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Bringing Communities and College Together
Greetings from the Office of the President at Williston State College! As the days of summer, 2023, are quickly slipping away, I think it’s a great time to provide an update on WSC’s capital projects.

First, is the Crighton Childcare Project. As of July 12th, the project was 75% complete. While work was slated for an early August completion, sudden supply chain product disruptions have suddenly pushed the opening date a few weeks into the future, possibly early September. Once finished, approximately 70 small children will be able to utilize the services of ‘Bright Beginnings’, owned and operated by Janie Cox from Williston.

The second major project is the ‘Turf Project’ for the WSC baseball and softball fields. Work on those fields, to convert them to artificial turf, inside a formal complex with lights, concessions, and updated grandstands, is slated to begin after the spring, 2024, baseball season. Once completed, our Teton teams, along with area and regional baseball and softball teams of all ages, will have access to use these upgraded facilities far earlier in the spring when weather is a challenge, and at night with the added lighting.

The final capital project is a new, state-of-the-art ‘Healthcare Training Facility’. Work on this project is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2024, with a twelve-to-fifteen-month construction timeline. Inside this two-story, 40,000 square foot facility, WSC will relocate its Nursing and Massage Therapy programs, along with creating up to a dozen new healthcare related programs. Programs such as Surgical Technician, Behavioral Health, Paramedics, EMS, Phlebotomy, Respiratory Therapy, and Addictions Studies are just some being considered. The development of some of these programs will allow for partnerships with our four-year partners in the ND University System as they’ll be able to bring more bachelor-level programs to Williston. Additionally, the college will embark on a ‘naming rights campaign’ whereby area businesses, organizations, and individuals will be provided opportunities to sponsor a classroom, lab, auditorium, academic program, etc., within the confines of this new structure.

Stay tuned to this space for updates as WSC moves forward in its discussions with local and regional healthcare providers and other institutions of higher education. Conversations are also ongoing with regional healthcare providers from Crosby to Watford City, Tioga to Sidney, and within the City of Williston, to make certain we build a facility to capture the needs of the region.

Melanie Stillwell
CEO / President
Western Cooperative Credit Union

Bernell Hirning
The 2022-2023 school year marked another year in which Williston State College was home to a number of “difference makers.” Recognizing all of them would be difficult, but we certainly want to congratulate our graduates and our students on a fine year in addition to mentioning a handful of remarkable people who have been so valuable to WSC.

Three outstanding faculty retired at the end of the year. Faye Krogen, Ken Quamme, and Lynne Raymond have been helping our students for many years and will be greatly missed. Included in this issue are features on Lynne and Ken, we hope to catch up with Faye in the upcoming months. These three truly exemplified what teaching is all about as they prepared their students for whatever step came next in their lives. We wish them well in retirement.

Remembering former President Garvin Stevens allowed many of our campus’s historic “difference makers” to gather on campus in early June. Stevens’ impact on the WSC campus was a long one, a remarkable one, and will remain strong for many lifetimes. We hope you enjoy seeing pictures of this gathering of friends back on campus as part of this issue of The Thunder, in addition to the feature story on his legacy.

Teton Baseball and Coach Mason Przybilla had a remarkable run in post-season play, nearly becoming the first Teton Baseball team in our school’s history to qualify for the World Series. Their road was as exciting as it gets, and though it may have been somewhat unnoticed, it will provide a great chapter in Teton history. Enjoy the feature on the team in this issue.

On a side note, we are awfully proud of Coach Przybilla who made a mark as a Teton Baseball player himself and now leads the program as its coach.

Our campus was also the beneficiary of many other “difference makers.” During each legislative session, colleges and universities share dreams for their campuses. Our dreams of a new Health Sciences building at WSC were fulfilled when the State Legislature approved funding in the amount of $28.8 million for the project. We’ll have work to do raising dollars to make the project a reality but this opportunity to add new Health Science programs is one that we intend to capitalize on. We look forward to the challenge and look forward to sharing our vision with the Williston community and our supporters. Our local legislators did a tremendous job carrying our project throughout the session. Their efforts will create a difference in our community for a long, long time and we could never thank them enough.

As late summer and early fall take hold, I would like to invite everyone to our campus to check out our Monuments Project. Last fall, we “unveiled” the Monuments Project and have tried to spread the word and encourage people to see them first-hand. The project also allows us to highlight a true Teton “difference maker” in local artist David Njos. David has done numerous pieces of art and helped with many projects for WSC over the years. His piece, “Clark’s Table,” should be enjoyed by everyone. It is located in the gazebo located on the north end of the Science Wing of Stevens Hall, directly south of home plate at Rabon Field. The “Clark’s Table” monument is one of six on campus but when we have an alumni and Williston community member allow our school to be home to such an amazing piece of work, we can’t help but continually marvel at and celebrate his hard work and dedication. Please stop by to see for yourself his masterpiece.

Lastly, Kim Gratz retired as Office Manager for our WSC Foundation at the end of April. Her work makes our jobs easier every day. We miss working with her but are happy she is enjoying retirement. Her family’s story is a fascinating one and we hope you enjoy learning just a small piece of it in this issue.

Many Williston State College alumni, students, faculty, and staff are out in the world doing great things. Here’s to a bright future of helping make a difference.

Go Tetons,

Hunter Berg
The Teton Booster Club hosted Casino Night this spring, a huge fundraiser for our athletic programs. It was a great success so we would like to send a special shout-out to all who dedicated their time and energy! THANK YOU. You are what makes Williston State such a special place.

Softball and Baseball finished up their seasons, which were controlled early by the erratic weather. Thankfully, both were able to play a full conference season, and both ended the season playing their best ball. Baseball ended up winning the Region 13 Championship and had a great showing in the district at Southeastern (IA) Community College. We look forward to both programs building off their momentum and continuing to battle for championships next spring.

A short winter recap, Women’s Basketball again made the Region championship, losing a tightly contested game to host NDSCS. We are very proud of Coach Triplett and his team’s effort all season and look forward to their continued success in the future. Both Men’s Basketball and Hockey had strong finishes to their regular season and Men’s Basketball won a first-round playoff game as they grew throughout the year. Hockey just missed qualifying for the ACHA Championships as they battled injuries for a good portion of the season. Men’s Basketball currently has a strong recruiting class and looks to build on their late-season successes. Coach Gault has taken a new job and we are actively looking for his successor. It is never ideal to replace a coach in late June, but we look forward to the new era of Teton Hockey and hope to name a head coach soon.

We appreciate your continued support of Teton Athletics. Please check out our website wsctetons.com for viewing and listening options for Teton Athletics, plus exciting things moving forward for the ’23-’24 Teton Athletic seasons! Take Care and Go Tetons!
CHASING A DREAM OF A COLLEGE IN WILLISTON

Change was happening quickly with the UND Williston Extension Center in the late 1950’s and into the mid 1960’s. The community leaders who had worked hard to bring college course offerings to Northwest North Dakota were excited to see the idea of a college in Williston continue to take shape.

In its beginnings, the UND Williston Extension Center offered classes in various areas. The University of North Dakota oversaw all operations, but strong partnerships with the Williston School District and the City of Williston allowed the early classes to take place. Classroom spaces were spread all over Williston in places such as the old Central School Building, Williston High School, the upper level of Stockman Motors and the Old Post Office. A local church was home to the library and the Old Armory included a student canteen for a gathering place between and after classes.

As classes grew, Williston community leaders wanted to advance beyond extension classes in favor of full-fledged Associates and Vocational Degrees. They also wanted a campus. By 1965, they had committed to both. The college just needed a strong leader. UND believed they knew just the right person for the job—Garvin Stevens. Stevens was already working for the college as he had begun in 1962 as an instructor and basketball coach. Leading an expanding college wasn’t a job for the weary and Stevens was more than ready for the challenge.

HITTING THE GROUND RUNNING

Leading UND-Williston became Stevens’ job when the University of North Dakota hired him to lead a financially struggling branch campus of the University and turn it into one that would establish and maintain a strong financial position. Developing that strong financial position was not easy. Much of the college’s support came from local sources and taxpayers, the rest came from UND.

Gary Rooks, long-time Director of Academics at the school, began working at UND-W in 1966 and worked closely with Stevens for over 30 years. His first role under Stevens was as Business Manager and he saw the value Stevens brought to UND-Williston due to his close working relationship with the University of North Dakota. “UND was very important for our college. Garvin’s relationship with UND and especially UND President Tom Clifford was a major asset for us as we grew our campus. And his working relationship with Superintendents Leonard Havig and Leon Olson at the School District were important during our early years.”

Stabilizing the financial support and position was priority one, but building a campus was close behind. Stevens didn’t waste time. The development and growth of the UND-Williston campus proved to be a major undertaking during the first decade and a half of Stevens’ leadership. Building by building, the quiet acreage on the hill transformed to the beginnings of a campus.

Along with Rooks, Phil Rabon also began his career at UND-W in 1966 and says the decision to have Garvin lead UND-W proved to be a great one. “Garvin was the right person at the right time to lead our college. He was a well-known Williston native who had lots of connections to the community’s leaders and supporters of the drive to establish a college. It was a great fit.”
When a person heads any organization for almost four decades, their presence would likely be remembered as one encased in leadership. For Garvin Stevens, the word “leader” is almost always the first one used to describe him and his career.

“He was a well-organized leader who was respected by staff, by UND’s administration, and by state legislators,” recalled Lester Olson, who served as Business Manager from 1969 until the mid 1990’s. “He was direct and always had in mind what he thought was best for the institution. He was hired to build a campus and he did that, which you can see today.”

“He was a good person to work for. You always knew where you stood,” remarked Rooks. Rabon remembered the same. “If Garvin told you something, you could count on it. He was firm, but fair.”

Stories abound of expectations that Stevens made very apparent. Be in your office when your posted office hours state you will be in your office so that students can find you. Attend the graduation ceremony or your check will be held. As one former colleague explained very simply, “Garvin had expectations. And when those expectations were met, everything went fine. When they weren’t, issues were addressed!”

Wanda Meyer was recruited right out of college to teach Math at UND-W and remembers Stevens being always present. “He was a hands-on administrator. He had no problem walking the campus to see how employees were performing. As a young instructor, I remember him coming into my classroom and watching the students learn, observing the teacher, and providing updates about our campus. It was his subtle way of making sure that this young teacher he hired was meeting his expectations.”

For Gary Bickel who ran the Office Administration program and produced dozens of top-notch graduates, it was a simple formula under Stevens. “If you did your job, he was always very supportive.”

1967 UND-Williston moves to its present 80-acre campus, the Main Building is first one on campus.
1970 Dormitory capable of housing 60 students is constructed.
1972 Art Wood Building established to house auto mechanics and diesel technology programs.
1973 Addition to dormitory provides housing for 24 students.
1974 Student center addition to Main Building is built.
1976 Crighton Building constructed to house the expanded diesel technology program.
1976 New housing unit is built to house 16 female students.
1979 Two four-plex housing units on south side of campus add to on-campus housing.
1994 Addition to west end of Crighton Building for physical therapy assistant and licensed practical nursing programs. Addition to east end of Crighton Building expands lab space for diesel program.
2000 Construction on the Health Science and Sports Complex (The Well) begins.
2003 The Well is completed.
2004 Little Tetons Daycare is established for on-campus childcare for students, faculty and staff.
While leading UND-Williston, Garvin Stevens recognized the importance of providing a presence during each legislative session as he pressed for help in building UND-Williston. “He was instrumental in the political realm and it was a big strength for our college as he became known to everyone in the legislature and established great relationships and connections,” Rooks said.

During session, Stevens spent as much, if not more, time in Bismarck as he did in Williston. And because of his longevity, legislators often leaned on him to recall the intent of certain actions that had taken place over the years. He became a historian of sorts and other college Presidents looked to him for advice on navigating the political world.

One of the most important issues that arose during Stevens’s time was in the 1983 Legislative Session when UND-Williston, UND-Lake Region, and Bismarck Junior College were brought into the North Dakota University System. The action was considered a tremendous victory for the three colleges because their funding would come from the State of North Dakota rather than local sources. Bringing the three colleges in line with how every other public ND college was funded seemed like a logical idea, but the passage did not happen easily, finally clearing the Senate by one vote.

Almost immediately after the passage, an effort to repeal the new law was quickly begun. The hopes were to put the issue in the hands of the state’s voters on an initiated measure for vote in November of 1983, but the ND Supreme Court threw out the petitions. Yet, in 1984, the measure did make it on the ballot as Measure No. 4 - the removal of UND-W, Lake Region and Bismarck Junior College from the ND University System.

The Williston Equal Education Committee was established to defeat Measure No. 4. Stevens helped lead the aggressive campaign to educate the Williston community on the importance of keeping the college as part of the University System. He wasn’t alone as many area leaders helped raise money to advertise and market the idea of Vote No on Measure 4. “Save UND-W” became a common slogan and Stevens asked the college’s staff to step forward in the campaign. Wanda Meyer remembers Garvin calling a special meeting of all employees. “Garvin asked all of us to meet on a Sunday afternoon. He gave us directions on the importance of this issue and assigned us sections of the town to campaign door-to-door for our campus. We all showed up. We were family and believed in the cause. Garvin did a great job in leading our campaign.”

The November 6, 1984 general election saw the state’s voters defeat Measure No. 4 with 60% voting no. Lester Olson celebrated and breathed a sigh of relief with Stevens. “We were so reliant on local funding and it was a tough go during the early years. Our community always supported the college, but getting into the state system helped secure a better funding model.”

**WORKING HARD NO MATTER THE JOB**

At small colleges, it is often the President’s (and everyone else on campus) responsibility to do a little bit of everything. Rooks remembered Stevens lining up a conveyor belt to shuttle thousands of books into the library once the Main Building was built. “We were on the ground and sent all those books up to the second floor, through the window, and into the library with the use of that conveyor. Garvin was very resourceful and efficient! Early on, he handled all the student discipline. He hired all the teachers. He was always busy and he was visionary, a dreamer for what he thought our campus could become. But more importantly, he worked hard to get the dollars to come our way to bring that vision to a reality,” said Rooks.

Part of Stevens’ success can likely be linked back to an intense competitiveness. It was as an athlete that Garvin Stevens made a name for himself, particularly on the football field. He grew up on his family’s farm near Arnegard and attended grade school in Watford City before moving to Williston, graduating from Williston High School in 1953. He was named a High School Football All-American and earned a football scholarship to the University of North Dakota. At UND, he earned a bachelor’s degree in Chemistry, Physics and Biology while starting as an offensive lineman for the Sioux.

No doubt the administration at UND recalled his toughness on the gridiron when they asked him to take on the challenge of leading UND-Williston. From day one, the battle was on as he fought for more and more support and expansion for the campus. “He cared about our campus. Budgets were tight, but he still wanted the image to the public to be as positive as possible,” said Meyer.

Even students witnessed the competitive side of their college’s leader during different times. Olson remembers hearing of the story when Garvin played on the faculty and staff team for the college’s intramural basketball team. “Garvin played intramural basketball with the faculty team like he did football at UND. And sometimes, students didn’t appreciate that roughhouse!”
But the team of people at UND-Williston and Williston State College knew they had a leader who poured his heart and soul into the campus. “Under his leadership, our campus felt like a family. We developed a closeness and a working relationship that supported each other because we were family and friends. This closeness got our campus through many low budget years. Employees willingly took on extra workloads for little or no pay because we were proud of our campus family and wanted it to move forward into the future,” shared Meyer.

**FOUNDATIONAL WORK CONTINUES**

Garvin Stevens lead the college under different titles–Dean, Executive Dean, and President. He retired as President in 2000 but continued to help the campus by serving as Director of the Williston State College Foundation. For eight years, he oversaw the Foundation and helped lead the transformational development of the Health Science and Sport Complex, or “The Well,” in the early 2000’s. The $5.6 million dollar project was the largest undertaking the school had pursued up until that point and has remained one of the premier facilities in the region.

Though his retirement as President of the College enabled him to devote all of his working time to the Foundation, he had been working closely with and managing the fundraising arm of the college since 1966. Today, the Foundation supports hundreds of students each year with scholarships that help them complete their degrees. This student success was always at the heart of Stevens’ efforts and hard work.

The future of Williston State College was forever changed when Garvin Stevens took over as the college’s leader in 1966. Like so many that were early pioneers of the school, he and they could never have imagined all the changes that would occur long after their time as employees was done. From a bare piece of land in the ’60’s to the sprawling campus of today, their work has made an unmistakable mark on the community of Williston. Not even Stevens could have dreamed of what WSC looks like today and how it may change over the next forty years. But one thing that will be forever unchanged is the history that Garvin Stevens helped shape when he proudly took over as the leader of the community-founded college in Williston. His works will stand the test of time.

**REMEMBERING**

A Job Well Done

The future of Williston State College was forever changed when Garvin Stevens took over as the college’s leader in 1966. Like so many that were early pioneers of the school, he and they could never have imagined all the changes that would occur long after their time as employees was done. From a bare piece of land in the ’60’s to the sprawling campus of today, their work has made an unmistakable mark on the community of Williston. Not even Stevens could have dreamed of what WSC looks like today and how it may change over the next forty years. But one thing that will be forever unchanged is the history that Garvin Stevens helped shape when he proudly took over as the leader of the community-founded college in Williston. His works will stand the test of time.
On Monday, June 5th, the WSC family, along with the family of Garvin Stevens, gathered in Stevens Hall on the campus of Williston State College to share stories and memories with old friends and colleagues. The WSC Foundation would like to thank those that attended to remember an important leader of Williston State and the WSC Foundation.

Stephanie (Stevens) Bowlin, daughter of Garvin and Sandy, catches up with Wanda Meyer and Andrea Heller.

Sandy Stevens is surrounded by her and Garvin’s family.

From Left to Right: Former UND-Williston Faculty and Staff members Marilyn Rooks, Gary Bickel (back to camera), Gary Rooks, Roger Halvorson, and Jack White.
April 28th marked Kim Gratz’s last day arriving at the Foundation office at the usual 7:30 a.m. start to the work day and organization of the daily and weekly activities of the Foundation. She had served as the Williston State College Foundation’s Office Manager since 2014 and has played an important role in the operations of the many different areas of the Foundation as it works to fulfill its mission of supporting Williston State College and its students, faculty and staff, and the campus.

The role was one which somewhat appeared out of nowhere. Before coming to the Foundation, Kim had a long career at American State Bank and Trust in various positions, both full-time and part-time, while raising two children, Gabe and Abby. For twenty years and during various times from 1979 to 2013, she worked in the Ag, Commercial, and Real Estate Lending Departments as well as the Trust Department full-time and helped out wherever she was needed during her part-time years at the bank.

In 2013, then Executive Director Terry Olson put a bug in Kim’s ear to consider taking over as the Office Manager for the Foundation. At first, she was reluctant to make a career move, but later took the plunge and greatly enjoyed working with the Board of Directors and colleagues at the Foundation as well as the faculty and staff of Williston State.

Kim on last day of work, holding drawing of her family’s farmstead where she was raised. The “Yankees Won” signifies a great family story. Make sure and ask her if you see her! Special thank you to David Njos for helping us with the artwork.

Establishing New Roots
Kim and husband, Jerry, are both southwest North Dakota natives, growing up in the neighboring small-town communities of Mott and Regent. Following college at NDSU, they arrived in Williston in 1979 when Jerry accepted a pharmacist position at Western Dakota Pharmacy. Fresh out of college and 22 years old, he worked for two years as an employee before completing the purchase of the pharmacy in 1981. He owned and operated the Western Dakota Pharmacy for over twenty-eight years. Williston quickly became home as Jerry and Kim worked hard in establishing a business and raising a family. For Kim, her energy, enthusiasm, and work ethic were apparent to anyone who knew her. Working hard and being efficient was likely learned from her upbringing as one of sixteen children on the Gion family farm north of Regent.

To hear the stories of her family is remarkable and enjoyable. From taking two fully-packed cars to church every Sunday, to almost filling up the entire school bus at their pickup spot, to hastily setting a multi-leaf dining room table for suppers as well as any military outfit could dream of doing, family was important and working together was equally important. With a family that large, things needed to get done and all hands needed to be on deck. Working hard has never been a job for Kim Gratz, it just comes with the territory and is a result of a wonderful upbringing.
Retirement Life
Retirement looks different for everyone and a Gratz retirement will likely be one filled with hobbies and activities. One thing is for sure, it will not be one of idleness. She has earned the opportunity to work less and enjoy what has always mattered most to her and husband Jerry—her family. With six grandchildren and a whole lot of hockey, dance, baseball, guitar lessons, golf, etc. undertaken by those grandkids...the list of things to attend and take part in will certainly be a long one.

Williston has been fortunate to keep the Gratz family as part of the community for many years. And luckily, that doesn’t appear to be changing anytime soon. Both of their children have established their own careers in town with Abby practicing law as a partner and attorney with the MacMaster, Siewert, and Geltel firm and Gabe owning and operating G & G Pharmacy and Service Drug Pharmacy.

The WSC Family will miss seeing Kim on a daily basis but we wish her the best. The Foundation would not be where it is today without the work of Kim Gratz. We offer a sincere “Thank you.” We will miss you.

The WSC Foundation Staff and Board of Directors.

Where are they NOW
Missouri to North Dakota

My name is Jamie Gleeson and I graduated from high school in Hermann, MO in 2014. When looking for schools I knew I wanted to continue playing basketball somewhere, so I got the opportunity to visit quite a few schools. When I flew out to Williston I instantly knew this was the school I wanted to go to. Even being 24 hours away from my home, I could see myself making it my home with another family. Everyone was super friendly and I loved how I wasn’t just another student. I got to know all of my classmates names and all of my teachers knew my name! There were always fun activities on campus and great opportunities for different classes to take. I was even able to find a job on campus.

Williston is great for anyone looking to make friends and great memories. You never have to walk to far which is nice especially for the winters. I played basketball for the two years I was there and still talk to many of those teammates today. I went on to continue playing basketball back in Missouri and now I am a fitness coach at Orangetheory while also working as a Digital Project Manager at The Crossing. Williston State College will always be a place that I can call home away from home.
Williston State College’s FBLA Collegiate Chapter has been putting on a few activities to raise awareness. One such activity was the inaugural run of the “Career Closet,” which is a way that people can donate their professional clothes they may not use anymore to help students with having the proper clothes for job interviews or starting a new job.

“WSC’s chapter of FBLA Collegiate has been looking for ways to enhance the WSC student experience. Building a professional wardrobe can be expensive and challenging for college students, which is where our student organization thought they could minimize the financial burden. I’m impressed with the leadership students in this chapter have shown, and the service they have provided to WSC students in minimizing a financial burden and providing a link with the community,” said Assistant Business Professor Leah Windnagle.

“As a sophomore at WSC, this is a project we’ve had on the agenda for a while now and it was a big goal of mine before graduation. I am beyond proud of my team and I for bringing this to a reality,” said WSC FBLA Collegiate President Alex Sims.
Williston State College’s Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Chapter participated at the State Leadership Conference, held in Mandan, ND on March 26-27, 2023.

Members from the WSC team won multiple awards, including first-place results in categories of Emerging Business Problems, Small Company Management Plan, and Website Design. They also placed second and third in several other competitions. The chapter was also awarded the Chapter Award for the Largest Percentage of Increase in Local Chapter Membership after incurring a 400% increase and both advisers received the Outstanding Local Chapter Adviser Award.

President of the WSC FBLA Collegiate Chapter Alex Sims stated, “All of our students placed in the State Leadership Conference, making them eligible to compete at the national competition. In a few short months, we look forward to traveling to the national competition in Atlanta, Georgia.”

“We are really pleased with the performance of the WSC FBLA Chapter at the State Leadership Competition. Through FBLA Collegiate, students have been able to apply the knowledge learned in the classroom to real-world circumstances and demonstrate learning to develop career-relevant skill sets,” said FBLA Collegiate Chapter Advisor, Leah Windnagle.
WSC’s FBLA Collegiate Chapter attended the National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia in June of 2023.

**Congratulations**

**ALLYSON WEBSTER**
2nd place in Microeconomics

**BRYNN OPPEGAARD**
7th in Project Management

Alex Sims & Malte Kuhn - 6th in Small Business Management Plan
Alex Sims & Malte Kuhn - 7th in Emerging Business Issues
Meeting Lynne Raymond for the first time is an experience that has become very common in Williston as the once-quiet city has changed so drastically over the last fifteen years. With a simple exchange of “Hello,” it is quick to ascertain that Lynne did not grow up in Williston. The gentle Southern accent that accompanies her warm smile is in stark contrast to the traditional Scandinavian brogue that was once the dominant voice heard in our region.

After recognizing she is not a local, the obvious question is, “What brought you to Williston?” It was a question we asked during our visit and couldn’t have been more surprised and shocked when we heard her answer. “A postcard,” she quickly responded. Great stories are often born in unusual circumstances, and this appeared to be one of those stories we just didn’t see coming.

Lynne Raymond retired at the end of the Spring semester at Williston State College as a tenured Associate Professor of Psychology. She had taught full-time since August 2013. This was one of the many roles she occupied over the last ten years with the college. Next year will be different for those who have been on campus when Lynne was around. The Southern Belle was a student-favorite instructor and will be missed, but WSC is very thankful we were one of the benefactors of that postcard.

Lynne Raymond grew up in a small, quiet town near Richmond, Virginia. Her mother and many relatives were educators, while her father and grandfather were commercial artists. Throughout her own education and career path, Lynne would follow in each of their footsteps at different times. Art was her first intention, attending Atlantic Christian College (now known as Barton College) and receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting. But after a handful of years working in the Art industry, she went back to school as she wanted to work with children. This time, she pursued a Master’s Degree in Art Therapy with the goal of helping children stricken with cancer, but she ended up specializing in working with children who had experienced physical and sexual trauma. While completing her studies at Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS), she met her future husband, Mark, and the two married after graduate school.

HOME A LONG WAY FROM WILLISTON STATE COLLEGE

Lynne Raymond
Shortly after tying the knot, the couple moved to New Haven, Connecticut when Mark began his Research Fellowship and later his Ophthalmology Residency at the Yale School of Medicine. Lynne worked for several years on research projects at Yale Child Study and Yale Department of Psychiatry while also teaching at Albertus Magnus College. Following Mark’s completion of residency, they moved back closer to home when Mark took over a private optometry practice in Exmore, Virginia.

For fifteen years, the Raymond family, now with the addition of daughter, Jenna, and son, Will, lived close to the Eastern Shore region of Virginia with Mark running his private practice. Lynne taught in the Art Therapy Graduate Program at EVMS for several years and returned to graduate school to obtain School Counseling Licensure. She was an elementary school counselor for five years and also served as Interim Assistance Principal before moving to Williston. Fifteen years provides a lot of time to establish deep roots, but changes were happening for Mark and Lynne's family.

Due to its location on the coast, the community was changing with the increase of crime and the school system was also changing. Lynne and Mark began to discuss the possibility of moving their family. But discussions were not that developed and no serious thoughts as to where to move or when to move took place.

And then the postcard arrived in the Raymond’s mailbox. The front of the postcard had a simple message. “Do You Want to Live In The Safest State in America?” read the headline. Whether it was fate or luck, the message caught their attention. They called the headhunting firm that had mailed the postcard and asked for more information on the referenced city that was searching for physicians.

WHERE?
The city wasn’t Williston. But rather one located just a little down Highway 2 to the east—Minot. Upon further inquiry with the firm, the position in Minot was for a specialty, however, they did have another position open in Williston for General Ophthalmology. A quick look at the map and Williston seemed to satisfy a key consideration for the Raymond family--it was close to Big Sky and wonderful winter skiing.

Mark and Lynne hopped on a plane and traveled to Northwest North Dakota in March of 2007. Their first trip to North Dakota saw them board a small plane in Denver, take off, and head north. Lynne recalled the plane being “really small” and it was an interesting flight as they landed in Dickinson, nobody got off and nobody boarded, but the pilots picked up a handful of sweet potato pies when the doors opened. The Raymond’s looked at each other and could only shrug their shoulders and categorize the happenings as “weird.” But the plane climbed back into the sky and touched down again in Williston and for the next couple days the pair enjoyed seeing this new area of the country. During the visit, it snowed and offered a reminder that, yes, Williston is close enough to Big Sky. Meant to be!

BECOMING A PART OF THE WILLISTON COMMUNITY
Mark’s practice grew quickly at Trinity Health where he remains a valuable member of Williston’s medical community. Lynne spent her first two years in Williston volunteering at Rickard Elementary and Wilkinson Elementary, sharing her art talents teaching the students to be creative. She later became a part-time Academic Advisor and Counselor at Williston State College before eventually becoming an adjunct faculty member and then a full-time faculty member teaching Art and Psychology.

Looking back, Lynne Raymond easily recalls why she loved education. “I loved working with the students. We don’t hold their hand, but are always supportive. If they need help, they just need to ask. Every student learns so differently, but when it clicks in their mind, it is a wonderful thing to be a part of.”

One of her favorite memories is working with older-than-average (OTA) or non-traditional students who may have tried college at one time or may have not been able to attend college right out of high school. Part of this enjoyment came from her personal experience as a college undergraduate when one of her classmates was a 75-year old who went back to school to study art. “She had no reason to go back other than she wanted to continue to learn. She was so interesting in class because of her
experiences and she openly shared them. She made the class so fun for us traditional students. She brought something to the class others couldn't. It was a great first experience with OTA students.” Raymond sees Williston State as that place which helps all students. “The best part about Williston State is that we care about our students. That’s why our college is so important.”

LIFE AFTER WSC
Retirement, according to Lynne Raymond, will consist of “PPT.” Painting, pickleball, and travel. With both Jenna, a licensed clinical social worker, and Will, a recent graduate of Colorado State with a Graduate Degree in Biomedical Engineering, living in Colorado, she and Mark will undoubtedly spend time traveling to the Rocky Mountain State. But no plans to move are anywhere in the near future. “Williston is home. We have made some great friends here since we first arrived. It is what makes Williston so special. Moving to Williston has proven to be the best decision we could have made,” Raymond shares with an affirming nod.

And though she will only be a few blocks away from campus, she knows her life will be different. “I'll miss the team teaching and sharing amongst faculty of best practices and great ways to teach. We have a wonderful team at WSC and I'll miss being an immediate part of it.”

So, to whichever headhunting firm sent the postcard to the Raymond house fifteen years ago, we offer our sincere thanks. And to Lynne Raymond, we wish you a happy retirement. Enjoy your PPT time, but don’t be a stranger to WSC.
February was National Career & Technical Education (CTE) month. On February 1, 2023, Governor Burgum also proclaimed February as National Career & Technical Education Month in the State of North Dakota, which brings awareness and celebrates the accomplishments of CTE programs across North Dakota and the nation.

Recently, Williston State College’s Information Technology (IT) Department received a thirty-eight thousand-dollar ($38,000) Innovation Grant that will help to improve automation and information technology programs.

The grant needed matching dollars to be received successfully. About five years ago, ten thousand dollars ($10,000) was set aside, through a generous donation, and held by the Williston State College Foundation for the purpose of being used for future IT program enhancement. The matching dollar donation is also being used in tandem of other generous donations that have been given to the IT program from local and regional entities to enhance technology programs for students.

“When I was first given the opportunity to apply for this Innovation Grant, I thought what we could do to help students,” said Professor of Information Technology, Ken Quamme. Quamme further discussed that a grant was given to the Petroleum program about 6 years ago that enhanced automation in that field, and he wanted to do something similar.

The Innovation Grant has requirements that will show how dollars are spent. A big portion of this grant is going to be used in such areas of the IT field in the use of drones, robotics, and automation within the Petroleum Program.

This grant also has a forward focus to helping the three new programs starting in the Fall of 2023, Internet of Things (IoT), Cybersecurity, and Electronics & Industrial Controls. “We will be the only college in the North Dakota University System that will be offering Internet of Things Program,” said Quamme. The IoT program will educate students in the concepts of computers, networking, robotics, and automation.

“The jobs students are getting, after completing these programs, are in IT and automation. Automation students are getting IT jobs, IT students are getting automation jobs, so we were ahead of the game in getting these new IoT and automation classes set up for Fall 2023,” said Quamme.

Some of the jobs students are getting upon completion of these IT and automation courses is Computer Support Specialist, Network Support Specialist, and Coding & Programming Specialist.
Anybody that knows Ken Quamme would not be surprised to learn that he, at one time, ran a marathon, co-authored a textbook, and took it upon himself to dress in a foam jumbo cowboy hat, chaps, vest and cowboy boots while riding a stick horse for high school football and basketball games’ entertainment.

What would surprise almost everyone that knows him is that when he described to us his upbringing, he told us he was “shy and quiet” in high school. Ken Quamme and those two words just don’t go together. The never-ending jokes he has told over the years have contradicted any notion that he was reserved in his younger days.

The non-shy and the non-quiet person we know as Ken Quamme announced he was retiring from Williston State College right after the school year ended. Thirty-seven years teaching at WSC and forty-seven years total teaching were highlighted by what Ken describes as pure enjoyment.

TEACHING
Many educators are called to teach, often inspired by great teachers they themselves learned from. Ken’s path to teaching was different. His dad was a banker in Regent, North Dakota, who also farmed the Quamme’s Centennial farm outside of town. He offered his son a good option for a career path. “My dad told me I was going to teach Business so that I could come back and farm in the summertime,” recalled Quamme. “I never really considered going to college for anything other than teaching business. That was just the way it was going to be.”

After graduating from Dickinson State with a degree in Business and Office Education, Ken was hired to teach at Killdeer High School. He also coached Junior High Football and Varsity Track. His years spent at Killdeer jar fond memories. “Killdeer was a great place to teach and coach. A number of us teachers became close and had a lot of fun together. The sporting events were a great time. And I loved coaching, especially inspiring our student-athletes to make sure and have fun.” To envision a young Ken Quamme running around the football field or basketball gym dressed up as the Killdeer Cowboys mascot is something we all wished we could have witnessed first-hand as the young teacher and coach practiced what he preached.

Near the completion of his Master’s, Quamme interviewed for a teaching job in Rangely, Colorado in April of 1986. When the job in Rangely was offered to somebody else, another connection took place that began his path to Williston. As part of his graduate school work, Ken taught classes at UND and ended up working with a Southwestern Publishing Representative who was trying to get the young teacher to utilize the Southwestern textbooks. That rep reported back to the administration of UND-W who was looking for a Business and Office Education instructor that Ken would be an excellent fit. Quamme took a call from UND-W, interviewed in person on a Friday and was offered the job the next day. He accepted and began teaching in the Fall of 1986. UND-W had a challenge for Quamme—help establish computer programs at the institution. “I’ve always been looking for new challenges, so the position in Williston appealed to me,” said Ken. Over the next thirty-seven years, his roles would vary. From full-time instructor, to Chief Information Officer, to Vocational Director, all while serving on numerous committees and practicing as Department Chair, Quamme has never been shy or quiet about working and having fun. But later in his career, he decided to go back to his roots. “Eventually, I wanted to focus solely on where my heart lies...and that was in teaching. I’ve always said my family will always come first. But teaching is right there behind my family. I enjoyed learning myself but particularly loved seeing the success our students achieved while in school and later in their working careers.”

Technology has played a key part in his career. “I’m fascinated by the innovation that technology allows and inspires,” said Quamme. From new programs being offered at the college, to the latest gadgets and toys, he is always looking to learn new things and experience new technology. “I’m very excited for the future of Williston State’s new programs such as Internet of Things and Cybersecurity. They will be great additions.”

THE NEXT CHAPTER
After nine years at Killdeer, Quamme decided to pursue a Master’s Degree from UND. But before leaving for Grand Forks to begin his classes at UND, he asked his newly found sweetheart, Julie, to marry him. “It happened quick!” said Quamme. “We had our first date the beginning of May and were engaged on July 14th.”

THE NEXT CHAPTER
After nine years at Killdeer, Quamme decided to pursue a Master’s Degree from UND. But before leaving for Grand Forks to begin his classes at UND, he asked his newly found sweetheart, Julie, to marry him. “It happened quick!” said Quamme. “We had our first date the beginning of May and were engaged on July 14th.”
These new and exciting changes held retirement at bay. “I never considered leaving UND-W or Williston State. I was too busy to explore going anywhere else, much less retirement. For a long time, I swore I wasn’t ready. Too many things to do. Too many new things on the horizon.”

So why did retirement finally come to be? In January, Ken spent time in the hospital dealing with heart problems. It was an eye-opener. It was time to enjoy other things in life. “I enjoyed teaching. But Julie and I do look forward to enjoying other things. Whether it is painting, leather work, or just tinkering around our shop, I’ll always find things to do. But as a colleague told me, education and teaching will never leave me. I’ll still teach a class or two here and there or help out with a drone camp, for example, but it is time for me to step away from full-time teaching. We look forward to spending time with our children, Christopher, Jaci, and Logan, and our grandchildren, Kaseten, Kinley, Brecken, and Oakley.”

There is no doubt that retirement will include many trips back “home” to the farm. The Quamme farm has always held a special place in his heart. He visits frequently, whether to hunt or to just enjoy being around the place where he grew up. “I’ve always been around that farm. Though I was born on the Robinson Ranch five miles south of Reeder, we moved to Regent when we I was five years old and so my two brothers and sister seemed to be out at the farm every day.”

It’s a place that helped spur his creative side. “My brother and I often helped prep the ground for seeding in the spring. It seemed like it was always wet which lead to a lot of getting stuck. So we always had two tractors, a Minneapolis U and an Oliver 99, and when one would get stuck, we’d utilize our long wire cable and whatever rocks were nearby to figure out a way to get out of trouble.”

The enjoyment of tinkering and fabricating with farm equipment has never left Quamme and it’s easy to see how the technology changes over his teaching career helped keep him active and always busy building and fixing equipment. Fixing snowblowers and turning lawn mowers into some sort of all-terrain vehicle are likely to occur during his future idle time but Quamme reflects that, looking back, he had a good run in a great working environment. “I am very thankful for the opportunity that UND-W gave me. And I will really miss the people. The students, the faculty, and the staff were tremendous assets of the college. I’ll miss the ‘social’ part that came with being on campus each day. This fall will be a different feeling. Since I started grade school, sixty-two years have centered around the beginning of a new school year in the fall and all the excitement that comes with it.”

The Western Star Building at WSC will be quite different at the beginning of the upcoming school year. A smiling Ken Quamme will be missing and that will be an adjustment for everyone. Like so many of our faculty and staff over the years, we were blessed to have him teaching our students. Good luck in your retirement, Ken. Well deserved.

“I’m fascinated by the innovation that technology allows and inspires”
How does a Harvard-trained orthopedic surgeon who’s studied, practiced, taught and researched everywhere from Tacoma, Washington, to Auckland, New Zealand, end up in rural North Dakota?

“Three years ago, I was at a national meeting and was told Williston had lost its only orthopedic surgeon. I was asked: Would you want to come here?” said Gregory A. Brown, MD, PhD, CHI St. Alexius Health orthopedic surgeon.

The reason he said yes is simple. “People in rural areas deserve high quality health care,” he said. “I grew up in South Dakota. This was my chance to return home.” As an orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Brown’s focus is on improving the lives of patients with his expertise in joint replacement surgery and trauma care (fractures).

“Joint replacement is a quality of life decision,” he said. “X-rays need to show you have end-stage arthritis, but then it’s a matter of quality of life – whether you want to play with your grandkids or you want to be able to work without pain. When your quality of life is diminished, it’s time to consider surgery.”

Dr. Brown came to North Dakota from CHI Franciscan Medical Group in Tacoma, Washington. He’s practiced for more than 20 years at different practices, including seven years at a Level I trauma center in St. Paul, Minnesota.

When Dr. Brown says he is uniquely trained, he means uniquely.

“There are not very many engineering PhDs who are orthopedic surgeons,” he said.

A “very nontraditional route” led him to a career in orthopedic surgery.

The Sioux Falls, South Dakota, native began by pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering at Iowa State University (BS Mechanical Engineering 1983).

It was while taking a biomedical engineering class his senior year that he had an inspiring thought.

“I decided the body was an interesting machine from an engineer’s perspective,” he said.

So inspiring, Dr. Brown pursued a PHD in Medical Engineering at MIT after earning a MS degree in Mechanical Engineering, and went on to earn a medical degree at Harvard Medical School in 1992.

Engineering has served to inform his approach to orthopedic surgery.

“I look at things very differently,” Dr. Brown said. “When evaluating treatment options, I consider the engineering science of failure analysis. It’s about trying to understand how things may fail, and if they fail, have I burned any bridges in terms of treatment options. I have plans A, B and C.”

Clinically, his areas of expertise include total knee and hip replacements, orthopedic trauma, periprosthetic fractures, orthopedic venous thromboembolism prophylaxis (blood clot prevention after surgery), quality improvement (Toyota Lean Certified), predictive analytics and more.

Over his career, he’s held several teaching posts and administrative positions, and remains active in research – including an abstract recently submitted to the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons in collaboration with Oliver Sogard (a native of Williston, who is a fourth-year medical student at the University of North Dakota and interested in becoming an orthopedic surgeon).

Staying active in research and academics serves to deepen Dr. Brown’s depth of knowledge.

“I think it goes back to ‘the best way to learn something is to teach it.’ You have to understand the subject that much better to teach it,” he said. “I continue to teach and try to improve orthopedic care every day. It’s about being a lifelong learner.”

In Williston, Dr. Brown is active in the community, covering local college hockey and basketball games. He also created a scholarship in honor of his mother at Williston State College.

“It’s about giving back to the community you’re part of,” he said.

Contributed content from CHI St. Alexius Health.
Williston State College recognized four Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society students, two transfer students and two workforce students, that met the requirements to be on the All-North Dakota Academic Team.

WSC awarded transfer students Salena Gustaveson and Jordyn Zimmer, and workforce students Braden Kindopp and Kylie Larson. Each year PTK awards two students who will transfer onto finishing their 4-year degree and two that will enter the workforce upon graduation from WSC. Each student received a certificate and a $100 check, courtesy of the Williston State College Foundation, to spend as they like.

Every year, the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society chooses scholarship applicants who meet rigorous standards of academic achievement and service to the school and community to represent our college on the All-North Dakota Academic Team. These students then have a chance to represent North Dakota in the All-US Academic Team for a chance at a $5,000 scholarship toward their education.

“Each nominee worked very hard on their application and coursework. I am so proud of everyone,” said PTK Advisor Amanda Davis.

The All-North Dakota team met for its awards dinner in Bismarck in April at Bismarck State College.
WSC’s commencement mace was made by Professor Kirby Lund and stand was welded by WSC’s Welding Instructor Tim Delorme.

Williston State College’s Sixty-Second Commencement Ceremony was held on Friday May 12, 2023.
On Thursday, May 11, 2023, WSC held a Pinning Ceremony to honor their Nursing Students. A total of 49 Nursing students (26 ADs and 23 PNs) graduated from Williston State College.
At the beginning of almost every sports season, coaches can be heard stating the standard lines. And one seems to always rise to the top of the most commonly used prophecies to emphasize that the end of the season is what really matters. We all know the line because it’s been said so many times. “We hope to be playing our best ball at the end of the year.”

And though it’s the truth and every coach does try and prepare their team to play the best come tournament time, it is rare that it happens. But when it does, few things are sweeter in the realm of competitive athletics. For Teton Baseball, this past season was one of those years when everything seemed to come together at the exact right time. The end of this year’s baseball season is one that will be forever remembered as one of the great runs in the program’s history and in Teton Athletic history.

THE REGULAR SEASON ROAD
Examining the regular season record of 28 wins and 14 losses would likely produce an analysis of good, but not great. Nothing spectacular but like everything in sports, there is always more to the story than a stat sheet or record can reveal.

Coming off a 2021-2022 season that was a great one for Teton Baseball, Head Coach Mason Przybilla was excited for the 2022-2023 season. “Coming off last season’s Region runner-up finish, we thought this year’s team had a chance to be even better. We thought we had a deeper lineup from top to bottom, maybe not quite the power but we felt like we replaced a few of the key bats from last season.” The talent looked to be there, but Przybilla knew the team was going to be young with quite a few new faces that needed to contribute. “We just weren’t sure how they would get along, how they would work together and how they would improve. The one factor that was a bit of a question mark was pitching. We just weren’t sure how our arms would be.”

But Spring practice went very well. Przybilla and his staff felt good about the team and were anxious to get on the field. And yet, the hitting took a long time to get going. “Our team batting average was down by 50 points compared to the 2021-2022 season. We just couldn’t score runs like we thought we would. But we really pitched well and played good defense. Because of our low-scoring offense, we ended up playing in so many close games the entire season. We played good teams. We were never 10-runned by any team, which rarely or never happens,” said Coach Przybilla. A season is a learning experience and teams can go just about any direction. Przybilla looked forward to the post-season and a chance to see where this year’s team would go, excited because he thought the team could break out and compete with anyone. Nobody who was a Teton fan would be disappointed.

THE POST-SEASON BEGINS
The post-season began with a best-of-three series against Dawson in the Mon-Dak Conference Tournament. The two teams each won two games in their head-to-head regular season match ups, but the Tetons hosted the series in Williston which is always a great advantage in the post-season. Playoff baseball got off to a great start. “We played our best two games of the year, sweeping Dawson to get to the Regional Tournament. We played clean baseball. We stole bases. We had timely hits. It couldn’t have happened at a better time,” recounted Coach Przybilla.

REGION TOURNAMENT
The Tetons entered the 4-team Region XIII Tournament as the number four seed. Facing the top seed Miles Community College in the first game, the team was confident but suffered a blow with two costly errors that lead to a 4-7 loss. With a double-elimination format, the road to a Region Championship quickly became the longest route possible.
The Teton skipper marveled at Conway's outing. “His performance Tuesday was changed to a 6 p.m. start. Wondering how to occupy games for the Region XIII crown. Unbelievable outing from Dan.” The 9-1 rout set up a championship game that was scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. on championship game. The energy and atmosphere was reflective of the game's own bed. Arriving back in Miles City for the second championship game, the Tetons would need to win two championship games for the Region XIII crown. Revenge was a likely factor as the previous year, Conway had been rocked by BSC in the Region Championship game.

The Teton skipper marveled at Conway's outing. “His performance was remarkable. He completely saved our bullpen from doing any work in the BSC game. Without him going the complete game, we may not do what we did. It saved all our pitching for the next games. Unbelievable outing from Dan.” The gritty right-hander finished the game and may have saved the season. Revenge was a likely factor as the previous year, Conway had been rocked by BSC in the Region Championship game.

FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP GAME
In the first championship game, WSC would pounce early, scoring five runs in the first inning, but Miles would chip away with one run in each of the first six innings, leaving a 6-6 tie on the scoreboard. From there, it was all Tetons as two runs in the seventh and one in the eighth sealed a 9-6 win, forcing a second championship game.

SECOND CHAMPIONSHIP GAME
Finding umpires was a struggle for the tournament, so the second championship game was scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. on Tuesday was changed to a 6 p.m. start. Wondering how to occupy the team's time for most of the next day, WSC decided to get on the bus and get home. An unusual move, but one that was made possible by the game change. It is always good to sleep in your own bed. Arriving back in Miles City for the second championship game, the energy and atmosphere was reflective of the game's importance. Early runs by both teams highlighted a back-and-forth game as the score was locked at five entering the fifth inning. WSC took a 2-run lead in the top of the 7th inning, but Miles would notch one in the same inning and an additional in the 8th. The 7-7 tie was broken by the Tetons two runs in the 9th and pitcher Brody Forno closed out the game, the fourth pitcher used by WSC.

Four consecutive wins after losing the first game of the tournament. And back-to-back championship game wins versus the host Miles Community College team that was also the top-seed in the tournament. A region championship earned the hard way made the celebration a rewarding finish to a long three days of baseball.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN
A region championship meant a trip on the road to face the Iowa Region Champion for the District Championship and the right to go the NJCAA Division II World Series in Enid, Oklahoma. The Tetons would face Southeastern CC in Burlington, Iowa. The 16-hour road trip would be a grueling one but was made even more interesting when the Tetons struggled to find a driver. Finally, on Thursday morning, they hit the highway, planning to make it to Minneapolis, then finish the drive on Friday, arriving just before game time. What could possibly go wrong? “Well, we ended up getting held up when our food order was delayed. We didn’t get to take batting practice on the field, but we didn’t care. We just wanted a chance to play.”

Dakota County Technical College out of Rosemount, Minnesota was the first game in coming through the back door to try and get back to the championship game. Things didn’t look great for the Tetons when DCTC scored six runs in the bottom of the fourth inning, taking a 7-5 lead. Through eight innings, the Tetons still trailed 6-8 but scored three runs in the top of the 9th inning and held DCTC scoreless. In a season of close games, this win would prove to be a defining one and afford the team a chance to live to play another day.

LOSER-OUT GAME 1
In the following loser-out game versus Bismarck State, the toughness of this year’s edition of Teton baseball took hold. Starting pitcher Dan Conway took the ball and Przybilla was hopeful of getting a good start from Conway before turning to the bullpen. Conway pitched well, but Przybilla was going to make a change. “I went out to get the ball and Conway sternly told me, ‘No you’re not!’ It took me by surprise, but I was proud he wanted to stay in there.” The gritty right-hander finished the game and may have saved the season. Revenge was a likely factor as the previous year, Conway had been rocked by BSC in the Region Championship game.

LOSER-OUT GAME 2
Southeastern pounded the baseball to the tune of 14 hits, scoring 6 runs while the Tetons managed only one run on 4 hits to take Game 2, evening the series and forcing one final game for the District Championship.

A trip to the World Series set the stage for decisive Game 3 action and the contest would prove to be a classic. Southeastern struck first with a run in the second, the Tetons answered with one in the fourth but Southeastern retook a one-run lead in the bottom of the fourth. WSC would tie it up in the 6th but would surrender one run in the bottom of the seventh, the last run of the game. The 2-3 loss would qualify as one that wasn’t easy to explain. “We out hit them 11-4 in the game. We just couldn’t capitalize with runners in scoring position. We were right there and in many aspects of the game, we outplayed them. Their coach was the ultimate professional. He praised our team and our performance. Teton Baseball can be awfully proud—our Region has not fared well in years past when facing the Iowa champions. We showed up and played. We belonged there and could have easily been in the World Series. Southeastern went on to win four games at the World Series and was the National Runner-up. We were that close,” Przybilla proudly proclaimed.
REFLECTING ON A GREAT SEASON

“All of those close games during the regular season did nothing but help us when we entered the post-season. It was not a new experience for us, we were used to being in those situations.” To hear Przybilla shower so much praise on the team and individual players is fun to listen to. The normally straight-faced young coach was smiling as he described this assembled group of talent. “Our pitching and defense were the separator! We had the best pitching staff in the conference and the best defensive fielding team in the conference. We ended the regular season with a 3.98 ERA and fielded 97% as a team.”

How did this team get where it was at the end of the year? Much of their success was no accident. This team lived in the weight room and lived at the ARC, putting hours and hours in the batting cages and time on the turf. For us, we don’t get done what we did without the ARC. That facility is a difference maker for Teton Baseball.”

Coaching is a roller-coaster ride. But when it goes well, few occupations are more rewarding. But never is it easy. “I was tough on them. We held them accountable in their actions both on and off the field. To win, they had to do their part. And they did. In the end, we were so confident. We didn’t care who we played, we believed we were going to win.” For those that followed the last couple weeks of Teton Baseball this year, we believed they were going to win, too.

GREAT SEASON!!
Show your Teton support by donating today!

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