



# ALUMNINEWS



2023

# CHECK OUT WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH REUNIONS AND ALUMNI

Update your contact information so you don't miss out on any AlumniNews or future reunions. Go to the Fargo Public Schools Foundation web-site and check out the Alumni Network. You can reach the foundation office at (701) 446-1041 or through email at <a href="mailto:fpsfound@fargo.kl2.nd.us">fpsfound@fargo.kl2.nd.us</a>.





February 9th elevate a student and impact change. Your donation to the Fargo Public Schools Foundation Critical Needs Program gets students the resources they need to succeed right now!

Help someone.





Donations can be schedule now through February 7th or given on Giving Hearts Day at: <a href="https://app.givingheartsday.org/#/charity/42">https://app.givingheartsday.org/#/charity/42</a>.





Your donation of \$10 or more will be matched up to \$28,000 by the Dr. Calvin K. Fercho Family Foundation, Nodak Insurance Company, Drekker Brewing Company, Lunch Aid ND and generous supporters of the Foundation.

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# **ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT**

Cynthia Kierscht, Fargo North 1983 U.S. Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania



### WHAT HAVE YOU DONE SINCE GRADUATING?

After graduating from North High in 1983, I went to Carleton College for a B.A. in international relations and to Harvard University for a Master's Degree in Public Policy. I joined the U.S. Department of State in 1990 and have since served my country on four different continents using four different languages (Arabic, French, Spanish, and English, of course)!

Overseas, I have lived in Egypt, France, Tunisia, Libya, Morocco, Colombia, and now Mauritania. I also served in Washington, DC for half of my 32-year career, working in the Operations Center, traveling with Secretary Albright, in the Bureau of Counterterrorism (twice), and in the Bureaus of Near Eastern and Western Hemisphere Affairs.

Before my current posting, I was the Deputy Assistant Secretary in charge of Canada, the Caribbean and Haiti, overseeing 18 of our oversease posts and their almost 3,000 people.

I am currently the U.S. Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania where I represent the interests of the American people on a daily basis.

# HOW DO YOU FEEL YOUR EDUCATION AT FARGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS HELPED PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR CURRENT CAREER?

The education I received through the Fargo Public Schools prepared me extremely well for both my academic and professional careers. I think it is difficult for us to understand the excellent quality of our public schools until we test ourselves against others. I can confirm that coming from the Fargo Public Schools I was well-prepared to meet any academic and career challenges.

### **TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.**

I live in Nouakchott with my four adopted Mauritanian cats. My mother (Central High 1957), a retired college president, visits often and enjoys the cultural activities. My brother (North High 1986) lives in LA with his family and is a music producer.

### WHAT IS YOUR BEST MEMORY OF YOUR TIME AT FARGO NORTH?

While at North, I participated in both the orchestra playing the 'cello and in debate and remember fun times going on road trips for competitions and concerts. Dressing up for Homecoming and Prom was also fun.

### WHO INSPIRED YOU THE MOST AT FARGO NORTH AND WHY?

I had many incredible teachers at North including French teacher Hebe Shipp, English teacher Rhoda Hanson, and History teacher R.D. Olsen, all of whom were inspirational in their own way. Some of my inspiration for the Foreign Service must have come from my grandmother, Cynthia Selland, who was a teacher in the Fargo Public Schools for almost 40 years. I had her geography course in seventh grade and will never forget spending the year trying not to call her "Granny." Other unforgettable teachers I had at Ben Franklin include David Midgarten and Berniece Binford for English, and Alpha Ottis for French.

If you ever find yourself in West Africa, please feel free to look me up and visit!



# FARGO SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL 2022 HALL OF FAME RECIPIENTS



The purpose of the Fargo South High School (FSHS) Hall of Fame is to honor and recognize alumni and/or FSHS personnel. Recipients must have brought special recognition to themselves or the school by demonstrating high qualities of character and leadership during or following their time at FSHS. The award can also be given to others who have given meritorious service to FSHS.



### **JAMES CAUFIELD - CLASS OF 1972**

It is rare for a coach to single out one player, especially when summarizing a legendary career in developing thousands of athletes, but the late Sam Neis did not hesitate when asked about the toughest athlete under his watch.

"Without a doubt, Jim Caufield," the coach said to South's all-conference nose guard. "God, he was a stud. Just mean and tough." The grit and determination didn't stop there with James Caufield. The 1972 South graduate joined the greatest team of them all, the United States Armed Forces. He signed up with the Air Force directly out of high school, where the Munitions Maintenance Specialist had the extremely dangerous task of handling explosives and pyrotechnic devices. He spent his days working in an area commonly referred to as a bomb dump.

The number of lives James saved with his meticulous attention to detail cannot be completely documented, although Air Force cohort Dennis Soukop recalls a day, "when the unthinkable occurred", and a weapon accidentally launched inside a building. "A catastrophic chain of events was about to begin," Dennis says. "Keeping a cool head, Airman Caufield assisted in removing the weapon to a safe location to allow it to burn out."

James rose to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant and became highly decorated with honors that included the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, and Air Force Achievement Medal, among numerous others. "His reputation and integrity were beyond reproach," says retired Air Force Col. John W. Ayres. James took courses over several years from 10 different colleges and universities before earning his degree in management and human resources in 1993. Following his retirement from the Air Force, he worked with various high-tech companies and owned small businesses.

James was forced to retire in 2012 from some long nagging injuries. He now has a 100% VA disability rating.

## **TANNI ANTHONY - CLASS OF 1975**

A professional in vision services, a North Dakota born legend is sought out by people around the world for expertise and inspiration in blindness, deafblindness, and intervention. Dr. Tanni Anthony is the Director of the Access, Learning, and Literacy Team in the Exceptional Student Leadership Unit within the Colorado Department of Education. Her title is long, her achievements are longer. Not that she needs an introduction.

"In all honesty, I have a very limited knowledge of her career accomplishments," says Paul Olson, superintendent of North Dakota Vision Services and School for the Blind. "What I do know is that everyone in our field nationwide knows her name and have benefited from her work." Tanni is the consultant on visual disabilities for the state of Colorado and the project



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#### FARGO SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME 2022 RECIPIENTS (CONTINUED)

director for children and youth with combined vision and hearing loss. She served as an adjunct instructor at several universities. She has been invited to be a keynote speaker and workshop presenter in places as far away as Qatar, where the 1975 South graduate was greeted at the airport with a limousine for one.

Dr. Robin Greenfield, Associate Director at the University of Idaho's Center on Disabilities and Human Development, says Tanni's presentation style is compelling, from being very funny, to explaining complicated issues in a simple and convincing manner.

"Tanni is a teacher, an orientation and mobility specialist, a college professor, a published author, an amazing storyteller, a mentor, and most of all an advocate for children with disabilities," says Gina Herrera, supervisor for the Colorado Department of Education. "At the end of the day, Tanni is about students with disabilities and ensuring they are receiving the services they require to be the best student and person they can be." Gina says. "She works many long hours because the work is far from being done."



### TOM GRAVEL - CLASS OF 1981

The number that sticks out in Thomas Gravel's curriculum vitae is 4.0. That was his grade-point average while taking classes leading to his master's degree and specialist degree in educational leadership, plus a doctorate in philosophy. While that impressive resumé would have been enough for Tom to rest on his laurels, he instead chose to take the road less traveled. That means helping every student and adult receive the education he believes they deserve.

"I can tell you, being his high school coach and teacher, Tom has lived a life that has not been one blessed with paved roads to travel on," Dale Hertel says. "He has paid the price of experience as he has amassed the knowledge to make his own path in excellence."

Tom currently serves as a principal of West Fargo Community High School, the district's alternative high school. He's also principal for the district's alternative middle program, director of adult education, and administrator of the home education, homeless, and Indian education programs.

He has contributed to numerous dropout prevention programs and seminars. He has been president of the North Dakota Association of Lifelong Learning and The Mountain Plains Adult Education Association, a 10-state region.

"His knowledge, expertise, and leadership extend well beyond the borders of our state," Says Richard Warner, retired South principal.

Tom began his career in education as a history teacher and coach in Wahpeton. He went on to teach social studies at Moorhead Public Schools and graduate courses at Minnesota State University Moorhead. He was principal at Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton for a decade.

While at South, the 1981 grad participated in football, wrestling, track, band, pep band, marching band, baseball, and DECA, where he was the group's president.

"Tom has dedicated himself to helping kids succeed in graduating from high school," says South graduate Brian Hayer. "He has promoted hard work, strong ethics, and compassion for others."

### TOM HOGE - CLASS OF 2007

It's been said that the first thing golf teaches is humility, the second, empathy, and the third, patience. Those qualities are manifest in Tom Hoge. So, too, are his skills, toughness, and determination on golf's biggest stage. He's ranked among the best players in the world. His low score on the PGA Tour is 62. He won at the hallowed Pebble Beach Golf Course, a day when he outdueled Jordan Spieth down the stretch.

His previous honors as a high school, college, and amateur player are too numerous to mention. "Tom has a work ethic, along with determination for success, that has allowed him to attain some very lofty goals," says Steve Kennedy, Tom's coach in high school when the 2007 graduate won 20 titles, set several school records, and led the Bruins to five straight state titles. "I believe Tom's biggest wins are still to come."



Tom has not forgotten his roots. While he was born in North Carolina and is revered in Texas, where as a sophomore at Texas Christian University he finished third in the NCAA nationals, he insists that starters on the first tee announce his hometown as Fargo.

His game is North Dakota tough. His personality is North Dakota nice. "There are many examples I can think of that show Tom's selflessness and his character," says Adam Gronaas, Tom's high school teammate. "Tom has been a great ambassador for golf, as well as a phenomenal role model and representative of our community and Fargo South High School on the national stage."

Gronaas and David Schultz, a fellow TCU and South golf standout, cite Tom's donations of clothing and hats to young players, his willingness to sign autographs at tour events, and myriad charitable endeavors. "Tom is very philanthropic," David says. "He has created a platform for himself and uses his means to do good."



### STEVE KENNEDY - FACULTY

Steve Kennedy built a pair of dynasties in his nearly three decades at Fargo South, one in the classroom, the other on the golf course.

As a physics teacher, he developed and expanded the program with various methods making it fun for students and allowing them to be successful. During the years he taught the class, enrollment ballooned from one section of classes to more than five at times. That's "attributed directly to Steve," says Carol Beaton, Steve's cohort in the science department.

Along with chairing the science and math departments, he ran pep fests, hosted lunches with students and staff, coached the Science Olympiad and Science Bowl teams, and was known to blast his favorite classic rock songs between periods. His talents also extend to the air guitar.

His students "learned how to love learning," says Jason Smedshammer, math department chair. "What a great legacy Mr. Kennedy gave to hundreds if not thousands of students!"

That legacy extended to the golf course, crafting a program that won 12 state championships in 18 years. He was a five-time North Dakota Coach of the Year and National Coach of the Year in 2008. He has since taken his teaching and coaching skills to NDSU, winning a Summit League Championship.

"Like in the classroom, he created an environment that allowed players to have fun and succeed," says Bill Carlson, one of his former golfers at South and NDSU. "His leadership comes from his personal character, charisma, and winning mentality," Carlson says.

Steve helped hone the skills of PGA Tour pro Tom Hoge, whose appreciation for his coach extended to a pair of tickets to see the prestigious Masters Tournament. It brought out emotions from a man with a big heart who wears it on his sleeve. "A lot of people know me, I'm a crier," Steve says.



# FARGO NORTH HIGH SCHOOL 2022 HALL OF FAME RECIPIENTS



Membership in the **North High School Hall of Fame** consists of graduates, advisors/coaches, and other individuals who have made exceptional contributions to North High School.



### **DOUG HUBER - CLASS OF 1974**

During Doug Huber's time at North, he was the secretary of the senior class and a five-time letter winner, lettering in hockey three years and football two. Huber was a member of the 1973-74 Fargo North hockey team that was the first to defeat Grand Forks Central in the playoffs during Central's 14-year reign as state hockey champions. North was defeated by Grand Forks Red River 2-1 in the championship game that season.

After high school, Huber earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration majoring in management from the University of North Dakota.

He has been in the financial industry as a loan officer for 37 years, with the last 12 years at Harwood State Bank. During this time, he has built a loyal client base, helped with the writing of new and existing loan guidelines into computer-friendly formats, and built an indirect loan portfolio that grew expediently.

Huber is active in the community, with 36 years as a member and previous officer of the Fargo-Moorhead Cosmopolitan Service Club, 25 years as a board member and previous officer of FM Athletics Youth Football Organization, and more than 30 years as an office official for the Fargo North boys and girls hockey programs. He has also coached for Babe Ruth Baseball and the Patriot Hockey Organization.

Huber and his wife Carole have a daughter, Allison (Tom) Ollenburger, grandchildren, Henry and Annabel, and son, Jon. Allison (2003) and Jon (2006) are North High School graduates and his grandchildren are currently enrolled at Longfellow Elementary School.

### **BRUCE LARSON - FACULTY**

Bruce Larson, a 1972 Concordia College graduate, majored in biology, health, and physical education, and lettered in both football and basketball. He received his Master's in Education Administration from NDSU. Larson taught in Maple Lake, MN, after which he was hired by Shanley High School assistant principal and head football coach Sid Cichy to teach Biology, Anatomy, and Physiology, and assist in coaching football, basketball, tennis, and golf. When Cichy retired in 1978, Larson was named Shanley's head football coach and led the football team to state championships in 1981 and 1983.

In 1987, Larson began teaching and coaching in the Fargo Public Schools. During his years at Fargo North, he taught AP Biology, Human Anatomy and



Physiology, Biology, Chemistry, and Physical Education and coached as an assistant in football, track, and was weight room supervisor. In 1989, he was named head football coach, succeeding Coach Dave Heide. In 1995, he helped lead the Spartans to their first state football championship. The Spartan football team took home a second state championship in 1999 when Larson was an assistant to Brett Sorenson. He retired from coaching in 2010 and from teaching in 2012.

After retirement, he has continued working in the area of crop adjustment and enjoys his time with his grandchildren, gardening, cross country skiing, golfing, and spending time in Arizona. His honors include: ND Coach of the year (1981, 1995); Concordia's Athletic Hall of Fame for football and basketball (1996); FNHS Teach of the Year (2012); JP II Catholic Schools Mike and Karen Hofer Deacon Award (2021) and the Hall of Fame (2021 & 2022) as a coach of the 1977 and 1983 Shanley football teams. Larson and his wife, Vicki, have been blessed with 50 years of marriage, three daughters (all Fargo North graduates), three son-in-laws, and eight grandchildren. Their oldest grandchild is now a Fargo North High School freshman.



### DR. SARAH (VICK) LIEN - CLASS OF 1993

Dr. Sarah (Vick) Lien is the daughter of Brady and Julie Vick and grew up on the northside of Fargo with her brother Michael and sister Kristina. She attended Longfellow Elementary School, Ben Franklin Middle School, and Fargo North High School.

She was a three-sport athlete at North, competing in basketball, volleyball, and track, and was a concert master of the orchestra. She graduated from Fargo North with Honors in 1993. North provided not only a strong

academic foundation but also a culture of hard work and achievement. She had smart, well read, caring, inclusive teachers, and was surrounded by intelligent and hard-working classmates.

Dr. Lien spent her undergraduate years at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, was awarded a music and academic scholarship, and played in the Concordia College Orchestra. She graduated in 1997 with Honors in BA in biology and minors in chemistry and psychology.

She attended the University of North Dakota School of Medicine from 1997-2001. There, she was the class president, found her passion for pediatrics, met her future husband, Dr. David Lien, M.D., and graduated with Honors. She completed a pediatrics residency at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor from 2001-2004.

In 2004, she moved back to Fargo to join the Pediatrics Department at MeritCare (now Sanford). She is a clinical associate professor in pediatrics for the UND School of Medicine and enjoys teaching medical students and residents. She found her niche in Pediatric Urgent Care.

Dr. Lien and her husband have three children, Anna (FNH Class of 2022), James (FNH Class of 2024), and Mia (FNH Class of 2031). They love to spend their time supporting their children in their academics and activities and also cheering for all of the Fargo North Spartans.

# YOU CAN IMPACT A STUDENT'S LIFE!

DONATE AT THE FARGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION WEB-SITE.



#### **CRITICAL NEEDS PROGRAM**

The Critical Needs Program is organized to ensure that each and every student who needs help with basic needs receives support.



# INNOVATIVE EDUCATION, MUSIC & LITERACY GRANTS

Innovative education, music, and literacy grants are available to provide classroom resources for innovative educational and literacy projects.



#### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Foundation administers scholarships on behalf of community businesses, families, and organizations.



#### **DESIGNATED & PROJECT FUNDS**

The Foundation assists with special fundraising and school programs, and collects designated school donations throughout the year.

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# **UPCOMING REUNIONS**

You can find FPS reunion information and links at the Fargo Public School Foundation web-page under the Alumni Network tab.

# FARGO NORTH CLASS OF 1973 June 23-24, 2023



Friday, June 23- Tour of North High, bus to Mark Vining's vineyard with tour and tastings, casual meet and greet in the evening.

Saturday, June 24- Dinner with live music (Jon Storley's band, plus a Dash Rip-Rock Reunion) at El Zagel, 1429 3rd St N., Fargo.

For information on how to purchase tickets <u>click here</u> or go to the FPS Alumni Network page.

### FARGO SOUTH CLASS OF 1973 June 9, 2023



It's official the 50th Reunion will be Friday, June 9, 2023! Celebration will take place at Sidestreet Grille & Pub, 404 4th Ave N., Fargo.

For more information visit the <u>Fargo South Class of 73</u> Facebook page.

## FARGO NORTH CLASS OF 1983 June 30, 2023



The 40th Reunion will be held at the El Zagel Shrine, 1429 3rd St N., Fargo!

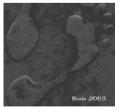
## FARGO NORTH CLASS OF 2013 June 16-17, 2023



The 10th Reunion is planned with events that include a golf scramble, tour of North High, class gathering, and a family picnic with food trucks.

For more information and registration <u>click here</u> or go to the FPS Alumni Network.

## FARGO SOUTH CLASS OF 2003 June 17, 2023



The 30th Reunion will be from 7:00pm-11:00pm at the Prairie Den in the Black Building, 118 N. Broadway, Suite S1, Fargo. For more information click here.

Tickets can be purchased by <u>clicking here</u> or going to the FPS Alumni Network page.

# FARGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS REUNIONS

# Hello Alumni!

If you have an upcoming reunion, or held a reunion let us know. We will make sure it is in the AlumniNews and shared on our social media.

Contact us at :
701.446.1041
or
fpsfound@fargo.k12.nd.us









# 2022 REUNION FUN

FARGO NORTH CLASS OF 1972 REUNION HELD JULY 15-17, 2022





FARGO SOUTH CLASS OF 1977 REUNION HELD JULY 22, 2022





# GIFTS IN HONOR, CELEBRATION, OR MEMORY OF SOMEONE SPECIAL

#### **HONOR A MEMORY**

A memorial donation provides the opportunity to make a donation in memory of a loved one or friend. When an "in memory" gift is received, the Fargo Public Schools Foundation will send a card to the family letting them know that you have honored their loved one's memory with a meaningful gift, amount is not noted.

### **GIVE A GIFT BY GIVING**

Instead of presents or flowers, honor someone special with a donation to the Fargo Public Schools Foundation. Honor alumni, loved ones or anyone special with a donation. Recognize birthdays, anniversaries, promotions, retirement, achievements, or any special occasion. We will send a card with a meaningful message to the honoree, amount is not noted.

Go to the <u>Fargo Public Schools</u> <u>Foundation</u> web-site to honor someone today.



### FARGO SOUTH CLASS OF 1982 REUNION HELD JULY 8, 2022



### FARGO NORTH CLASS OF 1991 REUNION HELD JULY 29, 2022



### FARGO NORTH CLASS OF 1997 REUNION HELD JULY 15, 2022



# REMEMBERING THOSE WE HAVE LOST

We will always cherish our alumni, teachers, administrators, and FPS staff that have been lost. We have provided a space to memorialize those who have passed at the Alumni Network webpage.



Obituaries are listed for those who attended and worked at Fargo Public Schools. Go to the Alumni Network page at the Fargo Public Schools Foundation web-site.

Fargo Central High School

Fargo Davies High School

Fargo North High School

Fargo South High School

<u>Dakota High School, formerly</u> <u>Woodrow Wilson High School</u>

Fargo Public Schools Staff

Please note that the Alumni Network website list includes updates reported by family, friends, newspapers and other sources. It may not be all inclusive of all those that have been lost.

If you have a remembrance you would like us to post please contact us at <u>fpsfound@fargo.k12.nd.us</u>.

# FARGO NORTH CLASS OF 2001 REUNION HELD JULY 29-31, 2022



FARGO SOUTH & FARGO DAVIES CLASS OF 2012
REUNION HELD AUGUST 12, 2022







# **ALUMNI NOTES**

# **★** 2023 HALL OF FAME CLASS ★



Three Fargo Public School alumni will be inducted into the Fargo Post 2 American Legion Hall of Fame on February 19th. Eric Grande graduated from Fargo North in 1999, Travis Koehn graduated from Fargo South in 1999, and the late Jeff Stevens graduated from Fargo South in 1992.

For more information and to purchase tickets go to: <a href="https://www.post2baseball.com/banquet">https://www.post2baseball.com/banquet</a>



The Fargo Public Schools Foundation is working with Coach Mailloux to construct a gray track surface. There is a February 24th deadline to secure sufficient funding to achieve this surface color change. Coach Mailloux is providing a significant donation to this project. The cost of surfacing the track is \$86,000.00. To trigger Coach Mailloux's donation we need to raise \$30,000 by February 24th to make the project a reality. This is where your help is needed.

Why a gray track instead of red like most tracks everywhere else? Because North High isn't like everywhere else! The prospect of having the campus' first-ever track facility is an opportunity to make it special, and not like everyone else. The other special feature would be having the relay exchange zones appearing fully in blue, as opposed to the typical line indicating the start and finish of the exchange zones. This will give the newly constructed track facility the boost it needs to be one of the best facilities and destinations in Fargo to host a track meet. Help support this project at: <a href="https://bit.ly/NorthTrack">https://bit.ly/NorthTrack</a>



#### Mission~

"Partnering with Fargo
Public Schools, their alumni,
and the greater community
to enrich and enhance
learning experiences to
maximize student
potential."



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