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Three very different UMM experiences

Summary: The Lang family celebrates three generations of graduates from the University of Minnesota, Morris--Edith '69, Steve '89, and Alexis '06.

(June 15, 2006)-When Alexis Lang, Vermillion, South Dakota, crossed the stage on May 13, 2006, to receive a bachelor of arts in English, the occasion marked the third generation of the Lang family becoming a University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM) alumnus. As UMM moves closer to its 50th birthday in 2010, the probability of one or more family members studying on the Morris campus grows each year. Their unique “legacy” stories, like those of the Lang family, add to UMM’s collective history.

Edith, Alexis’ grandmother, completed a two-year Moorhead State Teachers College program in 1942. She took a leave of absence from teaching in 1968-1969 to finish an elementary education major. She even had a class or two with son Steve. “It was thrilling for me to attend my son’s graduation in 1989 and now my granddaughter’s commencement,” says Edith. “My wish for UMM is that it can continue to maintain the place of honor it holds among America’s liberal arts universities.” Edith retired in 1985 after 27 years of teaching.

Steve notes that he and his mother have very different UMM experiences than his daughter. “Alexis earned her degree in just four years,” he remarks. “Her father completed his bachelor of arts journey in 22, including an 18-year hiatus. A college education, however, remains a lifetime gift and achievement. Three generations of graduates from the same university speak volumes for the institution.”

For the past 18 years, Steve has worked in collegiate settings, at South Dakota State University, the University of South Dakota, and for the past eight years, at Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, where he recently earned a master of arts in liberal arts. “In each instance,” he shares, “my UMM education has left me well-suited for any unique challenges that have surfaced.”

Alexis’ mother, Marlene Jacobson, is also a UMM alumna, graduating in 1978 with majors in speech communication and English.

Photo: Steve '89, Alexis '06, and Edith Lang '69

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