

Connections



Minot State
UNIVERSITY

Spring 2018

Alumni Association and
Development Foundation

The voice
specialist



Inside this issue





Minot State
UNIVERSITY

CONNECTIONS

Volume 26 – number 2

Cover Story

- 6 Low is riding high

Features

- 10 New beginnings by way of the barracks
- 14 Bringing real solutions to the accounting world
- 20 Impressive art space captures metropolitan feel in the Great Plains
- 22 Gov. Burgum's State of the State at Minot State
- 24 Cunningham builds lifetime of stories

Athletics

- 26 Athletics unveils Academic Center

Every issue

- 13 Profiles: MSU students, faculty and staff
- 16 Under 30: Spark of creativity spawns new company for Cote van Rensburg
- 18 Under 40: Hard work paying off for Leraas
- 28 Development Foundation
- 30 Alumni events
- 33 Class notes
- 37 In Memory
- 38 Baby Beavers



22

Storytelling

I like to tell stories.

Whether it is in a hallway at Minot State, during my past life as a newspaper reporter, or in the pages of this magazine, my passion for writing has always been to tell a story.

That's what excites me so much about being the managing editor of Connections: It's the stories we get to tell. We get to be the narrator for some of Minot State's best stories.

My love of storytelling started early on.

I'm sure there are a few of my high school English teachers who shake their heads when they hear this is my profession, but even back then, the "gift of gab" was central to my personality.

For those 16 to 18-year-olds out there, yes, you can turn being the class clown into a profession!

But there was a watershed moment a few years after high school.

The day I made the decision to change from a business major to a communication major based off the suggestion from CW "Bill" Huber, my freshman communication arts professor at Carroll College, I knew I wanted to have a career based on being the narrator.

Huber had a huge impact on what has now been a 20-year storytelling career. It set me on a path to change majors — which led me to the Grand Forks Herald and love for the written word; change schools — which led me to meet my beautiful wife, Nichole; and change states — which led to moving from Montana to North Dakota, where I've been ever since.

At MSU, we talk a lot about the positive impact our faculty have on our students, and while Bill was not someone I met here, I believe that 100 percent. We struck up a fantastic relationship in a short time before I left for North Dakota, and he has left an indelible mark on my career.

I have taken far too long to thank him in the most fitting way I know how — in print — albeit about 15 years too late. Thanks Bill, you most likely never knew the effect you had on me, but I'm forever grateful. Rest in peace.

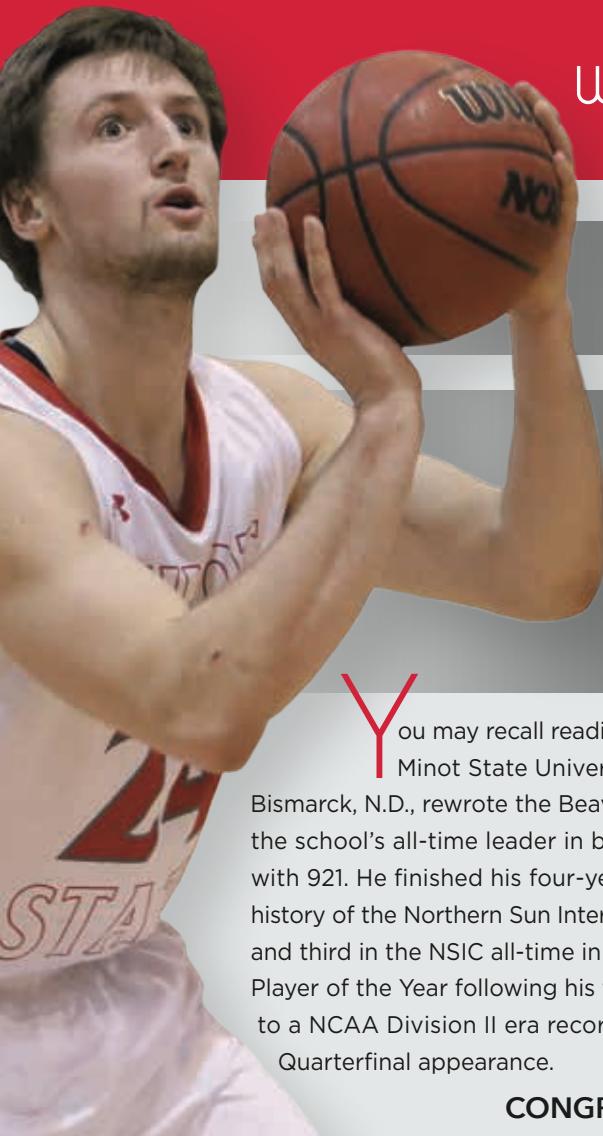
I hope all of you enjoy reading these stories as much as we enjoy telling them. Go Beavers!

— Michael Linnell,
Managing Editor of Connections
Director, University Communications



Editor's note

RUDOLPH rises to the top with 1,987 points



Paul Harrell (1977 - 80)

1,826



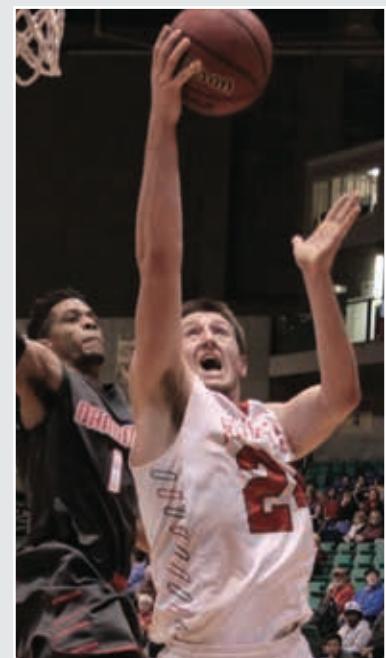
Henry Milkey (1953 - 57)

1,796



Rick Hedberg (1984 - 88)

1,652



You may recall reading in the March 2017 issue of Connections about Minot State University's Tyler Rudolph. The senior forward from Bismarck, N.D., rewrote the Beavers men's basketball record book, finishing as the school's all-time leader in both scoring with 1,987 points and rebounding with 921. He finished his four-year career as the second leading scorer in the history of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (1,494 conference points) and third in the NSIC all-time in rebounds (796). Rudolph was named the NSIC Player of the Year following his tremendous senior season, helping the Beavers to a NCAA Division II era record for wins with 20 and the team's first NSIC Quarterfinal appearance.

CONGRATULATIONS TYLER!

Meet artist Roxi Mathis



f at RoxiMathisArt

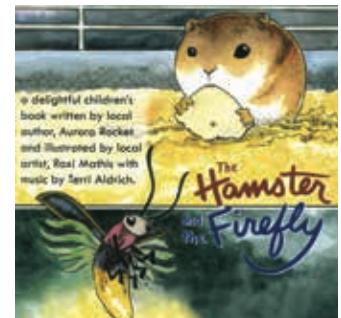
Roxanne (Roxi) Mathis graduated from Minot State University in 2014 with a bachelor of fine arts degree. She grew up in Amidon in the Badlands of North Dakota and moved to Minot in 2003.

"I generally work with watercolor, acrylic, or ink, and my subject matter varies wildly. Some of my work is more traditional like landscapes and wildlife, but I really have fun with creating odd little creatures that are sort of skeletal," Mathis said. "I have also recently started exploring abstracted patterns and light, which are a result of having eye surgery. I have also illustrated two children's

books, 'Moose on the Loose' and 'The Hamster and the Firefly.' I like to stay involved in the local art community, so I am a contributing member at Suite One Artist Coop in downtown Minot."

Mathis works in the Publications and Design Services Office at Minot State University. She and her husband, Dan, live in Minot.

See Mathis' rendition of the MSU barracks on page 10.



President's message

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Greetings to all. We are in the midst of another busy academic year on the MSU campus. There are encouraging signs that winter is slowly loosening its grip as we head toward spring — always a welcomed change! The early days of the 2018 Spring Semester have been busy.

On Jan. 23, MSU hosted Gov. Doug Burgum as he delivered his State of the State address from Ann Nicole Nelson Hall. Approximately 1,000 visitors were on campus from across the state. Following the address, Gov. Burgum and Lt. Gov. Brent Sanford spent the entire day at MSU for a campus tour and various meetings with students, faculty, staff, and community members. On Jan. 30 – 31, we hosted a group of legislators who comprise the North Dakota legislature's Higher Education committee for their legislative meetings. It is always enjoyable showcasing the beautiful MSU campus when we have visitors from across North Dakota.

There have been a few major capital projects completed on campus that will provide long-term benefits for MSU students, in addition to the significant impact they will have in our community and region:

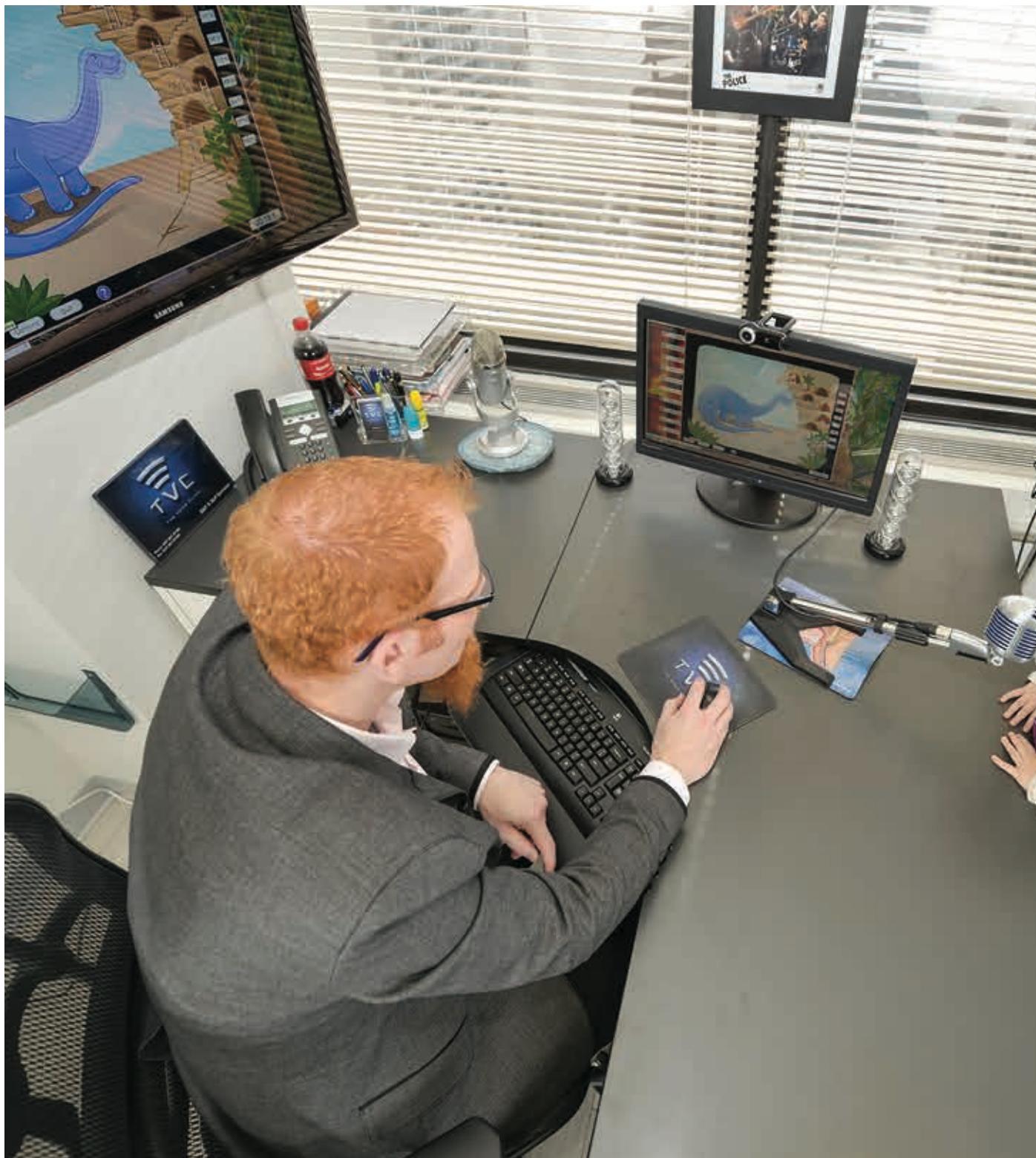
- The Northwest Arts Center relocated to a new space on campus in January, and will now feature the Walter Piehl Gallery. This \$1.4 million renovation project in the lower level of the Gordon B. Olson Library was entirely funded through private contributions. A special word of thanks to Dr. Doris Slaaten, the Chuck and Madge Westlie estate, and the MSU Development Foundation for making this significant project a reality. This beautiful new gallery space allows MSU to display its art collection, host traveling exhibits and displays, and will feature an impressive display by our very own Walter Piehl — all in a climate-controlled environment.
- Across 11th Avenue from the Library, the new air-supported seasonal dome was inflated for the first time in December and now covers the soccer/football field at Herb Parker Stadium. This \$2 million project was funded thanks to a \$1 million grant from the City of Minot's Community Facilities Fund along with another \$1 million privately fundraised from community supporters and partners. This will serve an important role as it creates 86,000 square feet of indoor recreational space during Minot's cold winter months. It will not only benefit MSU's current and future students but will also be an important new asset for the entire Minot community — especially for area youth involved in softball, baseball, golf, soccer, and other sports.
- Finally, in the MSU Dome, the new Dean Frantsvog Academic Success Center opened in late January. Thanks to the generosity of American Trust Center, United Community Bank of North Dakota, Vibeto Orthodontics, and Dean '97 and Sara (Christianson) '99 Frantsvog, this new Center provides academic and study space in the Dome for our many student-athletes. The center is named in honor of MSU Accounting and Finance professor Dean Frantsvog. Dean has served as MSU's Faculty Athletic Representative since Beaver Athletics made the move to the NCAA in 2010. It is a well-deserved tribute to Dean for his outstanding commitment and dedication to our campus and student-athletes.

I look forward to seeing you in 2018, and as always ... GO BEAVERS!



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven W. Shirley".

Steven W. Shirley, Ph.D., President





LOW

is riding high

By MICHAEL LINNELL

A QUICK GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH FOR “AARON LOW, SPEECH PATHOLOGIST” and two items jump out. First, is the impressive red goatee he sports in his traditional lab-coat photos and the second — in what has become somewhat of a trademark — is a mock strangling of some of the music industry’s most famous singers.

Low ’97/’99 has built his Toronto company, The Voice Clinic, into one of the top Ear Nose Throat and Speech Voice Pathology Clinics in Canada using techniques first learned at Minot State University under his mentor Dr. Nelson Roy.

The hands-on techniques — vocal rehabilitation using circumlaryngeal massage, and laryngeal restposturing — were considered unique, if not groundbreaking, when Low was first learning. And they still are today.

“It is unique, especially in Canada,” he said. “It’s not really incorporated into the clinic skill set in Canadian speech pathology and not in every clinical dynamic. I was fortunate to work with Nelson. In 1999, there wasn’t even the diagnosis of musical tension dysphonia yet. I came into the game with a new technique and even now, 20 years later, it’s still considered new and cutting edge.”

The cutting-edge aspect and proven results have built his clientele list into a who’s-who of talented individuals who use their voice in their career. Low has worked on and with musicians such as Sting, Dave Matthews, Sam Smith, and Shawn Mendes; actors such as Gerard Butler; the Canadian Opera Company, executives, teachers, and ministers.

One of his favorite singers to work with currently is Mendes, a pop singer from Ontario. Mendes rose to fame after posting covers on the social media application Vine. His single, “Stitches,” reached No. 4 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100.

“I’ve been able to take care of Shawn from early on,” Low said. “He’s a young kid training his body and his voice and he wants to know more. The tours they go on are grueling and there is a lot of strain on their voices. He’s learning how to train his athletic voice.”

It was rock star Sting that first took the now often mimicked strangling photo.

"I worked with Sting in 2008; he was very interested in the anatomy and the voice," Low said. "Because of his interest in it, he was more fun to work with than someone that just comes in and says 'fix it, and get me out of here.' I got to spend more time with him. He's in his late 50s and still could pull the high notes out of 'Roxanne,' but he didn't train or warm up like he should. I gave him some things that work for him and it will help keep his high range. We try to make changes not just for the acute, but for the long term. That's when the word spreads."

It has definitely spread for Low as he started the company five years ago. He works in tandem with Dr. Alex Osborn, an

otolaryngologist and head-neck surgeon.

"He runs the medical practice within the practice, and I run the speech path practice," Low said. "We have all of the equipment to run a very up-to-date medical/therapeutic voice clinic."

Opening his own clinic has been on his mind since his early days at Minot State. The Moose

Jaw, Saskatchewan, native chose MSU mainly due to his sister, Shauna (Low) Newsham '93 — who had just finished with her master's degree in the program. He started working with Roy in graduate school.

"I basically got into it because of my sister. She encouraged me because she liked the program and thought I would do well," Low said. "Nelson

mentored me through voice, and a lot of the things I do now are because of him. I followed him, I was in his hands clinically."

"Aaron has a big personality; he stands out," Newsham said. "He has the wild red hair and a big goatee, he doesn't look like a typical speech pathologist. So he was going to stand out on his own. But most of the professors were still there from my time and that probably helped him. The school gave us all the tools. Even with it being a smaller school, it was a great intro into voice. Aaron has taken that to a new level."

Roy, now a professor of communication sciences and disorder at the University of Utah, remembers Low as someone who stood out as much for his personality as his ability.

"Very few universities have the facilities like Minot State does for the clinical side," Low said. "It was a wonderful learning community."

Aaron Low, left, and musician Shawn Mendez pose in what has become one of Low's signature photos after the singer received therapy.





Aaron Low, left, and recording artist Dave Matthews take a snapshot following a therapy session.

"He was pretty ambitious, so I'm not surprised that he has been wildly successful," Roy said. "I was only at Minot State for a short time, and Aaron was in one of my first cohorts in grad school. That was a talented group of students, and Aaron was no exception. He stood out by virtue of his personality. He was affable, easy going. While most grad students were pretty intense, he had a good proportion of managing the academic side with a good sense of humor. I'm sure his strong interpersonal skills have helped him with the patients he works with."

Roy is pleased one of his students has advanced his work in such a way.

"It's very gratifying that I could influence someone early in their career," Roy said. "That's what you hope for. As a mentor, you are working with the next generation of clinicians that develop those skills. For me, it's nice to see the techniques adopted by Aaron."

Because of Roy's approach to teaching, Low praised his mentor and the speech-language pathology department at Minot State for allowing students to experience hands-on training.

"Very few universities have the facilities like Minot State does for the clinical side," Low said. "It was a wonderful learning community. We were watched and helped and could practice. (Most schools) do a lot of teaching but not a lot of practice, and Minot State gave me the confidence because I could practice." ■

A star before the rock stars

By MICHAEL LINNELL

While Aaron Low has built a career working with rock stars, he referred to sister Shauna (Low) Newsham '93, as a rock star at Minot State. It was her time at MSU that helped spark an interest for the younger Low to come to Minot.

"I followed in my sister's footsteps," he said. "She was the star student."

Newsham was the original speech-language pathologist in the family but took a different route to owning her own business — Tongue Twisters, Inc. in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

"After I moved back to Canada, took a 'steady job,' and did some private practice for a few years, I decided to go off on my own," she said. "I work half time now and the other half I chauffeur my kids around. I hired another speech-path who subcontracts for me and we both work out of my home office, so it can be kind of crazy, but it's been super."

While the brother-sister speech-language pathology duo have continued in the same field, there isn't a big sibling rivalry between the two.

"We do talk professionally, but more so when Aaron first finished school and got into voice, he would ask me some questions," Newsham said. "But now he's the best there is, and I phone him with questions."

Finding more time to spend with her family has motivated Newsham to evolve her business into its current form.

"When I had my kids, I was working three or four hours, four days a week, but that increased. There were kids who needed spots and you don't want to say no," she said. "By the time my third daughter was born, I was working a lot more, I was the one working until 7:30 every night. I was lucky, I got to see them at lunch and got them ready for school, but I didn't have much time after. In 2011, my husband (David Newsham) and I said I'm working too much. It has been great to share the hours."

Newsham didn't originally plan to attend Minot State, starting her collegiate career at the University of Saskatchewan, but she gained entry to MSU as a "special student" finishing her undergrad in one year before getting into the speech-language pathology graduate program.

"I applied to several schools, but the staff (at U of S) directed me to strong clinical schools and Minot had an excellent clinical program," she said. ■





New beginnings by way of the barracks

By NICOLE THOM-ARENS
Illustrated by ROXI MATHIS

MINOT STATE University's role during WWII is well documented. The university

was home to soldiers for the V-5 and V-12 naval training programs. Postwar, the university became home for veterans returning from war and seeking higher education initially through the GI Bill®. To house these veterans, the university acquired married housing units known as the barracks. Couples, many with young children, sought out residence in either the wood or steel barracks.

"It was an economic necessity," according to Bob Nelson '69, who lived in the steel barracks with his wife, Patricia '69 (Sweet), and their two children. "We had decided this before we got married — that we were going to go back to school. The marriage was part of the means to go back to school."

Barracks living in the 1960s was particularly affordable for married couples. Al Dietz '61 and his wife, Shirley, also lived in the steel barracks with their daughters, and Dietz remembers rent being as little as \$35 per month including all utilities except cold water. Dietz, who attended school full time as a business major, said the living arrangements made college feasible.

"It just made life easier for us," Dietz said.

The two-bedroom apartments certainly added convenience to the busy lives of the men who sometimes worked full time and attended school full time.

"I worked from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. and went to school from 9 a.m. to noon, and then I went home and studied or slept," Wally Garbel '61, who continued his full-time

job with the railroad while attending college, recalled. "If there weren't any trains that we had to work with, we could do some studying."

Neither Nelson, Dietz, nor Garbel had the opportunity to attend college immediately following high school. All three men ended up working with the Great Northern Railroad, and all three left the railroad for the classroom. It was through the railroad, though, not Minot State, that Dietz and Nelson first met.

"Al (Dietz) and I pretty much grew up together," Nelson recalled. "My mother ran a sort of boarding house and Al stayed with us (while working for the GNR). We were practically like brothers."

Nelson, who attended Minot State about 10 years after Dietz, said the barracks were an "economic necessity" for his family.

"One time I came home from work and she (Patricia) was crying. No money in the

It was tough, but it was educational — a learning experience, the whole thing."

After graduating with a degree to teach chemistry, the Nelsons set out to the last frontier in Alaska.

"The goal had always been to go to Alaska," Nelson said.

They lived in Alaska for 41 years. Both taught on Eielson Air Force Base near Fairbanks.

"It (college) lifted me from the, what shall I say, the school of hard knocks, into a profession that I loved," Nelson said.

Garbel, who earned a degree in teaching business, didn't spend his entire academic career in the barracks.

"You signed up for them and you waited until the ones who were in there graduated and moved out and then somebody moved in, and so that's what happened," Garbel explained about securing one of the coveted spots in the wooden barracks.

"When I went to class in the winter time, I'd just have a

"I always wanted to go but never got the chance after high school," Dietz said.

Dietz was one of seven children in his family and was the only one who was able to attend college.

"At 27, with my wife as an RN, I decided, I am going to go to college and get an education," he recalled.

For these men, the barracks made completing a degree while providing for a family a little easier. By the late 1970s, the university had remodeled Pioneer Hall, and it became the new married housing on campus. The barracks, although they looked rugged from the outside, provided comfortable living for Minot State families for several decades. The structures were demolished in 1979.

Out of high school, Dietz learned telegraphy and went to work for the railroad. Being from a rural North Dakota town, Dietz didn't know of any scholarships available to young men outside of athletics. So, in 2017, the Dietzes made one of the largest IRA rollover contributions to Minot State University to establish the Alvin and Shirley Dietz Scholarship Endowment for young people in similar situations.

"I think it's really important to get young people out of small towns that don't know or probably never heard of scholarships, and I want them to be the recipient of what I've been trying to do here. In small towns in North Dakota it's tough to get advice," Dietz said. "I just hope the college keeps pushing scholarships to people out in the country."

The Alvin and Shirley Dietz Scholarship Endowment distributed \$4,074.87 for incoming freshmen from North Dakota high schools for the upcoming 2018-2019 academic year. ■



house, a new baby, and we hadn't any money for baby food. I borrowed a dollar from one of the guys that I worked with at Cloverdale to buy food for my baby. That was the big builder of determination to get through school," Nelson said. "I am proud of what we have done.

sweater on, and I'd go out my front door, go across the sidewalk, and into the Model School (Hall), and there was a tunnel we could walk over to the main building. It was steam pipes. You had to hurry up because it was hot down there," Garble said.

For Dietz, college had been a long-term desire.



Bringing real solutions to the accounting world

By DAN FAGAN

From humble beginnings to Minot business leader, Marlys Magnuson exemplifies the traditional American success story.

Marlys (Forness) Magnuson '88 was born and raised on a farm near Carpio, N.D. Her father was a life long farmer with an eighth-grade education. Her mother was a homemaker who also worked as a cook. While neither of her parents had the opportunity to attend college, Magnuson and her sisters were urged to pursue higher education.

"One thing my parents instilled in us was the importance of going to college," Magnuson said.

Magnuson discovered an interest in accounting when she was still in high school. Embracing her aspirations, she attended Minot State while balancing a full-time job and settling into married life. Persistence, diligence, and school loans paved the way toward graduation and a bachelor's degree in accounting.

Magnuson's successful internship with Brady Martz her last semester of college paid major dividends, culminating in a full-time position with the

firm. Magnuson worked with the firm for nearly twenty years primarily as an auditor for banks but had experience on both the tax and accounting side.

"One thing about public accounting is it's after the fact, so the piece I was missing was the forward thinking aspect," Magnuson said.

Magnuson found her missing piece by working for a private business owner in Minot. It was there that she learned the ins and outs of running a successful business.

"That gave me the confidence boost I needed to run my own business," she said.

In 2013, she started Accounting Solutions, a firm specializing in helping individuals and businesses with accounting and tax planning.

"It was scary at first because I was coming in without a portfolio of clients," Magnuson said.

Joined by her former colleague and fellow MSU grad,

Karla Walsh '15, Magnuson built a solid client base purely on her reputation and by word of mouth in the community.

"I didn't have to advertise at all," she mused.

Initially starting with 20 clients, Accounting Solutions has blossomed into a thriving business with over 450 clients. Magnuson has also quadrupled her employee pool — from two to eight (most of whom are MSU graduates).

Magnuson attributes much of her success to good customer service.

"I always tell my staff, 'treat your clients well and they will come back,'" she said. "I don't like it when a customer isn't happy, which is why it doesn't happen here."

Magnuson exudes North Dakota nice bringing a sense of calm to those customers that enter her office. She makes a serious effort to engage with her customers

and get to know them on a personal level.

Magnuson has maintained a solid relationship with her alma mater, serving as president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and offering internships to MSU students.

"I know it works because that's how my career started. I've seen a lot of interns get hired on. The employer gets to see how good someone is in a work environment, not just on a report card," Magnuson said.

Magnuson's busiest time of the year is tax season, January-May, when she works up to 80 hours a week. How does she manage to work such long hours?

"Adrenaline," Magnuson said with a laugh.

When Magnuson gets rare and well-deserved down time, she enjoys traveling to Jamaica with her husband, Todd '92, a high school math teacher and MSU alumni.

"Jamaica is my after-tax season spot," Magnuson said. ■

alum from DAY one

Makensy Arlien

Finance ■ Minot, N.D.

Makensy is in her second semester at Minot State. She plays golf for the Beavers and is involved in DECA. She earned the MSU Alumni Scholarship in 2017.

Why did you choose Minot State?

I had the opportunity to play golf, and my parents (Mike '94/'01 and Jenn (Zahn) '95) told me a lot about MSU. They both graduated from MSU, so I had the background already. Also, my cousin (Shelby Zahn) is a junior here.



How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

The biggest thing is having tutoring available whenever needed. I can also go and talk to professors or email them a question. They are very helpful.

What has been your favorite class?

Right now, marketing is the best; we are doing a lot of projects. I just started, and I can tell I'm going to like it.

Who has been your most influential professor?

Dr. Kristi (Schaefer) Berg '95/'00. I've been able to go to her with problems or questions and have even talked to her about possible careers. She's my go-to person.

What is your most memorable moment at MSU?

The club fair when we had that first week – and the bubble dance – that was fun. I went with my roommate, Maddy, and I got to know her there.

How has the Alumni Scholarship helped your college career?

It was an eye opener of how many different alumni there are to talk to about their experiences. They've helped me be more active in the MSU community.

Sydney Boyce

Nursing ■ Minot, N.D.

Sydney was recently accepted into the nationally recognized MSU nursing program at Minot State. But, she is no stranger to the profession as she has spent the past two years as a certified nursing assistant at Trinity Hospital.

Why did you choose Minot State?

It was nice to stay at home and to save some money. Minot State has an awesome nursing program, high accreditation, and the passing rate is amazing. I think I've always wanted to be a nurse.

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

The biggest thing for me is meeting people through MSU Life and the clubs. It really helps you be better prepared. I've met some girls in the nursing program and worked with two MSU nursing students at Trinity.

What is your favorite quote?

"You miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take."

What has been your favorite class?

Pharmacology. It's so interesting how different medications work in the body.

Who has been your most influential professor?

Kimberly Tiedman. She is so outgoing and energetic, and she maintains the student's attention. If we start to drift, she will have us stand up and refocus. She's always available if we need time outside of class.

What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

Being able to make a personal connection with professors is so important. Minot State, being a smaller school, gives you the confidence to speak up.



freshman

sophomore

alum from DAY one

Zack Myers

**Criminal Justice, minor in Business Management ■
Temecula, Calif.**

Zack joined brother Brody at Minot State on a football scholarship, but after concussions ended his playing career, he focused on his education. He still works with the football team, however, helping breakdown film and video. He started an internship with the Minot Police Department in 2018.



Why did you choose Minot State?

Having a brother here and getting a football scholarship were probably the biggest driving factors. I met with Melissa Spelchen and really liked the Criminal Justice program after she described it to me.

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

MSU has given me the opportunity to explore more of what I want to do with my major and has allowed me to make connections with the real world.

What's your favorite quote?

"A setback is a setup for a comeback," T.D. Jakes. In life we have many setbacks and, often, we can't see the bigger picture. In my experience with the concussions, I didn't see the bigger picture, but now it is becoming clearer as I move forward in law enforcement.

What has been your favorite class?

The field experience class I'm in now because it is the first hands-on class I've been in. The rest are theory, but with this one I can see those theories in practice.

Who has been your most influential professor?

Melissa Spelchen '99/'05. She is always there willing to help.

What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

A lot of people say there is nothing to do here, but Minot is ultimately as fun as you want to make it.

junior

Jade Teske

**Physical Education and Corporate Fitness ■
Westhope, N.D.**

Jade spends most of her time at the MSU Wellness Center. The past president of Minot State Club of Physical Educators (MSCOPE) works with intramurals, has been a group exercise instructor, and works for the Wellness Center.

Why did you choose Minot State?

Both of my parents, Karen (Moe) '90 and David '88, are alumni, and MSU was close to home. I also played golf for the Beavers in my second year.

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

MSU has provided me with endless opportunities — anything I could have dreamed of. I've traveled internationally, taught in Jamaica, and attended a conference in Toronto.

What has been your favorite class?

Both of my methods classes, elementary and secondary education. I've been out in the schools and have had hands-on experience. I've learned a lot in both of them.

Who has been your most influential professor?

Dr. Terry (Ferebee) Eckmann '81/'82. She is the one that made me passionate about this when I was unsure of what I wanted. She changed my life. She brought me out of my comfort zone.

What is your most memorable moment at MSU?

Probably going to Jamaica. To get that experience on the International Teaching Tour was great.

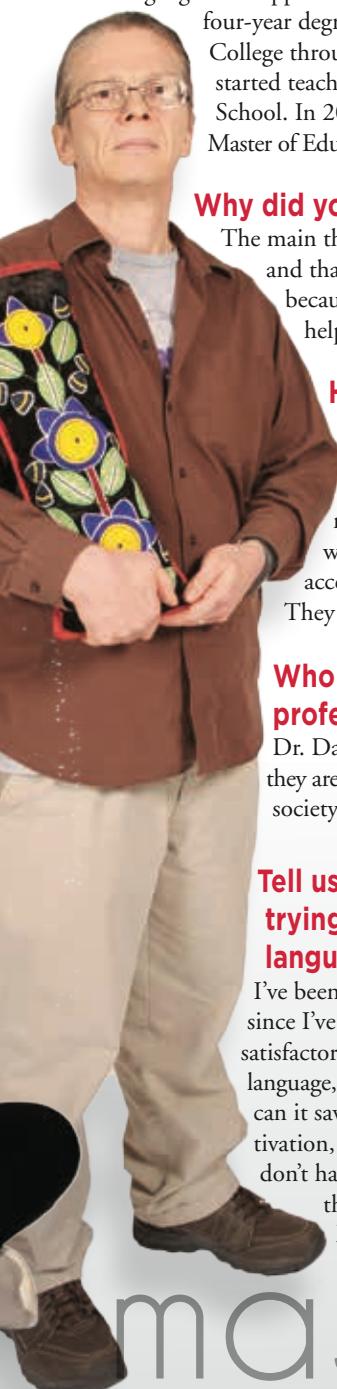


senior

Alex DeCoteau

Master of Education ■ Belcourt, N.D.

Alex hasn't taken the traditional path to graduate school, earning an Associate of Arts degree at NDSU Bottineau in 1983 before attending just one year at MSU. He began his journey of teaching the Ojibwa language as an apprentice under elder Francis Cree. Alex earned his four-year degree in elementary education at White Earth College through the University of Minnesota Duluth and started teaching at Turtle Mountain Community High School. In 2016, he returned to MSU to enroll in the Master of Education program.



Why did you choose Minot State?

The main thing was location. I knew I would need online and that I would need help — face-to-face help because I'm a full-time teacher, single parent, and help take care of two elderly parents.

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

The teachers at MSU empower you to learn. They are kind, highly respectful, and open minded. There was a little bit of apprehension when I decided to go back; would they be accepting of me? I feel really comfortable here. They have helped me become a better learner.

Who has been your most influential professor?

Dr. Dan Conn. He wants students to understand they are in education to change: the student, thus society and then thus the world, to make it better.

Tell us about your thesis, "We are not trying to save the language. The language is trying to save us."

I've been hearing how we need to save the language since I've been young, but the results have been unsatisfactory. If you tell the children that, to save the language, they don't understand. But the opposite, how can it save them; its more intrinsic, there's more motivation, this is something that can save my life. We don't have the language or culture, we are missing that on a deeper, broader idea of culture. The language can save us if we are willing.

master's

Aaron (Jaeger) Hughes '12

MSU Student Life Director ■ Washburn, N.D.

Aaron has spent 10 years associated with Minot State as a student, student employee, and now Student Life Director, a position she has held since 2012. She is a former Student Government Association senator, Art Club president, and student ambassador.

Why did you choose Minot State?

I chose MSU because of the art department and I wanted to get a graphic design degree. I toured the campus and it felt right. It was small enough that it kind of reminded me of my hometown of Washburn.



How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

Minot State gave me the opportunity to try on different hats. I learned a lot and wasn't always just in the classroom. I might have learned the most from a work-study job in IT.

What's your favorite quote?

"Bloom where you are planted." I'm not sure it's from anyone specific.

Who was your most influential professor?

Bill Harbort. He is quirky and fun. He is my favorite because he pushed me outside my comfort zone and challenged me to think differently. I learned a lot from his style.

What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

You can really create an experience for yourself based on the things you choose to get involved in. No one experience is the same.

staff



Spark
of creativity spawns
new company for
Cote van Rensburg



Kyla Cote van Rensburg '11 (center of photo) was in such a creative space she almost didn't see the symbol of her company right before her eyes.

But after she and her husband, Piet van Rensburg, took a look at what would become the character of Dak, a stylized bison with the name "FARGO" in the body, they knew they were onto something special.

"I started working on it about a year ago, it was winter and I needed something to spark my creativity," she said. "I noticed when I moved to Fargo the love of bison and the team, the local support, I wanted to do something to celebrate that. I wasn't sure what, maybe a fine art piece with no name or anything like that. I was in such a creative space I didn't know what I had."

"My husband thought it was great. In January (2017) we had our first showing with Grain Designs, a company that makes signage with reclaimed wood. Because of my work with Fashion Week in Minot, Dak became apparel."

With that, Dak & Co. was born. Cote van Rensburg began her career in Fargo with Cote Creative, a marketing consulting firm, but now splits time with both companies. Juggling the duties of manager and client at the same time can be difficult.

"It's been challenging," she said. "It is really different creating for yourself. It's a different dynamic. I have to remember to be a good client and give myself the information I need. It's been fun. It's fun to have Piet on board. He's analytical and has structure. That is a good balance for me. It's fun to bounce ideas off him. We have learned a lot focusing on brand development."

She credits her time with Minot State's student government in helping her move her career forward and praised MSU professors Bill Harbort and Linda Olson '84 for getting her entrepreneurial spirit going.

"Student government helped me be such a well-rounded student," she said. "I can remember being in the art department and listening to Bill Harbort and his ventures and creative businesses, and I took an advanced student course with Linda Olson on jewelry making. She helped me with my senior showcase and I started out with a small jewelry company. Minot State definitely was a great confidence booster."

Cote van Rensburg, a Willow City, N.D., native who majored in art with an emphasis on graphic design and minored in marketing, believes the climate is right to expand her business.

"We are working on our online presence and want to grow and develop new items to make, we will make the apparel for sure, but work on other products. We hope to do some 'pop-ups' in North Dakota and maybe Minnesota," she said. "I feel like the whole startup community is taking over the region. There are so many resources at our fingertips — the internet has enabled startups to have a lot of success." ■



Hard work paying off for LERAAS



Andy Leraas '09 knew the industry he was preparing to enter was difficult, simply because of all of the competition. Leraas, however, has never backed down from a little competition.

"I think it goes back to my athletic career at Minot State," Leraas said. "I've always been driven. I see a goal and try to reach that goal. That's always been my demeanor. Coming into an industry where the harder you work, the more you understand the products, the more you can help people and their needs, the more you will be rewarded."

That hard work has paid off in just a short time for Leraas. The former basketball and baseball player at MSU, who graduated with a broadcasting degree, has quickly built his practice to the Pinnacle producer level at Thrivent Financial since joining the in late 2014 as a Financial Associate. In 2015, his first full year, he qualified to attend the organization's Peak Performers Conference and was named the region's Rookie of the Year. He followed that by qualifying to attend the Thrivent Financial Summit Conference. This past year, he qualified to attend the Pinnacle Conference finishing 25th out of approximately 2,000 financial representatives in the not-for-profit, Fortune 500 organization. He was ranked No. 1 in the Northland region in 2017.

"It has been really rewarding to be able to help people and see the change you can make in their lives. That's rewarding on a professional level," he said.

Leraas also partially credits his ability to thrive in a tough industry to his experience facilitating the KMSU Auction, a major annual fundraising event for the broadcasting department of Minot State.

"The KMSU Auction gets you out in the community and the real world," he said. "It's very uncomfortable to ask people for a donation. But that comes really naturally to me. The Auction and my collegiate career in general forced me to learn to multitask. When you have to manage basketball practice, baseball practice, and classes all at the same time, you learn that multitasking is really important."

While Leraas has been very successful during a short time with Thrivent, the organization has helped him stay grounded and inspired his sense of community service. He has sponsored multiple events in and around Minot, lending time and money to causes he feels passionate about.

"We really value the idea of living generously — we have T-shirts that say 'Live Generously,' that's the mindset. I take a lot of pride in that," Leraas said. "If I'm associated with an organization that believes in that, I should believe it as well. The giving back that my wife, Teal (Eggert) '08 and I have done has been important to us." ■



Impressive art space captures metropolitan feel in the Great Plains

By NICOLE THOM-ARENS



The new Northwest Arts Center is like a piece of New York City found in the middle of rural North Dakota.

"I have to give a lot of credit to Terry Jelsing," Avis (Rhoads) Veikley '76, director of the Northwest Arts Center, said. "He really was instrumental in working with the architects."

The impressive space immediately transports visitors — and that's all by design. From the windows looking out to the Minot State campus, the natural grass and native rock leading to the entrance, to the movable wall designed to rotate around a structural column to transform the gallery as needed, it's all part of the package.

Housed in the lower level of the Gordon B. Olson Library on Minot State's west end of campus, the \$1.4 million privately funded center is home to the state-of-the-art Walter Piehl Gallery.

"One of the things we have here that we didn't have before is climate control, temperature, and humidity control, which is what you need in a certified gallery. There are certain standards

that you have to have for care and protection of the artwork, and now we have that," Veikley explained.

The gallery now offers the university the opportunity to bring in a greater variety of art.

Piehl's work will be on display in the inner gallery for the grand opening April 19 — the night before the annual Alumni Association Gala.

"If the grand opening has a theme, it would be art instruction at Minot State," Veikley said. "We plan to feature his work ... focused more on his role as an educator — as a teacher here — and we're going to include some current and former work of art faculty in that grand opening display."

Artworks from other faculty will be on display in the reception area surrounding the Walter Piehl Gallery.

"We have this beautiful reception area so that we can have people come in. It was designed with public access and a public reception area in mind," Veikley said.

The entrance to the center is on the south side of the Gordon B. Olson Library. ■



Gov. Burgum's STATE OF THE



GOV. DOUG BURGUM addressed North Dakota in his first-ever State of the State Address in front of a standing room only audience at Minot State University's Ann Nicole Nelson Hall Jan. 23.

Burgum and Lt. Gov. Brent Sanford both spoke at the event, covering multiple topics throughout the state of North Dakota. It's the first non-legislative session address by a governor since 2002's State of the State by then Gov. John Hoeven.

The first-term governor, the state's 33rd overall, reflected on North Dakota's challenges and collective accomplishments during his first year in office. Burgum announced plans to tour all 11 of North Dakota's public colleges and universities in 2018 — starting with a tour of Minot State University.

STATE

at Minot State



Campus tour



Biology classroom



Communication Disorders Dept.

"We want to listen to the needs of students, faculty, staff, and the community, and we want to make sure we get an understanding of where we are and how we can create a governance system that allows our higher education to be nimble and dynamic at a time of dramatic change," he said.

Along with the tour of MSU's campus, Burgum met with Minot State students, faculty and staff, and community leaders during sessions following the State of the State Address. ■

CUNNINGHAM builds lifetime of stories

By MICHAEL LINNELL

After 46 years of public service, Lee Cunningham '71 decided it was time to move on to new adventures, retiring as the Assistant District Attorney for the County of San Luis Obispo, Calif., on Dec. 30, 2017.

From his time at Minot State to being a correctional officer, a police officer, a detective, attorney, and finally in the district attorney's office, Cunningham's path reads like a novel.

It began with his education. His degree from MSU is in social science, concentrating in math, physics — and speech.

"Not the most common combination," he said. "I started out getting in the Coast Guard, but they only had marine engineering and I didn't have that background. I wanted to go to the service academy to fly, but based on my academic rank, there was no way in the world I would get to the flight academy. By the time I transferred to Minot State, I had the credits to get the math and physics, but I don't claim to be a physicist at all."

His time at Minot State, coupled with his mother, Georgia, who taught math at MSU, gave him a love of learning.

"In a broad sense, that's Minot State's influence on me, a love of learning. I eventually went back to law school — not because I had a burning desire to be a lawyer, but simply, to go back to school," he said. "That's a credit to Minot State."

Cunningham's decision to move from Ryder, N.D., to

California and begin a career in law enforcement wasn't a calculated decision — at least not career wise. It was something much more personal.

"Debbie (wife Debra Gelking) Cunningham '08) and I wanted to get married and her dad said 'as long as you have a job,'" he joked. "At the time, it was between teaching or farming. The farm wasn't big enough to support two families and my dad (Verr "VL" Cunningham) was still running the family farm and I didn't want to start teaching at another small town like the one I was at. My brother, Larry, said I could probably get a job with him at the California Men's Colony."

He later moved from corrections to the San Luis Obispo Police Department, rising up to the rank of detective. It was during his time as a police officer that he decided to pursue a law degree.

"Almost all of the police officers had a bachelor's degree, so I thought maybe I should have a masters," he said.

"Debbie asked what I would do with that and I didn't know, so I thought about going to law school. I would volunteer for the graveyard shifts and go to law school in the evening."

Cunningham earned his law degree in 1978 and passed the bar in 1979, starting his own business as a civil attorney. After six years, he felt like it was time to move back to the "good guy side" as he calls it.



"I liked the idea of being my own boss and honestly, I figured I would make a lot of money," he recalled of the move. "But I had no business background and made all sorts of business mistakes. I thought being a prosecutor was more of what I should be doing."

He joined the San Luis Obispo County District Attorney's Office in 1985. He was involved in just about every type of case, but was routinely singled out for some of the most challenging cases. He feels his time on the police force and a profound sense of empathy helped him during those cases.

"My personality, good or bad, is that I can compartmentalize things — I was able to leave the job at the job," he said. "It could be emotionally drain-

ing, but very rewarding work. Your job is to seek justice — I know it sounds kind of corny — but it's true, that's the job.

"My son was killed in a car crash and that experience gave me real empathy for crime victims and dealing with victims. I think that is why the office gave me the challenging cases."

Family was also at the heart of moving on and deciding it was the right time to retire.

Cunningham is looking forward to working his son's (Jordan Cunningham, California State Assembly) re-election campaign and traveling.

"It was a tough decision," he said of retirement. "But, I wanted more family time. My wife and I wanted to have some time to travel and be active while we still can." ■

SEASONAL DOME OPENS

Dedicated – January 10, 2018

Quick Facts:

The Dome stands **70** ft. tall



to layout and affix fabric together

Dome came in **8** fabric pieces

Stores on **3** flatbed trailers

75 minutes
to inflate

Dimensions
410 ft.
X
210 ft.



LED lights installed

Inflates mid-
NOVEMBER ← → Deflates late
APRIL

Footprint
86,000 square ft.

Indoor
 60°

3,330
metal fabric fasteners



Athletics unveils Academic Center

By MICHAEL LINNELL

When the Minot State University Athletic Department opened the doors of the Dean Frantsvog Academic Success Center in January, it was the culmination of many years of discussion and planning.

In fact, the discussion goes back as far as its namesake has been Faculty Athletic Representative.

"I really started with (then athletic director) Rick Hedberg '89. He and I had a conversation, he identified a need, and we just talked about what the possibilities could be," Frantsvog '97 said. "First, it was just a remodel of the old classroom — maybe some

desks and new carpet. I wanted to be a part of it, whether it was planning, financing, or helping raise money for it."

The plan went from a renovation of one room, into a two-room complex within the MSU Dome. The center features state-of-the-art technology, peer tutoring services, and a supervised study area.

The center was made possible through the generosity

of American Trust Center, United Community Bank of North Dakota, Vibeto Orthodontics, and Dean and Sara (Christianson) '99 Frantsvog.

According to Frantsvog, the plan moved from concept to actuality mainly behind United Community Bank president and CEO Randy Conway '92.

"I approached Randy and asked if the bank was

interested in partnering with us," Frantsvog said. "He was excited and his enthusiasm for the project brought it to the next level. He got Bryan (Vibeto), American Trust Center, and me together and said, 'Let's partner on this and get this done.'"

"I was approached by the group here (at Minot State) and by Randy to help Minot State," Vibeto said. "Every-

The center features state-of-the-art technology, peer tutoring services, and a supervised study area.



L – R: Randy Conway '92, Bryan Vibeto, and Dean Frantsvog '97

thing I've done with them has been top notch, so I was honored to be included in it. Dean and I have been best friends since first grade, so it's been neat to do this together. We are at the point in our lives where it's time to give back to those who gave to us. It's exciting to be a part of."

"We were extremely interested in being a partner on this because we know the kind of commitment student-athletes make and how challenging it is for them," Conway said. "It was a great academic project and we were happy to be a part of it. We are a community bank and this is a nice fit for us."

Convincing Frantsvog to have his name on the banner

that spans the hallway at the Dome was a bit tougher.

"I'm very proud to have my name on the academic center, that being said, I advocated that my name not be there because I didn't feel it was about me; it's about the student-athletes and their experience," he said. "But the donors wanted it that way. As long as it doesn't take away from the purpose of the center, I'm pleased to be a part of it."

Conway, however, didn't think there was another name in the running.

"Dean's involvement with this project was a big part of my involvement in the project," he said. "He has done a lot of work for the community and the university. I couldn't think of a better person to have it named after."

According to Conway, the center is another positive step forward for the athletic department.

"I'm really excited to see the direction Dr. (Steven) Shirley is taking this university," he said. "Dean, Rick, Andy (MSU Athletic Director Andy Carter), and Dr. Shirley have done a great job of moving this project forward and it's another great step. Not just for the students here now, but for the future in recruiting. Parents will see that MSU is committed to academics. Minot is lucky to have this kind of leadership."

Frantsvog is also excited for the future.

"I don't think I anticipated what the center is today, and that's exciting, but after talking to our student-athletes and what they plan to do and how they will utilize it, that makes me even more excited," he said. "It's going to be a great place for them to call their own and that made me and the other donors excited. This will end up being an even better project than it is now because of how they will be able to use it." ■



Empowering generations

Development Foundation

New tax laws may actually enhance opportunities for charitable giving

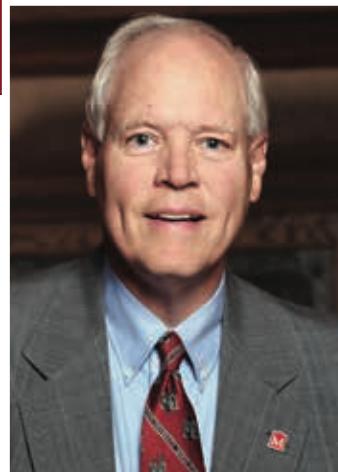
As you may have suspected, there has been a great deal of discussion — and a fair amount of concern — over the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act passed by Congress on Dec. 20, 2017. Many foundations and other non-profit organizations fear that the bill's increase in the standard deduction will cause people to reduce their charitable giving, since most taxpayers will no longer choose to itemize deductions. In the past, married couples could receive a tax break if all of their itemized deductions exceeded \$12,000. Under the new law, the standard deduction doubles to \$24,000, beginning in 2018. Critics of the bill fear that the incentive to make charitable donations will disappear for many middle-class taxpayers when they discover that they cannot reach the \$24,000 deduction threshold. Therefore, couples who have less than \$24,000 in itemized deductions will benefit from using the (new) standard deduction.

While concern is certainly justified over how the new tax law will impact foundations and other nonprofits, it is difficult to predict how things will actually play out. Naturally, we are hopeful that alumni and friends of Minot State University will continue to support our mission because they believe in our work and not strictly because of the ability to claim an income tax deduction. In fact, the new tax law may actually serve to enhance rather than reduce charitable giving, as the boost in the standard deduction may likely leave some taxpayers with more disposable income, which could be used to increase their charitable giving.

One opportunity that takes on increasing importance under the new legislation, in my estimation, is the IRA charitable rollover. I have written about this strategy in previous editions of Connections. Basically, the IRA charitable rollover allows taxpayers who are 70 ½ years of age (or older) to make tax-free transfers of up to \$100,000 from their Individual Retirement

Accounts to a qualified charitable organization such as the MSU Development Foundation. And what's more, these transfers can satisfy some or all of the account holder's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) mandated at age 70 ½. Normally, any amounts received as an RMD are fully taxable to the account holder in the year received. The exception is the IRA charitable rollover, and the reason is because the distributions go directly from the account holder's IRA custodian/trustee to the charitable organization; the funds do not pass through the hands of the taxpayer.

As I have examined the new tax legislation, I am more convinced than ever of the benefits of IRA charitable rollovers. If they were a good deal under the old law (hint: they were), they are even a better deal under the new law, in my opinion. The doubling of the standard deduction — especially for IRA account holders 70 ½ and older — practically screams for the charitable rollover. If you are part of that demographic (e.g.



IRA account holder, age 70 ½ or older, and have charitable inclinations) and do not utilize this opportunity, you are really leaving dollars on the table. A \$5,000 RMD left directly to a charitable organization would produce a tax savings of \$600, using a modest 12 percent federal income tax bracket. Using a 22 percent bracket, the savings would amount to \$1,100.

Looking on the bright side, the increase in the standard deduction may actually result in greater disposable income, which could translate into more dollars for charitable organizations. At the same time, the continued availability of the IRA charitable rollover — in light of the diminished ability to itemize deductions for most taxpayers — may even allow some donors to expand their support of charitable organizations. What a blessing that would be! ■

Dan Langemo, Development Officer



Save the date:

SEPTEMBER
16 - 22
2018

90th Homecoming a Tail of Tradition

For more information:

MinotStateU.edu/Homecoming

Featuring the following reunion groups:

Native American Cultural Center

Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity

Veterans
Football

Join us this summer for the
2018 Friend-raising
MSU GOLF TOUR



JUNE 5: Star City Golf Course, Velva

JUNE 17: Bottineau Country Club

AUGUST 2: Kenmare Country Club



BUY A
SEAT

A campaign to replace the
seating in the MSU Dome



FOR MORE INFORMATION
Contact Jeremy Feller
MSU Development Officer
at 701-858-3117 or
jeremy.feller@minotstateu.edu

MSUBeavers.com/Buy-a-Seat



1



4



2



3



1. Homesteaders Restaurant served a great meal again this year.
2. Mya Wentz, daughter of Michael '11 and Amber (Kroke) Wentz '11, added some cuteness to the night.
3. Tom '62 and Sharon Parsley '94, Joyce (Olson) '59 and Don Anderson '59 and Carolyn (Moyzir) '67 and Don Andrews '67 enjoyed the evening together.
4. Zach Burdick '07 and daughters Charlotte and Sophia helped cheer the Beavers on to victory.
5. Future Beaver cheerleaders Reagan Trudell, daughter of Betsy (Vig) '06 and Darrik Trudell '03, and Mya Roberts, daughter of Neil and Amy (Sullivan) Roberts '01, cheered at the game.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
APPRECIATE



6



9



7



8



10

6. Chris Poitra '02, his wife Shawna, and daughter Emerie enjoyed a night at the Dome.
7. Future Beaver Camden "Bubba" Smith took in the festivities.
8. Joan Grindy, wife of MSU grad Larry Grindy '66, took in the appreciation night.
9. Jen (Sundahl) Becker '06 and daughter Anyston were greeted by Development Foundation President Maynard Sandberg '55.
10. Hundreds of alumni and friends came out for the annual appreciation night.

TONIGHT

2018 Gala & auction dinner

Minot State University Alumni Association

Friday, April 20
Holiday Inn

Tickets are \$60. Contact the MSU
Alumni Office at 701-858-3234.



Save ^{the} date

Giving Day APRIL 11th

Minot State University's

FIRST-EVER GIVING DAY!

Join the entire MSU community for our 24-hour online giving day. Amazing things happen when we come together! Watch for more information on how your gift can have

Double the Impact!



Class notes

SEND US YOUR NEWS: MinotStateU.edu/alumni

1965

Claudette (Haga) Merck and her husband, John, of Velva celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in October. The Mercks have twin sons and three grandchildren.



Ed Schnaible of Minot was inducted, by the North Dakota Association of Realtors, into the National Association of Realtors prestigious Omega Tau Rho fraternity and presented with the Medallion of Service Award. Schnaible was also awarded realtor emeritus status by the National Association of Realtors.

1971

Dwight Flygare was named 2017 Outstanding City Elected Official by the North Dakota League of Cities during the League's 2017 annual conference held last September in Fargo. Flygare serves as the mayor of Kenmare.

1973



Barb (Steinberger) Witteman received the 2018 Alec Dickson Servant Leader Award. Witteman is an education professor at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn. The award honors exemplary leaders who, by example, have inspired the service-learning field, had a positive impact on the lives of young people, and motivated others to take up the banner of service.

1974



Wayne Biberdorf received the Lifetime Achievement award at the Williston Basin Chapter of the American Petroleum Institute's 2017 awards banquet. Biberdorf retired from Hess in 2010 after 30 years of employment. He held various positions at Hess, including operations manager, district engineer, business unit manager, and manager of strategic projects. Gov. Jack Dalrymple appointed him to the position of energy impact coor-

dinator in 2012 to improve coordination between western North Dakota and the Capitol and its state agencies. He retired from that position a year later. He served on the board of directors for the North Dakota Petroleum Council and on the Workforce Advisory Board and the North Dakota Training Board. Gov. John Hoeven appointed him as the first chairman of the Oil and Gas Research Council. Wayne and his wife, Jean, live in Billings, Mont.



Bob Mongeon retired as vice president of commercial lending for First Western Bank & Trust in Minot.

1979



Bill Miklosey earned a master's degree in reading and literacy in 2013 and was conferred as a Doctor of Education specializing in reading and literacy from Capella University in 2017. Miklosey is serving as a literacy specialist with AESOP's Attic, a non-profit literacy outreach program providing reading intervention for children in kindergarten through third grade in the urban community of East St. Louis, Ill. He retired as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army in 2002.

1980

Jane Kostenko retired from the faculty at the University of Maryland Extension as principle agent associate in August after 12½ years. Kostenko is now working hard to find a balance between volunteering and tackling a robust to-do list. Earlier in the summer, Jane and her husband, J. Tyler Bell, volunteered at the filming of Antiques Roadshow in Harrisburg, Pa.

1981



David Aamot retired as chief financial officer at Reservation Telephone Cooperative in Parshall. Aamot started at RTC in 1989 as a plant

accountant and later transitioned to controller, financial manager, and most recently to chief financial officer. Aamot worked at the CPA firm of Zine, Hoover & Voeller in Williston prior to joining RTC. He and his wife, Brenda, are looking forward to spending more time with family, especially his grandchildren.



Tenley (Kostenko) Johnson is retiring as the technology and business teacher at Max Public School. She plans to spend more time with her mother and grandchildren, as well as learn a new skill.

1988



Gail (Warner) Bowers received the 2018 California Music Educators Association's Pearson Scott Foresman/Silver Burdett Choral Educator of the Year award for the state of California. Bowers teaches high school in Santa Rosa.

Marlene (Bachmeier) Kautzman received the 2017-18 Title 1 Exceptional Educator Award issued by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction. Kautzman has been an educator for 30 years in a myriad of different areas. She was a classroom teacher for 10 years, in special education for 15 years, and has spent 15 years as a Title 1 teacher at New Salem-Almont Public Schools.

Richard Stenberg, associate professor of history and political science at Williston State College, began a two-year term on the North Dakota Historic Preservation Review Board in October 2017.

1986



Rob White retired after 30 years with the Minot Police Department. White most recently served as the patrol division commander but previously served as administrative lieutenant. He was also the Ward County 911 Coordinator.

1987



Kelly Hayhurst of Minot was named a member of the Raymond James Financial Services 2018 Executive Council. Membership is based on prior year fiscal production. This is the fourth consecutive year Hayhurst has qualified for the recognition.

1990



Ken Arneson participated in TEDxOshkosh in November. He was a featured speaker on "The Future of Aging." His forward looking talk explored ongoing and upcoming trends that continue to change the face of aging in our world. Arneson is the president/CEO of Evergreen Retirement Community and has been in senior services for over 30 years. He holds a master's degree in public administration with an emphasis in health care administration from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Ken and his wife, **Bobbi (Dunkel '90)**, have lived in Oshkosh for 22 years

Class notes

SEND US YOUR NEWS: MinotStateU.edu/alumni

and have two children. She currently works for the Oshkosh Area School District.



Sara (Birkeland) Medalen was nominated for the LifeChanger of the Year award. Medalen is a Title 1 reading and math teacher at Sunnyside Elementary School in Minot. LifeChanger of the Year is an annual program sponsored by National Life Group that recognizes and rewards K-12 educators and school employees across the country. The program celebrates those who are making a significant difference in the lives of students by exemplifying excellence, positive influence and leadership.



David Hoff is the assistant coach of the U.S. Paralympics Men's Sled Hockey Team. Hoff is a math teacher at Bottineau High School, as well as the athletic director and hockey coach.



Cheryl (Christianson) Wallen retired as the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce finance director, a position she held for 27 years.



Steve Fennewald is an assistant vice president-senior mortgage lender at First Western Bank & Trust in Minot. Fennewald has 25 years of lending experience. He served as the mayor of the city of Surrey and is a charter member of the Surrey Lions Club.



Brenda (Juergens) Foster was appointed chairman of the board for First Western Bank & Trust. Foster will continue as president and CEO. She has worked for the Minot bank for more than 36 years.

Colleen (Syrota) Hermanson, of Horizon Speech Therapy Services, has co-located her business to be part of Bright Path Pediatric Therapy. Hermanson provides counseling for children, marriages, and families as well as play therapy. She has over 20 years of experience offering a wide variety of services such as screenings, evaluations and treatment of articulation, fluency, voice, language and cognitive-communication disorders. She received her master's degree in communication disorders in 2002.

1994



Kimberly (Ness) Berning joined Morgan Community College in Fort Morgan, Colo., as a psychiatric nursing faculty. Berning was most recently employed with United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck as a nursing faculty member.

1995/2000



Kristi (Schaefer) Berg of Minot is serving a two-year term on the board of directors for the Technology Council of North Dakota (TechND).

2000

Dale Plessas was promoted to the rank of lieutenant for the Minot Police Department. Plessas will take over as afternoon patrol shift commander and will supervise three sergeants and 15 police officers. He joined the police department in 2001 as a patrol officer.

2002



Mary (Kloeckner) Kohler was promoted to senior associate for Brady Martz & Associates in Minot. Kohler began working at Brady Martz in 2015 and is a bookkeeper mainly working in the oil and gas industry. She also does consulting work to oil operators.

Inez (Sprenger) Rose, memory care manager at Edgewood in Bismarck, recently accepted the resident/family relations role for memory care.

Tara Schaefer-Nygaard joined Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in Minot as a licensed certified social worker. Schaefer-Nygaard provides therapy to youth in the residential programs at the Ranch. She received her master's degree in social work at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho, in 2005.

2005

Gary McDaniel is a survey technician in the geospatial services core business for Erdman Anthony's West Palm Beach office. McDaniel manages the unmanned aerial vehicle surveying division for the office. He has over five years of experience surveying in Florida and North Dakota.

2006



Melissa (Branson) Fettig, with Minot State's Student Health Center, received the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Eagle Award in December. MACC sponsors the program to recognize Minot workers who exhibit superior customer service.



Chris Schilken took over the helm at the Watertown Development Company on Feb. 1. His new position with the WDC will focus on business recruitment and expansion and developing a growing Watertown workforce. Schilken most recently worked as a loan manager for Prairie Federal Credit Union in Minot. Before that, he served as the executive director of Forward Devils Lake for five years.

2007



Zach Burdick was promoted to senior vice president of United Community Bank in Minot. Burdick previously

served as a commercial lender with the bank. He has worked within the banking industry for 10 years. Burdick is the vice president of the MSU Beaver Booster Club and participates in Junior Achievement.



Krista (Thompson) Mattice was promoted to police sergeant for the Minot Police Department. Mattice joined the police department in 2008 as a patrol officer, was promoted to senior police officer in 2012 and was transferred to the Investigations Division in 2013 where she became the case management/license compliance officer. She became a detective in 2015.

2008



Audra Wyman was promoted to vice president for United Community Bank in Minot. Wyman has been employed at United Community for 11 years and has previous work experience in retail banking, mortgage lending, loan administration, and bank financial management. Wyman serves as a board member of the Minot State University Alumni Association.

2009



Jared W. Gietzen, with Larson Law Firm P.C. of Minot, has been selected for inclusion in the National Trial Lawyers Top 40 Under 40 Civil Plaintiff Trial Lawyers for North Dakota. The selection process is based on a multiphase process that includes peer nominations and third-party research.



Angie (Zieske) Hansen was promoted to assistant vice president of loan operations at First Western Bank & Trust. Hansen, a Minot native, has been with the bank since 1997. She has served as the treasurer for the Y's Men's Tough Enough to Wear Pink program for 11 years.

Class notes



Tyler Neether was honored with the Minot Association of Builders 2017 Citizen of the Year award. Neether is vice president for business lending at Town & Country Credit Union.

2010



Sarah (Guss) Miller is the auditor for the city of Stanton. She and her husband, James, live in Hazen.



Deann (Olschlager) Stanley is teaching preschool in Harvey. She and her husband, Justin, have five children.

2011



Jon Lee is the accounting manager for Reservation Telephone Cooperative in Parshall. Lee has been employed at RTC since 2007. He and his wife, Mackenzie, have a son.

2012



Kelsey (Barney) Aller was promoted to human resource generalist officer at First Western Bank & Trust. Aller is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management and is a SHRM-certified professional. She is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Minot and has been with the bank since 2013.

Andre Boucher is an underwriter I with EMC Insurance Company's Bismarck branch. Boucher was previously employed with a credit union as a financial services representative.



Brandt Doerr is a Fargo associate in the litigation group with Fredrikson & Byron P.A. law firm. Doerr handles commercial litigation matters, business disputes, and employment matters.

Prior to joining Fredrikson, Doerr served as a judicial law clerk for the North Dakota Supreme Court. He received his law degree from the University of North Dakota School of Law.



Kirsten (Gieser) Little is a speech-language pathologist at Pediatric Therapy Partners, Bismarck. Little has experience in outpatient, inpatient and rehabilitative pediatrics and a certificate through the American Speech Language Hearing Association. She received her master's degree from the University of North Dakota.

2013

Kyle Peterson of Berthold was recognized with the Award for Counselor Achievement-Honorable Mention from the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation at its conference held in October.



Mary Lauinger was promoted to senior associate for Brady Martz & Associates in Minot. Lauinger, originally from Linton, joined Brady Martz in 2014 and works primarily in the outsourcing department in addition to the tax department.



Jenn (Kluck) Vandal, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, joined Family HealthCare in Fargo. As a board-certified family nurse practitioner, Vandal provides comprehensive care to patients of all age groups with acute and chronic conditions. Her areas of interest include pediatrics, women's health, community and public health, and preventive care.



Bradley Yoder was named manager at Brady Martz & Associates in Minot. Yoder, a native of Williston, began working full time at Brady Martz

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after his internship in 2013. He works in the nonprofit industry performing audits and tax return preparation.

2014



Paige Phillips was promoted to senior associate for Brady Martz & Associates in Minot. Phillips joined the Brady Martz team in 2014 and works primarily in the outsourcing and tax departments.

Nurkhair Teleu is a geotechnical engineer for Voskhod Oriel-Yildirim Group. The company has grown to become a global force based in Istanbul, Turkey, with operations in 21 countries on four continents.

2015



KateLynn Albers was promoted to senior associate for Brady Martz & Associates in Minot. Albers, a Hazen native, is a CPA and started working at Brady Martz in 2015. She works in the audit and accounting and tax departments.



Katelynn (Backes) Denne was promoted to senior associate for Brady Martz & Associates in Minot. Denne, a Minot native, began working at Brady Martz as an intern in 2015.



Michael Montonye, was named senior associate for Brady Martz & Associates in Minot. Montonye, originally from Rugby, has been with Brady Martz since 2015 when he started as an intern. He works in both audit and accounting and tax departments.



Andrea Purseglove, was promoted to senior associate for Brady Martz & Associates in Minot. Purseglove, a Minot

native, joined Brady Martz in 2015 and became a CPA in 2017. She specializes in not-for-profit accounting and auditing, oil and gas bookkeeping, and also works in the tax department.

2016

Cortney Crites is working for the United States Forest Service as a hydrology technician. Crites spends the majority of her time hiking in the Black Hills National Forest conducting surveys, identifying signs of mass movement, and mapping pre-historic/historic landslides in the Black Hills. She inventories/maps springs, streams, and wetlands.

Ryan Curzon is working for Reservoir Dogs Geological Consulting in Regina, Saskatchewan. Curzon is beginning a career in geology as well as working toward attaining his professional geologist designation.



Aaron Jeffrey, a registered nurse, received the DAISY Award from Trinity Health-Minot. The DAISY award celebrates extraordinary clinical skill and compassionate care by nurses. Jeffrey is one of the few individuals talented enough to play a dulcimer, and he used those talents to brighten a patient's day by coming in early and staying late after his shift to play.

Attended



Ashton Gerard is the night reporter at the Minot Daily News. Gerard does the behind-the-scenes work for the sports department and, as the night reporter, handles collecting information needed daily for the weather page, fire calls and death notices. Gerard grew up in Springfield, Ohio, and attended Clark State Community College before moving to Minot in 2014.



JOIN THE TEAM

MSU Alumni Association Mission

To promote positive relationships that encourage alumni, students, community, and friends to be actively and emotionally identified with Minot State University.



Beavers are intelligent and highly skilled. They achieve success through team effort, are capable of changing the environment, and are unfailingly loyal. You can help us carry on this tradition by joining the **M Club**. Your membership donation directly supports the MSU Alumni Scholarship Endowment, which annually awards more than \$30,000 to deserving MSU students.

For more information, contact the MSU Alumni Office or any Alumni Association Board Member.

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EVENTS!



BEAVERS, BREW AND BURGERS

April 7, 2018 • 6 - 8 p.m.
Souris River Brewery
32 3rd St NE, Minot, ND



FARGO AREA ALUMNI AND FRIENDS SOCIAL

May 17, 2018 • 6 - 8 p.m.
Blarney Stone
1910 9th St E, West Fargo, ND

In Memory

It is with honor we dedicate this section to recognize alumni and friends who have passed away from approximately October 2017 through February 2018 or as submitted.

Graduates

'32 Hollarn (Simonieg), Evelyn; Minot
'35 Larson (Carlson), Olive; Fergus Falls, Minn.
'40 Anton (Cooper), Margaret; Fargo
'41 Wiese (Raile), Helyne; Langdon
'49 Gruenberg, Fred; Minot
'49 Swenson (Breckey), Evelyn; Yakima, Wash.
'50 Jans, Melvin; Bakersfield, Calif.
'51 Sorenson (Huettl), Marjorie; Mountlake Terrace, Wash.
'52 Kranz (Majeres), Patricia; Mandan
'52 Larking, Floyd; Deer Lodge, Mont.
'56 Kjosen (Bakken), Evelyn; Stanley
'57 Myhra, Thomas; Fridley, Minn.
'58 Abelein, Rex; Lakewood, Colo.
'58 Backes, Orlin; Minot
'59 Axtmann, Edward; Mandan
'59 Kinnersley (Peters), Ruth; Manteno, Ill.
'60 Forbes, A. Wilson; Happy Camp, Calif.
'60 Hauglie, Herbert; Everett, Wash.
'60 Jacobson (Hegstad), Fern; Powers Lake
'60 Bergo (Kro), Jordis; Johnston, Iowa
'61 Clark, Gary; Woodland, Calif.
'61 Murphy (Durward), Sharon; Racine, Wis.
'65 Heinz (Tastad), Janice; Rolette
'66 Anderson, Ronald; Glenburn
'66 Kraft, Fred; Bismarck
'66 Weispfenning, Kent; Maplewood, Minn.
'67 Wilson (Ahlberg), Mary; Costa Mesa, Calif.
'68 Hurdelbrink (Henderson), Judy; Mandan
'69 Malling (Lies), LaVerne; Bismarck
'70 LaCroix, Daniel; Brookings, Ore.
'71 Axvig (Voegle), Sharon; Cando
'71 Hall (Wilson), Arla; Bottineau
'72 Friese (Stern), Louise; Garrison
'73 Strand, Gordon; Williston
'73 Young, Kenneth; Antler
'73 Wood, James; Oakdale, Minn.
'75 Smits (Camber), Helen; Green Bay, Wis.
'75 Willenbring, Robert; Bismarck
'76 Krukenberg, Jacob "Jack"; Minot
'76 Remmick, Betty (Gietzen); Milwaukee, Wis.
'77 Kisse, Duane; Pueblo, Colo.
'78 Ness, Rick; Minot
'79 Byrd, Marla; Garrison
'79 Elhard, Terry; Ashley
'80 Glibota, John; Minot
'83 Bauer, Brooks; Ryder
'86 Sjoquist, Bernice; Tolley
'88 Bentz (Murray), Sandra; Jamestown
'94 Hjelden, Cory; West Fargo
'95 Petschke, Chad; Fairmont, Minn.
'95 Stevick, Jock; Minot
'99 Cheshire (Benson), Sarah; Fergus Falls, Minn.
'00 Walaker (Lund), Mary; Fargo
'02 Anderson, Thomas; Warren, Minn.
'07 Nelson (Whitmore), Jennifer; Stanley

Attended

Albright, Linda; Minot
Anderson (Sneva), Gerald; Dagmar, Mont.
Anderson, Richard; Mohall
Angstadt (Axtman), Elizabeth; Rugby
Ballantyne (Lerfeld), Janet; Westminster, Colo.
Bannister (Fjeld), Kathleen; Minot
Bloom (Abrahamson), Betty; Stanley
Botz, Allyn; Minot
Braun, Clarence; Dallas, Texas
Brunner, Loran; Minot
Butler (Luchsinger), Marilyn; Newberg, Ore.
Butz (Osdoba), Nada; Minot
Byrne (Schnell), Donna; Minot
Christianson (Lewis), Stefanie; Billings, Mont.
Collins (Norris), Beverly; Minot
Corey (Beck), Maybell; Minot
Faaren (Koppelsloen), Grace; Olympia, Wash.
Flom, Selmer, Burlington
Foley, Michael; Billings, Mont.
Gardner, Annella; Dickinson
Gardner, Charles; Williston
Gibbens (Kinzley), Helma; Cando
Gimble, William; Minot
Griffin, Peggy; Minot
Gust (Thom), Wilma; Minot
Hance (Torno), Eileen; Minot
Heen, Kermit; Williston
Heinrick, Wayne; Towner
Heintz, Alfred; Cheyenne, Wyo.
Helseth, Bruce; Carpio
Johnson, Wayne; Minot
Klein (Faul), Carolyn; Langdon
Klein (Dahl), Margaret; Dallas, Texas
Knock (Coy), Susan; Minot
Knutson, Eugene; Kenmare
Korom (Haugen), Dorothy; Minot
Kraft (Withey), Bonnie; Minot
Krenz (Johnson), Rosemarie; Tolley
Larson (Hastings), Patricia; Glenburn
LaVallie (Marion), Betty; Belcourt
Lawson, Harold "David"; Minot
Lindseth (Hystad), Betty; Minot
Moen (Lervik), Linda; Kramer
Mrachek (Novak), Evelyn; Williston
Murphy (Tourville), Mary Jane; Minot
Nehring, Tom; Bismarck
Newbury (Westlie), Melissa; Minot
Petrick, Carmen; Linton
Pfeifer (Bertsch), Dolores; Rugby
Randa (Haugen), Lillie; Mandan
Rist, James; Velva
Roberts, John D.; Minot
Schiefer, Harry; La Quinta, Calif.
Schroeder, Myron; Minot
Schweitzer (Yeager), Pearl; Fargo
Scott, Jerald; Brandon, Fla.
Steffan (Senger), Irene; Devils Lake
Thunshelle (Greenlee), Joyce; Plaza

Toyama, William; Marshfield, Wis.
Veitz, Larry; Spearfish, S.D.
Webber, John; Detroit Lakes, Minn.
Wheeling (Lee), Barbara; Minot

Friends

Abelseth (St. Peter), Betty; Minot
Bloomquist, Carl; Devils Lake
Bohmbach, Neil; New Town
Breiland (Herda), Judy; Minot
Burckhard, Michael; Minot
Butz (Osdoba), Nada; Minot
Eberly (Beisner), Marilyn; Lincoln, Neb.
Feist, Daniel; Minot
Fuchs, Jerry; Minot
Getzlaff, Rodney; Minot
Goetz (Kime), Carol; Lake Wales, Fla.
Goldade (Roerick), Pauline; Minot
Graupe (Lundby), Carolyn; Crosby
Hammer, Ronald; Minot
Hanisch, Gary; Bismarck
Hoes, John; Minot
Holm, Donald; Kalispell, Mont.
Holmes (Erickson), June; Billings, Mont.
Houston, Melvin; Minot
Larson, Richard; Glenburn
Lenton, Marlen; Minot
Livedalen, Kenneth; Towner
Miller, LaVern; Williston
Rasmussen, Winston; Minot
Rollman, Gordon; Granville
Schmidt, Edwin; Bismarck
Skadland (Jensen), Kay; Williston
Sobolik, Gayle; Fordville
Severson, Alton; Minot
Tryhus (Nelson), Joyce; Minot
Whitesell (Rowbottom), Dorothy; Minot

Faculty and Staff

Allen, Dr. Warren ('43), retired professor emeritus of education and vice president for Academic Affairs; Deering
Briggs (Anderson), Susan, former instructor of communication disorders; Winona, Minn.
Goodman, Larry ('69), retired professor of mathematics; Minot
Martin (Mortensen), Karen; retired Reference Librarian at Gordon B. Olson Library; Minot
Merbach (Kreis), Carolyn ('92), former employee of Enrollment Services; Bismarck
Sobolik, Gayle; former instructor in the College of Business; Fordville
Thom Anderson (Kenney), Janice, former employee of MSU Food Services; Minot
Trimborn, Allyn, former custodian with facilities management; Minot
Wallin (Quamme), Julianne, retired professor emeritus of humanities; Edina, Minn.

Look who's NEW!



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

Ahmed

Zachariah arrived June 15, 2016. Proud parents are **Laura Shirtliffe '08/'11** and her husband, Hany Ahmed.



Askvig

Wynn Marie made her debut Aug. 16, 2017. She was welcomed by proud Beaver parents, **Ethen Askvig '05** and **Jayla (Howatt) Askvig '07** as well as by siblings Dyson and Terner.



Brabandt

Lance Brabandt '07 and his wife, Angela, welcomed their daughter, Meadow Barbara, on Nov. 16, 2016.



Brunner

Kenley joined the Brunner Family, Nov. 20, 2017. She was welcomed by **Jaimie (Jundt) Brunner '00**, her husband, Randy, and siblings, Dane, Kirstin and Maizey (pictured left to right).



Burckhard

Brider Ellis entered the world Oct. 25, 2017. He was welcomed by **Jason Burckhard '05**, his wife, Andrea and big brothers, Blake and Bennett.



DesRoches

Alex DesRoches '12 and **Kelsey (Reinisch) DesRoches '13** welcomed a baby girl, Kallie, on April 29, 2017.



Halvorson

Patricia (Sollin) Halvorson '07 and her husband, Lance, welcomed Liam Leslie, June 14, 2017. He joins big brother, Lane Roland.



Hanson

Everly Ann entered the world Dec. 24, 2015. She was welcomed by **Eric Hanson '04** and **Genevieve (Binsfield) Hanson '07**.



Hines

Royce Joseph arrived Sept. 4, 2015. He was born to **Jolaine (Twentyman) Hines '03** and her husband, Joseph.



Kasper

Ryan Kasper '12 and **Leah (Larson) Kasper '12** welcomed their first little one, Crew, on July 23, 2017.



Phillips

McKinley Kae and Kaden Lee were born Sept. 21, 2017, to **Mathew Phillips '10** and his wife, Angela.

Wakeford

Cody Wakeford '09/'11

and his wife, Kristina, welcomed their second little one, Priscilla, on June 22, 2017.



Walker Gaskill

Elliott Harrison made his debut Nov. 8, 2017. He was born to **Abby Walker Gaskill '07** and her husband, Rob.



Kiefer

Natalee Jennifer-Lynn entered the world Oct. 16, 2017. She was proudly welcomed by **Janel (Ivany) Kiefer '10**, her husband, Tristan, and siblings, Hannah and Andrew.



Schaper

Melanie (McCormack) Schaper '02 and her husband, Mark, welcomed a baby girl, Isabella Joy, on Sept. 17, 2017.

Walz

Brian Walz '09

and **Stacy (Jaeger) Walz '09** welcomed their second son, Asher August, May 30, 2017.



Lee

Randall Lee '16 and **Rebecca (Zaharia) Lee '04** had Bryer Alan June 26, 2017.



Vigness

Sutton Teralyn was born May 10, 2017 to **Chris Vigness '04** and **Kelly (Torgerson) Vigness '03/'07**. She joins big brother McCoy.

Wentz

Mike Wentz '11 and **Amber (Kroke) Wentz '11** welcomed a little girl, Mya Jay, on Sept. 3, 2017.



Ming

Joshua Ming '12 and **Kirstin (Kanning) Ming '11** welcomed their second little one, Mallory Elizabeth, April 4, 2017.



Wakeford

Cody Wakeford '09/'11 and his wife, Kristina, joyfully welcomed Cody Bates on Feb. 2, 2015.





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T

Throughout her life, the late Dr. Rose Morgan '63, professor emeritus, was a strong believer in Minot State University, higher education, and philanthropy. She worked ceaselessly to better her community. Through thoughtful estate planning, Dr. Morgan's spirit and legacy will continue to empower generations of Minot State students. Dr. Morgan's bequest promotes the importance of giving back through the Dr. Rose Morgan Scholarship Endowment as well as the Clinton and Adlyn Morgan Scholarship Endowment supported by a significant gift to the University. These endowments will support MSU clinical laboratory science or biology students.

Minot State students excel when special people like Dr. Morgan include Minot State in their estate planning. If you would like more information about how you can have a lasting impact, please contact Rick Hedberg, MSU Development Foundation, at 701-858-4483.