

# AURORA

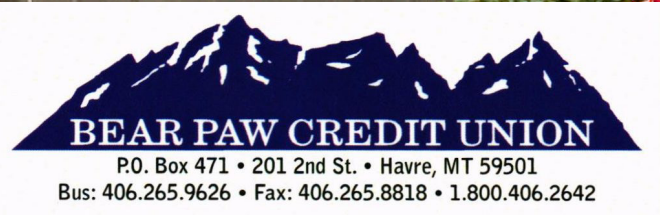
*borealis*



NORTHERN ALUMNI MAGAZINE  
FALL 2021

# Contents

Letter from the Chancellor	3
Recent Highlights	4
Homecoming 2021	6
Our Thriving Nursing Program	8
Your Gifts & Your Impact	10
Danley & Welch Give Back	12
Businesses Show Northern Pride	13
Introducing Dean Durodoye	14
Alumni Stories	15 & 16
New Board Members	17
In Memoriam	18
Message from our Executive Director	19



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MSU-Northern University Relations Office  
Lee Lounder  
The late Steve Helmbrecht

## *Students on Cover (left to right)*

Teanna Layne (Sophomore)  
Taylissa Lytle (Freshman)  
Sadie Henn (Freshman)

## LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR

# *A Journey Together*

When I'm out and about, I'm always amazed by the number of Northern alumni I run into and how many of them want to share stories with me about how the education they received at Northern impacted their lives. We have graduates in every sector, at every level, and the common theme with them is, "If it wasn't for Northern I wouldn't be where I am today". I always enjoy traveling down memory lane to reflect on all the accomplishments we have completed together. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting the alumni who were able to visit campus this fall and take part in Northern's Homecoming events. Especially all those who wore their gold alumni baseball caps with the embroidered golden "N" at the football game.

As we move into the holiday season, I can't help but reflect on the journey we have all traveled together. A journey that has not been without a few bumps, but it's a journey that has an outstanding past and an optimistic future. In times like these, I am reminded of the important role our alumni play in helping MSU-Northern students forge a path into the future.

During the past two years, COVID has forced us to face many unique challenges. I can tell you that Northern is committed to preparing our students to meet the workforce needs of Montana and the United States. I recently met with Governor Gianforte, we talked about the economic and educational issues facing our state, and he was very complimentary on how MSU-Northern continues to meet the workforce needs of Montana. We aspire every day to do that and we will continue with diligence.

As more and more people retire, the need for a qualified, hardworking workforce increases. I am very proud of what our alumni have achieved. They have gone ahead of our current students



*Chancellor Greg Kegel ('76) and his wife Sherry Kegel greet the Homecoming court.*

and set the standard for all future generations. Alumni have truly led by example and it is our desire to continue to educate students who will be able to follow in your footsteps and continue your journey.

This past year, we took several bold and significant steps forward to enhance and expand our academic offerings and facilities. With your help, we were able to complete Phase I of the Health Science Education facilities, which includes "Tilleman Field," a first-class artificial turf football field that includes a press box and bleachers on the north side of the field. We are ramping up to begin a Phase II capital campaign to fund the construction of the Health Science Education Building which will be on the south side of the stadium. The completion of that project will fulfill expectations our students have in a 4-year comprehensive university. It will revolutionize the student experience.

I want to challenge you to continue your legacy by helping us in our ongoing journey. Together we can help our students succeed in their journey. This issue of the Aurora Borealis is filled with some of our recent achievements and some of the stories of our alumni who are still enjoying the journey.

I wish you every blessing on your journey...

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory D. Kegel".

Greg Kegel, Chancellor

# CATCHING UP...

## AWARDS

In May, Patsy Divish ('88) and Paulette Cronk ('63) were awarded the 2021 Founders' Excellence Award for their outstanding service to Northern. Joined by friends and family, they enjoyed a night of live music, delicious food, raffles, and cheer!



(L to R) Shantel Cronk, Patsy Divish ('88), Chancellor Kegel, Paulette Cronk ('63)

In July, brothers and former Lights football players Kyle and Marc Samson (both '07) were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame. The event was held outside on campus in the Cowan Hall Courtyard. Guests enjoyed live music by local band Blind Luck and a summer BBQ.

## PARADES



The Golden Goose at Havre's Festival Days Parade

The Golden Goose appeared in three events this year. In July, Executive Director Shantel Cronk and Outreach Manager Lee Lounder walked with the Goose in the Fort Benton Summer Celebration parade. Then, in September the Goose led the way in Havre's annual Festival Days Parade and appeared at Northern's Homecoming tailgate. The Goose has been an important tradition and symbol of Northern since the 40s that brought joy to all who love to hear the unmistakable sound of her whistling horn.

## FUNDRAISER

"Lights Out at the Dome 4" rocked the Havre Ice Dome in late August. The annual fights raise money for the MSUN Wrestling team. This year, wrestling Coach Tyson Thivierge collaborated with Skylights Coach Chris Mouat to organize the event. After two years without the events, this year they raised over \$30,000 which was split to support both the Lights Wrestling and Skylights Basketball programs.



## FESTIVAL



(L to R) Bill Lanier ('87), Arleen Rice ('87), and Rose Krueger.

In August, the day before the beginning of fall semester, MSU-Northern hosted the first-ever Aurora Borealis Festival, an on-campus event for new and returning students to meet local businesses, clubs, and organizations. MSU-Northern Foundation volunteers (pictured here) welcomed students to campus and gave away cookies and free Northern gear during the event. The festival was a huge success with over 200 people in attendance and is planned to happen again in Fall 2022.



*(L to R) Marc Samson ('07), Kyle Samson ('07)*

## ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS!

Nominations are accepted year-round for both the Hall of Fame and Founders' Excellence Award. In order to be eligible for the 2022 awards cycle, we must receive nominations by January 15th, 2022. Guidelines and forms can be found on our website under "Alumni".



*(L to R) Shantel Cronk (Executive Director) and Lee Louder (Outreach Manager)*

# HOMECOME

Homecoming is a special time of year for every University. This Fall, the Northern Alumni Foundation hosted over 170 alumni at Homecoming activities that brought life, joy, and nostalgia back to campus. Of the over 170 alumni who visited campus that warm September weekend, 55 of them were honored guests celebrating a class reunion from the classes of 1971 as far back as 1950.

Referred to as “Golden Alumni”, many traveled from as far as Alaska to visit Havre once again. Some alum hadn’t seen their friends since being in each other’s weddings shortly after they graduated from Northern all those years ago! On Friday afternoon, the Foundation hosted a special luncheon for these alumni and their guests. The SUB ballroom was decorated with Northern yearbooks, class photos, and vintage gear like football jerseys, letterman jackets, caps, and more. On display were attendees’ old yearbook photos for them to take home.



*Golden Alumni enjoying Friday afternoon in the SUB ballroom for “Lunch with the Chancellor.”*



*Alumni Robert Boettcher ('51) sang the National Anthem at the homecoming Football game.*

Chancellor Kegel ('76) and Foundation Executive Director Shantel Cronk welcomed the Golden Alumni and thanked them for joining us at Homecoming. Alums spent the luncheon catching up with one another and shared some of their memories of Northern with each other. Cronk said of the luncheon, “The room was filled with laughter and a shared love for Northern. I wish we had recorded the event as those stories are priceless.”

Friday evening, Homecoming attendees had a chance to go on guided tours of campus and then they had their choice of evening activities. It was a festive evening across Havre with the first night of the Northern Rodeo at the fairgrounds, the first Havre Happy Hour fundraiser at local bars and breweries, and a live music concert by Billings band *Counting Coup* to wrap up Native American Heritage week.

That night at the Oxford Bar, former members of the Northern baseball team gathered for an All-Baseball Reunion. 2021 was an auspicious year for them,

# COMING

as some teammates were not only celebrating their 50-year class reunion, but also the 50th anniversary of their 1971 Frontier Conference Championship!



*The 1971 NMC Baseball Team*

The celebration continued Saturday morning bright and early with the first-ever Homecoming football tailgate on Northern's campus. The Foundation and a dedicated group of volunteers put together huge tailgate with the Golden Goose as a special guest! All were welcome to the alumni tent where drinks and food were ever-flowing. SeaPort Telecommunications donated fresh Alaskan salmon and halibut on behalf of alumnus Joe Ashcraft ('70). Volunteers Steve McLain and plumbing instructor Thomas Kline expertly grilled fresh fillets for the tailgate. Jim Anderson ('91), Foundation vice-chair, flipped over a hundred burgers, while Patsy Divish ('88) and Karla Bolken ('80) served food.

At the tailgate, the Foundation debuted a collaboration with Triple Dog Brewery, a limited edition beer called the *Northern Lights Lager*. Stacy Mantle ('01), kept everyone's cup full! Plus, over one thousand dollars was donated toward the Athlete Emergency Fund.



*(R to L) Volunteers Steve McLain and plumbing instructor Thomas Kline grill fresh halibut and salmon during the tailgate.*



At half-time, all Golden Alumni were invited to walk out on the football field. Upon check-in, every alum was given either a white or a gold cap, special-ordered by the Foundation. All Golden Alumni wore a gold hat out on to the field while the students, family, and friends in the crowd cheered.

This year's Homecoming celebration will be remembered and it laid the ground work for an even bigger and better celebration next year! The Foundation thanks all those who attended and those who supported Homecoming, from local businesses to Board trustees, to volunteers and staff. Be on the look out for a "save the date" for next year's Homecoming!

**To view pictures from Homecoming, visit [msunfoundation.org/homecoming](http://msunfoundation.org/homecoming)**



Clinical Studies in Associate Degree Nursing Program

## *Growing, Developing, Thriving*

This fall, the Nursing program completed their move into the Hagener Science Center, finally joining the state-of-the-art SIM lab, which first opened in spring of 2019, and physical therapy labs. The move brings the program under one roof, and now that they're in their element, they can continue to innovate and grow their classrooms to train the next generations of Montana healthcare workers.

Although the curriculum is far from the program's humble beginning, Montana and especially Northern Montana still struggle with the same challenges that faced the state in the mid-1900s when nursing was first offered at Northern Montana College. Rural communities need nurses to provide healthcare, but there never seems to be enough nurses to go around.

Just like today where over 80% of the student body is from Montana, Northern has always been a training ground for locals. Northern graduates tend to return to their rural towns and build up their communities with their vital skills. That's still one of the goals of the nursing program today, just as it was back when the program began.

Nursing started at Northern after WWII. NMC offered a three-year program where students were trained at Sacred Heart Hospital in Havre. Nurses needed to be capable of handling the stark conditions in the countryside as well as work in a busy hospital. Students had to train long hours in the hospital alongside experienced nurses to learn everything they needed to know. When Sacred Heart discontinued its training program, NMC briefly shut down their nursing program.

From 1954 to 1965, prospective nurses could study a pre-nursing curriculum at NMC, but



# 1929

Northern Montana College opens its doors on September 24th for instruction.

# 1948 - 1954

NMC offers two nursing programs: a three-year course leading to qualification as a registered nurse, and a pre-nursing four-year program leading to a Bachelor of Science degree that required transferring to nursing school the final two years. The three-year program was discontinued in 1954.





*The MSU-Northern Simulation Lab in the Hagener Science Center*

needed to transfer to a nursing college to finish out their degree. Finally, in 1965, a two-year ASN program was reinstated.

From there, nursing education evolved across the nation until it was eventually standardized. At Northern, faculty worked hard to continue the program's efficacy to graduate qualified registered nurses to work in Montana. In the 80s, Northern appealed to the Board of Regents to add a four-year Bachelor of Nursing degree, meant for registered nurses who wanted to take their careers a step forward. In the 90s, the RN to BSN program was greatly helped by an innovative new piece of technology called NorthNet, an online learning platform preceding technologies like Zoom, Google Classroom, or Brightspace.

Today, new technology is a critical part of nursing education. Students practice clinical skills in a

simulation lab complete with responsive dummies. They're watched by instructors through cameras so they can practice in a close-to-reality clinical setting. Then they cross the road and continue to learn through clinicals at Northern Montana Hospital and other local clinical sites

Northern's nursing program is strong. Last year, the 2020 cohort of nurses earned the highest pass rate on the NCLEX in over seven years, 90.91%. The national average was 87%, and in Montana, 89%. The performance was a feather in the cap for Northern's reliable, quality program.

With their new home in Hagener, the program is looking to grow. Dr. Jaime Duke, Interim Dean of the College of Health Sciences, shares, "I'm so proud of the direction we're going. We are taking the past and incorporating new technologies to enhance the learning opportunities of our students, now and in the future."

# 1965

The two-year associate degree program begins, leading to qualification as a registered nurse.

# 1988

Northern offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN) degree after gaining approval from the Montana Board of Regents.

# 2020

The 2020 cohort of nurses earned the highest pass rate of the NCLEX in over seven years at 90.91%, higher than the state and national average.

# Building UP

## *Growing Endowments*

Central to our mission is to grow the number of perpetual gifts that support Northern. Planned gifts like endowments have been established by faculty, alumni, and friends of the University who wanted to help students long after their lifetime.

## *Planned Giving is Personal*

Everyone's situation is unique. For each family or business, there may be different planned giving option that is best for you. That's why, if you'd like to learn more about planned gifts but don't know where to start, reach out to Shantel Cronk, Executive Director of the Foundation.

Planned gifts are a vital part of the philanthropy that helps increase opportunities at Northern and provide stability to our scholarship offerings. Annuities, trusts, and bequests are just some of the other kinds of planned gifts that could be right for you.

Shantel has traveled across Montana to talk to donors and alumni about Northern. If you'd ever like to set up a meeting with her to go over your giving questions, reach out to the Foundation. *(See types of gifts in blue box to the right.)*

## *Fall 2021 New Scholarships*

Len and Hazel Gearheart Endowed Scholarship  
Carl Vender Civil Engineering Endowed Scholarship  
Danley-Welch Endowed Agriculture Scholarship  
Ethel A. McIntyre Endowed Memorial Scholarship  
Justin S. French Endowed Nursing Scholarship  
Dyllan Murray Memorial Scholarship

## *Planned Gifts*

**Endowments** are a donation of money or property to the Foundation that is invested. The resulting investment income is used for the designated purpose of the donor.

**Annuities** are a transfer of cash or appreciated property to the Foundation. In exchange, the Foundation pays the donors fixed payments for the rest of their life.

**Trusts** are a transfer of cash or appreciated property which funds a charitable trust. The trust sells the property, tax free, and provides the donor with payments for life or a term of years.

Learn more at  
[msunfoundation.org/  
planned-giving-options](https://msunfoundation.org/planned-giving-options)

"Thank you, again, for supporting me with this scholarship award. It will help me on my journey to reach my professional aspirations."

**How do your gifts make a difference?** By helping to reduce the financial burden faced by students today, they can focus on earning their degree. But students face financial hardship beyond tuition. For students living on campus, they also pay over \$5,000 per year for meal plans and housing. And students living off-campus may be facing more complex hardships, like food insecurity and providing for their families in addition to paying for school.



## Yearly Tuition Fees

For the 2021-2022, full-time academic year (two semesters)

**\$6,180**

MT RESIDENTS

**\$8,606**

WUE STUDENTS

**\$19,268**

NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

*The Western Undergraduate Exchange is an agreement between 16 states where participating schools can provide tuition savings for nonresident students from participating states. These students pay no more than 150% in-state tuition.*

**NEW!**

## Student in Need Fund

In October, the MSU-Northern Foundation launched a special 48-hour fundraiser that raised \$4,600 for the Associated Students of MSUN's food pantry and a new *Student in Need* fund. Chancellor Kegel had relayed to the Foundation that some students on campus were struggling in ways that were hard to combat. They needed basic winter items, access to food, access to toiletries and household items, and sometimes they need emergency funds to help pay for a medication or hospital visit. The new *Student in Need* fund will allow Northern's staff to provide much-needed assistance to those students.



"Thank you for the scholarship, I will work very hard."

"I was really nervous I wasn't going to get a scholarship, but I ended up getting one! This scholarship will be very helpful toward my college endeavors. Thank you again."

"Thank you so much for choosing me! I can't wait to go to MSU-Northern to learn more about agriculture!"

Thank You



...EVERY GIFT IS EXACTLY THAT. A GIFT.

Mary Douglas

THANK YOU



## NEW ENDOWMENT

# The Danley-Welch Endowment

*Retired Professors Bill Danley and Tom Welch continue to serve agriculture students by starting a new endowed scholarship at Northern.*

This year, William (Bill) Danley and Tom Welch came together with a joint mission to leave a legacy to Northern students. The Danley-Welch Agriculture Endowment that they created will support a new scholarship specifically for agriculture students at MSU-Northern, a discipline close to the hearts of Bill and Tom who, combined, have 84 years of teaching experience in Northern's agriculture department.

Bill and Tom are both Professors Emeritus, and it's fitting that they worked together to form the endowment. "We taught together for 37 years!" Danley shared, and Welch added, "We worked together serving students as an agricultural team longer than any other program professors on campus. It is only fitting that this 'Bill and Tom agriculture team' format continue in the form of an endowment for Northern agriculture students."

Danley and Welch also served as advisors to the Professional Agricultural Students (PAS) Club since its inception in 1982. Both are passionate about agriculture and believe that agriculture education is a key component to the continued success of the food and fiber industry.

Danley, who retired in 2018 and was granted Professor Emeritus in 2020, started teaching agriculture classes at Northern in 1973. After 45 years at Northern, Danley said he wanted to start this endowment, "Because of PAS Club and the students [who] financially struggle to afford to go to events, I was inspired to give." Danley shares that these relationships he made with PAS Club members taught him the importance of giving.



*Bill Danley (left) and Tom Welch (right)*

Welch, who recently retired in 2020, began his teaching career at Northern in 1981. This past March, the Montana Board of Regents voted unanimously to also grant Emeritus status to Welch. When asked why he made the decision to create this endowment Welch commented, "I was an agricultural educator at MSU-Northern for almost four decades and during that time I was able to meet, work with and help create learning environments for so many outstanding young men & women. Many of them came to Northern from the land, had wonderful work ethics, and shared my passion for agriculture." Welch continues, "This endowment will help fund Northern agriculture students with these same admirable traits, gain a college education, grow as individuals and contribute to our agriculture industry."

When asked about the legacy they leave behind, Bill Danley said "I never thought about it as leaving a legacy, I just want to give back to the students."

Tom Welch agreed, "My Northern legacy, if I have one, is that part of my agriculture knowledge and passion is shared and carried by hundreds of former Northern students that I was fortunate enough to know and participate in learning environments with."

*Anyone can donate to the Danley-Welch Endowment and help support ag students! Donate at [msunfoundation.org/donate](https://msunfoundation.org/donate)*

## Local Businesses Show Spirit!

This fall, two local Havre businesses showed off their maroon and gold spirit through two new products meant to highlight Northern. Cavaliers Clothing, owned by alumnus Joe Ross ('90), stocked a line of dress socks. Ranging from simple golden N's on black to athletic-themed socks, Joe generously donated \$5 from every purchase to the MSU-Northern Foundation.

At the Homecoming, Triple Dog Brewery debuted a new beer called the *Northern Lights Lager*. The brew was a collaboration between the Foundation and Triple Dog Brewery. Owner and



brew master, Michael Garrity, designed it to be a perfect tailgate blend. Triple Dog donated the brew to Fall tailgates, and you can try it while it lasts in their tasting room.

When local businesses lift up Northern, the whole community benefits! The Foundation thanks them and all of our business partners for continuing to fly our colors high!



# Giving Back with **SPIRIT**

Support MSU-Northern through  
our School Spirit Debit Card program!

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your MSU-Northern debit card.



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# Meet the *Dean*

Dr. Beth  
Durodoye

*Alma Maters*

Marshall  
University

*B.A. Psychology and  
Spanish*

*Master's in Counseling*

University of  
Virginia

*Ed.D. in Counselor  
Education*

*Previous Role*

Georgia  
Southern  
University

*Professor and Chair  
of the Department of  
Leadership, Technology  
and Human Development*

University of  
Texas - San  
Antonio

*Provost Faculty Fellow*



*Dr. Durodoye pictured in the Vande Bogart Library*

In October, MSU-Northern welcomed a new face to the College of Arts, Sciences, and Education. Dr. Beth Durodoye joined MSUN as the new Dean of CASE after a long career in higher education. She sat down in her second week on the job to talk a little bit about herself and her goals.

For Dr. Durodoye, finding a career in education and counseling felt natural. Her mother was a nurse and her father was a minister and a psychologist, so in a way she felt “born into helping.” That impulse to lift others up drives her motivation as a Dean. She says, “For me, it’s about opening doors and helping students, faculty, and staff to succeed.”

For the last nine years, Dr. Durodoye served as Chair of the Department of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development at Georgia Southern University. She was looking to continue her trajectory into leadership when she discovered Northern.

“It just felt right,” she said, and it fit into her goal to become an administrator and to have an even greater opportunity to guide those around her to success.

When talking about her goals for the college, Dr. Durodoye stressed a few top-level goals. Recruitment, retention, and progression of students was the first, but she also looks for areas where she can increase diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. Dr. Durodoye taught multicultural counseling for years as a professor and Northern has a diverse community of students that she is excited to serve.

We are happy to have Dr. Durodoye at Northern and wish her the best as she settles into her new role.

Supporting the College of Arts, Sciences, and Education helps students studying to be business leaders, teachers, scientists, and more! **Donate today at** [msunfoundation.org/donate](https://msunfoundation.org/donate)

# Alumni Spotlight - Kevin Treece ('84 & '85)

## Homes in the Flathead

By Dr. Roger Barber

The Flathead Valley, with its breathtaking scenery and year-round recreational opportunities, is one of a handful of places in Montana known for its second homes and mega-mansions. Kevin Treece ('84 & '85), a Montana State University-Northern alumnus, has developed a successful residential design business in that very competitive market. He proudly credits his education at MSU-Northern for that success.

Kevin earned two degrees from MSU-Northern in the mid-1980s: an associate of science degree in design drafting in 1984, and an associate of science degree in business in 1985. "The design drafting program gave me all of the skills I needed to design houses," Kevin says.

Northern's broad, hands on curriculum, with coursework in surveying, electricity, concrete work and numerous computer drafting courses, was the perfect preparation, he says. "In fact, I can do things students with an architectural degree cannot," Kevin asserts, citing his surveying classes.

That last point is important, because Kevin competes with several architectural firms in the Flathead Valley when it comes to home design. While he admits that most of his work is on new homes in the \$700,000 to \$950,000 price range, Kevin has designed approximately 30 homes worth \$1 million or more. His biggest project was a \$5 million home, but he's also designed a garden shed, Kevin jokes.

One measure of Kevin's success is that he has been in business for over 20 years. Another, more tangible marker is the awards he has received as part of the Flathead Valley Parade of Homes showcase, an annual and popular event in Northwest Montana. In that head-to-head competition with other house designers, most of them architects, Kevin has received the People's Choice Award and the Judge's Choice Award, both of which recognize entire homes.



He has also won more specialized awards, like best kitchen and best master suite.

Kevin isn't the only member of his family to attend MSU-Northern. He met his wife Jackie there. One of his sons ('16) completed an associate of science degree in diesel technology. His twin brother Keith ('19) recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in civil technology.

"I couldn't do what I do without MSU-Northern," Kevin says. "The design drafting program was incredible, and I left Northern knowing almost everything I needed to know about house design," he says. To back up that claim, Kevin proudly drives around the Flathead Valley with an MSU-Northern license plate on his truck.

For more information on Kevin and his success, go to Kevin Treece Custom Residential Design, Inc. on Facebook.

*Special thank you to Dr. Roger Barber for writing and submitting this article to the Aurora!*

# Alumni Spotlight - Roberta Beute ('67 & '04)

## A Common Thread



Alumna Roberta Beute ('67 & '04) published her new book *A Common Thread* this March, a verafabula story (from the Latin meaning true and story). The story traces the common thread of nature, evolution, and the individuals who lead a journey to the center of the final boundary identifying the northern border of the United States. You can buy her book at the Havre Book

Exchange or check it out from the MSU-Northern library.

Roberta is a graduate of both Havre High School and Northern. She attended two years of High School in Glasgow and lived in the Sweet Grass Hills for 22 years raising and training horses. She has three children who all reside in Montana and she currently lives with her husband in Great Falls, Montana.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Calling the Class of 1972! This May 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, celebrate your 50-year class reunion at Golden Graduation. Catch up with classmates, visit campus, and don your golden robes for commencement.

Save the dates and invitations will hit mailboxes in late January 2022. Remember to reach out to your old friends - a personal invitation can go a long way! Questions? Contact the office at (406) 265-3711.



**CLASS OF 1972  
GOLDEN GRADUATION**  
50-YEAR CLASS REUNION | MAY 6 & 7, 2022





# Welcoming New Board Members

*The MSU-Northern Foundation Board welcomes two new members to the trustees team.*

Arleen Rice was born and raised on a 3rd generation farm north of Havre that she operates to this day. She attended the University of Montana and MSU-Northern, graduating from the latter in 1987 with a BA in Independent Studies.

In addition to managing the farm, she operates Hi-Line Chemical and loves working with area farmers and ranchers. For many years she served on the Montana Agriculture Board of Directors, including two terms as president.

Arleen is excited to join the Foundation as a trustee and help share her excitement for the bright future of MSU-Northern that she envisions!



*Arleen Rice ('87)*

*Matt Wertheimer*

Matt Wertheimer grew up in Utica, Montana and attended MSU Bozeman. He graduated in 1998 with a degree in Ag Business and an Economics minor. After college, he spent some time on the family ranch and then moved to Havre in 2003.

It was then that he began his banking career as a Lender Trainee at Independence Bank. Seventeen years later, Matt is now the Chief Lending Officer for the bank system.

Matt enjoys all sorts of outdoor activities with his family and friends, and particularly loves to ski and spend time in his cabin at Beaver Creek Park.

*We thank all of our trustees for volunteering their time and supporting the mission of the Foundation. View our Trustees at our website: [msunfoundation.org/board-of-trustees](http://msunfoundation.org/board-of-trustees).*

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# In Memoriam...

The Northern Alumni Foundation extends our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of those who have passed away this year. Names listed here are gathered from obituaries and notifications collected as of December 1st, 2021. Names lacking a class year are former staff, faculty, or friends of the University.

## 1940s

Jean Wrightsman ('41), Emmett, ID  
Sophie "Toby" Helmbrecht ('43), Havre, MT

## 1950s

Edward Zumoto ('51), Renton, WA  
Raymond Watson ('53), Great Falls, MT  
Jeanette Mattfeldt ('54), Helena, MT  
Alice O'Leary ('57), Havre, MT  
Lawrence Green ('57), Havre, MT  
Edwin Jewell ('57), Libby, MT

## 1960s

James Corbett ('61), Red Lodge, MT  
Robert Jewell ('63), Great Falls, MT  
Kevin Callow ('64), Yakima, WA  
Conn Hellebust ('66), Havre, MT  
Barry Morrison ('66), Yuma, AZ  
Louis Granier ('68), Reno, NV  
Ronald Higgins ('69), Libby, MT  
Chuck Patrick, Missoula, MT

## 1970s

Newell Anderson ('70), Helena, MT  
George Schiller ('72), Montana City, MT  
Steve Helmbrecht ('76), Havre, MT  
Vicki Kulbeck ('76), Big Sandy, MT  
Ronald Belcourt ('76), Great Falls, MT

## 1980s

Deborah Dees ('87), Havre, MT  
David Jones ('88), Missoula, MT

## 1990s

Janet Pendergrass ('91), Powell, WY  
John Connolly ('94), Great Falls, MT  
Kirt Miller ('95), Havre, MT

## 2000s

Jeremy Ervin ('07), Havre, MT

## 2010s

Leroy McLaren ('17), Columbia Falls, MT

## Northern Staff & Friends

Prof. Charles Holmes, Providence, Utah  
President Duane Leach, Irving, TX  
Prof. Reno Parker, Missoula, MT  
Prof. Cecil Kent, Mesa, AZ  
Robert "Bob" Morrison, Kalispell, MT



*In memory of our dear friend, alum, and past Northern professor, Steve Helmbrecht...*

I met Steve the first year I was here at Northern when we judged a student photo contest together. In every sense, we were brother photographers, he the professional portraitist and me, the academic.

Steve agreed to take on the Ceramics class for Northern in 1999, so for 21 years he was also my academic colleague. He taught the class with the same enthusiasm and energy that he exhibited in his private photography business. Steve was a very accomplished potter, generously turning out mugs and bowls for various community and campus fundraising events. His ceramics class became a kind of institution here at Northern, and was always one of the first courses of the spring semester to fill.

It is very difficult to encapsulate the 33 years we spent together as friends. I have countless memories of the times and adventures we had together. The most poignant will be this...each spring evening I would hear Steve with his students in the studio below me. Now, there is a void in Pershing Hall that no one can ever fill. - By Joel Soiseth, Professor of Art

# Time to Reflect

December 2021

There is something about heading into a new year that reminds us to reflect and appreciate all that has happened in our life or job – and in my case, at Northern. If I'm being honest, I'm often so busy with work that it's hard to remember to pause, reflect, or even to celebrate.

For this final page of this Aurora, I'm going to challenge you to spend a moment thinking of things you are truly thankful or grateful for as it relates to Northern and your time here. Perhaps you're thankful for that professor, coach, or staff member that helped you when you were needing guidance. Maybe you are thankful for the opportunity to receive a scholarship that helped you afford a higher education. Perhaps you are glad for the career guidance that lead you on to a wonderful job. Or maybe, just maybe, you are thankful that you attended a small school in a town along the Montana Hi-Line that has community support.

Taking a deep breath to reflect and consider my blessings in 2021, I am counting the people who lift up Northern. It's not just gifts, big or small, it's the positive energy and hopefulness that donors, alumni, volunteers, and friends of Northern give for which I am grateful. It's the thoughtfulness of past professors, like past professors Danley and Welch (pg 12), who, after decades of working with students, found a way in retirement to support future students for generations to come. It's celebrating the life of people like Steve Helmbrecht (pg 18) who was a constant positive energy on campus. And it's reflecting on our Fall '21 Homecoming (pg 6 & 7) and what a wonderful week it was! So many wonderful people, so many wonderful stories, and such a gift to have those from the classes in the 50's, 60's and early 70's, including the '71 baseball team, who could make it home to receive their golden alumni caps.



*Shantel Cronk, photo by the late Steve Helmbrecht*

As we begin 2022 and a new spring semester, let's keep remembering that we all can make an impact to make Northern even better.

Thank you for the continued support to Northern and for supporting our students, faculty and staff. And thank you to our volunteers, trustees, and of course the wonderful Foundation staff (listed below).

Sincerely,

*Shantel Cronk*

## Foundation Staff

Shantel Cronk, Executive Director  
Toni Pedersen, Director of Finance  
Lee Louder, Outreach Manager  
Emily Jones, Operations Specialist



# NORTHERN ALUMNI FOUNDATION

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## Upcoming Events



Save the Date for your  
**GOLDEN  
GRADUATION!**

May 6 & 7, 2022  
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