OUTGOING DEAN REFLECTS ON TWO DECADES OF CHANGE, PROGRESS

Virginia Clark Johnson, dean of the College of Human Development and Education, has helped navigate through significant changes since she arrived at North Dakota State University in 1993.

From the start, she provided leadership as the college was formed from a combination of the College of Home Economics, the Division of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Athletics, and the School of Education.

There have been many successes through the years. Educational programs were initiated, and blossomed into critical components of the NDSU HD&E student experience. Buildings have been built and renovated to provide state-of-the-art places to learn. And many students in the college became successful members of their professions and decided to give back to the college that gave them so much.

Clark Johnson, slated to retire in August, gives credit to the many students, faculty and staff who made everything happen. The following is a chat with the dean about some of the highlights of her 22 years on campus:

Q: Was there a checklist of things you wanted to get done immediately when you were hired as the dean in 1993?
A: The most important thing was helping people feel OK about change and the new combination of divisions within the college. That wasn’t just for people here, it also was for alumni. Change is hard. We had to let alumni know their college was still here, just under a different name and in a different place. We identified our common mission and focused on that from very early on.

Q: Was there one project or initiative that was the first big win for the college after you arrived?
A: I’m not sure about the first one. But one of the big ones was a review by USDA Cooperative Extension. That really helped position the Center for 4-H Youth Development as a part of the college. It also validated that certain Extension specialists should be part of our faculty. In addition, we have several programs that have become nationally accredited, and all accreditation reviews have been very positive.

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**Q:** Is one of your biggest points of pride having students excel in their studies and be nationally recognized for it?

**A:** Very much so. That not only means our students are the best, it means we have great faculty who are able to help students reach those goals. It’s a validation of our faculty, as well as the strength of our students. Our students consistently have scores above national averages on professional exams.

**Q:** You have a very strong base of alumni who are involved with the college. People come back and want to be part of the future success. What does that say about the college?

**A:** Our alumni affirm over and over that the skills they learned and memories they took away from their time here helped them become successful in their profession and in life. We’ve worked hard to maintain great relationships with our alumni.

**Q:** What have been some of the more important developments in recent years?

**A:** When the college was put together, we had no doctoral programs and very few graduate programs. We really were an undergraduate college with faculty who focused on teaching and service. We still do super teaching and provide service to the community and state, but we have added six doctoral programs. Education is typically the largest doctoral program on campus. That has allowed the faculty to step up with research, which has brought an important piece to the college. We have established an Academic Advising Center that focuses on student success. Our faculty and staff are doing a tremendous job, and our scholarships continue to grow.

**Q:** It seems like HD&E has focused on NDSU’s student-focused, land-grant, research mission. Was that by design?

**A:** One of the things we always try to do when we plan our annual college and department goals is to think about what is important to the university. We focus on the things that make up the mission of NDSU. And we have worked very hard in those areas.

**Q:** What are your hopes for the future of HD&E?

**A:** I would hope new facilities would become part of the planning process for campus. As we grow in student population, I hope we get faculty positions that would be there to offer the classes we need to meet student needs. Hopefully, we can offer some assistantships in our doctoral programs to attract even more top-notch students. I would love to see us have a campuswide gerontology center for people interested in working with aging populations. We have a proposal for such a center ready to go when the time is right.

**Q:** Can you sum up your time at NDSU?

**A:** It’s been a wonderful opportunity. There have been some challenges, but I’ve worked with great people, supportive alumni and the students have always been amazing. We changed so much so quickly. Some decisions have been difficult, but we all get on board, all work together and make it happen. I’m very proud of the college, NDSU and everyone associated with it.

**MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN**

“Only by paying attention to the present can we have a past that we can look back on with a smile and a future we can walk into with hope …”

– Feonna

When I moved to Fargo in the summer of 1993, I would not have guessed that I would like my job so much that I would still be here in the spring of 2015. I came because the college was “new.” It had just been created from the College of Home Economics; the Division of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Athletics; and the School of Education.

I knew there would be a great deal of change those first years, but I never dreamed that rapid change would continue; both for the college as well as the university. It has been 22 exciting years.

In August of this year, I plan to pass the privileges and responsibilities of serving as the leader of the College of Human Development and Education to a new dean. I will start a new chapter in my life, but I hope to stay connected to NDSU and all of the wonderful people I have come to know over these 22 years. My hope is to have more time to be a grandmother, to volunteer and to begin to check items off the bucket list that my husband, Rick, and I have created.

This publication provides a brief glance at some of the highlights for the college during the past 22 years. None of these successes could have occurred without the work of a wonderful team of faculty, staff and students – I have been very fortunate. There are also highlights of a few of our successes from the past year. Please do not hesitate to let us you if you would like more information about any of these stories, or about the college.

Thanks for your support, your interest in the College of Human Development and Education and for the opportunity to get to know many of you.

Virginia Clark Johnson, dean

NOTE: Parts of this letter were adapted from my letter in the 2010 issue of HD&E Headlines.
NDSU UNVEILS RENOVATED FOOD PRODUCTION LAB

A ceiling-mounted camera points straight down over a stainless steel table covered in vegetables. The view is projected onto two large flat-screen TVs along one wall. Students at their brand-new food production workstations, chopping knives in hand, follow the professor’s every move.

It’s the fruition of a project that has turned a portion of the third floor of the Katherine Kilbourne Burgum Family Life Center into a cutting-edge food production laboratory. Future dietitians, hospitality industry professionals and others are using it to learn their craft at NDSU.

“The students now have one of the finest facilities,” said Virginia Clark Johnson, dean of the College of Human Development and Education. “A laboratory that gives them the educational experience and hands-on expertise they need for successful careers.”

The space is virtually unrecognizable from its previous version. Gleaming stainless steel replaced yellow 1970s-era laminate. Efficient gas burners replaced dated electric stoves.

A state-of-the-art combination oven/steamer is recipe programmable, completely self-cleaning and remains cool to the touch even at 500 degrees Fahrenheit. The futuristic appliances are nearly indistinguishable to the novice. Even the walk-in coolers require training on proper use.

Renovation of the space began in May 2014. Major components of the project include the renovation of six individual learning stations; the addition of a commercial food production laboratory; and converting existing space to a food service area complete with tables and chairs, a service station and the flexibility to function as a dining, service and lecture classroom.

Features include energy-efficient LED lighting and a built-in sound system that allows students to customize the entire dining atmosphere.

The renovated space is essentially two separate but interconnected rooms designed to provide flexibility of use. The dining room can serve up to 44 customers at a time. The multipurpose room hosts the 800 Café, a student-managed restaurant that is open to the public during the spring semester. All meals served in the café are fewer than 800 calories.

The production lab is designed to host 18 food preparers at one time. Its workspaces are wheelchair accessible. An open common space accommodates worktables that can be lined up for meal preparation or pushed together for a cutting demonstration.

More than 200 students a year will benefit from the project. They are in NDSU’s dietetics and hospitality and tourism management programs, which are both nationally accredited. Students cannot become a registered dietitian without a degree from an accredited program.

“It’s exciting to see the project come together,” said Allison Dhuyvetter, a senior majoring in dietetics. She is president of the Student Association of Nutrition and Dietetics and a member of the NDSU Dietetics Advisory Committee. “The experience this gives us as we prepare for our careers is invaluable.”

Interior design students also will use the renovation as a case study, said senior lecturer Ann Ragan, who served as an interior design consultant for the space. They will learn about commercial building practices and how to problem-solve design in tight spaces.

Aesthetic changes were called for, Ragan said. Students and faculty who use the space regularly will notice more effective storage, upgraded equipment and food-safe working surfaces.

“Having the updated space will make a huge difference in the quality of our classes,” said Sherri Nordstrom Stastny, associate professor of health, nutrition and exercise sciences. “Student learning will be greatly enhanced by thoughtful design and layout of state-of-the-art food production, service and cleaning/sanitation equipment, not to mention student safety.”

The $750,000 project was funded in part by the Challenge Fund, a matching-grant program established during the 2013 North Dakota legislative session. The state awarded $1 in matching funds for every $2 raised for projects dedicated exclusively to the advancement of academics. A commission appointed by Gov. Jack Dalrymple awarded $203,000 to the project.

NDSU President Dean L. Bresciani attended the lab’s ribbon-cutting ceremony held during Homecoming week. He noted the project was NDSU’s first to be supported through the Challenge Fund. He said the governor wanted “game-changing projects.”

Many of the college’s faculty and staff made personal contributions to help fund the project. Student organizations also supported the renovation. The Hospitality Student Association and The Student Association of Nutrition and Dietetics contributed funds.
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA ADVISES STUDENTS TO HONE CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

Eileen Karp was living on a friend’s couch in New York City with a week’s worth of money remaining in her bank account. She finally received a pair of job offers in the fashion industry as the prospect of moving back to her parents’ Arizona home loomed.

Karp was perseverant, persistent and pesky. She wanted to be a fashion designer, and she never quit until she made the dream a reality.

“I think the biggest thing about being in fashion is that you have to be tenacious,” said Karp, BS ’75, textiles and clothing, who was recognized as the 2014 College of Human Development and Education Distinguished Alumna. “You have to pick yourself up and move forward. It’s not an easy path. There are obstacles on the way, you just have to keep going.”

Karp began her career as a creative designer of loungewear and sportswear in New York. She was given a lot of responsibility from the start. She found fabrics for several lines, created prototypes and designed popular loungewear pieces.

The experience was difficult, Karp said. But she gained a working knowledge of the design business that many others in her position rarely achieved so early in their careers. “I had my feet to the fire right away,” Karp said. “It seems like that has been my path through my career. You either rise to the occasion or you don’t.”

Karp later started a business designing an exclusive maternity line for a New York City boutique. The line was sold to Bloomingdale’s and Saks Fifth Avenue. She held various jobs as a designer of loungewear and sportswear before becoming a full-time assistant professor of fashion design and apparel at Fashion Institute of Technology-SUNY in 2007.

Karp, who was an adjunct instructor at FIT from 1985 to 2006, teaches design courses in draping, pattern-making, construction, technical applications, sportswear and digital apparel management. She earned a master’s degree in education from California State University-East Bay in 2008. “I think teaching came pretty naturally to me,” she said. “I’ve always loved it. I wanted to become full-time at FIT for a long time. And the time was right when I was able to do it.”

NDSU students looking to make it in the fashion industry must be prepared, knowledgeable and able to quickly adapt to change, Karp said. They also need to have a thick skin and positive outlook. Most important is the ability to think critically.

“There is so much more to learn from art and design education that can be really tapped into no matter what kind of position you end up with,” Karp said. “Critical thinking skills are applicable to any job. You will find that you are the creative problem solver. And that’s a great thing; companies are really looking for that.”

OUTSTANDING STUDENT ASPIRES TO BE ELEMENTARY TEACHER

Emily Knilans estimates she’s been on the path to becoming a teacher since kindergarten.

She didn’t know it back then. Helping fellow classmates learn how to tie their shoes just felt good.

It was the same way in middle school and high school. Knilans always found ways to teach her friends and family a new lesson.

But it wasn’t until she enrolled at NDSU that everything came together.

“I knew when I walked into my first practicum that being a teacher was the right course for me,” said Knilans, the Outstanding Student of Human Development and Education for 2014-15. “It feels so natural. I’m so much happier being in a classroom than I can imagine being in any other profession. It really feels like what you are doing matters.”

Knilans said she’s long been passionate about learning many different subjects. She loves to soak up as much knowledge as she can, and pass on what she’s learned to others. She especially loves the thought of helping to shape young minds.

So Knilans is looking forward to a career as an elementary school teacher. It’s a profession she knows will be filled with gratifying moments.

“I think most rewarding will be students who are struggling to find the answers,” said Knilans, a human development and family science major. “One day you explain it to them and you can see they are thinking about it in a new way. They get it. Those are the moments that really matter.”
ALUMNA EARNNS NDSU ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Sandy Fiechtner, BS ’78, home economics education, has traveled the globe since she graduated from NDSU, but she gives credit for her 2014 Alumni Achievement Award to what she learned from her North Dakota role models and lifelong friends.

The Wishek, North Dakota, native’s first decade out of NDSU was spent in North Dakota holding a variety of positions – teaching home economics, promoting nutrition with the North Dakota Dairy Council and the N.D. Wheat Commission and selling media time with Meyer Broadcasting. Then came “a big step” of leaving the state.

In 1987, Fiechtner earned a master’s degree in human resources from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota, and her career focus changed to international business.

She joined the Pfizer Inc. headquarters in New York with a plan to try it for one year. Instead, as she says, “My worldwide journey began.”

Starting as a human resources associate, Fiechtner’s career quickly progressed as the company tripled in size to the world’s No. 1 global pharmaceutical company.

Fiechtner’s career soon spanned two continents. She lived and worked in Europe, holding leadership roles dedicated to growing Pfizer’s European business across a portfolio of 25 countries, $2.5 billion in revenue and 4,000 employees. She focused on attracting top talent, developing future leaders and empowering and retaining female leadership.

In 2008, Fiechtner was named a Pfizer Global Health Fellow based in Ukraine and Russia. She worked on the front lines with local partners to transfer skills and build local capacity to support Pfizer’s mission to improve health care in developing countries.

After 21 years with Pfizer, Fiechtner retired and started her own human resources consulting and coaching firm. She has partnered with Generation Schools and Grameen America in New York, and recently with Hess Corp. in North Dakota’s Bakken region.

Fiechtner lives in New York and still enjoys traveling the globe. As she describes it, “My sense of adventure has taken me to more than 55 countries, yet North Dakota remains one of my favorite places on earth.”

Knillans, from Lino Lakes, Minnesota, said the NDSU/Valley City State University dual-degree program in human development and family science and elementary education provides students with vital practical experience through practicums and student teaching assignments. And professors are supportive and attentive.

“My education classes have an intense amount of hands-on work,” Knillans said. “A lot of elementary education and teacher education programs might focus on learning theory. We learn the theory, but we are focusing on how to apply that theory to help students.”

Knillans is the co-president of the Human Development and Education Leadership Council and is a member of the Elementary Education Club, the Human Development and Family Science Club and the Phi Upsilon Omicron honor society.
Through the thoughtful donations of former faculty, students and alumni, this year the College of Human Development and Education was able to introduce 11 new endowments and scholarships to benefit students.

IRENE H. SANDERS SCHOLARSHIP
The Irene H. Sanders Scholarship was established to benefit dietetics students at NDSU.

The scholarship will fund one award each year for a student actively involved in the university’s dietetic organization with a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0.

The scholarship was named after a 1938 NDSU graduate who studied home economics education. Irene Sanders grew up in Edgeley, North Dakota, and remained in her home state as a teacher in Watford City and Bismarck after graduating from NDSU.

After a stint as a home economics teacher in Edgeley, Irene and her husband, Fay, bought the Rexall Drug Store in Oakes, North Dakota. The couple owned and operated the store for 31 years.

JOANN MONSON SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT
A new tribute to a longtime NDSU Development Foundation staff member will leave a lasting legacy of helping students.

Last spring, the foundation’s board of trustees surprised Joann Monson with a scholarship endowment in her name. Monson, who retired as the foundation’s administrative assistant after 43 years of service, was thrilled and honored by the board’s generosity. “I am humbled by the board’s thoughtfulness,” she said, noting she felt a sense of pride in the organization’s many accomplishments under former foundation executive director Jim Miller.

Given the privilege to determine the criteria for the $500 annual scholarship, Monson asked that recipients of the Joann Monson Scholarship be students studying education.

“I chose education for several reasons,” Monson explained. “First of all, I believe a strong education is the foundation for success in life. Secondly, my son is an educator, beginning as a teacher, then a principal and currently as superintendent of Marshall, Minnesota, Public Schools. Lastly and most importantly, our College of Human Development and Education is truly outstanding.”

The first recipient of the scholarship was named last April. “My hope is that someday I’ll learn that a recipient of my scholarship has risen to the top in their profession,” said Monson, who is enjoying retirement by volunteering at Sanford Health and spending more time with family and friends.

Heidi Erickson, left, with Joann Monson, is the 2015 recipient of the Joann Monson Scholarship Endowment for students studying education.

Left to right: Amy Peick, Ashley Gehl, Amber Rebel and Shirley Stokke Anderson at the 2015 Honor’s Day celebration. Stokke Anderson has a namesake scholarship benefiting graduate students working toward the online master’s degree or senior undergraduate students in dietetics. (Not pictured: Olivia Braaten, Danielle Lindner and Alexa Stelzer.)
LUNDSTROM FAMILY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

Newly established by NDSU alumni Judi and Darnell Lundstrom, the Lundstrom Family Memorial Scholarship Endowment traces its beginnings to Judi’s parents, Peter N. and Elizabeth I. Retterath.

“They valued education. Even though my father had only an eighth-grade education, he was so proud of my mother with her registered nurse degree,” Judi Lundstrom explained. “Both of them never talked to us five children as if you go to college – it was always where to go to college. This scholarship is a memorial to their belief that the only way is through education.”

Judi, BS ’71, MS ’84, home economics, and Darnell, BS ’64, MS ’65, agricultural engineering, have lived in south Fargo for more than 27 years. Darnell is an NDSU professor emeritus of agricultural engineering and former NDSU Extension Service assistant director of agriculture and natural resources. Judi worked for the NDSU Extension Service for 13 years before joining Waddell and Reed Inc. as a financial adviser. They have two children and five grandchildren.

The scholarship goes to a worthy student majoring in human development and family science, dietetics or family and consumer sciences education.

“I would hope that the student receiving the scholarship will value their NDSU education as much as I have valued mine,” Judi said.

The Lundstroms also recently created a scholarship fund in the NDSU College of Engineering.

MARIAN (WALLA) WENKER SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

The Marian (Walla) Wenker Scholarship Endowment was established to benefit a student majoring in interior design or apparel, retail merchandising and design.

Wenker, BS ’64, design, grew up a self-described ranch kid near Arnegard, North Dakota. Her first eight years of education were spent in a one-room schoolhouse.

She early on took up sewing, competing in 4-H and creating her own clothes. Wenker followed that passion to NDSU, where she studied apparel and textiles. She also was involved in several campus organizations, including Kappa Delta sorority, and being named the Theta Chi fraternity dream girl in 1963.

She established the endowment to help more students have similar experiences. Her upbringing also played a role in giving back. Wenker thinks back to the image of her father, a rancher and farmer, standing on the front porch, looking at the sky and wondering if it will rain tomorrow.

“Mom and Dad were wonderful examples of giving, loving and sharing what they had,” Wenker said. “We were taught to give of our time, our talents and money, when possible. All of my life I have tried to live up to those ideals. It is now in my life that I can share with a student the monies needed to have the great experience that NDSU has to offer.”

The Wenker Scholarship goes to a student majoring in interior design or apparel, retail merchandising and design.

GERTRUDE WEIGUM HINSZ LECTURE ENDOWMENT

Initiated in 2009, the Gertrude Weigum Hinsz Lecture Series each year brings a nationally respected speaker to NDSU to highlight human development and family science research.

The series moved this year from an annual account to an endowment, qualifying for a state grant match through the Challenge Fund. The state of North Dakota awarded $1 in matching funds for every $2 raised for projects of $50,000 or more dedicated exclusively to the advancement of academics.

The $75,000 endowment will be used to cover reasonable costs to host top researchers. The distinguished guests will give lectures that are free and open to the public.

Guest lecturers have included: Richard Lerner, director of the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development at Tufts University; Adele Diamond, Canada Research Chair Professor of Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of British Columbia; Jan McCulloch, department head and professor of family social science at the University of Minnesota.

The endowment and lecture series are named in honor of a North Dakota native who had a longstanding commitment to child development, healthy and happy living, and quality family life.

Gertrude Weigum Hinsz, from Zap, North Dakota, was the mother of five children who devoted much of her life to raising her family.

NORTH DAKOTA INTERIOR DESIGNERS SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

North Dakota Interior Designers has established an endowment to benefit and advance NDSU interior design students.

The interior designers endowment is a permanent investment to provide a stable, ongoing source of scholarships for fourth-year students enrolled in the NDSU interior design program.

The recipient must have at least a 3.25 grade point average and be an active member of the North Dakota Interior Designers organization.

The interior designers endowment will distribute one $750 scholarship each year.

North Dakota Interior Designers provides the endowment and scholarships because it values the quality of the interior design program at NDSU and wants to encourage students in the program to continue their education and involvement in the profession, according to Shelly Richard, NDID membership coordinator and designer at Foss Architecture and Interiors.

The majority of the organization’s members are NDSU graduates.
RON AND SUE NICHOLS HD&E SCHOLARSHIP

The Ron and Sue Nichols HD&E Scholarship was established to benefit an outstanding student in the College of Human Development and Education.

Ron Nichols, BS ’66, agricultural mechanization, MS ’71, agricultural economics, was a member of the North Dakota House of Representatives from 1991 to 2000 and a member of the North Dakota State Senate from 2001 to 2004. Sue Nichols earned a bachelor's degree in home economics education at NDSU in 1967. Both are retired.

Ron and Sue said the College of Human Development and Education is important to them because it provides a curriculum that supports the needs of all society, from nutrition and wellness to building a strong family.

Ron and Sue said their daughters’ educations at NDSU were helped by scholarships, and providing the same aid for others was a driving force behind establishing the scholarship.

RON STAMMEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The NDSU School of Education and College of Human Development and Education have established the Ron Stammen Memorial Scholarship for doctoral candidates in the School of Education. Professor Emeritus Ron Stammen was instrumental in establishing and leading the doctoral program until his retirement in 2010.

Stammen held several leadership roles in education throughout North Dakota. He was a business instructor in Drake, teaching principal in McVille, secondary principal in Northwood, superintendent in Turtle Lake and served as superintendent for Divide County Public Schools for 20 years.

He returned to school at age 48 after receiving a fellowship. He earned a doctorate in education from The Ohio State University. Stammen went on to work as a professor of education at NDSU for 21 years, during which time he garnered many academic honors. Stammen was named Professor Emeritus in 2010.

DR. JOSEPHINE BARTOW RUUD SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

The Dr. Josephine Bartow Ruud Scholarship Endowment was established through a gift to the college by its namesake. Jo Ruud was head of the NDSU Department of Home Economics Education from 1961-73.

Ruud earned a bachelor’s degree at Iowa State University. She was a single parent and an older-than-average student. Her endowment will become a scholarship to help a single parent or a student older than average. Potential recipients will be in the following programs: apparel, retail merchandising and design; human development and family science; dietetics; hospitality and tourism management; family and consumer sciences education; or interior design.

Ruud earned bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees before coming to NDSU. She published three textbooks and accepted speaking engagements on adult education and family living. Her NDSU students often helped teach classes to adults. "It was interesting to see how they reacted and how we all learned from each other," she said. Ruud said she hopes the scholarship will be a boost to someone on his or her path to success in the field of human development and education. This scholarship qualified for a state grant match through the Challenge Fund. The state of North Dakota awarded $1 in matching funds for every $2 raised for projects of $50,000 or more dedicated exclusively to the advancement of academics.

HOSPITALITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Hospitality Student Association scholarship was established to benefit members of the organization pursuing a career in the hospitality industry. A pair of students will each be awarded a $500 scholarship each year. The organization also hopes to add additional scholarships in the coming years, according to Emily Nielsen, president of the Hospitality Student Association. The association is a student organization for hospitality and tourism management majors and minors.

Hospitality Student Association uses the funds raised from its annual dues and proceeds from the annual Food and Wine Show to help support the scholarships.

DEAN VIRGINIA CLARK JOHNSON GRADUATE ENDOWMENT

The HD&E Board of Visitors at its spring 2015 meeting voted to change the name of its endowment to honor Dean Virginia Clark Johnson's 22 years of leadership and support. Established by the board, the endowment’s goal is to accumulate a minimum of $250,000 in the fund. The amount will allow an approximate annual award of $8,500 for scholarships to graduate students in the College of Human Development and Education.

Please join in honoring Clark Johnson's dedication to the university and its students. Your contribution will help continue her legacy of lifetime learning and service.

Donate online: www.ndsualumni.com/contribute. Enter your designation as “other” and provide the name of the scholarship.

Donate by phone: Call 701-231-6800. Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover accepted.

Donate by mail, send your gift to:
NDSU Annual Giving
NDSU Development and Alumni Association
1241 N. University Drive
P.O. Box 5144
Fargo, N.D. 58105-5144

Please designate your gift to the Dean Virginia Clark Johnson Graduate Endowment Scholarship.
JO RUUD

Jo Ruud began her teaching career in a one-room country school in western Nebraska following the Great Depression. She was in her mid-20s when her husband, a high school sweetheart, died in World War II. Ruud was a widow with a young son to support.

Ruud decided to go back to school at age 25. “I remember feeling really old,” she said. “But I got a lot of help from a lot of people.”

Ruud received help with housing, loans and part-time work at Iowa State University where she earned a bachelor’s degree in home economics education. She went on to earn a master’s degree from ISU and a doctorate from Penn State. Her son was a teenager when Ruud was offered the position of head of the Department of Home Economics Education at NDSU. She held the position from 1961-73.

Her experience at NDSU, as well as being a single parent and student older than average, led her to establish a $75,000 endowment with the NDSU College of Human Development and Education. The endowment will lead to scholarship opportunities students are in a similar situation.

“As an older student, sometimes its hard to get scholarships,” Ruud said. “As a single parent, it can be difficult to make a living and get through school.”

Following NDSU, Ruud became the state program leader for home economics Extension at the University of Wyoming. Upon retirement, Ruud and her second husband, Norman Ruud, retired to a hobby farm near Pelican Rapids, Minnesota. She remained active in the community and professionally, publishing two cookbooks. Her monthly column, “The Rural Homemaker,” appeared in the Lake Region Electric Cooperative newsletter for 20 years.

Ruud’s ties to NDSU remain strong.

“I have many memories of wonderful, intelligent, diligent students from my classes at NDSU,” Ruud said. “I’m pleased to be able to help support a new generation.”

HARRIS AND KATHRYN SEIDEL

Harris and Kathryn Seidel honor Harris’s parents with scholarships for North Dakota natives in the College of Human Development and Education and the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources. Harris’s father, Harry, graduated from the eighth grade at 17. He went on to become a successful farmer in Wells County, North Dakota. Harris’s mother, Lillie, was a talented musician and music teacher with a sixth-grade education.

“My folks were classic farmers,” Harris said. “They somehow got through the Depression and did pretty well after that. They never went to NDSU. But we wanted to do something in North Dakota in their honor and we felt like the university was a perfect match for us. We feel like it’s something they would have appreciated.”

Harris Seidel grew up on his family’s farm near Fessenden, North Dakota. He attended community college in California before earning a civil engineering degree at Iowa State University in the 1940s. Harris worked for the Water and Pollution Control Department in the city of Ames, Iowa, from 1951-91.

Kathryn was a health and safety trainer at the American Red Cross for 25 years. She has been a Girl Scout for 60 years, holding almost every office at the local level.

Harris and Kathryn, who have five grown children, live in Ames. The family had no previous ties to North Dakota State University prior to initiating the Harry and Lilly Seidel scholarships about a decade ago.

“I’m still very loyal to North Dakota,” Harris said. “It’s a great place to be born and grow up in. Having these scholarships is a great way to give back to the next generation. It’s the best investment we will probably ever make. And NDSU has felt like the right place to do this from the start.”

For more information about how you can help support the College of Human Development and Education, contact Virginia Clark Johnson at virginia.clark@ndsu.edu or 701-231-8212 or Nancy Gress at nancy.gress@ndsu.edu or 701-231-8216.
The Board of Visitors assists the College of Human Development and Education in its mission to expand enrollment, enhance opportunities for career success, promote ongoing relationships and provide financial support.

The board is a group of successful professionals who graduated from the College of Human Development and Education at NDSU with pride and have enthusiastically committed to sharing their career experience with students, faculty and leadership of the college.

The Board of Visitors in 2004 established a scholarship endowment for a junior or senior enrolled in the College of Human Development and Education with a demonstrated need and grade-point average of 3.0 and higher. The $1,350 scholarship for 2015-16 was awarded to Carson Wentz, a senior from Bismarck, North Dakota.

The Board of Visitors Graduate Scholarship was established to assist a graduate student during the research phase of their program. At their spring 2015 meeting, the board voted to change the name of the scholarship endowment to honor outgoing dean Virginia Clark Johnson’s 22 years of leadership and support. The endowment was renamed the Dean Virginia Clark Johnson Graduate Scholarship. The $3,000 award for 2015-16 was awarded to Maegan Jones from Chesapeake, Virginia.

The Board of Visitors also contributes to the Bison Bidder’s Bowl each year to support academic excellence. This year’s auction item was a bronzed lamppost with several bison as a centerpiece. The lamppost is almost 11 feet tall when fully assembled. The base has a square with a raised bison on each side. The top section has three sculpted bison with individual lighted globes underneath. The unique item raised $3,000 for student scholarships.

CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Julie Burgum</th>
<th>Deborah Davis</th>
<th>Sharyl Leinen</th>
<th>Kathleen Meagher</th>
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<tr>
<td>Britta Cabanos</td>
<td>Kirsten Froelich</td>
<td>Bonnie Lonbaken</td>
<td>Nancy Wolff</td>
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<td>Aileen Clough</td>
<td>Aaron Hansen</td>
<td>Kristi Salisbury</td>
<td>Virginia Clark Johnson</td>
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<td>Jakelle Cornell</td>
<td>Andrea Leedahl</td>
<td>Brooke Schommer</td>
<td>Nancy Gress</td>
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For more information about the board, visit www.ndsu.edu/hde/alumni_friends/board_of_visitors/current_board_members.

Left to right: Jakelle Cornell, Carson Wentz and Deb Davis commemorate Wentz’s selection as the recipient of the Board of Visitors undergraduate scholarship recipient.

Left to right: Jakelle Cornell, Maegan Jones and Deb Davis commemorate Jones’s selection as the first recipient of the Dean Virginia Clark Johnson Graduate Endowment Scholarship.
Ron Stammen, a longtime education administrator in the state of North Dakota and a professor emeritus at NDSU, died January 10. He was 76.

Stammen spent several years as an instructor and administrator in North Dakota before he arrived at NDSU. He was a business instructor at Drake, teaching principal in McVille, secondary principal in Northwood and superintendent in Turtle Lake. Stammen also spent 20 years as superintendent for Divide County Public Schools.

A fellowship brought Stammen to The Ohio State University to continue his education at age 48. He earned his doctorate in education at Ohio State.

Stammen worked at NDSU as a professor for the next 21 years. At NDSU, he helped lead the development of a statewide computer network for students and educators in K-12 and initiated the use of an interactive video network in North Dakota that enabled the first distance education student in the state to earn an advanced degree.

He also was instrumental in starting the NDSU doctoral program in education. Stammen earned many honors at NDSU, including the Greater North Dakota Association Educator Award for his devotion to the development and enhancement of education in North Dakota and the Peltier Award for innovative teaching.

He was named professor emeritus at NDSU in 2010.

The NDSU School of Education and College of Human Development and Education have established the Ron Stammen Memorial Scholarship for doctoral candidates in the School of Education.

Make your gift to the Ron Stammen Memorial Scholarship. To donate online, visit www.alumni.com/contribute. Select “Other” in the dropdown menu and designate your donation to the Ron Stammen Memorial Scholarship in the space provided.

As you read this publication, you will realize what a wonderful year the College of Human Development and Education has had because our alumni and friends have chosen us to be the recipients of their generosity.

Our food production laboratory complex had its ribbon-cutting ceremony in the fall during Homecoming. Our students continue to be amazed as they learn in a cutting-edge facility.

Your gifts allowed us to add 11 new funds to enhance student learning in 2014. Your generosity tells us that our desire to make a difference in the state, nation and world is on track with your expectations. Many of your contributions were geared toward scholarships. We gave a college-record 162 awards at this spring’s Honor’s Day. Thank you.

If you have any questions or ideas for future issues, please contact me at nancy.gress@ndsu.edu. Please contact me if you need information on existing opportunities for your contributions or if you are interested in starting a personal or family scholarship.

And always remember, our students, faculty and staff greatly appreciate your generosity. I encourage you to send us your updates, notes and emails. Come to campus if you have an opportunity. It would be great to give you an update and tour!

On a personal note, regarding the first article in the newsletter: I have worked for and with Virginia for over 22 years. I will truly miss her leadership and friendship.

My best,
Nancy, director of student services and advancement
701-231-8216 nancy.gress@ndsu.edu
Connect with us online!

Go to www.ndsu.edu/hde/alumni_friends, to share your success stories, check out scholarship information and how to make a donation.

Find the online version of this newsletter and other news from the College of Human Development and Education at www.ndsu.edu/hde/news_events. If you prefer to always read this newsletter online, please email NDSU.HDE.Magazine@ndsu.edu. Include your name and graduation year with the subject line “online magazine only.”

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