

Connections

Oil and art

Fall 2023

Alumni Association and
Development Foundation

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EMPOWER

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Be seen. Be heard. Be empowered.

Message from President Steven Shirley



I write this column while sitting at the airport in Basel, Switzerland awaiting our return flight to Minot following a weeklong cruise on the Rhine River sponsored by the Minot State Alumni Association.

We began planning this trip two years ago with the initial hope of attracting 20-25 MSU alumni and friends to participate. We ended up with 50 attendees cruising the Rhine, meaning our group (proudly adorned in red attire throughout much of the week!) represented nearly one-third of the total passengers aboard the ship.

It was a tremendous turnout of Beaver pride, and by the end of the trip every other passenger aboard was well aware of MSU and Minot, North Dakota! We had a terrific cross-section of alumni and friends from different eras, and the common bond everyone shared was a great fondness for Minot State. I enjoyed visiting with so many of these MSU friends, supporters, and alumni; hearing their stories; and learning more about the traditions and history of MSU.

This was the first such trip coordinated by the MSU Alumni Association in decades, and based on the success of this October 2023 journey, we are definitely thinking about hosting another excursion in the next couple years. Please watch for more information and make plans to join us.

Many of the stories and features highlighted in this issue of Connections resonated with me as I visited with our river cruise passengers. The wonderful alumni featured in this issue are passionate about MSU and clearly make known the impact the campus had on their education, careers, and lives. Please take note of the outstanding group of Golden Award recipients as well as Athletic Hall of Famers. It was such a special time earlier this fall being able to recognize all of these talented folks and celebrate with their friends and family.

Additionally, the feature story on Darryl Smette is truly inspiring to read about his life, the successes he has had, the sincerity and connection he has for his rural roots and alma mater, and the guiding principles he lives by to this day. We were so fortunate to have Darryl back on campus during this year's Homecoming festivities.

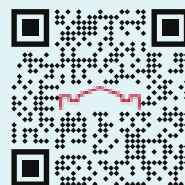
I hope to see many of you throughout the year at MSU alumni events — please join us if you are able as they are always wonderful opportunities to reconnect with old friends and make some new ones as well. All the very best as we prepare for the winter months ahead, and as always ... **GO BEAVERS!**

Steven W. Shirley, Ph.D.
President

Save the date: **MSU Beaver Hockey Pre-game Social**

DENVER  **Saturday, Dec. 30**

Following the social, join us to cheer on our No. 1 ranked **MSU MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM** as they take on the **DU PIONEERS** (nine-time NCAA DI National Champions) in an exhibition game at **MAGNESS ARENA!**



Register here



Oil

&

art

Darryl Smette's
passion for
the arts
began with
a childhood
paper route.

by Amanda Duchsherer

"The Minneapolis Tribune truck would come to Newburg Sunday morning around 4 A.M.," he said. "Once a month, they would have a section just on fine art, and I could not wait to see it. They would describe the type of art, including black and white photos, the people that started the movement, what it meant. The paper would write about all these art museums and how the curator made decisions, and I thought, man, that was the world I wanted to live in."

Today, Smette '69 and his wife, Kathy, are the curators of their own art collection. The 2023 MSU Alumni Association Golden Award honoree's first art acquisition occurred while a Minot State student.

"My first piece of original art was a 1967 gift, a copper etching titled 'The Studio' created by fellow student and friend, Gary Livingston '69," he said. "I still have it and it hangs in my office."

"The paintings in our collection include everything from realism, called representational now by many, to abstract, semi-abstract, Cubism, impressionism, surrealism, plus other styles. The collection includes bronzes, pastels, temperas, charcoals, pen and ink drawings, really all styles, mediums, and subject matter. Bronzes are about 25% of our pieces. We have some 400 originals, and it is safe to say we are out of room."

Following high school, Smette made his way to Minot to earn his Bachelor of Science degree with a major in art and a minor in history. Yet it was a job opportunity in his hometown that began a lifelong career in the oil and gas industry.

"Promises" by Jim Dodson: bronze

"Amerada Petroleum Corporation had a field office in Newburg that employed about 30 people," Smette said. "The man in charge of administration in that office had a daughter in my class. On graduation night, he asked if I would be interested in working there in the summer to help pay for college. I worked there four summers and loved it."

From Amerada — today Amerada Hess Corporation after a merger with Hess Petroleum — to a short stint as an art teacher in Minnesota to working for Clinton Oil Company in Kansas, a phone call from Devon Energy Corporation in 1986 established the rest of Smette's professional trajectory.

"At the time, Devon was a tiny private company, but the Nichols family, who owned Devon, decided they needed to take the company public," he said. "They were looking for three individuals with three separate skills and certain business experiences where the individuals were, or had been, in small public oil and gas companies and the companies had grown during their time with them while their responsibilities had grown as well. I was one of the people they contacted."

Smette worked for Devon just shy of 30 years in Oklahoma City, starting as manager of marketing and administrative planning and retiring as the company's executive vice president of marketing, midstream, supply chain, and planning and evaluation.

"I started as a manager and became part of the executive committee when we went public in 1988. There were six of us on the executive committee and we served as Devon's senior management. An independent board of directors provided oversight as required for a public company," he explained.

Smette remained part of the executive committee until his retirement in 2016.

"Devon grew significantly while adding value at the same time," he said. "We were also a leader in many innovations including pioneering horizontal drilling in 1999-2000 and then combining horizontal drilling with fracturing in 2002-2003. That combination is what made North Dakota's Bakken economical as well as encouraging additional drilling in other regions of the country."

"To put in perspective the industry impact of combining horizontal drilling and fracturing, the U.S. was producing 5.8 MM barrels of oil per day in 2002 and now it is producing some 13 MM barrels per day."

Devon Energy Corporation went public in 1988, moving from a member of the American Stock Exchange to the New York Stock Exchange in 1999, and was included in the S&P 500 in 2000, where it still is today.

"In 1988 we produced 1,600 barrels per day of oil and natural gas liquids while producing 16,000 mcf per day of natural gas. We increased production to 550,000 barrels per day and 3,150,000 mcf per day respectively," Smette said about the company's growth after going public. "As



it relates to employees, I was the 42nd employee hired before the employee count increased to over 6,000. I am so proud of the people that were so dedicated, engaged, and worked so hard to make it all happen."

Smette received his master's degree in administration and supervision from Wichita State University in 1975, served as an energy consultant to the Kansas City Federal Reserve Board, and, due to his expertise, continues to educate others.

rural setting and community, to have something like the Northwest Arts Center, I imagine most people do not realize how unique this is, and how special."

While students may attend Smette's presentations expecting insider secrets and insights, he believes first in establishing the basics.

"This might seem awfully simple, but if you have been in the business world like I have been, you quickly realize sometimes business really gets a bad rap," he said. "But there

was not the biggest or the ones highly recognized that mattered the most," he said. "It was, in addition to the person being knowledgeable, can these graduates effectively communicate, do they have a strong work ethic, are they willing to accept responsibility and are they 'we' people? We turned to smaller colleges and universities, both private and public, to satisfy these requirements."

While Smette knows many of those lessons were learned at home,

an Enlink Midstream board member into 2016. He was also on the board of trustees for the Oklahoma City Museum of Art from 2005 through 2016 and has been a member of the Patrons Prix de West Circle for the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City since 2008.

"I have enjoyed all my opportunities immensely. I loved almost everything I did," he said. "Over 45 years, there were probably only 10 days when I got up and did not want to go to

work. Not many can say that I suspect.

"I had a career where I was exposed to so much, met and worked with so many special and influential people,

"If someone would have told me when I graduated that this young man from Newburg, North Dakota would have the career I have appreciated and enjoyed, I surely would not have believed them."

The University of Texas approached him to become an instructor in their continuing education program, focused on energy, leadership, and management, and he has also been a regular speaker for graduate and undergraduate classes, primarily at the University of Oklahoma, Price School of Business and Oklahoma City University, Meinders School of Business.

March 2023 found Smette back at Minot State as part of the Alumni Association's Speaker Series.

"I had not been on the campus since 1973 and let me just say, there were a lot of good memories walking into Old Main, walking into Crane Hall," he said. "Of course, there were a lot of changes, too.

"I was especially impressed with the Northwest Arts Center. In a town the size of Minot, in a generally

is no substitute for being honest, and there is no substitute for being kind.

"The next thing, you must be able to communicate very well. And by communicate very well, I mean both written and verbal — to sit down and talk to someone and look them in the eye so there is no confusion. Further, being able to write so recipients can understand it. I firmly believe better communicators are better leaders and much more influential."

Devon's management team looked for these qualities when hiring new employees.

"We focused on are you going to be a 'me' people or a 'we' people? At Devon, when I started, we would hire college graduates from large schools that had strong academic credentials but, by the time I retired, it

he believes part of those lessons were continued, developed, and strengthened as a student at Minot State.

"It was no free rides, no do overs, it was learning to accept responsibility and to take initiative, including holding yourself accountable. I have come to appreciate in retrospect, the time professors would take if you had questions or did not understand something, or just wanted to visit," he said. "In fact, I cannot think of a time when I wanted to talk to a professor and they did not make themselves available. That was quite unique, a big deal. A great life lesson for me."

Following retirement, Smette continued his ties to the oil industry and is still focused on art.

For 11 years, until late 2018, he served on the board of directors for Panhandle Oil & Gas and was

went to so many places throughout North America and the world. It is just unbelievable to me. If someone would have told me when I graduated that this young man from Newburg, North Dakota would have the career I have appreciated and enjoyed, I surely would not have believed them. I have been truly blessed." ■



"Forging Oklahoma" by Mike Larsen: bronze

WHERE are they NOW

by Amanda Duchsherer

MARITA HOFFART IS A BIG BELIEVER IN SIGMA THETA TAU, an international honor society of nurses.

So much, in fact, that she served on the steering committee to bring the honor society to Minot State's campus beginning with their first meeting on March 23, 1995. Today, the professor emeritus continues to serve on the research/scholarship committee for the University's Omicron Tau Chapter and covers membership costs for all MSU students who qualify for the organization.

"Sometimes students want to join, but they might not have the money," she said. "They're students so money can be tight. This makes it possible for them to join the honor society."



Hoffart has a storied history with the Minot State nursing community.

"I was around when the new program started," she said. "I was teaching at St. Joe's (St. Joseph's Hospital's Sisters of St. Francis School of Nursing) at the time, and we stopped accepting new applicants because the North Dakota Legislature adopted Resolution 13."

Sister Mabel Meng, director of the St. Francis program and later first director of Minot State's nursing program, was a member of the Upper Midwest Nursing Needs and Resources Study that recommended a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program in northwest North Dakota. Meng and Hoffart were part of the group that then lobbied for the BSN program at Minot State.

At the January 1969 North Dakota legislative session, House Concurrent Resolution 13 established the program, with the BSN being approved by the Board of Higher Education that March.

"You need a broader base of education if you're going to take care of people," she said. "It was the way it needed to go, for nursing to be taught at the university, not just in the hospital."

As a nursing professor at MSU from 1980 to 2010, Hoffart was integral to the creation of the registered nurse (RN) to BSN program.

"We had people coming into nursing that needed options. Some weren't RNs, and some were RNs but weren't BSNs. We needed to educate them to their full professional stature," she said. "We adapted the schedule so that it made it possible for them to do their coursework."

Her ability to meet students where they were was also evident in her research courses.

"We would come up with ideas, work on them, and come to a basic question that we could work on in class. Once, we heard a lot about burnout and stress levels for nurses," she said. "So we did research questions with the nursing students, come to find out they're just as stressed as everyone else."

For someone who doesn't like the word busy, Hoffart continues to bustle with activity.

"I don't believe in being busy," she said. "Being busy is just an excuse."

In addition to her work with Omicron Tau, Hoffart keeps engaged with a variety of endeavors such as being a homeowner, Lions Club International, and water aerobics. And she continues to impact nursing students from her involvement with the honor society to the establishment of the Marita Hoffart Scholarship.

"Minot State has a good strong program," she said. "The students are doing excellent on their licensing exams. Dr. Shirley (President Dr. Steven Shirley) always makes sure he points that out when he talks about the students. It's important." ■

All rise...

Judicial beginnings at Minot State

by Emily Schmidt

SIX MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI HAVE UNIQUE PATHS TO THE BENCH, BUT THEY ALL HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON: THEY DIDN'T PLAN ON BECOMING JUDGES UNTIL AFTER THEIR TIME AT MSU.

KAREN KLEIN '71 retired in 2015 from being a federal magistrate judge, but she wasn't ready to stop practicing.



"I enjoyed all my judicial work, but I particularly liked settlement conferences," she said.

Today, she is a mediator in the private sector. As a history major at Minot State, she planned to become a teacher, but her decision to attend law school after graduation shifted her path.

"I decided I could put my love of reading to use in the law," she said.

"Even though there were few women law students at the time, I went for it and loved it."

Klein's history major gave her the perfect foundation for the judiciary.

"Being a judge requires a love of reading, writing, and research, and an interest in confronting a wide range of issues on a daily basis," she said. "The work is varied, challenging, and highly rewarding."

While other states separate the different kinds of legal matters in the court system, district court judges in North Dakota cover every kind of case. As one can imagine, there isn't a typical day in this position.



TODD CRESAP '83 had a diverse history of experiences before becoming a judge. At MSU, he earned an economics degree while golfing for the Beavers and playing trumpet in five music ensembles. After practicing as a private lawyer for over 20 years in a variety of fields, he taught law classes at Minot State for another 10 years. In 2009, when the North Central District added an additional judgeship in Minot, it was the perfect opportunity to find the career best fit for him.



"Attending MSC (Minot State College) was one of the most enjoyable experiences of my life. I made lifelong connections and friends," Cresap said. "I'm constantly amazed when I open up the Connections magazine and read about the successes of both classmates of mine, as well as former students of mine."



KELLY DILLON '88 of Minot presides over juvenile court. She earned a broadcasting degree from Minot State and practiced criminal law for 28 years, both as a defense attorney and a prosecutor.

Coincidentally, the magistrate position opened in 2022, a few days after a friend of hers asked her about her next life step. While Dillon had considered becoming a judge before, this time it was fate. Throughout her time as a lawyer and a judge in juvenile court, her broadcasting degree has been useful in an unexpected way.

"Being a part of the broadcasting and communication arts programs gave me the confidence to appear in front of people," she said. "It helped me to develop the ability to think on my feet and work through unexpected problems."

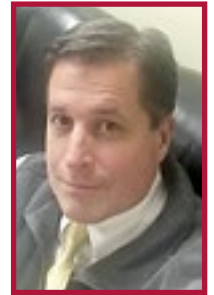


NICHOLAS CHASE '91 tends to focus on others as a judge. Much of that focus comes from what he learned at Minot State. He studied communications and participated in several theater productions. These experiences came in handy during his 20 years as an attorney.

"In every trial I ever had, those theater instincts made me think about what the jury would think when they saw a certain piece of evidence or a certain witness," he said.

Now as a judge, Chase keeps the attorneys in mind during a trial.

"You have to go into every case knowing you do not know the case or maybe even the law in that area as much as the attorneys in the case, so you have to prepare and listen carefully and respectfully," he said.



TRISTAN VAN DE STREEK '00 is a history alumnus from Minot State.

"I studied history because I enjoyed the topic and I knew I would go to graduate school for career purposes," he said. "I was free to pursue my personal interests a little more in college."

His passions for reading, writing, and listening have helped him on the bench. Serving first as a trial lawyer, a judgeship opened in Fargo in 2014, and he ran for election. Van de Streek lost the election but found a new calling. He applied in 2018 to another opening and was appointed by Gov. Doug Burgum. It is important to him to be empathetic.

"We see people at all stages of life, oftentimes when they are at their lowest point," he explained. "Patience, compassion, and understanding are essential attributes of a good judge."



STACY LOUSER '02 earned a master's degree in business and organizational studies from Minot State. After graduating, she went to law school at the University of North Dakota with the intent of serving as in-house legal counsel in the medical field. When she graduated from law school, she got a taste of family law and stuck with it for seven years.

Then a judgeship opened in the North Central district. It was the perfect opportunity for her to follow her new passion while balancing her own family life. As a judge, it is important to Louser to manage time effectively.

"People rarely come to court because something positive or good has happened to them," she said. "It is essential that a judge have the ability to be empathetic to parties involved in legal proceedings and to be aware that timely decisions are essential in order for individuals to move forward with their lives." ■



Development Foundation welcomes Eads, Slotsve

by Michael Linnell

THE MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION HAS ADDED TWO NEW DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS IN THE PAST YEAR AS ABBIE (NAZE) EADS '15 AND PAT SLOTSVE '91 HAVE JOINED THE TEAM.

EADS, originally from Minot, previously worked for the Seattle Symphony as a sales representative, marketing, and selling concert subscriptions. She was also director of music and liturgy at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Seattle, as well as the orchestra director and adjunct faculty at Pierce College in Puyallup, Washington.

"I am proud to come from a town and school which, from the very beginning, laid a very fruitful foundation for my schooling and career in the arts. The arts have a special way of connecting people through emotion, life-experiences, and a greater purpose, and in a very deep way," Eads said. "Minot is a really special place filled with incredible people and opportunities, and I am so eager to find more ways to continue engaging our alumni and friends in supporting this great school and community. I get to work with a really great team of people who really care about this University and Minot. I'm surrounded by wonderful people who fuel my work."

MSU Development Foundation Executive Director Rick Hedberg is excited to have Eads's experience in the arts as a part of the Foundation's team.

"Abbie has deep ties to Minot and a real passion for Minot State. Her involvement in the arts community and with the Norsk Hostfest is a real plus. She is extremely personable, and we feel very fortunate to have her on the team."



SLOTSVE, originally from Velva, has been a lifelong educator working for the past 32 years in public education, including the past 23 years in the Minot Public School system. He spent 28 years as an elementary principal, retiring as principal of Lewis and Clark Elementary in 2023.

"I am excited to join Minot State University as a development officer," Slotsve said. "This

University provided me with life skills that have helped me achieve my goals, and I am hoping to be able to contribute back to our current and future students."

His ties to Minot State and the education system extend throughout his family. His wife, Elizabeth (Ellis), is a 1996 MSU

grad and special education teacher at Minot Public Schools, middle son Charlie is a junior at Minot State, and daughter Ellie is a freshman at MSU. Slotsve's oldest son, Max, works at Rail Modal Group in Minot.

Along with his undergraduate degree in elementary education at MSU, Slotsve earned a master's degree in education leadership from the University of North Dakota.

"We are excited to have Pat joining our Minot State Advancement and MSU Development Foundation team," Hedberg said. "He's been involved with campus and various activities and fundraisers at MSU for many years. He also has a great connection with the Minot community and many of our alumni and friends having served as an administrator in Minot and the region for the past two plus decades." ■



Alumone

from DAY

Kyle Sandy

Velva • physical education

Why did you choose Minot State?

I chose Minot State because it was the right option for me. My entire family has come to Minot State, and I have so much going for me here for what I want to accomplish in the next step of life.

What has been your favorite class?

Yoga class with Terry (Ferebee) Eckmann '81/'82.

FRESHMAN



How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

MSU has a top tier education program with smaller enrollment, which provides greater chances to build relationships with professors and advisors.

Who has been your most influential professor?

Definitely Jim Sturm, director of the Looyenga Leadership Center. Before I even came to campus, he had an impact on me.

What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

The Looyenga Leadership Program.

What is your most memorable moment at MSU?

So far, my most memorable moment at MSU has been the SLAMABAMA concert.

Brek Thompson

Minot • exercise science and rehabilitation

Why did you choose Minot State?

I chose Minot State for the small school atmosphere as well as its affordability. I also enjoy that I'm able to stay with my family.

What has been your favorite class?

Leadership 201 because my classmates were all a ton of fun to work with.

Who has been your most influential professor?

Jim Sturm, director of the Looyenga Leadership Center. He's helped create a lot of opportunities for me in my time at Minot State.

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

MSU has shown me all the different career paths that I can choose from and helped steer me in the direction of a major I've come to love!

What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

How helpful the small classes are, you get to know your peers and professors — they are all looking out for you.

What is your most memorable moment at MSU?

Being a part of the big capture the flag game last year in the quad.

SOPHOMORE



Alum from DAY one

Dakota McGee El Dorado, Arkansas • criminal justice

JUNIOR



Why did you choose Minot State?

I chose Minot State for the great criminal justice program and affordable tuition.

What has been your favorite class?

CJ 300: Policing, with Michael Nason.

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

MSU has helped me gain the skills needed to serve on the Minot Police Department after I graduate.

Who has been your most influential professor?

Michael Nason '83/'96, assistant professor, criminal justice. He provides insight and engaging stories about his career in business law enforcement.

What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

Minot State does a great job at making each student feel like they are valued. Professors say hello and remember me from previous classes and the staff is friendly, from the custodial to the mail room, everyone has a smile on their face.

What is your most memorable moment at MSU?

My freshman year, I stayed in Cook Hall and would often shoot a limit of dove, ducks, or geese and then come home to cook wild game for whoever wanted some. It was always a big hit and I will remember those dinners for the rest of my life.

Achille Tenekeu Djauken Douala, Cameroon • chemistry

Why did you choose Minot State?

I chose Minot State because of its affordability and a friend of mine, who was already here at the time, asked me to consider it.

What has been your favorite class?

Probably any classes that had to do with neuroanatomy. I am fascinated with the innerworkings of the brain and how they affect the way we communicate.

SENIOR



How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

All the connections I have made during my time here, coupled with the research I've had the chance to do, will be greatly beneficial in whatever I decide to do next.

Who has been your most influential professor?

Joseph Collette (geoscience) and Mikhail Bobylev (chemistry).

What has been your most memorable moment at MSU?

When I finally won at bingo after years of trying!

Hayleigh “Flaca” Solano Tucson, Arizona • sports management

Why did you choose Minot State?

Minot State was the next level up that I needed to get my foot in the door with my career that I wanted. My sports information director (at Waldorf University) spoke highly of the school.

How has Minot State helped you further your academic career?

MSU has helped me make connections with new people that can help me be successful and extended my creativity as a graduate assistant.

What has been your favorite class?

Sports media and event planning. I want to get into that after I graduate and it has helped me deal with real-life situations.

Who has been your most influential professor?

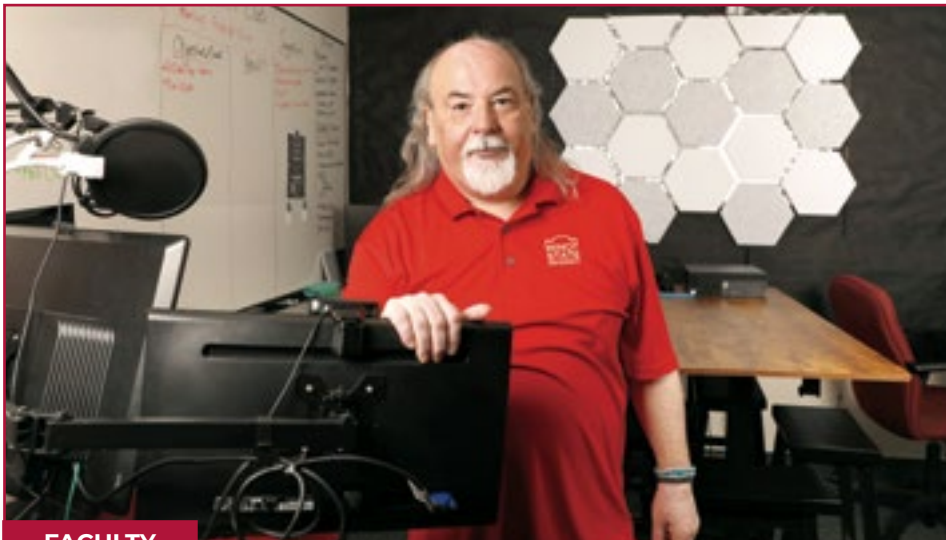
Linda Cresap, sports management program director.

What has been your most memorable moment at MSU?

I found out I had one more year with the track & field team because of COVID-19 so I got to go out and compete with them for one last ride. The coaching staff support was heartwarming.



Chad Fenner '99/'13 Minot • assistant professor, business information technology



Why did you choose Minot State?

I chose Minot State after returning from different locations in the U.S., holding various occupations including IBM in multiple locations, and wanted to pursue a degree in computers or technology. I was a local resident and was able to work while attending classes at MSU.

What has been your favorite class?

I like all the classes I instruct but would have to say Introduction to Cybersecurity is one I enjoy more than others because of the diverse set of students we get.

What is the best kept secret about Minot State?

The best kept secret at MSU is the staff — it's second to none.

What is your most memorable moment at MSU?

Participating in the first graduation ceremony as a faculty member and seeing students that you have worked with for years grow their knowledge and become successful professionals was humbling and exciting at the same time.

Haugen's passion for

by Michael Linnell

Being an athlete at an early age continues to shape Cody Haugen '17.

Haugen, in his second year as a partner at Premier Chiropractic in Minot, attributes his career path to a fascination with how the body moves and works, skills learned juggling the demands of an NCAA Division II sport, and his time in the Minot State biology department.

"Being a student-athlete had a huge impact on who I am today," he said. "I think as an athlete, you are aware of your body — how it moves and the bumps and bruises. I've always liked the movement aspect and learning about biomechanics.

"Then as a student-athlete at MSU, I learned to balance wrestling — practice, weight management, and meetings — with getting your schoolwork done. Nolan Spooner '97/'16 would say, 'it's not what you'll do for wrestling, but what wrestling will do for you.' Still today, I use that to carve out time to get things accomplished in my professional life."

His athletic career almost didn't happen.

Haugen started at Minot State as a student but did not wrestle. After a year, he felt it was time to get back into the sport.

"It was different that first year, having competed since I was probably 5 years old. I missed it more the longer I was away," he said. "Paul Michaelson and I did some open mats, and I figured I could compete at this level. I walked on with Taylor Barstad, a lifelong friend from Velva who I've competed with in youth wrestling since the age of 5. Getting to wrestle at college was very rewarding."

He had to make another difficult decision at the end of his career, forgoing a final year of eligibility after being accepted into Northwestern Health Sciences University.

"The transition to chiropractic school was smooth overall," Haugen said. "I thought about wrestling one more year, but Northwestern was the one I wanted to get into and decided to start pursuing a career in chiropractic."



chiropractic care continues



“Being a student-athlete had a huge impact on who I am today,” he said. “I think as an athlete, you are aware of your body — how it moves and the bumps and bruises. I’ve always liked the movement aspect and learning about biomechanics.”

Chiropractic care, something he was exposed to in high school under the care of Steve Lipp '90 and Andrew Howe while in college, seldom wavered during his prep or college career.

“There were probably a few points where someone would talk about a saturated chiropractic market and maybe you’d second guess for a minute,” Haugen said. “But, I can remember what Doug Bengson '86 told me, ‘there is always room for another good one.’ I’m beyond grateful for all the support from friends and family.”

As Haugen neared graduation at Northwestern, his next step was to find the right fit for a career. His path to Premier turned out to be the correct one.

“I did my internship with Dr. Becky (Perry), and learned a ton from her, and Dr. Kirk (Mason '13). The internship exceeded my expectations and I count my blessings for what they have done for me,” he said.

The internship led to full employment, partner in January 2022, and ownership in Premier Movement in May 2022.

“There are so many unknowns throughout your early career: would I start my own place, will I work for someone, will it be a good fit?” Haugen said. “But the more I was at Premier, the more I loved it. I think I asked a question every day – and still do – but Becky and Kirk have both been great mentors and have been extremely generous towards me.

“When they asked me to be partner, it was a big honor and something I’ve dreamed about. There might have been a few tears shed on the way home.”

Premier Chiropractic and Premier Movement have evolved along with Haugen, opening a new clinic in Oak Park Village in September.

“It’s exciting to open the space, to have the gym and clinic under one roof,” Haugen said. “I have always wanted to come back to Minot to be close to my family, I’ve always loved Minot. It is great to be a part of Oak Park Village.” ■

Schultz builds incred

by Emily Schmidt



ible community in Minot



If you've been involved in anything around Minot for the last few years, odds are you have been impacted by the work of Jazmine (Wolfe) Schultz '11.

From co-owning Prairie Sky Breads, to organizing music festivals, to advising Minot State's student newspaper, Schultz has created, joined, and improved a multitude of organizations and projects around the community. While her endeavors are eclectic, there's one thing they have in common: the people.

"When I get involved on projects, I know the people involved are good-hearted people trying to do good things," she said.

group of friends. A lot of them are college friends who are trying to do similar things," Schultz said. "I also can have a grander impact some place where I have a lot of connections. I love the people here. I want things to be better for my people. I stayed because I wanted to be here. I think a lot of that had to do with the group of people that I had found."

While the theater and elementary education double major is neither teaching kids nor acting, she uses her education every day.

"I'm very thankful for my time at Minot State. There were so many people there who provided me with skills and opportunities, and I think

"When you think of community, you think of people coming together and having support systems. It's something I'm well-suited for and able to do, and since I am, I should do it."

Schultz's endeavors are largely driven by her personal community. It's important to her to be able to use her skills and resources to create spaces where others can build their own communities too. After all, often-times it's people that get us through tough times.

"Opportunities to connect with others create opportunities to get out of lonely situations," she said. "When you think of community, you think of people coming together and having support systems. It's something I'm well-suited for and able to do, and since I am, I should do it."

Originally from Burlington, the people she's met throughout her life are what have kept Schultz in Minot. She knows that with combined efforts, they can make a greater impact.

"I feel a lot of power and strength comes from having that tight-knit

that both my teaching education and my theater education have really informed all the things I've done," she said. "Your education can't ever be taken away from you. It only grows and morphs over time. I'm just so thankful for that base level of knowledge that I gained through both of those experiences that truly allow me to do what I do right now."

Outside of serving the Minot community, Schultz is currently working towards a Norwegian folk art show thanks to a North Dakota Council on the Arts grant. She's also writing music to prepare for her band, Vanity Plate, to go on tour later this year.

"I just want to do the things that fulfill me and take opportunities when they are presented to me," she said. "That has really done me well so far, so I'm going to go where the world moves me." ■

College coach, international athlete

by Mike Stetson

The past year has proven to be a memorable and remarkable one for Stacy Fournier who moved into the perfect job as a head coach and had a dream athletic opportunity come true as she represented Canada in a World Cup.

Minot State helped create both opportunities for the 2015 Beaver graduate in marketing, management, and international business from British Columbia, who played four seasons on the softball diamond and served as an assistant coach for another year in the Magic City.

"Minot State had a huge impact on me," Fournier said. "I still talk about it now, especially in my role coaching here at Simon Fraser (University), I'm able to reflect on those days even more now which is kind of fun for me."

In June, Fournier was named head coach at Simon Fraser after serving as interim coach this spring and as an assistant since October 2020. It was a dream job for Fournier, who admits she knew one day she'd coach in some capacity.

She began coaching while still in high school, coaching girl's baseball as she started her athletic career not playing softball, but baseball.

But softball opened the door to Minot State.

"It was kind of one of those right time, right fit

situations," she said. "(Then Minot State head coach) Bill Triplett was looking for a shortstop at the time and I was looking to go away to the States for school and play softball — really to play softball as school was kind of second at the time.

"I was just excited to be able to move away. I was able to go with my twin sister (Emily Fournier '15), which was a huge plus."

Stacy and Emily played from 2011 to 2014 for the Beavers, and Stacy was a four-year starter playing in 145 games, hitting .284 with 22 doubles, three





Maintaining her passion in sports, though, she went to Australia to play baseball, then returned to British Columbia and worked for PacificSports Fraser Valley before the door opened at Simon Fraser as a part-time assistant coach.

Fournier went through that door leading to her current role as head coach for the Red Leafs, but her passion for baseball – the game she originally started out playing – also opened another.

A member of Team Canada for women's baseball, the unique opportunity to play in the Women's Baseball World Cup presented itself this summer.

"I'm pretty lucky to still be competing at that level, and I love it, I started



triples, nine home runs, and 85 RBIs. Defensively she had 173 putouts and 224 assists.

Away from the ballfield, she earned NSIC All-Academic Team and President's List honors. Fournier recognized there was more to athletics than simply the game on the field, leading to her business degree and plans to work in the business side of sports.

Her academic pursuits also provided the opportunity to work and volunteer in the community.

"It was enjoyable for me just being part of the small town that Minot is," she said.

After her playing career and a season as an assistant coach at Minot State, Fournier returned to British Columbia where her first job was not in athletics, but working at a helicopter repair company in logistics.



out in baseball as a kid," said Fournier, whose Team Canada finished second in Group A, qualifying in August in the World Cup and earning a spot in next summer's World Cup Final in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. "I'm very passionate about both sports. I feel very grateful that I am able to coach softball at this level yet still compete at the World Cup level for baseball." ■



MINOT STATE ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

EST. 1980

The Minot State University Athletics Hall of Fame Committee selected four individuals as the Class of 2023.

MacKenzie (Mack) Klockziem Women's Basketball: 2006-2010



MacKenzie (Mack) Klockziem '11 played four seasons on the hardwood for

Minot State, twice leading the Beavers to the NAIA National Tournament.

The Scranton native was named NAIA All-American Honorable Mention as a senior in 2009-10 and to the All-Dakota Athletic Conference (DAC) Second Team twice (2008-09 and 2009-10).

Klockziem and MSU earned NAIA Division II Women's Basketball National Tournament appearances in her freshman (2006-07) and senior (2009-10) seasons. In 2007, MSU advanced to the quarterfinals before its season ended.

In four seasons, she scored 1,048 points (No. 10 all-time), grabbed 653 rebounds (No. 2 all-time), dished out 151 assists, and swiped 119 steals in 119

games. She was a 49.2% shooter (383-of-778), hit 64 3-pointers, and went 218-of-306 at the free-throw line.

As a senior, Klockziem had single-season highs of 483 points (No. 7 all-time) and 235 rebounds (No. 5 all-time).

Marianna (Danna) Lamb Women's Soccer: 2010-2011



The first-ever All-American in the 13-year history of the Beaver

women's soccer program, Marianna (Danna) Lamb '12/'14 also becomes the first women's soccer player inducted into the Minot State Athletic Hall of Fame.

A two-year star defender for MSU from Sutter, California, Lamb helped build the foundation of the Beaver soccer program. She anchored the defense and earned an NAIA All-American First-Team Honorable Mention and All-Region honors in 2010. MSU played as an

independent team during the 2011 season as the University moved from NAIA to NCAA Division II.

Playing in 36 games during her two-year Minot State career, she scored three goals and had one assist from the back line. Two of her goals were game winners, the first in a 2-0 victory over Rocky Mountain College and the second, in her final collegiate game, a 2-1 win over the University of Winnipeg in 2011.

Kowan O'Keefe Men's Golf: 2010-2015



Kowan O'Keefe '15 rewrote the men's record books at Minot State as he finished his four-year career with a school-low average 74.49 in 61 rounds. He also shot the all-time best round (66), turned in the two best single-season scoring averages (73.7 in 2012-13 and 74.8 in 2013-14), and holds the 72-hole scoring record of 293.

The Creston, British Columbia native also became MSU's first-ever Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) Men's Golf champion, the first NSIC Men's Golfer of the Year, and was the first NCAA Central Region qualifier in 2012-13. O'Keefe also advanced to the 2014 Central Region finishing tied for 44th. He was a three-time All-NSIC First Team performer, finishing in the top five at the NSIC Championship in 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15.

O'Keefe also was a star academically as he was named a CoSIDA Academic All-American in 2013-14 and 2014-15, earned the

NSIC's Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award in 2014-15, and was the 2015 Britton Scholar-Athlete Award for Academic Excellence winner, which recognizes the NSIC's top male student-athlete.

Tiffany (Friesen) Redekop Softball: 2010-2011



A four-year starter from Morden, Manitoba, Tiffany (Friesen) Redekop

contributed for Minot State as a star pitcher, defensively at first and third base, and as a slugger offensively.

Named to the 2010 All-DAC Team as a designated player as a freshman, Redekop helped the Beavers to the NAIA National Tournament twice (2010 and 2011).

Redekop again helped the Beavers qualify for nationals in the team's first season in NCAA Division II. MSU advanced to the Central Region tournament in 2013, going 1-2 in the tournament.

Redekop was named a Daktronics All-American Third Team, Daktronics All-Central Region First Team, and All-NSIC Second Team for her efforts as a senior. She set single-season records with 16 home runs, 62 RBIs, and five saves in the circle.

Redekop compiled a 36-12 overall record with seven saves in her four-year career, striking out 301 batters in 345 2/3 innings and compiling a 2.23 career ERA. Offensively, she hit .334 for her career with 22 doubles, 24 home runs, 143 RBIs, and had a stellar .521 slugging percentage. ■

**The four were
inducted on
Saturday, Sept. 16.**

Alumni Association announces 2023 GOLDEN AWARDS and YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD recipients



Mark Lehner



Suzanne (Schriefer) Neufang '85



Darryl Smette '69



Michael Toy '91



Stephanie (Schramm) Little '14

THE MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HONORED FOUR INDIVIDUALS WITH THE GOLDEN AWARD AND ONE WITH THE YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN SEPTEMBER.

The honorees include Mark Lehner, Suzanne (Schriefer) Neufang '85, Darryl Smette '69, and Michael Toy '91. The Young Alumni Achievement Award winner is Stephanie (Schramm) Little '14.

The Golden Award is the highest award bestowed by the 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.

MARK LEHNER

Lehner, a Minot native who lives in Milton, Massachusetts, is the director and president of Ancient Egypt Research Associates, Inc. (AERA), an American nonprofit organization and an NGO registered with the Egyptian government. He is a world-renowned Egyptologist with more than 40 years of experience excavating in Egypt.

He attended Minot State from 1968-70 before earning a bachelor's degree from American University in Cairo and his doctoral degree at Yale University in 1991.

During his extensive archaeological work, Lehner mapped the Great Sphinx and Giza plateau and discovered the Lost City of the Giza Pyramids. AERA sponsors annual excavations of the pyramid builders' settlements near the Sphinx and Pyramids with an interdisciplinary

and international team of archaeologists, surveyors, geochronologists, botanists, and faunal specialists who focus on the everyday lives of ancient Egyptians.

Since 2005, AERA has directed archaeological field schools to train young archaeologists working for the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities at Giza, Luxor, and Memphis on behalf of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), a consortium of U.S. universities and museums. Lehner's research interests include settlement archaeology, archaeological method and interpretation, ancient quarrying and construction, irrigation and water transport infrastructure, ancient society and economy, and complexity studies applied to the social sciences. Between 1999 and today, AERA archaeologists have salvaged 10 acres of the "Lost City of the Pyramids."

Lehner and AERA's work have been featured in National Geographic, Discover, Archaeology, New Yorker, and Smithsonian articles and documentaries by National Geographic's Explorer, Discovery, BBC, and NOVA. Most recently, AERA was featured in NOVA's "Decoding the Great Pyramids," which premiered on Feb. 6, 2019, and explored the discovery and translation of the oldest papyrus documents ever found, revealing new clues about the construction of Khufu's Great Pyramid.

SUZANNE (SCHRIEFER) NEUFANG

Neufang, from Golden Valley, splits her time between New York City and Hanover, Germany, is the CEO of the Global Business Travel Association (GBTA).

She was named to lead GBTA in February 2021, where she oversees the

industry trade association's mission to deliver programs related to community, learning, and advocacy. GBTA's annual U.S. convention, its largest event, draws 6,000-7,000 attendees who work within the business travel industry. In this role, she's been honored to have testified twice at a U.S. Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Travel and Tourism.

Neufang has led teams in the travel industry for the past 20 years, including Germany-based HRS, Texas-based Sabre, and Travelocity. In addition, she's led efforts in product, marketing, e-commerce, and public affairs at U.S. telecom giant Verizon (formerly GTE), where she worked for nearly a decade. She got her career start in broadcasting, first at Minot's KMOT-TV and then at Hawaii Public Television.

She's been an active volunteer in the travel industry,

speaking at industry events and serving as president of the board at the Association of Corporate Travel Executives. She's been named a Top 25 Industry Leader by U.S. and European travel trade publications – and has appeared on Fox Business News as well as quoted with in numerous national and international newspapers.

Along with her degree in broadcasting and foreign languages with a music minor from MSU, Neufang holds a Master of Arts in communications from the University of Hawaii-Manoa (1992). She and her husband Ralf – who met at Minot State in 1987 – have lived in North Dakota, Hawaii, Connecticut, and Texas.

DARRYL SMETTE

Smette, a Newburg native who currently resides in Edmond, Oklahoma, retired just shy of 30 years in Oklahoma City, starting as manager of marketing and administrative planning and retiring as the company's executive vice president of marketing, midstream, supply chain, and planning and evaluation.

He earned his art degree with a minor in history from MSU and obtained a master's degree in administration and supervision from Wichita State University in 1975.

Smette's career started in the Newburg office of Amerada Petroleum, leading him to a career in business and the oil and gas industry.

After graduation from Minot State, he took a teaching position at Osakis, Minnesota, but moved to Clinton Oil Company in Wichita, Kansas in 1971. He joined Devon Energy Corporation in 1986 and helped the company go public in 1988. He became a member of their six-member executive committee in charge of managing and running Devon.

During the first 14 years after going public, Devon grew rapidly, primarily through mergers and acquisitions. Devon became a member of the S&P 500 in 2000 and remains there today. Smette retired from Devon in 2016.

Education has always been part of his career, and in 1981, he was approved as a continuing education instructor by the University of Texas covering energy, leadership, and management. He also was an energy advisor to the Kansas City Federal Reserve Board.

Smette continued his affection for the arts as he and his wife, Kathy, have a large art collection that includes various styles and mediums. He served on the Board of the Oklahoma City Museum of Art for 11 years, including being a member of the exhibition committee and the acquisitions committee.

MICHAEL TOY

Toy, originally from Williston and currently living in Fargo, is the chief operating and strategy officer at First International Bank & Trust (FIBT). Toy has been with FIBT since 2007. He is responsible for directing a range of departments including human resources, organizational development, information technology, and corporate operations. His span of control extends to digital, data and development, mortgage, cards, and retail. He also oversees Kotapay, a division of FIBT which specializes in processing electronic transactions, servicing more than 100,000 companies.

He serves on the FIBT Board of Directors, chairs the bank's Strategic Planning and Oversight Committee, and is a member of several other internal committees.

A graduate of Williston High School in 1984, Toy began his professional career in education and was a teacher and coach at Medina for five

years before leaving in 1996 for an opportunity in banking at First Western Bank & Trust in Minot, where he was employed for nearly five years. From there he ventured to Sioux Falls, South Dakota to work at the Home Federal Bank for more than six years.

Toy earned his bachelor's degree in business education at MSU and has since gone on to complete a diploma from the Graduate School of Banking in Madison, Wisconsin. He also earned an associate degree in accounting at MSU and completed the Dale Carnegie Leadership Training Course. He is a member of the Fargo Rotary Club, serves as a Dakota Medical Foundation ambassador, and is a member of the Minot State Board of Regents.

During his time at MSU, Toy was a four-year letter recipient in track & field and cross country. He has continued his passion for running, participating in numerous marathons throughout the years. His wife, Kristi, began her college career at MSU and currently serves as the Osgood Elementary School Principal.

STEPHANIE (SCHRAMM) LITTLE

Little, from Bismarck, is an assistant professor of social work for Minot State at MSU's Bismarck location.

After a tumultuous upbringing, she ultimately dropped out of high school. She started as a social work student at Minot State, and has subsequently returned as a social work faculty, dedicating her life to community service, academia, social justice, and systems advocacy.

Along with her time as assistant professor of social work at MSU, she has advanced generalist practice at Sanford Health Transplant Center, North Dakota State Penitentiary, and United Tribes Technical College. She

has been a licensed master social worker through the North Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners since 2015. First elected to the board of the National Association of Social Workers in 2019, she contributes to the state chapter's advocacy committee, membership committee, and conference committee. Little is a consulting editor for both the National Association of Social Workers Health & Justice Journal and Health & Social Work Journal.

Upon election in 2017 to the United Network for Organ Sharing's Patient Affairs Committee, she is currently serving as an elected representative for the Safety and Operations Committee and social work consultant for the Patient Affairs Committee and Ethics Committee. Little organizes community outreach education, donor registration events, and bone marrow drives in rural North Dakota to increase diversity on the registry.

Little earned an associate degree from Bismarck State College in 2010 and graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Social Work degree from MSU. She completed her master's degree in 2015 from Minnesota State University Mankato.

While attending MSU, Little was the recipient of the Jim Wahlberg Social Work Scholarship, North Dakota Conference of Social Welfare Scholarship, and High North Fellowship. As a graduate student, she earned the Southern Minnesota Behavioral Health Initiative, a federal grant to increase mental health practitioners in rural settings.

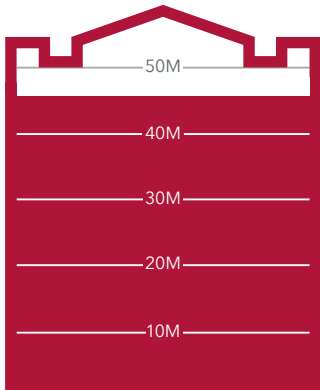
Little is currently a doctoral student at the University of South Dakota in a customized doctorate in Health Sciences and Master of Public Health degree program. Her dissertation focuses on the social work implications of organ allocation and ethics. ■

EMPOWER



AS WE ENTER THE HOME stretch of our historic \$50 million **EMPOWER** capital campaign, I feel a true sense of gratitude toward those of you that have helped us to this point. In the planning stages of this campaign, our vision was to transform our campus through increased funding for student scholarships, academic programs, university facilities, and athletics. I'm pleased to announce we've made

\$45M
as of 10-15-23



significant strides in doing just that with our current fundraising at \$45 million. Although our campaign is tracking well, we have more to do and many challenges ahead. Increased competition from online offerings, rising student debt, rapidly changing technology, and aging facilities are just a few of the headwinds we face. With this campaign, we can overcome those challenges and continue to move Minot State University on an upward trajectory.

We are excited to announce the 2023 North Dakota Legislature has provided significant funding for the ND Higher Education Challenge Grant. Our MSU Development Foundation has been allocated \$1.7 million in matching funds that can be utilized for the advancement of higher education academics. This program allows for a 50% match on gifts designated to scholarships and other areas such as technology, educational infrastructure, classroom enhancements, and equipment. This has been a very popular tool for donors supporting MSU in the past. If you are interested in taking advantage of this outstanding matching program, please contact me or any of our development officers.

We have several projects currently in the fundraising stage that could benefit from the ND Challenge Grant:

Greenhouse

The nearly 60-year-old greenhouse has suffered from harsh ND winters. The 300-square-foot structure requires a total reconstruction consisting of double-layered panels, working irrigation system, and a climate-controlled interior.



Observatory

Established in 1967 and located north of the amphitheater, the observatory houses a 16-inch diameter Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope which requires major technological upgrades.



Hoffman Auditorium

Located in Cyril Moore Science Center, the Hoffmann Auditorium renovation calls for new seating, sound, lights, and technology upgrades to ensure our students have a state-of-the-art learning environment.



Steinway Classic Grand Piano

MSU's newly renovated 80-seat Hartnett Recital Hall needs a Steinway classic grand piano. The piano will provide opportunities for Minot State music students and faculty to create, share, and collaborate.

These projects are eligible for matching funds through the ND Challenge Grant. If you are interested in supporting these projects, please contact me for additional information.



In closing, I want to recognize and thank two special people within MSU Advancement and the Development Foundation. Bonnie Trueblood, Advancement and Development Foundation office manager, and Doreen Wald, director of Design and Print Services, will be retiring this fall. Bonnie spent the last 11 years organizing our "A" team while Doreen served our campus for 36 years. We are extremely grateful for their hard work and dedication on behalf of our students. Both of these individuals will be missed and we wish them the best in retirement. Employees such as Bonnie and Doreen truly make Minot State University a special place!

MSU Development Foundation
Rick.Hedberg@MinotStateU.edu • 701-858-4483

Outstanding educators

THE MSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IS PROUD TO RECOGNIZE THIS GIFTED GROUP OF EDUCATORS, ALL GRADUATES OF MINOT STATE.



Crystal (Mansfield) Michels '08, an English language arts teacher at Minot High School Central Campus, was named 2023 Teacher of the Year by the Minot Education Association.



Pam (Correll) Stroklund '85/'97 was honored with the North Dakota Career Technical Education Association's Administrator of the Year award.



2023 Ward County Teacher of the Year, from Minot, **Trisha (Solper) Schaefer '02** is a sixth grade math teacher at Erik Ramstad Middle School.

Other MSU alumni named 2023 County Teachers of the Year are:

BOTTINEAU: **Jocelyn Grann '08**, Westhope Public School

MCHENRY: **Magdeline (Woodall) Brandt '19**, TGU Granville Public School

MCKENZIE: **Julie (Yineman) Gronos '89**, Watford City Badlands Elementary School

Congratulations educators!

2023 Corn Maze at Berry Acres Pumpkin Patch

THANK YOU
to Berry Acres
Pumpkin Patch
for honoring
MSU with their
2023 corn maze
design.

MSU staff, faculty,
alumni, and friends
enjoyed a beautiful
night with their
families at
Berry Acres
in October.



Brekhus hits the ground running as new director of alumni engagement

by Michael Linnell

COURTENAY (BURCKHARD) BREKHUS HAD LITTLE TIME TO GET ACCLIMATED TO THE ALUMNI WORLD AS SHE TOOK OVER IN JUNE AS MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY'S DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT.

But the 2012 graduate's inaugural fall at the helm was a rousing success with MSU's Summer Friendraising Golf Tour, the annual Luau at the North Dakota State Fair, Alumni and Friends Socials in Fargo and Bismarck, and Homecoming 2023 all packed into a few short months.

"Although it's been pretty fast paced with all the summer events and an early Homecoming this year, it's been a lot of fun," Brekhus said. "I'm grateful to have met so many wonderful alumni already in such a short amount of time. I can't say enough about our amazing Minot State Advancement/Development Foundation team. They have been so supportive throughout the past few months."

Brekhus, who earned degrees in athletic training and corporate fitness, served as a wellness specialist and assistant director for the Minot State Wellness Center for the past 11 years.

"Minot State has been my home for the past 16 years," she said. "I'm grateful for all MSU has done for me, and I'm honored for the opportunity to give back to the campus and community."

Along with her work in the Wellness Center, Brekhus has been an adjunct instructor for the past eight years in the teacher education and kinesiology department. She was chair for the MSUWell Committee for 10 years, a past senator for MSU's Staff Senate, and was the March 2017 winner for the Minot State High Five Award. A native of Burlington, Brekhus was a student at Minot State from 2007 to 2012 before taking a full-time position at the MSU Wellness Center. While working, she earned a Master of Science degree in kinesiology in 2018 from A.T. Still University.

Brekhus resides in Minot with her husband, Dakota, and their three daughters. ■



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Upcoming EVENTS

Alumni & Friends SOCIAL in **DENVER** December 30

January 19 Basketball Alumni & Friends Appreciation Night

February 7-8 FLORIDA Alumni & Friends Social

ARIZONA Alumni & Friends Social Feb. 29, Mar. 1 - 2, 2024

2024 Gala & auction & dinner Friday, May 17, 2024



Minot Hot Tots Night



2023 MSU Golf Tour



MSU Summer Theatre Night



MSU Luau



Bismarck Social







2023
MSU
Homecoming



1971

Bonny (Hammond) Berryman is teaching fourth grade at Max Public School.

1977



Timothy Henry is the medical director of the Carl and Edyth Lindner Center for Research and Education and the Carl and Edyth

Lindner Family Distinguished Chair in Clinical Research at the Christ Hospital in Cincinnati. He is the immediate past president of the Society of Coronary Angiography and Intervention.

1980



Gary Albrightson, Dakota College at Bottineau associate professor, was named one of the Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty

for the American Association of Community Colleges. This award recognizes individuals making a difference in the classroom.

1981

Lisa (Arnold) Clute, executive officer at First District Health Unit in Minot, retired following 29 years of service.



Tim Mihalick was named chair of the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) and reappointed to serve a four-year

term. Mihalick is a business development officer at First Western Bank & Trust of Minot. He was originally appointed to a four-year term on the SBHE in 2019.

1984



Linda Olson was appointed by Gov. Doug Burgum to the board of directors of the North Dakota Council on the Arts. Olson, chair and

professor of the Division of Art and Professional Communications at Minot State, will complete a director vacancy through July 2024 and then will serve an additional five-year term.

1986



Kevin Burckhard, CLU, ChFC, achieved membership in the prestigious Million Dollar Round Table organization, a milestone that offers the opportunity

to share innovative ideas and best practices with other leading financial professional members. This is the 21st year that Burckhard has achieved the MDRT qualification.



Scott Evanoff was appointed by Gov. Doug Burgum to serve a five-year term on the Teachers' Fund for Retirement board of

trustees. Evanoff will represent retired members. He was a math instructor for the Minot Public Schools for 34 years.

1987



Susan (Swedlund) Sisk was appointed by Gov. Doug Burgum to serve as the director of the state Office of Management

and Budget (OMB). Sisk most recently served as vice president and director of finance for the Bismarck-based engineering firm KLJ from 2015 to 2021. Prior to that, she served as chief financial officer and controller for CHI St. Alexius Health in Bismarck for eight years. Sisk earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Troy University in Montgomery, Alabama. She is a past president of the North Dakota Healthcare Financial Management Association and member of the North Dakota Society of CPAs. Sisk was also previously appointed to serve on the Judicial Conduct Commission and Judicial Nominating Committee and chaired the Revenue Advisory Group and Revenue Cycle Committee.



Ted Uecker received the Emerging Leader Award from the North Dakota Association of Nonprofit Organizations. This award

is given to a nonprofit professional who has made a significant

impact in strengthening the North Dakota nonprofit sector in a short time within the field through his/her commitment to leadership, volunteerism, and/or philanthropy. Uecker is the foundation director of the West River Health Services Foundation.

1989

Marcy (White) Beck is the director of the Minot Public Schools Adult Learning Center.



Kevin Harmon was elected chairman of the Town & Country Credit Union Board of Directors. He is the vice president of student affairs at

Minot State.

Lori (Monger) Holtz, chief financial officer at Aspire Credit Union Minot, received the Dakota Credit Union Association's 2023 Arnold C. Paulson Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded each year to help defer costs associated with attending the association's annual summit conference.

1990



Kevin Bohl was promoted to senior vice president commercial lender and consumer banking manager with First Western Bank &

Trust. Bohl has over 25 years of financial services experience. He graduated in the top 10% of his class in the Graduate School of Banking at Colorado in 2019.

Wendell Nelson is teaching grades 5-12 band instrumental music and grades 7-12 choir at Ray Public School. Nelson previously taught four years at Divide County.



Chad Vogel joined First Western Bank & Trust as a mortgage loan originator with over 20 years of experience. He is currently a board

member of Lewis & Clark Community Works and the Minot Renaissance Zone Committee.

1991



Mary Beth (Wald) Votava completed the GrowthWheel program and is recognized as a GrowthWheel Certified Business

Advisor and GrowthWheel Certified Partner. Votava joined the North Dakota Small Business Development Centers in July 2000. She serves seven counties in north central North Dakota from the Minot center.

1993



Joe Broderick is the assistant principal at Princeton High School in Princeton, Minnesota. Broderick, a long-time educator,

most recently was principal at Roseau High School. His career includes teaching, assistant principal, athletic director, community education director, building principal, and school superintendent.



Michael Page is a family practice doctor who provides care to patients of all ages at the Carrington Health Center. Dr. Page also

provides care to nursing home residents in both Carrington and New Rockford. During his free time, Page enjoys hunting, chess, and reading. He is the proud father of five children and grandfather of five grandchildren.

1995

Jennifer Schoffer Closson graduated in Spring 2022 with her Doctor of Education from the University of Montana. Schoffer Closson was recently promoted to associate clinical professor in the speech, language, hearing, and occupational sciences at the University of Montana. She opened a private practice called YETI Consulting LLC in 2021 and does consultations with schools and trainings on autism spectrum disorder and neurodiversity.

1996



Jeremy Brandt joined the Minot State men's basketball staff as an assistant coach. Brandt is a graduate of Newburg High School where he played basketball and baseball. He and his wife, Heather, have been married for 27 years and are teachers at Minot Public Schools.

Jason Ermer, former activities director at Garrison High School, was the recipient of the North Dakota Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's (NDIAAA) State Award of Merit during the organization's spring conference held in Fargo. Ermer received the award in recognition of outstanding leadership and meritorious achievement in interscholastic athletic administration. Ermer teaches social studies at Garrison High School.



Rhonda (Stotz) Weninger teaches second through 12th grade art for the Lewis & Clark Public School District in Plaza and Berthold. Weninger has taught Minot State College for Kids camps for the past three years and had her first art installation solo art show at the Taube Museum of Art this summer. Weninger earned an art degree at MSU in 2022.

1997

Roberta (Kippen) Abernathey was one of three recipients of the President's Award from Delta Vacations.

1998

Lana (Splonskowski) Clyde is the speech/language pathologist for Max Public School.

Jeff Ingerson teaches high school music for the New Rockford-Sheyenne School District. Ingerson is a licensed music teacher and has more than two decades of experience in K-12 music education. He taught for 22 years at rural public schools in Drayton, Starkweather, Ashley, Strasburg, and Dunseith.



Brekka (Nybakken) Kramer was named one of the 15 Women You Need to Know in North Dakota Business by the Greater North Dakota Chamber. Kramer is president and CEO of the Minot Area Chamber EDC. Kramer was also elected, as a member at large, to the Economic Development Association of North Dakota board of directors.

2000

Kevin Vigested is the president and CEO at Aspire Credit Union in Minot. Vigested worked as an auditor for the Health and Human Services Department and then made a shift to the financial services industry as a commercial lender and branch president. Vigested served three terms as the MSU Beaver Boosters Board president and is a member of the Minot Tournament Committee. Vigested, his wife, Carla, and their two sons reside in Minot.

2001



Mike Gietzen joined SRT Communications in Minot as business sales manager. He leads business sales for all products and services, including high-speed internet, and will develop new opportunities and partnerships. Prior to joining SRT, Gietzen worked in business development, fleet and commercial sales, for 20 years at Ryan Chevrolet in Minot.



Shaun Sipma was the top producer of life insurance sales for Farmers Union Insurance for April and top producer of annuity sales for June. Sipma has been with North Dakota Farmers Union Insurance in Minot since 2013, after working 15 years in the broadcast industry. He has served as a volunteer for Farm Rescue and as a member of the Minot City Council from 2016 until elected to a four-year term as mayor in 2018.

2002



Tara Schaefer-Nygaard is offering mental health therapy services at the Mountrail County Health Center in Stanley. Schaefer-Nygaard began her career working with children and families. She worked in foster care case management, home and community-based services to adoptions programs and infant development. She is certified in eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR) therapy and is a member of the Western Area Health Education Advisory Board. Schaefer-Nygaard received her master's degree from Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho in 2012. She and her husband, Kurt, an oil gauger at Kinder-Morgan and retired Army veteran, have five children.

2003



Renata (Rensch) Buen was promoted to senior vice president-mortgage with Town & Country Credit Union. Buen has been with Town & Country since 2008, most recently serving as an executive mortgage officer.

2004



DelRae (Zimmerman) Geinert was re-elected to serve a three-year term on the Town & Country Credit Union Board of Directors. Geinert will serve as vice chair of the board for one year. She is a licensed realtor, broker, and owner of Brokers 12 Real Estate in Minot.



Amber (Mills) Sheridan is the senior vice president, chief human resources officer and leads the Kinsale Capital Group human resources team. Sheridan joined Kinsale in 2015 and served in roles of increasing responsibility before being promoted to senior vice president human resources in 2021. She

received a Master of Education from Virginia Commonwealth University.

2005



Terri Soine is the Mayville-Portland-Clifford-Galesburg K-12 special education strategist. Soine's first teaching position was at the Ojibwa Indian School in Belcourt, where she taught third grade. Soine also taught in Mohall-Lansford-Sherwood, Hope-Page, and Hatton.

2006



Nicole (Luther) Brown was chosen by her colleagues to receive the Sherry Dailey Golden Apple Award. Brown is a teacher for the Lake Havasu Unified School District in Arizona.



Jamie (Slaubaugh) Eraas is the chief executive officer of the Tioga Medical Center. Eraas, a 15-year resident of Tioga and the hospital's chief financial officer, was initially hired in the human resources department. Her husband, Ryan '06, teaches English at Tioga High School.

Tanya (Goebel) Ide was promoted to regional administrator of the Minot Vocational Rehabilitation. Ide previously served as a counselor with the organization for 14 years.



Josh Johnson joined the Minot State men's basketball coaching staff as an assistant coach. Johnson played professionally with the Jacksonville Giants in 2016 and with the Kentucky Mavericks in 2016-17 and 2017-18. Johnson has experience with AAU basketball in Phoenix, experience coaching at the middle school and high school levels, and was the director of basketball operations for JustHoop Basketball based in Phoenix for three years while running his basketball training business JoshCJohnsontraining. He was head girls basketball

coach at North Valley Christian Academy in Arizona in 2019-20 and assistant coach for the boys team, which was 20-1 for the season and NVCA 2020-2021 AIA State Champion.



Chris Schilken was appointed commissioner of economic development for the state of South Dakota. Schilken has been the state

office's deputy commissioner since April 2021 and, prior to that, served as the executive director for Watertown Development Company, starting in January 2018.



Amy (Thomas) Woodbeck, professional and community education coordinator at Minot State, received the Minot Education

Association's Friend of Education award.

2007



Kyle Bittle, Minot State business information technology instructor, is representing the state of North Dakota on the Computing

Technology Industry Association National Career and Technical Education Advisory Council.

2008



Jean Brandt was recognized with the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives Leadership Award. Brandt, director of

North Central Electric Cooperative, has served on the board for 21 years in all leadership positions and on many committees. In 2020, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association hired Brandt to join its executive search team. She travels across the country helping electric cooperatives hire their next leaders.



Audra (Wyman) Butler was promoted to assistant vice president commercial lender with First Western Bank & Trust. Wyman is

located in the Minot region and has over 16 years of financial services experience. She joined FWB&T in 2019.



Brock DesLauriers, Minot president First International Bank & Trust, was named among the Independent Community Bankers of

America 40 Under 40 Emerging Community Bank Leaders list for 2023.



Annette (Grant) Mennem, Minot State University's Native American Cultural Center director, was named to the Strong Mind

Strong Body Foundation (SMSB) board, as a commissioner on Minot's Planning Commission, and a member of the Prairie Public Broadcasting Community Action Board. SMSB is community-led and youth-focused and supports programs that develop youth as future leaders.

2009



Brent Burgard is vice president, chief financial officer, and is part of the ownership team with Ackerman-Estvold in Minot.

2010



Jennifer (Thorgramson) Kleen is the communication and engagement manager for the City of Minot. Kleen has 13 years

of experience in marketing and media.



Kevin Mehrer was named the director of EPIC Charities. EPIC Charities was formed by a group of EPIC Companies' team members, community leaders, and entrepreneurs. This 501(c)(3)

nonprofit provides plaza spaces and additional enrichment opportunities for youth and underserved populations across North Dakota.

2011



David Scharpe, managing director of Northwestern Mutual-Minot office, celebrated his 15-year company anniversary in June.

2012

Lindsay (Lyon) Heidinger is a third-grade teacher at Velva Public School. Heidinger worked as a kindergarten teacher at Minot Public before moving to Tioga. She returned to Minot eight years later to teach first grade.



Leah (Larson) Kasper was promoted to vice president of finance at Creedence Energy Services. Kasper

has been with Creedence since 2019. She also recently joined Signal Realty as a real estate agent.



Kenya Amanda Kraft completed her medical doctorate from St. George's University School of Medicine in Grenada, West Indies.

Kraft worked at Trinity Health before attending medical school in Grenada. Kraft will spend the next three years as an emergency medicine resident at St. Luke's University Health Network Anderson Campus in Easton, Pennsylvania.

2013

Deb (Gefroh) Bopppe, director of health information and clinical documentation integrity at Trinity Health, was named speaker-elect of American Health Information Management Association's (AHIMA) House of Delegates, an assembly comprised of health information representatives from across the country. An active AHIMA member, Bopppe has

chaired the AHIMA Commission on Certification of Health Informatics/Information Management and the Apprenticeship Advisory Committee. At the state level, she has served two terms as president of the ND Health Information Management Association Board of Directors and has been a chapter delegate. She has served as director of health information at Trinity Health since 2011.



Derek Hackett is the marketing director at Prairie Grit Therapy and Prairie Grit Adaptive Sports. Hackett previously worked

for seven years with the City of Minot serving as the public information officer.



Grant Johnson is the business manager for McGee, Hankla & Backes P.C. in Minot. He and his wife, Jenna (Skeldum) welcomed son, Ira Wesley, on Aug. 3.



Karn Lamon is the accountant/controller at STEER, Inc. in Bismarck. STEER, Inc. is a nonprofit mission organization established for the purpose of advancing the work of

the Lord Jesus on earth by raising money to help missionary societies get the Gospel to the ends of the earth through the three-way partnership of donors, farmers/ranchers, and missionaries.

Megan (Berg) Miller, FNP-C, joined the primary care team at Trinity Health. Miller received a master's degree in advanced nursing practice from the University of North Dakota. She began her career as an RN at St. Alexius Medical Center in Bismarck. In 2014, she joined Trinity Health, as a member of the clinic team, caring for patients in the OB/GYN and primary care units.

2014



Michael DeLorme, seventh grade mathematics instructor at Jim Hill Middle School, has been named the Minot North girls

golf coach. DeLorme has been a part of the Minot High golf programs for eight years.



Brett Fiddler was promoted to executive mortgage officer for Town & Country Credit Union. Fiddler joined the credit union's team in 2015 and has spent the past two years serving as a mortgage lender.



Janna (Olson) McKechnie was named the assistant athletic director for external operations with the Minot State athletic department. McKechnie served as director of alumni engagement for the past 11 years. She and her husband, Aaron, have two daughters.



Tim Olson returned to the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation to serve as the communications manager.

Melissa (Amundson) Schepp graduated from the University of North Dakota in December 2022 with her master's degree in science in psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner. Schepp joined Melinda (Ljunggren) Howe '04 at Ascend Wellness MBS in Minot providing mental health services.

2015



Katrina (Leintz) Berg joined Town & Country Credit Union as a marketing specialist. Originally from Velva, Berg has more than eight years of experience in marketing, communications, and community outreach. In this role, she is responsible for creating and implementing marketing strategies to drive brand awareness, developing content, coordinating member and employee events, and managing the credit union's volunteer and sponsorship programs in Minot.

Katelyn (Backes) Denne is the Bishop Ryan Catholic School Advancement & Foundation director in Minot. Denne's career began in public accounting at Brady Martz, followed by private accounting at Creedence Energy Services, and time as an internal auditor at First Western Bank & Trust. She and her husband, John '12, have three children.



Kirsten (Johnson) Helseth, a board-certified nurse practitioner, is a member of the general surgery team with Trinity Health. Helseth received a master's degree in family nurse practice from the University of Cincinnati. Her RN experience includes seven years working as a nurse in Trinity Health's OR.

Tanya (Borho) Kraft is a kindergarten teacher at Minnie H Kindergarten Center in Devils Lake.



Kersten (Brown) Pelton was promoted to documentation manager at Western Equipment Finance in Devils Lake. She oversees the documentation department along with the title/collateral team. Pelton has been with Western Equipment Finance for seven years. She resides in Devils Lake with her husband and daughter.

Andrew Torgerson is the athletic director at Laurel High School. Torgerson was with Colstrip High School for the past eight years, serving as head athletic director for the past two and assistant AD in the two years prior. He served as the head track & field coach at Colstrip for all eight years of his tenure, head football coach 2020 and 2021, and was an assistant coach for football and wrestling. He earned a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Montana in 2021.



Jordan Willert is teaching seventh grade physical education at Jim Hill Middle School in Minot.

2016



Mark Lyman, economic development specialist for the Minot Area Chamber EDC, received the Emerging Young Professional of the Year award from the Economic Development Association of North Dakota.

2017

Mikhaila (Hynson) Niess is teaching fifth-grade science at Velva Public School. Niess has five years of teaching experience, with the last four years as a sixth-grade science teacher. She is a volleyball coach and plays volleyball in her spare time. Niess and her husband, Devin, have a 2-year-old son.



Dan Yale joined First Western Bank & Trust as an ag lender in April. He works out of the Minot Main Bank. Yale and his wife, NaTeal (Bosch '13), have two children.

2018

Trista Hartleib is a special education educator at Underwood School.

Stephanie (Sundhagen) Kringen is in her sixth year of teaching science at Ray High School. She married Seth Kringen in June.

Zackery Myers received the North Dakota Peace Officers Association Exceptional Performance award. The award is given for exceptional performance to officers for their patience, compassion, and initiative in acting during life-threatening situations.

Jenna (Wing) Nord is an athletic trainer at Altru in Grand Forks helping sports medicine doctors in the clinic and as an assistant athletic trainer at East Grand Forks High School.

2019



Clarissa Ramirez graduated with a Master of Kinesiology in exercise and sport psychology from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville in May 2021. Ramirez is currently living in St. Louis and working as a full-time athletic trainer at Webster University.



Celestino "Sal" Rodriguez was named head coach for Minot State softball. Rodriguez previously served as the MSU assistant director of athletics for revenue and fan development. The Crystal Lake, Illinois native competed as a Minot State student-athlete and was captain of the baseball team, served as the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee president and a student ambassador, was the Homecoming king, a marketing intern with men's hockey, and an assistant softball coach at Bishop Ryan High School.



Sydney (Landsiedel) Yale is the fitness and wellness coordinator at the Minot State Wellness Center. Yale previously worked with Premier Chiropractic & Movement and Bishop Ryan Catholic School. She lives in Minot with her husband, Matt, and two children.

2020



Makensy Arlien was promoted to consumer lender 1 at First Western Bank and Trust in the Minot region. Arlien joined FWB&T in July 2021 as a consumer loan processor and loan documentation specialist.



Cole Edwards is the activities director and girls basketball head coach for Bishop Ryan Catholic School.

Hannah Gilseth is teaching first grade at Turtle Lake-Mercer School.

2021



Erica (Surette) Bailey completed a two-part testing requirement for the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf National Interpreter Certification (RIDNIC). This is the highest level of certification for the profession and is exceptionally rigorous. Bailey is a special education instructor at Minot State.



Keegan Berry is the director of athletic facility operations at Minot State. Berry is responsible for preparation for the athletic department game day events, along with scheduling MSU's athletic facilities. Berry served as a substitute teacher for a year in the Minot Public Schools system, was an assistant coach from 2017 to present for the Dakota Rattlers Wrestling Club, a camp counselor at the Robinson Intensive Wrestling Camps in Minneapolis, and served as a volunteer coach for Special Olympics.

Justin Cote-Kanning, North Dakota Highway Patrol trooper, was assigned to the Stanley duty station. Prior to joining the NDHP, he served in the McLean County Sheriff's Department and worked as an EMT with the Community Ambulance Service and the Garison Ambulance Service.



Ian Geller joined Ackerman-Estvold Minot office as a geographic information systems (GIS) technician. Geller earned his master's in geography and GIS from the University of North Dakota. His responsibilities will focus on GIS and will provide environmental expertise on a variety of projects throughout the region.

Camron McFarland, North Dakota Highway Patrol trooper, was assigned to the duty station in Rolla. He previously served in the military and worked in corrections.



Joshua Medlin is a nursing instructor at Dakota College at Bottineau. Medlin was born in Los Angeles and raised in the Pacific Northwest at Camas, Washington. He joined the U.S. Air Force and was assigned to England, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. While in the USAF, Medlin was promoted to military flight instructor where he trained airmen on self-aid buddy care, combat tactics, CPR, and other lifesaving skills. He received certification in antiterrorism level II and earned an associate degree in criminal justice. He served honorably for a decade and decided to move from military police/security forces to nursing. His practical nursing experience is in ER, outpatient/urgent care, family practice, and rheumatology.



Brenna Tschetter is a financial advisor with Edward Jones-Greg Tschetter Agency. Tschetter previously was a personal banker with First International Bank & Trust and coached middle school basketball for Minot Public Schools.

Ami Yale works with First District Health Unit's maternity care program. Yale is the coordinator of FDHU's Optimal Pregnancy Outcome Program.

2022

Kyla (Lewis) Burnett is teaching general music, band, and choir for grades K-12 for the Newburg United School District. In her teaching career, Burnett spent last year subbing for the Minot Public School District and as a long-term sub for elementary music in the Velva Public School District.



Madison Cooper joined Ackerman-Estvold Minot office as a water resource technician. Cooper worked in a local surface mining

operation assisting with sound reclamation and environmental practices, design, surveying, and GIS development. She will aid in dealing with regulatory compliance issues, water source development, water and wastewater treatment, water storage and distribution systems, wastewater collection and pumping systems, and drafting and design.

Rachel (Matthews) Filkins is teaching kindergarten at Max Public School.

Hanna (Grubb) Haase is teaching second grade at Stanley Community Schools. Originally from Powers Lake, she student taught in Stanley last year and began teaching in her own classroom in November 2022. She and her husband, Caulen, live in Powers Lake.



Troy Kowal was drafted by the BC Lions with the 70th pick in the 2023 Canadian Football League draft.

2023

Leah Aberle is teaching fifth grade at Stanley Community Schools.

Katie Cargo is teaching kindergarten in the Westhope School District. Cargo, a Towner native, has previously been teaching in the Minot area.

Alina Gonzalez has been accepted to Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego to pursue her juris doctor degree.

Jaxton Lorenz is teaching weights, seventh grade PE/health, ninth and sixth grade PE, and lifetime activities at Stanley Community Schools.



Alayzia McLeod is teaching fourth grade at Ray Public School.

Sydney Nelson, a Bottineau native, is teaching second grade at Westhope Elementary School. Nelson has a double major in elementary education and special education. While at MSU, she helped with basketball camps for grade schoolers, coached the JV girls basketball team at Our Redeemer's Christian School, and worked for the Community Learning Center with Minot Public Schools.

Attending

Rebekka Bummer is student teaching at Stanley Community Schools and then transitioning to an in-house sub.

Morgan Kroeger joined Town & Country Credit Union as the credit union services coordinator. Kroeger will provide administrative support across the organization and to the board of directors.

Friend



Mark Jantzer was presented the Secretary of the Air Force Distinguished Public Service Award. Jantzer has served in the Air and Space

Force Civic Leader Program for 12 years, having recently transferred into an emeritus status. He was honored for his exceptionally distinguished public service during his term with the program. Jantzer is a city councilman; chairman of Task Force 21, an organization aimed at educating the local community and North Dakota officials and congressional leaders on national security issues; and honorary commander for the 91st Operations Group of the 91st Missile Wing.



Jana Schultz was awarded the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award by the Minot Magic City Lions. This award is the highest form of recognition and embodies humanitarian ideas consistent with the nature and purpose of Lionism.

The following alumni were inducted into the Minot Public Schools Athletic Hall of Fame:

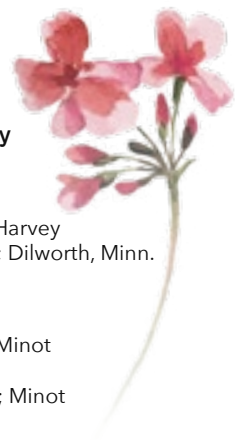
Gary Cederstrom '78
Bruce Anderson '79

Gary Sampson '80
Bob Holmen '83

Robbie Bucholz '87
Matt Witwer '08

In memory

It is with honor we dedicate this section to recognize alumni and friends who have passed away from approximately January 2023 through September 2023 or as submitted.



Graduates

'39 Sogard (Torggrimson), Melva; Beach
'42 Kline (Matz), June; Bismarck
'49 Rader (Held), Dorothy; Cando
'50 Lodmell (Mondou), Maxine; Saint Paul, Minn.
'50 Manchester (Wold), Joanne; Missoula, Mont.
'52 Allmaras (Muscha), Jean; New Rockford
'53 Morin (Gates), Hanora; Roseville, Calif.
'56 Ironhawk (Beck), Evelyn; Pendleton, Ore.
'56 Taft (Atkinson), Donna; Youngtown, Ariz.
'57 Berry, Everett "Frank;" Gold River, Calif.
'58 Swanson (Getzalaff), Gail; Grand Forks
'59 Krack, Hazel; Cando
'59 Ravnaas (Solheim), Carol; Turtle Lake
'59 Stewart (Gimbel), Avis; Bottineau
'59 Verbitsky (Zavalney), Mabel; Minot
'60 Creed, Herbert; Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
'60 Olsgaard (Varloe), Mabel "May;" Moorhead, Minn.
'60 Rosencrans (Hegland), Carole; Hettinger
'60 Sprenger, LeRoy; Mesa, Ariz.
'61 Smith, Winfred; Grenora
'61 Teske, Marjorie; Westhope
'61 Williamson, Gary; Minot
'62 Spitzer (Allen), Judith; Minot
'62 Ward (Lundt), Janice; Ridgefield, Wash.
'63 Knudson, Robert; Minot
'63 Bollinger (Olsen), Judy; Henderson, Nev.
'63 Jepsen (Heide), Mavis; Woodbury, Minn.
'63 Mobley (Pfeiffer), Juanita; Minot
'64 Armstrong (Collins), Marilyn; Scottsdale, Ariz.
'64 Schultz (Anderson), Luann; Joliet, Ill.
'65 Bryn (Harmon), Saundra; Portland, Ore.
'66 Melby (Johnson), Rosalie; Bowbells
'67 Everson, Ronald; Minot
'67 Frederick, Howard; Mandan
'67 Merck (Haga), Claudette; Velva
'68 Blohm, Curtis; Bismarck
'68 Grossman (Herbel), LaVern; Grand Forks
'68 Langseth (Lider), Darlene; Williston
'68 McNally, Patrick; Minot
'68 Phelan, Kenneth; Hillsboro, Ore.
'68 Ranum, Neil; Osakis, Minn.
'69 Huber, Curtis; Maxbass
'70 Sherrill (Brozle), Anita; Oak Harbor, Wash.
'70 Slorby, Tom; Minot
'70 Yecoshenko (Stromme), Amy; Bismarck
'72 Vetter, Ronnie; Garrison
'72 Volk (Hausauer), Debbie; Minot
'73 Boehm (Howery), Crystal; Minot
'73 Olschlager, Terry; Bismarck
'74 Fines (Gartner), Nancy; Garrison
'75 Lemere, Floyd; Minot
'76 Brooks (Bennett), Iris "Carol;" De Queen, Ark.
'76 Crawford, Ellen; Fargo
'76 Rau, Rodger; Minot
'77 Faulkner, Neal; Cincinnati, Ohio
'78 Norton, David; Minot
'79 Bauche (Jaeger), Nancy; Redvers, Saskatchewan, Canada
'80 Murphy, Nancy; Minot
'81 Nelson (Rindahl), June; Elysian, Minn.
'83 Feltman (Warke), Mary; Fargo
'84 Glick (Miller), Velda; Minot
'84 Nord, Gary; Cavalier
'84 Slorby, Jack; Minot
'85 Hansen (MacClennan), Deborah; Wellington, Fla.

'85 Hawbaker (Heizelman), Arlene; Buckeye, Ariz.
'85 Littlewind (Martin), Donelda; Fort Totten
'87 Taft, Brad; Edgewood, Md.
'87 Widmayer, Alan; Minot
'90 Burdick, Richard; Minot
'90 Stoa (Helseth), Denise; Minot
'91 Karlin (Forrest), Corrine "Koko;" Bismarck
'92 Deplazes, Nicholas; Granville
'92 Haaland (Zahn), Judy; Carpio
'92 Jesser (Kerzman), Wanda; Coleharbor
'92 Krogstad, Mark; Rugby
'92 Lindee, David Sr.; New Town
'92 Soper, Wesley; Surrey
'95 Ellingson (Skjervem), Kathryn; Daytona Beach, Fla.
'95 Franke (Syme), Ardeth; Power, Mont.
'95 McDonald, Sarah; Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Canada
'95 Ruud (Redding), Carmen; Ross
'96 Burdick, James; West Fargo
'97 Apland (Bonsness), Natalie; Minot
'97 Stigen (Sauvageau), Sharleen; Fairfield
'02 Wintermute-Glen, Lori; Minot
'07 Bragg, Virgil Jr.; West Fargo
'07 Harvey, Robert; Minot
'08 Johnson (Row), Colleen; Minot
'10 Marchand, Arin; Minot
'12 Foss, Brady; Phoenix, Ariz.
'19 Brewer, Christopher; Velva
'21 Martin (Jaquez), Cassandra; Minot

Attended

Anderson (Borstad), Linda; Minot
Auch, Robin; Bismarck
Aufforth (Strawbridge), Marjorie; Stanley
Bourquin, Barry; Minot
Braaten, Elman; Crosby
Christenson (Warmbecker), Alice; Towner
Dryden (Shambach), Mary; Roseville, Minn.
Dusek (Schultz), Candice "Candy;" Minot
Eslinger, Norma; Bismarck
Fastdog-Hosie, Valeri; New Town
Field, Lynn III; Bismarck
Giesinger, Raymond; Moorhead, Minn.
Glatt (Haberlach), Diane; Bismarck
Halof (Tennyson), Alisa; Minot
Higgins (Bigwood), Marion; Sioux Falls, S.D.
Kunkel (Weist), Marilyn; Watertown, S.D.
Johnson (Miller), Karen; Pensacola, Fla.
Johnson (Kiser), Susan; Park River
Lemer (Seehafer), Merna; Bismarck
Loken (Oakland), Vivian; Rugby
Mallett (Odstrcil), Jean; Sun City, Ariz.
Mason (Brandvold), Constance "Connie;" Minot
May, John; Minot
McDonald, Gary; Bottineau
McGhan (Tangedal), Lynn; Crosby
Okeson, Corbin; Minot
Pettit (Hauschulz), Debra; Covington, Wash.
Robinson (Weigel), Adele; Great Falls, Mont.
Ronholdt, David; Washburn
Schmunk, Donald; Washougal, Wash.
Stoltz (Hass), Patricia; Valier, Mont.
Ternes, Dorothy; South Lyon, Mich.
Tollefson, Duane; Minot
Turner, Robert; New Town

Zerr (Riplinger), Lena; Harvey
Zimmer (Doman), Marie; Dilworth, Minn.

Friends

Arne (Ballinger), Leslie; Minot
Blake, Donald; Minot
Borud (Benedict), Karen; Minot
Brey, Warren; Minot
Brossart, Ronald; Minot
Buehler, Todd; Oberon
Coleman (Erfert), Ruth; Fargo
Dosch (Lymburn), Jeanette; Hurdsfield
Erickson, Boyd; Minot
Feist, Neal; Minot
Furrow (Davis), Charlene; Minot
Gackle, Mike; Garrison
Gates (McIntosh), Jeanette; Minot
Hall, Ellis; West Baden Spring, Ind.
Hansen (McBride), DeNeé; Minot
Hanson (Haake), Delores; Brea, Calif.
Haskins (Lindberg), Betty; Bismarck
Horvath, Robert; Faribault, Minn.
Hugelen, Audrey; Minot
Johnson, Merton; Minot
Klebe, Glenn; Minot
Klein, Matt; Minot
Krebsbach Geary, Kila; Minot
Kress (Scarr), Elaine; Minot
Lausch (Penn), Donna; Minot
Lawson, John; Edinburg
Lewis (Knutson), Betty; Minot
Marmon, Wayne "Dean;" New Town
Matehs (Herschlip), Evelyn; Upham
McKinley, David; Minot
Nathan (Day), Lucille; Minot
Nelson, Toby; Minot
Olander, Sherain; Minot
Olson, Sidney; Minot
Orvik, Michael; Minot
Piquette, Daryl; Bottineau
Redlin (Nesje), Christine; Rapid City, S.D.
Risinger, Dennis; Minot
Seibel, Arnold; Kingman, Ariz.
Shaar, Harold; Lancaster, Pa.
Svangstu, Robert "Bob;" Noonan
Thomas, Tim; Minot
Thompson (Norquist), Clara; Minot
Tollefson (Kenner), Sharlene; Minot
Wheeler, Robert; Minot
Witter, David "KATO;" Minot
Wyman, Allen; Bismarck

Faculty and Staff

Diederich (Six), Lilah; retired staff in nursing; Minot
Fuller (Warner), Jill; alum 1979; former faculty; Garrison
Hartman, Walter; retired faculty; Peoria, Ariz.
Marshall (Thrailkill), Jeanette; former staff in food service; Minot
Meldrem, Joyce; former librarian; Story City, Iowa
Shaar, H. Erik; retired University president; Sneads Ferry, N.C.
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, director of foundation operations, 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 date of birth. 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.

Bhatarai



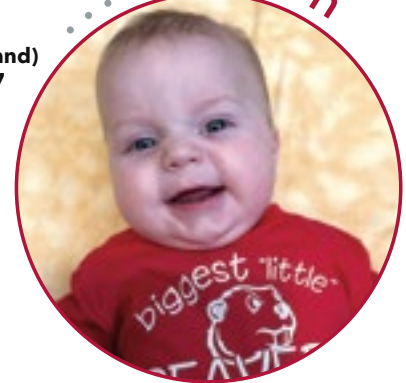
Sunav Bhatarai was born May 2023 to **Ravi Bhatarai '15** and his wife, Dr. Sunanda Neupane.

Duchscherer



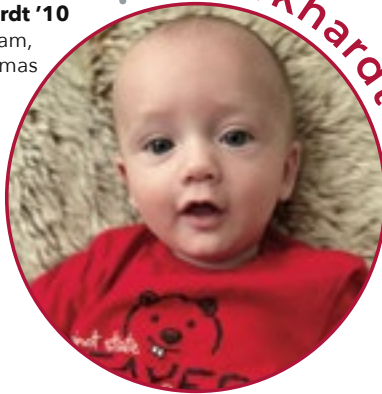
Wallen entered the world Feb. 24, 2023. Proud parents are **Cody Duchscherer '14** and his wife, Ariel.

Eskelson



Lindsay (Okland) Eskelson '07 and her husband, Trent, welcomed Sutton Ray on Aug. 12, 2022.

Burkhardt



Marisa (Cady) Burkhardt '10 and her husband, William, welcomed Benton Thomas on March 17, 2023.

Cederstrom



Proud Beaver parents **Mikel '15 and Molly (Fritel) Cederstrom '14** welcomed Sonnet Grace on March 15, 2022. She joins big brother Everett.

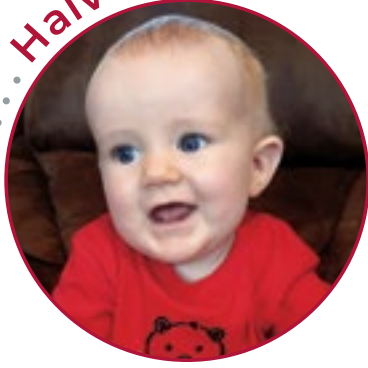
Falkenberg



Mitchell '14 and Stephanie (Rasmussen) Falkenberg '13 had their second child, Henry, on March 14, 2022.

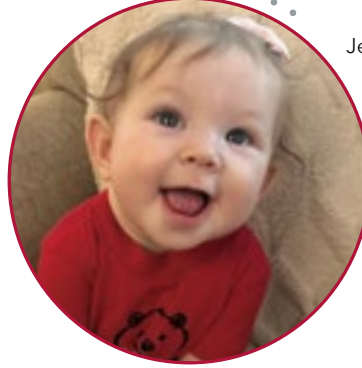
Halvorson

Lance and **Patricia (Sollin) Halvorson '07** welcomed Lennon Lance on Nov. 1, 2022. He joins siblings Lane, Liam, and Summer.



Rabe

Jemma Janine entered the world Aug. 3, 2022 and was welcomed by **Kasey (Rademacher) Rabe '16** and her husband, Jordan.



Rollins

Amanda (Papp) Rollins '18 and her husband, Hayden, had Raelyn June 21, 2022.



Johnson

Megan (Albertson) Johnson '17 and her husband, Travis, welcomed a baby girl, Mayah, born Jan. 26, 2023. She joins big sister Myleigh.



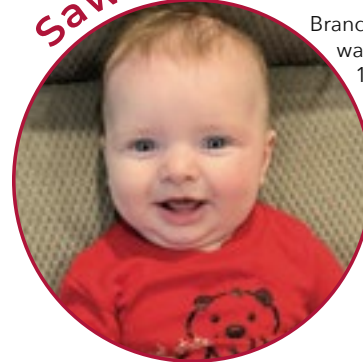
Loftesnes

Dominic Axel was born March 8, 2022 to Loren and Rosita Loftesnes. Dominic is the grandson of staff emeritus **Teresa (Kraft) Loftesnes '07/'15** and her husband, Darrel.



Sawicki

Brandt Mitchell was born Jan. 11, 2023 to Mitch and **Jordan (Marken) Sawicki '20**.



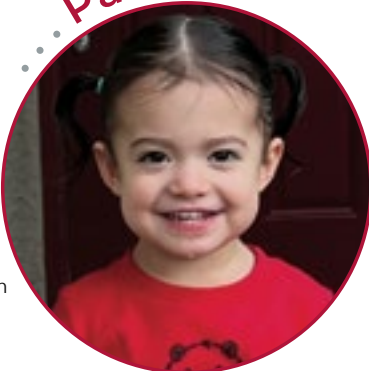
Murray

Emry was born Aug. 12, 2022 to **McKenzie Murray '19** and her husband, Mitch.



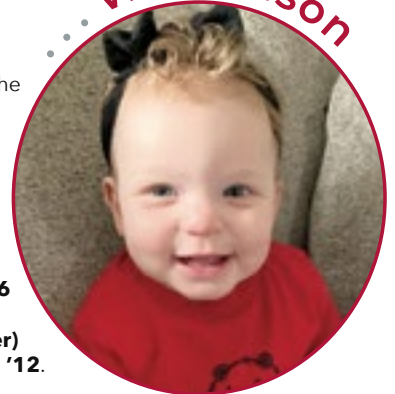
Padilla

Noelle (Cook) Padilla '17 and her husband, Hector, had daughter Juno Ramona on March 13, 2021.



Williamson

Isla joined the Williamson family on Nov. 20, 2022. She was welcomed by parents **Stephen '16 and Aimee (Duchsherer) Williamson '12**.





Alumni Association
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"We first heard about Minot, North Dakota when our oldest son was recruited to play football at Minot State. The first time we came to visit, we fell in love with the town and the people and, two years later, our youngest son also came to play football at Minot State. Over the last 10 years, we have made so many friendships through Minot State and have been blessed to meet so many amazing people. Our love for the community and University was so strong that we sold our home in Southern California and moved to Minot. We are so thankful for everything Minot State has taught our children, helping them further their careers."

– Jeff and Heather Myers