CREATING FUTURES

Normandale alum answers call of the wild

Normandale Community College, A member of Minnesota State
PRESIDENT'S NOTE
You are Building Student Success
On September 23, 1968, Normandale Community College opened its doors to the public for the first day of classes. During the 2018-19 academic year, we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of Normandale's first year as we honor the college's history and look forward to the future.

As we look back, it is remarkable to see the amazing foresight the pioneers of Normandale had and how their early decisions still play a role in our current success. It is apparent that the pioneers of the college placed a high value on student success. That was the essence of Normandale 50 years ago and it continues to be the motivating factor that drives all of our decisions today.

The theme of student success is one that exists throughout this summer newsletter. The cover story features Normandale Alum Rob Schultz, who was a scholarship recipient, and is currently the Director of the International Wolf Center. In this issue, we will be featuring success stories of Normandale scholarship recipients, recapping the Philip Danielson Vacuum Technology Center Naming event and providing an update on the upcoming 50th Anniversary events in 2018-19.

One of the aspects that milestone anniversaries often bring about is reflection. As we move into our 50th year of existence, we are looking forward to honoring all of the great students, alum, faculty, staff, community members and donors who have made Normandale what it is today. We thank you for all of your contributions and invite you to reach out to us, share your stories and join us to celebrate at the 50th Anniversary events. For more information visit normandale.edu/celebrate50.

Joyce C. Ester, Ph.D.
President, Normandale Community College

FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR NOTE
We Ask for Your Continued Help
As President of the Normandale Community College Foundation Board of Directors, it is truly rewarding to hear from appreciative students who have been notified that they will be receiving a scholarship to continue their education. Often, with tears in their eyes, they express how much their scholarship will help them continue in school. It is also gratifying to look over a “sea” of graduating students, many of whom are first generation college graduates, and know that we have helped them accomplish their educational goal. This really exemplifies what the Normandale Foundation represents.

Our Foundation is comprised of a group of about 15 volunteers and a small staff of individuals who are passionate about raising funds to make it easier for Normandale students to pursue their educational dreams. In fact, we provided over 535 scholarship awards during the 2017-18 school year! On behalf of the Foundation, we want to thank our many donors who make it possible through the contribution of your resources to present scholarships and financial aid to many deserving students.

We, as volunteers, serve Normandale with time, talents and pocket books because we realize the importance of helping our students succeed. The vision of the Foundation is to be able to double and triple the number of scholarships we currently offer. Of course, we can only accomplish this through more contributions. Our ask of you is to recognize the phenomenal education and support students receive at Normandale, and include the Foundation in your annual giving plan or even a legacy gift through your estate plan. It doesn’t have to be a lot. We make a little go a long way. We ask only that you give, so others can have the support they need to accomplish their educational pursuits.

YOUR CHARITABLE GIVING AND THE NEW TAX LAW
Ways to Maximize the Tax Benefit of Your Gift
Many donors are wondering how recent changes to the federal tax law will affect their charitable giving. Starting in 2018, you can deduct charitable gifts of cash up to 60 percent of your adjusted gross income—up from 50 percent under the previous law. Other ways to give include:

Your Gifts of Appreciated Stock
If you own stocks, mutual funds, or other publicly traded securities that have increased in value, you may want to consider using these assets to make charitable gifts. Gifts of appreciated property (held more than one year) can be deducted at fair market value. Even if you do not itemize your tax deductions, you may still benefit by avoiding capital gains tax on the appreciated property.

Gifts That Provide Income to You
You may wish to consider the benefits of using appreciated assets to fund a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust. These gift options not only offer capital gains tax savings, but also provide income.

Gifts From Your IRA
If you are age 70 ½ or older, you can make a qualified charitable distribution of up to $100,000 directly from your IRA without having to recognize the distribution as income. This option provides tax savings even if you do not itemize deductions.

Gifts In Your Will, Trust, or Other Estate Plan
Some people choose to designate the Normandale Foundation as the beneficiary of retirement assets, which is a simple and tax-efficient way to make an estate gift. Family or friends who inherit assets from a tax-deferred retirement plan will have to pay income tax when they withdraw the funds. However, if left to the Foundation, these assets will pass tax-free.

If you have already remembered Normandale in one of these ways, thank you for your generosity! We hope you will inform us so we may include you as part of our donor recognition event in the spring.
Brittni Heinonen loved learning and started playing “school” as a little girl. However, she almost didn’t get to realize her dream of becoming a teacher until she received some scholarship help.

As a youngster, she assigned her stuffed animals homework, which she would complete and then grade. She went on to coach volleyball during high school, became a nanny and worked at an insurance company to afford attending Normandale.

“The feeling I get when I watch a student struggle and then succeed—that is very rewarding,” Brittni says. “Students can have so many issues, sometimes their teacher is the only stable person in their life. Right now, I’m learning tactics to engage sixth graders.”

Normandale’s teacher education program requires students to attend full-time, so receiving a scholarship becomes even more crucial for students who want to be teachers. It’s challenging to afford full-time tuition, sometimes students are forced to consider quitting for the sole reason that they can’t afford it. As the recipient of a Weiss scholarship, Brittni is able to stay in college.

Research shows that graduation rates decline when students take time off to work. Your gift makes a big difference in helping future teachers graduate with their degree!

Zach Koestler had a hard time getting started in life, but once he enrolled at Normandale, he finally settled on his purpose.

His Weiss scholarship helped launch him into the Pathways education program at Minnesota State University, Mankato, where he is completing his studies to become a K-3 teacher, hopefully to work in the metro area.

“My middle school teacher, Mr. Gatti, helped me turn my life around and inspired me to care about succeeding in school,” Zach said. “That is the type of student I like to work with, ‘troubled youth’ that think they have no ability.”

Zach tried out various programs at different schools before arriving at Normandale, where he volunteered at an education conference and attended a workshop for childhood trauma. The workshop helped him understand the kids at the daycare where he worked. That’s when it all clicked, he had found his career path.

Since Zach is self-funding his education, his scholarship supplements income from his part-time jobs enough to help him transition to his next two-year program. Without that help, he would have to take time off. “Getting a scholarship definitely helped my GPA, I made the Dean’s List!” He revealed.

“Thank you for your help in realizing my dream of becoming a teacher!”

Cherie Cortes has made it. As a mother of three (one of which has been diagnosed with a disability), she found herself in the position of sole provider.

As a recipient of the Adkins Family Scholarship and the Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau awards, she was interested in pursuing a career in hospitality or customer service. With your help, she completed her associate of science degree. “Because of the great education I received at Normandale and the financial assistance I received through scholarships, I was able to break into a field I had not considered,” said Cortes. “I now am a claims adjuster for a major insurance company. “She credits the diversity at Normandale for giving her confidence in handling people. Even better, her employer will pay for her to complete her bachelor’s degree next year.

Stephen Tidjani could not predict his future when he enrolled at Normandale in 2013, but now he predicts the future for a living. “I didn’t have a lot of money, and needed to go somewhere inexpensive and close to home,” said Tidjani. “At first, I wasn’t really absorbing anything.” Getting the Ernie and Jeannie Lindstrom Scholarship allowed him to work less and spend more time focusing on learning, which led to success and eventually a transfer to Minnesota State University, Mankato to finish a bachelor’s degree in computer technology. Now he works at a national health care company and provides physicians with data that predicts who will get diabetes in the next two years.

Wendy Pekarek didn’t know how she was going to do it, but she was determined to anyway. At age 55, she is close to becoming a registered nurse, thanks to the help she got from the Adkins Family Scholarship. “I was a single parent, and it was really hard to make the time to go to back to school” she says. “I went part-time to Normandale until I could enter the full-time nursing program. I will never forget the day I got to meet my donor and thank him. He was so humble. Someday I want to be like him and give back!”
YOUR BRICK PURCHASE MAKES GRADUATION POSSIBLE

A scholarship creates a bridge that helps students graduate from Normandale.

Most of our graduates transfer to 4-year schools before they launch into the community. It’s a journey with many potential obstacles. Even modest amounts can make the difference to our students. Many recipients report that just “knowing someone believes in me motivates me to keep going”, and “I don’t have to pick between school and bills”. These comments motivate us to keep growing our scholarship funds, with your help.

Personalized bricks and granite benches will fill Normandale’s Brick Garden, a place of respite and reflection near the beautiful Japanese Garden. Your tax-deductible purchase provides funding for student scholarships and innovative programs at Normandale. For Brick Garden details, go to https://polarengraving.com/normandalecommunitycollegefoundation.

If you have questions, contact the Normandale Foundation Office at 952-358-8147. Thank you for supporting Normandale students! Reserve your brick by August 1, 2018 to choose a premium location for your brick.

Two ways to order a brick: 1. Go online at www.polarengraving.com/NormandaleCommunityCollegeFoundation

2. Complete the information below and send back in the enclosed envelope

Brick Engraving (write message, one letter per box):
4” x 8” engraved red brick $100; with Normandale Logo or your business logo $130

8” x 8” engraved brick $350; with Normandale Logo or your business logo $400

12” x 12” engraved brick $500; with Normandale Logo or your business logo $750

If ordering a brick with logo, do not write in shaded area

Circle Logo if requested:

Name:__________________________Donor Information:
Address:________________________City:________________State:______Zip:_____
Email:_________________________Phone:______________________

Total Purchase Amount:_________Make Check Payable to Normandale Foundation

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YOUR LEGACY OF GIVING: ALUMNI WHO CHANGE THE WORLD

by Haley Sargent

I recently had the privilege of interviewing Normandale Community College alumnus Rob Schultz, who is the Executive Director of the International Wolf Center in Ely. As a huge fan of wolves and a Normandale student myself, I was thrilled to learn how his time at Normandale has benefitted him throughout his career.

It seems that Rob was destined to work in the outdoors. During his childhood, Rob’s family would often spend time camping and enjoying nature in Minnesota’s state parks. After graduating from Jordan High School in 1988, he took a summer job at a Boy Scout camp. This experience helped him discover his passion for the work he would eventually do. The following fall he arrived at Normandale.

It wasn’t easy at first. Rob recalls feeling very nervous and overwhelmed by the size of Normandale after coming from the smaller learning community of Jordan High School. “Normandale was a huge campus for me,” said Schultz. With the help of instructors and his fellow students, he soon felt at home. As he worked toward his Associate of Arts in Liberal Education, he studied biology, geology, and photography, finding particular inspiration in Mary Strother’s photography class. He also wrote for the student newspaper. Like many Normandale students, he benefitted from financial aid, receiving a grant and a scholarship from the Foundation which he describes as being “a huge help in being able to make it through school.” Reflecting on his years at Normandale, Rob says that the thing that had the biggest impact on him was the variety of learning experiences:

“There were so many options that I never had coming from a small school district,” said Schultz. “When I went to Normandale, I could choose from many different kinds of classes, [and] there were always many different ways to get involved. It really broadened my view in so many different ways. I really appreciated that broad spectrum of opportunities.”

After graduating from Normandale in 1990, Rob continued his education at Minnesota State University, Mankato where he received his Bachelors of Science in Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Services. He credits Normandale with helping prepare him for his time there, particularly in that Normandale allowed him to have his generals completed so that he was able to concentrate on his major when he got to Minnesota State Mankato.

With his education completed, Rob began his career working for non-profits. His first position as an Executive Director was at the International Peace Garden. “It taught me a lot about myself and how to lead a non-profit organization,” said Schultz. Rob has a deep passion for the outdoors and educating the public, which made it no surprise that he ended up at the International Wolf Center.

“There’s nothing better than to be out there talking with a large group of people and seeing the lights go on as you are talking about a subject,” said Schultz.

Even now, nearly 30 years after his time at Normandale, Rob can still see how the skills he gained and the support he received are helping him. He uses what he learned in his photography classes as a nature photographer, and his writing skills gained from classes and the student newspaper as he puts together articles for the Wolf Center’s magazine International Wolf. “I use those skills every day, it’s part of who I am,” said Schultz. “You really gain a lot when you take those kinds of courses. As a student, I didn’t know at the time how I was going to use that information later, but it becomes a part of the fabric of who you are, that you carry on to so many other experiences.” Rob’s advice to current Normandale students: “Explore your horizons… Normandale is a wonderful place to sample a lot of different disciplines and to really learn about who you are, it’s a great community in itself.”

YOUR GIFTS SUSTAIN THE COLLEGE

Normandale Community College held an official naming ceremony and ribbon cutting for the Philip Danielson Vacuum Technology Center on April 27.

Phil was an engineer, inventor and entrepreneur in the Chicago area who passed away in April 2015. He also owned Danielson Associates, a manufacturer’s rep company in Illinois. His wife Doris selected Normandale to be the repository of over 50 online technical articles Phil wrote over the course of his career. When she passed away, Phil and Doris, in their will, left over $578,000 that have gone toward scholarships for the Vacuum Technology Program.

“We are incredibly honored that our program was the recipient of Phil and Doris Danielson’s extreme generosity,” said Normandale Vacuum Technology Instructor Del Smith. “Phil cared deeply about the Vacuum Technology field, and was a mentor and teacher to many people in it. The scholarships will provide future opportunities for many Normandale students in the field for years to come.”

YOUR GIFTS BUILD THE LOCAL TECH EMPLOYEE POOL

David Niday always knew he wanted to go into a field related to engineering, but when he transferred to Normandale Community College he was not sure where his path was going to take him. Normandale Instructor Del Smith suggested he try the Vacuum Technology introductory class.

“When I took the Introduction to Vacuum Technology class I knew this was the right fit,” said Niday. “It was applying the science I enjoyed learning about into real-world thinking. The classes drove me to want to excel in the field.”

Niday received the Philip Danielson Vacuum Technology scholarship, which fully funded his introductory courses and one advanced course. This scholarship provides a relatively risk-free way to see if the career path is a good fit.

“As someone who was going to school full-time and also working, the Danielson Scholarship eased the financial burden and allowed me to focus on succeeding in the courses,” said Niday. “The scholarships are going to be helpful to so many students for a long time.”

Niday graduated in May and is currently working with Anderson Dahlen as a Vacuum Technician.
Fifty years ago this fall, Normandale gave me an opportunity to create my future. Like many of you, that future was unknown, but we gladly accepted the challenge of being the best we could be. Today I have returned to the college to help celebrate its’ 50th Anniversary. I hope you can join me, and perhaps share some memories of your journey through Normandale and beyond.

Last fall I stopped by the college exploring volunteering opportunities, and little did I know I would be asked to join the planning process for the 50th Anniversary Celebration. You can explore what we’ve been doing at: www.normandale.edu/celebrate50.

The year-long celebration kicks off on September 22, 2018 with “Normandale’s Magical History Tour”, designed as an Open House drop-in all-class reunion with music, a trivia contest, and a speaker panel with alumni and retirees. Opportunities abound for you to reconnect with the students, faculty, staff and the campus itself. From walking in Bloomington Heritage Days with your children or grandchildren, to celebrating as part of the Student Jubilee, to the Faculty and Friends Talent Show, and many of the other wonderful events that have been planned.

Creating your future and finding your American Dream is and always has been your challenge. Normandale was the first step in that journey. My hope is that your future includes a look back at your beginnings and the enjoyment of coming back to where it all started for us. The Lion lives in all of us.

Jim “Skip” York
Normandale Class President 1969-70

Saturday, September 15, 2018
Storytelling for Changing Times: A Storytelling Festival
11 am-5:30 pm, Garden Room - Kopp Student Center

Saturday, September 22, 2018
50th Jubilee Open House Celebration
9 am-12 pm, Fine Arts Building

Japanese Garden Festival
11 am-5:30 pm, Kopp Student Center & Japanese Garden

Monday, September 24, 2018
Student Jubilee Celebration
11 am-2 pm, Fine Arts Building & College Green

Normandale Trivia Event
4-6 pm, Garden Room - Kopp Student Center

Friday, September 28, 2018
Creative Writing Festival
9 am-3 pm, Garden Room - Kopp Center

Thursday, November 15, 2018
Bystander Effect Presentation with Mark Snyder
3:30 pm, Lorenz Auditorium - Fine Arts Bldg.

Thursday, April 11, 2019
Faculty and Friends Talent Show
3:30 pm, Lorenz Auditorium - Fine Arts Bldg.

April 2019
Normandale Foundation Ovations Celebration
Normandale Campus

Monday, May 20, 2019
Commencement Ceremony
6:30 pm, Orchestra Hall, Mpls., MN

Haley Sargent is a Normandale alumna, graduating this year with an AFA in Creative Writing and previously with an AA in Liberal Education. During her time at Normandale, she was awarded two scholarships: the Success through Perseverance scholarship in 2016-17 and the Kevin Downey Memorial scholarship in 2017-18. “These scholarships allowed me to complete my degrees with minimal debt which has helped financially prepare me for furthering my education at a four-year university.” This fall she will be transferring to the University of Northwestern to pursue theatre and biology.

Haley Sargent, Normandale alumna and cover story writer