

News Release

2006 Top Aggies Honored at Northwest School of Agriculture Reunion at UMC

By Krista Lemos, Corby Kemmer on Friday, June 30, 2006

CROOKSTON, MN (June 30, 2006) – The Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA) Alumni Association announces the recipients of the 2006 Top Aggie awards which were presented during the NWSA annual reunion this past weekend at the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC).

The Top Aggie award is the highest recognition given by the alumni association of the NWSA. Four alumni were selected for this honor: Daniel Letnes '31, Grand Forks, ND; Betty McVeety Nisbet '36, East Grand Forks, MN; Mary Randall Norgart '50, Kings City, OR; and David Tucker '61, East Grand Forks, MN.



Daniel Letnes is a 1930-31 advanced class graduate. Letnes attained bachelor's degrees in Laws and Juris Doctor in 1936 from the University of North Dakota. The U.S. Navy commissioned him in 1943. For three years, he served on the U.S.S. Melette as assistant communications officer. Letnes practiced general law in both state and federal courts and also practiced in federal tax court. For four years, Letnes was an assistant state attorney for Grand Forks County. In 2004, he retired from practicing law.

Betty McVeety Nisbet graduated in 1936. She received teacher's training in East Grand Forks, MN, and then taught in country schools for three years. Nisbet took a short business course and worked for a few months until marrying Herbert Nisbet. Working on their farm and raising four children, Roy, Doris, William, and Lori kept her busy. Volunteering has been a big part of her life as she has served as a 4-H leader, a Sunday school teacher and church elder, and at Altru Health System Hospital in Grand Forks, ND.

Mary Randall Norgart is a 1950 graduate. She attended Bemidji State University and received her bachelor's degree in elementary education. In 1963, Norgart took additional training from the University of Minnesota, St. Paul in teaching and working with individuals with disabilities. Norgart has helped serve individuals with special needs for some 50 years and is still an active volunteer. She and her husband, Richard, now live in Kings City, OR, and have five sons and a daughter.

David Tucker graduated in 1961. Tucker met his wife of 43 years, Myrna Anderson '61 at NWSA. During these years, they raised their three daughters and now have six grandchildren. Tucker entered barber school and worked as a barber for 11 years in Grand Forks, ND. He became chair of the North Dakota State Barbers Convention. This led him to spend 33 years in advertising and marketing. In 2005, he and his wife retired. Tucker has volunteered many hours and has been presented the Amy Hirst and the Frank Behling awards.

The former NWSA, a residential high school established by the University of Minnesota in 1906, is the predecessor of the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC).

The University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) is a four-year baccalaureate degree granting institution, dedicated to learning, discovery, and engagement in the northwest Minnesota region and beyond. To learn more, visit www.UMCrookston.edu.

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