First Steps to the Finish Line!

A generous grant helps fund an innovative new scholarship program focused on degree completion and life preparation.

page 6
PAYING IT FORWARD

NORMANDALE'S SCHOLARSHIP AND DONOR RECOGNITION EVENT CELEBRATES A COMMITMENT TO CREATING NEW FUTURES.

More than 200 scholarship recipients, donors, Normandale staff and faculty, Foundation Board members, family, and friends attended the annual Scholarship and Donor Recognition Event on Thursday, April 9, 2015. Celebration was in the air as the Foundation acknowledged the talented scholarship recipients—along with many generous donors. Normandale student and Foundation scholarship recipient Heather Christopher delivered a heartfelt speech about the importance of financial support. “I am willing to put in the work it takes to complete this program, and my family is willing to support me, but we still need help,” she noted. “That is why the scholarship program is so life-changing. It is not just a handout of funds, but rather the difference in the future success of generations to come.”

This year, the Foundation awarded nearly $600,000 including support of a number of new initiatives. To contribute toward a scholarship and empower students such as Heather, contact the Foundation at 952-358-8147 or foundation@normandale.edu. You can also use the donation envelope in this issue to make a contribution.

Tia Aguillar, student, receives handshake from Foundation Director Colleen Simpson.

Left to right: Instructor Deb Sidd, President Emeritus Tom Haras, his wife Jo, and Joanne Haras Memorial Scholarship recipient Katie Hamilton with her family.

Sharon and Doug MacDonald pose with their scholarship recipient Marissa Harper.

Brian Rose, student, receives handshake and certificate from Dr. Ester.

How did receiving a scholarship help you? “My family has always supported my efforts, but they could not afford my college fees at the time. This scholarship provided me with an opportunity to pursue the career of my dreams and make a difference in the lives of people related to healthcare in technology.”

Dai (Jimmy) Le, ’13, was awarded the Team Service-Learning Scholarship in 2011. Jimmy recently accepted a full-time position as a software engineer at UnitedHealth Group and is pursuing a Master’s degree in Computer Science at the University of St. Thomas.

How did receiving a scholarship help you? “I am deeply appreciative of the scholarship support I received while attending Normandale. Receiving a scholarship made it possible for me to return to college and work toward my goal of becoming a licensed teacher. I am passionate about education and dedicated to reaching at-risk students through intervention and differentiated instruction. The scholarship I received was an investment in my education. I am committed to paying it forward by better meeting the needs of students I work with now and in the future.”

Past Scholarship Recipients: Where are they now?

Paula David, ’14, was awarded the Kopp Foundation Scholarship in 2012. Paula works as an intervention paraprofessional with sixth-grade students. She’s pursuing her Elementary Education and Middle School Math teaching licensure through Bemidji State University.

How did receiving a scholarship help you? “I am very grateful for the scholarship support I received while attending Normandale. Receiving a scholarship made it possible for me to return to college and work toward my goal of becoming a licensed teacher. I am passionate about education and dedicated to reaching at-risk students through intervention and differentiated instruction. The scholarship I received was an investment in my education. I am committed to paying it forward by better meeting the needs of students I work with now and in the future.”

Joyce C. Ester, Ph.D.
President
Normandale Community College
When you walk into Normandale’s south main entrance (in the College Services area) and climb the stairs, one of the first places you will encounter is the Tutoring Center. The college intentionally designed the space to make it a noticeable and inviting place.

“We believe the Tutoring Center is a resource for any student who wants to use it,” says Tutoring Center Coordinator Beena Cook. “We want to provide the opportunity for students to succeed and get the most out of the classes they are taking.”

With a variety of available services, a friendly and extremely qualified staff, and its highly visible location, the Tutoring Center continues to see the numbers of students it serves increase. Since the 2011-12 academic year, the number of visits to the center has more than doubled. By the beginning of the 2015 summer semester, it had garnered nearly 15,000 visits since fall 2014 (including a little more than 8,600 this past spring).

Location, location, location

Supplemental Instruction Coordinator Adam Perry is a Normandale alumnus (’09). His initial experience at the college illustrates why the new location is so critical. Perry took time off between graduating from high school and taking classes at Normandale. When he started classes in 2009, he took a calculus course and began to struggle. Math, in high school, had been a strong area for him. Perry thought about getting a tutor, but he was unsure where to go. He eventually decided to drop the class.

In fall of 2012, the Tutoring Center found its new home, at a location formerly held by the Campus Store, and the different services merged and went to the current location on the second floor of College Services.

Director of Student Support Services Debbie Tillman is pleased with the current location. “It is a best practice to try to unite tutoring services in a visible location and have a unified method to gather data,” she explains. “When the administration decided to move the Tutoring Center to the current location, they really showed a strong commitment to make it successful. It also helped all of the services work together to maximize the overall effectiveness of the Tutoring Center.”

Supplemental Instruction

One of the Tutoring Center areas that has shown extraordinary recent growth is Supplemental Instruction. The Supplemental Instruction model is to have a student who has already completed and succeeded in a class sit in on the same class in a later semester, and offer his or her help to individuals in that class.

At the beginning of each semester, the Supplemental Instructors (SIs) explain their roles and poll the students for a time to meet for tutoring that works best for a group. This has turned out to be a comfortable and efficient way for students to work with SIs.

When Perry took over as SI Coordinator, there were nine SIs. Today there are more than 70 serving 49 courses and 127 sections, as compared to 17 courses and 60 sections in the fall of 2013.

The students being tutored are not just those in the same class. “We have seen a huge jump in the number of volunteer tutors. In particular, retired Normandale instructors and retired students make up the majority of the tutoring,” Perry says. “We understand people are really busy. Our goal is to help enhance their overall experience of the class, and provide a resource to help them succeed.”

Community involvement

Normandale has also seen growth in the number of volunteer tutors. In particular, retired Normandale instructors and retired students of the community from different areas of industry have helped tutor students.

“I had one individual call me out of the blue and say he had spare time, a Ph.D. in chemistry, and that he would love to help out,” says Perry. “He comes every day from 1 to 4 p.m. to tutor students in chemistry. Our students have had great experiences with the community members and retirees who offer their time to tutor.”

Don Parks and Gene Olson worked with each other at Emerson Processing (which was named Rosemount at the time). Parks was an electrical engineer, while Olson was a software programmer. Both are currently retired and volunteer at the Tutoring Center. Parks gains a great deal of satisfaction working with the students.

“They enjoy working with us,” he says. “I get a lot of enjoyment working with the students to help them out,” said Parks. It is a great feeling when I can help them understand something they are struggling with. I believe that I get as much out of the great experience of working with the students as they get from me.”

The Tutoring Center continues to look for ways to formalize a program for community members to volunteer for these opportunities, and is excited about building on the response they have received from students and community members.

English For Academic Purposes (EAP) and English as a Second Language (ESL)

As of the 2013-14 academic year, students from 52 different nations attended the college. Some of them needed help adjusting to taking courses in their non-native language. At the beginning of the academic year, the Tutoring Center hired Catherine Nordlie as a full-time EAP tutor. Linda Cohen also serves as a part-time EAP tutor. “We have seen a huge jump in the number of students working with our EAP tutors,” says Cook. “Catherine and Linda really understand the complexities of why students can have trouble changing from one language to another. Our Foundation starts with respect for the students, and the fact that we see EAP as a skill.”

Nordlie has an office in the Tutoring Center.
**FIRST STEPS TO THE FINISH LINE**

In the fall of 2014, Normandale received a $200,000 grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation to fund the Finish Line Scholarship program. The Otto Bremer Foundation is providing up to $4 million over two years to 10 institutions in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System. The grant’s goal: improve student semester-to-semester persistence and on-time certificate and degree completion.

The Otto Bremer Foundation knows there are many students who face financial, academic, and other struggles to accomplish their educational goals. With financial assistance and quality academic and social supports, research shows students with these obstacles can persist and complete their degrees.

As part of the program, individuals demonstrating a high financial need to complete their degree were selected for a 45-member cohort. All were within one to two semesters of completing an associate degree.

“One of our main goals was to give students long-term tools for success,” says Finish Line Program Coordinator Richard Webb. “The grant provided us with the means to help students complete their degrees. However, we also wanted to show them the many resources on- and off-campus that they had available when it came to making decisions about their next steps in life.”

**Four steps to success**

Students selected for the cohort were eligible to receive up to a $2,000 performance-based award by completing program activities. The program laid out a four-part series of steps to earn the scholarship. At the completion of each step, students could earn $500 of the scholarship.

The first part of the schedule was designed for them to engage in the program and understand its objectives. It included setting up a meeting with an advisor, developing a plan for degree completion, and attending an orientation for the cohort that featured a discussion about identifying their educational journeys facilitated by Normandale Academic Advisor Nija Lawrence-Porter.

In the second stage, students participated in a resume workshop, had individual planning sessions with Webb to develop a career and college transfer plan, and had a follow-up meeting with their academic advisor. Webb collaborated with Continuing Education to help students develop individual career plans and guide them through a career development and preparation curriculum.

As part of the third stage, students participated in a workshop focused on financial literacy and identifying their strengths to help assist in navigating career and college communities. The workshop covered personal finance and financial aid at private and state colleges. The fourth stage included applying for and completing their associate’s degree.

Webb helped provide guidance to the students in many different ways, including a very robust online component. The cohort was provided with many different methods to interact with each other and Webb through Normandale’s interactive portion of the Desire to Learn (D2L) site. These features allowed the program to be proactive, responsive and helped meet the needs of the many different types of learners in the cohort.

“Throughout this process, we were intentional about developing collaborative relationships on- and off-campus to assist the students in the cohort,” said Webb. “Continuing Education, Experimental Education, Marketing Communications, Records, and Online Learning departments were instrumental in the curriculum design of the Finish Line Program activities. The departmental collaboration, which is a strength of Normandale, played a big role in lifting up the Finish Line Program.”

Cohort participant Jonathan Castellanos-Gomez, who is choosing between attending the University of Minnesota and Augsburg College, says the Finish Line Program experience played a big role in moving him forward in his academic goals. “The Finish Line Program has made a difference by pushing me the extra mile to go above and beyond and never settle,” she says. “It has given me the tools to network, be successful and allowed me the freedom to volunteer and do incredible in school. The program gives people the extra boost and encouragement they need.”

There were 23 students who graduated in spring 2015 or will graduate in the summer 2015. Fourteen of the students who were part of the first cohort are planning on graduating in fall 2015. The Finish Line Program will accept additional students to be part of the next cohort (which could serve up to 45 students) who will be scheduled to graduate by fall 2015 or spring 2016.
A LOOK AT THE CAREERS OF A PAIR OF ACCOMPLISHED NORMANDALE ALUMNI
Normandale alumni Antonia Felix and Jake Slegers received Alumni Achievement Awards as part of the Foundation’s Scholarship and Donor Recognition Event on April 9, 2015.

ANTONIA FELIX (1976-1977)
Antonia Felix was originally a music major at Normandale Community College, where she focused on music theory and ensemble courses. In the years since, she has gone on to excel in musical performance and other areas in a career that has seen her succeed as a bestselling author, become an in-demand speaker, and share her wisdom as a college instructor.

Felix is a classical singer whose repertoire includes opera, concert and recital performances. She has appeared all over the world as a solo artist, and has also presented vocal master classes at the Galina Vishnevskaya Music School in Moscow and Concordia College in Chicago.

Along with her impressive array of music performance credentials, Felix is a New York Times-bestselling author of 16 books, a play, and an award-winning environmental column. The biographies she has authored include those of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, former New Jersey governor Christie Todd Whitman, former First Lady Laura Bush, former NATO Commander Wesley Clark, and musical figures Andrea Bocelli and Harry Connick Jr.

Felix has also moderated panels about women’s rights and human rights at the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives. As an in-demand speaker and lecturer, she appears frequently on CNN, and her passion for improving health in Minnesota. The review committee selected Brickle out of a long list of nominees for her “calm and skillful relationship building, and encouragement that has led to significant advancements in the field of oral health, and overall health.”

2014-15 Normandale Retirees
Suzanne Beatty
Joyce Carey
James Erickson
Michael Koreen
Donna Kreger
Scott Magnuson-Martinson
Roland Maine
Ross Mason
Joseph McCulloch
John (Jack) Miller
Douglas Pearson
Gloria Robinson
Bernard (Barney) Smith
Jeanette Wall
Steven Wyffels
Susan Zeni
Here are some highlights from the 2014-15 academic year. We look forward to another great year starting in August.
Setting the Stage

Normandale will again host the Region V Kennedy Center Theater Festival in 2016.

Normandale was honored to host the 2015 Region V Kennedy Center Theater Festival in January. The festival required months of meticulous planning by the Normandale Theatre Department. After being selected for the rare opportunity to host the festival in 2015 and 2016, Normandale Theatre instructors, Anne and Sean Byrd, worked with Normandale Theatre instructor Tom Burgess and a group of excellent volunteers (including many current and former Normandale Theatre students).

Region V includes 10,000 students from colleges and universities from Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Normandale hosted more than 1,500 participants for this year’s festival which featured a variety of theater workshops, performances by selected colleges and universities, awards, behind-the-scenes tours of the Guthrie Theater and a VIP final evening event.

Community Action

Normandale students receive a round of much-needed support.

Meeting financial needs

One challenge that Normandale faces is meeting the financial needs of Latino students not eligible for Federal student aid. While the college’s undocumented Latino students can apply for state aid via the Minnesota Dream Act, the amount is small so students often attend part-time or even stop attending college to earn money for tuition.

“The Consulate of Mexico takes great pleasure in being able to support Mexican and Mexican-Americans in their dream of pursuing higher education studies through the IME Fellowship Program,” says Consul Alberto Fierro Garza, Consulate of Mexico in St. Paul. “We believe that the benefits of having one student start, continue or finish college multiply tenfold in the community.”

The grant provided scholarships, supplementing aid received through the Minnesota Dream Act for undocumented Latino students of Mexican ancestry to continue pursuing their college education. During the spring 2015 semester, 10 Normandale students received scholarships of up to $1,000.

These deserving students are now hard at work completing their degrees. While working part-time, full-time, or both they are studying business and marketing, engineering and law enforcement, nursing and dental hygiene, among other subjects. The financial support helps ease the stress and worry that comes with paying for college. For some, this has been the first scholarship they’ve ever received—or even the first time someone has shown them they believed in them and their dream of achieving a college degree. One student wrote: “I would like to say thank you so much for this scholarship. It’s the first time in my college years that I am able to get this help. It means the world to me knowing that going to college is worth it in the end. I always thought I was on my own. With this, I know there is always someone out there willing to help me. Thank you so much.”

Dr. Ester Goes to Washington

Normandale commits to an ambitious national initiative to empower students.

Normandale President Joyce Ester attended the second-annual White House College Opportunity Day of Action on Dec. 4, 2014. She joined President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, along with hundreds of college presidents and higher education leaders to announce new actions to help more students prepare for and graduate from college.

The participants were asked to commit to work on one of four areas:

- Building networks around promoting completion
- Creating K-16 partnerships around college readiness
- Investing in high school counselors as part of the First Lady’s Reach Higher Initiative
- Increasing the number of college graduates in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields

As a result, Normandale committed to increase student retention in STEM fields by 10 percent over the next decade—a figure that would create 2,800 new STEM graduates or transfer students by 2025. Normandale also pledged to serve 500 low-income women and underrepresented students of color in STEM the next 10 years. That figure would be in addition to the low-income women and underrepresented students already served by the college’s Academy of Math and Science.

“As an institution that focuses on the scholarship of teaching and learning, Normandale Community College is delighted to share our goals and learn from others to help students achieve academic success,” said Ester. “We look forward to achieving these goals, and playing a big role in helping to increase access and education opportunities for underrepresented populations in our community.”

Thanks to the generosity of the Institute for Mexicans Abroad (IME), Normandale students of Mexican and Mexican-American ancestry have received scholarships to continue pursuing their dream of earning a college degree. The grant of $5,000 from IME was matched by the Normandale Community College Foundation for a total of $10,000 in scholarship support for an increasing student demographic.

Talking with Latino community leaders and cultural liaisons at area schools, the college developed a plan to improve Latino student outreach and retention. Latino Outreach Coordinator (and Normandale alumna, ’11) Karina Moreno O’Silva oversees the plan’s activities. Her role includes coordinating the efforts of Latinos United at Normandale in Action (L.U.N.A.) and leading outreach events such as Latino Family Night, an event presented entirely in Spanish. Since starting these efforts, Normandale’s Latino student population has grown from just 3% to nearly 9% of total student enrollment in just four years.
The Normandale Foundation debuted its Roar N' Red 5K Run/2.5K Walk on May 1. This event brought together students, staff, faculty, and community members to show their Normandale school spirit. Sponsored by Amica Insurance, Doherty Employer Services, Mall of America, and US Bank, the festivities drew close to 250 participants and 50 volunteers. Staff, faculty, and students were encouraged to form teams to demonstrate their Roar N' Red spirit. The winning team was the Atoms Family (Chemistry Team), which took home the honors with a fantastic periodic table theme.

The 5K run route looped twice around campus, winding through the wetlands and surrounding community. The 2.5K walk took participants on a scenic tour highlighting the Japanese Garden, the wooded hiking trail, and the labyrinth.

At the end of the event, participants enjoyed sandwiches and sports drinks courtesy of Chick-fil-A and ASPIRE. Congratulations to everyone who crossed the finish line!

NEW EVENT PROMOTES HEALTH AND SPIRIT AT NORMANDALE.

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FOND FAREWELL

The Foundation and college extend their gratitude to Ed Meyer for years of outstanding service on the Normandale Community College Foundation Board of Directors.

Devoted. Tireless. Filled with integrity and honor. These words describe Ed Meyer. Over the past six years, he has served as treasurer of the Foundation Board and chair of the Finance Committee, volunteering numerous hours each week. With a friendly, steady demeanor, he has been a patient mentor, an outstanding role model, and a tremendous asset to the Foundation.

When volunteers are needed, Ed is often the first to step up. That ethic runs in the family. Ed’s wife, Peg, has been instrumental in assuring that recent galas have been adorned with stunning red rose bouquets, ribbons, bows and decorations that have set ballrooms aglitter. For the inaugural 2013 gala, she created satin pouches for the fused glass bowls made by Normandale artists. Ed customized bubble linings for the dozens of red and black satin pouches, protecting the guests’ treasured pieces of art. Many of you may recall the cashmere mittens at the 2014 gala. Who made them? Peg, with Ed’s assistance!

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Why has this couple served as such committed, caring and generous Normandale ambassadors? “It’s all about the students and making a difference,” Ed says. “The funds everyone helps to raise will change and improve lives.”

“Ed is our tireless, devoted, passionate volunteer,” says Foundation Executive Director Colleen Simpson. “We are honored to call him a member of the Foundation Board.”

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“We will miss you, Ed and Peg,” says Foundation Executive Director Colleen Simpson. “We are honored to call them both members of the Foundation Board.”

For more information, email japansesgarden@normandale.edu or call 952-358-8145.

SHOPPING WITH A SMILE

AMAZONSMILE NOW SUPPORTS THE NORMANDALE FOUNDATION

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Normandale Foundation every time you shop—at no cost to you. You’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase to the Foundation. Please shop through this site to support Normandale students and programs.

Check it out at: http://amzn.to/1BMm6fR

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FRED MOYER, 1936-2015

LEGENDARY FORMER NORMANDALE FOOTBALL COACH AND INSTRUCTOR PASSES AWAY AT AGE 78.

On Saturday, September 26, 2015, Normandale’s Japanese Garden committee will host its annual Garden Festival in the Kopp Student Center. Entertainment will include Taiko drums, Japanese sword demonstrations, Japanese dancers, and Garden tours. Bento boxes will be for sale.

For more information, email japansesgarden@normandale.edu or call 952-358-8145.

LEGENDARY FORMER NORMANDALE FOOTBALL COACH AND INSTRUCTOR PASSES AWAY AT AGE 78.

Former Normandale head football coach and instructor Fred Meyer died peacefully in his sleep on March 30, 2015. Meyer’s family hosted an on-campus celebration of his life on April 11. In his 22 seasons, Meyer’s teams posted a 170-33-2 record. He led Normandale to 12 state conference championships, 11 appearances postseason bowl games, and ten Top-10 national rankings. Meyer also coached 32 All-Americans, and is ranked fourth among National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) football coaches in wins and winning percentage (.829). His Normandale teams were ranked the NJCAA’s seventh-most successful national squad during the 1980s.

Meyer, who retired in 1991, was selected to the Minnesota Community College Conference Hall of Fame in 1992 and inducted into the NJCAA Hall of Fame in 2000.
Antonia felix, continued from page 8

As a scholar, educator, best-selling author and a highly regarded performing artist, Antonia brings a strong training background to her work with substantive credentials from wonderful academic programs, but that is just the start of her story,” says Mary Veronica Sweeney, director and executive producer of Vera Icon Productions. “As a close friend and colleague, I can say without hesitation that she is also a magnetically engaging and inspiring person. Antonia has a rare combination of artistic skills, with professional savvy, deep intelligence, and caring about her role as a public intellectual and humanitarian.”

Normandale instructor lynette Reins-Grindell has worked with Felix on a variety of projects and nominated her for the Alumni Achievement Award. “I have interviewed Antonia on my radio show and have volunteered with her on some writing-related projects,” says Reins-Grindell. “I consider her a colleague, so it was a pleasant surprise to find out she started her college career at Normandale.”

After teaching at Emporia State University, Felix joined the faculty of the Graduate School of Liberal Studies at Hamline University in 2012. She has always enjoyed the academic environment and her good memories of Normandale. “I had a great experience at Normandale that included memorable moments with some great instructors,” she noted during the college’s Scholarship and Donor Recognition Event. “Normandale provided a great environment to learn and grow.”

Jake Slogers, continued from page 8

“Like many leaders in the industry, I started off in journalism,” says Slogers. “But I have always been drawn to the leadership aspect of communications. That’s what drew me to the University of Minnesota where I was a journalism major in college and started learning about leadership.”

SEE THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF YOUR GENTROSITY

Donors often don’t get to see the impact their gifts have on students. This video does just that. View it at www.normandale.edu/foundations.

Tutoring Center, continued from page 5

Center where she sees five to seven students at once. While she works directly with one student at a time in those groups, she’s noticed that other students pay attention and pick up on things that help them. Nordell also believes in modeling skills the students need, along with guiding them toward independent study with the skills they have learned.

“Once the students come in to use our services, they often come back because they find it helpful to get extra support and instruction,” she says. “We try to show them how they can be successful and provide them with the confidence to apply those skills. I enjoy working with the students, so I want them to come back. But my goal is to answer their questions and foster independence by providing them with skills and knowledge they can use on their own—and make sure that if they do come back, it is for a different question.”

Come early and often

A recent study conducted by the Tutoring Center showed that students who visit during their first semester are more likely to use it throughout their entire academic career. However, the first semester is also the time students are least likely to use it. “We continue to try to introduce ourselves to classes and expand our overall awareness on campus,” says Perry. “Our goal is to eliminate the stigma that we are a place for people who can’t do well in their classes, and instead emphasize that we are a place where people go to do well in classes.”

Based on the center’s recent growth and success, that message seems to be getting across.

JILENA (ANDERSON) SIMONSON, ’13
Degree earned: AA
Married Matthew Simonson on Sept. 13, 2014, and accepted a full-time position with Knell Ortmack in March.

FACES AND PLACES

If you are interested in being featured on our alumni “Faces and Places” page or know of an alum who should be, please visit our page at www.normandale.edu/facesandplaces.

JENNA VONK, ’12
Degree earned: AA
Graduated in December 2014 with a 4.0 from Concordia University–Saint Paul with a Master of Arts in Strategic Management.

ADAOBI OKOLOE, ’01
Degree earned: AA
Adoobi Okoole wears many hats. She’s a writer, communications strategist, artist, and the executive director of the Twin Cities Daily Planet, a local online news resource. She’s also the founder and owner of Coloring Circles LLC, a Minneapolis marketing studio that works with nonprofit and community organizations, foundations, small businesses, and creative entrepreneurs to empower people and community.

OLYA HOMONCHUK, ’13
Degree earned: AA
Homonchuk recently graduated from Cornell University with a bachelor’s degree in labor and industrial relations. She was accepted to the Oxford University Master’s of Philosophy program in Comparative Social Policy, which accepts only four students annually. Homonchuk also recently wrote “A Meaningful Graduation,” an article for the Huffington Post about the importance of community college. You can find the article here: http://huff.to/1Lk6dio.

ROSE MONHAUT, ’14
Degree earned: AA
Graduated from Normandale one year ago, and finished her junior year at the University of Minnesota. She is excited that she will be studying abroad this summer in Copenhagen, Denmark, for three weeks. After graduation, she plans to apply to law school.

LENA (WERNER) HELMUT, ’11
Degree earned: AA
Helmuth graduated from St. Paul’s Community College in 2011 with a biology degree. She pursued a career in environmental science and now resides in North Dakota.

JESSICA (OLSON) KNACK, ’13
Degree earned: AA
Graduated with a BSN from Minnesota State University, Mankato on May 8, 2015. She now works for the Minnesota Gastroenterology Endoscopy Center.

JENNIFER KOITER, ’12
Degree earned: AA
Finished her Masters of Oriental medicine in December and should have an acupuncture office open in 2016.

JILL BOLAND, ’09
Degree earned: AA
Graduated from Normandale with a Psychology degree in 2009. She is currently an LTRP counselor and was a former Treatment Coordinator for the Family Housing Options program.

ADAAH MINTHER, ’08
Degree earned: AA
Minther graduated from Normandale in 2008 with a degree in Graphic Design and is currently working as a graphic designer for a marketing firm.

JILL MARCHEK, ’10
Degree earned: AA
Graduated with a degree in Management and Operations from Normandale in 2010. She is currently a consultant for a software company.

ROSE MONHAUT, ’14
Degree earned: AA
Graduated from Normandale one year ago, and finished her junior year at the University of Minnesota. She is excited that she will be studying abroad this summer in Copenhagen, Denmark, for three weeks. After graduation, she plans to apply to law school.

JANNETTE HALL, ’14
Degree earned: AA
Graduated from Normandale in 2014 with a degree in Graphic Design. She is currently working as a graphic designer for a marketing firm.

JUANITA RATERI, ’14
Degree earned: AA
Rateri graduated from Normandale in 2014 with a degree in Graphic Design. She is currently working as a graphic designer for a marketing firm.

JENNY (KRAUS) SCHRADER, ’14
Degree earned: AA
Schrader graduated from Normandale in 2014 with a degree in Graphic Design. She is currently working as a graphic designer for a marketing firm.

JESSICA PERRY, ’14
Degree earned: AA
Perry graduated from Normandale in 2014 with a degree in Graphic Design. She is currently working as a graphic designer for a marketing firm.

JENNIFER KOITER, ’12
Degree earned: AA
Finished her Masters of Oriental medicine in December and should have an acupuncture office open in 2016.

WISDOM YOUNG, ’91
Degree earned: AA
Shorty after completing her bachelor’s degree in sociology at the University of Minnesota in 2004, Young took a job as an educator with Harvest Preparatory School in North Minneapolis. She serves on the school’s board of directors, and last year helped start a group called SHINE, which empowers middle school girls to love and express themselves while growing into confident young women.
**It’s All About Relationships!**

We are here for you, reaching out to our community, students, donors, faculty, alumni, staff and retirees. We are here to enlighten you with this magazine and encourage you to become involved at Normandale. We need you! Rewarding volunteer or sponsorship opportunities exist for our events—spring gala, fall run/walk, recognition events. We are grateful for every volunteer hour; for every dollar, be it for student scholarships, emergency aid or the legacy of your name on a room or building. We are here to make a difference and change lives, including yours! Heartfelt thanks for caring—and for sharing your time, talents and treasures!

Colleen Simpson  
Executive Director, Normandale Foundation

**THEATRE**  
Performances in the Premanand and Black Box Theatres

**The Gravedigger:**  
A Frankenstein Play  
by Joseph Zettelmaier  
Directed by Anne Byrd  
Oct. 28-31 & Nov. 4-5, 2015

**Dr. Seward’s Dracula**  
by Joseph Zettelmaier  
Directed by Sean Byrd  
Oct. 28-31 & Nov. 4-7, 2015

**The View from Here**  
by Margaret Dulaney  
Directed by Paran Kashani  
December 3-5, 2015

**The Dining Room**  
by A. R. Gurney  
Directed by Kathleen Bagby Coate  

**The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**  
Music and Lyrics by William Finn  
Book by Rachel Sheinkin  
Conceived by Rebecca Feldman  
Directed by Paul Coate  
April 21-23 & 28-30, 2016

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