

MSU *today*

Homecoming
Edition
September 2017

a magazine for alumni and friends of Mayville State University

Homecoming 2017

October 6 • 7 • 8

See all the details on pages 24 & 25.





Peer Leaders, women's basketball players, and others were eager to help new and returning Comets unload their vehicles and carry their belongings to their residence hall rooms on move-in day Aug. 19.

Fall semester is in full swing!

Fall semester classes at Mayville State University began at 4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 21. The campus is hopping! We are especially honored to have the children of several alumni join the ranks at Mayville State University students this fall. A full schedule of Welcome Week activities was planned for students, starting on Saturday, Aug. 19, when students could begin moving into the residence halls. Activities throughout the week included grocery bingo, an outdoor dance, a pool party and belly-flop contest, games and activities at Mayville's Island Park, and a performance by mentalist Sean Bott.

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Journeys with Mayville State ... Alaska Cruisetour

July 20-31, 2018

Cruise Highlights

- 7-day Voyage of the Glaciers Cruise from Vancouver to Anchorage
- Relax on board the Star Princess
- Sail through the pristine waters of Glacier Bay and College Fjord
- Search for Alaska's wildlife with help from park rangers
- Explore the Alaskan cities of Ketchikan, Juneau, and Skagway

Tour Highlights

- 2 nights at Denali Wilderness Lodge and 1 night in Fairbanks
- Scenic ride through Alaska on board the Direct-to-the-Wilderness train
- Tour of Denali National Park featuring Mt. McKinley
- Riverboat cruise down the Chena River while learning about Alaska's gold rush history, native culture, and colorful Alaska lifestyles

All Mayville State alumni and friends are cordially invited to join President Gary and Debbie Hagen on this trip of a lifetime!

More information, including cost, will be available soon at www.mayvillestate.edu/alaska.

Questions? Call 701-788-4750 or e-mail alumni.mail@mayvillestate.edu.

MSUTODAY

a magazine for alumni and friends of Mayville State University

Homecoming Edition
September 2017

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Music Dept. Madrigal Feast Dec. 1-2, 2017

Dueling Pianos Party Jan. 27, 2018

Traill County/MSU Luncheon in Mesa Feb. 13, 2018

Tables du Jour..... April 21, 2018

Graduation Brunch/Commencement May 12, 2018

MSU Golf Classic June 15 & 16, 2018

Alumni Day June 22, 2018

See details at www.mayvillestate.edu.

On the cover: The view from the grounds south of the Edson and Margaret Larson Alumni and Leadership Center has become more and more beautiful each day this summer. Two large flower pots, donated by the family of Phyllis Enger and the May-Port Economic Development Corporation, have added tremendously to the landscape. Darcene (Moen) ('96) and Chris ('94) Burgess of Burgess Greenhouse in Hallock, Minn. helped to pick out the pots, potted them, and delivered them to Mayville State. This photo was taken by Lute Simley, who landscaped the grounds at the Larson Center, including the stunning Military Honor Garden.

State of the university once again very good

I gave my annual state of the university address on Wednesday morning, Aug. 16 before an audience of MSU faculty and staff and a handful of community members. The Classroom Auditorium was nearly full as faculty and staff gathered for pre-service workshops, traditionally held during the few days prior to the start of the fall semester.



Dr. Gary Hagen.

The state of the university is once again very good. In my annual address, I took the audience down memory lane as I gave highlights from each of my state of the university addresses, which began in 2006, when I became Mayville State's 16th president. The highlights underscored Mayville State's evolution over the last 11 years, from a small, traditional campus in 2006 to a very viable, growing campus. It was a time of reflection for those who have been on the journey, while giving newer employees a nice history lesson.

The state of the university was grim when I took the presidency in 2006. In my first state of the university address, I used a metaphor which compared Mayville State to a sailing ship. I have used this same analogy in subsequent state of the university addresses.

In addressing the faculty and staff in 2006, I said, "Our ship (campus) is now very old and its design has become quite obsolete. We are the most traditional 'ship' in the North Dakota University System fleet and our vessel has become unfit for the kind of voyages we need to make. Potential students are visiting our campus and choosing not to attend simply because things are so run down. Our vessel is taking on a great deal of water after 40 years of neglect, and now it needs twice the maintenance of any other 'ship' in the NDUS fleet.

"As you all know too well, this university is facing serious challenges. But it is our resolve to rebuild our vessel, train our crew, and set out in search of new lands. Only time will tell us how well we did."

Fast forward to 2017.

The University and MSU Foundation have recovered from huge financial deficits. A strategic plan is guiding the university in decision-making. Enrollment has steadily grown, from 832 in 2006 to 1,130 in the fall of 2016. The MSU Foundation had its biggest year in 2016-2017, raising nearly \$2.9 million, and the endowment has grown from \$2 million in 2010-11 to \$7.5 million in 2016-17. Employee satisfaction was at 87% in 2012-2013, the highest in the North Dakota University System,

growing from last in the system just five years previously. Academic methodology and delivery systems have evolved. An addition to the Science Building and library has become the home to the Division of Education and Psychology and the library and Science Building have been updated. It had been 40 years since the state had provided for a building project at MSU. The largest residence hall, Agassiz Hall, has been completely renovated to provide suite- and apartment-style living accommodations for students. A coal-fueled heating plant, which became operational late in 2009, is saving the campus hundreds of thousands of dollars in heating costs. The state provided funding for a campus-wide drainage project and new facilities for the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation department. New thrusts in nursing, STEM, the Master of Arts in Teaching program, distance delivery, research, and other innovations are going well. Mayville State is collaborating with a number of entities to increase efficiencies. While operating budgets will be leaner in the 2017-2019 biennium, Mayville State came through the largest budget reduction in its history this past year.

As I told the faculty and staff on Aug. 16, prosperity for the university seems imminent for the foreseeable future. It is strategically the right time to let someone else take the helm, and I have decided to retire at the end of July in 2018.

I am beginning my 12th year as president of Mayville State University. The time has gone so fast, yet somehow I have become either the third- or fourth-longest serving president in the history of the campus. In that time, we have gone from serious collapse and crises, to recovery, to many years of prosperity, and we have now just avoided what could have been another very difficult time. It has been an unbelievable journey.

My employment at Mayville State began in 1976 when I became a faculty member in the Division of Business. I have served in several roles during my tenure, including Business Division chairman, chief information officer, and vice president for academic affairs.

I can't imagine not getting up in the morning and heading for Old Main, but I have been richly blessed with good employment, challenges galore, excellent employees, colleagues, and friends, and a wonderful group of students to serve each year. I am truly grateful to all of our faculty and staff for their support and hard work and determination to move this campus forward and for helping to create such a sleek, efficient, and functional ship.

I extend that gratitude to our alumni and friends who have supported me and Mayville State University in amazing ways. I look forward to this year as, together with the faculty, staff, and students, we sail on our last adventure.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gary Hagen
President, Mayville State University

A tribute to Steven P. Bensen



Steven P. Bensen.

At the end of June, we gave our best wishes to Steven P. Bensen, who retired after a 30-year career as vice president for business affairs at Mayville State University. He had become one of the most treasured administrators Mayville State has known. Steve began his career at Mayville State in 1987 and rose to the top of his profession. He was the pinnacle of class and a consummate professional, a truly outstanding man who served Mayville State with dedication and conscientiousness.

A great deal has changed at Mayville State during Steve's career, and his efforts were extremely important to all of these changes. The pace of administrative work and the number of items administrators are involved with has picked up considerably, especially during the last 10 years.

Bensen was instrumental in a number of building projects, all of which were pretty complex. He secured campus authorizations from the State Board of Higher Education, worked with various architectural firms, negotiated contracts, gained legislative approvals, and kept track of all the activities associated with the building frenzy that has occurred on campus during the last several years.

Steve successfully guided the campus with regard to financial dealings, legal requirements, and the myriad of rules, regulations, and demands of the North Dakota University System, government, and local campus. He did all of this with confidence and skill.

In leaner days at Mayville State, not only did Steve do his job as vice president for business affairs, he was also doing the work of the controller and human resources manager. He did all of this with a smile on his face and never complained. The campus recovered, of course, and these duties are now assumed by appropriate professionals, but there is no doubt that Mayville State is truly in debt to Steve for all he has done. Over the years, it has not been unusual to see Steve leaving his office in the morning to go home for breakfast and to change clothes after working much of the night to meet critical deadlines.

Steve's assistance was vital in securing tens of millions of dollars in legislative funding over many biennia. His business acumen was instrumental in positive financial outcomes for Mayville State. His feasibility study related to the coal-powered heating plant was pivotal. This new power plant solved the campus's historic cash flow problems in one stroke. Steve's work was part of an unprecedented era of success in the history of Mayville State University.

Mr. Bensen didn't just take care of a myriad of duties related to his position as vice president of business affairs. During his time at Mayville State, he was very active in the work of the Comet Athletic Club and for a number of years, he served as the treasurer of the MSU Foundation board. In

addition, he has overseen the activities of the Mayville Mutual Aid Corporation, an organization that exists to assist Mayville State by providing housing opportunities. To top it off, when Mayville State was partnering administratively with Valley City State University for several years in the 1990s, Steve served as vice president for business affairs for both institutions.

"SPB," as he is affectionately known on campus, earned great respect from his Mayville State colleagues, as well as those with whom he's worked across the state. Upon his retirement, he was awarded the distinction of Emeritus Vice President for Business Affairs.

The students, faculty, staff, and administration of Mayville State University are sincerely grateful to Steve for his years of service and devotion to The School of Personal Service. "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Jami Hovet is new business affairs vice president

Jami Hovet became Mayville State's vice president for business affairs in late June, upon the retirement of Steve Bensen. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Mayville State in 2000. Jami recently completed a master's degree in business administration.



Jami Hovet.

A Buxton, N.D.-area native, Hovet began her professional career working for Amazon.com in Grand Forks as an accounting manager. She was there for five years and then moved to Arizona. She worked as an accounting manager for financial services and assistant director of business services for the College of Nursing & Health Innovation and the College of Health Solutions at Arizona State University. For the past two years, Jami has worked for Mesa Public Schools, both as the director of financial services and the chief financial officer. This background has prepared her well for the duties of vice president for business affairs at Mayville State.

In her new role, she reports directly to the president and is responsible for planning, coordinating, and directing the business and financial affairs of the institution. The vice president for business affairs provides collaborative leadership as a member of the President's Cabinet. As chief administrative officer, Jami is Mayville State's representative on the North Dakota University System Administrative Affairs Council and other campus and University System-wide committees. She is responsible for operations within the Business Office, Facilities Services, Physical Plant, Dining Services, Safety and Security, Bookstore, and Human Resources.

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Contact us at alumni.mail@mayvillestate.edu or 701-788-4750.

Commencement is a wonderful celebration for graduates, degree candidates

Mayville State University’s 125th commencement was held Saturday afternoon, May 13, 2017. More than 200 individuals who had completed the requirements for their degrees at the end of the fall semester of 2016 or the spring semester of 2017 were recognized, as were several individuals who will complete their degree requirements at the end of the summer session of 2017 or the fall semester of 2017.

Dawn Cruff, 1991 Mayville State University graduate, Fargo, N.D., delivered the keynote address. Speakers representing the graduates were Kristin Reinowski, Anamoose, N.D., and Anthony Stockfish, Murrieta, Calif. North Dakota State Board of Higher Education member Greg Stemen, Oakes, N.D., brought greetings on behalf of the board, and Pastor Randy Mortenson of Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Mayville, delivered the invocation and benediction.

Leading the faculty and graduates in the procession were emeritus faculty members Dr. Merwin Lyng, Dr. Ron Semmens, Dr. Carol Enger, Dr. Ray Gerszewski, Dr. Paul Batesel, and Dr. Rick Holman. This marked the 59th Mayville State commencement in which Dr. Lyng has participated, and the 47th for Dr. Semmens.

Graduation day festivities began with the traditional graduation brunch, hosted by the MSU Alumni Association and sponsored by Gate City Bank. The event serves as the official alumni activity for the new graduates and was attended by the



The platform party at Mayville State's 2017 commencement included (l-r) President Dr. Gary Hagen, Pastor Randy Mortenson, SBHE member Greg Stemen, keynote speaker Dawn Cruff, and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Keith Stenehjelm.

graduates, along with their family members and friends. About 350 attended the brunch, and thanks to the generous sponsorship of Gate City Bank, the brunch was complimentary for all who attended.

Student speakers at the brunch were Taylor Benneweis, Enderlin, N.D., Louis Bongiovanni, Woodend Victoria, Australia, and Erin Olson, Grand Forks, N.D.

To see a video documenting Mayville State’s 125th commencement, go to www.mayvillestate.edu/commencement.

Mayville State notches record-high enrollment in 2017 summer session

Enrollment at Mayville State University for the Summer Session of 2017 was at an 86-year high, marking the university’s largest summer school headcount enrollment since 1931. Headcount enrollment was up 2% overall, when compared with last year. The number reflects an increase in the number

of students in all categories. The full-time equivalent figure grew by 4% over last year.

Mayville State experienced enrollment growth in the new online Master of Arts in Teaching degree program this summer. Additional students have applied and are expected to enroll for the fall semester. The new online program is designed to help those who have bachelor’s degrees in non-teaching fields get the credentials they need to become teachers. This degree directly impacts the teacher shortage crisis in North Dakota.

“Mayville State University strives to be flexible and offer convenient options for students in pursuit of their educational goals,” said Mayville State University President Dr. Gary Hagen. “The combination of providing flexible options for those studying online and at a distance and the physical plant and other improvements for those who study on campus are making Mayville State a great option for those looking for a top-notch education at a great value. We are delighted to have the opportunity to serve the citizens of North Dakota and beyond in this way.”

Mayville State’s summer session options included 10-week, eight-week, and five-week sessions, as well as a variable dynamic option, providing students with more than 125 summer course offerings. Courses were offered on-line, as well as on the Mayville State campus.

2017-2018 MSU & Community
Fine Arts Series

All concerts are performed in the MSU Classroom Building Auditorium and begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available for sale at the door on the evening of each concert.

Dover String QuartetOct. 2, 2017

Rebecca Fisher, violin
and Anthony Hawley, video projections.Nov. 6, 2017

Primo TrioFeb. 13, 2018

Telegraph QuartetMarch 27, 2018

Robert Dick.....April 9, 2018

flute performance, composition, improvisation, and teacher

Mayville State University group studies in Belize May 14-28

Nine students and one faculty member from Mayville State University traveled to Punta Gorda, Belize for a study abroad experience May 14 through 28, 2017. Given the opportunity to live with local families, the students learned about and enjoyed the Belizean culture first-hand. With majors of nursing and biology, the students were able to each contribute their knowledge while in Belize. The nursing students ranged from those just starting nursing school to students who are already working as RNs and who are continuing their education to earn bachelor’s degrees.



These students and their faculty adviser spent two weeks in Belize the end of May. Pictured in the front row (l-r) are Megan Knudsvig, Emily Vaagene, and Tami Such. Kyle O’Brien, Taylor Maya, Eric Leedah, Jocelyn Klein, Kortney Petermann, Jordan Burgau, and Brittney Slater are in the back.

The students prepared health education projects before the trip. Each student’s prepared health education project was presented multiple times throughout different health education days conducted in community and school classroom settings.

Incorporating a variety of interactive and application based approaches, Belizean students, parents, and community members were educated on topics including composting, recycling, environmental concerns with Styrofoam products, plant nurseries, planting trees, and the benefits of organic instead of processed foods.

In addition, the group provided health screenings and education related to diabetes, hypertension, foot care, and vision/visual acuity. The group also participated in a foot-care clinic, providing nail care, health education, and screenings to many older adults in need.

The Mayville State University group also had the opportunity to provide community service in the form of building a seedling house for the San Pedro Columbia School. The extreme temperature changes of the climate in Belize presented unique challenges during the days of construction, but the group pulled together and worked hard in spite of the heat. They completed the project in just two days.

The seedling house will provide an ongoing environment free of insects and excess sun. Seedlings will receive appropriate water amounts in which they may grow and then be transplanted into the school gardens. The children in the schools will continue to support the gardens and this seedling house will be essential to ensure growth of the garden plants.

The group also participated in a variety of educational, cultural, and adventure activities during their time in Belize. They learned about the culture and history of Belize and about how chocolate is made from the cacao bean. They hiked in the jungle and learned about the soil, trees, plants, and insects. They also learned about plant medicine from a traditional Garifuna healer. The group also spent two days in the jungle at an ecological conservation center learning about rainforest biology and biodiversity, organic agriculture, music, and art. In addition,

they participated in Creole drum lessons and enjoyed swimming in a cave and snorkeling about the Belize Barrier Reef. They experienced a variety of amazing Belizean foods.

Overall, everyone who participated in this experience felt as though this was an experience of a lifetime.

“Not only did we get to see the Caribbean way of life, but we got to interact and work with the people, spreading our knowledge and care to them. Every student went to Belize with an open mind and left with a touched heart and a new culture experience,” said study-abroad participant Megan Knudsvig.

Another study-abroad participant, Emily Vaagene, shared, “Experiences like these can challenge us to adapt to the new surroundings, but it is an eye-opener to what it is really like in the world. I would highly recommend this experience to others.”

Mayville State University faculty and administration look forward to offering future study abroad experiences in Belize. Plans are to do so annually. Students earn college credit while studying abroad.

MSU Theatre Dept. presents
“Over the River and Through the Woods”

Nov. 16-19, 2017
MSU Old Main Theatre

“Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.”

April 26-28, 2018
MSU Old Main Theatre

For more information, contact Bob Sylskar at
robert.sylskar@mayvillestate.edu.

Mayville State employees recognized for years of service, retirements



These Mayville State employees were recognized for 10 years of service. In the back (l-r) are Dustin Olson, associate professor of business, and Bryan Karolus, Director of Dining Services. In the front are Billie Jacobson, a teacher with Child Development Programs; Kayla Smith, coordinator of data management and director of student placement in the Division of Teacher Education; Sharie Kowalski, heating plant operator; Mindy O'Connor, admissions coordinator; and Misti Wuori, director of Extended Learning and instructor of sociology.

The MSU employee recognition banquet, held April 6, 2017, was a tribute to the employees of Mayville State for their work and commitment to the university. The annual event was held at the Mayville State Campus Center Luckasen Room. All Mayville State employees and their spouses or guests were invited to attend, as were Mayville State retirees and spouses or guests. Those who attended enjoyed a festive atmosphere with a tropical theme, inspired by beautiful backdrops painted by Mayville State alumnus Doug Anderson ('74) of Cavalier, N.D.

Three Mayville State employees who will retire, or who have retired, during this academic year were also recognized. They are Karen (Flaten) Amundson ('75), Steve Bensen, and Craig Bye.

Rick Karboviak ('00) was named the 2017 recipient of the Orville Johnson Meritorious Service Award. This award recognizes outstanding service by members of Mayville State classified staff. Rick is an admissions recruiter.

Special recognition was given to those employees who have reached milestones in years of service. Those honored are as follows:

- 40 years of service – Karoline (Gjovik) Jacobson ('77) and Pam (Carter) Soholt ('77).
- 35 years of service – Pam Braaten ('11) and Tom Moe ('73).
- 30 years of service – Kevin Hanson and Beth Swenson ('82).
- 25 years of service – Shirley Hanson ('03), Connie Rude, and Ann Willeson ('88).
- 20 years of service – Tom Gonnella, Mike Moore, and Jeff Sieg.
- 15 years of service – Lin Arnegard, Mandi Domier ('15), Pamela Eberle, Dean Kostuck, and Sheri (Duden) Peterson ('78).



Bookstore Director Pam Soholt (left) and Karoline Jacobson, Dining Services employee, were each recognized for 40 years of service at Mayville State University.

10 years of service – Robyn (Eken) Hanson (ex. '80), Bryan Karolus, Sharie Kowalski, Mindy (Rodacker) O'Connor ('07), Dustin Olson ('06), Julie Schuler, Billie (Perfett) Jacobson ('03), Kayla (Aune) Smith ('05), and Misti Wuori.

5 years of service – Jessica (Mooney) Amb ('09), Sarah Anderson, Codie Davis, Michael Keating ('05), John Klocke, Michelle McLean, Sarah Olson, Peter Pratt, and Fred Strand ('80).

Minnesota State U, Mankato baseball park named for Bowyer

The Minnesota State University, Mankato baseball field was renamed for their former coach and Mayville State graduate, Dean Bowyer ('66). The name change was made official at a dedication ceremony held April 30.



"It's truly an honor," Bowyer said. "The thing is I never won a single game on this field. It was all the players."

Bowyer coached the Minnesota State program from 1977 to 2008 and posted some impressive numbers. Including four previous years at Minot State, Bowyer retired with a record of 1,054-528-7 - a winning percentage of .666. At the time he stepped down, he ranked fifth in the NCAA Division II all-time list.

His Minnesota State teams reached the postseason in 21 of his 32 years and won at least 30 games in each of 22 seasons. Under his guidance, the Mavericks won 22 conference championships. He is a member of the Mankato State, NSIC, and American Baseball Coaches Association Halls of Fame, as well as the Mayville State Athletic Hall of Fame.

SPORTS NEWS



Stay in touch with Comets Athletics.

Too far away from Mayville State to get Comets sports scores in your local newspaper or on local radio and television stations?

Comets Athletics information, including team schedules and contest results, is only a click away on the web.

To get the latest, go to www.msucomets.com.

How'd you like to be part of the action live via web streaming, the next-best thing to being there? Learn more at www.msucomets.com.

Mayville's local radio station, KMAV, is now webcasting most Mayville State athletic events. Go to www.kmav.com to see the schedule and make a connection.

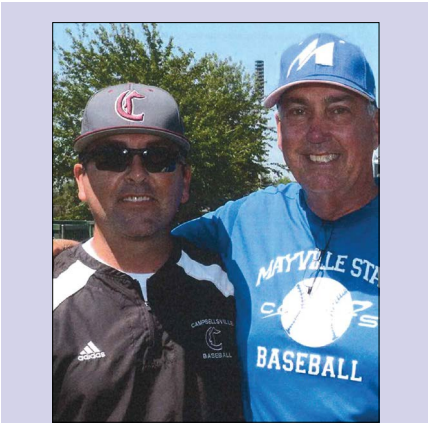
New coaches elevate excitement level for fans

It's a new day for the Comets football and men's basketball programs. The hiring of new head coaches in these programs has elevated the excitement level for Comets fans. Sean Thom is the new head football coach, and Darren Tighe is the head coach for men's basketball. Fans are eager to see the new coaches and athletes in action as the 2017-2018 games get underway. You can see the full game schedule for all Mayville State athletic teams at www.msucomets.com.

A number of new coaches have been hired in all sports during the last year. In some cases, these folks will also be instructing HPER classes. In addition to their coaching duties, Coach Thom and Coach Tighe will be teaching courses for the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (HPER) Department.

Other new hires are Jesse Thompson, assistant football coach and HPER instructor; Shane Clancy, assistant football coach and athletics equipment manager; Rod Oksendahl, assistant football coach; Brian Quinn, assistant football coach; Paul Whitaker, part-time assistant football coach; Aaron Johnson, part-time assistant football coach; Erik

Gibson, part-time assistant football coach; Derek Bakken, part-time assistant football coach; Darren Tighe, head men's basketball coach and HPER instructor; Alex Herman, assistant men's basketball coach and HPER instructor; Billy Tomblin, assistant baseball coach and instructor of HPER; and Matt Piker, part-time assistant baseball coach.



LeBleu, Berry meet as opponents
Comets head baseball coach Scott Berry (right) met up with his former Mayville State player, Randy LeBleu ('93), when the Comets played in the NAIA national tournament in Oklahoma City last spring. LeBleu is assistant coach for Campbellsville University, MSU's first opponent in the tourney.

MSU connection made at Florida ballpark



(L-r) Ernie Melsby, Arleeta Foss, Don Foss, and Nick Anderson.

Don Foss ('76) and his wife, Arleeta (Johnson) ('78) had a chance meeting with Mayville State alum and professional baseball player Nick Anderson in Florida last spring. The Fosses were invited by one of their Hillsboro (N.D.) High School classmates, Ernie Melsby, to attend a baseball game in Ft. Myers, where the Miracle were playing. Melsby

is a ballpark regular and made his way to the dugout, where he made the connection with the Miracles pitcher and former Mayville State Comet, Nick Anderson (ex. '12).

It's been a wild and interesting ride for Nick Anderson since he left Mayville State. He was drafted by the Brewers, but they didn't offer him a contract, so he had to go the independent-ball route.

Late in the 2015 season, he was signed by the Twins, and he's been terrific ever since. He ended that season closing games for the Kernels, and he split the 2016 season between Cedar Rapids and Ft. Myers.

Anderson dominated hitters this past July. At age 26, he is one of several Lookouts relievers who are ready for Triple-A. Anderson was named the Twins Daily Minor League Relief Pitcher of the Month for July of 2017.

The latest from Comet Athletics

Football

Last December, Mayville State Athletics introduced Sean Thom as its new head football coach. Coach Thom made his way to Mayville from Cummings, Ga., where he was the defensive coordinator at North Forsyth High School. North Forsyth is a Class 7A high school in northern Georgia with an enrollment of 2,400 students. He was also the linebackers coach at Faulkner University, an NAIA school in Montgomery, Ala., where he played collegiately. He was an NAIA Academic All-American and was 1st Team All Mid-South Conference three times.

After a condensed recruiting season and a new system being implemented on offense and defense, the Comets are ready to take the next step on their way to a North Star Athletic Association (NSAA) conference championship. You'll see a lot of new faces playing on the field and coaching on the sidelines, but Coach Thom is confident that his squad will put a product on the field of which MSU fans can be proud.

"I feel like this spring went great and the players did a great job of buying into this new coaching staff. We have changed the culture and flipped the program from the bottom up," he explained. "The kids are starting to understand that we are all about the process here at MSU. Our mentality running throughout the program is 'Process over the product.' If we can do the small things right, we will be able to build a sustainable product that will last the test of time."

Last season, The Comets struggled to establish any momentum throughout the season and limped to a 4-6 finish, going 2-4 in conference play.

Coach Thom will rely on a foundation of returning players, especially early in the season, for leadership and showing the newcomers what Comet football is all about. Some key returners on defense are LB Blaine Miller (Winter, Calif.), DE Preston Hamlette (Potts Grove, Pa.), and DB Jason Holmes (Orlando, Fla.). The offense returns key contributors RB Don-drei Hubbard (Houston, Texas) and OL Keyley Ellis (Marietta, Ga.).

Thom has acknowledged the challenge in front of them this season, but is excited to get it started. "We are going to have an extremely tough schedule this year; however, we are looking forward to the opportunity of competing day-in and day-out. We like where we are as a program and the future looks bright for MSU football!"

The preseason coaches' poll had the Comets finishing in sixth place out of seven teams. With so many new players and a new voice in the locker room, it will be interesting to see how the season unfolds for the Comets. The team began their

season on the road against Buena Vista University on Aug. 31. They'll host Sterling College on Sept. 9 for the annual Farmers Bowl at Jerome Berg Field. For a complete schedule, visit www.msucometts.com.

Volleyball

The MSU volleyball team is already into the 2017 season. The Comets reported to campus for fall camp on Sunday, Aug. 6, and began their season on Aug. 17 in Denver, Colo., where they squared off in five matches. The Comets were on the road in Orange City, Iowa the following week and in Omaha, Neb. the beginning of September. They'll make their home debut on Sept. 26 against Trinity Bible College of Ellendale, N.D.

The Comets finished last year with an overall record of 11-26 and lost to Viterbo University in the opening round of last season's North Star Athletic Association (NSAA) tournament.

The volleyball team had an outstanding season in the classroom in 2016 as they earned the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Scholar-Team Award by turning in a team cumulative grade point average of 3.28. For a team to be considered for the NAIA Scholar-Team Award, it must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) as defined by the institution. The team also had eight NSAA Scholar-Athletes. To be named an NSAA Scholar-Athlete, a player must have achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or better on a 4.0 scale. They'll be working hard to continue accomplishments in the classroom this year.

The Comets graduated four seniors from the 2016 squad, including all-conference player Stephany Wold from Underwood, Minn. The Comets look to replace her efforts with returning players, as well as some new faces. Key returners for the Comets include Hannah Bliss from Nevis, Minn., Whitney Janu from Frazee, Minn., TaLise Hansen from Granby, Colo., and Mayville product, Jayden Warner. Key recruits for the Comets this year include Cassidy Miller and Rumor Stokes. Both are transfers from Bismarck State College. Key freshmen arriving on campus this fall include Jana Mehus from Finley, N.D. and Jayden Christianson from Fertile, Minn.

There are 21 players on the squad, which includes 12 new faces, ten being freshmen. In addition to Mehus and Christianson, new players include Mason Hart, Moorhead, Minn.; Jacey Ross, Underwood, Minn.; Miah Hansen, Pine River, Minn.; Taylor Leitch, Underwood, Minn.; Kaitlin Leier, Bismarck, N.D.; Hannah Johnson, Walhalla, N.D.; Jordyn Lucas, Nevis, Minn.; and Sydney Koontz, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Head coach Lindsey Johnson is excited for the new season. "We have a great group of returning student-athletes, as well as a good mix of transfers and freshmen," she said. "We have a lot of competition in every position, which is creating a very intense atmosphere in the gym."

Women's Basketball

The MSU women's basketball team is gearing up for their 12th season under head coach Dennis Hutter. The Comets were 17-12 overall during the 2016-2017 season and advanced to the semi-finals of the NSAA tournament. The team struggled early in the season against some tough competition, but turned it around in the second half by winning 12 of their last 17 games.

Mayville State didn't graduate any players from last year's roster, so they should return a solid foundation of experienced players, including All-American Honorable Mention, Andi Gayner, and NSAA Newcomer of the Year, Naomi Torgerson. Other key returners include Karleigh Weber (started all 29 games), Claire Blaszczek (started 20 games), Andrea Skillingstad (started 26 games), and Sydney Gangl (started 10 games). Joelle Ertl will also return after sitting out last year with an injury. She started all 29 games two seasons ago.

Of the 17 players who make up the Comets roster for 2017-2018, five will be new additions to the basketball program. They include Lexi Carpenter (Argusville, N.D.), Kylee Heurung (Brainerd, Minn.), Kaitlin Hulst (Roseau, Minn.), Sydney Magsum (Climax, Minn.), and Erin Stevens (Marshall, Minn.). The women's basketball team is very excited about incoming freshman Kylee Heurung. She finished her career at Brainerd High School as the leading scorer in program history. The mixture of experienced veterans and talented young players has Coach Hutter excited about the upcoming season.

"We are very excited for the 2017-18 season of Comet women's basketball. Our team finished 17-12 last year and we have our entire team back, along with getting starting point guard Joelle Ertl back from a season-ending knee injury last year," he explains. "Returning senior Andi Gayner will lead the team this year, along with seniors Karleigh Weber and Sydney Gangl. The Comets return a very good young core of sophomore players who will immediately help the team as well."

The Comets begin their season on the weekend of Oct. 21-22 at the Lewy Lee Fieldhouse against Providence University. Two weeks later, the Comets welcome Dordt College and Northwestern College to the Lewy Lee for another weekend showdown. The schedule includes three exhibition games, against North Dakota State University, University of North Dakota, and Bemidji State University early in the season.

Nominate a candidate for the Athletic Hall of Fame or the Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame.

Go to www.mayvillestate.edu/recognition or call 701-788-4750.

Men's Basketball

Darren Tighe was hired as Mayville State's men's basketball coach last April. He comes to MSU from Ridgewater Community College, where he was also head men's basketball coach.

"My family and I are thrilled to be joining the Mayville State University family," said Coach Tighe on this opportunity. "After stepping on campus, it did not take long to figure out that Mayville State is a special place with first-class people! The opportunity to become the head coach at such a prestigious academic university with a rich basketball tradition was too good to pass up. My family and I are eager to become ingrained in the community. We are extremely excited to begin the process of building a championship culture with the men's basketball program at Mayville State University!"

Coach Tighe graduated from Minnesota State University Mankato with a bachelor's degree in English Studies. He also received his master's degree in teaching from Minnesota State University Mankato. From 2007 to 2011, Coach Tighe worked with the men's basketball program at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minn. under Head Coach Rick Jeddelloh. After Bethany, Coach Tighe spent some time in the high school ranks, as he served as the head coach at JWP High School. He then taught and coached two years at Redwood Valley High School, where he helped the Cardinals to a state tournament appearance in 2013 and a section runner-up finish in 2014. At that time, Coach Tighe accepted the head coach position at Ridgewater Community College in Willmar, Minn.

With new leadership in place, the MSU men's basketball team is looking forward to the start of the 2017-2018 basketball season. The Comets finished last year with an overall record of 9-18. They got off to a promising start, winning six of their first seven games, but the Comets ultimately struggled once conference play started.

The Comets will return a handful of key players from last year's team. They are Garek Droog (started 26 games), Daniel Lindgren (started 24 games), Ben Maranan (started 14 games), and Creighton Pfau (started 14 games). A few new additions to the team include Gorg Alhag (RCTC/Mankato East High School), Daymarcoo Green (Miraosta JC/Lakeside High School), and Jack Turnbull (Ridgewater/Adelaide, Australia).

The varsity men's basketball program has 30 games scheduled for the 2017-2018 season and opens on Oct. 24 with an exhibition game at the University of Mary. The first home game will be Oct. 27 against Providence University.



New Comets head men's basketball coach Darren Tighe.

See "Comet Athletics" on page 10.

Comet Athletics cont'd. from page 9

Baseball

The MSU baseball team is coming off a season that ended in their fifth-straight trip to the NAIA national tournament. The Comets finished the regular season by winning 15 of their last 18 games before the NSAA conference tournament. In the tournament, the Comets opened with a win over Waldorf and then lost to Valley City State 3-4. The Comets then won three-straight games, including two against Valley City State, to earn a spot in the NSAA championship game against the University of Jamestown and a chance at a qualifying bid to the national tournament. After a back-and-forth battle with the Jimmies, the Comets came out on top with a 5-3 victory to capture the NSAA tournament crown. The Comets finished the season with an overall record of 46-12 and 22-5 in the NSAA.

The Comets baseball team also performed well in the classroom. Twelve players were honored with NSAA scholar-athlete awards. To be eligible for the NSAA Academic Scholar-Athlete, a student-athlete must achieve a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale. The athletes that were selected are Hayden Bring (Galesburg, N.D.), Preston Kath (Wahpeton, N.D.), Taylor Lawrence (Burnaby, B.C.), Brady Nygaard (Mayville, N.D.), Jacob Pladson (Hatton, N.D.), Kody Rock (Canora, Sask.), Gabe Salander (Larimore, N.D.), Mason Swegarden (Lake Park, Minn.), Jacob Torgersen (Morris, Minn.), Nathan Walsh (Fargo, N.D.), Connor Weber (Thompson, N.D.), and Evyn Yamaguchi (Honaunau, Hawaii).

Last year's team was stacked with experienced veterans who were lost to graduation. They will be missed, but the 2017-2018 team returns some young talent in first baseman Brady Nygaard (.387 batting average, All-American) and infielder Jonathan Folena (.372 batting average). The Comets will also look to players like Zachary Schwieters (Rochester, Minn.), Mason Swegarden (Lake Park, Minn.), and Evyn Yamaguchi (Honaunau, Hawaii) for veteran leadership that the team can build around.

The Comets will compete in a handful of games this fall, beginning at Valley City State University on Sept. 12. The Comets will also see action against the University of Jamestown, Viterbo University, Midland University, and Doane University this fall. The Comets will play their only home games of the fall season against the University of Jamestown on Sept. 16 and Viterbo University on Sept. 17.



2016-17 pitcher Kody Rock makes a pitch. Rock signed with the Milwaukee Brewers in July.

Softball

This marks the fifth season with Ashley VandeVeen as the head coach for Comets softball. With VandeVeen at the helm, the Comets continue to improve each season. The 2017 campaign was one of the best seasons the women's softball program has seen. The Comets finished with a 22-26 record overall and 14-14 in conference play. The season came to an end in the semifinals of the North Star Athletic Association (NSAA) tournament, where the Comets fell to Bellevue University, 2-1 in extra innings. The Comets had been picked seventh in the preseason conference polls, so they definitely exceeded expectations. Mayville State boosted their win total from 13 to 22 in 2017, making it the fifth-straight year they have improved their record. This is a program on the rise, with Coach VandeVeen leading the way!

A few key players who graduated last spring will need to be replaced in 2017-18. Daisy Macias and Nina Gurgian were both first team all-conference selections, and Lauren Coronado earned Gold Glove recognition after committing only one error the entire season. The Comets will return the only freshman Gold Glove recipient from last season in pitcher Shaye Kemball (11 wins last season). Other key returners are Kiana Ishikawa (43 games started) and Megan Rabe (40 games started). Altogether, the Comets have 12 returning players for the 2017-18 season.

The Comets have worked hard in the summer months to sign a group of new players for the 2017-18 season. Six new members will join the 12 returners. They are Danielle Hoyer (Strathcona, Minn.), Amanda Whitley (San Diego, Calif.), Sierra Niedege (Miles City, Mont.), Jade Ledochowski (Teulon, Manitoba), Danyelle Gutierrez (Riverside, Calif.), and Carly Kujawa (Oakdale, Minn.).

The Comets' fall schedule will include four games. They'll face Dickinson State University in Brandon, Manitoba on Sept. 9. The only home game the Comets have in the fall is on Sept. 24 against Lake Region State College. The team will finish fall play in matchups with NDSU and UND in October.



With 11 wins, pitcher Shaye Kemball was the only Comets freshman Gold Glove recipient last season.

See the Comets sports schedules at www.msucomets.com.

FOUNDATION NEWS

The MSU Foundation

The purpose of the MSU Foundation is to serve as the vehicle for resource development in support of Mayville State University; and to raise, manage, and disburse funds for the sole benefit of Mayville State University-approved needs. The Comet Athletic Club and the Alumni Association operate under the umbrella of the MSU Foundation.

For more information about the work of the MSU Foundation, please contact MSU Foundation Executive Director John J. Klocke at 701-788-4787.

Hannon uses asset to 'pay it forward' to Mayville State's athletes

Leo "Bud" Hannon was an outstanding alumnus of Mayville State University. A class of 1947 education graduate, he went on to a successful career as a teacher and coach. A resident of Westminster, Calif., he passed away on Jan. 1, 2016.

Bud had a passion for helping young people, especially those who were underprivileged. In fact, one of his crowning achievements later in life was founding the Los Pinos High School for juvenile criminal offenders. Students at the school were doing time for crimes ranging from drunk driving to assaulting a police officer. But Bud, who had always been thankful for the character-building and ethics he had learned at Mayville State, wanted to help young people attain those same character traits.

During his tenure there until 1961, the school's average daily attendance was 60 students, many with discipline problems. Despite the constantly changing student body with these discipline issues, the school had a championship California Inter-Scholastic Federation (CIF) sports program that won not only games, but a sportsmanship award from the Los Angeles Dodgers for its achievements in baseball.

Throughout his life, Leo followed MSU athletics. When his wife, Julia, passed away a few years ago, there was an unused asset that Bud wanted to pass on to help young people. He crafted his will and created a bequest for Mayville State University. His experience and enjoyment of athletics at Mayville State led Bud to make plans in his estate to give a gift of \$10,000 to the Comet Athletic Club to help young athletes with scholarships to support their education. He felt athletics was the best classroom in which to teach discipline and ethics.

Mayville State University offers educational materials to alumni like Bud to help them plan their estates to benefit their families and their favorite charities. Contact Dena Bergstrom to request a free information kit on how to prepare for the process of creating an estate plan. You can call her at 701-788-4864 or e-mail her at dena.bergstrom@mayvillestate.edu.



Leo "Bud" Hannon.

Distinguished Alumni/Distinguished Service Awards

We request your assistance in nominating deserving individuals for the Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Service Awards. If you know of worthy candidates, please take the time to submit nominations at mayvillestate.edu/recognition.

- The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to graduates of Mayville State who have been leaders in their fields for a minimum of ten years.
- The Distinguished Service Award was re-established in 1998. The award is presented to Mayville State personnel, faculty, or administrators who make exceptional contributions, with a minimum of ten years of service. Other individuals who are eligible to receive the award are those whose service activities enhance Mayville State. Both Mayville State alumni and non-alumni are eligible for the award.

Nominations on file Jan. 15 of each year will be considered for selection in that year.

For more information, contact Beth Swenson at 701-788-4750 or beth.swenson@mayvillestate.edu.



More than \$70,000 raised!

Thanks to the generous support of Mayville State University alumni and friends, more than \$70,000 was raised to support Mayville State University and its students in the “I’m Thankful for Mayville State Week” fund drive. Every dollar raised helps the MSU Foundation to exist and complete its work.

Mayville State University, like all universities across the country, is becoming increasingly dependent on external dollars for operating and moving forward. With support like this from our alumni and friends, we believe the future is exceedingly bright!

Send your alumni news for the next edition of MSU Today!

alumni.mail@mayvillestate.edu or
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MSU Pembina County/Hoople alumni award scholarships

The Mayville State alumni of Pembina County/Hoople recently completed their annual fundraiser for scholarships. Proceeds will be awarded for the 2017-2018 school term. To be eligible to receive a scholarship, students must have graduated from North Border, Cavalier, Drayton, St. Thomas, or Valley-Edinburg High Schools in North Dakota and be enrolled at Mayville State University.

This year's recipients are seniors Emmalee Hall, North Border-Pembina High School, elementary education major; Abbie O'Hara, Cavalier High School, elementary education major; and Austin Volk, North Border-Pembina, sports management major. Sophomores who will receive scholarships are Benjamin Phelps and Racheal Wright, both graduates of Valley-Edinburg High School, majoring in fitness and wellness and elementary education, respectively.

Pembina County alumni who sold calendar raffle tickets in the fundraiser are Garnet Furstenu (70), Barb (Lentsch) (68) and Pat (ex. 63) Mahar, Mandy Heuchert (05), JoDee (Erickson) Dungan (85), Doug Anderson (74), and Ann (Harlow) Kraft (89) from Cavalier; Cleone (Holum) Whelan (62), Steve Kristjanson, Faye (Dube) Ramsey (74), and Shelly (Thingelstad) Erlendson (89) from Crystal; Mark Olson (91) and Butch Leedahl from Grafton and Hoople; Joe (75) and Nancy (Larson) (74) Defoe from Neche/Pembina; Murph Thompson from Drayton; Bernie (Wild) Kopf (75) and Teresa (Bonaime) Bjornstad (97) from Walhalla; and Brent Baldwin (93) from St. Thomas. Kelly Morrison (76) sold tickets at Mayville State.

Since 1993, Mayville State alumni of Pembina County/Hoople have raised \$82,900, which has been awarded to 221 scholarship recipients. Throughout the county and Hoople/Edinburg, alumni also support special events such as the annual Farmers Bowl Auction, Tables du Jour fundraiser, the Annual Fund Drive, general and family scholarships, and the Comet Athletic Club. These alumni also attend special events such as homecoming, the Fine Arts Series concerts, and theater productions. Some also serve on Alumni Association and Foundation Boards and host socials. Pembina County/Hoople alumni also sponsored the Pembina County/Hoople Hospitality Room in Mayville State's Edson and Margaret Larson Alumni and Leadership Center, which opened in 2014.

Mayville State University Alumni of Pembina County/Hoople are among MSU's major partners in terms of support and dedication. With around 300 alumni, Pembina County has the 5th-largest number of MSU alumni living in North Dakota counties.

Alumnae passes on a legacy to her alma mater

Born in 1917, Ruth Juvet Stone Glaser lived a long, happy life, full of adventure, family, and fun. She never forgot her educational family at Mayville State or the students she taught.



Ruth Stone Glaser.

Ruth was a positive woman with a strong faith in God. Her faith, family, and friends were the most important things in her life. She had hoped to live to be 100 and she made it to almost 99. Ruth passed away in Anacortes, Wash. on May 24, 2016.

When she was very young, Ruth's family moved to Mayville, where her brother, Raymond, and sister, Lorraine, were born.

She went to school in Mayville and was valedictorian of her class, graduating from high school in 1935.

Following graduation she attended college in Mayville, graduating with a teaching degree in 1939. She was hired to teach high school English in Hankinson, N.D. Through the years, she stayed in close touch with many of her Hankinson students, and in 2005, her niece, Pat, accompanied her to the 65th class reunion of these students.

After World War II, she moved to Seattle where her brother, Ray Juvet, and his wife, June, lived. During her years in Seattle she taught school and she also worked for the personnel department at Boeing. At this time, one of her favorite activities was mountain climbing, and she was a member of the Seattle Mountaineers Club. She also loved tennis, skiing, and boating. While at Boeing, she met and married Dr. William Stone, a mathematics professor at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Ore. They made their home in Corvallis. She so enjoyed the academic life of the university.

The highlight of her life was when she and Bill adopted two beautiful little girls, Taylor and Karen, sisters from Morocco. Bill passed away after 16 years of marriage, in 1976.

In 1988, she married Ray Glaser in Bellingham, Wash. Ray and Bill had worked together at Boeing and Ruth had met Ray at this time. Ruth settled easily into her new life in Bellingham and became active in her church, Christ the Servant Lutheran, AAUW, and many other social activities. She made

many wonderful friends during these years. Ray passed away in 2004. In 2014 Ruth moved to Chandlers Square in Anacortes to be near her niece, Stephanie (Stallman) Freier, and family.

She was an avid reader, always interested in health, nutrition, and children's issues. She so enjoyed the symphony, ballet, and classical music. She loved to travel and took trips to Norway to visit her father's relatives. She also took a Mozart cruise in Europe, spent a year in Austria, made other trips to Europe, and went on many cruises. She was a recipient of the Mayville State Distinguished Alumni Award in 1986.

In 2014, when Ruth was 97, she and her niece, Stephanie, returned to Mayville, N.D. to visit her sister, Lorraine, and family, and to attend the 125th anniversary celebration of her college. It had been 75 years since she had graduated.

Mayville State was very special to Ruth, and she decided to leave a very special legacy to her alma mater. During 2016, after Ruth's passing, the Mayville State University Foundation was notified by Ruth's attorney that a gift had been planned for Mayville State. The purpose was to help the students there and to support the good work of the university. Over \$11,000 was given as a general gift of support. These kinds of gifts are so important because they support the foundation in its work to raise more funds to help with scholarships and programs. In 2016, the foundation was able to invest that special gift to raise an additional \$303,820 for scholarships. We think Ruth would have loved to know her gift was multiplied to help so many!

Alumni board hosts 80s prom party

The MSU Alumni Association board hosted a theme dinner party as a contribution to the annual Farmers Bowl Auction. The party was held the evening of April 1, 2017. The Edson and Margaret Larson Alumni and Leadership Center was transformed to provide a tropical-themed 80s prom party, which was made complete when the guests arrived in their formals and tuxedos. Some of the men even rocked mullets! Dancing music was provided by Lute Simley, and chef Bryan Karolus provided the meal. The guests had purchased the party at the Farmers Bowl Auction in 2016. This is the fourth year in a row in which the alumni board has donated a theme party for the auction. Previous themes were “The Titanic,” “The Roaring 20s,” and “Valentine's Day Sock Hop.”

Pictured (l-r) are prom couples Brent and Bonnie Freeland, Corey (92) and Tracy McGillis, Shannon (93) and Denise Bergstrom, Jennifer (Newman) (96) and Brent (96) Kohls, Leah and Scott Larson, Laura and Brett Brudvik, and Lynn Slaathaugh Moen and Charlie Moen.





Things are developing

Our Annual Fund - key to a self-sustaining foundation and a successful Mayville State University

by John J. Klocke, CFRE, MSU Foundation Executive Director



The 2016-17 academic year was one of firsts for Mayville State University. MSU began its first-ever master's degree program. The Masters of Arts in Teaching is a totally online teaching degree program designed for individuals with a bachelor's degrees in non-teaching fields. It's off to an incredibly successful start, training North Dakota's and Minnesota's next generation of teachers to help relieve the pressure of a statewide and nationwide teacher shortage.

Another first was a new record in enrollment - 1,130 students enrolled in the fall of 2016 and the momentum of students discovering Mayville State University does not appear to be slowing down.

The MSU Foundation had its firsts as well. More than \$2.88 million was raised to support students through scholarships and program support. It was no surprise that the 2016-17 Annual Fund Drive also hit a new record of over \$100,000! This total includes more than \$70,000 raised in the "I'm Thankful for Mayville State Week." Every dollar raised in the annual fund drive became fuel to help the foundation raise another \$27.62. Now that's great stewardship and return on investment for our generous alumni and friends! Where else can you turn a \$1 investment into \$27?

Part of the funds raised went into endowment, creating another first as our endowment funds went from \$5 million to almost \$7.5 million, thanks to a generous challenge grant. We are thankful too that for the first time we were able to use the entire million-dollar challenge fund! We are happy to announce that in the final days of the session, the North Dakota Legislature allocated \$200,000 in matching funds for this biennium, which began July 1, 2017. That means we will know in October what programs can benefit from this match. It is highly likely that all scholarship and endowment fund

gifts given between July 1 and December 31 will receive a 50% match, until all of the funding is exhausted. Stay tuned for more details in October.

But the matches don't stop there. If you were a resident of Birkelo Hall and would like to sponsor a room at Birkelo with your name, family name, or the name of a group or class, the State of N.D. has a match available that will give you a 50% match for every dollar you give to sponsor a room. If ten rooms are sponsored, those sponsorships plus the match will pay for the entire Birkelo renovation project which was completed this summer. Contact Dena Bergstrom at 701-788-4864 to find out more about sponsoring a room in the Birkelo Reborn Campaign!

It is also at this time that I wanted to share with you news of a change. I will be moving on from my position as your executive director. The decision to go was not easy from the standpoint of the wonderful friendships that I have made with alumni all over this great country, but I have decided for family reasons that I should work closer to my home in Fargo. I have accepted an offer to become senior director of development for the College of Health Professions for NDSU so that I might work closer to home. Thankfully all of the key projects that needed attention when I began nearly six years ago are now, for the most part, completed. I will miss all of you with whom I have had the pleasure to become friends. I will especially miss the awesome team with whom I worked - Dena Bergstrom, Michelle McLean and Beth Swenson. Thank you, Team Mayville! And our newest member, Brock Sherva, our new development associate, will add a whole new level of "young alumni" energy! Look out, future, the dream team is ready to serve you! The foundation is now at a point for your next director to take the baton and keep

it growing. With your continued support for your alma mater, far greater things are yet possible. Thank you for your friendship.

So now, we must ask the question, "What will this new year bring? What new firsts will occur?" Only time will tell, as your new director comes aboard and reaches out to you as I have. I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for all of the generous support you have given this year and every year. Your Comet Pride in the form of financial support is going to take us to an even higher orbit than ever before! From all of us at the MSU Foundation, **THANKS \$2.88 MILLION!**

See the latest from MSU via weekly email alerts.

Go to www.mayvillestate.edu/alumniupdates and provide your email address today!

Please add Mayville State to your address book so our messages don't bounce.

Mark your calendar!

Dueling Pianos Party
Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018
Mayville State University

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Tables du Jour continues to amaze

The 13th annual Tables du Jour fundraiser was held Saturday morning, April 22 in the MSU Campus Center Luckasen Room. Weeks and months of planning by many talented and hard-working table designer/hosts and hostesses culminated in an over-the-top event for the nearly 250 guests who attended, and left many people wondering how, even after holding the event for 13 years straight, the bar could keep getting higher and higher.

The decorating frenzy began Thursday morning, April 20, and by Friday evening, April 21, all was ready. A preview, revealing a room filled with 29 lavishly decorated tables, was held from 5 to 7 p.m. Those who attended were able to enjoy a taste of what was to come in the main Tables du Jour event that would be held the next day. Coordinated by Sheryl Vinje and Jackee Lerol of Portland, N.D. and Faye Helm of Mayville, the preview event offered a relaxing and enjoyable way to view the spectacular tables, and the \$10-per-person admission charge contributed greatly to the event purpose of raising funds for Mayville State University and its students.

Kim Lauf of Mayville, who has been a co-chair of the event since its be-



Barb Kram and Sue Jaramillo incorporated lovely garden flowers into their Cannery Row-themed table. Dry ice added to the bottom of the canning pot gave the illusion of boiling water.

ginning 13 years ago, organized Tables du Jour, which began as a way to annually raise funds for the music department at Mayville State University. The past fundraising efforts have been overwhelmingly successful, so much so that scholarship funding for music students for this year was already in the bank. This prompted organizers to direct proceeds from the 2017 Tables du Jour event to the Annual Fund at Mayville State. The Annual Fund is the area of greatest need at Mayville State this year, and every dollar raised through Tables du Jour will help all Mayville State students' dreams of an education come true. Tables du Jour efforts are helping not only the music program, but all programs at Mayville State, to grow.

As promised, attendees were treated to a morning of fun, great food, and creative table themes. Each of the 29 tables featured in the spectacular occasion was decorated with its own special theme. Some tables were entertaining, others were elegant, some were sentimental or awakened memories, and still others just plain made a person smile or even giggle. Hosts and hostesses were charged with coming up with a theme and decorating a table, providing everything from the table linens, dishes, and silverware to the many "extras" that made each table special, including party favors. The table designers were also responsible for selling the \$25 admission tickets to a total of eight people, including themselves, who would attend the event and enjoy having brunch at their tables.

Activities included about an hour-and-a-half of viewing the amazing tables and a silent auction. Betsy Ewen, Bonnie O'Keefe, Gaylene Johnson coordinated the silent auction event. They gathered lots of fabulous items on which to bid. The items had been donated by table designers, as well as others.



Danielle Soholt ('08) (left) and Ashley Hanson ('06) (right) designed this charming golf-themed table into which many clever golf-related details were incorporated.

Gary Hagen, John Klocke, and Paul Batesel, outfitted in their finest, served as greeters and hosts throughout the morning. Champagne was provided, compliments of Happy Harry's Bottle Shops of Grand Forks and Fargo. Students representing a research trip to Japan, as well as the music department and the Swing Dance Club, were able to experience the event and see first-hand the source of funding that will assist them and their university. The students helped to serve the brunch which was catered by Bryan Karolus and the MSU Dining Services staff. Fabulous desserts and beverages were provided by table designers. Jackie Kuhle of Countryside Creations in Mayville provided door prizes for both the Friday and Saturday events.

More than \$11,000 was taken in as a result of Tables du Jour 2017. This total includes over \$4,500 generated in the silent auction. After expenses are deducted, the net amount raised will go to the Annual Fund at Mayville State University.

The date for the 2018 Mayville State University "Tables du Jour" has been set for Saturday, April 21. If you are interested in serving as a table designer for this, please contact Kim Lauf at 701-261-5976.

New endowment will provide scholarships for veterans

Honoring veterans who have served our country is the mission of the Military Honor Garden at Mayville State University. This mission is accomplished, in part, through the placement of granite plaques at the memorial. A gift of \$500 or more provides the donor with a plaque engraved with the name, military branch, and year(s) of service for a donor's loved one. When purchasing a plaque to honor a veteran, part of the gift will go toward the MSU Veterans Honor Scholarship Endowment. Fundraising for this new endowment was kicked off with a gift from Military Honor Garden project co-chair Lt. Gen. Emil R. "Buck" Bedard last fall.

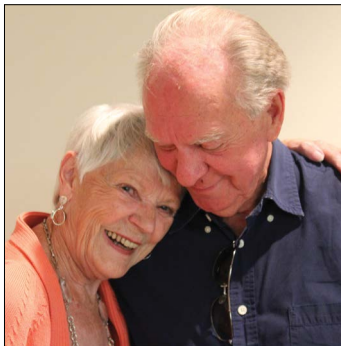
Bedard supports wounded warriors through Adventure Foundation



Mayville State graduate Lt. Gen. Emil R. "Buck" Bedard ('65), USMC ret. (pictured at left) is chairman of the board for Outdoor Adventure Foundation in Las Vegas, Nev. The group provides adventures for wounded warriors and has recently returned from a private charter out of H&M Landing in San Diego. The recipient was Nicholas Williams (right), whose trip was hosted by Bedard. They had a great, successful trip, landing a 150-pound bluefin tuna.

Colbys celebrate 70th wedding anniversary

Former Mayville State music professor and band director Francis E. Colby and his wife, Marg, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Aug 12, 2017. High school graduates of West Fargo, N.D. and sweethearts since elementary school, Fran and Marg reside at Touchmark in south Fargo. They celebrated their anniversary with a small group of family and friends at their home. Fran and Marg are the parents of two children, Steven of West Fargo and Connie (Mark) Supman of Scottsdale, Ariz. They have six grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.



The photo of Marg and Fran at left was taken in June of 2014, when some of Fran's former Mayville State jazz band students returned to the Mayville State campus to perform.

Over the decades, throughout all conflicts and world wars, hundreds of folks from Mayville and Traill County have gone off to serve their country and have returned home to obtain a college education. College students who served in all branches of the military have walked the campus of Mayville State and after graduation they have brought the same spirit of service and leadership that they brought to their selfless service of our country to their occupations. This endowment was established to honor their service and memory, as well as those who fell in battle.

Interest generated from the Veterans Honor Scholarship Endowment will provide scholarship awards each year for veterans who have received an honorary discharge from the U.S. military. The recipient must be enrolled in classes at MSU as a freshman or sophomore and be in good academic standing. First preference will be for a North Dakota veteran, and second preference is for a Minnesota veteran.

For more information about making a donation to the Military Honor Garden and/or the MSU Veterans Honor Scholarship Endowment, contact Dena Bergstrom at 701-788-4864 or dena.bergstrom@mayvillestate.edu.

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The MSU Alumni Association is responsible for planning activities and events for Mayville State University alumni and friends. To help in this task, please share your ideas with us by contacting the MSU alumni office at 701-788-4750 or alumni.mail@mayvillestate.edu.

Bisenius honored with Game Changer Award



Jim Bisenius.

Do you know that our own Jim Bisenius, 1959 Mayville State graduate, was the high school baseball coach of Jack Del Rio, head coach of the National Football League Oakland Raiders?

Jim, a native of Walhalla, N.D., 1988 Mayville State Athletic Hall of Fame inductee, and 2013 Mayville State Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame inductee, taught and coached at Hayward High School in Hayward, Calif. from 1965 to 1992.

Thirty-four of Jim's baseball players signed professional contracts. Six played in the major leagues. One of those players, Mike Young, played with the Baltimore Orioles and is one of a handful of players to hit two or more homeruns in extra innings. Don Wakamatsu was manager of the Seattle Mariners and is the bench coach for the Kansas City Royals. Another of Jim's players, Jon Miller, radio/TV announcer for the San Francisco Giants baseball team, is in the National Baseball Hall of Fame (Cooperstown, N.Y.)

What's really cool about all of this is that these guys truly appreciate Coach Bisenius for the significant impact he made in their lives. This appreciation was highlighted in January at the third annual Coaching Corps Game Changer Awards dinner.

Through the Game Changer Awards, Bay Area (Calif.) professional athletes recognize the coaches who have had a profound effect on their lives. The awards celebrate the transformative power of coaching by honoring those who have empowered and inspired athletes at every level to be their best selves. The mission of the Coaching Corps is to provide youth from under-resourced communities access to trained coaches and the benefits of sports.

At the awards program, held at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco on Jan. 27, Jack Del Rio was one of five individuals involved in professional athletics who was able to recognize the coaches who have made a difference in his life. Del Rio chose to recognize Jim Bisenius, as well as Charley Kendall and Jeff Rankin, who were his basketball and football coaches at Hayward High School.

See a video from the awards program, which includes Jim's remarks at: <http://www.csnbayarea.com/video/coaching-corps-game-changer-awards-2017-jack-del-rio>.

Brandon is recruiter-turned author

Rikka (Fugleberg) Brandon ('00). is a headhunter and recruiter. She's been in recruiting since 2001 and became an entrepreneur in 2003, starting her first company at age 26. It failed when the building products market collapsed, but along the way, she learned her two "great loves" are entrepreneurship and recruiting.



Rikka Brandon.

In her current business she aims to help businesses be smarter about one of their most crucial decisions - hiring. She is sharing her insights about hiring smarter and more effectively in her first book, "Hire Power," which is available on Amazon.

Rikka says that in "Hire Power," readers will learn how to take control of the hiring game. They'll get easy-to-follow advice on how to attract, find, and engage the talent they need and be able to hire with confidence.

Distinguished alumni and friends honored as part of annual Alumni Day celebration

Mayville State University's highest awards were bestowed upon four distinguished alumni and friends during Mayville State University's Alumni Day celebration held Friday, June 23. Richard Balstad, Wichita Falls, Texas, and Donald Cavalier, Crookston, Minn., each received the Distinguished Alumni Award. Mike Bakken, Mayville, received the Distinguished Service Award. Jeff Braaten was honored with the Distinguished Service Award posthumously. His twin daughters, Rammie Olson, Fargo, N.D., and Kasie Windfelder, Navarre, Fla., accepted the award on his behalf.

The awards were presented at the annual Alumni Association Awards Dinner which was held in the MSU Campus Center Luckasen Room. The program was emceed by Alumni Association board president Cindy Petersen. Greta Paschke led the audience in the singing of the Mayville State school songs.

Alumni Day 2017 festivities began with an ice cream social on the lawn at the Edson and Margaret Larson Alumni and Leadership Center. The event was hosted by the MSU Alumni Association board. The First and Farmers Filharmonic ensemble provided music for all to enjoy. The beautifully landscaped Military Honor Garden provided a lovely backdrop for the occasion. The Avenue of Flags provided by the local American Legion Post 8 enhanced the garden.

Guided campus tours gave visitors an opportunity to see the physical improvements that have been made on the campus over the last several years. Birkelo Hall was open for those who were interested. The building is being renovated for use as a living and learning community for high-achieving students.

Alumni Day 2017 wrapped up with a social for alumni and friends at the Mayville Golf Club.

"Alumni Day 2017 was a time for reminiscing and recognizing folks for their wonderful accomplishments. We are grateful for the opportunity to show our appreciation," said Beth Swenson, MSU Director of Alumni Affairs.



The 2017 Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Service Award recipients were honored at the annual Alumni Association Awards Dinner held at Mayville State Friday evening, June 23. Pictured from left to right are Rammie Olson ('96) and Kasie Windfelder ('96), who accepted the Distinguished Service Award on behalf of their dad, Jeff Braaten; Glenn Thoreson, who accepted the Distinguished Alumni Award for his friend, Richard Balstad, who could not attend the banquet; Distinguished Service Award recipient Mike Bakken; and Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Don Cavalier.

Retired Col. Richard Balstad, U.S. Air Force

graduated from Mayville State in 1963. He immediately entered the Air Force and was commissioned a second lieutenant in November of 1963. Upon graduating from officer training school, he proceeded to qualify for pilot training. He received his silver wings in 1965. Balstad's first operational assignment led him to Elgin Air Force Base in Florida, where he trained in the F-4C Phantom jet fighter. In 1966, he was assigned to DaNang Air Force Base in the Republic of Vietnam. There, he completed 100 combat missions over the most heavily defended cities in the history of the war, Hanoi and Haiphong, North Vietnam. His expertise and skill in flying and "a little bit of luck" allowed him to survive the odds of a 50% shoot-down rate. While serving in Vietnam, he received the USAF Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with six oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and



Richard Balstad.

the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry. Balstad rose to the rank of colonel and served as commander of the USAF's most advanced fighter/bomber squadron, the F-111 "ARDVARKS" 494 TFS, stationed in Lakenheath, England, a very responsible position for a highly respected commander. His mission there was to protect our NATO allies in Europe. Col. Balstad has brought honor to his career and honor to his alma mater.

Donald Cavalier

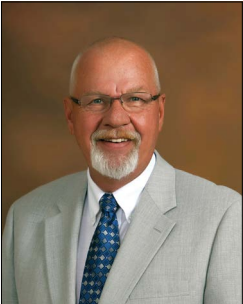
earned a bachelor's degree in elementary and physical education from Mayville State in 1965. This is where he met Mary Salisbury, his wife of 50-plus years. As a Mayville State student, he participated in baseball and basketball. He began his career in education as a public school teacher, teaching mathematics and science in Warren (Minn.) Public Schools from 1965 to 1967. He was also the school's assistant football coach and head baseball coach.



Don Cavalier

From 1967 to 1974, he taught, coached, and served as a counselor at Central High School, Highland Middle School, and Lincoln Elementary School in Crookston, Minn. He retired in 2016 as the Director of Career Development at the University of Minnesota Crookston, where he was the chief administrator of the counseling department and alcohol, tobacco, and other drug-awareness programs. During his tenure at UMC, which began in 1976, he also directed the areas of placement, students with disabilities, student health services, and diversity. He had also served as the university's head baseball coach and director of alumni services. Prior to joining the staff at UMC, he was Director of Education at the Northwest Regional Correction Center in Crookston from 1974 to 1976. He has participated and provided leadership and development for the community of Crookston and has been active in his church. He was Rotary District Governor in 2012-13, guiding 67 clubs and more than 3,000 members. Cavalier has made an effort to make the world a better place and has taken an active role in working with youth, the underemployed, and disadvantaged people. He is a member of the Mayville State University Alumni Association Board. Upon his retirement, UMC honored Cavalier for his outstanding service, inspirational leadership, and commitment to the school, as well as for his prestigious leadership on the all-University of Minnesota Civil Service Committee.

Mike Bakken was a member of the music faculty and directed the music program at Mayville State University from 2003 to 2016. He was instrumental in revitalizing the music program during his tenure. When he arrived on



Mike Bakken

campus, there was a small concert choir, and he quickly grew the numbers. He also revitalized the concert band and jazz band. Mike worked to assure that each student who participates in band or choir receives a scholarship when he helped establish the annual Tables du Jour fundraising event and Music Makers booster club, both major sources of scholarship funding for MSU music students. Bakken was in charge of local arrangements for the MSU and Community Fine Arts Series, a program that brings several world-class musicians to the campus each year. Mayville State was successful in restoring a minor in music, thanks to his help with the research and writing of the proposals that were accepted by the State Board of Higher Education. He subsequently taught courses which resulted in several students graduating with the minor. Mike was an initial member of the executive committee of the Performing Arts Hall of Fame at Mayville State University. The Hall of Fame is an avenue for recognizing Mayville State alumni and friends who have made an impact in the performing arts. Bakken retired in May of 2016.

Jeff Braaten

was a true supporter of Mayville State University and Comet Athletics. His involvement in MSU athletic activities included several years of coaching at the Red River Valley Basketball Camp, officiating junior varsity basketball games, finding officials for home basketball games, assisting with the Comet Athletic Club 3-on-3 basketball tournaments, managing the concession stands, mentoring student athletes, managing the scorebook for countless games, and much more. He had a passion for the Comet athletic teams and the student athletes he be-



Jeff Braaten.

friendened and mentored throughout their college careers. Jeff enthusiastically supported the MSU coaching staff and was honored to call them friends. He proudly wore Comet blue most days of his life, and he attended nearly every sporting event hosted by MSU. He traveled with the sports teams whenever possible. Although Jeff was not an alumnus of Mayville State University, he treated MSU as though it were his own. He was passionate about helping the university thrive and was always boasting about Mayville State's positive impact on the community and all of the opportunities available to students. If the locker rooms needed renovation, Jeff was called upon. If the faculty apartments needed something fixed, Jeff was called upon. If the score table needed assistance at the same time as the concession stand, Jeff was called upon to juggle both. If a student athlete needed a summer job, Jeff would hire him. He truly was a jack-of-all-trades and would help Mayville State in any way possible without expecting recognition or even pay. Jeff unexpectedly passed away in February 2014. He left his mark on MSU Athletics and the hearts of the student athletes. He may be gone, but he is not forgotten.

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Harvey McMullen Memorial Golf Tournament held July 7

The Harvey McMullen Memorial Golf Tournament was held July 7, 2017 at the Mayville Golf Course. Fifteen teams of men and women participated in the 4-person scramble. Dinner was served and awards and prizes were presented following the tournament. Proceeds of the tournament will support athletes at Mayville State University. The tournament is sponsored by the Comet Athletic Club.

Formerly known as the North Valley (Hoople)-Comet Connection, the annual golfing event was re-named in honor of one of its founders, Harvey McMullen. Harvey, a native of Hoople, N.D., and Jerome Berg, both Mayville State University icons and steadfast supporters of the school, established the North Valley (Hoople)-Comet Connection Golf Tournament in the early 1990s. The purpose in starting the event remains the same today as it was then: to raise scholarship funds for Mayville State student athletes while having fun with friends from near and far. Over the years, the event has been held at Mayville and at northern Red River Valley golf courses.

Dr. Harvey McMullen began his 27-year career at Mayville State in 1961 as the dean of men, as well as a teacher and coach. Over the years, he served as dean of men, dean of students, and Student Senate adviser. He was an outstanding ambassador for Mayville State. Mayville State bestowed

Dr. McMullen with the title Emeritus Dean of Men, and he was honored with the Mayville State University Distinguished Alumni Award in 2007. Harvey passed away at the age of 89 in October of 2015.



Members of Harvey and Rusty McMullen's family who participated in the 2017 Harvey McMullen Memorial Golf Tournament included their children and spouses, as well as grandchildren and even a great-grandchild.

Alumni and friends enjoy RedHawks baseball outing



Don Gwynn ('76) (left) enjoyed the game with college friend Dean Krogstad ('76).

A nice crowd of Mayville State alumni and friends enjoyed the Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks versus Sioux Falls Canaries baseball game Wednesday evening, June 28. The Comets had the luxury of watching the game from their own private party deck, the Armadillo Party Pavillion, which is located just off first base. The party included an all-you-can-eat picnic supper buffet and other refreshments served throughout the evening. This was all highlighted by first-class service provided by the RedHawks staff at Newman Outdoor Field.

This is the third year for Mayville State's RedHawks outing. Plans are to do it again next June.



Future Comets, Bricker and Bentley, sons of Lindsey (Johnsen) ('02) and Dave ('09) Johnson.



Angen honored as teacher of the year

Jodi Angen ('06) was honored with the Suburban Houston Association of Bilingual Education (SHABE) Bilingual and ESL Teacher of the year at the SHABE banquet held in May. Jodi teaches third grade ESL at Kujawa Elementary School in Houston, Texas. Her parents are Brad ('80) and Cheryl (Hoffman) ('81) Angen.

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Doug Anderson ('74) (left) visits with Scott Berry ('78) at the F-M RedHawks outing.

CLASS NOTES

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1960s

Ken Towers ('61) was inducted into the Grand Forks (N.D.) Red River High School Athletic Hall of Fame in January 2017. He and his wife, Gloria, live in Grand Forks.

Richard Saxlund ('65) was inducted into the Minnesota Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Fame in April 2017, in recognition of his contributions to the sport, including years at Leroy-Ostrander (1965-67) and Pipestone (1967-1996). He was in the top 100 among Minnesota coaches with 228 wins. He coached five high-school champions. Ten of his athletes became collegiate All-Americans and three won national titles. He resides in West Fargo, N.D. with his wife, Barbara.

1970s

David Hanson ('70) retired at the end of the 2016-17 school year, after spending 46 years as a teacher, coach, and secondary principal. He spent his entire career at St. Thomas (N.D.) Public School. He and his wife, **Elizabeth (Naastad) (ex. '65)**, have been married for 47 years and have three children and nine grandchildren. He coached two state baseball championship teams during his tenure. He was also honored with induction into the Mayville State Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame and the NDIAAA Hall of Fame.

Thomas Seymour ('70) was elected to the Cass County (N.D.) Electric Cooperative Board of Directors in Fargo. He and his wife, Anita, now live in Fargo after spending many years in Minot, N.D. He was named a professor emeritus at Minot State University upon his retirement in May 2016.

Kevin Frederickson ('73) retired after 40 years of working at the Life Skills Center, formerly the Developmental Center, in Grafton, N.D. In his final post, he was assistant director of the vocational program, where he supervised on-campus and off-campus work sites. He lives in Grafton with his wife, Phylis.

Jack Maus ('78) retired in June 2016 after a 39-year career in education. His final assignment was superintendent of Grafton (N.D.) Public Schools for 11 years.

Conrad Miska ('79) retired in June 2017 after 38 years as an instrumental music teacher. He spent the past 24 years at Eagan (Minn.) High School, where he served as the music department chairperson. He plans to continue to serve music education as a clinician, adjudicator, and mentor to other teachers. He'll also continue to perform as a jazz musician in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. He and his wife, Shirley, live in Eagan.

1980s

Craig Erickson ('88) was named "Teacher of the Month" by radio station Mix 101.9 in March 2017. He has been a marketing teacher at Fargo (N.D.) North High School for nearly 20 years.

Andy Heitkamp ('88) was honored by the Minot State University Board of Regents with an employee achievement award. He was recognized for his 29 years of service to the North Dakota University System. He recently finished his third year as the director of the Veterans Center on campus. He served in the U.S. Army National Guard from 1983 to 1991. He and wife, **Deb (Smallbeck) ('71, '79)**, live in Minot. They have three children and eight grandchildren.

1990s

Garnet Asmundson ('93) is the new principal/AD at W-A-O High School in Warren, Minn. Previously, he was dean of students and AD at Fertile-Beltrami High School, Fertile, Minn.

Leah Hamann ('94) was selected by her peers at United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, N.D. as its 2017 American Indian College Fund faculty member of the year. Since 1998, she has been a faculty member for teacher education. She also serves as director of extended learning at the school. She is pursuing her doctoral degree through Capella University.

Lesley (Gunderson) Allan ('97) married Terry Allan Oct. 21, 2016. She is president of the North Dakota Library Association. She recently completed her second master's degree, in instruction design and technology. She is a school librarian at West Fargo, N.D. Schools.

Rob McIvor ('97) recently earned his master's degree in sports and physical education administration from the University of Mary, Bismarck, N.D. He is a physical education teacher at Four Winds Middle School, Fort Totten, N.D. His wife, **Nicole (Oullette) ('08)**, is a fourth-grade teacher at Prairie View Elementary School in Devils Lake, N.D.

Ivan Hirst ('98) became the assistant high school principal and activities director for the Roseau, Minn. School District in July 2017. He had been the high school principal in Breckenridge, Minn. since 2010. He previously was a principal for New Rockford/Sheyenne, N.D. Schools and a mathematics teacher in Fisher, Minn.

Continued on page 22

2000s

Chad Clark ('02) became principal at L.E. Berger Elementary School in West Fargo, N.D. at the start of the 2017-18 school year. He holds a doctorate and master’s degree in educational leadership from the University of North Dakota. He started his career in 2002 as a classroom teacher at Emerado, N.D. He moved into his first administrative role in 2009, when he served as the Encore administrator, also at Emerado. In 2011, he became elementary principal and superintendent at Emerado. He became an assistant principal at L.E. Berger in 2014.

Josh McMenemy ('04) was voted “Affiliate of the Year” by the Fargo-Moorhead Area Association of Realtors. He is a home mortgage consultant with Cornerstone Bank in Fargo. He and his wife, **Lindsey (Eliason) ('03)**, live in Fargo, where she works for Bank of the West.

Shannon (Glimsdahl) Medina ('04) is the office manager for Custom Cinema and Sound in Fargo.

David Moe ('09) was named head women’s basketball coach at Dakota State University in Madison, S.D. in June 2017. He had been an assistant coach at Mayville State since 2007 and also served as an instructor in the HPER Division. During his coaching tenure, he helped lead the Comets to multiple trips to the NAIA national tournament and top 20 national rankings. He is also working toward his master’s degree in coaching education through Ohio University. He and his wife, Sheena, have three daughters.

Mallory Smith ('09) became a district-wide school psychologist in August 2016 for the Meade (S.D.) Schools, working with Black Hills Special Services. She earned an education specialist degree in school psychology from the University of South Dakota. She previously worked as a counselor and mental health aide at the South Dakota Human Services Center. She lives in Whitewood, S.D.

2010s

Joshua Wastvedt ('11) is a lead teacher and assistant director of KinderKidz Learning Center in Bismarck, N.D. He previously coached volleyball at Bismarck State College.

Kensi Eisenzimmer ('12) was hired as deputy auditor by the City of Langdon, N.D. in January 2017. She previously worked for the Chamber of Commerce in her hometown of Devils Lake, N.D. She later worked for the foundation at CHI Mercy Hospital in Devils Lake.

Ally Coleman ('14) married Tyler Liebelt Dec. 31, 2016. She is a third-grade teacher at Westhope (N.D.) Public School. She previously taught in Cando, N.D.

Kody Keysor ('14) is a sixth-grade teacher at Turtle Lake-Mercer (N.D.) School. He is also head coach of the girls basketball team and co-coach of the fifth- and sixth-grade boys basketball program. Outside of his school duties, he is involved in co-leading the community youth group.

Sam Thielen ('14) is a certified strength and conditioning specialist with Sanford Health Power Center in Fargo, N.D. He earned his master’s degree in exercise science and nutrition from NDSU in 2016. He will marry Kassie Fox Sept. 23, 2017.

Matt Douglas ('16) works for Colins Barrow in The Pas, Manitoba.

Morgan Duren ('16) is a second-grade teacher at Fessenden-Bowdon (N.D.) Schools. **Alex Herman ('16)** was recently hired as an assistant coach for the men’s basketball team at Mayville State. He had been a graduate assistant at MSU for two years.

Samantha Njos ('16) married Jace Eli July 9, 2016 in Williston, N.D. She is a first-grade teacher at Hagen Elementary School in Williston.

Easton Page ('16) works for Central City H20 in Carrington, N.D. **Krista Aanderud ('17)** is a teacher at Edmore (N.D.) Public School. **Chad Avdem ('17)** is a procurement specialist for the North Dakota Mill in Grand Forks, N.D.

Tasha Baldwin ('17) works as a paraprofessional at Lake of the Woods School in Baudette, Minn.

Haily (Thom) Bencotter ('17) is a first-grade teacher for West Fargo, N.D., Public Schools at South Elementary. She lives in West Fargo with her husband, Brennon.

Louis Bongiovanni ('17) is a personal trainer at Anytime Fitness in Fargo, N.D.

Kari (Hendrickson) Cossette ('17) is a reading specialist for the Circle of Life Academy in White Earth, Minn. She is also pursuing a master’s degree in reading through the University of Mary. She lives in Barnesville, Minn. with her husband, Jeremy.

Cheyenne Durant ('17) is a research assistant at NDSU, where she is also pursuing a master’s degree in polymers and coatings.

Allyson Durkin ('17) is an assistant teacher at Dakota Montessori School in Fargo, N.D.

Witeh Esoe ('17) works as a nurse for Pride and Living Home Care in the Twin Cities. She lives in Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

Kyle Fenton ('17) works for Amazon.com as a group manager for virtual customer service. He’s worked for the company in various capacities since 2010. He lives in Elk River, Minn.

Lindsey Gonsior ('17) is a management trainee with Penske in the Twin Cities. She lives in Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

Hope Gutschmidt ('17) works in the resident teacher program at Phoenix Elementary School in Grand Forks. She is also pursuing her master’s degree in elementary education at UND.

Nicole Halverson ('17) is a potato sales associate for Black Gold Farms in Grand Forks.

Nolan Handley ('17) works as a sales manager for Steve Nash Fitness and Sports Club in Kelowna, British Columbia.

Gareth Hanson ('17) is a sixth-grade teacher at Enderlin (N.D.) Area Schools. **Charyte (Edison) Henderson ('17)** became an admissions representative for Mayville State University in August 2017.

Devin Hoffarth ('17) works in the sales department for Langdon Implement in Langdon, N.D.

Rhonda Hodges ('17) is a sales floor manager for Shopko in East Grand Forks, Minn. She lives in Mayville with her husband, **Jim ('13)**.

Samantha Irving ('17) is pursuing a degree in special education at UND. She lives in East Grand Forks, Minn.

Maren Alexandra Johnson ('17) is working as a phlebotomist for Altru Health in Grand Forks, N.D.

Courtney Krueger ('17) is a shop supervisor for Hardware Hank and Rental in Grand Forks, N.D.

Taylor Lawrence ('17) works for Glenwood Labels in New Westminster, B.C. as an assistant marketing manager.

Megan (Carnes) Lutgens ('17) operates a daycare in Williston, N.D.

Yulia Momberg ('17) is a teacher at Legacy Elementary School in West Fargo, N.D.

Adam Overmoe ('17) is employed as an associate at American Federal in East Grand Forks, Minn.

Taylor Plautz ('17) plans to attend graduate school in Grand Forks as she pursues a career as a physician’s assistant.

Michele Southall ('17) is a program technician for the child development program at the Grand Forks Air Force Base.

Connor Weber ('17) is a mathematics teacher for grades 5-8 at Edmore, N.D.

Stephany Wold ('17) is a preschool teacher at the Goddard School in Fargo, N.D.

IN MEMORIAM

Honor your loved ones with a gift to Mayville State.

The MSU Foundation has a memorials and tributes fund set up to receive contributions honoring departed alumni, friends, and loved ones. Gifts may also be given to honor a friend or loved one on a special occasion. If contact information is provided, a card of acknowledgment will be sent to the family members of the departed or those being honored.

Send to: MSU Foundation
330 Third Street NE
Mayville, ND 58257

Or go to:
www.mayvillestate.edu/memorials

Memorials/Tributes listing

A listing of gifts given in memory of or in honor of friends and loved ones will be published on the MSU website and updated quarterly. You can find that listing at mayvillestate.edu/donorrecognition.

Thomas O. Alberts (ex. '65), Fargo, N.D. Jan. 9, 1934-Jan. 1, 2017.

Norman E. Arneson ('48, '52), Park Rapids, Minn., formerly of Crookston, Minn. and Mesa, Ariz. May 30, 1928-May 16, 2017.

Leonard Bachmeier ('56), Fargo, N.D. Feb. 18, 1934-Aug. 23, 2017.

Orpha (Wahl) Bertsch, ('76), Jamestown, N.D. May 7, 1923-April 21, 2017.

Jeff K. Boyer ('70), Globe, Ariz. May 31, 1948-July 1, 2017.

Dr. Jerome “Jerry” Bakke (ex. '51), Fargo, N.D. July 14, 1931-Aug. 9, 2017.

Lois (Amundson) Berg (ex. '49), Concord, Calif. May 27, 1930-July 23, 2017.

Mavis (Ellefson) Breneman ('49), Palm Harbor, Fla., formerly of Litz, Pa. Oct. 11, 1926-June 11, 2017.

Valorie (Lawonn) Brown ('72), Cavalier, N.D. Aug. 2, 1950-May 30, 2017.

Shirley (Torkelson) Burns (ex. '46), Grafton, N.D. Feb. 21, 1928-Aug. 4, 2017.

Mary Ann (Eisenrich) Connor ('71), Tampa, Fla. Aug. 19, 1949-June 26, 2017.

Doris DeCoteau (ex. '77), Bismarck, N.D. Feb. 17, 1958-April 1, 2017.

Josephine (Trump) Dewhurst ('35), Crookston, Minn. Nov. 6, 1913-July 30, 2017.

Dennis Eastman ('88), Staples, Minn. Dec. 23, 1960-April 8, 2017.

Gerald B. Eken (ex. '67), Mankato, Minn. April 20, 1943-July 22, 2017.

Ruth (Rygg) Freund (ex. '41), Fargo, N.D., formerly of Valley City, N.D. March 11, 1922-June 21, 2017.

Jeri Fugleberg ('78), Fargo, N.D. Dec. 14, 1954-Sept. 5, 2016.

Janel (Rudel) Gaugler ('77), Wishek, N.D. May 17, 1955-June 22, 2017.

Donald H. Grage ('61), Mayville, N.D., formerly of Hunter, N.D. April 19, 1932-June 10, 2017.

Kevin Hansen (ex. '93), Ada, Minn., formerly of Hillsboro, N.D. Sept. 17, 1955-April 20, 2017.

Dean Hedland (ex. '74), Rollag, Minn. Sept. 2, 1954-Aug. 25, 2016.

Joseph Hegstad ('61), Scottsdale, Ariz. Feb. 16, 1937-May 20, 2017.

Muriel (Skavhuag) Hendrickson (ex. '44), Helena, Mont. March 25, 1924-March 3, 2017.

Timothy Herzog (ex. '67), Fargo, N.D. Sept. 27, 1945-Aug. 11, 2017.

Lillian Delores (Forseth) Hjelmstad, ('45), Mayville, N.D., formerly of Reynolds, N.D. March 6, 1927-March 24, 2017.

Lloyd “Steve” Holt (ex. '71), Mayville, N.D. Sept. 4, 1951-Aug. 1, 2017.

Dorothy (Roch) Anderson Holte (ex. '44), Grand Forks, N.D. and Larimore, N.D. Aug. 17, 1926-April 10, 2017.

Stuart Keller (ex. '95), Casselton, N.D. March 12, 1974-June 22, 2017.

Solveig (Nelson) Lindvall (ex. '53), Grand Forks, N.D. Oct. 25, 1934-May 19, 2017.

Charles Mann (ex. '70), Fargo, N.D., formerly of Langdon, N.D. May 24, 1950-June 21, 2017.

Diane (Sanders) McClintick ('70), Sturgis, S.D. March 11, 1948-July 23, 2017.

James McQueen ('70), New Town, N.D. and Donna, Texas. Jan. 22, 1948-March 11, 2017.

Lynn (Converse) Mikkelsen (ex. '65), Devils Lake, N.D. July 22, 1947-May 11, 2017.

Paula (Taylor) Norsted ('47), Oakdale, Minn., formerly of Virginia, Minn. Nov. 30, 1926-June 12, 2017.

Donna Mae (Dockin) Olson ('54), Portland, N.D. Sept. 12, 1934-May 28, 2017.

Alma (Omdal) Overby ('42, '44), Cooperstown, N.D., formerly of Binford, N.D. May 20, 1923-June 24, 2017.

Gary Paulsen ('67), Fargo, N.D. Aug. 6, 1943-May 15, 2017.

Robert Payne (ex. '42), Bemidji, Minn. April 13, 1923-March 18, 2017.

Richard G. Peterson ('66), North Aurora, Ill. July 7, 1944-March 20, 2017.

Nora (Simenson) Ronningen ('39), Fargo, N.D. March 19, 1918-March 20, 2017.

Dennis Schjeldahl ('67), Grand Forks, N.D. Oct. 2, 1945-July 16, 2017.

Mary Beth (Dettler) Sexton ('76), Grand Forks, N.D. Jan. 6, 1955-April 29, 2017.

Oliver Solberg ('50), Fairbault, Minn. Oct. 28, 1928-March 10, 2017.

Lois (Rouse) Spenst ('61, '68), Langdon, N.D. April 22, 1929-May 2, 2017.

Larry L. Stammen (ex. '79), Grand Forks, N.D. Feb. 23, 1956-March 21, 2017.

Phyllis (Johnson) Stordahl ('49), Owatonna, Minn. Nov. 22, 1925-May 26, 2017.

Nathan M. Weber ('16), Napoleon, N.D. formerly of Devils Lake, N.D. Dec. 28, 1985-April 26, 2017.

Wallace Westrick (ex. '68), Fargo, N.D. May 3, 1948-March 25, 2017.

Memorial and tribute gifts can be made online at mayvillestate.edu/memorials.

Support the efforts of the MSU Alumni Association and get some great perks for yourself!

Each year the MSU Alumni Association does its best to put on outstanding events and provide information for the enjoyment of all alumni. These events include Farmers Bowl and Homecoming, as well as the graduation brunch for new alumni. We also publish two issues of the MSU Today, which is mailed to almost 9,000 alumni and friends nationwide. All of these activities are totally dependent upon alumni support.

Now you can support these efforts by making a tax-deductible donation of \$25 each year.



And as a nice thank you, you'll receive an Alumni VIP Perks Card, which will give you benefits provided by local businesses and MSU departments to be used when you are in

Mayville. All of the proceeds from your donation will go to support the activities of the Alumni Association.

You must make your \$25 donation by Sept. 30, 2017 in order to get the perks card. The perks are available through Sept. 30, 2018. Make your donation by calling 701-788-4687 and purchase using your credit card; send a check made out to MSU Foundation, 330 Third Street NE, Mayville, N.D. 58257; or go online to mayvillestate.edu/alumniVIP.

Perks include a discount at Mayville Shopko, specials at the cafeteria and snack bar, as well as at Soholt Bakery; discounts at the MSU Bookstore; and more. Go to mayvillestate.edu/alumniVIP for further details.

Shaffer will receive Distinguished Service Award during Homecoming 2017 festivities



The MSU Alumni Association board has selected Gwen Shaffer as the latest recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. Gwen has been an extra-special friend to the athletes of Mayville State, especially the members of the men's basketball team. Come help us honor Gwen during the Athletic Hall of Fame Awards Dinner on Friday, Oct. 6, beginning at 6 p.m. in the MSU Campus Center Luckasen Room. Tickets are available at www.mayvillestate.edu/homecoming or by calling the MSU Foundation at 701-788-4687.

Homecoming Honorees

Join in the fun during Mayville State's Homecoming 2017 festivities!

Check out the schedule at right and plan to be at Mayville when these outstanding alumni are inducted into our halls of fame.

Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame



Nick Storhaug

Athletic Hall of Fame & Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame Dinner

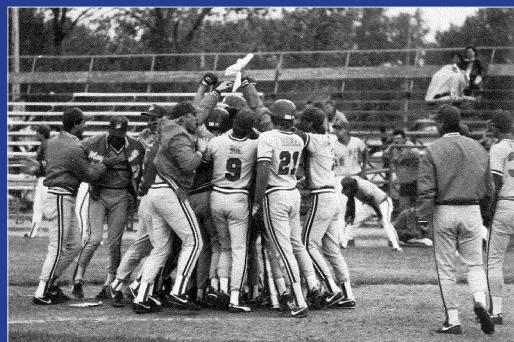
Friday, Oct. 6 • 6 p.m.
MSU Campus Center
Luckasen Room

Ticket purchase information is on the next page, lower right.

Athletic Hall of Fame

Players and Coaches:

Lane Curry, Jamie Hoffner, Cam Biberdorf, Paul Hanson, Dave Wheeler (ass't. coach), Gary Powell, Chuck Bush, Dennis Reidy, Terry Magnuson, Scott Whetter, Shaun Cory, Joey Mutcheson, Jason Schwabe, Darren Thompson, Kevin Booker, Mike Kolness, Tom Rothmann, Todd Martin, Jim Roaldson, Steve Boe, Gerry Smith, Fred Matsubara, Scott Berry (head coach).



1988 Baseball Team



Melissa Charboneau-Folch



Stu Gilman



Neil Steffes



Lonnie Thomas

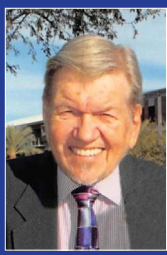
Performing Arts Hall of Fame



Caroline Brown



Robert Gust



Dr. Joseph Hegstad



David "White Thunder" Trottier

Performing Arts Hall of Fame Induction

Sunday, Oct. 8 • 2 p.m.

MSU Classroom Building Auditorium

Reception will follow in the MSU Campus Center Luckasen Room.



Mayville State University Homecoming 2017 October 6 • 7 • 8

Friday, October 6

Hall of Fame Pre-Dinner Social

Socialize with this year's Athletic Hall of Fame and Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame inductees. Everyone is welcome.

4 to 5:30 p.m.

Larson Alumni and Leadership Center

Athletic Hall of Fame and Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame Dinner

Join in honoring the 2017 inductees.

6 p.m.

Campus Center Luckasen Room

* Advance tickets required, \$20 each

Comets Volleyball vs. University of Jamestown

7 p.m.

Lewy Lee Fieldhouse

Alumni and Friends Social

8:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Mayville Golf Club

Saturday, October 7

Alumni Meet and Greet

Stop by and see your friends at the alumni center!

9 to 11 a.m.

Larson Alumni Center

Homecoming Parade

The parade will begin on campus, starting at the parking lot west of the Campus Center. The route will turn and head south at the Larson Center, then head west on Main Street, and end near Island Park. To register an entry in the parade, contact Adam at 701-788-4822 or adam.edwards@mayvillestate.edu. All alumni and friends are invited to watch the parade from the grounds of the Larson Center.

11 a.m.

Starts on campus, ends near Island Park

Comets Volleyball vs. Dickinson State

Noon
Lewy Lee Fieldhouse

Remembrance Ceremony

Honor our alumni and friends who have served our country that we may live in freedom and that again there may be "peace on earth, good will toward men." The names of those who have been honored with plaques in the Military Honor Garden will be read.

Noon

Larson Alumni and Leadership Center
Military Honor Garden

Meet and Greet Lunch

Enjoy a bowl of chili and a beverage while socializing with your Mayville State friends. Free-will donations will be accepted to help defray expenses.

12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Larson Alumni and Leadership Center

MSU Bookstore Open

Pick up a new sweatshirt or T-shirt! Show your Comet pride!

After the parade until 1:30 p.m.

Bookstore, MSU Campus Center

Homecoming Football Game

Mayville State vs. Presentation College

2 p.m.

Jerome Berg Field

All-Alumni Homecoming Reunion

All alumni and friends are welcome to gather for refreshments and socializing. Call your friends. Bring some memories. Greet the Athletic Hall of Fame, Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame, and Performing Arts Hall of Fame inductees. A picnic-style supper will be served, beginning at 4 p.m. until it's gone. Free-will donations will be accepted to defray costs. Cash bar.

4 to 9 p.m.

Mayville Golf Club

Sunday, October 8

Homecoming Concert and Performing Arts Hall of Fame Induction

Top off the weekend with a concert featuring the MSU Concert Choir, Concert Band, and Jazz Band. The 2017 Performing Arts Hall of Fame inductees will be recognized. All alumni are invited to join the alumni choir! See information below.

2 p.m.

Classroom Building Auditorium

Performing Arts Hall of Fame Reception

The Alumni Association Board will host this reception to honor the Performing Arts Hall of Fame inductees. Everyone is welcome to join in congratulating these individuals.

After the Concert

Campus Center Luckasen Room



Come "home" to Mayville State for all the fun and festivities of Homecoming 2017!

Many thanks to Homecoming 2017 Comet Connections sponsor:



Alumni Homecoming Choir

It was so much fun a few years ago, we're going to do it again!

MSU Music Director Dr. Cody Hunter is inviting all alumni to join the current concert choir for a special performance of a couple of songs at the Homecoming Concert on Sunday, Oct. 8.

There will be rehearsals at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 7 and at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 8. The concert begins at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

If you're interested, please respond at www.mayvillestate.edu/homecomingchoir.

Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner Tickets

* Purchase tickets for the dinner at www.mayvillestate.edu/homecoming or send your check (\$20/ticket) to:

MSU Foundation

330 Third Street NE, Mayville, ND 58257

701-788-4687 - alumni.mail@mayvillestate.edu

Don't delay! RSVP deadline is Sept. 25!

42nd Annual MSU Golf Classic is a success!



Broc Lietz encourages high bids in the scholarship fund-raiser.

The 42nd Annual Mayville State Golf Classic was held June 16 and 17 at Forest Hills Golf Course in Detroit Lakes, Minn. The two-day golfing event was a big success, thanks to perfect weather, the excellent course conditions, and a wonderful gathering of golfers and others who gathered to support Mayville State University. The weekend included a scramble-style tournament on Friday and a medal play tournament on Saturday. A scholarship fund-raiser was also held on Friday.

As a result of the scholarship fund-raiser and the Saturday tournament, \$5,600 in general honor and leadership scholarships has been given to the MSU Foundation so that it may be distributed to Mayville State University students.

The Friday scramble was a fundraiser for the Comet Athletic Club. The nearly \$5,500 raised through the tournament will go to benefit the student athletes of Mayville State.

Results of the Friday scramble:

Without handicap: John Fugleberg, Randy Wolden, Neil Braaten, Mark Dakken, first-place team; Rick Neameyer, Jim Drege, Jim Heacox, Doug Oksendahl, second-place team.

With handicap: Mike Strand, Rachel Rainville, Chris Feland, Rod



Coordinated from top to bottom, Bob Bucholz is a Comet through and through!

Strand, first-place team; Dan Redig, Danielle Soholt, Brent Haldorson, Rachel Redig, second-place team.

Results of the medalist tournament:

Flight 1: Randy Hill, first place; Keith Aasen, second place. **Flight 2:** Troy Ness, first place; Randy Wolden, second place. **Flight 3:** Broc Lietz, first place; Dave Carlson, second place. **Flight 4:** Lindsey Brown, first place; Mark Kloster, second place. **Flight 5:** Tim Garrett, first place; Brad Thykeson, second place. **Flight 6:** Corey McGillis, first place; James Williams III, second place. **Flight 7:** Roger Petersen, first place; Chris Feland, second place. **Flight 8:** Danielle Soholt, first place; Tim Kaiser, second place. **Senior "A":** Rod Strand, first place; John Keller, second place. **Senior "B":** Allan Ralston, first place; Wayne Lingen, second place. **Rookie:** Cody Bendickson, first place; Traci Braaten, second place.

Medalist: Keith Aasen. **Longest putt:** Russ Fletschock. **Closest to pin #9:** John Keller. **Closest to pin #12:** Bob Aasen; **Longest drive:** Brent Haldorson.

Thank you to sponsors and contributors Kevin Braaten, Mervin Carlson, Evco Petroleum, Tim Garrett, Paul Maltrud, HUB Insurance, and Wells Fargo Bank.

A special thanks goes to Saturday event committee members Gene Gaffney, Jim Hedstrom, Charlie Lindberg, Chris Lindberg, Dennis Hopman, Del Hultgren, and Paul Hultgren; and to Friday event committee members Broc Lietz and Mike Moore.

Save the dates! The 43rd Annual MSU Golf Classic will be held at Forest Hills Golf Course on June 15 and 16, 2018.



Keith Aasen (ex. '79) was medallist.