

Staying Connected



November 2009

A newsletter for the alumni & friends of Minnesota West Community & Technical College

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The Minnesota West Foundation is a private non-profit, 501 (c)3 tax exempt organization.

The Minnesota West Foundation believes in affordable and accessible educational opportunities for students. Because of this belief and commitment to education, the Minnesota West Foundation provides funding for scholarships and development opportunities for the students attending Minnesota West Community and Technical College.



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State of the College by President Ric Shrubbs

I have been president at Minnesota West for just over one year, and I am constantly amazed at the work done by our staff, faculty and most importantly our students. As alumni and friends of the college, you can be very proud of the work being done at all five campuses and the four sites at Minnesota West to produce highly skilled and highly educated students in our region.

The longer I am president, the more I value our everyday work, and our need to get information quickly to our students and our staff. I have set four goals for the upcoming year for our school:

- Break out of our routines and interact outside of our daily circles
- Retool our knowledge and use of technology
- Use current electronic communication/social networking programs
- Expand our programs into lifelong learning and programs for the elderly

All these goals look to expand the number of students we serve, and better serve our current students so they can stay in school and complete their degree.

The good news as we begin our new academic year is that enrollment is up 11% across the college. The largest gains came at our Luverne Center and at the Granite Falls Campus. These new students come to us looking to advance their careers, looking to retrain after a layoff, or looking to learn a skill that will lead to employment.

Minnesota West recently restructured and redefined its recruitment emphasis. Campus and center employees now visit with future students in high schools, WorkForce centers, agencies and places where our future students gather. According to College Provost, **Dr. Diane Graber**, "the new recruitment emphasis has greatly enhanced our outreach to future students from all walks of life and we are beginning to see the benefit."



Dr. Ric Shrubbs

Our largest increase is in the number of students taking on-line courses, which more than doubled, and will certainly influence how the college is approaching our commitment to students, both on a campus or center or via a computer.

"As alumni and friends of the college, you can be very proud of the work being done."

– Dr. Ric Shrubbs, President

Finally, the President's Cabinet and I have been working to revise our strategic plan, and during the next few months we will be seeking input from our community constituents and alumni to help guide our future projects and goals. Please become active in the process to improve how the college can best serve our students, and our communities.

Campus Updates

Canby

The Canby campus received a bit of a face lift over the summer months and welcomed the Electrician program to Englund Hall starting fall 2009. Students from both the Electrician and Wind Energy Technology programs can now enjoy the amenity of one location for their Motor Control, Residential & Commercial Wiring, and NIDA lab facilities. The move also made way for additional updates to the ITV classrooms, the Library and Academic Resource Center, and program classrooms.

Granite Falls

The Auto Body Rod, Custom, & Restoration program at the Granite Falls Campus hosted its annual Fall Car Show on Saturday, September 19th. The Car Show was a success once again this year, and raised funds for student scholarships for students in the Auto Body program. Car lovers from around southwestern Minnesota brought out their favorites, which included winners at this year's show from former graduates **Taylor Evans** with his 1967 Ford Mustang and **Jason Evans** with a 1970 Chevelle.

Jackson

Jackson Campus hosted Halloween Family Fun Night for infants through 5th grade recently. The event was filled with games, activity booths, candy and prizes. Students from each technical program developed games so children could win prizes along with candy for their trick or treat bag. Staff also joined the fun by combining their talents to create additional booths. Some of the games included Face and Nail Painting, Washer Toss, Mini Golf, Big Wheel Race, Hydro Coin Drop, Bean Bag Toss, Goblin Knock Down, Cookie Decorating, Bat Cave Toss, and Wiggle Riders. During the event, hot dogs, chips and beverages were available from the Minnesota West Foundation for a free-will donation to the Campus Scholarship Fund. Nearly four hundred adults/children enjoyed a fantastic evening of fun, games and food.

Pipestone

The Pipestone Campus participated in a “**Night at the M&M**” on September 15th. The Night at the M&M, which stands for Minnesota West and the Pipestone National Monument. The event, sponsored by the Active Living Partnership, included walking 3 miles on the paths between Minnesota West and the Monument. Before and after the walk, Minnesota West nursing students checked blood pressures and blood oxygenation. After the hike participants could treat themselves to a chair massage offered by the Pipestone Campus massage therapy students.



Night at the M&M - Pipestone



Canby electrician and wind energy lab facility



Fall Car Show - Granite Falls

Worthington

Minnesota West representatives **Dr. Ric Shrubb**, President; **Dr. Diane Graber**, Provost; **Dr. Jeff Williamson**, VP of Academics; faculty member **Le Lucht**, Director of the Multiculturalism Center presented at the Diversity & Affirmative Action Conference—Affirmative Action: Requiem or Renaissance, a conference commemorating the 40th anniversary of the implementation of federal affirmative action programs. This conference took place at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas. The presentation informed the audience of the affirmative outreach activities at Minnesota West and throughout the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system of higher education.

Fairmont

The Minnesota West – Fairmont Center recently participated in the 2009 Fairmont High School Homecoming Parade with a float entitled “**Steam the Bluejays.**” Staff and students spent time creating a steam train out of card board boxes and featured a

student dressed up as a the opposing teams mascot. The float was a huge hit with parade on-lookers and participants. Activities include an Alumni Event at the Fairmont Center and participation in the Fairmont Glows Parade.

Luverne

Minnesota West Community and Technical College is pleased to announce that the Radiologic Technology program was awarded the maximum initial accreditation of three years by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). The JRCERT is the only agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for the accreditation of educational programs in Radiologic Technology. The Radiologic Technology program is a two-year AAS degree designed to prepare students for employment in the medical field. Functions include: instruction in performing radiologic procedures, fluoroscopy, surgical radiographs, portable radiographs, equipment operation and maintenance, patient preparation, and recordkeeping.

Redwood Falls

The Redwood Falls Center officially began offering classes fall semester with a small but dedicated group of students. The 2700 square foot center, which shares space with the new Redwood County Government center in Redwood Falls, maintains two fully functional ITV rooms and a lobby/work area with three computer workstations. New center manager **Michael Van Keulen** recently held a community-wide open house to introduce Minnesota West to Redwood Falls.



Fairmont High School Homecoming Parade float



Redwood Falls computer lab

Alumni – Where Are You?

Are you an alumnus from one of the campuses of Minnesota West, or any of the previous names of the college during the years? We are looking for information from our alumni – did you play sports or were you on the homecoming court? Please update your information on our website at:

www.mnwest.edu/alumni/address-update

so we can stay in contact with you. Do you know an alumnus who is not receiving this newsletter? Tell them to contact us so they can stay up to date on what is happening at their alma mater!

EDUCATION: YOUR PASSION, OUR MISSION!

This year's annual campaign theme shows the strong connection between our alumni and friends and the college's current work with producing quality employees for our region. The foundation is working to build its resources to help our students achieve their goals and your donation, no matter the size, will build the foundation's strength to support the students at Minnesota West Community & Technical College. Donations can be made now, or after you receive your annual campaign information. Donations can also be made online soon – check out **www.mnwest.edu/foundation** for more information.

Student Spotlight



Christine Adamietz

Christine Adamietz – Canby

Christine Adamietz is a Canby native, and she is letting her interests in machines take her all the way to the top of a wind tower. She is currently in her second year of study in the wind energy technician program at the Canby campus of Minnesota West Community and Technical College.

Female technicians are rare, Adamietz was the only woman in the wind energy program at the college when she started and now there are two more women in their first year, but she said gender hasn't been an obstacle for her.

"I've gotten a lot of compliments and congratulations," she said. "I thought people would be a lot more skeptical." Adamietz said she first became interested in wind energy in high school. "I had a class in high school called 'Emerging Energies,'" she said. One day the class heard a presenter who told Adamietz she could have a lot of opportunity as a wind energy technician. "I started thinking about it. I really didn't know what I wanted to do."

Adamietz decided to enter the wind energy program at Minnesota West, although the prospect was a bit overwhelming at first. "I did get a little scared right before I started," she said. But her professors were a big source of support. And of course, there's the work itself. Adamietz has gotten the chance to apply what she's learned in the classroom by strapping into a safety harness and inspecting real turbines. "I've done lots of climbs," she said, most recently as a job interview for a company for which she's interested in working.

Getting to the top of a tower for the first time was an incredible experience, she said. "It's overwhelming," she said. "My heart was racing when I got up there."



Jen Pottratz – Pipestone

Jennifer Pottratz is a 2009 graduate with her LPN degree from the Pipestone Campus of Minnesota West. Even though she found a job with the Urology Specialty Clinic in Sioux Falls, she returned to Minnesota West and is pursuing her ADN – Associates Degree in Nursing on the Pipestone Campus.

However, Pottratz is not your typical nursing student. She returned to school ten years after finishing high school after working and raising her four children. She and her husband's children range from age four to age ten. Jennifer chose Minnesota West because she lives in Pipestone and she wanted to get a degree in nursing, which is a strong program at the Pipestone Campus.

Since beginning her program, Jennifer has found that the instructors really prepared her for her nursing boards, which she passed on the first attempt, and for her job. The solid foundation she received at Minnesota West has made her transition into employment go smoothly. She also complements her "study-buddies" for making the transition back to school after several years away from school more achievable.

Since she has begun working on her ADN, Jennifer has appreciated the on-line course offerings which allow her to balance working and family along with school. She said the determination needed to complete the program is very obvious since only a few of the students who began the LPN program finished the program on time, and that determination has helped her continue her studies.

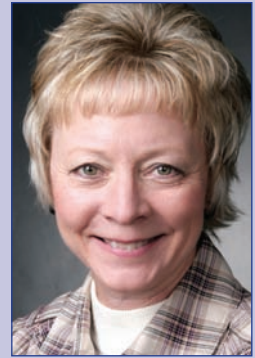


Jen Pottratz



Tammy Edman New Board Member

The Minnesota West Foundation Board of Directors was pleased to approve **Tammy Edman** of Granite Falls as the newest board member. Edman is a broker associate at Re/Max in Granite Falls and Montevideo. She has a long history with Minnesota West Community and Technical College, including time as a part-time instructor.



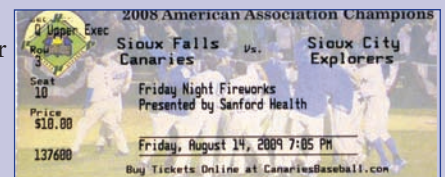
Tammy Edman

Annual Report

The Minnesota West Foundation's annual report was not available at the time this newsletter went to print, however the annual report will be available soon on the foundation's website, www.mnwest.edu/foundation and will be e-mailed to those people who have e-mail addresses with the foundation. If you would like a copy of the annual report e-mailed to you, please update your contact information at www.mnwest.edu/alumni/address-update. The Minnesota West annual report will give the foundation's financial outlook as reported by the organization's auditors and will have a complete list of donors for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The annual report should be ready in December.

Alumni Events

The Minnesota West Foundation has hosted two alumni events recently, one in **Sioux Falls, SD** and one in **Topeka, KS**. Alumni events are a chance for alumni in a region to join together to talk about their days at Minnesota West and to meet some of the staff and leadership at the college. Attending the Sioux Falls Canaries baseball game included Minnesota West president **Ric Shrubbs** and Vice-President of Administration **Lori Voss**. The Topeka event was hosted by Dr. Shrubbs, Provost **Diane Graber**, Vice-President of Instruction **Jeff Williamson** and Diversity Coordinator **Le Lucht**. Foundation events were also held at the BlueJay Homecoming football game, at the Jackson campus and Fairmont Center in October.



Notes&News

Minnesota West Community and Technical College announced that the Luverne Educational Center for Health Careers received an award for Innovative Partnering and Collaboration from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System for the 2008-2009 academic year. The award is a representation of the collaboration and partnerships between Minnesota West, the City of Luverne and Sanford Regional Health Systems. This partnership led to the college turning a vacant healthcare facility into a growing educational center which houses Minnesota West's radiologic technology, surgical technology, medical laboratory technician, phlebotomy and medical assistant programs as well as liberal arts classes for area students.

Two Minnesota West Community and Technical College faculty members have taken hold of the Jackson campus' wildly successful powerline and electric utility technology program and made it ever better. Program instructors **Don Craig** and **Brian Binnebose** this year added what they called a "summer start session" to the curriculum,

expanding the program with additional credit hours and creating more opportunities for students. "The future is looking really pretty good," Craig said. "Within the next five to seven years, a full 60 to 70 percent of the current workforce will be retiring. There's a lot of opportunity there. And that's not just opportunity in this area, but statewide and nationwide."

The Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning program at the Pipestone Campus recently accepted a generous donation from *Johnstone Supply* of Sioux Falls. The donation of equipment valued at \$1400 included two Fresh Air ventilation Systems made by Honeywell. A fresh air ventilation system is a must in all new construction. This equipment will typically exchange the air in a home 6-8 times within a 24 hour period.



Back row - Sr. Vice Chancellor Linda Baer, Chancellor James McCormick, MnSCU Trustee Dan McElroy, Dinae Graber, Minnesota West Provost

Front row - Luverne Center Manager Jeff Ernst, Director of Allied Health Jackie Otkin, Medical Assistant Faculty Lisa Smith

Notes&News

The National Business Professionals of America conference was held in Dallas TX with over 3000 students and advisors from across the nation in attendance. While attending many top notch seminars, the Granite Falls chapter of Minnesota West achieved some high honors as follows: Granite Falls Chapter: Awarded the Quality Chapter Award (the highest honor a chapter can obtain in BPA), **Dee Bogan**: Minnesota's head voting delegate and got to carry the Minnesota flag across the stage at opening session as well as obtaining her Ambassador Award (the highest honor an individual can obtain in BPA), **Janice Peters**: Voting delegate and Ambassador Award recipient, **Samantha Rhoda**: Voting delegate and Ambassador Award recipient, **Fay Eisenbraun**: Ambassador Award recipient, **Gisela Guerra** and **Katie Jensen**: Top ten finish in Graphic Design, **Tam Stipert Schoens**: 3rd place in Payroll Accounting, top ten finish in Banking and Finance, and Ambassador Award recipient.



The Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning class - Pipestone

Nine colleges and universities within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system were recently honored for outstanding achievements in educational programs and student affairs. These awards were selected by a panel of academic and student affairs administrators from various campuses for work in the 2008-2009 academic year. Minnesota West Community and Technical College was proud to be named a recipient of an Excellence in Curriculum Programming Award for the Wind Energy Technology program on the Canby Campus. **Rebecca Weber**, Canby Campus Manager, proudly accepted the award from Chancellor **James H. McCormick** on behalf of the program at the May 28th Awards Banquet. The Wind Energy Technology program will begin its fifth academic year on the Canby Campus and continues to attract strong interest amongst one of the fastest growing industries.



Minnesota West personnel Diane Graber, John Joosten, Dennis Hampel and Rebecca Weber pose with Chancellor McCormick, Linda Baer, and Dan McElroy from the Minnesota State Colleges & Universities System.

The Surgical Technology program, located at the Luverne Educational Center for Health Careers, was awarded initial Accreditation for five years by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs (CAAHEP). The Surgical Technology program prepares students to perform general technical support tasks in the operating room before, during and after surgery. The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs (CAAHEP) is the premier agency for accreditation and approval of educational programs in numerous allied health and related healthcare disciplines.

Help us “Go Green”

You can receive this newsletter via e-mail by sending your contact information to:
foundation@mnwest.edu.

Alumni Updates

1940s

Dean Dannewitz – 1948, Pre-Business, Worthington – Dean is living in Summerfield, Florida with his wife **Mary Ann**. Dean remembers his time with the football team and the old campus of Worthington Junior College. Dean worked for a number of years in Michigan, New York and Minneapolis before retiring in Florida.

1960s

Fred O'Malley – 1963, Worthington – Fred and his wife **Kathy** live in Upland, California.
Karla (Klosterbuer) Talsma – 1967, Elementary Education, Worthington -- Karla is living in Worthington, Minnesota and works for Bedford Industries.

1970s

Gaylin Zeigler – 1970, Pre-Business Administration, Worthington – Gaylin is living in Discovery Bay, California with his wife **Shirley**. Gaylin worked as a civilian employee of the Army and is now retired.
Marlene (Bents) Moberg – 1971, AA, Worthington – Marlene is living in Worthington, Minnesota with her husband **John** and works as an administrative assistant for Rock-Nobles Community Corrections. Two of their children are Minnesota West graduates.
Ryan Anderson – 1971, AA, Worthington – Ryan is living in San Ramon, California with his wife **Sharon** and is self-employed.
Tom Neeb – 1972, AA, Worthington – Tom is living in Los Banos, California and works for the Los Banos Unified School District.

Irene (Kreger) Sweeney – 1972, Clerical, Canby – Irene is living in Marion, Iowa and works at JP Gaswat.

Brad Isberner – 1974, AA, Worthington – Brad is living in St. Cloud, Minnesota with his wife **Sandra** and is an associate professor at St. Cloud State University. Brad and his wife have three sons all active in the United States Marine Corp.

Debra (Richter) Van De Venter – 1975, AA, Worthington – Debra is living in Oakes, North Dakota with her husband **Gordy** and works for the Sheyenne Valley Special Education Unit.

Mark Knutson – 1976, Meat cutting, Pipestone – and **Jolene (Powell) Knutson** – 1976, Pipestone – Mark and Jolene are living in Maple Grove, Minnesota. Mark works for Continental Carbonic. They have two adult children and two grandchildren.

Lynne (Hinz) Bachschneider – 1976, Pre-Pharmacy, Worthington – Lynne is living in Plymouth, Minnesota with her husband **Robert** and their daughter. **Lynne** works in IT at Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital.

Susan (Theis) Bowne – 1978, Professional Sales Training, Granite Falls – Susan is living in Sioux Falls, South Dakota with her husband **Willard** and working at Midland National Life Insurance Company.

Julie (Wylie) Spurbeck – 1979, Legal Secretary, Granite Falls – Julie is living in Eagan, Minnesota with her husband **Mark** and works REM, Ltd.

Barbara (Emerson) Lutmer – 1979, Worthington – Barbara lives in Andover, Minnesota with her husband **Steve** and works as a nursing supervisor for Mercy Hospital.

Kevin Rust – 1979, Accounting, Worthington – Kevin is living in Rochester, Minnesota with his wife **Karen** and works for the Rochester Athletic Club.

1980s

Ruby (Piscator) Murphy – 1980, AA, Worthington – Ruby lives in Spencer, Iowa with her husband, **B. Thomas** and is retired from working at Nobles County.

Jack Fillbrandt – 1981, AA, Worthington – Jack is living in Humble, Texas with his two daughters. He is the principal at the Ben Bowen Early Childhood Center. He was recently named the Elementary Principal of the Year for the Huffman Independent School District outside of Houston.

Mike Drooger – 1982 & 1984, AA & Supermarket Management, Worthington & Pipestone – Mike is living in Edgerton, Minnesota with his wife **Gay Lynn** and their three children. Mike has owned Drooger's Food Center since 1986.

Carol (Olson) Garmer – 1982, Nursing, Worthington – Carol is living in Brewster, Minnesota with her husband **David** and works at ServiceMaster.

Roger Ubben – 1983, Electronics, Jackson – Roger is living in Iowa Falls, Iowa and works at R Comm Wireless.

Daniel Kroehler – 1983, Agricultural Business, Worthington – Daniel is living in Lakeville, Minnesota with his wife **Ellen** and their three daughters. Dan owns Dan's Firewood and Stumping.

Jodie (Johnson) Archer – 1985, AA, Worthington – Jodie is living in Spring Valley, Minnesota with her husband **Tony** and works at SAHM.

Dan Moret – 1985, AA, Worthington – Dan lives in Bloomington, Illinois and works for State Farm Insurance.

Lon Clifford – 1986, Auto Service Tech, Canby – Lon is living in Hazel, South Dakota.

Chris Hoffbeck – 1986, Fluid Power, Granite Falls – Chris lives in Shelbyville, Michigan and works as an engineering supervisor for Kawasaki Precision Machinery. Chris and his wife have two children

Melissa (Polzine) Whiting – 1987, Secretarial Science, Worthington – Melissa is living in Bloomington, Minnesota with her husband **Kirk**.

Kristi (Cox) Fikse – 1987, AA, Canby – Kristi lives in Walker, Minnesota with her husband and daughter. Kristi works at the Golden Living Center as a Nurses Aid and her husband works at Leech Lake Lumber. Their daughter is in college majoring in photography.

Michael Moret – 1988, Worthington – Michael is living in Muncie, Indiana and works for 3M.

1990s

Anthony Reynolds – 1990, Auto Body, Jackson – Anthony is living in Fulda, Minnesota.

Charles Miller – 1991, Agribusiness Management, Canby – Charles is living in Sherburn, Minnesota and works for Ritter Agri Sales.

Peter Ulbricht – 1991, Electrical, Jackson – Peter is living in Rochester, Minnesota with his wife **Delores** and three children. Peter works for Nietz Electric, Inc as a journeyman electrician and a foreman.

Jason Kroon – 1991, Canby – Jason is living in Steen, Minnesota and works for UPS and Pfeifer Implement.

Jackie Mau – 1991, Jackson – Jackie is living in Windom, Minnesota with her three children and works as an insurance agent for C.R. Duroe Insurance Agency.

Jason Hanson – 1992, Plumbing, Jackson – and **Beth (Bach) Hanson** – 1992, Veterinary Office Management, Pipestone -- Jason and Beth are living in Watertown, South Dakota. Jason works for Culligan Water Conditioning and Beth works at Lincoln Elementary School.

Todd Zinnel – 1992, AA, Worthington – Todd is living in Luverne, Minnesota and works for the Adrian Public Schools.

Kouri Wysong – 1992, Worthington – Kouri is living in Sioux Falls, South Dakota with his wife **Nora** and three children.

Nikki (Howe) Doherty – 1993, Court Reporting, Jackson – Nikki is living in Harrisburg, South Dakota with her husband **Shawn** and works for the Bell Federal Credit Union.

Noel Kramer – 1993, Robotics, Granite Falls – Noel is living in Gibbon, Minnesota with his wife **Maren** and works at Hutchinson Technology.

Heath Rasche – 1994, AA, Worthington – Heath is living in Nine Mile Falls, Washington with his wife **Jessie** and their son. Heath works for Daktronics, Inc as a Regional Manager in sales.

Kris (Timm) Sik – 1994, Dental Assisting, Canby – Kris is living in Granite Falls, Minnesota.

Ryan Limesand – 1994, Truck Driving, Pipestone – Ryan lives in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and works for the City of Sioux Falls.

Dawn Anderson – 1994 & 1997, AA & Medical Assisting, Worthington & Pipestone – Dawn is living in Adrian, Minnesota and works for Nobles Rock Community Health Services. Dawn is also on the Advisory Board for the Medical Assisting Program for Minnesota West.

Chris Eggers – 1994, Construction Electrician, Jackson – Chris is living in West Bend, Iowa with his wife **Crystal** and is self-employed.

DeeDee (Lemcke) Sandhurst – 1994 Dental Assisting, Canby – DeeDee is living in Rathdrum, Idaho with her husband **Chuck**. DeeDee works as a chairside assistant in a dental practice in Coeur d'Alene.

Jason Erp – 1994, Automotive Mechanics, Canby – Jason is living in Montevideo, Minnesota with his wife **Melissa** and their two children. Jason is in field production for Cargill.

Jim Reyne – 1994, Information Systems, Worthington – Jim is living in Mitchell, South Dakota with his wife **Gail** and works at Innovative Systems, LLC.

Brenda Crossfield – 1994, AA, Worthington – Brenda is living in Dubuque, Iowa and will complete her Master's degree in Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary in 2010.

Kelly Gillespie – 1994, 2002, & 2008, Robotics & Business Management, Pipestone – Kelly is living in Edgerton, Minnesota and works at Fey Industries.

Allison (Pehrson) DeBoer – 1995, Business Application Specialist, Canby – Allison is living in Milbank, South Dakota with her husband **Craig** and their three children. Allison works at the Milbank Eye Care Center.

Jerome Swenson – 1995, Auto, Canby – Jerome is living in Montevideo, Minnesota and works for Adams Motors.

Eric Dietz – 1995, Machine Tool Technology, Granite Falls – Eric is living in Madelia, Minnesota with his wife **Steffanie** and works at Windings, Inc. in New Ulm.

Travis Kuehl – 1996, Construction Electrician, Jackson – Travis is living in Hartford, South Dakota with his wife **Wendy** and works for Travis Electric, Inc.

Nikki (Johansen) Branstiter – 1996, Worthington – Nikki lives in Rockton, Illinois with her husband **Keith** and their three children. Nikki works as a registered, licensed occupational therapist at Swedish American Hospital in Rockford.

Marcia Warnick – 1997, Granite Falls – Marcia is living in McHenry, Maryland and works as a Licensed Personal Assistant/Marketing Director for Railey Realty.

Tory Schreurs – 1997, Electric, Canby – Tory is living in Russell, Minnesota with his wife **Jodi** and works for Tyler Electric.

Stacy Altman – 1997, Medical Administrative Secretary, Jackson – Stacy is living in Adrian, Minnesota with her husband **Aaron** and works for Southwestern Mental Health Center.

Clinton Paskewitz – 1997, Insurance, Granite Falls – Clinton is living in Meridian, Idaho with his wife **Natalie** and works for the Post Insurance Services, Inc.

Ron Nielsen – 1997, Robotics, Granite Falls – Ron lives in Pipestone, Minnesota with his wife **Melissa** and their three boys. Ron works for J & B/Ellison Meat Company as a Production Systems Analyst.

Jim Goodburn – 1997, Fluid Power, Granite Falls – Jim lives in Billings, Montana with his wife **Debbie** and their three children. Jim owns R & L Power Systems which builds hydraulic systems for the sugar cane industry.

Lynn (Otterness) Stern – 1998, AA, Worthington – Lynn is living in Marshall, Minnesota with her husband of over thirty years, **Craig** and works for the Southwest Area Multicounty Multitype Interlibrary Exchange (SAMMIE) as an Administrative Assistant.

Nathan Winter – 1998, AA, Worthington – Nathan lives in Hutchinson, Minnesota with his wife **Kelly** and works for the University of Minnesota Extension Service in McLeod and Meeker Counties. Nathan hopes to complete his Master's degree in Agricultural Education in 2009. His family includes six Minnesota West graduates, both parents, three siblings and one in-law.

Darlys Brewers – 1998, Accounting, Granite Falls – Darlys is living in Marshall, Minnesota and works for Lyon County.

Jacob Paulsen – 1999, Automotive Technology, Canby – Jacob is living in Fabens, Texas and works for the City of El Paso.

Yin Tung – 1999, AA, Canby – Yin is living in New York, New York with her husband of three years. She works as the Asian Program Manger/ Contract Negotiator for Elderplan, Inc in Brooklyn, and has completed her Master's degree in Health Administration from Long Island University in 2009.

Joyce (Carson) Welling-Prahn – 1999, Administrative Secretarial, Jackson – Joyce is living in North Mankato, Minnesota with her husband **Robert** and three children. Joyce works at Gustavus Adolphus College as an administrative assistant, and will complete her bachelor's degree in 2010.

Laura (Leasman) Swedzinski – 1999, Granite Falls – Laura is living in Minneota, Minnesota with her husband and two daughters. Laura works for Habilitative Services, Inc.

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