

the

# UMW CONNECTION

UMW/SSA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

April 2017

## 2017 Scholarship Recipients

By Dillon Gratz

My parents are Bradley and JoAnn Gratz. My father graduated from the University of Minnesota Waseca in the spring of 1983. I am currently a senior at ACGC High School. Our family dairy and crop operation is north of Atwater. We currently milk 65 Holsteins as well as grow corn, soybeans, and alfalfa. I am active in 4-H, FFA, football, NHS, band, and activities on the farm. I plan on attending South Dakota State University this fall. I intend to major in dairy science. I am excited for college as I have seen and heard about the connections my father made at the University of Minnesota Waseca. After graduation, I want to complete an internship at a dairy and then return to the family farm. Eventually, I hope to expand the family dairy operation. I am very grateful to receive this scholarship.



By Juliana M. Pederson

Currently I am a freshman at South Dakota State University majoring in biology. I am interested in pursuing a degree in Physical Therapy or in the medical field. My parents are Bruce and Jane Pederson of Westbrook, MN. My mother, Jane (Schuneman) Pederson, graduated from UMW in the spring of 1987 with an A.A.S Degree in Agricultural Office Management, Administrative Assistant Emphasis. She attended from the fall of 1985 to the spring of 1987.



## 50th REUNION

Class of 1967  
Friday, September 29

We are attempting to locate several class members: Charmane Roemhildt, Jerry Southworth, Karen Friedland, Steve Nelson, Jim Grassman, Jim Jones, and Curt Bergemann. If anyone has info regarding these classmates, please contact Marie ([651-380-5164](tel:651-380-5164)) [mbtipcke@yahoo.com](mailto:mbtipcke@yahoo.com). Thank you - Marie Brandts Tipcke

## UMW / SSA Alumni Association Board of Directors

### Executive Board:

President..... Cindy Glamm  
Vice-President ..... David Weinand  
Secretary ..... Rochelle Compart

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### Alumni Association Coordinator:

Deanne Nelson

UMW CONNECTION is published two 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](mailto:nelso191@umn.edu)

The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation.

### *Did your Address Change?*

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contact information!*

35838 120<sup>th</sup> Street  
Waseca, MN 56093  
(507) 835-3620

Email: [nelso191@umn.edu](mailto:nelso191@umn.edu)

# Calendar of Events

- Sunday, August 13 .....  
**Annual Board Meeting 1:00 p.m.**  
*Everyone Welcome!*  
Indian Island Winery  
Janesville, MN
- Monday, October 23 .....  
**Board Meeting**  
Southern Research and Outreach Center  
6:30 p.m.  
35838 120<sup>th</sup> Street  
Waseca, MN
- Labor Day Weekend 2018.....  
**Waseca All-School Reunion  
Sesquicentennial Celebration  
Waseca**

## 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 \$12.00:

To: University of Minnesota  
Transcript Services  
130 Coffey Hall  
1420 Eckles Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
(612) 626-4432

We also offer an online ordering system that can be used even if the alum does not have an active U of M Internet ID. As part of that online ordering system, transcripts can now be sent by PDF (again, for \$12 per transcript). Full information about ordering official transcripts can be found online at:

[http://onestop.umn.edu/grades\\_and\\_transcripts/official\\_transcripts/](http://onestop.umn.edu/grades_and_transcripts/official_transcripts/)

## Electronic Newsletter

If you would like to receive the Alumni Newsletter electronically please send your email address to [nelso191@umn.edu](mailto:nelso191@umn.edu). Please indicate the current mailing address your newsletter has been mailed to. I will add you to the email database and you will no longer receive a hard copy mailed to you. THANK YOU for helping us reduce costs if this option will work for you.

## Save the Date 55 Year Class Reunion

The SSA class of 1962 will celebrate 55 years since graduation. A reunion will be held at the Best Western (BW) Hotel in North Mankato, MN on Saturday, **September 16, 2017**. Social time begins at 4 PM followed by dinner at 5:30 PM. The cost for the dinner and evening will be \$25.00 per person.

For more information call Judi (Ahlborn) Thiesse (507-317-1853) or Harlan Holmquist (952-808-2634). To register, please send your information and check to Judi Thiesse, PO Box 960, Lake Crystal, MN 56055.

If a member of another class from SSA would like to join the class of 1962 that evening, we would enjoy having you join us.

You can make a hotel reservation by calling 507-625-9333. Please indicate that you are attending the Waseca Ag School reunion 55 to get the group rate. The group rate will be available until one month before the reunion. (August 16, 2017) The hotel room also includes a hot buffet breakfast.

We are looking forward to seeing our high school friends, spouses, significant others, etc for an evening of good times together.

## Grass and Sons Seed Named Premier Seedsman

UM Waseca alumni, Dave Lunning of LeRoy MN. His family business Grass and Sons Seed was recently recognized as a "Premier Seedsman" by the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association.

Grass and Sons Seed of LeRoy has been in the seed business for over 70 years. Grass and Sons was presented with the "Premier Seedsman Award" during the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA).

The award, presented annually since 1929, recognizes individuals or businesses that have demonstrated a long-term commitment to the production and promotion of high quality certified seed as well as being active in MCIA and their local community.

Nels Grass got the family started in the business as a dealer for Cashman Seeds of Owatonna and later Zimmerman Seeds of Racine. The Zimmerman Seed dealership was passed on to his son, John Grass, Sr., and two grandsons, John Grass, Jr. and Richard Grass. Those three grew the business and began cleaning and selling certified seed oats.

John Grass, Jr. and his wife Sharon continued to expand the seed business under the guidance and support of MCIA Field Supervisor, Marly Gehring. In 1981 they joined MCIA, purchased a small cleaning mill, and began processing certified soybeans and seed oats. During this time, their five sons joined the family farming and seed cleaning operation and Grass and Sons Seed was born.

In 1992 Grass and Sons Seed built a seed cleaning facility at its current location on the family farm. Since then more warehouse space has been added and, in recent years, a seed treater and color sorter have been installed in the conditioning and packaging facility. John and Sharon became stockholders and part owners of Gold Country Seed in 1995, thanks to encouragement from Mike Willette and Bob Jackson. They continue to be producers and retailers for Gold Country Seed.

The business continued to grow and in 1994 son Dave Lunning became involved on a full-time basis. A few years later, John and Dave began to custom clean and package organic and non-GMO food-grade soybeans. To meet a growing demand for seed and grain, they began contracting with local farmers to produce food-grade soybeans, soybean seed, and seed oats. Today they also produce and process seed for several private companies.

MCIA members for many years, Grass and Sons have utilized the seed certification and quality assurance programs, and their seed conditioning and bulk handling facilities are MCIA Approved. Dave has also served on the MCIA Approved Facilities committee.

Continued on page 4

Continued —GRASS AND SONS SEED NAMED PREMIER SEEDSMAN

The Grass family is known for their Simmental beef cattle operation as well. They are active in several agricultural organizations, including the Minnesota and American Simmental Association, the local cattlemen's group, Farm Bureau, Midwest Shippers, and Global Organic Alliance. They have also been involved locally. Dave has served on the local school board, the LeRoy Community Foundation and Economic Development Authority, and as a church elder.

In 2008 Dave and Jody took over ownership of the business from John and Sharon. Today their children Lindsay and Grant are the fifth generation of the family to be involved in the family seed business. Upon accepting the award Dave said, "We are grateful for the recognition and very proud of the family legacy and hope that it can continue for many years to come."

The award was presented at the MCIA Annual Meeting on January 5th in Fergus Falls.

#### About MCIA

Founded in 1903, MCIA continues its role as Minnesota's official seed certification agency. A member-based organization, MCIA also provides a wide range of other services, including Identity Preserved grain certification, Quality Assurance programs, forage and mulch certification, and native seed certification. MCIA is an accredited organic certification agency and the Foundation seed program serves as the exclusive agent for the marketing of University of Minnesota agronomic crop varieties.

## Alum Update

George & Sandra (Thompson) Bolles celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary early on October 8, 2016 with a meal of 175 in attendance at South Zumbro Lutheran Church, Kasson, MN. Afterward music, visiting and more snacks and refreshments. Four of George's classmates from SSA attended. It was good to see many folks and we had a good time visiting.

Richard Renkly 1954

Married to Eunyce for 62 years. We had two boys and one girl. My oldest boy was killed in a car train accident at the age of 20. I retired in 1987 after farming for 30 years in SD. I own 1100 acres of land. Our second son and his two sons farm my land and about 4000 acres of other land. We have six grandchildren and nine great grand children (ages 6 to 18). 45722 Hwy 14, Arlington SD 57212.

The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce & Ambassadors held their Annual Community Awards Event on Saturday, January 28. Congratulations to Scott Singlestad, Waseca County Distinguished Agricultural Leadership Award recipient. Scott's wife Vicky was a 1978 graduate of UMW.

## Board of Directors - members needed

We are looking for individuals willing to serve on the UMW / SSA Alumni Association board of directors. The commitment is small, we meet three to four times per year. The opportunity to join the meetings via conference call /Google Hangout is also an option (high speed internet service is necessary). If interested please contact Deanne Nelson (507) 835-3620 / [nelso191@umn.edu](mailto:nelso191@umn.edu). You can also contact David Weinand at: [dweinand@yahoo.com](mailto:dweinand@yahoo.com).

Thank you for any consideration you may give to this request!

## 50th MN Pork Congress honors Family of the Year



Chris and Rochelle Compart  
both graduated from  
UMW in 1988.  
Rochelle currently serves as  
secretary to the Alumni  
Association Board.

*Congratulations!*

By MN Pork Board

Rooted in family tradition, attentiveness to customer needs and objective data, Dean and Kaye Compart, Jim and Diana Compart, Chris and Rochelle Compart along with their parents Bonnie and the late Richard Compart have built a business that creates opportunity for family farmers to remain independent and raise high quality pork for restaurants, retailers and individuals across the United States.

In 1949 Richard Compart started a 4-H project that consisted of two duroc gilts and a boar. Little did he know, the same project that would start an extremely successful family business would also enable him to meet his wife, Bonnie, at the Minnesota State Fair.

The couple was married in 1955 and after two years of military service, combined their passion for purebred swine genetics to start selling breeding stock through on-farm production sales. Since its inception, the Compart program has been built around performance testing.

In fact, the Compart family was the first breeders in Minnesota to start an on-farm performance testing program and was very involved in the Minnesota Swine Evaluation Station in New Ulm, MN. In an effort to be the go-to source for farmer's maternal and terminal genetic needs the Compart family introduced Hampshire, Yorkshire and Landrace genetics into the business.

In their peak, the Compart family was selling 1800 boars annually. In total they hosted 97 production sales with the final sale taking place in 1998. Though the on-farm production sales ended in the late nineties, Compart's continue to be in the purebred breeding stock, F1 gilt and semen business to this day.

One of the greatest fears for purebred seedstock producers in the late nineties was Pseudorabies. On January 28, 1987, the Compart Family received the news they had feared, their 400 head sow farm had contracted Pseudorabies resulting in immediate quarantine and the inability sell breeding stock.

"At the time it was devastating," said Dean Compart. "We knew we needed to be resilient and adapt."

In 1987, the Compart Family built two Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) farms. The addition of the SPF farms allowed them to preserve their genetics through cesarean derived piglets that were Pseudorabies free. This opened new doors for customers who desired high-health pigs.

In the early nineties, the National Pork Producers Council administered the National Genetic Evaluation program in which purebred genetics were evaluated on their performance, meat quality and overall eating experience. The Compart family supplied 80 percent of the Duroc genetics evaluated in the program. Recognizing they had something special, the National Genetic Evaluation program proved to be a catalyst for the development of the Compart Family Farms branded meat program which was launched in 2002.

Driven by their desire to have objective performance data and the drive to deliver the highest quality pork possible, the Compart Family built a nursery and finisher research facility. The facility was designed to help Compart's understand the nutritional requirements of their genetic lines.

"For us, it isn't about lowest cost production," said Jim Compart. "The superior quality of Premium Compart Duroc Pork is the result of carefully managed breeding and a proprietary nutritional program."

Today, Compart Family Farms harvests 1,800 head per week for their branded meat program and their meat can be found in white table cloth restaurants across the United States.

"We have always wanted people to want our product not just take our product," said Jim Compart.

At a time where consumers are increasingly curious about where their food comes from, Compart's feel they were ahead of the curve sharing the story of their family farm.

*Continued on page 6*

## Family of the Year *continued*

“We are proud of the product that we raise,” said Chris Compart. “We are fortunate to be able to work with family and provide other families with the opportunity to be successful as well.”

Compart's success and diversification has created opportunity for Kyle, Robbie and Dan Compart, the third generation of the Compart Family, to join the family business.

Being recognized as the 2017 Family of the Year is seen as a great honor for the Compart Family.

“Being on the forefront can sometimes result in critics,” said Dean Compart. “It takes a family to make the business successful. It is an honor to be recognized as a family for the work that we have done.”

Compart's have found success in managing everyone's strengths empowering, them to find their niche and do purposeful, rewarding work.

Service to the community, especially youth organizations like 4-H, is very important the Compart's. They see how these organizations have allowed their family to cultivate relationships and teach life lessons like sportsmanship, integrity and the importance of a strong work ethic.

The Compart Family has persevered through adversity and guided by their passion, foresight and family values have thrived.

“We have believed in the vision for our business since day one.” said the Compart's, “We are incredibly proud of the opportunities we have provided and the brand that we have built.”

## Looking for a few lost college friends:

Last known information from the Albert Lea area, looking for Mike Johanson. Another classmate I suspect married and don't have her married name but her maiden name at the time was Julie Rollings. She was originally from Devils Lake, ND. If anyone can help locate either please contact Deanne at (507) 835-3620 or [nelso191@umn.edu](mailto:nelso191@umn.edu). Thank you!

# Scholarships Available

The Alumni Association of the Southern School of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota, Waseca will again offer scholarships.

Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded to  
any child or a grandchild of an  
alumnus with a GPA above 3.0.

Must be a high school graduate or  
current college freshman.

Scholarship criteria will be available after  
October 1.

**Deadline is January 5, 2018**

Criteria and information on how to apply, will be available  
on the Web at: <https://sroc.cfans.umn.edu/about/alumni>

or write to Alumni Scholarship Committee,  
Southern Research and Outreach Center  
35838 120th St., Waseca, MN 56093-4521.

Questions can be directed to:  
Deanne Nelson at (507) 835-3620.

# Obituaries

**David D. Sodeman, 76**, passed away on November 29, 2016 at his home in Corvallis, OR.

He was born on June 6, 1940 in Mankato, MN to Henry Robert Sodeman and Margret Louise (Bradley) Sodeman.

David grew up in St. Clair, Minnesota, on a rural family farm with his brothers, Don and Dan Sodeman. He graduated from Southern School of Agriculture in Waseca, Minnesota, in 1958.

David joined the Navy in January 1959 and served for 20 years. He retired from military service in January 1979 achieving the rank of chief petty officer.

He began work for Evanite Fiber Corporation in 1983, a manufacture of materials for filtration, battery separator and industrial applications located in Corvallis where he worked for 10 years. He also worked at Hewlett Packard as a clean room sanitation specialist. He retired in 2003 after nine years.

David married Charlene in Philomath. They were happily married for 23 years.

David was a member of Fraternal Order of Eagles (FOE). He enjoyed camping, boating and fishing at Green Peter Reservoir with family and friends.

He is survived by his sons, James W. Sodeman and wife Michelle of Elmira; daughters Debbie L. Roelle and husband Jim of Wenatchee, Washington, and Penny S. Moloso and husband Chris of Quincy, Washington; brother Daniel Sodeman and wife Cheryl of Janesville, Minnesota; sister-in-law Sue Sodeman of Monticello, Minnesota; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

David was preceded in death by his wife, Charlene Ann (Hawk) Sodeman; parents Henry R. and Margret L. (Bradley) Sodeman; brother Donald G Sodeman; and son Michael T. Sodeman.



**Ferne Marian Roesler**, age 83 of Waseca, passed away at her home on March 3, 2017.

Born in Ames, Iowa on April 4, 1933, Ferne was the daughter of Nels and Hazel (Soma) Johnson. Her family moved to a farm near East Chain where Ferne graduated from high

school in 1951. She graduated from Lutheran Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing as a Registered Nurse in 1954. She was married to Dayton D. Roesler on May 17, 1955 in Kaiserslautern, Germany where Dayton was stationed in the Army. They were married in the city hall in the morning and a second ceremony was held in the army chapel in the afternoon. They returned to Waseca in March of 1956. Ferne worked as an RN at

the Waseca Hospital, Faribault State Hospital, Lakeshore Inn Nursing Home, and Waseca Technical College until it closed in 1992. She was active in the Girl Scouts becoming president of the council from 1988 until 1992. She was also a volunteer for the American Red Cross for 35 years, the American Cancer Society, and was a member of Toastmasters and the Sweet Adelines. She was active in her church, sang in the choir and as a soloist, participated in the United Methodist Women and Circle, and visited the elderly. Her hobbies were knitting, crocheting, and reading. She will be remembered for her poetry and creating her own greeting cards. Her joy was rocking and reading to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Ferne is survived by her husband of 61 years, Dayton of Waseca; two daughters, Jacki (Roger) Peterson of Mora, and Denise (Bob) Hohrman of Eden Prairie; two sons, Brian (Lisa) Roesler of Mahtomedi, and David (Jennifer) Roesler of Minneapolis. Also surviving are a special daughter, Diane (Brian) Hanson of Grand Meadow; thirteen grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and one sister, Phyllis A. Stewart.

**Lyndon Brent Kunkel**, age 56, of Good Thunder, died Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at his home.

Lyndon was born April 29, 1960, in Mankato.

He was the son of Raymond and Irene (Bartsch) Kunkel. Lyndon was a graduate of Wellcome Memorial High School in Garden City.

He received Associates Degrees from the University of Minnesota, Waseca and Faribault Vo-Tech.

He was united in marriage to Kimberly Truebenbach on February 9, 1985, in Rapidan.

Lyndon was employed with Crysteel Manufacturing and became a full-time farmer at the age of 40.

He was a member of Hosanna Lutheran Church in Mankato. Lyndon enjoyed running, fishing, sitting on his dock enjoying nature, and spending time with family and friends.

Lyndon is survived by his wife, Kim of Good Thunder; two sons, Eric (Molly) Kunkel and Paul (Jodi) Kunkel, all of Mankato; one grandson, Cale Lyndon Kunkel; mother, Irene Kunkel of Mankato; siblings, Marlys (Lowell) Evenson of Mankato, Dennis (Connie) Kunkel of Brentwood, TN, Derek Kunkel of Waseca, Paula (John) Schuster of Maple Lake, and Lyle (Trudy) Kunkel of Mankato; parents-in-law, Wes and Tammy Truebenbach of Cleveland; sister-in-law, Deb Hagel of Faribault; also nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, other family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Raymond; an infant sibling; great-uncle, Paul Kunkel; brother-in-law, John Hagel; nephew, Stefan.

# 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](mailto:nelso191@umn.edu), or **Alumni Association, Southern Research and Outreach Center, 35838 120<sup>th</sup> St., Waseca, MN 56093-4521.**

Name		Maiden
Address		City, State, Zip
Phone Number		Faculty/Staff/Student
E-mail Address	Major	Qtr/Yr of Graduation
Please provide a summary of your personal history, (achievements, family, community activities, hobbies, travels, etc).		
I am interested in serving on the Association board <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		

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