I have reflected often on the history of this institution since I began my service as its chancellor just over a year ago. Indulge me for a moment, as I make a simple analogy about this unique history and what makes the campus so extraordinary. Since my background is in chemistry, let me share my perspective using a kind of chemical analogy.

An alloy is a mixture of elements. Starting with a base metal, we combine other elements to create an end product with a desired set of characteristics. Our “campus alloy” is the result of a mixture that combines strength, malleability, and a resistance to anything that weakens our mission, but which can be adjusted to meet changing needs.

In our formula, the University of Minnesota is the critically important and consistent base metal. To this base, we add elements with the characteristics necessary for our evolving role in northwest Minnesota and the world.

In 1896, the U of M established the Northwest Experiment Station in Crookston, now the Northwest Research and Outreach Center, which continues to provide this region with cutting-edge research in agriculture.

Now it’s your turn, tell Chancellor Wood how your education on the Crookston campus played out in your career? Send your story to umctorch@umn.edu.

The mix was complemented in 1906 by adding the Northwest School of Agriculture, the first of the U of M’s residential, agricultural high schools in the state. That early campus prepared graduates to take on roles that were critical to the success of one of the richest agrarian regions in the country.

By 1909, Extension was in the blend and still provides its practical, research-based information to help improve the lives of Minnesotans.

Educating and preparing students for the workforce emerged as a priority in the 1960s. The University responded to the need for higher education by adapting the formula and transitioning the campus to the University of Minnesota Crookston Technical College. Until the 1990s, the technical college provided graduates with the skills and knowledge needed for the workplace. And, we were proud to have one of its alumni, Kevin Kopischke ’72, president of Alexandria [Minnesota] Technical and Community College, share timely advice with graduates during his commencement address this spring.

In response to changing workforce needs, we then further refined our alloy...
by adding four-year degrees to give students more educational options. Those first graduates from the University of Minnesota Crookston in 1994 will be celebrating their 20-year anniversary, our first-of-its-kind laptop initiative has given us an expertise incorporating technology into the classroom, and today, we lead the way in offering degrees online.

Just as we have from the beginning, we continue to ready students for careers, but as more of them choose graduate or professional school, we are expanding opportunities for undergraduate research and learning experiences suited to whatever path they choose. It seems a natural progression to meet the increasing educational needs of our society.

We have adjusted the elements to create an alloy that does not become brittle but evolves to offer a future that adds value, is relevant, and responds to the changes that take place in our region and around the world.

Today, our “campus alloy” works so well because it contains the strengths of all our educational formulations over the years and because the University of Minnesota is the one constant that identifies and defines who we are.

Even when the heat is on and we have had to reshape the future, we have come out stronger and more resilient because we continue to work and refine a formula that lasts and has already stood the test of time. It is a history of innovation and evolution of which we can all be very proud.

Go, Aggies! Go, Trojans! And, Go, Golden Eagles!

Best regards,
Fred E. Wood
Chancellor
University of Minnesota Crookston
It was a big year and not just for hair or the popular sitcom Friends. 1994 was a milestone in campus history. It was the year Jon Warner graduated as one of twenty to earn the first baccalaureate degrees ever awarded from the University of Minnesota Crookston. And, next spring marks the twentieth anniversary of that class.

A bachelor of science in plant industries management was a bonus for Warner because when he came to Crookston, only two-year degrees were offered. He originally planned to transfer to complete his bachelor’s degree, but with the campus transition from a two-year to a four-year institution, Warner stayed and completed his bachelor’s degree.

Warner graduated from high school in New Mexico, but his grandparents and other family lived in Pembina, N.D., and he had friends at the University of Minnesota Crookston Technical College. Those friendships influenced his decision to go to school in Crookston, but it was the influence of Professor Carol Windels, from the Northwest Research and Outreach Center (NWROC), and his advisor, Chuck Habstritt, an associate professor in the Division of Agriculture Management as it was known at the time, that really determined his college career path.

Habstritt put Warner on the crops team and encouraged him as a student. “He had a big influence on my academic life,” Warner recalls. “I still use everything I learned in Crookston in my career today.”
“I worked with Carol Windels in the lab at the NWROC for two-and-a-half years,” Warner says. “The experience I gained in the lab there working with professionals in the field was invaluable. I met and worked with some of the most prominent people in the industry in the Red River Valley.”

That experience translated to working with Extension sugar beet specialist Professor Alan Dexter and earning a master’s degree from North Dakota State University in weed science.

Following graduation, Warner worked with MinnDak Cooperative in Whapeton, N.D., as an agriculturist. When the opportunity came to manage a brand new seed and chemical operation near Pembina, Warner headed back to his roots. He is currently an agronomist and general manager of the thriving operation.

“I credit my career with what I learned as an undergraduate,” Warner explains. “The campus had small classes and I appreciated the hands-on experience I gained applying what we were taught in the classroom.

“Beyond the great teaching, I made a lot of friends, and living on campus made it even better,” Warner reflects.

“I know others have said it, but it is true, my experience in Crookston changed my life.”
“No matter where I worked, I could always fall back on my business, sales, and marketing classes from college,” Theresa Trocke.

“Looking Back and Moving Forward”

Echoing with the steps of the countless students who have passed through its halls, memories of campus are triggered as you recall a favorite professor, a challenging class, a great friendship, and the unique shared experience of campus life. For University of Minnesota Crookston alumni, campus life might have been as a high school student at the Northwest School of Agriculture. For others, it is the time they spent on the campus when it was a two-year, technical college, and for the last two decades, four-year graduates joined the mix.

Over time, campus has experienced changes—new programs, new places, new people. But, no matter what the degree you worked on when you were here, the memories you made and the relationships you built remain a part of you. In February, Theresa Trocke ’80 came back to campus, and once again, walked those familiar halls. This time though she had company, her son, Wyatt, who was on a campus visit of his own.

Trocke, who majored in business, earned associate degrees in sales and marketing management, retail management, and small business management.

She was active in DECA, previously known as Distributive Education Clubs of America, in high school. When it came time to go to college, Trocke thinks she might have been influenced by the opportunity to participate in DECA at the collegiate
level when she chose the U of M Crookston. She also loved the two-year option and knowing she could leave with a degree and go on if she chose to.

During the summer between her freshman and sophomore year, Trocke completed an internship. She worked as a recruiter in the Office of Admissions traveling the state and visiting students who had shown interest but hadn’t decided where to attend college. That experience was one she remembers well and truly enjoyed. “I loved coming back to classes that fall and recognizing students I had visited with in the summer,” Trocke shares. “I already knew them and was excited to see they had chosen Crookston.”

The practical application the technical college provided to students was something Trocke says she enjoyed and “it transcended what we learned in the classroom and applied to life.”

Through DECA and other activities on campus, Trocke gained confidence. “The way the campus was set up—the clubs, the classes, intramurals and everything else—was a way for me to channel my energy toward things that helped me succeed.”

After graduation, she worked in retail, advertising, spent 15 years in consumer food industry including 12 years at Land O’Lakes in a variety of roles, and gained international experience as director of product management with Tennant Company. Today, Trocke takes her experience to work as a consultant through her business T. Trocke Marketing.

“No matter where I worked, I could always fall back on my business, sales, and marketing classes from college,” Trocke says. “What I learned at UMC applied to business but also to my life and those are valuable lessons I take with me always.”

Theresa Trocke, pictured with her son, Wyatt, was named Outstanding Alumni in 1987. This spring she was back on campus for Wyatt to make a campus visit. He plans to attend the University of Minnesota Crookston in the fall.
Imagine a young farm girl, nervous and a bit shy, preparing to move away from home. Dorothy (Finkenbinder) Bergh, Advanced Class of 1949, remembers preparations for her move into Robertson Hall at the Northwest School of Agriculture. Like many others, it was her first time on her own and away from the watchful eye of her parents.

“The Northwest School offered a six-month school term suited to those of us growing up on farms,” Bergh explains. “We learned to live together and get along on campus while taking responsibility for ourselves. Those were important lessons.”

Teachers were an important part of life at the Northwest School. Miss Margaret Larsen taught English and Bergh recalls her trying to help the class understand a phrase in the the poem by William Ernest Henley that says, “I am master of my fate... and captain of my soul.” That quote she says still has her contemplating.

Students learned the practical at school like propagating plants, home management skills, and the appropriate use of its and it’s. They also had fun together. She learned to dance with her best dancing partner, Larry Bergh, her boyfriend at the time, and later, her husband.

Bergh’s favorite class was geometry, but she isn’t sure why, “I wasn’t fond of algebra or any other math, but I liked geometry.” She also excelled in typing, bookkeeping, and shorthand, but none of these would influence her future career.

Leaving campus was hard for Bergh because she had developed so many wonderful friendships. One of the most special relationships began between a fourteen-year-old Bergh and five other girls who started writing a round-robin letter. They sent the letter between them during the summer each one writing and sending it on. It is a tradition these friends carry on to this day. They have lost a couple of the letters, but between them, they have written and shared volumes of memories over the years.

After graduation, Bergh went on for training at Moorhead [Minnesota] State Teachers College and taught fifth grade for two years in Cass Lake, Minn. She married her high school sweetheart, and

Bergh was the second of five Finkenbinder siblings to attend the Northwest School: Pauline ’45, Dale ’51, Maxine ’53, and Glen ’55.
when he came home from the service in 1955, they moved to Hallock, Minn., where they would farm for many years and raise their three children.

When she was 50 years old, Bergh began working as a certified nursing assistant, something she did for 26½ years. She has been back many, many times for the Northwest School alumni reunions.

Memories of her school days come back clearly: Standing in line to enter the west entrance of the dining hall because boys entered at the east entrance; walking back to her dormitory after supper with Larry; and freshman roommates Ruth (Baird) Harker ’47 and Vernie (Nordquist) Alvstad ’48.

Memories like these bind alumni together and none are stronger than memories shared with classmates and friends. Plan to share yours memories at the next Northwest School of Agriculture Alumni Reunion on Saturday, June 28, 2014. It’s your Summer Place!

"Because of scholarships I have the opportunity to get a University of Minnesota education, which enables me to pursue my dreams. For a young girl, originally from Liberia like me, this is what the American dream is."

–Alexmai Addo, senior, communication major, and president of the student body

To give to support our students, visit www.umcrookston.edu/giveonline or call 218-281-8434.
On the Shores of Sugar Lake

The blue of the lake reflects the blue sky above it and the waves lap quietly on the sandy shore. This beautiful view lies outside the office of Alumnus Chad Simons ’94 and is truly one to be envied.

Sugar Lake Lodge is located near Grand Rapids, Minn., on Siseebakwet (Sugar) Lake, known for its clarity and surrounded by maple trees. As the lodge’s director of sales, Simons is responsible for corporate and group sales for the resort’s state-of-the-art meeting facilities and accommodations.

Simons grew up in Crosby, Minn., where his parents were teachers and worked summers at a nearby resort. His dream was to go to the Air Force Academy, and he even completed the many pages of the application packet, but that application didn’t find its way to the Academy.

“I never sent my application, and like so many things in my life, I was planning one thing when something else came along and preempted my plan,” Simons says. “When I look back, those things that interrupted me turned out to be for the best.”

Jim Sims, football coach at the University of Minnesota Crookston, called late in Simons’ senior year and invited him to campus. “I actually had never heard of the Crookston campus, but I was curious enough to come for the visit,” Simons explains.

That visit was providential as it convinced Simons that the U of M Crookston was the place for him. “On that first visit, I met Coach Sims, the other football coaches, and my future advisor in aviation, Larry Leake,” he reflects.

His coaches had a profound effect on his life, and so did the athletic trainer, Bill Tyrrell. “Bill was the person who brought us back to health both physically

Simons office looks out on Sugar Lake and he never takes for granted the beauty right outside the door.
“He built relationships with his athletes based on trust, and we all felt fortunate to have him and a great coaching staff.”

Simons says the community at the U of M Crookston is what sets it apart. “I built lifelong friendships in aviation, athletics, and in the classroom,” he says. “From Chancellor Sargeant to Marlys Johnson, who was part of the custodial staff and worked in Skyberg, they all played a big part in my college experience.”

One of his most significant memories happened in a sales class he had with Sue Brorson, a professor in the Business Department and currently head of that department. “We were assigned a sales project. Since I had grown up spending summers at the resort, I picked up some brochures and decided that I would sell the resort to corporate groups,” he smiles. “Turns out that selling experience was just the first glimpse of where I would be spending my future career.”

He was a student representative on the committee working on the transition of the Crookston campus from a 2-year to a 4-year as well as a member of the Aviation Club, Student Senate, and he says, “the proud holder of several intramural championships.” And, he still has the t-shirts to prove it.

Simons would go on to complete his business degree at St. Cloud [Minn.] State University and follow it by a job that sent him to California. He came back to Minnesota with another business before taking the job at Sugar Lake Lodge. He traveled a lot those first years after college, but today, life is filled with family. He and his wife, Dana, are the proud parents of three sons.

When he looks back, Simons says he values deeply his time on the Crookston campus and what he learned in the classroom and on the gridiron are still reflected in his work. “You face adversity on the football field, and you must pull together for a common goal. It is the same at work, you are called on to use those leadership skills you learned and work together as a team every day.”

It is perhaps the memories of campus, however, that mean the most to Simons, “When I see my friends from college, even though we are far apart and don’t see each other often, it is like nothing has changed and we pick up right where we left off.”
“In Bosnia, you might have a college degree, but you might not get the job you want,” Almir Krdzalic.

Krdzalic Rises out of War-Torn Country to Find Success on Hardwood

Written by Shawn Smith, Sports Information Director

A young boy crouches for protection in the basement of his home as the gun shots bursting from the rifles of soldiers can be heard in the distance and bomb shells send tremors to his home and others around it. At the time, the future of University of Minnesota Crookston senior guard Almir Krdzalic and his family didn’t seem very secure.

Krdzalic was born in 1990 in the small town of Tesanj, Bosnia, during the Bosnian War, a conflict between the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bosnian Serb and Bosnian Croat factions that arose after the break-up of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Most of his memories of Bosnia are of war and “staying in the basement for weeks at a time.”

Afterward, his aunt, who had moved to Sioux Falls, S.D., aided his parents, Najka and Samir, as they looked to move to America. Despite the odds, they were able to provide their family with a better life in America—a life Almir took for granted until he returned to Bosnia two summers ago.

“I went back to Bosnia a couple of summers ago to visit and it just opened up my eyes,” Krdzalic said. “I was always blessed when I came here to have an opportunity to do something. After I went back and realized
what kind of true opportunity I had to be here, I thought I took everything for granted. If I want to do something, I have the ability to do whatever I want. In Bosnia, you might have a college degree, but you might not get the job you want.”

Krdzalic’s ability to pursue whatever future he wants has been aided by the success he has found on the hardwood. When he moved to America, he preferred soccer, a sport familiar to him. However, looking for a way to make new friends in his new hometown of Sioux Falls, Krdzalic worked hard to learn a game that was foreign to him.

“Some kids had asked me to play basketball so I wanted to play,” Krdzalic said. “I asked my mom and she said, ‘I don’t know, we’ll see.’ She was really scared. It was a new country for us and we didn’t really know everyone. When I first started out, I was horrible. I didn’t know anything about basketball. I would kick the ball because I thought it was like soccer. I just wanted to get better to prove to my new friends that I could play. I just had the drive to compete.”

Krdzalic was able to make the high school team at Sioux Falls Lincoln High School and would play well enough to earn several offers from college programs.

“I never thought I would end up playing in college. I thought I would play in high school and finish high school and be done with it. I thought basketball was just a game. I would graduate and find a job and start a family but recruiting letters started coming in and it showed me I have a chance to go to school on a scholarship and why not take it. I just can’t believe I’m a senior; I didn’t think I would ever step foot in college.”

Krdzalic transferred to University of Minnesota Crookston after playing for a year at Mars Hills College, a NCAA Division II school in Mars Hill, N.C. He wanted to be closer so his mother could see him play. He has been solid at point guard for the Golden Eagles and was named the team’s Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Player to Watch entering the 2012-13 season and recently was awarded the Division II Degree-Completion Award by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). He was also named 2012-13 Male Student-Athlete of the Year for the Golden Eagles.

When he graduates he plans to pursue a career as a physician’s assistant. Krdzalic has come a long way from a boy stuck in the middle of a war to a man who will soon be pursuing a post-graduate degree. When Najka and Samir Krdzalic left their homeland for a foreign country to chase the “American Dream”, they were able to provide their son Almir with a bright future, one that he will never take for granted again.
Fred E. Wood
5th Chancellor of the
University of Minnesota Crookston
Thursday, April 18, 2013

Photo gallery link at
www.umcrookston.edu/photogallery/inauguration
The Northwest School of Agriculture Alumni Reunion is over, but the memories live on. It was a great weekend with some 150 alumni joining us throughout the day.

Named Top Aggies for 2013 were Lowell Hamrick ‘53, Warren, Minn.; Beulah (Stolaas) Vad ‘58, Oklee, Minn.; and Willie Huot ‘63, Grand Forks, N.D. These outstanding individuals were recognized during a special luncheon during the reunion.

A highlight of the reunion was the dedication of the Harris A. Peterson Classroom in Heritage Hall, the newest residence hall on campus. The classroom is one of the focal points of Heritage Hall and was made possible by the generosity of Harris Peterson, a 1942 graduate and the founder, president, and general manager of Minn-Dak Growers, Ltd., in Grand Forks, N.D.

The day began with registration and a real reunion between friends and classmates. It is heartwarming to see alumni who have not seen each other in a long time enjoy a rekindling of their friendship. Honored classes included 1923, 1928, 1933, 1938, 1943, 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, and 1968. The Class of 1963 celebrate their 50-year anniversary and they brought with them countless memories of their school days.

There were bus tours, class meetings, photographs, and reminiscing. The day ended with an alumni social in Bede Ballroom in the student center. It was a wonderful day and staff in the Development & Alumni Relations Office are already planning for next year.

Just a reminder to save Saturday, June 28, 2014, and come back to your Summer Place!
Homecoming 2013
Friday through Sunday, October 4, 5, and 6!
Visit www.umcrocston.edu/homecoming or www.facebook.com/umcrocston.homecoming.

Celebrating the Class of 1994 on their 20 year anniversary and special events for the classes of 1968 and 1969 and all communication alumni and former faculty!

Friday, October 4
6 p.m. Outstanding Alumni and Athletic Hall of Fame Social and Banquet
7 p.m. Volleyball vs. Concordia University - St. Paul

Saturday, October 5
8:30 a.m. “Great Communication Comeback” Breakfast Buffet
9:30 a.m. Photo booth sponsored by UMCAA
10:30 a.m. Homecoming Parade
11 a.m. Photo booth resumes
11 a.m. Soccer vs. Univ. of Sioux Falls
11 a.m. Tailgating with music by Four Wheel Drive
1 p.m. Football vs. Bemidji
4 p.m. Post-game Social at I.C. Muggs
4 p.m. Volleyball vs. MN State - Mankato

Sunday, October 6
1 p.m. Soccer vs. SW MN State - Marshall

Class of 1968 and 1969... It’s REUNION TIME!
Join us for a 45th reunion celebration during Homecoming 2013 on Friday, October 4 and Saturday, October 5. Special events are planned just for us!

For all the details, contact Peggy (Lee) Hilton ’68 at jphilton@aol.com or Sherry (Hoeft) O’Gorman ’69 at bogorman@orbitel.com
CAMPUS HEADLINES

Chancellor Wood Inaugurated as Fifth Chancellor
Ceremonies for the inauguration of Fred E. Wood, Ph.D., as the fifth chancellor were held Thursday, April 18, 2013, in Kiehle Auditorium. Special guests on campus for the dedication and inauguration included University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler, Karen Kaler, and several members of the Board of Regents. At 10 a.m. that morning, a dedication of Heritage Hall, the newest residence hall on campus, was held. Heritage Hall is located west of Centennial Hall and provides students with a new style of suite living. Check out the photos of the day on pages 16 and 17.

Barbara Keinath New Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Barbara J. Keinath, Ph.D., has been hired to serve as vice chancellor for academic affairs for the University of Minnesota Crookston. She holds a Ph.D. in educational administration with a focus on higher education and policy from the University of Minnesota. She has served as vice provost and dean of graduate studies and, prior to that, as director of online learning at Metropolitan State University in the Twin Cities. She began her vice chancellor responsibilities at on Monday, July 1.

Campus Social Media Directory
Enjoy social media with us! Use the hashtag #UMNC to search for news about the campus or to share what makes you #UMNproud!

Facebook
facebook.com/umcrookston
facebook.com/umcrookston.homecoming

Google+
plus.google.com/umcrookston

Instagram
instagram.com/umncrookston

Linkedin
z.umn.edu/umcrookston

Pinterest
pinterest.com/umcrookston

Twitter
twitter.com/umncrookston

YouTube
youtube.com/uofmcrookston

Storify
storify.com/UMNCrookston
Rachel McCoppin Recognized for Outstanding Teaching

Rachel McCoppin, Ph.D., was recognized for her outstanding teaching when she was named a recipient of the prestigious Horace T. Morse U of M Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education. Recipients of the award are chosen by student and faculty members of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy, previous award recipients, and a representative of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association. She was also the recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award during the annual Faculty and Staff Day held at the end of spring semester.

Finance Major Added

A new major in finance has been added to the portfolio of degrees offered in the Business Department at the University of Minnesota Crookston. The degree will be offered both on campus and online giving students the greatest flexibility. A minor in finance will also be offered. To learn more, visit www.umcrookston.edu/finance.

Director of Admissions and Enrollment Management

Carola Thorson has been hired to serve as director of admissions and enrollment management for the U of M Crookston. She comes to the campus after serving as director of undergraduate admissions at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minn., and began her duties here in June.

Tim Moe Named Teabacker of the Year

The 2013 Teabacker of the Year Award at the University of Minnesota Crookston was presented to Tim Moe at the annual Fun Nite held Friday, April 29, 2013. Kari Torkelson, president of Teabackers presented Moe with the award. The evening raised more than $19,000 in support of scholarships for student-athletes.

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.
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 June 14, 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 October 1, 2013.

1940s

Helen Nisbet ’42 Adv., East Grand Forks, Minn., celebrated her 90th birthday on March 27, 2013. She was honored at an open house at Banquets at the Boardwalk in East Grand Forks and celebrated this special milestone with family and friends.

1950s

Edward C. Frederick, Waseca, Minn., received the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Minnesota’s College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) Alumni Society. Frederick has provided a lifetime of leadership and service to his local community, numerous state and national organizations, CFANS, and the University of Minnesota. His first position was an animal scientist and instructor at the Northwest School of Agriculture and Northwest Experiment Station in Crookston, Minn. In 1964 he joined the Southern School and Experiment Station in Waseca as the superintendent and in 1969 was named provost (chancellor) of the University of Minnesota Waseca. In 1990, Frederick became a Senior Fellow at the University, a position he still holds.

1980s

Congratulations to Gerald Landby ’82, East Helena, Mont., who was recently featured in an article in Sports Turf magazine. Check out his story which references the University of Minnesota Crookston at: http://z.umn.edu/dwq.

Evelyn Wold ’84, Crookston, Minn., accountant at Eickhof Columbaria in Crookston since 2008, was recently named vice president. Her responsibilities will include overseeing shop operations, finance, inventory, human resources, quality, and engineering.

In the photo (l to r): Tillie (Baird) Hover ’49, Mary Lou (Baird) Dostal ’54, Bernice (Baird) Kline ’53, and Ruth (Baird) Harker ’47. Recently four of the Baird sisters, all graduates of the Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA) gathered in Mesa, Ariz., at the home of Mary Lou (Baird) Dostal ’54, and enjoyed a mini reunion. Ruth (Baird) Harker ’47, arrived from Fairfield, Calif., Tillie (Baird) Hover ’49, from Vancouver, Wash., and Bernice (Baird) Kline ’53, from Montrose, Colo. There were also four older sisters who also attended and/or graduated from the NWSA in the early 40s. They were June (Baird) Simpson ’40, Jean (Baird) Olson ’41 Adv., Helen (Baird) McBride ex. ’41, and Evelyn (Baird) Epema ex. ’42.
Crookston’s RiverView Health recently announced the promotion of Chris Bruggeman ‘00, as chief operation officer/vice president of support services. He will oversee the Information Technology Department, Plant Operations, and RiverView Recovery Center. Bruggeman has been with RiverView since 2007. He and his wife, Stacey (Bendickson) ‘01, live in Crookston, Minn., with their three children.

Sheila Roux ‘00, a native of Ada, Minn., was recently named assistant women’s basketball coach at Columbia University in New York City, N.Y. Roux was formerly assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Illinois State University, joining the coaching staff in May 2010. She spent four seasons as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Wisconsin-Milwaukee from 2006-2010, in 2005 was interim head coach at the University of Minnesota Crookston, and spent two seasons as an assistant coach at Wisconsin-Parkside from 2003-2005. Roux was a four-year letter winner for the U of M Crookston Golden Eagles (1995-2000).

Kris ‘01 and Bethany Folland ‘07, Halma, Minn., received special recognition for their commitment to leadership and their community at the Agassiz Leaders Awards Banquet held recently at the University of Minnesota Crookston. The program carries on the tradition started by the Red River Valley Winter Shows in 1961 of recognizing rural leaders for contributions to their communities. The Andersons are Clearwater County’s representatives in the 2013 Red River Valley Emerging Leadership Program. Scott farms 2000 acres of beans, wheat, alfalfa hay, and pasture. They also have 150 head Simmental and commercial cattle. Kim teaches agricultural education and biomedical sciences at Clearbrook-Gonvick and Bagley schools where she also serves as FFA advisor.

Scott ex. ‘02 and Kim (Rankin) Anderson ‘02, Clearbook, Minn., received special recognition for their commitment to leadership and their community at the Agassiz Leaders Awards Banquet held recently at the University of Minnesota Crookston. The program carries on the tradition started by the Red River Valley Winter Shows in 1961 of recognizing rural leaders for contributions to their communities. The Andersons are Clearwater County’s representatives in the 2013 Red River Valley Emerging Leadership Program. Scott farms 2000 acres of beans, wheat, alfalfa hay, and pasture. They also have 150 head Simmental and commercial cattle. Kim teaches agricultural education and biomedical sciences at Clearbrook-Gonvick and Bagley schools where she also serves as FFA advisor.

Ava (Rivard) Archibald ‘85, West Fargo, N.D., has been accepted into the partnership of Eide Bailly LLP, a regional certified public accounting and business advisory firm. Archibald has more than 25 years of public accounting experience, is a member of the Red River Valley Estate Planning Council, and is an IRS enrolled agent. She joined Eide Bailly in 2006.

1990s

Ronda (Olson) Biermaier ‘97, Thief River Falls, Minn., was recently inducted into the Northland Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame by Northland Community and Technical College in Thief River Falls. Biermaier played softball, volleyball, and women’s basketball from 1992-1994.

Bently Michael was born to Amber and Michael Steiner ‘97, on January 13, 2013. He was welcomed home by brother, Wyatt, and sister, Abby. He weighed 8 lb. 11 oz. and was 21 inches long. Since graduation, Steiner has been farming in the Foxhome, Minn., area, where the family makes their home.

2000s

Angela (Palmer) Brekken ’00, Bemidji, Minn., was recently named Registered Young Dietitian of the Year by the Minnesota Dietetic Association. Brekken is employed at Beltrami County Health and Human Services as a registered dietitian and breastfeeding coordinator and is an instructor in the dietary manager’s program at the University of North Dakota. She has been active in MAND-NW and is currently serving as president and webmaster, has been a published contributor to various newsletters, and was awarded the 2012 AND-NW MVP.
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.

Sgt. Gina (Richter) DeJarnette ’02, an intelligence analyst with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, is currently serving with Combined Team Uruzgan at Multinational Base, Tarin Kot, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. DeJarnette, a native of Monterey, Calif., arrived in theater in November 2012. She has served in the military for three years and this is her first deployment. DeJarnette is scheduled to return to Fort Stewart, Ga., in July.

Phil Seibel ’05, Baxter, Minn., was recently promoted to vice president of revenue development of the Brainerd Dispatch, a daily morning newspaper published in Brainerd, Minn. In his new role, he will focus on marketing solutions for local business owners, providing the community with information on marketing trends, and training Dispatch staff.

Andrea and Garrett Novak ex. ’03, Saint Hilaire, Minn., received special recognition for their commitment to leadership and their community at the Agassiz Leaders Awards Banquet held recently at the University of Minnesota Crookston. They were also honored as the Agassiz Ambassadors for 2013, where they’ll put their leadership skills to work in public relations, recognition, and community leadership, and will work with program coordinators to develop and deliver the educational program in 2014. The Novaks are Pennington County’s representatives in the 2013 Red River Valley Emerging Leadership Program. They farm 2300 acres of corn, soybeans, and wheat and assist parents with their 3700 acre operation. Andrea is a registered nurse at Sanford Health Surgery Center in Thief River Falls, Minn. She also is an instructor in the nurses’ aide program at Northland Community and Technical College.

Ryan Beattie ’07 and Kara Springer were married on June 29, 2012, in Fargo, N.D. Ryan is a police officer with the Barnesville Police Department. Kara is currently employed with Midwest Bank. The couple reside in Barnesville, Minn.

Jamie Ingeman ’07 and Justin Osowski were married on March 23, 2013, at Maria Lutheran Church in Kennedy, Minn. A reception and dance were held at the City Hall in Hallock, Minn. Jamie is employed by the Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District in Hallock, Minn., as district coordinator. Justin farms in the Kennedy area. The couple reside in Kennedy.
Melanie Beckman ’08, Cologne, Minn., is employed with Zinpro Performance Minerals, an organic trace minerals company with headquarters in Eden Prairie, Minn. She recently joined the research and nutritional services (RNS) team as research assistant. In this newly created position, Beckman will assist the RNS team in protocol and report writing, coordinating and managing product support research files, and conducting literature reviews.

Katie Delohery ’08, Grand Forks, N.D., who has taught in the Interventions Program at Grand Forks Central High School for six years, is the North Dakota Newspaper Association Newspapers in Education Teacher of the Year. Delohery works with at risk high school students and strives to provide a foundation of literacy instruction in her classroom. In 2012 she was the recipient of the Lake Agassiz Reading Council Literacy Award. Delohery is a member of the Grand Forks Public School Literacy Committee, Grand Forks Central Literacy Committee, and she advises the National Honor Society at the high school.

Jessica Hanson ’08 and Orion Cannon were married March 9, 2013, in Anoka, Minn. The couple currently live in Denver, Colo.

Torch
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Layout and design by Amy Chandler

On the front cover
A trip to New Zealand was one of the study abroad opportunities students took advantage of in May. In the photo, surrounded by a glacier, are Matthew Borowicz, a senior majoring in health sciences from Stephen, Minn.; Ashley Martell, a junior majoring in health sciences from Somerset, Wis.; Alexandra Skeeter, a senior majoring in health sciences and biology from Milwaukee, Wis.; Mary Mikutowski, a junior majoring in health sciences from Stillwater, Minn.; Chelsea Wiesner, a senior majoring in health sciences and biology from Rochester, Minn.; Abigail Griffin, a junior majoring in animal science from Maple Grove, Minn.; Assistant Professor Brian Dingmann, and Katie Miedtke, a senior majoring in animal science from Maple Grove, Minn.

2010s

Elizabeth Kern ’10 and Shelton Derisma ’11, St. Paul, Minn., were married June 15, 2013, in Bloomington, Minn. Elizabeth is currently employed in agriculture marketing and Shelton in the hospitality industry.
We Want to Hear From You!
To submit an item for the Alumni News Section, send information to:
UMC Alumni Relations
115 Kiehle Building
2900 University Avenue
Crookston, MN 56716
e-mail: rulseth@umn.edu or complete the form on line at:
www.umcrookston.edu/alumni/keepintouch.html.
Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail, year of graduation/attendance and information or news you wish to share (new job, career, family, or achievements, etc.)

Mallory Gerardy ’11 and Charlie Bernstrom were married on February 16, 2013, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Plummer, Minn. Mallory is a preschool teacher at Kittson Central in Hallock, Minn., and Charlie is employed at Bernstrom Oil in Lancaster, Minn. The couple reside in Lancaster.

Josh Trottier ’11 and Danielle Erickstad, Devils Lake, N.D., announce their recent marriage. Josh is currently employed with Garon Construction, Thompson, N.D., and Danielle is employed in Same Day Surgery at Altru Hospital in Grand Forks, N.D. They were married July 13, 2013, at St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Grand Forks, with a reception following at the Alerus Center.

Jake Sanders ’12, plans to compete in the Dakota Tour, a professional golf tour consisting of 16 tournaments primarily in North Dakota and South Dakota. Sanders hopes to be able to play in 12 to 14 tournaments, which run from late June through late August. He and his wife, Jensen (Crots) ’13, live in Crookston, Minn.

Katie Schneider ’12, from Delano, Minn., has begun a one-year AmeriCorps VISTA appointment in the Office of Community Engagement at the University of Minnesota Crookston, following training in Albuquerque, N.M. Schneider will assist with community service and service-learning efforts. She will coordinate service days such as Meet Crookston Through Service, National Youth Service Day, and MLK Day of Service. The Office of Community Engagement works directly with local agencies, organizations, and individuals to address community needs. It serves as a resource for faculty for the integration of service-learning and fosters campus-community partnerships.

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/umcrookston or on the U of M, Crookston Web site at www.umcrookston.edu/alumni/torch

If you would prefer to receive your Torch online only, contact Elizabeth Tollefson at 218-281-8432 (ltollefs@umn.edu)
In Memory

Alumni

N. Marie (Blakely) Meyer ’37
Rice Lake, Wis.
October 2011

Donald Jorgensen ’40
Stephen, Minn.
April 8, 2013

Theodore Milford Rokke ’41
Newfolden, Minn.
February 23, 2013

Josephine (Hogan) Vaudrin ex. ’41
Crookston, Minn.
April 3, 2013

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

Maude (Seaton) Lane ’42
Howard, Ohio
February 14, 2012

Berget (Torkelson) Taintor ’43 Adv.
Marshall, Minn.
November 19, 2012

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

John Halverson ’47
Nisswa, Minn.
February 27, 2013

Doris (Herberg) Krause ’50 Adv.
Crookston, Minn.
February 25, 2013

Kenneth Byfuglien ex. ’49
Roseau, Minn.
February 26, 2013

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

Conrad Hapka ’50
Argyle, Minn.
February 6, 2013

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

Rodney Pape ’51
East Grand Forks, Minn.
February 13, 2013

Peter Engelstad ’52
Lincoln City, Ore.
April 10, 2013

Boyd Giese ’52
Euclid, Minn.
February 9, 2013

Gerald “Jerry” Harlow ex. ’52
Drayton, N.D.
February 25, 2013

Charles “Chuck” Holmquist ’52
Crookston, Minn.
February 20, 2013

Donald Boushee, Jr. ex. ’55
Grand Forks, N.D.
March 4, 2013

Gerald Harlow ’53
Drayton, N.D.
February 25, 2013

Douglas Peterson ’64
Saint Cloud, Minn.
2011

Dennis Stahn ’64
Donnelly, Minn.
February 17, 2013

William “Bill” Leddige ’65
Reynolds, N.D.
April 17, 2013

John Conneran ’73
Grand Forks, N.D.
February 3, 2013

William “Bill” Leguee ’83
Grand Forks, N.D.
May 24, 2013

Daniel Trontvedt ’86
Grand Forks, N.D.
February 1, 2013

Friends

Kenneth E. Broin
Robbinsdale, Minn.
May 2, 2013
Trustee of the Frank W. Veden Charitable Trust, Member of the University of Minnesota Crookston All College Advisory Committee, 1975 Torch & Shield Award recipient
Bernard “Bernie” Youngquist, Ph.D.

Great institutions need great leaders, especially in times of change. For the Northwest School of Agriculture, the last of those leaders passed away on January 2, 2013. Bernard “Bernie” Younquist, Ph.D., served as superintendent of the school and the Northwest Agricultural Experiment Station, now the Northwest Research and Outreach Center, from 1956 until his retirement in 1983.

Youngquist was the last superintendent of the Northwest School, a residential high school and predecessor of the University of Minnesota Crookston. He led the phase out of the residential high school, and along with Provost Stan Sahlstrom, helped transition the campus to a two-year technical college.

He was born in 1915, the oldest in a family of nine children. He held a bachelor of science in agriculture, a master of arts in education, and his doctor of philosophy with an emphasis in rural education and sociology all from the University of Minnesota. He served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during WWII and was recognized for his distinguished service with several military honors including the Philippine Liberation Medal with two battle stars. In 1941, Youngquist married Bernice Ojala and together they raised their two sons, David and Paul, and their daughter, Mary. Bernice passed away in 2001.

During his time as superintendent, Youngquist worked on his doctoral thesis which focused on an analysis of the U of M schools of agriculture published in 1958. His research played a role in the assessment that the region served by the Northwest School needed an agriculturally oriented technical institute.

In 1966, the phase out of the high school began and the final class under Youngquist’s leadership graduated in 1968. He would continue as superintendent of the Experiment Station, and for 26 years, served as the president of the Red River Valley Winter Shows. During his tenure at the Experiment Station, a priority was given to research challenges in sunflowers and sugar beets along with continued improvement of general crops, strengthening of livestock projects, and acquiring much needed land resources and replacing outmoded facilities.
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.

The Northwest Research and Outreach Center is home to Youngquist Auditorium, named in honor of the long time superintendent. During a reunion of the alumni of the Northwest School in 2008, a dedication was held to name a garden in honor of the Youngquists outside the student center at the University of Minnesota Crookston. The Youngquist Prairie Garden pays tribute to him as a champion of the conservation of the prairie and natural history research.

He received Torch & Shield award in 1973 and the Top Aggie award from the Northwest School of Agriculture Alumni Association in 1980. While certainly a man of many accomplishments, there is no greater legacy than his leadership as part of the Northwest School of Agriculture and the Northwest Experiment Station. All who knew him are deeply saddened by the loss of this leader, educator, mentor, and friend.
Back row from left: Leo Orpen, Donald Larson, Earl Hallstrom, and Veral Mosbeck; Front row from left: Charlene (Walters) Stromstad and Emma (Aune) Anderson

NWSA CLASS OF 1943

Left to right: Ronald Sharp, Daryl Krogh, Beulah (Stolaas) Vad, and Ray Anderson

NWSA CLASS OF 1958

Back row from left: Ray Stromstad and Roy Stola; Seated left to right: Marvie (Vesledahl) Stromstad, Dick Widseth, Betty (Erikson) Floan, Glen Torkelson, and Ira Mjelde

NWSA CLASSES LATE 1940s
NWSA CLASS OF 1963

Back row from left: Ron Thorson, Charles Brendemuhl, Charles Lundgren, Paul Woitzel, Orlin Berg, Allan Stromstad, Lee Duray, and Tom Odegaard; Second row from left: Drew Larson, Leon Bitker, Al Steinke, Bob Lewis, Willie Huot, Dennis Diamond, Ron Beauchane, Steven Peterson, and Kameron Harstad; Front row from left: Norma Hotvedt-Iacono, Neva (Sem) Burdick, Charlie Richards, Pat (Miller) Bitker, Rodger Bubendorf, David Anderson, and Howard Applequist


Photo gallery link at www.umcrookston.edu/photogallery/nwsaclassreunions
UPCOMING EVENTS

October 4-5 ................................................................. Homecoming
November 14 .............................................................. Fargo Alumni Social
February 21, 2014 ........................................... Arizona Alumni Social at View Point Resort in Mesa
June 28, 2014 .......................................................... NWSA Alumni Reunion