

The image shows a campus scene with a large brick building in the background, several trees, and a prominent red 3D 'MSUM' sign in the foreground. A white-bordered box is centered over the image, containing the text 'IMPACT REPORT' in white on a red background, and 'MSUM FOUNDATION FY2022' in white below it. The scene is well-lit, suggesting a bright day.

IMPACT REPORT

MSUM FOUNDATION FY2022

In October 2021, on MSUM Giving Day, we raised a record \$325,000 through nearly 1,100 gifts in just 24 hours. And in April, we broke ground on the MSUM Foundation's Alumni Center, which will serve as a home for our University Advancement and Foundation staff and a catalyst for fundraising at MSUM. Funded by donations to the Vision 2020 campaign, the Alumni Center will also connect alumni, donors and friends of the University with current students, helping to build a culture of philanthropy on our campus.

These accomplishments would be remarkable in any year. They were especially impressive during a year in which we were still regaining our footing after the pandemic upended virtually everything around us. And of course, the transition out of the pandemic has occurred in the midst of all the other transitions affecting higher education: transitions precipitated by profound demographic, technological, political, social, and economic shifts in our country.

This theme of transition will continue throughout the next year. After 40 years as an educator and 12 years at the University, I've announced my retirement as of June 30, 2023. The search for MSUM's next president has already begun and is expected to conclude in early March.

I couldn't be prouder to have served as your 11th president. And I have treasured every minute. When the time comes for me to begin the next chapter in my life, I'll still be cheering you on. With inexhaustible, everlasting Dragon Pride.

Anne Blackhurst
MSUM President



>>> Jan Mahoney

GREETINGS FROM THE MSUM FOUNDATION BOARD

Thank you for your continued support of Minnesota State University Moorhead and our Foundation. Because of generous donors like you, we are able to fulfill the purpose of the University – “to transform the world by transforming lives”.

We are grateful to our University and Foundation leadership teams along with faculty and staff for all they do to meet our goals and enhance the educational experience for our students. That experience embraces the mission of the University which promises all students the opportunity to discover their passions and provide a versatile environment to develop intellectually so they may shape our changing world. It is through the generosity of donors that the University is able to provide these experiences and create a meaningful impact for students. We are extremely grateful!

Every day is a great day to be a Dragon!

Jan Mahoney
MSUM Foundation Board President



>>> Gary Haugo

GREETINGS, DRAGONS

Ajingle just popped into my head as I thought of the word relief. “Pop, pop, fizz, fizz, oh what a relief it is.” Two things: I have clearly dated myself, and wow is that a sticky jingle. But there has been a palpable sense of relief on campus. A relief of the stress related to COVID and all the effects that we needed to deal with. There is also a relief that we will be able to be with you all again. We have missed you, hosting you on campus and abroad and missed having you meet the students, faculty and staff that are so grateful for your gifts and support.

We are so grateful for you and the passion you have for the mission of the MSUM Foundation. The gifts and support make an impact. I see and hear nearly every day when I am talking with students, faculty and staff. From students, I hear how the scholarship received allowed them to spend more time on campus, studying, taking additional courses, rather than having to work. From faculty, I hear about the research they are able to conduct or the student experiences they are able to provide that they otherwise wouldn't be able to.

I also need to thank our board and staff. We are blessed to have a foundation board that is engaged, generous and dutiful. They are volunteers, donors and advocates. They freely give of their time and resources to make MSUM and the MSUM Foundation better and more impactful. Our staff is vibrant, hospitable and diligent, caring for the relationships that are new and old, and lifting up and engaging our alumni, faculty, staff and friends. They are also protecting and stewarding the gifts that we have been entrusted with by you.

In full gratitude for you and your support, I say thank you.

With Dragon Pride,

Gary Haugo
VP for University Advancement
MSUM Foundation





A LIFE WORTH GIVING

Thomas Peter von Bahr recognized that his three years at Moorhead State College (MSC) transformed his life. But it wasn't until he learned his life was ending that he came to fully appreciate the impact of his Moorhead State education.

Thomas enrolled at MSC in 1964 after attending high school and two years of community college near his childhood home in New York. Although he had previously been an average student, Thomas quickly discovered a passion for learning at MSC and developed a life-long love of literature and music. He also formed enduring friendships with several professors, including President Roland Dille and philosophy Professor Charlie Magel.

President Dille encouraged Thomas to take courses in a wide range of academic disciplines (and then waived college policies that restricted registration to students majoring in those disciplines). Because of President Dille, Thomas learned to value liberal education for its role in cultivating curiosity, critical thinking, and social responsibility—qualities that prepared Thomas to live purposefully and meaningfully.

But it was from Charlie Magel that Thomas learned the importance of living generously. As their friendship deepened, Charlie shared his plan to leave money to Moorhead State in his will and challenged Thomas to do the same

someday. Thomas assured Charlie he would. And so, decades later, when Thomas learned he was dying of cancer, he reached out to let the university know he wanted to make good on his promise.

By any measure, Thomas lived an extraordinary life. His story spanned more than seven decades, with only three short years spent at Moorhead State. Following graduation in 1967, he continued his quest for knowledge by enrolling in advanced courses at several universities. He traveled the globe, studying world cultures and collecting books in each place he visited. After putting down roots in the Puget Sound region of Washington, Thomas founded the Evergreen Land Trust, now the oldest community land trust in the Pacific Northwest, to promote affordable housing and sustainability. Later, he was a successful business owner and community activist in the small island community he called home until his death in August 2021.

Before he died, Thomas let MSUM know of his decision to leave virtually his entire estate—including his beloved book collection—to the university. The initial estate gift of \$4.3 million is one of the largest single gifts ever made to MSUM. It was inspired more than 50 years ago by the words and generosity of a Moorhead State



>>> Thomas Peter von Bahr

faculty member. And it reflects Thomas's understanding that his three short years at Moorhead State made all the difference in his life.

In keeping with Thomas's wishes, his gift will fund scholarships for students majoring in the arts and humanities. It will also fund a center named in honor of Thomas's parents: The Tom and Adrienne Bahr Center for the Arts and Humanities. Both the scholarships and the Center will fulfill Thomas's dream of ensuring that future generations of students benefit from the same transformative education he received at Moorhead State. ■



“ I AM HONORED TO RECEIVE THIS EXTRA HELP, AS IT ENSURES MY ABILITY TO ACHIEVE A HIGHER EDUCATION WITHOUT ADDING EXTRA STRESS TO MY BUSY HOME LIFE. IT ALSO HELPS TO MODEL TO MY CHILDREN THAT ALL IS POSSIBLE WHEN YOU WORK HARD TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS.

– Nicole Colon, Janet Lessem Social Work Scholarship recipient



“ RECEIVING THIS SCHOLARSHIP WILL NOT ONLY HELP ENSURE I CAN CONTINUE MY STUDIES, BUT SERVES AS A REMINDER TO MYSELF THAT YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD TO PURSUE AN EDUCATION.

– Amanda Schermerhorn, James L. Danielson Scholarship recipient



“ TO ME, THIS SCHOLARSHIP SYMBOLIZES MY STRENGTH, ENDURANCE, AND IS ENCOURAGEMENT TO KEEP GOING. I CANNOT FULLY PUT INTO WORDS HOW MUCH THIS MEANS TO ME, BUT PLEASE KNOW IT ALLOWS ME TO CONTINUE FOLLOWING MY DREAMS.

– Jena Lovaas, Speech Language Pathology Graduate Scholarship recipient



“ THIS SCHOLARSHIP HAS HAD A TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON MY LIFE AND CONTINUALLY SHOWS ME THE SUPPORT THAT I RECEIVE FROM THIS SCHOOL.

– Rachel Schumacher, Marlane Sanderson Graduate Scholarship recipient



THERE'S NO 'PRICE TAG ON EXCELLENCE'

Pete Dickinson embraced the importance of generosity early in his college career.

The wrestler from Alaska was recruited to MSUM with one of the few athletic scholarships in the sport. After a successful first year on the team, Dickinson's coach asked him if he wanted to give back to the program.

"To do this, I gave up my scholarship so the coaches could use it to recruit the next kid," says Dickinson, who graduated in 2000. "That's how we build a team."

Dickinson finished his career as a two-time NCAA All-American. But he never forgot the sacrifices it took to make that success happen.

"(Coach) John Sterner was good at motivating us and keeping kids out and recruiting," he says. "He taught us that you couldn't put a price tag on excellence. Together – teammates, coach, staff – we created a really good program."

Dickinson and his wife, Tanya, also an MSUM graduate and a board member of the MSUM Foundation, continue to do what they can to build the Dragon wrestling program. They have supported the sport through the John Sterner Wrestling Endowment and started their own named wrestling scholarship.

They contributed to the campaign for the alumni center and will also support MSUM with an estate gift.

Dickinson is grateful he moved to Minnesota to wrestle and earn his degree. At MSUM, he found the support he needed to succeed in college – both on the wrestling mat and in the classroom.

In honor of that encouragement, Dickinson's first gift to MSUM came shortly after graduation when he established an endowed scholarship for wrestling. He had received a pickup truck as a high school graduation gift. He sold the vehicle and put the money in the bank until he finished college.

"It's just right for us to give back," Dickinson says. "Without wrestling, I wouldn't have anything."

Dickinson returned to Alaska, expecting to teach physical education and coach wrestling. Instead, he found work in the oil fields. Eventually, he and Tanya started their own company that specializes in project management and labor in the oil industry. They sold the business in 2015; Pete has served as president of the company since then.

He and Tanya also built a wrestling gym in Soldotna. The All-American Training Center (AATC) is home to the Soldotna Whalers Wrestling Club, which he coaches, and provides access to competition wrestling mats. It also offers 24-hour fitness memberships to the public.

It's here that they pour their heart and soul.

Dickinson continues to be involved in wrestling. He's the head coach of the Soldotna

Whalers Wrestling Club, and he helps out with the high school and middle school programs in Soldotna.

"Wrestling is the best sport invented," Dickinson says. "It's for every kid no matter how big, small, tall or short they are. It teaches people a lot about themselves. It's the best sport in the world."

It's why he believes in supporting and continuing to build the Dragon program.

"We need to make a difference. MSUM is a great place to be successful. It has everything," he says. "With more support, we can make huge strides in making this program excel." ■



>>> Pete & Tanya with President Anne



MSUM HONORS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

The following individuals were honored this year for their professional successes and community contributions:

▶ Anna Knutson
'13 Advertising
Outstanding Young Alum



ANNA KNUTSON '13

▶ Stacy Broman
'85 Criminal Justice & Economics
Distinguished Alum



STACY BROMAN '85

▶ Gary Johnson
'88 Computer Science
Distinguished Alum



GARY JOHNSON '88

▶ Robert Narveson
'84 Criminal Justice & Sociology
Distinguished Alum



ROBERT NARVESON '84

▶ Craig Weiss
'83 Accounting
Distinguished Alum



CRAIG WEISS '83

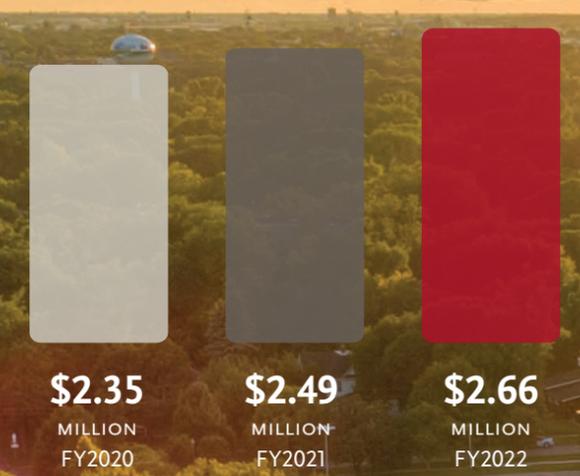


FOUNDATION PROGRESS

FUNDRAISING



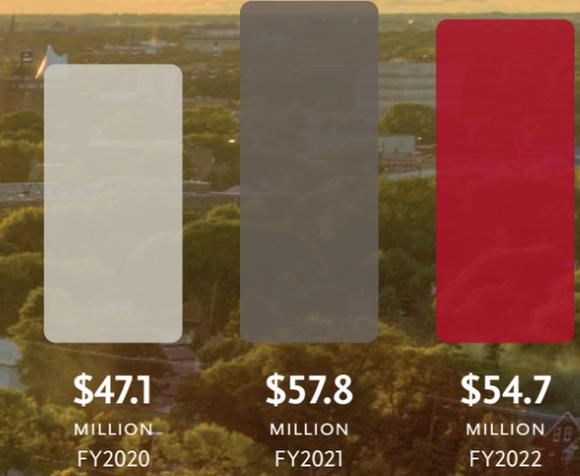
SUPPORT TO MSUM



ENDOWMENT PROGRESS



TOTAL NET ASSEST & LIABILITIES



NUMBER OF DONORS

- Alumni – 2,250
- Friends of MSUM – 403
- Corporations – 106
- Foundations – 25
- Estates and Trusts – 2



THE HOUSE THAT ALUMNI BUILT

Leaders from the MSUM Foundation Board have always been key supporters for student scholarships and campus needs.

Now they're the cheerleaders and donors for a home of their own – the MSUM Alumni Center.

"It's time," says Mark Vanyo, a former president of the Foundation Board. "It's a great way to build better connections with alumni."

Groundbreaking for the new center, located across 11th Street from Bridges Hall and the campus gates took place on Friday, April 29, 2021.

"Alumni will feel a part of campus again," Vanyo said. "This will be our space."

Foundation staff and board members led a comprehensive campaign that raised more than \$59 million.

Part of that campaign included funding for the Alumni Center. This facility will provide space for student and community interactions and serve as the anchor for alumni returning to campus. In addition, the center will house the Foundation's offices.

Vanyo served on a committee that researched the feasibility of the center. At the time, he

visited other campuses in the region that had their own alumni centers.

Supporting an alumni center for MSUM was an easy choice.

"When you're in competition for students, you want to keep the alumni happy," he said. "Those students will become alumni. If they see people wanting to do things for alumni, it becomes important."

He also encouraged his college fraternity to support the project. In 2023, Tau Kappa Epsilon will celebrate its 60th reunion. Vanyo said he'd be thrilled if they could host their reunion events in the new center.

Bob Bowsby served on the Foundation Board when members first started dreaming about an alumni center. Historically, the university's Foundation offices have been shuffled around campus, making it difficult for returning graduates to feel tethered to the university.

He sees value in having a centralized location for Dragons who call MSUM their alma mater. He lives near Dallas, Texas, but returns to Moorhead to visit his wife's family.

"When I go back, I take a run or walk through campus," he says. "I look at what's changed and let some of the old memories back."

He said having a visible touchstone for alumni will help them feel connected and valued.

"Not everyone needs that, but many come back and wander around the campus, and you never know they've been here," Bowsby said.

In addition, he says the center will be a magnet for the community, bringing people from across the Fargo-Moorhead region to campus. Warm, inviting spaces for gatherings will welcome people to engage and socialize with MSUM students and faculty.

The center's high-profile location also has deep meaning among alumni, Bowsby said. Not only is the center publicly visible, but it will sit on an iconic piece of ground. Alumni have fond memories of the area that was home to fraternity houses, the Ingersoll House and Vic's Southside Superette.

It will also be a symbolic beacon that shines a light on MSUM's legacy of philanthropy. It will remind generations of MSUM students of the generosity of those who came before them.

"Private support is the difference between being average and being outstanding," Bowsby says. "This project proves we're outstanding." ■

CHAD MARKUSON NAMED MSUM ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Minnesota State University Moorhead hired a familiar name to lead MSUM's Dragon Athletics. Chad Markuson, who has served as interim athletic director since last spring, has been named the Dragons new athletic director. He transitioned into the permanent role on May 2, 2022.

"I am humbled and honored to be the director of athletics at MSU Moorhead. This place has become my family over the past 11 years. I look forward to continuing the upward trajectory of Dragon Athletics and connecting alumni, friends of the program and the community," Markuson said.

"I want to thank President Blackhurst and Search Chair and Vice President of University Advancement Gary Haugo for their confidence and the opportunity to lead the storied Dragon Athletic Department. My wife Heather and daughters Kiley, Courtney and Maci are excited to continue to be Dragons and remain in the Moorhead-Fargo community."

Markuson was among three finalists from a national search. He joined MSUM in 2011 and served as associate athletic director and deputy athletic director before assuming leadership of

the Dragon Athletics program. Before joining MSUM, Markuson was the associate athletic director and men's and women's golf coach at Upper Iowa University. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration: corporate finance from Minnesota State Mankato and a master's degree in business administration from Upper Iowa. He is also a graduate of the prestigious NCAA Pathway Program, a selective program designed to elevate senior-level athletics administrators.

"Chad Markuson was the clear choice to serve as our next director of Dragon Athletics. He was enthusiastically supported by student-athletes, coaches, alumni, and community members, all of whom praised his leadership, dedication, and passion for Division II athletics," said MSUM President Anne Blackhurst. "There is no one more prepared to take Dragon Athletics to the next level, and I look forward to working with Chad in his new role."

In addition to his service to MSUM, he has served nationally on the NCAA Division II Women's Golf Committee and the NCAA Division II Women's Soccer Committee. He has served on two different occasions on the NSIC strategic planning committee.

The athletic director leads a Division II athletics program consisting of 16 teams and the dance team. He will serve as a visible and engaged leader in the Fargo-Moorhead community and promote the highest standards of ethics and excellence for student-athletes, coaches, and Dragon Athletics staff.

MSUM is a member of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC), one of the nation's largest and most competitive conferences. Women's teams include basketball, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, volleyball, cross country, track and field, and golf. Men's teams include football, basketball, wrestling, track and field, and cross country.

Dragon athletes and teams consistently earn conference, regional, and national honors. Recent facilities improvements include the installation of Scheels Field and a state-of-the-art strength training room, both funded through generous donor support. In addition, a recent increase in university support for athletics scholarships will strengthen the ability of Dragon Athletics to compete for top regional talent. ■





MSUM GIVING DAY

MSUM GIVING DAY

Dragons, we are so immensely thankful and happy to announce that \$324,748 was raised through 1,091 gifts for student scholarships and programs on October 28 for MSUM Giving Day 2021. To everyone who participated, thank you for your generosity and for supporting our future! You made MSUM Giving Day a huge success on so many levels.



MEET THE FOUNDATION STAFF



CAROLYN BECKERLEG
Scholarship Coordinator



NANETTE (NAN) BOE
Director of Finance



BRUCE BURMAN
Staff Accountant



GARY HAUGO
VP for University
Advancement



JASON HERBERS
Director of Development -
Athletics



BECKY HOLM
Accounting Clerk



CODY JANGULA
Director of Development



KRISTIN JOHNSON
Program & Communications
Manager



JARED MILLER
AVP of Development



SARAH MUEHLER
Executive Assistant



CAITLYN O'REILLY
Development Coordinator



KELSEY OST
Associate Director of
Development



ASHLEY QUINN
Project Manager



LINDI REBURN
Database Coordinator



STEVE SJOBERG
Director of Foundation
Marketing & Communications



MRIDULA STARK
Database Manager



JENNI WALTHALL
Senior Director of
Development



MEET THE FOUNDATION BOARD



JAN MAHONEY - PRESIDENT
Retired, VP for Finance and Administration,
Minnesota State University Moorhead



RON GRAHAM '79
SECRETARY
Regional Sales Manager,
LexisNexis



PETER BOLOGNA '79
Attorney at Law



ELLEN CASE '90
Employer Relations,
Sanford Health



TANYA DICKINSON '00
Finance Manager,
All American Oilfield, LLC



LISA GIESE '99
Director of Finance,
Marvin Windows and Doors



KERSTIN KEALY '97
News Anchor/Producer,
WDAY Television



TONYA STENDE '94
President,
Dale Carnegie Training of North Dakota



ADAM BERNIER '89
VICE PRESIDENT
Managing Director and COO,
O'Brien-Staley Partners



TIM SAYLER '79 -
TREASURER
COO,
Essentia Health



STACY BROMAN '85
Attorney/Partner,
Meagher & Geer, P.L.L.P.



LEAH (DOHERTY) CLEMEDTSON
Real estate investment and
management



BRIAN FRENCH '94
Physician,
Allina Health



JUDD GRAHAM '89
Market President,
Dacotah Bank



JANET LESSEM '66
Retired, Founding Director, Guardian
Assistance Network, Unified Court
System of New York State



COREY WALTHER '93
President,
Allianz Life Financial
Service LLC



BRAD WIMMER '76
PAST PRESIDENT
Co-owner,
Wimmer's Diamonds



TARA BALTES '04
Human Resource Specialist,
Bell Bank



JEANNIE CAMARILLO '01
Azure Sales Representative,
Microsoft Business Solutions



DAYNA DEL VAL '95
CEO and President,
The Arts Partnership



PETER GEIB
Professor,
MSUM Paseka School of Business



JENNI HUOTARI '02
CPA/Partner,
Eide Bailly LLP



GREGORY LOF '79 AND '82
Retired, Department Chair/Professor,
MGH Institute of Health Professions

OUR MISSION

We create opportunities for generations of MSUM students by inspiring alumni and friends to connect, engage, and give.



MSUM Foundation
MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MOORHEAD®

CONNECT. ENGAGE. GIVE.

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alumni@mnstate.edu | mnstate.edu/foundation

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

A red pennant banner with the text 'DRAGON PRIDE' written in white, slanted letters. The banner is attached to a pole and is set against a background of green foliage.

DRAGON PRIDE