

Mesabi Range College Foundation Newsletter

Volume 1
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August, 2021

Campus Update

By Shelly McCauley Jugovich

Mesabi Range College classes begin on August 23, and we are looking forward to seeing everyone on campus! Our students will be informed about Covid planning, masking protocols, testing, and vaccination clinics. The health and safety of our students, our campus community, and the communities we serve are our priorities.

We have had a busy summer on campus; with the leadership of Sue Medure and Mary Gorman and a large team of passionate employees, we have made remarkable improvements to our campuses, and a few are noted below:

- In collaboration with the campus community and a business partner, we upgraded the Virginia campus Fitness Center—10 new elliptical and treadmill machines. Thank you to Brad Scott for bringing this project together!
- Norse pride is in the air with a graphic upgrade in our Athletic wing. Tom Inforzato was instrumental with the improvements which include visual displays, painting, and office updates. The MRC color palette brings the area to life, matching the energy our coaches and students bring to our campus and on the field and court.
- We have begun remodeling the library/student success center—Virginia campus. Work will continue throughout the fall semester, and we hope to have everything in place by spring term. A very special thank you to Mary Gorman, who has been organizing the remodel and many other college improvement projects.
- A planned HVAC upgrade for the Virginia engineering wing is taking place. Next year, we will continue the roof replacement scheduled over the theater and student services area.
- On the Eveleth campus, we continue to work on program equipment upgrades. We installed a new simulation ambulance this past year, and the Carpentry/Construction Trades program developed a mobile classroom.

MRC has many exciting events happening on both campuses this fall, and the five district colleges have applied to the Higher Learning Commission to merge the five independently accredited community colleges (six campuses) of the Northeast Higher Education District into one accredited college (Minnesota North College*). The new accredited college will continue as a member of the Minnesota State colleges and universities system. The rationale for this change of control can be summarized in two categories: 1) improved services to students and other stakeholders, and 2) operational efficiency, which will position us for long-term financial sustainability.

*Minnesota North College, pending Higher Learning Commission and Minnesota State Board approval.

Board Accomplishments and Future Goals

- November 2020: Eliminated the 10% service fee for donors.
- May 2021: Reinstated the Bill Ogden Memorial Scholarships.
- May 2021: Awarded over \$97,000 in scholarships to 50+ students.
- June 2021: Eliminated the “buckets” and returned all scholarships to “named” scholarships.
- June/July 2021: Recruited two new Board Members.
- July 2021: Assisted with a makeover project in the PE Department and began a makeover project in the Student Success Center.



Board Members

Sue MedurePresident
Cindy JindraVice President
Scott Wirtanen Secretary
Steve JohnsonTreasurer
Thomas AroDirector
Tom Inforzato Director
Brenda Kochevar Director
Mark Muhich Director
Gary Picek. Director
Elizabeth Pluskwik.Director
Kim Pittman Office Manager
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What's inside

- Calendar of Events
- Jeremy Jindra Memorial Scholarship
- Welcome to Scott Wirtanen and Gary Picek
- Scholarship Recipient Highlights
- Foundation BBQ Save-The-Date



Calendar of Events

<i>August 23</i>	Fall Semester Begins
<i>August 31</i>	Foundation Board Meeting
<i>September 28</i>	Foundation Board Meeting
<i>October 6</i>	Foundation BBQ, Virginia, 11am—1 pm
<i>October 7</i>	Foundation BBQ, Eveleth, 11 am—1 pm
<i>October 26</i>	Foundation Board Meeting

The Board of Directors of the Mesabi Range College Foundation meets the last Tuesday of each month at 12:00 noon.

Jeremy Jindra Memorial Scholarship

The Mesabi Range College Foundation will be offering a new scholarship for the 2021-22 academic year in memory of Jeremy Jindra.

Jeremy was scheduled to begin the Auto Mechanics program at Mesabi Range College the fall of 1988. In August he was killed while riding his bicycle near his home. His parents, Denny and Cindy, are offering two new scholarships in his memory.

The Jeremy Jindra Memorial Scholarships will be open to full time students beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year. Their purpose is to find deserving students who demonstrate academic success, possess a determination to succeed, and for whom scholarship assistance is critical in their journey towards a successful future.

Requirements for Consideration:

- Is willing to meet with the scholarship donors
- Is in need of scholarship support in order to complete the course of study in their chosen field
- Is a student who shows dedication to learning, community and to their chosen course of study
- Demonstrates a strong work ethic





Scott Wirtanen

Scott Wirtanen, a Gilbert native, is a graduate of MCC and received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance, and a minor in Accounting and Computer Science from UMD. His parents, the late Bill and Joan Wirtanen, both served MRC for many years. Bill was the Activities Director, Men's Basketball and Men's Tennis Coach, and Physical Education and Health instructor. Joan was the first supervisor of the Wee Care Center, which offered child care for students while they attended classes.

From 1983-1986, Scott was the Business Manager for the Biwabik Schools and also worked for the Aurora-Hoyt Lakes Schools. In 1986, he was hired by the Hibbing Public Schools as their Assistant Business Manager, and assumed the Business Manager duties from 1992-2018. He served as the President of the Arrowhead School Consortium, Board Member of the Fairview Range Regional Health Services, and a 35-year member of the MN Association of School Business Officials. Also, he was the Secretary-Treasurer of the Hibbing Municipal Athletic Association, President of the Hibbing Junior Olympic Volleyball Club, and Treasurer of the Hibbing Fall Volleyball Club.

Currently, Scott is the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Iron Range Conference, a local athletic conference that begins its 75th year this coming fall. He lives in Mt. Iron with his wife, Tracy, a Mesabi graduate who earned her Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from St. Cloud State University. Scott is the proud father of three wonderful daughters, Kelsey, Courtney and Kailey, all who attended community college prior to earning their advanced college degrees.

Welcome New Board Members, Scott and Gary!

Gary Picek

Gary Picek graduated from Virginia High School and received his Associate of Arts Degree from Mesabi Community College in 1973. He transferred to Bemidji State University and earned his Bachelor's of Science Degree in Business Administration with a Minor in Accounting in 1975.

In 1976, Gary was hired by the City of Virginia as an Accountant for the City Clerk/Finance Department. He believed this would be an excellent place to begin his career, with the plan on continuing to pursue other employment options. It didn't take Gary long to realize how much he enjoyed his job and he was soon promoted to the position of Deputy Finance Director. In 2009, Gary retired from the City of Virginia—33 years later!

Gary was married to Louanne Picek, who was a Business/Administrative Office Support Instructor at Mesabi Range College. Louanne passed away in 2010; and, to honor her memory, Gary established the Louanne Picek Memorial Scholarship. In Gary's spare time, he enjoys hiking/walking outdoors and is an active church member where he serves on the Church Board, the Finance Committee, and the Staff Employee Relations Committee.

Student Highlight

Sully Kosmas

Sully received his Associate in Applied Science Degree in Graphic Design Media and will be completing his Associate of Arts Degree from Mesabi Range College in May, 2022. Last year, he was president of the Eveleth Student Senate and created 'TWGB,' a campaign attempting to bring joy to viewers.

After graduation, Sully plans to move back to his hometown, Duluth. He will be transferring to the University of Minnesota - Duluth to earn a B.F.A in Graphic Design, and a minor in Marketing. Sully said, "The scholarship that I received from the Foundation gave me an opportunity to focus more of my time on my studies."



Donors: your donations are very much appreciated. Thank you!

Student Highlight

Luiza Quintana Secco Ludwig

After Luiza graduates from Mesabi Range College and Itasca Community College, she plans to continue her education at Minnesota State University, Mankato, and receive a Bachelor's degree in Integrated Engineering and a minor in Mathematics.

A native of Brazil, Luiza was a foreign exchange student at Chisholm High School and loved the area so much she decided to stay. She is very involved in her church where she volunteers in the nursery and; in addition, she belongs to Phi Theta Kappa.

After receiving her Bachelor's degree in Engineering, she plans on remaining in the area and working as a Civil Engineer. The Foundation scholarship helped Luiza achieve her goals by supporting her in her academic pursuits. Luiza said, "I am very grateful for the support from the Foundation. Without it, I would never have been able to attend college."



2021-22 Scholarship Recipients

The Mesabi Range College Foundation Board is proud to announce the scholarship recipients for the 2021-22 academic year. The following were chosen in May of 2021.

The Megan Ashley Anderson Scholarship

Recipients: Alecia Posener and Elijah Squires

The Carl G. Carlson Scholarship

Recipients: Meiko Udovich and Joseph Potter

The Roy K. Carlson Scholarship

Recipients: Mike Fleming and Christopher Bostic

The C.E. "Bud" and Lillian Kishel Memorial Scholarship

Recipients: Tyrin King and Sullivan Kosmas

The Dan & Yvonne Webb Engineering Scholarship

Recipients: Trevor Mattson, Gabrielle Koepke, Avery Enochson
Jill Manthey, Carter Martinson, Ashley Aho, Katherine Scherf,
Ayla Issacson

The Barb Garni Memorial Scholarship

Recipient: Paris Pontinen

The Ray Garni Memorial Scholarship

Recipient: Trevor Mattson

The Johnson Family Scholarship

Recipient: Tristan Johnson

The Tom Rukavina Engineering Scholarship

Recipient: Carter Martinson

The Tony & Joyce Nigro Education Scholarship

Recipient: Jeremy Hughes

The LaMarche Creek Foundation

Recipients: Tyler Ritter and Dyshaun Brooks

The Jeremy Jindra Scholarship

Recipients: Cole Meyer and Isaiah Malone

Detroit Reman and Damiler Trucks Scholarship

Recipient: Tyler Braegelmann

The Dr. George A Erickson/Emil A Erickson Scholarship

Recipients: Gabrielle Koepke, Emma Swanson, Breanna
Bridgewater

The Soroptimist Club Scholarship

Recipient: Banurekha Sukumaran

The Virginia Lions Club Scholarship

Recipient: Mahryn Perpich

Pre-Engineering Fund, which is sponsored by The Bill & Joan Wirtanen Memorial Fund and The Joe Kraker Jr Memorial Fund (Sponsored by the Norse Club):

Recipients: Emma Swanson and Tyler Braegelmann

Engineering Fund, which is sponsored by The Gene Kishel and Brynhild Kishel Memorial Scholarship Fund

This scholarship will be awarded in the Fall Semester

Health Sciences Fund, which is sponsored by The Joanne Lindgren Memorial Scholarship Fund, The Marian E. Haij Memorial Scholarship Fund, and The Matt Rozinka Memorial Scholarship Fund

Recipients: Erik George and Kellsie Konstenius

Education Fund, which is sponsored by The Herschel "Pepper" Lysaker Memorial Scholarship Fund (Sponsored by the Norse Club), The Bill & Joan Wirtanen Memorial Fund, and The Ruth Kaniainen Education, Bob Clark Journalism Scholarship Fund, and The Walfred H. Bodas Memorial Scholarship Fund

Recipients: Jamon Thames, Justin Lewis, James Jacobs

Technical & Trades Fund, which is sponsored by Artisan Scholarship Fund, The Eveleth Elks Club #1161 Scholarship Fund, The Jeremy Jindra Memorial Scholarship Fund, The Louanne Picek Memorial Scholarship Fund, MRC Foundation

MRC Faculty and Staff, and Pro-Print

Recipients: Cameron Tibbets, Derek Phillips, Max Grundhofer

Liberal Arts & Undecided Fund, which is sponsored by The Andrew A. Lang Scholarship Fund, The Archie Hill Scholarship Fund, Dave Stillman Scholarship Fund, The Eino Kopponen Memorial Scholarship Fund, The Joseph J. Rebovich Memorial Scholarship Fund, The Joseph & Emily Kraker Memorial Fund, The Jeremy Carpenter Memorial Fund, MRC Foundation

MRC Faculty and Staff, The Lassila Family, and Trenti Law Firm

Recipients: Josiah Peterson, Nate Smith, Kandis Garcia, Brennen Frank, Jalen Jackson, Nicolaus Roberts, Heather Keller

Non-Traditional Female Fund, which is sponsored by American Association of University Women, and The Marjorie Bangs Schmitt Scholarship Fund

Recipients: Heather Keller, Stephanie Ward, Katie Mundell

Addiction Studies & Human Services Fund, which is sponsored by The Rainy River Recovery Fund

Recipient: Stephanie Ward

2021 NORSE FOOTBALL

<u>August</u>			
28 (Sat)	NDSCS	Wahpeton (A)	2:00 PM
<u>September</u>			
4 (Sat)	Vermilion	Mt. Iron (H)	3:00 PM
11 (Sat)	MN West	Worthington (A)	11:00 AM
18 (Sat)	Rochester	Mt. Iron (H)	3:00 PM
25 (Sat)	Central Lakes	Mt. Iron (H)	3:00 PM
<u>October</u>			
2 (Sat)	Itasca	Grand Rapids (A)	4:00 PM
9 (Sat)	MN State FF	Fergus Falls (A)	2:30 PM
16 (Sat)	NDSCS	Mt. Iron (H)	3:00 PM
24 (Sun)	Quarter Finals	TBD	TBD
31 (Sun)	Quarter Finals	TBD	TBD
<u>November</u>			
7 (Sun)	State Championship	St. Cloud (A)	TBD

Support the Men's and Women's athletic teams. Go Norse!

2021 NORSE VOLLEYBALL

<u>August</u>			
17 (Tue)	Scrimmage	Brainerd	TBA
19 (Thur)	Scrimmage	Grand Rapids	TBA
27 (Fri)	MCAC Crossover	ARCC	TBA
28 (Sat)	MCAC Crossover	ARCC	TBA
<u>September</u>			
1 (Wed)	*Hibbing	Hibbing	6:30 PM
8 (Wed)	*Fond du Lac	HOME	6:30 PM
10 (Fri)	*Northland	Thief River Falls	6:30 PM
11 (Sat)	*Rainy River	I. Falls	12:00 PM
17 (Fri)	Riverland	HOME	6:30 PM
18 (Sat)	*Itasca	HOME	12:00 PM
24 (Fri)	*Central Lakes	HOME	5:00 PM
24 (Fri)	St. Cloud	HOME	8:00 PM
29 (Wed)	*Hibbing	HOME	6:30 PM
<u>October</u>			
2 (Sat)	Dakota County (Triangular)	Inver Grove Heights	12:00 PM
6 (Wed)	*Fond du Lac	Cloquet	6:30 PM
8 (Fri)	*Northland	HOME	6:30 PM
9 (Sat)	*Rainy River	HOME	12:00 PM
13 (Wed)	Oak Hills Christian College	HOME	6:30 PM
16 (Sat)	NCTC Tournament	Thief River Falls	1 & 3 PM
18 (Mon)	*Central Lakes	Brainerd	6:30 PM
20 (Wed)	*Itasca	Grand Rapids	6:30 PM

* Denotes MCAC Northern Division Matches
 Region Tourney @ Northern Division Champions
 National Tourney @ RCTC

Oct 29th & 30th
 Nov 11-13

YOU are cordially invited
to the Foundation BBQ!



Dates & RSVP Information

- Virginia Campus
Wednesday, October 6 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Eveleth Campus
Thursday, October 7 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Please RSVP to Kim Pittman by September 20 by
emailing her or calling at:

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