

# Connections

Alumni Association and Development Foundation  
Fall 2015



MSU graduate weathers  
Bakken storm

## Message from the President



**A**s I write this column, students at Minot State University are already halfway through the fall semester and will be gearing up for final exams in just a few short weeks. The calendar certainly seems to tick by faster and faster with each passing year!

Speaking of the fall, it has been a busy one with many reasons to celebrate. MSU's 2015 Homecoming was a tremendous celebration featuring

a huge turnout of attendees from all over the country for the Sig Tau 50th Reunion. We also celebrated reunions of a couple women's basketball teams from the mid-1990s. It was enjoyable visiting with so many terrific alumni and friends during Homecoming events as they shared stories about the impact MSU has had on their lives and careers.

This fall, we also celebrated the new press box and suites at Herb Parker Stadium during numerous MSU football and soccer games. It is a wonderful new asset for MSU and the community of Minot.

We have had other causes for celebration this fall including the recent Golden Awards banquet recognizing Linda Christianson, Deborah Schultz, Sandra Starr, and Dr. Tami-Jollie Trottier. You can read more about each of these very deserving awardees in this issue. The MSU Athletic Hall of Fame also inducted four new members this fall with Genevieve (Binsfeld)

Hanson, Willie McCollum, LeeAnn Pekovitch, and Mike Tighe. In late October, the Old Main Society banquet was held recognizing donors who have achieved new milestones in lifetime giving, thereby supporting the MSU Development Foundation.

A few other recent causes for celebration include MSU alum Amy Neal being named North Dakota's 2016 Teacher of the Year. Amy is a kindergarten teacher in Minot, and she also teaches part-time for Minot State; we had a fun time surprising Amy and congratulating her at Lewis & Clark Elementary School earlier this fall (please see page 15 for a photo and more information).

Another recent individual highlight is 2015 MSU graduate and member of the Beaver Golf Team, Kowan O'Keefe, being named the 2014-15 Britton Scholar-Athlete Award winner for academic excellence in the Northern Sun Inter-collegiate Conference. This

prestigious award recognizes the outstanding male scholar-athlete in the NSIC. Considering there are thousands of student-athletes from 16 different campuses in a five-state region (and there is only one recipient each year), this is a remarkable accomplishment.

This fall we have also been celebrating the 25th anniversary of the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities. You can read more about NDCPD and its 25 years in this Connections issue. A hearty word of congratulations to Dr. Brent Askvig and everyone at NDCPD for all of the terrific work they do for North Dakota. Minot State is honored and privileged to host and work with NDCPD on a daily basis.

Have a peaceful and relaxing Holiday Season ahead, and I look forward to seeing you in 2016. Thanks for your readership of Connections and your ongoing support of MSU, and as always ... Go Beavers!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven W. Shirley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "S" at the beginning and a long, sweeping underline at the end.

STEVEN W. SHIRLEY, PH.D.  
PRESIDENT

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**COVER STORY**

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**MSU graduate weathers Bakken storm**

The Bakken oil boom has put enormous strains on small-town resources in western North Dakota. Watford City school superintendent and MSU alumnus Steve Holen explains how his town weathered the deluge of workers and their families.

**Cover Photo:**

MSU alumnus Steven Holen stands inside the construction zone of the new Watford City High School, scheduled to open in January 2016.







**MSU  
graduate  
weathers  
Bakken  
storm**

**W**hen MSU alumnus Steve Holen arrived in Watford City in 2005 as superintendent of schools, he found a rural community looking for ways to survive and entice families to stay.

Over the next five years, oil exploration and drilling picked up, and school enrollments began to increase. But local officials like Holen didn't realize that an unparalleled oil boom was washing toward the region like a black tidal wave.

### Oil Boom III

The energy industry was returning to North Dakota with a shiny new pair of technologies unavailable during previous booms in the 1950s and 1980s.

Horizontal drilling coupled with hydraulic fracturing now enabled drillers to tap into the oil-rich Bakken and Three Forks formations 10,000 feet beneath the prairie. Energy companies hoped to capture an estimated 7 billion barrels of crude to feed an oil-thirsty nation.

At first, the school district kept pace with the influx of oil workers escaping the Great Recession that was brutalizing the rest of the country.

"Drilling rigs don't always correlate to students," the Des Lacs native said. "Those are the guys who are here for two weeks at a time and go back home. They're not here for the long term."

This first wave of workers left families behind, worked endless hours in the oil fields and lived in a ragtag collection of pickups, campers, RVs and man-camps.

But soon the families arrived, and the school system immediately felt the impact.

"Lower elementary (K-five) enrollment more than tripled," the superintendent said.

Altogether, grade-school enrollment shot up from 200 to 750 students between 2010 and 2015.

Holen and his staff faced critical choices to stay ahead of the rising wave. He fell back on character traits shaped during a stellar basketball career at Minot State in the mid-1990s.

"It's a matter of keeping a sense of calm, making sound decisions, embracing the moment," the MSU Athletic Hall of Famer said.

"We looked at our options," he said. "We filled up our buildings, then we went to portables, then we went with an elementary addition."

The district's overall enrollment rose from 535 to nearly 1,400 during the upsurge. To handle the increase, school officials reshaped the system's contours. The expanded elementary school would house K-three students. The old high school would become a middle school to handle grades four to six. And a new high school would house grades seven to 12.

The new \$51 million high school will accommodate 800 students and feature state-of-the-art facilities plus a theater when it opens in January

of 2016. The Watford City Wolves will join the Class A ranks the following year.

The district had to hire 22 new teachers and two administrators last year and another 26 teachers this year to handle the influx.

Watford City's population grew from 1,400 to 7,000 or 8,000 residents in the past five years. The total is projected to reach 15,000 in the coming decade.

### Pattern Change

As the oil patch evolved from drilling to servicing rigs, housing needs also changed. The itinerant army of male workers left the region, so man-camps were phased out, and fewer apartment buildings were planned.

"Now, we're looking forward to the single-family housing phase," Holen said. "A lot of them are going to choose to stay, if the quality of life is there."

STEVE HOLLEN



*Holen and his staff faced critical choices to stay ahead of the rising wave. He fell back on character traits shaped during a stellar basketball career at Minot State in the mid-1990s.*

But not even the super-heated Bakken can escape the gravitational pull of market forces. Recently, the price of

crude oil dropped 50 percent, creating a vague sense of unease in the oil patch. The superintendent, however, is

confident that energy's second act will be better than its first.

"McKenzie County is at the core of the mature oil play, where the high productivity wells are," he said. "It's not like things have shut down. Things are extremely busy. Long-term oil production will continue regardless of the level of drilling or oil prices."

Holen acknowledges that the boom has stretched the social fabric of the once-

quiet community. Incessant traffic, overtaxed services and escalating crime have become troublesome realities. Despite the head-swiveling changes, he remains upbeat.

"We've had a lot of tremendous families move in because of the oil industry," Holen said. "People in the region see Watford City as a progressive community, a place to raise children. It's a great place to live."



## Personal Background

Education is a tradition in the Holen family. Father Genhard, brother Mike and sister Lisa pursued teaching careers after graduating from Minot State. Wife Elizabeth attended MSU before transferring to North Dakota State University, where she earned a degree in pharmacy.

Holen majored in math education at Minot State and taught at Plaza, Des

Lacs-Burlington and Fargo. He served as superintendent/principal at Bisbee-Egeland before becoming school chief at Watford City.

He holds a master's degree from North Dakota State University and a doctorate from the University of North Dakota, both in educational leadership.

The Holens have four children — Ashley (13), Derek (9), Alyssa (7) and Avery (2).

The administrator returns to Minot State regularly when his kids attend summer camps. He says the physical changes to the campus stagger him.

"I'm really proud of my time at Minot State," he said. "The university gave me a lot, and hopefully I can give back."

Holen believes that MSU athletics helped him develop the character needed to be a successful school administrator.

"A lot of it is about motivating people, working as a team, communicating," he said. "It's having a goal and working hard toward it, persevering through obstacles."

That resoluteness has served him well as a leader in a community whipsawed by the mercurial swings of Big Oil.

"I've enjoyed every part of it," he said. "Growth is better than decline."





# Local group brings the world to Minot

## MACIV

Minot Area Council for International Visitors

In the complex world of international diplomacy, small cities like Minot often play an outsize role. The Minot Area Council for International Visitors (MACIV) has hosted international visitors for over 20 years. Travelers who come here tap into deep currents of humanity that are often absent in the nation's power centers.

Through its International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), the U. S. State Department selects future leaders from various countries, groups them according to interests and brings them to the United States on three-week tours. They visit Washington, D. C., two larger cities and a smaller city like Minot. Local groups like MACIV create cultural and educational programs to match their interests.

### Minot shines

"The visitors very often have never heard of Minot," Joseph Jastrzembski, the council's executive director, admitted.

But the visitors soon realize that the city is not a provincial outpost but an unspoiled gem in the American heartland.

"They have rated it the high point of their U. S. program," he said, noting that the positive reaction has impressed State Department officials in Washington.

"They want to send groups here because they know they will have a top-quality program and a warm welcome," the executive director said.

Visitors from other countries often have misconceptions about the United States. People-to-people programs like the IVLP, coordinated by Global Ties U.S., help to dispel these notions.

"U. S. ambassadors rate it the highest of any of the exchange programs," Jastrzembski said. "It's the only tool that lets people see the real America. It lets them understand that we have fewer differences than we think we have."

Each presidential administration in Washington sets its own foreign policy agenda. This, in turn, defines the themes of visitor programs. The George W. Bush administration stressed Middle Eastern issues, while the Barack Obama administration has stressed African and Asian ones.

"Program directions are set by the Department of State. This is a branch of U. S. foreign policy," the director said of the local program.

### Experiences abound

Jastrzembski cites several local experiences that have revealed the authentic America to international visitors.

On one occasion, a caravan of vans with MACIV volunteers and multinational visitors was returning to Minot after a field trip. As they approached the small town of Max, storm clouds gathered and tornado sirens sounded. The vans screeched to a halt, and the groups scrambled to the first house they saw. The owner quickly invited them in and ushered them to the basement to ride out the storm. The visitors learned a profound lesson

**Helping to Shape U.S. Foreign Relations  
"One Handshake at a Time"**



that afternoon, something not conveyed through speeches and policy papers.

“When there’s an emergency in this country, people will open up their doors for you,” Jastrzembski explained.

The story didn’t end there. A speechwriter from then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called the executive director and asked for details of the incident. Clinton later incorporated it into a speech in Washington, even mentioning the city of Minot.

Another incident highlights the deep bench of talent that MACIV can call on. A visitor from a French-speaking country in Africa attended a potluck dinner and developed a dental problem. A French professor from Minot State interpreted for her, and a dentist in the group provided emergency care the following day.

Sometimes, international visitors teach as well as learn from their American hosts. Several years back, Guatemalan visitors attended a seminar on drug and human trafficking held on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. They discovered that the local police lacked experience in this area, so the Central American government later sent personnel to train them in drug interdiction.

“The exchange went both ways. It becomes a laboratory of learning,” Jastrzembski said of MACIV.

Over the last five years, 75 percent of visiting groups have expressed interest in the oil boom and its effects in the western part of the state.

They’re concerned about the impact of accelerated change on small communities and ordinary citizens.

## Group rebounds

MACIV began in 1992 when Ken Robertson, president of the Joint Studies Center in Minot, arranged for a representative of the National Council for International Visitors, the precursor of Global Ties U.S., to visit Minot. The official met with community and MSU leaders who were interested in establishing a local council.

H. Erik Shaar, president of Minot State at the time, realized that a visitor council crackled with possibilities. He appointed David Connor, an MSU language professor, as the group’s first executive director. Since then, the

program has always been housed at Minot State. Faculty members in the languages and social sciences often served as program directors.

When the program became inactive in the early 2000s, Minot State named history professor Ernst Pijning executive director in 2003. His charge was to rejuvenate the volunteer base and tap into Minot’s deep reservoir of good will toward visitors.

“It wasn’t all that hard,” he said. “I called people and asked if they’d like to do this again. All of them said, ‘Yes!’”

Pijning engineered a striking turnaround in the local council and notified Washington that Minot was back in the exchange business.

“They started sending visitors,” he said. “Ever since, we’ve had three or four groups a year.”

The new director also provided more opportunities for MSU students, faculty and staff to interact with the multifaceted stream of international leaders coming to Minot.

Jastrzembski, also an MSU history professor, succeeded Pijning as executive director in 2007.

The MACIV program fits nicely with MSU President Steven Shirley’s inaugural theme of create, connect and collaborate.

“It helps create bridges,” Jastrzembski said. “It fosters interaction and communication.”



*Sudanese visitors attend Professor Joseph Jastrzembski’s diversity class, interacting with students.*





# Celebrating 25 years of service and distinction



October marked the 25th anniversary of MSU's North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities. The date of Oct. 1, 1990, was historic for Minot State with the beginning of NDCPD.

"NDCPD started as a small, eight-person center with three small projects," said Brent Askvig, the

current NDCPD executive director. "Twenty-five years later, NDCPD has nearly 35 projects annually with approximately 100 staff. When NDCPD began in 1990, it was staffed by faculty from the Departments of Special Education and Communication Disorders. These faculty went above and beyond their regular teaching assignments to write grant proposals and leverage

funds to assure NDCPD was successful in being a university Center of Excellence on developmental disabilities."

In 1991, the center hired its first two employees — Joseph Ferrara and Susie Mack — to devote 100 percent of their time to developing the center's purpose. The budget then was \$250,000. It currently has a \$9.4 million combined budget.

During NDCPD's history, three executive directors — Stephen Ragan (1990 to 1996), Bryce Fifield (1997 to 2008) and Askvig (2008 to present) — have led the center. In addition, NDCPD has worked under four MSU presidents — Gordon B. Olson, H. Erik Shaar, David Fuller and Steven Shirley.

"Over the years, many dedicated and talented individuals have been employed at NDCPD, working toward its purpose and mission," Askvig said. "Ferrara was instrumental in a large part of NDCPD's success. He arrived with an intent to see NDCPD become what it is today. In 2008, he retired from NDCPD and moved to the Department of Special Education to teach undergraduate and graduate students."

NDCPD provides training, information, dissemination and research to and for people with disabilities in North Dakota. To commemorate its 25th anniversary and Disability Awareness Month, it hosted a series of statewide events.

To kick off the celebration on Oct. 1, NDCPD faculty and staff presented information about center projects via



*NDCPD's first leadership team — Back row, left to right, Joseph Ferrara, Audrey Lunday, John Torgerson, Ann Maria Rousey, Brent Askvig, Susie Mack. Seated, left to right, Stephen Ragan and David Williams*



*NDCPD poster presentation*

a poster presentation in the MSU Student Center Atrium. The same day, they hosted a dessert social for the campus community and Minot area partners. At this social, a video was unveiled that documented the progress and success of the center. The video is available on NDCPD's website at [www.ndcpd.org](http://www.ndcpd.org).

The local events continued Oct. 2 with a special presentation of "Handicap This!" by Tim Wambach and Mike Berkson, two national presenters

who spoke to audiences about valuing inclusion, challenging bullying and celebrating the power of diversity. More information about "Handicap This!" can be found at [www.handicaphis.com](http://www.handicaphis.com).

They started out years ago as a teacher (Wambach) and a student with cerebral palsy (Berkson). Over the years, they became great friends and took their story on the road.

"Their stage show is their real-life story, and it's powerful!" Askvig said. "High

school students from the surrounding Minot area attended as well as MSU students, NDCPD colleagues and people with an interest in disability topics."

The rest of October involved NDCPD faculty

and staff traveling to cities across the state, sponsoring NDCPD-at-the-Mall events in Minot, Bismarck, Grand Forks and Fargo. They shared information about their projects and NDCPD, as well as conducted disability awareness activities. In addition, NDCPD hosted socials in Fargo, Grand Forks, Bismarck, Williston and Dickinson to honor friends and colleagues and to pay tribute to their association with NDCPD.

NDCPD is part of a national network of 67 other University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, working to accomplish a shared vision that foresees a nation in which all Americans, including those with disabilities, participate fully in their communities.

NDCPD faculty and staff reach out not only to North Dakota, but they also collaborate with colleagues and disability-related entities beyond the state's borders. NDCPD has also engaged in several international events. In the early years, NDCPD sponsored a conference in Greece that promoted training of staff that worked with people with disabilities.

In addition, NDCPD established a strong connection with Norway's Harstad University College while working on community programs.

NDCPD faculty and staff collaborated with international colleagues to examine similarities and differences in services provided to individuals with disabilities. NDCPD faculty and staff also attended international, disability-related conferences in Italy, Norway and Korea.

NDCPD faculty and staff have provided numerous hours of technical assistance, service and training throughout the state to people with disabilities, family members, service providers and others. As NDCPD looks to the future, its intent is to continue providing exemplary services, upholding its 25-year-old purpose and mission.



*"Handicap This!" presenters, Tim Wambach and Mike Berkson*



# STUDENT IMPACT goes both ways

*From wide-eyed first-year students ready to start a new chapter in life to seasoned graduate students, Minot State University turns out hundreds of successful graduates every year. While these students prepare to make their marks on the world, MSU leaves its mark on the students.*

## FRESHMAN: J’Kobe Wallace

One of the biggest questions many people have is, “Why Minot?” Perhaps the better question is, “Why not Minot?” Minot State University’s commitment to its core values and mission has been in practice for over a century. Small class sizes, opportunities to work closely with faculty and staff, and a dynamic learning environment have

made MSU a destination for students from all over the world — even those who have lived all over the world — like MSU first-year student J’Kobe Wallace.

“Although I moved here three years ago and have been building working relationships with several MSU instructors through involvement in music and theater, I feel as if MSU is still this new and foreign place to me,” Wallace said. “I believe MSU has the same benefits, if not more, than what I would find if I went somewhere farther from home.”



*Freshman J’Kobe Wallace entertains during MSU Summer Theatre’s 50th anniversary.*

Attending a university is a big change for many new students and transitioning to campus life is the first step. For Wallace, whose mother served in the U.S. Air Force, change and transition come with the territory.

“I’ve had to move around quite a bit,” he said. “Change can be unnerving, but I’d like to think that being brave enough to face the unknown gives me the advantage of being able to recognize and value all the resources that MSU has to offer to help me succeed.”

Moving from Maryland to Turkey, to Washington, D.C., to Japan and eventually to Minot in 2012, Wallace has gained a unique perspective. With numerous undergraduate and graduate degree programs available to MSU students, forging a path that interweaves dreams and success has never been easier.

“For as long as I can remember, I’ve wanted to be an educator,” he said. “I have always been inspired by the idea that I could make a difference in the lives of others. When I was younger, that dream collided with my passion for music, making MSU’s music education program the ideal way to combine my dreams into a very exciting future.”

## SOPHOMORE: Jennifer Poth

For Minot State University sophomore Jennifer Poth, immersing herself in the world of ledgers, numbers and bottom lines means an exciting career in accounting. While many may not think of accounting as exciting, Poth sees things a little differently.

“Accounting is an amazing profession,” she said. “I had planned on a career as a kindergarten teacher, but I fell in love with accounting my senior year in high school. When I got to Minot State, I found myself changing my goal

from education to accounting, and I couldn’t be happier. It’s a profession based on honesty and integrity. You have to be organized and efficient, traits I truly value.”

Minot State students are encouraged to be engaged in campus and community life. One of the best ways to do that is by joining one or more of its diverse student organizations. Poth joined the



*Engaging in additional research helps sophomore, Jennifer Poth with her coursework.*

Accounting Club as a first-year student and has never looked back.

“When I joined the Accounting Club, I was the sole freshman, but that didn’t matter,” she said. “I felt connected, a part of something. This year, I am taking a leadership role as the secretary-treasurer, and I couldn’t be more excited. I am looking forward to planning events, putting on a fundraiser and arranging for guest speakers. I get to meet people already working in the accounting profession, which really inspires me to succeed.”

Like many students, Minot State’s small class sizes, opportunity to work closely with faculty and staff, and dynamic hands-on learning environment rank among Poth’s top reasons for choosing MSU. But for her, there is more to it.

“I am inspired by my professors,” she said. “They are invested in what they teach and are passionate about help-

ing students succeed. They go above and beyond what anyone might experience at a larger university. At a larger school, I would be a faceless number. At MSU, it is totally the opposite. I consider my professors to be my friends. I can rely on them to keep me on the right track and help me reach my goals. I have faith that the classes I take at MSU will only make me love accounting that much more, so what’s not to love!”



*Junior Hallie Finnicum listens intently to her students response.*

## JUNIOR: Hallie Finnicum

Students are drawn to Minot State University for its small class sizes, opportunity to work closely with faculty and staff, dynamic learning environment and affordable tuition. However, for Hallie Finnicum, MSU junior and transfer student from a Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, community college, MSU has even more to offer.

“Coming from a small town in Montana, I’ve always enjoyed

smaller class sizes as well as being able to work closely with my teachers,” Finnicum said. “When it came time to decide upon a school I would transfer to, MSU was the perfect fit. I knew I wanted to be somewhere closer to home, and I love the Minot community and knew MSU had a great program. In particular, I was

impressed by MSU’s education program and its faculty, but I was particularly drawn to its promotion of student research, making it one of three schools in a five-state region that offers it.”

Like many students drawn to MSU’s education programs, Finnicum also shared the dream of one day becoming a teacher. She grew up in a family deeply involved in education.

“I’ve always wanted to be a teacher,” she said. “My dad is the president of the Montana School Board Association, and many other family members are involved in education as well. Maybe it’s in our blood.

“In high school, I had the wonderful opportunity to work with students in special education. There really is no greater joy than working with kids. When I started college, I was interested in child psychology. But when I got to MSU and found the SPED (special education) program, I knew immediately that it was what I wanted to pursue.”

MSU’s wide-ranging undergraduate degree programs offer students a chance to make inspired decisions, while offering them the guidance of seasoned faculty and staff and a wide variety of resources to help them better succeed. Sometimes, just a little information goes a long way in helping students find their way.

“Don’t be afraid to reach out to someone willing to help you with what you need,” Finnicum said. “Find those people and latch on because they will illuminate the way

and help you reach your goals. I am glad I am here. I am grateful for the opportunities and support I have from faculty and staff who challenge me to learn more than I know, while always making it interesting and engaging.”

**SENIOR: Malia Salyards**  
**University seniors stand at the precipice of change.**  
 Soon they will evolve from their undergraduate experience onto career paths or graduate academic adventures. No matter which direction they take, Minot State University is dedicated to student success. Malia Salyards, a MSU senior from Lakeville, Minn., welcomes the challenges on the horizon with both excitement and determination.

jobs, every day poses its own special obstacles to overcome. But by staying positive, focused on the future and motivated to reach my goals, I am confident I will succeed.”

MSU’s dedication to students extends beyond preparing students for successful careers. Its mission is focused upon the development of students who are confident, educated citizens, possessing a life-long devotion to the common good and welfare of others. Salyards takes to heart MSU’s mission for very personal reasons.

“I’ve always wanted to be a teacher,” she said. “Maybe it’s because I didn’t have a great life at home when I was little. With an absent father and a mother battling addiction, I often turned to my teachers as a way of making up for the things I wasn’t getting at home — support, guidance, safety, stability, routine and love. These teachers gave me

I too want to make a difference in the lives of children, especially those with similar disadvantages.”

For many university students, senior year is a time of reflection and excitement. With a seemingly endless list of deadlines, it can also be daunting. Along with MSU’s resources, Salyards’ secret for success is tied directly to those who matter most in her life.

“These days, I feel blessed with the loving support and guidance of my husband and his mother, who is an elementary school teacher,” she said. “Whenever I am feeling stressed or overwhelmed, they help me prioritize what’s important and remind me of just how far I’ve come.”

**Increasingly, employers are looking for prospective candidates with critical thinking skills and advanced knowledge in a special discipline that a graduate-level education provides.**

With the majority of master’s degrees in the United States being focused on professional and technical disciplines, such as business, education, computer science and engineering, Minot State University offers excellent opportunities for graduate students looking for an advantage.

Like other graduate students across the country, Chad Haugen, a Rugby native, believes he has found that advantage in his pursuit of a

**GRADUATE STUDENT: Chad Haugen**

master’s degree in math education at Minot State.

“As a math teacher (at Dakota Prairie), I must constantly be willing to learn new methods and upgrade my skills,” Haugen said. “I was searching for a way to continue my education, and Minot State offered me an opportunity to do just that. MSU is offering courses that allow me to continue my education, work closely with my professors and network strategically with math teachers around the region.”

Minot State graduate programs allow students to take classes full time, part time, or online. Affordability, small class sizes and course delivery designed to fit students’ busy lifestyles are a few of the reasons students are drawn to MSU.

Graduate students often have their focus set upon their future paths with goals clearly in mind. Haugen is no exception. When asked what his plans are following graduation, it was clear to see how deeply his childhood love of math has impacted his life.

“I’ve always enjoyed figuring things out,” he said. “When I was younger, I



*During her class, senior Malia Salyards observes the work of her student.*

“I wholly believe in adopting a positive attitude toward challenges that I face,” Salyards said. “Between balancing life, school and working three

the inspiration and motivation I needed to face any doubts that would keep me from obtaining my degree. As a way of paying it forward,



dreamed of one day being an engineer or perhaps a computer programmer. However, I truly enjoyed the challenges that math provides, which made my future in mathematics quite clear. MSU has helped me further develop my skills in mathematics. When I graduate, I plan to continue teaching mathematics. Whether that is at a college or high school, I'm not yet sure. I'll have to see where life takes me."



Graduate student Chad Haugen demonstrates hypothesis theories to his students.

# AMY NEAL

named 2016 North Dakota Teacher of the Year



Minot State President Steven Shirley, Kate Marshall (Advancement Office), Amy Neal, Marv Semrau (Advancement Office) celebrate at Lewis and Clark Elementary School, Minot.

**AMY (ASHLEY) NEAL '09**, a kindergarten teacher at Lewis and Clark Elementary, was named the 2016 North Dakota Education Association's Teacher of the Year.

Neal has spent the majority of her career teaching kindergarten and has been with Minot Public Schools since 2000. She earned her Master of Education degree from Minot State University and has also served as an MSU adjunct professor, teaching language acquisition and mentoring future teachers.

"It is such an honor to be named North Dakota's Teacher of the Year," Neal said. "This award recognizes my professional career and passion for early childhood development that have merged to make me the teacher I am today. My main goal as a teacher is for my students to find success. Kindergarten is commonly one of the first steps in a child's educational journey. I feel that early childhood teachers are extremely lucky to be part of the first steps that children take on this exciting journey."

(as cited on [governor.nd.gov](http://governor.nd.gov))



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# Hedberg comes home to get



**F**ormer Minot State University multisport standout and coach Randy Hedberg came home to North Dakota to achieve the ultimate in his profession.

The Parshall native, who played football, basketball and baseball at Minot State, won his first national championship as the quarterbacks coach at NCAA Division I North Dakota State University last season. The ring was icing on the cake

for Hedberg after getting back to the state he cherishes.

“I was very fortunate to be able to get back to the state,” he said. “I love North Dakota, and I especially love western North Dakota. I have family here, and we were able to get closer to family.”

“I was recruiting for Southern Illinois in December of 2013 in Missouri, and I got a call from a 701 number and thought I’d better take this. It was coach Klieman (NDSU

head coach Chris Klieman), who had just been named the head coach, and he asked if I wanted to be a part of his staff. I felt really good about it.”

The Bison felt pretty good about getting a former NCAA Division II head coach (St. Cloud State, 1999-2007) and an offensive coordinator at two NCAA DII schools (Central Missouri, 1990-95, and University of North Dakota, 1996-98) to mentor its quarterbacks.

And, to top it off, Hedberg is a former NFL quarterback.

Hedberg remembers NFL draft day in 1977 pretty well.

But he wasn’t in New York City with ESPN cameras catching his every movement in a brand new three-piece suit like today’s draftees are.

“I can remember where I was when the call came,” Hedberg said. “I didn’t take the call from (Tampa Bay Buccaneers coach John McKay); my roommate Garrett Titus did. He said I would call him back. I was student teaching at Magic City Campus and was teaching a tennis class at the

Roosevelt Park tennis courts. When I got back later that day, I got the message they called and then called the Bucs back.”

While his pro career didn’t take off, it shaped him in the way he has coached since, especially in how he has handled players with draft aspirations.

“Being drafted was really unique coming from a school the size of MSU and from the NAIA. It didn’t happen and still doesn’t happen today,” he said. “I really learned a lot from that experience. It shaped me in coaching quarterbacks. I’ve had a couple who have signed contracts over the years. Being able to handle the mental side of it is really crucial.”

Hedberg is currently mentoring such a player, since NDSU starter Carson Wentz has been listed on multiple draft boards.

“We have a pretty good one here right now,” Hedberg said of him.

Despite the accolades in his college, professional and coaching careers, football wasn’t his first love or the sport he thought he was best at when he enrolled at Minot State.

“I went to college to play all three — football, basketball and baseball — and even did a little track and field,” Hedberg said. “But the biggest reason was to play basketball. I thought I was going to be



# his ring

the next NBA guy. But, I found out I couldn't jump very well, and that set me back. I didn't have any thoughts of the NFL back then. I ended up being blessed with some talent and the right opportunity — and some good receivers who caught those passes — and took advantage of it.”

But it wasn't just the pro experience that got him to where he is today. Hedberg said some of the biggest influences were his first ones, such as Wes Luther, Wiley Wilson, Bert Leidholt, Ken Becker and Dean Bachmeier — all Minot State coaches when Hedberg first got to campus.

“I played for those guys and then coached with them, and some of them were assistant coaches with me,” he said. “Those were great memories. Minot was very good to me and still is. I still know a lot of people in western North Dakota. Minot State has changed a lot, but there is still a connection there.”

But maybe the biggest influence was Vence Elgie, a coach and administrator at MSU.

“He was a great friend, a mentor and instructor,” he said.

As for the current season and a possible run at another national title, Hedberg is guarded but optimistic. The optimism isn't blind, however, and it is one of the

things that attracted him to NDSU.

“We have big expectations here, but coaches love those kind of challenges; that's why we are in it,” he said. “Those expectations are part of the job, or at least you want them to be.

“The fan base here expects that. It's one of the things I like the most about being here is that everyone expects to win. That's the mentality and the culture. It's not easy to develop, but once you get it, it changes everything.”



Photo: NDSU Athletics

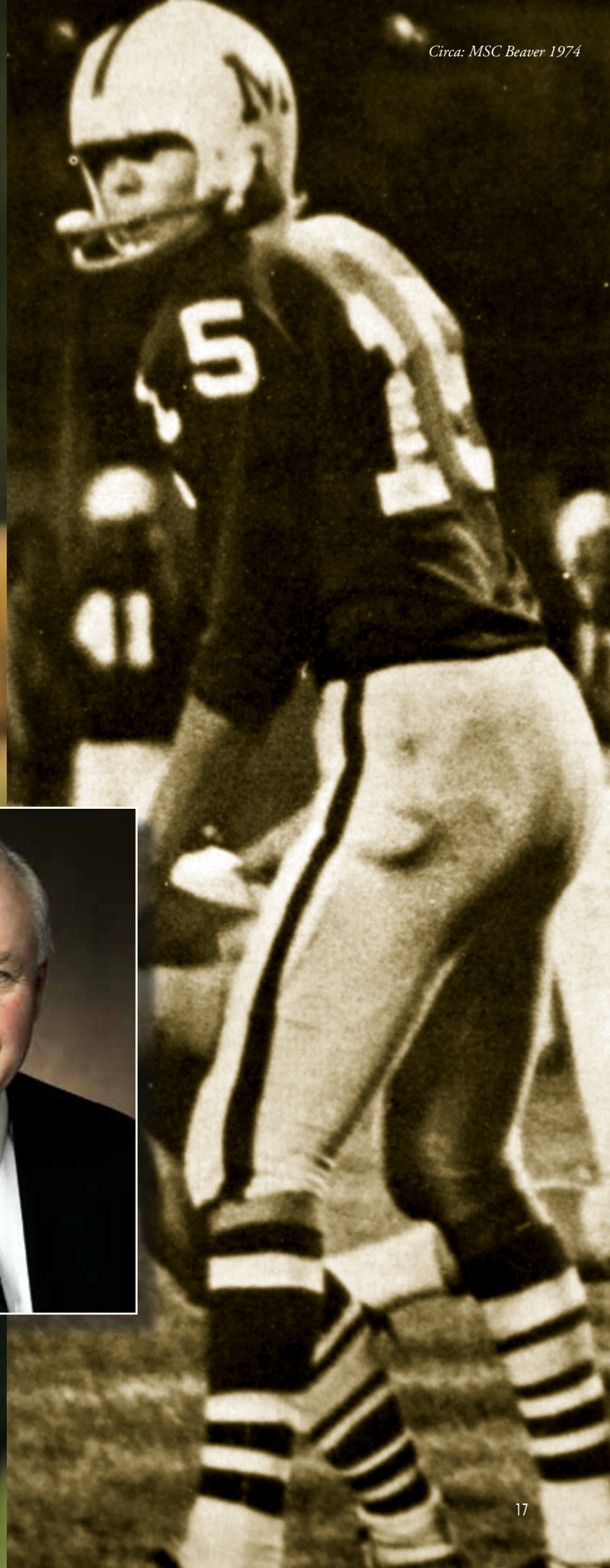


Photo: NDSU Athletics



# Minot State opens Herb Parker Stadium

Minot State University officially opened the press box at Herb Parker Stadium on a warm, late-summer evening, playing host to Southwest Minnesota State Sept. 3.

While the Mustangs spoiled the event with a 21-20 win over the Beavers, the opening was a success — with fireworks into the night sky after the game — culminating a 10-year process to upgrade the stadium into one of the top football and soccer venues in NCAA Division II.

“When you look back on it, with planning and everything that went into the process, it’ll be about 10 years,” said MSU Athletic Director Rick Hedberg at a ribbon-cutting ceremony in May. “It’s great to finally have this project finished. I can remember when (then-MSU president) David (Fuller) and I visited each school in the Northern Sun, and it was evident that our facilities wouldn’t match up. I’m happy to say today, our facilities do match up. We have one of the top facilities in all of NCAA Division II.”

In 1983, Minot State named the original football/track & field complex after longtime coach and administrator Herb Parker. His son was impressed with the overall scope of the new facilities, as he spoke on behalf of the Parker family at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

“This place is incredible,” Herb Parker Jr. said. “This is absolutely amazing. If my dad were here today, he wouldn’t believe it. He would be absolutely floored. It’s just an incredible, incredible place.”

The final phase of the project features a 10,750 square foot, two-story press box, including areas for the media and coaches, 11 deluxe suites, restrooms, concession areas and large meeting room.

The \$4 million facility received funding from the City of Minot’s Community Facility Fund.

In all, the total price of all phases of the Herb Parker Stadium renovation exceeded \$8 million, with funds coming from Minot State University, City of Minot’s Community Facility Fund and private sponsorships.

“The finished product is something that our campus as well as the city of Minot can

all be proud,” MSU President Steven Shirley said. “It represents a showpiece that is truly an asset to our whole community.”

The facility increases the Beavers seating capacity with the addition of 130 chair-back club seats as well as the deluxe suites. The overall capacity of “The Herb” now exceeds 4,000.

EAPC was the architect for the press box structure, with Rolac Contracting of



Minot serving as the general contractor. Both were honored by Hedberg at the opening ceremony.

The renovation of Herb Parker Stadium started with updating the playing surface to FieldTurf in 2010. Along with that, MSU added state-of-the-art lighting standards that could accommodate football and soccer configurations and an earthen berm along the west and south ends of the field.

Phase II included a new bleacher section with premium chair-back seating that can accommodate 3,500 fans on the north side of the stadium. Phase III saw the installation of a 14-by-25 foot Daktronics LED Video display and scoreboard on the west berm. The Daktronics board added a new element to the university's game-day experience.

The MSU Wellness Center, while not officially part of the Herb Parker Stadium project, was completed in 2012 on the east end of the football field, offering a unique backdrop with its west-facing, three-story glass design.

The press box was the final piece on the south side of the sports complex.

"We want to be as ambitious as we can be in updating our facilities to make sure they are among the best in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference, the region and NCAA DII," Hedberg said. "There are multiple projects we have in store to upgrade our on-and-off-campus facilities."

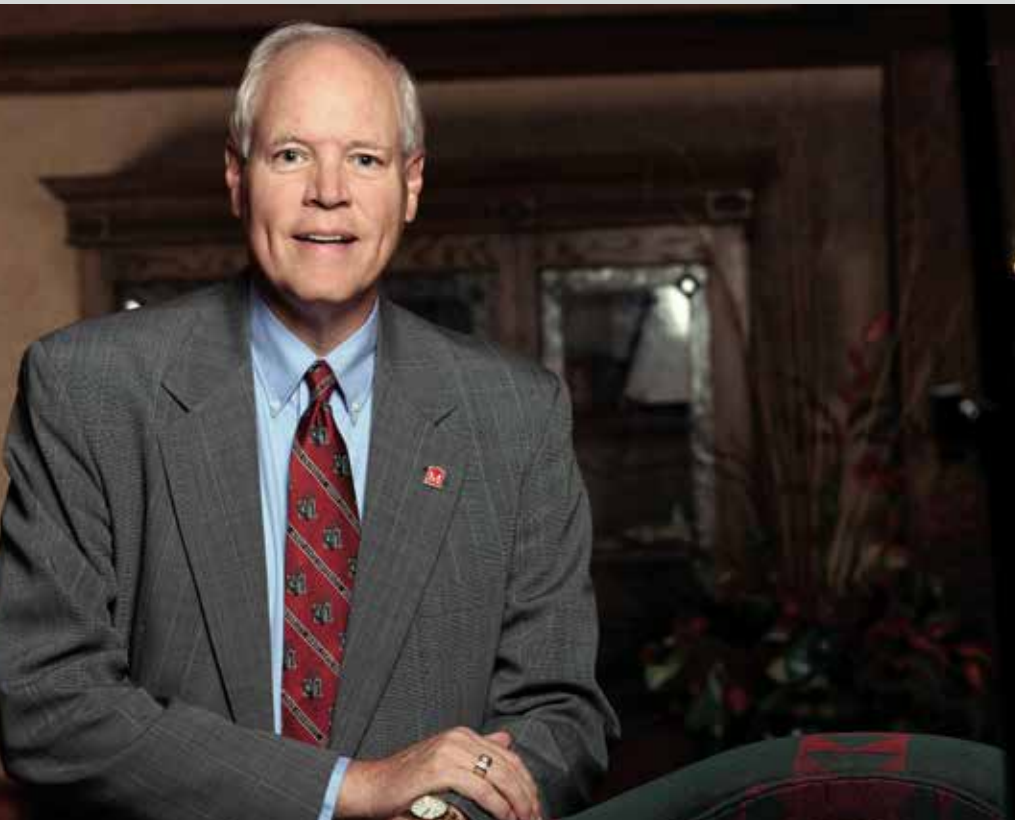


*"This place is incredible," Herb Parker Jr. said. "This is absolutely amazing. If my dad were here today, he wouldn't believe it. He would be absolutely floored. It's just an incredible, incredible place."*

Dedication Of  
Herbert M. Parker Stadium  
October 8, 1983



# How to give it away and still keep it!



3. A N.D. state income tax credit (for N.D. residents) of 40 percent of allowable IRS deduction, with carry forward available for up to three additional years.
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One of the chief attractions of charitable gift annuity arrangements is that these vehicles work particularly well in a low interest-rate environment, such as what we have experienced for the last eight to 10 years. CGAs allow donors to significantly increase their income over and above what they would otherwise be able to attain using conventional savings vehicles. The payments are guaranteed, irrespective of future investment performance, as they represent an absolute obligation of the charitable organization; they cannot outlive the payments, and no change in the economy can affect the payments.

Most importantly, if you establish a charitable gift annuity with the MSU Development Foundation, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that your gift will benefit the university for years to come. In short, a charitable gift annuity does, indeed, permit you to give it away and still keep it! Truly a win-win proposition for all involved. For more information about gift annuities and other types of charitable giving arrangements, please contact us at the MSU Development Foundation office by calling (701) 858-3890/800-777-0750.

— Dan Langemo, major gifts officer  
MSU Development Foundation

Many donors (or potential donors) who are either approaching retirement or living in retirement are faced with the classic quandary of wanting to make a gift to their alma mater, but are fearful of the fact that they may later need a portion of the asset they are contemplating giving away. Fortunately, there are a number of vehicles available to help them achieve both objectives, but the one I want to briefly highlight is the charitable gift annuity (CGA).

A charitable gift annuity is an arrangement whereby the donor makes an irrevocable gift to the charitable organization (Minot State University Development Foundation) in exchange for a promise to receive income for the remainder of his or her life. In the case of a married couple, the annuity can benefit both spouses and the survivor of them.

A charitable gift annuity affords numerous advantages to potential donors, namely:

1. A highly competitive and guaranteed stream of lifetime income.
2. A federal income tax charitable deduction in the year of the gift.



# Summer 2015 Events



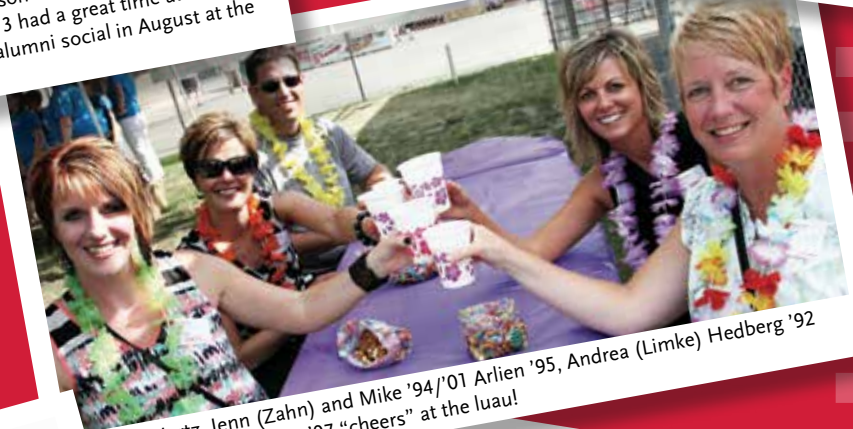
MSU head baseball coach Brock and Glenda Wepler posed for a picture at the NDSF Luau.



Priscilla Wilson '65 and Kathy (Yecoshenko) Peterson '73 had a great time at the Bismarck alumni social in August at the Elks Club.



Darlene (Ternes) Reinart '74, Pat (Pfau) '69 and Arvin Swanson at the Bismarck alumni social.



Erin Hertz, Jenn (Zahn) and Mike '94/'01 Arlien '95, Andrea (Limke) Hedberg '92 and Liz (Ellis) Slotsve '97 "cheers" at the luau!



Dwight Ormiston '69, Chuck Berntson '68, Tony Kulig and Les Anderson '68 tied for first place at the Garrison Golf Course.



Minot State University President Dr. Steve Shirley, Bob '66 and Ellie Walstad and Melissa Spelchen '99/'05 enjoyed a round of golf at the Bottineau Country Club on the summer golf tour.



Head Men's Basketball Coach Matt Murken, Dick Limke '63, Dennis Limke '63, Jim Limke '68, Athletic Director Rick Hedberg '89 and Bill Bodine '65 enjoyed a beautiful day of golf at the summer golf tour in Velva.

Enjoy more photos at [MinotStateU.edu/Alumni](http://MinotStateU.edu/Alumni)



# Homecoming 2015



MSU's annual Community Block Party moved to its new location on 11th Avenue. Every age group enjoyed a fun and entertaining evening.



Introducing the 2015 MSU Homecoming Court—from L to R: Quinn Williams, Madison Arnold, Breanna Benson, Kelsey Busch, Nikki Egge, Kristopher Merrill, Reagan VanTeeling, Alex Buchholz, Kelsey Buchholz, Madison Irmen, Alex Cundiff, Skyler Niebuhr, Joel Cartwright, Abigail Graves.



1995-96 and 1997-98 Women's Basketball Teams Reunion —Back L to R: Mandy (Schelling) Hanson '02, Sheila Green-Gerding, Dana Fiedler, Andrea (Nero) Finders '98, Tina Brown '00; Front L to R: Sandy (Neiss) Stephens, Janna (Olson) McKechnie '14, Tara (Lavachek) Jordan '01, Jaimi Kenyon '00, Amy (Geiger) Edwards.



Tara (Lavachek) Jordan '01 and Jaimi Kenyon '00 carry a '95-'96/'97-'98 Women's Basketball Teams banner in the Homecoming Parade.



The Sigma Tau Gammas: "The Men are Back in Town" and "Beavers Beat Bears" floats were both big hits in the 2015 Homecoming Parade.





# Sigma Tau Gamma 50th Reunion



Sigma Tau Gammas from the 60's are: Row 1: Les Anderson, Carmen LoRe, Willie McCollum, Tony (Badger) Kulig, Ken Reinke, Ted Pfau. Row 2: John Theisen (co-founder), Rich (Wiggy) Wigness, Terry Merck, Lou Trombetta (co-founder), Dwight (Ormy) Ormiston, Brad (The Wedding Singer) Botz, Jon Madsen, Denise Ness (Sig Tau sweetheart), Tom Ness, Mike Norland, Chipper Farrell. Row 3: Bob (Tro) Trobaugh, Jim Gorde, Joe Lukach, Daryl Dolan, Terry Auch, Wendell (Moe) Mongeon, Rod Settlemeyer, Craig Thompson, John (Bubba) Phillips, Larry Silver, Dave Kuntz. Row 4: Brian Smith, Barb Becker (Sig Tau sweetheart), Bob Louser, Albee Allstadt, Gary Thuner, Robbie Defranza, Don Marcotte, George (Moby) Eslinger, Fred (Dorf) Kelesnik, Scottie McDaniel, Blaine VanBerkom, Jay Burkhartsmeier. Row 5: Johnny Thompson, Jim Clamon, Mike (Mort) Gessner, Rocky Cofer, Gary Imdieke, Steve Sidener, Jim Solar, Steve (Pinky) Charlebois, Mark Gorde, Gary (Froggy) Olmsted.



Sigma Tau Gammas from the 70's. Row 1: Linda (Paul) Elliot, Neil (Bosco) Bosch, Curtis Krueger, Casey Smith, Mike Smith, Craig Thompson, Rod Settlemeyer, Kevin Rubbelke, Terry (Mush) Mathson. Row 2: John Theisen (co-founder), Lou Trombetta (co-founder), Jay Diede, Mark Placek, Parrell Grossman, Kevin Yale, Sweet Lou Ellert, Keith (Bjorny) Bjornson, Brian Vangness, Ross Rubbelke, Ed Brezinski. Row 3: Roger (Skelly) Undlin, Jim Charlebois, Ron Fiechtner, Chuck Koenig, Mike Walsh, Mark Dickey, Hal Weber, Randy Armstrong, Kathy Mau (Sig Tau sweetheart), Bob Mau, Ron Staiger, Dave Stern. Row 4: Harold Dyck, Deb (Steig) Reinke (Sig Tau sweetheart), Tom Christen, Ted Dechamp, Daryl Bauer, Jay (Tringer) Altringer, Dan (Legman) Holwegner, Duane (Eddy) Edwards, "Pa" Edwards, Gene Zahursky-Klein, Jim Scott, John Axtman, Mike Brusini. Row 5: (Standing on far left and wrapped around to the back row) Bob Wilson, Bruce Moen, Bob Scott, Randy Burckhard, Dick Edwards, Blaine DesLauriers, Kevin Iverson, Doug Steen, Greg (PK) Fjeld, Steve (Benny) Bennett, Robin Auch, Howard Klug, Terry Kolbo, Rian Luehe, Kevin Kouba.



Sigma Tau Gammas and sweethearts from the '80s, pictured, front row, left to right, are Dale Ludwig, John Theisen, Lou Trombetta, Robin (Ventsch) Fiddler, Tracey (Wickman) Lawson and Paul Rubbelke. Back row, Bob Wilson.



Sigma Tau Gamma sweethearts, pictured front row, left to right, are Tracey (Wickman) Lawson, John Theisen, Lou Trombetta and Denise (Huddleson) Ness. Back row, left to right, are Kathy (Schwartz) Mau, Debbie (Steig) Reinke and Robin (Ventsch) Fiddler.



2015  
*Award recipients honored*

**Golden Award recipients**

**Linda Christianson**



**Linda (Wagner) Christianson**, retired educator, graduated from Minot State University in 1972 with a Bachelor of Science in education. After teaching at Harrison School and Minot Air Force Base, she transferred to Edison Elementary School, where she taught third and fifth grades. Following retirement from teaching, she served as a consultant for book publisher Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for four years.

"I am a very proud graduate of Minot State University and attribute my successful career to my learning and experiences at MSU," Christianson said.

During her 35-year career, the Wilton native received many honors. She received the Golden Apple Award several times, the Linda Feldner Outstanding Cooperation Teacher award and Minot Education Association Teacher of the Year; she won first place in Sunburst's First Ideas National Challenge,

which included a \$1,000 gift to be spent on technology for the classroom. Further, she established the Novel Approach to Reading for fifth graders in Minot Public Schools.

Christianson supervised more than 20 student teachers and worked with university education students doing practicums in her classroom. She has been an Alumni Association member since graduation and has served in many officer positions, including that of president. Christianson also co-chaired the MSU Gala, the association's major fundraiser, with fellow award recipient Deb Schultz for three years. She was active in Greek life on campus and is a member of Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority. Christianson presently serves on the Campus Lutheran Ministries board.

As an active member of the Minot community, Christianson is a member of the Minot Area Community Foundation's Power of the Purse, the AV Chapter of PEO, MARTA and Delta Kappa Gamma. She is or has been actively involved in the Norsk Høstfest, Salvation Army, the Honorary Commander Program at Minot Air Force Base, Minot City Figure Skating Club, Minot Country Club,

North Dakota State Fair as education superintendent and Zion Lutheran Church Council. Rotary International named her as a Paul Harris Fellow, and she and her husband, Bruce, were named North Dakota Couple of the Year by the N.D. Jaycees.

The couple have been married for 45 years. They have two daughters and two granddaughters.

**Deborah Schultz**



**Deborah (David) Schultz**, retired educator, graduated from Minot State University in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science in physical education but continued her studies to acquire an elementary education endorsement, a certificate for working with gifted and talented children and ultimately a Master of Science in elementary education in 1989. After teaching at Berthold Public Schools and Dakota, Sunnyside and Lincoln elementary schools in the Minot Public Schools, she retired as the assistant principal at Lincoln

Elementary School in 2007. Following retirement from teaching, she served as a substitute teacher until 2014.

"Minot State University has made a positive influence in both my professional and personal life for over 45 years," Schultz said. "Staying connected to MSU has provided a multitude of opportunities for lifelong learning, friendships and enriching experiences."

Schultz received the North Dakota Presidential Award for Excellence in Elementary Science Teaching in 1997, which included a \$500 grant for science enrichment. In 1998, she received a National Presidential Award for Excellence in Elementary Science Teaching, which included a \$7,000 grant for science enrichment.

Schultz co-authored the book, "Creative Ways to Cultivate Agriculture in the Classroom," with Bonny Berryman, another educator, in 1983. The book was published and distributed to all elementary and middle schools within North Dakota. During summers from 1983 to 1998, she taught teacher workshops throughout the state. She also had four articles published in Challenge Magazine, Good Apple Publishing, between 1985 and 1986. The articles contained

oceanography themed enrichment activities for use in the elementary classroom.

Schultz served on the Alumni Association board of directors from 2002 to 2013. She was Gala decorations co-chair for four years and co-chaired the MSU Gala with fellow award recipient Linda Christianson from 2007 to 2009. Schultz and Christianson served as Alumni Association co-presidents from 2010 to 2012.

As a student, Schultz was active in Greek life and co-chaired the Tri Sigma Alumnae Chapter, with its reunion in 2012, with Christianson. She was also involved with the revival of the Sigma Sigma Sorority as the Sigma Delta Sorority.

Within the community, Schultz belongs to the Delta Kappa Gamma, Nu Chapter and was its president from 1996 to 1998. At St. Mark's Lutheran Church, she is president of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and one of its quilters. From 2007 to 2013, she and Christianson were Norsk Høstfest Hospitality Room co-chairs.

Schultz and her husband, Chuck, have been married for 41 years. They have a son and daughter-in-law.

## Sandra Starr



**Sandra (Schjeldahl) Starr** retired as an assistant professor of music education at Minot State University. Starr taught for 41 years in Minot State University's Division of Music and at the former University Laboratory School. She chaired the Division of Music from 2005 to 2008 after being interim chair in 2000-2001. She founded and

was musical director of Western Plains Children's Choir, which was the official Governor's Chorus in 1996-97.

Starr directed Minot Chamber Chorale from 1989 to 1995 and sang in the group from 1972 until 2002. She taught music education and supervised more than three decades of student teachers. She was awarded the Faculty Achievement Award in 1998. She has been awarded several faculty grants and listed numerous times in "Who's Who of American Women." In March 2010, she was inducted into the North Dakota Music Education Association's Hall of Fame. She received the YWCA Women of Distinction-

Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014.

She presently serves on the Chorale board of directors. Starr was music director at Minot's First Lutheran Church and directed the adult choir from 1972 to 2003 as well as the children's and youth church choirs. Starr has adjudicated numerous regional elementary and secondary music festivals and contests. She currently manages Region 8, Class B Music Festivals. She has taught seminars and workshops at MSU and for professional organizations and churches. She has been chorus master and children's chorus master for Western Plains Opera Company productions and served

on the board of directors for many years.

Starr is an honorary life member of North Dakota PTA and American Choral Directors Association, and a member of Music Educators National Conference and NDMEA, Delta Kappa Gamma Honorary Society for Women in Education, Sigma Alpha Iota Professional Music Fraternity and Organization of American Kodaly Educators. She has served on several boards of directors and been province governor for SAI Professional Music Fraternity, Chapter President for the Minot Nu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, an honorary society for women educators, and

just completed a term as North Dakota state president. She also sings in Nu Notes, a women's ensemble made up of several chapter members.

Starr holds a bachelor's degree from St. Olaf College and a master's degree in music education from the University of North Dakota. She also conducted graduate work at the University of Michigan, Eastman, UND and Hamline and holds a Kodaly mastery certificate from the University of St. Thomas. In college, she sang in St. Olaf Choir with Olaf Christiansen.

Starr resides in Minot with her husband, Ken, who was also a music teacher. They have a daughter.

## Young Alumni Achievement Award recipient

### Dr. Tami Jollie-Trottier



**Dr. Tami Jollie-Trottier**, an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, is a clinical psychologist currently working on her home reservation in Belcourt. She is a Minot State University alumna, receiving her bachelor's degree in psychology in 1999. She was an active member of the Native

American Cultural Awareness Club and continues her relationship with MSU and NACAC through presenting and providing workshops. In 2005, Jollie-Trottier earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of North Dakota. She then completed a two-year fellowship in health psychology research at UND School of Medicine and one year of specialty training at the Eating Disorder and Neuropsychiatric Research Institutes in Fargo. Jollie-Trottier has been providing clinical services for Indian Health Services, Behavioral Health, since 2008. As a native psychologist, she

blends together her passion for living a healthy lifestyle with her educational, cultural and spiritual knowledge, personalizing her approach to therapy and wellness.

"I am honored to provide services to my people and plan to continue on a journey to personal wellness and to promote healing and wellness for others," Jollie-Trottier said.

Seven years ago, Jollie-Trottier and others founded Belcourt's Medicine Moon Run, a half-marathon. The Medicine Moon Run movement focuses on challenging members of Indian Country to aspire to achieve "mind,

body and spirit" wellness through daily exercise, stress management and healthy eating. She also serves as a community research adviser and IRB member for the Tribal Nations Research group for her tribe. She reviews professional journals, providing expertise in the areas of obesity and cultural issues. Jollie-Trottier conducts trainings and workshops, gives presentations and offers consultation to tribal organizations. Her workshops merge modern-day psychology with expressive art, symbolism, traditional teachings and spirituality to form a healing model. She has presented her work in the area of obesity at

American Psychological Association conferences and has published her research. Jollie-Trottier is a 2010 IHS Community Wellness Champion and an alumna of the American Psychological Association Minority Fellowship Program.

Jollie-Trottier's parents are enrolled Turtle Mountain tribal members. She has three sisters residing on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation. Her husband, Ron Trottier Jr., is also a Turtle Mountain tribal member; and they have three children. Jollie-Trottier's spirit name is Red Wind Woman, and she is responsible to offer prayer for her people and promote healing.



1971



**Mary Ellen Backes** is celebrating 50 years of religious profession. Sister Mary Ellen was an Ursuline Sister of

Belleville, Ill., prior to its 2005 merger with Mount Saint Joseph in Maple Mount, Ky. She earned her master's degree in theology from St. John University, Collegeville, Minn., in 1982. She has been a teacher and director of religious education in Illinois and general superior of the Ursulines of Belleville. Since 1995, she has also served as pastoral associate for St. Joseph Parish, Springfield, Ill.

1973



**Darrell Olson**, president and chief executive officer of Town & Country Credit Union, was named the 2014 North Dakota Professional of the Year by the Credit Union Association of the Dakotas. Olson received the award due to his contributions to the credit union movement through government relations and community involvement.

**Sue Ellen (Davis) Johnson** and Mike Johnson '74 were invited to Washington, D.C., by the U.S. Department of Education, to review the outcome and procedures for the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress, technology based assessment. They were among 30 chosen from over 2,000 assessment administrators and supervisors from around the nation.

**Paulette (Schumacher) Nelson**, children's librarian at the Minot Public Library, was named the 2015 Librarian of the Year by the North Dakota Library Association. She has been at the Minot Public Library for 36 years.

1974



**Leland Kulland** retired July 1 from Cassville School District in Cassville, Wis. Kulland was in education for 35 years as a

teacher, principal and superintendent in North Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. He and his wife, Cheri, live in Racine, Wis. Cheri is a middle school principal.

**Glenda (Holter) Fauske** received the Friend of Geography Award from the North Dakota Geographic Alliance. The award recognizes an individual who contributes to geography education and understands its impact on North Dakota students.

**Mary Ann (Miller) Michel** was named North Dakota's American Legion Auxiliary Woman of the Year for 2015-16. Michel is a member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 195 in Donnybrook and serves as its membership chair.



**Kristine (Hanson) Kraft** retired from Jefferson County Public Schools in Colorado. Kraft completed 39 years of educational service. She previously taught in Minot and Adams County and worked as a consultant for the National Reading Styles Institute based in Syossett, N. Y. for four years. Remaining an advocate for public education, students, NEA and pre-service teachers will continue to be part of her daily life. She and husband, Bill, are now spending more time with their grandchildren and traveling to Arizona in the winter.

1975



**Elliott Grandall** gave the keynote graduation address at the Kingsland High School in Wykoff, Minn. Grandall taught music for 24 years in the Kingsland School System at all levels before resigning in 2014. He formed the Root River Revelers, an all-male chorus, which he continued for 12 years. Grandall also started a mixed community choir called the Bluff Country

Singers. He is active as a church choir director, directing community cantatas, serving as a judge/clinician at the high school level and participating in many community musical events. He currently teaches privately.

1979



**Cynthia (Neuharth) Nelson** received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Nelson, a math teacher with Central High School in Grand Forks for 30 years, also teaches discrete mathematics, which is used in software development.

1981



**Patrick Gores**, managing partner of Northwestern Mutual, Fargo, qualified for the IMA/Diamond

Award from the General Agents and Managers Association. The award recognizes commissions earned in excess of \$2.7 million in 2014. This is the 18th time Gores has earned this honor, which recognizes financial representatives for their competence and dedication to the insurance industry. Gores has been associated with Northwestern Mutual since 1981. He is a Cando native.

**Fern (Hornaday) Skarphol** is the preschool teacher at Max Public School. Skarphol previously taught first, second and third grades at North Shore Ryder for 23 years. She and husband, Harlan, live in Ryder and have four children and two granddaughters.

1984



**Paula (Smith) Rauschenberger**, English and drama teacher at Minot High School-Central Campus, was recently chosen as the Class A Drama Director of the Year at the State A Drama Contest. Rauschen-

berger was previously honored three times in the Class B ranks. Prior to teaching at Minot High School, Rauschenberger taught at Glenburn and Sawyer. She has taught drama for 26 years.

**Penny (Ballensky) Erickson** retired, after working 31 years, as commander of the Ward County Jail.

1986

**Lori (Wonnenberg) Zavalney**, Tesoro Dakota Square, received the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce's Eagle Award in May. MACC sponsors the program to recognize Minot workers who exhibit superior customer service.



**Arnold Strebe**, chief human resources officer at Starion Financial in Bismarck, has spent more than 25 years in human

resources and leading organizational change. Prior to joining Starion Financial, he was with Evergreen Enterprises and Plow & Hearsh.

**Paula and Kevin Burckhard** were chosen by Senator Heidi Heitkamp and Senator John Hoeven as North Dakota's 2015 Angels in Adoption, with an opportunity to attend a ceremony in Washington, D.C., in October with advocates from across the country. The honor recognizes those who open their hearts and homes to children with disabilities around the globe; those who give the word "family" an entirely new meaning.

1987



**Roselle (Kavlie) Tooke** was promoted to personal banker for Starion Financial in Dunseith. Tooke joined Security State

Bank in October 1991, which merged with Starion Financial in October 2011, as a business banking representative. In her new position, she is responsible for establishing and developing long-term banking relationships with consumer clients.



**Scott O'Tremba** was named the 2014 Wyoming National Association of Secondary Schools State Principal of the Year. O'Tremba has been the principal of Lovell High School for nine years. Lovell High School received the National Blue Ribbon in 2013 and has been named one of America's Top 100 Schools by U.S. News and World report two different years during Scott's tenure.

## 1989



**Kevin Harmon** assumed the role of vice president for student affairs at Minot State effective July 1.

## 1991



**Kim (Lindseth) Colbenson**, president at GEM Federal Credit Union in Minot, graduated from Credit Union National Association Management School, earning the certified credit union executive designation.

**Denise (Borjeson) Lindbo**, Minot, and her store, Gourmet Chef, were featured in the July-August edition of Gourmet Insider, which recognized 2015 All-Star stores.

**Rodney Richter** is teaching science at Munich Public School. Richter recently retired after working 40 years for Burlington Northern Santa Fe railway as a supervisor and engineer.

**Tamera (Kuntz) Sherman** is the director of medical staff services at Sanford Health-Bismarck.

## 1992



**Dan Leidholt** joined United Community Bank as a commercial loan officer at the Minot location. Leidholt

has four years of experience as a consumer loan officer and 19 years serving the property management of Investors Real Estate Trust in a variety of positions, including financial officer, auditor and assistant director of property management accounting. He and wife, Maria, have one son and two daughters.



**Scot Pedersen**, Gate City Bank, received the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce's Eagle Award in June. MACC sponsors the program to recognize Minot workers who exhibit superior customer service.

## 1993



**Randy Schwan** was promoted to Trinity Health vice president of mission integration, a role that involves applying Trinity Health's mission across the care system as it grows and develops new services. His objectives will include integrating Trinity Health's mission and strategic plan as a core business process, collaborating with partners throughout the region to promote healthy community initiatives and engaging with Trinity's growing workforce to foster a culture of service. Schwan retains his duties overseeing various clinical and support departments within Trinity Health.

## 1995



**Rhonda (Horob) Kitch** is the North Dakota State University registrar and recently received her doctorate from NDSU.



**Travis Kitch** teaches anthropology at North Dakota State University.



**Crystal Brandvold**, Trinity Health Business Office, received the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce's Eagle Award in June. MACC sponsors the program to recognize Minot workers who exhibit superior customer service.

## 1996

**Nikki (Leonard) Medalen** received the best practice award from the Omicron Tau Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, International Nursing Honor Society, in recognition of her work in public health practice and policy making.

## 1997



**Diane Gravely** was named the recipient of the Lorraine Krenelka Nursing Scholarship at Bethany Retirement Living. Gravely will receive \$1000 to apply toward her nursing education costs for the 2015-16 academic year. Gravely, a native of Atwater, Calif., is currently enrolled in the registered nurse program at Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Moorhead. She is currently a Licensed Practical Nurse with Bethany Personal Care Services.

## 1998

**Brent Loehr** had his first book, "The Global Baseball Classroom," published. Loehr is an educator and has been involved in baseball at all levels. He hails from Muenster, Saskatchewan, where he lives with his wife and two daughters.



**Brekka (Nybakken) Kramer**, general manager of Odney Minot, serves on the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Great Plains Advisory Council. Advisory council members meet twice a year to advise the bank's senior officers and economists on regional economic conditions.

## 2000

**Alicia (Myhre) Eslinger** is the information technology director in the Kenmare Public School System. Eslinger previously worked in the Minot school system as a technology facilitator for seven years. Prior to that, she worked for EduTech which provided North Dakota K-12 schools with the technology tools, support and training needed to improve students' understanding of modern technology. Eslinger has two children, teaches professional development and makes presentations at conferences. In addition, she teaches two classes at Minot State University, "Technology in the Classroom" and "Business Project Management."



**Ryan Hertz** is the market president at Dacotah Bank in Minot. Hertz has been in banking 15 years. He graduated from the Dakota School of Banking at Jamestown in 2004, the American Bankers Association Commercial Lending School in 2008 and the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin in 2012. He is a board member and past president of the MSU Alumni Association. Hertz and his wife, Erin, have three children.

## 2002



**Karena (Lunday) Carlson** was recognized by the North Dakota Professional Communicators as the 2015 Communicator of Achievement. This is the highest honor NDPC can bestow upon one of its members. The COA award is presented annually to a member of NDPC and the National Federation of Press Women who has distinguished him or herself within and beyond his or her profession. Carlson will now advance to the national competition. Carlson is the communications manager at the City of Fargo.



# Class notes



**Teresa (Wyze) Seright** is an associate dean for undergraduate programs in the College of Nursing at Montana State University, Bozeman. Seright was a faculty member at Minot State from 2005 to 2011.

## 2003



**Renata (Rensch) Buen**, executive mortgage officer at Town & Country Credit Union-Minot, was named the Minot Board of Realtors Affiliate of the Year. Buen has more than 13 years of experience in the mortgage industry. She is a member of the Minot Young Professionals and Optimist Club. Renata and husband, David, have two daughters.

## 2004

**Gabe Rauschenberger**, a technical education teacher at Minot High School, is the state winner of the Air Force Association Teacher of the Year award. The technical education program has also been named the State Technology and Engineering Program of the Year.

## 2006



**Rick Geloff** is a credit analyst II at Starion Financial in Bismarck. Geloff joined Starion as a credit analyst I in 2013.



**Rachel (Luckey) Gruenberg**, a family nurse practitioner, provides consultation and follow-up care for patients receiving radiation therapy as part of their treatment at Trinity Cancer Care Center.

**Calli (Heidbreder) Scheller** is an account analyst for Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck.

## 2009

**Travis Bruner** and his wife, Ashley, are participating in the Farmers Union Enterprise Leadership Couples' Program. The program was developed to substantiate and empower future leaders for rural America. Travis farms with his family near Drake and works at Feedmix in Harvey. The Bruners have a one-year old daughter, Rayna.

**Erica (Johnson) Tuff** was promoted to clinical instructor in charge at Providence Portland Medical Center. Tuff served as a staff radiographer for the past five years. She and her husband live just outside of Portland, Ore.

## 2010

**Jaime Watson** was accepted into North Dakota State's Doctoral Program in Mathematics. Watson graduated with a Master of Science in mathematics in May 2015 from Fayetteville State University, N.C. She taught high school math at Pine Forest High School.

**Kristin Michels** joined Houston Engineering, Inc. – Minot Office as an administrative assistant. Michels previously worked in graphic design and print production.



**Leah (Wesoloski) Hoffman**, licensed addiction counselor III for the State of North Dakota, is currently working as the mental health counselor at Williston State College. Hoffman is finishing her master's degree in addiction counseling through the University of South Dakota. She is the college's first full-time mental health counselor and is developing a counseling center for students.

## 2011

**Katherine Berg** is teaching Spanish at Crookston High School. Berg has four years of teaching experience.

**Kyra Hansen** received the outstanding photographer of the year award from the Minot Camera Club.

**Vangelis (Escobedo) Thompson** is teaching first grade at Plaza Elementary School. Thompson previously taught first grade at Burlington Elementary and taught kindergarten and two years in second grade in Colorado Springs, Colo. She and husband, Eric, have three children.

## 2013



**Matthew Pederson** is a credit analyst at First Western Bank & Trust in Minot. Pederson, who has been with First Western for four years, previously served as a teller and in loan operations.



**Terry Wald** was promoted to account manager at SpotXchange, Digital Video Advertising Company, in Westminster, Colo. Wald joined SpotXchange in June, 2014.

## 2014



**Hanna Borner** is a marketing specialist at the Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota office in Bismarck. Her primary responsibilities include assisting and supporting the manager and benefit consultants with customer service. Prior to joining BCBSND, she worked as the assistant manager at Dress Barn in Bismarck.

**Mallory Brodal** is teaching business education at Tioga Public Schools. Brodal spent last year instructing eighth through twelfth graders in Grenora. She is an animal lover and avid outdoor adventurer.

## 2015

**Linda Beasley** is teaching special education at Tioga Public Schools. An avid runner from Montana, Beasley worked for years as an accountant before changing careers.

**Chad Marshall** is teaching physical education at North Shore. Marshall previously coached at Bishop Ryan.



**Cole Stober** has joined CHS SunPrairie as an on-farm procurement merchandiser. Cole is responsible for customizing agricultural marketing plans for area operators.

## Attending

**Tawnya Iglehart** is the K-12 art education teacher at North Shore. Iglehart has taught art around the region with organizations including: Theo Art School, Camp of the Cross and Taube Museum of Art.

**Mataya (Grigsby) Lafontaine** has joined Signal Realtors. Lafontaine, a graduate of Our Redeemer's Christian School, has four years experience with property management.

## Friend



**Lynn Aas** was honored by the Minot Kiwanis Club for 55 years of membership.

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# In Memory

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

## Graduates

'31 Overly (Johnson), Ida; Gig Harbor, Wash.  
'37 Newcomb (Ranum), Verna; Minneapolis  
'38 Brodal (Hatlelid), Carol; Crosby  
'39 Flaig (Iverson), Mildred; Devils Lake  
'40 Vedvig (Hardy), Helen; Billings, Mont.  
'41 Maahs (Argabright), Lorraine; Anaheim, Calif.  
'41 Tweed (Sogard), Adeline; Williston  
'42 Hoch (Lindquist), Marlys; Redding, Calif.  
'43 Johnson (Tkachenko), Ilet; Newberg, Ore.  
'43 Kamps (Monson), Alice; Plymouth, Minn.  
'47 Erickson (Pfeiffer), Sylvia; Bellevue, Wash.  
'48 Olson (Strand), MarVonne; Bismarck  
'49 Easton, Elwin; Wilmar, Minn.  
'49 Reinarts, Robert; Minot  
'51 Huber (Buchwitz), Beverly; Universal City, Texas  
'52 Bowker (Skaar), Deloris; Gillette, Wyo.  
'52 McClintock (Olson), Eileen; Rugby  
'53 Retterath (Bjorlie), Phyllis; Garrison  
'54 Frey, Duane; Denhoff  
'55 Foster, John; Boise, Idaho  
'55 Thorstenson, John; Cottage Gove, Ore.  
'56 Brostuen (Brietzke), Pearl; Denver, Colo.  
'56 Ryan (Hauf), Janice; Portland, Ore.  
'57 Thompson, Jerome; Sun Lakes, Ariz.  
'58 Lunde (Bracken), Delores; Devils Lake  
'59 Knuth, Orlin; Fargo  
'59 Pretzer, Arlo; Minot  
'60 Free (Tuenge), Margaret; Sidney, Mont.  
'61 Erickson (Hagerud), Coleen; Kenmare  
'63 Hill, Gordon; Grand Forks  
'64 Brown (Volk), Veronica; Cass Lake, Minn.  
'64 Buen, Gene; Velve  
'64 Faa, Myron; Bottineau  
'64 Kontos, Barbara; Newport Beach, Calif.  
'65 McDaniel (Niswander), Jewel; Raymond, Calif.  
'65 Westgard, Peter; Plaza  
'67 Brandt (Lindquist), Frances; Garrison  
'68 Davis (McNeil), Joyce; Denton, Texas  
'69 Goodwin (Baker), Beatrice; La Mesa, Calif.  
'69 Heitmann, James; Detroit Lakes, Minn.  
'69 Rude, Reggie; Williston  
'70 Richter, Daniel; Minot  
'70 Stokke, Donald; Coleharbor  
'71 Gillmore, Alfred; Minot  
'71 Olson, Larry; Tioga  
'71 Weber, Theodora; Granville

'73 Reichenberger (Ellingson), Betty; Fessenden  
'74 Huntley, Mary; Hyde Park, Vt.  
'87 Aasen (Kuehn), Debbie; Mohall  
'88 Getzlaff, Allen; Minot  
'90 Belgarde, Michael; Fort Defiance, N.M.  
'95 Fox, Cheryle; Mandaree  
'95 Olson (Quillen), Sherry; Minot  
'09 Quamme (Heidbreder), Carah; Williston

## Attended

Amsberry (Erickson), Esther; Williston  
Anderson, H. Richard; Rugby  
Anderson (Tofte), Shirley; Minot  
Busek, Joe; Bismarck  
Canestrari (Johnson), Mona; Danbury, Conn.  
Collins (Henke), Candace; Sawyer  
Dethloff (Appelt), Geraldine; Harvey  
Dockter (Kircher), Barbara; Minot  
Drady (Rockroy), Darlaine; Bismarck  
Effertz (Bodine), Loretta; Velve  
Erickson (Emil), Eleanor; Benedict  
Fossum, Chester; Minnetonka, Minn.  
Freund, Gary; Hickory, N.C.  
Fry, Donald; Moorhead, Minn.  
Gorman (Thompson), Patricia; Kenmare  
Hagenstein, Alan; Minot  
Havlis, Victoria; Yakima, Wash.  
Hennessy, Gerald; Minot  
Henning (Sund), Iris; Klamath Falls, Ore.  
Houmann (Hulse), Beth; Westhope  
Hovland (Renfrow), Loetta; Jamestown  
Inman, Carl; Glen Ullin  
Jacobs, Melvin; Bismarck  
Kary, Rodney; St. Ignatius, Mont.  
Keller, David S; Fargo  
Kritsky (Johnson), Marlene; Pocatello, Idaho  
Marks, Debra; Minot  
McGinnity (Dannewitz), Faye; Williston  
Merkel (Johnson), Darlene; Devils Lake  
Mohl, Dwight; Beulah  
Nelson, Warren; Brighton, Colo.  
Nixon, James; Devils Lake  
Norheim, Adeline; Rugby  
Parge, John; Mesa, Ariz.  
Penfield, Ferde; Fargo  
Parvey (Wuori), Lillian; Bismarck  
Phillippe, Jack; Sioux Falls, S.D.  
Roen (Sorlie), Virginia; Spearfish, S.D.  
Rollag, Natalie Serenity; Valley City  
Roy, Gordon; Ponca City, Okla.

Sanders, John; Minot  
Settje (Pluth), Beverly; Corona, S.D.  
Smith (Johnson), Shirley; Minot  
Skurdal (Kaeding), Arvella; Billings, Mont.  
Thompson, Gerald; Minot  
Walker (Stromme), Jean; Fergus Falls, Minn.  
Westman, Brittany; Plaza

## Friends

Allard, Donald; Minot  
Beecher, Adrian; Casper, Wyo.  
Black, Joe; Knox  
Kittell, Richard; Minot  
Knuth (Winter), Marilyn; Fargo  
Lee, Donald; Minot  
Messer, Cecil; Minot  
Minette (Paulson), Virginia; Minot  
Nilsen (Brunner), Cecilia; Minot  
Reiten (Steenson), Joy; Minot  
Smith (Finneman), Hazel; Minot  
Sollid, Harding; Minot  
Streich, Todd; Maxbass  
Watkins (Arnett), Fern; Meadville, Pa.  
Westlie, John; Burlington  
Yesenko, Fred; West Fargo

## Faculty and Staff

Awalt (Vormestrand), Tracy, former administrative assistant for Chartwells Food Services; Minot  
Halvorson, Betty, retired professor of nursing; Northbrook, Ill.  
Hammond, Wylie, retired Native American Center director, Dandridge, Tenn.  
Massine (White), Donna ('83); former assistant professor of communications disorders; Larkspur, Colo.  
Nelson, David, former director of deaf education; Eau Claire, Wis.  
Pennybaker, Dale, former athletic director and Division of Health and Physical Education chair; Lawrence, Kan.  
Rumney (Haggard), Lynne; former instructor of humanities, director of the Honors Program and co-founder and administrative director of the Dakota Chamber Music Institute; Minot  
Sheldon, Richard, retired professor of psychology; Edina, Minn.



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email your baby's photo to: [kate.marshall@minotstateu.edu](mailto:kate.marshall@minotstateu.edu).

### Benson

Mat Benson '09  
and Lindsey  
(Haga) Benson '08  
welcomed their first  
little one, Graham  
Daniel, on Dec. 26,  
2014.



### Berg

Joey Berg  
'09 and  
Erin  
(Danielson)  
Berg '14  
welcomed  
Max Joseph  
on June 11,  
2014. He  
joins big  
sister Matdy Ann.



### Bishop

Angela (Orluck)  
Bishop '12 and her  
husband, Michael,  
welcomed their first  
child, Hannah Elisa,  
on Feb. 4, 2015.



### Boyko

Georgia was born  
Aug. 23, 2014. Proud  
parents are Shawn  
Boyko '04 and his  
wife, Ashley.



### Burdick

Two proud Beaver  
parents, Zach  
Burdick '07 and  
Lindsey (Iverson)  
Burdick '07, wel-  
comed Charlotte  
Hazel on April 10,  
2015. She joins big  
sisters Grace and  
Sophia.



### Carroll

Spencer Eugene  
joined the Carroll  
family on Dec. 8,  
2014. Parents are  
Jeri (Sorensen)  
Carroll '97 and her  
husband, Rodrick.



### Casavant

Serena (Fred) Casavant  
'04 and husband,  
Trevor, had Payton  
DeWayne on April 15,  
2015.



### Colby

Charles Colby '00  
and Kendra (Haygood)  
Colby '11 welcomed a  
baby boy, Deacon  
William, on July 15,  
2014.



### Dutton

William Jagger entered  
the world on Jan. 12,  
2015. Proud parents  
are Jolene (Rebsom)  
Dutton '95 and hus-  
band Barry.



### Egger

Kyle Ella made her  
appearance on Aug.  
13, 2013. She was  
welcomed by Desiree'  
(Taylor) Egger '07 and  
her husband, David.



### Erickson

Proud Grandma Jean  
(Murray) Erickson  
'70 welcomed new  
grandson Brayden on  
Christmas Day 2014.  
Parents are Bryan and  
Kim Erickson.



### Fullerton

Matthew Fullerton '08  
and Jessica (Anderson)  
Fullerton '07 happily  
welcomed Evan  
Charles on Jan. 24,  
2015. He joins big  
brother Ben, who is  
3 years old.



### Hunt

Brynlee Ilene was  
born April 23, 2015,  
and was welcomed by  
Dawn (Walhood) Hunt  
'03/'08 and her hus-  
band, Carl. The family  
resides in Phoenix,  
Ariz.



## Hunt

Korver Bruce was born May 22, 2015. Proud parents are Kyle Hunt '04 and Heather (Hill) Hunt '00.



## Kadrmias

Nicky (Stevens) Kadrmias '03 and her husband, Gregg, welcomed Brady to their family on April 8, 2013. He joins big brother Aaron.



## Keck

Priscilla (Monson) Keck '06 and husband Robert joyfully welcomed Olivia Eileen on March 26, 2014. She joins big sister Grace (6) and Adam (3).



## Lee

Camden Robert was born Dec. 31, 2014. Proud parents are Chase Lee '11 and Amy (Green) Lee '07.



## Mappes

Brayden Eugene joined the world on Dec. 8, 2014. Proud parents are Aryn (Arndt) Mappes '11/'12 and her husband, Brandon.



## Mead

Ryan was born July 11, 2014. He was joyfully welcomed by Debbie (Lisiecki) Mead '07 and her husband, Justin.



## Ming

Kerra Michelle was born on Dec. 1, 2014, to proud parents Joshua Ming '12 and Kirstin (Kanning) Ming '11.



## Pederson

Rivers John was born March 5, 2015, to proud parents Jordon Pederson '12 and Jordon (Stenberg) Pederson '13.



## Peterson

Matthew Peterson '06 and Kimberly (Flagen) Peterson '04 welcomed Brady on Nov. 10, 2014. The family resides in Lexington, S.C.



## Raebel

Evelyn (Holmquist) Raebel '03 and her husband, Alan, welcomed Carter to the family on Feb. 17, 2015. He joins big brother Cody, who was born Jan. 2, 2014.



## Ramos

Danielle (Judkins) Ramos '08 and her husband, Anthony, welcomed their third child, Hannah Marie, on Aug. 24, 2014.



## Schaan

Giselle Brooklyn was born Sept. 2, 2014, to Brooklyn (Heid) Schaan '09 and her husband, Christopher.



## Seibel

Sheila (Rosenkranz) Seibel '09 and her husband, Justin, had Roman Jay on Jan. 12, 2015. Roman joins big sister Wesley. The family resides in Bismarck.



## Shirley

MSU President, Steven Shirley and his wife Jennifer welcomed William Jerome on January 22, 2015. He joins big sister Anna who is 4.



## Steen

Luke Steen '06/'08 and Rebecca (Hanson) Steen '09 welcomed their third child, Travin David, on Jan. 26, 2014.



## Solomonson

Karter Jo Ryan was born Dec. 23, 2014, to Melissa Solomonson '10/'13 and Daniel Ryan.



## Torbit

Kiera Grace entered the world on June 7, 2014. She was welcomed by parents Patrick Torbit '08 and Allison (Schwarz) Torbit '06.



## Tucci

Dante was born to Nichole (Warren) Tucci '10 and husband, James, on Feb. 27, 2014.



## Zietz

Daisy was born April 14, 2014, to Kellan Zietz '11 and Anna (Holt) Zietz '12.







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*Lynn, Dave and Kathy live in Minot and call it home. Minot State University is a big part of Minot, and support for MSU has long been a priority for them. The Aas Family Scholarship provides deserving business students with financial support to realize their dreams. "Supporting MSU business students with scholarships is our way of supporting the future of the Minot community."*

*Dave Aas (attended '72 - '74), Lynn Aas and Kathy (Weigel) Aas '11*