

# Connections

Alumni Association and Development Foundation  
Fall 2016



**Howard Klug**  
**BOOMTOWN**  
**MAYOR**



**Minot State**  
**UNIVERSITY**

# Message from the President

Another academic year is in full swing at Minot State University, and it has been a busy semester across campus.

The year began with some good news, as MSU recorded its first increase in overall student enrollment in six years, and the largest enrollment since 2013. Following the devastating flood in Minot five years ago, the ensuing recovery, and some other external factors throughout the region, the university has faced some challenges with student enrollment. However, with the efforts of many individuals throughout campus and some new initiatives the past couple years, we are so pleased to now see these increases. Included in this fall's overall enrollment numbers are across-the-board increases in our new student categories (new freshmen, new transfer students, and new graduate students). These are all very positive signs for the future!

Homecoming brought a perfect week of weather with several enjoyable reunions, a huge community block party, a wonderful day for the parade and tailgating and



many activities throughout the week for our students. It was fun seeing so many alumni and friends back on campus. I had conversations with several folks who had not been at MSU in many years, and they all remarked so positively about the many renovations and upgrades since they last visited.

Homecoming Week also featured MSU's annual Golden Awards banquet featuring David Gowan, Walter Piehl Jr., Tom Probst, and Matt and DelRae (Zimmerman) Geinert. A bit later in the fall, we celebrated the annual MSU Athletic Hall of Fame induction recognizing David Blake, Courtney "CoCo" Haley, Melissa Spelchen and the 1992 Football Team (featuring a

great turnout of individual members from that team!). You can read more about all of these very deserving recipients in this issue of Connections.

In August, Minot State unveiled its new strategic plan, "Empowering Generations," along with a new mission statement and vision for the university. The campus is now undertaking the important work of putting actionable items in place that will bring these new strategies to life. This is also important work as MSU prepares for its next comprehensive accreditation visit by the Higher Learning Commission slated for October 2017.

A couple of new faces began serving in key administrative posts at MSU this

academic year. Dr. Laurie Geller began in June as MSU's vice president for academic affairs. Laurie has been a longtime professor and chair of mathematics and computer science at MSU, and she also previously directed the Honors program. In her new role, Laurie works closely with MSU's faculty in the three colleges, the undergraduate and graduate academic programs and also coordinates together with the other North Dakota University System campuses. In August, Andy Carter began as MSU's new director of athletics. Andy came to MSU from Northwestern Oklahoma State where he served as AD. He has hit the ground running helping ensure a smooth transition from our previous AD Rick Hedberg's administration (Rick now serves as MSU's vice president for advancement).

Thanks for your continued readership of Connections, and thanks for supporting Minot State University. Please stop by the next time you visit campus. Have a terrific Holiday Season, and I look forward to seeing you in 2017. As always, **GO BEAVERS!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Shirley". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Steven W. Shirley, Ph.D.  
President





FEATURE ARTICLES

- 4 Howard Klug — Boomtown mayor
- 8 Fulfilling a dream
- 11 Minot State criminal justice grads protect and serve
- 12 MSU alum celebrates 100 years
- 14 Internships provide experiential learning opportunities
  - Seizing the fast track to success
  - Turning the ordinary into extraordinary
- 16 Positive experience directs a winding career path

ATHLETICS

- 17 Minot State announces 2016 Athletics Hall of Fame inductees
- 18 Summer of change
- 20 Riemedio gets a shot at the big time

DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

- 22 Making charitable gifts using your IRA

ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

- 28 MSU Alumni Association award recipients announced

CLASS NOTES

- 36 IN MEMORY

BABY BEAVERS

38

CONNECTIONS STAFF

Vice President for Advancement: Rick Hedberg  
 Managing Editor and Writer: Alysia Huck  
 Writer and Editor: Frank McCahill  
 Writers: Michael Linnell, Linda Benson '83/'00  
 Photography Coordinator: Teresa Loftesnes '07/'15  
 Campus Photographer: Richard Heit '07  
 Publication Design: Doreen Wald  
 Alumni Happenings: Janna McKechnie '14  
 Baby Beavers: Kate Marshall '07  
 Class Notes: Bonnie Trueblood  
 In Memory: Renae Yale '10

GUEST WRITER:

Page 15: Turning the ordinary into the extraordinary — Kristine Zorbaugh '16

PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Richard Heit '07  
 Michael Linnell  
 Janna McKechnie '14

PHOTO CREDITS:

Page 8: Frank White Bull — Ta'Sheena Finn  
 Page 8: Mark Henle of The Arizona Republic — Ta'Sheena Finn  
 Page 9: Taté Walker (Miniconjou Lakota) — Ta'Sheena Finn  
 Page 20: Minot Daily News — Riemedio  
 Page 21: Mercyhurst University Athletics — Riemedio

*Connections* is published two times a year by the Minot State University Alumni Association and Development Foundation. Send comments, articles or photo submissions to *Connections*, MSU Alumni Office, 500 University Ave. West, Minot, ND 58707. Telephone 701-858-3399 or 1-800-777-0750. Fax 701-858-3179. Email: alumni@minotstateu.edu

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

**COVER STORY**

Howard Klug — Boomtown mayor

**Cover Photo:**

Williston Mayor Howard Klug is focused on the growth of his hometown and envisions the return of a robust Bakken play, continued population growth and a solid, sustainable infrastructure.

4





HOWARD KLUCC



# BOOMTOWN MAYOR



As the mayor of Williston, a Minot State grad has been at the epicenter of the Bakken oil boom and its subsequent slowdown. Regardless of world fluctuations, Howard Klug tries to make positive contributions, a mindset he developed as a co-captain of the MSU Football Team and leader of Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity in the late 1970s.

## Big Oil arrives

Williston, Klug's hometown, has experienced several oil booms in its recent history. The first occurred in the early 1950s when oil was discovered in the Williston Basin near Tioga. The second arrived in the early 1980s.

"Back in the '80s, it was all wildcatting," Klug said. "They'd drill a hole straight down and hopefully hit oil."

But hit-or-miss drilling proved too dicey for oil companies, so they pulled out of the state and fled to more predictable energy fields.

"When the boom quit, the next day there was no more drilling. It just stopped," Klug recalled.

Williston was left with millions of dollars in infrastructure debt that wasn't paid off until the early 2000s. The region sank into economic and demographic stagnation for the next two decades.

But Big Oil came roaring back in 2007, bringing with it a box of shiny new tools to ensure success — hydraulic fracturing, horizontal drilling and pad drilling. "They got smarter and smarter and the technology got better and better," Klug said. "Things really took off. There was a 99.9 percent chance that they were going to hit oil."

Soon, more than 200 rigs were drilling in the Bakken formation, producing over a million barrels of oil a day.

Oil topped \$100 per barrel on world markets.

The explosion of drilling had a major impact on Williston. Its population jumped from 12,000 to nearly 40,000 between 2007 and 2014. The city's budget jumped from \$40 million to \$240 million, and its workforce went from 90 to 240 people. The region saw 25,000 jobs created, 1,300 businesses launched and 10,000 apartment units built.

## Government service begins

Klug was serving on the Williston city commission when the oil boom began. New demands quickly stretched the group's bimonthly meetings well beyond their customary one-hour limit.

"Our meetings were lasting four to five hours," Klug said.

But Klug wasn't deterred by the increasing time demand and workload. When longtime mayor Ward Koeser announced his retirement in 2014, Klug ran to replace him. He promised to diversify the economy, improve the quality of life and preserve Koeser's vision of Williston as the "best little city in America."

"I knew a lot of people in town that had the same ideas and values that I did," Klug said. "So I ran and won."

To accommodate the needs of a growing population, Williams County and Williston officials went on a spending

---

### Klug's ongoing civic and political involvement derives from a lesson he learned decades earlier at Minot State.

**"I was always going to be involved," he said. "I figured I could contribute in one way or the other."**

---



*Representatives from Williston's downtown businesses surround Mayor Klug at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Main Street Reconstruction Project (Oct. 2015).*



*Williston's new Area Recreation Center is the activity hub for the greater Williston area.*

spree. New projects included the \$77 million Williston Area Recreation Center, \$57 million high school, \$55 million jail expansion and \$250 million airport to replace the current overstressed facility.

"It was designed for 10,000 passengers a year. We were doing that a month," Klug said.

The new mayor learned that local government has to closely monitor a volatile industry like Big Energy.

"The oil business moves a lot faster than government," he said. "We need to provide oversight because there's so much money out there. There has to be some checks and balances."

As the Bakken boom pierced the global consciousness, media organizations descended on Williston from around the world. Some described a dystopian city rife with crime, drugs and vice, backlit by the menacing glow of flaring wells. But Klug rejected that depiction with unvarnished disdain.

"We kept hammering at them that that isn't the case, that we'll be just fine," he said.

One French outlet repeatedly challenged the mayor on the hazards of hydraulic fracturing.

"I finally stopped talking to those folks," he said.

### **The downturn begins**

When global oil prices began to plummet in late 2014, drilling activity in the Williston Basin slowed considerably. Oil companies shut down operations, and workers left the region. Williston's population settled at 30,000. City officials welcomed the respite as an opportunity to reweave the fabric of their city.

"Our infrastructure projects are getting done on time and under budget," Klug said.

The mayor, reflecting his Midwestern optimism, expects global oil prices to climb over the next year and a half, prompting a resurgence in oil activity.

He and other local officials base their optimism on a reservoir of 7.4 billion barrels of oil sitting beneath their feet, the largest deposit of oil and natural gas in the nation. Energy firms are just biding their time.

"They know where the oil is," Klug said. "They know how to drill it economically. They're ready for when the price rebounds."

The mayor foresees Williston becoming a regional hub, offering educational, medical, retail and transportation services to western North Dakota and eastern Montana.

"Williston will start growing again," he said "We're building toward a 50,000 population."

The data supports his bullish outlook. A decade ago, the region saw 150 births a year. Last year, the figure was over 900.

"We're becoming a much younger town," he said. "We're going to be in pretty good shape."

### **Minot State inspires**

When Klug entered Minot State in 1975, he planned to major in history and minor in business, with hopes of becoming a high school teacher and coach.

He played football as a freshman under Coach Bert Leidholt. When he dropped out to work on the railroad, Leidholt encouraged him to return to school.

"He's the one who kept me going at Minot State," Klug said.

Klug played center on the football team for four years, serving as co-captain his senior year. He also wrestled under Coach Dean Bachmeier.

Appreciating the benefits of team membership, he joined Sigma Tau Gamma, a fraternity celebrated for its charitable projects.

He served as the fraternity's president for one year and was twice named its man of the year. The Tri-Sigmas selected him as their dream man in 1978. Greek life was a formative experience for the Williston native.

"You come from a small town, and then you interact with people from different cultures," he said. "People taught you the right way to do things."

Teaching jobs were difficult to find when Klug graduated in 1980, so he returned to Williston and entered the hospitality industry. He co-owned the El Rancho Hotel for 35 years.

Klug involved himself in many civic organizations over the years, including the convention and visitors bureau and local senior center. He also enjoyed a long career as a football official, refereeing high school and college games.

"I was involved Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays for 25 years," he said.

Klug's ongoing civic and political involvement derives from a lesson he learned decades earlier at Minot State.

"I was always going to be involved," he said. "I figured I could contribute in one way or the other." ■





# Fulfilling a DREAM

*Above: Photo by Frank White Bull  
Left: Photo by Mark Henle of The Arizona Republic*



ANIELLE TA'SHEENA FINN knew from the first time she set eyes on a billboard displaying a beautiful native woman and the words "Home of the First-Ever Miss Indian World" that she wanted to be Miss Indian World one day.

"My father taught at our sister reservation, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and I passed that billboard every day," Finn said. "I didn't know what Miss Indian World

meant, but I saw this beautiful lady in traditional regalia, smiling and happy, and dreamt that someday that would be me."

At the age of 25, her dream came true. This was the second time Finn ran for Miss Indian World. She made her tribe proud in 2014 by winning second runner-up. Close to aging out, Finn decided to make one more attempt in 2016 and succeeded. In addition to public speaking and a powwow dance, Finn crafted her own dress, embellishing

it with 500 pennies, which symbolizes native and non-native worlds.

As Miss Indian World, Finn spends her reigning year traveling the world speaking on two important issues in American Indian communities – suicide prevention and language preservation.

Getting the title, however, took determination, self-confidence and commitment.

"I realized as I got older that you have to *be* Miss Indian World before you *are* Miss Indian World," Finn explained. "It takes a whole lot of work,

you have to be culturally sound, a good public speaker, and so much more."

## Focus on higher education

Finn grew up in Bismarck and in the Porcupine community on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation. She attended school in Bismarck and graduated from Century High School in 2009. While Finn wasn't certain that she would pursue a law career, her family had an inkling.

"Everyone thought I'd be an attorney from the time I



was a little girl,” Finn said. “I was always good at puzzles and constantly justifying everything I wanted.”

Finn started at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and decided to study medicine. However, she took one criminal justice class and discovered her passion. In the midst of her second year at UNLV, she became ill. Finn needed treatment, so she came home. She needed a four-year institution to complete her degree. That is when she discovered Minot State University at Bismarck State College. Considering how much she enjoyed her criminal justice class at UNLV, Finn reached out to Melissa Spelchen, director of MSU’s criminal justice program at BSC, to learn how MSU could help her achieve her goal.

“I called her last minute to see if she could help me get accepted for the spring semester, and I was accepted in two days,” Finn said. “I wanted so badly to continue my education. I don’t know how she did it, but she got me organized and into the classes I needed. MSU was so accommodating with everything; everybody was super helpful.”

Still not 100 percent certain that law was her calling, Finn took classes from Cynthia Feland, South Central Judicial District judge, and her wavering ceased.

“I liked shows like ‘Cops’ and ‘Forensic Files,’” Finn said, “but it wasn’t until I met Feland that I was convinced that would be my calling. There aren’t many native attorneys, and I knew I could help people.”

Education was always a priority for Finn. Both her parents earned graduate degrees. Her mother, Brenda One Hawk Finn, works in business administration, and her father, John Finn, works in public health.

“My parents were always amazing role models, even through hard times,” Finn said. “My mom was getting her bachelor’s degree while I was in high school and her master’s while I was getting my bachelor’s. It wasn’t easy to put me through college while she was attending grad school. They both wanted me to surpass them, which is why I’m at a doctorate level, and I want my kids to surpass me.”

### Making a difference

Finn learned a lot growing up on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. Approximately 100 individuals live in Porcupine today, and Finn is related to every one of them, from grandparents to aunts and uncles to distant cousins.

“Growing up on the reservation, I saw family members overcome so many hardships,” Finn said. “From generational poverty to tragedy, drugs and alcohol. I saw what some did that was not right, and I learned from that. Seeing both roads clearly helped guide me.”

Finn decided to take it to the next level. She would not only learn from others but also help them and make a difference.

“I want to better indigenous people, I feel that’s my job,” Finn said. “It’s who I am as a native woman.”

Not only has Finn educated many during her travels around the world, but she also has been educated, starting with her semester abroad in Ireland while attending MSU.

“I earned a minor in international business, so MSU let me go abroad,” Finn said. “I learned so much in Ireland! They have many similarities to our population, as a people imposed on culturally. There was a loss of language at one time. They have special dances, traditions, stories. I really identified with them, and they thought the Native American culture was so cool.”

One study abroad trip led to many more. While in law school, Finn studied in Panama, Mexico, and most recently England. Finn earned a certificate in global arbitration and practice to complement her Juris Doctorate.

“I would definitely credit my MSU study abroad trip for giving me the travel bug and sparking my interest in learning in different atmospheres,” Finn said. “MSU made studying abroad so easy and enjoyable.”

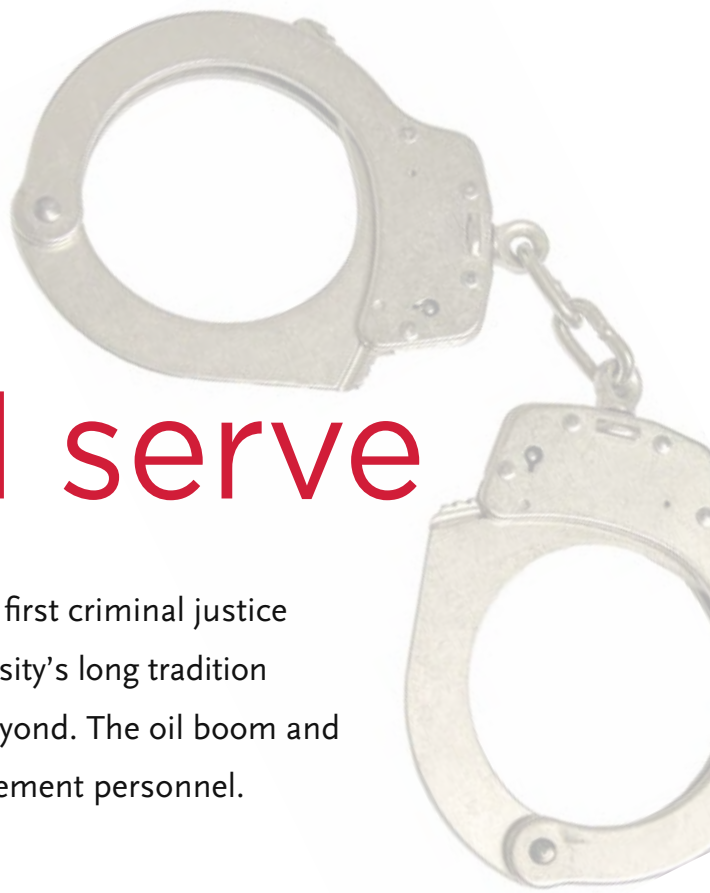
Reminiscing on the beautiful native woman on the billboard, Finn advises all to search for the silver lining, dream big and focus on the positive. So what might the future hold for Miss Indian World?

“I will go back to my tribe, if not now, later, as they supported me so much,” Finn said. “The beauty of being Miss Indian World is I have the chance to demonstrate cultural awareness and diversity and show how we’ve hung on to it all this time.” ■



Photo by Taté Walker (Miniconjou Lakota)

# MINOT STATE CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRADS protect and serve



Since Minot State University launched North Dakota's first criminal justice program in 1975, its graduates have honored the university's long tradition of service by protecting the citizens of the state and beyond. The oil boom and bust brought unprecedented challenges for law enforcement personnel.

## DARRIK TRUDELL



Darrik Trudell, special agent with Homeland Security Investigations, graduated from Minot State with a bachelor's degree

in social work in 2002. Upon graduation, he worked for North Dakota Department of Corrections as a parole and probation officer for four years, then he was a special agent with the United States Secret Service in Philadelphia for five years. But he and his wife, Betsy (Vig) '06, missed

the region's community spirit and values and wanted to move back to North Dakota. There is only one Secret Service agent in North Dakota, so he changed agencies and has been with HSI since 2011.

"HSI investigates a number of crimes," Trudell said. "In North Dakota, the agency investigates the import or export of anything across the international border and has immigration authority. However, the majority of the cases that we deal with up north are child exploitation cases, such as Internet crimes against children, child pornography cases or solicitation of minors."

Trudell also works with the local drug task force.

"The biggest case I worked here is a three-and-a-half-year investigation of a double murder for hire case out of Watford City," Trudell said. "The criminal killed his business partner in Spokane, Wash. and his friend in Watford City. He was taken to trial and convicted for two life sentences plus 20 years."

Growing up, the Sidney, Mont., native never wanted to be a police officer or in law enforcement. He wanted to coach football, but he got a job at the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch when he started college, and being a social work major coincided with that. The social work major gave him an advantage when he sought employment with the North Dakota Department of Corrections in parole and probation.

"Probation services is a combination of law enforcement and social work," Trudell said. "You are dealing with offenders and their families and seeking services for them so they don't re-offend. My social work background gave me an edge. In law enforcement, the ability to talk to people is beneficial."

All of the MSU coaches and Athletics Department administration, such as Rick Hedberg and Chad McNally, influenced Trudell, while he was a student. Andy Heitkamp, former assistant





football coach and current Veterans Center director, was the person who influenced him the most.

“Andy Heitkamp got me to Minot State, and he helped me the most,” Trudell related. “He always had good advice for us no matter what was happening in our lives. MSU is lucky to have Coach Heitkamp. My wife and I are passionate about MSU. It’s been good to us.”

## JASON OLSON



Jason Olson, Minot chief of police, graduated from Minot State with a bachelor’s

degree in criminal justice in 1993. Olson began his career with the Minot Police Department in 1988, and he advanced through the ranks. He was promoted to senior officer in 1992 and patrol sergeant in 1997, and then he was transferred to crime prevention in 2000. In 2004, he was promoted to lieutenant, assigned to the patrol division night shift. He remained there until 2006, when he was selected to attend the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va., for management studies. He returned to Minot, and in 2010, he became a captain and took over as support commander. He became the chief of police in 2012. The Williston native has witnessed two oil booms in his lifetime. The latest oil boom brought unforeseen challenges for law enforcement officers.

“Minot’s population increased drastically with the increased oil activity, and with that crime increased, especially illegal drug activity,” Olson said. “We are dealing with a criminal element that followed the ‘fast money’ here.”



Olson is grateful for the collaborative relationship between Minot State and the Minot Police Department.

“Minot State provides the department with knowledgeable employees, and our officers, such as past Minot police chiefs Carrol Erickson and Dan Draovitch, have taught criminal justice,” Olson said. “In the past, police officers have also provided campus security.”

Olson married his high school sweetheart, Lisa (Nylander) ’89/’06, and they attended Minot State together. She teaches special education at TGU Granville and serves on the Minot City Council.

## MIKE MCGRATH



Mike McGrath, deputy chief of the U.S. Probation Office

in North Dakota, earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Minot State in 1998. He continued on to the University of North Dakota to receive his doctorate in 2014.

McGrath holds fond memories of attending MSU. The connections he made in the CJ Department’s small classes have led to current working relationships with former classmates.

“I had very knowledgeable teachers and at the time that I came into the program, it was one of the premier programs in the Midwest,” McGrath remembers. “Dr. Gary Rabe, Rural Crime and Justice Center executive director, made the biggest impact on me. He gave me a chance to branch out. I worked at RCJC, and it gave me some applied learning. In addition, the people in the CJ Department were connected with law enforcement professionals and that was important with

me becoming who I am. An adjunct professor was a former federal probation officer, and it turned me on to the probation career option.”

As deputy chief, McGrath handles the operational functions of the federal probation office and supervises 35 to 40 officers. The office is a growing agency because activity in the oil industry forced government entities to grow to meet the demand for services.

“I spent a large chunk of my career in the Minot office at the height of the boom,” McGrath said. “In my perspective, it had a huge effect on all law enforcement, including federal cases. In fact, the federal government made it a point to assist with local law enforcement to ensure community safety.”

As far as law enforcement in the future, McGrath envisions law enforcement officers engaging the community to be more participatory in law enforcement.



“Being a probation officer takes a special type of person,” McGrath said. “Someone who really understands human nature, law, law enforcement, how to motivate people, and how to engage families and communities. It’s a multi-disciplinary, demanding and dynamic job, and that’s what attracted me to it.”

**LORI (RODGERS) MALAFA**



Lori (Rodgers) Malafa '84/'07 retired from the North Dakota Highway Patrol in 2014 after more than 28 years. She now works for the Department of Transportation as a program manager for federal grant funds funneled to North Dakota law enforcement

agencies to work traffic safety programs.

Malafa feels Minot State had the best criminal justice

department in the state when she attended in the 1980s. She appreciates that MSU was flexible with her classes while interning with the Ward County Sheriff’s Department and later when she was on staff.

“Dr. David Horton headed the program,” Malafa said. “He and his wife, Carol Somlo, who was the jail administrator, were very instrumental and influential during my college years. I also enjoyed taking classes from Dan Draovitch, who was a captain with the Minot Police Department at the same time that he was an adjunct faculty member.”

Malafa became the first, and so far only, female promoted to sergeant with the NDHP in 1999 and to captain in 2004. She was later promoted to division commander. While she was a captain, she served as the training director for the Law Enforcement Training Academy in Bismarck. As division commander for seven years, she handled all the agency human resource functions to include hiring, transfers, promotions, disciplinary action,

grievances, compensation and risk management. For the last six months of her career, she was division commander for the western half of the state.

In February 2000, she was conducting a traffic stop on I-94 by Casselton and standing next to the stopped vehicle when she was struck by a passing motorist. This sparked legislation to be introduced during the 2001 legislative session to implement the move-over law in North Dakota. The law passed and went into effect Aug. 1, 2001.

Law enforcement is a family tradition. Kelly Rodgers '81, her brother and MSU alumnus, encouraged Malafa to enter the North Dakota Highway Patrol, as he did. Now retired, he was with NDHP for 27 years. Two of Malafa’s three sons are NDHP troopers. Her oldest son, Adam, received a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from North Dakota State University and is stationed in Fargo. Darin '15 graduated from Minot State with a CJ degree, and he is stationed in Dickinson.





Of the eight children in her family, four went into the criminal justice field. One sister, Sandra Rodgers '87 graduated from MSU and worked for the Kenmare Police Department for a short time before going to Federal U.S. Customs and then to Federal Immigration and Naturalization Services. She is no longer employed in law enforcement but works for the federal government in the U.S. Department of Labor, where she does employment investigations. Another

sister, Julie (Rodgers) Thompson '87 also graduated from Minot State. She worked at the Bismarck Police Department as an officer/investigator for 10 years before joining the State of North Dakota. She is still a law enforcement officer, but she works for the Attorney General's Office as the director of security for the Lottery Division.

Malafa noticed cultural changes during her years with NDHP.

"With the increase in population came an increase

in traffic, driving violations and criminal activity," Malafa said. "Western North Dakota was significantly impacted during the oil boom. The state lacked adequate infrastructure to handle the rapid influx of people and traffic, but it's better now. Drug arrests and weapons violations increased to levels never seen years ago."

Because of all the occupational prospects in criminal justice, Malafa encourages students to explore and research the possibilities.

"In pursuing a career in criminal justice, students should take advantage of internships or ride-along opportunities with different agencies," Malafa said. "Students should explore all of their options so that they can discover the right fit for them for long-term careers. Law enforcement is a challenging, but very rewarding career."

Minot State University still provides an excellent criminal justice program for its students. Its graduates go on to protect and serve citizens in changing times. ■

## Minot State University alum celebrates 100 years



**O**n May 29, the Hatlelid family gathered to celebrate their matriarch, Agnes Hatlelid, who turned 100 years old.

Agnes Helene Ronning was born in Lignite on May 27, 1916. She attended Minot State Teachers College for a year and went back to Lignite

at the age of 17 to teach in the two-room schoolhouse where she went to school. She taught for a year and earned enough money to go back to college, doing this several cycles until eventually earning a degree in education from Minot State Teachers College in 1941.

Agnes married Elbert "Bert" Hatlelid in 1942 and

stayed busy as a homemaker, caring for five children. She directed a children's choir at First Presbyterian Church and served as secretary of the Community Concert Association for many years. She took pride in caring for her family and emphasized the importance of education and attaining a college degree.

Hatlelid offers simple advice to others who strive to reach the century mark: "Just keep on. That's the only way to stay alive. Don't quit."

She says there are no secrets to longevity.

"Just live a good life."

"At her 90th birthday party she said, 'This is fun, let's do it again when I'm 100,'" her daughter, Helen Hatlelid-Hester, said.

In a letter to *Connections* staff, Hatlelid-Hester wrote,

"I have a funny story to tell you ... she receives your alumni magazine and was reading it recently. A friend of mine walked into her room (at the nursing home where she now lives) while she was reading it and when she looked up, after being engrossed in the articles, her comment was 'I'm reading this magazine from where I graduated college and I don't recognize any names. You would think I would recognize some of the professors' names at the very least.'"

Although North Dakota and her Norwegian heritage remain an important part of her life, Agnes and her husband lived most of their adult lives in Oklahoma, where she still resides. Her husband died in 1997. ■

## HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY AGNES!

# DRIVE & DETERMINATION

## Seizing the fast track to success

**C**an old soul in a young body. That is how many who know her describe Minot State University finance major Emily Roark. She knew what she wanted early in life and started on the fast track to law school her sophomore year of high school.

“I didn’t want to be in college for eight years,” Roark said. “So I started taking classes through MSU the summer before my junior year and continued up to graduation in 2015. I plan to graduate from MSU in spring 2017.”

MSU allows the Berthold native ample opportunities to be involved, as well as close enough to home to be a part of her two younger siblings’ lives. She is thankful to have supportive, encouraging parents. Her father, Michael Roark, inspired her interest in law. She also has a keen interest in business.

“My dad is a highway patrolman, business owner, farmer, really a jack of all trades,” Roark said. “I was always interested in what he was doing, and law was always interesting to me, so I decided to become a business lawyer.”

Roark is no stranger to hard work to achieve her goals. Applying as a resident assistant before moving onto campus, Roark dove straight into university life.

“Being an RA helped me get involved on campus and in the community,” Roark said.

In addition to school, RA duties, campus and commu-



*Focused on becoming an attorney, Emily Roark values the opportunity to intern with Professor Dean Frantsvog.*

nity service, Roark started an internship under Dean Frantsvog, an MSU accounting and finance professor and attorney.

“He has helped me a lot,” Roark said. “He brings me in to meet clients, asks my opinion, then he tells me how it will actually go. He’s also thrown me out there to work on projects. He’s been a big influence.”

Roark also utilizes campus services, such as tutoring, to succeed in her more challenging course work, such as biology.

“Dr. (Paul) Lepp is a great teacher, but biology is hard

for me, so my friend and I went to tutoring 96 hours a month,” Roark said. “It paid off! The tutoring service was wonderful.”

One might wonder how Roark manages to balance completing a four-year degree in two years, an internship, working as a resident assistant, community service, endless hours of tutoring, class time, family and friends.

“My planner is my lifesaver, I bring it everywhere,” Roark said. “I have a million sticky notes and a lot of late night coffee runs. My life is like a

triangle – social life, sleep and good grades – I’m constantly spinning. I want to be with family, too, so this summer I’d go to the lake and take my work with me. My friends call me the ‘fun mom.’”

While Roark tends to stay busy and is goal-oriented, she also knows the importance of an occasional reprieve.

“I had a month-long break this summer before it all began again. It’s difficult, but well worth it,” Roark said. “The opportunities seem to just fall in my lap, and I take them all in.” ■



# PROPEL EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS

## Turning the ordinary into the extraordinary

At an age when many young children were dreaming of becoming princesses or astronauts, Minot State University freshman Julia Barlow set her sights on something closer to earth.

"I find eyes fascinating," Barlow said. "I've always wanted to be an optometrist. I was inspired by our family optometrist. He was kind, caring and seemed to have it all."

Barlow describes herself as painfully shy, while at the same time tenacious and strong-willed. With guidance from her parents along with university and high school faculty, she found ways to attain her goals.

"I wanted to get a head start on some of the classes that I thought might be a challenge for me, so I took dual credit classes through MSU," Barlow said. "For example, public speaking. The idea of getting up in front of a classroom of people I don't know made me really anxious. Dual credit classes allowed me to face these fears."

A Minot native, Barlow's commitment to family and the community made Minot State the perfect choice for higher education.

"Staying near my family was important to me, and I wanted the full university experience without losing the familiarity of my surroundings," Barlow said. "I love Minot's sense of community, and knowing everything that

Minot State had to offer, I really couldn't have hoped for better."

Minot State is committed to high academic standards and professional support for students. In addition to reasonable tuition, the commitment of MSU faculty and staff is one of the most notable facets of MSU.

"They are always available and willing to provide guidance and really made it easy to transition from high school to college," Barlow said. "In particular, the First Year Experience program was a great introduction to all that Minot State has to offer."

Campus life and the university experience aren't just about hard work. It is about learning, both inside and outside the classroom. MSU

is first and foremost dedicated to the success of all students. Building friendships with other students from around the world through campus activities, events and community service is a dynamic way that students can broaden their perspective of the world around them.

"All the campus activities and events bring the campus community closer together," Barlow said. "When you add MSU's use of social media, everyone feels that much more engaged."

Barlow's interests stretch beyond the sciences to include music. While many might feel overwhelmed to sing in front of an audience, it is one area that allows Barlow to step beyond her shyness and express herself.

"I consider myself to be pretty analytical, which is why I think I enjoy the sciences," Barlow said. "But music has always been a passion for me. I love singing in front of an audience. I received a music scholarship to attend MSU, and the music program really helps me balance both my analytical and creative sides."

Although new to Minot State, Barlow already has advice for other new students:

"Don't be afraid or anxious — be fearless. Do your best to make even the ordinary extraordinary. Your experience is what you make of it, and I want to make the most of mine."

Barlow is pursuing a degree in biology before moving on to optometry school. She is planning to graduate from Minot State in May 2020.



*Freshman Julia Barlow envisions becoming an optometrist as she continues her university coursework.*



*Evan Borisinkoff visits with Carson Bachmeier, a junior special education major from Granville.*

## Positive experience directs a winding career path

A professor in the Special Education Department recently earned an academic advising award because he believes in the value of personal engagement.

Evan Borisinkoff, director of the department's undergraduate programs, eagerly makes himself available at MSU's Connect registration/orientation sessions for first-year and transfer students.

"I meet them at the first point of contact," he said, noting that he currently advises 35 students in the Special Education Department.

Borisinkoff pictures the advising process as a sturdy scaffolding essential to academic success.

"I like the challenge of how we can get students in and out of here in four years," he said.

### Personal approach

The Saskatchewan native was introduced to this caring approach as a master's candidate at MSU. Brent Askvig, his

adviser at the time, gave new graduate students his home phone number and maintained an open-door policy.

Borisinkoff's teaching has also earned accolades from students in the department. Again, he credits his years at Minot State for his repertoire of teaching techniques.

"I had so many great professors. I picked the best and tried to replicate them," he said.

### Uncertain start

The North Battleford native's journey to a career in higher education was an unlikely one. After high school, he worked for a year in a meat shop before he enrolled at the University of Regina to study English. After a year, he transferred to Minot State to major in communication disorders.

"That (major) was not a good fit, but I knew I wanted to work in the helping professions," he said.

Borisinkoff switched to a major in developmental disabilities with a focus on

the habilitation of adults. He soon found his footing while doing internships in the local community.

"I had a blast working in group homes," he said. "I felt that this person is struggling with something that I could help him."

Borisinkoff eventually earned associate, undergraduate and graduate degrees during six years at Minot State. His wife, Rebecca Daigneault, earned bachelor's and master's degrees during the same period.

### Professional development

After graduation in 2001, the couple spent three years working for a community-centered board in Denver.

After that, Borisinkoff began a doctoral program at the University of New Mexico. The program focused on social justice and inclusive opportunities for children with intellectual disabilities.

"I was looking for a new adventure," he said. "I had worked with adults. I wanted

to get some experience in the classroom working and learning with kids."

In the end, Borisinkoff taught for nine years in the Albuquerque, N.M., public schools and worked collaboratively within a team of experienced speech, physical and occupational therapists.

### Return home

In 2014, Borisinkoff returned to Minot State. Along with teaching and advising, he serves as research coordinator for the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD), a center of excellence, where Daigneault works as a research associate.

The couple has two daughters — Skylar, 5, and Sasha, 3.

"I really enjoyed coming back. There's a lot of déjà vu," he said.

Borisinkoff appreciates the solid base from which his career began.

"(Minot State) has opened the doors to a lot of opportunity," he said. "I never once felt like I was unprepared." ■



# Three individuals, one team to enter Minot State Athletics Hall of Fame



Blake



Haley



Spelchen



1992 Football Team

The Minot State University Athletics Hall of Fame Committee selected three individuals and one team for its class of 2016.

The class features former student-athletes **David Blake** (wrestling/baseball), **Courtney “CoCo” Haley** (men’s basketball) and **Melissa Spelchen** (volleyball/softball) along with the **1992 MSU football team**.

**Blake**, from Williston, finished his wrestling career as the school leader in career wins, amassing 82 total. He went an impressive 82-25 from 1977-81, earning three North Dakota Collegiate Athletic Conference individual titles. He had his best season as a senior, going 23-2, capping three straight 20-win seasons.

After finishing at Minot State, Blake continued to be active in athletics as a coach. He was a part of the coaching staff with Williston High School’s 1990 state championship team. He helped LaBelle High School (Fla.) to a runner-up finish in 3A football in 1995. In 2005, he coached LaBelle’s softball team to a Final Four appearance.

Blake teaches middle school science in LaBelle, where he and his wife Robyn have lived since 1990.

**Haley** played two seasons for Minot State, racking up

impressive numbers in a short span. The Chicago native earned NAIA All-American status in both his junior and senior seasons, capturing third-team honors in 2004-05. He was named the 2004-05 DAC-10 Newcomer of the Year and First-Team All-DAC, helping the Beavers to a school-record 22 wins and a trip to the NAIA Division II National Tournament.

He scored 992 points in his two seasons, ranking him 14th all-time when he graduated. The Beavers sported a 41-20 record during his two years, winning the DAC-10 regular season and tournament titles in 2004-05. He was named to the All-DAC First-Team both seasons.

Haley currently lives in Chicago.

**Spelchen**, a native of Canora, Saskatchewan, had an outstanding career in both volleyball and softball, coached at MSU and is currently a faculty member at MSU. She earned All-NDCAC/All-DAC honors in volleyball three times, finishing as the DAC-10 Most Valuable Graduating Senior in 1998. She was a NAIA Academic Scholar All-American in 1997 and 1998. Spelchen was MSU’s Most Valuable Player in 1997 and 1998 and earned the team’s

Defensive Player of the Year award from 1996-98. She left MSU as the team’s all-time leader in assists with 3,767 and continues to hold the record for assists in a match with 76.

After her playing career, she coached at MSU for five seasons. She was then hired by the university’s Rural Crime and Justice Center in 2003 and began teaching full time for the MSU Criminal Justice Department in 2005. Spelchen spent three years as the Minot State CJ coordinator at Bismarck State College before moving back to Minot to teach in 2011.

Spelchen currently resides in Minot.

**The 1992 MSU football team** had one of the best post-season runs in school history, advancing to the NAIA semifinals before falling to Linfield College (Ore.). MSU defeated Dakota Wesleyan (S.D.) in the first round and topped Hardin-Simmons (Texas) in a 21-14 thriller in the quarterfinals.

MSU went 9-3 overall and was 4-1 in NDCAC play, earning a conference championship. The Beavers had two first-team All-Americans, four All-District players, seven All-NDCAC selections with five more earning honorable mention status and one Academic All-American.

The 1992 MSU football team was coached by Dave Hendrickson. His assistants were Ryck Hale, Joel Gullickson, Dean Bachmeier and Bert Leidholt.

Members of the team included Rob Achs, Gus Anchondo, Warren Anderson, Kelly Auck, Pat Babichuk, Aaron Bayer, Dan Beck, Brian Belanger, Darcy Boos, Taan Borhot, Kevin Boyd, Louis Brown, Ken Campbell, Rob Cullen, Rob D’Andrea, Brent Danks, Cameron Deschamp, Scott Dillenburg, Josh Duhamel, Brad Franklin, Mark Fritz, Daniel Fry, Bill Gackenheimer, Derek Gackle, Joel Huberdeau, Sean Huset, Mike Jezierski, Keith Johnson, Brian Kimble, Ranko Kos, Jay Kotz, Gord Langley, Chuck Lee, Todd Lindstrom, Grant Limke, Billy Lorenz, Lance Makeeff, Eric Malebranche, Steven Mayer, Rod McQuarrie, Jason Monilaws, Ryan Munson, Jason Obenauer, Jerry Obenauer, Mike Page, Jim Peterson, Mike Picard, Jay Plant, Russ Reder, Dennis Rekedal, Steve Rodriguez, Tony Scheffer, Jason Smith, Cory Stevens, Shawn Sundheim, Donovan Swinnerton, Jason Two Crow, Mike Upton, Ray Van Heel, Jody Veroba, James Vollhoffer, Bobby Walter and Sheldon Warawa. ■



*Minot State's newest hires (from left) Brock Wepler, Andy Carter and Scott Eul pose for a photo in front of the Beaver statue outside the MSU Dome. The trio was hired during a busy summer of change at MSU Athletics.*



# Summer of **CHANGE**

**M**inot State University underwent big changes over the summer as two longtime administrators, Athletic Director Rick Hedberg and Assistant Athletic Director-Development Chad McNally, moved on in their respective careers.

The Athletics Department filled the development position with longtime baseball coach Brock Weppler, leaving another high-profile vacancy. Minot State hired Athletic Director Andy Carter in June and added head baseball coach Scott Eul in August.

## **Andy Carter, Athletic Director**

Andy Carter became Minot State University's athletic director, MSU President Steven Shirley announced in June.

Carter previously was the director of athletics at NCAA Division II Northwestern Oklahoma State since June 2011, managing 13 varsity sports and 450 student-athletes. He has 26 years of experience in collegiate athletics and 18 years as an athletic director.

"We welcome Andy into the Minot community, and are excited about his leadership ahead within Beaver athletics," Shirley said. "Andy brings a strong history of leadership in intercollegiate athletics to Minot State, and he also brings a great commitment to success and doing things the right way that will resonate well with MSU student-athletes, athletic staff, supporters, fans, alumni and the campus. We have a great foundation in place,

established through the terrific work of Rick Hedberg, and I look forward to Andy building upon that solid foundation."

Carter began his official duties Aug. 1.

"I am thrilled to join the Minot State University family," he said. "I want to thank President Shirley and the search committee for believing in what I can bring to Beaver athletics."

While at Northwestern Oklahoma State, he helped the university gain NCAA Division II membership in 2015. He increased the university's overall revenues by 323 percent and established 15 new positions. Carter was the 2014 recipient of the Donovan Reichenberger Fundraising Award, in recognition of his efforts to raise private funds in support of Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

Prior to his time at Northwestern Oklahoma State, Carter was the director of athletics at Armstrong Atlantic State in Savannah, Ga., from 2009-2011, the vice president of intercollegiate athletics at Newberry College in Newberry, S.C., from 2002-09 and director of athletics at Missouri Baptist University in St. Louis from 1997-2002. He was the head baseball coach and an instructor at Missouri Baptist from 1991-99.

## **Brock Weppler, Assistant AD-Development**

Minot State University announced in May that longtime head baseball coach Brock Weppler has been

named assistant athletic director for development.

"Brock will do a great job of leading the Beaver Booster Club in raising funds for student-athlete scholarships," Hedberg said. "He's passionate about Minot State University and has established relationships with many of our current supporters. This will give us a great advantage moving into next year. I'm excited to see what he can do as he shares many exciting plans for the future of the Booster Club."

Weppler began his duties as assistant athletic director on July 1.

"I'm very excited to begin this new challenge," Weppler said. "I feel scholarships are one of the most important factors to our department, and they are the lifeline to our success. We have some different challenges at Minot State with our location that some of the other schools in our league don't have, and so it's even more important to be able to support our programs as much as possible."

He began his career at Minot State in 2006 as an assistant coach. He was hired in 2008 as the head coach. He completed his ninth year as head coach in 2016 and guided the Beavers through the transition from NAIA to NCAA Division II, finishing his fourth season in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference. Weppler also coached at the American Legion Baseball level in Burlington for eight seasons until MSU's move to NCAA Division II.

## **Scott Eul, head baseball coach**

Minot State University Athletic Director Andy Carter announced Scott Eul as the Beavers new head baseball coach in August.

Eul, a native of Rosemount, Minn., spent the past two seasons helping build St. Cloud State into a national powerhouse and has five seasons of coaching experience in American Legion Baseball, Beach Collegiate League and NCAA Division II.

"Scott fit our needs perfectly," Carter said. "He comes from a great baseball background and has championship experience throughout his coaching career. I am confident that Scott will lead this team to fulfill its maximum potential. I am extremely excited to have him on our team."

He spent the past two seasons as the pitching coach and recruiting coordinator as well as earning his master's degree in educational leadership and administration at St. Cloud State, helping the Huskies to a 97-15 overall record and to the nation's No. 1 ranking in NCAA Division II last season. The Huskies started both 2015 and 2016 23-0, earned Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Tournament titles in 2015 and 2016 and were the 2015 NSIC regular season champions.

"I'm really grateful for Coach Weppler and Andy Carter for giving me the chance to lead this program," Eul said. "Coach Weppler has built a great foundation at Minot State, and I'm looking forward to continuing what he has done and getting the MSU baseball program back into the conference tournament.

"I'm excited to get to know the Minot State baseball alumni and all the passionate Beaver baseball fans in the very near future. They are a big part of what we are trying to accomplish, and I want them to be as involved as possible." ■

# RIEMEDIO

## gets a shot at the big time



*Minot State linebacker Ryan Riemedio (99) looks to make a tackle against Valley City State at Herb Parker Stadium. Riemedio, who is a current assistant coach at Mercyhurst University, recently spent three weeks with the Philadelphia Eagles through the Bill Walsh Minority Coaching Fellowship. Courtesy of the Minot Daily News.*

Former Minot State University linebacker Ryan Riemedio arrived in Minot in 2007 thinking he was about as far away from the NFL as he could be.

Nine years later, the journey that started at Herb Parker Stadium found him at the highest level.

Riemedio, who is currently an assistant coach at Mercyhurst University, earned an internship with the Philadelphia Eagles through the Bill Walsh Minority Coaching Fellowship. He spent three weeks with the NFL team, culminating in the team's first preseason game against Tampa Bay at Lincoln Financial Field in early August.

"Every time you go into uncharted territory, you get a little nervous," Riemedio said. "Driving (to training camp), it hit me. I really got excited. It was similar to the trip to Minot. You don't fully know what to expect, but you just want to do your best."

The native of Seaside, Calif., has done that at every level he's played or coached. He was a two-year standout for the Beavers, recording 103 tackles and 4.5 sacks in two seasons, earning the captain title. He was also a part of MSU's Dakota Athletic Conference Championship team as a senior.

Riemedio helped Monterey Peninsula College to a 19-3 record and two Coast Confer-

ence Championships prior to coming to MSU.

After graduating from MSU with a degree in corporate fitness, he helped Monterey Peninsula finish with a No. 12 ranking in Northern California in his final year of a three-year stint. From there, he moved to Mercyhurst as a graduate assistant before being named full time last year. He currently coaches the defensive line and works as the team's strength and conditioning coordinator.

His time with Minot State in the corporate fitness program has paid dividends while working with the programs at both Mercyhurst and Monterey Peninsula.

"My degree at Minot State has helped tremendously," he said. "I did a lot of research before going to MSU on the degree and what it could do for me. I learned a lot, the degree covered a lot. At the end of the day, I knew that strength and conditioning was my passion. I had a great experience at MSU because of the professors and the City of Minot, as I was able to work with some great businesses with internships to drive that passion."

Riemedio returned to Mercyhurst after finishing the internship with the Eagles, but his sights are set on returning, both in the near future and as a career choice. He plans to apply for the internship again



next season and hopes to one day call the NFL his home.

“It opens every year, and I will definitely apply again next year,” he said. “I wasn’t sure if the NFL was where I wanted to coach, but now it is. I want to get to the highest level. I’m very fortunate the coaching staff here has allowed me to get this experience.”

His path to the NFL this summer almost didn’t happen, as he missed an important

phone call from the Eagles while on a recruiting trip. But, after getting back home, he was able to connect with the team, and there was a spot open.

“I sent my application to all 32 teams and heard back from a few, but nothing had been finalized,” he said.

But once there, he was able to get hands-on experience with all aspects of the NFL team.

“I started working with the defensive line, to kind of feel out

the process and learn the personalities,” he said. “We clicked in drills, the one-on-ones and even some team drills. They let me do as much as I was able to handle. It was pretty crazy. The Eagles were very welcoming.”

Riemedio still connects with former MSU coaches Paul Rudolph (now at the University of North Dakota) and Joe Ford (now at North Carolina-Pembroke). Ford was one of the coaches who helped

him with the application for the internship.

“I met up with coach Rudolph at a national convention a few years back,” he said. “I keep pretty close tabs with coach Ford and stay in touch with a lot of the guys, guys who have gone on to coach, like the Rohles brothers (Joe and Brian) and George (Duenes) and Carl (Reinholz), who is at UND with Rudy. Those are relationships I will have forever.” ■

“I had a great experience at MSU because of the professors and the City of Minot, as I was able to work with some great businesses with internships to drive that passion.”



Former Minot State linebacker Ryan Riemedio, left, watches over his defensive unit at Mercyhurst University during a game in 2015. Courtesy of Mercyhurst University Athletics.



## DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

# Making Charitable Gifts Using Your IRA

Persons who are considering making a gift upon their death to their favorite charitable organization (such as the Minot State University Development Foundation) may be better served by making the gift using their Individual Retirement Account (IRA), rather than through their last will and testament, which is typically the case. Making a gift of cash or assets from an IRA to a charitable organization at death may be more advantageous from a tax standpoint.



If IRA assets are left to a spouse or family members as beneficiaries, for example, those individuals will need to pay income tax on the distributions they receive from the IRA. In some cases, these distributions may actually push the beneficiaries into a higher income tax bracket. Bottom line: assets or cash left in an IRA to a spouse or other family members represents a “tax due bill” to the IRS.

On the other hand, if IRA assets are left to a charitable organization through the donor’s IRA, there are no tax consequences whatsoever, since the charity is a tax-exempt entity. The charity receives the full value, free of any income tax (and estate tax) liability. And I would point out that this does not need to be an all-or-nothing proposition; the donor could leave a portion of the IRA to charity and the balance to a surviving spouse or family member(s).

Please understand that by no means am I implying that your will is not a valid vehicle for making charitable gifts. I am merely suggesting that for those persons with charitable inclinations — who also happen to own assets held in an IRA — they should strongly consider the possibility of making a charitable gift from their IRA account. This can be accomplished very easily with a simple change on your (IRA) beneficiary designation form.

Naturally, should you have questions relating to your individual circumstances, you should consult your accountant or tax attorney for appropriate advice. And if you are thinking about making a gift to the MSU Development Foundation, we would be happy to visit with you. Please feel free to contact us at (701) 858-3399 or (800) 777-0750 for further information. ■

— Dan Langemo, Development Officer —



# 2016 North Dakota State Fair Luau

Neil and Amy (Sullivan) Roberts '01 enjoyed a night out at the MSU Luau at the NDSF



Maria (DeLorme) Leidholt and Mat Jensen '07 visited about MSU.



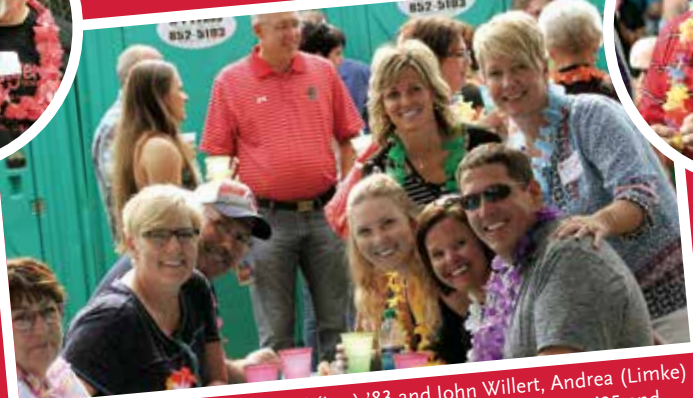
Jim Glasser '72 joined us from Dickinson for the luau.



Chuck Barney enjoyed the warm weather and the company at the MSU Luau.



Bruce '73 and Linda (Wagner) Christianson '72 and Rob '83 and Diane (Slauter) Anderson '72 had a snack and great conversation at the luau.



Cindy (Black) Neuharth '75, Lori (Lee) '83 and John Willert, Andrea (Limke) Hedberg '92, Liz (Ellis) Slotsve '97, Molly Willert '16, Jen (Zahn) '95 and Mike Arlien '94/'01 had a great time at the luau.

# 2016 Bismarck alumni gathering

We had a great turn out for our annual Bismarck Alumni and Friends social.



Debi (Urness) Ahman '75, Pat (Pfau) Swanson '69 and Mamie (Lininger) Havelka '96 posed for a picture at our Bismarck social at The Blarney Stone.



Dan Langemo, Lynette (Borjeson) '89 and Greg Painter enjoyed a snack and good company.



Gene Zahursky-Klein '75/'90, Patty (Nordstrom) Bennett, Lenae Iverson and Colleen (Eastman) Fylling '73 reminisced about MSU.



Bob and Kathy (Yecoshenko) Peterson '73 and Bill '66 and Marion Goetz joined us at The Blarney Stone.



Andy Carter and Sig Tau's Keith Bjornson '75, Kevin Iverson '76, Steve Bennett '74 and Bob Fylling '73 talked about their time at MSU.



# MSU Alumni Association

## 33rd Annual

# Gala



Above: The 33rd annual MSU Gala was a beautiful night.



Right: The hand-carved wood beaver was a hot item in the live auction.



Left: John and Rachel (Kluck) Gaddie '03 posed for a picture together for their night out!



Recently retired MSU VP for Advancement Marv Semrau's table enjoyed the night's festivities.



Mary Lindbo was the lucky winner of our heads and tails game.



Above: McKenna Larson '13 and Andrew Gudmunson enjoyed the night out.



The emcees for the evening were Dean Frantsvog '97 and Kristi (Schaffer) Berg '95/'00.



A bidding war was a friendly affair at the Rockstar Realty table! Lee Zimmerman was the lucky winner of a Coors Light Refresherator donated by Morelli's Distributing.



Below: Mobile bidding was a big hit again this year at the Gala.



This one-of-a-kind painting was donated by MSU alum and talented artist Candace (Olson) Brekke '01.



MSU alumni association board member Sabrina (Grover) Herrmann '93/'02, Kelly Morelli, Laura (Schelly) Morelli '93 board member and Ben Slind '00 enjoyed the company and the evening at the Grand Hotel.



# March 1 - 5, 2017 ARIZONA ALUMNI EVENTS

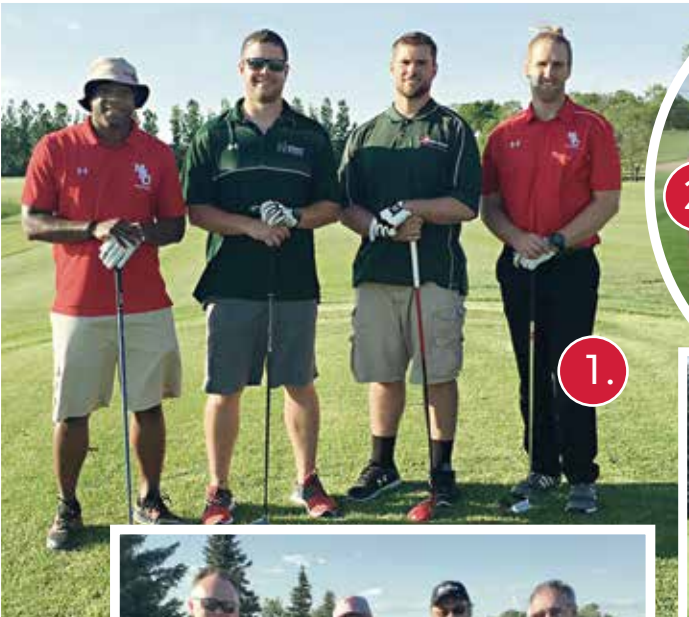
Visit [MinotStateU.edu/Alumni](http://MinotStateU.edu/Alumni) for updates on events.





# MSU Alumni Association 2016 Annual Friend-Raising Golf Tour

*Velva • Burlington • New Town • Garrison • Bottineau • Kenmare*



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.

## GOLF TOUR SNAPSHOTS ...

1. Joe Dale, Shane LaDage, Nick Nissen and Scott Larsen
2. Adam Forthun '01, Justin Clock '02, Carl Lade '00 and Charles Colby '00
3. Brock Wepler, Bill Triplet '80, Kara Triplet, Teresa (Kraft) Loftesnes '07/'15 and Jeff Miller
4. Andy Carter, Dwight Ormiston '69, Terry Auch '69 and Chuck Berntsen '68
5. Kayla Palczewski, Danielle Foster '16, Natasha Christianson and Betsy (Vig) Trudell '06
6. Danielle Foster '16, Jade Teske, Kayla Palczewski and Courtenay (Burckhard) Corpe '12
7. Dan Langemo, Karen Langemo, Roger Herrmann and Rich Feldner '78
8. Denis Limke '63, Jim Limke '68, Bill Bodine '65, Dick Limke '63 and Rick Hedberg '89
9. David '89 and Jen Kramer and Johnny and D'Ann Johnson



# HOMECOM





# MINOT STATE HOMECOMING 2016



13.



12.



14.



10.

## HOMECOMING SNAPSHOTS ...

1. Larry Brown '83, Greg Fjeld '81, LeRoy Spicer, Ken Escoffery '82 and Bruce Bremer '73 enjoyed a fun evening at the Alumni and Friends Homecoming Reunion.
2. Beaver fans cheered loud and proud at the Homecoming football game.
3. Scott and Terri Moen, Bailey Tofteland and Alyssa Moum and Brian Gutierrez '15 had a great time at the tailgate.
4. Former MSU volleyball players Melissa Spelchen '99/'05 and Nadene Johnson '72 participated in the volleyball and softball reunion.
5. The Sigma Delta Sorority was "Wild with Beaver Pride" at the community block party.
6. MSU Homecoming court (**L to R**) Christopher Stokke, Jennifer Hayes, Shannon Guinn, Casey Feldner, Cassandra Stauffer, Hannah Harvey, Stephanie Sundhagen, Queen Keyona Walker, King Logan Gunderson, Jeremy Toles, Laurence Sibley, Miranda Lessmeister, Morgan Matejcek, Christina Beck, Annika Kraft, Kjerstie Fevold and Zachary Cunha.
7. The Homecoming tailgate was a huge success!
8. Future beavers, Lenin Geer, Leia McKechnie and Ahna Kissner, took in all the activities at the Homecoming tailgate.
9. The football team was fired up for the game!
10. Gavin Wald learns how to play one of the games at the block party.
11. Elin Kirkhammer shows her team spirit with a fist bump to players during the Beaver Walk before the game.
12. The Community Block Party served more than 1300 people who came out to show their support of the university.
13. Queen Keyona Walker, Minot, proudly wore her crown and joined the fun KMSU provided at the tailgate.
14. Buckshot is always a crowd favorite!
15. This year's feature reunion teams were the women's volleyball and softball teams. (**Back Row L to R**) Krista (Moffatt) Carlisle, Nadene Johnson '72, Jacinda Schroeder '99, Fran Llewellyn, Michelle (Pfau) Dolan '86, Jenny (Brown) Bogden, Heather (Skari) Gillihan, Kris (Paulson) Zimmer '96, Jacki Hansel '06, Marcy (Falk) Heaman '08, Nathasha (Johansen) Greenlee, Amy Gaida '15, Melissa Spelchen '99/'05. (**Front Row L to R**) Rebecca (Senff) Ruzicka '01, Sara (Carlson) Deutsch '02, Lynda Bertsch '83, Pam (Correll) Strokland '85/'97, Randi (Biss) Ruthven '07/'09, Alissa (Fritzler) McKinna, Bree (Vollmers) Bergstrand '04, Ashley Bakken, Ashley Moffatt, Carrie (Sandstrom) Varty '06 and Nicole (Durin) McFadden '06.



15.



## MSU Alumni Association

# Award recipients honored

**David Gowan, Walter Piehl Jr., and Tom Probst** received MSU Alumni Association Golden Awards Sept. 15. **DelRae (Zimmerman) and Matthew Geinert** received Young Alumni Achievement Awards.

The highest award bestowed by the MSU Alumni Association, the Golden Awards are based on outstanding service to the university or Alumni Association and distinguished leadership in the recipient's career or community. The Young Alumni Achievement Award recipients are between the ages of 21 to 39.

## Golden Award recipients

### David Gowan



**David Gowan**, an entrepreneur, attended Minot State University from 1975 to 1979. He completed a bachelor's degree in business management with concentrations in economics, data processing, and money and banking. He played football as a running back and received all-conference recognition.

After graduating from MSU, the Des Lacs native started Gowan Rain Gutters, Inc. He has also been successfully involved in real estate since 1979.

His wife, Dolly (Kavlie), attended Minot State from 1974 to 1975 and then completed the MSU-Trinity Hospital nursing program as a registered nurse. She is employed in the Radiology-Oncology Department at Trinity Medical Center.

The couple live in Minot and have two daughters. Michelle is a licensed practical nurse in Bismarck, while Cheri is a dental hygienist in Minot.

### Walter Piehl



**Walter Piehl**, a visual artist and MSU art professor, describes his art as expressionistic Western Americana, but with a modern, contemporary influence.

"One of my instructors encouraged me to use Western Americana as subjects in my artwork," Piehl said. "That piqued my interest, and I have never looked back."

Piehl was raised near Marion, N.D. After graduating from Marion High School, he left the farm to study art at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn. He graduated in 1964 with an art major and teaching certificate. He then

enrolled in graduate school at the University of North Dakota and received a Master of Arts in painting and drawing two years later.

Early in his career, Piehl taught in Dickinson, Valley City, Ellendale and Mayville. In 1969, he entered the University of Minnesota Fine Art Department to pursue an MFA. In fall semester 1970, he began teaching drawing, painting and art education methods at MSU.

Piehl has exhibited his work regionally, nationally and internationally. His paintings have been included in many collections, including the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage in Washington, D.C., Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, Okla., Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, Spokane, Wash., Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyo., and C. M. Russell Museum, Great Falls, Mont.

A major retrospective of his work was organized by the Plains Art Museum in Fargo in 2003. His exhibition record and workshop presentations are exten-

sive and exemplary. He was the featured artist in the offices of N.D. Gov. John Hoeven and first lady Mikey Hoeven, and he received the Governor's Art Award. His artwork currently hangs in the office of U. S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp. Prairie Public Television created two documentaries about him — "North Dakota Artist: Walter Piehl" in 1971 and "Walter Piehl: Sweetheart of the Rodeo" in 2011.

Among his many honors and awards are a North Dakota Council on the Arts Fellowship in 2005 and the 2008 Enduring Visions Award for his creativity, connection to community and impressive body of work from the Bush Foundation, a private foundation serving Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. Piehl was one of three people selected for the prestigious \$100,000 award. He described it as the highlight of his art career.

In spite of more than 45 years in classrooms, museums and galleries, Piehl is more humble than most with his talent. Long after he is gone, Piehl said he hopes

that people will look at his work and think, "He made some good stuff."

Piehl and Becky, his wife, have been married for 52 years. They have four children — Shadd, Levi, Crystal and Dahcota.

### Tom Probst



**Tom Probst**, an entrepreneur, has lived in Minot nearly all his life. After earning a bachelor's degree in business administration from Minot State University in 1967, Probst later completed the Dale Carnegie Program. Starting at age 15 at his father's Dakota Beverage Company in Minot, he had a 50-year career in the beverage-distribution business. He later launched his own company, Premium Beverages, with the purchase of Capital Distributing Company in Bismarck and



## Young Alumni Achievement Award recipients

developed an area from Williston to Devils Lake to Jamestown. After selling the business, he became an investor and developer.

"I started out as a janitor and ended up as president," Probst said.

Probst and his wife, Mary, share his parents' belief in education.

"You can lose everything, but education is something that can't be taken away from you," Probst said. "Statistics prove that people with a university, college or trade school education excel and earn a higher income throughout life."

Both Tom and Mary Probst administer family farms in Burke County and have a long history of leadership and volunteer service. They are both past presidents of their church council.

Tom has served as president of the Magic City Toastmasters and is a recipient of the Distinguished Toastmaster Award, the international organization's highest

honor. He is past president of the Minot Lions Club and Jaycees, past chair of the Salvation Army board of directors and past vice chair of the Trinity Health Foundation, through which he helped develop the guest house for families of ICU patients. He is currently chair of the Minot Area Community Foundation board of directors and vice chair of the MSU Development Foundation executive committee. He also serves on Bread of Life Lutheran Church's council as stewardship chair.

Probst and his stepdaughters, Lynette, a Bismarck State College professor, and Denise, Gourmet Chef owner, are proud to be Minot State University graduates. The couple share two other children, Mike and Steve, and three grandchildren, Steven, Jayde and Payten. They established the Tom and Mary Probst Scholarship Endowment at MSU in 2000.

### Matt & DelRae Geinert



**DelRae (Zimmerman) Geinert**, president and a broker/owner of Brokers 12 Real Estate, was raised in the Richardton-Taylor area. She graduated from Minot State University with bachelor's degrees in accounting and finance in 2004.

**Matthew Geinert**, vice president of Future Builders, is a Minot native. He enrolled at Minot State to pursue a bachelor's degree

in history education and continue his hockey career. During college, he bought into Future Builders Inc, working summers for the firm. He started working full time for the company the day after he graduated from Minot State.

While both Geinerts moved beyond their university degrees, they credit Minot State with providing a learning environment, resources, and, most importantly, the faculty and staff to challenge them to be who they are today. They have combined their knowledge and driven personalities in many business ventures. Their holding company, GG Ventures Inc, manages 17 different entities, most notably in real estate holdings, construction companies and cattle enterprises.

Married since November 2012, the couple is involved in charities and in the community. Matt Geinert currently serves on the Minot Planning Commission, Woodside Townhome Association and Bishop Ryan Alumni boards. DelRae Geinert has been engaged with the Salvation Army, Souris Valley United Way, Minot Backpack Buddies and Minot Association of Builders. They and their two daughters, Ivy (3) and Violet (2), attend Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. They enjoy spending time at the lake, golfing and doing things outside. ■



# Class notes

1958



**Eilene (Newman) Emly** received the Faul Silverstein Community Service Award recognizing her community service with Minot's Parkinson's Support Group. The award recognizes Emly's contributions as a mainstay of the group, which she helped organize and lead.

1966



**F. Bruce Walker** was named to the Visit Minot board of directors.

1967



**Jim Stai** serves on the board of directors of Dakota Certified Development Corporation and will represent the economic development sector. For 10 years Stai taught business classes at Lake Region State College before joining the U.S. Small Business Administration in 1979. During his time at SBA, he served as the business development specialist for the Fargo district office, assistant district director for business development and most recently as the North Dakota district director, a position he held until retirement in July 2013. He and his wife, Sandy, have three children, Jeff, Steve and Greg. They are also the proud grandparents of Chase, Caitlin and Cole.



**Jerry Spitzer** stepped down as director of the Minot City Band after 33 years. His final concert was July 21.

1972



**Rich Campbell** retired from First Western Bank & Trust. Campbell was part of the Minot banking community for 45 years. He served as president of the Independent Community

Banks of N.D., Minot Area Development Corporation and MSU Development Foundation and Alumni Association boards.



**Gladys Garrison**, who works at Bernina Plus, received the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce's Eagle Award in April. MACC sponsors the program to recognize Minot workers who exhibit superior customer service.

1973



**Diana (Whitty) Olson** retired from teaching after 34 years at Bishop Ryan Catholic Schools.

1975



**Laurel (Nelson) Wentz** retired after a 41-year teaching career. Wentz began teaching in Fessenden in 1975 as a special education teacher. In 1983, Wentz worked as a staff trainer for 4th Corporation, whose headquarters is in New Rockford, and for HAV-IT in Harvey. She went back to Fessenden School in 1996 to teach students with developmental disabilities. In 2006, she started teaching second grade at Fessenden-Bowdon School. She plans to remain active in the school environment by substitute teaching and continuing as the Robotics team advisor.

1976

**Jackie (Reierson) Holien** retired from teaching after 40 years at North Star Elementary School in Cando.

**Marla (Ludwig) Kulig** retired as executive director of Rehab Services Inc. on June 30. Kulig serves on the board of the North Dakota Association of Community Providers, a lead organization in advocating for people with disabilities.

1977



**Charlene Olson** was promoted to senior manager for Brady Martz & Associates in Minot. Olson has worked for Brady Martz for 30 years and works exclusively in the tax department, specializing in financial institutions, corporations and tax research.

1980

**Jane Kostenko** is the principal agent associate with the University of Maryland Extension. Kostenko, who teaches nutrition to low-income audiences, has been on the faculty since 2005. She also manages her county's Food Supplement Nutrition Education project.



**Pat Finken** received the Silver Medal Award from the North Dakota American Advertising Federation. The Silver Medal Award is given annually to an individual who has raised the stature of the advertising industry.

1982



**Stephan Kaftan** was promoted to colonel at the New Mexico Military Institute. Kaftan will assume duties of reserve officers training at NMMI. The ROTC cadets under his command study the military and civilian criminal justice systems, counterterrorism, military investigations and military leadership. He began his military career in the U.S. Air Force and is a Vietnam veteran. He also served in the Air Force Reserve and North Dakota National Guard. Additionally, Kaftan serves as an aide-de-camp to the governor of New Mexico; in this capacity, he recommends emergency responses to natural weather or man-made incidents that threaten public safety.

1983



**Linda Benson** was inducted into the Dakota State Eagles Auxiliary Hall of Fame. This is the highest award given by the Dakota State Auxiliary of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Benson was also installed as a trustee for North and South Dakota.

1985

**Suzanne (Schriefer) Neufang** moved to New York City in 2015 with her husband, Ralf (MSU librarian 1986-88). Neufang is America's vice president for German hotel solutions company, Hotel Reservation Service, and a board member/past president of the Association of Corporate Travel Executives.

1987



**Susan (Swedlund) Sisk** is the vice president of finance for KLJ Solutions. Prior to joining KLJ, Sisk served as the chief financial officer and controller for CHI St. Alexius.



**Kelly Hayhurst**, branch manager with Raymond James Financial Services, was named a member of its 2016 Executive Council. The honor is given to financial advisers who demonstrate a high level of commitment to customers through personal service and professional integrity. It was the second consecutive year that Hayhurst qualified for the award.



**Cheryl (Hickel) Buchanan** retired from the Tuscaloosa County School System. Buchanan worked as a teacher, school psychologist and high school guidance counselor during her 25 years in education. She, her husband, Bill, and her three children reside in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

SEND US YOUR NEWS TO  
[MinotStateU.edu/alumni](http://MinotStateU.edu/alumni)





## Rasmuson named Minot Teacher of the Year

In August, the Minot Education Association named **Deb (Ziegler) Rasmuson '87/'02** Teacher of the Year. Rasmuson has been the reading specialist at Edison Elementary School since 2009. Prior to that, she was an elementary teacher at Lincoln Elementary for 19 years. She loves helping children to appreciate the written word.

The Garrison native earned a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Master of Education from Minot State University.

*Pictured L to R: Teresa Loftnes, marketing director, Kate Marshall, donor relations coordinator, Deb Rasmuson, Dr. Steven Shirley, president, Rick Hedberg, vice president for advancement and Janna McKechnie, director of alumni and annual giving.*

## 1988

**Richard Stenberg**, associate professor of history and political science at Williston State College, co-authored an article with retired Fort Union park ranger, Randy Kane, which appeared in the 2015 edition of Museum of the Fur Trade Quarterly.

## 1990



**Cindy (Stroh) Neff**, a speech-language pathologist with a special interest in serving the pediatric population, has been employed by Sanford Health for 24 years. She has served children with communication disorders for 23 years, under contract, at the Scottish Rite Speech Therapy Center for Children. She is the clinic director of the center. Neff has served children in both Bismarck and Mandan Public Schools and Manchester House. She is a member of the Bismarck Cleft Lip and Palate Team, as well as a speech-language pathology advisory board member at the University of Mary. Neff recently was a guest presenter at a TEDx event in Bismarck. She and her husband, Mike, have three children.

## 1991



**Cord Scott** appeared on Public Broadcasting Channel 20 in Chicago on the Pritzker Military Presents program.

Scott's talk was in support of his book, "Comics and Conflict." He also had a published contribution to a book edited by Randy Duncan on using comics to teach history. He is currently a collegiate traveling faculty for the University of Maryland in Asia, where he teaches history and government to U.S. military personnel.



**Kevin Hagen**, licensed peace officer, was awarded the North Dakota Peace Officer of the Year Award in August 2015. Hagen has worked for the N.D. Department of Corrections since 1991.

**Peggy (Shelton) McDougall** is retiring after 47 years at the Rolla Hospital and 51 years in the medical field. McDougall's career in health care began in 1965 as a certified nursing assistant at St. Andrew's Hospital in Bottineau. McDougall did her pediatric rotation at the Rolla Hospital and

later was one of five nurses transferred to Presentation Medical Center. Retirement will give way to her hobbies. She and husband, Ross, are both noted photographers who have had pictures published in outdoor magazines and calendars. The couple is also involved in high-tunnel gardening. They will spend time visiting their son, Shane, and his family in Texas.

## 1992



**Brenda (Juergens) Foster** was elected president and chief executive officer of First Western Bank & Trust. Foster has been with the bank for 34 years. She served as the past president for the Independent Community Banks of North Dakota and currently serves as a member of the MSU Board of Regents and board member for Minot Public Schools. Foster and husband, Wayne, have two children.

## Jeff and Jessica (Sidener) '93

**Bieber** live in Fairview, Mont., and are agricultural producers specializing in sugar beets, durum and spring wheat. They have two children, Justin, a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin and Jenna, a junior at Fairview High School.

## 1993

**Danielle (Darras) McPherson**, a family nurse practitioner, has joined CHI St. Alexis Health Medical Plaza in Mandan.



**Mindy (Wangler) Axtman**, Menards, received the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce's Eagle Award in April.

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

## 1994

**Jay Klabunde** was named executive director of Rehab Services Inc. in Minot. Klabunde joined RSI in 1993 as a social work intern. He worked part time in the

community companions program and eventually moved into the agency's employment program for people with disabilities. He became assistant director in 1998.

**DeeDee (Johnson) Frothinger**, Image Marketing, received the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce's Eagle Award in December. MACC sponsors the program to recognize Minot workers who exhibit superior customer service.

**Wally Kowitz** is the chief financial officer for the Mountrail County Health Center.



**Merry (Zumbaum) Haberlack** joined RDO Equipment Co. field support office in Fargo as the accounts payable manager. Haberlack previously worked at Cargill.

## 1995



**Mark Kohlman** qualified for Edward Jones' Financial Advisor Leaders Conference. The conference recognizes financial advisers who are among the leaders in the financial-services firm.

**Troy Schilling** is the chief executive officer and general manager of West River Telecon. Schilling has over 19 years of experience in the telecommunications industry.



**Jim McMillan** was named manager of cybersecurity with MDU Resources. McMillan has been with the company

since 2013, and he previously was network and security administrator supervisor. He is a certified information system security professional, certified information security manager and has global information assurance certification in security leadership, intrusion analysis, penetration testing, forensic analysis, incident handling and security essentials.



**Aaron Garman** received the North Dakota Family Physician of the Year award from the North Dakota Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Garman is a physician with Coal Country Community Health Center. He and his wife, Amy, have two daughters, Isabel (17) and Phoebe (14).

## 1996

**Craig Poitra** is the director of the Rolette County Social Service office. Poitra worked for five years at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. He then spent time in Custer, S.D., as a court service officer and was also a director of a group home in Standing Rock. He returned home and worked for the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa for one year. He then began working in the social service offices in Ward County. He and his wife, Doranna "Lucee," and their five children live in Rolette County.

**Sandi (Wibe) Heilman** is the minimum data set coordinator in the Care Center at Rugby's Heart of America Medical Center. Heilman has worked at HAMC for over 20 years in various departments from the emergency room to ICU, with surgery being the most recent. She and husband, Larry, have been married for 36 years, farm south of Rugby, and have five children and five grandchildren.

## 1997



**Bobbie (Duttenhefner) Trana Pagel**, a family nurse practitioner, has joined Mid Dakota Clinic, specializing in gastroenterology. Pagel received her master's degree from the University of Mary and is certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

## 1998

**Theron Huwe** is an agent with Farmers Union Insurance in Watford City. Huwe previously worked as an agent for nine years in Crosby. He was very active in the community, where he served as the president of the Crosby Country Club, was on the St. Luke's Hospital board, was a volunteer fireman, was a scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts and was on the board of the Moose Lodge. Theron and wife, Stephanie, have two children.



**Christopher Pulver** was awarded the 2016 Law Officer of the Year Award by the Optimist Club of Minot. Pulver resides in Stanley.



**Randy Schobinger** has joined First Western Insurance as an agent. He joined First Western Bank & Trust in March.

## 1999



**Jason Blackburn** has joined Trinity Health as an athletic performance extreme trainer.

**Tami Jollie-Trottier** received the Professional of the Year award from the Turtle Mountain Family Week Committee. Dr. Jollie-Trottier was



recently named to the Bush Fellowship Program's Bush Fellows Class of 2016. With her Bush Fellowship she will devote time to growing her knowledge of Native arts and expressive art therapy and she plans to develop an art studio open to the community. Jollie-Trottier also opened a private clinical psychology practice, Seven Stone, in Belcourt along with Jennifer Keplin.



**Chad Johnson** joined First Western Bank & Trust as market president for its Bismarck loan production office.

He was a business banker for 12 years with the Bank of North Dakota. Johnson is a 2006 graduate of the School of Banking at the University of Colorado-Boulder. He is a volunteer for Bismarck youth baseball, Shiloh Christian School and Grade Point Church. Johnson served on the Independent Community Banks of North Dakota's Emerging Leader Committee and is a member of the North Dakota Bankers Association.

**Robert Herrington** was named president/CEO for North Star Community Credit Union. Herrington has over 15 years of experience in executive leadership in the financial industry. He worked in both Montana and Wyoming prior to returning to North Dakota in 2012. Bob and his family, Michele, Levi and Noah, live in Harvey.

## 2001



**Dustin Ketterling** was promoted to manager of internal auditing of information technology for MDU Resources Group in Bismarck. Ketterling has been with MDU Resources since 2004.



**Trisha (Rosinski) Guthrie** joined the staff of First Western Bank & Trust in Minot as an accounting assistant. Guthrie has worked in a variety of positions at ING/VOYA for the last 14 years.

**Jason Vollmer** was named vice president and chief accounting officer for MDU Resources Group, Inc. Vollmer joined MDU Resources in 2005 as a financial analyst, was named manager of the treasury, cash and risk man-

agement department in 2011 and was named treasurer and director of cash, risk management and general accounting in 2014.

## 2002



**Candi (Brown) Ziegler** was promoted to the position of network and systems administrator at First Western Bank & Trust. Ziegler joined First Western Bank & Trust in 2015 as the network and systems assistant.

**Justin DeCoteau** won the Milo Trusty Award, which is given to recognize an individual for outstanding contributions made to USA Wrestling North Dakota.

## 2003

**Tammie Braaflat**, FNP-BC, joined the Mountrail County Medical Center. Braaflat completed the family nurse practitioner program and graduated with a Master of Science in Nursing from St. Louis University in 2008. Braaflat and her husband farm near Plaza and have three daughters.

**Kyle Knutson** was promoted to assistant vice president at Gate City Bank in Minot. He has been employed at Gate City Bank since 2010.



**Alicia Hegland-Thorpe** is the media specialist in the Office of Public Information at the United Tribes Technical College. Hegland-Thorpe will produce news, information and educational programming for mass media and social media platforms. She is an enrolled member of the Spirit Lake Nation, Fort Totten. She and her husband have a four-year-old son and live in Lincoln.



# Class notes

2004



**Timothy Heberlein** is the political director for Organize Now and lives in Tampa with his wife, Caitlin Cook (04), and son, Charlie.

2005



**Ethen Askvig** received the Langdon Area School District Teacher of the Year award. Askvig currently teaches social studies and serves as the athletic director. He served as the head girls' basketball coach, an assistant track coach and the boys' head golf coach. He is the advisor to the sophomore class and Social Science Club.



**Luis Estrada** was promoted to vice president of operations for First Western Bank & Trust. Estrada has been with the bank for 12 years.

**Jason Merck**, representative of Northwestern Mutual, qualified for the 150 Lives Club. This honor recognizes financial representatives who have a total net of 150 lives insured for a calendar year.

2006

**Kayla (Titus) Thomas** joined the patient care team at CHI St. Alexius Health Minot Medical Plaza as a family nurse practitioner.



**Adam Schatz**, certified public accountant and senior manager at Brady Martz & Associates, P.C., relocated to its Bismarck office. Schatz joined the firm in 2007.

**Tanya (Goebel) Ide** received the Award for Counselor Achievement-Honorable Mention from the N.D. Department of Human Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. The award recognizes

counselors who had the second highest number of clients placed into employment.



**Katie (Kjelshus) Ogaard** was promoted to executive assistant and corporate secretary at First Western Bank & Trust. She previously was an executive assistant with the bank. Ogaard is a member of the Young Professionals.

**Tina Berndt** is the McHenry County clerk of court. Berndt previously worked for the Heart of America Correctional Center as a correctional officer, at the Ward County Jail as a juvenile detention officer and at McHenry County as the deputy clerk of court. She and her three daughters live in Towner.



**Rick Gelloff** was promoted to business banking officer for Starion Financial in Bismarck. He joined Starion in 2013 as a credit analyst I and became a credit analyst II in 2015.



**William "Bill" Nels** was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel with the North Dakota Army National Guard.

Nels began his military career in 1994 when he joined the U.S. Air Force as security police. After serving in the USAF, he transferred to the N.D. Army National Guard's 164th Engineer Battalion in 1998 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 2000. He has served in various roles in Guard units throughout the state, including the 142nd Engineer Combat Battalion, 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 191st Military Police Company and 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment. Nels served overseas three times with N.D. Army National Guard units. Since 2008, he has worked as a full-time federal technician with the Guard. He is the recruiting and

retention battalion commander in Bismarck. A native of Westerville, Ohio, he lives in Bismarck with his wife, Kasha (Forthun) and their three children.

2007



**Jayla (Howatt) Askvig** was nominated for the Langdon Area School District Teacher of the Year award. Askvig currently teaches in Langdon.



**Wayne Sick** was named to the North Dakota University System Workforce Education Advisory Council. Sick is the director of workforce development at the North Dakota Department of Commerce. Prior to starting at the Department of Commerce in 2012, he had 12 years of experience in the education field as an instructor and administrator at the Burdick Job Corps Center in Minot and the school director at the Missouri Valley Montessori School in Bismarck.



**Amanda (Degenstein) Loughman**, CFO at Rugby's Heart of America Medical Center, was recognized as one of Becker's Hospital Review's Rising Stars: 50 Healthcare Leaders Under 40.

2008

**Marvin Youpee Jr.** was elected to a second term as an associate judge for the Fort Peck Tribal Court in October after being appointed to the position in February, 2013.

**Rebecca Schmaltz** was named Minot office Employee Rookie of the Year from the N.D. Department of Human Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.



**Megan (Langley) Laudenschlager** was named to the Visit Minot board of directors.

**Sarah Luther** is the store manager for Wells Fargo Mountain View Bank in Des Moines, Wash. Luther is the granddaughter of Wes Luther, retired MSU coach and athletic director.



**Erin Twomey** works in human resources at International Data Corporation located outside of Boston. IDC is a global provider of market intelligence, advisory services and events for the information technology, telecommunications and consumer technology markets. Twomey will also be in her sixth year of working in the marketing department for the Boston Red Sox.

**Mitch McGee** completed the Dale Carnegie Training course for business and personal development. McGee works as a quality control analyst with First Western Insurance. He has been with the agency since November 2011.

2009



**Renee Tribitt** was promoted to manager for Brady Martz & Associates in Minot. Tribitt, a Minot native, joined Brady Martz in 2010.

**Misty Nehring** was promoted to supervising attorney at the Williston Public Defender's Office.



**Angie (Zieske) Hansen** was promoted to loan operations officer at First Western Bank & Trust. Hansen has been with the bank for 18 years, previously serving as an internal auditor.

SEND US YOUR NEWS TO  
[MinotStateU.edu/alumni](http://MinotStateU.edu/alumni)



**Cassandra (Meyer) Ursu** and Ryan Ursu were married in September and live in Regina, Saskatchewan. She continues

to work for the Key Infant Development Services Program in Dickinson.



**Renae (Pollman) Sisk** is the maternal child health and state school nurse consultant at the North Dakota Department

of Health. Sisk, a nationally certified school nurse, was previously a nurse manager at Trinity Health in Minot. She and husband, Ken, live in Bismarck.

**Robert Hauptman** was accepted into the physician assistant program at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Mont.



**Katie (Aide) Kringen**, a Bottineau native, has opened Chatter, a private practice in Williston to serve individuals in western

North Dakota with speech, language, voice and feeding difficulties. Kringen worked in the public school system for six years. She and her husband, Josh '08, have two children.

## 2010

**Andrew Hanselman** owns Hanselmans Lawn, Landscape, Snow, LLC in Minot.

**Justin Aberle** was promoted to manager for Brady Martz & Associates in Minot. Aberle has worked for Brady Martz since 2011.



**Sarah Guss** is the accountant/administrator at the North Dakota Community Foundation in Bismarck.

**Jeremiah Johnson** was named the String Teacher of the Year by NDSTA. Johnson teaches Orchestra at Valley Middle School in Grand Forks. He currently serves on the board for the Northern Valley Youth Orchestras and coaches ensembles in their Crescendo chamber music program and summer string camp, Dal Segno, as well as leading sectionals with the NVOYO Symphony Orchestra. Johnson maintains a private studio at Arioso Music Academy and over the summers enjoys attending Dakota Chamber Music at Minot State and spending time with his wife, Kimberly.



**Danielle Sigloh** was promoted to sergeant with the Dunn County Sheriff's Office. Sigloh, originally from Ken-

mare, joined the North Dakota Army National Guard following graduation and completed Officer Candidate School. She is currently attached to the 164th EN BN out of Minot. She worked for the Mountrail County Sheriff's Office as a corrections officer and a 911 dispatcher before accepting a position with the Dunn County Sheriff's Office in 2012.

**Cole Ritter** and Reid Hanson have purchased A-1 Evans Septic Tank Service in Minot.

## 2011



**Samantha Gores** is the transition specialist at RSI in Minot. Through coordinating RSI's new transition

program, she supports local high school students with disabilities in employment, future education and independent living.

**Eric Manlove** received Baseball Umpire Rookie of the Year award at the Mid-County Officials Network Hall of Fame banquet in California.

## 2012



**Jonathan Fugleberg** was selected as a 2015 national recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence

in Mathematics and Science Teaching for North Dakota in mathematics by President Barack Obama. Nationally, the award is given to outstanding K-12 science and mathematics teachers. The winners are selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators, following an initial selection process at the state level. Fugleberg was recognized at a ceremony in September in Washington, D.C. He retired in May after teaching mathematics at May-Port CG High School for nine years. He was also a guest lecturer in mathematics at Mayville State University.



**Doug Fredrich** was promoted to the position of data processing administrator at First Western Bank & Trust.

Fredrich joined the bank in 2014 in the position of computer operations.

**Brian Rohles** is a physical education teacher and head freshmen football coach at Manteca High School in Manteca, Calif.



**Elysha (Blikre) Head** is the new executive officer for the Minot Association of Builders. Head, a decade long Minot resident, joined the association in March. She was previously employed by Gooseneck Implement as their training coordinator.

## 2013



**Kara (Dietz) Pulver** is the director of community and patient engagement at Coal Country Community Health

Center in Beulah. Pulver is responsible for marketing and public relations for the clinic. She married Jory Pulver Aug. 29, 2015.



**Derek Hackett** has joined the City of Minot staff as public information officer. Hackett previously worked in sports and news reporting for KXMC-TV in Minot for four years. As city PIO, Hackett will provide public information through news releases and public interest articles and will handle social media, photography, videography and updating of the website.



**Diogo Craveiro** works for Vermeer Corporation, a manufacturer of industrial and agricultural equipment, as a global training and development specialist. He and his wife, Sarah, currently live in Pleasant Hill, Iowa.

**Kyle Peterson** received the Award for Counselor Achievement from the N.D. Department of Human Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. This award recognizes the top 10 percent of counselors who helped the most people become employed.



**Bradley Yoder** was promoted to senior associate for Brady Martz & Associates in Minot. Yoder, a Williston native, began working for Brady Martz after his internship in 2013.



**Jordan (Rumsey) Dalby** was promoted to consumer loan officer at First Western Bank & Trust. Dalby is also a member of the Young Professionals.



**McKenna Larson** recently earned her certified professional designation from the Society for Human Resource Management. Larson has been a team member at Ackerman-Estfold since 2010 and currently serves as the human resources specialist.

SEND US YOUR NEWS TO  
[MinotStateU.edu/alumni](http://MinotStateU.edu/alumni)



# Class notes



**Ashley Hynson** joined the Ackerman-Estvold Minot office as finance administrator.



**Ashley (Maercklein) Eggl** joined KK BOLD as an account executive in its Minot office. Prior to joining KK BOLD, Eggl worked at Nuverra Environmental Solutions.

## 2014



**Taylor Kurtz** joined KK BOLD in Bismarck as an assistant production manager and graphic designer.



**Kara Opdahl** was promoted to senior associate for Brady Martz & Associates in Minot. Opdahl, originally from Westhope, joined Brady Martz & Associates in 2014.

**Stacy Lorenz** is an enrolled agent with the Chad R. Strand, CPA P.C. firm in Bottineau.



**Amanda Swope** is a speech-language pathologist with Pediatric Therapy Partners in Bismarck.

## 2015



**Jacques Stanley** joined Ackerman-Estvold in 2015 as a part-time intern until his graduation in December, when he was hired as a full-time information systems specialist. Stanley will be based out of the Minot office and will have IT support accountability for the entire Ackerman-Estvold system.

**Laura Wanzek** has joined the Benson County Sheriff's Office as a deputy sheriff. Wanzek, a native of Wimbeldon, previously worked as a security officer at a safe shelter in Minot.

**Jamie (Bright) Hammer** was awarded the Legendary Nurse award from the North Dakota Center for Nursing. Winners of the award were nominated by their peers from across North Dakota.



**Kurt Miller**, assistant sports information director at Kalamazoo College, was the recipient of the Robin Hartman Award. The award is given to honor directors who are dedicated to serving the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association. Miller joined Kalamazoo College in July 2015.



**Brianna (Tausend) Keller** is a speech-language pathologist at Pediatric Therapy Partners in Bismarck.



**Kowan O'Keefe** was selected to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Marrakesh, Morocco, this November as a delegate representing the American Chemical Society.

## 2016



**Layne Pflieger** is a social media specialist for KFYR.



**Breanna Benson** is a learning disabilities teacher at Erik Ramstad Middle School in Minot.

## Attended



**Jerry Effertz** was elected vice chairman of the Federation of State Beef Councils for 2016. Effertz and his wife, Norma, operate Black Butte Acres Limousin Ranch. They also operate Black Butte Adventures, which includes hiking and biking trails as well as farm tours.



**Amy Hauf** is a news correspondent for the McLean County Independent. Hauf lives on a farmstead south of Max with her husband, Patrick, and two children. She is also the director of the Max Library.



**Meagan (Paradine) Hawkshaw**, an optometrist, is opening a practice in Edson, Alberta. Hawkshaw graduated from Pacific University College of Optometry and worked in Lloydminster, Alberta, for 10 months and then Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan for five years.



**Brent Frueh** was inducted into the North Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame at the Pepsi Red River Open held at Island Park in Fargo.

## Minot State alumnae are Women of Distinction

At the YWCA Women of Distinction Banquet March 31, the honorees included three Minot State University alumnae. This year's Women of Distinction honorees were **Julie (Kouba) Benson**, '78, for the education award; **Jenna Johnson**, '14, for young woman of today and tomorrow; and **Megan (Langley) Laudenschlager**, '08, community service.

Annually, this banquet honors women for their achievements and contributions to the community, as well as businesses and agencies committed to the empowerment of women. The Minot YWCA provides a safe environment to women and children in crisis.



**Jan Repnow**, assistant professor of business information technology, received the North Dakota Association of Career and Technical Education Postsecondary Teacher of the Year Award this summer. Repnow joined Minot State University's Department of Business Information Technology in 2007 after teaching at Wolford Public School for 23 years. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from MSU and her master's degree from the University of North Dakota. NDACTE, a non-profit organization, is dedicated to promoting and improving career and technical education in North Dakota. **Pictured L to R:** Dr. Jacek Mrozik, College of Business dean, Rick Hedberg, vice president for advancement, Jan Repnow, Kate Marshall, donor relations coordinator, Janna McKechnie, director of alumni and annual giving and Dr. Steven Shirley, president.

SEND US YOUR NEWS TO  
[MinotStateU.edu/alumni](http://MinotStateU.edu/alumni)



# In Memory

## Graduates

- '35 Ellingson (Haugen), Ruth;  
McMinnville, Ore.  
'35 Halvorsen (Aafedt), Prudence;  
Mansfield, Texas  
'38 Goodman (Boye), Marie; Velva  
'39 Johnson (Tonneson), Julia; Rolette  
'40 Parsley (Fassett), Faith; Casper, Wyo.  
'40 Urban (White), Dorothy "Jeanne";  
Forsyth, Mont.  
'40 Wolf (Karp), Alice; Cheyenne, Wyo.  
'43 Retzlaff, Harvey; Fargo  
'46 Wright (Posey), Dorothy; Grace City  
'47 Brooks (Phillips), Janet; Wamego, Kan.  
'47 Paschke (Melland), Katherine; Billings,  
Mont.  
'48 Whalen, Gertrude; Poway, Calif.  
'49 Brumfield (Saylor), Betty; Fargo  
'49 Decker (Yager), Betty; Washburn  
'49 Rohrer (Engel), Jean; Billings, Mont.  
'49 Waind (Rasmusson), Geneva;  
Moorhead, Minn.  
'52 Fahn, Joseph; Harlowton, Mont.  
'52 Skinn (Ash), Lois; Forsyth, Mont.  
'53 Poe (Thomas), Marian; St. Louis, Mo.  
'55 Friederichs (Awsumb), Carol;  
Glendive, Mont.  
'55 Hayhurst (Klebe), Carol; Minot  
'55 Zavalney (Reichert), Joyce; Minot  
'56 Clark (Wagner), Jane; Broadview, Mont.  
'56 Paul, Robert; Louisville, Ky.  
'56 Ruetten, Warren; Glendale, Ariz.  
'57 Josephson (Harju), Loverne; West Chester, Pa.  
'58 Holst (Sather), Karen; Rapid City, S.D.  
'58 Ziegler, Donald; Fargo  
'59 Cantlon (Loveland), Cleo; Minot  
'59 Espe, Dennis; Dunseith  
'59 Iglehart (Jacobson), Gail; Garrison  
'60 Anderson, LeRoy; Kenosha, Wis.  
'60 Dislevy, Janis; Butte  
'60 McCloskey, Calvin; Birmingham, Ala.  
'60 Stykes (Scott), Charlotte; Marietta, Ga.  
'61 Carlisle, Marilyn; Missoula, Mont.  
'61 Landsiedel, John, III; Minot  
'61 Lindberg (Hegge), Joan; Perth  
'61 Menzie (Olson), Ethel, Milwaukee, Wis.  
'62 Gorecki, Delroy; St. Augustine, Fla.  
'62 Kost (Fischer), Delma; Martin  
'63 Beyer, Roger; Dickinson  
'63 Weber, Ralph; Las Vegas, Nev.  
'65 Henning, Andrew; Stanley  
'65 Moors, Dennis; Greenville, S.C.  
'65 Olson, Ronald; San Antonio, Texas  
'65 Selzler, Bernard; Crookston, Minn.  
'66 Heisler (Pfau), Elaine; Fargo  
'66 Hildenbrand (Curtis), Nancy; Detroit  
Lakes, Minn.  
'67 Hausauer (Laib), Eunice; Max  
'68 Cowan (Slaaten), Sheryl; Bismarck  
'68 Curle (Bernsdorf), Gail; Minot  
'68 Martin, Stanley; Anamoose  
'69 Huebner, Ralph; Edgeley  
'69 Steen, Julius "Ron"; Minot  
'70 Bredahl, Roger; Cocoa Beach, Fla.  
'71 Hill, Jimmy; Bismarck  
'71 Nesdahl, Gary; Sioux Falls, S.D.  
'71 Retzer (Fosland), Doris; Crosby  
'71 Watson, Margaret; Gotha, Fla.  
'72 Chantland, H. Jean; Minot  
'72 Meyer, Christie; Newhall, Calif.  
'72 Wentz (Nagel), Rosie; Devils Lake  
'73 Amundson (Mahlum), Grace; Stanley  
'73 Cheney, Theron; Twin Falls, Idaho  
'73 Cross (Willis), Patricia; Grand Island, Neb.  
'73 Knutson, Townley "Toby"; Fargo  
'73 Tatum, Kevin; Voorhees, N.J.  
'74 Sevre (Sveen), Jean; Wildrose  
'75 Dougherty (Assels), Ladonna; Stafford, Va.  
'76 Jochimsen (Kinyon), Roxy; Minot  
'76 Johnson, Richard; Minot  
'77 Flaherty, Mary Ann; Moorhead, Minn.  
'77 Harrington (Thayer), Mary; Minot  
'77 Ritter (Morris), Susan; Sherwood  
'78 Kingsley (Hawbaker), Vadamay; Bismarck  
'80 Burruss (Knirsha), Anne; Minot  
'80 Mueller (King), Connie; Ellendale  
'81 Scheveck (Dokken), Nancy; Sioux Falls, S.D.  
'82 Knox (Knutson), Elna; Sherwood  
'82 McAdoo, Brent; Washburn  
'83 Gross, Martin; Minot  
'83 VanNess, Lawrence; Henderson, Nev.  
'89 Fields (Laib), Renee; Burlington

- '89 Larson, Karla; Minot  
'90 Treckman, William; Minot  
'90 Wagner (Hartl), Patricia; New Rockford  
'91 Smith (Cavanaugh), Noreen; Devils Lake  
'92 Heck, Cheryl; Mandan  
'93 Belcher (Tompers), MonaRay; Minot  
'93 Renze (Iverson), Mary; Underwood  
'93 Theobald (Protz), Dorothy "Dot"; Minot  
'96 Ladendorf, Thomas; Minot  
'96 LaRocque, Frank; Belcourt  
'04 Sinclair, Gregory; Williston  
'05 Lang-Audette, Cassi; Minot  
'08 Borstad (Jacobs), Heidi; Bismarck  
'14 Tarr, Muberra; Minot Air Force Base  
'15 Barnes (Steffenson), Tammi; Minot

## Attended

- Ahmann, Dean; Moorhead, Minn.  
Aiken (Metz), Kathleen; Burlington  
Alseth, Warren; Chelsea, Mich.  
Arneson (Anderson), Mildred; Stanley  
Blake, Lavern; Devils Lake  
Bodine, Francis; Minnetonka, Minn.  
Bohn (Hynek), Patsy; Bismarck  
Brien, Dale; St. John  
Brown, Michael; Berthold  
Carlson (Evanson), Clarice; Williston  
Dunlop, John; Deering  
Eckroth (Neuenschwander), Nedra; Mandan  
Ertresvaag (Unwin), Margery; Bismarck  
Evanson, Gaylord; Spokane, Wash.  
Evje, Carolyn; Shreveport, La.  
Farden, Russell; Minot  
Ferm, Danny; Minot  
Flaharty (Carkuff), Geraldine;  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Fleming (Benson), Anna; Great Falls, Mont.  
Frick (Peterson), Betty; Minot  
Galusha (Hoey), Bernice; Minot  
Hager, Daniel; Minot  
Hannesson, Leo; Crookston, Minn.  
Hansen (Johnson), Geraldine; Bismarck  
Hanson (Hall), Lorraine; Bismarck  
Hariman (Hamilton), Darlyne; Grand Forks  
Hatlestad (Kiefer), Marilyn; Warwick  
Haugen, Dennis; Wichita, Kan.



It is with honor we dedicate this section to recognize alumni and friends who have passed away from approximately December 2015 to September 2016 or as submitted.



Heller (Moen), Ida; Apache Junction, Ariz.  
Hill, Vance; Sun City, Ariz.  
Hilson, Mark; Minot  
Hovde (Johnson), Kathleen; Williston  
Jacobson, Melba; Williston  
Jeppe (Svendson), Jane; Polson, Mont.  
Jespersen (Erickson Hanson), Ethel; Bismarck  
Johnson (Olsen), Donna; Williston  
Johnson (Heilman), Hurdis; Minot  
Johnson, Roger; Minot  
Knapp, Glenn; Littleton, Colo.  
Lee, Oakley; Stanley  
Lent (Haakenson), Norma; Lafayette, Calif.  
Lesmeister, Walter; New Rockford  
Levno (Reiser), Doris; Yakima, Wash.  
Livingston, Allan; Minot  
Lorentzen, Lyman; Fargo  
Lucy (Wallace), Ardith; Minot  
McGuire, Cecil; Granville  
Merck (Schiff), Kathleen; Minot  
Moble, Michael; Minot  
Nelson (Thompson), Alpha; Sheyenne  
Neubauer, Eleanor; Bismarck  
Niendorf, John; Champaign, Ill.  
Olson (Holte), Leona; Mohall  
Olson (Christiansen), Marlys; Regan  
Oxendahl, Thomas; Williston  
Palmer, Marlin; Glenburn  
Pettys, Russell; West Fargo  
Pownell (Urness), Thelma; Fargo  
Rau, Aaron; Harvey  
Reynolds, Kirby, Sr; Bismarck  
Rolfson (Larson), Jeanette; Watford City  
Sampleton, Jordan; Schenectady, N.Y.  
Schoenborn, Chad; Minot  
Schultz, Charles; Minot  
Soares, John, Colorado Springs, Colo.  
Stavros, Helen; Denver, Colo.  
Stevens, March; Glenburn  
Swang, Bernie; Bismarck  
Thomas, Richard; Minot  
Ulledal (Bendixson), Kathryn; Zahl  
Vanorny (Houser), Verna; Rugby  
Wingenbach, Diana; Dickinson  
Wollan, Alvin; Bismarck

## Friends

Apland, John; Minot  
Aubol, Marland; New Town  
Bjork, Ed; Minot  
Cowley (Gjovig), Donna; Hebron  
Dendinger (Werner), Evelyn; Minot  
Digerness (Brogger), Agnes; Williston  
Effertz (Pretzer), Lois; Minot  
Emerson, Gordon; Carrington  
Fines (Nelstad), Norma; Garrison  
Fisher, Gerald; Minot  
Fosland, John; Crosby  
Fuller (Nelson), Anna Mae; Minot  
Garcia, Todd; Minot  
Garrison, Vernon; Minot  
Guenther (Aanrud), Joan; Casselton  
Gust (Gilles), Joan; Minot  
Haaland (Sullivan), Dolores; Minot  
Haaland (Sullivan), Helen; Minot  
Halvorson (Dosch), Agnes; New Port Richey, Fla.  
Haugeberg, Casper "Cap"; Minot  
Hendershot (Hoellinger), Darlene; Minot  
Hoffer (Gillig), Frieda; Garrison  
Hofland (Bratlien), Ellen; Williston  
Hurly (Banchy), Helen; Bismarck  
Jessen (Hovdestad), Donelda; Dickinson  
Kaliher (Maday), Barbara; Brooklyn Park, Minn.  
Kassner, Leonard; Minot  
Knudson (Wanberg), Dallas; West Fargo  
Kolbo (Bailey), Beverly; Zumbrota, Minn.  
Johnson, James; Miles City, Mont.  
Johnson, Robert; Hazen  
Leichtnam, Lyle; Surprise, Ariz.  
Liebelt, Verna; Minot  
Long, Glenn; Minot  
Malnaa, Ernest; Minot  
Mathis, William; Watford City  
Melton, John; Minot  
Morrison (Pearce), Ethel Mae; Minneapolis, Minn.  
Odell (Oster), Delores; Minot  
Olson, Elmer; Bottineau  
Oster (Kloehn), Arlene; Minot  
Perius, Allen; Moorhead, Minn.

Peterson, Donald; Berthold  
Pierson (Kvenild), Wilma; Fargo  
Rettig, Robert; Alexander  
Robertson, Kenneth; Dover, Del.  
Roise, Robert; Minot  
Rostad, Evron; Minot  
Sackman, Eugene; Bismarck  
Sands (Yeager), Ione; Velve  
Schempp (Hummel), Diana; Minot  
Schuh, Howard; Minot  
Schultz (Henne), Hulda; Minot  
Schuster, Conrad; West Fargo  
Semrau, Gordon; Grand Forks  
Senger, Anton; Lakota  
Sletto, Alton; Bottineau  
Stockert, Thomas; Baldwin, Wis.  
Syverson (Hiepler), Shirley; Epping  
Syvertson, Dale; Orlando, Fla.  
Theusch (Borgen), Karen; Zion, Ill.  
Thompson, Laurence; Minot  
Trihub, Rolland; Minot  
Turpin, Calvin; Edmond, Okla.  
Vinger, Richard; Grand Forks  
Visina (Mullin), Fran; Mesa, Ariz.  
White (George), Lois; Minot  
Wilson, Allan; Minot

## Faculty and Staff

Endsley, Ron; former custodian with facilities management; Minot  
Holloway, Gordon; former chair of the Department of Communication Disorders; Payson, Utah  
Kronbach, Keith; retired custodian with facilities management; Minot  
Lang, Myron; retired assistant Student Union director, bookstore manager and physical plant director; Minot  
Lieby, Paul; former chair of the Department of Biology; Pocatello, Idaho  
Pizzo (Ahmann), Tamera; former administrative assistant for the Department of Teacher Education and Human Performance; Daytona Beach, Fla.  
Stuart, Thaddeus, former professor of music and piano; Renton, Wash.



Meet our  
newest baby  
beaver fans!

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

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

### Albright

Talon James was born Aug. 28, 2015, to proud parents **Jayne (Schmeichel) Albright '12** and her husband, Chris.



### Hanson

Claire Diana was born July 14, 2015, to **Grace (Buchholz) Hanson '14** and Bret Hanson.



### Blessum

**Karleen (Axtman) Blessum '95** and her husband, Alan, had Natalie Maryann on June 6, 2015. She joins sisters Jessica, Jacquelyn, Brooke, Samantha and Chelsea.



### Hanson

Twins **Kelby Rae** and **Kayley Mae** made their debut May 24, 2015. They were happily welcomed by **Juliann (Fjellanger) Hanson '05/'12** and her husband, Jade, along with big sister Blakely.



### Boyeff

**Brooklyn Norine** and **Boston Bryan** made their appearance June 18, 2015. Parents are **Bryan Boyeff '06** and **Trisha (Johnson) Boyeff '06**.



### Hanson

**Mandy (Schelling) Hanson '02** and her husband, Chris, welcomed **Henry David** on Feb. 18, 2016.



### Egger

**Nixon George** arrived Oct. 2, 2015. Proud parents are **Desiree (Taylor) Egger '07** and her husband, David.



### Huck

**Acen Drew** entered the world on June 11, 2015. He was welcomed by **Alysia Huck (MSU public information director)** and her husband, Aaron.



### Elm

Proud beaver parents **Jerik Elm '12** and **Kristen (Schneider) Elm '12** welcomed **Theo** on April 11, 2015.



### Hughes

**Graham Dennis** entered the world Sept. 15, 2015. Proud beaver parents are **Jordan Hughes '15** and **Aaron (Jaeger) Hughes '12**.



### Kapsch

**Kyle Kapsch '08** and **Kelly Kamphuis-Kapsch '06** happily welcomed **Benjamin** on Oct. 3, 2013.





## Kiefer

Janel (Ivany) Kiefer '10 and her husband, Tristan, welcomed Andrew Joseph-Jaymes to their family on April 16, 2015. He joins big sister Hannah.



## Kirkhammer

Crosby Daryl entered the world on Nov. 24, 2015. He was proudly welcomed by parents Kent Kirkhammer '06 and Chelsea (Peterson) Kirkhammer '06 as well as sisters Elin and Madelyn.



## Leonard

Aubryn Winter was born Feb. 28, 2015, to Don and Shylah (Larson) Leonard '08.



## Marshall

Kate (Neuhalfen) Marshall '07 and her husband, Daniel, welcomed their second little one, Lincoln Lloyd, on Jan. 11, 2015. He joins big sister Addison, who is 3 years old.



## McLachlan

Harlow Rose made her debut Aug. 28, 2015. She was welcomed by parents Traci (Tranby) McLachlan '02 and her husband, Michael, as well as sister Piper.



## McMonagle

Zaylie Marie entered the world June 8, 2015. Parents are Trisha (Koeplin) McMonagle '07 and her husband, Jay. She joins big brother Wylie.



## Medler

Ashley (Kittell) Medler '10 and her husband, Nathan, welcomed Kinsley Marie on Feb. 6, 2015.



## Mehlhorn

Allison (Wood) Mehlhorn '00 and her husband, Jeff, welcomed Austin Nov. 4, 2015. He joins big brother Alex.



## Monley

Felix Bernard made his debut Oct. 5, 2015. He was welcomed by parents Randi (Docker) Monley '10 and husband Luke.



## Nostdahl

Stu and Amy Nostdahl welcomed Simon Paul June 24, 2015. Simon is the grandson of Marv Semrau (MSU senior development officer) and his wife, Barb.



## Prange

Olive was born Oct. 3, 2015, to Stephanie (Wolfe) Prange '04 and husband Brian.



## Ransom

Logan Savel arrived August 14, 2015. He was welcomed by parents Ernest (Doug) Ransom '97 and his wife, Kimberly, along with big brother Brody.



## Roedocker

Shawn Roedocker '03 and Andrea (Sundsbak) Roedocker '05 happily welcomed Elin Quinn Aug. 6, 2015. She joins big brothers Drew and Cale.



## Sund

Whitney Renae made her debut Oct. 24, 2015. She was welcomed by proud parents Erin (Dostert) Sund '10/'12 and her husband, Matt.



## Severn

Maseray Severn '09 and her husband, Andrew, welcomed Isla Sophia Sept. 20, 2015. She joins big brothers Desmond and August.



## Sevre

Stella Carol Ann entered the world Jan. 11, 2016. Parents are Ashley (Krosbakken) Sevre '13 and husband Logan.



## Thorlaksen

Henry arrived April 23, 2015, to proud parents Eric Thorlaksen '09 and Natasha Thorlaksen '11. He joins big sister Abigail.



## Tollefson

Brandon Tollefson '11 and Courtney (Sanden) Tollefson '09 had Kinsley Aug. 10, 2015.



## Vinje

Wade Vinje '10 and Michaela (Monger) Vinje '11 welcomed a new baby boy, Will Lewis, Oct. 13, 2015.



## Zietz

Rylan Jolene arrived Feb. 17, 2016, to Brock Zietz '10 and Erin (Obenchain) Zietz '11.





**Minot State**  
**UNIVERSITY**

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

**Alumni Association**

500 University Ave W  
Minot, ND 58707

*Change service requested*

*M*inot State University has provided us with wonderful experiences, memories and many great friends through our association with the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity and other campus organizations. We are proud to assist MSU students through the Cole Altringer Soccer Scholarship as well as other Minot State endeavors that we are so pleased to support.

— Jay '75 and Dyanne Altringer

