

# today

 MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

alumnimagazine  
Spring 2015

```
l1v2_necc.py
l1v2_necc.pyc
l1v2_speech.py
l1v2_speech.pyc
l1v2_smil2.py
l1v2_smil2.pyc
l1v2_txt.py
l1v2_xhtml.py
d-32-124:ab x19045qi$ cd ab/
d-32-124:ab x19045qi$ python ..//l1v2_xhtml.py
running l1v2_xhtml test suite...
traceback (most recent call last):
  File "..//l1v2_xhtml.py", line 150, in <module>
    open('tsxhtml/%s%(dir,outfile)', 'w').write(apply_placeholders(c.generate(
        ent(doc), { 'TITLE': outfile })))
  File '/Users/x19045qi/mavDAISY/support.py', line 623, in apply_placeholders
    allPh = get_placeholders(s)
  File '/Users/x19045qi/mavDAISY/support.py', line 617, in get_placeholders
    return list(set([x[3:-3] for x in ph.findall(str)]) or []
TypeError: expected string or buffer
d-32-124:ab x19045qi$
```

## Cracking the Code

Flint Million's big idea is making a big difference for blind students at Minnesota State Mankato

## FEATURES



### 8 CRACKING THE CODE

Flint Million has big ideas about accessibility, and he's using them to help blind students read computer code as fast as sighted students.

BY JOE TOUGAS '86

### 14 ALL THE RIGHT MOVES

The steps Florence Cobb took when she came to Mankato in 1968 are still impacting the University almost four decades later.

BY CAROL JONES '86, '04



### 10 A HUGE YEAR

For the first time ever, four Minnesota State Mankato athletic teams have earned No. 1 rankings. But that's not all Athletic Director Kevin Buisman has on his mind this year.

BY SARA GILBERT FREDERICK

### 16 A BETTER PLACE

Erma Erikson wants her collection of American Indian artifacts to foster understanding and appreciation—and Minnesota State Mankato is helping them to do that.

BY SARA GILBERT FREDERICK



## DEPARTMENTS

**3** FROM PRESIDENT DAVENPORT

**4** FOUNTAIN FODDER

**5** OUR SPACES

**6** MAVERICK SCENE

**18** CLASS NOTES/IN MEMORIAM

## ON THE COVER

Student Flint Million's big ideas are leading to more accessible alternatives for blind students. Photo by Pat Christman.

## READ MORE ONLINE

- Read about the work Cita Maignes is doing to help communities in her native Philippines.
- Catch up with classmates through our online Class Notes.
- Find more pictures from alumni events and University activities.
- Read up-to-date news.

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



# MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

**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

**SPRING 2015 ..... VOLUME 16 ISSUE 2**

**EDITOR** ..... Sara Gilbert Frederick

**DESIGNER** ..... Wendy Johnston

**PHOTOGRAPHERS** ..... Gregg Andersen,

Jonathan Chapman, Pat Christman,  
Linda Clavel, SPX Sports

**PRINTER** ..... Corporate Graphics Commercial

**WRITERS** ..... Helen Healy, Carol Jones, Joe Tougas

**PRINT COORDINATOR** ..... Doug Fenske

**CONTRIBUTING STAFF** ..... Paul Allan, Karen Burger,

Vicki Fischer, Ramon Pinero,

Kim Rademaker, Anne Stenzel, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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



## A SEASON OF SUCCESS

I am overwhelmed by the success stories coming out of Minnesota State Mankato this year. Our students, faculty and staff are doing incredible things—and *Today* magazine is one of the best vehicles we have for sharing these stories. In fact, every story you read in this magazine is an example of success, but they're just the tip of the iceberg.

Consider, for example, the success of our theatre students in the Region V Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival in January. More of our students advanced to the Semifinal and Final rounds of the prestigious Irene Ryan Acting competitions than from any other school in the country, and six of our students will be performing musical numbers at the national festival this spring. That's a huge honor, and a great reflection of the work being done in our Department of Theatre and Dance.

You'll read about the success our Maverick athletic teams have enjoyed this year in the feature that starts on page 10. But there's more to that story: Our women's soccer team, which played to an undefeated regular season last fall, had a cumulative GPA of almost 3.6. Almost two-thirds of the student-athletes on that team made the dean's list. As a whole, all of our student-athletes do quite well in the classroom, which is as much a source of pride as what they do in their respective sports.

I have good reason to believe that the partnership agreements we recently signed with both South Central College and Riverland Community College will become success stories quite soon as well. These Future Mavericks partnerships create designated pathways for students to earn their bachelor degrees at Minnesota State Mankato. It's important for us to make that transition as seamless as possible and to provide the support that all students need to be successful in college. I look forward to sharing more about these partnerships with you in the future.

The success of our students, our alumni and the faculty and staff at Minnesota State Mankato is what makes this University the exceptional institution that it is. I hope you will enjoy the stories we have to tell in this issue of *Today*, and that you will look forward to more in future issues, and through the online magazine, as well. ♫

*President Richard Davenport  
[president@mnsu.edu](mailto:president@mnsu.edu)*

*“The success of our students, our alumni and our faculty and staff is what makes this University the exceptional institution that it is.”*

- Mathematics instructor **JEFF FORD** was one of 91 people nationwide to be recognized for his **SUPPORT OF FIRST-YEAR COLLEGE STUDENTS**. Ford was honored for his innovative work to impact the success rate of first-year Minnesota State Mankato students in developmental mathematics.
- Minnesota State Mankato was recognized by the Council on Undergraduate Research as a **NATIONAL LEADER IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH**—one of only 57 institutions in the country to receive that designation.
- Sophomore **CHENGLENG XIONG** received the prestigious **BENJAMIN A. GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP** to study abroad in Chiang Mai, Thailand. He is one of 800 American undergraduate students to receive the scholarship.
- The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system honored four people from Minnesota State Mankato for **EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT** in 2014. **RICK STRAKA**, vice president of finance and administration, received the Chancellor's Award; **STEVE SMITH**, associate vice president for budget and business services, **DEBRA NORMAN**, accounting officer in the Office of the Provost, and **HELEN WENNER**, purchasing card coordinator, were all honored with Outstanding Service Awards.
- Minnesota State Mankato was ranked **69TH** among four-year institutions in the Midwest region in the **2015 U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT'S BEST COLLEGE RANKINGS**—a jump of six spots over its ranking at 75 last year.
- The departments of Construction Management and Mechanical and Civil Engineering received a **\$100,000 GRANT** from the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute to **LAUNCH A JOINT PROGRAM TEACHING PRECAST AND PRESTRESSED CONCRETE CONCEPTS** to their students.
- U.S. history professor **KATHLEEN GORMAN** spoke about the military service of young boys in the Civil War at the **SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION** in Washington, D.C., in January. She was invited to speak as the editor of “Boy Soldier of the Confederacy: The Memoir of Johnnie Wickersham.”
- The **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION RECEIVED A \$1 MILLION GIFT** from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous; the gift will be used to fund scholarships and programming within the College.
- **GWEN WESTERMAN**, an English professor and textile artist, received a **SIX-MONTH PAID RESIDENCY** from the Minnesota Historical Society to **RESEARCH AND REVITALIZE TRADITIONS OF DAKOTA RIBBON WORK**.
- **JILL CONOLON**, the chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, was named the **2015 OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR** for the Minnesota Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.
- The College of Business was included as **ONE OF THE NATION'S MOST OUTSTANDING BUSINESS SCHOOLS** in The Princeton Review's annual “The Best 296 Business Schools” publication.



## Let the Fountain Flow

Last fall, the University re-dedicated its iconic fountain, which had been undergoing a much-needed mechanical overhaul and facelift since the spring of 2013.



## The fully functional fountain is now freely flowing—and free of leaks!

- 1** The sculpture was in surprisingly good shape for having been in water since being installed in 1969; all it needed was the repair of a few cracked welds and installation of new mounting feet.
- 2** The new reflecting pool is encased in a sealed, waterproof concrete basin designed to prevent water loss. Thousands of gallons of water had been lost each month due to cracks in the basin and sump pit.
- 3** The mechanical and piping systems had become so corroded that almost everything had to be replaced; only the brass nozzles were able to be reused.
- 4** The water in the pool is cleaner than it was. It is now treated to prevent the growth of bacteria and algae.
- 5** A wind sensor was installed to automatically reduce the height of the jets during windy weather.
- 6** The sculpture now sits taller than it originally did, so that it isn't immersed in the reflecting pool. As a result, the fountain's spray no longer reaches as high on the sculpture as it once did. ↗

## BREAKING GROUND



## MORE THAN A GAME

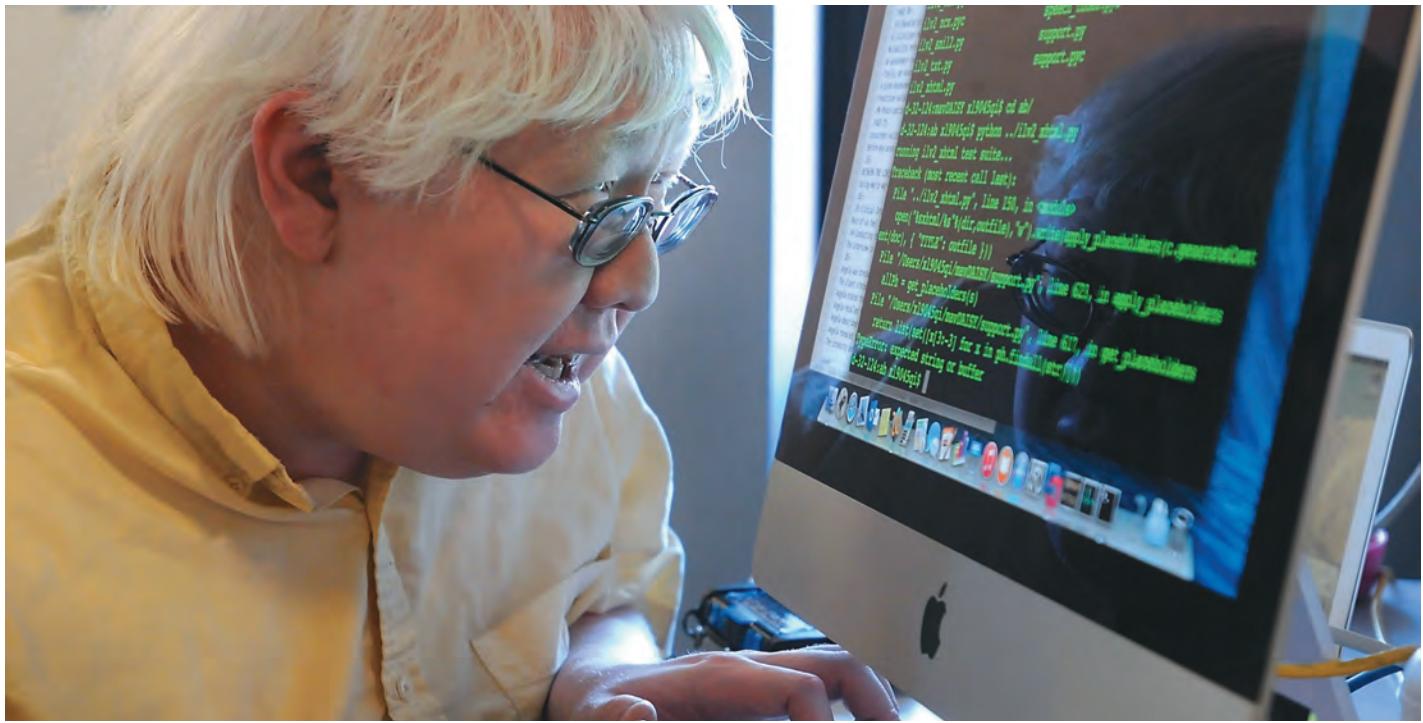
Just hours before the Mavericks football team played the game that sent them to the Division II National Championship, three of the players graduated from Minnesota State Mankato: Darius Clare, Josh Meeker and Christopher Reed (1). A week later, loyal fans dressed up to watch the team play Colorado State Pueblo, including Gabe (Tyler) Essay '99 and Ken Essay '98 with Toby, Owen and Annie (2) and Tari '93 and Marshall Gifford '93, with their son Jack (3). A group also gathered at the Loose Moose in Mankato (4) to watch the game together.



## OFF THE ICE

The Alumni Association hosted a pre-game social gathering before the Mavericks hockey game against Alaska Anchorage at the Verizon Wireless Center on February 6 (1). Former Mavericks player James Palmer and his wife, Leanne (2) drove down from Calgary, Canada, to watch the No. 1-ranked Mavericks sweep the Seawolves in the weekend series. The Mavericks went on to win the MacNaughton Cup as the regular season WCHA champions and the Broadmoor Trophy as the WCHA playoff champion before losing in the first round of the NCAA tournament.





# CRACKING THE CODE

Flint Million's big idea helped a fellow blind student succeed in her computer science class—and could help countless other students as well.

By Joe Tougas '86

**W**hen a blind student in a computer science class at Minnesota State Mankato found that her screen reader wasn't very effective in sifting through miles of computer code, she asked for help. That help ended up coming from Flint Million, a fellow student who is also blind.

Million, 31, is finishing his bachelor's degree in Information Technology and is a student worker for Information Technology Services (ITS) at the University. Legally blind but with some vision, Million also contracts with the State of Minnesota's Services for the Blind, usually to provide training on special computer equipment such as screen readers, which provide a synthesized voice that recites what's on the screen.

That's the kind of device the student was using in her computer science class. But when it comes to reading code, that's a lot of voice to endure while trying to find one particular line of code.

"It would read, but it was very cumbersome because finding the information was taking too long," Million recalls. "Finding it was taking 20 times longer than the act of actually reading it."

Million's solution was to create what's known as a middle-ware program to serve as a shortcut between the screen reader and the student.

"What I developed was a solution that does some software tricks to locate items on the screen that are of importance ... and to provide easy access to that information," Million explains. His "trick" was to create a custom keystroke—like, for example, alt and the number 9—that directs the screen reader to read a specific piece of information. "You press that key and it will read to you a certain piece of information that's relevant so you don't have to go hunting for it," he says. "You just press that key and have it ready."

As he was working on that, the University purchased a Refreshable Braille Display, a tool that generates braille code. "So I adapted my software to also work with that," Million says.

With those tools at hand, the student's efficiency improved. "She was getting homework done in a fraction of the time, more comparable to what everybody else would take for instance, without having to give up the whole weekend and not spend any time with her friends," Million says.

## A True Triumph

The Office of Accessibility Resources considers Million's innovative solution to this particular issue a triumph and an example of how they are able to work with University stakeholders to provide equal access to the almost 700 students they serve at Minnesota State Mankato.

"Our role and task is to help the University make sure that any student with a disability has access to anything we do here—curriculum, services, physical buildings, the whole works," says Julie Snow, the director of Accessibility Resources. "When we have a student in a class who can't access the curriculum, that's problematic. What Flint does helps."

While technology has revolutionized academic study, it's a challenge for accessibility to keep pace. At the same time, Minnesota State Mankato has a collaborative system in place that's unique among state universities.

"This relationship with ITS and our office is a big advancement that's happened over the past two years," said Beth Claussen, the assistant director of Accessibility Resources. "I think that's an advancement that some of our colleagues don't have."

It's the kind of relationship that produces unique ideas and leads to solutions such as Million's. In that particular case, a team of leaders from the College of Science, Engineering and Technology, Accessibility Resources and Information Technology Services collaborated to find a solution. Such teamwork gives the University a reputation for being a model school for students with disabilities.

Jude Higdon, interim associate vice president of technology, sees Million's development as the

kind of program that can serve students beyond Minnesota State Mankato. "It has the potential to be quite impactful and quite revolutionary for blind learners, really, all around the world, certainly all around the country," Higdon says.

While the development could go commercial, he sees a responsibility to make the software available free to anyone who needs it. "We're publicly funded," Higdon says. "If we're doing things for the benefit of our students let's pay it forward and release it open-source instead of commercializing, and let people benefit from that."

Million will finish his undergraduate degree this spring, but he plans to stay at Minnesota State Mankato to earn his master's degree as well. He'll continue working to improve efficiency in accessibility while he's at it.

"Just calling something accessible doesn't automatically make it user-friendly," he says. "If in order to actually make use of it, it takes 20 times longer than it would for a sighted person, that's not an acceptable solution in my mind."

"I'm thinking of new ways to present information in an audible format or in Braille tactiley that conveys as much information as we can possibly get at without overload but at the same time does not slow you down significantly," he adds. "Whenever I write these tools I'm focusing on the user experience." ♣



*"When we have a student in a class who can't access the curriculum, that's problematic. What Flint does helps."*

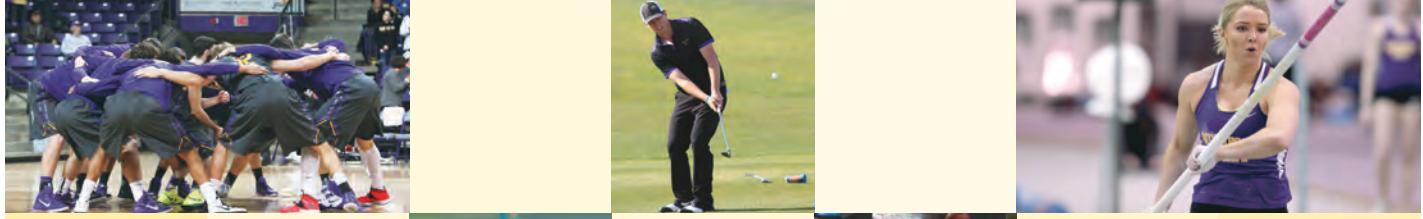
—Julie Snow



# A HUGE Year

Four number one teams. Two undefeated seasons. And the phone call that put all of it in perspective for Athletic Director Kevin Buisman.

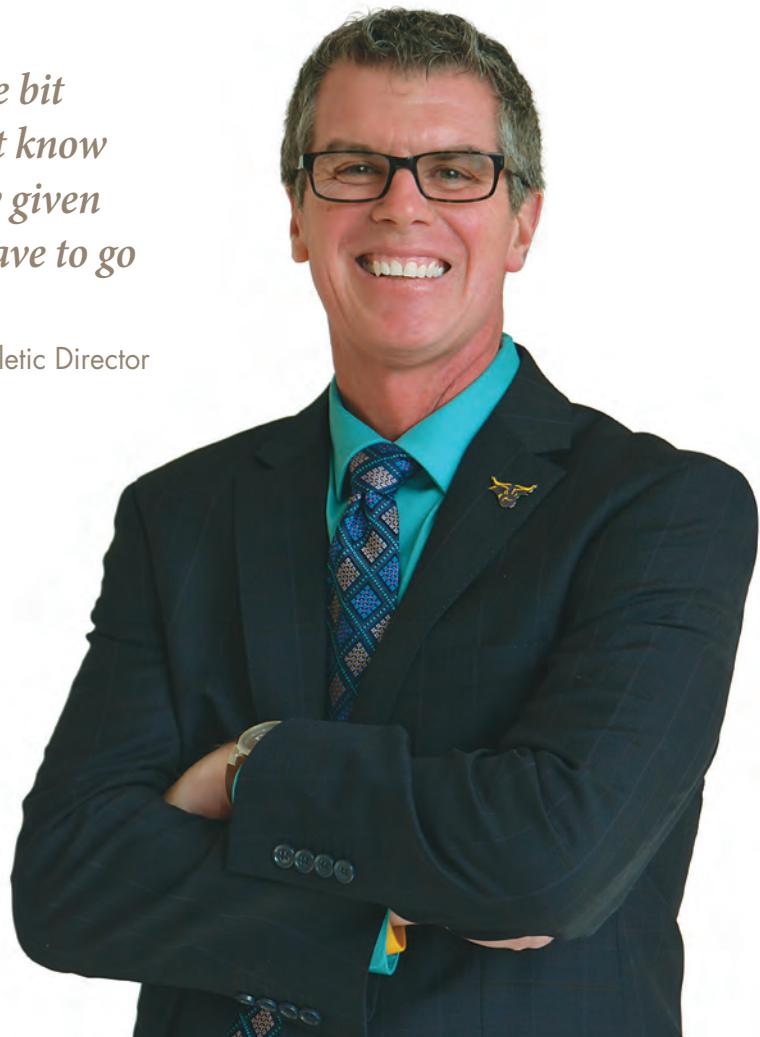
*By Sara Gilbert Frederick*



---

*"I sometimes say that my job is a little bit like being at the fire station. You don't know what you're going to deal with on any given day, but the alarm sounds and you have to go answer the bell."*

—Kevin Buisman, Athletic Director



**K**evin Buisman's cell phone is rarely quiet. And when it rings, Minnesota State Mankato's athletic director usually has to respond with a sense of urgency.

Like the Saturday morning last December when Mike Hastings, the head coach of the Mavericks men's hockey team, called him. Several of Hastings' players were suddenly sick, and the coach was worried that he wouldn't have enough healthy men available for the game against Princeton that evening.

Buisman was in his office, getting ready for a football game that afternoon. The undefeated Mavericks could earn a trip to the national championship game with a win against the Concord University Mountain Lions, and Buisman was planning to meet the players and

coaches in the locker room before the game. But now he was focused on figuring out what to do about the sick hockey players. He started making calls.

By the time the football game started at 2 p.m., Buisman had cancelled the hockey game (it would officially be ruled a no-contest under NCAA bylaws), relayed the news to Coach Hastings and discussed it with key members of his own staff so that a press release could be drafted and delivered to the media and season ticket holders. He had even made it to the locker room and walked onto the field at Blakeslee Stadium with the football team.

"I sometimes say that my job is a little bit like being at the fire station," Buisman says. "You don't

know what you're going to deal with on any given day, but the alarm sounds and you have to go answer the bell."

No alarms went off when his cell phone rang on the morning of November 20. Buisman was at the University of Wisconsin—Parkside in Somers, Wis., where the women's soccer team was playing Central Missouri in the NCAA Regional Tournament.

Buisman was expecting his doctor to call with the results from some recent tests, and when his phone rang he thought it would be a quick, easy conversation. "I wasn't nervous or anxious," he remembers. "So when they said, 'You've got cancer,' you could have knocked me over with a feather."



## A Banner Year

At the time of that call, two of the University's athletic teams—women's soccer and football—had been ranked No. 1 nationally and had been undefeated in the regular season. By the end of February, two more teams had earned No. 1 rankings: men's hockey and men's track and field. In March, the baseball team was ranked second in the country as well.

"We knew we had veteran teams returning, and certainly there were high expectations for them," Buisman says. "We hoped we would be poised for a lot of success, but having four No. 1 teams was beyond anyone's expectations."

Paul Allan, the associate athletic director for communications, has been at the University since 1985. He's never seen such a concentration of success. "We've never even had two teams ranked No. 1 at one time before," Allan says. "We don't go around pinching ourselves or anything, but those of us in the department who understand the history definitely appreciate the significance of this."

The coaches confirm that they had high hopes for each of their seasons—but they do every year. "As a coach, you are always working to reach the pinnacle," says Todd Hoffner, the head football coach. "This year was no different in that regard. But this year, we had a lot of maturity and experience on our team. I would say the leadership

of our seniors was perhaps the most instrumental part of our success."

"Anytime you start the season with more juniors and seniors than freshmen and sophomores, you're hoping that your veteran leadership will point you in the right direction," Hastings adds. "We certainly had some expectations going in."

Brian Bahl knew his team was going to be good, too. But when the women's soccer team knocked off the defending national champions in September, he realized just how good they were. "That's when I knew we had a team that had ascended to a different level," Bahl says. "To go undefeated, though, was above and beyond and is a credit to how hard our ladies work and how determined they are."

The significance of his team's first-ever No. 1 ranking was not lost on Jim Dilling, an award-winning Minnesota State Mankato athlete who returned to his alma mater in 2013 as the head coach of the men's track and field team. "It made me so proud to watch these young student-athletes achieve such great things," Dilling says. "It gives the team confidence and reassurance that all of their hard work has begun to pay off."

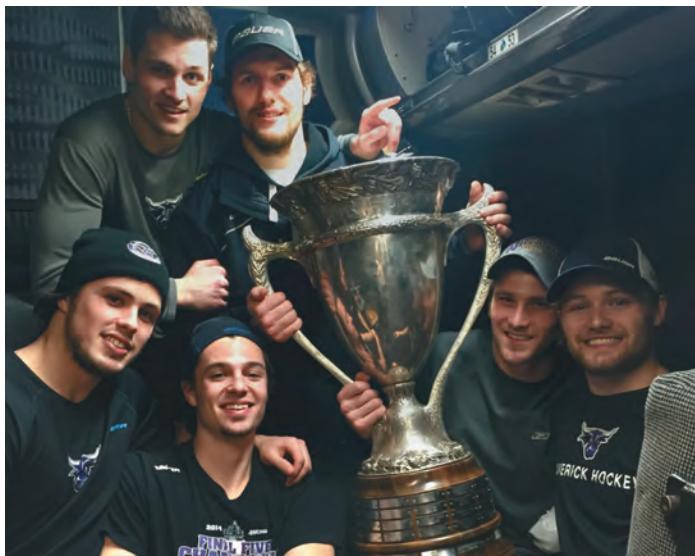
It also adds a little oomph to the University's notoriety on a national level. That's good for coaches as they are out recruiting potential players, but it's also good for the University's recruitment efforts in general. "It raises the profile

of the entire institution," Buisman says. He notes that the football team's nationally televised game against Colorado State University—Pueblo for the NCAA Division II title on December 20 was a three-and-a-half hour "infomercial" for the University. "You can't put a direct value on that kind of exposure," he says, "but it has to help the institution when you have that kind of attention at a national level."

It's helped Buisman, too. Being out of the office for surgery and subsequent radiation treatments has been a challenge, especially for a guy who had only taken five sick days in the past 10 years. But seeing the teams—and the staff—succeed has made that easier. "I've got an incredible staff," he says. "They don't need me. They'll get it all done without me. ... I've had to let go of a lot, but I know that there are people who are going to grow at a personal and professional level because of the opportunities they're having."

## Outpouring of Support

Buisman's first phone call after talking to his doctor was to his wife, Heather. It would be two days before he would see her in person and be able to discuss the diagnosis in more depth, but he needed to talk to her right away. "I sat there thinking, 'What do I do next?'" Buisman remembers. "Call my wife. But then I need a plan. I need to think about how I deal with this." And



right then and there I decided that everything I needed to know about dealing with cancer came from our student-athletes."

There are three things that every student-athlete hears over and over—and each of them applies to Buisman's battle against cancer as well: Focus on what you can control, take one step at a time, and be prepared to deal with adversity. And as he sat alone processing the news he had just been given, Buisman approached the diagnosis like an athlete.

"There are a lot of things about cancer that I can't control—but I can control my attitude and my effort," he says. "I can't get overwhelmed about what is going to happen next; I have to take it one step at a time. And finally, I have to be ready to deal with adversity—and really, not only to deal with it, but to persevere in spite of it."

Buisman got the news on a Friday morning. On Sunday, he and Heather told their two daughters. On Tuesday, he called a staff meeting. "I don't call many of those in the middle of the semester," he says. "There was a lot of speculation about what it might be about."

"That meeting was hard," Allan says. Buisman had already told him about the diagnosis, but no one else knew. "It was Kevin by himself in the Johnson Alumni Room. It was tough."

The staff reacted with stunned silence—and then, quite quickly, with a remarkable outpouring of support. "People lined up to give me a hug and

wish me well," he says. "It started right there, and it's just continued. From texts and phone calls and notes on social media to the parade of meals that were delivered when I got home from surgery, it's been amazing the level of support. We talk about the 'MavFam.' That's a little bit of branding on our part, but it's also very much a reality for me."

The positive attitude Buisman has maintained throughout his experience has had an impact on those around him as well. "Seeing how strong and determined he was right from the very beginning has inspired all of us," Bahl says.

"We've all drawn strength from him," Hastings adds. "You want positive example setters for your athletes, and the example Kevin is setting on how to deal with adversity has been incredible."

Buisman has been open about his own experience so that he can set an example for other men as well. "What Kevin's going through has made all of us examine what we are doing in our own lives to take care of ourselves and our families," Dilling says. "Kevin made it abundantly clear that you cannot postpone checkups or put your personal health on the backburner, even though collegiate athletics can be incredibly time-consuming."

"I know that I can be stubborn," Buisman says. "And if I'm stubborn, then there are probably a bunch of other guys like me. I hope they can see what happened to me and just get in and get a physical!"

## Raising the Bar

In January, Buisman had surgery to remove 14 lymph nodes and the surrounding tissue as well as a tumor at the base of his left tonsil. The cancer hadn't spread, and his doctors were hopeful that a 10-day course of twice-a-day radiation would render him cancer free. "We're pretty confident in the prognosis," Buisman says.

He's also pretty confident that Minnesota State Mankato Athletics will continue to see success. Many of the coaches agree with him—and cite him as one of the contributing factors.

"It's so important to have the resources you need—from support staff to great athletic trainers—to be successful," Hoffner says.

"Kevin has put that together for us. He created a Division I model at a Division II university. Without those resources, it would be hard to be successful over the long term."

But now, that's the expectation. After you have four teams claim the top spot in one year, the bar is raised for future success as well. "Success breeds success," Dilling says. "I think that trend is already beginning to take shape here."

"We all push each other, feed off each other and make each other better," Bahl adds. "That approach just keeps moving the bar higher and higher." ♀



# All the Right Moves

There was no dance program when Florence Cobb came to Mankato in 1968. This year, the dance major she helped build at Minnesota State Mankato turns 10.

By Carol Jones '86, '04

In 1968, Robert Cobb was asked to lead the Health Sciences Department at Mankato State College. He accepted the appointment—but during the negotiations he requested that his wife, Florence, be hired as a physical education instructor as well.

"I didn't know it at the time, but my position was part of the negotiation of his appointment," says Florence Cobb, who is now 94 years old. "We could not survive as we would like to on one salary, so my husband always saw to it that I had a job."

Robert Cobb's request on behalf of his wife had a profound impact on Minnesota State Mankato: Florence Cobb helped build the University's nationally recognized dance program that celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

Cobb's passion for dance came from her mother. "My mother was a dancer. She took ballet in the back of the studio, because she wasn't allowed in the front room," says Cobb. "I remember she was an inspiration."

At age 16, Cobb attended Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. After earning her bachelor's degree in health and physical education, she served as an assistant instructor there for several years. "It was low in pay, but high in experience," she says, smiling.

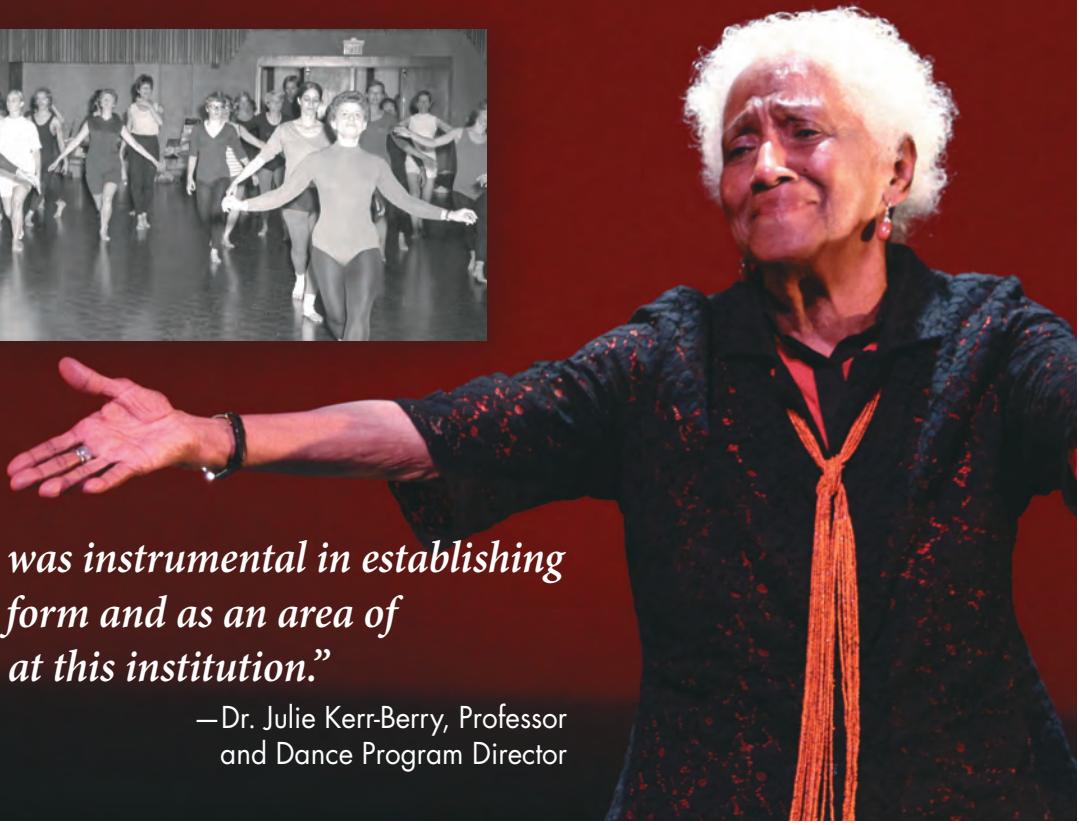
Cobb studied dance in Madison, Wis., taught in Florida, and earned her master's degree in health and physical education at Tennessee State, where her husband Bob taught health sciences. They moved to Minnesota when he accepted the appointment at Mankato State College.

When the Cobbs arrived in Mankato, they were the only black faculty on campus, perhaps the only black family in town. To combat feelings of isolation, Florence focused on her work and her students. There was no dance program at the University at the time, so she started adding dance classes to the curriculum one by one. Eventually, in 1976, she was able to establish a dance minor.

But Cobb still found herself having to advocate not only for an expansion of the arts, but also for safe dance practice and performance areas for her students. "She had to fight for the logistics of raising the floor in a dance studio in Highland Center," says Julie Kerr-Berry, the director of the dance program at Minnesota State Mankato. "It was vital for dancers to be able to safely train. She was a trailblazer."

"I commend Florence for what she accomplished and when she accomplished it," Kerr-Berry adds. "She found creative solutions and had the generosity to draw people in. Her charisma, spirit and tenacity allowed her to do great things. She just didn't back down."

Cobb's commitment went beyond creating a dance program. She was fully invested in the growth of individuals. "It wasn't just dance class; Florence built confidence," says Laurie Putze, '84, '96, '03. "When you walked out of her class, you felt good about yourself. She would do anything for her students."



***“Florence Cobb was instrumental in establishing dance as an art form and as an area of academic study at this institution.”***

—Dr. Julie Kerr-Berry, Professor  
and Dance Program Director

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES AT MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO.  
COLOR PHOTO COURTESY OF V. PAUL VIRTUCIO.

While teaching at the University, Cobb also directed Orchesis—an extracurricular dance club. Under her guidance, a group of novices evolved into a skilled college dance troupe that performed on and off campus. “We danced at the opening of the Blue Earth County library, in Rasmussen Woods and in surrounding communities,” Putze says. “We were everywhere.”

Cobb credits her students for the group’s success. “Orchesis really took off. I always had exquisite student workers to help me,” she says. “They did the work of the program, all the way from ushering to lighting to choreography.”

## From Campus to the Community

Cobb also introduced modern dance to the Mankato community. She established the Starlight Dance Company in cooperation with the Harry Meyering Center. The company offered dance for adults with disabilities.

When possible, Cobb also invited dance troupes to campus, both for the benefit of her students and the community at large. With a limited budget, she couldn’t accommodate as many as she would have liked. Still, Kerr-Berry says the level of talent that Cobb hosted was amazing.

“She brought in nationally renowned dance companies, like the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Mary Hinkson—first black dancer with Martha Graham Dance Company—the Louis Falco Dance Company, the José Limón Dance Company, as well as the Merce Cunningham Dance Company,” says Kerr-Berry.

The exposure made an impact on students. “I became more global, less self-absorbed,” Putze says. “I learned there was more out there than my little world. That perhaps was her greatest impact, taking someone who had very little exposure and showing us the potential.”

Cobb retired in 1988—well before the University first offered a dance major in

2005. But Kerr-Berry says her impact on the dance program remains unparalleled. Today, students can select from six degree options as a dance major. “We owe this to Florence for persisting and sometimes fighting so that dance could be acknowledged as a legitimate academic and artistic area of study,” Kerr-Berry says.

“There is a whole group of her former students active in the dance community. She opened people’s perspective as to what dance is,” Kerr-Berry adds. “As an art form, dance can offer students a different experience. Florence understood this and drew people in with her passion and commitment as an artist and educator.”

“Dance is the extension of us, it is expression, it is creativity, it is artistry,” says Cobb. “My life has been a great experience expanding the whole concept of dance. It has been a wonderful journey and it was made so because of the response of the students.” ↗

# A Better Place

Erma Erikson's only goal for her collection of American Indian artifacts is to find the best possible home for each piece.

By Sara Gilbert Frederick

**O**n the day after Christmas in 2012, Erma Erikson '67 was at Mankato's Reconciliation Park, watching the dedication of a memorial bearing the names of the 38 Dakota men who were hanged in that same spot 150 years earlier.

She left the ceremony feeling like there was something she needed to do.

"It just seemed to me that there had been so many broken promises," she says. "And I wanted to do a little something to improve on that."

Erikson had a good idea about what her part in improving that could be. She had built up a collection of American Indian artifacts over the years, and she wanted to both learn more about the pieces she had purchased and to find a good home for them. She knew that some were newer, others older, and a few possibly not even American Indian made. She needed help identifying all of them—and then displaying them correctly as well.

So Erikson called Minnesota State Mankato's help desk, which referred her to Dr. Rhonda Dass, the director of the American Indian Studies program at the University.

Not long after that, Erikson figured out what she would be able to do. She gifted 1,200 of the artifacts she had collected to Minnesota State Mankato, along with funds to maintain the collection.

"I didn't want to just have the collection," Erikson explains. "I didn't want it to be hidden in a dark closet somewhere. I wanted other people to be able to appreciate the artifacts, to learn from them."

"I wanted to find a good home for these pieces," she adds. "If there's a better place for them to be, then that's where I want them to be."

One of the reasons Erikson felt good about giving the artifacts to Minnesota State Mankato is because she knew that students would have the opportunity to use her collection as part of their studies. Right now, Dass's students are working to catalogue each piece—an opportunity they don't usually get on campus.

"Usually, we have to send our students elsewhere to get that kind of experience," Dass says. "But now, we have a team of students working in the lab with these artifacts right here."

But it was also important to Erikson to give a portion of the collection to her alma mater. Her family moved to Mankato in 1959, and her dad, Glenn Erikson, taught at the Wilson Lab School on campus. Although she moved to St. Louis after graduating and spent 40 years working for the federal government there, she was happy to return to her roots in 2012.

Her collection, which started because of her fascination with the American Indian heritage that surrounded her in her youth, grew when she came back to Mankato and started reading more about the Dakota War of 1862. But by then, she had realized that the items in her collection had more value if she shared them with others. She especially wanted to be able to share them with members of the native nations to whom they belonged.

Dass hopes to help her with that. She is already planning to mount an exhibit featuring the artifacts on campus as part of American Indian Heritage Month next November. After that, she'd like to coordinate a travelling exhibit that will take the pieces to historical museums around the region.

"It's important to share this with the whole community, not just with the University," Dass says. "It's so unusual to have a private collection come into public hands; this is a pretty big thing."

Dass is impressed with the care Erikson has taken with her collection and with her commitment to finding the right place for it to reside. "She acts more like a caretaker than a collector," Dass says. "She has been a gateway for these objects to come to the public." ♀



*Rhonda Dass and students such as Stephanie Dixon are working to catalogue the collection. They are working with experts to appraise and authenticate it as well.*



# classnotes

## ► 1940s

**EVELYN (ELLINGBOE) HORWATH '48, '69, '76**, Faribault, MN, is retired after teaching and working in libraries. Her husband, **(OTTO) GAYLORD HORWATH '54, '66**, taught at the Faribault State Academy for the Deaf and Faribault High School. They have been married for 65 years.

## ► 1950s

**MARLENE KNAPP MINKE '52**, Merrifield, MN, is a retired teacher who enjoyed running a resort for 30 years.

**MELVIN LOEWEN '53**, Goshen, IN, is now retired. He spent time as the director of teacher training under a Mennonite mission in Africa, was the president of Congo Protestant University and worked with the World Bank for 20 years.

**ARLA STRASSBURG '53**, Calabasas, CA, has been a clinical psychologist.

**GLORIA (MATTES) EVANSON '56, '61**, St. George, UT, is retired after working as an elementary teacher.

**REV. KEN HOHENSTEIN '58**, Othello, WA, is retired.

## ► 1960s

**DOROTHY (PAYNE) BRYAN '61**, Washington, D.C., is a partner with Capital Consulting Group and a retired university administrator and professor. She also has been a consultant with national nonprofit organizations and federal and state agencies.

**STEVEN CRANE '61**, Ilion, NY, spent 25 years in public education, including 15 years as a professor at the State University of New York. He also was an aid associate for Lutherans (Thrivent Financial). He and his wife have four adult children and three grandchildren.

**JEAN (KALLBERG) KRAUSS '61**, Hudson, WI, is a retired teacher.

**CHARLES SCHUBBE '61**, Mapleton, MN, is a retiree who was inducted into the Land O' Lakes District of the Barbershop Harmony Society last year.

**JAMES BUMGARNER '62**, Lexington, KY, is retired.

**JOHN KELLING '62**, Windsor, CT, is a retired ergonomist who, along with his wife, volunteers at national parks.

**DAVID SHAUER '62**, Mesa, AZ, lives in Arizona.

**J. ED SMITH '62**, Wakefield, MI, has served as the athletic director at three schools and has been president of various conferences including the Upper Peninsula Athletic Directors meetings. He is retired.

**KATHRYN (KELLEN) BRADLEY '65**, San Diego, CA, lost her husband, Joe, last year. They met 49 years ago at the old Newman Club.

**MICHAEL NIFLIS '67**, Tillamook, OR, has had many of his poems published. He is hopeful to put them all together in a book.

**KAY (KIMPTON) YOCH '67**, Hutchinson, MN, lives in Minnesota.

**MARY (MISHEK) DANKERT '68**, Estero, FL, is retired. Her first grandchild was born last fall, and a second is on the way.

**LARRY WATERS '69, '71**, Albuquerque, NM, is the dean of students at La Cueva High School. He was inducted into the New Mexico Athletic Association Hall of Fame in December.

## ► 1970s

**CLAUDIA ST. JOHN '70**, Glenmont, NY, is a retired architect.

**SHANNON SAVICK '70**, Wells, MN, is a state representative for the State of Minnesota.

**LYLE (TED) KRALL '71**, Rochester, MN, is celebrating 40 years with Northwestern Mutual, where he is a financial representative, this year.

**RODNEY LARSON '71**, Eagle Lake, MN, is enjoying his retirement after 24 years in drug wholesale management and 21 years in a paper/wedding buyer position.

**LOUISE TUNICK '71**, Bronx, NY, retired after working at Columbia University for more than 25 years.

**SCOTT EVANS '72**, Albuquerque, NM, was inducted into the New Mexico Activities Association Hall of Fame in 2012.

**SUSAN MORSE '72**, Carmel, CA, was a coordinator for the migrant education program at California State University—Monterey Bay. Now in her retirement, she teaches at the university.

**JAMES CORY '73**, Albert Lea, MN, is retired.

**JEFFREY JOHNSON '73**, Cedar Rapids, IA, is the owner of JEJ Consulting, LLC – something he decided to do after working 40 years in various positions in human services.

**SISTER M. PETRANN SIEBEN '73**, Mankato, MN, has been restoring statues for churches, homes and schools for the last 14 years. She fondly recalls her time at Minnesota State Mankato, as well as her professors and advisor.

**BOB SUCHANEK '73, '80**, Blaine, MN, retired from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency after working there for 36 years. He currently volunteers at the Science Museum of Minnesota.

**TOM BERGMAN '74**, Elkhorn, WI, is the CEO/founder of MMOINC/Bergman Communications. He recently received a World Waterpark Association Commitment to Excellence award and the Rockford, Ill., Community Service Award.

**DIANE BENNETT '75**, Mankato, MN, is a self-employed executive coach who recently returned to Mankato.

**CANDACE CROSBY '75**, Missoula, MT, recently published *Waves in Deep Still Water: Listening for Mind*, a nonfiction story about the recovery of a woman with a severe traumatic brain injury.

**GARY WILLHITE '75, '77**, Crookston, MN, is the director of residential life/security services at the University of Minnesota—Crookston.

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

---

He was elected Mayor of Crookston in 2014, and sworn in on Jan. 5, 2015. He has served on the city council for six years.

**L. OLIVER HUANG '76**, Richfield, MN, is a retired accountant who worked for Control Data Corp. as well as other companies.

**RANDY TUCHTENHAGEN '76, '80**, Hartland, MN, recently retired from Freeborn County.

**MICHAEL LETRY '77**, Double Oak, TX, is the manager of supplier compliance for Darden.

**BILL TASLER '77**, Queenstown, MD, retired after working at Hormel Foods for more than 37 years.

**SHERYL (SLOCUM) WILSON '77, '79**, Mountain View, CA, is a retired teacher.

**CRAIG GOMEZ '78**, Nassau, Bahamas, is the managing partner of Baker Tilly Gomez, a firm of chartered accountants in Nassau. He also is the president of the Bahamas Red Cross Society.

**DR. DEBORAH LIEN '78**, Rochester, MN, recently was elected as president of the Midwestern Society of Orthodontists. She also received the Roger J. Fredsall Distinguished Service Award from the Minnesota Association of Orthodontists for her outstanding service to the organization and dedication to the community. She has served patients for the past 28 years.

**SUSAN JETZKE '79**, Oakdale, MN, retired after teaching for 34 years.

**CRAIG SWEHLA '79**, Cobb, CA, recently released his album, Our Father, with a Christian label based in Oklahoma City, OK.

## ► 1980s

**DARREL CHRISTENSON '82**, Phoenix, AZ, is vice president of community integration with Arizona Bridge to Independent Living.

**JANE (HAMMERSTROM) HOFFMAN '82**, Duluth, MN, is a columnist with the Duluth Reader Weekly.

**DAVID CHRISTENSON '83**, Sioux Falls, SD, is an international interim ministry specialist, ELCA for the Western Iowa Synod. His daughter, Kathryn, is currently a senior at Minnesota State Mankato studying social work.

**CAROL HAUNER '83**, Huntington Beach, CA, is a claims executive with Travelers Insurance.

**DAN HAVEL '83**, Houston, TX, was selected as the Texas Artist of the Year.

**RANDALL PAA '84**, New Ulm, MN, is a senior regional sales manager-Minnesota for West Bend Mutual Insurance Company.

**PATRICK SEXTON '85**, Mankato, MN, has become the Athletic Trainer Director on the board of directors of the Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer. He began his duties in January.

**PAUL OSDOBA '86**, Mankato, MN, was promoted to new market president for Profinium, Inc. in Mankato. His daughter, Emily, graduated from Minnesota State Mankato in December, and his wife is an attorney with Patton, Hoverten & Berg.

**NATALIE TYRELL '86**, Las Vegas, NV, is serving as chief judge of the North Las Vegas Justice Court for the next two years. She also was re-elected to the State of Nevada Judicial Council for a three-year term. She is the first female judge in North Las Vegas.

**DALE ALLEN '87**, Rochester, MN, is the director of high school collaboration with the Rochester Community and Technical College.

**PAMELA (PETERS) LUKENS '87**, Lindstrom, MN, is retired.

**TODD HAINES '88**, Farmington, MN, is a demand planning analyst with Best Buy in Richfield, MN.

**MARK HAUG '89**, Eagan, MN, is a senior vice president, commercial lender with Venture Bank. His wife, **KATHRYN (VANKEULEN) HAUG '89**, is a physical therapist with Community Home Health.

**DUSTIN JOHNSON '89**, Walworth, WI, is a math teacher/math chair/ALEKS coordinator with the Lake Geneva Area Schools. He has taught math for 25 years.

## ► 1990s

**DONALD HOVERSTEN '92**, Dassel, MN, is the president of BusinessWare Solutions.

**TINA (WENTE) MALKAVAGE '92**, Faribault, MN, is a registered dental hygienist with Southern Heights Dental.

**MICHAEL LEE '93**, Minneapolis, MN, is the senior graphic design director at Hamline University in St. Paul. His wife, **KRISTIN HOFF '94**, is an art teacher at Horrace Mann Elementary in St. Paul.

**MATTHEW AHLERS '94**, Monument, CO, is the president/CEO of Worldwide Call Centers, Inc. in Colorado Springs, CO.

**JEFFREY THOMAS '95**, Mankato, MN, is a human resources technician with the Department of the Army, ROTC in Mankato.

**CYNTHIA KIRCHOFF '96**, Foley, MN, recently opened a law office in Foley, where she focuses on municipal law, land-use law and real estate, wills and estate planning, and business law.

**APRIL (JOHNSON) FEMRITE '97**, Mankato, MN, is an entrepreneurship and innovation fellow at Minnesota State Mankato.

**HEIDI (SOLBERG) BRODY '99**, Hudson, WI, is the director, safety & security for Sun Country Airlines. Her husband, **ANDREW BRODY '08**, is a data analyst with Compass Air.

**RYAN DORLAND '99**, Westbrook, ME, is an assistant professor at St. Joseph's College of Maine.

**LADDAVANH PONGDARA '99**, Cherry Hill, NJ, is living in New Jersey.

**SHIHO TOMISAKI '99**, Yokohama, Japan, is a registered nurse with the Showa University Hospital.

# classnotes

## ► 2000s

**PETER MOERS '00**, Bloomington, MN, recently was promoted to train operator for the new Green Line Light Rail with Metro Transit in St. Paul.

**SARAH (WHITE) PATROS '00**, La Crosse, WI, designs custom lingerie for Jagress Intimates.

**DARREN REDD '00**, Eagle Lake, MN, is a program director with Steele County Safe and Drug Free Coalition in Owatonna, MN.

**JON BAUER '01, '04**, New Hope, MN, was promoted from solutions engineer to integrated marketing manager at The Nerdery in Bloomington, MN.

**SAJJAL CHANDRA '01**, Kathmandu, Nepal, is the director for Broadway Travels (P) Ltd.

**MIGUEL SPADA '01**, Buenos Aires, Argentina, is a Latin America sales manager with General Electric in Buenos Aires. Previously, he worked in China.

**SHAWN BEAUDETTE '02**, Prior Lake, MN, is a fifth grade teacher with the Prior Lake – Savage Schools who was a candidate for 2007 Teacher of the Year. He also is the president of Prior Lake – Savage Education Association. He is married and has three sons.

**ELIZABETH (MONTGOMERY) BESKE '02**, Apex, NC, is the vice president and chief of staff with CAUSwave, Inc. a privately held growing energy company. Her oldest son is serving in the U.S. Navy, stationed in San Diego, CA.

**MUHAMMAD ZUBAIRI '02, '05**, Lakeville, MN, is a senior solution architect with Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN. He and his wife, Sana, have a 2-year-old daughter Shiza.

**MARK BOESCHEN '04**, Willmar, MN, recently started Firebytes LLC, an IT consulting business. He and his wife have three sons.

**KIPP VAN DYKE '04**, Ames, IA, is the assistant dean of students and director of student assistance and outreach at Iowa State University.

**STACEY BALES '05**, Phoenix, AZ, is the coordinator, engineering student success at Arizona State University. Prior to this she was an academic advisor for eight years.

**TARAH BJORKLUND '05, '07**, Minneapolis, MN, is a transfer specialist with St. Paul College. She and her fiancé plan to marry on July 11, 2015.

**CHRISTINE (SEYMOUR) BAUMANN '07**, Minot, ND, is a camp director at the International Music Camp, a nonprofit summer camp for a number of facets in music. She and her husband are the youngest directors that the camp has had in 60 years.

**RACHEL (PEET) HASSAS '07**, Cambridge, MA, will complete her MBA at the MIT Sloan School of Management this year. Upon graduating, she will become an associate with Goldman Sachs. Prior to this she worked for 3M in St. Paul for six years.

**JESSICA (KITTELSON) MCFARLAND '07**, Minneapolis, MN, is an assistant director with The Minnesota Learning Resource Center, the training institute of A Chance to Grow—a nonprofit organization that offers brain-centered programs and services to children and adults.

**MARK VOGELSANG '07**, San Diego, CA, is enrolled in an MBA program in business intelligence at California State University, San Marcos.

**MALCOLM CARTER '08, '11**, Baton Rouge, LA, recently was named director/plant manager with Scotts Miracle-Gro in Geismar, LA. He also is a leadership trainer and author.

**CARLY OSTROM '09**, Gainesville, FL, received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.

## ► 2010s

**GODFRIED ASANTE '10, '12**, Albuquerque, NM, is in the midst of working on his Ph.D. in communication studies at the University of New Mexico, where he also is an instructor.

**ASHLEY (SKAALERUD) INABINETTE '10**, Coon Rapids, MN, is an intake representative for the University of Minnesota Physicians.

**CAROLINE WOOD '10, '14**, Tofte, MN, is the executive director of Birch Grove Foundation and Community Center.

**IUOB WALKSMAYATE '11**, Eagan, MN, is a veteran claims examiner with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in St. Paul.

**MATTHEW METTLING '12**, Red Wing, MN, and **MICHELLE HEGER '11**, Chaska, MN, married on Oct. 11, 2014, at Grandview Lodge in Nisswa, MN.

**CHRISTINE DORNBUSCH '12**, Minneapolis, MN, is an experienced advisor recruiting coordinator with Ameriprise Financial.

**SARAH PARSONS '12**, Mankato, MN, recently joined Weichert Realtors Community Group as a realtor.

**SHIN ZIE '12**, Mankato, MN, received the first Budget Analyst Graduate Assistantship award from the College of Business at Minnesota State Mankato and has accepted a position with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in Minneapolis.

**KELLI KRAUSE '13**, Aberdeen, SD, recently was promoted to the position of advancement officer with Presentation College in Aberdeen.

**SARAH SCHOLL '13**, St. Louis Park, MN, is a credit analyst with Bridgewater Bank in Bloomington, MN, where her focus is underwriting for commercial and real estate lending.

**ANTHONY PASQUALE '13**, Rochester, MN, is an emergency medical dispatcher with the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

**CHRISTOPHER OUTZEN '14**, Kirksville, MO, is an instructor/director of individual events at Truman State University.

**EDITOR'S  
CHOICE**

**TAKE ME OUT TO  
THE BALLPARK**

*It's baseball season in Minnesota again—and we've got two opportunities for alumni and friends to enjoy ballgames this summer. Join us in Mankato at the MoonDogs game on June 12, or meet us in Minneapolis for a Twins game on June 19.*

**MOONDOGS**

Franklin Rogers Park, Mankato Friday, June 12 6 p.m. Dog Pound Picnic 7 p.m. Gametime Cost: \$27 adults, \$16 12 and under; includes all-you-can-eat hospitality deck



**MINNESOTA  
TWINS**

Target Field, Minneapolis Friday, June 19, 2015 5-6:30 p.m. Reception at Hubert's 7:10 p.m. Twins vs. Chicago Cubs Seats are in The Pavilion Cost: \$45.00 Ticket and Reception; \$10.00 Reception Only



**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION VISIT:  
[mnsu.edu/alumni](http://mnsu.edu/alumni)**

# inmemoriam

**ALUMNI**

► **1930s**

Erma Grace (Root) Bach '30  
Jean A. (Adams) Jefferson '34  
Cathryn Jean (Sinclair) Batalden '36  
Mildred Eleanor (Faust) Kranz '37  
Mary Susanna (Garrahy) Murphy '37, '73  
Adeline M. (Douglas) Blowers '38, '68  
Ruth Margaret (Andross) Hendricksen '38  
Delia B. (Barchenger) Larsen-Lueth '38, '61  
Helen Ruth (Budke) Sinell '38, '70  
Berneeta Louise (Scrivner) Campbell '39, '62  
Arlene E. (Meyer) Fruehling '39  
Helen Elizabeth (Happe) Loos '39, '71

► **1940s**

Vernon Earl Grinde '40, '51, '57  
Lois Mae (Schubert) Harms '40  
Mary Alice (Carter) Lyons '40  
Lillian Marie (Wendt) McCall '40, '66  
Sylvia Ardelle (Bartness) Paulson '40  
Irene Martha Pirsig '40, '52, '59  
Mary Kathleen (Howley) Regnier '40  
Russell Michael Simonet '40, '42  
Leona Margaret (Scully) Kremer '41  
Mildred Irene (Krinke) Sandell '41  
Jean Rebecca (Bauman) Bonnell '42  
Alden J. Ritter '42  
Gloria Marilyn (Olander) Anderson '43  
Evelyn Meta (Bartels) Boomgaarden '43  
Mary Jeanne (Swanson) Krause '43  
Lyla M. (Anderson) Brockmann '44  
Lucille M. (Gluth) Cool '44  
Viva Jean (Jeppesen) Bosshart '45  
Elisabeth Ione (Gingerich) Dallmann '46  
Elizabeth Anne (Johnson) Manke '46  
Velma M. (Sutherland) Collis '47  
Elaine Vivian (Flathers) Flathers '48  
Vivian Elaine (Broughton) Larsen '48  
Caryl Ann (Johnson) Rand '48  
Oren D. Abraham '49, '51  
Benjamin W. Dickmeyer '49  
Lawrence Evans Erie '49  
Lucille Therisa (Koenig) Hayden '49  
Marcella Rosalie (Hoban) Hoban '49  
Mary Lorraine (Germo) Marso '49  
Donna Kathryn (Evans) Mercer '49  
Lyle Dean Mottinger '49  
Byron Wesley Smalley '49

► **1950s**

Nanette R. (Johnson) Ames '50  
Dorothy Ann (Langworthy) Brown '50  
Ellen Marie Johnson '50  
Jane Florence (Zimmerman) Smook '50, '65  
Martha Helen Wiggins '50, '61  
Jerome James Workman '50  
Luverne S. Bjerke '51, '62  
Loren Lyle Braun '51  
Richard Elmer Erkel '51, '62  
Lois Helen (Jenson) Hill-Starker '51  
Virjene Audrey (Bakke) Joblinske '51  
Edmund Paul Terry '52  
Geraldine Ruth (Schultz) Wilson '52  
Marlene Marie (Armstead) Griffith '53  
Dale Robert Johnson '53  
Elmer K. Sorensen '53  
Marlow Joseph Stangler '53  
Jean Ann (Ewing) Watts '53, '66  
Elizabeth Mary (Briest) Griffin '54  
Frank Joseph Huelskamp '54  
Howard Carl Peterson '54  
Rodney Patrick Boehlke '55, '82  
LeRoy William Burgeson '56  
Dayton Keith Chase '56  
Ronald George Eckart '56  
Bernice Eggink '56  
Donley Everett Johnson '56  
Barbara Jean (Erkel) Krohn '56, '57  
LeRoy John Mullerleile '56  
William B. Nelson '56, '62  
Mary Clare (Hogan) Powers '56  
Florence (Larson) Sponberg '56  
Loren Adrian Williams '56  
John Christopher Baker '57  
Kenneth Henry Bohks '57  
Richard Roman Oberle '57  
Donald Elwood Behrens '58  
Carol Joanne (Swanson) Catton '58  
Duane Russel Georgius '58  
Edith Marie Hanson '58, '61  
Myron R. Holmgren '58  
Dean Arthur Krapf '58  
Donald Rudy Miller '58, '68  
JoAnn Lois (Jakobitz) Mueller '58, '60  
Bruce Calvin Owens '58, '62  
Donley LuVerne Aarhus '59  
Willard William Blanck '59, '64  
Arthur Franklin Brownell '59  
Lynette Ardienne (Engle) Fleener '59  
Loren Rudolph Grasdalen '59

# in memoriam

Dewey Francis Hinderman '59, '62  
Darrel R. Miedtke '59  
Eugene Cyril Pauley '59  
George Wilfred Rosin '59, '69  
Shirlee Ann (Becker) Ruble '59, '61  
Charles Tony Steenblock '59, '80  
Merna Jean Sunde '59

## ► 1960s

Wayland Robert Blake '60  
Allen Henry Cole '60  
Ronald R. Steinberg '60, '65  
Robert Jon Boe '61  
Marilyn Ruth (Dubke) Cole '61  
John Douglas Eskra '61  
Roger L. Johnson '61  
Dan J. McGuire '61  
Claire Theresa (Kerby) Murray '61  
Paul Oliver Sand '61  
Mavis Lorraine (Jenkins) Schumacher '61  
Gloria LaVonne (Valentine) Schwake '61, '70  
Gerald Allyn Hall '62  
Allen Kenneth Tibodeau '62  
Daniel P. Babb '63  
Hazel Dorothy (Frank) DeMars '63  
Wayne L. Haefner '63  
Karen Lee (Marks) Johnson '63  
Nina Jean (Purpura) Mulhern '63  
Nicholas Lawrence Pederson '63  
Marguerite Delores (Lewin) Perschau '63  
Bruce G. Renlund '63  
Peter Clifford Schmidt '63  
Paul S. Soukup '63  
Barbara E. Cox '64, '70  
Roland L. Dain '64  
Dorothy B. (Biedermann) Guyan '64, '70  
Violet Ileen (Sperry) O'Dea '64, '68  
John Anthony Raetz '64  
Sharon Yvonne (Severson) Rasche '64  
Paul John Stoltz '64  
Leon George Wichmann '64  
Pamela Lou (Mitchell) Hayes '65  
Susan Carol (Krosch) Johnson '65, '98  
Richard Delane Lee '65  
Charlotte Veronica (Howley) O'Toole '65, '69  
Paul A. Tennis '65  
Daniel Thomas Udvig '65  
Robert Walter John Fox '66  
Beryle Ellen (Hodgman) Haugen '66  
Barbara Jean (Lueken) Sankovitz '66  
Richard Louis Steenhoven '66  
Georganne (Robb) Welty '66

Thomas Francis Carmean '67  
David John Opdahl '67  
Robert Lee Schmidt '67  
Dennis Michael Sullivan '67  
Gerard van Amstel '67  
Adeline Theresa (Czeck) Zenk '67  
Jerry Duane Ganske '68  
JoAnn M. (Johnson) Golbuff '68  
Fred Claude Hunt '68  
Audrey Jo (Scott) Poyer '68  
Donna Jean (Spear) Sharp '68  
Thomas Harry Sowles '68  
Robert T. Dahlgren '69  
David J. Hoyord '69  
Ronald Ray Orum '69  
William Merrill Potts '69  
Michael Brian Swan '69

## ► 1970s

Wendy Sue (Kisling) Brower '70, '72  
Helen Ann Holmes '70  
Rochus W. Leier '70  
Judith Lee (Heiman) Nelson '70  
Robert William Pech '70  
Conan Alvin Reinken '70  
Karen Marie (Baumann) Sanderson Buschow '70, '82  
Donald Albert Affolter '71  
Michael Vaughn Andrews '71  
Dale Elgin Brower '71, '73, '76  
Gerald Leonard Greischar '71  
Robert Franklin Harberts '71  
Lois Marie (Cornish) Henderson '71  
Angelene Mae (Isvik) Meling '71  
Donald James Borey '72, '78  
James Rodney Edlund '72, '79  
Thomas John Hatala '72  
Corrine Ann (Hanson) Posz '72  
Glenn Harry Hansen '73  
William J. Herman '73  
Lee Thomas Pestka '73  
Darryl Neil Haugen '74  
Ronald John Nelson '74  
Richard Paul Ford '75  
Jeffery Lee Gallagher '75  
Susan J. (Trotter) Heldt '75, '88  
Rhoda Annette Holden '75  
Lawrence W. Yip '75  
Cheryl Ann (Hedin) Hanson '76  
Donna M. (Scoggins) Page '76  
Steven Lesley Peterson '76  
Wilfred Eugene Schneider '76

Teri Edward Glaze '77  
Anthony John Lesinski '77  
Vernon Lee Lyght '77  
Karon Joan (Trygstad) Halvorson '78  
Mark Wesley Howe '78  
Matthew Gene Verdoes '78  
Timothy Joseph Vogl '78  
Jan Elizabeth (Janda) Chapman '79  
Felipe Zamora Ramirez '79

## ► 1980s

Bonnie Jane (Gross) Portwood '81  
Allen Richard Prosch '81  
Curtis Dale Barnett '82  
Pamela K. (Olson) Olson-Cruise '82  
Mary Agnes (Orth) Nelson-Wade '83  
Karin Ann (Olson) Waits '83  
Renae Janelle Lundene '84  
Bradley Alvin Schroeder '84  
Mark Stephen Erickson '85, '90  
Charles John Krattenmaker '85  
Edna M. Rask Erickson '86  
Dorothea Elizabeth (Southworth) Wondrow '86  
Doreen Joanne (Honsey) Aparicio '87  
Joan Ann (Tuynman) Gockel '87  
Gail Kay (Emanuel) Malvin '87  
Daniel Lee Sagmoe '87, '96  
Ann Marie Vetter '87  
Lynn Allen Nelson '88  
Ronald Herbert Benson '89  
Elizabeth Mary (Welckle) Blaschko '89

## ► 1990s

Virginia May (White) Larson '91  
Thomas K. O'Byrne '91  
Richard John Mesenburg '92  
Lois Zangle (Zangle) Rippe '94  
Kathryn Faye (Langland) Robinson '94, '03  
Rhonda Jean (Minke) Niebuhr '95  
James Patrick Robertson '96  
Alycia Marie (Rep) Fox '98

## ► 2000s

Erin Claudia Randall '06  
Mridusha (Shrestha) Allen '07, '10, '11  
Adam Chul Bigalk '10  
Samee Mohammad Ranginwala '10

# 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](mailto:today@mnsu.edu) or [msuupdates@mnsu.edu](mailto: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.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

## FACULTY AND STAFF

Doris Rose (Edhlund) Bateman  
Sheldon Leroy Brown  
Harold D. Burch  
Verona (Devine) Burton  
Leon J. Frost  
Russell D. Gorman  
Clifford Stanley Hendrickson  
Jeanne T. (Traphagen) Lupton  
William B. Nelson  
Paula Kay Paul-Wagner  
Florence (Larson) Sponberg

## FRIENDS

Michael Ray Adams  
Mary Jane (Freudenthal) Blethen  
Eldon William Fick  
Creighton Luke James  
Lila Jean (Krapf) Roegiers

## STUDENTS

Timothy Anderson  
Anthony Carlson  
Amy Holscher  
John Mangen  
Nicholas James Stephan



# 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

