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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.

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

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

On the front cover: Alumna Megan Schultz graduated in May 2018 and is currently working as a grow finish field supervisor with Pipestone Systems in Pipestone, Minn. Congratulations to all our spring semester 2018 graduates.

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).
Summer days are a great time to reflect. When I have an opportunity to think back on the academic year, there are several moments that come to mind immediately: inauguration, graduation, and our alumni gatherings.

The inauguration of our new chancellor was epic and one of the reasons I enjoyed it so much was a special panel of alumni and current students hosted by Chancellor Mary Holz-Clause. Both students and alumni shared openly about their time as students, and along with those memories came laughter and a few tears. This campus means so much to so many, and it was interesting to witness the many shared experiences of each era despite the span of years.

The inauguration ceremony was memorable and all who attended were struck by the connection Chancellor Holz-Clause has already developed with our students and the community. As you have a chance to meet her, I think you will agree she brings a great deal to her new role in the way of energy and leadership. It is exciting for me to be a part of the work.

Graduation brought a few tears as well as we watched the Class of 2018 take their place in history. This sentiment was reflected in the commencement address by alumna Peggy Hilton, who represented the first graduating class in 1968 following the historic transition from a high school to a college. We welcome our new alumni to the alumni association and wish each one of them great success as they move on to the next stage in their lives. But, like all of our alumni, we encourage each of you to come back often as the years go by.

For me, one of the most refreshing and renewing experiences in my role in the Office of Development & Alumni Relations is the events gathering alumni together. The Brew Bash Tour stops over the last couple of years have taken us to Minneapolis, Nisswa, and Hallock in Minnesota,
Scottsdale in Arizona, and Fargo and Grand Forks in North Dakota. At each of these events, we have reconnected with alumni and were reminded of the privilege it is to work in alumni relations. It is heartwarming to hear alumni share their stories with staff and with one another. Once again, that shared experience is the thread that ties us all together.

The reunion of the Northwest School of Agriculture in June brought together a large group of alumni who continue to demonstrate such passion for this campus. The feelings are almost palpable when these precious alumni walk the halls together once more. They share such a unique history, and yet, their legacy remains strong today. It is remarkable that one could have been here as a high school student, a two-year technical college student, a four-year student, or as an online student arriving at the University of Minnesota Crookston for the very first time to participate in graduation ceremonies. We all share an incredible connection to this place!

It is fun to take a few moments to reflect, but I want to leave you with an invitation for the future. Homecoming will be here before we know it, and we would love to have you back. The theme this year is “There is No Place Like Homecoming” and it’s true. So consider a trip back to YOUR campus on the weekend of September 28-29 to celebrate our Outstanding Alumni, our Athletic Hall of Fame inductees, and to join us for alumni gatherings all weekend long. Homecoming is better when shared, and we would love to share it with you!

Maroon and Gold Forever,
Brandy Chaffee 2000
Chief Development Officer
Office of Development & Alumni Relations
University of Minnesota Crookston

Golden Eagle Pitcher Zach Seipel Signs with the Atlanta Braves

Zach Seipel, former Golden Eagle pitcher, signed with the Atlanta Braves in mid-June. Seipel went from catcher to pitcher to Minor League Baseball in 3 years! He played for the Advanced-Rookie Danville Braves in Danville, Va. He is the first player in school history to be drafted in the Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft. He was selected with the 602nd pick in the 27th round by the Atlanta Braves.

Seipel, a health management major from Eagan, Minn., was a three-year member of the Minnesota Crookston baseball program. He was a three-time All-NSIC selection, earning All-NSIC First Team honors in 2018. Seipel accumulated 31 saves over his three seasons with the Golden Eagles. He posted a 4-2 mark with a 2.70 ERA in 36.2 innings pitched with eight saves. Seipel struck out 63 batters as a junior with just 17 walks. Seipel came to Minnesota Crookston as a catcher before being converted to a relief pitcher after throwing a bullpen during the fall of his freshmen season. He pitched roughly seven innings in his high school career at Eagan High School prior to arriving in Crookston. He was a staple as the Golden Eagles’ closer.

Two New Majors Added

Two majors and a minor have been added to the portfolio of academic offerings at the University of Minnesota Crookston. A Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Agricultural Communication along with an online B.S. in English, and an English minor online, were approved at the February 2018 meeting of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents, the University system’s governing body.

Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Communication

A Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Communication prepares students to be effective communicators in agribusinesses, commodity groups, agricultural advocacy agencies, and agricultural communication organizations. The program blends agriculture, communication, and liberal education courses that prepare students for a wide variety of career choices.

Bachelor of Science in English online, English minor

English is among the most popular degrees in the nation, and English graduates have created careers in diverse areas. A major in English offered on campus since early 2015 will now be offered online giving students greater flexibility. An English minor online will also be offered on campus and available online.
Growing up in Washington, D.C., in the 1960s was tough. During that time, Washington was at the heart of unrest over segregation and the loss of two giants in American history—President John F. Kennedy and Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. To say the least, things were difficult, but you could also say that the trying decade is what made Lloyd Mayes, well, Lloyd Mayes.

One of six children in the family, Mayes was close to his siblings in terms of age.

“My parents had six kids, and we were all mates,” Mayes said. “You are salt and pepper. If pepper is here, salt better be here as well,” his mom would say.

Mayes was particularly close to his older sister, who was just a year older than he was. She was a role model for him growing up, and much the opposite of her brother, his sister was big into the theater. Mayes wasn’t a fan of the theater, until his older sister would bring him to plays and musicals all around the Washington, D.C., area.

“The thing I grew to love about the theater is that it was in real time, and your thoughts are your thoughts in the moment that things are happening,” Mayes said.

Besides being involved in the theater, Mayes was involved in various rallies around issues important to him.

“My best friend growing up, who turned out to be a civil rights lawyer, and I would attend various rallies and stand up for the things we believed in.” said Mayes.

In turn, he experienced things a lot of people haven’t done, but he would say that’s what made him understand things a little better than some kids his age.

“I knew some of the world, and I knew what some of the world was like on more than one side of it,” Mayes said.

Mayes may have grown up in a tough neighborhood, but he says even though he grew up in a rough neighborhood, it didn’t define him.

The basketball journey was a long, strange, and interesting one for Mayes. Growing up, he wasn’t involved in much. He eventually became interested in theater with the help of his sister, and became interested in civil rights thanks to his best friend, but besides that, there wasn’t much that caught his attention. That was until his sophomore year of high school, when he was convinced to go to his first-ever high school basketball game. You could call it fate because Mayes fell in love with the game.

Mayes was watching his classmates and friends play basketball and comparing it to ballet. The way they would shoot, and pass, and run, sparked something in Mayes.

“I ran track and we would run around the golf course in 15-degree weather with not very much warm clothing on. Basketball was indoors, and they had girls, and I wanted to impress some girls,” Mayes said.

The reason may not make much sense to some, but for Mayes it made perfect sense.

“When I ran cross country, there weren’t girls, so I wanted to try basketball,” said Mayes.

“I was captivated by the game of basketball in 1963, and I still am. I still play every day.”
That choice turned out to be a good one. The game of basketball came easy to Mayes. He played a “newer” style of basketball that worked well on the East Coast. After graduating from high school in 1965, Mayes took 3 years off to work.

In 1968, Mayes got a chance to try out for head coach Bud Belk at North Dakota State in Fargo, N.D. There was a catch, however. Mayes had to find a way to get to Fargo. Located 20 hours and 1,337 miles away, it wasn’t easy, but Mayes eventually found himself on a plane for the first time headed northwest to the home of the Bison.

Belk was so impressed with Mayes, he offered him a scholarship. Mayes’ high school grades weren’t good enough, so it meant no scholarship, unless his entrance exam scores were good enough. In order to get into NDSU, Mayes needed to take the ACT, and if the score was a twenty or higher, Mayes would be a Bison. The test score came back, it was a nineteen. It left Mayes questioning what he was going to do next, but Belk had a plan just so genius that it might work, or would it?

Belk began looking for a college that would take Mayes for one quarter in order to get his grades up and go back to NDSU to play ball. Eventually, he gave legendary Minnesota Crookston figure and former Athletic Director Hersch Lysaker a call.

“Hersch let me come here knowing I would be the first African-American on campus, but he was willing to put himself out there and take me in,” Mayes said.

Mayes was really sort of surprised Lysaker took the chance on him knowing he would only stay for one quarter.

Maybe Lysaker knew something Mayes didn’t because one semester turned into two years in Crookston for Lloyd Mayes.

“Needless to say, I was a bit of an anomaly,” Mayes said. “When you come into a situation where you are the only one, you’re bound to stand out, especially if you’re a person of color. Being here as a person of color, I had people come up to me, and embrace the idea that I was different and did not seem threatened by it.”

On the basketball court, Mayes was different in more ways than one. He was a mix of “Pistol” Pete Marovich and Julius Erving. He could dribble and do magic with the ball in his hands much like the Pistol did. As his teammate, you had to be ready for the ball, because you never knew when he was going to find you. He was a lot like Erving in the fact that he could basically do whatever he wanted because of his athleticism.

“Whatever I wanted to do with the ball, I could probably do it,” Mayes said. “It was like a Harlem Globetrotter. I figured if it worked in D.C., it would work in Northwest Minnesota.”

To some it may sound arrogant, but to Mayes it was about wanting to win, and if being fancy was going to win games, he would continue to do it.

“I didn’t come from a culture where losing was something I was going to embrace if I could do something about it,” said Mayes.

The journey for Lloyd Mayes from the Capital of the United States to Crookston, Minn., was a long and winding road, but his journey at the University of Minnesota Crookston was just beginning for Mayes.

*From Hunter Plante, intern, Golden Eagle Sports
Part 2 of the story in the next issue.*
A college student at the University of Minnesota Crookston Technical Institute in 1968 did not know the freedoms of college students today. In fact, they shared the campus with the last class from the Northwest School of Agriculture, the residential agriculture high school and the technical institute’s predecessor. The rules were restrictive, but that didn’t seem to curb the wonderful memories created by alumna Peggy Hilton 1968 and her classmates.

“We had a lot of high school rules like stringent hours and signing in and out,” Hilton says. “But, we shared the growing pains of the brand new campus and experimented our way through those early years along with everyone else.”

Hilton remembers receiving a letter assigning her a roommate the summer before classes started. “Sometimes roommates are not well suited to one another, but Deb [Bolstad Epling] and I were friends right out of the gate,” she recalls.

If there was a pivotal moment for the Class of 1968, it may have been a party
near the end of the first year at Huot Park that somehow bonded the class and brought them together. “It was a tenuous time,” Hilton recalls. “Anyone who left school to earn money or had to drop out for any reason was drafted immediately. It wasn’t a time of protesting, and the anger surrounding the war hadn’t taken hold yet. It seemed different for the Class of 1969, but for us, it was a kinder, gentler time.”

The experience of the Class of 1968 was a unique one. They were the first to graduate from the technical college and they were the only class to share the campus with high school students. There was a lot of excitement around the establishment of the technical school and much of the enthusiasm revolved around the passion of Founding Provost Stanley Sahlstrom. “Stan knew everyone’s name and the names of their parents,” Hilton remembers. “No one could have made students, faculty, and staff feel more welcome than Provost Sahlstrom and his wife, Mil, did.”

Hilton was active on campus including being chosen to serve on the Student-Faculty Judiciary Council; working as a work study student; voted Snow Days queen as a freshman, vice president of the Student Senate, and DECA Sweetheart; served on numerous committees; and selected for “Who’s Who in American Junior Colleges.”

When Hilton neared graduation, she received a call from the Erickson & Erie Law Office in Crookston with an offer of a job. With her associate degree as a legal secretary in hand, Hilton was ready to go to work. “I knew when I graduated from high school I would go to college somewhere,” she says. “It made sense for me to go to Crookston and earn a degree.”

After working in Crookston, Hilton went on to work for noteworthy law firms in the Twin Cities and in Seattle, Wash. In 1998, she retired early to join her husband, Jim, on a thru-hike of the 2,660-mile Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada. During her non-working life, she has been a competitive runner and has engaged in extensive mountain climbing and hiking adventures. She makes being physically active a priority through exercise and activities and keeps challenging herself mentally with a Norwegian language class and as much reading as time permits.

With the help of her classmates, Hilton has chaired reunions for the Class of 1968 including the 40th in 2008 and the 45th in 2013. “Donald Mattson from our class, along with our classmate Gene Dufault, were really the catalysts for these reunions,” Hilton says. “It was so unfortunate that Don died before our 40th get together; he would have loved it.”

She is currently working on the 50th reunion to be held during homecoming on September 28-29. Her organizational skills and her uncanny ability to get along with almost everyone make her a great connector for her class and she encourages everyone who is able to attend.

If you are from the Class of 1968, plan to join the alumni reunion during homecoming and bring your memories along to share.
When she was only 16 years old, 2018 graduate Desariah Santillanez experienced the loss of her northern Colorado home to wildfire. She remembers going to let the horses out and looking around to see fire on every side. She considered for a moment it might mean the end of her life, when suddenly she heard the question, “Do you want to die knowing your last action was giving up?” Her answer was a resounding “no” and with it, she ran for her life.

Surviving the trauma of the fire has had consequences, the result of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). When she decided to major in natural resources at the University of Minnesota Crookston, she enrolled in a forestry course requiring she take part in a prescribed burn. Her professor was willing to waive her participation under the circumstances, but Santillanez could not live with the idea of being an exception, so she decided she had to try.

With assistance and encouragement along with the right training, Santillanez was able to overcome the fear and serve on a U.S. Forest Service fire crew in northern California in 2016 and 2017. “I had difficulty talking about my experience, but when you work on a fire crew, it isn’t fair to your crew to keep an experience like I had a secret,” she says. “You just can’t be selfish on a job like that.”

Working on California’s Feather River Ranger District in the Plumas National Forest for the U.S. Forest Service wasn’t easy. “My first fire was rough for me personally, and it took place on some of the roughest terrain I have ever seen,” she recalls. It also opened the way for her to end her fear of fire.

When it came time for the prescribed burn in her class in ecological restoration, this experienced young firefighter carried the drip torch leading the way; something she couldn’t have imagined when she first started at the U of M Crookston.

Santillanez has learned a lot about herself and a lot about fire. “After a few
fires, I started to see that although still unpredictable, fire has a behavior and the more you know, the better you understand it,” she explains. “I might be more cautious because of my experience and because of that I know when you are dealing with fire you cannot be complacent.”

After working with the Forest Service, Santillanez learned firsthand that you can always give more even when you think you can’t, and in order to get better at anything, you have to keep going.

It turns out her forestry class has been a favorite of this recent graduate. “The faculty at the University of Minnesota Crookston have had a great influence on me and on my future. Associate Professor Phil Baird has been a catalyst for overcoming my fear of fire,” she says. “He was with me on my first burn, and he was always believed in me even when I didn’t believe in myself. Professor John Loegering makes you work for your grades and his classes are great preparation for working in the wildlife field. Something I have truly come to appreciate.

“Associate Professor Matt Simmons is a great teacher and the kind of person you never want to let down,” Santillanez continues. “He makes you want to work hard. And, Professor Dan Svedarsky has so much knowledge; you come to respect deeply his vast experience and countless contacts.”

Following graduation, Santillanez headed home to visit family and celebrate her college graduation with them. Then, she headed back up north to Bismarck, N.D., to work as a game management assistant for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

Santillanez has learned a lot about living already and is prepared to take on whatever challenges life has in store. The only direction she is prepared to go is forward.
Ceremonies for the inauguration of Mary Holz-Clause, Ph.D., as the sixth chancellor for the University of Minnesota Crookston were held on Friday, April 6, 2018, in Kiehle Auditorium. It was a great day celebrating our new chancellor and our history. Special guests on campus for inauguration included University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler and several members of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents.

Prior to inauguration, a panel of current students and alumni from each of the departments was hosted by Chancellor Holz-Clause. It included a series of questions to be answered regarding student and professional experience.

The panel included the following students and alumni representing each of the four academic departments:

**Liberal Arts and Education**

- **Cassandra Morthera Navarette** graduated in May 2018 with a degree in communication. She is from Mexico City, Mexico.

- **Nicole (Krueger) Massmann** is a 2003 graduate in Scientific & Technical Communication working as the director of communication at the Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) at the University of North Dakota (UND). She serves on the leadership team at the EERC developing and
implementing the EERC’s strategic marketing communications plan. Prior to her current position, she served as communication coordinator at the Center for Rural Health at UND’s School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

**Business**

**Michael Larson** is a junior marketing major from Mahnomen, Minn., and worked at an internship at Bethesda Homes in Willmar, Minn., this past summer.

**Brent Massmann** is 2002 business graduate and the transportation manager at the North Dakota Mill in Grand Forks, N.D. He oversees rail, truck, and transloading operations. He is responsible for balancing customer demand with production capacity and inventory to meet customers’ needs. He is also responsible for inventory planning and execution to mitigate supply and demand imbalances in the supply chain. Massmann works with production and sales departments, as well as third party vendors, to establish least cost distribution strategies that align with customer expectations.

**Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**Logan Milligan** is a senior majoring in agricultural business from New York Mills, Minn.

**Samantha Lahman, M.Ed.** is a 2012 animal industries management graduate with minors in agricultural business and communication. She grew up in Parkers Prairie, Minn., and was actively involved in 4-H and FFA at the local and state levels. While at the U of M Crookston, she was highly involved in campus clubs and organizations, Prior to graduation, she accepted a position with North Dakota State University Extension in Park River, N.D., and later Cavalier, ND, where she has been for about six years. Last spring she graduated with her Master’s in Education from Concordia University.

**Math, Science, and Technology**

**Callie Schapekahm** is a junior health management major and Golden Eagle Volleyball player from Eagan, Minn.

**Karla (Thormodson) Isley** is a 1998 health management graduate and a former Golden Eagle Women’s Basketball player. She is currently working as vice president of contract administration (and Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) Project Management) at Noridian Healthcare Solutions in Fargo, N.D. In 2014, she was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at the U of M Crookston.
Three Northwest School of Agriculture alumni were honored with the Top Aggie award in June at the annual alumni reunion. This year’s recipients (pictured above) were LeRoy Opdahl 1964, Robert Fehr 1967, and Bill Zurn 1968.

LeRoy Opdahl 1964

After graduating from the Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA), LeRoy Opdahl joined the Army National Guard and served from 1965 to 1971. For most of his early career, he farmed near Beltrami, Minn., and drove truck for Lee Nursery located in Fertile, Minn.

Opdahl and his wife, Jane, owned and operated the Mini Donut Factory for 29 years going to ten events per season. Along with the Mini Donut Factory, they operated Opdahl’s Donuts in Fertile, which opened in May 2011. Their wonderful baked goods have been a fixture at the Mentor Farmer’s Market from the end of May to the end of September every summer. The donut shop remains in the family but the Opdahl’s handed over operations in January 2018.

He served as a supervisor on the Scandia Township Board for a number of years as well as a deacon in the former Scandia Lutheran Church. He was a
charter member in 1989 of the Resurrection Free Lutheran Church in Beltrami, Minn., where he was elected the congregation’s first president and also served as both treasurer and trustee.

In his free time, Opdahl may be seen behind the wheel of his 1956 Ford Fairlane, a two-tone classic he has owned for more than 35 years, or riding his Honda Goldwing.

“I have many good memories from high school. One of the best is all the friendships that were made there and how they have lasted all these years.”

Robert Fehr 1967

One by one, five of seven children of Eilert and Clara Fehr left 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, 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.

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.

Fehr serves as a technical advisor to several groups including the Kentucky Board of Housing, Buildings & Construction; Home Builders Association of Kentucky; Kentucky Home Performance with ENERGY STAR; and the Midwest ENERGY STAR Conference. He retired in 2010 but maintains some work in the support area of residential energy efficiency and assisting with the completion of a grant-funded project before he fully retires.

“The school [NWSA] created an environment where you could succeed, but it was truly up to you to do the work it would take to be successful.”

William Zurn 1968

When he saw a need to be involved, Bill Zurn answered the call. After graduating from the Northwest School of Agriculture, his goal was to own his farm and raise a family while preserving the land and environment.

He spent 27 years in the North Dakota Air National Guard and 30 years as a supervisor for Riceville Township. His involvement in agriculture and in his community is extensive. He has been a director for three decades for the CHS Community Cooperative, and the Zurn Farm has hosted 30 agricultural trainees from several countries along with a number of trade teams from across the world.

He has been very active with the Becker-Mahnomen County Soybean and Corn Growers Association and the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association. Zurn has been on Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council for nine years and currently serves as representative for District 1, 2, and 3.

Travels took Zurn to Brazil and Chili with Governor Pawlenty’s Trade mission and to the Japan Food Expo on behalf of the U.S. Meat Federation. He has been active in his church, and recognized for his leadership, innovation in biodiesel, and passion for agriculture by FFA, North Dakota State University, Becker County, and the Red River Valley Development Association. His outstanding service reaches throughout the community, in the state, and across the country.

“It was wonderful to meet students from all over the state of Minnesota and to continue to cross paths with these people later in life.”
2018 NWSA ALL-SCHOOL
ROCKIN’ OUT REUNION

Class of 1951 & 1952
Joyce (Eftefield) Sather, Orlan Stolaas, Gordon Thompson, Allen Love, Ardis (Overgaard) Searles

Class of 1953

Class of 1954
Standing, left to right: Sandra Taus, Ernest Taus, Evelyn (Holy) Bancroft, Lorraine (Zipoy) Love, Mary Ann Brisbois
Seated: Lester Vad, Willis Wagar, Mary (Benson) Wagar, Gabriel Brisbois, Donald Roberts, Betty Roberts

Class of 1955
Standing, left to right: Marilyn (Balstad) Melby, LeRoy Sondrol, Harlene Hagen, Donald Craigmile, Ed Grove, Clarence Grove, Marlys (Love) Finkenbinder, Glen Finkenbinder, Keith Chisholm
Seated: Judy Sondrol, Donald Taus, James Olson

Class of 1958
Top row, left to right: Ronald Engelstad, Gene Beitz, Richard James, Robert Larson, Parnell Thibert, Orelle Vatnsdahl
Row 2: Lloyd Holy, Keith Miller, Mylo Carlson, David Carlson, Conrad Wallace, Darrell Qualley
Row 3: Ray Anderson, Ronald Sharp, Duane Otness, Ted Veen, Norm Larsen, Russell Gunderson
Front row: Sharon (Hanson) Ballweber, Barbara (Thureen) Tollefson, Esther Molskness, Beulah (Stolaas) Vad, Daryl Krogh

PHOTO GALLERY available at https://z.umn.edu/2018NWSAreunion_photos
Class of 1968

Standing, left to right: Richard Widseth, Dorothy (Finkenbinder) Bergh, Elizabeth Lapp, Roy Stola, Donald Craigmile
Seated: Ray Stromstad, Marvie (Vesledahl) Stromstad, Clifford Steinhauer, Charlene (Walters) Stromstad, Ray K. Johnson, Betty (Erikson) Floan, Berneil Nelson

Standing, left to right: Diane (Schultz) Anderson, Shirley (Piker) Erstad, Norma Hotvedt-Iacono, Patricia (Miller) Bitter, Donna (Babinski) Kuta, Wally Philipp, Willie Huot, Lee Duray, Daniel Straus, Rodger Kluzak, Kenneth Beckman
Seated: Loren Molskness, Drew Larson, Allan Stromstad, Ken Schuster, Ken Frederick, Ed Frederick, James Pederson, Daniel Wilkens

Back row, left to right: Charles Steiner, Larry Rivard, Elaine (Kovar) Rivard, Randy Bertsch
Front row: David Bohnsack, John Avelsgaard, Julie (Gabrielson) Scott, Robert Weng, Bill Zurn

1950s

Standing, left to right: Roger Tollefson, LeRoy Grove, Allan Dragseth, Mike Vanek, John Schiller, Ray Dusek
Seated: Jerald Beck, David Goosen, Larry Eftefield, Don Diedrich, Gerald Roberts, Roger Ulseth, Clarice (Olson) Stolaas, Jean Moser, William Moser, Juanita Eftefield, Barbara (Hylland) Lunsetter, Jim Andre

1940s

Standing, left to right: Richard Widseth, Dorothy (Finkenbinder) Bergh, Elizabeth Lapp, Roy Stola, Donald Craigmile
Seated: Ray Stromstad, Marvie (Vesledahl) Stromstad, Clifford Steinhauer, Charlene (Walters) Stromstad, Ray K. Johnson, Betty (Erikson) Floan, Berneil Nelson

1960s

Standing, left to right: Charles Steiner, Larry Rivard, Elaine (Kovar) Rivard, Randy Bertsch
Front row: David Bohnsack, John Avelsgaard, Julie (Gabrielson) Scott, Robert Weng, Bill Zurn

1960s

Standing, left to right: Roger Tollefson, LeRoy Grove, Allan Dragseth, Mike Vanek, John Schiller, Ray Dusek
Seated: Jerald Beck, David Goosen, Larry Eftefield, Don Diedrich, Gerald Roberts, Roger Ulseth, Clarice (Olson) Stolaas, Jean Moser, William Moser, Juanita Eftefield, Barbara (Hylland) Lunsetter, Jim Andre

Middle row: Stanley Overgaard, Ken Drees, Conrad Larson, Cheryl (Lund) Kotrba, Ralph Kotrba, Bruce Nelson, Linda Nelson
Front row: Sylvester Zurn, Judy (Rivard) Schuster, Earl Miller, Arden Berggren, Patricia Berggren, Dean Dahlman, Joanne Dahlman
Chase Knickerbocker will graduate in 2019, but until then, he plans to take advantage of everything the U of M Crookston offers him.
An interest that began in high school developed into a major and a future in finance for University of Minnesota Crookston student Chase Knickerbocker. The finance major and accounting minor is spending his summer in Atlanta, Georgia, where he will be interning at one of the largest data and analytics companies in the country.

He has been interested in finance and securities since high school, but it was through his business analytics class with Rutherford Johnson, a lecturer in the Business Department, he discovered something more. “While assisting with a research project helping on the analytics side, I decided working as a business analyst might be the career for me,” he explains. “I enjoy the math and rationale that are a part of business analytics, and along with the research project, I uncovered a particular interest area within finance I hadn’t previously considered.”

“I am excited to head to Atlanta for my internship with LexisNexis Risk Solutions,” Knickerbocker says. “Having the chance to gain skills in areas like database, programming, and mathematics and applying those skills to market trends within the healthcare division at LexisNexis will be an incredible learning experience for me as part of a work team.”

“Working as an intern with them is an extraordinary opportunity,” Knickerbocker says. “I am excited about learning from professionals in the field.”

A member of the Accounting and Finance Society and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) on campus, Knickerbocker is also a student athlete. He was a member of the Harvard Global Case Studies team, representing the U of M Crookston and attending the event hosted by Harvard College European Business Group (EBG), and the International Finance Student Association (IFSA) in April.

The 6 foot 7 inch senior on the Golden Eagle Men’s Basketball Team has learned a great deal from athletics that he applies to academics and to life. “Basketball developed my work ethic and my drive,” he says. “When you start seeing success on the court, it fires your drive as a person. Basketball is the engine that drives who I am.”

His parents have served as Knickerbocker’s greatest influence. “They are friends as well as my parents,” he says. “My mom taught me how to treat people, and my dad taught me to drive for success.”

From fifth to eighth grade, his dad was his basketball coach, and he recalls countless hours shooting baskets with him in the driveway. “Athletics is a special experience for a student athlete,” Knickerbocker says. “You build skills through the hard work and great relationships along the way.”

Attending the U of M Crookston has been a positive experience for Knickerbocker and he believes the small campus gives students big-campus opportunities. “I have loved my time here and enjoy the consistently smaller class sizes that help a student develop close relationships with professors.

“Around here, if you don’t go out, be proactive, and take advantage of what is available, that is just you missing out on opportunity,” Knickerbocker says.

And, missing an opportunity is something Knickerbocker won’t likely ever let happen to him.
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 consolidated rural school will doubles 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.
EMPLOYED EAGLES
Celebrate a few of the fall 2017 and spring 2018 graduates who found employment before graduation or had been accepted into graduate or professional school.

AUSTIN HOGENSON
Major: Agronomy
Employed: Sales associate at South 89 Farm and Seed

HALIE HAAKENSON
Major: Early Childhood Education
Employed: Opening her own home daycare in Bottineau, N.D.
Advice: If you do what you love, you won’t work a day in your life.”

ALLISON HEILMAN
Major: Ag Business
Employed: Office assistant at Rugby Livestock Auction

RYAN GUNDERSON
Major: Animal Science
Employed: Breeder Service Representative

ALYSSA MUELKEN
Major: Exercise Science and Wellness
Employed: Personal assistant at Cryo Strong

NATALYE KOBETSKY
Major: Agronomy and Business Management
Employed: Inside Sales Representative at Wilbur-Ellis in Grand Forks

ALEX VIGER
Major: Ag Aviation
Employed: Loader/Pilot at Wilbur-Ellis in Whapeton, N.D.

KAMRON MATEJCEK
Major: Ag Systems Management
Employed: Assistant Farmer Specialist

BRANDON KRESL
Major: Entrepreneurship and Exercise Science and Wellness
Employed: Manager at Snap Fitness

STEPHANIE CULE
Major: Equine Science
Employed: Riding instructor at Stable Days East

ISAIAH ARMSTRONG
Major: Exercise Science and Wellness
Employed: Coach in Fairfield, California

ELIZABETH AWENDER
Major: Early Childhood Education
Employed: Day care provider

LINDSEY RUSHMEYER
Major: Natural Resources Law Enforcement and Aviation Law Enforcement
Employed: Wildland Firefighter with United State Forest Service

BRIAN LEMAY
Major: Natural Resources
Employed: Assistant at the University of Missouri Columbia

BRUNA MUSSI JUST
Major: Agronomy
Employed: Graduate Student Assistant at the University of Minnesota College of Science

JUSTIN POWERS
Major: Agronomy
Employed: Operations for Hunter Grain Co-op

ERIC GULLICKS
Major: Agronomy
Employed: Sales agronomist at Fusion Ag, LLC

ZACHARY SCHNELL
Major: Management
Employed: Asset logistic specialist with Kam-Way Transport

MELISSA EASTMAN
Major: Equine Science
Employed: Riding instructor at Camp Orkila, Orca’s Island, Wash.

DANIELLE WILLPRECHT
Major: Criminal Justice
Employed: Northwest Mental Health in Crookston, Minn.

TORI WEBER
Major: Ag business
Employed: Marketing and communication specialist at West Central Ag

PAUL WEBSTER
Major: Applied Studies
Employed: Cobblestone Inn

MATTHEW PATRICK
Major: Horticulture
Employed: Pahl’s Market landscaper

HUNTER SPINA
Major: Agronomy and Ag Business
Employed: Spina Farms, LLC

ANDY GJERSWOLD
Major: Agricultural Aviation
Employed: Aerial applicator in training/aircraft loader for Wilbur Ellis Air, LLC

ADDALEIGH RODRIGUEZ DELGADO
Major: Criminal Justice
Employed: Associate probation officer for Tri-County Community Corrections

KATIE WARNER
Major: Animal Science and Equine Science
Employed: Graduate student at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine

ASHLEY ROHR
Major: Animal Science and Agronomy
Employed: Feed sales/agronomist

CARTER BRYN
Major: Agronomy
Employed: Agronomist, Gooseneck Agronomists in Rugby, N.D.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Employer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T’MONE KLEINDL</td>
<td>Software Engineering</td>
<td>Employment: as Wild Rice researcher at North Central Research and Outreach Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VICTORIA TESKEY</td>
<td>Applied Studies</td>
<td>Employment: Park ranger in Williston, N.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESEARIAH SANTILLANEZ</td>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>Employment: Game management assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAD PEITZ</td>
<td>Aviation</td>
<td>Employment: Hydro-chemical aerial application specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRISTAN RICHERT</td>
<td>Marketing and Finance</td>
<td>Employment: Internal sales associate at AEI Capital Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAEDYN PESEK</td>
<td>Ag Business</td>
<td>Employment: Pesek Livestock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JONATHAN SYLVESTER</td>
<td>Ag Systems Management</td>
<td>Employment: Central Crop Consulting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEGAN SCHULTZ</td>
<td>Animal Science</td>
<td>Employment: Grow-finish field supervisor in Pipestone, Minn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KARI WELLE</td>
<td>Animal Science</td>
<td>Employment: Minnesota Dairy Herd Improvement Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JEREMY KNOTT</td>
<td>Agronomy</td>
<td>Employment: Agronomist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCOTT SCHULTZ</td>
<td>Ag Systems Management</td>
<td>Employment: Operations at West Central Ag Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATTHEW SORVIG</td>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>Employment: Resource Technician at Pennington Soil and Water Conservation District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASHLEE HUMBLE</td>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>Employment: Medical Biller at Aurora Clinic/Urgent Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAILEE RICE</td>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>Employment: Accounting associate at Brady Martz CPA Firm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SETH LONTON</td>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>Employment: Wildlife specialist with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MADISON WAHLBERG</td>
<td>Elementary Education</td>
<td>Employment: First grade classroom teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABBY SIEGERSMA</td>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>Employment: Zoookeeper intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEXI SALONEK</td>
<td>Horticulture</td>
<td>Employment: Garden Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>GABRIELLE PATTERSON</td>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>Employment: Plant health care specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OWEN SCHERPING</td>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>Employment: Prairie Restoration, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TYLER MICK</td>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>Employment: Wildland Firefighter with the United States Forest Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>RONNY JAECKEL-REITMEIER</td>
<td>Horticulture</td>
<td>Employment: Ronny's Farm to Table and Travel Reit</td>
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<tr>
<td>HEIDI SHOL</td>
<td>Horticulture</td>
<td>Employment: Greenhouse assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>STEVEN GONZALEZ</td>
<td>Biology and Health Sciences</td>
<td>Employment: National Guard</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMANDA MONSON</td>
<td>Agronomy</td>
<td>Employment: Park ranger in Williston, N.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>KAYLA CASSIBO</td>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>Employment: Office clerk at Ultima Services in Ada, Minn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCOTT SCHULTZ</td>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>Employment: Game management assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JEREMY KNOTT</td>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>Employment: Resource Technician at Pennington Soil and Water Conservation District</td>
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<tr>
<td>TESLA PETERSEN</td>
<td>Animal Science and Equine Science</td>
<td>Employment: Crop Insurance Agent</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORTNEY BOYLAN</td>
<td>Animal Science and Equine Science</td>
<td>Employment: Barn hand</td>
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<tr>
<td>TESLA PETERSEN</td>
<td>Animal Science and Equine Science</td>
<td>Employment: Barn hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TESLA PETERSEN</td>
<td>Animal Science and Equine Science</td>
<td>Employment: Ranch hand</td>
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<tr>
<td>WAYLON GLENIK</td>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>Employment: VFW</td>
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<tr>
<td>WAYLON GLENIK</td>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>Employment: as Wild Rice researcher at North Central Research and Outreach Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATTIE SCHMITT</td>
<td>Animal Science</td>
<td>Employment: Grad student at North Dakota State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAILYN GORDON</td>
<td>Equine Science and Animal Science</td>
<td>Employment: Ranch hand</td>
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<tr>
<td>RACHEL FREUND</td>
<td>Exercise Science and Wellness</td>
<td>Employment: Grad student at North Dakota State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>KATELYN HOWELL</td>
<td>Ag Business</td>
<td>Employment: Agronomist at Newfolden Co-op in Newfolden, Minn.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Keith Chisholm 1955, Gary, Minn., was honored by the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) at its annual meeting in January 2018, with the Achievement in Crop Improvement Award. MCIA has presented its highest honor annually for nearly 50 years to recognize exemplary service to the seed industry as well as outstanding leadership in agriculture and the local community. Keith has been a certified seed producer since 1967 and has spent a lifetime seeking ways to diversify his farming and business operation.

The flower gardens of Diane and Jerome Winter 1966, Morris, Minn., were recently featured on Prairie Yard & Garden, a 30-minute television show about gardening in the Upper Midwest. The segment was entitled “Dahlias and the Cutting Garden.” Jerome and Diane team up to plant and care for dahlias and many other flowers used for cutting and arrangements. Jerome does much of the flower care and Diane is a talented floral designer.

Silvia (Medrano) Lainfiesta 1967, Guatemala City, Guatemala, shared a brief update since she came to Crookston, Minn., in 1966, to attend the Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA). She was a cheerleader and graduated from the NWSA in 1967. She moved to the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota, where she studied business administration in 1967-68, then attended the Minnesota School of Business, Minneapolis, in 1968-69, and graduated with a degree in business administration. She returned to Guatemala and attended Universidad de San Carlos, Guatemala, and graduated with a degree in sociology in 1981. Self employed as a consultant, she works with projects for humanitarian assistance, socioeconomic projects, alimentary security, relief services for the poor, and so forth. Silvia has three daughters who are successful professionals in the fields of marketing, architecture, and industrial design.

Kristi (Becker) Ulrich 1983 and 2014, Fargo, N.D., is executive director of Face It TOGETHER Fargo-Moorhead, which provides non-judgmental, confidential support for people impacted by addiction, including loved ones. She is a seasoned leader working with businesses and other community partners to help more people get well and stay well from addiction.

Heather (Pohlmeier) Dufault 1996, Red Lake Falls, Minn., was recently hired as the interim extension educator in Polk, Clearwater, and Red Lake counties. Her duties with the U of M Extension Service will have an emphasis in Agricultural Production Systems/Home and Community Horticulture. She and her husband, Kevin, raise wheat, soybeans, corn, and sugar beets, as well as a small number of steers for meat during the summer months.
Kevin Johnson 2000, East Grand Forks, Minn., and Savannah Mack were married December 22, 2017, at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, N.D., with a dance following.

Victoria Ramirez 2002, Crookston, Minn., who is employed with Polk County Social Services, was the recipient of the 2018 Spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Award. The award recognizes a Red River Valley native or resident who has actively impacted their community by promoting diversity, multiculturalism, equality, and human rights through demonstrated leadership, service, and advocacy on behalf of underrepresented populations and diverse individuals. In the photo, left to right, Lorna Hollowell, director of diversity and multicultural programs; Victoria Ramirez; and Ken Mendez 2011, who presented the award during the program in Kiehle Auditorium in February.

Valerie and Chris Shulstad 2002, Red Lake Falls, Minn., received special recognition for their commitment to leadership and their community at the Emerging Leadership Program’s annual recognition dinner held recently in Crookston. The Shulstads are Red Lake County’s representatives in the 2018 Red River Valley Emerging Leadership Program. Chris is an information technology analyst for Unity Bank across northern Minnesota, central Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Valerie is an early childhood special education teacher and a physical and health disabilities consultant and autism consultant, all with the Area Special Education Cooperative. They also own Unoriginal Wood, a wood crafting business.

Jason Altepeter 2003, Temecula, Calif., formerly Crookston, Minn., and Heather Petersen were married June 16, 2018, at Sweet Oaks Ranch, the 28-acre winery, equestrian center, and wedding destination they co-own. With a “La La Land” themed event, the day was filled with personal touches interwoven with professional flair. Jason is chief operating officer of Sweet Oaks Ranch and Sol de Luz Vineyards and Heather serves as chief executive officer of National Merchants Association. The couple is excited for what the future holds.

Alison (Stone) Pokrzywinski 2006, Devils Lake, N.D., presented her M.S. thesis in late April. She is currently employed with Nuseed Americas, Breckenridge, Minn., as North American sunflower product manager and technical agronomist. She is pictured with her advisor, Dr. Brent Hulke.

Alumni Aaron Larsen 2007, Hallock, Minn., with the West Otter Tail SWCD, Andy Albertsen 2014, Nelson, Minn., with the Swift County SWCD, and Justin Muller 2013, Nelson, Minn., with the Kittson SWCD were among 23 conservation leaders from across Minnesota who visited Washington D.C., as part of a leadership development program sponsored by the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD). While in Washington, the group met with Minnesota and federal lawmakers, including the United States Department of Agriculture and Natural Resource Conservation Service. The Washington D.C. seminar is one of seven sessions that are part of MASWCD’s Leadership Program led by the University of Minnesota Extension. The year-long program is designed to strengthen the leadership skills and capacity of local natural resource agencies to better serve the public and address the complex natural resource conservation issues found in communities throughout Minnesota.
Ryan Tucker 2008, Andover, Minn., completed the CFA, Certified Financial Analyst, Master’s Degree from Hamline University in August 2016. He is a senior investment analyst with Securian Financial Group. He and his wife, Courtney, have two children, Everly and Gabriel.

Photo by Linda Anderson

Danika Kent 2009, Lancaster, Minn., was recently featured in a story in the Kittson County Enterprise, reprinted with permission from North Country Beef Producer, Bagley, Minn. Danika, pictured in the center, is a third generation owner of Kent Limousin with her father, Terry Kent and grandfather, Ronald Hanson, who have both been owners of the business and are willing to help out with the cows. Located near the Canadian border near Lancaster, the Kent Limousin operation consists of approximately 2000 acres of owned and rented land, some of which are planted in corn, alfalfa, wheat, and soybeans. One hundred forty cows calved last spring and they typically contract their calves to Wulf Limousin and each year sell yearling and 2-year-old bulls locally by private treaty.

Justin McMechan 2009, Lincoln, Neb., was honored with the 2017 Innovative Extension New Employee Award by Nebraska Extension. He began work as an extension assistant professor at Eastern Nebraska Research & Extension Center in Ithaca, Neb., in August 2016. He has developed several innovative tools to deliver research-based education to multiple audiences using infographics, time-lapse photography, and animations. He incorporated these tools into his Extension presentations and publications and made them available for use by others.


Megan (Eul) Burdick 2012, Rosemount, Minn., was selected as a 2018 inductee to the Rosemount High School Girls Basketball Hall of Fame. Following her athletic career at the high school and college level, she served as Rosemount High School junior varsity and varsity assistant coach from 2013-2017. She continues to work in District 196 as a kindergarten teacher at Southview Elementary School. Her husband, Jason, is junior varsity head coach and they reside in Rosemount with their son, Jackson.

Alumnus Marshall Johnson 2012, Fargo, N.D., is the recipient of the 2018 North Dakota Habitat Award from the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The award recognizes outstanding contributions toward preserving and/or establishing high quality wildlife habitat in North Dakota. Marshall, who is vice president and executive director at Audubon Dakota, is pictured with his mentor, Professor Dan Svedarsky.

Business management graduate Jeremy Munson 2013, Lake Crystal, Minn., won his bid for the Minnesota State Legislature in the 23B special election in February. He is a Lake Crystal businessman and hops farmer and has been a local GOP official for the past decade.

Kaytlin (Weiger) Winkels 2013, Crookston, Minn., is the owner of Kaytlin Winkels Photography. From equestrian portraits to family portraits, Kaytlin captures each unique story through her photographs. Kaytlin and her husband, Jason Winkels 2016, reside in Crookston.


Jessica Wark 2014, DC, MS, Monticello, Minn., is the owner of Performance Sports Chiropractic Center, located in Ramsey, Minn., inside the Adrenaline Sports Center. Dr. Wark is a chiropractor that specializes in sports/athletic injuries and prevention. She is also the team doctor for a United Premier Soccer League club, Granite City FC. She will provide sideline care for the soccer club this season. She opened her practice April 1, 2018.

Kenzie Church 2015, Fairmount, N.D., and Caleb Meide were married July 14, 2018, at St. John’s Catholic Church in Wahpeton, N.D. Kenzie is a media account manager for Arvig in Bismarck, N.D., and Caleb is a mechanical engineer at Kestrel Engineering Group in Bismarck.

Mikala (Guidinger) Wodarek 2015, Crookston, Minn., is an eligibility worker for Polk County Social Services. Aside from that, she teaches lessons, trains horses, and helps at a local breeding farm. Mikala and her husband, Joe Wodarek 2017 started Limitless Equestrian Company this year. Her favorite part about training horses is building their confidence and watching the transformation within them.

Marcus Campbell 2016, Saint Croix Falls, Wis., was recently hired by the St. Paul Saints as their head groundskeeper. He has spent the last two years with the Saints overseeing the grounds crew interns, field maintenance and landscape around CHS Field.

Bethanie (Denton) Ekstrom 2016, St. James, Minn., has been hired as the City Administrator for the city of Truman, Minn. She and her husband, Andrew, live not far from Truman in St. James.

Amanda Eischen 2016, Comfrey, Minn., has been working as a flight instructor at Iowa Lakes Community College.

William Lee 2016, Afton, Minn., is a water quality resource specialist with the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District. He most recently worked in Mankato, Minn., as an environmental specialist inspecting petroleum storage tanks with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
Joshua Duerr 2017, Fulda, Minn., and Amanda Jurrens are engaged to be married September 1, 2018. They are both employed in Worthington, Minn., Joshua at New Dawn and Amanda at Newport Laboratories.

Haley Hedstrom 2017, Duluth, Minn., is the director of marketing and membership for Duluth’s Lake Superior Zoo. She worked previously as marketing and guest services manager with Spirit Mountain and marketing and administrative manager with an appraisal company.

Lauren Pederson 2017, Rolla, N.D., has been hired by Lutz, a Nebraska-based business solutions firm, to work as a staff accountant in its Grand Island office. She is primarily responsible for providing taxation services related to individual tax returns. In addition, she will provide outsourced accounting services to clients including QuickBooks and payroll assistance.

Arden Aaberg 2018, Glenwood, Minn., is employed by American Solutions for Business.
UPCOMING EVENTS

First Day of Classes ................................................................. August 21
Homecoming 2018 .............................................................. September 28-29
Farm to Table Dinner ......................................................... November 2
Commencement for the Class of 2019 .......................... May 4, 2019

There’s no place like Homecoming!

SEPTEMBER 28-29

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI
Nancy Capistran 1971, 1992, and 2001
Peggy (Lee) Hilton 1968
Wayne Freimund 1981

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME
Chancellor Emeritus Charles H. Casey
Ken Bond 1996
Derrick Sanders 1996

Design based on a project by Marie Anderson, a junior majoring in communication.