

SPRING 2011

connections

Minot State University Alumni Association & Development Foundation

Making a Difference



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



‘The fifth strategy of Minot State University’s strategic vision makes it abundantly clear that we are to provide for our students’ success, their personal growth, their acquisition of knowledge, and their future success in careers and life.’

To this day I fondly remember things I learned in college, and sometimes it’s only years later that I recognize the value of what I learned, or the effectiveness of those who taught me. I think of some of the faculty — particularly the tough ones who asked tough questions and demanded a lot of reading and writing from me — and can appreciate those experiences more now in retrospect than I did then. In a sophomore literature class, my professor asked us to memorize five poems, and at the time I thought how silly, but now realize the value and, in fact, can recite the poems 40 years later with precision and sensitivity. Lines from Emily Dickinson’s poem, “Success” have come to mind at appropriate times to underscore her observation and my recognition that “success is counted sweetest by those who ne’er succeed.”

Success is what all of us in higher education think about, make proclamations about, and wonder how we can help students get there. The fifth strategy of Minot State University’s strategic vision makes it abundantly clear that we are to provide for our students’ success, their personal growth, their acquisition of knowledge, and their future success in careers and life. However, others might consider success differently.

Some consider our success the percentage of students who get jobs after graduation, or the number we graduate in four years, or the number we enroll compared to previous years. Some think of our work as helping students learn how to do their jobs well. Right now, more than ever I’d hazard to say, Minot State University will be judged and tested by how well people think we are doing our job as an institution.

With all of these demands for our institutional success, I would suggest respectfully that we need to be devoted, first

and foremost, to the quality of their learning, their in-depth knowledge of our world and their role in it, their appreciation for the difficulty and rewards of learning, and their recognition of the need to continue to learn.

Many of us in our popular culture are led to believe that success is winning, achieving profound and notable accomplishments, making it to the top, or earning high salaries. But the student success we strive for is not that easy. It comes from tough classes, challenging writing assignments, books that demand thinking and deep reflection, debates, and experiences that make our students ask tough and thoughtful questions about a variety of competing points of view. Our success should be measured by graduating knowledgeable, smart, and good people. Right now, in a world of easy and quick answers and simple generalizations about this and that, we need students who have the ability and wherewithal to think and to contribute meaningfully to the welfare of our communities and our world.

This edition of *Connections* makes that service to our world and to others clear, and it highlights the type of learning and successes that make a huge difference in the lives of our students and in the lives of others. These are stories of success and the experiences we are committed to providing to our students.

Bill Gates claims that “success is a lousy teacher. It seduces smart people into thinking they can’t lose.” But the sense of success I like the best comes from Sophocles’ simple exclamation that “success is dependent on effort.” For me the efforts of our alumni and faculty recorded in these pages that follow have indeed led them to experience successes of the highest order. That might not necessarily be measurable right now but in the longer term it can make a heck of a difference.

— DAVID FULLER, President



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ON THE COVER: Giraffes in Africa photo by Connie Philipenko taken during one of her "Save Africa One Village at a Time" trips.

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Connie Philipenko a.k.a. Ja Ja Con

ONE WOMAN: TWO AMAZING STORIES



When Connie (Willoughby) Philipenko was 13, she dreamed of going to Africa and helping orphans. Forty-five years later, Philipenko has made her dream come true.

Despite her youthful aspirations, Philipenko wasn't a likely candidate for altruistic adventures abroad. Raised in the heart of North Dakota, she graduated from Turtle Lake High School in 1964 and not long afterward married the love of her life. By the time she was 24, she was the mother of three and a widow, her young husband having been taken by cancer.

A few years passed, and she met and married a man who brought the family to live on a farm near Max. Together, they had five more children.

A devoted and happy mother but an unhappy wife, Philipenko divorced in 1989. She moved her five youngest children to Minot, took a \$4-an-hour job at the YMCA and decided she needed a college degree to give her family a good life.

"I was 42 years old and scared to death when I enrolled at Minot State in 1992," Philipenko said. "I got to campus and was literally turning around to walk off again when I ran into my friend Joan (Brunner) Anderson '97. I told her, 'What was I thinking? I can't give five children the attention they need, plus work full time, plus go to school full time.' Joan looked me in the eye and said, 'You cannot not do this for your kids.'"

Four-and-a-half years later, Philipenko graduated with degrees in sociology and political science and signed up for a one-year stint with AmeriCorps VISTA. It didn't pay much, but Philipenko saw it as a way to ease into the workplace and discover "what needed to be done in Minot."

AmeriCorps VISTA placed Philipenko with the Minot Housing Authority, where she worked with its award-winning entrepreneurship training program. Philipenko then accepted a full-time position with the authority and spent more than a decade coordinating its family self-sufficiency program.

Last year, she took on a brand new role as vocational services director, helping public housing residents find the training, education and connections they need to obtain meaningful work.

"I decided I wanted to go out with a bang before I retire. It's a whole new adventure," she said, albeit tamer than her multiple mission trips to Africa.

It all started in 2005, when Philipenko decided to make her girlhood dream come true. She found a Wisconsin church group planning to work in a refugee camp in Kakuma, Kenya, and arranged to join them. Then she told her children.

"At first, they were livid," Philipenko said.

Their greatest fear was what their outspoken, 58-year-old mother might say or do to get herself into trouble in such a volatile locale.

But Philipenko not only survived the trip, she also thrived, deciding to return every two years for the rest of her life.

She sold her house, moved into an apartment and began saving money and vacation time for her next trip. In 2007,

she journeyed to Kampala, Uganda, where she helped build a nursery school for orphaned children.

In 2009, she went to Gulu, Uganda, to help build a home for teachers. In the summer of 2011, Philipenko will travel to Kenya to help build an Assembly of God church and to address the medical and spiritual needs of the Rendille tribe.

Philipenko now organizes the trips through her own Heart For Africa Missions (www.heartforafricamissions.org), encouraging others to join her efforts to save Africa "one village at a time."

She does no fundraising. If people donate money, it goes into an account at Minot's First Assembly of God and is used to support Heart For Africa Missions' humanitarian efforts. This summer, the group will distribute baby blankets that tribal leaders can present to new mothers, sandals to protect children's feet and soccer balls.

Just as her children predicted, Philipenko — aka Ja Ja Con — has boldly gone where others dare not go. In Kakuma, she insisted on visiting the most dangerous, poverty-stricken district in the city. In Uganda, co-workers had to order her not to follow an intriguing local woman into the cobra-infested bush.

She samples all food offered by her African hosts. She's learned to bathe in less water than it takes to fill a kitchen sink. And — to ensure she has the energy to keep going back — she has reduced her weight by 97 pounds since her first trip.

To those who praise her courage and commitment, Philipenko said, "I get so much more out of it than I give. It's absolutely wonderful for me to get to do it."

— CATHY JELSING

Connie Philipenko was sitting on a bench in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya when a scraggly band of boys came to investigate the newcomer. One of them was a little 2-year old and he jumped right up in her lap. He began calling her ma ma Connie. One of the bus drivers changed ma ma connie to Ja Ja, which translated means grama in Swahili. "People in church and even my grandchildren call me Ja Ja Con," says Philipenko. The name holds so much joy for her that she put it on her license plate.



Every evening for the next eight days, Ja Ja Con's new buddy and company followed her back to an enclosed camp surrounded by a barbed wire fence. And every morning when the sun came up, the little band of warriors returned to greet her. It was a sad departure when Ja Ja Con left.



Inventor-Intrapreneur-Entrepreneur

Making a difference in people's quality of life

When Bill Isaacson took the stage in Ann Nicole Nelson Hall last April 2010, he saw before him 900 seats filled with excited fifth- and sixth-graders. The emerging entrepreneurs had come to Minot State University to share their inventions, learn from each other and gain insight from old pros like him.

Looking into their eager faces, it occurred to Isaacson that as a child he'd been much like them. He'd even sat in the same auditorium, although his purpose for being there was waiting for his mother to practice her organ lessons. Isaacson mused that while these Marketplace for Kids attendees might be smarter than he was at their ages, even then he knew he wanted to invent things. And invent he did.

Isaacson filed for his first patent in 1963 as a graduate student at Montana State University. He submitted his most recent application in 2010. During his 32-plus-year career with 3M in St. Paul, Minn., Isaacson helped transform many ideas into patents and marketable products and earned a reputation as one of the company's top intrapreneurs.

Of all the ideas Isaacson nurtured at 3M — extended-wear breathable contact lenses, an artificial cornea, surgical glue and more — the one that means the most to him is his work on multifocal intraocular lenses.

“At the time, single-vision lenses were being implanted to improve the vision of cataract patients. I came up with the idea of using diffractive optics as a means of creating lenses with multiple focal points,” Isaacson said.

Among the patients to receive the new lens during FDA testing was Isaacson's mother, Helen.

“My mother was 84. She had cataracts in her eyes and poor vision,” Isaacson said. “My father was in the nursing home. Her life was going downhill, but when Dr. Darrell Williams in Minot implanted her multifocal intraocular lenses, it changed her life. She started enjoying life again. She started watercolor painting again. To have made a significant difference in the quality of the last five years of my mother's life was the best thing I could have ever done and my proudest accomplishment.”

Oil was first interest

Things could have turned out much differently had Isaacson pursued his early career goals. It was natural for Isaacson, who

grew up one block from campus, to decide to attend Minot State University. In the fall of 1956, he was one of 100 students to enroll in a two-year, pre-engineering program instituted to aid the United States' great “space race” with Russia.

At the end of the two years, only 15 remained in the program. One was Isaacson, who managed to pass the slide rule course, take as many as 27 credits a quarter, and play clarinet and saxophone with a 10-piece dance band called the Collegiates.

A Minot State field trip to the Cenex oil refinery in Laurel, Mont., inspired him to study chemical engineering at Montana State University. Music helped pay his way in Bozeman, too, where the Playboys quartet often played at fraternity and sorority functions. Isaacson earned his bachelor's degree in 1960 and his doctorate in 1963. He then began his career at 3M.

Isaacson's uncanny ability to recognize new business opportunities led 3M to name him venture director, a title held by few in the company's history. “I didn't think I was a great inventor,” Isaacson said, “but I had a unique ability to examine an idea and — in a ‘blinding glimpse of the obvious’ — see how it could be turned into a product or business opportunity.”

Giving back

Frequent trips to North Dakota in the mid 1980s to visit his aging parents rekindled Isaacson's love for the state as well as his interest in flying, which he learned to do his sophomore year at Minot State.

Isaacson retired to Stanley in 1996 but continued to share his expertise on intrapreneurship around the globe. Between 1998 and 2002, he served on the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education, providing leadership as vice president and president.

But, as of Jan. 1 of this year, Isaacson has decided to do more things for himself, like flying his vintage 1946 Aeronca Champ, fishing Lake Sakakawea and hunting. If he does anything professionally, he says it will likely be to help Minot State University develop its new Severson Entrepreneurship Academy.

“I love being able to give back by mentoring young entrepreneurs and supporting the academy. Being an entrepreneur is an exciting way of life and can be personally very rewarding,” Isaacson said. “Entrepreneurship is a way to recharge North Dakota's economy. It's a way to create jobs, and it's a way to create growth.

“I returned to my roots because there is a legacy here, an entrepreneurial spirit — shared by people like my parents and grandparents — that I'm very proud of.”

— CATHY JELSING

Opposite page: Bill Isaacson holds a model of his multifocal intraocular lens on the left, and the actual lens on the right.



Tag-team effort nudged student toward a school psychology career

A husband-and wife-team at Minot State helped one student discover his true vocation. Dan Mayer is director of special services for the Uinta County School District in Mountain View, Wyo. He oversees 25 professionals who work with 140 special services students in the 1,000-pupil school district.

Mayer graduated with a specialist's degree in school psychology in 2003. But school psychology wasn't on his radar when he enrolled in Minot State.

After high school, the Burlington native took a job, got married and later decided to attend college. He had grown up amid his parents' day-care center, so kids were in his DNA. At MSU, he double majored in elementary education and special education for the deaf.

Mayer hoped to pursue a master's degree in a specialized field, so he took courses in audiology. But Nancy Hall, his adviser in the Education Department, looked at his eclectic academic background and suggested the field of school psychology.

Mayer took Nancy Hall's advice and began working with Phil Hall, the school psychology program's director and Nancy's husband. Mayer honed his professional skills during a one-year internship in Douglas, Wyo., under Phil Hall's direction.

"He became a mentor when I went out into the field," Mayer said. "We consulted on students who posed unique challenges. I was able to call him and say, 'What should I do? What's your professional insight? Am I on the right track?'"

Mayer believes MSU's rigorous school psychology program gave him an edge on his competition.

"I was very prepared to do the job the right away," he said. "I was knowledgeable about the field and able to offer a litany of services to the school district."

As a school psychologist, Mayer assesses students' eligibility for special services and trains parents of children with special-needs.

He still consults with Phil Hall, who currently lives with his wife in Spearfish, S.D.

"They're great people. They've been instrumental in my life," he said.

Mayer's wife Shanon is a media specialist in the Uinta County School District. The family includes two daughters. Tawny, 19, attends the University of Wyoming. Taryn, 11, is in middle school.

'I was very prepared to do the job right away. I was knowledgeable about the field and able to offer a litany of services to the school district.'

— FRANK McCAHILL

Blessings Given, Undeserved

For Minot native, Kevin Burckhard '87, and his wife, Paula (Herslip) Burckhard, '86, life has never been about shining a spotlight on themselves, but instead being ready to “answer the call” and allow God to provide direction in their lives. This mindset has them going to Serbia this spring to bring back a second adopted child — making it three children in their family with Down syndrome.

After 10-year old daughter Grace was born with Down syndrome, Kevin and Paula eventually reached the point where they asked, “If not us, then who?” As in, who else to better take care of, love and raise a child with Down syndrome than the Burckhard family. So, Bella, then 4 years old, was brought home from the Berizka Orphanage in Kiev, Ukraine, in mid-2009. This was accomplished through the help of the non-profit organization, Reece’s Rainbow, an international Down syndrome orphan ministry.

“Our purpose, or hope, in telling our story would be so that someone would consider adopting to make the life of a child — and in turn, your own life — that much better,” Kevin said.

The sharing of their family’s story has attracted national attention, with a full page of coverage in the magazine *Woman’s World*.

‘Adopting a child will not change the world, but for that child their world will change.’

It wasn’t long after the adoption of Bella that the topic of adopting another Down syndrome child returned. As Kevin put it, in response to his wife’s question of if he was ready for another special addition to the family, “there is room for one more ... and one more ...”

With the adoption of Novak, the Burckhard family will have grown to seven people. A true reminder of one of Kevin’s oft-quoted phrases, “Adopting a child will not change the world, but for that child their world will change.”

2010 Christmas card picture sent out with the note, “Kevin, Paula, Elizabeth (now 17), Samuel (13), Grace (10), Bella (now 6)... We know we can’t bring them all home with us, but we believe we have room for at least one more “pumpkin” in our family ... Merry Christmas!”



From the football fields of Canada to the halls of Duke University, focusing research on the ‘have-nots’

Earning a doctorate degree in clinical psychology was the furthest thing from Charles Jonassaint’s ‘02 mind after enrolling at Minot State University in 1998. At that time, life was all about the next big hit — on the football field.

Growing up in Vancouver, Canada Joassaint felt he had what it took to make it to the next level of football in the states, playing college ball — unfortunately he forgot to keep his grades

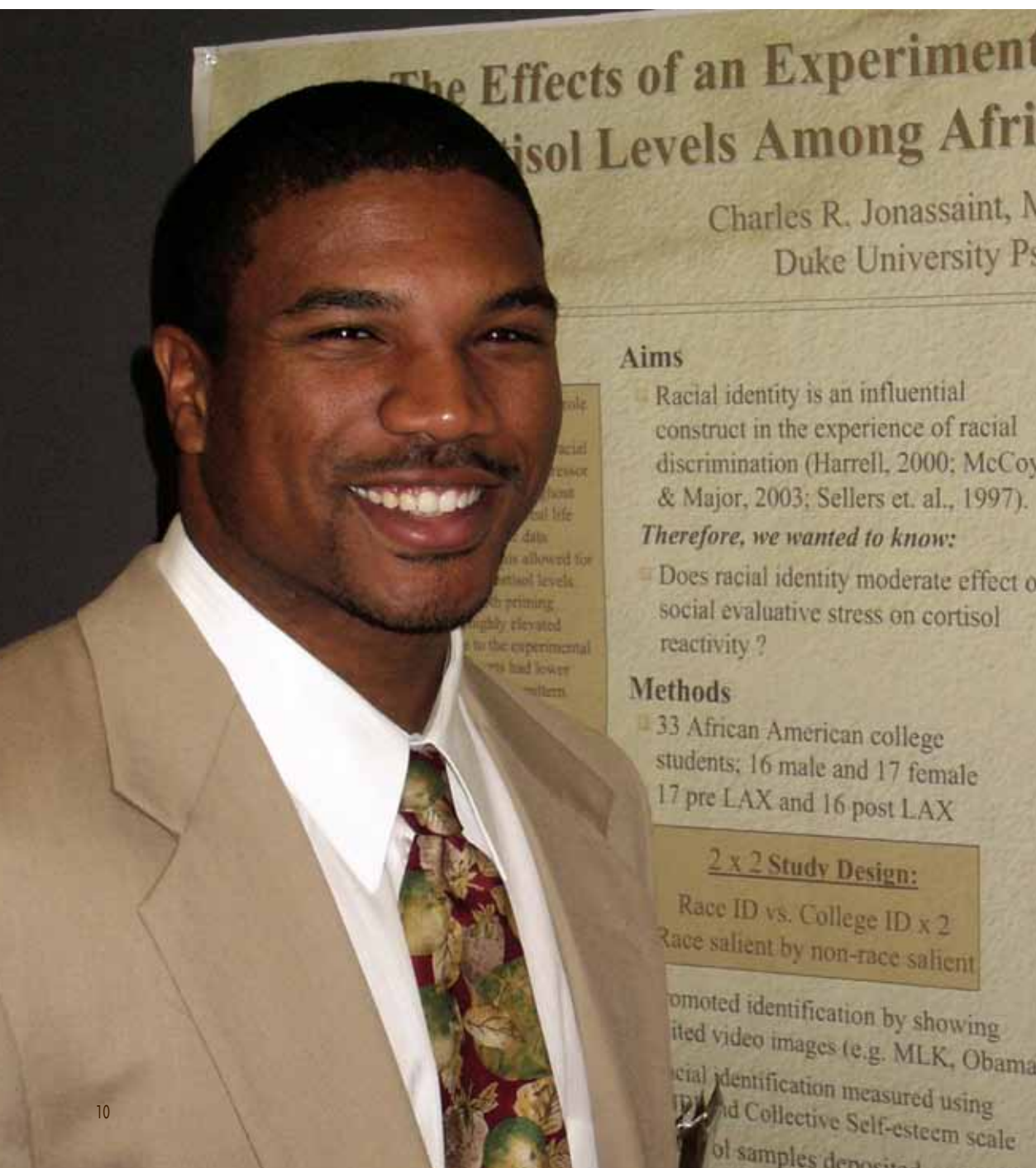
up to par and ended up not eligible to play for a year. Jonassaint’s fallback plan landed him in a psychology 101 course at a local community college as a favor from a friend. It was this class and a visit from Andy Heitkamp, MSU recruiter and assistant football coach, that changed the next 10 years of Jonassaint’s life.

“I was completely off the radar screen, if it wasn’t for Coach Heitkamp I don’t think any of my recent successes would have been possible,” Jonassaint said.

Whirlwind experience

The next four years at Minot State would keep Jonassaint so busy, he says it felt like he was a kid in a candy store. With so many options to choose from and wanting to stay engaged, he truly had a hand in just about everything.

He “found” time to start on the football team, participate in student government, act in two plays, be crowned the Homecoming King in 2001, be vice president of the student psychology club, hold down employment as a student manager at KMSU, be a research assistant



in the MSU Pharmacology Lab and add a second major to his interest in psychology.

The decision to add broadcasting, was done after Paula Lindekugel-Willis, associate professor of communication arts, noticed his rich voice during a fundamentals of public speaking course. Jonassaint's involvement in the broadcasting program continues to impact the goals of his psychology research.

Jonassaint said key mentors on the Minot State University campus included faculty from both programs, Shirley Cole-Harding and Paul Markel in psychology and Neil Roberts in broadcasting, to mention a few.

After realizing that he was “doing a lot better in school then (he) was in football” it became an easy decision to go with additional education over a potential shot at playing in the Canadian Football League.

The next big step was getting into a high-profile graduate program in the United States that wanted a former football player from western Canada with a double major in psychology and broadcasting from Minot State.

Failing — a blessing in disguise

Unbeknownst to Jonassaint at the time, most top-notch clinical psychology graduate programs receive 200 or more applicants and only admit five or six a year. Possibly longer odds than making it with a team playing professional football.

So, after applying to four of the best programs in the country, Harvard, University of Washington, Wisconsin and Duke, and not getting into any of them, Jonassaint took a year off. He moved back in with his mom and dad, who just two years prior had made the move to Durham, N.C. – the location of one of the schools that rejected him, Duke University.

For many people this setback would have thrown them off course, possibly steering them away from their current goals into new directions. But, for Jonassaint it provided a chance to hone his skills and come back with an increased desire to make an impact within research.

“I think sitting out a year was one of the best things to happen to me, as it gave me a chance to work as a group-home counselor and do some volunteer research on the side,” Jonassaint said.

In addition to improving his Graduate Records Examination scores, the counseling and research experience was just what he needed to be accepted into Duke the second time around.

Research focused on the 'have-nots'

It was at Duke University that Jonassaint felt like he truly could do research that would benefit a group he felt was being underserved.

“As a clinical psychology trainee, I saw lots of patients, for one-on-one or group therapy, from various race, ethnic and social backgrounds. But, I identified most with the person who

‘As a clinical psychology trainee,
I saw lots of patients
for one-on-one or group therapy
from various racial, ethnic
and social backgrounds.
But I identified most with the
person who has nothing,
who is coming from nothing,’

Not coming from the privileged background that many of his educational peers did, Jonassaint wanted to focus his research on the “have nots” in the world and this pushed him to narrow his studies down to racial and socioeconomic health disparities.

“I’m hoping to use multi-media interventions aimed at lower social-economic groups, to help them be healthier and more successful,” said Jonassaint. In the end he hopes his data-driven research will be mixed with his broadcasting experience to deliver an important message to primarily African-Americans of low-income and low-education status.

For Jonassaint this research has also opened his eyes to a need within the field of clinical psychology and has helped him recognize how truly blessed his life has been.

Life in the fast lane

Jonassaint has never really slowed down from his busy days at Minot State. Along with earning his master's degree and doctorate from Duke University, he has 15 scholarly articles published with a handful currently under review, he is also in a post doctoral fellowship with Johns Hopkins University and is a visiting scholar at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

But, it all happened after life's winding road took him through Minot, North Dakota.

“Always doing something at Minot State set me up for a fast-paced life in clinical research.”

Research that is making an impact within health care now and for years to come.

— MARK LYMAN, Public Information Director

ALUMNI FEATURES

Andreas focusing on adult mental health

For Kiley (Hust) Andreas, a double graduate of Minot State University, being involved with medicine was something she always wanted to do. And with only a few months at her new position with Trinity Health in Minot, she is already making



a difference.

Andreas, 32, is a clinical nurse specialist with a focus on adult mental health.

“People with mental illnesses are very underserved, and I felt like I could make a difference as an advocate for them and as a full-time professional in the field,” Andreas said.

A few weeks into her new job, Andreas found herself faced with a barrier in providing services for the mentally ill — a hang-up in state policy that wouldn’t allow her to provide adequate services to Medicaid patients.

‘People with mental illnesses are very underserved, and I felt like I could make a difference as an advocate for them and as a full-time professional in the field.’

She “called people ad nauseam,” wrote letters and refused to take no for an answer — all in an effort to change a North Dakota Department of Human Services’ policy that wouldn’t allow a clinical nurse specialist to provide proper care for Medicaid patients.

After three months of pushing for change, the policy, by the spring of 2011, will include clinical nurse specialists, opening up the door for patients with Medicaid to be reimbursed for mental health care services that Andreas provides. Now the people whom Andreas previously couldn’t serve will be able to receive much-needed mental health services.

Andreas graduated from Minot State in 2001 with a psychology degree and again in 2006 with a degree in nursing. She credits faculty members Linda Pettersen, Deb Townsend and Paul Markel with being influential during her time at Minot State.

“I had a hard time deciding between nursing and psychology,” Andreas said. “As it turns out, I wouldn’t give up either degree. Both have benefitted me greatly in doing what I want to do in helping others.”

Andreas married in 2006 and lives in Minot, her hometown. She completed her master’s degree in nursing from the University of Minnesota in 2010. Andreas has worked for Trinity Health for 13 years. Along with being a CNS in adult mental health, she is a board certified psychiatric mental health provider.

— MARK LYMAN

Roggenbuck’s FBI career made a difference

An MSU alumnus has a sense of personal satisfaction after a 25-year career in the FBI.

Dan Roggenbuck reached the mandatory retirement age for agents last summer. He left the bureau with no regrets.



“People who go into law enforcement do so with the idea of wanting to help other people,” he said. “Day to day, you don’t realize the impact you have on others. On rare occasion, people will thank you for what you’ve done. You know that you’ve made a difference.”

Roggenbuck’s FBI duties took him all around the United States and to many foreign countries. That included a three-year diplomatic assignment as Legal Attaché at the American Embassy Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. At one point, he oversaw six of the bureau’s overseas offices. He watched the agency adapt to historic events over three tumultuous decades. The most serious recalibration occurred after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

“The big change is having a greater focus on the intelligence side than the law enforcement side,” he said. “Protecting the United States has become the central issue for the FBI.”

The Minot native’s path to an FBI career was a circuitous one. He earned an education degree from NDSU and then served in the U.S. Army. An older brother who worked in law enforcement influenced him to pursue that line of work.

‘People who go into law enforcement do so with the idea of wanting to help other people. Day to day, you don’t realize the impact you have on others. On rare occasion, people will thank you for what you’ve done. You know that you’ve made a difference.’

Roggenbuck enrolled at MSU and majored in criminal justice. Former Professor David Horton’s enthusiasm for the field inspired him.

“He thought globally as to the entire criminal justice system — police, courts, corrections,” he said. “He geared everything toward understanding it from the national perspective.”

The former agent has followed the evolution of the school’s CJ program over the decades.

“They have developed a fantastic criminal justice program,” he said. “I’ve always touted the criminal justice program and the university as a whole.”

Roggenbuck earned a degree in criminal justice in 1985. At his wife Sandy's urging, he looked into the FBI as a career. He did, and it became the pivot point of his life. Sandy Roggenbuck, a former Minot City Council member, also attended Minot State.

After his retirement, Dan Roggenbuck opened his own consulting firm in Virginia. His principal client so far has been — the FBI.

"I'm working with a bunch of other retired agents along with active agents. It just feels like another assignment," he said.

And Dan Roggenbuck wouldn't have it any other way.

— FRANK McCaHILL

Berg mends society one family at a time



A Minot State graduate has dedicated her career to helping children in distress.

Karen Berg serves as northwest regional director for PATH ND Inc. The social services agency provides treatment foster care, family-based support and adoption services. It views the family as the best therapeutic environment for children. Its mission is "Families Making the Difference."

"There's a strong value in keeping children in their own homes," the Minot native said. "When they are in foster care, it's important to unite them with their families. If for some reason this is not deemed possible, permanency for the child is the focus and can result in kinship, guardianship or adoptive placement."

'It's a very rewarding, yet challenging job. Many times, a youth or a family experiences the need for services and intervention outside of the regular 8-to-5 office hours. You need to be available to assist them.'

The not-for-profit agency began operation in 1994. That year, it placed 26 youth in treatment foster care. In 2010, PATH served 1,056 children and their families through a variety of services. Berg said 408 youngsters were in foster care, 178 in family support and 104 in the adoption process.

Berg said many forces are tearing the fabric of family life today. These include parental and youth drug addiction, mental illness, neglect, abuse and negative peer pressure. To counter these influences, PATH calls on 100 employees and 509 foster parents, all willing to respond to children in need.

"It's a very rewarding, yet challenging job," she said. "Many times, a youth or a family experiences the need for services and intervention outside of the regular 8-to-5 office hours. You need to be available to assist them."

Berg planned to be a social worker when she enrolled at Minot State. Kari Conrad, a faculty member at the time, provided the direction she needed.

"She was my adviser and was absolutely wonderful," Berg said. "We visited other communities — rural, urban and tribal. We had opportunities to discuss and experience many diverse aspects of social work. It was very hands-on. She was a great influence on how I practice. I thank her every time I see her."

Berg graduated in 1981 and began working for Ward County Social Services in 1984. In 1990, the N.D. Foster Parent Association named her social worker of the year.

She joined PATH in 1994, first as a caseworker, then as a supervisor, before assuming her present position. In 2004, she received the David S. Liederman scholarship from the Child Welfare League of America in Washington, D.C., for her service to children and families. She utilized this to obtain a master's degree in social work in 2005.

Berg, who also received an Adoption Advocate Award for North Dakota in 2009, remains in touch with youngsters she helped as a young caseworker. In many cases, she achieved success by readjusting the delicate harmonies of family life.

"It's wonderful to see them and their families and know that they're doing well years later," she said.

Berg's husband Rich is a development officer for the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in Minot. He earned two degrees at Minot State. The couple's son Tyler earned a biology degree at MSU. He works as a microbiologist for Mars, Inc. in Kansas.

— FRANK McCaHILL

SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE

Alcohol research impacts undergrads and community

Large research projects at major universities are often criticized for not involving enough students and taking faculty members away from important teaching moments with undergraduates. Shirley Cole-Harding and Vicki Michels are proving that hypothesis false.

As faculty members in MSU's Department of Addiction Studies, Psychology and Social Work, Cole-Harding and Michels are no strangers to research. Over the years, they have used their talents and interest to investigate the effects of alcohol within a naturalistic environment instead of in a clinical setting.

The thrust of their most recent study was to answer a follow-up question to a 2003 study that indicated there was a large difference in the blood-alcohol levels of test subjects after the same dose of alcohol, depending upon whether the alcohol had been added to beer or root beer. The question that remained was whether this difference in blood-alcohol levels was a result of the sugars in the beverages or the expectation of receiving beer versus root beer.

While the results of the study are expected to be published in a national magazine in 2011, the effects are already being noticed on a potentially more important byproduct of the study.

"This helps students with graduate school admission because they can demonstrate that they have research experience. Some of the students have and will present at regional and national conferences," Michels, an associate professor of addiction studies, said.

"Graduate schools are very impressed by undergraduates who have participated in these types of research activities," Cole-Harding, a professor of psychology, said. "We've had

Vicki Michels, Ph.D., Kelsey Eaton, Turqoyz Rogahn and Aleshia Lucy.

12 students accepted into graduate programs in recent years. I'm proud of our students!"

While the advantage to the students is direct, so is the benefit to the community. As a result of the study, the student and faculty researchers can confirm that there is a large difference in blood-alcohol levels when alcohol is consumed in different beverages.

"Disseminating the results should make people aware that if they mix their drinks, they may have unexpected consequences. They may get higher than they would when drinking alcohol in familiar beverages," Michels said.

The current research is being done thanks to a two-year \$189,000 grant obtained by Cole-Harding and Michels from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. The grant was designed around giving undergraduates the chance to do hands-on research.

"Students have presented data from this project at the Association for Psychological Science in Boston, Northern Lights Psychology Conference in Grand Forks and Red River Psychology Conference in Fargo," Michels said. "Aleshia Lucy, a junior psychology major, has submitted a proposal for a poster presentation to the Research Society on Alcoholism for its meeting this summer in Atlanta."

For Cole-Harding, the chance to watch 19-, 20- and 21-year-olds enjoy research while also learning how to complete complex protocols fits one of the main pillars of Minot State University's Vision 2013.

"Working closely with students is fulfilling," Cole-Harding said. "The best of all is watching the students discuss the results of their projects with other researchers and students at meetings and seeing them performing with growing confidence, as they realize that they can compete with students, even graduate students, from all over the country, including those from well-known, competitive colleges."

— MARK LYMAN
Public Information Director



Shirley Cole-Harding, Ph.D.



VITA is vital to community

For the past 16 years, the Minot community has been able to count on a vital service during tax season. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program is sponsored by the IRS, run by business students at Minot State University and all done at no cost to the community.

Carla Cabarle, the director of the VITA program and an assistant professor in accounting, has been with the program for seven years. She has made the focus of the program a student-run, service-learning internship. Students are encouraged to manage



Carla Cabarle, advisor. The students, from Minot, are Danielle Okland, Amy Hill, Leslie Olson, Gary Loper, and Heather Ellingsworth.

VITA as if it were their own accounting firm. More than 40 percent of accounting majors take advantage of this internship.

One of Cabarle's students, Karen Pocha-Melby '09 of Minot, called this the most rewarding and challenging aspect of her college career. If it wasn't for her VITA experience at Minot State, the first few weeks of her new career at IRET in Minot would have been much more stressful.

Because she participated in VITA for two years, the second year as executive-in-charge, Pocha-Melby practiced skills that are critical in the workplace but not typically learned in the classroom setting.

And the numbers show the impact of VITA on the taxpayer. In 2010, students volunteered 865 hours, prepared 234 tax returns and saved taxpayers more than \$42,000 in preparer fees. Tax refunds totaled more than \$200,000, an amount that could have gone unclaimed by taxpayers without this community service.

The VITA program is now taking advantage of a Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning grant, which it used to purchase five wireless laptop computers and a scanner. The plan is to continue providing the VITA program to low-income taxpayers for years to come — filling an important need for both the students and the community.

— MARK LYMAN, Public Information Director

Serving tomorrow's leaders now with annual Technology Day contest

North Dakota high school students competed during the Department of Business Information Technology's 13th-annual Technology Day on Dec. 1, 2010.

Students competed in accounting, business law, desktop publishing, document production, business principles, spreadsheet applications, Web page design and business presentations. Underwood High School, the school with the most points for placements in all competitions, received a sweepstakes trophy. Julie (Hanson) Driessen '72 and Nita Anderson advise the UHS team.

Other participating high schools were Berthold, Des Lacs-Burlington, Kenmare, Max, Sawyer, Surrey, TGU Granville, TGU Towner and Westhope.

BIT faculty members, business teacher education students and Phi Beta Lambda members supervised the competition.

Technology Day provides the leaders of tomorrow with a chance to showcase their technology skills and gives students and faculty at Minot State an opportunity to give back to the region.

— MARK LYMAN,
Public Information Director



ATHLETICS

Minot State to join Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference

It made for an intriguing and tense time, but Minot State University President David Fuller got the phone call he and the rest of the university have been waiting for.

Officials from the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference informed Fuller Thursday, Jan. 20, 2011, of the conference's intent to expand from 14 schools to 16 institutions and that Minot State would be one of those two expansion schools.

The University of Sioux Falls, S.D. joins Minot State as an expansion team. The vote was not unanimous but met the required 10-school minimum for expansion.

"We are very pleased with the news and the vote of support we received from the Northern Sun Conference," Fuller said. "The NSIC is a premier Division II conference, and our membership adds one



more achievement to show that Minot State University is realizing our Vision 2013 goal to become one of the premier regional universities in the 'great' Great Plains."

Minot State head football coach Paul Rudolph didn't use nearly as many words as Fuller to express his thoughts during a press conference announcing the decision by the NSIC.

"Woohoo," shouted Rudolph. "This is a great day, a great day."

MSU Athletic Director Rick Hedberg told the large crowd that gathered at the

MSU Dome for the press conference that he and Fuller had done plenty of "hooting and hollering" after NSIC Commissioner Butch Raymond informed them of the conference's decision.

"We are extremely excited about the news and very appreciative of the support that was shown from the Northern Sun presidents and athletic directors," Hedberg said. "The NSIC is one of the premier NCAA DII conferences in the nation, and this is a big day for our university. This will be one of those dates on the timeline of MSU athletics that will be noted for many years to come. This is something the entire community and campus can celebrate. It wasn't just our Athletic Department that the NSIC looked at but our entire campus and community."

Minot State is currently in Year 2 Candidacy for admission into NCAA



President David Fuller celebrates with student athletes during the press conference announcing MSU's acceptance into the NSIC.

Division II and expects to move into Year 3 in July. The Beaver men's and women's teams would begin play in the NSIC in the fall of 2012.

The NSIC presidents met to discuss two different proposals. One involved the conference expanding from its current 14 teams to 16. After that motion passed, the presidents decided on MSU and USF. The two universities were the only applications accepted by the conference.

"The NSIC is pleased to welcome these two institutions into our league. We feel both of these programs are a good fit with strong academic traditions. The competitiveness of these athletic teams will enhance all 17 sports that we currently offer," commented Winona State University President Judith Ramaley who is NSIC board of directory president.

The Northern Sun sponsors 17 sports at the NCAA Division II level with teams located in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. The league has expanded twice since 2006, as the University of Mary, N.D. and Upper Iowa University, Fayette joined the conference in 2006.

Minnesota Duluth, Minnesota State Mankato, St. Cloud State, Minn. and Augustana College, S.D. joined the

'The NSIC is a premier Division II conference, and our membership adds one more achievement to show that Minot State University is realizing our Vision 2013 goal to become one of the premier regional universities in the 'great' Great Plains.'

conference in 2008 after the North Central Conference dissolved a year earlier.

"I am excited to add both schools to the NSIC. The balance both schools show between academics and athletics fits the basic foundation of our conference," Raymond said.

MSU will continue as an independent next season before joining the NSIC for 2012-13. The conference will consist of two divisions, North and South, with the Beavers playing in the North Division.

MSU will rejoin former Dakota Athletic Conference foe and current NSIC member University of Mary as a travel partner in the North, along with Northern State, S.D., Minnesota State-Moorhead, Minnesota Crookston, Bemidji State, Minnesota Duluth and St. Cloud State.

The conference affiliation was a major hurdle cleared by the university, according to Fuller.

"Gaining membership in a Division II conference, especially one of the NSIC's stature, has been one of our challenges and concerns since applying for Division II membership," Fuller said. "This is great news for us in many ways, and I look forward to Minot State's successful membership in the NCAA and in the NSIC."

Minot State has been a member of the NAIA and the Dakota Athletic Conference since 2000, when members from the North Dakota College Athletic Conference and the South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference merged.

— MICHAEL LINNELL
Sports Information Director

Danna becomes MSU's first soccer All-American



Minot State University junior Marianna Danna (D, Sutter, Calif.) made history as she was named to the 2010 NAIA Women's Soccer All-America team.

Danna was named to the honorable mention team in her first season with the Beavers. It marks the first NAIA women's soccer All-America honor for the school. MSU was in its inaugural season in fall 2010.

"I am so happy for Marianna," said MSU head coach Jason Spain. "I have had the pleasure of coaching her for the past 12 years. She deserves this award. She has worked so hard."

Danna was a standout defenseman for the Beavers, helping MSU to a 9-7-3 overall record and an appearance in the NAIA Unaffiliated Group Tournament.

With Danna patrolling the defensive line, MSU gave up just 16 goals in 19 games. She also scored a goal and added an assist.

"She is amazingly consistent," Spain said. "Marianna was the Derek Jeter of our team."

— MICHAEL LINNELL
Sports Information Director

Student athletes give back to the community

What do nearly 300 student-athletes do with their “extra” time?

You could say they are getting engaged — engaged in multiple community projects that benefit thousands of individuals in northwest North Dakota.

“Our involvement in the community fits well with our mission and vision of Minot State University and our Athletic Department,” said MSU Athletic Director Rick Hedberg. “Our student athletes need to give back to the community that supports us. I really think our student athletes grow a great deal from their experiences in giving back. It’s a win-win situation.”

The Minot State baseball team took part in two projects in 2010, hosting Dream Catchers Day at the Dome and participating in the Feed My Starving Children project at the Minot Municipal Auditorium.

In the fourth-annual Day at the Dome, members of the MSU baseball team and the Minot Dream Catchers played two games. Dream Catchers is a group of special needs children, many wheelchair bound, organized by Michelle Bliven '91 of Minot.

The Beavers also helped pack nearly 300,000 meals for malnourished children during the Feed My Starving Children campaign. The boxes of food were destined for more than 60 countries around the world.

MSU’s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee teamed up with the Minot Rotary Club to offer an Angel Tree during the holiday season to provide gifts for people in need.

The Beaver football team took the NFL Play 60 Campaign to Stanley High School. The football players and coaching staff lectured and demonstrated activities in a packed high school gym. The NFL launched the program three years ago to promote youth health and fitness.

MSU’s cross country and track and field teams cleaned ditches as part of the Adopt-A-Highway program. Nearly 20 athletes took part. MSU has participated in the program since 2008.

The Beavers men’s basketball team donated its time to the Minot Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast. The players greeted guests, served food and bused tables.

MSU student athletes also collected non-perishable food items for the MSU KMOT Food Drive in October. The food was donated to the Our Lady of Grace food pantry in Minot.

The university’s involvement in civic engagement activities is an important part of the student-athlete experience at Minot State and will continue to be in the future.



DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

"We really want to help out Minot State, but we need to have some income from our investments."

"OK, what if we can guarantee you a good return that will provide you with an annual income for your lifetimes and give you a possible tax deduction now and have a portion of the income be tax free and ultimately help Minot State?"

"That would be great. We really want to support students. Please help us make this happen."

This conversation enables the wishes of donors to be matched with the needs of Minot State students. And, it is a very easy way to help others, receive a good return on an investment and enjoy a possible tax deduction.

If you would like information on charitable gift annuities, please contact the Minot State Advancement office at 701-858-4483 or e-mail marv.semrau@minotstateu.edu.

— MARV SEMRAU
Executive Director,

Minot State University Development Foundation



ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

NDSF: LUAU 2010



Leon Perzinski '89,
Shane Larson '02,
Rebecca Ruzicka '01,
Lynda Langseth,
Denise Larson,
Crystal Brandvold '95



Bruce Christianson '73, Jon '84 &
Karla '84 Backes, Rick Hedberg '89,
Millie & Orlin '58 Backes

BLOCK PARTY 2010



Over 1500 people enjoyed the
Community Block Party!



TAILGATING 2010

The Alumni Association helped
sponsor and serve at the
Oct. 30 football tailgate!



APPRECIATION NIGHT 2011



Alumni Board Member Leslie Barney '80
serving the meal at the Alumni & Beaver
Booster Basketball Appreciation Night!



Alumni & Beaver Booster Appreciation
Night 2011

HOMEcoming 2010

The Sigma Tau Gammas were back in town this year!



Sigma Tau Gammas Tom Ross, John Theisen '67, Lou Trombetta '67 and Steve Fennewald '92. The youngest Sigma Tau Gammas, Tom and Steve, with the founders of the fraternity, John and Lou.



Dr. Joe & Jackie Hegstad returned to celebrate a reunion of the Vagabonds!



Enjoying the Homecoming Tailgating!



All women's athletic teams and the 1987 women's track and field team were recognized during the 2010 Homecoming.

HOMEcoming 2011

- Sept. 21Community Block Party
- Sept. 22 Alumni Golden Awards, 6 p.m., MSU Conference Center
- Sept. 23 Alumni Reunion 7 p.m., Grand International Tri Sigma Reunion All Music Reunion Wrestling Reunion
- Sept. 24 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, email alumni@minotstateu.edu or www.minotstateu.edu/homecoming.

BEAVER FOOTBALL IN THE TWIN CITIES

Alumni and friends gathering in St. Paul for the Beaver football game.



GOLDEN AWARDS 2010

JON BACKES

Born in Grand Forks and raised in Minot, Backes graduated from Bishop Ryan High School in 1979. He received a Bachelor's of Science degree in accounting from Minot State in 1984 and a juris doctorate with distinction from the University of North Dakota School of Law in 1990. In law school, he served on the editorial board of the North Dakota Law Review; and following graduation, he was selected as a member of the Order of the Coif, honorary scholastic society.



Backes is a practicing attorney with the Minot law firm of McGee, Hankla, Backes and Dobrovolny, P.C., where his practice focuses on commercial, business and real estate law. He is a past president and a current member of the Ward County Bar Association and a member of the State Bar Association of North Dakota and the Colorado Bar Association. He is licensed to practice in the state and federal courts in North Dakota and Colorado.

In 2007, Backes began serving a four-year term on the State Board of Higher Education. He served as vice president in 2008 and 2009, and the SBHE recently elected Backes as its president.

Backes has served as a director in many community service organizations in the Minot area, including the Minot State University Development Foundation, the Minot Catholic Schools Foundation, the St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation, the Minot Art Association, the Minot Gun Club and the Minot Area Girls Fast Pitch Softball Association.

Backes and his wife, Karla, have three daughters Lexie, Katelyn and Briann.

TED BRINKMAN

The youngest of five children, Brinkman was born four months after his father died. His mother raised her five children using her teaching degree, and he was the first one of his siblings to complete an undergraduate degree. Minot State offered him a wrestling scholarship to complete his education, and he earned a Bachelor of Science in Education with a major in business education in 1975. His Minot State experience was the platform from which many opportunities would come.



As a new graduate, Brinkman married Joan and accepted his first teaching position.

He taught business education and coached all levels of wrestling and girls' track for two years. After becoming the first employee of a new construction company and leaving teaching in 1977, life changed. Brinkman began investing in Edina, Minn., their community. He gave 11 years to a K-12 wrestling program, which became a feeder system to the secondary program. He remains the director for the Edina Prairie High School Tournament.

Brinkman became involved in two major community efforts. The first was the Edina Athletic Booster Club, which fundraises and ensures every dollar goes to athletic teams. His next challenge was bringing people together to merge the school system and community's needs, care, and updating of their athletic facilities. Brinkman received the Mayor's Commendation Award for his service.

Brinkman is a business owner, community leader, husband, father and grandfather. Joan and Brinkman have two daughters, Lindsey and Kirsten.

WES LUTHER

Professor Emeritus Luther began his career at Minot State University in 1966 as the track coach. He became athletic director in 1976 and helped develop the Beaver Boosters, a scholarship support group for student athletes. A charter member of the university's Athletic Hall of Fame, Luther was named the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics District 12 Coach of the Year in 1973 and Athletic Director of the Year in 1987.



In 1968, Luther became head basketball coach and produced four North Dakota College Athletic Conference championships

in seven years. His conference championship teams in 1971-1974 participated in the NAIA district playoffs, placing second in 1971, winning the title in 1972 and advancing to the national tournament. His basketball teams compiled an overall record of 102-57.

The Rugby native earned his bachelor's degree in physical education from Minot State and a master's degree from the UND. As a Minot State student athlete, he participated in football, basketball and track, earning the most recognition in football. He was a four-year all-conference pick and was the third-leading scorer in the nation in 1947. He was also a third-team Little All-American the same year.

Luther emphasized the academic side of college athletics. He supported education in addition to athletics; he always stressed the educational opportunities that existed to student athletes.

He and his wife, Donna, have three children, Mark, Mike and LeAnn.

SCOTT LOUSER YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Minot native Louser graduated from Minot High School in 1989. While attending MSU, he ran cross country and track, capturing All



Conference honors in cross country in 1992 and a district championship in the steeplechase in track in 1993. He received a business administration degree in 1994. In 2001, Louser returned to Minot State to complete a Master of Science in management, earning a Citation for Excellence.

Louser currently serves as a member of the Board of Regents, the Beaver Boosters and the Dean of the College of Business Advisory Committee. He was also MSU Alumni Association vice president. As a founding member and immediate past president of the Minot Young Professionals Network, Louser introduced and chaired the "Minot State Unity in Our Community" campaign. More than 100 local businesses participate by promoting MSU and opportunities to work with the university. He has also served as an adjunct faculty member in the College of Business and guest speaker to numerous classes.

A licensed realtor since 1997, Louser is the broker/owner of Prudential Preferred Properties. He was the Realtor of the Year for Minot in 2000 and 2006 and won the state Realtor of the Year award in 2006. He was local president in 2001, state president in 2005, regional vice president in 2009 and will be the National Association of Realtor vice president in 2012.

Louser volunteers for the North Dakota High School Activities Association. He has served on the Souris Valley United Way Board of Directors, and in May, he gave the keynote speech for the KMOT Best in Class reception.

Louser recently married Alexa, who has a son, Garrett.

Minot State University Alumni Association is accepting nominations for the Golden Award and Young Alumni Achievement Award. Deadline is May 20. Please utilize the official nomination form. This can be found on the website at www.minotstateu.edu or contact the Alumni Office (701-858-3234).

Class notes. . .

40s.....

Ruthivin "Rudy" Hovland '40, lives in Monona, Wis. He was drafted into military service in the early '40s, a year after teaching near Bowbells. After serving in the military, he relocated to the Madison, Wis., area, where he lived with his late wife, Goodie.

60s.....

Judy Spitzer '62, Minot, retired after teaching woodwinds at MSU. She is the daughter of W.D. "Doc" Allen, who came to Minot in the 1920s to start Model High, a high school on campus. Judy Spitzer and her husband, **Jerry Spitzer '63**, continue to live in Minot and are active in music. She maintains a music studio in her home.

Gary Rovig '64, Sparks, Nev., was honored by the California Wrestling Hall of Fame with a Lifetime Service Award in May 2010. He was an educator and coach at Atwater High School in California for 40 years. He was head varsity wrestling coach for 16 years, wrestling official for 30 years, South Modesto Wrestling Official of the Year and state Wrestling Official of the Year four times. He also served as head varsity football coach for seven years and was the boys' golf coach for 16 years. Gary, who retired in 2004, lives in Sparks with his wife, Sharon.



LaVerne C. Kallberg '66, Colorado Springs, Colo., retired in May 2008 after a 43 years of teaching. He began his career in 1964 with a two-year teaching certificate and his first position was in Deering

where he taught until 1966. He received his BSE degree from MSU in 1966 with majors in elementary education and music education. He taught in Trenton until 1969, when he moved to Klamath County School system in Oregon. He taught music in Gilchrist, Ore., until 1971. He moved to Colorado Springs, Colo., and taught music for grades K-6 until retiring in 2008. He was included in the Who's Who Among American Teachers in 2006 and 2007. He and his wife, Bonnie, enjoy camping in the mountains of Colorado and on the coast of Oregon. They have one son and two granddaughters.

Karen (Vendsel) Belisle '66, West Fargo, has retired after almost three decades of employment at West Fargo City Hall,

where she oversaw the utility billing for the community. She taught business and physical education at Underwood for three years before moving to the Fargo area.

Jim Limke '68, Lansford, and his wife, Becky, received the Renville County 2010 Harvest Bowl award. The program recognizes the success, dedication and hard work of outstanding agriculturists in 53 counties in North Dakota and Minnesota.

Jan (Westergard) Strube '69, Minot, has been hired as a professional realtor with Brokers 12 Inc. She was formerly an educator for Minot Public Schools.

70s.....

Dan Richter '70, Minot, recently retired as director of Ward County Social Services after 35 years of service. He and his wife, Joan, will continue to live in Minot and plan to spend some time in Florida.

Marianna (Connor) Malm '71, Fargo, accompanied 2010 N.D. Student Presidential Scholar, Phoebe Strom, to Washington, D.C. Strom received a presidential medallion from President Obama, and Malm received the Distinguished Teacher Recognition award (June 2010). Malm currently works with the Fargo Public Schools' Mentorship Program after retiring from classroom teaching and literacy specialist work in 2010. She also was named N.D. Teacher of the Year in 2000.

John Schmaltz '71, Mason City, Iowa, received the 2010 Iowa Outstanding Faculty Award from the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees. Schmaltz is the humanities/social science division chairperson and faculty member at North Iowa Area Community College.

Greg Amundson '72, Columbia Heights, Minn., was selected by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association as the 2010 National Girls Basketball Coach of the Year. Amundson, a former Mandan High School coach, led the Braves to nine state titles.

David Looyen '73, Minot, is the superintendent at Minot Public Schools and has announced his retirement for June 2011. Looyen has spent the past 37 years as an educator, first as a teacher and coach and later as a principal and superintendent.

Tom Christen '73, Williston, has retired from the Williston Public Schools after 37 years of teaching and coaching.

Randy Burckhard '74, Minot, was elected to serve in the N.D. Legislature as a senator representing District 5.

Christy (Wegenast) Jones '75, Fargo, has been promoted to a management position at Fiebiger, Swanson, West & Co. Jones was self-employed for 16 years, specializing in farm tax planning, tax return preparation and accounting before joining the firm in 2005.

Mike Schatz '76, New England, has been inducted into the 2011 North Dakota High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Schatz has coached football, boys' basketball, golf, and track and field during his 27 years in the coaching profession.

Linda (Fugere) Wheeler '77, Denver, Colo., retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 2010 after 25 years as manager of administrative services. Since retiring, Wheeler and her husband have enjoyed time with their grandchildren and traveling. As a breast cancer survivor, she is involved in a doctoral research study of breast cancer.

Blaine DesLauriers '79, Minot, was promoted to president and chief retail banking officer of First International Bank & Trust. He is also a member of the bank's board of directors.

80s.....

Sue (Martin) Hendrickson '80, Garrison, was chosen director of the North Dakota Dollars for Scholars board. A teacher in Garrison for the past 24 years, Hendrickson has been a member and leader of the Garrison Dollars for Scholars chapter for several years.

Terry (Ferebee) Eckmann '81/'82, Minot, received the 2010 NDAHPERD Honor award. The award is given to an individual who demonstrates personal integrity and has made significant contributions to the advancement of health, physical education recreation and dance.

Darryl Hickman '81, Minot, is teaching science at White Shield High School.

Rob Kondos '83, Minot, became director of Ward County Social Services in July 2010.

Paul Ward '83, Bismarck, was sworn in as a U.S. marshal for North Dakota in May 2010. He began his career as a security police airman with the U.S. Air Force at Minot Air Force Base. He was most recently a special agent with the Inspector General's office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Robert and Marlaime '74 (Rustad) Slaaen, Dickinson, recently observed their 50th wedding anniversary and will hold a celebration in July 2011. Robert Slaaen attended Minot State Teachers College in 1958 and 1959. They have two married daughters, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. They are proud to

have a number of MSU graduates in their family, including daughter, Juli Sandvick '90, granddaughter Nicole Bertsch '05, Nicole Bertsch's husband Eric Bertsch '06, grandson Chris Jundt '07. A granddaughter, Tarren Jundt, is currently a junior at MSU, and granddaughter Jennifer Sateren attended MSC Campus School from 1987 to 1990.

Robert Slaaen retired from farming and ranching near Grenora. Marlaime Slaaen is a retired teacher at the elementary, high school and university levels. She is also an artist and writer. They enjoy traveling abroad, especially to Scandinavia, since both are first-generation descendants.

Photo of Robert and Marlaime (Rustad) Slaaen family. L-R: Jennifer, Isabelle & Josh Sateren; Nicole & Eric Bertsch; Juli & Monte Sandvick; Chris Jundt; Jade Bohannon; Tyler Jundt; Barry Bohannon; Mike, Traci & Kaitlyn Kornkven; Marlaime & Robert Slaaen. Seated: Taylor & Tanner Sandvick; Tarren Jundt.

John Mogren '84, Fessenden, will serve as 2011 president-elect and 2012 president of the North Dakota Conference of Social Welfare. Mogren has served as the multicounty social service director for Foster, Eddy and Wells counties since 1998.

Rhoda (Lind) Owens '85, Minot, was the lead planner and organizer of a trip to Tanzania, Africa, in December and January 2009-10. She was accompanied by four MSU nursing students who toured and worked at Machame Lutheran Hospital and its hospice/palliative care program. The trip was also endorsed by the Omicron Tau Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing. The local chapter is sponsored by MSU's Department of Nursing.

Scott Duke '87/'00, Glendive, Mont., received the American College of Healthcare Executives Senior-Level Healthcare Executive Regent's Award. The award recognizes ACHE affiliates who are experienced in the healthcare field and have significantly contributed toward the advancement of healthcare management excellence. Duke has been chief executive officer of Glendive Medical Center since 2002.

Leland Opp '87, Hazen, was recently inducted into the 2011 NDHSCA Hall of Fame. He has spent a 25-year coaching career in Hazen. He has coached cross-country, boys' and girls' basketball, and track and field.

Robert Bubach '88, Strasburg, was hired as principal at Strasburg High School. Bubach

will also be head football coach and physical education teacher.

Christine (Renke) Bubach '89, Strasburg, is a business teacher at Strasburg High School.

Jackie (Greenwood) Midgarden '89, Grafton, was presented with the 2010 Teacher of the Year Award. She is a speech-language pathologist at Century Elementary School. Currently, Midgarden is also the instructional coach/performance strategist for the Grafton School District. She has been employed with the Upper Valley Special Education Unit for the past 20 years.

Melessa (Kessler) Bosch '89, Minot, was named 2010 Teacher of the Year by the Minot Education Association. Bosch is a fourth-grade teacher at McKinley Elementary. She started with the Minot Public School District as a deaf education teacher. She has taught for 23 years.

90s.....

Ryan McKay '90, Bismarck, is an assistant vice president of compliance and risk management with Starion Financial for North Dakota and Wisconsin. He was most recently a compliance manager for a regional accounting firm.

James Ruiz '91, Annville, Pa, received the 2010 Outstanding Mentor Award from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in San Diego, Calif., and the 2010 Regional Fellow Award from the Northeastern Association of Criminal Justice Sciences in Bristol, R.I.

Michael Toy '91, Fargo, was promoted to chief operations officer/chief information officer at First International Bank of Fargo.

Kim Schultz '92, Bismarck, has been named the 2010 Warren Kress Outstanding Geography Teacher by the North Dakota Geographic Alliance. Schultz's 18-year teaching career includes public school instruction at Dorothy Moses and Will Moore elementary schools in Bismarck.

Jon Ravnaas '92, Bismarck, was named vice president of credit administration at Starion Financial in Bismarck. Ravnaas joined the firm in 2005 and has been the assistant vice president of loan administration since July 2009.

Brian Bonness '92, Bismarck, has been reassigned to Bismarck as the sergeant for motor carrier operations with the North Dakota Highway Patrol. Bonness started his patrol career in 1995 and has been stationed as a trooper in Grand Forks, Williston, Bismarck and Minot, where he was sergeant for motor carrier operations.

Brenda (Goertzen) Manteufel '93, Loveland, Colo., is the admission case manager and denial specialist at McKee Medical Center in Loveland and was instrumental in the development of this role. Prior to assuming the position in 2004, she was a telephone triage nurse for McKesson Corporation in Broomfield, Colo. Manteufel and her husband, Ed, have lived in Loveland since 2000.

Anita Quaglia '93, Bismarck, was promoted to vice president for Starion Financial at the Bismarck branch.

Heide (Houmann) Schmaltz '93, Bismarck, has completed her third year of teaching at Menoken School. She has two daughters, Shelby and Grace.

John Drady '94, Minot, was promoted by First International Bank & Trust to president and western North Dakota market manager.

Julie (Kramer) Schwab '94, Bismarck, is the corporate compliance officer at Medcenter One.

Sheila Berg '95, Bloomington, Minn., was selected as Insight School of Minnesota Teacher of the Year. Berg is a physical education and health teacher and activities coordinator at the school.

Dianna Rylander '95, has joined Century 21 Action as a licensed realtor.

Heather (Moen) Brandt '97, Beulah, is teaching physical education and health at

Beulah Middle School. She worked for eight years at Turtle Mountain Community High School in Belcourt and was an interventionist at Beulah Middle School and High School last year.

00s.....

Steve Ray Jr. '00, Miles City, Mont., was named the new superintendent at Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility in Miles City. Ray was previously the warden at Dawson County Regional Prison for more than four years.

Scott Louser '94, '01, Minot, was elected to the N.D. Legislature as a representative for District 5.

Russ Conner '01, Hazen, opened a business called The Renovation Center in Hazen. Conner operates the one-stop shop for home remodels and new-home construction.

Robert J. Moyle '01, graduated from the N.D. Highway Patrol Academy. Assigned to the Highway Patrol's Southwest Region, he is stationed at Hazen.

Dorene Malling '88/'01, Devils Lake, is a special education instructor at Devils Lake High School.

Wendy (Dammen) Kimble '01, Minot, has joined Results Unlimited as a senior graphic designer.

Dana Pritschet '01, Berthold, accepted a position with the North Dakota Department of Agriculture in Bismarck as a local food marketing specialist.

Adam Engh '03, Williston, recently passed his dosimetrist board exam. He is the dosimetrist at Leonard P. Nelson Cancer Center in Williston.

Norman McCloud Jr. '04, Minot, is the new executive director for Minot's Companions for Children. The program matches children from single-parent families with adult mentors.

Casey Rieke '04, Fargo, has joined Houston Engineering as an information technology support technician out of its Fargo office. He previously worked as an IT support administrator for Multiband. He was married in July 2010.

Dr. Hubert Willis '04, Mahomet, Ill., is the new massage therapist at Mahomet Chiropractic. He introduced new programs which provide holistic care for patients. Willis graduated from Palmer College of Chiropractic in 2005. He also studied theology and ministry to become an ordained minister in 2003.

Kristi (Vandal) Swearingen '04, Bismarck, is a senior associate certified public accountant for Eide Baily in its Bismarck office. She spent the last five years in the firm's Phoenix office.

Dustin Hager '05, Towner, is a physician's assistant at the Heart of America Medical Center in Rugby. His primary care clerkship was completed in family medicine with specialty clerkships in emergency, pediatric/neonatology, obstetrics/gynecology and general surgery.

Brandyn Hendrickson '05, Minot, was awarded the Pacesetter First 40 award during an annual meeting of financial representatives of Northwestern Mutual in Milwaukee. The award acknowledges representatives who sell 40 life policies during their first six months in business.

Anthony J. Overlie '07, Minot, has been hired by Hawk and Associates, P.C., as a business analyst. Overlie was CPA-licensed by the Montana State Board of Accountancy in 2008.

Rachel (Haskins) Allerdings '06, Bismarck, was hired as director of the Missouri Valley Montessori School in Bismarck.

Drew Henry '06, Plentywood, Mont., was appointed as the Plentywood-based area wildlife biologist for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Gill L. Ford II '06, Houston, Texas, is involved with cardiac research with the Texas Heart Institute. His wife, **Christen (Lethridge) Ford '06**, is a registered nurse at Hermann Healthcare Systems.

Melony (Reiser) Mings '07, Ray, is a junior high English and study skills teacher for Ray school. She also serves as the K-3 reading strategist and is involved in the school's Title I program.

Tandra Kraft '07, Bismarck, was hired as desktop support in American Bank Center's Bismarck location.

Troy Roness '08, Bismarck, was hired as an education program administrator III for the Department of Public Instruction in May 2010. His duties include coordinating health-promotion and risk-reduction activities, providing professional-development opportunities and resources to increase physical activity and reduce youth obesity.

Alisa (Johnson) Dahl '08, Minot, was recently selected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the area director for the Minot office.

Dan Erdman '08, joined Results Unlimited as a videographer with its production department.

Angie (Becker) Gerhardt '09 is a speech-language pathologist at Napoleon Public School. She is married to Sheldon Gerhardt, and they have one son.

Christina Martinez '09, Holyoke, Colo., is the new art teacher for grades K-6 in the Holyoke School District.

10s.....

Rayme Clark '10, Crosby, is a kindergarten teacher for Divide County Schools.

Devin Hiller '10, Crosby, is the physical education teacher for Divide County Schools.

Eugene Benner '10, Crosby, is a math teacher for Divide County Schools.

Megan Brunkhorst '10, Minot Air Force Base, teaches math at Max Public School.

Matt Eraas '10, is football coach and assistant coach for boys' basketball at Hebron Public School.

Attended.....

Shelly Armstrong is an English teacher at White Shield High School. She previously taught at Warwick Public High School and Valley Public High School in Hoople.

Patrick Brown, Bismarck, has joined Job Service in Bismarck as a quality assurance investigator. Brown was previously employed at Bobcat for 10 years.

Brandy Coughlin, Williston, is a commercial loan officer with American State Bank & Trust of Williston. Before moving to Williston in 2007, Coughlin was a loan processor for Security First Bank in Mandan. The Plentywood, Mont., native is married to Tim, and they have one son, Tygen.

Lindsey Ellvanger is a third- and fourth-grade teacher at Bowbells School.

Joyce Henricks, Westhope, has retired from Peoples State Agency in Westhope after 35 years of service.

Kelly Jahner, Bismarck, was named a partner in the North Dakota general office of New York Life Insurance Co. He will be involved in recruiting and training new agents.

David Klein, Jamestown, has joined the Stutsman County Housing Authority as executive director. Klein had served seven years at Valley City State University as safety officer and facilities office manager.

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

Erik J. Klein, Watford City, is a patrolman assigned to the N.D. Highway Patrol's northwest region. He is stationed at Watford City.

Jan Kramer, Bismarck, was promoted to assistant vice president of personal banking at Stacion Financial in Bismarck.

Lynne Napton, Williston, is the new education and business reporter for the Williston Herald.

Scott Neukom, Mandan, has joined Ressler Chevrolet as a sales consultant.

Matt Samson, Minot, is the new owner of Horizon Family Chiropractic. He received his doctorate of chiropractic at Palmer College of Chiropractic in Iowa.

Jonathan Skalicky graduated from the Highway Patrol Academy in the summer of 2010. He is assigned to the Highway Patrol's Southeast Region and is stationed at Cooperstown.

Myles E. Sundby, a N.D. Highway Patrolman, was reassigned from Grand Forks to the Highway Patrol's Northwest Region. He is stationed in Williston.

Terri Torgerson, Max, is a registered pharmacist at Chase Pharmacy in Garrison. Torgerson had worked for Chase Pharmacy as a pharmacy technician. She graduated from North Dakota State's School of Pharmacy in 2010. Torgerson and her husband, Shannon, reside in rural Max.

Cheryl Wehri, Hebron, is a kindergarten teacher at Hebron School. For the past four years, she was a Title I and special education teacher in Hebron. She and her husband, Brian, farm and ranch near Hebron.

Naomi Westernness is the new owner of Western Tax, formerly known as Van Berkom Agency, in Powers Lake. She is married to Ryan, who is employed by Hess in Tioga. They have two children, Tayah and Landon.

Jaci L. Williams graduated from the Highway Patrol Academy in the summer of 2010 and was assigned to the Highway Patrol's northeast region. She is stationed at Harvey.

Lori Ziegler is employed with the N.D. Legislative Council as the legislative administrative officer. She was most recently an assistant controller at Coach America.

2011 Commencement



Members of the MSU Class of 2011 will receive degrees on Friday, May 13, at the MSU Dome. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m. Join us on this festive day to welcome the newest members of the Minot State University alumni family.

In memoriam...

It is with honor we dedicate this section to recognize alumni and friends who have passed away from approximately June 2010 to January 2011, or as submitted.

- '29 Hathaway (Wyman), Helen B.; Lacey, Wash.
'32 Rollman (Rosenberger), Edna; Granville
'38 Carlson (Arndt), Marion W.; Missoula, Mont.
'38 Olson (Hermanson), Elveida H.; McGregor
'39 Gruneich, Edwin A.; McClusky
'40 Aanestad, Alf A.; Burnsville, Minn.
'41 Hammond, Rueben E.; Minot
'41 Honadel (Skarphol), Mabel E.; Minot
'41 Harrum (Chapman), Laura; New Rockford
'42 Jacobson (Schmaltz), Carolyn; Rugby
'42 Schweyen (Smith), Betty; Berthold
'44 Myxter (Carlson), Marian L.; Fort Collins, Colo.
'46 Blake (Jeffery), Venus; Moorhead, Minn.
'47 Keck, Ted F.; Georgetown, Texas; also former faculty Math & Physical Education; Hall of Fame recipient.
'47 Page, Wesley W.; Novato, Calif.
'48 Byrd (DeMers), Norma C.; Minot
'49 Tangsrud (Forthun), Eula Vaughn; Williston
'50 Purdy, Mark F.; Minot
'51 Bates, Dale L.; Billings, Mont.
'52 Buettner, Richard J.; Minot
'52 Hammer, Robert J.; Sidney, Mont.
'52 Ziemann, Lyle G.; Lacey, Wash.
'53 Jensen, Norris L.; Casper, Wyo.
'53 Haight (Peterson), Donna; Clearwater, Fla.
'55 Kuist, Gordon V.; Klamath Falls, Ore.
'55 Pollert, Bruce; Hoffman Estates, Ill.
'58 Hennessy, Duane F.; Grand Forks
'59 Arneson (Ihla), Gaynor M.; Eau Claire, Wis.
'59 Overlee (Heide), Tillie; Minot
'60 Abrahamson (Jacobson), Mary L.; Blaisdell
'60 Abrahamson, Otto D.; San Jose, Calif.
'60 Brown (Braun), Viola B.; Mandan
'60 Hitland, Darold; Bismarck
'61 Baumann, Bruce L.; Rugby
'61 Brenno (Buness), B. Dawn; Minot
'61 Kronbach, Robert; Peoria, Ariz.
'61 Hardy (DeJardine), Yvonne; Mora, Minn.
'61 Redfern, Dwight T.; Phoenix, Ariz.
'61 Sigman (Kingsnorth), Julia; Minot
'62 Pope, Leonard; Minot
'64 Anderson, Ruth E.; Minot
'66 Wilkes, Richard C.; Bowbells
'68 Thompson (Schmaltz), Mary A.; Overland Park, Kan.
'69 Lovell (Swenson), Kay M.; Bismarck
'69 Smith (Nielsen), Julie D.; Swannanoa, N.C.

- '71 Schaeffer (Weist), Freda; Watertown, S.D.
'73 Wright, Bruce L.; Maxbass
'74 Rogers (Schulte), Wanda L.; Johnstown, Colo.
'75 Becker (Wanstrom), Luella M.; Bismarck
'75 Gardner, Chris L.; Blackfoot, Idaho
'75 Vetter (Lindner), Deborah L.; Kerrville, Texas
'78 Rodriguez-Ortiz, Paulino; Minot
'79 Bourquin (Hagen), Marie C.; Minot
'80 Grunert, Colin James; Estevan, Sask., Canada
'83 Korgel (Olson), Nita J.; Minot
'85 DeCouteau, Andrew A.; Minot
'89 Medley, Robert L.; Minot
'90 Hall, Gary; Lakota
'95 Schmiess, Todd D.; Fargo
'96 Repnow, Stephan B.; Minot
'96 Kuntz, Jennifer L.; Fargo

ATTENDED

- Adams (Rue), Alma R.; Hamilton, Mont.
Alvstad (Rodgers), Mildred M.; Minot
Anderson, Foster R.; Eugene, Ore.
Berry (Domier), Laurie E.; Mayville
Boen, David John; Minot
Bratlien, Dennis L.; Bismarck
Bretheim (Hanson), Dolores L.; Minot
Brockell, Edward L.; Minot
Crilly (Kiemele), Carol A.; Billings, Mont.
Cummins, Kenneth J.; Janesville, Wis.
Dahlen (Stenberg), Joyce A.; Cando
Delorme (Markham), Elsie; Carson City, Nev.
Doeden, Dona M.; Boswell, Ind.
Driver, Merle E.; Sioux Falls S.D.
DuChane, Vanessa M.; Plymouth, Mass.
Due (Halvorson), Nancy B.; Wahpeton
Eldridge, Codie; Bismarck
Erickson (Fish), Gladys M.; Stanley
Fairweather, Reynold H.; Bismarck
Felde (Bowlby), Barbara; Moorhead, Minn.
Finke, Walter J.; Minot
Granrud, R. Keith; Ryegate, Mont.
Haaland, Donald J.; Devils Lake
Hawthorne, Wallace B.; Dearborn, Mich.
Heller, Eldon; Williston
Hoffer (Joachim), Genevieve; Bismarck
Johnson (Kieper), Delores L.; Heimdal
Johnson (Fjeldhal), Helga; Bemidji, Minn.
Jongeward (Brown), Joyce; Minot
Kellogg (Ohnstad), Ingrid E.; Olympia, Wash.
Kittel (Larson), Elaine; Minot
Kittleson (Peterson), Bertha I.; Bottineau
Kouba (Nodland), Thelma; Dickinson
Kloss (Floren), Edith C.; Seattle Wash.
LaCoste (Warner), Beri W.; Fargo
Lange (Moses), Louella; Bismarck
Lenhardt (Mullin), Lisa; Peachtree City, Ga.
Llvedson, David; Pacifica, Calif.
Lund, Clifford; Williston

- Michealson (Miller), Eunice; Velva Monger (Neubauer), Agnes; Williston
Newman (Long), Blanche E.; Northwood
Noll (Schultz), Rosemary; Minot
Norstad (Ranberg), Doris M.; Detroit Lakes, Minn.
Officer (Weikert), Eleanor Katherine; Minot
Okland, Elden; Watford City
Olson, John P.; Grand Forks
Oscarson (Knatterud), Lois; Wahpeton
Ottillie, Robert W.; Marshalltown, Iowa
Payton (Hoechst), Marlyn; Stanton
Schan (Grinolds), Patsy R.; Minot
Schiele (Mulvihill), Alice A.; Burlington
Schoenwald, Robert L. II; Minot
Senger (Larson), Dorothy; Tioga
Severson, Harold; Fargo
Shafer (Sather), Helen; Tioga
Striefel, Henry; Grand Forks
Stroud, Michael; Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada
Tahran, David; Jamestown
Thompson (Morris), Marguerite; Bottineau
Torgusen (Routledge), E. Lucille; Sawyer
Vogel, Desiree M.; Bismarck
Ward (Senschal), Pearl D.; Grand Forks
Wells, A.J.; Nine Mile Falls, Wash.
York, Lawrence E.; Cathay
Zahursky, Archie; Minot

FRIENDS

- Braaten, Arnold L.; Minot; former MSU Board of Regents
Meyer (Birdsall), Geraldine L.; Berthold
Murphy, Paul; Minot
Nesheim (Johnson), Orma; Seattle, Wash.
Neuenschwander (Lyngstad), Janet; Minot
Osteroos, Odd A.; Minot
Parker (Wilson) Marjorie; Minot; wife of former athletic coach Herb Parker.
Priess, Richard; Minot
Sheehan, Gerald E.; Bismarck
Teske, Dr. Gale; Mesa, Ariz.
Unhjem, Michael; Fargo
Wood, Tom; Minot
Wunderlich, Glenn D.; Velva; former MSU Board of Regents

FACULTY & STAFF

- Lillegard (Monson), Irene A.; worked in the administration office.
Mosbaek (Gross), Nancy '87; Topeka, Kan.; former MSU nursing instructor.
Rhea, Mark B.; Stillwater, Okla.; taught at MSU



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 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.



Nehemias Leal Hernandez and **Skye Blue Angus '99** welcomed **Diego Zachary Leal-Angus** on Aug. 12, 2010, in North Battleford, Saskatchewan. Diego weighed 8 pounds, 13 ounces and was 22 inches long. He joins siblings Skye Blue Leal-Angus (May 29, 2006) and Nehemias Donald Leal-Angus (Nov 10, 2007).



Dyson was born Aug. 10, 2010, to **Ethen '05** and **Jayla '07 (Howatt) Askvig**. Dyson weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces and was 20 inches long.



Regan '05 and **Meagan '06 (Ivany) Beck** are proud parents of **Rowan**

Nicole, born Jan. 26, 2010, in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan. Regan weighed 7 pounds and was 20 inches long. She joins big brother Reid, who is 2½ years old.



Kash Remington Robert was born Jan. 22, 2010, to **Brad '00** and **Sarah '02 (Lee) Beckedahl** of Minot. Kash weighed 9 pounds,

5 ounces and measured 21 inches long. He joins three older brothers — Devin (16), Aydan (5) and Connor (4).



Ella Marie was born Aug. 4, 2008, in Shakopee, Minn. She weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and was 20 inches long. She was

proudly welcomed by **Brandon** and **Melissa '01 (Praska) Berg** and big brother Benjamin, who is 3 years old.



Richard '04 and **Tracy '04 (Serr) Bigelow** are proud parents to **Abby Lynn**, born Feb. 10, 2010,

in Bismarck. Abby weighed 7 pounds and was 20 inches long. She was also welcomed by brother Jack Michael, who is 3 years old, and grandparents **Michael '77** and **Mary '73 Serr**.



Chris '99 & Annette '98 (Hopstad) Braaten welcomed their second child on Jan. 20, 2010, at Trinity Health in Minot. **Jairus** weighed

8 pounds and was 21 1/2 inches long. He joins big sister Taryn, who is 4 years old.



Liam Robert was born to **Jacob** and **Gretchen '09 (Eidsness) Carlson** on May 11, 2010. He

weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. Liam was also welcomed by his proud grandparents, **Larry '76** and **Holly '76/'01 (Forsberg) Eidsness**.



Jenna Lynne was born Nov. 11, 2009, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, to **Curtis** and **Patti '97/'98 (Clyne) Craven**. Jenna weighed

8 pounds, 10 ounces. She is lucky to have two big sisters, Alexa, born December 2005, and Kaleigh, born April 2008.



Teegan Steve was born March 3, 2010, to **Steve '02** and **Angie '01 (Dangel) Holen**.

Teegan weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces

and was 20 inches long. He joins big brother Ethan David, who is 3 years old.



Andrew Joseph Michael was born Aug. 25, 2010, at 5:46 a.m., weighing 8 pounds, 4 ounces and measuring 21

inches. He is welcomed by proud parents **Michael** and **Annalee '98 (Heilman) Leganchuk** and siblings Zachary (10) and Isabella (2).



Eli '06/'10 and **Carrie '01 (Olesen) Lewis** welcomed **Paige Madison** to the family on Aug. 16, 2010, in Minot. She weighed

9 pounds, 2 ounces and was 21 inches long. She joins brother Brady, who is 7.



Joseph Paul was born in Akron, Ohio, to **Steve** and **Bridget '97 (Phipps) Lyons** on July 12, 2009. Joseph weighed 9 pounds,

4 ounces, and was 21 inches long. He joins siblings Matthew and Sarah.



Jesse '04 and **Cheryl McCormack** are proud parents of daughter **Joanie Faith**, born Oct. 13, 2009. She weighed 6 pounds, 1 ounce and

was 19 1/2 inches long. She was born at MedCenter One in Bismarck.



Kalina Bree was born to **Tyler '04** and **Alissa '05 (Fritzler) McKinna** on Sept. 4, 2010. Kalina weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. She was also welcomed by big sister Taya.



James and Kristin '06/'08 (Erickson) Mann are proud parents to son **Madden James**, born May 17, 2010. He weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches long.



J.R. Mullis II and Camille '04 (St. Croix) Mullis welcomed baby boy, **Jackson James**, on Jan. 21, 2010. He was 7 pounds, 15 ounces and was 21 inches long. He was born in Alamogordo, N.M., and has a brother, Ricky, age 4.



Derek '06 and Mary '06 (Belanus) Morin are proud parents to **Blake Alexander**, born Feb. 16, 2009, in Fargo. Blake weighed 7 pounds, 12.4 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. He joins big brother Ethan, who is 3 years old.



Quinten and Alyssa '03 (Davis) Nelson are proud parents to twins, **Eli**

David and Ellie Lynee, born Nov. 16, 2009. They were born in Thief River Falls, Minn. Eli weighed 5 pounds, 1.7 ounces and was 17 1/2 inches long. Ellie was 4 pounds, 3.2 ounces and 16 1/2 inches long. The twins came home to big sister Kjerstin, who is 6 years old, big brother Kehan, who is 4 years old, and big sister Ashlyn, who is 2 years old. Their family is now complete.



Jason '04 and Katie '06 (Kjelshus) Ogaard, Minot, welcomed **Olivia Kay** to their family on May 26, 2010. Olivia weighed 6 pounds, 10 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long.



Avi Raen was born on Nov. 5, 2009 to **Nick '04 and Shannon '04 (Davis) Oxarart** of Malta, Mont. Avi weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and was 20 3/4 inches long.



Lily Charlotte Ann was born April 11, 2010, to **Todd** (attended 1989-93) and **Dawn** (attended 2002/04) **Palumbo**. She weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches long.



Teague Marques was born to **Jay '04 and Amanda (Dostert) Peterson** on Nov. 11, 2009. He weighed 9 pounds and was 20 1/2 inches long. He joins big sister Marrin.



Jason '96 and Kristi '01 (Patterson) Reinke, along with their sons

Jaxon (5) and **Keaton** (5), welcomed the birth of their daughter **Hatti Mae** on March 3, 2010 in Minot. She weighed 8 pounds, 15 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long.



Mia Rachel was born on July 31, 2010, in Minot to proud parents **Neil and Amy '01 (Sullivan) Roberts**. She was 6 pounds, 13 ounces and 19 1/2 inches long.



Bram Horatio was born April 7, 2009, in Minot to proud parents **Derek and Aili '98 (Davidson) Smith**. Bram weighed 9 pounds, 1 ounce and was 21 inches long.



Thomas and Rebekah '02 (Penn) Storma welcomed **Martin Thomas** on Sept. 22, 2010, in West Bend, Wis. Martin weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and was 21 inches long.



Berk Andrew was born to **Chad '04 and Erin '03 (Pope) Thuner** on May 28, 2010. Berk weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces and was 20 inches long. He joins big sister Ava, who is 2 years old.



Kevin '00 and Carla '01/10 (Sylte) Vigested welcomed **Brady Mitchell** to the world on Feb. 27, 2010. Brady weighed

7 pounds, 15 ounces and was 20 3/4 inches long. He joins big brother Parker Davis, who is 3 years old.



Gage Leo was born June 25, 2010, in Wichita Falls, Texas. He weighed

in at 8 pounds, 11 ounces and was 21 1/2 inches long. He is welcomed by his parents **Timothy and Tricia '93 (Black) Wieser** and his big brother Gavin, who is 3 years old.



Eric '07 and Amy '06 (Thomas) Woodbeck welcomed **Henry Thomas** to the family on Sept. 17, 2010, at 7:16 a.m. He weighed

9 pounds, 12 ounces and was 21 1/4 inches long. Henry joins big sister Bailey and big brothers Andrew and Adam.

OUR READERS WRITE

Greetings,

As I read the story of Swain Hall, I could literally recall my feelings as a high school kid used to playing Class C basketball when we, as a team, got invited to a game at the new Swain Hall (perhaps in 1954). After being in gyms in the area of class C teams, we were accustomed to low ceilings, limited facilities, lighting and sometimes even leaking ceilings. My eyes must have been as wide open as possible as we stepped into Swain Hall. The bright lights, the huge shiny floor, the amplified sounds, and the massive seating size. It was spectacular and so far beyond anything I could have imagined at the point. I'm delighted with the great efforts that had to have gone into this renovation. MSU has really become an outstanding institution. So many buildings and facilities bear names now of staff and professors whom I knew in those days: Harnett Hall, Aleshire Theater, Cyril Moore Science Center, Herb Parker Field, McCullough Hall, Lura Manor, and perhaps more. These were all very special people to MSU. I'm thrilled to see them so deservedly honored. Dr. Fuller, I know you have had a great hand in perpetuating the development of MSU and you have my thanks. P.S., the "virtual tour" video is superb.

— DON FELLER '60, Portland, Ore.

I just want you to know how impressed I am with the work and progress the university is making to raise its profile and improve its facilities, programs and image. It's clear you have a vision and are paying attention to detail.

You might like to know that I attended a college fair in Seattle in fall 2009 and talked briefly with reps from MSU and saw online ads promoting the school, so I've certainly seen your added presence in Washington. The move to Division II sports is the right move and the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference is the right conference to target. On another random note, the across-the-board, in-state tuition rates and the Great Plains Exceptional Scholar Award are really something and should make the school a great draw. Also, it seems that you are capitalizing on promoting the school's setting in the Great Plains. You might consider stealing and using some adaptation of Minnesota-Duluth's slogan, "A great university on a Great Lake." Perhaps MSU could be a "great university on the Great Plains" if it isn't already in use elsewhere.

Thanks for your good work.

— STUART GLASOE '84, Olympia, Wash.

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

My wife, Toni, and I read each issue of *Connections* cover to cover. The back cover on the Fall 2010 issue titled "Greeks are Back!" brought up a truly nostalgic feeling.

I am a Mu Sigma Tau from 1978-1980. I started as a pledge, then active, next elected as house manager, then Active of the Quarter in 1979 and Active of the Year in 1980. I came from a family farm near Esmond and was an Esmond high school graduate with a class of 22 students. Becoming a Mu Sigma Tau was important to me in enhancing my people and leadership skills in a larger world. I also greatly cherish the friendships found and continued as a result of my Mu Sigma Tau membership. These friendships have continued for 30-plus years.

The biggest event to come out of Mu Sigma Tau was meeting and eventually marrying my wife, Toni Bullinger '82. The Mu Sigma Tau house was on third street NW and few houses down on the same street was the Delta Epsilon Phi house of which Toni was a member and one time president. I am glad to see the revival of Mu Sigma Tau. Greek life is an important part of college life!

— RON "GUMMY" GUMERINGER '80, Bismarck

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.

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



CORRECTION: The article "The Story of the B-17 Bomber Crash" (Fall 2010) contained a factual error. A sentence discussing the causes of the crash should have read: "The oil pressure gauge for the No. 3 engine failed, causing the pilot to think that the engine had conked out." *Connections* Magazine regrets the error.

CORRECTION: The article in the 2010 President's Report "Minot State unveils unique monument sign" contained a factual error. Rolac Contracting, of Minot, built the monument sign. We regret the error.

28th annual
Gala
dinner & auction

Join us for the premier social event of the year ...

**2011 Minot State University
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GALA Dinner & Auction**

Friday, April 29

Social: 5:30 p.m. • Dinner 6:45 p.m.

Grand International, Minot

The 2011 MSU GALA will be taking place this spring! You are cordially invited to attend the 28th 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 2010-11 school year, \$20,000 was awarded in scholarships.

To order tickets for this year's event, contact the Alumni Office at 701-858-3234, 800-777-0750 ext. 3234 or e-mail: alumni@minotstateu.edu.

*Join us for the 28th Annual Gala
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Amy Simmons '01 and Pat Artz

As a TGU school counselor, Amy understands the importance of young people pursuing their college degree. That is one reason Amy and Pat support MSU. Amy '01 is very active on the Alumni Association Board of Directors and Pat is the President of the Foundation Board of Minot State's sister campus, Dakota College at Bottineau. In addition to supporting both campuses, Amy and Pat are proud members of the Beaver Boosters and cheer on their nephew Luke Artz who is a defensive tackle on the Beaver football team.