From the Chancellor

Fall is an active time at the University of Minnesota, Crookston. Students have returned and classes and events are bringing even more life to the campus. I am sure you remember the excitement of living in the residence halls and interacting with faculty, friends and classmates. Students today share so many of the experiences you had while attending the Northwest School of Agriculture.

The campus you knew as a student is much the same today — where exceptional education, research, public service and outreach are foundations for success. However, the campus has grown and adapted to the needs of the area and now serves as a regional hub and the source for University of Minnesota undergraduate degrees in northwestern Minnesota. Change is both inevitable and necessary.

A next step in the evolutionary process is the merging of the two alumni magazines — the Aggie and the Torch — into one magazine for all alumni and friends. As chancellor, I believe it is important to embrace history and plan for tomorrow while sharing successes and life experiences with each other. One of the ways we can accomplish this is by using one vehicle to spread the word about the great things going on around campus and in the lives of friends and alumni of the University of Minnesota, Crookston.

So when you receive the next issue of the Torch, it will be your magazine. Within its pages, you will learn about the campus today along with the rich heritage we share. With your ongoing support, we will continue building an exceptional organization that is both ready to meet the challenges ahead and proud of where we came from.

The base established by the Northwest School is undeniably significant and the legacy is lasting. The generations before us were also looking to the future and ensuring that the educational excellence and traditions, both hallmarks of this campus, would continue.

I was pleased to have the opportunity to meet many of you at the reunion this summer and look forward to next year. If you have a chance to come back and visit, I encourage you to do so any time. You will see how the campus has changed while building on the foundation of the Northwest School.

Charles H. Casey, D.V.M.
Chancellor

From the Alumni Association President

Welcome to history in the making at the University of Minnesota, Crookston. This is the final issue of the Aggie — which has served us well as alumni and friends of the Northwest School of Agriculture. We’ve shared successes and sadness; we stay connected with life-long friends while keeping up with our campus community.

It is with mixed emotions that we say goodbye to the Aggie and look to the Torch, as the official magazine for all alumni and friends of the University of Minnesota, Crookston. However, change is what keeps things moving forward.

The Torch will continue to showcase the history and traditions of the Northwest School and connect us with life across the campus today. Staff has been superb over the years in featuring our stories, and copies of the Aggie are treasures for all of us.

You’ll find a combined president’s message in the next Torch, which is scheduled to come out later this fall. I know that you will relate to the people and activities that are highlighted. Continue to send in your alumni news, watch for reunion and social details, read about students today who share many of the memories we share and watch for updates about alumni, faculty and staff as well.

Your support of the campus is much appreciated. As the outgoing alumni association president, I thank you and encourage you to continue to help sustain this great campus and the Northwest School legacy. It was great to see so many at the reunion; I hope you enjoyed every moment.

Gerhard Ross
NWSA Alumni Association President
Wedding Bells Ring for ‘64 Grads

By Kathryn Webster,
student intern in University Relations

After graduating in a class of 117 from the Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA) in 1964, two good friends, Claudia (Hanson) Deery and Vern Cleveland, went in separate directions. However, one thing has always kept them together at heart, the Northwest School.

Both were native North Dakotans who enrolled at the Northwest School to learn practical life skills along with academics. Vern, originally from Gardner, N.D., excelled on the varsity track team where he earned his letter.

Claudia is originally from Reynolds, N.D., and was active in many different organizations. She was the secretary of the mixed chorus, received numerous awards in the girls’ athletic club and reigned as homecoming queen in 1963.

Despite their busy schedules, Vern and Claudia became very good friends their junior and senior years. Both worked after school, Vern as a lifeguard and Claudia in the library. Vern would walk from the gym to see Claudia at work in the library before heading to the dining hall in the evening. He was often the last to eat, but somehow he really didn’t seem to mind.

After graduation, Vern attended North Dakota State University (NDSU), but in 1967, he was drafted into the military. When he returned, he finished his bachelor of architecture degree at NDSU. Claudia, however, attended North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, N.D., where she received her licensed practical nursing (LPN) degree. After completing her degree, Claudia lived in a number of places eventually making South Dakota her home.

Through the years, Claudia attended reunions to keep in touch with classmates and friends. At the 20-year reunion in 1984, Vern and Claudia were reunited and Claudia received the coveted Top Aggie award.

Vern and Claudia’s friendship grew through e-mails and phone calls over the next six months. A stroke of luck helped the relationship along when Vern ran in the Frostbite 4, a four-mile run in Beardsford, S.D., which was conveniently located only 30 miles from where Claudia lived.
Looking back, Claudia said, “Vern was always my best friend.” He must have had the same feeling, because on Christmas Eve 2006, he proposed to his high school sweetheart and lifelong friend, Claudia.

Vern and Claudia were married June 30, 2007, at their 44-year class reunion, on the same campus where they met. Underneath the gazebo on a perfect day in June, Vern and Claudia spoke their wedding vows. Standing at their side as witnesses were classmate Bill Gatheridge and his wife, Verna.

The couple credits a strong friendship as a key part of a good foundation for marriage. Vern and Claudia know a great deal about friendship as theirs has stood the test of time.

Vern and Claudia Cleveland during their wedding ceremony on Saturday, June 30, 2007, at the gazebo on the U of M, Crookston campus during the Northwest School reunion. Photo by the Crookston Times.
From the Director of Development & Alumni Relations

The 2007 Northwest School of Agriculture reunion was once again a great success, and we are looking forward to 2008. This will be the final edition of the Aggie as we begin the transition for all alumni and friends to receive the Torch magazine. What appears to be an ending is really a new beginning. Your continued support matters!

Remembering the University of Minnesota, Crookston in your will...

Planning Your Will*
A will or living trust is a statement about what matters most in your life. It ensures that your intentions are clearly understood and will be followed by those administering your estate. Everyone over legal age should have a will.

How Does the University Benefit?
Through an estate, generous donors can create endowed scholarships, professorships, chairs and building projects. Estate gifts are most often the largest gifts donors make; they have the greatest effect on the university. You decide if your gift is utilized in total or set up as an endowment.

How Can You Make a Gift to UMC in Your Will?
Your gift can be given to one or more programs or areas of your choice or as unrestricted, "to be used wherever needs are greatest." Your will should state your intention clearly enough so that the development office can ensure that your objectives are fulfilled.

What Assets are Best to Give?
Assets such as retirement (IRA, 401K, etc.), Series E bonds or stock options, are subject to income tax when received by beneficiaries. Your best course of action would be to take advantage of automatic step up in cost basis (original cost) of your appreciated assets.

Can You Change Your Mind?
Yes, wills and trusts are revocable – they can be changed at any time.

Other Ways To Give
Your Estate
Stock & Other Securities
Tangible Personal Property
Charitable Gifts Annuity’s
Charitable Remainder Trust’s
Real Estate
Matching Gifts
Cash Gifts

For detailed information on planning your gifts, contact Director of Development & Alumni Relations Corby Kemmer at 218-281-8434 (ckemmer@umn.edu).

Corby Kemmer
Director of Development & Alumni Relations

Remember the University of Minnesota, Crookston in your will

A will or living trust is a statement about what matters most in your life. It ensures that your intentions are clearly understood and will be followed by those administering your estate.

If you value your experience at the University of Minnesota, Crookston or the Northwest School of Agriculture you can leave a legacy through a gift to the campus in your will. Your generosity will help further the mission of the University of Minnesota, Crookston to provide education, research and outreach. The following language can be used by you and your attorney in your will:

“I give, devise and bequeath to the University of Minnesota Foundation (percentage, sum or description of property) for the benefit of the University of Minnesota, Crookston.”

If you would like more information, contact Corby Kemmer, Director of Development & Alumni Relations toll free at 1-800-862-6466, ext. 8434 or 218-281-8434 (ckemmer@umn.edu).

For more information about giving, visit www.UMCrookston.edu/alumni/giving.html.

*Excerpted from The Importance of a Will published by the University of Minnesota Foundation.
Anita (Mindermann) Tollefson '41 and Wilbert Clow '45

Anita (Mindermann) Tollefson, a 1941 graduate from the Northwest School of Agriculture, sent these photos taken outside the Health Services Building especially for the Aggie. If you have photos you would like to share, we would love to use them in upcoming issues of the alumni magazine. Please identify the names of the people in the photo and any other information you would like to include. For example, if you have photos of life in Robertson Hall, please share them with our alumni and friends by sending them to Elizabeth Tollefson, 2900 University Avenue, Crookston, Minn. 56716 or e-mail the photographs to ltollefs@umn.edu. Thank you, Anita, for sharing these great photos with us!

The Aggie

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The Northwest School of Agriculture was a residential high school serving students from 1906-1968 and the predecessor of the University of Minnesota, Crookston. A public, baccalaureate, applied-learning institution, the University of Minnesota, Crookston is a coordinate campus of the University of Minnesota.

The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status or sexual orientation.

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On the cover: The original school building.
Alumni Profile - Art Ramse, Class of 1926

When Art Ramse '26 was born in May 1908, the Northwest School of Agriculture had just completed its second year of operation. Fifth in a family of six, Ramse grew up near Erskine, Minn. His mother passed away when he was only six months old and his father when he was six years old, and as a result, Ramse and his siblings were raised by an uncle and aunt.

Ramse loved reading. When he completed grade school, he passed early exams and his teacher had him study English and algebra to begin preparing him for high school. As a freshman, Ramse moved into Stephens Hall and remembers Delmar LaVoi as the preceptor. As a junior, he moved to Senior Hall where he lived until he completed his advanced year in 1927.

"I was a big-little-baby when I came to the Northwest School," Ramse says. "I remember the sound of one of the boy's voices reminded me of my mother's voice, and I would run to my room and cry."

Loneliness was not uncommon among the children of farm families who came to board on campus, but it did not deter Ramse in his studies. His uncle told him to "obey the teachers and follow directions," and that is exactly what he did.

Ramse fell in love with the campus. He enjoyed the teaching of Anne Simley. "She was so strict it was almost scary, but she was wonderful and made me really love English."

He had great respect for the teachers and administrators, particularly Conrad Selvig. A stool he made in Arnold Foker's carpentry class is still in use. His skillfully made mortise and tenon joints are holding fast.

Foker also taught the students blacksmithing. "I remember a long rack of blacksmith forges hanging in the shop and the exhaust system that was there to help alleviate the smoke." Students would get the fire going, put water on the coal and crank a lever which would feed the fire a little air.

"One student stopped cranking a little too soon and the fire exploded," Ramse recalls. "I remember a large 'bang' which blew the pipes of the exhaust system right off."

If he had a favorite teacher, you would never know it, because, he says, "There wasn't a teacher I didn't like." However, there was a class he didn't enjoy. It covered the
types and breeds of farm animals. Not only did students memorize the names and breeds of animals, they had to know the birth and death dates of the best-producing cattle along with the name of the breeder.

Typical of the good student he was, Ramse involved himself with a number of school activities. He took violin and piano lessons, sang in the boy’s glee club and was a member of the Agrarian, one of the debate societies.

Ramse won a scholarship on his corn project and with it a trip to the Minnesota State Fair where he was an usher in the grandstand.

During his advanced year, Ramse dropped his participation in music and focused on his agriculture subjects. Some of the agriculture classes required a double period so his schedule did not permit him to continue his music classes. He even took a class in mechanical drawing he later used to design plans for his family’s home.

Ramse took short courses in poultry, treatment of cows with bloat and milk testing. He received a couple of job offers after the milk-testing course but ended up staying on his uncle’s farm to work.

Later, Ramse decided to take a correspondence course offered at the Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis, Minn. When he had the opportunity, he attended classes in person during two winter terms. During that time, Ramse met a girl from Wisconsin named Elmyra who was easy to talk to and shared his interests. This meeting began a great friendship that later turned to love.

On September 6, 1941, Elmyra and Art were married, and together they decided if they ever got a chance to go to the mission field, they would do it. The chance came in the form of a call from the American Lutheran Church to minister to Native Americans living in Tokio, N.D., about 17 miles south of Devils Lake.

“It was the most wonderful and rewarding time in our lives,” Ramse said, to which Elmyra nodded in agreement.

During those busy 23 years, Elmyra and Art’s three children grew up, and they welcomed several foster children into their home over that time as well.

In 1978, they moved back to the farm near McIntosh, Minn., and have called it home ever since.

When Ramse looks back over his life, his years at the Northwest School stand out as a highlight. His memory, which is as clear as ever, gives tribute to the instructors and classes he had as a young man. Ramse is grateful he was able to attend school at the NWSA, and like many others through the years, the education he received there changed his life.

Exceptional students and exceptional faculty and staff were hallmarks of the NWSA, and the University of Minnesota, Crookston continues to build on that legacy. To learn more about what is happening on the campus today, visit www.UMCrookston.edu/umcnews.

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**Faculty Profile - Rachel McCoppin**

Faculty members have an influence in the lives of their students. Just like Northwest School of Agriculture English instructor Anne Simley, University of Minnesota, Crookston assistant professor Rachel McCoppin, Ph.D., influences the lives of students on the campus today. McCoppin teaches honors composition, readings in American life, oral interpretation/performance technology, world literature and composition. She also serves as the faculty advisor to Alpha Lambda Delta, the honor society for first-year students. For more information on the communication program at the U of M, Crookston, visit www.UMCrookston.edu/academics.
Alumni Association Board Welcomes New Members

The Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA) Alumni Association welcomes three new board members this fall. Norm Landby ’55, Chuck Holmquist ’52 and David Sorvig ’46 were nominated and approved during the annual meeting which took place during the reunion in June. They will join current board members Harvey Pulkrabek ’48, Bob Kresl ’53, Richard Widseth ’49, Don Holy ’53, Barbara (Hylland) Lunsetter ’56, Lowell Hamrick ’53, Gerhard Ross ’45, and Ex Officio Berneil Nelson ’42.

Landby, Holmquist and Sorvig replace outgoing board members Harlene Hagen ’55, Betty (Erickson) Floan ’47 and Lorraine (Zipoy) Love ’54, who received special recognition at the annual meeting for their service to the board.

“We appreciate our board members,” said Corby Kemmer, director of development and alumni relations. “We are all looking forward to having Norm, Chuck and David join us. The Board works hard on behalf of the alumni, and their input is valuable. We sincerely appreciate all past and present members of the Board.”

For more information on the Northwest School of Agriculture Alumni Association, visit www.UMCrookston.edu/alumni/nwsa.

The Northwest School Alumni Association Board met at the end of July to elect officers. Board members attending the meeting included (front row, l to r) Gerhard Ross ’45, Lowell Hamrick ’53, Harvey Pulkrabek ’48, Barbara (Hylland) Lunsetter ’56 and Berneil Nelson ’42. Back row: Director of Development Corby Kemner, David Sorvig ’46, Richard Widseth ’49 and Chuck Holmquist ’52. Not pictured: Norm Landby ’55, Bob Kresl ’53 and Don Holy ’53.
The Office of Development & Alumni Relations would like to thank all past board members for their service to the alumni association. Last year’s board members included (l to r): Barbara (Hylland) Lunsford ’56, Lorraine (Zipoy) Love ’54, Betty (Erickson) Floan ’47, Berneil Nelson ’42, Harlene Hagen ’55, Lowell Hamrick ’53, Gerhard Ross ’45 and Bob Kresl ’53.

A special thank you to outgoing President Gerhard Ross and a warm welcome to our new President Chuck Holmquist.
Reunion Highlights “School Days”

“School Days” was the theme of the Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA) reunion held June 29-30, 2007. The weather was perfect for the outdoor fish fry on Friday night, and the evening was filled with conversations, laughter and smiles. The social and dance that followed brought back more memories of days at the Northwest School.

Bus tours of campus gave alumni a chance to see how the campus has grown and developed over the years, and those who were interested enjoyed a “garden talk” and slide show with U of M, Crookston Lab Services Coordinator Theresa Helgeson. The grounds were particularly beautiful and the dedication of the Shaver Butterfly Garden gave reunion attendees a chance to view some of the gorgeous flowers in bloom.

The “School Days” program, held in the Kiehle Auditorium, included a performance by the singing group Prairie Rose along with a special video tribute to the Northwest School.

Concluding the reunion weekend was the Top Aggie banquet which brought many friends and family back to the University of Minnesota, Crookston and recognized outstanding NWSA alumni. The 2007 Top Aggies are Arlene (Knutson) Grage ’42, Fergus Falls, Minn.; Ray Dusek ’57, Crookston, Minn.; Patrick McKeever, D.V.M. ’62, St. Paul, Minn.; and Lloyd Petri ’67, Minneapolis, Minn.

For more photographs of the weekend, visit the Web page located at www.UMCrookston.edu/alumni/NWSAReunion.

Editor’s note:
Class of 1957 reunion booklets are still available. If interested, contact Rose Ulseth at 218-281-8439 (rulseth@umn.edu). Booklets are $20 which includes shipping.
University Launches “We are all Search Engines” Campaign

At the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC), we are Driven to Discover! We have the opportunity to ask questions and explore answers. As part of one of the greatest universities in the world, we pursue answers to some of the world’s biggest questions.

Discovery is the reason the University of Minnesota launched the “We are all Search Engines” campaign – to encourage everyone to keep asking questions. The U of M’s strategic positioning process was initiated to move its mission of extraordinary education, breakthrough research and dynamic public engagement ahead with the goal of becoming one of the top public research universities in the world in a decade. Discovery, the search for answers – that’s what education and research are all about.

The “We are all Search Engines” campaign reminds us of our great potential. This is a unique opportunity for people of all ages and walks of life to ask big questions and connect them with the University of Minnesota’s drive to find big answers through research, teaching and outreach.

Look for the Driven to Discover question and answer in this issue of the Aggie. Find out about the research and extraordinary contributions taking place at the University of Minnesota, Crookston.

What is your single greatest question? To learn more, visit www.discover.umn.edu.
Aggie
REUNION PHOTOS

Class of 1957

University of Minnesota | Crookston
**Stephens Hall Remembered**

The University of Minnesota, Crookston campus has seen many changes over the years just as the Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA) did over its 62-year history. In order to serve students, the campus has adapted and grown to accommodate the needs of the region. Most recently, the construction of the Student Center (2005) and Centennial Hall (2006), a state-of-the-art residence facility, have greatly enhanced student life.

For many years, Stephens Hall stood where the Sahlstrom Conference Center stands today. Named for Senator A.D. Stephens, it was his leadership that helped secure the necessary funds from the legislature for two buildings – Stephens and Owen halls.

Erected in 1908, Stephens Hall housed 70 boys with the campus dining hall located on the first floor. It was in Stephens Hall where many young men first learned lessons about living in a campus community.

When Stephens Hall was dedicated, railroad magnate James J. Hill was on hand for the event. The dedication was a part of James J. Hill Day, September 17, 1908. It celebrated his contributions to the region and the establishment of the Northwest School on the land he donated. His presence was a reason for both campus and community celebrations.

Dormitory life set NWSA students apart from other high schools in the area. Living with and going to school with other young people from the region provided students with a unique opportunity. *The Northwest Monthly*, the campus newsletter, touted the advantages of dormitory life, “They [the dormitories] are provided with shower baths and steam heated study rooms and include spacious parlors, which afford opportunity for comradeship and enjoyment. Each building has a preceptor for help and advice.”

In 1919, a new dining hall was proposed to be built between Stephens and Hill halls. This area was once the location of the original farmhouse, the home of T.A. Hoverstad. Hoverstad was the first superintendent of the Northwest Experiment Station – known today as the Northwest Research and Outreach Center.

The new building was erected in 1920 and the dining hall was moved from Stephens to its new location. This move allowed for the renovation of Stephens Hall to create more dormitory rooms, which the campus needed as enrollment increased.

With the renovation, the parlor was moved from second floor to the basement in what had been the kitchen and a fireplace was incorporated as a focal point. The preceptor’s office and hospital quarters were established in the west wing of the first floor. The hospital quarters held a nurse’s office, consultation room, dietary kitchen and two wards.

Music, always a part of campus life, was a part of dorm life as well. Stephens Hall had a piano, but when there were no boys to accompany singing, it sat silent. The August 1919 issue of the *Northwest Monthly* reported, “There has not been much music in the boys’ dormitories since the time of Bernard Moses ’18, Oscar Tunheim ’17 and Thorval Tunheim ’16 and Helge Krogsgen ’17. A boy from Red Lake Falls will enroll this fall who plays the piano. We’ll gather around the Senior Hall or Stephens Hall piano again as we used to do when there were boys who played for us.”
When the Health Services Building opened in 1926, Stephens Hall was able to house 20-30 more students in the area that served as the hospital quarters and nurse's office. A committee from the University of Minnesota Board of Regents recognized the importance of having a separate facility to care for the sick by keeping them isolated to inhibit the spread of illness.

In 1932, Stephens Hall was completely remodeled. The *Northwest Monthly* described the modern conveniences the renovation incorporated:

"The building is thoroughly equipped, modern in every detail and can be ranked among the finest dormitories in the state. Major changes in the building consist of a new assembly room which will provide suitable quarters in which to hold house meetings and Y.M.C.A. [Young Men's Christian Association] meetings. The first floor has been equipped with stationary laundry tubs, ironing boards and electric outlets for electric irons. New plaster, hardwood floors, new doors, modern electric light fixtures and heating facilities will contribute to making student headquarters as comfortable as possible."

Through the years, there were a number of dorm preceptors, or counselors, who lived in Stephens Hall. Some of the more notable were J.P. Bengston, Delmar LaVoi and Alice "Ma" Baker, who spent 12 years as the dormitory counselor until Ralph Titus was hired to teach and serve as the dorm's counselor in 1958.

Stephens Hall served the campus until 1971 when it was razed. Over the years, it served the campus mission, meeting the needs of the students. Dormitories, or residence halls as they are known today, are an important part of school memories. Stephens Hall remains in the hearts of those who lived there.

The success of the U of M, Crookston campus is due in part to the foundation built by the people who make up campus history. Just as students at the Northwest School are an important part of the fabric contributing to the success of the University of Minnesota, Crookston today, current students are building the legacy of tomorrow.

To learn more, visit our Web site at www.UMCrookston.edu or stop by for a visit when you are in the area and see the new residence hall living. We would enjoy showing you the campus or hearing about your memories as a student, faculty or staff member at the Northwest School of Agriculture.
Students Receive Page Education Foundation Scholarships

Two University of Minnesota, Crookston students received Page Education Foundation scholarships for the 2007-08 academic year. Kalimah Newson-Duvall and Matthew Pelzer are the recipients of the special grant.

The Page Education Foundation offers grants to students of color who attend post-secondary schools within the state of Minnesota. In return for the awards, Page Scholars are required to give about two hours each week during the school year to a service project involving younger children of color, from kindergarten through eighth grade. The goal of this service is to encourage youth to begin to value learning and develop a positive attitude toward education. The Page Education Foundation was created in 1988 with a simple but innovative idea – entice young people of color to influence younger children by offering mentoring and financial assistance for college in exchange for their volunteer service.

Newson-Duvall, a freshman majoring in pre-nursing, is a native of Minneapolis, Minn. She will be playing women’s basketball for the U of M, Crookston Golden Eagles. Pelzer, a native of St. Cloud, Minn., is a junior majoring in business management. He also plays basketball for the Golden Eagles.

Successful candidates for the Page Education Foundation grant must demonstrate financial need, a positive attitude toward education, agree to perform an annual community service project and attend a post-secondary institution within the state of Minnesota. Awards consist of annual grants that range in value from $1,000 to $2,500. Recipients must reapply each year they are in post-secondary school and receive subsequent grants based on their academic progress and mentoring performance.

Scholarships at the U of M, Crookston are available to students through foundation grants, alumni fund drives and through individual donors. Gifts which provide scholarship support help make the educational dreams and aspirations of students a reality. Your support of students at the University of Minnesota, Crookston affects the future. For information on how you can give to scholarships, contact Corby Kemmer, director of Development & Alumni Relations at 218-281-8434 (ckemmer@umn.edu).
Webster’s Ubiquitous Maroon and Gold Connections

When I look out over the beautiful University of Minnesota, Crookston campus, and notice the flowers in bloom, I am reminded of my roots here. Hi, I’m Kathryn Webster (Kat to some) an intern in University Relations at the U of M, Crookston and a fourth generation of my family to be a part of the U of M, Crookston experience. I am proud to say that I am pursuing my communication degree from the University of North Dakota (UND). I will complete my degree in May 2008 and intend to live and work in this area. In spite of my UND “green” connections, I feel very welcome on my “maroon and gold” adopted campus, which is enhanced by my many connections to it.

I grew up on a farm near Beltrami, Minn., and come from a long line of farmers who are still plowing the same acres of soil today, with wheat and corn as the primary crops. My father’s uncle, Phil Hamre ’49 was the only one of a family of nine children privileged to attend the Northwest School of Agriculture. He came to the Northwest School to learn about the land and graduated with the knowledge and skills to work and live a successful life. In that era, the NWSA provided practical knowledge, such as basic nursing skills, manners and the cutting-edge agricultural technology of the day.

Realizing that agriculture was his chosen career, my father, Greg, enrolled at the U of M, Crookston when it was a two-year technical college. His major was animal science, which is fitting since we currently have over 1,000 hogs on our farm! Over the years, my dad also took classes through the U of M Extension Service, which kept his ties to the campus close. My brother Matt is a 2000 graduate of the U of M, Crookston with a degree in agronomy. His years here were filled with many laughs and a lot of baseball, as he was a co-captain of the team his senior year. After various jobs in agronomy, he is currently an engineer on the Canadian Pacific Railroad, stationed in Elkhart, Indiana.

With my family’s NWSA and U of M, Crookston heritage, working here was a natural choice. During the interview process for my internship, I was asked what my connections were to the campus, and I was astonished to realize how connected I am. Between my family and my fiancée’s family, we have numerous connections. My fiancé, Aaron, is the son of 1976 grads, Ervin and Jane (Benoit) Vigness. It serves to show that if you are not related to someone here, you likely know someone who has or is currently attending here.

Attending school away from home, we learn that we are a part of a bigger picture, which is what many found out when they enrolled at the NWSA. Students attending the NWSA and the U of M, Crookston produced many generations who contributed to the success of this region. The academic and life-skill traditions continue to be in evidence today equipping current graduates to prevail.

Kathryn Webster is a student intern in University Relations. Math and physics took center stage when high school students attended the second annual Game Design Camp at the U of M, Crookston in June. Campers had the opportunity to join alumni from the Northwest School for the reunion fish fry.
Chancellor Member of Laker Hall of Fame

University of Minnesota, Crookston Chancellor Charles H. Casey was inducted into the Laker Hall of Fame in Prior Lake, Minn. Chancellor Casey is a 1957 graduate of Prior Lake High School and was honored in a ceremony in early August at the Wilds Golf Club in Prior Lake. Casey was valedictorian of his graduating class and later graduated from the University of Minnesota with a doctorate in veterinary medicine. Prior to becoming chancellor at the U of M, Crookston in September 2005, Casey served as dean and director of the University of Minnesota Extension Service.

Kimberly Gillette Named Director of International Programs

International outreach efforts are growing at the University of Minnesota, Crookston with the hiring of Kimberly Gillette, Ph.D., as director of international programs. She began her duties in early July. In her role, Gillette provides vision and guidance for campus efforts to internationalize the curriculum and coordinate international programs. She is working to expand study abroad opportunities, as well as managing the International Programs Office at the U of M, Crookston.

Golden Eagle Athletes Help Out

Over 80 student-athletes from the University of Minnesota, Crookston’s Golden Eagle football, soccer and hockey teams traveled to Northwood, N.D., the first weekend in September to help the town cleanup and rebuild. Northwood, a town of about 1,000, was ravaged by a tornado on August 26, 2007.

The teams supported the town by cleaning up debris in the area’s cornfields. The student-athletes also moved furniture and books from the heavily damaged school in Northwood to the newly dubbed Hatton-Northwood high school in neighboring Hatton, N.D.

The athletes were not alone on the clean-up effort. Head Women’s Soccer Coach Chris Przemieniecki, Hockey Coach Gary Warren and Football Coach Shannon Stassen assisted as well. The student-athletes and coaches were fed lunch by crews from the American Red Cross, who were also distributing aid to residents of the community.

Submit your alumni news online at

www.UMCrookston.edu/alumni/NWSA
Amber Evans-Dailey New Director of Admissions

Amber Evans-Dailey is the new director of admissions at the University of Minnesota, Crookston, a role she assumed in April 2007. Evans-Dailey is responsible for all strategic student recruitment planning, outreach activity and the development and execution of an integrated annual marketing plan for the U of M, Crookston to increase its visibility and prominence. Visit the admissions office Web site at www.UMCrookston.edu/admissions to learn more about how students become leaders, innovate through technology and research and secure the career they want.

Biology Degree Program Introduced

This fall, the University of Minnesota, Crookston introduced a new biology degree program as another option for students. The bachelor of science in biology provides students with a broad knowledge of the biological sciences while introducing them to the practical skills needed in today's biotech industries and the background required to be successful applicants to graduate programs. Students may choose from advanced courses designed to emphasize studies in either animal or plant systems while participating in a common core of courses which provide knowledge in the basic principles relevant to both areas. To learn more, visit www.UMCrookston.edu/academics.

Golden Eagles Web Page Redesigned

The University of Minnesota, Crookston Golden Eagle Athletic Web page is redesigned with a new look, great new features and a new address. The Golden Eagles compete in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II and are a member of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC). The UMC Golden Eagle Hockey team competes in the NCAA Division III - Midwest Collegiate Hockey Association (MCHA), and the UMC Golden Eagle Equestrian team is part of the NCAA Division II - Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHS). Designed by a talented campus team, the new Website is online at www.goldeneaglesports.com.

Campus Hosts Upper Midwest Rural Health Summit

Concern for the future of rural healthcare prompted the Minnesota Rural Health Association to join forces with counterparts in Montana and North Dakota in a rural health summit at the University of Minnesota, Crookston in mid-August. The Upper Midwest Rural Health Summit focused on the future of rural healthcare policy and featured keynote presentations by Dr. Frank Cerra, senior vice president for health sciences of the University of Minnesota; Kristin Jular, director of the Montana Office of Rural Health; and Brad Gibbens, associate director of the University of North Dakota (UND) Center for Rural Health. For details, visit www.mnruralhealth.org.
Class Notes

Eleanor (Torkelson) Hem '32, Mesa, Ariz., has resided in the Phoenix area since 1980. She is currently residing in a retirement facility and enjoys sewing and other activities.

Kenneth Gruhot, '51, Argyle, Minn., and his wife, Darlene, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their children and grandchildren on a Panama Canal Cruise in April 2007.

Lowell Hamrick '53, Warren, Minn., and his wife, Shirley, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 23, 2007.

Wayne Mosher '54, St. Michael, Minn., was a commercial artist in the advertising industry in Minneapolis, Minn., and is now retired. He and his wife, Carrol, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 22, 2007. (no photo available)

LeRoy Sondrol '55, Grand Forks, N.D., and his wife, Judy, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 4, 2007.

Tony & Jeanette (Love) Filipi '57, Angus, Minn., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 22, 2007, at a party hosted by their children.

Willie Huot '63, Grand Forks, N.D., received the State Meritorious Service Award at the Extension spring conference in March 2007. The honor was presented by Epsilon Sigma Phi Extension Honorary. He received the award for his leadership and excellence in extension program planning. (excerpt from the Grand Forks Herald)

In Memory

Hazel (Stephenson) Halvorson '29
Farmington, Minn.
March 30, 2007

Olaf Raymond Egeland att '34-'35
East Grand Forks, Minn.
March 23, 2007

Alvina Tulibaski '35
Warren, Minn.
April 1, 2007

Esther (Ruebke) Brandt '39
Ada, Minn.
June 20, 2007

William I. Gatheridge '39
Humboldt, Minn.
June 6, 2007

William J. Fieman att '39-'40
East Grand Forks, Minn.
April 11, 2007

Robert "Bud" Baistad '41
Fosston, Minn.
June 27, 2007

Calvin Kolting att '43-'44
Gully, Minn.
August 7, 2006

Allan Carlson '46
Erskine, Minn.
July 31, 2007

Lauritz "Buddy" Jensen '48
Drayton, N.D.
February 13, 2007

Darrell Forlin '49, '50 Adv.
Grand Forks, N.D.
February 22, 2007

Dale Nesland '54
Grand Forks, N.D.
January 31, 2007

Eugene Timmer '61
Stephen, Minn.
March 31, 2007

Harry Slominski '61
Kingsley, Iowa
January 15, 2007

Darrell Forest '63
Warwick, N.D.
April 26, 2007

Robert Braun '66
Crookston, Minn.
February 2, 2007

Eugene "Gene" Evenson '66
Sun City, Ariz.
May 8, 2007
Top Aggie Award Nomination Form

The Top Aggie Award is the highest honor bestowed on NWSA alumni by its alumni association. This award recognizes alumni who have displayed exemplary commitment and service to community, church, education, family or in their occupational field.

Use the form below to nominate an individual as a candidate to receive the Top Aggie Award. You may also submit your nomination online at www.UMCrookston.edu/alumni.

Name: ____________________________________________
Title: ____________________________________________

Contact Information: ____________________________________________

Reason(s) why this individual should be considered for the Top Aggie Award:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Signed: ____________________________________________

Mail to: NWSA Alumni Association
Kiehle 115
2900 University Avenue
Crookston, MN 56716-5001

Check out all the past Top Aggies by visiting www.UMCrookston.edu/alumni/nwsa/topaggies.htm.
Northwest School of Agriculture Reunion

June 27-28, 2008

We will celebrate the golden reunion of the Class of 1958! Honored classes include '23, '28, '32, '38, '42, '48 (adv.), '52, '58, '62 and '68

Consider being a class leader, contact Rose Ulseth in the Office of Development & Alumni Relations at 218-281-8439 (rulseth@umn.edu) if you would like to help.

Nominate a "Top Aggie" by visiting www.UMCrookston.edu/alumni or by completing the form on page 23.

Plan now to attend the 2008 Northwest School Reunion on Friday and Saturday, June 27-28, 2008!
Heritage Room Holds Memories and History of Campus

By Stephanie Onken, student intern in University Relations

In the back of the Heritage Room in the Kiehle Building stand two sliding glass-door bookshelves. Encased in them are years of newspaper clippings, yearbooks and memories. As boring as sorting and arranging a cabinet full of ‘old books’ might sound, it was actually a time of learning and reflection on how much students from the University of Minnesota, Crookston, and the earlier Northwest School of Agriculture, endured to become one of the best-known schools in the nation, rated a U.S. News Best Public College since 1999.

The number of items kept in the scrapbooks stored in the bookcases honestly surprised me; some books dated back to the early 1900’s. There were notes from instructors giving times for piano lessons, receipts for $1 for class dues and class schedules including classes such as quilting and cooking. I even found an entire row of binders filled with newspaper clippings. In another instance, I discovered a leather-bound diploma awarded by the Northwest School of Agriculture to Selma C. Beiswinger, a graduate of the class of 1928.

I could go on and on about the history and memories I discovered on those shelves, but it would take pages and pages to tell what I found. It was truly amazing to look into the lives of those who lived, studied and played at the campus I now call home. To see what they lived through in order to get an education is nothing short of incredible, but don’t let me spoil all of the fun for you! These memories and so much more can all be found on the newly sorted shelves in the back of the Heritage Room in the Kiehle Building, so come and take a look – take a walk down memory lane.

Company A Cadets from the Northwest School of Agriculture in 1918.

The original school building under construction prior to the Northwest School’s opening in 1906.

Stephanie Onken discovers history and treasures sorting shelves in the Heritage Room during her summer internship in University Relations.

A blacksmithing class meets during 1906-07 school year in a small building where Owen Hall now stands.

Stephanie Onken, a sophomore at the U of M, Crookston, assisted at the booth during the Minnesota State Fair in August. She is a student tutor and works as an intern in University Relations.
150 YEARS
of STATEHOOD
1858 - 2008

CELEBRATE
Minnesota's 150th Birthday in 2008!
Watch for special campus events and join in celebrations across the state.
To learn more about the Sesquicentennial, visit www.mn150years.org.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
Send us any information or news you'd like to share with your classmates and friends. To submit an item for the Class Notes, complete this form and send it to the Office of Development & Alumni Relations, 115 Kiehle Building, 2900 University Avenue, Crookston, MN 56716, or e-mail: rulseth@umn.edu, or complete the form online at: www.UMCrookston.edu/alumni/keepintouch.html.

Name ____________________________________________ Phone ____________________________
Address __________________________________________
City/State/Zip _______________________________ E-mail ________________________________

May we include your e-mail in the news section of the Torch? ______ Can we publish it in our online directory? ______

Year of Graduation __________________________ or years of attendance __________________________

Information or news you wish to share (new job, career or family achievements, hobbies, etc.) __________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________
1. In late August, this group of U of M, Crookston students gathered on the Campus Mall for some activities related to orientation. Classes on the campus resumed on Tuesday, August 28.

2. U of M, Crookston students Jae Jun Kwak and Sohee Yook participated in Beautiful U Day last spring. During the day, students, faculty and staff were involved in many beautification projects across the campus.

3. Dion Turgeon '07 stands with his grandfather Jerome Turgeon '54 at his graduation in May from the U of M, Crookston.

4. During the reunion, the Shaver Butterfly Garden was dedicated in memory of June Shaver's '76 parents, Willis and Harriet (Ridley) Shaver. Pictured (l to r): Dan Svedarsky, Ph.D., head of the Natural Resources Department, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Tom Baldwin; and June Shaver.
Arizona Social

Class of 1951

February 15, 2008
11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dutch treat lunch - Terrace Green at the ViewPoint Resort, Mesa, Arizona

For information and all the details, contact Sue Dwyer in the Office of Development & Alumni Relations at 218-281-8401 (sdwyer@umn.edu).