Outstanding Alumni Honored at UMC

Four UMC alumni were named outstanding alumni at the 25th Anniversary All-Class Reunion held on the campus.

Receiving outstanding awards were: Kurt Keena, Marshall; Gregory Parenteau, Aurora, Colorado; Ronald Reitmeier, Fisher; and Mary Lou (Wosick) Sweet, St. Paul.

KURT KEENA
Class of 1983
Arts and Sciences

After graduating from UMC in 1983, Kurt Keena continued his education, graduating from Concordia College in Moorhead with a bachelor of arts degree in biology.

Kurt is executive director of the Marshall Public Housing Commission. He is responsible for the administration of public housing projects for Marshall and maintains compliance with all current federal and state regulations concerning public housing. He has also been a science teacher and coach in the Windom and Alexandria public school systems.

He is a member of the Marshall Chamber of Commerce and is active in the "Ask Us" program at the Area Senior Center. Professionally, Kurt is a member of the Minnesota and National Associations of Housing and Redevelopment Officials.

"The time I spent at UMC laid the foundation for a lot of the success I would have in the future. I was given so many opportunities to try new things and experience different situations," Kurt said.

UMC meant more than just the classroom to Kurt.

"I probably did more growing up by being involved in basketball and by being a resident advisor than by anything else I could have done at UMC. What incredible learning experiences those activities were," Kurt said.

Gregory Parenteau is a 1981 graduate of the restaurant management program. After graduation he worked one year with Pizzatelle Pizza, eight years with Kentucky Fried Chicken and now is the associate manager of Red Lobster Inn Restaurant in Aurora, Colorado.

Greg has been active in the Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development with the state of Wyoming, member of the local Jaycees, and organized the Mothers March for the March of Dimes.

An active student while on campus, he continues to be active with UMC as a recruiter for the companies he works for. He has hired several UMC graduates as managers and gives excellent opportunities for student internships.

"My education at UMC helped me tremendously in my career field. It gave me the knowledge and insight to excel very far in my career. Faculty members, such as Ken Myers, helped me survive the ‘real world.’"

He talks about new directions for UMC, and says he is excited about plans to move toward a four-year campus.

"If UMC had been a four-year school, I would have completed my degree there," he said.

Kurt was married last year to Kathryn.

GREGORY PARENTEAU
Class of 1981
Restaurant Management

RONALD REITMEIER
Class of 1968
Agriculture

Ronald Reitmeier was a member of UMC’s first class, graduating in 1968 from the agriculture division in crop production. He continued his education at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul in agriculture.

Ron is owner and president of R & J Crop Production Inc. in Fisher, working with all aspects of farm operations.

He was the West Polk County "King Agassiz" in 1984, a member of Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Crookston and has been a Director on the Red River Valley Winter Shows Board.

He is active in Minnesota Farmers Union and was chair of the executive committee. Currently he is a director for P.K.M. Electric Cooperative in Warren and chair of the board of education for Independent School District #500 in Fisher.

"When UMC was started, it was just what I needed. I was able to continue my farm operations while attending UMC," Ron said.

"My personal success I credit to my dad and mom first, but second to UMC." Ron and his wife Julienne have four children: Jason 20, Denise 19, Lance 16, and Laura 13.

MARY LOU (WOSICK) SWEET
Class of 1981
Court & Conference Reporting

Mary Lou (Wosick) Sweet is owner and principal reporter for Opus Reporting in St. Paul. She provides court reporting and litigation support services for various Twin Cities’ law firms personally or through the use of independent free-lance court reporters.

After graduating in 1981 from UMC’s business division in court and conference reporting, she attended Metropolitan University in Minneapolis. Before beginning her own firm, she was a free-lance court reporter for court reporting firms in Detroit, New York and Minneapolis.

Mary Lou is a member of Ramsey Hill Association and Minnesota Public Radio. Professionally she is vice president of the Minnesota Free-lance Court Reporters Association and is a member of UMC’s Court Reporting Advisory Committee.

"Thoughts of UMC have me remembering a peaceful setting, caring teachers and priceless friendships that have since matured and endured over 10 years," Mary Lou said.

"The quality found at UMC is not the norm at all institutions. The variety and depth of subjects covered—in the classroom as well as within extracurricular activities—helped give me a greater perspective on situations that I encounter."

Mary Lou is married to Michael Sweet.
From President Ramey

This was a very successful year for UMC. With the celebration of it's 25th anniversary, UMC is exploring the possibility of expanding its curriculum to provide selected 4-year degrees. This would be a great alternative for area students.

We added some very qualified recipients to our list of Outstanding Alumni Award winners. We kicked off our annual golf tournament and even had a record breaking fund raising year. Please join me in continuing to support your Alumni Association under our new Alumni president: Diane Seddon. Thank You all and have a great year!

--Darin Ramey

Allan Larson Assumes Alumni Duties

Allan Larson is not new to UMC alumni. He began working for UMC in September of 1989 as director of External Relations. In that position he worked closely with the alumni association.

During the next months, Sam Bigger, assistant director of development for the Northwest Experiment Station, will assist in UMC's development area until final plans are determined regarding the vacancy left by Blake's resignation.

Alumni may remember Sam as the West Polk County extension director.

Chancellor's Comments

Fall quarter is rapidly drawing to a close. The in and out of class activities have progressed with great success. Enrollment is basically the same as last year, the scholarship fund has shown dramatic growth (over $165,000 awarded this year - up $50,000 in one year), the curriculum continues to be strengthened with instructional materials - computer software programs, and other learning experiences, and the building link project is finally complete.

In my travels throughout the state, I continue to meet graduates and others interested in UMC who ask how things are going in terms of UMC moving toward baccalaureate programs. Well, the short answer is "slow, but hopefully sure." But I find that the more that I visit with folks, the better everyone's understanding; and with more input, the more focused and realistic the programming becomes. Studies are being conducted to determine the areas which would best fit the needs of the region and how to best use the strengths of the present curriculum. There also have been visits to each of the four-year institutions within the region to determine possible areas of collaboration. It will take most of the academic year to fully develop the academic plan.

University President Nils Hasselmo and the Board of Regents are involved in discussions concerning this planning. In this era of tight finances, it will be a challenge to find the means to implement this proposed change for UMC.

As you've probably read, the University budget funded by the state has been reduced not only this year, but next year also. So even with a proposed 9% increase in student tuition each year, budget reductions and/or reallocations have and continue to occur in both this year's and next year's budget. Overall legislative financial support has diminished. As for UMC, $200,000 in program reductions will be occurring over the next year. No departments or units will be eliminated but some down-sizing will take place. We shall accommodate these reductions and strive to continue to improve. We need to seek new ways, more productive ways of transferring knowledge. We're up to the task.

--Chancellor Donald Sargeant

1991-92 Calendar

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The Torch - Volume 25, Number 1 - Fall 1991

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Telephone: 218-281-8510, ext. 337.

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
New Student Needs Lead to New Curricula at UMC

To strengthen undergraduate education to facilitate transfer, 115 courses have been revised and strengthened to change content and match course numbers and credit hours. The agriculture division dropped 12 courses and revised 51; arts and sciences dropped 6, added 19, and revised 32; business dropped 14 and revised 21; hospitality and home economics dropped 15 and revised 11.

"The summary of changes clearly demonstrates the centrality of the arts and sciences," Meyer said.

"Crookston's curriculum today is much more sensitive to gender and to multi-cultural concerns."

New courses developed for transfer include: Creative Writing, Introduction to Geography, Introduction to Geology, Cultural Pluralism in American History and Introduction to Music.

In the agriculture division all changes facilitate transfer to the University's College of Agriculture; in the arts and sciences division UMC matched the University's College of Liberal Arts numbers, content and credits so that students could successfully transfer to most colleges at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities; the business division is aligned to programs in regional institutions; and revisions in hospitality facilitate transfer to the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

Part of the success of the proposed changes rests on the collaboration efforts both with the University of North Dakota (UND) and with the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

A UND geography professor is working with UMC's arts and sciences division to develop the geography course and will actually teach the course for UMC students. A Twin Cities doctoral student is helping develop the ethics course, and an agriculture professor is working with the geology course.

In supporting UMC's new directions, University President Nils Hasselmo said, "The Crookston campus, in a regional perspective, has a very definite role to play in higher education. The Regents will discuss the future role of the Crookston campus in the months ahead."

UMC to Survey '85-'86 and '90-'91 Graduates

All 1985-86 and 1990-91 graduates will receive an Alumni Survey sometime in late January or early February. The survey will request information on your background, continuing education, employment history, and what your alumni have been doing since graduating from UMC.

The survey will be coordinated by UMC's Counseling and Career Center under the leadership of Don Cavalier, director.

"We are anxious to compile general data that will be helpful to us in interpreting UMC to the public and to the state, as well as help us see how our graduates are progressing in their major field of study," Don said.

The center is hopeful that this survey will serve as an inspiration to students who are enrolled in classes at UMC and those who are planning to attend UMC.

Graduates will be asked to complete the survey form upon receipt and to return it at their earliest convenience. Each graduate will receive a card a few days before the survey is mailed, alerting them to watch for it and requesting cooperation in completing it.

All UMC alumni are invited to stop and visit the Counseling and Career Center at UMC. Stop by and let Don know how you are doing!

Tentative Dates Set for Winter Socials

PHOENIX:
January 26, 1992, is the tentative date set for the Second Annual Phoenix Social. Last year over 90 alumni, friends and spouses attended the social held in Phoenix.

MCALLEN, TEXAS:
February 1, 1992, is the tentative date set for a social in the McAllen, Texas, area. This will be the first time we've tried a social for the Texas area.

If you are interested in attending either the Phoenix or McAllen, Texas, social or if you would like to help plan either event, contact Allan Larson at the White House Alumni Center as soon as possible at 218-281-6510, ext. 336.

UMCAA Planning Council Members 1991-92

| President | Diane Seddon '81 |
| Vice President | Dave Dufault '85 |
| Secretary | Brenda Gatto Kaiser '81 |
| Treasure | Carol Carriere Lancot '73 |
| Board Members | Jerome Mykleth '79, Gail Pearce '91, Neal Plante '83, Jacalyn Ferguson Schwab '82, Arlene Putikka Tucker '73, Karla Adolphson Wahlin '84 |
| Past President | Darin Ramey '80 |
| Ex Officio | Allan Larson |
High School Students Challenged by College

Twenty-three high school students are taking classes at UMC this fall, according to John Bywater, director of admissions and enrollment management.

Through the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act, 11th and 12th grade students have the opportunity to study at UMC.

Gwen Jorgens of Crookston is one of those students enrolled at UMC under the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act.

Over the past few years, the Jorgens family followed the development of educational opportunities through the Minnesota Legislature. Living in Crookston, open enrollment was not an option for them, but the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act was an exciting option for their daughter. Gwen met with the admissions staff at UMC to discuss options which would fit into her high school curriculum.

"I was looking for a challenge and realized that it would also be good to have the credits and the experience on my record," Gwen said.

This fall she enrolled in American History I, winter quarter she will take American History II, followed by Cultural Pluralism in American History spring quarter.

While most of the students are from Crookston, several are from towns as far away as Princeton, Wadena, Warren, Alvarado and McIntosh.

"Taking classes at UMC has many benefits for me, new and interesting things to learn, new people to meet, and a good preparatory experience for college," Gwen said. "It will also give me a good look at what I will be facing when I leave high school."

The advantages of the program for Gwen and other high school students are: the opportunity to take courses that may not be offered in the high school, a chance to see what postsecondary education is all about and the opportunity to take classes which academically challenge or cover areas of particular interest to students. Also, parents tend to become more involved with high school education and career planning.

"For those students who participate and take college courses for high school credit, those credits are paid for by the local high school district," Bywater said. "After high school graduation, the credits are applied for college credit."

All-Class Reunion Celebrated 25 Years of Education

UMC's All-Class Reunion celebrating 25 years of education was held this summer. Highlighting the reunion was the Chancellor's 25th Anniversary Reception. Following the Chancellor's Reception there was an open social at Minakwa Country Club for alumni, faculty, staff and the community to kick off the UMC Golf Tournament.

The First Annual Crookston Golf Tournament was held Saturday at Minakwa Country Club in Crookston. Other Saturday activities included a picnic in the Trojan Inn.

The Outstanding Alumni Banquet in the UMC Conference Center honored the 1991 Outstanding Alumni Award winners. The reunion ended with a dance and time for remembering good times.

Celebrating 25 years of "Education With A Vision" — Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (left) and Chancellor Donald Sargeant share the excitement.

A time for celebration as we honored four alums at the Outstanding Alumni Banquet this summer.
UMC Business Division Received Accreditation From ACBSP

The business division at UMC received accreditation by the Board of Commissioners of the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). UMC was one of 25 pilot schools throughout the nation to receive this accreditation and is the only college in Minnesota to be accredited by the ACBSP.

This is the first group of institutions to be accredited since the founding of ACBSP three years ago. Fourteen two-year campuses and eleven four-year campuses received accreditation at the National ACBSP Conference held this summer in New Orleans.

“When an institution’s business program is accredited, this certifies that the teaching and learning process that takes place and the degrees conferred by the institution meet the high standards of quality established by ACBSP,” said John L. Green, Jr., executive director.

Custom Diploma Plaques

UMC is now offering University of Minnesota custom diploma plaques, an elegant way to display a significant achievement at home or in your office. You may select from a new assortment of five fine quality wood designs. If you are interested in details or would like to see samples of the plaques, contact Dale Knotek, Records Office, Selvig Hall, University of Minnesota, Crookston, MN 56716.

Court and Conference Reporting Program Receives Accreditation

The court and conference reporting program at UMC received accreditation by the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA). UMC’s program recently concluded its four-year self-evaluation and on-site evaluation to meet the requirements for approval.

The NCRA, a national professional organization with a membership of over 30,000 court and freelance shorthand reporters, began its approval of court reporter training programs in order to assure that reporters who enter the profession have the basic competence and outlook to maintain high standards for the court reporting program.

UMC’s court and conference reporting program is proud to be among the 92 NCRA approved programs in the United States.

UMC Graduate in Peace Corps

Holly Van Santen, ’86, takes her child development learning to the Peace Corps in Costa Rica.

Her projects fluctuate from establishing kindergartens, teaching English as a second language, coordinating youth group activities, seeking grants for a health post and working in the grade school with the world map project, among many other activities.

“My two years at UMC proved to be a growing and learning experience both professionally and personally which encouraged me to further my education and to challenge my capabilities in the Peace Corps in Costa Rica,” Holly said.

Have You Tried to Call UMC Lately?

Have you tried to call UMC lately? How do you feel when you dial an old familiar number and have the phone answered by an automated attendant? Changes are happening at UMC, not only with the curriculum, but also with a new phone system.

With new technology, UMC has moved to an automated phone system to provide efficient and courteous handling of incoming calls. It will provide direct access for callers to reach extension numbers any time during the day or evening, seven days a week, 52 weeks of the year.

When you dial UMC, you will hear an automated attendant answer your call. If you are trying to reach someone in the White House Alumni Center, as soon as you hear the automated voice, push the following extensions on your phone:

- Sam Bigger .................. 338
- Ardis Thompson ............ 337
- Julie Hamre .................. 339
- Barbara Weiler .............. 335
- Allan Larson ................. 336
PHON-A-THON Another Success

Thanks to all of you and the hard work of our phon-a-thon volunteers, we had another successful UMC Annual Fund Drive. This year 375 alumni contributed $9,291. A special thanks to the following alumni who so generously donated their time to help make this drive a success:

Dave Dufault '85
Terri Dufault '88
Robin Huist '86
Brenda Kaiser '81
Carol Lancot '74
Jerry Mykleseth '79
Sherry O'Gorman '69
Tim Persson '80
Curt Petrich '78
Darin Ramey '83
Jerry Rude '83
Jacalyn Schwab '82
Diane Seddon '81
Arlene Tucker '73
Karla Wahlin '84
Don Yutrzenka '80

Homecoming 1991
Even the Weather Could Not Dampen Our Spirits!!!
First Annual UMC Golf Classic

After a two-hour delay because of rain, 33 golfers teed off with a shotgun start for the "First Annual UMC Golf Classic" on Saturday, July 20.

The golfing expertise of the participants varied considerably with actual golf scores (without handicap) ranging from 73 to 134 for the 18 holes tournament.

The low net score was posted by Bruce Bakke, a 1970 UMC alumni, currently living in Hillsboro, ND. Bruce scored a net "65".

The low gross score (without handicap) was achieved by Mike Siekas of Crookston with a round of "73".

Awards for flight placement were as follows:

**First Flight**
1st Place Bruce Bakke (65)
2nd Place Mike Siekas (65)
3rd Place Ray Ecklund (67)

**Second Flight**
1st Place Don Cavalier (66)
2nd Place Darin Ramey (69)
3rd Place Toby Solberg (69)

**Third Flight**
1st Place Glen Finkenbinder (66)
2nd Place Truman Tilleraas (67)
3rd Place Harvey Peterson (70)

Special awards were presented to the following golfers:

**Shortest Drive -- Hole #1**
John (Butch) Schieicher

**Longest Drive -- Hole #2**
Bruce Bakke

**Closest to Hole -- Hole #4**
Jerry Schultz

**Closest to Hole -- Hole #6**
Toby Solberg

**Longest Drive -- Hole #7**
Mike Siekas

**Longest Putt -- Hole #8**
Ray Dusek

The "Room for Improvement" trophy was awarded to Ken Pazdernik. Ken became very familiar with the term "out of bounds" during the tournament.

The "Most Courageous" award was presented to Marlys Finkenbinder, the only lady participant in the tournament this year.

In spite of the difficult playing conditions brought on by the early morning down pour of rain, everyone enjoyed themselves and said they look forward to the playing in the Second Annual UMC Golf Classic next summer.

Steve Biermeier, the golf committee chairman, projected that with community support, we will more than double the number of golfers participating in this event next year. It was a lot of fun.

**How many strokes do I get?** This outstanding foursome was ready to go, rain or shine. From left: Steve Biermeier, golf committee chairperson; Jose Garcia, Mark Garcia, and Darin Ramey, UMC Alumni Association president.

**Where do I tee off?** Don Cavalier (left), director of Counseling and Career Center, asks Mike Ecklund.

**How where did that hummer go?** Ken Pazdernik became very familiar with the term "out of bounds" during the tournament.

**Your alumni president wins an award!** Darin Ramey, left, received a second place trophy for a net score of 69, from Al Larson, alumni director.

**Congratulations to the champ!** Bruce Bakke, ’70, from Hillsboro, North Dakota scored a net "65".