

the

UMW CONNECTION

UMW/SSA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

April 2020

Plans are Coming Together for UMW/SSA Reunion at Farmamerica on 8-8-2020

On August 1, 2010 an All Southern School of Agriculture (SSA) and University of Minnesota, Waseca (UMW) reunion was held at Farmamerica. About 250 to 300 people participated. The group agreed they should hold another reunion in 10 years. Plans are moving ahead for 2020. The planning effort is being spearheaded by the UMW/SSA Alumni Association along with a Planning Team.

At the Annual Meeting of the UMW/SSA Alumni Association in August, 2018, the Board agreed to move forward with planning an All School and College Reunion of Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Families in August, 2020. In June and July, 2019 a planning team was assembled and started to meet every month or two.

The Southern School of Agriculture (SSA) started in 1953 and closed in 1973. SSA operated as a high school with grades 9 through 12, specializing in agriculture, business and homemaking, operated six months each in residence and in work experience. The school had approximately 1,000 graduates that continue to have a lasting impact in their communities.

The University of Minnesota, Waseca, (UMW) was a coordinate campus of the University of Minnesota. It was started in 1971 and closed in 1992. UMW was a two-year college, and it 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 options. UMW was a nationally recognized college that touched lives of nearly 20,000 students. Their achievements attest to the commitment of the student-oriented faculty and staff of UMW.

Registration Deadline – July 1, 2020

There is a reunion pre-registration requirement. A fee of \$15 per adult includes: attendance at the reunion, lunch and all activities surrounding the Farmamerica open house. Children can attend the event for \$5 per child.

A check, payable to the University of Minnesota can be mailed to UMW/SSA Alumni Association, 35838 120th Street, Waseca, MN 56093. Please include name and address, email address and phone number. An optional means to become registered has been created using Eventbrite.com. In the search events box type: UMW/SSA. The event will be shown then follow the registration prompts. There is an additional fee of \$1.55 to use this service.

NETWORKING – INFORMAL VISITING

Alumni, Staff and Faculty will have a wonderful opportunity to network all day. In addition, after the group photo at 2:00 PM there will be an opportunity for organized networking. From 2:30 PM until 3:30 PM faculty and staff have agreed to host at round tables in the Visitors Centers. People will be able to move from table to table as they desire. The following Faculty and Staff have already agreed to be present and to host a table:

1. John Fulkrod, Retired Track and Cross Country Coach and Chemistry Professor
2. Roy Johnson, Horse Program
3. Jim Gibson, FFA, 4-H, PAS
4. Tony Seykora, Dairy
5. Tom Yuzer, University Relations
6. Janet Donlin, Veterinary Technology
7. Tom Lindahl, Academic Affairs
8. Pat Hesch Yonker, Home and Family Services
9. Roger Walker, Swine
10. Brad Pedersen, Horticulture

As others respond, they will be added to the group.

For All Event Updates: <https://sroc.cfans.umn.edu>

UMW / SSA Alumni Association Board of Directors

Executive Board:

President Cindy Glamm
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Ex-Officio Members:

Ed Frederick, Roger Walker, Tim Penny and Forrest Izuno

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 Street, Waseca, MN 56093. Telephone (507) 835-3620, Email: nelso191@umn.edu

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Memorabilia

At the reunion there will be SSA/UMW memorabilia and displays available for people to view. There will be photos, scrapbooks, newspapers, sports jerseys, trophies and more on display. Anyone who has a piece or two they would like to share should bring them along. Persons wearing an item from the old days will help us share in the fun.

The Waseca County Historical Society will have SSA and UMW memorabilia at the museum of the Historical Society at 315 2nd Ave. in Waseca during the first week of August for people to view. We are proud of the work of Joan Mooney, Executive Director of the Museum, who originally moved to Waseca for the principal purpose to enroll in the UMW horticulture program....and she stayed on.

Follow us on Facebook



University of Minnesota, Waseca Campus Alumni



Make a weekend of it 8.8.2020 Waseca Lodging

Crossings by Grandstay 507-835-0022

We have reserved the whole hotel for the SSA/UMW Reunion. That's 36 rooms – on a first come, first serve basis. Includes continental breakfast, swimming pool, hot tub, etc. Group block name SSA/UMW Reunion. **Need to reserve by July 1, 2020 with credit card.** Cancellations needed one-week prior to 8.8 reunion = 8.1. See discount details on website.

www.grandstayhospitality.com

The Miller Armstrong Conference Center

Millers Bed and Breakfast. (507) 835-1146

The four rooms are on 3rd floor, with self-dining area (stove, refrigerator, dishware, cooking utensils, etc. Includes breakfast at Jonnie Beans lower level.

<http://www.millerarmstrong.com/lodging-waseca-mn.html>

American Motel 507-835-4300

www.wasecaamericanmotel.com

Kiesler's Campground & RV Resort 507-835-3179

on south side of Clear Lake. www.kieslers.com

UMW/SSA Faculty and Staff Directory

Prior to the reunion we would like to update the directory that was compiled for the last reunion 10 years ago.

Please reply to Jonna Moen at: jonna.moen72@gmail.com with the information you want to include in the directory **before June 15, 2020.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

A few sentences about you since your days at

UMW/SSA: We know that it is difficult to summarize that much time into a few sentences!

Would you like a copy of the directory? YES/NO

The directory will be emailed to those who request it. A limited number of printer copies will be also available at the reunion.

We would also like to include the UMW/SSA faculty and staff that are deceased but we may not be aware of everyone. If you would include the name and date of any deceased faculty or staff that you are aware of, that would help us make sure that our information is as complete as possible.

Thank you!

University of Minnesota

UMW/SSA Faculty, Staff and Alumni Reunion

Saturday, August 8, 2020 (8.8.2020)

Location: Minnesota Agricultural Interpretive Center-Farmamerica
7367 360th Avenue, Waseca, MN 56093

Welcome to this special get together. It has been ten years since the last event of this kind and it has been 28 years since the closure of the University of Minnesota-Waseca (UMW). The Southern School of Agriculture (SSA) opened in Waseca in 1953. The transition to a two-year technical college began in 1971. We are particularly pleased with the long working relationship between UMW and Farmamerica. Farmamerica was authorized in 1978 by the Minnesota Legislature in recognition of agriculture and its role in the past, present and future of Minnesota. Together with the University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC), the Minnesota Agricultural Utilization Research Center (AURI), and the University of Minnesota Extension Service, Waseca has long been an important local, state, national and international resource for agricultural education and research. All former faculty, staff, alumni and family members are a part of this unique tradition.

This event is being held during an open house of Farmamerica. Enter at the front door (parking lot entrance) of the Visitor Center to complete registration and be guided to the reunion and Farmamerica activities. You may leave any memorabilia you wish to share at the Visitor Center Conference Room. Please pick up your items before you leave for the day.

Schedule

9 am-4 pm Registration

Visitors and guests are invited to enter their school and college memorabilia and to participate in Farmamerica activities as schedules permit. Tours will be a great way to get out of doors and find out how the Executive Director, Jessica Rollins, and the staff are making a positive difference in the lives of young people and families.

10-10:30 FCI Story

Learn from a representative from the Bureau of Prisons, Federal Correctional Institution (FCI), Waseca about the current programs and uses of the former UMW campus complex. You will be surprised about how the campus, re-purposed, serves its residents and the nation.

10:30 UMW/SSA Alumni Association Board of Directors (Visitor Center Conference Room)

11:30 Lunch (Large meeting rooms)
Music by Jim Kozan, Waseca Music Co.

Speaker: Hear a few words about how his career path has evolved, even in the wake of near death tragedy, from UMW grad, former dairy farmer, world class marathon runner and professional speaker, Dick Beardsley.

12:30 Program - M. C. – Jim Gibson
Opening Prayer-Rev. Cary Larson
Recognition of deceased members of the faculty, staff and alumni – Laura Rohde

Remarks

UMW/SSA Alumni Association - Cindy Glamm, President
Farmamerica – Jessica Rollins, Exec. Director
University of Minnesota Administration – Brian Buhr, Dean, CFANS
Waseca Community – Roy Srp, Mayor
State and Federal Government – Tim Penny, former State Senator & U.S. Congressman,
current President of Southern MN Initiative Foundation

“My Favorite Memories from UMW/SSA” – Selected Participants

Special Awards Program – Roy Johnson

2:00 Group Photo – Bruce McKee

2:30-3:30 Informal Visiting and Networking – Visitor Center

5:00 pm Post Reunion Gathering – Katie O’Leary’s Bar and Restaurant - Waseca

University of Minnesota Waseca (UMW) and Southern School of Agriculture (SSA) Former Faculty, Staff and Alumni Celebration Set for August 8 at Farmamerica

Portions of this article have been provided in collaboration with Bailey Grubish writer for Waseca County News
Special edition coming in the Waseca County News (end of July)

SSA spanned the years 1953-1973. UMW, originally the University of Minnesota Technical College-Waseca, overlapped SSA by starting in 1971 and concluding in 1992, 28 years ago. There were more than 1,000 SSA graduates and nearly 20,000 technical college students who came to Waseca for educational programs and courses in agriculture and career path preparation related to opportunities in rural communities. 1973 marked the first graduation for the college and the last graduation for the high school. Altogether more than 450 faculty and staff had been employed there in various capacities between 1953 and 1992.

"The upcoming UMW/SSA-Alumni reunion planning was initiated by a committee that included the chair of the alumni association, whose board, two years ago, decided to move forward with an annual meeting and reunion event in 2020." Ed Frederick, former administrator of both organizations, agreed to co-coordinate with Jim Gibson. "Event planning was built on the positive experience with a similar reunion held 10 years ago." UMW Associate Professor/former Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs, James Gibson, said, "I am supportive because we were forever confident that our graduates would do well in their chosen fields and be called upon to be leaders in those fields and in their communities. There is plenty of evidence that this vision has been realized and we are expecting during this reunion to again validate that dream and our expectations."

Every year the Alumni Association hosts an annual meeting in August. This year the venue and program provides an extra opportunity for the group to celebrate its purposes. The last reunion of this type was on August 1, 2010 for SSA and UMW also at Farmamerica. About 300 people participated. On August 8, 2020, again at Farmamerica, the reunion for staff, faculty and alumni will take place again with numerous activities for the attendees.

For those registering for the reunion, a lunch will be provided. There will be musical entertainment, a program, and speakers who are all on the schedule for the day. We are pleased to announce the presence of all of our alumni, family members and guests. A young dairy farmer who has gone on to be a world class marathon runner and public speaker, Dick Beardsley, will share a few comments about his experiences and how his running for Coach Fulkrod made such a difference in his life. And before people leave for the day, a group photo will capture the day and the people.

"I feel that it's like a family out there (UMW/SSA). Wherever people live now there has continued to be a sense of pride and ownership for their relationships with each other, Waseca and SSA/UMW. It has always been that way with the faculty, staff and alumni, the group has stayed together," former SSA and UMW administrator Ed Frederick said. "The UMW/SSA Alumni Association at their meeting in 2018 agreed that we ought to move ahead with a special celebration in 2020. That was the goal and we started to plan for it. It is an exciting thing to make this opportunity to bring people back to Waseca. It is sort of like a family reunion to get together again."

The purpose of the Alumni Association is to encourage, foster and support SSA/UMW alumni, SROC and the career areas of the alumni with the mission to help support agriculture education, career opportunities and personal growth and development of the SSA/UMW alumni and their communities.

Farmamerica, Minnesota's Agricultural Interpretive Center, was authorized in 1979 by the Minnesota Legislature in recognition of agriculture and its role in the past, present and future of Minnesota. Together with the Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC), the Minnesota Agricultural Utilization Research Center (AURI) and the University of Minnesota Extension Service, Waseca has long been an important local, state, national and international resource for agricultural education and research.

Family fun? The Farmamerica open house will have yard games, candy hunts, a Dairy Dash, a 1-mile fun run/walk around the Time Lane in celebration of National Wellness Month and will conclude with free ice cream at the finish line. Guided tours will be available at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and a food truck for visitors will also be present from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Spread the word. Welcome home the UMW and SSA folks that you know.

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER

Bruce McKee will serve as the official photographer for the UMW/SSA Reunion. He plans to take individual and group photos throughout the day and a group photo at 2:00 PM. He assumes others will also take photos and he has established an electronic mechanism that the photo can be loaded on and shared with all. So come prepared to be photographed with your friends at the UMW/SSA Reunion on Saturday, August 8, 2020 at Farmamerica.

PLANNING TEAM

The PLANNING TEAM was established in June and July 2019. The TEAM consists of the following people: Don Collins, Former Athletic Director and Football Coach; Ed Frederick, Former Superintendent and Chancellor; Jim Gibson, Former Administrator and Faculty Member; Cindy Glamm, President UMW/SSA Alumni Association, as Alumni Member; Mardell Jacobson, Administrative Assistant; Roy A. Johnson, Administrator Horse Program and Faculty Member; Denise Manthe, Administrative Assistant, Business Affairs; Bruce McKee, Learning Resource Center, Computer, Photography; Jonna Moen, Business Affairs; Wanda Morsching, Student Affairs Staff and Alumni; Deanne Nelson, Alumni Association Coordinator; Laura Rohde, Administrative Assistant, Academic Affairs; Jessica Rollins, Executive Director, Farmamerica.

Since being established, the Planning Team has met every month or two. Ed Frederick and Jim Gibson serve as Co-Coordinators of the Planning Team. Each Team member has been a very active participant in the effort.

1970 Class Reunion

The SSA Class of 1970 will have a 50th Class Reunion on Friday, July 10th and Saturday, July 11, 2020. The reunion will be in St Croix Falls and Amery Wisconsin. Any SSA Alumni or Facility are invited to attend. Please contact Elise Walker (Payne) for information Elise Walker (Payne), 796 Wapogasset Lake Lane, Amery, WI 54001-4907, eliseawalker4@gmail.com

Minnesota governor announces members of new Governor's Council on Biofuels

Meghan Sapp November 26, 2019

In Minnesota, Governor Tim Walz, Chair of the National Governors' Biofuels Coalition, and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan announced the following appointments to the Governor's Council on Biofuels. Walz recently established the Governor's Council on Biofuels by Executive Order 19-35 to recommend proposals to foster growth in the biofuels industry and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"It is my honor to appoint leaders in agriculture from across the state to the Governor's Council on Biofuels," said Governor Walz. "Their leadership will be instrumental in supporting our friends and neighbors in the ag and biofuels industries through what has been an incredibly challenging year. I look forward to the Council's guidance in our efforts to move Minnesota toward a cleaner, greener transportation sector."

Named to the board were Gary Anderson of Eagan, Michael Bull of Northfield Township, John Christianson of Lake Lillian, Elizabeth Crow of Minneapolis, Tim Gross of Duluth, Chris Hanson of Fountain, Rick Horton of Grand Rapids, Kevin Lee of Minneapolis, Lance Klatt of Little Canada, Jeanne MacCaherty of Prior Lake, Mick Miller of Morris, *Kevin Paap of Lake Crystal, Brian Thalmann of Plato, (both graduates of UMW)* Gary Wertish of Renville and Bob Worth of Lake Benton.

"Their leadership will be instrumental in supporting our friends and neighbors in the ag and biofuels industries through what has been an incredibly challenging year," Gov. Tim Walz said when making the appointments.

Alum Updates

Robert E. Lewis 1958

To begin with, those of you who know/remember me you'll know this will not be brief. There was a very good reason for my nickname of 'Windy'.

I attended Claremont (MN) High School (1st – 8th grade), West Concord (MN) High School (8th – 10th grade), and graduated from the Southern School of Agriculture, Waseca MN in 1958.

I served in the U.S. Navy from April 2, 1958 to May 15, 1967, serving in Arlington, VA (April 1958 – May 1962 & July 1965 – May 1967) and Kunia, Hawaii (July 1962 –

July 1965) and the U.S. Army Reserve from March 1973 to February 1985, serving in Ft. Snelling, MN; Ft. Pickett, VA; Ft. Bragg, NC; Ft Hood, TX and Ft. McCoy, WI, and the U.S. Army Individual Ready Reserve from March 1985 to March 2000.

I married Mary Alice Brady of Tionesta, PA on November 13, 1940 in Arlington, Va. We have 4 children; sons, Michael (Dyana) of Apple Valley, MN; Edwin (Suzy) of Apple Valley, MN; and Daniel of Rosemount, MN; daughter, Michelle of Apple Valley, MN; grandchildren, Robert (Whitney), Addison (Laura), Joseph (Alexa), and Crystal Lewis, Brandon and Nicole Dias, great granddaughters, Lillian Lewis, Finley Lewis, Charlotte Lewis, Sawyer Lewis, great grandsons Dylan Sonnen and Carter Sonnen, brother Harold Lewis of Owatonna MN, and nephews and nieces.

I worked as a computer programmer/analyst for Aeronautical Radio Research, Inc. in Annapolis, MD from May 1967 to September 1968, Josten's Manufacturing, Inc. in Owatonna, MN from October 1968 to March 1970, and Northwestern Computer Services (ultimately Wells Fargo Services Company) from March 1970 to March 2002 when I retired.

The class of '58 has held class reunions every 5 years since the 1983. One faculty member has never missed one of our reunions and that was Mr. Boyd Fuller. Mr. Dean Turner, Mr. Ted Nelson, Mrs. Edna Kral, Mr. Ted Olson, Mrs. Ted Olson (Wanda Warnes) also attended some of these reunions. We are looking forward to seeing Mr. Fuller at our next reunion in 2018. In 2013, he stated that if he were still alive he for sure would see us. I'm kinda hoping he ages a little bit. In 2013, I didn't think he had aged even a little bit. 13962 Glazier Ct; Apple Valley, MN 55124-7342, (952) 431-7651 (Land line); (952) 994-0355 (Cell); Student, blewis58@charter.net

Ed Ziegler 1960

Farmer – married 1967, 3 children, 5 grand children. We lived on farm homesteaded by great Grandfather after civil war. Our son and family live on farm now and land is rented out. Moved to Blue Earth to retire. Don't travel much anymore but love to see and hear from old friends! 107 E 12th St Blue Earth, MN 56013.

Paul Klockmann 1971

I have been custom harvesting 24 years, hauling aggregate 8 years, carpenter 2 years, mechanic 6 years, bookkeeper 10 years, hauling hay 9 years, and semi hauling over the road for 12 years. I like to swim, dance, horseback riding and gardening. I have been to Norway, Spain, Holland, Germany and Poland. I was married in 1980 and have three children; one boy and two girls. Peden was in Marine Corp, Katrina does bookkeeping and Heidi is a teacher in Norway. 499 East Carey Road, Brawley, CO 92227.

Obituaries



Joseph (Joe, Joe) Henry Bertrang

On Thursday January 24th, 2019, Joseph Henry Bertrang, 79, Husband, Father, and friend of many passed away suddenly at the young age of 79.

Joe will be forever remembered by his wife Beverly (Hobson) of 57 years and their precious children; Roxy & (Rodney) Nelson, Mike & (Heidi) Bertrang, Jeff & (Wendy) Bertrang, Sherry & (Jessie) Vlasak, Debbie Piotter (Special Friend Dan), Matt & (Jodi) Bertrang. Joe will also be fondly remembered by his 14 grandchildren; Phillip, Daija, Addie, Elijah, Anna, Zach, Caleb, Emily, Jake, Laura, Tyler, Alison, Ryan & Leah and brother and sister in laws; Dick & (Monika) Hobson, Shirley Duncanson, Terri Horn, Tom and (Tammy) Hobson.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents Joseph and Florence (Theissen) Bertrang, Daughter Michelle Joyce Bertrang (Twin to Mike), In laws Ernest and Marcella Hobson.

Joe was born on January 6, 1940 to Joseph and Florence (Theissen) Bertrang. Joe graduated from Waseca Southern School of Agriculture. He Married Beverly November 25th 1961. Joe grew up and lived in Henderson is whole life. Joe worked as a farmer, bartender, milk man, construction, security guard at St. Peter State Hospital and bus driver for 50 years. Joe enjoyed; lawn mowing, camping, card playing, sales man, telling jokes, fishing, taking part in kids and grandkids sporting events and just helping others. He served on the Henderson School Board, Church Council, Cemetery Board and 4-H leader for years.



Judi Schroeder Grau (SSA 1957)

Age 80 of South St. Paul passed away on October 3, 2019. Preceded in death by husband, Arthur; brother, Gary; sister, Marlene. Survived by son, Terrence (Karen); daughter, Traci (Tony); grand daughters,

Deanne (Jesse), Dawn (Anthony), Danielle (Dave) & Quinn (Corrin); many grandchildren; siblings, Donald (Cathy), Charles (Marolyn), Jean & Daniel (Gloria). Judi was a longtime employee of Safe Way Bus Company.



Wanda Ellen Olson, 84, of rural Lewiston, died Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019.

Wanda was born March 2, 1935, in Stephen, Minn., to Daniel and Helen (Sustad) Warnes. She was the second of five children raised on the family farm near Stephen. Wanda attended Augsburg College in Minneapolis on scholarship,

receiving a degree in home economics. After graduation, she became a home economics instructor for three years at the Southern School of Agriculture in Waseca.

In Waseca, she met Ted Olson. They were married in 1959. She went on to a career as a county extension agent in Winona County and Goodhue County, later

returning to college and receiving a master's degree from the University of Minnesota in 1970.

Wanda worked for more than 25 years at the University of Minnesota-St. Paul as a household equipment specialist. She gave leadership in the introduction of microwave cooking, dealing with mold in housing, pesticide clothing care, and carbon monoxide safety for refugee housing. Following their retirements, they returned to the farm in rural Lewiston to make their home. She was an active member of North Prairie Lutheran Church in rural Lanesboro.

Wanda enjoyed taking walks in the country, reading and learning about various cultures especially Scandinavian. She had a long history in reaching out to volunteer and help those less fortunate in the community.

Wanda is survived by her husband, Ted, and two sons, Steve (Trish) and Charlie (Vicki), all of Eden Prairie; four grandchildren, Erik, Aubrey, Jessica and Ben Olson; a sister, Gloria (Dean) Danter of Glenwood; a sister-in-law, Evelyn Warnes of Morris; and a brother-in-law, Robert Lerud of Salt Lake City, Utah. Wanda was preceded in death by a brother, Dennis Warnes, and sisters, Mary Warnes and Ella Lerud.



Rose Anne Schoeb of Madison Lake passed away peacefully with family on Saturday, December 21st, 2019 at Oak Terrace assisted living in North Mankato, at the age of 81.

Rose Anne was born on July 4th, 1938 to George and Rose Kortuem, She attended All Saints Academy, Good Counsel, and graduated from Waseca Southern School of Agricultural in 1956.

She met her husband while working in St. Peter and they married on April 25, 1959. They raised their family in Madison Lake.

Rose Anne had an affinity for generosity and helping others in need, especially in her community. She always made people feel welcome. She enjoyed making food and sharing it with others, like her home made bread.

Rose Anne is survived by her children, Mark Schoeb of Madison Lake, Steve (Polly) Schoeb of Madison Lake, Mike (Wendy) Schoeb of Amboy, and Lori (Tony) Gregor of Mapleton; eight grandchildren; sister, Mary Buschkowsky; brother, Charles Kortuem; and sister, Kathy Scholl.

She was preceded in death by her father and mother; husband, Richard; son, Rick; and siblings, Betsy, Margaret, and John.



John Patrick Priebe, age 49, of Waseca, died on Friday, January 3, 2020 at his residence in Waseca County.

John was born on December 26, 1970, in Brooklyn Center to John and Marcia (Paulson) Priebe. He attended high school in Waseca where he graduated with the class of 1989. John furthered his education at the University of Minnesota – Waseca

Continued on page 7

Obituaries *continued from page 6*

Campus and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Ag Business from the University of Minnesota – St. Paul Campus. He served in the National Guard for two years. Following his education, John worked as a sales representative for John Deere in Watertown, South Dakota for eight years before moving to Waseca to be a part of the family business, "Priebe Financial". He worked alongside his dad for a few years before taking over the business. Since then he has received numerous awards for his accomplishments in the financial industry. John was united in marriage to Jenny Delizo on August 23, 2014, at their home in Waseca County.

John enjoyed NASCAR, snowmobiling, 4-wheeling, outdoor activities and tending to his property. He was a big supporter and enjoyed following his son's various activities. The generosity and kindness he showed to all who knew him never went unnoticed. John was active in the Waseca community as a member of the Chamber of Commerce and was a vital part of the Waseca Triathlon. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca.

John is survived by his wife, Jenny of Waseca; sons: Ben Priebe and Redzel Priebe both of Waseca; parents: John and Marcia Priebe of Waseca; brothers: Jim Priebe and Justin Priebe both of Waseca; two nieces: Jovae Priebe and her daughter, Kendyl of Waseca, and Jalea Priebe of Waseca; other relatives and many friends. Preceded in death by his sons: Noah and Samuel; grandparents: John and Mabel Priebe and Henry and Marie Paulson.

Raymond Edward Jirele, age 72 of Waseca died on Saturday, January 11, 2020 at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato following a valiant 5 year battle with stage 4 mantel cell lymphoma which was caused by Agent Orange exposure during his service in Vietnam.

Born on April 6, 1947 in Owatonna, Minnesota, he was the son of Raymond Joseph and Bertha Pelagia (Deml) Jirele. He attended St. Mary's School in Owatonna before graduating from the Southern School of Agriculture in Waseca in 1965. Ray enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas before receiving 52 weeks of electronics training in Biloxi, MS. In 1967 he was stationed in Idaho during the 6 Day War. Ray went on to serve in Vietnam during the TET Offensive where he worked on the forward looking radar systems of the RF4C reconnaissance planes. A plane that he had been working on took a direct hit while he was retrieving a tool in the hangar. Following his discharge, he returned to Waseca and began working at the E.F. Johnson Co. Ray married his high school sweetheart, Susan Marie Carleton on May 24, 1969. He went on to attend Southwest State University in Marshall before studying electrical engineering at the University of Idaho in Moscow. While in Moscow, Ray worked as an EMT with the fire department. Following their return to Waseca, Ray worked at the E. F. Johnson Co. for 25 years. He went on to work at Pemstar in Rochester which became Benchmark before retiring in 2014. Ray realized he didn't enjoy retirement and began working for Creation Technologies in St. Peter where he was currently employed. He enjoyed tractor and threshing shows, riding

motorcycle and fixing things. Ray was a member of Grace Baptist Church in Waseca and was a lifetime member of the NRA.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Susan of Waseca; five children, Sonja Lynn of Eagle Lake, Sarah (Adam) Kahnke of Smithfield, VA, Christine (Jay) Arenas of Longmont, CO, Allison (Brett Byers) Jirele of Waseca, and Daniel (Cricket) Jirele of Waldorf; and 18 grandchildren, Michelle Lynn, Randy (Allie) Lynn, William Lynn, Jesse Lynn, Kayla Lynn, Allan Kahnke, Alexander Kahnke, Christian Kahnke, Joseph Kahnke, Elizabeth Kahnke, Evangeline Kahnke, Juliette Arenas, Elijah Arenas, Jeremiah Arenas, Grayson Byers, Jace Jirele, Christian Jirele, and Uriah Jirele. He is also survived by his mother, Bertha Jirele of Puyallup, WA; siblings, Ramona (Harvey) Wheeler of The Woodlands, TX, Virginia (Bob) Rohrer of Puyallup, WA, and Dennis (Judy) Jirele of Red Wing; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father; sister, Cecelia (Dave) Erickson; and granddaughter, Clara Jirele.

Dean Helmer Christianson, 80, of Owatonna, died Thursday, January 16, 2020 at Homestead Hospice House following a 14 year journey with multiple myeloma.

He was born August 12, 1939 in Austin, Minnesota the son of Helmer and Alma (Benson) Christianson. He grew up on a farm in the Austin area. He attended a country school, Blooming Prairie High School and in 1957, graduated from Southern School of Ag in Waseca. Dean served in the Naval Air Reserves for eight years. He attended Luther College in Decorah, Iowa and graduated in 1961. While in college he met Luci Ruen and they were married on June 29, 1963 at Glenwood Lutheran Church, in rural Decorah. The couple lived in Spring Lake Park, Chula Vista, California and Owatonna. Dean worked as an accountant for Control Data in Minneapolis and California, the Owatonna Canning Company and Struss CPA in Owatonna, retiring in 2004.

Dean was a faithful and active member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna, where he served on the board of deacons and as an usher. He also belonged to the Lions, served on the Healthy Senior and Thrivent boards and served in the Brothers in Blue prison ministry.

Dean enjoyed golfing, traveling, biking the trails in town, Minnesota sports including the Gophers, Twins and Vikings and his morning breakfast group. He was eager to learn new things. Family was important to him to the extent that he often invited people he met to become an extension of his family.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Luci Christianson of Owatonna; children, Laurie (David Argentar) Christianson of Bear, DE and Eric (Lisa) Christianson of Fargo; grandchildren, Kaitlyn and Tyler Christianson of Fargo; brother, Nathan (Dot) Christianson of St. Michael; sisters-in-law, Helen Hermeier, Diane (Norbert) Lovstuen and Wanita Ruen all of Decorah and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Helmer and Alma; father and mother-in-law, Adolph and Harriet Ruen and brothers-in-law, Robert Ruen and Allen Hermeier.

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: nels0191@umn.edu, or **Alumni Association, Southern Research and Outreach Center, 35838 120th St., Waseca, MN 56093-4521.**

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