Alumni Profile
Clevon Dunbar

Campus Updates
including Gonzaga interns

Men’s & Women’s Basketball
Norway Trip Update
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WSC FOUNDATION
501 18th Street East, Williston, ND 58801
office@wscfoundation.com | 701.572.9275
GREETINGS FROM THE WSC FOUNDATION.

We hope you continue to enjoy our Teton Thunder publication. We are always looking for great stories, especially alumni stories. If you know of someone who attended WSC or UND-W and has had an interesting or unique career or experience please let us know.

Special thanks from all of us at WSC to Mr. Dale Livdahl for his gift in memory of his brother Warren, which created the Livdahl Lounge in the lower level of Frontier Hall. The students love the space, and it was very moving to celebrate the gift from Dale at our dedication.

The Foundation has also received gifts from Tom and Jim Powers of Powers Energy and Donn Hoffelt of Triangle Electric. Their generosity went to naming two science labs in the new science wing. Interestingly both donors want to recognize their parents, Richard and Helen Powers and Harold and Evelyn Hoffelt. We will have more on their stories when we have their plaques completed. Sincere thanks to Donn, Jim, and Tom from WSC.

Gifts do make a difference, and they are a great way to remember family members that have made a significant contribution to this area.

Please be sure to keep an eye on Williston State through the summer months, as our new and ongoing construction projects continue to make WSC look and feel more like a true college campus.

Till next time, Go Tetons!

Terry Olson
Executive Director, Williston State College Foundation
ATHLETIC UPDATE

2012-2013 was an exciting year for Teton Athletics.

Women’s Basketball finished the season 31-4 as conference, Region XIII, and district champions, national tournament qualifiers, and one of the Sweet 16 of the national tournament. Men’s Basketball finished the season 25-9 as Region XIII champions and conference and district runners-up. For more information about the Men’s and Women’s Basketball seasons, see pages 20 and 21.

Hockey finished the season 18-14 as the NJCAA National Champions. Volleyball finished 27-12 as region runners-up. Baseball finished 20-18 as conference and region runners-up. And in their first season ever, Softball finished 23-14 as conference and region runners-up.

Keep your calendars open – the 3rd Annual Donn Skadeland Memorial Golf Tournament will be held September 7. For more information about the tournament and Teton Athletics, check out the Teton Athletics website www.wsctetons.com

INSTRUCTIONAL UPDATE

Jerry Barrow from Weatherford, Texas, has been hired as a petroleum instructor. He was the drafting program coordinator/instructor at North Central Texas College.

Kim Weismann and Susan Zimmerman have been granted tenure. Susan Zimmerman was also promoted to full professor, the first at WSC.

Instructors Rick Lund, Herb Parker, and Clif Sundt all retired at the end of the school year. They had a combined total of forty-seven years at WSC. They will be missed.

The Business Technology Department at Williston State College is excited to announce it has redesigned its Associate of Applied Science (AAS) business management degree to include seven new concentrations, including a partnership with Williston Parks & Recreation District for the recreation management concentration.

WSC faculty are committed to staying current with trends in their respective disciplines, and the Business Technology Department is no different. The Bureau of Economic Analysis places North Dakota at the top spot for highest economic growth (per GDP) for the third year in a row. “There are ample opportunities for our students right here in our backyard,” says Business Management Program Coordinator Serena Christianson, “And having a solid background in business studies that reflects the current economic environment will help our students stand out. [We] saw an opportunity to address the immediate needs of the region, which is how these concentrations were born.”

Students in the business management program will take courses in written and oral communication, business knowledge, mathematics, ethics and philosophy, computer science application, economics and accounting principles, and cultural and societal sensitivity and acknowledgement. They can then choose to concentrate in management, marketing, sales, information technology, international business, corporate fitness, or recreation management.

For more information on this program, please contact Serena Christianson at 701.774.4526 or serena.christianson@willistonstate.edu.
By MATT NELSON

When Clevon Dunbar arrived in Williston from Trinidad in 1997, he hoped it would be a place where he could get an education and play basketball, but he didn’t realize it would also become his home.

Dunbar came to Williston State College (then UND-W) on a basketball scholarship. Then-Head Coach Terry Olson knew one of the coaches Dunbar had played with, and some other students from Trinidad had already come to Williston to attend UND-W and play Teton basketball. “I wasn’t the first to come here,” notes Dunbar. “All the past players, like Niall Dalton-Brown and Sean Stephens, came and opened up the doors for us to come and play.” The relationship between Trinidad and WSC continues today, most recently with Miguel Sansavour, who recently completed his second year at WSC.

Upon arriving, Dunbar was surprised to find that Williston wasn’t too different from home. “Growing up at home, I had an image of what it would be like because of what we would see on television, so I was looking to see big tall buildings, like skyscrapers,” he recalls. “Then I came here the first time and realized that it’s not going to be like that. It’s just like the place where I grew up – a small town.”

Not that Williston was exactly like his home country. “The biggest thing for me was that I always wanted to experience cold weather and snow,” says Dunbar. “When I did, it was kind of a shocker.” He remembers physics professor Lance Olson taking the students outside when it first started to snow. It was exciting when the first snowflakes fell on his hand that day. Dunbar recalls, “But when it started getting really cold, I was like, enough of that; I started to wonder what I got myself into.”

One thing that did not require a difficult adjustment was playing basketball. “He’s very soft-spoken and doesn’t like to brag about himself as a player,” says Terry Olson, “but he was a truly excellent player, not only on the floor, but in the classroom and in the community as well.” In his first year as a Teton, Dunbar averaged 19 points and 8 rebounds per game, and he was named an All-American, in addition to earning All-Conference and All-Region honors. During his sophomore year, he helped lead the team to their first trip ever to the National Tournament and was again named All-Conference and All-Region.

Dunbar then earned a scholarship to Eckerd College, a Division II private four-year school in Florida. There, he continued his success, again being named All-Conference twice, though he admits that the academic environment was different from Williston. “It’s an all-academic school. They don’t focus much on sports and athletics,” notes Dunbar. “My first year they were nationally ranked—in sociology.” Despite their academic excellence, Dunbar found the learning environment to be less supportive. “Here in Williston, you know, there aren’t so many kids in the classroom, so you get the attention you need,” he explains. “Down there, you don’t get to know the teachers, and they don’t give you a break. They’re more understanding here, and they treat you like a person because they get to know you.”

After graduating from Eckerd, Dunbar spent some time playing basketball overseas, but he decided he would rather try coaching. “So I called T.O. and told him I wanted to get into coaching,” he recalls, “and he said, yeah, I could come up here and help, and be the assistant coach. I spent two years doing that with him.”

After his second year coaching, Dunbar went looking for a summer job and ended up working on an oil rig. “I never came back to coaching after that. Everything changed right away, seeing those paychecks,” he explains. Dunbar
says that, although many of the classes he took might not have related directly to his current career, his time at UND-W really helped prepare him for success. “I would say both college and basketball helped,” he notes. “Being on a team and working with each other, and just working hard. These things helped prepare me for my job. Yeah, I don’t need a degree to do what I’m doing, but you know, I have it, and nobody can take that away from me.”

Dunbar insists that earning his degree before going to work on the rigs was essential to his success. “Of the guys on that crew, I was the only one who had a college degree,” he notes. “They’d give me a hard time, ‘old college boy’, and I’d say it doesn’t matter. It helped me move up faster, because in two years’ time I was a driller. When it would take guys four to five years to do that, you know, I moved up faster and learned faster.” Soon afterward, Dunbar was able to make the transition to an even better career in the oil industry off the rigs.

He recognizes the allure of high-paying oil jobs in the area, but Dunbar hopes that students consider completing their education first. “My advice is to not take school for granted,” he says. “Just go to class; it’s only a few years, and it goes by very fast. Just get your education, get your degree, and you can do anything you want after that.”

Dunbar also encourages people to embrace change. “I first came here in 1997. So compared to then, and even compared to when I came back less than ten years ago, there are big differences. I know some people don’t like it, and they liked their town the way it was. And I know it’s not all good – some bad comes with the good, but that happens anywhere you go. The town is growing; you have people becoming rich overnight. It’s good, knowing that you don’t have to struggle for a job up here. Change has been good for me; I went through a change in my life to come up here and make a living, and I’m happy with that change.”

Dunbar has embraced some big changes in recent years in his personal life as well. After coming back to Williston to coach, he met his future wife Angie through a mutual friend, and they now have two beautiful daughters. Olson, for one, is proud of Dunbar: “When I see everything he’s achieved, with his career and his family – and he’s a really wonderful father – it’s hard not to puff out my chest that I can call him my friend.”

“I think Clevon is a classic example of the old American immigrant story,” Olson continues. “Many of our grandparents came to work on the railroad and farm, while Clevon came for school, but they all worked hard to achieve their dreams, and they all became good, productive citizens and helped to build their communities. That’s what I see with Clevon.”

In 2010, Dunbar was inducted into the Teton Athletics Hall of Fame. He and his family live in Williston, where Angie works at Empire Oil Company and Dunbar works as a field specialist for Baker Hughes. Their older daughter, Makenzie, will be three in August, and their younger daughter, Harper, is five months old.
Williston State College is pleased to announce a donation of art from Jon and Wendy Ellefson. Jon, a native of Williston and a UND-Williston alumnus and WSC Foundation board member, is employed by Border States Electric, where he has worked for thirty years. Jon and his wife, Wendy, have one daughter, Melissa and son-in-law Rich.

The Ellefsons donated two pieces of art for the science addition at WSC. The two pieces are numbered artist’s proofs by Miles Bendixson. Bendixson, who is Wendy’s cousin, is originally from Watford City and now lives in Colorado with his wife and two sons.

The prints are titled “Little Dreamer I” and “Little Dreamer II”. The original oils are hanging in the State Capital in Bismarck. For more information on the artist or these great works of art, please visit his website at www.milesbart.com.

The science addition, which opened in fall 2012, is located on the corner of Lewis Ave and Clark Street on campus and will soon be the site of a Lewis and Clark monument.

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The Livdahl Lounge was made possible by a generous donation from Dale Livdahl in memory of his brother, Warren. Warren died while serving in the United State Navy in 1943 and was never able to attend college.
This summer, Williston State College is fortunate to be working with Gonzaga University (GU) through an internship program called “Hire a Zag.” (“Zag” is the nickname for the students and alumni of GU.) As part of the program, twelve students are spending their summer in Williston, working for several local businesses. Williston natives Jim and Tom Powers, two brothers who are also GU alumni, saw the need for qualified workers in the area. “Obviously, there is a need for a talented and educated workforce in Williston,” says Jim Powers. “Gonzaga has talented, highly educated students, and Williston has a need for them.”

As a member of GU’s Board of Trustees, Powers worked with Dr. Mary Heitkemper, head of Gonzaga’s Career Center and the Gonzaga Alumni Mentoring Program, to bring much-needed help to Williston. Heitkemper feels the program helps everyone involved. “This program has provided a unique opportunity for students to learn and mature in a professional environment,” she explains. “Internships are key to the GU students’ future success. We deeply appreciate that Williston employers have taken the time to select, interview and hire our Gonzaga University student interns.”

Heitkemper adds, “Gonzaga University looks forward to many positive employer relationships and the opportunity to support your fine community by sharing our students’ talent and the Zag spirit.”

Last summer, Powers, along with five other GU Board of Trustee members, met with members of the community to determine what they could do to help. The meeting took place at WSC’s Kaiser House and was hosted by WSC President Raymond Nadolny and WSC Foundation Executive Director Terry Olson. Powers appreciates the hospitality of WSC, which also provides housing for the interns in Frontier Hall. “I cannot tell you how great this has been for the students, allowing them to all be together,” he says.

According to Powers, businesses that have hired a “Zag” include the City of Williston, Mercy Hospital, Geo Tech Engineering, WSC Foundation, The Links of North Dakota, and the Williston Holding Company, who will be opening up Doc Holliday’s and Williston Brewing Company.

Coordinating the Williston operations of “Hire a Zag” is GU student Jade Klette. “Jade is spending time with employers to better understand their needs and how Gonzaga can help meet those needs,” explains Powers.

(L-R) Matt Goode, Mercy Medical; Jade Klette, Student Representative for Gonzaga University; Bruno Abreu, GeoTechnical Associates; Lilly Bruce, WSC Foundation; and John Strub, City of Williston Public Works

Not pictured: Charles Buckner, Links of ND; Charlie Nichols and Lauren Campbell, Williston Brewing Company; Michael Curtis, Mercy Medical; Paige Lawrence, City of Williston Public Works

Klette, who will graduate in 2014, spends time making sure local businesses are getting all they need out of the program and finding ways to improve the program in upcoming years. He is thankful not only for the opportunity from GU, but also for the hospitality of the Williston community. “I just want to add from my perspective how awesome the people of Williston that I have met are and how welcoming they have been to me and the rest of our Gonzaga cohort,” Klette says. “A special thank you to Jim and Tom as well as the Career Center and Williston on behalf of all the interns. We are extremely grateful and having a wonderful time.”
Williston State College held its 52nd commencement ceremony on Friday, May 10, in the Well.

The commencement speaker was Mercy Medical Center CEO Matt Grimshaw. Other speakers included State Board of Higher Education Member Terry Hjelmstad and students Jeff Purslow and Shayla Hertz.

Nearly two hundred degrees were awarded this year, including 125 associate degrees, forty-three program certificates, and twenty-one GEDs.

The graduation video is available to watch on our website at willistonstate.edu/graduation. If you’d like a copy of the video or commencement program, please contact Jenny Wolf at 701.774.4223 or jennifer.wolf3@willistonstate.edu.

The 2013 Associate Degree Nursing students participated in their own pinning ceremony after graduation. The class consisted of twelve Williston graduates and thirteen from the Minot location.

Speakers included the student nursing president from Minot, Robin Pursifull, and the Student Nursing Organization president from Williston, Keisha Hana.

The pinning ceremony is a symbolic event that marks the student’s official entry into the nursing profession. Students are pinned by a significant person in their life, ranging from husbands and grandparents to friends and instructors.

The pinning was followed by the lamp-lighting ceremony, a nod to Florence Nightingale. Nightingale served as a nurse during the Crimean War and often made rounds at night while carrying a lamp for light. She became known as the lady with the lamp.

After all the lamps were lit the students recited the Florence Nightingale pledge.
KEEP AN EYE ON WSC:
Visit our Facebook (facebook.com/willistonstate) and Twitter (@willistonstate) sites for pictures and updates on these exciting projects at WSC.

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

APARTMENTS
The apartment building is scheduled to open Aug 1.

LEWIS & CLARK MONUMENT
Williston native and artist David Njos is currently working on a Lewis & Clark monument that will be installed outside the science wing next summer. The monument will depict the tools that Lewis & Clark used on their expedition.
by wsc president raymond nadolny

north dakota’s historic 2013 legislative session allows for unprecedented advances at williston state college.

faculty salaries
the starting faculty salary in 2009 was $28,000. Starting faculty salaries for this coming fall will be $40,000. Assuming nothing changes (we are putting together the budget now), the average faculty salary will increase from $48,919 in 2012 to $58,444 in 2013. This means average faculty salaries will increase by 19.4% this fall.

tuition
WSC’s tuition of $100.68 per credit hour, the lowest in the state, was set in 2009. WSC has not raised tuition for five years. As a result of this incredible legislative session, we will again be in a position not to raise tuition. the state board has approved the college’s ability to raise tuition, but I will be making a request not to raise tuition.

campus drive
WSC’s campus drive project can now begin. In 2010, with funding from the city, WSC completed a master planning process (see current master plan picture below). The master planning process involved faculty, staff, students, and community members. Surprisingly, the number one student complaint was not Dickson Hall or the restrooms in Stevens Hall; rather, the number one student complaint was what students described as the “Walmart parking lot”. Subsequently, the architects put together a plan to transform the parking lot into what will become (over the next four months) a university quad.

Phase one went into effect last year with a $1.4 million project that expanded parking in the back of campus. With the expanded parking, WSC realized that when the college moves to phases two and three, parking would again become an issue. Phase three now includes additional parking behind the residence hall. If even more parking is required, WSC will expand parking in conjunction with the Dickson Hall demolition.

The new quad will present students and the community with a setting very familiar to anyone visiting one of our major universities. The difference is that at our major universities, these settings exist in multiple locations. Williston State’s intent is to prepare students for transfer by providing a smaller scale university experience.

The new quad will also provide numerous opportunities for students and the community. It will allow students a space for outdoor volleyball, softball, etc. It will allow for outdoor graduation, outdoor concerts, outdoor classes, art in the park, long walks, and more. It will also enable the college to launch a capital campaign for a new performance center (Letter N on the Master Plan).

Stevens Hall
This summer, while the parking lot is being transformed, WSC will also begin work on a two-year project to renovate Stevens Hall. Both projects will create a stronger and richer experience for WSC students. WSC hopes both these projects add to our community’s quality of life. We are indebted to our elected officials and are indeed grateful for the opportunity to make these changes for both our community and our students.
BY JENNY WOLF

This spring, members of the hospice care team at Machame Lutheran Hospital in Tanzania, Africa, visited Williston State College. Isaya Muro, a nurse and coordinator of the hospice, and Deograssius Mrosso, a social worker, gave a presentation to WSC nursing students about the similarities and differences in hospice care between the US and Tanzania.

Their visit was a continuation of a partnership between Machame Lutheran Hospital, WSC, and Trinity Hospital in Minot that has been developing over the past few years. Rhoda Owens, MSN, RN, is an instructor with the nursing program at WSC and the nursing site coordinator in Minot. Before she began teaching at WSC, Owens attended a Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa (FHSSA) conference in Washington, DC, where she made a connection with Machame Lutheran Hospital.

After coming to WSC, Owens developed a transcultural nursing course, which, she says, “provided nursing students the opportunity to learn about the culture, health, and illness beliefs of Tanzanians; their values and practices; the prevalence of HIV/AIDS; and the differences and similarities between the healthcare systems, hospice/palliative care, and home visits in Tanzania as compared to the United States.”

After completing this course, nursing students traveled to Tanzania and spent time visiting and working with the Machame Lutheran Hospital Palliative Care Team, including Muro and Mrosso.

This April, it was Muro and Mrosso’s turn to do the traveling. Their main goal during the trip was to learn more about hospice care in the US, but they were also pleased to share their experience with the nursing students at WSC.

While much about hospice care is similar between the two countries, like holistic care and home visits, Mrosso notes that there are differences when it comes to the cost and availability of equipment and facilities. “Some services are free because of donations from the US and Europe,” he notes, “but people cannot afford to pay for their treatment, so the community shares some of the cost.” “In Africa, they utilize a lot of volunteers,” adds Owens, “because they don’t have enough people or resources. They aren’t able to provide medical equipment such as hospital beds, commodes, and wheelchairs.”

Mrosso says that Tanzania also offers other challenges because the area is very rural. “Extended families are large and spread out. The patients tend to stay home and not seek out care. The volunteers help identify people who need care,” he explains. “Then they may go visit them in their home to decide if they need to go to the hospital. It causes problems because people become very sick without care and sometimes they die.”

One of the solutions that has shown some success is their day camp at the church. “We make a camp for the whole day and patients gather together and get treatment,” says Mrosso. “Most of the people don’t go to the hospital because they can’t pay, so they stay at home. Because of donations we can give medications for pain relief. We cannot treat big problems at these camps but we can screen them and advise those to go the hospital. Older woman don’t like to talk to male physicians about their issues, so their conditions may turn chronic and become untreatable. They are more likely to talk at these events because of all the community people involved. These are free events.”

Mrosso and Muro were pleased with the visit and hope to use some of what they learned to improve the quality of care they can offer back home. However, Muro admits that the most exciting part of the trip for him was unrelated to his work. While in Minot, the men were able to touch snow for the first time. “It was a surprise,” says Muro. “Their hospital in Tanzania is about a mile from Mt. Kilimanjaro,” notes Owens, “so they’ve seen snow on top of the mountain, but had never been close enough to touch it.”
Joyce Nadolny Shui works with students during a Chinese class offered through WSC’s Community Education Department.

The Purple School, a language-learning program for children, has come to Williston.

Joyce Nadolny Shui founded The Purple School in Washington in 2001 in order to support bilingualism among children. The school has expanded from teaching one language in a single classroom to a large program that includes nine languages. In addition to learning how to speak new languages in a caring, academic, and fun environment, children (ranging from infants to twelve years old) learn more about the cultures where those languages are spoken.

Nadolny Shui moved to Williston in 2009 when her husband, Dr. Raymond Nadolny, became president of Williston State College. With the community’s influx of people from all over the world, she feels this is a perfect time and place to teach additional languages. Classes for infants, toddlers, and children up to age five in Chinese and Spanish are being held at WSC through the community education program. Spanish classes for children in kindergarten through sixth grade began this spring as part of St. Joseph’s after-school program (students from all grade schools are welcome to register), and Nadolny Shui hopes to add Chinese classes to this program soon.

For more information, please contact the WSC Community Education department or email Nadolny Shui at joyce@thepurpleschool.com.
ADULT CLASSES

COMPLETE FINANCIAL PLANNING
July 23 & 25  6:30p - 9:30p  Fee: $19

MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS
July 23  6:00p - 9:00p  Fee: $125

ABC ACCOUNTING
July 11, 18 & 25  1:00p - 5:00p  Fee: $149

BEGINNING EXCEL 2010
July 18 & 20  6:30p - 9:00p  Fee: $105

CHILDRENS CLASSES

MATH CAMP
July 22-25  3:00p - 5:30p  Fee: $75
July 29-Aug. 1  3:00p - 5:30p  Fee: $75

AVIATION ADVENTURE
July 10  9:00a - 11:30a  Fee: $25
1:00p - 4:00p  Fee: $25

CREATIVE CRAFTS
July 16-18  9:00a - 12:00p  Fee: $55
1:30p - 4:00p  Fee: $55

BIKE SAFETY/RISE
July 11  9:00a - 12:00p  Fee: $15

TODDLER SPANISH
July 1- 29 (Mon only)  10:30a - 11:15a  Fee: $40
Aug. 5-19 (Mon only)  10:30a - 11:15a  Fee: $60

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING AND SCHEDULE OF ONLINE CLASSES VISIT:
www.willistonstate.edu/trainnd

REGISTER ONLINE:
www.willistonstate.edu/trainnd pay by credit card or electronic check

REGISTER BY MAIL:
Williston State College
Attn: Community Education
1410 University Ave, Williston, ND 58801

REGISTER IN PERSON:
Crighton Building on the WSC campus, Room 114
Derek VanderMolen is the instructor of chemistry at Williston State College. He is originally from Kentucky and moved to Williston to work at WSC five years ago. “I was looking for a full-time position in chemistry and saw what they were offering up here was exactly what I wanted to do so I came up and interviewed,” says VanderMolen.

VanderMolen did not become truly interested in chemistry until college, where he had already started down a different path. “When I started college, I actually started out as a biology major,” he explains. “I was looking at marine biology in Kentucky for some reason. After my first semester, I really became interested in chemistry and how things work – the reasoning behind the way things are going.”

Later in his college career, VanderMolen discovered his love for teaching. While in graduate school, he noticed that he was spending more time with students as part of a teacher’s assistant program than with his own research. “It felt like what I wanted to do,” he says, “I’ve always been a teacher type in a lot of different ways – working with students and trying to break things down in a way that they will understand.”

VanderMolen says that it is important to him to help students reach new levels of understanding: “When it all of a sudden clicks, it’s a big moment for them, and it’s a big moment for me as an instructor. I love that.”

VanderMolen also reminds students about the importance of making the most of their time at college. “It is important for students to manage their time as far as how much to study and how much time to do other things in life. Of course, everything else going on in the community affects what they do outside of classes, too,” he adds.

With so many high-paying jobs in the Williston area, VanderMolen knows it can be tempting to bypass a college education. Although jobs are plentiful and the pay can be very high, he stresses that they may not be for everyone. “Education is going to get you a lot farther along than without it,” maintains VanderMolen. “There are lots of jobs out there right now where you can go out and make money without needing to have a college education, but in the long run, it is best to get an education. It is worthwhile; it is good to go for it. We’ll work you a little bit, but in the end, you can move on to a bigger and brighter future.”
behind the scenes

enrollment services

BY JENNY WOLF

If you’re thinking about attending Williston State College but don’t know where to start, try contacting the ladies in Enrollment Services. They’re here to make the process easier for you.

Brittney O’Neill, enrollment services associate, has worked at WSC for a year and a half, and she will probably be the first person potential students talk to about enrolling at WSC. “I run registration sessions, recruit at high schools, answer the main phone lines, and process applications,” she explains. “What I enjoy doing most is working and talking with the students. And the people that work here make it pretty fun, too.”

O’Neill recognizes that dealing with the oil boom can present concerns for students attending WSC. “If students aren’t used to the craziness, it might be a challenge,” she says, “and it can be difficult to stay in school with the abundance of jobs in the area.”

But she still thinks students should continue their education, and WSC is a great place to do that. “WSC offers more one-on-one attention with the faculty and even the staff,” she notes. “At a bigger campus, they won’t know who you are, but here we know most of the students by name.”

Leah Windnagle, director for enrollment services, has been at WSC for three years, and she likes to emphasize the relationships students, faculty, and staff can build here. “The community feeling, because we are such a small campus and everyone knows everyone else, is something that students might not get elsewhere,” she explains. “And because we are a small college, we offer such a great community among staff and faculty and students that provides a wonderful way for people to collaborate.”

Windnagle recognizes that one of the challenges for WSC right now is remaining connected to the Williston community as it grows and changes. “But we’re learning to adapt to these growing pains within the community and the campus, as all the Williston residents are,” she explains. “We may have to work harder to keep that close connection to the community than ten years ago, but we do it. And we just take things day by day.”

Both Windnagle and O’Neill emphasize that students should make up their own minds about what school is the right fit for them. “Tour some campuses and make your decision based on which one feels like home to you,” suggests Windnagle. “There’s no one-size-fits-all for every student.” O’Neill agrees that students “should visit different campuses and see what you like. Don’t just go where your friends go.”

Heather Fink, executive director for student services, also suggests that prospective students consider WSC. “It’s where the people make the difference. We have great faculty and staff, like Windnagle and O’Neill, who are willing to go the extra mile for students, both traditional and those looking to build technical skills.”

O’Neill grew up in Williston, where she and her daughter Brylee now live on campus. She enjoys spending her free time going to the park with Brylee, camping, and getting together with friends. Windnagle is originally from Billings, MT. She and her husband Matt also live on campus. Windnagle loves reading (she writes a blog about reading as well), couponing, participating in crafts, and spending time with her husband.

WSC will have registration sessions on July 15, August 12, August 20, and August 26. These sessions require pre-registration, and they are for students who have already applied to WSC. If you’re thinking about enrolling, Fink says, “Contact a WSC Enrollment Services representative as soon as possible. They will be happy to chat with you about what you need to do to enroll.” To discuss enrolling or any question regarding registration, please call 701.774.4202 or 888.863.9455.
A bronze plaque honoring Phil Rabon’s contributions to Williston State College has been installed in the second floor of the newly-built science wing of Stevens Hall. From there, one can see the bright green grass of Phil Rabon Field to the north, and the massive Williston Area Recreation Center being built to the east. This is a perfect place to catch a glimpse of WSC’s past, present, and future.

Rabon has been a part of WSC’s past going all the way back to 1965 and the new plaque lists his many titles over the years. “I enjoyed them all, and, as long as you work with kids, it’s fun,” says Rabon. He is especially proud of creating the Lewis and Clark Girls’ Basketball Camp, which he ran for twenty-one years, as well as a camping and canoeing class. “These are two things I started that were a lot of fun. I got to meet a lot of great kids.”

According to Rabon, his many years of service to WSC would not have been possible without the support of his wife, Sharon, and their four children. He also acknowledges the many others who went above and beyond their job descriptions at the college to make things happen over the years: “There were a lot of people who are my lifetime friends and deserve just as much credit as I do.”

Rabon likes to stay involved with WSC and stops in often to visit with his many friends at the college. “I like to stop over and talk to Terry Olson; he’s a good buddy of mine and he does a great job with the foundation,” he adds. Rabon also makes time to visit with Athletic Director Eric Peterson and the other coaches. “I come up here and tell the coaches how to coach,” he jokes, “especially if they lose a game.”

Besides visiting with friends, Rabon likes to visit the campus to see all the changes taking place. He understands that many of the improvements would not be possible without the help of the community. “I do admire these people who have stepped forward recently and donated or contributed to the college,” notes Rabon. “There are a lot of people stepping forward that really see the value of this college.”

Rabon has long appreciated the value of WSC, and that appreciation continues today. With a past that is strong in tradition and a present full of excitement and growth, Rabon has reason to be hopeful for the future. He knows the college will continue to grow with the help of all the supporters and people like WSC President Raymond Nadolny. “Right now, I think Williston State College is hitting on all cylinders. With Ray at the helm, it’s going to continue. He’s a very progressive president, he’s very forward-looking, and he has a lot of good ideas. I like that.”
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.

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

Be sure to send photos of your Tiny Tetons for future issues of the Teton Thunder.
This spring saw a number of successful fundraising activities at WSC. First up was the 5th Annual Casino Night, hosted by Teton Athletics and the Teton Booster Club on April 19, 2013 in the Well at WSC.

Casino Night was started four years ago by a suggestion from former volleyball coach Lindsey Graue (now Peterson). Graue had played volleyball at the University of South Carolina Upstate, and they had a similar event there. She brought the idea to Hunter Berg, WSC’s athletic director at the time, and it has been a continued success every year for the Tetons.

“Most of the workers are student athletes,” says Athletic Director Eric Peterson. “All the teams help out. They work most of the casino games, they are the servers, and they do everything from helping with the auctioneers to working the Teton store to passing out chips at the silent auction.”

This year, when Hockey Coach Seamus Gregory asked Target Logistics to cater the food for the event, they not only took the job, but also offered to donate all the food. “It was a tremendous meal,” adds Peterson, “Everything was first class.”

The money raised by Casino Night helps fund the overall budget for Teton Athletics. Peterson notes that support for Casino Night has continued to grow every year. “I was really impressed,” he says, “We had twenty tables last year and thirty-one this year. The support for our programs has been amazing.”

Then on April 27, the 5th Annual Teton Volleyball Fun Run was another great success. This year saw over one hundred participants take part in the 5K walk, 5K run, and 10K run, which was the biggest turnout yet.

“It was awesome to have so many people out at Spring Lake Park for the Fun Run!” says Head Volleyball Coach Alissa Renner. “The weather was great and we just really want to thank everyone for their support of this event and our team. We really do have the best fans in the country!”

Finally, the Teton Booster Club held their 12th Annual Pickup Raffle on May 2, 2013. The grand prize, a 2013 Ford F-150 4x4 Super Crew Cab XLT Off-Road Package, went to Scott Galag. The raffle included many other prizes, such as a Dixie Chopper riding lawnmower and gift certificates worth up to $3000 at local businesses.

“The drawing was a little different this year,” says Peterson. “Since it was so close to Casino Night, we decided to make it a fan appreciation night.” The event was held at J. Dub’s Bar & Grill, and they gave away door prizes in addition to holding the drawing. “It was just a way to give back to all of our supportive fans throughout the year,” Peterson notes, “Instead of asking them for money and having another silent auction, we served free pizza and wings. It was just a fun night, a chance to get people together.”

All the money from the pickup raffle goes to athletic scholarships. This year, 1325 tickets were sold which raised about $80,000 in scholarships. “This was the most tickets we’ve ever sold,” Peterson notes, “and I think it’s going to keep increasing. We’d like to get up to the goal of 1500.”

TOP: Allan Lassey with Marquel Curtis after purchasing his photo at the live auction. MIDDLE: Teton supporters enjoy fan appreciation night at J. Dubs. BOTTOM: Fun Run participants line up for the race.
A minimum contribution of $50 promises students an affordable education, keeps you in the loop on exciting news and events and provides our communities a new generation of well-educated leaders.

$50 - 99
Enjoy a WSCF WonderMat as small token of our appreciation.

$100 - 999
Make a gift of $100 and receive a WonderMat and pizza board as a thank-you gift. At $250, we’ll send you WonderMat, pizza board and an iPad sleeve.

$1000 +
Join the President’s Circle and enjoy a relaxing dinner with WSC President Dr. Raymond Nadolny. You’ll also receive a WonderMat, pizza board, iPad sleeve and a blanket.

DONATE ONLINE AT:
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office@wscfoundation.com
It was a great year for Teton Women's Basketball; the team finished with 31 wins and only 4 losses. "The year before, we missed going to nationals by one point on a last-second shot. We had unfinished business," says Head Coach Luanne Axelson.

This year, the team made it to the National Tournament in Salina, Kansas. The Tetons defeated North Idaho in the first round, but lost to Shelton State College in the second. During the course of this impressive season, the ladies earned championship titles in the Mon-Dak Conference, Region XIII, and District D.

Axelson knows that it is difficult to repeat years like this one at the junior college level. With only two years to work with, it is hard to balance talent and experience. "We're going to be young, and it's going to take us at least half the season to really get things going and meshing again," says Axelson. "That's going to be a challenge."

Rising to the challenge will be three returning sophomores: Molly Li, Jaden Lynch, and Megan Telehey. Axelson is pleased about the experience they will bring to the team. "Molly got to see the most action, and she's going to play a big role next year. Jaden is a fantastic shooter. Megan comes out and she gives you everything she has every minute she's out there."

So far, eight first-year players have signed on to join the sophomores: Tori Kirkaldie, Culbertson, MT; Kendra Heir, Ray, ND; Taylor Jean McGrady, New Town, ND; Kelcie Hutchins, Shoshone, ND; Mckayla Haugeberg, Watford City, ND; Tia Conrad, Gooding, ND; Emma Keller, Velva, ND; Jaylen Neuman, Velva, ND.

This was also the first year as head coach for Axelson, who recently returned to the area after coaching high school basketball in Idaho. This was her second year at Williston State College, serving as assistant coach the first. "I knew I had to coach," says Axelson, "I came and talked to the head coach Tom Suelzle and I said I'll volunteer or whatever, I just want to be a part of it."

Axelson grew up in Epping and Trenton before attending WSC (then UND-Williston), where she played under Coach Penny Slagle, who led the team to Nationals in Axelson's freshman year. "I played here and I know what the tradition is, and it is still very prominent and the expectations are there," notes Axelson. "That just makes my job easier; the kids come in here, and they see the banners hanging up, and they understand what they're supposed to achieve."

It was this strong tradition that brought Axelson back to North Dakota. The move was made possible with the support of her husband, as well as their three children. "They're all here, which made the move that much easier," says Axelson. "They're real supportive of what I do, it's what they know – I've been a coach their whole lives."

"THEY’RE REAL SUPPORTIVE OF WHAT I DO, IT’S WHAT THEY KNOW – I’VE BEEN A COACH THEIR WHOLE LIVES."
The Teton Men’s Basketball team finished the 2012-13 season with 25 wins and 9 losses. The team had a successful season, taking the Region XIII title along with a second-place finish in the Mon-Dak Conference. The season ended with a loss to Iowa Western for the District Championship.

One of the biggest challenges of the season was the five-game absence of All-American guard Marquel Curtis due to injury. Head Coach Eric Peterson feels his team rose to the challenge. “We had some other guys step up because Marquel was out,” Peterson says. “Ultimately, I think it helped us become a better team.”

Another challenge for the Tetons was the visit of one very strong team. “We had the chance to host Iowa Western here, who was the number-one seed in the entire national tournament,” notes Peterson. “It was good to bring a team like that to our place and play them.”

“It took our guys a while to figure out we could play with them, and, by that time, it was too late,” Peterson continues, “We ended up cutting it to about four in the second half and we just couldn’t get any closer.”

With only two players returning this fall, Peterson understands the challenge ahead of him. “We graduated eight sophomores, and that’s the struggle with junior college – there’s a lot of turnover every single year.” Adjustments will depend on how the recruitment process goes, explains Peterson. “What we will specifically change will depend on what type of players we bring in,” he says. “We will try to adapt our system to what fits them the best.”

Currently, Teton recruits include: 6’0” PG Jordan Nanton, Brooklyn, NY; 6’1” G Brady Thompson, Tioga, ND; 6’2” G Tahjee Williams, Oakland, CA; 6’3” G Kyle Gerding, Minot, ND; 6’3” G Osa Izuegbu, Staten Island, NY; 6’4” F Jade Bentz, Trenton, ND; 6’6” F Mykle Rud, Garrison, ND; 6’7” F Jonathan Wilson, Avondale, AZ; and 6’7” F Houston Lavacheck, Garrison, ND.

Houston Lavacheck is the son of former Teton, Pat Lavacheck, who played under Coach Terry Olson. “Houston can play in the post and he shoots the ball really, really well,” says Peterson. “He is one of the better kids in North Dakota this year.”

This year was Peterson’s first as head coach. He served as assistant coach for a total of seven years between WSC and Minnesota State-Moorhead. For Peterson, the main difference between assistant and head coach is how one handles wins and losses. “I’m probably happier with the wins and take the losses a lot harder,” he says. “That’s the big thing. The responsibility is a lot greater than it is as an assistant coach because all eyes are on you.”

Even with all its challenges, Peterson feels fortunate to be working as head coach for the Tetons. He says the main advantage of coaching at WSC is the support of the community. “The first advantage is the community support; all of our boosters and sponsors are tremendous. The support we get here at the college is unlike anywhere I’ve ever been, and probably unlike any place in the country.”

Community support would mean nothing without somewhere to play, and Peterson appreciates WSC’s commitment to providing a place we can all be proud of. “I think if you look at our facilities from top to bottom, they are absolutely tremendous – our gym, locker rooms, bus, dorms, the school, and the recreation center being built on our campus,” says Peterson, “There are a lot of things happening here at WSC and we’re going to keep attracting some of the top players in the country.”

“THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS HAPPENING HERE AT WSC AND WE’RE GOING TO KEEP ATTRACTING SOME OF THE TOP PLAYERS IN THE COUNTRY.”
For Williston native Lori Haugen, it was the right time to come home.

“I was born and raised here in Williston, and graduated from Williston High School in 1997,” she says.

Following high school graduation, she moved to Portland, Oregon, where she attended Portland State University, earning a bachelor of arts degree in art sculpture.

“I’ve always been interested in people and wanted to learn about everything from cultural anthropology to art history,” says Haugen. “I wanted to do something that would make a cultural impact, but I didn’t really know what direction to take in school, so that’s the way I went. I worked for a few years and then decided that nursing was the way I should have gone and really wanted to go now.”

Haugen spent ten years working in art framing in the Portland area, and enjoyed it immensely. “We did all aspects of framing, and we had lots of clients from all over the world,” she recalls.

But Haugen admits to feeling a little homesick and wanting to be back among family, including parents Loren and Linda Haugen. She was ready to come back to Williston and attend Williston State College to earn a degree in nursing.

“It was the right time – they need nurses here more than they do on the West Coast, and now was a good time to come back.”

Haugen has completed her prerequisites and will finish with an LPN degree this summer. Then she’ll have two more semesters to study and finish the associate RN program next spring.

She is enjoying her time at WSC, getting involved in the school and the community.

“It’s nice to be in a smaller school where you get to know everybody, both professors and the student body,” she explains. “PSU is a larger campus and it is harder to make an impact there. Here, it is easier to be part of organizations and do some community service.”

She has gotten involved on campus as a member of PTK, the honor society, and also the Student Nurses’ Organization (SNO).

And making an impact in our community, Haugen is employed in the Activities Department at Bethel Lutheran Home. “I just love that job – visiting with the older people and hearing their stories,” she adds, “and Bethel has been so good to me. It’s a great place to work.”

She has enjoyed seeing her hometown transform and looks forward to the changes that are coming.

“I really think the community is exciting right now – we are getting new businesses and new restaurants. We are meeting people from all over the world,” she says. “I have other friends who have returned to Williston, some in oil jobs and some not, and we’re enjoying it.”

With just a year of schooling left, Haugen is not yet sure what her next move is. While she would like to stay here, her main concern with that, she says, “Is the cost of living. It depends on the opportunities that are available at that time. But for now, I’m really enjoying my time here again. I’ve had fun reconnecting with the people here at home – both my age, my parents’ age and older. I really thank them for making me feel welcome.”
After graduating from Williston High School in 2012, Gabriel Bjerke was looking for a college where he could be close to home and try to figure out what direction his future would take.

“I needed a place that wasn’t too far from home to try to get to know myself, and to learn what I needed to do for my future,” Bjerke says. “Williston State has helped me with that tremendously.”

Bjerke is working to complete his general education requirements for his associate degree. Then he plans to pursue a degree in chemical engineering, possibly at the South Dakota School of Mines in Rapid City, South Dakota.

He enjoyed his first year at WSC, getting involved with the vocal music program by participating in the WSC Choir, Select Singers, and the Chorale.

“Being part of the music program has improved my time at WSC,” notes Bjerke, “as most of my friends are also involved in the choir, and I get along with them well.”

Bjerke has also found that on campus at a smaller college, students are friendly and willing to help with whatever needs he may have.

He believes that the education he has received at WSC is first-rate and has helped him to maintain at least a 3.0 GPA while taking 22 credit hours.

“The teachers are great. Any one of them will help you with anything you ask them,” he says. “The classes are really good – of course there are always some you like more than others, but all in all, they are well worth your time. The education standards are higher than I expected.”

After finishing his four-year degree, Bjerke would like to work for one of the myriad oil field companies here, at least for a while.

“I’d like to maybe do an internship, get some time in so I have experience,” he notes, “and then take that experience and move somewhere that it helps people - more than just the oilfield.”

Gabriel has enjoyed his first year at WSC, and is looking forward to another good year come fall.

“I would highly recommend WSC to anyone,” he says. “The teachers are friendly, the students are friendly, and you can get a good education. And it’s not the most expensive place on earth!”
The Arts and Human Sciences department at Williston State College hosted an excursion to Norway in March 2013. Four students and three community members traveled to Norway with Richard Stenberg and Kim Weismann.

The group first visited Trondheim, Norway’s first and oldest capital. Nidaros Cathedral was the main attraction in Trondheim. The cathedral is nearly 1000 years old, built over the grave of St. Olaf, Norway’s patron saint. The group took a private tour of St. Mary’s Chapel in the cathedral. They also went to the Archbishop’s Palace Museum to see ruins of the original cathedral and the Archbishop’s Residence to see where the Archbishops lived.

In Trondheim, the group also learned about sailing life in the Maritime Museum. They sampled cod, mussels, smoked salmon, and various other new foods. They also toured the Norwegian University of Science and Technology to learn about the education system of Norway and listen to an economics lesson.

The group traveled by train from Trondheim, through areas where many families left to settle in North Dakota, to Bergen, the second capital of Norway.

While exploring the city of Bergen, the group took a cable car to the top of a mountain, where they were able to take in a beautiful overview of the fjords and the city. Later they went through the market, where locals sell reindeer sausage, rømmegrøt, fresh fish, lefse, and many other homemade traditional Norwegian foods.

The group embarked on a fjord cruise, where they saw people diving in the sea for fresh seafood, a boat launcher, numerous factories, and lots of beautiful scenery. They went to a fancy restaurant on its own island and tried fresh (raw) scallops, smoked salmon, and fresh apple juice. In Bergen, the group also saw the Hanseatic Museum and other buildings in Bryggen, the old wharf of Bergen, which is on UNESCO’s list of World Cultural Heritage sites.

After two days in Bergen, the group traveled from Bergen to Oslo by bus. Along the way, they stopped in Borgund to see the oldest stave church in Norway, and they traveled through the Laerdal Tunnel, the world’s longest road tunnel, which runs over 15 miles. The group reached Oslo, the current capital of Norway, in the evening.

In Oslo, the group went to the Fram Ship Museum, Viking Ship Museum, Munch Museum, and many other places. They toured the Oslo City Hall, where the Nobel Peace Prize is given annually, and Akershus Fortress, a medieval castle which has protected Norway since the thirteenth century. The group went to Hadeland Glassverk, which has operated continuously for over 250 years, to see them make vases, wine glasses, and other glassware by hand.

While the excursion to Norway provided most of the group with a new connection to their roots, it also offered everyone an exciting trip and a great way to learn about another culture.
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: Associate Professor, Ken Quamme; Director for Marketing, Kayla McKeil and four students traveled to the NDUS Legislative Showcase at the Capital in Bismarck in March. The students showed how Minecraft could be used in an educational setting. WSC’s honor society (PTK) hosts a free Easter egg hunt in the well. Wendy McGinley, Massage Program Coordinator/Instructor and students stop to use the WSC photo booth at the Open House/Welcome Wagon event in April. Jenny Wolf, Tara Weltikol, and Kayla McKeil represent WSC in Harmon Park on Band Day. Community members learn about new technology with Leon Walter, Director for Distance Education at the Welcome Wagon event in the Well. “Cranks” (fans) Ken Quamme and Jim Stout, watch as umpire Richard Stenberg spits on a rock and tosses it in the air (as opposed to tossing a coin) to determine which team “strikes” (bats) and which team “hurls” (pitches) first, during the third offering of the special topics class on historic baseball. (Also pictured are team captains Lee Melde and Jamie Thompson.) Richard Stenberg’s State and Local Government class, with Governor Dalrymple, during a field trip to the 63rd Legislative Assembly at the ND State Capital in Bismarck in February. WSC’s Intercultural Communications class hosts a Cultural Power Hour to educate on the food and culture of different countries. Students and artists mingle during the Artist Reception in the WSC Learning Commons.