Two alumni join Presidents Club

Many Northwest School alumni are members of the Crookston Chapter of the Presidents Club of the University of Minnesota. Through their gifts of $10,000 or more, these individuals demonstrate a major commitment to the research, education, and service missions of the University.

New members Clifford Dahlsad '40 of Moorhead and Dale Finkenbinder '51 of Crookston were honored for their membership and presented with personal Presidents Club plaques at the February 18 dinner. Dave Phillips represented the University of Minnesota Foundation at the dinner. As director of development for the Foundation, Phillips expressed the University’s appreciation for the private gifts which fund research, scholarships, program development, and professional growth for staff.

The Crookston Chapter of the Presidents Club has 35 active members. Their $10,000 gifts to the college are payable over 10 years. Other means of membership include deferred gifts, bequests, and insurance policies. For more information about the Presidents Club contact Lowell Larson, UMC Development Office, Crookston, MN or call 218-281-6510, Ext. 442.

Alumni find fellowship, new faces at February dinners

Alumni winter dinners took on a new look this year as alumni travelled from across northern Minnesota to visit the restored White House Alumni Center for an evening of entertainment. "I really like the change to having dinners on the UMC campus instead of towns across the state," said Art Brandi '59 of Warroad. "I’m meeting people here tonight who I’d never see at a dinner in Warroad or Roseau."  

The dinners attracted guests from Hallock to Hawley and Warroad to Waconia. Many took advantage of the coinciding dates of the Red River Valley Winter Shows, making a full day in Crookston.

Each of the three dinners began with a reception at the Alumni Center and tours of the restored 1907 NWSA superintendents’ home. UMC food service director Keith Ramberg (NWSA '81, UMC '68 and '70) served the dinner in the Brown Dining Room on campus.

A multimedia production focusing on the University of Minnesota’s mission of education, research, and service highlighted the dinner program. Guests also enjoyed musical selections by UMC students, door prizes, and participation in alumni reminiscing.

The second Presidents Club member honored at the dinner was Dale '51 and Janice Finkenbinder (center) of Crookston. Their daughter, Diane (second left), is a student at UMC. Dave Phillips and Dr. Sahlstrom made the plaque presentation.

NWSA Alumni Reunion: June 29, 1985
Alumni involvement takes many forms

The 1985 alumni winter dinners brought together alumni friends from a large portion of Minnesota. I enjoyed meeting many of you and encourage you to come back in June for the reunion.

REUNION ORGANIZERS

The NWSA Alumni Association board of directors begins reunion plans many months in advance. The directors work with class leaders and the alumni staff to determine reunion entertainment, program, awards, class gatherings, and the costs necessary for these services. Check out the 1985 reunion schedule for a memorable day.

Over 50 seek provost post

Over 50 applicants are being considered for the position of UMC provost, according to Barbara Kithchall, chairperson of the search committee.

Nominations closed March 1. The search committee now screens applications in anticipation of interviewing three to five candidates the week of April 15. Along with extensive interviews with the committee, final candidates will participate in a seminar and reception for the community, tours of the campus and Crookston community, and a seminar with faculty, staff, and student representatives.

The selection committee will recommend three to five unranked candidates to University Deputy Vice President Richard Sauer and University President Kenneth Keller for final appointment. The new provost will serve a seven-year term.

Current UMC provost Stanley Sahlstrom originally resigned effective June 30, 1985. Pending approval by the Minnesota Legislature, Sahlstrom will resign his post in April to assume duties as a member of the University Board of Regents. An interim provost will be appointed on the Crookston campus.

Dr. Stanley Sahlstrom announced in October 1984, that he would resign from his post as founding UMC provost effective June 30, 1985.

By a 51-49 vote of the Minnesota House and Senate members from the 7th Congressional District, UMC provost Stanley Sahlstrom won a position on the University's Board of Regents. Final approval is expected from the Legislature on March 10.

Sahlstrom succeeds Bill Dosland of Moorhead on the board. His six-year term begins in April requiring an earlier than planned retirement from his position as UMC provost.

In remarks to the legislators, Sahlstrom emphasized that it is the function of a land-grant university to provide higher education access to all people of the state. He opposes a plan proposed by University Acting President Kenneth Keller that reduces UMC's degree offerings to those of agriculture. UMC also trains students in business, hospitality, home economics, and the arts and sciences.

"Yes, the university is going to need focus, but it is a land-grant university," Sahlstrom said, pledging to "go about the business of making sure that our university serves those rural areas."

Sahlstrom grew up in Mille Lacs County where he now owns land. His youth during the Depression, participation in FFA and 4-H as a high school student, and education at the University of Minnesota have all shaped his commitment to quality living in rural Minnesota.

Sahlstrom completed a bachelor of science, master of science, and Ph.D. degrees at the university, and served in World War II. His educational career includes service as a Minnesota public school teacher and administrator, University faculty member and administrator, and founding provost at UMC. He frequently serves as consultant and examiner to community colleges, ATTV's, and similar institutions throughout the 18-state area that makes up the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges.

Stan Sahlstrom elected to University Board of Regents

Top Aggie nomination form

The Top Aggie Award is the highest honor given by the NWSA Alumni Association to its alumni. Since 1970, award recipients have represented agriculture, business, education, science, and human relations fields. Each award winner demonstrates the combined skills of community service, family commitment, and career achievement. Nominations for the 1986 Top Aggie Awards are open to all alumni. Selection is made by the association board of directors and class leaders. Award recipients are usually selected from among the honored classes and other classes, and friends of the recipients gather together for the reunion. However, all alumni are eligible for nomination.

To place a name in nomination for a Top Aggie Award, please complete the card.

Nominee
Address
City-State
Phone
Nominated by
On an attached sheet please describe the family, community, and career skills which make this person an outstanding Aggie alum.

Class Year
Send nomination to:
Alumni Office
White House Alumni Center
Univ. of Minnesota-Crookston
Crookston, MN 56716
Former superintendent chronicles RRVWS

Over the past 75 years the Red River Valley Winter Shows have introduced advances in farm technology, changes in rural living, and student achievements in agriculture-related fields. 1985 marked the 75th anniversary of the winter shows. In its honor, Dr. B.E. Youngquist researched the history of the shows and its impact on residents of the Red River Valley. Youngquist's chronicle includes his impressions over the 33 total years he served as superintendent of the Northwest School of Agriculture, the Northwest Experiment Station, and as president of the winter shows board of managers.

The following condensed history is taken from his book A 75 Year Story of the Red River Valley Winter Shows.

The 75 Year Story of the Winter Shows

The Red River Valley Winter Shows began on the campus of the Northwest School and Experiment Station in 1910. Supt. C. G. Selvig and the faculty planned the first Short Course for Agriculture and Domestic Economy to take place December 19-24. Over two hundred farmers and their wives traveled by sleigh and train from as far away as Roseau, Hallock, Staples and Moorhead and stayed in the new School of Agriculture facilities as students were home for Christmas. The farm folks left for home having made new friends and learned more than possible to digest. Many were making plans for the next Short Course. They wanted to hear about livestock, too. The next short course drew nearly twice as many people and completely overflowed the campus facilities.

The Crookston Commercial Club was the first community group to provide volunteer support and resulted in the Farm Crops Show being moved downtown. The big thrill for show visitors was the new Armory in downtown Crookston used by the 1915 show where attendance went beyond a thousand.

Buildings were built next to that Armory in 1918-1920. These facilities became inadequate and were replaced in 1960-1961. A major addition and livestock facilities were added in the 1970’s on the 25-acre site. The new Armory was located next door.

Farm commodity groups became supporters of the Show beginning in 1914. The number of groups today represents 21 regional organizations, agencies, or services. No tax monies are appropriated directly to the Winter Shows. Facilities are built as needed only through volunteer contributions and earnings by show activities.

The continuing strength of the Winter Shows lies in the more than 300 volunteer citizens of northwest Minnesota. The service arm of the Land Grant University launched the educational thrust in 1910 and today that leadership thrust is stronger than ever with the extension staff in each county, the Experiment Station staff, and the Technical College on the scene.

The Winter Shows is managed by a board of 24 member Board of Managers. A manager is hired to coordinate routine operations for the board and also oversees the clerical and maintenance effort.

The Winter Shows today is a unique and useful educational thrust which aims to challenge the cutting edge of ideas and of technology. The mid winter exposition cooperatively augments and supplements the educational aims of other agriculturally related groups and as time moves along enhances the quality of life in the Red River Basin.

Best wishes for the next 75 years!
Bernell and Bernice Youngquist received the Builder of the Valley award during the 75th annual RRVWS in February. This Red River Valley Development Association sponsored award recognizes unusual grassroots leadership and creativity contributing to the quality of life in the Red River Valley.

Yearbook trivia introduces class leaders

Remember when you graduated from the Northwest School and thought people celebrating twenty-year reunions were old? This year Aggie alums will gather for 20-year through 70-year reunions.

Class of 1925
Cora (Thompson) Grove
Rt. No. 1, Box 110
McIntosh, MN 56566
218-563-2762

As a 1925 student, Cora was active in home economics and the glee club. The Aggie yearbook quotes her favorite phase as, "Le'me see." Her thesis was on the alterations of patterns.

Class of 1930
Bill Strickler
Rt. No. 1
Eucd, MN 56572
218-281-1868

The 1930 yearbook assigned Bill the quote, "The world's no better if we worry. Life is no longer if we hurry."

Class of 1935
Harlan Pester
414 Elm Street
Crookston, MN 56716
218-281-3454

Harlan was active in chorus, basketball, football, track, 4-H, and drama during his NWSA days. The yearbook said of him, "What's in a name, for he is a gentle soul."

Class of 1949
Clifford Dahlsad
1408 S. 18th Street
Moorhead, MN 56560
218-233-0951

"Don't Make Me Laugh" was the song assigned to Clifford his senior year. He participated in chorus, crop judging, and received the Sears and Roebuck Scholarship Award.

Class of 1955
Jean (Stromstad) Vigness
1119 Letnes Drive
Grand Forks, ND 58201
701-772-6535

Jean was an active Aggie from 1951-55 through participation in the choir, glee club, Aggie Board, and junior class play.

Class of 1956
Robert (Bohnsack) Hagert
Rt. No. 1
Emerald, ND 58238
701-594-2462

"Berta" received the Sears and Roebuck Scholarship Award during her NWSA years. She was also active on the Aggie Board, Rouser, class play, student council, music groups, band, G.A.A., and cheerleader.

Class of 1965
Ralph and Cheryl (Lund) Ketorba
510 9th Ave. East
Ada, MN 56510
218-784-7430

Both '65 grads, Cheryl participated in G.A.A., piano, Rouser staff, and Tri-Hi-Y. Ralph was a member of the Newman Club and Rouser staff.

Alumni center strives for 1920s authenticity

A visitor's first impression of the White House Alumni Center's interior may be that the main floor entertainment rooms are completely restored. Not quite.

The colors and textures of the wall and floor coverings provide a foundation for the final accessories: lamps, pictures, centerpiece, collectibles. The furnishings committee foresees these final purchases creating the desired authenticity of a 1920s home.

An extensive project toward this goal is the design and stitching of twelve needlepoint seat covers for the dining furniture. Harriet Balstad Hanson '50 of Grand Forks, ND is chairing this project and welcomes volunteer stitchers. Contact her at 701-772-2376.

The dining furniture is among many pieces located after the close of the Northwest School. Other furniture items have been donated by alumni. The most recent gift is a solid mahogany drop-lid writing desk given by Mrs. Walter Stone. She was a personal friend of Mrs. T.M. McCull and mother-in-law of alumnus Ken Miller '45 of Crookston.

While the final touches are completed in Phase I remodelling, work begins on Phase II, the former kitchen and rear entrance. This portion of the house will provide both food service facilities during receptions and an attractive passage from the entertainment rooms to the basement archives. The spacious kitchen also houses a work area for the receptionist-secretary who greets alumni guests.

The White House restoration is funded entirely through NWSA and UMC alumni contributions. Your gifts are tax deductible.

White House thank you

Your recent contribution to the White House Alumni Center fund was a source of genuine pleasure to me, and I want to tell you how much I appreciate your generosity. The Center will be a lasting contribution to this institution from each of you.

I hope you will take the time to visit the Center when you are in the Crookston area. I know you will approve the work already completed. We are eager to show you our dream of what is ahead to make it a comfortable, congenial place on campus to visit and reminisce.

Thanks again for the support and loyalty you have shown to the University of Minnesota—Crookston and the NWSA-UMC Alumni Center.

Sincerely,

Bernell Nelson '42

Two generations of the Samuelson family stand in front of a picture donated to the White House Alumni Center by Charles '43 (left) and Iedella Samuelson of Thief River Falls, MN. Charles said the agricultural scene reminded him of stories his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Samuelson '14 (center) of Crookston, told of sea gulls flocking behind one-bottom plows.
June 29 Reunion Schedule

10:00 a.m.  Registration continuous until 5:00 in food service building.
11:00  Estate Planning Seminar, no charge.
12:00 noon  Luncheon, Dutch treat at $2.50
12:30-5:00  White House Alumni Center tours and open house.
2:00-3:30  Campus Tours
3:30-5:00  Class meetings and pictures. Make special effort to arrive for your picture. (5x7 color pictures for sale at $4.00).
5:30  Buffet Dinner
6:30  Alumni Reunion Program. Presiding: Allan Dragseth, NWSA president; Greetings from UMC and experiment station administration, Memorial Tribute, 1985 Top Aggie honors, prizes.
8:00  Memory Lane. Reminiscing in the student union and dancing to Ninth District American Legion Band featuring Hersch Lysaker.

Spring Tyme '85 is a gala event set for April 13 on the UMC campus. Ye Olde English Renaissance is the theme of this annual scholarship fund raising event. The evening includes elegant dining, music, dancing, theater, and auction all under one roof. Tickets are $30 and $40 per person.

Here's news about your NWSA classmates

1916

MRS. CLARENCE LIAN (BLOMQUIST), Mankato, MN: Teacher in rural schools for 17 years. After farming for 52 years, retired but still active.

1919

LENA VESLEDAL (ANDERSON), Winger, MN: Widowed now, living at Parkview apartments.

1920


ELLEN A. FERGUSON (AHLM), Washington, DC: Married 55 years when husband died 3-13-64. Served as treasurer for the women of church for about 50 years.

JAMES H. FELBER, Minneapolis, MN: Manager of Midland Hills Country Club in St. Paul from 1938-40. Director of University Food Services; Coffman Union at U of MN from 1940-68. Retired in 1968. Trains and plays golf, has three grandchildren.

MARY L. PETERSON (THOMPSON), St. Paul, MN: Worked about 10 years as dining hall staff. Worked 23 years taking care of books in seed mill in Forest Lake. Married to Allan Peterson 20 years.

MILTON W. WARNER, Spencer, IA: Received the Governor's Award for Outstanding Service to the State of Iowa in May, 1984. Also received the Iowa Lakes Agency Award for services rendered to the aging agencies.

1921

MARIE A. ANDERSON (AUSTIN), Thief River Falls, MN: Husband died in 1964, has two children. Now living in Thief River Falls. During the school year she helps care for her three grandchildren.

MYRTLE WHITTENBERG (ERICKSON), Yakima, WA: Attended Bemidji Teachers College and taught in MN. Later was an instructor at Concept Therapy Institute in St. Paul. Later was an instructor at Concept Therapy Institute in San Antonio, TX. Husband, daughter, and son-in-law were instructors there too. Now a widow living in a home on the institute grounds.

1923

IVER J. JOHNSON, Woodland, CA: Still engaged in professional occupation in genetics and plant breeding. Now president of local AARP and active in civic affairs. Trip to Alaska in summer '84.

CORA M. GROVE (THOMPSON), McIntosh, MN: First occupation was teaching in public school. Raised a family of four boys and a daughter. All attended NWSA. Has 19 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Traveled to Hawaii, California, and Norway this past August.

FRANK T. & ELIZABETH GROVES (JONES), Depew, NY: November to May residing in Ft. Myers, FL. Have one son and one daughter, and six grandchildren. Retired division manager in 1969 of Davey Tree Expert Co., Kent, OH. Travel to CA and MA, occasionally.

AMY LOVE (ONNELAND), Laramie, WY: Retired, and spend time enjoying friends, church and community activities during the summer. Winters are spent in a warmer climate.

1926

LAWRENCE LETNES, Hillsboro, ND: Retired; celebrated 50th wedding anniversary 4-8-81. Has nine grandchildren, one great-grandchild.

1927

STELLA M. CARLSON, Hallock, MN: Missionary, serving in China until invasion by Communists. Spent remaining years in Hong Kong. Retired in 1963. Moved back to Hallock, MN and has been confined to Nursing Home for about one year following an accident that left her a quadriplegic.


RUTH MARKO (SOLTIS), Minneapolis, MN: Does volunteer work, mostly in senior citizen homes.

1928

IRENE EVANS (SCHELL), Roseau, MN: Widowed and retired. Lives in her home in Roseau. Keeps active in church, senior's center, and gardening, flowers, etc.

ERNEST NEWHOUSE, Whitier, CA: Ernest and Edna just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Semi-retired industrialist, having founded and operated five corporations in the Los Angeles area. Still continues to write a monthly "Economic Newsletter" that advises subscribers of profitable investments.

(AUGUST) ROBERT THORPESTON, Hayden Lake, ID: Retired in Idaho. Seventy-two years old, fair health and lots of memories.

ESTHER WALBERG (ENGEBRETSON), Clearbrook, MN: Taught school for 25 years. Now retired and enjoys crafts like sewing, knitting, and crocheting; also gardening and flowers. Children and grandchildren live nearby.
1959


ANTON M. KRAFT, Delano, MN: Parts manager at Here-U-Lift, Inc. Married with two children (girls). Likes working with wood for hobby.


JAMES STEVENSON, Hopkins, MN: Welding foreman, attended Dordtwood Institute, and has served in the Army. Married and has three children, three stepchildren, and two grandchildren. Enjoys old tractors, old farm equipment, car Shows, musical & drama in which he takes part. Also plays softball and sells Amsoil products and health products.

1960

DANIEL E. STRAUS, Mentor, MN: Married Ann Feragen in 1962. They have three sons ages 15, 14, and 10. They live on Maple Lake. Children attend school locally. Dan drives to East Grand Forks for his barber shop work, which he owns and operates in addition to a beauty shop, Ann is employed by North-Central MN Multi-County HRA in Mentor.

TERRY STADSTAD, Grand Forks, ND: Farmer serving on a number of boards of directors in his community. After graduation, he joined the Navy and served four years. Was married in 1965 and has one son. He and his wife Muriel worked in ski areas about eight years while farming summers. He was certified RM in 1968, and they moved to Presser Butte, Colorado in 1971 as a ski instructor.

1961

DAVID C. MILLER, Sachse, TX: Married Pauline Elbers in 1978. They have a daughter, Lisa, 3 years old. They moved to Texas in April, 1984 to work on gaslines.

DAVID A. BRULE, Crookston, MN: David is a farmer with 2,000 acres of land. He raises grain, potatoes, sugar beets, corn and soybeans. He married Kathy Morten in 1964. They have five children. Hobbies include bowling, at the lake home, and travel, when possible.

1962

CHARLES DUFALT, Wahpeton, ND: L.P. gas manager. Father of four children, three of which are teenagers. Involved in church activities of St. Matthew Catholic Church. Enjoys remodeling houses.

LAVERN JANISH, Denver, CO: Married with four children. Has own computer design and engineering company. Was president of union at Western Electric for four years.

JOHN SANNES, Thief River Falls, MN: Has driven L.P. gas truck for Land-O-Lakes, Inc. (formerly Midland Co-op, Inc.) for 20 years. He is married and they enjoy their little trailer on Lake Sarah by Erskine, MN. Still enjoys motorcycles just like a kid.

NORMA JEAN IACONO (HOTVEDT), Fridley, MN: Married James Iacono in 1972. He is an air controller for NW Devo Co. They have three children. Norma is a registered nurse—SSJSN—Grand Forks, ND. She is also a Red Cross CPR instructor, blood mobile volunteer, and works for Group Health, Inc.—Urgent Care Clinic (part-time). Hobbies include base, bowling, fishing and travel. They went to Acapulco, Mexico in 1984.

1963

DAVID BAKER, Marysville, WA: Equipment technician for General Telephone. Married and has one child, a daughter, age 10.

MICHAEL F. DONAHUE, Grand Forks, ND: Occupation: Supply Sergeant in U.S. Army Reserve. Also a part-time student at the University of North Dakota.

WILLIAM J. GATHERIDGE, Winter, WI: In June of 1966, they bought 40 acres with a house, garage, and barn restaurant at Winter, WI. Plenty of muskies, and walleye fishing; deer and bear hunting, ice fishing, snowmobiling and over night facilities.

GARY A. GREGA, Groton, CT: Will retire in December of 1965 after 20 years in U.S. Navy. Married to Sara Grema from Philadelphia, PA. Three children ages 17, 15 and 9. Has lived in 10 different countries or states. He is CTMC-EN (chief) in the Navy.


SANDRA J. KUSMAU (REBACKARCH), Davenport, IA: Just transferred from Mpls., MN to IA, related to her husband's job.


RONALD PHILLIP, Thief River Falls, MN: A used car dealer, he is married with two boys ages 17 and 15.

KENNETH IVER SIVERTSON, Fulton, MN: Assistant fire chief with the North Dakota Air National Guard, Fargo, ND. Married (wife, Gayla) and has three children. He drives school bus on his days off.

1965

RALPH & CHERYL KOTRE (LUND), Ada, MN: Ralph is the owner-manager of Schumacher O.K. Tire. Hobbies include golf, fishing, woodworking, and gardening. Community activities include the Ada volunteer fire department. Cheryl is a homemaker and part-time bookkeeper. Her hobbies include sewing, gardening, and cooking. They are the parents of three girls, ages 17, 15 and 11.

CONRAD LARSON, Lamoure, ND: Founding president of Dakota Feed and Pellet Company.

1966

JANET DUTCHER (KLAVA), Roseau, MN: Presently the editor and publisher of Roseau Times Region and Region. Purchased this and moved to Roseau 1-1-84. Married four children ages 14, 10 and 7.

DAVID L. KESLER, Reile's Acres, ND: Enrolled in a three year tool & die program at the Staples Voc. School (Staples, MN) in 1978. Has worked in the machine shop for one year, quality control dept., for four years, and has served as warrant officer manager for the company during the past eight years. Married Cindy Miller of Crookston in August of 1971. They have two daughters, ages four and seven. He is president of a Toastmasters Club in the Fargo-Moorhead area. Enjoys gardening and woodworking in his spare time.

WAYNE PEDERSEN, Urbana, IL: Corn pathologist at the University of Illinois. He and his wife, Dianne, had their first child in April 1984, named Robert Scott. Hobbies include golf, softball and photography.

1967

KATHY BUSHEE (VASEK), Mandan, ND: Married 17 years in November of '94. They have two children, ages 14 and 11. She volunteers for the food pantry, tape records for the blind, and drew a color book for a nurses' fund raiser.

1968

STEVE BOMAN, Twin Valley, MN: Has his own farm 2,400 acres of land and milk 70 head of Holstein cattle. He and his wife Sandy have three children, ages 13, 8 and 4.

In Memoriam

LAURA GERBER (FACULTY) '70-72
3-9-84
Haddon Heights, NJ

ALICE FITTNER (FACULTY) '59-62
5-19-82
Renton, MN

ANDREW HEDIN '17
6-1-84
Twin Valley, MN

ARTHUR GRONDAHL '18
3-14-84
Ada, MN

EMIL HALLGREN '18
Minneapolis, MN

LOUISE HOENKE (HORN) '19
10-19-84
Grafton, ND

AGNES CARPENTER (GRON- NER) '20
12-19-82
Fergus Falls, MN

ESTHER RUD (EBERLANDSON) '21
3-3-84
Fertile, MN

MILO B. WOLD '23
1-29-63
Caledonia, IL

STANTON C. RUSDER '27
3-9-84
Minneapolis, MN

LINDEN GUSTAFSON '30
1-19-45
Hallock, MN

LAURENCE PETERSON '30
3-21-84
Moorehead, MN

ROY L. BOMAN '31
2-14-45
Twin Valley, MN

ARTHUR R. LEE '37
11-28-44
Gary, MN

WILLIAM WELSH '46
1-14-65
Crookston, MN

ERLING DAHLEN '41
1-9-84
Goodridge, MN

AGNES HOVLAND (JOHNSON) '41
1-1-85
Fosston, MN

PHILIP LEROY ERICKSON '43
10-25-84
Bagley, MN

PETER HIGGINS '49
Crystal, MN

DAVID RAMEBECK '53
11-20-84
Hendel & Reynolds, ND