

alumni magazine
Fall 2014

today

 MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO



★★★ **SUPPORTING
OUR TROOPS** ★★★

Minnesota State Mankato helped these six veterans find a way to help other vets

FEATURES



8 SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

Minnesota State Mankato helped six vets figure out what to do next. Now they are helping other vets navigate the return home as well.

BY JOE TOUGAS '86

14 BEYOND THE BUILDING

The Dean of the College of Allied Health and Nursing discusses the impact the new Clinical Sciences Building will have on the college, its students and the community.

BY SARA GILBERT FREDERICK



12 AND THE BAND PLAYED ON

Clayton Tiede led the University's marching band for 30 years—and he couldn't be happier to see the band return this fall.

BY DREW LYON

16 FROM PINS TO MEDALS

Former Maverick wrestler Tom Block recovers from his greatest escape.

BY WAYNE CARLSON '03



DEPARTMENTS

- 3 FROM PRESIDENT DAVENPORT
- 4 FOUNTAIN FODDER
- 5 OUR SPACES
- 6 MAVERICK SCENE
- 18 CLASS NOTES/IN MEMORIAM

ON THE COVER

Veterans and Minnesota State Mankato alumni (left to right) Mike McLaughlin, Luke Weinandt, Chad Curran, Chris Hinton, Felicia VandelNest and Dave Wentzel. Photo by Pat Christman.

READ MORE ONLINE

- > Read about the new book about the history of Minnesota's boundaries from Professor Emeritus William Lass.
- > Catch up with classmates through our online Class Notes.
- > Find more pictures from alumni events and University activities.
- > Read up-to-date news from the University.

Visit today.mnsu.edu regularly to find all of this and more.

Richard Davenport, President

Marilyn Wells, Provost and Senior Vice President,
Academic Affairs

David Jones, Vice President for Student Affairs and
Enrollment Management

Mike Gustafson, Interim Vice President for Strategic
Business, Education and Regional Partnerships

Ed Clark, Vice President for Technology and CIO

R. Kent Clark, Vice President for University
Advancement

Richard J. Straka, Vice President for Finance and
Administration

today

FALL 2014 VOLUME 16 ISSUE 1

EDITOR Sara Gilbert Frederick

DESIGNER Wendy Johnston

PHOTOGRAPHERS Gregg Andersen, Kenn Busch,
Jonathan Chapman, Linda Clavel,
Chelsea Kocina, SPX Sports

PRINTER Corporate Graphics Commercial

WRITERS Wayne Carlson, Helen Healy,
Drew Lyon, Joe Tougas

PRINT COORDINATOR Doug Fenske

CONTRIBUTING STAFF Paul Allan, Karen Burger,
Ramon Pinero, Kim Rademaker,
Connie Wodtke

today is published two times per year by the Division of
University Advancement. *today* is distributed to more than
100,000 alumni and friends.

The mission of *today* is to entertain, to inform and to connect
the reader to the campus. *today* welcomes story ideas
supporting this mission. Full manuscripts are not accepted.
today is not responsible for unsolicited material.

today is copyrighted in its entirety. This volume and all articles,
images and photographs within may not be reproduced in any
form without written permission of the editor.

ADDRESS CHANGES & CLASS NOTES: Send to *today*, Class
Notes & Address Changes, Minnesota State University,
Mankato, 232 Alumni Foundation Center, Mankato, MN
56001, e-mail to today@mnsu.edu, by fax to 507-389-2069
or call 507-389-2523. Death announcements must be
accompanied by a memorial service program or published
newspaper obituary.

LETTERS: Send letters intended for publication to *today*,
Minnesota State University, Mankato, 232 Alumni Foundation
Center, Mankato, MN 56001, e-mail to today@mnsu.edu or
fax to 507-389-2069. *today* reserves the right to edit letters
for space and clarity. Include name, address, graduation
year and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters are
not considered for publication. All letters become property of
today. Submission of your letter constitutes your permission to
publish it.



Member of the Minnesota State
Colleges & Universities System
and an Affirmative Action/Equal
Opportunity University.

This document is available in alternative format to individuals
with disabilities by contacting the magazine staff at the
address, e-mail, and/or fax number listed above or at
800-627-3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY).

FROM THE PRESIDENT



CONNECTING TO THE COMMUNITY

There are many reasons why I am so pleased to announce the construction of a new Clinical Sciences Building on campus and to start planning for a groundbreaking ceremony this fall. It will be a beautiful new teaching and learning facility that will provide much-needed space for faculty, staff and students in our College of Allied Health and Nursing. The new building has been designed to provide high quality care to members of our community and region, including groups and individuals who might not otherwise have access to such services. Its location east of Ford will be easily accessible and inviting, and it will feature the latest technology and equipment.

The building will house parts of three separate departments, including the School of Nursing, Department of Dental Hygiene and the Department of Speech, Hearing and Rehabilitation Services. They each provide separate clinics for teaching, learning and service, and more than 8,000 clients are served by the combined clinics each year.

Speech, Hearing and Rehabilitation Services will have new consultation rooms where they can meet privately with their clients. New technology will also be incorporated into their practicum experiences. Dental hygiene students will benefit from clinical experience in a spacious, 24-chair clinic that features state-of-the-art technology and the most modern dental equipment as well. The nursing program will have new, larger simulation labs that will help prepare future nursing graduates. All of the students will receive the unique, hands-on experience needed to succeed in their chosen fields.

I want to extend a special appreciation to our local legislators who led the charge in sponsoring bills in both the House and Senate that won bipartisan support and eventually led to final approval by Governor Dayton. Also I would be remiss if I didn't mention a gift of more than \$7.5 million to the School of Nursing from Glen and Becky Taylor for the purpose of supporting the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree and establishing the Glen Taylor Nursing Institute for Family and Society to serve students, families and communities.

Our groundbreaking event is scheduled for September 26, 2014. I invite everyone to join me on this special occasion. Please come to Homecoming too. Our new marching band will be performing in the parade and during the football game. It's been 20 years since Minnesota State Mankato has fielded a marching band, and I can't wait to see these musicians in action. I hope you will be there to participate in the festivities. Please come and get reconnected to the largest public state university in Minnesota—which is still growing. Until then, enjoy your *today* magazine. 🍂

President Richard Davenport
president@mnsu.edu

*Students will receive
the unique, hands-on
experience needed
to succeed in their
chosen fields.*

- **MIKE GUSTAFSON** has been named the **INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT OF STRATEGIC BUSINESS, EDUCATION AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS**. Gustafson, who has 30 years of business experience, will work to build partnerships that accelerate innovation and enhance economic development, research and cooperative ventures.
- **SCOTT FEE**, a former faculty member in Construction Management and associate dean for the College of Science, Engineering and Technology, has been named **DEAN OF UNIVERSITY EXTENDED EDUCATION**.
- Minnesota State Mankato and four of its business partners will **SHARE THREE MINNESOTA JOB SKILLS PARTNERSHIP GRANTS TOTALING MORE THAN \$500,000**. The grants were awarded by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development to train current and new employees.
- **STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES** received the **UNDERAGE DRINKING PREVENTION—TEEN INFLUENCER AWARD FROM MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING** for its role in the House Party event. The event, a collaboration between Minnesota State Mankato, the Mankato Department of Public Safety and the Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association, presents a mock party with simulated drinking and alcohol-influenced behaviors by student volunteers.
- The University received an **IN-KIND SOFTWARE GRANT WORTH \$325 MILLION FROM SIEMENS PRODUCT LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE**, which will allow students to use the same technology that companies around the world use daily.
- **KIMBERLY E. CONTAG**, a professor of Spanish and the coordinator of graduate studies for the Department of World Languages & Cultures, has been named **INTERIM DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES**.
- **MINNESOTA STATE MANKATO AND RIVERLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE** launched the **FUTURE MAVERICK PROGRAM**, which guarantees that students from Iowa who earn an associate's degree at Riverland and meet certain criteria will receive admission and in-state tuition rates at Minnesota State Mankato.
- The American Public Works Association awarded Minnesota State Mankato's **LATINO ENGINEERING & ACADEMIC DAY (LEAD) ITS 2014 DIVERSITY EXEMPLARY PRACTICES AWARD**. LEAD, which is coordinated by the Division of Institutional Diversity and the College of Science, Engineering and Technology, has served more than 1,200 Latino high school students in its six-year history.
- Minnesota State Mankato has been **SELECTED TO HOST THE 2015 UPPER MIDWEST REGIONAL HONORS CONFERENCE**. More than 200 students from the region will have an opportunity to present scholarly and creative projects at the conference.
- Three-dimensional printing company **EXONE DONATED AN X1-LAB PRINTER** to the Department of Automotive and Manufacturing Technology for use in teaching and research.
- **FIFTY MINNESOTA STATE MANKATO STUDENTS PRESENTED AT THE MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES RESEARCH CONFERENCE OF SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY**, which took place at Minnesota State University Moorhead in April.
- **THE UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES PROGRAM**, a graduate program offered by the College of Education, **EARNED A "NATIONAL RECOGNITION" DESIGNATION** from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and the American Library Association.



Corner Completed

The corner of Ellis and Stadium has been a work in progress since 2005, when the Otto Arena Recreation Center project started. When the landscaping was finished last fall, the final pieces of the gateway to campus were complete.

6



Now we have a welcoming entryway into campus.

- 1** The two brick structures feature Kasota stone from local Mankato quarries and alternating purple and gold LED lights.
- 2** Wide sidewalks accommodate the increased pedestrian traffic here.
- 3** The eight four-ton limestone blocks are the work of St. Paul sculptor Steven Woodward, who named the collection “Pillars.” Seven feature names of academic disciplines—including the two that are intentionally inverted. “The University teaches students to turn a discipline upside down, inside out, to know it thoroughly and from every angle,” Woodward explained.
- 4** This blank block represents all of the unnamed disciplines. “It makes you think. That’s the point of a university,” Woodward said.
- 5** The landscaping was originally full of annuals, but maintaining that quickly became too labor intensive. Last fall, more grass was added to the area, with smaller flower beds featuring more greenery and other perennials.
- 6** The goal of the project was to clearly mark the entry to campus and create a welcoming gateway at this prominent corner. 🌿

HONORING OUR ALUMNI



Eight alumni were honored at the Distinguished Alumni Awards banquet in April, including Aaron Owens '05 shown here **(1)** with Patti Kramlinger, the director of development for the College of Science, Engineering and Technology; and Suresh Matthews '75, shown accepting his award from President Davenport **(2)**. The other honorees at the event **(3)** were Dirk Derksen '67, '69; Cindy Firkins Smith '81; Robert Gebhard '69; Geraldine Colby '69, '72; Todd Pflingsten '89, '93; and Patrick Sexton '85. Nominations for the 2015 Distinguished Alumni Awards are now being accepted at mnsu.edu/alumni/awards/nomination.

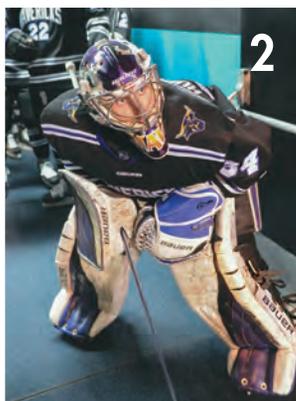


THE PUCK STOPS HERE

The Mavericks men's hockey team enjoyed a spectacular 2013-14 season that included a trip to Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids, Mich., where fans Paul Hanson '84 and his daughter Jessica Hanson '14 **(1)** were on hand to see the team defeat Bowling Green 4-0. Although the Mavericks' season ended a week later in Worcester, Mass., fans appreciated the play of goalie Cole Huggins **(2)** and forwards Teddy Blueger **(3)** and Matt Leitner **(4)**.



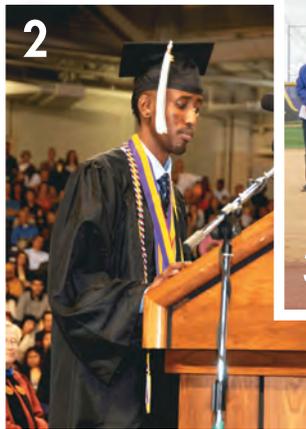
Photo used with permission of MLIVE/Landov.



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

POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCES

Approximately 1,600 students graduated in ceremonies in Taylor Center (1) on May 10, including Abdullahi Abdullahi (2), who was selected as the speaker for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Members of the Mavericks softball team, who were playing in the NCAA Central Region playoffs that day, had a separate celebration in which the graduates—including Kelly Wood (3) crossed home plate on the way to their diplomas. The graduates (4) included Aimee Burandt, Lauryn Morris, Mollie Bjelland, Brittany Lauterbach, Lindsay Ericson and Kelly Wood.



A FAMILY TRADITION

When 13 members of one family have a connection to Minnesota State Mankato, you can certainly call it tradition! From left to right, standing: Gini Barke '72; Glenn Duerr '88; Kristine Gildemeister Duerr '89; Roy Barke '70, '72; David Gildemeister '94; John Shoemaker '62; Earl Gildemeister '62, '68, emeriti faculty; Elfriede Gildemeister; James Shoemaker '94; Dianne Gildemeister Shoemaker '70; Morris Gildemeister '57. Kneeling in front is Horst Graser '74, '78, and not pictured is Jan Graser '75.



SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS



Minnesota State Mankato helped these six vets figure out what comes next. Now they are helping fellow vets navigate the return home as well.

By Joe Tougas '86

Dave Wentzel came back from Iraq to live with a roommate whose latest accomplishment was partying with friends.

Injured paratrooper Chad Curran felt isolated in a small Iowa town, unable to relate to anyone.

Mike McLaughlin bit his tongue listening to the loud but fuzzy wisdom of classmates who'd lived little beyond their dorm rooms.

At Minnesota State Mankato, they each found their way to the Veterans Resource Center. It had a couch, a microwave, a coffeemaker—and other veterans, including Luke Weinandt, who served in Iraq; Chris Hinton, who served aboard a navy ship in the Persian Gulf; and Felicia VandeNest, who served in Kuwait.

The conversations, experiences and friendships that helped each of their transitions have now led to a network of help for veterans in southern Minnesota. Though they didn't plan it out this way, today all six are serving veterans.

"None of them initially set out to work with veterans. I worked with them all during their time here, and I know that they each had different plans," says David Schrader, director of the Veterans Resource Center. "Something happened in their experiences as students that refocused their goals."

Joint Effort

Luke Weinandt joined the Army in 2002, before the invasion of Iraq. Mike McLaughlin, who had been his friend since junior high, was in college. Weinandt called him in 2003.

"You can't tell anyone," Weinandt told him, "but I'm going to Iraq in the fall."

McLaughlin, the son of a Vietnam veteran, returned to his apartment, where his roommates were playing video games. "I looked around and

thought, ‘Do I want to sit on the sidelines or do I want to go out and serve?’” he says. “The next morning I got up early—early for a 19-year-old—and went to the Marine recruiter.” Thirteen weeks later, in December 2004, McLaughlin was on his way to the Persian Gulf.

As McLaughlin started his service, Weinandt finished his and returned to Mankato. At 24, he entered Minnesota State Mankato. Soon, he was joined by McLaughlin.

Both spent quiet time at the Veterans Resource Center, where they could study, relax and tell stories, jokes and observations that seemed out of place elsewhere on campus. Among fellow veterans, however, they needed no context.

Weinandt and McLaughlin became concerned with the number of vets who were leaving school because of non-payment, despite assumptions that tuition would be paid by the GI Bill. “For me, our public service started then,” Weinandt says. He and McLaughlin saw helping vets as an extension of what they had done in Iraq: Fixing things.

Weinandt and McLaughlin brought the issue up at an open forum with Congressman Tim Walz at the Mankato VFW in 2009. They were later invited to participate in talks with Walz and Speaker of the U.S. House Nancy Pelosi. A new, streamlined GI Bill payment system was implemented in 2010 that allowed a vet’s tuition funds to go straight from the government to colleges. More vets stayed in school as a result.

Today, both work for the Mankato branch of Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, a nonprofit organization designed to help veterans. Weinandt is an outreach manager, making sure services are available to the lower 40 counties of Minnesota (Mankato is one of three statewide

regions of the MACV). McLaughlin is the outreach case manager, meeting with other vet agencies in those lower 40 counties.

First-hand Experience

Chad Curran describes what happened to him in military terms: It was a “high-altitude entanglement.”

He and another paratrooper leaped out of a plane simultaneously during a training jump. Their chutes intertwined. When they untangled, Curran’s chute wasn’t working. “I pulled my reserve parachute 200 feet from the ground. It deployed a little bit. When I hit the ground I was knocked out.”

Curran knew by age 9 that he would be in the service, and he enlisted at age 17. He served 14 months in and around Kuwait, then became an airborne instructor and Infantry Officer’s Basic Course Instructor. Then came the high-altitude entanglement. Months after the fall, he started having seizures and was diagnosed with traumatic brain injury.

“They said I couldn’t perform my duty in a worldwide theater without causing harm to myself or soldiers,” he says as though reading the order verbatim. “And they medically separated me from military service. Now I’m medically retired.”

After the service, Curran worked at several jobs in the South. He moved from Georgia to a small town in Iowa, where he found himself increasingly alone in his thoughts. “That’s when the drinking really kicked in,” he says. “Nobody could relate to me, and I couldn’t relate to anybody else. I couldn’t talk to anybody about what was going on with my frustrations, with being medically separated, with being overseas,

with being in the desert. Or some of the great times I had in the military.”

Curran’s wife encouraged him to try school. After a visit to Minnesota State Mankato and a meeting with Schrader, he enrolled in January 2009 to pursue his chemical dependency counseling degree. He was 34.

“I was going to the VRC every single day,” he recalls. “I talked to other vets, talked about cares and concerns that the normal 18- to 20-year-old student really can’t relate to ... You’ve got fellow veterans going through the same thing.”

He obtained his four-year degree and completed his internship in just two years, then began working with Blue Earth County’s drug court, which offers an alternative to jail time for non-violent drug offenders. Counseling veterans on chemical dependency issues became a niche for Curran, whose connections from the VRC translated to quick, effective connections for vets in need. “We had a network that was built up just from the VRC. People were asking me, ‘How did you get this for that veteran?’ Well, I talked to somebody I knew, and we’re building this network from within. It’s just amazing.”

About 10 percent of Curran’s caseload as a licensed alcohol and drug counselor for Blue Earth County involves veterans. His VRC connections are still strong; he emails, texts and talks with them daily, he says.

“I feel good about what I’m doing because I know I’m making a difference,” he says. “Some days it’s a lot smaller and some days, it’s huge. But it’s not my personal triumphs, it’s theirs. It’s seeing that a-ha moment in their eye. Knowing that they know that they’re not alone in the process makes my job fulfilling.”



Luke Weinandt



“I feel good about what I’m doing because I know I’m making a difference.”

—Chad Curran



“It’s vets wanting to help vets, and it’s us getting back together and doing it.”

—Chris Hinton

Network Navigator

David Wentzel is a Luverne, Minn., native who enlisted in the National Guard at 17 as a way to pay for college. He served 16 months in Iraq before returning to the United States and training soldiers to go overseas. He is still in the Guard today.

After Iraq, he enrolled at Minnesota State Mankato and found an internship in the VRC. He helped vets navigate tuition issues, helped the center organize events and even set up guides to help instructors recognize what some vets in their classrooms might be experiencing.

As a veterans advocate in Rep. Tim Walz’s office, Wentzel’s main job is to cut through red tape for the Congressman’s veteran constituents. He provides resources to vets and educates them about the services and programs that are available. He also assists the Congressman with reviewing and writing veteran-focused legislation. When it comes to

other needs, such as housing or legal issues, he refers vets to Weinandt or Chris Hinton—his comrades from the VRC.

He recalls one veteran who, due to some of his service-related disabilities, found himself in veterans court facing legal issues as well as the likelihood of homelessness after it was all over. After exhausting all resources, Wentzel was able to expedite the veteran’s VA disability claim. While the veteran was serving his three-week jail sentence, Wentzel went to the jail and told him that he had been awarded a \$24,000 back payment—which meant that he would not be homeless upon his release. “That was the best victory I’ve had in my position so far,” Wentzel says.

“We work with a very complex population with unique problems. It’s not all sunshine and rainbows,” Wentzel says. “In their worst moment we’re the ones who are going to be there to help ‘em through it.”

Finding an Oasis

Chris Hinton joined the Navy in April 2000.

“I wanted to see the world, do something different,” the Waseca, Minn., native says. “I wanted to get out, so I did.” A well-timed call by a Navy recruiter was all it took. Two weeks later, he was in boot camp.

Learning anti-submarine warfare, he put in time in San Diego and Seattle before shipping off to the Persian Gulf in 2003 and 2004 as Iraq’s post-invasion leadership was in flux. After he was discharged in 2005, Hinton started a mortgage company that hit hard times during the national mortgage crisis. In 2009, he enrolled at Minnesota State Mankato as a law enforcement major and soon discovered the Veterans Resource Center. It became an oasis for him.

“I think I was 28 at the time and for me everyone there was 19 years old, so I didn’t have anything in common with them,” he says. “That made it a lot easier, having that vets



“In their worst moment we’re the ones who are going to be there to help ’em through it.”

—Dave Wentzel



David Schrader, director of the Veterans Resource Center

“I wanted to be something a lot greater than what I could be alone.”

—Felicia VandeNest



Mike McLaughlin

center there. It gave me a place to study where I was comfortable.”

At the VRC, he met Weinandt, who helped him get a job with MACV in 2013. Hinton today is the case manager for the Fifth Judicial District’s veteran’s court, on which Curran serves as a chemical dependency counselor.

“Once they get to the point where I start offering them services, my job is to find potential barriers they may have to being successful, and help them overcome those barriers,” he says. Hinton points those vets directly to the medical, financial, legal or other help they need. Often, he refers them to fellow vets he met at Minnesota State Mankato’s VRC.

“It’s vets wanting to help vets,” he says, “and it’s us getting back together and doing it.”

A Good Place to Start

Felicia VandeNest watched the events of Sept. 11, 2001, unfold from a classroom in St.

James, Minn. Nine years later, as a 17-year-old junior, she decided to join the military.

“I wanted to be something a lot greater than what I could be alone,” VandeNest says. “I wanted the adventure, the experience and the most I could get out of life. I thought it would be a good place to start, to serve my country.”

VandeNest served in Kuwait in 2011 and 2012. She had been attending Southern Minnesota State University before her deployment, and she worked with the veterans center there to help soldier/students return to college with as few hassles as possible. After serving in Kuwait, she transferred to Minnesota State Mankato and found the VRC eager to help her.

She worked on an undergraduate research project about the military stereotypes held by students and veterans; 47 veterans at Minnesota State Mankato participated in her survey. VandeNest’s research was presented at conferences in Chicago and Kentucky, and



Chris Hinton

it clarified her career path—to work as a clinical psychologist for the VA as well as the military itself.

“I’ve heard from a lot of veterans that they don’t want to talk to psychologists at the VA because they’re civilian. And they don’t understand how hard it is, the difficulties of being a veteran ... I think I might be able to be someone they could relate with more.” ☞



The marching band in brand new uniforms for Homecoming in 1979



The marching band performing during a football game in 1987, three years before Clayton Tiede's retirement.

And the Band Played On

For 30 years, Clayton Tiede led the University's marching band. He couldn't be happier to see the band return this fall.

By Drew Lyon

There is no one happier to witness the revival of the Minnesota State Mankato marching band than Clayton Tiede.

"A marching band is part of the fabric of university life," says Tiede, who was the University's marching band director from 1960 to 1990. "It's a catalyst for enthusiasm. I was so pleased when I met President Davenport at Homecoming a few years ago and, bless his soul, he said they were looking into rejuvenating the marching band."

The University is honoring Tiede this fall, anointing him as the Grand Marshal at the 2014 Homecoming Parade.

"I guess I'm just going to ride on a float and wave," Tiede says. "Anything I can do for the marching band, I want to help."

"Clayton's been a huge supporter of our program," confirms Michael Thursby, the new Maverick Machine Athletic Bands director. "It's been great getting to know him; he knows the ins and outs of this campus better than anyone I've talked to."

During his three decades as director, the original Maverick Marching Machine became a ubiquitous fixture at University athletic and social events. They even played during halftime at three Minnesota Vikings' games and were featured on a national telecast. At its peak, it included 110 members.

"It became very important to the music department," Tiede says. "There were some good times with that band."

Tiede's father was a clarinetist, and young Clayton followed suit. He was a member of the symphony orchestra in his hometown of Rochester, as well as Austin. After teaching music in Rochester, he was recruited to the Mankato Symphony Orchestra on the strength of his oboe

and woodwind instrumental prowess. He was hired at then-Mankato State as an assistant to Dr. Herbert Owen, who eventually turned the marching band over to him. "And I guess we built it up into something pretty big and popular with the students," Tiede says.

Tiede embraced an irreverent approach to his marching machine. He concedes he's not a fan of rock and roll, but he listened to his students' suggestions and added pop songs to the band's repertoire.

Thursby praised Tiede's foresight in incorporating non-traditional marches. Today, it's common to hear marching arrangements of popular songs at athletic events.

"Before he was director, they would play strictly marches," Thursby says. "He was one of the guys who said, well, no one wants to be at a sporting event and listen to that; they want something to pump them up. And that's when he brought in pop music and more contemporary styles."

Tiede became locally famous when he was briefly arrested and cited by a rookie Mankato police officer for "marching without a parade permit." He had lined his band up on Fifth Street, near the Old Main campus when a cop stopped them and arrested Tiede. "I said, 'OK, what do you want to do, take me to the station?' He didn't know what to do!"

The confusion was quickly settled when it was established that Tiede had a standing marching permit, but the local press picked up on it. "There was a headline: 'Local band director arrested,'" he remembers. "We got all sorts of publicity."

After Tiede retired in 1990, his beloved marching band was phased out. "It just sort of faded away," he says. "I was really depressed to see the thing go."



Tiede and his wife, Eunice, started wintering in Mesa, Ariz., where he attended a local marching band rehearsal. "It wasn't very good," he recalls. "They had 16 members at the time, and they were doing Mickey Mouse stuff."

Tiede asked if he could work with the musicians. They agreed, and he soon became musical director. That little band is now a full-blown concert band with 60 members, including six former students from Mankato who had also retired near Mesa. Although they love to tease their musical mentor, Tiede is quick to remind his pupils who still calls the shots: "I say, 'Hey, don't forget, I can still change your grade.'"

Thursby was hired in fall 2013, and the renewal of the marching and pep bands at Minnesota State Mankato was hatched in earnest. Last year, 50 students registered for the band; at least 80 are signed up this year.

"You can tell there's an interest there," Thursby says, "because the students are coming in like crazy. They come from all over campus—probably 75 percent are non-music majors. It's an opportunity for them to keep playing music."

The pep band performed at football, hockey and basketball games last season. Thursby has three different marching band shows planned for football games this season—including spelling out "MSU" on the field.

"I think Mike is doing a great job," Tiede says. "He's a good man, and very energetic."

Thursby hopes Tiede will direct a performance of "The Star Spangled Banner" during Homecoming. He says it's a small nod to the legacy Tiede left at Minnesota State Mankato.

"Legacy is the perfect word," Thursby says, "because this program wouldn't exist without him." ♪

Beyond the Building



Dean Kristine Retherford talks about the impact the new Clinical Sciences Building will have on the college, its students and the community.

By Sara Gilbert Frederick

Kristine Retherford started each of the presentations she gave to lawmakers over the past two years the same way: “I am a proud alumna of Minnesota State Mankato,” the dean of the College of Allied Health and Nursing, who graduated with a degree in speech pathology in 1973, would say. “Forty years ago, I received my clinical preparation in the exact same footprint that inadequately serves this program today.”

Now, on a table in her office, a thick stack of architectural drawings represents the new and improved footprint that was officially funded through the Minnesota Jobs Bill last May. It’s hard for Retherford

to contain her excitement as she flips through the pages. She points out the large, open clinical spaces for dental hygiene and the new private consultation rooms for speech and hearing. She counts the planned simulation labs for nursing students—six total, a threefold increase over what is available now. She shows how the classrooms will be designed to accommodate small-group, hands-on learning.

Retherford certainly isn’t the only one looking forward to the completion of the new building in 2016. But as the dean, and as a former student, she has a unique perspective on the impact this building will have on the college, its students and the community as well.

TODAY MAGAZINE: Were you surprised when you returned to campus in 2012 and found the clinical spaces much the same as when you left in 1973?

KRISTINE RETHERFORD: I was surprised by the size—that it hadn't grown. The demand for speech and language pathologists has increased, but the space for the program hasn't grown. And the dental hygiene program, too. It was founded 40 years ago, and the clinic is still in the same place it was then—the basement of Morris Hall. Can you imagine 40 years with no windows?

TM: Both of the clinics in this building—dental hygiene and speech, language and hearing—have been serving the community for decades. How will this building allow them to better serve the community?

KR: It makes us more accessible. Right now, the Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic has two reserved parking spots, which are behind Pennington. There are no reserved spaces for the Dental Hygiene Clinic. The students are actually paying for their patients to park in the pay lot; they buy the passes for them. The new building has parking spots, which will be better.

And it will make what we do more visible to the community, too. There are still a lot of people who don't even know that these services are available here.

TM: How do you see the College of Allied Health and Nursing changing because of this building? What will it allow you and your departments to do?

KR: It will allow for even more collaboration between programs in the college. In the public clinic, for example, we have three rooms that are designated as collaborative exam and consultation rooms. We will be able to bring in faculty and students from other disciplines to consult, collaborate and conduct research.

TM: Is that something that isn't happening so much right now?

KR: No, it's not, because our programs are so spread out across campus. And they still will be, but we see this building as a real encouragement to do more collaboration. We worked hard to make sure that every unit would feel like they have space in the building. There are five classrooms that will provide flexible learning

space for the whole college. There are skills labs that everyone will use. And there is a conference room for up to 24 people, which will accommodate large group meetings. We don't have that now.

TM: Who do you think will benefit the most from this new building?

KR: Ultimately, the students do. You can't diminish the impact it will have on the community, but our mission is to provide the best preparation possible for our students. They need real-world experience with real people in order to get that. This building will help them get that. And then, they will be better prepared as professionals to go out and meet the needs of patients in the community as well.

TM: What are you most looking forward to when this building is completed?

KR: Being able to showcase the wonderful work that goes on in this college as we prepare students for future careers in allied health professions. ☞

"I see this building as a real encouragement to do more collaboration." —Kristine Retherford





From Pins to Medals

A former Maverick wrestler recovers from his greatest escape.

By Wayne Carlson '03

On the mats of Rummy Macias Wrestling Complex on the campus of Minnesota State University, Mankato, the foundation of an American hero was built.

It was there that Tom Block learned what he could be, before becoming all he could be.

“The best thing about being a wrestler is that you learn about adversity,” Block says. “You learn what you’re capable of as a man. And you learn to pull your own weight as a part of a team. If you don’t succeed on the mat, someone else has to pick up the slack. Any day in the wrestling room was just as hard as any day I spent in the Army. I had been prepared by wrestling to handle adversity, and that made my transition into the Army easy for me.”

Block was born and raised on a southern Minnesota farm and wrestled at Waseca High School, where he made the state final and captained the Blue Jays team his senior season. He was ready to enlist in the Army immediately following graduation before being offered a scholarship to wrestle as a Maverick.

“Plus, I could be close to home, help out on the farm, and my family could come watch me wrestle,” Block recalls. “And there was a really good recruiting class coming in that I was pretty excited to be a part of.

“When I got the opportunity to wrestle in college I wasn’t going to give that up. I just wanted to take wrestling as far as it was going to take me and succeed at it as much as I could.”

While studying construction management, Block wrestled for the Mavericks from 2005-09, and in 2008 was a part of the team that won the National Duals, a meet featuring the top 16

Division II teams in the country. After his collegiate athletics career ended, it was time to re-engage the previous plan to serve his country. In 2010, he joined the Army.

Block flourished from the moment he laced up his boots, earning his Ranger contract while in boot camp, attending the prerequisite airborne school and finally the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program, where his performance commanded attention. He was one of 38 in his class of 160 to graduate the program, earning not only the tan beret reserved for the U.S. Army’s 75th Ranger Regiment, but also several significant awards recognizing superior achievement in the program.

His fourth deployment was to southern Afghanistan, where Block’s fast track military career hit a roadblock in October 2013.

“It was a deployment just like any other except it was a more high profile mission in the sense that we were going after people who had already tried to perform suicide bombings,” Block explains.

While attempting to root out insurgents, Sgt. Block and fellow Rangers entered a compound and saw a man and woman sitting in the courtyard. Block ordered the man to walk toward him with hands up and grabbed him when he approached. That’s when the woman ran towards Block. When she was just eight feet away from him, she detonated the bomb strapped to her body.

Block was blown back 35 feet and landed in a minefield, severely injured. Four soldiers died on that mission. More than 20 others were wounded.

Since that day, Block’s ability to overcome adversity and push himself to new limits—skills he attributes to his wrestling career—have been tested in ways most could not imagine. Of course, he’s passed every one of those tests.

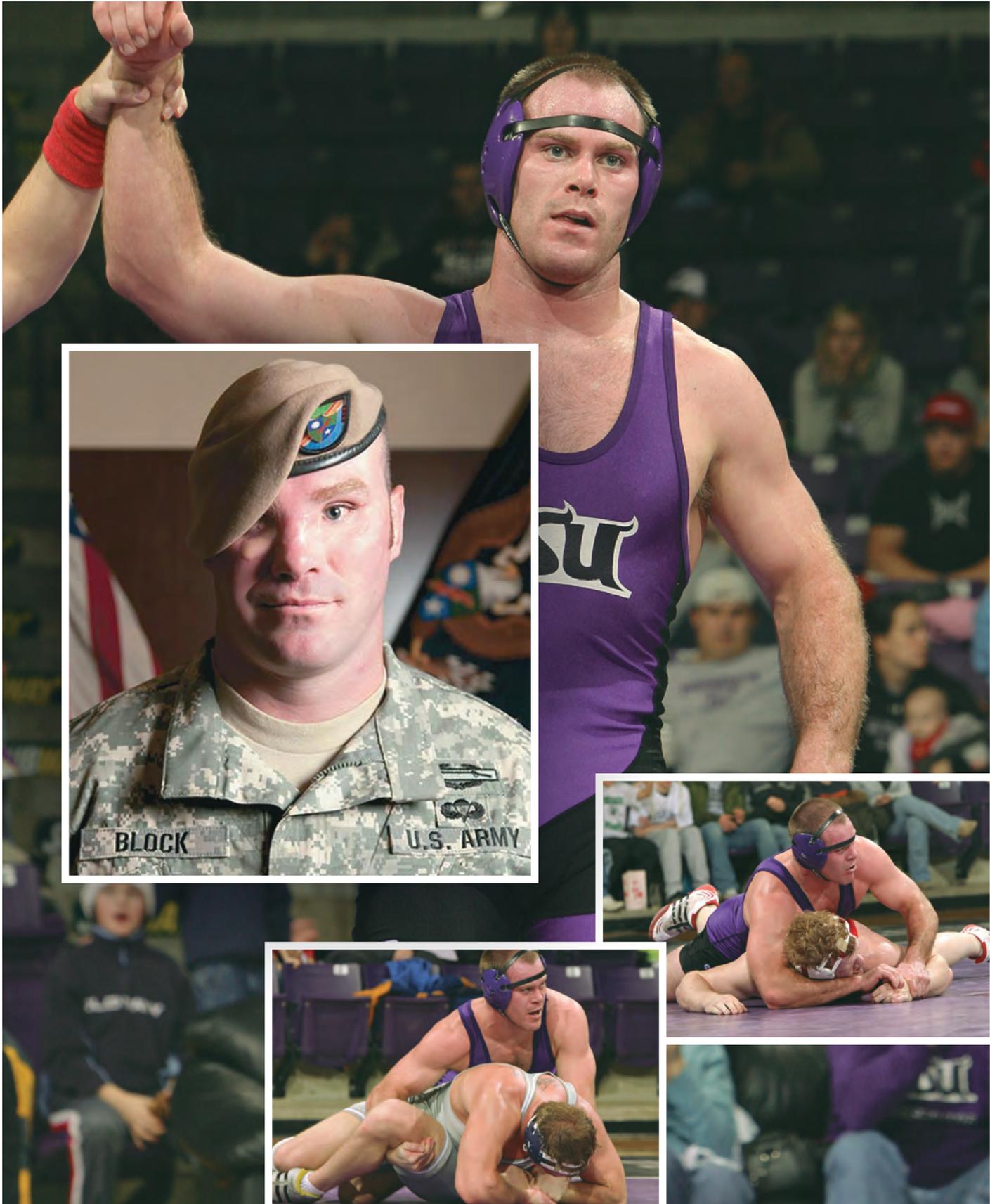
Block has endured six surgeries so far; there may be as many left to go. He learned to walk again. Doctors rebuilt his ocular bone. His nose. And his cheekbone, which is now fitted with a titanium plate. He lost his right eye. The vision in his left has been preserved to a point that he can see at 20/60.

But perhaps the most remarkable part of his story is the positivity with which he is able to tell it. The Army Times named Block its 2014 Soldier of the Year, in part because of the inspiration he offers not only to fellow Rangers but throughout the U.S. Army.

“When people want to talk to me about my experience, I just try to accommodate,” Block says. “I just try to take 10 minutes here and there to talk to them and convey a positive attitude.”

Surgeries and award ceremonies have the Army Ranger’s schedule pretty full at the moment. But there’s something else he’s been wrestling with lately. Something that just might bring him back to where this story began.

“I’m going to finish up my degree as soon as I can,” Block says. “I want to finish what I started there. It’s the only thing I really regret in my life, is not finishing my college education. I don’t really regret much of anything in my life. But I want to finish that up. In a bad way.” ☞



classnotes

► 1950s

DOLORES (SMITH) PETERS '55, Mountain Lake, MN, is a retired kindergarten teacher who taught for 38 years. She currently is an R.S.V.P.-ACE volunteer, Bone Builder assistant teacher, and active at First U.M.C. in Windom.

GERAL VAN PEURSEM '58, '65, Marcell, MN, is a retired teacher who is enjoying spending time with his wife of 56 years and their family. He lives in Madeira Beach, FL, during the winter months.

ROGER HINIKER '59, Carlsbad, CA, is a retired teacher who taught for 32 years in the Oceanside Unified School District. He and his wife Arvis have two adult children and three grandchildren.

DAVID ROOT '59, Abita Springs, LA, is a retired police chief for Abita Springs. Prior to that he was a chemist with the U.S. Food & Drug Administration. He is enjoying retirement.

► 1960s

NIAL BESSINGER '60, Frostproof, FL, is connected with the University of the Americas, Design Studies, Mexico City.

ROBERT GUNDERSON '61, Rensselaer, NY, is retired.

SHARON (STARR) HOLLATZ '61, Redwood Falls, MN, is in her second term as the Redwood County Commissioner.

DONALD PHELAN '64, Coeur d'Alene, ID, is a retired senior food scientist and project manager with H.J. Heinz (Ore Ida Foods), where he received many awards for technical excellence. He and his wife of 50 years, Letha, have three children and homes in Idaho and Arizona.

JERRY RING '64 St. Cloud, MN, is living in Minnesota.

DAVID HOIEN '68, '77, Ames, IA, retired from the U.S.D.A., where he did computer work in biologics, in 2010. Prior to that he taught, was a pastor and worked in accounting. He and his wife have two adult daughters.

ALAN SCHIMELPFENIG '69, Grafton, WI, is president of the Wisconsin Crossbow Federation. He recently lobbied successfully for expanded use of crossbows in Wisconsin.

► 1970s

DIONE DETLOUGH PETERSON '70, '76, Faribault, MN, is the artistic director of the "Beau Chant" Choral Ensemble.

ED TOSTENRUD '71, Camdenton, MO, retired after working 43 years in the food manufacturing industry. He now is enjoying time with his wife, family and friends at Lake Ozark, MO.

MARYLIN BATALDEN '72, Colorado Springs, CO, taught English as a second language in China and Kazakhstan. She enjoys the people around her, and helps out by driving them to appointments. She also is enthusiastic about wildlife photography.

COLLEEN EDWARDS '72, '07, Oelwein, IA, is an assistant professor and chair, Health, Physical Education and Recreation for Upper Iowa University.

MICHAEL SUNDALL '72, Cedar Rapids, IA, is the chief executive officer with Physicians' Clinic of Iowa, PC. He has been in health care administration since 1972.

TERRY BARNETT '73, Austin, MN, is enjoying winters in Arizona.

JOSEPH FREEMAN '73, Las Vegas, NV, is retired.

HARRY GOETSCH '73, Neenah, WI, retired after 43 years at Bemis, Inc.

ANTHONY SCOTT '73, '83, Minneapolis, is a supervisor with Hennepin County.

JAMES SHEEHAN '73, Ham Lake, MN, recently was inducted into the Minnesota Grandmaster Hall of Fame for track & field accomplishments in national and world competition. He is retired.

ROBERT SIMPSON '73, Faribault, MN, is the CFP for Robert Simpson & Associates.

DR. CRAIG WALDRON '73, Roseville, MN, is the city administrator for the City of Oakdale, MN. In September, he will become a full-time faculty member at Hamline University's School of Business.

ROGER WATSON '73, Carrollton, TX, is a senior underwriter with US Risk in Dallas.

PATRICIA (JOHNSON) BRIGGS '74, Sidney, IA, retired after 39 years as a special education, elementary and life skills teacher.

GEMARIAH (HARTMANN) LOVE '75, Concord, MA, lives in Massachusetts.

JOHN SKAFF '75, Livermore, CA, retired from Nixon-Egli Equipment Co., where he had been the vice president of sales, in May. He spent 26 years with Nixon-Egli, and 39 total working in the construction equipment business.

DENNIS LAUTERBACH '77, West Des Moines, IA, is the director of finance for Lutheran Services in Iowa.

PAUL SODERQUIST '77, Mesa, AZ, is an interim pastor with Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in George, IA; he recently released a book, "The Animals We Love—The Animals of Ebenezer," which commemorates and celebrates the congregations' companion animals, both living and departed.

DAVID ENFIELD '78, '81, Sheldon, IA, retired as the owner and operator of the Sunset Motel in August, due to complications from cancer. Recently, he partnered with Reach for the Stars, Project Tsinelas, a group that helps kids and schools in poor areas of the Phillipines.

JOE SCHMID '78, Phoenix, is a senior project manager with Ryan Companies US, Inc., who recently worked on the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix and the Phoenix headquarters for the FBI.

► 1980s

DARELD NELSON '80, Edna, KS, is in supply management with John Deere. He and his wife, Carolyn, have two daughters attending college.

We love to hear about baby Mavericks! Tell us about any new additions to your family with an email to alumni@mnsu.edu—the Alumni Association would like to send a gift to you!

BILL SANKEY '80, Garner, IA, is a special agent with the State of Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation. Prior to this he was a trooper with the Iowa State Patrol.

DEAN FULMER '81, Lakeville, MN, retired from the FAA after a 30-year career in air traffic control and two-plus years with MITRE as the focal lead for commercial space transportation and traffic-flow management.

EUGENE TOBY '81, Owings Mills, MD, is president of Etam Engineering Services, LLC.

STEVE WEILAND '81, '84, Burnsville, MN, is a corporate microbiologist with PSSI, a large company responsible for cleaning and sanitation of many of the country's largest food production facilities. He has co-authored a book with his 13-year-old daughter and is active in a number of organizations.

NEIL LARSON '82, Tomball, TX, recently returned to Hewlett Packard as a converged systems project engineer. He has eight grandchildren, with number nine on the way.

LISA (TOLLEFSON) FLECK '82, '94, '95, New Ulm, MN, is chair of the Department of Dental Hygiene at Minnesota State Mankato.

KARL BUHR '83, Eagle, ID, is the president/owner of KB Orthopedics in Boise, ID.

THOMAS QUINT '83, Irving, TX, is a senior examiner—Banking Supervision Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

SCOTT NELSON '85, Scottsdale, AZ, is the president/CEO of Pool Service of Scottsdale who plans to retire this year and start touring the world.

DEANA (BZOSKIE) WALSH '85, Inver Grove Heights, MN, was named to the Minnesota Gymnastics Coaches Hall of Fame in 2014. She has been coaching gymnastics for 32 years.

COL. RICHARD KRAMER '86, Honolulu, HI, was command inspector general with the U.S. Army until he retired in July. He served more than 32 years, including 20 spent overseas in the Far East, Middle East and Europe.

SUE (BRUNS) MAIERS '87, Buffalo Lake, MN, is an SLD teacher with the GSL Schools.

BRIAN ROSENHAMMER '87, Fort Worth, TX, is living in Texas.

JOHN COTNER '88, Milwaukee, WI, recently was promoted to group supervisor with the DEA Tactical Diversion Squad in Milwaukee.

SALLY MALLAM '89, '91, Decorah, IA, is the disability services coordinator in the Student Academic Support Center at Luther College.

DEBRA OLSON-DAHL '89, Lakeville, MN, recently became the vice president of treasury with Ameriprise Financial Inc.

TODD STAHL '89, Farmington, MN, recently was promoted to facilities maintenance regional operations manager at CBRE, where he is responsible for the maintenance and repair of more than 40 commercial buildings.

PHILLIP PARRISH '89, '01, '02, Medford, MN, has worked in education, served in the U.S. military and now is running for U.S. Senate.

BECKY (CLAIRMONT) ZIEGLER '89, Bismarck, ND, is an adjunct professor with Bismarck State College.

► 1990s

SHANON (MOOSE) KNUDTSON '90, Plano, TX, was promoted to home office underwriting consultant with the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, where she works with commercial operations.

PAUL PETERSON '90, Sioux Falls, SD, joined Sanford Health as a financial analyst in January.

SHARLEEN LINDEMAN '92, Hugo, MN, is the sales and marketing manager for Herold Precision Metals. She has two daughters.

JEFFERY ROSS '92, Sauk Centre, MN, is a teacher and assistant varsity football coach at Sauk Centre Secondary School.

XIAO HONG WU '92, Ann Arbor, MI, is leading a trip to China next spring with Professor Emerita Nancy Luomala. He invites other alumni to contact him if they are interested in joining the trip.

LORI (FORD) AHLNESS '93, White Bear Lake, MN, is the president, board of directors with DVRC Association. Her husband, **ERIC AHLNESS '86**, is Colonel, director of diversity/inclusion with the Minnesota National Guard.

JENNIFER CONRAD '93, St. Paul, MN, is a statewide visitor services supervisor for Minnesota State Parks and Trails. She has been with the National Park Service for 13 years; her most recent assignment was at Yellowstone National Park.

JUDY REIMANN '94, Robbinsdale, MN, retired this year due to a physical disability.

NANCY (NISSSEN) STAUFFER '96, Buffalo, MN, is the catering director at Medina Golf & Country Club. Her husband, **BRENT STAUFFER '94**, is a utility worker for Zone One Locating.

MICHELLE (STROUP) SCHOOF '95, Mankato, MN, is the global industry marketing director, retail & wholesale distribution with SAP Labs, LLC.

ERIC STEEN '96, Sioux Falls, SD, is a corporate pilot with POET, LLC.

STACI (AUKES) THOMPSON '96, Blue Earth, MN, recently was hired as the executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Martin and Faribault counties.

RICHARD ENGEN '97, Pocatello, ID, lives in Idaho with his wife.

KATHRYN NERMÖE '97, Sioux Falls, SD, is a marketing director for Sanford Health, a nonprofit health care system. She also published "I've Got the Mission Statement, Now What?"

ADAM TYMA '97, Omaha, NE, became an associate professor and graduate program chair in the School of Communication, University of Nebraska at Omaha in August.

LAUREL ENGHOLM ANDERSON '98, '00, Escondido, CA, recently received the Distinguished Faculty Award for excellence in teaching at Palomar College in San Marcos, CA, where she is an assistant professor.

classnotes

DE WAYNE EVERETT '98, '02, Mankato, MN, recently published his first novel. A second is at a publisher and he's working on his third.

HELEN (NELSON) NEIR '98, North Mankato, MN, is a case manager assistant with Elder Care Services, Inc.

► 2000s

KATE (ROBBINS) HANSEN '00, '06, Mankato, MN, is the administrative coordinator for Feeding Our Communities Partners in North Mankato. Her husband, **BRIAN HANSEN '03**, is a principal with the Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial School District.

TERRA (FAVRO) GRUBER '01, Faribault, MN, is a bookkeeper with Community Co-op Oil Assn. She married her husband, Eddie, on Oct. 8, 2011, and is very proud of her two stepsons.

DAGMAR BECKEL-MACHYCKOVA '02, Bloomer, WI, is the owner of the Golden Calf Company—a business dedicated to changing neo-natal calf care in the dairy industry, with customers across the United States, Canada, Latin America and Europe. She gave a keynote speech at the 11th Annual Women's Business Conference in April.

KRISTI (ALBRIGHT) HERNANDEZ '02, Bemidji, MN, is a teacher with the Bemidji School District. She married her husband, Jose, on Aug. 17, 2013.

IMELDA LORI MARTZ '02, Janesville, MN, is returning to Minnesota State Mankato to further her education.

FAITH BAYEUR '03, Minneapolis, is a registered nurse in St. Louis Park, MN.

MELYNDA (MADISON) CLAUSEN '03, Park City, KS, is the lead preschool teacher at La Petite Academy in Wichita, KS. She and her husband have been married for 11 years and have two children. She is thankful each time her military husband returns from action.

AMBER HANSON '03, Hudson, WI, is the owner/manager of Ally Supportive Services in South St. Paul, MN, which provides housing services to homeless adults in Dakota County. She also serves as president of the nonprofit

Ministering Angels Closet. She and her husband have two children.

STEVEN HEISE '04, Westborough, MA, received his Ph.D. in history from Clark University in May.

JEN (HANDLIN) RAY '04, Paw Paw, MI, is the owner of Renewal Rentals in Kalamazoo.

JOSHUA BARTA '05, Minneapolis, is in leadership development with Cru. His wife, **ROSE BARTA '07**, is a stay-at-home mother who just had their third child.

MICKY FITCH '05, Superior, WI, became the director of Residential Life at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth in July. She enjoys working with the students there, and sharing her home with her cat Coho and dogs Zen and Alix.

ERIK HOFFMAN '05, Rochester, MN, works at the Mayo Clinic in the cytogenetics lab.

KEIICHI MATSUDA '05, Sapporo, Japan, earned a post-graduate degree in human factors and accident investigation from Cranfield University in England and now is employed by China Airlines headquartered in Taipei, Taiwan.

JENNIFER (BRUNS) MYERS '05, St. Paul, MN, and her husband, **THOMAS MYERS '09**, relocated from Mankato to St. Paul, where Tom teaches high school math and Jen is the director of healthy living at the Blaisdell YMCA.

STACY (HIRSCH) STRAND '05, Redwood Falls, MN, is a county agency social worker for Southwest Health and Human Services.

ELIZABETH CAREY '07, Miami, is an urban planning intern with the City of Fort Lauderdale.

BRAD HEITZINGER '07, Seattle, is an attorney with Oshan & Associates, P.C.

JANICE DUMLAP '08, Chaska, MN, has published five books. She was one of the featured authors at the Author Brunch for the St. Peter Reads Festival at Gustavus Adolphus College last spring.

GREGORY GEHRMAN '09, Cottage Grove, MN, works in corrections for Dakota County in Hastings, MN.

JONATHAN KENT '09, Hicksville, NY, lives in New York.

BRIAN LEONHARDI '09, Mankato, MN, is a customer service/manufacturers' representative with EI Microcircuits/EI Sales. His wife, **AMBER LEONHARDI '11**, is a first-grade teacher at Hoover Elementary.

► 2010s

JERALD WUORENMAA '10, '11, Hancock, MI, is a planner with the Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Region in Houghton, MI.

HOLLY SULLINS '11, Wellpinit, WA, is a special education teacher with Wellpinit School District #49 who planned to move to the San Diego area over the summer.

DAVID STOUGAARD '12, Fairmont, MN, is a consultant.

MURPHY (CONRAD) GROTEWOLD '13, Bloomington, IN, will be attending the Indiana University School of Optometry in the fall. Her husband, **BLAKE GROTEWOLD '13**, is a software developer with Cornerstone Information Systems.

DREW SHORT '13, Hopkins, MN, is an associate Java developer with Cargill. His partner, **KALEB SHORT '13**, currently is a graduate student at Minnesota State Mankato.

► Faculty and Staff

ROGER RUSH, a former assistant professor of human performance and assistant women's basketball coach (1989-1995), retired from public education in 2012. He and his wife Vicki have been married for 37 years and have two children. They live in LeRoy, Mich.

► Friends

PRESTON LOUGHEED, the general manager of Courtyard Mankato, announced that the hotel received the 2013 Platinum Award from Marriott Hotels.

Homecoming Week 2014

September 29–October 4

Join students, faculty, staff and other alumni at any of the Homecoming festivities this year. For a complete list of events, visit mnsu.edu/homecoming/schedule/

Monday, September 29	
7 P.M.	Homecoming Kick-Off - Performing Arts Lawn
8 P.M.	Outdoor Bash with DJ and Light Show - Performing Arts Lawn
Wednesday, October 1	
2-4 P.M.	Ice Cream Social for alumni who are employed by Minnesota State Mankato, Alumni Arch and Bell Tower (RSVP required)
Thursday, October 2	
7:30 P.M.	Disney's Beauty and the Beast by the Theatre & Dance Department
7:30 P.M.	Communist Daughter performing at Halling Recital Hall
Friday, October 3	
6 P.M.	Athletic Hall of Fame Recognition Dinner, Centennial Student Union Ballroom (RSVP required)
7 P.M.	Homecoming Concert
7 P.M.	Volleyball vs. Minnesota Crookston, Bresnan Arena
7:30 P.M.	Disney's Beauty and the Beast by the Theatre & Dance Department
Saturday, October 4	
9 A.M.	Homecoming Alumni 5K, Fitness Trail
9-11 A.M.	President's Free Community Pancake Breakfast, behind Blakeslee Stadium
11:30 A.M.	Homecoming Parade
1-3 P.M.	Alumni Tent behind Blakeslee Stadium
1 P.M.	Soccer vs. Minnesota State Moorhead
2 P.M.	Football vs. Southwest Minnesota State, Blakeslee Stadium
2 P.M. & 7:30 P.M.	Disney's Beauty and the Beast by the Theatre & Dance Department
4:30-6:30 P.M.	Golden Mavericks Reunion, Johnson Alumni Room, Taylor Center
5 P.M.	Volleyball vs. Bemidji State, Bresnan Arena
5 P.M.	Truman and Reta Wood Scholarship Dinner (RSVP required) Centennial Student Union 253



in memoriam

ALUMNI

► 1930s

Helen Grace (Chase) Bedney '32
Jean Lucille (Thurston) Lamb '32, '56
Aryle Regina (Sturtedant) LaPolice '33, '68
Margaret Lucille (Sullivan) Brick '36, '71
Wilma N. (Nelson) Tinkham '36
Margaret Jane (Burggren) Corrigan '38
Delia B. (Barchenger) Larsen-Lueth '38, '61
Doris Mae (Struthers) Lundberg '38
Vivian Agnet (Slaybough) Sabean '38
Viola Vivian (Mitchell) Refsal '39

► 1940s

Clarice Louise (Norlinger) Schroeder '40
Aimee Margaret Sletta '40, '56
Shirley Ruth (Barnett) Stefanski '40, '66
Glenice Virginia (Turnbull) Jensen '43
Florence S. (Skaro) Paulson '44
Catharene Genevieve (Driscoll) Purdy '44
Helen Nadine Davey '45, '65
Carol Mae (Anderson) Bridges '47, '69
Barbara Jean (Will) Ferris '47
Rosalin V. (Hagen) Thiesse '49

► 1950s

Dolores E. (Olson) Sneer '50, '73
William Herman Adams '52
Muriel Deloha (Stoneberg) Erickson '52, '57
Marilyn Joyce (Pieper) Farber '52
Patricia Ann (Sullivan) Oberle '52
Averill Candace (Warburton) Cutting '53
James Joseph Drexler '53, '62
Eugene Florian Mikolai '53
Edward M. Severson '53, '68
Warren Duane Zuercher '53
James Ervin Baer '54, '63
Joan Kathryn (Koencke) Bjercknes '56
Suzanne Claire (Meuwissen) Wathen '56
Jeanette Lorraine (Thorson) Navratil '57
Donald L. Capriotti '58
Martin Hilding Meidl '58
Albert H. Roth '58
David Conroy Wiltgen '58, '66

► 1960s

Richard Allan Ellingson '60
Gordon Lowell Juliar '60, '65
David Ronald Brecht '61
Frederick A. Hanson '61
Thomas Everett Holgate '61
Eugene Robert Kintzi '61, '65

Vallene E. (Mees) Knutson '61
Michael John Lawrence '61
Herbert Lee Loken '61
Ronald Lee Barron '62, '79
Lawrence Allen Cox '62
Dennis Gary Dahl '62
Wendell P. Hurst '62
Larry Lee Larkin '62
Thomas Lee Chepokas '63
Dennis Jerome Goplen '63
Darryl Arthur Nelson '63
Sofus Emil Urberg '63
Carol E. (Krupp) Wallace '63
Gladys L. Ziemer '63
Joanne M. (Gilland) Ficks '65
Dianne Louise (Nohrenberg) Halverson '65
Pamela Lou (Mitchell) Hayes '65
Stanley A. Kukuzke '65
Gayle Francis Schraml '65
David L. Thayer '65
Mickey L. Ellenbecker '66
Verdon Willard Flattum '66
Ray Jerome Oleson '66
Paul LeRoy Schumaker '66
Nelson F. Sheets '66
Larry Kent Lee '67
Barbara Louise (Jacobson) Ferguson '68
Mary Jo (Blowers) Kirby '68
Opal Loretta (Zorn) Mattke '68
Donald Francis Muga '68
Richard J. Shortess '68
Dennis James Christopherson '69
Bernard William Nolan '69
Michael Lee Weseman '69

► 1970s

Edwin C. Bergemann '70
Anthony Grant Boyer '70, '85, '87
Eunys Otilie Kloempken '70, '88
Diane Erline Peterson '70
Kenneth L. Quiring '70
Candace Jean (Lund) Schaffer '70
Craig Michael Flikke '71
Robert E. Key '71, '76
August Ronald Behning '72
Mary Margaret (Frassel) Bengtson '72, '79
Katherine Elizabeth (Hennes) Brown '72
Michael John Daleiden '72
Leigh Wayne Johnson '72, '75
Loren Harold Johnson '72
Thomas Alan Rosenberg '72
Gladys Ann (Skaare) Winter '72
Warren Clark Breezee '73
Kerry Dean Derry '73

Marvin Lee Elliott '73
Phyllis Jean (Williams) Herfendal '73
Norma Nelle (Wagner) Swanson '73
James Malcolm Tracy '73
Mary Lou Van Voorhis '73, '80
Antonette M. Wagner '73
Jean Marie (Grams) Berquist '74
Kenneth Raymond Halvorson '74
Charles Howard Immel '74
Carl Albert Johnston '74
Mark Olaf Nelson '74
Neal Orvel Tessmer '74
Douglas John Uhrhammer '74, '81
Roy L. Lashway '75
Gary Riley Lago '76, '77
Kendall Allen Larsen '76
Margaret Jane (Quirk) Michael '76
Bernard A. Regenscheid '76
Delmar Jerry Klundt '77
Timothy Richard Knapp '77
Charles Patrick McCabe '77
Thomas Duane Teske '77
Jo Ann N. Jerdee '78
Cynthia Sue (Nasers) Iedema '79
LaJune McComb Polzin '79
Sue Ellen Jones '74, '80

► 1980s

Karen Louise (Houlihan) Coughlin '81, '83, '85
Linda Kay (Springer) Kilvington '81
Therese I. (Brennan) McDonough '81
Jeffrey William Nelson '81
David Charles Olson '81
Barbara Jean (Ferry) Park '81, '89
Craig Allen Handel '82
Jodi Rae (Gilb) Kolar '83
William G. McLean '83
Barbara J. De Bruin '85, '91
Bridget Mary (Boyle) Broshears '86
Gael Tonia (Sylce) Mericle '86
Karla Rae (Kleven) Topinka '86
Gerrit Hoogenraad '87, '94
Sandra Rae (Lee) Aamlid '88
Lynn Allen Nelson '88
Evelia Jimenez Pedersen '88
Robert Harry Eiseman '89

► 1990s

Lawrence John Wendt '90, '93
Steven John Magnuson '91
Douglas Allen Yentsch '91
Sidonia Margaret (Sweeney) Balke '92

alumniupdate

Please list any career changes, awards, honors, marriages, births or memorial information you'd like to see in today in an email to today@mnsu.edu or msuupdates@mnsu.edu. 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: today.mnsu.edu
Update your contact information online: mnsu.edu/update

ABOUT YOU

Name (including maiden) _____
Nickname _____
Graduation year(s) _____
Major(s) _____
Degree(s) _____
Mailing address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home phone _____
Preferred email _____
Professional title or position _____
Employer _____
Work phone _____

ABOUT YOUR SPOUSE/PARTNER

Name (including maiden) _____
Spouse/partner _____
Graduation year (if Minnesota State Mankato graduate) _____
Professional title or position _____
Employer _____
Employer's address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Work phone _____
Notes _____

How may we share the information you've provided to us here (contact information will never be shared)? Check all that apply:

- Print version of Today Online version of Today On University social media sites

Louise Kay (Nelson) Netland '93
Georgia Ann Elizabeth (Lamp) Christiansen '94
Mark L. McCoy '95
Hannah Jo (Sherman) Hindt '97
Farhan Muhammad '97, '00
Deborah Jane Nelson '97
Brian Robert Becker '99

Ruth Louise (Norling) Lysne
Gael Tonia (Sylce) Mericle
Donald L. Tarr
Mike Zinni

David William Quandt
Bonnie F. (Bartlet) Roemhildt
Jeanille H. (Hadden) Shipman
Joseph D. McCarthy
Lucille M. Sunderman

FRIENDS

Sandra (Priddy) Bohnenblust
June Balter Curme
Arlen D. Lade

► 2000s

Jane Louise (Meyer) Cole '03
Brianna Bernice (Richmond) Cowles '08
Alex Joseph Dow '08

FACULTY AND STAFF

Gleamon Merf Cansler
Virgil Earl Christensen
Helen M. (Frenzen) Duncan Purscell
Lydia A. (Krueger) Fields
Robert Ward Fonda
Dennis L. Javens
Wayne B. Koenen
Bonnie Joan (Burgess) Lee
Gloria J. (Swedberg) Luiken



today

Minnesota State University, Mankato
232 Alumni Foundation Center
Mankato, MN 56001

NON-PROFIT ORGN.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 202
MANKATO, MN 56001

