1 After winning the national championship, Coach Bob Nielson (l) and Chancellor Kathryn A. Martin (second from right) join the team captains: Ted Schlafke, Nate Baier (back) and Jim Johnson (r).


3 John Brostrom ’70 presented a $33,000 check from the trademark licensing program to Chancellor Kathryn A. Martin for the Best of Class Scholarship.

4 The 2008-2009 recipient of the FinnFest USA ’92 Scholarship, Kirsi-Maria Heikkila from the University of Joensuu in Finland, was honored at a luncheon in April 2009: (l-r) Saara Touminen, Heidi Pelttari, Chancellor Kathryn A. Martin, Kirsi-Maria Heikkila, and Tim Rahkola.

5 UMD alumni board members attended the UMD Alumni Event at Mill City Museum May 2009: (l-r): Jeff Feldman ’88, Jake Konorza ’04 and Mike Miller ’01.

6 Jane Chase hosted a gathering of UMD friends at her home in North Palm Beach, Florida in February 2009: (l-r) Harold Singer, Chancellor Kathryn A. Martin, and Audree Singer.

7 Chancellor Kathryn A. Martin, and Julie and John Douglas ’71 attended the UMD event at the home of Jane Chase in North Palm Beach, Florida in February 2009.

Robin '77 and Stuart Seiler hosted a gathering of UMD friends at their home in Scottsdale, Arizona in March 2009: (l-r) Honorable Beverly Betten Goldfine, Chancellor Kathryn A. Martin, Robin Seiler, and Stuart Seiler.

Fans of the UMD Bulldogs attended a viewing party in Arizona to watch the UMD Men’s Hockey team win the NCAA West Regional Semifinals in March 2009: (l-r) Doug Torrel '95; a friend of UMD, Rick Newell; Jimmy Riley; Adam Meyer; Bill Budris ’69; Chancellor Kathryn A. Martin; and Leslie Newell.

LSBE Financial Markets Director Joe Artim and 2008-2009 program students received a check from Duluth’s Wells Fargo Bank.


Champ with Chancellor Kathryn A. Martin.

Regent Patricia Simmons and Chancellor Kathryn A. Martin attended Beaujolais Nouveau in November 2008.

UMD women’s hockey players Laura Fridfinnson (l) and Saara Touminen (r) with Coach Shannon Miller ’05 (MA) during a game.

(f-r) Cindy Olson, Chancellor Kathryn A. Martin, and Reed Olson at a UMD Women’s Ice Hockey game.
Family Traditions:

UMD and the Jumping Denneys

To follow this story, you are going to have to get the names straight. There’s James Albert Denney, or Grandpa Jim. There’s Jim Jay Denney — the Olympic ski jumper, and there’s James Ryan Denney, also a member of the Olympic team, better known as Jimmy. All three have a connection to UMD, along with a host of other family members. Grandpa Jim graduated in 1952, Jim Jay graduated in 1980, and Jimmy is a current student.

It’s hard to say where this story begins. One could pick the ’60s when Grandpa Jim took his four boys, Jim Jay, Jeffery, Jon, and Joel, to the Chester Park ski jump a few blocks from the UMD campus. Or one could start in the ’40s when Grandpa Jim and his dad would walk to Chester Park during the winter. Together in the cold, they’d watch the ski jumping tournaments.

It turned out that Chester Bowl had a larger influence on Denneys. Under the watchful eye of Grandpa Jim, Jim Jay, Jeffery, and Jon excelled at ski jumping. So much so that Jeffrey nearly qualified for the International Olympic Games. Jim Jay did qualify...
Traditions seem to be a tradition in the Denney family. “We tend to move as a group,” said Jim Jay. “Our parents never told us what to do. They had strong beliefs that made sense. They instilled in us the importance of education.”

and went on to compete in the 1976 Innsbruck Winter Games where he placed 18th and the 1980 Olympics at Lake Placid where he placed eighth. Jon qualified for the 1984 Olympics in Sarajevo.

Fast forward. Jeffrey’s son Jeff, and Jimmy plunged into their own ski jumping careers, enjoying a lot of success nationally and internationally as members of the U.S. Ski Team. Jimmy qualified for the 2006 Olympics in Torino. He has won a number of awards including the Skier of the Year Award in 2003 and 2006 from the United States Ski and Snowboard Association ski jumping program.

Speaking of traditions, Grandpa Jim got himself to Lake Placid in an official capacity. He was hired to help administer the games and served as chief of calculations.

The Denneys didn’t always follow a straight line. Jimmy Denney went right into ski jumping after high school. He did take a couple of college classes, primarily online courses offered through UMD, but that changed in 2006. “That June, I was still planning to go back to skiing, but I registered to take some classes,” he said. “I chose UMD because after so many years away, I missed Duluth.” When ski season rolled around that winter, Denney opted to continue his education full-time rather than head for the slopes.

In Spring 2009, Jimmy participated in a LSBE accounting internship program at his father’s firm. That’s when another almost 100 year-old tradition kicked in and maybe that is where this story really begins. Grandpa Jim’s father worked for the Oliver Mining Company in the historic 1904 Missabe Building. One son after the next overlapped a stint in the Missabe building with the previous generation. Grandpa Jim became an accountant for U.S. Steel, Jim Jay went to work for McGladrey and Jimmy took the McGladrey internship, all working in the Missabe Building.

At his internship, from February to April 2009, Jimmy worked with five other interns in the Tax Processing Center. He prepared individual tax returns. Developing problem solving skills gave Denny confidence. “I often ran into a situation where the answer was not clear,” he said. “Instead of simply asking someone for help right away, I thought through the problem to try and figure it out on my own.”

Jimmy will graduate in December 2009. In summer 2009, he participated in the Pathways career training program with McGladrey in Minneapolis, which has led to a full-time job that starts in January 2010. He also hopes to take the CPA exam in summer 2010.

There is continuity in this story — ski jumping, accounting, and downtown Duluth. And these three, Jim, Jim Jay, and Jimmy all agree on one thing: attending UMD is a good tradition.

— Cheryl Reitan
His talent for writing has propelled Eric Gustafson ’97 around the world. His curious and compassionate nature has helped him to tell hundreds of stories about thousands of people. He credits UMD with giving him a solid education and concrete skills that he continues to draw upon.

In 2002, Gustafson earned a Master of Arts from the Diplomatic Academy of London. While he took classes at night, he worked for the British magazine, The Economist, during the day. Gustafson began to report on illegal practices in bookkeeping at Selfridges department store, where they kept two accounting systems in order to hide bad investments, similar to practices at Enron. As a result of Gustafson’s reporting, Selfridges CEO went to prison and other finance executives paid fines or spent time in jail. The career of the young man from a farm in Princeton, Minn. was launched.

Gustafson majored in international studies at UMD. From Professor Paul Sharp, he learned “many lessons on how systems, groups, and individuals make a difference in the world. I remember being struck by how complicated and fascinating the global economy is,” he said.

He also studied writing. Two more professors, Thomas J. Farrell and Roger C. Lips, stand out in his memory. “They were both hard professors and that helped me, because after graduation day, nothing is simple. You need to know how to work hard, make the details shine, and always be better than the next person,” he said.

After graduating, Gustafson worked in marketing for a time, but soon discovered that it “felt like I was in a cage.” He decided to explore journalism. He had written for the UMD Statesman. He landed a job as a news editor at the Winona Post in Winona, Minn. “It was just the kind of change I was looking for,” he recalled.

The foundation of international studies begun at UMD has proven invaluable in his work at The Economist. In December 2005, they sent him to Iraq for twelve months. Gustafson considers his Iraq experiences as some of the most challenging and rewarding of his life. He remembers close calls and soldiers and journalists who didn’t come back, but he also recalls many good things. “War is a horrible thing and it brings out the worst in people, but it also brings out the best in a lot of people as well.” He was impressed with how people helped each other. “Families and strangers alike. Even in the depths of hell, people could come together and make the best out of a situation,” he said. A book he wrote, A Brief History of Iraq, is a primer on the history of that country.

In the summer of 2008, after a stint in Central America, The Economist sent him to cover politics and economics in California, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, and Arizona. “That summer, of course, the main focus was on the presidential election and whenever any of the top four candidates were out west, I attended their events, town hall meetings, rallies, and interviewed them,” he said.
Gustafson now writes primarily on economics, politics, immigration, and the debate over health-care reform. He continues to be drawn to the human side of complex stories. While attending a lengthy Federal Reserve meeting in Los Angeles, filled with discussions about theories and formulas, he went outside for some air. There he met a former Citibank employee who was shining shoes. For Gustafson, this encounter brought home the meaning “of what’s going on a lot more than a whole week of formulas ever could. To hear his story, how in just the last eight months his whole world had turned upside down. . . That’s a detail I brought into the story to bring things full circle.”

To students contemplating a career in writing and journalism, Gustafson says, “don’t forget the basics” such as good grammar and spelling. “Read good literature. A blog has nothing over Faulkner, Tolstoy, and Thackeray. If you emulate a blog, you will blend in with everyone else,” Gustafson cautions.

He also encourages young people to “Go out and live. Have adventures. Work on a farm or an oil rig. Meet extraordinary people. Meet ordinary people. Listen to the words they say and how they say them. Spend a month in another country or at least a different state. If possible, do not stay at home.” He believes that most good stories are told “by people who step out of their comfort zones.” He admits that when he came to UMD he was “a shy, inward looking guy from that little farm town.” Getting involved at UMD and pushing himself to be better “helped me step out of my comfort zone.” And Gustafson adds, “That has made all the difference.”

— Kathleen McQuillan-Hofmann

Gustafson considers his Iraq experiences as some of the most challenging and rewarding of his life. . . “Even in the depths of hell, people could come together and make the best of a situation.”
Jennifer Nelson —
A Consistent Passion

Jennifer Nelson, ’86 B.F.A., loved the various art mediums that she was able to experiment with while studying commercial art at UMD. “It gave me breadth and depth,” she said. Since graduating, Nelson has worked as a graphic designer. However, her fine arts work has remained “a consistent passion all these years,” she notes. Recently that passion came to the forefront.

This past June, the Woman’s Club of Minneapolis hosted a series of Nelson’s paintings collaged with vintage dress patterns. The patterns once belonged to her grandmother. Nelson adheres the pattern pieces to a rigid surface then embellishes them with mixed mediums including latex paint, acrylic paint, and crayon. She calls the results “interpretations”. They are at once both nostalgic and modernly vibrant.

Nelson has advice for visual arts students just entering UMD’s School of Fine Arts. She encourages them to “work with any medium you can get your hands on,” attend art functions, and read art magazines. Speaking from experience, Nelson said that one never knows what will spark creativity. “Any new thing, art-related or otherwise, can send you down a new path of inspiration,” she said.

Jimmy Johnson —
Scoring Points for Coaching

Jim Johnson ’85, along with three other men with extensive experience in coaching, management, and playing, founded flexxCOACH.com. This e-learning system is designed to deliver cutting edge coaching education programs for youth sports coaches. “Youth coaches are passionate and they have time, but they don’t always have the skills to teach what kids need to know and especially to have success in their sport,” Johnson said. Classes are available online through flexxCOACH University. Coaches can download the Drill Designer and build their own drill database or visit the Learning Center to get the latest in tactics, rules, and strategies.

Johnson has excelled in hockey. In 1981 at UMD, he was named Rookie of the Year. He was awarded that same distinction again in 1985 at the start of his thirteen-year professional career. Following his playing career, Johnson worked as a coach and saw first hand what coaches need in order to develop their own talents and the talents of their players.

Johnson feels strongly that coaches should provide a positive learning environment for children and young people. While most kids won’t end up in the NHL, NFL, or NBA, Johnson knows that playing will help them develop their confidence and self-esteem. “Learning to work hard and being able to take that mindset to whatever they choose to do in life is a wonderful accomplishment,” Johnson said. He believes that this can more easily be accomplished when coaches have the tools they need. flexxCOACH offers tools and solutions to keep the game fun.
Larry Lehtinen — A Range Iron Rush

Using his 32 years of experience in the iron and steel business, Larry Lehtinen, ’83 M.B.A., saw the raw potential of some promising technology in January 2008. Lehtinen is chairman, CEO and majority owner of the company, Magnetation, which uses a proprietary mineral processing system to separate iron ore from natural ore tailings. Lehtinen, whose great-grandfather Albert arrived from Finland in 1896, wants to see economic vitality on the Iron Range and has had a major impact on the Iron Range. He played a vital role in making the Minorca Mine a long term iron ore supplier. He founded the Mesabi Nugget Project in 2001 and revitalized it after the project had trouble in 2006.

Lehtinen has a reputation for making things happen. After acquiring a controlling interest in the struggling upstart Magnetation in 2008, he was able to put together a business model, bring on board a viable customer, acquire permits, complete the design of the process, raise financing to build the plant, and bring the iron ore recovery project out of the lab and into production in only nine months. Since February 2009, Magnetation’s first plant, located near Keewatin, has been shipping a rich concentrate to Mesabi Nugget in Hoyt Lakes, Minn. where it will be turned into pig iron, the raw material for steel. “We’ve got an abundance of natural ore tailings on the West Mesabi Iron Range,” Lehtinen explained. “The natural ore tailings have already been stripped, mined, crushed, and ground so the tailing material can be upgraded to usable quality at very low cost with our unique patent pending process.” A century of mining has left the Iron Range scarred but this School of Business and Economics alumnus and his business partners plan to a turn a hundred million tons of discarded tailings into billions of dollars in revenue over the next fifty years.

Brett Hull — Hockey Hall of Famer

Former UMD student, Brett Hull was recently elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame in the Player Category. In 1984, Brett Hull put on a UMD uniform and impressed college hockey fans with his goal-scoring skill. “He had a sensational two-year career with the Bulldogs,” said UMD Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Bob Nielson. “He’s truly one of the game’s greatest players.” Hull made an impact on the UMD hockey program, distinguishing himself as the most prolific goal producer in UMD history.

In 1984-85, Hull was chosen the WCHA’s Freshman of the Year, and the following winter, Hull collected 52 goals — a UMD record. In addition, he established Bulldog records for hat tricks, multiple-goal games, and power play scores in one season. Hull passed up his final two years of collegiate eligibility to join the NHL Calgary Flames. During his 20 years in the NHL, he played for the Dallas Stars and the Detroit Red Wings. He skated for the U.S. Team that captured the 1996 World Cup and a silver medal at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. He played with the U.S. at the 1998 Olympics, the 1991 Canada Cup, and the 1986 World Ice Hockey Championships.

Hull joined his father, Bobby Hull, in the Hockey Hall of Fame. The 2009 Induction Celebration was held on Monday, November 9 at the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto.
alumninotes

The University of Minnesota Duluth Bridge publishes Alumni Notes. You can send us notes by using the web page at http://www.UMDalumni.com, by email: alumni@d.umn.edu or by sending in the form on page 35. Mail to: Alumni Director, University of Minnesota Duluth, 315 DAB, 1049 University Drive, Duluth, MN 55812. This issue of the Bridge reflects the notes we received before July 1, 2009.

1950

Daniel Marron, was an elementary school teacher and junior high school teacher in Port Hueneme, Calif. He has retired to Idaho Falls, Idaho.

1955

Grant J. Merritt, ’55, ’57, a Duluth native who has been practicing in environmental law for over 40 years, has been honored with the MSBA Environmental Natural Resources and Energy Law Section’s Distinguished Service Award for 2009 for his many contributions in law, government, and environmental issues in public and private sectors. He has represented a wide range of clients in high-profile environmental legal cases in Minnesota such as the re-routing of Highway 55 and the litigation to prevent VHS, a fish virus, from entering Lake Superior.

1961

Marion Kyrola Hedenberg ’61, ’75 and Karen Skoglund Meyer were featured in the July 2008 issue of Lake Superior Magazine for their work on the passenger ship, SS South American, in the summer of 1959. Hedenberg and Meyer live in Duluth in the summers and were teachers for many years. Hedenberg taught in Duluth until she retired. Meyer taught in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and in the Robbinsdale district in Minneapolis.

1966


1968

John DeSanto, Duluth along with co-authors Gary Waller ’72 and Gail Feichtinger have released the fourth edition of Will to Murder: The True Story Behind the Crimes & Trials Surrounding the Glensheen Killings. This edition contains new photos, new facts, and a diagram missing in previous editions. The book is published by Tony Dierckins ’88, ’91, X-communication Press.

1970

Richard J. Maturi won first place in the nationwide Will Rogers Writing Contest in 2008 with his essay, “Dateline: Point Barrow,” a commentary on the current political season. He has written some 1,300 articles for various publications. Richard and his wife, Mary, reside in Cheyenne, Wyo.

1971

Mary Jo Jepson retired in June 2006 after 34 years of teaching. She taught in Minnesota high schools including Park in Cottage Grove, Little Falls, and Monticello.

1972

Diane Rauschenfels, superintendent, Proctor Schools, was selected to receive the first Richard Green Scholarship Award for her paper titled, “Promoting Ethical Educational Leadership.” Diane received the $1,000 award at the Minnesota Association of School Administrators conference for superintendents.

Richard Sheff recently retired from the Army and Air Forces Exchange Service (AAFES), a non-appropriated branch of the Department of Defense. During the time employed, Richard held numerous management positions in 14 locations in the United States and Europe. AAFES provides goods and services for the military, their dependents, and other authorized customers worldwide.
1973

Dukes Knutson, former UMD sports information director and coordinator of men’s athletics, and a volunteer in the UMD Athletic Department for 37 years, worked as the press box attendant for the American League Champion Tampa Bay Rays during the 2008 major league baseball season. He is also working on statistics for the University of South Florida football and men’s and women’s basketball games.

1974

Jeanette (Gould) McDonald, Duluth, an elementary schoolteacher at Nettleton Magnet School, is the recipient of the 2009 Goldfine Gold Star Teacher Award. The award, which includes a trophy and a check for $5,000, was established by Manley and Lillian Goldfine to honor inspirational teachers for their dedication, skills, and hard work. Jeanette has been with the school district nearly 34 years.

Jeff Spindler has joined Mid American Financial Group as a Financial Services Representative. Jeff offers securities, mutual funds, annuities, and life insurance products, as well as general information and advice regarding these products.

1976

Rennette (Paaso) Grace ’76, ’92, worked as an extra with Academy Award winners, Joel and Ethan Coen, on A Serious Man filmed in Minnesota. This is the third time she worked as a movie extra. She also was filmed in a national commercial. Most of her acting experience has been on stage at the Duluth Playhouse where she was last seen as Mrs. Pringle in Scrooge – The Musical during the 2007 holiday season.

Steven C. Korby was hired as a senior human resources advisor in 2008 by Enbridge Energy located in Superior, Wis. Steven has over 30 years of labor relations and human resource experience with the City of Duluth, Lake Superior Area Labor Management Association, Clyde Iron, and American Hoist and Derrick.

1977

Larry Frank coauthored a research paper published in the April 2009 Journal of Financial Planning. Larry’s paper evaluates the sustainability of retirement withdrawals.

Mark Munger, Duluth, has recently published, Mr. Environment: The Willard Munger Story (Cloquet River Press 2009). The book is the biography of State Representative Willard Munger, the longest serving member of the Minnesota House of Representatives and the author of every major environmental or conservation law adopted by the state. Mark is a district court judge serving a four county district in Northeast Minnesota. He is the nephew of Willard Munger.

Bob Pratt, became the first inductee into the UMD Rugby Club Hall of Fame at a ceremony on the UMD fields preceding the annual alumni game on May 9, 2009. Bob was recognized as a founder of the club and for his continued dedication to the game.

1978

Timothy Larson, Chisholm, Minn., recently returned from China. He and seven others represented the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, professional delegate program. As a delegate, he visited programs serving individuals with disabilities and exchanged information as to ‘best practices’. For 30 years, Tim and his business partners at Northstar Specialized Services have been providing programs and support to Iron Range residents.

1980

Michael J. Cuzzo, Duluth, was named one of the Top 40 workers’ compensation lawyers by Minnesota Law & Politics magazine. Michael is an attorney and partner of the firm Cuzzo & Envall, PA. He graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1983.

Elaine S. Hansen, MBA ’03, Duluth, has been named the Women in Business Champion of the Year for the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Minnesota District Office. Elaine is the director of UMD’s Center for Economic Development, the Small Business Development Center in Northeastern Minnesota serving six counties. She has extensive experience working with businesses of various sizes, and has continually worked to promote women in business and women in non-traditional careers.

William Hinderks has been recognized by the American Institute for Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters and the CPCU Society as qualifying for the continuing professional development program. Bill is a prevention specialist with Risk & Insurance Management Company of Bloomington, Ill. He and his wife, Kris, live in Bloomington with their two children, James and Jackie.

Rebecca (Gullion) Lindquist received First Place Design awards for two projects entered in the annual design contest jointly sponsored by the Minnesota Chapter of the National Kitchen and Bath Association and Midwest Home magazine in 2008. Rebecca is a Certified Master Kitchen and Bath Designer and a 28 year veteran of the kitchen and bath industry.

Jay Pearsall and Debra (Rasmussen) Pearsall ’81, moved in June 2008 to Shell Lake, Wis. Jay retired as a Colonel Wing Commander and F-22 pilot after 27 years of service in both the USAF and Virginia Air National Guard.

Lyle Shannon (MS) has been named the UMD Department of Biology’s first Inspirational Teacher of the Life Sciences (ITLS). The ITLS awardee is an innovative teacher who offers students guidance and inspires current and future teachers to pursue excellence in the classroom.

1985

Dave Grimwood is retired, living in Las Vegas, Nev. and flying a jet for a private company. He and his wife, Kathy, have two children, Jordan and Blake.

1987

Juli Kellner, Duluth, was promoted to director of programming and production at WDSE-TV. She has produced a number of successful long-running programs including “Album,” “Iron Country,” “Opportunities for Growth,” and “WDSE Cooks.” Her series “Native Report” is now in its fourth season and airing on 25 public television stations in 15 states.

**1989**

Dwight Dorau, is stationed with the British Royal Air Force in Mildenhall, England.

Brian Pelletier has opened Kakoa Chocolate, an artisan chocolate shop, in St. Louis, Mo.

**1990**

Andy Burda, St. Paul, Minn., is an instructor pilot and chief of safety with the Air National Guard in Minnesota. He completed his sixth desert deployment and has been in Afghanistan, Germany, and Kosovo. He and his wife, Kate, have two children, Hugh and Amelia.

Marshall Spencer is now employed with Johnson Controls in Pulaski, Tenn. He was recently promoted to continuous improvement manager.

1991

Richard Gonzalez has risen into the officers’ ranks in the Coast Guard. He received a Master of Public Administration degree and then a J.D. from the University of Miami.

Sandi (Engblom) Larson, Duluth, recently completed the 2008-09 Leadership Duluth Program. Larson is the workshop coordinator for the UMD Center for Economic Development.

Scott Leach is a buyer for the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Phillip Opela, Woodbridge, VA, is a branch chief at the Pentagon.

1992

Jon Dauplaise, Duluth, has been appointed vice president of domestic sales for Cirrus Aircraft. Jon is responsible for the strategy and performance of the Cirrus Aircraft North American direct sales team and the expansion of Cirrus sales in the United States and Canada. Prior to joining Cirrus in 2001, Jon served 20 years in the Army and Army Reserve as an Apache helicopter instructor pilot and aviation officer. Jon is a commercial/instrument rated pilot, helicopter pilot, and certified flight instructor.

Alison Kenda ‘92, MA ‘95, and husband Dan, have twin daughters Grace Katherine and Hannah Irene born on July 3, 2008. In Alison’s role as an application analyst, she was part of the team that designed and built the electronic medical record system installed at The Children’s Hospital in Denver, Colo., and led to the hospital being recognized by KLAS as the first pediatric hospital in the country to have completely integrated electronic medical records.

Amy (Freeman) Krohn, Oakdale, Minn., is working as a product engineering specialist at 3M. She and her husband, Jim, have one child, Alissa.

Nick Ladin, Mississauga, ON, moved to Toronto last winter to work on an acquisition for Cargill. He and his wife, Kathleen, have four children, Adair, Joseph, Zachary, and Faith.

Al Thilmany is director of operations at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Paul Radeke and Katie (Monahan) Radeke ’94, reside in Sartell, Minn. with their daughters Grace and Ava. Katie is an early childhood special education teacher in Avon, Minn. working for the Albany Area School District. Paul is a financial advisor for Laraway Financial in Saint Cloud and is a director for Business Network Intelligence.

David Wallin is with the Air Force Intelligence Analysis Agency at the Pentagon. He recently returned from six months in Fallujah, Iraq, working with the Marines. He and his wife, Terri, have a new daughter, Sarah.

Brian Whipps, St. Paul, Minn., is a founding partner of Campbell, Nelson, Whipps, LLC., a patent law firm. He has two children, Tristan and Tanner.
Michael C. Wilson has made a big difference in the life of many college students in the Northland. He meets with medical students and physical therapy students to discuss what life is like with multiple sclerosis. He gives presentations at UMD, Saint Scholastica, and at Lake Superior College. Recently, Michael accepted the position of consumer representative on the Physical Therapy Assistant Program Advisory Board at Lake Superior College.

1994

Kevin Wold, Farmington, Minn., recently earned certification as a senior professional in human resources. Kevin is a human resource manager for WSB & Assoc.

1995

Brett Corrigan, Cottage Grove, Minn., was honored and received the Community Accounts Large Group New Sales Leader award from his employer, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota.

Chad Haglin, Richmond, TX, is a facilities engineer at Marathon Oil Company. He and his wife, Lee, had a baby girl, Sarah Grace, in September 2008.

Scott Monroe is at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. with his wife, Sue Yi.

Mark Tupa is a systems engineer at Applied Signal Technology in Maryland. He and his wife, Vicki, have a son, James.

1996

Michael Smith, Santa Fe, N.M., (MS) launched EmpathConnection.com, an online resource center for empaths in 2008. Empaths have a high degree of sensitivity to the emotional state of other people. His book, The Complete Empath Toolkit, contains information and techniques for empaths culled from Michael’s 15-year counseling career and workshop presentations in 20 United States cities. “I am seeing women and men who have lived their entire lives wondering what was wrong with them, being called hypersensitive — who can now breathe a sigh of relief,” Michael said. Michael earned his Ph.D. in counseling at the University of Nevada-Reno in 2002, taught at the University of Wyoming, and studied with two Native American healers.

1997

Deborah (Zomak) Collins is at Fort Bragg, N.C. with her husband, Todd, and her two children, Caleb and Noah.

Angela (Determan) Wilson and Andrew Wilson were married on May 31, 2008. The couple resides in Richfield, Minn. Angela is a program manager for Accenture Navitaire.

1998

Jennifer Duda and Jeff Butwinick ’96, were married on June 10, 2006, in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Nev. Jeff returned to Minnesota in November 2008 after five years in San Francisco and is a commercial litigation attorney in Edina. Jennifer is a human resources manager at PGI Companies in Minnetonka and MarcomNordic in New Hope. The couple resides in Highland Park.

Sue (Setniker) Jorstad and her husband James Jorstad have a son, Evan James Jorstad, born on April 25, 2006.

Scott Mattson is overseeing nuclear surety inspections with the Inspector General’s Office at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Trent Pembie, St. Bonifacus, Minn., has transferred back to Minnesota to do research for Cargill. He and his wife, Jessica, have two children, Colton and Lily.

1999

Susalyne (Sowada) Truckenbrod, Fridley, Minn., is a product engineer at Medtronic. She and her husband, Jason, had their first child, Calen, in May 2008.

Kristin (Gallian) Yapel and David Yapel were married on September 5, 2008 in Duluth. The couple resides in Duluth where Kristin is a resident director’s assistant at Merrill Lynch.

2000

Annika (Alcorn) Curren and husband Shawn Curren, Charlotte, NC, have a baby girl, Emma Rose Curren, born on November 12, 2008. Annika is a Title I specialist for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Schools.

Linda LeGarde Grover, Duluth, (EdD) has a new collection of fictional prose, which is expected in print in 2010. It is the winner of the 2008 First Book Awards competition from the Native Writers’ Circle of the Americas and was awarded the Flannery O’Connor Short Fiction Award from the University of Georgia Press. Linda, an assistant professor in the American Indian Studies department at UMD, is a member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. She also writes a monthly column for the Duluth Budgeteer newspaper.

Brian Ott, Houghton, Mich., successfully defended his dissertation and received his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Michigan Technological University, in May 2009.

Andy “Dobbr” Wistrcill is at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada flying F-15C jets. He and wife, Andrea, have two daughters, Alyssa and Alexa.

2009

Chris Hansen, Fountain, Minn., is working as a plant manager, at Poet Biorefining. He and his wife, Jessica, have a daughter named Lillian.
Melanie Lamprecht, Davis, Calif., was awarded the 2008 Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents, Student Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine of the Year Award at Touro University in Vallejo. The award acknowledges medical students’ commitment to school, community, and the osteopathic profession.

Lynn (Meyer) Olson was promoted in 2008 to vice president of commercial banking at Great Northern Bank in Saint Michael, Minn. She has been with Great Northern Bank since 2004 and is actively involved in many community organizations. Lynn and her family reside in Buffalo, Minn.

Paul Zwilling and his wife, Jana, have two daughters, Abby and Madelyn. They reside in Grand Forks, N.D.

2001


Amy (Kitchell) Degerstrom teaches Art History at UMD and is the tour manager and volunteer coordinator at Glensheen. She received an MA in Art History from Ohio State University in 2006.

Jeffrey Johnson, Tampa, FL, is working in maintenance in the Phosphoric Acid Department at Mosaic Fertilizer. He married his wife, Carrie, in September 2008.

Lindsey (Covey) Kennedy is a financial analyst for Lockheed Martin in Eagan, Minn. She and her husband, Mike, who she met in England, have a son, Connor.

Nathan Kowalsky, Minneapolis, Minn., is a senior air quality engineer at Barr Engineering Company. He and his wife, Jen, have two children, Will and Lauren.

Nicole (Gilles) Mantopoulos and Thomas Mantopoulos, Falmouth, Mass., were married in May 2008.

Geoff Zahn and his wife, Brooke, live in Dayton, Ohio. Geoff is working for a contractor at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

2002

Bryan Freyberg and Meryl (Lucchesi) Freyberg ’06, Carlton, Minn., were married August 16, 2008 on the Munger Trail. Bryan is pursuing a master’s degree in mathematics at UMD, while Meryl is a literature and communications arts teacher at Lincoln High School in Esko.

Kelly (Gackenheimer) Lane is with the Air Force Reserves in Minneapolis. She works in human resources in the civilian world. She and her husband, Jesse, have a daughter, Olivia.

Zoe Treuer, Washington, D.C., is working with the defense meteorological satellite program, at the Integrated Program Office in Silver Spring, Md.

2003

Brian Daniels, Hutchinson, Minn., is working as an engineer at 3M. He and his wife, Tanya, have recently purchased a home.

Dzung (Truong) Farell, St. Paul, Minn., is an engineer at Flint Hills Resources, LP. She and her husband, Michael, have a child, named Thomas.

Shanna (Hauge) Lancour and Bobby Lancour were married on June 25, 2008 in Las Vegas. Shanna is an art teacher at Duluth Edison Charter School-Raleigh and Bobby works in the sales department at Cloquet Ford-Chrysler.

2004

Kyle Kalmi and Susie (Johnson) Kalmi were married on June 14, 2008 at Patrick’s Point State Park in northern California. The couple resides in Minneapolis where Kyle is a software engineer for Open Systems International.

Sara (Olson) Olsen and Joseph Olsen ’05, were married on August 18, 2007. Sara is a teacher at VandenBerge Middle School in Elk River, and Joe is a chemist for Galaxy Associates in Shakopee, Minn.

Kevin Podominick is working for the Department of Energy in Colorado.

Suzanne (Dobbe) Vanderweyst, St. Cloud, Minn., is overseas in Southwest Asia, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Africa.

Travel with UMD Alumni in 2010

The UMD Alumni Association offers you exciting travel opportunities in partnership with the University of Minnesota Alumni Association. I hope you will join us. Be sure to register early.

— Patty DeLano

For details, contact Patty DeLano 218-726-8829, 866-726-7164, or pdelano@d.umn.edu www.d.umn.edu/alumni/editable/travel

Southern Africa
March 16-30

Egypt and Israel Cruise
May 1-14

Spain’s History
September 30-October 12
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Attach additional sheets if necessary

Name: _____________________________________________________________

Spouse/Partner name: _______________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: _____________________________ Phone: __________________

Graduation Year: _____________________________________________________

Email: ______________________________ Major(s): ________________________

__________________________________________________________________

Employer: __________________________________________________________

Title/Occupation: _____________________________________________________

( ) Check here if this is a change of address

Alumni Notes news:

__________________________________________________________________

Birth/Adoption Announcement: Include parents’ names and class year, child’s name and birth/adoption date. Please note if the child is a boy or a girl.

__________________________________________________________________

Marriage Announcement: Include names and class year of the bride and the groom, date of the wedding and current residence. (No engagements please)

__________________________________________________________________

Death Announcement: Name and class year, place and date of death. NOTE: UMD publishes death notices in the Passing section of the BRIDGE magazine only when we receive a newspaper clipping, a public notice, or permission from family or loved ones.

__________________________________________________________________

Check out the alumni web page at www.UMDalumni.com

2005 .................

Heather (Sall) Carey and Ryan Carey, both of Brainerd, Minn., were married on September 20, 2008 in Duluth, where the couple resides.

Mason Hughes, St. Paul, Minn., is working at the St. Paul Koch Refinery.

Kelsey Kapsner, Green River, WY., is working as a process engineer at FMC Corp.

Senja Lopac, Champlin, Minn., finished her master's degree in chemical engineering in January 2008, and is a development scientist at Beckman Coulter.

Crystal Pelkey, Duluth, was named managing director of the Teatro Zuccone which is part of Zeitgeist Arts building in downtown Duluth. The complex has Duluth's only independent movie house (with two theatres), the Teatro Zuccone, and the Zeitgeist Arts Cafe.

Tim Zbaracki is an intelligence officer at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota. He ran in his second Grandma's Marathon in Duluth in June 2009.

2006 .................

Rachel Breckenbridge (MS) of Anoka and Andy Breckenridge (PhD ’05) of Indianapolis, Ind. are living in Eire, Pa., and their new daughter, Stina Marie, was born on May 4, 2009. Rachel is teaching mathematics at Edinboro College, and Andy is teaching geology at Mercyhurst College.

Nathan Laughton is at Minot Air Force Base, N.D.

Evan Williamson and Melissa (Snow) Williamson ’07, were married on August 7, 2008 at Gooseberry Falls State Park in Two Harbors. Evan is pursuing a master's degree in classical studies at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.
2007

Christopher Beasley and Evyson Lamiao have been partnered since 2005 and are now living in Chicago. Christopher has completed all coursework for a master’s degree in clinical psychology at Roosevelt University and is working on his thesis for that degree. He has also just begun a community psychology Ph.D. program at DePaul University. Evyson is a paralegal at a large multi-state law firm.

Laura (Wallace) Breidall, Excelsior, Minn., is a manufacturing engineer at American Medical Systems. She was married to Ben Breidall in June 2008.

Rachel Gilbertson, Duluth, is the UMD wellness coach. She and her husband, Ben, were married in June 2005, and their daughter, Taylor Marie, was born September 2008.

2008

Elizabeth Kokesh, Joliet, Ill., is working as a production supervisor at Ecolab.

passing

1951
Donald F. Lundstrom, BS
November 7, 2008

1952
Allan W. Naslund, BA
December 24, 2008

1953
Ellis N. Livingston, BA
December 26, 2008

1962
Richard K. Dumas
October, 2009

1966
Bernice E. Jam, BA
December 28, 2008

1983
Todd A. Mathison, BS
December 7, 2008

1988

Curtis A. Singpiel, BA
December 13, 2008

1990

Daniel M. Rosenthal, BS
October 28, 2008

UMD faculty

Edward Baxter
Department of Aerospace Studies
February 28, 2009

Robert Hart
Department of English
November 26, 2008

Donald Haynes
Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation
July 16, 2008

Dennis L. Nelson
Department of Economics
January 25, 2009

2010 Alumni Events Calendar

Break the Ice/Duluth
5:30 - 7 p.m., Friday, February 26
Duluth Entertainment Convention Center/ Horizon Room, prior to the UMD vs. UM men’s hockey game.

UMD Alumni at Spirit Mountain
12:30 - 2 p.m., Saturday, March 6
Spirit Mountain Recreation Area
Chili lunch, cash bar, skiing, snowboarding, food, and fun! Discounted lift tickets and rental available.

Mill City Alumni Reception
5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Friday, April 16
Mill City Museum, Minneapolis Waterfront District. Listen to UMD jazz, hear the latest news about UMD, and enjoy delicious hors d’oeuvres.

For information on upcoming events, visit the calendar on the alumni website, www.UMDalumni.com, call 866-726-7164, 218-726-7164, or email alumni@d.umn.edu.

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