

A magazine for alumni and friends of the
University of Minnesota Crookston

Volume 53 / Number 1 / Winter 2022

Torch



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
CROOKSTON

A young woman with long dark hair and glasses is kneeling on a light-colored tiled floor in a classroom. She is wearing a black long-sleeved shirt with a white and black patterned vest over it, and blue jeans. She is smiling at the camera. The background shows a classroom setting with white shelves on the left containing various educational toys like blocks and dolls. On the right, there is a white cabinet with a collage of photos on it. A window is visible in the background.

**BLOSSOMING
EDUCATION CAREER
SET IN MOTION AT
UMN CROOKSTON**

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grateful
FOR OUR
ALUMNI



8



20

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TORCH

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The University of Minnesota Crookston is a public, baccalaureate, coeducational institution and a coordinate campus of the University of Minnesota. The Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA) was a residential high school serving students from 1906-68 and the predecessor of the Crookston campus. The *Torch* is named for the historical passing of the educational torch between the NWSA and UMN Crookston in 1968.

The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation.



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CONNECT

#IAMCROOKSTON #UMNPROUD

On the front cover: Lhakpa Gurung 2011 pictured in her classroom at City and Country School in New York, N.Y.

Torch designed by Courtney Meyer.

From the CHANCELLOR



Psychologists tell us that reflecting and being grateful are keys to a happier life. In the midst of winter in Northwest Minnesota, it is an important thing to remember. When the wind howls and the snow flies horizontally instead of falling vertically, there tends to be a little bit of self-pity. However, nothing is more beautiful than a crisp winter morning when the snowscapes look pristine, the air is clean, and the sun dogs are absolutely beautiful as they appear on the horizon. As I am writing this, I am reflecting on such a moment after one of our blizzards. My neighbor worked with me for about an hour to find my mailbox, which was buried in a 10 foot drift. After we completed the shoveling and snow blowing in the -30 degree morning, we both stood there commenting how beautiful the scene was. Simply put, being grateful and proud of your space and place in this world should be principal to each of us.



This leads me to the joy and pride I feel every day when I walk onto the campus of the University of Minnesota Crookston. There is so much richness in the land and the people that surround this campus. The community is peppered with alumni from all stages of our campus history. There is an undeniable strength and uplifting collective cheer for the maroon and gold in this area. It's noticeable when our friends and neighbors showcase their UMN Crookston signs and flags in their windows and yards throughout the community. It is awe-inspiring when we see long-timers of this campus return time after time, to enjoy the entertainment offerings of athletics, musical performances, dinners, and celebrations. It is so important to the campus community of faculty, staff, and students to witness these supporters and their willingness to share their truest form of love for UMN Crookston – the gift of showing up.

In recent months, our campus has further extended its reach within the region by gathering various groups who undoubtedly can and will help lift and enhance our vision and goals of the campus. They work with us by creating avenues for outreach, engagement, and relationship building from across the miles. In November, our Campus Advisory and Advancement Board spent a day tackling topics related to the important work of enrollment management and student recruitment. On the same day, as pictured on page 5, a new group, the American Indian Advisory Council, comprised of partners from the Leech Lake, White Earth, and Red Lake Nations, current Native American students, and alumni gathered to increase awareness and provide direction for partnerships and creating pathways toward a strong and viable education system for all.

As stated poignantly by Sitting Bull, "Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children," the University of Minnesota Crookston, through partnerships, outreach, and efforts to engage others, is committed to honoring the land grant mission of this institution by serving in an inclusive, cultural manner for all the sons and daughters of this region. And by virtue, we are truly dedicated and ready.

Chancellor Mary Holz-Clause

NATIVE AMERICAN COUNCIL



MISSION.
VISION.
PURPOSE.

The American Indian Advisory Council (AIAC) was established to work towards a mutually beneficial relationship among Native nations and the University of Minnesota Crookston. This relationship is intended to be an active partnership that addresses the current and future needs for education and enhancement of relationships, programming, and other mutual endeavors to benefit the region.

The AIAC will serve as a liaison between the American Indian communities and the University of Minnesota Crookston. The council will consult with the University of Minnesota Crookston Chancellor on matters related to campus programs and services on behalf of American Indian students; interests and concerns of the immediate American Indian community; methods to encourage and foster the educational advancement of American Indian students in admissions, retention, and achievement of educational objectives; and efforts to develop and increase support for American Indian educational advancement through public relations efforts at the community, state, and federal levels. AIAC will accomplish its purpose by providing advising and expertise to the University of Minnesota Crookston Chancellor, identifying and prioritizing the needs of the Native American communities, including students. It will also serve as a liaison to the region and will bring educational needs of the Nations to UMN Crookston as well as help to bring students to the Crookston campus.



LISA BRUNNER



DERRICK CUPP



LEROY STAPLES
FAIRBANKS III



BRENT GISH



LURIE HARPER



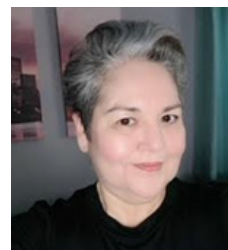
ANNETTE JOHNSON



LORNA LAGUE



BIANCA TURMAN



DESIRIE M. WILSON

TWO PANDEMICS, ONE CAMPUS

Over 100 Years Apart

The University of Minnesota Crookston campus has experienced two pandemics over its existence as the Northwest School of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota Crookston. The influenza pandemic of 1918 and the current COVID-19 pandemic devastated communities during these eras and had a major impact on the lives of students during both instances. We can perhaps learn more about these remarkable times and thoughts of students through the images and poetry shared here.



The Appeal to Reason author unknown, 1919 yearbook

If you lose at basketball,
It's the flu.
If you're blamed by Coach McCall,
It's the flu.
If it's Fosston wins the game,
Or if Fisher does the same,
You haven't lost your fame,
It's the flu.

If you're late on Sunday night,
It's the flu.
If your room is not just right,
It's the flu.
If you see a red mustache
Looking through the transom sash
Can't avoid the coming crash,
It's the flu.

If your marks are rather low.
It's the flu.
If your make-up work is slow,
It's the flu.
If the teachers see your ruse,
There's no use to make excuse,
You are bound to catch the deuce,
It's the flu.

If the bus is out of whack,
It's the flu.
If you have to walk the track,
It's the flu.
Are the roads a sea of mud,
Does the driver chew a cud,
Don't let temper heat your blood,
It's the flu.

If your love affairs aren't smooth,
It's the flu.
If her temper you can't sooth,
It's the flu.
If your partner you must coax,
When the gym is full of folks,
Playing games and cracking jokes,
It's the flu.

If on Monday we have school,
It's the flu.
If quarantine is made the rule,
It's the flu.
If a mask you must apply,
It's a task to do, – or die,
X ! X ! the flu!

Behind the Mask

written by: Sandra Yerges, senior majoring in communication, Cambridge, Minn., 2021

Behind the mask is an innovator,
paving the way to achieve their dreams
in a time where life may feel chaotic,
no end in sight it may seem.
One short year ago the lights went dim,
for the school was left with no trace.
A hallway once met with a thousand faces,
slowly turned to a desolate place.
When it was time to return back to campus,
like eagles soaring back to the nest,
the friendships were stronger than ever before.
These reunions were valued the best.
Classes were conducted in front of a screen
of a laptop that cast a bright light.



Although it was not the most normal of sorts,
the classes persisted alright.
Moments of laughter were shared during class
when someone forgot to press mute.
Smiling with your eyes to those passing by
became the typical hallway view.
Notes passed under doors to friends in the dorm
who could not have a visit inside.
The sentiments that were shared that were chosen with care
allowed the months to quickly pass by.
Fast forward to August, a new school year began
and more in-person classes were set.
A jubilant feeling for both students and staff,
that human connection one could never forget.
Dinners that once were separated six feet apart
turned to close exchanges with friends.
The athletic games filled with fans in the stands,
new events that all could attend.
These past two years brought a lot of change
during a pandemic that has been slow to pass.
The changes that occurred never hindered the dreams
of the students behind the mask.

FOUNDATIONS IN *Education*

Lhakpa Gurung Finds Building Blocks for Career at UMN Crookston

by: Lauren Wallace, senior majoring in sports & recreation management; Bloomington, Minn.

From the small country of Nepal, **Lhakpa Gurung 2011** was looking for a place to study in the United States and knew she wanted to be a teacher for young children. She is ambitious, persistent, and always gives 100% when it comes to working with kids. “When I knew UMC had the early childhood education program, I really thought, ‘Okay, this is the right school for me,’” she said. After coming to this conclusion, she informed her advisor in Nepal and this was the only school she applied to. In August of 2007, Gurung remembers arriving in the small town of Crookston at midnight. The dark sky prevented her from seeing her surroundings until the next day so the culture shock had to wait until morning. One of the biggest things that surprised her was the flat landscape, as she was used to seeing mountains in her home country.

During her time at UMN Crookston, Gurung participated in a variety of activities. She was a student teacher in the Early Childhood Development Center on campus and worked as a community adviser in Centennial and Skyberg residence halls. Those positions helped her come out of her shell and build leadership skills during her formative years of college. She was also a member of the Multi-International Club (MIC) and enjoyed spending time with this group. Her involvement on campus was because of, and also contributed to, the warm and welcoming community. That was her favorite part about campus. “I knew everyone in the community, starting from the administration to the custodian,” she said. Gurung considers UMN Crookston to be the best school she could’ve imagined for herself. It felt like family.

Not only did she feel connected to the school, but also to the Crookston community. Just like all on-campus clubs do, MIC would take on community service projects together. She specifically remembers volunteering at the Villa St. Vincent, a local nursing home and assisted living facility. Sometimes they would teach the residents something new, such as how to use computers. During other visits, they would simply spend time conversing with the residents to keep them company. They got to know each other over time, and Gurung found this to be a memorable part of her college experience. Little moments like this contributed to her overall feeling of comfort and connection in Crookston.

In Nepal, they don’t have a lot of emphasis on sports and wishes she had those opportunities there, especially after seeing the significance of athletics on campus. She envied the volleyball players and basketball girls, and considers herself jealous in a positive way. She also found great inspiration from her female professors, such as Soo-Yin Lim-Thompson, Marsha Odom, and Marilyn Grave. Having a small group of faculty who knew her well helped her move forward in her education and career. She wants to acknowledge her deep appreciation for her



early childhood education friends, her international friends who have graduated and moved across the world, and all of the faculty and staff members who contributed to her success. Gurung found great inspiration from Stacey Grunewald, Rae French, Tom Baldwin, Kim Gillette, Laurie Wilson, Vicki Svedarsky, Don Cavalier, Sandy Desrosier, Gary Willhite, and Kristi Jacobson.

After four years, Gurung felt she grew so much personally and professionally because of UMN Crookston and the many influential people she had met. She graduated in May 2011, and is part of a multi-generational legacy at the University of Minnesota Crookston. She has many family members who have attended UMN Crookston including her brother, **Tashi Wongdi Gurung 2013**, along with three cousins **Yangchen Dolker Gurung 2012**, **Gyaltso Gurung 2013**, and Tseten Chockey Gurung who currently attends. Gurung explains how her family's continued attendance speaks for itself when it comes to the impact the University of Minnesota Crookston had on her life.

Having a strong foundation from UMN Crookston helped her find success in elementary education. After graduating, she worked in Minneapolis at an early childcare center for one year. The center had a location in New York, where Gurung had family, so she relocated there. After three years, she came across her current job. While at first it was difficult to find a teaching job in New York because she had a Minnesota teaching license and most of her connections were in Minnesota, she found those so-called 'obstacles' actually gave her an advantage. A lot of the teachers she works with are from the same university. Having a degree from Minnesota, especially the University of Minnesota, was really valuable and helped her get to the next step.

She has been working for the past five years as an early childhood teacher at a small, independent, and progressive school in New York City that has been operating for over 100 years. The classrooms are modern with a familiar feeling of home, and one of Gurung's favorite things is the way children get to be children. A lot of the projects she does with them are open-ended. She loves seeing the way they approach the materials. For example, they often use blocks. At the beginning, some of them will just stack one or two blocks on top of each other. Over time they get more creative, and are now building beds for baby

dolls with these same blocks.

She loves bringing her culture into the classroom. "As a teacher you have that power to represent diversity and to give them awareness of other cultures and ethnicities," said Gurung. Books, songs, and movement are significant in her methods. Music is special in that she feels she can introduce her culture by singing folk songs in her language, Nepali/Tibetan, and the children will still enjoy it. She also uses a madal, which is a two-sided drum.

When she's not teaching, Gurung enjoys spending time with her large family of six siblings and spends time exploring the area. An advantage of living in NYC is being able to do so many things without needing a car because she can walk, take the bus, or ride the subway. There is always something going on and she likes visiting parks, art museums, and attending local functions.

Gurung was thrilled to participate in an interview like this one because she wants to give back and contribute to UMN

Crookston. "Maybe somebody will read my story and will get inspired. Of course it might not inspire everyone, but even if it inspires a person, I think it's helpful. Doing an interview and hearing my story after school—if it benefits someone in the community, definitely," she said.

Gurung wishes she was closer to Minnesota so she could come back more often, but plans to visit when her cousin graduates in two years, and she stays up to date by following the campus Instagram page. Even from far away, Gurung continues to stay connected and reminisce on the warm community of UMN Crookston.





2021 NORTHWEST SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE *Reunion*



Save the Date!

Northwest School of Agriculture
ALL - SCHOOL REUNION

June 24, 2022

If you would like to serve as a class leader for your class, contact Rose in the Alumni Office at rose445@umn.edu or 218-281-8439.

All classes are welcome to gather at the reunion.

2021 Top Aggie Award Recipients

The alumni reunion of the Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA) was held Thursday, August 19. Classmates and friends gathered to reconnect and honor outstanding alumni from the NWSA with the Top Aggie award.

The award is the highest honor bestowed on NWSA alumni by its alumni association and recognizes those who have displayed exemplary commitment and service to community, education, family, or in their occupational field.



**VERN
CLEVELAND**

Vern Cleveland graduated from the Northwest School of Agriculture in 1964 and served in the U.S. Army from September 1967 through June 1969. Following his service, Cleveland graduated from North Dakota State University with a bachelor of architecture degree in 1971. He has enjoyed a long career as an architect. His current employment with R. L. Engebretson, P.C., now known as RLE, has allowed him to culminate his profession being the lead architect/project manager on seven of the largest Scheels stores in the upper Midwest and beyond.

He currently serves as a supervisor of Noble Township, Cass County, N.D., secretary/treasurer of Nora Cemetery Association, counsel vice president of Nora Lutheran Church as and current sexton for Nora Cemetery, Gardner, N.D.

He and his wife, Claudia (Hanson) 1964 reside on the family farmstead established by his grandfather who purchased the home quarter in 1892.



**ED
GROVE**

Following graduation from the Northwest School of Agriculture in 1955, **Ed Grove** would begin working for fellow alum Leo Ash 1952 on his farm. In 1957, Grove joined the U.S. Navy seeking an education in electronics and was honorably discharged in March 1961 as Petty Officer FT2G (E5). He later attended West Coast University in Los Angeles, Calif., studying math, physics, and electronics graduating in 1968 with a bachelor of science degree in applied mathematics.

He went on to a career at McDonnell Douglas in Long Beach, Calif., who was later acquired by Boeing, overseeing the software development of the flight control computer for the MD-11 airplane. Grove retired from Boeing in July 2000.

He has been a member of the Sons of Norway for 22 years and served as vice president and also served on the NWSA Alumni Association Board. Grove and his wife, Marilyn, have been married for 65 years and reside in Yorba Linda, Calif.



**GORDON
SYVERSON**

Thankful for his time at the Northwest School of Agriculture, **Gordon Syverson 1954**, enjoyed living in the dorms, attending basketball games, and the hands-on learning he received in welding, mechanics, and carpentry. Following his time at the NWSA, Syverson attended Lutheran Bible Institute, Concordia College, and received a bachelor of arts degree in history and religion. He was ordained in 1964 serving as a pastor since that time and is a full-time, interim pastor for providing services for three congregations and records services with a crew of four to broadcast on YouTube and television.

He has served as the Dean of Watonwan Conference, the Board of Mission and Support. His special hobby is woodworking which he was first introduced to at the NWSA.



A DRIVE FOR SUCCESS

Northwest School Prepared Arlone Cymbaluk
For Successful Career in Bookkeeping

Story by: Sandra Yerges, senior majoring in communication, Cambridge, Minn.

Arlone (Thoreson) Cymbaluk is a graduate of the 1948 advanced class of the Northwest School of Agriculture. After the closure of her country school within the area, Cymbaluk chose to begin her high school education at a school close to her hometown of Climax, Minn. Although it was a new change in her life, she thoroughly enjoyed the school and the experiences she had there. Her first-year housing arrangement was quite unconventional for a fourteen year old. The dormitories on-campus were full that year, so Cymbaluk was provided an off-campus apartment with another student from the Northwest School. Because she was not close to the dining service offered at the school, she had dinner meals from her parents stored in her apartment. When she needed to go to campus for class, Cymbaluk was transported to the school by the city bus. This was convenient during the cold winter months that come along with living in northern Minnesota.

Shortly after moving into the apartment, there was a housing vacancy on campus which allowed Cymbaluk to move closer to the school. Given her close proximity to home, however, she spent most weekends away from the dorm visiting her family in Climax. It was an exciting time to live on campus during her senior year as she was among the first group of students to reside in the newly constructed McCall Hall. This dormitory created a lasting friendship between Cymbaluk and her friends from the dormitory, **Rose Marie (Kochmann) Price 1947** and **Emma (LaBine) Palmer 1948 Adv.**,

who still keep in touch to this day. Not only have these friends spent time visiting each other's homes, but they also keep in contact through frequent phone calls.

During her time at the Northwest School of Agriculture, Cymbaluk's drive for success



Arlone (Thoreson) Cymbaluk (front row, center) was the first women honored as a member of the National Honor Society at the Northwest School of Agriculture.

was recognized by her teachers. A proud accomplishment she recalls is being the first female inducted into the National Honor Society on campus. This impressive honor was only granted to students chosen by their teachers. Furthermore, she also spent a small amount of time partaking in swimming lessons and going to the popular entertainment areas in town. During a night out at the roller rink, Cymbaluk met her late husband, Marvin. Upon graduating, they were married and began their lives together working on their grain farm. Cymbaluk was well-acquainted with the farming lifestyle due to her upbringing on her family's farm. She often found herself driving the truck around the fields as well as making trips to get machinery parts when needed.

The Cymbaluk family grew from two to eight during their time on the farm. Cymbaluk and her husband raised six children who were very helpful in keeping the farm running smoothly. On the weekends, Cymbaluk's family visited their lake home on Maple Lake. They created lasting memories of fishing and water skiing while they were there. Her family has since grown with her children creating their own families and moving both locally within the Crookston area and across the country in Arizona. After the passing of her husband, Cymbaluk began participating in many offices within her church. She was the president of the women's group at Trinity Lutheran Church and was also a member of the church's foundation. She enjoyed the fellowship the positions

provided as well as the opportunities to help within the church. Cymbaluk also spent time serving on the NWSA Alumni Board from 2000-2005.

Cymbaluk attributes her success in life to the education she received at the Northwest School of Agriculture. She began the first H & R Block in Crookston



Arlone Cymbaluk pointing to her photo in the 1948 Northwest School of Agriculture yearbook

and worked there for ten years. This bookkeeping position allowed her mathematical knowledge to shine through. In addition to the knowledge she obtained about working diligently with numbers, she developed a passion for needlework from the skills she learned in her home economics classes. She fondly remembers learning about sewing, knitting, and baking from her favorite teacher, Miss Retta Bede. With this knowledge in mind, Cymbaluk has sewn nearly every clothing item within her adult life, including prom dresses, bridesmaid dresses, and clothes for herself and her children.

At 91 years of age, Cymbaluk continues to use these skills in her life by making mission quilts to share with family and those in the community. The graduates of Trinity Lutheran Church are gifted with a mission quilt each year, and Cymbaluk is one of the many individuals who provide their talents of constructing the top half of the quilts. Family is also a large part of her life, and she enjoys visiting with her five sons, one daughter, and her sixteen grandchildren. Her ties to the Northwest School of Agriculture did not end in 1948, for two more generations within her family chose to attend this campus for their collegiate studies. Cymbaluk will always have a piece of this school with her as she continues to watch her family grow and follow in her footsteps.



Arlone Cymbaluk learned how to sew and knit from Miss Retta Bede at the Northwest School and continues those passions working on quilts and other projects for her family and the community.



We'll **EMPOWER THE VISION**
and voices of the change we need.

During the *Driven* campaign, thousands of donors rose to an important moment in our state, giving generously to scholarships and fellowships to make a world-class education accessible to talented students. Minnesota's changing demographics and evolving workforce needs demand that we prepare leaders who will justly and boldly guide us into a brighter tomorrow. Every day, on all five statewide University of Minnesota campuses, those future leaders learn to speak up when voices of change are needed, and to step up to spark innovation and progress. The Crookston campus has a special place and purpose as part of this University System. Our land-grant mission, serving the sons and daughters of this region, is made more possible by the generosity of donors. Our campus' campaign closed in June with incredible supporters and moving a very important needle in each of our focused priorities. We are #UMNproud and share a maroon and gold, Northwest Minnesota passion and sentiment – #IAMCROOKSTON.

Driven.

The University of Minnesota Campaign

\$9,999,257

CAMPAIGN STATS

\$618,235

of total campaign amount raised toward

PRIVATE GRANTS

4,221 *total donors*

60% *new donors*

1,670 *alumni donors*

Driven.

The University of Minnesota Campaign



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA CROOKSTON

GOLDEN EAGLE



raised to advance UMN Crookston's three focus areas through a combination of philanthropic gifts and private grants from 2012-2021.

Philanthropic Gifts Break Down:

\$6,085,330

STUDENT SUPPORT

To increase enrollment and access for more students by growing scholarship opportunities.

\$1,709,018

PROGRAMS, FACULTY/STAFF SUPPORT & RESEARCH

To cultivate greater opportunities for exceptional teaching, learning, and research within and beyond the classroom.

\$1,586,674

FACILITIES & CAPITAL PROJECTS

To continue to modernize the campus to deliver even greater value and experiences to students, alumni, and community.



ALUMNI AWARDS CELEBRATION

The University of Minnesota Crookston recognized the achievements of its exceptional alumni during the annual Alumni Awards Celebration held Friday, October 21, 2021.



THE ABBEY • YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD



Marshall Johnson is the 2021 recipient of the Abbey Award. He is a 2012 graduate of UMN Crookston with a degree in business management. Johnson currently serves as the chief conservation officer for the National Audubon Society. He started at the National Audubon Society in 2009 as a climate field organizer for the D.C. policy team. Since 2012, Johnson has served as Vice President, Executive Director of Audubon Dakota and has thrived in building a mission-moored, highly impactful team and state program. Through his leadership, Audubon Dakota has raised and leveraged more than \$50 million from individuals, partners, foundation, and agency funders. Beginning in 2018, the Audubon Dakota team raised their sights and ambition, spearheading the development and launch of the Northern Great Plains Grasslands strategy, which has conserved nearly 500,000 acres across North and South Dakota, enrolling over 300 farmers, ranchers, and communities within its programs. Johnson and his fiancé **Meleah LaPlante 2004**, reside in Fargo, N.D.

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Jeanette (Stoker) Larson is a 1987 graduate of the University of Minnesota Crookston. She competed for the Trojan volleyball team during the 1986 and 1987 seasons. Her play on the court as a freshman in 1986 earned her First Team All-Northwest Division accolades. She helped lead the Trojans to a fifth place finish in the State Tourney during the 1986 season. As a sophomore, she had a 92 percent serve percentage and tallied 176 kills. For her career, she notched 146 blocks and 671 assists which ranked top all-time in the NJCAA era. Larson currently resides in Lake Park, Minn., with her husband Bill. They have two children Kal and Elsa.

Jim Mages is a 2001 graduate in plant industries management from the University of Minnesota Crookston. He remains the all-time leader in career tackles for loss for the football team to this day with 35 and season tackles for loss with 21 during the 2000 season. Mages was an Honorable Mention All-NSIC pick as a defensive end in 1999 and an All-NSIC First Team pick at defensive end in 2000. He had 10 sacks in a season during the 1999 slate and 48 in 2000. Mages led the football team with 47.5 tackles in 1999 and 48 during the 2000 team. Mages lives in Osakis, Minn., with his wife Tricia, and their children Brady, Grant, Kyle, and Stephanie.



Cleon Melsa was instrumental to the UMN Crookston athletics department serving as Faculty Athletic Representative from 2004-12. Melsa was the liaison between athletics and the academic departments, helping students with eligibility and success in the classroom. He also remained an avid supporter of Golden Eagle athletics after his retirement and until his passing in 2021, attending countless athletic events and serving as a UMC Teambacker.

Melsa was an assistant professor in the Math, Science, and Technology department at UMN Crookston. He and his wife, Jeri, have sons Jeff (Shari), Brent (Jasmine), and Ryan (Ashley), six grandchildren and one great grandchild. With heavy hearts, Melsa passed away March 18, 2021.

Pictured are his wife Jeri and his son Jeff who accepted the award on his behalf.



OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARDS

Dave Currier established Dakota Fence Company in 1972 with his brother, Dan, and his father, Dick. They grew their family business from their garage, eventually growing to the point where they opened a building in Fargo, N.D., followed by stores in Bismarck, Williston, and Minot, N.D. The company later looked to diversify, which led to the creation of 3D Specialties, Inc., which sells, installs and rents traffic control equipment and road signs and with Dakota Playground, a provider of playground equipment and other park and recreation products. Dakota Fence Company has been one of the largest providers in the region for quality fencing, playgrounds, and sign products for more than 40 years. Currier is now retired from the family business he helped start. He received his associate in applied science degree from UMN Crookston in 1974 majoring in sales and marketing. He resides in Fargo, N.D., with his wife, Kay, and they have three adult children Joe, John, and Amy.



Mike Gasper started Gasper Air Spray, Inc. in 1980 with his wife Connie. The business had a single plane at the time and has developed into a multiple aircraft operation, dedicated to the aerial application industry. Gasper has a deep passion for the business stemming from his love of agriculture and farming. He has also owned M&M Farms since 1985 and has served as CEO for Lake Agassiz Bean, LLC. Gasper studied agricultural aviation from 1975-1977.

Gasper learned the importance of teamwork through his time at UMN Crookston and has instilled it in my family and employees. He has been married to his wife Connie for 43 years. They have adult children Crystal Maruska (Adam), Joel Gasper (Tiffany), and Danielle Carlson (Gabe). He was a 2006 inductee into the UMN Crookston Athletic Hall of Fame.



Mandy Uhrich is currently the fish and wildlife habitat program coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. She works with the DNR accelerated prairie, forest, and wetland management Outdoor Heritage Fund awards and to assist the fisheries staff statewide on AMA enhancement projects and contract administration. In her role, Uhrich coordinates with area staff in preparing habitat restoration and facility development projects for new land acquisitions using the IDP process. She currently manages eight appropriations totaling more than \$7.6 million. Uhrich earned her degree in 2005 from UMN Crookston in natural resource management and played soccer and softball. Uhrich resides in Brainerd, Minn., with her yellow lab, Cumara, her West Highland Terrier, Lucy Lu, and her Jack Russell mix, Tucker.





by: Shawn D. Smith

A GROUNDBREAKING CAREER

From Building Fences to Racing Motorcycles, Currier is Up to the Challenge

Dave Currier 1974 loves a challenge. He is a successful businessman, a recent winner of The Motorcycle Cannonball race across the country, and he has traveled the world traversing many mountain landscapes for sheep. Currier acquired the foundations for being a businessman and challenge-seeker from his family and his time as a student at the University of Minnesota Crookston in the 1970s.

Currier has never shied away from an opportunity and has always tried to stay on the cutting edge of technology with his business. His main and steady focus was creating a successful company providing great service and products for his customers. "When I first started in the business, one of the things I got out of school is whatever you do in life if you do a great job, are customer-driven, provide a great product, unreal service, and a fair price, you are going to be successful," Currier remarked.

Currier's journey began in Fargo, N.D., where he started Dakota Fence as a sole proprietorship after graduating from Fargo North High School. He saw a lack of fence companies in the area and recognized an opportunity to fill the void. "I had a guy who wanted me to build a wood fence," Currier stated. "I enjoyed carpentry classes and liked working with my hands. I built one wood fence and then a neighbor wanted one. There were about three months where I did a bunch of

wood fences."

It was right around this time when Currier began his time as a student at the University of Minnesota Technical College in Crookston. Currier was a good hockey player in high school and was approached by Dale Stinar and Chuck Habstritt to play hockey for the Trojans. Currier saw it as a great opportunity to play hockey and get an education. "I got up to Crookston and got involved in hockey," Currier said. "It was an awesome experience. I don't know of anyone else other than the hockey team in 1973 who played in the Lake Placid Arena. It had a real impact on me. I took sales and marketing classes and kind of liked the business side of it. The second year, the fence business was going so well and I was probably making more money than my banker at the time. The last half of the year I lived in Fargo and commuted maybe two days a week."

Currier obtained a lot of discipline through balancing his job, hockey, and school at UMN Crookston. He was able to learn from great professors. One who continues to stand-out to him to this day is Ted Carr, then chair of the Business Division. "Ted was one of the instructors in many of my classes. He had a way about him. You never lost him in class. He could get you really focused and you left with a lot of knowledge. I always looked up to him. He would take the time after a class



was done to say, 'Hey, do you have a minute? I just want to visit with you.' He would share some personal things about the Carr's Tree Service with me, as I was trying to run this fence business. I would ask him questions. He was a very guiding person even though he had no relationship with me. He had no other connection with me other than I was a student in his class."



Currier continues to pin a lot of the success of Dakota Fence on his father Dick Currier, who helped him get the company off the ground in the mid 1970s. His father left his job and joined him with Dakota Fence. "In 1975 I got my Dad to quit his job and we formed a partnership. That was the original Dakota Fence Corporation. He sold cars, owned the Harley Davidson dealership in Fargo, and the Indian Motorcycle dealership in the 40s and 50s in Fargo. He had always been in sales, whether it was automobiles, airplanes, motorcycles. I learned a lot of the sales side from my Dad."

They eventually got Dave's brother, Dan, to join the company as well. Dakota Fence has continued to grow. In addition to fences, they became one of the biggest highway special contractors in three states providing guardrails, signage, and safety equipment for highway departments. In addition, through a passion of his father, they began focusing on playground equipment. The company now has offices in Fargo, Bismarck, Minot, and Williston, N.D. Currier has recently taken a step back from the company and his children are in charge. All three of his children, Joe, Amy, and John decided to become involved with the company and they have maintained their father's focus on growth and being innovators.

"Not a lot of businesses can go second and third generation and be successful," Currier said. "There are always fights and power struggles and money struggles. I told my three kids you have a platform, financially you have no debt. You need to take it to a new level and that is what they are doing. I am pretty proud of them. My son Joe has been the president for four years and each of the last four years business has grown a tremendous amount."

Currier still helps out when needed with Dakota Fence but his focus has turned to his hobbies and his challenge-seeking nature. When he was still working, he loved to hunt for mountain goats across the world, a hobby that grew from a bond he and his brother, Dan, had with their father when they were

younger. "I have always been a hunter. The reason I like sheep is I like flying airplanes, I like mountain climbing, and I like a real challenge; sheep hunting is a challenge. It is not a hunting outing that is for everybody because it is hardcore. You bring a piece of plastic and sleep under a rock. I have literally traveled the world hunting sheep."

His most recent focus has been restoring and racing antique motorcycles, a hobby that grew from his dad's interest in motorcycles when Dave was growing up. "My early days, I was riding a motorcycle when I was seven years old. I couldn't even touch the ground. We would go to the golf course. Dad would get it going and he would jump off and I would ride the bike around and when I wanted to stop, he would jump back on. Since then, I got really interested in antique motorcycles from the early 1910's. I have a 1910, two 1911's, and four 1915's. I have a lot of really old bikes I do restoration work on and then started racing cross country endurance races on them. That is really what I love to do now. I am working on a 1930 Model C single and I am also building a 1915 board track race bike."

Dakota Fence is entering their 50th year in business in 2022. It is through the knowledge and mentorship he obtained in Crookston where he learned many strategies to grow his business. It is a business, under the leadership of his children, that is sure to continue to be successful for many years to come. This year Currier received the Outstanding Alumni Award, the highest award bestowed to alumni by the UMC Alumni Association. As Dave humbly stated, "It is proof you don't have to be an honor roll student to excel at a high level in everything you do."



The equine arena in the University Teaching and Outreach Center (UTOC) on the University of Minnesota Crookston Campus has been named the Charles H. Casey Equine Arena in honor of the former Chancellor and UMN Regent.

The All-University Honors Committee met and concluded in favor of the nomination by UMN President Emeritus Robert Bruininks, UMN Crookston Chancellor Emeritus Donald Sargeant and current Chancellor Mary Holz-Clause, Assistant to the Chancellor Judith Neppel, retired, former Northwest District Director, Extension, Deb Zak, and UMN Crookston Director of Athletics Stephanie Helgeson. This recommendation, approved by the UMN Board of Regents, was approved in February.

During his tenure as Chancellor, the University oversaw the largest on-campus student enrollment and developed a strong budget with reserves for leaner times to come. There was a significant growth of philanthropy and scholarships for needy students during his time of service. He also achieved approval and funding for two residence halls, and a state-of-the-art Wellness Center, which all contributed to an enhanced student experience.

The dedication was held August 17 in the newly named Charles H. Casey Equine Arena with many dignitaries present to honor the occasion.

CHARLES H. CASEY EQUINE ARENA *Dedication*



GARY SENSKE COURT *Dedication*



The University of Minnesota Crookston held an official dedication of Gary Senske Court at Lysaker Gymnasium Tuesday, November 23. Prior to the 2020-21 season, the court was named in honor of legendary Minnesota Crookston men's basketball Head Coach Gary Senske. Coach Senske was present with several former players and his family, including grandson Steele Senske, Jr. and former UMN Crookston men's basketball player Steele Senske, Sr., his son.

The ceremony took place at halftime of the Minnesota Crookston men's basketball game against Bemidji State University and included remarks from Chancellor Mary Holz-Clause, Director of Athletics Stephanie Helgeson, former UMN Crookston student-athlete, assistant coach, and men's basketball coach Jeff Oseth, and Senske.

Changing Seats:

A FOCUS FROM ACADEMICS TO ALUMNI



Kevin Thompson, Ph.D., joins the Office of University and Alumni Relations as the Interim Director of Advancement and Alumni Relations. During his seventeen years at UMN Crookston, Thompson has held several positions including tenured faculty member, department head, and division head. In this new opportunity, he will be focused on reaching out to alumni, reconnecting and strengthening relationships, and advancing new alumni initiatives.

Thompson was born and raised in Crookston and has a long connection to the campus. Members of his family attended the Northwest School of Agriculture, including his second cousin Jean (Stromstad) Vigness-Parker 1955 and uncle Allan Sandberg 1961. His father, Glen Thompson, worked in Facilities from 1969 until retiring in 1996, and his two sisters currently work in Facilities. Thompson joked, "The only person in my immediate family who hasn't worked for the campus is my mother, and at 82 years old, it's unlikely she'll be applying for a position anytime soon."

In fall 2005, Thompson joined UMN Crookston as an assistant professor in communication. While he was not purposely looking to return to the area, the opportunity was exactly what he was looking for in a faculty position. "When researching the campus and position, I was surprised how much the campus had changed in the time I had been away," Thompson reflected. "It was exactly what I was looking for in a position: four-year institution, technology-rich, small class-sizes, hands-on learning, and a new communication degree program to help grow and develop."

"One of the great joys and privileges of working on our campus is being a part of a student's journey, as they grow and mature over the course of their UMN Crookston experience," Thompson continued. "Due to the nature of our small campus, building positive relationships that continue after students graduate is just one thing that makes this campus so special. Remaining connected to our alumni as they continue down their life's path has been especially meaningful."

Thompson's new position provides him an exciting opportunity. He looks forward to helping reconnect alumni to the campus. "I love listening to the stories our alumni share of their time at UMC, and seeing the big smile on their faces and hearing the excitement in their voices while they recount those important times in their lives," Thompson said. "I want all of our alumni to know that no matter how long they've been away, UMC will always be their home (that connection will always remain)."

Director of University and Alumni Relations, Brandy Chaffee, commented on the addition to the team, "We are overjoyed to have Kevin join our team. He will most certainly bring a unique and valuable perspective from his academic and leadership experiences, while creating wonderful relationship building opportunities with our alumni from all eras. It will be such a pleasure to work alongside him and strengthen our ties with our alumni and donors."

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



We want to hear about your experiences at UMN Crookston or NWSA and how they have made an impact on your life.

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Send us photos from when you were on campus to where you are at now. We'd love to feature you!

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TB #14

A LASTING LEGACY

by: Shawn D. Smith

Buttermore's Impact on UMN Crookston Community Lives On

A young man strides to the mound, winds up and delivers the ball to home plate. With his tongue peeking out of his mouth in a manner reminiscent of Michael Jordan, he locates the ball and methodically strikes out his opponent. Trevor Buttermore 2016 was a lot of things to many people: brother, son, teammate, student-athlete, father, and partner. But through all those titles everything points to one common thread, he was an amazing person who made an impact on anyone he came into contact with during his young life. He was a goal-driven individual, mature beyond his years, and in many ways unshakeable.

Buttermore was a hard man to dislike, as his former teammate and law school contemporary, **Jesse Jennings 2015**, put it, "The number one overarching thing I think about with Trevor is you couldn't find a single person who didn't like him. Most of us in our life have come upon someone who doesn't like us. You can't find anyone that at least didn't respect Trevor."

Buttermore's life came to an unfortunate early end in November 2020 after battling a short illness. While he is no longer on earth with us, his spirit continues to live on, and this is especially the case within the University of Minnesota Crookston baseball program.

With a ball and glove in hand, Buttermore first stepped foot into the UMN Crookston community as a freshman in 2012. A native of North St. Paul, Minn., Buttermore reached out to former Head Coach Chris Vito about an opportunity to play baseball for the Golden Eagles and to pursue a degree in criminal justice. "The minute I started talking to the kid on the phone, you could tell he was different from a lot of high school students with his maturity," Vito said.

Vito still goes back to a conversation he had with Buttermore early in his career regarding what his goals

were academically, for baseball, and socially. Buttermore's responses to those questions uniquely stand out in Vito's mind today, almost a decade later. "One of his goals academically was he wanted to find interesting parts of classes that he found uninteresting. I had never heard that before and I haven't heard it again. It was really a profound statement."

Vito recalled how unique Buttermore's approach to life and academics were. This would ring true with one of his early interactions with Jennings. It was the beginning of an amazing connection of two teammates that withstood through baseball.



"I vividly remember one practice he came up to me and I don't even think I knew his first name at the time," Jennings remarked. "I remember him coming up and it was something along the lines of 'I heard you are a criminal justice major? I heard you also want to do something different with that degree and go to law school.' I said to him, 'Yeah, that is the plan.' You get those questions and you never know how things are going to play out. He looked at me and said, 'That is exactly what I want to do. That's why I'm here doing this degree

and why I wanted to introduce myself.' It seemed to me from that day on we talked every day. We started texting and hanging out more. That was the first semester, fall of his freshman year. We immediately started lining up classes to take together in what would have been spring of 2013. The relationship was formed right there. The confidence he showed to come up and introduce himself and tell me exactly what he wanted to do with his life without hesitation was inspiring."

One of the most special moments Jennings recalls as his time spent on the baseball diamond alongside Buttermore is during the 2014 season. The Golden Eagles had just beaten Hillsdale College at Jack Russell Stadium in Clearwater, Fla., for what would prove to be their one win of the season. Jennings made a catch that he still considers unremarkable, but it ultimately helped preserve the win for Buttermore, who went seven innings in the victory, with three strikeouts and no walks. "After we win the game, we get back on the bus and Trevor is really excited. He had a smile from ear to ear. He was a sophomore at the time and had gone through a pretty difficult freshman experience. I know how important it was for him to get that win. It is special to think about. I know how much that meant to Trevor."

The Golden Eagles underwent a coaching change going into Buttermore's junior year, with Steve Gust becoming head coach. Gust, with the help of returning players like Jennings and Buttermore, was able to usher in a quick turnaround in which the Golden Eagles made it to the NSIC Tournament in 2016. Gust's recollections of how special of a young man Buttermore falls right in line. "You could tell he loved the game of baseball and loved the community and he loved the University," Gust said. "Trevor was hard working, he was passionate, he was loyal. He had all of the character traits we continue to look for in all of our recruiting classes since he graduated. Trevor had a strong desire for team success and the success of our University. Those are traits that aren't necessarily high on any coach's priorities list but they were high on mine and still are. Those are important

traits to have as a person, and not only as a player."

Those character traits proved invaluable when Buttermore and his teammates achieved a success many people didn't see possible during the 2016 season. The team won 25 games and made it to St. Cloud, Minn., to compete with the best of the NSIC. It is what makes Buttermore and his fellow seniors a special group to this day in the mind of Coach Gust. "It was really a special group and I can't take any credit for getting them here because almost all of them were here when I arrived," Gust stated. "You have to give Coach Vito a lot of credit for bringing in those types of student-athletes. Second of all, you have to give those guys a lot of credit with the adjustment they made to a new coach. They bought 100 percent from day one, including Trevor. Those guys are a special group of individuals and have a special place in my heart. They would do anything and everything for the betterment of our program or the University of Minnesota Crookston."

Buttermore went on to big things after graduating and obtained his law degree from Mitchell Hamline School of Law in 2019 and began a career as an associate attorney at de Beer & Associates, P.A. in Lake Elmo, Minn. He achieved his dream of being a lawyer and was living with his partner, **Marissa Hill 2016**, and their three daughters Aubrey, and twins Emersyn and Oaklyn in North St. Paul.

Though his time on this earth ended much too soon, Buttermore's legacy lives on through his unshakeable nature and the impact he had on those around him. A plaque honoring Buttermore was presented to Hill in fall 2021 along with a permanent fixture at UMN Crookston's baseball field. Buttermore is one member of a group who set the groundwork for a culture of success at UMN Crookston. While his passing deeply saddens us, his legacy within the baseball program, his family, and countless people he touched throughout his life will most certainly be remembered. Thank you, Trevor, for everything you gave this University and the Golden Eagle baseball program.



Torch & Shield



The **Torch & Shield Award** recognizes individuals who have provided leadership and who have aided in the development of the UMN Crookston, the Northwest Research and Outreach Center, and Extension. It is the highest award an individual or organization can receive from the campus.



Jason Brantner

Jason Brantner has a long and significant connection to the Red River Valley through his extensive work on sugarbeets. He was hired by the Northwest Research and Outreach Center (NWROC) in 1995 and worked for 25 years on sugarbeet plant pathology lab and field research.

Well known to the farming communities, Brantner is a trusted source for the research he has performed over the years. He has made critical contributions to the sugarbeet program and is known nationally as an excellent researcher within the sugarbeet industry. Brantner has a significant research publication record as author/coauthor of 119 sugarbeet research and extension reports.

Brantner has received several awards in recognition of his many contributions. He and his wife, Kerri, have two sons, Charles and Benjamin.



Dr. Frank W. Veden Charitable Trust

Dr. Frank W. Veden was a graduate of Detroit Lakes High School, and later, a 1936 graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. He was a resident of Fergus Falls, Minn., dedicating his profession in dentistry to the area for 54 years. His practice and interest in the economic well-being of rural Minnesota led him to the establishment of the Dr. Frank W. Veden Charitable Trust which was created to benefit several diverse facets of education at the University. At his death, Dr. Veden left funds in a charitable trust to be used for a wide variety of purposes but generally with a focus on the northwest quadrant of Minnesota including economic development for this region.

In its history, Trustees have been assigned the significant work of determining disbursement of the Dr. Frank W. Veden Charitable Trust. It's important to recognize Mr. Ken Broin, who represented the Trustees in regards to the Crookston gifts and ongoing support on behalf of the Trust. Broin fostered a long-term relationship with the University of Minnesota Crookston and its leaders, having a deep understanding of UMN Crookston's place and vitality in the region as it relates to rural economic development. Ken Broin served for 40 years on the UMN Crookston All Campus Advisory Board. The Dr. Frank W. Veden Charitable Trust has been one of the largest financial contributors to programs and scholarships at the University of Minnesota Crookston.



Gary Johnson (pictured above) accepted the award on behalf of the Veden Trust.

Lyle Westrom, Ph.D.

Lyle Westrom was an integral part of the University of Minnesota Crookston for 31 years. His time at UMN Crookston was split between animal science and agricultural education. Professor Westrom's tenure was highlighted by his role in starting the agricultural education degree program twice on campus. The first was a joint program with the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and UMN Crookston (2000-2014). The second was a stand-alone program at UMN Crookston (2016-present) that reached its peak enrollment near the end of his career. There are numerous agricultural education graduates teaching in Minnesota and North Dakota who graduated from the two agricultural education programs led by Westrom.

During his time on campus, Westrom advised approximately 300 undergraduate students and three master's students, while serving on ten masters oral defense committees. He advised numerous student organizations. He also coached numerous judging teams, including dairy judging which involved coaching over 40 teams in various competitions across the U.S. He and his wife, Susan, have four children and four granddaughters.



MAKE A LASTING IMPACT

These Golden Eagles and all our students thank you!

For more information about ways you can make a lasting impact, contact the Office of University and Alumni Relations at (218) 281-8434 or visit give.umn.edu/crookston.



WITH BOUNDLESS GRATITUDE

THANK YOU DONORS

The University of Minnesota Crookston is grateful for all alumni and friends who give their time, talent, and treasure to the University. Without this support, our campus, student opportunities, advisory boards, and future success may look very different.

The following is our list of donors who have reached a new giving level through October 11, 2021.

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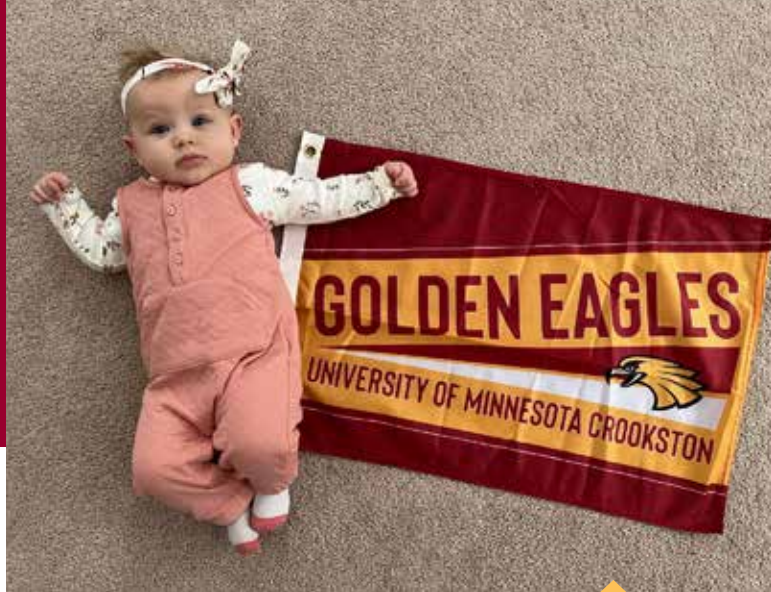
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Andrew is the three month old son of alumna **Aliscia Wood 2013**.



Daughter of alumni **Matthew Green 2013** and wife **Miranda**



MAROON & GOLD PRIDE

We invite you to submit your favorite photos showcasing your family, pets, or adventures wearing your Minnesota Crookston gear. To submit photos for the next *Torch* or *Torchlight* publication please send to urumc@umn.edu.



Olivia and Cecilia are the twin daughters of **Haley (Weleski) Muller 2014** and **Justin Muller 2013**



Granddaughter of retired faculty member **Lyle Westrom**.



Alexis is the daughter of **Anna (Christopherson) Warnke 2016** and husband **Brandon**



Remy is the dog of alum **Eric Morgan 2012**.



Lillian is the daughter of alumna **Brittany (Novak) Jallo 2011**.



ALUMNI NEWS

1940s

Elenora Tollerud 1943, Apple Valley, Minn., celebrated her 95th birthday in June 2021 with her children and their wives: Edward, Barbara, Everett, and Joyce. Elenora has four grandchildren and three great grandchildren living in South Dakota, Maryland, Denmark, and Australia.



Some of Elenora's favorite hobbies include baking, decorating cakes, and flower gardening. Her late husband, Manley, worked at the University of Minnesota Agricultural Research station in Rosemount, Minn. They enjoyed traveling to state parks, spending time with their family, and volunteering with Meals on Wheels. Manley passed away in 2014 before their 70-year wedding anniversary. Elenora would love to hear from the graduating class of 1943 or the advanced class of 1944.

Armin Ross 1947 Adv., McIntosh, Minn., lives with his wife of 36 years, Kathleen, on Willow Water Lake near McIntosh. Armin was a long time farmer in the Fisher, Minn., area and is a past recipient of the Torch & Shield Award.

Diane (Swenson) Arnold Detroit Lakes, Minn.; **Dorothy (Finkenbinder) Bergh** Hallock, Minn.; **Marvie (Vesledahl) Stromstad** Betrami, Minn.; **Marlys (Sargent) Engelstad** Florence, Ala.; **Beth Lapp** St. Vincent, Minn.; **Marjorie (Ophus) Mjelde** Alhambra, Calif., and formerly of Erskine, Minn., who passed away in 2019, have actively kept in touch for over 70 years through letters after graduating from the advanced class of 1949. They called themselves "The Gang" and sang in glee club, were in plays together, and were inseparable. (Excerpt taken from "Neighbors" Column, The Forum - written by Bob Lind)

1950s



Ed is pictured in the back row, eighth from the left.

Ed Grove 1955, Yorba Linda, Calif., enjoyed a group trip to Tequila, Mexico in November of this year. The group met at Solare Restaurant in San Diego and took a bus to the Mexico border and walked across and through customs. From there they flew to Guadalajara, Mexico followed by a charter bus to Tlaquepaque, Mexico and enjoyed a welcome gathering and checked into their hotels. The next day they traveled by charter bus to the small village of Tequila to tour an agave field and watch a plant being harvested. The group visited three distilleries and learned the process of making tequila. Ed states the market for tequila is so great that the distilleries are running three shifts, six days a week. From Tequila, they traveled to an authentic hacienda nearly 500 years old for the last night of their trip.

1960s

Lynn Tharaldson, Lakeville, Minn., was an instructor from 1962-64. He is currently retired and passionate about many concepts, including strengthening the family unit and improving the economy for the less paid. He would love to hear from her students from the Northwest School of Agriculture.

1970s

Cindy (Carlson) Sandahl 1977, Warroad, Minn.; **Lori (Deterling) Sugden 1977**, Alexandria, Minn.; **Nancy (Wilebski) Lysford 1977**, Karlstad, Minn.; **Denise (Truckenmiller) Arntson 1977**, Hudson, Wis.; **Terry (Austreng) Lamppa 1977**, Waskish, Minn.; **Ramona Schroeder 1977**, Sun City West, Ariz.; and **Cindy (Kassenborg) Christopherson 1977**, Lancaster, Minn. This group of graduates have created a tradition of meeting with one another at least once every year since they attended the University of Minnesota Crookston. Through vacations, family events, and Zoom calls, these friends are always finding fun ways to meet up. During the past year, the North Shore and the Glensheen Mansion were locations these friends visited. Next year, the group plans to head to Germany and the Czech Republic for a two-week vacation.



Front row from left to right: Cindy (Carlson) Sandahl 1977, Lori (Deterling) Sugden 1977, and Nancy (Wilebski) Lysford 1977

Middle row from left: Denise (Truckenmiller) Arntson 1977 and Terry (Austreng) Lamppa 1977

Back row from left: Ramona Schroeder 1977, Marcia (Swenson) Kulbitski, and Cindy (Kassenborg) Christopherson 1977

1990s

Joel Steffel 1994, Park Rapids, Minn., is entering his twentieth year of employment at R.D. Offutt Farms and has recently earned the position of regional farm manager. In addition to this position, Joel also has experience working with the youth in his community. He is a mentor to these individuals by attending ag in the classroom programs as well as coaching girls' junior varsity basketball.



Karla (Thormodson) Isley 1998, Reiles Acres, N.D., was named president and CEO of United Way of Cass-Clay in September 2021. Karla has held various leadership positions and previously served as vice president of strategy and innovation with Noridian Health Solutions. She serves on the University of Minnesota Crookston Campus Advisory and Advancement Board and lives in Reiles Acres with her husband, Michael, and their two sons, Oliver and Isaac. (Photo *The Forum*)

Chris Ingebretsen 1999, Luverne, Minn., is employed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as a park manager of the Blue Mounds and Split Rock Creek State Parks.

2000s



Chad Palm 2000, Crookston, Minn., has returned to the City of Crookston

as the information technology director, a position he held from 2003-2006. Prior to returning to Crookston, he was the transformation systems manager for the city of Chaska, Minn. (Photo *Crookston Times*)



Adam Volz 2001, Harwood, N.D., has worked at Sheyenne Gardens in Harwood since he began as an intern in 2000 and has now moved from being a manager to owning the business when he purchased it in 2020. (Photo *The Forum*)

Timothy Adams 2003, Millington, Tenn., graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a master of business administration degree on December 19, 2020. He currently works as an airline captain for Air Wisconsin Airlines.

Aaron LaPlante 2003, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., was appointed as an assistant principal for Broward Schools. Before this position, Aaron worked in the same district for seven years as a kindergarten teacher, literacy coach, and instructional specialist. He lives in Fort Lauderdale with his partner, and they enjoy spending time camping on the weekends.

Nikki (Krueger) Massmann 2003, East Grand Forks, Minn., works as the director of communications at the University of North Dakota within the Energy and Environmental Research Center and was recognized by *Prairie Business* as a 40 Under 40 recipient in 2020. Nikki and her husband, **Brent 2002**, reside in East Grand Forks with their three children. Brent is the vice president of transportation at North Dakota Mill.

Lonnie Spokely 2003, Nielsville, Minn. In 2020, Lonnie was reappointed as the Potato Wash Plant Representative for the Area One Potato Research and Promotion Council which promotes Minnesota grown Irish potatoes through research and advertising by providing grants.



Sherry (Zurn) & Kelly Bisek 2004, Hawley, Minn. In October of 2020, Sherry began working as a business analyst in the Core Technology Services of the North Dakota University System. Kelly is the director of the North Dakota Student Loan Service Center. They reside in Hawley, Minn., with their three children: Jack, Bennett, and Katherine.

Brock Anundson 2005, Fairbanks, Alaska. Brock works as the director of athletics at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He was the assistant director of athletics for internal operations and



events at Black Hills State University in South Dakota and previously served as the program coordinator for the U. S. Olympic Committee's Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs and worked in stadium operations for the Denver Broncos at Mile High Stadium. Brock and his wife, **Kalene (Verhulst) 2004**, reside in Fairbanks.

Melissa (Martin) Vit 2005, Mound, Minn., was promoted to vice president of human resources at Schwan's Company.

Kiely (Bladow) Tate 2008, Crookston, Minn., works with the youth in the Crookston area as a half-day school readiness teacher at Washington School.



Matthew Abraham 2009, Frazee, Minn., and his mare, Premos Pretty Secret, earned the reserve championship in the L2 two-year old mares at the American Quarter Horse Association World Championship Show.



Jake 2009 & Shayla (Henneberg) Solberg 2007, Crookston, Minn. Jake began a new position

as the park and recreation director in Crookston, Minn., and Shayla is a regional manager for Altru Health System.

2010s



Jess (Siebel) Bengtson 2010, Crookston, Minn., was promoted to managing editor at the Crookston Times after working there for the past eight years. She is involved in many

community activities including Ox Cart Days, Downtown Crookston Development Partnership, UMN Crookston Alumni Board, Rotary, and more. Jess and her husband, Garrett, reside in Crookston with their children Jackson, Baily, and Violet. Their family also includes two dogs, Fiona and Eevee.

Nick Nelson 2011, Fertile, Minn., was promoted to store director at Hugo's Family Marketplace in Crookston. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and cheering for the Green Bay Packers.

Mike Copple 2011, Bennington, Vt., is employed at the USDA Green Mountain National Forest as a forestry technician recreation.



Tim Ennis 2011, Kona, Hawaii, is the general manager at Makalei Golf Club in Kona, Hawaii. After proposing to his wife, Faith, in 2016 in Paris, France, they married in Temecula, Calif., on September 20, 2019.



Karl Syverson 2011, Minneapolis, Minn., recently completed his third year with Sun Country Airlines. This has allowed him to fly to twenty countries around

the world. After ten years of flying commercially, he was recently promoted to captain and is looking forward to this new experience and what it has to offer.

Hannah (Alessi) Curtis 2012, Boise, Idaho, is a self-employed photographer. Her work can be found at www.alessiphotography.com.



Marshall Johnson 2012 Fargo N.D., is the interim chief conservation officer at the National Audubon Society and was the 2021 UMN Crookston Abbey Award recipient. His fiancée, **Meleah**

LaPlante 2004 is the owner of Dance Elite in Fargo and was recognized by *Prairie Business* as a 40 Under 40 recipient in 2020. (Photo Audubon Society)

Kristine (Neu) Lang 2012, Brookings, S.D., received her Ph.D. in horticulture and sustainable agriculture from Iowa State University. She works at South Dakota State University (SDSU) as an assistant professor and extension specialist in consumer horticulture and has an extensive background in horticulture research and community outreach. Prior to SDSU, Kristine served as an Extension scientist for the Rodale Institute at the Midwest Organic Center in Marion, Iowa.



(Wilbur Ervin (left) and Orville Peter (right))

Megan (Luxford) Benoit 2014, Crookston, Minn., and husband, Jeff, and daughter, Amelia, welcomed twin boys, Orville Peter and Wilbur Ervin, into their family on August 30, 2021. Megan works for the Northwest Research and Outreach Center on the UMN Crookston campus.

James Sparkman 2014, White Bear Lake, Minn., started a new position with Medtronic as a software engineering program manager with the Cardiac Ablation Solution group.

Mandy Farrow 2016, Blue Earth, Minn., works at Goldfinch Estates Senior Living Community in Fairmount as the executive director and previously served as a business office manager at Goldfinch.



Tim Lubke 2015, Crookston, Minn., was recently hired as an assistant coach for the Minnesota Crookston Men's Basketball Team.

He was most recently the director of camps, lead coach, and skills trainer for Kingdom Hoops based in Des Moines, Iowa.



Monika (Sweet) 2016 & Adam Hoff 2014, Crystal, Minn., were married last year. Adam is employed at Data Recognition Corp. as a level II customer technical support agent. Monika recently finished her certificate in medical transcription and works as an electronic medical records tech at MNGI Digestive Health.

Samantha Hogstad 2016, Crookston, Minn., was recently promoted to senior farm loan officer with the USDA Farm Service Agency.

Hayley (Severs-Wilkerson) Larson 2016, Crookston, Minn., works for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and began working as an ambassador at *Northland Outdoors*. She is an avid waterfowler, archery hunter, and angler.



Dalton Parks 2016, Crookston, Minn., is an assistant baseball coach for the University of Minnesota Crookston.

Matt Dallas 2017, Boise, Idaho, is a professional baseball player for the Boise Hawks of the Pioneer League.

Delaney Kohorst 2017, works as a sales team leader for Total Quality Logistics.



Dr. Danielle (Schlelonka) Yorek 2016 Randall, Minn., works at Paradox Chiropractic in Little Falls, Minn., and obtained her license for human chiropractic care from Northwest Health Sciences University in 2019 and her animal certificate from Options for Animals. She is licensed in Minnesota and the International Veterinary Clinic Association (IVCA) for adjusting animals. She competes in barrel racing jackpots as well as western pleasure and hunt seat events. Danielle and her husband, **Dr. Keith Yorek 2016**, who graduated from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine in 2020, have two dogs and three horses.

Brian Lemay 2018, Coldfoot, Alaska, works for the Alaska State Troopers as a wildlife trooper.

Cassandra Morthera 2018 & Jeffrey Knack 2017, Minneapolis, Minn., are employed by Fairview Health Services. Cassandra is a digital specialist and Jeffrey is a recruitment coordinator.

Khailyn Neumayer 2018, San Jose, Calif., works as the facility manager/strength coach at the Kinetic Performance Institute.



Matt VanGrinsven 2018, Bemidji, Minn., previously worked as a flight paramedic. Matt and his family recently developed a coffee business, Heroes Rise, in Bemidji, Minn. (Photo Bemidji Pioneer • Heroes Rise Coffee Company owners Jeff and Matt VanGrinsven (right) 2018, Bemidji, Minn.)



Pictured back row from left: Gabriel (Antolak) Maw 2018, Stanley Harvey 2016, groom Tony Peterson 2016, Bailey Braatz 2017, and Kristi Larson 2017

Front row from left: Kate Howell 2018, Tesla Petersen 2018, bride Natalye (Kobetsky) Peterson 2017, Ashlee Humble 2018, Jordyn Derflinger 2016, and AJ Kobetsky 2020

Natalye J. (Kobetsky) 2017 & Anthony Peterson 2016, Grand Forks, N.D., were married October 10, 2020 in Grand Forks, N.D. Natalye works as an inside sales representative at Wilbur-Ellis Co. Tony recently accepted a position as the sports and recreation coordinator at the Grand Forks Park District.



Pictured back row from left: UMN Crookston Women's Basketball Coach Mike Roysland and Assistant Women's Basketball Coach Bryant Friskop

Front row from left: Leanna Haugen 2017, bride Emily Huso, Micaela (Noga) Yohnke 2018, Katrina (Moenkedick) Nordick 2016, Steph McWilliams 2020, Isy Odor 2019, and Ashlee Humble 2018

Emily (Gruber) & Wyatt Huso 2018, Northwood, N.D., were married September 5, 2021 at Gathered Oaks in Alexandria Minn. Emily works at the ICON Architectural Group as their marketing coordinator and Wyatt works on the family farm and ranch in Aneta, N.D. They have an Australian shepherd named, Cash, and they are enjoying married life.

Brandon Spain-Brist 2018, Akeley, Minn., is employed by the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Graeme Cherry 2019, Millarville, Alberta, began his master's program studies at Texas A & M University. He is working toward a degree in plant and environmental soil science with an emphasis in turfgrass science.



Back row from left: Isy Odor 2019, Minneapolis, Minn.; Triston Richert 2018, Burnsville, Minn.; Kaycie Hagen 2018, Savage, Minn.; Gable Smith 2019, Fitchburg, Wisc.; Jim Warmack 2018, East Grand Forks, Minn.; Tommy Singer 2018, Saint Paul, Minn.; Riley Rice 2017, Mullen, Neb.; Darin Viken 2019, Fosston, Minn.; Chase Knickerbocker 2019, Aitkin, Minn.; and Richard Cobble 2019, Bemidji, Minn.

Middle row from left: Brent Reed 2019, Minneapolis, Minn.; Deaira Gresham 2021, Saint Paul, Minn.; Ben Lee 2020, Apple Valley, Minn.; Marta (Dean) Lee 2019, Apple Valley, Minn.; Joe Nava 2021, Crookston, Minn.; Tori (Weber) Pietz 2018, Buffalo, Minn.; Hailee Todavich 2018, Bemidji, Minn.; Allison Heilman 2017, Rugby, N.D.; Jozie Garner 2017, Eureka, Kan.; and Michael Larson 2019, Lakeville, Minn.

Front row from left: bride Tori (Koch) 2019 and groom Xavier Hall 2018, Goodyear, Ariz.; Maggie Mills 2019, Bemidji, Minn.; Ellie (Sjoquist) Singer 2018, Saint Paul, Minn.

Tori (Koch) Hall 2019 and Xavier Hall 2018, Goodyear, Ariz., were married at Bluebelle Event Venue in Bemidji, Minn. on May 29, 2021. Tori works as an agronomic solutions advisor for BASF Ag Solutions, and Xavier works for ADP as an account manager.



Ethan Johnson 2019, Grand Forks, N.D., is continuing his education and was the recipient of the Brink Lawyers University of North Dakota School of Law Northern Valley Scholarship. He clerked with Brink Lawyers and accepted an opportunity to work on the legal team with the Governor of South Dakota, Kristi Noem.

Zach Greenberg 2019, Winnipeg, Manitoba, signed to play on the Edmonton Elks football team, which is a team within the Canadian Football League.

2020s

Julie (Seidel) Alexander 2020, Rochester, Minn., works as a histotechnologist at the Mayo Clinic.

Scott Eastman 2020, Kerman, Calif., began his career as assistant athletic equipment manager for Fresno State two weeks after graduation.



Joshua Aycock 2020, Stillwater, Minn., is the chief operating officer of UnLock Goaltending and works as a goaltending coach.

Amber Johnson 2020, Sebeka, Minn., started working is a program technician at the USDA Farm Service Agency in Grand Forks, N.D.

Gregory Johnson 2020, Lonsdale, Minn., was recently hired as an assistant media planner with Mediahub Worldwide. He would like to thank his professors and family for supporting him on his academic and career goals.

Sara (Johnson) Seiberlich 2020, Minneapolis, Minn., is employed at Allina Health.

Katie Lienemann 2020, Lakeville, Minn., began a new job at Northfield Hospital and Clinics as a patient service representative. In addition to this position, Lienemann also finished 200 hours of yoga sculpt teacher training.



Clarke Peterson 2020, East Grand Forks, Minn., works as the strength and conditioning coach and an assistant coach for the baseball program for University of Minnesota Crookston.

Paige Pettit 2020, St. Michael, Minn., entered the United States Navy in January 2021 and graduated boot camp four months later on April 8, 2021. She is currently attending training for Master at Arms (security forces/law enforcement) in San Antonio, Texas. Upon graduating as an MA, Paige will receive her orders from the Navy to her duty station.



Eric Skogen 2020, Fort Lee, Va., is the Department Sergeant Major of the United States Army.

Inga R. (Hinman) Smith 2020, Fargo, N.D., works as a patient advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota.



Nicole Harsha 2021, Omaha, Neb., recently accepted a teaching position within the Omaha Public School District. She teaches fourth grade at Springville Elementary.

Allyson Wittman 2021, Cold Spring, Minn., was promoted to staff accountant at Conway, Deuth, & Schmiesing, PLLP after working as a bookkeeper since 2020. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce's next organization.

Aria Kapsner 2021, Little Falls, Minn., and fiance, Logan Schuett, are recently engaged and are planning their wedding for June of 2022 in Little Falls. Aria is employed as a soil conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Elbow Lake.



Mikayla Lacher 2021, Christine, N.D., is continuing her education at Kansas State University College of

Veterinary Medicine. She began her studies at the university in fall of 2021.



Grace Ruckheim 2021, Parkers Prairie, Minn., is bringing her agricultural expertise to Breckenridge High School as she begins a new teaching position as agricultural education teacher at the school.



Ellie Schaumburg 2021, Sturgeon Lake, Minn., was recently hired as a veterinary assistant at Moose Lake Veterinary Clinic after completing an internship at the facility. She is working with large and small animals and is elated to be working in this position.

Will Zimmerman 2021, Hoople, N.D., has been a player on the Fargo-Moorhead Redhawks professional baseball team since May 28.

Matthew Goar 2021, Simpsonville, S.C., works as a product specialist at Bosch Rexroth.

IN MEMORY

ALUMNI

Bernard Stroot 1931
Crookston, Minn.
December 2, 2020

Leona (Shimek) Anderson 1939
Climax, Minn.
October 16, 2021

Evelyn (Steinhauer) Johnson 1940
Karlstad, Minn., formerly of Erskine, Minn.
November 12, 2020

Lillian (Larson) Ellis 1941
Seattle, Wash.
August 14, 2021

Kathryn (Brandli) Olson 1942 Adv
Soldotna, Alaska
November 10, 2020

Conrad Giese 1942 Adv
Euclid, Minn.
February 27, 2021

Delphine (Sczepsanski) Saffranski 1942
Warren, Minn., formerly of Stephen, Minn.
December 11, 2020

Gordon Bring 1943
Newfolden, Minn.
May 21, 2021

Berneil Nelson 1942
Crookston, Minn.
December 21, 2020

Alice (Geving) Keck 1944
Thief River Falls, Minn.
October 16, 2021

Donald Kobetsky 1944 Adv
East Grand Forks, Minn.
July 12, 2021

Veral Mosbeck 1944 Adv
Red Lake Falls, Minn.
December 31, 2020

Vincent Wallenberg 1944
Phoenix, Ariz.
May 9, 2021

Charles Anderson 1945
Hallock, Minn.
August 30, 2021

Myrna (Larson) Evert 1945 Adv
Springville, Utah, formerly of Argyle, Minn.
June 23, 2020

Clara (Stromstad) Johnson 1945
Moorhead, Minn., formerly of Beltrami, Minn.
December 2, 2020

Phillip Schiller Jr., 1945
Argyle, Minn.
September 7, 2021

Robert Useldinger 1945
East Grand Forks, Minn.
November 6, 2021

Winton Knutson 1946
East Grand Forks, Minn. formerly of Oslo, Minn.
December 29, 2020

Lillian (Floan) Broden 1947 Adv
Fertile, Minn.
February 18, 2021

Donald Steinhauer 1947 Adv
Newfolden, Minn.
September 8, 2021

Betty (Erikson) Floan 1948 Adv
Fertile, Minn.
January 24, 2021

James Larson 1948 Adv
Fertile, Minn.
October 11, 2021

Harvey Pulkrabek 1948 Adv
Grand Forks, N.D., formerly of Warren, Minn.
October 2, 2021

Marlys (Sargent) Engelstad 1949 Adv
Florence, Ala., formerly of Crookston, Minn.
August 2, 2021

Dale Erickson 1949 Adv
Baudette, Minn.
January 11, 2021

Lavonne (Thoreson) Johnson 1949 Adv
Farmington, Minn., formerly of Fairdale, N.D.
June 24, 2020

Kenneth Poole 1949 Adv
Thief River Falls, Minn.
August 5, 2021

James Sutherland 1949
Maple Grove, Minn., formerly of Hallock, Minn.
March 3, 2020

Richard Widseth 1949 Adv
Crookston, Minn.
October 15, 2021

Betty (Hoff) Fredman 1950
Alexandria, Minn.
September 20, 2020

Eunice (Peterson) Waterworth 1950
Newfolden, Minn.
April 30, 2021

Duane Wimpfheimer 1950 Adv
Euclid, Minn.
July 29, 2021

Viola (Jensrud) Kaus 1951
Shell Rock, Iowa
February 4, 2019

Arlen Sondrol 1951
Fountain Hills, Ariz.
January 6, 2021

Marvin Johnson 1952
St Hilaire, Minn.
March 25, 2021

Lyle Clememson 1953
Duluth, Minn.
January 31, 2021

Richard Driscoll 1953
East Grand Forks, Minn.
January 1, 2020

Jimmy Pearson 1953
Warren, Minn.
October 26, 2021

Morris Plante 1953
McIntosh, Minn.
November 11, 2020

Lawrence Ricard 1953
Beltrami, Minn.
November 11, 2021

Laverne (Stromstad) Sondrol 1953
Fountain Hills, Ariz.
May 12, 2021

David Viker 1954
Moorhead, Minn.
April 5, 2021

David Boman 1955
Larimore, N.D., formerly of
Arvilla, N.D.
December 20, 2020

Glenn Filipi 1955
Moorhead, Minn.
May 30, 2021

Alicia (Nelson) Orstad 1956
Grand Rapids, Minn.,
formerly of Willmar, Minn.
January 5, 2021

Clarice (Olson) Stolaas 1956
Oklee, Minn.
June 28, 2021

Donald Bjorklund 1957
Hillsboro, N.D.
January 24, 2021

Leroy Eidem 1957
Moorhead, Minn.
February 7, 2021

Robert Hance 1957
Baxter, Minn.
June 19, 2021

Glenn Peterson 1957
Grand Forks, N.D.
November 21, 2020

Allen Steinhauer 1957
Thief River Falls, Minn.
September 18, 2021

Glenn Carlson 1958
Stephen, Minn.
November 30, 2020

Roger Pietruszewski 1958
Argyle, Minn.
July 28, 2021

Robert Eastman 1959
Roseau, Minn.
December 15, 2020

Wayne Paupst 1959
Grand Forks, N.D., formerly
of Emerado, N.D.
October 9, 2021

Kenneth Gebhardt 1960
Crookston, Minn.
August 6, 2021

Dennis Will 1960
Dell Grove Township, Minn.
June 25, 2020

Dale Cormican 1962
Mentor, Minn.
July 12, 2021

Richard Gatheridge 1962
Humboldt, Minn.
December 21, 2020

Edward Huot 1962
Gilbert, Ariz.
May 9, 2021

Lynn Stroklund 1962
Onalaska, Wash.
January 11, 2021

Howard Applequist 1963
Crookston, Minn.
August 14, 2021

Neva (Sem) Burdick 1963
Hager City, Minn.
October 28, 2021

Tim Eisenhardt 1964
Hillsboro, N.D.
July 2021

Darryl Peterson 1964
Clearbrook, Minn.
February 1, 2021

Daniel Kasprick 1966
Grafton, N.D.
December 10, 2020

**Richard Piker 1966
NWSA & 1968 UMC**
Mentor, Minn., formerly of
East Grand Forks, Minn.
September 6, 2021

Steve Boman 1968
Twin Valley, Minn.
January 23, 2021

Gary Laurent 1968
Big Lake, Minn.
May 27, 2021

Myron Cordes 1969
Fargo, N.D.
December 3, 2020

Richard LeCocq 1969
Mora, Minn.
July 3, 2020

Sherry (Hoeft) O'Gorman 1969
Maricopa, Ariz., formerly of
Crookston, Minn.
December 2, 2020

John Swanson 1969
Braham, Minn.
February 9, 2021

Robert Mjoen 1971
Donna, Texas
September 18, 2020

Orris Moen 1971
Lake Park, Minn.
January 15, 2021

Jan (Schonrock) Johnston 1972
Warren, Minn.
September 26, 2021

James Krych 1972
Holdingford, Minn.
October 22, 2021

Lowell Tangen 1973
New Prague, Minn.
September 22, 2021

Michael Rindahl 1974
Burlington, N.C., formerly of
Crookston, Minn.
January 10, 2020

John Money 1975
Hallock, Minn.
January 17, 2021

David Smith 1975
Eschenbach, Germany,
formerly of Winter Park,
Colo.
May 18, 2021

Richard Solberg 1975
Bismarck, N.D., formerly of
Greenbush, Minn.
October 2, 2021

Mary Jo Courmia 1977
Crookston, Minn.
February 18, 2021

David Seilstad 1979
Council Bluffs, Iowa
December 15, 2020

Roger Didrikson 1983
Roseau, Minn., formerly of
Badger, Minn.
May 24, 2021

Martin Baker 1984
Elysian, Minn.
March 14, 2021

Laurie (Wilson) Duden 1984
Red Lake Falls, Minn.
April 16, 2021

Scott Axel 1985
Little Falls, Minn.
July 24, 2021

Kathy Diaz 1992
Albert Lea, Minn.
July 15, 2021

Kristie Wagoner 1992
Crookston, Minn.
July 7, 2021

Brian Engelstad 2000
Eden Prairie, Minn.
October 4, 2021

Patrick Gaffaney 1999, 2000
Thief River Falls, Minn.
July 11, 2021

Brooke Lowman 2004
Billings, Mont.
January 26, 2021

William Enlow 2008
Crookston, Minn.
February 2, 2021

Shirley Osborne 2014
Crookston, Minn.
May 6, 2021

FACULTY/STAFF

Ruth (Kasprick) Beiswenger
Crookston, Minn., formerly of
Fisher, Minn.
December 5, 2020
*Ruth worked in the business
office from 1945 to 1946*

Gary Butenhoff
Reserve, N.M.
January 24, 2021
*Worked as a police officer and
he and his horse, Flash, would
be seen working security at
campus events.*

Ken Carlson
Waterloo, Ontario
March 18, 2021
*Ken was a staff member in
the office of financial aid and
admissions from 1978-1983.*

Donald MacGregor
Glenwood, Minn., formerly
of Red Lake Falls and Tyler,
Minn.
November, 29, 2020
*Donald was employed
from 1972 to 1994 where
he developed the business
computer curriculum and
computer center.*

Gary McVey
Kerrville, Texas
August 19, 2021
*Gary was a member of the
faculty from 1973 to 1995.
During this time he was
the chair of the agriculture
division and managed the
Agricultural Utilization
Research Institute.*

Cleon Melsa
Crookston, Minn.
March 18, 2021
*Cleon was a professor in the
chemistry department from
1973 to 2012 and served as the
faculty athletic representative
from 2004 to 2012.*

Harold Opgrand
Crookston, Minn.
June 13, 2021
*Harold was appointed
director of media services in
1966, became an associate
professor in 1972, and retired
in 1996 after 30 years of
service.*

Merle Rafteseth
Crookston, Minn.
April 23, 2021
*Merle worked as an operating
engineer for plant services
from 1975 to 1992.*

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»» UPCOMING EVENTS

mark your calendar!

- Ag Arama.....January 29, 2022
- Alumni Men's & Women's Basketball Weekend.....February 4-5, 2022
- Alumni Social, Apache Wells, Mesa, Ariz.....February 18, 2022
- Brew Bash, Gilbert, Ariz.....February 19, 2022
- Commencement.....May 7, 2022
- Olsonawski Scholarship Golf Tournament, Hallock, Minn.....June 9, 2022
- Teambacker Golf Classic, Crookston, Minn.....June 17, 2022
- Northwest School of Agriculture Reunion.....June 24, 2022

