INSIDE

Meet 1968 graduate Jane (Ewing Peterson) Provo who is focused on making a difference every day.

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THE GOLDEN YEARS
Celebrating 50 Years of Higher Education
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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.

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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: Golden Eagle logo (1994 to present), Trojan logo (1966-1995), Aggie “A” logo (1906-1966).
Brandy Chaffee, chief development officer, joined alumnus Les Nielsen 1958 (left) along with his friend and neighbor Rick Peterson (right) for a visit at the Alumni Brew Bash Social at Day Block Brewing in Minneapolis in September.
One of the interesting aspects of a college campus is the melding of a student body that comes from across the country and around the world. Think of it, individually we represent our hometowns, our families, our states and our countries; but together, we represent the same University of Minnesota Crookston. We wear the same colors to represent the school and we share the same spirit.

Watching the alumni hockey game during homecoming, I saw the blending of a team united by a common bond. I witnessed the pride and incredible passion they felt for their sport but also for this institution.

It may be easy for me to feel that same alumni passion because I am one of you, as is much of the staff in our office. It doesn’t matter if we are Aggies, Trojans, or Golden Eagles because the education and experience we had as students makes us one. We come from different places and our futures will lead us to different places, but while we are here, we come from the same place and it’s a good place.

Our alumni go on to careers and professional lives that are as varied as their backgrounds, but when they look back, the past will always lead through this campus. For some of us, education may have taken place online only but our degree reads the same and our online alumni are as much a part of this campus as those who lived and attended classes on site.

As I visit with alumni, I enjoy relating some of the great things happening on campus. Whether it is the work on virtual reality projects in software engineering or the hunt for new antibiotics in chemistry, the excitement about what is happening here runs the gamut. It is, in fact, hard to keep ahead of the plentiful developments across departments and programs.

I have heard stories recounted about the passion that Founding Provost Stan Sahlstrom had for this campus and the ingenuity and innovation of Chancellor Emeritus Don Sargeant. As we celebrate these fifty years of higher education, I am also awed by the steady leadership of Chancellor Emeritus Charles Casey, and as we prepare for Chancellor Fred Wood to leave, I am moved again and again by his love for and connection to students. Standing back, one can see how each of these leaders took us through great change and left us in a better place.

But all the while we are changing, we are staying the same: placing students first and blending together a sense of belonging with a fierce sense of who we are individually.

We go forward together though apart, and we hold on to our history together. We are one as alumni of the University of Minnesota Crookston, and we will carry this institution forward by representing it in our everyday lives no matter where we are or what we do.

Brandy Chaffee 2000
Chief Development Officer
The Chancellor Fred E. Wood announced plans to retire from the University of Minnesota system at the end of 2016. He has served as chancellor at the U of M Crookston since July 2012. Wood shared that he needs to care for his extended family in northern California as the reason he is leaving his leadership position in Crookston—one he has relished at a place he has developed great affection for over his time serving as chancellor.

“Working with this campus and the community of Crookston has been the highlight of my professional career. I know of no group of professionals at any college that cares more about students and their success than the staff and faculty at the U of M Crookston. Certainly, while the weather here is amazing, it is the people that make the campus so truly amazing and such a very special place to work.”

“I also want to thank the community of Crookston, which has been so very supportive of the campus and me during my service as chancellor. It has been
great fun to attend the extraordinary events and to meet so many wonderful people. It is an incredible community, and I have been blessed to have been a part. I can now understand why my mother always had a sparkle in her eye when she spoke of her youth in northwestern Minnesota.”

Finally, Wood said this about the U of M Crookston students in his note to the campus, “You have inspired me every day with your optimism for the future, your hard work and intelligence, and your deep appreciation for the institution. I know of no group of on-campus students who are more committed to their holistic education and have

“You have inspired me every day with your optimism for the future, your hard work and intelligence…”

– Chancellor Fred Wood, speaking about students on campus

philanthropic efforts and/or from university funding sources, for a total of $15 million.

Under Wood’s leadership, the campus announced a $1 million gift to name the lobby of the new wellness facility from 1958 graduate Les Nielsen and his wife, June, and an additional anonymous gift for $1 million for student scholarships.

The Campus Advisory and Advancement Board was established to provide high priority programs and initiatives, actively support advancement, and enhance campus partnerships and service to the community, region and beyond; and in 2013, a strategic planning process was initiated. The campus also completed Heritage Hall, a new residence hall that opened during spring semester 2013 during Wood’s first year as chancellor.

During his tenure, the U of M Crookston added many new degree programs including exercise science and wellness, medical laboratory science, English, international business, entrepreneurship, finance, along with reestablishing a degree in agricultural education. When Wood arrived in 2012, there were 26 majors and 18 minors, today, there are 34 majors and 22 minors and the online programs have grown from 10 in 2012 to 14 degrees in 2016 available completely online.

One of the highlights for Wood is the award given to him by the student body for Outstanding Service to Students in a 2015 awards ceremony. A hallmark of Wood’s administration has been a focus on students and unwavering support for them as chancellor. Wood acknowledged his pride in receiving the award saying, “There is no greater honor than an award from students. They must always be our top priority.”
Alumna Jane (Ewing Peterson) Provo 1968 grew up in Crookston and graduated from Central High School. Newly married and wanting to continue her education, Provo decided to attend the new University of Minnesota Technical Institute. The campus, former home of the Northwest School of Agriculture, a residential high school, was opening in the fall of 1966. In fact, fifty years ago on September 21, 1966, the technical college opened under the direction of Founding Provost Stanley Sahlstrom.

“I was excited about the technical institute,” Provo says. “Although my experience was different than the typical college student, the Crookston campus made it possible for me to go to college right in my hometown.”

She remembers what many do about the technical college: the small class sizes, the time spent with friends at the Trojan Inn, and the easy transition they experienced between high school and college. “One of the great things about
the campus was the way it provided an educational opportunity for veterans returning from Viet Nam and interested in pursuing a degree. It was certainly a tumultuous time in history,” Provo recalls. “An increasingly unpopular war, the ongoing struggles of the civil rights movement, and the deaths of both Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., made 1968 an unsettled time in our country and truly the antithesis of my life growing up in Crookston.

“In many ways, I grew up in a cocoon and going to college at the Tech was my first experience with people from across the country,” Provo reflects. “I had great stability growing up and was very fortunate. My experiences also prepared me for my future work though I didn’t know it at the time.”

Like many of her friends, Provo wanted to earn a baccalaureate degree, so following graduation, she went to the University of Minnesota to complete a bachelor’s degree in education. For the next six years, she taught in Mason City, Iowa. During the summers, she began working on her master’s degree at Iowa State University and took a year off teaching to complete a degree in interdisciplinary housing. “When I finished my master’s degree, I moved to Portland, Ore., with my family and changed my career direction,” she explains.

“I began working in public administration at the local government level developing and administering housing programs for the disadvantaged and those with low income.”

For the next 35+ years, Provo would dedicate her life to helping those who needed affordable housing. She also developed rental housing for people with disabilities and found housing for women with children who had experienced domestic violence. It is work that she found deeply gratifying. After spending 19 years in Texas, Provo “sort of” retired.

She relocated to Wenatchee, Wash., and joined the board of the area humane society as well as the board of the Women’s Resource Center. She was asked to leave the board for the Women’s Resource Center and become its co-executive director, which she has done for the past year.

“It is great to be able to give back and to assist those who have not had the advantages I have had throughout life,” Provo states. “I have been frustrated at times by lack of resources to help, but I have had a remarkable career helping people thrive and survive.

“I had great teachers and classes in Crookston, and I had exposure to a wider world with different people of different beliefs, and each group brought something to my life and I believe made me a more compassionate individual,” Provo says. “It has been rewarding to watch how providing housing can change, and even, save a life. I am a very fortunate person and have nothing but fond memories about my experience on campus.”
For Brian Hamilton 1985, watching planes fly over the family farm on their way to airports in the Twin Cities drew him to the field of aviation. A growing interest in aviation led him to the University of Minnesota Crookston Technical College to major in aviation and agronomy.

He also took classes at Crookston to prepare him to further his education, and after graduating in 1985 with his associate degree, Hamilton pursued a bachelor’s degree at the University of Minnesota. “The airlines wanted their pilots to have...”

“The engine is the heart of an aeroplane, but the pilot is its soul.”

- Sir Walter Alexander Raleigh, English scholar, poet, and author.
a four-year degree especially at that time,” Hamilton explains. “I also wanted to have options so I completed a degree in agronomy that I started in Crookston.”

In the summer of 1984, Hamilton interned with Gerry Parnham, also an alumnus, at the airport in Thief River Falls, Minn., and it was while interning there he decided to work as a flight instructor, which he did from 1987 to 1991 at Lake Elmo, Minn., while working on his degree at the U of M.

From 1991 to 1993, he scheduled night freight from South St. Paul to Milwaukee and Chicago Midway returning nightly. In 1993, he joined United Express flying into Chicago O’Hare. In 1995 until the present, he has been with Northwest Airlines (now Delta) and flown the 727, MD-80, 757/767, A330, DC-9, and A320. He has been captain on both the DC-9 and A320.

Even though he has been to Asia, India, Caribbean, Mexico, and Europe, Hamilton’s favorite layover stops are Anchorage, Alaska, and Missoula, Mont., in that order with San Antonio, Texas, close behind. Amsterdam and London have been interesting, however his favorite layover internationally (and it technically doesn’t count as it is a U.S. territory) is Saipan in the Northern Mariannas, part of the archipelago that makes up Guam.

Captain Hamilton has advice for aspiring aviators: “Don’t hang your future on one degree. Pursue something outside the field of aviation to give yourself options because you don’t know what the future holds.”

“I have been most content when involved with smaller enterprises and I think that includes my layover preferences,” Hamilton says. “When I worked as a flight instructor, flew freight and even flew for United Express, they were all smaller entities than some of their contemporaries; however, I did get more reward from working out a problem and coming up with a solution when I was talking with owners or operators directly. Similarly, I still take great satisfaction from my first employer, Pauline Holliday at Lake Elmo, who remarked it had been a long time since she had anyone work as much and as hard as I had while I was there.”

He continues, “My Chief Pilot supervisor at Air Care in South St. Paul also told me that he really enjoyed my ‘can do’ attitude while I was taking a recurrent check ride with him. While my larger employers all have had some good people working for them, I do miss the direct interpersonal contact I received from a smaller operation, and I know that includes my time at Crookston as well.”

Hamilton enjoyed the U of M Crookston, “It was easy to know people, even students from other majors,” he says. “I wished many times that Crookston would have offered a four-year degree back then, and I could have remained there to finish my degree.

“What I loved about the faculty was their industry experience,” he continues. “They spoke and taught from a knowledge that came from actual experience in the field.”

While on campus, Hamilton was a member of the Flying Club and recalls a great spring break trip the club took with Advisor Larry Leake to South Padre Island, Texas, giving the aviation students a chance to earn cross country flying hours.

He remembers flight instructors Jerry Iverson, his first flight instructor, and Rick Mercil. He also appreciated the teaching of experienced agriculture faculty like Marv Mattson and Chuck Habstritt among others.

“The friendships I made in the classroom and living on campus in McCall Hall stay with me today,” Hamilton reminisces. “I still cross paths in my travels with classmates and friends I met in Crookston and I still value the experience and education I had there.”

Today, Hamilton lives with his family in his boyhood home and planes continue to fly over reminding him of those early days when flying was only a dream.

“For me, flying seems to come natural, and I love it as much today as I did when I first took to the air as a college student in Crookston.”
In the photo, left to right, are Betty Younggren, Jeannine Windels, and Jim Chandler with scholarship speaker Sierra Trost at the Torch & Shield Recognition. Younggren and Chandler received the Torch & Shield Award, and Jeannine Windels accepted the Torch & Shield Award on behalf of the Faculty Women’s Association.
Senior Sierra Trost was selected as the scholarship recipient speaker at the annual Torch & Shield Recognition. Following is her speech given on the evening of Torch & Shield:

Hello, my name is Sierra Trost. I would like to begin by saying what an honor it is to be speaking at Torch & Shield and representing the many people who you positively affect with your dedication and generosity to the U of M Crookston. Since I was young the plan was elementary school, middle school, high school, college, then my career. A life map is somewhat laid out for us at a rather young age. What is not explained are all of the components it takes to get there. Attaining personal success is not easy. Everyone who helps you along the way is absolutely irreplaceable, but often under-recognized. So today we are here to recognize and thank you all.

I am a double major in health science and biology with a minor in chemistry. I am originally from Ham Lake, Minn., a suburb just north of the cities. I am currently a senior and plan to graduate this spring after returning from my study abroad trip to Costa Rica. My interest in science stems from dreaming of becoming a doctor since I was a young girl. A variety of experiences have lead me to choosing the medical field, so for me my educational journey does not end after my undergraduate experience. I will have four more years of medical school and four of residency. Other than being a student I am also an athlete at the U of M Crookston by playing volleyball for the school. Now that you know a little bit about me I want to tell you about my journey to and through the U of M Crookston.

When I was a high school student choosing which college to attend, there were two things I put into consideration. First and foremost was that the school needed to be a leader and competitive academically in the pre-medicine field. Now don’t tell my coach, but second was if I could play volleyball there. Luckily for me, I found a school that fit both criteria. Finding the right fit for college is not an easy process as most of you know. It is a new experience, intimidating, and honestly downright scary. However, I was lucky enough to be able to find a university that fit both my athletic and academic needs. Even after I had realized the Crookston campus was a great fit for me, I am such an indecisive person that I was still not fully convinced. What truly tipped the balance for me was the support system of people that is offered here in addition to the high-level academics and athletics. Here, I am not a number, I am Sierra. I am proud to say I know many of your names sitting in this room and I hope that before I introduced myself to you today that some of you knew mine. It is that support system, genuine care, and help offered that made my decision to come here final.

I come from a split, middleclass household who by no means had thousands of dollars to pay out of pocket for me to attend school. I don’t know many people who do. This is a reality that many students face when considering continuing school and this factor heavily influences their decision. Regardless of what it is, continuing your education should be a decision based on (in my opinion) what will make you happy. It shouldn’t be a decision of money, competition, parties, etc. And it is through the work that of all of you here today put in that negates those factors when it comes to the education of our youth. Your generosity gives confidence and hope to students of all backgrounds, lifestyles, and living situations for an equal opportunity at an education. More importantly you allow an equal opportunity for students, like me, to be happy with the rest of their lives by doing what they are passionate about for a living. Because of you, I have the opportunity to become the doctor that, as a little girl, I looked at and admired. You allowed it to be my choice of what was going to make me happy, and not let my status decide for me.

I am not saying college is for everyone—everyone’s journey is different—but there is one bottom line we all have in common—we do not achieve our goals alone.
EXCEPTIONAL ALUMNI CELEBRATE 50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Homecoming festivities were held at the University of Minnesota Crookston the weekend of October 14-15, 2016. The theme of this year’s homecoming was “The Golden Years” and marked the 50th anniversary of the campus as an institution of higher education. It also marked the grand opening of the wellness center on campus and a special ribbon cutting was held on Saturday, October 15.

Recognition of the Outstanding Alumni, recipient of the Abbey Award, and induction ceremony for the Athletic Hall of Fame will be held during the annual Alumni Awards Celebration. A number of alumni were recognized during the awards program:

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

Kelly Swanson, Ph.D., attended the University of Minnesota Crookston from 1992-94 majoring in animal science. He went on to North Dakota State University to complete his bachelor’s degree in 1997 and then attended the University of Illinois where he earned his master’s and doctorate degrees in the field of nutritional sciences. Swanson is currently a professor in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Illinois with a 50 percent time teaching and 50 percent time research appointment in the areas of animal and human nutrition. He has a number of professional affiliations where he has served in leadership roles including treasurer, chair-elect, chair, and post-chair for Experimental Animal Nutrition RIS at The American Society of Nutrition.

Ron Dvergsten graduated in 1979 with an associate degree in diversified agriculture and went on to complete his Bachelor of Science degree from North Dakota State University in agricultural education in 1981. After graduation he worked as a vocational agriculture instructor at the Crookston High School and then, at Farm Credit Services as a loan officer before moving to Northland College to teach and serve as the Farm Business Management (FBM) program advisor. Dvergsten is executive director and area coordinator for the Northwest Minnesota Dairy Team and serves on the board of directors for American State Bank of Grygla.

Natasha Anderson earned her associate degree in equine science in 1995 and went on to earn both her Bachelor of Science and Masters of Business Administration from Colorado Technical University. She has worked in economic development for the University of South Dakota, as director for a nonprofit animal shelter, and in marketing in the private sector. As the current executive director of HorsePower in Sioux Falls, S.D., Anderson manages all aspects of the nonprofit organization providing equestrian programs for people with physical, emotional, and cognitive challenges. She is a member of Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International and serves as the representative for Region 6.
ABBEEY AWARD RECIPIENT, RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI

Charly (Reinert) Stansbery, D.V.M. is the owner of Red Barn Veterinary Services in Sheldon, N.D. Following her graduation from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, she practiced for several years at the Enderlin Veterinary Clinic before opening her own practice. She completed her undergraduate degree in equine industries management at the University of Minnesota Crookston in 2006. Originally from Tracy, Minn., she completed an internship as an undergraduate with the internationally recognized Kentucky Equine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center located in Versailles. While pursuing her doctorate, she was a customer service representative for the University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center. Stansbery enjoys all aspects of mixed animal practice often working with dogs, cats, and horses, although, she is just as at home with cattle and other livestock. Her special interests include ultrasound, preventative medicine, and dentistry, both equine and small animal.

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Cathy (Behr) Helin graduated from the University of Minnesota Crookston in 2004 but not before she had made a name for herself as a member of Golden Eagle Women’s Basketball. She was captain of the team from 2002-04 and one of only six individuals in program history to earn All-NSIC First Team honors. She was Female Student Athlete of the Year in 2003 and holds a number of team records including second all-time in steals with 174 and second all-time with 70 steals in a single season. Helin is eighth all-time in career scoring with 1,060 points. She also ranks third in all-time career offensive rebounds and fifth in all-time career defensive rebounds. During her time as a student, Helin served as president of the Student Athlete Advisory Council and later served as the assistant athletic director in Golden Eagle Athletics. Currently, Helin is the assistant varsity girl’s basketball coach as well as the junior varsity girl’s basketball coach at BOLD High School in Olivia, Minn., and works as the business manager at Northern Plumbing and Heating in Olivia.

The 1992-93 Trojan Hockey Team, coached by Scott Oliver, went 24-3 on the season with an unblemished 12-0 mark in conference play. The team became the national champions in March 1993 when they swept the National Junior College Athletic Association Tournament and defeated Erie Community College in the title game at the tournament held in Bottineau, N.D. It was the Trojans second trip to the title game in as many years. Ryan Driedger scored the game-winning goal to seal the championship win for the Trojans. Pete Nordell was named Most Valuable Player, and Scott Elder, Ryan Driedger and Jeff Malawski, along with Nordell, were named to the All-Tournament Team. Coach Oliver was selected as Tournament Coach of the Year. Malawski and Driedger were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006 and 2012 respectively.


CHAD BROOKING 1994

A Reunion on Ice
During their induction into the Athletic Hall of Fame at homecoming, it was easy to see their bond. For the 1992-93 Trojan Hockey team, the memories were back and so were the skates during the alumni hockey game that wrapped up the homecoming festivities in 2016.

For Chad Brooking 1994, the weekend reconnected him with teammates and renewed a connection that drew him from his home in Switzerland back to campus.

It was July 1992 when he first traveled from his home in Canada to visit campus with his parents. He had an option to play with a junior team in Canada but decided to give that up to come and play Trojan hockey for Coach Scott Oliver. “Most of the team was being recruited by Crookston and elsewhere,” Brooking says. “There was a lot of talent on the team.

“There was also a big roster and the desire to play kept us on our toes, and I believe it made us successful,” he continues. “However, it didn’t matter if you played or not, if you were a part of the team, you were valued. A championship takes everyone playing their role to win and you realize how much you need one another to succeed.”

Hockey players have a unique kind of ruggedness. “There is no out of bounds in hockey, you have to be ready to take the hits,” Brooking explains.

Learning to skate began at age three and he credits the passion he has for the game to his father who played hockey and taught him so much about the game.

After winning back-to-back championships in 1992-93 and 1993-94, Brooking left Crookston to complete his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. Following graduation, he taught English in South Korea for four years before settling in Calgary and working in the wastewater industry for a precast concrete company. After two years with them, Brooking
established his own company, Free Flow Consulting, where he focused his efforts for the next ten years.

In August 2016, he and his wife, Mandy, moved to Willisau, Switzerland, when Free Flow Consulting was invited by another company to work on global projects. “I wasn’t really planning on traveling back to North America so soon, but the opportunity to see my teammates and coaches was not something I was willing to miss,” he reflects.

The trip back to participate in the induction ceremony into the Athletic Hall of Fame and the chance to play hockey once again with his former teammates made the weekend special. What made it even more so was the fact that his parents would join him. “They never missed a home game when I played for the Trojans, so it was great to have them back to watch the team one more time,” he says. “Every single one of us got our start at the University of Minnesota Crookston as a member of this team. It’s a very special part of my life, and one I was happy to relive during homecoming.”

Hockey is still important in Brooking’s life. He coached six years in Calgary at the high school age level or at the AAA level for Bantam and Midget ages, and hopes to join his teammate Bill Trew, who is in Germany still playing professionally, to host hockey camps in Europe.

Much of what Brooking has learned over the years can be tied directly or indirectly to hockey. The hard work, dedication, and passion he has for the game are the same characteristics he applies to his work and to everyday life.

“Crookston was a great place to make my start in life, and I hope to return regularly in the years ahead to spend time with a team that I am bonded to for life.”
Alumni Experts Weigh In
Fifteen Things Incoming Students Should Know

1. The Crookston Campus is like the sitcom “Cheers”—everyone knows your name. Take advantage of attending school where even the chancellor knows you and calls you by name. You are special here.

2. You might dislike having a night class but it is during those 15-minute breaks where you will have the chance to visit with the professor and get to know him/her. You won’t regret it!

3. No one looks back on their life and remembers the nights they had plenty of sleep, but you will remember the memories you make with your friends. Like the Keith Urban song, learn to cherish that “Wasted Time.”

4. Keep the “Convo Clap” alive. Remember the clap is not transmittable and it might seem ridiculous, but you are responsible for keeping campus traditions alive. We are depending on you!

5. Get your game face on every time and all the time. You make a difference when you attend activities and sporting events. #wingsup

6. Do not wait for the cool kids to show up for something; YOU are the cool kids.

7. What can Brown do for you? The dining room is not only named after Ma Brown, a campus icon, but it is a place to socialize and get fed!

8. Be a sponge! Choose a club, organization, etc., to get involved with and soak it up!

9. If you have leftover Eagle Bucks, share them with upperclassmen. (You will appreciate it when you are an upperclassman.)

10. It’s about timing: 6 p.m. is dinnertime; 9:30 p.m. is Evergreen Grill time; and 11:30 p.m. means time for that final grill run. Don’t judge!

11. Registrar is a word and the Registrar’s Office is a real place! In fact, you can find it in Hill Hall.

12. It becomes harder to leave campus at a break than it was to leave home to move to campus.

13. How is it “home” can smell like a mixture of barnyard and sugarbeets and you just don’t mind?

14. Find out what it means to be an “Aggie,” a “Trojan,” and a “Golden Eagle.” Understand your place in our rich campus history.

15. Spoiler Alert: the Epicurean Room was once located in Sahlstrom 107. (You will thank us.)

16. Bonus: You may have known it as the Viking or as Rooters, but remember what happens on Wednesday nights should be for making good memories, or they should stay on Wednesday night forever.
Written by Junior Emily Gruber, a communication major from Big Lake, Minn.

From the moment I stepped foot onto campus, I thought the University of Minnesota Crookston would be a perfect place to call home. And I was right. Don’t get me wrong, I was skeptical of visiting a small university in what felt like the middle of nowhere. I grew up in Big Lake, Minn., and graduated from Monticello High School (about an hour north of the Twin Cities). I was used to being in cities with a population much larger than Crookston, and I felt I was a little out of my element. The faculty, staff, and students who were involved in my campus visit completely changed my ideas and for that change I am forever grateful.
I am fortunate enough to say I am a member of the Golden Eagle Women’s Basketball team. Being a student athlete has tested me in ways I never could have imagined, but I wouldn’t trade it for the world. The University of Minnesota Crookston and the Golden Eagle Athletic Department have given me amazing opportunities. My teammates have turned into lifelong friends, and I’ve been able to travel to places other people only dream of. Because of basketball, I’ve traveled to Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and our team has plans to travel to Michigan, Texas, and more. Trust me; there aren’t many other players in our conference who can say the same.

Representing the University of Minnesota Crookston is one of the greatest honors. Our team has taken steps in the right direction, and it has shown through our conference tournament appearances. I take a lot of pride in how far our program has come, and I can only thank the alumni and coaches who have helped us reach this point.

My memorable experiences at the U of M Crookston don’t stop on the basketball court. This past summer I worked as a communications assistant with University Relations. Staying in Crookston for the summer was something I had never thought of doing. Because of my internship, I was able to gain a great deal of experience in the communication field, all while making new friendships with students, faculty, and staff members.

Working closely with the Office of Development & Alumni Relations has opened my eyes to the fascinating history of the campus. There wasn’t a day that went by when I didn’t learn something new about this place. I get excited when I can tell my friends or family members stories about the University. I think being knowledgeable about our history makes me more appreciative of our school today.

To this day, I have never regretted my decision to come to the U of M Crookston. I am thankful for all of the opportunities I have been given because of this great institution. I have about a year and a half left until I graduate from the U of M Crookston, and I am hoping to make the most of it through more new opportunities. I know that when it’s all said and done, Crookston will always hold a special place in my heart.

“Working closely with the Office of Development & Alumni Relations office has opened my eyes to the fascinating history of the campus.”

– Emily Gruber
One of the oldest rivalries in college football history is the one between the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers and the University of Michigan Wolverines. The winner takes possession of the Little Brown Jug™. There is however in Minnesota history, another Little Brown Jug, and it is one with historical significance to the boys who played for possession of the coveted trophy at the Northwest School of Agriculture.

The University of Minnesota, in an effort to bring education across the state, established residential high schools including the Central School of Agriculture (1888-1960) in St. Paul (technically in the city of Falcon Heights), West Central School of Agriculture (1910-1963) in Morris, the Southern School of Agriculture (1953-1973) in Waseca, the North Central School of Agriculture (1926-1965) in

“Ha, ha, ha, you and me, Little brown jug, don’t I love thee!”

-from the song “Little Brown Jug,” by Joseph Winner, 1869

The Little Brown Jug resides in a case in the Sports Center on campus. It pays tribute to the football rivalry between the Northwest School of Agriculture and the North Central School of Agriculture in Grand Rapids, Minn.
Grand Rapids, and the largest, the Northwest School of Agriculture (1906-1968).

These high schools generated spirited rivalries in athletics. For Morris and Crookston it was Ossie the Pig, and for Grand Rapids and Crookston it was the Little Brown Jug. Following their collegiate counterparts at the university level, the North Central School and the Northwest School instituted the tradition for the winner of their football match up to take home their version of the Little Brown Jug. The scores of each competition are immortalized on the sides of the vessel in paint.

In the late 1930s and early 1940s, the Little Brown Jug made appearances in the Aggie yearbooks but faded in the years following. The November 1937 issue of the Northwest Monthly describes the return of the jug to the Crookston campus:

The first Conference encounter was a feature of the Homecoming celebration on the Northwest campus, Saturday, October 30. Hundreds of alumni were on hand to watch the “jug battle.” For three years the little brown jug remained in possession of the North Central School of Grand Rapids. The Northwest student body adopted their slogan “We want the jug.” This symbol of football victory between the two schools occupied a prominent spot at the special Homecoming assembly and at the football field.

During the first quarter both teams went scoreless but early in the second quarter the Northwest boys put on a drive that soon led to a touchdown. The third period witnessed another Northwest touchdown. In the fourth quarter the Crookston Aggies missed another scoring opportunity when a sensational 45 yard run to the 5 yard line by Ray Higgin was called back and the Northwest eleven penalized. The final score of the game was 12-0 with half-back Morris Dahl scoring both Crookston markers. And the little brown jug returned to the Northwest campus.

The Little Brown Jug was a feature in the 1938 Aggie yearbook.

*History of the Little Brown Jug*

The Little Brown Jug, which goes to the winner of the Minnesota-Michigan game, dates all the way back to 1903. When Michigan coach Fielding Yost took his squad to Minnesota that year, he was worried that the Minnesota fans might resort to any sort of chicanery they needed to pull out a win, including tampering with the Wolverines’ drinking water. The coaching staff dispatched student manager Thomas B. Roberts to buy a vessel for clean water, and Roberts returned with a five-gallon jug he’d purchased for 30 cents. When Gopher fans stormed the field at the end of the tie game (the first game Michigan hadn’t won during Yost’s entire tenure as coach), the Wolverines left the jug behind. When a janitor brought the jug to the to the Gophers’ coaching staff, they wrote the score of the game on the side. Although Yost asked the Gophers to return his jug, they quipped that he’d have to win it back, and a traveling trophy was born.

(Excerpted from http://mentalfloss.com/article/19909/12-unusual-college-football-trophies)
The first two socials in the Alumni Brew Bash tour were held at Gull Dam Brewing in Nisswa and Day Block Brewing in Minneapolis. They were a blast and we hope you will join us for the final stops on the tour: Tuesday, April 11, 2017, at Drekker Brewing Company in Fargo, N.D., and Tuesday, May 16, 2017, at Revelation Ale Works in Hallock, Minn.
After spending months listening to campaign speeches in the primary and general elections, one might feel at the center of a tug-of-war with candidates vying for you to listen. Fortunately, Junior Dalton Javner has a different approach to his decision making. The 2016-17 student body president chooses to listen before he speaks. “I like to hear everyone’s opinions and point of view before I make a decision,” Javner says. “I want to listen even though in the end a decision might be mine alone to make; I still want to know what others are thinking.”

Javner, a health sciences major from Hardwick, Minn., came to the U of M Crookston to study criminal justice but changed his mind and decided to pursue a degree in a medical field. “I kept thinking I would
transfer to study medicine, but the longer I was on campus, the more involved I became,” Javner reflects. “I also found a fit in the health sciences major and am considering adding a major in biology.”

His involvement includes serving as an orientation leader, membership in Delta Theta Sigma (DTS), Alpha Lambda Delta, the Honors Program, Student Programming and Activities for Campus Entertainment (SPACE), and the Crookston Student Association (CSA). He was originally elected to CSA as Senator of Events and Election, but moved when the Regents Representative stepped down to take on new responsibilities. “I really enjoyed the role as regents rep and looked forward to the Regents meetings,” Javner says. “I was part of an official meeting and had input and insight behind the scenes.”

This summer Javner worked at the Villa St. Vincent in Crookston as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and as a First Responder. These jobs both give him medical experience, but he also fills in on campus when needed in the post office and elsewhere.
“Growing up I worked in both the gas station and grocery store in my hometown, and I was very active in my high school,” he recalls. “One of the first organizations I got involved with when I came to the U of M Crookston was Delta Theta Sigma, and I have a lot of friends in DTS.” Those friendships helped connect Javner to campus and also helped him move into a leadership role in DTS until his election to CSA president.

He seizes opportunities whenever they arise and has already studied abroad in New Zealand. Next, Javner would like to get involved in undergraduate research. In his free time, you will probably find him watching seasons of Grey’s Anatomy—again. “I love the medical field. My mom works in the clinic, and I actually grew up around medicine,” he explains. “I also was influenced by a friend of mine who is majoring in medical biology and discovered the program really is a fit for me and for what I hope will be a career in anesthesiology.”

A career and graduate school are up ahead, but for now, Javner is focused on leading the student body and encouraging students to get involved with CSA. “My platform as president includes raising awareness of the Crookston Student Association and getting students involved in it,” Javner smiles. “I want students to take advantage of what CSA offers and encourage them to help represent the voice of students across this campus and across the system.”

Javner was part of the homecoming royalty. In the photo, left to right, are Baillee Hauser, a senior majoring in health management and accounting from Raymond, Minn.; Matt Nelson, a junior majoring in sport and recreation management from Lakeville, Minn.; Homecoming Queen Bailey Braatz, a senior majoring in business from Buffalo, Minn.; Dalton Javner; and Homecoming King Aaron Bengtson, a senior majoring in agronomy from Battle Lake, Minn.
Derek Martin Joins Office of Development & Alumni Relations

Derek Martin joined the staff in the Office of Development & Alumni Relations in September 2016 as an associate development officer. A graduate of Crookston High School, he went on to earn his Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn. Martin comes to the U of M Crookston from Eickhof Columbaria, Inc., where he was a sales and marketing associate and prior to that the sports editor for the Crookston Daily Times. His role is focused on major gifts and Teambackers working closely with the University of Minnesota Foundation and Chief Development Officer Brandy Chaffee. Contact Martin at 218-281-8436.

Grand Opening held for Campus Wellness Center during Homecoming

A new wellness center opened to students in August when they returned for fall semester and a formal grand opening and ribbon cutting was held during homecoming festivities on Saturday, October 15, 2016.

The wellness center, a 36,000 square foot facility, includes a two-court gymnasium, suspended walking/running track, weight/cardio area, multipurpose room for group exercise, and a classroom. Funding was approved in the 2014 Minnesota Legislative Bonding Bill, which included a $10 million allocation, with an additional $5 million to be raised for the wellness center project through philanthropic efforts and/or from university funding sources, for a total of $15 million.

An 18 kilowatt system located on top of the building is estimated to produce 6 to 10 percent of the building’s electricity consumption. The solar photovoltaic system should produce about 23,000 kilowatt hour per year, and according to statistics, that is enough electricity to power two typical homes served by Otter Tail for a year. The purchase and installation of the solar array was made possible by a 50 percent matching grant from Otter Tail Power Company.

Twenty-two alumni gathered to play in the annual alumni baseball game vs. the current Golden Eagle Baseball team at Jim Karn Field in Crookston on Saturday, September 24. If you are interested in joining them for next fall’s alumni game, contact Coach Steve Gust at 218-281-8445.
Eric Klindt 1999, Campbell, Minn., is an ag pilot for Wilbur-Ellis in Wahpeton, N.D., a company that markets and distributes agricultural products, animal feed, and specialty chemicals and ingredients. Cover crops planted aerially in the fall are not a big part of Klindt’s work, but it is part of a growing trend with interest on the rise.

Richard Deschene 1947 and his wife, Lorraine, Argyle, Minn., celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary recently with a Mass Celebration at St. Rose of Lima Church in Argyle followed by a family dinner.

Harvey and Elaine (Thureen) Evenson 1953, Hillsboro N.D., were married September 29, 1956, at St. Petri Lutheran Church in East Grand Forks, Minn. They recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a reception at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Hillsboro.

Joshua Bullivant 2007, Walker, Minn., recently began a new career as general manager of Trapper’s Landing Lodge resort on Leech Lake.

Mark Moreno 2007, Cudahy, Calif., is project coordinator for Forever 21 Corporate Office.

Karine Becker 2009 and Matt Finken 2009, Bismarck, N.D., were married June 25, 2016, at Historic Hope Glen Farm, Cottage Grove, Minn. Both work as environmental consultants at Keitu Engineers & Consultants, Inc., in Mandan, N.D.

Victor Obisakin 2009, was recently hired as executive chef of dining services at the University of Minnesota Crookston. Victor has over ten years of food service experience, most recently in culinary, beverage, and hospitality management positions with Red Lobster. He and his wife, Katya Zepeda 2013, make their home in Crookston, Minn., with daughter Azomali, age 3, and are expecting their second child in November.

Dave Sunner 2011, Warren, Minn., is a franchisee of Pillar To Post, the leader in home inspections in the U.S. and Canada, giving homebuyers or sellers a clear, unbiased evaluation of a home’s condition. He’s managing his own business and working toward a third degree from the University of Minnesota Crookston in accounting.

Taylor Kollman 2013, Glenwood, Minn., pursued his dream, along with classmate Jordan Riley, of owning their own small business. Their business, Captured Creative, with an office in Cold Spring, Minn., is a content creation company offering video production, photography, short films, social media content, commercials, business spotlights, product highlights, and promotional films. A recent affiliation with the Outdoor channel’s Young Wild show is enabling the entrepreneurs to take their business to the next level.

Dae Yeul “Danny” Lee 2013, San Francisco, Calif., a senior consultant at Ernst & Young US LLP, was recently relocated from Minneapolis-St. Paul to the San Francisco Bay Area. Danny has been with Ernst & Young since September 2013.
Brittani Wiese 2013, Albertville, Minn., was recently named assistant basketball coach at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, Minn., and joins the program for the 2016-17 season. She spent the past two seasons as a graduate assistant coach at Northern State University.

Travis Magdzas 2015, Duluth, Minn., is employed by the City of Crookston as a police officer, a position he began August 15, 2016. He also accepted a volunteer baseball coaching position with the University of Minnesota Crookston.

Jared Pokrzywinski 2006 and Alison Stone 2006, Devils Lake, N.D., were married July 23, 2016 in Cross Lake, Minn. Alison is a sunflower product manager for Nuseed and Jared is a retail market manager for FMC Corporation. Attending the wedding was a large group of alumni. Of this group, Jared and Alison were the tenth U of M Crookston couple to marry.


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UPCOMING EVENTS

Alumni Basketball Weekend .................................................................................. January 27-28, 2017
Ag Arama ............................................................................................................. January 28, 2017
Alumni Social, ViewPoint Resort, Mesa, Ariz......................................................... February 17, 2017
Alumni Brew Bash Tour at Drekker Brewing, Fargo, N.D...................................... April 11, 2017
Commencement Exercises for the Class of 2017 ............................................... May 6, 2017
Alumni Brew Bash Tour at Revelation Ale Works, Hallock, Minn....................... May 16, 2017
Northwest School of Agriculture Alumni Reunion .......................................... June 24, 2017

Researchers at the University of Minnesota Crookston are determining which crops and locations yield the best potential for renewable energy—while keeping our environment safe. Together, we’re solving the world’s biggest challenges.