Top Aggies honored for their contributions to Northwest School and communities

The Top Aggie award is an honor given to outstanding NWSA alumni who have distinguished themselves through career achievement, community service, and alumni involvement.

The first Top Aggie award was presented in 1970 to Herschel Lysaker as a former staff member. Bill Strickler '30 of Euclid was the first alumnus honored in 1971. Since then, 35 other Aggie alumni and staff have received Top Aggie awards at the summer reunion.

Each year class leaders, members of the board of directors, and individual alumni submit nominations from within the honored classes. At the 1984 NWSA reunion awards were presented to Claudia Hanson Deery '64, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Price '47, Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Webster '49 and '50, and a staff award honoring the memory of William Menzhuber.

KEN and ROSE MARIE PRICE

Ken '44 and Rose Marie (Kochmann) '47 Price are active residents of the Stephen, MN community, living on the Price family farm which is near its centennial year.

Along with their farming operation, Ken has served ten years as Marshall County commissioner. He has served on numerous county boards and was the 1983 president of the Minnesota Association of Counties. In the Stephen community he is a member of the Lions Club and the Knights of Columbus.

Ken and Rose Marie are active members of their local church. They have also been supportive of the NWSA Alumni Association. Rose Marie is a past secretary of the association board of directors and Ken was a class leader for the 1984 summer reunion. In addition, they are both regular guests at winter dinners and alumni events.

Leonard Yturzenia '43, member of the NWSA Alumni Association and long-time acquaintance of the Prices, presented their Top Aggie award.

CLAUDIA HANSON DEERY

Claudia Hanson Deery '64 is a native of Reynolds, ND, currently living in Mission Hills, SD.

In 1966 Claudia graduated from a nursing program and was employed by the State Hospital in Jamestown, ND. She married Robert Deery in 1968 and they have raised a family of four while living in North Dakota, Oregon, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Their children are Robin, Charmel, Andrea, and James.

During the past eight years Claudia and Robert have also cared for 24 foster children. Along with commitment to the foster parent program and her extended family, Claudia has maintained a career as a pharmacy technician. She is employed by the White Drug Store in Yankton, SD.

Her interests also include involvement in Parent Teacher Organization, church activities, and social service organizations.

She received her Top Aggie award from 1964 class leader Judy Rivard Schuster of Argyle.

Ruth Menzhuber accepted a Top Aggie plaque given in memory of her husband Bill. Taking part in the presentation were, from left, Alumni President Allan Dragseth, former NWSA Superintendent B.E. Youngquist, and UMC Provost S.D. Sahlstrom.

WILLIAM MENZHUBER MEMORIAL AWARD

Ruth Menzhuber accepted the Top Aggie plaque given in memory of her husband Bill from UMC provost S.D. Sahlstrom and former NWSA Superintendent B.E. Youngquist.

Bill joined the staff of the Northwest School in 1955 as an agriculture instructor. In 1966 he was named director of UMC plant services, a post he held until his death in 1983.

Bill was instrumental in designing the present campus landscaping and building layout. His long-range vision for the grounds insures that it will continue to be a scenic highlight in northwestern Minnesota.

The Menzhubes' sons Michael and Robert attended the award presentation with their mother.

RODNEY and JEAN WEBSTER

Rodney '49 and Jean (Anderson) '50 Webster were honored for their commitment to quality family life in a rural setting.

The Websters recently moved across the border from St. Vincent, MN, to Pembina, ND. Over the years Rodney has established a strong reputation for agricultural lobbying efforts in St. Paul, Bismarck, and Washington, D.C. He is a member of the board of directors of Crystal Sugar in Moorhead, MN, and active in the Minn-Dak Growers Association in the Red River Valley.

Rodney and Jean are active in community and church events. They have also taken a special interest in the development of Camp Courage. The Websters have two daughters and one son.

Alumni association secretary-treasurer Marjorie Opbus Mjelde '49 of Erskine introduced the Websters and presented their Top Aggie plaque.

Marjorie Opbus Mjelde, secretary-treasurer of the alumni board, presented Top Aggie honors to Jean and Rodney Webster of Pembina, ND.
Brown Dining Room honors food service head

Fourteen years after her retirement from the University of Minnesota—Crookston, Myrtle Brown returned as the honored guest at the naming ceremony of Brown Dining Room.

The room is a part of the UMC food service building constructed in 1980 on the site of the former Stephens Hall. The dining room serves contract dining for students and is the primary facility for banquets and luncheon meetings on the campus.

Brown Dining Room seats 400 for a banquet and was near capacity at the reunion. The program was held prior to the reunion dinner with Keith Ramberg, UMC director of dining as emcee. Other participants in the program included Allan Dragseth, NWSA Alumni Association president; Sherry O’Gorman, UMC Alumni Association representative; Herschel Lysaker, NWSA and UMC staff representative; Roy Thompson, assistant director of the St. Paul Experiment Station; Dr. B.E. Youngquist, former NWSA superintendent; and Dr. S.D. Sahlstrom, UMC provost.

Myrtle Brown responded to remarks by these guests saying, “I was so surprised and thrilled to hear of this honor. It is truly a night to remember—and such a thrill to see the new food service building and so many friends and former students.”

Mrs. Brown served as principal food service supervisor and instructor at the Northwest School from 1954 until its closing. She continued in that position at UMC, retiring in 1979. “Ma” Brown earned her affectionate nickname through years of counseling and befriending students. She was respected by faculty, staff, and the student body of both schools.

In 1983 the UMC Honors Committee proposed that the contract dining room be named in honor of Myrtle Brown. The decision was supported by recommendations from NWSA and UMC graduates, staff and associates. Following review by the All-College Honors Committee the recommendation was passed by the University of Minnesota Board of Regents.

Myrtle Brown received a replica of the 18” x 24” wall plaque naming the Brown Dining Room from former NWSA Superintendent B.E. Youngquist. UMC Provost S.D. Sahlstrom wanted to present her with a rose bouquet.

President reminisces about reunion highlights

I thoroughly enjoyed visiting with so many of you at the June 30 reunion. It was a terrific day for everyone who gathered on the old NWSA campus to reminisce about the past and create memories for the future.

The naming of Brown Dining Room in honor of Myrtle Brown certainly a highlight of the reunion for me. She was the counselor, friend and role model many of us looked to during our days at the Northwest School. She remains active in alumni events and commented on how it was to visit with former students and staff at the reunion.

I also want to say congratulations to our deserving Top Aggie recipients. It is not easy to select winners from the many outstanding nominations each year. However, I feel very proud of the accomplishments and commitments expressed by Ken and Rose Marie Price, Rodney and Jean Webster, Claudia Deery Hanson, and those shown by Bill Menzhuber’s life. Your input into the 1985 selection of Top Aggies is welcome. If you have nominations or recommendations to submit please write to me at the alumni office.

Just one more thing. Don’t put aside thoughts of Aggie alumni events just because the reunion is over for this year. You’ll be hearing from the association throughout the year with new events, traditional gatherings in your area, and an ongoing need for your financial support of the alumni program and University of Minnesota—Crookston mission. Keep us in mind. I look forward to visiting with you at an upcoming event or whenever you visit the White House Alumni Center.

Allan Dragseth, president

Myrtle "Ma" Brown responded during the naming ceremony.

Memory Lane, an entire wall filled with photo collages from NWSA years and recent reunions, is a favorite gathering place for reunion visitors. The photos are a chronological record of NWSA people and happenings compiled by Bernell Nelson '42.

Published by the Office of Alumni Relations, Lowell Larson, director; Cheri Viestenz, editor; Ardis Thompson, secretary. Photographs by Learning Resources, Cheri Viestenz.

Alumni Association
White House
University of Minnesota
Crookston, MN 56716
Alumni center welcomes first guests at reunion

Remarkable. Beautiful. What a change! These were a few of the exclamations from NWSA alumni touring the White House Alumni Center during the reunion. Over 250 Aggies browsed through the restored home of NWSA superintendents' families, enjoying the renovated rooms and visualizing the additional changes planned by the restoration committee.

The main floor entertainment rooms are reminiscent of the 1929-1939 period decorated in the deep red and dusty blue colors frequently seen in homes. The arched dining room-living room will be used for meetings, conferences, and receptions. Its dark print wallpaper with a wainscoting effect topped by a sculpted chair rail and textured walls adds size and formality to the room. Full tieback drapes in coordinating material and an accenting ceiling border give the room a complete look. Guests enter the room through multihued French doors.

Furnishings for the living-dining room include a refinished dining room table and twelve matching chairs originally used in the home economics building. Needlepoint seat covers are being designed and stitched by alumni volunteers. (See article on project.)

The bedside room has a more casual atmosphere which will be inviting for guests who wish to page through Aggie yearbooks, read class notes compiled in reunion booklets, or look up addresses of former classmates.

Initial remodeling of this room includes new fireplace brick in the red hues of early White House days, a heavy oak mantel, and a plush oriental rug over the refinished hardwood floor. The only remaining NWSA furniture for this room is a library table and a matron's table from Dining Supervisor Myrtle Brown's living quarters.

The original kitchen has been used as a UMC office in recent years. It will be renovated into a functional reception area for greeting guests and providing buffet meal service. The alumni staff and boards of directors for both NWSA and UMC associations anticipate frequent entertainment of alumni for receptions and its full meal service.

As visitors ascend the open stairway to the alumni and development offices on the second floor they will enjoy photos taken on campus and mounted on the walls. Displays of alumni archives are planned throughout the center.

The restoration committee also has plans for the basement. This open area will house decade-by-decade archive collections for visitors who wish to reminisce about one specific time or want to see the history of the school evolve.

All remodeling and renovating of the alumni center and its furnishings are funded through alumni gifts. The boards of directors from both the NWSA and UMC Alumni Associations have designated money donated to the alumni annual fund for alumni services to be used in the restoration process. A goal of $60,000 in personal and class gifts is needed to complete the restoration of the building. $10,000 has already been donated and spent on the project.

Along with the physical restoration of the center the interior needs appropriate furnishings. Several items have already been donated by alumni. The center needs sofas, chairs, lamps, and accessories. If you have items from the 1920-1930 period which you would be willing to donate, please contact the alumni office.

All gifts to the alumni center, both financial and furnishings, are recorded in a gift book donated by the class of 1943. In addition, donors will be named on gift level plaques in the center and receive a record of the tax-deductible gifts for their personal records.

The alumni center is open for a grand opening tour from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you are in the Crookston area plan to stop at the White House and see the restoration in progress. The class of 1942 has donated a guest book for everyone to sign when they visit.
The 1985 summer reunion is scheduled for Saturday, June 29. The reunion will honor the classes of 1915, 1920, 1925, 1930, 1935, 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955, and 1960. If you would like to help as a class leader contact Bernell Nelson '42 at UMC.

Honored classes boost reunion attendance to record number


Marlys Love Finkenbinder ’34 of Crookston was elected secretary-treasurer of the NWSA Alumnae Association Board of Directors at the summer reunion. She succeeds Marjorie Opdahl MJelde ’49 of Erskine, MN.
Former faculty gather for reunion

Former faculty from the Northwest School of Agriculture traveled from across the country to attend the 1984 reunion where they were honored in a special reunion gathering. Banquet tables reserved for the group quickly filled to capacity. Those attending the reunion included (NWSA years in brackets):

Olaf and Dora Soine were among more than twenty former faculty attending the NWSA reunion.

Bruce Beresford, Crookston, MN (1847-68)
Don Bergquist, Adams, ND (1963-68)
Myrtle Brown, West St. Paul (1954-68)
Roger Diehl, Hillisboro, ND (1963-68)
Homer Fausch, Mora, MN (1947-56)
Bob Heckman, Conroe, TX (1960-68)
Ruth Krum, Warren, MN (1954-60)
Herschel Lysaker, Crookston, MN (1941-66)
Jeanette Peterson Lysaker, Crookston, MN (1945-48)
Ruth Menzhu, Crookston, MN (Bill 1955-68)
Gene Miller, Crookston, MN (1954-68)
Rod Mosher, Beltrami, MN (1960-67)
Harlene Hagen Overgaard, Rosville, MN (1962-65)
Evelyn Peterson, Elmhurst, IL (1956-58)
Bertha Reisgard, Crookston, MN (Erwin 1944-48)
Olaf Soine, Brooklyn Park, MN (1945-68)
Ralph Titus, Stewartville, MN (1956-66)
Bernie Youngquist, Crookston, MN (1966-68)

Gene Miller, former NWSA instructor and current Northwest Experiment Station agriculture engineer, coordinated the faculty reunion. He received letters from Joe Marzzi of Grand Rapids, MN (1961-68); Dietrich Reimer of Curtistown, HI (1955-64); and Charles Whiting of Estes Park, CO (1958-61) expressing interest in the reunion but sending their regrets at being unable to attend.

Director identifies role of association in 1985

The Northwest School of Agriculture Alumni Association is an ongoing network of former students and faculty. With offices and staff on the University of Minnesota-Crookston campus, it is a permanent link to the memories and contribution of the NWSA to education in northwestern Minnesota.

Each year the association’s board of directors strives to improve programming and services for Aggie alumni. Lowell Larson, UMC director of alumni and development, outlines the role of the association and its 4,000 members in this interview.

Why does there continue to be an alumni association for the Northwest School of Agriculture?

The NWSA Alumni Association is a vehicle for maintaining contact with former students of the school. The association activities provide opportunities for alumni to gather, to reminisce about school days, and to retain traditions established at the NWSA.

A second purpose of the association is to benefit the ongoing programs at the University of Minnesota—Crookston by updating alumni about current research and technology, and offering the opportunity to financially contribute to that progress.

How do Aggie alumni become involved in the association?

Alumni who read this issue of the Aggie and complete and return the class notes card have taken the first step in involvement. The Aggie is the prime vehicle used to keep alumni informed about events, accomplishments by other alumni, and information about the UMC Technical College and Experiment Station. The newsletter is published twice a year.

The annual summer reunion honoring anniversary-year classes and the community dinners held during the winter months are other enjoyable ways to get involved. Besides visiting with former classmates these events are also sources of information about alumni gatherings and projects.

Hundreds of Aggie alumni choose to get involved through contributions to the Alumni Annual Fund. Their gifts fund the alumni association, UMC campus projects, and student scholarships.

Since the association’s board of directors is made up of alumni working for all other alumni, this is an important level of involvement. The board meets three times a year to plan programming, recognition of alumni, and the association budget.

What is the budget for 1985?
Contributions to the Alumni Annual Fund totalling $3,000 will finance the following budget items:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aggie newsletter (two issues, printing, postage)</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer reunion</td>
<td>$700</td>
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<tr>
<td>(mailing, awards, photos)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter dinners</td>
<td>$300</td>
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<tr>
<td>(mailing, prizes)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer services, labels</td>
<td>$500</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,000</strong></td>
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</table>

How is other Annual Fund money used?
All NWSA alumni contributions are placed in an independent fund and personally acknowledged. Gifts may be designated for specific purposes, such as scholarships or White House Alumni Center restoration. These funds will be used for the requested purposes.

Unrestricted gifts or those designated for the alumni association are appropriated by the board of directors. This is the source of the $3,000 budget money. The board will determine how much of the remaining money is targeted for UMC scholarships, alumni events, and special association projects. There is a complete report on 1983-84 Annual Fund contributions and designations in this Aggie issue.

Where does the White House Alumni Center fit into the association?
The restoration of the White House into a functional and historic center is a special project of both the NWSA and UMC Alumni Associations. The center is dedicated to serving alumni when they visit campus. It will preserve the history and traditions of the schools through maintenance of alumni records, memorabilia, and information.

The former home of NWSA superintendents, it is structurally sound and is physically maintained by the University of Minnesota—Crookston. However, the restoration and remodeling of the 1907 building is a major project for the associations requiring $70,000 to complete.

Nearly $10,000 in alumni gifts have already been received and spent on White House remodeling. The project is coordinated by a restoration committee involving NWSA and UMC alumni (see names page 3). They are supported by the boards of directors from both associations and the alumni staff.
Annual Fund contributions aid UMC, alumni groups

Contributions to the 1985 Annual Fund by Northwest School alumni will have a major impact on the 1985 academic year, and beyond. Your support of UMC scholarships and instructional equipment will benefit deserving students and insure continued quality education at the University of Minnesota—Crookston. Donations to the NWSA Alumni Association are used for publishing the AGGIE, promotion of the winter dinners, and providing office and association supplies.

In 1985 the financial needs will increase. The Alumni Association will bear greater responsibility for office needs and the costs of developing the White House Alumni Center. Educational aid and instructional material requirements will remain a top priority among UMC supporters.

UMC and the NWSA Alumni Association Board of Directors thanks each of you for your generous contribution. Please respond again when you are called during the 1986 Annual Fund Campaign.

CLASS OF 1913
Oscar Lee

CLASS OF 1916
Randolph Saugstad

CLASS OF 1918
William Austin

CLASS OF 1920
James Felber
Ellen Ferguson (Ahlm)
Walter Sprung

CLASS OF 1921
Sophie Narveson (Krueckel)
Myrtle Whittenberg (Erickson)

CLASS OF 1922
Una Delboer (Briden)
Jennie Hvidsten (Peterson)

CLASS OF 1923
Joe Dean (Joseph Lundin)
Adel Hallamnek (Raymond)
William Hopper

CLASS OF 1924
Sylvester Adamski
Carl Larson
Stella Larson (Sorensen)
Gladys Landre (Rice)
Ruth Ludwig (Hermann)

CLASS OF 1925
Mildred Dunn
Gora Grove (Thompson)
Chester Johnson
Amy Love (Omlandel)
Bennett Sharpe

CLASS OF 1926
Lawrence Leones
* Wesley Sheidrow

CLASS OF 1927
Arnold Aakre
Ralph Hamrick
Tim Johnson
* Randolph Ostlie
Olaf Stenberg
Bessie Swanson

CLASS OF 1928
Ethel Beman (Harris)
* Helen Jackson (Hovland)
Geo. Lee

CLASS OF 1929
Harold Cordes
Alice Dumas (Naplin)
Earl Ellinger
* Gordon Ellinger
Elmer C. Johnson
Harvey P.H. Johnson
Wilfred Knutson
* Robert Wal. Larson
* Ted Peet

CLASS OF 1930
Alvin Degernes
Lawrence O. Peterson
Evidia Richwalshki (Koppang)
Annette Rother (Rota)
Selma Waldal

CLASS OF 1931
John Anderson
Clint Donley
Clifford Kroulik
Donald McCull

TOTAL $11,200

UNRESTRICTED $4,475
WHITE HOUSE ALUMNI CENTER $3,305
ALUMNI SERVICES $1,890
SCHOLARSHIPS $1,530

$11,200
Annual Fund rollcall

The following list identifies the order of classes according to Annual Fund donations over $30.

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<td>$170</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLASS OF 1950</td>
<td>$315</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FACULTY-STAFF-FRIENDS $635

In addition to the above, the list includes contributions from faculty, staff, and friends.

- Lillie Christiansen
- Theodore Hass
- Marilyn Kleveland
- Lillian Kostitzke
- Lowell Larson
- Audrey Lepisto
- Laura Loford
- Sue Carol McGee
- Jerome Mulvany
- Beverly Perkins
- Alfred Stedman
- Charles Winter

Total number of NWSA 1983-84 donors: 290

Darwin '43 and Florence Ferrier of Pitt, MN helped alumni order color photographs of their class. The group photos were taken on the mall prior to the evening banquet.