

# MORNINGSIDER

WINTER 2022

## *Reynders Edition*

Honoring the Service of President John C. Reynders, 1999-2022



# WHY I LOVE MORNINGSIDE

During our many years of hosting new student dinners, one of the questions we got most frequently was, "President Reynders and Robin, what do you love most about your job?" The answer is always the same. You. Students. Our desire to see you succeed drives everything we do.

We love the fact that Morningside opens doors for students. From career opportunities and exploring new fields to studying abroad and doing in-depth research, we love watching students grow, mature, and reach beyond what they first thought possible. We love seeing new students during orientation with faces that show excitement and nervousness, then seeing those same faces four years later at graduation reflecting confidence, self-assuredness, and "ready to conquer the world" attitudes.

We love the unlimited opportunities for involvement that Morningside students have, allowing them to put existing strengths to work while also finding ways to grow and explore.

We also love the winning culture found at Morningside. For years, we have talked about the relentless pursuit of excellence in everything we do. Success in athletics? You bet. But this culture of winning extends into the classroom, visual and performing arts, throughout co-curriculars, and beyond. Annually, events like Christmas at Morningside, marching band performances, Palmer Research Symposium, the launch of Kiosk, and research presentations would bring tears to our eyes because of the incredible work we watched students produce time and time again.

We love talking to alumni about their experiences. Those positive experiences are often directly related to people that make Morningside so special. Faculty, coaches, and staff make differences in the lives of students. Alumni love to tell those stories, and we love to hear them.

We will always cherish the relationships we have made with Morningside's Board of Directors and their spouses, as well as the lifelong friendships we have developed with students, alumni, faculty, and staff.

Simply put, we love the soul of Morningside. A soul that is fed by deep care for one another within this campus community, hard work, and desire to make a difference in the world.

Although it is time for our departure, it will be difficult to leave. We will carry the memories and relationships with us for the rest of our lives.

And we will always love Morningside.

John and Robin Reynders



*Top: John, Robin, and Boomer on campus during Summer 2021. Bottom: John and Robin model gifts they received from Kansai Gaidai University.*

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## MORNINGSIDE UNIVERSITY

#### VISIT US ONLINE

Go to [morningside.edu](http://morningside.edu) to get up-to-date information about the university.

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# Morningside Avenues

## Dr. Albert Mosley named 13th President of Morningside University

On Dec. 9, 2021, the Morningside University Board of Directors announced Dr. Albert Mosley, senior vice president and chief mission integration officer for Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare, as the next president of Morningside University. He will begin his role as the 13th president of Morningside in July 2022.

A proven executive and senior administrator, Dr. Mosley was unanimously selected following an eight-month nationwide search led by a 16-member search committee comprised of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and board members. The chair of the committee was Craig Struve '70, with AGB Search assisting with the process.



“We are elated and honored to welcome Dr. Mosley to Morningside University as its 13th president,” said Esther Mackintosh '69, chair of the Morningside University Board of Directors. “Dr. Mosley has demonstrated an innovative and entrepreneurial spirit, a firm grasp of the issues facing higher education, a commitment to addressing the challenge of college affordability, and an inclusive leadership style - all qualities that will enable him to build on the strong foundation that Morningside has developed under John Reynders over the past two decades.”



*Albert and his wife Syreeta have four children: Avery, Todd, Addison, and Ava-Rose*

## Sharon Walker School of Education awarded \$2.3 million grant from Dept. of Education

The Sharon Walker School of Education at Morningside University has been selected to receive a \$2.3 million grant from the United States Department of Education English Language Acquisition National Professional Development Program. The grant will allow the School of Education to build a program to offer flexible baccalaureate and master's degree teacher preparation programs with English as a second language (ESL) endorsements and professional development and training opportunities to improve instruction of English learners (ELs) in targeted high EL student population communities across Iowa.

“This grant is meant to better serve English learners in Iowa by providing educators who are located in more rural areas with greater access to flexible professional development and degree and endorsement programs,” said Dr. Kelly Chaney, Dean of the Sharon Walker School of Education. “Morningside has been a leader in the state of Iowa in offering online education options for educators for many years and this is the next phase of that work.”



## Robin Reynders receives Order of Morningside

Robin Reynders was awarded the Order of Morningside at the 2021 Morningside Holiday and Employee Recognition Banquet. The Order of Morningside honors outstanding and faithful members of the Morningside community who have contributed distinguished service to the university. In his remarks, vice president of academic affairs Chris Spicer noted that Robin is a highly respected higher education leader, tireless advocate for Morningside, and a constant fixture at university events. “She has been a great friend to many alumni, donors, and friends of the university,” said Spicer. “Most importantly, Robin has been a true, loyal, faithful, and dedicated partner to the leader of this university. She has shared her spouse, her heart, her home, her children, and even her dogs with this place for many years.”



*President John Reynders with his wife Robin and son Mat at the 2021 Siouxland Chamber of Commerce dinner*

## Reynders receives Deming Award from Siouxland Chamber of Commerce

The Siouxland Chamber of Commerce presented the 2021 W. Edwards Deming Business Leadership and Entrepreneurial Excellence Award to Morningside University President John Reynders in recognition of his vision, leadership, and impact on the university and the Siouxland region.

The Deming Award is the Siouxland Chamber of Commerce’s most prestigious honor which annually recognizes one outstanding business executive and exceptional community leader in the tri-state region. Reynders joins an exclusive list of recipients who have been honored for their business leadership, entrepreneurial success, and commitment to Siouxland.

“It has been one of the greatest honors of my life serving as president of Morningside these last 22 years,” Reynders said. “Siouxland embraced me as one of their own when I arrived two decades ago. Today, this place is home and the people in it are family to my wife Robin and me. Success at Morningside is success for Siouxland, and I feel incredibly proud and fortunate for all that has been achieved working alongside a truly wonderful community during my tenure.”



# MUSTANG

## Minute



## *Etched into History*

Simple, lifelong mantra carries  
Reynders to Hall of Fame status

by Mark Adkins

A Mount Rushmore in men's basketball coaching includes former Indiana University head coach Bobby Knight and former University of North Carolina head coach Dean Smith.

While Morningside University president John Reynders wanted that same path in his career, he etched a similar figurehead into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. An association and Allegheny College Athletics Hall of Famer, Reynders has taken a simple mantra for his transitory success from a player to coach to an administrator to president.

"Life is so much about the people you have the privilege to work with," he reflected on his career. "At each stage of my journey, I've had key mentors to allow me to develop and then potentially take the next step if I so chose."

"It was Dick Fox, a legendary high school basketball coach in Western Pennsylvania that added to my love for the game," he added. "From there, Norm Sundstrom, a former coach at Allegheny, allowed me to play college basketball and then to coach at a school I loved. Andy Ford, the provost at Allegheny, drove me to think of a bigger picture for my career and gave

me a chance to teach, be a special assistant to the provost, and become Allegheny's chief financial officer and vice-president for enrollment. They all believed in me at each step - that's all it took."

Reynders' transition philosophy reached an even more significant point after his eventual Hall of Fame career at the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III school concluded when he arrived in Sioux City. Morningside was at a crossroads athletically and institutionally, struggling success-wise and enrollment-wise in NCAA Division II and the powerhouse North Central Conference.

"Something needed to be done," Reynders remembered. "I had to convince the board. I delivered a presentation that showed that most of the 27 small Iowa colleges were either NCAA Division III or NAIA and the sports they offered. There was an avenue



*Reynders coaching men's basketball at Allegheny College*



for growth in programs and also a chance to build a scholarship situation for athletics and bringing in potential students and student-athletes.”

“I showed the board that if we went from 12 to 22 programs with scholarships including revenue due to an enrollment increase, we can compete and be successful,” he added. “We did all of that. It wasn’t easy at times, but we got there.”

If he or the then-college campus ever doubted the road less

traveled they embarked upon, the North Central Conference commissioner took it away in one fell swoop.

“The year we had club football, with the bylaws stating that we had to have varsity football to remain in the conference, a waiver was needed with support from the other presidents for us to stay in the NCC,” he recounted. “Before the final vote was held, the commissioner came down to Sioux City and tried to talk me out of it. He showed off the legacy the NCC had in Division II football and how many former players were in the National Football League and so on. The conversation concluded by him stating that ‘We have some pretty hard-nosed games when USD and NDSU battle, SDSU plays UND and so forth – it’s tough right now with one bye week, and honestly, you guys are our second bye week.’”

“My first thought was ‘It’s crazy that he is thinking this but also saying it,’” he added. “That comment cemented in my mind that what we were doing was the right move.”

The transition from club football to the NAIA showed a positive outlook immediately. With head coach Steve Ryan beginning the footprints of what would be one of the country’s top small college gridiron programs, a trip to Wayne State College in 2002 gave Reynders and the campus even more reason to see a silver lining in the new direction.

It’s amazing to think about where we are,” he added. “Having overflow crowds for so many games, hosting playoffs, and winning championships is remarkable.”

“I remember we had a couple of buses going to Wayne for that game which was the season opener,” Reynders noted. “The band, cheerleaders, and students were all with us. It was a great atmosphere, but we knew we had our hands full with an NCAA Division II foe. The game went back and forth, and we won in overtime. I remember turning around in the crowd, giving everyone a big thumbs up, and thanking them for coming. That was the beginning - the rest is history.”

“It’s amazing to think about where we are,” he added. “Having overflow crowds for so many games, hosting playoffs, and winning championships is remarkable.”

## MUSTANG MINUTE

Morningside's coaching staff and community members understand the road to excellence he and the college take every day.

"In those early years, tough decisions were being made at a college that was struggling," head football coach Steve Ryan noted, "There had to be a change in the direction of the school. He never thought any different of what the vision was. Being there and watching that was very impressive. John had a sense that we could win. He wanted to be successful."

"Courage is a word I think about when I talk about John," Great Plains Athletic Conference commissioner Corey Westra commented. "He had so much of it during a time that it wasn't popular. Going from NCAA D2 to the NAIA wasn't popular to some. However, he understands excellence in doing the right thing and doing it often."

"From a coaching standpoint, all of us understand what he wants, and he supports us to get to the level of being winning programs," head women's basketball coach Jamie Sale said. "Just like what he went through with the move, those expectations aren't easy, but you know the faith he has in you to do so based on what he went through early on."

"He's just so supportive of not only the coaches but also the student-athletes," head softball coach Jessica Jones-Sitzmann said. "It's not everywhere where a student-athlete can just make an appointment and visit with the president. John has allowed that because their thoughts, just like all students, are so important to him."



Courage is a word I think about when I talk about John. He had so much of it during a time that it wasn't popular."

Reynders took what he learned from his mantra and put it into action in hiring top-flight coaches in the likes of Ryan, former men's basketball coach Jim Sykes, Sale, former men's and women's golf coach Todd Sapp, Jones-Sitzmann, and others. He also did so with his senior staff, especially regarding Terri Curry. Curry, who's taken a similar path to what Reynders did at Allegheny



*From bottom left: Robin Reynders, Syreeta Mosley, Dr. Albert Mosley, Bill Deeds, and Christy Spicer. From top left: John Reynders, Craig Struve '70, Chris Spicer, Terri Curry, and Kevin Curry*





while at Morningside, has played a pivotal role in the coaching hires and athletic successes.

“She is the moral compass of what we have done,” Reynders said. “You have to have that. Although athletic success is important to the student experience here, you can’t lean too far in that direction. She knew student life was vital. She has an evenness about her personality and management style, which is important. Terri sees the stars and those student-athletes who may not get all of the recognition as equally important.”

“She’s so supportive of everyone she works with,” he added. “I’m reminded of former people I worked with and the chances they gave me to do what I did when I look at how she is on campus.”

While the pages continue dropping off the calendar for him and Robin, who is just as big of a Mustangs fan, to attend events in their current roles, being a Morningside fan has been a part of their life since day one and will continue to do so. “Hey, I’ll be on my boat in Florida watching and listening to the games and cheering loudly,” he said, smiling broadly. “Morningside will always be a part of us no matter where we go.”

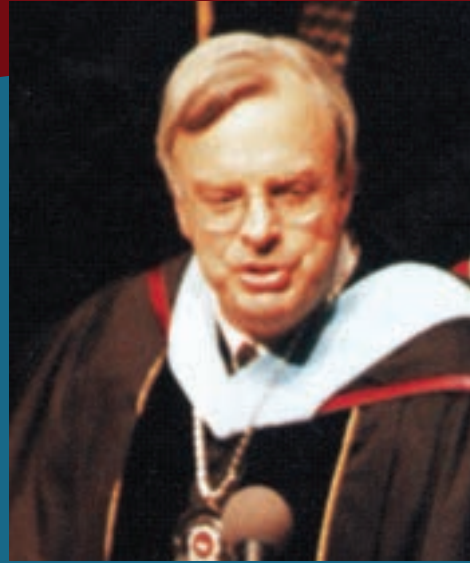


*Top: Reynders was honored during a home basketball game for his 2021 induction into the NAIA Hall of Fame. Middle: John and Robin Reynders pose at the 2019 NAIA Football National Championship. Bottom: Reynders celebrates one of four NAIA Women’s Basketball National Championships.*



12TH PRESIDENT OF MORNINGSIDE UNIVERSITY

**John Reynders**



## REYNDERS ANNOUNCED AS 12TH PRESIDENT OF MORNINGSIDE

FEBRUARY 24, 1999

# 1999

## ✦ Reynders assumes role as president

JULY 15, 1999

Following a national search, Morningside selected John C. Reynders as its 12th president. Reynders succeeded interim President David Marker and previous President Jerry Israel. Reynders had been serving as the vice president for administrative services and treasurer of Allegheny College, where he had graduated with a bachelor's degree in math and a master's degree in education. "During 20 years at Allegheny, Mr. Reynders assumed key leadership roles, which led to enrollment growth, higher academic quality, and greater net revenue for the college," said Nancy Metz, chair of Morningside's Board of Directors.

M  
MORNINGSIDE  
COLLEGE

# 2000

## ◆ Reynders inaugurated April 7, 2000

Amidst pomp and circumstance and in front of family, friends, the Morningside community, and public officials, John C. Reynders was inaugurated as president of Morningside on April 7, 2000, with Morningside Board of Directors Chair Cy W. Chesterman presenting Reynders with the Morningside presidential medallion. During the ceremony, Reynders shared an address titled “For Such a



*Per Morningside tradition, Reynders received a 'bean shower' at his inauguration*

Time as This,” which was based on the story of Esther. “At a critical moment in the history of her people, Esther comes to realize that she has been placed on this earth to do a greater good than she ever imagined. The story of Esther teaches us that ‘for such a time as this,’ we have all been called upon to think and act beyond self-interest, to exceed our supposed limitations and to attempt contributions that we have never considered possible.”

## ◆ Morningside Board of Directors adopts Reynders' five-year plan

Following a year-long planning process, Reynders brought a five-year plan to the Morningside Board of Directors that was designed to keep Morningside viable in an increasingly competitive marketplace. To say the plan was controversial at the time is an understatement. Among many significant changes and cuts, the most hotly debated change under the five-year plan was to move Morningside athletics from competing in the North Central Conference as an NCAA Division II institution. In remarks delivered to the board, Reynders noted that it would take courage to do what was necessary for Morningside to thrive and committed to staying on as president through the entire five-year implementation of the plan.



# 2001

## ◆ Men's and women's soccer announced



## ◆ Reynders announces science center to be named after Jim and Sharon Walker as part of a 'mini-campaign'

Both 1970 graduates, the Walkers have remained loyal alumni and friends of Morningside throughout their lives. Jim Walker served as the acting chairman of the \$30 million “Investing for the Future” campaign from 1996 to 2000, which included \$6 million to renovate Morningside's science buildings. To honor the Walkers' dedication and commitment to Morningside, Reynders announced that the newly renovated science center would be named after the Walkers. So began the first of many transformations that would take place.

# 2002

## ◆ Quiet phase of “This is Our Moment” campaign begins

The first major fundraising campaign for Morningside in some time, “This is Our Moment” began with a \$30 million goal that included \$14 million for student housing, student dining, upgrades to athletic facilities, and beautification of the campus mall. Early donors included Norm Waitt Jr., the Yockey Family, and Elwood Olsen '38. The public phase of the campaign would launch in 2004.



*Norm Waitt Jr. '86 has made much possible at Morningside during the last three decades, creating and establishing the Waitt Lecture and providing funds for a number of campus construction and remodeling projects*

## ◆ Walkers donate \$500,000 to establish the Sharon Walker Faculty Excellence Awards

# 2003

◆ **Morningside establishes a service-learning component to the curriculum to directly link course-based, credit-bearing service projects with objectives and goals within a course**

◆ **Reynders begin hosting First Year Seminar dinners**

As part of a class required for all new students, the Reynders began hosting dinners at their home that all new students attended. The tradition of these dinners has continued ever since, though they are now part of the Critical Inquiry and Communication course, and are a favorite experience among new students.

◆ **Thomas S. Thompson Staff Excellence Awards established**



◆ **School district and Morningside begin negotiations around the deed to Roberts Stadium**

Built in the 1930s and located near the Morningside campus, Roberts Stadium was a Sioux City School District-owned facility that had fallen into serious disrepair. A proposal was developed to turn over the deed to the stadium to Morningside contingent on an agreement that Morningside would invest \$2.5 million in improvements to the facility over seven years. In May 2004 after much debate, the Sioux City School Board approved a lease agreement and allowed Morningside to begin much needed renovations on the stadium.



◆ **Faculty adopts proposal to change credit hours from three-hour to four-hour and implements a May Term requirement for students**

Experiential learning has become even more of a focus for Morningside in recent years, but it has always been a part of the vision for Morningside since nearly the beginning of Reynders' tenure. May Term is now a staple of Morningside curriculum and one of the experiences students enjoy most as they learn or experience something simply for the love of learning.

2003



◆ **Morningside Women's Basketball earns its first national title**

It was an achievement that would mark the beginning of a winning new chapter in Morningside athletic history. In front of a record-breaking crowd of 6,400 at Gateway Arena in Sioux City, the Morningside Mustang Women's Basketball team won its first NAIA National Championship and effectively changed the conversation following Morningside's controversial transition from NCAA Division II to NAIA athletics. The excitement and pride in what had been accomplished by the 2004 team was the start of a new era, and the tradition of excellence would continue as women's basketball would go on to collect additional national titles in 2005, 2009, and 2015.

## 2004

- ◆ **Men's wrestling relaunched**
- ◆ **Men's and women's tennis relaunched**
- ◆ **Palmer Student Research Symposium established**

## 2005

◆ **Renovation plans announced for Hickman-Johnson-Furrow Learning Center**

As part of a commitment to become one of the best private residential colleges in the Midwest, Reynders announced a renovation of its library that included the addition of the now beloved Spoonholder coffee bar. "We want the library to be

a first-rate experience for our students. We want it to be a learning laboratory and, at the same time, a home for our students, a place where students and faculty can gather informally and comfortably. This renovation is an important part of our cultural transformation to a residential campus, but it will also provide a wonderful spot for commuter students and the community to gather."

- ◆ **First Alumni May Term trip offered in conjunction with the Morningside choir with a trip to eastern Europe, including Budapest, Prague, and Vienna**



## 2006

- ◆ **"Taste of Morningside" established as part of Morningside Homecoming, drawing one of the largest recorded crowds of alumni in the institution's history**
- ◆ **Morningside exceeds \$28 million in capital improvement projects in nine years**

While more would come, 2006 marked the reopening of Hindman-Hobbs Center following a significant renovation, an investment of \$400,000 in the new Elizabeth and Irving Jensen Softball Complex, and an announcement that Dave "Lags" Lageschulte '73 would provide the naming gift for the construction of Lags Hall. Reynders said it best when he responded to questions about the changes to the Sioux City Journal. "It's really, in many respects, the heart of this campus that will change."



*David "Lags" Lageschulte '73 was a business entrepreneur who John and Robin Reynders got to know well during the first half of Reynders' tenure. Lags provided lead gifts for several projects before his death in 2014. Since that time, Lags' nephew and other family members have continued to honor Lags' life and memory through the Lags Foundation.*



*Tom Rosen '70, pictured with his son Reid Rosen '13 and Chris Benson '94, has provided lead gifts for a number of the projects that have helped transform Morningside during Reynders' two-decade tenure*

## 2007

- ◆ Tom Rosen '70 and Don Verdoorn '55 provide naming gifts for the renovation of Allee Gym
- ◆ Morningside establishes two-year technology refresh program

Campus policy changed in 2007 to not only provide entering students with a laptop computer upon enrolling at Morningside, but to provide the opportunity for the students to exchange their computer after two years to ensure they had more updated technology upon graduation. Additionally, by providing consistent equipment to all students, Morningside has also been able to offer an on-campus help desk to assist students with technology needs.

- ◆ Morningside receives \$1.2 million U.S. Department of Education grant for “Project Unlimited Proficiency: Improving the Education of Limited English Proficient Children in Northwest Iowa”

## 2008

- ◆ Competitive cheer and dance launched
- ◆ The Hilker Campus Mall opens, featuring the Buhler Outdoor Performance Center, the Lieder Family Fountain, and the Kline Family Pergola
- ◆ Alumni and choir May Term trip to China



2008

## ◆ Pilot online program developed for Graduate Education

Morningside awarded its first Master of Arts in Teaching degrees in 1968. Forty years later, it began developing and piloting its first online degree program. At the time Morningside was awarding just under 150 degrees per year at multiple locations throughout Iowa. The online pilot would prove to be a success and would almost double the number of graduates from the program so that today, graduate students outnumber undergraduate students.

## 2009

- ◆ Two-way exchange agreement with Hwa Nan Women's University begins 100 years after a Morningside graduate helped found the university in Fuzhou, China
- ◆ “This is Our Moment” campaign concludes as the largest fundraising effort in Morningside history, raising \$45.2 million for facilities improvements, scholarships, and endowment funding

Jim Walker '70 served as the campaign chair and along with his wife, Sharon (Anderson) Walker '70, provided key leadership, alongside Nancy Metz, Russ Olson '76, and Lucy (Yoshioka) Buhler '56.

- ◆ Morningside awarded nearly \$600,000 National Science Foundation grant for “Pathways to Student Success in the Sciences”
- ◆ Morningside named to “Great Colleges to Work For” by the Chronicle of Higher Education



## 2010

### ◆ Morningside establishes partnership with the Nicholas Academic Centers

John Reynders first connected with the late Honorable Jack K. Mandel through Allegheny College in Pennsylvania, where they were both alums. Judge Mandel had worked with Reynders at Allegheny and continued to follow his work when he assumed the presidency at Morningside. In 2008, Judge Mandel had partnered with Dr. Henry T. Nicholas, III to establish the Nicholas Academic Centers (NAC). NAC is an after-school tutoring and mentoring program in Santa Ana, Calif., that provides a safe and nurturing place where high school students can seek academic services, emotional support, mentoring and social services as they prepare to pursue their educational goals at an institution of higher learning. Mandel was so impressed by the transformation happening at Morningside that he offered Reynders the opportunity for Morningside to become a NAC partner. Today, Morningside typically welcomes around a half dozen students from the NAC program to campus each fall.

## 2011

### ◆ State-of-the-art wireless network established on campus and “Earth Mirrors” sculpture installed on campus by artist Andrea Stanislav

### ◆ Work begins to create online archives of campus newspapers, yearbooks, and other historical documents

### ◆ Alumni and choir May Term trip to Italy

# 377

Largest incoming freshman class

## 2012

### ◆ “Vision 2020: Transformation II” is publicly launched with a goal of \$50 million to fund a new academic building, grow the annual scholarship fund and endowment, and to renovate Dimmitt Hall and Epley Auditorium

### ◆ First Morningside In Italy is offered, allowing a group of Morningside students to spend a semester in Italy taking Morningside courses taught by Morningside faculty



### ◆ President Barack Obama visits campus as part of his reelection campaign, marking the first time in Morningside history that a sitting U.S. President visited the campus

### ◆ Dr. William C. Yockey Assessment Awards established

## 2013

### ◆ Men’s and women’s bowling launched

### ◆ A delegation from the city of Sioux City and Morningside travel to Yamanashi, Japan to celebrate the tenth anniversary of its sister city partnership and strengthen educational connections





- ◆ Renovation of the Eugene C. Eppley Fine Arts Building completed

## 2014

- ◆ Men's volleyball launched
- ◆ New \$13 million Academic Village completed, featuring Buhler Rohlfs Hall and the Krone Center

The completion of the Academic Village marked the first new academic buildings to be constructed on campus in 40 years. Buhler Rohlfs created new spaces for the newly renamed Sharon Walker School of Education, the Nylen School of Nursing, and the newly established Regina Roth Applied Agricultural and Food Studies program. Meanwhile, the Krone Center provided additional staff space for advising students and alumni and created a state-of-the-art meeting space and classroom with Weikert Auditorium.

- ◆ Marching band is re-established at Morningside, beginning a vibrant new tradition and adding substantially to the Morningside game day experience
- ◆ Alumni and choir May Term trip to Spain

## 2015

- ◆ Col. Bud Day Center for Civic Engagement established on campus to increase community engagement, research, and volunteerism
- ◆ Graduate Nursing program launched featuring online Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

- ◆ Renovation work completed on Dimmitt Hall, the largest and oldest residence hall on campus

## 2016

- ◆ The Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) launches
- ◆ Morningside ranks 7th on list of the nation's 20 fastest growing private nonprofit colleges by The Chronicle of Higher Education

# 2,902

largest total enrollment in school history full and part-time students

## 2017

- ◆ Connie Wimer Women's Leadership Program established
- ◆ First online bachelor's degree completion program launched



**Football earns its first NAIA National Championship**

## 2018

- ◆ Esports added
- ◆ Alumni, choir, and applied agricultural and food studies trip to Japan

## Morningside celebrates its 125th anniversary



## 2019

- ◆ Men's and women's lacrosse launched
- ◆ First doctoral program launched – Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

## 2020

- ◆ Criminal Justice program launched
- ◆ Campus shuts down in March 2020 and moves classes online in the face of the global COVID-19 pandemic
- ◆ Classes resume in-person in fall 2020, with a campus mask requirement in place for the duration of the 2020-2021 academic year
- ◆ Largest fundraising effort in the history of Morningside concludes

"Vision 2020: Transformation II" campaign raised \$69 million, far exceeding its \$50 million goal to remodel, redesign, and reorient the campus to put students at its center. Lifetime Board Member Jim Walker '70 served as campaign chair.

- ◆ Morningside awarded two National Science Foundation grants totaling almost \$1.3 million

- ◆ Morningside College's Class of 2020 is the largest ever combined graduating class in the college's 125-year history.

**671**  
undergraduate and graduate grads

## 2021

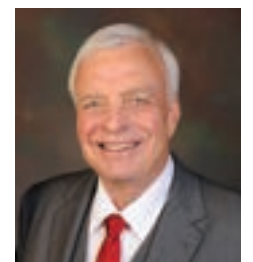
- ◆ Sharon Walker School of Education receives \$2.5 million grant
- ◆ Largest incoming class of international freshman students welcomed
- ◆ First cohort of Morningside Doctor of Nursing Practice program graduates



**Morningside College officially becomes Morningside University**

## 2022

- ◆ John Reynders set to retire as the longest-sitting president in Morningside history



# GIVING IN FAITH: JIM & SHARON WALKER

by Erin Edlund

*“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”*

— Hebrews 11:1

When President John Reynders arrived at Morningside in 1999, the financial, enrollment, and facilities situation the institution was facing was dire to say the least.

“It was a bleak time when John inherited the presidency,” said Jim Walker ’70. “My first question to John when he was hired was, what in the world are you thinking?”

Reynders would soon develop a response to Jim’s question. He began laying out a vision for Morningside that he believed would reposition it to be one of the best small private colleges in the Midwest. To make it happen, though, Reynders needed someone to believe in what could not yet be seen. He went to Jim and his wife Sharon (Anderson) Walker ’70 and asked them to be among the first to have faith in his vision, with his first step being to forgo building a new science building and instead remodel the existing structure. Jim and Sharon had been planning to make a gift for the new building, but Reynders’ new plan was meant to hasten progress on his vision and start making an immediate difference for students.

“We really talked over that initial gift,” Sharon recalled. “The college was on the brink, and we really weren’t sure it



would be a good investment. And, it was ironic because the science center was the first project, but science was not a strong subject for either of us.”

After prayerful consideration, the Walkers decided to take a leap of faith. They told Reynders they would redirect their gift for the remodel. While they hadn’t intended to have the science building named after them, Reynders encouraged them to accept the naming rights to help others see that Morningside was an investment worth making. Thus, the Walker Science Center was born, and the Walkers’ decision to believe in Morningside and John Reynders’ vision would serve as the spark that would begin a dramatic, two-decade transformation.

## A MORNINGSIDE EXPERIENCE ROOTED IN LOVE

High school sweethearts in the 1960s, it was Sharon who first set her sights on Morningside. Sharon knew she was interested in becoming an educator and had been impressed by Morningside’s academic reputation and its ties to the Methodist Church. She applied and received a presidential scholarship. Once Sharon decided on Morningside, Jim decided to follow along.

“I didn’t even know where Morningside was located,” Jim commented, smiling at his bride of more than 50 years.

**Listen to the Walkers tell their story on Inside Mside, our podcast highlighting all things Morningside. You can find it on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, YouTube, and Google Podcasts.**



*Jim & Sharon's Engagement, December 1967*

Upon arrival, both were quickly assured that Morningside was exactly where they belonged. Though they recall the setting of the times during the Vietnam War being a challenging backdrop for their college years, each thoroughly enjoyed their Morningside experience and took full advantage of the opportunities available to them in addition to taking full class loads and working 30-40 hours a week.

“Jim was involved with the TKE fraternity and student government, and I was in an education association and involved with residence life leadership. We also went to the weekly dances. Those are some of our favorite memories. We actually got engaged at the Winter Formal,” Sharon shared, smiling at her husband.

Following graduation, Jim and Sharon stayed in Sioux City for a short time before moving to the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. There, Sharon continued her work as a successful educator and faith leader in Bible Study Fellowship, and Jim became a successful business executive who eventually sold the business he built and co-owned, Old Northwest Agents, Inc., in 1998. The Walkers would continue to have various business and real estate holdings for several years after selling the business. They also continued to devote themselves to faith-based organizations that were close to their hearts – including Morningside.

“Though we got further away physically from Morningside, our hearts have never been far,” said Jim.

Indeed, since their graduation in 1970, the Walkers have always stayed connected to Morningside. They got to know the four presidents and spouses leading up to the arrival of John and Robin Reynders, they returned to campus for events often, kept in touch with classmates, and they have been steadfast leaders and donors to Morningside. That was a major reason that Jim knew hiring the twelfth president of Morningside back in 1999 was a pivotal moment in Morningside history.

## FAITH IN A DEVELOPING VISION

“When John arrived on the Morningside campus 22 years ago, Morningside had 13 years of deficit spending. We had a small endowment. We had the smallest freshman class in the history of the institution. We hadn’t won a football game for years,” joked Jim. “The morale on campus was low and the faculty were impaired. That’s the scenario that John walked into, but what happened is that John had a plan for improvement. Even though we only disclosed a five-year plan to the board, John had a 20-year vision. We started with five years, though, and John began making small improvements that eventually translated into total transformation.”

As early adopters of Reynders’ vision, Jim and Sharon doubled down on their commitment to Morningside. Jim would not only become a lifetime member of the Morningside University Board of Directors, but he also stepped up in 2002 and 2010 to serve as the chair for what would become the two largest fundraising campaigns in Morningside history.

“Those campaigns saved Morningside. We were very fortunate to have great committees who worked on those campaigns, and we were able to raise \$165 million in total over the years. That’s pretty amazing for a university our size,” said Jim. “That success was a result of everyone buying into the direction Morningside was headed, and that solely rests on John’s shoulders. You can take him to the bank, and many did.”

Sharon also noted that every gift in those campaigns made a difference. “The gifts weren’t just gifts. They were sacrificial at every level and came from many people. John and Jim were a powerful fundraising team who were able to get many more people involved and giving to Morningside. They helped people see the excitement on campus and feel the joy of being part of it.”

In addition to serving as the formal leaders of the campaigns, the Walkers once again showed their belief in the work happening by making critical gifts of their own. Each year, they faithfully contributed to the annual fund. In 2002, they supplied the funding to establish the Sharon Walker Faculty Excellence Awards. Then in 2014, the Walkers provided the naming gift for the Sharon Walker School of Education. Jim also devoted himself to working alongside John whenever he was able, even in the early days when fundraising proved challenging.

“Before John arrived, Morningside had submitted a proposal to the Kresge Foundation for funding to help enhance the faculty. The individual from the Kresge Foundation we met with told us that not only was he denying our proposal, but he believed Morningside wouldn’t exist in 10 years,” recalled Jim. “After John was on board about 10 years after our first application, we applied again. We met with the same executive director. At the end, that individual once again said he was not going to grant our proposal. Instead, he said he was going to increase it. The University had pulled off something that even the Kresge Foundation didn’t think was possible. Every item they had outlined in our previous rejection had been corrected with excellence. That was a pivotal moment because Kresge is the gold standard in fundraising, and Morningside had pulled off something that I don’t think they had ever seen. John can be very proud of that.”

From John Reynders’ perspective, though, it was the faith that Jim and Sharon showed in the bleak, early days of his tenure that helped build the momentum that Morningside needed to reach those heights.

“Early on, Morningside needed true believers. People who had a deep love for this place and were willing to dream and envision what could be instead of what was,” said Reynders. “Anyone who knows Jim and Sharon know they are people of great faith who give generously and are fully devoted to God. I will be forever grateful that they extended a similar kind of faith, generosity, and devotion to Morningside, as well as to Robin and me.”

## A FOREVER FRIENDSHIP FORGED

Just as the Walkers’ faith in the work of Morningside and John Reynders have grown and flourished over the years, so has the friendship that the Reynders and the Walkers have forged. “John, Robin, Sharon, and I are really family. He is a brother to me,” notes Jim.

Reynders concurs, noting, “Jim and Sharon have been faithful friends and wise counsel throughout my tenure. I will always

be grateful that Morningside brought us together, and the accomplishments and memories we have built together have bonded us for our lifetime.”

When asked about what qualities or successes they most admire about John Reynders’ leadership, Jim and Sharon each pointed to Reynders’ more humble attributes.

“John’s greatest leadership quality is impeccable integrity. He does what he says, and he does it with enormous energy,” said Jim.

Sharon shared, “John has never made this presidency about him. He has always put Morningside and its students at the center of his work. That focus is a leadership trait that is hard to teach, but it is a wonderful trait if you can develop it.”

While the Walkers are looking forward to having more time to enjoy with their friends the Reynders in retirement, they both acknowledge that they will deeply miss John and Robin Reynders’ leadership at Morningside. They believe, though, that the culture Reynders helped create will carry Morningside well into the future.

“Morningside has a very unique culture. It is engrained deeply in the faculty, the student body, and the staff. There is a Morningside way that has been developed and was charted by John and many others, and I think that is paramount to the future,” said Jim, with Sharon adding, “Jim always says, there’s something special that happens at Morningside. It has since we were students here, and we know it will continue.”



*Jim, Twyla Rosenbaum, Anni Moore, and Sharon at the 2021 Walker Faculty Excellence Awards*



# Teamwork

## MAKES THE REYNDERS DREAM WORK

by Erin Edlund

One doesn't need to read far into *The Chronicle of Higher Education* to see that the average length of service for college and university administrators continues to shrink each year. Studies show that the current tenure of a president is typically around five to six years. The average years served for vice presidents and other senior leadership is even smaller.

Within the senior leadership of Morningside University, though, things are much different. President John Reynders' 22 years of service are impressive but easily topped by Morningside University's Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment Terri Curry with an incredible 36 years of service. Vice President for Business and Finance Ron Jorgensen has 25 years of service. Recently retired Vice President for Academic Affairs Bill Deeds served Morningside for 19 years, and former Vice President for

Advancement Tom Rice held positions at Morningside for 30 years.

The consistency of that leadership over the last two decades has been vital to creating an environment for success. John Reynders reflected, "In my early years there was a great deal of transition and upheaval. We all went through a lot the first five years or so I was here. It was hard work. Once we got through it, though, I think we all agreed that we wanted to stick around to reap the benefits of that work. Now in these last few years, it's been about seeing how we take things to the next level and set things up for continued success in the future," said Reynders.

Hear a little about how each member of the leadership team has played their part.

## Terri Curry, Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment



Described as the moral compass of the senior leadership team by Reynders, Terri Curry is a dedicated and humble servant to Morningside and its students. In her role, Curry is responsible for overseeing an athletics department with 28 sports; the enrollment management team including admissions and financial aid; and student life, which

includes residence life, food service, diversity, student health, campus ministry, personal counseling, and student success.

“If you tried to find a position like Terri’s at another university, you are unlikely to find it,” notes Reynders. “Few people would be crazy enough to take all that on, but this position has also been shaped to Terri and her strengths. She has done a marvelous job of managing many responsibilities over the years. Terri will be the last to take the credit for what she has done, but her work has helped this place flourish. She cares deeply for our students and employees.”

When Reynders first arrived at Morningside, Curry had done work in both residence life and student services. Reynders could see Curry had a strong understanding of Morningside and its students that would be most valuable in helping carry out his vision, so he asked her to step into the role of vice president for one year. Curry agreed. More than 20 years later, her one-year appointment has turned into so much more.

“I felt a great deal of responsibility taking on this role, especially since I was relatively green to leadership at that level and because I was the only woman who was part of senior leadership in those early years. John was a great teacher and mentor, though. He saw things in me that I did not see in myself. He helped grow my confidence and knowledge, and he encouraged me to use my strengths within our senior leadership team,” said Curry.

Curry, a first-generation college student and native of Scranton, Iowa, who lives on a farm in South Dakota with her husband Kevin with whom she shares three adult children, notes that one of the best things about working on the senior leadership team at Morningside has been the opportunity to make a difference for students while working alongside colleagues with whom she has shared values.

“Our team worked hard to make the student experience here at Morningside easier to navigate, and Bill Deeds and I made a commitment to not allow student life and academic affairs to become separate silos. Combined with John’s vision and passion for the work we were doing and the varied strengths of everyone else on the team, we had clear direction and great momentum to make things happen,” said Curry.



The senior staff were all relatively new to their positions and operating under a great deal of pressure with a definite sense of urgency, so a great deal of bonding occurred. ”

Reynders notes that while Curry often points to others for making a difference, it has been her steady leadership and deep devotion to students, staff, and faculty that have led to many of the successes Morningside has enjoyed.

“Terri is smart, kind, and humble. She has done a fabulous job with enrollment and student life, and she oversees one of the best small college athletic programs in the country. She rarely attributes any of that success to herself, but what she has been able to build is truly remarkable,” said Reynders.

## Bill Deeds, Retired Provost



Back in 1999, Bill Deeds was at Moravian College where he had earned tenure after progressing from a faculty member to associate dean to dean of academic affairs. In consultation with his wife Pam and two sons – one of whom had just started high school – Deeds had been interested in moving into a chief academic officer position,

but the right opportunity simply hadn’t come along. He had tabled the idea of moving until after his son graduated.

That fall, though, Herman Collier from Academic Search was assisting the freshly minted Morningside University President John Reynders with a search for a new vice president for

academic affairs. Collier encouraged Deeds to apply, but Deeds declined and instead offered to help encourage other applicants. Much to the surprise of Deeds, Collier called a month later to let Deeds know that he had made the cut for the first round of interviews. Though Deeds insisted he wasn't interested, Collier convinced him to at least go through the interview process.



John has gained the admiration of the entire Morningside community. He cares deeply, not just about Morningside, but the people who make up this campus community. ”

Legend around Morningside over the years has come to suggest that Reynders and Deeds knew each other before Morningside, but their first meeting was Deeds' first interview in Omaha. Reynders and Deeds hit it off right away, and Deeds impressed the interview team. A few weeks later Deeds became one of the finalists. The visit to Morningside sealed the deal for Deeds. He knew it was the right fit, and he was offered and accepted the job.

The tasks before Deeds at Morningside were anything but easy. He believed in the vision that Reynders had laid out, though, and began the difficult assignments of making faculty changes,

partnering with the senior leadership to address enrollment and budget issues, and coming up with a new vision for what academic affairs would look like.

“The senior staff were all relatively new to their positions and operating under a great deal of pressure with a definite sense of urgency, so a great deal of bonding occurred. We gained mutual respect and developed good working relationships early on that continued throughout our tenures together,” recalled Deeds.

With Reynders' background, he knew hiring Deeds was paramount to carrying out his vision. Deeds had the expertise and experience to pull off the difficult decisions and changes that Morningside needed to make on the academic side of the house. While Deeds describes his walks through campus in the early days as making him feel like the angel of death, Reynders underscores that those decisions ultimately helped revive Morningside. He shared, “Though the work was not always easy, Bill and Terri especially were able to work together to create a seamless and outstanding student experience that now defines who we are.”

## Ron Jorgensen '79, Vice President for Business and Finance

Jorgensen knew when Reynders arrived at Morningside that the college needed a leader who was going to make tough decisions quickly or Morningside would eventually cease to exist. He was



*The Spicers, Currys, and Reynders at the NAIA Football Championship*



pleased when Reynders faced those hard choices head on, and Jorgensen is proud to have been part of the leadership team that helped make it happen.



“Being part of the senior leadership team that has addressed the challenges we have had over the years and watching the transformation of the college has been very rewarding. Morningside today is a much stronger institution than when John and myself

started. Budgets are balanced, we have great employees and students, and the campus facilities and grounds are in the best shape they have ever been in,” said Jorgensen.

Jorgensen notes that Reynders’ ability to challenge his leadership team and set high expectations have been keys to the team’s success. He also credits Reynders’ supportive nature, careful listening, and ability to create a shared vision.

“John has gained the admiration of the entire Morningside community. He cares deeply, not just about Morningside, but the people who make up this campus community. He knows what he is doing and what it takes to get there, and he is second to none at getting people to understand and buy-in to his vision,” noted Jorgensen.

Reynders is quick to point out, though, that the respect and reputation that Jorgensen has within the campus community was equally as foundational to progress at Morningside.

“Ron has impeccable integrity. I have never had to defend numbers during my time at Morningside, and it’s because of the caliber of person Ron is in all he does. We might have robust conversations about how money is spent or invested, but Ron has managed the finances of this institution with great care and expertise. He has earned his stripes and he is regarded and respected for all that he has done on behalf of the University,” said Reynders.

Jorgensen is a longtime resident of Sioux City alongside his wife Kathy, with whom he has two adult children.

**Check out the Inside Mside Podcast to hear directly from members of the senior leadership team.**

## Tom Rice, Retired Vice President for Advancement and Consultant

Tom Rice, a longtime Sioux City resident alongside his wife Paula, is synonymous with fundraising in Siouxland. Though he officially retired from development work at Morningside in 2015, he has continued as a fundraising consultant for multiple organizations and recently returned to Morningside to assist the development team while the next president, Dr. Albert Mosley, conducts a search for the unit’s new leader.



“I have always loved the challenge of fundraising,” said Rice. “Being part of a great place like Morningside makes the work fun, and John is a truly remarkable leader to work alongside.”

Rice began working as the director of development at Morningside in 1985. At that time, Morningside’s endowment was small and the needs around campus were growing. While the team was able



Being part of a great place like Morningside makes the work fun, and John is a truly remarkable leader to work alongside.”

to make some progress during the 1980s and 1990s, Reynders’ arrival allowed fundraising efforts to go to another level.

“John has the energy and the spirit for fundraising, and that really helped propel our work,” said Rice. “It has been incredible to see the endowment double since his arrival, as well as to complete the two largest comprehensive fundraising campaigns in Morningside history.”

“Tom really loves this place, and his connections helped make so much possible for Morningside. He is excellent at taking on challenges and breaking things down so he and his team can achieve their goals,” said Reynders. “Tom built a really strong foundation for the development efforts here at Morningside. Kari Winklepleck did a great job of leveraging that further following Tom’s retirement. Now, Dr. Mosley and the next vice president will have even more good work to build upon.”

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

As members of his senior staff began to consider retirement and the needs of Morningside changed in the last decade, Reynders knew he needed to develop a continuity plan within his leadership team to invest in the next generation of leaders. That resulted in three young leaders to the Morningside senior staff bullpen who have helped set the stage for the future.

### Kari Winklepleck, Former Vice President for Advancement



After Tom Rice's retirement in 2015, Reynders extended an offer to Kari (Bull) Winklepleck '03 to take on the role of vice president for advancement. Winklepleck had been a member of the advancement team since graduating from Morningside and had proven herself an ambitious and competent team member. Reynders knew her

experience and leadership would allow her to build upon what she had learned from Rice while keeping the advancement unit moving forward.

"Kari did a great job of seamlessly transitioning into a senior leadership role and building upon all the good things happening in advancement. While she recently took a job with UnityPoint, she did incredible work during her almost 18 years of service to Morningside. I could not be prouder of her for all she accomplished here," said Reynders.

### Erin Edlund, Vice President for University Engagement



Following a prioritization effort on campus that reduced expenses while investing in other measures the campus community felt would help Morningside grow, the decision was made to add a vice president for marketing position to senior leadership. A national search was conducted that brought Erin Edlund to Morningside. Her role has evolved

over her nearly four years on campus, and she now serves as the vice president of university engagement overseeing marketing, communication, web development, print shop, mailroom, sports information, alumni engagement, and career services.

"Erin's arrival really changed the dynamic of senior staff because she brought new perspective and ideas, and she was also a great fit for our culture. I often say we didn't know what we didn't know before Erin, and our confidence and tenor as an institution have really come together in the years she has been here. We were always Morningside proud, but Erin has helped us express it in bigger, bolder, and clearer ways," said Reynders.

### Chris Spicer, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs



Dr. Chris Spicer was tagged to serve as the interim vice president of academic affairs after Bill Deeds retired from the position in 2019. Spicer had previously served as a math professor and had taken a leadership role in faculty senate. During the prioritization process that Morningside underwent in the mid-2010s, Spicer had played a key role in working between faculty and

administration as Morningside renewed its vision and made tough decisions. Spicer's leadership abilities were clear to Reynders, and Reynders was confident Spicer would be able to pick up where Deeds had left off.

"Spicer has never missed a beat since Bill's retirement. Even in the face of a pandemic and unprecedented changes to how we were doing things, Chris made it work. He, too, has brought another new dimension to senior staff and has done a great job of leveraging the good work Bill did to continue to evolve academic affairs. He is sharp and brings a balanced perspective to all decisions. I truly value his counsel," said Reynders.

## The Next Chapter

As a new president comes on board, Reynders acknowledges that a new direction both can and should come with it, but he also celebrates what his team has accomplished on behalf of Morningside.

"I have so much gratitude for how hard the senior leadership team both then and now has worked over the years. These are people that have become my friends. They have made coming to work each day enjoyable. We have taken on great challenges together, but we have also had a lot of fun and built a culture of success and excellence. I feel really good about the strong leadership team and work that Dr. Mosley will inherit and be able to build upon."



I have so much gratitude for how hard the senior leadership team both then and now has worked over the years. These are people that have become my friends.”





# LISA KROHN

## *Making the Morningside Magic Happen*

by Garrett Arbuckle '23

Anyone that has ever had a meeting with Morningside University President John Reynders knows that the woman who keeps the Office of the President running smoothly is none other than the assistant Reynders hired when he first arrived, Lisa Krohn.

Krohn has been essential to nearly every aspect of Reynders tenure, and he is not shy about giving her the credit.

“Lisa has kept me on time and organized for more than two decades. She understands me and my role, but she also understands Morningside,” said Reynders. “She has a big job in taking care of the many people who work with this office, as well as keeping tabs on Robin and me. She does it with incredible professionalism, grace, and always a smile.”

Among those who regularly meet with the president are the Board of Directors, government officials, community members, alumni, and the list goes on. While no day tends to be the same for Lisa, she handles all the logistics associated with those visits and is the primary point of contact for President Reynders.

“There is always something new happening around here,” said Lisa. “Being able to adapt to the changes that each day brings is essential to my work. It’s really what makes the job interesting and fun.”

Indeed, change and growth have been a big part of Morningside’s story under Reynders’ leadership these last two decades, and Lisa has had a front row seat for it. She acknowledges that President Reynders’ passion, vision, and enthusiasm have been driving forces behind making it all happen.

“The transformation Morningside has experienced has been amazing to watch, especially because I got to see so much of what happened behind the scenes. It is remarkable to see something go from being an idea to becoming reality. There isn’t even one project that I could pinpoint as being the best because each step has been important. I truly admire John’s leadership and vision.”

Beyond the transformation of the campus, Lisa notes the most rewarding part of her job has been the relationships she has forged through her work.

“John and I have gotten to know so many people over the years, and you see how their lives change, too. Families grow and change, people retire and take new jobs, there are births to celebrate and losses to mourn. It’s rewarding to build those relationships while sharing memories and experiences with so many people,” said Lisa.

Lisa has especially enjoyed getting to know Morningside students, noting, “John has always made it clear that he has an open-door policy with students, and he has always had a standing offer to students that they can schedule an appointment for any reason, including just to say hello and get to know him. Many students have taken him up on that offer over the years and since I manage John’s schedule, I get to know those students as well. Those connections have often become lifelong relationships.”

As the Reynders prepare for their next chapter, Lisa continues to be instrumental to Morningside operations at every level and is preparing to help welcome Dr. Albert Mosley when he arrives in the summer. She looks forward to maintaining the welcoming environment she has helped create for the Office of the President, as well as celebrating the work of the Reynders as they prepare for retirement, sharing “This is a special point in Morningside history that I am looking forward to being a part of and celebrating. John and Robin have truly left their mark on Morningside and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work alongside them for all these years.”



The transformation Morningside has experienced has been amazing to watch, especially because I got to see so much of what happened behind the scenes. It is remarkable to see something go from being an idea to becoming reality. ”

# TWO SIDES

by Erin Edlund

## OF THE SAME TENURE

Beth Kolbo '03 and Braxton Hinders '22 were invited to sit down for a conversation with Alumni Engagement Director Alex Watters as representatives of the classes of 2003 and 2022, which have the distinction of being the first and last graduating classes to spend all four years under the leadership of President John Reynders.

Beth and Braxton had not met before, but you may not have guessed it had you walked into their meeting that cold January night.

Braxton introduced himself to Beth, sharing that he was a resident assistant (RA) working in the Plex. Beth identified herself as also being a former RA, and it quickly became evident that a Morningside bond had already formed as the two exchanged stories and questions.

"I love meeting other Morningsiders," smiled Beth, as Braxton nodded his head in agreement.

Beth arrived at Morningside in 1999, the same year that John Reynders began his presidency. An elementary education major from Dubuque, Iowa, Beth played soccer and was heavily involved with residence life and other student life activities. She had come to Morningside because of the reputation of its education program and quickly found her place on campus.

"Morningside has grown since I have been here, but one of the things that was great about being on a small campus was that there were lots of opportunities to be a leader. Morningside gave me experiences I just would not have had at a bigger institution," Beth remarked.

Braxton agreed, sharing some of his own leadership opportunities,

including a regular meeting with President Reynders.

"It means a lot that President Reynders and Robin take the time to talk to and meet with students like they do, and I know if I needed something he would do what he could to help out."

As the conversation continued, Beth shared that she had pulled out old scrapbooks and spent time reminiscing about her Morningside experience in advance of sitting down to talk.

"It reminded me of just how many happy memories I have here," shared Beth as she told Braxton about a tradition of 2 a.m. donut runs that had been part of her residence life experience and remembered trips and team bonding with her soccer team.

The business major and baseball player from Carlisle, Iowa, concurred that there is something special about those Morningside experiences.



It means a lot that President Reynders and Robin take the time to talk to and meet with students like they do. ”

"Some of my favorite memories so far have been going to Arizona with the baseball team sophomore year and traveling down to North Carolina for the football national championship game this year. I got to talk to an alum from the 1980s during the game, and it was just cool to get to know them and hear about their Morningside experience," said Braxton.

The pair also agreed that the people at Morningside are a big part of what makes campus so special, with each listing many faculty, staff, and administrators who had made a difference for them.

Beth also underscored that many of the relationships she forged at Morningside have continued long after graduation. As an example, she shared that after the recent death of her father-in-law and longtime Morningside professor John Kolbo, the Morningside community showed up in many ways to provide the Kolbo family with love and support during a difficult time.

“John Kolbo? I had him,” noted Braxton.

“Yes! Didn’t he tell the best stories?” exclaimed Beth as the two discovered yet another Morningside connection.

As the conversation shifted to John Reynders’ upcoming retirement, both Beth and Braxton acknowledged the incredible physical transformation of the campus during Reynders’ tenure.

“It’s funny because it never occurred to me at the time that the parking lot that was in the middle of campus was not really a good thing, but that transformation was incredible and the fountains that are there now are one of my favorite things. In fact, I think the campus is one of the best things about Sioux City,”

said Beth. “Sioux City has really benefited from all the ways that Morningside has grown and succeeded and as both an alumna and resident of this city, I am really proud of Morningside and that I still get to be part of it.”

Braxton echoed Beth’s sentiment, sharing how much he enjoys the opportunity to show off campus and talk about its history through his work as a student ambassador.

“I love getting to talk about Morningside every day. I am really proud of this place and its history, and I can see how much President Reynders and many others have invested in Morningside and its students. Knowing how much it has all changed is sort of mind-boggling.”

While each agreed that the changes had been significant, they also agreed that there was one thing that had gone unchanged and was shared across decades and classes.

“We’re all Mside proud,” said Beth, putting a fitting bow on the conversation.

*To hear the complete conversation, check out Morningside’s new weekly podcast, Inside Mside, featuring alumni, student, faculty, and staff stories from across campus.*



*Beth and friends in 2013  
at the 10th annual alumni soccer game*



*Braxton and Marissa Hernandez with  
John and Robin at the 2021 Homecoming Coronation*



*CLASS OF*  
**2003**

**Name**

Beth (Herbst) Kolbo

**Hometown**

Dubuque, Iowa

**Family**

Aaron Kolbo '03 (Husband), Grace Kolbo (Daughter), Suzanne Kolbo (Mother-In-Law) and the late John Kolbo (Father-In-Law & former Morningside Graphic Design Professor)

**Morningside Activities**

Women's Soccer, Residence Life, Student Ambassador, Collegian Reporter, Orientation Leader, KMSC, ODK

**Current Job**

Seventh grade science teacher at South Sioux City Middle School (15th year teaching)

**Gallon of Gas**

\$1.59

**Gallon of Milk**

\$2.95

**Top TV Shows**

CSI, American Idol, Friends, ER

**Top-grossing Films**

Finding Nemo, Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl, The Matrix Reloaded

**#1 Song**

"In Da Club" 50 Cent

**Major Headlines**

New U.S. Department of Homeland Security Established  
Saddam Hussein Captured  
Human Genome Project Completed  
Space Shuttle Columbia Disaster



*CLASS OF*  
**2022**

**Name**

Braxton Hinders

**Hometown**

Carlisle, Iowa

**Family**

Kent Hinders (Dad), Robyn Hinders (Mom), Tanner Hinders (Older Brother), Dalton Hinders (Younger Brother)

**Morningside Activities**

Student Ambassador, Residence Life, Baseball, Golf, Campus Ministry, President's Book Club, Business Honors (Co-President of Lunch N' Learns)

**Current Job(s)**

RA for Res Life  
Student Ambassador (Morningside Admissions)  
Sports Intern (The Arena)

**Gallon of Gas**

\$3.15

**Gallon of Milk**

\$2.13

**Top TV Shows**

NCIS, Yellowstone, Ted Lasso, Squid Game

**Top-grossing Films**

Spider-Man: No Way Home, Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings, F9: The Fast Saga

**#1 Song**

"Easy On Me" Adele

**Major Headlines**

Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and New Variants Emerging  
Continued Debate Over COVID-19 Vaccination and Boosters  
Inflation Concerns  
Mounting Pressures on Health Care System

# Robin Reynders:

## *A look at the First Lady's Morningside Experience*

by Jenna Rehnstrom-Liberto '06

*Jenna Rehnstrom-Liberto '06 and Robin Reynders first sat down for an interview when Jenna was a student and Robin had just arrived on campus. Almost 20 years later, the two are sitting down once again to discuss life changes, Morningside, and the strength of partnership.*

Seventeen years ago, my path first crossed with Robin Reynders when I was co-editor of the campus newspaper. I was assigned to interview the president's wife for *The Collegian Reporter* and nervous about the responsibility of introducing her to students, faculty, and staff. It never occurred to me that Robin herself might be nervous, too.

"I had my idea of who a college president is and what the presidential couple should be, and I was intimidated by it. I just really thought it would be hard for me to adjust and be accepted," Robin shared with me.

Nearly two decades and a few more life experiences later, I have a new understanding of her apprehension. Our follow-up interview comes amid big life changes for us both. Changes wrapped beautifully in leaps of faith and love stories. For Robin, this time ushers in a new chapter that includes retirement for John, a different pace for her, and relocating to Florida.

For me, it is making my first post-college move nine hours away from Sioux City to help my husband, Chris, embrace a dream

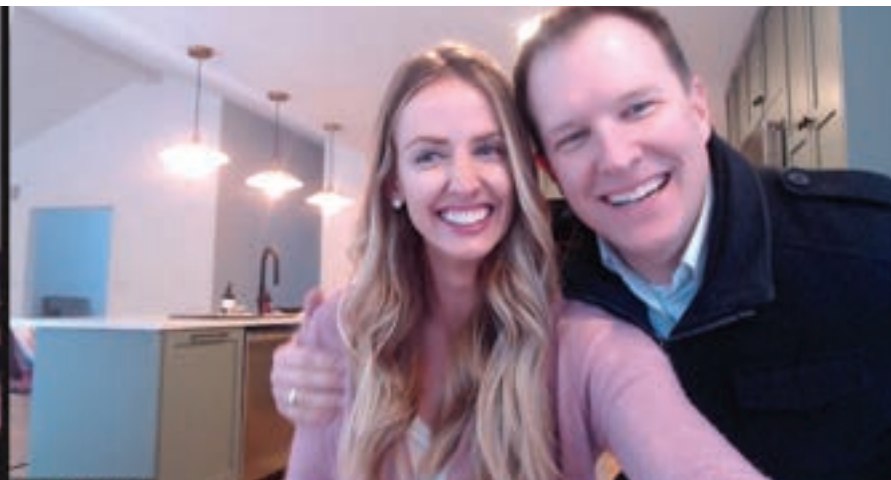
opportunity as development director for the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana.

"You're a Hoosier now!" Robin says to me. Something else we now have in common. Robin came to Sioux City in 2004 after a 20-year stint in Pennsylvania, but her roots are in Indiana. She's a native of Cambridge City, a three-hour drive from where I now live. She credits that upbringing with making her transition to Morningside a smooth one.

"My heart is in the Midwest," she says. "When I came to Morningside, the warmth and everything I experienced those first few years was just genuine Midwest warmth. I felt like I came home."

Even with the familiarity and the partnership she and John built before her arrival, it was the advice from another "first lady" that Robin held in her heart during her introduction to campus.

"Terry Lahti told me, "Just listen. Ask them about their families and their lives, and then just listen," Robin recalls her conversation with the wife of former Allegheny College President



*John, Robin, Jenna, and Chris reconnected via Zoom nearly two decades after Jenna's Collegian Reporter article*



Richard Cook. “Her advice was priceless. I learned quickly to listen and really engage with people through what they had to say, and that was one of the greatest experiences I had here at Morningside – listening to students and listening to alumni. I was so accepted from day one.”

Indeed, she was accepted, because Robin has a gift for making anyone who crosses her path feel accepted and heard. I witnessed this gift firsthand in 2005 when Good Morning America anchor Robin Roberts and her mother, Lucimarian, who was the first African-American leader for the Mississippi Board of Education, were scheduled to visit Morningside. They were coming to accept a distinguished alumni award posthumously for Lawrence Roberts, Lucimarian’s husband and Robin’s father. Roberts was a pilot with the Tuskegee Airmen and a colonel in the United States Air Force who earned his bachelor’s degree from Morningside in 1957.

Shortly before the visit, Hurricane Katrina devastated much of the South, including Lucimarian Roberts’ home. The Roberts’ elected to move forward with the trip despite everything going on, and Robin Reynders and I were tasked with keeping them company before the ceremony. As she would so often, Robin used the advice of her mentor and just listened.

“Lucimarian talked about how her home was damaged severely by Hurricane Katrina just one week before,” Robin recalls. “I will never forget the last thing she said to us before she left. When it was all said and done at the end of the night, Lucimarian said, ‘This is just what I needed. Now I’m ready to pull up my bootstraps and get back to work.’”

The impression Mrs. Roberts left on both of us was one of a woman who had been changed but not jaded by her life experiences.

For Robin, that story represents one of many that have resulted from her interactions with students, alumni, faculty, staff, donors, and others over the years. She relishes the opportunity to spend time alongside so many who have found Morningside transformative, restorative, and inspiring.

*“I’m really looking forward to getting to know the students of Morningside. It’s clear that the students are what make this campus so successful, and I’m excited to get to know them personally and become part of their experience.”*

– Robin Reynders, from an article written by Jenna Rehnstrom-Liberto ’06 for The Collegian Reporter, Feb. 3, 2005



*Jenna and Robin reminisce about their first meeting*

“I have this ‘bigger than life’ life which is Morningside. Back when the campus was undergoing its first major renovation, John and I would rush to finish dinner every night and then go watch the work being done, and watch students walk by and get to talk to them,” Robin remembers. “Students come in with all this nervous energy and when they graduate, they’re ready to go off and rule the world.”

As I reflect on my own path as a student and alumna, I know the Morningside experience isn’t just limited to four years on campus, though those years certainly help define it. The Morningside experience is a way to dream, learn, and engage over and over. It’s about being flexible enough to realize you’re always starting over. Always creating. Embracing growth, both personally and professionally.

As I face my own big life changes, I am once again confident that my Morningside experience has left me prepared. I also appreciate a piece of sage wisdom Robin offered as she reflected on her own time at Morningside alongside her husband.

“I came with an open mind that I would do things I had never done before. I was joining John’s dream - there’s no doubt about that,” Robin says. “But really what made it work was us. Just work every aspect of it together. It really is the strength of our partnership that made it happen.”

I’ll hold that forever in my heart, Robin. On behalf of students and alumni, thank you for getting to know us and being part of our Morningside experience.



He's a greeter dog. Sometimes he's a little intimidated by a group of people at first, but he turns into mister lovebug after that."

# Canine Companions

by Carly Hanson '14

*The Reynders' dogs make the Morningside experience even more special.*



*Sons Jeremy and Chuck (2013 Morningside grad) enjoyed being on campus with Sadie*

Morningside has had three iconic mascots - the Maroons, Chiefs, and Mustangs. But in the years of President Reynders' tenure, an unofficial mascot stole the hearts of Morningsiders everywhere - Boomer, the Reynders' wheaten terrier.

A sighting of Boomer on campus often results in groups of students excitedly making their way over to the squirrel-obsessed dog and his people, President Reynders and his wife Robin. Boomer stickers are a common sight on laptops and water bottles. Social media posts featuring Morningside's favorite four-legged friend accrue hundreds of likes in minutes. Even Monte the Mustang can't compete with Boomer's star power. One has to wonder - has the fame gone to his head?

"Yes, Boomer has a huge head," President Reynders says with a laugh. "Always looking for more food."

The path to Boomer's canine celebrity started with the Reynders' first dog, Sadie. The Reynders chose Sadie, who was John's first dog, for their youngest son because wheaten terriers are hypoallergenic. It was a perfect fit, not only because she didn't shed, but because of her kind temperament and love for people. Sadie's kind disposition led to the natural progression of the Reynders' dog becoming Morningside's dog. This was helped along by her habit of excitedly greeting people on the Reynders' evening walks through campus and becoming a special guest at the first-year student dinners at the Reynders' home after a student once

asked if she could join them. Serendipitously, this aligned with President Reynders' vision of Morningside as a family. "The family environment is the culture of Morningside," says John.

After Sadie passed away in the spring of 2018, the Reynders welcomed Boomer to their home and the Morningside family. Boomer continued the tradition of making an appearance at events hosted by the Reynders, even joining John and Robin in Yockey Family Community Room for a socially distanced meet-and-greet in the fall of 2020 as concerns about COVID kept students from being able to visit their home. Boomer wandered between masked students sitting in chairs spaced in six-foot increments and stopped for pets and photos, bringing them together during a time where many people felt pulled apart. "He's not a therapy dog," says Robin. "But he's a greeter dog. Sometimes he's a little intimidated by a group of people at first, but he turns into mister lovebug after that."

While Sadie and Boomer are both wheaten terriers who love students, their personalities are very different in other ways - especially when it comes to squirrels. Boomer's primary goal when coming to campus is chasing squirrels, of which Morningside has an ample supply. Robin likes to say it's like watching a Morningside football game where the squirrels are Morningside and Boomer is the opposing team. The score may not be in his favor - "Squirrels: 87 and Boomer: 0," Robin estimates - but he remains enthusiastic, especially after discovering the presence of squirrels in his new home state of Florida.

Trading Iowa winters for oceanfront views sounds like a good retirement plan to most people, but Boomer, who loves to run through the Sioux City snow, wasn't too sure at first. "He's definitely a snow dog," says Robin. "He's a happy dog on the beach, but he's an extremely happy dog at home and jumping into the snow piles in Sioux City. But every time we go down there, he finds new things to enjoy."

Anyone who has ever had a dog knows that there are few things as pure or loving as these canine companions. As they head to the sunny shores of their new home, Boomer and his people can rest easy knowing that the love they shared with Morningside will be remembered for years to come.



# MORNINGSIDE *madness*

REYNDERS EDITION

**March 16-17, 2022**



Celebrate the accomplishments, success, and tenure of John Reynders at this year's 36-hour giving event, as we support his number one priority: our students. Morningside Madness provides critical funding for student scholarships, academic and extracurricular programs, faculty development, technology, and campus life.

As Morningside University celebrates all President Reynders brought to campus, we invite alumni, parents, and friends to join us. Spread the word by becoming a social ambassador, follow us online, or make a gift at [msidemadness.com](https://msidemadness.com).



**JJ Marlow**

**email:** marlow@morningside.edu  
**phone:** 712-274-5424

Contact JJ to find out how you can be part of the excitement. You can also make your Morningside Madness gift today at [morningside.edu/giveback](http://morningside.edu/giveback).

**BE PART OF THE MADNESS!**

## MAKE OR TAKE A CHALLENGE

You can create a challenge that builds momentum, fosters competition, encourages giving and increases impact. Reach out to JJ Marlow to establish a challenge gift that doubles amounts donated or that unlocks when a specific number of gifts are made. You can also head to [msidemadness.com](http://msidemadness.com) and find a challenge. Make a gift in support of that challenge, head to social media, and pass the challenge along to your Mside friends.

## BE A SOCIAL AMBASSADOR

As an ambassador, you help create excitement about Morningside's Day of Giving event before and during the campaign. Ambassadors get to help in the following ways:

- 1. SPORT THE SWAG.** Wear your T-shirt on Wednesday, March 16, or Thursday, March 17; and post a selfie on one or more of your social media accounts. Remember to use #MsideProud.
- 2. MAKE A GIFT.** If you have already made a gift this year, thank you! By making an additional gift of any size, you will help secure essential funding for the students at Morningside.
- 3. SPREAD THE WORD.** Talk about Morningside Madness on your social media accounts. Use your custom URL to track each gift you bring in, then ask your friends to make a gift to Mside Madness.

## MAKE A GIFT

There is no time like the present to make a gift. The success of this event depends on you. It takes all of you making gifts of all sizes to make this event a success. Mside alumni are notorious for showing up big and giving back. We are so grateful to be able to count on you. Thank you for continuing to provide brilliant experiences for our students. Make your gift today at [morningside.edu/giveback](http://morningside.edu/giveback) or follow along on March 16 and 17 and make your gift at [msidemadness.com](http://msidemadness.com).

Follow along at  
**[msidemadness.com](http://msidemadness.com)**





# CELEBRATING

# Morningside

by Carly Hanson '14

There is always much to celebrate at Morningside. Even during challenging times, Morningside remains a place where students, employees, alumni, and community members find a reason to connect, laugh, and enjoy the company of people who start as classmates, friends, and colleagues but become family through the years.

Family is a word often used to describe Morningside, especially by President Reynders. While it is not uncommon to hear small colleges refer to themselves in this way, anyone who has heard Reynders say that Morningside is a family can feel how real it is to him and his wife Robin. Creating the campus community that Morningside now has was a key piece of Reynders' vision for the university, a vision realized in part through celebrating all things Morningside in ways big and small.

"It was important to Robin and me from the very beginning to create that family feel," says John. "Everyone is focused on making

sure we provide the best experience for our students. We always felt it was so important to create a culture where our house could be fun or the things we do on campus would be enjoyable for students and employees to come together and celebrate this great place."

This intentionality paid off in the form of a university where events have become commonplace but still feel like a special occasion. From receptions to acknowledge student accomplishments or the mouthwatering Taste of Morningside at Homecoming, celebrating Morningside means celebrating its people. For employees, that celebration includes the annual employee holiday and recognition banquet in December - a tradition started at the recommendation of John's longtime administrative assistant, Lisa Krohn.

In the time before the holiday party that employees experienced in recent years, the event was during work hours. Senior staff would carve turkey or



*Gene Ambrosion, John, Robin, and Terri Curry on a May Term trip to China*

prime rib with the help of Sodexo and employees could eat lunch with the students in the cafeteria, similar to the Stangsgiving meal Sodexo offers today in the days leading up to Thanksgiving. Though Stangsgiving is fun for employees and students alike, having an employee-only holiday party offered a setting to recognize outstanding staff in a way Morningside hadn't done before.

"Lisa told me about the holiday party that her husband's work had and how everyone dressed up and had a great time," John recalled. "She said to me, 'You know, we really ought to do something special here for the holidays for faculty and staff. Why don't we try that here?' And I thought it was a wonderful idea."

The event also doubled as an opportunity to shine a light on employee years of service milestones for faculty and staff who had served the university for five or more years and announce the Thomas S. Thompson Staff Excellence Awards. Like the crowd at the graduation who can't help but to clap for all of the students, Morningside faculty and staff applaud for every colleague whether they're celebrating 10 years of service or being named employee of the year. Laughter echoes throughout the cafeteria, decorated with creativity and care by Sodexo. It's a night to remember, especially for John and Robin in their final year at Morningside.

"Happy-sad is my new word for it," says Robin. "It's not bittersweet because there's no bitterness. We are so happy to be involved and so sad that it's the last one. The 2021 Christmas dinner and all of the events of this year are extremely special to us."

Another standout event in this year of lasts are the first-year dinners at the Reynders' home, a tradition started by

President Reynders early in his tenure. What started as a pasta bar on the deck has evolved into a more informal event with food and games in the backyard. John says the goal of the dinners has always been to give students a comfortable environment to interact with campus leaders like the president along with faculty, staff, classmates, and their two wheaten terriers - Sadie, a shy and loving dog who was 12 when she passed away in 2018, and Boomer, an energetic squirrel enthusiast who has been a beloved member of the Morningside community since his debut.

The dinners offer an opportunity to get to know the newest Morningsiders and offer the students an opportunity to get to know them as well. Both John and Robin felt it was important for the students to know that everyone at Morningside is focused on making their experience the best it can be, and they often hear from parents and even alumni about how meaningful this event was for their Morningside experience. The event also gave President Reynders an opportunity to connect with students who were interested in meeting with him on a regular basis, something he believes is just as important to him as it is to the students.

"Robin and I both spent our careers in higher education. You get into the business of higher education because of the students and because you love working with them," John said. "As you move up the ladder, sometimes you get separated from that part of it, so we've both been very intentional about maintaining that connection."

Connecting with faculty and staff at the house has also been important to John and Robin. Like the first-year dinner, receptions and dinners for faculty and staff create a space for connection with each other and with the Reynders in a casual environment where employees and



*Robin and John on the Italy May Term*



their partners can enjoy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and conversation with new and longtime colleagues.

“We enjoy having faculty and staff come to the house,” says Robin. “Whether it’s an employee reception or a chance to engage with the board, it’s always great fun and an opportunity to see everyone who works so hard to make Morningside great for our students.”

For the first-year dinners, the employee holiday banquet, and countless other special events on campus, Morningside’s longtime catering partner Sodexo plays a crucial role in the preparation and execution. John and Robin credit catering manager and event planner Katie Sullivan for being a reliable and creative partner in the planning and presentation of events like dinners and receptions at the Reynders’ house and many events on campus as well.

“Katie has been fantastic at organizing celebratory events at the house,” Robin said. “She makes it so easy for John and me because she takes care of the planning and she makes it fun for everybody who attends. It could be an annual event that you’ve been to before, but it looks different and tastes different each year because of Katie. We can really relax and enjoy the events because of her.”

The feeling is mutual for Katie, who started working with Sodexo at Morningside in 2012.

“John and Robin have always been complimentary of my skills for events. It made collaborating a joy,” Katie shared. “I remember one of the lecture dinners we had where we were able to match some of the décor of the evening with the book that our lecturer had written. It’s things like that that make it both practical and fun.”

Echoing John’s thoughts on getting into the business of higher education for the students, Katie says working with students has been a highlight of her job. She especially enjoys having the opportunity to connect with the international students who work at Sodexo while attending Morningside, and says all of the student employees offer a fresh perspective on events.

“Working with the students provides a wonderful opportunity to interact with the culture of Morningside,” said Katie. “Our board members especially love to see the students and ask questions about them as they’re working, and the students get an opportunity to connect with John and Robin as well.”



We are so grateful for having the opportunity of serving this institution for as long as we have. It’s never been a job. It’s a way of life. ”

Happy-sad, Robin’s word of the year, rings true for Katie as she cherishes the events and memories she’s shared with the Reynders throughout the years. She shares that she’s always admired the love and respect John and Robin have for each other, and that even after nearly 100 first-year dinners, she still finds herself inspired by their love for Morningside.

“The thing I will miss most about John and Robin is the daily dose of inspiration they give to anyone around them. It doesn’t matter what the event is - they bring excellence with them in whatever they do,” Katie says. “Their passion for Morningside is amazing.”



*Robin and John answer questions from students at one of the many first-year dinners at their home*



*John and Robin love attending choir and band concerts like Christmas at Morningside*



That passion for Morningside is illustrated not only in the events hosted by the Reynders, but in their attendance at athletic events and music and theatrical performances. Christmas at Morningside - the spectacular annual holiday music performance in Eppley Auditorium by students, faculty, and community members in the School of Visual and Performing Arts - has always been a favorite, along with the seasonal choir concerts throughout the year. Though John and Robin both claim to have little musical talent themselves, they love seeing the students perform and sharing in their traditions like singing the Morningside Hymn.

While choosing a favorite special event in the past two decades would be nearly impossible, memories of music during their travels with the choir on international May Terms rank high on the list. The Reynders have traveled to eastern Europe, Italy, Japan, and China with students, employees, and alumni, and recalled moments of Morningside magic on each trip.

One of those moments took place on their trip with the choir to eastern Europe where Ken Ackerman, a friend of the

college, decided to rent a boat within the first few days of the trip before everyone had gotten to know each other. The group set sail on a night with a full moon, and one of the alumni took out a harmonica and started playing.

“The choir began to sing and it was absolutely beautiful. It was one of those moments where everything comes together,” Robin says. “It was a three-week trip and everybody felt a sense of camaraderie after that. We had a marvelous time.”

The magic happened again on a May Term to Italy with the choir where the students sang at a winery after dinner to the delight of the other patrons, and again on a May Term to China where Morningside’s choir sang a song in Chinese in collaboration with a Chinese choir who sang a song in English before the two groups sang together. For John and Robin, moments like these and so many more are exactly what the Morningside experience is all about.

As their year of lasts draws to a close, John and Robin still have plenty of Morningside events to look forward to including their final graduation ceremony

in May 2022 where President Reynders and Craig Struve, the former chair of the Morningside Board of Directors, will be awarded honorary degrees.

“Craig has been fantastic during a time when Morningside and its president needed a great chair on the board,” John said. “To share this honor with him, the highest honor a university can give, means the world to me.”

Moments like this and so many more from the last 22 years are worth cherishing, which is exactly what Robin says they will be doing as they prepare for retirement.

“Never in my life, in either of our lives, could I have imagined this experience,” says Robin. “I was supposed to be a basketball coach,” John adds with a laugh.

“It’s the people we’ve met, the events we’ve been involved in, the activities of the institution, the success of the students, and the alumni,” Robin says. “All of it put together has been an incredible journey and an incredible life.”

“We are so grateful for having the opportunity of serving this institution for as long as we have,” John says. “It’s never been a job. It’s a way of life.”

# WAYS TO CELEBRATE *the Reynders*

## MARCH

### **MARCH 16-17 – Morningside Madness, [msidemadness.com](http://msidemadness.com)**

We will be sharing memories and stories from Reynders' presidency during Morningside Madness, our 36-hour annual giving event. There will also be special opportunities to honor the Reynders with a gift.

## APRIL

### **TUESDAY, APRIL 26 – Faculty Reception (*by-invitation only*)**

This is a private event for Morningside faculty to honor the Reynders.

### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27 – Staff Reception (*by-invitation only*)**

This is a private event for Morningside staff to honor the Reynders.

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 28 – Reynders Day at Morningside University**

Various activities will be happening on campus throughout the day, including a campus and community block party Thursday afternoon from 3:30-6 p.m. Stay tuned for more details.

## MAY

### **THURSDAY, MAY 12 – Board & Friends Reception (*by-invitation only*)**

A by-invitation only reception honoring the Reynders will be hosted by the Morningside University Board of Directors and friends.

### **SATURDAY, MAY 14 – Commencement**

Join President Reynders for his final commencement as the Class of 2022 graduates. President Reynders will receive an Honorary Degree from Morningside at the ceremony and will serve as the commencement speaker.



## **MORNINGSIDE UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE**

Lower Level, Olsen Student Center  
Morningside Apparel  
including NIKE & Under Armour

### **Store Hours:**

Monday-Friday 9a.m.-4p.m.

Shop the bookstore 24/7 at  
[store.morningside.edu](http://store.morningside.edu)



## MORNINGSIDE VIEWS

*Lewis Hall on a snowy winter morning*

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

**Mckenzie Sturtevant**, housekeeper

**Ashley Diediker**, assistant controller

**Melissa Austin**, accounting assistant

**Katelyn Lewis**, housekeeper

**Jessica Ruby**, housekeeper

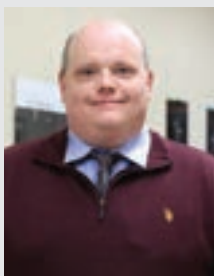
**Lori Hofmann**, assistant strength and conditioning coach

**Ursula Perry**, administrative assistant to Dean of the Sharon Walker School of Education

**Rebecca Zettle**, project connect program coordinator

**Brian McFarland**

was named the associate vice president for academic affairs. McFarland came to Morningside in 2013 and has served as an associate professor



of chemistry and department head for the natural and mathematical sciences department. In addition to his new role, he is currently the principal investigator and co-principal investigator for two of Morningside's National Science Foundation grants.

**Alex Watters '09**

stepped into a new role as the director of alumni engagement. Watters, an active alum with a passion for Morningside, has worked at the university since 2013,



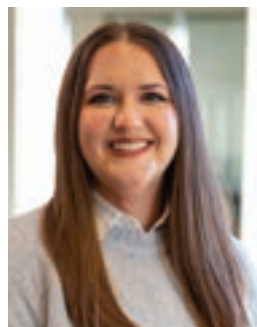
most recently as the director of talent and community engagement. In addition to serving multiple boards and organizations at the local, state, and national level, Watters has served the city council for Sioux City since 2017.

# Faculty and Staff News

## Dr. William C. Yockey Assessment Awards

The Dr. William C. Yockey Assessment Awards annually recognize outstanding efforts to improve student learning at Morningside. The family of the late Dr. William C. Yockey, a 1949 Morningside graduate and chemistry professor at Morningside for over 30 years, established the awards in his name.

**Dr. Brandon Boesch**, assistant professor of philosophy, was recognized for his improvements to the Intro to Ethics course. The external evaluator for the awards found that Boesch's assessment was an excellent example of noting deficits in student engagement and making creative pedagogical changes to address it. Boesch teaches a variety of philosophy courses, and his research focuses on issues related to representation in science as well as issues in ethics and action theory.



**Dr. Jessica LaPaglia**, associate professor of psychology, was recognized for her improvements to the Research Methods in Psychology course. The external evaluator for the Yockey Awards noted LaPaglia's successful use of assessment to address a weakness in student learning and provide targeted changes to improve student performance. LaPaglia teaches courses in learning and memory, research methods, and biopsychology.

*The biology program was selected as the William C. Yockey Programmatic Assessment Award. It was noted that the department excelled in doing direct assessment of student performance on signature assignments, analyzing assessment data, and providing specific suggestions for curricular improvement based on the data, resulting in improvements in both student learning and the assessment process itself.*

## Retirement



**Debbie Anderson**, housekeeper

# Thomas S. Thompson Staff Excellence Awards



*The Thompson Staff Awards are funded by an endowment established in memory of Thomas S. Thompson who served as president of Morningside from 1969 to 1978.*



**Lisa Krohn**, administrative assistant to the president, is one of the first people to welcome visitors and students to Morningside. As the person who is responsible for planning and scheduling on behalf of the president's office, Lisa is acutely aware of nearly everything happening on campus and is adept at handling both good and sensitive news with care.

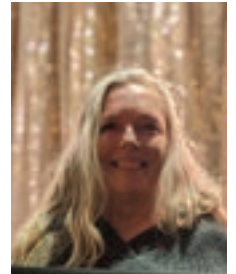


**Jodi Strohbeen**, director of the Morningside bookstore, has taken the initiative to rethink business models, create a new social media presence for the bookstore, continue to find ways to innovate throughout COVID-19, and has driven hundreds of miles to make sure Morningside is represented at events both near and far. "It is evident that her love for Morningside is deep, and she takes her role as an ambassador for Morningside seriously," said one of her nominators.

**André McWell**, director of persistence and diversity, has served as a positive role model for Morningside students both in his role as the director of persistence and diversity and as an assistant coach for track and field. His work in advancing diversity and inclusion and maintaining a strong partnership between Morningside and the Nicholas Academic Center in Santa Ana, Calif. has been crucial to student success.



**Suzi Taylor**, assistant custodial manager, demonstrated outstanding leadership in her role especially throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. "She's hard-working, conscientious, and gives attention to detail. She's very thorough and does a fabulous job wherever she goes on campus," Suzi's nominator shared.



**Alden Stout**, former associate vice president of academic affairs, will be missed by the Morningside community as he recently accepted the position of vice president for academic affairs at Newman University. While at Morningside, he led four grant teams to be awarded grants totaling almost \$4 million and was critical in leading both the Higher Learning Commission Steering Committee and the Esther Mackintosh Humanities Scholar of the University search.

## Employee of the Year



**Cindy Houlsworth**, campus visit coordinator, experienced constant change in her position throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. During a time where Morningside had to change every aspect of the campus visit process, she rose to the challenge and continued to be detail-oriented, kind, and an excellent communicator.

## Sharon Walker Faculty Excellence Awards

Morningside alumni Jim and Sharon Walker '70 established the Sharon Walker Faculty Excellence Awards in 2003. Criteria for selection include teaching excellence, effective advising, scholarship, and service to Morningside University. The awards are based upon the accomplishments and activities of a faculty member during the previous academic year.

**Anni Moore**, associate professor of biology, teaches courses in microbiology, immunology, epidemiology, genetics, anatomy, and critical inquiry and communication. Moore is also the principal investigator for Morningside's S-STEM grant, a \$999,337 National Science Foundation grant.



**Elizabeth Coody**, assistant professor of religious studies, teaches a variety of religious studies courses and advises students on the X-Path, Morningside's version of Undecided. Coody's professional interests include the intersections of religion and everyday life including popular culture, gender and sexuality, and interdisciplinary and interfaith dialogue.



**Twyla Rosenbaum**, associate professor of accounting, spent two decades in both public and private accounting and business before coming to Morningside. In addition to teaching accounting courses, she serves as the faculty advisor for the Accounting Club.



*Morningside is proud to recognize employees who have reached milestones in their years of service at the university.*

**FIVE YEARS:** Cassie (Burnside) Chilton '14, admissions counselor; Taylor Clemens, assistant professor of theatre; Carolyn Glackin, assistant professor of education; Tasha (Drey) Goodvin '14, enrollment and digital creative coordinator; Aaron Jung, strength and conditioning coach; Alisha Knowler, head dance coach; Jerry Meisner, assistant director of safety and security; Mark Nielsen, assistant professor of business administration; Mark O'Connell '85, assistant director of the Morningside Fund; Tom Paulsen, associate professor and department head for the Regina Roth Applied Agricultural and Food Studies program; Dave Riley, tutor; Stacia Schuur, accounting assistant; Lauri Sells, assistant professor of nursing education; and Angela Zuehl, administrative assistant for the Walker Science Center.

**10 YEARS:** Adam Fullerton, library director; Davi Gradert, senior administrative coordinator for graduate education; LuAnn Haase, Master of Arts in Teaching initial licensure program coordinator; George Holland, lead academic coordinator for graduate education; Chad Leugers, associate professor of biology; Shelley Molland, assistant professor of education; Linda Phelps, custodian; and Andy Thomas, associate professor of chemistry.

**15 YEARS:** Debbie Anderson, assistant lead custodian-housekeeper; Joann Bishop, housekeeper; Karen Dreessen, advancement services manager; Susie Lubbers, associate professor of education; Dolie Thompson, assistant professor of art; Leslie Werden, professor of English and chair for the Department of Humanities; and Wendy Wilde, administrative assistant for athletics and the Hindman-Hobbs (HPER) Center.

**20 YEARS:** Jen Dolphin, registrar; Steve Ryan, head football coach; Jamie Sale, head women's basketball coach; Joe Stabile, maintenance; Dean Stevens '95, professor of computer science; Jim Sykes, director of athletics; and Stacy Weiland, custodial manager.

**25 YEARS:** Ross Fuglsang, associate professor of mass communication; Greg Guelcher, professor of history; Jessica Jones-Sitzmann, assistant athletic director and head softball coach; and Susan Trisler, technical services and interlibrary loan manager.

**30 YEARS:** Rosalie Pinney, housekeeper.

# Class Notes

Catch up with your Morningside Community in these pages. Have something to share? Send us your good news, job updates, big life moments, or anything you'd like us to know. *More info on page 59.*

## Milestones and Memories

1948

**Darwyn and Joan (Meyer) Snyder '49** celebrated 74 years of marriage.

1952

**Dr. Donald Strandburg** retired as a professor in the physics department at San Jose State University.



1954

**Connie (Horton) Wimer** received the Lifetime Achievement Award from City and Regional Magazine Association.

1956

**Dr. Constance (Carlson) Hoag** was the recipient of the 2021 Delta Kappa Gamma Society award for her distinguished service and leadership to the Society. Her contributions include co-authoring the Society's 38-year-old history on the Our Heritage Volume III CD.

1960

**Dr. Ronald Stone** published his article, The Ethics of Paul Tillich, and essay "Tillich's Kairos and its trajectory in Thomas Bandy, Why Tillich? Why Now?" with Mercer University Press, 2021. His daughter with Muriel (Smith) Stone '64 also passed away on Nov. 28, 2021.

1963

**Barbara (Dunham) Wool** retired from Colorado Springs D11 but continues to be involved with teaching Suzuki violin and viola.



1958

**Kent Watkins** will be representing Maryland at the 2022 National Senior Olympics in tennis singles and doubles. He also completed two online courses from Cambridge University in Family History Memoir Writing and plans to teach. Along with these accomplishments, he completed the first series of 85 life story podcasts as Chair of the American Academy of Housing and Communities and is working on various committees and task forces concerning legislation on the hill.

1967

**Kathryn (Bauman) Harmsen** retired as a public health and education specialist from the Center for Disease Control.

**Horacio Lewis Ph.D. Th.D.** sends kudos to President Mosley and a special thanks to the University for accepting him as an international student and allowing him the opportunity to earn his biology degree.

1968

**Margaret (Chute) Polly** retired as the director of the Whiting Library after 42 years of service.



Darwyn & Joan (Meyer) Snyder



Constance (Carlson) Hoag





Jerry Oakland & Barb (Clarke) Oakland

1969

**Dr. Dan Flanagan's** book, *A Theologian and a Baseball Fan: What Could Go Wrong?*, published by Fulton Books, comes out in the spring of 2022.

1970

**Dr. Tom Packard** retired as professor emeritus from San Diego State University in San Diego, Calif., after 38 years.



Dr. bill russell

**Shirleen (Marsh) Roach, MA, LMFT** was recently named clinical director for Tranquility Health LLC in Fridley, Minn. She also works for Meridian Behavioral Health as a mental health clinician.

1971

**Dr. Larry Crummer** retired after 60 years from church music as a church organist and choir director. He and his husband now plan to spend more time on the high seas.



Twyla (McQuigg) Godbersen

**Rev. Jerry and Barb (Clarke) Oakland** celebrated their 50th anniversary in July 2021 by recreating their wedding cake, modeling the wedding attire, and dancing the night away with a 70s disco party on a family get-away. Jerry is a retired United Methodist pastor and Barb is a retired community college English literacy instructor.



Jules Banks

**Dr. bill russell** directed "Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging



1964

**Judy (Rogula) Elders** recently gathered with **Judy (Perry) Witt, Trish (Granger) Grose, Karen (Gustafson) Hartman, Pat (Nirk) Jasper, and Rachael Lindhart** in Clear Lake, Iowa. The friends, including **Mary Daniels-Lee** and **Janet Vrchota**, met in their freshman year of college and continue to get together every couple years.

Queens," for which he authored the book and lyrics at the King's Head Theatre, where he directed the London premiere 30 years ago. The performances were part of a 50th anniversary celebration of the theatre as the grand finale of a week of highlights from shows that started there.

35 years of teaching art in Iowa public schools. Currently, she is living in rural Arthur, Iowa, finding time for photography, glass fusing, and enjoying other art-related activities and events.

**Arthur Leiby** retired from his ministry as historiographer and archivist for the Episcopal Diocese of Easton in 2020 after serving for over 33 years.

1972

**Janna (Pfeil) and Bruce Christensen** celebrated their 50th anniversary. They are residents of both Bozeman, Mont., and Scottsdale, Ariz.

1975

**Claire (Leone) Aubin** retired in 2011 as the music coordinator for the Norwich Board of Education. She has been employed part-time at Connecticut College for the past nine years.

1973

**Twyla (McQuigg) Godbersen** retired as a visual art teacher from Schleswig Community School after



## 1972

**Dr. Marty (Steele) Knepper**, Morningside professor of English emerita, wrote the lead article, "Contemporary Cozy Mysteries, Agatha Christie, and the 1990s," in the book *Reading the Cozy Mystery: Critical Essays on an Underappreciated Genre* (McFarland, 2021).

**Joe Malsam** and **Jenni (Galles) Malsam** are enjoying their retirement and time with family, and Jenni is still an active sports official for volleyball and basketball.

## 1976

**Jeffrey Moran** is serving as fire commissioner at the Woodbridge N.J. Fire Department in Woodbridge, N.J.

## 1977

**Jules Banks** retired from South Sioux City Schools as a middle school band director in South Sioux City, Neb. after 29 years. Before directing the middle school band, he was a high school band director for 24 years.

**Terri (Follett) Bradley** retired from Johnson County Community Health Services in Warrensburg, Mo., after 3 years. Before working at JCCHS, Terri served as the chief financial officer at Western Missouri Medical Center.

## 1979

**Rita (Bobolz) Watson** and **Jeff Schoening '84**, two former Morningside musicians, played in the 2022 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif., alongside 270 band directors from across the United States as a part of the Saluting America's Band Directors float and marching band.

## 1980

**Jeanne (Stoneking) Schwab**, inspired by the late Maud Adams who was a former chair of the nursing department, volunteered at Cass County Public Health to administer COVID-19 vaccines.

## 1981

**Rev. Douglas Federhart** transitioned into semi-retirement after four years at Hazelden/Betty Ford Foundation's Plymouth Minn. Campus. He now maintains a part-time ministry practice he created, Cirque Discovery LLC, and teaches in the spiritual direction formation program through Sacred Ground

Center for Spirituality in St. Paul, Minn. In June 2020, Douglas and his husband, Stuart, celebrated 30 years together.

**Randy Washburn** and **Donna (Pinkerton) Washburn** play pop, rock and country through their band, Radio Rangers, throughout the tri-state area. They have also gigged in Arizona and Florida. To find more information on them, go to <https://www.facebook.com/RadioRangers1>.

**Dr. Bryan Watkins** was appointed as the chief learning officer for Oak Point University in Oak Point, Ill.

**Kay (Rasmussen) Wettlaufer** retired as a special education teacher from Slater School District in Slater, Mo., after 34 years of teaching there and one year of teaching in Nebraska.

## 1983

**Donna (Grell) Sonksen** accepted a position as member services

representative at Town & Country Credit Union in Harlan, Iowa.

## 1984

**Dr. William Irwin**, DABT, ERT, FATS presented toxicology training sessions at the US EPA on the use of non-animal alternative methods entitled "Important Aspects of In Vitro Assay Design and Interpretation."

## 1985

**Randy Gaulke** ran his first battlefield tour with his company, Knee Deep Into History, LLC. with a five-day tour of the Battle of the Bulge (WWII) and a five-day tour of the Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel Offensives (WWI.) Their website is <https://kneedeepintohistory.com>.

## 1986

**Bret Crowl, RN** has been named program director for Senior Life Solutions at the Grundy Center Memorial Hospital in Grundy Center, Iowa.



## 1974

**Bette Day (Hill) Stern** and her husband Paul Stern retired and opened Stone Arches Bed and Breakfast in Mansfield, Conn.



Rita (Bobolz) Watson & Jeff Schoening

**Diane (Griswold) McCallum** has published five novels in her Penumbra Series.

1988

**Alicia (Wessendorf) Bohlke** accepted a position as administrator for MercyOne Des Moines Pulmonary, Critical Care and Infectious Disease. Alicia received her MBA in 2015 and also uses her music degree from Morningside to teach voice and piano in the Des Moines metro area.

**Corrine Kinney-Mehaffey** accepted a position as a city clerk for the city of Deloit, Iowa.



Douglas Federhart

1989

**Robert Kull** celebrated 16 years in the portfolio department with Premier Bankcard at the Dunes in Dakota Dunes, S.D. He has served as a member of the Siouxland Notre Dame Club for 30 years, and as the club vice president for 12 years.

1991

**Dr. Ryan Buell** sold his chiropractic practice in Pequot Lakes, Minn., after practicing for 22 years. He currently owns ChiroSOS and CORE Chiropractic Services, offering available services in Minn., Iowa, and S.D.

1993

**Dr. Catharine (Daniels) Hennessy** accepted a position as medical director at VCA Parkway Animal Hospital in Cary, N.C.



Pete Laskie



2009

**Matthew (Sitzmann) Beitelspacher** accepted a position as community relations and brand implementation specialist at Iowa Total Care in Des Moines, Iowa. Some highlights of their work this year have included their partnership with the Food Bank of Siouxland in sponsoring the Mobile Food Pantry program and the 712 Initiative that fully funded their Creektop Community Garden. In 2019, Matthew married Hannah Kirvin and the two now reside in the Des Moines area with their dog, Chase.

**Pete Laskie** was promoted to senior manager of creative for Revival Animal Health. In this role, Pete is responsible for the Revival creative team and will lead the production of marketing campaigns.

instructional technology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She continues to work in nursing education as a program manager for Western Governors University's College of Health Professions.

1994

**Jeffrey Thelander** is in his third year as superintendent of the Maple Valley-Anthon Oto Community School District.

1996

**Brian Keating** accepted a position as the director of service and network operations for Great Plains Communications in Blair, Neb.

**Dr. Kristen Bryan-Wessel** received a Ph.D. in educational studies with a specialization in

2001

**Gretchen (Wickey) Cooper** and **Dustin Cooper '05**, along with CEO of Hesse Enterprises, Mike Hesse, formed a new non-profit, the Hesse Foundation, to support youth through athletics. To read more, go to [hessefoundation.org](http://hessefoundation.org).

2002

**Andrew McClannahan** accepted a position as medical assistant manager at Steindler Orthopedic in Iowa City, Iowa.

# CLASS NOTES

## 2004

**Derrick Elman** was selected as the 2020 Iowa Football Coaches Association Region 1 Coach of the Year. He has also been selected to be a part of the 2022 Iowa Shine Bowl Coaching staff.

**Kristen (Schultz) Pudenz** was promoted to Director of People Analytics and Experience for Wellmark, Inc., in Des Moines, Iowa. She has been working for Wellmark, Inc. for 17 years and lives in Urbandale with her husband, Clint Pudenz, and two girls, Alison and Avery.

## 2005

**Lane Madsen** served as the 2020-2021 pandemic president for the South Dakota Counseling Association. In the past, Lane has

served as president for the South Dakota Mental Health Counseling Association and multiple state chapters. She has used her National Board of Certified Counselors scholarships to continue her doctoral studies in counseling education and supervision at Capella University. She is most proud of her daughter, who is currently considering Morningside.

**BJ Whitener** served as the LB coach for Horizon High School in Scottsdale, Ariz., turning the 3-3 COVID-19 riddled team into the 2021 12-2 5A State Football Champions. This was Whitener's first high school coaching championship in 12 seasons.

## 2007

**Dr. Laura Roost** was named the

2021 Professor of the Year for Newberry College by the Newberry College Student Government Association and was also awarded the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (SCICU) Excellence in Teaching Award for Newberry College in Spring 2021. In Aug. 2021, she was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor of political science at Newberry College. Roost is currently the 2022 program co-chair for the political science education organized section of the American Political Science Association (APSA) for its 2022 Annual Meeting.

## 2008

**Nicole Cleveland** wrote a book called *The Butterfly Chronicles*, a journey of finding God's purpose living with a rare genetic disorder. It will be released in the spring or summer of 2022.

**Rachel Radel** accepted a position as employment success consultant in human resources at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

## 2009

**Trevor Alfredson** is in his tenth year of coaching basketball and second year of teaching sixth-grade special education. Alfredson also has two sets of twins, 18 and 8, with his wife, **Mary (Bleil) Alfredson '07**.

**Ashley Chase** accepted a position as director of operations, media & play-by-play broadcaster for the St. Cloud Norsemen in the North American Hockey League

(NAHL) in St. Cloud, Minn. She is the first female junior hockey team broadcaster in the United States.

**Kari Hansen** has been a Transition Alliance Program work-based facilitator for the Council Bluffs Community School District since September 2020.

## 2010

**Dr. Angela (Thoene) Johnson** graduated from Bryan College of Health Sciences with her doctorate in nursing education (Ed.D) and accepted a promotion with the University of Nebraska Medical Center to assistant professor of nursing.

## 2012

**Jessica (Boschen) Kroeger** accepted a position as a single-family housing loan specialist at USDA Rural Development in Norfolk, Neb.

## 2013

**Paul Davies** was added to the State of Nebraska Mental Health Licensing Board, which will last five years. He hopes he can be a part of a meaningful change in the mental health field.

**Jamison Parkhill** accepted a position as the Assistant Women's Soccer Coach for Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

**Alisa (Christensen) Winkel** earned her master's in healthcare administration from Bellevue University and is now working



## 2015

**Katie Coppel** joined the evening news team on CBS 14 and FOX 44 as the evening news anchor after being a producer at Siouxland News for five years.



Trevor Alfredson & Mary (Bleil) Alfredson

as the clinic administrator for MercyOne Iowa Heart Center in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

## 2015

**Kyle McGlade** moved to New York City, N.Y., and was accepted into the 2021 Presidential Management Fellowship program.

## 2016

**Dr. Patrick McFadden** finished a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Indiana University - Bloomington in July 2021.

**Elizabeth Ross** accepted a multi-level musical teaching and show choir director position at Woodbury Central School District.

**Alex Struck** has accepted a position as the men's and women's tennis coach at Morningside University. Struck resides in LeMars with his wife **Megan (Carlson) Struck '16**.

## 2017

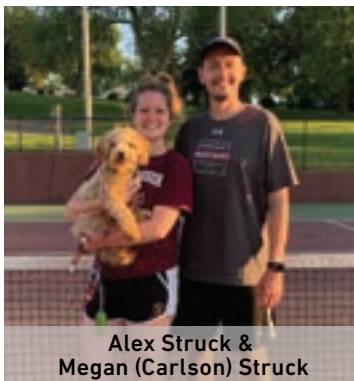
**Kendall Kumba** celebrated two years as a legal assistant at Austin, Haberkorn, Kippley & Wippert, PLC. in Rock Rapids, Iowa.

## 2018

**Brandi Blunk** started working as a case manager at Rite of Passage in Omaha, Neb. After only six and a half months, she received a promotion.



Ashley Chase



Alex Struck & Megan (Carlson) Struck



Madison Pierson

## 2019

**John Culver** placed 17 out of 21 in a national-level drag pageant in the Miss Gay United States 2021 held in Roanoke, Vir.

**Madison Pierson** earned her master of arts in art history from John Cabot University in Rome, Italy. Since then, she has been chosen as the Public History Fellow for the Khalaf Al Habtoor Archives and the Paul Findley Congressional Office Museum at Illinois College in Jacksonville, Ill.

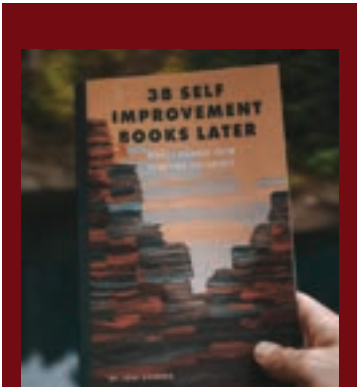
**Kaitlyn (Polk) Thomas** accepted a position as assistant director for Heartland Humane Society in Yankton, S.D.

## 2020

**Holly Blazek** accepted at Green Hills, AEA, in Council Bluffs, Iowa, using her special education consultant endorsement she obtained from Morningside. She is now moving forward with her education, working on her Ed.S. in School of Psychology through another Iowa university.

**Ally Hecht** accepted a position as culture and communications associate for KEEN Footwear in Portland, Ore.

**Kyle Kommes** accepted an accounting position at Great Western Casualty. He also got engaged to his girlfriend, Cassidy Hinkel, on Aug. 15, 2021.



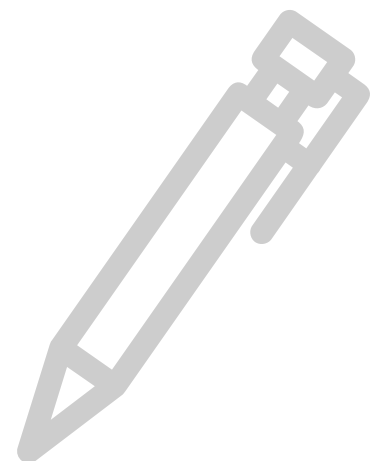
## 2017

**Josh Doering** published a book, *38 Self Improvement Books Later: What I learned from Studying the Greats*, that reached #2 on Amazon's 90-minute self-help category bestseller list.

## 2021

**Avery Henderson** accepted a job working as a software engineer on the Morningside IT team at Morningside University. She also got her first puppy, Inej.

**Camden Parks** accepted a position with Omaha Steaks in Omaha, Neb., as corporate partnership manager.



# Newlyweds



## 2016

**Amy (Widman) Davelaar** and David Davelaar, Aug. 28, 2021.

## 2017

**Kristina (Sorenson) Alić** and Demir Alić, Sept. 10, 2021.

**Tracy (Oeltjenbruns) Siedenbunrg** and Ryan Siedenbunrg, Nov. 8, 2021.

## 2018

**Kelsey (Krohn) Drieling** and Adam Drieling, Oct. 23, 2021.

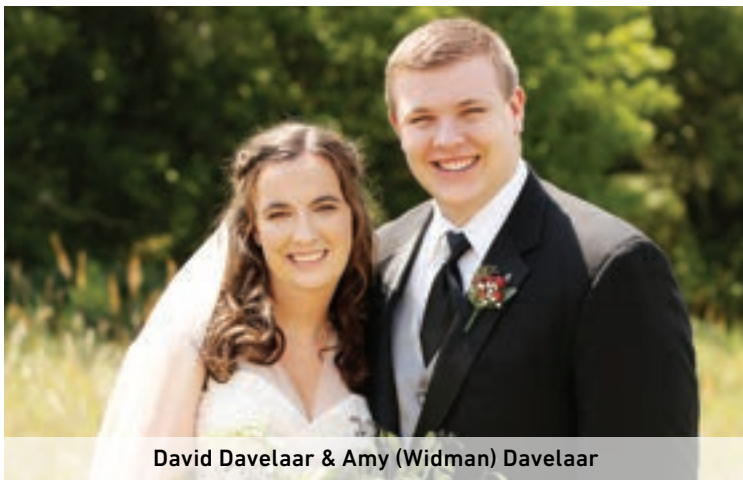
## 2019

**Alex Harrison** and **Alisa (Woodward) Harrison**, June 16, 2021.

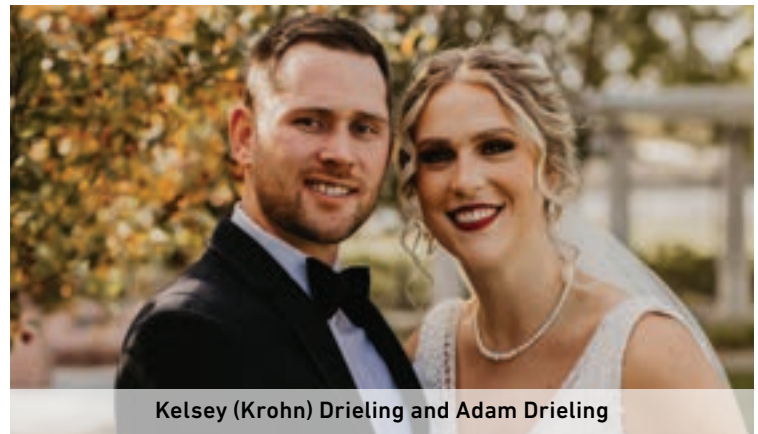
**Haylee (Twillman) Jansen** and Austin Jansen, July 17, 2021



Ryan Siedenbunrg & Tracy (Oeltjenbruns) Siedenbunrg



David Davelaar & Amy (Widman) Davelaar



Kelsey (Krohn) Drieling and Adam Drieling



Austin Jansen & Haylee (Twillman) Jansen



Alex Harrison & Alisa (Woodward) Harrison

# Future Morningsiders

## 2007

**Dr. Jennifer Nelson** and Matthew Kennedy welcomed Lily Kennedy on Dec. 30, 2020.

## 2009

**Josh Johnson** and **Bailey Johnson '10** welcomed Mattie Jo Johnson, named after the late **Matthew Witt '10**, on May 11, 2021.

## 2011

**Brian Gesink** and **Mariah (Stauffer) Gesink '13** welcomed Sawyer Gesink on Sept. 01, 2021. Sawyer has two big brothers: Dawson and Emmett.

**Kara (Nelson) Nitz** and **JJ Nitz '13** welcomed Peter James Nitz on March 24, 2021.

## 2012

**Brittany (Aronson) McLaughlin** and Justin McLaughlin welcomed Elizabeth Joyce on March 30, 2019 and Charlotte LeAnn on April 28, 2021 in Fort Hood, Tex.

**Kyle Eagen** and **Cassie Scoblic** welcomed Poppy Eagen on May 27, 2021.

## 2013

**Kirstin (Wessling) Schreiner** and **Joshua Schreiner '14** welcomed Nora Elizabeth Schreiner on Aug. 31, 2021.

## 2015

**Alex Pacheco** and Kelley Pacheco welcomed Kaden Pacheco on Aug. 20, 2021.

**Ashley (Drey) Wittrock** and Bryce Wittrock welcomed Weston Wittrock on Nov. 2, 2021.

**James Svoboda** and **Tari (Knock) Svoboda '21** welcomed Vienna Rose Svoboda on Nov. 15, 2021.

## 2016

**Jennifer (Theisen) Mack** and Mitchel Mack welcomed Elijah Joseph Lee Mack on Dec. 13, 2021.

## 2017

**Rachel (Chamberlain) Alitz** and Mason Alitz adopted siblings, Ryan Jeffrey (1) and Johnna Jean Alitz (5), on May 3, 2021.

## 2018

**Steven Garcia** and Ivy (Blenderman) Garcia welcomed Royce Gabriel Garcia on Oct. 28, 2021.

## 2020

**Kathryn (Alt) Hawkins** and Cody Hawkins welcomed Zed Takahiro on June 1, 2021.



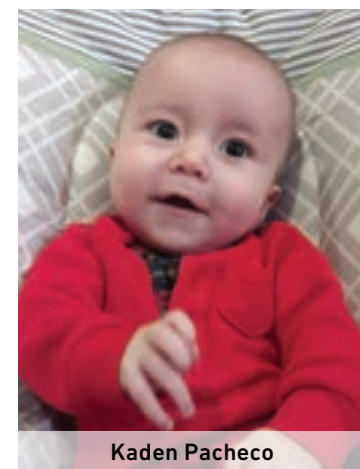
Lily Kennedy



Poppy Eagen



Sawyer Gesink



Kaden Pacheco



Vienna Rose Svoboda



Weston Wittrock

# In Loving Memory

## 1937

**Phyllis (Jacobson) Flato**  
Longview, Wash., died Aug. 12, 2018.

## 1946

**Marjorie (Kasten) Grimoskas** Tipton, Iowa, died Aug. 19, 2021.

## 1947

**Dorothy (Sheeler) Nafe**  
Pierson, Iowa, died Dec. 24, 2021.

## 1948

**Mary Castle** Sioux City, Iowa, died March 31, 2019.

**Elaine (Woods) Johnson**  
Onawa, Iowa, died Sept. 21, 2021.

**Mary (Crase) Law** Sioux City, Iowa, died Oct. 26, 2021.

## 1949

**Donna (Robar) Fazio**  
Henderson, Ky., died Nov. 4, 2021.

## 1950

**Dale Harris** Sioux Falls, S.D., died Oct. 25, 2019.

**Dale Hewlett** Palm Desert, Calif., died Sept. 3, 2021.

**Jack Marcum** Spencer, Neb., died Nov. 3, 2020.

**Jacqueline (Zeissler) Smith** Anderson, Texas, died Sept. 10, 2021.

**Ruth (Palmer) Van Why**  
Rochester, Minn., died May 7, 2020.

## 1951

**Helen (Veehaff) Reis**  
Fonda, Iowa, died March 26, 2020.

**Leroy Nagel** Riverbank, Calif., died Dec. 21, 2021.

## 1952

**Milo Thompson**  
Maplewood, Minn., died Nov. 9, 2021.

## 1953

**Richard Greenlee**  
Anacortes, Wash., died Nov. 24, 2021.

**Darleen Volkert** Sioux City, Iowa, died Oct. 16, 2021.

## 1954

**Keith Albright** Long Beach, Calif., died Dec. 5, 2021.

## 1955

**Charlotte (Krug) Petty**  
Saint Simons Island, Ga., died Oct. 4, 2021.

## 1956

**Lola (Graham) Glover**  
Sanborn, Iowa, died Aug. 7, 2021.

**Marilyn (Peterson) Majorowicz** Delavan, Wis., died Dec. 2, 2021.

## 1957

**Clarence Mounts** San Antonio, Texas, died June 1, 2018.

**Robert McBurney** Mesa, Ariz., died Jan. 16, 2021.

## 1958

**Ray Clause** Merville, Iowa, died Nov. 23, 2021.

**Paul Jenkinson** Palos Verdes Peninsula, Calif., died Nov. 1, 2020.

**Ron Kindwall** Spirit Lake, Iowa, died Dec. 15, 2021.

## 1959

**Maxine (Davis) Adams**  
Irvine, Calif., died Sept. 28, 2020.

**Marjorie (McManamy) Davis** Sioux City, Iowa, died Aug. 26, 2021.

**Ron Juffer** Orange City, Iowa, died Dec. 17, 2021.

## 1960

**G. Garwood** White Lake, S.D., died June 26, 2020.

**William Howie** Lakewood, Colo., died Jan. 5, 2019.

**Larry Manker** Sioux City, Iowa, died Oct. 1, 2021.

**Robert Walker** Sioux City, Iowa, died Dec. 29, 2021.

## 1961

**Jay Short** Debary, Fla., died April 13, 2018.

## 1962

**Jack Conner** Dakota Dunes, S.D., died Dec. 30, 2021.

**Darrell Kaufman** Olathe, Kan., died Oct. 19, 2020.

## Rebecca (Hope) Short

Debary, Fla., died Sept. 30, 2018.

**Larry Sorenson** Sioux Falls, S.D., died Dec. 27, 2021.

## Karen (Beers) Wilcox

Correctionville, Iowa, died Nov. 5, 2021.



**Fred Erbes '62**, Sioux City, Iowa, was a proud alum and a Morningside employee who held many senior leadership positions over 48 years. He died Dec. 21, 2021.



**Lee Jarvis '62**, Sioux City, Iowa, was among Morningside University and Mustang Athletics biggest fans. He died Feb. 4, 2022.

## 1963

**Leo Chase** Glendive, Mont. died Aug. 26, 2021.

**Bob Menter** Greenwood Village, Colo., died Nov. 7, 2020.

## 1964

**James Boyer** McPherson, Kan., died April 14, 2021.

## 1965

**George Taylor** Ypsilanti, Mich., died Aug. 9, 2021.

## Jason Williams

Henderson, Nev., died Nov. 7, 2021.

## Linda (Kramer) Williams

Henderson, Nev., died Nov. 7, 2021.

## 1967

**John Pas** Milford, Iowa, died July 29, 2021.



**James Pullen** Des Moines, Iowa, died Sept. 24, 2021.

**Dan Watson** Sioux City, Iowa, died Oct. 31, 2021.

**1968**

**Thomas Parrott** Fruitland, Iowa, died Sept. 17, 2021.

**Jerry Slowey** Council Bluffs, Iowa, died Oct. 18, 2021.

**1969**

**James Dunlap** Renner, S.D., died Aug. 18, 2021.

**1970**

**Marilyn (Cox) Byers** Smithland, Iowa, died Dec. 18, 2021.

**Larry Countryman** North Sioux City, SD, died Aug. 14, 2021.

**1971**

**Nancy (Barr) Barry** Lansing, Iowa, died April 11, 2021.

**Sally (Ivener) Nyberg** Mound, Minn, died Dec. 29, 2020.

**1972**

**Lavina Fuller** Cedar Falls, Iowa, died Sept. 27, 2021.

**OraLee (Fredstrom) Oleson** Lees Summit, Mo., died Aug. 5, 2021.

**1973**

**Larry Bayless** Caroll, Iowa, died Feb. 3, 2021.

**1974**

**Robert Reynolds** Waterbury, Neb., died Oct. 12, 2021.

**1976**

**Sharon (Bharke) Saladino** Cedar Park, Texas, died Jan. 1, 2021.

**1977**

**Kevin Copple** Blackwell, Okla., died Aug. 26, 2021.

**1981**

**Gregory Barinsky** Ottumwa, Iowa, died Dec. 21, 2020.

**William Tucker** Sioux City, Iowa, died Aug. 31, 2021.

**1982**

**Lea (Hook) Jefferson** Sioux City, Iowa, died Aug. 25, 2021.

**Connie (Groetken) Sorgdrager** La Mesa, Calif., died May 1, 2021.

**1983**

**Colleen (Lyon) Hastings** Shenandoah, Iowa, died Oct. 26, 2021.

**Lalonnie (Brown) North** Sheridan, Ore., died Jan. 24, 2021.

**1985**

**Derick Bluford** Council Bluffs, Iowa, died Dec. 9, 2021.

**Jim Hegg** Omaha, Neb., died Dec. 2, 2021.

**1988**

**David Reed** West Bend, Wis., died Nov. 15, 2021.

**1989**

**Ernest Conry** New Salem, N.D., died June 8, 2020.

**Theresa (Jones) Stewart** Watkins, Minn., died Oct. 5, 2021.

**1992**

**Thomas Bjork** Sioux City, Iowa, died Sept. 21, 2021.

**2001**

**Melissa (Hamersma) Sievers** Beresford, S.D., died Aug.18, 2021.

**2008**

**Magdalena Mujica Voy** Ankeny, Iowa, died July 17, 2020.

*Cherished Friends*



**Ken Ackerman**, Sioux City, Iowa, was a longtime friend of Morningside who participated in many May Term trips and events. He passed away on Nov. 2, 2021.

**Janet Chobar**, Sioux City, Iowa, former staff member and wife of retired Associate Professor Dr. David Chobar, died Oct. 26, 2021.



**John Celli**, Washington, D.C., was the longtime partner of Esther Mackintosh '69, who is currently chair of the Morningside University Board of Directors. He died Aug. 7, 2021.



**Doug Livermore**, Sioux City, Iowa, was a professor at Morningside for more than 32 years, as well as an ardent supporter of its athletics and activities. He died Feb. 5, 2022.

**Ronald McKelvey**, Green Forest, Ark., former staff member, died June 24, 2020.



**Jeannette Yockey**, Dakota Dunes, S.D., was the wife of Ron Yockey '70, longtime board of directors member died Sept. 11, 2021.

**Doug Smith**, Dakota Dunes, S.D., was the devoted husband of Pam Miller-Smith '79. He passed away on Dec. 27, 2021.



**Verlie Elaine (Miller) Yockey**, Sioux City, Iowa, was the mother of Ron Yockey '70, longtime board of directors member, and wife of Billy Yockey, longtime faculty member. She passed on Feb. 3, 2022.

## ALUMNI DIRECTOR'S NOTE

### Dear Morningside,

My name is Alex Watters, and I am excited to be your new alumni engagement director. Alumni are so important to the future of Morningside, and I am thrilled to have this opportunity to connect with Morningsiders of all generations.

For those of you that don't know me, I am quick to talk about my Morningside experience because this is an institution that has left such an indelible mark on me. When I first came to Morningside, I had aspirations of being a golf pro and was even on our college team. However, an accident two weeks into my freshman year left me paralyzed from the chest down. The outpouring of support that I felt from the campus community was overwhelming. Following rehabilitation, I returned to Morningside and graduated four years later. In 2013, I was approached by President Reynders and former Provost Bill Deeds about an opportunity to work at Morningside, and I knew I couldn't pass it up. I wanted to make an impact on students the way that my life had been impacted by all of those before me.

Over the last nine years, I have held a number of roles primarily working with first-year students. In recent years, I have worked with Stacie Hays in career services and witnessed firsthand the impact that our alumni can have on current students. We have recruited hundreds of alumni to engage with students by presenting in classes, offering job shadowing experiences, and providing internships. As a member of the city council for Sioux City, I have seen our alumni lead companies, rise through the ranks, and recruit a talent pipeline of Morningside graduates that are meeting the workforce demands of the future.

There are many ways that you can connect with Morningside. Whether you want to share your expertise and experiences with our students, reconnect with alumni from your class, talk with our advancement team about scholarship or estate planning opportunities, or simply visit campus after a few years away, I am here to help. I would love to hear your thoughts and ideas on how I can be effective in this role and make sure our alumni feel like an important part of the Morningside community because they truly are.

I hope I'm lucky enough to meet a number of you in the future. Don't forget to update your information so we can stay in touch, and feel free to contact me anytime. #MsideProud



### Alex Watters '09

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work: 712-274-5036

# The Morningside ALUMNI BOARD



**Tom Betz '89**



**Chris Delfs III '09**



**Andrew Gerodias '11**



**Brian Johnson '83**



**Gene Knudsen '71**



**Kelsey Martin '12**



**Jenna  
Rehnmstrom- Liberto '06**



**Rick Samuelson '06**



**Laura  
(Scammacca) Schmitt '89**



**Dick Stone '68**



**Josh Widman '05**

## ALUMNI

Serving on the alumni board is one of the many ways that our alumni can make a difference on campus and beyond. If you have an interest in serving on the alumni board or know someone that would be a great fit, please email [wattersa@morningside.edu](mailto:wattersa@morningside.edu).

### SUBMIT CLASS NOTES

Send us your good news, job updates or big life moments.



[alumni@morningside.edu](mailto:alumni@morningside.edu)



712-274-5409



[morningside.edu/alumni/connect](http://morningside.edu/alumni/connect)



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Morningside University Operator - 712-274-5000 or 1-800-831-0806

Are you moving? Do you have an email address? Please let us know! Just send an email to [alumni@morningside.edu](mailto:alumni@morningside.edu) or write to the Alumni Office, Morningside University, 1501 Morningside Ave., Sioux City, IA 51106.

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#### POSTMASTER

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The Morningside University experience cultivates a passion for **lifelong learning** and a dedication to **ethical leadership** and **civic responsibility**.



**MORNINGSIDE UNIVERSITY**  
1501 Morningside Avenue  
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

# THEN AND NOW



During summer 2021, the floor and interior of Allee Gymnasium were updated.



Allee Gymnasium in the 1980s.