

Retirees for 2020-2021

Sue Applegren – NDUS Core Technology Services – written by Crystal Tangsrud

Sue hung up her SAP queen crown and retired her role as a Financial Aid Business Analyst with NDUS-Campus Solutions in August 2020 after 33 years of service. After starting her Financial Aid life off at UND when she was hired from the pool. When she was hired there she started as mail clerk the week after award letters were sent out for the fall semester. She told her husband that first night that “they don’t even speak English.” She worked her way up and later transitioned to CTS to support the Financial Aid Offices at all 11 campuses. As evidenced by the many many well-wishers who joined us for her virtual retirement party in August, Sue’s work with everyone in the system made a huge impact. Sue’s patience, friendship, wisdom, and humor added to her desire to get to the bottom of an issue made her an amazing business analyst. Sue frequently said she loved working on user tickets because it’s like “playing with puzzles,” working like a detective to figure out what happened and why. Since her departure we continue to reference her work and tricks like “jiggling the handle.” We miss her dearly in Campus Solutions, as a coworker and a friend. In retirement Sue has spent time with her husband, Mark, working on their beautiful home and quilting. She’s looking forward to spending more time with family and friend’s post-pandemic.

Dave Hanson – University of Mary – written by Karrie Huber

After many wonderful years, Dave Hanson retired from the University of Mary in December of 2020 to pursue a new line of work—professional grandpa. Dave and his wife of 42 years, Dona spend their days engaging the newly acquired dinosaur insights of their 4-year-old granddaughter Charlotte, who also responds to Charlie or the occasional Chuck. Yes, Dave has traded EFC and the FSA handbook for ABC’s and children’s stories. He now fills his days with the occasional game or two, counting school busses, and perfecting his grandpa hug.

During his 20-year tenure at the University of Mary, Dave served the needs of numerous students. His career with the University of Mary started as a student when he ventured from West Salem, Wisconsin to participate in the University’s then only sanctioned sport, Men’s Basketball. His love of sports may be the reason Dave was a favorite of Marauder athletes. His work in financial aid blessed him with not only great friendships, but many wonderful memories. One vivid memory is the drive Dave, Brenda Zastoupil and Nicole Morrison took to Pikes Peak while attending Summer Institute. They had to stop halfway due to a snow squall at the peak and when they finally arrived at the top the view was affected by low cloud cover. That stressful drive is imprinted on his brain, especially the rest stops on the way down to give the car’s breaks a rest. Needless to say the car’s breaks did get a workout and the stress was just enough for Dave to reflect, “never again.”

Dave and Dona are parents to Erik and Megan and grandparents to Gabriel, Miles, Charlotte, and Henry.

Shirley Hanson – Mayville State University – written by Susan Cordahl

Shirley Hanson worked in the Financial Aid Office at Mayville State University for nearly 28 years. She began in February of 1992 and earned her bachelor's degree in Business Administration in Spring of 2003. She began her near 18-year "sentence" as the Director of Financial Aid at Mayville State in July 2003 and was "freed" on October 2nd, 2020 when she retired.

Most people that know Shirley will recall her well-known laugh. You could hear it daily throughout the halls of Old Main at Mayville State, and always knew where to find her at a conference. Some might say God gave her this gift of a recognizable laugh because he made her too short to otherwise find her in a crowded room.

Working with Shirley was never dull. Many appreciated Shirley's calm way about logically thinking through a process/situation. As we all know . . . there is not always a logical approach to financial aid! She always made time to talk through a problem with a fellow Financial Aid soul. She also took time with students, sometimes having difficult conversations, but consistently keeping their best interest in mind. Shirley always chose to do what was right for the student, not what was easy.

Many of us have attended numerous state and regional conferences with Shirley over the last 20 years and they were always "eventful". As Marcia Pritchert from Valley City said, "I'm not sure Breckenridge, CO will ever be the same." I think we can all imagine (or recall) what sort of mischief Shirley got into on various occasions. What great memories!

Her knowledge, commitment, and friendship will be greatly missed! Congratulations on your retirement, Shirley!

Doreen Hoffman – Lake Region State College – written by Katie Nettell

Doreen has been dedicated to Lake Region State College for many years, before she worked at the college. Three out of her four children attended LRSC. It was natural for her to work at the college. Student services and financial aid fit Doreen well. She was meticulous with student records and verification. She should be proud of her work. Doreen loved the students. All decisions were made with them in mind. NDASFAA provided her the professional development and relations to be an expert in her field.

Best to you Doreen-
Katie

Jeff Jacobs – North Dakota State University – written by Bethany Vincent

Jeff Jacobs began his illustrious Financial Aid career at Valley City State University back in 1987 as the Assistant Director under Betty Kuss-Schumacher. The call of the Wild West and Dale Gehring inspired to him to get along to Minot State University in 1991, again as Assistant Director. After ten years in Financial Aid, Jeff relaxed to whatever he did at Job Corps Center for one year. In 1998 he became the Big Shot Director at University of Mary in Bismarck. Jeff served as NDASFAA President in 1998 and was active in various committee throughout his career in Financial Aid. Two years later, he moved Uptown/Downtown to Bismarck State College as Director. In 2014, the call of the Bison brought Jeff to North Dakota State University in Fargo where he stayed until his extended retirement in December of 2020.

Jeff was very active in RMASFAA; serving as President for TWO years and the Association Governance Chair for two years as well. The responses to my request for information and stories about Jeff all yielded a common theme...he is a ONE MAN Welcoming Committee! Judy from University of Jamestown shared, "Jeff Jacobs was the first person to welcome me with a big, huge wide-open arms hug at my first ever financial aid conference" in Cheyenne Wyoming back in 2013. Becky from Northern State University shared a very similar story; "I heard my name. It was Jeff Jacobs. With a wave and a smile, he called me over and gave me a hug saying 'Welcome, glad you could be here'". Cindy from Johnson County Community College shared "Jeff was always so helpful and understanding and appreciative to everyone for all their hard work".

On a lighter note, I've heard that had he not become involved in Financial Aid, he would have had a chance at being a Solid Gold dancer?!?!? Laurie from Minot State University shared "he invented a new dance move at a RMASFAA in Kansas known as the 'Jeffy' - it involved dancing with a chair!". Kristie from North Dakota State University shared that Jeff has "traded in the spiders in his camper at the lake for road runners (just like in the cartoons) in his back yard in AZ".

I'm sure there are plenty more anecdotes and stories because Jeff has been an integral and fun part of Financial Aid in our region, state and campuses and has been a friend to all of us. Best of luck to you and Rhonda in retirement 😊

Katie Nettell – Lake Region State College - Written by Doreen Hoffman

Katie was in financial aid for 24 years. Katie and I were traveling by car to Omaha for a conference. On the drive one of the cities had a camera positioned somewhere and caught us speeding with the state fleet vehicle. Provably 65 in a 35mph zone. So LRSC gets a bill for the traffic violation and it was a hefty fine. I think the city was Sioux Falls, SD and over \$125. Neither one of us could remember who was driving at the time (alheizmers for both of us). Katie just pulled out her checkbook and paid the fine. Was that an admission of her wrongdoing? Also, when we got to the motel there were no reservations under our names. Doreen made reservations but missed the first night.

Almost every time we had NDASFAA conference in the Bismarck area, fall or spring, a blizzard would develop and we would be stranded. Lots of laughs with fellow NDASFAA members as none of us could go anywhere! Katie loved bonding with NDASFAA friends and gained so much knowledge from NDASFAA.

Katie is currently working as a para educator at Devils Lake H S. Katie and husband Scott are empty nesters as their 3 children, Molly and twins Max and Sam are now grown adults. She occasionally gets to dog sit Molly's fur legged companion but is anxiously waiting for real grandchildren!