CREATING FUTURES

Happy 40th Anniversary, Normandale Japanese Garden!

Normandale Community College Foundation

Also in this issue: Gala Preview • Scholarships, Donors and Grants
Greetings,

There are many occasions during the year when I am reminded about the special and unique aspects of Normandale Community College. In October, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Garden with the Japanese Garden Festival.

A walk through the Garden is a peaceful and serene experience on its own. However, what really makes it special is the care and work that so many people have put into it over the years. It was a wonderful experience to gather the dedicated members of the Japanese Garden Committee, their families, faculty, staff and students, and community members together to celebrate a special anniversary that has so much meaning to the College and the community.

As a community college, one of the important roles we play is to bring educational and engaging events to our campus for community members, along with our faculty, staff and students. In October, we hosted the Fall Economic Outlook and the Interfaith Panel. Both events provided great dialogue about important and relevant topics.

On October 25, we also hosted one of my favorite events of the year, the Foundation’s Scholarship and Donor Recognition Event. This event illustrates the important role donor scholarships play in helping our students accomplish their goals. It is also a great opportunity to meet and hear our students’ inspiring stories.

Save the date for our annual gala, “Metamorphosis, Transforming Lives Forever”, on April 29, 2017. The gala is a wonderful opportunity for our students to share their stories and display their many talents to community members, organizations and friends of Normandale.

In this issue of Creating Futures, we will feature a special friendship between Gene Carlson and Stan Magnuson and a new Normandale scholarship that was inspired by their relationship. We will also highlight our Psychology Department, talk to students and generous donors about the importance of receiving and providing scholarships, showcase a recent visit to our campus from Senator Amy Klobuchar, and review many great happenings that have taken place this semester on our campus and through the Foundation Office.

We invite you to read about the wonderful stories and events that are going on around campus.

Thank you for support of Normandale!

Joyce C. Ester, Ph.D.
President, Normandale Community College
JAPANESE GARDEN CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF BEAUTY AT THIS YEAR’S FESTIVAL

On October 8, a beautiful fall day was the backdrop to celebrate a very special part of the Normandale campus and the Bloomington community. Japanese Garden committee members and their families, community members, faculty, staff, and students gathered to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Normandale Japanese Garden and the annual Japanese Garden Festival.

It was not only the 40th anniversary, but also 50 years since the Garden’s idea was originally planned. The festival featured groups performing sword exhibitions, archery, dancing, singing, and taiko drum performances.

The event brought out many long-time visitors of the community and also original members of the 1976 Garden Committee. It turned out to be a record fundraising event as well, with at least 1,100 visitors.

Bud Nakasone, a Japanese-American Military Veteran of the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Language School, was also in attendance. He talked about the Japanese-Americans in Minnesota who translated messages from Japan during World War II to help the United States. The hexagonal bentendo and the bridge were donated by this group of Japanese-Americans because they appreciated how kindly they were treated in Minnesota during the war.

The festival was a great celebration of the past, present and future of the Japanese Garden. After 40 years of having the Garden in the community, the support and appreciation for this Bloomington-landmark is as strong as ever.
We often hear about the value of friendship, how essential it is to a happy and healthy life. Every once in a while a story comes along that brings new life to this idea, making us re-appreciate the power of friendship.

Gene Carlson and his lifelong friend, Stan Magnuson, met as youngsters in south Minneapolis, their homes only blocks apart. Gene describes the experience of meeting Stan for the first time as “an instant connection”. From that point on, the lifelong friendship was forged.

Gene got a degree in accounting from the University of Minnesota and worked for large corporations and eventually, as a college instructor. In high school, Stan had to oversee the family restaurant business, due to his father’s untimely passing. He eventually graduated from Augsburg College, became a high school teacher and wrestling coach and acquired a couple of advanced degrees.

Moving to Burnsville High School, Stan got his certification in counseling, where his impact on students’ lives became legendary. “He was a champion of the average student and was universally beloved,” states Gene. “Over the years, Stan had nothing but positive things to say about Normandale Community College and how it shaped lives.”

“We both believed in the community college system so strongly. Over and over we saw the power of education and how it turned around the lives of determined students.” Gene’s perspective came from a long tenure as an accounting instructor at Central Lakes Community College in Brainerd, where he established the Business Department.
Stan retired early, but passed away not long after, leaving a hole in the community he had so carefully tended his entire life. His daughter Heather sums it up, “He truly had a gift to help young people find their way and establish a plan to fit their needs after high school. On top of that, he was an incredible father teaching the value of hard work, integrity and about being a good person.”

Gene shared, “We saw what exposure to secondary education did for people. It opened up their worlds.” So, Gene recently called Normandale Foundation and generously established the new “Stan Magnuson Scholarship” to honor his dear friend. Although the two friends had never attended nor worked at Normandale, their high regard for Normandale is now giving two students each year a chance to experience a high-quality education.

Gene feels this is the perfect endnote to their lifelong friendship. He honors Stan’s kind and giving nature that nourished not only his friends and family, but hundreds of students over the years.

Friendship is what sustains us, in the end.

Justin Oliver and Ayan Abdi had already received their “We regret to inform you…” scholarship letters. So when the Stan Magnuson Scholarship funds became available recently, we had the privilege of calling them into the Normandale Foundation office under the pretense of helping us make a video about scholarships. We then surprised them with $1,000 award letters and recorded their reactions, which you can view online here: http://www.normandale.edu/foundation.
Christina Pettit, recipient, Normandale Retiree Scholarship and Doug and Sharon MacDonald Scholarship in Geology/Geography

Christina Pettit has always had an interest in history and wanted to come back to school to pursue a degree in archaeology. Pettit, who is married with three teens, decided in summer 2015 that it was time to continue her educational journey and go to college.

The location, cost, flexibility, and a robust offering of Anthropology courses drew her to Normandale. However, she knew that to afford college she would need financial assistance.

“I knew scholarships were necessary to afford paying for college,” said Pettit. “I was a stay-at-home mom, my husband works, and we have three teenagers who are very active. I remembered hearing about scholarship opportunities when I registered, and I figured I would check it out. I knew it was important to make sure that going back to school wouldn’t be a financial burden for my family. That motivated me to spend time filling out an application to give myself a good opportunity to receive a scholarship.”

Pettit has excelled at her classes at Normandale and is currently the president of the Archaeology/Anthropology Club. She plans to graduate this spring and transfer to the University of Minnesota to major in Archaeology. She wants to remain involved in Normandale’s archaeology program and the dig site they just secured through a grant from the David B. Jones Foundation (see page 12).

She has enjoyed coming to college as an adult student and credits much of that to the environment at Normandale.

“I can’t say enough about Normandale,” said Pettit. “My experience has been so fantastic and so life-changing. When I came here, I wanted to do archaeology, and I have come out with the desire to teach and be involved with different aspects. I never expected to be involved with the community the way I am. I didn’t expect as a mom and a student to get this much out of the experience.”

Petit is currently receiving the Normandale Retirees Scholarship and the Doug and Sharon MacDonald Scholarship in Geography/Geology. She is beyond grateful for having donors believe in her enough to award her a scholarship.

“Thank you is never enough to say,” said Pettit. “There is a lot of pride and thankfulness when you receive a scholarship, and I just want to do my best to take advantage of the great opportunity that is being provided to me.”

Francisco Castillo Martinez, Otto Bremer Foundation Finish Line Program

Francisco Castillo Martinez is crossing Normandale’s Finish Line this year. The Finish Line program is perfectly-named because it targets students who are very close to completion but are at risk of not graduating. Advisors find them, and offer the chance to join the program, which includes a significant scholarship awarded as the student completes the next steps towards graduation.

The Finish Line Program got its start with a visionary $400,000+ gift from Otto Bremer Foundation two years ago. Each year, the program has helped over 100 of these oh-so-close borderline...
students graduate. Second-year students become mentors to the first-year students, and become their best champions and encouragers. This has always been a tough group to reach, and these results have been extraordinarily encouraging.

As a first-generation college student, Francisco faced the typical challenge of navigating a system completely foreign to him and his family. Additional mental health issues threatened to make high school an almost complete disaster, but for the intervention of a counselor. He graduated on time and enrolled at Normandale with an unrealistically heavy course load for someone who was also working fulltime. “I almost became another dropout statistic, except for an advisor who found me and showed me a different way,” he explains. “The best thing about Finish Line was gaining the insight of how the system works, and how it works when we transfer to a four-year school,” he says. His plans are to enroll at the University of Minnesota for medical studies.

He is delighted to be graduating with his AS degree. His wife plans on attending Hennepin Technical College soon, and their future looks bright. “My parents taught me to take charge of what I can control, and focus on what’s important after that. Normandale helped me figure out the path, and I am really happy about that. Thank you to Otto Bremer Foundation.”

Leadership Through Service Scholarship Donors

The husband and wife team who support this scholarship saw a need and decided to help. They saw students in the Service Learning Program struggling to divide time between paying for college and investing time volunteering in the community. They didn’t want students to always have to choose working over volunteering, so they established a fund to help make that decision easier.

“We love how affordable, diverse and convenient this college is for students. Plus, they have wonderful faculty,” they explain. “Those students who clearly ‘go the extra mile’ are our future leaders, and we want them to save money, continue their education and go to that next level,” they said. Their most memorable award recipient was an Elementary Education major, whose service work included children. They look forward to meeting their recipients each year at the Scholarship and Donor Recognition Event.

Paris Marcy, recipient, Roar N’ Red Foundation Scholarship

Paris Marcy’s upbeat demeanor and cheerful enthusiasm for her many service projects belie her struggle to become a college student. This Vice President of Service for Phi Theta Kappa organizes multiple on and off-campus projects, such as Pollinator Garden and book collection/exchange. She is working toward her A.A. in French, “just because I wanted to learn French”, but is eyeing a Biology A.S. as well, with plans to transfer to a four-year school.

After dropping out of Wayzata High School due to challenging family circumstances a few years back, she got her GED, and entered fulltime retail employment. “I really hated it, and decided to give college a try. I love everything about Normandale; it’s a dream come true! It’s so welcoming, and the instructors are able to teach to every level of student in each class. Plus, there are so many ways to get involved, it’s been life-changing.”

Hassan Warsame, recipient, Success Through Perseverance Scholarship

Hassan Warsame originally came to Minnesota from Somalia. Warsame decided to go to Normandale last year with the goal of making an impact on his community.

Currently studying Business Management and minoring in Communication studies, he wants to use those skills to create his own business. That will impact the lives of many people, especially the Somali community, by providing job opportunities.

Warsame has been struggling with financial hardships since he decided to go back to school to change his life. He works more than 40 hours per week to pay tuition and support both himself and his family back home in Somalia.

He was relieved when he heard he was receiving a scholarship, because it released some of the worry-factor about education costs. Warsame believes the generosity of donors can really help shape a student’s view of the value of their education.

“Getting a helping hand while in need is very important, especially for a first generation college student,” said Warsame. “It can even change how they see the world. I think it is very important to give thanks for the generous donors who are always helping students to continue in the spirit of education.”

Mains’l Services, donor, Make A Difference Award

Mains’l Services provides services for individuals and families by assisting people to live successfully in their homes and communities. Additionally, Mains’l works with agencies and groups providing training to enhance their ability to optimize their performance. They are regularly recognized for excellence as a workplace and a leader in the field. Mains’l recently presented Normandale’s Health Sciences Department with a $10,000 scholarship grant for students who are working toward a degree in a healthcare field and who are preparing to make a difference in the lives of others.

This spring, five winners will each receive a $1,000 scholarship. Those winners were recognized at the Scholarship and Donor Recognition Event on October 25, 2016. Health Sciences include Community Health Workers/Navigators, Exercise Science, Dietetic Technology, Community Health Education and Healthcare Systems Technology. Each recipient was chosen based on their essay citing examples of “how I have put the needs of others before my own; and my commitment to making a difference in the world.”
NORMANDALE’S PSYCHOLOGY:
FAITH, HOLOCAUST, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, MENTAL ILLNESS, ABNORMALITY & NOBEL LAUREATES

IF IT INVOLVES THE MYSTERIOUS HUMAN BRAIN AND HOW IT AFFECTS OUR BEHAVIOR, PSYCHOLOGY HAS GOT IT COVERED.

A goal of the Psychology department is to help students develop a solid foundation so they can transfer effectively to a four-year college or university. Faculty looks ceaselessly for a hook that will make students lifelong learners who pursue educational opportunities with curiosity and the desire to gain more knowledge.

A key component to stimulating curiosity and thought-provoking conversations is accessibility to instructors outside of the classroom. If you walk down Normandale’s Psychology department hallway during school hours, you will usually see multiple students camped out after class, talking to the instructors about coursework or other academic topics.

Alumna Sydney Piras, now a Waseca High School counselor, sums it up, “The courses were already interesting to me, but engaging the students was done well by the department. We would finish class at 9 or 10 p.m., and you would still want to talk about it. It was not like you were going to their offices to get help; you were having further discussions about things you were covering in class. The cool part was that instructors were always willing and able to have those conversations with you and encouraged that curiosity towards psychology.”

The department brings many outside speakers to discuss trending topics.
• On October 11, Normandale hosted an Interfaith Panel that featured accomplished speakers from the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths. This provided an opportunity to have discussion and learn more about different faith beliefs.
• Holocaust survivors have been invited to campus to share their stories.
• Domestic Violence Awareness Week featured speakers on sexual violence.
• The National Alliance of Mental Illness held a workshop in an effort to reduce the stigma of mental illness, a challenge in finishing college for many people.

“It also shows that people are more than the labels that are put on them.”

• In the Abnormal Psychology class, instructor David Lake has brought in guests, sometimes former students, with disorders the students are studying. This puts a human element to the issues, which ultimately aids in a more complete understanding. “This really helps the students have discussions about what it is like to live with the disorders we are studying,” said Lake. “It also shows that people are more than the labels that are put on them.”
• Instructors recently took students to the Nobel Conference at Gustavus Adolphus in St. Peter, Minnesota and an Undergraduate Research Conference. “It is important to us to expose students to psychology-related concepts so they have the opportunity to talk about topics they are learning about in their courses with other students and their professors outside of the classroom environment,” said Normandale Psychology Department Chair Korinne Cikanek.

Psychology instructor Andrew Tix says, “Rather than just having people coming in, taking classes and leaving as fast as possible, we want this to be a place where people engage in ideas and address difficult issues. We want to encourage students to be inquisitive, curious and socially engaged. This is what we are trying to accomplish with these events.”
LIFELONG LEARNING IS AN OVERARCHING GOAL
SOMETIMES STUDENTS PURSUE A CAREER. ALUMNA SYDNEY PIRAS IS A GOOD EXAMPLE.

Currently a counselor at Waseca High School for 7th-12th grade students, Sydney Piras addresses the academic and social/mental aspects of over 1,000 students.

Her experience at Normandale informs her perspective as she meets and works with students about college and career preparation. “When I graduated from Prior Lake High School, I was not sure what to do next,” said Piras. “All of my friends were going to four-year colleges and sounded like they had their whole life planned out. I wasn’t quite sure, but I knew I needed to do something, and I knew I wanted to go to college.”

Piras’ decision to come to Normandale was based on the fact that she was looking for a convenient and affordable college option while she worked full-time. When Piras came to Normandale, she took an Introduction to Psychology class, and that is where everything started to fall into place.

“When I was taking my general classes, my Intro to Psychology class really stuck out to me. It was something I was really interested in pursuing and learning more about,” said Piras. “I made connections with professors and talked to them about what career options could be down the road. I kept taking more Psychology classes because I really enjoyed the Normandale instructors who taught the classes.”

Piras graduated from Normandale in Spring 2010, and moved on to Minnesota State University, Mankato where she completed a double major in Psychology and Women’s Studies. While finishing her Bachelor’s degree, Piras decided she wanted to be a school counselor and finished her Master’s at MSU-Mankato as well.

Looking back on the path that brought Piras to her current position, she is thankful to Normandale for piquing her interest and pointing her in the right direction in pursuit of her current career.

“It took some time to figure out my interests and my passions,” said Piras. “My decision was really forged, developed and fostered at Normandale. Without Normandale, and the people there, I would not be where I am now.”

Normandale Community College is proud to announce the creation and hire of a new position on campus. Dr. Amy Wagener is the new Director of Mental Health and Wellness. In addition to society’s ever-growing need to understand and address mental health issues, Normandale acknowledges that this is a crucial factor in student success. The pressure to succeed can lead to high levels of stress, anxiety, and depression. Add in additional challenges such as language barriers and financial strain, and the need to address mental health issues proves to be as important as many other key services to student retention, success, and graduation.

Wagener’s goal is to set up the infrastructure to support Normandale student needs when it comes to counseling, crisis intervention and mental health.

“We are taking mental health to a level on this campus of being able to provide ongoing counseling and crisis intervention to students, and of educating faculty and staff more about mental health issues,” said Wagener. “I hope to meet the needs of students who do have mental health issues while they are seeking their degrees and let them know they can come in and work with me.”

Wagener points out that, during a transition experience such as starting or re-entering college, students can get overwhelmed with a lot of different issues which can affect their performance level academically. Her role is to be there for students as someone to talk with to work through these experiences, or as a professional who can help them find resources to deal with bigger issues.

“One of the main things I want students to know is that no issue is too small,” Wagener emphasized. “I’ve had students say to me they don’t want to be a bother or inconvenience even when they are having severe struggles. I want our students to know, that, if there is an issue they want to work through, they should feel comfortable to come and talk to me about it. My door is open, and I am here to help.”

She added, “As far as mental health issues on campus and in society, we have a lot of work to do with continuing to educate the public about mental health. We need to work to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health issues. It is my hope to educate the campus community about mental health, and to continue to work towards a stigma-free campus and society.”
Normandale STEM Team Places 2nd in Community College National Challenge

Normandale Academy of Math and Science (AMS) students Tim DeCesare, Sophia Flumerfelt and Naomi Nagel (along with instructor Angela Foudray) tied for second place at the 2016 National Community College Innovation Challenge (CCIC) for developing innovative research-based solutions to challenges related to environmental resources.

The Normandale group was part of 10 CCIC finalists, selected nationally from community colleges who submitted videos describing their proposals.

The 2016 CCIC focused on Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems (INFEWS) program, a National Science Foundation (NSF) priority that seeks new ways to help society deal with growing resource demands. Normandale’s team of students proposed to install and implement hydrokinetic turbines in wastewater treatment plants to generate renewable energy.

Normandale’s team attended a four-day innovation “boot camp” from June 20-23 in Virginia and Washington D.C. They received feedback on their presentations and met with experts for advice on team-based design, the value of innovation and transitioning research to commercialization.

Finalists were given the opportunity to present their projects to Members of Congress and legislative staff during a Capitol Hill presentation on June 22.

The Academy of Math and Science is supported by 60 scholarships annually from the Normandale Foundation. A generous grant of $15,000 came from the Xcel Energy Foundation this year. AMS encourages students to pursue STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields.

Sheryl McRoberts Wins McKnight Residency in Ceramic Art

Normandale Community College Art Instructor Sheryl McRoberts was one of two recipients of an annual 2016 McKnight Fellowship which includes a $25,000 grant.

McKnight Artist Residencies for Ceramic Artists program recognizes and supports ceramic artists whose work demonstrates exceptional artistic merit, who have already proven their abilities, and who are at a career stage that is beyond emerging.

McRoberts, who is off-campus working on her residency, said, “This highly respected award is an acknowledgement and affirmation of my work as an artist. The Normandale Art Department is going through its 5-year NASAD (National Association of Schools of Art and Design) accreditation review. Professional awards raise the profile of the department. With the arrival of the Associate of Fine Arts degree (AFA), which originated within the Art Department and subsequently expanded statewide, the Art Department has increasingly attracted serious art students who have gone on to successfully complete four-year degrees.”

Each artist had to submit 10 digital images of their work, an image list, a current resume, an Artist Statement and two or three pieces of current work.

The McKnight Foundation, a Minnesota-based family foundation, seeks to improve the quality of life for present and future generations. Through grant making, collaboration, and encouragement of strategic policy reform, the foundation attends, unites and empowers those that they serve. Founded in 1953 and independently endowed by William and Maude McKnight, the foundation had assets of approximately $2 billion and granted about $86 million in 2013, of which about 11% was directed to support working artists to create and contribute to vibrant communities.

Normandale was ranked No. 5 in a Top 50 list of Best Value Community Colleges in the nation and No. 25 on a Washington Monthly national list for best two-year colleges for Adult Learners.

The Best Value Community College list was compiled by www.valuecolleges.com using data from College Measures, a Gates Foundation-supported database. The website surveyed 1,717 Community Colleges in the United States that offer two-year associate degrees. Criteria for the rankings included average-to-high graduation rates (45%), low-to-average cost (under $10,000 per year), over 1,000 enrolled students and an American Association of Community Colleges member.

Normandale was the top-ranked two-year college in Minnesota on this list. The top 50 ranking was derived from the highest scoring schools based on three metrics; Graduation/Transfer rate (IPEDS database), Mid-level salary for graduates (when applicable/from payscale.com), and Actual tuition (IPEDS database).

Criteria for the Top 25 Adult Learners list included ease of transfer, flexibility of programs, services for adult students, tuition and fees ranking, number of students over 25 years old and adult-student median earnings ranking. Normandale was one of only two colleges from the State of Minnesota that made the top 25.
3rd Annual Normandale Economic Outlook Event Draws Crowd

Normandale Economic Institute hosted the 3rd annual Fall Event, entitled “Economic Outlook”, on October 6. The event drew over 150 people to the Kopp Student Center’s Garden Room.

The speakers for the event were Dr. Jeanne Boeh and Paul Anton.

Dr. Boeh, a professor of Economics and the Business Department Co-Chair at Augsburg College, gave a presentation entitled “Economic Growth and the Labor Force”. In the presentation, she talked about trends in the labor force and areas of economic growth in the State of Minnesota.

Anton, who is the Chief Economist at Anton Economics and who has over 30 years of experience in government, the private for-profit sector, and the non-profit world, gave a presentation entitled, “The Outlook for the U.S. Economy.” He discussed and answered many questions about the economy, and the effect that certain factors would have on the economy going forward.

“The event was a big success,” stated Economics instructor Brooks Herrbolt. “This is our fifth year of sponsoring this event, and it is now self-sustaining, which was one of our goals.” The Economic Institute was created as the fiscal agent to sponsor the two annual Economic Events held in the fall and spring each year on campus. The first donor, Normandale Foundation’s Internal Grant Program, provided seed money and it took off from there. Substantial contributions from the Economics Department faculty will sustain it yearly.

The 5th annual Financial Literacy Event will take place in April 2017 and will also be sponsored by the Normandale Economics Institute.

Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Montague Named Lakin Fellow

Dr. Orinthia Montague, Vice Present of Student Affairs at Normandale Community College and Chief Diversity Officer, was named one of 15 fellows with the Thomas Lakin Institute for Mentored Leadership (Lakin Institute). The President’s Roundtable (PRT), a national association dedicated to supporting African American leaders and students in community colleges, presents the Lakin Institute annually. It has charted a course for increasing visibility in the higher education arena to support African American leaders and students in community colleges.

In 2015, Montague was also selected by a national review panel as one of only 36 community college leaders to attend the prestigious Executive Leadership Institute sponsored by the League for Innovation in the Community College.

Hosted this year in St. Paul, by the Minnesota State System, the Lakin Institute seeks African-American participants whose experience and credentials indicate they are ready to attain the highest academic positions. The program is an opportunity for open dialogue with chancellors, presidents, and CEOs. It covers all aspects of academic leadership.

The Lakin Institute has the highest graduate placement rate of any leadership institute in the United States. One of three participants become a college chancellor, president or CEO. It is named in honor of Dr. Thomas Lakin, a former Chancellor of the Ventura County (CA) Community College District.

Senator Amy Klobuchar visits Normandale to talk about Veterans’ Bill

U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar toured Normandale Community College on August 22 to draw attention to a bill that was recently signed into law to help veterans with medical experience become paramedics. Veterans often face a redundant and inefficient re-certification process that proves ultimately discouraging to seek employment upon their return to civilian life.

Klobuchar toured several Normandale facilities, including the Nursing Lab. Other speakers at the event were current Normandale student and military veteran David Stringer, Lake Superior College graduate and military veteran Jasmine Norris, Normandale President Joyce Ester and Minnesota State System Director of Military, Veteran, and Adult Learning Services Gina Sobania.
Normandale Community College’s Department of Anthropology is into the second phase of the David B. Jones Foundation’s $443,274 grant for Broad-Based Experiential Learning of Paleontological Minnesota, and they could not be more enthusiastic about how it’s going.

“We had 22 students at our Field School the weekend of October 1-2, and were able to inaugurate our new building, complete with furniture, a portable toilet, microscopes, tool kits and shovels,” Anthropology instructor Dr. Susan Krook said. “We found pot sherds and tools, along with a stone feature whose purpose has not been determined yet, dating from 200 AD. This grant helped us secure a lease for this dig site for the next five years, and we look forward to many discoveries.”

Anthropology Instructor Pat Bonnie added, “We are staging meetings on the facility work and major capital asset procurement. There is more to be done, including instrumental analysis of artifacts and the site itself. This will probably be undertaken next semester.”

If this seems rather sophisticated for a community college, it is. Normandale is the only one in the state and only one of a few in the nation that has an Anthropology program. Both Minnesota State University, Mankato and the University of Minnesota have programs, and Normandale feeds many students to the U of M.

Dr. Krook had seen an article in the Star Tribune seven years ago about how a road construction crew had uncovered artifacts near Tracy, Minnesota. She started making phone calls and found a private landowner who was willing to donate a time period for them to explore. One discovery led to another, and now they have a five-year lease and a field school that provides a first-class educational experience for students who are realizing that higher education is a viable decision for them.

Her persistence was supported by Normandale. “One of the reasons faculty stay here is because the college allows people to flourish, which is not always the norm,” Krook says. “This approach definitely makes me a more interesting person in the classroom,” she laughed. “Colleagues at partner college Southwest Minnesota State University alerted our department to this funding opportunity, and the grant request process started.” Bonnie gives a lot of credit to the Grant department staff, Angie Arnold and Cindy Zoul, for making the magic happen.

Foundation founder David Jones operated a farm management business in Minnesota. When David was 37 years old he decided to go back to college. After taking a course in geology, he developed his passion for palaeontology. He expanded his knowledge and passion with extensive reading, seminars, and hands-on experience. He then dedicated himself to bringing the excitement of palaeontology and scientific discovery to the public. This led him to start the David B. Jones Foundation in 1998. He passed away in 2013, but not before meeting with Normandale’s Anthropology department and approving this project.

We see David’s vision as a living embodiment of what Normandale does: ignite a passion for learning and doing well, no matter what your age and background. Krook and Bonnie and their department are passionate practitioners of this belief too. “This is a unique opportunity, and we are fully positioned to take advantage of it in every way,” they agreed.
2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

JANET BELLOWS - Chair
Branch Manager, Amica Mutual Insurance Company

MARK ADKINS – Chair Elect
VP, Wealth Management Advisor, BWA
Wealth Advisor, Merrill Lynch

DR. AXEL STEUER – Vice Chair/Secretary
Higher Ed Consultant; Retired, Gustavus Adolphus President

MARY ROBBEN - Treasurer
Partner, Lindquist and Vennum LLP

JANE WELCH – Nominating and Governance Chair
Principal, Morrison Sund PLLC

CAROLYN PRATT – Past Chair
Professional Musician; Arts Administrator

ALAN ABRAMSON
Sr. VP and CIO, HealthPartners, Inc.

DR. BERNARDINE BRYANT
Retired VP, Administrative Services and Interim President, Normandale Community College

LAURA CATANIA
Retired, Chief Administrative Officer, GMAC Residential Capital

DR. JOYCE ESTER*
President, Normandale Community College

JOHN ETCHISON
Technology Executive, UnitedHealth Group

PAULA FORBES
CEO, Forbes Solutions PLLC

REX GASKILL
Retired, Dean and Instructor, Normandale Community College

ELLA KOMLANVI*
Student representative, Student Senate

MIKE LEBENS
Vice President, Senior Relationship Manager, Wells Fargo

PARIS MARCY*
Student representative, Phi Theta Kappa

RYN MELBERG
Independent Consultant

CHERYL NEWELL
Principal, Newell Consulting LLC

DEBRA SIDD*
Faculty Member, Normandale Community College

COLLEEN SIMPSON*
Executive Director, Normandale Foundation

DUANE SPIEGLE
Vice President, Real Estate and Support Services, Park Nicollet Health Services

JOE WALDOCH*
Japanese Garden Committee Representative, Normandale Community College

MARTHA WITTSTRUCK*
Faculty Member, Normandale Community College

*Ex officio, non-voting

FOUNDATION STAFF

COLLEEN SIMPSON
Executive Director

JANE FENTON
Major Gifts Officer

PATTY HAGGEN
Development Office Manager

Normandale Foundation held its annual Scholarship and Donor Recognition Event on October 25 to celebrate our generous donors and their worthy recipients. In fiscal year 2016, we awarded $806,315 to more than 350 students, an increase of almost $200,000 over last year’s awards.

Alumni Achievement Award recipient, Jeffrey Stenbom, received his award and shared what Normandale has meant to him in the development of his artistic career. Student speaker Krista Pawlak, recipient of the Robert Erickson Part-Time Adult Scholarship, spoke about how her award enabled her to focus on studies by eliminating her stressful part-time job and being thankful for her scholarship.

Noteworthy additions for this year include:

1) Otto Bremer Foundation funded the second year of the highly successful Finish Line program, with $400,000 that benefitted students completing their AA degree.

2) The establishment of the Stan Magnuson Memorial Scholarship for $32,000. Read the full story on pages 5-6. We were honored to have members of Stan’s family in attendance this year.

3) $15,000 Xcel Energy Foundation Grant supported the STEM program and its students. This year’s winning science team made it all the way to the finals in Washington DC with an idea to generate power from cascading wastewater and small turbines. (story on page 10)

4) Mains’l Services, Inc. is a new donor this year, awarding $10,000 for the Making A Difference Award to students in the health services field who are inspired by the desire to improve the lives and health of others.

We are excited to announce new scholarships for next year:

1) $100,000 Nancy Stein Memorial Endowment will provide scholarship support for women returning to pursue an education at Normandale; and 2) Jane Burkleo Music Scholarship. (see next page)
Normandale Community College Foundation is thrilled to announce a generous gift of $32,800 from the Minneapolis Foundation via the Jane Bukleko Scholarship Fund for the 2017-18 academic year. Jane Bukleko had a life-long interest in music. She died in 1986 at age 97. In 1985, when planning her estate, she established The Jane Bukleko Scholarship Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation for “the assistance of talented persons aged eighteen years and over in the active pursuit of education or training in music”. The Minneapolis Foundation invests the fund and awards grants from it in accordance with her intent.

Starting this spring, there will be four kinds of Music Scholarships offered, via auditions:

1) $200 to register and participate in any performing ensemble in the music department for the duration of the semester of the award. This award covers the cost of the tuition credit in full for all ensembles.

2) $500 to register and participate in Applied Music (private instrument study) for the duration of the semester of the award. The award covers the course fee of $425 associated with Applied Music for individualized instruction.

3) For Fall of 2017, there will two $500 awards for students intending to major in Music.

4) There will also be $200 awards for students from the campus community at large who play an instrument or sing but who are NOT currently participating in any performing ensembles.

The Music Department is excited about the possibilities this creates for all kinds of students who want to pursue the study of music in their lives.

Established in 1915, The Minneapolis Foundation is one of the nation’s oldest and largest community foundations. It manages more than $600 million in assets, administers more than 1,000 charitable funds created by individuals, families, and businesses, and distributes more than $35 million in grants each year.

Retirees gathered on Thursday, Oct. 13 to enjoy fellowship and lunch on a beautiful Fall day. New this year was a video booth designed to capture oral history recollections from this venerable bunch of anecdotal historians. The Marketing team and IT made it fun for everyone.

History Instructor Jack Norton spoke on internet privacy. He provided simple, free eye-opening techniques designed to minimize electronic footprints and protect identity.

President Dr. Joyce Ester delivered a State of the College brief. Foundation Executive Director Colleen Simpson wrapped up the day with gifts for everyone and a sincere thanks for the philanthropy of this group, which is mighty.

Retirees

Brooks Adlin
Evelie Bakken
Joan Berquist
Mary Djerf
Gary Flakne
Norma Hodnik
Betty Johnson
Gary Johnson
Gary Ness
JoAnn Rice
Gail Scheid
La Verne Smith
Nat Wisser
Visionary, $200,000 and above
Otto Bremer Foundation

Trustee, $100,000 - $120,000
The Curtis L. Carlson Family Foundation
Gunter Stein (Nancy Stein Scholarship Endowment)

Regent, $40,000 - $60,000
Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation
John E. Desmond and Janet C. Desmond Foundation
David B. Jones Foundation

Chairman, $15,000 - $35,000
The Donaldson Foundation
Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation
Larry and Lynda Jodas
Patterson Foundation
Mall of America
St. Paul Foundation
The Minneapolis Foundation

President, $10,000 - $13,000
The Minneapolis Foundati

Vice President, $5,000 - $9,000
Bloomington Daymakers Rotary Foundation
Bloomington Noon Rotary Foundation
G. Patrick Bonni
Doherty-Oasis Employment Group
IME Becas
INFCION, Inc.
Kraus-Anderson Companies, Inc.
Allan and Debbie Schneider
Thomson Reuters
TruVie, Inc.
Mae and Sylvester Weiss Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation
Xcel Energy Foundation

Dean, $3,000 - $4,999
Amica Mutual Insurance Company
Bloomington Convention & Visitors Bureau
Richard Brown
Chanhassen Rotary Foundation
Bryan Clem
Eden Prairie AM Rotary Foundation
Paula Forbes
Thomas and Beverly Horak
Marco, Inc.

David Norton and Alexa Pragman
Park Nicollet Health Services
RBCU
Timothy Stornnel
US Bank – Bloomington
Bonnie and David Westermoe

Ambassador, $1,500 - $2,500
Mark Adkins
Apex Business Consulting LLC
Linda Armstrong
Janet Bellows and Harvey Sherman
Bernardine Bryant
Education Foundation of Bloomington
Joyce Estes
Executive Rotary Foundation
Robert and Rhonda Gibbs
Amanda Gustafson
Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport MCO
Cori Hunter
Ike’s Bloomington Interim
Lancer Hospitality
Edward and Margaret Meyer
Janet Meyer
Orynthia Montague
Manley and Ann Olson
The PEW Charitable Trusts
Ona and Wayne Pinsonault
Carolyn Pratt and Jack Tuchter
Alice and Fred Seagren
Shakeopee Rotary Scholarship Foundation
Evangeline Shulum
Colleen and Kirk Simpson
Duane and Susan Spiegel
Axel and Loreli Steuer
Don and Leslie Stiles/Stiles Foundation
Brandon Supernault
TRIA Orthopaedic Center
Jane Welch and Dan Schwederott

Executive Director, $750 - $1,499
Katherine Andersen
Anonymous
Bank of America Foundation
Jon Barnett
Shirley Beil
Henry and Diane Benz
Best Buy
Colleen Brickle
Laura Catania
Chick-fil-A
Dan Creed
Eris Daly
Damiani Design
Brenda Dickinson
Dionne Doering
Joy and David Drummond
Embassy Suites
Robert and Nancy Erickson
Mary Ernst
John Ettichson
ExxonMobil Foundation – Matching Gifts Program
Frauenshul Inc.
Christa and Chris Getchell
GiveMN
Patricia Gonzales
Karen Hanson
Robert and Kathleen Hauer
HealthPartners
Hilton Minneapolis – Bloomington
Mia Stahl
Ernest and Jeanne Lindstrom
Russell T. Lund Charitable Trust
Norman and Sharon MacDonald
Ryn Melberg
Minnesota Community Foundation
Minneapolis Twins
Aaron Moe
Moe Family Charitable Fund
Tim Meyer II
NETA
Polar Semiconductor, Inc.
PSAV, Radisson Blu Mall of America
Donald Retzneck
Mary Robben
Rockford Education Foundation
Steven Rosenstone
Rotary Club of Edina Foundation
Ruth and Robyn Ruben
Kim and Pete Segar
Ron Somerville
Michael Tippett
Wells Fargo Educational Matching Gift Program
Lisa and Richard Wheeler
Margie and Milton Woodhouse

Director, $500 - $749
Susan Ant
Kristina Bigalk
Martin Chorzempa, Sr.
Galen Cowsen
Douglas Claycomb
Warran and Adele Eidsness
Laurie Frahm
Rex W. Gaskill and Paul J. Tschumper
Marcie Harmon
Jeff Hudson
Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies
Erika and Herb Kahler
Elizabeth Longley
Jon Moe
Thomas Mooney
Normandale Bookstore
Patrick O’Donnell
Lisa Rude
Ryan Companies US, Inc.
Antoinette Somerville
Terry Stierwalt
Stephen Sullivan
Gerald Swarsensky
Andy and Amy Tix

Chair, $350 - $499
AFO Consultants
Anime Twin Cities Inc.
Angela Arnold and Jack Knechtem
Brainerd International Raceway
Catherine and Jay Breuer
Erik Burns
Debra Carlson
Tim Carter
Jennifer Crawford
Anthony Dunlop
Judy and Charles Dunnette
Angela Effertz
Embassy Suites Bloomington
Fidelity Investments
Carroll Gaub
Michele and Kent Grosse
Beth Grund, D.N.P.
Sharon Harvey
Michael and Kimberly Jackelten
Jeffrey Judge
Cary Komoto
Cindy Koopman and Steven Porter
Maple Grove Rotary Foundation
Patricia McPherson
Nekola Family Charitable Fund
of InFaith Community Foundation
Normandale Art Department
Major Family Foundation
Penny Peterson
Catherine Pulling
David Rayson
Margaret Reijo
Mary Regensieck
Derek Roe
Lee Roper-Batka
Lynn Rude
Renate A. Sharp
Debra Sidd
Bernard Smith
Paul Tarabek
Linda Tetzlaff
Foro Company Giving Program
Rachada Weiland
Martha Wittstruck

Mentor $200 - $349
Alan Abramson
AFCOM
Sunny Amley
Rebecca Amble
Kenneth Anderson
Gloria Aronson
Bret Bailey
Carol and Richard Bergental
Bloomington Chamber of Commerce
Bloomington Sister City Organization
Terry Bongard, DDS
Joseph Buettel
Timothy Busse
Susan Carter
Bonnie and John Chase
Martin Chorzempa, Jr.
Lucille Christianson
James Clay
James and Cecelia Cope
Patrick Corder
Matthew Crawford
Neal Cronin and Cynthia Popp-Cronin
Culligan Water
Culver’s
Marjie and Peter Drisks
Christopher Ennis
Vicki Erdmann
Lesley Farnham
Amy Lang
Amy Fowler
James and Kelly Frankenfield
Wendy Frielfeld
Fullerton Companies
Carol Frueh Kee Fund
General Office Products
Karen Gerstner
Greater Twin Cities United Way
Janice Hardin

Brooks Henbould
Hilton Minneapolis
John Hupenbecker
Jennifer Isaac
Geoffrey Jones
Carol Joslin
Karen Kilzer
Howard and Arlene Kurs
Laker Educational Foundation
Hella and Allan Lange
Clare and Tom Larkin
James Lemmer and Patricia Brennan
Lexus of Wayzata
Maplewood
Midwest Philips Sonicare
Minnesota State Fair
Minnesota Timberwolves
Larry Moe
Mortenson Construction
Motorworks BMW
Jefferson Mozell
Thomas and Colleen Naughton
Sharon and Nayo Nobuhiro
Leonard and Karen Nordstrom
Normandale Business and Social Sciences Department
Normandale Nursing Department
Norman Wolfe Theatre Department
Northern Tools and Equipment
John Olson
Joseph Opatz and Pamela Steckman
Jody Orthy
Park Dental Resource Group
Hitte Pash
Lynn Perkins
Joanna Piotrowska
Akshay Rao
Joseph and Julie Rapacki
Brent L. Reschert
Teresa Richard
Lisa and Kirk Rickert
Rotary Club of Chaska
Randi L. Roth
Jen Rotty
Sharon and James Rupp
Catherine Satern
Mary Ellen Seth
Lawrence Stitz
Jeff Sutter
Brooke Thaden-Koch
Beverly and Dale Thorslund
Debra and David Tillman
David and Karen Tsursuri
Douglas Wagner
Kathry Wielingh
Laura Willaert
Steve Winckelman
Robert Wittack
Catalina Yang
YMCA Southdale
Gerald Zingone

Educator, $101 - $199
AAA Minneapolis
Mark Ahrens
Torin Amie
Robin Arnson
Artistry
Daniel Barnett
David Barnett
Joyce Baumham
Carina Belinco
Judith Benka
Pamela Bentzen
Katie Blake
Aaron Brosier
Dale Brown
R. Tom Burgess
Eldon and Carol Buschhorn
Annette Byrd
YOU MAKE SO MUCH POSSIBLE!

In fiscal year 2016, Normandale Foundation distributed $806,315 through scholarships, emergency financial aid and program support.

DID YOU KNOW?
This represents an increase of almost $200,000 over last year!
And, nearly double the amount awarded just 2 years ago!

EXPANDING SCHOLARSHIPS, EMERGENCY AID AND PROGRAM SUPPORT.
AL GORACKE, 82
Al Goracke didn’t start out at Normandale intending to be a pastor who runs the fourth largest food shelf in Minnesota. Instead, Goracke got an AA in Liberal Arts and Marketing (’82), transferred to St. Cloud State, and upon graduation he started a successful chain of drycleaners. Goracke felt called to become a pastor, and eventually got a Masters and Doctorate in Ministry. Hope Church is located in Blaine, and four years ago they launched a small program designed to help nourish families in need of healthy food. Today, they feed over 1,800 families per week, distributing healthy, fresh ingredients every Thursday afternoon, but people start lining up in the morning. “We like to take risks,” Al says, so last summer they challenged themselves to feed 5,000, and they did it!

BRENDA KENNEALY, 04
Kennealy attended Normandale from 2002 to 2004 for his AA before completing a bachelor’s degree in English at the University of Minnesota. Since graduating, he worked in retail management, and transitioned to a career in production editing and copy editing. Kennealy has also gained experience as a freelance writer, contributing work to the Star Tribune, Growler Magazine, and other publications.

OMER KHAN, 12
Khan graduated from Normandale in 2012 with an AAS emphasis in Accounting with high honors from Normandale, and transferred to the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota to pursue his bachelor’s degree in Supply Chain Management and emphasis on MIS (Management Information Systems). He is currently working at Cummins Inc. as a Senior Global Material Planner/Buyer for Recon After-market parts. He is responsible for $5-6 million in sales per week, and has a junior planner who directly reports to him. “My time at Normandale enriched my life in many ways,” said Khan. “It has provided me with the necessary tools to enhance my skills more, taught me valuable knowledge about this diverse world, and about people and concepts in general. It eventually enabled me to become more successful in life.”

SARAH LANTTO, ’05
Lantto graduated from Normandale with an associate’s degree in Communication Studies and went on to Metropolitan State University for her bachelor’s degree in Marketing. Today she leads the entire digital strategy for Travel Leaders Network, which is the largest travel consortia in the country.

VANESSA OLSON, 12
Olson graduated from Normandale Community College in 2012. She worked on an Associate of Arts with emphasis in Psychology and an Associate of Science in Criminal Justice, and transferred to the University of St. Thomas where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and a minor in Psychology in 2014. Olson currently works as a Litigation Assistant for Zwicker and Associates, P.C. - a law firm specializing in debt collections and litigation services for creditors.

MONICA WILLIAMS, 16
Williams graduated from Normandale this past spring on May, 16, 2016. She earned her Associate in Arts degree in Liberal Education, with an Emphasis in Sociology. A week after graduation, Williams started working for the City of Bloomington in the Human Resources Department as an Information Assistant. “My job allows me to interact with the residents, employees and council members of this city,” said Williams. “I have even been featured in the Bloomington Police Department “Running Man” challenge video. Working for The City of Bloomington has been great! Most importantly, Normandale has been a great staple in my academic career. I am proud to be an alum. Go Lions!!”

BRADLEY WOLFE, ’10
Wolfe attended Normandale through PSEO during his senior year of high school. With his AP credits, he was able to earn his associate's degree at the same time he graduated high school. “Normandale helped my transition from a student earning average grades in high school to one who earned a 3.9 in graduate school,” said Wolfe. “I recently graduated with my third master's degree – and now I am Executive Director at One Bright Star, a nonprofit based in Mankato. My year at Normandale prepared me well to be successful with both my future schooling and my future nonprofit career.”
Happy Holiday Season to Our Normandale Friends!

At Thanksgiving and throughout the Holiday Season, our thoughts turn gratefully to you, our committed and faithful donors who have made so much possible for Normandale students. Your generosity this year helped to provide innovative programs and scholarships to an ever-present, ever-growing number of deserving, hardworking students. You are changing lives and creating futures, one person at a time. Every scholarship recipient has their own personal story and expressions of gratitude. Check out a recent heartwarming video of surprised scholarship winners at www.normandale.edu/foundation.

Heartfelt thanks and warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday season and joyous 2017 filled with peace.

Colleen Simpson,
Normandale Foundation Executive Director