

the

# UMW CONNECTION

UMW/SSA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

November 2019

## REUNION

RECONNECT – REMEMBER – REJOICE

You are invited

to a very special Reunion

8.8.2020

Alumni, Faculty, Staff, and Families

Southern School of Agriculture (1953-1973)

University of Minnesota, Waseca (1971-1992)

YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT PART! Plan to attend the All UMW/SSA Reunion!

At Farmamerica \* 7367 360th Ave, Waseca, MN \*

*Special Thank you to Laura Rohde for taking the time to put all this information together.*

### RECONNECT

It's been awhile. Throughout all of these years, our paths have taken us to a variety of destinations and adventures. Yet by reconnecting next summer, we can share some common experiences of life's ups and downs and find the support & joy of continuing friendships. In addition to all of the fun and renewed relationships at individual class year reunions, this event is for everyone! All alumni, faculty, staff, and families from SSA 1953-1973 and UMW 1971-1992.

*"No distance of place or lapse of time can lessen the friendship of those who are thoroughly persuaded of each other's worth." -Robert Southey*

Who haven't you seen in a long time? Now's your chance. We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a little of each other everywhere. How important are the relationships you have with this very special group of people who continue to make a difference in our world? What do you carry with you from your experiences throughout all of the years?

*"Countless years and miles may stand between us. It means that if we meet again, you will know me."*

Plan to come 8.8.2020 and take advantage of the time set aside to visit again with friends, mentors, and other individuals who have been important in your life. Do some networking for goals you may have?

You can help us update the Student, Faculty, Staff Directory too!

*"The genius of a university is satisfied when professors and students are gathered together in one community engaged in joint enterprise – perpetuating the wisdom of the ages, increasing the community of human beings capable of intellectual inquiry – and together expanding the frontiers of truth." -O. Meredith Wilson*

*Continued on page 4*

**Scholarships Available**  
**Deadline to Apply - January 6, 2020**  
**See page 3 for details on how to apply.**

## 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

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

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?*

*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

Monday, January 6, 2020 .....  
Scholarship Applications Due  
Southern Research and Outreach Center  
Waseca, MN

Monday, January 20 .....  
Board Meeting  
Southern Research and Outreach Center  
6:30 p.m.  
Waseca, MN

Saturday, February 8 .....  
70<sup>th</sup> Annual Sleigh and Cutter Parade  
Waseca, MN

Monday, April 20 .....  
Board Meeting  
Southern Research and Outreach Center  
6:30 p.m.  
Waseca, MN



## January 25 – March 21, 2020

This festival was created in 1950 in Waseca and continues to entertain young and old. Miss Waseca County Sleigh & Cutter reigns over all events including the Saturday parade. Horse owners from around the state bring magnificent horses of every type imaginable to Waseca for the parade down State Street. Only animal powered units and riders are allowed. Sleighs, cutters, bobsleds and many types of wagons and buggies can be seen on Feb 8, 2020.

**For a complete list and details  
of events held**

**Saturday, January 25-Saturday, March 21.**

**View the website:**

<http://www.sleighandcutterfestival.org/winter-fun-events-festival-mn.html#parade>

## Scholarships Available Deadline to Apply - January 6, 2020

The Alumni Association of the Southern School of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota, Waseca will offer scholarships to be distributed in 2020.

Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded to any child, grandchild or great grandchild of an alumnus with a GPA above 3.0. Must be a 2019 high school graduate or college freshman.

**Deadline is Monday, January 6, 2020**

Criteria and information on how to apply, is 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.

## 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!

## *45th Annual UMW Fishing Trip 1974-2019*



Robert Krumwiede, Mark Pickart, Bruce McKee, Roy Johnson, Don Collins,  
Randy Campbell, Bob Pickert, Tom Fider

# REUNION

## RECONNECT – REMEMBER – REJOICE

*Continued from page 1*

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 1,000 graduates continue to have a lasting impact in their communities.

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.

*"This Place Is for Students" – 21,000 students? Now that's a celebration!*

### REMEMBER

*Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory" ~ Dr. Seuss  
We didn't know we were making memories. We were just having fun!*

We'd love to hear your stories of the events, times, places, and people that meant the most to you back then and what's happening now? Have you ever been back for an all-year reunion? Where in the world have you been? Where are you now? The committee hopes to have a world map where you can pin your past & present location(s). — Evidence of where you've made a difference.

Students – Faculty – Staff ... What are some of the most significant memories of SSA/UMW to you? How have these experiences mattered in your life? Classes? Athletics? Competitions? Dorms or Apartments? Student government? Clubs? The Ram Shack? The Book Barn? Music? Work Study? Graduations? First Jobs?

*"The college kids are eager young people cautiously probing, thinking, hoping, and planning for the future.  
They are the salt of the earth." Welcome to UMW." From The Ram yearbook 1972*

- Please bring any memorabilia you would like to share on 8.8.2020. It will be displayed in a secure area and returned to you. The good old Ram bell will be there too!
  - The planning committee has enjoyed viewing all of the hundreds of materials on the websites at the St Paul Campus archives and the Waseca County Historical Society Museum. Lots of stuff!
    - UM Archives @ St Paul Campus re: SSA <https://archives.lib.umn.edu/repositories/14/resources/1126/>
    - UM Archives @St Paul Campus re: UMW <https://archives.lib.umn.edu/repositories/14/resources/1127/>
    - Waseca County Historical Society [http:// www.historical.waseca.mn.us/](http://www.historical.waseca.mn.us/)
- Memorabilia and artifacts from SSA/UMW will be on special display. There are dozens and dozens of artifacts from the University, hundreds of photos and all of the UMW official scrapbooks. You can also learn more about how to use their genealogy research center.

Moving forward, which physical location would be the best place for anyone to keep/donate our memorabilia? Which location would be easiest for others to visit? Of course, the future may bring many technological ways of maintaining history with online archives as well.

### REJOICE

**This is the chance to celebrate!** Don't wait another 10 years! It will be wonderful again to realize the privilege we each have had in each other's lives. We all have been a part of the collective positive difference our UMW/SSA family continues to make in our world.

**Your reunion planning team includes:** Ed Frederick, Jim Gibson, Roy Johnson, Don Collins, Cindy Glamm, Mardell Jacobson, Denise Manthe, Bruce McKee, Jonna Moen, Wanda Morsching, Laura Rohde, Deanne Nelson. It would mean a great deal to all of us if we can get everyone together again. Thank you to the Alumni Association for continuing to support ag education career opportunities and personal growth and development of all alumni and the agricultural community. Please correspond with the committee by contacting Deanne Nelson at the Southern Research and Outreach Center @ [nelso191@umn.edu](mailto:nelso191@umn.edu)

*We hope to see you at the UMW/SSA Reunion at FarmAmerica 8-8-2020!*

## Retirements at the Southern Research and Outreach Center

Many of you may remember or had the pleasure of working with Steve Jaycox, Business Manager at the Southern Research and Outreach Center in Waseca. Steve will be retiring from the University of Minnesota on February 3, 2020. He has been a good friend to the UMW/SSA Alumni Association, he assisted in the transition, housing and support to the Alumni board since the closing of the campus. Steve has been a true asset in so many ways. We have been fortunate for his knowledge and support with computer/technology, database maintenance, financial and many other areas. He has provided superb service in managing and delivery of our monthly budget reports.

Steve's unwavering support and friendship will be missed in many aspects at the University!

If you care to share a memory, well wishes or congratulation Steve, I think he would really enjoy hearing from you: Steven A. Jaycox, 14448 Rice Lake Dr., Waseca, MN 56093.

In addition to Steve retiring on February 3, Debbie Pehrson, daughter of the late, Arlene Bosacker (UMW Business Office), will also retire. Taking care of the financial and business office duties together, Steve and Debbie have served the University 45 and 19 years respectively.

Debbie Pehrson, 511 N State Street, Waseca.

Perry Rieck has worked in the swine department for the past 39 years. Perry's last day will be on February 3 as well. Perry Rieck, 900 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, Waseca.

## Alum Update

Aldon J. Sammon, 1967

Wife: Diane and sons: Jason and Steven. I'm the owner operator of Sammon Trucking. I enjoy traveling and lake activities. My years at SSA were a great learning experience and still have a good time when we get together with classmates. 2375 230<sup>th</sup> St W, Faribault, MN 55021 [Adsammon67@gmail.com](mailto:Adsammon67@gmail.com)

Mary Ellen (Ingvalson) Larson 1982

After graduating in 1982, I went on to the University of Minnesota, St. Paul to get a BA in agriculture education. This is where I met my husband of 34 years, Joel Larson. We now have four grown children, three of which are educators and one in agri-business. We have been blessed with three grandchildren and one on the way. I recently retired to help care for our grands and spend more time with family, friends and loved ones, also volunteering in our church and community. I still love staying closely connected to conversation and learning about the constant changes and challenges of agriculture. This is proof that you can take the girl off the farm but you can't take the love of the farm off the girl. 507 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SE, Mapleton, MN 56065 (507) 524-4252 [Jmlarson@hickorytech.net](mailto:Jmlarson@hickorytech.net)

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## Program Proposal for UMW / SSA Reunion 8 – 8 – 2020

9:00-4:00	Registration – Visitors Center Visitors and Guests invited to participate in Farmamerica activities as schedule permits
9:00-10:30	For those that sign up – Visit Federal Correctional Institution (old UMW/SSA facilities) <i>(tentative)</i>
10:30-11:30	UMW/SSA Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting – Visitor Center Conference Room
11:30-1:00	Lunch – music provided Comments from Participants – “My Favorite Memory from UMW/SSA”
1:00-2:00	Program / Fun Awards
2:00	Group photo
2:30-3:30	Informal visiting faculty, staff and alumni – Visitor Center
5:00	For those available and interested – Post Reunion Gathering at Kaite O’Leary’s Bar and Restaurant, Waseca

### 8-8-2020 Planning Team

Don Collins, Ed Frederick, Jim Gibson, Cindy Glamm, Mardell Jacobson, Roy Johnson, Denise Manthe, Bruce McKee, Joanna Moen, Wanda Morsching, Deanne Nelson, and Laura Rohde

# You'll want to be part of this!



# 8-8-2020

It was great to see so many of you return in August 2010 for the first combined reunion.

After these past 10 years, we hope to see YOU in the picture 8.8.2020!

**YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT PART!**

Plan to attend the All UMW/SSA Reunion! Call your friends now!

Be here now! Don't wait another 10 years!

Watch for the mail and the April 2020 issue of The Connection!

For more Information on registration, confirmed speakers, and other program details.

*To allow us to plan accordingly*

*Please RSVP*

A fee of \$15/adult, \$5/child is necessary to help with costs associated with hosting this event at Farmamerica, lunch and refreshments. Checks can be made out to the University of Minnesota and mailed to: Deanne Nelson UMW/SSA Alumni Association 35838 120<sup>th</sup> Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please share your favorite memory of SSA or UMW:

*Please use additional sheet for more space.*

## *The Legacy Continues*

What are you doing today because of UMW?

## Obituaries



Donaven Arthur Bode, 79 died Wednesday, July 17, 2019 surrounded by his family at the Central Todd County Care Center in Clarissa.

Donaven was born February 14, 1940 in New Ulm to Rudolph and Olga (Randen)

Bode. He grew up on the family farm in Courtland, attending Immanuel Lutheran School and was active in 4-H. In 1951 he contracted polio, which affected his legs and spent the next year at the Sister Kenny Rehabilitation Institute in Minneapolis.

Donaven attended the School of Agriculture in Waseca, graduating with the class of 1959. He worked as a livestock and gravel hauler for RW Zimmerman in Courtland and other various trucking jobs. He moved to Eagle Bend and lived with Bob and Erma Thorson and worked for Alan Asfeld and Paul Asfeld as a farm hand. Donaven was a conscientious worker and enjoyed the families he worked for.

On August 25, 1989 he married the love of his life, Sharon Runge. The polio took its toll on Donaven as he grew older and his legs grew weaker. He moved to Valley View Assisted Living in Long Prairie and then to the Central Todd County Care Center in Clarissa.

Donaven is survived by his wife, Sharon, daughters, Amber Bode, Danielle (John) Nissen, Ashley Bode, step-children, Karen, Kim, Jenny, grandchildren, Michael, Aiden, Kyle, Parker, Kaylee, Kendra, Harley, Jessica, Rebecca, Chris, brothers Dale, Stanley, Howard and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Rudolph and Olga and infant sister, Rhoda Ann.



Anne E. Mrotz

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Anne Mrotz who passed away on Monday August 12th. Anne taught in the Child Development area.

Anne Ellen (Glady) Mrotz, age 77 of Mankato, died Monday August 12, 2019 from complications of Leiomyosaroma Cancer.

Anne attended The College of St. Teresa, Winona, MN from 1960-62. The University of Minnesota, 1962-1965 graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics Education. Anne completed her Master's degree in Home Economics and Higher Education at Mankato State University in 1976.

Anne was united in marriage with Dave Mrotz, April 15, 1972 in Wykoff, MN. Anne was a lifelong educator, teaching home economics classes to middle, high school and college students in various schools throughout Minnesota in her earlier years. She was hired in 1989 at Mankato Vocational Technical College, where she taught in the Custom Training Department for 17 years, until her retirement in December 2007.

She viewed her cancer journey as "going on an adventure" often stating she still had "things to teach and people to torment" as a mantra to keep going, in addition to the encouragement from her husband and family to keep

fighting she received great support from friends in her weekly knitting group. Her grandchildren have always been such a blessing and joy in her life, she loved watching them learn and grow and took great pride in them.

Anne is survived by her husband, David of Mankato; three children, Michael (Carin) Mrotz of Minneapolis, Sarah Mrotz (Ross Jonak) of Portland, OR, Thomas Mrotz of Minneapolis, MN; three grandchildren, Henry, Miriam, and Etta; brother, John (JoAnn) Glady of Wykoff, MN; many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Preceded in death by her parents.



David John Becher, of Morristown, passed away on Monday, September 9, 2019 at North Memorial Hospital where he was being treated for injuries sustained in an auto accident. He was surrounded by his immediate family members at the time of his passing.

David was born in Columbus, NE to Norvin and Lucille Becher. Early in his life the family moved to Claremont, MN where they farmed. David attended high school in Waseca at the University of Minnesota Southern School for Agriculture. There he was immersed in his studies and also excelled in athletics. Upon graduation, he attended college at Concordia St. Paul and later completed his education at Colorado State University.

David began his professional career as an ag teacher in Blue Earth, MN. After several years of teaching, he returned to his agricultural roots to farm with his father and brother. Becher Farms located 10 miles east of Faribault, was owned and operated by David and his brother, Curt Becher, for just over 23 years. After the farm was sold in 1997, David worked at Sellner Manufacturing as a welder. He enjoyed the creativity the work provided, as he never passed up the opportunity to weld.

David was deeply connected to people through his faith, volunteerism, and genuine ability to connect with people. He was active civically on numerous boards, church committees, and charitable organizations. For many years he played church league men's softball for Peace Lutheran Church in Faribault.

He and his wife, Cheryl, had recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their church family in Morristown, their children, and grandchildren. He was very proud of his family and took great pride in all of their accomplishments. But, most importantly, he was proud of them for being the people he had set the example for them to achieve.

David is survived by his wife, Cheryl; his three children, Aaron (Kathy) Becher of Fargo, ND; Doug (Michelle) Becher of Madison Lake; Emily (John) Harper of Lewiston; 8 grandchildren; brother, Curt (Michelle) Becher of Faribault; sister, Carmen (Virgil) Pamperin of Geneseo, IL; and many friends and relatives. He was preceded in death by his parents, Norvin and Lucille Becher; and his grandson, John Avery Harper.

# 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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