SPRING 2014

TETONTHUNDER

WILLISTON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION:
BRINGING COMMUNITIES & COLLEGE TOGETHER

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ALUMNI PROFILE

AARON PELTON

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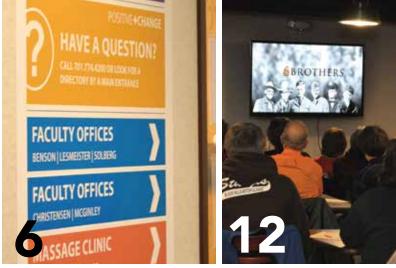
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WSC FOUNDATION

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TETONTHUNDER

TETON THUNDER INTERN

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welcome / terry olson



GREETINGS FROM THE WILLISTON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION.

Our office used to house two people, but with the renovation of Stevens Hall we now have seven additional office mates. It makes for a busy place; stop by sometime to see us all.

I believe the news I get to share with you here comes from a dream of many former foundation members and Foundation Director Garvin Stevens.

To the foundation's good fortune we are receiving oil royalties from donor families, including Otto & Alma Boss, Olaf & Bertina Nelson, and Charles Ball. These families have designated their funds to be used for student scholarships for regional students, mostly for Williams and McKenzie counties.

As the revenues continue to grow, we are now dedicating dollars to be used for our regional students on a large scale. In an era of high college costs and increased student debt, we as an institution and foundation board are excited to make this commitment.

Soon our student services office and marketing department will be detailing how students can use these generous donations to go to a great college at an even better price. As you look at total costs of attending college, we hope you will consider Williston State. It's a great bargain and provides a quality education.

On behalf of the WSC Foundation board we are so blessed to have these families and their gifts generate such great scholarships.

Til next time, Go Tetons!

Terry Olson Executive Director, WSC Foundation

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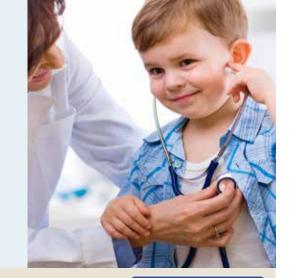
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campus news / instruction

INSTITUTIONAL UPDATE

WSC SPRING NUMBERS

According to the census data, Spring 2014 is looking good at WSC. Headcount is up from 812 this time last year to 891, making for the fourth-largest spring enrollment on record. Full-time enrollment is up by 8.47%, and scheduled credit hours have also seen an increase.

WSC has also seen a large increase in dual credit headcount, growing from 190 last spring to 289 this spring. Dual credit classes are courses that high school students can take to earn both high school and college credit.

The dual credit trend has been on the rise nationally as educational costs continue to increase. WSC and the WSC Foundation have long seen dual credit as a significant opportunity, and they continue to aid students by keeping dual credit tuition costs at \$50 per credit hour (compared to in-state students' \$139.36 per credit hour for other classes). While dual credit tuition might increase this fall, WSC is working to keep any increase to a minimum.

"We are working to build a stronger relationship with our regional high schools by offering more courses on their campuses while still keeping high standards for our institution's accreditation, programs, and course transferability opportunities," says Kari Rustand, WSC executive director for extended learning. "In the end, WSC's dual credit program is one of the smartest investments parents, schools, and students can make in the future of our youth and our communities."

For more information about Spring 2014 Census numbers, contact Kaylyn Bondy at 701.774.4585 or kaylyn.bondy@willistonstate. edu. For information specific to dual credit, please contact Kari Rustand at 701.774.4500 or kari.rustand@willistonstate.edu.

WSC CAREER EXPLORATION DAYS FOR HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS

WSC is holding short hands-on sessions designed to introduce high school student to several different careers in today's high-demand fields. These sessions will cover welding, diesel, and petroleum production.

"Today's student is faced with a lot of opportunities and decisions; many are trying to decide whether they should go to school or go into the workforce," says Brian Rencher, WSC transportation and energy coordinator. "Even though it's tempting to enter the workforce directly, time spent earning a degree in one of these fields will give you a better chance at higher paying jobs, management positions, better hours, more benefits, etc. It makes you more employable and more competitive in this economy."

Whatever the choice may be, finding out you actually like a specific career before starting a program or job is incredibly useful and time saving. Career exploration days will additionally show students what an actual classroom setting might be like at WSC.

"Our career and tech programs are very hands on," says Rencher. "A student will learn a lot in the two short hours they're here, which is really the point. They'll pick up enough basic skills to say, 'I like this' or 'I don't like this', It's all about exploration."

Sessions in February and March covered welding and diesel technology. A petroleum production session is scheduled for April 23. For more information about career exploration days, please contact Brian Rencher at 701.774.4563 or brian.rencher@ willistonstate.edu.

For other information regarding WSC, visit willistonstate.edu, call 1.888.863.9455, or stop by 1410 University Avenue, Williston, ND.





will

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alumni spotlight / aaron pelton

BY LUCAS AMUNDSON

Things have come full circle for Aaron Pelton. After growing up in Watford City, Pelton attended WSC (then UND-W) from 1996 to 1998, going on to NDSU in Fargo and Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, where he studied hotel and restaurant management. (His first plan was to go into engineering, but that changed when he found his calling while working part-time at a restaurant during an internship in Phoenix.) In 2008, he returned to Watford City to run Outlaws' Bar & Grill in Watford City, and is now a co-owner of the restaurant with a second location opening soon in Williston.

Pelton is happy to be a part of a community so close to family and friends. He also takes pride in being able take part in Williston's changing landscape. "I'm really proud to be up here in Williston and having such a positive experience."

He is excited to bring another restaurant to the city, but admits it would not be possible without the dedicated staff at their current location. "We have an extremely busy restaurant back home right now, and luckily, we have awesome staff that run it and work with us every day," says Pelton. "That allows us to be up here doing this."

Pelton says he feels fortunate to have a relationship with the Stenehjem family, co-owners of Outlaws', because they provided him with a great opportunity to return to his hometown. "Mr. Stenehjem had the conversation with me prior to my coming here," he says. "We're very lucky to have a great relationship with them."

Running a business in the area certainly has its advantages, as well as challenges. "There are so many advantages. One of them is all the new people that we meet, and the ways that they shape us and our company and make us better. With our partnership in Outlaws' and the oil boom, my wife and I get the opportunity every single day to do what we love and dreamed of doing," says Pelton.

Pelton keeps a positive attitude about the challenges and makes the most out of the changes in his hometown. He works hard to keep his customers happy, whether they are locals or newcomers. "One of the biggest challenges that we face at Outlaws' is meeting the needs of the local population along with all the new people that move into the community," he explains. "Understandably, they are looking for a sense of normalcy and something that reminds them of back home. We try to meet these needs while still remaining true to who we are."

Besides owning and operating two restaurants, Pelton is a family man and an active member of the community. "My seven-year-old plays hockey, so right now, I'm kind of a hockey dad,"





he adds. Pelton also enjoys golf, traveling, and sports, especially baseball. He follows the Chicago Cubs and spends summers coaching Babe Ruth baseball.

Pelton is active on several boards in the community, but he's most proud of being a volunteer on the fire department. He was inspired to join after seeing his friends in the department making sacrifices to keep the community safer. "I moved here and I was just in awe of them and the time that they put in," Pelton admits. "If they have time to do it—and they're just as busy as I am—why can't I? It's been extremely rewarding and a great experience."

His time at UND-W gave Pelton the foundation he needed to be successful in the future. He says he is thankful for the support he received from his professors, support that is still paying off today. "You don't really appreciate knowing all of your teachers until you go on to a bigger school," he says. "It's awesome to have teachers that hold you accountable." It's these teachers, who weren't always the easiest, that had a lasting impact on Pelton, teachers like Neil Westergaard and Lance Olson.

"Neil was outstanding and always pushed me," shares Pelton. "Lance is one of my favorite teachers at any level, and he always stayed on me."

Pelton also learned valuable lessons from former coach Terry Olson while working as a student-manager for the basketball team. "With Terry, you've got to be structured and come to practice every day and be ready to help out with the team."

It's these three that showed Pelton the value of hard work and integrity. They taught him that taking school seriously pays off in the long run. "Treat school as if it's your job," he recommends to students. "Get your work done, get up in the morning, and go to school because if you can't do that you're not going to be successful in life." Pelton was also a member of several organizations during his time at UND-W, including Student Senate, and he also completed a work-study program.

But it wasn't all work and no play; some of Pelton's favorite memories are of attending basketball games at UND-W. "We used to go to the basketball games in the old gym and get a little rowdy," he laughs. "Terry Olson will tell you that."

Pelton thinks it is a good idea for anyone thinking about college to try out a community college like WSC. He feels it is an affordable way to get a quality education while figuring out a major before moving on to a university with larger class sizes. "It gave me an opportunity to get away from home but still have the small classroom size, and more importantly, the one-on-one with great professors," says Pelton.

Pelton is a native of Watford City, the son of Kent and JoLynn Pelton. His father was once the mayor of the city and taught in the school district there for thirty-three years. Pelton now lives in Watford City with his wife, Angie, and their children, Aiden, 7, and Avery, 4.



TOP: Aaron and his wife Angie.

BOTTOM: 97-98 Tetons. BACK ROW (L-R): Coach Len Stanley, Aaron Pelton, Brian Torske, Clevon Dubar, Brandon Johnson, Marlon Lewis, Tyson Parisien, Jessie Mitchell, Shilo Thompson, Coach Terry Olson FRONT ROW (L-R): Brad Phillips, Kelly Gjovig, Kyle Lantz, Guy Fridley, Cory Bittner, Mark Kinnebrew, Mickey Dennis

campus updates / where is everyone?

SCIENCE WING

Labs for biology, anatomy, physics, chemistry and offices for science and math faculty.



STEVENS HALL

(RENOVATION STARTED JAN 2014)

Music classroom and faculty office, bookstore, Teton lounge, Skadeland gymnasium, & student life office. Temporary home to IT, registrar, e-learning (above WSC bookstore).



LEONARD P. NELSON HEALTH & WELLNESS WING

Health, physical education, nursing, health information management, and massage therapy programs. Temporary home to admission, financial aid, counseling services, HR, and payroll.



WSC FOUNDATION

Nonprofit agency that manages donations made by community members and alumni to the college and its students. Temporary home to WSC business and marketing offices.





WESTERN STAR CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER

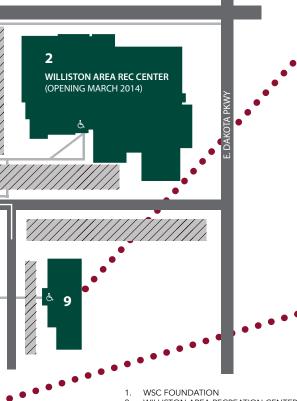
Welding, agriculture, and petroleum classrooms, labs, and faculty offices. Temporary home to many gen ed classrooms, humanities, business & technology faculty offices, academic success center, and adult education.



FRONTIER HALL (CAMPUS HOUSING)

Temporary home to student dining center, conference services, and housing managers.





- WILLISTON AREA RECREATION CENTER CRIGHTON BUILDING SCIENCE ADDITION

- STEVENS HALL
- LEONARD P. NELSON HEALTH & WELLNESS WING
- THOMAS WITT LEACH COMPLEX (THE WELL).
- ART WOOD BUILDING WESTERN STAR CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER
- 10. PRESIDENT'S HOUSE
- 11. FRONTIER HALL (CAMPUS HOUSING)
- ABRAMSON HALL (CAMPUS HOUSING)
- MANGER HALL (CAMPUS HOUSING) NELSON HALL (CAMPUS HOUSING) WSC FOUNDATION APARTMENTS





WSC FOUNDATION APARTMENTS

Housing. Retail space on lower level includes, DMV, Small Business Development, Jason's Barbershop, and Jimmy Johns.

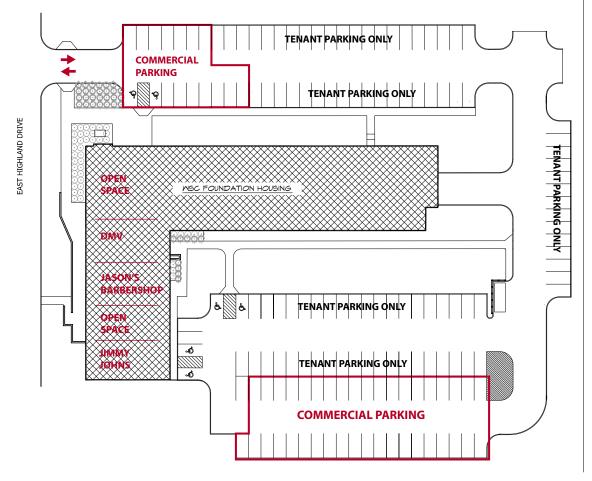
campus updates / dmv move











The DMV has moved from its previous location on campus in Western Star building to the newly-completed apartment building.

The move allows for more space for faculty and staff during the Stevens Hall renovation. The adult learning center and academic skills center now occupy the old DMV space.

The DMV's new address is 721 Highland Drive Suite D. Their phone number is the same 701.774.4530.

Parking is available on the street, in south end of the west parking lot and the east side of the east parking lot. (signage will be up soon)

campus updates / in progress







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 now includes Jimmy Johns, Jason's Barbershop, and the DMV.

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 this summer.

STEVENS HALL RENO

Faculty and staff have moved out of Stevens Hall. Asbestos abatement has finished.

DICKSON HALL

Dickson Hall was demolished last fall.



campus events / in pictures









CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Faculty and staff celebrate Mardi Gras with gumbo and king cake. WSC Associate Professor Ken Quamme shows the 3D printer to a prospective student. WSC Foundation Office Manager Liza McLean and her husband Mike pose in the WSC Relay for Life photobooth. Hockey supporters attend the 96 cent breakfast in February. The ND Soybean Council sponsors a biodiesel seminar in January. WSC Student Life Coordinator Tara Weltikol and her family at her sendoff for "The Voice" auditions. Lance Bevier of CAT Tractor & Equipment presents a check for \$10,000 to the WSC Diesel Program. Brian Rencher, Transportation & Energy Coordinator and Wanda Meyer, Provost accepted for the college. WSC faculty and staff get pies in the face for PTK's annual change drive fundraiser.









campus events / italy 2015





BY LUCAS AMUNDSON

Williston State College is hosting an excursion to Italy, March 8–20, 2015. The thirteenday trip is open to the public and will take travelers from Venice to Rome with many stops in between. This is an excellent opportunity for students and community members to experience a different culture firsthand.

The Italy trip is being led by WSC's Kim Weismann, who has coordinated previous international tours to China, Japan, and Norway. She has traveled to many other places and believes that travel is the best way to experience the world. "It's important to raise awareness of the globalized society we live in," says Weismann, adding that the upcoming trip to Italy will be a great way to raise this awareness. "We truly get to experience the culture; one can learn about a culture in the classroom, but it's another thing to go and really experience it."

The trip will take travelers to Venice, Florence, Siena, San Gimignano, Pompeii, Sorrento, Capri, the Amalfi Coast, Paestum, Naples, Rome, and the Vatican. Highlights will include St. Mark's Square, Michelangelo's *David*, the Colosseum, St. Peter's Basilica, and many more. Locations are chosen not only for their beauty but also for their cultural significance. "We will get to explore a wide variety of areas rich in history," promises Weismann.

Weismann chose WorldStrides International Discovery Programs to organize the Italy

trip. They have over thirty years of experience in these types of excursions, and they specialize in educational value. Weismann has worked with WorldStrides in the past and has been pleased with their performance. "They have really good customer service, and they are very personable and very reliable," she notes.

Anyone over the age of eight is welcome to go on the trip. Community members and students are all encouraged to sign up. "We've taken people from all over the US before, and everyone is welcome to join us," says Weismann, adding that the trip will be a great opportunity for participants, especially students, to meet new people. "One of the valuable experiences for students is to get to know community members as well as other students. They all have unique things to share with one another."

Students going on the trip will sign up for two classes, Humanities 210: Integrated Cultural Studies and Humanities 211: Integrated Cultural Excursion. These classes will count as humanities credits towards the student's general education requirements.

Registration for the trip will end in October 2014, but those interested are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible. An early enrollment credit is available to those who register before March 31, 2014, and

discounted group rates are possible if enough people sign up early.

Details, including pricing and a full itinerary, can be found at www.EducationalTravel. com/Login. The group username is *italy* and the group password is *weismann*. Those interested are encouraged to either check the website or contact Weismann directly. She can be reached by phone at (701)774-4503 or by email at kimberly.weismann@willistonstate.edu.

campus events / around campus



LEFT TO RIGHT: Lorna Easton, Jean Biberdorf, Del Easton, Wayne Biberdorf, Cindy Olson, Greg Anderson. NOT PICTURED: Rory Nelson

BY TERRY OLSON

If you want a pick-me-up in the mornings stop by the bookstore at WSC and say hello to the "coffee club crew", gathered outside the bookstore.

Every morning Del, Lorna, Wayne, Jean, Cindy, and Rory get together for coffee and conversation. Once in a while they allow Greg Anderson and Luanna Fisketjon to join them, too.

While many longtime residents of the Williston area find it easy to become discouraged by the ongoing changes to their community, the coffee club crew uses their time together every morning to laugh, talk about anything and everything, and just enjoy each other's company. Not only does it help them stay optimistic and upbeat about Williston, but their enthusiasm spreads to the students, faculty, and staff that walk by and see them every day. Let's hope they remain a fixture at WSC for a long time to come.

WSC BOOKSTORE HOURS: M-F from 7:45a-4p.

WSC screens local documentary, film airs statewide on Prairie Public

On February 23, WSC hosted a public screening of the new documentary "6 Brothers: A Story of Hope, Loss, and Perseverance on the Northern Plains," in the Livdahl Lounge.

Producer Daniel Stenberg, a Watford City area native, started the project after discovering letters written by his grandfather, Christian Stenberg, during World War II. "He was pretty much my age at that time, facing the world, but frustrated with the world, too," Stenberg says. "He just wanted to get home to North Dakota and settle down. I viewed him as more vulnerable than I had before."

"THESE WERE SOME OF THE GREATEST MEN I HAVE EVER KNOWN,"

Chris Stenberg, and the other brothers - Arnold, Cap, Henry, Ray, and Selmer - grew up on a farm/ranch in McKenzie County. The documentary touches on their experiences through the Great Depression, wartime, and beyond. Its state-wide broadcast premiere was February 26 on Prairie Public Television.

One of the scholars involved with the production of this documentary is WSC's Associate Professor of History Richard Stenberg, whose father was Ray. "These were some of the greatest men I have ever known," he says. "I am often asked why I got into history; this explains a lot of why I did and why I was so interested in it early. After all, history is the story of people."

In addition to the documentary being assisted financially by the WSC Foundation, four Stenbergs (three children of the six brothers and one grandchild) have attended WSC or UND-W over the years.

For more information about the documentary, please contact Richard Stenberg at 701.774.4262 or richard.stenberg@willistonstate.edu. You can also visit www.6brothersfilm.com or check out the film's Facebook page.





TOP: Screening of the documentary at the Livdahl Lounge in February. BOTTOM: Chris Stenberg with Associate Professor Richard Stenberg.

campus events / trainnd fundraising

BY DEANETTE PIESIK

TrainND is looking for help and support to build the Northwest Center, a facility that will provide opportunities to hold workforce training classes, educational classes, business meetings, and other events. Russ Rankin, Chair of the TrainND advisory boards states, "This building is valuable to energy businesses as it will provide all types of training from entry-level safety training to advanced technical classes. This project will leave a legacy for future businesses to utilize for decades."

TrainND provides training for North Dakota business and industry, enhancing their ability to compete globally. "TrainND provides training to all types of companies in northwest North Dakota," notes CEO Deanette Piesik. "Primarily we serve the energy companies, but our market also includes other businesses in the region." Training programs include crane certification, OSHA classes, PEC classes, forklift certification, IADC rig pass, medic first aid, communication for leadership success, coaching for peak performance, certified nursing assistant, QuickBooks, Excel, petroleum equipment for field personnel, well control, floorhand for well servicing, and more. The new facility will provide these programs with more space and a central location.

The 19,740 square foot Northwest Center will provide a number of business solutions for area companies. The building will utilize state-of-the-art technology, large classrooms, a large conference room with a viewing deck, and an employee kiosk with registration terminals. A commercial kitchen will be located in the building, as well as a computer lab and nursing lab. Piesik adds, "This building will allow flexibility to adapt to future training environments, as well as serving other industries in the region."

TrainND is actively seeking tax-deductible gifts from individuals, businesses, companies, and foundations for the building fund. Most of the \$7.5 million goal for the new training facility has already been raised, but the project still needs \$1.5 million in donations. These donations, combined with matching funds available through a state program and local match gifts, can make this dream a reality.

Contributions at any level are appreciated, and companies can break up their pledge over a two- or three-year period. Gold-level donors will have the opportunity to sponsor a room or an area in the Northwest Center.

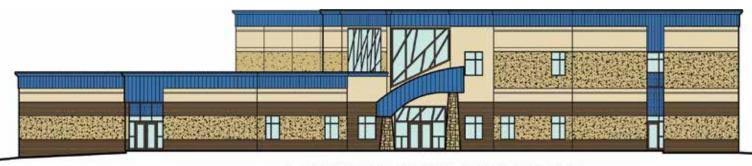
If you have any questions, would like more information, or find yourself in need of a pledge form, please contact Deanette Piesik, CEO of TrainND, at deanette.piesik@ willistonstate.edu or 701-774-4246.

TrainND Fundraising Committee members include Russ Rankin, Statoil; Tim Schmidt, Pioneer Wireline; George Haux, Well Pro; Larry Skaare, Oasis Petroleum; Stewart Peterson, Black Hawk Energy Services; Rory Nelson, ND energy impact coordinator; Wayne Biberdorf, WB Consulting, LLC; Dr. Raymond Nadolny, Williston State College; and Terry Olson, Williston State College Foundation.

Pledge forms and information are available, and all questions can be directed to Deanette Piesik, CEO of TrainND, deanette.piesik@willistonstate.edu, 701-774.4246.



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THEIR ABILITY TO
COMPETE GLOBALLY.



behind the scenes / deanette piesik



BY LUCAS AMUNDSON

Deanette Piesik is the CEO of TrainND-Northwest and continuing education. She has been with the program since it started in 1999, beginning in sales and moving on to CEO a year later in 2000. TrainND was started by the state legislature in 1999 because many businesses felt there were not enough opportunities for their employees to learn necessary skills locally. The program divides the state into four regions, with WSC servicing the Northwest Region with offices in Williston and Minot.

TrainND provides training and professional development for area businesses. There are a number of open-enrollment classes to choose from, or TrainND can work with businesses to develop a customized training program. Many of the classes can be conducted at a business's location to save them time and money. "We customize programs, but we do also offer open enrollment courses because the oil and gas industry is growing so fast, and they're adding new employees every week," says Piesik. "We have classes that can get entry-level employees certified in various aspects of their jobs so that they can go to work in their field right away."

Programs available at TrainND include OSHA, PEC (Petroleum Education Council), IADC (International Association of Drilling Contractors), IVES (Industrial Mobile Equipment Training), and medic first aid. There are many other options available at TrainND in the areas of professional development, transportation, and safety. "All of the companies want a safe workforce and want their employees to go home at the end of the day," explains Piesik. "We help with that."

Continuing education offers many classes for the community in the areas of food & entertaining, professional development, enrichment, and computer software. "A lot of people are looking for some fun and educational activities in the evenings and on weekends," she notes. "We've been providing a lot more of those classes."

More people coming to the campus means more people will see what WSC has to offer. Piesik feels continuing education classes can be an important step for those who may be thinking about returning to college as a nontraditional student. "I look at it as a pathway for people who maybe want to go back to college but are maybe a little afraid," she explains. "With some success in an evening or weekend class, they will become familiar with the campus and may decide to come back to school."

Piesik herself became an olderthan-average student after taking an evening class at Dickinson State University. "It's never too late to go back to school," she adds. Piesik went on to earn a bachelor's degree from DSU and master's degree from University of North Dakota.

A native of Glendive, Montana, Piesik enjoys going back home to visit the farm where she grew up and where her parents still live. She lived in Dickinson for a number of years before relocating to Williston with her husband, who works in the oil and gas industry. They have three daughters and one grandson. "He's three, so he's a lot of fun right now," Piesik adds.

When she is not busy chasing around her grandson, Piesik enjoys reading, quilting, and trying new wines. She also enjoys traveling, especially to Spain where one of her daughters teaches English.

behind the scenes / dr. kyle norris

BY LUCAS AMUNDSON

Dr. Kyle Norris became the new music instructor at WSC in 2013. He is originally from Indiana, where he grew up close to Indiana University (IU), a school known for its excellent music program. He was influenced by his brother, who played the saxophone, but the younger Norris went with the trumpet, the instrument he still plays today. While in high school, Norris had the opportunity to work with some of the faculty at IU, and that's what really got him into music, all with the help of very supportive parents.

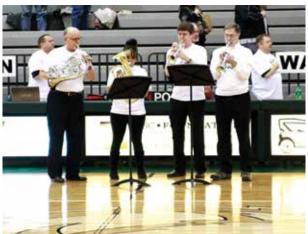
After high school, Norris went to IU for his bachelor's degree. It was there he had the opportunity to work with several influential teachers that had studied under the legendary Bill Adam. "Bill taught at IU for forty-two years, and he taught the first person I seriously studied with, Vicki Hastings. Dominic Spera, who I studied with during high school and after, was one of the jazz professors at IU, and was also one of Adam's students. Bill also taught John Rommel who I studied with for the four years I was at IU," Norris explains. "Bill has influenced so many trumpet players over the years, and I consider myself fortunate that I had the opportunity to study with him."

After his four years at IU, Norris went on to Ohio University, where he earned his master's degree. He then went on to North Dakota State University for his doctorate, and he has been in North Dakota ever since. Norris worked in the music department at Dickinson State University as interim director of bands and brass studies until the job opportunity came up at WSC. "It's a good fit for me here," he says. "I have connections with most of the other colleges in the state, so I can help students who want to go on to a four-year school."

One of the reasons Norris finds himself at home in Williston is the helpful staff at WSC. "It's a really tight-knit group of faculty members and staff. I think everyone works very well together," he notes. "If I need something, I can just ask."

Norris runs all the instrumental and vocal ensembles at WSC and teaches private lessons through the college. He is also involved in a number of local music groups, including the community choir, string group, city band, and two chamber ensembles. He spends his summers teaching at the International Music Camp, and Norris can be seen performing the national anthem at some of the local sporting events, either solo or as part of a brass ensemble. "It keeps me busy, but I enjoy it. It's nice to have a job doing what you enjoy," he admits. Aside from his responsibilities at WSC, Norris maintains an active schedule performing, adjudicating, and teaching privately.





Norris lives in Williston with his wife, Amy, and their tenmonth-old son, James. As a new father, he is learning many valuable lessons. "Everything has changed. Everything gets put into perspective, and it makes you become more efficient," he notes. Efficiency is important with so much going on, and Norris welcomes the challenge of balancing music and family life.

wsc tetons / dunk cancer/casino night

BY MICHEAL REUTER

During sports seasons, there are not many occasions when on-the-court action gladly takes a back seat for something greater. Some of those rare moments when fans, teams, and rivals come together are for the rising trend of "Pink Nights" that are sweeping the nation.

On Wednesday, February 8, the Teton Basketball team hosted their annual Pink Night. This year the theme was "Dunk Cancer". The Tetons hosted Miles Community College in a contest that saw both teams don pink warm-ups, shoe laces, and other pink accessories. The coaching staffs for each squad wore pink ties, shirts, or pins, while the fans came out in pink droves to support not only the Tetons, but those who have battled, and who currently are battling cancer.





Not only did fans come out to support the Tetons, they also came out strong to support a great cause. All proceeds from the night were donated to patients currently battling cancer in and around the Williston area. The team raised over \$1,500 through sales of "Dunk Cancer" shirts and a silent auction for an autographed basketball, bat, hockey jersey, team photos, and other Teton gear. Teton Athletics would like to thank everyone for their support of this worthwhile event. The goal of a cure is one we can all strive to achieve.

Each spring, Teton Athletics hosts its annual dinner and fundraising auction. Beginning in 2009, the annual dinner and auction saw 225 people attend the first year and has grown to last year's attendance of 280 people. The theme of the event, along with great prizes, is what really draws the crowd. Everyone loves to come and enjoy Casino Night.



Casino Night features gaming and silent and live auctions featuring dozens of items that each athletics team has gathered to help raise funds for their respective teams. Popular items for the auctions have included autographed memorabilia, golf memberships, housewares and furniture, and much more.

The Teton truck raffle will also be held during Casino Night. Top prizes for the raffle this year will be a Dodge Ram pickup and a Dodge Dart.

Seating for Casino Night will be somewhat limited, so we encourage you to sign up early to ensure your spot at the event. Save your gambling for Casino Night; don't gamble with your change to attend!

CASINO NIGHT/ TRUCK RAFFLE IS APRIL 25. RESERVE YOUR TABLE NOW.

VIP tables or groups (8 people) are \$500, adding \$65 for each additional person. This includes appetizers, buffet dinner, \$20 in "Teton Money", a bottle of wine at each table, and a Teton athlete as your personal server. Individual tickets are \$50.00 and include appetizers, buffet dinner, \$20 in "Teton Money". Attendees of Casino Night are encouraged to dress to impress, as Teton athletics creates an atmosphere that makes everyone feel like a high roller.

Casino Night and the truck raffle will be held Friday, April 25, starting at 5:30 in The Well.

wsc tetons / furry tetons

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 I Former Tetons Pictures of way back when. Whatever the decade, send us pictures of your "good old days."

SEPT I Teton Weddings Recently married? Anyone in the wedding a Teton? Send us the picture and we'll put it in the Thunder.

DEC I 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.





FURR-OCIOUS FANS!



- 1. Charli
 Bonnie Finch
- 2. Mandy & Oliver
 Serena Christianson
- **3. Kota**Tara Irgens



DONATE ONLINE AT: www.wscfoundation.com

wsc tetons / coach theis

BY MICHEAL REUTER

Megan Theis grew up on a dairy farm just outside of Shakopee, Minnesota, where she worked on the farm during the summer and played sports during the school year. The small-town, funloving girl would start off on an adventure that would land her the position of head volleyball coach at Williston State College.

Theis was tricked by her mother into playing volleyball when she was going into seventh grade. She remembers exactly how it happened: "I was very shy, and she told me that she was taking me to a just-for-fun volleyball camp, when in fact it was tryouts for the ninth grade team. I went, I made the team and played volleyball throughout high school and college."

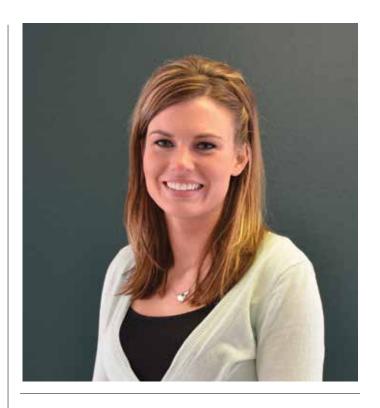
When she was a senior at University of Minnesota-Morris, her coach pulled Theis into his office and asked her what she wanted to do when she graduated. She thought for a second and replied, "I really don't know. The only thing that I have been passionate about has been volleyball. The next day I was filling out applications to be a graduate assistant."

"BEING A TETON IS GREAT; I HAVE DISCOVERED GREEN LOOKS WAY BETTER ON ME THAN RED."

Theis started her collegiate career playing for North Dakota State College of Science in 2007. During her freshman year as a Wildcat, Theis was part of a team that went to the NJCAA National Tournament. One notion that was not lost on the newlynamed Teton Volleyball coach was that her former college in Wahpeton would now be her biggest rival and best competition for the Mon-Dak Conference Title and Region XIII championship. As to the prospect of meeting up with her alma mater, says Theis, "Love it! I'm very excited to see the turnout. I enjoyed playing for Coach Passa and will enjoy seeing her again."

A self-described "positive coach with an aggressive and competitive attitude", Theis looks to bring a sense of urgency and hunger to Teton Volleyball. Already hitting the recruiting trail hard around the country and up to Canada, she isn't interested in a reloading or rebuilding year her first year at the helm. Her goal is to recruit a talented team, one that will play well together and play aggressively. "When I played against the Tetons, they were a very tough team and we had very close matches," Theis recalls. "I want the Teton Volleyball program to be in that category again."

Theis hopes for great things for the Tetons, placing high expectations on herself and the team. "Being a Teton is great; I have discovered green looks way better on me than red."



TETON VOLLEYBALL HOME GAMES

Sept 3	Dakota College Bottineau
Sept 18	Lake Region State College
Oct 2	Bismarck State College
Oct 17	NDSCS





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wsc tetons / hockey

BACK-TO-BACK NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Teton Hockey came into the season with one goal in mind, to repeat as NJCAA National Champions. They knew that they had a long road in front of them, and with a grueling regular season schedule, the task would be a difficult one. The regular season saw the Tetons on the road quite a bit, with trips to Arizona, Colorado, Washington, British Columbia, and Northern Saskatchewan. The road was long but provided many opportunities for the players and coaches to grow, both as individuals and as a team, as their record was marred with tough losses along the way. The most notable change from the schedule was only two NJCAA games scheduled, both against Dakota College at Bottineau.



The Tetons finished out their regular season with a record of 10-11-4. That record includes a 2-1-2 record against rival Minot State, and it's worth noting that in the two ties the Tetons came out on top in shootouts, but due to overtime rules in the NJCAA they went into the record as ties.

The Region XIII Playoffs first saw the Tetons at home against Dakota College at Bottineau. The team was hungry to get back to the national tournament and started off with a flurry of goals, coming home with an 8-0 win. The Lumberjacks offered little resistance against the Tetons in game two of the playoffs with Williston State coming away with a 6-1 win. The 2-0 season series win would send the Tetons to the Frozen Four, keeping their chances to repeat alive.



BY MICHEAL REUTER

The first game for the Tetons in the National Championships was a rematch from two years ago against Erie Community College. The Tetons had little trouble with the Kats as they came out on top by a final of 7-0. The journey came to a head as the Tetons faced off against Monroe Community College for the National Championship game, a rematch of the last two years with each team having taken home the hardware.

Monroe came into the game with the better overall record and the higher seed coming in to the tournament, but the Tetons saw the #2 seed as a sign of disrespect and used it as fuel for the fire. The clash of the two champions was an instant classic, but the Tetons prevailed through tough team play, anchored by Tyler Ampe's fantastic play in the net for the second season. The Tetons won by a final of 2-0 to repeat as national champions.

wsc tetons / mickey dennis

BY MICHEAL REUTER

Coach Terry Olson's tenure as Men's Basketball head coach boasted a bevy of fantastic scorers and playmakers. Many of their names are on display on the All-American Ring of Honor in The Well, and more are being inducted into the Teton Hall of Fame every year. One such All-American, Mickey Dennis is still producing at a high level nearly fifteen years after helping lead the Tetons to a national tournament appearance.

The Hot Springs, SD, native graduated from UND-W following the 1998-1999 season and went on to play at James Madison University. Over his junior and senior seasons, he helped the Dukes to a 32-26 record while averaging 6.4 points per game.

After concluding his collegiate career, Dennis played for national and international teams at the pro level. He started his professional career by taking his game back to his old stomping grounds, playing for the Spearfish Black Hills Heat of the XBA. After the Heat disbanded in 2003, Dennis looked for a new place on the globe to put his talents us use. His first destination was the Canberra Cannons of the Australian National Basketball League. Next on his journey was a one-year stint with SISU Copenhagen of the Basketligaen (Danish basketball league). Dennis then signed with Team FOG Naestved, also of the Basketligaen, for four seasons. The 6' 2" former Teton found his current home back with SISU, where he is in his fourth year.

On January 12, during what has been described as an incredibly exciting match against Basketligaen's top team, the Randers Cimbria, Dennis scored twenty points to help SISU to a 106-103 overtime win. Aside from being an exciting match, it

turned out to be a special game for Dennis.

According to the official Basketligaen website, with his first basket of the game, Dennis eclipsed the career scoring mark in Basketligaen. The previous record stood at 4,160 points, held by Peter Johansen. After the win, Dennis' career total (and the new Basketligaen record) was 4,184 career points.

"A scoring record was never

loved him. He had a quiet personality, but he was always very approachable, people genuinely like him. I am very excited that Mickey was able to get the record."

The first collegiate coach of Dennis' career, former Teton Head Coach Terry Olson commented on his former player breaking the record. "Mickey loved playing basketball, and he has the talent to combine with his



one of my goals," Dennis said after the game. "I never thought I would play this many years in Denmark and although I still have not won a championship, I am happy how it all ended."

Mickey's former head coach at James Madison University, Sherman Dillard, talked about the historic achievement. "I'm happy for Mickey he truly deserves this. I remember coaching him at James Madison, and I remember he had a picture perfect jump shot. I consider myself quite a good shooter, but Mickey had flawless form. He was a great person to be around, a good teammate, and fans

love of the game. I am not surprised that he has reached that level of success, and anybody that knows Mickey would be very happy for him. Mickey was an easy guy to like and coach."

During his play in Basketligaen, Mickey has averaged 18.5 points per game and 3.4 assist. His scoring record sits at 4,262 points and counting with eleven games remaining in the regular season. SEE DENNIS IN THE 97-98 TETONS TEAM PICTURE ON PAGE 5.

student spotlight / tyler fink



BY MATT NELSON

While WSC often boasts about its technical programs and the various certifications and associate's degrees available, Tyler Fink reminds us that this community college is still a great place for students seeking traditional liberal arts degrees to get a good start.

Fink grew up in Chicago and has spent the fourteen years since he graduated high-school working a number of different jobs. "I've kind of just been bouncing from job to job, never really having a career," he explains, "and so I look at this as an opportunity to find a career, because

as you start getting a little bit older – I'm thirty-two now – you want to do something with your life. You don't want to just keep going from job to job, from paycheck to paycheck."

Fink's sister Heather works at WSC, and she was happy to tell him all about the opportunities for grants and scholarships at WSC. The low cost helped to bring him out to Williston, but that's not the only thing keeping him here.

"I would say the biggest benefit to Williston is that it's not a huge school, so coming back in after not being in school a long time and being somebody who learns better with more one-on-one teaching; there's lots of that that goes on here," says Fink. "There's some smaller classrooms, and you can get more attention from the teachers."

The teachers that stand out most to Fink are those who teach the subjects he likes most and least.

"My favorite classes would be English composition and the literature class I'm taking right now, with Mr. Grunenwald. I enjoy his classes and I like him as a teacher," notes Fink. "But two of my favorite teachers, even though it's my least favorite subject, are the teachers that I've had for math, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Krogen, just because I feel like they're always available and willing to help at any time of the day. And they've really helped me with math because I struggle with it a lot."

Fink appreciates that he's able to take a couple years to complete his general education requirements while he decides on a career and finds the best university to pursue his degree. "I'm undecided at this point," he says. "I'm just trying to get my gen eds done right now, and I'll figure it out as I go. It's been fourteen years since I was

in school, so I have a little bit of figuring out to do."

At the moment, Fink is thinking about something involving writing or counseling. "I really enjoy my English classes, so I'd like to do something involving that. I've found that I really enjoy writing, as a personal outlet, and I've been doing pretty well in those classes. I've also considered being some kind of counselor for kids who are struggling with behavior disorders; those are the two careers that have really come to mind since I've been here." Fink is mainly looking at programs in the Chicago and Denver areas. "I have a lot of family and friends both back home and in Denver, and there are a lot of good schools in both places."

For now, though, WSC remains lucky to have Fink as a student; some of his younger classmates appreciate the different perspective he offers. As his English classes recently started getting into poetry, Fink was able to share some of his own writing. The encouraging response from other students: "I don't know how you come up with this stuff. I hope this comes with age."

Fink grew up in Chicago, Illinois. His parents have since moved to Springboro, Ohio. His father George has been a tennis instructor and repairs tennis balls and works for The North Face, and his mother Anita works for a jewelry company. Both were also high-school teachers. He has one sister, Heather, who lives in Williston and is the executive director for student services at WSC.

student spotlight / megan grinnell

BY LAUREN LOVELESS

When Megan Grinnell walks into room with her small frame and perfectly tousled dark blonde curls you would expect a small meek voice to match. Instead she speaks with a humble confidence in a voice that is not only comforting but also conveys that she has a passion and knowledge for what she does. Health care runs in Grinnell's family; her grandmother, mother, sister, two aunts, and an uncle are all nurses. Growing up she slowly became disinterested in the battle stories of the nursing industry around the dinner table and swore she was going to do something else with her life. Grinnell focused on the Paint and Quarter Horse circuit growing up in a small town just thirty miles north of Grand Rapids, Michigan. It was a rural area that nourished her love for the outdoors, and perhaps the small town life better prepared her for her new life in North Dakota.

Working as a Certified Nursing Assistant in Michigan, Grinnell and her husband wanted to continue their education but did not qualify for financial aid. They both decided to join the Air Force, leave Michigan and embark on the next chapter of their life together. She was discharged from the Air Force three years ago and her husband continues his service. They recently bought a house in Surrey, where they live with their three year old son, Colton. Colton's name stems from Grinnell's love of horses, and she fondly remembers telling her husband on one of their first dates that she was going to name her children with an equestrian flair. She says that she knew he was the one for her when he embraced the idea instead of fleeing.

Grinnell is not the typical college student, fresh out of high school. She balances her relationship with her husband and son, a hectic work schedule in the emergency room of Trinity, and the challenging nursing curriculum at Williston



State College with such ease it is astonishing. She gives credit to WSC for providing an accelerated course and an amazing support network. Grinnell also credits professors like Neil Westergaard for providing a stimulating, thought-provoking curriculum that fueled her desire to learn. When Grinnell was handpicked from all of the nursing students in North Dakota for the Nursing Student of the Year Award she was flattered and grateful for such a prestigious acknowledgement. Grinnell is appreciative of everything that Williston State has provided for her and she just wants to get the word out about their incredible nursing program.

Grinnell is close to graduating with an associate of science degree in nursing, and when she is finished she will apply for the Emergency Room Nurse position at Trinity. She also has plans to finish her trauma nursing core course, which will sharpen her skills in the emergency room, and pursue her flight nurse certification, which will hone her skills in all-encompassing critical care. Grinnell will go on treating her patients how she would like to be treated while she completes her admirable goals.

honors / patriot award

BY DAVID RUPKALVIS REPRINTED COURTESY OF THE WILLISTON HERALD

For years, Williston State College has been a good neighbor in Williston.

Whether educating students, entertaining the community on the athletic field or opening its doors for community events, the college has a reputation of helping when needed.

On Friday, the community recognized the college when Williston State College received the Patriot Award at the Williston Area Chamber of Commerce annual Banquet.



The award is given to an individual, business or institution that goes out of its way to support the military. While presenting the award, Steve Slocum said Williston State has always supported the military.

"This institution proudly flies a very large American flag every day," Slocum said. "This institution, utilizing generous donations from both the Aafedt and Livdahl families, has dedicated two beautiful community access rooms in its Frontier Hall building where the history and dedication of past military service members is more than evident."

Even more important to the chamber's Military Affairs Committee has been the college's support of the National Guard. "This institution eagerly signed into the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Program, making their statement of support for the guard and reserve a front-and-center event when dedicating their Ready Room in Frontier Hall," Slocum said.

He said when the 818th Engineer Company was deployed to Afghanistan, many local businesses and groups supported the effort. But Williston State went a step further than most.

"This institution contacted Williston's Family Readiness Group to ask if there was anything they could do for the deployed soldiers or their families," Slocum said. "The Military Affairs Committee and the Family Readiness Group can tell you up front that very few companies call before something is needed to offer their support. This institution did."

And when something was needed, Williston State always said yes.

"It provided meeting rooms, the use of a gymnasium and the technology necessary for several meetings with people and soldiers from all over the world, all at no cost, for the Family Readiness Group," Slocum said.

Dr. Ray Nadolny, president of Williston State College, said what his school has done is nothing compared to the work done by the men of the 818th and other military members around the world.

"I've been at Williston State five years, and one thing you find in North Dakota is the number of people who sacrifice," Nadolny said. "Williston State is proud to accept this honor, so on behalf of the military, we accept this."



wscf / update

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

NICHOLAS A. VOLLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (\$1,000/SEMESTER)

To provide educational opportunities for a student majoring in sciences & demonstrating a financial need.

CLARENCE & GRACE JACOBSON (\$500/SEMESTER)
To provide educational opportunities for a student in the nursing program, with a preference given to a student with a "C" average or above.

HENRY & MABLE PETERSON SCHOLARSHIP (\$500/SEMESTER) To provide educational opportunities for a student studying farm & ranch, with preference given to a student with a "C" average or above.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

WSC Foundation welcomes Larry Grondahl as the newest member of the Foundation board.

Grondahl works as sales manager for the Park, Playground & Athletic Equipment Division at Dakota Fence and runs his own company, Grondahl Recreation. He served on the Williston Park Board for twenty years and is currently a member of the Williston CVB board and president of the Williston Parks and Recreation Foundation board.

A Williston native, Grondahl's ties with WSC go back nearly forty years. He attended the college (then UND-W) from 1976-1978 before completing his degree at UND, and he was one of the founders of the Teton Booster club, along with Terry Olson and others.

While he appreciates all of the changes on campus in recent years, Grondahl says the most important things he remembers about going to school here haven't changed since his time as a student. "It was a family atmosphere, and it still is today," he explains. "When you come up here, it feels right. It feels like home."

Grondahl has two sons, Shaun and Jason, both living in the Rapid City area. He has three granddaughters and one grandson; one of his granddaughters, Lauren, is currently attending WSC.

UPDATE ON FUNDRAISING

FRONT DRIVE Left to raise \$145,575.00 of \$500,000

NURSING SIMULATORS Left to raise \$133,214 of \$133,914



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