Three honored as Top Aggies

Top Aggie awards represent the highest honor given by the NWSA Alumni Association. Each year class leaders and association directors select outstanding alumni based on nomination information. Award winners have each shown outstanding contributions to their communities, families, and careers.

The 1985 award recipients were Burnett Bergeson '55 of Hawley and Pauline Finkenbinder Purath of Red Lake Falls. Dr. Stanley Sahlstrom received an Honorary Top Aggie award.

Dr. Stanley D. Sahlstrom (right) received an Honorary Top Aggie award from alumni president Allan Dragseth '57.

S.D. Sahlstrom

Dr. Stanley D. Sahlstrom, founding provost of the University of Minnesota—Crookston, received the first Honorary Top Aggie Award. The alumni association board of directors established the award in recognition of Sahlstrom's twenty years as head of the Crookston campus, years when the values and mission of the Northwest School were ingrained in the traditions of the new college.

Sahlstrom joined the University of Minnesota in 1965 as director of the then named Technical Institute. He worked with Superintendent B.E. Youngquist to provide a smooth transition from the Northwest School to UMC. His ongoing responsibilities included curriculum development, staff employment, and remodeling and building of new campus facilities. UMC enrollment grew from less than 200 students in 1966 to nearly 1,200 in 1985 when Sahlstrom announced his resignation.

In April he was elected to the University Board of Regents for a six-year term representing the 7th Congressional District. "I shall always be committed to this campus, to the University of Minnesota, and to the people of this state," said Sahlstrom.

Prior to coming to Crookston, Sahlstrom was a member of the St. Cloud State College faculty as assistant to the president and director of field services. A native of Minnesota, he received B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Minnesota.

Both Stan and Mill Sahlstrom have actively contributed to Crookston community events and organizations. He is also in leadership positions for several national education associations, is president of Post International Network, commissioner of North Education Network, and is a consultant-examiner for the Commission on Instructons of Higher Education of the North Central Association.

Pauline Finkenbinder Purath

Pauline Purath '45 has a multifaceted life whose core element is the land she grew up on in northwestern Minnesota. A Crookston native, Pauline first moved to Red Lake Falls as an assistant 4-H Club Agent. She married Willard Purath in 1948 and put down roots there while rearing their two sons and two daughters on a farm south of town.

She identifies community involvement as an important part of life in small rural communities. Her involvement includes the First Presbyterian Church, County Extension, homemaker programs, and commodity affiliations.

Pauline and Willard Purath raise registered Black Angus cattle as well as farm. She is actively involved in the promotion of beef through consumer education programs. Pauline is currently serving her second elected term on the Minnesota Beef Council. For twelve years she served on the Minnesota CowBelles, a women's affiliate organization for beef producers, including two years as president.

In 1979 the Puraths received the Honor Farmer and Homemaker Award for Red Lake County at the Red River Valley Winter Show. They were honored again in January 1985 as Outstanding Farm Couple in their community.

Pauline enjoys her role as partner in the farm operation. She now incorporates the agricultural background in her own business, NorthCountry Straws. Using wheat, Pauline creates straw craft projects such as wall hangings and arrangements which are marketed across the U.S.

She shares her enthusiasm for agricultural progress by serving on the Northwest Experiment Station Advisory Committee.

"I have learned what a vast impact the school, its staff and students really make on the world and State of Minnesota," she said. "The experiment station has changed over the years and is a credit to agriculture, the sciences and research. It is something I have really learned to appreciate."

Burnett Bergeson

While a NWSA student, Burnett Bergeson was president of his freshman, junior and senior classes; three-year member of the debate squad; and active in athletic and academic organizations.

That leadership ability aided Burnett during his many years of public service to Minnesota. From 1958-62 he was county supervisor of Farm Security Administration, a position responsible for ten counties in northwest and southern Minnesota.

In 1964 he was elected to the 64th Legislature as a representative from Norman and Mahnomen Counties. Burnett served until 1968. Bergeson is remembered as a chief author of a resolution adopted in 1959 which urged the University of Minnesota Board of Regents to change instruction at Crookston and Morris from the high school to technical collegiate level. He used his position on the Tax Committee to procure funds to establish vocational and collegiate education in rural Minnesota.

Following his terms in the legislature, Burnett was ASCS district supervisor for northernwestern Minnesota from 1961-69. During this time he also farmed 520 acres near Twin Valley raising turkeys and grain. Now in retirement at Hawley, Burnett remains active at the Bergeson Nursery and cares for his own lawn and garden. Burnett and his wife Adeline travel south each winter and visit their four children who live in Kansas, Nevada, and Texas.

Former NWSA superintendent B.E. Youngquist (right) presented Burnett Bergeson '55 with his award.
University President Kenneth Keller outlined new directions for the Crookston campus in his February 1985 paper, "A Commitment to Focus." In late May, Deputy Vice President Richard Sauer spoke to faculty and staff at the University of Minnesota—Crookston about UMC's relationship with the Institute of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics.

Keller's Commitment to Focus, which was presented to the University Board of Regents at its February meeting, was a direct response to the governor and the legislature which criticized the University for not focusing itself. Sauer was on campus to discuss the principles and philosophy of what Keller's plan would mean for UMC. Over 60 faculty and staff gathered to hear Sauer's comments.

Sauer talked about three areas of the report that would directly affect UMC. First, was to focus two-year agricultural education on the Crookston and Waseca campuses, transferring ag programs from the other systems in which they are now offered. As a part of that trade UMC would be forced to examine its program and phase out those activities that do not depend upon agricultural offerings.

The trade-offs assume that other institutions are willing to transfer agriculture-related programs to UMC," said Sauer. UMC's Chancellor Don Sargeant said that UMC's agriculture mission is best carried out as a part of the University system.

Sargeant coordinated UMC's Planning Committee Report in response to Keller's Commitment to Focus paper. In that report Sargeant stated, "UMC is serving its mission well. The fall 1984 enrollment of 1140 students, reflected in the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board enrollment survey, was comprised of students from over 100 Minnesota high schools, 13 states, and 23 countries. Eighty percent of these students came from rural communities of less than 10,000 population. Two-thirds of all graduates have returned to rural communities for employment. Approximately two-thirds of the UMC's full-time student enrollment comes from within a one-mile radius of Crookston."

If the trading of programs is worked out between AYTI's and community colleges in the northern part of the state, there is the possibility that some faculty may not be as useful on a particular campus.

"As programs are transferred those faculty may want to apply at a different campus. Other faculty will need to become more adaptable," said Sauer.

The second item in Keller's report to which Sauer responded was the recommendation that both Crookston and Waseca campuses become part of the Institute of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics. Keller assumed that this could help to streamline the administrative operation of the campuses and help to achieve a fuller integration of activities to take even greater advantage of the association of these campuses with the University.

"This does not mean a major change in the programs and policies that are now being carried out at UMC," stated Sauer.

Rather, Sauer said that given the Institute's mission, there would be a strengthening of programs at UMC. UMC's Chancellor would still report to the University Regent president in budgetary matters, but would report through the Institute for programmatic planning.

"The faculty in St. Paul will not tell UMC faculty how to revise curriculum at Crookston, rather we'll work jointly to develop a balanced curriculum. We're looking at a full-shared responsibility and partnership." By suggesting that UMC become part of the Institute of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics, Keller uses that encompassing mission to define agriculture. That mission is a far broader scope than just agriculture production. It encompasses teaching at both the graduate and undergraduate level in production, processing, marketing and distribution of food and other agricultural products, also on forests and forest products, public policy, human nutrition, and overall environmental quality to the benefit of the citizens of Minnesota, but also to the benefit of the nation and the world.

UMC's Chancellor Sargeant will meet monthly with the Institute, Ag Extension, and Experiment Station to discuss budgets, long range planning, and detailed policies.

Finally, Sauer talked about the incorporation of University-wide expertise by tapping into areas in which the Agriculture Extension Service does not typically have involvement. Sauer cited examples of graduate courses in northwestern Minnesota and transfer programs from Crookston to the St. Paul campus.

"We need to provide the best two-year agriculture program in the country and become one of the top five agriculture institutions in the country."

"Once approved by the University Board of Regents, a comprehensive plan can be set forth," said Sauer.

"This is an exciting time for all of us to respond as we look forward to shared responsibility to serve the people of the state with the strongest program possible."
NWSA-UMC alumni winter dinners are nearly as much a tradition as reunions and homecoming. The 1986 dinners will again rotate among communities in Minnesota. Are there many alumni in your area who would like to host an alumni dinner? Do you have program ideas and publicity suggestions? Would you prefer joining other alumni at the White House Alumni Center for dinners like the ones held in 1985? The Alumni Office welcomes your comments. Please send your ideas to The White House Alumni Center, UMC, Crookston, MN 56716.

Northwest Experiment Station donated two large framed pictures from their office building. The wall hangings were gifts to the school by the classes of 1915 and 1916. A dairy herd grazing on the Experiment Station grounds now decorates the restored kitchen which houses a receptionist's work area and buffet serving space.

In addition, two designated display cases will feature portraits of the NWSA superintendents and other campus photos and memorabilia.

The search for original NWSA furniture and accessories from the 1920's continues. Any personal momentos from class rings to letter jackets to class projects will be included in the archives display area of the alumni center. For more information contact the White House Alumni Center, UMC, Crookston, MN 56716 or call (218) 281-6510 extension 430.

Seven judging teams from the University of Minnesota—Crookston competed at the National Association of Colleges Teaching Agriculture (NACTA) Conference in Bowling Green, Kentucky in April. The annual NACTA competitive event drew teams from 33 colleges across the United States. Contests were held in general livestock, dairy, horticulture, mechanized agriculture, soils, and crop management. UMC placed third in sweepstakes competition. The crop management team placed first, horticulture team placed second, dairy cattle team tied for second.

A demonstration project to assist rural high school youth and young farmers to produce and market small fruit and vegetable crops for sale in their local markets in northwestern Minnesota was held June 11 to 13 at the University of Minnesota—Crookston.

"This year we are running demonstration-trial plots on the Northwest Experiment Station, holding several training workshops and looking for people interested in participating as satellite producers during the final two years of the project," said Phil Baird, natural science instructor and project horticulturist.

The first year of the three year project will involve the establishment of small scale commercial fruit and vegetable demonstration trials at UMC and the development of marketing strategies. Work will also begin on an ongoing technical assistance program for teachers, extension, staff, and producers.

A series of workshops and field days are planned to contact potential satellite producers interested in participating in subsequent years of the project. The first workshop for vocational-agriculture instructors, county extension personnel, and other interested parties was June 11-13 at UMC. The first day included a discussion of expectations, realities, and marketing strategies for the specialty crop producer.

The second day looked at strawberry and raspberry selection and culture, planing and seeding techniques, and fertilizers.

Finally, there were cultural techniques and demonstrations with a tour of the field plots, and discussion of fruit and vegetable pests and pesticides.

Workshop speakers included Del Christiansen, consultant and horticulture instructor at Detroit Lakes VTI; Dr. Wes Gray, horticulturist at the West Central Experiment Station in Morris; Roger Wagner, associate professor and head of UMC's horticulture department; Dr. Luther Waters, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota—St. Paul; Dr. Mary Mattson, associate professor of agricultural economics at UMC; Dr. Penny Ives, assistant professor of horticulture at the University of Minnesota—St. Paul; and Baird.
The Minnesota Legislature has approved funds to enhance dairy research and teaching through the remodelling of facilities shared by UMC and the Northwest Experiment Station. The original 1908 dairy structure will be replaced through this project.


CLASS OF 1935—Members celebrated their 50-year reunion.

CLASS OF 1950—Left to right: Duane Wimpfheimer, LuElla (Brekke) Karevold, Chester Van Raden.

CLASS OF 1930—Left to right: Arnold L. Hanson, Alvin Degerness, Emma (Krogstad) Olson, William Strickler.


The Class of 1955 members celebrated their 50-year reunion.
Alumni president Allan Dragseth '51 will represent the NWSA Alumni Association at UMC's Scholarship Recognition Banquet on October 26, 1985. This event honors both donors and student scholarship recipients. NWSA alumni contributed $1,205 toward student scholarships in 1985.
Is someone you know considering college at UMC?

A growing number of UMC students are second and third generation family members attending school on the Crookston campus. Northwest School of Agriculture traditions and educational excellence are continued through the 46 technical and six preprofessional programs offered at the University of Minnesota—Crookston. UMC offers associate in applied science degrees in the areas of agriculture, business and hospitality and home economics, with curriculum support courses through the arts and sciences division.

Students receive quality education, small-campus camaraderie, University of Minnesota affiliation, and competitive educational costs. Do you have a son, daughter or friend asking your advice about college? Let us send you information about UMC.

TO: Admissions Office, University of Minnesota, Crookston, MN

Please send me information about:

____ Agriculture
____ Hospitality and Home Economics
____ Business

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City ____________________________ State ________

Annual Fund rollcall

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Annual Fund contributions aid UMC, alumni groups

In 1984, the financial needs increased. The Alumni Association will bear greater responsibility for office needs and the costs of developing the White House Alumni Center. Educational and instructional material requirements will remain at 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.

1984-85 NWSA ANNUAL FUND

TOTAL $7,335

UNRESTRICTED
$4,055

ALUMNI
$1,760

SCHOLARSHIPS
$1,205

WHITE HOUSE
$215

HAFSLO CHURCH
$100

$7,335

Carl Narveson '20
Sophie (Kroeker) Narveson '21
Donald Nelson '44
Roger Nelson '59
Ora (Daleger) Newell '37
Gerald Nelson '64

* Robert Schumacher '67
Russell Schumacher '60
Edmund Szepecski '43
Thomas Szepecski '34
Ora (Johnson) Seeman '45
Anna (Jensen) Shadle '29
Myron (Hoist) Shannon '37
Bennett Sharp '25
Roger Simmons '43
Leslie Smith '39
Marv (Noyes) Smith '31
Leroy Sondor '55
Alfred Stedman
Don St. Marie '51
Roy Stoa, Jr. '47
Clarice (Olson) Stolsa '36
Clarence Stromberg '35
Allan Stromstad '63
John Stromstad '63
Paul Sada '55
Wilbert Swanson '41
Bennie Swenson '27
Clarence Swenson '24
Ali Szepecski '38
Berger (Torkelson) Tantor '42
Wilfred Taus '48
Myron Torkelson '51
Clifford Trangrud '37
Harvey Trexler '47
Duane Truax '46
Vera (Walker) Urness '30
Clayton Verke '40
Arlen Veseladly '44
Joe Vonasek '38
Alen Wagner '64
Selden Waldal '50
Daniel Wallace '66
James Wallace '66
Myrtle Whittenberg '21
Clarence Widner '54
Edwin Widseth '32
Vivian Wing
Arnold Wolden '21
Elaine (Berg) Wurm '41
Robert Yuengers '63

202 Contributors
$1,000 Council Members
$100 Givers
4 Matching Gifts

227 CONTRIBUTORS

I'm sorry for interrupting, sir. But there's a gentlemen here that I don't think you want to keep waiting...
UMC Children’s Center focuses on summer themes

Summer Things: Learning for Fun will be a new focus for the UMC Children’s Center. Sessions begin June 5 and run through August 23.

Supplementary educational, social, and recreation experiences to challenge children this summer are planned for two weeks periods through the summer, according to Marilyn Grave-Shubert, director of the Children’s Center.

Emphasis included: June 3-14 Cooking experiences, nutrition education, plant growth and care, and gardening activities; June 17-25 animal growth and care, music composition, dance aerobics, and music appreciation; July 1-12 puppetry, writing creative dramatics and earth sciences; July 15-28 biology and the human body and cultural studies of Hispanic, American Indians, Asian Americans, and Norwegians; July 28-August 9 electricity, magnetism gravity and human sexuality; August 12-23 computer sciences and aeropace science.

Programs are available for infant and toddlers, age 2 and a half to 4, 5 to 8, and 9 to 12.

Thirty alumni attended an estate planning seminar led by UMC’s Director of Development Lowll Larson.

Here’s news about your NWSA classmates

1925 CHRISTINE (VIGSTOL) JEGLUM, Grand Forks, ND: Worked as a nurse in and around Grand Forks. She also worked at UND Student Health for seven and a half years and at the Deaconess Hospital until she retired in 1970. One of her hobbies is oil painting.

1928 LILLIAN C. (BAREKEN) LILLEMORE, Golden Valley, MN: Keeping busy with volunteer work, chorus, babysitting her great-grandson, and helping the disabled and recuperating people. She also attends church services and other church functions and senior citizen functions as well as trips to the theater.

1935 HAROLD D. SANDEN, Vero Beach, FL: Graduated from U of M in 1941 with a masters degree in animal science-agricultural economy. Was in the 7th Air Force Central Pacific in 1944-45.

1937 MARSHALL EVANS, Le Sueur, MN: Married 45 years to Pat Hoven, three sons (all MD’s), and eleven grandchildren. He has had 24 years of employment in research, and 10 years in international work and travel for the Green Giant Co.

1938 ELEANORE R. (WETERS) SWIFT, Crookston, MN: She taught rural school and also worked as a bookkeeper for eight years, retiring in 1981. Married Hugh Swift in 1942. They have six children and 13 grandchildren. Their oldest sons graduated from NWSA in 1962. Hobbies include sewing, machine knitting, crocheting, dancing, and traveling in the United States.

1940 ERNA LACHAPPELL, Denali Park, AK: Spending the summer in Alaska working and enjoying Denali National Park.

1945 MARVIN E. JENSEN, Fort Collins, CO: National program leader for AHS’s national research program on water-salinity management. He graduated from NDSU, Fargo, ND, and obtained his Ph.D degree in civil engineering from Colorado State University. He has co-authored 100 technical papers, chaired numerous national committees, and has been involved in foreign research projects. He received several awards from the USDA, including the Distinguished Service Award.

1949 JOYCE (ANDERSON) LEE, Fargo, ND: Starting her teaching career in a one-room rural school in Griggs County, she continued taking college classes summers and evenings and obtained an masters from NDSU. Since moving to Fargo in 1965, she has taught the fourth grade at Jefferson Elementary School.

1950 LYLE C. KASPRICK, Minneapolis, MN.

1954 GRANT M. SATRES, Grygla, MN: The Satres were recognized recently through the University of Minnesota Extension Service as Marshall County’s outstanding farm couple. They attended the recognition program conducted at the University of Minnesota’s St. Paul campus and participated in tours and workshops. The Satres farm 2,500 acres seven miles northwest of Grygla and are active in a number of community and area organizations. They recently installed a pneumatic hand handling system on the farm.

1959 ART BRANDL, Warroad, MN: Was recently named Roseau County Farm Family of the Year. Art is on the UMC Advisory Committee, and he and his wife Nancy have been 4-H leaders, church board members, and community board members. They have four children.

1960 DONNA (BABINSKI) KUTA, Mahtomedi, MN: She is married and has four children. She is a domestic engineer and agent.

In Memoriam

Ella (Fossbakken) Geddes ’19 Grand Forks, ND June 5, 1985

Kenneth Halvorson ’25 Sauk Rapids, MN October 22, 1980

Sophie (Breland) Burstad ’27 Grand Forks, ND June 4, 1985

Hannah (Degerness) Hermanson ’27 Twin Valley, MN May, 1985

Terrance Garry ’45 Eucild, MN