

## News Release

# Four Alumni Recognized for their Achievement During Homecoming 2012 at the U of M, Crookston

*By Itolfe on Tuesday, September 25, 2012* Homecoming weekend at the University of Minnesota Crookston focused on the achievements of four exceptional alumni. The Outstanding Alumni and induction into the Athletic Hall of Fame was held on Friday evening, September 21, 2012, on the campus. The Outstanding

Alumni award was presented to Kirk Schultz '79, Doreen (Johnson) Roy '81, and Gerald Landby '82 and Ryan Driedger '97 from Golden Eagle Hockey was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame. The recognition took place in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center with a social followed by a banquet and presentation of the honorees. Hosting the evening were Corby Kemmer, director of development and alumni relations and Stephanie Helgeson, director of athletics and Chancellor Fred Wood brought greetings from the campus. The choir, under the direction of George French, sang several numbers including Hail! Minnesota and the Minnesota Rouser.

A few highlights of these four accomplished alumni include the following:

Kirk Schultz '79 graduated with a degree in hotel, restaurant and institutional management and has more than 30 years of experience in the hotel and restaurant industry. He is currently the vice president at Madison Hospitality Group.

His responsibilities include hotel and restaurant operations, new hotel development, renovation, management contracts, acquisitions and strategic planning as well as a partner in the Culvers Restaurant in Alexandria, Minn.

Schultz has been responsible for operating several hotels and restaurants in addition to multi-unit management. His leadership experience includes a wide array of properties and leading brands: full service, limited service, water parks, extended stay, independent and economy hotels along with casual theme and family dining restaurants.

His experiences prior to joining the Madison Hospitality Group include 14 years with Torgerson Properties, Inc., a leading franchisee in Minnesota and Florida. Most recently, he served as their senior vice president and was a member of the board of directors. New hotel openings, repositioning properties, renovation programs and implementation of comprehensive, property-specific business and marketing plans are also part of his background. He is past-president of the Minnesota Lodging Association and active in his community and in civic organizations.

Doreen (Johnson) Roy '81 completed associate degrees in business management and fashion merchandising, which laid the foundation for her future as an entrepreneur. Following her graduation, she went on to earn a bachelor of science degree in textiles from North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D., in 1983.

She began producing natural goats' milk soaps for her family in 1999, and through the encouragement of family and friends, her online store "The Wholesome Basket" was born. The product line is also available at her store in downtown Burlington, Iowa, known as "Gypsi." Today, her company makes and markets 30 variations of body and skin care products as well as an extensive line of accessories.

Johnson has been active in the Burlington Riverfront Farmers Market, which she helped organize, for the past ten years. She is a dedicated volunteer in her community including organizing activities for children; organizing a nutrition and recipe program; working with local organizations such as Area Aging, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); Extension; and as an organizer of the Riverfront Market Basket drawings. She is a member of the Downtown Partners through the Chamber of Commerce and a speaker for women's groups, seniors, and community colleges on the topics of nutrition and healthy living.

Gerald Landby is a 1982 graduate with an associate degree in landscape, turf, and grounds. He went on to Montana State University, Bozeman, to earn his bachelor of science degree in landscape management. He is currently director of grounds at Carroll College, Helena, Mont., where he has been since 1998.

He is responsible for supervision of grounds staff, planning for and providing leadership for campus landscape, infrastructure planning, and capital projects at Carroll College. His work on grounds has led to several awards including the 2008 Grand Award in the athletic field category from the Professional Grounds Management Society, a "Field of Excellence" award from Pioneer Athletics for Nelson Stadium on the campus in 2009, and in 2011, the college received Tree Campus USA recognition from the National Arbor Day Foundation, the first college in Montana to earn the honor.

Prior to his current role, he was municipal arborist for the city of Great Falls, Mont. Landby is a member of the Montana State University of Agriculture Academic Advisory committee, and he has attended Professional Land Care Network Day (PLANET) on the Hill Legislative Day in Washington, D.C., five times, where he volunteered his time for grounds maintenance at "Renewal and Remembrance" at Arlington National Cemetery in conjunction with the event. Landby also volunteers as an athletic field consultant for the public schools in Montana.

He is the member of a number of professional organizations in the turf and landscape field, has been featured in articles in professional magazines, and a guest speaker at numerous conferences in his area of expertise.

Ryan Driedger '97 graduated with a degree in agronomy and left a legacy in hockey. He came to the U of M, Crookston in 1993 after playing hockey at Dakota College at Bottineau, N.D., on a championship team. He transferred to play Golden Eagle hockey and scored the winning goal in the championship game in 1993 when he was named to the All-Tournament Team and earned First Team All-American honors.

He has been referred to as one of the most naturally gifted hockey players in U of M, Crookston campus history. His talent in hockey led him to play junior hockey where he was part of the Winkler Flyers Junior Hockey Club championship team in 1992-93 and a team with a 42-5-1 record and a member of the 2012 Flyers Hall of Fame. He went on to play for a National College Hockey Association championship team at Bemidji State University in 1993-94.

He returned to the Crookston campus to finish his degree in 1994-95, when he was the captain of the hockey team that went 30-2 on the season.

Driedger is the owner of Abode Building & Renovations where he is responsible for building new homes and major renovations, arranging sub-contractors and interacting with homeowners in Carman, Manitoba, Canada.

For more information on homecoming at the U of M Crookston website.

Today the University of Minnesota, Crookston delivers 26 bachelor's degree programs, 18 minors, and 39 concentrations on campus--as well as 10 degrees online--in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of 1,800 undergraduates from 25 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit [www.umcrookston.edu](http://www.umcrookston.edu).

*In the photo: Kirk Schultz, Doreen (Johnson) Roy, Gerald Landby, and Ryan Driedger*



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