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We would like to welcome new WSC Foundation board member Lance Olson.
Greetings from the Office of the President at Williston State College! As the Holiday Seasons approach, I bring greetings to all, plus an update on ‘academics’ at WSC.

Williston State College offers a unique mix of academic options for its students. Most students utilize WSC to complete their first two years of their bachelor’s degree program, a certificate program, or workforce training through TrainND Northwest. While Business and Nursing continue to be the largest enrollment programs at the college, there are other areas of study that are unique to the region and in some cases the State of North Dakota. Agriculture, Information Technology, Massage Therapy, Petroleum Technology & Automation, Welding and Diesel Technology are a few of those unique offerings; Massage Therapy being the only program of its kind in the North Dakota University System.

In terms of new programs coming to WSC, in the Fall of 2023, the College will be adding Cybersecurity, Internet of Things, and Electronics & Industrial Controls, all tailored toward current and emerging industries in northwestern ND and northeastern MT. Additionally, the College is in discussions to expand healthcare training for the region.

To fulfill the appetite of the community and region to become a ‘healthcare hub’, WSC must step up to the plate and expand trainings in workforce development, certifications, and associate degrees. For advanced training needs at the bachelor’s level and above, WSC will partner with its sister four-year institutions in North Dakota to bring those options to the region. UND, NDSU, Minot State, Dickinson State, Mayville State, and Valley City State have all expressed interest in being part of the expansion in northwest ND.

Stay tuned to this space for updates as the College moves forward in its discussions with local and regional healthcare providers and other institutions of higher education. Conversations are ongoing with regional healthcare providers from Crosby to Watford City, Tioga to Sidney, and within the City of Williston.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of WSC, have a wonderful and safe Holiday Season!

Dr. Bernell Hirning
President

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Happy Holidays from the WSC Foundation! We hope this season is filled with joy and time spent with family and friends. The end of each year is a great opportunity to look back and appreciate the great things that have happened and to say thanks to so many.

For WSC and our Foundation, we had a great 2022 and were able to gather with friends during two special events—our 2022 Alumni Banquet in September and our Celebration of 50 Years of Women’s Basketball in November. Please enjoy the pictures and recaps during this issue of the Teton Thunder. Many of our alumni remembered their time at the college by backing up the claim that WSC was the place “Where the People Make the Difference.” A highlight was having Phil Rabon back on campus. Nobody has ever made more of a difference than Phil.

As I listened to so many reflect on what a great place UND-W was when they attended, it dawned on me that our WSC Foundation is also a place where so many people have made a difference. Our donors and supporters continue to make our college a great one and we look forward to a future of growing and improving WSC. Our donors truly make a difference and we could never say, “Thank you,” enough.

As the year end approaches, we’d love to see your support continue by becoming a member of the WSC Foundation through its various Membership Levels of Giving. Information on our Memberships is included in the center of this magazine.

Thank you, in advance, for your continued support of WSC, the Tetons, and the WSC Foundation. And enjoy the start to a brand new year!

Go Tetons,

Hunter Berg
Executive Director

Remembering Garvin Stevens

On December 14th we received the sad news that Garvin Stevens had passed away. His passing was just before the publication of this Teton Thunder issue. We will feature a lengthy tribute to Garvin in our spring issue.

Garvin Stevens began his career in 1963 at UND-Williston and directed the College and the WSC Foundation from 1967 until 2000 when he retired from his President of Williston State College position. He served as the full-time Foundation Director from 2000 until 2007.

His impact on the campus of UND-W/WSC is nothing short of amazing. To have the same leader for over forty years is a true testament to his hard work, his vision and his commitment to our college and community.

Funeral services are planned for December 29th in Grand Forks, while a Celebration of Life will be planned in Williston this summer.

Our thoughts go out to Garvin’s family and friends during this difficult time.
Levi Sanford never intended to make Williston State College his home. He grew up in Watford City and imagined that he would spend his first few years of college far away from Williston. He envisioned something different for himself, but, like so many individuals in our area, decided to take advantage of the Regional Scholarship. Although, this was a reasonable and sensible economic decision to save money, he would soon find that attending WSC would have far more value than he had ever thought possible.

When Levi talks about growing up in Watford City, he frequently mentions his mother and her determination to make things happen. Levi credits his mother for teaching him that if something needed to be done or created, you just might have to roll up your sleeves and do it yourself. Levi says that he learned from his mother’s example that, “If you put your mind to something (you can make it happen).” This philosophy has served Levi well during his time at WSC. He has served as the President of the Teton Activity Board (TAB), a Resident Assistant in Housing, a Student Ambassador, and the Student Life Assistant. No matter what the event, chances are you will see Levi there taking pictures and encouraging others to join in the fun. From planning, to recruiting, to hosting, Levi is happiest when he is in the thick of it. He not only encourages others to join in and have fun, but he also has fun himself, and it shows.

So how did Levi become one the most recognized faces on the WSC Campus? “(I) wasn’t involved in high school (activities).” He believes that changed for him in college because WSC provides such a wide variety of opportunities for students to get involved. As busy as Levi is, he believes his greatest accomplishment during his time at WSC, is not just in being a leader, but in helping others to feel comfortable enough to get involved themselves. When students are able to participate in activities, they foster connections, and those connections provide an outlet, and that outlet helps them to feel engaged, less alone, and happy to be here. Levi says that WSC has helped him to make friends from everywhere, and the wealth of diversity from the student body is exciting and enriching.

When asked what the biggest piece of advice he would give to prospective students it is simple, but profound, “It will get better. The semester, the year, and life (it will get better).” Levi is able to offer that wisdom because he knows it on a deeply personal level. At WSC “everyone is caring and wants you to succeed.” Levi credits several individuals for giving him the chance to make his mark at WSC, but he especially looks up to his supervisor, Chris Kadrmas. “He cares so deeply. He wants you to succeed and has given me so many opportunities to grow in the school.” Levi believes that his younger self, would be “most proud of me now.” WSC is proud of you too Levi!

So, what is next for this go-getting Teton? He is taking on a new role in the community as the school districts Communications Intern. A role made possible because of what he was able to build for himself during his time at WSC, and because of the opportunities WSC provided. He is excited to see where the future will take him, and knows that as a WSC Teton, he is up to the challenge.

Levi is always quick to offer gratitude for the incredible scholarship opportunities at WSC. He notes that these scholarships have helped not only the school, but the surrounding community to grow. This growth would not be possible without the generous support of the WSC Foundation and its mission to make WSC the place “where the people make the difference.”
Join the WSC Foundation for some pre-season Major League Baseball action in Mesa, Arizona the evening of Wednesday, March 15th as the Arizona Diamondbacks take on the Milwaukee Brewers at 6:40 p.m.

Friends of the Foundation will be treated to food before and during the game while enjoying the action from the Pepsi Patio breezeway behind home plate.

Catch up with old friends and learn about the exciting things happening at the WSC campus and in the Williston Community. A limited number of tickets are available. Each ticket is $25.00 and includes the game and food with the proceeds going towards renovations of the Home of Teton Baseball—Phil Rabon Field. Drinks and beverages can be purchased during the game.

Two sponsors of the event have made it extremely affordable for attendees. Triangle Electric and First International Bank and Trust have been long-time supporters of WSC and are happy to make the event easy for other friends of the college to enjoy.

To register for the event, visit willistonstate.edu/foundation or for more information, contact the WSC Foundation today at (701) 572-9275. Or email Office Manager Kim Gratz at kim.gratz@willistonstate.edu.
Every time Phil Rabon is on the campus of Williston State College, his energy and enthusiasm for the school radiates with every word he speaks, every smile he flashes, every step he takes on the place he called home for over 45 years.

Though he and Sharon now live in Laramie, Wyoming, he’ll always remain the biggest Teton fan around. In early November, they returned to Williston and WSC for the Celebration of 50 Years of Teton Women’s Basketball and helped bring back so many fond memories for everyone who was lucky enough to have known the Father of Teton Women’s Basketball.

Rabon and Sports - A Match From the Start

Rabon grew up in Velva, ND after his family moved there from Fargo when he was seven years old. Growing up, he thought of just one thing—-sports. “It didn’t matter if it was 10 degrees below zero, I’d be shooting baskets before supper. I couldn’t get enough,” recalled Rabon. While in high school, he was part of the 1955 Velva Legion Baseball Class B State Championship Team before continuing a baseball career at Minot State Teacher’s College. Rabon was Minot State’s number 1 catcher during his sophomore, junior and senior seasons. There was no doubt in his mind that he wanted to do one thing after college and that was to be a coach. “Some of the faculty at Minot State encouraged me to consider Engineering as I was pretty good in math. But I wanted to coach. All my life I have wanted to be a coach.”

After college graduation in 1961, Rabon was asked to return to his hometown and coach. For three years, he coached a very talented group of athletes in Velva, winning the 1964 ND State High School Baseball Tournament while his basketball team finished second in the region.

In the fall of 1964, Phil decided to pursue a Master’s Degree from Moorhead State and moved to Fargo/Moorhead. This move also allowed him to be closer to a special woman he had begun dating the year before. Phil and Sharon began a courtship and it has been Sharon who has proven to be a wonderful coaching companion from the start. While he attended Moorhead State for his master’s classes, he traveled a few blocks across town to the Concordia campus for work, assisting legendary Cobber coach Sonny Gulsvig on the basketball court. “Sonny was a great guy and a great coach. If they had been able to pay better, I may have never left! It was a great experience. But Sharon was teaching first grade and I figured I had better start applying for full-time jobs as we looked to start our family.”

Path to Williston

With Master’s Degree in hand, Rabon applied at several places but job offers were slow to come. One offer came from Ardean Aafedt. The difficult part was that the offer was only part-time summer work to coach the American Legion team in Williston. Rabon was hopeful a full-time position at the college was part of the offer. “They just didn’t have a position at the Williston Extension Center at the time. They thought there was a chance one could open
but they couldn’t guarantee anything. I felt Sharon and I needed something full-time in order to move,” Rabon began in telling the story.

As luck would have it, the college in Williston, known as the Williston Extension Center, did end up opening the position of Athletic Director, Head Men’s Basketball Coach, and Physical Education Instructor. At the time, the Center was part of the University of North Dakota, so when Rabon applied, his interview was with the Athletic Director at UND. UND had traditionally looked to hire their own graduates so Rabon called Aafedt after the interview and relayed that it probably wouldn’t work out.

Shortly after the UND/Williston interview, a morning phone call from the high school in Park Rapids, Minnesota landed an offer for both Phil and Sharon to join their school district. Phil quickly called Sharon and let her know, “We have a job.” He called Park Rapids back and offered a verbal agreement to accept, he was just to drive over the next morning and officially sign.

In the afternoon of that same day, thankfully for UND-Williston and the community of Williston, Rabon received a call from the Athletic Director at UND. They wanted him to be the A.D. at the Williston campus. Meeting Sharon back at home after her work day, Rabon walked into their apartment with a big grin on his face. Sharon noticed that famous smile and knew something was up. “You got offered the job in Williston didn’t you?” she asked Phil. She was elated, as all along, her hopes were to move to Williston, start a family, and enjoy watching Phil live out his college coaching dreams.

It was an easy decision to make, so Phil called Park Rapids School and broke the news…he and Sharon were headed west. What a difference a day may have made in the course of UND-Williston’s history.

The Early Days of the Athletic Department

When Rabon arrived at the Williston campus in the fall of 1965, the Men’s Basketball Team was established, or as established it could have been in the mid-60’s. There were no scholarships, uniforms were hand-me-downs from UND and practices and games were played at Williston High School as the main college campus was located downtown and didn’t have a gym of its own.

Rabon’s first major move was to establish a baseball program for the school. In the spring of 1966, the Williston Extension Center played its first season of baseball and Phil took on the coaching duties. Recruiting for both sports was his main area of focus and he quickly got creative. Rabon recalled a couple early coveted recruits in Steve Christensen from Mercer and Greg Haugland from Crosby. He wanted the pair as Tetons and offered each a deal to help solve the housing issue since the school had no dorms. The Rabon’s basement for $15.00 per month rent, plus 25 cents for breakfast and 1 dollar for supper as provided by Sharon. What a start to a stellar recruiting career.

In the late 60’s a new facility where the current campus sits helped move the college forward...
in a new direction with lots of room for growth and a more collegiate setting. Teton basketball at least had a home practice gym within this new building and new campus, but in an interesting side-story, they were not allowed to play games on campus because the grant which helped fund the building of the multi-purpose room/gym specifically stated that it could not be used for games, only practices.

Rabon put in the work to achieve successful teams and seasons for both basketball and baseball until 1972 when he decided to step aside from coaching basketball and provide more help to Sharon as they raised their four children.

Can’t Stay Away

A chance visit by Penny Johnson from Appam and Laurie Gunlikson from Zahl to Rabon’s office in the fall of 1972 made his absence from coaching basketball a short one. The duo and others asked that he consider starting a women’s basketball team at the college. Rabon agreed and became the first women’s basketball coach in the school’s history.

Rabon’s summers were always filled with something to do as he rarely sat idle. He coached the American Legion baseball team in Williston and later taught summer school classes but in the spring of 1973 as he and Sharon were walking one day, he wondered aloud to Sharon what he might do in the upcoming summer to stay busy. Sharon innocently remarked that basketball camps for boys were popular in North Dakota, maybe he should consider starting summer basketball camps for girls.

The camps were wildly popular as soon as word got out that UND-Williston was holding the first girl’s basketball camps in North Dakota. Rabon and his staff went to work inviting the best talent in North Dakota and Montana to campus for the week-long camps. Multiple sessions each summer were filled as campers arrived by car and by train, loving the opportunity to play against good players from all over the region.

The camps became natural recruiting trips for potential student-athletes and Rabon made certain the camps were filled with fun and good basketball. Campers later became Teton athletes, and the Teton athletes often came back to help coach at the camp. Naturally, the former Tetons who had such success helped tell future Teton-W that UND-W was the place to be. The amazing run of eight National Tournament appearances from 1975 to 1984 for Teton Women’s Basketball was often fueled by the campers that had come to Williston and enjoyed the Lewis and Clark Girl’s Basketball Camp energized by Phil and Sharon Rabon.

Rabon stepped away from coaching women’s basketball in 1978 and his assistant coach, Penny Johnson Slagle, took over the program and proceeded to take the program to new heights. Rabon will forever be known as the Father of Teton Women’s Basketball and has remained its most loyal supporter.

The Next Recruiting Chapter

In 1982, Phil Rabon decided it was time to step away from athletics at UND-W. For as difficult as it was to imagine Teton Athletics without Rabon as its Director, the college would inadvertently enact one of its greatest moves in school history by naming him Director of Enrollment Services. As Rabon describes it, the position and his
personality and characteristics were a perfect fit. “I had a lot of energy to burn and I loved the recruiting of students, loved joking around with them, getting to know them and their families. And I enjoyed the challenge. We didn’t have the biggest or flashiest campus in the world. But I put together a slide show and travelled around the area lugging those 25 slides and a projector that painted as rosy a picture as we could. It was a blast!” says Rabon.

UND-W had always struggled with enrollment but Rabon’s presence was crucial and paid off. His work week consisted of travel on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. “I’d hit four high schools every day I was on the road. I got to know where to speed and where to slow down on every road in our area. And most importantly, I built a schedule around which schools had the best lunch!” Terry Peterson was the long-time Principal at Froid High School and became a great friend to Phil. He made sure Phil knew to come on Wednesdays as they had fresh, home-made caramel rolls. “Those relationships with people like Terry were a wonderful part of the job. I could never say ‘thank you’ enough to the administrators and especially the counselors I dealt with each and every year. They helped UND-W grow and take-off in the ‘90’s.”

A Teacher at Heart

On the days he wasn’t on the road recruiting, he was insistent on remaining a faculty member, especially in order to teach his beloved Camping class. The class remains one of his working highlights and the story of its origin is a favorite story of his.

Rabon was invited to conduct a 2-day coaching clinic for women’s basketball coaches in Havre, Montana. Unexpectedly, the clinic organizer invited Phil to take a couple days to go along with him on a float trip down the Missouri River after the clinic was finished. He didn’t have to be asked twice as he was always up for an adventure. The trip was a blast and Rabon immediately knew he could provide a similar float trip as the capstone event of a Camping class every year at UND-W using the same resource of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers.

His Camping class was a huge success and remains one of many students’ favorite memories of UND-W. It will also be one of Rabon’s proudest accomplishments—in more ways than one. “I enjoyed seeing how much fun the students had during our float trips as part of Camping class. For many, I’m sure it was their first time experiencing sleeping outside and navigating a canoe and I think that is what college should be about. Those new experiences and learning new things,” Rabon reflected.

He also claims a match-making set of skills. “I think quite a few romances were sparked or strengthened on those trips. It was just a great time and a rewarding experience and to hear from so many students years after they took the class how much they enjoyed it, that is what teaching is all about.”

The Endless Energy of Phil Rabon

It would be hard to find anyone who knew anything about Phil Rabon not use the word “energy” if asked to describe him. The Energizer bunny before there was such a thing. Phil is the ultimate people person, enjoying every second being around others and laughing and learning
and enjoying life. Even more amazing than his energy? The fact that Phil claims the person most know as Phil Rabon is a 100% change from his youth. “I was shy as a kid. Pretty quiet and not very out-going. It wasn’t until Minot State that I began to turn the other way. I wanted to coach and that caused me to have to vocalize in order to teach the game and I for sure had to talk when I was recruiting.”

Rabon shared his nickname while attending graduate school became “Motor.” One would assume that sprung from his energy and his go-go-go personality that made it seem as though he ran on a fine-tuned motor. He conceded that might be part of the reason for the moniker, but “Motor” was short for “Motor-mouth.” Rabon laughs about the name, claiming, “We used to gather as coaches for coffee at Concordia, and my fellow coaches couldn’t believe how I could talk so much.”

Energy Put to Work in the Pursuit of Fun

The Legend of Phil Rabon is shared by many. “Do you remember how he used to burst into the classrooms and get the students pumped up for the game that night?” is a common rememberance. Game days were always special for Phil, the biggest Teton fan that ever existed. “I loved getting into those classes, interrupting for a good cause—the Teton’s!” cheered Phil. “I used to always knock when I first started but eventually I just burst in without a notice. The kids loved it!” As for the faculty being interrupted? “Well,” he laughs. “Most didn’t mind, but one in particular declared, ‘Rabon, if you ever interrupt my class like that again it will be the last time you ever interrupt anybody’s class!’”

Rabon was all about having fun. “My mind was always thinking of new things to do for students and faculty, new events, nicknames, etc. Providing some entertainment was a wonderful task.” One of his favorites was a staged boxing match between himself and aspiring professional boxer Dennis Allen. “I cleared aside the tables in the cafeteria. We built a boxing ring with ropes and Dennis and I ‘fought’ for three one-minute rounds. We used ketchup packets to simulate a tough fight…it was great!”

Faculty Fun Nights were a staple during UND-W days of the past. Students enjoyed the acting and singing of the college’s faculty and staff. Rabon was always right in the middle, enjoying his time working alongside his peers and all in the name of fun.

The Challenge of Remaining “Motor”

In the Fall of 1995, Phil Rabon was diagnosed with cancer in growths attached to his vocal cords. After several surgeries and then radiation, the cancer came back. In 2001, his larynx was removed and he was forced to retire. The man who used his voice to work, to live, to put his energy to good use, was tasked to learn how to make his voice heard again through artificial means. Many wondered how this would affect Rabon. But he took the challenge head-on and refused to let it slow him down.

His throat cancer was not caused by smoking but he took it upon himself every year to go around to Williston area grade schools and teach the dangers of smoking to 5th graders who were in awe of the man with the funny voice.

Over twenty years later, “Motor” still gets it done. During the interview for this article, Rabon stayed on the phone for 1 hour and 42 minutes, causing one phone to lose its battery charge so he had to switch over to another. Of the two sides of the conversation, the side in Laramie, Wyoming took at least 1 hour 30 minutes of the conversation. And, as always, when visiting with Phil Rabon, you only wish he took up more of the time.
Time With Family

Today, Phil and Sharon are enjoying their time with kids and grandkids. Oldest son Rick is an elementary principal at the Taipei American School in Taiwan. Daughters Kristi and Kari both work in education and live in Laramie and Loveland, Colorado respectively. Youngest son Reid lives in Minneapolis where he is a Global Marketing Leader for Robotic Cleaning at a world-wide industrial cleaning firm. Seven grandchildren, five boys and two girls, ranging in ages from 24 to 13 are busy working or in school with career paths in everything from administration to nursing to film studies to electrical engineering.

Laramie has been a great place for them to enjoy their family. And for certain, the Rabons are big Wyoming Cowboys fans. Though many in Williston still can’t believe Phil and Sharon aren’t at every home Teton game, we will always be proud they consider Williston home. An important note they both wanted to share is that if anyone happens to be travelling through the Laramie area, they would love to have visitors and catch up with old friends.

The Coach Comes Home

Fifty years after Rabon’s first women’s basketball team competed for UND-W, the team came back to campus during the 50 Years of Teton Women’s Basketball Celebration. Undoubtedly, they were excited to see teammates that, for some, hadn’t been seen since they left the Tetons. But more importantly, it was a chance to say thanks to Coach Phil Rabon for all of his work in getting the Tetons headed in a great direction.

As the 1972-1973 Teton Women’s Basketball team came forward, one by one, to receive their award for being inducted into the Teton Athletic Hall of Fame, it was hard to find a dry eye in the Donn Skadeland Gym. Each hug represented a special bond between player and coach that only one team can hold as being the first-ever Teton Women’s Basketball Team.

For how does a person thank a coach that worked tirelessly hour upon hour on teaching the most basic of basketball skills and for simply listening to a group that just wanted a chance to play basketball and then agreeing to coach them for nothing other than the joy of the game? That first squad was honored for their pioneering efforts, but it wasn’t just that first team or even just the players Rabon coached that so looked forward to the weekend. Rabon only coached until 1978, but for forty-four years after remained deeply entrenched in the women’s basketball program. Many remembered the school’s biggest fan as always being there, always encouraging, and always celebrating the joy of the game.

As the weekend rolled on, every story was relayed with the deepest of admirations. Every picture was studied over with care as the memories flooded back and hit home. Every laugh seemingly shook the room as pranks and good times were brought back to life. And knowingly or unknowingly, every former Teton took the time to glance around and search the gym just for a chance to say “hi” to Coach Rabon.

And, as usual, the man of the hour, Phil Rabon, greeted every person that visited with the most famous smile that ever set foot on the campus of UND-Williston. He was back home—and nobody can hold back a smile when Phil Rabon welcomes us to his home.
50 YEARS OF TETON WOMEN’S BASKETBALL CELEBRATION!
Watch the banquet online at:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=_RXO16UDOEI

THANK YOU

"Words cannot express our feelings about the 50th Anniversary celebration of Women’s Basketball at UND-W-WSC. We’re sure everyone who attended appreciated all the planning and work in making the event a huge success.

Every hug or story brought back memories of how special it is to be a Teton.

Sharon and I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome we received."

Phil and Sharon Rabon
2022 Williston State College Outstanding Alumni Banquet Highlights
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2022 Williston State College Outstanding Alumni Banquet Highlights

2022 Outstanding Alumni
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C’dale Jore
Sharon Moline
Kim Hennessy
Sandy Opperud
Bill Carl
Laurie Forsberg
Rick Tangedal
Janet Tangedal
Donn Skadeland

2022 Outstanding Alumni and Former Faculty and Staff
Lance Olson
Linda Novak
Julie Clark
Fern Westergard

2022 Outstanding
Former Faculty and Staff
Marcia Owens
Bernadette Perdue
Kenn Skadeland
Dominic Schaff
Williston State College has been a part of the Williston Community for over 60 years. During that time, thousands of students have been a part of a campus that was started by a grassroots community effort and has grown through continued community support. Today, the WSC campus is a beautiful part of the Williston and regional landscape.

Growth and advancement of WSC is a goal of the Williston State College Foundation. Please consider supporting Williston State by becoming a member of the WSC Foundation and help WSC grow and continue its educational excellence.

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TETON Student Life
Monument Update

One day prior to the Monuments Reveal event, our final piece was placed and delivered. The Rancher was worth the wait! The event was enjoyed by many during two beautiful evenings in late September. Associate Professor Richard Stenberg gave a small history course during a walking tour of each of the monuments.

Artist David Njos also added to his “Clark’s Table” piece by placing a giant boulder on which he chiseled a replica of Clark’s signature and the date on which he and Lewis travelled through the area back in 1805. On the other side of the boulder, Njos chiseled out and painted the Tetons logo. Njos was, again, aided by the help of his sons, Andy and Ben, and Dacotah West Crane who provided the muscle in placing the rock in place. The Njos family’s and Dacotah West Crane’s generosity continues to amaze WSC and the WSC Foundation.

We also want to thank our Welding students and instructor, Tim Delorme, for making the stands containing the historical information at each monument. And to our Campus Services Team of Director Clay Sponible, Tyler Erickson, and Raymond Carver and the Diesel students for their help installing the stands. Special thanks to the Williston Parks and Recreation Department for loaning the golf carts that assisted with transportation during the tour.

Stop by and look at the monuments when you are on campus.

Eric Peterson Named Head Coach of USD Coyotes

Former Teton Head Men’s Basketball Coach Eric Peterson is in the middle of his first season as an NCAA Division I Head Coach. In March of 2022, Peterson was named the Head Coach of the University of South Dakota Coyotes, after assistant coaching stops at South Dakota, Utah State, and the University of Utah.

Eric and Lindsey have moved their family back to Vermillion to embark on their newest venture. Daughter Flynn (10) and sons Isaiah (7), Briggs (5) and Bowen (7) will be cheering on the Coyotes this season in the stands while dad returns to the sidelines where his Division I coaching career began.

Many of USD’s games are televised on Midcontinent as part of the Summit League regular season schedule. For many in the upper Midwest, the Midcontinent exposure will afford Peterson the opportunity to be seen battling many familiar opponents including UND and NDSU. Good luck to Coach Peterson in their quest to qualify for March Madness!
WSC Adult Learning Center receives ND Friends of Vocational Rehab Honorable Mention

The Williston State College Adult Learning Center was nominated for the Friends of Vocational Rehabilitation Award at the North Dakota Vocational Rehabilitation 2022 conference. This award was given for recognition of agencies that work collaboratively with Vocational Rehabilitation. This may include, but is not limited to, working together for client success, appropriate referrals, teaching soft skill instruction, providing essential services as well as treatment and restoration services.

“I am honored that we were nominated for the Friends of VR Award and extremely proud that we won an honorable mention. We really take to heart the Williston State College mission statement, “Where people make the difference” and we work very hard to ensure we make a difference for all students in the Adult Learning Center Program,” said Adult Learning Center Director, Keith Rath. The Williston Adult Learning Center (ALC) prides itself on working with Vocational Rehabilitation to ensure that all students that are enrolled into our program get the help they need to ensure their success.

We introduce all students to Vocational Rehabilitation during the registration process to ensure that all students who qualify get the help they need at the beginning of the program. The ALC has seen an increase in the success of students that work with Vocational Rehabilitation over the last year. That success would not have happened without the outstanding work from Vocational Rehabilitation and the staff of the ALC working together for the success of the students. “The Williston Adult Learning Center strives to make sure that the students come first in our program and we what to make sure that every student starts their educational journey on the right foot and that help is available at any point in the educational path,” said Rath.

For more information about WSC’s Adult Learning Center and the services they provide, please contact Keith Rath, Adult Learning Center Director, at 701.774.4221 or keith.s.rath@willistonstate.edu.

NEED A CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA?
WE’VE GOT YOU COVERED!

Stop by Andrea’s Bookstore in Stevens Hall at Williston State College, order online through their website at: https://bookstore.willistonstate.edu/home or log on to the Williston State College Athletics website at www.wsctetons.com and shop their online store.
GIVING BACK

In 1975 the personal computer was introduced and made accessible to individuals around the world. Before that time, computers were expensive, cumbersome, and operated almost solely by big companies. Today, more than forty-five years later, a third of the world’s population have still never used the internet, while some have never even seen a computer.

That is going to change, courtesy of two Williston State College Alumni and former WSC Men's Basketball players, Clevon Dunbar and Pierre Nkada. Pierre hails from Cameroon, Africa, and played Men’s Basketball for the WSC Tetons from 2009-2012. He wanted to figure out a way to give back to others. Computers are not commonly found in Cameroon. Pierre had an idea, and like any good Teton Alumni, Pierre rolled up his sleeves and got to work. He will soon be bringing 16 laptops to a K-8 school in desperate need of technology. These will be the very first computers that the school has ever had in their classrooms.

Clevon Dunbar, originally from Trinidad, played on the WSC Men's basketball team from 1997-1999. He heard about Pierre’s act of kindness, and one day was visiting with his sister who still lives in Trinidad. Clevon’s sister works at a School for children with Autism. During their conversation, the topic of computers came up. The students have never had computers in their school. This got Clevon thinking, and the ball rolling. After several months of planning, Clevon will be taking 6 computers to Trinidad for the students to use in their classrooms.

The hardworking and dedicated efforts of Clevon, Pierre, WSC’s IT Department, and Ken Quamme have made this project possible. These Lifelong Tetons have truly shown how “People Make the Difference”
TrainND NW Program Updates

TrainND Northwest continues its daily effort to train the workforce of Northwest North Dakota and beyond. A lot of people don’t realize that TrainND Northwest has been around since 1999. A lot of people think that we are that “training place for oil and gas workers” or “that training place for you to get your CDL”, but TrainND Northwest is much more. TrainND Northwest provides multiple safety trainings, trainings in QuickBooks, Leadership, Safety Leadership, One Basin-ONE WAY, CDL, CNA, Crane, Well Control, Automation Technician, Electric Vehicle Technician, and even Drones among many other programs.

Recently, TrainND Northwest received an EDA grant for $2.3 million for our crane and CDL programs. With this grant TrainND Northwest will update our CDL trucks, Cranes, add a CDL simulator and VR crane simulators, and build a hybrid semi-truck. Ultimately these purchases will allow us to make these two programs sustainable for the next decade and expand our offerings in both as well. We could not be more excited for what this means for TrainND Northwest and the workforce of North Dakota.

In the 22-23 Biennium TrainND Northwest also received a $1 million grant from the North Dakota State Legislature for building a Beyond Visual Line of Sight UAS (drone) training program. With the help of Matt Dunlevy from Dunlevy Consulting TrainND Northwest has built a world class UAS training program that gets a person ready to fly a drone BVLOS. The BVLOS program graduated its first student Tate in September. Tate plans to use the skills he learned to establish a drone inspection arm of an oil and gas company that will leverage UAS in the oil and gas industry and others. We are excited to see were Tate goes from this program. The program is 4 weeks long and teaches a person the skills necessary to fly BVLOS in the National Air Space.

The staff of TrainND Northwest works hard each day to ensure that our students receive the knowledge necessary to go to work confident and come home safe at the end of the day. We are excited to help any interested student gain the training necessary to be successful in this competitive world!
Happy Holidays from the Teton Athletic Staff! Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and has an amazing Christmas as well. It is hard to believe how quickly the school year has gone, it seems like the student-athletes just got to campus.

We are currently in the heart of women's basketball, men's basketball, and hockey. Women's basketball has another strong team that looks to compete for conference and regional championships. They have battled some injuries to start the season but are getting healthy and Coach Triplett always has his teams playing their best at the end of the year. This year's team is led by a core of returners including Sydney Labatte (Froid, MT), Hayley Macdonald (Canberra, AUS), Emily Kurkowski (Melbourne, AUS), and Irene de la Fuente (Valladolid, ESP). They have also added an exciting group of newcomers led by Elizabeth Field (Grenora, ND), Yasmin Butler (Wollongong, AUS), and twins Breanna and Kylee Old Elk (Hardin, MT). This is an exciting team to watch that has unlimited potential! First home game of the new year is on January 16th.

Coach Herman is in his first year with our men's basketball team after getting the job in late July. They are a team with a bunch of newcomers that are growing together and continuing to get better with each practice and game. Coach Herman picked up his first win as a college head coach at Miles Community College on November 20th. We are excited to have him in charge and look forward to many future successes. This year's team has been led early in the season by Shaheed Muhammad (Arden Hills, MN), Moses Gordon (London, ENG), Abi Adedo (London, ENG), Wilson Rankin (Austin, TX), and Grady Gonsioroski (Lambert, MT). They also open the new year at home on January 16th.

Coach Gault returns for year two as our Head Men's Hockey Coach. They have seventeen returners and have added a couple impact players to the core of returners. Coach Gault believes this year's team has the potential to grow into a national power and are looking forward to making a deep postseason run. They have only played four home games in the fall semester, but January and February are packed with home action. There is a strong blend of local players on the roster including Isaac Ellingson (Crosby, ND), Braden Kindopp (Sidney, MT), twins Jackson and Fox Dodds (Watford City, ND), Alexander Bailey (Crosby, ND), and Hunter Rossland (Williston, ND). Some other impactful returners include Kyle Barrett (Westminster, CA), Seth Davis (La Verne, CA), Jordan Skahill (San Dimas, CA), Matt McCaw (Regina, SK), Riley Christinson (Bethune, SK), Malte Kuhn (Bremerhaven, Germany), Jesse Keicher (Buffalo, NY), and Freddy Peters (Rochester, NY). The first home game on the new year is scheduled for January 6th against Montana State.

Volleyball season for Fall of 2022 was an exciting one as Coach Hinck and the Tetons hosted a home playoff game for the first time in years. They battled multiple crucial injuries all year, but continued to push forward and came out better in the end. This year’s squad was led by All-Conference and All-Region performer Ashlyn Halford (Jacksonville, FL). Sophomores Amaris Boggs (Las Vegas, NV), Daphne Sanchez (El Paso, TX), Montayasia Jones (Live Oaks, FL), and Emily Schultz (Billings, MT) all helped lead the charge on the court for the Tetons. We thank them all for their contributions to Teton Volleyball and look forward to their future successes. There is a strong core of returners that look to lead our program in the future including Jalyn Walruff (Blue Springs,
MO), Ellie Haskins (Williston, ND), Alyssa Oliver (Havre, MT), Mya Pospisil (Billings, MT), and Jacee Turcotte (Trenton, ND).

Baseball and softball completed their “fall ball” seasons with a focus on their development. Both teams have a number of new players and are looking forward to an exciting (and good weather) spring season. We look forward to Coach Przybilla and Coach Ward leading the charge.

Thanks for your continued support of Teton Athletics. We look forward to a great year and hope to see you at a Teton competition soon!

Jayden Olson
Athletic Director

Softball at a Glance

Teton softball fans can expect a revitalization of WSC softball. We have a good team with a lot of heart and a sophomore class with chips on their shoulders. This year’s group is a mix of talented players from our region of North Dakota and Montana, as well as players from other states in the US, to include: Florida, Texas, New York, Nevada and Idaho. Joining our domestic players are several international players. These young women have come from Canada, Australia and The Netherlands. It has been a pleasure watching these different cultures culminate and create a team that we are proud to be a part of.

We open our 2023 season in the Minot Dome for a conference preseason tournament, February 11th and 12th. After that we have several weeks of preparation before traveling to Tucson, Az. We compete in AZ from March 8th to 15th, playing 10 games throughout the week. We will play a couple of the teams in the conference, but mainly schools from around the country. That will be a good way to open up the season for the team and a good opportunity for our players to be seen by other schools as we play several JV programs from 4-year institutions.

### 2023 SOFTBALL

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Games</th>
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<td>Minot Dome</td>
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<td>Feb 17-19</td>
<td>Adams State JV</td>
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* Denotes Home Games

WANT TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE WSC TETONS?

Follow them on YouTube: [https://youtube.com/tetontv](https://youtube.com/tetontv)
ATHLETIC Updates

TETON BASEBALL

With the 2023 college baseball season right around the corner Teton baseball is in its final stages of development before the kids head home for winter break. When they return, they will only have about five weeks of preparation before they open the season with a four-game series against Adams State. The 2023 schedule will see a lot of familiar opponents from years past. After the Adams State series, the Tetons will have a four-game series with Midland University before they head to Arizona for 12 games in 11 days. The Tetons will have one final week of non-conference play following the Arizona trip. They will have four games against Central Lakes College and Riverland Community College in Sioux City, IA. The 2023 MonDak Conference schedule will open April 1st at home against Lake Region.

The Tetons are coming off a 34-15 2022 season that ended as the Region XIII runner up. The 2023 roster will be a much different look for the Tetons on the field. They will only return Oscar Hargreaves and Chris Shopbell from last year’s starting lineup that had one of the top offenses in the country with a team average of .346, .444 on base, and averaged over 10 runs per game. “Losing guys like Brady Miles, Jordan Kelly, and Josh Tibbs can be detrimental to a team’s ability to score runs. I believe we have done a good job replacing some of the big bats in our lineup. We will expect major contributions from newcomers Cameron Goff, Kevin Conway, and (RS Freshman) Jalen Denton to help Chris and Oscar anchor our lineup.” (Coach Przybilla).

The Pitching staff for the Tetons will see several familiar faces. The Tetons will look at Hunter Houck, Brody Forno, Tyler Smith, and Rylan Penner to carry a heavy load. The strike out was a major factor in the success the Tetons saw last year as they struck out 401 batters in 49 games. Houck, Forno, Penner and Smith combined for 240 of the strikeouts.

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<tr>
<td>Feb 25</td>
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<td>March 24</td>
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<td>May 5-7</td>
<td>MonDak Postseason</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 12-14</td>
<td>Region XIII</td>
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* Denotes Home Games

WILLISTON STATE TETON BASEBALL COMMITMENTS

2022
- Brady Miles- Northwest Missouri State
- Jaxon Meyer- Northwest Missouri State
- Logan Warkentin- Morningside College
- Derek Palmiere- Mayville State University
- Clayton McCallister- Emmanuel College
- Josh Tibbs- University of Fort Lauderdale
- Garrett Flaagan- Eurika College
- Ben Hul- University of Calgary
- Jordan Kelly- College of Idaho
- Kobe Fredland- Campbellsville University
- Tanner Boyle- Mayville State University

2023
- Hunter Houck- Mayville State University
- Oscar Hargreaves- College of Idaho
- Brody Forno- Oklahoma Wesleyan University
### WOMENS BASKETBALL

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>Williston State at Dakota College at Bottineau</td>
<td>7:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. Jan. 16</td>
<td>Lake Region C.C. at Williston State</td>
<td>7:30</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Williston State at NDSCS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. Feb. 2</td>
<td>United Tribes at Williston State</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. Feb. 6</td>
<td>Bismarck State at Williston State</td>
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<td>Mon. Feb. 20</td>
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<tr>
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Jared Ward, Williston State College’s Women’s Softball coach, arrived on campus in 2017. One of the first things he noticed was that the weight room for athletics could use an update. An “update” was an understatement. There was a single squat rack and bar, a few dinged up dumbbells, and two well-loved (and well-used) treadmills. Our resourceful coaches and plucky Teton athletes made the best of it and continued to train in the space; however, over time the equipment became even more outdated and worn and began to feel unsafe. When touring recruits came to campus to see what WSC offered, the weight room was often skipped. It was not a selling point, and it was not a highlight of all the wonderful assets that the WSC Athletic Department provides to our athletes.

In 2022, the Teton Booster Club along with Jared and Coach Chelsea Hinck (Teton Volleyball Head Coach), decided that it was time to make a change. They took the initiative and reached out to Jared’s good friend and previous boss, Eric Goldberg. Eric is the owner of Strength Koach in Pueblo, CO. Eric expertly helped with the design for the space that would accommodate six different teams that all required daily training. The ultimate goal was to have a place that was both “safe and highly effective.”

What separates the dreamers from the doers is action, and the Teton Athletic Staff is a staff of action. They knew this would be a big project that would require a hefty dose of financial support, and being the resourceful coaches that they are, the Staff reached out to one of WSC’s Athletics biggest supporters: The Teton Booster Club. The Booster Club generously donated $53,000 to the weight room project. Their dream of a new space with reliable, safe, and effective equipment was finally realized thanks to their incredible support. This endeavor would not have been realized without their collaboration and substantial contribution.

Now that the dream had the financial backing, the heavy lifting could (literally) begin. Along with the massive help from Chelsea Hinck, Jared
travelled all the way to Colorado Springs to pick up and transport the newly purchased equipment.

The Teton Teamwork didn’t end there! Many hands make light work, and there is plenty of thanks to go around. A special shout out to the IT Department who installed state of the art televisions, and Kayla, Raymond and Tyler in the maintenance department who painstakingly painted and prepped the weight room for the delivery of the new equipment. An especially heartfelt thank you to the WSC Booster club for all the support in making the weight room what it is today.

As Jared said, “This space is a great selling point for recruits where it wasn’t before. Now our teams can train safely and have a space to be proud of.” In the words of a sophomore softballer, Kylie Larson, who was asked what she thinks of the new space, “The equipment before was kind of scary, now I like it!”

We like it too. And we like our Teton Booster Club and Coach Ward, Hinck, Przybilla, Gault, Triplett, and Herman for making WSC the place “Where People Make the Difference.”

Next Generation of Williston State

Nollie Love Hink

Zoe & Taylor
WSC Teton Clay Target League

The WSC Teton Clay Target League shot its first season of Trap in the Fall of 2022. The Tetons participated in the Minnesota College Athletic Conference and the USA Clay Target League. This is the first varsity Clay Target League for two-year college athletic programs. The MCAC is comprised of over 20 colleges that includes campuses in North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

Penny Slagle, the coach of the Coyote Clay Target League, approached Dr. Hirning and AD Jayden Olson regarding starting a team at WSC. The Coyotes are the largest league in the Nation, and this would be a great opportunity for these athletes to continue to compete at the college level and give them four more seasons of shooting.

In February 2022 the Teton Clay Target League was approved, and their first season would be Fall 2022.

Our first team consisted of 11 members. We were placed in a conference with 7 teams. Coaches for the team are Penny Slagle, Robert Blanton, Tyler Hess and team manager is Tara Blanton.

The Teton Trap team placed second in the conference losing only to Black Hawk College (IL) by one point. Teton Maci Paine, Williston, placed second in individual women’s high team average and Emry Kleven, Williston, placed 3rd for individual women’s high average.

The conference tournament was held in Alexandria MN on October 18. Seven of the Teton Trap team attended and gained a great deal of experience for their first year of college competition. In that competition Traceson Martinez shot a perfect 25/25 score.

We are very proud of the first-year success of the Teton Clay Target League, and we are looking forward to the spring season.
ARE YOU AN ALUMNI OR KNOW A FORMER WSC STUDENT?

We Would Love To Know What You Are Up To Now, And Share Your Story.

Email me at kristina.kitchens@willistonstate.edu.
RECOGNIZING Larry Grondahl

Long-time WSC supporter Larry Grondahl completed his three-terms of service on the WSC Foundation Board of Directors in October.

Grondahl was a student at UND-Williston from 1976 to 1978 before graduating from UND in 1980. He immediately returned to Williston following UND and managed Stevens Sports Center before taking over as Recreation Superintendent for the Williston Parks and Recreation District. He has remained an integral part of the Williston community.

One of the most important impacts to the campus Grondahl has made was when he and good friend, Dean Aafedt, revitalized the Teton Baseball program in 1978 after the sport had been discontinued for a number of years. The Tetons have been playing baseball every season since the two helped bring it back.

Larry’s work for the college has been extensive. He was an original Board of Director when the Teton Booster Club was established in 1983 and for years helped the Teton Athletic Department by scheduling officials for basketball games. He has also been a part of many search committees, especially for the Tetons. His work in promoting Williston and WSC has been a valuable asset and will be missed on the Foundation’s Board, but will continue outside the board for as long as he is able.

“WSC is one of the most important institutions in our community and region as it helps our economy, assists with workforce training and prepares our young people for the future. As an alumnus of WSC, I feel it is our responsibility to continue the tradition of educating our students and providing them the same opportunities we had in a quickly changing world. The college’s staff and administration do an excellent job educating our students and we all need to try give them the resources needed to continue providing a high quality education.”

The WSC Foundation would like to thank Larry for all his hard work for WSC and for our community.

Long-time WSC Professor Lance Olson has filled Grondahl’s position on the board.
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A 40% ND STATE TAX CREDIT

Consider an endowed gift to the Williston State College Foundation. Individuals and businesses who pay ND state income tax may qualify.

FOR DONORS IN A 32% FEDERAL TAX BRACKET, THE TAX BENEFITS MAY LOOK LIKE THIS

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<th>Gift Amount:</th>
<th>$5,000</th>
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<td>Federal Tax deduction</td>
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Above Information For Illustration Purposes Only. Please Consult Your Tax Advisor.

CONTACT HUNTER BERG TO VISIT ABOUT THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF ENDOWED GIFTS TO THE WSC FOUNDATION.

Best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and a Joyous New Year

From the WSC Foundation
Hunter Berg, Laurie Furuseth
Kristina Kitchens & Kim Gratz