

SUMMER 2014

TETON THUNDER

WILLISTON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION:
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COMMENCEMENT 2014

FACULTY PROFILE
JERRY BARROW

PETROLEUM COORDINATOR/INSTRUCTOR

ALUMNI PROFILE
ALLEN DOMAGALA

CAMPUS UPDATES



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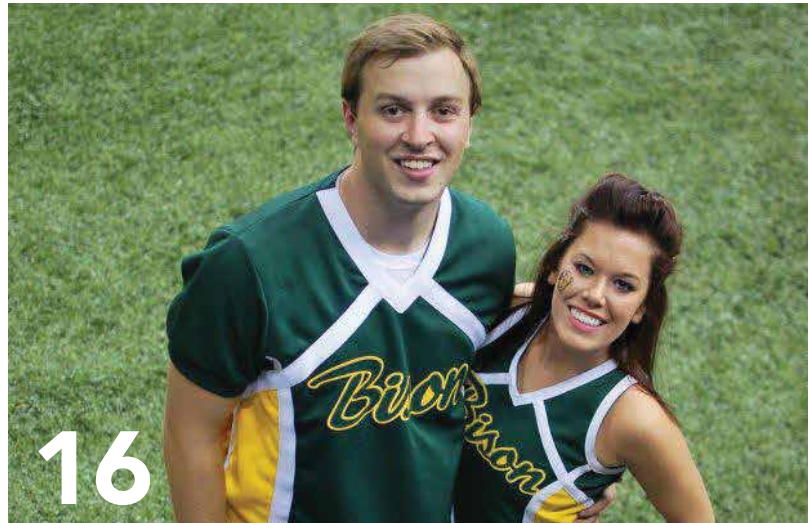
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TETON THUNDER

TETON THUNDER INTERN

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welcome / dr raymond nadolny

NORTHWEST NORTH DAKOTA: LAND THAT I LOVE

Recent events and recent data demonstrate northwest North Dakota is still at the tip of the iceberg in regard to economic growth.

Twenty counties in the US produced half of the country's oil in 2013. Four counties in North Dakota represent the vast majority of North Dakota's oil activity. Nationally, McKenzie County ranked fifth, Mountrail County ranked sixth, Dunn County ranked tenth, and Williams County ranked twelfth. These four counties possess nearly ninety percent of ND's production and activity. No Texas counties were ahead of McKenzie & Mountrail.

In 2013, Williams County grew from having the seventh-largest number of employees in the state to the fourth-largest, just 1,389 employees short of the third-place Grand Forks County.

Where will Williams County land in 2014? Grand Forks County had a net loss of thirty-five employees from September 2012 to September 2013, while Williams County had a net gain of over two thousand, so if a trend analysis of employee growth holds even closely constant, Williams will surpass Grand Forks and move to the number three position in the state for largest number of employees. That is how fast the demographics are changing. The top two counties in the state with the highest wages are already Williams and McKenzie Counties.

From 2010 to 2013, North Dakota witnessed a 7.6 percent increase in population. Williams grew by 32.1%. McKenzie grew by 46.4%. To the south, Stark County grew by 16.6%. The western side of the state is experiencing phenomenal growth.

To the east, Cass County (NDSU) grew by 8.7% and Grand Forks (UND) grew by 3.5%. The center of the state saw Burleigh County

(Bismarck) with healthy growth of 8.8% and Ward County (MSU) growing by 10.1%.

As the president of Williston State College, I am concerned that our northwest anchor counties rank well below the state in higher education achievement. A Canadian journal recently commented on Texas producing three times more oil than North Dakota. The article credited this achievement to the state's solid infrastructure. WSC is attempting to build that infrastructure to meet the needs of this exploding community. Our college, our city, our county, our state, and our school district partners are the new pioneers. There is no doubt we are well under way in shaping and developing the most significant and explosive economic activity in our country. But again, this is tip of the iceberg. Much more work needs to be done.

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



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INSTITUTIONAL UPDATE

TWO WSC FACULTY MEMBERS WERE RECENTLY GRANTED TENURE.

Matt Peterson, assistant professor of economics and Northwest ND native, has spent seven years teaching at WSC, six of them as a full-time instructor.

Derek Vander Molen, assistant professor of chemistry and native of Kentucky, came to the Williston area from Illinois six years ago and has been teaching at WSC ever since.

Both Peterson and Vender Molen will also be elevated to associate professor status. "This recognition is well deserved for both individuals," says WSC Provost and Vice President for Instruction Wanda Meyer. "[They] have made a difference, and I am confident that they will continue to do so in the future."

KEN QUAMME HAS EARNED THE DISTINCT STATUS OF FULL PROFESSORSHIP.

Quamme first came to WSC twenty-eight years ago, after teaching and coaching for nearly a decade at Killdeer High School. He has taught a variety of classes in the computer and information technology field, and he was responsible for setting up the Interactive Video Network (IVN) and the college's computer network, both of which are still in operation at WSC.

"Education is a passion for Ken. He enjoys sharing his knowledge and talent with his students," says WSC Provost and Vice President for Instruction Wanda Meyer. "He has made a difference with every student that he has had contact with. He is a true educator at heart."

Quamme is married to his wife Julie, Principal of St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School. They have three children: Christopher, Jaci, and Logan.

ATHLETICS UPDATE

Impressive individual accomplishments combined with solid team performances for Teton Baseball and Teton Softball this spring. Together, the two teams earned two no-hitters and two perfect games. While their seasons ended prematurely, both can be seen as successes.

Teton Softball took home the Region XIII title for the first time. Their first-ever trip to the District F championship proved another step upward for the young program.

Teton Baseball started the season with a gauntlet of impressive opponents, but they came around into form during conference and region play. The team ran up against a juggernaut in Dakota County Tech in the championship game to end their season one step away from the North Plains District tournament.

Casino Night 2014 proved to be the largest and most successful to date, with a record number of attendees and money raised. The night's success would not have been possible without the catering by Target Logistics, the various local businesses and individuals who donated items for the auctions, and the student athletes who worked the event.

WSC's academic success department will be hosting a summer bridge program this June for high school juniors and seniors and adults. This program is meant to help individuals intending to enroll in college classes raise scores in math and English in order to meet college-level requirements.

Classes will be held throughout the day Monday-Friday, though students are encouraged to attend as it works with their schedule. "It's a very flexible program and you can work at your own pace," says Monica Struck, WSC learning commons manager and English prep instructor. "If you finish in three weeks, you don't have to go the fourth. If you need to attend around your work schedule, we allow that as well." Participants will have direct access to instructors and classes will be taught on campus; however, online resources are available as well so a hybrid of on-campus and online work is possible.

WSC has launched a new career resource, called "Occupational Opportunities". This website, powered by CSO Research, is intended to help streamline the job-searching process, offering resources for both employers and job-seekers. "By implementing this new system," says Katie Peterson, coordinator of career pathways, "we will continue to enhance our services related to full-time employment, internships/cooperative education, student employment, volunteer service learning, federal work-study, alumni employment and more."

To visit the new "Occupational Opportunities" website, go to willistonstate.edu/Current-Students/Career-Services/Job-Seeking.html. For additional information, please contact Katie Peterson at 701.774.4594 or katie.m.peterson.1@willistonstate.edu.

This year saw the first combination of Casino Night with the annual Teton Booster Club Truck Raffle, which was another huge success. Neil Birkeland won the grand prize 2014 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab 4x4, with the second place 2013 Dodge Dart SE going to Ronald Crighton and the third place Yamaha Grizzly 350 4WD ATV to Chris Buschta. Other prizes included thousands of dollars in gift certificates and Teton season tickets.

An old familiar whistle blew through The Well in April, to the tune of the one and only Harlem Globetrotters. With the genuine product in town for one night only at The Well, kids of all ages were treated to a performance that was equal parts scripted entertainment and athletic excellence.

While the faces may have changed since the days of Meadowlark Lemon and Curly Neal, the antics have remained the same. The perfect combination of slapstick comedy and highlight plays had the entire crowd abuzz with delight.



alumni spotlight allen domagala

BY LUCAS AMUNDSON

Sometime in the mid-seventies, Allen Domagala and his fiancée, Lavina, entered a dance competition at UND-Williston. Their take on the jitterbug proved to be enough to take home first place in the contest.

Nearly forty years later they are happily married, and they are still proud to call Williston home. They have two daughters, Shauna and Tina.

Domagala grew up on a farm near Bowman, ND, where he enjoyed helping his father with carpentry. While in high school, Domagala visited with a recruiter from UND-W who came to promote their architecture program, and he knew it would be a natural fit for him.

Domagala was part of the architectural drafting and technology program at UND-W from 1974 to 1976. This allowed him to find work in architecture right out of school. For over thirty-five years, he has worked on a wide range of projects throughout the region, and he is currently the project administrator at Hulsing & Associates Architects PC in Williston.

During his time at UND-W, Domagala made the most out of his college years by experiencing all the community had to offer. In addition to the dance competition, one of his favorite memories includes building twelve-foot dinosaurs out of snow after a blizzard buried the street in two feet of the white stuff, effectively shutting down the city for three days. Instead of staying inside and being bored, Domagala and his friends used the time to erect the giant snow sculptures, a feat that made the front page of the newspaper.

Today, Domagala still believes memories are made when one goes out looking for new experiences. He believes that there are plenty of opportunities for a good time, especially in Williston. "It's what you make of it, and some people don't enjoy it. They say, 'There's nothing to do,'" he notes. "I find it exactly the opposite: there's too much to do."

"My wife and I went through and developed a list of 100 different things that you can do in terms of sports-orientated, athletic-orientated, and culture-orientated activities," Domagala says. "It's a marvelous community."

Domagala enjoys woodworking, camping, hiking, and being involved in community events and organizations. He is a proud member of the Knights of Columbus, the group responsible for the Harmon Park American flag displays for Columbus Day, kids' free throw contest, and other charity events. He is also currently a board member of the Veterans and Friends of the Old Armory.

He enjoys going to Entertainment, Inc., productions, and he has even performed in a number of them in the past. He enjoyed the challenge and discipline required to take on a new role and perform in front of the public. To Domagala, Entertainment, Inc., is yet another opportunity for people



Lavina and Allen with their grandchildren, Brandon Staloch, Sawyer Larson, and Aubrianna Staloch.



to try something new. "Get involved in something. Develop another interest," he recommends.

He and Lavina, who is the head of the trust department at First National Bank, are state directors for the Miss North Dakota Outstanding Teen Scholarship pageant. They are also involved in 4-H, and Lavina was inducted into the 4-H Hall of Fame last year for her efforts as a leader. These programs have allowed the Domagalas to meet many young people from around the state. They have maintained relationships with some of them over the years.

"Because of those two events, we have so many kids who might be walking down the street and say, 'Hi, Mom. Hi, Dad,'" says Domagala.

He also finds joy in the rich history of the area, whether it's the Fort Union Rendezvous or a visit to the Lewis & Clark trails.

Other benefits he sees in the area are the opportunities available in recreation and sports. "People are going to remember the ARC, the new ball diamonds, and the Babe Ruth World Series," says Domagala. "People come from all over, and they have such a blast while they're here."

Domagala also fondly remembers the building of the Raymond Family Community Center and how the people of Williston came together to make the building a reality. He is proud of all the events the Raymond Center has been home to: rodeos, hockey tournaments, and all the other community events over the years.

Although Williston is changing, Domagala continues to focus on the positives and recommends others do so as well. "I can turn around and complain, but there's no purpose in it. I think we're going to be better off if we try to offer a helping hand," says Domagala. "If you're standing in line next to someone, find out where they come from. Find out why they're here. Step into their shoes mentally for a little bit."

This positive outlook helps Domagala feel at home in a community he describes as not too big and not too small. This ideal size, he says, carries over to his work. "If you get into one of the big, big communities in a big architectural firm, you might only draw one type of detail, and you're pigeonholed into this one little aspect. Here you have such a wide variety that you can work on so many different things and keep your interests large."

Domagala notes that this is also a benefit to WSC, where it is possible for all departments to work side by side. "Because of the size of this college, it's small enough that you can rub shoulders with

every department and get a wider variety to add to your background."

He believes a small community college like WSC is a great place to get a college education. He also thinks it can be a great place for students to prepare themselves for a larger college. "When you start from here, you get a little bit more mature," he notes, "And when you get to that bigger campus, your maturity is going to show because you're able to handle different situations more readily."

A lot has changed in Williston since Domagala's days of dance competitions and snow art, but one thing that remains the same is his positive outlook on the community and its challenges. To him, it's all about looking on the bright side and seeking out new experiences. After nearly forty years in Williston, he has never been more proud to call the city home.



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DEVELOP ANOTHER
INTEREST,"**

campus updates rec center



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ARC
www.willistonparks.com
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LEFT PAGE: Pictures from the grand opening celebration.

RIGHT PAGE: TOP: Olympic Gold Medalist Katie Ledecky signs autographs.

BOTTOM: Ledecky swims the first lap in The E.J. Hagan, MD Natatorium named after her grandfather.

the arc and athletics

BY MICHEAL REUTER

While the ARC opens up tremendous opportunities for students, faculty, and staff, it also widens the possibilities for Teton athletics. The teams that seem poised to gain the biggest advantages from the ARC are Teton Baseball and Teton Softball. The ability to simulate game-like conditions year-round will help the teams start their season more fully prepared.

This season Teton Baseball took their annual trip to Arizona to take on some of the nation's top junior college baseball teams. Playing a schedule laden with Division 1 teams that boast of their many former players now in the MLB, WSC faced teams that were already twenty or so games into their season.

By the time Teton Baseball was back for the Mon-Dak Conference and Region XIII play, they had an extra twenty games played. That difference in preparation and experience

was clear, with the Tetons throwing two no-hitters and a perfect game during the season. With the ability to get fielding practice in on the turf as well as the open spaces and permanent indoor batting cages all winter long, the ARC will help WSC baseball and softball get that much more of a leg up of the conference and region.

Additionally, all of Teton athletics will greatly benefit from the pool and hot tub areas of the ARC. As was apparent this year, even the toughest athletes in every sport get strained and pulled muscles. Rehab of these minor injuries helps to keep teams at full strength through the season as other teams get bit by the injury bug.

30,000

people attended the 4-day grand opening celebration

MEMBERSHIPS

2,185 | 4,207 | 7,075

[in the first week]

[in the first month]

[as of May 28]



TrainND Northwest is still seeking tax-deductible gifts to help build the Northwest Center. Recently, three large donations brought the project much closer to its goal. In April, Steel Energy Services, Ltd., and Statoil each announced pledges of \$150,000 over three years toward construction of the new facility, and in May, Oasis Petroleum donated \$165,000.

TrainND celebrated the upcoming Northwest Center with a groundbreaking ceremony on May 6. The construction site is located next to the Petroleum Safety and Technology Center at 421 22nd Ave. NE.

The 19,740 square foot building will serve as a regional workforce training and education center. 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.

TrainND Northwest CEO Deanette Piesik is excited for the new building and the opportunities it will provide for area businesses. "The new workforce training center building has been a dream for many years," Piesik explains. "We are very excited to have all of the Williston staff together in one location where we will have access to all of the training equipment that has been donated by oil and gas companies over the past ten years."

Russ Rankin, Chair of the TrainND advisory boards adds, "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 in the future."

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.

trainND
NORTHWEST



"This training center is the result of businesses, agencies, the State of North Dakota, NDUS, and the WSC Foundation all working together to fund this project," says Piesik. "Finally all of the work has come to fruition."

TrainND also celebrated the grand opening of their new Minot location with an open house on May 8. "TrainND Northwest is excited to have a new training facility in Minot," says Piesik. "This facility will allow us to develop and deliver training to businesses to this area of the state. We are looking forward to working with the Minot community to help increase employee skills and meet the workforce demand."

For more information on TrainND, please contact Deanette Piesik at 701-774-4246. To learn more about the new Minot location, please contact Joyce Clock at 701-837-1306.

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campus updates in progress



KEEP AN EYE ON WSC:

WILLISTON AREA REC CENTER

The Williston ARC is now open. See page 8 for more details.

APARTMENTS

The apartments are fully occupied. The retail space on the lower level now includes Jimmy Johns, Jason's Barbershop, and the DMV.

APARTMENTS II

Construction is underway on the second apartment building on campus.

STEVENS HALL RENO

The renovation of Stevens Hall is projected to be completed in December.



DONATE ONLINE AT:
www.wscfoundation.com

campus events / commencement/pinning



Williston State College held its 53rd commencement ceremony on Friday, May 16, in the Well.

The commencement speaker was Ron Rauschenberger, chief of staff to North Dakota Governor Jack Dalrymple and an alumnus of WSC (then UND-W). Other speakers included State Board of Higher Education Member Kari Reichert and students Rebekah Fetzer and Ian Withey.

Over two hundred degrees were awarded this year, including 204 associate degrees, 44 program certificates, and 42 GEDs.

Two honorary degrees were also awarded by the North Dakota University System, to Mayor Ward Koeser and Senator Stanley Lyson.

If you'd like a copy of the video or commencement program, please contact Jenny Wolf at 701.774.4223 or jennifer.wolf3@willistonstate.edu.

The 2014 Associate Degree Nursing students participated in their own pinning ceremony after graduation. The class consisted of thirty-two graduates from the Williston, Minot, and New Town sites. This year marked the first graduates from the New Town location.

Speakers included Student Nursing Organization representatives Megan Grinnell (Minot), Chuck Lippert (Williston), and Jessi Fisher (New Town).

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

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

After all the lamps were lit the students recited the Florence Nightingale pledge.





CONGRATS 2014 GRADUATES



LEFT PAGE: KUMV anchor/reporter Jerry Huerta interviews Mayor Ward Koeser after the commencement ceremony.

RIGHT PAGE: Graduation and the nursing pinning ceremonies in May.

campus events / around campus





TOP ROW (L-R): Couple thanks Donna Grecco with flowers for helping them in the Adult Learning Center. PTK's annual Easter egg hunt featured an appearance by the Easter Bunny. Maren Furuseth's Harry Potter class capped off the year with a game of Quidditch.

MIDDLE ROW (L-R): WSC in the Band Day parade in May. Student art is featured at the annual end of year art show. Photograph by Krystal Evenson is a finalist in the 34th Annual College & High School Photography Contest. Donna Mullen in the little house she built from the ground up in Residential Carpentry.

BOTTOM ROW (L-R): Musician Jason LeVasseur and Student Life Coordinator Tara Weltikol during the May Day Bash. Brian Rencher shows HS students basic welding techniques during a career exploration day. Members of WSC's Business and Computer Club display their awards earned at the ND Phi Beta Lambda State Leadership Conference.

behind the scenes / jerry barrow

BY LUCAS AMUNDSON

Jerry Barrow is finishing up his first year as the petroleum coordinator/instructor at WSC. He moved from Texas to Williston after being hired to help develop the school's petroleum program.

His background in automation and controls helped him secure the position, because it is such a big part of the oil industry right now. "It is a big part of the oil industry because of the necessity to remotely control in a very harsh environment," explains Barrow. "It's hard to have someone go out to each pad or site."

Barrow also has experience with robotics and manufacturing automation, so these skills have aided him in developing a program that meets the needs of an industry that is becoming increasingly automated.

Because many of the skills that WSC's petroleum programs train for are on the production end, meaning they come in after the wells are drilled, they are designed with long-term, career-oriented jobs in mind. With so many wells being drilled in the area, a career in production can provide long-term career stability to those who earn one of several certificates at the college.

Barrow is thankful for the helpful and friendly faculty at WSC, which he describes as a close-knit community. He is also impressed with the college's dedication to improvement. "WSC seems to be really interested in its students, development, and new programs," he says. "I genuinely feel the administration is behind development and progress."

This dedication to development and progress has made his job that much easier, according to Barrow. In addition, a strong advisory board made up of industry professionals has helped him develop a program that will train students in up-to-date industry practices. Generous donations from oil companies ensure students will have access to the actual state-of-the-art equipment that is being used in the field. Barrow has also been impressed by the industry's interest in taking on interns from the program.

He says that all these things come together to make a successful program.

"If the students can't get a job when they are done, they're not going to be happy. If we're not training what the industry wants, the industry is not going to be happy. If the administration doesn't see a return on their investment, they're not going to be happy," Barrow says. "When we can make all of those things come together, that makes me happy."



When he has time off work, Barrow is also happy spending time with his wife, Virginia. "We like to do things together. We enjoy each other's company," he says. They have two children, four grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

"We'll be going back to Texas to see them this summer. They're a big part of our lives," he adds.

Barrow is also a professed motorcycle nut. He enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson with Virginia back in Texas, but he has had to take a break because of a lack of a proper storage space during the long North Dakota winters, which he admits are not as bad as they were made out to be. "Maybe the hype was bigger than it really is, or maybe we just didn't get all that much snow. But it *was* cold," he admits.

Barrow looks forward to next year, when he can teach the courses he helped develop throughout the year. "It's been a pleasure so far, and I'm really looking forward to start a new semester teaching some of the same things again," he notes. "It's all been in development, so every semester I'm building new courses. Being able to teach a course a second time will be the payoff, so I'm looking forward to that."

behind the scenes liza mclean

BY LUCAS AMUNDSON

**"THERE ARE
SO MANY
GREAT
THINGS
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AND I
THINK THE
FUTURE OF
WILLISTON IS
VERY BRIGHT."**

Liza McLean is the office manager at the WSC Foundation. She is originally from Reynolds, ND, where she attended Central Valley School before moving on to NDSU to study business administration.

During her time at NDSU, McLean had the opportunity to study abroad in Italy, and she still enjoys experiencing new places, whether it's an international destination or a city in the USA. She spent two summers during college working as a nanny in Manhattan, and she considers New York City one of her favorite places.

Another special place for McLean is Mexico, because that is where she married her husband, Mike, who is from Oakes, ND. They have been married for three years, and they enjoy travelling, going out with friends, and staying active.

To keep active, McLean enjoys running or going to the Williston Area Recreation Center. She likes the group fitness classes and the workout area at the new rec center, a building she finds very impressive. "There is so much energy there," she says. "It's just such a community building."

McLean is also impressed by all the changes at WSC. Out of the recent improvements to the campus, she says it is the campus drive project that has had the biggest impact for her. She says that although it is not the largest-scale project to come to WSC recently, it's the one that gives people the biggest first impression when visiting the campus.

She has also noticed the many changes around Williston. She says it's not one big change that has stood out for her, but all the little things that are happening in the city on a daily basis. "There's always some sort of improvement or building going on. It's just a constant progression," McLean notes. "There are so many great things happening, and I think the future of Williston is very bright."

McLean says that she and her husband feel at home in Williston. "Having both been from small towns in North



Dakota, Williston still has that small town feel. We're really grateful to be a part of the community."

She also feels at home at the WSC Foundation, because she believes in what they stand for. "Education is one of the best things you could ever give someone," she explains, "And because of the Foundation, so many students are able to go to school."

"It's been really energizing to see the growth that the Foundation has been able to support at WSC through Terry Olson, who really has a vision for WSC, and our board members."

Education is very important to McLean, and she urges current students to make the most out of their college years. "Get involved. The more experience you have with campus organizations and the more connections you make, the more mentors you will have, and the more time management skills you will have."

BY MICHEAL REUTER



Teton Athletics has a proud and fruitful heritage of players from all sports moving on to Division 1 schools to continue their collegiate careers. Those players who move on are greatly heralded for their opportunity to show off their talent at the highest level in college athletics. However, sometimes one of these athletes slips through the cracks and doesn't receive all the praise they deserve for moving on to compete in the NCAA.

It happened by chance for David Farrenkopf his freshman year at Williston State College. A group of former Williston High School girls who were currently on the WSC cheer team approached him, saying they needed a male cheerleader. Farrenkopf agreed to come to practice to give it a shot, and after a few practices he couldn't stay away and joined the team. "I had some of my best memories cheering at WSC and it has made a large impact on my life," says Farrenkopf. "The great relationships I made and the experiences I had made me the person I am today."

Farrenkopf continued his cheerleading career at NDSU, where he showed up to Head Coach Verona Winkler's tryouts. From then he has been a member of Bison Cheerleading and has taken wild rides which include two trips to Frisco, Texas, to cheer on the Bison as they won two of their three national championships. He was also joined on the squad by his brother Michael, who completed one year at WSC before transferring to NDSU.

Cheerleading might not be the first thing to come to mind when one thinks about college athletics, but anyone who has seen the NCAA National Cheerleading Championships on ESPN would say otherwise. The only time you will get a glimpse of David and the Bison squad on TV, however, is on the sidelines of NDSU games. Farrenkopf and the Bison squad may be even more passionate about what they do, since they are competing purely for the love of cheerleading and to support NDSU athletics.

As far as being a Division 1 cheerleader, Farrenkopf explains, "It's not as bad as it sounds or looks. When you first think about joining or get conned into joining, you're just like, 'Oh no. I'm going to be a male cheerleader.' But once you start doing it, it's so fun. It's a great atmosphere. All your teammates are very comforting and help you out all the time. The athleticism that you have to have, tossing the girls into the air, is great."

Farrenkopf graduated this spring with bachelor's degree in English education. He could have graduated sooner with all of his WSC credits transferring to NDSU, but along the way he decided to switch majors. He is currently looking for a position as a middle school or high school teacher in the Fargo/Moorhead area. While his days of cheerleading may be over, he hasn't given up the prospect of possibly being a coach at some point.

"I HAD SOME OF MY BEST MEMORIES CHEERING AT WSC AND IT HAS MADE A LARGE IMPACT ON MY LIFE,"

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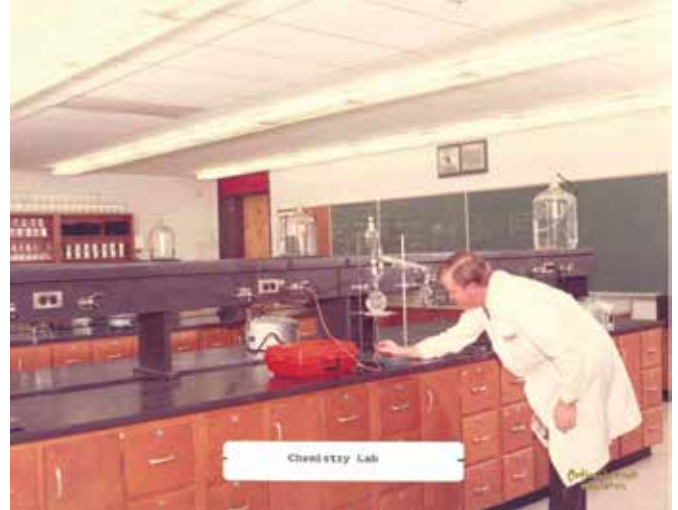
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BY MICHEAL REUTER

During the last two seasons of Teton men's basketball games, one imposing figure has stood above the rest. Hailing from across the pond in London, England, Teton center Deji Adekunle has a bright future in front of him on the court. And his future in the music industry may be even brighter.

Since his arrival at WSC, Adekunle has been a regular at open mic night, with one of his most popular choices being a Jeff Buckley-inspired version of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah". Standing nearly seven feet tall, and with such gifted physical attributes, his passionate affinity for the fine arts might be a little surprising. This is not a new development for Adekunle, however, who professes that his first love was music, which started as a child in London where he grew up singing at church and playing instruments.

The multitalented big man adds that he also dabbled in the world of writing music and rapping before he came to WSC. "I used to be in the studio, and I would write lyrics and have lyric books; I was really into it," explains Adekunle. "I just play everything, I'm down to play or listen to anything. I like to think of my music knowledge as broad-Michael Jackson, Eric Clapton, Drake-just all these talented artists inspire me to be a better musician."

Adekunle's interest in composing doesn't stop at lyrics. "I make instrumentals and I make beats," he adds. "I like to be hands-on about every step of the process. I'm trying to build a relationship and make a name for

myself as a musician." Completely self-taught in all aspects of music, Adekunle can often be seen walking to class, headphones on, singing a song.

His drive and passion for music has already resulted in some benefits as he has gotten the opportunity to meet some big names in the music industry. One such meeting was with the beautiful and talented hip-hop artist Jhene Aiko. "I met her, and she was great; it's almost like I fell in love with her."

While Adekunle was a born musician, his path to basketball was anything but traditional. Self-described as a "keen soccer player" while he was younger, Adekunle spent most of his time roaming the pitch instead of on a basketball court. That all changed around the time he turned seventeen, when he decided to make the jump to focus on basketball. His first basketball team was Hackney Community College out of East London where he began to hone his skills.

Former Head Coach Eric Peterson discovered Adekunle on a recruiting trip to London. After seeing the potential of someone who had only been serious about the game for a short while, Peterson offered Adekunle a scholarship to play a game he was still learning at a place he knew nothing about.

Moving forward, Adekunle will continue his collegiate career this fall at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. He is looking forward to playing as an NSU Demon, but adds that one of the deciding factors was that they also have a well-established music program. Based on his performance at WSC, the sky is the limit for both his basketball and music career.

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BY MICHEAL REUTER

The tradition and prestige of Teton Basketball is one that stands among few peers in the NJCAA basketball world, but there is another basketball squad that also calls The Well and the Donn Skadeland Gymnasium home. They call themselves the Williston Noon Ball Association.

The Noon-ballers, as they are affectionately referred to, can often be seen battling on the hardwood when



most people are taking their mid-day break. While the Noon Ball ranks include some of the most generous Teton boosters, it is very much a come-as-you-are environment that welcomes players regardless of status, age, or skill. Members include current and former WSC faculty and staff, community members, and former members of Teton Athletics, such as former Teton All-American Clevon Dunbar, and former Teton Men's Basketball Assistant Coach Lance Olson.

Around 11 a.m. during the week, the back door of the Skad gym swings open and the players begin to show up. It starts with warm smiles and inside jokes at each other's expense as knee and ankle braces are applied. As more players filter in, shooting around begins as the well-intentioned chiding continues until game time. Things take a much more serious tone as soon as the ball tips and action begins.

The group has grown in size over the years since its inception and is now usually divided between The Well and the Skadeland Gym courts. Onlookers and passersby witness a display of a group that is not only staying physically

active, but participating in something that brings them immense joy. While the battles are hard fought and victory is not easily attained on the hard-court, the absence of tempers and egos are a unique trait of the Williston Noon Ball Association. As the noon hour comes to a close and the action subsides, the members of Noon Ball return to their mild-mannered origins until the next session.

A noticeable sight on the walking track in The Well last year was a set of green lockers that loitered along the north end for a good portion of the summer. Suddenly they disappeared, moved to a new home where they would get put to use, both as a solution to a problem, and as a small token to say thank you. The lockers were moved to a sectioned-off



portion of the Teton Baseball locker room, and thus the Noon Ball locker room was created.

The WSC athletic department fully appreciates not only the contribution of members as Teton boosters, but also their commitment to playing consistently and passionately with no trophy up for grabs, no officials or clock, and no cheering crowd. The Williston Noon Ball Association exemplifies what it means to be a Teton, and an official locker room is just a small token of appreciation for it.

As Noon Ball continues to be a fantastic tradition on the WSC campus, the size of the group, as well as the positive impact it has on the school and the community, seem destined to grow right along with it.

wsc tetons / recruiting

BY MICHEAL REUTER



Over the past few years, the sports world has expanded its exposure of the recruiting process, with National Signing Day even becoming a major televised event. While the exposure is significantly less at Williston State College, this does not mean the process is any different or any less important. Each team's coaching staff at WSC faces its own unique experience on the recruiting trail.

Teton Head Softball Coach Scott Wachholz has an unusual task, recruiting for a program that has only had two seasons underneath it. However, his energetic style of coaching meshes well into his methodology as a recruiter. Hitting the road and going out to see talent during summer is the first step for Wachholz, and his itinerary this summer includes several camps throughout the northwest region of the county.

Finding a player that has a standout skillset is the first step in finding a recruit to target for Teton Softball. "I want a player that has a wow factor that can bring something really unique to the team, whether it's bat speed, arm, ability on the bases," he explains. "Not to say that we don't look at players with well-rounded games, but it really makes them stand out if they can excel in something specific."

The next step is to hit the computer to examine and break down video and stats of potential recruits. The hardest part of recruiting, says Wachholz: "Losing a kid you really want is hard. You put a lot of time and work in, and want them to be a part of a program, and when it doesn't work, it is just a tough pill to swallow."

A somewhat different style comes from Teton Head Women's Basketball Coach Luanne Axelson. Along with traveling across the country, Axelson makes a special point to get to know the prospective student athletes and their families on a personal level. "I really enjoy going to homes and getting to know kids and their families," says Axelson. "It means a lot to make lifelong friends with parents because I know they are good people."

The personal approach is a huge factor in developing the dynamic of the basketball team. With an abundance of basketball players in the country and only fifteen spots available on the roster, it is vital to find the right chemistry.

For Axelson the hardest part of recruiting "is having kids that want to come here and be a part of the team, but when we already have nine guards on the squad you have to tell someone no. Sometimes you really like a kid and just because they don't fill a need for the team that you currently have, you might not be able to take her."

Over the summer all of the Teton coaches will be reloading their squads that, this year, brought home one Mon-Dak championship, two Region-XIII titles, and a national championship.

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A Q&A WITH THE 2014 COMMENCEMENT STUDENT SPEAKERS

What's your favorite word? Cellar door.

What would your super power be? It would be handy if anything I wrote on paper would then come true. I would end up using it to make my daily life more entertaining and easier.

What has been your favorite class at WSC? I enjoy any class taught by Jim Stout. I have had seven in total, and it has been great. If I had to choose one, I suppose it would have to be the screenwriting class.

Who has been your favorite teacher at WSC? Jim Stout by far has had the greatest impact on my life. He is very encouraging and he always has a great attitude.

What has been your favorite activity at WSC outside of class? Sitting on the couch committee and enjoying life.

If you could invite three people over for a dinner party, who would you invite? I would invite Kurt Vonnegut, Bob Kane, and Nikola Tesla.

Desert island top five: you can take a total of five movies/books/albums with you on a desert island. What are your choices? I hope there is a bluray player with a television on this island! I would bring the graphic novel *Watchmen*, the book *Slaughterhouse-Five*, the films *The Dark Knight* and *The Prestige*, and the Modest Mouse album *The Lonesome Crowded West*.

What's next for you after you finish at WSC? I will move to Saint Paul to finish my bachelor's degree in screenwriting, and then I will pursue internships.

What profession are you hoping to take up? I am pursuing a career as a screenwriter. I would love to write for television and movies. Also, if I ever have the chance I would love to write for DC comics, especially the Batman series.

What profession are you hoping to avoid? Any profession that isn't creative or enjoyable.

What would you tell a prospective student who's thinking about coming to WSC? College is what you make it. You get out of it what you put in. It's not difficult to accomplish what you want to accomplish as long as you work hard and are determined. If you plan on going to college make sure you are doing it for the right reasons. Find like-minded people that will help you do what you want to do.

What advice do you have for your fellow WSC students? I think Jim Stout says it best: "Keep Smiling."



student q&a / rebekah fetzer



Who would play you in a movie about your life? Blake Lively, because she's perfect.

What would your super power be? If I could have any super power, it would be being able to travel anywhere in an instant, because I'm always late.

What has been your favorite class at WSC? Definitely Yoga! So much fun and very relaxing. Also, Jo is great!

Who has been your favorite teacher at WSC? Lance Olson. Not only is he a great physics teacher, but even though I wasn't one of his advisees, he still took time to listen to me and help me decide what I'm going to do with my future. He is a teacher who definitely loves what he does and cares about his students.

What has been your favorite activity at WSC outside of class? One of my favorite activities at WSC outside of class is the "assassination" game that Phi Theta Kappa puts on every semester! It's exciting and scary hunting other people down and not knowing who is coming after you. I won it last year and I had the opportunity to run the activity this year. Always fun to be a part of.

Desert island top five: you can take a total of five movies/books/albums with you on a desert island. What are your choices? If I was stuck on a desert island I would take any movie with Dave Franco in it, because he's super sexy. I would also take some *Survivor* episodes to help me survive and the newest Jason Derulo album, because it's awesome.

What were you doing before you came to WSC? I was living in Brookfield, WI and planning on going to school in Minnesota. I worked in Williston the summer before college and ended up switching to WSC at the last minute.

What's next for you after you finish at WSC? I am going to get my bachelor's degree in business management, most likely at NDSU.

What profession are you hoping to do? I am hoping to be a business management consultant after I graduate college. I also plan on living in Colorado and do lots of outdoorsy things like hiking, skiing, etc.

What profession are you hoping to avoid? Working in the oilfield.

What would you tell a prospective student who's thinking about coming to WSC? WSC is great because its small size allows you to get to know your teachers and other students really well. Don't let the fact that WSC is a two-year school stop you from joining clubs and becoming involved in things on campus. I was involved in choir and some student organizations during my time here and it was a great decision. There is also a lot of community support for the college and athletic teams, which is really neat.

What advice do you have for your fellow WSC students? Take the things you've learned here and apply them to your life. Don't let graduating stop you from learning and growing.



**WILLISTON
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in memoriam / jon ellefson



Jon Ellefson, 60, of Lakeville, MN, formerly of Williston, ND, passed away Thursday morning, March 6, 2014, at the Fairview Ridges Hospital in Burnsville, MN.

Jon had had a recent surgery for prostate cancer, which resulted in a blood clot which later took his life.

Jon Ellefson was born on September 12, 1953, in Williston, North Dakota. He was the son of Karl and Ruth (Wisdahl) Ellefson.

Jon attended high school at Williston High School, where he was an outstanding basketball and baseball player. He graduated from high school in 1971 and attended UND-Williston for two years. At UND-Williston, Jon was again an outstanding basketball and baseball player who later received Hall of Fame honors from that college. He was currently a member of the Williston State College Foundation Board, a responsibility that he enjoyed so much that he continued in that position even after having moved to Lakeville.

After playing college baseball at UND-Williston, Jon signed a professional baseball contract with a minor league affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds. Jon played two years of semi-pro baseball.

Jon married Wendy Bendixson on November 25, 1978. This past November they celebrated their thirty-fifth wedding anniversary.

In 1981, Jon fell in love with the second woman of his life when his daughter, Melissa, was born. Jon never tired of attending every piano recital, choir concert, or cheering event. He even coached her traveling basketball team. He was especially proud of Melissa's graduating from college with three different advanced degrees in social work.

In 2011, when Melissa married Richard Simons, Jon now had a son added to his family. Jon loved spending time with Richard, sharing knowledge, teaching him new things, and helping with yard work and other chores.

After college and baseball, Jon eventually became employed by Border States Electric, where he remained until his move to Lakeville, Minnesota, upon his retirement in 2013.

Jon was an active member of First Lutheran Church until he moved to Lakeville. He was a member of the Mission Committee for several years and was revered as the lutefisk-pan cleaning wizard at the yearly lutefisk and meatball dinners. Jon's religion was important to him, and he seldom missed a request or opportunity to serve.

As a birthday present in 1978, Jon received a membership in the Loyal Order of the Moose and had remained a member for thirty-five years.

Jon enjoyed sports of all types: he especially enjoyed watching Williston Coyote and Williston State College Teton sporting activities with his wife Wendy. He loved to work in the yard, working in his small vegetable garden, and especially helping Wendy with her never-ending flower planting. Jon enjoyed relaxing with a good book on the beach or on a patio; he enjoyed vacations in Mexico with friends; he enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. Very simply, Jon enjoyed and loved life. He was a quiet person, a person from whom one could rarely, if ever, hear words of anger or frustration.

Jon is survived by his wife, Wendy, of Lakeville; his daughter Melissa (Rich), Simons, of Burnsville, Minnesota; two brothers: Keith (Inge) Ellefson, of Ozark, Alabama; and Tim (Donna) Ellefson of Mountain Top, Pennsylvania; his mother-in-law, Kay Bendixson, of Williston; two brothers-in-law: Kirby (Terri) Bendixson, of Williston; and Danny Bendixson, of Colorado Springs, Colorado; a sister-in-law, Renee Bendixson, of Williston, and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins; as well as countless friends whose lives have been deeply affected by his passing.

Jon was preceded in death by Karl and Ruth Ellefson, his parents; his father-in-law, LeRoy Bendixson; his brother-in-law, Cary Bendixson, and cousin Marshall Wisdahl.





NAMING OPTIONS

Want to show your support? WSC Foundation has some new naming opportunities. Benches and trees will serve as the perfect long-lasting memorial for a loved one or as a way to showcase you or your business's support for WSC. Contemporary wood and metal benches are available for \$5,000 each. A variety of trees are available for \$500 each.

NEW SCHOLARSHIP

Williston State College Foundation has supported students in their pursuit of education for over fifty years. With over one million dollars in scholarships to award annually, they have made certain that students at WSC receive an affordable, quality education. This fall the foundation has a new and exciting scholarship to offer to regional students: the Teton Promise.

The Teton Promise scholarship, which will be awarded to one hundred area students, will pay half a student's tuition for two years. Students graduating with the class of 2014 in Williams, McKenzie, Mountrail, Burke, and Richland Counties with a 2.0 GPA or higher will automatically qualify for the scholarship, though they will still need to apply to receive the award.

To get the process started, individuals must apply for admission to Williston State College. There are a limited number of scholarships available for students from each county, so interested students should get started as soon as possible.

While the Teton Promise will prove to be a great opportunity for many area students, the WSC Foundation urges all students to explore the numerous other scholarships they provide. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are still available and can be viewed by visiting the "Scholarship" section under "Financing Your Education" at www.willistonstate.edu.

For more information regarding the Teton Promise, please visit www.willistonstate.edu/tetonpromise or contact Leah Windnagle at 701.774.4210 or wsc.tetonpromise@willistonstate.edu.

DMV/PASSPORTS

WSC Foundation-Passport Acceptance Facility is pleased to announce that it now accepts passport applications on behalf of the U.S. Department of State. U.S. citizens planning international travel may apply for their passports Monday-Thursday 8-4 and Friday 8-2. They are located at 721 E Highland Drive, Suite D, in the same office as the DMV.

Fees for passports:

Fee for a passport book is \$110 for adults and \$80 for children age 15 and under.

Fee for a passport card is \$30 for adults and \$15 for children age 15 and under (note: passport cards are only good for travel by land or sea to Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, and the Caribbean).

There is an execution fee of \$25 for each application processed for books and cards.

Photos can be taken in the office at a cost of \$15.

For applications forms, information on documentation required, fees, and a wealth of other passport and international travel information, visit the only official website for passport information: www.travel.state.gov.

AWARDS

The 16th Annual Williston Economic Development Appreciation & Awards Luncheon was held May 8 at the Grand Williston Hotel & Conference Center. WSC Foundation Executive Director Terry Olson accepted the Community Achievement Entrepreneur of the Year award on behalf of the foundation.

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