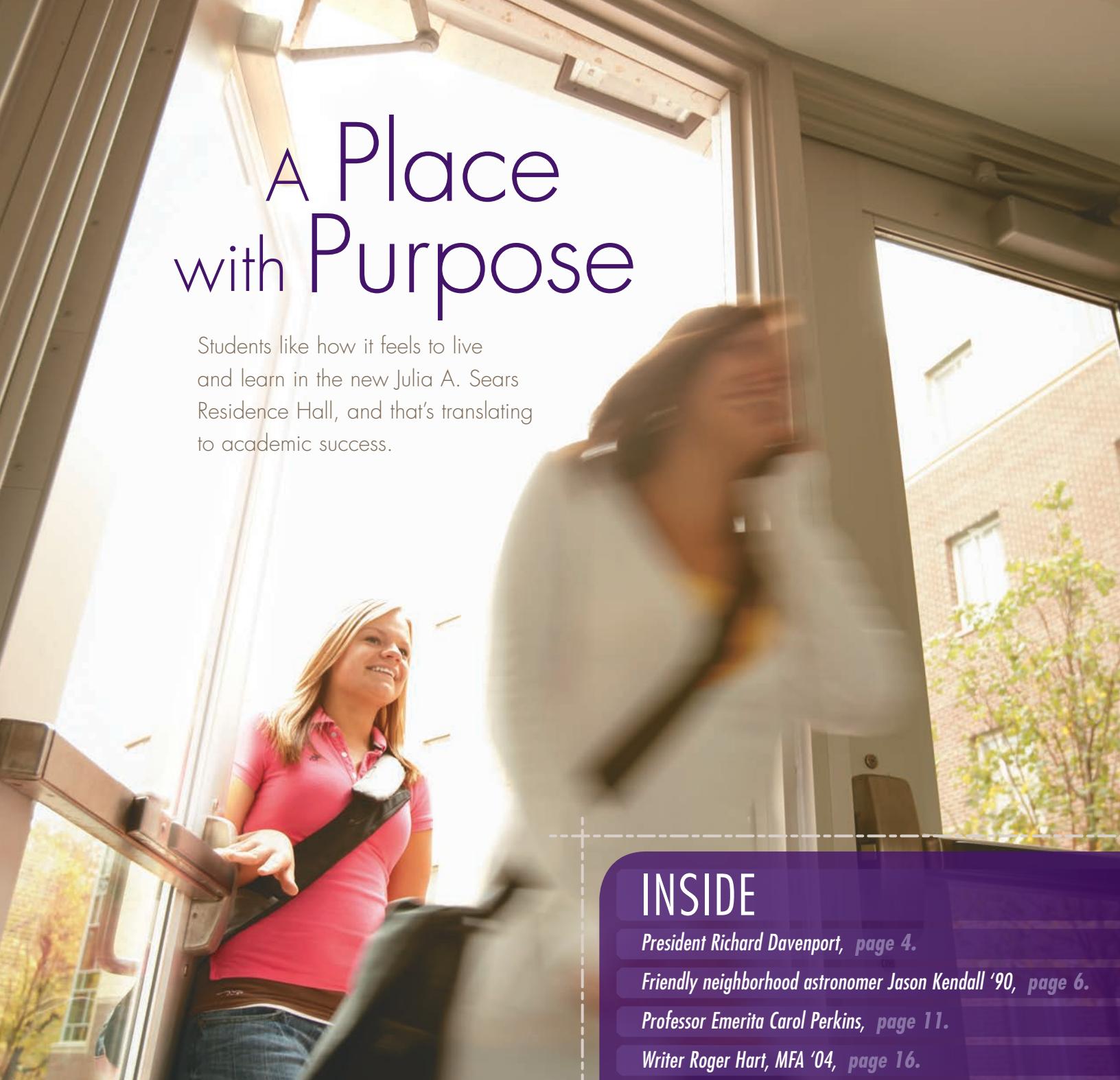




TODAY

A Place with Purpose



Students like how it feels to live and learn in the new Julia A. Sears Residence Hall, and that's translating to academic success.

INSIDE

President Richard Davenport, page 4.

Friendly neighborhood astronomer Jason Kendall '90, page 6.

Professor Emerita Carol Perkins, page 11.

Writer Roger Hart, MFA '04, page 16.

A young woman with blonde hair tied back is painting a large mural on a wall. She is wearing a white t-shirt and red overalls. On her overalls, there is a small logo that says "2008". She is holding a paintbrush in her right hand and a palette in her left hand. The mural she is painting is colorful, featuring shades of blue, green, yellow, and red. She is looking up at the mural with a smile on her face.

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contents

FALL 2009 • VOLUME 11 ISSUE 1

DEPARTMENTS

6 UNDER THE STARS

By day, Jason Kendall '90 is a computing system administrator for a financial services firm. By night, he's New York City's friendliest neighborhood astronomer.

BY SARA GILBERT FREDERICK



8 A PLACE WITH PURPOSE

Minnesota State Mankato's first new residence hall in 40 years is designed to help students connect to each other and to campus life.

BY AMYJO LENNARTSON '94



16 "YOU GOING TO BE OK HERE?"

Despite mosquitoes and tornadoes, author Roger Hart and his wife, Gwen, found a home in the creative writing program at Minnesota State Mankato. Hart's memoir features TODAY's first mention of the English Department basketball team, the Grammarians.

BY ROGER HART MFA '04



4 FROM PRESIDENT DAVENPORT

5 NEWSMAKERS

11 FACULTY EMERITA

12 MAVERICK SPORTS

14 MAVERICK SCENE

18 MILESTONES/ CLASS NOTES



Page 12

FROM THE EDITOR

IT'S A NEW TODAY!

Last spring, every office on campus was asked to tighten budgets for the coming year. TODAY responded by paring down from 32 to 24 pages — fewer features, but you'll glimpse more news, faces and places than ever before in your alumni magazine. Our lean new look showcases the talents of University designer Wendy Johnston, a longtime staff member with a great feel for how to make a smaller magazine deliver even more Maverick pride. TODAY thanks Wendy, and invites you to share feedback and your own latest news — editor@mnsu.edu. Enjoy your TODAY. ♫

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COVER PHOTO BY JOHATHAN CHAPMAN

Fall 2009 3

TODAY



MINNESOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY
MANKATO

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THE REPORT CARD IS IN



In 2002, I challenged the University to implement several strategic priorities: promote diversity; review and enhance graduate education; enhance academic excellence in undergraduate studies; develop and implement campus-wide plans; establish a distance learning plan; enhance our international programs; and improve our wellness efforts.

Published recently is the detailed 2003-2008 Strategic Plan Report Card (online at mnsu.edu/planning/priorities/reportcard). Overall, we either achieved or are in the process of achieving 94 percent of the strategic plan's objectives. Some highlights:

- Student diversity on campus has grown by 153 percent.
- In graduate education, enrollment grew by nine percent, and we've added three doctoral programs with a fourth beginning this fall. We've also recorded an astonishing 1,000 percent increase in outside scholars citing our own faculty's work.
- In undergraduate excellence, we're seeing record participation in the Undergraduate Research Conference and hundreds of instructors taking part in programs aimed at enhancing research and teaching.
- Campus-wide plans, distance-learning and wellness all hit high marks of accomplishment as well, evidenced in the construction of new Julia A. Sears Residence Hall and the opening of our 7700 France facility in Edina.
- In international programs, the report also notes that the University is now partnered with 27 prestigious institutions in Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America and Australia.

What's striking to me about the report card is its affirmation that Minnesota State Mankato is a university of real-world impact. While earning international attention through research in biofuels or law enforcement studies, for example, we're improving the lives of people closer to home through a celebrated teacher mentoring program or the hunger relief project Campus Kitchens.

This talent for providing solutions to problems will be the backdrop of the next strategic plan. As our 2002-2008 plan sunsets, the next approach will have a solutions-first focus in which we will be identifying the challenges and problems that face our world and how this university can work to address them.

Our University has a unique and vibrant tradition of joining big ideas to real-world thinking. With that tradition in mind, you'll hear me refer to our future direction as "global solutions." It's a bold term, but an apt one. It defines a university that has achieved global prestige, worldwide connections and a reputation for exceeding expectations — all while never losing sight of the real problems facing the real world.

We're reminded daily that we live in challenging times. We're accepting the challenge — again. ☺

President Richard Davenport
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TODAY

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newsmakers

- **MINNESOTA STATE MANKATO CONFERRED THE FIRST DOCTORAL DEGREES** in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System May 9. Four candidates received doctor of nursing practice degrees through a program offered by a consortium of Minnesota State Mankato, Minnesota State Moorhead, Winona State University and Metropolitan State University.
- Campus Technology named Minnesota State Mankato **2009 CAMPUS TECHNOLOGY INNOVATOR FOR CURRICULUM DESIGN**. Minnesota State Mankato earned the award for curriculum design. Hofstra, George Mason, Carnegie Mellon and Purdue were among the eleven winners.
- **ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESEARCH WILL SURGE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE**, to be located off campus but operated by Minnesota State Mankato. In its labs, Swedish energy technology will be studied and converted to meet U.S. standards. The Institute, funded through \$1.5 million in state funds, is hoped to foster production facilities and related jobs in the region.
- An expansion and upgrade of athletic space is in the future for the area near the Gage residence halls, where students will soon see new **FOOTBALL, SOFTBALL AND LACROSSE FIELDS, VOLLEYBALL AND BASKETBALL COURTS, AND AN OUTDOOR ICE RINK** as part of a \$7 million improvement project funded by student activity fees.
- For “exceptional accomplishment in diversity leadership, programming and services,” the Division for Institutional Diversity won the **FIRST INSTITUTIONAL EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AWARD** from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System.
- **DAVE LARSEN**, assistant director of American Indian Affairs, received the **MINNESOTA AMERICAN INDIAN HONORED EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR** from the Minnesota American Indian Education Association.
- The Maverick ROTC program was declared one of the “**MOST IMPROVED” BATTALIONS IN THE NATION**, a first-time designation for the program, which has been on campus since 1981.
- Minnesota State Mankato is providing instructors for a **FOUR-YEAR ENGINEERING DEGREE PROGRAM LAUNCHING THIS FALL ON THE IRON RANGE**, in a partnership with Itasca Community College and private firms. Itasca Community College will also provide instructors.
- While in San Antonio, Texas, en route to their **NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIP, THE WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM TOOK PART IN COMMUNITY OUTREACH** that had the Mavericks visiting Truman Middle School, where they talked basketball, played games and emphasized teamwork. “Our message was, ‘find what you’re interested in and go after it,’” senior Alex Andrews said.
- In March, an **ALCOHOL AWARENESS DISCUSSION SERIES, LED IN PART BY SOCIOLOGY STUDENTS**, kicked off at The Coffee Hag in Mankato’s Old Town. The students partnered with the Blue Earth County Safe Communities Coalition to discuss ways to recognize and curb problem drinking.
- **ROBERT EGGER, FOUNDER OF THE NATIONAL CAMPUS KITCHEN PROGRAM**, praised the student-run Minnesota State Mankato program as being progressive and ahead of many similar programs in urban communities. “Most groups are still in the ‘We should do something’ phase,” Egger said.
- **A NEW WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**, created by several faculty and staff members, attracted about a dozen participants to its inaugural session in June. Online at mnsu.edu/mwli.
- After a year of designing and building a concrete racing canoe, a group of 13 Mechanical & Civil Engineering students put it to the test April 18 and **FINISHED SECOND IN REGIONAL AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS COMPETITION** in Iowa City, Iowa.
- **PRESIDENT EMERITA MARGARET PRESKA RECEIVED IN MAY AN HONORARY DEGREE** from her *alma mater*, the State University of New York at The College at Brockport. Preska, who was president from 1979 to 1992, also delivered both the commencement addresses at The College at Brockport.

UNDER THE STARS

Jason Kendall '90 uses his astronomy background to unite his neighbors under the New York sky

On a Saturday night in late May, Jason Kendall made a trail of chalk dust to the top of one of the highest hills in Manhattan. At the summit — about the height of Mount Kato, he estimates — he set up his garden of telescopes: a Meade ETX 90, a Celestron Starhopper 6-inch and a Celestron 8-inch Nexstar SE with a special a Meade 8.8mm f.l. Ultra-Wide eyepiece. Then, as darkness fell on the city, he helped almost 75 people see the stars.

By day, Kendall is a computing system administrator for financial services firm Cantor Fitzgerald. But when the sun goes down, he's the friendly neighborhood astronomer, pointing out stars, planets and other celestial bodies to dozens of people in New York City's Inwood area.

Every Wednesday and Saturday evening, weather willing, Kendall hauls his telescopes to a park, points their lenses to the heavens and encourages passersby to stop and take a look. Many return for a second glance the next time they happen by, and then start showing up every time.

Kendall encourages those folks to help other newcomers find their way in the night sky.

That sky is familiar territory for Kendall, who earned a bachelor of science degree in astronomy from Minnesota State University, Mankato in 1990. Many of his fondest college memories are centered around the University's Standeford Observatory, where he studied the stars himself and guided other students through the Milky Way as well. It was such a comfortable place for him that sometimes, he and his friends would go there just to sit in the dark and do their homework.

"Some of my most pleasant memories are simply sitting out there at 1 a.m. on a Thursday night," Kendall remembers. "We'd order pizza from Dominos and then sit and do our homework under the red light of the observatory. Eventually we'd trundle back to our dorm rooms at McElroy."

It's that sense of quiet community that Kendall tries to recreate with his weekly viewings in New York, where he has lived and worked since 1996. He lived in Mankato from the time he was in sixth grade until he graduated from college with two degrees — astronomy and mathematics — in 1990. "Growing up there and going to college there helps me bring a lot of that neighborhoody, hometown attitude to what I do here in New York," he says. "The idea of being good neighbors, being part of community — that's something I learned in Mankato ... and that's what I hope to bring to people here in my neighborhood now."

RISING STAR

Kendall started college when he was in ninth grade. Always a bright student, he received special dispensation from the school board to attend college classes at Minnesota State Mankato, where his father was academic vice president, while he was still enrolled in high school.



By the time he finished twelfth grade, he had completed enough courses for a minor in computer science — and made so many friends around campus that he decided to stay and continue his education in Mankato. “I had built up so many good relationships with so many people that I wanted to stick with them,” he says.

During the next four years, Kendall became known as both a star student and a world-class prankster — traits that his former professors remember fondly. Astronomy Professor Steven Kipp says Kendall knew how to have fun and often did, but he also took academics seriously. He helped bring out the best in his fellow students, Kipp says. In one particular class — celestial mechanics — Kendall and his classmates had calculation contests.

“Jason was one of several very good students in that class,” Kipp says. “They were all very aggressive about calculating the different perimeters better than the other guys. They pushed each other to do their best.”

But Kendall, he says, was good at almost everything he tried. He excelled in math and science but he was also active in theater and music. He performed in at least one play on campus and was a member of the concert wind ensemble and the symphony, where he played the French horn. “Jason was talented in so many areas,” Kipp says. “You don’t see that very often, theater and math and science together. But that was Jason.”

Kipp is delighted to see his former student active in astronomy today. Even with a master’s degree, which Kendall earned from New Mexico State University in 1993, it’s difficult to find a full-time job in astronomy. The number of students receiving both undergraduate and graduate degrees in astronomy far exceeds the few thousand professional jobs in the field. Kipp is pleased to report that a handful of Minnesota State Mankato graduates have found teaching positions, including one at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. But he also acknowledges that many of them look for work in other fields, including computer sciences.

Even if they don’t find jobs in astronomy, many find ways to integrate astronomy into their lives, Kipp says. But he can’t think of anyone who has

done so with Kendall’s enthusiasm. “I’m proud of Jason,” Kipp says. “He’s creating enthusiasm for astronomy. In times like this, we need that enthusiasm. People don’t see the usefulness of it, but it is useful. It’s absolutely useful.”

STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT

Kendall says a job at Cantor Fitzgerald was a natural fit, considering how computer-based his studies in astronomy were. And for the first several years after moving to New York, he spent most of his free time building his theatrical resume (Kendall earned a master of fine arts in theater from the University of Texas at Austin in 1996). But about a year ago, he started itching for astronomy again.

So he started volunteering at the American Museum of Natural History. He led groups of visitors through the Halls of the Universe, Planet Earth, Meteorites, and Minerals and Gems exhibits. Then he joined the Amateur Astronomy Association of New York. Soon, he had hatched a plan for Inwood Astronomy Project — including a request to the city’s park department to turn off the lights in Inwood Park for optimum stargazing on April 3. Kendall was thrilled when his idea received approval.

“That was the first time in history that the lights have been turned off in a major New York City park for astronomy purposes,” he beams. “We had 80 people show up, even though it was cloudy and rainy. There was lightning in the north. But then the clouds parted at 10 p.m., and we could see the moon and the stars. It was incredible.”

Such drama illustrates the close tie between Kendall’s scientific side and his theatrical flair. His goal is to introduce people to the often unfamiliar, complex concepts of astronomy in a warm, non-threatening way — and playing the role of the friendly neighborhood astronomer allows him to do that.

“My background in theater provides a bridge so that I can present these concepts in a way that’s coherent, in a way that relates to people,” he says. “Theater is nothing if it doesn’t engage the people. It’s about relationships — how people

relate to each other, and how people relate to ideas. Science, meanwhile, is about deep knowledge and problem solving. The theatrical world provides the relationship for people to understand it.”

So twice a week, Kendall stands on a well-traveled corner near his home and calls out to people to come take a peek in his telescope. As they look, he tells them a little bit about what they’re seeing. “It’s turning into a very loose class,” he says. “In many ways, it’s a lot like what I used to do [at the Standeford Observatory] in Mankato.”

Now, however, Kendall’s stage is bigger. In June, he was asked to give a speech at the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History. “That’s a rare opportunity,” he admits. “They do a program once a month. To get to be the narrator at one of the premier planetariums in the United States, that’s pretty special.”

Kendall is delighted by the recognition he’s received recently. *The New York Times* featured his Inwood Astronomy Project, for example, and he now sits on the board of directors for the Amateur Association of Astronomers. He’s also working on a paper about his project that he will present to the American Astronomical Society. In the midst of it all, he considers his years at Minnesota State Mankato the foundation for his success.

“It was such a wonderful experience,” he says. “It has shaped how I think about people and how I treat people. It shaped the way I relate to people. And that is what this is all about.” ♦



The New York Times recently featured Kendall’s Inwood Astronomy Project, and he now sits on the board of directors for the Amateur Association of Astronomers.

Submitted photo.

A Place with Purpose

BY AMYJO LENNARTSON '94



As Cindy Janney leads a tour of Minnesota State University, Mankato's new Julia A. Sears Residence Hall, she points out details most people wouldn't think twice about. Things like the floor-to-ceiling bulletin board material flanking the doors to each room in rich, warm colors.

Janney, the director of Residential Life, says the material is more than just a durable wall choice — it's a way for students to take ownership of their space, to present who they are to the rest of the community and feel they truly belong at Minnesota State Mankato.

"We could have just left the regular wall and let students put up Dry Erase Boards," she says. "But this really encourages them to tell others who they are."

Janney doesn't mention many of the amenities that would catch the eye of anyone who lived in a dorm back in the day, surviving heat waves without air conditioning and hitting their heads when they sat up in lofted beds. The air temperature in Julia Sears Hall is constant and comfortable, and the ceilings are high.

But such features are a given here. Every detail has been thought out and planned exclusively for the benefit of student life in Julia Sears Hall. And that's what makes the building more than just "the new dorm." This is the residence hall that breaks the mold of double-loaded, double-room corridors with endless hallways and no-privacy bathrooms.

This is the residence hall designed to give students new opportunities to belong, to be involved, to be connected and to be successful.

FROM OLD TO NEW

Julia Sears Hall is located west of the Centennial Student Union on the former rugby field overlooking the Minnesota River Valley. Built in Kasota stone and red brick with floor-to-ceiling glass curtain walls, the four-story, 608-bed building looks distinctively modern, yet it blends with the landscape and nearby buildings as if it's always been a part of campus.

Like the other residence halls — Crawford, McElroy and Gage — Julia Sears Hall is named after a former university leader. Julia A. Sears served as Mankato State Normal School principal from 1872-1873 and is celebrated as the first female leader of a coeducational higher educational institution in the country.

As the first new residence hall at Minnesota State Mankato in more than 40 years, Julia Sears Hall is the University's fourth residential community, increasing the capacity for on-campus living to 3,500.

Minnesota State Mankato doesn't require first-year students to live on campus, but Janney says 85 percent choose to do so — a number she's proud to report, but she doesn't take it for granted, especially because none of the Residential Life department budget comes from tuition or tax dollars.

Janney's department is funded by room and board fees paid by students living on campus. The \$25 million price tag of the hall was borrowed through Revenue Fund bonds and is repaid by those same room and board fees.

The hall, which is considered a "sustainable structure"

by the State of Minnesota, is the first of two phases to effectively replace Gage Towers, which will be razed. Now in operation for one full school year, Julia Sears Hall is part of an ongoing housing plan that calls for transitioning from old to new, which includes the remodeling of Crawford and McElroy.

"College can transform anyone's life, but the support first-year students get from residential living is critical," Janney says. "Students need a lot of connections and social support so they can be academically successful, and housing design helps shape that."

Janney says the simple-but-important design elements that encourage belonging — like the bulletin boards outside of student rooms — translate to greater academic success. And those two things, a sense of belonging and academic success, have a cumulative effect. Research shows that students who live on campus are more likely to get better grades, more likely to graduate in four years, make friends more quickly, manage time more effectively,

Design elements that encourage belonging — like the bulletin boards outside of student rooms — translate to greater academic success.



become more involved in campus life and leadership experiences and, after graduation, tend to become greater supporters of Minnesota State Mankato.

"If you think of residence halls as just housing, the impact of a building like Julia Sears Hall isn't readily evident," Janney says. "But we have an entire structure designed around helping students get what they need to be successful, to help them belong and to help them get connected all while paying attention to their physical and psychological safety."

“SCALES OF COMMUNITIES”

Janney points to a shelf filled with thick binders containing years of student surveys, research and first-hand student feedback that helped shape both the physical space as well as the ideas behind the design of the hall.

Topping student wish lists over the years: more privacy, more space, more flexibility, temperature controls and more convenience.

No surprises. But when students were asked to name the number one thing impacting their satisfaction of living on campus, the answers had less to do with tangible amenities like air conditioning, and everything to do with simply having opportunities to interact with other students.

"That data told me that we needed to design a facility that would help students interact with each other, even when there aren't activities to help that happen," Janney says.

From there, architects set out to create a building that would include specific student-requested amenities while providing the kinds of opportunities that come with cooperative living — opportunities to practice conflict resolution, meet new people and work on relationships and interpersonal communications.

"It all starts with a student, their roommate and the space they share. A building emerges out of that," Janney says. "We started with the students' desires and their needs — which aren't necessarily the same thing."

J. Eric Moss, AIA, LEED AP, an architect with the firm Ayers/Saint/Gross in Baltimore said knowing students ultimately wanted a place that provided a mix of social opportunities, designers created a building he described as having "cascading scales of communities."

"The design was done so students could see themselves first as part of their room, then their suite, their floor, their side of the building, their residence hall and their university," Moss says. "It's all very purposeful."

Even the "the communicating stairs" (and yes, almost everyone calls them "the communicating stairs"), were designed to encourage community and participation. The open, four-story, light-filled staircase essentially funnels students from both the North and South wings and all floors of Julia Sears Hall to a wide, centrally located staircase complete with spacious landings.

And similar to the bulletin board material, which means more than it seems on the surface, the stairs aren't just a means to get up or down a level without having to wait for the elevator. Rather, the stairs are one way the building encourages students to meet and make connections. It's a space for chance encounters, and a place that welcomes "coming and going" conversations. In fact, the stairs have been so popular with students and staff that they've often been a designated meeting place and a site for planned activities.

Moss, whose firm works with campuses across the country, says that while students will ultimately choose a university based on academics, its housing does come into play. On average, he says, students spend about 80 percent of their time where they live, making the need for quality non-academic buildings critical.

"What we're talking about is a work-life balance for a new generation," Moss says. "It's a quality of life issue. And in the end we were able to create a building that is uniquely suited to the mission and the students of Minnesota State Mankato."

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

What works about the design is that none of the "purposeful" elements feel forced, but rather Julia Sears Hall simply offers

a menu of subtle opportunities for the various interactions students say they want, and staff know they need.

As for the rooms themselves, designers and residential life staff knew semi-suites were the way to go — student feedback was loud and clear on that. Gone were double-loaded corridors with double rooms and a common bathroom down the hall. Also gone: things like closet doors and keyboard trays. Open spaces and laptops have replaced those.

Each semi-suite has two bedrooms with 10-foot ceilings, and large windows overlooking the campus mall or the Minnesota River Valley. Bedrooms have individually controlled air conditioning and heating, tile floors and sound-resistant walls, loftable beds, dressers and desks with lockable drawers, upholstered office chairs that convert to gaming chairs, closets, plentiful electrical outlets and Internet, telephone and cable TV jacks. A compartmentalized, private bathroom for use by the suite's four residents connects the two bedrooms.

Those features aside, the rooms still feel similar to those of a classic dorm room. Most rooms still sleep two, although some single rooms are available. All floors have lounges, common kitchens and laundry areas.

Janney says by having a compartmentalized bathroom, usually with a shower, a private toilet and sinks in each bedroom, all four "suite-mates" can use a fixture with some reasonable amount of privacy. She says sinks in each room help reduce conflict because only two people are negotiating use of the space.

Ann Voda, AIA, LEED AP a principle with the design firm Bentz/Thompson/Reitow in Minneapolis, says the suite layout provides an important balance: most students still have a roommate, but the design allows for some level of privacy.

She also acknowledges that yes, many generations of students have survived living in residence halls with fewer amenities and managed to graduate and "be just fine." But she says that now more than ever, there's a greater understanding of how good design can support academic success and personal growth.

"While amenities don't make a student, they can definitely help take worry and discomfort off their plate, which helps them become more successful," Voda says.

MOVING BACK TO CAMPUS

Janney knows how it goes at Minnesota State Mankato: traditionally, many students spend their first year on campus, and move off campus their sophomore year so they can have their own room and more privacy.

But student surveys revealed a bit of a twist on that. If semi-suites like those in Julia Sears Hall were an option, more students said they would remain on campus beyond their first year.

With this information, combined with the research that showed students performed better academically the longer they remained on campus, Janney set out to make sure Julia Sears Hall not only created more on-campus living choices for all students, but would also help boost the number of upperclass students remaining on campus.

So far, it's working. In its first year of operation, Julia Sears Hall housed 60 percent upperclass students and 40 percent first-year students. Across campus, more than 750 returning students chose to live on campus last year, up significantly from an average of about 500. The bulk of them chose Julia Sears Hall.

Ryan Amato, a senior marketing and international business major from Pine Island, Minnesota, was one of those. He lived on campus his first year, but decided to give off-campus living a try as a sophomore. Last year, he moved back to campus and into Julia Sears Hall.

"I knew coming back to campus that my grades would be better," Amato says. "And, here, there's always someone you can go to. Off campus you're entirely on your own."

Amato, who saw his grade point average jump quickly after moving back on campus, says Julia Sears Hall is an ideal place for those who want to transition back to campus, or those looking for a smoother transition to living off campus.

"You get a taste of what it's like being more independent, like having to clean your own bathroom, all while having to adjust to living with more people," Amato says. "Living in Sears seems like home."

Because the building was designed with upperclass students in mind, activities and programming target a more mature group of students, but still include traditional activities like floor socials, carnivals and other special events.

Johannes Anderson is one of two graduate hall directors for Julia Sears Hall. He says planned activities are geared toward preparing students for the future by giving them more social and leadership opportunities along with "real life" experience.

"We work with basic things students can take with them in life like taxes, budgeting, credit cards and making healthy choices," Anderson says. "We're also helping students think more about academics, majors, careers and graduation."

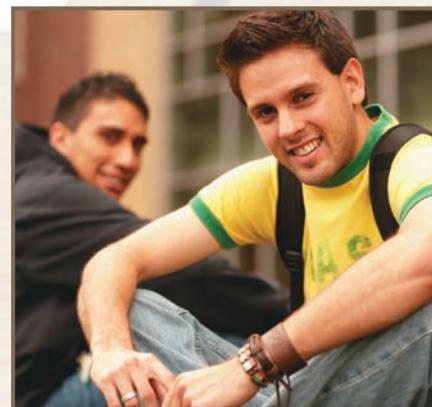
Anderson, who moved to Sears Hall from Pullman, Washington to pursue his master's degree, says the design of the building — the "ripple effect of communities" — as well as the two acres of landscaped green space outside the hall creates an ideal living and learning environment.

"Students feel part of multiple communities," Anderson says. "They get to know their roommate

and their suite mates and the connections ripple out from there."

And Janney says it's the experience and skills students build in those multiple communities that help students become good citizens.

"When an on-campus building can attract more students to live on campus, which we know helps students stay in college and get better grades, then it's reasonable to believe that living in a residence hall helps students become more successful," Janney says. "And that's the golden ring — that's what we're after." ♦





MAVERICK SPORTS



PHOTO COURTESY OF NSIC

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF FIRST-YEAR HEAD COACH MATT MAGERS, THE MINNESOTA STATE MANKATO BASEBALL TEAM CAPTURED THE 2009 NORTHERN SUN CHAMPIONSHIP. THE MAVERICKS, WHO EARNED A TRIP TO THE NCAA DIVISION II REGIONAL WITH THE CONFERENCE TITLE, FINISHED 2009 WITH A 38-17 RECORD.

FALL MEANS MAVERICK FOOTBALL!

And volleyball, soccer, swimming, cross country, basketball and Division I hockey. Schedules, video streaming, podcasts and live stats are online at www.msumavericks.com. You can also follow Maverick Athletics on Twitter.



what's hot

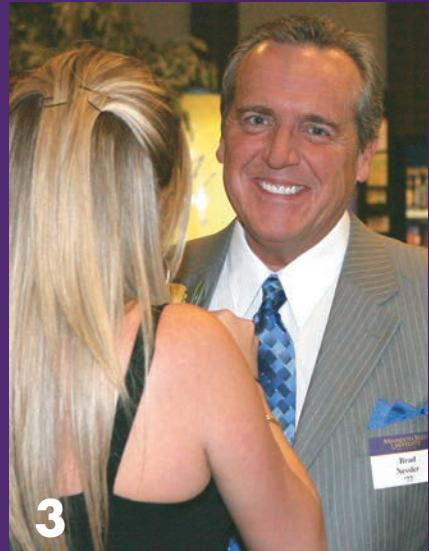
- Led by the women's golf team grade point average of 3.57, 15 MSU teams had GPAs of at least 3.00 during the 2009 spring semester. The total GPA for the 12 women's teams (293 student-athletes) was 3.34, while the 11 men's teams (295 student-athletes) claimed a 2.94. MSU's 588 student-athletes combined for a 3.17 GPA, a total of 205 student-athletes (34.8%) were named to the Dean's List (at least a 3.40 GPA) and 71 Mavericks maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average for the semester.
- Minnesota State Mankato had 14 teams score points in NCAA postseason competition and completed the 2008-09 season ranking second in the final Learfield Sports Directors' Cup standings. By finishing second, MSU posted its highest-ever ranking. The previous best came last season when the Mavericks ranked third. Including five consecutive top ten finishes, MSU has finished in the top 25 eight times in the 14 years since the Directors' Cup program was inaugurated — 2nd in 2008-09, 3rd in 2007-08, 4th in 2006-07, 8th in 2005-06, 10th in 2004-05, 16th in 1995-96, 20th in 2003-04, 22nd in 2002-03 and 23rd in 2001-02. Posting top-25 finishes in 2008-09 NCAA postseason events were women's basketball (first), wrestling (third), men's cross country (eighth), women's outdoor track & field (ninth), women's indoor track & field (tenth), men's swimming (12th), men's indoor track & field (13th), women's golf (13th), women's swimming (15th), women's soccer (17th), football (17th) and men's basketball (17th). Other teams and their finish included softball (33rd), men's tennis (33rd), women's tennis (33rd) and baseball (38th). The second-place ranking caps off a banner season for Maverick Athletics, which also included a Northern Sun All-Sports trophy.
- Former men's hockey assistant coach **ERIC MEANS** was introduced as the new coach of the women's hockey program in May. Means, who was a member of the Maverick men's staff for 14 seasons, played collegiately at the University of Minnesota ('94 grad), and during his playing career, the Gophers claimed one league regular season and two play-off titles, and advanced to the NCAA post-season tournament from 1989-94. The Rochester, Minn., native earned a master's degree from MSU in 1997 and has served as a coach at several USA Hockey select camps.
- **GEOFF KLEIN** has taken over as head coach of the MSU men's golf program and **SHANE DRAHOTA** has taken the reins of the women's bowling program. Klein golfed for the Mavericks from 1998-2002 and Drahota, a 1999 graduate, also serves as the University's Director of Compliance and Student Services.
- The Minnesota State Mankato football team is ranked 12th in the USA Today Sports Weekly Preseason Top-25 poll. This marks the second poll in which MSU has appeared this summer, as it was 18th in the Sporting News Division II Preseason Top-25 Poll, which was released last month. The rankings mark the first time since 1995 that Minnesota State Mankato has been featured in a preseason poll when the Mavericks were ranked 18th in the National Football Coaches Association poll. MSU is coming off a 9-3 campaign in 2008. Last year, MSU went 9-1 in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference, finishing second. In the South Division of the NSIC, MSU was 5-1 and tied for first. The Mavericks advanced to the NCAA Playoffs for the fourth time in school history in 2008. The Mavericks open the 2009 season August 29 at Truman State. Kickoff is slated for 7 p.m.
- Former Minnesota State Mankato men's hockey forward **DAVID BACKES** is one of 34 players who have been invited to the U.S. Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Orientation Camp. The camp, which takes place at Seven Bridges Ice Arena in Woodbridge, Ill., Aug. 17-19, is designed to assist in the preparation of the 2010 U.S. Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team that will compete at the XXI Olympic Winter Games to be held from Feb. 12-28, 2010, in Vancouver, B.C. A native of Blaine, Minn., Backes completed his third year with the National Hockey League's St. Louis Blues this past season and totalled 31 goals and 23 assists for 54 points in 82 games. Drafted in the second round by St. Louis in 2003, Backes has represented the U.S. as a member of the last two national teams that have played in the World Championships. An All-American for the Mavericks in 2005-06, Backes compiled 46 goals and 73 assists for 119 points in three years with the MSU men's hockey program from 2003-06.
- Former MSU baseball coach **DEAN BOWYER** becomes the sixth former MSU coach/administrator in the NSIC Hall of Fame, joining **RUMMY MACIAS** (1986), **BUD MYERS** (1986), **BOB OTTO** (1990), **CHUCK PETERSON** (1990) and **GEORGENE BROCK** (2001) as an inductee.
- MSU had two players selected in the 2009 Major League Baseball draft in junior right-handed pitcher **CHRIS ODEGAARD** (23rd round, 696th overall by the Arizona Diamondbacks) and senior third baseman **GENO GLYNN** (43rd round, 1,309th overall by the Tampa Bay Rays).

BEST YET

MSU had 14 teams score points in NCAA postseason competition and completed the 2008-09 season ranking second in the final Learfield Sports Directors' Cup standings — our highest-ever ranking.



maverickscene

**1****2****3****4****5****6**

(1) Nancy Turnblad MS '95 with husband Kevin and son Andrew at Minnesota State Mankato Night with the Timberwolves. **(2)** President Emerita Margaret Preska at the Distinguished Alumni Awards. **(3)** Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award recipient Brad Nessler '77 and his daughter, Reis. **(4)** Assistant Vice President for Integrated Marketing Jeff Iseminger, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Director of Development Susan Taylor and Robert Colbert '77 at the Distinguished Alumni Awards. **(5)** Extended Learning Director of Program Development Pam Baker '94, Patrick Baker '91 and family at Minnesota State Mankato Night with the Moondogs. **(6)** 2009 Harold J. Fitterer Service to Minnesota State Mankato Award Recipient H. Dean Trauger '69 with Kathy Trauger, '85, MS '95, and friends from the Finance and Administration division.

MAKE THE MAVERICK SCENE. Learn about events for alumni and friends at www.mnsu.edu/alumni.
Submit photos of your own alumni gathering to today@mnsu.edu.



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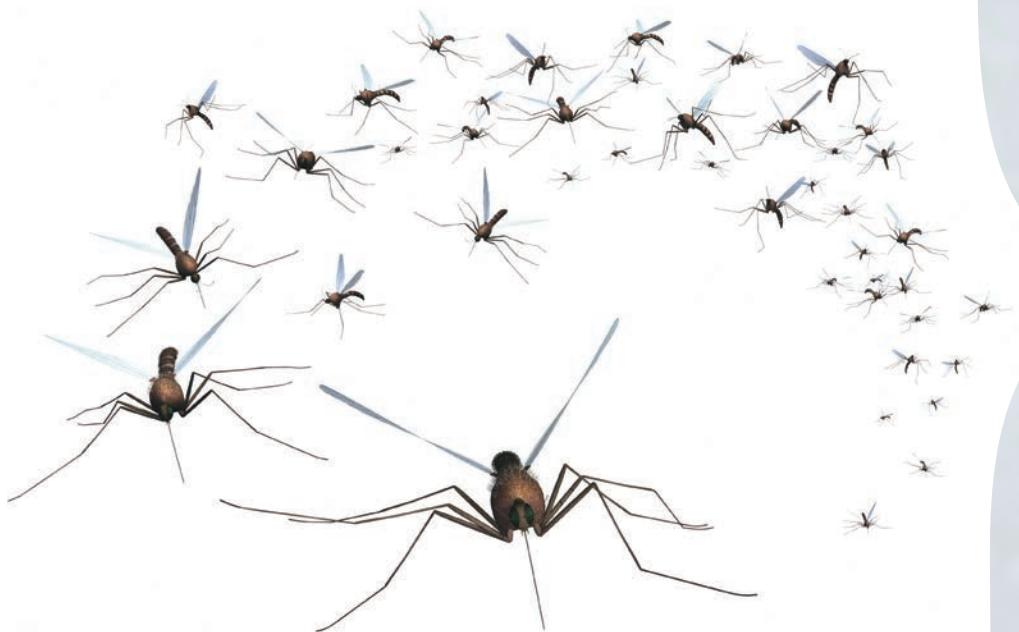


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(1) Alumni Association Board President Tim Huebsch '02 with Cheri Bowyer at the Mavericks Influential luncheon. **(2)** 2009 Distinguished Young Alumnus Matthew Wolff '99 and College of Arts and Humanities Director of Development Annette Roth. **(3)** Gary Amoroso, center, with Marjorie Deming Fitterer '48, '57 and her daughter, Lisa Johnson, at the Distinguished Alumni Awards. **(4)** David Schaefer, Dawn Schaefer, Yvonne Cariveau '82 '86 and Derick Liebertz at Minnesota State Mankato Night with the Moondogs. **(5)** 2009 Distinguished Alumni Achievement award recipient Alan Gerhardt '80 and Construction Management Professor Farid Sabongi. **(6)** 2009 Distinguished Humanitarian Rodney Brown '80 and friends with Dean John Alessio.



{ YOU GOING TO BE OKAY HERE? }



My wife and I first arrived in Mankato on a cold, overcast morning in March of 2001. We were scouting for a place to live but we were off to a bad start. The one-way streets were confusing, we couldn't find the university, and I kept getting on roads that led out of town. Then, while driving down North Broad Street, we were shocked to see kids walking to school without jackets. What was wrong with them? There were still patches of snow hugging the shadows, and it couldn't have been more than thirty-eight degrees. We had the heater on in the car, and these kids were acting like it was warm day in May. Where were their parents? I looked at my wife. "You going to be okay here?" I asked.

"I'll be fine," she said.

Gwen and I had been married three years. During that time we'd lived in Ohio, the mountains of Virginia, and one block from the ocean on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. We'd chosen Minnesota State Mankato over several other MFA programs after a phone interview with Roger Sheffer, Anne O'Meara and Donna Casella. It was a go-with-our-gut-these-people-sound-friendly decision.

By the time we moved to Mankato, the lilacs and mosquitoes were in full bloom. I enjoyed the lilacs. The mosquitoes were another matter. I'd never seen, or felt, mosquitoes that big. I hid behind the screen door when we grilled on the back porch, running outside to flip the chicken and then quickly racing back inside. The mosquitoes were huge. One had a scar over her left eye and a notch missing out of a wing. Another, a real nasty one, had a proboscis with little lines along its length, resembling a hypodermic syringe. I began naming them. Scarface. The Doc. Over dinner I asked my wife again. "You going to be okay here?"

"I'll be fine," she said.

Then without warning, there was a warning. A tornado. The television beeped and a map of the danger areas flashed in the bottom corner of the screen. We leaned close, tried to make sense of the odd-shaped counties. "Are we in one of those?" I asked.

Gwen shrugged.

I began yelling at the screen. "Name the counties! Name the counties!"

The tornado siren went off across the street.

"Guess that's us," my wife said as we ran for the basement, where we sat on the steps and watched a bat swoop back and forth over our heads.

"You sure?" I asked.

"I'll be fine," she said.

"It's flat. No mountains. No ocean."

"I know," she said.

"The people here, they talk funny."

"I knooow," she said.



I had lived in six different states and moved a total of twenty-five times. Like the characters in my short stories, who were often caught in the wrong place, unsure of how to escape or where to go if they did, I was always the outsider, the new kid in school. And now I was in Mankato. Aside from the crazy parents letting their kids walk to school without jackets, the tornadoes, the bird-size mosquitoes, and the bats that kept getting into our basement, I was concerned about how my wife and I would fit in. I was fifty-two; Gwen twenty-four. Our classmates would be her age, the professors mine. We'd done fine living in relative isolation on the Outer Banks, but Mankato might be another matter.

My first attempt at blending in was a failure. At our first university get-together, a picnic at the home of the dean of graduate students, I was unsure whether or not to knock on the door or walk on in. My wife and I stood on the porch, undecided. Maybe we should leave. A woman walked up the sidewalk. I figured she was another grad student. "Come on in," I said, gesturing at the door, pretending I was the dean. "Plenty of food inside."

"You don't fool me," she said. "I work for the dean."



Then school started.

In November, Curtis, a classmate, organized hockey night. I didn't know

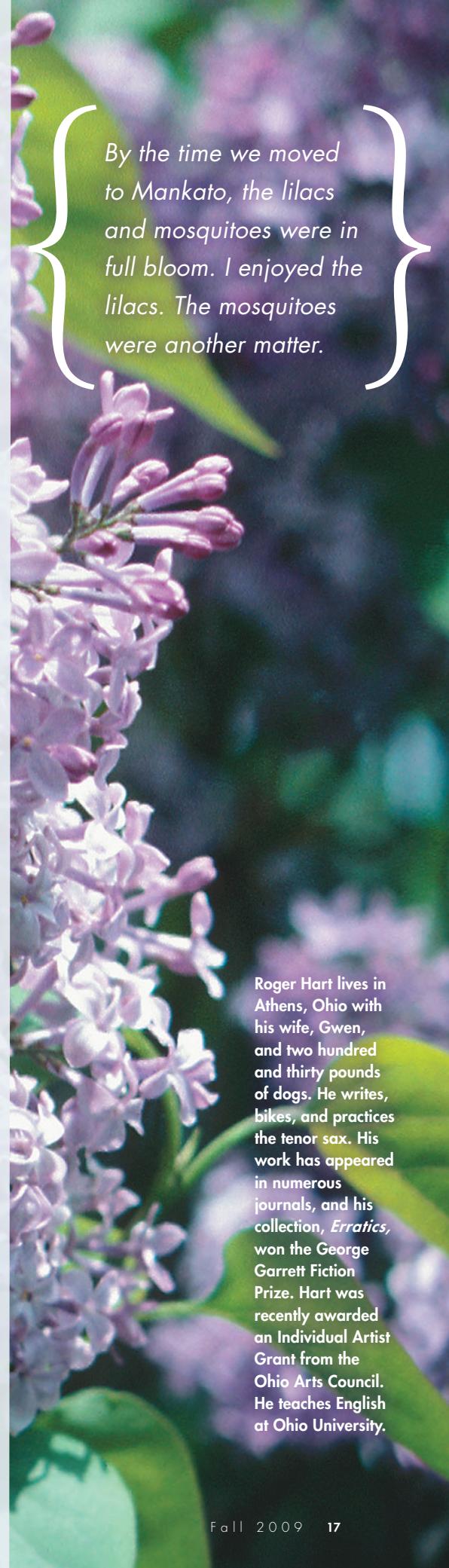
squat about hockey other than it was played on ice, but my wife and I went. The ticket takers, however, wouldn't believe I was a student and kept yelling at me to go to the other line. I waved my ID, and they laughed like a guy with gray hair couldn't possibly be a student.

But the Mavericks won. I learned about poke checking, blue lines and a new way to spell defense.

And then this: Roger Sheffer regularly stopped by the office to visit. Terry Davis hosted a cookout on his back deck and introduced us to Becky Fjelland Davis, who quickly became Gwen's best friend. At the reception after a Good Thunder reading, Nick LaRocca went on a political tirade that had everyone laughing hysterically. Rick Robbins talked me into running Grandma's Marathon. Ed Micus read his "Thames" poem at Writers Bloc. Nate LeBoutillier asked me to join the English department basketball team, the Grammarians. We had Thanksgiving at Donna Casella's. I spent office hours swapping stories and gossip with Hans, Tom, Nate, Gordy, Kristina and Casey. I enjoyed my students. Minnesota nice. Richard Davenport — The President! — served us hotdogs at a campus picnic and called us by name. I figured out the one-way streets.

One evening on a cool spring day, a day when the temperature hovered around forty, my wife and I were walking across campus — without jackets — when I said, "I've got to be the luckiest guy in the world." She looked at me, momentarily puzzled. I waved my arm around as if the reason was obvious. What could be better than walking to class with the woman I loved to study a subject I loved with classmates who had become my best friends. Fifty-some years old and I'd finally found home. ♪

By the time we moved to Mankato, the lilacs and mosquitoes were in full bloom. I enjoyed the lilacs. The mosquitoes were another matter.



Roger Hart lives in Athens, Ohio with his wife, Gwen, and two hundred and thirty pounds of dogs. He writes, bikes, and practices the tenor sax. His work has appeared in numerous journals, and his collection, *Erratics*, won the George Garrett Fiction Prize. Hart was recently awarded an Individual Artist Grant from the Ohio Arts Council. He teaches English at Ohio University.



faculty emerita

LONG-DISTANCE LEGACY

Six years ago, when Carol Perkins was preparing to retire after a ten-year tenure as chair of Women's Studies at Minnesota State University, Mankato, Maria Bevacqua came to her with an idea. Bevacqua, now the department chair, wanted to honor her mentor's retirement by establishing a lecture series in her name.

"Carol was someone who had made an impact here," Bevacqua says. "Women's Studies was all the better because of her ten years here. I thought it would be a good time to launch a lecture series. It was very intentional on my part, and was motivated by a desire to commemorate her years of work."

So although Perkins and her husband returned to their home state of California after wrapping up her final semester in the spring of 2004, she tries to return to Mankato each year to attend the Carol Ortman Perkins Lecture Series. She helped bring inaugural speaker Kathy Najimy, the actress/comedienne who had been Perkins' student during her first years of teaching Women's Studies at San Diego State University (the nation's first Women's Studies department). She was in the audience when legendary feminist Gloria Steinem, a friend of Najimy's, spoke in 2006. She returned later that same year to see Wilma Mankiller, the first female Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation.

"There are always going to be people and places with ties to Women's Studies," Perkins says. "I am always thrilled to see that there are still women in the community who were my students and who are now providing jobs for other men and women."

Perkins has plenty to keep her busy in her new home in La Mesa, just east of San Diego. She volunteers at elementary schools, teaching writing to young second language learners. She serves as the history committee chairperson for the local chapter of the AAUW (formerly known as the American Association of University Women), coordinating speeches by women who dress up as such icons as Clara Barton, Eleanor Roosevelt and Rosa Parks. She gives guest lectures in college classes and does talks about her ongoing community cookbook research, which she started at Minnesota State Mankato. And she makes herself available to go to San Francisco and see her grandchildren whenever possible.

Even while she's at home on the West Coast, she stays connected to Minnesota State Mankato.

"I'm still in touch through the department's feminist blog — I've been a guest blogger," she says. "And I'm still writing letters of recommendation for students who finished five to ten years ago."

"I'm always thrilled to see that there are still women in the community who were my students and who are now providing jobs for other men and women."

— CAROL PERKINS

"It was thrilling, all the young people who came out to see Kathy Najimy," she says. "They didn't care if she was there for Women's Studies, they were just excited to see her and to be involved. And then I saw Wilma Mankiller talking to groups of students I knew weren't Women's Studies students, but who engaged with her anyway."

Such interactions are a great source of pride for Perkins, who considers the lectures, and the impact they have on both the University and the community, as part of her legacy. But it isn't just the speakers Perkins comes to see.

When she gets to Mankato, she also stops by The Coffee Hag to see alumna Jenn Melby, a former student who now owns the coffee shop. She visits her old neighbors in the Lincoln Park neighborhood. She catches up with colleagues both in Women's Studies and across the Minnesota State Mankato campus.

Bevacqua says she still feels Perkins' presence in the department. Every time she tells the story of the Women's Studies program, she talks about Perkins. And every time she needs to work through a challenge or make an important decision, she remembers her mentor. "I ask myself, 'What would Carol do?'" Bevacqua says. "Or, I ask Carol herself; I just call her and say, 'What would you do?'"

Perkins appreciates the opportunity to weigh in occasionally — but she also appreciates seeing the department develop under strong new leaders. "It's exciting to look at this faculty and see women who are 30 years younger than I am who are fine professors, scholars and people. It's very gratifying to know that it's a solid department. I feel like I left it in very good hands." ♀



Photo courtesy of Cy Perkins

classnotes

1940s

SYBIL POWELL LUCAS, '42,

Bothell, WA, taught in the Seattle School District for 28 years and was an elementary education consultant for four years before retiring.

1950s

CHUCK JOHNSON, '50,

Winona, MN, is retired.

MARYLYN HARDER-BRANDT, '58,

St. Paul, MN, retired in June 2008. Marilyn spent the past year as the grand president of the military order of the cooties — an honor degree organization of the VFW.

1960s

MARY HUNTLEY, '62,

Mankato, MN, an emerita professor in the School of Nursing, has published a book titled *Amazing Attributes of Aging: Silly & Sacred Stories of Blue Garter Friends* with her friend Judy Appel. The book has been available since April.

PAUL WASHA, '63,

Lives in Mound, MN.

DONALD PEDERSON, '63,

Jacksonville, FL, and his wife have retired, and they are spending time traveling in their motor home.

SEVERIN BLENKUSH, '64,

Browerville, MN, completed the Boston Marathon in the 65-69 year age group in April 2009. He is retired.

JOHN LOVSTAD, '67,

Kansas City, MO, retired in June 2008 after 38 years in choral music education.

LARRY HAMRE, '67,

Eau Claire, WI, is the owner of Snack Food Distributorship.

MARY MISHEK DANKERT, '68,

Waseca, MN, retired in May after starting up and running Walter's Publishing with her husband, Wayne, for 40 years. In 2007 the couple sold the business to Taylor Corporation in North Mankato.

CYRUS FARMER, '68,

Kandem, Germany, is an international representative for Campus Crusade for

Christ. He has worked overseas for 35 years in places including West Africa, France and Germany.

NORMAN BLASER, '69,

Austin, MN, is principal of Pacelli High School in Austin, MN.

KENNETH SCHONROCK, '69,

Blaine, MN, is retired from the State of Minnesota. He and his wife, Joan, are enjoying their retirement.

CAROL SMESRUD HILER, '69,

Orient, OH, is a retired teacher.

1970s

FRANK LINSTER, '70,

Faribault, MN, is a labeler coordinator with Faribault Foods in Faribault, MN. He retired from the National Guard in 1995.

JOHN NOTERMAN, '70,

Jordan, MN, retired in 2008 from Northwest Airlines where he was a 757 captain for 30 years.

JOHN MULDER, '70,

Riceville, IA, is an administrator with the Riceville Family Care & Therapy Center, which recently won the Governors Award for Excellence in Iowa nursing home quality care.

MARK CHRISTENSEN, '74,

Phoenix, AZ, retired after teaching art for 35 years. He spent the last 23 of those years teaching in the Paradise Valley School District in Phoenix, AZ.

DALE WOLPERS, '75, '83,

Hastings, MN, is the assistant principal at Cottage Grove Junior High in Cottage Grove, MN. He recently was chosen as the 2009 Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year for his work in the community and within the school. He was the Hastings Teacher of the Year in 1991.

ROGER SCHIPPER, '75, '76,

Houlton, WI, is an assistant athletic trainer at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities campus.

DEBORAH (HAUB) VACEK, '75,

San Diego, CA, is a family nurse

practitioner with the U.S. Navy. Her husband, **JAMES VACEK, '74**, is a doctor on active duty with the U.S. Navy.

DONN FULLER, '76,

Plainfield, IL, is vice president, development, with General Growth Properties in Chicago.

CYRIL (CY) DENN, '77,

Mankato, MN, is retired and enjoying life. He plans on traveling extensively.

JAMES KRAGEL, '77,

Cedarville, OH, recently received an Excellence in Teaching award from the Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education. He has been a faculty member of Cedarville University since 1994, teaching communication arts.

DEAN BROWN, '77,

Duluth, MN, is a pastor at Salem Covenant Church in Duluth, MN.

1980s

RANDAL TERWEDO, '81, '91,

Shingle Springs, CA, is the owner of Terwedo Partnership.

REED HESS, '81,

Ada, MI, is a senior account representative with 3M Company.

JOHN HINRICHES, '81,

Livermore, CA, is a self-employed broker who feels that he got his successful start in the financial business from Minnesota State Mankato.

LORI (WALTMAN) GLOVER, '81,

Circle Pines, MN, is the community sports medicine director for the Institute for Athletic Medicine in Robbinsdale, MN, where she oversees four physical therapy clinics. In addition to working on legislative issues, she enjoys her large extended family.

DARREL CHRISTENSON, '82,

Phoenix, AZ, has been appointed to the national housing subcommittee of the National Council on Independent Living — a large grassroots organization that advocates for human and civil rights of people with disabilities throughout the United States.



classnotes

Your classmates are eager to hear about you!

MAUREEN MCKAY, '84, Minnetonka, MN, is the owner of Optimistic Outcomes, LLC and Silverlining Press in Minnetonka, MN. Optimistic Outcomes, LLC was awarded Learning Magazine's 2009 Teachers' Choice Award for the Family.

BETH (MOELLER) BERGER, '86, Apple Valley, MN, has been promoted to senior project manager with UnitedHealth Group. Her husband, **LANCE BERGER, '89,** is a special investigator with Farmers Insurance Group. The couple has two teenagers.

MIKE SOWADA, '86, Wayzata, MN, has been named 2009 Entrepreneur of the Year by TwinWest Chamber of Commerce. He is CEO of VISI, a web hosting services company.

MARYBETH STEVENS-CARHIDI, '86, Rotterdam, NY, is a leader, healthcare administration with General Electric Company in Schenectady, NY. In September 2008 she married her long-time sweetheart.

CINDY (KEECH) REINITZ, '87, '02, Henderson, MN, has been teaching for 21 years, the past four in Dubois, WY. She returned to Minnesota this past summer to run her recently purchased business, Bittersweet Coffee in Henderson.

DOUGLAS ZACHARIAS, '87, Marietta, GA, is a national sales manager with Oldcastle Glass.

BECKY (ROE) SORENSEN, '88, Eagle Lake, MN, is an account executive with KEYC-TV in North Mankato, MN. She and her husband, Doug, have three children, the oldest now a junior at Minnesota State Mankato.

LORI (URBAN) WALL, '88, Mankato, MN, recently was promoted to vice president of human resources for Taylor Corporation at its North Mankato headquarters. She also has joined the board of directors for Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota. She and her husband, Jim, have three children.

DEBBY (COMFORT) JERIKOVSKY, '89, South St. Paul, MN, is a chiropractic physician in St. Paul.

RANDY KOCH, '89, '91, Laramie, WY, will begin his new position as an instructor at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania in August. He received his MFA in creative writing, poetry, at the University of Wyoming in May 2009.

STEVE KLOCKE, '89, Prior Lake, MN, helped start up the company ID Wholesaler, which works with photo identification solutions. The company began in 2004 and is listed on the Internet Retailer Top 500 list for 2008.

1990s

SCOTT STARK, '90, Northfield, MN, is a sales representative for Thomson Reuters in Eagan, MN.

MARK BEENKEN, '90, Buffalo Center, IA, is a regional operations manager with Land O' Lakes in Shoreview, MN.

CARMEN NEUTGENS, '90, Chaska, MN, recently received Printing in Minnesota's Customer Service Representative Award. She works for Maximum Graphics Printing in Chaska, MN.

DON HOEVERSTEN, '92, Dassel, MN, is president of BusinessWare Solutions in Hutchinson, MN.

TRACY (CALLEY) THEISEN, '93, Champlin, MN, is a manager, product marketing team, for Pentair in Anoka, MN.

TODD RUSSEL, '94, Northville, MI, is an account manager for ElringKlinger in Plymouth, MI.

KRISTI (SCHALINSKE) SCHICK, '94, Savage, MN, is an RN utilization manager with Fairview Ridges Hospital in Burnsville, MN. In June 2008 she married her husband Jeremy.

PEGGY SCHOMMER, '94, Inver Grove Heights, MN, is the lead systems developer for Prime Therapeutics in Eagan, MN.

KENT SYBERSON, '95, Willmar, MN, is a doughnut maker for Cub Foods in Willmar, MN.

SAAD ALKUBAISI, '95, Doha, Qatar, is living in Doha, Qatar.

JOHNNY ANGELO, '96, Glencoe, MN, is a public affairs broadcast specialist with the Minnesota National Guard. Currently, he is in Iraq reporting, editing and hosting a weekly video magazine.

SCOTT SCHROEDER, '98, Minneapolis, MN, is a self-employed contractor who, along with his partner, Stephen, has traveled to India, South Africa and South Korea. The couple has been together for 16 years. Scott has begun a new career at Clare House, which provides shelter, services and care to people living with HIV/AIDS.

MEGAN VADNAIS, '98, Oxford, OH, is the director of leadership development for Beta Theta Pi Fraternity.

ABDUL IDI, '98, Lakeville, MN, is a tennis teaching pro at the Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center in Minneapolis. He was awarded the 2009 USPTA Coach of the Year - Northern Division.

HEATHER (HAACK) BERGMAN, '98, Jesup, IA, along with her husband, John, welcomed their daughter, Jordyn Lynn, on January 23.

JENNIFER VOKENANT, '98, Hanover, MN, recently was named executive director of The Kenwood Retirement Community in Minneapolis.

SPENCER KRAMBER, '98, Venice, CA, is an actor who has appeared on the daytime soap opera *The Young & The Restless* in March 2009, and in a Nike commercial with Lebron James.

GRETCHEN KNUTSON, '99, Brooklyn Center, MN, is the supervisor, health management strategies, for Medica in Minnetonka, MN. She received a master of arts degree from Augsburg College in 2005.



Please use the form on page 23 to share your news. Class Notes are listed by decade and baccalaureate date.

DIANA JENSEN CRAMER, '99,

Eugene, OR, received her MA and MAT degrees from Minnesota State Mankato, and has been accepted at Gonzaga University School of Law where she has been awarded a merit scholarship for the three-year J.D. program.

2000s

AMY HEDMAN, '02,

Lake Crystal, MN, is an assistant professor in the health science department at Minnesota State Mankato. She received her PhD in health education in 2007 from the University of Kansas.

NORMAN OLSON, '03,

Maplewood, MN, is a poet/artist who has had success with having several poems published as well as displays and publication of some of his artwork.

KIRSTEN KORTEMA, '03,

Two Harbors, MN, recently was selected as spring outstanding graduate student in Metropolitan State University's College of Nursing and Health Sciences. She has been a nurse at St. Luke's Hospital for the past six years, as well as serving for the Air National Guard where she spent some time in Iraq.

JEFFREY WIENKE JR., '04,

Fort Dodge, IA, recently graduated from medical school in Des Moines, IA, and is beginning his residency at Trinity Regional Medical Center in Ft. Dodge, IA, in July.

JEFF WALDRON, '04,

Des Moines, IA, recently joined Moss & Barnett, a professional association.

TRACIE HEIM, '04,

Atlanta, GA, is pursuing a master's degree in music with a focus in choral conducting at Georgia State University.

NICOLE (ZACHARIASON) TELANDER, '04,

Chaska, MN, is a tax manager with Boulay, Heutmaker, Zibell & Co. in Minneapolis. Her husband, **PAUL TELANDER, '02**, is a tax manager with Grant Thornton in Minneapolis.

AMY (KUBISTA) CRABTREE, '04,

Mankato, MN, is a dental hygienist with Wells Family Dental in Wells, MN. Her husband, **RYAN CRABTREE, '01**, is a commercial loan officer with First National Bank Minnesota in Mankato. They have one son, Aiden.

MICHAEL WEBSTER, '05,

St. Paul, MN, graduated in May from Florida Coastal School of Law with a Doctorate of Jurisprudence.

KAIL DECKER, '05,

Green Bay, WI, is an assistant city attorney with the City of Green Bay, WI.

JONATHAN JOHNSON, '05,

Iowa City, IA, will be the new professor of photography and digital imaging at Otterbein College in Columbus, OH in August 2009.

ERIC CROWLEY, '06,

Alameda, CA, is a season intern with the Oakland Raiders.

TAMARA (WILBERDING) FRANK, '07,

Lakeville, MN, is a contributing writer. Her husband, **PATRICK FRANK, '08**, is an associate electrical engineer for Spectrum Designs in Minneapolis.

TANYA (MUNSTERMAN) ROSENAU, '07,

Raymond, MN, is a banquet sales coordinator with Prairie's Edge Casino Resort in Granite Falls, MN.

SAMANTHA MARANO, '08,

Corbin, KY, lives in Corbin, KY, with her husband **JOHN WIGGINS, '08**.

LAURA HORNICK, '08,

Madison, WI, is working on her clinical doctorate in audiology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She plans to graduate in May 2012.

ANNA TRENTA, '08,

Maplewood, MN, is a nurse with Crutchfield Dermatology in Eagan, MN.

STACY GRAMENTZ, '08,

Waseca, MN, is a teacher in the Waseca School District. She plans to marry Kyle Collins in August 2009.

SIMRIK TULADHAR, '09,

Mankato, MN, is living in Mankato.

GRADS MAKE GREAT EMPLOYEES.

Minnesota State Mankato should know — alumni make up more than 30% of our faculty and staff.

Explore job postings at
www.mnsu.edu/humanres/vacancy.





in memoriam

1920s

*Edna V. (Halvorsen) Baker '27
Clara Alvena (Anderson) Lamina '27*

1930s

*Frieda Emma Esther (Krueger) Feeken '30
Esther Freda (Van Sickle) Talsness '31
Erna Elizabeth (Bouman) Dorn '32
Martha Dee (Schwartz) Guthrie '34, '38
Donna C. (Cuddy) Wolfe '36
Marion K. (Kerr) Habben '37
Elaine Harriet (Warner) Hofslund '38, '40
Lenore Margaret (Sampson) Wilson '39, '62*

1940s

*Robert Charles Bates '41
Ellen Villameana (Forsberg) DeBlieck '41
Jean M. (Augustadt) Mauch '41
Florence Lucille (Sutton) Roth '41
Caroline Clara (Peterson) Sassenberg '43
Ella Marie Lausen '45
Marian Lois (Bleck) Degner-Mathwig '47, '77
Betty M. Granger '47, '51
John W. Pagelkopf '47
Inez Madeline Mertz '49, '65*

1950s

*Clarence Edward Thompson '50
Charlotte Anne (Cope) Venn '50
Betty LaVerne (McCorkell) Daniels '51
Beatrice J. Mickelson '52, '58
Donald A. Rice '52
Thomas Jefferson Smith '53
James Dean Mortland '54
Virginia Adele Bean '55
Thomas J. Fowles '55
Anita Shirley (High) Henry '56
Allyn Howard Nelson '56
Myrtle Irene (Harbo) Edwards '58, '65
Sue Alice (Fowler) Roberts '59*

1960s

*Edward Luverne Anderson '60
Jack D. Reese '60
Kathleen Francis (Breuer) Krugel '61*

1970s

*Robert Charles Scheuble '61
Carmen Wilson Jones '62
Marjorie E. (Lurth) Augustinovich '63
LouAnn (Middelkamp) Dove '63
Terry Gordon McAnnany '63
Morris Dean Hallquist '64, '67
James Alfred Laursen '64
Dorothy Jean (Anderson) McAdams '64
Larry R. Miller '64 '75
Arvin F. Loosbrock '65
Mildred Ann Swezey '65
Ruth Wilhelmina (Zieske) Dallmann '66
Charles Hoiland Gilbertson '66
Darlene Delores (Chapman) Jurgens '66
Michael Joseph Ryan '66
Alden Harland Balfany '67
Judy Lila Nelle (Hynes) Burnett '68
Jane A. (Hinners) Engh '68, '80
Lorraine Mae (Johnson) Patten '68
Dean W. Abraham '69
Leonard J. Schrom '69*

1980s

*Rosemary (Connors) Doescher '70
Keith Henry Weagel '70
Lorraine Libby (Jacobson) Coller '71
Elfrieda M. (Clara) Eykyn '71
Harold T. Hjermstad '71
Helen G. (Tonneson) Fleckenstein '72
John Steven Gridl '72
Jerome LaRue Harrington '72
Rodney Lee Ouverson '72
Ellen P. (Sill) Sorenson '72
James Roger Guckeen '73
Russell J. Krautkremer '73
Stanley M. Lyndgaard '73
Patrick M. Burnell '74
Mark L. Lahey '74
Wilma H. (Olson) Arens '75
Rebecca Pauline (Zwirner) Brown '76
Gloria Jean (Paslay) Carran '76
James Ralph Maness '75, '76
Roger Francis Walser '76
Thomas Edward Wiebler '76
Allen John Frank '78
Scott Gunnar Sand '78*

ALUMNI UPDATE

Please list any career changes, awards, honors, marriages, births or memorial information you'd like to see in TODAY and at www.MSUGrads.com. Due to publication schedules, your news may not appear in the next issue. Class Notes may be edited for length and clarity.

MAIL: Editor, TODAY

232 Alumni Foundation Center

Mankato, MN 56001

FAX: 507-389-2069 E-MAIL: today@mnsu.edu

ONLINE: www.mnsu.edu/alumni/update

ABOUT YOU

Name (*including maiden*) _____

Graduation year(s) _____

Major(s) _____

Degree(s) _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____

Preferred e-mail _____

Professional title or position _____

Employer _____

Employer's address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work phone _____

ABOUT YOUR SPOUSE / PARTNER

Name (*including maiden*) _____

Graduation year (*if Minnesota State Mankato graduate*) _____

Professional title or position _____

Employer _____

Employer's address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work phone _____

Notes _____

1980s

Darlyne Geneva (Johnson) Engebretson '81

Julie Ann (Kuelbs) Smith '81

Joey Lee Erickson '82

Beth Colette (Henney) Henney-Krause '84

Brian Lowell Knippel '86

Kay Frances (McDonald) Hawkins '87

1990s

Jill Renee (Guse) Berry '92

Nicola (Studier) Buchanan '93

Yaya Kabba Kamara '93

Joyce Ann (Sykes) Caston '94

David Richard Loeffler '94

Lynda D. (VanAtta) Pitkin '94

Paul Ralph Sorensen '94

Dana Vincent Paige '96

Stuart E. Desjarlait '99, '04

Michal R. (Elliot) Reynolds '99

Jessica Nadine Rick '99

2000s

Barry Wayne Loos '01

Katie Ann Nelson '06

FRIENDS

Charles R. Lind

James C. O'Neill

FACULTY AND STAFF

Rosemary (Connors) Doescher

Helmer A. Engh

Arthur C. Lindberg

Michal R. (Elliot) Reynolds

Keith Henry Weagel

To notify TODAY of alumni, faculty or staff members who have passed away, please send an obituary or funeral program to University Development, 126 Alumni Foundation Center, Mankato, MN 56001. If you wish to notify us via email, or would like a copy of an obituary for someone listed above, please contact Connie Wodtke at connie.wodtke@mnsu.edu or 507-389-6762.

TODAY

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Mankato, MN 56001

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SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 3

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Johnny Holm band, a bonfire, fireworks, President
Davenport's pancake breakfast, and more.

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the Alumni Relations and Special Events office at 507-389-3235.