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**MORRIS**

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**West Central School of Agriculture celebrates 100th anniversary of founding at annual All-School Reunion**

*Summary: WCSA alumni will gather to dedicate historic plaques and markers and remember their years on the Morris campus.*

(July 1, 2010)-The [West Central School of Agriculture \(WCSA\) Alumni Association's annual All-School Reunion](#) will celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the school's founding with unique 2010 Celebration activities added to the schedule. The event takes place on the University of Minnesota, Morris campus on Saturday and Sunday, July 17–18, 2010.

Class gatherings in the Student Center begin the reunion on Saturday. Four special milestones will be celebrated: the Class of 1945's 65th reunion, the Class of 1950's 60th reunion, the Class of 1955's 60th reunion, and the Class of 1960's 50th reunion.

Historic plaques and marker

In the early afternoon, alumni will recognize a recent accomplishment and dedicate a special project. In 2003, the WCSA Alumni Association played a key role in placing the campus on the National Register of Historic Places as the West Central School of Agriculture and Experiment Station Historic District. The alumni have now placed bronze plaques on 13 historic district buildings denoting their WCSA era names: Engineering, Music Hall, Infirmary, Girls' Dormitory, Boys' Dormitory, Edson Hall, Dining Hall, Agriculture Hall, Spooner Hall, Junior Hall, Cattle Barn, Senior Hall, and Seed House. The group also placed near the newly renovated Welcome Center a large marker that shares campus history with visitors. The plaques and marker will be formally dedicated during the annual meeting.

The first day of the reunion continues with campus walking tours, WCSA Alumni Garden viewing and a festive banquet.

Worship service and bus tour

On Sunday, alumnus Pastor Lyle Peterson '60 will conduct a nondenominational worship service in Edson Auditorium in the Student Center. Following a brunch in Oyate Hall, alumni are invited to board an air-conditioned bus to tour the campus and the community of Morris, and to visit the West Central Research and Outreach Center and Stevens County Historical Museum. Complementing the 2010 Celebration, the museum is featuring "Reaping What We Sow—History of Agriculture."

Carol Pederson Meyer '60, Alexandria, WCSA Alumni Association president, serves on the reunion planning committee. "When I arrived as a 13-year-old student at the WCSA, it certainly never crossed my mind that I would be celebrating the 100th anniversary of this wonderful school," she reflects. "And I am so excited to dedicate the new signage made possible by gifts from fantastic Aggies. The 2010 All-School Reunion will be one to remember."

WCSA history

The West Central School of Agriculture and Experiment Station opened on the Morris campus as a University of Minnesota boarding high school in 1910. Its mission was to educate youth on contemporary agriculture and

homemaking methods and provide core academic instruction. The three-year course of study ran from early October after the fall harvest until late March before spring planting. Classes included animal husbandry, cooking, sewing, carpentry, as well as English, math, and music. More than 7,000 students from west central Minnesota graduated from the WCSA, but by the late 1950s, enrollment was falling. After sharing the campus with the University of Minnesota, Morris for three years, the WCSA closed in 1963. The WCSA Alumni Association remains an active organization on the Morris campus, and the Experiment Station's legacy continues as the West Central Research and Outreach Center.

Photo above: WW II era WCSA float

1963 senior class officers: Leslie Wolff, president, Darwin Danielson, treasurer, Janet Hamann Sundby, secretary, Roy Thompson '45 and Lavonne Littlefield Augustine, advisers, Wilbur Grunewald, vice president

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