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

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WSC FOUNDATION
501 18th Street East, Williston, ND 58801
office@wscfoundation.com | 701.572.9275
COLLEGE OR WAR ZONE: YOU DECIDE.

Students, faculty, and staff vacate Stevens Hall to allow for a one-year renovation project. A second seventy-four unit apartment building is under construction. Williston Parks & Recreation will soon open a seventy-million dollar recreation center adjacent to our baseball field.

The results of such disruptions on campus have allowed us to address an aging infrastructure in the midst of hyper growth. New student housing, a new front drive, expanded career and technical training facilities, and a new science wing are the latest improvements. Certainly change comes at a price. But the results are extraordinary.

On behalf of Williston State College, we are grateful to the community for your incredible support that has directly and powerfully impacted our students. As president of Williston State College, I’d like to express a large thank you to our students, faculty, and staff. You are the new pioneers in what has become the total transformation of our campus.

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

Over four years, almost one hundred members of both colleges have participated in this unique cultural exchange. WSC students, faculty and staff have been hosted by Kokusai, partially through a grant provided by the Japanese government.

Chiaki Takagi, CEO of Kokusai Junior College in Tokyo, and Dr. Nadolny share a traditional Japanese dinner in Atami, Japan.

Craven-Hagan and Mercy Specialty Clinics

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General Surgery - (701) 774-7082
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Occupational Health - (701) 774-7077
Orthopedics - (701) 774-7080
Interventional Pain Management - (701) 774-7405
Pediatrics - (701) 572-7651
Urology - (701) 572-0127

Call to schedule your appointment today.

mercy-williston.org
Williston State College #18 in Top 50 Community Colleges

Williston State College was recently named one of America’s best community colleges. In the Washington Monthly list of the top fifty community colleges in the country for 2013, WSC ranked #18. The rankings are based on the US Department of Education measures of student retention and completion and the Community College Survey of Student Engagement, which measures student effort, academic challenge, student-faculty interaction, support for learners, and active and collaborative learning.

Frontier Hall Receives Architecture Award

WSC’s Frontier Hall won the Juror’s Choice Award at this year’s North Dakota Design Conference, which took place in Fargo on September 17. The event is hosted by the North Dakota chapter of the American Institute of Architects, a national organization whose mission is “to promote design excellence in the built environment.”

Frontier Hall is the main residence hall on the WSC campus and provides housing for up to 170 students. It was built in 2010 by Comstock Construction LLC, and was designed by JLG Architects. JLG also received two other awards for projects in Mayville and Grand Forks.

Williston State College Awarded 2014 Military Friendly School Designation

WSC has been named to Victory Media’s 2014 Military Friendly Schools® list. This list acknowledges the colleges, universities, and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans, and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

“Inclusion on the 2014 list of Military Friendly Schools® shows Williston State’s commitment to providing a supportive environment for military students,” says Sean Collins, Vice President at Victory Media and a nine-year Navy veteran. “The need for education is growing, and our mission is to provide the military community with transparent, world-class resources to assist in their search for schools.”

Video Segment Featuring Williston State College Airs Locally and Nationally

Williston State College has been featured in a segment of “Viewpoints”, hosted by NFL legend Terry Bradshaw. The program explores various topics, including education, healthcare, and the environment. WSC’s segment focuses on how the college is fulfilling community needs and dealing with the area’s booming economy.

The video originally aired on Fox in July, and again this month on the Ion network (KPXM-TV out of Minneapolis-St. Paul and KPXC-TV from Denver). It is also available for viewing anytime on the WSC homepage at www.willistonstate.edu.

Williston State College Goes Tobacco-Free

As of August 26, WSC is a tobacco-free campus. The use of tobacco is prohibited within college buildings, parking structures, walkways, arenas, in college or state fleet vehicles, and on college owned property, not otherwise leased to another organization. This policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, contractors, vendors, and visitors at all WSC sites.
BY MATT NELSON

For many people, raising a family and pursuing a career is more than enough, but Kelly Maixner likes a challenge. Maixner grew up in Western North Dakota, graduating from Beach High School in 1994. He followed his brother up to Williston to study physical therapy at what was then UND-Williston. After getting his therapy assistant degree here, Maixner finished his undergraduate work at Montana State University and went on to dental school at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale. He then moved to Alaska for a pediatric dental residency.

When he first moved to Alaska, Maixner found a new interest in racing sled dogs, which was one factor in his decision to stay up North. “This is the best environment in the world for that,” he notes. “And the best dogs in the world are up here, the best racers in the world.” Maixner decided to start his own team and try his hand at racing. “I got two females, and basically I’ve raised my team from those two females and their kids,” he explains. “Now I have forty dogs.”

The Iditarod, often called the “last great race on Earth”, takes sled dogs and their mushers through nearly 1,000 miles of the Alaskan wild. The wintry weather is wildly unpredictable in March, when the race takes place, and only the most qualified mushers are allowed to even join the race. Maixner and his team first completed the Iditarod in 2011. They went on to complete the race in 2012 and 2013, and he and the dogs are currently gearing up for the 2014 race, which begins March 1.

Maixner says that he was prepared to some extent for his first Iditarod because of where he came from. “Growing up in North Dakota, we were exposed to blizzards, so as far as that stuff goes I was fairly comfortable with it,” he says. “But growing up we always had snow machines or vehicles to be in,” he adds. “The first time I did the race, it was all crazy, and I thought I was going to die. Now, I’ve learned safety-wise what clothes I need to wear, and I’ve learned how to push on through those storms, and to put more faith in my dogs. They know a lot about what they’re doing.”

One of the biggest challenges for his first race was figuring out what to pack, so he got help from someone who had done it before. “I had a packing sheet from an experienced musher, and I basically packed the exact same things. He’s done this ten times, so that should be everything I need. I got help from experienced mushers, so going into the first Iditarod, I had some idea how to prepare.”

With each new race, Maixner encounters new experiences that help prepare him for the next race. “One year, I was out in the middle of a blizzard, in the Bering Sea, going across the sea ice, and it was blizzarding and I couldn’t see anything,” he recalls. “Every once in a while I would see a marker that told me I was on the trail, and I was just trusting the dogs to take me there. Once I got through there – that was the worst storm I’ve ever been in – so all the other bad storms I’ve been in are nothing compared to that.”

As with his other projects, Maixner loves his work in Haiti, challenges and all. His wife, who is a nurse back home, goes with him and works as his dental assistant. They work out of a Catholic church, and now that they’ve been doing it for a while, they get to see the difference they’re making. “The first couple times down there, it was a little more of a mess,” he notes. “It’s gotten better down there. When we first went down, we were just taking out teeth. That’s all. This last time down there I fixed as many teeth as I could. We’re actually fixing teeth before they get in pain.”
Maixner hopes students at Williston State College today will pursue their dreams, as he has. “Don’t be afraid to try new things,” he says. “Don’t be afraid to go out and go to Haiti or do the Iditarod. It usually works out in the end. Talk to people who have been doing these things; get some help to guide you through it,” Maixner recommends, “but the first thing is that you need to decide that you can do these things.”

“It’s tough to go out there and decide to do something like this, but the tougher part is to figure out how to do it,” he adds. “You can, but you just need to take it piece by piece. Don’t be afraid to just jump in and do anything you want to do. If somebody else has done it, you can do it.”

While he plans to continue with the annual Iditarod and Haiti trips, Maixner admits that he is probably going to take a break from trying those new experiences where he thinks he’s going to die, at least for now, while he has kids to raise. Does he think he’ll want to throw himself into some wild new situation again sometime? “Maybe when they graduate,” he suggests.

But that doesn’t mean Maixner is going to let himself get too comfortable. He recently started his own pediatric dental practice. “Working for yourself is great,” he says. It will allow him to work more hours in the summer, freeing up more time to train for the Iditarod in the months leading up to the race. Many of his patients followed him over to his new practice, and it’s going well. “It’s a challenge,” he admits, “but at least it’s easier than the Iditarod.”

Maixner and his wife Margaret live in Big Lake, Alaska, with their two children. Their daughter Rosemary is two years old, and their son Vendelin was born this past June.

For more information about Maixner and his team, check out his website at madstorkkennel.com.
Financial statements for fiscal year ending June 30, 2013. The foundation is audited annually by Brady, Martz & Associates, P.C. The graphics below are a snapshot of the Auditor’s Report; the entire report is available online at wscfoundation.com.

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Revenues, Gains and Other Support</th>
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<th>UN-RESTRICTED DMV</th>
<th>UN-RESTRICTED HOUSING LLC</th>
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<th>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED GAMING</th>
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<th>Total Revenue, Gains &amp; Other Support</th>
<th>UN-RESTRICTED FOUNDATION</th>
<th>UN-RESTRICTED DMV</th>
<th>UN-RESTRICTED HOUSING LLC</th>
<th>UN-RESTRICTED DESIGNATED</th>
<th>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED FOUNDATION</th>
<th>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED GAMING</th>
<th>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</td>
<td>9,011,580</td>
<td>236,399</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>(1,523)</td>
<td>993,255</td>
<td>69,756</td>
<td>124,036</td>
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<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>2,653,070</td>
<td>42,496</td>
<td>(175)</td>
<td>152,398</td>
<td>3,234,042</td>
<td>352,592</td>
<td>6,379,686</td>
<td>12,734,109</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets, End of Year</td>
<td>1,352,472</td>
<td>(86,119)</td>
<td>(5,753)</td>
<td>(1,523)</td>
<td>993,255</td>
<td>69,756</td>
<td>124,036</td>
<td>2,446,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,955,542</td>
<td>(43,623)</td>
<td>(5,928)</td>
<td>150,875</td>
<td>4,197,297</td>
<td>624,328</td>
<td>6,503,722</td>
<td>15,180,233</td>
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</table>
By Annie Carisma

In 2012 Williston State College was awarded the Title III – Strengthening Institutions grant from the US Department of Education, which provides nearly two million dollars to be used over a period of five years. This grant has allowed WSC to expand its capacity to serve students by providing funds to improve and strengthen academic quality, fiscal stability, and institutional management.

With the collaborative efforts of WSC professionals, from instructors to administrators, the Title III Committee members have accomplished several objectives in the first year of the grant, including the implementation of Smarthinking tutoring services, the purchase of high quality printers and computer lab equipment, and increased career and academic services between WSC and high schools with dual-enrolled students.

As the second year of the grant commences, some of the exciting Title III objectives WSC students can look forward to include a writing and math lab, a Choices Planner web-based career tool, and a CSO job platform that will provide a tool for graduates and alumni to search for post-grad jobs and current students to search for part-time job opportunities.
KEEP AN EYE ON WSC:

WILLISTON AREA REC CENTER

The WARC’s grand opening is March 28, 2014 at 4pm.

APARTMENTS

The apartments are fully occupied. The retail space on the lower level will soon include Jimmy Johns, Jason’s Barbershop, and DMV. A walk-in clinic is also in the works.

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.

STEVENS HALL RENO

Faculty and staff are busy moving out of Stevens Hall in preparation for the renovation starting in January. See page 10.

FRONT DRIVE

The front drive has been completed. See pictures on page 11.
Renovations to Stevens Hall at Williston State College are on schedule and updating of on-campus buildings continues.

Stevens Hall, built in 1966 through community funds, is the centerpiece of campus and has never seen a major remodel in its lifetime. Mechanical and electrical systems are beyond their life expectancy and several areas of the building fail to meet building codes.

“The behind-the-scenes work will make the college a long lasting facility for the state,” Foertsch said.

The total renovation cost for Stevens Hall is estimated at $12 million, Foertsch said. The gross maximum price should be finalized at the end of December, locking the college and its architect and construction crews into a cemented contract agreement.

Earlier this year, the North Dakota Legislature passed a new budget for higher education, appropriating $11.6 million for the project, Foertsch said. Additional funding was acquired through the state’s capital project contingency pool. The funds are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury and from special funds and other income to the state university system office.

WSC presented the renovation project to the state board of higher education wanting to gain access into the pool, Foertsch said. In August, the board approved the allocation of $500,820 to the college’s favor.

Kayla McKeil, director for marketing at WSC, staff is expected to remove most academic resources from Stevens Hall after final testing exams are completed on Dec. 20 and during the winter break. The material will be transferred to other on-campus buildings, including the Western Star Career and Technology Center (WSCTC).

“Only classrooms in the health wing and the new science addition will remain in their current locations, because they’re considered autonomous buildings, having separate utility systems.

Asbestos abatement is scheduled to begin in early January. Current and prospective students return for their spring semester on Jan. 14.

“There is an overwhelming feeling, but this is what we need to do to provide our students with a better experience,” McKeil said. “In the grand scheme of things, this is really exciting.”

Renovation on Stevens Hall means staff will be displaced for one year, having to share spaces with co-workers in other buildings. Also, students will take most of their spring semester general education courses in the WSCTC building.

“There will be increased traffic and use in the WSCTC building and other buildings but the goal is to minimize the affect on students,” Foertsch said. “And we feel comfortable we can make it work.”

Administration has heard positive comments from the students, expressing little concern and understanding that on-campus renovations are in their best interest.

The timeline for the entire project is estimated for completion January 2015.
ABOVE: Gov. Jack Dalrymple speaks during Williston State College’s Fall Unveiling of the new Foundation Apartment Building and the newly-renovated front drive. LEFT: Community members and college personnel gather for the dedication of the front drive.
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Williston State College is undergoing many changes in the field of Career and Technical Education (CTE). This involves technical, hands-on training in programs like welding, automotive and diesel, carpentry, agriculture, and petroleum. These programs are organized by Brian Rencher, coordinator for the transportation and energy programs at WSC.

“If you look at the high-paying jobs right now in Williston, they are CTE jobs,” says Rencher. “One can literally make more money with a one-year certificate than they can with a master’s degree in Williston right now.”

Because of the high demand for workers in CTE areas, WSC is working hard to ensure they have the resources needed to train workers for these jobs. This would not be possible without the help of the college, government, and local businesses. “In our new petroleum program, we have seen strong support from our advisory committee and local businesses,” notes Rencher, “and we’re fortunate we have had both Department of Labor funds as well as private funds to get it started.”

The equipment required to stay competitive in these fields is very expensive, but necessary to establish Williston as a destination for this type of training. Rencher and others are finding ways to offer local people the opportunity to learn necessary skills without having to move somewhere else to get them. One way they are doing this is by reaching out to area high schools.

Starting in the Spring 2014 semester, CTE will be holding “career explorations” for high school students. Each month will be devoted to a specific section of CTE: automotive, diesel, welding, or petroleum. These opportunities will take place two days each month. “Students will be able to come in and explore these different fields and see if they’re something they would be interested in,” explains Rencher.

When people visit the CTE area on WSC’s campus, it’s a chance for them to see the state-of-the-art welding and diesel equipment as well as the modern classrooms, which include things like document cameras and interactive video capabilities. “It’s a pretty high-scale facility as far as what we can do,” says Rencher. “I came here from Fairbanks, Alaska, and we had an extremely robust program, but we didn’t have near the technology in the classrooms.”

Rencher came to Williston from Alaska after instructing the diesel program and coordinating the transportation and energy programs.

BY LUCAS AMUNDSON
at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, for seven years. Before that, he taught at Spokane Community College in Washington, after working as a diesel mechanic for twenty years. “The college was looking to bring somebody in that already had the knowledge of petroleum and transportation,” explains Rencher.

In the new petroleum program, as of the 2013-2014 school year, CTE now offers certificates in lease operation and in programmable controls, with a combination degree also available. Both certificates are important in the oil and gas industry. “They really work well together because you have to know how to change valves and maintain the equipment out there, as well as electronic monitoring,” Rencher says.

With the number of wells in the area increasing daily, the ability to observe them remotely is becoming more and more important. Area businesses understand this importance and are helping by donating money to keep the petroleum program on the cutting edge. “Businesses want to make sure what we’re teaching is the newest and best out there,” Rencher notes. “By the time our students get trained and out into the field, what’s new today isn’t going to be new in two years.”

The welding and diesel programs are also seeing new equipment as a result of private donations and Department of Labor grants. The welding program will soon see new welding simulators that can be used for training or brought offsite to gauge interest and aid in recruiting. The diesel program is also receiving new equipment, with more on the way next year.

“Getting to a point where what we have is as good as what you’d see anywhere in the country is our goal,” says Rencher. “We’re a small college taking big steps.”

The college’s commitment to growth is one thing that brings in people like Rencher from places as far away as Alaska. Rencher remembers how, when he was considering taking this position, Vice President Wanda Meyer stressed the school’s focus on growth. “She told me that when people think of transportation and energy in North Dakota, she wants them to think of WSC.”

Rencher appreciates the effort of people like Meyer and WSC President Raymond Nadolny. “I believe President Nadolny really pushes this forward,” he adds. “At our orientation, he told everybody that Williston was changing, and that WSC was changing. This college is going to take its own form over the next decade, and we will be able to look back and be amazed by what the college is and who the people are. I’m excited to be in on the ground floor of this change.”

It doesn’t take long for people to notice the direction things are headed at WSC. Even back when he was being recruited and going through orientation, Rencher already could tell he was coming somewhere special. He looks back on his first impression when he first came to WSC: “I first came here and I saw, over the double-doors, ‘Where the People Make the Difference’,” he recalls. “I think about that a lot. I believe that, in this small college, people will make the difference.”
1. Paysen & Emersyn, 6 mo
Kelsey (Miller) Lee (08-09)

2. Makenna, 3 years
Kelsey (Miller) Lee (08-09)

3. Kacee Gayle, 19 mo
Katie (98) & Lance Makeef

4. Sawyer June, 10 mo
Greta (Furuseth) (02-03) & TJ Pennington

5. Evan, 3 mo
Beth and TJ Kraushaar

6. Corban William Thomas, 4 days
Crystal (Bradley) (05-08) & Luke Hotchkiss (98, 02)

7. Graham Raymond Ralph, 4 mo
Jenny Wolf & Matt Nelson

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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.”

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

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

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

1. Leah (Hess) & Matt Windnagle
   Billings, Montana | 4.6.2013

2. Crystal (Bradley) & Luke Hotchkiss
   Marina del Rey, California | 4.17.2012

3. Alissa (Hoehn) & Kyle Renner
   Bottineau, North Dakota | 3.9.2013

4. Kayla (Retzer) & Derek McKeil
   Bismarck, North Dakota | 3.2.2013

5. Cassy (Waste) and Taylor Rugroden
   Oak Grove, Minnesota | 10.5.2013
Matt Goodwin, Assistant Men’s Basketball Coach
Matt Goodwin, a former All-American at WSC, returns to be the assistant coach for men’s basketball. During his time playing for the Tetons, he led the National Junior College Athletic Association scoring as a sophomore, averaging 24.8 points per game and earned Second Team NJCAA All-America honors. After leading the Tetons with 710 points and 93 three-pointers, Goodwin was named Mon-Dak Conference Player of the Year in 2005-2006, all under the guiding influence of former Teton Men’s Basketball Head Coach Terry Olson.

After leaving WSC, Goodwin played his next two years at Wisconsin-Whitewater, where he averaged 15.4 points per game, tallying up a total of 849 points and 111 three-pointers. He was also named 2007-2008 WIAC Player of the Year. He helped lead his team to a WIAC title in 2007-2008 season and into the Division III national tournament both of his two years as a Warhawk.

Goodwin was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is the son of Michael and Rhoda Goodwin and has two older siblings, Michael and Candice. Goodwin graduated from Rufus King High School in Milwaukee, leading the Generals to state titles his junior and senior seasons. He was named First Team All-Milwaukee City Conference and First Team All-Area, while earning Honorable Mention All-State honors.

Scott Wachholz, Head Softball Coach
Scott Wachholz came to the Tetons after working as the assistant softball coach and strength and conditioning coach for both Southwest Minnesota State University and Columbus State Community College in Ely, MN, and two seasons at Vermilion Community College in Sheboygan, WI. He graduated from Vermilion Community College with an associate of arts degree and went on to earn a degree in exercise science and sport studies with an associate of arts degree from Vermilion Community College last May.

Wachholz has geared this Teton program’s short two-year history in sports leadership from SMSU and will continue to push themselves every day. Along with working in the athletic department, Wachholz is busy with academic recruitment, regularly traveling and working to bring in prospective students to WSC.

Micheal Reuter, Sports Information Director
The Tetons brought aboard Micheal Reuter to fill the multi-faceted position of sports information director. Reuter’s main responsibilities will be to construct and distribute press releases to local media and the Tetons website, to manage the content and appearance of the athletic website, and to work in tandem with the college’s marketing department and external organizations to continue building the Teton name as a successful and marketable brand.

Reuter will also be the new voice of the Tetons. This fall he began holding court in the Lee Halverson Broadcast Booth for the Tetons home games, and traveling with the teams when they venture from the friendly confines of The Well.

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Teton athletics has unveiled its newest addition, the all new floor of Terry Olson (T.O.) Court in The Well.

T.O. Court has been a staple of WSC and Teton athletics since 2004, and has played host to an assortment of camps, concerts, banquets, and other events. A court should be sanded and refinished every ten years, so the college saw this as an opportunity to capitalize on the current rebranding efforts to create a new iconic look that puts WSC at the forefront of collegiate athletics.

FLR Sanders took on the task of revamping T.O. Court, which started July 12 with a team of sanders removing the many layers of lacquer and original graphics. The sanding process was completed in five days, leaving a blank slate inside The Well. The team of finishers and printers began working the following week to bring the court back to life. From prepping the floor to the design and implementation of all the features of the finished product, this proved an arduous task. The entirety of the detail work was put in by hand, with only the aid of taped-off borders and image stencils. Final steps of sealing and finishing were completed quickly and the court was left to cure for a few weeks, reopening August 10.

The new T.O. Court features a stunning new design. The focal point players and fans will see when they enter The Well will be the new buffalo mascot of the Tetons. The large graphic is positioned at center court and uses a technique called ghosting to make the image appear in alternating stained and unstained sections of wood.

“The new floor is something that we are very proud of,” notes Athletic Director Eric Peterson. “It has been a work in progress for the past six months with the foundation director Terry Olson, President Nadolny, and our graphic designer, Jenny Wolf. Without them, this addition to our campus and athletic facility would not be possible.”

The court itself will serve as much more than a site for games and events; the new iconic design will also serve as a recruiting tool for students and a selling point for marketing. “The new floor reflects the excellence associated with our teams and our college,” says WSC President Raymond Nadolny. “The exciting artwork is a testament to the success we have enjoyed.”

“Our goal was to make appropriate upgrades to modernize the look of the floor. We wanted to have the ‘wow’ factor when people walked in,” adds Peterson. “I definitely think we accomplished this. There is not another basketball facility like this in the state.”
Kevin Lou Spooner, 56, of Fargo died, Friday, October 4, 2013 at his home in Fargo. He is survived by his daughter, Sierra Norman of Albion, ID, with her mother Janeil Leslie; his parents, Bob and Maureen Spooner of Fargo; and siblings: Brian (Janet) Spooner of Bismarck; Jay (Jane) Spooner of Fargo; Tobin (Joan) Spooner of Fargo; Tim (Tracy) Spooner of Scottsdale, AZ; and Nan (Chris) Kennelly of Fargo. He was preceded in death by a niece, Andrea Spooner.

Kevin was born Dec. 22, 1956 in Conrad, MT. He graduated from Williston High School in 1975, and attended college in Williston and Albuquerque before earning his bachelor's degree in Physical Therapy from the University of North Dakota in 1980. He later earned his master's degree in physical therapy in 1993. Kevin formed two companies in Williston to promote healthy living: The Body Firm and Spooner Physical Therapy, operating from 1983 to 1998.

Kevin was a gifted athlete and enjoyed competition of any kind. He played college basketball for the UND-W Tetons, UNM Lobos and UND Sioux. He excelled in several sports and competed in triathlons and was also a certified yoga instructor. His most recent interest was playing pickle ball every week. He loved to play games and pinochle; he was unbeatable at Scrabble. Kevin was also an amazing piano player, adding music to every holiday.

The greatest source of pride and joy to Kevin was his daughter Sierra. She was what he lived for after his stroke, and his love and pride in her grew every year. He always had a sparkle in his eye and a big smile when he talked about her.

Kevin had a special place in his heart for his nieces and nephews: Angie, Brent, Allison, John, Brady, Jared, Elizabeth, Patrick, Adam, Justin, Drew, Callan, Morgan, Reid, Dylan, Lydia and Ryan. At an early age he trained them in the answer to, “Who is your favorite uncle?” He was the uncle who would play any sport or game with the kids, forming a special bond with each of them.

Kevin's close friends were like brothers as well. The First Class Five have been friends since grade school, getting together at least once a year since they were sophomores in high school.

Kevin will always be loved for his positive attitude, encouragement and humor. Even after a stroke affected him at the young age of 41, these qualities persisted. He was always the first person to make a positive comment or give encouragement. He loved to laugh and had the gift of making others laugh too. Please feel free to visit this website for sharing photos of Kevin. kevinspoonerphotocollection.shutterfly.com
Jaden Lynch is a sophomore at WSC and a member of the volleyball team. She is majoring in elementary education and hopes to one day become a teacher and a coach.

Lynch is a Williston native, and being close to her family has made her college experience that much easier. “I kind of have the best of both worlds,” says Lynch. “I get to stay in the dorms, and I can go home and help out my mom if I need to and take a break from everything.”

Lynch stays busy with sports and schoolwork, and any spare time is usually spent with her family. “I am just a student-athlete, and I basically dedicate my time to that and my family,” she notes.

Lynch’s favorite classes are sociology and interpersonal communications, and her favorite teacher is Kim Weismann. “She’s my advisor, so I have that relationship with her, and I think she’s a really good teacher,” she adds. “But there are a lot of good teachers at this school.”

With the help of her family, teachers, teammates, and a lot of coffee, Lynch has been able to take the stress of being a student-athlete and turn it into a fun experience. She uses this positive outlook to advise the younger girls on the volleyball team. “I was the leader on the volleyball team, so I had to take the freshmen under my wing and help them if they weren’t having as much fun as they could have had,” she says. “They thought it was more stressful than fun, and I told them, ’Don’t worry about it, it gets better, and it gets easier.’”

Lynch learned these lessons in part last year as a freshman. She was encouraged by her family, especially her sister, Tara Weltikol, who works at WSC. Lynch was also fortunate to be able to share a room with a friend who already had a year of college experience. “My roommate last year was a friend of mine from Williston, and she asked me to be her roommate,” she recalls. “I was really lucky to have that.”

Lynch’s favorite memories of WSC so far are of the times spent with her teammates. “Wherever you go, you’re going to have your teammates there,” she says. As much fun as it was for Lynch to travel with the team to places like Scottsdale, Arizona, there is nothing better for her than coming home. “I definitely love the home games because we have so many fans here and it’s such a big deal. Playing at the home gym is something phenomenal.”

Which gym Lynch will call home next year is uncertain at this time, but she offers this advice to students coming to WSC: “It’s a remarkable school to be at, and just cherish the moments you have here. If you’re playing sports, make sure you manage your time well because it is a lot of work and you’ll be really busy. But it is doable,” she says. “I wouldn’t change anything.”
BY MATT NELSON

A decade after graduating high school, Lucas Amundson decided to try his hand at college, and he enrolled at WSC. It turned out to be one of the best decisions he’s made.

Amundson graduated from Williston High School in 2000, and he immediately entered the workforce. He worked a few different jobs, ending up at Ryan Motors for six and a half years. “There were a lot of good people there, and it was a steady paycheck, but it just wasn’t something I was very passionate about,” he recalls. “I wanted to do something I could be proud of, something that not everyone can do, so I decided to come back to school and learn something.”

The obvious choice for Amundson was WSC, which had everything he was looking for and was also nearby and inexpensive. “I figured I could at least try it out and make sure it was going to go okay for me before I go on to somewhere else,” he says. “So far, it’s been going well.”

Amundson came back intending to study psychology, which has always interested him. He still plans to continue with psychology, but he has also found some new interests. “One thing that I’ve really enjoyed is just being part of different organizations,” he notes. “Things like Phi Theta Kappa, the diversity committee, astronomy club. When I was in high school, I didn’t make time for that stuff, and I was off doing my own thing.” Now Amundson enjoys getting involved. “You get out of it what you put into it.”

In addition to getting more involved in college life, Amundson has found new subjects of interest in his classes, and he credits the WSC faculty for this. “I’ve learned something that I can take away from every teacher I’ve had,” he says. According to Amundson, one of the biggest draws of WSC is the individual attention students can get from teachers. He encourages students to take advantage of this, adding, “Most of them will take time out of their day to sit with you and help you out where you need it.”

Amundson will graduate this spring with an associate of arts degree, and then he’s planning to go to University of North Dakota. He still plans to study psychology, but he also looks forward to studying English, which has been his favorite subject at WSC. Amundson explains that this is due in large part to his classes with WSC Professor Jim Stout. “I’d have to say Mr. Stout’s been my favorite,” he admits. “He’s a really good guy, he’s got a good heart, and he’s a total goofball. I like that.”

While he is sure UND will bring a new set of challenges, Amundson is looking forward to it. He plans to study both English and psychology at first. He’s hoping to find advisors there that can provide similar guidance to what he has received from WSC faculty. “Everybody’s been great,” he says, adding that Stout in particular has encouraged him and helped him find direction. This has raised the bar for what he expects out of the faculty at UND, and Amundson plans to work closely with his advisors there to see what program suits him best.

Amundson grew up in Western North Dakota, first on a farm near Alamo and later in Williston. He has one sister, Andrea, who lives in Williston and works for Opportunity Foundation, and two nieces, Brooke, 16, and Savanna, 10. Amundson’s parents are retired now; Robert worked for Selid Plumbing and Heating as a tinsmith, and Susan was a nurse at Mercy Hospital.

“I’D HAVE TO SAY MR. STOUT’S BEEN MY FAVORITE,” HE ADMITS. “He’S A REALLY GOOD GUY, HE’S GOT A GOOD HEART, AND HE’S A TOTAL GOOFBALL. I LIKE THAT.”
In 2010 Williston State College President Raymond Nadolny began looking for a way to promote diversity and global awareness. The result was a partnership between WSC and Kokusai Junior College (KJC).

Kokusai Junior College CEO Chiaki Takagi works closely with Nadolny to foster the relationship between the two schools. Takagi visits Williston annually, and participates in various cultural events with WSC faculty and staff. During his most recent trip in October, Takagi’s experiences included hunting pheasant with WSC Professor Lance Olson.

The WSC-KJC partnership also allows small groups of students from KJC to come to Williston for ten days in the fall, and a small group of students from WSC visit Tokyo in May of every year. This allows for students and chaperones to experience a new culture. In May 2013 eleven students and four chaperones from WSC made the trip to Tokyo.

While in Japan, the students attended classes at KJC, including Japanese language, geography, calligraphy, and martial arts. Students also had the opportunity to help teach their Japanese peers, assisting chaperones Heather Fink, Kaylyn Bondy, Steve Grunenwald, and Kim Weismann in teaching basic English conversational skills to KJC students.

A trip to the Edo Tokyo Museum allowed WSC students the chance to learn more about the history of Japan. With a number of history majors in the group, this was one of the more popular field trips.

On the weekend, more than thirty KJC students joined the WSC group in Karuizawa for an intensive English language camp. Students learned and practiced more conversational English, and they also played traditional American games such as Duck, Duck, Goose and Wizards, Elves, and Giants.

In addition to learning more about Japan’s history and language, the group was able to experience Japanese culture first-hand, which of course included different cuisine. Students and chaperones alike tried new foods they would never have the opportunity to try in the USA. WSC student Brianna Marmon ate octopus on a stick and convinced others to try it. Steve Grunenwald, associate professor of English, maintains that all of the food was really good, even though he did not know what he was eating most of the time.

WSC student Krystal Evenson describes the trip as the best week of her life. Sam Savidge, also a student at WSC, returned with a desire to go back to Japan to work and live in the future. “In simple terms,” says Savidge, “if you get the chance to go to Japan, you definitely should take that chance, because it will change your life forever like it has for me.”
student activities / in pictures

TOP (L-R): Students exhibit their work during the Winter Art Show.

Students participate in a math jam with Math Instructor Amanda Davis.

SECOND ROW: Darin Krueger, the Williston Parks and Recreation District executive director gives staff and faculty a tour of the Rec Center in November.

WSC student Kelsey Thompson, volunteering at opening of the Pediatric Clinic at Mercy Medical Hospital.

THIRD ROW: Trent Loos, an agriculture advocacy speaker and entertainer spoke during the annual Cowboy Christmas event.

WSC’s Phi Theta Kappa group during their Reindeer Ramble event in December.

Authors Debra Marquart and Taylor Brorby at the free writing workshop at WSC. Sponsored by the ND Humanities Council.

BOTTOM: In November, Teton Hockey visited the residence of Jan the late Donn Skadeland’s home in AZ for a wonderful steak dinner. They presented Jan with a jersey and championship ring.

WSC’s Relay for Life team takes advantage of the new science wing patio for their annual drive-through BBQ.
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