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Alumnus Keith Miller 1958 has a calm, gentle exterior but inside beats a brave heart.

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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 (1906-1968).
The celebration of graduation and the recent reunion of alumni from the Northwest School of Agriculture sparked thoughts about our exceptional alumni from across campus history. If variety is the spice of life, then our alumni qualify as extra spicy! We have such a unique mix coming from our years as a high school, a two-year technical college, and a four-year institution, along with alumni who earned their degree online. Like our history, each and every one of you make the University of Minnesota Crookston special.

This issue of the Torch is our first-ever themed issue. You will notice the stories feature alumni who are involved in some way with healthcare. Our graduates are medical doctors, hospital administrators, pharmacists, and more. We are providing graduates to fill roles in this vital field, and like me, you might not realize the number and significance of the work they do every day impacting the lives of individuals and groups in the medical field and beyond.

They are so in tune with their patients and employees and have devoted their lives to caring for others. In some respects, they remind me of the way those in our office care about alumni. We feel such a deep connection to all of you because we have this place in common. Our shared memories include walking these same halls, wearing maroon and gold and meeting strangers who would become our classmates and dear friends.

As alumni, we prepared the way for today’s students. They have many of the same hopes, and like us, use this place as a launching pad for the future. As I meet students and learn more about them, I realize how similar we all are and how many of my dreams—our dreams—are alike.

Helping students realize their goals is the reward of giving. When our alumni go on to careers that influence important fields like healthcare for example, we all benefit. Supporting students is directly tied to improving the future for all of us and for all those who follow.

You will also meet in this issue, our new chancellor. We recently welcomed Chancellor Mary Holz-Clause to campus and I am excited to introduce her to as many of you as possible. I believe the stories you and I share will help create a greater understanding of this amazing campus and the influence of our graduates on the world. If I had the opportunity, I would love to share your story with her.

Contact me if you have a story about the U of M Crookston you think would help Chancellor Holz-Clause get to know more about our history and what your years on campus meant to you. Personally, I would relish learning more about you all as well. My email address is brandy@umn.edu; I look forward to hearing from you.

Brandy Chaffee 2000
Chief Development Officer
Mary Holz-Clause Named New Chancellor of Crookston Campus

Mary Holz-Clause, Ph.D., has been named chancellor of the University of Minnesota Crookston. Dr. Holz-Clause’s appointment was effective June 30, 2017.

“I am confident Mary will be a tireless advocate for the University of Minnesota Crookston, and her skills as a fundraiser, marketer and communicator will serve the campus well,” said University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler. “An entrepreneurial and accomplished leader deeply committed to the land-grant mission of a university system, she will provide strong leadership for Crookston’s unique position in the region, building on its legacy of providing an innovative, hands-on educational experience for students whether in person or online.”

Holz-Clause comes from California State Polytechnic (Cal Poly) University Pomona, where she has served since 2014 as dean of the Huntley College of Agriculture and as a tenured professor in the Department of Agricultural Business Management and Agriculture Science. In that role, she oversaw a student body of more than 2,000 — many of whom are underrepresented minorities and/or first generation college students — 150 faculty and staff as well as five departments, four centers and nine farms and enterprises.

Prior to her work at Cal Poly Pomona, Holz-Clause served as vice president for economic development at the University of Connecticut (UConn), where she oversaw initial development of the UConn Technology Park in Storrs, Conn., and created an Office of Economic Development, garnering millions in outside contracts.

Accepting the chancellorship of the University of Minnesota Crookston marks a return to the Midwest for Holz-Clause, who has spent much of her life in Iowa — more specifically, at Iowa State University (ISU) in Ames. After earning her B.S. in Agriculture Business, a Master in Public Administration, and a Ph.D. in Agriculture Education and Extension there, Holz-Clause spent 25 years working at her alma mater. During that time, she helped ISU Extension become a dynamic engagement and outreach partner across Iowa, the U.S. and the world.

Holz-Clause and her husband also own and operate a corn/soybean/cattle feedlot in central Iowa.

“I am excited to join the University of Minnesota Crookston community,” said Holz-Clause. “The campus is a treasure for the area and the entire state. I look forward to working with the students, staff, and faculty — as well as the residents and leaders of the region — to grow the University of Minnesota Crookston and its research, outreach, and service to the region and beyond.”

An internationally-known researcher and speaker, Holz-Clause has served as principal investigator on contracts and grants totaling more than $40 million in the last decade, with extensive background in agricultural development and policy. She also was appointed by California Governor Jerry Brown to serve on the California Department of Food and Agriculture Advisory Board, the primary advisory board for the $100 billion agriculture industry in California.
The waiting room at the clinic in Shell Lake, Wisconsin, has an almost continuous flow of patients in and out. On this typical Friday afternoon, the parade of patients ranges from young children to the elderly. Dr. Eugene Rigstad 1979 is the only doctor available today at the clinic in this tiny hamlet, and the only one on call for the community’s 12-bed hospital for the weekend.

Dr. Rigstad has his primary practice in Appleton, Wis., at the Health & Wellness Family Care Clinic, but every other weekend, you find him in Shell Lake serving the community he has grown to love.

The Greenbush, Minn., native has been in Appleton since he began his residency there in 1986. It is where he met his wife and where the two of them raised their three children. When he reconnected with a friend from medical school who told him about a need in Shell Lake, he took a chance, leaving his family four hours away in Appleton to work full time in Shell Lake.

When the opportunity to join Health & Wellness Family Care opened in 2015, he decided to go back to Appleton but couldn’t completely leave the tiny community he had grown to care deeply about.

As a family practice doctor, Rigstad spent 23 years of his career in obstetrics delivering babies and caring for mothers. He maintains the long hours over the years of his medical career have yielded great satisfaction. He is quick to point out that what brings him the greatest reward is when patients or their families remember something he said or did that made a difference to them.

“You don’t have to tell people something magical and big to make a difference,” Rigstad says. “It is often the small things that have the greatest impact and when someone remembers something that was important to them, that is my reward.”

The challenge of trying to keep people healthy keeps the work gratifying for Dr. Rigstad, but he wasn’t necessarily planning a future in medicine when he was a student at the University of Minnesota Crookston. “I graduated from high school and followed the lead of my two older brothers and headed to Crookston,”
he recalls. “I think I could trace my earliest thoughts of medical school to the biology classes I took from Jerry Knutson. I have great memories of my time on campus.”

After earning his associate degree he went on to major in biology at Minnesota State Moorhead, and then attended medical school first at the University of Minnesota Duluth. He spent his third year in Little Falls, Minn., learning and working in family practice before finishing his final year at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. He marvels at the smooth transition between each of his degrees and has something good to say about each stop in his educational journey.

A love for learning runs consistently through everything Dr. Rigstad does. He enjoys the way a doctor has to learn on the go and the variety in his work keeps him engaged. “You see a problem, and you have to go out and find the solution that’s best for the patient,” he says. “You learn from others; you seek the latest research; a doctor is always learning. You want to provide the best care because you know every patient is different and every case is different.”

Dr. Rigstad appreciates all the opportunities being a medical doctor has afforded him. “I have traveled to Russia and Haiti to serve people in need and worked in Alaska and Los Angeles as a resident,” he recalls. “My career has taken me to interesting places and given me the opportunity to help people.”

The room grows quiet but not for long. Dr. Rigstad’s phone rings, someone needs him, and he gets ready to head back over to the hospital. For most people, the work day is over but it’s never really over when you are the doctor on call.
A fall landed alumna Hannah Disinger 2015 into her future career. It’s true; a fall off her bicycle took Disinger to the emergency room for stitches on her chin and introduced her to the work of doctors and nurses who adeptly handled her situation. “They seemed like superheroes to me and I knew that I wanted to grow up and be someone’s superhero,” she remembers.

One of the first to enter school to become a medical doctor from the Crookston campus, Disinger is breaking new ground. “I knew I wanted to stay in Minnesota and I love Duluth,” she says. “When I received my offer from the University of Minnesota Duluth, I accepted without hesitation.” She recently finished her second year of medical school there.

Disinger came to the University of Minnesota Crookston in part because of a scholarship and because she met with Associate Professor Brian Dingmann and he sold what the Crookston campus had to offer. “My college career took
off when I was a post-secondary enrollment student (PSEO) attending classes on the Morris campus,” she explains. “So, in turn, when I started at the University of Minnesota Crookston, I jumped right into the upper level sciences like organic chemistry and cell biology. I love anything about the human body and especially the intricate details of the cells.”

She took advantage to study abroad twice, once to do an internship at the Brain and Mind Research Institute at the University of Sydney in Australia, where she was involved with psychology research for 2 ½ months. The other time she traveled with Brian and Melissa Dingmann to be part of the Global Leadership Summit in New Zealand.

“I really felt like as my advisor, Brian cared about me and about what I wanted to do,” Disinger says. “He was the reason I came to Crookston and one of the reasons I stayed.”

Her mom, a licensed practical nurse, and stepdad, a lab and x-ray director, served as role models for Disinger growing up. The path ahead for her includes practice in a clinical setting and a residency of three years to specialize in her area of passion—emergency medicine.

“I am drawn toward emergency medicine because I like helping and I want to be that contact for people in times of challenge,” Disinger says.

“Struggling through medical school is me living my dream,” she continues. “I feel alive when I work with people and I know I am making a difference.”

Part of her medical training includes working with her preceptor who is in Willmar, Minn., which is where Disinger would eventually like to practice. “I remember sitting with an elderly woman whose husband was developing dementia,” she reflects. “I talked with her and felt such a connection to someone who needed me. We see people at the worst times in their lives and we have the opportunity to help them along and pick them up.”

She has recently been accepted into the Rural Physician Associate Program (RPAP) for clinicals during her third year. “I will be at CentraCare Paynesville for nine months starting in October working with my preceptor,” Disinger says. “This is exciting and gives me a chance to experience rural medicine and the life of a rural physician.”

It will also be good practice for becoming the superhero Disinger has always dreamed of being to people in need.
Caring for her grandmother and mother during bouts with cancer was something Brittani (Boehlke) Fiecke 2006 considers a privilege. Her family’s experience with cancer and her capacity for compassion make her work with oncology patients deeply gratifying. As a physician’s assistant working at Essentia Health Cancer Center in Fargo, N.D., Fiecke becomes an intimate part of the families working through the many difficulties facing patients undergoing cancer diagnosis and treatment.

By definition, a physician’s assistant practices medicine under the supervision of a physician and provides a wide range of health care services. Fiecke, a true professional, feels deeply for those she treats and considers it a privilege to work with them.

“I form special relationships with the patient and with members of their family,” she explains. “You share moments as a confidant and also celebrate milestones with them. It makes the oncology specialty unique.”

Her career path started with earning an associate degree in science before transferring to the University of Minnesota Crookston to play basketball for the...
Golden Eagles. “I grew up on a dairy farm,” she says. “And, I considered veterinary medicine, but the curriculum I had in Crookston encouraged the exploration of different avenues of medicine.”

For Fiecke, the passion of Associate Professor Brian Dingmann for the sciences was “contagious” and an internship at the Minneapolis Heart Institute and employment at Consultant Internal Medicine helped her prepare for eventual study as a physician’s assistant. “My position at Consultant Internal Medicine, where I worked as a liaison between patients and physicians, allowed me opportunities to gain valuable experience for my future.”

After graduating from the U of M Crookston, Fiecke went to graduate school at the University of South Dakota (USD) in Vermillion. An opportunity to work with Dr. Mark Graham, Jr., at Waverly Hematology Oncology during one of her clinical rotations was where Fiecke says she learned a lot about the patient doctor relationship.

“Dr. Graham demonstrated such care for his patients,” she recalls. “My experience with him had a powerful influence on the way I interact with my patients today. He has such a great feel for the ‘art of medicine’ and in the use of scientific literature. I was fortunate to work with him.”

She moved to North Carolina after graduation from USD to work with Dr. Mark Graham, Jr., at Waverly Hematology Oncology in Cary before returning to North Dakota and the Essentia Health Cancer Center in Fargo.

One of her distinctive roles as a physician’s assistant has been her work in telehealth services. Fiecke was the first oncology provider to use telehealth for patients at Essentia’s Cancer Center outreach location in Fosston, Minnesota; in the near future they plan to expand telehealth services to the Park Rapids and Detroit Lakes communities. The service allows a special subset of select patients to access high quality healthcare while staying close to home.

To care for herself in the demanding role of working in oncology, Fiecke stays active running and when the opportunity to travel presents itself, she takes advantage of it. “I try to maintain a good balance in my own life so I can be available to my patients when they need me most,” she says.

She places a priority on taking time with those she cares for. Fiecke credits many of the people who she says gave time to her to help her along the way including Dingmann, who was her advisor, and her physician-mentor Dr. Graham to name just two. She says her years of basketball taught her discipline and confidence along with giving her lifelong friends.

“My education at the University of Minnesota Crookston—the faculty, the campus, and the athletic department—are second to none,” she reflects. “I had help often along the way as I took a dream and made it a reality. I owe much to the many people who believed in me throughout my life and in my career.”
The weather was cooler than most years, but for alumni from the Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA), the reunion was filled with warmth. The annual reunion of alumni from the Northwest School of Agriculture was held on Saturday, June 24, 2017.

Highlighting the day was the Top Aggie awards program held during a luncheon in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. The Top Aggie award is the highest honor a Northwest School alumnus can receive. It recognizes alumni who have displayed exemplary commitment and service to community, church, education, family, or in their occupational field.

Marilyn (Hovet) Dehning 1956

_I went from a one-room school to a class of almost 120 students. My high school days were some of the best years of my life. Those years gave me the confidence to do so many things later in life._

After graduating from the Northwest School of Agriculture, Marilyn (Hovet) Dehning 1956 earned a degree in nursing from Deaconess Hospital. From 1959 until 1972 when she earned a post-graduate degree in anesthesia, she worked as a registered nurse and afterward as a nurse anesthetist through 2008. Working in Grand Forks, N.D.; Albert Lea, Minn.; and Portland, Ore., Dehning was a member of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists as well as the state organizations where she lived.

Her active school life continued throughout her career as Dehning worked with her husband in their custom home construction business as a consultant in design and decorating, as a volunteer in her church, and placing a high priority on raising children. She believes the Northwest School helped set the stage and gave her much of what she needed to succeed in life.

Don Diedrich 1956

_I am, and always have been, proud to consider myself a graduate of the Northwest School of Agriculture._

After 40 years of farming and growing a successful agribusiness, Don Diedrich 1956 retired to a second career as an elected public official serving as county commissioner and representing the area of Polk County, Minn., where he has been a lifetime resident. His role as commissioner allowed him to chair several boards and committees, oversee budgets, and provide leadership on many levels.

He was a founding member of the Warren-Alvarado-Oslo Education Foundation Board and served as president of both the Warren Lions Club and Warren-Alvarado-Oslo Sports Booster Club. Diedrich is a past president of the Northwest School of Agriculture Alumni Association Board. He considers Herschel Lysaker one of his greatest early influences and someone who demonstrated the qualities of leadership Diedrich carries with him to this day.

Daniel Wilkens 1961

_My favorite teachers were Leroy Field and Bob Heckman. Leroy Field made a profound difference in my life when he took me aside in English class and in a few intense hours showed me that if I put my mind to studies, I could excel._

Memories of the Northwest School of Agriculture and the lasting friendships he made are significant for Daniel Wilkens 1961. He learned leadership skills that would take him to the University of Minnesota to earn a bachelor’s degree in agricultural engineering, as a farmer, and as the founding father and current administrator of the Sand Hill River Watershed District, a position he has held for 42 years. He is treasurer of the Red River Watershed Management Board, past chair and current member of the Red River Basin Commission, and U.S. representative to the International Red River Board.

He currently serves as mayor of Fertile, Minn., and has been active on the city council and airport commission and a member of the American Legion, the Experimental Aircraft Association, and more. In 2011 the Red River Basin Commission presented Wilkens with the Water Management Leadership Award, and in 2015, he received the Watershed District Employee of the Year Award from the Board of Water and Soil Resources.
Keith Miller has faced life-threatening situations but always remained focused on saving lives and helping people.

Alumnus Keith Miller 1958 may have a calm, gentle exterior but inside beats a heart like Superman—courageous and compassionate. His career had him hanging by a cable from a helicopter, entering burning buildings, delivering babies, and facing a myriad of life-threatening situations all in order to save lives.

As a firefighter and paramedic, Miller worked for the County of Los Angeles for more than 30 years. Following graduation from the Northwest School of Agriculture, he served in the U.S. Navy during the Viet Nam war and came home to take on a variety of jobs until he found his real calling as a firefighter in 1968.

“I worked for a supervisor who was always looking for ways to make us better and joined us for breakfast at the fire station on Sunday mornings to listen to our thoughts and ideas,” Miller says. “It was during one of those discussions the term paramedic was coined after we voiced the importance of having firemen trained to handle medical emergencies.”

Miller enjoyed working at stations that were the busiest. “I worked in some
of the busiest and most hectic stations in the county. Those stations were located in areas where the need was greatest. At one point, our fire station could have as many as 33 calls in a 24-hour shift,” he explains.

Following the acquittal of four white Los Angeles police officers in the beating of black motorist Rodney King, there were five days of riots that left more than 50 people dead and thousands injured. At the time, Miller was involved in fighting those fires and working 120 hours straight.

In another instance, Miller was called to a rescue at a collapsed trench and ended up buried when the earth collapsed around him. “Fortunately, I had an air hose near my head so I was able to get air until a rescue team reached me, but it was pitch dark and I couldn’t move at all,” he remembers.

Facing life-and-death situations was a daily occurrence, but for Miller, saving lives and helping people far outweighed any danger to him and his fellow firefighters.

The memories of serving as part of a volunteer rescue team at Ground Zero after the 9/11 attacks remain fresh in his mind. The traumatic experience of digging through rubble in the evenings and spending the days attending memorial services for the fallen still weighs heavy on his heart.

“I volunteered with my fellow firefighters for five days in rubble that was ten stories high,” Miller recollects. “There were 343 firefighters lost in that tragic event and to this day, when I remember it, I am saddened beyond words.”

During his career, Miller managed to leave work at the station when he went home. Being able to keep the two separate was essential as the pace of life at the fire station meant going from one call to the next.

“I enjoyed an interesting career and a good life,” he says. “I miss the job every day.”

Miller recognizes the important lessons he learned at the Northwest School of Agriculture. “The classes offered training in many of the trades,” he says. “I gained practical skills in school that I used my entire life, and at the fire department, those skills proved invaluable.”

Miller enjoys driving his beautifully-restored, yellow Ford Fairlane.
NWSA REUNION
A Summer Place

1940s

Class of 1952
Lowell Bring, Mark Chisholm, Keith Huard, Arlys (Eisert) Brantner, Carol (Green) Tucker, Ralph Tucker, Sonny Brule, Orlan Stolaas, and Kathryn (Jensen) Boss

Class of 1957

Join us next year for an All-School Reunion Saturday, June 30, 2018
Find more great pictures from the reunion at: https://z.umn.edu/2t3c

Row 2 from top: Richard Battles, Dale Rieppel, Mike Fitzgerald, William Weber, Karen (Sikorski) Dyrdahl, and Bruce Nelson.
Row 3 from the top: Peter Novotny, Gene Tiedemann, Richard Stengl, James O’Gorman, Nancy (Porter) Rauser, and Dean Dahlman.
Front row: Kathryn (Vasek) Bushee, Linda (Retzlaff) Winter, Loren Lee, Gerri (Dahsad) Berg, and Dorothy (Miller) Schmidt.

Class of 1962


David Brule, John Sannes, Larry Gebhardt, and George Proulx.

Find more great pictures from the reunion at: https://z.umn.edu/2t3c

Join us next year for an All-School Reunion Saturday, June 30, 2018

Class of 1967
Chris Bruggeman 2000 is chief operations officer at RiverView Health in Crookston.

RiverView Health was recently named one of Modern Healthcare’s top 150 Best Places to Work in healthcare.
CHRIS BRUGGEMAN 2000
Smooth Operator

He knows his people and they know him. In fact, Chris Bruggeman 2000 makes it his business to know them. In his role as chief operations officer at RiverView Health in Crookston, the functioning of the health system rests on many of the people and areas within his scope of responsibility.

Bruggeman has service line oversight of information technology, plant services, environmental services, nutritional services, supply chain, quality and risk management, as well as RiverView’s chemical dependency unit.

His career did not begin in healthcare, but rather, started out with a degree in information networking management from the University of Minnesota Crookston. He went on to work in information technology for a decade in various capacities including employment with the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute and for Polk County.

He came to RiverView first as a network administrator and later served as director of information systems. He led not one but two electronic medical record conversions, an enormous task affecting every single person who worked at RiverView Health in some way. After a short time as vice president for support services and following a change in leadership, Bruggeman took on the role as chief operations officer.

“All my jobs taught me the importance of building relationships,” Bruggeman says. “In my work, the ‘customer’ can be the patient, the doctor, the end user, and everything in between.”

When his middle daughter was six years old, she needed an appendectomy which Bruggeman says taught him the value of having a hospital in the community. “Her care at RiverView taught me the real importance of having a healthcare facility in my home town,” he explains. “It also made me realize that in my work I could help positively impact the quality of healthcare in Crookston, which launched me on a quest to do more.”

He was part of the 1997 Golden Eagle Football Team inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in 2014. “I participated in athletics in both high school and college (football and baseball at UMC),” Bruggeman recalls. “Athletics taught me that when a team works together, they get results. It is the same in the workplace.”

Communication is critical to what Bruggeman does, and he considers the culture and people who work all around him to be the best part of his job. As a leader, he strives to respond to each of the people he works with in the style that suits them. “You can develop a relationship with anyone if you are respectful of different opinions and willing to listen,” he explains. “My teams work with me not for me.”

He has achieved fellowship status within the American College of Healthcare Executives and is happy to work in a state with such a strong hospital association. Opportunities like the annual Healthcare Leadership Institute give him a chance to further develop skills to continuously improve as a leader and manager.

“It’s the environment at RiverView that I love, regardless of your credentials everyone is treated the same,” he says. “We have a very good culture, and I am proud of the care we deliver, collectively we believe the patient is the most important thing.”
Large or small, simple or complex, wellness programs contribute to a healthier workplace for employees. Human resources director, Renae (Tervo) Vaules 1986 has worked as the point person for Care 1st Health Plan Arizona wellness program since it was originally organized.

Vaules brings a wealth of experience to her role. Since 1998, she has worked in the area of human resources moving from a generalist, to a manager, to a director. Her experience encompasses a variety of companies in areas related to health care including critical care systems, healthcare information, imaging, and radiology. These opportunities took her across the country from Virginia to California but eventually landed her in Arizona, a place she loves to live and work.

In 2012 Vaules took a break from healthcare to work as director of human resources for SheKnows Media where she built the human resources department for the women’s magazine from the ground up. Early in 2015, she took over the human resources function for Care 1st which included leading and managing the company’s wellness program.

After graduating from the University of Minnesota Crookston with a degree in fashion merchandising and retail management, Vaules wanted to be a retail buyer. While working on a bachelor’s degree at St. Cloud (Minn.) State University, she had an internship at the hospital in St. Cloud in human resources. Even though she graduated with a degree in speech communications, that internship in human resources was providential.

Wellness is only a part of the myriad responsibilities Vaules has in her role, but that aspect does not diminish its importance. She formed the wellness committee, which laid out what the company would offer to its employees to encourage wellness at work. “Companies today are placing a bigger emphasis on wellness,” Vaules says. “It is incredibly important to have a healthy workplace and employees who know we put a high priority on their wellbeing.”

As a human resources director, Vaules sets priorities for the department, and hires and oversees some 300 staff members. “I have worked in human resources for 25 years and no two days are the same,” she smiles. “I love my job even on the days when frustration is high and I feel like I could scream. I wouldn’t want to work anywhere else.”

She looks back to her time on campus for examples of strong women in leadership. “Sue Brorson and Sherrie Holmquist were great role models for me,” Vaules recalls. “It is people like those two that you do not forget no matter how long it has been since you were in school.”

Vaules also attributes some of her success to competing in Distributive Education Clubs of America, better known as DECA, case studies, which taught her to think about how best to handle situations in business. That situation practice is something she puts to use every day as a professional, and the reason she embraces her ever-changing workplace.

One of her greatest qualities is her expertise in the field of human resources and healthcare, but her greatest strength remains her ability to care for people. It runs through everything Vaules does no matter what task is at hand.
They are always on the lookout. Crookston’s RiverView staff pharmacists, Brittany Novak 2011 and Ashley (Walton) Sparby 2009, are always looking for teachable moments and opportunities to share information. “It’s a big part of the work we do as pharmacists,” says Novak. “We are concerned with patient safety with regard to medication and sharing what we know helps ensure our patients are using medication correctly.”

Sparby and Novak met at the University of Minnesota Crookston when they shared a shift at the information desk in the Sargeant Student Center. “I liked Brittany right away,” Sparby says. “We were interested in the same field and we just hit it off.”

The two came to their interest in pharmacy in very different ways. “I was interested in veterinary medicine until I fainted watching a hysterectomy on a cat in high school,” Sparby smiles. “I knew right then that surgery probably wasn’t for me, but that didn’t change my interest in the medical field. Toward the end of high school, I began looking at pharmacy as a potential field of interest.”

As a fifth grader, Novak’s father was diagnosed with lupus, and she saw the powerful effect medication had immediately and over the long term. “I wanted to know more,” Novak says. “I became interested in how and why the medicine worked and its effects on the human body.”

Both Novak and Sparby love working in a smaller hospital where each day is varied and one never has an opportunity to be bored. “If I could study in just one area, I am particularly interested in infectious disease,” says Sparby and Novak agreed. “I would add emergency medicine to that list as well,” Novak says.

Both Novak and Sparby looked at much larger undergraduate programs, but the two biology majors decided that the U of M Crookston was the best fit. They credit their success in part to the encouragement and push they received from retired Associate Professor Pam Elf (1997-2014). “She was a constant cheerleader for us and helped set us up well for graduate school,” Sparby says.

“Lisa Samuelson, director of student activities and Pam Elf were great role models, and we both benefitted from working with them,” says Novak.

Sparby, originally from Middle River, Minn., works part time at RiverView and part time at North Valley Health Center in Warren, Minn., where she lives with her husband Adam 2009.

Novak, who works full time at RiverView and grew up in Dahlen, N.D., enjoys the shifts she spends with Sparby. They have the U of M Crookston in common as well as the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, which Novak proudly points out is the number two pharmacy school in the country.

These two young doctors each have what it takes and mixing a degree from the U of M Crookston with their lifelong friendship results in a compound that is a prescription for success.
She might not have known what her major would be when she came to campus four years ago, but Baillee Hauser 2017 left certain of her future career. The health management major from Raymond, Minn., fell in love with the campus the moment she pulled in for her visit, but she was uncertain what to study.

“I literally went through the website and considered almost every major,” Hauser says. “When I happened on health management, it matched my interest in business and health care, and I was immediately struck by the possibility.”

The health management degree, along with a second major in accounting, make Hauser the perfect candidate for the next step—her new job as human resources director at Bethesda Health and Housing in Willmar, Minn., and preparing to take her boards.

An internship at Bethesda Health and Housing proved a great experience.
for Hauser and her interest in the field never wavered. “I think there is a lack of understanding and knowledge about the major,” she says. “I presented at an area high school and at Minnesota West Community and Technical College as part of my project in the Honors program. It was my goal to introduce students to the opportunities in the field of health care management.”

Her major in accounting adds to her strength as a future administrator. “I will work with nursing staff, human resources, and financial, and while I may not be an expert in these areas,” she says. “I want to have enough understanding to put together the big picture.”

She has had role models in the field and she is quick to mention her advisor, Susan Klassen, and her preceptor in Willmar as key to her success. “I think I have had the best preceptor in the State of Minnesota,” she smiles. “And, Susan has been a guide to me the entire way.”

Working at the Villa St. Vincent in Crookston in dietary, Hauser knew she had chosen the right major and was headed down the best career path for her. “I enjoyed interacting with everyone at the Villa even though I was only serving food and washing dishes.”

But, perhaps, her future’s greatest influence has been her grandfather, who was admitted to a long-term care facility on Hauser’s final day at her internship. “I was able to see the process from the client side which opened my eyes to their experience,” she says. “I have a special relationship with my grandfather, and I want the kind of care I manage to be the kind that cares deeply for each person at the facility. I want to know them and I want to know their families.”

“The elderly have so much knowledge, and we can learn so much from them,” Hauser explains. “I believe working with them will be a privilege and that I will have an opportunity to serve at a time when clients and their families need it most.”
Cardiac rehab is a team effort designed around a patient’s medical needs. At RiverView Health in Crookston, cardiac rehab takes place in three phases: inpatient, monitored outpatient, and maintenance. Often when a patient moves from monitored outpatient to maintenance, they continue to follow the individual exercise program and RiverView staff help them manage it.

Research by recent graduate Kary Sheppard 2017, an exercise science and wellness major, took a look at a group of cardiac patients paired with a trained University of Minnesota Crookston student to continue their maintenance work at the wellness center on campus. Her research, inspired by a program at Grand Itasca Physical Therapy in Grand Rapids, Minn., worked with patients interested in continuing their exercise program in collaboration with the experts at RiverView Health.

Sheppard has always been interested in the medical field and the concept of being physically and emotionally well is something she says is worth learning.
The Grand Rapids, Minn., native spent eight weeks in Dublin, Ireland, in 2016 interning at a physical therapy outpatient clinic, and she has shadowed a number of times at RiverView as well as Grand Itasca Physical Therapy. Shadowing gave her valuable experience and confirmed her desire to study in the field.

Her favorite part about the U of M Crookston is the many opportunities she has had in the classroom and abroad. “I’ve been lucky enough to pursue many of my interests and goals throughout my time on campus,” Sheppard says. Her future plans include attending graduate school in physical therapy and using it to help others.

She has firsthand experience with the benefits of physical therapy as a result of her personal sport’s related injuries and says her physical therapy experience changed her life. “I have had a number of family members involved in cardiac rehab and understanding the benefits of physical activity has something of a reverse domino effect,” Sheppard says. “It builds a positive attitude, develops better eating and exercise habits, and relieves stress, which in turn, lead to a healthier life for the individual.

“Before I began this research project with RiverView, I did not have much experience in the area of cardiac rehab,” she explains. “I have learned an incredible amount about this area and broadened my knowledge in a real way.”

As the semester ended, Sheppard reviewed the outcomes of this pilot program with her honors committee including Assistant Professor Danielle Johannesen, Associate Professor Brian Dingmann, and RiverView Director of Rehab Services Crystal Maruska. Together they will determine what the future might hold for this initial collaboration.

Sheppard’s research could lead to a possible practicum or internship for students with an interest in medicine or therapy or those majoring in exercise science and wellness. No matter what the future holds for undergraduates at the U of M Crookston, the research Sheppard developed will help her as she prepares for graduate school and her future as a physical therapist.
Some of our 2017 grads already employed or on their way to graduate or professional school.

Cody BENSON  
Major: Agriculture Systems Management with an emphasis in Precision Agriculture  
Employed as: Self-Employed Farmer

Austin DIERKS  
Major: Aviation  
Employed as: Precision Agriculture Specialist at Titan Machinery

Andreas GEIST  
Major: Natural Resources with an emphasis in Law Enforcement  
Employed as: Lead Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Inspector

Connor HEGRENES  
Major: Natural Resources with an emphasis in Law Enforcement  
Employed as: Lead Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Inspector

Joseph ARNOLD  
Major: Agriculture Systems Management  
Employed as: Self-Employed Farmer

Mitchel BARTHEL  
Major: Criminal Justice with an emphasis in Law Enforcement and a minor in Communication  
Attending: Law Enforcement Skills Program

Heather BUCHHOP  
Major: Biology and Animal Science with an emphasis in Pre-Veterinarian  
Accepted at: Purdue University College of Veterinarian Medicine

Bailey BRAATZ  
Major: Business and Marketing Management  
Employed at: Scheel’s Corporate Office in E-Commerce

Lisa EIA  
Major: Criminal Justice with an emphasis in Corrections  
Employed as: Home Health Aid/Social Worker

Kristen HALLEY  
Major: Marketing with minor in Management  
Employed as: Social Media Manager

Bailee HAUSER  
Major: Health Management and Accounting  
Employed as: Bethesda Health and Housing

Amanda HOFFMAN  
Major: Natural Resources with an emphasis in Management and a minor in Animal Science  
Employed as: Watercraft Inspector

Casey KRASKA  
Major: Agronomy  
Employed at: Agserv
Jacob LORTON
Major: Natural Resources Management
Employed as: Marine Corps Officer

Brandon STRICKLAND
Major: Software Engineering
Employed as: Tech Yahoo! At Yahoo!

Kenneth McCHRISTION
Major: Criminal Justice
Employed as: Amazon Associate

Kayla MILLER
Major: Equine Science with an emphasis in Pre-Veterinarian Medicine
Employed as: Veterinary Assistant

Ethan NAGEL
Major: Natural Resources with an emphasis in Law Enforcement
Attending: Law Enforcement Skills Program

Alina NOYES
Major: Criminal Justice
Employed as: Probation Officer

Angela OIEN
Major: Early Childhood Education
Employed as: Teacher/Business Owner

Ryan RYnda
Major: Natural Resources with an emphasis in Law Enforcement
Attending: EMT/Law Enforcement Skills Program

Kary SHEPPARD
Major: Exercise Science and Wellness
Attending: University of Minnesota Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

Luke TASCHUK
Major: Natural Resources with a minor in Animal Science
Attending: EMT/Law Enforcement Skills Program

Hannah VAN DYKE
Major: Animal Science and Equine Science with a minor in Music
Employed as: Wrangler

Duran VIGESAA
Major: Agronomy with a minor in Animal Science
Employed as: Sales Agronomist and Crop Scout

Kacie WALKER
Major: Natural Resource with an emphasis in Law Enforcement and a minor in Criminal Justice
Employed as: Temporary Park Employee

Blaine STEIGER
Major: Agronomy
Employed as: Self-Employed Farmer

Luke TASCHUK
Major: Natural Resources with an emphasis in Law Enforcement
Attending: EMT/Law Enforcement Skills Program

Kaitlin VAN RULER
Major: Animal Science and Agricultural Business
Employed as: Leadership Trainee at Gold’n Plump

Sara WEISS
Major: Business Management
Employed at: Weiss Asparagus Farm

Karen McCHRISTIAN
Major: Criminal Justice
Employed as: Amazon Associate

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Ed Grove 1955, and his wife, Marilyn, Yorba Linda, Calif., celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Saturday, March 18, 2017, with a happy hour at their son’s home followed by dinner and dancing at Leoness Cellars Winery in Temecula, Calif. They celebrated with their four children, four grandchildren, and three great grandchildren, along with Ed’s best man, friends, and family including twin brother, Clarence Grove 1955, Williston, Vt., and brother LeRoy Grove 1957, Ojai, Calif.

Silvia (Medrano) Lainfiesta 1967, is a self-employed sociologist in Guatemala City, Guatemala. As the only foreign student attending the Northwest School of Agriculture at that time, she would like to get in touch with classmates. Silvia was a cheerleader and still treasures and enjoys her NWSA yearbook and memories.

Lloyd Mayes 1970, Laurel, Md., gave the keynote address at the spring U of M Crookston Athletic Awards Banquet. Recently retired from his position as education director at Kingman Boys & Girls Club, Mayes, second from left, is pictured with Marv Bachmeier, former basketball coach and athletic director; Rich Wehking 1970, roommate and friend; and Bruce Bakke 1970, teammate and friend.

1960 MINI REUNION

Members of the Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA) Class of 1960 enjoyed a February gathering at the home of classmate Russell Schumacher. Pictured, left to right: Russell Schumacher, Wally Philipp, Gary Knepper, Bette (Hovet) Nelson, Martin Wall, Donna (Babinski) Kuta, Evie (Osowski) Delasantos, Dick Danielson, Daniel Straus, and Terry Nelson.

Rob Zimbrick 1971, Graceville, Minn., self-employed and semi-retired, is interested in reconnecting with old friends.

Jane (Benoit) Vigness 1977, Nielsville, Minn., is this year’s recipient of the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council Advocate of the Year Award. Vigness is public librarian in Climax, Minn., active in the Sandhill Historical Society, and an avid art promoter in her community. She is also a board member and dedicated volunteer in the Association of the French of the North.

1960s

1970s

Watch your mail for upcoming dates!
Graduation for a second time, and with your son, makes the day extra special! Perry Schermerhorn 1979 and 2017, graduated with his son, Calvin Schermerhorn 2017, on Saturday, May 6. The two, from Gig Harbor, Wash., share a graduation day, but they didn’t share majors. Perry, who studied online, is an applied studies major and Calvin majored in aviation and studied on campus where his dad studied in the late 1970s when the campus was a two-year technical college.

1980s

Nathan Purrington 1980, Ada, Minn., an agricultural systems management lecturer in the Agriculture & Natural Resources Department, was presented with an award for FFA Advisor of the Year at the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation Awards Banquet held November 18, 2016, during the 98th Annual Meeting in Bloomington, Minn.

2000s

Corey Ramsden 2008, Saint Paul, Minn., representing Washington-Ramsey County Farm Bureau, finished in the top 16 after qualifying for the Sweet Sixteen round of the American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet Contest, held during the annual convention. Contestants are judged on their basic knowledge of critical farm issues and their ability to exchange ideas and information in a setting aimed at cooperative problem solving. Ramsden is a business manager for Land O’ Lakes Inc., Winfield and Purina.

2010s

Sheila Carleton 2012 and David Boldt were married August 27, 2016, in Merrifield, Minn., on Pelican Lake. Sheila is a conservation outreach specialist with the Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District in Brainerd, Minn. They make their home in Merrifield.

Coty Wangen 2012, Crookston, Minn., is a location manager for CHS Ag Services in Crookston.

Trevor Wegner 2012 and Amanda Newman 2014, Sioux Falls, S.D., were married June 25, 2016, at Zion Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. Trevor works as an environmental scientist for HDR Engineering and Amanda is a senior commodity specialist for POET Nutrition.

Wemimo Abbey 2013, East Orange, N.J., was recently featured in Teen Vogue as a rising star who personifies Black Excellence During Black History Month. He has continued his Clean Water for Everyone nonprofit while pursuing graduate studies at New York University. Abbey is currently working on a new startup, Esusu, a digital platform that facilitates community-based savings.
The Torch

30

Whitney (Lian) Rupprecht 2013, Fertile, Minn., was recently named the Region I AgriScience Teacher of the Year for the second consecutive year. She has been teaching at Fertile-Beltrami for four years. She and her husband, Donovan Rupprecht 2014, a farm loan officer at Farm Service Agency in Thief River Falls, Minn., have two children.

Benjamin Williams 2013, Urbana, Ill., a graduate research assistant for the Illinois Natural History Survey, follows the activities of ducks migrating along the Wabash River in southeast Illinois. He and his crew are studying the behavior of mallards and American green-winged teal.

Derek 2014 and Amberly (Pesall) Cox 2015, Crookston, Minn., were married August 6, 2016. Derek is currently working with the Polk County Sheriff’s office and Amberly is the barn manager at the University of Minnesota Crookston. Her work includes assessing the health of the horses, noting changes in eating, behavior, and the like; offering basic veterinary care; supervising work study students, hiring and managing the student work schedules; ordering supplies; ensuring the tack is available and in proper condition; and caring for the arena.

Sarah (Kennedy) Hovden 2014, Eyota, Minn., is a business operations specialist at the University of Minnesota Rochester.

Amanda Moen 2014, Bismarck, N.D., was selected for the Center for Technology & Business Bismarck Women’s Leadership Program 2017. The six-month program focuses on developing four pillars of leadership – personal, professional, community, and health. Moen joined Widmer Roel in 2015 and works as a senior staff accountant in the audit department. She is a member of several professional organizations including North Dakota Society of CPAs, AICPA, and the Bismarck-Mandan Young Professionals Network.

Jeremy Love 2014 and Molly Perkerewicz were married May 6, 2017, in East Grand Forks, Minn. Jeremy is working on the family farm with his dad and uncle. Molly is employed at Fisher Public School. The couple currently resides in Grand Forks, N.D.

Branden Kuersteiner 2016, Grand Forks, N.D., was hired as shift administrator in the American Crystal Sugar Company East Grand Forks factory. He joined American Crystal Sugar in 2013 as a packaging operator and has held the packaging tech 1, house mechanic, and assistant P&W supervisor positions.

Alumni Basketball Weekend 2017

Basketball alumni from both women’s and men’s Trojan and Golden Eagles teams gathered for a weekend of U of M Crookston basketball, shoot around, half time recognition and contests, and socials, January 27-28, 2017, on the Crookston campus.

Beyond the Bases With Softball Alumni

An update on seven Golden Eagle Softball players from Golden Eagle Athletics.

Kaylin Beatty 2016, Andover, Minn., entered the workforce as a veterinary nurse at Hagyard’s Equine Medical Institute in Lexington, Ky., and plans to attend veterinary school in 2017-18.

Jordyn Derlinger 2016, Henderson, Nev., student taught in East Grand Forks, Minn. and Henderson and, immediately following her student teaching experience, was hired in January 2017 to teach kindergarten in Henderson. Derlinger plans to continue her education in the fall working toward a master’s of education degree.

Allison Foley 2016, Lockport, Ill., returned to downtown Chicago shortly after graduation as a reporting accountant with Equity Residential, a residential real estate firm that specializes in high-rise apartments in heavily populated cities. Foley plans to attend graduate school and embark on her slow-pitch career in the Chicago metro area.

Ashley Hoyle 2016, Blaine, Minn., took a semester off before enrolling in a graduate program at North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D. The animal science major will be doing research on the genetic change on piglets based on the mother’s diet during gestation.

Alexis Khoshaba 2016, Victoria, B.C., Canada, returned to Canada where she took a year off to work and travel. The career home run leader at UMC plans to pursue a master’s in secondary education in 2017-18.

Kristi Larson 2017, New Ulm, Minn., stayed in Crookston to continue her education and joined the Golden Eagle golf team. In her first season with the golf team, she lowered her card in each tournament and has the opportunity to close out her collegiate career on the links before pursuing a graduate assistant softball coaching position next year.

Brooke Timmins 2016, Magnolia, Tex., stayed in the NSIC by taking a graduate assistant coaching position at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, Minn. While coaching, Timmins is working on her master’s in physical education and coaching.

Red River Valley Emerging Leadership Program, Class of 2017

Several alumni of the University of Minnesota Crookston received special recognition for their commitment to leadership and their community at the Emerging Leadership Program’s annual recognition banquet held recently in Crookston. Photos by Janssen Photography, Fergus Falls, Minn.

April and Brian Grunhovd 2002, Fertile, Minn., represent Polk (East) County. Brian is a central office equipment technician for Garden Valley Telephone Company and grew up on a dairy farm that milked 60 head. April is the vice president of patient services/chief nursing officer at RiverView Health. She supervises nurses, nurse managers, and pharmacists; facilitates the delivery of patient care; develops and improves services; achieves goals and outcomes related to quality and finance.

Michael 2005 and Erin (Thompson) Holte 2006, Halstad, Minn., represent Norman County. Michael farms wheat, soybeans, corn, sugar beets, and alfalfa in addition to providing training and customer support for GK Technology Precision Ag Software. He also works for Maribo Sugar Beet Seed in sales. Erin is an elementary special education teacher at Norman County West Elementary in Hendrum, Minn.

Krista and Jacob Gerber 2010, Elbow Lake, Minn., represent Grant County. Jacob works as an agronomist and precision ag consultant for a local independent firm. They monitor 30,000 acres of sugar beets, corn, soybeans, wheat, and alfalfa and, on the precision side, create variable-rate fertilizer and seeding maps for customers and offer a soil sampling service. Jacob also farms with his father and they cover 2,200 acres of corn, soybeans, and sunflowers. Krista works at a critical access hospital in Elbow Lake as an accountant.

Jakob 2011 and Kaley (Mekash) Heggedal 2006, Greenbush, Minn., represent Roseau County. Jakob is a third generation farmer on a family farm that has approximately 3,000 acres. Their main crop is alfalfa for dairy quality and an assortment of grass hay. They also grow wheat, barley, soybeans, and sunflowers. Kaley is an imaging receptionist at Lifecare Medical Center in Roseau, Minn.

Derrick and Jenna Cardinal 2013, Bejou, Minn., represent Mahnomen County. Derrick is currently serving as a police officer in the 1,300 square miles of the White Earth Indian Reservation. In addition to his full time job, he and Jenna are starting their own herd of Black Angus. Jenna currently serves as the Ag Instructor/FFA Advisor for students in grades 9-12 at Mahnomen Public Schools. They also have a small farm outside of Mahnomen consisting of a variety of animals.
**Keeping Up with the Equestrians**

**Nicky (Demarais) Overgaard 1996**, instructor in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department, had a blast reconnecting with alumni via the University of Minnesota Crookston Equine Science official Facebook page. Enjoy the photos and updates!

**Bobbi Jo (Bingeman) Krueger 2002** is a self-employed insurance agent. She enjoys dressage with her Quarter Horses.

**Anne Ahiers 2003** is the adoption services supervisor at Animal Humane Society in Coon Rapids, Minn.

**Diane (Delperdang) Palm 2003** is currently eventing her horse at the preliminary level in addition to training horses and riders in dressage and eventing.

**Mary Plumb 2003** currently lives in Arizona, works at Mayo Clinic, and rides with Jessica Tozer Bein at Bein Performance Horses. She’s pictured with her new horse SRH Hollywood Jaci.

**Katie Brucks 2005** is owner and instructor of Lucky Stables LLC, teaching kids how to ride, care for, and love horses.

**Jess Sathoff-Haukoos 2005** is currently an RN but also continues to train horses and give riding lessons.

**Annika (Ekholm) Arrowwood 2007** spent five years in the U.S. Air Force as an intelligence officer. She is currently working as practice manager and veterinary assistant for the Walker Animal Hospital while waiting to find out if she’s accepted into veterinary school. She and her husband are also owners of the Village Square Café in Walker, Minn.

**Kristi (Santerre) Nyquist 2007** currently teaches childhood special education in Delano, Minn., and continues to judge schooling shows and ride at North Run Farm.

**Mary Plumb 2003**

**Corey Ramsden 2008** is an internal consultant for Land O’ Lakes Inc., in Arden Hills, Minn. She’s proud partner to a Paint who’s learning to be a show (HUS and patterns) horse and an all-around trail horse. She secretaries many of the rated dressage shows in the Twin Cities.

**Melinda Basczynski 2010** is trainer at Irish Run Farms. For the previous three years, she managed Hunters Glen Farms and was also the trainer. She has a horse alumni, Rio, who is happily retired at her family’s farm.

**Jessica Saari 2010** is owner and manager of Windenoak Tack and Feed and also trainer at Circle E Equestrian.

**Mary (Hurley) Hanson 2011** is currently a toddler teacher and trains outside horses on the side. She also helps run the family farm where they breed, train, show, and sell mules and donkeys. Right out of college she was the assistant trainer at Conway Arabians in Chatfield, Minn.

**Katie Manning 2011** manages First Flight Farm, a European sporthorse breeding farm in Texas. She breeds and trains all of the young horses as well.
Amanda Noyce 2003—Passion Puts Her on Top of the World

Growing up on a hobby farm instilled in Amanda Noyce 2003 a real love of horses. When she decided to attend the University of Minnesota Crookston, it was the arena that sealed the deal. “I majored in agricultural education, but I knew that I wanted to have the chance to be around horses and take riding classes,” Noyce says. “Nicky Overgaard was my instructor for Western class and talked me into joining the Western Team on campus.”

Noyce has ridden competitively since she was 15 years old in a variety of disciplines. Growing up she competed in ranch rodeos and enjoyed trail riding. As a college senior the Jordan, Minn., native was co-captain of the Western Team. “I loved going to school in Crookston,” Noyce recalls. “It seemed easy to find like-minded friends.”

The spirit of competitiveness has propelled Noyce to the top of the world literally. In 2016, she qualified for the American Quarter Horse World Show. “You have to earn a certain number of points to qualify in the Reined Cowhorse class, and I was excited to have earned the points I needed to compete,” she explains. “I had 47 people in my class and when I was in the top 15 in the prelims and called back to move to the finals, I was thrilled.”

But, the excitement didn’t stop there. Noyce in her first ever competition at this level, took home top honors. “The competition brought people from all over the world and my goal was to make it to the finals,” Noyce says.

The intense competition included a reining pattern with a set number of maneuvers and then moves to a second part that includes cow work, which she says she “naturally liked” since she grew up with cattle on her family’s hobby farm. “I was excited to be there, but when they counted down the top places, and I realized I was going to be in the top three, I was proud to be taking home one of the trophies, but I had no inkling I would be taking home the gold,” she smiles.

After teaching agriculture for several years, Noyce relocated and without an opening to teach in her field, she began working in advertising sales for several agricultural publications.

Her experience at the U of M Crookston, she traces back to meeting, then admissions counselor, Brian Steenerson, who sparked her interest in the campus, which in turn brought her to compete with her Western teammates in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association, and eventually took her to a World Championship.
IN MEMORY

ALUMNI

Orland “Orlie” Hanson 1937
Crookston, Minn.
June 10, 2017

Roy Hanson 1940
Detroit Lakes, Minn.
January 11, 2012

Howard Heitman 1941 Adv.
Ada, Minn.
March 28, 2017

William “Bill” Barron 1942
Maple Grove, Minn.
April 17, 2016

Helen Nisbet 1942 Adv.
East Grand Forks, Minn.
January 22, 2017

Edmund Pietruszewski 1942
East Grand Forks, Minn., and formerly of Stephen, Minn.
June 22, 2017

Annabelle (Jeffrey) Turner 1942
Billings, Mont.
January 16, 2015

Clement Deschene 1943
Roseau, Minn.
June 5, 2010

Robert “Bobby” Love 1943
Bullhead City, Ariz.
November 29, 2016

Rosalie (Smrsky) Callery 1944
Kent, Wash.
April 19, 2017

Arnold “Arne” Engelstad 1945
Thief River Falls, Minn.
March 1, 2017

Florence (Urbaniak) Kuznia 1945 Adv.
Formerly of Warren, Minn.
November 17, 2016

Osmund Moe 1945
East Grand Forks, Minn.
June 2, 2017

Katherine (Moe) Foss 1946 Adv.
Park Rapids, Minn.
September 30, 2016

Bernice (Lindstrom) Harder 1946 Adv.
Warroad, Minn.
April 4, 2017

Willis Sondreal 1946
Grand Forks, N.D.
November 11, 2016

Conrad Zak 1946
East Grand Forks, Minn.
November 9, 2016

Willard “Bill” Williams 1949 Adv.
Crookston, Minn.
January 25, 2017

Raymond Wallenberg 1950 Adv.
Chickasha, Okla.
April 21, 2017

David Hauge 1952
Waubun, Minn.
March 12, 2017

Herbert Law 1952
Beltrami, Minn.
April 11, 2017

Eleanor (Schroeder) Lee 1953
Park River, N.D.
April 12, 2017

Clifford Nordine 1953
Roosevelt, Minn.
February 2, 2017

Kenneth Sanders 1955
Goodridge, Minn.
December 25, 2016

Arnold Skeie 1955
Fosston, Minn.
February 15, 2017

Warren Grothmann 1956
Hillsboro, N.D.
March 9, 2017

Claude Mosher 1956
Detroit Lakes, Minn.
May 12, 1027

James Houska 1957
Grafton, N.D.
May 10, 2017

Allen Tillett 1961
Devils Lake, N.D., and formerly of Cavalier, N.D.
April 27, 2017

Ar dus Nelson 1963
Grand Forks, N.D.
May 25, 2017

Duane Biene k 1965
Grand Forks, N.D. and formerly Warren, Minn.
June 19, 2017

Caryn (Wallenberg) Murray 1969
Hallock, Minn.
December 2, 2016

Wayne Burtness 1970
Watkins, Minn.
March 12, 2017

Wayne Omundson 1974 and 1976
Fosston, Minn.
December 25, 2016

Alan Blume 1976
Herman, Minn.
July 14, 2016

Thomas Lunde 1977
Grand Forks, N.D., and formerly of St. Thomas, N.D.
November 1, 2016

Keith Gillie 1983
Hallock, Minn.
April 1, 2017

James Stordahl 1987
Crookston, Minn.
November 6, 2016

Claire Rhode 2004
Crookston, Minn., and formerly of Mentor, Minn.
April 20, 2017

Sheena (Engelbert) Malnar 2008
Trout Creek, Mich.
June 2, 2017

Patricia King 2014
Crookston, Minn.
January 12, 2017

FACULTY/STAFF

Charles “Chuck” Averill
Crookston, Minn.
November 26, 2016
Served as the first campus patrolman at the University of Minnesota Crookston

Sady Newell
Fergus Falls, Minn.
April 12, 2017
Worked as an administrative assistant at the Northwest School of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota Crookston until her retirement in 1987

Doug Knowlton
St. Paul, Minn.
July 5, 2017
Served as vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Minnesota Crookston from 1998-2003.
Find more great pictures from 2017 graduation at: https://z.umn.edu/2t3g
UPCOMING EVENTS

Brew Bash at Day Block Brewing, Minneapolis, Minn..................................................September 14
Homecoming 2017 ......................................................................................................... September 29-30
Torch & Shield Recognition.............................................................................................. November 1
Alumni Social, Apache Wells Country Club, Mesa, Ariz. ........................................ February 16, 2018
Commencement Exercises for the Class of 2018............................................................. May 5, 2018
Northwest School of Agriculture All-School Reunion.................................................. June 30, 2018

I AM DRIVEN TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF OUR AGING POPULATION.

Combine your skills in management and passion for people with a degree in health management from the University of Minnesota Crookston.