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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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W. Donald Olsen Passes Away

Served as Dean & President of Worthington Campus for 31 Years

dean and president of Worthington Junior College, Worthington State Junior College and Worthington Community College from 1944 to 1975 passed away at the age of 99 on December 20, 2009. Olsen led the effort to establish the current location of the campus near Lake Okabena, began the college's accreditation through North Central Association of Colleges, helped launch the association with Minnesota Public Radio on the campus and helped host the National Junior College Wrestling Tournament for almost twenty years.

When Olsen began working at the college it was still a division of the Worthington Public Schools, and Olsen was active in the state-wide group to achieve a community college system supported by the state rather than the local schools.

Olsen is remembered well by current and former staff at the Worthington Campus. Former science instructor **Dale Carlson** remembered that Olsen hired him and was always fair and considerate. Carlson remembers that Olsen was a thoughtful leader who did not rush into decisions and did not have any hidden agendas with the staff. Former Worthington graduate, **Marty Rickers**, remembers Olsen as being stately on campus and as a member of the *Noon Kiwanis Club* in Worthington.

Dean Dannewitz, a 1948 WJC graduate, credits Olsen with keeping him in college after attempting to drop out due to financial circumstances. Dannewitz says Olsen lined up a job and housing for him to stay in school. Bill Lindquist, former chemistry instructor in Worthington, was also hired by Olsen and remembers him being a good leader and willing to listen to the staff before making decisions. Lindquist also appreciated that Olsen let the staff do their work without interference. Two current staff members of the Worthington campus, Sharon Balster and Sandy Beckering, also were hired by Olsen and remember him fondly as an approachable administrator and a good boss.

Olsen is survived by his daughter **Sandra Looney** of Sioux Falls, South Dakota and his son **Rodney Olsen** of Arlington, Virginia. His wife of 70 years, **Glenda**, passed away in September, 2009.



W. Donald Olsen

CampusUpdates

Canby

A new wind energy training tower was set into place on Friday, February 19, 2010 on the Canby Campus. The training tower will be utilized by the Wind Energy Technology program to provide further hands-on technical instruction related to climb safety and rescue training for students enrolled in the program. The Training Tower became a reality last fall with a donation from AES Wind Generation of Lake Benton, MN. SMI & Hydraulics, Inc. of Porter, MN designed and built a unique dome top with external tie off points and hatch, in addition to adding a new ladder unit and a rail-slide system, internal platforms, lighting, and a fresh coat of paint. In the coming months, an Avanti Wind Systems Lift Cage, which was previously donated to the program, will be installed. The Wind Energy Training Tower has a base diameter of approximately 13 feet and stands nearly 80 feet tall. Graduates from this program are trained as Wind Energy Technicians, capable and comfortable working under minimal supervision to carry out complex daily assembly, service, repair, and operations of infrastructure to Wind Turbine generators and related equipment.

Granite Falls

In true Olympic style, students from Minnesota West Granite Falls campus showed their competitors at state that their education is truly medal worthy. Minnesota West-Granite Falls campus: 1st place in Model Chapter. This is the highest honor a chapter can achieve. Katie Jensen: 1st place in Trading Pin. This means that her design will be made into a pin that all of Minnesota will wear at national competition. She also placed 1st in Graphic Design Promotion. Gisela Guerra: 3rd place in Trading Pin and 2nd place in Graphic Design Promotion. Josh Reiman: 1st place in Information Security. Tam Stimpert-Schoen: 1st place in Banking and Finance, 2nd place in Human Resource, 3rd place in Payroll Accounting, 5th place Advanced Accounting and 3rd place in Accounting Specialist. Dee Bogan: 1st place in Tax Accountant, 3rd place Computer Network Technology, 4th place Advanced Accounting, and 4th place in Accounting Specialist. Jen Shrumm: Finalist in Legal Office Procedures, Finalist in Advanced Word Processing. Courtney Serbus: 2nd place Advanced Accounting, 5th place Accounting Specialist, Finalist in Computerized Accounting. Team of Janice Peters, Lisa Yeager, Mai Yang, and Dee Bogan: 2nd place in Presentation Management Team. In addition, 5 members qualified for their State Torch Award: Janice Peters, Jen Shrumm, Courtney Serbus, Dee Bogan

and Tam Stimpert-Schoen.



ayudarle con todas sus necesidades sobre el cuidado de su pelo. Aqui en el Hair Hut ofrecemos cortes de pelo, permanents, colores, depilaciones y muchas cosas mas. Vengan aqui o llamen y pregunten por Martha al 831-2791. Mi horario de trabajo es el siguiente

Lunes 9a.m.- 7p.m. Miercoles 9a.m.- 5p.m. 8a.m.- 5p.m. **Viernes**

831-2791 • 205 9th St. • Windom



Tower

Jackson

2009 Jackson graduate, Martha Fonseca, is making a name for herself at the Hair Hut in Windom. Fonseca, a cosmetology

graduate in December, was recently named the stylist with the highest weekly sales for service, and is expanding the business' approach to Latino customers by her ability to speak Spanish. She says she chose Minnesota West because of the strong cosmetology program and the ability to meet many of the students on campus. The instructors made the learning fun and their creativity helped the students learn new technology and products. Fonseca hopes to open her own salon some day. Fonseca says she is "so happy that my skills and passion are paying off."

Pipestone

Cosmetology and Massage Therapy students from the Pipestone Campus of Minnesota West Community & Technical College treated local university students to a spa day. They were part of the annual "Winter Meltdown" week held the last week in January at Southwest Minnesota State University. Using their stress reducing skills massage therapy students worked out the winter weather muscle knots. Haircuts and styles provided by the Cosmetology students raised the spirits of the students. The spa event is a

Sabado

CampusUpdates

great learning experience for the Minnesota West students, giving them the opportunity to work with a diverse group of students. Together the 30 Minnesota West students melted the winter blues from our neighboring college students.

Worthington

"Every time I see a person wearing the blue shirt and black pants, I think, 'There goes a member of my family," Abu Saada said with a smile, glancing down at his own uniform. Because of that feeling, several of Saada's fellow law enforcement students made a point to attend the Feb 19 ceremony in Sioux Falls, S.D., that made him a U.S. citizen. "I consider it an honor to become an American citizen," Saada stated. Born in Ethiopia, Saada, now 22, moved as a small child to Kenya. An uncle that lived in the United States helped his parents emigrate in 1999, so from the time he was 10 or 11 until he was able to join them, Saada and his two siblings lived with another uncle in Kenya. Saada, along with his brother and sister, arrived in Sioux Falls in 2004. "When you move from one country to another there, you don't think much about schools or things like that," he stated. "You think about getting settled in and surviving." He attended Washington High School in Sioux Falls, graduating in 2008. Furthering his education, he decided to follow in the footsteps of his older brother Reyad and attend Minnesota West. "Law enforcement is something I have wanted to do since I was a little kid," he admitted with a grin. "I want to give back to this country what America gave me." Saada and his brother went through the



From Left to Right: Reyad Saada, Law Enforcement instructor Mark Holden, Abu Saada

ceremony together, backed by family and a group of Minnesota West students. Their sister is married and lives in Memphis, Tenn., and their parents still live in Sioux Falls.

Fairmont

Over the past few years, the Fairmont Center has proved to be a "good fit" for people of all ages and backgrounds. The Fairmont Center currently has between 60-65 students enrolled in classes for Spring Semester 2010. The majority of the students are pursuing an Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree and plan to transfer to a four-year institution after completion of their program. Students say that the Minnesota West - Fairmont Center is affordable and provides quality education in a convenient and comfortable atmosphere.

Luverne

Adult Scrubs Camp 2010 was held March 10th and 11th at the Minnesota West Community & Technical College Pipestone Campus and Luverne Educational Center for Health Careers. The camp helped adults to explore and participate in nearly a dozen different healthcare careers. This camp was a great learning experience for adults from the southwest corner of Minnesota. Participants were taught by area professionals and given numerous opportunities to get involved in hands-on activities. Jackie Otkin, Director of Allied Health and Campus Administrator explained that the camp was a great experience for those attending and expanded the students understanding of the medical field. Their goal was to provide awareness to the adults in the region of the healthcare opportunities beyond becoming a nurse or doctor.

Redwood Falls

The Redwood Falls Center, which opened its doors to students in August of 2009, is continuing to grow. Enrollment jumped by over 300% from fall to spring, with almost 20 students taking at least one class in Redwood during spring semester. The center has been a big attraction for nontraditional students, who after years in the workforce, are returning to school to get their degree. The Redwood Falls Center has also received generous marketing support from the local Redwood Area Learning Committee, who played a key role in bringing the center to Redwood Falls.

StudentNews

Student Spotlight



Julie Moore

Julie Moore – *Granite Falls*

Julie Moore has taken her skills of fixing things and learning how and why machines work that she learned from growing up on a dairy farm to become a first year fluid power student on the Granite Falls Campus of Minnesota West. Moore says she chose Minnesota West because of the strong fluid power program and has come to value the fact that the staff and faculty are very friendly and even greet you by name because they remember who you are. Her long-term goals include going for an engineering degree, possibly for aeronautics. Moore says "everyday at school I learn so many new and interesting things; I wouldn't trade it for anything."



Chris LaTour

Chris LaTour - Jackson

Chris LaTour came to the Jackson Campus of Minnesota West from Ramsey, Minnesota knowing he wanted to join the power line program because of a neighbor he visited in high school. The neighbor showed LaTour the power line shop where he worked, the trucks involved in the work and answered questions about the field. Now, as a first year student on the Jackson Campus, LaTour is enjoying the experience that comes from the program, including using the pole yard. This gives power line students the chance to climb poles and put their new skills to practical use in the field. LaTour graduated from Anoka High School before coming to Minnesota West. He says he enjoys hunting and fishing when he is not in the classroom.





Make an Everlasting Donation

Did you know you can leave the Minnesota West Foundation in your will, or estate documents? Some donors have even left the Minnesota West Foundation as the beneficiary in their life insurance plans. These gifts can allow a person to make a substantially larger gift to the students and programs at Minnesota West than they could during their lifetime. Contact the foundation office at **1-800-658-2535** if you are interested in these opportunities.

DonorNews



Bruce Viessman

Bruce Viessman Worthington Class of 1979

Bruce Viessman grew up in Worthington and began going to the Worthington Campus in the fall of 1977 after high school. He was in the business administration program with an accounting emphasis. He liked the idea of being able to live at home while going to college so he could also work, and the fact that the accounting program would transfer easily to Minnesota State Mankato where he went after graduation. Viessman remembers instructor **Ed Kellen** having students do a lot of homework and very difficult tests, however Viessman credits Kellen's classes for making his transition to Mankato easier. Viessman graduated in 1979 and finished his accounting and business finance degree at Mankato.

Viessman says he donates to Minnesota West since it has been a large part of his life and his success. His son received the Ed Kellen scholarship and ended up receiving his accounting degree from St. Johns. Minnesota West is an integral part of the Worthington Community. During his time at Worthington Regional Hospital the hospital partnered with Minnesota West on many projects that benefited the community. Whether it was the nursing program, sports programs, academic programs, YMCA partnership, or community activities Minnesota West is one of the premier institutions in Worthington.

Viessman is currently employed by Sanford Health in Sioux Falls, South Dakota as the Vice President of Finance/CFO for the Sanford Health Network. He currently lives in Worthington with his wife **Mary**, and son **Brian**, a sophomore in high school. Their daughter **Lisa** is a junior at the University of North Dakota, and their son **Dan** is employed by United Healthcare as a financial analyst in Edina.

FoundationNews

Two New Board Members

The Minnesota West Foundation Board of Directors welcomes two new board members to the organization. **Rod Byam** of Windom is a graduate of the Worthington campus and has owned two businesses, been a police officer, fire fighter and EMT in the Windom area. Rod also serves with the American Red Cross and the Civil Air Patrol.

Kim Lueck of Pipestone is also a graduate of Minnesota West, from the Pipestone Campus. Kim is an account executive for Fintegra Financial Solutions which is located at First Farmers and Merchants Bank in Pipestone and Luverne.



Rod Byam



Kim Lueck

www.mnwest.edu/foundation

The place you can go to for all the information you need about the Minnesota West Foundation, including donating with your credit card! You can also find the foundation's 2008-2009 audit and the 2008-2009 tax return on the website.

Notes&News

Phi Theta Kappa Induction on the Granite Falls Campus

Over thirty students and their honored guests attended the first-ever Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony held on the Granite Falls Campus. This ceremony honored Phi Theta Kappa inductees from the Granite Falls, Canby, and Pipestone Campus locations of Minnesota West. Phi Theta Kappa is a two year college honor society organization which provides scholarship, leadership, and service opportunities for its members.

Wind Energy Training Tower

Minnesota West Community & Technical College is excited to announce the assembly of the Wind Energy Training Tower on the Canby Campus. The Training Tower was set into place as industry representatives, students, staff, and onlookers gathered for this historic event. The training tower will be utilized by the Wind Energy Technology program to provide further hands-on technical instruction related to climb safety and rescue training for students enrolled in the program. The Wind Energy Training Tower has a base diameter of approximately 13 feet and stands nearly 80 feet tall.

Minnesota West Expands Wind Energy Team

Minnesota West Community and Technical College is pleased to announce two new additions to the Wind Energy Technology program. Brad Bolluyt and Laceson Town have joined the Canby Campus as instructors for the Wind Energy Technology program. "With the growth of this program, it was time to expand our team of faculty members. Both Town and Bolluyt bring knowledge that will surely benefit our students," stated **Duane Carrow**, Director of Renewable Programs for Minnesota West. "We are very excited to have them on board." Bolluyt and Town join current Wind Energy Instructor, Gary Olsen, in the award winning Wind Energy Technology program located on the Canby Campus of Minnesota West.



Phi Theta Kappa Ceremony

Lady Jays earn Fury Win No. 350

Entering late November's women's basketball game with Buena Vista junior varsity, Minnesota West head coach Mike Fury was sitting one win shy of a career milestone. With an 85-55 victory on November 23rd, Fury won his 350th career game, improving the Lady Jays to 3-4 this season. "Three hundred-fifty is a good number, but we're more concerned about 3-4 right now," Fury said. "That was a good win for us; I think it got a little bit of confidence back. We played hard and did a nice job on a lot of things." Fury is in his 29th season at the helm of the Lady Jays, and with a 350-316 career record, milestones are nothing new to the veteran coach.

Gordon Appointed CEO at Minnesota West Worthington Campus

Minnesota West Community & Technical College is pleased to announce that **Dawn Gordon** has been appointed

the CEO on the Worthington campus. Gordon has been with Minnesota West since 2006 serving as the Director of Nursing. Gordon has a BA in Nursing from Augustana College. A Masters in Health Science Management, Masters of Business Administration, and Masters of Business Management, from Colorado Technical University. In addition, Gordon is currently working on a PhD in Nursing at SDSU. Gordon says, "I appreciate the opportunity to serve Dawn Gordon in this role at Minnesota West. The appointment will compliment my continuation as Director of Practical Nursing Programs."



Van Heukelom Appointed Director of Nursing at Minnesota West

Minnesota West Community & Technical College is pleased to announce that **Ruth Van Heukelom** has been appointed as the Associate Degree Nursing Program Director. Van Heukelom started with Minnesota West in 1991 as a faculty member in the Associate Degree Nursing Program. Van Heukelom has a BS in Nursing from Graceland College. A Masters of Science with major in nursing from SDSU, and is completing a Doctorate of Nursing Practice from Minnesota State University, Mankato, with a planned graduation in May 2010. Van Heukelom says, "I appreciate the opportunity to serve college and nursing students in this exciting new role."



Endowed Scholarship - You can leave a permanent legacy with the college through an endowed scholarship. Endowed scholarships exist to provide scholarships to students in perpetuity because the donated principle is never spent while the interest from the donated sum is given out as scholarships. Are you interested in honoring a family member or leaving a legacy yourself? Contact the foundation at 1-800-658-2535.

AlumniUpdates

1950s

Willis Van Norman – 1958, Science, Worthington – Willis is living in St. Charles, Minnesota with his wife Irene. Willis taught high school, worked for the Mayo Clinic and for IBM before retiring. While no longer flying, Willis was a private pilot and a commercial pilot and instructor and event built an airstrip on their farm land. Willis and Irene also farm corn for a local canning company, Walnut and Oak trees as well as Christmas trees for a cut you own Christmas tree business.

1960s

Robert Werner – 1963, Worthington – Robert is living in Minnetonka, Minnesota and is working as a computer programmer for Park Nicollet Health Services. He has three daughters and four grandchildren. Robert likes to grow fruit and breeds grapes for wine making.

John Stotka – 1964, Worthington – John is living in Ridgefield, Washington with his wife Rita. He and Rita retired to Washington after he taught science in Wisconsin, Alaska, and Oregon. They enjoy their five grandchildren.

1970s

Ron Penning – 1970, Ag Business, Worthington – Ron is living in Scarville, Iowa with his wife Sherry. He has been in the grain elevator management business since he left college and remembers fondly playing basketball for Arlo Mogck. He and Sherry have two adult children.

Gregory Swanson – 1972, Accounting, Granite Falls – Gregory is living in Tucson, Arizona and works for the State of Arizona as an information tech specialist. He uses his music degree from Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall as the director of music at his church.

Peggy (Trebesch) Barron – 1973, Accounting, Canby – Peggy is living in Lakewood, Colorado. She is a data quality analyst for Hannover Reinsurance Company in Denver.

Debra (Richter) Van De Venter – 1975, Worthington – Deb is living and working in Oakes, North Dakota. Her husband, Gordy, works for the local phone company and their youngest daughter will graduate from high school in May.

Roger McKee – 1977, Meatcutting, Pipestone – Roger is living in Evanston, Wyoming with his wife Glennda and their youngest daughter. He is a self-employed home builder.

Robert Hanson – 1978, Worthington – Robert lives in Maple

Grove, Minnesota with his wife Robin and is a senior project manager for Target Corporation. He and Robin have three children and one grandson.

Kevin Shay – 1978, Meatcutting, Pipestone – Kevin is living in Albany, Minnesota with his wife Susan, and they have three children. Kevin works for Holy Family School.

Dan VanHorsen – 1978, Construction Electrician, Jackson – Dan is living in Sheldon, Iowa with his wife Patricia. He is a master electrician and physical plant director at Northwest Iowa Community College.

Kim Johnson – 1979, Fluid Power, Granite Falls – Kim lives in Montevideo, Minnesota with his wife Cynthia. He works for Hydac Technology Corporation as the Midwest regional sales manager. Kim and Cynthia have two adult children and they enjoy gardening, riding motorcycle and Kim plays in a blue band called Mojo Brothers.

Connie (Rude) Wussow – 1979, Fluid Power, Granite Falls – Connie lives in Eden Prairie, Minnesota with her husband Bill. Both Connie and Bill work for MTS Systems Corporation in Eden Prairie. Connie is the Manager of Sales Operations and Bill is the Sales Manager for Services. She has been with MTS since she graduated in 1979.

1980s

Sandra (Becker) Heger – 1981, Fashion Merchandising, Pipestone – and Brian Heger – 1980, Diesel Mechanics, Canby – Sandy and Brian are living in Windom, Minnesota with their son who will graduate from high school this year. Sandy is the director of senior housing for Good Samaritan in Windom and Brian is a superintendent for Old Castle Materials.

Todd Levig – 1981, Architectural Drafting, Canby – Todd is living in Shoreview, Minnesota. He works as the regional volunteer coordinator for McKesson Pharmaceutical. He remembers his college years as the fun years as he has maintained friendships over the years.

Brenda (Rude) Growe – 1982, Drafting/Design, Granite Falls – Brenda is living in Glenwood, Minnesota with her husband Jerry and their three children. Brenda works at WASP.

1990s

Sherry (Fischer) Friman – 1990, Accounting & Vet Office Mgt, Pipestone – Sherry is living in Tripp, South Dakota with her husband John and three daughters. She is working for MDS Manufacturing as a receptionist and she and John own Friman Construction.

Greg Pieske – 1993, Tool & Die, Granite Falls – Greg is living in Big Lake, Minnesota and works for Hutchinson Technology. **Noel Kramer** – 1993, Robotics, Granite Falls – Noel lives in Gibbon, Minnesota with his wife Maren and works for Hutchinson Technology.

Daniel Hauglid – 1994, Ag Business, Canby – Daniel lives in Dell Rapids, South Dakota with his wife Tera and their one son. Daniel works for the Dell Rapids Cooperative Grain.

AlumniUpdates

Shari (Swanson) Pumper – 1994, Accounting Clerk, Granite Falls – Shari is living in Owatonna, Minnesota with her husband Jeff and their two children. She is the controller for McCabe Motors and Limo Service.

Mary (Walther) Rubis – 1995, Mechanical Drafting & Design, Jackson – Mary is living in Minnetonka, Minnesota with her husband Mark. She is currently brushing up her education at Hennepin Technical College and looking for a mechanical drafting position.

Josh Wentz – 1997, Meatcutting, Pipestone – Josh is living in St. Peter, Minnesota with his wife Julia and their son. He has worked for Econofoods for the last ten years and is currently the assistant meat manager.

Jennifer Wichmann – 1999, Graphic Arts, Canby – Jennifer is living in Merritt Island, Florida with her daughter. Jennifer is the administrative coordinator for Universal Engineering Sciences, Inc. She enjoys her family being nearby and taking advantage of the beach near her home with her daughter.

2000s

Richard Rigenhagen – 2000, Fluid Power, Granite Falls – Richard lives in Whitmore Lake, Michigan with his wife Chelsea and their 6 month old child. He currently works for Stauff Corporation.

Amber Lee (Yechout) Goettig – 2002, Art, Worthington – Amber Lee is living in Chisago City, Minnesota and hopes to complete her master's degree in Traditional Chinese Medicine in 2010.

Tony Sandbulte – 2004, Worthington – Tony is living in Luverne, Minnesota and is a special education teacher.

Mitch Rowe – 2005, Worthington – Mitch is living in Jackson, Minnesota with his wife Laura and their two children. Mitch works for Pioneer Hybrids as an agronomist.

Ryan Schuette – 2005, Powerline Technology, Jackson – Ryan is living in Mayer, Minnesota with his wife Beth and son. He works for McLeod Coop Power Association and is now a journeyman. Ryan and Beth also farm and were awarded Century Farm status in 2009.

Amy (Savoye) Specht – 2006, Medical Administrative Secretary – Amy lives in Montevideo, Minnesota with her husband Joseph and their one child. Amy is working for Affiliated Community Medical Centers.

Jody (Kortleever) Delfs – 2005, 2006, & 2007, LPN, ADN & AA, Worthington – Jody is living in Hardwick, Minnesota with her husband Randy and their three children. She is working at Sanford Health in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Jody recently completed her BSN from Minnesota State Mankato.

Jodi (Bullerman) Erlandson – 2007, Ag Business, Worthington – Jodi lives in Adrian, Minnesota with her husband Derek and works for Mark Bullerman.

Aaron Bass – 2008, Granite Falls – Aaron is living in Rock Rapids, Minnesota and working for AOP.

Brandon Havemeier – 2009, Powerline Technology, Jackson – Brandon is living in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota and working for Brown County Rural Electric Association.

Travis Lorenz – 2009, Plumbing & HVAC, Pipestone – Travis is living in Marshall, Minnesota and owns Pipe Dreamz Plumbing and Heating. He also teaches a preparation class for people preparing to take the state plumbing exam.

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