on page 4.

(Cover and article photos by Mandi Carroll.)



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*It could have ended badly. But as Lewis Carroll writes, 'And though the shadow of a sigh may tremble through the story ... It shall not touch with breath of bale, the pleasure of our story.'*



*Adam Henjum and Michelle Spencer Davidson '97*

# Adam's happy ending & new beginning

Adam Henjum wanted to be a priest. A music education major at Minot State University, he spent years discerning his spiritual path. When he felt certain of his call, he transferred to another university to study philosophy. And in 2003 — having overcome learning disabilities that made school a challenge — Henjum graduated with a university studies degree and many vocal performance credits.

The church assigned him to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. He arrived in St. Louis full of hope and dreams for his priestly vocation. But when classes began, his dreams mutated into a nightmare. Since the first grade, Henjum had received the support he needed to overcome his learning disabilities; the seminary offered no accommodations.

By spring of 2004, Henjum was on academic probation. He spent the next semester fighting for passing grades, but the following spring he was back on probation, and the seminary asked him to leave.

Nearly five years later, Henjum said, "I still can't say I'm fully past it, and I'm still not sure what it all means."

What Henjum does know is that his love of theater, his love of teaching and his desire to show Christ's love through service brought him back to a familiar

place with a new sense of purpose. It brought him back to the stage.

## *Early start, saving grace*

Henjum is easy to pick out of the hubbub in MSU's Aleshire Theater. He's the only one — besides the crew — not in costume at this dress rehearsal. He's got one of the most engaging smiles ever bestowed on a human being, and his slender frame seems to vibrate with energy. Today, the 33-year-old student director is putting the finishing touches on his senior recital, a children's theater production of "Alice in Wonderland."

Some of the actors are missing, and not all of the elaborate masks are finished, but Henjum forges ahead, knowing opening is just hours away. He trusts all will come together. After more than 20 years in theater, Henjum knows dress rehearsals are never perfect.

Henjum was 8 years old when he became a "Mini Mouser" with Minot's Mouse River Players.

"My Title I teacher recommended I get involved because of some of the learning disabilities I had," Henjum said.

The youth theater program was a terrific outlet for a little boy who already loved music and performing, and his reading skills improved. He remained a regular on the Mouse River Players' stage

through the eighth grade, when he shifted his talents at Bishop Ryan High School and later Minot State.

After seminary and before returning to Minot in 2008, Henjum lived in the Twin Cities, where he did a few community theater shows. Last December, he played Scrooge in MSU's production of "A Christmas Carol."

"I've always enjoyed being on stage," Henjum said, "but I don't have the same spark of wanting to be an actor as I did my first couple of years of college. Where my heart really lies now is teaching and directing."

## *Teaching is the thing*

Henjum can trace his ardor for arts education to the International Music Camp Summer School of Fine Arts located near Dunseith.

"I found my new (artistic) home up there as a dean of boys in 2000," he said, and he's been there — all but one summer — ever since. He interned with the theater staff in 2006 and in 2007 joined the faculty.

"After my first year of teaching high school musical theater," Henjum said, "I knew it was teaching that I loved." And that's what brought him back to Minot State.



## Showcase illuminates alumni talents

The credits for Adam Henjum's "Alice in Wonderland" read like a Who's Who of MSU communication arts alumni.

Costume design: **Michelle Spencer**

**Davidson, BA '97**, M.F.A. University of South Dakota, assistant professor of theater arts at the University of North Dakota.

Mask and makeup design: **Farrah R.**

**Southam, BSE '99**, M.F.A. University of South Dakota, craft artisan supervisor for Ballet San Jose and TheatreWorks in San Jose, Calif.

Set design: **Sandra Nelson, BS '97**,

M.F.A. Eastern Michigan University, part-time theater instructor at MSU, Bismarck State College and the University of Mary.

Sound design: **Ryan Haider, B.S.E.**

'01, MA University of North Dakota. Employed by ING, Minot. Directs shows for Mouse River Players and MSU Summer Theatre.

Lighting design: **Chris Stroschein, B.S.**

'09, campus production coordinator for Minot State University.

Composer: Jacob Carver a.k.a. **Jason**

**Groce, B.S. '94**, MFA University of Texas, composer and musician in Seattle.

Poster design: **Kristin Wood, B.S.**

'97, former TV news producer and reporter, now Minot State University staff member.

## Calling all alumni

For most seniors, directing a full-length play would be enough of a challenge for a final project, but Henjum wanted to do more.

Henjum turned his "Alice in Wonderland" into the first MSU Alumni Design Showcase.

"So many talented individuals have come out of this program," he said. "I felt it was important for the people of Minot, of North Dakota, and especially MSU students to see how many talented MSU alumni are working as professionals in the field today."

From Michelle Spencer Davidson's vibrant costumes to Jacob Carver's original music to Sandra Nelson's simple but effective set, the results of the collaboration were stunning. The audience didn't know (and shouldn't) what a challenge the production became for the student technical crew and their alumni counterparts.

"Trying to design a show long distance is probably the most challenging project I have ever done," said mask and makeup designer Farrah Southam, who lives in San Jose, Calif. "When you are 2,000 miles away, it's hard to see. And things like scale and texture aren't related well via text messages and photographs."

Costume designer Michelle Spencer Davidson, who lives in Grand Forks, traveled to Minot three times to meet with MSU students, show them how to fit costumes and how to run a proper dress rehearsal. She and her students at

the University of North Dakota also built some of the costumes.

Lighting designer Chris Stroschein, who is MSU's campus production coordinator, says the project forced him to work out his design on paper so he could hand it off to student Jake Flaten.

"Trying to pretend that I was organized enough to do something like a light design only on paper was annoying and challenging," he said. "But it certainly had the desired effect. To see Jake put down his wrench and take some real ownership over an area as technical and artistic as lighting was rewarding."

## New opportunities await

After the final curtain, Henjum defended his senior project to the communications arts faculty. Now all that stands between Henjum and his communication arts education degree is student teaching, which he arranged to do at the Hopkins (Minn.) Main Street School of Performing Arts.

Professor Paula Lindekugel-Willis, who encouraged Henjum to get his teaching degree, recently asked: "Is this your second choice? Is being a teacher second best to being a priest?"

Henjum replied: "It's not the direction I thought I was going, but it's the direction my life is being directed now. It doesn't matter whether I'm in the church or in a school. It's what I desire to do: help young people experience joy and success through theater arts."

— CATHY JELSING

# Former student makes it to top of music industry

**A** former Minot State student has parlayed a passion for music into a successful career as a recording engineer.

Mark Hagen attended MSU in the early 1980s and spent much of his time in Studios 311B and 315 in Hartnett Hall. He soaked up all the technical knowledge he could from recording guru Robert Larson.

“He was very good at letting us get our hands on the equipment,” Hagen said. “My interest was getting recording knowledge, so I could get a job in the industry.”

At a seminar in Minnesota, Hagen met Bruce Swedien, a legendary recording engineer from Los Angeles. After technical school in Florida, the Minot native called Swedien and asked for an internship.

“Much to my amazement, he said, ‘Sure, come on out,’” Hagen said.

When he arrived in L.A., Hagen hit the musical equivalent of a triple bank shot, joining Swedien, producer Quincy Jones and pop star Michael Jackson as they worked on Jackson’s “Bad” album, the follow-up to his record-breaking “Thriller.”

“I was able to hang out in the control room,” Hagen said. “I was a fly on the wall, a gofer.”

As a music producer, Jones assembled the cast — performers, musicians, arrangers and technicians. He coaxed the best out of the assembled talent while providing a link to the industry’s golden past.

“He had so many stories from the old days about artists and musicians that I’d grown up listening to,” Hagen said.

Jackson was unrivaled in talent and professionalism, Hagen said. He arrived hours early to prepare his voice for the songs scheduled. During recording sessions, he danced, stomped, jumped and clapped, completely lost in the music. Every take was a performance.

“Michael was incredible. He’d step up and kill it every single time. That’s rare,” Hagen said.

Offstage, Jackson was painfully shy. Six to eight weeks passed before the superstar felt comfortable conversing with the lowly apprentice.

“He was an extremely nice person,” Hagen said. “He would go out of his way to thank you if you did something for him. Not the norm at all.”

Hagen worked as a free-lance recording engineer in Los Angeles from 1986 to 1992. He worked with Diana Ross, Ringo Starr and the Isley Brothers among others. But the city began to spin too fast for him.

“I loved the L.A. studio scene,” he said.

“There was an incredible diversity of projects, producers and engineers that I worked with and learned from. My years there were a great experience and education, but L.A. was a bit too big for me. The more I had to commute, the less I liked living there.”

Hagen toggled between Los Angeles and Nashville while working with Clint Black in 1991. He finally settled in the South in 1992. For over a decade, he has worked primarily with producer Dann Huff, engineering for a diverse range of musical styles.

Artists he has worked with include Bon Jovi, Keith Urban, Faith Hill, Carrie Underwood and Megadeth.

Hagen’s parents still live in Minot, and he usually returns home during the holidays and in the summertime.

— FRANK McCaHILL



# *First came the voice, then came opera: Singer launched international career at MSU*

**C**had Armstrong is kind of like superman. A few know him as an efficient executive assistant working in New York City. More are coming to recognize him as Mozart's Figaro, Offenbach's Hermann, and Puccini's Marcello. Armstrong is a man of many characters and one rich baritone voice. A voice discovered at Minot State University.

The young Canadian from Estevan enrolled at MSU in 1992 as a music education major. Although he had played the lead in "The Music Man" — the only high school musical he ever auditioned for — he didn't think of himself as a singer. He was a trombonist inspired to follow in the footsteps of beloved Estevan music instructor Colin Grunert.

"I had Mr. G in the fifth grade all the way through high school. He did amazing things with the music program," Armstrong said.

As a member of Grunert's jazz and wind ensembles, Armstrong played trombone in music festivals in Canada and the United States, including MSU's annual jazz festival, which introduced him to the campus.

Like many college freshmen, Armstrong wasn't entirely certain of his career path. In fact, he spent his second year as a pre-med student at the University of Saskatchewan. It turned out music and MSU were the right fit after all, so he returned to Minot.

Among Armstrong's required music education course was choir, for which he had to audition. When he appeared before choral director Kenneth Bowles, Armstrong said, "I didn't even have a song to sing, so I just sang 'God Save the Queen' because I knew it."

Pleased with what he heard, Bowles placed Armstrong in the baritone section and recruited him for MSU's Madrigal Singers. Six or seven private voice lessons later, the professor told the trombonist: "You have the type of voice that universities would pay you to get a master's degree." In that moment, Armstrong says, a thoroughly unplanned career choice began to take shape.

He continued to study voice and spent the summer before his senior year with Cape Cod's College Light Opera

Company, performing musicals and Gilbert and Sullivan operettas.

"It was an amazing summer. I loved every part of it," Armstrong said, adding that he especially enjoyed the camaraderie.

"When I was in high school, I was a jock," Armstrong said. "I played every sport under the sun — hockey, volleyball, track. Being on stage has the same sort of team mentality. It's the idea of a group of you working together toward one goal. It's not a lonely profession. I couldn't do anything else that makes me feel more fulfilled."

And yet, as he prepared to audition for graduate school, he remembers thinking, "I can't believe I'm choosing opera as a career when I haven't even seen one before." He witnessed his first live performance — "Madame Butterfly" — in Dallas in 1999, the same year he began graduate studies at Bowles' alma mater, the University of Oklahoma.

Minor's Western Plains Opera Company provided Armstrong with his first paid professional performance. He sang the role of Morales in "Carmen"



when he was a student at Oklahoma. He'd nearly completed his doctorate when Armstrong quit school and gave himself over entirely to the stage. He's performed with opera companies in Oklahoma, Utah and New Jersey. He's sung with the National Lyric Opera, Opera Worcester, Opera in the Hamptons and Operafest di Roma in Rome. As a concert performer and recitalist, he's appeared at Lincoln Center and several times at Carnegie Hall.

This fall, as a winner in Hungary's 2009 Mezzo TV Festival and Competition, Armstrong made his debut with the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre in Ostrava, Czech Republic. As part of the final round of competition, his performance as John Donne in Marco Tutino's "Vita" was broadcast to more than 40 countries.

Last year in New York, Armstrong played the title role in the premiere of

Armstrong ... captures the attention of critics as  
'a standout ... with one of the finest voices  
in the cast.'

Tobias Picker's "Fantastic Mr. Fox." An artist-in-residence with New York's Dicapo Opera Theatre in 2008, Armstrong will sing the role of Tom Carter in the company's 2010 New York premiere of "Hotel Casablanca."

With each performance, Armstrong expands his repertoire and captures the attention of critics as "a standout ... with one of the finest voices in the cast."

His goal is to sing full time. He's seeking an agent to represent him in the United States. In Europe, singers can have many agents working to find them roles, and he hopes to attract several. He's ready to live wherever his voice takes him, a voice destined to get better with age.

"I'm in my mid-30s, but I'm a Verdi baritone, and as Verdi baritones go, my voice is still young," he said.

As for the future, Armstrong is aching to sing one of the great baritone leading roles, Verdi's Rigoletto.

"It's going to be a great moment when I get to do it," he said.

And one day he hopes his voice will lead him to New York's Metropolitan Opera House.

"You don't have an international career if you haven't been singing at the Met, but when you get into the biggest opera arena in the world, you hope to get there when you're ready for it," he said.

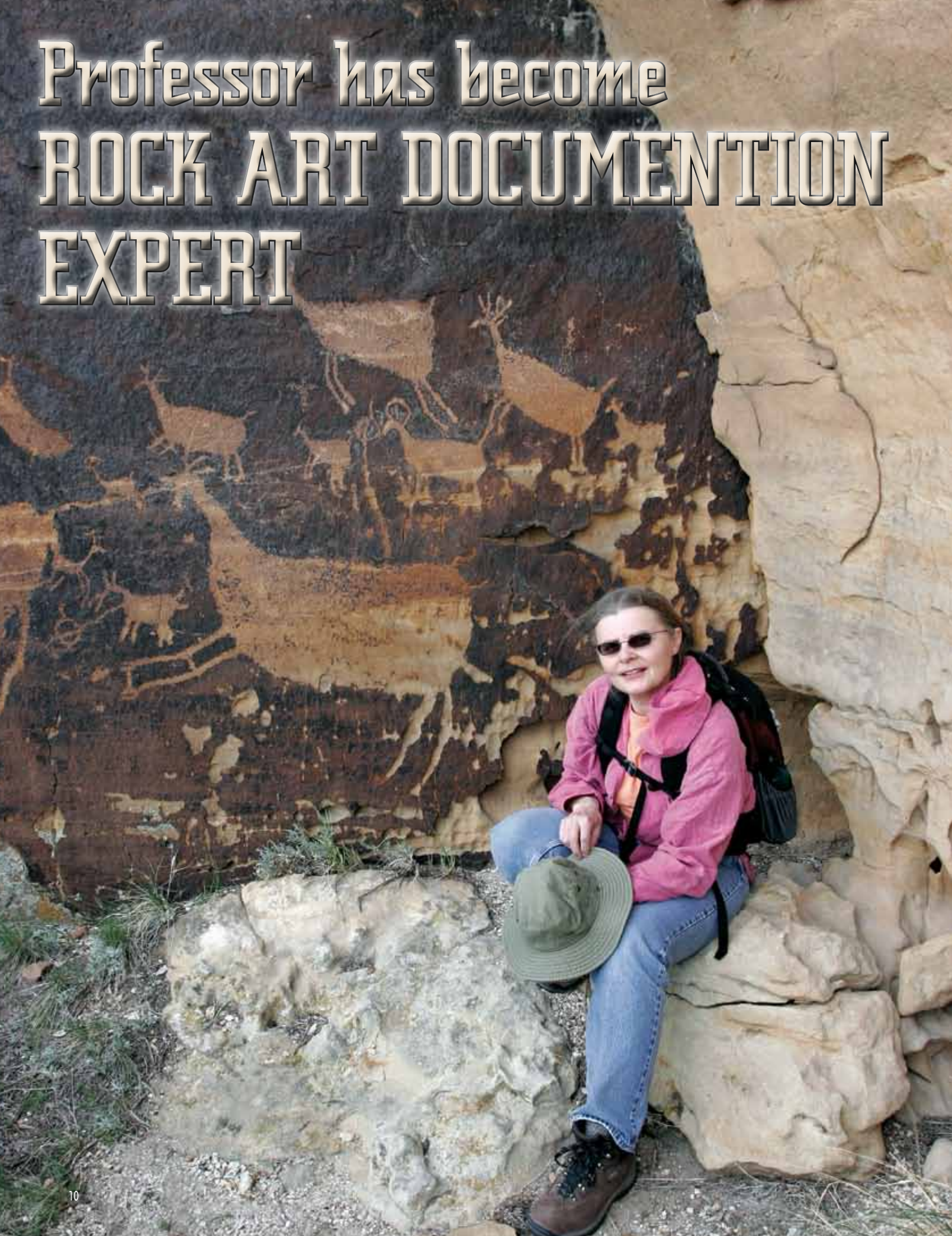
Chad Armstrong plans to be ready.

— CATHY JELSING



Photos for this article by Gábor Dusa.

# Professor has become ROCK ART DOCUMENTATION EXPERT



# An MSU art professor has gained a national reputation for documenting Native American rock art drawings.

Linda Olson has investigated sites in Colorado, New Mexico, Montana and Wyoming for over 20 years. She has exhibited her artworks throughout the United States and in Norway. Her illustrations are found in numerous publications dealing with rock art.

Olson has also conducted field schools to train documentation specialists around the country.

Her career in documentation began innocently enough when she took a graduate course in rock art with archeologist Lawrence Loendorf at the University of North Dakota in 1987. She joined a field study in Colorado and discovered that the work matched her natural abilities.

"I'm patient; I can stand for a long time," Olson said. "I can draw pretty well. I have an artist's eye and discipline. I've always had an affinity for things left by other cultures. These characteristics led me into the field."

Olson and Loendorf later coauthored a training manual on rock art documentation. Her artistic sensibility complements the exacting lens of his scientific eye.

"I create the accurate, complete record of what's there," she said. "Loendorf is well known for his ethnographic research to provide context for rock art."

Plains Indians carved or painted images in caves and on cliffs, rock outcrops and boulders to chronicle their history, record visions, identify hunting and water locations, and foretell the future. Carvings are called petroglyphs and drawings pictographs.

Olson deals mostly with petroglyphs. She is currently working a region north of Thermopolis, Wyo. Petroglyphs in the area have been dated back about a thousand years with a continuum of production to the present.

"For many years, rock art was the poor stepchild of archeology and anthropology because they couldn't date it," she said, adding that recent advances in dating methods have lent renewed interest to rock art.

Whenever oil and gas companies, oil firms or state agencies plan to develop a pristine area, they first call in archeologists, anthropologists and specialists like Olson to survey the site.

"Whenever you have development, there's an ethical responsibility to protect the cultural resources found within that region," Olson said.

Each summer, Olson leaves the cloistered world of the academy for two 10-day stints in the sun-blasted solitude of central Wyoming. Documentation teams camp out amid the ghostly vestiges of earlier civilizations.

"It gives me a chance to be outside, doing something that is important and worthwhile," she said. "If we can establish clear procedures that are not invasive but that provide an accurate, complete record of what's there, that will be beneficial for generations to come."

Olson and her team harvest photographs, sketches, descriptions and measurements from the sites. They meticulously record the material in data-packed reports that become the bedrock for future research.

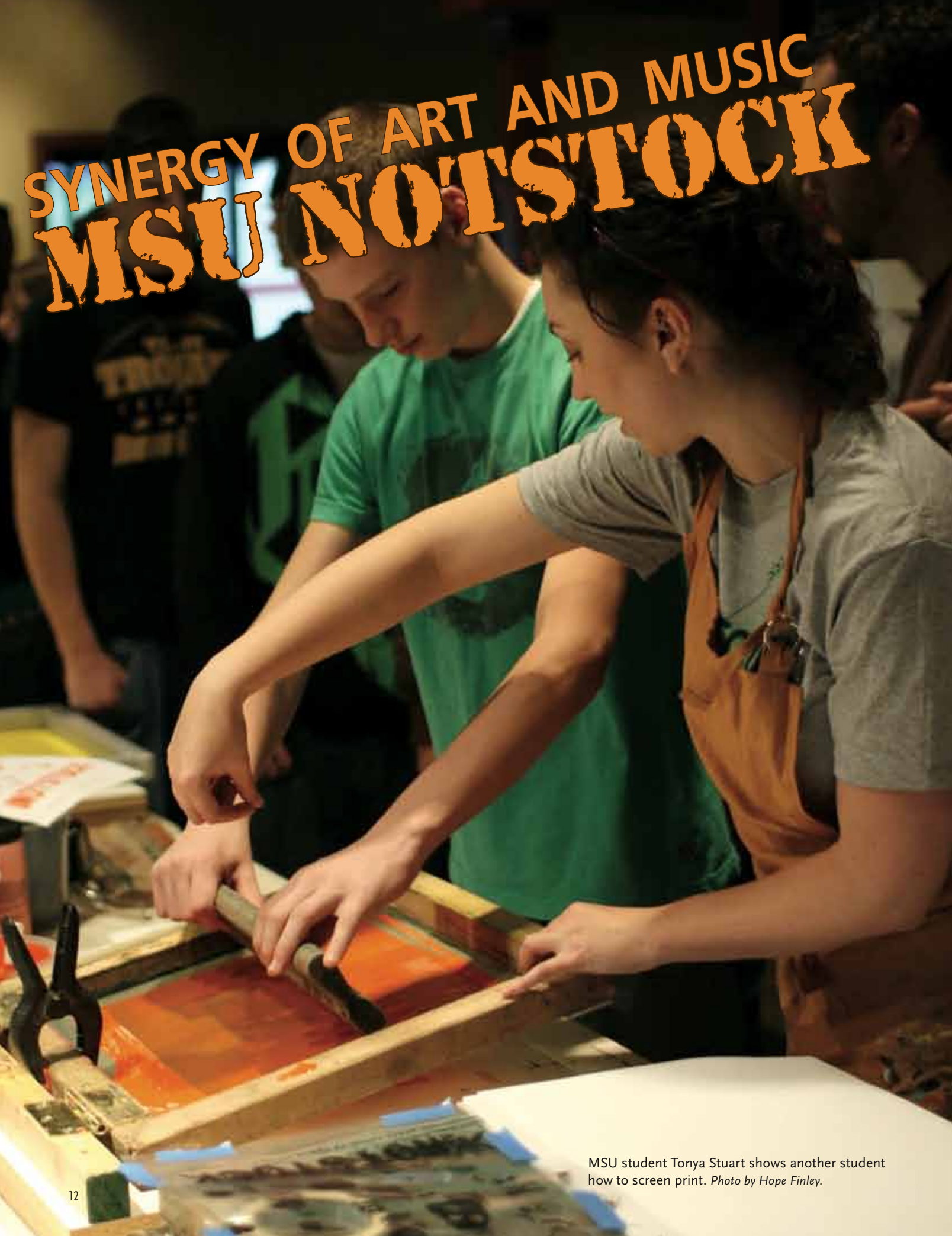
When not pursuing rock art research, Olson teaches art and photography classes and chairs MSU's Division of Humanities.

— FRANK McCAHILL

1. MSU student Alex Gram holds an identification board for documentation photographs.
2. Students on rock art survey study newly found rock art, while they wait for the GPS unit to record their location. Standing left to right are Iosefa Faiai, Justin Wood, Austin Pederson and seated Gregory Vettel.
3. Kendra Rogers draws a field map for the documentation.



# SYNERGY OF ART AND MUSIC MSU NOTSTOCK



MSU student Tonya Stuart shows another student how to screen print. *Photo by Hope Finley.*



Greetings from Minot  
art print by Miss Amy Jo, 2009.

MSU art instructor Patrick Sheldon, right, prints Chantry's NOTSTOCK poster with Bill Harbort, professor of graphic arts. Photo by Hope Finley.



A recipe for success, at least when it comes to MSU NOTSTOCK, is think big and think outside of the box. When co-organizers Laurie Geller, professor of mathematics, and Bill Harbort, professor of graphic arts, first started this marathon of music and poster art in the fall of 2006, they weren't quite sure what to expect. "I knew it was going to grow. I just didn't know how," Harbort said.

"It's evolved," Geller noted. By thinking big and considering every grassroots, alternative, unique possibility available, Geller and Harbort have made MSU NOTSTOCK an annual signature event for Minot State.

The event mixes the best live, local music with the niche art expression of poster art. Toss in a healthy serving of professional guests and stir for three days until bubbling in the Beaver Dam — and you have MSU NOTSTOCK.

If you're wondering, the name comes by combining elements of the 1969 musical event, Woodstock, with FLATSTOCK, a national poster show by the American Poster Institute, along with the catchy phrase, "Why not Minot?" And voilà! MSU NOTSTOCK. Simple, yet complex — much like the event itself.

The real joy, according to Geller and Harbort, is watching one of the more than 200 high school students or a non-art major attend the event and get sucked in by the art or music. Many times a five-minute visit becomes an hour, as most leave with free poster art in hand.

"Students working hand in hand with the pros," Harbort said. "That's what I truly enjoy."

Enjoyment that will continue for years to come. For more information on the dates and times of the 2010 MSU NOTSTOCK, visit their blog at [msunotstock.org](http://msunotstock.org).



Faculty, student, and alumni print Chantry's poster 2009. Photo by Hope Finley.



Diabolic Octopus entertains the crowd. Photo by Laurie Geller.

Renowned poster artist Art Chantry signing skateboard decks at 2009 MSU NOTSTOCK.

Bjorn Christianson prints Art Chantry's skateboard deck. Photos by Laurie Geller.



T-shirt printing. Photo by Bjorn Christianson.

# SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE

Meet our faculty

## Life-altering event changes theater professor

KEVIN NEUHARTH, PROFESSOR, THEATER DEPARTMENT

When it comes to learning new ways of teaching and the best ways to reach students, Professor of Communication Arts Kevin Neuharth puts it best.

“For us old fogies, it’s a challenge,” he said.

Is it? Or is Neuharth just being humble?

A pillar in the theater community in the Magic City and at Minot State University for more than 30 years, Neuharth said he never really anticipated having a job teaching at the university. But after graduating in '74 from MSU and spending two years as a media and speech teacher in the Minot Public Schools, Neuharth found himself speaking with his former professor Harold Aleshire about a position at Minot State.

After a long evening of discussing his future, Neuharth found himself on track to completing his master’s degree at the University of Denver and pursuing a doctoral program at the University of Oregon — all leading up to a longtime career in MSU theater.

Aside from his ever-present persona within theater in Hartnett Hall, Neuharth also took on the task of tackling the popular Summer Theater program in the early '80s. With an estimated 275,000 audience members attending in 44 years of summer theater shows, Neuharth has played a large role in the program’s success.

“I like to think I had something to do with the success of Summer Theatre, but what has really made it successful are the great staff and casts we have had over

the years and the unbelievable following we get from our audiences each and every summer.”

But, don’t confuse him with an all-work-and-no-family type of guy, as two children — Jared, now 23, and Cassie, now 20, — made the biggest difference in Neuharth’s life.

“And then Cindy (’75) and I had our children, and I much prefer that part of life,” he said.

What some may not know is the fight for his life that Neuharth endured at the end of 2008, which eventually changed his entire perspective on teaching and students.

“It was the most bizarre, surreal experience,” he said.

While Neuharth said he never really felt sick, he felt like he should have been feeling better. A visit to a Minot doctor revealed a heart murmur, and in less than 72 hours Neuharth found himself in an operating room to replace a heart valve. Tense moments of uncertainty, followed by six long weeks of initial recovery didn’t keep Neuharth away from his students.

Fall semester finals were just around the corner, so Neuharth finished what he could by reaching out to his students online.

One semester of taking it easy, with lots of support from colleagues, family and students, has him back on his feet, in charge of the Minot State theater program — but something big changed.

When it comes to demanding all students finish classes with good grades, Neuharth said, “I’m not so tragic about the end result. I care much more



about the problems they're having, which are affecting the end result.”

Neuharth says his open heart surgery has given him a perspective change, made him mellow. He says his personal life is more important than it ever was before, and he finds himself caring

more about the “whole person” behind the students, rather than just the career focus of teaching them as students.

Now that's a new way of looking at life that even an old fogey can tackle.

— MARK LYMAN  
Public Information Director

## Simons answers the burning question

*DENNIS SIMONS, CONDUCTOR, MINOT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA*

It's a question Dennis Simons says he gets asked a lot.

“Given your background at much larger orchestras and bigger towns, why did you decide to come and teach in Minot?”

A loaded question, with a simple answer. But first let's get to know the man behind the baton.

Simons, professor of music, was born in British Columbia and has a list of professional accomplishments long enough for any three distinguished musicians, including:

- Music director of the Shreveport (La.) Symphony Orchestra
- Artistic director and conductor of the Saskatoon (Saskatchewan) Symphony Orchestra
- Conductor of the Minot Symphony Orchestra
- Co-concertmaster of the London Philharmonic Orchestra (U.K.)
- Concertmaster of the BBC Philharmonic
- Founder/leader of the Alberni String Quartet (U.K.)
- Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music in London, an honor held by only 250 living former students at any given time
- Distinguished solo violinist

But if you were to ask Simons which one of these he found to be the most important, he would say they were all important in shaping who he is as a person and musician. With all of that experience, he feels he has so much to give to students as a teacher and an educator. What he truly enjoys is being able to “actually make a difference.”

“Being a life-long learner myself, I feel that a day I haven't learned something is a bad day,” he said.

For Simons, it's not about a power trip of being in charge of something or someone, but simply because “I've been able to do things for (students) that gave them an edge in the profession.”

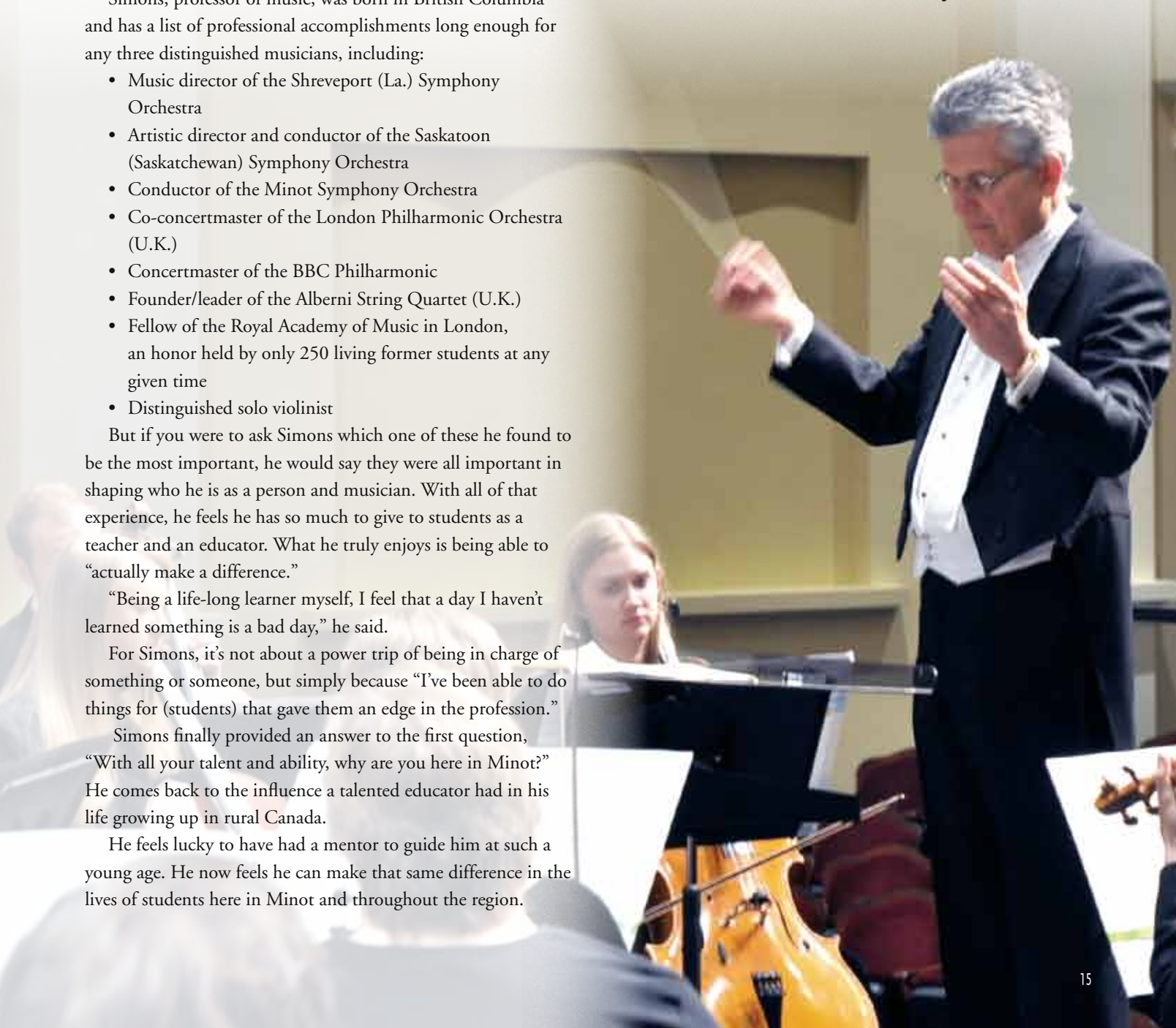
Simons finally provided an answer to the first question, “With all your talent and ability, why are you here in Minot?” He comes back to the influence a talented educator had in his life growing up in rural Canada.

He feels lucky to have had a mentor to guide him at such a young age. He now feels he can make that same difference in the lives of students here in Minot and throughout the region.

Simons' title, as he is known to the musicians he conducts in the Minot Symphony Orchestra, is “maestro.”

“Maestro” is Italian for teacher or master in any art. Both very accurate descriptions of Dennis Simons.

— MARK LYMAN  
Public Information Director



# ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

## HOMECOMING 2009

The Mu Sigma Taus had over 200 attendees back to celebrate!



Many items were on display for alums to look at and relive some wonderful memories!



Student Government alums celebrated 70 years as an organization!



Ann Bremer, Brenda Foster '84/'92 , Debi Ahmann '75, Fran Kostad '88 and Holly Eidsness '76



The newly formed marching band performs at half time of the football game.

## BISMARCK

Alumni Event in Bismarck at the home of Byron '86 and Chris '73 Blowers — August 2009.





# ND STATE FAIR 2009



Joan Mattson, Barb Semrau, Jay '75 and Dyanne Altringer, Shelly Weppler '81

Enjoying the 2nd-Annual Luau at the North Dakota State Fair.



## OKLAHOMA



MSU alums, family and friends living in Oklahoma cheered on the MSU Club Hockey team during the 3-2 shootout victory over the University of Oklahoma in January! Thanks to MSU alums Ralph Hawkins '87 and Jeff Nelson '83 who organized the event!

## ALUMNI APPRECIATION NIGHT 2010



Alumni Association board members and family help serve the food.

## 2010 Homecoming

- SEPT. 22 .....Community Block Party
- SEPT. 23 .....Alumni Golden Awards  
6 p.m., MSU Conference Center
- SEPT. 24 .....Alumni Reunion  
Sigma Tau Gamma Reunion  
Vagabonds Reunion  
7 p.m., Grand International
- SEPT. 25 .....Parade, 10:30 a.m.  
Tailgating, 11:30 a.m.  
Football Game, 1:30 p.m.

For more information, contact the Alumni Office at 701-858-3234 or e-mail [alumni@minotstateu.edu](mailto:alumni@minotstateu.edu).

## TEXAS



Alumni Gathering in El Paso, Texas — October 2009



Despite the winter storm warnings, alums and friends still found a way to come and enjoy the Alumni & Beaver Booster Appreciation Night!

## HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY

# ‘Messiah’ has become a Minot-MSU tradition

**M**inot recently celebrated the 100th anniversary of the first performance of the “Messiah” in 1909. Eighty of those performances were consecutive.

A community-MSU orchestra accompanied 274 voices in presenting George Frideric Handel’s classic oratorio at the city auditorium. The performance also commemorated the 250th anniversary of the composer’s death.



*December 2009 performance.*

For singers, musicians and music lovers alike, the performance is both a cultural celebration and the unofficial kickoff to the holiday season. The 100-year-old event has provided a large stash of memories, from luminous vocal performances to random mishaps.

Julianne Wallin, a longtime music and humanities professor at MSU, began contributing soprano solos to the “Messiah” in 1951. In her 28 years, most performances were serenely uneventful, but odd things occasionally occurred. One year, stagehands rigged up a small platform, so soloists could be better seen by the audience.

“The thing actually shook when I got up there to sing. It was scary,” she said.

On another occasion, an earnest photographer with a large flashgun on his camera crept down the aisle, intent on getting a close-up of the soloist.

“I knew he was going to flash that thing and I was going to jump,” she said. “I was just paralyzed. Sure enough, it went off. It was very unnerving.”

John Strohm, the “Messiah’s” director, promoted community involvement in the project. The number of singers and audience members soon outgrew MSU’s McFarland Auditorium, so the event moved to the city auditorium.

Arnola Levenson joined the “Messiah” production in 1959 as a 13-year-old member of the Mohall choir. After that, she served as a rehearsal pianist and orchestra member.

During her tenure, the “Messiah” has been performed in several venues, the most unlikely being the MSU Dome.

Sounds echoed in the cavernous facility, and singers and musicians strained to hear one another.

“Acoustically, that was not good,” Levenson said.

The event features a tightly bunched choir, brightly lit stage and jammed concert hall, potential ingredients for disaster. Levenson recalled a time when a large college student succumbed to the stifling heat.

“With his arms out, he fell backwards off the risers and took a couple of more guys with him,” she said, noting that he recovered quickly and crawled off the stage in embarrassment.

Mark Schnabel, MSU’s major gifts officer, first sang in the “Messiah” as an

eighth-grader in junior high. He participated in it with the MSU chorus and Heritage Singers, a local men’s chorus, and directed it on one occasion. He feels the production benefits high school and college students the most.

“It gives them a chance to do a major extended work. That is an opportunity that not many young people have,” he said.

After Strohm retired in the late 1980s, MSU and the Minot Symphony Orchestra sponsored the event for several years. But when steeply priced tickets replaced the traditional free-will offering, audiences began to dwindle.

Minot State soon dropped the “Messiah,” so Joseph Hegstad, founder of the Heritage Singers and the female Voices of Note, assumed stewardship and moved it to First Lutheran Church.

The mixed chorus performed to just organ accompaniment in the small church. Community interest soon revived, and the production returned to McFarland Auditorium.

MSU choral director Ken Bowles became involved in the “Messiah” 16 years ago. He has been its director for the past two years. He offers two reasons for its renewed popularity.

“It is an artful piece; people have appreciated it worldwide for 250 years,” he said. “Beyond that, it becomes a social rallying point. Everybody tends to do their own thing. Everybody puts that aside, and we all come together to do Handel’s ‘Messiah’ for the community of Minot.”

After this season’s anniversary performance, organizers plan to return it to the intimacy of MSU’s Ann Nicole Nelson Hall next year.

— FRANK McCAHILL

*"The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra."*

Over the years, donors have supported Minot State University and helped make our students extraordinary.



MSU alumni and friends give that little extra that makes the difference in students achieving their goals ... or settling for something else. Minot State donors have been a part of this life-changing process.

Gifts to the university make a difference to every student, in every study, every year. While gifts may differ in size, each gift has the same impact — it means one more person has made a commitment to students and their future.

Students are faced with many challenges today. The world that they will create will impact all of us. The support that we provide them today to learn critical thinking, problem solving, engagement in community activities, volunteerism and leadership will give them the solid base necessary for their success, and therefore our future.

We give thanks to our donors for caring, for believing, and for joining us in the quest to educate our students to lead, to be successful and to serve others.

If the time is right for you to help again, or if it is time for you to make your first gift, please contact the Advancement Office at 1-800-777-0750, extension 3890, 701-858-3890, or consider giving online at [www.minotstateu.edu](http://www.minotstateu.edu).

— MARV SEMRAU  
Executive Director,  
Minot State University Development Foundation



# ATHLETICS

## NAIA football playoffs highlight fall sports

After two straight seasons of just missing the playoffs, the Minot State University football program took a big step forward.

The Beavers were selected to the NAIA Football Championship Series for the first time since 2002.

MSU traveled to NAIA powerhouse and defending champion University of Sioux Falls for its first-round game and was defeated by the eventual national champions, 64-31.

Minot State finished with one All-American in senior Brian Rohles (OL, Manteca, Calif.). He was also named the DAC Most Valuable Senior for the 2009 season and was a first-team All-DAC selection.

Rohles was joined by two other offensive linemen as Bart Archdekin (Sr., Calgary, Alberta) and George Duenas (Sr., Lodi, Calif.) were named to the All-DAC first team.

Also on the first team were Gino Maxi (DL, Sr., Palm Beach County, Fla.), Martel Pope (LB, Sr., Miami) and Johnny Lester (WR, Jr., Miami).

Leading the way for the Beaver offense was senior quarterback Jon Meier (Regent), who threw for 2,134 yards and 17 touchdowns. Freshman Nico Youngren (Gig Harbor, Wash.) and sophomore Tyson Schatz (Minot) split time at running back. Youngren led the team with 736 yards and seven scores, and Schatz finished with 676 yards.



On defense, Pope was the main man with 75 total tackles. Jeremy Kessler (DB, Sr., Tacoma, Wash.) was second on the team with 67 tackles, while junior Tommy Weidler (LB, Velva) added 52 total tackles and five sacks.

Beaver Head Coach Paul Rudolph is now 19-4 in the DAC in three seasons, with two conference championships.

### Two qualify for national meet

Minot State University had two runners qualify for the 2009 NAIA National Cross Country Meet, as freshman Breyette Schall (Minot) and sophomore Brandon Velasquez (Chula Vista, Calif.) both ran in the meet.



Velasquez



Schall

Schall finished 95th out of 330 runners, finishing with a time of 19 minutes, 50 seconds. Velasquez was 209th out of 323 runners with a time of 27 minutes, 30 seconds.

### Men's and women's golf in good spots

The Minot State University men's golf team takes a substantial lead into the second half of the DAC season, as the Beavers lead Dickinson State by four (15-11) points, and the women lead Black Hills State by three (16-13).



Kelly



Stanley

Jordan Kelly (Sr., Minot) leads teammate Casey Gleich (Fr., Bismarck) by a single point for the top spot. Gleich is 14.5 points ahead of teammate Justin Aberle (Sr., Minot), who is in third.

Whitney Stanley (Sr., Sherwood) has a solid five-point lead on the women's side. Ali Hilkewich (So., Weyburn, Saskatchewan) is in third at 76 points.

— MICHAEL LINNELL  
Sports Information Director



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

The Beaver Booster Club enthusiastically assists the Minot State University Athletics Department in promoting and maintaining the highest level of excellence. The club provides funds to support athletic scholarships for students who have distinguished themselves in competition and in the classroom. It also provides funds for special needs of the Athletics Department.

**Contact Chad McNally at 701-858-4451, 1-800-777-0750, ext. 4451 or [chad.mcnelly@minotstateu.edu](mailto:chad.mcnelly@minotstateu.edu) and become a member today!**

# DeBoer and Linnell new additions to MSU athletics staff

The Minot State University Department of Athletics has added two new staff members.

Melanie DeBoer is the assistant athletic director for compliance and student life and senior woman administrator. This is a required position for the institution with the move to National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II. DeBoer served as the director of athletic recruiting at Upper Iowa University, Fayette, before coming to Minot State.



“We are pleased to have Melanie leading our NCAA compliance plan. This is a critical area for us as we move forward in the NCAA Division II membership process,” Athletic Director Rick Hedberg said. “Melanie will also work very closely with our student athlete advisory committee and our CHAMP/Life skills program. These two programs are very important for the development of our student athletes, and Melanie will do a nice job for us.” DeBoer received a bachelor’s degree from Northwestern

College, Orange City, Iowa, with a double major in psychology and sports management, with coaching endorsement. She is a native of Brandon, Wis.

Mike Linnell is the new sports information director. He is taking over for Sheila Green Gerding, women’s basketball coach, who served as part-time sports information director for 15 years. For the past five years, Linnell was the sports editor at the Minot Daily News.



He was also a co-host of the KMOT-Press Pass, a weekly sports-talk television segment. “We are happy to have someone with Mike’s background leading our sports information department. Mike is a great writer, and he has been around college athletics for several years,” Hedberg said. “Sports information is an area in which we have great potential to expand, and I know Mike will serve us well.” Linnell is a graduate of the University of North Dakota, where he received a bachelor’s degree in communication with an emphasis in print journalism and photography. He is a native of Sunburst, Mont.

## Wes Luther reunites with teams

Minot State University hosted a reunion for Coach Wes Luther and his basketball teams at the 2009 Homecoming.

Luther and his teams won four consecutive championships during his seven years as the head coach from the 1968-69 to the 1974-75 seasons. A number of people were on hand to honor their coach and share some memories, including Luther’s family.

The two-day reunion was full of many activities, including a Beaver Booster luncheon, campus tour and reunion social on Friday. On Saturday, the team members rode in the parade, were introduced at halftime of the football game and were recognized at the MSU Hall of Fame banquet. It was a great weekend to honor a Hall of Fame athlete, coach and athletic director.



Minot State University was happy with the event and looks forward to coordinating future reunions. MSU would like to say thank you to all the reunion participants for taking the time to come back and share the 2009 Homecoming activities. A slideshow is available for you to view on the Web site. You can go to [www.msubeavers.com](http://www.msubeavers.com) and click on the Wes Luther reunion slideshow.

*(Front row, left to right) Phil Momerak, Donna Luther, Leann Momerak, Wes Luther, Mark Luther, Judy Luther. (Second row, left to right) Frank Bruels, Vance Bowersox, Joe Siefried, Dale Olson, Kurt Carlson, Jaycin Sundheim, Greg Johnson, Rocky Fleming, Bill Strasser.*

# ALUMNI FEATURES

## Minot State alum enjoys making music

An MSU graduate has enjoyed a successful dual career as a teacher and a composer for the musical stage.

David Reiser has written lyrics and music for 48 musicals.



Twenty-nine are published and are regularly performed by high schools, colleges and theater groups throughout the United States, Canada and occasionally abroad.

A professional group performed one of his musicals in Chicago last summer. A production company in London featured five of his songs in three musical revues

over the past year and a half and will produce his musical, "Ballet Russes," this spring.

His one-woman show, "Undone Divas," will be premiered by an opera soprano-comedienne in Las Vegas this fall.

"It was lots of fun writing parodies of opera for her show," said Reiser, who lives in Palatine, Ill., a suburb of Chicago.

His compositions echo the timeless rhythms of Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, and Rodgers and Hammerstein. He says he needs a good script to awaken his creative muse.

"I can't just sit down at the piano and say, 'I'm going to write a song,'" he said. "I need an idea first, and a script is full of ideas. When I have the idea, I consider the song half written."

A Washburn native, Reiser graduated from Minot State in 1960 with a degree in music education.

"It gave me a very fine background in music and music education that I was able to build upon," he said.

After earning a master's degree at the University of North Dakota, he made an intuitive leap by accepting a position as choral director at Palatine High School. "I planned to stay three or four years and ended up staying 30 years," he said.

Inspired by a skit in a variety show, he and several choral students wrote a musical based on the legend of Robin Hood. Local audiences loved the work, and Reiser, flushed with success, decided to write another.

"I was doing OK on the music but having trouble with the script, so I teamed up with local playwright Jack Sharkey," he said.

The pair wrote "Betsy," a musical about the life of Betsy Ross, which the school produced for the nation's bicentennial. They produced 18 more musicals before Sharkey's untimely death. Reiser has since worked with a half dozen playwrights around the country.

A widower, Reiser has a son, Mike, who lives nearby with his wife Patty and their two sons, Matt, 13, and Michael, 9.

— FRANK McCAHILL

## Minot native has become pillar of Juilliard faculty

A discussion of Minot State's contribution to the arts would be incomplete without reference to Sally Thomas.



Thomas has taught violin at the celebrated Juilliard School in New York for almost five decades.

Thomas is the granddaughter of George McFarland, the university's president from 1922-38. Her memories of her grandfather are dim, but she does remember one noteworthy event.

"He gave me my first violin," she said.

Thomas studied violin as a young child, switched to piano and returned to the violin as a pre-teen. She studied privately with Arturo Petrucci, a Minot State music professor and conductor of the Minot Symphony Orchestra. The Italian-born teacher epitomized old-school traditions.

"If I didn't keep my little finger on the bow, he'd hit it with his pencil. Today, you'd get sued for that," she said.

Thomas played violin and clarinet in high school and then moved to New York to study under Ivan Galamian, founder of the Meadowmount School of Music, a summer program at Westport, N.Y.

"I learned absolutely everything from him," she said of the Iranian immigrant who studied music in Russia and France.

Galamian noted her natural teaching ability and hired her as his assistant at Meadowmount and later at Juilliard, where he headed the violin department.

Thomas has been on the Meadowmount faculty since 1960 and the Juilliard faculty since 1961. She has also taught at Mannes College The New School for Music since 1979.

Although she has performed in recital and as a soloist, Thomas has always preferred teaching. Her nuanced approach to helping young performers mirrors that of a successful physician.

"Everybody has a different sickness," she said. "Like a doctor, you can't give everybody the same medicine. You give them different prescriptions."

Fledgling musicians flock to Juilliard from around the globe. In recent years, students from the Far East have predominated. By necessity, communication often takes place through the universal language of music.

"It's very easy to make gestures and to play what something should sound like," Thomas said.

Thomas teaches six days a week, often inviting students to her apartment on New York's Upper West Side. She said she has no plans to retire from a teaching career repeatedly validated by success.

— FRANK McCAHILL

# 2009 Golden Award Winners



**VONNIE BROWN** has been deeply involved in folk culture most of her life and credits her Norwegian/American family for instilling within her a love and appreciation for folk traditions.

Born and raised in Columbus, she received a bachelor of science degree from Minot State Teachers College in 1958. She has taught at Minot State University, Utah State University, Louisiana State University and in secondary schools in California and North Dakota.

Vonnie has been professionally active in the dance field. She is generally credited as being the pioneer in bringing the international folk dance to Louisiana.

She currently resides in Louisiana and is married to Dale Brown, a 1957 graduate of MSU and the highly successful basketball coach at Louisiana State University. They have been married for 50 years.



**BLAINE DESLAURIERS** is a native of Sherwood. He graduated from Minot State University in 1979 with a business and economics degree and concentration in accounting. While attending MSU, he started for four years at linebacker for. During his senior year, he was team captain and All Conference. He was

an Honorable Mention All Conference his junior year. He is currently serving as the West Region President for First International Bank & Trust, with oversight over eight banks located in western North Dakota. He is also a member of the bank's board of directors.

Blaine resides in Minot with his wife Kathy (MSU '80). They have two children, Britni (MSU '07) and Brock (MSU '08).



**VENCE (VENCILE) ELGIE** served MSU for 33 years before his retirement in the spring of 1985. He was born in Kenmare in 1923, attended Kenmare Public Schools and graduated in 1942.

In the spring of 1949, he graduated from Minot State with a degree in physical education, history and social studies.

Upon graduation, he accepted a teaching and coaching position at Stanley High School. He began his tenure at MSU in 1956 as an assistant football coach and freshman basketball

coach. In 1957, he was named head football coach and remained there for eight years. His 1962 team was conference champions. In 1967, he became athletic director and the Physical Education Department chairman. In 1988, he was inducted into the MSU Athletic Hall of Fame.

Vence passed away in fall 2009 and is survived by his wife of 56 years, Donna, and their children: Karen, Mike and Debbie.



**GOV. JOHN HOEVEN**, was raised in Minot, earned a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College in 1979 and a master's degree in business administration from Northwestern University in 1981. He served as executive vice president of First Western Bank in Minot from 1986 to 1993 and served as president and CEO

of the Bank of North Dakota from 1993-2000.

Hoeven was sworn in as the state's 31st governor in December 2000 and is in his third term. He worked to build North Dakota's future by focusing on six pillars of growth: education, economic development, agriculture, energy, technology and quality of life.

Hoeven and his wife Mikey '82 have two children, Marcela and Jack.



**SEN. KAREN KREBSBACH** was born in Rugby, attended grade school in Silva and graduated from high school in Velva. She holds a bachelor of science degree from Minot State University, with a major in business and a minor in music. While at MSU, she served as president of the Delta Epsilon Phi sorority and as secretary

of her senior class. She worked in the family owned business, Krebsbach's, Inc., for 35 years, International Harvester Farm Equipment and Motor Truck Dealership in Velva and Minot, along with her late husband Paul. She was elected to the North Dakota State Senate in 1988 and continues to serve. She has two children and three grandchildren.

Minot State University Alumni Association is accepting nominations for the Golden Award. Deadline is May 22. Please utilize the official nomination form. This can be found on the Web site at [www.minotstateu.edu](http://www.minotstateu.edu) or contact the Alumni Office (701-858-3234).

# Class notes...

## '50.....

**Maynard Sandberg '55**, Minot, was inducted into the Minot Catholic Schools Hall of Fame. Sandberg was honored for being a long-time supporter of the Minot Catholic Schools. He's served on numerous boards and has provided numerous scholarships to students attending Bishop Ryan High School.

**Richard Lemke '59**, Rapid City, S.D., published his third book in traditional form. The book is titled "The Intersection."

### LIFE IN THE 90s

**Dorothy Steffen '57**, Minot, celebrated her 95th birthday in September with family and friends. Four of the five siblings are nonagenarians, and the three sisters are all graduates of Minot State. Her siblings include Wilford Hance, 93 years old; Eva Hansen '42, Minot, 98 years old; Faye Zurcher '40, Minot, 91 years old, and Glenn Hance, 82 years old. Eva lives on her son Bill's farmstead near Deering, still plants a garden and shares her produce with family and friends. Dorothy has lived in Edgewood Vista for the past 12 years, and only one resident has lived there longer.



## '60.....

**Michael Olson '69**, Bloomington, Ill., is the assistant vice president for financial operations at State Farm in Illinois. Mike will retire March 13, 2010, after 40-plus years of service.

**Lynette (Borjeson) Painter '89**, Bismarck, associate professor of computer information systems at Bismarck State College, received the Postsecondary Business Teacher of the Year Award. The award is presented to teachers who have made significant contributions to the field of business education by implementing ideas in the classroom, by involvement in department or school activities and by participation in professional organizations.

**Sharon Stinard '68**, Mesa, Ariz., has been chosen as a recipient of the 2009 Hon Kachina

Volunteer Award for her dedication and volunteerism. Stinard founded the Community Alliance Against Family Abuse in 1998.

**Delton Strube '66**, Minot, of Brokers 12 Inc., has earned the Accredited Buyer Representative designation.

## '70.....

**Steve Blikre '71**, Minot, is employed with Northwestern Mutual and has earned the organization's Achievement, Sapphire, 100 Lives and Best Year Ever awards.

**Alan Eidsness '70**, St Louis Park, Minn., was named one of the top 100 lawyers in the state of Minnesota by the Twin Cities Business Magazine.

**Kathy Feist '78**, Minot, was named Minot Public Schools' Teacher of the Year by the Minot Education Association. Feist has been with MPS since 1978.



**Jill Fuller '79**, Watertown, S.D., was appointed president and CEO of the Prairie Lakes Healthcare System.

**Gene Hysjulien '71**, Grand Forks, has been named vice president of operations for Edgewood Management Group LLC. Hysjulien will oversee operations at the five Edgewood Vista senior living communities and three Edgewood Village senior living neighborhoods in Bismarck, Minot, Fargo and Spearfish, S.D. Hysjulien has been EMG's president/chief executive officer since 2006.

**Doug Jaeger '77**, Dickinson, was inducted into the North Dakota Recreation and Parks Association Hall of Fame.

**Steve Kukowski '75**, Minot, received the Minot Exchange Club's Police Officer of the Year Award.

**Leland Kulland '74**, Racine, Wis., is a superintendent/principal at Cassville, Wis. Kulland has been an administrator for the past 18 years. His wife, Cheri '90, is in her second year as directing principal at Jerstad-Agerholm Middle School in Racine, Wis. Cheri has been an administrator for nine years.

**Darrell Olson '73**, Minot, was elected to the board of directors of Mid-America Credit Union Association. Olson is currently the CEO of Town & Country Credit Union.

**Kristen Petrik '79**, Bismarck, has joined Starion Financial as its investment office administrator. Petrik has more than nine years of investment office experience.

**Michael Strotheide '72**, Coos Bay, Ore., recently formed Creative Waste Consulting LLC, which specializes in providing solid waste cost reduction consulting.

## '80.....

**Kevin Burckhard '86**, Minot, an employee of Northwestern Mutual, received Sapphire and 75 Lives awards.

**Stephen Crawford '82**, Temple, Texas, has been promoted to the rank of full professor of music history at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas. He was also named the principal percussionist with the Natchez Music Festival, where he performs with the musical and opera orchestra. He currently is the principal percussionist with the Temple Symphony Orchestra. Crawford has also been selected to appear in the 2010 edition of "Who's Who in America."

**Michele Edward '81**, St. Paul, Minn., is a guidance counselor for the Roseville Area High School in Roseville, Minn.

**Richard "Pat" Huntley '86**, Sherwood, Wis., received his master's of science in nursing and anesthesia in 1990. He then worked as an anesthetist in Bismarck at Medcenter One from 1990 to May 2005. In May of 2005, Pat and his wife, Lisa, moved to Appleton Wis., to take a position at North Eastern Wisconsin Anesthesiology. They have four children, two boys and two girls. They also have two grandchildren.

**Sheila Johnson '85**, Minot, joined the Center for Rural Health staff at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences as its research coordinator. Johnson works in the satellite office in Minot.

**Michelle Nelson '89**, Williston, has been employed at Eight Mile Elementary for the past 20 years. Nelson was selected as Teacher of the Year for the 2008-2009 school year for her district. She has a son, Jake, and a daughter, Dani Jean.

**Traci Romero '89**, Tioga, is a study skills teacher for the seventh-grade class and also teaches seventh- and eighth-grade English at Tioga High School.

**Brenda Shelkey '86**, Turtle Lake, is employed with the TL-M School District as its librarian.



**Janelle Zietz '84**, Burlington, works for United Community Bank and has become an Independent Community Banks of North Dakota Certified Frontline Professional.

## '90 .....

**Heather Ackerman '98**, Minot, joined SRT's executive staff as cost and revenue assurance analyst. Ackerman is a CPA and has over 10 years of accounting experience.

**Sheila Berg '95**, Bloomington, Minn., is in her second year teaching 9-12 grade health & physical education with Insight School of Minnesota, a virtual (online) high school. Berg also serves as department team lead and Student Council adviser. She and her husband, Lars, have two sons, a fifth-grader and a 2-year-old.

**Jennifer Bogden '95**, Minot, recently completed the BSA/AML Institute, a professional certification program sponsored by the Independent Community Bankers of America. Bogden is employed at First International Bank & Trust.

**Deann Brunelle '98**, Underwood, joined the Underwood teaching staff as its fourth-grade instructor. Brunelle and her husband, Rick, have four children.

**Lori Conway '91**, Westhope, is a Title I aide at Westhope School. Conway currently works for Stevick Business Forms, Minot, and runs KC Sales in Westhope in addition.

**Michelle DeFoe '92**, Devils Lake, has joined the Devils Lake teaching staff as its special education teacher. DeFoe is married to Mike, and they have three sons, Aaron, Adam and Jack.

**Heide Ermer '95**, Garrison, is employed at Bob Callies School, Garrison, as a paraprofessional. Ermer and her husband, Jason, have three children.

**Jason Ermer '96**, Garrison, has joined the faculty at Garrison High School as a social studies instructor. He and his wife, Heide, have three children.

**Merry Feldman '96**, Kenmare, is teaching one section of the Kenmare School District's third-grade class and coaching the Honkers junior high volleyball team.

**Linette Irwin '90**, Hazen, is the head volleyball coach for Hazen High School. Irwin and her husband, Kevin, have two children.

**Kay Larson '93**, Tioga, is employed with Tioga High School where she helps students with basic skills in grades 7-12. Larson and her husband, Gary, have three children.



**Bernell Hirning '98**, Fresno, Calif., completed a Ph.D. in organization and management in March 2009, from Capella University. Additionally, he has been promoted

to associate regional dean for the Fresno and Bakersfield Campus at National University. This promotion comes after having held the same position at National University's Redding Campus for the past eight years.

**Nancy Miller '93**, Bismarck, has been hired as the executive director of the North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. Miller has more than 15 years experience in accounting, fundraising, marketing, association management and strategic leadership.

**Tricia (Black) Wieser '93**, Wichita Falls, Texas, is married to Timothy, who serves in the U.S. Air Force. She and her husband have one son, Gavin, who is 2 years old. Wieser was previously employed at MSU from 1996-2006 as the Student Association adviser.

**Beth Zahn '93**, Devils Lake, has joined the Minnewaukan teaching staff as its social worker.

## '00 .....

**Kristen Berube Allard '03**, Dunseith, is employed by the Bottineau School District, teaching kindergarten at Central School.

**Erin Anderson '07**, Stanley, is teaching speech therapy for Stanley School District.

**Nichole Anderson '08**, Minot, is the new preschool teacher for Tioga.

**Michelle Bauer '06**, Kenmare, is employed with the Kenmare School District as its Title I teacher.

**Kara Bowen '02**, Dickinson, is the accounting lecturer at the University of Minnesota-Crookston.

**Jessica Brandt '02**, Kramer, was recently awarded the Title I Outstanding Educator Award for 2009. Brandt currently works in the Casselton Public Schools.

**Heather Branson '09**, Minot, joined the Renville County Social Service Office staff as its social worker for Renville and Burke Counties.

**Elizabeth Braunagel '01**, Mandan, has joined the Bismarck State College campus

community as an assistant professor of mathematics. Previously, she was a mathematics instructor for seven years at Sitting Bull College in Fort Yates.

**Paul Brunsdon '01**, Fayette, Iowa, is attending graduate school at Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wis.

**Nick Cavallo '09**, Devils Lake, is teaching social science to seventh-12th grade Burke Central School students. In addition, Cavallo is helping with football and serving as the junior class adviser and Academic Olympics coach.



**Andrea Haser '06**, Jamestown, received her master's in business administration in May 2009 from the University of Mary. Haser is currently in her second year of teaching

business, computer and English at Pingree-Buchanan High School.

**Shawnta Kinmon '01**, Fairview Heights, Ill., is pursuing a doctorate of education degree in curriculum and instruction. Kinmon is currently teaching at the secondary level.

**Brent Kolobakken '01**, Minot, is the new librarian and accounting II instructor at Kenmare.



**Nicole Luther '06**, Lake Havasu City, Ariz., is in her fourth year teaching third grade at Oro Grande Elementary School.



**Sarah Luther '08**, Lake Havasu City, Ariz., is employed at Pro Therapy as a physical therapist tech.

**Joann Martinson '04**, Greensboro, N.C., is currently a first-year graduate student of voice at the University of North Carolina. She recently traveled to Vermont where she was a featured guest artist with the Vermont

# CLASS NOTES

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Philharmonic Orchestra. This past summer, her travels also took her to Italy, where she studied Italian and Italian opera at the Bel Canto Institute. While there, she received the Bel Canto Institute Orchestral Performance Award.

**Jason Merck '05**, Minot, is employed by Northwestern Mutual. He has earned the Silver, 75 Lives and Best Year Ever awards.

**Jeff Miller '06**, Mandan, accepted the insurance specialist position with AgCountry Farm Credit Services in Grafton. He is responsible for sales and service of multiperil crop insurance as well as hail insurance for the Grafton office.

**Brandi Olson '07**, Douglas, is a paraprofessional at the Max Public School.

**Lori Opdahl '06**, Bottineau, earned her CPA license in 2009.

**Sarah Orth '07**, Minot, has been promoted to Minot operations supervisor at First International Bank & Trust. Orth will oversee the daily deposit operations in both Minot locations. She has been with the bank since 2007.

**Heidi Richter '05**, Champaign, Ill., was featured in the December issue of Scientific American. Her illustrations were included in an article.

**Brooklyn Schaan '09**, Underwood, is employed with the TL-M School District as its fifth-grade elementary teacher. Schaan and her husband, Chris, just purchased their first home in Underwood.

**Nate Simpson '07**, Bottineau, is employed by the Bottineau School District, teaching business and marketing. In addition, he

advises DECA and is the head boys' basketball coach.

**Jake Solper '06**, Minot, has been named Minot High School's head girls' swimming and diving coach.

**Luke Steen '08**, Minot, is employed with McLean Electric Cooperative, Garrison, as business manager.

**Jenn Sundahl '06**, Mohall, has been hired as the new credit review administrator/information technology officer at Citizens State Bank in Mohall.

**Clarke Tavanetz '08**, Biggar, Sask., finished his first year of teaching in Biggar.

**DelRae Zimmerman '04**, Minot, has joined Brokers 12 Inc. as a full-time realtor.

## Attended.....

**Lisa Schenfisch**, Makoti, has been promoted to customer service manager at Reservation Telephone Cooperative in Parshall. Schenfisch and her husband, Tom, have three children.

**Lisa Hueser**, Max, is a teacher's aide for the Max School District. Huesers and her husband, Paul, have two sons, Cole and Jayden.

**Maxine Trotter**, Dickinson, a third- and fourth-grade teacher at DeMores School in Medora, earned the 2009 Warren Kress Outstanding Geography Award from the North Dakota Geographic Alliance. The award is named for Kress, a long-standing geographer within the state.

**Agnes Rime '20s**, Garrison, celebrated her 106th birthday on Aug. 7.

## Our Readers Write

Dr. Olson was Minot State's greatest president. He was always a gentleman and a leader — firm, but always fair. He will be missed.

— Ladonna Schwieger '87 and Robert Schwieger, chairman, Department of Art, 1967-90.

It was with a great amount of pleasure that I read your feature story on the Limke family. It brought back many memories of the time I spent with Dick and Denis Limke on the baseball field. My name is Stan Stokke '65, Larkspur, Colo. I had the privilege and honor to play baseball with Dick and Denis and to watch and admire their work ethic and commitment to Minot State. They were role models to me, and I feel that they helped influence me to also become a teacher and a coach. I know that some of the values I have tried to teach my students and athletes in my 36 years of coaching have come from my association with the Limke boys. Cathy, it was a great article and story, and you have quite a talent for writing. Keep up the good work, and thank you for putting a big smile upon my face.

Always,  
Stan Stokke '65

*The next issue of Connections will focus on business. We'd appreciate hearing stories about unique business careers, entrepreneurship enterprises, noteworthy achievements, awards and/or special interest stories. Please e-mail the information to alumni@minotstateu.edu by May 1.*

# In memoriam...

*It is with honor that we dedicate this section to recognize alumni and friends who have passed away from approximately July 1, 2009 to January 23, 2010, or as submitted.*

'28 Bowman Sr., Leslie; Tacoma, Wash.  
'31 Gotham (Jensen), Alyce M.; Chetek, Wis.  
'31 Modin, Vivian A.; Kenmare  
'32 Anderson (Hynek), Beatrice M.; Stanley  
'33 Foster, Inez C.; Fairfax, Va.  
'35 Berven (Alvstad), Irene M.; Missoula, Mont.  
'35 Martinson (Mortenson), Elsie H.; Harvey  
'36 Gregerson, Arnolda; Forest Grove, Ore.  
'36 Nelson (Donavon), Agnes; Velva  
'36 Nelson (George), Lucille; Milton-Freewater, Ore.  
'36 Rohrer (Hausmann), Margaret L.; Devils Lake  
'37 Dierdorff, Jack L.; Seattle, Wash.  
'37 Nelson, Florence A.; Sherwood  
'37 Westby (Johnson) Cora A.; Rugby  
'39 Goranich (Ege), Ruth M.; Devils Lake  
'39 Gruneich, Edwin A.; Akron, Ohio  
'40 Schultz (Ege), Alma H.; Placerville, Calif.  
'41 Flom, Kathryn C.; Roseville, Minn.  
'41 Lande, Leon A.; Farmington, Mich.  
'41 Steen, Lawrence N.; Webster, S.D.  
'43 Havlis (Hemingson), Cleo D.; Fargo  
'43 Hefter, George; Calgary, Alberta  
'43 Lee (Peterson), Gladys A.; Carpio  
'44 Anderson (Petron), Virginia M.; Minot  
'44 Taylor (Ernst), Lois E.; Las Cruces, N.M.  
'47 Oen, Myrna; Havre, Mont.  
'47 Verbitsky, Sam A.; Minot  
'48 Heck (Aamot), Marian R.; Saint Paul, Minn.  
'49 Elgie, Vencile C.; Minot  
'50 Harmeson, Dr. Vernon F.; Cleveland, Tenn.  
'50 Leier (DeWitt), Jean F.; Altamonte Springs, Fla.  
'50 Lindstrom, Elmer; Lisbon  
'50 Rohrer, Charles C.; Billings, Mont.  
'50 Sperry, Allan E.; Coos Bay, Ore.  
'51 Carlson, Lester W.; Lewiston, Idaho  
'51 Sletten, Victor D.; Argyle  
'53 Grosser (Williams), Lenor I.; Apache Junction, Ariz.  
'54 Elhard (Grose), Elvera B.; Valley City  
'54 McNea, Lloyd A.; Lafayette, Colo.  
'54 Pedersen, Grace U.; Bismarck  
'55 Anderson, James A.; Rugby  
'55 Heidlebaugh (Schelfo), Gladys; Erskine, Minn.  
'56 Dettloff, Charles R.; Redding, Idaho  
'56 Haakenstad, V. Duane; Minot  
'57 Jacobs (Kormann), Kathleen; Center  
'57 Lubbers, Gordon; Laurel, Mont.  
'57 Van Hook (Batema), Clara L.; Wilmington, N.C.  
'58 Jones (Elvrom), Patricia; Sacramento, Calif.

'58 Kihlstron, Roger M.; Minot  
'59 Wittmayer, Leo R.; Bottineau  
'60 Dahle, Thomas A.; Sioux Falls, S.D.  
'60 Odegard, James; Rochester, Minn.  
'64 Alms (Griffin), Ruth E.; Lincoln, Neb.  
'64 Knutt (Anderson), Sharon K.; Devils Lake  
'64 Storick (Bergley), Nancy J.; Mandan  
'64 Thomas, Allan J.; Bismarck  
'65 Finke (Kester), Coraelsie F.; Minneapolis, Minn.  
'65 Schmidt (Stenbakken), Clara L.; Mandan  
'65 Smith, Lorraine M.; Minot  
'66 Mikkelson (Iverson), Wanda B.; Minot  
'68 Barden (Metcalf), Helen M.; Fargo  
'68 Gossen (Sveund), Irene B.; Minot  
'69 Borstad Jr., Blanding N.; Coos Bay Ore.  
'69 Finken (Sillers), Dorothy J.; Apache Junction, Ariz.  
'69 Lester (Bradley), Connie A.; Minot  
'70 Rasmusson, Virginia M.; Minot  
'70 Schimmelpfenning Jr., Herbert A.; Bismarck  
'71 Baumann, Donald J.; Bismarck  
'71 Hannesson, Gordon D.; Minot  
'72 Elliott, Paul A.; Fargo  
'72 Hyde, Jesse L.; Collinsville, Miss.  
'72 Solar (Coffin), Alice I.; Mohall  
'73 Odland, Marjorie; Mt. Vernon, Ill.  
'75 Dokken, William A.; Max  
'75 Leidhl, Glenn K.; Bloomington, Minn.  
'77 Barton, Willard E.; Minot  
'78 Sieler (Wittmaier), Joan E.; Bismarck  
'80 Scheuring, Edmond J.; Washington, D.C.  
'82 Hohmann, Dean D.; Colorado Springs, Colo.  
'82 Sampsell (Juenemann), Nancy J.; St. Cloud, Minn.  
'83 Woods, Warren B.; Winnipeg, Manitoba  
'84 Windus, Lawrence S.; Minot  
'88 Forman, Kathryn J.; Minot  
'88 Wagener, Nathan E.; Minot  
'88 Walsh, Robert L.; Minot  
'89 Skramstad, Brent W.; Havre, Mont.  
'91 Peters (Huestis) Kris A.; Dunlap, Tenn.  
'91 Buchholz (Lokken), Gennifer J.; Minot  
'96 Hoffner Sr., Luther; Minot  
'97 Smith, Boyd A.; New Smyrna Beach, Fla.  
'01 Rutledge Jr., Robert E.; Rapid City, S.D.

## ATTENDED .....

Aufforth, Darlyne; Bowbells  
Bakken, Sadeth; Minot  
Balerud, Paul A.; North Platte, Neb.  
Blesener, Richard F.; Minot  
Brown, Marie; Bismarck  
Carlson, Carla M.; Finley  
Davy, Marilyn; Bismarck  
Dilland, Myrtrice; Tioga  
Effertz, Bessie M.; Velva  
Ege, Evelyn; Stanley  
Fliginger, Carol; Fargo  
Foreman, Kathryn; Minot

Friese, Gloria; Bismarck  
Goldade, Kevin; Harvey  
Goldin, Siobhan; Minot  
Gourneau, Art; Belcourt  
Hanes, Gladys M.; Minot  
Helstedt, Fern; Minot  
Herbel, Leola C.; Bottineau  
Hillman, Kenneth P.; Rugby  
Hoover, Stephan; San Francisco Bay, Calif.  
Jacobs, Kathy; Mandan  
Johnsen, Gladys O.; Kenmare  
Kleingartner, Marie A.; Minot  
Klosterman, Arlene V.; Minot  
Koppang, Olivene; Crosby  
Landers, Ruby; Jamestown  
Lange, Myra Louelle; Bismarck  
Lukach, Jennifer Sue; East Grand Forks, Minn.  
Natwick, Michael; Bismarck  
Nelson, Irene; Minot  
Pedersen, Grace; Bismarck  
Petron (Lenihan) Laurena; St. Cloud, Minn.  
Rasmusson, Esther; Kenmare  
Rasmusson, Virginia M.; Minot  
Riba, Katherine N.; Minot  
Rice, Bessie; Mohall  
Rygh, Delores; Turtle Lake  
Saunders, Marjorie V.; Devils Lake  
Schaffer, Lorraine M.; Fargo  
Schimmelpfennig, Herbert A.; Bismarck  
Schoenborn, Joyce D.; Watford City  
Schulte, David; Sioux Falls, S.D.  
Skabo, Ruby; Mandan  
Solheim, Theodore "Ted" A.; Minot  
Spokely, Doris; Glenburn  
Storick, Nancy J.; Bismarck  
Strump, Arlyss; McKinney, Texas  
Thomas, Allan J.; Bismarck  
Thomsen, Esther M.; Underwood  
Wahus, Karen A.; Minot  
Wyman, Margaret; Westhope

## FRIENDS .....

Anderson, Charles Morris; Minot  
Barsness, Olger; Minot  
Brox Charleen; Grand Forks  
Carlson, Glen; Lansford  
Cron, Clarence; Rolling Hills Estates, Calif.  
Deardurff, Sylvia; Minot  
Elder, Olga; Plentywood, Mont.  
Forde, Lorraine; Minot  
Lowe, Bob; Minot  
McIntee, Michael; Williston  
Opstad, Bryon; Bloomington, Minn.  
Pence, Dorothy; Minot

## FACULTY & STAFF .....

Hahn, Stan; Oskaloosa, Iowa; music instructor  
Oler, Maurice; Minot; worked in the power house as a mechanic  
Smith, Jerry; Minot; worked in Plant Services



Have you had an addition to your family within the last 12-18 months? We want to know! Contact Kate at [kate.neuhalfen@minotstateu.edu](mailto:kate.neuhalfen@minotstateu.edu) to receive a free T-shirt for your new little Beaver! Please be sure to tell us the name, birth date, place, weight and length. Also please provide your graduation year, spouse's name and contact information.

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



**Mike '99 and Stacy '98 (Foss) Aasen** welcomed the birth of their fourth child **Madelyn Sue** on March 10, 2009, in Minot. Madelyn was 7 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 19.5 inches long.



**Aiden Howard** was born Aug. 17, 2009, to **Curtis and Erin '01 (Jones) Anderson**. Aiden weighed 10 pounds, 6 ounces, and was 22.5 inches long. He joins big

sister Hannah.



**Owen Paul** was born June 13, 2009, in Rapid City, S.D., to proud parents **Dustin '00 and JoLynn Bostrom**. He weighed 7 pounds, and was 19 inches long.



**Jack Michael** was born Dec. 28, 2008, in Grand Forks to **Tyler '03 and Nessa '01 (Johnson) Braaflat**. Jack weighed 8 pounds, 12 ounces, and was 22 inches long.



**Lee and Julie '08 (McKinzie) Brandvold** welcomed son **Stetson John** to the family on Oct. 21, 2008. Stetson weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces, and was 19.5 inches long. He joins big sister **Shelsey Ann**, who is 4 years old.



**Riley Christopher** was born May 23, 2008, in Brandon, Manitoba, to proud parents **Shaun and Angela '01/'02 (Grudinski) Cameron**. Riley weighed 5 pounds, 1 ounce, and was 16.5 inches long.



**Larry '07 and Donanne '99 (Hensen) Derr** welcomed their fourth child on April 22, 2009. **Ethyn David** weighed 10 pounds, 5 ounces, and was 22 inches long.



**Brock '08 and Elly DesLauriers** welcomed daughter **Taylor Sue** to the family on May 1, 2009. Taylor weighed 6.4 pounds, and was 19.25 inches long.



**Zoey Ann**, daughter of **Chuck and Anne Marie '08 Devore**, was welcomed into the world on May 15, 2008, in sunny California. Zoey weighed in at 7 pounds, 8 ounces, and was 20 inches long.



**Joshua Michael** was born Nov. 10, 2008, in Santa Maria, Calif., to **David and Holly '06 (Johnson) Engler**. Joshua weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces, and was 20 inches long. He joins big brother **Jacob**, who is 3 years old.



**Ryan '06 and Jamie '06 (Slaubaugh) Eraas** welcomed daughter **Madison May** to the family on March 7, 2009. Madison weighed 5 pounds, 13 ounces, and was 19.5 inches long.



**Brandon and Lori '02 (Moline) Fecho** welcomed their third child **Maren Ann** on Feb. 8, 2008. Maren weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces, and was 18.75 inches long. She joins siblings **Darian** and **Ty**.



**Hannah Elizabeth** was born to proud parents **Robert '96 and Shawna (Alderton) Garnsey** on March 12, 2009, at 8:39 p.m. Hannah weighed in at 6.6 pounds, and was 19.5 inches long.



**Rob '09 and Tanya Hauptman** welcomed daughter **Lilli Rae**, born March 6, 2009. She weighed 9 pounds, 8 ounces, and was 21 inches long.



**Peyton Nicole Perron** was born on March 16, 2009, to **Nicki '09 Head**. Peyton weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 21.5 inches long.



**Brienna Nicole** was born to **Rick '08 and Erin Heit** on Oct. 7, 2009. She was 6 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 20 inches long.



**Alyssa Ann** was born May 30, 2008, to proud parents **Steven '97 and Elizabeth (Swenson) Holen**. Alyssa weighed 6 pounds, 11.5 ounces, and was 20 inches long.



**Kelsey '97 and Erin '98 (Zeltinger) Holt** welcomed son **Henrik Rasmussen** on Sept. 2, 2008. He weighed 9 pounds, 10 ounces, and was 21.5 inches long.





**Ken '95 and Beth Hough** welcomed the birth of their first child **Thaddeus Charles**. He arrived June 3, 2009, in Santa Barbara, Calif., weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces, and was 19 inches long.



**Avery Annie** was welcomed to the world on June 25, 2009, by proud parents **Matthew and Tina '06 (Berndt) Johnson**. Avery weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces, and was 21.25 inches long.



**Shane '02 and Tara '01 (Lavachek) Jordan** are proud parents of son **Drew Christopher**, born on Sept. 23, 2008. Drew weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces, and was 20.5 inches long.



**Cade '95/'08 and Melissa '95 (Lane) Jorgenson** are proud parents of **Mykaela**, born January 2007, and **Kyla**, born February 2009.



**Allen and Holly '00 (Hager) Kersten** are proud parents of **Danny Allen**, born Feb. 14, 2009. Danny weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces.



**Dustin '01 and Rachael '01 (Duchscher) Ketterling** welcomed their second child on March 19, 2009, a daughter **Hailey Lynn**. She weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces, and was 19.25 inches long.



**Trevor William** was born May 29, 2009, to proud parents **Jake and Becky '99 (Gerhardt) Klier**. He weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces, and was 21.5 inches long. Trevor joins big brother Andrew, who is 3 years old.



**Ila Elaine** was born to **Brian '04 and Mikaela '05 (Ingersoll) Knowles** on June 21, 2009. Ila weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces, and was 19 inches long.



**Sophia Joan** was born July 25, 2009, in Minot to proud parents **Carl '00/'02 and Jennifer '02 (Entzel) Lade**. Sophia weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 21 inches long. She joins big sister Olivia, who is 3 years old.



**Liam Allen** was born on Jan. 8, 2009, in Edina, Minn., to proud parents **Annie and Rhett '04 Larson**. He weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces, and was 20 inches long.



**Jake** (attended '99-01) and **Candace Lockrem** welcomed daughter **Isabella Rose** on June 23, 2009. Isabella weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce, and was 10.25 inches long.



**Sarah Charlotte** was born July 26, 2009, to proud parents **Brent '98 and Melissa Loehr**. She weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces, and was 20 inches long.



**Jay and Amanda '07 (Degenstein) Loughman** welcomed daughter **Emma Jane** to the family on Dec. 30, 2008. She weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces, and was 18.25 inches long.



**Logen Patrick** was welcomed by proud parents **Ryan '02 and Denbea (Quinlen) McNally** on July 1, 2009. Logen weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces, and was 21 inches long.



**Sean '06 and Madeline Pratchler** welcomed son **Daniel Connor** on May 24, 2008, at 12:30 p.m. Daniel weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces, and was 22 inches long.



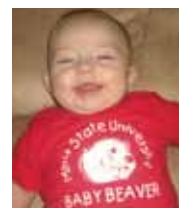
**Masen Clare** was born on March 7, 2009, to **Tory and Dawn '06 (Monge) Schwartzbauer**. She weighed 8 pounds, 15 ounces, and was 21.75 inches long.



**Jack Hugo** was born in Minot to proud parents **Jock '95 and Lacey Stevick**. He arrived on June 10, 2009, weighing 8 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 21.25 inches long.



**Ava Lynn** was born to **Chad '04 and Erin '03 (Pope) Thuner** on Dec. 5, 2008. She was 6 pounds, 7 ounces, and 19.25 inches long.



**Anthony and Stefanie '04 (Forsman) Williamson** welcomed daughter **Sylvia Snow** on June 26, 2009, in Okinawa, Japan. Sylvia weighed in at 9 pounds, 6.4 ounces, and was 21 inches long. She joins big brother Jack, who is 4 years old.



**Trevor '97 and Della Zawislak**, along with their little girl Drea, welcomed their newest addition, **Hunter Trevor**, on March 23, 2009. Trevor weighed 8 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 21.5 inches long.



**Michael and Angela '00 (Eraas) Zerr** welcomed daughter **Danica Kaylee**, born Nov. 3, 2008, in Minot. Danica was 6 pounds, 11 ounces, and 20 inches long.

# DIPLOMA FRAME ORDER FORM

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

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

green mat \_\_\_ burgundy mat \_\_\_ red mat \_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed  
(payable to MSU Alumni Association)

VISA  MasterCard

Number \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

I will pick up.



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

## Take a walk through memory lane!



### New history book sheds light on Minot State's past

This book commemorates Minot State University's origin in 1913 as the State Normal School at Minot and its dynamic evolution through World War II and serves as a centennial tribute to those who created this premier institution on the Northern Great Plains.

The author of "Minot State University" is Mark Timbrook, a local historian, alumnus and current employee at MSU. The Dr. M. Lillehaugen History Scholarship Fund receives all royalties from the sale of this book.

For more information, go to [www.minotstateu.edu/news/000245.shtml](http://www.minotstateu.edu/news/000245.shtml) or call 701-858-3832.

### MOVING OR HAVE A TEMPORARY ADDRESS?

SEND YOUR NEW ADDRESS TO:

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

## MSU license plates available online



MSU license plates can now be ordered online through the North Dakota Department of Transportation. The link to the site is <https://secure.apps.state.nd.us/dot/mv/mvrenewal/plate.htm>.

For questions, contact 858-3373 or [tawnya.bernsdorf@minotstateu.edu](mailto:tawnya.bernsdorf@minotstateu.edu).

## 2010 Commencement

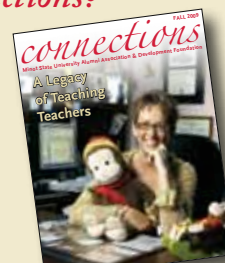
You are invited to the Class of 2010's commencement ceremony Friday, May 14, at the MSU Dome.

Commencement begins at 10 a.m. for all students. The hooding ceremony for graduate students will take place at 8 a.m. in Ann Nicole Nelson Hall. Join us on this festive day to welcome the newest members of the MSU alumni family.

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

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

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



**Alumni Association**  
*27th-annual*  
**Gala**  
*dinner & auction*

*We hope to see you at the*  
**2010 Minot State University Alumni Association  
GALA Dinner & Auction**

**Friday, April 30**  
**Social: 5:30 p.m.     Dinner: 6:45 p.m.**  
**Holiday Inn, Minot**

The 2010 MSU GALA will be taking place this spring! You are cordially invited to attend the 27th-annual Minot State University Alumni Association Gala Dinner and Auction. This event promises to be a night filled with elegant atmosphere, music, fine dining and the opportunity to support Minot State University.

Your generous contributions to the GALA enables the Alumni Association to support various projects on and off campus. A major focus of the GALA supports the Alumni Endowment fund for awarding scholarships. For the 2009-10 school year, \$18,000 was awarded in scholarships.

To order tickets, contact the Alumni Office at 701-858-3234, 800-777-0750 ext. 3234 or e-mail: [alumni@minotstateu.edu](mailto:alumni@minotstateu.edu).

*Join us for the 27th Annual Gala*  
*Friday, April 30, 2010, at the Holiday Inn!*



**Minot State**  
**UNIVERSITY**

**Alumni Association**

500 University Ave W  
Minot, ND 58707

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“After moving back to Minot, we were excited to have the opportunity to become actively involved with Minot State University. The education we received at MSU has served us well, no matter where we have lived. Having a young family, we appreciate the many activities and opportunities that MSU provides for the community. It is exciting to see all of the changes that are taking place on campus and we are proud to be a part of it. We will always have a connection to MSU, and we’re thankful for the opportunity to give back to our university.”

— *Kelsey '97 and  
Erin (Zeltinger) Holt '97/'98*

*Erin is currently employed at MSU,  
and Kelsey serves on the Alumni Board.*

