



Estelline Alumni Association
 PO Box 108
 Estelline, SD 57234

PRSR STD
 U.S. Postage Paid
 PERMIT No. 38
 Estelline, S.D.

Address Service Requested

SAVE THE DATES

2020 Reunion

June 19~20~21



**JULY
2019**



MORE WEEKEND PHOTOS ON FACEBOOK

This year's all-school reunion and alumni picnic was well-attended by 230 people at the Legion Hall on Main Street. Classes honored were those ending in 4 and 9. People registered after the parade, went through the food line, and seated themselves, either with their classmates or others as they spent time renewing friendships.

The oldest graduate present was Delores Horswill Antonen of Arlington from the Class of 1940. Classmate Arnold Johnson of Estelline also attended. Jim Roth, Class of 1950, from Long Island NY traveled the farthest.

Reports from the secretary and treasurer were approved as written. The slate of officers for 2019-20 was also approved with Jennifer Bjorklund Loban, president; Jordan Busch, vice president; Hilary Gorder Suther, secretary; and Pam Colberg Schwartz, treasurer.

The officers plan to send out quarterly newsletters. Due to the increase in printing and mailing costs associated with this, they suggested that dues be raised from \$5 to \$10 per year. This was also approved.

GOLF TOURNAMENT: 20 teams with 78 golfers participated. First flight winners Mike and Rhonda Dahl, Damian and Dillon Freudenthal. Second flight winners Pat Ching, Garry Krause, and Jerry Squashingroff. Winner of the grill was John Krause.

GAZEBO GALLOP: Overall men's 5K winner was Tim Fryer, Hendricks, MN. Overall women's 5K winner was Emily Warne Schaefer of Estelline. Fun Fact: 27 members of the Earl and Shirley Colberg Family participated.



Class Notes

JAMES BENNING (EHS teacher) was the recipient of a 25-year officiating award given at the State B Boys Basketball Tournament in March. Mr. Benning officiates football and girls and boys basketball and has had the privilege of working seven state basketball tournaments, the State B Girls Championship Game in 2014, and the 2016 9AA Football Championship Game.

SHIRLEY (SALMONSON 54) and DENNIS EISNACH (54) of Pierre wish to share the news of their "United Nations" family. They have 14 grandchildren from four continents. Eight biological are from North America, two from Asia (China), two from Africa (Uganda), and two from South America (Colombia). The internationally-adopted grandchildren range in age from 14 to 19.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Dianne and **DAVE HOLTER (66)** of Bruce celebrated their 50th anniversary on May 17.

Jan (Riedel) and **RICK WALES (65)** of Mobridge celebrated their 50th anniversary on May 31.

ROSE (GILLIGAN 75) and Ron Hengel of Rollingstone, MN celebrated their 40th anniversary on June 9.

SHELLY (RUST 89) and Lance Bird of Worthington, MN celebrated their 25th anniversary on June 11.

CHRIS (elementary teacher) and JEFF WATT (80) of Estelline celebrated their 25th anniversary on June 18.

Vicki and **DOUG CHING (74)** of Dempster celebrated their 40th anniversary on July 21.

Su and **JAMES BENNING (EHS teacher)** of Estelline celebrated their 25th anniversary on July 23.

BETTY (WALES 66) and Patrick Halseth of Post Falls, ID will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Aug. 3.

BIRTHS

Feb. 19, 2019 ~ boy, Cashton Daniel to Jessica and Colin Birkeland. Grandparents are **SHEILA (BERWALD 88)** and John Gross of Madison.

March 25 ~ girl, Isabelle Grace to Kyle and Brooke Linne-man. Grandparents are Vicky and **BRIAN LINNEMAN (78)**, Volga.

April 4 ~ girl, Grace Jewell to **LINDA (TARRELL 99)** and Jon Greseth of Brookings.

April 5 ~ boy, Victor Ethan to Gena and **ERIC SIMON (96)** of Maplewood, MN.

April 16 ~ boy, Kasen Myles to Megan Kuipers and **COREY FUGERE (2006)** of Estelline; joins siblings Skyler and Taisley.

April 28 ~ boy, Hudson Allan to **ELLEN (HOLLMANN 2009)** and Dan Ordal of Colton, SD.

May 8 ~ boy, Ashton Gamora to Michelle and **ANDREW GORDER (2002)** of Dubai, UAE; joins brother Aiden. Grandparents are Lynette and **DWAYNE GORDER (74)** of Estelline.

May 19 ~ boy, Jacob Garry to **ROBYN (KRAUSE 2007) and HEATH BRUNA (2007)** of Estelline; joins brothers Lucas

and Logan. Grandparents are **PATRICIA (OSTRANDER 76)** Bruna of Sioux Falls and **SHERRI (MOORE 85) and GARRY KRAUSE (81)** of Estelline.

May 26 ~ boy, Asher Rudy to Amber and **RUSTY BRANDSRUD (2001)** of Estelline; joins siblings Allison, Tanner, and Hannah. Grandparents are **DEB (DEBOER 79) and WADE BRANDSRUD (81)** of Estelline.

May 31 ~ boy, Owen James to **SHERRY (RUNIA 2008)** and Cory DeWit of Hull, IA; joins sister Marissa.

June 6 ~ boy, Baylor Wayne to **HILARY (GORDER 2009/ middle school teacher)** and Austin Suther of Estelline; joins sister Bryer. Grandparents are **ANN (retired teacher) and MIKE GORDER (77)** of Estelline.

July 1 ~ boy, Banks William to **LACEY (WARD 2007) and JEREMY BACHMAN (EHS teacher)** of Estelline; joins brothers Braeyn and Bodyn. Grandparents are Patti and **MIKE WARD (73)** of Estelline.

WEDDINGS

SANDRA BRUINSMA (99), daughter of **DONALD BRUINSMA (66)** of Estelline, and Brian VanderLugt were married June 1, 2019. Sandy is employed at First Bank and Trust; Brian is an engineer at Daktronics, both in Brookings. **SAM KRAUSE (2013)**, son of **SHERRI (MOORE 85) and GARRY KRAUSE (81)** of Estelline, and Mikayla Brakke were married June 7, 2019. The couple owns Krause Custom Harvesting.

SHAWNALISA REED (2nd grade teacher), daughter of **ANNALISA (KALSBECK 82)** and Shawn Reed of Bruce, and Derek Adee were married July 5, 2019. Shawnalisa teaches 2nd grade at Sharon F. Delzer Elementary in Estelline and Derek is employed by Adee Honey Farms, Bruce.

GRADUATIONS

BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY:

BRANDON KREIN (2010/4th grade teacher) ~ Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction

DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY:

NOLAN SONNENBURG (2015) ~ Business Management and Marketing

MARISSA JONGELING (2015) ~ Business Management and Marketing

BRITTNEY MOORE (2015) ~ Accounting

LAKE AREA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE:

JAMIE BEGALKA (2016) ~ Agriculture

KAYLA RUNGE (2016) ~ Business Associate

MOLLY WATT (2017) ~ Financial Services

JAKOB WEINBERG (2017) ~ Automotive Technology

SOUTHEAST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE:

NATHAN SUNDBERG (2012) ~ Industrial Technology (Electrician)

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY:

ERIN BEGALKA (2013) ~ Animal Science, minor in Ag Business

KATIE HENDRICKSON (2014) ~ Animal Science and Dairy Production, minors in Biology and Chemistry

BEN SHAY (2014) ~ Business Economics, minor in Mathematics

DEATHS

ADELYNE "BOOTS" (HARRENGA 40) Wild died Jan. 25, 2019 at Morningside Heights Care Center in Marshall, MN. Funeral services were held Feb. 1 at Christ United Presbyterian Church, Marshall, with burial in the Marshall Cemetery.

IVA MAE (BRUINSMA 56) Jensen died March 3, 2019 at the Hendricks Nursing Home. Funeral services were held March 8 at the Trinity Lutheran Church with burial in the Hendricks City Cemetery, all in Hendricks, MN.

JOYCE (LANTGEN 55) Moen died March 21, 2019 at the Estelline Care Center. Funeral services were held March 26 at the Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church with burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, all in Watertown.

DOROTHY (CARLSON 60) Strande of Lake Preston died April 28, 2019 at Ava's House in Sioux Falls. Funeral services were held May 3 at North Preston Lutheran Church with burial in the church cemetery.

JUDY (HEIBULT 63), wife of **DONALD BRUINSMA (66)** of Estelline died May 10, 2019 at a Lake Norden care

center. Funeral services were held May 15 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Estelline.

JINELLE (NELSON 67) Olson Craig died May 27, 2019 at her home in Palm Bay, FL.

KRISTI (HENDRICKSON 83) Eich of Brookings died June 9, 2019 at a Sioux Falls Hospital. Funeral services were held June 17 at Rudes Funeral Home in Brookings with graveside services at Memorial Hill Cemetery, Lake Benton, MN.

MARGARET (PAPKA 49) Charlton died June 14, 2019 at Edgewood Prairie Crossings, Sioux Falls. Funeral services were held June 18 at First English Lutheran Church, Lennox, with burial in the Tea Trinity Lutheran Cemetery.

DONALD HUTT (54) died July 1, 2019 at his home in Boyd, MN. Funeral services were held July 9 at Trinity Lutheran Church with burial in the church cemetery, all in Boyd.

JERRY SWEEN (71) of Molalla, Oregon died July 7, 2019. An open house will be held Aug. 3 at the American Legion Hall in Estelline with burial in St. John's Cemetery, rural Toronto.

Larry Saathoff named Honorary Referee

Larry Saathoff, a 1968 graduate of Estelline High School, was chosen as the Honorary Referee for the 2019 running of the Pat Gilligan-Alumni Invitational Track Meet, held on April 23. A record 23 teams competed.

Larry was born and raised in Estelline. He was a member of the largest class to ever graduate from EHS. "There were a lot of great athletes in my class," Larry said, "like Gary Boettcher and Jim Freesemann, so intramural basketball was a big activity and we had a lot of fun playing."

After graduation Larry attended Lake Area Vocational Technical Institute in Watertown for two years where he studied farm equipment and diesel. After graduation he worked for Ray Thompson Implement in Hendricks, MN before entering the construction field and eventually working for the Hamlin County Highway Department for 25 years, 19 as superintendent. He returned to the construction field in the private sector before his retirement.

Larry has been active in service his entire life, from family, to friends, and his community. He served on the Estelline Board of Education for 12 years and was president from 1998-2005. During that the time, he was instrumental in helping to build and design the new high school and Beckman Field which also included acquiring grants for the streets to the school. Larry, along with the late Pat Gilligan, teamed up as project managers for the track and field and Beckman Field was built under their leadership. Larry has always valued academics as well and during his tenure as president of the school

board, Estelline ranked number one in test scores in the state of South Dakota.

Larry was also a member of the chain crew at high school football games from 2000-2016. His first game was memorable as it was the night of the dedication of Beckman Field which had to eventually be moved to the old field when the lights went out. The Redmen won and the lights at Beckman Field have worked ever since.

Larry is now serving his ninth year on the Hamlin County Board of Commissioners. He is also a member of the Estelline Rodeo Club and the Estelline Alumni Association. He feels anything that promotes Estelline is worth being supported.



Class Reunions



1954

The Class of 1954 met on June 21 at the Legion Hall for their 65th class reunion. Those in attendance were: (left to right) Sheldon Stewart, Darlene (Papka) Colberg, Beverly (Giles) Ross, Joan (TeKrony) Bjorklund, Merlin Jeitz, Shirley (Salmonson) Eisnach, Cleyon Mulder, Dennis Eisnach.



1989

The Class of 1989 met on June 22 at the Legion Hall for their 30th class reunion. Those in attendance were: (left to right) Jennifer Simon-Radtke, Mark Buschenfeld, Brenda Beare Wilhelmi, Jay Kasdorf, Shelly Rust Bird, Russ Tesch, Brenda Janssen, Matt Hausman, Jeanne Prestrude Sonnenburg, and Barry Loomis.



1999

The Class of 1999 met at The Wild Hare in Brookings on June 22 to celebrate 20 years. Those in attendance were from left: Jess Freesemann, Dustin Hawley, Glenn IntVeld, Linda Tarrell Greseth, Jason Appel, Heidi Ching Howard, Steve Knutson, Sandra Bruinsma VanderLugt.



1974

The Class of 1974 met at the Ridge in Bruce on June 22 to celebrate 45 years. Those in attendance were Front Left: David Bjorklund, Cindy Gorder Sunvold, Pam Harrenga Jongeling, Alan Evenson, Betty Seeklander Saathoff, Dwayne Gorder. Back Left: Doug Ching, Russell Harms, David Nystrom, Curtis Ebdrup, Mark Foster, Roger Hawley. Missing from photo: Nancy Rasmussen Hausman.



THE CLASS OF 1959

gathered at the picnic on Saturday and spent the afternoon together. Everett Kelley and Dale Sonnenburg represented their class in the parade.

THE CLASS OF 2004

gathered Saturday afternoon. Back: Stacy DeVille Hoitsma, Andy Hansen, Jason Geringer. Front: Lindsey Fugere Vetter, Kristin Francisco Ryan, Adam Foster, and Aaron Dahl.



1964

The Class of 1964 gathered to celebrate their 55th reunion. Those attending were from left: Gary Watt-nem, Jim Selken, Curt Sonnenburg, Vicki Mulder Wattnem, Gerry Heismeyer, Janet Williams Larson, Dan Foster, Wanda Cramer Tyler, Ron Saathoff, Cheryl Peterson Hoseck, Bea McClard Heismeyer, Lyle Poppen, Judy Papka Keimig, Mary Ann Liljegren Rector, Carol Williams Fauth. The Class of 1964 won "Best Class Float" in the parade on Saturday.



1969

The Class of 1969 met to celebrate their 50th reunion. Back row: Jim Watt, Dale Williams, Dan Norman, Gary McFarland, Paul Licht, Ricki Olsen Kramer, Jim Harrenga, Roger Hansen, Marc Taylor. Second row: Bev Rieck, Linda Lenning, Carla Blumeyer Ries, Joan Vohlken Bruinsma, LaDonna Wattnem Rasmussen, Barb Peterson Bullock, Roslyn Rasmussen Gorder, Deanna Wulf Niemann, Gene Fjerestad. Sitting: Terry Hall, Alan Hawley, John Linneman, Kathleen Schwartz Schaeffer, Deb Byes Kalsbeck, Mary Ann Holter Williams.



1979

The Class of 1979 gathered to celebrate their 40th reunion. Those attending were from left: Kim Wermers Ward, spouse Shon Ward, Steve Saathoff, Bob Foster, spouse Tina Harrenga, Robin Rossman Cahoy, Stacy Carson Thistle, David Harrenga, spouse Janene White, Lisa Berwald Abeler, Vince White, Terry Brandt, Jodi Stroschein Severson, Ray Keimig, Jackie Zafft, Nancy Sween Conlon, John Gerberding, Misty Gates Stroschein.



Thank You For Your Donations

SCHOLARSHIPS & ALUMNI PROJECTS

Kelsey and **ANDY HANSEN (2004)**
CYNTHIA JOHNSON (65)
Patti and **MIKE WARD (73)**
Bente and **JIM ROTH (50)**
SHIRLEY (SALMONSON 54) and
DENNIS EISNACH (54)
RAYMOND LUNDE (53)
LORRI (COLBERG 78) and **STEVE JOHNSON (77)**
PAULA (PAPKA 87) and Stuart Busch

In memory of **GERALDINE (ELLEFSON 48)** Christianson ~ Harold Christianson

In memory of **JUDY (HEIBULT 63)** Bruinsma ~ Tom and **SHARON DELZER (retired elementary teacher)**
MARY ANN (LILJEGREN 64) and Darwin Rector

EARLY INCENTIVE FUND FOR DUAL CREDITS

Kelsey and **ANDY HANSEN (2004)**
DR. ALBERT FARRELL (59)
Bente and **JIM ROTH (50)**

RURAL SCHOOL MUSEUM

Bente and **JIM ROTH (50)**
STEPHEN WATTNEM (67)

HILLCREST CEMETERY

DELORES (HORSWILL 40) Antonen
DUANE RASMUSSEN (62)
HARRIET (PEYTON 49) and **BILL SCHMIDT (49)**
JOAN (TEKRONY 54) Bjorklund
Lynn and **JOHN LINNEMAN (69)**
CYNTHIA JOHNSON (65)
JUDY (FENNIG 61) and Richard Lagro
Bente and **JIM ROTH (50)**
Bebe and **VERNON FASBENDER (53)**
Norma and **DARYL GANTER (59)**
VICKI (MULDER 64) and **GARY WATTNEM (64)**
GAYLEEN (SCHEETZ 55) Touhey
LADONNA (WATTNEM 69) and **MIKE RASMUSSEN (68)**

In memory of **BRYCE LOOMIS (60)** ~ **ANN (retired elementary teacher)** and **MIKE GORDER (77)**

In memory of Lyle Rossman ~ **ANN (retired elementary teacher)** and **MIKE GORDER (77)**

In memory of Charles and Elsie Cook and Verle and Lorraine Janssen ~ Karen and **CLAYTON COOK (60)**

SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED TEAM

In memory of **RON LINNEMAN (70)** ~ **LINDA (LINNEMAN 67)** and Dennis Hemmer
Kelsey and **ANDY HANSEN (2004)**
Patti and **MIKE WARD (73)**
Lynn and **JOHN LINNEMAN (69)**

REFLECTIONS MEMORIAL PARK

Bente and **JIM ROTH (50)**

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Lunch: Estelline Coop Grain
Hole In One: Skoglund Insurance
Raffle:
Damian Freudendahl ~ Budget Blinds
Supplies: Brookings Country Club
Hole Sponsorships:
Geise Funeral Home
Scotting Heating and Cooling
Sean Binker ~ Northwestern Mutual
Country Corner
A&D Graphics
Minn-Kota Pest Control Services, Inc.
Reliabank
Agri-Tech
Dakota Ringneck
Siouxland Bar and Grill
Delzer Law Office
Estelline Cross Country
State Combined Team Champions
Estelline Community Oil
Richland State Bank

Miller Bros. Southdowns
Class of 2004
Class of 1999
Pin Prizes:

Geise Funeral Chapel
Scotting Heating and Cooling
Estelline Community Oil
Office Peeps
Tee'd Off Golf Simulators
James and Su Benning
A&D Graphics
Estelline Journal
Dakota Ringneck
Popham Insurance ~ Earl Popham
Jeanette Foster
Jensen Insurance ~ Joe Jensen
Pat Ching
Country Corner
Main Street Bar and Grill
Mark Hausman
Hidden Beauty ~ Stephanie Beare
Arbonne ~ Kimberly Ward
Estelline Rodeo Club
Eponymous Brewing
Hubbard Feeds
Dakotaland
Wards Store
Jerry's Lawn Care
Agri-Tech
American Family Insurance ~ Ben Hauck

GAZEBO GALLOP

Reliabank
James and Su Benning
Country Corner
Spot On Printing

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Reliabank ~ Sponsors of 2nd Opinion ~ Music Entertainment
Estelline Board of Education
All who provided pies and desserts
Cheyenne and Morgan Krein ~ Organizers of Little Miss and Mr. Estelline

• ALUMNI OFFICERS •

Jennifer Bjorklund Loban, President (2006)
Jordan Busch, Vice President (2011)
Hilary Gorder Suther, Secretary (2009)
Pam Colberg Schwartz, Treasurer (1972)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Email Address: alumniestelline@gmail.com
Website: (Alumni Link) www.stellineschools.com
Facebook: Estelline Alumni Association

2019 State of the School Address

BY SUPERINTENDENT JIM LENTZ (78)

Good Afternoon – I am happy to be back to address the Estelline Alumni Association for another year. We have hoped to make this an annual thing, where either the superintendent of schools or the chair of the school board addresses the alumni and lets them know what happened the past year at Estelline schools. I hope this is a tradition that we stay with, because it is very important for you to know what's happening. How we are progressing? Are we changing to meet the needs of our students or are we doing what we have always done?

I was once told by a very smart man that you cannot teach children like you were taught because they were born in a different time. I couldn't agree more with him. So at Estelline, we try and refresh and renew not only what we teach, but how we teach it every year. Keep that in mind as I tell you a bit about the school year.

In the spring, we asked our community to opt out of the current tax structure and provide us with more funding. We had low/no general fund reserves and were operating very close to debt. We got a positive vote from the community, and even though we didn't see the money at the school until this May, the thought that we got the support needed to pass this was a good feeling. Even with the opt out, our school district's taxes are, I believe, the second lowest in the area and we have no debt on our school buildings or facilities.

Last August, we began a joint venture with our new partners from Hendricks, Minnesota, working with them in all athletics. I thought we had a great year in so many ways, not the least of which is how we worked together as two communities. The students became good teammates for each other, the fans supported the teams – it was a very positive atmosphere. We had a State Coach of the Year (Sherri Johnson in gymnastics) and a State Champion (Christine Nefzger in the pole vault). We supported each other's homecomings; we had a great parade with a combined Estelline/Hendricks band. This year, instead of starting the parade at the Care Center, we ended up there and had our pep rally with the residents.

In December before Christmas break, our middle school and high school students decided that instead of doing the traditional Secret Santa for five days with each other, they would skip at least one day of that and bring a toy or a gift for either local children in need or for Sanford Children's Hospital. The day before Christmas break, these same students made tied blankets for Sanford Children's Hospital that had "With Love from Redhawk Nation" embroidered on one side and then brought them to the hospital. It was a really memorable experience for all of us that day. The cost was split between the Student Council, the teachers, some local businesses, and gifts from others. At Sanford Children's they get patients worldwide. It would be a good guess to say that probably not one child will know where their blanket came from unless their parents and they do some research, but as the students know, getting credit is never the reason to give or to help someone. Helping someone really happens when nobody is watching.

Our Student Council later in the year received the Outstanding Student Council Award in the state of South Dakota for their efforts. We also have a member of the State Student Council Board – Faith VanMeveren. This spring also saw the biggest alumni track meet ever – 23 teams.

New this year, we brought back the one-act play. This year they did a play about "walls," and particularly about building walls between people. They didn't advance to the state, but three students, Amiah Klimple, Alex Trias, and Elizabeth Hofer received awards for their acting. Elizabeth Hofer wrote an original song for the play.

Which brings me to the new classes we taught this year. Mr. Opp, our new music teacher taught a course on music composition. It was an independent course that Elizabeth took. She wrote several original songs. Mr. Opp is a talented string musician and he started a class for those who wanted to learn guitar. We are now starting mandatory band for kids in 5th grade to give them more exposure to music. He has some new and interesting plans for next year as well.

We changed the curriculum some to teach a number of different computer programming languages. We offered a class in Unmanned Aircraft (drones). The second class of drones will be offered next year, then students can move into two aviation classes from LATI, one a ground school for high school students and the other flying on a flight simulator. We have several drones and we will have a state of the art flight simulator on campus next year.

Other things we will be doing next year – we will be working with Edgemont and Deubrook school districts in a cooperative venture to bring new classes to our students in the areas of STEM, Agriculture, and Small Engines. We will share our computer programming classes with them. We are trying to use the strengths that all of our staff members have. We have a certified referee on our staff. He will teach a recreation class in rules and refereeing football and basketball to our students. This will also develop a pool of referees for our local youth football and basketball teams.

Another new and exciting thing is that our elementary staff is exploring something called mass customized learning. Basically it means taking every student from where they are and moving them forward at a pace that is good for them. Time is no longer the constant. We can't just teach to the middle anymore and leave some students behind and bore other students out of their minds. Learning will become the constant and time the variable. It is a very ambitious agenda, but one we are welcoming.

We are still teaching our students the qualities that our school board expects our students to have when they graduate: Honesty, Responsibility, Social Justice, Respect, Self-control, Kindness, Promise Keeping, and Equality.

Probably the most impressive thing that happened last year, started right here at this meeting. Last year, I mentioned the Early Incentive Scholarship I thought could make a big difference in the lives of our students. I did not expect to start it that day, but after one of you came up and put \$1000 in my hand, I knew we had something. For those who don't know, this is a scholarship that allows high school students to take college credit while in high school. They have to get a C or better to get reimbursed only the cost of tuition (\$150 for a three credit class). I rounded up some more money and got a very generous donation from Reliabank – Dave Johnson and Dave Ebbers, through Reliabank, and we were able to help fund the scholarship program in a big way last year.

CONTINUED ON BACK



2019: Scholarship Recipients

The youngest alumni present at the alumni picnic were the scholarship recipients from the Class of 2019: (back row) Tiffany Vohlken, Alumni; Morgan Saathoff, Roth Scholar-Athlete; Tasha Vohlken, Jan Winkelman; Zach Loomis, Alumni; Brinn Begalka, Alumni; (front row): Gillian Morris, Beckman; Chandelle Thompson, Gail Harrenga and Helia Trautman; Kennedy Tesch; Burge Family; and Elizabeth Hofer, Gail Harrenga.

STATE OF THE SCHOOL ADDRESS *continued*

So here are the results of what you started last year. Sixteen different students took college classes while still in high school. These sixteen students took 162 college credits. That amounts to an entire bachelor's degree and then a master's degree after that. That is \$131,220 worth of college credits if taken at SDSU. It cost this Alumni Association \$8,150. Many of our seniors have at least a semester of college done already. You folks did that.

So, what does it look like next year? Already, just for the fall, we have students signed up for 108 college credits. What cost only \$8,150 last year will cost over \$11,000 next year. If we can raise this money, we can pay for \$183,000 worth of college next year through this scholarship. I know the alumni officers are extremely worried about this – so much so that they put me in charge of raising all of the funds for the program because they are worried about not having enough money to pay out those who earn it. Did I mention our GPA was over a 3.5?

We are the envy of the state. No other school's alumni association is sponsoring a program anything like this. Our students have picked up their game academically and our staff has picked up its game by moving students farther in a quicker time frame. I know how appreciative our students are of the help you have provided.

I would implore all of you to support this scholarship fund. There is nothing like it anywhere else. Any and all donations to the Early Incentive Scholarship Fund are greatly appreciated. Please send them to the Alumni Association in care of the Early Incentive Scholarship Fund – you are difference

makers.

One last story to share with you. Just last week, I had the opportunity to spend a morning in the company of Tom Osborne. Tom was the Nebraska football coach from 1973 – 1997. He won 84% of the games and three national championships while he coached there. Now I am not a Tom Osborne or even a Nebraska Cornhusker fan. I even wore a Notre Dame jacket to the meeting. He was polite enough not to acknowledge it.

But – I took away some very valuable things from that day. One of them was this: you folks, because you come back to town and because you are involved in this alumni association and because you provide scholarships and because you are role models – you are then providing a vision of what is possible for our Estelline students, you have, you are, paving the way for them. They look at you and see what can be for them – I personally get to tell them stories about you folks that I have heard throughout my life and how successful you all are. This is actually building a culture of success. You are in fact what gives many of these students hope. Your success and now their success then produces a ripple effect that lasts through many generations. What you are doing here today is generational. Don't ever forget that. I am so proud to be associated with this alumni association and this school. I could not imagine doing the things we are able to do and accomplishing the things we accomplish anywhere else.

Thank you all for coming back, enjoy the rest of your weekend and enjoy each other's company. I hope to see you next year with more great news and possibly a great new really important project for this organization that will involve even more of you.

ESTELLINE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, PO BOX 108, ESTELLINE SD 57234 ~ Dues \$10/year

Name/Address: _____ Dues: _____

Phone/Email: _____ Year Grad: _____

____ SCHOLARSHIP FUND

____ EARLY INCENTIVE FUND

____ ALUMNI PROJECTS

____ RURAL SCHOOL MUSEUM

____ REFLECTIONS MEMORIAL PARK

____ HILLCREST CEMETERY

~~~~ Send in your items for the newsletter to the above mailing address or email: [alumniestelline@gmail.com](mailto:alumniestelline@gmail.com) ~~~~

**Membership in the Estelline Alumni Association is open to all persons who attended elementary or high school in Estelline, and anyone who is interested in the betterment of the school and community.**