



Small Campus. Big Degree.



From the Chancellor

The past year at the University of Minnesota, Crookston has been filled with excitement, and I think you will enjoy reading about some of our accomplishments in this annual report. I hope you will feel a sense of pride in what we have achieved and that you will share it with others when you have the chance.

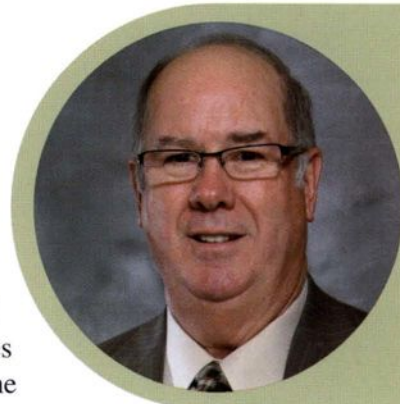
Our record enrollment for fall semester 2008 was a significant milestone in the life of this campus. We continue to work hard to provide students with an exceptional experience and education. Our outstanding faculty and staff interact with students every day and motivate them to excel in the classroom, through leadership activities, or involvement in undergraduate research opportunities. We have some of the most engaged students anywhere, and we are proud of them.

Our faculty members focus on student learning, and they encourage students to explore global perspectives and to become lifelong learners. They challenge students to think critically and to be innovative by delivering applied learning in a technology-rich environment. Over the last year, the Crookston campus hired twelve new full-time faculty members as well as several new staff persons.

Together, these faculty and staff make up the largest single infusion of new talent in many years, and we are excited to have them here.

In this issue, you will see some prime examples of the work we have done over the last year. As a coordinate campus of the University of Minnesota, we are a small campus that offers a BIG degree. We could not accomplish all this alone. I would like to thank you for your support and encouragement over the past year. We appreciate our alumni and donors who make so much possible through their gifts.

As we look forward to the future, we will continue to depend on you to partner with us to bring education, research, and outreach to the region and beyond.



Sincerely,
Charles H. Casey, D.V.M.
Chancellor

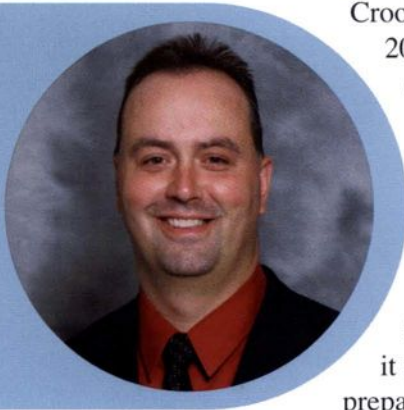
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From the Director

"Tell me, I'll forget. Show me, I may remember. But involve me, and I'll understand." –Chinese Proverb

Allow me to convey my personal thanks to each of you who contributed to the University of Minnesota, Crookston during fiscal year 2008 (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008). Together your commitments surpassed \$500,000 in support of the campus.



As donors, you can literally transform this institution while having a significant impact on the lives of those your dollars support.

Consider your motivation for investing in the U of M, Crookston. Is it nostalgia, supporting the place that prepared you for your career, leaving a legacy, strengthening the community, or assuring

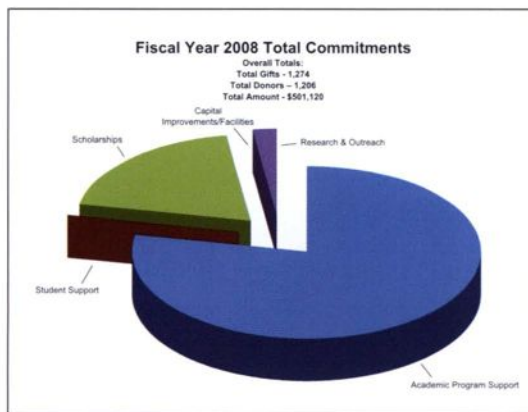
the continuation of this institution you love? No matter what your motivation is, your gifts, whether transactional or transformational, are important.

These are challenging economic times, but your philanthropic motivation and concern keep this institution thriving. My personal passion is the advancement of the U of M, Crookston. Great accomplishments will continue as we work together to communicate and support this historic and progressive institution.

Thank you to all past, present, and future donors. When we move forward as one, we will achieve spectacular successes on behalf of our university.

Contact me about giving opportunities at 218-281-8434 (ckemmer@umn.edu). Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Corby Kemmer
Director of Development & Alumni Relations



The chart above reflects gifts, pledges, and deferred gifts for fiscal year 2008.

Torch

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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 cover: Tamara Luna and Assistant Professor Venugopal Mukku work together on a research project.

Heather Donati-Lewis is an equine science major from Narcoossee, Fla., who plans to go on to become a veterinarian.

“Honor”able

Exceptional students look for more than just a degree when they embark on their college career. A cohort of thirteen students was accepted into a newly instituted honors program in fall 2008 at the University of Minnesota, Crookston. Exposure to a culturally-rich array of experiences through the program will encourage students to develop a global perspective and learn important leadership skills.

Under the direction of Assistant Professor Brian Dingmann, Ph.D., the honors program was developed to inspire and transform student writing, discussion, and critical thinking skills. Selection for the program includes such criteria as high school rank, grade point average, and the rigor of their high school academic career.

The honors coursework culminates in an honors essay, research or creative project that requires a public defense. “We wanted the honors program to enrich the student experience,” says Dingmann, who teaches in the Math, Science, and Technology Department. “Our goal is to encourage outstanding undergraduates and enhance their collegiate career in a way we have not had the chance to do before this program was developed.”

During fall semester 2008, Dingmann used the book *The Power of Critical Thinking* by Lewis Vaughn to help students strengthen their ability to reason, to think analytically, and to use discernment



when looking at an issue.

Sophomore Heather Donati-Lewis, believes the honors program has enhanced her academic experience. “I never realized about the importance of sustainability or how much it matters that we think and act responsibly when it comes to the environment,” she remarks. “I have come out of my college cell and connected to the world. I have an impact on the globe, and I can’t just sit on the fence.”

Donati-Lewis is currently working on a research paper for Dingmann’s zoology class to help meet the requirements of the honors program. She is also the Alpha Lambda Delta representative to the Crookston Student

Association, serves as vice president of personal success skills in Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), and works in the Academic Assistant Center as part of Student Support Services.

“I have learned how to process information and how to form opinions based on what I think rather than on my emotions or what others are saying,” Donati-Lewis explains. “I have applied what I already learned in the honors program to choices I have had to make, and I like to believe it has helped me do an even better job in my decision making.”

To learn more about the honors program at the U of M, Crookston, visit www.UMCrookston.edu/honors.

DID YOU KNOW that 2008 was a milestone for the University of Minnesota, Crookston?

Fall enrollment hit an all-time record. According to official enrollment data, the number of degree-seeking students is reported at 1,207 for fall.

Sophomore Heather Donati-Lewis is a part of the honors program at the U of M, Crookston.

Here Today, Here Tomorrow

Living life today like you will be here tomorrow is the mantra of seniors Erick Elgin, Mora, Minn., and Christopher Waltz, Chisago Lakes, Minn. These natural resource majors and roommates care deeply about the environment and about the future of the campus and our world.

Elgin and Waltz led an effort that resulted in the new residence hall, currently under construction, to be certified under the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). This certification verifies that a building project meets the highest green building and performance measures.

"We can't just accept the status quo," Waltz says. "Erick and I were already passionate about the environment so working for the LEED certification fit both our belief system and our desire to make a difference."

Elgin echoes the sentiment. "Chris and I believe in sustainability efforts and have worked hard to persuade others that this initiative is important," he



Elgin, left, and Waltz, right, have worked tirelessly to gain student support for LEED certification of the new residence hall. The certification means the building project meets the highest green building and performance measures.

explains. "The LEED certification is not our end goal; however, it is a step in the way toward our ultimate goal of sustainability. I believe that we can change the world if we can persuade others how important this is."

The two have worked tirelessly, sometimes at the expense of other priorities, to convince students and administrators about the significance of sustainability. "We visited numerous clubs and organizations on campus to present our case and had countless one-on-one conversations in order to make this happen," Elgin continues. "We needed people to understand that the issue was serious, and that we were serious."

As the student representative to the Board of Regents, Elgin was able to keep



Chris Waltz, left, is joined by Student Body President Marshall Johnson, center, and Erick Elgin, right, at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new residence hall in October 2008.

LEED certification on the minds of those he worked with on the facilities committee as well as mention it to Vice President for University Services Kathleen O'Brien when they had an opportunity to talk. "We wanted to remind people as often as we could, whenever we could," he says.

After discovering an interest in natural resources, Waltz came to Crookston after a year and a half at a junior college because he "liked the size of the campus," and Elgin transferred from the U of M, Duluth specifically for the major.

Both students respect the skill and passion of Dan Svedarsky, Ph.D., professor and head of the Natural Resources Department. "Dr. Svedarsky always seems to have time for students even though he has a plate filled with responsibilities," Elgin reflects. "He is a great role model and provides outstanding leadership in the field."

Leaders in their own right, Elgin and Waltz know what can happen when there is a zeal for living today like you will be here tomorrow. Thanks to Elgin and Waltz, the Crookston campus is on its way.



Waltz (left) and Elgin talk to Associate Professor Phil Baird's forestry class about LEED certification and about preparing for a career in natural resources.



President Bruininks

University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks was the first Big Ten signatory of the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). In his 2008 State of the University address, Bruininks said, "This is a highly visible commitment that demonstrates strong alignment between student concerns and our institutional values."

According to the ACUPCC Web site, this commitment "is a high-visibility effort to address global warming by garnering institutional commitments to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions, and to accelerate the research and educational efforts of higher education to equip society to re-stabilize the earth's climate."

"Building on the growing momentum for leadership and action on climate change, the Presidents Climate Commitment provides a framework and support for America's colleges and universities to go climate neutral. It recognizes the unique role of presidents and chancellors in providing leadership and guidance in their institutions and to society."

(For more, visit www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org.)

Crops Team included (l to r) Stephen Roerick, Jade Estling, Eric Proulx, and Justin McMechan. The team was coached by Associate Professor Charles Habstritt.



"A" Typical

What kind of a student takes bioorganic chemistry, plant breeding and genetics, plant physiology, and entomology and maintains a perfect 4.0 grade point average every semester? The answer is a student with a passion for agronomy, the spark of ambition, and the name Eric Proulx.

While Proulx's grades have always been perfect, he admits that didn't come without study,

"I might have some natural strength in the sciences, but I have had to work at it too. I definitely put my time in studying, but when you are learning about something you are already interested in, that makes it easier."

As a member of the 2006 Crops Team that placed first at both Chicago, Ill., and Kansas City, Mo., Proulx captured first-place individual

and second-place individual respectively. He found success again at the 2008 North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) competition.

In the highly-contested crops judging event, the U of M, Crookston Crops Team garnered first led by

Proulx's first-place individual finish.

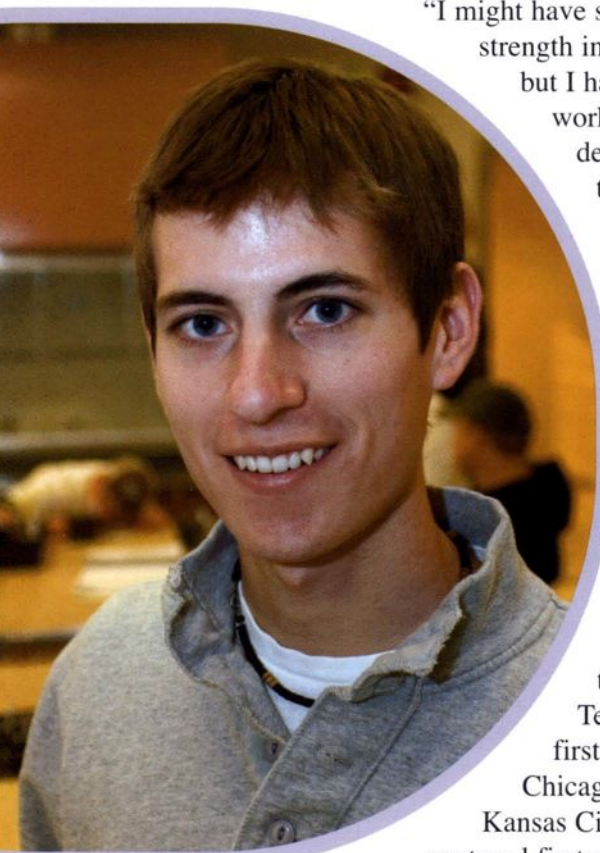
With a single focus on winning, Proulx enjoyed the challenge that came with competing. "I am driven to go all the way and win," he states.

One aspect Proulx found especially engaging about the classroom was the practical application of what he was learning. "In the crop and weed identification class," Proulx says, "I was learning about things I had been seeing on the farm for years. I was able to apply what I was learning in class directly to our work on the family farm."

Proulx's advisor Associate Professor Charles "Chuck" Habstritt, who teaches agronomy, has been influential in his life. "As a student, you could go in and talk to Chuck anytime he was available," Proulx explains. "He was always willing to help students."

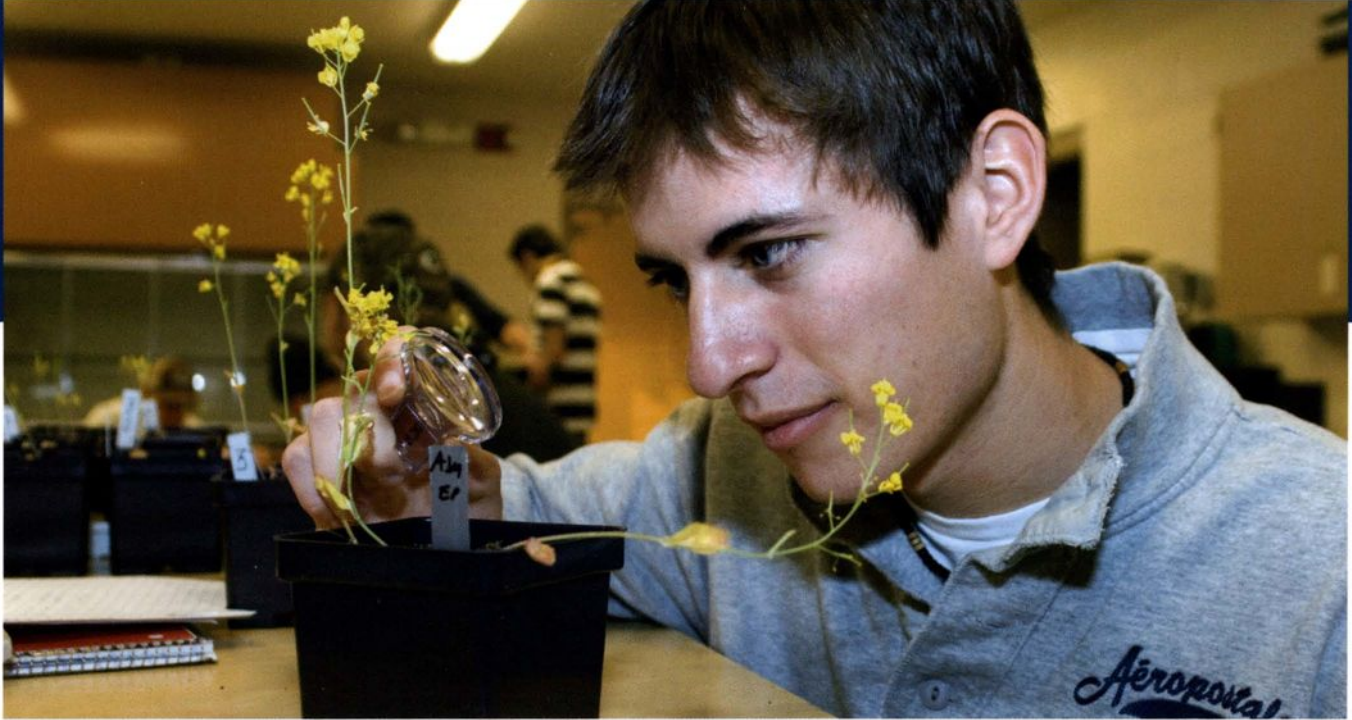
There has been involvement in other organizations over Proulx's collegiate career as well. He has been in the Agronomy Club since he was a freshman and served as president in 2008. "The more I became involved, the more I discovered that I really liked what I was doing," Proulx says. "I am entering a field with high demand and a lot of jobs. I might go back to the farm at some point, but for now, I am happy with my career options."

"I chose the Crookston campus, for the small class sizes and the opportunity to work closely with the



Proulx grew up in rural Polk County and is the last of his family to attend the University of Minnesota, Crookston. Brothers Rick, '06, and Rob, '06, were both agronomy majors and sister, Kim, '03, majored in early childhood education.





Proulx took a class in plant breeding and genetics in fall 2008 from Associate Professor Jochum Weirsmas, Ph.D.

professors,” Proulx reflects. “The instructors I came in contact with wanted to work with you and were willing to stop what they were doing and answer your questions. That attention makes a difference.”

Currently, Proulx is working as a lab services coordinator for the agronomy program at the U of M,

Crookston, a job he secured before he graduated. So, today, you will still find Eric Proulx thriving in the classroom – a place where he feels right at home and where he can continue to share his passion and inspire others.

Making (more than) the Grade

Assistant Professor of Communication Kevin Thompson, Ph.D., offered the students in his business and professional speaking class an opportunity to get more than a grade fall semester. For their final presentation, students were required to deliver a persuasive presentation regarding a non-profit organization or charity.

After the presentations, the class voted for the speaker they felt was most persuasive, giving consideration to content, organization, and delivery. Class members had the opportunity to voluntarily donate \$5, and the organization of the presenter deemed best was the recipient of the money collected by the class.

What did the class think about the project? Several students shared their feelings:

“A lot of the reason we enjoyed

this project wasn’t what we did ourselves. It was learning about everyone else. The project really raised our awareness.” — Junior Brent Swanson, Mason City, Iowa

“Everyone spoke from the heart, and we knew that we were working for something much bigger than just a grade. That was what made it so worthwhile.” — Senior Terrence Hopkins, Long Beach, Calif.

“It was a great experience and it enhanced the assignment. It added so much to what we were doing individually and as a class.” — Senior Rebecca Langlois, Crookston, Minn.

The winning presenter was Junior Jill Zelinsky, Brooklyn Park, Minn. Her presentation focused on the difficult challenges of the family of Sophomore Jenna Dolence, Moorhead, Minn., and her



Members of the business and professional speaking class: Seated (l to r): Jessina Seibel, Deborah Halstad, Spencer Dobson, Max Saarinen, Brent Swanson, Rebecca Langlois. Standing: Terrence Hopkins, Tiffany Benning, Kevin Thompson, Ph.D.

father, Dave, who is fighting colon cancer.

“Through the information Jill shared about colon cancer and the personal struggles of one family, students were able to understand the significance of the disease and its real impact in human terms, explains Thompson. “It was a true learning experience for my students.”

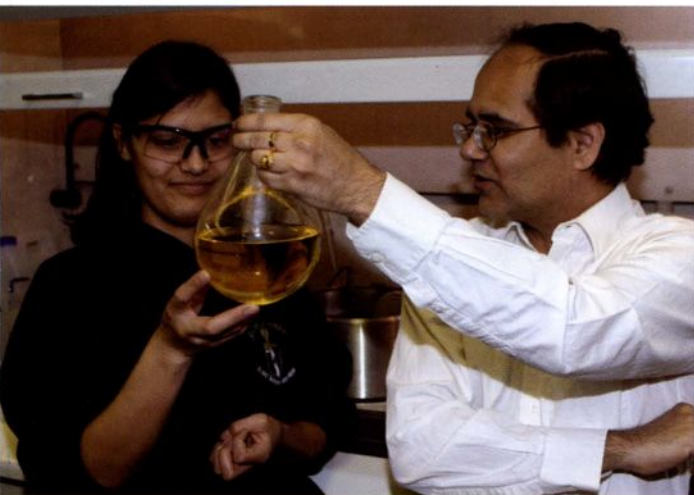
Learning to the Max

Attending college is a major decision for students and families. For Junior Tamara Luna, Crookston, Minn., that decision was made easier by the addition of a biology degree program at the University of Minnesota, Crookston. Luna, a recipient of several scholarships, says those dollars were also a big factor in her decision. Always interested in science, she never wavered from her interest in biology as a major, and she continues to prepare for what she says is the next step—graduate school.

Working with faculty on research projects has been a big part of Luna's collegiate career. She works closely with assistant professors Katy Smith, Ph.D., and Venugopal Mukku, Ph.D., who both teach in the Math, Science and Technology Department. Smith, who teaches biology, botany, and plant physiology, directs Luna as part of an undergraduate research opportunity funded by the Crookston campus entitled, Root O₂ Release, which looks at radial oxygen loss from plants grown under anaerobic conditions.



Tamara Luna works to bring seeds out of dormancy to help Assistant Professor Katy Smith on her research.



Luna works on a research project with Assistant Professor Venugopal Mukku, who teaches chemistry in the Math, Science, and Technology Department.

"I like the small class sizes and the individual attention I receive on this campus," Luna explains. "I get to work closely with professors, and I am involved in research that I find captivating."

As part of a directed study under the guidance of Mukku, Luna engages in another avenue of research examining the toxicity of plant and marine animal extracts toward brine shrimp. This busy young woman also assists Ed Wene, Ph.D., as a microbiology lab assistant at the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute located on the campus.

Her collegiate experience has been deeply enhanced through engagement with faculty, but a chance to study abroad was a powerful influence as well. Luna chose an

While in Thailand, Luna had a chance to work on a project gathering medicinal plants in rural areas and documenting their use.





Luna, a junior at the U of M, Crookston, found her internship in Thailand rewarding and a great cultural experience.

internship in Thailand working with a pharmacist collecting information on the medicinal uses of plants for two months last summer.

“I spent two weeks in Bangkok when I first arrived, says Luna. “Then, I went into the rural areas to assist with the work. It was a great cultural experience, and while I found the language to be a challenge, it also

created a wonderful learning opportunity for me.”

Undergraduate research, study abroad, small class sizes, and personal contact with faculty help create an exceptional student experience on the Crookston campus. Students, like Luna, are taking advantage of the small campus that offers a big degree, and getting an extraordinary education in the process.

A Fare Extraordinaire

General Manager Natalie Brown (seated) is surrounded by her exceptional staff in Dining Services. In July 2008, Sodexo, Inc., took over food service operations at the University of Minnesota, Crookston in an effort to offer students new options for on-campus dining as well as greater menu variety. Sodexo specializes in food hospitality services and brings many resources to the table, including a well-developed understanding of the market and a focus on customer service.



Dining Services Staff Back row (l to r) : Lucy Nygard, Melissa Stephens, Evelyn Desrosier, Nicole Volker, Mary Munch, Lila Vaughn, Monica Sevigny, Jeanie Olson, Angelika Huglen, Rhonda (Smith) Pahlen '89, '02, and Lloyd Brokaw '96, '08; Middle: Pam Sullivan; Front: Natalie Brown

Using Green to Clean

If the old adage “absence makes the heart grow fonder” can be related to the environment, then, if we don’t care for the earth today, we may have much to miss tomorrow. Caring for our natural resources is inextricably connected to caring for human life. Plain and simply, one impacts the other.



Katy Smith, Ph.D., grew up in Jamestown, N.D., and earned her bachelor’s degree at the University of North Dakota in biology with a minor in chemistry.

Treating problems in the environment through the use of plants, known as phytoremediation, is one of the research interests of Assistant Professor Katy Smith, Ph.D., who teaches in the Math, Science & Technology Department at the University of Minnesota, Crookston. Smith joined the

campus in August 2008 and teaches biology, botany, and plant physiology.

“As an undergraduate, I intended to become a medical doctor,” Smith says. “But, later, I realized I could save lives by protecting human health from environmental harms and that changed the direction of my education; I began to concentrate on the soil sciences kindling my interest in using plants to clean the environment.”

After earning her doctorate in environmental soil science from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., Smith went on to post-doctoral work at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Conducting research at the Environmental Institute there, she studied the use of



Students Mitchell Thompson (left) and Tamara Luna (right) assist Katy Smith, Ph.D., in her research.

vegetative filter strips to capture pesticides in the runoff that resulted from the care of golf courses.

In 2006, Smith accepted a position at the United States Department of Agriculture as a research soil scientist. “My research focused on the effects of carbon dioxide on plants and the influences of land management practices in the emissions of greenhouse gases,” she explains.

As soon as she began her role on the Crookston campus, Smith began seeking funding for the purchase of equipment she would need to continue her research. Junior Tamara Luna, a biology major from Crookston, Minn., serves as her undergraduate research assistant. Smith supervised Luna’s independent study in fall 2008 where she learned to use statistical analysis software to analyze data Smith had already gathered on greenhouse gas emissions from soils.

Smith’s credentials and her passion for the environment are essential as she leads the development of an environmental science program for the campus—a field of study that would integrate well with programs in agriculture and natural resources and enhance the campus efforts for sustainability.

Her words reflect the level of commitment Smith has to her beliefs. “I want to spend my life doing something worthwhile,” she says. “I have long believed that if we work to save the environment, we can save our world.”

It all adds up; caring for the world around us and changing the impact humans have on the environment could save lives. That’s something we all can believe in.



Katy Smith works with Freshman Mitchell Thompson, Deer Park, Wis., to bring seeds out of dormancy.

Ki-tae Kim, Ph.D., taught at Georgetown University and The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and at Columbia College in Fairfax, Va., as well as the Intercultural Institute of California in San Francisco before coming to the U of M, Crookston.



Starting Smart

The English as a Second Language Program at the University of Minnesota, Crookston is relatively new to the campus. Over time, the program has been developing, adapting and changing to meet the needs of international students by preparing them for the rigors of academe in the United States.

Under the guidance of ESL Coordinator Ki-tae Kim, Ph.D., the campus continues to build on the foundation of the program by

part of the U of M, Crookston's continued efforts to offer an exceptional student experience.

"ESL is an important linguistic, cultural, and academic bridge for international students," Kim says. "We are preparing students to be successful in academic degree programs."

The ESL program became part of campus curriculum in 2006. Today, there are some 30 Korean students in the program. It provides language instruction in a multi-level, multi-skill format. It is designed for students who wish to read, speak, hear, and write English for academic purposes. With Kim at the helm, the program also hopes to include a strong cultural component as well, and earn accreditation in the next few years.

Kim earned his doctorate in linguistics with distinction from Georgetown University and a Teaching English Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) certificate from The American University in Washington, D.C. His master's degree, as well as his bachelor's degree, is from Korea University in Seoul.

Kim's responsibilities on the Crookston campus include continuing the development of the ESL program, teaching two of the

ESL courses, operating the ESL tutoring program, advising students, and managing day-to-day activities. He represents the program across campus in meetings and works hard to address the issues that students in the program face.

"The more quality instruction, advising, and services the students get, the more likely they will be motivated to succeed at UMC," explains Kim. "We are not a profit-oriented program as many other ESL programs are; rather, we want students who are motivated to study and earn a degree on this campus. ESL is a very important first step to achieving a high-quality education."

In addition to program accreditation, Kim has dreams for the future of the program as well. "We would like to develop a language lab that would also be useful for other languages and courses, and perhaps at some point, a virtual lab that would be useful for online language instruction in general," Kim continues. "We want to offer the best possible program for students because we are here to help them become the best they can be."



Kim is responsible for teaching two of the ESL courses along with advising students and managing the day-to-day activities of the program.

strengthening the curricular structure, improving learning outcomes as well as instructional efforts, and offering better services for its students. These elements are

Dan Svedarsky, Ph.D., professor and head of the Natural Resources Department served as president of The Wildlife Society in 2008.



Shaping Things to Come

A hundred years ago the Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA), a residential high school located on what is now the University of Minnesota, Crookston, was three years old. At the time, only six percent of all Americans had a high school diploma. Today, the U of M, Crookston offers college students the kind of learning experiences

needed to function as global citizens, to become lifelong learners, and to master important leadership skills.

One way an institution can gauge effectiveness is through connections to professional organizations. For example, the coursework offered to future natural resources professionals is the subject of a special session of the 74th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference taking place in Arlington, VA, in March 2009. Dan Svedarsky, Ph.D., head of the Natural Resources Department at the U of M, Crookston and Dr. Dr. Steve McMullin of Virginia Tech are organizing and co-chairing the session. This national initiative was spurred by Svedarsky and others' interest in ensuring that conservation curricula will meet the needs of employers. The session is connected to a special project of The Wildlife Society.

In November 2008, Svedarsky

finished a yearlong stint as president of The Wildlife Society. "It was a pretty incredible experience to serve my professional organization as the national president," he reflects. "The caliber of professionals that I had the privilege to work with in North America was very humbling. The future challenges that many wildlife species and their habitats face are daunting, but there are numerous success stories and the early signals from the new administration are quite positive.

"Hopefully, major decisions affecting landscapes and conservation policy will be based on sound science rather than short-term, political expedience. Amid these challenging times of resource management, it is critically important that those of us in academia prepare students for a dynamic, and somewhat uncertain, future."



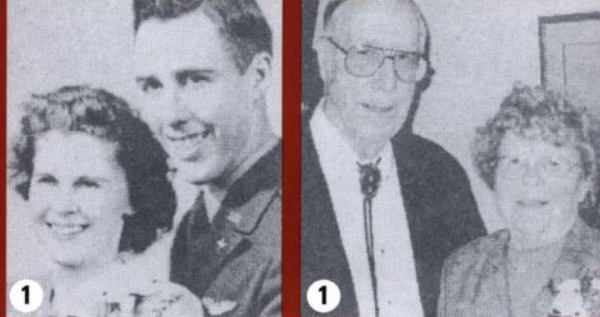
Svedarsky (center) visits with seniors Holly Sandberg, Rochert, Minn., Erick Elgin, Mora, Minn. (far right), and Chris Waltz, Chisago Lakes, Minn., in his office in Hill Hall.

Exceptional Faculty Help Students Develop

The leadership skills students gain through working with faculty and staff have an influence on them now and as future professionals. The dedicated faculty and staff on the Crookston campus continue passing along the values and traditions started at the NWSA. One of the things alumni from the Northwest School consistently recall is the graduate education that some of the instructors had and the value it added to their own education.

Members of the faculty at the Crookston campus completing advanced degrees over the last year include: Business Instructor Eric Burgess and Associate Professor David Crawford, who completed their doctorate degrees, Assistant Professor Jingpeng Tang, Ph.D., who completed a second doctorate; and Christo Robberts, Ph.D., who added a master's in business administration to his list of accomplishments.

Alumni News



This alumni news reflects submissions that were received by March 1, 2009. News received after that date will be in the next issue of the *Torch*.

30s



Irene (Pearson) Gunderson, '33 adv., Ada, Minn., has great memories of her years at the Northwest School of Agriculture. The 1932 photograph shows Irene (far left) and four classmates in front of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial.

40s



Margretta "Toodie" and **Alton Knutson, '41**, Forest Lake, Minn., were recently profiled in the Forest Lake Times. The story, written by Rev. John C. Blackford, religion columnist, told of Alton's multi-dimensional life – soldier, missionary, pastor, world traveler, community volunteer, counselor, and friend. (Read the entire story at <http://forestlaketimes.com/content/view/1488/50/>.) The Knutson's have been married 65 years and enjoy retirement at their home on Clear Lake. Alton writes, "I'll never forget what NWSA did for me and how it helped mold my life for good."

Manley and **Elenora (Johnson) Tollerud, '43**, Apple Valley, Minn., recently sold their home and moved into a retirement apartment. They are in good health and celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary in November 2008.



Barbara and **James Battles, '49**, Cambria, Calif., are pictured at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial on the U of M, Crookston campus. Wesley Battles, Jim's brother, attended the Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA) from 1941-42. He entered the U.S. Navy in June 1942. During a rescue mission in the South Pacific his plane was forced to land due to engine problems. He was declared missing on August 13, 1944, and was never found. An award named after him was given at the NWSA to the boy or girl making the greatest contribution in the community service summer home project.

50s

E. C. "Gene" and Arline Miller, Crookston, Minn., recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with their three children, Corky Miller, Liz Ryder, and Lorraine Mitchell, and four grandchildren. Gene began teaching at the Northwest School of Agriculture in 1954. Miller was involved in early collegiate planning and teaching and wrote the first coursework for the aviation options as the University of Minnesota, Crookston programs developed. He retired in 1986.

Donald C. Murphy, '56, Tucson, Ariz. E-mail Don at don@anabaptistchurch.org.

60s

Ken Schuster, '61, Argyle, Minn., received the "Achievement in Crop Improvement Award" for his exemplary service to the seed industry during the recent Minnesota Crop Improvement Association's (MCIA) annual meeting. The award, presented annually since 1972, recognizes individuals who are dedicated to the seed industry, active in the MCIA, and support their local community.



Claudia (Hanson) Cleveland, '64, Gardner, N.D. E-mail Claudia at cmdeery@hotmail.com.

70s

Kelly Boldan, '77, Willmar, Minn. Contact Kelly by e-mail at kboldan@charter.net.



Brian Winter, '78, Glyndon, Minn. received the Minnesota Award at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society from Martha Minchak. The theme for the 2009 conference, held in mid-February in Mankato, Minn., focused on renewable energy and wildlife management.

Alumni News

David Seilstad, '79, Council Bluffs, Iowa, has been a 4-H youth development specialist with Iowa State University for 20 years. E-mail David at seilstad@iastate.edu.

80s

Tim Johnson, '80, Cook, Minn., recently became a State Farm insurance and financial services agent in Cook. E-mail Tim at tim.johnson.m32v@statefarm.com.

Earle Brown, '81, Alexandria, Minn., is a marketing education teacher in the Alexandria Public Schools. He's married to Sue (Walters) Brown and they have three children, ages 19, 16, and 11. E-mail Earle at ebrown@alexandria.k12.mn.us.

Duaine "Dewey" King, ex. '81, Austin, Tex., is wondering about Mike Sandt, Bob Becker, Brad Fowler, and Tom Solien. Contact Duaine by e-mail at duaineking@hotmail.com.

Rich Lemke, ex. '84, Rosemount, Minn. E-mail Rich at rlemke@na.ko.com.

Flor E. (Portillo) Lopez, '83, Grand Rapids, Mich., has two teenage boys, Jordan, 17, and Justin, 15. She's been married for four years to second husband, Elvidio J. Lopez, and works as an administrative assistant for an attorney. E-mail Flor at lareina2121@aol.com.

David Parks, '83, Madison, Wis. E-mail David at madcitymystery@charter.net.

Judy Streifel-Reller, '83, Grand Forks, N.D., was recently hired as the director of training for Brady, Martz & Associates P.C., which has offices in Bismarck, N.D., Grand Forks, N.D., Minot, N.D., and Thief River Falls, Minn. Her responsibilities include the implementation of learning and development programs firm wide.

Jeff Capouch, '86, West Fargo, N.D., has been promoted to assistant vice president of facilities at Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota (BCBSND), Fargo. He joined BCBSND in 2001 and has worked as a team leader and facilities manager.

Scott Dvorak, '86, Grand Forks, N.D., wants to express his thanks for all the support from friends he made while attending UMC. His daughter, Brittany, 14, was recently diagnosed with leukemia and is undergoing treatment in both Rochester, Minn. and Grand Forks. If you'd like to learn more, log on to her Caring Bridge site at www.caringbridge.org/visit/brittanydvorak. E-mail Scott at devofamily@yahoo.com.

Gregory Hoffman, '86, Bonners Ferry, Idaho. E-mail Gregory at gchoffman@meadowcrk.com.

Sheila (Knott) Klose, '86, Fargo, N.D., was recently hired as director of human resources for Hospice of the Red River Valley.

Darrin and Stephanie (Frenzel) Olson, '88 & '91, Crookston, Minn., will receive special recognition for their commitment to leadership and their community at the upcoming Agassiz Leaders Awards Banquet to be held on the U of M, Crookston campus.

The Olsons are West Polk County's representatives in the Red River Valley Emerging Leadership Program, where they have been taking part in educational sessions along with other rural leaders since November 2008. This year the Emerging Leadership Program celebrates its 25th anniversary and will honor the more than 800 leaders in northwest and west central Minnesota who are alumni of the program.



The Olsons farm 1800 acres of soybeans, wheat and CRP ground. Stephanie is a registered dietitian employed by Polk County Public Health as coordinator of the Polk County WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program.

90s

Dana (Lien) Boen, '90, Olivia, Minn., and her husband, Brian, own Health Enhancement, a chiropractic office, also offering acupuncture, massage therapy, and injury rehabilitation. They have two children, Noah, 6, and Zane, 4. Dana also sells Uppercase Living in her spare time (danab.uppercaseliving.net). E-mail Dana at danaboen@q.com.

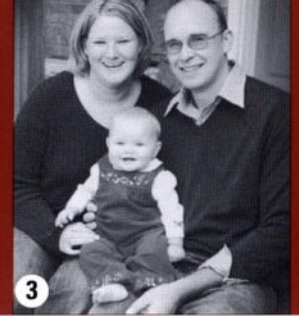
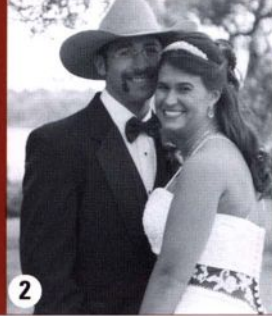
Cheryl Bradseth, '91, Tenstrike, Minn. E-mail Cheryl at cheryl70@paulbunyan.net.

Kim (Hoselton) Garman, '91, Thompson, N.D., works as an administrative assistant at Shaft, Reis & Shaft Law Firm, Grand Forks, N.D., and husband, Todd, is employed by Widseth, Smith & Nolting. They have two daughters, Courtney, 7, and Samantha, 4. E-mail Kim at kimsfunstuff@gmail.com.

Nancy (Beaton) Kelly, '91, Fargo, N.D., has been named the 2008 Associate of the Year for the Home Builders Association of Fargo-Moorhead. Nancy is currently the branch manager of Command Labor, a daily staffing company. She and her husband, Dave, and their children, Devon and Bailey, live in south Fargo. E-mail Kelly at nancy.kelly71@yahoo.com.

Dawn Marie (Pietruszewski) Larson, '91, Middle River, Minn. Dawn Marie's e-mail address was incorrectly listed in the fall 2008 issue; her correct e-mail is dlarson@trcc.sfhs.org.

Alumni News



Tyler and Rhea (Larson) Grove, '94 & '89, East Grand Forks, Minn. E-mail the Groves at trgrove@invisimax.com.

Naomi Brennan, ex. '98, Fergus Falls, Minn. E-mail Naomi at nolsonrn@live.com.

Travis and **Naomi M. (Lilja) Eggl, '98**, Larimore, N.D., were married in 2003 and are the parents of two daughters, Katelynn, 2, and Allison, born August 2008. E-mail the Eggl family at naomimeggl@hotmail.com.

Laura and **Jeremy Radermacher, '98**, live in Alexandria, Minn. E-mail Jeremy at jlra-dermacher@gctel.net.

Chrissa and **Kirk Luckow, '99**, Crookston, Minn., were recently appointed to a one-year term on the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee. The committee focuses on leadership development of young farmers and ranchers between the ages of 18-35 years.

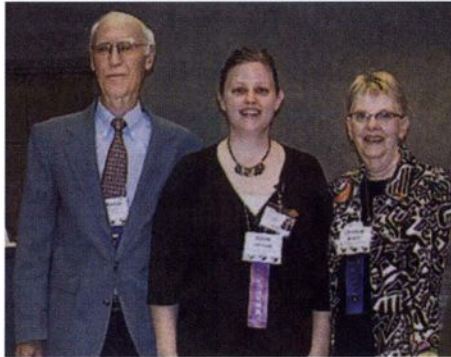
00s

Jeff Bahls, '00, Fisher, Minn., was recently named plant manager of New Flyer of America, Crookston, Minn.



Brent and **Erin (Howe) Heemstra, '00**, Merrified, Minn., are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Kaycee Renee, on July 23, 2008. They can be reached by e-mail at erinmarie78@yahoo.com.

Holly (Wildman) Kovarik, '00, Glenwood, Minn., was recently named administrator of the Sauk River Watershed District. Her job includes overseeing all functions of the daily operations of the district, grant writing, and dealing with personnel.



Kylene (Odegaard) Lehmann, '01, Fertile, Minn., volunteer coordinator at RiverView Health in Crookston, was recently elected vice president of Health Care Auxiliary of Minnesota (HCAM) at the association's annual meeting in Alexandria, Minn. Lehmann is pictured with the current and past presidents of HCAM's state governing board.

Luke McCapes, '01, Brainerd, Minn., is currently employed with TDS Telecom, Pequot Lakes, Minn. TDS Telecom, formerly Arvig Communications/ USLINK, and parent company to US Cellular, serves 28 states as a local and long distance telephone and Internet service provider with headquarters in Chicago, Ill. Luke is a technical analyst for the Internet helpdesk. E-mail Luke at cowboy@brainerd.net.

Angela (Swanson) Nelson, '01, Brainerd, Minn., is a school readiness preschool teacher at Baxter Elementary in Baxter, Minn. She and Troy have two children, Myah, 4, and Ty, 18 months.

Elissa (Vredenburg) Pickar, '01, Backus, Minn., married Terry Pickar, Jr. on September 6, 2008. Elissa is employed as a forest resource manager at the Cass County Land Department based out of Backus; Terry is employed by Kuepers Architects & Builders and rides bulls in several associations. They reside west of Backus with their horses and two dogs. E-mail Elissa at liss_girl58@hotmail.com.

Jim and Heather (Dellwo) Sward, '01, Stanchfield, Minn., are excited to announce the birth of Hannah Mae on March 3, 2008. E-mail Heather at h_dellwo@hotmail.com.



Carrie (Tollefson) Lovelace, '01, Milford, Conn., married Robert Lovelace on October 4, 2009, with Joe Karas, '02, officiating and Dana (Prudhomme) Widman, '02 and her husband, George, '02, taking photographs. The wedding took place at the Inn at Maple Crossing near Mentor, Minn. Following the wedding, Carrie has been working at Yale University in their foundation office. U of M, Crookston alumni at the wedding were back row (l to r) Ted Tollefson, ex. '95; Terry Tollefson, '06; Amanda Munch, '08; Joe Karas, '02. Front row: Megan A. Tollefson, '06; Elizabeth Tollefson, '02; Carrie Tollefson, '01; Megan N. Tollefson, '02; Dana (Prudhomme) Widman, '02; and George Widman, '02. Inset: Russell Tollefson, '45.

Bradley Rivard, '02, Breckenridge, Minn., and Kari Gajeski were married November 22, 2008, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Breckenridge with the reception December 5, at the Rainbow Gardens in Las Vegas, Nev. Rivard is the agent/owner of Red River Agency in Breckenridge.



Alumni News



Shawna Campbell, '03, Townsend, Mont., married Kelly Noyd on September 6, 2008, in Pray, Mont., with a reception following at Chico Hot Springs Resort. Shawna is employed by the U.S. Forest Service and Kelly works for Vogl Construction.

Becky (Locke) Chudek, '03, Minneapolis, Minn. E-mail Becky at inspiredesign@wwdb.org.

Victor Fite, '03, Grand Forks, N.D., was hired as a nighttime computer operator for Alerus Financial. He'll work at the Banksouth location in Grand Forks.



Derrick Kuznia, '03, Bejou, Minn., has worked for six years at Digi-Key, Thief River Falls, Minn., in the quotes and non-catalog department. He and Kizzia Kulzer-Kuznia have been married eight years and are parents of Abigail, 10, and Brady, 6, fourth grade and first grade, respectively, at Mahnomen Elementary. E-mail Derrick at undertaker2nd@juno.com.

Eric Useldinger, '03, East Grand Forks, Minn., is employed as a commercial/ag credit underwriter at Alerus Financial in Grand Forks, N.D. He married Kelly Kovar of East Grand Forks in June 2007 and they recently became parents; their first child was born in February.

4 Kelly and Sherry (Zurn) Bisek, '04 & '04, Wahpeton, N.D., announce the birth of their son, Jack David, on February 27, 2008. Kelly was recently promoted to assistant office manager of customer account services at North Dakota State University and Sherry was recently promoted to assistant director of residence life at North Dakota State College of Science.

Karen (Ballou) and Jonathan Gorentz, '04 & '06, Vergas, Minn., are in partnership with Jon's family in the dairy business, currently milking 125 cows and expanding to 200 cows upon completion of the new parlor and bedding pack barns. Karen is working on the farm as herdsman while Jon is teaching Ag Ed at New York Mills, Minn. E-mail them at jkgHolsteins@gmail.com.



David J. Johnson, '04, Harwood, N.D., is currently an officer in the North Dakota Air National Guard and recently completed Air Force pilot training. Johnson is a pilot, flying a C-21 (military Lear jet) for the North Dakota Air National Guard based in Fargo, N.D. He and his wife, Jennifer, have three children. Jennifer is a registered nurse at Meritcare Hospital in Fargo.

Tony and Angela (Nelson) Lorentz, '04 & '04, East Grand Forks, Minn. E-mail Tony at farmman2001@hotmail.com.

5 Kyle Page, '04, Crookston, Minn., and Tiffany Harbott were married January 17, 2009, at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Grand Forks, N.D. Kyle is currently employed at American Federal Bank as an ag and business banker. The couple reside in Crookston.

Amy Kuznia, '05, Stephen, Minn., and Mark Sage were married January 2, 2009, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Grand Forks, N.D. Amy is employed by the Grand Forks Public School District. The Sage's reside in East Grand Forks, Minn.



Adam Marthaler, '05, Versailles, Ky. E-mail Adam at pskov91@hotmail.com.

Rhonda Miller, '05, Kragnes, Minn., recently accepted a position at North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D., as an information specialist in the enrollment management office.

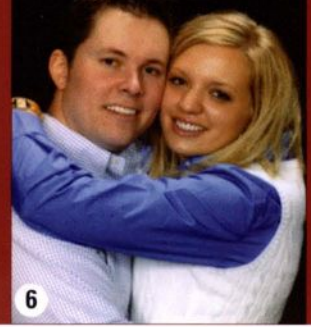


Kathryn and **Timothy Frits, '06**, Globe, Ariz., were recently married. Tim is working for the USDA Forest Service as a wildland firefighter on the Tonto National Forest. E-mail Tim at timfrits@hotmail.com.

Adam Hanson, '06, Chicago, Ill., is an assistant golf course superintendent at Midlothian County Club, Midlothian, Ill. E-mail Adam at achgcsaa@yahoo.com.

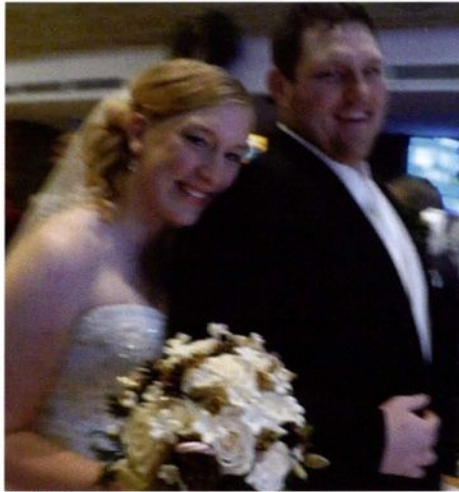
Terry Pruett, '06, Evansville, Ind. E-mail Terry at canis_lupus_74@hotmail.com.

Alumni News



Nathan and Deann Roers Dahl, '06 & '06, Fargo N.D., were married August 2, 2008. U of M, Crookston friends/family attending the wedding included, back row from left: Brooke (DeLanghe) Pezdirtz, Katie Delohery, '08, Grand Forks, N.D., Roers Dahl, Laura Tiedemann, '06, Omaha, Neb., Lisa (Detloff) Roers and Shane Roers, '01 & '01, Fargo, N.D., and Dahl. Front row from left: Katie Murray, ex. '04, Grand Forks, N.D., and Jen (Gisch) Schreiber, '07, Moorhead, Minn. Also pictured are three student body presidents from the Roers' family, Harry Roers, '78, Alexandria, Minn., Roers Dahl, and Shane Roers.

Jay Schreiber, '06, Moorhead, Minn., was recently hired as general manager for the AmericInn and Suites of Fargo and Discover Lodging Management Inc. He has two years experience in the hospitality industry.



Patrick and Charly (Reinert) Stansbery, '06 & '06, Maplewood, Minn., were married on December 27, 2008. Patrick is working for Ger-Bes Farms in Vermillion, Minn. Charly is in her second year of veterinary school at the U of M College of Veterinary Medicine. Contact via e-mail at rein0329@umn.edu.

Nathan Tallackson, '06, Grafton, N.D., and Christine Johnson were married November 29, 2008, in Litchfield, Minn.

Heath Estey, '07, Aberdeen, S.D., is employed with the Bureau of Indian Affairs-Great Plains Region as the East River Zone Fire Management Officer. He provides operational oversight to the tribes' wildland fire programs. E-mail Heath at heath73fire@hotmail.com.

Melissa Herbst, '07, Birnanwood, Wis., and Eric Brost announce their engagement and upcoming marriage, planned for the fall of 2010. Melissa is employed at Northwest Mental Health Center in Crookston, Minn.



R. J. Rollins, '07, Anchorage, Alaska, will return as a running back with the Omaha Beef for the 2009 indoor football season. He had a great 2008 season, rushing for 519 yards on 110 carries with 17 touchdowns and 29 receptions for 129 yards and 4 touchdowns.



Brent and Shell (Franks) Tunberg, '07, New York Mills, Minn., announce the September 8, 2008, birth of their son, Carlyle Brent. The family farms south of New York Mills and can be reached by e-mail at sfranks2@hotmail.com.

William Enlow, '08, Crookston, Minn., is employed by the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology at the University of Minnesota, Crookston. His responsibilities include developing and providing support for U of M, Crookston's online course management systems. E-mail William at enlo0003@umn.edu.

Micah and Rachel (Muisse) Gast, ex. '05 & '08, make their home in Richmond, Va. E-mail Rachel at muis0001@umn.edu.

Dauline Menze, '08, Fargo, N.D., is working in Fargo as an AmeriCorp VISTA for the RSVP program. Contact Dauline by e-mail at dauline.menze@ndsu.edu.

Taylor Michels, '08, Pelican Rapids, Minn., is an integral member of the family's dairy farm operation. They are also in the process of marketing their patent pending polydome hut covers.

We Want to Hear From You!

Nominate Top Aggie/Outstanding Alumni

These awards recognize alumni who have displayed exemplary commitment and service to community, church, education, family or in their occupational field. This award is given annually at the Northwest School of Agriculture Alumni Reunion the last weekend in June for NWSA alumni or during homecoming at the University of Minnesota, Crookston for UMC alumni.

I would like to nominate the following person as a candidate to receive the Top Aggie or Outstanding Alumni Award:

Name/Title:

Reasons why this individual should be considered for a Top Aggie or Outstanding Alumni Award:

You can submit your nomination by mailing this form to:
Development & Alumni Relations
115 Kiehle, Crookston, MN 56716
Attn: Rose

or

Submit nomination online at:
www.UMCrookston.edu/alumni

To submit an item for the Alumni News Section, complete this form and send it to UMC Alumni Relations, 115 Kiehle Building, 2900 University Avenue, Crookston, MN 56716, e-mail: rulseth@umn.edu or complete the form on line at: www.UMCrookston.edu/people/alumni/info-form.htm.

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

E-mail

Year of Graduation

or years of attendance

May we include your e-mail in the news section of the Torch? _____

Can we publish it in our online directory? _____

Information or news you wish to share (new job, career, or family achievements, etc.)

In Memory

Daniel S. Letnes, '30
Grand Forks, N.D.
August 18, 2008

Helmer B. Nornes, '31
Fergus Falls, Minn.
December 3, 2008

Lorraine (Chappis) Cournia, '39
Crookston, Minn.
January 7, 2009

Harvey Diamond, '39 adv.
Humboldt, Minn.
November 13, 2008

Alfred Hebert, '42
Grand Forks, N.D., formerly of Argyle,
Minn.
December 21, 2008

Bernard "Carl" Eggebraaten, '43
Sidney, Mont.
October 19, 2008

Ordean James Westby, att. '43-'44
Pelican Rapids, Minn.
December 9, 2008

Agnes (Hardrath) Malarkey, '44
Crookston, Minn.
December 9, 2008

Donald M. Nelson, '45
Stephen, Minn.
September 9, 2008

H. David Hamre, '48 adv.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
December 20, 2008

Thomas A. Bubb, '53
Alvarado, Minn.
December 20, 2008

Donald James Flesche, '53
Reynolds, N.D.
December 6, 2008

Keith O. Wentzel, att. '54-'59
Minneapolis, Minn.
November 25, 2008

Paul Suda, '56
Grafton, N.D.
October 12, 2008

Harold Helm, '58
Drayton, N.D.
December 12, 2008

Donald Hoeger, '58
Peoria, Ariz.
February 22, 2009

Gary Dagen, '61
Bemidji, Minn.
January 12, 2009

Jackie (Malo) Thiesse, '81
Fairmont, Minn.
September 30, 2008
www.caringbridge.org/visit/jackiethiesse

Geno L. Mancini, '82
San Francisco, Calif.
May 18, 2006

Ann (Driscoll) Mondt, att. '89
Clearbrook, Minn.
January 4, 2009

Erik R. Sureda, '07
Brookfield, Wis.
2008



The National Conclave was hosted by Delta Theta Sigma (DTS) in October 2008. Alumni attending the event were:

Back Row: L to R: Adam Volz, '01; Andrew Nordick, '08; Terence Woodward, '08; Anthony Betcher, '07; Alex Wendorf, ex. '07; Mark Erickson, '98; EJ Duckwitz, ex. '04; Jacob Stich, '06; Matt Burdick '06
Front Row: L to R: Lloyd Stevens, '05; Steve Waling, '03; Jay Hogfoss, '03; Jason Rarick, '06; Mark Belanger, '08; Marv Mattson (Advisor), Tiffany Anderson, '06; Issac Dallager, '03; Megan (Bouwens) Duckwitz, ex. '05; Cody Hill, '06; Korey Hegeberg, '98; Jason Wentland '06

Come and visit us!

It's always the perfect time to visit the U of M, Crookston. And now there are two reserved alumni parking spots in Lot G next to the Kiehle Building to make your visit even more convenient! Stop by the Development & Alumni Relations office when you're in the area; we'd love to reminisce and show you around campus. David Ebertowski, '62, stopped by recently and enjoyed a campus tour and conversation with Rose Ulseth, '87, development & alumni relations executive accounts specialist. There were some noticeable changes as this was Ebertowski's first time back on campus since his graduation!



The Seventh Annual Winter Job and Internship Fair held February 4, 2009, brought University of Minnesota, Crookston alumni back to campus to visit with current students about potential internships and jobs.

Alumni working at this year's job fair included: Back row (l to r): Jerry Robinson, '98; Phil Seibel, '05; Melody Berg, '78; Dustin Hollerman, '03; and Amanda Willger, '06. Front row: Lori (Lucken) Simpson, '03; Draper Lundquist, '03; and Mandy (Kidrowski) Fischer, '00.



ROCK 'N ROLL GOES HAWAIIAN

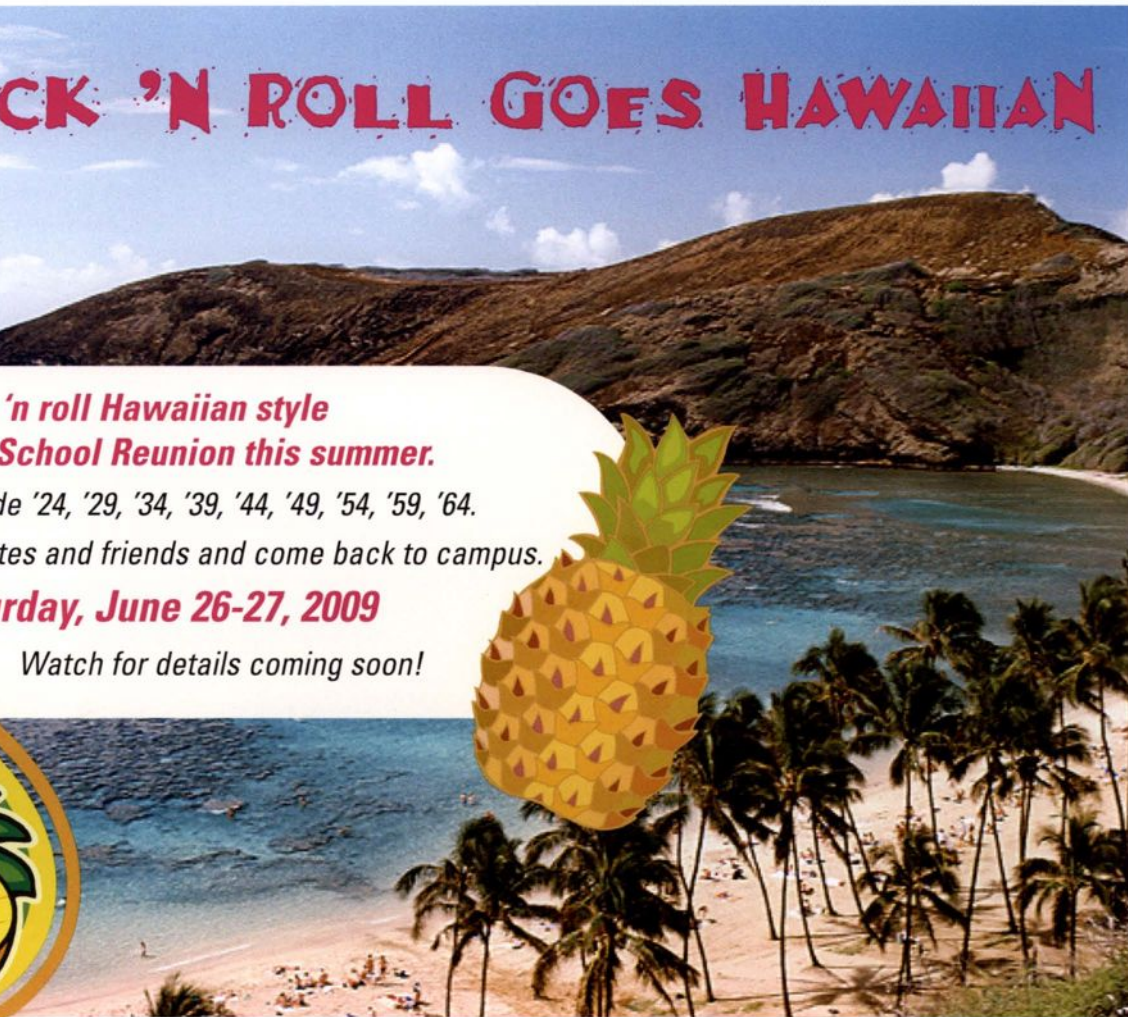
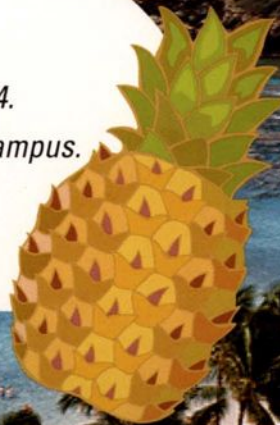
**Get ready to rock 'n roll Hawaiian style
at the Northwest School Reunion this summer.**

Honored years include '24, '29, '34, '39, '44, '49, '54, '59, '64.

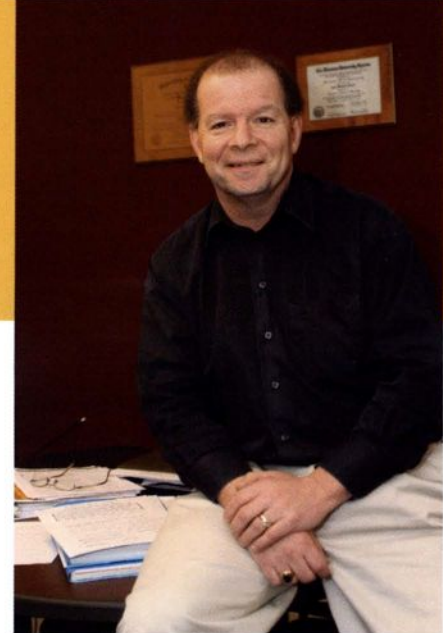
Gather your classmates and friends and come back to campus.

Friday and Saturday, June 26-27, 2009

Watch for details coming soon!



Campus Named EDA University Center



Jack Geller, Ph.D., professor and head of the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Department, serves as the director of the EDA University Center at the U of M, Crookston.

In August, a grant was awarded to the University of Minnesota, Crookston making it a focal point statewide as the new Economic Development Administration (EDA) University Center for the state of Minnesota. The \$150,000 grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of Commerce, will also provide an expected yearly appropriation of the same amount for each of the next three years.

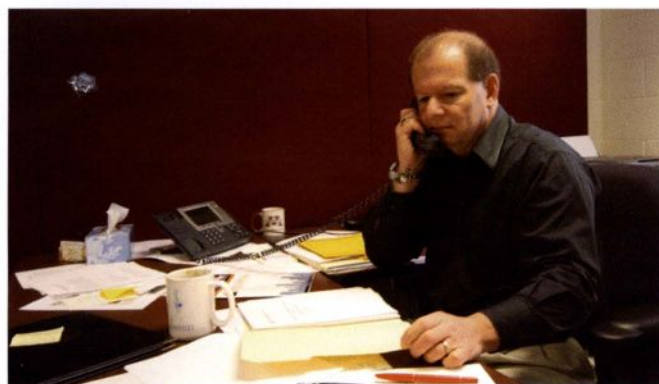
As a result, the campus will provide technical assistance and will conduct applied research for economic development agencies at the local, county, and regional levels throughout the state. Each geographic region of Minnesota has its own unique regional economy as well as economic challenges and opportunities and the funding allows the U of M, Crookston EDA University Center to provide expertise to help address regional needs. Jack Geller, Ph.D., head of the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Department on the Crookston campus serves as program manager of the EDA University Center.

The particular focus of the EDA Center will be on

economically-distressed areas and will help enhance the adoption and utilization of new technology, augment entrepreneurial development efforts and create a client-driven, responsive technical assistance infrastructure.

The University Center program, which began in 1966, provides annual funding to higher education institutions for the support of local and regional economic development. One of the unique characteristics of the program is the way it leverages staff, students, facilities, research capabilities, and other resources of the partnering institutions.

“I’ve always believed that our public colleges and universities have an important role to play in the economic vitality of the communities and regions that host them,” explains Geller. “Through this center, we will work to provide relevant research along with valuable technical assistance to economic development professionals across Minnesota, and in turn, they will be able to better serve the constituencies in their respective regions.”



In his office in Sahlstrom Conference Center, Geller coordinates activities related to the EDA University Center. The Center was funded through a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Creating an environment that fosters learning and discovery is one of the goals of the U of M, Crookston, and this effort is led by the exceptional faculty who interact with students every day. The result is students who are well-prepared for a career and excited about the role they will play in solving tomorrow’s problems and engaging in the communities where they live and work.



Jingpeng Tang



David Crawford



Christo Robbotts



Eric Burgess

Collaborating for Economic Opportunity

Interest in the economic success of Northwest Minnesota is the reason for the creation of the Northwest Minnesota Regional Economic Alliance, a coalition of key decision makers in the region. Representatives from healthcare, business, education, tribal government, banking, manufacturing, economic and workforce development, and philanthropy are coming together in this collaborative effort.

A meeting of the group in September 2008 was the beginning of work on a collective vision for the economy. As the group examines the strengths as well as the challenges facing the region, they are working to determine how they can influence the future in a positive way.

University of Minnesota, Crookston Chancellor Charles H. Casey, D.V.M., has been a part of Northwest Minnesota Regional Economic Alliance

and represents the interests of the campus and higher education. "Efforts were made to put together a broad-based representation of the 12 counties that make up northwestern Minnesota," Casey explains. "Each member is a spokesperson for the organization they represent, and we hope to learn more about working for the economic success of all our citizens."

With the leadership of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation and through their collaboration, the group hopes to lend support to areas that need development and strengthen the region's wide array of talents and resources.

"While we cannot be responsible for every aspect of this region's economic success," Casey says, "we hope to provide leadership through the Northwest Minnesota Regional Economic Alliance by serving as advocates for the many assets we all share."



Nine student research projects were funded by the University of Minnesota, Crookston's Office of Academic Affairs. Included in that funding was a project on robotics research which included designing, building, and programming a robot. Martin Lundell, associate professor in the Math, Science, and Technology Department, is supervising the students' research. Students working on the robotics project include (l to r) Sophomore Ramon Held, Cold Spring, Minn.; Freshman Michael Schliep, Holloway, Minn.; and Freshman John Babin, Jr., Savage, Minn.

Research Enhances Student Experience

For students at the University of Minnesota, Crookston, the chance to conduct research and work directly with faculty and staff as an undergraduate is a big advantage. Not only do students gain a sense of accomplishment by working with a faculty member on a project, but they also come away with greater knowledge and deeper understanding. Student research opens areas for growth and development and is beneficial for students considering graduate school or interested in accomplishing alternative career goals.

Students who received funding for projects for fall 2008 are as follows:

University of Minnesota, Crookston Student Research Project Proposals

Student	Faculty Sponsor	Department	Project
Britta Berglund, senior	Eric Burgess, Ph.D., and Kenneth Johnson	Business	Graduate information research
John Boucha, senior	David DeMuth, Jr., Ph.D.	Math, Science, and Technology	Rich Internet applications
Justin DeValk, sophomore	Tricia Johnson	Math, Science, and Technology	Extra solar planet research
Ramon Held, sophomore; John Babin, Jr., freshman; and Michael Schliep, freshman	Martin Lundell	Math, Science, and Technology	Robotics research, design, building, and programming
Jarrold Lanctot, junior	David DeMuth, Ph.D.	Math, Science, and Technology	Maya 3D design research and educational learning applications building on previous work using CS3 Flash
Tamara Luna, senior	Katy Smith, Ph.D.	Math, Science, and Technology	Root O2 release survey
Brian Pauly, senior	John Loegering, Ph.D.	Natural Resources	Detection and landscape configuration of greater prairie chicken leks in Northwestern Minnesota
Christine Radintz, junior	Charles Lariviere	Business	Market analysis of an online agricultural degree
Ryan Worstall, senior	Dan Svedarsky, Ph.D., and David DeMuth, Jr., Ph.D.	Natural Resources and Math, Science, and Technology	Hydro energy storage system
Thomas Haarstick, junior	Paul Aakre	Agriculture	Straight Vegetable Oil (SVO) as a Fuel Source in Agricultural Operations
Jill Leoni, senior	Ken Myers	Business	Alcoholic Beverage Dispensing Accuracy and Consistency
Heather Schiele, senior	David DeMuth, Jr., Ph.D.	Math, Science, and Technology	High Definition Video Analysis of the Equine Gait

Sold on Business

Before he graduated in December 2008, Justin Klinkhammer, Thief River Falls, Minn., already had a full-time job waiting for him. His internship with Northwestern Mutual Financial Network in Grand Forks, N.D., led to full time employment and a personal discovery about his own career aspirations.

Klinkhammer originally came to the University of Minnesota, Crookston to play hockey. Through his involvement in Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), Klinkhammer uncovered a passion for business and marketing that rivaled hockey. "It seemed like I came to a pivotal point in my academic career, when I figured out what it was I wanted," explains Klinkhammer, "I discovered that through my involvement with SIFE."

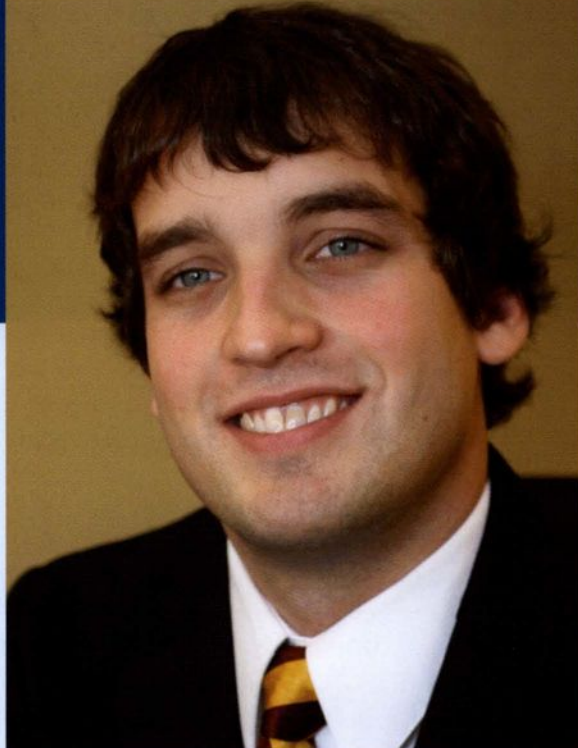
He was on the presentation team in SIFE, and Klinkhammer says he took what he learned from the team with him into his work in the business field. His internship began on January 8, 2008, but preparing for the internship had to be completed prior to that date. Klinkhammer had to get licensed and pass the steps required by Northwestern Mutual. He attended classes two weekends in the Twin Cities as part of his training.

Once he began, he had weekly meetings that included techniques in sales. "I learned a lot, but I came to another life changing experience when I attended Northwestern Mutual's annual meeting in Milwaukee, Wis. "My trip to Milwaukee was a turning point for me; I knew I truly enjoyed the work and wanted to improve my skills in sales," Klinkhammer says.

Improve he did. Klinkhammer's sales increased, and he recognized just how important it was for him to put his whole heart into the job. It made a difference; when he started his final semester of school, Northwestern Mutual offered him a full-time position when he graduated.

When he looks back over his collegiate career, Klinkhammer admits that hockey and SIFE have played a huge role in his life. "I love hockey and all the people I have met through it," says Klinkhammer. "The other highlight for me has been my experience with SIFE. The trip to Chicago for competition and the skills I learned are invaluable to me in my work and in my life."

Justin Klinkhammer graduated in December 2008.



NIE Visit September 2008

A delegation from the National Institute of Engineering (NIE) in Mysore, India, visited the University of Minnesota, Crookston September 11-12, 2008, to discuss collaborative academic pursuits and research efforts between the two institutions. Earlier this summer administrators from the Crookston campus visited India and the NIE campus. The collaboration may lead to student and faculty exchange programs, specifically in conjunction with UMC's degree program in computer software technology.



Pictured are (front row, seated, left to right): G.L. Shekar, director of the NIE Institute of Industrial Technology; S.K. "Babu" Lakshminarayana, director and chairman of international studies, NIE; Bill Peterson, head of the Math, Science and Technology Department, UMC; M.S. Shivakumar, principal, NIE; (back row, left to right) Jingpeng Tang, assistant professor, computer software technology, UMC; Martin Lundell, assistant professor, computer software technology, UMC; Kim Gillette, director of international programs, UMC; S.L. Ramachandra, treasurer, NIE; and Saravana "Sam" Rangaswamy, infoNERO Inc., Fargo, ND.

Mixin' It Up for Students

Whether it is country, rock, hip-hop, pop or rap, the University of Minnesota, Crookston now has a radio station designed by students for students. The Golden Eagle Mix, as the station is known, is the result of the dedication and work of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE).

Alumnus Joe Field, '08, and Kenneth Johnson, an instructor in the Business Department, worked diligently last year to make the radio station's start-up last fall a huge success. With the help of a technology grant from the U of M, Crookston, SIFE has been able to fund the start-up and equipment costs. The station is accessible online and students have been invited to disc jockey (DJ).

A number of SIFE students eagerly DJ, and station managers, Senior Mariam Maiga, Crookston, Minn., and Junior Stephanie Onken, Round Lake, Minn., expect the numbers to increase during spring semester.

"Our DJs play music from all different genres, from pop to oldies, country to rap—a little of everything," said Onken, a communication and business management major. Maiga is also a business management major.

"Our international students are getting involved as well by giving us a taste of their music from home," Onken continues. "We also try to keep the music playing all day, every day, although we do have technical problems from time to time! SIFE is very excited with how the station has turned out and the positive responses to it."

To access the Golden Eagle Mix, visit www.goldeneaglemix.com.



Stephanie Onken enjoys working as a DJ on the student-run radio station. Along with Mariam Maiga, these two SIFE students manage the Golden Eagle Mix.

Lifetime Giving



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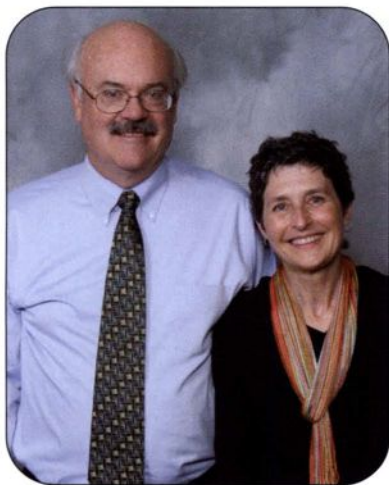
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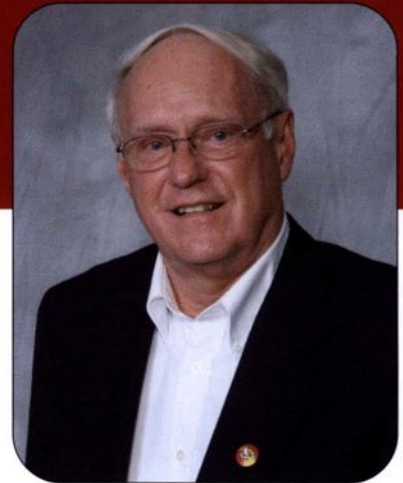
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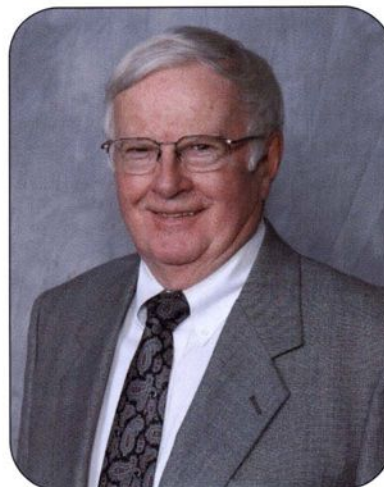
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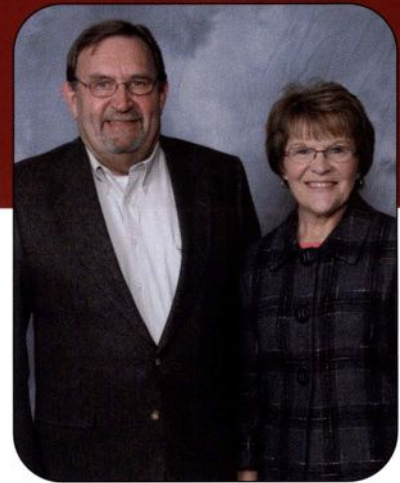
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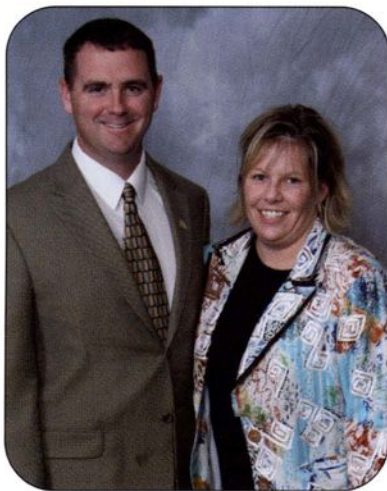


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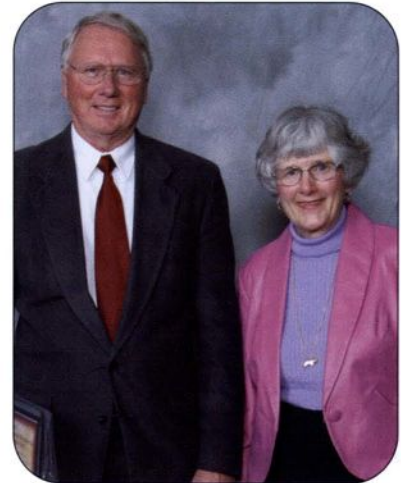
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UMC Teambackers

Maroon Club

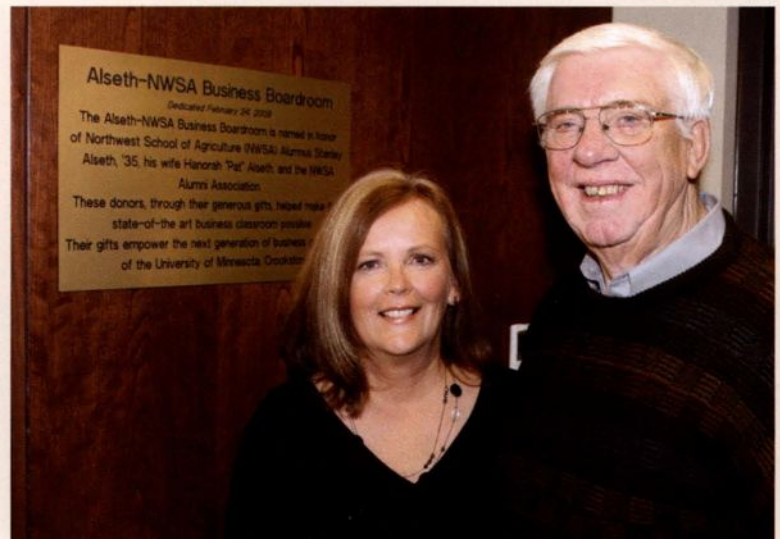
(Annual Gift of \$ \$1,000 through \$2,499)

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Alumni Gifts Fund Business Classroom

A gift from the estate of Stanley and Hanorah "Pat" Alseth, of Baltimore, Md., was given to the University of Minnesota, Crookston and helped fund a state-of-the-art business classroom. Stanley Alseth was a 1935 graduate of the Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA), the residential high school located on the campus that is now the U of M, Crookston. An additional gift from the NWSA Alumni Association helped making this beautiful room a focal point of the business major, the largest program on the Crookston campus.



Sue Brorson, head, Business Department and Charles "Chuck" Holmquist, president of the NWSA Alumni Association stand by the plaque commemorating the U of M, Crookston's state-of-the-art Alseth-NWSA Business Boardroom.





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Why tag Monarch butterflies?



The Monarch performs the longest migration of any insect in the world. Each fall millions of Monarchs journey south to overwintering roosts in central Mexico. However, scientists in North America actually know very little about their migration. Naturalist and Lab Services Coordinator Laura Bell tags monarchs in an effort to gather data for biologists to learn more about Monarch navigation and migration habits.

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