Top Aggies Honored at NWSA Reunion

Five NWSA alumni were honored as Top Aggies at the annual alumni reunion held recently at UMC. Those named as Top Aggies were: Robert W. Larson ’29 of Crookston; Glen Holmquist ’44 of Nekoosa, WI; Dorothy Hanson Bender ’39 of Boise, ID; Grant E. Peterson ’44 of Austin; Allan Magnusson ’49 of Roseau.

These five join an elite group of other alumni honored as Top Aggies. Since the school’s first class graduated, there have been 5,433 NWSA graduates and 600 who completed teacher training for a total of over 6,000. Of these less than one percent have been named Top Aggies.

Robert Larson ’29
Red Lake Falls, MN

Robert Larson was born in Louisville Township of Red Lake County. In 1932, after his father’s death, Bob took over management of the family farm. During the years 1945-85, Bob also worked as an agent for Braly-Gently Mutual Insurance Company.

Throughout his career, Bob has participated in a wide variety of community and association activities including: County Agriculture Stabilization Committee, Huot School Board Clerk, Louisville Township Clerk, Red Lake County Township Officers Association chairman, Crookston Coop Creamery Board, Covenant Church of Crookston chairman and vice-deacon.

In 1960, he and his wife, Bernice, were honored as the Valley Farmer and Homemaker of the Year for Red Lake County. He won the Soil Conservation Award for the county in 1961. Also in 1961, he was honored as Outstanding Dairyman by the Red River Valley Dairymen’s Association.

During retirement Bob has continued to be active in his church as well as the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. He was chosen one of Red Lake County’s Senior Citizens in 1986.

Bob has authored two histories: The Huot School from organization to closing in 1965 and Louisville Township 1879 to present time.

Glen Holmquist ’44
Nekoosa, WI

Glen Holmquist grew up in Hallock, MN. He graduated from Gustavus Adolphus with a bachelor of arts degree with a major in history and minor in physical education and speech in 1949.

From 1949 through 1960, Holmquist coached and taught high school social studies.

In 1960 he became a salesman for the New York Life Insurance Company. Six years later, he became regional counselor for stewardship with the Lutheran Church in America. In 1976 he became assistant to the bishop in the Wisconsin–Upper Michigan Synod of the Lutheran Church in America based in Milwaukee. Holmquist served in this position until he retired in 1988.

Holmquist has been married to Betty Englebretnson for 45 years. He and Betty raised six children and enjoy eight grandchildren.

During the past 45 years Holmquist has been very active in community service, church and various organizations including: PTA president, Augustana Lutheran Church Council chairman, Kiwanis International, and St. Paul Chamber of Commerce, Toastmasters.

Although supposedly retired, Holmquist maintains a very active public speaking schedule.

Dorothy Hanson Bender ’39
Boise, ID

Dorothy Hanson Bender was born on a farm in Trail, Minnesota. She graduated from Moorhead State College with bachelor’s and master’s degrees in educational psychology from the University of Minnesota.

Dorothy’s first teaching position was in Roseau, MN where she taught for eight years. It was while teaching in Roseau that she met and married her husband, Richard.

The Benders devoted the majority of their adult life to education. After leaving Minnesota they taught in Pierce, SD for two years before moving to Idaho where they spent their remaining teaching years.

Dorothy taught and counseled students for 22 years at Boise High School.

Dorothy’s professional achievements are numerous. She served many years as a representative to the Boise and Idaho Association’s. She has been active in Redeemer Lutheran Church, is a member of PEO Women’s Cultural Group, the Boise Chapter of ZONTA International, and has worked with the Boise Philharmonic Association as a volunteer for many years.

Following her retirement, she was nominated by the staff at Boise High School as a Most Distinguished Citizen in June 1984. Dorothy enjoys reading, traveling and visiting with friends.

(Continued on page 6)
Larson's Notes

Allan Larson

The 1993-94 academic year was a memorable one at UMC as we graduated our first baccalaureate degree students. It was also exciting because computers were issued to more than 800 full-time students.

The NWSA Alumni Reunion, held in June, went very well with attendance exceeding 300. Approximately 250 alumni, spouses and friends were on hand for the banquet which honored the 1994 "Top Aggies." Congratulations again to the honored "Top Aggies." Special thanks to William Gatheridge, Kenneth Price, Marilyn Stromstad and Calmer Johnson for making introductions and serving as hosts for our honored guests.

Thank you to the following class leaders who helped to make the reunion a success: Robert Larson '29, Evelyn Bain Erickson '29, Lois Sargent Smith '34, William Gatheridge '39, Kenneth Price '44, Marvie Vesledahl Stromstad '49, Lorraine Zipoy Love '54, Evelyn Holy Bancroft '55, Terry Dahl '59, and Bill Gatheridge '64.

Several Aggies will assume their role as alumni association directors at our fall 1994 meeting. We welcome: Willie Huot '63, Bill Gatheridge, Jr. '64, Ken Pool '49, JoAnne Straus Carlson '61, Charles Vind '49 and Conrad Zak '47 to the board.

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to our retiring board members--Don Mosbeck, James Olson, Paul Proulx, Pauline Finkenbinder Purath and Clarence Sargent. Collectively these Aggies have donated more than 27 years of service to the NWSA Alumni Association. Their contribution has been outstanding, and I personally will miss all of them very much.

I am happy to report we reached our goal of $18,000 for the NWSA Annual Heritage Fund Drive. Thanks for your contributions.

We began the 1994-95 academic year with a very successful UMC/NWSA Community Golf Tournament. It's getting better each year. A separate article is included elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are planning to hold an Alumni Social in Minneapolis at the Nicollet Island Inn, 95 Merriam, Minneapolis, MN Thursday, October 13, at 6:30 p.m. I hope those of you in the Twin Cities area can join us. An Alumni Social is also being planned for Saturday, February 4, 1995 for folks in the McAllen, Texas, area. The time and exact location for this event has not yet been determined. If you are interested in attending, please make sure we have an address where you can be reached in December or January, and we will get specific information to you. Si and Marge (Ofstedahl '43) Hanson have agreed to be our "Texas Connection" again this year. If you are willing to help the Hanson's with making arrangements, please let me know as soon as possible.

Finally before ending these notes I want to again express my thanks to all you "Aggies" for the excellent support you consistently give the Alumni Association and UMC. Your contribution of time and resources makes a significant difference to the UMC campus and keeping the NWSA Heritage alive.

NWSA Alumni Reunion
June 23 & 24, 1995

Chancellor's Comments

Donald Sargeant

It was great to see the large attendance at this year's NWSA reunion. The harmonica music and reminiscing made the banquet a joy for everyone. Congratulations to the 1994 Top Aggies--Dorothy Hanson Bender '39, Glen Holmquist '44, Robert W. Larson '29, Allan Magnusson '49, Grant E. Peterson '44.

Each year in late August the anticipation of beginning a new academic year seems to grow and grow. This fall was no different. Students returned to find many improvements in the campus "electronic" environment. These were new notebook computers for all students and faculty. It is hard to believe that the technology changes today are such that we are replacing computers on an annual basis. The fall sports calendar was different, too. The men's and women's athletic teams are playing four-year colleges in the region; so it isn't business as usual, but new places and new friends. There are about twelve new faculty and staff, the most in over a decade. So it is an invigorating time again here on campus.

This summer UMC hosted a Future Search Conference with participants including employers, students, faculty from other higher education institutions in the region, and faculty from UMC and the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus. Action plans were developed with a focus on collaborative partnerships for the baccalaureate programs. We are actively seeking feedback from all of the above to improve our educational programs.

UMC continues to receive much regional and national attention as a new polytechnic college. The college is a part of programs used world-wide by IBM and many other companies. Also, editors from Newsweek and the Wallstreet Journal have called. But, what's most important is that the learning environment continues to improve each year and the graduates are entering careers with the preparation necessary for a successful life.

Don't hesitate to stop by and tour the campus. We appreciate your support.

NWSA Alumni Association

President ........................................... Ken Schuster '61
Vice President .................................... Ardis Overgaard Searles '51
Secretary ............................................. Marilyn Vesledahl Stromstad '48
Board Members:
JoAnne Straus Carlson '61  Ken Pooi '49
Bill Gatheridge, Jr. '64  Charles Vind '49
Willie Huot '63  Conrad Zak '47
William Moser '56
Ex-Officio ........................................... Allan Larson, Berneil Nelson

The Aggie - Volume 14, Number 1 - Fall 1994

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Send address changes and information for the newsletter to: The Aggie, White House Alumni Center, University of Minnesota, Crookston, MN 56716-5001. Telephone: 218-281-8437. The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
Phonathon Volunteers:
Thanks to each of you for the many hours you have volunteered for the NWSA Phonathon.

Dorothy Bergh '48
Karl Bornhoff, retired faculty
JoAnn Carlson '61
Paul Carrier, UMC student
Dale Finkenbinder '51
Bill Gatheridge Jr. '40
Phil Hamre '50
Bonnie Holmquist '52
Chuck Holmquist '52
Allan Love '50
Herschel Lysaker, retired faculty
Ken Miller '45
Don Mosbeck '50
Bill Moser '56
Bernell Nelson '42
James Olson '55
Paul Proulx '48
Pauline Purath '45
Gerhard Ross '45
Roger Samuelson '50
Clarence Sargent '41
Ken Schuster '61
Allen St. Germain '56
Roy Stola Jr. '48
Allan Stromstad '63
Bruce Stromstad '66
Marvin Stromstad '48
Glen Torkelson '47
Leonard Yutzenka '42
Conrad Zieg '47

Golf Classic Nets $4,000
Ninety-five golfers participated in the fourth annual UMC/NWSA Community Golf Classic this summer at Minakwa Country Club. Twenty local business firms sponsored the golf teams and 22 firms made contributions as hole sponsors. About $4,000 in net income from the tournament and contributions from the hole sponsors and team sponsors will be used for scholarships for UMC.

Unfortunately, no one won a new vehicle in the Hole in One Contest sponsored by the local car dealers -- Brost Chevrolet, Nelson Motors and Salem Motors. If a golfer had been fortunate enough to hit a hole in one on Hole #5, he or she would have won the choice of two cars or a pickup. Big A Auto won first place team honors.

Plan now to be a part of the 1995 Golf Classic on July 15, 1995.

Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>Fall Quarter Classes Begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>Minneapolis Alumni and Friends Social</td>
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<td>November 3</td>
<td>Torch and Shield Banquet</td>
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<td>December 2</td>
<td>Ag Activities Day</td>
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<td>January 19</td>
<td>Scholarship Banquet</td>
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<td>Ag-Arama</td>
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<td>February 4</td>
<td>McAllen, Texas Area Alumni Social</td>
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<td>May 19</td>
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<td>June 23 &amp; 24</td>
<td>NWSA Reunion</td>
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<td>July 15</td>
<td>UMC/NWSA Community Golf Classic</td>
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UMC Teambackers Off To a Rousing Start
The UMC Teambackers Pig Roast held this summer was a resounding success, according to Darin Cook, Teambackers president. All NWSA alumni are invited to become members of the UMC Teambackers. The Teambackers Club is an athletic promotion and fundraising organization for UMC. It operates in conjunction with the UMC Development Office, the Athletic Department and the University of Minnesota Foundation.

Beginning this fall, UMC will be competing athletically with four-year colleges who have well-established athletic programs and athletic scholarship programs. If UMC's athletic programs are to continue to excel and be competitive, they will do so through financial contributions from individuals and organizations.

Memberships are available at different categories ranging from $25 to $10,000. For information contact Allan Larson at 218-281-8436 or UMC Athletic Director Marv Bachmeier at 218-281-8415.

NWSA/UMC Fall Social
Tuesday, October 13
6:30 p.m.
Nicollet Island Inn - 95 Merriam
Minneapolis, Minnesota
The experience had a big impact on me. These years did much to mold my life and future. I look back with awe to think that such a fine institution was there to give naive and groping country kids like me a chance to grow. I am very proud to be an old 'Aggie'.

-Dorothy Hanson Bender

1994 Top Aggie
The friendship of the staff and students made the transition easier, from being the only student in all eight grades, to the college atmosphere of dorm life and larger classes. I learned how to respect the needs and rights of others which prepared me for college, the Army, and a 35-year career in education. —Grant Peterson


Celebrates 50th Reunion

CLASS OF 1944
Row 1:

Row 2:
Cheryl Bjella Horton, Marv Magnusson, Glen Holmquist, Don Krueger, Jim Gustafson, Glenn Olson, Oliver Sorenson.

Row 3:

Row 4:
Elvin Moran, Clifford Anderson, Grant Peterson, Calmer Johnson, Leon Krueger, Orrin Madson, Nelvin Thormodson, Vincent Wallenberg, Gerald Burke, Orvis Engelstad.

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Elvin Moran, Clifford Anderson, Grant Peterson, Calmer Johnson, Leon Krueger, Orrin Madson, Nelvin Thormodson, Vincent Wallenberg, Gerald Burke, Orvis Engelstad.


★ Robert W. Larson '29 ★ Allan Magnusson '49 ★ Grant Peterson '44
Top Aggies Honored  Continued from page 1

Grant E. Peterson '44
Austin, MN

Grant E. Peterson received a bachelor's degree from Gustavus Adolphus in 1951, and master's degrees from the University of Minnesota in 1961 and from Mankato State in 1976.

Following graduation from Gustavus Adolphus, Grant served two years in the U.S. Army. While serving in Korea he received the commendation ribbon for Meritorious Achievement, the Korean Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars, the U.S. Service Medal and a Merit Unit Commendation.

In 1953 Grant and Bernice Johnson were married. They raised three children and have four grandchildren.

Grant began his career in education as a social studies and speech teacher in 1954. In 1956 he became a high school principal and counselor. From 1970-89 he was the media director for the school district, a speech teacher, and speech coach.

He was active in numerous professional organizations and continues to be active in the Lutheran church, serving on a number of boards and committees, president of the congregation, deacon, choir member and Stephen Minister. He is a charter member of the Adam’s Lions Club, and is a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Allan Magnusson ‘49
Roseau, MN

Allan "Buddy" Magnusson returned to farm land he had purchased and to assist his father with his dairy operation following graduation. He was drafted into the military and served two years during the Korean Conflict.

When Buddy returned from the military, he married Donna Mae. They raised a family of eight on the farm where they live today.

The Magnusson family has built a University of Minnesota tradition, buddy’s father graduated from the St. Paul Campus, his four brothers and two sisters graduated from the NWSA, and six of his eight children graduated from UMC.

Buddy has been an officer in numerous organizations including: Dairy Herd Improvement Association, Dairy Breeders Association, Land O’Lakes, county and district boards, Farmers Coop Elevator, Farm Bureau, Red River Development Association, Lion’s, American Legion, VFW, 4-H Leaders Council, Messiah Lutheran Church and many more.

He and his family have received several distinguished honors, such as County Dairymen Award, King Agassiz Award, and the county farm and homemaker award.

Today he rents out the farm and is the Veterans Service Officer for his county.

In Memory

| Jerdis M. (Thorson) Johnson ’26 June 17, 1994 | Melvin L. Capistran ’45 March 4, 1994 |
| Neal C. Scott ’28 February 16, 1994 | Robert E. Samuelson ’43 May 4, 1994 |
| Alton D. Anderson ’35 June 22, 1994 | |
"The Future and You" Donors Recognized

"The Future and You" was the theme of the Donor Recognition Banquet held last spring. Several scholarships are given each year by NWSA alumni or in memory of NWSA Alumni. Those scholarships include:

- The NWSA Heritage Fund and the Andrew and Elmer Wardeberg Memorial Scholarship are awarded to descendants of NWSA alumni.
- The Wallace and Hanna Miller Scholarship recognized deserving students who wish to further their education at UMC. Wally is a 1925 graduate.
- The Marshall Evans Scholarship is given in memory of Mrs. Evans, a 1937 graduate. The awards go to students in the early childhood program.
- The Clarence and Edna Sargent Scholarship is awarded to a student who is in the top one-half of his or her graduating class, and who has potential to succeed in college. Clarence graduated in 1941 and Edna in 1944.

Brian Norman, left, of Pine River, was one of two students to represent the 18 recipients of The Andrew and Elmer Wardeberg Memorial Scholarship. He is pictured with NWSA Alumni President Ken Schuster.

Craig Sharp, left, of Hamilton, ND, was one of two students to represent the 18 recipients of The Andrew and Elmer Wardeberg Memorial Scholarship. He is pictured with NWSA Alumni President Ken Schuster.

1993-94 Heritage Fund Contributions

Special thanks to the following contributors who have helped to fulfill the dream to keep the "Aggie Spirit" alive.

(Continued on page 8)