

the UMW CONNECTION

UMW/SSA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

November 2020

2020 Scholarship Recipients



Sara Gartner, current sophomore at the College of Saint Benedict located in St. Joseph, MN. I am pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Biology and I am aiming to have a career in the healthcare field as a medical professional. I enjoy spending time on the many surrounding trails and look forward to making many more memories in my next three years of college. My parents are Jill and Dennis Gartner. My father is a 1987 graduate of U of M Waseca and is an active member on the Alumni Board of Directors.



Zach Mohr, a 2020 GSL High School graduate and a UMW Alumni Scholarship Recipient. I am currently attending my first year of school at South Central College in North Mankato, majoring in Agronomy and Farm Business Management. Along with my full-time college education, I will continue to work on our family dairy, develop my Beck's Seed business and drive semi for Keenan Farms on the weekends.

My long-term goals are to graduate from SCC in the spring of 2022 and return to our family dairy and crop farm, and partner with my family in production agriculture. I plan to continue developing my Beck's Seed business and assist Keenan Farms as needed. It is my goal to grow in spirit and maturity as a leader in our local community and I hope to become actively involved in rural organizations and memberships that will help keep rural America thriving. My plans are to stay here, and grow my future in farming and the opportunities that exist here in Glencoe MN.

My parents are John and Bonnie (Bianchi) Mohr, Glencoe MN, my mom is a 1982 graduate of UMW.

Board of Directors - members needed

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

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

UMW / SSA Alumni Association website:
<https://sroc.cfans.umn.edu>

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

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Did your Address Change?

*Remember to report
new contact information!*

35838 120th Street
Waseca, MN 56093
(507) 835-3620

Email: nelso191@umn.edu

Calendar of Events

Monday, January 4, 2021
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 6
71st Annual Sleigh and Cutter Parade
Waseca, MN

Monday, April 19
Board Meeting
Southern Research and Outreach Center
6:30 p.m.
Waseca, MN

Saturday, August 7
8.7.2021 REUNION
Farmamerica
Waseca, MN

Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival

January 23 – March 20, 2021

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. Sleights, cutters, bobsleds and many types of wagons and buggies can be seen on Feb 6, 2021.

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

Saturday, January 23-Saturday, March 20.

View the website:

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

Scholarships Available

Deadline to Apply - January 4, 2021

The Alumni Association of the Southern School of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota, Waseca will offer scholarships to be distributed in 2021.

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 2021 high school graduate or college freshman.

Deadline is Monday, January 4, 2021

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.

In preparation for the 8.7.2021 event to be held at Farmamerica, Jim Gibson worked with KEYC TV, Mankato. Together they produced a series of "Agriculture in Southern Minnesota"

If you are interested in seeing the series, you can find the links here:

- #1 <https://www.keyc.com/2020/08/04/history-agriculture-education-research-waseca-beginning-with-robert-hodgson/>
- #2 <https://www.keyc.com/2020/08/06/continuing-legacy-ed-fredericks-commitment-agriculture-education-research-waseca/>
- #3 <https://www.keyc.com/2020/08/11/impact-railroad-wasecas-agricultural-roots-promoting-agriculture-advancements-area/>
- #4 <https://www.keyc.com/2020/08/18/wasecas-agricultural-roots-making-waseca-county-prime-agricultural-space/>
- #5 <https://www.keyc.com/2020/08/18/southern-research-outreach-center-providing-positive-community-agricultural-impacts/>
- #6 <https://www.keyc.com/2020/08/20/impact-agricultural-utilization-research-institutes-waseca-office-county/>
- #7 <https://www.keyc.com/2020/08/25/local-organizations-make-sure-waseca-countys-agricultural-roots-run-deep-years-come/>
- #8 <https://www.keyc.com/2020/08/27/crystal-valley-provides-revenue-jobs-agricultural-support-waseca-county/>
- #9 <https://www.keyc.com/2020/09/01/university-minnesota-waseca-alumni-tell-story-past-technical-college/>

University of Minnesota

UMW/SSA Faculty, Staff and Alumni Reunion

Saturday, August 7, 2021 (8.7.2021)

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

Registration Deadline – July 1, 2021

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](https://www.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.

What / who would you like to see at the event?

Now is your chance!

Contact a team member and provide your input!

We would love to hear from you.

Don Collins
Ed Frederick
Jim Gibson
Cindy Glamm
Mardell Jacobson

Roy Johnson
Denise Manthe
Bruce McKee
Samantha Meyer
Jonna Moen

Wanda Morsching
Deanne Nelson
Nelso191@umn.edu
Laura Rohde
Jessica Rollins

What is your favorite memory of UMW or SSA?

Send us a short video. We'd like to do a video compilation for the August 7, 2021 Reunion (and to share short clips on Facebook). Record a video with your phone or tablet.

Put it on the selfie camera or have someone hold the camera.

Turn it horizontal - like your computer screen or TV.

Record a short piece less than one minute.

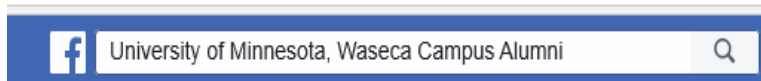
Give your name, your program of study, the years you attended or worked at UMW (or SSA), and describe your favorite memory of UMW (or SSA).

Click this link and upload your video.

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/AOSoV2pZzpQSLv2sjTYN>

Thanks. We're looking forward to your submission.

Follow us on Facebook



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

This article was shared with me, Darin Olien is the son of Howard Olien who taught at UMW. It's a great article. Darin spoke about health and wellness a couple years ago to a group in Waseca. He is very knowledgeable and enlightening on health and wellness. He even autographed his book for those of us in attendance.

Down To Earth Host Darin Olien Shows Zac Efron How To Save The World

In his new Netflix show, Darin Olien travels the world with Zac Efron to champion sustainability.

Netflix By [Martha Sorren](#) July 10, 2020



As Zac Efron adventures around the world in his [Netflix show *Down to Earth with Zac Efron*](#), he'll have a companion who is well versed in sustainability. Efron and [co-host Darin Olien](#) will travel to different countries to talk to eco-innovators and help audiences rethink consumption as a whole. Olien is billed as a "wellness expert" by the series, and he has roots in the health and sustainability fields.

He's also a bit of an eco-innovator himself, having helped found the company that [sells Barukas, a "super" nut](#) from Brazil. On the Barukas website, Olien claims that they're the "healthiest nuts on the planet" since they're filled with protein and micronutrients. And for every five pounds of nuts sold, the company plants a tree back in the wild.

Healthy, sustainable foods are Olien's passion. His website says he has a degree in Exercise Physiology and Nutrition and he [considers himself an "exotic superfoods hunter."](#) He's taken that expertise to try to help others adapt to his lifestyle. In 2017, [he wrote a book](#) called *SuperLife: The 5 Simple Fixes That Will Make You Healthy, Fit, and Eternally Awesome*. Earlier this year he [launched the app 121 Tribe](#), which he says gives users "21 days of optimal living" as they get a crash course in how Olien eats, works out, and achieves his goals.

In addition to those projects, Olien also launched a podcast in May [called *The Darin Olien Show*](#). There are nine episodes so far, and Olien wants the show to be "packed with honest, inspiring and enlightening conversations with extraordinary people from all walks of life." He's hoping that he can help "to save the planet one conversation at a time." Many of the topics he discusses on the podcast are similar to those he tackles in his book and app, like plant-based eating, boosting the immune system, and properly fueling the body.

Though *Down to Earth* show will be Olien's first venture into TV, he's intimately involved in the production, also [serving as an executive producer](#). And as he teaches Efron about superfoods and sustainability, the audience will learn a whole lot about what Olien thinks it will take to save the planet and ourselves.

We would like to expand electronic distribution and reduce costs of printing and postage for our newsletter. If you are able to receive this via email, please forward your email address to: nelso191@umn.edu

Thank you!

Obituaries

Brenda K. Miller, age 57, of Penn Township, Minnesota, passed away on Sunday, June 7, 2020, at her home in Penn Township.

Brenda Kay Miller was born on March 22, 1963, in Rochester, Minnesota. She was the daughter of Dale and JoAnn (Williams) Tiegen. Brenda was baptized as an infant on April 28, 1963, and was later confirmed in her faith as a youth on May 14, 1978, both at West St. Olaf Church in Hayfield, Minnesota. She received her education in Hayfield, and was a graduate of the Hayfield High School Class of 1981. Brenda continued her education at the University of Minnesota Technical College in Waseca, Minnesota. Following graduation, she worked as a Veterinary Technician in the Veterinarian Research Department at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

On August 17, 1991, Brenda was united in marriage to Kevin Miller at West St. Olaf Church in Oslo, Minnesota. This marriage was blessed with three children, Logan, Lindsay, and Lane. Brenda and Kevin made their home in Penn Township, rural Brownton, Minnesota and shared 28 years of marriage.

Brenda was employed as a Medical Lab Technician at Glencoe Regional Health in the Stewart Clinic for 27 years.

Brenda was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Brownton where she was active as a Sunday School Teacher. She was a member of the McLeod West School Board and the GFW School Board where she was also an after prom volunteer at both schools. She was an avid Brownton Community volunteer, 4H Leader and volunteer, and an FFA Coach.

Brenda enjoyed camping, water skiing, biking, and hiking. She loved animals, going on family vacations, and was very proud of her Norwegian heritage and traditions. Brenda especially enjoyed and cherished the time spent with her family and friends.

Brenda was diagnosed with sporadic Creutzfeldt - Jakob disease in October of 2019. After fighting a courageous battle, she passed away on Sunday, June 7, 2020, at her home in Penn Township, at the age of 57 years.

Blessed be her memory.

Brenda is survived by her husband, Kevin Miller of Penn Township, MN; children, Logan, Lindsay, and Lane Miller of Penn Township, MN; mother, JoAnn Tiegen of Hayfield, MN; brothers, Gregg Tiegen and his wife, Gwenda, of Byron, MN, Eric Tiegen and his wife, Lori, of Stacy, MN; brothers and

sisters-in-law, Mark Miller and his wife, Corina, of Prior Lake, MN, Nancy Sweely and her husband, David, of Stewart, MN; nieces and nephews, Gunnar Tiegen, Greta Tiegen, Greer Tiegen, Brittany Tiegen, Gabrielle Tiegen, Jacob Tiegen, Rebecca Lillemon and her husband, Jordan, Tyler Miller, Miranda Sweely, Victoria Sweely, and Savanna Sweely; Mother-in-law, Faye Miller of Brownton, MN; many other relatives and friends.

Brenda is preceded in death by her Father, Dale Tiegen; brother, Jason Tiegen; and father-in-law, Herman Miller.

Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) is a rare, fatal brain disorder within a group of illnesses called prion diseases. The incidence of CJD cases worldwide is one to two cases, per million individuals per year. In the United States this statistic translates to nearly 500 new cases per year. Eighty-five percent of CJD cases are sporadic, meaning there is no known cause at present.



Alan T. Sothman, age 78, of Minnetonka passed away on June 16, 2020. Alan was a 30 year employee of the Star Tribune as a Mailer Machinist.

He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Yvonne (Bach), daughter Janeen (Mark) & son Jon (Lisa), six grandchildren and eight (plus one on the way) great- grandchildren, three sisters, two brothers and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Julie, his grandson Nicholas and his parents Willis and Erma.

Robert (Bob) Edwin Lewis beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather, age 80, passed away at home on August 24, 2020.

Born March 10, 1940 to Edwin Lisle Lewis and Agnes Elsie (Putzer) Lewis in Blooming Prairie, MN, he was preceded in death by his parents.

He married "Mary Alice" of Tionesta, PA on November 13, 1959 in Arlington, VA, and enjoyed over 60 years with the love of his life.

Bob graduated from the Southern School of Agriculture, Waseca, MN in 1958 and joined the U.S. Navy. He was honorably discharged in 1967 and served additionally in the U.S. Army Reserve/Army Individual Ready Reserve from 1973 to 2000.

After his active duty military service, Bob worked in information technology as a computer

Continued on page 7

Obituaries continued**Robert (Bob) Edwin Lewis** *continued*

programmer/analyst for multiple companies before retiring from Wells Fargo in 2002 after 32 years.

He is survived by his wife Mary Alice (Brady), sons Michael (Dyana), Edwin (Suzy) and Daniel and daughter Michelle. He is also survived by grandchildren; Robert (Whitney), Addison (Laura), Joseph (Alexa), Crystal, Brandon and Nicole and great grandchildren Dylan, Lillian, Carter, Finley, Charlotte, Sawyer and Grayson, his brother Harold Lewis and several nephews and nieces.

A private memorial service for family members was held on August 29th at the Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Rosemount, MN. Bob loved and was loved, greatly.

Alum Updates

Todd Spadgenske (graduated 1986) does IT with the City St. Cloud and Nancy Mertens-Spadgenske (graduated 1987) is Director of River Depot Faith Based Kid Care program for school aged kids at our church. We have three children in college and we are getting close to being empty nesters. We really enjoy traveling as a family and took great advantage of traveling the U.S. for a couple of months every year as a homeschooling family. Now that all three kids are in college they have less flexibility to travel for long periods of time. We do still take shorter trips for a couple weeks at a time, and Todd and I have also started traveling without our kids! We also enjoy serving at our church. We have many great memories with friends and great experiences while at UMW! Todd Spadgenske and Nancy Mertens-Spadgenske, 18014 Terrapin Court, Cold Spring, MN 56320 toddandnancys@msn.com

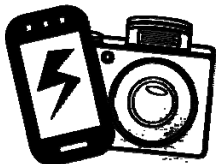
Thomas M. Johnson (winter 1975) married to Anita. We have 2 children, Erica and Brett, along with 1 granddaughter, Leonna. I served on the North Dakota Ag Board for 2 terms. During my terms, I helped to develop the Certified Crop Advisor test for the state of ND. My hobbies include: hunting, riding 4 wheelers and motorcycles, spending time with my family and friends, and traveling. Currently I'm enjoying retirement. 404 Park St. E, Park River, ND 58270, 701-331-1166, agrotom@polarcomm.com

Michael Frederick Currently works at Buffalo Wild Wings and serves on the LeSueur County Historical Society board. 110 Homestead R. Apt 5, Mankato, MN 56001 (507) 508-2810.

Faculty Update

Mark Wilson

Faculty member at UMW for 11 years. Moved on to work for Rigger Feeds one year and that was bought out by United Feeds. Served as Director of Technology Dissemination for 8 years. For 7 years I worked at Minitube of America, Vice President of Technology Transfer. One year at Ralco, 11 years at Zinpro Corporation, research and nutritional services. Recently Global Technical Business Growth Team – Swine. Molly and I still water ski, all three daughters are married and we have 3 grandchildren. 5600 Lake Edge Rd #211, McFarland, WI 53558, mwilson@zinpro.com (952) 288-9985.



*Please share your photos, writing talent,
and ideas for the
next newsletter!*

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, or **Alumni Association, Southern Research and Outreach Center, 35838 120th 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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