

SUMMER 2012

TETON THUNDER

**WILLISTON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION:
BRINGING COMMUNITIES & COLLEGE TOGETHER**

ALUMNI PROFILE
Laurie Forsberg

**50TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**
JUNE 29, 30 & JULY 1

REC CENTER UPDATE



**WILLISTON
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FOUNDATION**



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TETONTHUNDER

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welcome / terry olson



GREETINGS FROM WILLISTON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION.

50 years. Wow! Our celebration of 50 years of excellence begins Friday, June 29, with an athletic banquet. Festivities will continue on Saturday, June 30, with Hometown Williston events on campus, WSC open house and tours, faculty tea, and an evening BBQ and dance. The celebration will conclude with the President's Brunch on Sunday, July 1. What an exciting time. We hope you will join us.

Our community and campus continue to change at an accelerated pace. The effects have been positive for WSC growth, and the revived campus has become a bright spot for our region.

Construction of a new apartment building will begin this summer, helping to address housing needs for a number of entities, including WSC employees.

I would like to say thanks to our 50th Anniversary Celebration committee members: Coke Aafedt, Hunter Berg, Gary Bickel, Jack Colby, Leah Hess, Crystal Hotchkiss, David Njos, Helen Overbo, Phil Rabon, Kayla Retzer, Penny Slagle, Tara Weltikol, and Jenny Wolf. Special thanks go to committee Chair Diane Hagen. Diane has displayed a tremendous amount of enthusiasm for and dedication to our 50th Anniversary Celebration event. She and the committee have spent many hours planning a very special time. Diane has also researched and written about the College's history leading up to this event. Her weekly articles have been fun to read and call to mind the good times so many have shared at UND-W/ Williston State College.

Here is to another 50 years of excellence! Till next time – go Tetons!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Olson".

Terry Olson
Executive Director

A large group of healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, and support staff, are posed in front of a brick building. They are wearing various medical scrubs and lab coats. The image is part of a promotional banner for Mercy Medical Center.

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TOP (L-R): Friends and family of the nursing graduates wait for the ceremony to start. WSC Nursing graduates participate in the lamp lighting tradition during the Pinning Ceremony. MIDDLE (L-R): Pipers Jesse and Wyatt Dunford lead the processional during graduation. On-stage dignitaries crack up during student speaker, Luke Lordemann's speech. BOTTOM: WSC Concert Choir performs.

INSTRUCTIONAL UPDATE



GRUNENWALD



ANDERSON



PETERSON

Williston State College is pleased to announce that both Beau Anderson and Steven Grunenwald have been granted tenure.

Beau Anderson has been an Instructor of Agriculture at WSC for six years. In addition to his outstanding talents in education, Anderson has worked extensively in developing relationships between the college and our community.

Steven Grunenwald has been an Instructor of Arts and Humanities at WSC for six years. In addition to his skills as an educator, Grunenwald has worked tirelessly to serve many roles on campus and has proven to be an excellent advisor and role model to WSC students.

WSC is also happy to announce that Grunenwald and Matt Peterson, who teaches economics and computer science, have both been promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor.

ATHLETIC UPDATE

Summer 2012 looks like a busy one for Teton Athletics. WSC Athletic Director Hunter Berg reports that hockey recruiting is going strong. The volleyball team, who hosted their 4th Annual Fun Run/Walk on April 28, are already gearing up for the new season this fall. And preparations are being made for the inaugural season of Teton Softball next spring.

The WSC 50th Anniversary Celebration will begin June 29 with the Teton Athletics 50-Year Reunion Banquet, which will celebrate the history of Teton Athletics, including announcement of all-decade teams, inductions into the hall of fame for 2012, and presentation of special awards. To reserve your spot at the Reunion banquet, download the reservation form from the Teton Athletics website or email Rita Ann Deichert at rita.deichert@willistonstate.edu.

Closing out the summer, the 2nd Annual Donn Skadeland Memorial Golf Tournament will be held August 25. For more information about the tournament and Teton Athletics, check out the Teton Athletics website (www.wscetons.com).

2012 WSC TETON VOLLEYBALL 4TH ANNUAL FUN RUN



DONN SKADELAND MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

to be held at The Links of North Dakota, Red Mike Resort

Saturday, August 25, 2012 - 10am Shotgun Start
\$125 per person (includes cart)

alumni spotlight / laurie forsberg

BY MARY STENBERG

Williston attorney Laurie Forsberg is a firm believer in Williston State College's motto, "Where the people make the difference."

A native of Kramer, ND, located about 15 miles southwest of Bottineau ("avid goose hunters will know where it is," she says), Forsberg graduated from Williston State College back when it was still known as University of North Dakota-Williston.

Her first exposure to Williston was through high-school sports – coming to town for basketball camps and regional basketball tournaments. Forsberg decided to attend UND-W because of Phil Rabon and Penny Slagle, who recruited her to play basketball.

She wore the Teton uniform for a short time. "I played basketball – or tried to – until I blew my knee out," she recalls. "I then wound up taking on the duties of student manager."

Forsberg injured her knee during her first year here, spending her first college Thanksgiving in the hospital. But it wasn't all bad for her. She laughs, "I do remember it was decent food!"

Her time with the team was during Coach Penny Slagle's first year coaching. "She was not much older than we were," Forsberg remembers. "When we were freshmen, the women took third place in the nation. I had the enjoyment of being able to watch – the teams were phenomenal. Penny did a great job, we had super students and athletes – and education was always emphasized, even more than athletics."

One of her fondest memories of her time at the college was traveling with the women's basketball team to Hawaii. "We went with the team that included Laura (Webb) Wilt and Tammy Lyson, going over Christmas. We worked really hard to raise the money to travel to Hawaii." All of the trips they took made for wonderful memories, says Forsberg, even the shorter ones. "Squeezing 14 or more people into the green Teton vans made for interesting card games, conversation, entertainment, and a whole bunch of laughter," she says, "and it's fun to get together to reminisce and hear the different things each of us remembers about our Teton days."

Education was always a priority in her family when she was growing up. Her father, who passed away when Forsberg was a child, strongly believed in the importance of education. His parents hadn't allowed him to go to high school because he was always going to be a farmer, and he wanted more for his children. "Mom also reminded me several times how appreciative she was for the attorney that helped her in her time of need, after dad died," recalls Forsberg. This was something that played a large role in her decision to go to law school, and in a way, she began

training for the profession early: "Growing up the youngest of six children, all close in age, was probably the best training for becoming an attorney."

Coming from a small community and school (her grade school class in Kramer had only 5 students, and she attended high-school in nearby Upham, joining a larger class of 23), Forsberg knew she wanted to continue her education, but wasn't sure jumping right in to a university was the best idea. Fortunately Rabon and Slagle came calling, and she chose UND-W. Her time at Williston prepared her extremely well for attending a larger college. "I loved the smaller classes here, the interaction that you were able to have with all of the instructors," explains Forsberg. She stresses the high quality of instructors she had at UND-W. "The instructors were very knowledgeable, excellent at communication, always available to answer questions, and challenged you to increase your knowledge," and she admits, "I am sure that we challenged them at times as well."

Forsberg also says that she truly enjoyed the close relationships that developed at the college. "It really was a community atmosphere. You knew everyone at the college, and the people from the community welcomed you with open arms." When Forsberg was a student here, the college was an integral part of the community, as it continues to be today. "The college wasn't and isn't just for the students – it belongs to everyone. And it's not just for Williston – it's a college for the region."



RIGHT: 1979-1980 Teton Team Photo. Forsberg is second from left in the top row.



After receiving an associate's degree from UND-W, Forsberg went on to UND in Grand Forks, where she earned her undergraduate degree in accounting. Then it was on to UND Law School. After graduating from law school, Forsberg returned to Williston, joining the McKennett law firm, eventually becoming a partner. She's been there 25 years and specializes in estate planning, probate, real estate law, and business entities.

"IT TRULY IS A PLACE WHERE THE PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE."

WSC has remained an important part of her adult life. She was a board member of the Teton Booster Club and she served on the Williston State College Foundation, each for 10 years. And living in Williston also gives her the opportunity to run into many former classmates and instructors.

Forsberg has also served on the boards of United Way, the friendship program currently known as Mentors and Friends for Youth, and the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church council. For the past 15 years, she has served on the board of directors for Legal Services of North Dakota, which provides legal services to low-income, disadvantaged, and elderly individuals throughout the state of North Dakota.

"Each of us is strongly influenced by our family, teachers, and communities," Forsberg says. "I am fortunate to have been raised by a wonderful family who believed strongly in education, to have been taught by excellent teachers and to live in wonderful communities to obtain that education, as well as to live and work."

She is happy with the path her life has taken, especially her time at UND-W. "I could not have chosen a better place to start my college education," she maintains. "Coming from a very small grade school and high school, this was the perfect fit. The education I received was second to none and it was an easy transition to UND. I would recommend WSC to anyone thinking of attending college."

Forsberg is excited about the growth of WSC and the expansion of the campus. "I love the new buildings going up and the positive atmosphere," she says. "I think the future is unlimited for the college. It truly is a place where the people make the difference."

campus updates / rec center

BY KYLA ANTHONY

The region will see another change this summer as the new recreation center in Williston moves from the planning stage to actual construction.

Groups involved in the project include the Williston Parks and Recreation District, Williston State College, and the building committee formed especially for this project. The building committee is composed of student representatives from Williston High School and WSC, community members, and employees of WSC and Parks and Recreation.

"The public deserves the credit," maintains Darin Krueger, director of the Williston Parks and Recreation District, because the project was made possible by the vote to increase sales tax. Additionally, "this project would never have gotten off the ground without the partnerships between Williston Park District, WSC, and North Dakota State Board of Higher Education,"

notes Krueger, "This partnership has allowed us to move forward with this amazing facility for our college students, families of our community, and region."

WSC President Raymond Nadolny brought the idea of a new recreation center forward to the State Board of Higher Education. He also offered the land for it. The State Board of Higher Education gave permission to build on WSC campus.

Work on the new recreation center is currently on schedule. The schematic design is finished and architects are currently working on the development design. Parks and Recreation hopes to start moving dirt late July or early August.

The goal is to have the walls up by November 1, and the opening date is scheduled to be December 1, 2013.

The cost of the new 240,000-square-foot center is projected to be \$67 million. This will be paid off by revenue bonds over a period of up to 20 years. 50% of the parks district sales tax collection is paying for construction.

The new recreation center will be located on WSC campus, east of Rabon Field. It will span from the trailers all the way to East Dakota Parkway.

The new center will provide 14 full-time positions and over 1000 hours per week for part time staff. Due to its location, Parks and Recreation hopes to have college students fill some of those positions.

The facility will include a water park, surfing simulator, competitive

pool, teaching pool, indoor 200-meter track, turf field, four basketball and volleyball courts, four indoor tennis courts, two racquetball courts, golf simulator, meeting rooms, senior center, youth center, and weight-training area. With all of these features Parks and Recreation hopes to help prevent child obesity and start more family programs. Krueger

states, "This facility will offer advanced quality of life for the entire northwest North Dakota region."

This will be the premier recreational center in the region, and one of the top in the nation. For more information, check out www.willistonparks.com.

"THIS FACILITY WILL OFFER **ADVANCED QUALITY OF LIFE** FOR THE ENTIRE NORTHWEST NORTH DAKOTA REGION."



campus updates / apartment complex

BY MATT NELSON

Construction season is in swing in North Dakota, and Williston State College is doing its part to ease the region's housing crisis. In the coming months, we'll see a new three-floor apartment building go up on the south side of campus. The plan is to break ground on the \$10 million building by mid-summer and get the apartments occupied by next spring, according to Keith Olson, Small Business Development Center Director. Partners with WSC on this project include the Williston School District, the City of Williston, Bethel Lutheran Home, the Department of Transportation, North Dakota State Highway Patrol, and North Dakota Game and Fish Department. The new building will provide 74 apartments, with 54 reserved for low- to moderate-income tenants and all of them available to employees of WSC and its partners. The goal is to provide affordable housing to employees who provide essential services. The building, designed by JLG Architects, will also include retail space on the main floor and underground parking. The apartments, according to Olson, "will be really nice...similar to downtown Grand Forks."

Of the \$10 million needed to fund the building, \$1 million will come through the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency. The Housing Incentive Fund (HIF) allows individual taxpayers to contribute to housing projects in their own region,

with their contribution coming out of the state taxes they would pay anyway. Anyone who contributes any amount of money to this fund will receive a certificate to file with their North Dakota State Income Tax forms, allowing them to claim a credit against their income tax liability for the amount they contributed. In other words, when you file next year's taxes, you will get back any money you contribute to this project. Anyone who contributes more than their total tax can simply carry the credit forward up to ten years. So someone who normally pays \$1,000 in state taxes per year could contribute \$2,000 now, get \$1,000 of that back next spring, and get the other \$1,000 back the next year. "There is no down side," notes Jolene Kline, Director of Planning and Housing Development at the ND Housing Finance Agency, "it is a way for a taxpayer to direct how their tax dollars are spent, as the contributor can specify a project, a community, or a region where they want their tax dollars to be used to create affordable housing." Any North Dakota taxpayers who want to learn more about the HIF should visit www.NDHousingIncentiveFund.org, which provides more information as well as a link to contribute directly to the fund.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO CONTRIBUTE:

- Visit the ND Housing Finance Agency website: www.NDHousingIncentiveFund.org
- Click on **CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND**
- Go to **CONTRIBUTOR FORM**
- Fill out the form. Under **NAME OF THE PROJECT YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS INTENDED TO SUPPORT**, write in either **WSC APARTMENT COMPLEX** or **WILLISTON**.

PRINT OUT THE FORM AND SEND IT, ALONG WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTION, TO:

North Dakota Housing Finance Agency
2624 Vermont Ave
PO Box 1535
Bismarck, ND 58502-1535

TO GET CREDIT FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION:

- You will receive a certificate from the ND Housing Finance Agency.
- Use the certificate when filing your 2012 North Dakota State Tax Return to receive dollar-for-dollar credit for your contribution.
- If your contribution was more than your total ND State tax liability for 2012, carry over the difference to next year.
- If your contribution, combined your tax payments, exceeds your liability, you will receive a refund.

For more information, go to **WHAT CONTRIBUTORS NEED TO KNOW** from the **CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND** page.

You can also contribute via electronic transfer or bill pay; just be sure to send in your completed form first.

If you make estimated quarterly payments to the State of ND, you can reduce those payments to account for your contribution.



campus updates kaiser house



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Exterior of Kaiser House provides a welcoming experience for visiting students, alumni and guests.

The Kaiser House boasts many unique areas excellent for entertaining and networking.

Earlier this summer a few legislative committees met for meetings and used the Kaiser Home.

WILLISTON STATE COLLEGE IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE ANOTHER ADDITION TO CAMPUS.

The Kaiser House, located across University Avenue from the college, will now house the President's office as well as the WSC Foundation. The house was purchased by the WSC Foundation from Marv Kaiser at a reduction with a partial gift. Kaiser also provided significant furnishings and accessories as a gift.

In addition to the two offices and their support staff, the house will provide a space for social gatherings and entertaining. In fact, the Kaiser House was already used this spring for the State Board of Higher Education dinner (see page 10 for photos and an account of the event).



campus updates // science addition



TOP: Scenic views of Rabon field can be enjoyed from the top floor of the science addition.

MIDDLE: An almost-completed view of the science addition's exterior.

BOTTOM: A quick look at the Biology Lab, one of the four new labs that will be available to students this fall.



FEATURES:

Four new science labs,
student area and 5 faculty
offices

COMPLETION DATE:

July 2012

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES:

Donations are still being
accepted for the science
addition, including:

\$150,000 for a science lab
\$600,000 for the entire wing

**LOOK
FOR THE
GRAND
OPENING
THIS FALL**

campus events / sbhe meeting

BY JACOB OLSON

As we all know, the current trappings of the oil boom in Williston often warrant discussion. And that's just what Williston State College decided to engage in – a discussion. In April, WSC invited the State Board of Higher Education and roughly fifty other guests to the Kaiser House for a conversation regarding the school's position in the Williston basin.

Among the members and speakers were Matt Grimshaw, CEO of Mercy Medical Center, Bob Skarphol, as a state representative from District 2, Jack Eckstrom, Vice President of Whiting Oil, Brad Bekkedahl, Williston City Commissioner and myself, as a student representative.

I spoke first, relaying my experience as a Williston native and student watching the oil industry change our hometown practically overnight, and the benefits it has had on the school.

Mr. Grimshaw spoke of the changes in our region, predominantly the impact on the hospital, including the increasing number of births (roughly 60 to 70 per month) and the intrinsic pressures this type of development imposes on a community, specifically in the medical field.

Mr. Eckstrom was introduced by Mr. Skarphol, and discussed the impact the boom has had within the industry, particularly in his own company, which is currently looking to fill over 200 job positions. He also

stressed how essential it is to support the North Dakota University Systems in not only their education, but also their ability to retain students within the state.

The college's new chancellor Dr. Shirvani, whose duties officially commence July 1, was also introduced at the

gathering, while exiting chancellor William Goetz was given a small farewell.

On behalf of the school, Foundation Executive Director Terry Olson presented the speakers with gifts of statuette oil well pumps, which was followed

by an evening of visiting and socializing.

It was the first time the State Board of Higher Education had been to visit Williston State College in three years. It gives a hopeful glance to the crowded and seemingly overrun town we've called home for so many years.



FAR LEFT: Jack Eckstrom, VP of Whiting Oil, shares a few thoughts on how oil companies and the North Dakota University System can work together.

TOP RIGHT: WSC President, Dr. Raymond Nadolny, looks on as Representative Bob Skarphol speaks to the State Board of Higher Education.

MIDDLE RIGHT: A bird's eye view of the State Board of Higher Education listening intently to Williston City Commissioner Brad Bekkedahl's presentation.

campus events // 50th anniversary



EVENTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 29

11a	Old Gym	Dedication of Donn Skadeland Gym
5p - 10p	The Well	Athletic Banquet and Awards Ceremony
10p - 12a	The Well	Social - Athletic Banquet Continued

SATURDAY, JUNE 30

12p - 3p	WSC Campus	Open House/Self-Guided Tours
12p - 3p	WSC Campus	Decades Mixer
2p - 4p	Kaiser House	Faculty Tea hosted by faculty wives
5:30p - 7p	WSC Campus	BBQ
7p - 12a	WSC Campus	Beer Garden
8p - 12a	WSC Campus	Concert

SUNDAY, JULY 1

10:30a	WSC Campus	President's Brunch
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THE WSC BOOKSTORE WILL BE OPEN:

Friday, June 29th, 8a - 5p

Saturday, June 30th, 12p - 5p



Dear Friends of WSC,

You are invited to the 50th Anniversary Celebration of UND-W/Williston State College. The activities start at 5pm on Friday, June 29th with the athletic banquet and awards presentation. Saturday, the fun continues with an open house, tours and faculty coffee during the day and a BBQ, beer garden and concert that evening. The weekend concludes with Sunday brunch at 10:30am hosted by WSC President Dr. Raymond Nadolny.

The registration fee (for events on Saturday and Sunday) is \$50 for a single person, \$75 for a couple and \$100 for a family. The athletic banquet is not included in the registration fee; tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for kids.

To register for the celebration, reserve hotel rooms or reserve a room in Frontier Hall, (new residence hall) go to www.visitwilliston.com.

Please contact Diane Hagen at 701.580.1031 if you have questions or need more information. Information is also available on our Facebook page at: facebook.com/willistonstatecollegefoundation.

behind the scenes / security

BY JENNY WOLF

SPEND ANY TIME ON CAMPUS AT WILLISTON STATE COLLEGE THESE DAYS, AND YOU'RE LIKELY TO SEE A FAMILIAR FACE IN A NEW UNIFORM. WSC HAS FILLED THE NEW DAYTIME SECURITY POSITION WITH STAFF VETERAN DARRYL "WHITEY" WHITECLOUD.

Recently, the North Dakota legislature held a special session in which they addressed relief for areas impacted by western North Dakota's oil and gas industry. The legislature provided \$2 million in funding for the

college, much of which is being used to improve the safety of the WSC campus. WSC President Raymond Nadolny reports, "The impact funding allowed us to provide daytime security and increase video surveillance all around campus."

After getting the impact money, the school offered the daytime security position to Whitecloud, a lifetime resident of Williston and a member of the WSC staff since 1993. Whitecloud describes the new job, which he began in April, as exciting. "When they first offered me the job, I thought, 'Man, that's going to be a lot of new stuff,'" Whitecloud recalls, "but it's been a lot of fun. It's a good job."

Whitecloud graduated from Williston High School in 1967, and he was later

drawn back to school by the automotive program at what was then University of North Dakota-Williston. He came to campus in 1992 as a student and stayed on as an employee, beginning to work even before he graduated. He started out changing oil and doing various maintenance and custodial jobs around campus, and he has continued taking on various responsibilities with campus services ever since.

In a typical day, Whitecloud says he walks through all of the buildings on campus multiple times and patrols the parking lots and the exterior of campus buildings in WSC's new John Deere Gator utility vehicle. He also provides a visible presence at any locations experiencing extra traffic, like the Motor Vehicle office in the Western Star Career and

Technology Center and the Crighton building.

Blackhawk Security still provides night-time security for WSC, and Whitecloud went through security training with Greg Thiel, owner of Blackhawk Security.

When asked what keeps him at Williston State College after all these years, and with all the changes in Williston, he explains, "It's a good stable job with benefits. It's a good place to work. I worked in the oil field before, and it was so unstable. I like the stability of the college."

He has also noticed many changes over the years. "It used to be we locked up at 5:00pm, and there was nothing on the weekends," remembers Whitecloud. "The campus is more open now, there are more events in the evenings, and the

gym and the Teton Lounge are open on weekends." In addition to changes in the campus, he notices changes in the students as well, "Kids are about the same, but they're more outgoing these days. They are all pretty good, and friendly." He especially appreciates that many of the students really take pride in the campus and help to keep it up.

Whitecloud and his wife Carolyn have been married 26 years. They love spending time with their two daughters, Kass and Carole, and three grandkids, Joycee Ruth, Jett, and Huntley.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: A look at the new John Deere Gator that Whitecloud will be using to patrol WSC's campus throughout the year.

A view from above shows Whitecloud making his rounds.

Whitecloud poses in his security gear with the new John Deere Gator.



behind the scenes / retired faculty/staff

BY TETON THUNDER STAFF

On April 19, a group of retired WSC faculty and staff got together to have breakfast and check out all the changes happening on campus. While coffee and rolls were served at the Teton Grill, a number of speakers, including Phil Rabon, Hunter Berg, Terry Olson, and Diane Hagen, spoke about the state of the college, including the construction of new buildings, changes in the athletics programs, and the upcoming 50th Anniversary Celebration.

After breakfast they took a walking tour of new facilities on campus, including Frontier Hall, the new baseball locker room, the newly-remodeled library, and the science addition currently under construction. A bus tour then surveyed the areas on campus where upcoming projects are planned, including the new apartment building, recreation center, and softball field.

Phil Rabon was pleased with the turnout. "All of the comments were very positive," Rabon reports. "They like getting together, and they were especially impressed with the new science facility." Rabon hopes to make this an annual tradition.

Among the retired faculty attending the event was Al "Uncle Al" Bervig, who taught economics at WSC from 1970-2000. Bervig, who still attends the occasional Teton basketball game, takes great pride in WSC and its students. He finds it especially fulfilling to see some of his former students now working at WSC. When he worked at WSC, Bervig remembers, "I felt like I had the greatest job in the world. I loved every minute of it." Right now, he thinks, "the school is under great leadership, and WSC is going through some wonderful changes that've been needed for a long time."

Roy Simonson, who taught carpentry at WSC from 1976-1989 and also served as advisor of Rodeo Club, attended the event as well. Simonson also taught high school in Richey, MT, and Trenton, but he says, "I really enjoyed teaching at WSC and the type of student that comes with college. They're a bit more mature and motivated to be there." Some of the best memories he has from WSC are the relationships he built with his fellow faculty over the years. "We were really more like family than co-workers. There was always some event or get-together, from sledding to barn dances and hay rides," he recalls. "Also, there's just something incredibly special about a former student coming up to you to thank you for what you've done," adds Simonson, "that still happens to me today, and it still brings me great joy." Of the campus today, he says, "It's beyond words. It's pretty amazing, and I'm blown away. Students don't know how good they have it today."

Both Simonson and Bervig, along with many other retired faculty and staff at the event, are planning to attend the 50th Anniversary Celebration this summer.



TOP: Diane Hagen gives an update on the 50th Anniversary celebration.

BOTTOM LEFT: Terry Olson talks about WSC's Master Plan.

RIGHT TOP: The group stops to enjoy the view from the second floor of the science addition.

RIGHT BOTTOM: Breakfast in the Teton Grill.



behind the scenes / linda tharp



LEFT: Tharp addresses the crowd at the Nursing Pinning Ceremony in May.

BY LEAH HESS

Linda Tharp, Coordinator of the Practical Nursing program, is an excellent reflection of the quality faculty the College has to offer. Tharp earned both her Associate of Science and Bachelor degree in Nursing from Dickinson State University. She went on to receive her Master's degree in Nursing from the University of North Dakota. After working for a home health

within the College. Tharp has enjoyed her 21 years working for Williston State, and says, "One thing I'm really impressed with here at WSC is how willing everyone is to work with each other to help achieve goals."

In addition to enjoying her work as the Nursing Coordinator for WSC, Tharp has an immense appreciation for nursing. As long as people

Tharp notes, "One of the most rewarding things for me is seeing my former students giving care. It makes me extremely proud of them, and I become even more content with my career choice."

WSC's program has changed significantly in the time since Tharp arrived. In the early 2000s, WSC spearheaded Practical Nursing in the region, offering distance education at sites in Minot, Devils Lake, Grafton, Langdon, Bismarck, Bottineau, Rugby, and New Town. Tharp coordinated all of this distance education activity, which kept her plenty busy. In 2004, the legislature passed changes to the 2-year Practical Nursing requirement, making it an 11-month requirement, and the 4-year Registered Nursing requirement changed to a 2-year program. This change allowed for the creation of the Dakota Nursing Program, collaborative effort between Bismarck State College, Dakota College at Bottineau, Fort Berthold Community College, Lake Region State College, and WSC. Since the 1970s, WSC had been

offering the Practical Nursing program; with the legislative change, WSC was finally able to offer the RN program on campus as well.

Currently, WSC runs the nursing program at two sites: Williston and Minot. Each year, the Williston site accepts up to 20 Practical Nursing students and 16 Associate Degree in Nursing students; the Minot site accepts up to 18 Practical Nursing students and 16 Associate Degree in Nursing students. Tharp is excited to see so much interest at both the sites, "I have found that nursing is a very satisfying career choice because there are so many different avenues nursing can lead you."

Looking to the future, Tharp is excited to see the evolution of technological changes in nursing. When she started at WSC, she and a coworker shared a computer and only used it when they needed to type certain documents. In the classroom, she taught her students how to do their charting and keep track of medical records by hand. Now Tharp can't imagine

working without her computer, and she trains her students how to use technology in the classroom, just as it is being used in the field today. Students do their clinicals with iPod Touches in their pockets for reference, and the nursing program has invested in high-fidelity simulators, which are a significant asset to the program. Next year, Tharp says students will have the option to purchase their books as e-books.

Tharp credits her success to the support of her husband and wonderful family. Her husband, Cecil Tharp, is an Area Manager for Key Energy. Together, they have three sons residing in Bozeman, Williston, and Bismarck, along with 7 grandchildren. When she isn't busy working, she enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, and cooking with her family.

**"THIS IS SUCH AN
ENJOYABLE PLACE
TO WORK BECAUSE
IT'S LIKE A FAMILY,"**

agency in Dickinson, Mercy Medical in Williston, and the Northwest Human Service Center in Williston, she found a home at WSC in 1991.

"This is such an enjoyable place to work because it's like a family," Tharp reflects. She observes how easy it is to build relationships with students, staff, and faculty

are sick and need care, there will be a need for nurses. This is apparent both in North Dakota and nationally. In North Dakota alone, 40% of LPNs and 50% of RNs will retire by the year 2020. This solidifies the importance of Tharp's role at Williston State, as she brings a significant amount of knowledge and experience to the position.

behind the scenes bill stillwell

BY MARY STENBERG

Bill Stillwell, director of facilities at Williston State College, has come full circle at the institution – from student to supervisor.

A native of Aurora, Colorado, Stillwell moved to Williston in 1998 with his wife, Melanie, who is from Upham, ND. “We moved up to this area to get closer to family,” Stillwell recalls, “and we’ve loved it here ever since.”

Melanie took a job as vice president at the Western Cooperative Credit Union, where she currently serves as CEO. Meanwhile, Stillwell took the opportunity to attend college at WSC, where he earned an associate’s degree in computer science and administrative assistant. They have a 13-year-old son, Ryland.

As a student, Stillwell found WSC to be a great place to learn. “It was wonderful. I loved the teachers – it was nice to have personal interaction with them, right there in classroom or out of class. They were right there and would take time to talk to you, to guide you. We have a wonderful thing here at WSC.”

As an employee, Stillwell found WSC to offer many challenges, which he is up to accepting.

“WE HAVE A WONDERFUL THING HERE AT WSC.”

His job description is varied and vast, including budgeting, supervising seven employees, controlling what happens with the buildings including utilities, the heating plant, etc. He is also in charge of security and is project manager of the many current and upcoming capital projects. The list goes on.

For many, this would be daunting and overwhelming, but not for Stillwell.

“I love the challenges – and I’ve got a lot of them,” he laughs. “It’s been a fun 11-1/2 years. The people here are great; they always work with you and help you out any way they can. That’s what keeps me going here – the people are great to work with.”

The great influx of people and the explosive growth in the area keeps Stillwell thinking about the future. For WSC, he sees more opportunities, and more work, than ever.

“I see lots of things coming in the near future, including possibly a new humanities building, an art building, more remodeling of the old building here, and more,” he says. “With so much going on, we are trying our best to keep on top of it and keep control.”

While many residents focus on the negative impacts of Williston’s growing pains, Stillwell sees the growth of the city and area’s economic situation as a good opportunity for WSC.

“I see maybe even another residence hall being built because as the town grows, we’ll be seeing more students on campus,” predicts Stillwell. “As a campus, we are going to have to somehow build for the needs of the students. It’s a wonderful opportunity we have here at the college.”



TOP: Stillwell gives a thumbs-up as he trails the WSC pickup in this spring's Band Day Parade.

BOTTOM: Stillwell poses for a photo in front of Stevens Hall.





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Williston State College Foundation

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wsc tetons / tiny tetons

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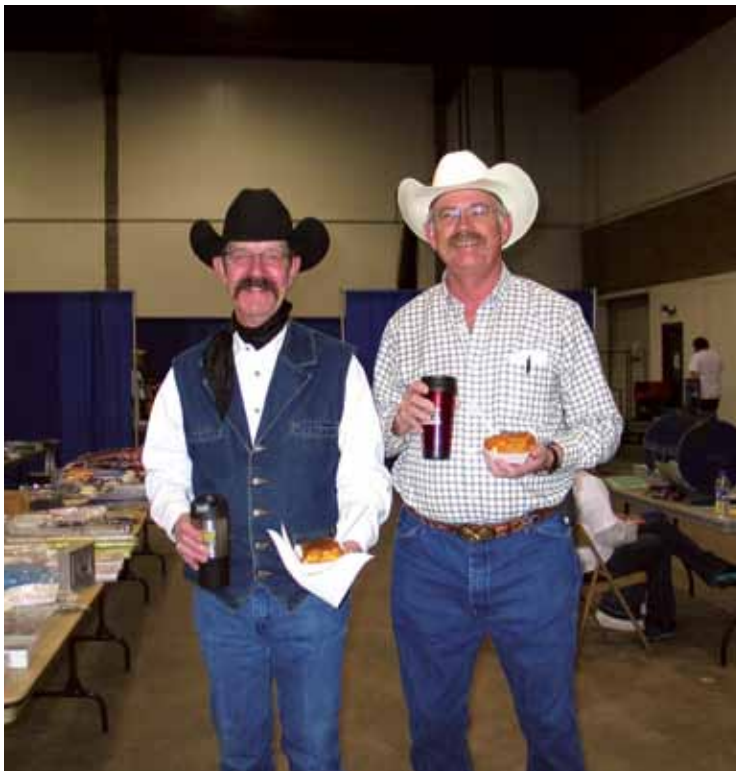
Send high-resolution photos to tetonthunder@wscfoundation.com. Photos will be used in the order received and as space allows.



1. Anna Violet, 6 months
Angie ('06) & Colin March
Williston, ND

2. Kole, 3
Melanie & Scott Herman
Williston, ND





The Teton Booster Club's 11th Annual Pickup Raffle, which took place in April, was another big success for Teton Athletics. Athletic Director Hunter Berg notes, "The money goes to athletic scholarships; this is our biggest fundraiser for scholarships." Berg adds that the event was expanded this year with more tickets and even more prizes. Winner of the 2012 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 was Kevin Christianson. For a list of all prizes and recipients, visit the Teton Athletics website (www.wsctetons.com).

together. The live auction was run by WSC's own Lee Halverson, and the athletics department ran concessions during the sale.

On March 30, Teton Athletics hosted its annual spring Casino Night Fundraiser. "It was a big success. It's an event people plan for – it's really fun," says Hunter Berg. The fundraising event, a tradition that has been growing every year since 2009, features a social hour, casino games, and dinner. Silent and live auctions throughout the evening feature dozens of items that each athletics team gather to help raise funds for their respective teams. Popular items have included autographed memorabilia, golf memberships, housewares and furniture, vehicles and much more. VIP tables are also available for attendees to receive special service from Teton Athletes and priority seating for the live and silent auctions.

On April 28, the 22nd Mercy Community Sale was held at the Raymond Family Community Center in Williston, and the Teton Booster Club was this year's recipient. "It's a great way for us to raise the dollars to build a softball field for the Teton Softball team as they begin play next year," explains Hunter Berg. Berg credits the sale's success to the tremendous effort by the athletic department and everyone else at WSC over the two months it took to put the sale



TOP LEFT: Lee Halverson and Jim Borseth, auctioneer and assistant, grab a bite to eat before things get too busy.

MIDDLE (L-R): A group of WSC hockey players take a break before hauling purchased items to their new owners' vehicles.

Hunter Berg gives a final pep talk to all the Mercy Sale workers before the doors are opened.

BOTTOM: The first wave of excited shoppers rush in as the doors are opened.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A fellow gambler looks on as the dealer shows her cards.

WSC Hockey players embrace for a picture during Casino Night.

Some final touches are made as the tables wait for their guests.



wsc tetons / baseball wrap-up

BY DEREK MCKEIL

Williston State Baseball collected its most winning season to date this spring.

After a successful 2010-2011 season the Tetons had high hopes to continue their success for the 2011-2012 season. With only 5 returning players, recruiting was a top priority for Coach Cote. His formula for success included 17 talented new players, 15 of them freshmen.

With 51 games scheduled for the season, the Tetons had

their work cut out for them. Playing several nationally-ranked Division I and Division II teams and scheduling a top-heavy early season gave the baseball program some stiff competition right out of the gates.

Beginning the season with a ten-day road trip to Tucson, Arizona, over Spring Break, the Tetons collected only 3 wins while dropping 12 games. Although the team returned home 9 games below .500, everyone

remained optimistic that the season ahead would still bring success, and it did.

Once home, the Tetons won the State Farm Classic in Miles City, Montana, sweeping the tournament with 5 straight wins. The team went on to win 3 of 4 home-and-home sets, and then went undefeated in the Mon-Dak Conference tournament. In the 36 regular-season games they played after returning home from Arizona, the

Tetons went 29-7, ending the regular season with a series of wins and an overall 32-19 record, the most wins Williston State Baseball has ever recorded.

The Tetons went on to win their third Region 13 title. While they later lost the North Plains title game (for the second year in a row), Coach Cote points out that the Tetons were ranked #15 in the country this year, their first time in the Top 20. They finished with a 36-21

overall record, and 5 players were named to the Mon-Dak All-Conference team, 4 were named All-Region, 2 All-District, and Scott Jameson was named Mon-Dak pitcher of the year. Looking forward after this record-breaking season, Cote notes, "We had more freshman than sophomores this year...it bodes well for the future."



LEFT PAGE: CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Scott Jameson sports a smile as he approaches the plate.

Dallas Robirds and Bryant Marsing lead their teammates in a warm-up lap around the field.

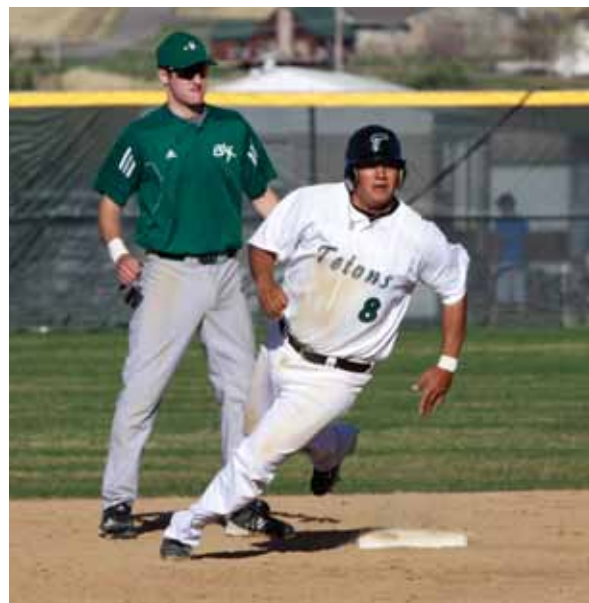
AJ Begay rounds first base.

Erick Andrews readies himself at the plate while teammates look on.

RIGHT PAGE: CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Players gather around Coach Cote for a pep talk.

Jacob Beuster winds up and delivers a pitch.

Catcher readies for the pitch.





AN OVERALL **32-19** RECORD, THE MOST WINS
WILLISTON STATE BASEBALL HAS EVER RECORDED.



ROSTER

PLAYER	#	POSITION	BATS	THROWS
AJ Begay	8	IF	Right	Right
Alex Potnick	12	IF	Right	Right
Andy Vehr	44	P	Left	Left
Brock McCashland	22	P, IF	Left	Left
Bryant Marsing	5	OF	Right	Right
Casey Patrick	4	P, IF	Right	Right
Cody Pope	15	P, C	Right	Right
Colton Gatherum	1	IF	Right	Right
Conner Oliver	7	P, OF	Left	Right
Cy Stone	19	C	Right	Right
Dallas Robirds	3	OF	Right	Right
Erick Andrews	21	OF	Right	Right
Evan Conlin	14		Left	Right
Jacob Beuster	33	P	Right	Right
Jeff Beckman	20	OF	Right	Right
Joey Hendricks	17	P	Right	Right
Josh Solem	24		Right	Right
Kolby Schmidt	11	P	Right	Left
Kyler Eubank	2	IF	Right	Right
Logan Jugler	6	P, C	Right	Right
Scott Jameson	30	P, IF	Right	Right
Travis Roberts	10	P, C	Right	Right
Tyler England	26	OF	Left	Right
Tyler Stevenson	9	OF	Right	Right

student spotlight // justin jacobs



BY MARY STENBERG

For Williston State College student Justin Jacobs, who came to Williston from Maryland, life is an adventure. And while he isn't sure where he'll end up, he is sure that he is right where he is meant to be – for now.

With a father in the military, Justin has been moving around his entire life. When he graduated from high school in 2011, his decision about where he would attend college wasn't clear at first.

"Honestly, WSC wasn't my first choice – it was not even on my list of choices," Jacobs explains. "But some of my plans changed and this was, at the time, the next best fit."

He is studying agriculture and plans to graduate in 2013 with an Associate in Science degree.

Jacobs isn't sure when he first became interested in the field of agriculture. "It's kind of hard to pinpoint," he says. "Since I was a young guy, I knew I wanted to do something related to farming. It's been a passion that has never gone away and the Lord has allowed me to get into it."

After he graduates from WSC next spring, his plans are still not set in stone, but he does have some penciled in. "I would like to move on to NDSU in Fargo and go into the crop and weed science program. I am really interested in the breeding of plants and coming up with new varieties – that's my biggest interest."

Eventually, he would like to end up at a research center, possibly overseas, working with different varieties of crops. His dream is to own his own farm.

Jacobs' time at WSC has prepared him well for his future and he would definitely recommend the school to others.

"I really like the small campus – it's very personable and it's easy to get to know people. The teachers are willing to help you. And because the student body is smaller, you can get one-on-one assistance from the instructors."

After spending two semesters on campus, he is content and happy with his decision to attend WSC.

"I can't imagine why I would have gone anywhere else. I'm glad that I'm here – it's exactly where God wanted me right now."

student spotlight // rubyann stiegelmeier

LEFT PAGE: Jacobs and Ag Instructor Kim Murphy check their soil sample against a chart.

RIGHT PAGE: Stiegelmeier takes time for a picture during graduation in a dress her sister made.

Stiegelmeier practicing with the Select Singers in 2010.



BY MARY STENBERG

Ask most Dakota natives if they'd rather go to college in Hawaii or North Dakota, and you can probably guess what they'd say. For 2012 Williston State College graduate RubyAnn Stiegelmeier, however, it wasn't such an easy choice.

Born and raised in South Dakota, Stiegelmeier says she grew up in "one of the biggest and craziest families I know. We have a lot of fun." Her two brothers and four sisters have also provided her with "the eight cutest nieces and nephews in the world!"

Stiegelmeier's interest in the field was piqued when she got her first massage at the age of 8 after suffering whiplash. "I thought it was the coolest job in the world to rub people's necks all day. Ever since then, I've practiced on people."

Her favorite part of massage is working on people's feet. "It's funny – when you work on a neck, you make the pain go away. But when you work on their feet, they think you are spoiling them. Either way, you're taking care of people and spoiling them – I get a real high out of that."

So the big question remains – why did she choose WSC over college in Hawaii?

"Two people from home suggested I come up here. My sister-in-law had gone through the massage therapy program here and she told me about the teachers, how they are really caring and they know their stuff," explains Stiegelmeier. "The other reason I chose WSC is that my mentor told me I should take my basic training in the Midwest because the teachers here are so caring. So basically, WSC beat out Hawaii in a race!"

Stiegelmeier has no regrets about her choice. She appreciates the teachers at WSC and how they help prepare the students for life after graduation. "The best part of my time at WSC was the real-life attitude I've gotten from the teachers, especially Bob Benson, Jim Stout and Ken Quamme. Bob is so real; he brings our massage therapy into real treatment situations. For my general classes, Ken and Jim also made it real-life – teaching us the stuff that we will run into in the real world – not just in a textbook. I love that."

She also enjoyed attending college in a small town, "even though it is crazy Williston!"

To anyone who is thinking about studying massage therapy and trying to decide on a college, Stiegelmeier has some thoughts: "There is a lot I could say, but one of the biggest pluses about WSC and the teachers here is that they let you be an individual – they don't force you into a box. They let you grow into the therapist and caring person you want to be."

Stiegelmeier is currently planning to open an independent massage therapy business, renting a treatment room from Basin Health and Spine Center in Williston. "I'm really excited to see what the future holds and get down to the business of helping people feel better."

student activities japan



TOP: Five WSC students pose with three Japanese students with whom they spent time with during their trip.

MIDDLE: A ground-level view of Tokyo Tower.

BOTTOM: Kamakura Daibutsu, the giant Buddha.

BOTTOM RIGHT: WSC students and chaperones in front of the giant Buddha.



BY KIM WEISMANN

Five students and two chaperones from Williston State College participated in a short study exchange with Kokusai Junior College (KJC). Kaylyn Bondy, WSC Registrar and Director of Admission and Records, and Kim Weismann, Instructor of Communication at WSC, took Kyla Anthony, McKenzie Cymbaluk, Katie King, Jeff Purslow, and Joe Scanlan to Tokyo, Japan on May 19.

During the exchange students participated in Japanese language, culture, history, and geography classes. They worked at learning Japanese with students from KJC while helping KJC students strengthen their English skills. Kyla Anthony said her favorite part of the exchange was being able to learn the Japanese language.

For most students who participated, this was their

first time traveling abroad. In addition to the differences in language and history, students encountered daily life in a large city, including such new experiences as using public transportation for everyday commuting.

Some of the culture lessons took place during meals. These lessons included learning how to eat an entire meal with chopsticks and trying new foods, such as eel, sushi, and Japanese curry. A professional kimono dyer also presented the techniques of dyeing kimonos.

The group was also able to do some sightseeing to learn about Japanese culture and history. They went to Akihabara, an area famous for Japanese anime and manga. Tokyo Tower, a building similar to the Eiffel Tower in Paris, was McKenzie Cymbaluk's favorite sightseeing location because of the view from the top, while Katie

King was most excited about visiting Kamakura Daibutsu, the giant Buddha.

During the last day of classes, the WSC students gave presentations in front of the CEO, President, Vice President, faculty, staff, and students of KJC. The students talked about how the exchange had changed them. All of the students were excited to go back to North Dakota to help clean up the area. The students said they appreciate Japanese culture. Joe Scanlan and Jeff Purslow both said they enjoyed spending a week walking in the shoes of a Japanese student and exploring their culture.

This was the first time the exchange has occurred between KJC and WSC. Students from KJC will be in Williston for ten days beginning August 1.



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