Hats Off! ... To You

By Jim Gibson

It is such a personal treat to renew acquaintances with former colleagues, old friends and former students. The special “Open House” event held August 1 at Farmamerica was personally gratifying because there were so many alumni and faculty/staff that came back to Waseca to celebrate our lives and work together. When any one of us is successful, we are all successful. With the evident successes shared by those who were able to attend the reunion, it is wonderful to again realize the privilege we each have had in each other’s lives and to have been a part of the collective positive difference our UMW/SSA family makes in our world.

A number of years ago, the UMW/SSA Alumni Association recognized me with the MN Ag Award. In looking at the list of those awarded similarly, it is humbling to even have been considered to be of that stature. Among our former students are chief executive officers, agricultural producers, landscape business operators, animal practice managers and technicians, veterinarians, school, college and university faculty, government officials, newspaper editors, childcare business operators, equine and support business managers, farm store department managers, farm organization presidents, agricultural cooperative board members, elected local and county government officers, and...yes, the list goes on from here. In 1992, we did a follow-up study of the graduates of UMW from the first class through the last. We found that as many as 38-43% were indeed owners of their own businesses. This was four times the national average. My guess is that those still in businesses of their own to be similarly spectacular.

The continuing presence of a leadership effort linking former UMW and SSA students together is phenomenal. The most recent class of graduates, at the time of the closing of the college, the class of 1992, finished up 18 years ago. Yet, each year, the alumni event and the newsletter provide both important links to the past and an even more important link to the future. Researchers have found that in addition to educational attainment, one of the most important qualities that differentiates ‘above average’ from the rest, as measured by esteem in the community and income levels, is the geographic distribution of friends and acquaintances. UMW and SSA have been tools through which many have developed connections well beyond the fence row. And that reach continues to live and to grow because it can and because it too makes a positive contribution to our own lives.

Continued on page 4
UMW/SSA Alumni Association  
Board of Directors

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Deanne Nelson

UMW CONNECTION is published three times a year by the UMW/SSA Alumni Association at the Southern Research and Outreach Center, Waseca, MN. Questions or comments about this publication should be addressed to Deanne Nelson, Alumni Coordinator, SROC, 35838 120th St., Waseca, MN 56093-4521. Telephone (507) 835-3620. E-mail: nelso191@umn.edu

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To Receive a Copy of Your Transcript
If you would like to obtain a copy of your transcript from UMW, send your full name, (and maiden name), address, and social security number, along with $5.00 to:

University of Minnesota  
Admissions and Records  
130 Coffey Hall  
1420 Eckles Avenue  
St. Paul, MN  55108  
(612) 624-3731

For RUSH REQUESTS, the charge is $10.

Calendar of Events

Saturday, January 1 .............................................  
Scholarship Applications Due  
Southern Research and Outreach Center  
Waseca, MN

Monday, January 3 ..............................................  
Board Meeting  
Southern Research and Outreach Center  
6:30 p.m.  
Waseca, MN

Monday, April 4 ...................................................  
Board Meeting  
Southern Research and Outreach Center  
6:30 p.m.  
Waseca, MN

Scholarships Available
The Alumni Association of the Southern School of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota, Waseca is again offering scholarships for 2011. Two $500 scholarships will be awarded to any former graduate or former student that completed a minimum of 45 credits while at SSA or UMW and is pursuing a two-year, four-year, or graduate degree. Two $500 scholarships will be awarded to any child or a grandchild of an alumnus. To be eligible for this scholarship, a student’s GPA must be above 3.0. Five $100 scholarships will be awarded to any former UMW or SSA graduate to attend a seminar or short course. Scholarship application deadline is January 1, 2011.

To receive criteria and information on how to apply, write to Alumni Scholarship Committee, Southern Research and Outreach Center, 35838 120th St., Waseca, MN 56093-1. Questions can be directed to Deanne Nelson at (507) 835-3620. Criteria is also posted on the Web at:

http://sroc.cfans.umn.edu/UMWSSA/index.htm
Bonnie Mohr, 2010 MN Ag Award Recipient, along with her husband, John, live on a farm near Silver Lake, just east of Hutchinson. Bonnie is probably this country’s best-known painter of cows. Her work hangs in homes across this country and as many as 30 countries across the globe. Getting a degree in dairy production and communications from the University of Minnesota-Waseca, Mohr worked a few different jobs. She went to shows, studied various pieces of art and artists, and taught herself to paint. She landed a job painting a couple of pictures of bulls for Select Sires. From there she stayed with it. Her business has grown because she has stayed true to herself, painting what she knows, rural scenes, especially cows and barnyard animals. She has marketed her work to audiences in specific ways for the past 20 years. When someone purchases a piece of her work, they are buying a memory. Whether folks grew up on a farm, visited a relative’s farm as a child, or just remember driving by a field, cows are something many people remember from their childhood.

Peter Fog received the 2010 Personal Service Award. Pete arrived in Waseca in 1971 and helped organize the college. He served as the POPs (Pre-Occupational Preparation), an internist program while he taught soils and agronomy classes. He was asked by Acting Provost, Tom Lindahl, to head a committee to "save the college". He worked hard but was unsuccessful. He retired in 1991.

Since his retirement he has been active in the community and volunteer activities. He has been a staunch support and volunteer of Farmamerica since it’s inception in 1978. He is active in the Lions, Methodist Church Council, Senior Citizen’s Board of Directors, and Waseca Retired Teacher’s Association the Waseca Neighborhood Service Center and the DFL.

**Children of Alumni Scholarship Recipients**

**Alex Donnay**
A graduate of Glencoe-Silver Lake High School, I plan to pursue a degree in ag engineering at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls. Both parents, John Donnay (1984) and Connie Sturm (1985) are graduates of UMW.

**Kiersten Schmidt**
I am attending the University of Minnesota, Duluth majoring in athletic training with a minor in coaching. Upon getting my bachelor’s degree I would also like to earn my master’s degree. I would love to teach athletic training at a college in MN and coach high school and or college volleyball and or softball. Both of my parents, Joel Schmidt (1984-1986), and Tracy (Kubat) Schmidt (1985-1987) attended UMW.

**Kristin Schulz**
I graduated from Maple River High School in Mapleton, MN. I attend the U of M, Twin Cities, with a nutrition major. My parents are Carol and Kevin Schulz. My father attended the University of MN-Waseca from fall of 1982 to the spring of 1984. He greatly enjoyed the small community feel of the University.

**Kay Pedretti – former student**
I recently decided to further my education by completing a clinical lab specialist certification. I held a number of leadership positions in various clubs at UMW as well as received national awards in cross country and FFA/PAS. At the conclusion of my career at UMW, I received the Greenleaf Award, the highest honor a horticulture graduate could receive. I went on to earn a bachelor’s and master’s degree with honors and several awards. Most recently my volunteer time has been centered around my church, soccer and girl scouts.
Hats Off! ... To You

Continued from page 1

In my current role as Executive Director of Farmamerica, a part time assignment that began a year ago, a year or so after when my wife and I retired and moved back into the area, I get to meet lots of people. I have enjoyed reconnecting after a 16+ year absence. I still subscribe to that which is often repeated when the FFA Creed is recited by hundreds of thousands of high school students each year. There are many things with agriculture and education in which to have faith, “...for I (and you) know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny.”

Whenever you are in the Waseca area, please come to Farmamerica for a visit. Call first, because I am in the office only a few hours a week, but we will find a time to get together, during office hours or other time. If you wish to just make a contact and bring me up to date on your life, let me also invite you to email.

Jim Gibson, Executive Director Farmamerica and
Associate Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota-Waseca
507-835-2052 (W)
exedir@hickorytech.net

Special Thanks

A sincere thank you to the Faculty and Staff Reunion Planning Committee: Don Collins, Ed Frederick, Jim Gibson, Roy Johnson, Deanne Nelson, and Jonna Moen. They spent many hours via conference call, planning and organizing the successful event at Farmamerica on August 1. Jonna Moen contributed her time and talents to create a greatly appreciated directory that can be found on our Web site at:

Open House in honor of Ed & Shirley Frederick

The children of Ed & Shirley Frederick hosted an 80/60 celebration (80th birthdays and 60th wedding anniversary) open house honoring their parents on Sunday, September 5 at Farmamerica. If you were not aware of the event or unable to attend and would like to send a card, I’m sure they would love to hear from you. Their mailing address is: 39031 State Hwy 13, Waseca, MN 56093.

Board of Directors

Please consider making a contribution to the UMW/SSA Alumni Association. We need to fill positions on the board. The commitment is small, we meet 3 to 4 times per year. The option of joining us through conference call is available. For more information, contact Deanne Nelson at (507) 835-3620.
Thank you!

Did your Address Change?

Remember to tell us your new contact information!
35838 120th St., Waseca, MN 56093
(507) 835-3620
Email: nelso191@umn.edu
Jenny E. Lamont, age 44, of Faribault, died on Saturday, May 8, 2010, at District One Hospital in Faribault. Born July 11, 1965, in St. Cloud, Minn., Jenny was the daughter of Kenneth Henry and Mary Jane (Smith) Kirchenbauer. She grew up and attended school in St. Cloud, Minn., graduating from St. Cloud Technical High School in 1983. She then attended college at the University of Minnesota’s Waseca Campus, before attending Mankato State University where she studied to become a special education teacher. Jenny was married to Thomas M. Lamont in Clear Lake, Minn., on March 15, 1986. Over the course of her life, Jenny taught as a special education teacher both in Medford and Northfield. She enjoyed her work, scrapbooking, reading, following her children’s sporting events and spending time with her grandchildren. She was a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Morristown.

Jenny is survived by her husband, Tom of Faribault; her mother, Mary of Clear Lake, Minn.; four children, Beth, Brent, Bryan and Ben Lamont, all of Faribault; two grandchildren, Mikayla and Haylee Lamont of Faribault; two brothers, James (Eileen) Kirchenbauer of Clear Lake, Minn., and Jason (Crystal) Kirchenbauer of St. Cloud, Minn.; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her father; her maternal and paternal grandparents; and one granddaughter, Bryynn Lamont.

Raymond Joseph Stevermer, age 76, of Easton, died Saturday, May 29, 2010 at his home. Born February 17, 1934 on the Stevermer Family Farm, the son of William H. and Lucille (O’Rourke) Stevermer. On November 23, 1953 he married Margaret Marie Hollinger—they enjoyed 46 years together. Raymond completed grade school at OLMC Catholic School in Easton and graduated from Delevan High School in 1952. He was active in sports—receiving All-Conference recognition for football and basketball. Ray enjoyed boxing as a member of the Easton Boxing Club led by his uncle, Ernest Stevermer. He attended the University of Minnesota Agriculture School for a year. Ray was stationed in Korea with the U.S. Army in 1955 serving 2 years for his country. Following his service, Ray returned home to the family farm and continued to pursue his lifelong passion of operating a diversified Ag operation of swine, corn and soybeans. He was active in the Minnesota Pork Producers Association. Ray was inducted into the Swine Honor Roll; served on the State Board, started the Faribault County Pork Producers Association and awarded the Pork All-American Award in 1971. 4-H was a lifelong interest both as a young boy showing livestock and then as a parent and adult leader. Ray was active in the OLMC Church and served as Trustee of the Parish Council. Through the years, Ray earned numerous awards at various pig shows and the Corn Grower’s Yield Contest. Ray and Margaret were also recognized in 1993 as the Farm Family of the Year for Faribault County. His true passion primarily centered around that of the family farm business. He found great pleasure in driving around to check out the crops. Ray also was a lifelong Yankee baseball fan, enjoyed going to various sporting events, liked to read, hunt and play cards with the “Card Club Group”. He particularly loved playing with his grandchildren and always had a chocolate (or two) to give them for a treat.

He is survived by his wife Margaret of Easton; 6 children: Julie (Patrick) McGonegle of Urbandale, IA; Jacqueline (Kurt) Stevermer-Bakken of Oronoco, Charles (Rebecca) Stevermer of Easton, Joan (Ken Satre) Stevermer of Plymouth, Robert (Brenda) Stevermer of Easton, Sheldon (Kim) Stevermer of Wells; 13 grandchildren: Jack, Laurel, Joshua, Jared, Trent, Jacob, Mason, Riley, Will, Wyatt, Maria, Peyton Ann, Bennett; 3 brothers: Tom Stevermer of Blue Earth, William (Cathy) Stevermer of Blue Earth, Dr. Emmett (Mary) Stevermer of Ames, IA; 3 sisters: Sister Mary Owen of Mankato, Irene Mikkalson of Burnsville, Alice (Lawrence) Kilison of Mankato and numerous nieces and nephews and their families. He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother Paul in infancy; mother and father-in-law: Andrew and Marie Hollinger; brothers-in-law: Jerry Mikkelson; sisters-in-law: Luverne Kuball and James Hollinger.

Teresa Marie (Schulz) Roberts, age 47, of Janesville died Tuesday August 3, 2010, at Saint Mary’s Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota. Teresa passed away peacefully with her family by her side. She had struggled with Lupus for the last fifteen years, and succumbed to the disease after a severe month-long outbreak. The family will be forever grateful to the excellent, caring nurses and physicians at St. Mary’s who brought comfort and relief to Teresa and her family during her extended stay.

Teresa was born December 11, 1962 in Faribault, Minnesota, and grew up in Morristown, graduating from Morristown High School in 1981. She went on to get an associate horticulture degree at UM Agriculture Waseca and then to Mankato State University, receiving bachelor’s degrees in elementary and special education. Teresa and Kent were married in November 1987 and they made their home in Janesville soon after. Over the years, Teresa worked at Fine Impressions in North Mankato from 1989-1995, then ran her own day care business from 1995-2005. She currently served as a paraprofessional at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School in Janesville, a job she truly loved.

Simply put, Teresa loved life, especially camping, bike riding, spending time with friends, working with the 4-H Club, and most of all, being with her family who she loved more than anything. She was proud of her four children: Rachael, her little companion and big hugger; Allison, who she saw become a caring young woman; Nathan, the quiet and always willing workhorse, who is now a junior at Southwest State University; and Zach, the eldest, whose college graduation she attended last May at UM Morris, and who was to be working in the same school district with her this fall as a choir teacher. And most of all, Teresa was
Obituaries continued

Teresa Marie (Schulz) Roberts continued
the absolute love and anchor of husband Kent’s life. She had an incredibly positive influence on her entire family and will be sadly missed by all.

Teresa is survived by husband, Kent, sons Zachary and Nathan, and daughters Allison and Rachael, all of Janesville; parents, Georgeanne and Roger Schulz of Morristown; sisters Debbie (Brad) Sammon and Diane (Arnell) Anderson, both of Morristown; mother-in-law, Verona Roberts of Mankato; sisters-in-law Diane (Dan) Florio of Acton MA and Marna (Keith) Hollingsworth of Rapid City SD; and brothers-in-law, Craig Roberts of St. Paul and Jeff Roberts of Newton MA. She is also survived by many loving aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and many wonderful and caring friends including best friend Sandy Preuss of Elysian and the family dog, Roxie. She was preceded in death by her grandparents Leo and Dorothy Schulz, and Edmund and Florence Langevin, and father-in-law Lyle Roberts.

Below are names of alums we have lost contact with. If you know where they are, please help and provide an updated mailing address to: nelso191@umn.edu or Deanne Nelson 35838 120th St., Waseca, MN 56093. Thank you.

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<td>Michelle Daniels</td>
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<td>Roger Halverson</td>
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Rodney R. Peterson I was a student at UMW 1976 - 1979. I came from a century family farm in Freeborn County. As the only son, I went back to the farm full-time after graduating from UMW. I married Teresa Rogers from Albert Lea and by 1987 decided to leave farming to pursue a legal degree from William Mitchell College of Law. I started practicing law in Dodge County in 1990. I joined the National Guard while attending UMW and continued until last December when I retired, after 32 years, achieving the rank of Colonel. I am currently working full-time with the St. Paul Corps of Engineers as a civilian and commute every day from Kasson, MN at the Rochester campus. My oldest, Robyrta, just starting her first year of college at the University of St. Catherine's. We have 3 lovely teenage children. The family farm is minus 20 degrees back home. 

L Joe Afseth Attended UMW 1977-1979 majored in Livestock Production/Dairy Emphasis. Since starting my own DJ business part-time in 1998, have went solely full-time as of 2003, when separated and then divorced in 2004. Love what I do, serve GREAT TRISTATE areas of SW Wisconsin, ALL of home state MN, and LOTS of Iowa….I would not be a good board member, though I LOVE to read up on past alumni…115 1st Ave SW, Harmony, MN, 55939, 507-438-7802: 115kdjoe@harmonytel.net

Vickie Mickelson-Anderson 1982 Married to Darren Andersen September 1986. We have one son, Devin, age 17. I work as a licensed veterinary technician at Southgate Veterinary Hospital in Fargo, ND. 3602 Co Hwy 33, Twin Valley, MN 56584. (218) 584-5464.

Tom Bernhardt 1984 Bonnie and I will be celebrating our 23rd wedding anniversary this fall. I am a full-time driver at UPS and cover routes around the St. Cloud area. Bonnie, is a lab tech at Creative Memories. We have 2 daughters, Elizabeth and Brianna. Elizabeth is majoring in physics with an applied math minor at the University of St. Catherine’s. Brianna starts at U of MN Crookston this fall. She is planning on majoring in ag education. We spend our free time with our dogs, racing dirt bikes and riding street motorcycles. 201 8th St. N, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379.

Carl Piske I graduated from UMW in August of 1986 with a degree in food marketing and distribution. I have been in the mortgage industry for the last 15 years and I also owned a restaurant from 2003 to 2007. I have 2 daughters, the oldest is just finishing her freshman year in college and the younger one has finished her sophomore year in high school.

I enjoy golfing and my youngest daughter and my mom usually play on Saturday mornings. I also enjoy traveling and I have been all over the United States. I have even been to Acapulco, Mexico twice, what a great way to spend a week, when it is minus 20 degrees back home. 130 Greenfield Lane, West Salem, WI 54669, 608-317-0707 chpiske@aol.com.

Ryan Eberhart 1992 After graduating from UMW in the spring 1992 (proud member of the last class) I transferred to Mankato State University. I switched my focus to law enforcement and graduated from MSU in 1995. I was hired part-time by the Lake Crystal Police Department. In the spring of 1997, I took a full-time job with the St. James Police Department. While in St. James I met my wife Dawn (Sizer). We welcomed our first child, Alexandra, in November 1998. In fall of 2000, I took a job with the St. Peter Police Department where I am currently employed. In June 2006, our 2nd child, Allan, was born.

I enjoy the daily challenges that my job presents to me. When I started at UMW in the fall of 1990, I really didn’t have a "life plan". I had always wanted to take over the family farm and really thought of nothing else. The staff at UMW, in particular my advisor, Mark Wilson, assisted me in making critical life decisions. After taking a psychology class, my focus began to shift to helping others. Law enforcement has been a good fit for me and I don’t regret it. I still help my father and brother on the farm when I can. I believe my farm upbringing and the UMW experience have made me a very well-rounded person! I still keep in touch with many alumni and they are some of my best friends! 731 Upper Johnson Circle, St. Peter, MN 56082, 507-934-3296 eber@mchsi.com

Faculty

Nancy (Harms) Thorson I taught history for 2 years in the 60’s at SSA. After that, I studies at AZ State for a degree in sociology then taught at Minneapolis Roosevelt, went back to school at the U of MN to be a librarian, worked at the State Library in St. Cloud where I answered strange questions like "did it ever rain alligators?" or "how can I build my own submarine?" I worked at the Red Wing Library and then at the Red Wing Book Store and have my own store now in my house. I have a 2-year old granddaughter, Emma, I have traveled to Europe three times and to New Zealand three times. Besides the bookstore, I volunteer at the Sheldon Theater, Historical Society, Girl Scouts, Church, Library and Friends of the Library. 103 W 7th St., Red Wing, MN 55066, (651) 388-6421.
UMW/SSA Alumni, Faculty, and Staff
Where are you?!

In order to have your current name and address in our database, it is important that we hear from you. If you have already sent in your personal history, we appreciate it. We would also appreciate the names of any friends you know of that may not be on our mailing list. Please complete the form below so your update can be published in the next edition of The Connection, include your E-mail address, and send the form below to: nelso191@umn.edu, or Alumni Association, Southern Research and Outreach Center, 35838 120th St., Waseca, MN 56093-4521.

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<td>Please provide a summary of your personal history, (achievements, family, community activities, hobbies, travels, etc).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I am interested in serving on the Association board □ yes □ no