WILLISTON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION: BRINGING COMMUNITIES & COLLEGE TOGETHER

ALUMNI PROFILE
Justin Berry

RAVE REVIEW
year-end financials

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM WSC
Right now, the future is brighter than ever for your financial growth and you need advisors who see the right opportunities.

Our wealth management team offers well-designed, carefully crafted plans to fit your goals and comfort levels. Raymond James Financial Services complements American State Bank’s Trust Department services. Together, we identify the right opportunities in today’s economy to help you reach your goals—and far beyond.

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC, an independent broker/dealer, and are not insured by bank insurance, the FDIC, any other government agency, are not deposits or obligations of the bank, are not guaranteed by the bank, and are subject to risks, including the possible loss of principal. American State Bank and Trust Company is independent of Raymond James.
GREETINGS FROM THE WILLISTON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION. I hope you’re enjoying our Teton Thunder. It has come a long way from the small newspaper we started with.

The Foundation has been extremely busy, especially with our seventy-four-unit, on-campus apartment project. The apartment building will house employees of WSC, Bethel Lutheran Home, NDDOT, North Dakota Highway Patrol, City of Williston, School District #1, North Dakota Game and Fish, and Fort Union. There has been great anticipation for the completion of this project. The building will also include about 8,000 square feet of retail and office space. We are working to have this space occupied with new and vibrant businesses.

Special thanks to all involved in the funding of this project: WSC Foundation, Bethel Lutheran Foundation, ND Housing Incentive Fund, Bank of North Dakota and American State Bank & Trust. American State Bank & Trust, our lead lender, has been very helpful and supportive of this project. Their expertise is greatly appreciated.

This year, the Foundation welcomed new director Nate Jepsen. Jepsen, an alumnus of WSC, is a talented CPA and successful farmer from Bowbells. Pete Furueth was elected as board president, Charlotte Schilke as vice president, and Kim Hennessy as secretary/treasurer. Thank you to Jerry Zunich for his leadership in the last two years as president. He led us well through several major projects. We also said goodbye to director Duane DeMars, whose nine-year term ended this year. Thanks, Duane, for your many years of service to WSC.

Thank you to all of our donors. You helped us meet 2012 with success. Your gifts make a difference. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Go Tetons!

Terry Olson
Executive Director, WSC Foundation
INSTRUCTIONAL UPDATE

The massage therapy program is proud to announce that the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork (NCBTMB) has concluded its review and confirmed that Williston State College has met the requirements to become an NCBTMB Assigned School, and is considered to be a school in good standing through spring 2017. This certification is required in order for graduates of the massage therapy program to apply to take the National Certification Exam (NCE).

The Outstanding Leadership/Service Award was presented to Dr. Nadolny at the North Dakota Association for Lifelong Learning (NDALL) conference on Thursday, September 13, 2012, at the Doublewood Inn in Bismarck. Laurel Kaee, associate dean for student success, nominated Nadolny for his work with adult learning at WSC, describing him as a visionary planner who makes those plans into reality, “The number one supporter of adult education, and he has driven others in the college and community to recognize the importance of this program.” Since Nadolny’s arrival at WSC in 2009, the college has increased its outreach to students of all ages, incorporated its GeD program and Adult Learning Center more closely with the rest of the college, and expanded the TrainND workforce training programs.

ATHLETIC UPDATE

As the seasons change from fall to winter so too does the athletic action on campus. Teton Volleyball had another successful season, posting an overall record of 27-12 and a conference record of 7-3. It was a very positive year for Coach Hoehn and her veteran roster; the success has already paid dividends as the 2013 recruiting season is off and running.

Coach Shawn Cote and his squad had yet another intense fall ball schedule as they work out the kinks before they take the field this spring. Teton Baseball is coming off a big recruiting year and will look to reclaim their regional championship, and hopefully take the next step forward, in 2013.

Teton Athletics also welcomed its newest team, Teton Softball to the mix. Head Coach Eric Peterson was happy with how the girls performed as they knocked off some four-year universities, including Minot State, and competed very strongly against their in conference rivals. Teton fans should expect some exciting softball this spring.

“It has been a very busy fall for the department” states Acting Athletic Director Eric Peterson, “Our department is growing, we are bringing in recruits from all over the world to play here, and we are very proud of all of our coaches. The future is bright”. And if the fall wasn’t already busy enough, Teton Men’s and Women’s Basketball and Men’s Hockey came out of the gate like teams possessed. Men’s Basketball currently holds a 9-2 record, the Women are also 9-2, and Teton Hockey is 6-1. The fan support has been outstanding.

FOLLOW THE TETONS AT:

wsctetons.com
facebook.com/wsctetons
@tetonathletics

Teton Basketball has also hired a new voice to give the hometown fans the action. Mr. John Heise was hired in September and is fitting in quite nicely. The “Sports Doctor” Dr. Ron Seeley returns for his second season in the booth with Men’s Hockey. All Teton Basketball Games (Men and Women) are carried on 660 AM KEYZ, and Hockey is on Country Thunder 96.1 FM. Fans can access all the action through the athletics website; www.wsctetons.com

Truck Raffle tickets will be available beginning in February; this year’s draw will take place in May. The department’s annual Casino Night will be Friday, April 19. For more information about Teton Athletics, including schedules, news updates, and links to live games, please visit www.wsctetons.com.

Thank you for your support! GO TETONS!
The influence that Williston State College has on some of its students can be long, powerful, and lasting. A native of Williston, Justin Berry is a physical therapist and community college faculty member, and he credits his experiences with WSC (then UND-W) for his success and his choice of career paths.

Berry currently directs the physical therapist assistant program at Northland Community and Technical College in East Grand Forks, MN. He lives in Grand Forks with his wife Whitney (a music professor at UND) and their three children: Nora (9), Ellen (6), and Jack (4).

Berry became aware of the life of a college teacher at an early age. His father, Wayne Berry, taught agriculture and economics at WSC for thirty-five years. Seeing his father in this role gave Berry a positive impression about teaching in a community college environment.

After graduating from Williston High School in 1992, Berry first went to college at Montana State University. He transferred to UND-W in search of a more personable experience. For Berry, an ideal college experience involves small class sizes, instructors who have time for individual students, and a strong community. He found that experience back home in Williston.

After receiving his AAS from UND-W in 1996, Berry went on to the University of North Dakota to continue his studies in physical therapy. His choice to go back home for a couple years was a good one. “Williston, I feel, really prepared me for the physical therapy program at UND, especially the science courses that I took,” says Berry.

At the University of North Dakota, he completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapy in 1999, continuing on to earn a Master of Physical Therapy degree in 2000 and his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree in 2005.

Berry worked as a physical therapist for several years, but being an educator was already a primary goal of his. Growing up with a father who was a professor planted that bug in him, and he also enjoyed doing whatever teaching and lab-assisting he could in graduate school.

While practicing as a physical therapist after graduating from college, Berry was excited to get the chance...
to begin teaching anatomy and physiology courses at the University of Minnesota-Crookston and at Northland Community and Technical College. “Most of the time when I was working full-time as a physical therapist I had an adjunct teaching job on the side,” recalls Berry. He still finds the practice of physical therapy quite rewarding, though his primary focus is now education.

In 2006, Berry was hired by Northland to establish a physical therapist assistant program. He developed the program, which included attaining its accreditation, and became one of two program instructors. The first class of PTA students graduated from Northland in 2009, and Berry continues to run the program.

Northland Community and Technical College has about 5,700 students across all of its campuses in northwest Minnesota—the East Grand Forks campus where Berry teaches is the largest, but there are also two campuses in Thief River Falls and another in Roseau. These campuses co-ordinate to offer a variety of programs, some of which are available on multiple campuses, but many of which are housed in just one location. Northland is part of the MnSCU (Minnesota State Colleges and Universities) higher education network.

After joining the faculty at Northland, Berry continued to pursue his own education, adding a Master of Science in Education from Bemidji State University in 2008.

On top of his career as an educator at Northland, Berry also keeps active with research, conferences, and professional development.

He has presented research on a variety of physical therapy topics on the state, national, and international level, and frequently presents physical therapy continuing education courses throughout the country. Berry has also been a board member for the North Dakota Physical Therapist Association, and he continues to be involved with several professional and academic associations and committees.

With all his education and experience, Berry chose to build his career as an educator at Northland, rather than teach at a bigger university. The same things that he valued about his education at UND-W keep him on his career path that he enjoys immensely.

Berry’s fondest memories of his education experience at UND-W include those features that make the small-town community college experience special—the personal touch of small classes and involved instructors. Teaching in a similar setting now, he thrives on the challenge of taking small groups of students from the beginning to the end of a physical therapist assistant program.

Asked about why he prefers the community college setting to bigger institutions, his focus was on the experience students have and the connections they make. “One of the big challenges for the students is just being lost in the crowd at a big campus, especially as freshmen,” he says, adding that at a more community-oriented place like WSC, “You really get a chance to know not only the instructors but also your classmates.” These were important features to him as a student, and they’re also the things he likes best about teaching in a similar setting.

Berry still gets back to Williston from time to time to visit his folks, Wayne and Sharon. This last summer when Berry was home for his twenty-year high school reunion, he had a chance to visit WSC during the 50th anniversary celebration. “I had a chance to tour the new buildings, and I was very impressed with the progress up at the school,” he notes, adding that he was excited to see the campus thriving.

“WILLISTON, I FEEL, REALLY PREPARED ME FOR THE PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM AT UND, ESPECIALLY THE SCIENCE COURSES THAT I TOOK.”
campus updates / event pictures
TOP (L-R): Tailgaters at the opening Teton Hockey game; Students host tables promoting student groups at WSC’s Fall Fair in September; Teton pumpkin; Miss Williston State, Hannah Kramer; MIDDLE (L-R): Herb Parker entertains at the Humanities Department Halloween Party; Teton Athletes selling raffle tickets at the Teton Wing Cook-off; WSC Students carve pumpkins in the Teton Lounge; Teton fans show their spirit at the annual Dig Pink Volleyball game; BOTTOM (L-R): Nursing students trick-or-treat for non-perishable goods on Halloween; WSC’s web manager, Tony Freed takes notes as a judge for the Teton Wing Cook-off; High school students check out area colleges during WSC’s Fall Fair in September.

DONATE ONLINE AT:
www.wscfoundation.com
campus updates / apartment building

9-8-12 (photo from Teton Thunder Fall 2012)

10-8-12

10-16-12

10-23-12

11-5-12

11-19-12

11-26-12

12-3-12
LEFT: Construction is moving right along on the $10 million dollar apartment building.

RIGHT: Construction is continuing on the $70 million dollar rec center as well.

KEEP AN EYE ON WSC:

Visit our Facebook (facebook.com/willistonstate) or Twitter (@willistonstate) sites weekly for pictures and updates on these two exciting projects at WSC.

Some of our tweets:

WARC Construction Update: Forms are going up to pour cement for the S side of Rec. Walls will be going up soon!

Apartment Construction Update: NW side of 2nd floor is going up. Ready to start construction on 1st floor!!!

Rec Center Update: STILL getting footings. Man those seem to take a long time! ;)

Apt Construction Update: 4th flr N side is up. Roofing should start next week. Some windows are in, go take a look!

DONATE ONLINE AT:
www.wscfoundation.com
**Statement of Activities**

**Revenue, Gains and Other Support**

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**Financial Information**

Financial statements for fiscal year ending June 30, 2012. The foundation is audited annually by Brady, Martz & Associates, P.C. The graphics below are a snapshot of the Auditor’s Report; the entire report is available online at wscfoundation.com.
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

TOTAL ASSETS

- Other Assets
- Current Assets
- Pledges Receivable
- Investments
- Property and Equipment, at cost

CURRENT & LONG TERM LIABILITIES

- Taxes Payable - Gaming
- Accounts Payable
- Other Accrued Liabilities
- Due to Related Party
- Annuities Payable

NET ASSETS

- Permanently Restricted
- Temporarily Restricted - Gaming
- Temporarily Restricted - Foundation
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TetonThunder | Winter 2012 | 11
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Step 2: You get a federal tax deduction of $1,750
Step 3: And your ND income tax credit is $2,000 (40% of your charitable gift)

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*Check with your local accountant to see how your taxes would be affected.

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VERN & KARMA DEANE OWAN

Vern & Karma Deane Owans are longtime Williston community members and WSC supporters. They chose to support WSC with scholarships for students taking up subjects the Owans are passionate about.

For Karma Deane, it’s art. She has been a musician and artist for most of her life. As a young woman she traveled the country in a band; now she travels the world to tour and paint, just recently returning from Croatia.

For Vern, it’s agriculture. He grew up on a farm, and his life’s ambition was farming. “It’s a personal thing; those who have extra dollars should consider it. It’s a worthwhile investment in education,” says Vern. “There are a lot of kids who can’t afford to go to school.”

“It’s a personal thing; those who have extra dollars should consider it.”

The Owans also point out that, since the donation is tax-deductible, it can save people a lot of income tax.

The 2012-2013 school year saw two students, one going into agriculture and the other studying art, become the first to receive the Vern & Karma Deane Owans Scholarships.
campus events

The Frontier Hall eighth-floor conference room is dedicated to the North Dakota National Guard, 164th Infantry Regiment, Company E, established on December 8, 1906, in Williston, North Dakota. The regiment served through many conflicts with distinction and valor, remaining faithful to their motto, “He who perishes is not lost.”

With gratitude to Andrea and Colleen Ad bei who made this room a reality.
campus events

LEFT PAGE (L-R): Ready Room plaque. Shirley J. Olgeirson, Lt. Col. (ret) spoke about the 164th infantry at the Ready Room Dedication in September. The honor guard and a WHS choral group perform. MIDDLE: Gate City Bank Executive Vice President and Director of Lending Blaise Johnson presents a check for the contribution to North Dakota Housing Finance Agency Executive Director Mike Anderson and North Dakota Lieutenant Governor Drew Wrigley. Keynote speaker- North Dakota Lieutenant Governor Drew Wrigley. BOTTOM: Congressman Rick Berg spoke at the Rec Center ground breaking ceremony in October. Large ground breaking group a good fit for the size of the building.

RIGHT PAGE (L-R): Dr. Raymond Nadolny speaks about the necessity of information at the Learning Commons grand opening in October. WSC’s Learning Commons Manager Monica Crane cuts the ribbon.

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Beverly Conway, instructor of nutrition and biology at Williston State College, has been working for WSC for fifteen years and loves every bit of it. Many things have changed since she started teaching here, but Conway’s favorite part of teaching has not: she still loves “seeing that light come on in students when they finally figure something out.”

Conway, a Williston native, earned her AS from WSC (then UND-W) before going on to complete her BS in Biology with a minor in chemistry at UND and an MS in Nutrition from Washington State University. Conway always said she wasn’t going to be a teacher because her mom was a teacher, but when she saw the ad for the open position at WSC, she decided to give it a try. She joined the WSC faculty in 1998 and has been here ever since.

One of biggest perks of working at WSC for Conway is the feeling of community. Regarding instructors and staff, she notes, “It’s like working with a family.” The other benefit is getting to know the students. With the smaller class sizes at WSC, Conway maintains that students and faculty get to experience more interaction with each other, which they probably wouldn’t get elsewhere.

During her tenure at WSC, Conway has noticed many changes in the community, especially in these past few years. “I am glad we have opportunities for jobs, especially for people who are desperate for work,” says Conway. On the other hand, she is concerned about the effects of too many people moving to the area too fast for construction and infrastructure to keep up. While she likes getting to know all the new people who have come to Williston, it’s hard to see many life-long residents leave.

Conway also notes the ways technology has changed students over the years. With the internet, students have access to a great wealth of information; they can Google the answer to nearly any question they might have. Because of this, she cautions students today that they need to work to keep from becoming too information-rich and experience-poor. Her other advice to students remains unchanged by the times: pursue something you enjoy; take classes that seem to interest you, and you will soon find your way.

You never know for sure what that way will be, adds, Conway. While she loves teaching now, her favorite job before moving back to Williston “was when I worked at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research in San Antonio, Texas. I worked with pre-mature baboons as human infant models, studying their nutritional needs, and it was the coolest thing I’ve ever done!”

Conway and her husband Bruce live in Williston. Bruce is a retired Air Force Lt. Colonel, and he works with business development. They have three sons: Kyle, his wife Kristi, and their daughter Ellie live in Grand Forks, where Kyle teaches in the UND Communication department Mark and his son Lars live in Williston, where Mark works in the WSC Distance Education department. Drew also lives in Williston, where he is a member of the Air Guard (Happy Hooligans) and works with Bruce in business development. In her free time, Conway loves to cook and try new recipes. She loves gardening, and doing anything outside.
The women of the WSC Bookstore are a tight-knit group made up of longtime friends. They are (literally, in some cases) a family.

Kay Anderson grew up in Williston and attended UND-W for interior design. Anderson has worked at the bookstore the longest after Andrea Heller, the bookstore manager. Heller has worked at WSC for twenty-three years, and Anderson has been there for eleven. Anderson remembers getting a call from Heller, asking her to come and work. (“I called her and begged her to come work here,” inserts Heller.) The two women knew each other because their kids went to school together.

Anderson, who serves as the assistant manager of the bookstore, deals mostly with the textbooks. “It’s a lot of fun working with the girls,” says Anderson, “Dealing with the books is tedious, so the girls and the coffee bar make it more fun.” Anderson notes that there have been a lot of changes since she came on board. “You see a lot more kids in here now, especially since the coffee bar opened five or six years ago,” she adds. “They used to just get their books and leave; now with the coffee bar they come in and visit.”

Amy Johnson was working full-time at a law firm and had a five-month-old son when she noticed a job opening at the college in the paper. “I called Hunter (Berg, her brother) to ask what the position was, and he said it was at the bookstore. So I came down and applied.” Johnson wanted to work part-time to be home more with her son, and she says, “It worked out great.” More than five years later, she adds, “It’s fun. I enjoy coming to work every day, and the hours are great.” It’s not just the hours, either. “I like interacting with the customers,” says Johnson, “especially when new stuff comes in. Everyone gets excited about gift items and clothing”

Marlene Sandaker started working at the bookstore after she and her husband John closed Dakota Dental Lab, a business they had run for thirty years. “I wanted a part-time job, and I knew everyone in here,” recalls Sandaker. “I’ve known Kay and Andrea for thirty years and our husbands all know each other,” explains Sandaker. Her daughter Julie is also married to Johnson’s brother, former WSC Athletic Director Hunter Berg. “I’m with my family, and it’s the most fun ever,” says Sandaker. “It’s a good working atmosphere, and every day.” They also have a regular coffee crew that comes in every morning. Del Easton and his wife, Lorna, Wayne and Jean Biberdorf, and Cindy Olson have a long-standing morning coffee group; their previous meeting place closed down, and now they meet at the WSC Bookstore for coffee every nearly day.

As with other businesses in the area, the bookstore has seen an increase in traffic over the past few years. In addition to the coffee bar business picking up, the ladies have noticed more people coming in to buy clothing and gifts. “We are a lot busier,” says Sandaker. “People must have better jobs and more cash these days.” And they also see more people stopping by to ask about the college. “The boom has brought a lot of people in to look at the college,”

Kay and her husband Greg Anderson live in Williston, where Greg has a dental practice. They have three grown kids: Kyle, Jared, and Kayla. Johnson and her husband J.R. live in Grenora. J.R. is a Farmers Union agent in Grenora and Plentywood, Montana, and they have two kids: Bridger (5) and Harper (3).

Sandaker and her husband John live in Williston. They have four grown children – Jenny, Julie, Jackie, and Gina – and ten grandchildren.

“I like the social network – everyone, the people I work with and the students.”


(L-R): Amy Johnson, Kay Anderson, and Marlene Sandaker.
BY ELVIS LEUNGUEN-KOUNDJO

In the fall of 2012, WSC Teton Athletics welcomed some new people; among them are three outstanding assistant coaches: Andrew VanHavermaet, Ross Orrock, and Jen Shadlock.

Andrew “Vandy” VanHavermaet is a native of Hawley, Minnesota. He attended Minnesota State University-Moorhead, where he earned a degree in exercise science with a minor in coaching and strength and conditioning.

VanHavermaet earned numerous honors playing basketball for the Dragons, including being named to the All-Academic team from 2008-2012 and making 198 career three pointers (second all-time score in the school’s history). During his senior year, his team went to the NCAA Division II National Tournament, and Moorhead received their first tournament win since 1965. VanHavermaet scored 19 points in the national tournament victory over Southwest Minnesota State.

His assistant coach at Moorhead from 2009-2011 was current WSC Head Men’s Basketball Coach Eric Peterson. When VanHavermaet obtained his degree last May, Peterson offered him the position as his assistant coach beginning fall 2012, and he was happy to have the opportunity to apply his knowledge of coaching at WSC.

VanHavermaet enjoys himself as assistant coach. “It’s a lot of fun to be around the guys,” he says, “Working with the players is great.” VanHavermaet hopes to remain here for a long time and maybe become head coach one day. In addition to coaching, he teaches activity classes, such as hiking, golf, and weight training.

Ross Orrock became a member of the Teton Hockey staff in July 2012. Orrock grew up in Elk River, Minnesota, and attended the University of Wisconsin-Superior, majoring in special education.

“WE ARE VERY THANKFUL TO HAVE THEM AND ALL THREE WILL BE GREAT HEAD COACHES ONE DAY.”

Orrock met WSC Head Hockey Coach Seamus Gregory at the Northern Plains Development Camp. When Gregory asked him if he wanted to be assistant coach of the Teton hockey team beginning in fall 2012, he accepted the offer immediately.

Orrock has an impressive résumé: he was a goalie instructor in the Elk River Youth Hockey Association for five years, and he coached and worked as a recruiter with the Minnesota Miners AAA hockey team for two seasons. Orrock spent last year as an assistant coach for the Yellowstone Quake of the Northern Pacific Junior Hockey League, where he was responsible for special teams, goaltending, and recruiting.

In addition to his roles as assistant coach, which has him working primarily with the goaltenders, and recruiting coordinator, Orrock is also helping coordinate the youth hockey programs at the Williston Basin Skating Club and serving as the club’s USA Hockey ACE Coordinator.

Jen Shadlock, a Brandon, Manitoba, native joined the Williston State Softball coaching staff as a student assistant coach this fall. Shadlock heard about the position in May, as she was preparing to graduate from Valley City State University. She was a member of the softball team, where last spring she helped lead the Vikings to their second-most wins in a season (26), which capped off four straight seasons with at least 20 wins.

“IT’S SO VALUABLE TO OUR DEPARTMENT TO HAVE Ross, Jen, and Andrew as part of our staff,” says WSC Head Basketball Coach Eric Peterson. “All three have a passion for coaching; it’s what they want to do for a career. They do more here than people realize and are crucial to the success of all of our sports we offer.” Peterson adds, “We are very thankful to have them and all three will be great head coaches one day.”

The athletics department depends on its help from off-campus coaches as well. “Our off-campus coaches are the ones everybody forgets about,” notes Peterson. “They are very important to our success here in Teton Athletics.”

Chirsty Theige and Becca Waitman help coach volleyball, and Tyler Jundt helps with hockey. Shannon Fee is the men’s hockey strength and conditioning coordinator. Brian Knight and Zac Peterson are the baseball assistant coaches. Josh “Goose” Finders is the assistant women’s basketball coach.

“They all have other careers and they help in their free time,” says WSC Athletic Coordinator Rita Ann Deichert. Peterson explains, “Our budgets do not give us unlimited assistant coaches. They make pennies for the amount of hours they put in. A lot of these coaches do it because they love sports and have a passion for Teton Athletics. Without their hard work, Teton Athletics would not be where it is today.” Especially with the transitions this year resulting from Hunter Berg’s departure, Deichert notes that the WSC assistant and off-campus coaches have really helped Teton Athletics out a lot. “They are a valuable asset this year.”
GET YOUR PICTURES READY.

March | Furry Tetons
No kids? No problem. Dress your pets up in some Teton/WSC gear and send us some pictures.

June | Former Tetons
Pictures of way back when. Whatever the decade, send us pictures of your “good old days.”

Sept | Teton Weddings
Recently married? Anyone in the wedding a Teton? Send us the picture and we’ll put it in the Thunder.

Dec | Tiny Tetons
Any new (or not so new) addition to your family that you want to show off? Send us a photo!

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

1. Eislynn, 3
   Cole & Katie (Geltel) Deichert (both WSC alumni)
   Grandma, Rita Ann Deichert
   Washington, IL

2. Jace, 1
   Lisa (Tofte) ('03) & Steve Peterson ('03)
   Great Aunt, Jennie Granrud ('72)
   Cousin, Matt Peterson ('03)
   Grandma, Linda Tofte ('97)
   Williston, ND
Lee Halvorson is celebrating his forty-first year announcing sports, and if ever there was a man made specifically for this line of work, he is it. With a low voice that was meant for radio, Halvorson’s relaxed demeanor and interesting stories immediately put a person at ease and make for a fascinating conversation.

Halvorson knew by the time he was in fourth grade that sports play by play was his calling, and he was determined to see it through. Growing up in the small town of Wolford, North Dakota, on a small grain farm Halvorson looked up to sports announcers like Boyd Christensen, Russ Smith, and Doug Tegtmeier.

After graduating with nineteen other students from Wolford High School, Halvorson set off to study Marketing Communications at UND. His senior year of college he was drafted to serve his country in Vietnam. While at Fort Ord in Monterey Bay, California, Halvorson received word that KFGO, where he had done his radio internship, had been sold. Halvorson had planned to return to KFGO; while he was told he could still return to his old position, it was clear there was no longer any room for growth. Staying true to his passion for radio, Halvorson started a mail campaign to every radio station in North Dakota until he landed a position at KDLR in Devil’s Lake.

Halvorson eventually moved to Williston, when KEYZ radio “made him an offer he couldn’t refuse.” During his career, he has won a total of seven North Dakota Sportscaster Awards, was the Voice of The Tetons for thirty years, and has branched into auctioneering and real estate, also teaching numerous business and real estate classes at WSC. He managed to do all this while still finding time to work with community organizations like the Shriners, Masons, and Lions and habitat conservation groups like Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever. “If you’re going to be part of a community, you have to give back,” Halvorson says.

“To me, Lee Halvorson is a consummate professional,” says WSC Foundation Executive Director Terry Olson. “It was fun to work with him because he was always on time, always accountable, and he did such a tremendous job. On a personal note,” Olson adds, “it was fun to work with someone I’ve known since high school. We were roommates on the road for years – he’s just a great guy to be around. When I think of Lee Halvorson, I think of professional.”

Although Williston is not the same town Halvorson moved to in 1982, he likes the melting pot of diversity it has become. Halvorson says that even with all the change he has still never worked a day in his life, nor has he ever woken not wanting to go to work. He loves what he does and advises his students to turn their hobbies into a career, so they can do the same.

“IF YOU’RE GOING TO BE PART OF A COMMUNITY, YOU HAVE TO GIVE BACK”
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Brandon Passley is making the most of his experience at Williston State College. In addition to taking classes and serving as the assistant captain of the hockey team, Passley attends every game and student activity he can when he’s not on the road for hockey. Passley says that he really likes all the student activities the staff puts on, adding, “You get to be with your peers, mingle, and have a great time.”

Passley was born in Mississauga, Ontario, and grew up in Kitchener, Ontario. “My family is my rock,” he says. “I wouldn’t be where I am today without their love and support.” Passley’s dad is from Kingston, Jamaica, and his mom is French Canadian. He has two sisters, and he is the middle child.

Coming from a high school with almost triple the enrollment of WSC, Passley finds that he likes the smaller community. “Since it’s a small school, I would say you get to know most people in your school,” he notes. “It’s easy to get assistance with your classes, and you get to interact with your teachers on a daily basis.”

Ask what he likes best about WSC, Passley states that he loves the faculty and environment here at WSC, and also all of the support that the Williston State athletic department receives from its fans. “Hockey, though, is definitely number one,” he says. “I get to do what I love in front of a massive crowd of peers, teachers, and locals who come and support the Teton.” He loves the hockey program, his coaches, his team, and the support from the faculty.

Passley’s decision to come to WSC was a last-minute and unexpected one. “Coach Seamus Gregory recruited me,” he recalls. “I was actually almost committed to another school, and he talked me out of it to come here and play hockey for the Teton.” Gregory told him he was a good player and could do even better with good grades and two years of college hockey experience under his belt.

On those occasions when Passley has free time away from hockey and his studies, and no other student activities or sporting events are going on, he enjoys hanging out with his teammates and girlfriend. He also likes to play NHL 13 on Xbox, work out, and just relax and listen to music.

Passley takes full advantage of the classes offered at WSC. “Economics with Matt Peterson is a fun class,” Passley says, adding that Peterson “is passionate about what he teaches, and it rubs off on students. He’s also really into sports so it’s easy to talk about hockey or anything else with him.”

When he graduates from WSC Passley plans to go to a four-year university and play NCAA Division 3 hockey. He is planning a career in accounting - his major at WSC - and is even considering the possibility of making the move permanent and becoming a US resident. “WSC has helped me grow as a student and individual,” maintains Passley. “Overall it’s been a really memorable experience, and I’m happy I chose to come to WSC.”
student spotlight / esther njenga

BY MATT NELSON

For Esther Njenga, Williston State College is a place to pursue her dreams. Njenga grew up in Nairobi, Kenya. “I came to the US because there is so much opportunity. I had the privilege to go and get my dream, which is nursing,” she explains. “Now I’m in the nursing program, and I’m loving it.”

When Njenga first moved to the US, she came to Kansas City, Missouri. From there, she began looking at schools. Her research included looking for a program she liked, available campus housing, and a price that was in her range. Njenga knew she wanted to study nursing, and she found the schools in Missouri were very expensive. When she found WSC, it seemed like everything was falling into place. Wherever she ended up, Njenga wanted to live on campus until she became more accustomed to the area, and “is the weather. It is cold. Where I come from, it’s summer all year round,” she explains. “Here, it’s too cold for me.” Other than that, Njenga enjoys the school and the area. “I just love it because you can get so many opportunities over here,” she says. “I’ve looked other places. This is a place that, it might be small, but there’s so much you can get from it.”

That’s just what Njenga is doing. Her current plans including finishing the nursing program at WSC and earning her RN, and then traveling around to improve her nursing skills and help people who need it. Njenga also plans to take more classes, possibly at Minot State University or Mayville State University, and eventually earn her BSN.

Njenga is determined to make the most of her time at WSC. She enjoys her classes, especially chemistry with Derek VanderMolen, who Njenga describes as an amazing teacher who really helps students accomplish their goals. She also participates in many other activities, including Student Senate, the Student Ambassador program, and PTK Honor Society. PTK deals mostly with fundraising, says Njenga, but they have fun doing it. One of the more popular activities this past semester had students and faculty trying to “assassinate” each other by throwing balled-up socks at their targets in the hallways. “So much goes on here,” she says. “We have dances, we have games like this ‘assassination’ game and the scavenger hunt after Thanksgiving. It’s awesome. I love to be in those clubs.”

According to Njenga, this is an ideal time and place to be going to college. The improvements in technology have created more opportunities, but more than that, Njenga feels that the growth in this region gives students a freedom not necessarily enjoyed by students elsewhere in the US. “Right now, where we are in this state,” she says, “when you finish your degree there’s a promise of a job waiting for you. So this gives students the morale to pursue their dream.”
NEW MEMBERS

Myron Lee, a recent addition to the WSC Foundation Board, has been serving on the board for a year this January.

Lee also serves as treasurer for West Prairie Church, secretary on the board of directors for Horizon Resources, and a member of the county committee for Farm Service Agency.

Regarding his experiences on the WSCF Board this past year, he says, “It’s been interesting. I’ve enjoyed learning what the foundation is doing. I didn’t know anything about it before, and I’m amazed at everything they are doing.”

Lee graduated from UND-W in 1977 with an AAS in Farm Management/Agribusiness. He and his wife, Suzi (a 1981 UND-W graduate), live on their family farm northwest of Williston, where they grow durum and barley and raise livestock. Their daughter Jackie is a student at WSC, and their son Walker is a student at Williston High School.

Nathan Jepsen is the newest member of the WSC Foundation Board, having recently joined the board in October.

Jepsen is a CPA with an office in Bowbells. He also serves as vice president of the Board of Directors of the Northwest Communications Cooperative in Ray and as vice president of the Flaxton Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

Upon hearing of the open seat on the WSCF Board of Directors, Jepsen volunteered to serve. “I always had really good ties here and had a good experience,” he recalls. “I wanted to give a little bit back to the college after all they gave me.”

Jepsen is a 1985 graduate of UND-W with an AAS in Farm Management. He and his wife, Lenell, live on their farm southwest of Bowbells.

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WILLISTON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION
Dear Members of the Williston State College Foundation:

Thank you very much for the scholarship I have been awarded. I am very grateful for your generosity in assisting me to meet my financial needs to attend Williston State College. It has been a dream of mine to attend college and continue my academic studies while simultaneously playing softball at the college level. I am very excited about attending WSC in the fall.

I will be graduating from high school this June. The past 4 years at high school have been wonderful! While consistently being on the honor roll every year, I am also extensively involved in school sports teams. I play volleyball, basketball, softball, golf, and am also on the cheer and dance teams. I am also on the school student council and am in the Mentorship Program.

I will be playing for the Tetons Softball Team this fall. I have been fortunate to have had success in a sport that I love. In 2010 my team won the Canadian Western Bantam A Softball Championship and we were Provincial Silver Medalists in 2011. Also, I was our school Softball MVP in 2011.

Going to WSC is a great opportunity to continue to play school softball while working towards a degree in Advertising. After completing an Associate in Arts at WSC I hope to continue to play softball at another college and complete my advertising degree.

The expense is quite high when especially attending college away from home. Attending WSC is my dream and I thank you for helping to make my dream possible! I thank you again for your generosity and support!

Sincerely,

Ellen Kirkness

---

Dear Carol Shahin Scholarship Foundation members,

Thank you for providing me with the generous Carol Shahin Scholarship. I am honored to be one of the recipients of this tremendous gift. Thank you for your generous support. I am a proud sophomore student at Williston State College in my first year of the nursing program.

Growing up in Michigan where our economy was dependent on the auto manufactures, I quickly realized the importance and value of a college education. However, being a nontraditional student, balancing work, a young family, and husband serving in the military, would have made achieving a college education a financial burden.

Your support has allowed me to focus on the most important aspect of college, learning. I continue to maintain a four point in all required pre-nursing courses. My plans are to finish my nursing degree here at Williston State College, earning both an Associate in Applied Science and an Associates of Science degree. I then plan to go onto Minot State University for my bachelors. The sky is the limit with nursing and after gaining experience working in the field I may follow in my Mother and Grandmothers shoes and continue onto graduate school to become a nurse practitioner with a focus in psychotherapy.

Growing up in a home of medical professionals, I have nothing but support behind me. I enjoy helping people and know this field is my calling. I have had the opportunity already thanks to the amazing staff I work with at Trinity Health to see all aspects of the nursing field. While challenging, the field is ever-changing and the opportunities are endless.

Thank you again for your generosity and support. You have changed my life.

Appreciately,

Megan R. Grinnell

---

Dear Alvin Hexen Scholarship Committee:

I was very happy to learn that I was a recipient of the Alvin Hexen Scholarship. I am writing to thank you for your generous financial support towards my higher education.

I appreciate your confidence in me and willingness to contribute to my future education. I will be attending Williston State College in the fall of 2012 and am majoring in Diesel Technology in hopes of one day opening my own business. I am grateful for the opportunities this award will provide me since I rely on financial aid, grants and student loans to help finance my education. Receiving this scholarship will reduce my financial burdens and provide assistance for me as I continue pursuing my education.

My parents have always stressed the importance of education and the value of a college degree. I hope one day to share these same lessons with high school students and to help prepare them for success in college.

Once again, I want to thank you for making this scholarship possible and for your generosity toward the Williston community. I hope to represent the Alvin Hexen Scholarship in a positive manner and give back to my community as you have.

Respectfully,

Dylan K. Pitcham

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Dear Williston State College Foundation,

I am so very thankful that I have been awarded the Otto and Alma Beec Scholarship for the 2012-2013 academic year. I am so excited to complete my degree and receive my AS from WSC. I have learned so much from my first year being at WSC that I can’t wait to see what this first year holds for me. The staff is very helpful in any aspect that I have asked. It’s a great school and I am so thankful for all of the experiences and awards/scholarships that I have received. This scholarship in particular is going to help me out so very much in that I am putting myself through school and have found a career that I enjoy doing every day. I am sorry that it took me so long to write this letter but was so very appreciative when I had received notice that I had received the scholarship. So in that, I want to say a final thank you to all that WSC has done for me and this scholarship in particular.

Sincerely, 

Zachary T. Goebel

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Mr. Olson,

Thank you for the Otto and Alma Beec Scholarship, as well as the matching WSC award. My grandparents, Joe and Dolores Schneider, went square dancing with the Nelson’s and knew them well. I appreciate the school assistance.

Sincerely,

Alex Olson
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