

Connections

SPRING 2013



Choosing higher ground

Surrogate parent, mother superior,
frontier sheriff

Exceeding early expectations

Lessons learned: MSU science impacts
award winner



Minot State
UNIVERSITY

Alumni Association &
Development Foundation



University is focused on our students' success and their potential to lead meaningful lives.

Learning depends on knowing one's sense of direction, appreciating our history, our people, our traditions, our sense of purpose, and then doing something meaningful and important for the good of others. In Vision 2013, MSU's vision for the future, one of our strategies is to know our place, not in a sense of

staff, students and faculty. Perry Olson and Shaun Sipma, both accomplished graduates of Minot State University, worked tirelessly to help our community, in spite of their personal needs. A familiar name to many MSU alums is Garnet Cox, a well-respected staff member and dean of women, who mentored countless students. Roger Looyenga's initial plans to teach business turned into notable corporate successes and overtures to

"As we approach our Centennial and remember those who have contributed to Minot State University, we should be proud of our great university and its traditions of learning and service."

What's rewarding and fun about the work we do at Minot State University is that we serve students with many different plans and aspirations. We do our best to prepare them to reach their expected, and in many cases, their unexpected destinations. In the end, what we are proud of is not necessarily the diplomas on their walls or the rewards they gather, but the quality of lives they lead. Much of what we do at Minot State

class or status, but in the sense of truly understanding what it takes to contribute to others and the common good.

We witnessed this spirit every day during and after the devastating 2011 flood. The selfless way our faculty, staff and students helped others was remarkable. This generosity was observed all across our city and immediate region.

The stories in this edition of Connections highlight many of our successful

support his alma mater. Whether academic or athletic, stories about Penny Andrist, Mike Leite, Neil Roberts, Scott Deibert and Jamie Council all contain wonderful accounts of their notable destinations and successes.

As we approach our Centennial and remember those who have contributed to Minot State University, we should be proud of our great university and its traditions of learning and service.

DAVID FULLER, president



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Choosing higher ground

MSU alums learn a hard lesson in the face of professional obligation and personal anguish

For every generation, there is an event so memorable and life-altering that it burns itself into our brain like a cattle brand. When asked, people know instantly where they were or what they were doing at the time and subconsciously recognize that an invisible timeline will forever mark future conversations with references of “before” and “after.”

For our grandparents, it was the bombing of Pearl Harbor. For our parents, it was the assassination of John F. Kennedy. For the present generation, it is the 9/11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. In Minot, our personal 9/11 is the 2011 Mouse River Flood.

Poignant memories

“I was standing in my backyard on Father’s Day,” Perry Olson (’05) recalled. “My dad (Jim Olson, KXMC-TV news director) had driven to Canada to interview someone with the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (renamed the Water Security Agency). My phone rang, I picked it up, and he said, ‘Get a U-Haul and get a big one.’”

During his interview, Jim Olson learned that the amount of water soon to be released from Canada would be more than Minot’s levees could hold. The flood was imminent, and the KX news team had a story to tell.

“In our family, we had four houses to evacuate, and I worried about that,” Perry Olson

said. “Jim (Olson) got back and instantly went on the air.”

Shaun Sipma (’01) remembers things with a little less clarity. “My memory gets a little fuzzy those first couple of days because, basically, I didn’t sleep for the first 72 hours,” Sipma said. “We had to be at work 18 hours a day, and we still had houses to clean out.”

A few days earlier, Sipma had stopped moving his furniture back into his house after the first evacuation in late May.

“I was standing in my kitchen when my sister, the acting Ward County emergency manager, called to tell me that they were preparing for a press conference to tell everyone, ‘We are going to lose Minot.’”





Perry Olson (left) and Shaun Sipma in Sipma's basement.

Meteorologist Joe Goldade ('11) was at Trinity Hospital visiting family when he received a call from Sipma asking him to drop by the station on his way home.

"About 3:30 that afternoon, we were sitting around Trinity with the television on in the background, when Jim came on the air. It was from his broadcast that I learned about the flood. Everything after that is a blur and a mess of panic and emotions," Goldade said in a telephone interview.

A difficult decision

The KX news team decided to continuously broadcast live flood updates as long as necessary, with Jim Olson, Perry Olson and Sipma each taking eight-hour shifts. After confirming the schedule, Sipma had two hours to clear things out of his house before he reported to work. Ultimately, KXMC-TV would remain on air for 171 hours straight.

Both Olsons and Sipma shared the same fate as thousands on the flood plain. They evacuated — not once,

else, during the height of the chaotic exodus, they remained riveted to their jobs, engrossed in the responsibility of reporting the flood to tens of thousands of viewers, while their families sought refuge on higher ground, and their homes sat immersed in floodwater.

"The worst part for me was the time at the beginning, before it actually flooded, when I had to worry about work," Perry Olson said. "I worried about my house; my sister's house and her family; my brother-in-law and his family's house; and my parents' house that we all had to evacuate. Once we got all of the stuff out, I knew I could just work. We were lucky because we had tons of help."

Sipma's move was orchestrated by his wife, father, mother, brother and a few friends.

"A lot of our stuff ended up going to our second floor because we didn't have time to get everything out of the house," Sipma said. "I spent a lot of time at work going gray because we had to focus on

"I was standing in my kitchen when my sister, the acting Ward County emergency manager, called to tell me that they were preparing for a press conference to tell everyone, 'We are going to lose Minot.'"

but twice — heartbreakingly watched their houses flood and returned to the filthy aftermath determined to move forward. Unlike everyone

what we had to do, while, at the same time, I worried about how my wife and family were handling things. The last day of the evacuation, I knew we



In September 2012, the Upper Midwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences held its annual Emmy® Awards show in Minneapolis. KXMC-TV was honored for its exceptional work and professional development and outreach with the following awards:

- 2012 Upper Midwest Emmy® for Interactivity: Flood Facebook
- 2012 Upper Midwest Emmy® for News Special: Tale of the Mouse
- Edward R. Murrow Award: Live coverage for the Mouse River Flood

“Being honored for our work covering the flood was bittersweet,” Sipma said. “It’s a privilege to be recognized for your work, but we would gladly return the awards if it meant erasing the devastation of the flood.”



didn’t have everything out, and it was pretty bad. At that time, I’d been working non-stop. I would go home and get a few hours of sleep, then if I had a half hour during the day, I’d run home, do as much as I could to help haul stuff out. The first 48 to 72 hours are still foggy.”

A community is hypnotized

The KX 24-hour newscast quickly caught viewers’ attention and captured an entire community mesmerized by continuous loops of video coverage, interviews, news conferences, weather updates and commentary.

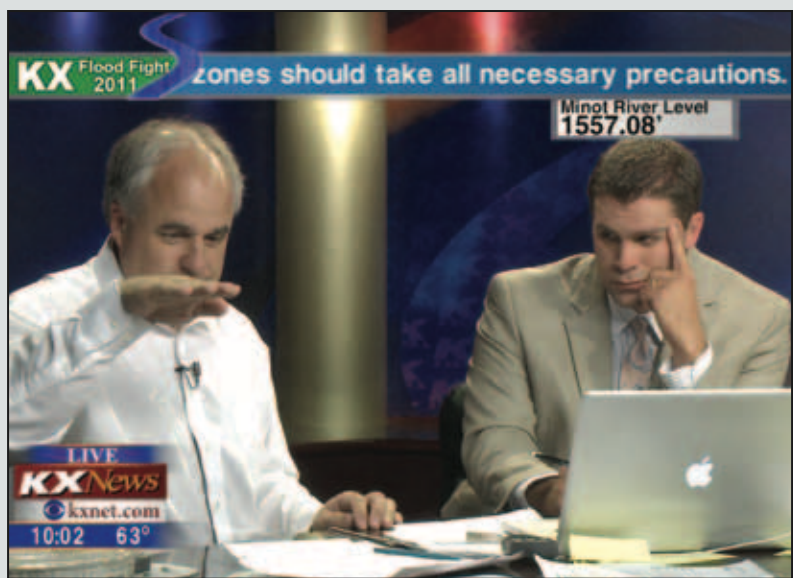
Goldade’s responsibilities also included IT and computer engineering at KXMC. He decided to use Facebook posts to inform a larger audience about flood coverage. Then he devised a plan to locate video cameras in strategic neighborhoods to monitor the rising water. It meant purchasing additional laptops, writing software, utilizing handmade mounts and uploading the broadcasts to the Internet. It was a make-shift plan, but it worked, and a global audience was born. Friends and family all over the earth were watching the same local broadcast and could stay current on events as they unfolded. The KXMC Facebook page jumped to over 35,000 “friends” in a few short days, giving viewers the opportunity to interact live, sending questions, comments and information to the anchors on television. Never

before had social media played such a collaborative role in news coverage of a major event in Minot. KXMC Facebook friends had instant access to the coverage, and the opportunity to influence it, regardless of where they lived.

“We had responses from around the world — Hong Kong, Japan, Russia,” Sipma said. “At one time, Tom Schrader (KX weatherman) and I asked, ‘Where are you watching from?’ and the list (online) exploded. It was incredible.”

Even though the flood has passed and memories begin to fade, recovery — community, personal, physical and emotional — continues on very distinct and unique timelines.

“Going forward, many people want to put the flood to bed, and I think it’s important that it doesn’t go to bed,” Perry Olson said. “There are still close to 500 families living in FEMA trailers, many of whom don’t know what they’re going to do. Many people don’t grasp how much pain and suffering remains.”



Jim and Perry Olson discussing flood levels.

Retrospective Contemplation

“I remember we would discuss if what we were doing was right — broadcasting all the time — because it kind of became an addiction for people,” Perry Olson said. “But I think it was the right thing to do because it was the biggest thing to happen to this community in a long time. It wasn’t just Shaun, Jim and me; everybody did tons of work.”

“It’s great to recover, it’s great to come back, but I really say, ‘We have 10 years ahead of us,’” Sipma said. “I look down my neighborhood, and there’s still a lot of emotional stuff going on, even for me. Even now, things still hit me, and it’s just starting to sink in.

“There was this great sense of responsibility. The job is more than a job; it is a piece of you. If that piece of you is your town being destroyed,

you want to do everything you can to help people out. And if that means providing information, by god, that's what we're going to do."

"Minot is our home," Perry Olson said. "We had the responsibility to try and do the best we could, because we weren't doing it for the hundreds of thousands of people we didn't know. We were doing it for the thousands of people we did know — our neighbors and friends."

The floodwaters receded in late July 2011. Perry Olson returned to his home shortly before Thanksgiving that same year. Throughout the summer and fall, Olson's wife and two children lived with family in

Sherwood, and through the generosity of friends, stayed at two different homes in Minot. "We were lucky," he said, referring to having only six feet of water on his main floor.

Sipma and his father continue to rebuild his home when time permits. Earlier this year, his basement plumbing collapsed, further delaying his return. Sipma and his wife live with family in Minot and hope to be home this summer, almost two years later. On June 26, 2011, the day of the crest, he publicly announced he would not shave until he returned home. To date, Sipma has kept his word.

Mouse River Flood 2011 Timeline

- June 1:** Mandatory evacuations in the Minot river valley force more than 11,000 residents out of their homes. This was later lifted.
- June 2:** Evacuees begin arriving at the American Red Cross shelters at the Minot Auditorium and MSU Dome. At its peak, the MSU Dome housed nearly 300 evacuees and served 2,400 meals per day.
- June 22:** Floodwaters top the dikes, and sirens alert residents to leave immediately.
- After 72 hours of continuous construction, crews complete MSU's dike as water crept north on Eighth Street. The "Beaver Dam" stood 12 feet high and battled seven feet of water along University Avenue.
- June 25:** The State of North Dakota issued a boil order for all potable water. The boil order was lifted Aug. 11.
- June 26:** At 11 p.m., the river crested at 1,561.72 feet, four feet higher than the previous record set in 1881.
- June 29:** FEMA determines 4,100 structures were damaged; 805 under more than 10 feet of water, and 2,400 under six feet.
- 117 MSU faculty and staff lost homes or suffered damage; approximately 500 rental units near campus were devastated.
- July 16:** Floodwaters began to recede to allow for the long recovery ahead.
- Present:** The estimated damage to Minot and the surrounding valley is \$1.2 billion.

PERRY OLSON graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology. He is the early morning anchor of KX News Morning in Minot. Originally from Thief River Falls, Minn., he moved to Minot at the age 5 when his father landed a job in television broadcasting. Grandpa Olson owned a radio station in Thief River Falls, so Perry Olson grew up in communications and began reporting weekend sports in high school. He acknowledges that working the "family business" is in his DNA. Olson's days begin at 4 a.m. and usually end around noon.

Perry Olson's wife, Melissa (Miller) Olson ('08), is an MSU graduate, with a bachelor's degree in broadcasting. She began her career at KXMC behind the scenes in the control room, working up the ranks to reporter and evening news anchor. She retired from the business in 2007. During the flood coverage, Melissa Olson provided periodic updates about the Mouse River in the Sherwood area, 66 miles northwest of Minot.



SHAUN SIPMA graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in broadcasting. Although new to MSU, Sipma was a broadcast veteran, having worked four years as a radio disc jockey at KPOK-FM in his hometown of Bowman.

"I checked out the broadcasting departments at U-Mary, UND and Minot. Around that time, Minot State was reviving its baseball program, so I came to MSU for baseball and broadcasting," Sipma said.

Sipma pitched for Beaver baseball for two years and began working at KXMC-TV his sophomore year. He is the 10 p.m. news anchor but also works as a reporter and "anything else." Sipma's days start at noon and often end at 11 p.m.

"Even as a sophomore, Shaun was so professional and polished," a former professor reminisced, "we knew he was a rising star."



JOE GOLDADE graduated from MSU with a bachelor's degree in computer science, while working full time at KXMC. He previously completed a degree in meteorology from Mississippi State University in 2008. Goldade began in radio at Reiten Broadcasting in 2000 and moved to television production in 2001 on the inaugural broadcast of KX News Morning.

He and his wife, Lindsey (Grigas) ('08), live in Stewartville, Minn., and work at Mayo Clinic. He is a software developer and programmer and continues to consult for KXMC.





garnetcox

surrogate parent • mother superior • frontier sheriff

Growing up in the bucolic village of Greene in upstate New York, Garnet Cox might have aspired to a career with IBM or one of the many defense firms located in nearby Binghamton. But no, she had a loftier goal.

“I wanted to see the world,” she said.

Her vision gave shape to a concrete strategy. After she graduated from the State University of New York at Brockport, she planned to see the country through a series of teaching stints at different colleges.

The stratagem worked quite well. She taught at a community college outside cosmopolitan Boston, at a private liberal arts college in Illinois and at prestigious Grinnell College in Iowa.

By 1963, Cox had earned a master’s degree in guidance and counseling from the University of Virginia. As she plotted her next adventure in academe, she faced a choice — the historic College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., or Minot State College, a small school huddled on the snow-glazed Northern Plains.

Cox visited William and Mary, the second-oldest college in the country after Harvard University. Its colonial architecture, vast woodlands and man-made lake were appealing, but she chafed at the requirement that staff live on campus.

Cox then turned to Minot State. President Casper Lura and Herb Parker, the dean of men, interviewed her by phone. The two administrators weren’t disturbed by the young woman’s sojourning and offered her the position of dean of women.

Minot State through the decades

In 1963, each residence hall floor had one payphone. Dakota Hall had a buzzer system with each person having her own code. When phones were installed in rooms, the telephone booths were converted to hold microwaves, because students were not allowed to cook in their rooms.

Cook Hall construction was delayed in 1965-66. The fifth floor was completed first, therefore, student occupation occurred from the top down.

The '70s brought students increased personal freedom. Many had cars. Women especially had more academic and career choices.

In 1980, MSC experienced an increase of 600 students from the prior fall to hit a milestone enrollment of 3,000. Many students were "older than average." Enrollments continued to climb until 1993, when MSU's top enrollment of 4,047 was reached.

Despite all the changes, Cox knows she made the right decision coming to MSU and staying in Minot.

"I had so many good experiences, so I made this my permanent home. It's the people, and it's just a good place to live," Cox said.

Since the South was embroiled in the civil rights struggle at the time, Cox ruled out William and Mary and chose tranquil Minot State instead. She vowed to herself that she would stay just two years.

She remained for 33.

"I liked the people and the job," she explained simply.

The three decades careened by quickly, a blur of daily routine, historic change and oddball occurrences.

When Cox began, Minot State featured a student body of 1,600, traditional-age students, curfews for women, dress codes, Greek life and freshman initiation rituals.

When she retired in 1996 as dean of students, Minot State had 3,400 students, a large older-than-average contingent, coed residence halls, students with jobs and an extinct Greek culture.

When American campuses became restive during the Vietnam War in the late 1960s, Minot State President Gordon B. Olson drafted a one-page plan to forestall

student riots. He assigned Cox and Parker to protect two key buildings. The deans decided, instead, to flank the bear-sized Olson if trouble broke out.

"If you stayed close to him, you were going to be safe," she said.

No rioting ever occurred on the politically conservative campus. But Cox recalls the time a student tried to take down an American flag near Busse Fountain. When Olson heard about it, he bolted from his office to confront the offender.

"Do you have a problem with our flag?" the red-faced president thundered at the student.

"No," the student said weakly.

"You'd better not," said Olson, a World War II veteran of the South Pacific. The student left quickly, and a small

crowd melted away. Minot State's involvement with the antiwar movement was over.

For 20 years, Cox teamed with Parker to police the campus and its residence halls. The pair vacuumed up some uncommon items over the years — a canon, raccoon, tree, bathtub filled with dirt, Saturday night specials, alcohol and drugs.

"We would have guns periodically, more during hunting season and with returning older students," she said.

Alcohol abuse on campus was a perennial problem, and students found ingenious ways to imbibe. At one point, residents in one dorm complained that the elevator tended to stop from 4 to 5 p.m. each day. The residence hall staff investigated and quickly solved the mystery.

"Students were having cocktail hour on the elevator," Cox said. "They didn't want to get caught with alcohol in their rooms."

Through three decades, Cox was a ubiquitous presence on campus, a thin sliver of a woman who met the world with a perpetual smile and a hearty laugh.

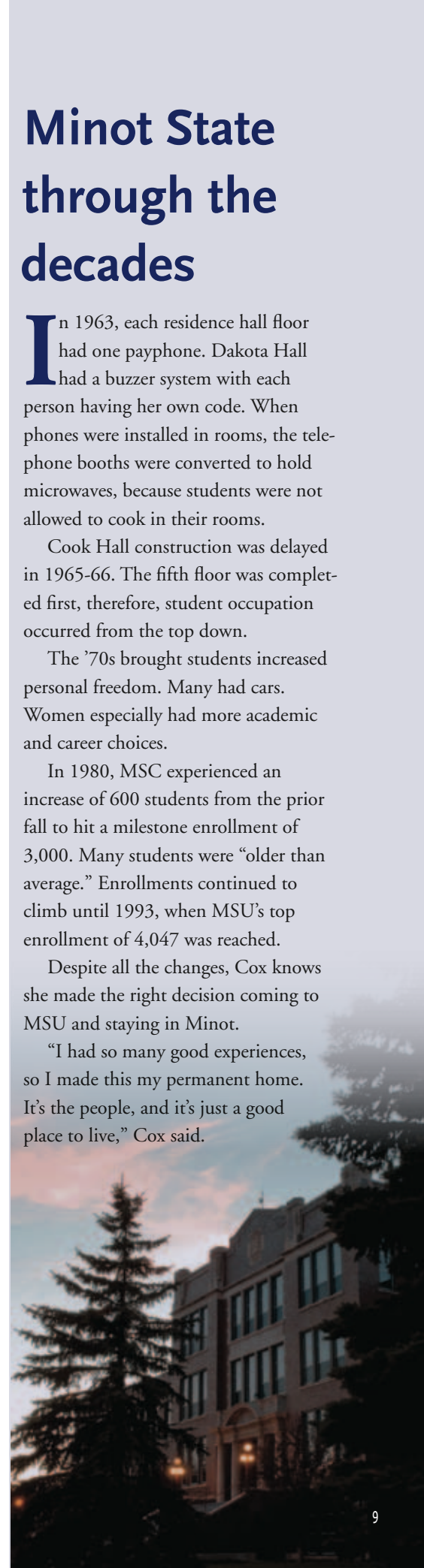
Cox experienced a spectrum of human emotions during her tenure. She dealt with students' academic setbacks and triumphs, their personal problems and their family tragedies. She witnessed campus events as disparate as a student's wedding and a faculty member's funeral.

Her favorite time period was the 1960s and '70s, when campus groups and Greek organizations created a lively environment.

"It was a fun, energetic time," she said.

Through three decades, Cox was a ubiquitous presence on campus, a thin sliver of a woman who met the world with a perpetual smile and a hearty laugh.

When Minot State took a chance on the academic nomad in the early 1960s, it unwittingly secured a multitalented administrator — surrogate parent, mother superior and frontier sheriff — all for the price of two phone calls.



Roger Looyenga – Exceeding early expectations

As a young man in Mandan, Roger Looyenga’s career goal was teaching business on the high school level. Instead, he became the CEO of a Fortune 500 company.



His professional success derived from an artful blend of hard work, balance and timing.

Even in retirement, he continues to wear that success lightly.

“I never aspired to anything, except to do the very best I could possibly do,” he said. “It was never my goal to climb the corporate ladder. When I became CEO, it was completely by surprise.”

Looyenga served as CEO of Auto-Owners Insurance Group from 2004 until his retirement in 2008. He was the firm’s chairman of the board from 2006 to 2009. Belying its name, the Michigan-based firm offers a full range of insurance lines in 26 states.

Looyenga’s upward ascent began when he chose to attend Minot State because of its smaller size and proximity to home. A diverse group of faculty members mentored him. Pearl Stusrud guided him through his business major. Ron Archer advised his fraternity. And Helen White stressed to him the value of public speaking.

“She got me enthusiastic about making presentations, which was a big part of my career for 40 years,” he said.

Looyenga majored in business education and minored in psychology at Minot State. He also served in student government, directed Sigma Tau Gamma and played varsity tennis.

When he graduated in December 1968, teaching jobs were already filled, so he went to Minneapolis and took a job with the Hartford Insurance Company. After a year there, he transferred to Auto-Owners Insurance Group. He served in company offices in Indiana, Minnesota and Michigan, where he met his wife, Ann.

The Minot State alum quickly discovered the path to corporate success — volunteer promptly, work tirelessly, relocate readily and learn incessantly, all while maintaining a positive attitude.

But, by his own admission, he was mastering the prose but missing the poetry. Laser-focused on his career, he was neglecting his wife and two

young sons.

That epiphany led to key adjustments to everyone’s benefit.

“You can still have success, but you also need balance to go along with that success,” he said.

He and his wife recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary, and his sons are successful businessmen.

For business majors intent on reaching the top, the former executive warns of the unseen psychic cost.

“You might run into a lot of frustration,” he said. “As you get closer to the top, jobs become fewer. There’s only one CEO.”

When the North Dakotan became CEO at Auto-Owners, he found that he was actually first among equals. He facilitated a 10-person team that made all corporate decisions.

“No one of us is as smart as all of us put together. It’s the power of team thinking,” he said.

Looyenga presented MSU with a \$100,000 gift in 2010 to initiate a program in busi-

ness leadership, a neglected area in higher education.

“We put too much emphasis on management, which is directing processes, versus getting people to perform based upon their abilities,” he said.

Each student in the leadership program receives a copy of Looyenga’s book, “Take the Stairs,” which stresses that success in business and in life derives from hard work, not shortcuts.

To date, students in the leadership course have aided MSU students victimized by the Mouse River Flood and created a handbook for incoming business majors.

The Gordon B. Olson Library has established a Roger Looyenga Collection on leadership. It includes items from his personal library along with books, tapes and manuals from the John Maxwell library. Maxwell is an acclaimed expert on leadership with more than 60 books to his credit.

‘ABOVE AND BEYOND’ brings Gellner full circle

KFGO-AM in Fargo has hosted pre- and post-Bison football games for three years. Confident in his coverage and mindfully thorough in his stats, the host of “Bison Tailgate” and “Bison Rewind” carries a deep, dark secret: HE IS A BEAVER AT HEART.

Ryan Gellner graduated from Bishop Ryan High School and spent his first year of college in Bismarck. His sophomore year, he transferred to Minot State because of its strong Broadcasting Department.

“When I saw what Minot State had to offer in its broadcasting and communications program, I knew that was the place for me,” he said.

While in school, he worked full time at KMOT-TV as the weekend sports anchor, and soon after graduation in 2000 he moved to Fargo to work as the sports anchor at FOX affiliate KVRR-TV. For three years, Gellner maintained the hectic pace of the broadcasting dream, but once he became a newlywed, late nights and long hours took their toll.

He moved into homeland security with the North Dakota Association of Counties (NDACo), where he was responsible for training city and county departments in the nuances of national incident command, incident management and disaster drills. It was a program built from the ground up that required research

and networking, but Gellner relied on his journalistic acumen and, over time, created a successful statewide program.

“Looking back, the people skills I developed through broadcasting at Minot State pushed me to where I am now,” he said.

In 2011, Gellner became the NDACo’s traffic safety outreach director, where he collaborates with the North Dakota Department of Transportation in developing safety messaging and training geared toward public awareness.

“We’re trying to figure out ways to implement at the local level how to get everyday citizens to wear seatbelts, and not to drink and drive,” he said.

He effortlessly recites traffic fatalities related to seatbelt use and alcohol consumption. He is painfully aware that as the population grows, so do the numbers.

“It’s become a passion of mine to get people to wear their seatbelts,” he said. “If I can just get one person to wear a seatbelt who normally doesn’t, then that’s potentially one life that’s saved in a traffic crash. North Dakota had the largest



Then, Gov. John Hoeven and Ryan Gellner.

increase of traffic deaths in America over the past year. These are not just numbers, these are people.”

It’s that same drive and passion Gellner brings to his hour-long pre- and post-game NDSU Bison football shows. Although he’s on air only two hours a week, preparation demands additional behind-the-scenes research. Since he started, the Bison have won two national championships, adding to the excitement and workload.

“I learned a lot from Neil Roberts (MSU broadcasting professor). The department was close-knit and allowed me to be involved in many different things. Neil taught me that if you are going to do the job, you have to put the time in and go above and beyond. In the end, it will pay off,” he said.

Ryan and his wife, Lisa, have two sons Cruz, 4, and Jager, 5 months. He continues to be active in sports as a referee in basketball and football, and as an umpire in fast pitch collegiate and high school softball.

Gellner with eager participants at a “Driving Skills for Life” workshop.





Wanting to discover deeper secrets of the earth, Leite took physical geology and found the field trips conducive to exploration of the earth and his newfound major: earth science.

“To be able to go outdoors to learn and observe the natural world made sense,” he said. “Jack Conners taught my first two physical and environmental geology classes, and that opened up my thinking. I enjoyed being outdoors, and the camaraderie in the field really clinched it for me.”

The summer of 1978, Leite got a job in the Williston Basin and stayed for six years. It turned out to be another influence in his pursuit of science.

“I’d heard the Science Museum of Minnesota was excavating giant crocodiles near Roosevelt National Park, near Medora,” he said. “I took a summer off and volunteered with the museum. They gave me a tent and food, and we had a crew out there. I enjoyed that so much, I decided to return to graduate school. My specialty was going to be paleontology.”

He obtained a master’s degree in vertebrate paleontology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1986 and a doctorate from the University of Wyoming in 1992. After a few years of oil consulting and adjunct teaching at Texas A & M University, Leite and his wife, Nancy, relocated to Chadron, Neb., in 1996, where he is a professor of physical and life sciences at Chadron State College.

Left: Leite and a student studying an artifact.

Lessons learned:

Scientists agree that the law of change is the most powerful law of nature. Yet, sometimes, the more things change, the more they stay the same. Mike Leite ('78) knows this to be true.

A self-confessed, lifelong science nerd, the Minot native always wanted to pursue a degree in science. Early explorations at MSU included two years of physics, but he found the classes difficult and unmotivating. However, a geography class from professor Dale Howard gave him a new perspective.

“That was the class that really changed my thinking about science,” Leite said. “I didn’t expect the geography class to be a science class, but it was. It was physical geography, and, unlike any geography class I’d taken in high school, this class was about understanding the physical interactions of atmosphere and ocean, water and climate. It caught my interest.”

In September 2012, Leite received the Nebraska State College System’s highest honor: the NSCS Teaching Excellence Award, for his “high-impact teaching practices.”

“‘High-impact’ is a new buzzword in education, on how to get students motivated to learn,” Leite said. “But I have been doing that my whole life. If I didn’t have the field experience, the outdoors and people working together, I wouldn’t be motivated. I teach the way I learn. Part of high-impact learning is to make it fun, such that students don’t realize they are learning.

“I try to teach how I was taught, but it’s hard to match the mentorship I had at Minot State. Eric Clauson (professor emeritus in earth science) taught me how to make observations in the field, connect them to what’s already been discovered and build on knowledge. Dennis Disrud (biology professor) taught me to get over the fear of Latin names, which is part of what helped me

get into paleontology: learning about the evolution of life and that ancient is the same as modern.”

Leite’s campus involvement at CSC includes service as a co-facilitator in the faculty learning community, which made recommendations about CSC’s general education program. He is also active in a number of national, state and regional organizations. He serves on the board and leads the collection committee for the Mammoth Site in Hot Springs, S.D.



MSU science impacts award-winner



(From the left) Gary Bieganski, Nebraska State College System Board of Trustees, Mike Leite, Dr. Stan Carpenter, chancellor of the Nebraska State College System, and Dr. Randy Rhine, president of Chadron State College.



More than a fundraiser



In fall 1998, Neil Roberts, communication arts professor, faced a dilemma: his broadcasting program needed money. Sure, the broadcasting students could wash cars or sell donuts in Hartnett Hall, but he wanted something that would serve them in their future profession. Then, he remembered a job he had during the summer.

"In 1998, QVC came through Minot on its '50 States 50 Days' tour, and Pride of Dakota businesses auditioned for show segments," Roberts said. "Eight to 10 businesses were selected for 15-minute blocks over a several-hour span, and I was hired to help run camera. I remember the businesses selected celebrated beyond belief, while the others were devastated. So come fall, that got me thinking. When we were kicking around ideas for Media

"Putting on a live event like this, with so many tentacles to it, makes for a great learning experience for our students."

Ink and department fundraisers, I realized we could have a QVC-style event on Minot's Channel 19."

Roberts initially envisioned that the auction would run one year. To his amazement, it was a huge success.

"Next year will be our 15th anniversary," he said. "The KMSU Auction isn't just a

fundraiser. Putting on a live event like this, with so many tentacles to it, makes for a great learning experience for our students. Many of them find it, in hindsight, the best experience they had in college, just because of all the elements involved."

MSU students apply their studies of broadcast production, news writing and public relations, so that the KMSU Auction can raise money for broadcasting scholarships, Media Ink and equipment for the broadcasting program.

Students solicit businesses for donated goods or services, which are grouped into packages. These packages are auctioned in a format similar to that of the Home Shopping Network, but with the exhilarating bidding style of eBay. During the live television auction, viewers call and place their bids on air during an allotted time period. The highest bid wins the package.

"The night of the auction is a whole experience in itself — answering phones and taking bids, running around grabbing the final packages, being live on air, shouting out dollar amounts and calling package winners," said Cassie Neuharth, a 2012 broadcast-ink graduate.

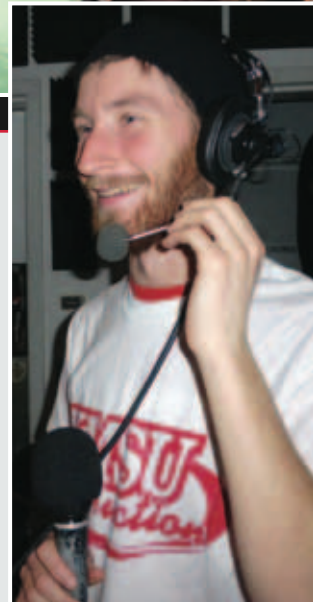
Students typically contribute a portion of the proceeds to a community member or organization in need, such as Second

Story and Roosevelt Park. Following the 2011 Mouse River Flood, students gave all of the profits toward recovery efforts. For the KMSU

Beavers Rebuild fundraiser, applicants submitted a three-to-five minute YouTube video of their damaged property, along with a 1,000-character essay and picture. The KMSU Auction Committee viewed the submissions and determined the recipients based on a needs assessment. So much money was raised, the students donated to five families. Minot Automotive Center, as a corporate sponsor, added another \$10,000 to the more than \$18,000 raised by the auction.

While planning each year's auction, students network and gain invaluable knowledge; the broadcasting program promotes its academic offerings; and businesses market their services in a distinctive way.

From the first year's \$1,400 to 2011's windfall of \$28,355, the KMSU Auction continues to grow.





TRAVELING TROUBADOUR teaches through music

An MSU alumna seemed headed toward a conventional teaching career, until her musical muse diverted her into something even better.

Crosby-native Penny Andrist earned an undergraduate degree in psychology in 1982 but was undecided about a career. She found inspiration in a graduate class on learning disabilities taught by Carol Sue Butts.

“I remember being mesmerized by every word that came out of her mouth,” Andrist said. “That helped me figure out which track I wanted to go down.”

After earning a master’s degree in learning disabilities in 1984, Andrist worked as a learning specialist and girls’ basketball coach in the Williston Public Schools for six years.

While there, Andrist and Gail Benson, a speech and language specialist, experimented with music to reach their special-needs students. The results were promising.

“Music is such a powerful universal language,” Andrist said.

She felt she had found her true calling.

In 1990, she and Benson left Williston and moved to Fargo to pursue a partnership in children’s entertainment.

Their early work focused on kids with special needs.

They called their program “Penny and Pals” because Andrist performed, while Benson remained in the background. The singer’s “pals” included characters such as Bernie the Bear, Rockin’ Robot and Allie Alligator.

Andrist occasionally second-guessed her decision to leave the classroom. At the end of one long tour, she found herself at a small school in Circle, Mont. The distance from home, weariness from traveling and disappointment with a subpar setup made her decidedly peevish. But she soldiered on and delivered a solid performance.

As the audience drifted out and Andrist packed up her equipment, a little girl picked up an idle microphone and began singing. The performer thought little of it until an excited local teacher revealed that those were the first sounds the child had ever made.

“I realized that’s why I was there,” Andrist said. “It was a good reminder for me to do what I was supposed to do.”

Andrist and Benson later expanded their repertoire to reach a broader audience of youngsters. They now address character building, health and fitness. The singer also conducts a youth ministry in a Fargo church.

“We can use music in a variety of ways,” she said.

After two decades in children’s entertainment, Andrist has a unique perspective on today’s kids. They have access to more information and seem wise beyond their years, she says, yet they still need the basics — love, time, attention and safety.

“We’re in such a hurried world that sometimes we forget that,” she said.

After 20 years of entertaining, Andrist has built up a sizeable fan base in the Fargo-Moorhead area. Students follow her career, and she follows their progress through school.

The traveling troubadour has achieved a delightful nexus of professional achievement and personal satisfaction.

“When I’m in the middle of a bunch of kids, I know that’s where I’m supposed to be,” she said.

PENNY ANDRIST



TIMING

is everything



That certainly was the case for MSU Hall of Fame football player **SCOTT DEIBERT**

After starring at Minot State, Deibert felt his football playing days were behind him, and it was time to move on to the next phase of his life. He, in his words, had a plan for the first time in his life.

Then he got the call that he was drafted in the Canadian Football League.

“For once in my life I had a plan,” Deibert said. “I talked to Neil (MSU broadcasting professor Neil Roberts) a lot and was interviewing to be the second sports guy at KMOT-TV when I found out. I believed the job was mine for the taking, and football wasn’t even a thought.”

But it turned out to be just the beginning for Deibert. After being selected in the third round of the 1998 CFL draft by the Edmonton Eskimos, he put together an eight-year career in the CFL that included winning the Grey Cup with the Calgary Stampeders in 2001.

“I think that has to be the biggest memory for me,

winning the Grey Cup,” he said. “The CFL is just that, the Canadian Football League, and that’s big for someone who grew up in Canada. I pull that championship ring out every Grey Cup Sunday.”

Deibert’s path to Minot State and his subsequent path to the CFL was serendipitous. He was drafted at the age of 27, having started his college career at 22. He honed his skills as the feature running back for the Beavers — setting a season rushing record with 1,036 yards in 1994. His time in professional football started on special teams before working his way into a more prominent role.

“It was tough because I was a little older, and I had no idea that I would be able to play as long as I did,” he said. “I didn’t really know what to expect when I started out; it was really going into the unknown. Being a little older and a little more mature might have helped me along the way too, and it really helped me transition into what I’m doing today. I knew I needed to

transition into something other than football.”

That led him to Alberta Tubular Products where he works in sales.

“I really think being in the Broadcasting Department at Minot State helps me every day in my job,” he said. “Communication is the key to everything in life. It’s a life skill that everyone should know.”

He hasn’t completely forgotten his broadcasting career either. He worked in both radio and television after his playing career was over.

“Up until this year, I worked on radio broadcasts,” he said. “I did a little sideline stuff. But my two daughters really like going to the games now, so I want to be able to go with them.”

And he hasn’t forgotten his start at Minot State.

“I came back for my Hall of Fame induction, of course, and came back for the Homecoming reunion for the ’91-’94 teams,” he said. “Minot is a pretty special place for me. I talk about it fondly. I think I was good to people there, and they were good to me.”



Deibert (left) during his Calgary Stampeders days.

Jamie Council



A typical athlete

A typical day for Minot State University junior Jamie Council is pretty jam-packed. But typical wouldn't describe this student-athlete very well.

Council immersed herself in Minot State and all its offerings the minute she arrived on campus. But even that story — her journey to MSU — isn't typical.

After spending a season at California State San Bernardino playing soccer, she didn't feel like she fit with that team.

"It wasn't like I was planning on coming to North Dakota," she said. "I knew I needed a change, and then I got a call from Jason (MSU head soccer coach Jason Spain)."

Spain, in his second year of the soccer program's existence, was looking for experience.

"Travis (San Bernardino coach Travis Clark) and Jason were friends, and he told me

I should talk to him," Council said. "He said there is a spot for me here if I wanted, but he had a list of schools and coaches he knew who were interested in me."

After one visit, Council knew she was going to be a Beaver.

"Yeah, the girls were great on the recruiting trip," she said. "I felt closer to some of them here in just a couple days than I had with my old team after a whole year. I really didn't know what to expect.

It was pretty cool that we got to play at San Bernardino in a tournament, and I scored the game-winner on a header against (Colorado) Mesa. That kind of solidified my decision."

And she has been making a difference for Minot State on and off the soccer pitch. She is second all-time in goals scored with 12. She helped the Beavers win the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference tournament and qualify for the NCAA Division II National Tournament in the team's first year of full membership.

But it is off the field where she has excelled even more.

As a member of the Broadcasting Department, Council was a key figure in this year's KMSU Auction. She has been a reporter for the Red & Green for two years, worked as a sideline camera operator for the KMSU basketball production last year and has been the host of the "Beaver Hockey Wire," a weekly show devoted to the men's hockey program, for two years.

This past football season, she was a sideline reporter for MidCo Sports during the Beavers home football game against the University of Sioux Falls.

"It was pretty neat for me because I scored a goal in the soccer game earlier that day, and they were there to film that, so they showed it on the football broadcast later," she said.

While being a student-athlete can be time-consuming enough, the amount of extra-curricular activities Council is involved with can be very taxing. But she isn't shying away from opportunities while at Minot State.

"The amount of things I have done for me is fun," she said. "I am pretty stubborn, so if I don't want to do something, I won't. It's kind of tough to tell me to do something. I want to be involved. I was pretty involved in high school, and there are so many opportunities here. Everybody is so positive, and I have been feeding off of that."



I strive to

EXCEL

in teamwork, goal-setting and leadership,
which will carry over into my future.

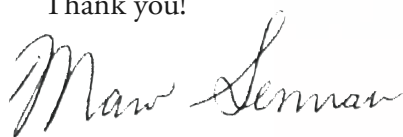
EXCEL is what our students do when they compete, when they learn and when they begin their careers, using the quality education acquired at Minot State University. They excel because of an atmosphere where excellence is an everyday expectation.

For 100 years, your university has influenced students to reach their greatest potential. But it requires more than dedicated faculty and staff. Our students are grateful to those who helped them through gifts that support scholarships and programs.

Now is an excellent time to help deserving students.

Please contact the **Advancement Office** at **701-858-3399, 800-777-0750**, me personally at **marv.semrau@minotstateu.edu** or online at **minotstate.thankyou4caring.org**.

Thank you!



Vice President for Advancement



*Abbey Aide, Bottineau, N.D.
Senior, Communication Disorders
MSU pole vault record holder*

SAVE THE DATE

Celebrate MSU's

100th

September 21 – 28!



Centennial Homecoming Major Events

— September 2013 —

- 21Community Block Party
- 26Alumni Association's Golden Awards Banquet
- 27Centennial Reunion Celebration
 - ALL Greek Reunion
 - ALL Alumni and Friends Reunion
- 28Centennial Homecoming Parade
- 28Tailgating
- 28DII NSIC Beaver
 - Football vs. Winona State



To Do List

- ✓ Plan your vacation
- ✓ Make airline/train reservations
- ✓ Make hotel reservations*
- ✓ Text friends to get them going
- ✓ Watch MSU website for details

www.minotstateu.edu/homecoming



* Rooms reserved at **Grand International** (701-852-3161) and **Hampton Inn Suites** (701-838-1400). Both within walking distance of MSU.

Centennial information at www.minotstateu.edu/homecoming

Alumni and Beaver Booster Appreciation Night



Several alumni, boosters and friends watch Beaver basketball while waiting to be served a delicious supper.



Roger Mergenthal and Bob Sando, retired MSU faculty, proudly sport their MSU gear.



Alumni Association board members served pulled pork sandwiches, pickles, chips and brownies to satisfy hearty appetites.



MSU Alumni Association intern Dani Cook helped Jalene Foisy show her MSU spirit with a tattoo.



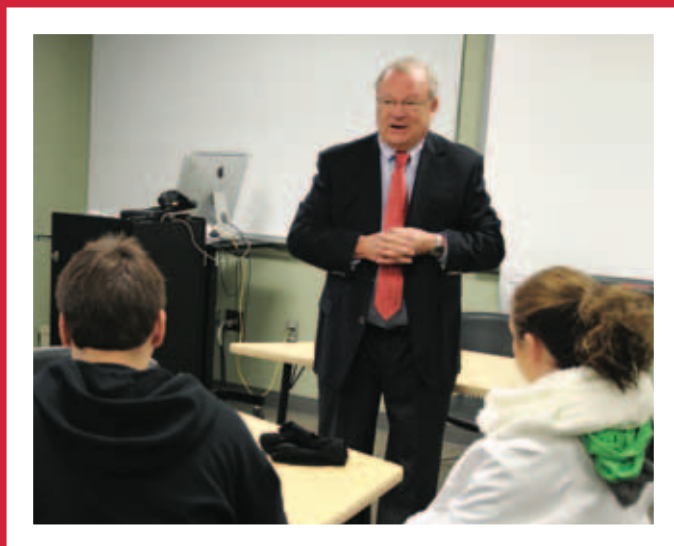
The atmosphere was festive with hundreds of folks enjoying their free meal and the conversations.

Alumni Treat Night



RESIDENCE HALL STUDENTS RECEIVE TREATS: The Alumni Association delivered goodies at Thanksgiving to students living on campus. Pictured from the left are: Michelle and Jeremy Holman, Linda Christianson '72, Gloria Lokken '72, Denise Faulkner '72 Kristi Berg '00, Sydney Berg and Megan Schaan.

Distinguished Alumni Visit MSU



THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE IS THE BASIS FOR ALL SUCCESS was distinguished alum John Greenslit's message to students in January. Greenslit is the director for the Eaton County Parks Department in Grand Ledge, Mich.



THERE'S MORE TO A PAIR OF JEANS THAN WEARING THEM Amy Leonard shared with students. Leonard is former senior vice president of product development and sourcing at Levi Strauss & Company.

YWCA honors Minot State women

At the Oct. 12 YWCA Women of Distinction Banquet, the honorees included Minot State University faculty and alumnae. This year's Women of Distinction winners included JoAnn Linrud, College of Business dean, for education-post secondary.

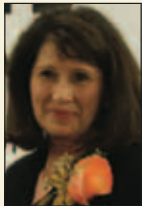
Alumnae winners were Lisa Clute ('81) for community service; Cindy Cook ('84) for education-elementary; Susan Ewert ('09) for young woman; Bonny Kemper ('69) for business woman; Cindy Mau ('78) for education-middle school; Sherry Wagner ('92) for education-pre-kindergarten; and Elaine Zakopyko ('67) for rural-McHenry County.

All the Women of Distinction winners are from Minot, except Zakopyko, who is from Balfour.

"Receiving this recognition is truly an honor," Linrud said. "So many women do so much for our community; it's humbling to be considered among them."

Annually, this banquet honors women for their achievements and contributions to the community, as well as businesses and agencies committed to the empowerment of women.

The Minot YWCA provides a safe environment for women and children in crisis.



Linrud



Clute



Cook



Ewert



Kemper



Mau



Wagner



Zakopyko

YWCA
WOMEN OF
DISTINCTION



Our readers reminisce

Thanks to our readers for sharing their memories of MSU. We love hearing stories (*and there were some doozies!*) of campus life over the years. Please send your thoughts to:

bonnie.trueblood@minotstateu.edu



PIONEER HALL

Erling Podoll, Aberdeen, S.D. —

I arrived at MSTC in July 1943, which was the beginning of a contract with the U.S. Navy for their V-12 program, a pre-midshipman school training endeavor.

My first two semesters were spent in Dakota Hall. Either the Navy or the college was not ready for us, because for more than a week we slept on bare springs with a Navy blanket for a mattress.

My third semester was in Pioneer. It had large fire escapes on the ends that made it convenient for sneaking out at night.

Telford Morgan was my roommate the entire 12 months. After V-12, we met again at Tinian Island on July 26, 1945. He did not survive the sinking of the cruiser Indianapolis four days later.

Jim Rabideau, Pasco, Wash. —

I just read the latest Connections and chuckled at the picture of my ancient “home” of sorts. I was assigned to the Navy V-12 unit at MSTC, arriving February 1944, a week past my 18th birthday.

My most vivid recollection of Pioneer happened due to my lack of attention to required duty. After entering Pioneer, on the left hand side of the passageway was a bulletin board. Daily we were to read the watch bill, listing the assignments for standing duty watch for the night hours. On the Monday in question, I stopped and noted I was not assigned. However,

I negligently didn't look underneath the clip board and see my name. This was a no-no.

As penance, I was assigned five demerits and 20 hours extra duty. Swenson, Schmidt and I missed watch muster, the mandatory gathering of those assigned the night watch. We were mustered before Chief Manuel George Sousa, lovingly called “Stuka man,” due to some of his conduct, which we likened



to a German dive bomber. He took us to the galley and asked if any of us knew how to clean pheasants. He pointed out a 55-gallon barrel and told us the 70 odd birds in it needed to be cleaned for the athletic banquet the next night. He gave us two hours credit for every hour we cleaned. What a deal!

We went at it as truly inspired Navy men. We skinned and gutted the birds, cut them up as directed and finished in seven hours. The Chief inspected our efforts in the nearby refrigerator.

Bless his heart, we learned who really ran the Navy and awarded praise or punishment at the lowest level.

“Since you did such a great job and took me off the hook (he didn't know

how to clean pheasants), I'm giving you credit for the entire 20 hours,” he said.

We hardly missed Taps that night. My tour in Pioneer wasn't long, but I have fond memories of the old hall, and it was old back then.

Don Feller '61, Portland, Ore. —

My memories as a freshman at Pioneer Hall in 1955-56 are very specific. I shared a third-floor room with another freshman,

also from an area small town. Our furniture was rather spartan: tan steel single beds with a matching desk. I don't recall closets, but our personal wardrobes were limited anyway.

We had one hall-area phone on each floor and when we wished to make a “private dating” call, it was far from private. The bathroom facilities consisted of a large common room with multiple sinks, toilets and showers. In the

fourth-floor attic, we had washing machine facilities for use when students didn't get home for Mom to do the laundry.

The hall had a proctor who lived on site with his family. John Strohm was faculty in the Music Department and was responsible for keeping order. Many students smoked, but alcohol was prohibited. However, when the snow melted in the spring, under certain windows empty quarts of beer were exposed.

Our greatest convenience was the tunnel that connected us to Old Main, where all of our classes were. We used it in severe weather, though many of us did not wear coats as we dashed from Old Main to the wooden Student Union building a few hundred feet away.

1964

Gary Thune, an accomplished author and a founding member of the North Dakota Council of School Attorneys, was inducted into the Minot High School 2012 Wall of Fame. He served as a teacher and school administrator before entering the University of North Dakota School of Law where he earned a Juris Doctor in 1974. Thune is a partner in the Pearce and Durick Law Firm in Bismarck.

1970

Judy (Hanson) Quill was a featured artist in the Souris Valley Watercolor Society's annual Fall Art Show held in October.

David McCormack, who taught mathematics at Minot State University from 1988 to 2007, has been teaching high school math to missionaries' children at Black Forest Academy in Kandern, Germany. After a year's furlough, he and his wife, Helen, will return to Black Forest Academy in August 2013.

1975

Ramona (Jenner) Arneson was a featured artist in the Souris Valley Watercolor Society's annual Fall Art Show in October.

1977

Maureen (D'Souza) Penko received honors from the Manitoba Speech and Hearing Association.



Gail (Johnson) Merck is registered and certified in bone densitometry with the American Registry of Radiology Technicians and the International Society for Clinical Densitometry. She was one of 10 bone density technologists in the country who developed and wrote the national board certification exam for bone densitometry technologists to become registered. Merck is employed by Trinity Health.

1979

Millie (Francis) LaPierre is vice president for database and technology for Diversified Search in Philadelphia, Pa.

1982

Sherie Heine has assumed the position of vice president for the Western North Dakota Synod Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

1983

Vangie Johnson Parker was promoted to community reinvestment act officer for American State Bank & Trust Company in Williston. Parker has been with ASB & T since 2005. In addition to her responsibilities as CRA officer, she serves as collection officer.

1990

Beverly Sargent, a licensed professional counselor and pastoral therapist, has authored two children's books, "When My Mommy Died" and "When My Daddy Died." An ordained clergy and founder and chief executive officer of a Servant's Heart Youth Ministries Inc., and Ashes Rising Counseling Services, LLC., Sargent's passion is working with children and integrating spirituality into creative therapies, such as play, sand and art. Sargent retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2003. She and her husband have one son.

1991

Sally (O'Shea) Iverson has been named the director of internal auditing at MDU Resources Group Inc. Iverson joined MDU Resources in 1993 and most recently was controller of WBI Holdings Inc., a subsidiary of the corporation. Iverson is a Garrison native and a certified public accountant.



James Ruiz, Ph.D., has been elected to the Penn State University Senate Council. He is entering his 12th

year at PSU and is coordinator of the Master in Criminal Justice program at PSU Harrisburg.

1992

Jonn Knecht, market president of American Bank Center in Minot, took over as chairman of the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce at its annual meeting Oct. 10.

Lanelia (Peterson) DeCoteau

is currently the superintendent of the Turtle Mountain Community School District. DeCoteau completed her Doctorate of Education in educational leadership at the University of North Dakota.

1993

Darla (Verbitsky) Bakko was promoted to administrative assistant/office manager in the Department of Plant Pathology at North Dakota State University. She has been in that department for 13 years, most recently serving as Extension Plant Pathology administrative assistant. Bakko was also elected division secretary for the MN-ND-SD International Association of Administrative Professionals.

1994

Lynne (Cop) Fullbrook is one of 10 teachers selected to receive a Thomas C. Wright Fellowship to complete her master's degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Idaho. Fullbrook has taught special education since 1996. She is currently working as a literacy instructional coach for the Coeur d'Alene School District #271.

Chanda (Leonard) DeCent

was chosen to participate in the North Dakota Center for Technology & Business Women's Leadership Program. This program is an intense six-month program dedicated to expanding the personal, professional, community and health leadership skills for women of all ages in Minot.

1996

Ken Campbell has been appointed vice president for North American Oilseeds (softseeds). Campbell has been responsible for merchandising and commercial-management roles that have taken him from Fresno, Calif., to Frankfort, Ind., Mankato, Minn., and Decatur, Ga. In 2010 he was named hedge manager, Canola, before being appointed general manager of North American Softseeds in 2011.

1997

Nicole Loucks-Brincks recently joined Raak & Associates P.C. in Bismarck. She worked in Colorado and South Dakota before returning to North Dakota in 2006.

Lois (Spletstoser) Mackey,

First District Health Unit, was the recipient of the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce's Eagle Award in November. The program is sponsored by MACC to recognize Minot workers who exhibit superior customer service.

Daniel R. Van Ness graduated from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in May of 2012. He is sitting for the Nevada Bar exam in February. Van Ness is currently employed with Stoecklein Law Group LLP, in San Diego.

1998

Lisa Gayzur joined Rehab Services Inc. as a children's home program coordinator. Gayzur has experience in the child welfare and child protection fields, most recently working at Ward County Social Services as a supervisor in the Child Protective Services Unit.

1999

Wendy (Bakken) Thomas works for Minot Public Schools' Souris Valley Special Services as their early childhood coordinator.

2002

Teri (Lacey) Ostdahl was hired as pregnancy and adoption counselor in the Minot office of Lutheran Social Services Adoption Option.

Teresa (Wyze) Seright, former nursing faculty member, teaches at Montana State University.

2004

Monte Yellow Bird, aka **Black Pinto Horse**, received first place with his ledger piece titled “Watch the Birdie,” which won the category of painting and drawing in the art competition at the Gene Autry Museum in Los Angeles. “Watch the Birdie” is reminiscent of the old studio portraits taken of Native peoples in the late 1800s.

Jordan Keith, assistant professor at the Illinois College of Optometry, was voted “Clinical Educator of the Year” for the second consecutive year. Then, the graduating class bestowed ICO’s highest teaching award, “Golden Apple Award,” upon Keith. The students named him as the faculty member who was most influential on their education throughout their four years. The Sherwood native fondly remembers his undergraduate classes taught by Chris Beachy, biology professor, and knows that Beachy’s teaching style influences his. Keith, a biology major, said “Ecology” with Beachy is still the most fascinating class he ever took.

2005

Christy Jelsing has joined the staff of Red Door Homes in Bismarck as a selections coordinator/sales assistant. She previously was the general manager of The Children’s Place.

2006

Luke Turner is interning in Sen. John Hoeven’s Bismarck office. As an intern, Turner will work with the senator and his staff on legislative, communication and administrative projects.

2007

Morgan Grundstad graduated from the University of North Dakota Medical School in May 2012, and received the Dr. Louis B. and Thelma K.

Silverman Award. The award is given to a graduating medical degree senior who shows an interest in becoming a pediatrician and who possesses compassion, dedication, integrity, leadership and interest in community service, as exemplified by the late Dr. Silverman.

Grundstad is currently completing a three-year pediatric residency at the University of Iowa Children’s Hospital, Department of Pediatrics, in Iowa City. She is the daughter of James and Tammy Grundstad, Williston, and granddaughter of Arnold and Janice (Koenig) Schimke (’65), Bismarck.

Chris Jundt was promoted to senior vice president and chief lending officer for First National Bank & Trust Company in Williston. He joined the bank in 2011 as a commercial loan officer. Jundt serves as president of the Williston Area Chamber of Commerce.

Amanda Volmer has been hired as program director at the Boys and Girls Club of the Red River Valley/Youth Commission.

2008

Troy Roness graduated in December with a graduate degree in education, cognitive science from MSU.



2009

Katie Berwick is working for the City of Williston as clerk of municipal court.

Ashley (Liebel) Wedge is in her third year of teaching music at Wasilla High School in Wasilla, Alaska. Her husband, Jeremy (’07), works as a substitute teacher for the district. They welcomed baby Hannah in the summer of 2012.

Jagit Chohan is a territory sales manager for Pepsi Canada in Winnipeg.

2010

Michael Vandal is a learning disabilities teacher grades 10-12 at Bottineau High School.

Justin Fisk is an account executive for KK Bold.

Clarissa Westby has been chosen to participate in the North Dakota Center for Technology & Business Women’s Leadership Program. This program is an intense six-month program

dedicated to expanding the personal, professional, community, and health leadership skills for women of all ages in Minot.

2011

Christopher Norheim has become a residential specialist II with Centre Inc. in Mandan.

Erin Obenchain is a fourth grade teacher at Minot’s Washington Elementary School. She was also hired as an assistant coach for the Erik Ramstad girls’ track team as a throwers’ coach.



Attended

Scott Oothoudt, a financial representative of Northwestern Mutual Financial Network in Minot, has qualified for the Pacesetter First 40 Award. This honor recognizes financial representatives who have a total net of 40 lives in the first six months after becoming a full time financial representative.

Friend

Andrew Maragos, customer service representative at the Minot Amtrak station, was recently honored by Amtrak’s CEO for his work to save the Amtrak station when the Mouse River Flood hit Minot in June 2011.

CLASS NOTES: WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! Please share your career and family updates or address changes by sending your news to www.minotstateu.edu/alumni.

Have you received copies of these issues of Connections?

With changes in postal endorsements, anyone with a change of address may not have received the copies pictured. If you wish to receive them, we will be glad to honor your request. Contact the Alumni Office at 701-858-3234 or e-mail alumni@minotstateu.edu.

Also, let us know if you would rather receive *Connections* electronically.



Alumni Association

30th annual
Gala
dinner & auction

**The MSU Alumni Association invites
you to join us for the 30th anniversary
Gala dinner and auction.**

**Friday, April 26, 2013
Grand International, Minot, N.D.
Social – 5:30 P.M. Dinner – 6:45 P.M.**

**To reserve your tickets for this year's event,
contact the Alumni Office at
701-858-3234 or 800-777-0750 ext. 3234.**

In memoriam...

It is with honor we dedicate this section to recognize alumni and friends who have passed away from approximately September 2012 to December 2012, or as submitted.

Graduates

- '36 Pederson, Thomas M.; Moorhead, Minn.
- '37 Marshall (Reinholdt), Evelyn; Jacksonville, Fla.
- '37 McGinty (Fylken), Yva; Stonington, Conn.
- '37 Thome (Hegge), Ann;
- '38 Bakken (Loken), Marion; Velva
- '41 Appleton (Hanson), Lily Beth; San Jose, Calif.
- '41 Collins (Osteros), Genevieve; Marysville, Wash.
- '41 Hansen (Brandt), Mary; Dunn Center
- '43 Bird (Minier), Martha; St. Augustine, Fla.
- '43 Thompson (Hendrickson), Mavis; Grand Forks
- '46 Haugan (Tiegs), Hattie; Watford City
- '50 Gotvaslee (Rollman), Lois; Voltaire
- '55 Fairbanks, George; St. Paul, Minn.
- '58 Campbell, William C.; Seaside, Ore.
- '60 Hibsich, Leo L.; Hamberg
- '62 Spletstoser, Dennis; Burnsville, Minn.
- '63 Payne (Zappartino), Shirley; Fitzgerald, Ga.
- '64 Selby, James; Bismarck
- '64 Sweeney (Freer), Virginia; Naples, Fla.
- '68 Zeman (Pederson), Joan; Detroit Lakes, Minn.
- '71 Holley, John T.; Yuba City, Calif.
- '72 Spain, James; Bismarck
- '73 Hilsman, Gerald; North Augusta, S.C.

- '75 Rise, Joseph O.; Kent, Wash.
- '79 Estes, Michael; Ogdensburg, N.Y.
- '81 Bumann, Craig; Sioux Falls, S.D.
- '83 Moser (Schroeder), Patricia; Los Angeles, Calif.
- '88 Lawson (Person), Gayle; Mohall
- '93 Walski (Nowell), Linda; Schertz, Texas
- '95 Schnabel, Eric J.; Minot
- '05 Uhrmacher (Winston), Kelly; Minot
- '11 Kandt, Lauren; Fargo

Attended

- Barnett (Stowe), Bernadine; Anchorage, Alaska
- Burckhard (Axtman), Lucille; Minot
- Clark (Kuster), Regina; Stanley
- Feller (Kupser), Eva; Karlsruhe
- Fjelstad (Trana), Margaret; Fargo
- Frosaker, Kevin; Bismarck
- Gafkjen (Emery), Donna; Williston
- Haberman (Duff), Madonna; Minot
- Hiller, Donald; Minot
- Hoerauf (Ketterling), Ruth; Fargo
- Holo, Dale A.; Arnegard
- Hoppman, LaVerne; Minot
- Johnson (Gallaher), Alyce; Minot
- Kjonaas (Gravseth), Myrtle; Minot
- Knutson, Judy; Moorhead
- Lalim, Dale; Tioga
- Norlin (Anderson), Linda; Minot
- Olson (Auck), Carol; Minot
- Pratt, Charles; Minot
- Ritterman (Fox), Carol; York
- Schlieve (Anderson), Beverly; Devils Lake
- Trout (Olson), Lois; Minot
- Van Berkom, Roger; Punta Gorda, Fla.
- Wagner (Nichols), Rita; Stanley

- Walsh (Schenfisch), Bernice; Bismarck
- Whitecalfe (Sundahl), Juliane; Garrison
- Wignes (Voxland), Luella; Minot

Friends

- Bergquist, Donley "Bob"; Wilton
- Bjorke (Wall), Velma "Lorraine"; Minot
- Buchert, Richard; Underwood
- Ege (Hammer), Olga; Bismarck
- Entorf, Douglas; New Town
- Felski (Golly), Irma; Minot
- Field, Robert O, II; Minot
- Hakanson, Lorace "Hawk"; West Fargo
- Haugeberg, LeRoy; Minot
- Leiphon, Joseph; Minot
- Leir, Rodney; McHenry
- Mathews (Haagenson), Susan; Minot
- Mogler, Lyle J.; Minot
- Olson, Dr. Burton; Minot
- Schultz, Robert A.; Minot
- Stuck, John; Minot
- Watne (Widdel), Darlene; Minot

Faculty & Staff

- Berkey, Gordon B.; professor emeritus, Division of Science
- Erickson (Castleman), Kae; former staff member in Experimental College and student affairs
- Johnson (Griffeth), Barb; former Business Office purchasing agent
- Klug (Gilbertson); Olivia; former food services employee
- Olson (Larson), Doris; former secretary for the Education and Psychology Department

Are you Connected?

Have you gone somewhere special with your Connections? Send us a photo and a brief description about how you stay Connected to MSU! Please submit your photo by email to:


bonnie.trueblood@minotstateu.edu, or by mail to:

Bonnie Trueblood
MSU Advancement Office
Minot State University
500 University Ave. West
Minot, ND 58707

Bethany Keusch, global education coordinator, keeps her Connections close as she sails aboard the MV Explorer.



John Girard, management professor, submitted the photo of Keusch during the Institute for Shipboard Education's spring 2013 Semester at Sea. During the 106-day voyage, Girard will combine teaching and research while traveling to 12 countries with over 600 students. To follow Girard's adventures, visit <http://johngirard.net/sas>.

biggest "little"

BEAVER
 fans!

Have you had an addition to your family within the last 12-18 months?

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 have received your biggest "little" Beaver fan T-shirt, email your baby's photo to: kate.marshall@minotstateu.edu.



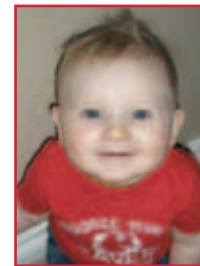
Barth

Kaliyah Annabelle was born Dec. 30, 2011, in Minot. Proud parents are **Mitchell and Toni '00 (Miller) Barth**. She was welcomed into the family through adoption on Jan. 27, 2012.



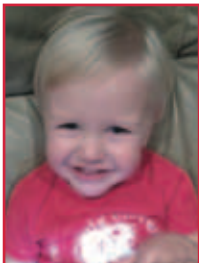
Danks

Brent '02 and Carol '93 (Satterthwaite) Danks joyfully welcomed Molly Sue on March 22, 2012. She joins big brother Gary, who is three years old.



Gane

Paisley Alyn entered the world on May 16, 2012, in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Proud parents are **Micheal and Kendra '06/'08 (Sittler) Gane**.



Bergstrand

Paxton entered the world Dec. 18, 2010. Parents are **Shawn '03 and Bree '04 (Vollmers) Bergstrand**.



Duchsherer

Holden Michael was born Sept. 1, 2011 to **Michael and Ashley '11 (Gendron) Duchsherer**.



Johnson

Benjamin Johnson and Sarah '05 Arnott joyfully welcomed Kesler Eldor on April 16, 2011.



Brisson

Marc '03 and Jancy '04 (Bryant) Brisson became proud parents to Bryant Jack Sept. 10, 2012.



Dupay

Delaney Rae was born to **Matthew and Kimberly '97 (Olson) Dupay** on Dec. 11, 2011, in Minot. Delaney joins big brother Drake, who is 14 years old.



Johnson

James '09 and Tenille '08 (Armstrong) Johnson welcomed a girl, Preslee, born Dec. 2, 2011.



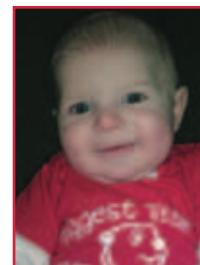
Carlson

Tessa Mae was born to **John (attended) and Nicole Carlson** Jan. 6, 2011.



Engh

Ashton entered the world on Oct. 9, 2011. Ashton was welcomed by **Adam '03 and Ashley '03 (Andersen) Engh**, along with big brother Adler and big sister Aslyn.



Jones

Jacob '10 and Danielle '11 (Solberg) Jones welcomed Asher Jacob on August 31, 2012, in Bismarck.



Kitzan

Stetson John entered the world on March 27, 2012. He was welcomed by proud parents **Justun '11** and **Heather Kitzan**, along with big brother Heston James.



Makeeff

Lance '94 and **Amy '00 (Semmen)** Makeeff welcomed a new addition to their family. Kacee Gayle was born May 29, 2012.



Schmalz

Terry and Britni '07/'12 (DesLauriers) Schmalz welcomed their first little one, Stella Joy, on June 1, 2012.



Klebe

Kory '98 and **Mari Klebe** joyfully welcomed Hayden Glenn to their family on Feb. 28, 2012.



Nostdahl

Quinn Michael was born to **Stu and Amy (Semrau) Nostdahl** on Sept. 10, 2012. Quinn is the grandson of **Marv (MSU staff) and Barb Semrau**.



Sherven

Jared and Alison '08 (Klabunde) Sherven welcomed baby girl Quinn Ava to the family on Oct. 12, 2012.



Klein

Drew James was born March 9, 2011, in Maple Grove, Minn., to **Steve and Ann '99 (Bailey) Klein**.



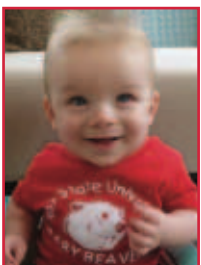
Roteliuk

Renden Lee entered the world on Jan. 10, 2012. Parents are **Rusten and Lisa '97 (Anderson) Roteliuk**. Renden joins **Rylan**, who is five years old.



Steen

Luke '06/'08 and **Rebecca '09 (Hanson)** Steen welcomed **Leah Noel** on June 10, 2012. Welcome to the world!



Lang

Tim '04 and **Beth '07 (Harley)** Lang welcomed a new addition to their family, **Ari William Harley**. Ari was born April 4, 2012, in Brandon, Manitoba.



Ruthven

Emery Eric was born May 27, 2012. Proud parents are **Brian '08** and **Randi '07/'09 (Biss) Ruthven**.



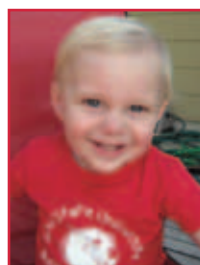
Storma

Andrew William was born to **Thomas and Rebekah '02 (Penn) Storma** on July 15, 2012, in West Bend, Wis. He joins older brother **Martin**, who is two years old.



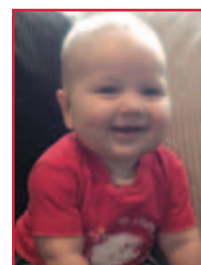
LeBaron

Thomas and Danielle '07 (Bourgeois) LeBaron welcomed a boy, **Drake Asher**, on May 13, 2011.



Schlag

Nicholas Raymond entered the world on Jan. 2, 2011. Nicholas was welcomed by proud parents **Matthew '01** and **Kate '01 (Zerr) Schlag** and big brother **Jacob**, who is five years old.



Varty

Dallas '05 and **Carrie '06 (Sandstrom)** Varty, along with big sister **Camdyn**, welcomed **Burke Daniel** on March 16, 2012.

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Mandi Carroll, Mandi Carroll Photography
Candace Brekke, '01, Minot State University
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Caren Barnett, Minot State University

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Minot State UNIVERSITY

Our Place. Our Legacy. Our Vision.

MSU's Centennial Celebration

IN 2013-14 PROMISES TO BE MAGNIFICENT!

You get partial credit: our alumni have helped shape MSU into what it is today; just as each one of you carries a piece of college life that helped shape you.

Look at the photos on the opposite page and let us know what memories you have to share with our readers. Please contact Bonnie Trueblood at bonnie.trueblood@minotstateu.edu or call 701-858-3399 or 800-777-0750 ext. 3399 to share a glimpse of your personal history.

We'd love to hear from you!



SWAIN HALL GYMNASIUM

Garbage can lids, screaming voices and cheerleaders thrilled the Beaver teams. What's the craziest thing you saw or did in Swain Hall's gym?



MRS. C was a second mom to thousands of first year ladies. What's your favorite memory?

OLD MAIN'S MCFARLAND AUDITORIUM hosted numerous events. Share a piece of your personal history.





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Alumni Association

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commitment to
excellence provided
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succeed in the highly
competitive global
economy. I am
pleased to support
Minot State!”*

Chris Jundt '07 is a senior vice president and chief lending officer at First National Bank & Trust Company in Williston. He also serves as board president of the Williston Area Chamber of Commerce.