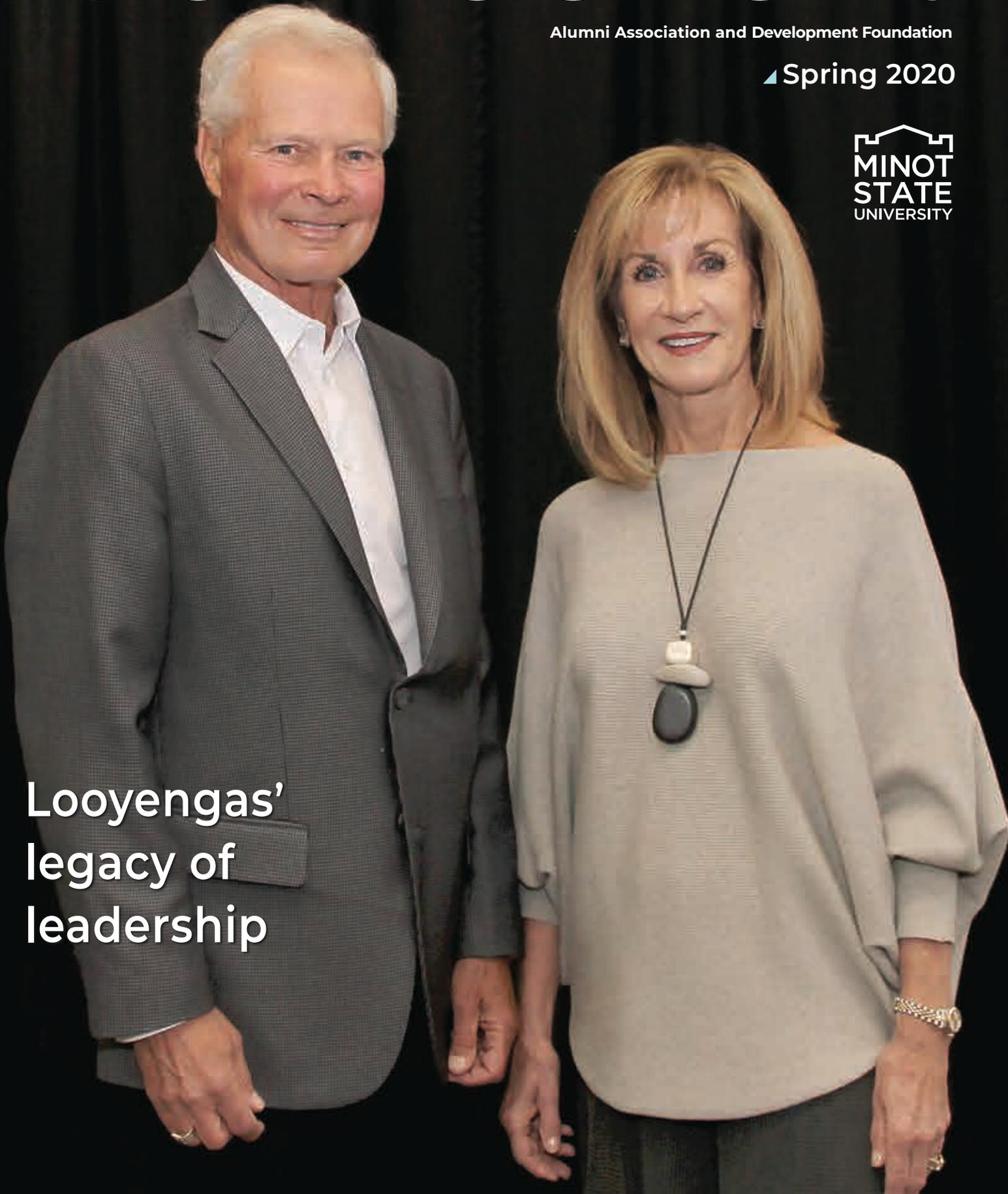


Connections

Alumni Association and Development Foundation

▲ Spring 2020



Looyengas'
legacy of
leadership

Giving

4 • 15 • 20



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**MINOT
STATE
UNIVERSITY**

President's message



Greetings to our Minot State alumni and friends both near and far from the Minot State campus. I hope your new year (and new decade) are off to a great start. We are enjoying another exciting semester while also anxiously awaiting warmer springtime temperatures!

We are pleased to share this issue of Connections so you can read the latest campus updates and happenings. In particular, please note the cover story on two special individuals, Roger and Ann Looyenga, and learn more about their incredible generosity and commitment to MSU and our students. The new leadership program we are establishing, thanks to the support and vision of Roger and Ann, will create meaningful opportunities for future classes of MSU students. We are profoundly grateful for their willingness to invest not only in Minot State, but more importantly to create these new academic opportunities for the next generation

of students at MSU. Thank you Roger and Ann!

You will also find a feature on MSU's men's club hockey head coach Wade Regier. Wade is a proud graduate of Minot State, and during his decade at the helm of Beaver hockey, has led our program to two ACHA national championships (in 2013 and again last year). Wade is a terrific champion for Minot State and our students, and we are proud of his dedication and the many wonderful efforts he makes in leading the Beaver men's hockey program.

Additionally, please read the in-depth profiles of alumni doing fantastic work including Amanda Francis, Evan Meiers, Ryan Fila, and Shin Young Park. Their profiles reinforce the special environment we have at Minot State and the wonderful students and graduates who utilize their talents and education to make a positive influence on society. Thinking about our students and their opportunities ahead, please also see pages 22 – 23 to learn more about new majors at MSU that will continue inspiring future graduates.

By the time you read this, we will have likely concluded our winter alumni and friends reunions in both Florida and Arizona. We have held a number of events in Arizona for years, but this is the first time we have conducted similar activities in Florida. We have many friends and alumni across the Sunshine State, so felt it was a great way to extend our MSU reach in a new location. Please note the other upcoming MSU Alumni Association events in Minot and Fargo, as well as our Summer Golf Tour, highlighted on page 32. These provide a great way to catch-up with friends and stay connected to campus, so I hope to see you at one of these upcoming events.

The academic year is swiftly passing, and it will be just a matter of weeks before we gather in the newly-renovated MSU Dome celebrating student achievement with the 106th Commencement Exercises — the best day on campus each year!

Thank you for your interest and support of Minot State, and as always ... **GO BEAVERS!**

▲ Steven W. Shirley, Ph.D., President

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On the Cover:

Roger '68 and Ann Looyenga made a \$1 million gift in November to broaden Minot State University's offerings in the area of leadership. The couple was honored during a ceremony announcing the gift.

ADDITIONAL PHOTO CREDITS:

The motivational nomad:
p. 19 photo courtesy of
Ryan Fila

Boss behind the boards:
p. 24-26 photos courtesy
of Joshua Strong

Alumni basketball reunion:
p. 28 photo courtesy of
Sean Arbaut

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Cover story

6 Looyengas' legacy of leadership

Feature stories

10 It's lovely here

12 Education evolution

22 Minot State adds new majors, minor

Athletics feature

24 Boss behind the boards

Every issue

15 Alum from Day One profiles: students, faculty, and staff

18 Under 30: The motivational nomad

20 Under 40: Meiers creates musical currency

28 Alumni events

30 Development Foundation:
Be a part of something big — support what you love

31 Development Foundation: Giving Day gifts in action

33 Class notes

37 In memory

38 Baby Beavers

▲ **Be seen. Be heard. Be inspired.**

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**IS NOW ACCEPTING
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GOLDEN AWARDS

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MinotStateU.edu/alumni to complete the nomination form and for a full list of qualification criteria.

CONTACT the Alumni Office at 701-858-3373/800-777-0750 with any additional questions.

Deadline to submit nominations:
March 31, 2020

A photograph of a man with grey hair, wearing a grey blazer over a black shirt, standing at the front of a classroom. He is gesturing with both hands as if speaking. In the foreground, several students are seated at desks, viewed from behind. The desks have books and water bottles on them. A whiteboard is visible in the background.

Looyengas' legacy of leadership

by Michael Linnell



ROGER LOOYENGA '68
wants to give future
Minot State University
students an advantage
he didn't necessarily
have during his
time at MSU.



cracy at larger schools and change doesn't always happen fast. It's been interesting to see at Minot State, with Dr. Shirley's leadership and the instructors, there has been a willingness to step outside the box a little bit. That's been fun to see."

While he wasn't able to learn leadership skills while attending Minot State College, Roger certainly possessed those skills, rising to CEO of Auto-Owners Insurance Company, a Fortune 500 company, in 2008 and Chairman of the Board in 2009.

"In working and getting to know Roger over the years, leadership is the one central and constant area he has always discussed with me," Shirley said. "Leadership is an area about which

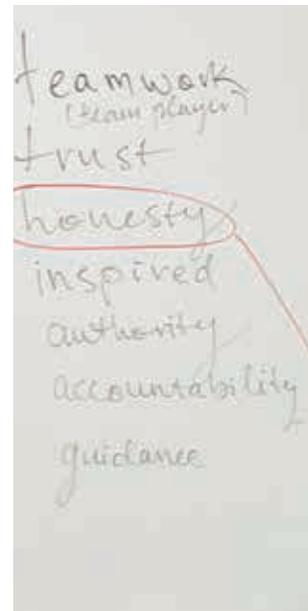
Roger is passionate, and one that he and Ann rightfully recognize as an area where colleges and universities should be doing more in the way of providing academic opportunities and cultivating the next generation of leaders. He was obviously a transformative leader of a Fortune 500 company during his time at Auto-Owners, and so the subject of leadership is near and dear to his heart."

It was at Auto-Owners where he met Ann.

After a year with the company, he was transferred to its corporate headquarters in Lansing, Michigan and started to work as an underwriter, while Ann worked for Auto-Owners part time. The couple was married in June of 1972 and had just a two-day honeymoon due to Roger starting as a marketing representative in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. He retired after nearly 40 years with Auto-Owners.

Roger believes the culture at Auto-Owners helped cultivate his success.

"Auto-Owners was a perfect fit because of the corporate culture," he said. "The best way to describe the culture is to list the core values, which were lived every day: Honesty, Hard Work, Prudence, Loyalty, The Team, Relationships, Opportunity for Associates, Stability and



The University announced in November a \$1 million gift from Roger and Ann Looyenga to broaden offerings in the area of leadership. It became their most recent contribution, joining an initial gift establishing the Roger Looyenga Leadership College of Business Endowment in 2010 and subsequent gifts that have grown the endowment to over \$500,000. Along with financial contributions, Roger served as Minot State's Commencement speaker, has been featured as a guest lecturer in the classroom on multiple occasions, and was a recipient of the MSU Golden Award in 2017.

"I had a great deal of exposure to management, management by objectives," Roger said. "But, when we as a company looked to develop leaders in the organization, we went out to see where we could learn leadership skills. Looking around, the public institutions, colleges and universities, didn't have a lot to offer as far as leadership skills. We found training with other sources, videos, books, and professional speakers. That still carries forward. Google which universities have leadership training or a degree in leadership, they're few and far between.

"It's evolving and will continue to evolve, but I think Minot State will be a leader with this program because there aren't a lot of other programs like this."

Minot State has begun to develop classes in a Leadership Concentration and a Certificate in Leadership, allow-

ing students from all disciplines to have the chance to enhance their leadership skills. According to Minot State President Dr. Steven Shirley, this will give MSU students a focused area to learn skills beyond their chosen bachelor's degree.

"As the higher education landscape is increasingly more competitive every day, it is important that we are able to provide unique and relevant opportunities," Shirley said. "The leadership curriculum and other initiatives that will be supported through Roger and Ann's gift will allow Minot State to offer opportunities for our students that simply are not available at other campuses.

"Leadership is an area that transcends academic disciplines — whether a student at MSU is pursuing a degree in the physical sciences, business, education, social sciences, nursing, criminal justice, the fine arts, broadcasting, or any of our many other areas, their education and career opportunities can be significantly enhanced with an additional focus on leadership."

Ann believes the current leadership at Minot State reassured the couple their financial contribution would make a difference for a large number of students.

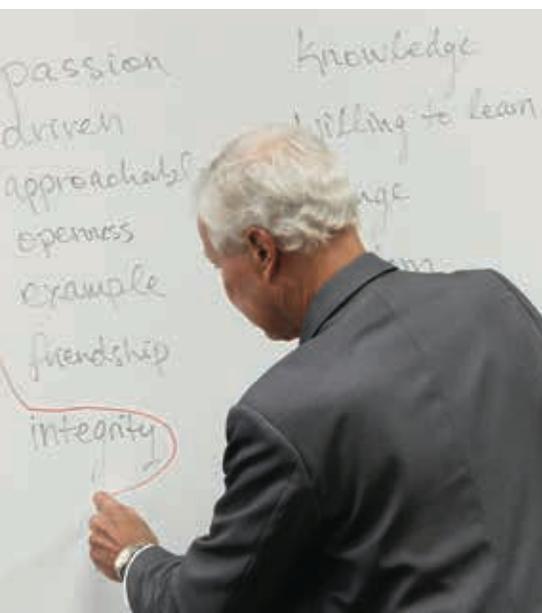
"We've been so impressed with the leadership at Minot State," she said. "The instructional staff we've met has been so receptive and you don't always find that at all institutions. There is a lot of bureau-

Consistency, The Customer, and Profit. One example of many: Auto-Owners has never laid off an employee in the history of the company.”

Philanthropy has been a central theme for the couple throughout their marriage, from work through their church, volunteering at local hospitals and schools, to financially at Minot State.

“It’s just been a value we’ve tried to follow,” Ann said. “It’s the Golden Rule for us. Back before we had resources to give, it was our time. All the way back to when our kids were in school. This has been a way to set examples for our children and for their children.”

Roger agreed that it doesn’t have to be about giving back monetarily.



“I believe everyone should have a commitment to give back to others. Some may not be in a position to give back financially; however, everyone can give back by serving others. One of my favorite sayings is, ‘the more you serve others, the more others will serve you in return.’ Giving back to Minot State is a way for me to use my leadership skills to help others learn the importance of leadership.”

Minot State has always been a source of pride for Roger and giving back to the

University that helped him make life-long friends and memories made sense.

“I have a lot of pride in Minot and Minot State College, as it was known then,” he said. “To come back and contribute to a place where I have a lot of pride is the reason I keep giving to Minot State. It was a great time for me for academic and social development. Learning in a small classroom environment was ideal for me. It allowed me to develop communication skills which I don’t think would have been as greatly developed in a large classroom setting.

“Whenever I think of Minot State, I must include my participation in the Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity. Social interaction was a major part of the fraternity, including the spirit of teamwork and brotherhood. What I learned in the fraternity had a big part in my career development.”

Neither Roger nor Ann ruled out giving back to the leadership program in the form of time in the future — as long as it is welcomed and will enhance the curriculum.

“We feel the expertise is there and don’t want to be a barrier to anything that is going to be developed at Minot State,” Ann said. “Often when you give to something, you see it executed in different ways than you imagined.”

“If it is felt that Ann or I can contribute, we would be more than happy to do that, but we don’t want to stand in the way of future development,” Roger added. “I’m confident the professors at MSU will develop the program beyond my expectations.” ▲



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it's lovely here

by Amanda Duchsherer

When a favorite vintage plate of Amanda Francis's '03 broke, a little ingenuity resulted in a unique piece of jewelry and an eventual business.

"Basically, I take plates and dishes, cups, mostly

vintage items, and break them up," she said. "I find pieces of the designs that make interesting little compositions and cut them into shapes for jewelry. I just love looking at the patterns

on vintage plates — they don't make them like that anymore."

Francis launched It's Lovely Here on Etsy in 2007 and has been selling necklaces, earrings, rings, and pins on the handmade and vintage e-commerce website ever since.

"It's always been a secondary hobby business so it's as I have time that I can get more stuff done. It took a little while to get my name out there through Etsy, going to different craft shows, selling at a couple of retail shops, and then having people come down to my

studio — it's still growing slowly, constantly," she said.

A career in the arts was always part of Francis's plan. Initially, the Bachelor of Arts in Art graduate thought that would only involve the conventional arts. It was with reluctance that she took her advisor's advice and enrolled in a graphic design course.

"When I started in the arts program, I thought I wanted to go the craft route. You could choose traditional arts and crafts as a focus area, and I enjoy creating with my hands," she said. "I really didn't want to do computer



[itslovelyhere.etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/shop/itslovelyhere)

art, I didn't think that was my thing, but then I took the class and knew this was it. I loved it and knew this was what I wanted to do."

William Harbort, Minot State art, broadcasting, and professional communication chair, was professor of that instrumental class and immediately saw her talent.

"In her 100-level art classes, she demonstrated strong compositional skills, an intuitive sense of color, keen typographic choices, and most importantly, a passion for great graphic design," he said. "I am so pleased and proud to see her

without getting so frustrated because I know how to make it work and accomplish it. It's really fun," she said. "But it's great to have my jewelry work and other art forms, too — it's a really nice reprieve. You sit all day in front of a computer, and it's nice to do something with your hands and make something that way as well."

When it is time for Francis to get creative away from her day job, she goes to her studio at 62 Doors Gallery & Studios, located in downtown Minot. Her individual space also serves as a display area for It's Lovely Here's pieces.

"When I was deciding on a business name, I thought of all the creativity and support that surrounded me in my studio and in the Minot art community and the contentment I felt every time I was working on new pieces, and I thought, 'This really is a lovely place to be!'"

creative work evolve and get better and better."

Francis changed her degree focus from traditional arts and crafts to graphic design and has worked in the medium ever since. Today, she works in Minot State's publications and design services as a design specialist and still appreciates the creative process of her job.

"I still love it. As time goes on and I learn more, I get more expertise. I can do things that are in my head

"A big benefit of having the studio is obviously having space to work and display, but it's a supportive community for artists — that's part of the whole reason why 62 Doors was started," she said. "When I was deciding on a business name, I thought of all the creativity and support that surrounded me in my studio and in the Minot art community and the contentment I felt every time I was working on new pieces, and I thought, 'This really is a lovely place to be!'" ▲



Education EVOLUTION

by Michael Linnell

The “Magic City” is more than just a marketing slogan for Shin Young Park.

“They call this the Magic City, but it really was magic for me,” she said. “I was able to do so many things here that I wasn’t expecting to do. It was a great advantage to me to explore new subjects here and get to go more in depth (with my studies) at a later age.”

Park’s education evolution started with a degree in her home country of South Korea. She found a new passion at Minot State — studying chemistry after originally earning a degree in music — and is in her second year at the prestigious University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, ranked second in the country by U.S. News & World Report.

“I realized I really liked interacting with people and I want to take care of patients,” Park said. “I was able to do a pharmacy internship at Trinity Health in 2015 and realized the crucial role a pharmacist has as a medication expert. After assisting pharmacists and watching them interact with doctors and nurses, I really felt like this was a good path for me.”

Her passion for pharmacy was born out of a love for chemistry. During her first semester at Minot State, she took organic chemistry with

Mikhail Bobylev, Minot State professor of chemistry.

“I instantly fell in love with chemistry, I could see it without trying to memorize it,” she said. “Everything made sense the more I learned about chemistry.”

“Walking around the halls (in Cyril Moore), especially on the third floor in the chemistry department, you can see the research post-

ers done by other students. Looking at them, even though I couldn’t fully understand them yet, I really wanted to understand, and I really wanted to be a part of that. It’s a tough course here at Minot State, but I really wanted to participate in research, so I studied hard.”

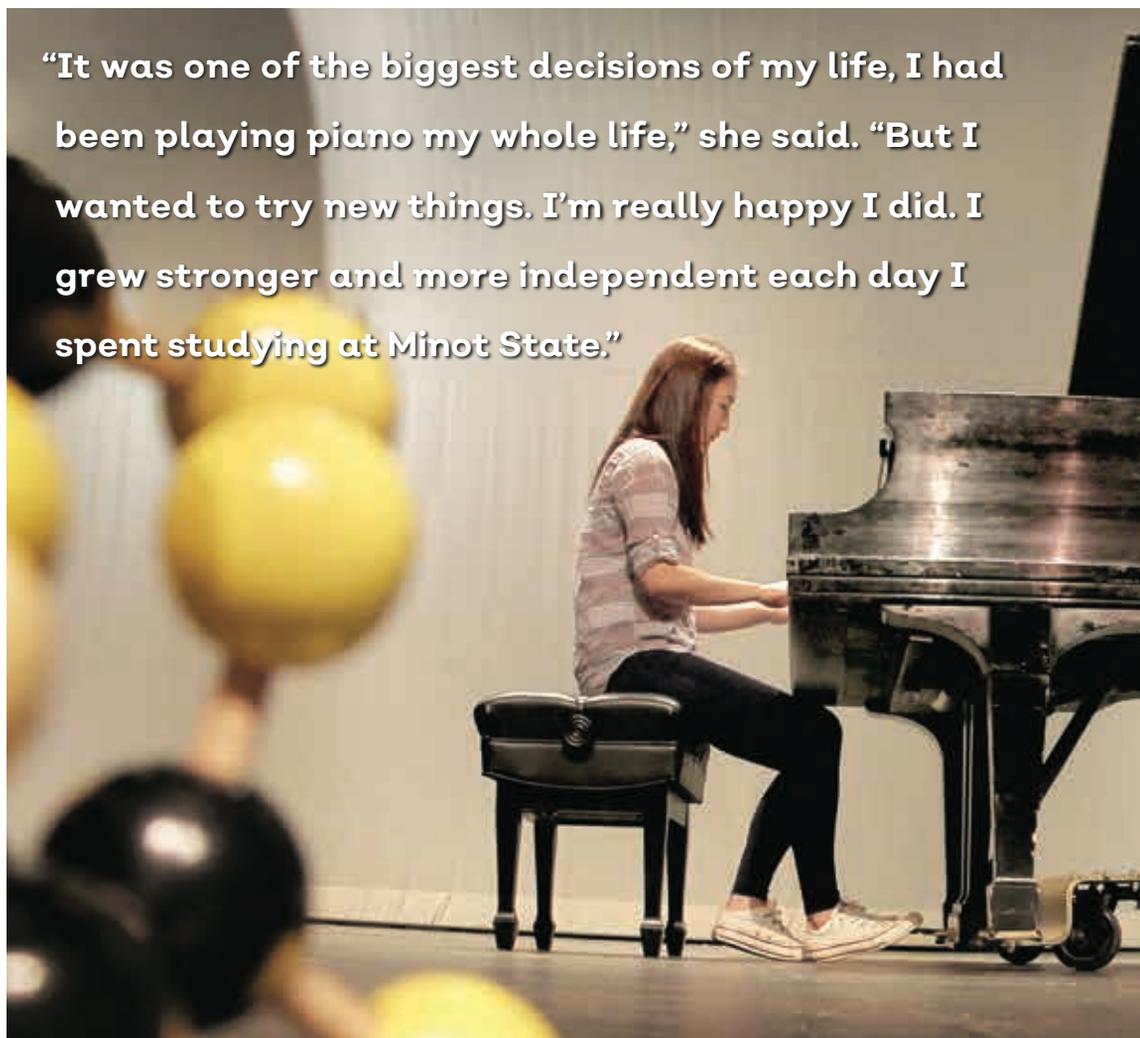
That paid off.

In her second semester at MSU, Bobylev invited Park

to participate in his research. She continued to work in Bobylev’s lab for the next four years. Their combined work led her to presentations at regional and national conferences, including three National Meetings of the American Chemical Society.

Park believes she had a distinct advantage over other students when applying to pharmacy school. Under-

“It was one of the biggest decisions of my life, I had been playing piano my whole life,” she said. “But I wanted to try new things. I’m really happy I did. I grew stronger and more independent each day I spent studying at Minot State.”



graduate research and small classrooms set her apart.

"I've talked to others who are at bigger universities and it was difficult for them to interact with professors and peers, to share thoughts and ideas," she said. "Even during the application process, I realized I had so many things I could talk about. Not just lab skills but interacting with people."

Minot State also offered her something she wasn't necessarily given to start her academic career — options.

"People decide what they are going to do at an early age," she said of the educational system in South Korea. "As a curriculum, you go into science, or law, or be an athlete, whatever. I ended up majoring in classical piano performance, so I didn't have

many math or science courses since you don't use much of that in music."

She didn't wholly abandon playing the piano, however. After deciding on chemistry, she found herself still yearning for musical expression. That originally manifested in playing at local churches. Eventually, she snuck into the music department at MSU, finding herself in Old Main just about every day.

"I thought I was going to get evicted or something," she said of the first

time she met Minot State Music Professor Erik Anderson. "He asked me if I was a music major and I told him no, I was a chemistry major but had a degree in piano and just wanted a place to practice."

Instead of disciplining Park, Anderson got her in touch with his wife, Dianna Anderson, Minot State assistant professor of piano. Park continued to study piano under Dianna Anderson via lessons and a one-credit course.

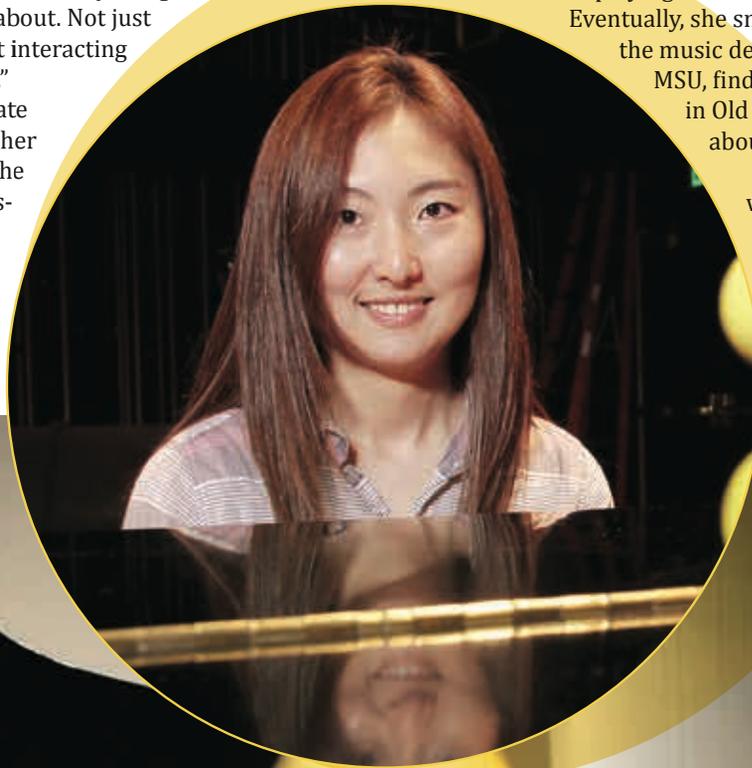
"She was so happy to help me," said Park. "I had so many opportunities to perform on stage and collaborate with other musicians."

Park believes chemistry and music are intertwined.

"I've been playing the piano all my life, but I never really thought of how my finger actually moves. In our chemistry class, we talked a lot about the chemicals in your brain, how to move your fingers, and I never really thought about that before. I had just been playing for so long. There is definitely something there that is similar for both subjects to me."

As she finalizes her newest academic journey at the University of Minnesota, Park is certainly pleased with her decision to explore other fields.

"It was one of the biggest decisions of my life, I had been playing piano my whole life," she said. "But I wanted to try new things. I'm really happy I did. I grew stronger and more independent each day I spent studying at Minot State." ▲



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alum **from DAY** one

FRESHMAN Praise Okunbor

Nursing ▶ Benin City, Edo, Nigeria

Praise took classes from multiple disciplines in her first semester to find her passion — nursing. She has been actively involved on campus right from her first day, working in new student orientation, writing for the Red and Green newspaper, and as a resident assistant.

Why did you choose Minot State?

I was doing very well in academics and my parents decided to invest in my education. The U.S. is a great place for that, and Minot State was their choice. It is a great opportunity for me.

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

I decided to take the simplest advice to search for a career: explore your interests. I took classes outside my major (originally biology), like a class in communications. Minot State gave me opportunities and resources to do that.

What is your favorite quote?

“Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”
— Matthew 5:16

What has been your favorite class?

University 110. It was great. I made my first friends at MSU and learned about American culture and the education system. It prepared me for an academic journey in the U.S.

Who has been your most influential professor?

Naomi Winburn '13. She has a great personality and helped me see why I loved science.

What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

You will find what you need to succeed — the resources and the people. It's a perfect example of bigger isn't always better.

What is your most memorable moment at MSU?

When I read my first article in the Red and Green I sent pictures to everyone I could.

SOPHOMORE Troy Kowal

Broadcasting and professional communication

High River, Alberta

At 6-foot-6, 295 pounds, Troy is a force to be reckoned with as a member of the Minot State football team's offensive line. But his personality is just as big as he is, a trait he will put to good use in a broadcasting career.

Why did you choose MSU?

It was the first school that really seemed to care for me. The first time I came to the campus, I walked around with my dad and I fell in love with the way campus looked.

The way I was treated was something that really grabbed me. This school cares for people and it really meant a lot to me.

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

School has been something I have always needed to work hard at and going to a big school and having bigger classes was not going to work well for me. The small class sizes has helped me grow as a student.

What has been your favorite class?

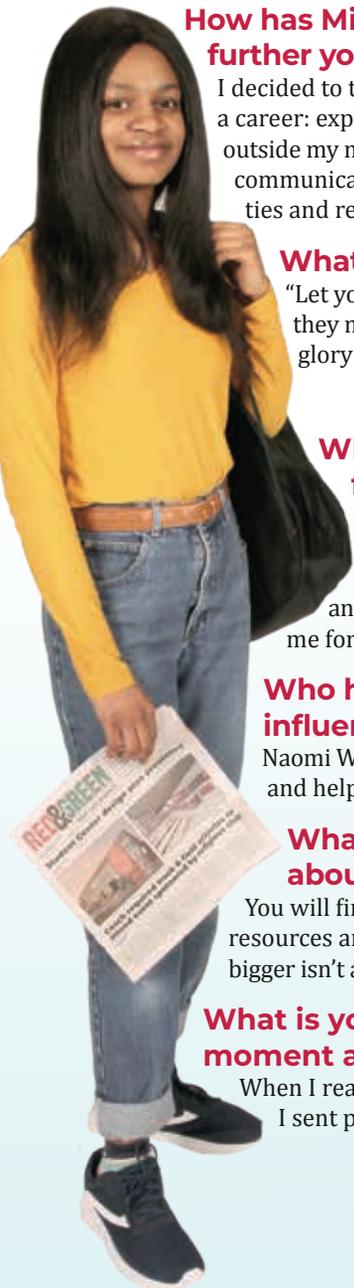
Sports TV. We do a live show on Mondays and working with friends made it fun for me. It helped me learn that I am doing what I want to do.

What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

The best kept secret is Minot State. This school is one amazing place and has produced people that do impressive things. Minot State is a gem that produces gems.

What is your most memorable moment at MSU?

My first football start at Herb Parker Stadium, last season against Concordia-St. Paul. Both my parents were at that game and we upset them with a 38-31 win.



alum from DAY one

JUNIOR Michael HarriSon

Music education ▶ Glenburn

Michael's ability to play the trombone has paid immediate dividends in his academic career as he is a board member of the Brass Band of Minot. As a future music educator, he is also a member of NAFME, the National Association for Music Education.

Why did you choose Minot State?

After my first time participating in Northwest Festival I started taking trombone lessons from Dr. (David) Rolandson. At some point, I just decided I wanted to continue studying trombone with him in college.

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

I have been given several tools to be the best music teacher I possibly can be. I've been able to study the craft of trombone while also studying voice and music composition. These different areas will help foster my future students' interests in a more effective way.

What is your favorite quote?

"Never look at the trombones, it only encourages them."

— Richard Strauss

Who has been your most influential professor?

Dr. Rolandson. He is always pushing me to be the best musician I can be and he has been a very supportive figure in my college career.

What is your most memorable moment at Minot State?

I got to play the trombone solos in "Boléro" by Maurice Ravel. The trombone solos in this piece are some of the most feared in the orchestral world by trombone players. Being able to play these solos and play them well was a great experience that I won't forget.

SENIOR Madison Tiedman

Marketing ▶ Minot

Madison has kept herself busy during her senior year splitting time between being in student government, a student ambassador, a peer mentor, an orientation leader, and a member of the Severson Entrepreneurship Club, as well as interning for both the Minot State Marketing Office and MSU men's hockey.

Why did you choose Minot State?

To get a head start on my degree, I enrolled in dual credit courses during high school. This presented opportunities to receive scholarships to attend Minot State!

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

I've had hands-on experience to put what I learned in the classroom into the community. From internships to working with businesses, these interactions get me ahead on experience and knowledge beyond graduation.

What is your favorite quote?

"People change and things go wrong, but just remember life goes on."

— Mac Miller

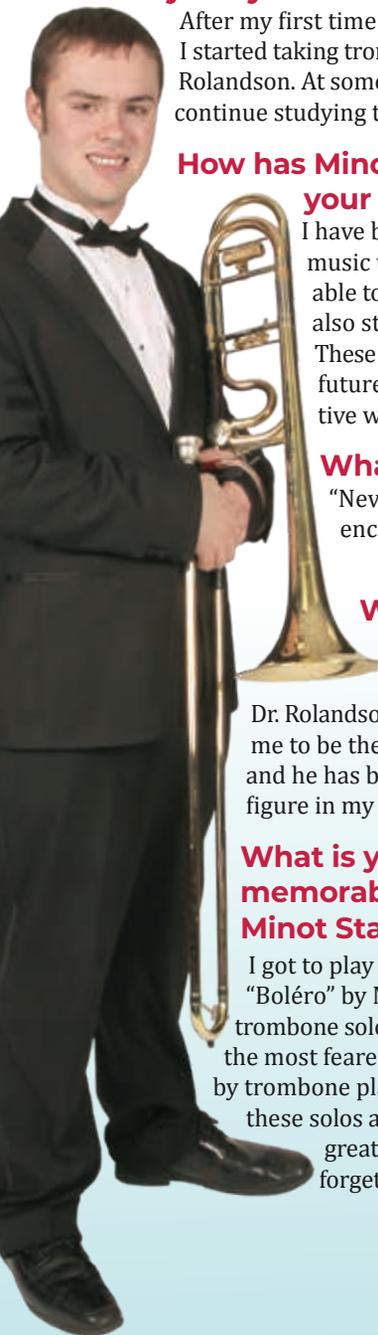
What has been your favorite class?

Marketing. It allowed me to express my creativity and work with a business in town to research marketing strategies for their target audience.

What is your most memorable moment at MSU?

Speaking at New Student Convocation. It was a tremendous honor to be able to present in front of a future group of MSU graduates as I entered my final year.

Standing onstage in front of that many people was both nerve-racking and exciting!



MASTERS Kaylee Webb

Sports management ▶ Tampa, Florida

If you are wondering where you've seen Kaylee, it might have been at the Minot State Dome. As a graduate assistant for athletic marketing, she has spent many nights courtside. She is also active as an academic advising intern, a member of the Graduate Council and CRU, and a research graduate assistant for teacher education and kinesiology.

Why did you choose Minot State?

I wanted a new start, somewhere and something different. When the position of graduate assistant in the athletic department presented itself, I came to visit and decided that this was my next step.

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

Minot State has allowed me to explore a variety of fields within sports management. I have been blessed to connect and build relationships with amazing people.

What is your favorite quote?

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come," (Proverbs 31:25); "God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day," (Psalms 46:5).

What has been your favorite class?

Foundations of Sport and Exercise Psychology. It gave me skills I need to be effective in the field of sports; it allows you to step out of your comfort zone and take on new experiences.

Who has been your most influential professor?

Dr. Linda Cresap and Dr. Terry Eckmann '81/'82 have truly impacted me. They have adopted me in and have made Minot feel more like family.

What is your most memorable moment at MSU?

My most memorable moments are watching our student-athletes participate in their sport senior day ceremonies and/or walk across the stage at graduation; knowing that I was a part of their story.

STAFF Mindy Rudnick '07

Accounting and finance with concentration in honors ▶ Anamoose

Mindy's accounting and finance degrees have fit perfectly in her position as accountant for Minot State. While the business office keeps her busy, she has given back as a member of the MSU Staff Senate, Higher Learning Commission, and Centennial Planning committees, and assists with the annual Alumni Association Gala.

Why did you choose Minot State?

I chose MSU because it was close to home, and I had family members attend. After I graduated and began looking for jobs, I knew I wanted to work here because it became my home after five years of college.

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

My honors senior thesis project was on the Sarbanes Oxley Act which is currently helping me with my preparation for the CPA exam.

What is your favorite quote?

"Life grants nothing to us mortals without hard work."

— Horace

What has been your favorite class?

I enjoyed audiology classes. The technology is continually changing and we are learning more about how to provide better access to auditory information all the time.

Who has been your most influential professor?

There were so many good professors when I attended but Mrs. (Joan) Houston worked as my advisor on my honors thesis and got me into tutoring during college. Since then I've had an itch to teach at a higher education level.

What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

As a student it is the honors hooding ceremony the night before my commencement. You get to take that time to reflect on everything you've worked for up to that point and seeing what you've accomplished.



The motivational nomad

by Dan Fagan

“Ultimately I want to inspire people to reach their full potential and make a difference in their community.”



RYAN FILA '18 believes your response defines who you are.

Fila has spent the past two years traveling the world, working odd jobs, and spreading a message that aims to inspire others.

While still a student at Minot State, Fila gave a presentation entitled “College: My Story, Your Story,” that highlighted his experience as a student-athlete attending three different colleges and the challenges he faced along the way. The presentation also delved into Fila’s loss of his father to suicide in 2016.

The day of the presentation a spring blizzard hit Minot and Fila was certain that no one would turn up to hear his talk, but to his surprise, students and local residents showed up in droves.

“That was the first time I realized that if I have something to say, people will show up to hear it,” Fila said.

After graduating from Minot State, Fila moved to Sydney, Australia where he lived out of a van, coached football, and worked part time selling solar panels.

Fila was nearly living his best life, the only thing that was missing was an audience.

Fila volunteered to speak at a few local schools in Sydney, receiving four invitations, and in some cases, compensation for his services.

“I was just looking to get some speaking experience, so

it was a pleasant surprise to get paid," Fila said.

After six months in Australia, Fila traveled to Brazil where he continued speaking in schools and fine tuning his motivational speaking skills.

Upon returning to the United States, Fila formed Motion Impact, a non-profit motivational speaking organization, with the mission statement of creating a better world of tomorrow by inspiring the individual today.

Fila's first major step with Motion Impact was a six-month tour across the

U.S. and Canada speaking at colleges, high schools, and community groups.

To cut down on costs, Fila converted his late-father's truck into a living space, and office, on wheels. The bed of the truck, covered by a shell, contained a bed, a computer, and his video equipment. To power his computer and video equipment, Fila installed solar panels in the roof of the truck.

"It's hard to pinpoint a typical day on tour," Fila said. "I parked on the streets of South Central (Los Angeles), and I parked in Yosemite National Park. It was 106 degrees when I was in Tranquility, California, and it snowed a foot-and-a-half in Calgary (Alberta)."

The sacrifices of living on the road were well worth Fila's chance to speak to his audiences and spread his mes-

sage that how you respond, defines who you are.

"One of the most rewarding things is speaking to young people, and then having them come up to me afterwards and tell me how they were impacted," Fila said. "They tell me about all kinds of challenges and struggles that they're dealing with, and I just listen to them."

In order to stay connected with the people he speaks to, Fila has invested considerable time into creating motivational videos he posts on social media.

"Ultimately, I want to inspire people to reach their full potential and make a difference in their community," Fila said. "Staying connected with people is an important part of that." ▲



MEIERS

creates
musical
currency

by Amanda Duchsherer

Family comes first for Evan Meiers '10.

So much so, that the Class B Stanley-for-life graduate and band teacher made a move he swore would never happen — he turned Class A.

In 2018, Meiers took a position with Minot Public Schools as a fifth and sixth grade band teacher in order to spend more time with his family, high school sweetheart, Erin (Jones), and their two daughters, Emery and Eila.

“I miss going to Stanley every day and I miss the people there, but I also love hanging with my family right now. Family is important,” he said. “And I love getting really specialized in fifth and sixth grade where I thought I was amazing, got humbled, and went all right, time to rebuild yourself. This has been a really good year for me.”

He also appreciates the diversity to his days. As a traveling teacher, Meiers splits his time between several schools in the Minot area.

“I teach band at pretty much every school on the south side of the river, and I also help out at the high school when I can,” he said. “What I like best about it is every day is different. Every school is different. There are pluses for every school, and that’s what I love about it.”

During his tenure at Stanley Community Schools, Meiers took a fledgling band program and grew it into a statewide award-winning powerhouse, which includes receiving the 2014-2015 North Dakota Governor’s Band distinction.

“It was a wild ride,” he said. “I’ll never forget, our first state music experience was driving a little green Taurus with three of us to state music. Then my last year, we took two buses and a trailer. We went from nothing to something in numbers.”

He is now seeing a similar growth rate in a recently resurrected Minot music program — the Magi Drumline. Last year, around 15 students came to practice. This year, an average



“The connection I got with the faculty was like a family. That’s what I really like best about Minot State, that and the opportunities.”



of 55 students show up. The question is, why?

“You have to find what they like, know what’s their currency. Their currency used to be the intrinsic value of playing for themselves, but that currency is evolving and changing. They want to feel a part of something, to feel like a group,” he said. “If you can provide individual

success in a group setting with some positive leadership and some accountability, kids will flock to it no matter what it is.”

Meiers knows the importance of positive leadership and accountability from a student’s perspective.

Following high school, he ventured to a different university before landing at

Minot State. He was craving something he couldn’t put into words.

“I was missing something and didn’t know what it was until I got here,” he said. “I was missing that real connection with faculty. I got to work with Avis (Veikley ’76, Minot State percussion instructor). Now Avis is my savior, she’s the one that

brought me back to Earth, that built me back up again. Erik Anderson (Minot State professor of music) taught me how to calm down and work toward something. The connection I got with the faculty was like a family. That’s what I really like best about Minot State, that and the opportunities.” ▲

MINOT STATE adds new majors, minor

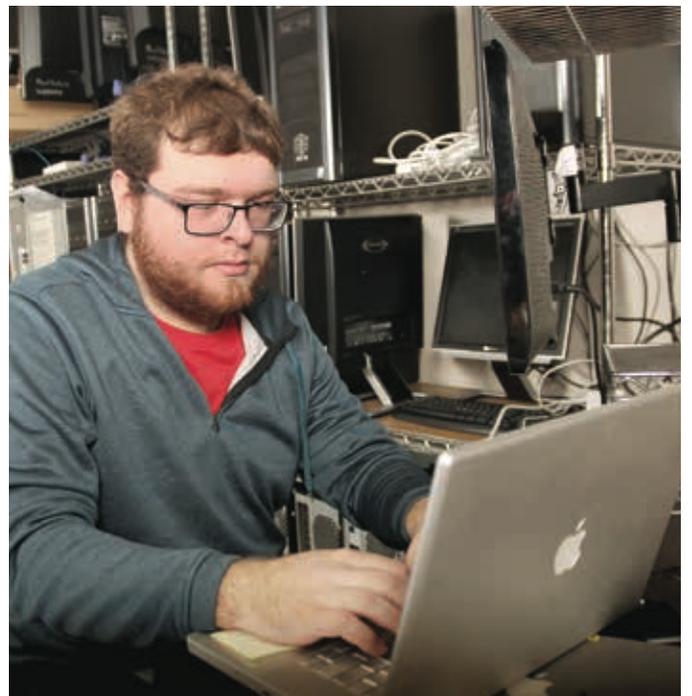
by Amanda Duchsherer

MINOT STATE has added new majors and a minor to its repertoire, exemplifying the University's drive to keep up to date with evolving employment demands.

"In support of our vision to deliver high-quality education where, when, and how it is needed and to prepare students for evolving social and technological challenges of the world, Minot State is excited to announce three new undergraduate degree programs," said Laurie (Randolf) Geller '96, vice president for academic affairs.

Be seen. Be heard.

Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity and Operations



IN OUR TECHNOLOGICAL AGE, the cybersecurity and operations major and minor will equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to defend computer operating systems, networks, and data from attacks using both theoretical and hands-on approaches.

"Cybersecurity risk is increasing, driven by global connectivity and usage of cloud services to store sensitive data and personal information," Scott Kast, math and computer science chair, said. "Widespread poor configuration of cloud services paired with increasingly sophisticated cybercriminals means the risk that your organization suffers from a successful cyberattack or data breach is on the rise."

The cybersecurity unemployment rate dropped to 0% in 2016 and has remained there ever since, speaking to the need for more professionals in this line of work.



Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science and Rehabilitation



MINOT STATE'S NEW MAJOR in exercise science and rehabilitation offers seven tracks for students, ensuring they can choose a route tailored to their future career path. Ranging from pre-athletic training to pre-physician assistant to pre-med, the options all include a factor unique to MSU's program: rehabilitation throughout the lifespan.

"This major will give students more hands-on experiences in rehabilitation both in the classroom and through their clinicals and practicums," Heather Golly '96, associate professor in exercise science and rehabilitation, said. "The difference is when they continue their education in chiropractic, occupational therapy, or physical therapy, they're going to have a rehab background."

For students wishing to enter the workforce immediately following their undergraduate degree, the major also offers a professional certification option for strength and conditioning specialists, certified personal trainers, and other career disciplines.

Bachelor of Individualized Studies



THIS NEW OPPORTUNITY provides highly motivated students whose academic needs and career goals cannot be adequately met through existing Minot State majors and minors to design their own major.

"In the BIS program, students work with faculty to build their own major by combining coursework from two or three disciplines in a way that meets their intellectual and professional aspirations," said John Webster, interim director of interdisciplinary studies. "We believe this can be a very attractive option for some students, and as the program grows, we think we will see some very innovative student-designed majors."

Students pursuing this degree develop an academic plan that integrates courses selected from their main disciplines. Each course serves a clear role in the overall program, contributing to the goals and learning needs of the student. ▲

BOSS behind the BOARDS



by Michael Linnell

The product on the ice was never the issue for Wade Regier '08 as he stepped into the role of head coach of the Minot State men's club hockey team.

The Beavers had positioned themselves as one of the top teams in the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) year in and year out.

But off-ice issues had haunted the Beavers during his time as a player and into the start of his coaching career in 2008.

"There were some dark days," Regier said. "It was tough and go at times. It was tough to come into that situation. It's been a lot of hard work to turn those relationships around."

Those days seem like a distant memory as Regier has mended relationships with vendors, the community, and the University. Stability was the key in Regier's eyes, he preached to anyone who would listen he wasn't going anywhere.

But that meant people had to believe in him in the first place.

"I kept telling people I'm not going anywhere," he said. "I had opportunities, especially after 2013, but I





was newly married and didn't want to move. Honestly, I kind of bet on myself, my thoughts were, we are going to blow this program up and it's going to be so big I won't want to leave."

Key movements in management before his hiring as head coach in 2010 helped, and his personality and how he engaged individuals from the very beginning did the rest.

"A big thing for us was the hiring of Sheldon Schneider, he cleaned up most of it," Regier said of Minot State's head coach during his final year as a player and his two seasons as an assistant. "He really helped turn things around. From there, it was just little conversations with vendors, like hotels, where we made sure they understood we are going to pay our bills. After a couple years of doing really well on the ice and paying our bills, we moved forward."

He was as much salesman for the program as he was head coach during this time. While he has a history in business, graduating with management and marketing degrees from Minot State, his ability to communicate comes from his father, Mark.

"I always had an inherent ability to just visit with people," he said. "Even when I was a part of student government here at Minot State, I knew how to speak in front of people. My dad, Mark, who has kind of the same life path taking over a company that was losing money hand over fist and turning it into a multimillion-dollar corporation, always said communication is number one, absolutely number one. You have to be able to have a great conversation."

He knew, however, that proof would come from results and accountability, something the program had lacked.

"Now, the buck stops with me," Regier said. "We've been pretty fortunate with issues the past eight or nine years and while I can't control our players all the time, they know if there is an issue, there will be accountability."

As Regier mended the off-ice relationships, his teams continued to win — at an impressive rate. After a series of close calls and heartbreak in the quarterfinals, the Beavers finally broke through with the University's first ACHA National Championship in 2013, hoisting the Murdoch Cup following a 9-5 win over Lindenwood University.



A weight was lifted not only from Regier's shoulders, but from everyone who had been a part of the program.

"That win might have been bigger than we knew," he said of the title. "That was a special group of guys who had been through the heartaches of getting to the quarterfinals, but not the championship."

Because of the unexpected exits in the quarterfinals, Regier felt the weight was actually lifted two games prior to the championship. Everything beyond that game, a 4-3 overtime thriller over the University of Oklahoma, was icing.

"We beat Oklahoma and I told my coaches, man, I'm

sorry, but I feel like we just won the Stanley Cup," he said. "Just to get to the semi-finals was such a huge deal for us. But the coaching staff said, you know, we can do this, we can win it."

"Social media had basically arrived, no one really knew how to use it, but people were using it. We got like maybe 400 likes on Facebook and Twitter or whatever. Now we are getting something like 1,500, but then, having 400 was huge. My phone just blew up!"

Fast forward to this past season and another championship run — topping rival Iowa State 3-2 for the program's second ACHA National Championship —

seemed inevitable, but Regier understands more than most how fickle winning can be.

"I'd like to think of us as the Duke of the ACHA, right, we can win it any year, we have proved that we are one of the top teams, and honestly, getting there isn't the goal any more, winning it is," he said. "But our tournament is tough, to win it all is so hard. The best team doesn't always win. A lot of things have to go your way."

Things have gone the Beavers' way both on and off the ice since winning the first title in 2013. Regier moved from working a full-time job away from the program and splitting his remaining time with coaching and front-

office items, to serving as director of hockey operations and head coach. That has freed up more time to recruit players and raise money.

"My staff on gamedays know that I'm focused on that, but the rest of the time, I'm available to work on everything else," he said. "I've thoroughly enjoyed the business end. I enjoy working with alumni and sponsors, some of them have been with us through it all and now are our biggest supporters."

"It has been great to see our hockey alumni now running their own businesses or heads of different businesses all over the world. It's been fun to watch that evolution." ▲

HOME

MINOT STATE 2020 HOMECOMING

OCT. 5-10

Featured reunion group: 1970s graduates

www.MinotStateU.edu/Homecoming

Florida Alumni Socials — Feb. 20 – 21



Las Vegas Alumni Social

Jan. 11



Basketball Reunion Feb. 7 – 8





Alumni Appreciation

Jan. 17

Be a part of something big — **SUPPORT WHAT YOU ♥!**



I want to thank all the participants of the 2nd Annual **Minot State University GIVING DAY** in April 2019.

With your help, we raised over \$203,310 from 539 unique donors in just 24 hours funding 54 projects across our campus. The projects that were supported in 2019 included student scholarships, a student emergency fund, international student tours in education, and locker room renovations, just to name a few. Your support provided much-needed funds at a critical time for our campus.

We are hopeful you will consider supporting Giving Day 2020 which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15. Gifts made on this day will be matched thanks to a number of generous donors providing matching funds. We have several gifts of matching funds that will be “unlocked” and many challenges that will provide for an interesting day of supporting our MSU students, faculty, and staff.

One area we are emphasizing this year is our student emergency fund. This fund is made available to students who face unforeseen circumstances in their pursuit of a degree. It may assist a student in traveling home to attend the funeral of a family member or a student who has an unexpected medical bill that may cause him or her to drop out of school.

We initiated our student emergency fund two years ago with a generous gift from Minot State alumna Mary Quandt. In each of the first two years we were able to assist several students, but our funds were limited, and we were not able to help all students to the degree they needed. I hope you will consider helping fund our student emergency fund or one of the nearly 60 other projects on April 15 — MSU Giving Day 2020. You can find out more about MSU Giving Day 2020 at Give.MinotStateU.edu.

I want to express my gratitude for the outstanding support we continue to receive from our alumni and friends. We are fortunate to have loyal supporters that give so generously to our campus in support of students. We can't thank you enough.

When our alumni and friends come together, students' lives are changed. ▲

THANK YOU!

— Rick Hedberg

Vice President for Advancement | Executive Director, Development Foundation

\$203,310
RAISED

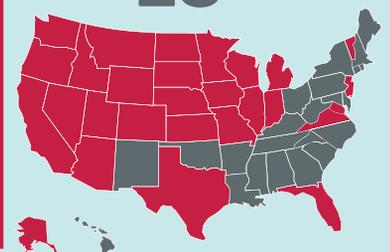
539
DONORS

24
HOURS

54
PROJECTS

760
GIFTS

FROM **28** STATES



Giving Day gifts in action

Minot State University Giving Day unites every member of the MSU community supporting what they love most about MSU. Hundreds of groups and projects have benefitted from this one-day giving challenge over the past two years.

Take a look at a few of the great programs that help create the MSU community and culture we all know and love and have been impacted by Giving Day support in the past.

Summer Theatre

Over \$13,000 was raised in support of a new sound system for the iconic amphitheater.

Women's Hockey

\$11,570 raised and designated toward a new locker room.



Teacher Education and Kinesiology

Gifts allowed education majors to travel to Spain and Morocco experiencing the culture, history, and beauty of these countries and most importantly, learning about teaching in American schools around the world.



Alumni Association

The Minot State University Alumni Association proudly supports MSU students by awarding approximately \$30,000 annually in student scholarships. Nearly \$11,000 was raised empowering generations of MSU alumni to come.



2019-20 Alumni Association Scholarship Recipients

Make your impact on **GIVING DAY**, Wednesday, **April 15, 2020**.
To view this year's 50+ projects visit: **Give.MinotStateU.edu**.



ALUMNI Association

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us for the MSU Alumni Association fourth annual



SATURDAY
APRIL 9
6-8 P.M.

TRIVIA SPECIAL EVENT
GIVEAWAYS



PRIZES

Tickets \$40

Contact: Janna McKechnie at Janna.McKechnie@MinotStateU.edu or call 701-858-3373 or register online at MinotStateU.edu/Alumni.



Fargo Area Alumni and Friends Social

June 11, 2020

6 - 8 P.M.

CROOKED PINT ALE HOUSE

3340 13th Ave. S.
Fargo, ND



Alumni Association

2020 friend-raising

MSU GOLF TOUR

6.9.20
VELVA
Star City
Golf

6.30.20
BOTTINEAU
Country
Club

8.13.20
KENMARE
Country
Club

1955



Lowell Latimer received the Nonprofit Lifetime Achievement Award from the Minot Alliance of Nonprofits.

1965



Thomas Fredericks, partner at Fredericks Peebles & Patterson LLP in Colorado, announced his retirement. Fredericks is one of the nation's

leading experts in the field of Native American law. He is a member of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota. He and his wife, Judy, reside in Louisville, Colorado.

1972

John Hocking was inducted into the North Dakota Firefighter's Hall of Fame. Hocking has 44 years of firefighting experience with the Minot Fire Department.

1973



Ken Kitman retired as president of the Minot Area Community Foundation. Kitman was one of the founding board members and took

over as president in 2000. He assisted in raising more than \$40 million for the organization including \$7 million for recovery efforts from the 2011 flood.

1975

Shawneen (Edwards) Voiles received the Silver Apple Award from the Minot Area Retired Teachers Association. The North Dakota Retired Teachers annually grant the award to an association member who has provided dedicated service to the local chapter. Voiles has been serving as secretary and been a support to the activities of the Minot area chapter. The recognition honored Voiles for her inspirational and energetic membership.

1978

Gary Cederstrom umpired his fourth World Series. Cederstrom, who finished his 26th season as a Major League Baseball umpire, served for the second time as the

crew chief. He previously worked the 2005, 2011, and 2015 Fall Classics.

1981



Shelly (Summers) Wepler was reappointed by the International Joint Commission (IJC) to serve a second term as a U.S. public member

on the International Souris River Board (ISRB). The IJC prevents and resolves disputes between the United States and Canada under the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty and pursues the common good of both countries as an independent and objective advisor to the two governments. The ISRB ensures a more eco-systemic approach to transboundary water issues and compliance for the apportionment of river flows within the Souris River Basin. Wepler is the president of St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation, is serving her second term as a Ward County commissioner, and currently serves as the board chairman for the Ward County Commission and Ward County Social Services.

1984



John Mogren retired as the parish administrator for Prairie Lutheran Parish in Stanley. Mogren served in the United States Navy. In 2014,

he retired from public service as a multi-county social service director for Eddy, Foster, and Wells counties. He and his wife, Devra, make their home in Minot.

1988

Molly (Hoff) Paszek was honored with the Special Education Teacher of the Year award by the North Dakota Council for Exceptional Children. Paszek is a teacher at Minot's Lewis and Clark Elementary and is an adjunct faculty member at Minot State University in the teacher education department.

1989



Tina (Darras) Guthmiller and her K9, Rocky, are certified for human remains detection through the National Narcotic Detector

Association. They are members of Valley Water Rescue in Fargo and deputized under Cass County in North Dakota and Clay County in Minnesota. Their searches have covered the states of North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

1990



Kevin Bohl was promoted to vice president of commercial lending and consumer banking manager at First Western Bank & Trust. Bohl,

a Towner native, graduated from the Dakota School of Banking and Graduate School of Banking in Colorado. He has been involved in the Minot Catholic School Board, Minot State University Beaver Boosters Board, and Minot Recreation Commission Board. He began his career with First Western Bank & Trust in 1997.

Kevin Ternes retired as the Minot city assessor in February. Ternes began his career at the assessor's office in 1991 as an appraiser. He served as city assessor for almost 17 years.

Carla (Rodin) Wahlund was named Class A Coach of the Year for girls cross country in North Dakota. This year's Minot High team won the West Region title and took fourth at state.

1991

Joan (Hanson) Braun was recognized as Erik Ramstad Middle School teacher of the month. Braun is in her 44th year of teaching. Before joining the Ramstad team, she taught at Edmore for three years and at Golden Valley for 17 years. She has taught seventh and eighth graders at Ramstad since she came to Minot. Braun is a member and past president of the North Dakota Council of Teachers of Math and is also a member of the organization Delta Kappa Gamma.

1992



Lana (Peterson) DeCoteau retired as superintendent from Belcourt School District #7 after 40 years in education.



Brenda (Juergens) Foster was elected to the Federal Reserve Board of Minneapolis board of directors effective Jan. 1, 2020. Foster is the past

president of the Independent Community Banks of North Dakota,

1986



Arnie Strebe was selected as the North Dakota Department of Human Services Chief Administrative Officer. Strebe will also serve as the department's chief financial officer and will be responsible for leading agency-wide efforts related to administrative functions. He will supervise the fiscal administration, human resources, and legal advisory divisions.

Strebe previously worked for Starion Bank in Bismarck as the bank's president and chief human resource officer. Prior to that he was the chief talent and business improvement officer at Evergreen Enterprises and Plow and Hearth, a multinational, multi-million-dollar wholesale, retail, and manufacturing business with thousands of employees dispersed across the world.

He also served in multiple roles with Schwan's Corporation, where he led a \$240 million-dollar sales organization and held various positions, including vice president of manufacturing and vice president of human resources.

Strebe, who finished six Ironman competitions and the 2019 Ultra 520k race in Canada, is an active volunteer in the Bismarck area, serving on multiple boards and as race director for the YMCA Youth Triathlon.

He said, "I was attracted to this opportunity because the department's mission matches my values. I believe very strongly in helping others who face challenges to improve their lives."

Strebe is a former Airborne Ranger and served in the U.S. Army as a non-commissioned and commissioned officer. He earned a bachelor's degree in education from Minot State University and a master's degree in education from Jones International University.

chair of Large Community Bank Council for Independent Community Banks of America, a member of the MSU Board of Regents, and a Junior Achievement volunteer.



Stephanie (Gerhardt) Hoffart joined First Western Bank & Trust as the assistant corporate secretary and special projects manager. Hoffart currently serves as a member of the Xcel Energy North Dakota Advisory Board, was a member of the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee, and is an honorary commander at the Minot Air Force Base.

1993



Sabrina (Grove) Herrmann was promoted to marketing specialist and community relations officer at First Western Bank & Trust. Herrmann, a Minot native, is involved in a variety of organizations in the Minot community including Minot Chamber Ambassadors, Minot Optometrist, and the MSU Alumni Association Board. She has been with First Western Bank & Trust since 2014.



Jason Olson retired as chief of police after more than 31 years of service with the Minot Police Department.

1995



Niki (Nygaard) Brose, owner of Flower Central in Minot, was honored with the Employer of the Year award by the North Dakota Council for Exceptional Children.



Tami Jollie-Trottier was appointed by Governor Doug Burgum to serve on the board of directors of the North Dakota Council on the Arts.

Penny (Berg) Smith is the high school business teacher, second and third grade math teacher, and speech and FBLA advisor at Strasburg Public School. Smith served as a substitute teacher for SPS last year and previously worked as a

youth minister in Bismarck and then an outreach coordinator for Childcare Aware of North Dakota for eight years. She also worked for Bismarck Public Schools in the special education unit. Penny and her husband, Doug, have three children.



Michelle Thomas-Langan was selected to be the superintendent of Belcourt School District #7. Thomas-Langan received her Master's in Educational Leadership from the University of North Dakota and her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Mary. She previously was the principal of Dunseith Indian Day School.

1999



Chad Fenner was elected to a one-year term on the board of directors of the Technology Council of North Dakota (TechND). TechND has spent two decades advocating for a positive business climate for technology companies, addressing tech workforce needs, encouraging infrastructure development, and providing knowledge sharing opportunities for its membership.

Vonda Schmidt is the music teacher for all classes at Bowbells School. She and her husband, Craig, have two grown children and several grandchildren.



Dean Winczewski, Minot High School's head boys basketball coach, was named a National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Basketball Coach of the Year finalist.

2000

Jaimie (Jundt) Brunner, Bishop Ryan Catholic School, received the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Eagle Award in October. MACC sponsors the program to recognize Minot workers who exhibit superior customer service.



Jennifer Becker is the student loan leader of processing at the Bank of North Dakota. Becker previously worked at VOYA Financial in

operations business development and as a strategic specialist.

2001



Paul Brunson was named WinCraft Rookie of the Year for 2019. WinCraft is the largest domestic manufacturer of licensed hard goods in the United States. Brunson joined the WinCraft Collegiate Sales team in February and handles the licensed merchandise sales for collegiate departments and college bookstores at universities in Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. He lives in Winona, Minnesota with his wife, Melanie (former assistant AD for compliance at MSU), who is the associate athletic director/senior woman administrator at Winona State University, and their three children, daughter Millie (5) and twin boys Cade and Graham (4).

2002

Kara (Johnson) Maclver was honored with the General Education Teacher of the Year award by the North Dakota Council for Exceptional Children. Maclver is a first-grade teacher at Longfellow School in Minot.



Perry Olson was named one of the 40 under 40 top business professionals by Prairie Business magazine. Olson has been with First International Bank & Trust for five years working as a business development specialist. He also serves as a Minot Park Board commissioner, is a member of the Minot Area Community Foundation Board of Directors, and as a director for the Souris Valley United Way. He and his wife, Melissa (Miller '04), live in Minot with their three children.

2003



Travis Titus was named offensive coordinator for the Concordia football team. Titus moved to Presentation College after serving on the staff at the University of Jamestown where he was the associate head coach, recruiting coordinator, and coached the quarterbacks and running backs.



Mark Waldera joined Family HealthCare in Fargo as the director of operations. In his role, Waldera will work with all members of the team in optimizing operational performance and clinical workflows while expanding strategic efforts around patient experience and satisfaction. Mark has over 30 years of clinical and operational experience within several healthcare systems in North Dakota.

2004



Adam Filipek received his doctoral degree in February 2019.



Jordan Keith was named the Young Optometrist of the Year by the Minnesota Optometric Association (MOA). Keith practices at Eye Care Centers Minnesota, with locations in Maple Grove, Fridley, and Maplewood. Keith has spent time as a professor at the Illinois College of Optometry prior to joining the Eye Care Centers practice. Currently, he is an active member of the MOA and is the chairperson of the MOA Education Committee. He received his Doctor of Optometry degree from the Pacific University College of Optometry. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry.



Veronica (Cavallo) Pinnick was inducted into the MSU Academic Hall of Fame. Pinnick is currently an integration and test manager at NASA Goddard Space Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

2006



Rick Gelloff was promoted to controller for Starion Bank. Gelloff joined Starion in 2013 as a credit analyst. He also served in the roles of business banking officer and special assets officer prior to being promoted to financial reporting manager/vice president in May 2018. He is a certified public accountant and a member of the Bismarck School Board, currently serving as its president.



Kent Kirkhammer was named one of the 40 under 40 top business professionals by Prairie Business magazine. Kirkhammer is president and CEO of NewKota Services & Rentals, an oilfield service company based in Minot. He began his career in the oil industry in 1999 and started NewKota in 2011. He is active in the Minot community serving on various boards including the MSU Board of Regents, MSU Development Foundation, Minot Y's Men, Minot Rotary, Chair of the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Energy Committee, and Minot Country Club Board. He and his wife, Chelsea (Peterson '06), have three children.

2007

Alesha (Morken) Oster is the student facilitator at Ray Public School. Oster previously worked at Northwest Human Service Center.



Brigitte (Freschette) Greywater was named the head volleyball coach at Valley City State in January. Greywater previously was the

head volleyball coach at Lake Region State College in Devils Lake for eight seasons.



Britni (DesLauriers) Schmalz is completing a graduate degree credential in school counseling at the University of North Dakota. Schmalz has

a master's degree in elementary education. She was a sixth-grade teacher for 10 years and is currently an elementary school counselor in the Minot Public School system. She serves on the board of the Magic City Discovery Center.

2008

Trent Sherven is the high school principal at Max High School.

2009

Ann (Lalim) Gustafson was promoted to deposit operations supervisor for BNC National Bank in Stanley. Gustafson has over 10 years of banking experience. She and her husband, Phil, have two boys.

2010



Jodi Johnson is the behavioral health interdisciplinary program manager at Veterans Affairs Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center & Clinics (VA SORCC) in White City, Oregon. Johnson resides in Medford.

Tonya (Stuart) Melland is teaching digital photography, graphic design, and video communications at Fargo South High School. Melland also travels to Discovery Middle School and teaches a career exploration class.

Gloria (Volk) Odden is the superintendent, school counselor, and cross country and track & field coach at Strasburg Public School. Odden was hired in 2016 as the job share preschool teacher and counselor and in 2017, she took on the principal duties. Previously, Odden had been a K-6 school counselor at Carrington Public School and prior to that served as the director of medical social services for the Heart of America Medical Center in Rugby. Gloria and her husband, Josh, have two sons.

2011

Angela Hagen-Henry is the K-2 special education teacher for Bottineau Public School. Hagen-Henry worked at Minot Infant Development for three years, was a stay-at-home mom for one year, was the K-12 special education teacher in Newburg, and spent one year as the K-12 special education teacher in Westhope. She has taught at Dakota Collage at Bottineau online and on campus and more recently was employed by Peace Garden Special Education as an early childhood special education teacher working with children ages 3-5 in St. John, Rolla, Rolette, Wolford, and Dunseith.

Karmen Kupper, a Killdeer native, was officially sworn in as an officer with the Dickinson Police Department. Kupper was previously employed with the Abilene Police Department in Kansas for eight years, a service that included three years of patrol and five years with an investigation's unit.



Christy (Davenport) Potts was one of 32 individuals selected nationwide to participate in the National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities Leadership Institute. Potts started her career supporting people with disabilities in 2009. She joined LISTEN, Inc. as executive director in 2018. LISTEN is a nonprofit organization in Grand Forks with a successful record of making a difference for people with disabilities and their loved ones.

2012

Andre Boucher was promoted to underwriter II with EMC Insurance Companies of Bismarck. He joined EMC in 2017. Prior to EMC, he worked in banking for three years.

Kaitie (Nelson) Fluhrer is teaching third through sixth grade math and social studies in Newburg. Fluhrer has several years in the education field. She student taught in Newburg for her elementary education degree and finished in Bottineau for her physical education degree. After student teaching, she took a long-term maternity leave position at Westhope Elementary and then taught second grade for four years.

2013



Terry (TJ) Wald was promoted to account director, supply operations, at SpotXchange Digital Video Advertising Co. in Westminster, Colorado.

2014

Taylor (Owan) Kippen is the tax director for Bottineau County. Kippen previously taught preschool for one year and then accepted a position with the Newburg United School District working in elementary education. She and her husband, Jordan, have one son.

2015



KateLynn Albers was promoted from senior associate to manager for Brady Martz & Associates in Minot. Albers, a Hazen native, interned and began working full time with Brady Martz in 2015. She is a CPA who works in audit and tax.

Sutton Bourquin is the store manager for Minot Valvoline Instant Oil Change. Bourquin started with Tires Plus as a part-time salesperson in his freshman year at Minot State. In July 2013, he transferred to the Valvoline Instant Oil Change side of the business. He entered the manager-in-training program in 2015. Bourquin participates in softball and bowling. He and his wife, Kaylee, have a son, Avery, and dog, Max.



Michael Montonye was promoted from senior associate to manager for Brady Martz & Associates in Minot. Montonye is from Rugby and has

been working with Brady Martz since 2015. His areas of emphasis are primarily auditing of financial institutions, insurance companies, construction, agribusiness, and partnership income tax. He previously served 12 years as a medic in the North Dakota Army National Guard prior to and concurrently with his employment with Brady Martz.

Kersten (Brown) Pelton is a certified lease and finance professional. The CLFP designation is the pre-eminent credential for equipment leasing and financing professionals throughout the world who have demonstrated competency through testing of knowledge, continuing education, and a commitment to their business practices and dedication to the industry. Pelton is the lead documentation administrator at Western Equipment Finance. She and her husband reside in Devils Lake.



Andrea Purselglove was promoted from senior associate to manager for Brady Martz & Associates in Minot. Purselglove started her career with

Brady Martz in 2015 and became a CPA in 2017. She specializes in not-for-profit accounting, auditing, and tax exempt status recognition.

2016

Matthew Goettle teaches choir at Dickinson High School. Goettle previously taught for two years for the North Shore School District as a K-12 music, band, and choir teacher and then taught 15 years in Scobey, Montana, as a grades 5-12 band and 7-12 choir teacher. He and his wife, Jennifer, have seven children.



Erica (Ziegler) Hilde fulfilled her dream of opening Absolute Style Boutique in Moorhead and online. The boutique carries women's clothing and accessories in sizes small to 3X for women of all ages.



Taylor O'Shea is the physical education teacher for grades K-12 at Powers Lake School. This is O'Shea's first teaching position. He student taught at John Hoeven Elementary and Magic City Campus in Minot.



Erica Reeve joined the law firm McGee, Hankla & Backes, P.C. in Minot. Reeve's practice will specialize in corporate law, business transactions, and property law. She graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Law in 2019 and is a member of the North Dakota Bar.

2017

Katy Drader is the social science teacher for Newburg United School District. Drader previously was a long-term substitute teacher for the district.

Megan (Odegard) Hansen joined the North Dakota Safety Council as an accounting manager. Hansen has more than five years of accounting experience.

Brekka Wolf is currently assisting with the STEM program at Powers Lake School. She is also involved with the kids' club at a local church in Powers Lake.

2019



Molly Flagstad was promoted to financial services specialist at United Community Bank in Minot.



Dustin Foster is an audit associate with Eide Bailly LLP in Bismarck.

Breanna Hill joined the staff at Powers Lake School as the K-6 special education teacher. This is Hill's first teaching position. She student taught in Stanley.



Kehaulani Matsumoto is the owner of Aloha Pet Services in Minot. Matsumoto provides dog training consisting of home visits to train the dog in the environment where they would spend most of their time. She also offers dog sitting. Dogs are able to stay from a day to a week to a month.

Attended

Scott Collins was inducted into the North Dakota Officials Association's 2019-20 Hall of Fame. Collins worked seven NDHSAA baseball state tournaments, 24 regional baseball tournaments, one NDHSAA Class B region basketball tournament, and 12 District 12 basketball tournaments. He also officiated 10 legion baseball tournaments, seven legion baseball regional tournaments, two Babe

Ruth World Series baseball tournaments, and 10 NAIA conference and regional tournaments. Collins is engaged to Chelsey Nichols and has three children. He resides in Minot and works for the Minot Park District as the director of recreation/auditorium.



Pat Finken, former CEO and principle shareholder of Odney, Inc., retired on Jan. 1, 2020. His retirement follows the sale of his majority ownership of Odney to a group of employees last March. Since that sale, he served as a senior advisor and consultant to the new Odney management team. Finken joined Odney in 1990 as partner and vice president of account services. In 1996, Finken became president/CEO and principle shareholder.

Attending

Sage Ballantyne is teaching elementary art along with being a paraeducator at Westhope Public School.

Friend



Rick Beall was named one of the 40 under 40 top business professionals by Prairie Business magazine. Beall is the fourth generation to work for their family-owned bank, Peoples State Bank of Velva. He is currently president/CEO and has been with the bank for over 18 years. He has served as past chairman of the Independent Community Banks of North Dakota and currently sits on national committees for Independent Community Bankers of America. He and his

wife, Ashley, have three children and reside in Minot.



Roscoe Streyle was promoted to senior vice president for United Community Bank. Streyle has been employed with UCB for over 20 years, most recently as chief information officer. In this new position, he has taken on an expanded leadership role within the bank and provides a focus on bank management, business development, and commercial lending.



Kim (Christianson) Tiedman, Minot State University nursing instructor, received the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Eagle Award in January. MACC sponsors the program to recognize Minot workers who exhibit superior customer service.

Barb (Varberg) Solberg was named to the Humanities North Dakota board of directors for the Minot area. Solberg earned her bachelor and master's degrees from the University of North Dakota and taught humanities in the public schools and at Minot State. In the mid-1990s, she left the classroom for work as the instructional designer and faculty developer for online learning at MSU. She subsequently became an online learning consultant with two online learning software companies.

The following MSU alumni graduated from the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce's 2019 Community Leadership Institute:

Katie (Olson) Holmgren ('10), SRT Communications, Inc.
Jordan Kelly ('10), SRT Communications, Inc.
Shane Haug ('11), Minot Police Department

Sydney Kalvick ('15), First International Bank & Trust
Jocelyn Walz ('16), Town & Country Credit Union
Jesse Goertzen ('17), Peoples State Bank of Velva

Minot State University's 106th Commencement Ceremony

Friday, May 15, 2020 ▶ 10 A.M. ▶ Minot State Dome



We invite family and friends unable to attend the ceremony to watch the ceremony via Minot State's homepage. To view photos, go to social media and search for **#MinotStategrad20**.



In memory

It is with honor we dedicate this section to recognize alumni and friends who have passed away from approximately September 2019 through January 2020 or as submitted.

Graduates

'36 Tuttle (Gordon), Donalda; Woodinville, Wash.
'39 Nelson (Rom), Vera; Towner
'40 Kelly (Hall), Vivian; Larimore
'41 Christopher (Pederson), Mildred; Chandler, Ariz.
'42 Mathieu (Riek), Elizabeth; Sidney, Mont.
'44 Johnson (Breslin), Sara; Saint Paul, Minn.
'46 Cullen (Swedlund), Joyce; Minneapolis, Minn.
'46 Lemieux (Schiff), Viola; Billings, Mont.
'47 Lohse (Satermo), Eunice; Minot
'50 Beitzel, Richard; Bemidji, Minn.
'54 Kavli (Klingenberg), Carol; Grand Forks
'54 Smith, James; Albuquerque, N.M.
'54 Urness (Richardson), Donna; Waxhaw, N.C.
'54 Westin (Trulson), Kaye; Bismarck
'55 Dunlop (Leraas), Janet; Billings, Mont.
'55 Sandberg, Maynard; Minot
'57 Breslin, Isabel; Saint Paul, Minn.
'57 Walker (Mar), Alma; Henderson, Nev.
'58 Hansen (Anderson), Carol; Garrison
'58 Miller (Milbrath), Marlys; Livermore, Calif.
'58 Smith (Wald), Patricia; Pullman, Wash.
'58 Sundby (Brown), Carol; Turtle Lake
'59 Anklam (Brennan), Kathleen; Rollette
'59 Kottsick, Quentin; Onamia, Minn.
'59 Jore, Clarence; Watford City
'59 Oliver (Yager), Lauretta; Vacaville, Calif.
'60 Kriese (Feist), Phyllis; Lander, Wyo.
'61 Kinney, Clyde; Punta Gorda, Fla.
'61 Ostendorf (Lawson), Donna; Long Prairie, Minn.
'61 Peterson, Donald; Fargo
'61 Pitts (Heupel), Marlene; Lakeland, Fla.
'63 Batema, Lynn; Yorba Linda, Calif.
'63 Nelson (Ohm), Marianne; Montreal, Quebec
'64 Knorr (Odegaard), Cheri; Coleharbor
'64 Olson, David; Spanaway, Wash.
'64 Thune, Gary; Fargo
'65 Stevick, Terry; Minot
'66 Klusman, Delores; Fargo
'66 Larsen (Coffin), Eva; Salem, Ore.
'66 Myers (Skinner), Carol; Sioux Falls, S.D.
'67 Carlson (Lovdahl), Yvonne; Perham, Minn.
'67 Kunka, Joseph; Sheridan, Wyo.
'67 Peterson (Stavert), Helen; Rolla
'68 Abe, Thomas; New Town
'68 Hiltz, Dennis; Barrett, Minn.
'68 Nordmark, Paul; Grand Forks
'69 Knight, Loretta; Bismarck
'69 Qvale, Gerald; Minot
'69 Sande (Norton), Sandra; Bismarck
'69 Van Sickle (Hermann), Dorothy; Bismarck
'70 Bergstad, Harry; Voltaire
'70 Kautzman (Harder), Jayne; Ellendale
'70 Norby, Randy; Rolette
'70 Rockeman (Scharbow), Elvina; Minot
'70 Smith, Douglas; Belfair, Wash.
'70 Walters (Mark), Kathleen; Kalispell, Mont.
'71 Hunt (Pantasari), Anna; Cando
'71 Strom (Benson), Patricia; Minot
'72 Larson (Weber), Joan; Kenmare

'72 Parkinson, Dennis; Prior Lake, Minn.
'72 Whims (Johnson), Joette; San Bernardino, Calif.
'73 Redington, George; Ellinwood, Kan.
'74 Hatchard (Prymus), Janis; New Richmond, Wis.
'74 Oakland (Barber), Joanne; Rollette
'74 Selinger, James; Brandon, Manitoba
'75 Jones (McCombs), Lois; Minot
'77 Testa, John; Kirkland, Wash.
'78 Heinle (Chaput), Sonia; Buchanan
'78 Wolf, Jeffrey; Olathe, Kan.
'79 Hoverson, Lauren; Wichita, Kan.
'79 Kerbaugh (Berg), JoAnn; Kenmare
'81 Kinney, Father Leo; Minot
'81 Sand (Olson), Kerstin; Minot
'84 Simmons, Lois; Fargo
'86 Stemen, Jeffrey; Fort Worth, Texas
'86 Tessman, Myron; Burlington
'89 YoungBear, Magdaline; Parshall
'91 Wood, Kenton; Minot
'92 Carlsrud (Larson), Shonnie; Gary, Minn.
'92 Hedges (Romstad), Ardythe; Antelope, Mont.
'92 Kristjanson, Janis; Fargo
'92 Dahl (Shaan), Therese "Terrie"; Minot
'92 Haagenson (Collins), Elva; Pahrump, Nev.
'92 Hill (Ramsdell), Sheryl; Minot
'92 Volney, Bruce; Casper, Wyo.
'94 Sawyer, Jason; Bismarck
'94 Schroeder, Virgil; Dunseith
'96 Martin, Alberta; Jamestown
'98 Groce, Michael; Bismarck

Attended

Andresen, Jerry; Yakima, Wash.
Ankrum (Schmidt), Evelyn; Mesa, Ariz.
Baisch, Bruce; Hazen
Bakken (Schultz), Gereldene; Fargo
Bateman (Nelson), Laura; Midland City, Ala.
Berg, LaVerne; Logan
Charlebois, Joan; Denver, Colo.
Clausnitzer, Helmuth; Mandan
Cline (Christman), Kathryn; Wilton
Cole (Liesener), Harlene; Williston
Cooper (Hanson), Janice; Langdon
Crawford, Charlie; McMinnville, Ore.
Ehlert (Larson), Eileen; Renton, Wash.
Fors, Kenneth; Redding, Calif.
Frey (Schwaderer), LaVerda; Bismarck
Genre (Dugan), Lucille; Devils Lake
Helgerson, Margo; Westhope
Hendrickson, Deloris; New Orleans, La.
Hennessy, Leo; Minot
Herda (Unterseher), Yvonne; Devils Lake
Hingst (Johnson), Darlene; Bismarck
Hostbjor (Walleen), Mildred; Bowbells
Huetti, LuVerne; Minot
Johnson, Corey; Fargo
Johnson (Bitter), Norma; Minot
Joraanstad, James; Whitefish, Mont.
Jundt, Julie; Minot
Kastner (Knutdson), Phyllis; Garrison

Kenny, Don; Auburn, Calif.
Kerbaugh (Berg), JoAnn; Minot
Kirby (Ganje), Diane; Columbia, Mo.
Knutson (Sjoberg), Winnifred; New Rockford
Kvale (Wehrman), Sylvia; Minot
Lande (Kahler), Cecelia; Saginaw, Mich.
Meyer (Tryhus), Shirley; Scottsdale, Ariz.
Moum (Granrud), Geraldine; Dassel, Minn.
Moum, Leland "Lee"; Minot
Nelson, Ron; Minot
Officer (Skogen), Jeanice; Minot
Olsen, Donald; Minot
Olson (Shong), Donna; Minot
Reinke (Larson), Mildred; New Rockford
Ross, James "Jim"; Minot
Rudel (Georgeson), Arlene; Phoenix, Ariz.
Sande (Jessen), Jacqueline; Minot
Sanders (Hegle), Jodi; Jamestown
Schneider, James; Bismarck
Sinnamon, Bruce; Bismarck
Staael, Vicki; Kenmare
Strand, Ardeth; Minot
Stickland, Leonard; Mandan
Ward, DuWayne; Minot
Weninger (Schatz), Helen; Minot
Woodward, John; Surprise, Ariz.

Friends

Bickler (Holmly), Amy; Minot
Ebeling, David; Owatonna, Minn.
Herzer, Marian; Spokane Valley, Wash.
Hill, Michael D.; Minot
Hill (Titus), Linda; Minot
Irwin (Green), Ethel; Surprise, Ariz.
Jorgenson, Jerome; Minot
Klimpel (Peterson), Janice; Minot
Kraft, Wallace; Bismarck
Leinen, James; Williston
Lockrem (Kost), Nancy; Minot
Mattson, Roald; Marco Island, Fla.
Miller (Klebe), Doris; Minot
Mittelberg (Hutchinson), Virginia;
Bridgeman, Mich.
Muhlbradt (Stall), Gayle; Minot
Nelson, Gary; Stanley
Salwey, Edward; Max
Schweiger, C. Robert; Plainfield, Ill.
Scouton, Larry, DDS; Minot
Ulrich (Slagel), LaVonne; Garrison

Faculty and Staff

Dimond, Mark; former faculty in music; Minot
Madhok, Om; retired faculty of science; Saint
Louis Park, Minn.
McKinley (HaeFlinger), Mae; retired staff
emeritus of science; Minot
Schiele (Larsen), Doris; retired classified staff
in residence hall; Minot
Streeper, Joseph; retired professor emeritus
of science; Minot

Look who's NEW!



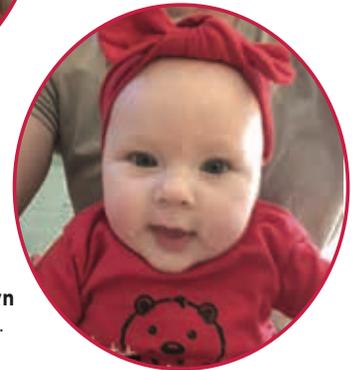
Have you had
an addition to your
family recently?

We want to know! Contact Kate Marshall,
donor relations coordinator, at Kate.Marshall@MinotStateU.edu
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.



Azzarello

Violet Mae entered the world June 1, 2019. She was welcomed by **Tiffany (Dostert) Azzarello '17** and her husband, Vince.



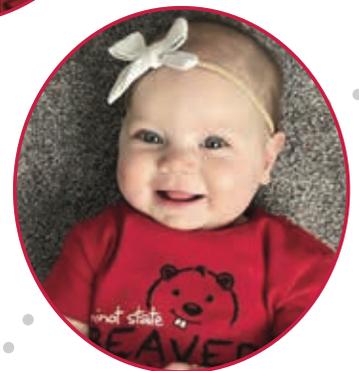
Denne

Clare Mary was born Oct. 3, 2018 to proud parents **John '12** and **Katelyn (Backes) Denne '15**.



Donaldson

Hayes McKinley was born March 8, 2019 to proud parents **Brandy (Payne) Donaldson '18** and her husband, Justin. The family resides in Spring, Texas.



Epps

Avery Grace was born June 3, 2019 to **Keaton Epps '16** and his wife, Lillian. The family resides in Youngsville, North Carolina.



Eraas

Ryan '06 and **Jamie (Slaubaugh) Eraas '06** welcomed Emily Jane into their family on July 12, 2018. She joins big sisters Madison and Harper.



Aller

Maisie Evelyn arrived June 18, 2019 and was welcomed by **Kelsey (Barney) Aller '12** and her husband, Zach.



Falkenberg

Gavin entered the world on June 14, 2019 and was welcomed by **Mitchell '14** and **Stephanie (Rasmussen) Falkenberg '13**.



Fornshell

Katelyn (Larson) Fornshell '17 and her husband, **Alex (attended 2011-2013)**, welcomed **Burke Lee** on March 10, 2019.



Marshall

Darrell Marshall '04 and his wife, **Ana**, had **Leo James** on Dec. 19, 2018.



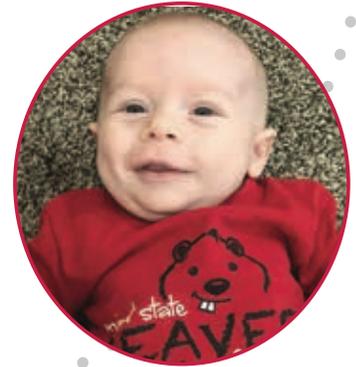
Hauf

Anthony Hauf '15 and his wife, **Heidi**, welcomed **Ira** on Dec. 19, 2018.



Melland

Harrison Stuart joined the Melland family on July 19, 2019. Proud parents are **Tonya (Stuart) Melland '10** and her husband, **Eric**.



Phillips

Preston '10 and **Jessica (Demory) Phillips '14** proudly welcomed **Payson Scott** Oct. 21, 2019.



Herbel

Proud parents **Eric '13** and **Alecia (Power) Herbel '14** welcomed **Jerzey** July 31, 2019. She joins big sister **Henley** born July 31, 2018.



Rudd

JD Rudd '05 and his wife, **Alyson**, welcomed baby **Charlotte** Nov. 8, 2019. The family resides in **Racine, Wisconsin**.



Hernandez

Proud parents **Marion '13** and **Brittany (Diegel) Hernandez '13/'15** welcomed a son, **Wynn Marion**, March 27, 2019. He joins big sister **Leni**.

Stompro

Mertie Stompro '92 and his wife, **Anna**, had **Sawyer Annasen** on Sept. 27, 2018. The family resides in **Seal Beach, California**.



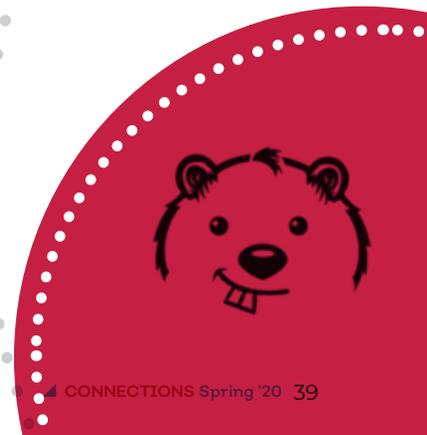
Korf

Rosie Marie was born Oct. 17, 2019 to proud parents **Thomas '15** and **Liva (Rovig) Korf '15**. The family resides in **Maple Grove, Minnesota**.



Tucci

Nichole (Warren) Tucci '10 and her husband, **James**, welcomed son **Luca** July 15, 2019. He joins big brother, **Dante**.





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MY SISTER AND I, ALONG WITH OUR FAMILIES, wanted to do something that honors our parents and continues to help others. Our dad (Wally) was a faculty member at Minot State for years, and our mom (Cookie) was a long-time member of the Minot State Board of Regents. Creating a scholarship endowment that helps students further their education in the legal field seemed appropriate with our dad being a lawyer and a judge.

Mom and dad have always been about helping youth in the community and creating the Judge Wallace D. Berning Scholarship Endowment at Minot State University is a perfect fit — recognition, legacy, community, and helping youth in perpetuity.

GO BEAVERS!

Todd and Carolyn Berning
Shaun (Berning) and Richard Gleason

