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# UMW CONNECTION

UMW/SSA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

April 2019

## 2019 Scholarship Recipients



Max Salzer – Currently, I am a high school senior, at Barnum High School. I intend to receive a bachelor's degree in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering within four years time or less. As a part of my college experience, I hope to receive an internship, common to many engineering majors, in my junior year to broaden my horizons and solidify what I will be looking for in the workforce. With the position I intend on taking on, I fully believe I will be able to solve worldly problems and help the people around us live without the conflicts I will work to

resolve. If at all possible, I hope to find a job in the intermediate area, specifically close to my parents, Troy and Christine, both 1992 University of Minnesota Waseca graduates.



My name is Rebecca Morgan and I am currently a senior at Waseca High School. My parents are Keith and Lori Morgan and my dad attended the University of Minnesota Waseca in the spring of 1982. I also have a younger brother named Andrew. I am involved in a number of things including band, basketball, track and field where I'm a captain, Minnesota Honor Society, math team, Science Olympiad, FFA, and 4-H. I was also the manager for our varsity football team that qualified for state this fall. I am planning to attend SDSU to major in pharmacy this fall.

Following school, I plan to enter the pharmacy profession in the field of either pharmacogenetics or as a pediatric pharmacist in a hospital setting. I hope to work in a somewhat rural setting either here in southern Minnesota following graduation or up on the North Shore, since I'm not much of a city girl.

## 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!

# UMW / SSA Alumni Association Board of Directors

Executive Board:

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

Directors:

Patrick Bowen, Colleen Carlson, Bill Chard, Rochelle Compart, Dennis Gartner, Cindy Glamm, Dale Huelsnitz, Sonia (Henderson) McNally, Jane Mittelsteadt, Barb Paulson, Dave Schlauderaff, Kevin Schulz, Ginny Truwe, and Dave Weinand

Ex-Officio Members:

Ed Frederick, Roger Walker, Tim Penny and Forrest Izuno

Alumni Association Coordinator:

Deanne Nelson

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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)

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### *Did your Address Change?*

*Remember to report  
new 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

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- Tuesday, June 11 .....  
Taste of the Farm  
Farmamerica  
Waseca, MN
  - July 17-21 .....  
Waseca County Free Fair  
Waseca, MN
  - Sunday, August 11 .....  
**Annual Board Meeting 1:00 p.m.**  
*Everyone Welcome!*  
Indian Island Winery  
Janesville, MN
  - Tuesday, August 13 .....  
Farm Camp MN  
Farmamerica  
Waseca, MN
  - Thursday, September 12.....  
Open House  
4-8:00 p.m.  
Southern Research and Outreach Center  
Waseca, MN
  - Monday, October 21 .....  
Board Meeting  
Southern Research and Outreach Center  
6:30 p.m.  
Waseca, MN
- 

## 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.

# 1968 Celebrates 50 years

The Class of 1968 celebrated their 50th reunion September 7th & 8th in Wabasha. There were 30 classmates attending.

Thanks to Mary (Mahoney) Shefland for sharing the picture.



Front row: Calvin Farmer, Linda (Pahl) Bolles, Vivian (Larson) May, Renita (Britton) Goodrich, March (Mahoney) Shefland, Dianne (Lund) Johnson, Lorraine (Butler) Mueller, Sharon (Noske) Zelazny, Darlene (Hanf) Kukuczka, Connie (Wiederhoeft) Krusemark

Middle row: Rich Bromley, Myron Schmidt, Larry Summers, John Bonow, Rodney Beuch, John Shefland, Dave Blomquist, Eugene Klockmann, Joe Styndl, Doug Payne

Back row: Dave Reinhart, Steve Drewitz, Dave Guse, Stuart Carleton, Bob Brekke, Curt Stendel, Curt Bolles, Rodney Langer, Gary Offerson, Ron Sonnenberg

## *Calling all UMW football players*

We would love to reach out and get as many former UMW football players to come for a get together! **WHEN:** Sunday, August 11 **WHERE:** Indian Island Winery, Janesville, MN **TIME:** 1:00 p.m.

If you know a former football player – call and invite them to come, enjoy an afternoon relaxing, visiting and friendship.

**Additional  
way to  
stay  
connected!**



## Brian Thalmann makes a difference in his own community after MARL experience



Note: Brian attended UMW 1986-1988, after graduating with an ag business management degree, he returned to take agronomy classes in 1989. Following UMW, he attended U of MN, St. Paul, graduating in 1991 with an applied economics degree. Brian is a past president of the UMW Alumni Association.

As a sponsor, the U of MN Extension is dedicated in supporting the MARL program. Brian feels “many UMW graduates would be great candidates and should consider applying to the program”. You can find details about MARL and information on how to apply at: <http://www.marlprogram.org/>

**Published Tuesday, April 30, 2019 in SMSU TODAY**

“If you always do what you have always done, you will always get what you always got,” Brian Thalmann, MARL Class V, advises. This quote is at the heart of Thalmann’s leadership experience.

Thalmann, who farms near Plato, MN, with his family, is a 5th generation farmer who farms with his father and his son. Brian and his wife Karen have three children, Eric, Adam and Emily.

Although Thalmann was involved in the Heartland Corn Products (HCP) board of directors before MARL, he greatly expanded his agricultural leadership based on his MARL experiences. “I remember our class was challenged to help organize an event or an organization. So, I worked with our local agriculture teacher and we formed an FFA alumni chapter which is still going strong today,” Thalmann stated. “We are known as the GSL (Glencoe-Silver Lake) Ag Promotors (GAP) which includes agricultural and business leaders from the area school district,” Thalmann explains. One of the major fundraisers they resurrected was the pork chop supper. They have since teamed up with the music department for this event so there is a jazz band concert the same evening. This allows FFA officers and members to be in official FFA dress while they serve the pork chops and when they play in the jazz band.” This helps the community see how active these students are and their leadership roles in many organizations.

This pork chop event is important to the Ag Promotors and in building a connection between the school and community. “Part of our goal was to support agriculture in the schools. We were seeing too many talented kids leave agriculture because they didn’t see it having a bright future. We are building a strong connection so they can see the many different possibilities agriculture presents to them,” Thalmann stated.

Since MARL, Thalmann has also become more involved in MN Corn Growers Association. “They were strong supporters of MARL, so I wanted to have a chance to give back,” Thalmann stated. Since becoming a part of the board, he has served on several state and national action teams and has served as state Treasurer, Vice President and is currently President of the growers organization.

Prior to MARL, Thalmann struggled to think outside the box. “Every year, I build on these skills, and I challenge myself to see different angles before moving forward. Too many leaders and organizations get so caught up in what has always been done,” Thalmann states. Therefore, MARL helped Thalmann understand each perspective is valuable to the final outcome.

“Before MARL, I would be presented with a problem and would work to solve it. Then, someone else would suggest a new way. I would kick myself for not seeing it from other aspects!” Thalmann explains. “Now, I always try to build off MARL training. I no longer jump to conclusions as quickly and look for the opposite side of the story. It may not be the direction I choose to go, but I always want to make sure I understand what the other side is thinking. If I can think about the consequences before they happen, it is so much easier than having to deal with unnecessary consequences later!”

To Thalmann, MARL is an intricate unit of diverse people working with each other to connect with greater Minnesota and beyond. “The exposure to other MARL classmates and their experiences or way of thinking is important to understanding what we all have in common. Finding similarities helps individuals and organizations gain credibility among more sectors,” Thalmann acknowledged. Throughout Thalmann’s MARL experience, he realized regardless of what people believe and which side of an issue they fall, if open-minded without preconceived ideas, everyone has the same basic needs and desires, they just go about them from different angles.

Although many MARL experiences were memorable to Thalmann, he believes his international trip to Cuba had the greatest impact. “Seven years before I traveled to Cuba for MARL, I was on a cruise ship and they announced we were passing Havana, Cuba. At the time, I believed we were doomed if something happened to our ship, however, later, as I stood on the shores of Havana, Cuba, the world became a much smaller place for me.

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

Little did I realize those living in Cuba were people just like you and me.” He recalls being approached by an elderly Cuban woman while he was traveling with MARL. She proclaimed, “We love you. We love Americans.” This assertion surprised Thalmann who learned throughout the international experience that the people are excited to trade with us and they depend on our tourism. “Without MARL,” Thalmann confessed, “I would continue to think of Cuba as a scary land.”

Thalmann believes MARL leaders have the potential to do amazing things for their local communities as well as on the state and national level. “Ag has been really good to my family and me over the years. It is important that I give back to the industry which has impacted my life. I need to tell my story and other MARL and ag leaders need to continue to tell theirs,” Thalmann explains. “After all,” Thalmann continues, “if we aren’t telling our story, someone else is going to tell it for us, and we might not like the way they tell it!”

*Come join us!*

## **Southern School of Agriculture (SSA)**

### **1953-1973**

The Southern School of Agriculture, a high school with grades 9 through 12, specialized in agriculture, business and homemaking, operated six months each in residence and in work experience. The talented and dedicated faculty, staff and nearly 1000 students, continue to have a lasting impact in their communities.

## **University of Minnesota - Waseca**

### **1971-1992**

The University of Minnesota - Waseca, a two-year college, provided a unique blend of technical training and courses in arts and sciences. Students were prepared in agriculture and services to rural areas for career opportunities or for college transfer options. This nationally recognized college touched the lives of nearly 20,000 students. Their achievements attest to the commitment of the student-oriented faculty and staff of UMW.

## **Mission**

The mission of the UMW/SSA Alumni Association is to help support ag education, career opportunities and personal growth and development of the UMW/SSA alumni and their communities. The Association shall provide opportunities for members:

- A. To support and recognize alumni who have become outstanding leaders in their communities.
- B. To support ag education in their communities by providing assistance and services to ag programs (eg., 4-H, FFA, Extension).
- C. To develop networking for further enhancement of career building and opportunities.
- D. To support rural development.
- E. To support outreach programs of the U of M Southern Research and Outreach Center, Waseca.
- F. To develop and foster skills and talents related to becoming capable leaders and successful individuals.
- G. To develop friendships and to find support within the Association.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this Association shall be to encourage, foster, and support the SSA/UMW alumni, U of M Southern Research and Outreach Center, Waseca, and the career areas of our alumni

## Obituaries



**Julie Dummer**, wife of Phillip, age 54, of rural Lafayette passed away Wednesday, May 30, 2018, surrounded by her family at her home in rural Lafayette.

Julie is survived by her husband, Philip Dummer of Lafayette, children, Brittany Dummer of Lafayette, and Tyler Dummer of Hutchinson, mother Jan Schwecke and special friend Wally Brede; sisters, Michelle Lindenfelser (John) of Albertville, Angela Pollard (Darrell) Ham Lake and Susan Schwecke and special friend Charles King of Coon Rapids, MN; father- and mother-in-law Joseph and Marjorie Dummer of New Ulm, brother-in-law Jeff Dummer and special friend, Brandi Sullivan of Brainerd. Nieces, nephews other relatives and friends.

Julie was preceded in death by her father, Leon Schwecke.

Julie Marie Dummer was born in July 13, 1963, in New Ulm, MN. She was the daughter of Leon and Jan (Volk) Schwecke. Julie was baptized as an infant in 1963, and was later confirmed in her faith as a youth in 1976, both at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Winthrop. She received her education in Winthrop and was a 1981 graduate of the Winthrop High School. Julie furthered her education at the University of Minnesota, Waseca earning her Vet. Tech degree.

On June 2, 1990, Julie was united in marriage to Philip Dummer at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Winthrop. After their marriage, the couple resided in Lafayette. Julie was employed at the Nicollet Vet Clinic as a Vet. Tech and most recently at Wakefield Pork for 25 years. Julie and Philip shared 27 years of marriage.

Julie was a member of St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Winthrop, served on several church committees, and taught Sunday School. She was also a Girl Scout Leader.

Julie enjoyed fishing, camping, and gardening. She loved animals and pets. She was a very happy, smiling, strong woman. Julie cherished the time she spent with her family.

Julie passed away on Wednesday, May 30, 2018, at her home in rural Lafayette, surrounded by her family, at the age of 54 years. Blessed be her memory.



**Shirley Marie Ochsner**, Born: Saturday, Sep. 22, 1928, Died: Monday, Mar. 18, 2019

Born in Hartington, Nebraska, to Arthur and Ollie Mengshol, Shirley was raised in a loving family. She was named HHS Valedictorian, in 1946. Shirley matriculated at the University of Nebraska where she met Milton Ochsner of Sutton, Nebraska. They married at the First Congregational Church, Hartington, in 1948.

Early in their careers, they taught or served in administration in rural Nebraska: Newman Grove, Ceresco and Wahoo, before settling into teaching at Wayne State College. In 1960, the Ochsners, which now included 3 children, accepted positions at Mankato State. Shirley sought advanced degrees while teaching and raising a family. Over the course of her professional life, Shirley served on the faculty of what is now known as Minnesota State University - Mankato, The University of Minnesota – Waseca, and Mankato East High School. In retirement Shirley oversaw the furtherance of the Milton A. Ochsner Foundation Award (MSU). Shirley was a participant in, and an advocate of, life-long education.

Among many interests, Shirley enjoyed staying in touch with friends and family, reading, traveling, visiting museums, and bird watching. Over the years, Shirley was a member of Eastern Star, Alpha Chi Omega, Minnesota Education Association, United Methodist Women, P.E.O., Minnesota Historical Society, The University of Minnesota Arboretum and various alumni associations. She was a patron of the arts. Shirley wore "Cornhusker Red" on Saturdays throughout the football season.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers (Arthur and Howard) and her husband of 48 years, Milton. She is survived by 3 children: Keith (Michele) Ochsner, Kaye Ochsner, and Kathleen (David) Sandvik. Shirley adored her 2 grandchildren: Seth (Shannon) and Todd (Leeza), and 2 great-grandchildren Theryn and Leto. Many old friends remain close. She will be dearly missed.

## Obituaries



**Vicki Lynne Gleason**, age 69 of Waterville passed away Tuesday March 5, 2019 at North Memorial Hospital in Robbinsdale, surrounded by loved ones.

Vicki was born July 6, 1949 in Waseca, Minnesota, the daughter of Lloyd H. and Mildred A. (Anderson) Drews. She graduated from Waseca High School in 1967. Vicki was united in marriage to Robert Gleason on September 5, 1970 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca. Vicki began her career as an Administrative Specialist at the Southern School of Agriculture in 1967, and continued on there when the University of Minnesota took over. She retired from the U of M in 2003.

Vicki enjoyed traveling, Girls trips, spending time with family and friends, especially with her nieces and nephews at Bullhead Days in Waterville or shopping with her sisters, playing pull tabs, boating and snowmobiling.

Vicki will be remembered as being so full of life, a loving and charming individual who touched everyone she met with her incredible smile, infectious laugh, and a big hug!

Although Vicki's life was cut short by a tragic accident, we can take comfort knowing that Vicki is now reunited with the love of her life, Bobby.

Vicki was a LIGHT to all who knew her and we are ALL GRATEFUL to have shared time with her on this planet. She was a kindhearted soul who lived life to the fullest. Anyone who was fortunate to have known her can't help but feel blessed. She will live forever within our hearts.

Vicki is survived by her two sisters, Connie (Gary) Frederick of Denmark, Wisconsin and Fayeann (Jerry) Dorn of North Mankato; brothers-in-law, Jim (Jane) Gleason of Waseca, John Gleason of Waseca and Marlyn Peterson of North Mankato; sister-in-law Janet Drews of Albert Lea; nieces and nephews and their spouses and children; cousins and many, many friends.

Vicki was preceded in death by her parents Lloyd and Millie Drews; husband, Bobby Gleason; brother, Roger "Butch" Drews; sister, Carol Peterson; and mother-in-law, Rosella "Roe" Gleason.

## Alum Update

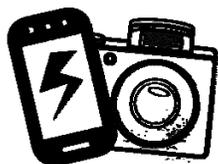
### Ellen Wagner (Christianson)

Graduating class of 1969 177 22<sup>nd</sup> St NW, Owatonna, MN 55060

After graduating, worked a few jobs until finding my talent in cooking and running a kitchen at the halfway house in Owatonna. Married, have 3 children and 3 step-children. I enjoy cooking, collecting cookbooks, making candy and desserts, also writing poems. I am now widowed 3 years, living with my cat.

Ag school will always be in my memory. I loved the time and people I crossed paths with. I think of those 4 years so often.

*Please share your photo's, writing talent, and ideas  
for the next newsletter edition!*



# 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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