



STATE
TEACHERS
COLLEGE

IMPACT REPORT

MSUM FOUNDATION FY2020





“ WE ARE DRAGONS. FIERCE. FORMIDABLE. WITH FIRE IN OUR BELLIES AND COURAGE IN OUR HEARTS. WE WILL NOT BE SLAYED BY THE CHALLENGES BEFORE US. RATHER, WE WILL EMBRACE THE CHALLENGE. BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT OUR PROMISE, AND OUR PURPOSE, IS WORTH IT. – ANNE BLACKHURST





>>> Brad Wimmer

GREETINGS FROM THE MSUM FOUNDATION BOARD

I want to thank all involved for making this past year, although very challenging for many reasons, quite successful for the MSUM Foundation. Working through COVID-19 was very challenging for staff and our Foundation board, but we not only met those challenges, we exceeded them! Our numbers look outstanding and because of people like you we are helping our students, faculty and institution thrive for the future.

Our Foundation board continues to be involved, invested and engaged to make sure MSUM succeeds into the future. I cannot thank them enough for coming on board and helping to lead. The staff assembled and President Blackhurst keep us challenged and up-to-date on the many accomplishments at the University. Please help us get through the next phase and help us to continue bringing MSUM to the forefront of its role as educators.

It's a good day to be a Dragon!

Brad Wimmer '76
MSUM Foundation Board President



>>> Gary Haugo

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The gifts you give have never been more important to MSUM students, faculty and staff. They allow students who otherwise couldn't afford college a chance to pursue a better life. Your gifts allow our faculty and staff to create student experiences that are transformative not only for our students, but for them as well. We are grateful for your support, and on behalf of all of us at MSUM and the MSUM Foundation, thank you.

Gary Haugo
*VP for University Advancement
MSUM Foundation*



FOUNDATION PROGRESS

FUNDRAISING



SUPPORT TO MSUM



ENDOWMENT PROGRESS



TOTAL NET ASSEST & LIABILITIES





BOB BOWLSBY: 'REACHING A THRESHOLD OF EXCELLENCE'

Bob Bowlsby isn't exactly sure how he ended up at Minnesota State University Moorhead. He grew up over 500 miles away, in Waterloo, Iowa. After competing on his high school wrestling team, he began looking for a place to continue his career and get an education. He was approached by then-coach Bill Garland about wrestling for the Dragons. Bob jumped at this opportunity and never looked back.

Although he knew no one, except for Coach Garland, it didn't seem to phase him. "I remember my mom and dad dropping me off," he said. "My mom shed a few tears, and it was kind of curious to me why she was crying." It turns out, he was the eldest of five children, and the first to go to college. Though his parents were apprehensive about their son's future, Bob knew he was in the right place.

“Everything and everyone was new, but I didn’t really think about being scared or nervous too much,” he said.

MSUM was a great decision for Bob. He continued his success on the wrestling mat, becoming a captain, four-year letter winner and won the NIC title at 167 pounds his senior year. He also joined the Old Order of the Owls, where he became the president and met life-long friends. He graduated with a health and physical education degree in 1975, but most importantly, he met his future wife. Candice (Lapash) was a Moorhead native and was studying elementary education at MSUM. The two fell in love and were married in the Newman Center on campus.

Bob went on to have a very successful career. He obtained a master’s degree, and after working as athletic director for several colleges, he became the Big 12 Conference Commissioner in 2012. Not only does this mean an impressive resume, but it means Bob and Candice are in a position to give back, something they always hoped they’d be in a position to do.

Because of their experiences, friendships, and memories, MSUM has

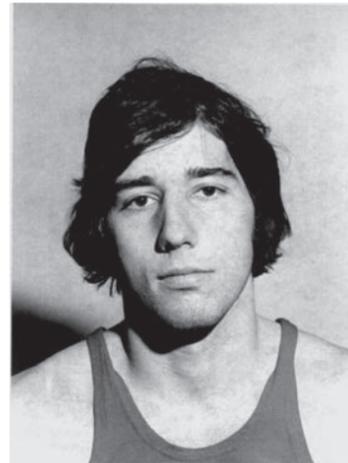
become a significant place for Bob and his wife. “As our family grew, wherever we were living, we always got back to Moorhead regularly. Both of us got a terrific education at MSUM. We came in contact with great faculty mentors, and we believe in the transformative power of the institution. MSUM has a very fond place in our hearts.”

The transformative impact MSUM had on him and his wife inspired the Bowsbys to donate to their alma mater. They created the Candice & Robert Bowsby Wrestling Scholarship, helping young athletes, like Bob once was, fulfill their dreams to keep competing and learning. In addition to athletics, they have chosen to give to other areas on campus as well, including the current campaign to build an Alumni Center.

Over the years, Bob has had great mentors who have shown him the importance of being generous. He hopes he can be an example to others who would like to make an impact. “Private support is the difference between being average and reaching a threshold of excellence,” he said. “With funding declining, now more than ever, private support is needed. For me, I want to support an institution that’s been good to my family.” ■

“ **WITH FUNDING DECLINING, NOW MORE THAN EVER, PRIVATE SUPPORT IS NEEDED. FOR ME, I WANT TO SUPPORT AN INSTITUTION THAT’S BEEN GOOD TO MY FAMILY.**

– BOB BOWLSBY



>>> Bob Bowsby



PHOTO CREDIT: Layne Murdoch for Big 12 Conference

MSUM HONORS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI, OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Five alumni and one faculty emeritus were honored by the MSUM Alumni Foundation for their professional successes and community contributions.

“Nothing makes me prouder than the extraordinary accomplishments of our alumni and faculty,” said President Anne Blackhurst. “These individuals are all remarkable Dragons who have transformed the world for the better. I am grateful for their heart and grit.”

Those who received the 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award are:

- ▶ Stacy Broman ‘85, Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, is an attorney who specializes in defending insurers in insurance coverage and bad faith litigation. She serves on the board of directors of The Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel.
- ▶ Randall Flick ‘83, Rochester, Minnesota, serves as director of the Mayo Clinic Children’s Center. An international expert in the field of pediatric anesthesia, Flick is a prolific presenter and publisher of research.
- ▶ Elsie Listrom ‘73, St. Louis, Missouri, is senior vice president for fundraising

services at Gabriel Group and has more than 20 years of direct fundraising experience at nonprofit organizations.

- ▶ James Thares ‘83, Aberdeen, South Dakota, is founder and CEO of Primrose Retirement Communities, which has 36 locations across 18 states. The communities provide various living options for seniors.

The 2020 Young Alumni Award was awarded to Dang Pham ‘14 of New York City. Pham is director of mergers and acquisitions at UBS Investment Bank on Wall Street where he spearheads new strategies and technologies for clients.

Honored with the 2020 Outstanding Service Award is Dr. Konrad Czynski, who retired after serving as a professor at MSUM for 27 years. He taught in the humanities and philosophy departments and received the Excellence in Teaching award from MSUM in 2011.

Traditionally, distinguished alumni and faculty have been recognized during Homecoming festivities on campus. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, awardees will be honored individually. ■



STACY BROMAN ‘85



RANDALL FLICK ‘83



ELSIE LISTROM ‘73



JAMES THARES ‘83



DANG PHAM ‘14



KONRAD CZYNSKI



**I DECIDED EARLY ON
I WOULDN'T BE A
DISTANT PROFESSOR.
I SEE EDUCATION AS
A RELATIONSHIP AND
A CONVERSATION,
NOT A TRANSACTION.**

– KONRAD CZYNSKI



BELOVED PROFESSOR EMERITUS CZYNSKI RECEIVES 2020 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Before the first class of each semester, Dr. Konrad Czynski carefully studied his roster of students.

is given annually in recognition of significant time and talent given to MSUM.

Upon entering the classroom, the philosophy professor asked students – sometimes as many as 60 of them – to identify themselves. By the end of the class, he'd try to recite their names without a hint. He usually succeeded.

Czynski joined the MSUM faculty in 1991, teaching in the humanities and multicultural studies department. Ten years ago, he joined the philosophy department. Throughout his career, he taught a variety of class topics ranging from world religion to Civil War history to theatre.

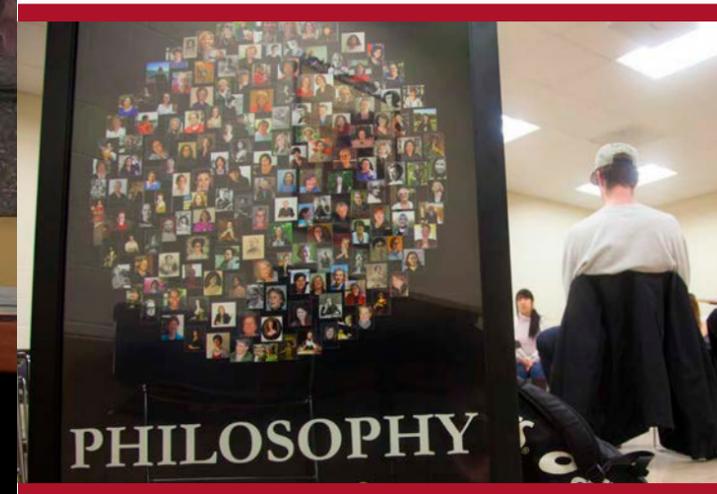
Czynski retired from teaching at MSUM in 2018 after 27 years in the classroom. His ability to greet students and colleagues by name was a distinguishing trait. What some see as super human mental gymnastics, he sees as a simple but effective way to make connections.

“I feel like every four years, I got a new degree,” he says. “I am immensely grateful to MSUM for allowing my interests to flourish.”

“That way, the bridge was created between me and the students,” he says.

Czynski retired in 2018, but the relationships he nurtured with students remain his most cherished lessons yet. In particular, he loved teaching the first-year introductory course for students who wanted to study in the humanities. This class allowed him to establish connections with students

Czynski is the recipient of the 2020 Outstanding Service Award. The award



that, in many cases, lasted long beyond their graduation.

His home is filled with art produced by former students. One piece is an illustration of a Civil War soldier painted from a photograph. He has been asked to perform in a handful of student-produced films. His first role was that of a home economics teacher who handed his students an egg and said: “Hold in the palm of your hand, this egg. Cherish it as if it were your very own child.”

He advised the Nepali Student Association after students in his class asked him to serve in the role. And he encouraged students to recommend guest speakers, especially for his world religions course.

Czynski’s willingness to engage in and participate in student activities was intentional.

“I decided early on I wouldn’t be a distant professor,” he says. “I see education as a relationship and a conversation, not a transaction.”

And that relationship between teacher and student stretches through campus and beyond.

Early in his career, Czynski was invited by his friends the late Stephen Simon and Bonnie Simon to narrate an annual children’s symphony concert at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. The orchestration and narration were later adapted as a recorded series available to a wider audience through MaestroClassics.com. Today, children ages 8 to 18 can listen to Czynski narrate classical music like Sergei Prokofiev’s “Peter and the Wolf.”

In retirement, Czynski has access to a faculty study room in the library where he conducts research on two projects: a play inspired by Igor Stravinsky’s “Soldier’s Tale” and a novel that follows two women who are nurses during the Vietnam War and in New York City on 9/11.

The space also keeps him close to students.

“As I tell them all the time, MSUM students breathe fire,” he says. “They have this eagerness and yearning to rise above where they started. I’m grateful to be part of it.” ■

“ **I FEEL LIKE EVERY FOUR YEARS, I GOT A NEW DEGREE. I AM IMMENSELY GRATEFUL TO MSUM FOR ALLOWING MY INTERESTS TO FLOURISH.**

– KONRAD CZYNSKI



>>> Konrad Czynski





HONORING FAMILY BY HELPING OTHERS

A LEGACY OF HOSPITALITY AND GENEROSITY

When Viki Sand thinks back on family get-togethers at her grandparents' house, she remembers small tables set up in various parts of the house. Spirited games of cards. Jokes. Lots of laughter.

And her grandparents — Olga and Palmer Berg — loving every minute of the crowded chaos.

"My grandparents were orphans," she says. "I imagine them saying early on in their marriage that they'd never be alone again."

To honor that love of family, the Berg grandchildren, all 18 of them, established an endowed scholarship at Minnesota State University Moorhead in memory of their grandparents. The cousins grew up together near Hawley and Lake Park and, in many

ways, remained friends throughout adulthood. Coming together to support an endowed scholarship has brought them even closer.

"This has rekindled our relationships and has given us something to work on together," Sand says. She herself is a 1967 graduate of what was then Moorhead State College.

The Bergs never attended college, but MSUM has had a deep influence on their family. One daughter, Bernice, earned her teaching degree from Minnesota State Teacher's College in 1940. Eleven of their grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren attended or are currently attending MSUM. One grandson, Gene Schulstad, a 1966 graduate, served on the MSUM Foundation board.

>>> On October 10, the Berg family was introduced to their two scholarship recipients for the year.



“(My grandparents) attended many, many graduations,” Sand says. “They saw what a difference public higher education made for our family.”

The Olga and Palmer Berg family scholarship is given each year to students who are the first member of their immediate family to receive a college degree. The scholarship ensures that first-generation students have an opportunity to focus on their studies and have less debt when they leave school.

“Our foundation partners with those who want to support MSUM and our students,” says Jenni Walthall, of the MSUM Foundation. “This endowed scholarship has been made possible by an amazing and generous family and will have tremendous impact on many first-generation students. We look forward to continuing to celebrate this remarkable scholarship.”

Felicia Yang of Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, is one of the recipients of the 2020 scholarship. She’s a junior studying animation.

For her, the scholarship was more than financial aid — it was needed encouragement to continue her education. Her parents are from Laos and came to the United States as refugees of the Vietnam War. They graduated from high school but never went to college. Neither did her two older siblings.

When the pandemic struck this spring, her mother lost work hours because of illness and her father lost his job.

“We were worried about the financial situation, so I was thinking about taking the semester off,” Yang says.

Now she can continue with her schooling at MSUM where she also participates in the Asian Multicultural Organization and the Dragon K-pop dance team. She can also focus on getting an internship in the field of movie animation.

“This motivates me to push towards graduation,” she says. “That’s important for both me and my parents.”

Sand says her grandparents always invited guests to join the family for dinner or holiday celebrations. Honoring students with a scholarship in their name feels like an extension of that hospitality.

“We love the stories of our scholarship students,” Sand says. “We delight in hearing what higher education means for them.”

The endowed scholarship also gives the Berg descendants another excuse to gather. They come together each year when recipients are named; this year it was by Zoom. Since the grandchildren started the fund, other family members have contributed. And they all hope their generosity inspires future generations to honor the family legacy.

“This doesn’t just happen with one or two people. It’s successful because it taps into roots that are very deep. It resonates as right and good for our family,” Sand says. ■

“**(MY GRANDPARENTS)
ATTENDED MANY,
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THEY SAW WHAT A
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HIGHER EDUCATION
MADE FOR OUR FAMILY.**

— VIKI SAND



>>> Olga and Palmer Berg were the ultimate hosts. Their hospitality and generosity live on through the MSUM endowed scholarship established in their memory.



>>> Back row: Bernice, Lester, LeVoyne, Palmer, Olga
Front row: Donald, Delaine



NOT ONLY DOES THIS SCHOLARSHIP PROVIDE FOR ME FINANCIALLY, BUT POSSESSING THE KNOWLEDGE THAT OTHERS BELIEVE IN ME INSPIRES ME EVEN FURTHER TO STRIVE FOR THE BEST IN EVERYTHING I DO.

– Madison Jorgenson, Speech Language Pathology Undergraduate Scholarship recipient





THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING BUILDS UPON OUR RICH HISTORY OF DELIVERING INNOVATIVE AND QUALITY NURSING EDUCATION FOR THE REGION. – ANNE BLACKHURST

NURSING DEGREE MEETS NEEDS AND DEMANDS

Minnesota State University Moorhead's new Bachelor of Science (BS) in Nursing opened to 32 students in Fall 2020. This program represents our commitment to investing in programs that serve our students, strengthen our community, and meet local and national workforce needs.

MSUM is proud to be in the epicenter of high-quality, integrated health systems that serve the region with outstanding patient care. MSUM enjoys excellent, long-term relationships with all of our community partners.

One partner, Essentia Health, Fargo, N.D., has announced a \$1 million gift to MSUM for its Essentia Health Center for Nursing. This synergistic partnership ensures that our program will equip students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the nursing field. Additionally, students completing clinicals at Essentia may move seamlessly into full-time employment with the healthcare leader.

The BSN also offers these unique benefits to students:

- ▶ MSUM is a member of the Minnesota Alliance of Nursing Education (MANE), ensuring our students will be concept-based thinkers who can adapt quickly to changing healthcare environments.

- ▶ It's an eight-semester program designed to be completed in three years, including summer enrollment.
- ▶ Virtual and augmented reality will be widely incorporated in the simulation lab.
- ▶ A holistic admissions process is in development with our MANE partners.
- ▶ MSUM will seek endorsement from the American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Cooperation (AHNCC).
- ▶ The BS in Nursing is designed for students who do not have an RN license, who have completed some college, or have another undergraduate degree

"The Bachelor of Science in Nursing builds upon our rich history of delivering innovative and quality nursing education for the region," said MSUM President Anne Blackhurst. "For more than 40 years, we've graduated outstanding alumni through our RN to BSN program and the Master of Science with Major in Nursing. We're providing educational opportunities for current and future nurses wherever they're at in their careers." ■



>>> MSUM has partnered with Essentia Health to equip students with skills and knowledge they need to succeed.





GIVING BACK AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Upon graduating from MSUM in 1976, George Soule attended Harvard Law School and began his career as an attorney. An advocate for diversity in the legal community and bench, he has tried cases in 19 states, from rural courthouses and tribal courts to big city federal courts. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and is a former MSUM foundation board member. In addition, Soule is a member of the White Earth Nation, and serves as judge of its Tribal Court of Appeals.



>>> George Soule

George recently showed his great generosity with a \$500,000 gift to the MSUM Foundation, creating both the George Soule American Indian Endowed and Annual Scholarships, as well as the George Soule American Indian Endowed Student Fund. This transformative donation will have a significant impact on the lives of future American Indians for generations to come. ■



>>> Jared Miller

VISION 2020

With a little over **\$10 MILLION** remaining to close out the Vision 2020 campaign, it will take our best effort ever to be successful. Current gifts, pledges and even planned gifts count towards our goal. If you have included MSUM in your estate plans and haven't informed us about that gift, we strongly encourage you to do so. In addition to being counted for the campaign, documenting your gift allows us to ensure it can be used as intended and also allow us to properly acknowledge and thank you for your generosity.

Jared Miller
*Managing Director of Principal & Major Gifts
MSUM Foundation*



MSUM Foundation
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The MSUM Foundation is an independent 501 (c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to Minnesota State University Moorhead and its alumni and friends.

