

Dakota College at Bottineau Alumni Newsletter

BRANCHING OUT

Vol. 39, No. 1 | Spring 2024



The Remarkable Rise of
1,000-Point Scorers





Milestones and Transformations: Remodeling Projects at DCB

by Dr. Carmen Simone, *Campus Dean*

People have always made Dakota College at Bottineau (DCB) a special place. This year, we are bidding farewell to two giants. Brad Gangl has been involved with Information Technology for many years and soon, he will join the ranks of the retired. He will be followed closely by Angie Bartholomay, who has taught many science students over the years. This semester, Angie is being honored by the American Association of Community Colleges as one of only thirty-seven Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Members in the country. We will miss both Brad and Angie!

Two major remodeling projects will soon be finished at DCB. The building at 120 E. Burdick Expressway in Minot is becoming Dakota College Downtown. After years of planning and hard work, this renovation is scheduled for substantial completion in the coming weeks. This fall, DCB will launch a brand-new Dental Assisting program at this site. The program earned initial accreditation from the Council on Dental

Accreditation (CODA) and applications are open. Other career and technical education programs will also be housed at Dakota College Downtown, bringing hands-on learning to downtown Minot.

In late summer, the renovation of Old Main on the DCB campus will finally be finished. The Nursing and Medical Assisting programs will both be housed in this location, and we cannot wait to bring students back into the facility after many years of dormancy. By this fall, Old Main will be restored to its full glory, thanks to legislative and local support.

At DCB, our vision is clear. *We adapt to the changing educational landscape to empower students and impact communities.* With your support, we will continue serving northcentral North Dakota for many years to come.

Introducing Innovative Dental Programs and Simulation Lab

Dakota College Downtown in Minot, ND is gearing up to launch two cutting-edge dental programs.

Starting fall semester 2024, students can enroll in the newly accredited Dental Assisting program, followed by the anticipated commencement of the Dental Hygiene program in fall 2025. These programs are housed in a newly remodeled building, equipped to provide students with the latest in dental education featuring 12 state-of-the-art dental operatories and a 12-chair simulation lab.

The simulation lab pictured here is the first of its kind in ND dedicated to dental programs. The lab serves a crucial role in the education of future dental professionals. This firsthand experience ensures students are well-prepared as they transition into clinical practice.





Reconnecting with Dakota College

by Leslie Stevens, *Foundation Director*

I hope this message finds you well and thriving since our time at NDSF, NDSU-BB, MSU-B, or DCB. As we continue our paths, it's

essential to take a moment to reflect on the place that shaped us into the individuals we are today - our alma mater.

My college years were more than just a period of academic study; they were a time of growth, learning, and forging lifelong friendships. The experiences I had, both in and out of the classroom, have left an indelible mark on me. I hope you feel the same way.

I'd like to extend an invitation to reconnect in a meaningful way. While our time as students may have come to an end, our relationship with the institution doesn't have to. There are numerous ways we can give back and be involved, ensuring that the next generation of DCB students have the same opportunities.

Here are a few ways you can get involved:

1. Give Back Financially - donations, endowments, or scholarships make a significant impact. Even small contributions add up and can support various programs, and student scholarships. (Please see the clip and send the form below).

2. Volunteer Opportunities - Get involved in our activities, we host alumni gatherings and fundraisers, and our student services staff attend career fairs or high school visits. Your time and experience might have a positive influence on a future student.

3. Attend Alumni Events - Reconnect with old friends and classmates by attending alumni events. We are planning gatherings this summer at the Bottineau County Fair and also a trip to the International Peace Gardens.

By giving back and staying active, we not only honor the memories and experiences we shared but also contribute to the continued success and growth of the college.

I encourage you to join me to make a meaningful impact on our alma mater. Together, we can create a legacy that extends far beyond our years as students.

Go Jacks,
Leslie Stevens, '91



ALUMNI DONATION

Greetings alumni and friends:

The Alumni Association needs your support to keep giving scholarship dollars and publishing the bi-annual newsletter. Please remember to send your contribution by clipping this slip out with your information. This will help us update our records and keep you on our mailing lists. We very much appreciate your contribution and support.

Contribution Amount

- \$25 Dues
- \$50
- \$100
- \$250 Scholarship

Name _____

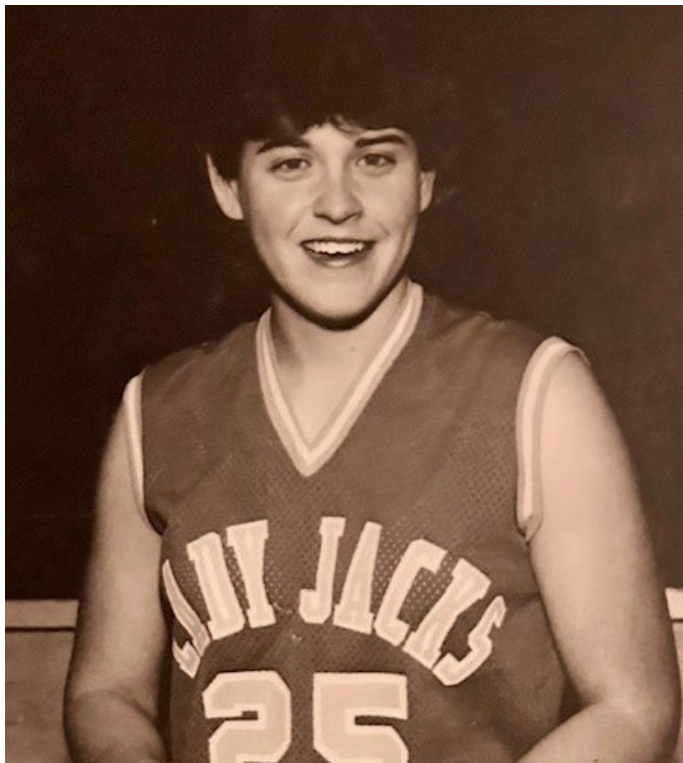
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Make checks payable to **DCB Alumni Association** and mail to 105 Simrall Blvd., Bottineau, ND 58318 or pay by credit card online by visiting: www.dakotacollege.edu/foundation or calling us at **701-228-5613**.

Athletic Hall of Famer Recalls Her Time in Bottineau

The Remarkable Journey of Rhonda Denbow



A young girl who spent her formative years on a farm near Souris, Manitoba, went on to become a noteworthy athlete whose name can be found in Halls of Fame on both sides of the Canadian and U.S. border. From her childhood as the youngest of eight children through today, sports have played a major role in Rhonda Denbow's life. "My parents, Scott and Rita, were my biggest fans and they always encouraged me. They gave me the opportunity to achieve success. I attribute so much to having them as parents - my work ethic, competitiveness, and love for sports and fun to name a few," says Denbow.

At the age of 13, she began playing competitively with the Souris Blues Senior Ladies Fastball Team with three sisters. The Denbow girls certainly made their mark on the game. Rhonda was inducted into the Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame twice in 2006 - once as an athlete and a second time alongside her sisters as part of the 1977-1982 Souris Blues team.

During her senior year of high school, Denbow's basketball and volleyball teams won the "A"

“
My time in Bottineau gave me confidence to continue to play and push to another level at VCSU.
”

Provincial Titles, similar to high school state tournaments in the U.S. When she graduated, she knew she wanted to continue her athletic career, but she didn't want to be limited to just one sport. A basketball and volleyball scholarship from North Dakota State University-Bottineau Branch, which is now Dakota College at Bottineau, allowed her to continue to excel in athletics.

With the NDSU-BB campus only an hour and 15 minutes from her hometown, Denbow's loved ones could watch her play regularly. "Coming from a town of 1,500 people at the time and a graduating class of 32, I liked that NDSU-BB was smaller and closeknit. It was a big transition for me, and I received a lot of kindness and support from the people on campus," she says. "Quite a few other student athletes from Souris and the surrounding area went to NDSU-BB, so the school was familiar to me. I remember many fun and long bus rides with my teams. Attending a small college was a bit like being an underdog. We had to rise to challenges and seize opportunities."



Rhonda and her mother

Denbow knew she wanted to become a teacher and NDSU-BB helped her on the path towards reaching that goal. After graduating with an Associate of Arts degree, Denbow went on to study education and play softball and volleyball at Valley City State University. “My time in Bottineau gave me confidence to continue to play and push to another level at VCSU.” Denbow did indeed push herself to another level. She was named to the All-Conference and regional teams in volleyball and softball while at VCSU. She still holds the single season pitching record of eight walks and second lowest ERA 1.14.



Rhonda and her family

After graduating from VCSU with her bachelor's degree, Denbow moved to Winkler, Manitoba, where she taught from 1991 to 2003. In 1992, she was inducted into the NDSU-BB Athletic Hall of Fame for basketball and volleyball. “It was an amazing feeling to be honored for being part of something I loved. It was just a couple years after I graduated from Bottineau,” she remembers. “I’m grateful for attending NDSU-BB. It got things going in my life.”

She coached the Garden Valley Collegiate team to winning the “AAA” Volleyball Provincials in 1993. When she wasn't teaching and coaching, Denbow played with Smitty's Terminators, a Winnipeg fastball team that won seven national and four western Canadian championships between 1995 and 2003. During this period, she also had the opportunity to play for the Canadian National Softball team.

In 2003, Denbow took a year off teaching to play softball for the Elite Team National in Australia. After returning to the U.S., she went back to VCSU to help with the fastball program. She then moved on to coach softball at Minnesota State University Moorhead for three fastball seasons where she had a .583 winning percentage. She spent a year with Softball Alberta as the technical lead. In 2005, Denbow was credited with leading a Saskatchewan team to the gold medal in the World Masters Games.

For the past 13 years, Denbow has taught physical education and junior high in Edmonton, Alberta. “I love it. Every day is different. The kids are high energy which keeps it interesting,” she says. Denbow's wife, Jen, also works in education. The couple lives in Sherwood Park, outside of Edmonton with their two sons - 12-year-old Gavin and 10-year-old Lennon. The boys follow in Denbow's footsteps by playing several sports.

The same year Gavin was born, Denbow was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her competitive spirit helped her beat cancer with the help of a year of chemo and radiation. Today she remains cancer free and continues to be a sports enthusiast. “I love watching the Edmonton Oilers and Blue Jays,” Denbow says with a smile. “I still play hockey, pickleball, and golf.” She also coaches her sons' volleyball and basketball community and school teams.

The wide variety of life experiences Denbow has had thanks to her career and athletics can be traced back to her decision of where to begin college. “I would tell young people who are considering their options that they need to find what works for you. I recommend visiting campus. Look at the courses, consider the athletics, the programs, housing, and campus life. Most importantly, get a feeling about whether you'll like it. Go with your gut feeling. Bottineau was the right fit for me.”

NDSU-BB Alum Has Storied Career as Award-Winning DCB Science Professor

Angie Bartholomay - A Legacy of Excellence in Education



After 45 years of teaching, fifteen of those at Dakota College at Bottineau (DCB), Angie Bartholomay has announced she will retire at the end of the 2024 spring semester. The award-winning Science Professor is closing this chapter on a high note, after receiving two prestigious awards within the past school year.

The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) named Bartholomay to the Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty for 2024. "Nominated faculty demonstrate passion for the students by showing willingness to support them, inside and outside the classroom," says Carmen Simone, Campus Dean/CEO at DCB. "Angie is a very passionate employee and truly cares about the students and is always willing to work with students. She comes in early and stays late to ensure students receive the help they need to succeed."

She will be honored with the Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty for the American Association of Community Colleges during the AACC's annual spring convention, during the closing lecture which celebrates outstanding alumni and recipients.

The award is no surprise to her colleagues, as Bartholomay is known for going above and beyond every semester, getting involved in activities throughout campus. Through her involvement with LeaderJacks, a DCB student leadership group, the organization has received and successfully completed grant work for a variety of projects. Some of the projects Bartholomay takes part in include Marketplace for Kids, STEM and T4 events, DCB Alumni Association, and many more.

In the fall of 2023, the North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) gave Bartholomay NDFS's most prestigious accolade, the "Environmental Educator of the Year" Trees Award. Nominations were received from across the state. "I am honored and humbled to be recognized for doing something I love to do, teach," Bartholomay said.

Bartholomay has been a Project Learning Tree and Project WET facilitator for many years. As a facilitator and educator, Bartholomay has worked with North Dakota agencies that promote environmental stewardship through education for more than 30 years. North Dakota Forest Service, Water Resources, and Game and Fish are some of



the agencies she has worked with over the years. Bartholomay was instrumental in helping create Project Learning Tree's Activity Guide, serving as co-author, evaluator, and a field tester in her own classroom. She also correlated PLT and Project WET to North Dakota content learning standards. "As a facilitator for these programs, I have been blessed to work with so many amazing North Dakota teachers and students," says Bartholomay.

The past few years, she led a series of summer professional development courses called the "Natural Resource Institutes," where educators trained in environmental education curriculums like Project Learning Tree. In addition, Bartholomay organized many events such as the DCB Water Festival, NE Regional Science Olympiad, and many other educational opportunities for students grades K-12.

"No one works harder for students than Angie. She connects new concepts to the world around us, bringing these ideas to life for students. She is incredibly giving of her time. Angie is truly deserving of recognition, and we are thrilled for her," said Simone.

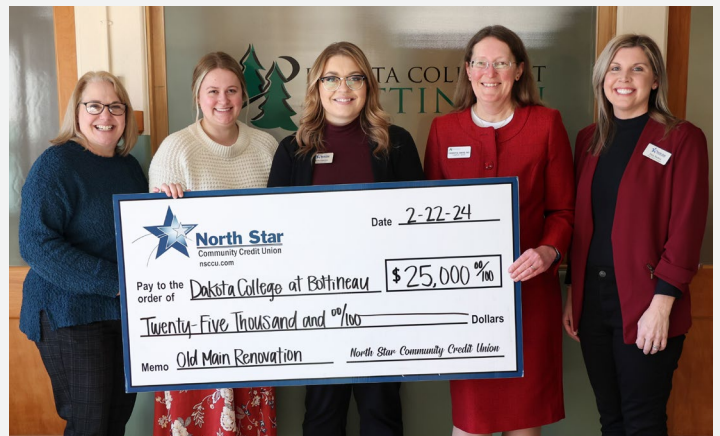
Bartholomay attended NDSU-BB from 1976 to 1978 and graduated with an Associate of Science degree in Forestry/Parks and Recreation. She went on to Minot State University for a Bachelor's degree in Geology and Environmental Science, then on to Bemidji State for a Master's degree. Her teaching career began at DCB in the Fall of 2009. She has taught a range of classes including Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy, and Geology.



A Special Thank You to Our Donors



The American Legion Post 42 in Bottineau donated \$5,000 to the DCB Alumni Association to support the returning student scholarship fund at Dakota College. This partnership is in its third year and benefits many sophomore students.



The North Star Community Credit Union recognizes the healthcare need in the community and surrounding area. NSCCU is donating \$25K in support of the nursing collaborative lab classroom in the Old Main remodel.

The Remarkable Rise of 1,000-Point Scorers

Brendan Redhead and Max Groom — Accomplishing the Unthinkable.

Entering this season Dakota College at Bottineau did not have a known 1,000-point scorer in men's basketball. Fast forward to the end of the season the Lumberjacks now have two 1,000-point scorers. Brendan Redhead a Sophomore from Rockingham, Australia surpassed 1,000 career points in an 82-71 win over Miles Community College on February 14th. Redhead finished his Lumberjack career scoring 1,136 career points despite missing eight games this season. Brendan averaged 23 points per game this season which led the Mon-Dak Athletic Conference and was named first team all-conference.

Max Groom a Sophomore from Perth, Australia joined his fellow Aussie as a 1,000-point scorer on February 25th against Williston State College. Max finished his career with 1,053 career points. Groom broke the DCB single season scoring record this season with 635 points. Max also joined Brendan on the Mon-Dak All Conference team while averaging 19.8 points per game.


Top picture: Brendan Redhead (13), a six foot sophomore guard from Rockingham, Australia. Brendan has played in 24 games this season with 753 minutes.

Bottom picture: Max Groom (24), a six two sophomore guard from Perth, Australia. Max has played in 32 overall games this season with 1038 minutes.



We're So Proud of You – Way to Go!

Congrats to these DCB players who have been recognized for their achievements this year.



WILL BRODERIUS
Blue Division Regular Season
Champion
Clay Target




MONICA YODER
Blue Division Regular Season
Champion
Clay Target




MAX GROOM
First Team All MonDak Conference
Men's Basketball



BRENDAN REDHEAD
First Team All MonDak Conference
Men's Basketball



AMARI BUTLER
First Team All MonDak Conference
Women's Basketball



HANNA PLUMBTREE
Second Team All MonDak Conference
Women's Basketball



LEIGHTON HOLSTEIN
ACHA All American 3rd Team
West Region
Men's Hockey



JAIDA CHARTRAND
ACHA All Tournament 2nd Team
Women's Hockey



MICHELLE LANDSVERK
ACHA All Tournament 2nd Team
Women's Hockey

Thank You for Making a Difference at DCB!

(All donations were made from October 1, 2023 to March 15, 2024)

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 Leslie Stevens

In memory of Martha Schepp
 Leslie Stevens

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In memory of Ray Ostreim
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 Carmelita Lamb

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 Dave Biberdorf, Dwane Getzlaff,
 Ray Ostreim and Genevieve
 Monson*
 Rod & Suzanne Hiatt

WALL ENDOWMENT FUND

Kenneth Wall

**LARRY CHAPUT
 ENDOWMENT FUND**

Donna Maston

FUTURE LUMBERJACKS



Cody, '14, and Leah, '14, Brooks
 welcomed Barrett
 John Brooks on
 March 20, 2024.



Lucas, '02, and Ashley, '02, Jelleberg
 welcomed Georgia
 Danielle Jelleberg on
 November 2, 2024.



Reed Loucks, '14, and Valerie Rivera
 welcomed Maverick
 Jesse Loucks on
 March 18, 2024..

FAREWELLS

Sara Remme, '94
 March 10, 1974-February 10, 2024

Lisa Bjorg Tofteland Sorenson, '87
 July 8, 1967-January 6, 2024

Ida Syvertson, '45
 December 10, 1924-
 December 30, 2023

Paul May, '66
 May 8, 1946-December 18, 2023

Martha Schepp, '70
 July 28, 2049-December 7, 2023

Ronald Burthold, '66
 June 25, 1945-November 18, 2023

Dwane Getzlaff, '68
 March 6, 1948-November 16, 2023

Clarence Weltz, '54
 June 20, 1934-November 13, 2023

Jeremy Ketterling, '99
 December 30, 1976-
 October 27, 2023

Sharon Palmer, '62
 August 29, 1942-October 19, 2023

Peggy Christianson, '05
 September 22, 2048-
 October 7, 2023

Melanie Were, '87
 December 6, 1965-October 3, 2023

Bruce Lien, '59
 September 18, 1939-July 26, 2023

Dale Pederson, '65
 August 7, 1944-May 5, 2023

Patti Jo Verbitsky, '88
 September 19, 1968-
 September 11, 2021

GOOD NEWS

Chris Nero, '91, promoted to
 Associate Dean for Facilities and
 Technology at DCB.

Anthony Lee, '04 coached
 the Westhope/Newburg Boys
 team who are 2024 ND State B
 basketball champion.

Melinda Brunsell, '05, owner
 of Fierce Fitness won Best of the
 Bakken Personal Trainer.

Danielle Clemenson, '11,
 accepted the position of registrar
 at DCB.

Heidi Hauf, '11, accepted
 the position of Allied Health
 Instructor at DCB.

Sam Jelleberg, '11, married
 Kassy Arntson on December 30,
 2023.

Sherry Chan, '13, promoted to
 residential administrator at Kalix
 in Minot.

Reed Loucks, '14, coached
 the DCB Women's Hockey team
 to the Final Four at the 2024
 ACHA National Tournament.

Brad Gangl retired from DCB
 in January 2024.



UPCOMING DCB EVENTS



May 10

Commencement at DCB

June 14

Alumni Happy Hour Social at Bottineau County Fair (4:30 pm)



July 13

Logrollers Gorder Golf Tournament at Bottineau Country Club

July 30

Peace Garden Bus Tour & Lunch



Summer

Lake Metigoshe Wine Trek (date TBD)

August 27

First Day of Fall Semester

September 14

Logrollers Turtle Trot 5K and Fun Run at Lake Metigoshe



September 28

41st Annual EVERGREEN Dinner and Auction