TETON THUNDER

WILLISTON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION: BRINGING COMMUNITIES & COLLEGE TOGETHER

SPECIAL SESSION INFORMATION

MEET WSC ALUMNUS
JACK MICHAELS

PHOTO MONTAGE
TETONS FROM THE ‘80S

ALSO INSIDE:
Science addition update
In memoriam: Sherry Arnold
Teton hockey wrap-up
Right now, the future is brighter than ever for your financial growth and you need advisors who see the right opportunities.

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“There’s various kind of oil aflout, Cod-liver, Sweet;
Which tend to make a sick man well, and set him on his feet,
But our’s a curious feat performs: We just a well obtain,
And set the people crazy with oil on the brain.”

“Oil on the Brain”, 19th Century Song (The Prize by Daniel Yergin, Simon and Schuster, 1991)

According to the 2010 Census, Williston (14,716) has the ninth largest population in the state of North Dakota. Given the number of building permits in 2010 and 2011, I believe Williston is actually the sixth largest population in North Dakota, moving ahead of Jamestown (15,427), Dickinson (17,787), and Mandan (18,331).

Within two years, my understanding is that the numerous additional units to be built put Williston on pace to become North Dakota’s fifth largest population, moving ahead of West Fargo (25,830).

Within five years, given industry growth projections and anticipated building, and with additional city annexations, it would be reasonable to forecast that Williston will be the fourth largest city in the state.

I believe these forecasts are conservative. One year ago, our classified newspaper had 32 pages of classifieds. This year, the same newspaper has 68 pages of classifieds. Our unemployment is only 9/10 of one percent. We are even seeing national headlines documenting our community’s growth.

But WSC is not a city college. WSC is a regional college. The growth and rising population we are witnessing in Williston are also occurring in Crosby, Tioga, Watford City, Stanley, and other cities within our service area. And with the closest universities being Minot State University (126 miles) and Dickinson State University (131 miles), Williston State College is the only opportunity for higher education for many citizens here in northwest North Dakota and eastern Montana.

Our college is very proud of the work we are doing in the region, and both our college and our community are appreciative of our elected officials, who continue to provide the means for us to address many of the challenges we face.

Dr. Raymond Nadolny, President
It’s time for the 11th annual Teton Booster Club Pickup Raffle! This year, the grand prize is a 2012 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4. Tickets are $100 each and can be purchased at Simonson, Sport About, Lindsey Implement, Gooseneck Implement, Horizon Resources, or by calling the athletics office at 774-4589. Only 1400 tickets will be sold, and proceeds will go to the Teton Booster Club, to be used for athletic scholarships. The drawing will take place at 8:00pm, Friday, April 27, at the fairgrounds.

American State Bank and Trust has agreed to sponsor the scoreboard on Phil Rabon field. Derek McKeil, student assistant baseball coach and welding student at WSC, fabricated the frame and installed the sign on the scoreboard late last fall. Further design of the scoreboard is in progress, so be sure to keep an eye out for more changes on the scoreboard.

Teton Athletics has a new website. Follow the Tetons and get all the latest information on Teton athletics, including Facebook and Twitter updates, at www.wsctetons.com.

To make sure everyone knows when the Tetons have a home game, the athletics department is promoting a “Green Day is Game Day” campaign. Streets will be lined with Green Day flags and local businesses will encourage employees to wear their Green Day clothing on game days. American State Bank and Trust, First International Bank and Trust, and Northern Plains Radio are all on board with the campaign. Hunter Berg says he thinks the promotion “could be huge and a very fun program for the college and the community.”

Green Day clothing and flags are available at the athletic department. Businesses interested in partnering with the campaign can give Hunter Berg a call at 774-4256.

Williston State College is currently proposing to add a Bachelor of Applied Science in Applied Management. The region has seen a sharp increase in new companies and businesses in the past few years. Wanda Meyer, Provost/Vice President for Instruction & Student Services, feels this degree would allow WSC to help meet the needs of these businesses by providing training for employees to become supervisors and managers.

This new degree is still in the proposal stages. WSC has to wait until the State Board of Higher Education approves the proposal. If approved, WSC is hoping to start the new program in January 2013.

This degree will help provide an educational opportunity to students in the area, making it possible for them to complete a Bachelor’s Degree at WSC. The ultimate goal is to be able to connect students with employment opportunities in the area by preparing them to succeed in the many management and supervisory positions available in the area.
in memoriam / sherry arnold

Sherry Arnold disappeared on January 7, 2012, while out for an early morning run. Two men have been arrested. Her body has not been found.

A virtual run was held on February 11, 2012. People all over the country ran to show support and to remember and honor a strong and courageous woman.

Sherry Arnold was a wife, mother, teacher, WSC alum, and friend. She will be missed.

A WSC scholarship is being setup in Sherry’s name. For more information or to donate please call 572-9275.
“I have known Sherry since high school in Sidney. She had such a great personality, and everyone enjoyed being around her. She had a lot of energy and was definitely a team player. And she was a great teacher - it was easy to see that her students felt she was approachable and really caring as a person.”

Chet Hill, Sidney High School classmate, UND-W classmate

“Sherry was a good friend during the eight years I taught in Sidney. She was truly a joy to be around. I recall her joking occasionally that she might have to get a job “spraying weeds for the county”, but her heart was always in teaching, and Sherry was an awesome educator. She was passionate, enthusiastic, patient, and always encouraging. Sherry is an inspiration to us all.

Melanie Emmel Herman, Sidney High School colleague

“Sherry had a beautiful smile and a kind word for everyone. She was simply a joy to be around. I am blessed to have called her my friend.”

Kari Rabon Berg, UND-W volleyball teammate
Jack Michaels has much to be thankful for, not the least of which is his time spent attending Williston State College, known at the time as UND-Williston.

The Williston native, better known in his hometown as Todd Clark son of Roy and Marge, youngest sibling of Vicki, Randy, Debbie and Shelly - was recently named sports director for KFGO and 740 The Fan in Fargo, and he credits his time growing up in Williston and attending the local college for his ability to do what he loves for a living.

Coming at the tail end of a family who ate, lived, and breathed sports, it’s no surprise that Clark would play basketball and baseball from childhood days through his college career.

“My parents loved sports,” he says. “I remember my mom talking about playing softball without gloves. They’d go out there with big kittenballs and play, and Dad was a catcher in baseball.”

While today each child in a family is likely to have their own sports equipment, in the Clark household hand-me-downs were king.

“We all shared one particular baseball glove,” he laughs. “Christmas was the greatest – I will always remember that you could tell when you got a new basketball because it came in that square box with the impregnated bump. You just knew what it was.”

He grew up with the Keybird baseball field (now known as Aafedt Stadium) literally in his backyard. “We lived right behind the baseball diamonds and I could see the stadium from my bedroom window. I remember that they always played ‘Dueling Banjos’ before Keybird games – I could hear it from my house.”

He went on to play on those fields, suiting up for the Keybirds from the time he was 16 through his senior year of high school. He also played varsity basketball at Williston High School for three years.

In 1985, as a graduating senior at WHS, Clark was faced with an important decision – where to attend college.

“I had a couple thoughts of going to NDSU (Fargo) or UND (Grand Forks), and I had talked to the coaches at Valley City State and a few other state schools, as well as a couple of schools in South Dakota,” he reflects. “But after talking to Terry Olson and others at UND-W, and seeing people from Minot and Dickinson I’d played against in high school who were getting close to coming to Williston, I thought, ‘It is at home, and it’s still a neat thing to stay home and play in the place you grew up.’ And I was able to get sports scholarships as well.”

He also liked the climate at the small college.

“It just seemed like the personal attention that I could receive – I could go there for two years and work on my generals and get acclimated to college life in a very close personal environment. I loved growing up in Williston and thought it was a neat town. I had a lot of friends there, and it felt right, after weighing all the options, to get a jump start on college with good teachers who I was familiar with from the community. It all just made the decision to stay home and attend college really easy.”

Clark remembers the teams he played with at UND-W as good teams who played with a passion. One basketball game in particular stands out for him.

“We were playing Sheridan County, who was ranked number one in the nation,” he recalls. “We were beating them, and I don’t know if they didn’t like the way calls were being made or if they were mad that we were beating them, but with 1-1/2 minutes left to play, they quit and walked off the floor. It was pretty crazy.”

He speaks of traveling with the teams; and while there were exciting highlights, such as playing in the Metrodome in Minneapolis, his fondest memories are of the friendships.

“I remember those bus trips. We’d pile in a people mover – not only the guys’ team, but the girls’ team as well. We all rode together, and we got to know everybody.”

He also has fond memories of life as a college student when not on the field or court.

“I LOVED GROWING UP IN WILLISTON...IT ALL JUST MADE THE DECISION TO STAY HOME AND ATTEND COLLEGE REALLY EASY.”
“Even though I lived at my parents’ home, hanging out at Pop’s House with my teammates was always big, whether we were playing cards, watching TV, or burning TV dinners in the microwave oven downstairs,” he laughs.

And it was an added benefit to be a hometown boy and get to show off Williston to his new friends and teammates.

“I wanted them to realize it was not just a hole-in-the-wall-type place, that there are things to do and have fun there.”

Going on to NDSU after his college days in Williston were over, Clark majored in mass communications with an emphasis on broadcasting and journalism.

His baseball coach there worked with and had friends at the radio stations, giving Clark the opportunity to jump right into work, getting his feet wet almost from the day he hit town. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Jack Michaels, as Clark is known in the radio world, has worked in the sports broadcasting field ever since, serving as the voice of the University of Mary Marauders, the Moorhead State Dragons, and, currently, the UND Sioux Football team, to name a few.

He spent 10 years with Maury Wills, a former LA Dodger, broadcasting the Fargo-Moorhead Redhawks games. He worked with Scott Miller, the voice of the NDSU Bison, broadcasting their basketball games. And he and Jim Addleson hosted a weekend TV show, “Vikings Update,” for the local Fox station in Fargo during the NFL season. From time to time, he also has filled in for Lee Halvorson, the voice of the Tetons.

“It’s been a crazy run,” he says.

But, no matter how much success he achieves, Clark will never forget Williston, UND-W, or what his time here has done for him.

“The classroom experience was great. It was a good setting,” he says. “At NDSU, the class sizes were bigger, but what I learned at UND-W was that the teachers were good and were easily approachable, and I was never intimidated by them. UND-W really prepared me for that next step.”

“Looking back, growing up in Williston prepared me for the relationships I’ve had since then,” he explains. “It was a very personable town when we grew up – things were more innocent. People enjoyed coming out to watch you play ball. Even at the college level, the fans treated you very well.”

He notes that even when broadcasting games from major cities and dealing with professional ball players, “I can approach them with confidence because of the town I’m from – the college, the high school, and my family.”

Clark is the father of 13-year-old identical twin daughters, Samantha and Cameron, who he describes as “the loves of my life, the reason I’m walking the earth.”

And, go figure, “They love sports very much!”
This summer Williston State College will celebrate its 50th anniversary. From June 29th through July 1st there will be a variety of activities honoring WSC’s 50th birthday. More than 11,000 invitations will be sent. All activities will take place on the WSC campus.

Although the school offered classes beginning in 1958 and 1959, the official start date was 1961, and the school has come a long way since then. Williston State College began as a community effort to make a college education available to people living in the area. “The college actually began in numerous buildings throughout the town of Williston,” recalls Diane Hagen, a 1967 graduate. “The Main Street Health Center, the Armory, and even the high school were locations of certain classes during the first years of the college. It really was a community effort as many of the local workers offered to teach classes with little or no pay.”

Hagen is looking forward to the events this summer. “These anniversaries are fun. They get everyone together, and you can get great updates on what is going on. You get to see plans for the future and see classmates from when you were here.”

Activities connected to the anniversary will include an open house of the college (along with guided tours), an athletics department awards banquet, barbecue, dance and the president’s brunch will conclude the events on July 1st.

If you are a Teton Alumnus and you do not receive an invitation please contact the WSC Foundation at 701.572.9275. Event registration deadline is June 15.
DMV UPDATE

BY KIM WEISMANN

The Department of Motor Vehicles office is currently housed on the campus of Williston State College in the Western Star Career and Technology Center. Customers are able to renew tags, license vehicles, and purchase handicap placards. Customers can also title out-of-state vehicles, handle North Dakota title transfers, and register on- and off-highway land vehicles. The office also handles Prorate and Interstate Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) services.

The WSC Foundation currently holds the contract for the Williston DMV office. Keith Olson, Regional Director of the Small Business Development Center, manages the DMV.

Since the Foundation took over, more employees have been added. Due to the increase in need and growing population in the Williston area, these additional associates help cut down the wait time for customers.

The current wait time for most customers is only 10-15 minutes. One customer said, “You have to wait for hours at the DMV back home. This is great!”

Mondays and Fridays tend to be busier at the DMV, so if you need services the best time to come is during the middle of the week. There is usually a steady flow of customers, although the mornings are typically slower. An employee of the DMV said that roughly 150-200 customers come in daily.

Many customers have given positive feedback to the employees. Most are pleased with how fast the process is and how friendly the employees are.

The Department of Motor Vehicles is open from 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday.
The science addition isn’t the only work being done to the north side of the WSC campus. Renovation of the back parking lot is set to begin this May. This renovation will add both parking spots and a pedestrian walkway connecting various buildings on campus, including Stevens Hall, the Crighton building, which houses TrainND and the new Western Star Career and Technology Center.

Projects like this are not particularly easy to complete in such a booming town, according to WSC President Raymond Nadolny. With construction costs rising constantly in the Williston area, projected budgets often need to be revisited. President Nadolny notes that while the renovation of both the front and back parking lots was originally set to cost around $1.5 million, the cost of the back lot alone is already set to overtake that amount. That means WSC officials will need to go back to the legislature to ask for more funding, just to complete projects that have already been approved.

And with a record number of construction projects being permitted in the area to cope with the oil industry and the population growth that comes with it, and even more construction being done in the Minot area to recover from last year’s flood, this kind of renovation does not happen quickly.

“We might do it step-by-step,” allows President Nadolny, “but we’re still moving forward. That’s key, the ability to move forward.”

Along with the science addition, which is already being constructed, and the new wellness center, which is set to begin construction later this year, this new landscaped parking area will change the North face of the WSC campus from its current, relatively industrial look to a more modern, collegiate appearance. And instead of simply serving as overflow parking for campus events, the pedestrian walkway will allow the north lot to become a center point to all facilities on campus.
BY MATT NELSON

In 2011, the North Dakota Legislature held a special session to address relief for areas affected by flooding, as well as those impacted by western North Dakota's oil and gas industry. One of the legislature's concerns was the need for enhanced public safety due to the rapid growth taking place in the oil region.

Also last year, the North Dakota University System (NDUS) contracted with consulting firm LarsonAllen to perform a system-wide risk assessment. WSC officials received the results of this assessment in October, and the results showed that the legislature's concerns about the impact of the oil and gas industry apply to Williston State College as well.

Informed by the LarsonAllen assessment, WSC President Raymond Nadolny asked the legislature to consider a request for additional funding from Williston State College when determining how to allocate this oil impact money. President Nadolny reports that the legislature was kind enough to take on this request, and they approved an additional $2 million in funding for the college.

WSC officials have laid out a plan they believe will best address the high-risk areas identified by LarsonAllen as well as prepare the college for the challenges ahead. The plan is divided into two areas: safety and competitive compensation.

SAFETY
According to the LarsonAllen assessment, WSC is the only NDUS institution labeled as “high risk” in the safety category. Safety issues will be addressed by implementation of a backup generator; daytime security; additional locks, cameras, and lighting; counseling services; and asbestos mitigation.

BACKUP GENERATOR
Williston State College is one of three colleges in the NDUS without a backup generator. Due to increasing brown outs, concerns about the lack of backup generators were addressed at the special session. The business office has begun the bid process, and the total cost is projected at just under $400,000.

DAYTIME SECURITY
One of the two main safety risks, according to the assessment, was “Concerns related to security force size to monitor campus activities, residence halls, and overall security.” WSC currently contracts with Blackhawk Security to provide limited night-time security. The new funds will be used to expand security to cover both day and night, and to purchase uniforms, provide a vehicle to make rounds on campus, and equip an office for a full-time security position. In order to sustain this one-time increase in security funding, President Nadolny will request that the legislature continue to fund the salary for a full-time security employee in the coming biennium.

ADDITIONAL LOCKS, CAMERAS, AND LIGHTING
The other main safety risk identified in the assessment was “improvements needed in relation to ‘open campus’ and overall building and residence security.” Funds have been set aside for cameras, locks, and lighting in and around Frontier Hall (the new residence hall), lighting and cameras in the Western Star Career and Technology Center, and elevator security access. Total projected cost for these is approximately $243,000.

COUNSELING SERVICES
The college has traditionally worked with Northwest Human Services to provide a counselor on campus one day a week. Approximately $120,000 of new funds will be used to contract counseling services. President Nadolny will also request that the legislature fund the salary for a full-time counselor in the coming biennium in order to sustain this increase in counseling services.

ASBESTOS MITIGATION
One of the maintenance issues identified in the risk assessment is the asbestos in Stevens Hall. This asbestos has prevented the college from updating its wireless system and providing some areas (like the president’s office) with phone and network connections, has caused the library renovations to be placed on hold and over $50,000 in annual energy saving to remain unrealized, and remains a health risk simply by its presence. The process to remove asbestos will begin with the library over spring break. The last estimate for total asbestos mitigation was approximately $750,000.

COMPETITIVE COMPENSATION
LarsonAllen reports that among NDUS institutions, Williston State College alone has high risk associated with employee salaries, citing “Concerns related to faculty wages in comparison to industry averages. In addition, WSC wages are under the local high school wages.” President Nadolny references North Dakota Job Service data showing that Williston has the highest average wage in the state, with a 20% increase in the last year and an 80% increase since 2006.

Approximately $450,000 will be used in incremental employee incentives related to impact and performance. Additionally, approximately $145,000 is being budgeted for professional and organizational development. President Nadolny notes that, “Since the college has many new employees, and in some cases new departments, dollars would be allocated based on mitigating the training impact due to employee turnover.” To support these measures, President Nadolny is also requesting that the legislature grant a 10% increase in salaries in the coming biennium.

Where many might see the assessment results, particularly those areas identified as high-risk, as a negative report, President Nadolny looks at its recommendations as informed advice to help keep the college ahead of challenges that are bound to accompany the area's rapid growth. "We have done our best to anticipate our next steps in a highly volatile economy. We are now in a position to meet the current and future challenges confidently. As a result of this assistance by the legislature and with the understanding and guidance of our local elected representatives under the incredible leadership of Representative Skarphol, we can open our doors wider to meet the increasing demands of a diverse and sometimes overwhelmed community.”
Williston State College and Bismarck State College are pleased to have formed a new partnership, known as a swap program, to help share their knowledge of best practices. The program has already been helpful to both institutions, and they hope to continue their visits in the future.

Kayla Retzer, Director of Marketing, says the program has proved successful so far, beginning with the first swap during the second week of January 2012 and continuing with regular visits and swapping of information since then.

The partnership involves many people from BSC and WSC, including staff members from the Student Service Divisions and Marketing Departments as well as staff from other areas.

The swap got started in part because things are changing quickly in Williston, and there are so many jobs available. “It is easy for employees at WSC to walk away and find another job, because of all the opportunities in the area” explains Retzer.

When BSC visited WSC and saw the new challenges facing both the college and the Williston community, the BSC employees asked if there was anything they could do to help. WSC employees took advantage and went to Bismarck to meet with their counterparts.

Retzer says she met with BSC’s Marketing Department to learn their best practices and new techniques.

Retzer affirms that the swap has been a helpful partnership, with many WSC employees going back to BSC to learn more. “Much of our staff may be young and may not have much experience, but they are eager to do their best and learn more. Many BSC employees have been around for a long time, and our employees are doing what they can to take advantage of the knowledge that comes with that experience.” says Retzer.

Jenny Wolf, Graphic Designer at WSC, had a chance to attend the swap meetings. Wolf says it was a great experience, and the knowledge and help from these skilled professionals was invaluable. Wolf maintains that the success of the swap is evident every day at WSC. The staff is more confident and more informed, and they have built relationships for the future.

WSC staff can continue to benefit from this program, and they are working to make sure that all interested employees get the chance to go to the swap meetings. Wolf says that the partnership is growing and strengthening, and maintaining this relationship will only serve to help both colleges. The swap can help anyone. “Obviously, it will continue to be particularly beneficial for people in new positions,” says Wolf. “However, everyone, regardless of how long they have worked at either college, can benefit from an exchange of ideas with a colleague.”
In March 2013, Williston State College will be offering a twelve-day trip to Norway. WSC faculty members Kim Weisman and Richard Stenberg are facilitating this excursion.

If you have ever wanted to be completely immersed in another country’s culture, history, art, and food, then this is the trip for you. The trip will provide a great opportunity to learn about Norwegian lifestyle and get some great real-life travel experience for a relatively low price.

Travelers will depart from the Bismarck airport on March 4, 2013, and return March 15, 2013. The trip will include tours of various major cities and landmarks in Norway, including Oslo, Trondheim, and Bergen. Anyone is welcome to attend the trip.

The cost is approximately $4,528 roundtrip. WSC has contracted with the National Education Tour Council (NETC) to provide the tour. NETC has organized successful tours for thousands of teachers and students over the past two decades. For those who don’t wish to pay for the entire trip at once, NETC offers payment plans. Travel insurance, transportation, hotel accommodation, and tour guides are included in the cost. Hotel accommodation also includes a daily culturally-authentic hot breakfast in the morning and a hearty three-course supper. Transportation includes the roundtrip airfare and other transportation in Norway.

Weisman says, “We are trying to give students and community members an experience every two years to travel abroad and learn about a culture through the immersion experience. You can learn from a book, but people learn so much more from experiencing the culture, visiting historical sites, eating the authentic foods, etc. Last year we went to China. We chose Norway because so many people in this area have ancestors from Norway. We think this is an excursion where many people will see the significance of participating.”

This trip is a great opportunity for anyone wanting to travel the world, learn about a great culture, look into their ancestry, get a new perspective, or maybe just learn about a country other than their own. Norway has a great blend of historical architecture and urban life, as well as many natural features that make it a great travel location. The trip will offer many activities, educational opportunities, and other exciting experiences. Throughout the trip, tour guides will show the ins and outs of three major Norwegian cities, and will take travelers on visits to various Norwegian landmarks and historical sites, including many buildings and fortresses dating as far back as the 13th century.

If you are interested in a trip of a lifetime and a great educational experience, contact Kim Weisman (701) 774-4503 or Richard Stenberg (701) 774-4262 at Williston State College for more details.

To enroll directly, just log on to EducationalTravel.com, and provide the following information:
Group Username: WSC
Group Password: 2013
Ken Quamme is an Associate Professor at Williston State College. Currently, Quamme serves as a full-time instructor and program coordinator for the Information and Technology Program. He teaches various classes, including Networking, Server Installation and Administration, Microcomputer Hardware and Operating Systems, and courses for the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) program. Quamme also works as coordinator for the internship/cooperative education experience.

Quamme attended Dickinson State University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Business and a minor in Coaching. He taught and coached at Killdeer High School for nine years before attending graduate school at the University of North Dakota, where he worked as a graduate assistant while earning his Master's degree.

Quamme came to Williston because Steve Momper, a representative from South-Western Publishing Company was visiting the UND campus and mentioned that there was a job opening at UND-Williston (now Williston State College).

Quamme applied for the job and got an interview. "In the interview," he recalls, "Garvin Stevens, Executive Dean, asked if I could and would build UND-W's computer program, and I said I would meet the challenge. I had done a lot of work at Killdeer High school with computers, as well as at UND, so thought it would be a good fit along with a challenge."

Quamme currently stays busy with numerous activities at Williston State College. He is the advisor for the computer club, serves as Chair of Faculty Council and Faculty Senate and he sits on a number of committees on campus. This may seem like a lot but he notes that it's not any more then the rest of the excellent WSC faculty does.

He has worn many hats at Williston State College, including those of Director of Career and Technical Education and Chief Information Officer, a position that gave him the task of creating the backbone of the campus network.

"Williston is truly a place where the people make the difference," says Quamme. "My 25 1/2 years of experience here have been wonderful and have given me the opportunities to touch the lives of many students and work with a very great and dynamic faculty, staff, and administration. Many of the personnel have been great mentors to me over the years and they know who they are. They have inspired me to continue to enjoy the love of teaching at Williston State College."

He has remained here since 1986 in large part because the college was so welcoming to his family. Quamme also likes that he lives within a few hours of relatives, where he and his family can "relax, hunt, and enjoy the beauty of western North Dakota."

Quamme remains an active participant in both the college and the community. He resides in the Williston area with his wife, Julie, and their three children, Christopher, Jaci, and Logan.

"Williston is truly a place where the people make the difference."

TOP: Quamme with student in 2010. BOTTOM: Quamme with student in the ‘80s.
behind the scenes / melissa meyer

BY JAKE RADERMACHER

Melissa Meyer started working at Williston State College eleven years ago, and she still enjoys every minute of it.

Meyer graduated from Minot State University with a degree in Marketing. She moved back to Williston and was working at a bank here in Williston, when she decided to apply for a job in the TrainND program at WSC.

She got the job and worked with TrainND for ten years. When she first started, Meyer was one of only three TrainND employees at WSC, along with Deanette Plesik (now Chief Executive Officer of the TrainND department). During her years at TrainND, Meyer helped build the program into a large department that handles computer and safety training, continuing education, and customized training to meet the needs of businesses throughout western North Dakota.

In July 2011, Melissa transferred to her current job as the Career and Technology Education Program Manager. As the CTE Program Manager, she deals with dual-credit students (students who take college credits before they graduate from high school). One of her more important responsibilities in this new job is communicating with the high schools and making sure students have all of their paperwork completed. Meyer says that this is the first time she has had to deal with the credit side of instruction, as TrainND is noncredit.

For Meyer, working with and getting to know the students is a lot of fun. She finds her new position provides her with a good opportunity to help out students and still stay connected with her peers.

Meyer's favorite part about working at WSC is being able to connect with students and staff. She has had a fantastic experience over the past eleven years here. Meyer is a huge athletics fan, and proud supporter of the Teton's. She is also involved with the Relay for Life team on campus.

Meyer currently resides in Williston with her husband, Jory, and their two kids, Jaxon and Shelby.
Williston State College Foundation

Hey WSC Alumni and friends, do you have a new addition to your family that you want to show off? Send us a high-resolution photo, and we’ll feature your little tyke along with the other Tiny Tetons in an upcoming issue of the Teton Thunder!

Unlike · Like · Share · March 20 at 2:29pm

Email pictures to: tetonthunder@wscfoundation.com
Enjoy some pictures from our archives. If you recognize people from these photos, please go to our Facebook page and tag them or comment on the pictures.

Be sure to send photos of your Tiny Tetons for future issues of the Teton Thunder.
The Williston State College Teton hockey team finished as runners-up at the national championship in their first year of existence.

The Tetons had an overall record of 15-15, a record that included 4 forfeits due to an ineligible player. In the best-of-five series to qualify for the National Tournament, the Tetons beat Dakota College Bottineau 4 games to 1, with their only loss being a forfeit.

During the regular season, the Tetons were 14-8 vs. college teams, with forfeits accounting for 3 of those losses. The Tetons played Dakota College Bottineau, Minot State University, North Dakota State University, Montana Tech University, University of Wyoming, and the University of Arizona. They also played three senior AAA teams from Canada: the Rosetown Redwings, the Balgonie Bisons, and the Milestone Flyers.

In the Tetons’ first game at nationals they played against the defending national champions, Erie Community College. The Tetons knocked them off by a score of 6-3. That win set the Tetons up for a chance to win the national championship. They played the host (and number-one ranked team in the country), Monroe Community College, for the final game. The Tetons ended up losing by a score of 4-2, but the game was a thriller. This left Williston State with the runner-up national trophy in their first year with an ice hockey team.

Three Teton players made the All-Tournament Team at nationals. Freshman goaltender Jeff Dunaisky from Duluth, Minnesota, freshman forward Jake Radermacher from Portland, Oregon, and freshman forward Brandon Passley from Kitchener, Ontario.

The Tetons were led in scoring by Brandon Passley with 47 points (20 goals, 27 assists), Julius Tamasy 42 points (13 goals, 29 assists), Jake Radermacher 38 points (16 goals, 22 assists), Dwight Lee 35 points (14 goals, 21 assists), and Ian Harvie 32 points (17 goals, 15 assists). The leading goaltender was Jeff Dunaisky, who played 19 games and had a 3.47 goals against average.

This was a great season, and it proved that hockey at Williston State College is here to stay. For a team to come in and start with only two sophomores and twenty-two freshmen, and immediately compete at that level of hockey is a great accomplishment.

Coach Gregory said, “I would just like to thank everyone who made this possible. This is the beginning of something very special for our school and community.”
Spring means baseball season at Williston State College. With the winter weather remaining relatively mild, the WSC baseball team began its season in mid-February. Coming off of back-to-back region championships the last two years, the team looks to repeat this with another championship this year, and possibly take it even further.

This will be Coach Shawn Cote’s second year as Head Coach of the Tetons. Asked about the upcoming season Coach Cote says, “Our team is very raw, athletic, and very talented. We are looking forward to getting out on the field and seeing our guys develop into what they are capable of being. I’m looking forward to getting into the trenches with a bunch of guys that have the same goals and aspirations.”

The team is returning five players from last year, including the 2011 Most Valuable Player Scott Jameson. WSC is one of eight schools in the Mon-Dak Athletic Conference, which is composed of junior colleges in North Dakota and Montana. Regarding the small number of returning sophomores Coach Cote explains, “It happens at this level. Just because of the two-year junior college system, there is a high turnover rate. I don’t believe that it is a negative thing, because we have such good freshman that when they start playing and get their feet wet, they will be just fine.”

Back in the 1960s WSC had a great tradition of winning, and even had two players enter the Major League draft. During that time the Tetons piled on many conference championships, but they did not win a regional championship until 2010, and again in 2011. The Tetons are looking to build back a winning tradition and take the baseball program to a district championship, and possibly to the Division 2 Junior College World Series in Oklahoma.

Coming off of two Regional Championships Coach Cote says, “I try not to expect anything from year to year. What we try to accomplish on a year-by-year basis is getting ourselves as prepared as possible day-to-day, so that when it comes time to compete, we have the best opportunity of performing at a high level. I think that when you start expecting something you can become complacent, and that is never good when it comes to competition. My only expectation is that we show up every day, never give up, and play as hard as we can for 7/9 innings.”

The Tetons will be playing home games at Phil Rabon field on the north end of the WSC campus this spring. Come out and support your Tetons in Green and Black!

For a complete spring schedule visit: www.wsctetons.com.
Williston State College is ready to welcome the 2012-2013 school year with a new sport, softball. Softball coach Eric Peterson and the future softball players will join the Mon-Dak Conference with Bismarck State College, Dakota College at Bottineau, Dawson Community College, and North Dakota State College of Science. The team will have 20-25 players on the team next year and will play 10 dates in the fall and 30 dates in the spring. The team will play triple headers on most of those dates.

Peterson will continue to coach men’s basketball while also coaching the women’s softball team. He said it is a great change of pace from basketball. "Women are completely different to coach than men, so it kind of works well together with the two seasons. The game of softball is fast-paced, and there is a lot of bunting and strategy involved," says Peterson. "The other part is being able to run your own program as the head coach. Recruiting is essential for any college program and if we recruit good players we have a chance to win a lot of games.”

Peterson is spending some of his time preparing for the upcoming season by studying the other teams in the Mon-Dak league. Both DCC and NDSCS have had a lot of success fielding very talented teams. With their new softball program beginning this season, BSC will also be a school to watch. Peterson fully expects to be competitive in the first year and compete for the conference championship.

Peterson said that since WSC is so close to Canada, he is going to recruit in Canada very hard each year. "We are only allowed six international players on our team so we will need to be very selective in those six. We are always going to want to find and recruit the best players in North Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana. Wyoming junior colleges do not have softball and the only Montana junior college that has softball is DCC. Otherwise, California and Washington will be some of our main targets," says Peterson.

Some of the women who have already signed to play Teton softball are:

- Corinna Maestas of Clarkston, Washington
- Britney Bolen of Medicine Hat, Alberta
- Courtney Okrainec of Medicine Hat, Alberta
- Courtney Ezell of Riverbank, California
- Haley Rowe of Great Falls, Montana
- Hannah Kramer of Minot, North Dakota
- Kelsey Thompson of Red Deer, Alberta
- Molly Li of Red Deer, Alberta
- Alex Baylah of Regina, Saskatchewan
- Ellen Kirkness of Regina, Saskatchewan
- Meggie Reitz of Billings, Montana

Photos counterclockwise from left: Okrainec winds-up to deliver a pitch; Ezell crouches behind the plate; Maestas readies for her pitch; Li follows through her swing after connecting with the ball; Coach Eric Peterson.
BY TETON THUNDER STAFF

The Tetons decided to go with a new look behind-the-scenes this season: the hockey and baseball teams have brand new locker rooms.

Maddock Builders Inc., a Chicago-based company, built the custom wood lockers. WSC chose Maddock because of their reputation – they designed lockers for Michigan State University, Northwestern University, and Utica College – and because they offered the lowest bid out of three competing firms. Maddock really worked with WSC to design these custom lockers, says Athletic Director Hunter Berg. They are designed with the needs of each program in mind, and specifically built to fit into each locker room.

Student Assistant Baseball Coach, Derek McKeil, affirms “The lockers are amazing. The functionality and design is top-notch.” McKeil notes that the players thoroughly enjoy the lockers, which provide plenty of room for all of the players’ equipment.

In addition to looking good and meeting the hockey and baseball teams’ needs, the locker rooms provide other important benefits. They will help with recruiting, according to McKeil, providing visiting athletes and prospective students an insight into the quality and standards they can expect from WSC athletics. For current athletes, who have gone without lockers in the past, the new locker room “provides a gathering place, yet they each have their own individual space,” says McKeil. “Gives our team something to be proud of, and it brings the team together.”

BY THADDEUS PERRY

The Teton travel bus received a new look this year. According to Hunter Berg, Athletic Director and Head Men’s Basketball Coach, the Tetons wanted something that would announce their presence and let everybody know who they are, whether they are driving down the road or parked outside any of the games they play all over the country.

With the quality of wraps that can be created using today’s graphics and technology, Berg thought this would be an excellent way to advertise Williston State College and display some of the great people and assets of the athletic department at WSC. With this design, the Teton bus is in many ways a travelling billboard.

The new look of the bus was designed by Jenny Wolf, WSC Graphic Designer. The Sign Shop of Williston, printed and placed the wrap on the bus. The design of the wrap includes many current and historic photos of players, facilities, and fans showing their support. Highlighting each sport are additional larger-than-life color images of players.

The Tetons get many compliments on the design. “It definitely catches people’s eyes,” Berg said. “We’re hopeful that people won’t forget Williston State, and I think it’s had a great impact.”
Tate Knudsen is a 20 year old from Malta, Montana who is happy to be a student at Williston State College. Knudsen chose WSC in the most sophisticated way he knew: he drew the name out of a hat. Knudsen is currently working on his Computer System Specialist Degree, and he plans on working toward a business degree next year.

Professor Ken Quamme had this to say about Knutson. “Tate is a young man of many talents, and his enthusiasm for technology definitely shows in his interests and willingness to do a job well in the classroom and at his place of employment.” Quamme adds, “Tate works part time at American State Bank in the information technology area and brings back wonderful stories of experience to the classroom. This reflects on his education at Williston State College.”

Knudsen says that he has always enjoyed working on computers, both inside and out. All the time he’s spent with computers looks like it will pay off. With today’s lifestyle and level of technology, the computer field is constantly growing, and anyone with Knudsen’s interest and talent in the field will be well-prepared for the job market that awaits him.

Knudsen’s favorite part about WSC is the teachers. He likes that they are friendly, supportive, and above all willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done.

And for students who plan to seek a bachelor degree (or beyond), but are not sure they want to jump right in to a huge university, Knudsen feels WSC is a great stepping stone for adjusting to the college lifestyle.

Looking back, Knudsen is glad that he crumpled up a piece of paper with WSC scribbled on it.
Wannapond (Bo) Romero Saeton, a student at Williston State College, hails from Bangkok, Thailand, but she isn’t exactly new to the United States. She has been living in the US for nearly five years. Saeton was living in Silver Spring, Maryland, when she took a week-long vacation from work. Saeton came to North Dakota with one of her friends who grew up in Trenton, ND. There was not much to do, she said, so they always came to Williston to hang out.

One day, on the way to dinner, Saeton’s friend drove past Williston State College. Saeton was very interested in the college the first time she saw it. The next day she went to the college with her friend, where Saeton received a warm welcome from Leah Hess, Enrollment Coordinator at WSC. Hess provided a tour of the college, the first college tour Saeton had ever experienced.

Most of the colleges Saeton had visited in the US would just give her a map and a catalog and send her on her way. Hess’s tour and her willingness to take the time to show them around made her feel good. Saeton was particularly interested in the nursing program.

At the time, the new residence hall was being built on campus, which added to her interest in the college. Hess informed Saeton that WSC has many scholarships, and that she might qualify for some of them. Saeton was surprised to find that scholarships were available to international students, and this made her even happier at the prospect of attending WSC.

Later that day, Saeton went home with her friend and decided she would go back to Maryland to work, save money, and come back to WSC in the fall of 2011. Saeton was accepted into the college, and she moved to into Frontier Hall (the new residence hall) in August of 2011. Saeton feels like Williston State College has given her a new life. She does not remember the last time that she was happy to be in school.

Saeton says the staff at WSC has worked very hard for her. She said they kept in touch while she was in Maryland, so she could fill out the proper paperwork and get housing. “The professors are very patient and take extra time for students,” explains Saeton. “They don’t just come in and lecture. They do extra work to help explain the material.”

Betty Anderson, Assistant Professor of Psychology, has had Saeton in a couple classes. She notes that Saeton works diligently on her school work; English is not her first language, but she does not let that get in her way. “Bo is a very dedicated student,” said Anderson.
TOP LEFT: Black History Month trivia in the Teton Grill. TOP RIGHT: Create-a-critter for Valentine’s day. MIDDLE LEFT: Students relaxing in the Teton Lounge. MIDDLE RIGHT: WSC fans from the Hockey Fun Bus to Bottineau. BOTTOM LEFT: Carving pumpkins for Halloween. BOTTOM RIGHT: PTK students getting advice before serving at Banquet West, a community dinner.
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