Alumnus Bryan Boutain 2012 is grateful he had the option to earn his marketing degree online.

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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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On the front cover: Alumnus Bryan Boutain 2012, Gilbert, Ariz., earned his bachelor’s degree in marketing online. He is co-publisher and marketing director for Definitive Woman Magazine, which showcases women in West Central Minnesota. Photo by Christie Boutain.

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).
I am excited to have the opportunity to write my first letter to you in this issue of the *Torch*. When I came to the University of Minnesota Crookston as chancellor in late June, I already felt a kinship with alumni. I grew up in a small town in Iowa, and when I accepted the role as chancellor, I was happy to return to the Midwest. In fact, my husband Reg and I are still involved in agriculture through our family’s farm, and our welcome to this campus and community continues to feel like a warm, wonderful homecoming.

I jumped right into the work when I arrived and have been focused on learning more about our students, our campus, and our community. As some of you may know, we are involved in strategic planning and have taken time to look at refreshing our mission and vision. These tasks are important as they set the tone and focus for the future.

Our faculty and staff work diligently to provide students with a learning experience that encourages growth and prepares them for graduate school or the workplace. As I look back on campus history, it is easy to see how this institution has adapted time and again to the needs of the region and beyond. That ability is a great credit to campus leadership and to all our faculty and staff.

I am a witness to this amazing capacity for embracing change as we work through the strategic plan and look ahead to how the University of Minnesota Crookston will meet the needs of the students of tomorrow and beyond.

In order for us to rise to any challenge, we look to our alumni and friends for support. Your belief in education and your experience on this campus as an
Aggie, a Trojan, or a Golden Eagle combine to make you our finest ambassadors. Share your story when you have the chance. I believe it is an important way for you to have a positive influence on the campus whether you were a student on campus or online.

Another way is through your giving. Gifts in support of students are life changing for them. The words of one of our senior pre-vet scholarship recipients, Katie Warner, probably convey it best:

“To have someone I don’t even know help me attend school and support my dream of becoming a veterinarian is inspiring and encourages me to work hard to prepare for the next step—graduate school.”

As we envision the future, we see each of you as a vital part of who we become. As important as your legacy is, you are not only a part of our history; you are helping us build for all the generations to follow.

I hope you will visit campus whenever you have a chance, and when you do, stop and say hello; I would love to meet you and learn more about your student experience. If it works for you, plan to attend inauguration ceremonies coming up on Friday, April 6, 2018. It is my goal to have as much alumni involvement as possible, and I would love to have you join us.

Together, we will do our best for our students and for the campus we all hold dear.

Mary Holz-Clause
Chancellor
University of Minnesota Crookston
Bryan Boutain 2012 won’t allow a 1,678 mile commute to hinder his work or a campus located hundreds of miles away to prevent him from earning his degree.

Boutain lives in Gilbert, Ariz., but his businesses are located in Minnesota. This high-energy, savvy businessman won’t let location or distance stand in his way.

Growing up near Benson, Minn., his college education began when he earned a diploma in marketing, sales, and management from Moorhead Technical College and worked in sales. Hungry for more education, Boutain decided to go back to school at Alexandria [Minnesota] Technical & Community College. After earning his associate degree, he was one of the first to transfer as an online student to the University of Minnesota Crookston under a new articulation agreement in the Business Department. Leading the way meant Boutain and his advisor, Associate Professor Bruce Brorson, would need to work out the details to help him reach his goal.
“Learning online was fantastic,” he says. “Whenever I had the chance, I recommended it to other students who wanted to complete a bachelor’s degree but were tied to a location because of a job.”

When Boutain neared his final semester, he hit an unexpected bump in the road that might have proved a road block if it weren’t for his advisor, along with Sue Brorson, who was head of the Business Department at the time, and Rachel Lundbohm, one of his instructors. “Together they worked it out, and I managed to take 12 credits during my final semester while working,” he says. “It was intense, but really, it was great.”

Even with the heavy load, Boutain earned a perfect 4.0 grade point average that last semester and a spot on the Chancellor’s List. He also was named Outstanding Business Student in 2012. “I felt like that recognition came as kind of reward for the rigorous schedule I had to keep,” he smiles.

His resume shows a breadth of business experience beginning with retail sales followed by sales and catering for a hotel; working as a manager for Hot Stuff Pizza® where he started as territory manager and moved up through the ranks to marketing manager; starting and managing several successful coupon magazines; and partnering in the first all-male ownership in the country of a Curves® Gym. Boutain actually had ownership in three of them.

One of his most successful business ventures came when he took a job selling hardware and software for radio stations in the western half of the United States. “Selling some of the very latest equipment brought almost instant success,” he reflects. “And, it proved to be a game changer for me.”

He knew he would eventually want a job closer to home and that desire would eventually lead to the start of a coupon magazine and a foray into publishing, which today also includes the publishing of Definitive Woman magazine, both in Alexandria. Owning and operating businesses in Minnesota did not change for Boutain once he moved with his family to Arizona in order for his wife to take advantage of a career opportunity. His publishing business, along with a partnership in a family business, keeps the indefatigable Boutain on his toes.

“Going back to school brought me up to speed in the business world,” he explains. “It also renewed everything I knew about marketing and made me relevant again.”

When it came time to graduate, Boutain, who likes to finish what he starts, participated in commencement in what was his first visit to his alma mater. “I remember that day,” he says. “When I walked on campus, I thought of how I would have liked to have attended my classes in person, but in that same moment, I realized how grateful I was the online option was available for me.”
Growing up on an Iowa farm the youngest of five taught University of Minnesota Crookston Chancellor Mary Holz-Clause that when the occasion calls for it you have to stand up for yourself. And, while it might have helped make her tougher growing up, it also taught her that much can be accomplished when you work together.

Her style of servant leadership adheres to the adage that you not ask others to do what you are unwilling to do yourself. Throughout her career, Holz-Clause has found there is always room within a role to be an entrepreneur. “We all are leaders and capable of leading within the space in which we work,” she says. “Today’s actions help define our tomorrow, and as the chancellor, I look forward
to working with the faculty and staff to define not only who the University of Minnesota Crookston is today, but who we will become in the future.”

As Holz-Clause settles into her new role, she comes to it well prepared to lead. One of her earliest jobs was running political campaigns, and when they were finished, she worked as a vocational agricultural teacher. Her career would take her around the world as she led international trade missions for the Iowa Department of Economic Development and 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.

Prior to stepping into her role as chancellor, Holz-Clause served as the dean of the Huntley College of Agriculture and as a tenured professor in the Department of Agricultural Business Management and Agriculture Science at California State Polytechnic (Cal Poly) University Pomona.

“While I was not necessarily aspiring early in my career to work in administration, I love what I do today because of the opportunity I have to work with great people who are witnesses to the transformative power of education,” she says.

“The power of education to change lives is one of the things that attracted me to the role of chancellor at the U of M Crookston,” she continues. “Once I met with students and heard about their experience on this campus, I knew I wanted to do what I could to grow both resources and opportunities for the students here.”

For Holz-Clause the most influential person in her career has been Stanley Johnson, the vice provost for Iowa State University Extension and an internationally acclaimed agricultural economist. “He was so engaging, so entrepreneurial, and he had the ability to push people to be more than they thought they were,” she reflects. “His love of life was contagious. He truly pushed the entrepreneurial window for me, and he is the leader I want to emulate.”

Her bookshelves are lined with books on leadership and management, but she also enjoys reading for pure pleasure. She recommends one of her most recent reads—*The Perfect Horse* by Elizabeth Letts, which relates the story of a covert rescue operation during WWII by U.S. Army cavalryman, Colonel Hank Reed, to save some of the world’s finest purebred horses destined to be slaughtered by the approaching army.

Like this story of courage and a willingness to go beyond the call of duty, Holz-Clause is ready to work hard, to be an advocate for the campus, and to help define the future of the University of Minnesota Crookston.
One by one, five of the seven children of Eilert and Clara Fehr would leave the farm near East Grand Forks, Minn., to attend the Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA), and one by one, they would all graduate from college. For Robert Fehr 1967, watching his older brother Peter 1949 go from the NWSA to the University of Minnesota Medical School was the catalyst for his own career as an agricultural engineer.

“Peter wanted to become a doctor,” says Fehr. “His educational path inspired the rest of his siblings to go on to college. Expectations within a family can be overt, or they can be understood. In our family, it was an understood expectation that we would go to college.”

Life at the Northwest School was not only about academic work, but the learning that took place as a young high school student on your own for the very first time. “I learned a great deal about taking personal responsibility without having my parents to watch over me and my decisions,” explains Fehr. “The school created an environment where you could succeed, but it was truly up to you to do the work it would take to be successful.”
Earning both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in agricultural engineering from North Dakota State University in Fargo, N.D., was followed by a doctorate in agricultural engineering from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. This educational foundation led to a career in the field at the University of Kentucky where Fehr spent eight years as an Extension faculty member in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering in the area of livestock housing, 20 years in the College of Agriculture Information Technology Unit where he was director for 16 of those years, and the last six years back in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Extension Faculty in residential energy.

“The time I spent in information technology pre-date the IBM personal computer, and I loved working in an area where the target was moving and innovation was paramount,” Fehr says. “We had to stay ahead of the curve.”

He officially retired in 2010 but maintains some work in support of the area of residential energy efficiency and assisting with the completion of a grant-funded project before he retires completely.

As he looks back on his career, he sees his parents and his wife as his greatest influences. “My wife, Diana, made me a better person,” he says. “And, my mother was always very supportive of our dreams and goals but never demanding. My dad worked hard and because he tended to do everything on his own without asking for help I learned to work independently. Each of them influenced my life and my career for the better.”

In his retirement, Fehr enjoys golf and taking care of the home and yard he and Diana built. Sadly, she passed away in 2016.

Fehr was back on campus in June for the 50th reunion of the Class of 1967. “I think people would be surprised at how successful a great many of my classmates have been,” he reflects. “As I look back, my class has truly achieved a great deal across the board, and I think others would agree with that assessment.”

Note: Save the date for the Northwest School of Agriculture All-School Reunion scheduled for June 30, 2018!

A residential, agricultural high school located on what is now the University of Minnesota Crookston, the Northwest School of Agriculture served students from 1906-1968. Five of the seven children of Eilert and Clara Fehr graduated from the Northwest School including Peter 1950, Walter 1957, Eric 1961, Carol 1963, and Robert 1967. Siblings Marjorie and Jean, who both graduated from the public high school, were also college graduates.

In 2016, Fehr was a featured speaker at the Midwest Residential Energy Conference in Lexington, Kentucky.
Reflections on one of her final weekends playing Golden Eagle Soccer, Alumna Ellie Brettschneider 2017 looks back.

During the week prior to our weekend, I was very excited to play against Augustana and Wayne State. We have not been at the top in the conference, but we are a hard working team and rebuilding. As a team, our goal now is to have fun and to try to break down teams and knock them out of getting a playoff spot. This weekend meant a lot because it was also parents’ day on Saturday and senior day on Sunday. This meant a huge crowd and more excitement to perform well as a team. As a senior this year, I was very excited to walk off the field.

On Friday, since the soccer games were all at home, we all attended our normal class schedule for the day and had a walk-through practice that afternoon to prepare for our Saturday game against Auggie. We had a fun week of practices prior to this weekend to help us be open and ready for the weekend. I also had a friend come and visit along with my parents. This made my schedule crazy, but I had people to play for.

Saturday was game day against Auggie. This was parents’ day so before the game, every player had their parent come over to the team side of the field. We introduced them and thanked them for all their support dealing with our crazy soccer lives.

Auggie is fighting for a top three spot in the NSIC conference. They have been a tough team, but we wanted to keep them from earning points. We played very tough defense against them, but they scored with a tough shot on net to win the game 1 to 0. Even though our team lost, we did not give up, and it was a very close game. After the game, many soccer players went to Grand Forks with their families to enjoy going out to eat or shop with them. It was nice to have a day dedicated to parents.

Sunday was game day number two for the weekend and also senior day. This day meant something special to me because I am graduating this semester and my collegiate soccer career is ending. We had film in the morning and then locker room time to change and get ready for the game.

The team decorated the senior lockers and gave us a gift. We also got to walk out
before the game, and they announced a summary of our achievements on and off the field at the University of Minnesota Crookston. The team made a poster of each senior and gave us flowers. The team was pumped to play for all the seniors and to upset our opponent—Wayne. They are a team that is close to us, and we did not want to let them win.

Our team was able to score first on a nice header goal off a corner kick from senior Maggie Gibbons that connected with senior Ellie Brettschneider. This made the goal even more special because it was two seniors that got the assist and goal during the game. Wayne eventually tied the game up but we were able to hold our ground and create some chances and defend Wayne well to end in a tie.

Overall, this weekend for soccer is always something players look forward to because they get to see their families and show them how well the team plays together. As a team, we did not get the results we ultimately wanted, but as a player, I was able to walk off the field each day, happy with what we as a team accomplished and how we worked hard to get the results we did.

As the soccer season is getting closer to the end, I am realizing my time of playing soccer is ending. I cannot wrap my head around it. There are a handful of things I will miss such as: I will not be around my team 24/7, I will not be practicing and working out like my life depends on it, I will not be going to my coaches office for film or just to catch up about life, etc.

As a senior, there have been many lasts I have had to think about this year, but when I look back, after it is all said and done, I will not regret it because soccer will always be a part of me. Every game, every season, and every minute of soccer will be a part of who I am.

Movin’ Tail Feathers

The UMC Alumni Association, along with help from the Northwest School of Agriculture Alumni Association, are “Movin’ Tail Feathers.”

This campaign is to raise dollars to purchase a people mover for the U of M Crookston campus. The people mover will be used to conveniently transport our alumni and friends, of all ages and stages, who could use a lift from time to time on campus. The people mover will also make appearances at regional parades and special events promoting the University of Minnesota Crookston.

Your support of Movin’ Tail Feathers is greatly appreciated. To contribute, go to https://crowdfund.umn.edu/UMCpeoplemover
DeAndra (O’Connell) Navratil 2014 will finish her second year at Auburn University this spring with a master’s degree in community planning.
For 2014 graduate DeAndra (O’Connell) Navratil, a class with Associate Professor Katy Chapman sparked a future career or at least influenced it. The Grand Forks, N.D., native graduated from high school in Texas only to return to the area with plans to major in equine science at the University of Minnesota Crookston.

“When Katy talked about her phytoremediation research—using living plants to clean up soil, air, and water contaminated with hazardous chemicals—I was immediately intrigued,” says Navratil. “It led to a chance to work with her on the research and eventually I changed my major.”

With a degree in applied studies and an emphasis in environmental science, Navratil stacked her resume with learning experiences that would eventually make her a strong candidate for graduate school, although at the time, she was not conscious of it.

Study abroad trips to India and Spain, along with serving as the student sustainability assistant in the Center for Sustainability; an internship with Clean Energy Resource Teams, both with Professor Dan Svedarsky; and spending the summer prior to graduation working with the GreenStep Cities Initiative laid the foundation for her graduate work at Auburn University in Alabama.

“Working to make cities environmentally friendly and combining that environmental consciousness with tactical urbanism is what I love about the program at Auburn,” she says. “It is hands on, like my experience at the U of M Crookston, and opens the doors to many career options and perhaps continuing my education for a doctorate.

“The everyday decisions we make affect the environment and can influence the health of a city and its people,” she explains. “I want to help find ways to improve the health of people and our environment.

This past summer Navratil worked with Shannon Stassen 1990, Crookston city administrator as part of an internship focused on urban planning. “I knew from following the news in Crookston that the city intended to work on a master plan, and the fact that it happened during my internship was fortuitous for me and proved a wonderful learning experience.”

She loved the level of involvement she was allowed as it was both educational and dynamic. “Crookston was such a great fit for me and the people I got to work with were great,” Navratil reflects.

In her first year at Auburn, she particularly enjoyed urban economics as well as working as a graduate assistant helping review community plans. Classes in the program combine everything from law to public budgeting.

“When I graduated from the U of M Crookston, I didn’t necessarily have graduate school as a definite goal,” she says. “But, my boyfriend, now husband, Richard Navratil 2014 was headed to Georgia to work on his masters in business administration, so I decided to look at what was available around me. A full scholarship from Auburn in a program in community planning was perfect for me.”

Her final year at Auburn will keep the newlyweds apart for now. Richard, who graduated this spring, is working in Miamisburg, Ohio, for United Grinding and she will join him after completing her degree next spring.

As she left Crookston for the second time, she had two pieces of advice for students pursuing their undergraduate degree. “Don’t be hard on yourself, and always give yourself a shot,” she says. “The future is full of options even ones you may not think are available for you.

“And, hang out with people who you would like to be some day as your older self,” some sage advice from one very bright, talented, young professional.
H E M O C O M I N G  2 0 1 7

Hats off to Thee!
Homecoming was held on the weekend of September 29-30, 2017. Recognition of the Outstanding Alumni, the recipient of the Abbey Award, and the induction ceremony for the Athletic Hall of Fame took place during the annual Alumni Awards Celebration on Friday, September 29. The program was hosted by Brandy Chaffee, chief development officer, and Stephanie Helgeson, director of athletics.

The 2017 honorees include Brittani (Boehlke) Fiecke 2006, the recipient of the Abbey Award, which recognizes outstanding young alumni, and this year’s Outstanding Alumni Award recipients: Jeff Stauffenecker 1990 and Carl Wittenburg 1985. Inductees into the Athletic Hall of Fame were Scott Oliver, coach, 1987-2002; Joe Hasz 2006, men’s basketball; and the 2002 Men’s Golf Team.

CARL WITTENBURG 1985
presented by The Honorable Tom Anderson, University of Minnesota Board of Regents

Carl Wittenburg graduated from the University of Minnesota Crookston with an associate degree in agricultural business finance in 1985. He went on to earn his bachelor’s degree at North Dakota State University. He owns and operates Protein Alliance in Brooten, Minnesota, with fellow alumnus Jeff Stauffenecker. Prior to Protein Alliance, Wittenburg was employed by Northern Pride and as a U.S. sales manager with Hybrid Turkeys, an international genetics company. Wittenburg serves on the board of the National Turkey Federation.

JEFF STAUFFENECKER 1990
presented by former faculty member David Hoff

Jeff Stauffenecker grew up on a turkey farm in northern Minnesota. He earned his associate degree in agriculture from the University of Minnesota Crookston and a bachelor’s degree from North Dakota State University in agricultural economics. Stauffenecker worked for two years at Northern Pride as the turkey procurement manager, moved to Willmar, and worked for Jennie-O Foods as the commodity sales manager before his partnership with fellow alumnus Carl Wittenburg to form Protein Alliance. Stauffenecker serves on the board of the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association.

About Protein Alliance

Protein Alliance, Inc. was created in 1999 when Jeff Stauffenecker and Carl Wittenburg took their extensive experience in the agricultural industry and pursued their dream of becoming entrepreneurs. The company is a fully integrated, global meat brokerage and trading company located in central Minnesota providing a diverse product line of proteins from all the major processors in the United States. In 2015, the business was cited in Entrepreneur Magazine’s Hot 100.
Brittani (Boehlke) Fiecke, a 2006 graduate of the University of Minnesota Crookston, is a physician assistant practicing medical oncology at Essentia Health Cancer Center in Fargo, North Dakota. Fiecke spearheaded the creation and implementation of the comprehensive multidisciplinary Cancer Survivorship Program at Essentia Health. She initiated the utilization of telehealth, audiovisual real-time technology, to increase access to care for patients in rural communities. Prior to working at Essentia, Fiecke was employed as a private practice physician’s assistant at Waverly Hematology Oncology in Cary, North Carolina. It is there Brittani learned the fundamentals of oncology and her fascination with the field flourished.

Joe Hasz remains as one of the most prolific scorers in University of Minnesota Crookston men’s basketball history. Hasz played for the Golden Eagles from 1999-2003 earning All-American honors following the 2002-03 season. He earned All-NSIC First Team honors in three consecutive seasons from 2000-03. Hasz holds career marks for the Golden Eagles with 1,939 career points, 673 field goals made, 218 3-point field goals, 375 free throws, 483 rebounds and 216 steals. His marks continue.

Continued on next page...
to hold 15 years later. He also continues to hold several season records, with his single-season points, field goals, and free throws marks being eclipsed during the 2016-17 season by Harrison Cleary. Hasz led the NSIC in scoring during each of his final three seasons in the Maroon and Gold. He was the all-time leading scorer in the conference prior to being surpassed by Cody Schilling of Augustana. Hasz still remains No. 4 all-time in scoring in the NSIC even 15 years after the conclusion of his playing career.

SCOTT OLIVER

**presented by former football coach Jim Sims**

Scott Oliver coached football and men’s hockey at the University of Minnesota Crookston from 1987-2002. Oliver coached the men’s hockey team from 1987-98. During his time as hockey coach, Oliver posted a career record of 209-49-4. He led Minnesota Crookston to the top of junior college hockey with consecutive NJCAA National Championships in 1992-93 and 1993-94. The 1993-94 squad had an undefeated mark of 26-0-1 and was led by Nathan Pitt, Bill Trew, Jeff Malawski, and Ken Essay all being named All-Americans. His 1992-93 squad was paced by the performances of Ryan Driedger, Scott Elder, and Pete Nordell, who were all named All-Americans. Oliver headed the hockey team through their transition from NJCAA to NAIA. Driedger, Pitt, Essay, and Malawski are all U of M Crookston Hall of Famers, along with both of his National Championship Hockey teams. Oliver was named to the NJCAA Hockey Coaches Hall of Fame in the summer of 2017.

Oliver also saw success as the head football coach from 1995-2002. Prior to being elevated to head coach, Oliver served as defensive coordinator at the U of M Crookston. Oliver’s time on the gridiron was highlighted by leading the team to the NAIA playoffs for the first-time in school history in 1997. The squad went 7-3, including a 4-2 mark in the North Dakota Collegiate Athletic Conference playing them second in the league standings. Oliver’s 1997 team set countless records and included several individual achievements highlighted by NAIA All-American selections for Mark Olsonawski, who was named Second Team All-American; Cory Schreifels, who was named First Team All-American; and Jason Lindquist, who was First Team All-American.

2002 MEN’S GOLF TEAM

**presented by 2002 Men’s Golf Coach Jason Tangquist**

The 2002 Minnesota Crookston men’s golf team became the first program in school history to capture a Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) Championship by shooting a team score of 459 over 27 holes at Pebble Creek Golf Club in Becker, Minn. The team that competed at the NSIC Championship included Branden Schwartz, Nate Dahl, Vance Harren, Adam Dohlman, and Kent Orvik. In addition to their team championship, Schwartz became the first player in program history to win the individual NSIC Championship. The team’s Head Coach Jason Tangquist also earned NSIC Men’s Coach of the Year in 2002 following the team’s championship. Dahl finished third in the NSIC Championship, just two strokes behind his teammate Schwartz. The team also included Matt Hiller, Keith Johnson, Eric Barber, Tony Brateng, Scott Mack, Dominic Ste. Marie, and Chad Underdal. Harren was named NSIC All-Academic during the 2002 season. The same squad went on to compete in the NCAA Super Regional in the Spring of 2003, finishing eighth with Schwartz, Dohlman, Brateng, Underdal, and Hiller competing.
Standing in the Arizona sunshine, her two horses, Hustler and Jasper vying for her attention, you can understand why Kimberlee (Dolgos) Kiewel 1991 might have been interested in equine science at the University of Minnesota Crookston when she was growing up.

Born in Crookston, but raised in Brainerd, Kiewel had the opportunity to attend the Hawkeye Hill Racing School in Commiskey, Ind., after graduating from high school and gaining valuable experience in both riding and barn management. The 68-acre, state-accredited school opened in 1979 and featured two training tracks, starting gates, barns, a classroom building, and dormitory.

While Kiewel was at Hawkeye Hill she went on a trip to Claiborne Farm in Kentucky and she met and had a chance to pet Secretariat, the 1973 Triple Crown champion. Meeting Secretariat was a dream come true for Kiewel who had dreams of becoming a jockey at the time.

As a junior in high school, Kiewel tagged along with two seniors from Brainerd High School on a campus visit to the U of M Crookston. “At the time, my grandmother lived in Crookston, and I thought I might be interested in becoming a veterinarian,” she explains. “When I started college, I discovered training and showing, and I knew that was the path for me.”
At the U of M Crookston, Kiewel was a member of the Equine Club, a football cheerleader, and a member of homecoming royalty in 1991. She was also the recipient of a Student Service Award, now known as the Student Achievement Award, which recognizes students who excel academically and through leadership and service to the University and the local community.

A summer internship at a horse racing stable near Cannon Falls, Minn., was followed by a job after graduation as assistant trainer at Hardwood Creek Farm in Hugo, Minn. The owners of Hardwood Creek Farm, Lyle and Colleen Wick, both have a strong tie to Crookston. Lyle earned his associate degree in light horse management in 1974 from the U of M Crookston, and was head of equine science on the campus from 1984 to 1994. During that period, Colleen taught continuing education in addition to giving riding lessons.

While at Hardwood Creek Farm, Kiewel helped start a program of riding lessons, which today draws riders from the Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn., area along with students from western Wisconsin.

After Kiewel moved to Phoenix, Ariz., she worked as a flight attendant for American West Airlines for almost a decade before her career took an abrupt change.

“I attended some Police Explorer events with my girlfriends in high school, and maybe that was a foreshadowing of my future career,” she says. “In my mid-thirties, I decided to attend the Phoenix Police Academy. It was a dream of mine all along, and I decided then, it was now or never.”

Since graduating from the academy, Kiewel has worked for the Phoenix Police Department and enjoys the variety and daily challenges of a job where no two days are the same.

Kiewel’s interest in horses has never waned, and she even enjoyed competitions in mounted shooting. It’s her voice that lends itself to
Kiewel’s other interest—music. She sang her first solo at the U of M Crookston under the direction of George French. She continues to sing at the request of others, but she also sings for herself as well as with her favorite duet partner, her husband Stephen Dolgos.

Most of all, though, when time allows, Kiewel continues to deeply enjoy her dogs, her horses, and riding in the beautiful Arizona sun.

Kiewel Brewing Company

The Kiewel family has a history in Crookston dating back to 1899. A building on Front and 5th streets in Crookston became the home to several brewing companies beginning in 1879 until 1899 when it was purchased by Jacob and Charles Kiewel.

The Kiewel family had experience in the brewing industry. After emigrating to the United States in 1856, the family opened a brewery in Fergus Falls, Minn., but 8 years later, it burned to the ground. Purchasing a brewery in Little Falls, Minn., gave the family a fresh start and after that operation was enlarged the name of the business was changed to Kiewel Brewing Company.

Charles borrowed $3,000 from his father to buy all the stock for the brewery in northwest Minnesota and organize the Kiewel Brewing Company in its Crookston location. After enlarging the operation, the brewery had a capacity of 30,000 barrels a year and sold product in the northwestern part of the U.S. and extensively in Canada.

According to Footprints of Yesterday, a publication from Crookston’s centennial celebration published in 1979, the company grew:

Within a few years the Kiewels had built a barn for the horses and wagons used for local deliveries and increased their shipments by rail to six states.

A new well was dug from which “water was boiled for ten hours to make it perfectly pure.”

White Seal Beer from Kiewel Brewing Company was purported to be “liquid food,” a “builder of health,” and “ABSOLUTELY pure.”

During Prohibition, the Kiewels moved their brewing operation to Canada and the name of the Crookston plant changed to Kiewel Products Company, and they produced non-alcoholic beverages, butter, and ice cream.

Kiewel’s company in Crookston closed for good in 1934, and the building was used as a warehouse until 1976 when it was purchased by alumnus Glen Torkelson 1947 and 1973 and operated as Torkelson Repair.

White Seal Beer was brewed at the Kiewel Brewing Company in Crookston, Minn.

A building on Front and 5th streets in Crookston was home to several brewing companies between 1879 through 1899 when it was purchased by Jacob and Charles Kiewel.

Northwest School of Agriculture
All-School Reunion | June 30, 2018

Watch your mail for more information regarding the reunion. If you would like to gather your class at this all-school reunion, contact Rose in the alumni office by calling 218-281-8439 or email rulseth@umn.edu
The first superintendent at the Northwest Research and Outreach Center, once known as the Northwest Experiment Station, was Torger A. Hoverstad. As the first in its history, Hoverstad had many priorities: tree planting, drainage of the 476.61 acres donated by railroad magnate James J. Hill, and the establishment of a school for rural students.

In 1905, an article was published in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* based on an interview with Hoverstad about his vision for rural schools and practical education. Here is what he said:

**From the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* – July 16, 1905 (sent to the Northwest School by Superintendent T.A. Hoverstad)**

**Tells of plans for the Improvement of Gopher Rural Schools**

Superintendent T.A. Hoverstad of Crookston Discusses the Aims of his Department

Farmers’ Children Are to be Put in Easier reach of Sound, Practical Education.

Superintendent T.A. Hoverstad of the Crookston Experiment Station, in an interview with the *Pioneer Press* correspondent, outlined the plan of work which will be adopted in the new agricultural schools and the general idea of state officials in regard to the course of work as follows:

“The leading industry in Minnesota is farming. The annual returns from farms are enormous. The future will see her agriculture carried on on a still larger scale. Much of the land in Minnesota is yet virgin soil. Even in the older sections the productive possibilities of the soil have not been given a serious test.

“The state has been liberal in providing for the education of her citizens. A system of schools has been supported which ranks well with those of any other state. The people being of a progressive nature always have improved her institutions in harmony with the progress of the state.

“Great strides have been made in experimental agriculture and in agricultural education. Beside the government experiment station in St. Anthony Park, the state is supporting the experiment farm at Grand Rapids and one at Crookston. The different soil and climatic conditions in the northeastern and northwestern portions of the state fully justifies the establishment of these stations.

**Farm at Crookston**

“The Northwest Experiment farm at Crookston consists of about 450 acres of land. This was donated to the state by the Great Northern Railroad company. The equipment consists of a dwelling house, a horse barn, and a large poultry plant together with horses and machinery sufficient enough to work the farm. Herds of registered Shorthorns, Galloways, and Hereford cattle, Yorkshire hogs and grade Oxford sheep comprise a large portion of the livestock. The poultry plant is equipped for wintering 500 birds. From 1,000 to 1,200 birds are hatched out annually. The system of poultry culture is so simple that any farmer can use this as a model. The farm is fenced into fields and pastures with wire netting so that the best use can be made of all parts of the farm. The property the state owns is valued at $50,000. The experiments conducted have determined the best kinds of methods of raising grains, grasses, forage crops, vegetables,
trees, shrubbery, flowers, etc.

The great problem remaining unsolved is the control of the soil moisture and the removal of alkali in the soils. The plans include this as a special feature.

“The results of the experiments have been brought before the people by the institute system. Here the teacher imparts the knowledge verbally and experience has proved this to be a most effective plan. This has been supplemented by publications and personal correspondence. Those who have been in close touch with this work have for a long time recognized that another agency is needed to make this work as productive and as good as possible. The extension of this work by some school system is necessary.

Initiates School Idea

“In order than an attempt might be made to develop a system of education in harmony with country life in Minnesota, Senator A. D. Stephens of Crookston and Representative B.S. Bennett of Fosston undertook to secure sufficient funds from the last legislature to make the initial attempt in this line. Fifteen thousand dollars was secured to put up a building in connection with the Northwest Experiment farm. The equipment of the farm then could be used for the school, as well as for experimental purposes. Those employed on the farm could assist as teachers. No fund is provided for the support of the school, but some plan probably will develop so the school can be organized in the near future. It may prove to be a wise arrangement that only a small sum of money was provided. This makes it necessary that the institution shall grow out conditions and that useful things only be attempted.

The bulk of the rural population now are educated in the district school. These schools have been the means of doing a great deal of good, but they do not meet the requirements at the present time and some other system will doubtless be introduced. The present system divides life into two periods. The early years are devoted to training; the latter years to work. Many who have finished their education have suffered great hardship in starting in on life’s work. The time for training and education should extend almost from birth to death, and the time for work should be co-extensive with the time for training. Training and performance should go hand in hand.

Make More Work Cooperative

Nearly all the time of the parents may be taken up on the farm, but there is much of the routine work in the farm home that could better be done in cooperative industries. The co-operative creamery has taken churning away from the home, and many others could be cared for the same way. Much of the drudgery on the farm should be eliminated. Under the present system, the children are sent away to school, and the parents stay home doing the drudgery. Would it not be more pleasant to keep the children at home and teach them and send the drudgery away? The farm home offers many opportunities for education that is not possible in a schoolhouse. Planning, planting, and caring for a farm garden gives the children much to study and interest them. They would by this learning be doing. In hatching and rearing a flock of chickens, the children also will find much pleasure. All work done on the farm could be made to serve as useful lessons if their attention was called to the proper phase of it.

The consolidated rural school will soon take the place of the district school. Here the children will have better advantages than in the small district and at the same time be at home, so that they can be in close touch with farm life. No school should be planned that it will drive a wedge in between the children and their parents’ home.

The Rural High School

The rural high school will be the new departure which Minnesota will introduce in the near future. The plan of the school probably will be the product of experience and experiments. The school is for the people, and the wants of the people will mould the character of the institution. It must of necessity be the outgrowth of a co-operation between the parties having the school in charge and the people who live in the territory where the school is located. The school must adjust itself to the needs of the people.

“The law provides for instruction in such studies ‘as are related to agriculture and domestic economy.’ This will include studies in agronomy, horticulture, livestock, farm mechanics, cooking, laundering, etc. These are all studies which every farmer or farmer’s wife should be familiar with. While the law provides for instruction in agriculture and domestic economy, it does not mean to exclude all the common branches now studied in our schools.
Patricia (Berg) and Theodore Kroulik
Adv. 1942, Stephen, Minn., were joined in marriage at Maria Lutheran Church in Kennedy, Minn., on June 22, 1947. Seventy years later, the couple celebrated with family members this special anniversary. Ted and Pat’s legacy includes four children, ten grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren. Sadly, Ted passed away on August 10, 2017.

Allen 1951 and Lorraine (Zipoy) Love 1954, East Grand Forks, Minn., celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a family dinner recently. They were married November 2, 1957, in Tabor, Minn.

Harvey Peterson 1961, Lorena, Texas, was recently interviewed for the Veterans’ Voices feature in the Waco Tribune-Herald, Waco, Texas. Retired Air Force Major Harv Peterson planned to become a pilot watching crop dusters fly as a child in Northwood, N.D. Following high school, he attended the University of North Dakota, joined the university’s aero club, learned to fly, and earned his bachelor’s degree. After joining the Air Force, he trained at Williams Air Force Base in Arizona, from early June 1966 to late June 1967. Once he completed basic and advanced training, he went to instructor pilot training school at Perrin AFB in Texas, followed by four years of teaching undergraduate pilot training at Vance AFB in Oklahoma. He served in Vietnam for 13 months in 1972-73.

He served 14 more years in the Air Force, with the last seven years at Pope AFB in North Carolina, from which he retired in 1987. His 21-year service took him throughout the world, amassing some 7,000 flight hours, and while serving in Athens, Greece, met his future wife, who worked as a civilian for the Air Force. He and Georgia Jenkins married in April 1990 and have been together 27 years.

Daryl Anderson 1964, Fargo, N.D., is retired and spends the winters at Apache Wells in Mesa, Ariz.

Daryll Anderson 1977, Hallock, Minn., returned in May to employment as a social worker in Hallock, the place where she first worked as a nurse’s aide while in high school. She earned her bachelor’s degree in family relationships and master’s degree in social work, both from the University of Minnesota. Today she works mainly in the nursing home in Hallock, with some of her time spent in the hospital. Nancy and her husband, Doug, have three children, and they enjoy traveling. Their travels have included England, Belgium, and South Korea visiting their children while living there.

Dan Pecarina 1980, Winona, Minn., was recently elected to the Winona National Bank board of directors. He is president and CEO of Hiawatha
Broadband Communications (HBC). In his 18 years with HBC, he has overseen the implementation of a wide range of data, video, and voice systems and services. He and his wife, Mary Kaye, have two children and are now enjoying life as grandparents.

Kim (Strandell) Nellos 1981, Wichita Falls, Texas, is a claims specialist with the Social Security Administration. She is excited to share that she became a grandmother in September.

Carl Wittenburg 1985, Alexandria, Minn., and his wife, Sharlene, opened their Alexandria farm to Douglas County 4-H members to work with turkeys for the 4-H Science in Ag competition, and to raise turkeys for the 70th annual National Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation in Washington, D.C. The turkey presentation ceremony dates back to 1947, with presidents occasionally sparing birds presented to them by the National Turkey Federation. Since 1989, it has been an annual tradition for the president to “pardon” the turkey. As the mid-November trip draws closer, two turkeys from the “presidential” flock with the best temperament and appearance will be chosen for the White House visit and the thirteenth time a Minnesota turkey has traveled to the White House for the presentation. Wittenburg is chairman of the National Turkey Federation.

Nikki (Krueger) Massmann 2003, East Grand Forks, Minn., accepted a position as communications director for the Energy & Environmental Research Center at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, N.D. She began her new position in February.

Adam Koplin 2005, Milbank, S.D., was recently promoted to manager of the Big Stone Power Plant, a coal-fired plant operated by Otter Tail Power Company, a utility company based out of Fergus Falls, Minn. Adam began working in the plant in 2009 as a plant engineer and was promoted to operations supervisor in 2011. He and his wife, Jenny (Martinson) 2007, are the parents of three children.

Bill Anderson 2000, Crookston, Minn., market president, American Federal Bank, has recently graduated from the Graduate School of Banking at Colorado, a three-summer banking school which provides management and leadership training for community-banking professionals. He joined American Federal in 2003 as an ag and business banker in Hallock and transferred to the Crookston office in 2011 where he was named market president in 2012. Bill and his wife, Holly, have two sons.

Erin (Kappes) Aanenson 2007, North Mankato, Minn., recently transitioned to North Mankato Foundation Executive Director, South Central College.

Shayla (Henneberg) Solberg 2007, Crookston, Minn., is the Regional Clinic Manager of Crookston, Erskine, Fertile and Red Lake Falls, part of the Altru Health System. In this role, she will manage, develop, and oversee daily clinic operations, including human resource functions, goal development and implementation, and community engagement. She previously served as a human resources director and medical practice manager. Shayla and her husband, Jake 2009, have three children.
Jenae Hanson 2008, Andover, Minn., and Ryan Farnham were married September 23, 2017, at Canosia Grove. They live in Duluth, Minn.

2010s

Jeff Carr 2010, Knoxville, Tenn., was named head coach of the Knoxville Ice Bears, a professional ice hockey team that competes in the Southern Professional Hockey League. Most recently, he was an assistant coach with the Utah Grizzlies, the East Coast Hockey League affiliate of the National Hockey League’s Anaheim Ducks.

Jeffrey Runck 2012, Boise, Idaho, is a smokejumper for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Great Basin Smokejumpers, who provide wildland fire and hazardous fuels reduction services to BLM and other land managers.

Cecil Brown Jr. 2013, Edison, Ga., is a health and physical education teacher at Early County High School in Blakely, Ga.

Michael Larson 2013, Schaumburg, Ill., was recently named general manager of the Schaumburg Boomers, a professional baseball team based in Schaumburg and part of the independent Frontier League. He was previously assistant general manager and director of ticket operations with the Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks.

Photo from St. Cloud Times

Angela Schuster 2013, Becker, Minn., is a certified physician assistant who recently joined Regional Diagnostic Radiology in Sartell, Minn., bringing 18 years of experience as a registered radiologic technologist.

Sara Scott 2013 and Ethan Mattson 2013, were married on October 14, 2017, at Thumper Pond Resort in Ottertail, Minn. They currently reside in Circle Pines, Minn.

Cayla Bendel 2014, Lakeville, Minn., was recently hired by Pheasants Forever as the new Women in Conservation coordinator for the state of North Dakota. She will focus exclusively on outreach, education, and technical assistance to agricultural producers, landowners, and volunteers, with an emphasis on accelerating conservation engagement among women.

Photo from Resource magazine

Joe Blaufuss 2014, Modelia, Minn., is employed by CHS Dakota Plains Ag as a yield point specialist. He was recently featured in the September/October 2017 Resource EXPLORE issue on page 18: https://z.umn.edu/blaufuss.

Alexandra Skeeter 2014, New Berlin, Wis., recently concluded her third year of study at the Latin American School of Medicine, on the island nation of Cuba. She hopes to stress the Cuban example of community-based medicine and preventive care when she returns to practice in Milwaukee, Wis.

Jessica Wark 2014, Monticello, Minn., will graduate in December with a doctorate in Chiropractic and a master’s in Exercise Science from Northwestern Health Sciences University.

Oluwatosin Ayeni 2015, Grand Forks, N.D., is employed by LM Wind Power as a continuous improvement technician.

Andrew Buell 2015, Lakewood Ranch, Fla., and Ashley Pederson were married September 30, 2017, at Central Lutheran Church in Elk River, Minn., with a reception following at The Friendly Buffalo in Big Lake, Minn. Friends celebrating with the couple included, front row, left to right: Emily Caldis 2015, Princeton, Minn.; Megan Betcher 2015, Red Wing, Minn.; Ashley (Pederson) Buell and Andrew Buell 2015; Tareyn Stomberg 2017, Menahga, Minn.; and Emily Goff 2015, Danvers, Minn. Back row: Colton Sothman; Tony Long 2016, Champlin, Minn.; Kole Pederson 2015, Bejou, Minn.; Kevin Bunde 2014, Parkers Prairie, Minn.; and Adam Roerish 2015, Rochester, Minn.

Kathryn Sheetz 2016, Grand Rapids, Minn., currently in graduate school at the University of Minnesota Duluth, claimed her fourth Birchmont title, winning the Birchmont Golf Tournament in Bemidji, Minn., in July 2017. Also competing in the tournament was Nick Bergan 2014, Grand Forks, N.D., who won the division crown in the executive men’s division.
Joseph Arnold 2017, Holloway, Minn., was awarded the FFA’s American Star Farmer Award. See the nominees in videos at https://www.ffanewhorizons.org/2017/10/19/meet-the-2017-american-star-farmer-finalists/. He works with his parents on their family farm near Holloway. The FFA American Star Awards for outstanding accomplishments in FFA and agricultural education were presented at the National FFA Convention and Expo held October 25-28 in Indianapolis, Ind.

Tyler Driscoll 2017, East Grand Forks, Minn., has joined American Crystal Sugar Company (ASCS) as an agriculturalist in the Drayton, N.D., district. He previously was an ASCS intern.

Michelle Haider 2017, Kansas City, Mo., is a quality improvement manager for Saving Sight, a non-profit organization founded in 1960 and headquartered in Kansas City.

Sarah (Nystad) Ringdahl 2017, Crookston, Minn., is a universal banker at Bremer Bank of Crookston.

“Leo” Zhiwei Xu 2017, Hangzhou, China, is working toward a master’s degree at Cranfield University, United Kingdom.

IN MEMORY

ALUMNI

Ethel (Torkelson) Bliven Adv. 1934
Saratoga, Calif.
August 13, 2017

Donald Hildebrand 1939
Sioux Falls, S.D.
July 16, 2017

Margaret (Ristad) Bankers Adv. 1941
Sioux Falls, S.D.
October 24, 2017

Jean (Johnson) Hoppe 1941
Crookston, Minn.
September 9, 2017

Camilla (Ecklund) Johnson Adv. 1941
Hopkins, Minn.
October 18, 2017

Harold Qualley Adv. 1941
Fairmont, Minn.
September 6, 2017

Irvin Johnson Adv. 1942
Thief River Falls, Minn.
September 8, 2017

Theodore Kroulik Adv. 1942
Stephen, Minn.
August 10, 2017

Myles Drellack 1943
Crookston, Minn.
November 10, 2017

Ervin Johnson 1944
Fergus Falls, Minn.
October 10, 2017

JoAnne (Quigley) Stambaugh 1947
Spearfish, S.D.
February 24, 2017

Jerome Thompson 1951
Dilworth, Minn.
August 1, 2017

Gene Laurin 1953
Argyle, Minn.
November 18, 2017

Elton Sondrol 1953
Grand Forks, N.D.
October 15, 2017

Keith Danks 1954
Erskine, Minn.
November 4, 2017

Ardell Greskowiak 1955
Hibbing, Minn.
November 27, 2009

Robert Zimny 1955
Fargo, N.D.
October 19, 2017

David Ebben 1956
Fargo, N.D.
September 23, 2017

Gordon Gabbert 1957
Grafton, N.D.
June 30, 2017

Larry Hagen 1958
Gatzke, Minn.
July 23, 2017

Burnett Larson 1959
Kent, Wash.
August 30, 2017

Paul St. Germain 1961
Argyle, Minn.
September 30, 2017

Leon Bitker 1963
Fosston, Minn.
September 8, 2017

Gary Grega 1964
Houston, Texas, formerly Warren, Minn.
December 17, 2015

Richard Kovar 1964
East Grand Forks, Minn.
August 8, 2017

Mark Casavan 1965
and 1968
Spearfish, S.D.
September 1, 2017

Todd Mikulecky 1966
Hawley, Minn.
October 15, 2017

Francis Dolan 1968
Bemidji, Minn., formerly Grafton, N.D.
September 28, 2017

Dale Kuznia 1968
Greenbush, Minn.
October 15, 2017

Ronald Reitmeier 1968
Crookston, Minn.
November 21, 2017

Joseph Gamboa 1985
Grand Forks, N.D.
November 4, 2017

Redgie “Buck” Simmons 1985
Mahnomen, Minn.
September 27, 2017

Paul Larson 2001
Milan, Minn.
August 21, 2017

Trevis Knutson 2004
Crookston, Minn.
September 2, 2017

Douglas Knowlton
St. Paul, Minn.
July 5, 2017

Served as vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Minnesota Crookston from 1998 to 2003

Rita Meyer
Melbourne, Fla.
August 8, 2017

Served as vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Minnesota Crookston from 1985 to 1997

Art Vraa
Climax, Minn.
July 3, 2017

Taught biology, drivers training, was assistant football coach, and head counselor in Robertson Hall in 1965

FACULTY/STAFF

IN MEMORY
TORCH & SHIELD RECOGNITION

It is an evening dedicated to honoring individuals and organizations who have provided leadership and who have aided in the development of the University of Minnesota Crookston, the Northwest Research and Outreach Center, and Extension. The annual Torch & Shield Recognition was held on Wednesday, November 1, 2017, in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. This year two organizations and one individual received the prestigious award: Justin Dagen, Bremer Bank, and American Crystal Sugar Company.

Hosting the evening’s event were Albert Sims, head of the Northwest Research and Outreach Center, and Mary Holz-Clause, chancellor of the University of Minnesota Crookston.

Two students were featured during the program, which celebrated the region’s agricultural roots. Senior Natalye Kobetsky, a business management and agronomy double major from Grand Forks, N.D., represented student scholarship recipients in a speech that focused on those who have believed in her. Senior Cassandra Mortera, a communication major from Mexico City, Mexico, presented her creative works project—a video depicting the ingredients that make up the experience of earning a bachelor’s degree at the U of M Crookston.

Members of the President’s Club were recognized on stage by Chief Development Officer Brandy Chaffee and Jan Sickbert, associate vice president of college and campus programs and representative of the University of Minnesota Foundation.

Hey Alumni! Do you have kids or grandkids in high school? Do they want to change the world?

The U of M Crookston is hosting the Northern Great Plains Youth Institute, a World Food Prize event, on campus in May!

High school students research issues they care about, and propose their ideas to solve these challenges during the Northern Great Plains Youth Institute to be held on May 7, 2018, at the U of M Crookston.

To participate, students research a global issue and write a two-three page paper under the supervision of a teacher or mentor (using the downloadable guidelines available at https://z.umn.edu/35m8).

Students in grades nine through twelve during the 2017/18 school year are eligible to apply.

Registration and paper submission due online by April 9, 2018.

Students who participate in the Northern Great Plains Youth Institute can earn a scholarship to the University of Minnesota Crookston, recognition as a Borlaug Scholar, and qualify for internships and more.

For more information visit the Northern Great Plains Youth Institute website or contact Eleora DeMuth at demut058@crk.umn.edu or 218-281-8569.
2017 Torch & Shield Recipients: Tom Astrup, president and CEO of American Crystal Sugar Company; Jim Snyder, president and marketing manager of Bremer Bank; and Justin Dagen, a fifth generation farmer and member of the County Extension Committee.

Presidents Club honorees included Lyle and Sue Westrom; Angel Weasner, representing the Noon Day Lions; and Deborah Zak.

Student Ambassadors Tori Koch, Daija Williams, and Steven Gonzalez staffed the coat check during the evening.

Student speakers: seniors Cassandra Morthera and Natalye Kobetsky
UPCOMING EVENTS

Alumni Basketball Weekend ............................................................................................................................. TBD
Ag Arama .......................................................................................................................................... January 27, 2018
Justin Knebel Ice Fishing Tournament ................................................................................. February 3, 2018
Alumni Social, Apache Wells Country Club, Mesa, Ariz............................................. February 16, 2018
Inauguration of Chancellor Mary Holz-Clause .......................................................................... April 6, 2018
Commencement Exercises for the Class of 2018............................................................... May 5, 2018
Northwest School of Agriculture All-School Reunion............................................... June 30, 2018

The everyday decisions all of us make affect the environment and can influence the health of a community and its people. I want to help communities make the best possible decisions.