<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE OF CONTENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abby Griffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Toenies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brook Leininger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenny DuBay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Bulie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brant Moore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross Siegler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiffany Gerhart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tashi Gurung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omar Al-Azzam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac Osei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Steinfeldt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesse Jennings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alyssa Schneider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steffanie Berg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Keinath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mikala Guidinger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From the Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Memory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the Chancellor

When I was just a young man finishing high school, my father suffered a heart attack. I immediately felt compelled to take up his trade as a carpenter. I had worked with him and felt it was the best decision I could make at the time to support the family. However, it was my father who stopped me by asking me to go to college. His request became a pivotal moment in my life. I started at a local community college and went on to pursue a bachelor’s degree in chemistry. Just a few years earlier, I could not have imagined obtaining my undergraduate degree.

Having support for my pursuit in the form of scholarships was miraculous for me. The fact that people believed in the dreams of unknown students inspired me and made me more determined to succeed. I find that is also true of our students today – they are motivated to succeed by the investment of others in them and their education.

When I excelled in one of my classes at the four-year college, the professor asked me about my interest in conducting undergraduate research, and at that time, I didn’t even know what it was. As a first-generation college student, I had a lot to learn about college life.

My undergraduate research experience would become a touchstone and open the world for me. It is through research with my professor I learned that not all chemistry was in textbooks. I found that research is on the edge of discovery where new concepts develop—where we understand the science that would someday fill the textbooks. As I look back, it still strikes me how overwhelming and wonderful it all was and how it ultimately led to graduate school and in obtaining my doctorate in chemistry.

Each of our students comes to campus for different reasons. For Senior Andrew Steinfeldt, it was a place to play football. For him, like me and many others, the university became a place of self discovery. It has taken him from the playing field, to the lab, and making plans for medical school. For Senior Alyssa Schneider, it opened the door to a career teaching elementary students and encouraging their learning in the same way her teachers encouraged her.

These are just two students among so many examples I could cite who have been enormously impacted by their education and who will, in turn, impact the lives of others. The stories in this issue of the Torch delve into every department and demonstrate quite literally the transformative power of education. I hope you will read each one and realize the great value we place on our hardworking faculty and staff who challenge our students every day to be the best they can be by finding their passions.


Those who support students, in many different ways, help uncover hidden talents and provide an opportunity for innovation to take place. As chancellor, I find it gratifying to watch student transformations take place through the lens of my own experience. I am reminded time and again of the doors opened through education, and the great value of the Crookston campus within the University of Minnesota system as well as in the region.

To those of you who support us, thank you. I can never say it enough, but you make a big difference in our work and in the lives of our students. We could not be more grateful. I will always remember the influence of the donors who supported my educational endeavor, and I know our students will remember you for supporting them. It is your gifts that make student dreams a reality.

Best regards,
Fred E. Wood
Chancellor
University of Minnesota Crookston
More than Monkey Business

For Junior Abby Griffin, there are no lazy days of summer. The animal science major from Maple Grove, Minn., spent last summer working with primates at the Como Zoo in St. Paul, Minn., traveling to New Zealand as part of a study abroad experience, and visiting Ireland with her family.

The work at the Como Zoo is a foretaste of what Griffin hopes is a future career, and she is doing all she can to make the dream of becoming a zookeeper happen. It started in high school when she spent three summers volunteering at the Minnesota Zoo in Apple Valley in the farm exhibit.

Last year she applied to Como Zoo for a summer internship working with primates and spent her days taking care of the small monkeys, cleaning, feeding, and planning enrichment activities for them. “I spent time preparing their food, but I also helped wherever the keepers needed me to help,” she says.

“One of the greatest opportunities I had was the two days when I could shadow someone working at the zoo,” she continues. “I loved spending time in the large cats exhibit and gaining experience in aquatics.” The internship experience puts confirmation on Griffin’s unique career aspirations.

As a zookeeper, she will need her four-year degree and a lot of hands-on experience—something she has enjoyed at the University of Minnesota Crookston. “I am interested in the care side of working with animals,” Griffin explains. “I thought at first I wanted to be a veterinarian, but what I want to do is different. As a zookeeper, I will have the chance to work with animals as a caregiver and that aspect appeals to me.”

Especially For the Birds

The clock was ticking, the competition was intense, and they were down to the last question. That’s when the team rose to the challenge responding with the correct answer. The Wildlife Quiz Bowl competition held in October at the annual conference of The Wildlife Society gave the five-member team from the University of Minnesota Crookston a big win and a chance to demonstrate their knowledge and ability on the national stage.

The captain, Senior Matt Toenies, Randall, Minn., led the team of natural resources majors through four rounds of competition with sixteen other teams. It was a satisfying win and a proud moment for coaches John Loegering and Vanessa Lane, who both teach in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department.

Toenies transferred to the U of M Crookston in fall 2012 to complete his bachelor’s degree. His interest in wildlife was evident early. As a four-year-old, he began drawing birds and animals and says after his parents put up birdbreeders, “I became obsessed with wildlife.”

As part of the quiz bowl team, Toenies focused on birds, and that is the same place he hopes to focus on in graduate school. During his internship with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Shallow Lakes Program, his work was with waterfowl.
“On campus, I have had the chance to give vaccinations and work directly with animals, adding to my resume when I was interviewing for the internship with the Como Zoo,” Griffin shares. “I am hoping to apply for a second internship for summer 2014. The more experience I gain, the better my chances for employment at a zoo.”

Griffin wants to work and care for animals others may not want to or have the opportunity to. She says it all began years ago when her family took home a puppy from a shelter with several severe health challenges. “Caring for that black lab introduced me to the kind of caring I would like to have as a zookeeper,” she reflects.

She is preparing herself well, and it seems every day brings her a step closer to the career she has dreamed of since her first summer as a volunteer at the zoo.

Toenies, a middle child of eight, was homeschooled until taking advantage of Minnesota’s post-secondary enrollment option as a high school senior. His early interest in wildlife has led to particular enjoyment of taxonomy.

“Like his appreciation for Latin, Toenies has come to appreciate the prairie. “It is different from lakes country where I grew up, but in many ways, I have liked experiencing another of Minnesota’s landscapes,” he continues.

No matter where he lives or what path his future takes, Toenies will be watching birds and taking advantage of all the opportunities a wildlife career can offer.
She might be “California dreaming” when the temperature is below zero, but equestrian head coach and instructor Brooke Leininger loves Minnesota and has since her arrival in 2007.

Born in Redding, Calif., Leininger earned her bachelor’s degree in equine science with an emphasis in management from Colorado State University in Fort Collins and a master of science in strategic leadership from the University of Mary. When she saw a job opening at the U of M Crookston, she thought the job description fit, but she had never been to Minnesota. A visit during the interview process proved she would love more than the work. Her visit left her in love with the campus, the equine program, and the potential for growth on the equestrian team.

“I saw myself as a fit for the position, and I loved how open and friendly everyone was,” she says. “I saw this move to Crookston as more than a job; it is a career.”

That was seven years ago, and Leininger continues to find deep gratification in her work with students as a coach and as an instructor. Her responsibilities include teaching many of the practical hands-on kinds of courses including riding, hunt seat, dressage, jumping, and the course about becoming a riding instructor. She serves as an advisor to students in equine science and pre-veterinary medicine.

Her work with then-student Angie Bartholomew ’12 was some of the first student-faculty research ever conducted in equine science and examined back pain and performance in horses. Through independent studies, Leininger oversees the instruction of advanced skills, and hopes to engage in more research projects as time goes on.

As a coach, she has a wealth of riding experience starting with her own riding lessons at age eight. She competes professionally and recently won the United States Dressage Federation’s Silver Riding Medal, a prestigious award recognizing a high level of achievement.

For Leininger, no matter what, it all comes down to students. She devotes countless hours to coaching, fundraising for team travel, compliance, and a host of other responsibilities. The equestrian team holds the highest GPA of any athletic team on campus. “We are not a club, we are an NCAA sport with athletes, and scholarships, and an astounding six-year record of success,” Leininger beams. She is proud, and she has a right to be. They are more than just successful as a team; her students have gone on to great success after graduation, and it is important to remember, Leininger is just reaching her stride. There is definitely more to come from this coach and her riders.

Since spring 2010, eleven students have graduated and gone on to attend veterinary school including the following alumni:

**2013**
- Sara Scott
- Jessica Charles – member of the hunt seat team
- Blake Setness
- Samantha Zuck-Roscoe

**2012**
- Kayla Klehr
- Sara Wells – hunt seat team captain

**2011**
- Heather Donati-Lewis
- Laura Critchett - hunt seat team captain

**2010**
- Nicole Veres – hunt seat team captain
- Megan Hannon
- Mindy Nieuwboer
Handling all in Stride

Brooke Leininger competing her mare Godiva at the FEI Prix St George level at the Sundance Dressage Festival in Lake Elmo, Minn., in June 2013.

© Carolyn von Hauck
Born to be Wild

She was catching frogs while other girls were playing with Barbie™, and when it came to school, science and math came easier. Senior Jenny DuBay cherishes time spent fishing with her dad, and she credits him with instilling her interest in nature and setting her on a course to major in wildlife management.

DuBay is not one to hang back when it comes to preparing for the future. She has been involved in two internships with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. One of them with the Shallow Lakes Survey Project, designed to assess current habitat conditions and management effectiveness, and the other banding ducks. The former had DuBay working for Alumna Jessica VanDuyn ’08.

Her mode of operation is to take on only projects she is determined to finish, including organizing students to attend their first-ever Student Conclave at the annual conference of The Wildlife Society. It also meant competing at the conference in the Wildlife Quiz Bowl and taking home first place as member of the team.

She has served as the vice president of the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society and the Crookston Student Association representative for the Natural Resources Club. Most recently, DuBay has been involved in an undergraduate research project with Assistant Professor Katy Smith. Together, Smith and DuBay are examining the certain plants and the hyper-accumulation of phosphorus. The project has been going on for more than a year and it will conclude for DuBay with the completion of a senior thesis on the work. However, the research will
be ongoing as funding was recently secured for continued work on the project.

Her first trip to the campus in Crookston sold DuBay on the degree program. She was a community college transfer student who knew what she was after and found Crookston to be a great fit. She was also persuaded when she received a handwritten note from Professor Dan Svedarsky after her visit. “I felt I had found what I was after on my initial visit,” says DuBay. “And, a few weeks into the semester, I knew I had.”

She loved classes in ecology, taught by Assistant Professor Matt Simmons, and ornithology taught by Associate Professor John Loegering. “The prescribed burn and radio telemetry was a lot of fun with Matt Simmons,” she says. “And, it is hard not to pick up on the passion John Loegering has for birds. The birding labs were just awesome.”

“I hit the ground running when I came here,” DuBay continues. “I wanted to make up for the time I had missed, but now I try not to spread myself so thin.” That is a bit hard to believe when she talks about her experience in the major. She has been bud capping, woodcock banding at the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge to assist a U of M graduate school student with a research project, duck banding, and attending as many conferences and networking opportunities as possible. She attributes her success to the help of her advisor Phil Baird and the other natural resources faculty.

“I treat this student experience as much like a professional as I can,” DuBay remarks. “I want to make connections that will help me in the future. I want to leave here more than ready for the next challenge.”

It would seem DuBay is well on her way.
Mixing Law and Numbers

When it comes to numbers, Ken Bulie has the law on his side. In fact with 25 years of business experience, a law degree, a background in farming, and his CPA with an aptitude for numbers, Bulie, who teaches in the Business Department, has a wealth of knowledge on a plethora of subjects. And, this expertise is what Bulie brings to the classroom to the benefit of his students.

He graduated with his bachelor’s degree in business education and planned to teach high school. A foray into the business world took him away from high school students, but prepared him well for college students in a future he had not yet imagined.

“I stopped at the University of

Leading by Example

He’s upbeat. He’s hilarious. He’s energetic. All words used by friends to describe Senior Brant Moore. The business management major from St. Paul, Minn., is also highly motivated and excited about what the future holds.

Moore came to the Crookston campus to play football. “I always thought I would be a college football star,” Moore says. “But, I cut my athletic career short to focus on academics. I changed my major a number of times before coming back to where I started in business management.”

He hopes his legacy to the campus will be the traditions he leaves behind. He helped revive the Black Student Association along with initiating the club’s Super Bowl party. He has also been instrumental in the establishment of the annual homecoming powder puff football game where freshmen take on returners for an exciting game of flag football on the Campus Mall.

His efforts have been instrumental in his development as a student leader and as a community advisor in residential life. “I am thought of as the tough community advisor, and I have never thought of myself as strict,” Moore smiles. “Being a community advisor has actually transformed me.

“Taking an active role in clubs has given me the opportunity to practice some of the things we learn in business,” Moore continues. “I have learned to network, build relationships, and offer leadership. Clubs are the place to practice what I learn in class.”

He has a long list of campus involvement including the National Society for Leadership and Success, Enactus, serving as a Student Ambassador, and membership on a number of campus committees. He also plays intramural basketball.

Moore has been accepted into graduate programs at two universities, but he is not rushing to a decision. He is interested in a career, and if the right thing comes along, he will take it. For him, graduate school is the back-up plan.

What Moore loves is working with
North Dakota one day to see what it would take to prepare to sit for the CPA exam,” Bulie says. “And, I left with my schedule filled with classes. After I earned my CPA, I headed to law school.”

He started teaching at the Grand Forks Air Force Base at Park University as well as in Devils Lake, N.D., at Lake Region State College, where, years earlier, he had earned his associate degree. He continued teaching until 2007, when he accepted a position teaching accounting at the U of M Crookston.

The campus has long had a volunteer program helping prepare taxes at the Golden Link in Crookston, Minn., but Bulie decided to expand the program and offer a certificate in taxation. “I felt that students who had experience in tax preparation would be better prepared for the job market,” Bulie explains. “Danny Lee ’13, who was one of my students, helped with the application to be an official tax preparation site and we are now an IRS approved site.”

Students do the tax preparation and Bulie reviews it. The returns are also reviewed an additional time by another tax preparer according to IRS guidelines before being submitted. “It is a great experience for students and also a great service to the community,” Bulie says. The efforts were rewarded by the Outstanding Service Learning Faculty Award, which was presented to Bulie last spring.

The Business Department focuses on quality in online teaching and learning, and Bulie has experience both on site and online. With the addition of the finance degree in 2013, he finds himself busier than ever. “Finance incorporates a lot from our major in accounting, but it is broader and covers topics including insurance, money and banking, investments, and estate planning,” he adds. “It is a great degree for someone interested in returning to school to complete a degree they started earlier or for someone looking at a career change.”

Along with his real-world experience, Bulie encourages students to take their pursuit of a degree seriously. “This program is diverse, and we have a nice range of majors and minors with a strong mix of courses,” he states. “As a student here, you have greater access to members of the faculty because class sizes are smaller, and as faculty, we have a greater ability to put the student first and that is what we strive to do.”

people and his goal is to have an influence on them. He is considering management training programs that could help him use his leadership skills in the workplace.

Even though he came to campus unsure of a major, the broadness of business appeals to him. “I love the variety within the major; it offers a great amount of flexibility,” Moore says. “I would have regretted not majoring in business. It is where I belong.”

He works in the Center for Rural Entrepreneurial Studies on campus and interned at the Crookston Chamber of Commerce. He grabs opportunities to be involved and to serve the campus.

It is true. Moore will leave a legacy on the campus. The greatest legacy of all might be his openness, energy, and leadership ability. Those are the things he has used to make a real difference here and what he will use to make a difference wherever he lives and works.

Note: Since the story was written, Moore has accepted a job with Frito Lay.
In Accounting, Everyone Counts

He visited campus in a snowstorm and Senior Ross Sigler has been storming through his college career ever since. The accounting major is treasurer for the Crookston Student Association, the student governing body on campus. It also means he chairs the finance committee that determines the financial allocation for the student clubs.

Sigler’s involvement doesn’t stop there, he is the coordinator of Peer Connections, a campus mentoring group; served for two years as an orientation leader; a member of the Accounting and Finance Society; and tutors students in accounting in the Academic Assistance Center.

His dream job would be to work on the finance side of a sports team, but for now, Sigler is polishing his leadership skills by encouraging students to have input on the proposed wellness center and considers the future of that project to be a legacy of his and his fellow students time on campus. “I think we are here to advocate for students of the future,” Sigler believes. “We value everyone’s input on this project.”

He had a leadership example on campus before he began. His cousin Alumnus Chris Waltz, a 2009 graduate, was instrumental in leading the effort, along with Erick Elgin ’09, for the LEED certification of Evergreen Hall. “I heard great things about this place from Chris,” Sigler says. “And, he was influential in my decision to choose Crookston over others.”
A bit of a political aficionado, Sigler, who was president of the student body in his high school in Wheaton, Minn., enjoys the debate and conflict that are an integral part of the political system. He credits Senior Kayla Bellrichard, a management major from Elk River, Minn., with getting him involved in student government on the Crookston campus.

As an accounting major, Sigler is planning to sit for the certified public accountant exam and adding a minor in finance. He has loved math since high school and always felt this was the major he wanted to pursue. “I really enjoyed my high school accounting teacher,” he recalls. “I believe my high school accounting experience helped determine my future career in the field.”

Outside of accounting and finance, he enjoyed his classes in business, particularly principles of management.

Nearing the end of his college career, Sigler looks back and says, “The people here are the best. I like the size of the campus and the campus culture. I made the right choice.”

Most memorable for him remains his participation on campus. He recommends students get involved, but before they do, “They should take their time,” he reflects. “And, look at their options, and join clubs and organizations that are the right fit for them.”

Good advice from someone who has the experience and expertise to back it up.

Senior Ross Sigler (left) was originally recruited by Senior Kayla Bellrichard to serve as treasurer of the Crookston Student Association.
Online Learning Takes Discipline and Motivation

In order for Senior Tiffany Gerhart to be a successful online student, she had to put into practice writing “to-do” lists and managing every moment of her time. As the mother to four daughters ages five to fifteen, she also found the support of her spouse to be critical.

Gerhart, with the help of her husband, Bob, is working on a degree in management and has enjoyed the flexibility she finds with online learning. Attending a brick and mortar institution just wasn’t going to work for her and her busy family. From Maple Grove, Minn., she is currently employed as an administrative assistant and hopes that earning her baccalaureate degree will open doors to new opportunities for her in the future maybe as a supervisor or manager.

Never idle, Gerhart is active in the parent teacher organization at her children’s school as well as in her community. Even though her free time is extremely limited, she remains motivated and enthusiastic about pursuing her degree. “A degree from UMC means accomplishment,” Gerhart says. “For me this is more than a degree, it is my goal to inspire my daughters to go to college. I want them to see how much work it is, but then, I want them to witness what a difference a college degree can make in your life and career.”

Her family can attest to having those pesky to-do lists scattered around the house, but they remain her greatest motivation. “Bob keeps me going when I need the support,” she smiles. “And my daughters give me the reason to keep moving ahead.”

The Gerhart family was on campus for the first time during homecoming in October 2013. The entire family enjoyed meeting people and participating in some of the homecoming activities. It proved a great opportunity for Tiffany to meet faculty and staff and for her to see her future alma mater.

She knows that online students have a lot to manage because many of them are working and supporting families. She understands that two of the most important things one needs when considering an online education are discipline and motivation. “You will not have regular reminders like you would if you were on-site,” she reflects. “You will need a great support team who understands at home. That support helps keep you on track and gives you the push you need.”

Gerhart chose the U of M Crookston because she wanted a degree from a recognized institution and one without the word “online” in the name. “My first college experience was not what I expected, and I did extensive research when I decided to pursue a degree online because I wanted to be sure of what I was getting into,” she explains. “I found exactly what I was looking for in an online degree from the University of Minnesota Crookston. I have the flexibility I need, and I am earning the degree I want from an institution recognized all over the world.”
Torch
Volume 46, Number 1, Fall 2014
Torch is a publication of the University of Minnesota Crookston.

Director of Development & Alumni Relations
Corby Kemmer
218-281-8434
ckemmer@umn.edu

Support Staff
Rose Ulseth ’87
218-281-8439
rulseth@umn.edu
Sue Sudwyer ’74
218-281-8401
sdwyer@umn.edu

UMCAA Board
Chris Avender ’11
Donna Hartel ’07
Rory Held ’11
Nancie Hoerner ’95
Amy (Loomer) Longtin ’99
Juanita Lopez ’08
Carl Melbye ’77
Jordan Melbye ’12
Linda (Knutson) Morgan ’85 & ’09
Greg Nathan ’98
Karl Syverson ’11
Bill Thielke ’94

NWSA Alumni Association Board
Jim Chandler ’67
Don Diedrich ’56
Allan Dragseth ’57
Jeannette (Love) Filpi ’57
David Haugo ’52
Bob Kliner ’59
Melvin Larson ’55
Berner Nelson ’42, ex officio
Clarice (Olson) Stolaas ’56
Beulah (Stolaas) Vad ’58
Jean (Stromstad) Vigness-Parker ’55

Contact information:
Torch
Elizabeth Tollefson ’02, editor
University of Minnesota Crookston
2900 University Avenue
Crookston, Minnesota 56716
Phone: 218-281-8432
Fax: 218-281-8440
E-mail: umctorch@umn.edu

The University of Minnesota Crookston is a public, baccalaureate, coeducational institution and a coordinate campus of the University of Minnesota. The Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA) was a residential high school serving students from 1906-68 and the predecessor of the Crookston campus. The Torch is named for the historical passing of the educational torch between the NWSA and the U of M Crookston in 1968.

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.

Layout and design by Amy Chandler
Design of Grand Forks, N.D., and printed at Forum Communications Printing in Fargo, N.D.

Printed on recycled and recyclable paper with at least 10 percent post-consumer material using agribased inks.

On the front cover: Freshmen Kelci Green, left, a biology major from Anoka, Minn., and Erin Schwarz, right, a freshman from Eden Prairie, Minn., who has yet to determine her major, both play volleyball for the Golden Eagles.

On the back cover, illumination feature:
Note: In the Torch, logos from campus history appear in stories corresponding to the era in which they were in official use according to the years indicated below.
Golden Eagle logo (1966-1995)
Aggie “A” logo (1906-1966)
Handling the Earth with Care

After his awakening at the foot of a tree, Buddha would live and meditate in nature for the rest of his life. He claimed the reasons to be both personal benefit and concern for future generations. The practice of caring for the earth is inherent to the Buddhist religion. The practice is also a reason seniors and cousins Tashi Gurung and Gyaltsa “Abu” Gurung are majoring in environmental science and natural resources respectively.

“Growing up in Mustang, Nepal, my Tibetan Buddhist upbringing taught me that we should take care of the planet,” says Tashi. “Majoring in environmental science heightened my awareness and intensified my understanding of why it is so very important.”

For Abu, the focus is on wildlife and saving the endangered snow leopard, a cat native to the mountain ranges in Central Asia. He had the opportunity last summer to work on greenhouse gas research with Assistant Professor Katy Smith in an area sugar beet field. This research, while not distinctly in his major, gave him the opportunity to work across disciplines.

“I love every professor here,” Abu admits. “They are knowledgeable in their field and are accessible to students.”

Tashi says one of his favorite classes has been introduction to natural resources taught by Associate Professor Phil Baird. “When Phil is teaching, my friend is teaching,” he says. “I can ask any questions I want.”

Both the Gurungs felt the influence of Professor Dan Svedarsky. “I want to be like...”

When Learning and Research Intersect

It is in the campus DNA. Putting students first has been our focus since our early days as the Northwest School of Agriculture. Assistant Professor Omar Al-Azzam carries on that legacy and finds deep satisfaction in working closely with his software engineering students on research.

Al-Azzam came to the United States from Jordan following the completion of his master’s degree. After working for a couple of years, he found himself yearning to combine teaching with his passion for research. That desire resulted in an application to North Dakota State University (NDSU), Fargo, where he completed his doctorate.

His research background is in bioinformatics and data mining, and he spent the last five years mapping the wheat genome in a cooperative effort with his advisor at NDSU, and colleagues from California-Davis, and Oregon State University. This ongoing research continues as they work on genome and gene discovery with support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The human genome has been fully sequenced and Al-Azzam says that techniques from human genome mapping can be applied to mapping the wheat genome.

Faculty research has significant implications for undergraduates on the Crookston campus because faculty bring research and research techniques directly to the classroom.

“Students form groups to work on a course project worth 25 percent of their grade,” Al-Azzam explains. “In my database management systems class, we develop a system that could work for a real-life problem. Students propose topics and choose a question to solve as a group.”

He has found that meeting bi-weekly with each of the student groups allows him the opportunity to regularly offer feedback and a time for students to ask questions. “I get a progress report from the group, and I help guide the next steps,” he says.

Students have been involved in research outside the classroom with Al-Azzam as well. He and Senior Christopher Walton, a software engineering major from Middle River, Minn., worked on a data mining project together. “I supplied training for Chris and worked closely with him on the functional annotation of genes,” Al-
Tashi and Abu agree.

Tashi was awarded the prestigious U of M Scholarly Excellence in Equity and Diversity (SEED) award last fall. The SEED awards program honors and acknowledges diverse students who are doing outstanding work at the University of Minnesota, both in and out of the classroom. One of Tashi’s goals was a clean water project in his home country of Nepal.

“Last summer, I completed a clean water project in my village in Nepal. It had an impact on more than 2,000 lives by providing clean drinking water for the community,” Tashi explained. When the villagers expressed their gratitude and appreciation, Tashi realized that what was a project for him was a blessing to them, and the experience has become a powerful moment in his life.

Tashi and Abu graduated in December 2013 and are now preparing to head to graduate school. They will miss the campus they say. “We might not miss the place exactly, but we are going to miss the people a lot,” Tashi says. “The people made this campus and community my home.”

Azzam shares, “What I want students to experience is how data mining and warehousing can be used to solve problems in any field.”

Al-Azzam currently is involved in an interdisciplinary proposal to research and predict flooding in the Red River Valley. “We would investigate the use of data mining techniques to determine if a flood might take place,” he says. “We will also use the visualization lab on campus to simulate a situation and determine how the data can help in decision making.”

Students will no doubt be involved in this flood prediction research because Al-Azzam recognizes the benefit to them as well as to the work he is interested in.

In turn, graduates will gain valuable research experience and go on to solve the real world problems they care about. Where learning and research intersect, a great education takes place.
He calls it a leap of faith. When Senior Isaac Osei registered for classes at the U of M Crookston in 2010, he had not visited campus nor had he chosen a major. After attempts at two different majors at two different junior colleges and an ultimatum by his parents, software engineering caught Osei’s attention. “I was intrigued by the degree, but I registered as an undecided student,” he says. But, his early hunch that software engineering was the degree for him was right on.

Osei graduated from high school in Ghana, where he was born, but attended elementary school in the United States. After high school, he returned to his family in the U.S. and went back to high school graduating again seven months later in the U.S.

A natural talent in mathematics, Osei considered majors in mechanical engineering and physics, but after a conversation with his advisor Jingpeng “JP” Tang, he knew he had landed in the right place. “I appreciate the way JP pushes me to be and do my best,” Osei explains. “I think he does that for all his advisees, and it has really made a difference for me.”

His favorite classes thus far are data warehousing and mining along with data management. A proposed research project involving disease prediction will use his skill in data mining to predict an outcome. “The research I hope to work on fits into the field of bioinformatics, which uses computer science, mathematics, and engineering to process biological data,” Osei says. “I think it will be useful to health science students interested in studying abroad to look at the types of diseases affecting a population and how they can help.”

Continued on page 20...
Cellular Communication

In far off Ghana, he is working beside doctors and nurses in a medical facility. This senior and health sciences and biology double major immerses himself in all aspects of the experience. Andrew Steinfeldt wants to be a doctor and with the medical college admission test behind him, medical school is exactly where he is headed.

Initially not interested in attending college, Steinfeldt came to the University of Minnesota Crookston to play football and finished his final season with the Golden Eagles last fall. What he discovered in the classroom was an interest in biology and along with it an affinity for scientific research.

“I was fascinated by the smallest interactions that must occur for humans to function from day to day,” Steinfeldt explains. That interest probably explains the reason organic chemistry has been his favorite class. “I found going down to the mechanistic level made much of what I learned in biology make sense.”

He was involved with Venu Mukku and Brian Dingmann, who both teach in the Math, Science, and Technology Department, in the study of secondary bioactive metabolites, organic compounds not involved directly in an organism’s normal growth, development, or reproduction.

He distills much of his collegiate career to a triad of choices. “There are three things that are important to me as a college student,” he smiles. “I cannot have all three so I picked ‘having a life’ and studying as my two priorities, which means, I have at times had to forego sleep.”

Steinfeldt’s favorite haunts on campus for studying are the Library and the Academic Assistance Center. He also tutors students in anatomy and physiology as well as organic chemistry. He has been involved in

Continued on page 20...
Landing after a Leap cont...

“It could also prove beneficial to non-profit organizations and help in the design of software,” he continues. “And, of course, it would provide data to implement into our own labs and GIS courses.”

Last summer Osei worked closely with Mark Gill in the Undergraduate Collaborative Learning and Experiential Applied Research (UCLEAR) Lab. “Working with Mark provided me with a solid internship experience where I was managing version control.

“Working together as a team helped keep the work interesting, and it also gave me the opportunity to weigh in on decisions,” he reflects.

What Osei likes best about his undergraduate experience is the opportunity to be involved with professors on projects, building teams, and working on bonding and socializing skills.

“Sometimes people who develop software focus on their work and ignore the chance to be social,” he smiles. “In this program we work on software solutions as well as our people skills. I think that is what makes this program special and why once I landed here, I never left.”

Cellular Communication cont...

the revival of Students for the Education of Environmental and Life Sciences (SEELS) on campus and a member of Alpha Lambda Delta, the student honor society.

Amidst all the activity, Steinfeldt played football and appreciates the lessons football has taught him. “What you learn on the field, you apply off the field,” he concludes. “And, I have learned a lot on the field.”

He also helped coach football and led his Youth NFL flag football team to victory last fall. His team, the Packers, beat the opposition to take the title in the league sponsored by the Golden Eagles and the Crookston Park & Recreation designed for third and fourth graders. For this native from Green Bay, Wis., winning the Super Bowl was special for his team and for him along with fellow coach, Tyler Hansen, a junior from Morris, Minn., majoring in natural resources.

A summer ago, Steinfeldt was selected for a research internship in Milwaukee, Wis., at the Medical College, gaining valuable experience focusing on mitochondrial research related to heart attacks. He has applied to a number of medical schools and is interested in being a doctor in a rural setting or perhaps a career in medical research.

It looks like he will have a life in the sciences and it won’t matter which avenue he takes, Steinfeldt will prioritize his opportunities and stick with the ones that matter to him. It has worked for him so far, and there is no reason it won’t continue to guide him in the future.
It might not show in his demeanor, but the evidence proves Senior Jesse Jennings is focused on law. The criminal justice major from Robbinsdale, Minn., plans to make the law his life and he is set on a path destined to take him there.

“I enjoy school, and academics has always been important to me,” Jennings says. “I was recruited to play baseball at Crookston, and I didn’t think I would have the chance to play ball and pursue a degree related to the law field.” A visit to campus sealed the deal and Jennings combined Golden Eagle Baseball with the pursuit of his degree.

“My grandparents on my dad’s side were both in the military, and I had some interest there, but I really wanted to go to college,” Jennings recalls. “My dad told me to get involved on campus and not just earn my degree.” He took those words to heart; besides playing baseball and studying, he serves as the Regents Representative for the Crookston Student Association, is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, Alpha Lambda Delta, and the Student Athletic Advisory Committee. He also tutors students in statistics and any of the criminal justice classes.

He was certain he would be heading to law school after graduation, and he says the textbook in his criminal law class is more like a novel to him. “I am so interested in criminal law, and in many ways, the class provides insight into what the future may hold for me,” Jennings explains.

“My student experience has given me more than I expected, and I now see that my degree opens up other opportunities and more than just law school. I am also finding federal law enforcement intriguing.”

Jennings thinks playing baseball has only enhanced his academic experience by teaching him right from the start to stay on top of his class work. “There are requirements we have as student-athletes, and they are in place to help us succeed,” he recalls. “I know that they contributed to my early success as a student.”

As the Regents Representative, Jennings recounts meeting members of the Board of Regents and networking with students from the other U of M campuses as well. “I have been impressed by the work of both Board members and the student representatives from the system campuses,” Jennings says. “I enjoy being a part of what is happening with the capital request for a wellness center on the Crookston campus and lending my voice to the discussion.”

Jennings is considering starting a law club for students interested in careers in law with baseball teammate Sophomore Trevor Buttermore. “I like the idea of having a club where students interested in the law can come together from across majors and connect,” he states. “I think it would be a great opportunity to exchange ideas, network with professionals, and share our mutual interest.”

The club might still be in the early stages, but Jennings is looking ahead to the Law School Admission Test. He will finish his final season of baseball, and with his undergraduate degree in hand, he is set for the next step, and it’s the one he has been ready to take for a long time.
They are headed to the computer lab. In groups of four, the buzzing groups of fifth graders will research biomes in preparation for designing a poster and presentation for their class. But, even before they headed to the lab, Senior Alyssa Schneider asked them two important questions: What do you already know and what do you want to know?

When they finish the unit, she will follow up with one final question: What did you learn? “Students ask questions that help shape the unit,” she says. “And from those questions, I know what I need to cover even if it is outside the textbook. It is our opportunity to find out together the answers to our questions.”

Schneider came to the University of Minnesota Crookston from Racine, Wis., to play volleyball and to major in the health sciences. Her desire has long been to help children so she was considering a career as a pediatric physical therapist. In her second semester on campus, she found herself revisiting her goals. “I was doing well in the classes in health science, but I wasn’t enjoying them in the way I thought I should be,” Schneider explains. “I love science, I love math, and I love children, and I wanted a major that had the potential for me to combine all three. That’s when I decided I needed to consider teaching.”

As an elementary education major, Schneider discovered her way to help children. It was a perfect match. She delights in seeing elementary students make connections. “They comprehend a great deal, and watching them grasp concepts and relate them is really exciting for me,” she smiles.

Her interest in teaching might be attributed to important teachers in her own life. She recalls her first grade teacher.
Senior Alyssa Schneider says labs and field experiences in elementary education helped confirm that teaching was the career for her.

who inspired students with her positive, upbeat attitude along with her high school anatomy teacher who made learning fun by engaging students in activities to help them remember. “We were always doing something in anatomy class,” Schneider says. “And, doing is the way I learn best.” It is also the way she loves to teach.

Schneider credits another teacher, her advisor, Marsha Odom, with playing a key role in her success. “Marsha Odom has been so supportive and provided guidance all along the way,” she shares. “I am so grateful to her. Elementary education majors benefit so much from her experience and knowledge in the field.”

In the spring, Schneider will be student teaching at Highland Elementary in Crookston. Following graduation, she will take the two tests necessary to teach in her home state where she hopes to land a job teaching in fourth or fifth grade. “I knew teaching was for me after my first field experience in the second semester of my sophomore year,” she reflects. “After observing, we had the chance to teach, and I taught a class on vertebrates. I was nervous, but once I started, I was comfortable right away and I loved it.

“I just knew from that moment on, I was where I belonged.”

Thessaloniki and Thebes.

For the past two years, Berg has kept herself busy by working at the information desk on campus. She is also part of Alpha Lambda Delta (ALD), which is an honor society for students who have maintained a 3.5 or higher GPA and are in the top 20% of their class during their first year or term of higher education. Berg is also involved with the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS), an organization that helps people discover and achieve their goals.
The tinkle of test tubes in the lab, the chime of an alarm clock at 4 a.m. to watch prairie chickens boom, or crafting the perfect title for that first work of fiction—it’s research that takes the theoretical out of the classroom and places it in the hands of students. The new Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Barbara Keinath believes research opens doors to discovery, teaches decision-making skills, and strengthens relationships between faculty and students.

“Individuals uncover a passion and/or a talent in different ways,” Keinath points out. “For some students, research opens that door. For others, it’s a creative work under the guidance of a faculty mentor. We know campus engagement helps students connect and stay on to earn a degree, and research is a powerful form of engagement.”

Another value in undergraduate research is the method used to approach a question and seek a solution. “Many jobs require the kind of thinking you use in research,” she continues. “It is a good mental model for the work we do in our careers and as members of society.”

Faculty take on more than a teaching role when engaging with a student in research. That mentoring relationship provides students with the opportunity for learning beyond the classroom.

Keinath has been a part of the University of Minnesota Crookston since July 1, 2013, and she is enjoying her new role. “I like the broad focus I have to take on this campus,” she says. “I am pleased and proud to be a part of the University of Minnesota, and I am enjoying the breadth and depth of the work.”

She provides leadership and vision for the academic side of the institution, and beyond academic affairs, she assists with leadership for the institution as a whole. As vice chancellor, her skills are directed to strategic planning as well. “I love the study of how organizations work, and my interest makes leading the strategic planning process rewarding and fun,” she explains.

Keinath provides administrative leadership for another critical process, the assessment of student learning outcomes. Faculty establish student learning outcomes and assess how well students are achieving those outcomes. It’s really about continuous improvement of learning and teaching. “We are dedicated to continuous improvement, even having chosen a continuous improvement pathway to maintain our regional accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission. Our approach/style/philosophy is not to rest on the past but to commit ourselves to staying vital and relevant,” she states.

Her evolution as a campus administrator has taken her from teaching management courses, to the director of online learning at Metropolitan State University, to vice provost and dean of graduate studies there.

The Michigan native brings her experience to the U of M Crookston, and along with it, a love for education that runs deep. “I went back to school for my master’s degree in two years after my baccalaureate, and I haven’t left college since that time,” Keinath smiles. “I have an endless love for learning, which means I am doing what I love in an atmosphere I thoroughly enjoy. I could not be in a better place, and I am excited to be a part of moving the Crookston campus forward.”
Hello everyone and thank you for being here. I am honored to have been given the opportunity to speak to you tonight. My name is Mikala Guidinger, I am a junior here at UMC, and I am a business management major from Rochester, Minnesota.

When I was first presented with this chance to speak tonight, I couldn’t have been more thrilled to not only share my story with you, but the story about how I came to be who I am here at UMC.

When I began my adventure of applying to colleges, I focused on large schools with prominent veterinary programs. I always pictured myself as a large-school kind of person, after all, I was involved in high school as captain of my speech team, member of several orchestra groups, marching band, student government, and other clubs. The last thing on my mind was a school the same size as my high school in the middle of northwest Minnesota where ten below feels like a heat wave.

All joking aside, coming into my senior year of high school I was ready to head off to Colorado State University – I had been accepted, gone through the financial aid process, and was ready to go. However, one day, I found UMC online and something told me that I just had to visit. I applied on a Monday and was visiting the following Friday. My grandparents and I packed up the car and made the 6 hour trek to Crookston. The moment I stepped foot onto campus, I realized why I had been drawn by such curiosity and interest to UMC – this was it, I was ‘home.’

There is no greater feeling than a sense of belonging, and I can honestly say that almost anybody that comes to this campus will feel it. Where else will you find 43 states and 20 countries represented? Where the flags of all our students are proudly displayed? Where you can eat an authentic Korean dinner with your friend down the hall one night and be learning Norwegian the next? Right here, at the University of Minnesota Crookston. Where the campus thrives on diversity and individuality, but yet comes together as a cohesive community.

That was another thing that really stuck out to me, and still does to this day. The sense of community here amazes me each and every day. It is impossible to walk across campus without someone greeting you, seeing someone you know, or being met with a passing friendly gesture.

UMC is not just a community of students, but a community of students with an impressive 87 percent placement rate after graduation, graduating with a worldly recognized degree, from now the number ONE midwest public regional college in the U.S. News rankings.

Needless to say, UMC is by far my favorite place to be. My experience here has changed me as a person tremendously and shaped me into someone that I am proud to be. During my time here, I have developed my passion and skill for working with people and turned it into a Business Management degree. I have become involved with Student Ambassadors, am a member of the Women’s Equestrian team, work in UTOC – our beautiful equine facility, the Eagle’s Nest, and am a student manager at the Evergreen Grill.

I have truly made the most of my time here and my story is just one of many. Although we, as students, are all unique, we do have one thing in common. We wouldn’t be where or who we are today if it weren’t for each and every one of you and your contributions to this school, to scholarships, and to the student experience. On behalf of all the students at UMC whose lives you’ve touched, and from the bottom of my heart I sincerely say “thank you.”

Thank you, Donors!
It was a privilege learning so early in life the importance of higher education from my parents, both of whom were first generation college students. In 2012 my parents retired, my dad, a respected university professor, and mom, a former elementary teacher turned banker. Frequently they would discuss their college experience and how education truly makes lives better, communities stronger, and allows aspirations to come true.

Chancellor Wood and I are fortunate to witness the awe-inspiring reactions of individuals as they tour the Harris A. Peterson Classroom that opened in 2013 and observe the expressions of students as they receive scholarship awards and the heartfelt emotions of donors, or as I prefer to call them “investors,” as they invest dollars in support of students, scholarships, facilities, research and more to make this magnificent campus strong and competitive.

I recall a recent conversation with Crookston Student Association President Alexmai Addo. She stated, “Corby, in twenty years, I plan to give you a check to see my name on a new building on campus.” An ambitious goal, certainly, but as a senior in college, Alexmai is already thinking of ways to give back and invest in UMC, how great!

As we forge ahead, our top initiatives for private investments include scholarships, a transformational new wellness center and field turf for Ed Widseth Field. These are not wishes but critical needs for students and the campus. Like Alexmai, do you see your name on a wellness center, football stadium, scholarship fund, or other initiative? If so, contact me and you will see how your investments changes lives for the better, strengthen the campus, and help make needs reality.

Fiscal year 2013 (July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013) was our seventh consecutive year of private fund growth due to the the incredible generosity and support of each of you. Your investments which surpassed $1,210,000 in the University of Minnesota Crookston made FY13 our third best year in campus development history.

Allow me to convey my sincere thanks and deep sense of gratitude to our NWSA and UMC alumni, faculty and staff, the Crookston community, and the numerous friends and supporters from across the state and nation for your continued support.

Your investments strengthen this campus, touch the lives of many, and make the region stronger. Thank you, and together we can continue this philanthropic trend to support a new transformational wellness center, field turf, increased scholarships and so much more.

Thank you very much!

Corby Kemmer
Director
Development & Alumni Relations
McNamee Family “Christmas Camp 2013”

Since 2003, the Robert McNamee ’53 family of 14 children, spouses, and grandchildren, has celebrated the holidays together “camp style.” Every other year, they rent a bible camp lodge near their family farm and spend four days together sharing meals, playing games, putting together puzzles, sledding, playing hockey, taking part in a cribbage tournament, and exchanging gifts. Identified by corresponding number are McNamee alumni of the University of Minnesota Crookston.

(1) Robert McNamee ’53 was an active athlete and played football and wrestled at the Northwest School of Agriculture. Now retired, he had a cattle and small grain farm east of Mahnomen, Minn., which continues to be farmed by some of the sons and one grandson. He and his wife, Kay, raised 14 children, seven sons and seven daughters. Bob and Kay reside in the family’s original farm house and enjoy traveling and spending time with their 22 grandchildren.

(2) Dan McNamee ’80 and his wife, Deb, have a farm east of Mahnomen, as well. They have four children, three daughters and a son.

(3) Chuck McNamee ex. ’96 is married to Jennifer and they have three children. They live in Nevis, Minn., where Jennifer teaches preschool. Chuck is co-owner of Angling Unlimited, Inc., a charter fishing and lodge in Sitka, Alaska. He and his family spend summers in Sitka for the sports fishing season.

(4) Kevin McNamee ex. ’97 also has a charter fishing company, Island View Resort & Charters, in Sitka, Alaska. In the off season, he and his family of three children live in northern Idaho.

(5) Annette (McNamee) Becker ’01 lives in Sitka, Alaska with her husband, Marty, and their three children. Annette is executive director for the Youth Advocates of Sitka, whose mission is to support the mental health of Alaska’s youth and their families.

(6) Beverly (McNamee) VanAlstine ’02 played on the women’s basketball team for four years and also served as captain. She has lived in Duluth, Minn., since 2005 and is married to Jon. Beverly is a residential realtor for RE/MAX 1 in Duluth.

(7) Amanda McNamee ’10, Fargo, N.D., recently graduated with a second degree in education from Minnesota State University Moorhead. She began student teaching in Ulen, Minn., in January 2014.
1970s

Bob LeCocq ’76, Rochester, Minn., was recently recognized by the Minnesota Milk Producers Association (MMPA) with the 2013 Bruce Cottington Friend of Dairy award. He was presented with the award for his lifelong passion and dedication to helping the dairy industry succeed. Bob is a senior financial services executive at AgStar Financial Services and serves on various advisory committees for the MMPA. He’s pictured (left) with Dave Buck, vice president of the MMPA.

1980s

Ag Arama 2014, held January 25, was dedicated to Susan Jacobson ’87 & ’96, horticulture instructor. Sue has worked at the U of M Crookston for the past twenty years and is excited to be teaching the very classes that stimulated her own interests from the beginning. She is heavily involved in the community she lives in and is part of many professional affiliations including the Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association. She and her husband, David, make their home in Fertile, Minn. Sue, a 2013 Outstanding Alumni, plans to retire at the end of the academic year.

Each year, students and faculty in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department dedicate Ag Arama to someone who has been influential in agriculture at the U of M Crookston.

1990s

Karla (Thormodson) Isley ’98, Reiles Acres, N.D., was recently promoted to vice president of contract administration at Noridian Healthcare Solutions LLC in Fargo, N.D. She is responsible for all contractual requirements of the company’s federal contracts and for providing support for the company’s state Medicaid and health insurance exchange programs. She and her husband, Michael, recently welcomed their first child, a son, born in early October during Homecoming 2013.

Mark and Amy (Loomer) Longtin ’99, West Fargo, N.D., announce the arrival of their daughter, Brooke Jean Longtin. She was born July 26, 2013, was 7 lbs. 4 oz., and 19.5 inches long. Amy is currently employed at General Equipment as a systems administrator.

2000s

Jonathan and Holly (Erickson) Messner ’03, Hancock, Minn., are the proud parents of Chase Lee Messner, born on November 11, 2013. He weighed 8 lbs. and was 21 inches long.

2010s

Jordan Jacobson ’10 and Kimberly (Kuehn) Jacobson ’11 were married September 14, 2013, in Stillwater, Minn. They make their home in Eau Claire, Wis. Kimberly was recently promoted to merchandise planner trainee at the Menards Corporate Office in Eau Claire.
Nicholas Zawacki ’10 and Megan (Kramer) Zawacki ’12 were married October 13, 2012, in Sioux Falls, S.D. They currently live in Lincoln, Neb., where Nicholas works at Cabela’s CLUB Visa as a marketing manager. Megan is an adoption counselor for Capital Humane Society.

Alisha Asness ’12 from Fergus Falls, Minn., has been hired as an admissions counselor in the Office of Admissions and Enrollment Management. She comes to the University of Minnesota Crookston from Colorful Seasons Garden Center in Alexandria, Minn., where she served as a nursery and greenhouse technician. She has also served as special events coordinator of Double A Catering and board operator for Lakes Radio, both in Fergus Falls.

Matt Schmitz ’12 from St. Cloud, Minn., was recently hired as a police officer with the Crookston Police Department. He had previously served as a reserve officer in the Crookston department.

Wemimo Abbey ’13 from Lagos, Nigeria, is a graduate student at NYU Wagner, New York, N.Y., and currently serves as vice president of the Wagner Student Alliance for Africa (WSAFA). WSAFA submitted a proposal to discuss Clean Water for Everyone, an organization founded by Abbey, at a special gathering of First Ladies of Africa during the United Nations session Sept. 17. The submission was approved and Abbey offered the First Ladies a succinct definition of the problem, sketched a brief history of the Clean Water for Everyone organization, and highlighted the “fully solvable” problem of little and limited access to clean water in many developing countries. He participated in a youth leadership forum on Nov. 20, the United Nations’ Children Day, and again spoke on how his organization works to address the clean water shortage at hundreds of schools in Nigeria.

Katie Schneider ’12 from Delano, Minn., has joined Extension as the new 4-H program coordinator in Scott County. She brings her experience in volunteer recruitment and community engagement with diverse audiences in her previous AmeriCorps VISTA appointment along with 14 years of involvement in 4-H to the coordinator position. Katie is pictured with University of Minnesota Crookston co-workers at a December farewell party.

Alumni attended the Higher Ed Alumni Reception at the Northern Green Expo in January. The event was sponsored by the UM Twin Cities, UM Crookston, UW River Falls, and the MNLA. Back row, left to right, are Chad Harrer ’11 - Irrigation by Design; Eric Castle - UMC; Michael Field ’10 - Premium Properties; Cayla Olson ’09 - Thomas Reuters. In the front row are Nate Klicker ’98 - Community Lawn Care; Kevin Leeper ’11 - Winfield Solutions; Theresa Helgeson ’96 - UMC; Alisha Asness ’12 - UMC; Tammy Wroblewski ’12 - AppleOne Employment Service; Kristie Walker - UMC.

Brooke Novak ’13 from Dahlen, N.D., has been hired as a transfer counselor at the University of Minnesota Crookston. She works in the Office of Admissions and Enrollment Management.
In Memory

ALUMNI

Johanna (Nabben) Green ’23
Grafton, N.D.  
(formerly of St. Thomas, N.D.)  
October 5, 2013

Walter Lunsetter ’33 Adv.
Gatzke, Minn.  
November 19, 2013

Elsie (Stengl) Marek ’38
Warren, Minn.  
December 30, 2013

David Johnson ex. ’41
Ada, Minn.  
January 8, 2014

Violet (Battles) Thompson ’43
Marshall, Minn.  
August 8, 2013

Norma (Sylvestre) Swenson ’45
Crookston, Minn.  
December 19, 2013

Wayne Nelson ’46
Roseau, Minn.  
October 27, 2013

Vernon Bratvold ’48
Crookston, Minn.  
November 24, 2013

Raymond Schindler ’48
Thief River Falls, Minn.  
December 8, 2013

Henry Boeddeker ’49
Little Falls, Minn.  
September 20, 2013

Luella (Brekke) Karevold ’50 Adv.
Moorhead, Minn.  
December 23, 2013

Robert Quiner ex. ’50
Lancaster, Minn.  
November 18, 2013

JoAnn (Flatten) Pape ’52
East Grand Forks, Minn.  
November 7, 2013

Patricia “Pat” (Kirk) Porter ’56
Hillsboro, N.D.  
October 20, 2013

Dalmon Larson ’57
Wheat Ridge, Colo.  
November 30, 2013

Joseph Murphy ’64
Grand Forks, N.D.  
December 16, 2013

Richard Peck ’64
Westminster, Colo.  
December 27, 2013

Lois (Sivertson) Ozmun ’65
Burlingame Lake near Danbury, Wis.  
December 1, 2013

DuWayne Johnson ’66
Foxhome, Minn.  
September 18, 2013

FACULTY/STAFF

Benjamin Bakkegard
Fresno, Calif.  
November 2, 2013

Taught English and band at the Northwest School of Agriculture from 1939 to 1942, served as adviser for the Class of 1942, and discovered the joy of teaching at the NWSA

Borgni (Skorpen) Edin
Jamestown, N.D  
December 1, 2011

Taught English at the Northwest School of Agriculture from 1948 to 1952

Silent thoughts of times together  
Hold memories which will last forever.
UPCOMING EVENTS

April 25.........................................................................................................................Teambacker Fun Nite
May 10.........................................................................................................................Commencement for the Class of 2014
June 28.........................................................................................................................NWSA Alumni Reunion
October 17-18..............................................................................................................Homecoming

Agriculture careers today demand scientific knowledge in soils, seeds, the environment and more.

ILLUMINATING THE ROAD THROUGH GROWING FIELDS

Research-based training moves students forward through any field. Discover more at umcrookston.edu