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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 front cover: Chancellor Fred Wood and Junior Alexandra Skeeter.
On the back cover, illumination feature: Sophomore Shelby Hollinger in a microbiology lab taught by Assistant Professor Brian Dingmann.
In a quiet corner office in Selvig Hall, Chancellor Fred Wood is hard at work. Since arriving in July, Wood has been immersing himself in all things maroon and gold. Meetings with faculty, administrators, students, and staff have educated him well in the culture and climate of the campus.
Chancellor Wood believes in the Future

“...to succeed, you have to believe things are going in a positive direction, and when I look around me, I know they are,” Wood says. “I see the incredible strengths of this campus, and one of the greatest is the way faculty and staff care about students.”

He considers caring to be a campus legacy and recognizes the ways the campus has adapted and changed over the years since it was first home to the Northwest School of Agriculture. “Our Northwest School alumni feel close to this campus because of the way they were cared for while they were here,” Wood reflects. “That caring continued over the years we were a technical college, and it remains at the core of the four-year institution we are today.

“We have held our way through the years because this institution has a culture built on caring, and it serves as a powerful influence,” he explains. “I am proud to carry on that legacy because I believe students should be the focus.”

He looks at the past to gain a greater understanding of the present but also sees several more recent developments charting the course for the future. “One of the most exciting is continued strong enrollment numbers,” Wood states. “We have a great modern model for our campus focused on our commitment to residential students but supported by quality online offerings. One of the founding tenets of our country’s land grant institutions is to make education accessible, and we continue to make education accessible by expanding our mission through the use of technology and making higher education opportunities available online.”

The campus commitment to residential students is exemplified in the new residence hall that opened in January 2013 making it possible for 720 of the 1,100 on-site students to live on campus.

Along with the residence halls, the campus continues to boast some of the most beautiful gardens and grounds anywhere. Wood considers the grounds to be one of the campus “wow-factors” along with the historical Kiehle Auditorium, and the equine facilities in the University Teaching and Outreach Center (UTOC) to name just a few.

While grounds and buildings are certainly important physical attributes of the campus, Wood is quick to focus on some of the aspects that make this place distinctive including experiential learning, the common laptop advantage, a plethora of leadership opportunities for students, the encouragement of undergraduate research, and one of the most significant—the willingness to be nimble and to evolve when the situation calls for it.

“Change is the only constant in life,” Wood says. “This campus has a remarkable history of change, and it has emerged from each stage of metamorphosis successfully. What began as a high school with a focus on farming and homemaking, transitioned to train students for industry, and today, offers a broad education that prepares students for the workplace or professional and graduate school. This also includes a focus on international education which helps to prepare our students for a global economy. We are strong because we have evolved so our students are well prepared for a changing world.”

Wood believes in the future of the Crookston campus, and if you visit with him for very long, you will too. It is not just his optimism that is catching; it is his abiding belief in putting students above all else.

Chancellor Wood engages students in conversation at every opportunity.
A Desire to Help

Senior Jessica Charles has a lot on her mind. The soon-to-be graduate is majoring in animal science, heading to veterinary school as part of the University of Minnesota’s VetFast program, and riding hunt seat on the equestrian team. Her busy life keeps her on her toes and taught her valuable time management skills; after all, necessity is the mother of invention.

“With my class and riding schedule coupled with the need to maintain the grade point average required by VetFast, I know that I can’t do everything I see other people doing,” Charles says. “It is a balancing act to make it all work.” She credits support from her coach and instructors. “They want you to succeed,” she explains. “Our campus is small, and I have benefitted by the personal attention I receive due to the smaller size.”

Personal attention is also a part of the classroom experience. “I have had a chance to take what is taught in a class and actually apply it,” Charles relates. “This experience bridges the gap between book knowledge and putting something into practice. Hands-on is a powerful way for students to learn.”

Hands-on learning played a central role in the classes Charles liked best. “I really enjoyed my anatomy class taught by ADawn Melbye,” she says. “I loved her teaching style and the hands on work we did.” She also enjoyed classes taught by Terrill Bradford. “Everything is a learning experience in her classes, and I gained a great deal of confidence because she treated us like she had confidence in us,” Charles reflects.

Volunteer work at a veterinary clinic when she was a freshman and an internship at the Greenbush [Minn.] Veterinary Clinic confirmed her choice of major. “My dad is a paramedic firefighter, and my mom is an ER doctor, so I have always wanted to do something in medicine,” she says. “I loved medicine first, and then, discovered my love for animals.

“I am honored to be a part of the University of Minnesota’s veterinary medicine program,” Charles smiles. And, she is excited about professional school; however, her life has had one overarching goal. “I want to make a difference, and I want to help,” she says. “It is the reason I am preparing myself so I can be ready to help wherever I am needed. I believe helping is the most important thing I can do with my life.”

Triple-A Major

His goal was one, but he is leaving with three. Senior Matt Green is set to graduate in May with a triple major in agricultural systems management, agronomy, and agricultural business. When it comes to a full schedule, Green’s is running over.

Growing up on a dairy and small grain farm near Greenbush, Minn., meant there was always work to be done. Plus, Green is not the shy, retiring type, and his interests are too many to allow for much down time. Showing cattle, singing in the community choir, and playing piano fills any free time that might exist. On campus, he enjoys clubs—five of them to be exact, acting and singing in the campus musicals, and competing with NACTA or the Collegiate Crops Judging Team, where he served as assistant coach this year.

His class schedule is not only rigorous but usually includes a credit overload. He seems to revel in it all. His grade point average stands at 3.979 alongside all the activity. It is no wonder he has options following graduation including a job offer, encouragement from faculty to go on to graduate school, or heading back home to the farm that has been in his family for four generations.
On the (Vet)FAST Track

She loves cows; let’s face it, she LOVES animals. For Senior Sara Scott, the dream of becoming a veterinarian started early when as a young girl she saw the delivery of a calf via C-section. The experience was the spark for this girl from Spiritwood, N.D., who will graduate in May with a degree in animal science. Following graduation, she will head directly into the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine.

Thanks to the Veterinary Food Animal Scholars Track (VetFAST), Scott has known she would be attending the U of M since she was a sophomore when she gained entry into the VetFAST program. The early decision program specializes in food animals and alleviates the stress of applying to graduate schools.

In the VetFAST program, students must have had experience with food animals. Acceptance into the program follows established criteria, and once admitted, students must have a grade point average of 3.4 or higher at the end of their undergraduate career. Scott and Senior Jessica Charles will be the first two to graduate as part of the VetFAST program.

Scott, who is an active member of several clubs and organizations on campus, feels the pressure to maintain her grades, and at times, life has been hectic. But, she is excited to begin her work in graduate school next fall. She always has loved anatomy and biology and managed to complete two internships for veterinarians in Audubon, Minn., and in Jamestown, N.D.

Growing up with cattle, it comes as no surprise that one of Scott’s favorite classes was Terrill Bradford’s beef production class where she was on hand for calving. She continues to enjoy working in the veterinary clinic and assisting with medical calls whenever she is at home on break.

One thing Scott has appreciated is the hands-on learning experience she gained by attending the U of M, Crookston—something she knows will benefit her in graduate school. Once she finishes, she hopes to work under an experienced veterinarian and eventually operate her own practice. VetFAST has kept Scott on track and she is moving full-steam ahead.

Over spring break, Green is headed to Brazil, a country with vast agricultural resources, for a study abroad experience. He is excited to see the country and to gain some insight into international agriculture. Growing up in agriculture, along with his academic background, make him interested in all aspects. “We should see them harvesting and planting right behind the harvest in Brazil,” Green says. “They have two crops a year, and I am looking forward to seeing how it all works.”

He credits his continued passion for agriculture to his classes and their respective instructors. “I really enjoy agriculture and classes like crop and weed identification, grain and livestock marketing, and plant breeding and genetics have taught me a lot,” he states. While those two examples are both plant-based classes, Green remains passionate about animals and loves spending time with cattle. “There is nothing like watching a calf run across the pasture,” he smiles. “I will never tire of watching that.”
“Giving students the best experience possible is the priority of everyone in our department,” Assistant Professor Matt Simmons.

In the natural resources program, Assistant Professor Matt Simmons is a relative new guy. Joining the likes of Dan Svedarsky, Phil Baird, and John Loegering could be intimidating, but Simmons, who began teaching on the Crookston campus in fall 2010, fits right in.

Simmons cares deeply about the environment and has focused his research efforts on restoration of damaged ecosystems including restoration of severely-disturbed lands, wetland restoration, and plant ecology. He even took his environmental concern internationally. Before coming to the University of Minnesota, Crookston, he spent three and a half years looking at the impact of livestock grazing on wetland communities in China.

Discovering he enjoyed teaching did not come to Simmons until he was working on his dissertation in graduate school. His research, which focused on wetland restoration, also included a chapter on authentic science inquiry in education. Through that research and writing, Simmons realized he wanted to teach.

With Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge located near the campus, he has had the opportunity to continue his research. Alumnus Austin Link ’12, who is now in graduate school, looked at patch burn grazing and its effects on prairie chicken lek habitat through an undergraduate research opportunity with Simmons at Glacial Ridge. Patch burn grazing combines prescribed burns and livestock grazing in the same pasture and is an area of particular interest to Simmons.

This spring he is teaching prairie ecosystems management, plant taxonomy, and a special topics class on invasive species. His students enjoy what he brings to the classroom and have nominated him more than once for faculty member of the month.

What has impressed Simmons most about working in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department is how incredibly student-focused his colleagues are. “They do all they can to improve the student experience in terms of exposure in the field of natural resources, community involvement, and research,” Simmons explains. “Giving students the best experience possible is the priority of everyone in our department. It is the reason they are here, and I really enjoy being a part of that.”

Read the Torch Online

You can read the Torch, the alumni magazine for the Northwest School of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota, Crookston online by visiting: http://issuu.com/umcrockston or on the U of M, Crookston Web site at www.umcrockston.edu/alumni/torch

If you would prefer to receive your Torch online only, contact Elizabeth Tollefson at 218-281-8432 (Itollefs@umn.edu)
Bringing a World of Students Together

The workday is over, and it’s late. The room is empty, but you are definitely not alone. In fact, there are more than 700 just like you. And, as you settle in to study, the realization sets in that for you, the classroom has no walls and your classmates could be thousands of miles away.

For Assistant Professor Denis Maier, teaching is an opportunity to share lessons from more than 20 years of professional experience with students in his international management, business ethics, and operations management classes. Teaching online allows him to reach students located across the country and around the world. He may never have had the privilege to meet these students in person, but he knows them, and he cares about his role as their instructor.

Maier is teaching online-only this spring, but he also has experience teaching on-campus as well. In fact in spring 2012, he was chosen by students to receive the Outstanding Educator Award. He was deeply appreciative of the recognition and honored to be selected. It confirms his choice to leave industry and teach. “I knew when I was working on my doctorate that I wanted to teach someday,” Maier reflects. “I had opportunities to do so over the years, but when the position opened on the Crookston campus, I felt the time was right. My educational experience in Germany was very different than the system at UMC. It is almost like a private university here with relatively small classes and the ability to offer students so much more.”

As chair of the Business Department’s quality management committee, Maier is committed, along with others, to implementing a methodology for teaching online that is responsive, consistent, and transfers what has worked in industry to the educational environment. “The online degree in business management has been available since 2006,” Maier explains. “This campus has learned a great deal about what students need to be successful online, and we want to build on that foundation and continue to strengthen the quality of the online academic experience. The system we have implemented for assuring quality continues to be a work in progress, but by applying best practices in course design and instructional delivery while capturing performance statistics to give us a view of how both faculty and students are meeting and exceeding expectations, we feel we are managing the quality expectations of everyone.”

Among the Nation’s Best: U of M, Crookston in U.S.News & World Report’s Best Online Bachelor’s Programs

U.S. News and World Report has ranked the University of Minnesota, Crookston among the nation’s “Best Online Bachelor’s Programs” for 2013. The U of M, Crookston was ranked in the top quartile at #60 out of the 247 higher education respondents in this year’s survey. Rankings were based on factors such as graduation rates and academic and career support services offered to students among others. To learn more, visit z.umn.edu/bhq.
For Love of Sport

Admissions counselor Josh Lunak made the right “pitch” when he visited Ortonville High School in 2008. He happened to have only one visitor that day, Paul Adelman, who wasn’t sure about a major but was in search of a college.

After a 45-minute visit with Lunak, Adelman decided to visit the University of Minnesota, Crookston, and while waiting for a tour, he looked through a view book and noticed a major in sport and recreation management. It piqued his interest, and the more he learned, the more he liked it.

Before graduating in December, Adelman completed an internship with the Alexandria [Minn.] Beetles, a summer collegiate baseball team in the Northwoods League. The internship immersed him in the organization’s operations from marketing to field management. “It was a lot of hours and a lot of fun,” Adelman enthuses. “We had 70 games in 75 days, and when we weren’t in the office, we were at the ballpark. I really enjoyed it.”

His advisor, Lacole McPherson, Ph.D., emphasizes the importance of internships, and after working with the Beetles, Adelman felt he had gained an even better

Change Ready

In business, as in life, change is inevitable. Students at the University of Minnesota, Crookston are encouraged to think about the challenges and rewards of change in a class taught by Marty Breaker, a teaching specialist in the Business Department. The class, Change, Creativity, and Innovation, has been taught by Breaker since it was first introduced two years ago.

“Changes in technology, regulations, and demographics play a significant role in the life of a business,” Breaker explains. “We have to be able to address change in business in order to succeed and this class provides a great chance for students to engage in discussion on how change takes place and how we potentially react and respond.”

His lectures include experiences from his unique background. Breaker retired in 2003 from the Army Reserve after 32 years in active duty and National Guard and Reserve duty in Minnesota. Following the scandal of Abu Ghraib, he volunteered to return to duty and served nearly three years in Iraq. When he came back, he attended law school graduating in 2011. His law degree combined with his military service has given him an opportunity to assist veterans.

“When I am not focused on the classroom, I spend time working on veterans’ issues particularly helping them get jobs following deployment,” Breaker says. He was recently appointed ombudsman for the state of Minnesota where he will focus on employment of the state’s veterans.

His first experience teaching was in the early 1980s at the Vermilion Community College in Ely, Minn., where his family owned a resort. “I was at Vermilion when I first realized that seeing students learn something or understand something they never had before could be incredibly rewarding,” Breaker recalls. “It was exciting to be responsible for that learning experience. From then on, I was hooked on teaching.”

He says the most enjoyable aspect of his work on the Crookston campus is the professionalism he finds in his colleagues and the level of “serious caring” there is for the education of students. And while he teaches students how to handle change, he hopes that the professionalism and caring on this campus are two things that will remain unchanged no matter what.
Crazy Enough to Believe

Written by Senior Ruth Navarro, communications assistant in University Relations

After discovering the University of Minnesota, Crookston from a poster she had seen, Brooke Hamilton wasted no time and decided she would come and tour the campus without even making an appointment. When she arrived, she didn’t really know where to go, so Hamilton decided to ask a couple of students if they could show her around. “They were all happy to help and showed me the entire campus, I fell in love with the UTOC building and all the horses,” Hamilton explains. Majoring in equine science was the obvious choice for her, but after a couple semesters, she knew she wanted to do something else. Currently a business major, Hamilton knows she still has a ways to go before she figures out just what she’s supposed to be doing in life.

Changing people’s lives is what makes her most happy. “For me it’s all about giving back,” says Hamilton. Her business courses have given her the tools and understanding for managing any type of business and she has enjoyed learning from professors who have real life experience in their field.

She knows that growing up on a farm made her the person she is today. She’s hard working, responsible, and perhaps the most important thing, she has the ability to adapt.

Hamilton has had the honor to grace UMC with her amazing musical talents. With a voice that’s as big as the night sky, Hamilton has surely left her mark. She performed at the annual Torch & Shield banquet last year and has had many singing engagements both on and off campus. With her admiration for the arts, she has performed in several theatre productions on campus and was also part of the choir.

With a limitless drive to succeed and endless goals, there’s no telling where she’ll end up. “I’m crazy enough to believe,” says Hamilton.

Brooke Hamilton grew up in Adams, Minn., and enjoys singing, playing the piano and guitar, reading, and horseback riding.
Her love for horses brought Senior Amy Van Treeck to the University of Minnesota, Crookston.

She’s a wonderful mixture of creativity and attention to detail with a smile that is both warm and unforgettable. Her love for horses brought Senior Amy Van Treeck to the University of Minnesota, Crookston, but her love of children led her to a degree in elementary education.

Her visit to campus before making her college decision was cut short by a winter storm, but the weather was not a deterrent for Van Treeck who grew up on a farm near Sheboygan Falls, Wis. “I like the attention I get on this campus,” Van Treeck reflects. “That attention is what kept me here when I was uncertain about a major.”

For three years, Van Treeck successfully competed on the equestrian team, but as she neared her senior year, she decided to give her full focus to her elementary education classes. “Working with kids, watching them grow, and especially watching those who might be struggling gain mastery of a skill or concept is something I find particularly rewarding,” she explains.

As she looks back, Van Treeck recalls enjoying math classes and points to the statistics class taught by Bill Peterson as one of her favorites. “I really love problem solving,” Van Treeck admits.

On the other hand, her favorite classes in elementary education are those that require creativity and designing projects for teaching subjects like social studies and science. They provide an outlet for Van Treeck’s creative side.

As the academic year begins to wind down for most students, she will be gearing up for student teaching and contemplating the portfolios she will need to compile. Like the teacher she will one day be, Van Treeck needs to engage both her creative side and her problem solving skills as she leads her own classroom of students.

Turns out, she has just the right mix for her future.
Liberal Arts and Education Department Adds Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education

With approval by the Minnesota Board of Teaching, the University of Minnesota, Crookston will add a bachelor of science in elementary education. The bachelor of science degree in elementary education is a career-oriented program that prepares students to be effective teachers of young children from kindergarten through grade six. Students have an option to double major in elementary education along with early childhood education, which includes the birth through grade three licensure already available on the Crookston campus.

Graduates of the teacher education program design, implement, and evaluate developmentally appropriate learning experiences for children in elementary education classrooms. They are prepared to work collaboratively with families and in the community. A dual major with early childhood education provides significant opportunities for professional positions in these programs: kindergarten through sixth grade, infant and toddler care and education, preschool programs, Head Start, and early childhood family education. The elementary education program has three academic core areas of required coursework—education core, family core, and elementary education core.

Associate professors, left to right, Marsha Odom, Soo-Yin Lim-Thompson, and Marilyn Grave work closely with their students and are excited to offer the elementary degree in the Department of Liberal Arts and Education.

Campus Social Media Directory

Enjoy social media with us! Use the hashtag #UMNCrookston to search for news about the campus or to share what makes you #UMNproud!

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One for the Books

A new book was recently added to the bookshelf in Chancellor Wood’s office. The author is long-time faculty member Mark Huglen, associate professor in the Liberal Arts and Education Department. The book about public speaking isn’t Huglen’s first foray into writing books. He has authored, co-authored, or produced another edition of six, making him one of the most published book authors in the history of the University of Minnesota, Crookston campus.

Throughout academe, faculty members not only teach, but their publishing activity plays a key role in the innovation and progress made within a field of study. Huglen blends his research with teaching, and his formula for integrating the two has led to valuable resources for the classroom. His writing combines a rich study of communication with more than twenty years of teaching experience. Often, he takes complex topics and makes them accessible for undergraduate students.

“We are very proud that our faculty are actively involved in our mission of teaching, scholarship, and service,” remarks Chancellor Fred Wood. “Their work in each area is important and complementary to the others. Scholarship benefit our students directly both in the classroom and in providing opportunities for students to work side-by-side with faculty in the process of research, scholarship, and creative activity. It is important to recognize and celebrate this kind of accomplishment.”

Here is the list of books:


And, book number seven, Persuasion for Strategy and Critique is in progress. It will delve deeper into the argument strategies and include chapters on various forms of influence. Students use Huglen’s books in class and benefit from his focus on combining teaching and research. His effort in publishing has made him not only noteworthy but truly “one for the books.”

Kevin Thompson (left) joins Mark Huglen (center) as he signs a copy of his public speaking textbook for Chancellor Fred Wood (right).
The Holistic Approach

Written by Senior Ruth Navarro, communications assistant in University Relations

After touring colleges and trying to find a school that she liked, Jessica Wark, decided to attend the University of Minnesota, Crookston. Wark, who is originally from Zimmerman, Minn., is a junior majoring in health sciences in the pre-chiropractic track.

Always interested in a career that is focused on helping people, Wark was uncertain what career field she wanted. Her goal was to take the holistic approach to helping others and decided that she wanted to become a chiropractor. “I prefer a career that uses natural procedures to cure an illness or disease rather than handing a patient prescription medication that may mask the symptoms,” Wark explains.

Caring for people has been a lifelong goal. She plans to continue her education and one day hopes to have her own practice. A hard working student, Wark credits the U of M, Crookston for shaping her into a more responsible and independent person. She has really enjoyed all her mathematics and humanities courses.

“Leaning from professors who care about their students and are willing to go the extra mile is something I greatly appreciate,” says Wark. Being on the Crookston campus has helped her realize that it’s never too late to find something you love to do.

A well-rounded student, she started playing soccer with the intramural team her freshman year on campus and discovered a new set of skills. She has grown to love soccer and currently serves as the president of the Crookston Futbol Club. Wark has assisted with coaching students for the Crookston Youth Soccer Association; she also tutors students in the Academic Assistance Center and has a work-study position in the admissions office.

Technology Matters

As a teaching assistant working on a master and Ph.D. degrees, Jingpeng Tang, Ph.D., discovered something—he really liked teaching. That discovery heralded a beginning for Tang, an associate professor in the Math, Science, and Technology Department at the University of Minnesota, Crookston.

One of his research interests involves applying multi-agent software systems in a smart grid. “A smart grid is an electrical grid that uses smart meter technology to gather information and act on it,” says Tang. “For example, it can be used to detect, report, prevent, and even predict possible failures.” He is currently part of a team conducting smart grid research that meets regularly.

The author of a $100,000 grant funded by the U.S. Department of State, Tang is collaborating on an effort between the University of Minnesota, Crookston and Zhejiang Economic and Trade Polytechnic (ZJETP) to establish an American Cultural Center in China. The purpose of the cultural center, to be located on the campus of ZJETP in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, is to cultivate greater understanding between the United States and China. One of the unique aspects of the Center will be a 3-D immersive lab similar to the one located in Dowell Hall. Students in China will use the lab to demonstrate American historical scenes and visit sites in the U.S. including universities and national landmarks.

Continued on page 16
A Purpose-filled Heart

He cares about people and believes it should translate to action. Junior Levi Atinda, a double major in biology and health science management, plans to become a medical doctor, but for now, he focuses on the advice of his father: “If you do today what you need to do today, then, you won’t have to worry about tomorrow.”

Growing up in Kisii, Kenya, Atinda attended boarding school from the time he was in the sixth grade. Boarding school offered him the best education his parents could provide while requiring rigorous study. He realized early that science and math were areas of study he enjoyed.

“At one point during my education, I realized that I had a passion for science and math, and I knew I wanted to pursue a career in that field.”

Atinda attended a boarding school in Kisii, Kenya, from the sixth grade. The school provided him with the best education his parents could afford, and he excelled in science and math.

He realized early on that he had a passion for science and math, and he knew he wanted to pursue a career in one of these fields. At one point during his education, Atinda attended a boarding school in Kisii, Kenya, from the sixth grade.

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Atinda attended a boarding school in Kisii, Kenya, from the sixth grade. The school provided him with the best education his parents could afford, and he excelled in science and math.

He realized early on that he had a passion for science and math, and he knew he wanted to pursue a career in one of these fields. At one point during his education, Atinda attended a boarding school in Kisii, Kenya, from the sixth grade.
A Passion for Nursing

Written by Senior Ruth Navarro, communications assistant in University Relations

When Audrey Robles heard about attending the University of Minnesota, Crookston from one of her close friends she got really excited and knew right then that she would attend the U of M, Crookston before she even had a chance to visit.

The daughter of parents who are both teachers, Robles always knew the importance of getting a college education. Robles, a sophomore majoring in health sciences, originally from Neenah, Wis., still remembers the days when she would spend time in the hospital with her grandpa who was very ill. She became very involved in her grandfather’s care and would talk to nurses and recalls just how nice they were. Her grandpa always told her she would make a great nurse.

Having the passion to help others, Robles hopes to attend the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, to continue her dream of becoming the nurse her grandfather always knew she could be. One day she hopes to work as a traveling nurse or a military nurse.

At a very early age she was curious to learn about how our body functions and the body’s amazing ability to grow. As a young child, Robles recalls reading a book about human anatomy and how fascinated she was at all the pictures. She now enjoys her anatomy and physiology courses here on campus and knows she’s headed in the right direction. Robles also appreciates the help and support she has received from all her professors.

Robles hopes to some day be a traveling nurse or a military nurse.

For Robles, school is not just about classes and homework, even with a busy schedule she still finds time to be involved on campus. She’s the vice president of the Multicultural International Club and the League of United Latinos Club. She’s a member of Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society as well as the Circle of Nations Indigenous Association. She also has a work-study position in the student affairs office and still finds time to tutor students in Academic Assistance Center.

For Robles, education is about the bigger picture.

smaller community experience. People have time for you here, I like that.”

President of Rotaract, a Rotary-sponsored service club for young men and women ages 18 to 30, Atinda is also a community advisor in Residential Life and a member of both Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society and the Multicultural International Club on campus. “My schedule might not allow me to make all the meetings,” Atinda explains, “but I put a priority on the service activities of these organizations.”

As he considers specializing in the medical field, Atinda thinks he would like to focus on cardiology. He is interested in the heart from a medical perspective but also as it relates to service because he has a heart of his own that cares deeply about serving others.

Junior Levi Atinda, working in the lab, chose the U of M, Crookston because of the size and because it was a part of the University of Minnesota.
Meeting the Need

“Today, I spend most of my time caring for the electronic resources and making sure they function as they should,” Assistant Librarian Jim Carlson.

When it comes to ranking glamorous careers, librarian may not be high on the list. However, the Library ranks high on the list for best service, and Assistant Librarian Jim Carlson is big part of the reason why.

Carlson has seen the role of the librarian change. “We used to spend a lot of time looking for and retrieving materials,” he says. “Today, I spend most of my time caring for the electronic resources and making sure they function as they should.” That’s no small task when one considers the number and kinds of resources there are.

With a law degree and a library science degree, Carlson has experience working in a law library. Later he worked behind the circulation desk at the Chester Fritz Library at the University of North Dakota. Not exactly reticent, Carlson relished the time interacting with and helping people. “Now, I can go to work and not talk face-to-face with a patron for a week,” he explains. But, that doesn’t stop the work behind the scenes. Students, faculty, and staff can access the Library’s rich resources online on their own, but those resources would not function as they do without the efforts of Carlson.

For the Library staff, the hardest part is teaching students how to identify reliable resources from among the myriad that exist. One of the most astounding facts about the Library is the increase in electronic books. “We have access to some 160,000 e-books in our Library,” Carlson remarks. “Most of them are recent publications from major publishers.”

When Carlson is away from work, he enjoys reading and what he calls “odd-ball” movies. “Sometimes these two areas overlap,” he smiles. He also likes electronic “toys” for reading and says that “if it needs batteries, he probably has it or wants it.”

Over the decade he has worked at the Library, Carlson has handled every book purchased, and his razor-sharp memory serves him well when someone is looking for something. “I can usually recall the materials I have purchased and catalogued,” he says.

The thing he misses most in the Library is the daily contact with people and their research projects. He does love to buy books and materials and approaches the purchases by thinking about who might benefit from the resources. He also loves to get to know the student workers, and over the years, he has come to know a countless number of them.

“The quality of students on this campus has improved over the years, and our international students add even more variety and personality as well,” he reflects. “I think many students come to Crookston because this is the place they want to be, and it adds to the fun.” That reason might also explain the joy that Carlson finds in his work. Like those students, he is in the place he wants to be, and what he does here is a benefit to all.
Relationships and Development

One definition of the word relationship is “the way in which two or more concepts, objects, or people are connected.” That word is core to successful fundraising and an important attribute of a development professional. Although there are hundreds, allow me to share one relationship story with you.

When I began my role at the University of Minnesota, Crookston in January 2006, I had an individual tell me, “Corby, if you can connect with this specific donor (we will call this donor Mr. A to protect his identity), you’ll be able to work with almost anyone and be successful.” What a fantastic first challenge for a young, brand-new-to-campus development officer!

It certainly wasn’t easy, but after six months of respectful persistence, Mr. A and I met for the first time. Our visit was brief; he told me he would give me five minutes, and I thought to myself, that’s 300 seconds to make a positive first impression and begin building a sustainable relationship. The following day, I sent a thank you note to Mr. A, and about a week following, he phoned me and said he appreciated the note, and said we would visit soon. It would be another two years of continued relationship building before he made his first investment with me. Since, I’ve been fortunate to work with him on additional gifts in support of the U of M, Crookston.

Now, seven years later, our relationship has flourished and includes frequent phone calls, correspondence, and continued personal visits. The relationship is sustained through trust, integrity, and even the ability to agree-to-disagree at times. Mr. A has shared with me life stories, professional family matters, personal family matters, professional initiatives, trials and tribulations, health issues, and more. On occasion he has brought out a file filled with thank you notes from our students who have benefited from his investments in them. With a tear in his eye, he glows with a sense of profound pride and satisfaction knowing he’s made a difference while creating a lasting legacy. This relationship has had a significant impact on my life both personally and professionally, and I am proud to call him my friend.

In fiscal year 2012 (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012), we marked our sixth-consecutive year of fundraising growth and our best in nine years with over $1,013,300 raised from more than 1,000 donors. My sincere thank you to our NWSA, two-year, and four-year alumni, and all others for the relationships we have built and investments you have made in the Crookston campus. You touch the lives of many and strengthen our campus.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me, and I thank you for your continued support. Together we will continue accomplishing big things for the U of M, Crookston. Thank you so much.

Cheers,
Corby Kemmer
Director of Development & Alumni Relations

REMEMBER THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, CROOKSTON

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 or to give a gift online, visit www.umcrookston.edu/alumni/giving.html

Excerpted from The Importance of a Will published by the University of Minnesota Foundation.
Gifts at Work: Mark Olsonawski Endowed Scholarship

If it takes a village to raise a child, then, growing up in Hallock, Minn., provided Alumnus Mark Olsonawski ’99 with everything he needed. His parents always said, “Remember who you are and where you came from.” Olsonawski remembers and in many ways, his experience at the University of Minnesota, Crookston was the perfect next step for this small-town, farm boy.

On the Crookston campus, Olsonawski found another community to care for him. “I built so many great relationships with other athletes,” he recalls. “Football and hockey were really the gateway to all the relationships and friendships I made in college. And, I took both academics and athletics seriously because I knew I had to succeed academically in order to play and that mattered to me.”

A plant industries management graduate working in pharmaceutical sales, Olsonawski was touched when he was approached about the creation of a scholarship in his name. The original idea can be attributed to June Shaver ’79 and ’82 and former hockey and football coach, Scott Oliver. The Lions Club in Hallock coordinated a fund drive to support the newly established Olsonawski scholarship in summer 1999, shortly after Olsonawski graduated.

Over time, he has become more involved with the scholarship process. It means a lot to him to have a scholarship in his name, and he wants to give back to the campus where he says he “built so many great relationships and was given great opportunities.”

The criteria for the Mark Olsonawski Endowed Scholarship gives preference to football players from the area of Minnesota where Mark grew up, but it has been awarded to student-athletes from all over the country. “If there is an eligible student from the Hallock area that receives it, I feel like I have given back to help my hometown and high school as well,” Olsonawski points out. It is one of the criteria of the scholarship he likes most.

When he looks back on his education, he credits many of his coaches and teammates for his success. He also credits Bill Tyrrell, who was the athletic trainer at the time. “Bill really built trust with student-athletes connecting on a relational level, and we knew him as a student-athlete advocate,” Olsonawski shares.

What does Olsonawski hope his scholarship will do? He answers with confidence, “I want that scholarship to help students who work hard to be good people on and off the field. For me, this scholarship represents what I want to be personally and what I want it to help the student-athlete recipients to be. I want it to reflect my values and I want to share the opportunities I had on the Crookston campus with the next generation of Golden Eagle football players.”

Mark and Andi Olsonawski were support for each other during their careers as college athletes. Andi was on the track team at North Dakota State University. Today, the two are busy raising their four children.
Gifts at Work:  
Sather Scholarship

Dr. Russell Sather began serving as an internist with the Northwestern Clinic in Crookston in 1937. He was called to active duty during World War II from 1942 until 1946 and returned to Crookston in 1947 where he continued to practice until 1985. The Russell O. and Inez Sather Scholarship was established in 1986 and awarded for the first time in 1987.

Sather was born in Kenora, Ontario, Canada, lived on a farm in southern Minnesota for a brief period of time, and was raised in Minneapolis. He earned both his bachelor’s degree and his doctor of medicine degree from the University of Minnesota. He interned at General Hospital where he met his wife, Inez, a registered nurse at the hospital. In 1933 he joined the Civic Conservation Corps and became a staff physician for four years at Fort Snelling Hospital gaining valuable experience in internal medicine. Sather was instrumental in the establishment of a school for training licensed practical nurses at the former Bethesda Hospital in Crookston and the first outside the Twin Cities area.

During the Torch & Shield Recognition, held November 7, 2012, Senior Ruth Navarro, a Sather Scholarship recipient, addressed the evening’s guests. These are her comments about scholarships and their impact on her life:

_I would like to thank everyone for being here today. I’m honored to have this opportunity. As a first generation college student, I want you to know that the University of Minnesota, Crookston has not just given me an education, it has changed my life. I want to tell you a little bit of my story and how scholarships help make that happen._

_No one could have told me that one day I would be standing here telling you this. When I first decided to attend UMC, I thought to myself, I’ll go and get my degree, find a job, and get it over with. I never thought that I would become so involved and have so many opportunities come my way. Now, for some of you, it might be hard to believe, but 3 years ago, just 3 years ago, I was a very quiet and timid individual. I never in a million years would have thought that I would actually enroll in an acting class or be the host of our Insight radio broadcast here on campus, much less start a club._

_Being a student at UMC has helped me realize the person I’m supposed to be. It has given me the opportunity to grow as a person. It has given me confidence-It has given me wings. And I’ve had the tremendous opportunity to work with some really great people._

_You see the University of Minnesota, Crookston is not just an institution of higher education. It’s a family, a family that works together to make each and every student the best person they can be. It is important to mention that out of the 1,100 students on campus, only 30 of them identify themselves as Latino- I am Proud to be one of those students._

_Because of you, I one day will have the opportunity to give back and I want you to know that you do more than just help educate the next generation, you’ve helped break a cycle. Because I’m getting my degree, my children will now know that going to college is NOT an option, it’s an expectation. You have changed people’s lives—my life. And, because of you, I’m able to FLY._

Ruth Navarro, far right, is joined by (left to right) her husband, Julio; Laurie Wilson; and Jeannine Windels during the social just prior to the Torch & Shield Recognition in November.
Honoring those who have aided in the development of the University of Minnesota, Crookston, the Northwest Research and Outreach Center (NWROC), and Extension is the purpose of the Torch & Shield award. This celebration of leadership is the highest honor presented by the Crookston campus and the special recognition event was held on Wednesday, November 7, 2012, on the campus.

The Torch & Shield award recipients for 2012 include Alan Cattanach, general agronomist at American Crystal Sugar Company in Moorhead, Minn.; Wayne Geoken, director of the International Water Institute’s Center for Watershed Education; and Otter Tail Power Company, whose headquarters are located in Fergus Falls, Minn.

Highlights of the evening included a social, program, and dinner. Students also played a key role in the evening. Samantha Zuck presented her work with instructor Terrill Bradford on designing a class on animal behavior, and Wemimo Samson Abbey presented his research with Assistant Professor Eyad Youssef in the area of business. Ruth Navarro also shared her thoughts as a student scholarship recipient.
Thank you to all our generous donors:
http://issuu.com/umcrookston/docs/giving_lists

Torch & Shield recipients, left to right, are Fred Wood, chancellor of the U of M, Crookston, Goeken, Oehler, Cattanach, and Albert Sims, director of operations at the NWROC.

Terrill Bradford, Senior Samantha Zuck, Senior Wemimo Abbey, and Eyad Youssef were a part of the evening program.

Sophomore Audrey Robles and Kari Torkelson, O.D., ’91.

Right: Kent Brunn and Sue Brorson
In Memory

Darlene Charron
Crookston, Minn.
December 10, 2012
Served as a secretary for the Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Management Division from 1970 until her retirement in 1991

Marilyn Jacobson
Spicer, Minn., formerly of Crookston, Minn.
October 21, 2012
Assistant Dairy Scientist at the Northwest Research and Outreach Center from 1966 until his retirement in 2001

Robert "Bob" Johnson
Crookston, Minn.
November 17, 2012
Assistant Professor of Biology at the University of Minnesota, Crookston from 1969 until his retirement in 2000

Marjorie (Anderson) Kube
Minneapolis, Minn.
September 23, 2012
Northwest School of Agriculture school nurse 1946-47

Milan Samshal
Crookston, Minn.
December 19, 2012
Served as a custodian at the University of Minnesota, Crookston from 1970 until his retirement in 1997

Bernard “Bernie” Youngquist
Arden Hills, Minn.
January 2, 2013
Superintendent of the Northwest School of Agriculture and Northwest Experiment Station from 1956 until his retirement in 1983

Angela (Filipi) Formica ’31
Tomah, Wis.
June 1, 2012

Eleanor (Torkelson) Hem ’33 Adv.
Mesa, Ariz.
November 24, 2012

Alyce (Johnson) Hanson ’34 Adv.
Anchorage, Alaska
July 8, 2012

Jerome Molacek ’34
Bemidji, Minn.
September 1, 2012

Eleanore (Weber) Swift ’40 Adv.
Crookston, Minn.
December 14, 2012

Eleanor (Johnston) Wittman ’40 Adv.
Warren, Minn.
March 30, 2011

Palmer Pederson ’41
Mahnomen, Minn.
September 17, 2012

George David Kotchan ’42
Simcoe, Ontario, Canada
April 25, 2012

Barbara (McCall) Hughes ex. ’42
San Diego, Calif.
December 31, 2012

John Sorensen ex. ’43
Ridgefield, Wash.
June 15, 2012

Donald Filipi ’44
Warren, Minn.
December 23, 2012

Arlo Scholin ’45 Adv.
Thief River Falls, Minn.
December 17, 2012

Keith Victo ’45
Apache Junction, Ariz.
August 8, 2012

Wilbert Clow ’46 Adv.
Brandon, S.D.
January 7, 2013

Katherine (Bedard) Moe ’46
Hallock, Minn.
September 13, 2012

Curtiss Matson ’47 Adv.
Broken Arrow, Okla.
June 23, 2012

Michael Harty ’48
South Milwaukee, Wis.
January 4, 2013

Franklin Johnson ex. ’48
Argyle, Minn.
October 9, 2012

Rodney Webster ’49 Adv.
Pembina, N.D.
January 10, 2013

Larry Younggren ’50 Adv.
Hallock, Minn.
January 4, 2013

Richard Schleicher ’52
Park Rapids, Minn.
July 11, 2012

Harold Derosier ’56
Red Lake Falls, Minn.
October 19, 2012

Robert Stanislawski ’58
St. Paul, Minn., formerly of Crookston, Minn.
November 8, 2012

Fred Thompson ’58
Sabin, Minn.
November 14, 2012

Francis “Frank” Ackerman ’60
Lenexa, Kan.
June 22, 2012

Gretchen (Connelly) Olsgard ’60
Newfolden, Minn.
May 25, 2011

Norma (Filipi) Helm ’62
Newfolden, Minn.
January 8, 2013

Bruce Eschler ex. ’70
Kennedy, Minn.
December 25, 2011

Aaron Labrenz ’06
Sheyenne, N.D.
September 9, 2012
**1920s**

**Centenarians hold birthday party in Grafton**

Irene French Demers crashed a party Tuesday at Sunset Lutheran Home. A day shy of her 100th birthday, she belonged just the same, as friends and families celebrated birthdays of eight centenarians – all of them women – living at the home.

“That's 915 years of wisdom,” said Susie Demers, activities director. Six of them hit the century mark over the past 18 months, joining the two eldest in the club, **Johanna (Nabben) Green '23**, who will turn 107 next month, and Verna Gerszewski, 104. Vivian Nelson, 101, was born in Grafton. Esther King, 101, was born in Clearbrook, Minn. Daisy Haugland, 101, was born in Piney, Man., and moved to Hoople, N.D. Orphie English, 101, was born near Reynolds, N.D. Ann Lunde, 100, was born in Grafton. Clara Thompson, 100, was born in Gryglia, Minn. Irene Demers was born Nov. 14, 1912, on a farm between Grafton and Drayton, N.D., and was raised in the Oakwood area, east of Grafton. Gerszewski was born in 1908 near Grafton. Green was born in 1905 near Thief River Falls, Minn. Each family table was marked by a poster containing photographs of the birthday ladies as they were growing up.

**A state leader**

The nine Walsh County women are among a growing number of centenarians in the state. The 2010 Census counted 221 North Dakota residents 100 years or older, of which 200 were women and 21 men. Thirty years ago, there were about 100 centenarians in the state. In Walsh County, there were a total of 14 centenarians in 2010, 11 women and three men. Walsh County, with 11,119 residents, had only about one-sixth the population of Grand Forks, with 66,861.

**Eldest of elders**

Those numbers didn’t matter much to the ladies who posed for pictures, or smiled and laughed as Activity Assistant Debra Schueller sang popular songs modified lyrically to fit the crowd, mixing in personal stories about each of the centenarians.

Johanna (Nabben) Green, was one of seven boys and four girls, Schueller read from the bio. The centenarian attended boarding school in Crookston and was a teacher in a one-room school. She married George Green in 1928, less than a month after her new husband received payment on his first contract for growing sugar beets for American Beet Sugar Co. in East Grand Forks. The original, framed contract was displayed at the family table. She still reads the Herald every day, as well as the Walsh County Record, magazines and books. "She likes historical fiction,” said her daughter, **Carol (Green) Tucker '52**. She’s in good health and enjoys being independent.”

Green didn’t move into the nursing home until last year, when she was 105. “Moderation in all things,” she answered to a question about her secret to longevity.

**1940s**

**Gunhild “Bunny” (Nesland) DuChamp '43**, Plummer, Minn., is the 2012 Red Lake County Outstanding Senior Citizen. She was presented with the award during the Red Lake County Fair in Oklee, Minn., held July 13-15, 2012.

**Frances (Hofacre) Tribon '49 and '50 Adv.,** Buffalo, Mo., was interviewed in October 2012 by the **Buffalo Reflex** (BuffaloReflex.com). She is a homemaker, church volunteer, and day care provider and has lived in the Ozarks since 1956. She and her husband, Herman, who passed away in 2002, have three daughters, and several grandchildren and great grandchildren. In the question and answer conversation, Frances talked fondly of her years at the Northwest School of Agriculture and her two roommates, Helen Peterson and Adeline Harder.
E-mail forwarding: If you are interested in reconnecting with a former classmate or acquaintance, the alumni office can help! Although we cannot release e-mail addresses due to privacy issues, we will be happy to forward a message to the person if he or she can be located in our database.

This alumni news reflects submissions received by February 1, 2013. News received after that date will be in the next issue of the Torch. The deadline for alumni news for the next issue is June 1, 2013.

1950s

The children of Richard and Mary (Randall) Norgart ’50 Adv. are happy to announce the 60th wedding anniversary of their parents. The Norgarts were married January 5, 1953, in Gonvick, Minn., and now spend their summers in Oregon and winters in Arizona. They have six children, nine grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Robert Glass ’55, Kerrville, Tex., retired in 1988 as a Commander, U.S. Navy, following a 33-year career. He presently oversees his daughter’s cattle ranch in the Texas hill country near Llano. Robert states, “I’m a mile off Interstate 10, so stop by if you’re passing through.”

Delores and Charles Zammert ’55, Euclid, Minn., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary October 21, 2012, at an open house reception at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Euclid. The reception was hosted by their children, Joann and Tom Cuno, Patsy Zammert, Donavan and Karla Zammert, Kevin and JJ Zammert, Maria and Chad Lemay, and Chad and April Zammert.

Marlene and Mylo Carlson ’58, Warren, Minn., recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at their farm with family and friends. The Carlsons were married September 8, 1962, at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Warren. Their children are DeAnna and Wayne Zink, Michael Carlson, Kimberly and Garret Molacek, and Darren ’99 and Samantha Carlson.

1960s

Members of the Class of 1960 held what they termed a “tweener” reunion in September 2012. The reunion was organized, in part, by Terry and Bette (Hovet) Nelson, and held on the Oregon coast. The group of 16 alumni and their spouses enjoyed three days of reminiscing in the vacation home of Lenay and Gary Knepper, appropriately named the “Aggie Inn,” and three rented homes, “McCall,” “Robertson,” and “Stephens.” They caught crabs and salmon and were treated to a wine tasting and wonderful dinners prepared by Master Chef Ross Bailey. Several couples extended their stay and took in the sights of the Oregon coast.

Pictured left to right, front row: Leo Jaszcak, Wally Philipp, Terry Nelson; middle row: Bette (Hovet) Nelson, Roberta (Bohnsack) Hagert, Sandy (Tvinnereim) Folk, Jane (Stromstad) Hasse, Kenny Straus, Donna (Babinski) Kuta, Evie (Osowski) Delasontos; back row: Rodger Kluzak, Martin Wall, Gary Knepper, Dick Danielson, Danny Straus, Roger Boushey
Professional recently attended the President’s Award, which is given for outstanding and dedicated service to the organization. He was recognized for his three year term on the board of directors as the sole recipient for the outstanding CSR of the Year recipient for the state of Minnesota. She was selected for the award in 2010 and the C designation in 2011.

1970s

Fargo-based TIM Hospitality recently hired Cathy Stock-Shirek '79, Fargo, N.D., as an accounts payable specialist. Stock-Shirek previously worked as an accounts payable specialist at Cole Papers, Fargo, and Avenia, Moorhead, Minn., and was an accounts receivable specialist at Rusco Window Co., Fargo.

1980s

Gerald Landby ’82, East Helena, Mont., recently attended the Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) School of Grounds Management and GIE+EXPO trade show. He was selected to serve another three year term on the PGMS board of directors as the Northwest Region Director. At the awards banquet, he was recognized by PGMS President Don Bottger, as the sole recipient for the President’s Award, which is given for outstanding and dedicated service to the Professional Grounds Management Society.

Angela (Kjos) Nyamburi ’92, Hopkins, Minn., who joined Wells Fargo Insurance Services in 2006, has 15 years of insurance industry experience. She achieved the designation of Certified Insurance Service Representative (CISR) in 2007, the CIC designation in 2010, and the CSR and is given to a manager who has impacted their store by improving its appearance and atmosphere.

Denny Coauette ’96, Duluth, Minn., works for Cirrus Aircraft as a mechanical systems designer on the SF50 jet program.

Lana Leach ’99, Johnston, Iowa, was recently promoted to general manager of Chili’s Grill & Bar in Ankeny, Iowa. She has been with Chili’s for more than 13 years and received a Chili’s Cool Place Award, which is given to a manager who has impacted their store by improving its appearance and atmosphere.

Scott Strohmeyer ’99, former U of M, Crookston quarterback, has been named the 2012 American Football Coaches Association Coach of the Year and was presented the award at the 2013 AFCA Convention in Nashville, Tenn. He recently completed his fourth season as head football coach at Iowa Western Community College, Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he guided the team to the school’s first-ever National Junior College Athletic Association national championship.

Bill Thielke ’94 and his wife, Lora, Moorhead, Minn., welcomed the birth of their daughter, Ella Ann. The 7 lb. 3 oz. girl was born on December 12, 2012, and shares her birthday with Lora’s mother. Ella was the 12th baby born on 12-12-12 at Fargo’s (N.D.) Sanford Hospital. Bill is employed with Mills Fleet Farm and serves on the U of M, Crookston Alumni Association board.

Looking for our first four-year graduates!

SAVE THE DATE: Homecoming 2013, October 4-5

Celebrating the first graduates to earn their baccalaureate degree from the University of Minnesota, Crookston!

Contact Sue Dwyer (sdwyer@umn.edu) to make sure you don’t miss the homecoming mailing!
2000s

The Ahos: 12 brothers, 24 years, ‘a lot of fun’

The Aho family of Cokato, Minn., has enough sons to field its own football team. With 15 kids – including 12 boys – that’s exactly what happens each time the family gets together for holidays or special events. And for 24 consecutive seasons, from 1989-2012, the football family has had a son play on the varsity team at Dassel-Cokato High School. Several of the brothers continued their football careers after Dassel-Cokato; Bill and Carl played at the U of M, Crookston. The Aho brothers played football because they loved the sport, and they did it because, that’s just what the Aho boys did.


Bill Anderson ’00, Crookston, Minn., has been named market president of American Federal Bank’s Crookston branch. Anderson has been with American Federal since 2003 and has 23 years of experience in agriculture and banking. He is active on several community boards including the “Crookston In Motion” initiative, Polk County Developmental Achievement Center, and Crookston Area Community Fund. Bill and his wife, Holly, marketing specialist at RiverView Health in Crookston, coordinate Crookston’s Special Olympics Program and were named the 2012 Polk County Emerging Leaders. They have two sons.

Hector Santellanes ’05, Crookston, Minn., was selected to fill the position of Crookston Ward 4 council member. He has worked as a production shift manager at J.R. Simplot in Grand Forks, N.D., since 2007 and is a partner in Sanbridge Properties, LLC in Crookston. He and his wife have three sons.

Matthew Burdick ’06, Grand Forks, N.D., and Jaceelyn Van Eps were married July 21, 2012, at Sertoma Park in Grand Forks. A reception and dance followed at the Guest House Inn. Matthew currently works as an assistant manager for Wal-Mart in Grand Forks and Jaceelyn is an assistant manager of merchandising for Old Navy in Grand Forks.

Michael Dockter ’06, and Katie Anastasi were married September 22, 2012, in Stillwater, Minn. Michael is a financial analyst at Proto Labs in Maple Plain, Minn., and a recent MBA graduate from Carlson School of Management at the U of M, Twin Cities. He and Katie make their home in Otsego, Minn.

Jason ’07 and Kelli (Barnes) Connolly ’06, Montpelier, N.D., were married April 17, 2010, and welcomed Caleb Allan Jack on July 5, 2012. Jason is employed by First Community Credit Union and Kelly is employed by Dr. Kenneth McDougall, P.C., both in Jamestown, N.D.

Jason Ellingson ’07, Grand Forks, N.D., was hired as a senior accountant by The Flint Group, Fargo, N.D. He has more than five years of public accounting experience.
Beth (Jacobson) Nelson ’07, Fargo, N.D., is one of the 35 outstanding and remarkable young women selected to participate in the 2013 United Way “35 Under 35 Women’s Leadership Program.” Beth is the connections coordinator at Prairie Heights Community Church in Fargo.

RJ Rollins ’07, Omaha, Neb., will return to the Omaha Beef (indoor football team) as a running back for the 2013 season. Rollins is the Omaha Beef all-time leading rusher. During his college career at the U of M, Crookston, he set records with 585 career rushing attempts for 3,043 yards and 29 TD’s, was named NSIC player of the week five times, and twice named NCAA Division II national player of the week.

Brent Messner ’08 and Elizabeth Laidlaw were married January 12, 2013, at Sharon Lutheran Church in Grand Forks, N.D. A reception and dance followed at the Ramada Inn. Brent is currently employed with Central Ag Consulting and Elizabeth is employed with the Grand Forks Public Schools as a school psychologist. The couple resides in Grand Forks.

In January, Jessica (Holmes) VanDuyn ’08 was on campus to talk to students about her work with the DNR’s Shallow Lakes Program. She will have two interns working for her this summer and talked about the internship opportunities to students in several classes including the park management class taught by Phil Baird. VanDuyn has been with the Shallow Lakes Program for almost two years and worked as a wildlife technician in Alaska prior to this position. She is stationed in Detroit Lakes, Minn.

Steve Hart ’09, Eagan, Minn., was married October 6, 2012, in St. Anthony, Minn. Steve works for Dakota County Parks Department and his wife, Tucker, works for Hollstadt & Associates.

Jason Kremer ’09, Crookston, Minn., recently accepted the position of communication specialist and event coordinator for the Crookston Chamber and Visitors Bureau. Prior to his current position, Kremer played football for Chamber Executive Shannon Stassen and then worked for Stassen in the football program.

2010s

Gretchen Anderson ’10 has joined Western Plains Consulting, Inc., a North Dakota-based environmental, natural resources, and regulatory services consulting firm with corporate headquarters in Bismarck, N.D., as an environmental scientist. Anderson specializes in water resources management and water quality. A native of Wisconsin, she previously worked for the U.S. Geological Survey-Water Resources Division and the Natural Resource Research Institute.

Jessica DoBoer ’10, Crookston, Minn., and Jake Schuster were united in marriage on May 25, 2012, at the Greysolon Ballroom in Duluth, Minn. Jessica currently works at Fairview Range in Hibbing, Minn., as the marketing/communications specialist and Jake is a maintenance scheduler at Hibbing Taconite. The couple resides in Hibbing.
Katie Bower ’11 and Trent Wise ’11, were married October 26, 2012, at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Moorhead, Minn. Katie is a communications assistant at the Diocese of Fargo and Trent works in forestry maintenance with the Fargo Parks District. They are at home in Moorhead, Minn.

Pictured left to right, Casey Wollangk ’11, Hatton, N.D.; Sara Wells ’12, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; Katie Schneider ’12, Delano, Minn.; Kelsey Folkert ’12, Crookston, Minn.; Melinda Baszczyński ’10, Earlham, Iowa; Sam Lahman ’12, Parkers Prairie, Minn.; Greg Read ’01, Austin, Minn.

The 38th annual Ag Arama, dedicated in honor of Kent Freberg, long-time agriculture faculty member, was held January 25-26, 2013, at the U of M, Crookston. The weekend included contests in agronomy, animal science, horticulture, and natural resources; coronation of royalty; games; alumni social; and dance. The seven alumni pictured above competed in the alumni showmanship event.

Nominate a Classmate or Friend!

Do you know an outstanding alumnus or alumna who is deserving of an award for exemplary commitment, achievement, or service? Consider nominating them for Outstanding Alumni, Top Aggie, or for induction into the Athletic Hall of Fame.

Nominations can be made by visiting www.umcrookston.edu/alumni, choose either UMC Alumni Association or Northwest School of Agriculture Alumni Association, and select the appropriate award for your nominee. For nominations for Athletic Hall of Fame go to www.goldeneaglesports.com and choose Athletic Hall of Fame to make your nomination.

Nominations can also be made by sending the name to Rose Ulseth in the Office of Development & Alumni Relations at rulseth@umn.edu or call 218-281-8439.
UPCOMING EVENTS

April 18 ................................................................. Inauguration of Chancellor Fred Wood
April 26 ......................................................................................................................... Teambacker Fun Nite
May 11 ............................................................................................................................. Commencement for the Class of 2013
June 29 ................................................................................................................................ NWSA Alumni Reunion
October 4-5 ..................................................................................................................... Homecoming
November 14 .................................................................................................................. Fargo Alumni Social