

Connections

Alumni Association and
Development Foundation

Fall 2021

SHINING SUPPORT

Massine continues to
make a difference

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ADDITIONAL PHOTO CREDITS:

- ON THE COVER: Minot State alumnus
Mike Massine continues to gravitate to challenging project work, making a difference in his community. Photo by Jess Krueger, Jess Krueger Photography.
- Shining support: Massine continues to make a difference, p. 4, 7-8 photos by Jess Krueger, Jess Krueger Photography. Mike Massine and Gary Cederstrom photo at Coors Field, p. 8, furnished by Mike Massine.
- Belanger behind the camera, p. 10-11 photos furnished by Brian Belanger.
- Field of dreams, p. 4 and 12 photo courtesy of Chris Price.
- Impact extends beyond business, p. 16-17 photo furnished by McKenna Gudmunson.
- Passion turned reality, p. 4 photo by Madison Rahhl; p.18-19 photos by Jennifer Augustine.
- Brandt influences students on and off the court, p. 20-21 photos furnished by Samantha Brandt.

Connections is published two times a year by the Minot State University Alumni Association and Development Foundation. Send comments, articles, or photos to:
Connections
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500 University Ave. West
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Third class postage paid at Fargo, ND 58101.

Congratulations outstanding educators

Bret Dockter '97 was named NORTH DAKOTA'S 2022 TEACHER OF THE YEAR. Dockter has served his community as an educator for the past 23 years and has taught sixth grade at B.M. Hanson Elementary in Harvey for the past 11 years. This award marks the third straight year a Minot State alumni has earned the state's top award.



Left to right: Kirsten (Schafer) Baesler '01, North Dakota State school superintendent; Bret Dockter, sixth-grade teacher at B.M. Hanson Elementary; and Gov. Doug Burgum at the North Dakota Capitol Building.

Angie (Holen) Dangel '01 received the MINOT PUBLIC SCHOOLS TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD. Dangel teaches second grade at Longfellow Elementary.



Left to right: Jeni (Zahn) Arlien '95, assistant principal, Longfellow Elementary School; Janna (Olson) McKechnie '14, director of MSU Alumni Association and annual giving; Angie Dangel; and Rick Hedberg '89, executive director, MSU Development Foundation.

Kendo Carlson '00 was awarded the NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL AWARD by the North Dakota Association of Elementary School Principals. Carlson has been at Washington Elementary in Minot for the last nine years.



Left to right: Steven Shirley, president, Minot State University; Kendo Carlson; Janna (Olson) McKechnie '14, director of MSU Alumni Association and annual giving; and Rick Hedberg '89, executive director, MSU Development Foundation.

President's Message

Greetings from the Minot State campus. Like the rest of the planet, we have experienced some unique times at MSU during the past 20 months with COVID-19. It has certainly been a welcome change this fall having a more typical campus experience compared to last year. Whereas a year ago many of our classes were being held in an online or hybrid format and many student activities were canceled, this fall has returned many of the face-to-face experiences our students, faculty, and staff enjoy.

Two significant aspects of the fall semester include the initial weeks of the term when students are returning to campus (and new students are here for the first time), as well as the many events comprising Homecoming. On both counts, we have had great success: classes are being held in a traditional format and many extra-curricular activities have been held for students across campus; and, we recently came off a terrific Homecoming full of celebratory activities. Many of these opportunities were completely missed last year in the height of COVID-19, and so getting back to a more traditional fall has been a welcome return. My thanks to MSU's faculty and staff for all their initiatives ensuring campus was fully prepared to resume a normal schedule this fall.



Beyond the campus environment, 2021 has also looked and felt like a more normal year compared to 2020 with many of our external events. In this issue of Connections, you will see a photo collage from several alumni socials held this summer — many of these events were canceled or altered last year. We were so pleased to host these activities again and are now preparing for additional socials during fall and winter in Minneapolis, Florida, and Arizona. This is another welcome sign heading toward 2022!

This issue highlights several MSU alumni and the diverse careers they are leading. You will also find the 2021 class of Golden Award recipients featured, including Les Anderson, Dr. Michael LeBeau, Kevin Neuharth, and Arnie Strebe along with Evan Meiers as the Young Alumni awardee. These are the Alumni Association's most prestigious recognitions, and we enjoyed celebrating each of them, along with the five individuals selected in 2020, during our annual Homecoming Golden Awards banquet. At Homecoming, we also inducted MSU's newest Athletic Hall of Famers, Jarret Baker, Carly Boag, and Robin (Wheeler) Filkowski, along with last year's inductees, and honored MSU's newest Academic Hall of Famers — Dr. Tim Henry and Dr. Becky Becker. While he was on campus, Dr. Henry also presented to our Board of Regents during their semi-annual fall meeting.

Thank you for continuing to support Minot State University and reading this issue of Connections. Best wishes for a terrific holiday season and New Year, and as always ... **GO BEAVERS!**

**Steven W. Shirley, Ph.D.,
President**

Inside this issue



Be seen. Be heard. Be inspired.



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Minot State awards honorary degree

MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY President Dr. Steven Shirley presented Milton Rolle with an honorary Bachelor of General Studies degree this summer. Rolle has been involved in real estate and development activities for over 50 years. He and his wife Bonnie, a 1971 Minot State graduate, have been active in Minot for decades supporting the MSU Alumni Association, the North Dakota State Fair, Norsk Hostfest, and the Minot Air Force Base. ■

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A person's hands are shown typing on a silver laptop. The laptop is on a dark, reflective surface. In the background, there are office chairs, a desk, and a window with a view of greenery. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a modern office environment.

Shining support

Massine continues
to make
a difference



— by Michael Linnell

MIKE MASSINE

believes some of his success can be attributed to being in the right place, at the right time.

But the results of his career work can also be attributed to a strong desire to win, whether on the ball field, executing a business merger, launching a new service, or enabling a non-profit to get through difficult challenges.

Massine '80 has always gravitated to challenging project work, rather than just executing a role or managing a routine — situations where he could shine — that helped him retire and reload at the young age of 44.

“So many students focus on attaining a particular degree, certification, or set of skills,” he said. “But in what work situation will they really shine? What contribution do you expect to make and how? For me, it is about what really needed to be accomplished as well as the people you work with and work for. Relationships and support are key, as is your role on a team.

“I’m more motivated and perform better when the challenge is greater.”

Calculated risk-taking in his career started early for Massine as he ventured north to the University of Saskatchewan to earn a Master of Business Administration in 1985. Then, in Salt Lake City, he led the effort



“... I was always attracted to opportunities to make significant improvements to the status quo.”

for students with hearing loss, working in conjunction with Auditory Sciences and Supporting Success for Children with Hearing Loss, online companies.

“These two organizations are entirely focused on helping disabled individuals excel, and working with them has been very rewarding to me,” Massine said.

He continues to use those lessons, his wealth of experience, and his faith to succeed in each of his endeavors.

“When an individual deals with some additional motivating factors — whether it’s their personal interest, their personal wiring, relationships, or financial rewards — they can accomplish so much more than in roles where performance is thwarted by organizational culture or management style,” he said. “Just like in team sports, chemistry is everything.”

Team sports is something he should know, with a 40-plus year career in men’s fastpitch softball leading to winning three ISC Legends world championships and a second-place finish in 2021.

Massine credits lessons learned at Minot State, in and out of the classroom, in building his business foundation.

“It was probably more out-of-the classroom than in,” he said. “Working full-time limited my time available to apply toward my classes. I had no idea at that time in my life what I wanted to pursue, but I was always attracted to opportunities to make significant improvements to the status quo.” ■

to take a wholesale club to where no one in the industry had gone before — integrating purchasing, inventory management, and front-end checkout using barcode scanning. This drew enormous attention from several competitors and an eventual merger with Sam’s Club as well as a move to Colorado.

Next, Massine took on another challenging project to help restructure business processes and systems for the Robinson Brick Company to produce the custom brick used to build Coors Field in Denver, home of the Colorado Rockies.

In 1996, Massine joined forces with Charlie Ergen and Jim DeFranco, the founders of EchoStar. He served as IT director, as well as director of business planning and development to set up a national network of dealers and installation services to launch the Dish Network.

“I knew nothing about EchoStar and they knew nothing about me, but I had a reputation of some-

one who didn’t seek the routine and had a successful track record in business process restructuring,” he said. “It was my background in leveraging new technologies to create



Gary Cederstrom '78, left, and Mike Massine in front of Coors Field in Denver, Colorado.

strategic advantages that allowed me to fit in immediately. I truly enjoyed this wild adventure of building something new.”

Massine continues to use his project-oriented approach to motivate him today. His choices now, however, are philanthropic.

“The risk was worth the reward with several strategic projects. But age 44 is way too early to enter retirement, so I reloaded,” he said. “The challenge was to find fulfilling work versus just volunteering.”

In 2009, he met Mary Lou Fenton while she was aiding young adults with Down syndrome at Wellspring Community in Castle Rock, Colorado. He helped expand their activities from small events to a full range of enrichment programs serving over 70 specially-enabled young adults with education, health, recreation, and business opportunities.

He then took on a challenge with his wife, the late Donna (White) '80/'81/'83, to provide real-time captioning in the classroom

WHERE are they NOW

by Amanda Duchsherer

Take a walk on Minot State's grounds and there's a chance you will run into Selmer and Carol Moen.

"When we're in town during the winter, we make it a point to take a daily walk and quite often we'll do that on campus," the emeritus mathematics and computer science professor said. "The sidewalks are always cleared, campus is beautiful, and we see folks and can have a quick, hey, how are you doing? conversation."

The Rugby native first arrived at MSU in 1978 when computer science was on the cusp of innovation.

"This was a time when North Dakota, and Minot State in particular, were on the front end of the computing revolution," he said. "I saw that as an opportunity and that's where my interests went. It was intriguing, it was fun, and it fit in well with my interest in mathematics."

Moen's interests also include a lifelong appreciation of music. During his tenure at Minot State, that included playing mandolin and dobro for the better part of two decades in a local bluegrass band, Crossroads and Family Ties.

"The mandolin still comes out of the case regularly, and I do have a harpsichord at home and enjoy playing that," he said.

This winter will also mark Moen's 38th season playing the organ at Cornerstone Presbyterian Church.

The Moens split their time between Minot and a farmstead located near Roseau, Minnesota, where their daily exercise takes on another form in snowy weather.

"We spend a little time cross-country skiing. We have some woods in the pasture with trails that are mowed down," he said. "If we're really ambitious, we can do 8k in a day."

The couple began splitting their time between locations shortly following Moen's retirement — and after a two-month vacation in Norway visiting family and friends — in order to help Carol's father.

"He was about 95 at that point so we made some trips

back and forth to see to his needs," Moen said. "And we sort of morphed into being responsible for the farm and the buildings."

With that charge came the added experience of taking care of their extensive gardens, including their NDSU Extension certified-pollinator plot.

"There's a beekeeper that has hives on our farm and that's created a symbiotic relationship," he said.

Relationships are important to Moen and one of the lasting impacts from his 34-year career at the University.

"It's important to keep in touch and maintain connections with folks like me who spent a lot of time here," he said. "We want to see Minot State keep growing and finding success." ■

SELMER MOEN





BELANGER

behind the camera

by Emily Schmidt

Sometimes life behind the camera brings even more excitement than in front of it.

In the nearly 30 years Brian Belanger, of Calgary, Alberta, has spent as a photojournalist for various news stations around North America, he has experienced some exciting events. Some of the most sensational include the Super Bowl – twice – and flying in a KC-15 plane to film the operator who refuels other planes' engines midair.

While Belanger, himself, doesn't get to fly on a regular basis, he does get to shoot a weekly segment featuring his studio's drone equipment.

"It's called 'Air 4 Adventures,'" he said. "I'll take the drone and use it to show off the beauty of the Northwest. I've hiked into mountain lakes with it to talk to people on the trails. Last week, I did a story where I hiked to the top of this hill to show off a new trail overlooking Lake Coeur d'Alene."

But on the day of the interview, he was headed to shoot a more serious story, one he described as different from anything he had shot before.

"I'll be spending several hours inside the ICU at one of the hospitals here to see how COVID is going," he said. "Today is an important story. I really like those. For 13 years we've been doing this series called 'Wednesday's Child' where we profile kids who need to be adopted and need a forever home. That's a fun part of my job, seeing those stories get on the air."

As the chief photographer at KXLY in Spokane, Washington, Belanger still gets behind the camera almost every day, which he loves. That is about the only regular part of his job, however.

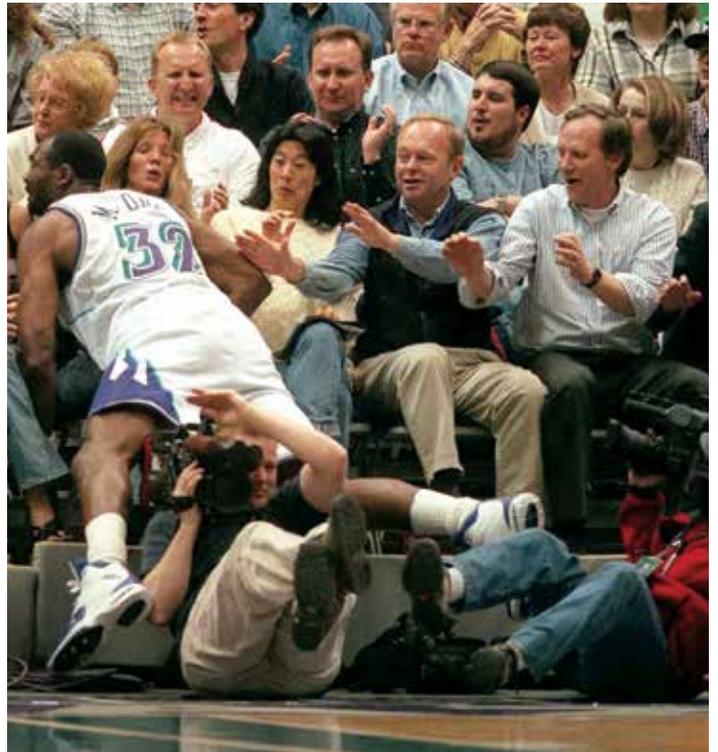
"Every day is something different," he said. "Some days I do office work, checking out equipment and vehicles, and other days I'm working with a reporter for covering stories. It gets me out of the station and around the community."

During his time at the University from '91 to '95, Belanger got to see the Division of Art and Professional Communication grow into what it is today. Even though he lives two time zones away, he still makes it back to Minot almost every year to visit his wife's family and, of course, his past professor Neil Roberts.

"One of the first things I do is I call Neil and tell him, let's get together and you can brag about how great the

department is coming," Belanger said. "When Neil got there my junior year, you could see the ideas turning in his head. We got 'MSU Inside/Out' (the University's student-led TV show) running and on the cable access channel. To see the growth at Minot State, just in general, the athletic department, and all the other facilities, I almost want to go back to school there." ■

"To see the growth at Minot State ... I almost want to go back to school there."



Field of dreams

by Alison McAfee

When the sun set on his family's North Dakota farm, 7-year-old Neil Roberts slow crawled on the radio dial. He knew AM signals grew stronger at night, and he could hear stations from as far away as Yankton, South Dakota. He caught 154 of the Minnesota Twins' 162 games that season.

"I became a hard-core sports fan at a young age. And I knew there was a three-hour window when my dad and brother couldn't listen to country music on the radio!" he said. "I got the pregame, the interviews, the post-game, the scoreboard shows — everything, until they were off the air."

Today, Roberts is a recognized on-air talent throughout the Midwest. He's on the field every summer at TCO Stadium in Eagan, Minnesota, covering the Vikings' preseason on his radio series, "Training Camp Today." And in March, he's roaming Hammond Stadium in Ft. Myers, Florida

reporting on his treasured Twins on "Spring Fever Baseball."

"It's my favorite time of year. The score is zero to zero. Everybody's in first place," Roberts said.

This coverage is part of his Forward Communication, Inc. consulting business, which provides media training, voiceover work, and syndicated radio programs. The shows range from preseason reports on professional sports to outdoor recreation to agriculture.

To Roberts, who has also been an associate professor of professional communication at MSU since 1993, the start of each new semester — like every preseason training — holds promise.

He took a leap of faith his sophomore year in college and with the support of his family and several advisers, Roberts transitioned majors to radio and television broadcasting. His career as a reporter, TV anchor, and producer took off in markets including Fargo and Minot.

"As a professor, I tell students to follow the breadcrumbs in life. Trust them," he said. "And when they do, you can see how quickly these students mature. Once they get traction and start doing the work, people notice."

In addition to teaching hands-on courses in broadcast news writing

and reporting, production, and media announcing, he supervises KMSU Channel 19, the campus TV and radio station. For his work with Forward Communication, Roberts has received a number of Eric Sevareid Awards from the Midwest Broadcast Journalists Association.

"Why not have fun and make money at the same time? That's why people get into our field," Roberts said. "Students are driven to careers they think will be fun. They realize they can do the job well and they see new positions in our field being created as the profession evolves."

When reminiscing about the decision to follow his passion, Roberts has no regrets.

"I really haven't worked a day since I left the farm," he said. "I mean that. It's been fun." ■





FRESHMAN

Sydney Berg

Exercise science and rehabilitation ■ Minot

Sydney is no stranger to Minot State as her mother, Kristi '95/'00, is a professor in the College of Business. She enjoys volunteering at her church, traveling, and golf along with spending time with friends and family, especially at the lake.

Why did you choose Minot State?

As a pre-chiropractic student, I chose the exercise science and rehabilitation program to prepare me for my next step in education. My mom is a professor and an alumna. MSU has always been a part of my life and I'm excited to attend here.

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

I was able to complete four college classes from MSU as a senior in high school. That prepared me for the workload and allows me to be a bit more flexible with my schedule.

What is your favorite quote?

"Don't let yesterday take up too much of today." — Will Rogers

What has been your favorite class?

I am really enjoying my First Year Experience. The relaxing concepts of yoga, getting to dive into a book that teaches you how to become a better learner, anatomy and physiology (A&P) labs, and the energetic side of the dance class.

Who has been your most influential professor?

Aaron Ament, biology. His experiences in the medical field have already been incorporated into the A&P class.

What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

M Life events! College students have so many opportunities beyond the classroom.

What is your most memorable moment at Minot State?

When I was little, I would go with my mom up to her office when she had work to finish and every time I would tell her, "When I grow up, I will go to MSU and have the office right across from you."



SOPHOMORE

Cavanna Andel

Marketing ■ Glenburn

Cavanna has immersed herself in marketing at Minot State, taking classes in pursuit of a degree and working in the campus marketing office. Outside of school, she enjoys spending time watching sports with friends and family, or as she put it, "I enjoy sipping on some water with my friends, watching people throw various sized balls at each other."

Why did you choose Minot State?

MSU was close to home, and I rely on my parents for everything. I have a lot of friends here, so it has been easier to be social.

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

My job in MSU marketing has shown me my passion. It is more enjoyable to go to classes that relate to my major. If it wasn't for my job, I don't think I would be in school.

What is your favorite quote?

"If you're not first, you're last." — Ricky Bobby

What has been your favorite class?

Philosophy 100 with Stewart Kelly. He is an interesting man and I like that there are no wrong answers.

Who has been your most influential professor?

Luther Olson, instructor of mathematics and statistics. He has shown me you can do whatever you put your mind to — like teaching math while also being in a band, which he is doing fabulous at both.

What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

The professors genuinely want to see you succeed and care about you.

What is your most memorable moment at Minot State?

Running through campus at 4 A.M. and seeing the city lights. It was such a surreal feeling.



Alumone from DAY

JUNIOR

Jorge Talamantes Baez

Finance and marketing ■ Obregon Sonora, Mexico

Jorge is currently the Minot State Student Government Association president, serving his second year in the role. While listed as a junior, he plans to graduate in May, finishing off a decorated undergraduate career at MSU. Along with being SGA president, he is in DECA, PBL, Finance Club, and MSU Life — while working at Gate City Bank. He has received multiple awards, including two state DECA awards in 2020 and 2021 and the 2020 DECA Outstanding Service Award.

Why did you choose Minot State?

I knew I would get personal attention at Minot State. The more you are able to talk to your professor, the better the experience and knowledge you're going to get from your college education.

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

The clubs available in the business department help you be acknowledged in your career field, whether it's a conference or just role playing. Clubs like DECA and PBL teach you parts of the job you'll need in the future.

What is your favorite quote?

"It's a good day to learn about finance!" — Jerry Stai, MSU finance professor

Who has been your most influential professor?

It's tough to pick just one, there are so many who have taught me different things, but Dean '97 and David '04/'07 Frantsvog taught me law and real estate and Jerry Stai '75 has taught me the importance of investing.

What is your most memorable moment at Minot State?

Working with everyone on a club that has the same goal as you and the amazing times I've had at M Life events.

SENIOR

Emily Schmidt

English, music minor, honors, French, and sociology concentration ■ Mandan

Emily is extremely involved on campus from clubs (English Club, Equality Club, College Democrats), to peer mentor and tutoring, to concert band and the Minot Symphony Orchestra, to being one of our own, writing for University Communications and Connections. She studied abroad in Australia in 2019, earning a Global Sights Photo Contest award, and has earned an Excellence in Leadership, Student Leadership and Engagement award, and is a Distinguished Student Achievement award winner.

Why did you choose Minot State?

Minot State was an affordable option, a good distance from my hometown, and the music department had a good reputation.

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

Getting to write for the communications office has given me experience in a field I never really had on my radar. I hope to continue in a similar field when I graduate! The music and English faculty have also greatly accommodated me when the curriculum did not exactly fit my niche interests.

What is your favorite quote?

"Long story long." — Michael Linnell. We both tend to take a long time telling stories, and he always says that afterwards.

What has been your favorite class?

By far, my favorite class was Literary Criticism with Sarah Aleshire '04, English professor. It completely changed my relationship with reading and writing, giving me a new perspective about the world and a confidence in my ideas that I didn't have before.

Who has been your most influential professor?

Aleshire. She cares greatly for her students and organizes her classes in a way that makes it easy to understand how and why the material applies to not only our learning but the world outside of college. I could write a whole paper on her, to be honest.





MASTER OF SCIENCE

Geordie McDougall

Management/sports management ■ Lumsden, Saskatchewan

Geordie has been a mainstay in Minot State athletics for the past five years, playing both baseball and football for the Beavers and continuing in his second year as a graduate assistant. He was the Minot State athlete of the week for football in 2019 and helped the Beavers baseball team to the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) regular season championship in 2018.

Why did you choose Minot State?

Minot State gave me the opportunity to get a great education and compete in athletics in one of the best Division II conferences in the NCAA.

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

MSU has provided me with countless resources and opportunities to reach my full academic potential.

What is your favorite quote?

"Yet losing, not afraid to fall, if bravely, we have given all." — George Moriarty

What has been your favorite class?

I've had many that I've enjoyed, but one that stands out to me the most was an American Sign Language class I took during my bachelor's degree.

Who has been your most influential professor?

Terry (Ferebee) Eckmann '81/'82, teacher education and kinesiology chair, because of her uplifting and positive outlook on everything she does.

What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

The amazing academic and athletic facilities. Many people don't realize how great the facilities are until they see them for themselves.

What is your most memorable moment at Minot State?

Winning the regular season NSIC conference championship with the baseball team in 2018 and winning the Battle of the Big Lake trophy with the football team in 2019.



FACULTY

Erin (Zeltinger) Holt

Communication disorders/speech-language pathology ■ Minot

Erin earned both her undergraduate degree (communication disorders '97) and her master's degree (speech-language pathology '98) from Minot State, graduating Summa Cum Laude. Outside of the classroom, with three busy children, she spends time watching figure skating and hockey. She also enjoys golf, skiing, gardening — anything to get her outdoors. That includes the newest addition to the family, Birdie, a Bernedoodle puppy.

Why did you choose Minot State?

It was close to home, and my dad had attended MSU. I was deciding between education of the deaf and communication disorders degrees, and MSU was well-known for both programs.

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

Minot State provided me with the skills to go out into practice as an entry level practitioner. I was told in my externship how impressed they were with Minot State students' clinical skills and preparation. We were told in graduate school to be a "lifelong learner," which has been an important philosophy throughout my career.

What is your favorite quote?

"There are only two days in the year that nothing can be done. One is called yesterday and the other is called tomorrow. So today is the right day to love, believe, do, and mostly, live." — Dalai Lama

What has been your favorite class?

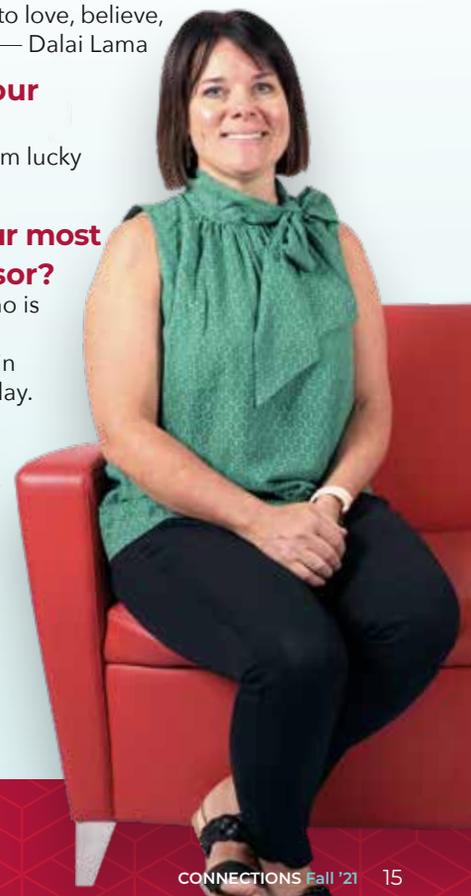
Early intervention. Now I'm lucky enough to teach this!

Who has been your most influential professor?

Leisa Harmon '88/'89, who is now my most influential colleague, Dianne Maupin '71/'72, and Audrey Lunday.

What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

It's a lot of fun here! MSU has such a variety of activities, academic programs, athletics, and opportunities to be engaged. There really is something for everyone.



Impact extends beyond

by Amanda Duchsherer

Downtown Minot has been undergoing a revitalization, and McKenna (Larson) Gudmunson is leading part of that change.

"Minot can have fun things, too," she said. "When traveling, we prioritize local eateries, fun pubs, walkability to attractions and shops — all the things that Minot has but was missing the synergy to really make it a destination. Being one of the many game changers in downtown Minot is a group I'm proud to be a part of. The energy is contagious."

The 2013 business education graduate founded 701 Realty in 2018 with husband Andrew, and the couple has steadily expanded their business holdings since then. Next on the docket is Whiskey Nine, a full bar and restaurant with an emphasis on golf through simulators and a putting green opening Fall 2021.

Gudmunson's impact also extends well beyond business and downtown.

"The cool thing about starting 701 Realty is that we have the power to make it what we want," she said. "We can grow at our own pace, we can provide opportunity for people who might not realize their abilities, and, most importantly, we have a platform to give back to the community through our charitable giving program. We've been able to give over \$25,000 since opening our doors."

Through the giving program, donations have been made to local and national organizations, GoFundMe fundraisers for local individuals and families, and other projects that resonate with their clients.

"Being born and raised in Minot, you develop a sense of pride and ownership over time," she said. "I almost feel a responsibility to be involved and make Minot a better place."

As impressive as her current contributions are to the Magic City, her involvement within the community is not new.

While a student at Minot Public Schools, Gudmunson was heavily involved in activities and extra-curriculars. That drive carried over to her adult life and accelerated when she began working at Ackerman-Estvold.

"Jess (Jessica Ackerman) was 'Miss Minot,' as we liked to say, and really made a big impression on me," she said. "Ackerman-Estvold as a whole was extremely supportive of me getting involved in services clubs, YP (Young Professionals), etc., which is really where it all began for me."

"Networking with other business professionals and using each experience and contact as a springboard to grow was key."

Those interactions have also allowed her to create positive growth by serving on the Minot State alumni board.

"It's really cool to see another side of the University. As a student, you see the student life, but as an alumni board member, you get to know the administration that really makes it all happen behind the scenes," she said. "Minot State provided an opportunity for me to stay in my hometown and get a quality education. I enjoyed the balance of being a local kid on campus while meeting new friends from near and far. The majority of my lifelong friends are from my time at MSU."

"There's a great energy at Minot State if you choose to be a part of it." ■





business

MCKENNA

“There’s a great energy
at Minot State if you
choose to be a part of it.”



Passion turned reality

by Emily Schmidt

MINOT NATIVE TERRY (TJ) WALD took a chance and moved to Colorado after he graduated from Minot State in 2013. Now, he and his wife, Erica, run a business where they get to do what they love every day.

Wald initially moved away from home to Minneapolis to study broadcasting, but he discovered the major was not quite right for him.

"I was born and raised in Minot," he said. "Minot State was just where I wanted to be. My parents (Doreen and Terry) are both part of the University, and all my friends were there. I decided to major in business because it covers a broader range of career paths."

His triple major in business management, marketing, and international business indeed covered a wide range of possibilities, including both his first job after graduation and his passion for fitness.

"My family took trips out here to Colorado when I was young, and I just fell in love with the area. It's very much my style with hiking, outdoors, the active lifestyle," he said. "I didn't have any ties after I graduated, so I started sending applications to Denver and got a job in digital advertising."

Wald's six years in that position eventually provided him with the experience and knowledge he needed to turn his passion into reality.

"Sports and fitness have been part of me since I was young," he said. "I think anyone who has a love for what they do looks for any possible way they can stay in it. Everyone wants to do something they like. I met my wife, Erica, who shares the same passion for fitness. We both work out all the time, we both care about helping people, and she was a fitness trainer when I met her. We talked a lot about how I wanted to switch gears in my career and get into that field,

COMMIT

FITNESS



and since she was already doing it, we decided that together, we could open a space and make it our own.”

The couple initiated their project in January of 2020, just before COVID-19 struck the United States. However, the concept they envisioned turned out to be the perfect idea to persevere throughout the pandemic.

“The one thing that has helped us through COVID is the fact that we are

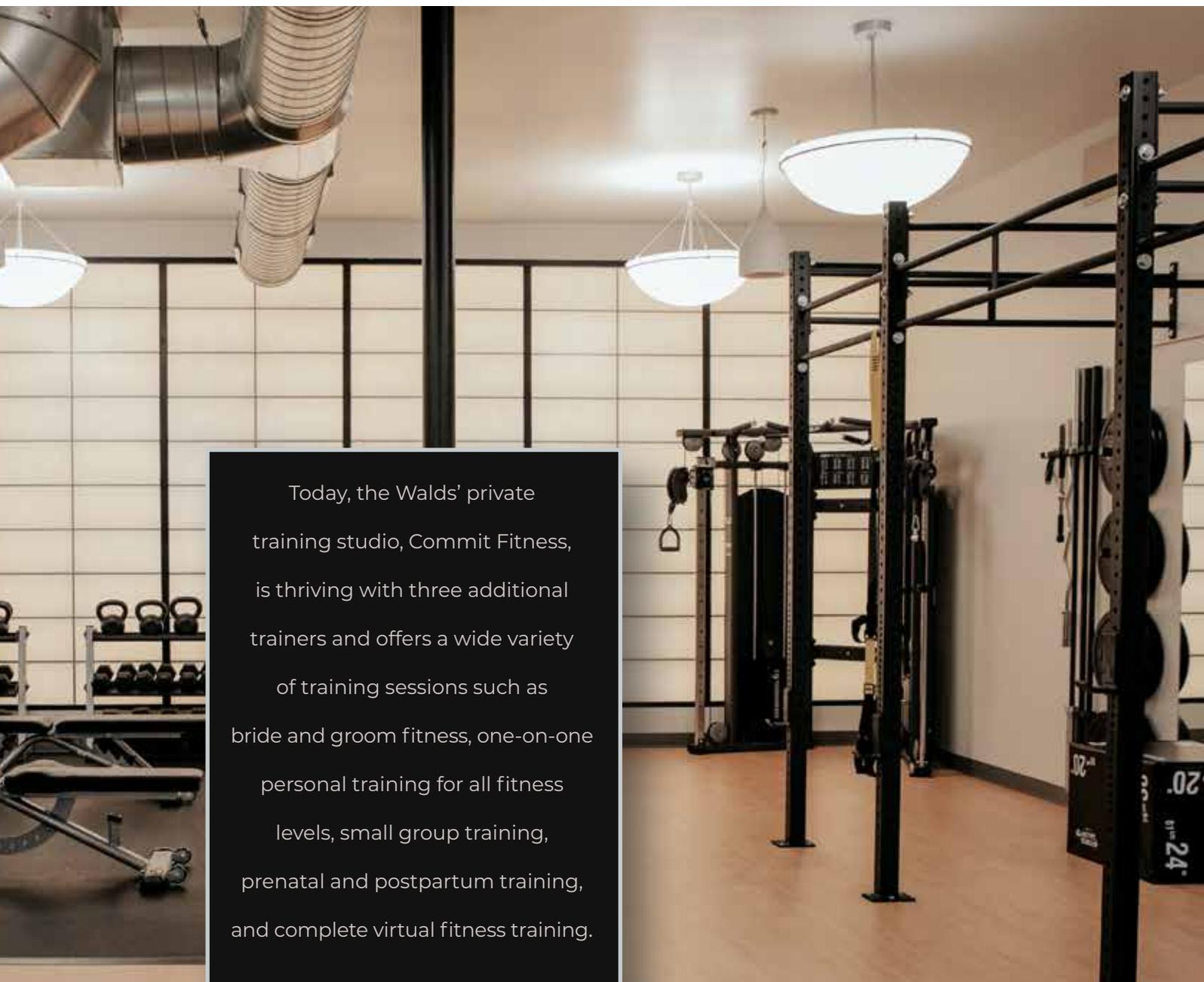
a private training studio,” he said.

“We have much more control over our clientele. It’s rare that we have more than eight to 10 people in the building at any given time. People became a little apprehensive about attending public gyms during COVID and began looking for something more private where they feel more secure.”

Today, the Walds’ private training studio, Commit Fitness, is thriving

with three additional trainers and offers a wide variety of training sessions such as bride and groom fitness, one-on-one personal training for all fitness levels, small group training, prenatal and postpartum training, and complete virtual fitness training.

“We incorporate new changes to keep up all the time,” Wald said, “but we’re still sticking to who and what we are.” ■



Today, the Walds’ private training studio, Commit Fitness, is thriving with three additional trainers and offers a wide variety of training sessions such as bride and groom fitness, one-on-one personal training for all fitness levels, small group training, prenatal and postpartum training, and complete virtual fitness training.

Brandt influences students

Even at the young age of 10, while playing basketball for then-coach and uncle James Taylor, Samantha (Medcalf) Brandt '10 already knew what her future held.

"I wanted to be in PE because I wanted to coach and be able to teach, to be an influential part of kids' lives," Brandt said.

She followed the path she set at a young age to become not just a standout athlete at Minot State but also a star coach and teacher at Kindred High School.

Brandt, who earned corporate fitness and physical education degrees, came from Coon Rapids, a suburb of Minneapolis-St. Paul, and enjoyed the small-town environment of Minot but never saw herself remaining in North Dakota.

After four years of playing basketball and two seasons on the diamond playing softball for the Beavers, Brandt took the opportunity to apply for a position as a physical education teacher and assistant coach in Kindred, a town about the size of her high school graduating class.

It's become a small town where — alongside husband Tim, also a former Minot State basketball player — she's been making a huge impact ever since.

"I wouldn't be the coach I am now without the experiences I had at Minot," she added.

Starting out as an assistant coach and physical education teacher, she's served as head coach for basketball the last four years and head coach for softball for the last five seasons. During that time, she's guided Kindred to a Class B State Championship in each sport.

Her MSU experiences include sharing the career record for games played (120), being second all-time in career assists (357), and twice playing in the NAIA National Tournament, advancing to the quarterfinals as a sophomore.

While those on-the-court achievements provided great memories for the guard, who admits she was a tenacious and intense player, she also took on the challenge of making her teammates better.

"I wanted to share the ball, I wanted to do everything I could to make my teammates be great," she said.

But Brandt admits the most treasured memories didn't come with stats or wins and losses.

"It was a great experience, just playing with athletes from everywhere and coming in and having the same goal and knowing they were just as committed as you were," she said of her time at Minot State. "You create these connections and relationships with these young women; it was very empowering and a very rewarding experience." ■



"I wouldn't be the coach I am now without the experiences I had at Minot."



on and off the court

by Mike Stetson



Athletics Hall of Fame

Class of 2021



THE MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE SELECTED THREE INDIVIDUALS AS THE CLASS OF 2021. The class features former student-athletes Jarret Baker, Carly Boag '18, and Robin (Wheeler) Filkowski '89.

The 2021 class and the 2020 class — Gary Cederstrom '78, Sheila Green Gerding, Ian Best '05, Mandy Greenberg, and the 2004-05 men's basketball team — were inducted at halftime of the Homecoming 2021 football game against Minnesota State University Moorhead on Oct. 9. The 2020 and 2021 editions are the 41st and 42nd classes to enter the Minot State Athletics Hall of Fame as the University has honored a class each year since 1980.

Jarret Baker



BAKER, from New Town, ran cross country and track & field for four years during the 1980s, competing from 1983-85, then after a brief hiatus, return-

ing to finish his competitive career during the 1988-89 seasons. During his illustrious career in cross country, Baker qualified for the NAIA National Championships in 1983, 1988, and 1989. Baker was second at the North Dakota College Athletic Conference (NDCAC) Championships and fourth at the District 12 championships. In 1988, he was fourth at the NDCAC Championships for the conference-champion Beavers and fifth at the District 12 meet. He was fifth at NDCAC and 16th at District 12 in 1985, and as a freshman in 1983, he was third at both the NDCAC and District 12 meets. In cross country, Baker was a four-time Minot State MVP, a four-time All-NDCAC performer, and a three-time All-District 12 finisher. In track & field, Baker added the District 12 title in the men's 10,000 meters in 1985, competing in the NAIA National Championships that spring in Hillsdale, Michigan, where he set a school record in the 10K of 31:52.3.

Carly Boag



BOAG, from Tamworth, Australia, rewrote the women's basketball record books during her four years at Minot State from 2010-14. She continued

her career professionally in Europe and Australia, where she played last season with the Sydney Uni Flames. Boag played in 109 games and started 100 during a career that saw her earn Honorable Mention All-American honors as a junior and Daktronics 2nd Team All-American honors as a senior. She was also named a 4th Team All-American by the D-II Bulletin and was a Women's Basketball Coaches Association Honorable Mention All-American for the 2013-14 season. The only player in the Beavers' NCAA Division II history with 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds in her career, Boag was the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Player of the Year as a senior, a 1st Team All-NSIC and All-Region pick as a junior, and a 2nd Team All-Dakota Athletic Conference honoree as a freshman. The former Beaver post holds school records for career scoring (1,809), rebounds (1,030), and steals (264), and the single-game records with 46 points against Upper Iowa in 2014, 22 rebounds against Wayne State in 2013, six steals against Mary in 2013, and five blocks against Upper Iowa in 2014.

Robin (Wheeler) Filkowski



FILKOWSKI, from Dickinson, became an individual NAIA National Champion for the Beavers in gymnastics, winning the title

in the balance beam in 1986, and is a five-time NAIA All-American who competed at Minot State from 1985-88. Filkowski was also second in the All-Around at the 1986 national championships, fourth in the floor exercise, and fifth in the vault as her performance helped the Beavers finish as runner-up national champions. Competing all four years at the NAIA National Championships, Filkowski nearly claimed a second title in 1988, finishing second that year on the beam. Her efforts during her four years at Minot State helped the Beavers finish third in the nation in 1985, fifth in the NAIA in 1987, and sixth at nationals in 1988. ■



How the IRA rollover works

(also known as Qualified Charitable Distribution—QCD)



If you have an interest in making a charitable gift to Minot State University (or any other non-profit organization), are at least 70½ years old, and you have a traditional IRA, I would encourage you to consider making a gift during your lifetime from the IRA for a number of reasons. These include substantial tax savings, legacy building, avoiding IRA penalties, and having a positive impact on Minot State University and our students.

To qualify:

- You must be age 70½ or older at the time of the gift;
- Transfers must be made directly from a traditional IRA account by your IRA representative to MSU;
- Gifts must be “outright.” Distributions to donor-advised funds or life-income arrangements such as charitable remainder trusts and charitable gift annuities do not qualify.

Benefits of IRA rollovers:

- Can gift up to \$100,000 per person to charities;
- Are not included in your gross income for federal income tax purposes;
- Count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year from your IRA.

As you plan your required minimum distributions for the year, if you do not need all of the money the government is requiring you to take, consider using it for a charitable gift using the IRA Charitable Rollover.

Please contact us at the Minot State University Development Foundation with all questions on IRA rollovers.

RICK HEDBERG | Rick.Hedberg@MinotStateU.edu | 701-858-3399
MinotState.giftlegacy.com

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

70½
OR OLDER

DIRECT UP TO
\$100,000

YOUR SAVINGS, YOUR LEGACY



Avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to support Minot State.



May satisfy some or all of your required minimum distribution for the year.



Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions.



Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts.



Use your rollover to make payments on an existing pledge to us.

Minot State honors eight with **GOLDEN AWARDS** &



Les Anderson '68



Michael LeBeau '95



Kevin Neuharth '74



Arnie Strebe '86



Evan Meiers '10

The Minot State University Alumni Association honored two induction classes for a total of eight honorees with the Golden Award and two with the Young Alumni Achievement Award at the 53rd annual dinner held Thursday, Oct. 7.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions on large in-person gatherings in 2020, individuals from both the 2020 and 2021 classes were honored at the event in the Minot State Conference Center.

The 2020 honorees include Chuck Barney, Josh Duhamel '96, Terry (Ferebee) Eckmann '81/'82, and John Schwan '82. The Young Alumni Achievement Award winner was Joseph Brewer '04.

The 2021 honorees include Les Anderson '68, Michael LeBeau '95, Kevin Neuharth '74, and Arnold Strebe '86. This year's Young Alumni Achievement Award winner was Evan Meiers '10.

The Golden Awards are the highest award bestowed by the Minot

State University Alumni Association. 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.

ANDERSON

Les Anderson, who earned a mathematics and business education degree at MSU, worked in public education for 40 years – nine years as a classroom teacher and 31 years as a school administrator.

During his tenure in education, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASPP), North Dakota Principal of the Year, and the Milken National Educator of the Year which came with a \$25,000 cash award. He was part of a team of educators who wrote a grant to the Carnegie Foundation to transition North Dakota's junior high schools to the concept of middle school

education. During this time, he helped form a middle level state organization and served as the executive director.

Anderson has served as a member of the Minot State University Alumni Association Board.

While attending MSU, he was a member of the Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity and the business manager for the yearbook. He also worked at MSU as an adjunct professor teaching middle level graduate classes.

He was asked by the NASSP and Prudential Insurance, which recognizes youth volunteers, to serve on a committee to initiate The Prudential Spirit of Community. In addition to his duties in the state of North Dakota, he served as the head counselor for the middle level students and liaison to the parents at the national awards program in Washington, D.C. for 18 years.

Anderson married Debbie (Bartsch) '71 in 1969. She passed away from Alzheimer's in January 2021. The promoting of Alzheimer's awareness has

become a life mission for Anderson. While educating youth from across the country regarding Alzheimer's, he has distributed more than 12,000 Alzheimer's bracelets. He continues to work with students nationwide tasking them with the responsibility to find a cure.

The Andersons volunteered to work with the North Dakota Student Activities Association for the last 42 years. NDSAA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and he currently serves as the executive director. NDSAA is made up of Student Council, National Honor Society, and Middle Level. They have built the organization to serve over 2,500 students yearly in three state conferences with 15 state officers.

Anderson believes in students and their abilities. He will often refer to Earl Reum, one of his mentors, and the statement regarding working with young people. "You might have walked with the greatest and didn't even know it."

The Andersons have two daughters, Jessica '93 and Jennifer, and six

grandchildren, Hannah '18, Thor II, Odin, Rhone, Emma, and Olivia.

LEBEAU

Michael LeBeau serves as the president of the Sanford Health Bismarck region, overseeing the administration of health services and is responsible for the successful planning and implementation of operational and strategic goals for the Bismarck region.

He has been with Sanford Health for more than 10 years. LeBeau began at Sanford as a physician specializing in kidney care as a nephrologist. Prior to his current role, he served on the Sanford Board of Trustees and was a physician leader as the vice president of clinics.

LeBeau graduated from Minot State and the University of North Dakota. He completed his residency in internal medicine at Gunderson Lutheran Medical Foundation in La Crosse, Wisconsin. LeBeau is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and serves on the board of trustees for the University of North Dakota School of Medicine alumni foundation.

two with **YOUNG ALUMNI** **ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

NEUHARTH

Kevin Neuharth grew up in the heart of North Dakota, McClusky, and found his way to Minot State. Not knowing what he wanted to do, he tried seven different majors and, feeling more at home on the stage than on the football field in high school, ended on speech and drama education.

He began his life on the MSU stage early on, auditioning for "Taming of the Shrew" followed by "Richard III" – getting his first experiences with Shakespeare – and working with an entire cast of talented individuals. The stage at McFarland Auditorium will always be thought of as his second home, where he grew to love the challenges and spirits of the auditorium working there a half dozen times in the early 1970s, and where he was first introduced to his wife of 44 years, Cindy (Black) '75. The couple have two children, Jared, a mechanical engineer in Prior Lake, Minnesota, and Cassie '12, a marketing specialist and assistant manager of a golf store in Fargo.

Neuharth began his teaching career in speech and media arts at Minot Public Schools. With declining enrollments, his position was eliminated. While applying for similar positions in the state and region, he was summoned to the home of Harold Aleshire, professor at Minot State, who offered Neuharth the position of tech

director at MSU. The job was teaching a full load of 15 credits a quarter in speech and theater, along with directing a couple shows each year and designing and building all productions. He was also required to earn his master's of arts degree, which he did from the University of Denver, and began teaching at MSU in the fall of 1976.

During his 40-year career at Minot State, he directed 149 projects with MSU Mainstage, MSU Summer Theatre, the Sawmill Playhouse, Magic City Children's Theater, University of Oregon Second Season, and Minot Public Schools Magic City Campus and Central Campus. In addition to directing, he enjoyed 275 tech theater adventures in scenic design, lighting design, technical direction, and construction.

Neuharth was also the coordinator of the communication arts department for over 25 years, serving on several faculty committees including a term as the Faculty Senate president. He was principal respondent for 20-plus regional university KCACTF productions.

He received the Board of Regents Excellence in Teaching award (2005), a Vision 2013 Merit Award for Humanities (2010), and Teacher of the Year presented by C STAND (2013). He notes the most humbling acknowledgments he received were being granted full professor and then, after retire-

ment, being named emeritus.

STREBE

Arnie Strebe currently serves as the Department of Human Services chief administrative officer and as the department's chief financial officer. He is responsible for leading agency-wide efforts related to administrative functions for the 2,200 team members at DHS. He supervises the fiscal administration, human resources, strategic communications, logistics management, 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 the Schwan's corporation, where he led a \$240 million sales organization and held various positions, including vice president of manufacturing and vice president of human resources.

He has completed six Ironman competitions and the 2019 Ultra 520k race in Canada. Strebe recently participated in the 70.3 Ironman World Championship in September 2021.

He is an active volunteer in the

Bismarck area, serving on multiple boards such as the YMCA, Ronald McDonald House, Northern Plains Dance, the National Guard Foundation, and as race director for the YMCA Youth Triathlon. He strongly believes in helping others who face challenges to improve their lives.

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

He and his wife Sigrid (Fiske) '92 are both graduates of MSU and established the Arnold "Arnie" Strebe Scholarship Endowment. They have three children and two grandchildren. Their youngest daughter, Courtney (Black) '10, is also an MSU graduate.

MEIERS

Evan Meiers, from Ross, graduated high school in Stanley where he fostered a talent for the percussive arts. The International Music Camp, located at the International Peace Gardens in North Dakota, was an integral part of his growth through music.

During his undergrad at Minot State, he was active in many musical groups on campus, including: Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, Beaver Athletic Band, Minot

Symphony Orchestra, Concert Choir, and Jazz Band. Meiers also won the 2008 Minot State University Senior Honors Competition. He loved attending athletic events and even started a volunteer drumline at MSU.

Meiers started his teaching career in 2009 in Lignite and then settled into a band position in his hometown of Stanley. In 2018, Meiers joined the Minot Public Schools band program and is currently the Minot High School band director. He has taught band at all levels and is also well versed in choral methods and conducting.

In 2014, Meiers had the privilege of his high school band being selected as the 2014-2015 North Dakota Governors Band. He was also selected by his peers to serve on the North Dakota High School Activities Music Advisory Board from 2012-2018.

He enjoys playing in the ever adept and popular Minot Community Band. He is a member of the North Dakota National Bandmasters Association, North Dakota Music Educators Association, Minot Educators Association, and the Percussive Arts Society. Recently, Meiers has resurrected the ever-popular Magi Drumline.

Meiers also farms with his family in Blaisdell. He married his high school sweetheart, Erin, in 2009 and they have three daughters: Emery, Eila, and Eisola. ■



2021 GOLF TOUR





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MSU Summer Theatre Night



Bismarck Alumni and Friends Social



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11



**Basketball
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February
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**FLORIDA
Alumni & Friends
Social**



**ARIZONA
Alumni & Friends
Social**
March 3 - 5, 2022

2022 Gala
& auction
& dinner
Minot State University Alumni Association
April 29 • Grand Hotel



Homecoming 2021





1972



Donald Selk completed a Master of Science in Geophysics in 1975. Selk began working with Chevron Oil Company that same year as a geophysicist. His work involved seismic data processing and interpretation, computer mapping, and 3D modeling of the earth's subsurface related to oil exploration. His career took him to Houston, Calgary, San Francisco, Denver, New Orleans, and Khartoum, Sudan. Selk retired after 27 years with Chevron in 2002. After retiring, he worked as a part-time consultant in the field of computer mapping and modeling. Selk fully retired several years ago and now spends time between Minot; Deadwood, South Dakota; and Phoenix.

1976

Albert Burnham, professor of history at El Paso, Texas Community College, was elected president of the El Paso Community College Faculty Association.

1977



Randy Hedberg was named the American Football Coaches Association FCS Assistant Coach of the Year for Spring 2021. Hedberg has been on the North Dakota State University football staff since 2014 and has helped guide the Bison to five national championships and six Missouri Valley Football Conference titles.

1981

Lisa (Arnold) Clute and the First District Health Unit received the Minot Education Association's MEA Friend of Education award.



Susan Collins opened Triple C Clinic, a family practice clinic, in Minot. Collins previously had been seeing patients at Sanford Health's walk-in clinic. Collins received her nursing degree from the University of Mary. She worked as a registered nurse in Trinity Health's emergency room for five years. While working at Trinity, she

enrolled at Concordia University in Wisconsin and obtained her hands-on training locally to earn her master's degree as a nurse practitioner.



Joann (Weber) Holtz retired after working over 26 years at First Western Bank & Trust in Minot.

1983



Chuck Repnow is the activities coordinator at Mountrail Bethel Home in Stanley. Growing up in Underwood, Repnow worked with nursing home residents while in high school. His career path took him to photography, working at the Strand Studio in Rugby, which he took over in 1988 and ran for 25 years. He then worked in private home healthcare in Minot before taking the activities position at Edgewood Vista where he worked for three years. Repnow also writes a food column, Let's Cook, for the Minot Daily News. He and his wife, Jan (Thompson) '84, reside in Minot with their daughter.

1985

Andrea Stamp retired after 36 years as an educator. Stamp began her career in Scobey, Montana, teaching 7-12 science and then moved to Gillette, Wyoming, where she taught seventh and ninth grade science at Sage Valley Junior High School. Stamp also worked part time, teaching classes through the staff development office.

1986



Michelle (Pfau) Dolan retired from teaching at Ray School. Dolan taught 9-12 mathematics, including college algebra, for 33 years while also serving as head volleyball coach. She and her husband, Stuart, live in Ray. They have two daughters, Paige and Maari.



Scott Grochow, athletic director at Rugby Public Schools, was inducted into the North Dakota Athletic Directors Hall of Fame. He was also named Class B Athletic Director of the Year.

1987

Jackie (Staael) Duke joined the Bank of North Dakota as a business banker III. Previously, Duke was the assistant vice president and commercial relationship manager at Wells Fargo Bank in Minot.

Dan Schelske retired as manager at Fort Lincoln State Park in Mandan. Schelske lived and worked at the park for 17 years. His retirement plans include fishing, hunting, traveling, and making new memories.

1988



Dan Leier, H&R Block, received the Minot Area Chamber EDC Eagle Award in April. MACEDC sponsors the program to recognize Minot workers who exhibit superior customer service.

1990



Amy (Blackburn) Braaten, Trinity Health, received the Minot Area Chamber EDC Eagle Award in March. MACEDC sponsors the program to recognize Minot workers who exhibit superior customer service.



Jodi (Gramlow) Jeffer had her first book published. "Inside the White Picket Fence" is a memoir destigmatizing mental illness and the ramifications for relationships when left unrecognized and untreated. Jeffer has worked with children and families in Minnesota and North Dakota public schools for 30 years.

1992



Brenda (Juergens) Foster, president and CEO of First Western Bank & Trust, received the 2021 Distinguished Community Banker Award from the Independent Community Banks of North Dakota at their 53rd annual convention.

1993



Sabrina (Grover) Herrmann is the director of communications for the Ackerman-Estvold Minot office. Herrmann, a Minot native, previously served in a marketing and community relations role for a locally headquartered, community bank. Her responsibilities will include overseeing ongoing public relations-related projects and continuing to raise brand awareness and customer engagement.

1994



Wayne O. Benton is a 1970 graduate of Webster High School in Minden, Louisiana, and a retired 20-year veteran of the United States Air Force. Benton was stationed at Minot AFB from 1981-1991. He is currently a 25-year federal police officer with the Department of Veterans Affairs North Texas Health Care System in Dallas. Benton is a lieutenant/watch commander.

Kristine (Bullinger) Walker is the lead reading and math interventionist at Lewis & Clark Elementary School in Minot. The Lewis & Clark's Title I team received recognition for being an outstanding program during a pandemic by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction.

1995



Rhonda (Horob) Kitch, Cornell University registrar, has been named president-elect of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), one of the nation's largest educational professional organizations. Kitch earned a

master's degree in counseling and student affairs from Minnesota State University in 1999 and a doctorate in education from North Dakota State University in 2015.



Arthur (Bain) Strutz is teaching biology and chemistry at Oakes High School. Strutz grew up in Oakes and graduated from Oakes High School. He earned his master's degree in education administration from the University of Texas at Brownsville.

Rhonda (Snizek) Thiemann is a Canadian-certified addiction counselor with the Canadian Addiction Counsellors Certification Federation in Ontario and works for the Saskatchewan Health Authority in Saskatoon at a 28-day treatment center. Thiemann earned a diploma in addiction counseling. She was a faculty member for 10 years in the addiction counseling program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic before returning to direct client care services. She and her husband have seven sons and stepsons and live in Saskatoon.

1996



Maari (Olsen) Hanson, fifth grade teacher at Central Middle School, was selected as the Devils Lake Public School District Teacher of the Year. Hanson earned a Master of Science in Elementary Education from the University of North Dakota. She is the proud mother of two children.

Dave Chapman was promoted to lieutenant with the Minot Police Department. Chapman's career with Minot police began as a dispatcher in 1996. He became a police officer in 2000 and a sergeant in 2012. The former K-9 handler currently serves as the K-9 coordinator for the department.



Heather (Skari) Gillihan was promoted to director of risk management for First International Bank & Trust (FIBT). Gillihan oversees the

compliance and audit departments, which include the BSA/fraud and appraisal teams. Her

office is located at the Minot Broadway location. Gillihan started working at FIBT in 1996. She has held numerous positions such as personal banker, loan associate, loan officer, credit reviewer, compliance officer, and most recently, the director of audit and compliance. Gillihan and her husband, Jason, enjoy traveling, summers at Lake Metigoshe, and spending time with family. She is active in the community serving on the Independent Community Bankers of America Education Certification Board, Christ Lutheran Church, and the Souris Valley United Way Backpack Buddies.

1997



David Anfinson, a partner in Border Plains Equipment, a Case IH and New Holland dealership in Williston, was named chairman of the

board of directors of the Pioneer Equipment Dealers Association. Anfinson has been involved as an association director since 2014 and served as Pioneer EDA vice chairman during 2020. He grew up on a farm and continues to farm and has business interests in real estate and aviation. He and his wife, Teresa, reside in Williston with their two children.



Dean Frantsvog received the prestigious Community Service Award from the State Bar Association of North Dakota. This award

recognizes those with the highest level of professional standards and long-term commitment to volunteer service outside of the legal profession in their community.



Ryan Munson is a senior software engineer for Stack Sports. Stack Sports is a software company that provides various solutions such as

league management, payments, player recruiting for sports organizations for children, adults, and professional sports.



Pamela (Katin) Nieuwenhuis joined First Western Bank & Trust as the vice president universal banking and consumer lending manager in downtown Bismarck. Nieuwenhuis has over 25 years of financial industry experience. She is very involved in the Bismarck community, currently serving as worship team leader for Prairie Heights Church and volunteering for Rebuilding Together.

1998



Andrew Currie is the superintendent for the Hope-Page School District. Originally from Park River, Currie graduated from NDSU with a

Master in Educational Leadership. Prior to joining the Hope-Page administration, he served as the elementary principal for 11 years in Valley-Edinburg and previous to that, was the superintendent of the Edinburg School District. He enjoys golfing, fishing, hunting, officiating, and spending time with his wife and two daughters.



Carolyn (Kraft) Steen, Trinity Health-Medical Arts, received the Minot Area Chamber EDC Eagle Award in April. MACEDC sponsors the program to recognize Minot workers who exhibit superior customer service.

1999



Kelly Perrin was promoted to president of United Community Bank - Minot in March. Perrin has been employed with the bank for eight

years and most recently served as chief financial officer. He has provided supervision and management in the areas of credit risk, the asset-liability committee, UCB's investment portfolio, and serves as a UCB board of director. Perrin is a licensed CPA and serves as a board member of the Burlington Rural Fire Department.



Dean Winczewski, Minot Public Schools teacher and coach, was named an honorary commander by the North Dakota National Guard. The program was launched in 2018 in order to strengthen relations between the National Guard units and the communities that support them. Winczewski will serve a two-year term.

2000



Jessica (Wentz) Lochthowe was promoted to vice president mortgage underwriting for Town & Country Credit Union. Lochthowe oversees underwriting and processing for all real estate loans at the credit union.



John Leddon serves as an investment officer at First Western Bank & Trust. Leddon grew up in Minot and earned his Master of Business Administration from Southeastern Oklahoma State. He has worked in the investment industry for over 15 years.



Amy (Semmen) Makeef joined First Western Bank & Trust in Minot as the assistant chief credit officer. Makeef, a native of Ryder, received her master's degree from Liberty University. She has over 21 years of banking and financial experience.

2001



Candace (Olson) Brekke was named the director of marketing for Ackerman-Estvold, Minot office. Brekke has spent over 24 years in the field of advertising, marketing, graphic design, and interactive design. She will continue to lead the company's brand development in traditional and online/social media and shape the growing corporate messaging throughout all markets.

2002



Shelby (Anderson) DiFonzo was named the assistant director of special education for Fargo Public Schools. DiFonzo previously served as the district initiatives and special programs coordinator, a response to instruction and intervention implementation coach, a district learning specialist, and a special education teacher for the Ontario School District in Ontario, Oregon. Prior to those roles, she served as a special education teacher in Springfield Public Schools in Springfield, Oregon and as a head teacher of the Churchill Child Development Center in the 4J School District in Eugene, Oregon. DiFonzo holds a master's degree in special education from the University of North Dakota, an initial administrative license, and received her professional administrator license in August 2021 (equivalent to superintendent license) from Concordia University-Chicago.

2003



Renata (Rensch) Buen was promoted to vice president mortgage origination with Town & Country Credit Union, Minot office. Buen is responsible for overseeing the mortgage loan officers in addition to continuing to help members with their mortgage needs.

2004



Jessica Edgell has been promoted to the position of director of nursing at Trinity Homes. Edgell will oversee all nursing care provided to residents at the long-term care center. She earned her master's degrees in nursing and healthcare administration from the University of Phoenix.



Terri (Ward) Philion, Hyatt House-Minot, received the Minot Area Chamber EDC Eagle Award in March. MACEDC sponsors the program to recognize Minot workers who exhibit superior customer service.

Amber (Mills) Sheridan has been promoted to senior vice president, human resources, for Kinsale Capital Group in Richmond, Virginia. Prior to joining the company in 2015, she held a variety of human resources positions within Genworth Financial, Inc. Sheridan earned a Master of Education from Virginia Commonwealth University.



Jason Zabolotney was named the assistant store manager for Tires Plus North Bismarck location. Zabolotney has worked over seven years with Tires Plus and has long served the Bismarck automotive industry with a total of 19 years of experience. He has earned numerous industry specialty certifications throughout his career. Zabolotney is an Army veteran.

2005



Andrea (Lautt) Berg, branch manager at Capital Credit Union in Fargo, was named Prairie Business Top 25 Women in Business. Berg began her career in financial services at Town and Country Credit Union where she worked for 12 years before joining Starion Bank for three. She then worked at Fargo's Rape & Abuse Crisis Center as its community engagement coordinator. Berg reentered the financial services industry when she joined Capital Credit Union in 2020. Berg volunteers at the Rape & Abuse Crisis Center and is a member of the board for the West Fargo Exchange Club. She has also served as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels. She and her husband, Kevin, live in Fargo with their two sons.

John Groves is teaching seventh and eighth grade science at Rugby Middle School. Groves began his teaching career in Rugby in 2005 after retiring from the Air Force.

2006



Nicole (Luther) Brown was named teacher of the year for the Lake Havasu Public Schools. Brown is a third-grade teacher at Oro Grande Elementary School.



Rick Geloff was promoted to controller for Starion Bank. Geloff 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 and vice president in May 2018. Geloff is a certified public accountant and a member of the Bismarck School Board, currently serving as its president.



Jessica (Haider) Henderson was promoted to assistant vice president at Town & Country Credit Union's main office in Minot. Henderson, a Burlington native, has over 19 years of banking experience, including nearly 13 years in bank accounting. She joined the credit union as the accounting manager in 2020. Henderson is responsible for all daily activities related to financial reporting, directing the activities of the accounting department, and assisting senior management.

Drew Henry was hired as the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Region 6 regional supervisor in Northeast Montana, based out of Glasgow. Originally from Glasgow, he was the Glasgow-area regional wildlife biologist for the past nine years. Henry oversees regional development of department goals and objectives, long-term plans, and regional priorities. He will also lead FWP staff that manage the diverse resources of Region 6 in Northeast Montana. Henry lives in Glasgow with his wife and three children and enjoys taking his family on many hunting, fishing, boating, and camping adventures.



Wade Messner is the head girls' softball fastpitch coach at Grafton.



Teal (Swanson) Myre has been promoted to director of communications and marketing at SRT Communications in Minot. Myre has served as public relations man-

ager since 2016 and has worked in the corporate communications department at SRT since 2004. She will lead SRT's corporate communications, customer service, and billing departments.

2007



Lynsey Hust, Home Depot, received the Minot Area Chamber EDC Eagle Award in April. MACEDC sponsors the program to recognize Minot workers who exhibit superior customer service.



Amanda Juelson was elected partner at the law firm of Taft, Stettinius & Hollister LLP in Minneapolis.

2008



Lindsey (Haga) Benson, Minot State University financial aid assistant director, received the President's Award from the North Dakota Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NDASFAA) at the annual conference in April. The award recognizes individuals who have provided distinguished service to the membership of NDASFAA by their hard work, initiative, and dedication, and has exemplified through their professionalism, high standards of conduct and service to institution, students, the State of North Dakota, and the association.



Brock DesLauriers was promoted to senior vice president for First International Bank and Trust (FIBT). DesLauriers began working at FIBT in May 2005. He has held numerous positions including teller, credit analyst, personal banker, mortgage loan officer, and commercial loan officer. He most recently was vice president and is the manager of the Minot North Hill office.

2009



Michelle (Chengying) Guo is a research associate at the Center on Chinese Education and began doctoral study in

adult learning and leadership at Teachers College, Columbia University in New York.



Brooklyn (Heid) Schaan was named the North Dakota McLean County Teacher of the Year for 2021. Schaan is a Title 1 reading and

mathematics teacher at Washburn Public Schools.

2011



Cody Hammer was named operations manager for Tires Plus of North Dakota. Hammer will manage the Minot, Minot Air Force Base, and two

Bismarck locations. He has been with Tires Plus since 2010, most recently serving as the store manager for the south Bismarck location. He resides in Bismarck with his family and has been actively engaged in community organizations including the Bismarck/Mandan Chamber of Commerce. As an avid outdoorsman, he participates in the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Pheasants for the Future, Delta Waterfowl, and others.



Emily (Ness) Keller, Surrey Public School, received the Minot Area Chamber EDC Eagle Award in February. MACEDC sponsors the program to recognize Minot workers who exhibit superior customer service.



Bethany (Ritterman) Mack is teaching kindergarten at Little Flower Elementary School in Rugby. Mack has lived in Rugby for 12 years.

She taught at Wolford for two years, was at Little Flower for three years, then was at home for four years, and now is back teaching.



Cammy Romanuck Murphy joined Trident University International's College of Education as a full-time faculty member. Romanuck Murphy

joined Trident as an adjunct faculty member in 2019 and is a 2018 graduate of the university's

Doctor of Education program. Romanuck Murphy has eight years of experience as an educator, having worked with students in K-12 public schools as a speech-language pathologist, adjunct faculty member at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, academic editor, and speech pathologist consultant.



Melissa (Hoots) Rowe has joined the Ackerman-Estvold Minot office as the receptionist. Rowe's responsibilities will include overseeing

client interactions and providing administrative team support on a variety of projects. Rowe previously was a senior graphic designer at a public relations firm and a university admissions specialist.



Brendan Weidler was promoted to chief nursing officer of Senior Living for Edgewood Health-care. Weidler started with Edgewood in

2017 as an administrator of home health, hospice, and outpatient therapy in Minot. Most recently, he was the regional vice president where he operated four successful home health, hospice, and outpatient therapy programs in Minot and Bismarck as well as Hermantown and Virginia, Minnesota. He has extensive experience having started his career in nursing in the intensive care unit at a level II trauma center in central North Dakota. He was promoted to a hospital supervisor and eventually to a unit manager of their acute inpatient rehab. He and his wife, Beth, reside in Bismarck and have three daughters.

2012



Cole Krueger was named Minot State's marketing director. Krueger previously worked at Scheels in Minot as the marketing and

public relations leader and was an assistant director for MSU's Enrollment Services. Krueger serves as a director on the Companions for Children board. He and his wife, Lacey (Berentson) '12, have three children.

2013



Alex (Ragelstad) Hennix is the superintendent for Kenmare Public Schools. Hennix began her teaching career in Kenmare, having worked for more than eight years within the school district. She served as the kindergarten through sixth grade principal since 2018 and then took over pre-school through eighth grade.



Shari Hewson is the Dickinson State women's volleyball head coach. For the past three years, Hewson has been an elementary teacher at Jefferson Elementary in Dickinson. She also coached volleyball in the Dickinson Public School system. Prior to her time in Dickinson, Hewson taught and coached for the Bismarck Public Schools and helped coach the team to a state runner-up title in 2017.



Kyle Patterson became the regional coordinator for Vision Zero in January. Vision Zero is a series of strategies to eliminate highway fatalities and serious injuries. The program launched in January 2018 through the ND Governor's Office, ND Department of Transportation, ND Highway Patrol, and ND Department of Health. Previously, Patterson was at iHeart Media and KCJB Radio. He worked as sports director at a Harvey radio station and later at a Jamestown radio station. He returned to Minot to be closer to family and worked as an admissions counselor at Minot State before returning to the radio business. He lives in Burlington with his wife, Kelsey (Wagner) '14, and two children and has been involved with Companions for Children.

Spencer Wheeling was named head coach for the Bismarck Century girls swimming and diving team. Wheeling, a hydrogeologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, has a background steeped in swimming as an athlete and coach. As a swimmer at Minot High School, he swam on three state championship teams, was an individual champion, and team captain. He was voted the team's outstanding senior ath-

lete. Wheeling has been coaching since his graduation from Minot High School in 2009, including four years as a Magicians assistant coach and four years as head coach of the Minot Swim Club. For two years, he was a Dakota Masters swim coach prior to joining the CHS girls' program as an assistant coach. He has a doctorate in geology from the University of North Dakota.

2014



Brett Fiddler was promoted to mortgage loan officer at Town & Country Credit Union in Minot. Fiddler, a Minot native, has six years of credit union lending experience. Most recently, he assisted members as a commercial loan officer. In his new position, Fiddler will provide Minot-area borrowers with local mortgage lending services including purchases, refinances, and first-time homebuyer programs.



Tim Olson joined the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation. Olson previously worked at KXNews as a reporter, anchor, and most recently, assistant news director.

Robbie Sumlin, detective and master police officer, was chosen as the Minot Police Department's Officer of the Year. Sumlin has been with Minot police since July 2014 and was assigned as a detective in the investigations division in September 2016.

2015



Brittney (Peterson) Colbenson has joined the staff at Bowbells School. Colbenson performs paraprofessional tasks and secretarial duties. She and her husband, Ben, have two children and live on the family farm north of Bowbells.



Kersten (Brown) Pelton was promoted to documentation supervisor at Western Equipment Finance. She and her husband reside in Devils Lake.



Jake Schillo was named one of the 2021 Tillman Scholars by the Pat Tillman Foundation. Schillo will graduate with his doctorate in genetics in May 2022 from the University of Iowa.



Courtney Scott, a Surrey native, was promoted to mortgage loan originator for First Western Bank & Trust in Minot.

2016



Mark Lyman joined the Minot Area Chamber EDC as an economic development specialist. Lyman has nearly 20 years of community marketing, public relations, communications, and leadership experience.

2017



Luke Heilman joined Town & Country Credit Union as a commercial loan officer in Minot. Heilman will assist business members achieve their goals by leveraging the credit union's lending products.

2018



Caitlyn Burkardt works at the Jackson County Memorial Hospital in Altus, Oklahoma. This community hospital was under-staffed and under-supplied and heavily populated by individuals suffering from COVID-19 since the disease ramped up in the South. Burkardt has worked on the COVID-19 floor her entire career. Her exceptional dedication and caring were recognized by the hospital by naming Burkardt Preceptor of the Year. She is married to Sean Shanahan who is the executive officer at KC-46 training wing.



Jordan Busch is an internal auditor for First Western Bank & Trust in downtown Bismarck. Busch is a Minot native and has three years of

experience as a bank examiner. He previously worked in Minot as a customer service representative from 2014-2018.



Maddy Lodoen, a Westhope native, joined First Western Bank & Trust as a marketing and public relations specialist at their downtown Bismarck location.

Amanda Mogen is teaching history and social studies at Midkota. Mogen previously taught for three years at Bottineau High School. She is pursuing her master's degree in technology in teaching at Valley City State.



Tyler Rudolph is a sports academy specialist at the Sanford POWER Basketball Academy. Rudolph will be based in Fargo. The Sanford POWER Basketball Academy is a comprehensive player development program with a variety of basketball development options.

2019

Kendra (Haugen) Neff received the Emerging Educator Award for the Minot Public School District. Neff is a resource teacher at Washington Elementary School.



Kaitlin Walker is teaching high school math and computer science at Bottineau High School. Walker completed her master's in technology education.

2020



Matt Flom was promoted to credit analyst II for First Western Bank and Trust, Minot main. Flom has been with FWB&T since July 2017.

Miguel Manriquez joined the staff at Georgia Morse Middle School with the Pierre (South Dakota) School District. Manriquez will be teaching sixth grade physical education. He previously was a police officer for the City of Pierre.

2021



Cole Brose was promoted to financial services officer for Town & Country Credit Union, Minot Main. He joined the credit union in 2020. as a member service representative. In his new role, he will be assisting members with auto, recreational, and personal loans, as well as credit cards and new deposit accounts.



Mark Medalen is a consumer lender for First Western Bank & Trust in Minot. Medalen started as an intern in the trust department in January 2021.

Attended



Dale G. Niewoehner, owner of Niewoehner Funeral Home in Rugby, was honored by the North Dakota Funeral Directors Association at their convention in April in recognition of maintaining his funeral practitioner/embalmer license for 50 years. Prior to obtaining a license in North Dakota, he had earned a dual license in Illinois in 1968. Niewoehner has served as president and executive secretary of the association and is currently the secretary and executive secretary of the North Dakota State Board of Funeral Service. The Niewoehner Funeral Home in Rugby was founded in 1972.

Friend



Robert Kibler, chair of world languages and cultural studies at Minot State, was appointed by the Ward County Commissioners to a four-year term on the Ward County Planning Commission.



Steve Lysne will retire after 27 years with SRT Communications, Inc. at the end of the year. Lysne served as CEO/general manager since January 2003. Previously, he was the chief financial officer for eight years. Lysne serves as a member of the DCN board of directors, the board for the North

Dakota Telephone Association. He has also been president of the board of the Rural Wireless Association, a former board member on the Minot Area Development Corporation, and former board member of Integrity Mutual Funds. Steve and his wife, Kari, are looking forward to spending time with their children and grandchildren.



Kim Thompson, Good Vibrations Modern Quilt Shop, received the Minot Area Chamber EDC Eagle Award in February. MACEDC sponsors the program to recognize Minot workers who exhibit superior customer service.



Craig Smith will call the University of Utah home after being named men's basketball head coach. He was an assistant at Minot State before being named the head coach of Mayville State in 2004.



Greg Tschetter, financial advisor, was named to the Barron's magazine 2021 America's Top 1,200 Financial Advisors, State-by-State ranking. Tschetter ranked second in North Dakota. This is his seventh appearance on this prestigious list.

MINOT PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES:

- Zane Alexander '00
- Leslie (Metz) Barney '80
- Emelia (Hanson) Braun '91
- Johnet (Doerr) Christianson '83
- Jesse Cook '87
- Angelina (Myers) Edison '90
- Lerri (Hove) Giffey '79
- Andrea (Ness) Hammer '08
- Barry Holmen '85
- Lynae (Frank) Holmen '83
- Mark Johnson '96
- Chuck Kranz '91
- Sandra (New) Lambert '07
- William McCann '92
- David Norton '78
- Susan (Wolf) Packulak '74
- Patrick Schwan '87
- Tami (Ostdahl) Spiros '90
- Richard Srejma '96
- Jim Tengesdal '77
- Robin Ventsch-Fiddler '81
- Joy (Shefstad) Walker '87
- Susan (Leintz) Zimbelman '80

In memory

It is with honor we dedicate this section to recognize alumni and friends who have passed away from approximately January 2021 through September 2021 or as submitted.



Graduates

'36 Solberg (Olson), Thelma; Stanley
'43 Hager (Haugen), Irene; Rugby
'44 Johnson, Morris; Fargo
'47 Perron (Miller), Jean; Sherwood
'49 Annell (Hahn), Lettie; Minot
'49 Sherbina (Knopfle), Carole; Eugene, Ore.
'51 Richardson, Donald; Minot
'52 Fiedler, Arnold; Dousman, Wis.
'52 Jelleberg (Dahl), Estelle; Bottineau
'53 Hysjullien (Spain), Madonna; Hibbing, Minn.
'55 Fugelso (McGinley), Elvera; Minot
'55 Geving, Jack; Mission Viejo, Calif.
'55 Latimer, Lowell; Minot
'55 Tornatore, Mavis; Fairport, N.Y.
'56 Christensen, Lowell; Orangevale, Calif.
'56 Jensen, Robert; Minot
'57 Curtiss (Benson); Evelyn; Powers Lake
'58 Larson (Burns), Barbara; Rugby
'58 Nelson (Sather), Marjorie; Fitchburg, Wis.
'58 Stewart, Lawrence; Brookfield, Conn.
'59 Magnuson (Gohrick), Jeanne; Mesa, Ariz.
'59 Lies, Michael; Missoula, Mont.
'60 Feist, Eugene (Gene); Prescott, Ariz.
'60 Finneseth, Alvin; Velva
'61 Hunt, Jimmy; Devils Lake
'61 Preskey, Donald; Bismarck
'61 Ulrich, Robert; Mesa, Ariz.
'62 Berlet-Dietrich (Anderson), Myrna; Jackson, Mich.
'62 Campbell, Ralph; Grand Forks
'62 Peterson, Arden; Sauk Centre, Minn.
'64 Burtman, Jerald; Berthold
'64 Murphy, Wallace "Gene;" Bismarck
'65 Bergstrom, Dennis; Bismarck
'65 Cummings (Lill), Stephanie; West Fargo
'65 Gordon (Laukala), Phyllis; Minot
'65 Tveter, James "Jim;" Watford City
'66 Bummer (Anderson), Beverly; Crosby
'66 Hill, Gary; Minot
'66 Yecoshenko (Nachetilo), Ruth; Butte
'67 Frady Kelly, Lynn; San Luis Obispo, Calif.
'67 Love, Quentin; Turtle Lake
'68 Masi, Nicholas; Ronkoma, N.Y.
'68 Powell, Harry "Wayne;" San Diego, Calif.
'69 Smeltzer, Ernest "Tex;" Leeds
'69 Spicer, Ardis; Marlborough, Mass.
'70 Anderson (Bartsch), Debbie; Minot
'70 Degree, Douglas; Aurora, Colo.
'70 McCormack, David; Des Lacs
'70 Miller, Linda; Velva
'70 Struble, Dean; Amherst, Wis.
'71 Bartl, Larry; Alexandria, Minn.
'72 Donelenko (Kanko) Jeanette; Minot
'72 Ringdahl, Richard; Minot
'72 Spain (Talbot), Margaret; Minot
'73 Roussel (Lund), Karla; Minot
'74 Bethke (Fedorenko), LaVerne; Williston
'74 McGee, Richard II; Bottineau
'74 Wallace (Kaul), Christine; Missoula, Mont.
'75 Fisher (Woell), Judy; Vaughn, Mont.
'75 Zeltinger, Fabian; Minot
'77 Burdick, Lana; Minot
'77 Serr, Michael; Bismarck
'77 Veronda (Braun), Brenda; Ottawa, Ill.
'80 Henke, Merle; Devils Lake
'81 Gade (Johnson), Patricia; Des Moines, Iowa
'81 Mays, Stephen; Bismarck
'81 Williams, James Jr.; Camden Wyo.
'82 Broderick, Dennis; Wahpeton
'82 Nordstog, James; Mesa, Ariz.
'82 Kluck, Clive; Aurora, Colo.
'83 Johnson, Brent; Minot

'83 Kostenko (Smith), Stella; Bismarck
'84 Johnson, Lyle; Belleville, Ill.
'84 Zabolotney, Ginger; Minot
'85 Lysne, Larry; Fairbanks, Alaska
'85 Vannett, Loren; Minot
'86 Hogan, James; Minot
'87 Blankenship (Straight), Joan; Centennial, Colo.
'87 Ostdahl, Timothy; Parker, Colo.
'89 Whitacre, Joseph; Lutz, Fla.
'90 Schoenwald (Fliginger), Sheila; Minot
'91 Freiberg (Landrum), Diane; Minot
'91 Ruiz, James; Abbeville, La.
'92 Anderson, Niels; Minot
'92 Herman, Gregory; Minot
'92 Huber (Allen), Cheryl; Bismarck
'93 Vail (Bartram), Vicki; Fargo
'95 Engstrom, Marlan; Minot
'95 Jacobson, Angela; Minot
'96 Pedersen (Thompson), Diane; Detroit Lakes, Minn.
'98 Gessner (Rufus), Carolyn "Jill;" Garrison
'99 Elrod (Peterson), Michelle; Bismarck
'99 Prochaska (Mork), Sharon; White Earth
'00 Johnson, Daniel; Elgin, Ill.
'04 Roos (Grogen), Bryn; Agora Hills, Calif.
'04 Welnel, Carrie; Minot
'06 Kraft, Jeremy; Bloomington, Minn.
'09 Preston, Duke; Marshalltown, Iowa
'15 Lee, Dustin; North Liberty, Iowa
'18 Habib, William; Middletown, Ohio
'19 Demary, Justin; Iowa, La.

Attended

Anderson (Bischkopf), Margaret; Fessenden
Anderson, Rodney; Williston
Berry (Lewis), Claudette Jean; Fair Oaks, Calif.
Bossert (Ward), Sharon; Drake
Burns (Madsen), Rose; Surrey
Chase, Joseph; Parshall
Christianson (Shuley), Charlene; Carrington
Diaz, Brenda; River Falls, Wis.
Dorscher, Leo; Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
Erickson (Thompson), Claryce; Minot
Elliot, Craig; Minot
Erickson, Robert; Williston
Feist (Fry), Virginia; Velva
Fiechtner, Ron; Butte
Fry (Covell), Ardell; Velva
Grant, Elizabeth; West Fargo
Gronfur, Clifford; Williston
Hall (Where She Sits Is Holy), Beverly; Parshall
Harmon, Roger; Minot
Himle (Hanna), Irene; Leeds
Holmes, Paige; Minot
Johnson, Ann; Bismarck
Johnson, Fred; Stanley
Lade, Wade; Tuscon, Ariz.
Martian (Johnson), Katherine; Bismarck
McQuay, Darrell; Bismarck
Ongstad (Braaten), Astrid; Devils Lake
Parker, Stanley; Bruce, S.D.
Ringdahl, Leonard; Minot
Ringwall, Michael; Columbus
Rosmos (Koster), Hazel; Bottineau
Sanchez, Samantha; Thornton, Colo.
Sandvold, Adonis; Minot
Schroeder, William; Parshall
Schwan, Bruce; Minot
Stockel, Kathleen; Salt Lake City, Utah
Struyk, Lydia; Sioux Falls, S.D.
Teets (Uleberg), Greta; West Fargo

Trobaugh, Robert; Kokomo, Ind.
Wahl (Zimbelman), Vera; Goodrich
Whitesell (Ruud), Brenda; Fargo
Wilkinson, Delores; Bismarck
Wolff, Scott; Minot
Young (Fleck), Darbie; Chapman, Kan.

Friends

Backes, Roger; Minot
DeGree, Donald; Minot
Dybing, Tillie; Minot
Haakenstad (Lillico), Shirley; Bismarck
Haarsager, Kenneth; Mohall
Hedberg (Heath), Barbara; Carpio
Howe, Dale; Minot
Huizenga, Roger; Henderson, Nev.
Jacobson, I.J.; Crosby
Keuhn (Morlang), Judy; Bismarck
Lane, Ruth; Sawyer
Larsen, Ronald; Bismarck
Lee, Robert; Richland, Wash.
Martin, Bruce; Des Lacs
Miller, Doran; Minot
Ming, Dennis; Bismarck
Momerak, Ordean; Minot
Ness, Craig; Minot
Ondracek (Abigt), Susan; Velva
Owens, Loren; Crosby
Pope (Beck), Delores; Minot
Roberts (Pollert), Mildred; Minot
Saunders, Robert; Minot
Schmidt, Ruth; Minot
Semingson, Eleanor; Minot
Sivertson, Robert; Minot
Summers, Susan; Minot
Svare, Allen; Savage, Minn.
Teagle, Richard; Minot
Thorpe, Elwood; Minot
Tollefson (Adams), Lila; Minot
Tossett, Wesley; Minot
Traynor, John "Jack;" Devils Lake
Trout, Paul; Minot
Vail (Bartram), Vicki; Fargo
Vendsel, Bryan; West Fargo
Walker (Milkey), Donna; Minot
Wedel (Hansen), Ardis; Garrison
Wilson, Arthur "Dean;" Spearfish, S.D.
Zavalney, Clarence; Minot

Faculty and Staff

Carpenter, Clifton; former faculty in art; Bismarck
Coffin, Sidney; former staff at Dome; Velva
Davenport, Apryl; North Dakota Senior Medicare Patrol Regional Volunteer Coordinator with NDCPD; Deering
Hancock, Everett "Jack;" former faculty in math; Jonesboro, Ark.
Hendrickson (Stavem), Delores; retired classified staff; Minot
Lemieux (Chelren), Nona; former faculty in nursing; Klamath Falls, Ore.
Lower, Robert; professor emeritus in the College of Business; Milbank, S.D.
McCormack, David (1970); retired faculty in mathematics; Minot
Nielsen Smith, Mary; former professor emeritus; Minot
Roth, Larry; retired staff emeritus; 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.



Becker
Travis '06 and Jenn (Sundahl) '06 Becker welcomed Coy Raymond Feb. 21, 2019. He joins siblings Liam, Berkley, and Anyston.



Bruner
Travis Bruner '09 and his wife, Ashley, welcomed twin daughters, Cecelia and Josie, on June 6, 2019. They join big sister Rayna and big brother Frankie.



Cooper
Ford Jordan arrived on Oct. 3, 2020. Parents are Jordan '08 and Deidre (Karhoff) '14 Cooper.



Erdmann
Jacob and Jessica (Hoffer) '15 Erdmann joyfully welcomed Allie Ann, born July 6, 2020.



Battle
Severin was born Nov. 26, 2020 to proud Beaver alums Anthony '17 and Amber (Anderson) '17 Battle.



Eskelson
Trent and Lindsay (Okland) '07 Eskelson welcomed a baby girl, Henley Layne, Feb. 3, 2021.



Ewoniuk

Adlee Pearl entered the world Sept. 28, 2020. Parents are Eric and **Nicole (Nelson) '08 Ewoniuk**. She joins big sister Emree.



Pederson

Arbor Rowan was born March 2020 to **Jordan '12 and Jordan (Stenberg) '13 Pederson**.



Grindy

Caleb '20 and Adrianna (Helle) '18 Grindy had Wayne Silas on Aug. 14, 2020. The family resides in Minnesota.



Ruzicka

Kirk and **Amber (Jensen) '09 Ruzicka** welcomed their second little one, Brooke, on May 6, 2020. She joins big brother Asher.



Harvey

Imogen Yvette entered the world on May 16, 2020 and was welcomed by Chris and **Krista (Friesen) '06/'08 Harvey** and big sister Eloise.



Schatz

Kyle and **Kayla (Nelson) '13 Schatz** welcomed Thea Louise Dec. 30, 2020.



Hunt

Kyle '04 and Heather (Hill) (attended) Hunt had Ellyse Otto Sept. 18, 2020. She joins siblings Emry, Kannon, Kruze, and Korver.



Sinclair

Tandy was born June 10, 2020. He was welcomed by proud Beaver parents **Trevor '02 and Shayla (Strasser) '02 Sinclair**. He joins siblings Treston, Truvy, and Trajan.



Kuske

On March 22, 2021, **Matt '14 and Josie (Blake) '16/'18 Kuske** welcomed son Macklen Louis to their family.



Wald

Asher James entered the world Feb. 17, 2021. Proud parents are **Terry (TJ) Wald '13** and his wife, Erica.



Miller

Jaxon Anthony was born June 4, 2020 to Joe and **Regina (Botrager) '16 Miller**. He joins big sister Nikkita Rae.



Walz

Brian '09 and Stacy (Jaeger) '10 Walz welcomed their third son, Noah, on July 17, 2020.

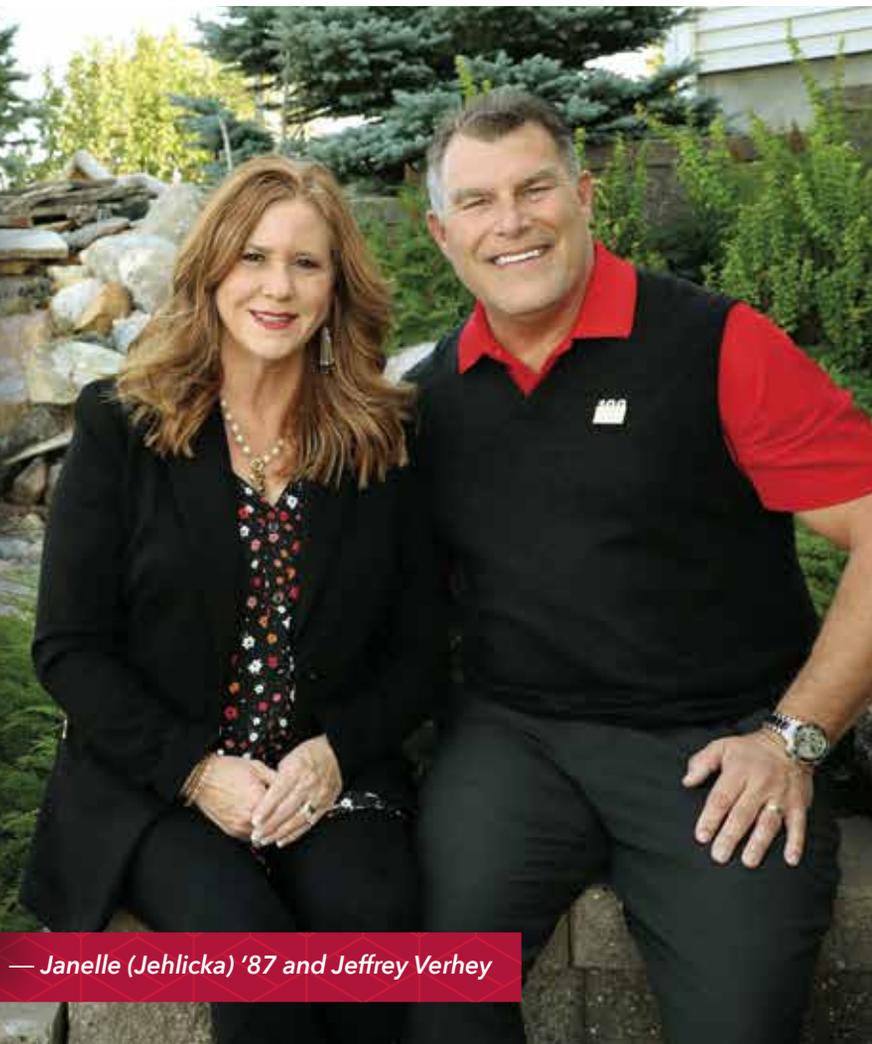


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When I graduated with my Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1987, little did I know how important my role would be in health care. Most of my career was spent working in the ICU at Trinity Health where I realized nurses are critical to the outcome of patient care. I am proud of how well patients were cared for during my career, and I know nurses deserve much of the credit. I have been blessed to work with many excellent nurses and I am inspired by them and want to support the nursing profession. My husband, Dr. Jeffrey Verhey, is an ICU physician and shares my passion. Together, we created an endowment that will provide nursing scholarships and honor nurses for the work they do. Nurses are the heart and soul of medicine, and Jeffrey and I are pleased to help make the path a little easier for students.



— Janelle (Jehlicka) '87 and Jeffrey Verhey