

*Fergus Falls Area*

# Dollars® for Scholars

Fall

**2004**

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Debbie Crabtree	Peg Kalar
Bonnie Denzel	Lori Larson

### Ex Officio:

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[www.ffdollarsforscholars.org](http://www.ffdollarsforscholars.org)

## Fergus Falls Follies

"Guaranteed laughs that will keep  
 you happy for at least a week!"

**Mon., Sept. 27 • 7 p.m.**

Fergus Falls Middle School  
 Auditorium

### ◆ Talent Show ◆

featuring the staff of the  
 Fergus Falls School District

### ◆ Silent Auction ◆

Tickets: Adults \$5 ◆ Students \$3

Proceeds benefit:



*Fergus Falls Area*

**Dollars® for Scholars**

## Teaching children was Hagen's greatest love



*Edna Dierich Hagen*

Edna Dierich-Hagen's love of children was apparent during her 45-year teaching career and in the gift she has left for the Fergus Falls chapter of Dollars for Scholars. Hagen, who died in April at the age of 90, bequeathed \$15,000 to the chapter, which will be used to create the Edna Dierich Hagen Scholarship.

Hagen taught in Parkers Prairie and Wadena before she moved to Fergus Falls and began teaching third grade at McKinley School in the mid-1950s.

"Teaching children was her love," said longtime friend Mary Ann Ruhland of Battle Lake. Hagen felt fortunate because her father was postmaster in Battle Lake and she was able to attend college, Ruhland said, adding that "she wanted to help children who wanted to learn to have that opportunity."

Mary Jane Ross was Hagen's neighbor for many years, both in Fergus Falls and at their lake homes on Silver Lake, and Hagen taught four of Ross' own five children at McKinley School.

"She was a wonderful teacher," Ross said. "She was a good, strict teacher, but (she) did all sorts of wonderful things." She remembers Hagen teaching her third graders to churn butter, to make bread and to bake pies. At the lake, Ross added, all the neighborhood children would gather at Hagen's cabin to play cards and games.

"She just loved kids, and they knew it," Ross said.

The Edna Dierich Hagen Scholarship will be awarded for the first time in the spring of 2005 to a graduating senior from Fergus Falls.

## Fergus Falls chapter wins highest national award

The Fergus Falls Area Dollars for Scholars chapter has been awarded the Golden Tassel Service Award, given annually to the most successful well-established Dollars for Scholars chapter in the nation.

The Golden Tassel, awarded by the national Dollars for Scholars organization, recognizes chapters that have done an outstanding job of meeting criteria in the areas of achievement, community impact, innovation and organizational strength. Each year, the award goes to two chapters — one to an established chapter that is four or more years old, and one to a relatively new chapter.

The Fergus Falls chapter was chartered in 1991, and since its inception it has awarded nearly \$188,000 to 283 students. In 2004, 32 scholarships totaling more than \$26,000 were given to graduating seniors at Fergus Falls High School and Hillcrest Lutheran Academy.

"Over the course of the past year, I personally have seen our Fergus Falls Area Dollars for Scholars reach out with open arms to our graduating students," said chapter President Jason Hastings. "This community should be very proud of its generosity and the support it has given over the years to Dollars for Scholars."

Nationwide, Dollars for Scholars has more than 1,200 scholarship foundations in 41 states and Washington, D.C. In 2003, these chapters raised more than \$58 million and awarded \$28 million in scholarships to 35,000 students.

## President's report...

Since 1991, Fergus Falls Area Dollars for Scholars has been on a mission to help expand access to higher education for high school students from Fergus Falls. The growing costs of education are astounding, and resources are becoming extremely limited for graduating seniors. Now more than ever, high school seniors are faced with the difficult task of assessing the affordability of higher education. However, thanks to the generosity of the Fergus Falls community, we have been able to provide a growing source of assistance for local students.

This year, we had the pleasure of awarding 32 scholarships totaling more than \$26,000 — a great accomplishment for a group that just 12 years ago was able to provide five scholarships for \$500 each. Since our board's inception, we have awarded 283 scholarships for a total of more than \$188,000.

Credit for this achievement goes to our many contributors whose generosity has brought our chapter close to reaching its original goal of a \$544,000 endowment. I'd like to say a special thank you to those who have chosen to create memorial scholarships or named scholarships, which have been key to our success.

Our levels of giving are: 544 Club membership at \$544, the Sponsor level at \$1,000, the Leader level at \$2,500, the Scholar level at \$5,000, the Heritage level at \$10,000, and the Legacy level at \$25,000 and above. A \$5,000 individual contribution or a \$10,000 business contribution entitles a donor to a perpetual named scholarship. Since 1991, the number of memorial scholarships has grown to 24. (The complete list of scholarships begins on Page 3 of this newsletter.)

Named scholarships can be set up in the name of a living or deceased individual or couple, or through a business or benefactor. A named scholarship is a wonderful tribute, one that is appreciated anew each year with the awarding of another group of scholarships. This spring, for the first time, Dollars for Scholars invited both the scholarship recipients and donors (or representatives of the donors) to an awards luncheon, giving students an opportunity to meet the men and women who sponsored their scholarships. It made the scholarships even more special to both the recipients and the donors.

In recent years, our board of directors has had the pleasure of adding at least one new memorial scholarship annually. We will be adding at least one new memorial scholarship to the 2005 scholarship award ceremony, and we'd be happy to work with anyone who is interested in creating a named scholarship in the future. On behalf of the entire Fergus Falls Area Dollars for Scholars board of directors, we thank all of our benefactors for their generosity. We hope this will be another great year for our students and our community.

~ Jason Hastings, President

## Spring awards luncheon recognizes students, families and sponsors

An awards luncheon in May recognized the 32 recipients of this year's Dollars for Scholars scholarships, their parents and scholarship sponsors.

The May 5 luncheon was a first for the Fergus Falls Dollars for Scholars chapter, giving scholarship sponsors and students the opportunity to meet personally.

"We wanted to give our sponsors a chance to talk with the students who benefit from their generosity, and give students a chance to personally thank sponsors for their commitment to students and to education," said Donna Hendel, a past president of Dollars for Scholars and one of the luncheon organizers.

Of the 32 scholarships, 19 were for \$1,000 and 13 were for \$544, for a total of more \$26,000. Since 1992, the Fergus Falls chapter of Dollars for Scholars has awarded 283 students nearly \$188,000 in scholarships to the college, vocational school or university of their choice. Funds for these scholarships come from contributions from local businesses and individuals who recognize the value of supporting our youth as they pursue education beyond high school.

The Dollars for Scholars awards committee selects scholarship recipients on the basis of a highly competitive application process that includes:

- academic achievement
- faculty recommendations
- school activities
- community activities
- work experience
- career goals and aspirations
- family situations



## New Dollars for Scholars Web site

Students at Fergus Falls High School and Hillcrest Lutheran Academy have a valuable new resource for seeking scholarships from the Fergus Falls Area chapter of Dollars for Scholars, and it's only a click away.

A local Dollars for Scholars Web site was launched during the 2003-04 school year with the assistance of Web site chairperson Lori Larson. Through the site, [www.ffdollarsforscholars.org](http://www.ffdollarsforscholars.org), students could go online to download 2004 scholarship applications and directions.

The site shares information about the local chapter of Dollars for Scholars, including members of the board of directors and the history of the organization. It also includes current and past recipients of scholarships and links to other possible scholarship opportunities or resources. Donors wishing to make a gift can learn more about named scholarships or who to contact for more information.

The common element in Dollars for Scholars chapters is community-based fundraising for scholarships awarded to local students. Beyond these scholarships, a growing number of Dollars for Scholars chapters now offer a variety of academic support programs connecting students and parents with resources.

The program mobilizes and unites local citizens and encourages local students to reach for and achieve their educational goals. Dollars for Scholars communities connect young people with caring and supportive adults; positive connections produce the high expectations and strong motivation that all students need to succeed in school — and in life.

For more information about Dollars for Scholars, visit online or write Dollars for Scholars, c/o School District 544 Administrative Offices, 4B East Drive, Fergus Falls, MN 56537.

## Thanks to our 2004 donors

The Fergus Falls community believes in investing in the education of young people. We are fortunate to live where citizens understand that education must be a top priority and that our young people need help affording education beyond high school. The generosity of individuals, businesses and organizations has helped Dollars for Scholars grow. We are grateful to our donors, who are listed below. (Donor list as of Sept. 1, 2004.)

### LEGACY DONORS

Edward & Lillian  
Bechtel  
Eagles Aerie 2339  
Sample Family Estate  
Veden Charitable  
Trust

### HERITAGE DONORS

Gordon & Joan Bakken  
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### SCHOLAR DONORS

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### SPONSORS

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Richard C. & Alberta  
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Richard & Mary Beck  
Robert & V. J. Block  
Marian Bluhm  
Bremer Bank  
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Brynelson  
Century 21 Vista Inc.,  
John & Alan Olson  
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Colbeck  
Keith & Kimberly  
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Club  
Gay & Carol Folden  
Dr. Roger & Charlotte  
Frerichs  
Great Plains Natural  
Gas Co.  
Dr. Patricia Grinager  
Memorial  
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Lana & Timothy  
Johnson  
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Rev. & Mrs. John Kilde  
Cris Kling  
Dr. Robert & Karen  
Kreiser  
Lee & Margaret Krogh  
Dr. Allen & Sandra  
Magnuson  
Gene & Helen  
Manning  
Jerry & Carol Martens  
Drs. James & Linda  
Matter  
Verlin & Betty Menze  
Dr. Bruce & Sherri  
Money  
Richard & Garnet  
Muehlhausen  
Dr. David & Ann  
Nelson  
Nelson Ford, Brent &  
Laurel Nelson  
James & Marlys  
Nitchals

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Nycklemoe  
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Pastir  
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Wayne Dirkman  
Dr. Paul & Beverly  
Richter  
Richard & Denise  
Risbrudt  
Dr. Brian & Pam  
Schmidt  
Security State Bank  
Thos. H. Smith, O.D.  
B.K. Soby  
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Restaurant,  
Thomas & Linda  
Kao  
Ben & Peggy  
Underwood  
Roland & Betty Viger  
Linda Wolfe  
Loren & Rita Woolson



## Fergus Falls Area Dollars for Scholars Perpetual Scholarships

Fergus Falls Area Dollars for Scholars was established in 1991 with encouragement and contributions from numerous alumni and area businesses. Scholarships have been awarded each year since 1992. All scholarships are awarded according to Dollars for Scholars criteria, although some scholarships have additional requirements.

### LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS

Legacy donors have contributed at least \$25,000 to create a named scholarship that is awarded annually.

#### Bechtel Memorial Scholarship

Lillian Bechtel began teaching 11th grade world history at Fergus Falls High School in 1944 and is remembered as a caring teacher who had high expectations for her students. Education was a passion shared by Mrs. Bechtel and her husband, Edward, who was principal at Fergus Falls High School until his retirement in 1970. She died in March 2003. This scholarship was created in the fall of 2003.

#### Eagles Aerie #2339 Scholarship

The Eagles Aerie #2339 established a scholarship in 1995 to assist a graduating senior with his or her post-secondary education. The organization has made ongoing donations since that year.

#### Sample Memorial Scholarship

The Sample family established this scholarship in memory of Thomas H. and Alexander K. Sample, twin brothers who graduated from Fergus Falls High School in 1945. The Sample Memorial Scholarship was one of the initial Dollars for Scholars scholarships and has been awarded every year since 1992.

#### Dr. Frank Veden Scholarship

Dr. Frank Veden was a dentist who practiced for many years in Fergus Falls. He loved the community and left his estate to fund a wide variety of projects that benefit Fergus Falls. The first scholarship was awarded in 1999.

### HERITAGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Heritage donors have contributed at least \$10,000 to create a named scholarship that is awarded annually.

#### Joan and Gordon Bakken Scholarship

The Bakkens, both graduates of Fergus Falls High School, are lifelong community residents who are recognized for their support of education, the arts and a wide variety of projects that have improved their community. Their charter donation to Fergus Falls Area Dollars for Scholars in 1991 helped to support the first scholarship awards in 1992.

#### Robert Block Scholarship

Upon his retirement as superintendent of the Fergus Falls School District, Robert Block's colleagues and friends established this scholarship to recognize his contributions to the school district and the community. The first scholarship was awarded in 1997.

#### Community First National Bank Scholarship

The Community First Scholarship was established in 1998 to reflect the bank's support of graduating seniors in their quest to continue education beyond high school.

#### Dorn & Co., Inc., Scholarship

Larry Dorn is a Fergus Falls High School graduate who returned to his hometown after college to establish the Dorn & Co. investment securities firm. Mr. Dorn was a charter donor, and the scholarship has been awarded annually since 1992.

#### ITT Corporation Scholarship

This scholarship is the result of a grant request completed by two Fergus Falls High School science teachers in the early 1990s. They were awarded \$10,000 from International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation to invest for scholarships for students interested in math or

Continued on page 6

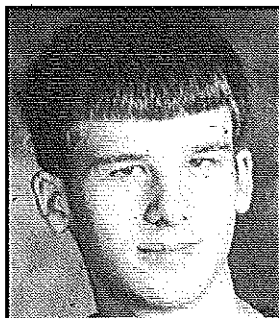
# Dollars for Scholars 2004



**Shannon Bacon**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Eugene Eckhoff Memorial*  
Minnesota State University,  
Moorhead



**Brooke Bezek**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Mark Olson Rotary*  
Buena Vista University, Storm  
Lake, IA



**Aaron Cole**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Bechtel Memorial*  
University of Minnesota,  
Twin Cities



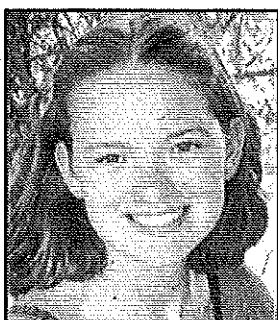
**Christa Crabtree**  
Hillcrest Lutheran Academy  
*Sample Memorial*  
Concordia College, Moorhead



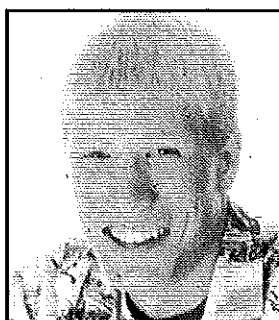
**Katrina Enderle**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Frank Veden Memorial*  
Concordia College, Moorhead



**Isaac Erickson**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Robert Block*  
MSCTC, Fergus Falls



**Katie Gard**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Community First National Bank*  
Northwestern College,  
Orange City, IA



**Andrew Haataja**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Eleanor Keane Johnson*  
North Dakota State University,  
Fargo

## ***Eleanore Keane Johnson Scholarship:***

*I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Eleanore Keane Johnson, and the family which she left behind. The money received from this wonderful scholarship will greatly benefit my ability to receive a more affordable education and allow me to concentrate more wholly on my studies. Once again, I cannot tell you how grateful I am for this scholarship, and the family of "Babe."*

*Sincerely,*

*~ Andrew Haataja, May 27, 2004*



**Jonathan Hanson**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Eagles Aerie #2339*  
MSCTC, Fergus Falls



**Erika Henrickson**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Theodore Paulson Memorial*  
Northwestern College, St. Paul



**Haley Honeman**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Otter Tail Power Company*  
University of Minnesota,  
Twin Cities



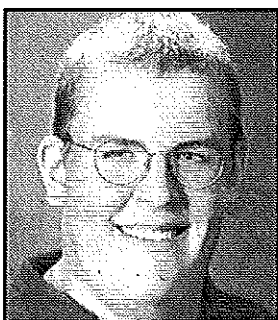
**Randi Hoxie**  
Hillcrest Lutheran Academy  
*Dollars for Scholars*  
North Central University,  
Minneapolis



**Erica Johnson**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Service Food Market*  
North Dakota State University,  
Fargo



**Julie Johnson**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Ottertail Coaches*  
University of Mary,  
Bismarck, ND



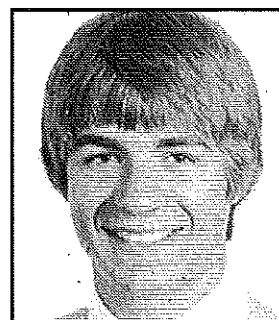
**Zach Koenig**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Dollars for Scholars*  
University of Minnesota, Morris



**Michelle Koep**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Dollars for Scholars*  
North Dakota State University,  
Fargo



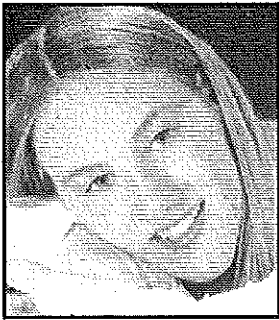
**Kayla Kowitz**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Dom & Co., Inc.*  
University of St. Thomas,  
St. Paul



**Andrew Krog**  
Hillcrest Lutheran Academy  
*Dollars for Scholars*  
MSCTC, Fergus Falls

# Scholarship Recipients

5



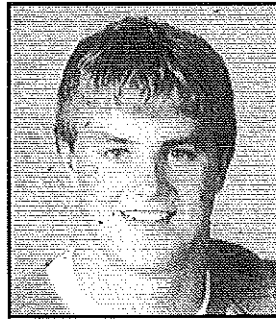
**Kristine Larsen**  
Fergus Falls High School  
VFW Post 612 Good Citizen  
Marquette University,  
Milwaukee, WI



**Zachary Lewis**  
Fergus Falls High School  
Gordon Gerhardsen Memorial  
Concordia College, Moorhead



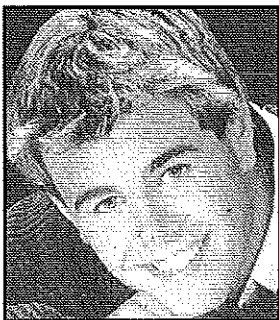
**Kenneth Nash**  
Hillcrest Lutheran Academy  
Lake Region Healthcare Corp.  
University of North Dakota,  
Grand Forks



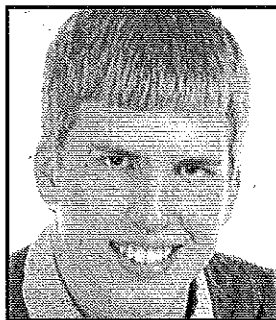
**Adam Nelson**  
Fergus Falls High School  
ITT Corporation  
Yale University  
New Haven, CT



**Lindsay Risbrudt**  
Hillcrest Lutheran Academy  
Joan and Gordon Bakken  
MSCTC, Fergus Falls



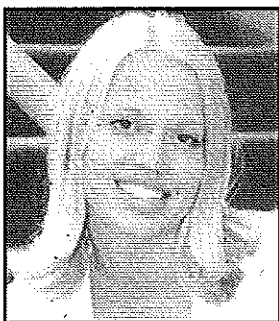
**Kyle Rohlf**  
Fergus Falls High School  
VFW Post 612 Good Citizen  
Gustavus Adolphus College,  
St. Peter



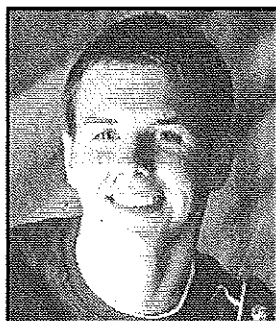
**Karl Ronnevik**  
Fergus Falls High School  
Beverly Gerhardsen Paulson  
Concordia College, Moorhead



**Rondi Ronnevik**  
Hillcrest Lutheran Academy  
Beth Wedum Memorial  
MSCTC, Fergus Falls



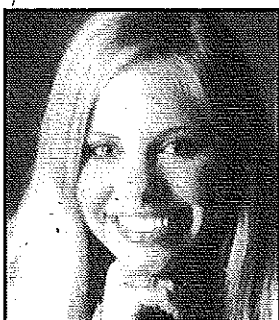
**Heather Sjolie**  
Fergus Falls High School  
Dollars for Scholars  
Bemidji State University



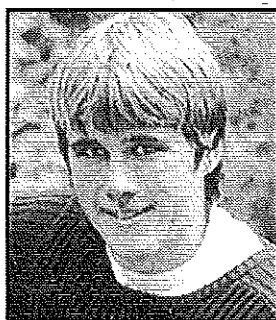
**Hannes Skillingstad**  
Fergus Falls High School  
Dollars for Scholars  
MSCTC, Fergus Falls



**Kristin Spidahl**  
Hillcrest Lutheran Academy  
Bechtel Memorial  
Scottsdale Culinary Institute,  
Scottsdale, AZ



**Emma Stensvaag**  
Fergus Falls High School  
Damien Jacklitch Memorial  
Augsburg College, Minneapolis



**Christopher Wallin**  
Fergus Falls High School  
Dollars for Scholars  
North Dakota State University,  
Fargo



**Oriana Zens**  
Fergus Falls High School  
Art Scholarship  
University of Wisconsin, Stout  
Menomonie, WI

*Dear ITT Corporation,*

*I am writing to express my thanks for the generous scholarship that you have awarded me. I am certainly honored and grateful to be the recipient of a scholarship based on my academic merit in the areas of science and technology.*

*Next year I plan to attend Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. So, needless to say, I can really use the money. Currently, I am not entirely sure of my intended major, but I am certain that I will be exposed to enough ideas and possible courses of study that I will be able to choose one that suits me well.*

*Although I am temporarily leaving the community, I currently and will always feel a strong bond with the city of Fergus Falls and the surrounding area. The way in which businesses and professional people will rally together to fulfill the needs of the community is incredible. And your participation in this Dollars for Scholars program is a perfect example of that amazing community. Thank you again for your scholarship.*

*Sincerely,*

*~ Adam Nelson, July 8, 2004*

## 1994 Dollars for Scholars scholarship recipients... Where are they now?

Thea Svingen Fransen graduated from the University of Minnesota Morris with a B.A. in biology in 1997 and from the veterinary school at the University of Minnesota in 2001. She practiced in St. Cloud for two years before joining Companion Animal Hospital in Fergus Falls in 2003.

Adam Gedde attended Concordia College in Moorhead and Trinity College in Issaquah, Wash.

*Continued on next page*

## 544 Club memberships provide strong foundation ▶ by Donna Hendel

Dollars for Scholars was founded on the premise that, if every family in a community contributed \$1, a sizeable fund could be established to assist community youth with the cost of education beyond high school.

That idea has been taken one step further here in Fergus Falls: The 544 Club has been established as an opportunity for contributions. A donation of \$544 or a pledge of \$544 (payable with a first payment of \$144 and subsequent payments of \$100 a year for the next four years) will establish a membership in the Fergus

Falls Area Dollars for Scholars 544 Club.

How can \$544 make a difference in the enormous cost of post high school education today? Currently we have 53 members of the 544 Club, and their contributions total more than \$31,000. Contributions from the 544 Club are combined with other donations and carefully invested to produce continued growth and fund ongoing scholarships.

A 544 Club membership truly provides a solid building block for our foundation. The more building blocks we have, the bigger foundation we can build. The big-

ger our foundation, the more students we can help. Just think what we could do if even 10 percent of the residents of Fergus Falls would join our 544 Club. If 2,400 residents each contributed \$544, we would have \$1.3 million to invest and grow.

With careful investments, we might be able to award a scholarship to *every* student who applied. Wouldn't that be a fine way to send our young men and women off to prepare for their futures?

Donna Hendel is a past president of the Fergus Falls Area Dollars for Scholars.

### ◆ Where are they now... Class of 1994 continued from page 5

He manages the online presence for an international manufacturing company based in Edina and is CEO of a consulting company that helps small businesses implement Web-based technologies. Gedde is a freelance solo performer and was a finalist in the Minnesota Opera Artist in Residence Program. He and his wife have a son and a daughter and live in St. Louis Park.

Jonathan Halvorson received a degree in philosophy and religion from Concordia College in Moorhead in 1998. From 2001-03 he was with the Peace Corps in Nicaragua. He will begin studies in the master of divinity program at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago this fall. He has a strong interest in social justice issues and is considering development work with an overseas mission. He and wife Laura live in Chicago.

Zachary Herness earned a bachelor's degree in business from North Dakota State University in 1998, and he is currently enrolled in the MBA program at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management. He is involved in supply chain related information technology, and for the past 1 1/2 years; he has worked in the IT department at Best Buy's corporate headquarters. He and wife Cari live in Plymouth.

Wendy Kennedy graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead in 1998 and from the New England College of Optometry in Boston in 2004, and she is currently awaiting licensure as a doctor of optometry. She has also been involved in a mission trip to Guatemala to work with the Common Hope project.

Margaret McDonald earned undergraduate and master's degrees in music from the University of Minnesota and her doctorate of musical arts from the University of California in Santa Barbara. In August, she joined the faculty of the College of Music at the University of Colorado in Boulder. During the past 10 years, she has participated in summer music programs throughout the United States.

Heather Hansen Quamme graduated from Jamestown College in Jamestown, N.D., and is currently working on her master's degree in education

from California State University in Sacramento. For the past six years she has taught in California schools, and in August she moved to New Jersey with her husband, Joel, for his job at Princeton University.

William Schultz graduated in 2002 from Drake University Law School, where he also earned his undergraduate degree. He is an attorney with the Minneapolis law firm of Merchant & Gould, specializing in intellectual property litigation, and he is an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota Law School and the University of St. Thomas. While in law school, he was the winner of the National Moot Court championship. He and wife Sarah live in New Hope.

ReNae Culp Simmons attended Concordia in St. Paul before transferring to Minnesota State University, Moorhead, where she graduated in 1998 with a degree in history. She worked in the insurance field in the Twin Cities before moving back to Moorhead with her husband. She is currently a stay-at-home mother for their two daughters and has begun a home painting business.

Angie Smith earned a degree in biology from the University of Minnesota, Duluth in 1998, and she graduated in 2002 from the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. She began a three-year pediatric residency at the University of Minnesota in June 2002, and in July 2005 she plans to pursue a pediatric hematology-oncology fellowship at the University of Minnesota.

Rebecca Kilde Ystebog attended Fergus Falls Community College and Moorhead State University, where she earned a BA in social work in 1998. For the past six years, she has been a children's case manager at Lakeland Mental Health Center in Moorhead. Following college, she was involved in a mission trip to Taiwan and Japan. She and husband Matthew are active in youth work at Triumph Lutheran Brethren Church in Moorhead.

Other scholarship recipients in 1994 were Jacqueline Harris, Christopher Horgen, Mary Karst and Daniel Seyfried. They did not respond in time to be included in this issue.

### ◆ Heritage scholarships continued from page 3

science. In 1999, the Fergus Falls School District transferred the funds to Dollars for Scholars.

#### **Eleanore Keane Johnson Scholarship**

Eleanor "Babe" Keane Johnson graduated from Fergus Falls High School and was an active member of the community until age 101. Mrs. Johnson wanted young people in her hometown to have the opportunity to continue their education beyond high school. The scholarship was established in 2002.

#### **Lake Region Healthcare Corp. Scholarship**

Lake Region Healthcare Corporation is a charter donor to Fergus Falls Area Dollars for Scholars, and its contribution has funded a scholarship every year since 1992. The recipient must be planning to enter a health care field.

#### **Otter Tail Power Company Scholarship**

A scholarship has been awarded each year since 1992 in the name of Otter Tail Power Company, another charter donor to Fergus Falls Area Dollars for Scholars. Additionally, many Otter Tail Power employees have served as Dollars for Scholars volunteers.

#### **Beverly Gerhardson Paulson Scholarship**

Beverly Gerhardson Paulson, a Fergus Falls High School Class of 1948 graduate, and her husband, Lloyd Paulson, are charter donors to Fergus Falls Area Dollars for Scholars and have sponsored a

*Continued on next page*

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My gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
is enclosed, or I would like to make the following pledge:

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|---|------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>544 Club:</b> | \$ 544 or .....        | \$144 now & \$100 a year for 4 years     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sponsor:</b>  | \$ 1,000 or .....      | \$200 now & \$200 a year for 4 years     |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Scholar:</b>  | \$ 5,000 or .....      | \$1,000 now & \$1,000 a year for 4 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Heritage:</b> | \$10,000 or more ..... | given as determined by donor             |
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Please make checks payable to:

Fergus Falls Area  
Dollars for Scholars

Send to:

4B East Drive  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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scholarship each year since 1992. The Paulsons were also instrumental in establishing a Dollars for Scholars program in Mr. Paulson's hometown of Parkers Prairie in west central Minn.

#### **Theodore Paulson Memorial Scholarship**

Dr. Elmer Paulson established this scholarship in honor of his father, Dr. Theodore S. Paulson, a 1904 graduate of Fergus Falls High School. The money was originally donated to the Fergus Falls School District, which in turn transferred it to Dollars for Scholars.

#### **Service Food Market Scholarship**

Service Food is a charter member of Fergus Falls Area Dollars for Scholars. The supermarket has been a valued supporter of our community youth. Highest priority is given to a current Service Food employee or to a past employee of the business.

#### **Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 612 Good Citizen Scholarships**

VFW Post 612 established the VFW Joe Robertson Good Citizen Scholarship in 1997. Joe Robertson was a high school social science teacher and a VFW member who was the driving force behind the local Voice of Democracy competition. VFW members established this scholarship to honor his work with community students. One boy and one girl are chosen as recipients each year.

#### **Mark Olson Rotary Scholarship**

Mark Olson is a 1961 graduate of Fergus Falls High School, a former president of Security State Bank and a former president of the Fer-

gus Falls Noon Rotary Club. In June 2002, he was appointed a governor of the Federal Reserve System. The scholarship was created in the fall of 2003 by members of the Noon Rotary Club, in recognition of Mr. Olson's contributions to the community.

### **SCHOLAR SCHOLARSHIPS**

Donors who have contributed at least \$5,000 to the foundation have established Dollars for Scholars Scholar Level Scholarships. These scholarships are named by the donor and awarded annually.

#### **The Art Scholarship**

In 1997, the Dollars for Scholars board of trustees organized a silent auction of a variety of fine art contributions from area artists. The proceeds from this fundraiser were dedicated to sponsoring a scholarship for a graduating senior who intends to study visual or performing arts.

#### **Eugene Eckhoff Memorial Scholarship**

Eugene Eckhoff was a beloved Fergus Falls High School teacher of English, creative writing and literature. His family and colleagues established this scholarship to honor his memory. The first scholarship was awarded in 1995, and it is awarded annually to a Fergus Falls High

School student planning a career in English, literature, journalism or creative writing.

#### **Gordon Gerhardson Memorial Scholarship**

Gordon Gerhardson, a member of the Fergus Falls High School Class of 1952, was a graduate who worked his way through higher education and became a troubleshooter for nuclear power plants all over the world. His sister, Beverly Gerhardson Paulson, established this scholarship in his memory.

#### **Ottertail Coaches Scholarship**

Ottertail Coaches, which provides transportation service to Fergus Falls area students, established a scholarship to demonstrate its interest and support for the community's young people.

#### **The Beth Wedum Scholarship**

Beth Wedum was a graduate of Fergus Falls High School with a strong interest in education. Her friend, Ella Hagen, established this scholarship to assist Fergus Falls area youth interested in attending college or a post-secondary education program.

#### **Damien Jacklitch Memorial Scholarship**

Damien Jacklitch, a musician and athlete who graduated from Fergus Falls High School in 1999, died in a car accident in 2002. In 2003, former classmates and friends organized a benefit reunion in his memory. Proceeds from the concert and community donations funded an ongoing scholarship in Mr. Jacklitch's memory.

**Since 1992, 283 scholarships totaling  
\$188,000 have been awarded to high  
school seniors from Fergus Falls.**

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## Sample family inspired start of DFS

The Fergus Falls chapter of Dollars for Scholars owes its existence in large part to one family's wish to help local students continue their education beyond high school.

The impetus for the chapter came from the family of Thomas and Alexander Sample, twin brothers who graduated from Fergus Falls High School in 1945. Both joined the Navy before going on to careers in business and banking. While Fergus Falls was never again home for either of the brothers, their appreciation for the community led to one of the first and largest endowments for the Fergus Falls chapter of Dollars for Scholars.

In 1992, then-District 544 Superintendent Bob Block learned that the Sample family was interested in creating a scholarship in memory of the brothers; Alex had died in 1989 and Tom in 1991. That sparked Bob's interest in creating a scholarship program, and a volunteer board was formed to guide a local chapter of Dollars for Scholars.

The Sample Memorial Scholarship was first awarded in 1992.

Tom Sample's widow, Faye, said that the Sample family had moved around when the brothers were young, but they attended high school in Fergus Falls and "both felt Fergus Falls was their home."

After serving in the Navy, Faye said Tom earned a business degree from North Dakota State University and worked for many years for a wholesale electronics business. He and a partner eventually formed their own wholesale electronics business in Fargo, and he retired in 1989. Alex was a bank examiner for 15 years in the Midwest, then was a bank president in Kalispell, Mont., in Las Vegas, and in Houghton, Mich.

Faye said that Tom had "many close friends (in Fergus Falls) that he contin-

ued to have contact with throughout his life," and he wanted to do something to benefit youth in the community.

"I think (Dollars for Scholars) is a wonderful thing to do for young people," Faye said.

## Eagles one of DFS biggest donors

The Eagles, a Fergus Falls fraternal organization, has grown to become one of the largest supporters of the Fergus Falls chapter of Dollars for Scholars.

The 850-member organization has donated \$40,000 to the chapter and has an ongoing goal of contributing an additional \$5,000 a year, said President Pat Putz. With increases in tuition costs in recent years, Pat said, their membership knows that "every little bit helps" students who are bound for college and technical schools.

Money from the club's Bingo and pull-tab revenues go to support a variety of community activities. Several years ago, the Eagles completed a \$100,000 pledge to the Fergus Area College Foundation.

**The Sample Memorial Scholarship  
and The Eagles are two of four  
Dollars for Scholars donors at the  
Legacy level, which indicates a  
donation of \$25,000 or more.**