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FOUR GENERATIONS CHOOSE BOTTINEAU

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DCB COACHES HONORED WITH NJCAA LEGACY AWARD

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ALUMNI AWARD HONOREES

Dakota College at Bottineau Alumni Newsletter

# BRANCHING OUT



## **Momentum in Fall 2025**

by Corey Gorder, Interim Campus Dean

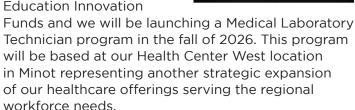
Enrollment and programming are looking great this fall for Dakota College at Bottineau (DCB). I'm pleased to report that our enrollment continues to rise, reaching 1,242 students this semester.

Last spring, we celebrated the graduation of our first cohort in the Dental Assisting program. This fall, we're excited to have our second cohort of Dental Assisting students underway, along with the first-ever cohort of Dental Hygiene students—both housed in our Dakota College Downtown campus in Minot.

Renovations are in progress to fully transition our Paramedic Program into the Downtown campus by January. This renovation will offer three fully operational programs Downtown Minot. Everyone involved is excited to have these programs consolidated under one roof to enhance collaboration, create efficiency and student experience.

Our Nursing program continues to stand out for DCB, recently earning recognition as the third-best program in North Dakota and the top-ranked two-year nursing program in the State. Currently, we have 51 Practical Nursing students and 20 Associate Degree Nursing students across our three locations: Bottineau, Minot, and Valley City. We're proud of our continued growth and student success in the health professions.

DCB applied and was awarded money for new programs titled Workforce Education Innovation



Following the legislative session, we were fortunate to receive funding to renovate our residence halls. Although we didn't receive the full amount requested, we secured enough to begin renovations in Milligan and Mead Halls. These renovations began last summer, and have significantly improved the living experience for our students.

DCB continues to operate as an affiliated campus of Minot State University and one of the eleven institutions within the North Dakota University System. I'm honored to serve in this interim role and continue to support the mission and values of DCB; to provide a quality education in a caring environment, while demonstrating integrity, engagement, inclusion, and passion.

# WELCOME TO DCB

Rhonda Edwardson	DENTAL PROGRAMS DIRECTOR	
Mary Gorder	DCB Nursing Instructor	
ROXANNE BAKER	DCB Nursing Instructor	
Kelsey Tate	DENTAL PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR	
Ashley Abrahamson	Stanley Farm Management	

Mary Jund	Paramedic Program Instructor	
Joseph Pancoast	Hort. & Agriscience Instructor	
Nathan Simpson	Women's Basketball Head Coach	
TINA WEBB	DCB Foundation Director	
Lynn Evenson	Accounting/Finance Technician	
MICHAEL LEADER	IT Support Technician	



## Dear Alumni and Friends of Dakota College at Bottineau

by Tina Webb, Foundation Director

As I reflect on my first months serving as the new Director of the Dakota College

at Bottineau Foundation, I am deeply moved by the remarkable generosity of those who love and support this campus and its students. Your gifts, engagement, and encouragement are truly at the heart of our mission and I am already thoroughly impressed by you.

Because of your continued generosity, the Foundation has already been able to award more than \$143,000 in scholarships to students for the 2025–2026 academic year. These scholarships not only ease the financial burden of higher education but also empower our students to focus on their studies, pursue their passions, and prepare for meaningful careers.

Your involvement in Foundation activities makes an incredible difference. This fall's Evergreen 42 Gala was both a joyful celebration of our community and a powerful fundraiser bringing in over \$47,000 to strengthen opportunities for DCB students. Events like these showcase the spirit of connection and commitment that define this DCB family.

Your continued support ensures that DCB students and programs have the resources they need to thrive today and in the years ahead. Every gift, no matter the size, directly strengthens our ability to ensure that we can sustain and grow the support that makes DCB such a special place.

I am so proud to be part of this important work, and my heart is warmed every day by your generosity and deep connection to DCB. Thank you for believing in our students, our mission, and the lasting impact of Dakota College at Bottineau.

#### **Alumni Donation**

Every dollar raised goes back to the students at DCB for returning student scholarships.

- □ \$25 dues
- ☐ Other
- ☐ \$250 Scholarship



#### Logroller Memberships

Every dollar raised goes back to the students at DCB for athletic scholarships and team support.

☐ Young Alumni: \$35

(Attended DCB within the Last 5 Years)

- ☐ Timberbeast: \$75 \$149
  - Window Decal
- ☐ High Climbers: \$150 \$249
  - Single Athletic Pass & Hat
- ☐ Pride of the Woods: \$250 \$499
  - Couple's Athletic Pass & T-shirt
- ☐ *Paul Bunyun:* \$500 \$999
  - Family Athletic Pass and Hoodie
  - Family Fitness Pass
- ☐ **Big Timber:** \$1,000+
  - Family Athletic Pass and \$100 Bookstore Credit
  - Family Fitness Pass

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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.

## Four Generations of Family Choose Bottineau

Attending college in Bottineau is a tradition that Karen (Bohl) Brandvold married into, with her children among the third generation taking classes on the 118-year-old campus. Karen is a 1988 Elementary Education graduate of NDSU-Bottineau who was inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007.

#### **Recruited by NDSU-B**



As a senior at Towner High School, Karen received recruitment calls to play basketball at the college level. Donald Thompson, known as Coach D.T., reached out to her from NDSU-B. "I got the opportunity to meet D.T., and he had the most endearing smile and his blue eyes sparkled. I had a tough decision to make, but I knew after my visit that NDSU-Bottineau was going to be my new home

and my new family," explains Karen. "I really liked the idea that it was close to home and that it was a smaller campus."

Some of her fondest memories on campus are of her time playing with her fellow Ladyjacks. "Coach D.T. treated us like his own daughters. He always cared about us and pushed us to be the best on the court and in the classroom. My teammates were my best friends, and they always were encouraging and fun to be around," says Karen.

She was surprised and excited to be a freshman starter at the beginning of her two-year stint playing for NDSU-B. One of her most special memories happened while playing as a freshman, when the Ladyjacks beat Williston State College for the first time in the school's history in that division. Karen made 16/16 free throws during the game and set a conference record. "I don't know if my record is still standing or if somebody broke it. Williston was the other school that recruited me to play basketball. Winning that game was like winning a championship game," she says with pride.

#### **Brandvold Family Tradition**

Though she loved attending NDSU-B, Karen didn't know the important role Bottineau would play in her future. As a sophomore she met her future husband, Bob, who also attended NDSU-B. His parents, Marvin and Janis, attended North Dakota School of Forestry in Bottineau together. Bob's aunts, Helen and Donna, also attended the North Dakota School of Forestry and met their spouses, Lee Taylor and Gary Molander, there. Bob and all seven of his siblings attended college in Bottineau. Ten of the Brandvold siblings' children also attended Minot State University-Bottineau or Dakota College at Bottineau. Four out of five of Karen's and Bob's children are among the third generation to choose Bottineau. The fourth generation has already arrived at Dakota College at Bottineau. Josie Wintermute, a second cousin to Karen's and Bob's kids, plays basketball like several of her family members before her.

Married for 36 years now, Karen and Bob have carried on the Brandvold tradition of welcoming local college students with home cooking and fellowship. "Bob's family members and our family always invited students for meals, snacks, visiting, and various family activities. People still talk about all the delicious meals and fun they had at the Brandvold's Farm," Karen says with a smile.



Karen's Team Photo



Karen being inducted into the DCB Athletic Hall of Fame

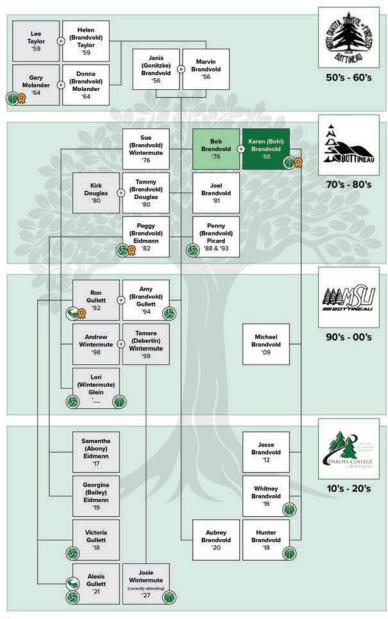
#### **Bottineau Campus Over the Years**

Though many things have changed since Karen attended NDSU-B, some things remain the same. Instead of the quarter system, DCB has semesters. Old Main is still a focal point of the campus, but instead of humanities, economics, and history classes, the renovated building is home to the DCB nursing program. There is a new cafeteria, and the dormitories have been updated. "When our daughter Whitney went to DCB, she stayed in the same dorm room I did when I went to NDSU-B. That was pretty cool," says Karen. "Our children actually had some of the same instructors that were there when I attended college!"

The entire Brandvold family had great experiences at Bottineau. Karen and Bob's son Jesse says of his time at DCB, "It was a good steppingstone. The smaller classes made you feel like you were important and not just a number. Teachers and professors knew who you were. Also, you could meet all the students at the college and get to know them on a personal level. For people who don't know what their major is or are undecided, it is a great place to get the most out of your investment until you decide. It gives a person the opportunity to consider lifetime careers."

Reflecting on her time at NDSU-B, Karen says her college experience led her to a career she loves and made Bottineau her home.

Playing basketball taught me about life. We shared laughter, tears, victories, disappointments, and lessons. My experience playing basketball at NDSU-B inspired me to become a teacher and coach.







#### A Solid Place to Start

After graduating from NDSU-B, Karen earned a B.S. in Elementary Education from Minot State University. She began her career working part-time as a substitute teacher and helping Robert milk cows and farming. She spent six years teaching fifth grade at the Ojibwa Indian School where she also coached 5th and 6th grade girls' basketball. In 2006, she focused on being a mother while helping on the farm and ranch. During this time, Karen began coaching junior varsity and varsity basketball at Bottineau High School. After 10 years, she transitioned to coaching at the fifth and sixth grade level. For the past 16 years, Karen has taught in Bottineau Public Schools and has coached at the 5th and 6th grade level for more than 30 years.

"I really enjoy living and working in Bottineau because it's the most beautiful place, especially with the rolling hills and scenic view by Lake Metigoshe. The people are friendly and caring. Anytime people need a helping hand, everyone pitches in to help," Karen says. The Brandvold family knows this firsthand, after losing their home to a fire in 1995. "The fire department, first responders, and people from the community and all around helped us to rebuild our lives again. Due to all their gifts and generosity, my family could move on from the tragic loss. We are so blessed and grateful to everyone who has continually touched our families' lives. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else. Everyone looks out for each other and takes care of each other. I feel so lucky and blessed to live in Bottineau."

Whether she's talking to a former student or a member of her family who is considering what to do after high school graduation, Karen's advice is, "open yourself to life's opportunities no matter how 'big' or 'small' they may seem. Attending NDSU-B wasn't part of my original plan, but it's the best choice I ever made. I am so glad I followed my heart." The rest of the Brandvold clan would likely agree, with 29 members and counting who chose Bottineau.



Karen Brandvold lists several professors from her time at NDSU-Bottineau who made a deep impact on her as mentors and lifelong friends. "Professor Chuck Lura was the reason I passed my Biology Lab. Mr. Leno and his wife taught me so much, and we are the best of friends today. Gordy Lindquist has touched so many lives as an amazing music teacher, pianist, and is a friend to all he meets. Jack Woods was my math instructor who was another impactful teacher in my life and within the Bottineau community. Jack Woods and his wife Patti came to all the college basketball games and took pictures. Jack was there the year my daughter Whitney and her team won the District Championship to go to Nationals. and he took a picture of Whitney and I together. Arnie Beaver, Howard Proutty, Les Wagner, and Ona Monson were also my best friends in college and in the community, but sadly some of them have passed," says Karen.

Last but certainly not least, Karen remembers Coach D.T. as her best friend, coach, and mentor who stayed in close contact with her after she graduated. "We shared family memories, coaching advice, and lots and lots of words of love and encouragement and lots of tears and endless hugs. I am so lucky to have had him in my life. I miss him so much."





Karen's daughter Whitney during her time at DCB

## NJCAA announces honorees of Coaches Legacy Awards

#### March 6, 2025

Charlotte, NC -The NJCAA has announced its first ever honorees for the Coaches Legacy Awards presented by Nufabrx, which recognizes the all-time winningest coaches in NJCAA history. This is the first time in the near 90-year history of the NJCAA that coaches have been recognized in such a fashion by the Association.

"Being able to recognize our coaches, past and present, is a wonderful thing for the NJCAA, our member institutions, the coaches, and their families." said Dr. Christopher Parker, NJCAA President and CEO. "We look forward to having many of these coaches come together for us to celebrate their accomplishments and contributions to the NJCAA later this year."

All honorees were recognized at a special luncheon on Tuesday, June 17, in Charlotte, North Carolina, at the Hilton Charlotte University Place Hotel. The luncheon will precede the 2025 NJCAA Hall of Fame and Awards event, scheduled for later that day.



Nearly 200 coaches across 28 different sports were nominated by the member colleges at which they coached.



Travis Rybchinski - Ice Hockey Coach

In 24 seasons at the helm of Dakota Bottineau, Travis Rybchinski has led the Lumberjacks to seven national championships in 10 national tournament appearances as a coach. Rybchinski picked up his 300th career victory in January 2022. A native of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Rybchinski has been named NJCAA Coach of the Year seven times.



Garry Warren - Ice Hockey Coach

Gary Warren coached the Lumberjacks for 15 seasons and racked up quite a reputation during his time at Dakota College at Bottineau. Gary took the Lumberjacks to the national championships 12 times during those 15 years, 3 of which ended in a national championship title.

## **DCB Celebrates Alumni Recipients**

Since 1982, Dakota College at Bottineau (DCB) Alumni Association has hosted an Awards Recognition banquet that honors supportive community and alumni. The DCB Alumni Association accepts nominations for the Golden Service, Friend of the College, and Young Alumnus awards, which are awarded annually. The Alumni Association recipients were celebrated at the Awards Recognition Banquet, Saturday, October 11, 2025, in a semi-private event at the DCB campus.

#### **Alan Wondrasek**

#### Friend of Dakota College at Bottineau Award Recipient

The Friend of Dakota College at Bottineau Award is presented annually to an individual who, though not necessarily an alumnus, has demonstrated exceptional support for DCB through time, resources, and service that make a lasting impact on the college and community. Colonel (Ret.) Al Wondrasek embodies this spirit through his dedication to Dakota College, his service to veterans, and his leadership within the Bottineau community.

A proud alumnus of the North Dakota School of Forestry, Class of 1971, Al has been a longtime supporter of DCB and an active member of the DCB Logrollers, attending as many athletic events as possible. He played an integral role in the recent Old Main renovation project, visiting the building weekly to track its progress, sponsoring a room, and purchasing multiple tiles inside the facility. His commitment to the success of the college and its students has made him a true friend of the DCB family.

Al's service extends far beyond the campus. A retired U.S. Army Colonel, he currently serves as the Director of Bottineau County Veterans, where he was instrumental in relocating and upgrading the Veterans Memorial Hall. He also designed more than 100 aluminum can collection sites across the area, a program that has recycled nearly six million cans to help sustain the Veterans Hall—a project that continues to benefit the entire community.

In addition to his veterans' work, Al remains active in supporting civic and youth programs, including Boys and Girls State and local American Legion baseball. His leadership, generosity, and unwavering enthusiasm for both his community and Dakota College at Bottineau exemplify the values of service, dedication, and pride that this award honors.



Left to Right: Brian Kalk, Alan Wondrasek, Halle Serienko

#### **Halle Serhienko**

#### Young Alumnus Award Recipient

The Young Alumnus Award recipient must have attended Dakota College at Bottineau within the last 15 years, be successful and show growth and promise in their chosen career, contribute in a beneficial way to community and/or society in general, and set a good example in the community. Halle Serhienko exemplifies each of these qualities through her dedication to education, leadership, and service.

A 2014 graduate of DCB, Halle was an active member of the LadyJacks Volleyball team for two seasons and participated in numerous student activities during her time on campus. Her enthusiasm, teamwork, and academic excellence made her a standout student and a valued member of the DCB community.

Following her graduation, Halle earned her teaching degree and built a meaningful career as a high school English teacher at Bottineau Public School. Beyond the classroom, she contributed to student life through coaching and leading the Student Council in activities and fundraising efforts, helping to build school spirit and community engagement.

Halle also continues to make a positive impact at Dakota College. As a member of the Evergreen committee for the past three years, she has played an important role in ensuring the success of the DCB Foundation's signature event—securing donations, organizing gifts, and managing activities that support scholarships and programs for current students. Halle has joined the DCB faculty this fall as an English Instructor.

#### **Brian Kalk**

#### Golden Service Award Recipient

The Golden Service Award is given annually to someone who attended DCB, is at or approaching traditional retirement age, and has had a successful career or exceptional achievement that benefited their community or society. Brian Kalk's remarkable career exemplifies the purpose of this award.

A Bottineau native, Brian grew up hunting and fishing with his family, developing an early appreciation for North Dakota's natural resources. His father's 40-year career with North Central Electric also influenced Brian's lifelong interest in energy and environmental stewardship. He began his higher education journey at NDSU-Bottineau Branch—now Dakota College at Bottineau—on a hockey scholarship that set the foundation for his future success.

After his freshman year, Brian's desire to see the world led him to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he began a distinguished 21-year military career that took him to 48 countries. His service strengthened his dedication to energy security and natural resource preservation. While in the Marines, Brian earned a degree in Political Science from Campbell University,

completed Officer School in Quantico, Virginia, and later received a Master's in Environmental Engineering from North Dakota State University. He served as Environmental Officer at Camp Pendleton, California. and later as the Officer in Charge of the Military Entrance Processing Station in Fargo, North Dakota. During this time, he also completed a Ph.D. in Natural Resources Management from NDSU—an impressive achievement while still on active duty.

Following his retirement from the Marines, Brian continued his commitment to public service and education as a professor at NDSU, teaching Environmental Policy and Natural Resources courses. His leadership and expertise led him to serve eight years as a North Dakota Public Service Commissioner before joining the University of North Dakota's Energy and Environmental Research Center (EERC) as Director. He later served as Executive Director of the NDSU Research and Technology Park before returning to the EERC, where he currently serves as Chief Research Officer, developing innovative solutions to today's critical energy challenges.

Brian remains a proud supporter of Dakota College at Bottineau, frequently attending Evergreen and giving back to the institution where his journey began.

## **SAVE THE DATE** BOTTINEAU Lumberjack Hockey will celebrate LUMBERJACKS 50th Anniversary June 12-14, 2026 in Bottineau Reserve a room at Cobblestone Inn & Suites 701-534-2121 Events planned include social night, golf scramble, dinner & speaker. Est. 1974

## Thank You for Making a Difference at DCB! (All donations made from April 1, 2025 - October 15, 2025)

#### ALUMNI DONATIONS

American Legion Post #42

Keith Boeckel

**Bottineau County** Agricultural Society

Donna Brandon

Donald Caine

Marcia Foss

David & Phyllis Geiszler

Brian Jundt

Timothy Kaden

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Wold Engineering

Lois Vernon

Scott Wanner

#### ALUMNI MEMORIALS

In memory of Steven Gorder

Leslie & Troy Stevens

#### ALUMNI MEMORY TREE **DONATIONS**

In memory of Joshua Sanders

Friends of DCB

In memory of Richard O'Toole

Friends of DCB

In memory of Steven Gorder

Friends of DCB

In memory of Leroy Ackerman

Friends of DCB

In memory of Harley Hageness

Friends of DCB

#### **OLD MAIN DONATIONS**

Edward Jones-Matt Glasner

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Thomas Lervik

SMP Health Systems

John Staley

#### TRINITI SOLAND MEMORIAL BASKETBALL **SCHOLARSHIP**

Triniti Soland Memorial

#### NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS

In memory of Steven Gorder Harvey & Carol Hoff

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Ben Almberg

Bottineau Clinic Pharmacy

Owen Brenden

Cedric Jacobson

David Geiszler

The Pairadox Fund

Elma Severson

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#### FOUNDATION MEMORIALS

In memory of Roger Feldner

Curt Anfinson

Joleen Feldner

Ken Keysor

Linda Kyle

David Melgaard

#### FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP **ENDOWMENT**

In memory of Steven Gorder

Randy Gorder

#### **BERTHA KITTLESON &** JUDY SLATER ENDOWMENT

In memory of Clyde Foundrich and Peggy Undlin

John Slater

#### JANEEN POLLMAN **SCHOLARSHIP**

Kathryn Rettinger

In memory of David Hanson

Janeen Pollman

#### **WALTER & SHIRLEY** KNUDSON ENDOWMENT

Greg Knudson

#### VONNIE PETERSON ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory Steve Gorder,

Shelley Bullinger and

Terry Herbert

Rod & Suzy Hiatt

#### ESPESETH SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

Joyce Espeseth Estate

#### ARTS AND HUMANITIES **SCHOLARSHIP**

Gary Albrightson

#### **BETTY REHUSS ENDOWMENT**

**SCHOLARSHIP** Ronald Rehfuss

#### **DWANE GETZLAFF** MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

David Geiszler

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Elma Severson

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Beverly Jensen

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Brian Kalk Kelsey Katarzy

Leann Kihle Taylor Kippen

Kelsey Kippen

Beth Klebe Lexi Kvasnicka-Gates

Lake Metigoshe Lions

Rhonda Langehaug Cody Longie

Bottineau Lumber

Arthur Lund

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Magic City Beverage

Trudy Marum

Taylor Milbrath

Zahra Moss

Anne Moum

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Nero Funeral Home

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Susan Wintermute

Andrew & Tamara Wintermute

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#### Kathy Wyman **GIVING HEARTS DAY**

**DONATIONS** Wold Engineering

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Bottineau Clinic Pharmacy Karen K. Brandvold

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Mike Getzloff Sandra R. Gilbertson

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Jake Pommerer

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#### GOOD NEWS

Blake Carpenter '22 was named assistant hockey coach with the North Peace Navigators in Alberta, Canada.

Jayden Groninger '13 has joined Ackerman-Estvold as a construction specialist and testing technician.

Halle (Schumann) Serhienko '14 accepted a position as English professor at DCB.

Scott Johnson '89 was named to the Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty for the American Association of Community Colleges.

Nevaeh Christianson '24 and Andrew Lemar were married on February 24, 2024.

Morgan Kersten '19 and Kyle Wahoksi '20 were married on August 9, 2025.

Lindsey Cryer '24 and Ty Fladeland married on September 19, 2025.

#### **FAREWELLS**

Juliene Sivertson, '93,

August 31, 1943-August 31, 2025

Larry Armer, '67,

December 22, 1947-August 20, 2025

Paul Wisness, '70,

June 10, 1946-August 12, 2025

Steven Gorder, ,71,

February 4, 1951-July 24, 2025

Theresa Counts, '47,

November 4, 1936-July 22, 2025

Kolin Johnson, '69,

May 12, 1950-June 26, 2025 Gary

Christenson, '73,

July 29, 2025-June 12, 2025

Kathleen VandeWalle, '48,

August 30, 1929-May 19, 2025

Peggy Wanner, '74,

May 17, 1954-May 11, 2025

Clayton Millang, '82,

April 11, 1962-April 27, 2025

Avis Helmuth, '65,

January 17, 1944-April 25, 2025

Robert Mjoen, '75,

September 15, 1955-April 24, 2025

Cherrille Mclean, '75,

April 4, 1940-April 8, 2025

Leonard Rice, '53,

March 4, 1933-March 18, 2025

Blaine Martian, '74,

April 20, 1954-October 7, 2024

Marlyn Flanders, '65,

January 6, 1944-March 7, 2024

### **FUTURE LUMBERJACKS**



Seth '13 & Halle (Schumann) '14 Serhienko welcomed baby Ada Mae on August 16th, 2025



Irmalinda Duran '22 welcomed a baby boy.



Alana Galindo '24 welcomed a baby boy in September 2025.



**Delani Jahner** welcomed Lennyx Marie in May 2025.



Ty And Lindsey '24 (Cryer) Fladeland welcomed a baby boy in November 2024.



Madison '22 and Josh Kramer welcomed a baby girl.



Morgan (Klebe) '17 and Josh McNea welcomed Gracie on Sept. 24th.

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# UPCOMING DCB EVENTS

November 21	Alumni Dessert Auction
December 4	Fall Alumni Raffle
January 13	Spring Semester Classes Begin
February 12	Giving Hearts Day

For more information on events scan the QR code below or go to www.dakotacollege. edu/foundation





