UMC's first class--amazed and proud

UMC students were ‘country kids’

Twylla (Johnson) Altepeter

It was the "little campus up north" that gave Twylla (Johnson) Altepeter a start in her career. Today Twylla is the managing editor of The Crookston Daily Times.

A graduate of Detroit Lakes High School, Twylla planned to attend the Twin Cities campus of the University of Minnesota, but when she didn't get her application to the registrar in time, an advisor suggested that a little campus was opening up north and she should start there.

She enrolled in UMC's first class. And it turned out to be a good decision for Twylla.

Twylla grew up by Strawberry Lake, near Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, where her parents farmed. She attended rural schools--a one-room school house for grades one through three and a two-room school house for grades four through six.

UMC's small campus in a rural setting was just what Twylla needed.

"I loved the campus. I'm a rural kid, and all the other kids were country kids. They were all so friendly. That's why I'm still here," Twylla said.

There was an excitement about attending UMC for Twylla.

"UMC was a unique campus. We were pioneering something. Our class was the first class in this new campus of the University."

She gives the founding provost Stanley D. Sahlstrom credit for always being so enthusiastic and for being the sparkplug to keep things going. She credits Herschel Lysaker with the muscle behind making this campus a reality.

"He never dropped the ball," Twylla quipped of the former athletic director.

Her faculty advisor Adolph Beich reminded her "if you’re going to get a job you'd better learn the business." And Twylla has never forgotten that advice.

After graduation she typed for attorney John Padden, for Tom Hagen at the hospital, until she was asked to fill in temporarily at the Crookston Times with a tape punch machine. She's been with the Times ever since, and this spring she was promoted to managing editor.

Twylla is proud of her alma mater. She realizes what a giant step it was for UMC to start as a new campus in a small town so far away from the Twin Cities.

"UMC has come farther than any of us could have ever imagined. I'm always amazed that today's UMC was started with a wing and a prayer," Twylla said.

"I'm amazed ... and proud of UMC!"

Ramberg is two-degree UMC grad

Most graduates receive one degree from one division at UMC. But Keith Ramberg is different. He has not one, but two degrees from two UMC divisions - one from business and one from food service management, now called the hospitality division.

As director of food service at UMC Keith served 107,000 people last year on a routine basis, plus 35,000 people for special events.

Keith grew up in Mentor, Minnesota, graduated from the Northwest School of Agriculture and then took classes at UMC. He graduated with the first class from the business division in 1968. When the food service management program began, Keith began taking the required classes until he fulfilled that degree requirement.

Keith is probably the only person to give the commencement speech from alumni the same year he was graduating.

Keith was hired as assistant director of food service under Brian Harron and then under Ernie Franklin. About a year later Keith was named director of food service and housing.

As enrollment at UMC continued to increase the job was split and Keith stayed on as director of food service.

Kasels’ courtship started at UMC

UMC holds a very special place in the hearts of Jim and Ann (Siegmund) Kasel. It was on the college campus that the two met and decided to marry.

When Ann was a second year student, she was a candidate for Snow Days queen. Tulle Gebhardt, secretary, pushed her to ask Jim to be her escort. That was the beginning of their courtship and in 1970, they were married.

While Jim was at UMC Dick Widseth of Widseth, Smith and Noting and Associates, Inc., taught some classes on the campus. Dick liked this student, and Jim began working for him in the summer. In the fall Jim was offered a full-time position and has been with the Crookston engineering firm since then.

Ann was a business See KASELS on page 2.
THE CELEBRATION BEGINS

During the past year, plans began for UMC's 25th Anniversary Celebration. "Education With a Vision" was selected as the theme and an anniversary logo was designed. The theme and logo will be highlighted throughout the 1990-91 academic year at all major activities, on correspondence, printed materials, advertising, press releases, newsletters and brochures. Promotion items will also feature the logo and theme.

The theme carries on the tradition of "Education With a Vision" begun many years ago by the NWSA.

A number of events will be highlighted during the 25th Anniversary Celebration. We hope you will have an opportunity to participate in one or more of the activities.

1990 UMC OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

Please join us in recognizing the following 1990 UMC Outstanding Alumni Award recipients. They will be honored at the champagne brunch on Saturday, October 6, at 10 a.m.

Jami L. (Clark) Nelson '78 HHE graduate
Stephan, Minnesota

Robert P. Noonan '73 HHE graduate
Platteville, Wisconsin

Jerry C. Oxborough '69 Agriculture graduate
Suwanee, Georgia

Curtis F. Zimmerman '74 Ag graduate
Cottage Grove, Minnesota

Jacqueline J. (Schipper) Burke '75
Arts and Sciences
Crookston

Jack Lundbohm '77
Arts and Sciences
Hallock, Minnesota

Kenneth Beich '76 Business graduate
Rochester, Minnesota

UMC alumni, faculty and staff volunteers participate in Phon-A-Thon

Alumni volunteers added a new dimension to the UMC Annual Fund Drive which was conducted in the spring of 1990.

Thirty-three alumni, faculty and staff devoted their time ten evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. to call hundreds of other UMC alumni throughout the nation.

The purpose for the calls was two-fold: 1) to make friends and answer questions about the Crookston campus, and 2) to solicit contributions for the UMC Alumni Association.

As you will recall, the dollars contributed to the alumni association are used to support a variety of activities or projects: The TORCH newsletter, alumni reunion activities, board activities and expenses, alumni recognition and awards as well as scholarships.

The alumni board and the development staff are very pleased with the phon-a-thon results. In addition to answering numerous questions and providing alumni with general information, the fundraising results were significant. The number of donors increased from 210 in 1989 to 387 in 1990 -- an increase of 84 percent. Dollars contributed increased from $4,841 in 1989 to $8,783 in 1990 -- an increase of 81 percent.

The 383 donations from the approximately 5,300 alumni contacted during the fund drive reveals that seven percent of the UMC alumni on the active membership list made a contribution to the UMC association in 1990 -- a three percent increase. Hopefully, with the help of additional volunteers, we will be able to increase all of the above figures substantially in 1991.

A sincere thank you goes to all of you who made contributions in 1990. Your loyalty and friendship allows the association to continue to perform its responsibilities to UMC alumni and assist the UMC campus in its mission of teaching, research and service.

A special thank you is extended to the following volunteers who so generously devoted time and talent to make the phon-a-thon a success:

UMC Alumni Faculty/Staff

Bruce Conklin '78 Jack Bywater
Dave DuFaut '85 Don Cavallier
Sharon Haastad '80 Blake Crosby
Jolene Hampton '88 Dave Hoff
Sherrie Holmquist '79 Don Keith
Melanie Moon '85 Dale Knotek
Tim Persson '80 Allan Larson
Curt Peterson '78 Gary McVey
Darin Ramsey '83 Robert Nelson
Jerry Pude '83 Harold Opgrand
Jacalyn Schwab '82 Jeff Sinks
John Schleicher '76 Robert Smith
Diane Seddon '81 Lyle Westrom
Cheryl Stock '79 Gary Willhide
Karla Wahlin '84 Mary Wiger '79
Ewonne Wold '84 Evonne Wold '84
Don Yutzenka '80

Kasels

Continued from page 1.

graduate and worked at the Mental Health Center for five years. When their first daughter was born, Ann made the decision to stay home with the children. She stayed at home until six years ago when she began working part-time for Highland Elementary School food service. This allows her to work while her two daughters (Michelle 17 and Kristin 15) are in school, and still have plenty of time to attend their activities.

"UMC was good for me. I was shy and quiet and the school brought me out of my shell. I received a good education while living at home," Ann said.

Ann recalls that Betty Becto was a big help to her. "I wasn't the best secretarial student, but she helped and worked with me. She was a wonderful teacher, took me under her wing, and gave me special attention."
1990 UMC HOMECOMING SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

12:00 p.m.  Hospitality Alumni Council Student Workshop
A roundtable discussion for HHE students by UMC
Alumni employed in the industry
Conference Center

7:00 p.m.  HRI/HHE Alumni Reception with
Ralph W. Nester, First HRI Division Chairperson
Minakwa Country Club

7:00 p.m.  All alumni, faculty and staff social
Free hors d’oeuvres (cash bar)
Minakwa Country Club

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

10:00 A.M.  Outstanding Alumni Champagne Brunch
UMC Conference Center, second floor

12:30 p.m.  Tailgater for Alumni and Guests
Parking Lot next to football field
DO IT!

1:30 p.m.  Football Game Kick-off!
UMC vs Mesabi Community College
GO TROJANS!!

4:00 p.m.  Alumni Resident Advisors Social
Gary Willhite residence, 608 Lowell

4:30 p.m.  Second annual meeting of the UMC Hospitality Alumni Council
UMC Conference Center 122

7:00 p.m.  DECA Alumni Social
Minakwa Country Club

Evening Reception/Dinner

7:00 p.m.  Reception and Darlene Charron Scholarship Dinner honoring Ralph Nester
$30/person
Advance reservations required by calling Darlene Charron at 218/281-6510.