

the UMW CONNECTION

UMW/SSA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

November 2011

Summer Gathering

You could not have asked for a more beautiful and perfect summer day. The atmosphere was very relaxing and enjoyable. Faculty, staff, students and friends of UMW and SSA were all invited to Indian Island Winery near Janesville, MN on August 13. Participation for the day was lower than hoped, but those that attended had a wonderful time. At the October board meeting it was suggested to try the event again next year, hopefully more will be able to attend. A date will be announced in the April newsletter, and will include additional information on the winery with details of tours and entertainment.



Scholarships Available

The Alumni Association of the Southern School of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota, Waseca is again offering scholarships for 2012. Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded to any former graduate or former student that completed a minimum of 45 credits while at SSA or UMW and is pursuing a two-year, four-year, or graduate degree. Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded to any child or a grandchild of an alumnus. To be eligible for this scholarship, a student's GPA must be above 3.0. Five \$100 scholarships will be awarded to any former UMW or SSA graduate to attend a seminar or short course.

Scholarship application deadline is January 10, 2012.

To receive criteria and information on how to apply, 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. Criteria is also posted on the Web at:

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

Web site: <http://sroc.cfans.umn.edu/umwssa/index.htm>

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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**

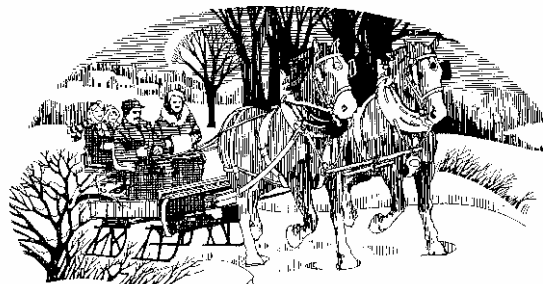
If you would like to obtain a copy of your transcript from UMW, send your full name, (and maiden name), address, and social security number, along with \$5.00 to:

University of Minnesota
Admissions and Records
130 Coffey Hall
1420 Eckles Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108
(612) 624-3731

For RUSH REQUESTS, the charge is \$10.

Calendar of Events

- Tuesday, January 10, 2012.....
Scholarship Applications Due
Southern Research and Outreach Center
Waseca, MN
- Monday, January 23.....
Board Meeting
Southern Research and Outreach Center
6:30 p.m.
Waseca, MN
- Monday, April 23
Board Meeting
Southern Research and Outreach Center
6:30 p.m.
Waseca, MN



Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival Association, Inc.

5603 N.W. 102nd Avenue
Waseca, MN 56093

<http://sleighandcutter.org/>

“ A death in the family”

On the front page of the *Minnesota Daily* September 27, 2011 edition of the U of M newspaper wrote a story recognizing 40 years ago to the day, the Waseca campus opened. The article is available on-line and can be viewed at:

<http://www.mndaily.com/2011/09/27/death-family>

Class of 1971 Gather

The heat and extreme humidity on July 23, did not keep SSA class of 1971 from having a wonderful time together. Delores (Slechta) Dennis and husband Greg Dennis hosted 22, nearly 50%, of the 1971 graduating class at their home on Reeds Lake. Thank you Greg and Delores! We enjoyed a pontoon ride, took pictures, and reminisced about our years at SSA. What one couldn't quite remember, another could. We laughed a lot!!! We dined on a brat and potluck dinner. The girls were pleasantly surprised by some of the guys' culinary achievements, without haven taken a Home EC class in high school. The best part of the gathering was catching up with those we had been so close to in our SSA years. Many of our classmates have remained dear friends the entire 40 years. We remembered our three classmates who have passed away. Chuck Quiggle, Paul Nelson, and Poncho. There was a unanimous decision that we will celebrate with each other at least every five years, with some smaller gatherings more often. Definitely a great time was had by all! Class members attending were:

From left to right

Mark Cumming, Mapleton
 Jeff Fellows, Eagle Lake
 Delores (Slechta) Dennis, Waseca
 Gary Brockway, Eyota
 Marilyn (Jeno) Kahnke, Waseca
 Mavis (Peterson) Bowman, Rochester
 Sherry (Volkman) Ziese, Medford
 Gerry (Freberg) Boe, Ortonville
 Sue (Schwepe) Rohdes, Owatonna
 Kevin Mussman, Claremont
 Eldo Wobschall, St. Charles/Alba
 Mark Sowiejka, Waterville
 John Losee, Claremont
 Darrell Boe, Ortonville
 Duane Cordes, Sleepy Eye
 Jeff Wilson, Rochester
 Lee Glabe, Oronoco
 Randy Anderson, Owatonna
 Merrill Bernau, Emmons
 Dave Hermel, New Ulm
 Denny Ziese, Medford



Planning committee: Delores, Mavis & Marilyn



SSA Class of '61 Celebrate 50 Years

Twenty-six classmates from the class of 1961 gathered on the weekend of July 30 and 31 to celebrate 50 years since graduation. This celebration continued the class tradition of having reunion gatherings every five years.

Festivities were held at the G & G Bed and Breakfast just west of Bixby, Minnesota. Saturday afternoon began with time to renew friendships followed by dinner and a short program. Sunday morning continued with more conversation and breakfast.

The short program Saturday evening honored the classmates we have lost and updated the class on significant personal events in the past five years. But it also included some long overdue confessions of dormitory and other mischief at SSA (very interesting)!

Classmates from Arizona, California, Montana, and Virginia traveled to renew their friendship with those based in the Midwest.

2011 Scholarship Recipients

Jaclyn Dingels graduated from high school in Redwood Falls, MN. Her father, Stephen Dingels majored in diversified ag production at UMW 1979-1981. She is currently attending the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul.

Katarina Donkers graduated from Faribault High School. Her father, Scott Donkers, attended 1988-1990. She is currently attending DePaul University in Chicago, IL with a major in biological sciences with a pre-health concentration and a minor in Spanish. She hopes to attend medical school and become a dermatologist.

Emily Riihl graduated from New Richland High School. Both parents attended UMW. Her mother, Joy Kiewet Riihl, attended fall 1981 to spring 1983. Her father, Wesley Riihl attended 1981 for two semesters. Emily is currently attending Dordt College in Souix Center, IA with a major in engineering science with an emphasis in agriculture.

Andrew Thies graduated from Sibley East High School in Arlington, MN. His father, Kevin Thies attended UMW 1980 to 1982. He plans to attend South Dakota State University and major in pharmacy.

Lost Alum

Below are names of alums we have lost contact with. If you know where they are, please help by sending an updated mailing address to: nelso191@umn.edu or Deanne Nelson 35838 120th St., Waseca, MN 56093.

Name	Last Known Town	Name	Last Known Town
Amy Abas	Princeton, MN	Colleen Carlson	Winsted, MN
Bruce Ackerman	Fulda, MN	Kimberly Caskey	N. Mankato, MN
Teri-Jo Aeling	Northfield, MN	Constance Clark	Eden Valley, MN
Tony Albrecht	Jackson, MN	Terri Costello	Park Rapids, MN
Rebecca Alexander	Mitchell, SD	Debra Dixon	Henderson, MN
Patrice Allen	Forest Lake, MN	Kathy Dorn	Adrian, MN
Kathy Altmann	St. Paul, MN	Aileen Duit	Alden, MN
Charles Anderson	Winona, MN	Douglas Dysthe	Slayton, MN
Daniel Anfinson	N. Mankato, MN	Jonathan East	Harmony, MN
Becky Austin	Mabel, MN	Aaron Ekern	Rushford, MN
Debra Backen	Aitkin	Joann Erickson	Faribault, MN
Alan Bahler	Rushford, MN	Susan Farber	Walnut Grove, MN
Wayne Baker	Blue Earth, MN	Lisa Filan	Waterville, MN
Elaine Ballman	Minneapolis, MN	Christine Flatness	Amboy, MN
Eric Barth	Chatfield, MN	Laurie Flemming	Hayfield, MN
Marri Bateman	Good Thunder, MN	Jesse Gillard	West Concord, MN
Steven Bateman	Maple Plaine, MN	Amy Gieske	St. James, MN
Tom Bauman	Delano, MN	Alen Gleisner	Marshall, MN
Lynn Baumann	Edgar, MN	Lori Darling	Cambridge, MN
Shannon Becker	Pipeston, MN	Wendy Dengal	Winona, MN
Jennifer Bergene	Chatfield, MN	David Devorak	Eden Prairie, MN
Brenda Bergerson	Mapleton, MN	Margaret Gruber	Mankato, MN
Tracy Berninghaus	Osakis, MN	Wayne Grunklee	Morris, MN
Marian Bethke	Webster, MN	Dean Hagen	Rochester, MN
Jeffrey Boike	St. Cloud, MN	Kevin Hagen	New Richland, MN
Larry Bratsch	Belle Plaine, MN	Matthew Halleck	Owatonna, MN

Obituaries

Merle Lee Barnhart, age 72, of Red Wing, formerly of Rochester, MN, died Friday, Jan. 21, at Fairview Seminary Home in Red Wing.

He was born in Mapleton, MN, on June 9, 1938, son of Lee and Vera (Bybee) Barnhart. In 1958, he graduated from the Southern School of Agriculture in Waseca. Merle married Nancy Wilson and had four children. Years later they divorced. June 30, 1966, Merle married Alice Peterson, lived in Prescott, WI, and Diamond Bluff, WI, and had two children. Years later they divorced.

Merle is survived by three sons, Rick (Tina) Barnhart of Marysville, WA, Randy Barnhart of Kasson, MN, Michael (Stacy) Barnhart of Thief River Falls, MN; three daughters, Cindy (Kim) Cunningham of Rochester, MN, Tammy Barnhart of Rochester, MN, and Lori Huppert of Hager City, WI; nine grandchildren, Jessica Barnhart, Christopher and Katie Sue Cunningham, Shannon and Casey Barnhart, Justin and Brandi Barnhart, Krystal and Katelyn Huppert; two step-grandchildren, Tatyana and Trevor Miles; five great-grandchildren; five sisters, Judy (Bill) Hillehiem of Red Wing, Donna Barnhart of Rochester, Linda (Glen) Simes of Sarasota, FL, Leila (Steve) Ostergard of Shannon, IL, Dolly (Gary) Glendinning of Smyrna, GA; and further survived by many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and infant grandson Jason.

Toni Marie Huber, age 26 of New Prague, died on Sunday, June 5, 2011 in Le Sueur County, MN.

Born on May 1, 1985 in Waseca, Minnesota she was the daughter of Larry & LuAnne Huber. Toni graduated from Waseca High School in 2003. While in high school, she worked in customer service at Hy-Vee and also at Kiesler's Campground in Waseca. Following high school, Toni attended South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD before graduating from St. Cloud Technical College with a degree in echocardiography. Following school, Toni moved back to Waseca and completed an internship at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis. She continued working in the Cardiac Unit at Abbott and was currently a mobile technician, working between various hospitals. Toni enjoyed motorcycling, bowling, shopping, family events, dancing, and had been a cheerleader and on the color guard while in high school. She was a member at St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca.

She is survived by her parents, Larry and LuAnne Huber of Waseca; brothers, Travis (Becky) Huber of Janesville, and Tyler Huber and Terry Huber of Waseca. (Both her father, Larry and grandfather, Lester worked at UMW.) She is also survived by her paternal grandparents, Lester and Deloris Huber of Waseca and maternal grandmother, Doris Edberg of Le Sueur; and many uncles, aunts, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her paternal grandfather, Bruce Edberg and her aunt and uncle, Linda and Jim Weisjahn.

Charles L. Kopischke, age 68 of Janesville, died at his home from lung cancer, on Thursday, June 16, 2011.

Charles Louis was born on October 15, 1942 in Waseca, Minnesota to Louis and Violet "Tootie" (Dimmel) Kopischke. He was baptized October 15, 1942, and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville on March 25, 1956. Chuck attended Waseca County country school, Trinity Lutheran Parochial School in Janesville and in 1960 graduated from the Southern School of Agriculture in Waseca. He served in the United States Army from September 24, 1960 until his honorable discharge on March 23, 1961. After his military duty he returned home, and on September 27, 1963 was united in marriage to Deanna Beelow at Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville. Chuck and Deanna raised their family and resided in Janesville. Chuck had a long career as a meat cutter. He worked for *Madsen's Foods*, *Finley's Grocery* in Janesville, and for over 20 years with *Wiste's Meats* in Janesville. Following his wife Deanna's passing in 1994, Chuck married Dona Allen on August 23, 1996 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville. After his career as a meat cutter, Chuck was employed with the City of Janesville, and later Carlson Craft in Mankato. For nearly 20 years he also owned and operated his lawn care business in the Janesville area. He was a longtime member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville where he was a past president of the congregation as well as having served on the church finance committee, and the cemetery board. Chuck served 20 years on the Janesville Volunteer Fire Department, 7 years as chief. He was also a member of the Janesville American Legion # 281, and Disabled American Veterans-Mankato Chapter #10. Chuck was a former member of the Janesville City Council, and currently served on the City of Janesville Park Board. Chuck was an avid hunter and fisherman, and was known for always having a "good" story! He enjoyed time spent with friends and family, especially his grandchildren.

Continued on page 6

Obituaries *continued from page 5*

Charles L. Kopischke

He is survived by his wife Dona, his children William Kopischke, and Debra Vogelsang, and his father Louis Kopischke, all of Janesville; by his 11 grandchildren, Sarah Kopischke, Grant Vogelsang, Alex Allen, Emily Kopischke, Jordan Vogelsang, Matt Kopischke, Jenna Vogelsang, Carl (Abby) Allen, Jessica (Jade) Harper, Sidney Allen, and Indigo Allen; by his stepsons, Todd (Kim) Allen of Duvall, WA, and Scott (Chrisy) Allen of North Mankato and by his sister Arlene (James) Cummins of Rochester.

He was preceded in death by his wife Deanna on May 18, 1994 and his mother Violet "Tootie" Kopischke on June 27, 2008.

Nancy Lee Hinrichs, 46, of Goodhue, died on Wednesday, Aug. 31, at her home after a valiant battle with leukemia.

She was born on Aug. 11, 1965, in Red Wing, to James and Sharon (Fredine) Bryan. She graduated in 1983 from Red Wing Central High School and then attended the University of Minnesota-Waseca and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, receiving a bachelor of science degree in ag business. On Oct. 9, 1992, she married Timothy Hinrichs at Christ Episcopal Church in Red Wing. She worked for

Central Livestock in South St. Paul until 1998. She also farmed with her husband near Goodhue. She was a member of Christ Episcopal Church, where she served on the vestry and played handbells; she was active as an adult leader in the Goodhue Gesundheits and Burnside Pluckies 4-H Clubs; she served on the auction and livestock committee for Goodhue County 4-H and was secretary/treasurer for the Minnesota Shorthorn Lassie Association for 20 years. She was actively involved in the beef industry and took pride in showing cattle, especially Shorthorns. She enjoyed cooking, music, the outdoors, going on picnics, and was an avid Twins and Vikings fan. Most of all, she loved spending time with her family.

Survivors include her husband, Tim; two children, Justin and Haley at home; her mother, Sharon Bryan of Red Wing; two sisters, Pamela (James) Dressen of Ellsworth, WI, Barbara (Kevin) Rozeboom of Mt. Horeb, WI, and one brother, Tom (Rena) Bryan of Red Wing; many nieces and nephews and other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, James in 2007; one sister, Patricia Jane Bryan in infancy; and her grandparents, Ralph and Lillian Bryan and Clarence and Rose Fredine.

Alum Update

Ken Liebl, 80-82; (Diversified Ag Production and Dairy Management) married **Sheri Brey (89-91; Hort Program)** in 1999. We currently live in Lafayette, MN. We were blessed with twins (boy/girl) in 2002. After UMW, I returned to the family farm and since, have worked at Kraft Foods in New Ulm. Sheri had a hand in landscaping for many years and opted for a new career path and most recently is in office management at Valley View Electric in New Ulm. Both of our goals in life is to provide our children with the same quality of life that our parents and those before us did. We both teach children at our church, active in 4-H and scouting programs as well as support our local park and recreation association. I am also involved as a volunteer with the Lafayette Fire and Ambulance Departments. Ken Liebl & Sheri (Brey) Liebl, 531 Skyview Avenue, Lafayette, MN 56054, 507-228-8566 LieblLand@hotmail.com

Randy Pluff

1989-91 UMW, Hort Program

Randy is currently recovering from his second surgery after removing a cancerous tumor from his brain. Soon he will undergo 5 weeks of radiation to eliminate any remaining cancerous cells. During this time he has been unable to work.

If you would like to help out this fellow UMW grad, please feel free to send a donation to Associated Bank in Sister Bay, Attn: Randy Pluff Benefit Fund, 7711 County Road A, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202.

His Wisconsin family and friends are also planning a benefit for the Pluff family on October 23rd. Visit Facebook "Randy Pluff Benefit" for more information.

Thank you! --Sheri (Brey) Liebl

Faculty & Staff Update

Dale Drees

It's been some time since I've sent in an update about our family, thought I would let everyone know what we have been up to. I still teach in the Outdoor Power Equipment program at Fox Valley Technical College, going on 20 years now. Robin is the Benefits Specialist at ThedaCare, she is the primary contact for all benefits concerns of about 6200 doctors, nurses and staff in hospitals and clinics throughout northeast Wisconsin.

Our son, Corey, graduated from Concordia College with a degree in criminal justice and works as a supervisor for Covenant Securities stationed at Kimberly Clark's headquarters in Neenah, WI. Our daughter, Ashley, graduated from UW Whitewater in elementary education this spring and was hired by the Milton School District as a second grade elementary teacher. She also is employed by Wisconsin Professional Dance as a "Diamond Dancer", performing before the Friday and Saturday home games of the Milwaukee Brewers. If you copy the web address below to your browser and open the page, Ashley is in the front row, second from the left. Click on her for a bio and additional photo shots. Robin and I get tickets to all the Friday home games to watch, so we are really enjoying the Brewers season. <http://www.wiprodance.com/index.shtml>

Dale Drees, Lead Instructor, Outdoor Power Equipment Technician, Fox Valley Technical College, PO Box 2277, 1825 N Bluemound DR, Appleton, WI 54912, (920) 735-2489.

Cindy (Pachan) McVenens

Hello from Baraboo,

My husband, Tim and I, have lived here in Baraboo, Wisconsin for 16 years now. Our oldest son, Sean, is 23 and a U of MN grad who is currently a chemical engineer for 3M in Hutchinson MN. Our 21 year old son, Joel, is a senior at UW-Stout in packaging engineering. Our baby daughter Megan is 17 and a senior in high school, who plays volleyball, basketball and soccer, so we are busy sports fans following her around all year. I am currently the Director of Continuing Education at UW-Baraboo/Sauk County. My husband, Tim, is an engineer and currently the technical manager at RR Donnelly Printing Company in Baraboo. (At one time Tim worked for Brown Printing in Waseca.) This past summer Tim and I took a trip to Scotland. We just loved it! This year we are putting together our bucket list for the empty nester time next year when our youngest will be heading off to college. If you have any great ideas of places to visit or things to do...jot me a note.

Cindy (Pachan) McVenens, UMW housing 1982-86 and then Wellness Coordinator and Student Activities 1989-92

Margaret Hasslen, wife of Harland Hasslen (deceased). Worked with SSA and UMW secretarial staff 1957-1978. Moved to Realife Coop retirement complex in 1995 and still there enjoying a great and easy lifestyle. Do volunteering a bit, travel on one-day bus trips and to plays and concerts. Also involved in church activities.

Former UMW Entertainment

Attached is a photo of Shirley and Ed Frederick with the star of the "Todd Oliver and Friends" show in Branson, Missouri. Todd Oliver now has his own show but for many years he was the star of the Branson Belle Showboat on Table Rock Lake with his "talking dogs". In the 1980's he use to bring his "Rock and Roll" band to Waseca to play at a number of UMW events.

Ed Frederick

