

# Connections

Alumni Association and Development Foundation

Fall 2018

**PINNICK**  
plays key role  
in future  
exploration of  
**MARS**



# MINOT STATE unveils new logo, taglines, and graphic standards

**M**inot State University announced a new branding strategy during its 2018 Convocation event. The plan includes an updated university logo, enhanced taglines, and graphic standards.

“The updated branding strategy will provide a strong, memorable visual for Minot State University,” Minot State President Steven Shirley said. “This will give us a clear and consistent look — highlighting our strengths and distinguishing Minot State from other colleges and universities.”

The branding strategy features a new academic logo, using the historic Old Main outline along with “Minot State University” prominently displayed below the stylized roofline. Minot State’s tagline, “Be seen. Be heard.” will not be retired, but is enhanced with additional text including “Be inspired,” “Be empowered,” “Be you,” and “Belong.”

“The rebranding launch is the outcome of listening to our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and stakeholders,” Minot State Director of Marketing Teresa Loftesnes said. “After many voices were heard, the current tagline Be seen. Be heard. grew when additional words were added to enhance the tagline. Be inspired., Be empowered., Belong., and Be you. are simple and livable. Students tell us over and over they feel inspired, empowered, seen, and heard at Minot State. These taglines are what sets us apart from other universities.”

**CONTEST:** How many places can you spot the new MINOT STATE LOGO in this issue of Connections?

Post your answer on the Minot State Alumni Facebook page at:

[Facebook.com/MinotStateUAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/MinotStateUAlumni)



# President's message

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### ADDITIONAL PHOTO CREDITS:

Pinnick plays key role in future exploration of Mars: p. 6 - 9 photos courtesy of NASA

Takuma Abe — Pulp nonfiction: p. 10 - 11 photography by Micah Bloom, MSU Art Department

Applying Minot State values to police work: p. 12 photo furnished by Doug Mahlum

Marathon 'addiction' leads Windish to Boston: p. 19 photos furnished by Allison Windish

Eric's adventures: p. 16 photo by Matthew Maldonado



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# A

nother autumn with its beautiful array of outdoor colors is upon us. Although the early fall days have been much cooler than usual in Minot this year, it is still my favorite time of year and an especially busy one on the MSU campus.

We just concluded some wonderful recognition celebrations where we thanked and congratulated several special graduates and friends of MSU. Our annual Golden Awards banquet during Homecoming recognized five incredibly deserving recipients in Jay Altringer, Don Hummel, Howard Klug, Chuck Kramer, and Tawnya Bernsdorf. A couple weeks later, we celebrated MSU's newest Athletics Hall of Fame class with Bev Alex, Kent Bloms, Jenny Castro, Tom Fredericks, and Johnny Lester. You can read more about each of these tremendous recipients and wonderful representatives of MSU in this issue of Connections.

You will also read in this issue about a new Cadaver Lab that opened this fall to enhance the academic experience for MSU students in several of our science and health-related fields. MSU is now one of the few campuses in the state to offer this opportunity for its undergraduates. We have students each year graduating and advancing on to professional schooling such as medical school, and this new lab will be beneficial as it enhances their knowledge and skill base.

This fall, we also hosted a 7-year accreditation visit for our Teacher Education programs by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP; the successor to NCATE). This exhaustive review was the culmination of significant planning within our Teacher Education Unit. The October campus visit was conducted by a team of national peer reviewers confirming MSU meets the CAEP accreditation criteria. We will receive a final report next spring, but are confident it was a favorable review and anticipate another positive outcome for one of our oldest and most significant academic areas at MSU.

As for this fall's enrollment, MSU's overall total student headcount was down a fraction (-0.8%) while our overall full-time equivalency (FTE) was up a fraction (+0.6%). A particular piece of good news with this fall's numbers is that we welcomed our largest freshman class since Fall 2011. As several campuses in the region were down 3-5%, we can be pleased with this fall's outcome. Additionally, we are preparing for the start of another Legislative Session in January 2019, and have been doing budgetary planning and initial preparations for the next biennium that will begin next summer following the Session.

Our students have been active across campus and in the community. They have put in thousands of hours this fall volunteering and doing service work throughout the Minot region. We are in full swing with Athletics as the fall seasons are concluding and the winter sports are ramping up. Theatrical productions, music recitals, art exhibitions, the Minot Symphony Orchestra, the Western Plains Opera, our annual NotStock Arts festival, and so many other activities have made it a most enjoyable and active autumn at Minot State. Another reason why this is my favorite time of year!

**AS ALWAYS ... GO BEAVERS!**

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

Steven W. Shirley, Ph.D., President



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In the 2017-18 President's Report, it was indicated travel expenses for Dr. Terry Eckmann's Group X and yoga students who traveled to Mayan Riviera were entirely funded with Giving Day donations. No Giving Day donations from April 2018 were allocated for this trip. The trip was entirely funded by Dr. Terry Eckmann and her students. Giving Day donations were designated to assist with travel expenses for a trip to Bangkok, Thailand for the Asia Fitness Conference and Thailand school visits. Students assisted Eckmann in her presentations.

In the Spring 2018 Connections magazine, a photo misidentified in the Minot State University photography archive was used in a story about the former married student housing commonly referred to as the Barracks. Connections apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused. We are hoping our readers can help us identify the photo that was used. Please contact us at alumni@minotstate.edu.

Minot State University President Steven Shirley, Vice President for Advancement Rick Hedberg '89, Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving Janna McKechnie '14, and Development Foundation Donor Relations Coordinator Kate Marshall '07 congratulated four Minot State alumni who received honors for outstanding teaching during the 2017-18 academic year.

**Sara (Birkeland) Medalen '90** (top photo), a reading and math interventionist at Sunnyside Elementary who has students read to her while she braids or styles their hair in her classroom, was named the Minot Education Association Teacher of the Year.

**Kathryn (Graner) Lenertz '96** (second photo from the top), principal at Dakota Elementary at the Minot Air Force Base, was named the North Dakota Society of Health and Physical Education (NDSHAPE) Administrator of the Year. She is currently in her 23rd year in the education field and continues to support Minot State Club of Physical Educators (MSCOPE), NDSHAPE network, and her principal organizations.

**Jason Steele '07** (third photo from the top) teaches K-5 elementary physical education at Perkett Elementary School in Minot. He was honored with the NDSHAPE Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year award. Steele, pictured with Perkett Elementary School Principal Renae (Newman) Rudolph '88 and Minot Public School Assistant Superintendent Tracey (Wickman) Lawson '83, served on the NDSHAPE board for one year and became its vice president on Sept. 1.

**Troy Roness '08/'12** (bottom photo) is an instructor of teacher education and kinesiology at Minot State. He received the NDSHAPE Physical Education Professor of the Year award. The award gives recognition to educators demonstrating a continuous dedication to the advocacy and enhancement of student learning in physical education at the collegiate level.



# PINNICK plays key role in future exploration of MARS

— Dan Fagan

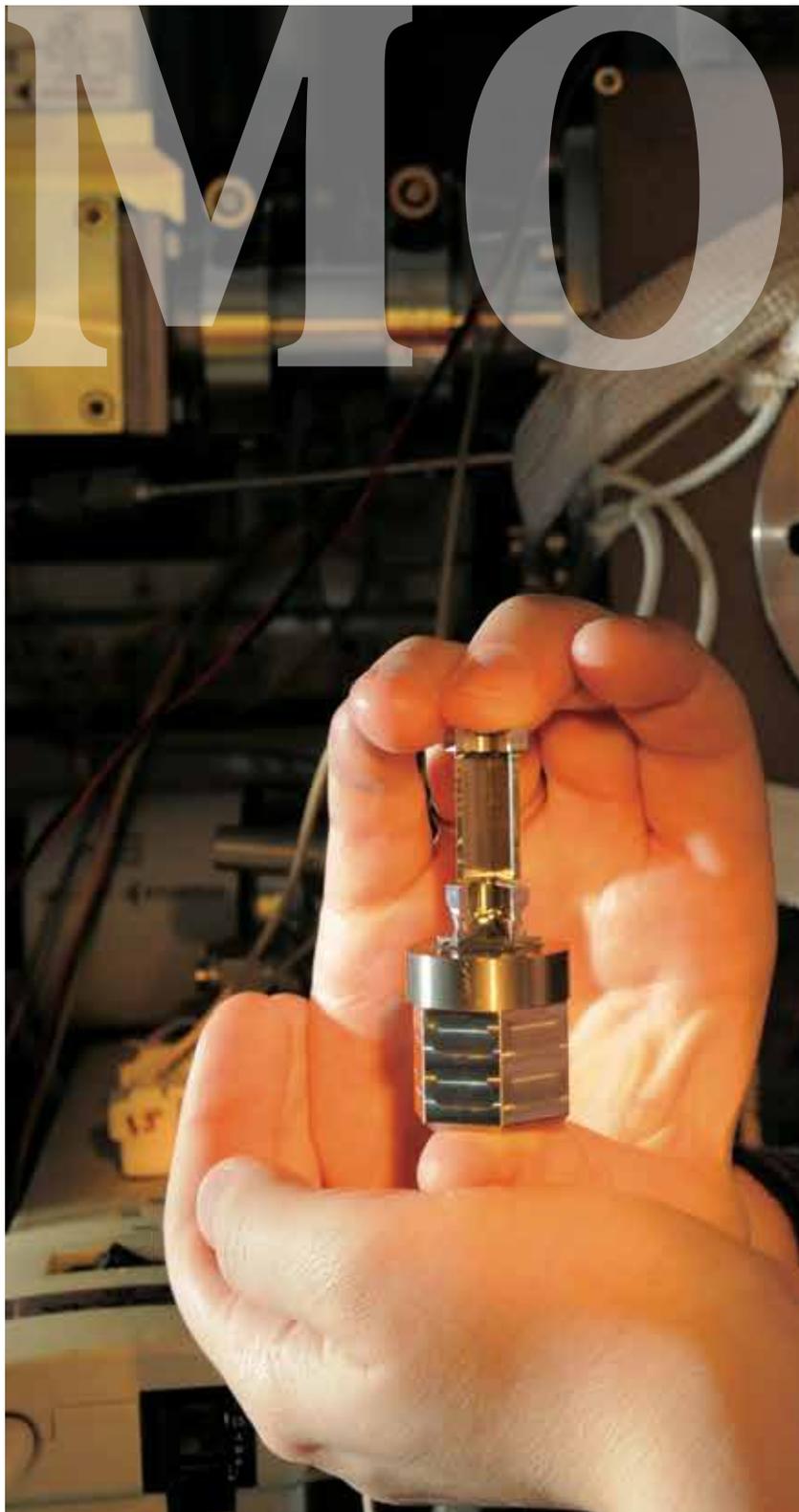
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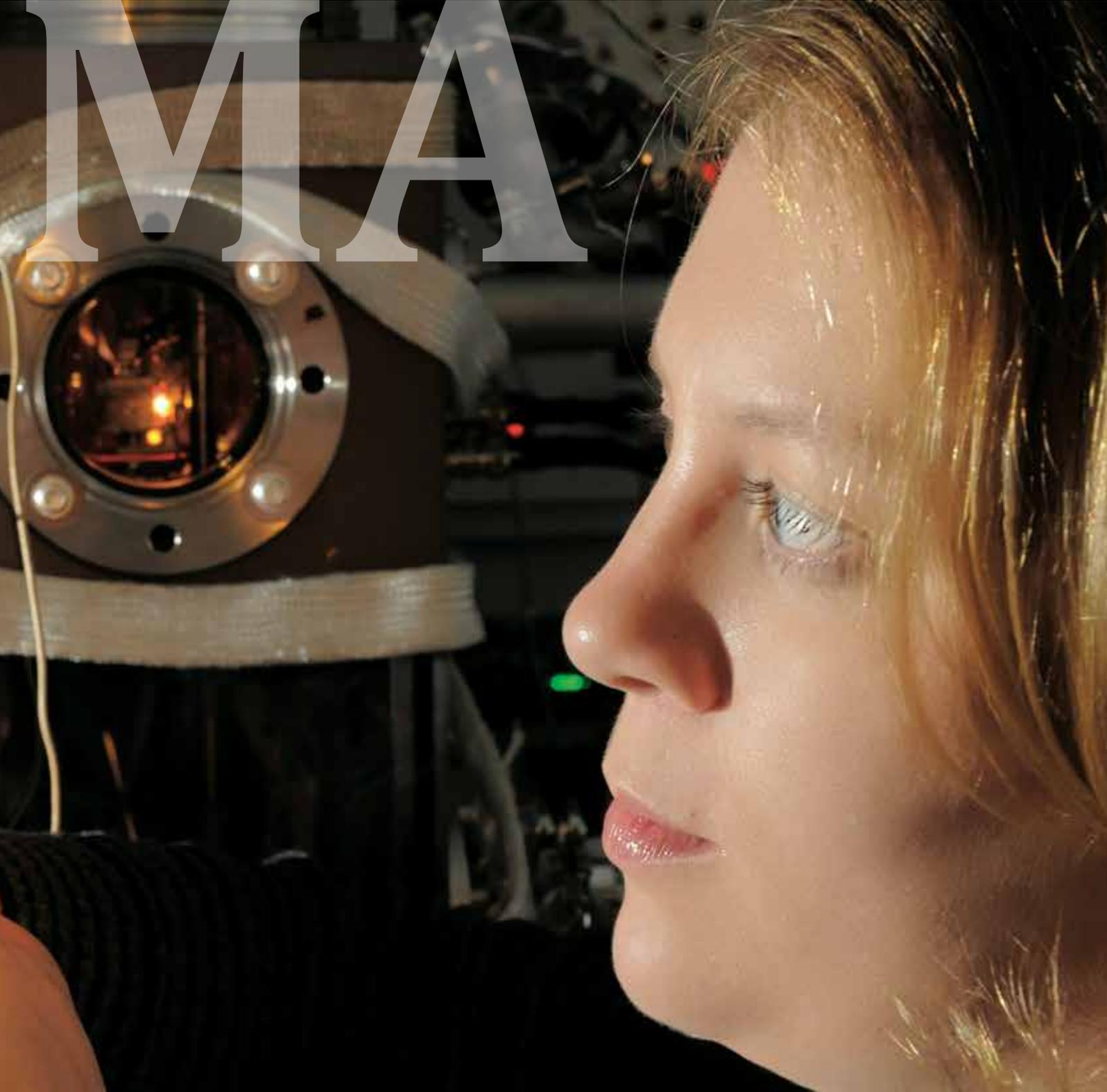
pproximately five miles from the heart of Washington, D.C., in the town of Greenbelt, Md., is a peculiar complex comprised of an amalgam of white and brick buildings. Named after the famed rocket propulsion pioneer Robert H. Goddard, the Goddard Space Flight

Center is a haven for NASA scientists and engineers to create and develop cutting edge equipment to advance human knowledge and exploration of space.

Somewhere in the maze of hallways, lecture halls, and laboratories, in a cloistered testing room, Veronica (Cavallo) Pinnick '04, a research associate specializing in scientific instrumentation, can be found testing equipment that will soon be flown into outer space to aid exploration missions destined for far-off planets.

In June 2018, Pinnick completed her work on a highly advanced mass spectrometer for the Mars Organic Molecule Analyzer (MOMA) that will be sent into space in 2020 as part of the ExoMars Rover's mission to Mars.





“The mission’s goal is looking for molecules that indicate life,” Pinnick said. “The idea is that we use this tool to look for complex biological molecules, something that looks like life, anything that indicates that life has been there in the past.”

After eight years of work on MOMA, Pinnick’s contribution to the 2020 Mars mission is now complete. Now she can only watch as scientists at the European Space Agency take over and integrate MOMA into the next stage of planning and preparation.

“I’m doing everything I can to let it go,” Pinnick admitted. “I’m a bit of a

control freak, so it’s a huge challenge. My entire heart and soul and brainpower for the past decade went toward thinking how to build, design, test, and qualify it. It’s a labor of scientific love.”

While Pinnick is looking forward to the 2020 mission, she can’t help but look back on the journey to her current place in time.

“The path to NASA started at Minot State,” Pinnick said. “I took a really great analytical chemistry course. It was the first time I had ever taken a class in instrumental analysis.”

Pinnick had always enjoyed chemistry but scientific instrumentation awakened

her to the role of being a liaison between science and engineering.

After graduating with a chemistry degree from Minot State, she attended Texas A&M where she completed a doctorate in analytical chemistry. It was at Texas A&M that she studied under renowned professor Emile Schweikert, a leading researcher in time-of-flight mass spectrometry. Pinnick was tasked with developing instrumentation that could measure nanoparticle materials.

“So I basically spent my entire Ph.D. building this instrument, testing the methodology, then, after four-and-a-half years, taking

six months worth of measurements,” Pinnick recalled gleefully.

Upon completing her Ph.D., she had offers from major companies around the country including a lucrative offer from tech giant, Intel. But, after interviewing at Intel, she admitted, “It just didn’t feel right.”

Instead Pinnick took a shot on a post-doctoral fellowship at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md. Under the guidance of professor Bob Cotter, Pinnick had a chance to work on the development of a mass spectrometer for NASA.

“I guess I proved myself useful because they agreed to



“The scientific discoveries that will no doubt happen when this lands on Mars and starts drilling, are things that will be read about in textbooks a hundred years later,”

Pinnick said. “It is truly the frontier of scientific understanding.”



take me on as a staff scientist after my post doc was over,” Pinnick said.

From that point forward, Pinnick worked on the mass spectrometer for MOMA. The design process alone took years. This was followed by years of testing and revamping. Equipment that is sent into space is required by NASA guidelines to undergo extensive testing to simulate impact, temperature fluctuations, weathering, and various other elements of space.

Pinnick and a team of other scientists were tasked with participating in the simulation testing. The testing ranged from ensuring functionality in severe temperature changes to violently shaking the equipment to assess its durability.

MOMA is the most advanced particle-gathering instrument sent into space

to date. Designed specifically for exploration on Mars, it is built to withstand the harsh environmental conditions on the red planet. Most importantly, the ExoMars Rover will have the capability of drilling two meters below the surface to extract samples that are untarnished by atmospheric chemicals that can cause the break down of molecules, rendering them useless to analysis.

Space exploration is an extremely expensive endeavor with a significant failure rate, and Pinnick is well aware that years of her hard work are dependent on the efforts of her peers in the science community, not to mention space itself.

“The integration and test schedules we make for ourselves are all dependent on the alignment of the planets, and we have a launch window

when Mars and Earth are in alignment at their closest points in their orbit, and if we don’t hit those launch windows, it’ll be another two years before we can hit it again,” Pinnick said. “It’s critical to hit those launch dates.”

Regardless of the outcome of the 2020 Mars mission, Pinnick said she is motivated by the other scientists she works with in their goal of growing humanity’s understanding of the universe. And, of course, the prospect of the mission succeeding is something that Pinnick can’t help but be optimistic about.

“The scientific discoveries that will no doubt happen when this lands on Mars and starts drilling, are things that will be read about in textbooks a hundred years later,” she said. “It is truly the frontier of scientific understanding.” ■

# MOMA

# TAKUMA ABE

## pulp nonfiction — Micah Bloom

*YOSHINOAWA, Japan —*

At the base of a mountain range, in a small rural village, 5,798 miles from Minot, Takuma Abe '15 dips his hand into a vat of white mulberry fiber (kozo) and gives a vigorous stir.

Just as artisans centuries before him, he notices that the white pulp suspends momentarily in the water but then sinks too rapidly. In response, he dips his bare hand into a bucket of transparent goo made from hand-mashed mallow roots (neri) and plops a handful into the vat with another stir. Picking up a wooden framed screen, he gently slips it into the water and then shimmies it back and forth, as if he's panning for gold. As the frame rises out of the water, not gold, but an equally remarkable substance emerges, an elegant, thin layer of pulp rests atop the screen. As the bright white carpet drops from the inverted screen, another pristine sheet of hand-made Awa Washi — Awa region paper — rests upon the drying plate.

It would be difficult to imagine this 2018 scene, when in 2012, Abe was lost, giving up on the possibility of a college education. Struggling in school and bouncing from degree program to degree program, he was depressed and ready to go home.

"I switched my major many, many times, and I just couldn't find what I wanted to do. I almost dropped out of school and wanted to go back to Japan," Abe reflects.

But then something shifted.

"I started drawing — drawing and drawing," he said. "That was the only time I was happy, and I forgot about time and everything else. I just realized this is what I should do."

After a visit with an art department advisor, he changed majors for the final time.

Jumping enthusiastically into the art department, Abe, with his verve and enviable people skills, quickly became a favorite of faculty and peers.

"I was always in the building; all day, every day, even during weekends," Abe said. "The Minot community is really friendly and artistic, and there are so many opportunities for emergent artists or art students like me."

While pursuing his degree at Minot State, Abe became involved with Flat Tail Press, a hands-on opportunity for students to work with visiting artists, particularly printmakers. One Flat Tail guest was Philadelphia artist Daniel Heyman.

After graduating and returning to Japan, Abe, again, was struggling to find satisfying employment. He decided to visit Awagami, a traditional, internationally-recognized, fine arts, papermaking factory near his hometown, looking for a place to better use his creativity and artistic skills. He asked if he could speak with the director.

"I just came to visit, and I talked about the artist (Heyman) coming to my university and that I learned printmaking and drawing at MSU," he recalls.

Unknown to Abe at the time, Heyman had been bringing art students to Awagami every summer from the Rhode Island School of Design.

"It opened up the conversation, and I guess the director really liked what I did, what I learned, and who I met at Minot State University," he said. "Then I got the job. I started working the next day."

Now two years at Awagami, Abe plays several roles. He is a valuable asset in the office because of his English fluency, interfacing with international clients. Additionally, he runs outreach papermaking workshops and serves Awagami as project director for both the visiting artist program and the international artist residency program.

Abe is back on the other side of the planet, dipping his hands into a 1,300-year-old tradition deemed by UNESCO as an "intangible cultural heritage."

"The simplest thing and the hardest thing I learned is just to 'make' continuously," Abe reflected on his journey. "I like to tell people how important it is to make things by hand." ■

Check out more of Micah Bloom's photos of Takuma Abe online at: [MinotStateU.edu/alumni/connections1/takuma\\_abe.shtml](http://MinotStateU.edu/alumni/connections1/takuma_abe.shtml)





Awagami  
Factory



# Applying Minot State values to policework

— Nicole Thom-Arens

**N**ear the end of Doug Mahlum's '01 academic career at Minot State University, he participated in a mock trial during one of his criminal justice courses. That experience guided him to a vast career with the Great Falls Police Department in central Montana.

"I actually grew up in a law enforcement family, so I kind of had an idea of what I was getting into," Mahlum said. "Honestly, that (the mock trial) lit the fire to where I wanted to go to specifically focus on the crime scene and evidence collection. I'll never forget that two weeks of mock trial presentation; it was just that critically important. My experiences as a student-athlete at Minot State University have guided me to where I am today."

Mahlum became a detective with the Great Falls Police Department around the beginning of 2006 and began training on crime scene and blood spatter analysis, a crime scene inves-

tigation process that utilizes the size, shape, and distribution of patterns on a target surface, to determine what took place during or after a bloodletting event. The department used blood spatter analysis in several cases, and Mahlum was recognized as an expert by the district courts of Montana.

"It's an integral piece of the crime scene because it doesn't change — people's statements can change, people's recollections can change, but the blood stains don't lie," Mahlum said.

"They (blood stains) tell you exactly — not necessarily how, when, and where what happened, but they can tell you in relation to the injuries of the victim, or even the suspect, of what took place in a crime scene."

That need to allow the evidence of the crime scene to lead the investigation is crucial in detective work, according to John Schaffer '89, currently one of the captains overseeing the detectives in Great Falls. The education at Minot State provided learning

experiences to instill those skills in students.

"Solving crimes takes people being able to think independently and be flexible," Schaffer said. "They can't get into scripted ideas — some folks make the case fit their idea instead of following the evidence. I think that some of the practicum that occurs while obtaining your criminal justice degree teaches you to be flexible — be ready to go down a different path than you think."

For Mahlum, now a lieutenant working to recruit new officers to the force, the Minot State atmosphere people often comment about — that family feel — is one he tries to replicate in the department.

"It was so important then, the one-on-one that we got from our professors in all the classes," Mahlum said. "We had to keep that idea moving forward and continuing to do that myself as I'm training, hiring, looking for candidates who want to come to our agency, just keeping that downhome feel is critically important to our job." ■



# alum **from DAY** one

## Mya Temanson

**Music and English ■ Minot, N.D.**

Mya started off her first semester at Minot State on the right foot, getting involved in both College Democrats and Honor Society in the first week. She is no stranger to MSU, however, as she has played violin in the Minot Symphony Orchestra since her sophomore year in high school.

### Why did you choose Minot State?

I've been exposed to music and theater at Minot State since I was young. I did College for Kids camps, Dakota Chamber Music, and the symphony, so the MSU community has been like family for me. It was a natural decision for me to come here.

### What is your favorite quote?

"Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better."

— Samuel Beckett

### What has been your favorite class?

This is so hard because I have so many. Music history, British literature, and small ensembles class.

### Who has been your most influential instructor?

Dr. Jon Rumney has had an impact on me. I've taken lessons from him since I was a junior in high school. He challenges me, but in the most nurturing way.

### What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

Minot State feels more like a community than just a place to go to get an education.

### What is your most memorable moment at MSU?

It goes all the way back to my freshman year in high school. I won the concerto competition with Minot Symphony and that was an early exposure to Minot State.

## Nathan Demme

**Criminal justice, philosophy minor ■ Minot, N.D.**

Nathan started out as an English major as he has been writing fiction since junior high but switched to criminal justice and is currently applying for the Marine Corps Officer Training Program.

### Why did you choose Minot State?

The proximity to family was important and I was able to get a scholarship due to my level of academics in high school. Minot State's size allows me to be more involved.

### How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

After completing my generals, I have a better understanding of what I want to do. I met some CJ students my first year and that helped me figure out what degree I'm going to get. I think I have a better general understanding of the world because of taking those classes.

### What is your favorite quote?

"No sacrifice, no victory." — Optimus Prime

### What has been your favorite class?

So far it has been fundamentals of leadership, an honors course with Jessica Smestad that I'm taking this semester. I've grown up around great leaders and believe I should be striving to be a great leader.

### Who has been your most influential instructor?

Beth Odahlen. She's been great at challenging me to really take charge of what I'm doing. Through peer mentoring, I have had to figure out how best to go about my college education and juggle responsibility. She has taken the time to invest in me.

### What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

Either it's you come to enjoy the snow or the home feel of the college. Only took me about half of a semester to really get to know people.



freshman

sophomore

# alum **from DAY** one

## Haley Hildenbrand

**Professional chemistry with concentrations in math, physics, and biology ■ Parker, Colo.**

Haley is a member of the Minot State University women's basketball program, but that isn't the only extracurricular activity this Colorado native is involved in. She is the Student-Athlete Advisory Council vice president and an orientation leader.

### Why did you choose Minot State?

I originally chose Minot State because I was interested in the basketball program. But, I really liked the science facilities after touring the University. They are awesome.

### How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

I've been able to get connected in the science department and have already done some undergraduate research. That will help me eventually do graduate research.

### What is your favorite quote?

"Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it."  
— Michael Jordan

### What has been your favorite class?

I feel like I have to say chemistry, but it's probably microbiology — the lab was really fun.

### Who has been your most influential instructor?

Naomi Winburn '13 and Christopher Heth '99/'04. Naomi encouraged me to continue in the science field and Chris really connects with you in class.

## Carlton Mhangami

**Accounting and finance ■ Harare, Zimbabwe**

Carlton has a self-described love for investing so when he isn't working as an Orientation Leader, doing a VITA internship, being the president of the Finance Club, or the secretary of both the Accounting Club and the International Club, he is checking his portfolio.

### Why did you choose Minot State?

I was looking for a completely different experience. Minot is opposite of where I come from, the temperature is up and down and is colder. Home is more constant; we don't have seasons. I've never seen snow before coming here!

### How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

Minot State has pushed me. The professors don't just settle for average.

### What is your favorite quote?

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." — African proverb

### What has been your favorite class?

Finance with Jerry Stai '75. The first thing he said in the class is I want to show you how to be a millionaire.

### Who has been your most influential instructor?

Jerry Stai, David Frantsvog '04/'07, and Jay Wahlund '90.

### What is your most memorable moment at MSU?

Recently, I gave a talk at Convocation on the new tagline "Be Empowered." It was scary but fun.



junior

senior

## Brooke Yaschyshyn

**Masters of Management ■ Swan River, Manitoba**

Brooke came to Minot State after earning a Bachelor of Commerce, Major of Management from the University of Saskatchewan. She now spends much of her non-classroom day working in the Minot State University Advancement Office and has also worked as a graduate assistant for special education.

### Why did you choose Minot State?

I really liked the small class sizes Minot State has to offer.

### How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

My studies and my research work here will prepare me to decide whether to enter industry or try to pursue a Ph.D. I feel because of what I have learned, I am confident in doing both.

### What is your favorite quote?

“A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor.”  
— Franklin D. Roosevelt

### What has been your favorite class?

Strategic marketing. The University and community partnership that we did for the class is a good application of what you are learning. I hope Minot State will continue that relationship.

### Who has been your most influential instructor?

Dr. Megan Fixen '06. She's my project advisor and has taken the time to work with me throughout all of my classes. She has gone above and beyond to help me with the program and project writing.

### What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

All of the MLife events and activities, especially prizes at bingo.

## Sarah Aleshire '04

**English ■ Minot, N.D.**

Sarah returned to her alma mater in 2007. She has been in her current position as Assistant Professor of English since 2009 and coordinates the Gender/Women's Studies program. When she isn't teaching, she likes to be involved with the local music scene, complete with a studio in the basement of her house.

### Why did you choose Minot State?

Originally I was interested in pre-med, but it just didn't feel right. On my campus visit, I met (then professor) Conrad Davidson and we had a conversation about the English department. Immediately, I felt like that was a community. It matched what I wanted in a university.

### How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

I went to grad school (Washington State) with students from all over the world and I felt I was competitive. Getting to know the professors here gave me more opportunities — I presented at conferences and had some publications already under my belt.

### What is your favorite quote?

One of my favorites — and I have a lot of them — is, “What saves a (person) is to take a step. Then another step.”  
— *Wind, Sand and Stars* by Antoine de Saint-Exupery

### What has been your favorite class?

My favorite class I took and now teach is literary criticism. It deals with big ideas. That's what drew me to English.

### What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

You can immediately sit down and talk to anyone at any level, at any time — although after being here now, it doesn't feel like a secret.



# ERIC'S adventures

**E**ric Thoemke '15 considers himself a teacher at heart. While the entrepreneur doesn't spend much time in a traditional classroom, teaching has been at the core of his many endeavors.

"Education crosses into everything I do," he said. "The skills I learned at Minot State go much further than just the job field. I learned how to communicate properly — to be able to present in front of a classroom is just like the set or when I'm directing something. It's all about how to get assignments in on time. All of that is the same thing, just different environments."

And, for Thoemke, there have been many environments in just a few short years.

His first venture was writing a children's book — at the tender age of 19 — that is still on bookshelves in Minot. "The Adventures of Stache," is one of two books Thoemke worked on with illustrator Elizabeth Woods.

"It was a cool thing, I needed an illustrator and she was like, yeah, we can figure that out," he said of his work with Woods. "She's almost 90 now, we would meet Sunday mornings and work on the books. The 'Adventures of Stache,' is about a mustache that travels the world, so it's kind of crazy."

The book set in motion his series of projects. He met Matt Maldonado, who has been a business partner and friend since his second year at MSU, while trying to become a hip hop artist.

"I was trying to do some songs here in Minot and a friend (Austin Zorn '16) said I should shoot a video. I met Matt and we

worked on it, filmed it, but never edited it. It's sitting on a drive somewhere," he said.

But that chance encounter has produced nearly every project since. Thoemke and Maldonado formed the nonprofit company NDstrong — an organization that serves as a film source for the state of North Dakota. Through the work of the nonprofit, Thoemke has taught classes in Minot, helped with Minot State's College for Kids program, and even taught — through an exchange program with the North Dakota Council for the Arts — in Iceland.

"All Matt and I wanted to do was to make movies," Thoemke said. "There have been opportunities to move to Los Angeles, but I'm born and raised here, my family is here. We both are community orientated, so we thought, let's combine those two loves and formed the nonprofit. We brought in a bunch of filmmakers from the state and made an awesome film (Heads or Tails)."

From there, the business world called.

Thoemke and another former Minot State student Scott Gordon, along with Maldonado, formed "The Putt District," a downtown, indoor mini golf course. A year after it opened, they now have nine employees.

"I'm still learning about the bookkeeping, IRAs and 401ks, and all that," he said. "It's been a lot of trial and error."

Thoemke and Maldonado also joined forces to rebrand InDak Media, a for-profit, brand-building creative marketing production house that specializes in video production, photography, graphic design, website design, and social media integrating/marketing.

"That is what people sometimes call 'my baby.' It's been around forever, but with different names," Thoemke said. "We started that from the ground up." ■



# KERZMANN relishes career

**M**inot Public Schools choir teacher Lindsay Kerzmann '02/'17 (Emmett) began her collegiate career at Minot State University dreaming of being a lawyer.

She only took her music classes as a way to earn a scholarship.

But early on — after a nudge from her music theory professor — she changed from history and pre-law to music education.

Kerzmann wouldn't have it any other way.

"It wasn't what I originally planned on doing, but I can't imagine doing anything else. I don't want to do anything else," she said.

That's good news for both Minot Public Schools and Minot State as many graduates of her high school program have gone on to MSU. In fact, her relationship with Minot State professors was an important facet she gleaned from a return to school to earn her Master of Education degree.

"I have a wonderful relationship with Minot State professors and I wanted to re-establish those after teaching for a few years," Kerzmann said of her postgraduate work. "I'm the

only vocal teacher in the high school so it was really valuable to work with other teachers, to be in a classroom with other music teachers. Now, because of those relationships, my current students have those relationships with Minot State. I think that's why a number of them have gone on to MSU."

She also was thankful to gain one-on-one sessions with long-time Minot State professor DeVera Bowles.

Minot Public, but it's the out-of-class experiences her students receive that distinguishes the program. The vocal group, Change of Pace, sang "The Star Spangled Banner" at North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum's State of the State address at Ann Nicole Nelson Hall in January, her juniors and seniors traveled to New York City through World Classrooms for an education tour, and the Minot High band

facility events, places we can get out and be a part of the community. We also put on concerts to showcase what the students have been working on all year.

"The New York trip this summer was awesome. We toured the financial district, Times Square, the 9/11 Memorial, and saw four Broadway shows. We also got to do a Broadway workshop with a member of the Wicked cast. The Florida



"Being able to receive vocal lessons with DeVera was great," Kerzmann added. "There were so many things I could work on with her in that setting and then take back to my class."

Kerzmann has excelled in the classroom setting at

and choir traveled to Disney World for appearances and a national festival.

"We have the main group who is working on music for gigs, we gig a lot with them," she said. "We do a lot of Christmas events at nursing homes and assisted living

trip, we've been taking that for 20-plus years. I did it as a student at Minot High. We performed at Disney Springs and had four different groups perform at a national festival. It's a culmination of a lot of hard work for those kids." ■



# MARATHON

## 'addiction' leads

# WINDISH

## to Boston

 — Michael Linnell

**T**he conditions for April's 122nd Boston Marathon were less than ideal.

But amid a torrential rain and a 30-mile-per-hour headwind, Allison Windish '15 couldn't have been happier.

"It's just a surreal thing," she said. "To be able to run Boston is such an honor. To be a qualifier is everyone's goal. I kept thinking, this can't be real."

Windish, in her first year of competitive marathon running after a standout collegiate career for the Beavers, had achieved every distance runner's goal. While it is a highlight in her running career, she can only remember about four miles of the 26.3.

"I blanked out after mile four because I was just mentally working through it. It's a nice course, rolling and beautiful, but I don't remember any of the little towns," Windish said. "I was just trying to block out the weather. The last section — there are three hills at miles 18, 19, and 20, so you know you are close to done — at 'Heartbreak Hill,' I finally got excited and started to notice my surroundings."

The weather dampened the day and hindered Windish to her slowest time in three marathons last season but couldn't dampen her spirits. She finished with a time of 3 hours, 5 minutes to finish 157th out of 6,000 runners in her age group and 169th overall out of over 12,000 women entered in the race.

"I couldn't have been happier with it," she said of her time. "I got a confirmation email from the Boston Athletic Club and I was just in shock. I had no idea after the race what my time was or what place I was in. I just wanted to get dry."

Windish's racing career started at Minot State where she ran cross country and distance for the track & field team for the Beavers. While Windish knew she would continue to run after her collegiate days, she wasn't sure in what capacity.

Then she found the marathon. She began to train for the Phoenix Marathon, a course typically used by runners to qualify for Boston due to a fast, flat layout.

She also sighted Grandma's Marathon in Duluth, the Fargo Marathon, and the Dick Beardsley Marathon in Detroit Lakes, Minn., as potential races.

"After my collegiate career, my uncle, Joe Fremstad, helped me get into halves and marathons. In July of 2016, I decided to sign up for the Phoenix Marathon," Windish said. "Phoenix is such a fun race, great atmosphere. I really got the marathon bug there."

Since that first race at Phoenix, her love for bigger distances than the typical race in college fully set in.

Windish now describes it as an addiction.



"I think I always knew I would continue to race after college because the distance community supports everyone," she said. "I

really like the marathon.

The half is good, but it is really just how fast you can go. Competing in the full 26 miles, going non-stop, that's where the addiction comes in. You can't just up and run that. Anyone can do 13, but it takes so much more to complete the full."

Her time at the Phoenix Marathon — a solid 2 hours, 57 minutes — qualified her

to run at Boston. While she was happy with the time, it was nerve-racking to wait for the official response from the Boston Athletic Club.

"I put in my application, and then you wait," she said. "They turn down about 5,000 racers so you just don't know."

While her distances on the MSU track & field and cross country team didn't necessarily train her for marathon running, the lessons she learned in college have propelled her career in radiology technology and as a runner.

"It's tough to find time to train. (Sanford Health in Fargo) is the only Level 1 Trauma Center in North Dakota and we service a huge region, so we are really busy," she said. "But it reminds me of being a student-athlete. You have to be really meticulous in time management and have to find time to get in workouts, do shorter workouts, strength training, whatever your schedule allows. Being a student-athlete taught me to manage my time extremely well."

She will need that to work through an injury that has slowed her during the upcoming season. While a return to the Boston Marathon isn't in her 2019 racing plans, she is eyeing a reunion with Heartbreak Hill in her foreseeable future.

"The first thing I told my family is I'm going back," she said. "Competing in it was very satisfying and being a part of the tradition was fantastic. I'm definitely going back." ■



Photos courtesy of  
BMO Harris Bank

FEBRUARY 25  
2017



# 2018 Athletics Hall of Fame inductees honored

**T**HE MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE enshrined five individuals during Hall of Fame weekend. The 2018 Hall of Fame class features former student-athletes **Kent Bloms**, **Jenny Castro** **Tom Fredericks**, and **Johnny Lester**. **Bev Alex** was inducted as a Special

Achievement Award winner, becoming just the 13th individual to earn the award. The Hall of Fame induction ceremony took place during halftime of the Beavers home football game against Upper Iowa on Oct. 6. A brunch was held in their honor prior to the game. This marks the 39th class to enter the Minot State Athletics Hall of Fame as the university has honored a class each year since 1980.

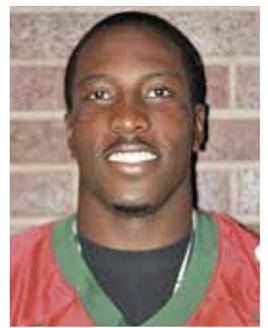
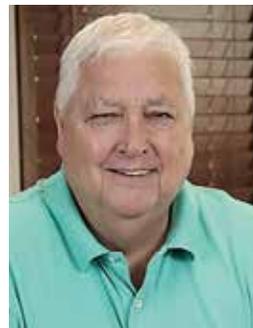
**Bev Alex**

**Kent Bloms**

**Jenny Castro**

**Tom Fredericks**

**Johnny Lester**



**ALEX** is Minot State's longest-term employee, starting at Minot State in 1966. She retired from the business office in 2003 but continued her association with MSU working in athletics. Alex attends nearly every home Beavers event. Along with her work for Minot State Athletics, she also gives back to the community. Alex has served the Minot Eagles Auxiliary #2376 in various roles — including secretary, vice president, and president — for the past 45 years.

**BLOMS** graduated Minot State as the men's basketball team's fourth all-time scorer and rebounder in school history. He earned All-DAC-10 honors three times and was a two-time Academic All-American. Bloms was named his team's Most Valuable Player in 2004, while being named to the All-DAC-10 second team. He finished his career with 1,600 points and 614 rebounds. Bloms will take over the head coaching position at Garner N.C. He served as the junior varsity coach and varsity assistant coach at Garner since 2007.

**CASTRO** was a two-sport standout for Minot State, earning All-American honors in track & field and all-conference honors in women's basketball. Castro was a two-time All-American in the javelin, finishing fourth at the 2006 NAIA Outdoor Track & Field Championships and fifth in the 2004 Championships. She was seventh in 2008. She was also an Academic All-American three times. In basketball, she was named second team All-DAC-10 in 2005-06. Castro finished with 918 points and 552 rebounds in her career on the hardwood. Castro lives in Minot and works at KMOT-TV.

**FREDERICKS** had an outstanding football career for Minot State, helping the Beavers to the 1963 North Dakota College Athletic Conference title. During his four years at MSU, the Beavers compiled a 23-14-2 overall record. He earned All-NDCAC during the season in which Minot State went 4-3-1 overall. He is an enrolled member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation. Fredericks graduated from the University of Colorado School of Law, founded his own law firm in 1979, and is now a senior partner in the law firm Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP in Louisville, Colo.

**LESTER** was a football and track & field standout for the Beavers. In football, he earned All-American honors along with being named the Dakota Athletic Conference Most Valuable Player during his senior year. He finished with 35 career touchdowns, including a combined 10 punt and kick returns for a TD. He finished with 131 receptions for 2,116 yards, good for third on the MSU all-time list in both categories. In track & field, he holds the MSU school record in the 100-meters with a time of 10.59 seconds. Lester resides in Orlando, Fla. ■

# Student research enhanced via new cadaver lab

**M**INOT STATE University students will have a unique opportunity to study the human body as the university officially opened a cadaver lab to enhance its Biology 220 and 221-Anatomy and Physiology I and II classes.

The cadaver lab — one of only two such labs at public institutions in North Dakota — has two stations for dissection and an observation room. The lab was built in response to a request from Minot State students for hands-on learning experiences.

“We would be in class and teaching a topic and I would say it would be really nice to show you this, but we just don’t have the facility. Instead we would use plastic models or dissected animals,” Minot State biology instructor and cadaver lab supervisor Dr. Aaron Ament said. “It was really frustrating at times; we could lecture, but not observe. The students came to me and said maybe we should write a letter to the president or express our concerns to student government. I told them I would support that, and it basically started from there.”

Minot State partnered with the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences to receive the cadavers. The lab will consist of one male and one female cadaver each academic year.

“Each year, we see students graduate from Minot State who move on to advanced professional schooling such as medical school,” Minot State President Steven Shirley said. “The installation of this new lab at MSU will enhance our curriculum and further prepare our students for the next steps in



their educational and career endeavors.”

There are strict rules and regulations that accompany the new cadaver lab.

“There are a lot of rules that we will need to follow from certain types of clothing that can be worn, to no video or photography, to what we do with the tissue,” Ament said. “Everything is supervised. There is a long list of procedures. A lot of what we are working on right now is implementing those procedures.”

According to Ament, the experience gained through working with cadavers as opposed to plastic models is immeasurable.

“My first opportunity to work on a cadaver was as an undergrad, and there is real benefit to being able to touch and feel actual tissue,” he said. “But it goes beyond that. It’s a little metaphysical. The experience is so vivid; it’s something you will remember and appreciate as you continue on in biology. It’s humans dissecting a human. It’s one of those big picture

items; you can take in account how they died. In our case, one of the individuals had heart disease. Once we are to that point in the dissection, we can actually see what caused that event.”

While Ament believes his biology students will leave Minot State better prepared for their next level of school, he also feels other disciplines within the university will benefit from the class.

“I really think this can be applied in multiple areas,” he said. “In a lot of places, nursing students don’t get the opportunity to work on cadavers. Individuals who are studying art, for another example, if they are thinking of becoming a medical illustrator, can actually see the bones and muscles. Even the athletes on campus can see and understand why



certain injuries happen. It will give everyone a better understanding of the human body, in whatever subject they are studying.”

And, for the biology students — especially the individuals interested in a pre-medical field — there are real advantages to working in Minot State’s smaller classes.

“We will offer the lab experience of a medical school, but at a much smaller undergraduate class size,” Ament said. “We will really be able to teach the subject.” ■



2018  
Alumni Association  
ND State Fair  
**LUAU**  
MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY



2018 NORTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR PARADE





MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY

Alumni Association  
2018 Summer

# GOLF

Tour



2018  
Alumni Socials in  
**FARGO**  
and  
**BISMARCK**

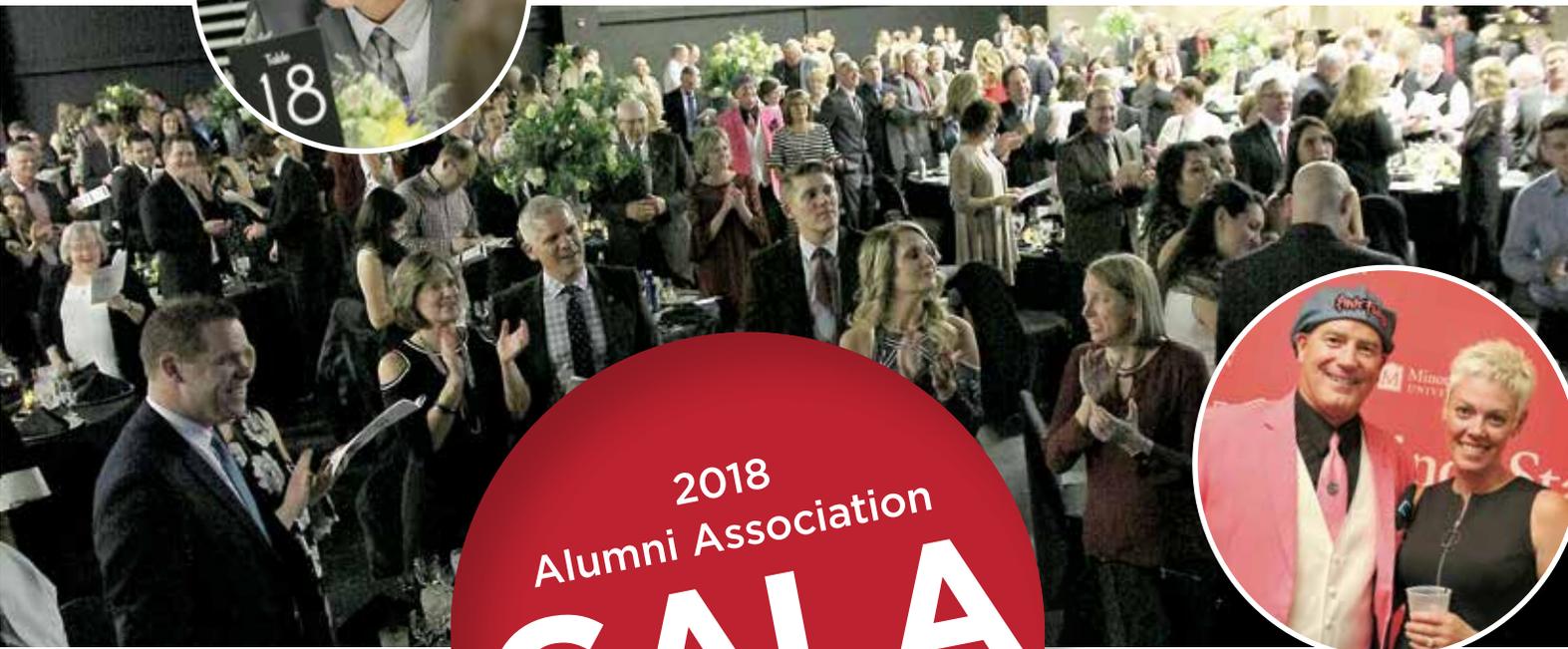


**2018 ALUMNI NIGHT AT SUMMER THEATRE**





2018-19 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!



2018  
Alumni Association  
**GALA**  
MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY







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# Minot State honors five with **GOLDEN AWARDS** &



The Minot State University Alumni Association honored four individuals with the Golden Award and one with the Young Alumni Achievement Award at the 51st Anniversary Dinner held Thursday, Sept. 20, 2018.



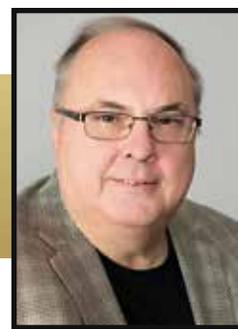
Jay Altringer '75



Don Hummel '75



Howard Klug '80



Charles Kramer '76



Tawnya Bernsdorf '04/'08

**T**he highest award bestowed by the Minot State University Alumni Association is the Golden Award. Selections are based on outstanding service to the university or alumni association and distinguished leadership in the recipient's career or community. The Young Alumni Achievement Award recipient is between the ages of 21 and 39.

## ALTRINGER '75

Altringer earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management from Minot State. For nearly 40 years, he has been associated with Investors Management and Marketing (IMM), serving as president and, currently, as CEO. IMM is the largest fee-based property management company in North Dakota and manages over 5,500 units in North Dakota and Minnesota.

He holds the Institute of Real Estate Managers and the National Association of Realtors title of certified property manager for his professionalism in the property management field. He has

held his North Dakota real estate license since 1976 and received his GRI certificate in 1979.

Altringer is a founding member of the North Dakota Apartment Association and has served as an officer. He received the Service Award for his contributions to the association. He is past president of the Souris Valley Apartment Association.

His volunteer activities have been youth focused. Altringer has been a member of several youth organizations and has served on the Board of Directors of the Minot Swim Club, the Minot Soccer Association, Triangle Y Camp, and the Minot

Family YMCA. He is past president of the Minot Y's Men's Club and past chairman of the Minot Y's Men's Rodeo.

Altringer has been a member of the MSU Board of Regents since 2007. He is a member of the Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity.

He and his wife, Dyanne, have two sons, Schan and Cole. The Altringer family established a scholarship at Minot State in memory of Cole, who passed away in 2003, which is awarded to a full-time student-athlete in the MSU varsity soccer program with preference given to student-athletes from the Minot area.

## HUMMEL '75

Hummel is a 1975 graduate of Minot State University with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He and his wife, Sherry, are long-time Minot residents, strong community supporters, and have owned Minot's Burger King Restaurants since 1976. Hummel is the current president of MinKing, Inc., a franchisee of Burger King, and Minot Coin and Bullion, both currently in partnership with his son, Josh.

His commitment to the community continued when he established the Burger King Scholarship Endowment in 1995. This

# YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

scholarship is awarded to an employee or an immediate family member of an employee of Burger King of Minot.

While at Minot State, Hummel was active on campus. He is a proud member of the Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity, participating in many of their activities on campus. He was a student senator on the Student Government Association and represented the Sig Tau's as part of that committee.

Hummel is a member of the MSU Board of Regents, serving as its chair from 2006-08. He is a member of the Minot State University Old Main Society and the MSU Presidents Club. He has also been involved with the MSU Beaver Boosters, Minot Coin Club, Trinity Foundation, Bethany Lutheran Church Foundation, Minot Planning Commission, Minot Y's Men's Club, and the YMCA board of directors.

Hummel and wife, Sherry, were married in 1976. They have two children, Monica Haugen and Josh Hummel, and five grandchildren.

## **KLUG '80**

Klug graduated from Minot State University in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and a minor in business. During his time

at Minot State, Klug earned a letterman's certificate in football and was named the Forrest E. Clyde Sigma Tau Gamma "Man of the Year" in 1977-78.

Klug is both an Eagle Scout and the recipient of special recognition and achievement by the American Heart Association after saving a woman's life in 2001 by administering CPR.

After graduation, Klug moved back to Williston where he worked in the hospitality industry for 30 years, managing the El Rancho Hotel, Restaurant and Lounge as a part-owner.

He is the former President of the Convention and Visitor's Bureau and former board member of the Upper Missouri Valley Fair Board. He is also a member of the Moose Lodge and the President of the Williston Senior Citizens board where he and his wife, Melanie, regularly volunteer. Klug is extremely active in Williston and surrounding communities, volunteering his time to Meals on Wheels, and several boards including the Cemetery board, the Williston Economic Development board, the Regional Economic Development board, and the STAR Fund board.

In 2010, Klug was elected to the Williston

City Commission and in 2014 he was elected as President of the Williston City Commission, Mayor of Williston. Klug is now in his second term and remains committed to increasing quality of life measures in western North Dakota and leading Williston through its next chapter.

When Klug isn't officially volunteering or sitting on a board, he uses his time to serve the community in other ways and is often found serving food or weeding and watering flowers around town.

## **KRAMER '76**

Kramer graduated from Minot State in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in business management. While at Minot State he participated in football.

Kramer began working at I. Keating Furniture in 1969 and purchased the business from the Keating family in 1998. Working with his wife, Nancy, sons, Matt and Jesse, brothers, Mark '91 and Tim '87, and brother-in-law, Loren Schwab '88, the company now has stores in Minot, Bismarck, Dickinson, Williston, Billings, Mont., Bozeman, Mont., and Great Falls, Mont.

He is a deacon in the Roman Catholic Church and has been assigned to St. John the Apostle parish in Minot.

Kramer has two granddaughters, Haley, a senior at NDSU in Fargo, and Emma, a senior at Minot High School, and a grandson, Luca, who is one-year-old.

## **BERNSDORF '04/'08**

Bernsdorf joined the Minot State University College of Business team in January 2016 as an adjunct instructor. In Fall 2016, she became a full-time instructor teaching marketing classes.

She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing and Management from Minot State in 2004 and a Master of Science in Management from MSU in 2008. She is currently working towards her doctorate in business management with a specialization in marketing.

After graduating college in 2004, Bernsdorf took a position at Minot State as Director of Alumni Relations & Annual Giving. While there, she established connections and relationships through various alumni events and significantly increased annual giving from alumni, faculty, and staff.

In 2011, a flood devastated the community of Minot and Bernsdorf joined the Minot Area Community Foundation as

the Flood Recovery Fund Coordinator and Program Director. She joined North Dakota Port Services in June 2013 as the Director of Public Relations. Her vast skills and knowledge encompass many different industries including event planning, fundraising, public relations, community relations, and marketing.

Bernsdorf was co-chair of the Community Links Committee with the Young Professionals group for five years. Currently, she sits on the MSU Academic Visioning Committee, the MSU Marketing Committee, and the MSU Online Studies committee. She is the advisor for the MSU Collegiate DECA Chapter, receiving the honor of North Dakota DECA Advisor of the Year for 2017-18. She is also an advisor to the Roger Looyenga Leadership Program at MSU. Bernsdorf is very involved in the community, sitting on the Souris Valley United Way board, the MSU Beaver Hockey Board of Directors, the Sertoma Club of Minot, and Delta Kappa Gamma Teachers Society. She is honored to have received the Professor of the Year for the College of Business during the 2016-17 academic year. ■

## CARRYING ON THE TRADITION: Fourth generation Minot State University attendees

— Nicole Thom-Arens

**A**lyssa Ramsey, a freshman, is part of a growing group of fourth generation students at Minot State University —

Her great-grandmother, Harriet Rue, started the tradition in the early 1930s when she earned her elementary certificate from the then Normal School.

“Often when I see that Normal School bench out in front of Old Main, I will comment, ‘Your great-grandma went to Normal School,’” Laurie (Medalen) Ramsey ’97, Alyssa’s mom, said.

Rue’s son, Curt Medalen ’64, Laurie’s father and Alyssa’s grandfather, also graduated with a degree in elementary education from Minot State College, and her grandmother Lorraine (Anderson) Medalen ’62 earned her elementary education degree from Minot State Teacher’s College. While there’s a long line of teachers in Alyssa’s family, both she and Laurie are grateful Minot State has grown to offer more than teaching degrees.

“I knew at a very young age that I wanted to be a nurse,” Laurie said. “Once I kind of decided on that, there was nothing else that interested me, so if Minot State didn’t

have that to offer, I would have then been, in essence, forced to have gone somewhere else to obtain my goals. It’s nice to have all of the opportunities right there in your backyard.”

“I know I would not be coming here for a teaching degree. That’s not where I’m meant to be in this world,” Alyssa laughed.

Alyssa is majoring in biology and taking pre-veterinarian courses to prepare for graduate school. After growing up in Minot and attending Minot State for Western Plains Children’s Choir, honor band, and swimming lessons, she knew she wanted to attend Minot State to earn her undergraduate degree.

“I guess it feels like it (getting a degree from Minot State) just kind of fits,” Alyssa said. “It feels weird to think that maybe I would have gone somewhere else that I didn’t have a connection to.”

Alyssa has several second cousins, other great-grandchildren of Harriet Rue’s, who are also fourth generation Minot State graduates and attendees Emily Medalen (attended 2011-16), Courtney (Kalamaha) Bourquin ’14, and Mark Medalen, who is in his second year at Minot State.

## Charitable gift annuity represents win/win opportunity



**S**hortly after coming on board with the MSU Development Foundation in September of 2015, I wrote a piece that appeared in the fall edition of our Connections publication entitled “How to give it away and still keep it.” The article highlighted the benefits of Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs). Since these arrangements are as valid today as ever, I thought it would be a good idea to revisit that particular topic and examine what role a CGA may play in your planning.

To review, a CGA is a contractual arrangement whereby the donor makes an irrevocable gift of cash and/or assets to a charitable organization such as the Minot State University Development Foundation, in exchange for a promise to receive income for the remainder of his/her life. In the case of a married couple, the annuity can benefit both spouses and the survivor of them. Upon the death of the donor (or the survivor of them), any remaining annuity balance passes directly to the charitable organization.

One of the chief attractions of CGAs, in my opinion, is that these vehicles work particularly well in a low interest-rate environment. Despite everything you have heard or read about rising interest rates, they are still quite low by historical standards. CGAs allow donors to significantly increase their income over and above what they would otherwise be able to attain using conventional savings instruments. These payments are guaranteed, irrespective of future investment performance, as they represent an absolute obligation of the charitable organization. Donors cannot outlive the payments, and no change in the economy or financial markets can affect the payments.

CGAs afford a number of benefits to potential donors, namely:

- A highly competitive (and guaranteed) stream of lifetime income
- A federal income tax deduction in the year of the gift
- A North Dakota state income tax credit (for ND residents) of 40% of the allowable IRS deduction, with carry forward available for up to three additional years
- A tax-free portion of the annual annuity payment
- No estate tax due, and no probate fees or expenses when annuity balance passes to charity

While all of the benefits listed above are noteworthy, perhaps the most compelling of them is the availability of the North Dakota state income tax credit of 40%, based on the charitable deduction allowed by the IRS. In my estimation, a credit is generally far more valuable to the taxpayer(s) than a deduction, as it offsets any income tax liability on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Lastly—and most importantly—if you establish a gift annuity with the MSU Development Foundation, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that your gift will benefit the university for years to come. The annuity agreement allows you to direct the ultimate annuity proceeds to a specific department or program of your choosing. The “bottom line” is that a CGA does indeed allow you to give it away and still keep it, and, in my book, that is truly a win/win opportunity for all concerned.

For more information about charitable gift annuities and other types of charitable giving arrangements, please contact the MSU Development Foundation by calling (701) 858-3890/(800) 777-0750, ext. 3490. And as always, thank you for your consideration of Minot State University!

— Dan Langemo, Development Officer  
MSU Development Foundation



Pictured L to R: Curt Medalen '64, Lorraine (Anderson) Medalen '62, Alyssa Ramsey and Laurie (Medalen) Ramsey '97. Inset photo: Harriet Rue '30.

## 1955/57



**Lowell and Ann (Sather) '57 Latimer** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary

with family in Bellingham, Wash. They have two children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

## 1958



**Tilman Hovland** has been playing Taps for more than 70 years at military funerals, Memorial Day, and Veteran's Day services. As a farm boy growing up in Lignite, Tilman started playing Taps in 1946 while still in school. In January 1953 he received his draft notice into the U.S. Army, but enlistment was postponed

until July so he could finish teaching that school year. He was sent to Fort Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland for basic training. Upon being chosen to the Ordinance branch of the Army, he was assigned to a "rocketry" unit (which later become NASA) and sent to Redstone Arsenal at Huntsville, Ala. for seven months of extensive training. From there he was assigned to White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico where he assisted in designing, developing, and assembling new test missiles. Hovland was honorably discharged from the military in July 1955. He returned to college to complete his music degree. He started teaching in Towner in the fall of 1958. Four years later, he relocated to Rugby and continued to teach there until he retired in 1993.

## 1967



**Myron Thompson** was inducted into the Scandinavian-American Hall of Fame in September. Thompson, an Upham native, has been in the restaurant business almost nonstop since 1970 and has built or purchased 23 Applebee's restaurants in California, Arizona, Minnesota, and North Dakota. He co-owns two

Noodles & Company restaurants in Montana and four Qdoba restaurants in North Dakota. He has been active in the temporary help industry. The company he started in 1989, Labor Force, has evolved into a publicly traded entity on the Nasdaq stock exchange. He serves as a director on the MSU Development Foundation Board.

## 1968

**Jerry Rudolph** of Stanley, was inducted into the North Dakota High School Wrestling Hall of Fame.



**Sharon (Domer) Stinard** is a 2018 candidate for the Arizona State House of Representatives. Stinard retired after 42 years in education

as a high school classroom teacher in California and Ohio and finished her career as a community college director of student services in Arizona. Sharon lives in Mesa with her husband, Roger.

## 1969

**Robert Rautenberg**, who is retired, received the following accolades during his career: Marquis Who's Who in the West-22nd edition-1989/1990, Who's Who in Finance and Industry 27th edition-1992/1993, Who's Who in the World-14th edition-1997, Who's Who in the World-17th edition-2000, Who's Who in Science and Engineering-fifth edition-2000/2001, Who's Who Historical Society 2001, and Who's Who of Professionals 2001/2002. Rautenberg also received recognition from International Biographical Centre Cambridge, England: International Man of the Year-1998, 21st Century Award for Achievement-2001, and Who's Who among Executives.

## 1972

**Teri Fay**, founding director and current artistic director of Central Dakota Children's Choir, was inducted into the North Dakota Music Educator's Association Hall of Fame. Fay retired from the Bismarck Public Schools district after 35 years as an elementary music and band teacher at Dorothy Moses School. She is also a co-founder of the Prairie Winds Orff Chapter and conceived the idea for the Bismarck Schools Band Camp, along with an elementary

marching band. Fay plays horn in the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony, Missouri River Community Bank, West River Winds, and the Bismarck-Mandan Wind Ensemble. She spent 25 years as a musician and director at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit and composed "That's What North Dakota is to Me," sung at the state's centennial celebration in 1989.



**Austin Gillette** retired as fiduciary trust officer after a decade long service heading up the Office of the Special Trustee for the Bureau of

Indian Affairs. Gillette has no plans of slowing down. He plans to enjoy life by visiting relatives, taking part in community events, traditional events, American Legion, and Dead Grass Singers activities.

## 1977



**Peggy (Uecker) Beauvais** retired as a U.S.A.F. civilian employee. Beauvais has served in a variety of positions, most recently as the Moody

Air Force Base flight chief for the Airman & Family Readiness Center. She and husband, Michael, have a daughter and two grandsons.

**Georgia (Porath) Egge** worked part-time for the past 25 years as a missionary in the Amazon jungle of Peru doing leadership conferences and planting churches down the jungle rivers. Egge wrote two books: "Georgia of the Jungle" (The Jungle Called My Name/Georgia of the Jungle) and "Destined for the Jungle." She and her husband, G. Dennis Egge, lived in Florida for the past 20 years and continue to do ministry in Latin America and in Canada. They have three married children and six grandchildren. Their son, Darin Egge, passed away in 2016.

## 1978



**Mike Thorson** was honored by the North Dakota Associated Press Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association with

the special achievement award. Thorson joined the University of Mary in 1994. Recognized as one of the nation's leading coaches,

Thorson directed the Marauders to unparalleled success. The men's and women's track & field and cross country programs combined for 47 conference championships, earned 385 All-American, 160 Academic All-American citations, and won 38 individual and relay national titles. He was named the NAA national coach of the year four times. Not yet ready to leave the profession, Thorson continues as an assistant coach for sprints and hurdles for the Marauders and is also coaching hurdlers at Bismarck High School.

## 1979



**Dick Edwards** retired from US Bank on July 2 after 40 years in the banking industry. Edwards started in banking as a teller while attending MSU.

He then accepted a job with the North Dakota Department of Banking as a bank examiner located in Fargo. He moved from North Dakota to Des Moines, Iowa to accept employment with Banks of Iowa, Inc., in 1985. Dick and his wife, Deon Schmidt, have two children.



**Mary (Keller) Steiner** retired as an elementary school teacher at Trinity Elementary West in Dickinson. Following graduation, Steiner taught a year in Mohall and moved to Dickinson 38 years ago. Mary and her husband, Carson, plan to enjoy retirement at their cabin on Lake Sakakawea.

## 1980

**Elinor (Thingvold) Meckle** retired after 36 years in the field of education. Meckle served as the principal in Lisbon for the past 14 years. She and her husband, John, have two daughters, a son, and 12 grandchildren.

## 1982

**Joel Schenfisch** taught music for four years in Washburn and Watford City prior to earning a master's degree from Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D. Schenfisch moved to Casper, Wyo., in 1988 where he spent the past 29 years working as a school counselor. He received the Wyoming Counseling Association's Bob Porter Service Award as well as the

Casper College Gear Up Program's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017. Joel recently retired and is enjoying volunteering in his community and continuing to perform music by playing his self-built auto harps. He sings with a band he helped develop 25 years ago called the "Twang Gang." Joel and his wife, Gail, have two adult children, Mark, an actor/composer in New York City, and Anna, who is pursuing her doctorate in mathematics at Montana State University.

## 1985

**Holly Mayer-Taft** was selected for the North Dakota Department of Health Association's Outstanding Service Award. The award honors an individual for outstanding work or achievement over their lifetime in the field of public health in North Dakota. Taft works at the Elbowoods Memorial Health Center in Parshall.

**Bernadette (Bartsch) Perdue** is the Ray Elementary School principal in Ray.

## 1986

**Kevin Burckhard**, a financial advisor with Northwestern Mutual since 1985, attended their Lives Leaders' Summit in San Antonio, Texas. The conference focused on helping Northwestern Mutual's top advisors with planning solutions for clients in the wake of the new tax reform bill and how to protect income with the increasing likelihood of living to age 100. Burckhard was the sole qualifier for this event from the Patrick Gore's Minnkota Network office, which serves North Dakota and Western Minnesota.

**Dale Ludwig**, a driver education teacher for 28 years, won the American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association's Teacher Excellence Award. Ludwig was presented the award in July at the 2018 ADTSEA Conference in Rosemont, Ill.

## 1987



**David Aberle** is the chief financial officer for Recombinetics, a Minnesota-based biotech company. Recombinetics, Inc., focuses on the gene editing of animals for human therapies, regenerative medicine,

and animal health and welfare. Recombinetics is a pioneer in gene-editing solutions for human health and animal agriculture.

## 1988



**Robert Bubach** is the superintendent and high school principal for the Munich School District. He is in his 30th year as an educator. Bubach spent the majority of his educational career in Lisbon where he taught and coached for 21 years. He received his master's degree from North Dakota State in 1995 and began his administrative career in 2010 as the high school principal and teacher in Strasburg. Afterward, he moved to Leeds where he served as high school principal and superintendent, then on to Munich. He and his wife, Christine (Renke) '89, have two daughters.

**Sue (Torno) Hamilton** is a motivational speaker and the author of "Carried by Faith" and "A Walk of Faith." Her career as a keynote and breakout speaker emphasizes customer service and employment attitudes.

## 1989

**Annie Howard** oversees the accounts payable, accounts receivable, and payroll process for the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District at the Carrington office. Howard commutes from Sheyenne, where she also serves on the Sheyenne Water Board.

**Connie (Short) Klein** is an independent living advocate with Independence, Inc., in Bottineau. Klein, a licensed social worker since 1989, started her career as a social worker at Pierce County Social Services. She transferred to Bowman and Slope County Social Services for 16 years and then accepted a position at the Benedictine Living Center as a nursing home social worker in Garrison. For the past eight years, Klein has been employed with Independence, Inc., in Minot.



**Lynette (Borjeson) Painter** received her doctorate in Education with a specialization in E-Learning from Northcentral University in San Diego, Calif. Painter is a professor of Computers and Office Technology at Bismarck State College.

**Deb (Binde) Reinowski** and her husband, Kevin, were recognized for their work with the Anamoose-Drake Public School's Garden After School Program. The Reinowskis, who farm north of Anamoose, give of their time and land to support the program. This program is open to students from kindergarten to grade six. For the garden project, the Reinowskis set aside three quarters of an acre of their land and Deb spends her time planning the garden and working alongside the children, providing hands-on help and supportive learning.

## 1990



**Theresa (Ellingson) Bolinske** is a real estate loan officer at Prairie Federal Credit Union in Minot. Bolinske previously worked at American Bank Center. She has over 17 years of mortgage lending experience.



**David Hoff**, who served as an assistant coach on the gold medal-winning 2018 U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team at the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea, has been named head coach of the 2018-19 U.S. National Sled Hockey Team. This will be Hoff's third season with the U.S. National Sled Hockey Team. He has also been involved with USA Hockey as a coach-in-chief for the last 10 years, serves as an athletic director, mathematics teacher and head coach for the boys' ice hockey team at Bottineau High School.



**Krista (Ferderer) Mortensen** is the director and a teacher at Living Water Preschool in Stanley. Mortensen and her husband, Jeff, have four children.

## 1991

**Tamara (Loock) Martens** is a fifth grade teacher for Stanley Community Schools in Stanley. Martens has taught for 26 years in pre-school, kindergarten, grades 2-4 and 6-8, as well as high school home economics and title reading. She has taught in Bismarck, New Salem, rural Alaska, Ellendale, and Fairmount. She and her husband, Steve, have five children.



**Cord Scott** is teaching history and politics in the greater Tokyo area. Scott had an article in Marine Corps History magazine which dealt with the comparison of the HBO mini-series "The Pacific" versus the reality of WWII combat. He was awarded the Stanley Drazek for Teaching Excellence at the University of Maryland University College-Asia for 2017-18.

## 1992



**Scott Johnson**, math instructor at Dakota College at Bottineau, was named to the math standards committee by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction. Johnson will be one of three higher education representatives to be part of the North Dakota ACT Standard Setting 2017-18 Review Panel.

## 1993

**Scott Bintz's** first book "Principles to Fortune," has been published. He wrote this book to share his struggles, success, and how he bet it all on the culture within RealTruck.com. He began RealTruck.com in the basement of a duplex, unaware that his one idea would grow into a \$100 million plus e-commerce company. RealTruck was also recognized as one of Internet Retailers top 300 mobile and top 500 e-commerce companies.

**Curt Kittelson**, of Velva, was inducted into the North Dakota High School Wrestling Hall of Fame.

**Brady Ness** is an audiologist at Sanford Health Hearing Center in Bismarck.



**Janis (Swayze) Gerding** is the principal at Lewis and Clark North Shore Plaza School.

## 1994



**David Kruger**, a librarian in the University of Wyoming Libraries, was the recipient of UW's 2018 Agnes Milstead Distinguished Librarianship Award. This award was established in 1993 to recognize significant contributions to UW Libraries in scholarship, program development, teaching, fundraising, and professional achievements. Kruger is the liaison librarian for the UW College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.



**Cassie (Steidler) Vetter** and the Minot Public School's Marketing Program received the Director's Award at the Career and Technical Education Conference held in Bismarck in August. Vetter is the marketing instructor and DECA advisor for Minot Public Schools.

## 1995



**David Pankow** was promoted to vice president/director of real estate and construction at First International Bank and Trust. With his new role, Pankow will be responsible for overseeing the physical security team, facilities manager, and the real estate and construction team. He will continue with his business development efforts focusing on industries such as engineering, architecture, and contractors. He and his wife, Tonya, have two children.

## 1996

**Heather (Skari) Gillihan** was the recipient of the 2017 Odin Award from First International Bank & Trust. The Odin Award is an employee award that gives recognition each year to the person who has consistently demonstrated the bank's mission, vision, and values. She chose Souris Valley Humane Society as her charity of choice for her \$5,000 donation.



**Greg Johnson** was promoted to sergeant for the Minot Police Department. Johnson is assigned to night patrol.

## 1997



**Naomi Erdahl** umpired at the NCAA Division I College Softball World Series. Erdahl, who resides in Bismarck, is the recreation manager for the Mandan Parks & Recreation.



**Dean Frantsvog**, associate professor of accounting and finance, earned the Professor of the Year in College of Business from the MSU Student Government Association.

**Randy Johnson** was selected as the 2018 Athletic Director of the Year by the North Dakota High School Coaches Association. Johnson, a 21-year veteran boys basketball coach, retired from coaching following this past season with the Hazen High School program.

**Shane Wetzel** is a high school science instructor at Hebron Public School in Hebron. Wetzel received a master's degree in physical education from Idaho State and later attended Texas Chiropractic College in Houston. He taught kinesiology for one semester at Idaho State. He became a physical education instructor and taught in Minot, but always wanted to get back into the classroom. Because he grew up in a smaller community, he preferred teaching in a smaller school. He and his wife, Angela '96, live in Bismarck with their two sons.

## 1998



**Jolene (Zalomsky) Nechiporenko** is the access services librarian at Minot State University. Nechiporenko earned her Master of Library and Information Science from San Jose State University in 2015.



**Russell Swagger** is the president at Lac Corte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College in Hayward, Wis. Swagger has over 25 years of leadership

experience in higher education. He earned a Ph.D. from Capella University and a master's degree from the University of Mary.

## 1999

**Lindsey (Olson) Bush** is a fourth grade teacher at Ely Elementary School in Rugby.

**Rhonda (Erickson) Gunderson**, a registered nurse and assistant nurse manager in the Trinity Emergency/Trauma Center, was named trauma program manager for Trinity Health in Minot.

**Jennifer (Goven) Norenberg** received the Paraprofessional of the Year award for Garrison Public School in Garrison.



**Kelly Perrin** was promoted to chief financial officer at United Community Bank. Perrin was hired in 2013 as credit risk manager and grew in this role to oversee the asset-liability committee, manages UCB's investment portfolio, and holds a position on their executive management team.



**Wayne Sick** is the director of the state Department of Career and Technical Education. Sick was with the North Dakota Department of Commerce for five years as the director of workforce development and workforce talent and project coordinator.



**Melissa Spelchen**, assistant professor of criminal justice, received the Professor of the Year award for the College of Arts & Science from MSU's Student Government Association. This award was given in recognition of her dedication to students.

## 2001



**Jason Ottmar** works as a client advisor for Marsh & McLennan Agency in Minneapolis. Ottmar received his MBA in Human Resources Management in 2008 from the

University of Phoenix. He started his career working for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota and has been in the insurance/broker industry since that time. Jason currently resides in Rogers, Minn., with his wife and three children.

## 2002



**Lindsay (Emmert) Kerzmann**, Magic City Campus in Minot, received the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Eagle Award in April. MACC sponsors the program to recognize Minot workers who exhibit superior customer service.

## 2003

**Lindy Obach** taught English at the University of South Dakota from 2006-2017. She is now teaching ELLS (English Language Learners). While teaching is her career, writing is her passion. She has been published in a number of literary journals and magazines. Her book "North of Zenith" was published in 2016. She uses poetry to paint pictures with words including descriptions of the prairie and a tribute to her Ukrainian heritage.



**Brian Lovdahl** is the chief executive officer of Chippewa-County Montevideo Hospital in Montevideo, Minn. Lovdahl, a native of Tioga, has nearly 15 years of experience in healthcare administration. He previously worked at Western Wisconsin Health in Baldwin, Wis. as the Chief Financial Officer.



Mark your calendar!  
MSU second annual  
**Giving Day**  
APRIL 10 2019

## 2003



**Mandi (Hoffer) Green** has joined the Audiology & Hearing Aid Center at Mid Dakota Clinic in Bismarck. She received her audiology doctorate from Salus University, Pennsylvania College of Optometry, School of Audiology.

## 2004



**Tawnya Bernsdorf**, MSU business instructor and DECA advisor, was recognized as North Dakota Advisor of the Year at the Collegiate DECA International Career Development Conference.

**Nichole Bertsch**, operations manager for Capital Financial Holdings Inc., was appointed as interim Chief Financial Officer and secretary.



**DelRae (Zimmerman) Geinert** was named board chair for the Town & Country Credit Union Board of Directors.

## 2005



**Tara (Flaman) Smith** was named Lake Havasu School District Teacher of the Year. Smith, a primary special education teacher at Oro Grande Elementary School, became a national board-certified teacher in 2015, an accreditation beyond state-level educational training. She is involved in Oro Grande's Leadership Team, is the school's Positive Behavioral Interventional & Supports team leader, a member of the student intervention team, and the Oro Grande peer mediation coordinator.

## 2006



**Josh Huseby** returned to Minot to serve as First Baptist Church is associate pastor of worship arts. He previously was the worship pastor at First Baptist Church for seven years before moving to

Oswasso, Okla., where he served as worship minister for four years at First Church. Huseby completed a Master of Arts in worship studies through Liberty University.

**Claudia Schoellkopf**, who has taught German in the Bismarck Public Schools for 11 years, is the 2018 winner of the Graciela Wilborn North Dakota Foreign Language Teacher of the Year Award. Schoellkopf currently teaches at Century High School and Wachter Middle School and serves as German Club adviser. She has chaperoned student trips abroad and has coached swimming and diving for 21 years. She has published articles for the Goethe Institute and has presented for the American Association of Teachers of German.

## 2007

**Lindsey (Olson) Bush** is a fourth grade teacher at Ely Elementary School in Rugby.



**Mary Huston**, assistant professor in communication disorders, earned the Professor of the Year in Education & Health Sciences from the MSU Student Government Association. This award was given in recognition of her dedication to students.



**Katie (Aide) Kringen**, therapist and owner of Chatter Pediatrics in Williston, was named one of the 20 under 40 honorees by the Williston Herald. Readers submitted dozens of nominations, which were narrowed down to 20 by Herald staff and community leaders. The committee focused on finding young professionals who went above and beyond in their efforts to make the community better.

**Maria (Buhay) Van Dyke**, a registered speech-language pathologist with the Saskatchewan Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists, has launched Prairie Basic Speech and Language Services, which provides clinic services out of Alliance Health in Moose Jaw. Van Dyke will also be offering services directly in homes.

## 2008

**Nichol Anderson** is a kindergarten teacher for Garrison Public School in Garrison, N.D.



**Suzanne (Schock) Blessum** and her husband, Jay, are the new owners of Minot Aero Center. The center provides flight instruction, aircraft rentals, pilot services, charter services, aircraft maintenance, and testing center services. Suzanne works at MSU with the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities. The Blessums have two children and reside in Minot.



**Alisa (Johnson) Dahl** retired after working for 34 years for the United States government. Dahl has worked for the USDA Rural Development for the past 14 years. Previously, she worked with the Farmers Home Administration for nine years, Internal Revenue Service for five years, and the Drug Enforcement Administration for six years. She and her husband, Marty, have two children and five grandchildren.



**Brock DesLauriers** was promoted to vice president and North Hill Branch Manager at First International Bank & Trust in Minot. DesLauriers started working at First International in May 2005. He has held numerous positions such as teller, credit analyst, personal banker, mortgage loan officer, and commercial loan officer. Brock is active in the Minot community and serves as president of the Minot Sertoma Club, is a Minot State Beaver Booster board member, is a Minot Country Club board member, and a Junior Achievement instructor.

**Jason New** is a business instructor and tech coordinator for Garrison Public School in Garrison, N.D.

**Sarah (Westby) Roses** is a sixth grade teacher at Central Elementary for Tioga Public School District in Tioga, N.D. Roses returned to N.D. after living in Arizona for several years.

## 2009

**Erica (Johnson) Tuff** is a faculty member in the radiologic technology program at Portland Community College in Portland, Ore. Tuff also serves as the clinical instructor at Providence Portland Medical Center where she has been on staff for the past eight years.

## 2010

**McKenzie (Nohr) Jarmin** was inducted into the Dakota College at Bottineau Athletic Hall of Fame. Jarmin played for the women's basketball team between 2005 and 2007 and was the school's first-ever National Junior College Athletic Association All-American female athlete. She is a fifth-grade teacher for Stanley Community Schools.

**Melissa Jane (Yaw) Pavlicek** was inducted into the Mount Markham Central School District Hall of Fame. The HOF honor is awarded to graduates of Mount Markham Central School in West Winfield, N.Y., who have distinguished themselves in civic affairs, humanitarian affairs, or activities deemed worthy of special recognition by the selection committee. Pavlicek distinguished herself through service to country and community. She served in the United States Marine Corp for 23.5 years, achieving the rank of Master Sergeant. She served in military combat in Kuwait and Iraq, receiving numerous honors and medals, including the Meritorious Service Medal during her career. After retiring from the military, she embarked upon a second career in social work. Melissa and her husband, Jerry, reside in Dickinson. He is also a retired veteran of the United States Marine Corp.

**Jamie Williams**, a lieutenant with the Ward County Sheriff's Department, was the recipient of the Employee of the Year Award. Williams joined the sheriff's department in 2009 and was promoted to lieutenant in 2017.

## 2011

**Kori (Haskins) Duenas** is an English teacher at Lodi High School in Lodi, Calif.



**Nicolette Kallias** joined the staff at First Western Bank & Trust in Minot. Kallias previously worked at United

Community Bank supervising the front line tellers. She is involved with the Young Professionals and Junior Achievement programs.



**Aly (Williams) St. Ours** was inducted into Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education as a lifetime member. St. Ours is a behavior consultant with Centria Healthcare in the greater Detroit area.

**Brandon Tollefson**, one of the fourth generation owners of Tollefson's Retail Group, was featured in Family Business magazine as a "NextGen to Watch." The fourth generation owners took over the 93-year old family business, which encompasses four businesses: Slumberland Furniture, The Carpet Garage Flooring Center, Tollefson's Carpetland and Tollefson's Contract Flooring. Tollefson heads up the sales team at Carpetland and oversees Tollefson's Contract Flooring.



**Amber (Kroke) Wentz** is a dentist at Modern Dental in Minot. Wentz and husband, Mike '11, a clinical lab scientist, have a daughter, Mya.

## 2012



**George Duenas** is a physical education teacher and head football coach at Lodi High School in Lodi, Calif.



**Amanda (Burckhard) Geinert** was promoted to mortgage loan officer at First International Bank & Trust in Minot. Geinert started her employment with First International in July 2008. She started as a teller and moved into the loan associate position primarily working with commercial loans. She transitioned into the mortgage department in January 2016 working as a mortgage loan assistant for the Minot lenders.

**Jonathon Greiner**, founder and president of Basin Safety Consulting Corporation, was named one of the 20 Under 40 honorees by the Williston Herald. Readers submitted dozens of nominations, which were narrowed down to 20

by Herald staff and community leaders. The committee focused on finding young professionals who went above and beyond in their efforts to make the community better.



**Joanne (Wosepka) Vandal** was inducted into Minot State's Omicron Tau Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Vandal was inducted as one of three Outstanding Community Nurses. Each year the nursing department invites May graduate students from their BSN program who meet the criteria of being leaders and are in the top 10 percent of their graduating class to become members.

**Brian Westerman** lives on MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., where he is a logistics manager of Joint Communications Support Element.

## 2013

**Ross Lakoduk**, senior officer at the Minot Police Department, was recognized as the department's 2017 Outstanding Police Officer. Lakoduk joined the Minot Police in 2012 and was promoted to senior officer in 2016. He recently was appointed to serve on the Ward County Narcotics Task Force as an investigator. He also serves on the Minot Police Department SWAT team.



**Cole Stober** is a mortgage loan officer for Gate City Bank in Minot.

**Jessica Swenson** is a social worker at the Burke County Social Services office. Swenson previously worked for Ward County Social Services and Mountrail County Social Services. The position is shared with Renville County. Swenson will work part of the time in Mohall, but will be based in Bowbells.



**Samantha (Fodge) Thvedt** is teaching fourth grade at Hebron School in Hebron. Thvedt previously taught in Kotlik, Alaska. She and her husband, William, have two sons.

## 2014

**Terry Effertz** graduated from UND Law and started a one year clerkship with Justice Daniel Crothers of the North Dakota Supreme Court.

**Jamin Heller** is working at Lethbridge College in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. Heller is responsible for the college's social media accounts, as well as the social media and marketing for the athletic programs. Previously, he lived in San Francisco and worked as an intern for Abaxis.



**Heather (Stevenson) Keller** is a mortgage loan officer for Gate City Bank in Minot.

**Stephanie Little** obtained her Master of Social Work degree and LCSW in 2015. Little started a clinical practice in advanced generalist social work. She is currently a clinical practitioner at United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck.



**Megan Odegard** is an audit associate at Eide Bailly in Bismarck.

## 2015



**Jarrett Peskey** was promoted to trust administrator for American Trust Center in Minot. Peskey has been employed with the American

Trust Department since 2012, previously serving as a teller, personal banker, and trust associate.

**Sarah Rimatzke**, Minot, RN, BSN, and member of Trinity's Emergency/Trauma Center team for the past three years, was named coordinator of the Center for Diabetes Education. Rimatzki oversees the various activities and programs provided at the center, which offers education and nutritional counseling to patients and families dealing with diabetes. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

## 2016



**Mariah (Huff) Braasch** launched Lilac & Mae, an online maternity and children's boutique. Braasch hopes to grow the business into a storefront company. She and her husband, Dylan, have a two year old son.

**Angi (Hatfield) Brown** is the store manager for the Barnes and Noble store on MSU's campus.



**Daniel Erickson** was promoted to property supervisor for Investors Management & Marketing-Minot. Erickson has been in the position of assistant property supervisor for two years.

**Julie (McDonald) Hollis** is teaching first grade for Parshall Public Schools. Hollis previously taught Early Reading Intervention for six months for Minot Public Schools.



**Morgan Matejcek** has assumed the role of customer service representative for Farm Credit of North Dakota - Minot office.

## 2017



**Karlee Galvin** is a loan operations processor at First Western Bank & Trust in Minot. Galvin has worked for the bank since 2014 as a teller and most recently was working with internal special projects.



**Luke Heilman** is a credit analyst at First Western Bank & Trust in Minot. Heilman has worked for the bank since 2015 in a variety of positions including teller, customer service, loan intern, and cash management specialist.

**Connor Hill** is a social studies teacher for Napoleon Public School District in Napoleon, N.D. Hill previously worked as a paraprofessional at an elementary school in Bismarck.

**Shelby Keller** is a social worker for CHI St. Alexius Health-Garrison. Keller continues to work for Enable Inc., in Bismarck on a part-time basis.



**Mark LaCroix** has been named head baseball coach at Dakota College at Bottineau. In addition to his baseball duties, LaCroix will serve as head resident of Milligan Hall and director of intramurals at DCB. He will coach football for the Lumberjacks this fall.

**Alycia (Juarez) Landriault** is the second grade teacher at Ray Elementary School.

**Brianne Sherlock** is a special education teacher at Rugby High for Rugby Public Schools in Rugby, N.D.

## 2018

**Courtney (Hall) Austin** is a kindergarten teacher for Garrison Public School in Garrison, N.D.

**Hannah Nelson** is a third grade teacher at Parshall Public Schools in Parshall, N.D.

## Attended



**Jamie Chitolie** is an agent for Elite Real Estate in Minot. Chitolie previously worked in law enforcement. He is a graduate of the Correctional College of Canada and the Canadian Labor College.



**Dale Niewoehner** was re-appointed to the North Dakota State Board of Funeral Service by Governor Doug Burgum. Niewoehner operates the Niewoehner Funeral Home in Rugby, which he founded in 1972. He served on the Rugby Park Board, Rugby City Council and as mayor for a total of 30 years in municipal government. He is an active member of the Rugby Lions Club and an advocate for Amtrak services in North Dakota.



**Diane (Stromswold) Witteman** retired as the Mohall Ambulance Service Operations Manager. Witteman will continue with the Ambulance Service as an EMT, provide CPR classes for community members, and work with Cardiac Ready Community Program and Stop the Bleed.

## Friend:



**Zeni Shabani**, assistant professor of biology, was named Advisor of the Year by the MSU Student Government Association. This award was given in recognition of his dedication to students.



**Doug Pfau** retired as Investors Management & Marketing's Minot property supervisor.

## 1993 alumni gather for 25th anniversary



**A**n incredible group of 1993 Minot State University graduates met in Bentonville, Ark., at the home of John and Heather Trana to celebrate their 25th anniversary during the summer of 2018. The time they spent at Minot State built friendships that have lasted a life time. "MSU gave us the foundation to build successful careers in a variety of fields," Trana said.

Heather (Woolsey) Trana, CPA, graduated with an accounting degree. She is now the Director of Global Close and Consolidation for Walmart. Her husband, John, also graduated with an accounting degree but changed career directions after spending a decade working in accounting to coach football on the international stage. Currently he is the head coach of Melbourne University in Australia. Also in attendance was Dr. Debbie (Sukarukoff) Davis and Mitch Davis. They used Debbie's masters of audiology and Mitch's education degree to open the Eastside Audiology clinic in Regina and Moose Jaw, Sask. Debbie is the Doctor of Audiology and Mitch is the business manager/hearing aid practitioner. Geraldine (Shirley) Woods graduated with a masters in speech/language pathology. She flew in from Prince Albert, Sask., where she works as a speech and language pathologist for Saskatchewan Rivers Public Schools. She spends her time working with students from many different schools in the area. The lone teacher at the reunion was Patricia Skipper, who graduated with a degree in education and now works in Moose Jaw as an elementary teacher for Prairie South School Division. They had one virtual participant, Alice (Goohsen) Hollopeter, a speech language pathologist and clinic manager from Walla Walla, Wash.

The group spent the week catching up on decades of life while they were boating, going to baseball games, relaxing by the pool, and visiting civil war battle grounds and museums. Friendships that were built 25 years ago picked up as if they were all hanging out in the dorms the night before. "Minot State University was a great experience for us," John said. "It provided all of us with not only an education but the life skills to become successful in whatever path we decided to follow. Thanks MSU."

— Submitted by John Trana '93

## Mark your calendar

2019 Alumni Association

**ARIZONA REUNION EVENTS**

**FEBRUARY 28  
TO MARCH 3**



# In Memory

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

## Graduates

'36 Craft (Paulson), Annie; Stanley  
'36 Gordan (Hovdestad), Viola; Eugene, Ore.  
'37 DeSilva (Larson), Luella; Missoula, Mont.  
'40 Zurcher (Hance), Faye; Minot  
'41 Johanson (Nord), Alice; Devils Lake  
'44 Kringlee (Cline), Betty; Minneapolis, Minn.  
'44 McDougall (Hart), Lois; Rolla  
'47 Jensen (Geisen), Elaine; Culbertson, Mont.  
'50 Aleshire (Whidden), Verna; Minot  
'50 Schmidt, Robert; Virginia, Minn.  
'51 Breese, Evelyn; Bend, Ore.  
'51 Leier, Jack; Clermont, Fla.  
'51 Ringdahl (Amodt), Marian; Minot  
'51 Vix, Lando; Minot  
'52 Butterfield (Mastrud), Clarice; Emmett, Idaho  
'52 Hill (Fox), Johanna; Anchorage, Alaska  
'52 Sand (Newnam), Phyllis; Grand Forks  
'53 Lippert (Winge), Grace; Bismarck  
'55 Skabo, Lowell; Colorado Springs, Colo.  
'56 Opp (Just), Fern; Dickinson  
'57 Danks, Muryl; Hibbing, Minn.  
'57 Roberts, Lynn; Grand Forks  
'58 Schaefer (Slaamot), Evelyn; Houston, Texas  
'59 Dokken (Sanderson), Gaylen; West Fargo  
'59 Eriksmoen, Gary; Minot  
'59 Leitzke (Lima), Bernell; Moses Lake Wash.  
'59 Reeves, James; Lincoln, Neb.  
'60 Backes (Joyer), VeeAnn; Fargo  
'60 Olson, Mervin; Bowman  
'60 Woken, Robert; Albert; Rycroft, Alberta, Canada  
'60 Zarambo (Huber), Loretta; Lino Lakes, Minn.  
'62 Tweten, Laverne; Minot  
'63 Sieler (Naasz), Violet; Issaquah, Wash.  
'64 Hanson, Donald; Mandan  
'64 Kandt, Kathleen; Rapid City, S.D.  
'65 Kvamme (Moore), Betty; Minot  
'66 Aus (Person), Clarice; Minot  
'66 Ness, Doug; Williston  
'66 Shaw, Boyd; Minot  
'67 Allmaras, DeVon; New Rockford  
'67 Hoffman, James; Spokane, Wash.  
'68 Alme (Follman), Madelyn; Minot  
'68 Ashley (Lee), Stella; Velva  
'68 Hurdelbrink (Henderson), Judith; Mandan  
'68 Melby, Robert; Marietta, Ga.  
'68 Nelson, Kent; Minot  
'69 Aamot (Klemenhausen), Beulah; Lawton, Iowa  
'69 Leverson, David; Minot  
'69 Lukach (Lies), Luella; Minot  
'69 Westrum (Sears), Eileen; Devils Lake  
'70 Novak, Linda; Fargo  
'70 Parrill (Nelson), Marie; Bottineau  
'70 Pettit (McMaster), Shirley; Worland, Wyo.  
'71 Bevacqua, James; Jamestown, N.Y.  
'71 Duma, Terrance; Pequot Lakes, Minn.  
'71 Lervik (Anderson), Edith; Bismarck  
'71 Peterson, Terry; Bismarck  
'72 Bacon, Kerry; Granville  
'72 Larson-Jaeger (Narum), Alice; Minot  
'72 Mahlen, DuWayne; Rapid City, S.D.  
'72 Mott, Robert; Garrison  
'73 Gangl, James; Red Wing, Minn.  
'74 Field (Best), Becky; Towner  
'74/'80 Hollingsworth, Rebecca; Mandan  
'74 Mertens (Nyhus), Marcee; Devils Lake  
'74 Samson (Odland), Helen; Minot  
'74 Walstad, John; Bismarck  
'75 Bray (Herberg), Karen; Mount Vernon, Wash.  
'75 Ronning, Robert; Billings, Mont.  
'76 Artz, Jim; Lake Metigoshe  
'76 Scheid, Ernie; Fargo  
'76 Zerface, Dennis; Garrison  
'78 Bertsch (Toy), Charlane; Minot  
'78 Deane, Dani; Bismarck  
'78 Mullen, Gary; Bakersfield, Calif.

'79 Bohlig, Corey; Minot  
'79 Cose (Rose), JoAnn; Minot  
'79 Drum (Biros), Shirley; Kingsman, Ariz.  
'80 Deck (Holst), Kari; Harvey  
'82 Cooke, Jon; Yankton, S.D.  
'82 Dreyer, Shirley; Billings, Mont.  
'85 Fossen, Jeffrey; Lake Worth, Fla.  
'86 Cornwell, Joy; Fargo  
'86 Zahn, Joel; Lincoln  
'87 Muirhead (Bennett), Virginia; Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada  
'87 Voorhis (Rowe), Laura; Washington Court House, Ohio  
'88 Livers (Greutman), Theresa; Sidney, Mont.  
'88 Visser (Taylor), Shirley; Wolf Point, Mont.  
'92 Lang (Iverson), Bonnie; Towner  
'93 Heit, Lyle; Fargo  
'93 Odden, Maureen; Rugby  
'94 Westman, Kristine; Minot  
'95 Cozart, James; Williston  
'95 Pretzer (Larson), Donnette; Fargo  
'05 Bender, Clarence; Alexandria, Minn.  
'06 Sebastian (Haman), Lori; Towner  
'08 Johnson (Barber), Amy; Minot

## Attended

Albert (Bratvold), Jeannette; Rapid City, S.D.  
Alexander, Larry; Mohall  
Allard, Gary; Bismarck  
Backman (Keator), Myrna; Wilton  
Beals (Miller), Anne; Glenwood, Iowa  
Bossert, William; Minot  
Bullinger (Zorn), Shirley; Bottineau  
Colebank (Stewart), Fern; Montrose, Colo.  
Corbin, Donald; Fort Collins, Colo.  
Currie, Curtis; Lake Metigoshe  
Cygan, Rylee; Bozeman, Mont.  
Dale (Torgrimson), Annabelle; Spring Park, Minn.  
Daly, Larry; West Jordan, Utah  
Enget (Buness), Ardyce; Powers Lake  
Esterby, Robert; Minot  
Gibbens (Parker), Helen; Cando  
Granheim, Carol; Minot  
Haakenstad (Sanderson), Lorraine; Souris  
Haavig, Neland; Sitka, Alaska  
Halvorson (Anderson), Marion; Devils Lake  
Hauf, Adolf; Lewiston, Idaho  
Heilman, John; Rugby  
Herdt (Vicha), Gladys; Billings, Mont.  
Herrmann, Charles; Minot  
Hetland, Milton; Bismarck  
Hoag, Ted; Billings, Mont.  
Hofer, Marvin; Turtle Lake  
Jensen (Cameron), Laverne; Billings, Mont.  
Jordre (Rosendahl), Janet; Carrington  
Kaiser (Child), Marie; Park Rapids, Minn.  
Kallias (Hatley), Gloria; Minot  
Klain (Varty), Carol; Kalispell, Mont.  
Knodel, Lloyd; Butte  
Kohlman, Kendall; Minot  
Kuk, Douglas; Phoenix, Ariz.  
Lee, Kenneth; Minot  
Lindsey, Daniel; Crosby  
Loe, David; Washburn  
Manning (Beatty), Lainie; Charles City, Iowa  
Marquardt, Richard; Bismarck  
McFadden (Robinson), Shirley; Colorado Springs, Colo.  
McIntyre, Ken; Minot  
Melchior (Kempff), Marilyn; Beulah  
Miller, Arnold; Bismarck  
Nedrud, Donald; Georgetown, Texas  
Nelson, Robert K.; Minot  
O'Shea (Narum), Hazel; Garrison  
Rauhauser, Ryan; Bismarck  
Register (Lamoureux), Jeanette; Spearfish, S.D.  
Sager (Horner), Carolyn; Devils Lake

Sandeen, Idella; Vancouver, Wash.  
Senger, Joseph; Renton, Wash.  
Shomento, Bert; Minot  
Steen (Kvalheim), Anna; Plentywood, Mont.  
Stratton, Myron; Montana  
Swanson (Hiatt), Dorothy; Moorhead, Minn.  
Timm, E. Michael; Minot  
Tollefson (Haagenson), Marlene; Devils Lake  
Torno, Marlin; San Mateo, Calif.  
Usera (Colford), Teresa; Rapid City, S.D.  
Valentine (Banna), Miriam; Everett, Wash.  
Wagner, Virgil; Minot  
Ward (Atwood), Eileen; Homer City, Ind.  
Warke, Andrew; Minot  
Wegner (Beaudry), Vivian; Sioux Falls, S.D.  
Wittmaier (Stickney), Elaine; Bismarck  
Yecoshenko (Michalenko), Lydia; Minot  
Zabolotney (Patek), Rose; Benedict  
Zeltinger, Jack; Tolley  
Zimmerman, Brent; Wolf Point, Mont.

## Friends

Anderson, Larry; Towner  
Berg (Klimple), Carole; Minot  
Brisson (Hill), Gail; Cheyenne, Wyo.  
Buen (Wilson), Patricia; Jamestown  
Bugbee, Cordell; Minot  
Christiansen, Leo; Bowbells  
Dufner, Orville; Lansford  
Eslinger, Samuel; Garrison  
Florence, Dr. Gerald; Velva  
Fornes (Madden), Geraldine; Denver, Colo.  
Fredrickson, Oscar "LeRoy"; Velva  
Fricke, Donald; Minot  
Frieese, Gerald; Bismarck  
Goodman (Brandt), Arlene; Minot  
Gullickson, Ralph; Benedict  
Hammer (Hovland), Eleanor; Minot  
Helm (Binder), Freda; Minot  
Hendershot, Jerald; Minot  
Henne, G. G.; Minot  
Hill, Ormal; Ray  
Hoffman, Dr. Marvin; Minot  
Hustad (Mestad), Myrtle; Jamestown  
Jensen, James; Minot  
Jorgenson, David; Williston  
Kruse, Ken; Minot  
Laducer (Thomas), Marlene; Belcourt  
Larsen, Richard; Minot  
Ledum, David; Cibolo, Texas  
Lee (Hamilton), Beverlee; Lake Havasu, Ariz.  
Lochthowe, John; Minot  
Lowery, Kenneth; Rochester, Minn.  
Munson, Elden; Minot  
Nelson, Robert K.; Minot  
Nostdahl, Ward; Minot  
Severson (Pross), Myra; Fessenden  
Sevig (Finneseth), Alpha; Minot  
Smith, Chester; Minot  
Stotz, Marvin; Anamoose  
Stromstad (Stalwick), Rosalie; Bismarck  
Walsh (Park), Kathleen; Richmond, Va.  
Woell, George; Onalaska, Wis

## Faculty and Staff

Lynn, James, retired custodian for facilities management; Minot  
Saltsman (Flath), Susan, former faculty member in the nursing department; Gettysburg, S.D.  
Selk, James, former custodian for facilities management; Minot  
Stoskopf (Ewing), Sherry, retired faculty member in the division of humanities; Berthold  
Svec, Joseph, former faculty in the division of humanities; Whitewater, Wis.

# Look who's NEW!



Have you had  
an addition to your  
family recently?

We want to know! Contact Kate Marshall,  
donor relations coordinator, at [Kate.Marshall@MinotStateU.edu](mailto: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](mailto:Kate.Marshall@MinotStateU.edu).



## Aga

Hunter Lee was born May 26, 2018  
to **Jessica (Kramer) Aga '05** and  
her husband, Joshua.

## Bishop

**Angela (Orluck) Bishop '12**  
and her husband, Michael,  
welcomed Kaylee Michelle on  
Oct. 6, 2017. She joins big sister Hannah.



## Brown

Audrey Lynn entered the  
world on Aug. 22, 2018. She  
was born to **Nicole (Luther)  
Brown '06** and her  
husband, Michael.

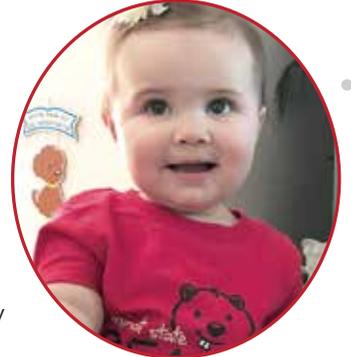
## Carnes

Nora was  
born  
Jan. 18,  
2016 to  
**Amanda  
(Anderson)  
Carnes '10**  
and her  
husband, Clint.  
She joins big  
sister Brynlee.



## Craveiro

**Diogo Craveiro '13**  
along with his wife,  
Sarah, had Clara  
Louisa on Aug. 2,  
2017.



## Erickson

Twin boys, Ryan Peter and  
Cameron Bret were welcomed by  
proud parents **Jacey (Peterson)  
Erickson '11/'16** and her husband,  
Bret on Aug. 27, 2016.



## Ewoniuk

Emree Ann made her debut Feb. 6,  
2018. She was proudly welcomed  
by **Nicole (Nelson) Ewoniuk '08**  
and her husband, Eric.

## Fischer

Twins, Jasmine  
Kira and Trevor  
Dustin were  
born Nov.  
15, 2017 to  
**Dustin  
Fischer '11**  
and **Kira  
(Wallstrum)  
Fischer '11**.



## Gahner

**Karissa (Erdmann) Gahner '13** and her husband, Carter, joyfully welcomed Emmanuel Jay on Aug. 26, 2017.



## Mappes

Owen Glen arrived Dec. 14, 2017 and was welcomed by **Aryn (Arndt) Mappes '11** and her husband, Brandon.

## Orluck

Caleb Thomas joined the Orluck Family Feb. 10, 2018. Proud parents are **Thomas Orluck '10** and his wife, Sarah.



## Mindt

**Janel (Richter) Mindt '92** and her husband, Mark, welcomed a baby girl, Piper, on May 27, 2016.



## Raebel

Kinsley entered the world Oct. 11, 2017. She was born to **Evelyn (Holmquist) Raebel '03** and her husband, Alan. She joins siblings Cody and Carter.

## Hanson

**Travis Hanson '04** along with his wife, Caitlin, welcomed Abigail Eileen on Jan. 6, 2018.



## Ramos

**Danielle (Judkins) Ramos '08** and her husband, Anthony, proudly welcomed Isaiah on Aug. 24, 2016.



## Nissen

**Jacob Nissen '13** and **Tracy (Knutson) Nissen '14** proudly welcomed Norah Jo on June 22, 2017.



## Hysjulien

Ryker James arrived July 7, 2017. He was born to **Drew Hysjulien '07** and **Tarra (Froseth) Hysjulien '08**. He joins sisters Grace and Brekka.



## Rosenau

**Brooke (Meine) Rosenau '15** and her husband, Erick, joyfully welcomed Oliver Erick on Nov. 17, 2017.



## Johnson

Soren William entered the world Nov. 23, 2017. He was welcomed by **Jeremiah Johnson '10/'17** and **Kimberly (Breiner) Johnson '09/'15**.



## Norby

Amelia Del made her appearance Feb. 20, 2018. She was born to **Brenna (Sletto) Norby '08** and her husband, Dustin.

## Thuner

Emersyn Thuner was born Oct. 23, 2017 to **Eric Thuner '04** and **Lisa (Harris) Thuner '03**.



## Lauer

**Alecia (Kinn) Lauer '06** and her husband, Lance, welcomed Addison Jane on Sept. 1, 2017.



## Opland

Hazel was born March 9, 2017 to **Melissa (Rogne) Opland '01** and her husband, Patrick. She joins siblings Henry and Hanna.

## Wiechmann

**Juria (Bigelow) Wiechmann '16** and her husband, Eli, had Maria Joy on Nov. 26, 2017.





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**M**inot State University has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I guess you could say it runs in the family. My parents, Blaine '79 and Kathy '80, are Minot State graduates as well as my older sister Britni '07/'12 and me '08. Some of the best memories I have are cheering on the Beavers at Herb Parker Stadium on Saturday afternoon, or taking in a game at the Dome. Now I get to enjoy these same experiences with our two young girls, Taylor (9) and Raegan (5).

Working for a family owned bank in Minot, First International Bank & Trust, I understand the importance of being a part of your community. My parents instilled this in me at a young age and my experience at Minot State encouraged me to be an active student on campus and beyond. Now with two children of our own, my wife Elly and I hope to teach our girls those same values.

Whether it is the freshman new on campus ready to take on the world or a new bank employee with his or her family headed to their first MSU Homecoming parade, Minot State is an integral part of what makes our community special. We are proud to call Minot home and proud supporters of Minot State University.

**GO BEAVERS!**

**Brock and Elly DesLauriers**