



# WCSA AlumNEWS

Fall 2008

## Knapp '61: life as thoroughbred breeder influenced by childhood years

Amid rolling bluegrass Kentucky hills, the loves of Gary Knapp's life merge and flourish: land, business, and horses. The link between these elements originates in the 1961 WCSA graduate's childhood. Everyday life on a Red River Valley farm near Foxhome shaped Knapp's present and continues to influence his future.

### Working on the Foxhome farm

"My father and mother, Harry and Gertrude, were very pragmatic people," reflects Knapp. "I started working on the farm at a very young age, spending full days on the tractor at the age of six. I remember a story about a neighbor rapidly driving into our yard to tell my dad that the Minneapolis Moline was running in the field without anyone behind the wheel. My dad calmly responded, 'Oh, that's Gary. You just can't see him behind the fender.'"

By his early teens, Knapp was pretty sure that he didn't want to become a "dirt farmer." But other aspects of farm life were gently becoming a part of his identity. His father's innate business sense and deep respect for the land left a profound impression.

"I listened and watched my father," shares Knapp. "Dad was very good in business. Quite progressive. He was always buying the latest in new equipment. He bought the first tractor in the area."

And his father also bought land. Knapp recalls: "Eventually, I realized that if mother was crying in the kitchen, father was considering buying more farmland. She was worried about the investment, but I thought it was just a normal thing to do to buy a chunk of real estate. We had an 'Old McDonald farm' when I was young...sheep, pigs, chickens, dairy cattle. My dad would sell off a type of animal as he bought more farmland. We had a very good farm. He paid much attention to the land, considering wind erosion, crop rotation, fertilizer. He took care of that land, the basis of a farm."

### WCSA years

There was "no doubt and never a question" on the part of Knapp's parents that he and his brothers, Gordon '57 and the late Jerry '60, would attend the WCSA. "A six-month high school program with a summer project was a great alternative for our family," states Knapp.



Knapp

Dorm life, student center activities, swimming, and football fill Knapp's WCSA memories. "I think I still hold the record for the longest punt, 78 yards," he happily shares. "The football field was surrounded by mature elm trees. I kicked the ball high above the trees, and it just floated on the wind."

WCSA classes provided "aha moments" in respect to his father's business practices. Knapp remembers: "When Dad bought a new piece of equipment, he'd hurry to do his own fields, then he'd do custom work for others. I could see his success as we studied average equipment costs per acre in ag school. His dollars per acre were down to zero."

Knapp shares another WCSA student memory perhaps influenced by his father's industrious spirit: "We loved a hard snow in the winter. We'd shovel snow for the people in Morris... a wonderful little town."

### Giving college a try

After graduation, Knapp thought about dairy farming, but a casual conversation with summertime friends changed his mind. They were going to college, and he thought he'd give it a try, too, even though no one in his family, except for one far-flung relative, had attended college.

He enrolled at the North Dakota State School of Science business school in Wahpeton, North Dakota. Soon, he started imagining "where one could go and what one could do with a college education." He transferred to pre-commerce in the junior college and started saying to himself, "Look how close you are to getting a BA degree." By his last quarter, he was thinking about a doctorate.

Knapp earned a bachelor of arts in business from Moorhead State University in 1965, a master of business administration and marketing from Mankato State University in 1967, and a doctorate in business administration in marketing from the University of Kentucky (U of K) in 1977. After a brief investigation of higher education administration as assistant U of K budget director ("I was cured of that!" he says.), Knapp accepted a professorship at the University of Houston in Texas and started a consulting business, Knapp Securities, Inc.

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## Greetings from the Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving

The vibrant oranges, yellows, and reds of a colorful fall season have given way to the grays and browns of late fall. There is a restful, quiet beauty to the campus landscape right now...as if it is reserving its strength to bear the

inevitable weight of upcoming months of snowfall.

No matter what the season, the UMM campus is a beautiful place with a distinctive charm. I recently had the pleasure of looking back at the campus' earliest days, courtesy of a splendid presentation by Sue Granger '80 of Gemini Research. Campus history is rich and deep, and we can be thankful that Ms. Granger and others like her recognize the value of researching, gathering, and preserving our past.

Many of you will recall that Gemini Research wrote the nomination that led to the WCSA and Experiment Station being placed on the National Register of Historic Places. You may also have enjoyed Ms. Granger's presentation at the 2003 summer reunion. In 2010, we will celebrate the WCSA's 100th anniversary and UMM's 50th anniversary. You will be invited to participate in various festivities during this celebratory year. In preparation, you might enjoy perusing the UMM Historic Preservation Plan which is available at the following Web site: [morris.umn.edu/preservation](http://morris.umn.edu/preservation). For a concise summary of campus history, I encourage you to review pages 7-50.

All-school reunions afford us the opportunity to gather on campus during the beautiful summer season. More than 150 attended the evening banquet during the July 19, 2008 reunion. Everyone enjoyed reminiscing and visiting. Of special note was the return to campus of former WCSA Alumni Association President Darwin Danielson's 1962 Ford Fairlane 500. When Darwin arrived at WCSA as a junior in 1962, he drove this very vehicle. He returned with it in 2008. Darwin still appears to be running in tip-top shape, as is the Ford Fairlane 500!

The July 18, 2009 reunion will return from a brief hiatus in the Food Service building to UMM's Oyate Hall in the Student Center. At the 2008 reunion, we enjoyed the musical talents of Southeast Jazz, and a number of couples enjoyed a dance or two. If you have suggestions for entertainment for the 2009 summer reunion, feel free to contact me with your recommendations.

The WCSA *AlumNEWS* is available online. You can access the current issue at [morris.umn.edu/alumni/](http://morris.umn.edu/alumni/). If you would like to discontinue receiving a paper copy, please contact us to request that we remove your name from the conventional mailing list.

I always enjoy hearing from alumni and can be reached at [rileycj@morris.umn.edu](mailto:rileycj@morris.umn.edu) or 320-589-6394.

## Warm weather winter gatherings of WCSA alumni

WCSA alumni will be gathering in warm weather states to reminisce and enjoy each others' company this winter. Whether you are a year-around resident of Texas or Arizona, on vacation in the Southwest, or a winter snowbird, you are invited to attend these get-togethers.

### Arizona All-School Winter Reunion

The Arizona WCSA All-School Winter Reunion is planned for Monday, February 9, 2009, at noon at the ViewPoint RV and Golf Resort in Mesa, Arizona. Please contact Arloa Zahrbock Larson '48 at 480-396-0863 or Carone Flan Lyng '49 at 480-982-6416 by February 1, 2009, to make your reservations. Everyone is invited.

### Winter Texan Gathering

WCSA alumni and guests are invited to gather for an informal get-together at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2009, at Mr. Gatti's, 4100 North Second Street in McAllen, Texas. No need to RSVP. Just mark your calendars and join the fun. Call Gary Peterson '56 at 605-237-0041 for more information.

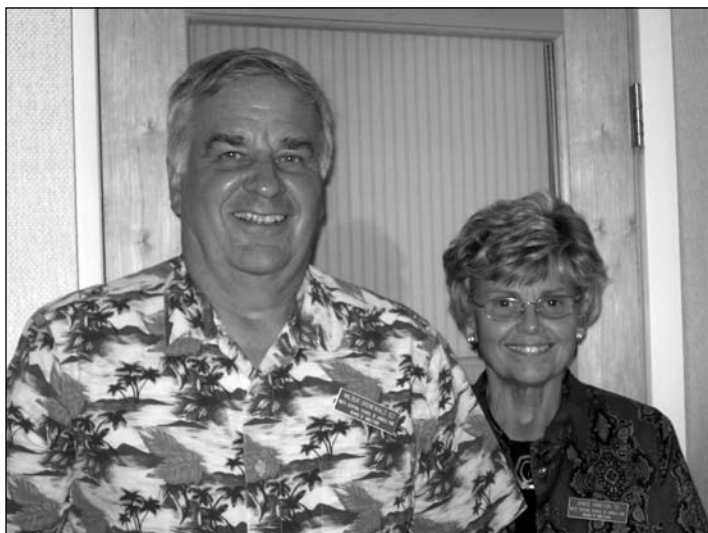
### Class of 1954 and Class of 1955 Winter Potluck

All members of the Class of 1954 and the Class of 1955 are invited to attend a potluck gathering at noon on Sunday, February 15, 2009, at the home of Ted Storck, 19176 North Cathedral Point Court in Surprise, Arizona. For more information and to RSVP, call Ted at 623-266-4995 or e-mail [arizonated@cox.net](mailto:arizonated@cox.net).



### WCSA image earns honorable mention in USDA-NRCS photo contest

Last spring, the United States Department of Agriculture—North Central Soil Conservation Research Lab in Morris celebrated its 50th anniversary with a photo contest. A 1920s photo of a WCSA agronomy class, submitted on behalf of the WCSA Alumni Association, earned honorable mention in the "From the Attic—People" category.



## WCSA Board of Directors thanks new and departing members

New members of the WCSA Alumni Association Board of Directors were elected at the 2008 All-School Summer Reunion. Wilbur Grunewald '63, Minneapolis, and Janice Berg Arneson '55, Glenwood, (above) began their three-year terms this fall.

Darwin Danielson '63, Rothsay, and Harriet Payne '60, Montevideo, (below) both completed their terms. At the fall 2008 Board of Directors meeting, they received a gift in thanks for their years of service, a WCSA jacket.

The Board of Directors meet twice per year in September and June to conduct WCSA Alumni Association business including the All-School Summer Reunion, the WCSA Alumni Garden, communication efforts like *AlumNEWS*, and collaboration with the Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving.

"It has been a pleasure working with Darwin, who served as president, and Harriet, who served as secretary," shares Carla Riley, director of alumni relations and annual giving, "Their loyalty to the WCSA is evident. I look forward to working with new members Wilbur and Janice, and all the returning board members. Thank you to everyone who serves on the board."



## Greetings from the Alumni Association President



As I prepared to write my first column as your WCSA Alumni Association president, I reviewed the article written by Darwin Danielson last year as he commented on arriving at WCSA as a tentative young teenager and how the friendships he quickly developed created a bond with other alumni that has lasted more than 40 years! I firmly believe that we all have those very same memories and are proud to be alumni of WCSA. It was this tie tugging at my heart and mind that triggered me to endow a scholarship at UMM that honors my parents and the sacrifice they made to send me to WCSA. Now I have the very special privilege of returning to campus each fall to celebrate with other donors and scholarship recipients. In visiting with the recipients, one quickly learns that this campus has a special place in their hearts and has quickly become an important place to spend a part of their lives.

In 2010, we will have the opportunity to celebrate the 100th anniversary of WCSA and the 50th anniversary of UMM. Think of all the memories we can share then! The building we all remember as Engineering is being renovated and will become the "gateway" to our special campus. The plans call to blend the rich history of this building and all the students that passed through its rooms with future students and visitors to UMM. We should be able to center around this building as we celebrate those special anniversaries.

Our All-School Summer Reunion held in July 2008 was well attended with very strong attendance by the Class of 1958. Plans are underway for the July 18, 2009, All-School Summer Reunion.

At the 2008 reunion, Marion Thompson Davenport '51 was re-elected to serve a second three-year term and Janice Berg Arneson '55 and Wilbur Grunewald '63 were elected to serve their first three-year terms on the WCSA Alumni Association Board of Directors. Harriet Vaala Payne '60 and Darwin Danielson '63 were recognized as outgoing board members and thanked for their six years of service. Next year's officers are Carol Pederson Meyer '60, president; Marion Thompson Davenport, vice-president; Carol Dewey Erlandson '55, secretary; and Bud Kopitski '59, treasurer.

Check out *AlumNEWS* for important dates coming up over the next six months and hope to see you at some of those events.

*Carol Pederson Meyer '60*

# All-School Summer Reunion Scrapbook—



**Myron Lofquist '53, Floyd Eliason '53, and Orville Brunkow '53**



**LeAnn Dean, UMM Briggs Library director, Bob DeVaan '48, and Ralph Schliep '45**



**Front row from left: Irene Goerke Weeding '53, Velma Nicholson Alleckson '53, Shirley Schultz Curry '53, Leola Eliason, Mary Evavold. Back: Jim Alleckson, Martha Miller Smith '53, and Wally Redfield '53**



**John Morrow '34 celebrating his 75th reunion, and his daughter, Iris Lund**





**Ralph '48 and Bertha Maus Sperr '50**



**Wilbur Grunewald '63, Darwin Danielson '63, Ted Hegseth '63, Lex Wolff '63, and Darwin's 1962 Ford Fairlane 500**



**David Kosen '58, Dennis Johnson '58, Dean Travland '58, Warren Thompson '58, Orville Schefers '58**



**Marlene Leininger Larsen '58, Loyal Larsen '57, and Paul Nesvold**



**Kay Noble Mariotti '58, Judy Harris Lind '58, and Pat Berg Nokleby '58**

**Mark your calendar  
for next year's reunion:  
Saturday,  
July 18, 2009!**

# Class News

compiled by Adam Thurber '09, St. Paul

**Glendeva Lysne Weigand '25** passed away in September 2008 at the age of 100. She had been living at the Evergreens of Moorhead for the past seven years.

**Valborg Reisrud Johnshoy '31** passed away in June 2008. She farmed with her husband in Blue Mounds Township in Pope County for 26 years before moving to Starbuck and later Alexandria.

**Paul Schmoker '31** passed away in September 1995.

**Marie Schoepoerster Willard '32** passed away in August 2005.

**Alfred Jergenson '32** passed away in August 2008. He operated a mink farm in Framnas Township until retiring in 1975.

**Arthur Marlton '34** passed away in March 2005. After graduation, he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps in Grand Marais and helped build the Gunflint Trail. He was drafted into the Army in 1942 and joined the Medical Corps. He moved to Cambridge in 1947, where he lived with his wife the remainder of his life.

**Clifford Iverson '35** passed away in November 2007.

**Ruth Ross Jesness '35** passed away in May 2008. Ruth was an occupational therapist, a Northwest Airlines mechanic, and a wing riveter in a defense plant. She worked as a concessionaire, selling gold wire jewelry and tacos at fairs and festivals around Minnesota and the Dakotas for more than 40 years. She was an accomplished artist and a Sunday school teacher.

**Jeanette Sherstead Marlton '36** passed away in August 2005. With her husband, **Arthur Marlton '34**, she owned and operated Paris City Dry Cleaning in Cambridge. She was a 30-year member of the Cambridge Women's Club.

**Alvin Balas '36** passed away in October 2008. He served as a half track driver with the U.S. Army's Fifth Armored Division in Europe in World War II.

**Earl Eugene Johnson '37** passed away at the age of 89 in July 2008. After serving in the Army during World War II, he worked on the family farm. Later, he worked for the Farmers Elevators in Kerkhoven for 20 years before retiring.

**Paul Smith '38** passed away in October 2007. He served in the Navy during World War II and was a machinist at American Insulated Wire in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

**Stanley Block '39** passed away at age 86 in June 2008. He and his family lived in Spicer, where he farmed, and started Turkey Growers, Inc. Later, he owned and operated Agriculture Products, Inc. in New London. In retirement, he started Valley Flea Market and his latest venture, Blocks Auction Center, for which he received his auctioneer's license.

**Russell Dyer '39** passed away in August 2008.

**Charlotte Amundson Miller '39** passed away in August 2008.

**Albert Marthaler '39** passed away in January 2008.

**Lester Nordin '41** passed away in August 2008. After WCSA graduation, he ran the family farm near Hoffman.

**Gerald Pieper '43** passed away in July 2008. He served in Korea from 1951 to 1953.

**Lillian "Betty" Ekstrom Rydell '44** lost her husband, Manley, in September 2008 after 60 years of marriage. She has five children, thirteen grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

**Gerald Thiel '45** passed away in October 2006.

**Dorothy Hansen Bauer '45** lost husband Merle in October 2008. She has one son, one brother, and brother-in-law **Carl Hanson '45**.

**Mardella Bonzelet Matteson '45** had a wonderful 80th birthday open house and program given by her family in June 2008. Alumni friends attending were **Charles Berg '45**, **Carol Lamb Berg '45**, and **Jane Melchert Dehne '46**.

**Lois Moerer Smidt '46** writes: "My husband, Ted, and I celebrated our 54th wedding anniversary this year. While I am definitely traveling in the slower lane these days, on a nice day you can still find me out on the golf course or working out in the pool at the Yakima Athletic Club. Though I've been a retired nurse for many years, I am still very interested in what is new in the field of medicine. I do a lot of reading in several publications I receive and also on the Internet. Several years ago, we had a pastor here at Central Lutheran who knew Nanna Jelstrup well. As a boy growing up, his family spent every Christmas with the Jelstrup family. He shared some interesting stories that invoked some memories for me of working on the *Moccasin* board with Nanna and living in the girls' dorm. I would enjoy hearing from friends and classmates." Contact her at: 5006 Englewood Avenue, Yakima, Washington, 98908 or tedrloism@aol.com.

**Goodwin Erlandson '46** passed away in May 2008. He farmed, and later worked for Na-Churs Fertilizer as well as AAL Insurance. He coached the Aastad 4-H softball team and sponsored an adult softball team in Wendell.

**Leslie Bruns '46** was honored by the Township of Swan Lake for 50 years of service on the Swan Lake Township board.

**Gladys Olson Pearson '46** writes: "I'm glad to get the WCSA news, however sometimes it gets a little depressing to read in the obits that we've lost another classmate. The article in the spring news by Wallace Hepstad brought a good chuckle. I for one am pretty illiterate about all the dignified electronic things we have now. Glad I'm not the only one. Congratulations to **Jeanne Hahn Swartz '48** on her accomplishments. Enjoyed the 2008 reunion."

**Betty Lou Moore Viering '46** passed away in May 2008. She owned a Betty's Boutique in St. Paul, and after moving to Glenwood in 1972, she opened another Betty's Boutique. In 1998, she moved to Texas and started studying English at the University of Texas Pan-American at the age of 75.

**Sidney P. Schmidt '46** underwent a successful quadruple bypass surgery in Abilene, Texas, in July 2008. He writes: "After I awakened and for the next few weeks, I felt as though the amateur driver of an 18 wheeler was practicing his parking skills on my body. Needless to say, the alternative to this surgery was not good at all. After I complete cardiac therapy, Darleen and I will begin some of our travels once more; possibly Turkey where our young son and his family live, and he works as a linguist throughout the nine countries of Central Asia."

**Marlys Struck Ellingson '47**, New Effington, South Dakota, passed away in October 2008. She and her husband farmed for many years. She drove school bus, worked in a grocery store, painted, gardened, sewed, quilted, and embroidered.

**Rosella Freeman Flygare '47** passed away in October 2008.

**Gordon Hillers '47** passed away in October 2008.

**Marvin Kellen '48** passed away in April 2008.

**Arden Mayer '51** passed away September 2008. He served in the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1956.

**David Schmit '51** writes: "We are back in Arizona for the winter and enjoying the great weather. A reminder to anyone living here or spending the winter months as we do, I am still in the flooring business. If I can be of help to you and any of your friends.... you will receive a special 'Minnesota' discount!" Contact Dave at home at 480-563-1136 or on his cell phone at 480-529-9685.

**Milton Jellum '51** and **Pauline Aanerud Jellum '51** went on a three-week tour of Viet Nam earlier in the year, as well as a two-week tour of the Balkan countries. They also enjoyed a two-week river cruise on the Dnieper River from Odessa to Kiev, Ukraine, and a two-week river cruise on the Volga River from Moscow to Volgograd (Stalingrad), Russia. In December, they will be on a two-week land tour throughout Tunisia.

**John Larsen '53** passed away in June 2008. He was an instructor and administrator at the North Dakota State College of Science for 26 years before retiring in 1991. He was also an avid fisher and hunter and a highly involved member of the Breckenridge Lutheran Church.

**Udell Parson '53** passed away in June 2008 in Mesa, Arizona.

### Thoughts from Kirby Greene '53:

"[I] left school after my junior year in 1952, seeking adventure, I suppose. I joined the Marines in April of that year... got to see both oceans before going to Korea. A couple months after getting there, the Armistice was signed, and I was transferred to Japan. Back in the states, in the fall of 1954, I was transferred to finish my enlistment in Minneapolis at the Naval Air Station.



**Greene '53**

There I met, and in April 1955 married, Alice from Hawaii. I re-enlisted for six more years, and we spent the next years in North Carolina. There I met a couple of old-timers, both sergeants. Their wives got me interested in astrology. Many years later, I again took up a serious investigation of the subject and, after several years, I became one of the first 'Certified Magi Astrologers' in North America! It's been interesting.

Alice and I have been married for 53 years. We have five kids and seven grandkids. We still live on the 'home place,' near Dalton, where I lived when I attended WCSA. Now I go fishing in one of the three lakes that border our little farm, hunt deer in the fall, and during the summer, usually raise some waterfowl. This year, we had seven Grey Geese and twenty-six ducks, mostly Rouens, but a few Saxonomies as well.

About one year and one half ago, I noticed that the two really interesting 'pig sites' on the Internet were becoming mired in SPAM. So, on an impulse, I started a new site called HomesteadHogs. The rapid growth of that new site surprised me then, and it still amazes me.... There are now more than 500 members, and it's STILL interesting! You can check it out if you'd like: <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/homesteadhogs>."

**JoAnn Schliep Allen '54**, Midland, Alabama, passed away July 2008. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Eric. Relatives include **Ralph Schliep '45** and the late **Virgil Schliep '38**.

**Ted Horning '54** and **Adrienne Akerson Horning '54** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June 2008. Thirteen classmates attended!

**Gerald "Butch" Johnson '54** passed away in August 2008. He farmed and operated a gas station in Lake Benton.

**Ted Storck '54** rode his Harley Davidson with more than 400 American Legion Riders more than 1,800 miles from Indianapolis to Phoenix to raise scholarship money for the sons and daughters of the men and women killed in the War on Terror.

**Janis Trovatten Schaap '54** worked at a local hospital for on-the-job training as a lab technician after graduation. In 1955, she married Don Schaap, an Otter Tail County deputy sheriff. They have three children (one deceased). In 1960, they moved to Bismarck, North Dakota, where she worked at a clinic until moving to Mesa, Arizona, in 1966. She earned a degree in special education at Arizona State University, Tempe and taught at a school for felons until retiring in 1989. She moved to Ottertail and bought a home on the Otter Tail River, but still winters in Arizona, getting back to Ottertail in time to plant a garden. She enjoys crafts, the computer, reading, and spending time with her two grandkids. She and her husband recently celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary. She writes: "It looks like not much has happened in our lives since leaving the WCSA, but, to tell it all would take up too many pages. I hope anyone that reads this and remembers me will drop a line to my e-mail address, jschaap@arvig.net, to tell me what you're up to. I love to read any news about people I remember from school in the *AlumNEWS*."

**Dick Minahan '55** writes: "I retired at the end of 2000 and enjoy every minute of it. I volunteer at a church and take care of seven acres of grass and trees for them. My health is great except for a knee that has no cartilage left in it (will probably replace it soon). I have a tough schedule of fishing and hunting. Just returned from Lake Erie on a walleye trip. Lots of huge fish caught: two-12 lb, six-9 lb, ten-6 lb, four-5 lb, six-7 lb, two-8 lb. My address is: Dick Minahan, 5144 Magnolia Drive, Pleasant Hill, Iowa, 50327. The phone number is 515-262-0767. If anybody comes this way, please call or stop in. You are always welcomed!"

**Rick Storck '55** writes: "My wife and I enjoy going south to Arizona every winter for several months. My brother, Ted

## Class of 1954 reminder!

The Reunion Committee is planning for the Class of 1954's 55th reunion. Class members, please send photos and comments about what has happened in your life these past 55 years for a reunion book. Send to: Ted Storck '54, 19176 North Cathedral Point Court, Surprise, Arizona 85387-8249, or e-mail arizonated@cox.net. For reunion information, contact Rosella Hoffman Staples at 320-589-4255 or Adrian Akerson Horning at 320-324 -7312.

Storck, lives there in Surprise, so we do things together. We drive our motor home and stay in a mobile home park in El Mirage, Arizona. We enjoy all the garage and estate sales in the Sun City, Sun City West area. We buy and sell antiques and collectables, so we find a lot of stuff this way. We have a lot of friends in the area, so we spend a lot of time visiting them. After a month there,

we head to Tucson, Green Valley, and maybe Texas. Anyone traveling in Arizona in February, give us a call at 612-670-3115."

**Martinus Herbert Johnshoy '56** passed away in November 1999.

**Raymond Koosman '57** passed away in April 2008.

**Gloria Swendsrud '59** writes: "I live in south Fargo and recently retired from the Anheuser-Busch Malting Plant in Moorhead, where I worked for nearly 28 years. This spring, to get out of the work mode, I took a Middle Eastern trip which included Palestine, Israel, Jordan, and Egypt. It worked. I forgot all about not going to work. I have three daughters and three teenage grandchildren who do not live that far from me. I do volunteer work for Meritcare Hospitals, and PBS radio and TV. I am a member of the Sons of Norway, and I'm going on a Haiti mission trip with my church in January. So, as anyone who knew me from WCSA days, old-age does change a person!!!"

**Jerry Koosman '60** writes: "I live near Osceola, Wisconsin, and have been mostly retired except for keeping my hands in my small engineering company. In my retirement time, I do the normal outside yard work, golf at least twice a week, and try to work in a couple of fishing trips each summer. I have been single since 2003 but look forward to seeing my four grandchildren, one girl and three boys. My oldest son, Michael, lives in Bozeman, Montana. My second son, Shawn, lives near me in Dresser, Wisconsin, and my single daughter, Danielle, lives in Boca Raton, Florida. I do some traveling to New York each year and also to see the kids that live out of state. Most of my days indoors are spent on the computer, reading on the Web, and e-mailing... time consuming! I am looking forward to another fishing trip with some of my classmates if they ever set it up!! Hi to all."

**Darwin Danielson '63** and wife Marilyn moved from their rural farm home into the city of Rothsay. Darwin is still farming and says there are lots of corn and beans in the fields around Rothsay.

## Faculty

**Leif Lie** passed away in June 2008. Leif served as the wrestling coach from 1960 to 1963 and later coached for UMM until 1972.

## Knapp '61 continued from page one



**Knapp from the 1961 Moccasin yearbook**

In Houston, a longtime passion for horses—that began with a Shetland pony on his parent's farm—re-emerged as he became an avid polo player.

### **A career in business— securities, media, horses**

In 1981, Knapp resigned from teaching to focus on his successful company. In 1989, the divergent elements of his life began to form into an idea that began with the purchase of 200 acres near Lexington, Kentucky.

He began creating a new business—a thoroughbred breeding operation.

In 1995, Knapp and a partner purchased prominent media company Park Communications—100 newspapers, 22 radio stations, and 9 television channels. The successful company was “effective but not optimal,” states Knapp, so he and his partner re-organized with an emphasis on marketing and financial planning. They sold the company in 1997, and the transaction allowed Knapp to focus his entire attention on the farm he named Monticule.

### **Monticule, Big Brown's birth place**

Like his father, Knapp pays close attention to his land, now 550 acres. Consultants visit his farm to analyze “the best thoroughbred pastures in the world.” He has planted thousands of trees. It gives him great pleasure to observe their growth and monitor the land while riding one of his six retired polo ponies.

“Coming from a farm, growing things is not a mystery to me,” shares Knapp. “I understand it. I don't have to think about it. But at first, breeding was a bit of a mystery.”

So, Knapp used what he knew—marketing research and applied stats, the courses he taught in Houston—to develop a statistical model for analyzing brood mares that he uses in conjunction with traditional breeding models. His technique has brought him great success. Last spring, Big Brown, born on his farm in 2005, won the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes, and was a contender for the Belmont Stakes.

The industry standard for producing stake winners, shares Knapp, is three percent. Knapp's Monticule, with its 20 brood mares, has averaged between 10 and 16 percent. The fifth highest-selling yearling ever sold in the history of the industry was born at Monticule: \$9.2 million.

Gertrude, Knapp's mother, follows the progress of Monticule and its horses from her home in Fergus Falls. These days, shares Knapp, there are no more tears in the kitchen: “She just smiles and shakes her head in amazement.”

## **Class News**

WCSA alumni love reading *Class News*, so send us your updates! Mail us a letter, give us a call, or send an e-mail about your careers, families, travels, hobbies, activities, and WCSA memories. We will include your news in the next *AlumNEWS* issue. The deadline is **April 1, 2009**.

## **Calendar of Events**

### **February 9, 2009**

Arizona All-School Winter Reunion at noon at the ViewPoint RV and Golf Resort at 8350 East University Drive in Mesa

### **February 17, 2009**

Texas gathering at 11:30 a.m. at Mr. Gatti's in McAllen

### **May 30, 2009**

WCSA Alumni Garden planting at 9 a.m. in the garden

### **June 1, 2009**

Board meeting at 7 p.m. at LaFave House at UMM

### **July 10, 2009**

Summer Station Day at the WCROC

### **July 18, 2009**

WCSA All-School Summer Reunion at UMM

### **July 30, 2008**

Horticulture Night from 5 until 9 p.m. at the WCROC

### **September 7, 2009**

Board meeting at 7 p.m. at LaFave House at UMM

## **Funding for AlumNEWS**

Your donations fund *AlumNEWS*. Thanks to those who have given in the past! We appreciate your donations. Checks to support *AlumNEWS* should be made payable to UMM and sent to the address below.

*AlumNEWS* is produced by the UMM Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving. It is available in alternative formats upon request. Class news, donations, comments, corrections, or questions may be directed to:

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## A message from Maddy Maxeiner, UMM associate vice chancellor for external relations



The year 2010 will be a year of celebration at the University of Minnesota, Morris. A committee has been appointed to explore the many ways UMM will contemplate and celebrate campus history. We will remember the campus years as an American Indian boarding school in the late 1800s and early 1900s. We'll celebrate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the

West Central School of Agriculture and the 50th anniversary of the opening of the University of Minnesota, Morris.

UMM will also celebrate the future in 2010. With the opening of the biomass gasification facility and continued use of electricity provided by the West Central Research and Outreach Center wind turbine, the campus is approaching its goal of carbon neutrality and energy self-sufficiency by 2010.

We are pleased that Les Bensch '59 is serving on the planning committee for the 2010 celebration. Please watch for details in future issues of *AlumNEWS*. If you have ideas to share or historical stories to tell, please contact the committee at 320-589-6414 or [weberm@morris.umn.edu](mailto:weberm@morris.umn.edu).

### Tips for giving in a down market

As we approach year-end, it is important to note that donating securities may still be advantageous, despite the decline in stock market values. If you hold longterm shares that enjoyed substantial gains over cost basis, you may side step a capital gains liability by donating them to a charitable organization like UMM. If these securities are not earning income, you could use them to create gift annuities which provide a steady income stream during troubled times. Or, if you plan to contribute cash to a favorite charity, you may prefer to donate long-held securities and use cash to buy other stocks at current lower market rates. Finally, there may also be an advantage to liquidating stock now below its cost basis. Donors may then take a capital loss on taxes and make a gift of the cash at the 50 percent of AGI deduction rather than the 30 percent of AGI for stock and other property.

### Giving Opportunity extended

Good news—the Pension Protection Act has been extended. If you are at least age 70½, you may contribute up to \$100,000 from your IRA without incurring income tax as long as the funds are directly transferred to a qualified charity like UMM. Consult your professional tax adviser about taking advantage of this opportunity to contribute to scholarships or other priorities.

Please contact me at [maxeinme@morris.umn.edu](mailto:maxeinme@morris.umn.edu) or 320-589-6386 with questions.



Max O. Minor '11, Benson (center) received the 2008-09 **Robert James Riley '55 Memorial Scholarship**. He is shown above with scholarship donor, Judy Riley, Bob's wife, and daughter Julie Tritz. The scholarship was established by Judy. Two of Bob's brothers, Joe Riley and John Riley, generously contributed.



Greg A. Moline '10, Floodwood, (shown above with his parents) and Nolan D. Nordlund '10, Clearbrook, received the 2008-09 **Carol Pederson Meyer '60 Scholarship in Honor of Hans and Alyce Pederson**. Meyer (far left) established the scholarship in honor of her parents.



Recipients of the 2008-09 **Wickstrom Scholarship** honoring Carrie Wickstrom '29 include future teachers Amy J. Balcome '09, Princeton (left); Jennifer M. Rygg '09, Hanover (second from right), and Amber N. Maloney '09, Morris (far right). They are pictured with Janet and Harry Mortenson, Wickstrom's nephew.



Michael G. Hoffman '12, Alexandria, is shown above with his parents at the 2008 Scholarship Jubilee. He and Mitchell C. Kent '12, Benson, received the 2008-09 **UMM Alumni Association Herb Croom Endowed Scholarship**. Croom was a WCSA principal.



Stuart G. Kohl '09, Denver, Iowa, and Bethany A. Nyland '09, Rochester, received the 2008-09 **Theodore S. and Tone H. Long Scholarship**. Ted Long taught WCSA English. Tone taught WCSA home economics.



Jesse Jones '12, Minnetonka (left) is shown above with George Erickson '53. Jones and Alisha A. Hennen '10, Morris, are the inaugural recipients of the **Erma Erickson Memorial Scholarship** given by Erickson in memory of his wife, Erma, who passed away in 1999.

Katherine M. Symens '11, Heron Lake, received the 2008-09 **Douglas and Marion Payne Rural Students Scholarship**. The Paynes established the scholarship in 2004 in honor of the 50th anniversaries of their high school graduations, Doug from WCSA and Marion from Benson High School. (Photo not available)



### **Invitation to members of the Class of 1956 to support creation of scholarship**

Peter Torvik '56 is spearheading a campaign to create an endowed WCSA Class of 1956 Scholarship at the University of Minnesota, Morris. In addition to providing a lead gift to the project, he will enthusiastically match, up to a total of \$12,500, donations from 1956 classmates given to the fund. All gifts to the Class of 1956 Scholarship Fund will be invested. Each year, a portion of the interest earned will be used to support student scholarships. Part of the interest will be added to the principal allowing the fund to continue growing to support future students.

The scholarship will qualify for the Promise of Tomorrow President's Scholarship Match. Each year, the University of Minnesota will match the scholarship amount, doubling the impact of gifts from members of the Class of 1956.

To learn more, contact Susan Schmidgall, development officer, at [sschmidg@morris.umn.edu](mailto:sschmidg@morris.umn.edu) or 320-589-6160.



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The WCSA Web site can be found at  
[morris.umn.edu/WCSA](http://morris.umn.edu/WCSA).

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Katie Laughlin '10, Faribault, talks about her grandfather, the late Thomas Laughlin '50, and his connection to the Morris campus in UMM's new admissions materials. Thomas' senior photo in the 1950 *Moccasin* is included in the publication.

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