

SPRING 2013

# TETON THUNDER

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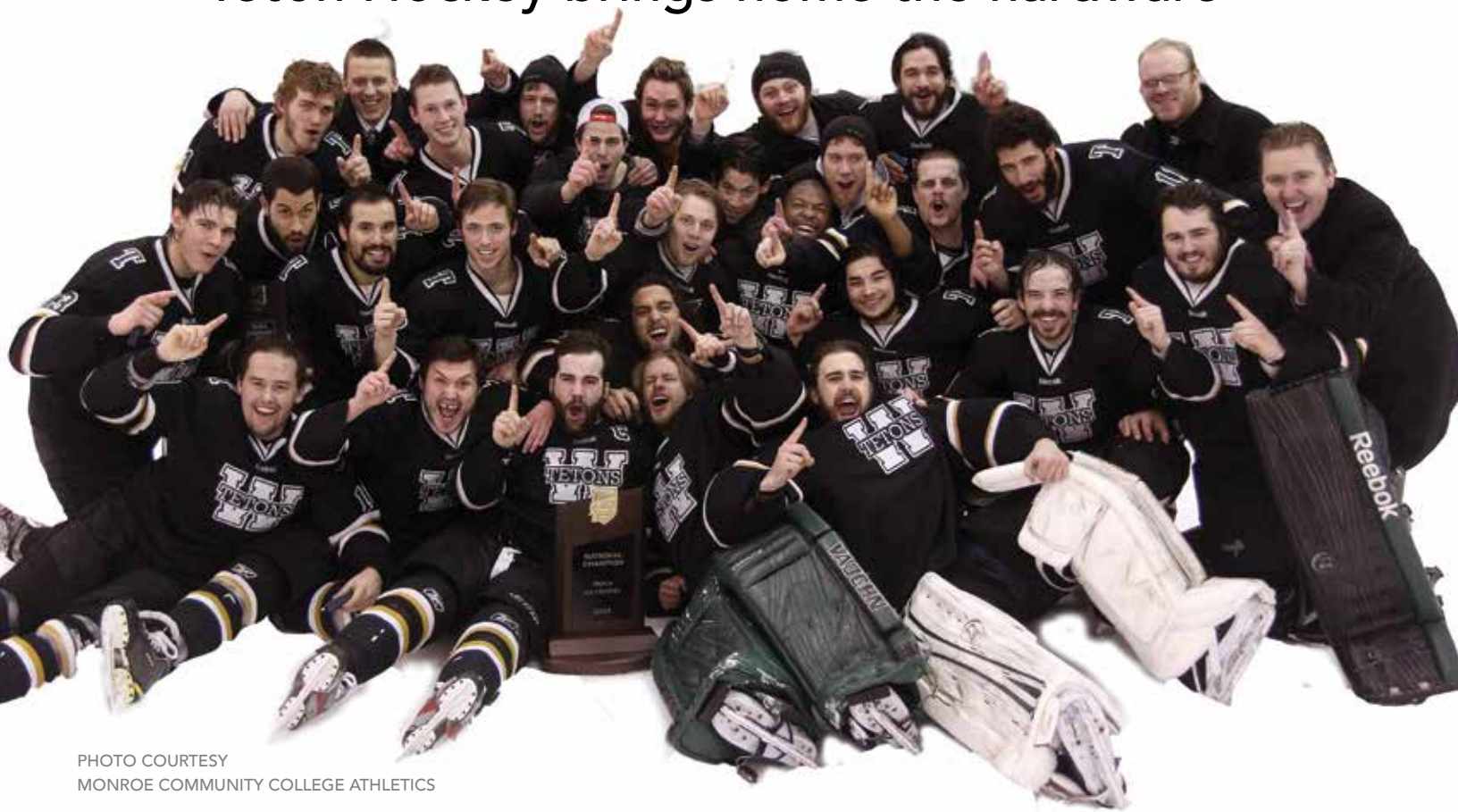


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MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE ATHLETICS

**CAMPUS UPDATES**  
apartment & rec center

**ALUMNI PROFILE**  
WSC in Williston Public Schools



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# TETONTHUNDER

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# welcome / dr. raymond nadolny



Dear Community:

What a tremendous year at Williston State College. We had a wildly successful accreditation visit. The hockey team went to Nationals for a second straight year (and won the national championship). We opened the new science building, finished a major remodel of the library, and added a new “bistro” in the residence hall. And so much more!

Amazingly, this is only the beginning as we look ahead to a number of projects that will transform our campus in the coming months, including the renovation of Stevens Hall, the Campus Drive Project, the spring launch of our Women’s Fast Pitch Softball Team, and the Lewis and Clark Monument. And there’s so much more to do!

On behalf of the College, thank you for the extraordinary generosity and support of our students. The campus is brimming with excitement—an excitement made possible by you.

Sincerely,

Raymond A. Nadolny, Ph.D.  
President  
Williston State College

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## INSTRUCTIONAL UPDATE

If you've been on campus lately you may not have noticed a subtle new addition: street signs. The roads on campus have been named to help direct people around campus. To see a map of campus with the new street names visit [willistonstate.edu/Future-Students/Come-See-Us/Visit-Us](http://willistonstate.edu/Future-Students/Come-See-Us/Visit-Us).

The community is invited to attend the WSC open house/welcome wagon event on Saturday, April 13 from 11am-3pm, with free BBQ from 11am-1pm. WSC will be showcasing revamped and long-standing programs. For new and long-time residents, this event will provide a great way to see the campus, check out the new buildings, get acquainted with community resources, and become familiarized with available programs. In partnership with the open house, the college is hosting a welcome wagon event. Essential services and community resources will be present. This is a great opportunity for those who are new to the area and others who may not know much about Williston. There will be give-aways and door prizes, a baseball game going on during the event, tour of the new basement in Frontier Hall, inflatables for the kids, a live DJ, and more. Everyone is welcome to attend.

WSC students and chaperones are currently visiting Norway. The public is welcome to attend a presentation on their travels on April 25 at 12:15pm in Stevens Hall.

WSC's Ag Club attended their state conference in Minot in January. Seven WSC students attended, and they competed in different contests. Highlights included Justin Jacobs placing second in Ag Sales (seed and fertilizer category) and as Kayla Crooker the high individual in the Overall Livestock Specialist contest. Crooker was also elected to be the ND State PAS President for 2013-14.



[willistonstate.edu](http://willistonstate.edu)  
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## ATHLETIC UPDATE

It's time for the 12th Annual Teton Booster Club Pickup Raffle! This year, the grand prize is a 2013 Ford F-150 4x4 Super Crew Cab XLT Off-Road Package. There are 14 additional prizes. Tickets are \$100 each and can be purchased at Simonson, Sport About, Lindsey Implement, Gooseneck Implement and Horizon Resources, or by calling the athletics office at 774-4589. Only 1500 tickets will be sold, and proceeds will go to the Teton Booster Club, to be used for athletic scholarships. The drawing will take place May 2 at 8pm at J. Dub's, with a social starts at 6pm.

Teton Athletics invites you to Casino Night 2013, a night of dining, entertainment, games, and an auction. A fund-raising event to help support the ongoing operations of Teton Athletics, Casino Night will take place April 19. Please call the athletics office at 774-4589 or visit [wsctetons.com](http://wsctetons.com) for more details

The Teton Women's Basketball Team is heading to Nationals March 18-23. Please check [wsctetons.com](http://wsctetons.com) for updates and look for a recap of their remarkable season with new Head Coach Luanne Axelson in the next issue of the Teton Thunder.



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# alumni spotlight williston schools

BY MARY STENBERG

If you roam the hallways of Williston State College, you will see maps showing where WSC students come from and where alumni are living now. WSC has alumni all over the world, but there are many who have opted to stay in Williston or have returned after being away. The Williston school system, both public schools and private, have among their ranks many faculty and staff who are graduates of WSC, or UND-Williston, as it was known before 1998. Following are some of their stories.

Lori (Millette) Burnett, a 1981 graduate of Williston High School, graduated from UND-W in 1983 with an associate of arts degree. She went on to Minot State University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in education.

"I chose UND-Williston because I was interested in the fact that I could play volleyball and basketball at the college level, and I could do both right here," Burnett says. "It was a great experience and the basketball team went on to the national championship that year." She earned a spot in the Teton Athletic Hall of Fame as a part of that team.

Burnett admits that there was another draw that made her choose UND-W. "My high school sweetheart was in Williston working in the oilfield, and I wasn't ready to move away from him," she laughs.

She went on to play volleyball her junior year at MSU, which she chose because it was a good school for her education degree and because she was not really interested in being too far away from home. "I wanted to finish my education before I got married and I'm glad that I did that," she explains. "I wanted to get my career going and then get married."

After graduating from MSU, she taught three years in the grade school at Bainville, Montana, and then taught sixth grade at Webster Elementary until it closed. Since then she has taught fifth and sixth grades at Wilkinson Elementary for the past twenty-one years.

Burnett has fond memories of her coaches (Helen Overbo and Penny Slagle), giving them credit for making her time here enjoyable. "Penny continues to be part of my life because she is also a teacher in the

school system here," Burnett adds, "and I had her children as students in my class."

Some of Burnett's best memories of her time at UND-W include canoe trips with Helen Overbo, camping and doing outdoor activities for one of her health and wellness classes. "Mary Hughes and I – we had our coolers in our canoes, floating down the Yellowstone, thinking we were rock stars," she remembers.

Burnett is very thankful that she chose to attend UND-W straight out of high school, given the fact that she was "not a great student."

"It really helped me to start out at a smaller college," she says. "I couldn't see myself in a Fargo/NDSU setting with 300 others in the classroom. That's not my learning style. The smaller classrooms really fit me and helped me succeed."

Burnett and her husband, Rod (that same high school sweetheart for whom she stayed close to home), have two sons: Tyler, a WSC alumnus, and Tanner, who is currently attending WSC.

For Williston native Tammy Lyson, UND-W was a natural choice, as it not only offered the academic start she needed, but also afforded her the opportunity to continue her sports career at the college level. A 1979 graduate of WHS, Lyson, like Burnett, played basketball under Slagle and volleyball under Overbo.

After graduating from UND-W, Lyson went on to Dickinson State University, where she earned a degree in elementary education and physical education. "My first couple of jobs were in the classroom, then I got into the gym and I've been there since. I absolutely love it!" Lyson currently teaches physical education at Lewis & Clark Elementary in Williston.

One reason Lyson decided on UND-W was that she hadn't quite made up her mind as to what she wanted to do with her life. "It made sense to get my generals out of the way and this was a convenient place for me," recalls Lyson. "I had wonderful instructors who sent me in the right direction. I remember sitting in Helen's (Overbo) office asking her what I was going to do. She asked me what I liked to do; the answer was

that I like kids, and I like sports, and it all fell into place that I would get an elementary degree with some PE."

Her experience at UND-W was positive for her, and she still uses the skills and information she learned in her classes, "From Phil Rabon's camping class – to this day, friends and I go out backpacking on an annual trip – to Jack White's speech class which I thoroughly enjoyed, (even though everyone else dreaded it), and I am able to use those skills as I am in front of a group talking most of the time for my job."

Lyson has no reservations about suggesting WSC as a starting point for her students to continue their education after they graduate from high school. "The school is growing so much and being so proactive and innovative with everything they are doing," she says. "I just wish they would have had softball back when I attended – that was a great sport for them to offer. It's good for student athletes who can come and be part of that."

"Also the instructors are there if you need them, as they were when I attended," adds Lyson. "It made it that much easier as far as getting into college life. It was good to start where the classes are smaller."

She remembers back in the day when she was choosing a college, there was almost a stigma attached to attending "The Dub," as many locals called the college. Even though it was a quality college with quality instructors, the feeling then was that everyone wanted to go somewhere bigger. "I don't think it has that stigma anymore," she says. "Because of what they've done and the way they've grown and changed and moved forward, it has become a very attractive place to get your start in college and I am glad that I took advantage of that opportunity."

For John Monger, who teaches third grade at Hagan Elementary School, UND-W was not just a matter of convenience and staying in his hometown, but somewhat of a family tradition, as he has several older siblings who also are alumni of the college.

"Williston is my hometown and I was undecided as to what I wanted to do as a career at first, so I chose



to take two years of general courses until I decided what my major would be," he says. "And my older siblings who attended school here had a nice experience, so I knew it would be a good choice."

His first year of college, classes were only held four days a week, which Monger says he loved: "I was able to work part-time on Fridays and weekends if I wanted. If I didn't work, I was able to enjoy the outdoors also."

"My time at UND-W was a very positive experience," Monger says. "I received a great education due in part to the small class size. The instructors were willing to help you outside of class if you didn't catch on the first time, and they made you feel comfortable asking for and getting that extra help. I was able to meet new people, especially students who attended Class B schools who also chose to attend UND-W."

After he graduated from UND-W, John went on to finish his education degree at Minot State. "Most of my general education courses were taken care of before I attended MSU and I was then able to concentrate on my education classes, recalls Monger. "Taking speech class at Williston really helped prepare me for doing presentations in front of a large group, which I was somewhat uncomfortable with."

He returned to Williston to complete his education as a student teacher at Hagan Elementary. "I was hoping to be able to begin my teaching career in my hometown," he says. "After I graduated, I was able to get a teaching job in Williston in the same grade I student-taught. It is nice to be able to give back to the community where I was born and raised!"



TOP: Lori Burnett. MIDDLE: Tami Lyson. BOTTOM: John Monger.



## THE GENERATOR HOLDS 5,000 GALLONS OF DIESEL AND WILL PROVIDE POWER AND HEAT TO STEVENS HALL.

BY MARY STENBERG

Williston State College is pleased to announce that the purchase and installation of an emergency generator has been completed.

The need for a large generator was established in spring 2011 when power to Williston was out for about four days. With more than 200 people living on-campus at the time (and thousands of others in the area) who were affected by the power outages, WSC President Dr. Raymond Nadolny started diligently pursuing the possibility of purchasing emergency generators for the college.

At the time of the 2011 power outage, the weather was warm enough that there was no danger of anyone freezing from extreme cold. However, Nadolny was concerned about what would happen if this type of outage occurred when temperatures were below freezing.

With no money in the college's general budget to pay for the \$400,000 project, Nadolny approached the State Board of Higher Education to request approval to install a 500 KW generator. The request then went to the ND State Legislature, which met in special session in November 2011, to request funding approval.

The board and the legislature agreed with Nadolny's assessment of the situation and approved the project.

"There is no way we could have done this without that allocation from the state," says WSC Vice President for Business Services James Foertsch.

The generator holds 5,000 gallons of diesel and will provide power and heat to Stevens Hall, the main building on campus, which also includes the college's cafeteria. It is also possible that if another power outage on this scale happens, the college could be a potential emergency shelter for the community.

"With Williston growing into a large community, having this type of support and back-up is absolutely critical, not just for the college, but also for the community," says Nadolny.

With all the challenges of living in an area impacted by the oil boom, Nadolny is thankful that the generator was able to be approved, received, and installed in a fairly short amount of time.

"We all know the work it takes to make things happen in this area, which is so busy and overwhelmed," notes Nadolny, "but these services are truly critical for us to continue to move forward."

WSC is currently revamping its emergency preparedness plans to include future use of the new generator.

**DONATE ONLINE AT:**  
[www.wscfoundation.com](http://www.wscfoundation.com)

# campus updates / livdahl donation



BY LEAH HESS

It takes a strong and humble person to turn a story of loss for one family into a story of giving for the community. Dale Livdahl, donor for the Frontier Hall basement renovations, is that person. Livdahl has donated money for the basement renovation in memory of his late brother, Warren Livdahl, who passed while serving in the United States Navy in 1943.

Livdahl was only thirteen years old when his brother Warren passed away. Warren grew up in Williston, worked at an airport factory in California for a time after high school, and eventually moved back to Williston and joined the United States Navy. In September 1942, Warren went to the Great Lakes Naval Training Center and then received further naval training in Connecticut. Warren's first mission for the Navy was a trip to Africa.

On the way back from Africa, Warren's Navy tanker stopped to refuel in Texas. As the tanker was making its way up the coast to its final destination of New York, the tanker was torpedoed by German military. There were seventy men on ship; only fourteen survived. Unfortunately, twenty-year-old Warren was not one of them.

At home in North Dakota, Livdahl's parents received a telegram from the Navy declaring that Warren was "missing in action". By June 1943, only a month after Warren would have been celebrating his twenty-first birthday, he was declared dead.

To this day, Livdahl prefers to cherish the memory of his older brother Warren, who served as a great role model for him. Livdahl remembers how happy and selfless Warren was. He had a passion for drama and was musically talented - his favorite songs were "My Task" and "The Lord's Prayer". Warren's family cherishes the letters he wrote home while in the Navy, and Livdahl observes that Warren was a wonderful writer with an extraordinary spirit.

Livdahl, also born and raised in Williston, went on to attend Concordia College, where he majored in business administration and minored in sociology. Livdahl and his late wife, Eileen, also from Williston, attended Concordia College together. Upon graduating, they moved back to Williston, where Livdahl worked for over fifteen years at American State Bank and Trust, and twenty-seven years at First National Bank and Trust. Eileen was a secretary at First Lutheran Church for nine years before going on to teach English at Williston High School.

Livdahl's donation to WSC is in memory of Warren Livdahl because Warren never had the opportunity to go to college. One of WSC's strengths, says Livdahl, is the opportunity and affordability the WSC Foundation provides for students who otherwise may have never been able to go to college, like his brother Warren. Livdahl is glad he chose to contribute to WSC, pointing out how nice it is to see the money used for students and the community.

Terry Olson, Executive Director of the WSC Foundation, is grateful for the contribution and pleased to be able to help Livdahl create a lasting tribute to his brother. "Dale and I had a positive conversation about what we could do in memory of his brother," says Olson. In the end they agreed that this renovation of the Frontier Hall basement would be a good use of his donation and an excellent addition for the students. They are both pleased with the result. "It's nice to see how high-quality the project is," adds Livdahl, "I'm just glad I could give back to our community, and Williston State College, in memory of my brother. I know he would have loved it."



TOP: Warren Livdahl

MIDDLE: Basement of Frontier Hall

BOTTOM: Dale Livdahl stands outside Frontier Hall



# campus updates / apartment building

BY LUCAS AMUNDSON

You may have noticed the large, seventy-four-unit apartment complex being built on Williston State College's campus. What you may not know is that around 8000 sq. ft. of the structure is reserved for retail and office use.

The Williston State College Foundation is currently in the planning stages as to what types of businesses will occupy the area. "We've had positive responses from quite a few businesses that are looking for some space," says Executive Director Terry Olson. "We're trying to find a mix that is beneficial first to the college community and the apartment tenants, as well as some things that are needed in our community," Olson added.

"We have had contact with a couple of different restaurant franchises," says Olson, noting that a restaurant "caters to our tenants, our college community, and also to the

Olson encourages anyone who has a real interest in what should occupy the retail and office area of the complex to contact the Foundation. And if anyone is thinking of bringing a business to the building, but is in need of housing for their managers, the flexibility of the apartments could help in that regard. "We have a group—a committee of sorts—that will look at what things will go in there. Ultimately, it will be the foundation or WSC, LLC that will make the decision; however, if somebody has an idea on what they think would really work in there, give us a call."

The Williston State College Foundation office can be reached by phone at 701.572.9275 or by e-mail at [office@wscfoundation.com](mailto:office@wscfoundation.com).



general traffic that will come with the opening of the new rec center." Olson adds that the proximity to the college offers its own advantages: "The people we've talked to would like to see some college students as potential part-time employees."

While the retail spaces are being worked out, the apartments are filling up fast. "The apartments are a mix of what we call 'essential services'," says Olson. Many of the expected tenants will represent the college, Bethel Lutheran Home, and the State of North Dakota. "The city and the school district, we feel, will fill out the remaining apartments," he adds. WSC will benefit from the project through housing for its employees, with over thirty of the seventy-four units going to faculty and staff. Olson also sees the project as an asset to the entire region: "When the Highway Patrol can take six apartments to house their highway patrolmen, that does nothing but make this area of the world a little bit better for us."

# campus updates rec center



LEFT PAGE: Apartment building on March 10, 2013.

RIGHT PAGE: Rec Center on March 10, 2013. Architectural renderings of the Rec Center.



## KEEP AN EYE ON WSC:

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

## WHAT'S INSIDE THE WILLISTON AREA REC CENTER

- Field turf for soccer, football, baseball & softball
- Batting/pitching cages
- Drop-down volleyball nets for grass volleyball
- Indoor tennis courts
- Golf simulator
- 50m Olympic-size pool, teaching pool, large water park & lazy river
- 200m indoor track for meets/practices with four basketball courts.
- 50,000+ sq ft fitness area
- Catering/cooking kitchen for events & classes
- Meeting rooms
- Drop-in childcare
- Large indoor playground

The WARC is slated to open in March 2014

# campus events / agriculture events

BY HUNTER SMITH

With the gradual decline of local farms in the United States, it's always nice to see new faces carry the torch of North Dakota's agricultural heritage. The Agriculture Ambassador Program is doing just that with new and exciting events that celebrate what it means to be involved in the agriculture business that has typified our region for many generations.

Kim Murphy coordinates the agriculture program at Williston State College and serves as the program's advisor. "The Agriculture Ambassador Program promotes Ag advocacy and public awareness of just how important the industry is in our lives," she says. The program has grown its membership since its inception, and currently features five young experts from WSC.

Members of the program participate in events like the Carcass Challenge. Murphy explains, "We ask producers in the area to donate steers at weaning time - the students get the opportunity to have hands-on experience with the steers, such as feeding them and running them through the shoots."

For students in the Ag program, the Carcass Challenge is a great way to get a taste of what owning cattle is like, and it can be a real eye-opener for students who may not come from a farm background. The Carcass Challenge program recently completed its third year, and it seems to be getting better as it continues, though it wouldn't be possible without the livestock producers who donate the steers. Murphy is especially appreciative of those producers who have donated livestock all three years that the program has been going: Mark & Shelley Ellis, the Hovdes (Lynn & Patti and Nathan & Kristi), Aaron & Shelby Jacobson, and Curt & Nancy Severson. Murphy adds that Northern Pulse Growers Association has also donated \$1000 to the program each year to support the pea-flour ration the students feed the steers. She also notes that WSC alumni Bradley Rosenquist not only donated livestock this year, but also recruited other donors and delivered steers to the feedlot.



TOP: Ag Ambassadors: Justin Jacobs, Melissa Clark, Kayla Crooker, Holly Juve, and Hayley Brodhead. BOTTOM (L-R): Carcass Challenge donors at Cowboy Christmas. R. Rooster catered the event with Prime Rib and all the fixings.



With all of the proceeds from the Carcass Challenge going right back in the program, the group is able to fund exciting events on campus such as the Cowboy Christmas. Taking place in early December, Cowboy Christmas includes shopping opportunities with local vendors throughout the day, followed by a dinner and entertainment in the evening. The event is a celebration of the Ag program, and it provides a chance to acknowledge outstanding members involved with the program, as well as an opportunity to award the top beef producers from the Carcass Challenge.

Murphy notes that the students of the Agricultural Ambassador Program were given the chance to play larger roles in the Cowboy Christmas this year, particularly Kayla Crooker, who, with the guidance of WSC faculty and staff, essentially took over

Murphy's role in the event. Crooker has been involved in agriculture from an early age; she has been an Agricultural Ambassador since the program began, served as the WSC PAS (Post-secondary Agriculture Student organization) president last year, and was recently chosen to be the new ND State PAS president.

This year's Second Annual Cowboy Christmas saw attendance almost double from last year with nearly 200 attendees braving the wintery weather. Dinner was catered by R. Rooster, and later in the evening attendees danced to the music of Balderdash and watched a live broadcast of the National Rodeo Finals on the big screen.

To join the Agriculture Ambassador Program contact Kim Murphy at [Kim.Murphy@willistonstate.edu](mailto:Kim.Murphy@willistonstate.edu)

# campus events / idiom buffet



## BY TETON THUNDER STAFF

On December 10, students in Williston State College's English Language Learners (ELL) program held their first Idiom Buffet.

While idioms may come naturally to native speakers, they often present additional obstacles to students when learning a new language. Idioms (expressions that have a figurative meaning beyond the literal meaning of their words) can be incredibly confusing for non-native speakers of a language to decipher. English is one of the most idiomatic languages in the world, so teachers of English as a foreign language often need to get creative when attempting to familiarize their students with these expressions.

Laurel Kaae, director of the Adult Education program at WSC, had the idea to combine idioms and food after noticing some napkins with idioms on them at a store in Victoria, BC. Her students liked the idea, and they set about finding common idioms and foods they could associate with them.

The ELL students then presented their idiom-inspired dishes at an

open-house buffet. WSC faculty, staff, and students dropped in to sample various foods representing such phrases as "in a pickle", "cool as a cucumber", "apple of my eye", "go bananas", "go whole hog", "your bread and butter", and of course, "cut the cheese". Kaae thinks the experience proved valuable for her students and is hoping that the project gave them some food for thought.

Those attending the event were over the moon that the ELL students gave it a whirl without losing their marbles, despite probably having butterflies in their stomachs. It was plain as day that a project like this is easier said than done, but the students must have worked twenty-four/seven to get everything done in the nick of time. The first idiom buffet may be down for the count, but every cloud has a silver lining: this may only be the tip of the iceberg. Something tells us next year's ELL students won't want to play second fiddle to anyone, and we hope they don't draw the line at holding the buffet but once in a blue moon. That's straight from the horse's mouth, but you can take it with a grain of salt.

# campus events in review



TOP (L-R): WSC faculty members Jim Stout, Steven Grunenwald, and Lance Olson get pie in the face as a part of a fundraising effort by student group Phi Theta Kappa at a basketball game in December.



SECOND ROW (L-R): Staff, faculty and students sample food from different cultures at WSC's second annual Taste of Cultures event in November. The Humanities Department hosts a sing-a-long complete with cider and cookies in December.



THIRD ROW (L-R): WSC Assistant Professor Richard Stenberg gives a presentation on the history of African Americans at the Fort Union Trading Post in February. WSC Staffers Doris Ann Lindvig and Crystal Hotchkiss sample the goods at Mardi Gras party hosted by the WSC's Business Department and Title III.



BOTTOM (L-R): Students take a bus to cheer on the WSC Hockey team in Bottineau in February. WSC math & science departments' annual Pi(e) Day celebration in March.

# campus events / well control school



Instructor Dave Bartenhagen with the well control simulator.

use elsewhere. Students experience hands-on training on drilling into a kick, identifying the problem, and safely getting the operation back to normal. During the exercise simulation, the pump of adrenaline is very real as alarms sound and the team swings into action to prevent a blowout. Because even in a simulation, friends don't let friends have blowouts.

The recent expansion of the building at the TrainND Petroleum Safety and Technology Center of Excellence included a new space for a well control simulator and classroom.

TrainND Northwest and Petroleum College International partnered in 2009 to deliver International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC) Well Cap classes in Williston. Petroleum College International's curriculum is used in the classes to ensure that the strict IADC standards are adhered to. Drillers, pushers, and operators are required to attend these courses every two years and pass a comprehensive test.

Just what is well control? In short, it's the process that keeps wells from having those news-making events known as blowouts. For safety reasons, it is important that each and every rig gets it right, all the time. In the Williston Basin, blowouts have occurred with major releases of oil, water, and gas, and the results are bad. A blowout not only creates an expensive mess, but lives can be (and have been) lost. In other words, well control training and certification helps to prevent blowouts and saves lives. The American Petroleum Institute (API) and the IADC work together to identify the best practices that

the industry has identified to keep the well operation safe and secure, and well control classes teach these best practices.

Dave Bartenhagen is the class instructor; he received his certification to teach well control in fall 2012. Dave has worked for more than thirty-five years as a petroleum engineer, recently making the change from private industry to the TrainND organization. He is a graduate of the University of Wyoming (go Pokes!) and a registered professional engineer in North Dakota. Bartenhagen has spent much of his career in North Dakota working closely with field staff and contractors to keep the oilfield operating efficiently and safely. He has many hobbies, including restoring old Volkswagens and competing in Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) events in the area. His black high performance VW bug has surprised more than a few people.

TrainND is making a positive impact on the people in the oilfield for North Dakota. Well control classes provide one way that companies can receive the best training available utilizing the best equipment available and delivered locally. The well control simulator at the Petroleum Safety and Technology Center is a full-size unit, a big step up from tabletop simulators students might

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# behind the scenes / clif sundt



TOP RIGHT: Clif Sundt at an exhibition of his work at the James Memorial Art Center in January.

SIDEBAR: Just a few of the many examples of Sundt's work that were displayed at the JMAC.



BY LAUREN FURLONG

Clif Sundt has been teaching for over forty years and has enjoyed every experience that it has brought him. From his start as a student teacher in a middle school camp setting to the wonderful diversity of students he teaches at Williston State College, he would not change a thing.

Originally from Stanley, Sundt wanted to become a teacher because he was inspired by his own teachers. He came to Williston when he was hired as the art teacher at the junior high school in 1975. Since then, he has also earned degrees in teaching from Minot State University and art and business from North Dakota State University.

Sundt is inspired by the painters of the Impressionist period and still draws inspiration from one of the period's founders, Claude Monet. He loves the way Monet painted realistic outdoor scenes with the play on light and movement that was captured with the color vibration that defined the Impressionist period. Sundt also loves Vincent Van Gogh, and when asked what was his favorite piece of Van Gogh's, he replies without hesitation, "Starry Night."

The Art Institute of Chicago became Sundt's favorite museum when he took a trip with some students. For years he had stared at a small thumbnail of *Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte* by Georges-Pierre Seurat in numerous art books. While at The Art Institute of Chicago he turned a corner and found himself face-to-face with the nearly seven-foot by ten-foot masterpiece of pointillism. It was an experience that left him awestruck.

Sundt still paints and has dabbled in graphic design, but his new favorite medium is stained glass. He was introduced to stained glass by a student teacher that came in and taught it in one of his 3-D art classes while at the high school. He usually gives the finished products away as gifts to family and friends and sells a little bit on the side.

Sundt agrees that one of the biggest challenges of being an art instructor in Williston in the lack of an art supply or craft store in town. He hopes that with the influx of people moving to town with the boom one will be coming soon. It will make it easier for him to plan lessons, and students will have a larger array of creative tools to construct projects.

Aside from the lack of an art store, the hardest part of teaching for Sundt is grading student's projects. Grading someone's art is like grading their feelings or passion. Making art is a personal experience and no one ever wants criticism on something that is so close or personal to them.

After a little over four decades of teaching, Sundt still finds pleasure in motivating his students by teaching them to think outside of the box. Even now, Sundt feels gratified when a student grasps the concept or movement or idea that he is trying to explain. Although he is not ready to give up teaching, Sundt looks forward to retiring with his wife and traveling across the country in search of more art that inspires him.

# behind the scenes // wanda meyer



LEFT: Meyer present day RIGHT: Meyer with student in a WSC file photo.

BY LUCAS AMUNDSON

WSC Vice President for Instruction Wanda Meyer grew up on a farm near Killdeer, North Dakota. She attended school there through all grades and then went on to Dickinson State College to earn her bachelor's degree. It was in her final year at Dickinson State when she was contacted by UND-Williston because she met the requirements needed to fill a vacant spot on the faculty. "They called schools looking for students who had a teaching degree, some background in math, computers, science, business, and accounting," Meyer recalls, "and I happened to fit the bill." That was in 1982, and she has been with WSC ever since, later earning a master's degree in education from UND in 1987.

Meyer has held many titles in her time at WSC. "Wherever I can make the biggest impact, that's where I should be placed," she says. Meyer has made such impacts as a professor, department coordinator, director for distance education, and finally, vice president for instruction. She has also served on most of the campus committees at one time, and has been the advisor for Phi Theta Kappa since 1990.

**"WSC IS THE PLACE TO BE. IT HAS A HEART;  
WE CARE, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE, AND  
WE WILL LOOK OUT FOR YOU."**

Meyer has seen many changes in her time at WSC. She understands the challenges faced by students and instructors as technology becomes an increasingly larger part of learning and teaching. "They [the students] just know so much and are exposed to so much," she says, adding that it is important to be able to make good decisions when faced with so much information. Meyer notes that one of WSC's main strengths lies in the ability to help students through this process: "Because we are a small campus, I think the biggest thing we do is give them more of that one-on-one attention. Whether we think so or not, people need that."

That is one of the reasons Meyer has been with WSC for over thirty years. "I think the thing that has kept me here after all these years is that I believe in education. In particular with WSC, it's a small enough campus to do a good job and try and make the biggest impact you can make," she says. Meyer still has students from her early years in teaching contacting her: "Even twenty, thirty years later, I have students who will still call up and say, 'remember me?'" This level of attention is not achieved by one single faculty member, but by the combined efforts of the entire faculty and staff. "I like when everybody can work as a team," Meyer notes, "I like the fact that we care about our students. We also make an impact and care about each other, too."

Meyer believes in WSC and makes it a point to act as a recruiter for the school. She wants prospective students to know that "WSC is the place to be. It has a heart; we care, we make a difference, and we will look out for you. We try to make sure that each person becomes the best person they can be."

Meyer lives in Williston with her husband, Joe, and their three daughters: Kylee, Candace, and Stacey. Meyer and Joe will celebrate their 30th anniversary this November.

# wsc tetons / softball



Peterson is also the head coach for the men's basketball program, so when he is busy he counts on Assistant Coach Jen Shadlock. "She's been doing a great job," notes Peterson. "She's been helping out with a lot of the workouts." Peterson adds that preparing the team for an outdoor sport during a North Dakota winter presents a few challenges, but that he and Shadlock have found plenty of opportunities for the ladies. "We're doing a lot of stuff indoors: hitting stations, getting in the cage, scrimmages in the cage, and then taking some infield inside. It's not the same as being on the field, but with our location, it's the best we can do."

The team also has access to a brand-new locker room, which was completed this February. The locker room features custom wood lockers designed by Maddock Builders Inc. of Chicago. Maddock has designed lockers for Michigan State University, Northwestern University, and Utica College, in addition to the lockers for WSC's hockey and baseball teams last year. The locker rooms also feature flooring completed by Creation Carpets of Williston, furniture donated by I. Keating Furniture of Williston, and painting done by Peterson himself.

Before the completion of the locker room, the players had to travel to and from their dorms with all their gear. "We practice in the Skadeland Gym, and now the girls will be able to come up the stairs and change right there," says Peterson. "When we get the new softball field on campus, which is hopefully next spring, we can just go out the back door and walk right to the field."

The team will start off their season with a series of games in Arizona at the end of March. On April 3, they will play their first home games: a double-header against Minot State at 2:00pm and 4:00pm.



## BY LUCAS AMUNDSON

This year marks the first season for Teton Softball at Williston State College. The team, led by Head Coach Eric Peterson and Assistant Coach Jen Shadlock, joins the Mon-Dak Conference at the Division II level of the National Junior College Athletic Association.

"We have some good players, and they're playing well together," says Peterson. "We have girls from all over the place: North Dakota, Montana, Utah, California, Missouri, Washington, Wyoming, and Canada." Peterson notes that softball is not huge in this area right now, so it has been interesting to bring together a team of athletes from many different backgrounds and be successful so far.

Early successes for the team include pre-season wins against some tough programs. "We beat Dawson several times, and they won our conference last year," says Peterson. "We went up to Regina, Canada, and won some games up there. We even went over to Minot State and split with them at their place, and they're an NCAA Division II school."

**Be sure to check out these home games this spring.**  
For the complete schedule go to [wscetons.com](http://wscetons.com)

4/3/2013	Minot State University (DH)	2:00PM, 4:00PM
4/6/2013	North Dakota State College of Science (DH)	1:00PM, 3:00PM
4/7/2013	North Dakota State College of Science (DH)	1:00PM, 3:00PM
4/13/2013	Dakota County Technical College (DH)	1:00PM, 3:00PM
4/14/2013	Dakota County Technical College (DH)	1:00PM, 3:00PM
4/20/2013	Dawson Community College (DH)	1:00PM, 3:00PM
4/21/2013	Dawson Community College (DH)	1:00PM, 3:00PM

# wsc tetons / furry tetons

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### 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](mailto:tetonthunder@wscfoundation.com). Photos will be used in the order received and as space allows.



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# wsc tetons / former tetons



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**WILLISTON  
STATE COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION**

BY MATT NELSON

On February 24, the Williston State College Hockey team earned their first national championship, only two years after the program started.

The Tetons edged out Monroe Community College 3-2 for the National Junior College Athletic Association Ice Hockey Championship, finishing the season with an overall record of 18-14.

For Freshman Nick Zern, who scored two of the Tetons' three goals in the final game, the highlights of the tournament included winning the first game of the tournament and "helping the sophomores win the national championship." WSC Head Hockey Coach Seamus Gregory says that, while winning the championship was the biggest highlight of the tournament for him as well, what most impressed him was how hard everyone worked to get there.

"We broke down a lot of film together, analyzing and doing the scouting reports and getting paperwork together to give to the kids," Gregory recounts. "Scouting the other teams isn't easy since they are so far away. We don't play them during the regular season, so we have to break down video we get online and talk to other coaches who have played them, just basically preparing for the opposition." In addition to the planning, Gregory says a huge challenge for a national tournament is "mentally preparing the kids for the task at hand, and getting them ready to go against the teams we were playing."

Aside from planning and getting to the right place mentally, the team had another challenge getting to the right place physically. "It took us thirty-two hours to get to Rochester," recalls Gregory. "The plane broke down in Williston, so we were bussed to Minot. Then we flew to Denver, split up in Denver – half the team to Chicago, half to Washington. It was like reuniting a family when we finally got to Rochester. They were really tired when we got there, but it all came together."

Gregory says that, despite already making it to the national championship game in the hockey program's inaugural season last year, reaching this ultimate goal was not a foregone conclusion.

"We had so many new guys this year," notes Gregory, "getting them to buy in to Teton athletics at the beginning is tough because they are new, they are freshman, and there was already a tradition started by our first-year team, and there are just with so many different personalities on the team. We had fourteen new guys out of twenty-six players." Gregory adds that they had a tough schedule this year that could have been intimidating to such a young team, "But then they started to do a great job."

Gregory credits the returning players for bringing the team together throughout the season. "The leadership that the sophomores showed the rookies and freshman was very important to our success. The sophomores – Ian Harvie, Brandon Passley, Dwight Lee, Chasen Dobranski – they are going to be missed on campus, and especially in the hockey program."

He adds that some freshmen have really stepped into leadership roles as well. "Nick Zern was the MVP of the nation at the tournament," notes Gregory. And Gregory is looking forward to seeing what some of the freshman players can do next year; "We have goaltender Tyler Ampe, who was on the all-tournament team, Josh Rolfe, a great defenseman who is improving every day, Dario Torres, and Colby Spoonemore, so we have a great group of freshman coming back."

The biggest challenge next year, says Gregory, "is keeping the momentum. Now that we've achieved the ultimate goal in such a short period

**"THE BIGGEST THING FOR ME," SAYS GREGORY, "AND I'VE COACHED HOCKEY FOR A LONG TIME, IS HOW PASSIONATE THE FANS ARE – THEY REALLY CARE."**

PHOTO COURTESY MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE ATHLETICS



LEFT PAGE: Coach Gregory celebrates with the team.

RIGHT PAGE (L-R): Fans waiting at the airport to welcome home the team.

Freshman Nick Zern.

WSC Fans greeting the team as they arrive.

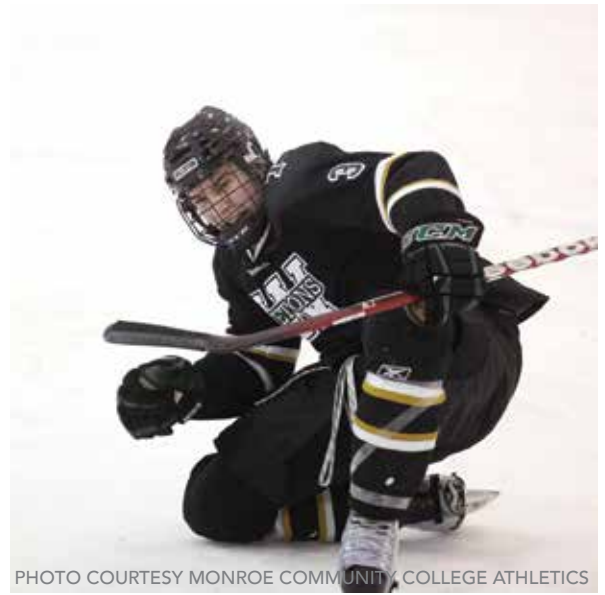


PHOTO COURTESY MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE ATHLETICS

of time, keeping up this tradition and this level of play is going to be the hardest thing.” This will require strong recruiting efforts. “We are losing a lot of guys, both freshmen and sophomores leaving to play higher levels of hockey,” notes Gregory. Some, like Zern, haven’t made a final decision yet. “We are in a situation where we aren’t too sure where we sit, if he’ll stay or move on,” Gregory explains. “There are a lot of guys that are going to be missed in our locker room. The biggest task is to get the proper guys to fill the holes.”

You might expect recruiting to be difficult for a program that has only been around for two years, but Gregory says it’s going well. “The recruiting is very strong,” he maintains. “To lock up some guys, we’ll be releasing our signees in May and June. We expect to have a solid recruiting class; of course, being the runner-up last year and then winning the national tournament this year will really help.”

But there’s more to the success of the hockey program than just the players and coaches, says Gregory, “The WSC Foundation started the program, and has been integral to our success as a team and a program.” Gregory also cites the great media and radio coverage, with Ron Seeley doing the play-by-play, as essential components to the program’s success.

“The biggest thing for me,” says Gregory, “and I’ve coached hockey for a long time, is how passionate the fans are – they really care. It’s not the highest level of collegiate hockey but the fans make it feel like it is. I see how much they love the players. And on the flipside how much our guys love playing here – they love going to the rink. These things have really made it special for me as a coach.”

Zern adds that the fans and their support are just as important to him as his teammates are. And Harvie says that he thinks the best thing about playing hockey at WSC is “just the small-town feel. Everyone rallies around the team, and the support from the community and the sponsors and the school – it all creates a pretty cool culture and community.”

Gregory is looking forward to another exciting season next year, with the team playing the role of defending national champions. But whatever it has in store for them, for Gregory the real highlights are “the community and fan support, the support from WSC in general, and everyone getting behind this new hockey program and Teton athletics, and supporting our adventure.”



# student spotlight / alex potnick

BY LUCAS AMUNDSON

Alex Potnick says it was baseball that brought him to WSC.

Potnick, a sophomore at Williston State College and member of the Tetons baseball team, was born and raised in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. "Back home there's a scout that knew the baseball program and recommended me, and I got into contact with the coach," he recalls. Being part of the team has been very important to Potnick during his time in Williston.

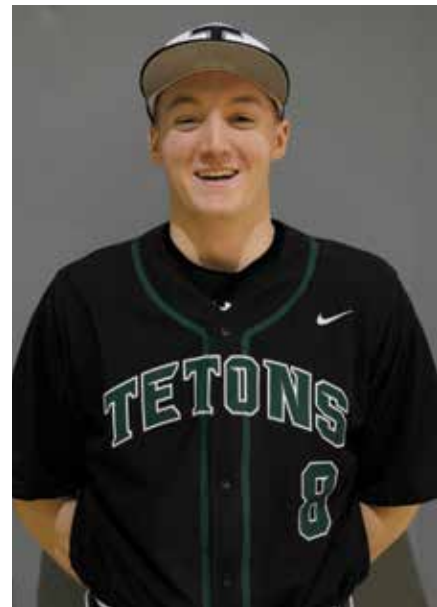


"Coming to college, a lot of kids have a problem making friends or getting out there and having things to do," he says, "I think being on a team, especially at a smaller school, is more like being part of a family."

Potnick also values WSC's size when it comes to learning. He went to a small high school with a graduating class of thirty and he knows how important smaller classes can be. "The education aspect is nice because if I need help, I can get it one-on-one with the teachers," notes Potnick. "The size of the school really makes it easier on the students."

Some of the biggest challenges for college students are trying to figure out what they want to study or major in and what they might want to do with their lives after college. Potnick finds that sometimes it's easier to just go with the flow than to think about these big decisions. "I feel like a lot of students just get content with not having a plan," he says, adding that "you just have to keep going." He encourages WSC students to take advantage of the support and help offered by the faculty and staff.

Potnick has yet to decide where he will continue his education after his final year at WSC. His choice, he says, will depend on what baseball programs are offered and what degree he decides to pursue. Potnick is considering a major in business or corporate law; his favorite classes at WSC have been primarily business classes, though he has also enjoyed writing for all of his English classes.



**"I THINK BEING ON A TEAM, ESPECIALLY AT A SMALLER SCHOOL, IS MORE LIKE BEING PART OF A FAMILY."**

When baseball isn't in season Potnick tries to stay active, though North Dakota's weather does limit what can be done during the winter. "Back home, the weather is a little different than it is here," he notes, though he has found that participating in indoor sports during the cold months can really help keep students active.

When he isn't studying or playing baseball, Potnick enjoys music, spending time with his team, and playing in pickup basketball games.

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# student spotlight / megan telehey

BY WANNAPOND ROMERO SAETON

Megan Telehey thinks Williston State College is a great place for students to get the most out of their college experience.

After graduating from Trinity Christian School in Williston, Telehey chose WSC in part because it's close to home, but also because she wanted to start with a smaller school before transferring to a big university. "Williston State College is a really good school for a transition from a small town or a small school," says Telehey. She likes how the teachers are personal with her, and she adds that the activities outside of class also allow for a greater sense of community in a smaller school. Telehey is a member of the WSC Women's Basketball team, and she maintains that, "If you want to play a sport it is a nice place to start because the teams are very small and the members get very close. You really get to know people very well and being in a sport helps you get to know a lot more people in the college, so that is really nice."

When she was in high school, Telehey often came and watched basketball games at WSC. Her coach suggested that she try out for the team, she recalls, "So I contacted the college over the summer. They said that I could have a spot on the team if I came, so I did. I was basically just in it, just wrote my name on the team list at our first meeting." Telehey adds that most of the girls in her suite in Frontier Hall are also basketball players, and they all get along very well. "We have a lot of practicing, but it is definitely paying off," she said, days before the team won the Region XIII Championship against the Lake Region Royals.

Telehey is also part of the CRU (Campus Crusade). "It is very fun because it's a small group of people in a faith-based organization," she explains. "You get to be comfortable around the other people in CRU, and you know whom you can go to. It is like a big group of accountability partners. When

you are in college there are definitely a lot of different things going on that you don't want to be part of. CRU is a fun group, and it also keeps you accountable to your morals. It is very helpful for me."

Telehey also enjoys singing in the Concert Choir and Select Singers. She thinks every student should try joining any campus group they find interesting: "You will get to know people. It is better than just sitting in your room, so just give it a try because most people are very welcoming here. Everyone is very nice, so it is fun to meet new people, and if you are more involved you will have the opportunity make a lot of close friends."

Telehey is currently a freshman pursuing majors in business and event planning. She has plans to continue her education after graduating from WSC, but at the moment is more excited about a mission project she

has coming up this summer in San Diego. "It is just nine days. They train you, and you go out to the beaches," she explains. "Then you do evangelism and work with the people there."

Telehey lives in Frontier Hall, but still finds it easy to remain close to her family, who lives in Williston. Her mother, Wendy, is a teacher at Trinity Christian School, and her father, Mark, is a lineman for Mountrail-Williams. Her older brother, Jacob, is a student at UND and her younger sister, Sarah, is a junior in high school.



**"WILLISTON STATE COLLEGE IS A REALLY GOOD SCHOOL FOR A TRANSITION FROM A SMALL TOWN OR A SMALL SCHOOL,"**

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