

# the UMW CONNECTION

UMW/SSA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

November 2015

## Scholarships Available for 2016

The Alumni Association of the Southern School of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota, Waseca will offer scholarships to be distributed in 2016.

Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded to any child or a grandchild of an alumnus with a GPA above 3.0. Must be a 2016 high school graduate or college freshman.

**Deadline is January 8, 2016**

Criteria and information on how to apply, is available on the Web at:

<http://sroc.cfans.umn.edu/UMWSSA/index.htm>

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.

## Electronic Newsletter

In an effort to reduce costs, the option to receive electronic communication from the UMW / SSA Alumni is available. We are providing the option to receive the newsletter electronically. If this would be your preferred or an acceptable method to receiving the newsletter, please send your email address to [nelso191@umn.edu](mailto:nelso191@umn.edu). In the subject of your email, please write UMW/SSA Alumni electronic newsletter. I will add you to the email database and you will no longer receive a hard copy mailed to you. THANK YOU for helping to reduce costs if this option will work for you.

## 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 Compant

### Directors:

Patrick Bowen, Colleen Carlson, Bill Chard, Rochelle Compant, Dennis Gartner, Cindy Glamm, Dale Huelsnitz, 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

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 \$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 \$15 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/)

# Calendar of Events

- Friday, January 8, 2016.....  
Scholarship Applications Due  
Southern Research and Outreach Center  
Waseca, MN
- Monday, January 18.....  
Board Meeting  
Southern Research and Outreach Center  
6:30 p.m.  
Waseca, MN
- Saturday, February 13.....  
66<sup>th</sup> Annual Sleigh and Cutter Parade  
<http://sleighandcutterfestival.org/index.html>
- Monday, April 18 .....  
Board Meeting  
Southern Research and Outreach Center  
6:30 p.m.  
Waseca, MN

## Gibson named to FFA Hall of Fame

On Monday, April 27, 2015, at the Minnesota FFA Convention in the Twin Cities, Jim Gibson was one of seven people named to the FFA Hall of Fame with statement in part:

**Dr. James Gibson** was an active agricultural educator for many years, first at the high school level in Pewamo, Michigan, then at Michigan State University, and finally at the University of Minnesota, Waseca (UMW). He was also an active member of MAAE. While on faculty at UMW, Gibson served as coordinator of the Region 7 and Region 8 FFA Contests. He also served as a member of the Feasibility and Steering Committee that lead to the development of the National Post-Secondary Agricultural Students organization (PAS).

Congratulations to Jim Gibson on his induction into the FFA Hall of Fame – what a wonderful honor for all your hard work over the years. Please send Congratulations to Jim at: [jkjgibson@hickorytech.net](mailto:jkjgibson@hickorytech.net)



## Portner wins Minnesota FFA Star Farmer award

Brandon Roiger, [news@agrinews.com](mailto:news@agrinews.com)



Sabrina Portner, 18, daughter of **Tom (graduate of UMW in 1988)** and Mary Portner, was named the Minnesota FFA Star Farmer at this year's state convention. Portner lives on a dairy farm near Sleepy Eye with her parents and sisters.

ST. PAUL — When a future FFA member received her first Brown Swiss heifer from her father, Tom, at age 6, her passion for the dairy industry took off.

The Minnesota FFA Association named Sabrina Portner the 2015 Minnesota FFA Star Farmer at the 86th Minnesota FFA Convention on April 27.

The honor has left Portner, of the Sleepy Eye FFA chapter, feeling humbled.

"When I joined FFA, my goal was never to win awards or competitions, but to simply become more involved in agriculture," Portner said. "I feel very blessed to be a part of an organization where everywhere you look there is someone to inspire you or to be a role model for you."

Portner took her first heifer, Hashea, and prepared it for showing as a 4-H project.

"I made the name up. I don't know why I did that or why my dad let me," Portner said with a laugh.

Her herd has grown to include 30 Brown Swiss cows and heifers.

When Portner joined FFA, she didn't realize what opportunities were available.

"When I got to go to state convention my first year, I was completely in awe," Portner said. "I didn't realize how big of an organization it was."

Portner said FFA adviser Mary Hoffmann was a big part in the drive to take advantage of the opportunities.

"She pushes everyone to do their best and apply for anything and everything that applies to them," Portner said.

She recently finished a year as president for her FFA chapter, as well as at the federation level for 4-H.

Portner said it was nice to give recognition to Hoffmann, her FFA chapter and the hard-working dairy farmers.

"I wasn't expecting to win, really, and it was really humbling when I did," she said. "I didn't think I would ever be one of those people, but here I am."

She wants to become a national finalist in her proficiency award category next year, run for Princess Kay of the Milky Way and maybe even become an American FFA Star Farmer someday.

The state award is based on Portner's Supervised Agricultural Experience, which includes taking care of her cattle and the rest of her family's herd.

"I help around the farm with all the chores, milking, cleaning the parlor, bedding, vaccinating, taking care of newborn calves, help with record-keeping, recording treatments and whatever else needs to be done," Portner said.

If there is a morning Portner has to help milk, she'll wake up at 1 a.m., milk the cows, clean the parlor and go back to sleep until 9 a.m.

"In the summer, we'll check the pasture cows, make sure they have enough grass and don't have to be moved," Portner said.

They'll work on what needs to be done to take care of the cows, and then in the afternoon, they'll typically work with their show cattle to get them ready for the fair.

Portner's favorite part about being on the farm is when a cow delivers a calf.

"Taking care of the newborn calves — that's the best chore on the farm, for sure," Portner said.

When Portner started, she mostly focused on training her heifers for show.

"Now, I think I pay more attention to who I'm going to breed cows to and what I want in the next calf that's coming," Portner said. "Also, improving maybe faults that my cows have, like high somatic cell count or lower production rate."

Portner has turned from improving show characteristics to breeding for better production traits.

"At this point, I have a larger herd, and I pay more attention to improving it genetically," Portner said. "If I happen to get a good-looking cow, that's good, and I'll show her."

Portner said she wants to continue to grow her herd.

"As I go through college and earn more money, it'll be more of going to sales and picking out cows from other farms to enhance my herd," Portner said.

She will attend Iowa State University to major in dairy science. She isn't sure if she'll come back to the farm yet after college.

"It's a very large possibility," Portner said. "Hopefully, college will help me decide what the best path is, but I can definitely see myself coming back."

Portner's father has helped her a lot on the farm. She said he has always been there to encourage her even when the cattle aren't cooperating.

"The lessons I've learned from being on a dairy farm that he's taught me about hard work and responsibility and commitment are skills that I'll always use in my life, and I have him to thank," Portner said.

# Alum Updates

## Philip Borgmeier 1955

Retired from farming and I currently live in Eagle Lake on the farm I grew up on. I enjoy traveling with my wife, Linda, who is a retired nurse spending her career in Rochester. We also spend time at our home in Arkansas where my two daughters live, and our son. [philborgmeier@gmail.com](mailto:philborgmeier@gmail.com)

## Jane Boots 1976

I moved to KY in April 2014. I live with my friends and help out on their horse farm. My two horses made the trip too. I am still looking for a nursing job, but I am finding it to be difficult as it seems hospitals would rather hire new grads. Oh well!! I'm staying busy working on the farm, where we have nine horses. I broke my right arm in December and will have surgery to repair ligament damage on May 19. In over 50 years of being around horses, this is the first major injury I've had (broken toes don't count!). I am hoping to get flowers planted and the garden in before surgery, since I'll be laid up for about 8 weeks. I will be back in MN in July for my parents' 60th wedding anniversary and my 40th high school reunion. I would love to hear from former classmates, especially those from Ruff Ryders and those that attended the Event Championships in KY in 1978. 2315 Spann Ln.; La Grange, KY 40031, 507-254-0537.

## An interesting twist on fate

I went to UMW and graduated in '77 in Landscape Development (Gail Gades Boe). Lowell Rasmussen was just starting as Head of Plant Services at that time. When UMW closed Lowell started working at UMM in the same capacity.

I am celebrating 35 years of working at UMM as Senior Gardener and Greenhouse Manager and received the outstanding staff award. At the same time Lowell is celebrating retiring from his position of Vice Chancellor of Finance and Facilities Management.



# Meet the Board of Directors

## Sonia (Henderson) McNally fall 1989

Food Industry and Technology, Greetings to my fellow UMW Alumni! I am a dairy and frozen manager at Rushford Foods in Rushford, Minnesota. My husband and I operate a cow/calf beef operation near Winona, Minnesota. We have been married for 12 years. I have two step sons; Bryan 23 and Patrick 20. In my spare time I enjoy genealogy and jigsaw puzzles.

I would love to hear from any alumni to see what you are up to these days! My email is [sonihenderson@hotmail.com](mailto:sonihenderson@hotmail.com)

**David Weinand**, graduated in 1990 with a degree in Dairy Science and Food Inspection. I transferred to the St. Paul campus to complete my bachelor's degree in Animal Science. After a couple years I returned to the St. Paul campus to complete my master's degree and I currently work at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture as a grants coordinator. I work with several different grant programs including the Dairy Profit Teams, Dairy Business Planning Grants, Livestock Investment Grants and others. [dweinand@yahoo.com](mailto:dweinand@yahoo.com)

# Congratulations to William Nelson

Excerpt taken from:

<http://www.ncba.coop/ncba-media/press-releases/725-2015-inductees-for-cooperative-hall-of-fame-announced>



CHS Foundation President, William Nelson, was one of four outstanding cooperative leaders that received the cooperative community's highest honor on May 6, 2015, when they were inducted into the Cooperative Hall of Fame in Washington, DC.

Nelson, who joined CHS Inc. in 1992, provides leadership to CHS Stewardship activities, including support of universities, rural leadership development, and cooperative education and agriculture safety programs.

Nelson also serves on the National Council on Farmer Cooperatives' executive education committee, as well as the board of directors for the National Cooperative Business Association and the Farm Foundation.

"Induction into the Cooperative Hall of Fame is reserved for those who have made genuinely heroic contributions to the cooperative community. The 2015 Inductees join a host of extraordinary Hall of Fame members who have contributed significantly to the advancement of the cooperative movement," said Gasper Kovach, Jr., board chair of the Cooperative Development Foundation (CDF), which administers the Hall of Fame.

William J. Nelson, vice president of corporate citizenship and president of the CHS Foundation, Inver Grove Heights, MN.

William Nelson's involvement in cooperative education began in the 1970s while serving as community education director for the Minneapolis public school system, focusing on connecting urban and rural schools around food and hunger issues. In

this role, Nelson was first introduced to a new wave of food cooperatives in the Twin Cities. Nelson went on to spend 13 years at the University of Minnesota-Waseca, teaching courses on cooperatives, agriculture, entrepreneurship and leadership.

In 1992, Nelson joined CHS Inc. to revitalize its cooperative education grants program. Now in its 22nd year, the program continues to support a variety of projects that enhance the understanding of cooperative business. Today, the program works closely in conjunction with the newly-established CHS Center for Cooperative Growth. In his current position, Nelson provides leadership to CHS Stewardship activities, including support of universities, rural leadership development, and cooperative education and agriculture safety programs. Nelson has been instrumental in developing the CHS University Initiative on Cooperative Education, a program that increases the understanding of the cooperative business model through education, development and practical experience.

Nelson is a founding member and director for the Ralph K. Morris Foundation. He has also brought stable leadership and financial support to the Association of Cooperative Educators. And through his long tenure as president of The Cooperative Foundation, Nelson helped expand support for cooperative development, extension, education and research. Nelson also serves on the National Council on Farmer Cooperatives' Executive Education Committee, as well as the board of directors for the National Cooperative Business Association and the Farm Foundation.

## In the News

If you are aware of any noteworthy news please share!

Send to -

UMW / SSA Alumni Association: [nelso191@umn.edu](mailto:nelso191@umn.edu)

# Obituaries

**Harold Dean Paulson**, 74, of Rochester, died Thursday, July 2, 2015, at Rochester Rehabilitation and Living Center.

Harold was born April 25, 1941, in Faulkton, S.D., to Alvin and Marion (Pattidge) Paulson. In 1949, the family moved to Rock Dell. In 1959, he graduated from Southern School of Agriculture High School in Waseca, Minn. From 1961 to July 1963, he served in the U.S. Army. On Aug. 3, 1963, he married Marlene Vicker. He worked for the Mayo Clinic as a surgical assistant and retired in 2007.

Harold was an avid Twins fan and enjoyed attending games with his family. Gardening was Harold's passion, and he loved planting, harvesting and canning.

Harold loved the Lord Jesus and desired that others would know Him. He loved spending time with family and friends and always had a timely word of wisdom for his loved ones.

Harold is survived by his wife, Marlene; five children, Dawn (Wayne) Witte, of Morristown, Minn., David (Candie) Paulson, of York, Pa., Kevin (Joy) Paulson, of Stanwood, Wash., Jonathan Paulson, of Fort Meyers, Fla., and Trudy (Nate) Simonson, of Des Moines, Iowa; and a son-in-law, Darren Kennedy, of Pringle, S.D. He also is survived by 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild on the way; one brother, Larry (Darlene) Paulson, of Lake City; and one sister, Beverly Mogenson, of Greenville, S.C.

He was preceded in death by one daughter, Colleen Kennedy, and his parents.

The family would like to thank Mayo Hospice and the caregivers and staff at The Homestead for all the loving care and kindness shown to Harold in his last days.

If you would like to extend your condolences; Marlene Paulson was a member of the class of 1957. 1823 18<sup>th</sup> St NW, Rochester, MN 55901.

Beverly (Paulson) Mogensen class of 1956 shared the obituary of her late brother-in-law, Donald Mogensen.

**Donald K. Mogensen**, 73, who passed away on March 2, 2012.

He was born in Wells, MG and graduated from high school in Waseca, MA in 1956. He obtained an Under-graduate Degree in Business Administration at the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1970. He also received an Associate Degree in Applied Science from Cochise College in Douglas, AZ in 1979.

He was a part-time employee as a bookkeeper for Thai Cuisine Restaurant in Lafayette, LA. The last few years after retiring from PHI in 2003, he served Petroleum Helicopters for 23 years as a Pilot and Pilot/Mechanic, flying for numerous Oil/Gas companies in and around the Gulf of Mexico. He has lived in Lafayette, LA for 30 years and considers Lafayette his home.

He enlisted in the U.S. [Army](#) in 1957 as a PVT and retired in 1977 as a Major. He served in the hostile areas of Beirut, Lebanon for 3 months in 1958 and 24 months in South Vietnam during that conflict. He proudly served his country earning the following badges; Parachute, Expert Infantry, Ranger Tab and Senior Army Aviator Wings. He was also awarded the following medals; [Bronze Star](#), Meritorious service, 52 Air Medals, 2 Army Commendations, Good Conduct, National Defense Service, Armed Forces Expeditionary, Vietnam Service with 4 Stars, AFRM. Rep. S. U. Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star, RVNCM with 60 Dev. and the Meritorious Unit Citation and was presented with the Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal by Governor Bobby Jindal in March 2012.

Survivors include his wife, Sudsanguan Mogensen, whom he married in 1983; one son, Mark D. Mogensen; two brothers, Martin K. Mogensen and Einar J. Mogensen. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jens N. and Anna M. Mogensen and his sister, Betty Lou Weitzel and brother David A. Mogensen.

He lived by and was always bound by "Duty, Honor and Country." He loved his family and will be missed.

**Joel F. Schrock**, age 76, a 45-year resident of Geneva, passed away Saturday, September 6, 2014, at Ebenezer Ridges Healthcare Center in Burnsville, MN from complications of Parkinson's.

He was born June 29, 1938, in Goshen, IN, the son of Joseph Troy and Opal Rubye (Broadwater) Schrock, and was raised on the family farm in rural Preston, MN.

In 1956, Joel graduated from the University of Minnesota Agriculture High School in Waseca, MN. He married Joan Marilyn Dahlquist on September 3, 1960. In 1962, he graduated from the University of Minnesota—St. Paul with a degree in Ag Science/Horticulture, and in 1963, the couple moved to Illinois, where Joel accepted a position with Ball Seed Company. In 1978, Joel purchased Heinz Brothers Greenhouse, a family- owned business,

*continued*

Obituaries *continued***Joel F. Schrock** *continued*

in St. Charles. In 1985, he purchased land in St. Charles and built the retail business in its current location on Main Street (Route 64). Joan and their son, Joel (Jay), joined the business alongside Joel in 1995. Joel was actively involved in the horticulture industry, Farm Bureau, and Geneva Lutheran Church. He enjoyed tractors, attending auctions and spending time at their lake home in Woodruff, WI.

In June of this year, Joel and Joan moved to Apple Valley, MN. He will be greatly missed by all those who knew him.

Joel is survived by his loving wife, Joan (Dahlquist); children Susan (Gary) Millard of Cincinnati, OH, Joel C. (Heidi) Schrock of St. Charles, and Stacey (Andrew) Simonett of Lakeville, MN; sisters Janeen Sarlin of New York City, NY, Judith Aufenthie of La Crosse, WI and Joanita Brantl of Chandler, AZ; aunt Betty Gene Broadwater (Maynard) Heitner of Eden Prairie, MN; sister-in-law Carol Dahlquist of Roseville, MN; grandchildren Joseph and Benjamin Millard and Sara and Drew Simonett; and many dear nieces, nephews, and friends.

Joel was preceded in death by his parents and in-laws; brothers-in-law Jerome Dahlquist, Jim Aufenthie, and Jack Brantl; and grandchildren Grace and Jacob Simonett.

**Gerald "Jerry" Cords 76**

(June 3, 1938 - November 22, 2014)

Gerald (Jerry) Walter Herman Cords was born on June 3rd, 1938 in Waseca, MN, the son of Herman and Ruth (Tulzmann) Cords. He attended Trinity Lutheran School in Janesville, MN, through the 9th grade and completed his high school years graduating from University of Minnesota-Waseca; Southern School of Agriculture, in 1956. Jerry enlisted in the Army in 1959 and served overseas in Germany.

Jerry moved to Star Prairie, WI in 1963 and started his own farm. There, he met the love of his life, Linda Rae Johnson. They were united in marriage on June 2, 1966. Together they raised two children, Jackie and Jeremy, and nephew Dean Weber. Jerry farmed dairy cows until 1976 and then worked at the South St. Paul Stockyards where he retired in 2004.

He continued his love of farming, raising cattle and hogs and gardening throughout his adult life. He was a lifelong member and supporter of 4-H.

He and Linda enjoyed over 50 years together on their farm in Wagon Landing. Jerry enjoyed traveling, woodworking, fishing and gardening during his retirement years. His favorite travels were to Alaska, Texas and Hawaii. His true passion and love was his children and grandchildren.

He was a genuine family man. Jerry passed away peacefully surrounded by family at The Deerfield.

Gerald was preceded in death by his parents, Herman and Ruth Cords and sister, Charlotte Harms. He is survived by his wife, Linda, daughter, Jackie (Tony) Waalen of Star Prairie, son Jeremy (Jessica) Cords of Pulaski, grandchildren Mariah and Seth Waalen, Austin, Macey, Emaline and Nathan Cords, as well as his brother, sisters and loving family and friends.

Happy  
Thanksgiving



**Russell David Frazier** age 87, 1928–2015 of Andover, MN, died September 18, 2015. As a PhD Agronomist (Purdue University), Russ helped spread the Green Revolution in the US and numerous countries around the world.

Preceded in death by brother, Richard; grandson, Brian and son-in-law, Steven Nelvik. Survived by wife of 65 years, Eunice; sons, Mike (Cristy) and Bob (Jill); daughter, Susan; grandchildren, Tim (Coley), Katie (Noel), Chelsea, Patrick (Sara), Dan and Anna; brother, Roger and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. ***Russ was a soil scientist at SSA and the Southern Experiment Station until about 1970.***

# 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](mailto:nels0191@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). |       |                       |
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| I am interested in serving on the Association board <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no            |       |                       |

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